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Wires: "The Era," London. 'Phone: Central 4747 and 1433.
Publishing Offices: 5, Tavistock Street, Strand, London, W.C.

ESTABLISHED 1837.

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE AS A NEWSPAPER.

VOL. 72. No. 3,667. SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 1909. PRICE SIXPENCE.

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MISS MARIE AULT, Comedienne. Jan. 4, T. R., Batley; Jan. 11, T. R., York.

MISS LILA BARCLAY thanks "Sunday" Co. for Autumn Tour, and offer, Jan. 4, R., West Bromwich, Olive, in "Silver King."

MISS BARTLE-FRERE, at Liberty Jan. 4. Address, The Terrace, 129, Brixton-road, S.W.

MISS ADAH BARTON, Disengaged. 30, Doughty-st., Mecklenburg-square, W.C.

MISS MAY BEATRICE, Demon Boy. Princess's Theatre, Glasgow.

MISS LILIAN BEAUMONT, Lead, M. Montgomery, Esq., Stock Co. G. T., Stockton-on-Tees.

MISS EDITH BLANDE, Star Lead. At Lib. Termination of Tour, "W. W. in L." Jan. 4, Hebburn-on-Tyne

MISS HELEN BRINCKMAN, Recitals in Scotland, "Mary Queen of Scots," "Jack Findlay," "Siege of Lucknow."

MISS DECIMA BROOKE, Principal Girl, R.R.H., J. Tiller's Co. This week, O. H., Harrogate; next, Hippo., Scarboro'.

MISS WINNIE BROWNE, Robin Hood, "Babes in the Wood." King's Theatre, Hammersmith.

MISS MADGE BROWNIE, Prin. Girl, Grand Theatre, Hull, until further notice.

MRS. WILLIAM CALVERT (Miss Clara Cowper), specially engaged by J. Clyde. Helen Macgregor, Alex. T., Greenock.

MISS LIZZIE CHAMBERS (Mrs. E. Carter Livesey), Soubrette. At Lib., c/o Miss Browne, 39, Warwick-lane, City.

MISS ADA CHAMPION, "Toddles" Company. Jan. 4, Theatre Royal, Hull.

MISS HETTY CHAPMAN, Letters, C/o "The Era."

MISS KATHARINE CLARKE, Own dramatic episode, "A Woman's Reputation." Grand, Clapham. 75, The Grove, W.

MISS MARIE CLAVERING, Resting. Disengd. Feb. Strong Lead, Heavies. Com. 1, Colchester-st., St. George's-sq., London, S.W.

MISS KATHLEEN CLYFFORD, Child Actress. Engaged "Mrs. Wiggs of Cabbage Patch." C/o G. Dickinson, Albert H., Edinbro.

MISS ITALIA CONTI, At Liberty. 41, Crockerton-road, Wandsworth Common, S.W.

MISS GEORGIE CORLASS, Butterflies," Royalty Theatre, Glasgow.

MISS MOIRA CREEGAN, Minna Hart "Idols" Tour. Address, 2, Ridgmount-gardens, W.C. Telephone 3902 Central.

MISS FLORENCE DALTON, Leading and Heavy Business. 22, Palace-road, Upper Norwood, S.E.

MISS GEORGIE DE LARA, Heavy Lead, Intense and Emotional Parts. Special eng., "Flower Girl," T. R., Colchester.

MISS RENEE DE L'ESTRADE, "The New Housemaid" Co. Grand Theatre, Swansea.

MISS LENA DELPHINE, Disengaged. Chambermaids, Comedy, &c. 54, Bishop's-road, Fulham.

MISS DORIS DIGBY, Mr. Reginald Dance's "Raffles" Co. Jan. 4, Lincoln (3), Loughborough (3).

MISS ELLA DIXON, Concluded Third Tour with Mr. Ed. Terry. Disengaged. Address, A. A.

MISS DOLORES DRUMMOND. Address, 17, Southfield-gardens, Strawberry Hill, S.W.

MISS ETHEL DUNBAR, Soprano and Comedienne, Principal Boy Royalty Theatre, Chester. 55, Gunterstone-rd., W. Kensington, W.

MISS CONSTANCE ELGIN, Lead, at Liberty; DOUGLAS CECIL, Lead, "Shop Girl to Duchess," Marina T., Lowestoft.

MISS M. E. ELLIS, Juvs., Light Comedy, Soubs. At Liberty, 4, Chester-house, Upper Marylebone-street, W.

MISS JOSIE FARRINGTON, Ganem, "The Forty Thieves." Opera House, Cheltenham.

MISS BEATRICE FELSTED, Parts or Singing Parts. Tall. First-class Wardrobe. Fine Mezzo Soprano Voice. T. R., Hanley, or Agts.

MISS DOROTHY FIRMIN, Principal Girl (Alice), "Dick Whittington," Coronet T., W. Per. add., 17, Pepys-rd., New Cross.

MISS NELLIE FLETCHER, Disengaged. Address, 29, Ninian-road, Cardiff.

MISS DORIS FOOTE, Disengaged Jan. 4. Address, 150, New Kent-road, London, S.E.

MISS NELLIE GARSIDE, "In the Eyes of the World" Co. Address en route.

MISS VERA GEORGE, Disengaged. A.A., 353, Strand.

MLLE. JULIE GOLAY (Mrs. Henry George), Foreign Parts, at Lib. Letters, C/o 205, Wandsworth-road, S.W.

MISS MARIE GRACE, Address, 35, West Hill-road, Brighton.

MISS DULCIE GREATWICH, Relinquishing engagement with Mr. Douglas Bruce. Disen. Jan. 9. Next, O. House, Coventry.

MISS ETHEL GRIFFIES, Ruth, "Dare-Devil Dorothy." Disengaged. Jan. 11, Lead, Macclesfield.

MISS DAISY GWYNNE, Lead and Heavy Lead. Disen. Immediate offers invited. 315, Charles-rd., Small Heath, Birmm.

MISS LOUISE HAMPTON, Starring as "The Girl Who Wrecked His Home." 308th performance. Lyceum T., Newport.

MISS ETHEL HARDACRE,
Disengaged, Character and Comedy.
Permanent address, Ferndene, Staines.

MISS KATHARINE HERBERT,
Lead, "Send Him Victorious."
This, O. H., Treherbert; next, Star, Swansea.

MISS LILLIAN HERRIES,
At Liberty for Lead.
65, Sparkenhoe-street, Leicester.

MISS MILDRED HODSON,
Disengaged. Lead only.
Address, Harlow, Essex.

MISS MAIE HOEY,
Dancer. Offers invited for Seaside, &c.
C/o "The Era."

MISS EDITH HOUSLEY,
Prince, "Cinderella."
Theatre Royal, Exeter.

MISS MARIE HOUSLEY,
At Liberty for Lead.
9, Victoria-road, Berkhamsted, Herts.

MISS AGNES IMLAY.
At Liberty. Emotional and Heavy Leading Parts. 48, Daneville-road, Denmark Hill.

MISS CLARA JECKS.
Address,
Care of "The Era"; or A.A.

MISS MAISIE JERRARD,
Prin. Boy, J. Tiller's "Red Riding Hood."
This, O. H., Harrogate; next, Hippo, Scarborough.

MISS GRACE JONES,
Messrs. Rennef and Copping's Co.
Jan. 4, Grand, Radcliffe.

MISS ETHEL KAY,
Lead, "The Fatal Wedding."
Clarence Theatre, Pontypridd.

MISS ADA KING,
Character, Miss Horniman's Co.
Gaiety Theatre, Manchester.

MISS AGNES KNIGHTS
thanks Miss Mouillot. Arrangements complete for a few weeks. 38, Grafton-sq., Clapham Common.

MISS GERTRUDE LE SAGE,
Grand Dames, Com., and Char. Disengaged.
Add., c/o "The Era." See page 2.

MISS ADELINE LESTER,
Comedy, Character, Old Women.
Disengaged. 13, West-square, S.E.

MISS GRACE LESTER.
Mr. Frederick Melville's Co.
Jan. 4, Grand Theatre, Doncaster.

MISS MARY LEWIN-MANNERING,
Mr. Van Biene's Co.
Jan. 4, Hippodrome, Manchester.

MISS SOPHIE LINGWOOD
Specially engaged four weeks, Janet McLeod, "Gay Gordons." 378, Camden-road, N.

MISS GLADYS LLOYD
Disengaged.
72, Overcliff-road, Lewisham, S.E.

MISS KITTY LOFTING,
At Liberty.
Add., c/o "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.

MISS MABEL LOWE,
Peggy, Walter Melville's "Soldier's Wedding" Co. Jan. 4, T. R., Sunderland.

MISS MARA MALTBY,
At Liberty until April 5.
Kylemore, Railway Approach, Worthing.

MISS MABEL MANNERING,
Jan. 4, Lead. Perm. Address,
377, Wightman-road, Hornsey; or A.A.

MISS BEATRICE MARSDENE,
at Liberty.
1, St. Agnes-place, Kennington Park, S.E.

MISS EDIE MARTIN,
Eliza, "The Dairymaids."
Address, En route.

MISS HENRIQUETTE MAUDE,
The Little New Zealand Travelling Girl.
On Tour, Moss-Stoll.

MISS ALICE MAY,
Disengaged Jan. 11.
27, Castle-st. East, Oxford-st., London, W.

MISS ALMA MELROSE,
Disengaged. Part Comedy. Open for Australia. Address, c/o "The Era" Office.

MISS SASH MILLWARD.
Address,
5, Havelock-road, Norwich.

MISS LOUISE MOODIE,
concluded Special Engagement with Sir John Hare. At Lib. Add., 36, Airedale-avenue, Chiswick.

MISS MARGARET MURCH
Lead. Special Starring Engagement with F. W. Purcell, Stoll Empires. A.A., 353, Strand.

MISS TESSA MYERS,
"A Bit Too Clever."
Palace, Attercliffe.

MISS FLORENCE NELSON
(Mrs. J. A. Atkin), "Why Men Love Women" Co. Dis., 11th, ter. Tour. T. R., Nelson.

MISS GERTRUDE NETTERVILLE.
Minna, in "Little Lord Fauntleroy."
Court Theatre, S.W.

MISS ROSALIE NOTRELLE,
Juvenile Lead.
Per. add., 82A, The Chase, Clapham Common, S.W.

MISS PEARL NOYLE,
Peggy, "The Diver's Luck."
Jan. 4, The Palace Theatre, Watford.

MISS MABEL ORMONDE,
Mrs. Bowler, in "Toddles."
Londesbrough, Scarboro'; next, Royal, Hull.

MISS KATE OSBORNE,
Disengaged. Address,
107, Camberwell New-road, Kennington Park, S.E.

MISS LOLA PATEY,
a Sensational Success as Gretchen, T. R., Hanley. First-class Theatre Engagements Invited.

MISS CLAIRE PAUNCEFORT,
Disengaged.
Address, 239, King's-road, Chelsea.

MISS LOUISA PEACH,
Concluding special week. Dis. for Lead.
3, Great Ormond-street, W.C.

MISS MARY PEMBERTON
(Mrs. Walter Pemberton), Juvenile Lead, "A Sailor's Wedding," Opera House, Cork.

MISS JOAN PEREIRA,
Disengaged, French and Foreign Parts.
42, Charlwood-street, S.W.

MISS IDA PHILLIPS,
Disengaged.
1, Tavistock-square, W.C. 'Phone 9402 Central.

MISS FLORENCE RADCLIFFE,
Barbara, "Two Little Vagabonds."
Jan. 4, Alexandra Theatre, Hull.

MISS MADGE RAPER,
Octavia,
"Antony and Cleopatra," Q. T., Manchester.

MISS FLORENCE RAY,
Fairy Queen, Kennington Theatre.
Fourth year with Mr. Robert Arthur.

MISS ETHEL RAYNER,
Disengaged. Address, 52, Middleton-square, E.C., or Agents. 'Phone 6518 Central.

MISS ROSEMARY REES.
Address,
Gisborne, New Zealand.

MISS GRACE RICHARDSON,
Address,
Glentworth, Palmer's Green, N.

MISS DORRIE ROBERTS,
Lead, "The Prodigal Son" (Mr. Geo. D. Day's Co.). Jan. 2, Newcastle, or A.A.

MISS CONSTANCE ROBERTSON,
Engaged by Oscar Asche, Esq. Add. en route, or 9, Rossetti-mansions, Cheyne-walk, S.W.

MISS EYRE ROBSON,
At Liberty.
Address, 39, Chryssell-road, Brixton, S.W.

MISS MARIE ROBSON
(Mrs. Graham Woods). Resumed original part, "Who is She?" Co. T. R., Castleford.

MADAME MARIE ROYCE,
Ballet Mistress.
Theatre Royal, Bradford.

MISS HARRIET ELLIS RUSSELL,
Dis., Char., Com., Old Woman, or Irish parts. Good offers invited. 43, Harders-road, Peckham.

MISS ETHEL RUSSELL,
"Leah Kleschna" Co.
Jan. 4, Queen's Theatre, Swindon.

MISS KATHLEEN RUSSELL,
At Liberty.
14, Elgin-avenue, W.

MISS MAUD RUSSELL
(Mrs. Frank M. Thorne). "The Woman Pays" Co. Jan. 4, Royalty, Llanelly.

MISS NESTA SANDFORD,
Messrs. Paumier and Howard's Co.,
Jan. 4, G. T., Southampton.

MISS VIOLET SIMS
wishes all Friends a Happy New Year.
Victoria Theatre, Burnley.

MISS MARY STAFFORD SMITH,
Disengaged. Juv., Light Comedy, Boys. Add., 57, Woodbury-street, Tooting, S.W.

MISS GERALDINE SOMERSET,
Speciality Dance,
Camden Theatre.

MISS BLANCHE STANLEY,
Address,
Lyceum Theatre, W.C.

MISS BLANCHE STEELE,
Hallatt and Howard's Company,
"Her Love Against the World."

MISS MARION STERLING,
Disengaged for Aristocratic, Old Women, and Character. 409, Edgware-road, W.

MISS GERTRUDE STERROLL
Permanent Address,
12, Holroyd-rd., Howard's-lane, Putney, S.W.

MISS ADELAIDE STONEHAM,
Disengaged. Musical Comedy, Drama, &c.
64, Gloucester-crescent, Regent's Park.

MISS EVA STUART,
"Brewster's Millions."
Jan. 4, Ipswich.

MISS KATE SYDNEY,
Disengaged Specials.
C/o Arthur Hales, Theatre, Motherwell, N.B.

MRS. A. B. TAPPING,
Mr. Trevor Lowe's Company.
West Pier, Brighton. Disengaged for Spring.

MISS WINNIE TEMPEST,
Marie Louise, "A Royal Divorce."
Jan. 4, Bilston.

MISS ELLALINE THORNE
(IVY),
Principal Boy, Alexandra, Birmingham.

MISS JESSICA THORNE, Disengaged
Terminated 2 years' Engagement with Mr. and Mrs. Kendal. 20, Beverley-rd., Anerley, S.E.

MISS ANNIE TRAVERS,
Disengaged Dec. 19. Comedy and Character Business. Address, c/o "The Era."

MISS FLORENCE TRESSILIAN,
Disengaged. Lead, Light Comedy.
Address, 19, Hampstead-lane, Highgate, N.

MISS MARGUERITE TREVOSPER,
Gertrude Hunt, in "When It Was Dark."
Jan. 4, Grand Theatre, West Hartlepool.

MISS KATE TURNER, Disengaged.
Just concluded 18 months' engagement in Miss Lena Ashwell's (S.). The Grove, Sutton Coldfield.

MISS MARION TURNER,
thanks George Gray for engagement. Disengaged. Add., 26, Mornington-road, Regent's Park.

MISS ELLA VANE
wishes Friends far and near, Prosperity and Health in the Coming Year.

MISS ROSSLYN VAYNE,
Lead, "Two Lancs. Lasses in London" Co.
Jan. 4, T. R., Barnsley.

MISS AGNES VERITY,
Lead, Miss Ida Molesworth's and Mr. Mark Blow's Co., New Theatre, Oxford.

MISS HELENA WALBRAN,
thanks Tom H. Taylor, Esq., most comfortable special engt. Dis. Jan. 11, T. R., Hebburn.

MISS LAURA WALKER,
thanks Morton Powell for comf. engt.
Disengaged. Letters, 79, Page-st., London, S.W.

MISS ETHEL WARD,
Title-rôle, "Aladdin."
Borough Theatre, Stratford.

MISS JANET WARDEN,
Disengaged.
Address, Heatherside, Bexley, S.E.

MISS OLIVE WARNE,
Maud Villiers, in Walter Melville's "Beggar Girl's Wedding" Co. Next week, Wakefield.

MISS LILLIAN WILLIAMS. A good
Actress. D. T., Jan. 3. Dis., Lead or Heavy Lead. F. WEATHERSBY, 3, Bedford-street, W.C.

MISS KATE WINGFIELD,
Disengaged Jan. 4.
50, Elm Park-mansions, Chelsea, S.W.

MISS JESSIE WINTER,
Disengaged Jan. 9, Town or Suburbs. Add., c/o Austin G. Melford, Empire Theatre, Cardiff.

MISS MOLLY WYNNE,
Principal Girl. Big Success. Encored nightly. Grand Theatre, Nottingham.

MISS ROSAMOND MAYNE YOUNG,
Disengaged for Spring. Lead.
Actors' Association, 353, Strand.

MISS DENISE ZALESKI,
at Liberty.
Address, C/o Hardie and Von Leer.

MR. FRED ACTON, Business Manager and Producer of Success, Harry Roxbury's "Mother Goose" Panto. Hippodrome, Belfast.

MR. ERIC H. ALBURY, thanks
Mr. Hamilton Stewart for offer. Engaged by Mr. Lionel Rignold. 89, Hayter-rd, Brixton, S.W.

MR. ALEC ALVES,
Disengaged. Leads, Juveniles.
A.A., 353, Strand, W.C.

MR. GEORGE ARTHUR
thanks Mr. Chas. Draycott for full salary Christmas week. Next, Spennymoor.

MR. ROBERT R. ASHBY.
Abroad.
Letters, 3, Bolden-street, St. John's, S.E.

MR. W. WALLACE ASTON,
Disengaged. S.M., Char., Char. Comedy.
11, Melbourne-grove, East Dulwich, S.E.

MR. T. WELDON ATHERSTONE,
Disengaged.
Address, Palace Theatre, Newcastle.

MR. LIONEL ATWILL
as the Flag Lieutenant.
Address Theatre Royal, Middlesbrough.

MR. CYRIL AUSTEN - LEE,
Marcus Superbus, "The Sign of the Cross."
Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton.

MR. H. K. AYLIFF,
Postman Kelly, in "Pete," Lyceum Theatre.
Disengaged. Address, Kingscot, Ruislip.

MR. ARTHUR J. BARCLAY,
Manager, Walthamstow Palace.
Address, Parkside, The Drive, Walthamstow.

MR. ORLANDO BARNETT,
Disengaged.
152, Northfield-lane, Ealing.

MR. CHARLES BARRETT,
Paul Sylvaine, "Leah Kleschna."
Empire Theatre, Swindon.

MR. J. J. BARTLETT,
Disengaged.
Address, 12, Angel-road, Hammersmith.

MR. J. HASTINGS BATSON,
Eng. by Wentworth Croke, Esq., for the part of Father Lamplugh in "The Christian."

MR. and MRS. FRANK G. BAYLY
(Katie Johnson).
39, Lupus-street, S.W.

MR. E. R. BEAUMONT,
Producer and General Manager,
"Robinson Crusoe," H. M., Dundee.

MR. WALTER BEAUMONT,
Disengaged. Character Actor.
Ranmore, West Byfleet, Surrey.

MR. CHARLES B. BEDELLS,
Heavy Lead and Aristocratic Parts. Dis.
Address, 42, Liverpool-street, King's Cross, London.

MR. HENRY BEDFORD,
Disengaged. 99, Halton-road, London, N.
A great Actor.—North-Western Daily Mail.

MR. HARRY BELFORD, MISS NELLIE BENSON. Mr. Frank Lindo's "Love the Conqueror." Queen's T., Longton.

MR. FRANK BERESFORD,
Disengaged Jan. 14.
Tivoli, Manchester.

MR. IVAN BERLYN.
All communications,
21, Shaftesbury-road, Sheffield.

MR. ALBERT BERNARD,
Disengaged. Happy New Year to his old Friends and Managers. 240, Clapham-road, S.W.

MR. W. WILSON BLAKE,
Stage-Manager, "Cinderella,"
County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames.

MR. CHARLES BOULT.
General-Manager for F. J. Little, Esq. Dis. Feb. 15, for Management. 30, Up. Baker-st., N.W.

MR. CLIFFORD BOWN,
Comedy, Character, &c.
32, Church-rd, Moseley, Birmingham.

MR. HARRY BRISTOW,
Stage-Manager, "The Diver's Luck."
Jan. 4, The Palace Theatre, Watford.

MR. CECIL BROOKING,
Disengaged for Special Weeks, Jan. 18.
13, Stanley-crescent, W.

MR. LEWIS BROUGHTON,
"The Flag Lieutenant" Co.
Jan. 4, Theatre Royal, Middlesbrough.

MR. ARTHUR G. BROWN,
Eccentric Comedy, Character, and Old Men.
18, New Church-road, Hove, Brighton.

MR. and MRS. W. RUDDLE BROWN
(Miss Nelly Howitt). Dis.
12, Latham-terrace, Bedford Park, W.

MR. DENNIS BRYAN,
Disengaged.
2, Roseford-gardens, Shepherd's Bush.

MR. J. V. BRYANT,
in "Toddles."
Jan. 4, T. R., Hull, six nights.

MR. ULICK BURKE,
Resuming Title-rôle, "The Coal King," Jan. 18. Address, Opera House, Jersey.

MR. DENIS CAMPBELL, Irish Comedian. Dis. shortly. Offers invited. This, H., Sheffield; next, H., Birkenhead.

MR. and MRS. HARRY CANE.
H. C., at Liberty; Mrs. C., Garrick Theatre
22, Linden-gardens, Chiswick; or ARTHUR HART.

MR. GEO. E. CARLETON,
Business-Manager,
"The Village Blacksmith" Co.

MR. J. HAROLD CARSON.
Address all communications to
Camden Theatre, London, N.W.

MR. FRANCIS CHAMIER,
Miss VIOLET CHAMIER, Miss Bessie's "Merry Wives." 46, Altenburg-gardens, S.W.

MR. and MRS. GEORGE H. CHILD,
Dis. Comedy, Old Men, Heavies; Miss BRUCE, Juv. or Heavies. Melrose, Milton-rd., Hanwell, W.

MR. JAMES CHIPPENDALE,
thanks Messrs. Buchanan and Stevens for offer of re-engagements. Address, Grand, Hull.

MR. & Mrs. JOHNNY CHIPPENDALE
(Mattie Everett), Mr. Walter Melville's Co. This, Palace, Newcastle; next, Sunderland.

MR. ALICK CHUMLEY,
Juvenile Lead in "Toddles."
Jan. 4, Theatre Royal, Hull.

MR. H. BUCKSTONE CLAIR,
Producer, Mr. St. John Denton and Mr. Peter Davey's "Bluebeard." Camden T., N.

MR. & MRS. GEORGE EDWIN CLIVE
(Miss Chrissie Dunbar), Oscar and Helga, "Prodigal Son," King's Lynn (3), Grantham (3).

MR. C. F. COLLINGS,
At Liberty till February.
York House, Lidlington-place, N.W.

MR. EDWIN J. COLLINS.
Jan. 4, Bedford Palace, N.W.
Letters, 11, Colnbrook-st., St. George's-rd., S.E.

MR. SYDNEY COMPTON,
as Brassett, in "Charley's Aunt."
Aldwych Theatre, every Afternoon and Evening.

MR. WILFRID COMPTON,
Light Comedian, "Lady Larrigan." MIRIAM HOLT, Ingénues. Dis. Jan. 4, Hip., St. Helens.

MR. MARTIN COMSTOCK,
The Loyal Dominion Life-Motion Pictures.
Second week, Industrial Hall, Dewsbury.

MR. TOM CONWAY,
Dame,
Grand, Glasgow.

MR. WILLIAM CORRI,
Musical Conductor and Composer.
Address, 7, Clive-road, Park-road, Merton, S.W.

MR. ERNEST H. G. COX,
Prince Olaf,
"The Prince and the Beggar Maid."

MR. VERNON O. CRABTREE,
Mercutio, Gratiano, Laertes, &c.
with Mr. Ian Maclaren.

MR. HARRY J. CRANE.
Jan. 4, Royal Hippodrome, Eastbourne.
Permanent, 43A, Southfield-rd., Bedford Park, W.

MR. OSWALD CRAY,
Starring with Frederick Melville, Esq.
Metropole Theatre, Glasgow, three weeks.

MR. FRANK CRIMP,
"The Bandmaster," "Miss Hook of Holland" Co. This, Middlesbrough; next, Halifax.

MR. W. REGINALD DAINTY,
Acting-Manager, "Claudian" Co.
Jan. 4, Theatre Royal, Jarrow.

MR. and MRS. PHILIP DARIEN
(Violet Macaree), Leading Business.
Jan. 4, Bishop Auckland.

MR. RUSSEL DAVIS,
Iago, King ("Hamlet"), Richelieu, &c.
Mr. Edmund Tearle's Co. A.A., 353, Strand.

MR. BASIL DEAN,
Jasper, "Knight of the Burning Pestle."
Gaiety Theatre, Manchester.

MR. HAMILTON DEANE,
Cæsar, "Antony and Cleopatra."
Queen's, Manchester, every evening.

MR. HENRY DEAS,
Mollison Rep. Co. Vacation.
Letters, Bruree, County Limerick.

MR. DAVID DENARD,
Stage-Manager for Brandon Thomas, Esq.
Aldwych Theatre, W.C.

MR. FRANK H. DENTON.
112, Holbein House,
Sloane-square, S.W.

MR. ERNEST A. DOUGLAS,
At Liberty,
Address, Actors' Association, 353, Strand, W.C.

MR. and MRS. CHARLES DRAYCOTT
(Miss Muriel Thompson), Own Répertoire Co.
Address, Cambridge Theatre, Spennymoor.

MR. CECIL DU GUE,
Mr. Lewis Waller's "Henry V." Season,
Lyric Theatre, W.

MR. and MRS. T. W. DUNSCOMBE
(Miss Marie Tennant).
Permanent, 4, Banstead-street, Leeds.

MR. CHARLES A. EAST,
and Miss EAST ROBERTSON. Panto.,
Opera House, Cheltenham. Dis. Spring.

MR. & MRS. ERNEST C. EDWARDS
At lib. Jan. 18. Com., Old Men, Women, and Char., &c. Pal. T., Bordesley, Birmingham.

MR. GEORGE ELLISTON, Especially
Engaged by F. W. Wyndham, Esq.,
"Humpty Dumpty" Panto. Tyne T., Newcastle.

MR. CHARLES FAWCETT,
Disengaged. Address, c/o A. West, Esq.,
429, Edgware-road, London, W.

MR. & MRS. CHARLES FRANMORE.
Compliments of the Season to all Friends.
93, Forest-street, Sutton-in-Ashfield.

MR. W. FULLBROOK,
"Aladdin" Pantomime,
Grand Theatre, Nottingham.

MR. LIONEL GADSDEN, "Why Men Love Women" Co. Dis. Jan. 9. Leads, Heavies. Argyle House, Manor-rd., Folkestone.

MR. W. H. GARBOIS,
as Levison, "The New East Lynne" Co.
Grand Theatre, Walsall. Disengaged Jan. 11.

MR. and MRS. W. V. GARROD
(Miss Bertha Kingston), Lead and Title-rôle, "A Country Girl in London," G. T., Halifax.

MR. WILLIE GARVEY,
Dame,
Theatre Royal, Glasgow.

MR. WALTER GAY,
Disengaged. Leading Business.
38, Morley-road, East Twickenham.

MR. DOUGLAS GERRARD,
Juvenile Leading Man with Miss Ethel Barrymore. Ad., C/o Chas. Frohman, Emp. T., New York

MR. WALTER GIFFORD,
Mr. Frank Curzon's "My Mimosa Maid."
Theatre Royal, Preston.

MR. WM. T. GLIDDON, Author and Composer of the successful Musical Comedy, "The Flower Girl," Royalty Theatre, Chester.

MR. ALFRED GODDARD,
Disengaged.
Address, Herstmonceux, Sussex.

MR. DOUGLAS GORDON
Engaged for Lead, Miss K. Pole's Season, at Standard, Johannesburg. Sailed Dec. 23.

MR. RICHARD A. GREENE,
Disengaged. Lead.
C/o A.A., 353 Strand.

MR. HARRY A. GRIBBEN.
A Genuine Success as the Squire.
Princess's Theatre, Glasgow.

MR. FRED GROVE.
Address,
50, Gresham-road, Brixton, S.W.

MR. LAWRENCE GROVE,
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"HER FATAL MARRIAGE."

Play, in Four Acts, by C. Brunette and A. Hinton, produced at the Theatre Royal, Aston, on Monday, Dec. 28.

Zaco Malletto, *alias* Captain Vigo ..... MR. ARTHUR HINTON
Wilfred Grey ..... MR. VICTOR MILLWARD
Colonel Crichton ..... MR. PERCY MORTON WRIGHT
Jim Rogers ..... MR. FRED HEWITSON
Paul ..... MR. GERALD BYRNE
Detective Smart ..... MR. HENRY EMMERSON
Peter Pimple ..... MR. FRANK BRUNELL
Sergeant Wiggins ..... MR. LAURENCE GROVE
P.C. Jenkins ..... MR. WILLIAM BAILEY
Lily ..... MISS LYDIA AUDRE
Dolly Dimple ..... MISS LAURA WRIGHT
Myra Malletto ..... MISS RUTH ZILLWOOD

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The significance of *Her Fatal Marriage* hinges on the unhappy union of a beautiful and sympathetic woman with a scoundrel and a brute. When the play opens, at Captain Vigo's den, murder, most foul, has been committed, and the perpetrators, Captain Vigo and Jim Rogers, are quarrelling over the proceeds, the latter threatening to betray the former for the sake of the reward which is already offered for the capture of the murderer. The victim was the night watchman of a bank, who was found dead near the bank safe, which is found to be rifled of its contents. Rogers, besides threatening Vigo with the present, astounds him with his knowledge of the past, in which it transpires that Vigo had a wife, whom he beat and left well-nigh dead. All this and a previous murder Rogers reminds him of, also telling him that two years ago he wrote to his (Vigo's) wife falsely informing her that her husband was dead. Consequently the wife deems she is free to marry again, and not having heard of him for ten years is really entitled to do so. This Rogers tauntingly reminds Vigo of, and, conceiving the dangerous nature and power of his confederate, Vigo temporises, gives him a full share of the plunder, and, as he is leaving the den, shoots him down from behind. So, with all knowledge of the past dead and with all the plunder in his possession, the villain departs, exclaiming as he disappears "Captain Vigo is dead! To-morrow I am Zaco Malletto." Then a brilliant light from the window pierces the gloom, and Detective Smart, who has heard the cries of the victim, forces his way through the window, and is just in time to get the dying man's description of the murderer, and his confession of his share in robbing the bank. Vigo, having got clear with the plunder, seeks his wife, whom he persecutes at every turn, and seeks to draw from her the identity of their son, of whose existence he has been apprised by the murdered Rogers. This takes place at the Crichton Hotel, near Corwen, and the scene of the previous murder by Vigo mentioned by Rogers. It is the eve of Wilfred Grey's marriage to Lily, the adopted of Myra Malletto, Vigo's wife. Wilfred Grey is the son in question, but has been brought up as a curate in ignorance of his parentage, it being his mother's plan to keep the son from the unholy influence of such a father. One Colonel Crichton has been accepted by Myra, the mother, for her second husband, and he is of the wedding party. His wedding present to young Grey is two £50 bank notes, &c., which, for a moment, Grey leaves on the table; and these, with a pocket-book, which the Colonel has forgotten to return to his pocket, Vigo secures. The bank notes he uses to further wad the charge in Grey's gun, which has been left on the garden seat, and with which he, concealed from behind a wall, shoots the Colonel, thus murder No. 3 is already added to the villain's list of crimes. The Colonel, mistaking his assailant, denounces the curate, and the gun being conclusively his, Grey is taken, and the Colonel dies. It appears that in the murder ten years ago at the Crichton Hotel the story goes that the assassin took the guise of a skeleton, which disappears on the victim's alarm, Vigo starting up in its stead. Thus he appears in the Blue Room of the Crichton Hotel, whither he has decoyed Lily in pretence of being her sweetheart, who is, of course, in prison. His base design, however, is defeated by Myra, who surprises the villain at the psychological moment, and at the point of her revolver extracts a written confession of his crimes. By cunning subterfuge he turns the tables on her, and is still on the point of succeeding with his victim Lily when a half-witted fellow, Paul, who has played a conspicuous part throughout, appears and throws himself on the villain, completely overpowering him. The wad of bank notes which the villain used is found, and it needs only to discover the possessor of the missing pocket-book to find the murderer of the Colonel; and Detective Smart, who has all along been on his track, has no doubt in fixing the previous crimes on Vigo, and that very clearly to the audience, but how need not be described here. The search for the missing pocket-book continues, and it is discovered to have been secured by the half-witted Paul, who has hidden it in a rook's nest, from whence he places it in the hands of Lily, who, despite the villain's desperate attempt to regain it, conveys it to the proper hands. Thus the crime is brought home to him, and a final attempt to murder Myra is frustrated by Paul, who strangles the villain with his kerchief. Wilfred Grey is cleared of the charge of murder, and finds a mother in Myra as well as a bride in Lily.

Peter Pimple and Dolly Dimple are played to advantage by Mr. Frank Brunell (whose agility and contortions are ludicrous) and Miss Laura Wright, whose impersonation of a country wench is excellent; Mr. Arthur Hinton dominates the play with his strenuous acting as Captain Vigo, keeping things at a high tension throughout. Miss Ruth Zillwood as the unhappy Myra showed a proud, imperious manner, from under which the heroine's sweet and innate sympathy from time to time shed a very softening influence. Mr. Victor Millward as Wilfred Grey showed the manner of the curate with all the resolution of the man; Mr. Percy Morton Wright displayed soldierly dignity as Colonel Crichton; Mr. Fred Hewitson availed himself of his brief chance as Jim Rogers finely; Mr. Gerald Byrne gave a picturesque and well-acted study of Paul; Mr. Henry Emmerson, though by no means the conventional detective, was very successful as Smart; as Lily Miss Lydia Audre acted with much emotion; and Mr. Laurence Grove played Sergeant Wiggins with fine humour. The play is excellently mounted.

A Long Wipe.

An audience assembled to exercise its risible faculties strongly objects, says the *Manchester Evening Times*, to having its feelings harrowed in the smallest degree. Some years ago, indeed, when a play was more than ordinarily mournful, a practical joker summoned twenty of his friends, and the happy band made the actors and manager even more mournful than the play. Seising seats in the front row of the gallery, the confederates waited until a very thrilling scene, whereupon one, burying his face in his handkerchief, sobbed piteously. It was not long, moreover, before the man on his right took hold of the handkerchief and began weeping too, and as each man on the line fell to weeping he seized the handkerchief, until the whole band was sobbing bitterly into a handkerchief that was fully twenty yards in length. Bravely did the low comedian endeavour to turn the tide in favour of the play, but the more he joked the more grevious was the lamentation aloft. Needless to say that, for that night at all events, the lachrymose drama was doomed to failure.

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERAMAN.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. A. Jackson Withers.—Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company appear with the utmost success in *Leah Kleschna*. Mr. Charles Barrett wins popularity by a vigorous and effective performance of Paul Sylvaine; Miss Bessie Reynold is an interesting Leah, her acting being very effective; Miss Emmie Wallace is good as Clare Berton; Mr. William Clayton's portrayal of Kleschna is cleverly conceived; Mr. Arthur Leigh is a successful Raoul Berton; Mr. Algernon J. Hicks a capital General Berton; Mr. Wm. Heilbron an effective Schram; and Miss Ethel Russell sustains the rôle of Madame Berton admirably.

ABERDARE.—NEW THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Aberdare Public Hall, Theatre, and Billposting Co., Ltd.; Manager, E. Andrews; Acting-Manager, Mr. B. Richards.—*The Old Home* is being presented here by Mr. Harding Thomas and company. Mr. Harding Thomas gave a fine rendering of Daddy Dean; Miss Elaine Verner makes the most of the part of Hazel Dean, playing with true delicacy and sympathy; Mr. Horace Denton presents a good study of the Rev. Eric Armstrong; and Mr. Roland Yorke does well in the part of Lord Avondale. Mrs. J. W. Braithwaite is a humorous Bridget; and Mr. Fred L. Connynghame a successful Sam Adams.

ABERDEEN.—H. M. THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—The D'Oyly Carte company are here on a fortnight's engagement after an absence of two years. Gilbert and Sullivan opera still retains its full favour. The repertory for the present week includes *The Gondoliers, Iolanthe, H.M.S. Pinafore*, and *The Mikado*. The first-named piece was presented on Monday. Mr. Charles R. Walenn gave a first-class impersonation of the Duke of Plaza-Toro, and Mr. Fred Billington was as brilliantly successful as of old in the character of the Grand Inquisitor; Mr. Leicester Tunks was an admirable Giuseppe, and Mr. Sydney Granville makes a good Luiz; Miss Clara Dow and Miss Beatrice Meredith charmed the audience as Gianetta and Tessa; Miss Ethel Morrison was completely at home as the Duchess; and the part of Casilda was ably filled by Miss Mabel Graham.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessees, The United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—A really delightful pantomime, *Mother Goose*, was produced last week by Mr. Harry Roxbury and company. There is not a dull moment from start to finish in the piece, which is finely staged and admirably acted. Mr. Roxbury is irresistibly funny in the title-part, and he is exceedingly well supported by such an excellent comedian as Mr. J. W. Gallacher, in the character of her son, Jack; Miss Lily Palmer makes a winsome daughter; Miss Maud Prenton is quite a fascinating principal boy; Towyn Thomas's Royal Welsh Glee Singers are enthusiastically applauded; and the dancing of the Four Sydney Girls is likewise heartily appreciated. The Brothers Milton give a remarkably smart display of skating; Miss Marjorie Prenton looks and acts sweetly; and Messrs. George Castrey, Fred Hutchings, and Brian Henry are well worthy of appreciative mention. It should be added that the singing of Miss Maud Prenton and of Miss Lola Caris, the Fairy Queen, was a feature of the production, and that at the conclusion Mr. Roxbury received an ovation on being called before the curtain.

This week Mr. Harry Tate's No. 1 company gives a piscatorial burlesque, *Fishing*, and a powerful dramatic sketch, *The Girl and the Tough*, is presented by Mr. John G. Brandon. Mr. Brandon is admirably effective as the "Tough"; Miss Rosie Dane makes a pretty picture as the paralysed girl; and Mr. Leslie Tyler shows much skill as the detective. Sibb and Sibb contribute a sensational trapeze act; Mr. Almar Correze's juggling is heartily appreciated, and he is ably assisted by Droll Keith; Miss Gertrude Moore sings and dances attractively; Mr. Jack Binns is a highly versatile comedian; Mr. Arthur Woodville shows decided talent as a light comedian; and Miss Ella Lorraine is warmly applauded as a ballad vocalist.

EMPIRE.—Managers, Messrs. R. Calder and J. Montague.—This capacious house was crowded nightly last week in every part by enthusiastically appreciative audiences. Miss Flo Dixie, comedienne and dancer, made a great hit, as did also Scotch Krisa, the humorist. All the other artists were heartily received, among others Miss Marie Rose, vocalist and dancer, whose cross turns with Mr. Archie Murray, coon comedian, prove most delightful; and Mr. Jack Marson, an admirable vocalist and raconteur. Mr. Alex. Calder's cinematograph display was particularly good.

The entertainment at the Empire Music Hall this week is well up to the usual standard of attractiveness. All the artists are excellent. On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday the management are to give a spectacle, *Peggy's Christmas Party*, in which over a hundred local children will appear. As the scenic effects and other accessories are on a very liberal scale, the display will no doubt prove highly enjoyable.

Johnnie Trunley, the celebrated "fat boy of Peckham," is now on view for the Christmas and New Year week at Mr. Humber's Waxwork Saloon, Aberdeen. Johnnie, who now scales 17st. 4lb., proves a decided attraction.

ALHAMBRA MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. John Sinclair; General-Manager, Mr. George B. Lee.—Mr. Lee, the popular and able manager, took his benefit on Tuesday. The ordinary programme had been very greatly augmented for the occasion, and the house was packed at both entertainments. This was a gratifying testimony to the ability, tact, and geniality with which Mr. Lee manages this old-established house. Step by step he is elevating it to its former high position as a variety theatre. Mr. Lee, who is a Virginian by birth, has had a long experience both in the States and in this country as an actor, minstrel, stage-manager, and agent in advance.

Included in the company this week are some very capable artists, notably Miss Effie Saunders, a beautiful soprano; Mr. J. S. Chalmers, a fine tenor; Duggan and Dillon, popular burlesque comedians; and Mr. Ted Wilson, a promising comedian; Miss Saunders and Mr. Chalmers are the soloists to the illustrated songs.

ABERTILLERY.—THEATRE METROPOLE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. J. Seaborn.—*Dare-Devil Dorothy* is presented by the powerful and talented company of Mr. Henry Swinerd. The title-rôle is taken by Miss Nellie Valentine in a manner which earned constant applause; Miss Nellie Harcourt is seen at her best as Judith, and gains the high appreciation of the house; and Ruth is capitally sustained by Miss Blanche Lynd; Mr. Will Brereton as Silas Crump is very amusing.

THE PAVILION.—Lessees, E. and H. Tilney; Manager, Mr. R. Pryce.—*Sapho* was presented here for three nights by Mr. Ernest R. Abbott's powerful company. Jean Gaussin found a clever exponent in Ernest R. Abbott, who received high appreciation; the title-rôle was cleverly sustained by the charming actress, Miss Ada Abbott, who gave a fine impersonation; comedy was excellently supplied by Mr. Frank Stephens, who was seen to advantage as Uncle Ceasaire; and the part of Lucy was very naturally played by Miss Florence North; the minor parts were filled by talented artists. The same company present *Lady Audley's Secret* the latter end of the week.

ACCRINGTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. R. Barnes.—An excellent attraction is provided here for the holidays in Mr. J. A. Campbell's company in *The Old Folks at Home*. Miss Maud Warburton repeats her fine performance as Dorothy Robin, her acting being in perfect sympathy with the character; Mr. Frank Liston is conspicuous with a realistic interpretation of the villainous Lord Howard Kenilworth; Mr. H. E. Herbert admirably sustains the part of Andrew Ross; and Mr. T. G. Vane earns praiseworthy applause as Hugh Lovell. Mr. E. Santley, as on the previous visit, is seen in his original part of Christopher Robin, and his capital rendition of the rôle deserves special commendation; whilst Miss Clara Santley, as his better half Martha Robin, is entirely satisfactory. Mr. Frank Caffrey, as Ben Jolly, is very mirth-provoking, and is ably assisted by Miss Maudie Grayson as the vivacious maid Susan.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Accrington Hippodrome Company; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—Mr. W. J. Churchill, the popular comedian, tops the bill here this week, and is accorded a big reception; Paul Vandy is an expert juggler, and was cordially applauded; Elliot and Kennedy, comedians, contribute a capital turn; Albert Sibber and company, in a dramatic episode, *A Soldier's Honour*, prove very entertaining; King Luis and partner are accomplished equilibrists; the Sages provide a capital comedy turn; Dora Kingsley achieves much success as a ballad vocalist; Dale and O'Brien, in song and dance, are well received; and the Hippodrome Biograph comprises an excellent series of films.

ALDERSHOT.—ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Jack Gladwin.—The story of *Cinderella* as produced by Mr. Arthur Carlton at this theatre this week forms the thread upon which is strung a series of lovely and charming pictures. The production is in eleven scenes, and both parts conclude with magnificent and gorgeous spectacles. The grand finale of the pantomime strikes a note of distinct novelty. Amidst thousands of fairy lights the principal and chorus go through the many catchy choruses of the piece. The comedians repeat their earlier successes, and the audience eagerly grasp the balls which are hurled from the stage, and just before the ringing down of the curtain the scene in the auditorium, with myriad flickering threads, gorgeous dresses, and sparkling lights is indeed charming. Miss Ella Willmer, a winsome and fascinating little lady, as Cinderella is a perfect picture of daintiness, who has won all hearts with her neat portrayal and graceful dancing. Miss Victoria Carmen imparts with her enactment of Prince Charming a vivacity an original style which go to make her rôle at once a huge success. She is, moreover, gifted with a sweet voice, which she uses with capital effect. Miss Ida Dorrie as Dandini renders her part with ability; and Miss Ray Fairfax is good as the Fairy. There is a quartet of laughter-makers. First there is Mr. H. A. Griffiths, who makes a splendid Baron; then there is Pimple, which as played by Mr Keane Harker is excellent. But the premier laughter-provokers are undoubtedly Messrs. Dan Harley and Fred Melton, the broker's men In patter the pair revel throughout the performance, and both contribute greatly to the success of the pantomime. Mr. Frank Lennard sings well as the Demon; as the two Ugly Sisters Miss Anna Beaumont and Miss Fanny Wallace are decidedly clever, and their comic get-up is remarkably good. The scenery is brilliant.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—First turn on the bill is the Scotch military sketch, *Kilties' Camp*, showing our brave Highland lads on the frontier. Much fun and interesting musical entertainment is introduced in songs, the playing of the pipes, and in dancing Scotch reels. Clifford Grey is a good singing comedian; the lady acrobats, the Recar Trio, are expert, daring, and graceful; Leslie and Player are refined comedy duettists and patterers; the Florodora Girls appear in musical comedy, entitled *Two's Company, Three's None;* Charters and Clare in a mock drama scena do some very clever business; Rizarelis performs a novel and sensational revolving trapeze act; Reilly and Templeton are good cross-talkers and amusement makers; Sullivan and Edwards also claim attention with song, patter, and expert dancing; Ben Harris and his nippers are seen in a novel boxing competition, prizes being given to amateur contestants. Bioscope pictures are also shown.

THE NEW PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech; Assistant-Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Edward Owen.—An entirely new series of pictures is given. The chief among the films shown are Gaumont's pictures of the Scourging of Christ, and the procession and bearing of the cross to the place of Crucifixion, and the Resurrection. Other animated pictures include Jessica's First Prayer, Rover's Christmas, A Good Tip, A Teacher's Devotion, Education of the Blind, and some comic animated photographs. The vaudeville interludes are given by the Sisters Stuart, expert duettists and dancers; Dalton and Euston, comical singers, cross-talkers, heel and toe experts; and Edgar Forest and company in a laughable domestic sketch, *Oh, My Mother!*

THE PICTUREDROME.—Lessees, Messrs. Weisker Bros.; Manager, Mr. J. Marks.—The holiday week has brought large crowds to the Picturedrome. The subjects have been of the most varied and attractive kind, viz., When the Man in the Moon Seeks a Wife, The Chauffeur's Dream, the Virtuous Young Man, the Cripples and Bill-distributing, and the Terrible Floods in India (1905). The Cowboy's Elopement and Love Story is a striking set, and the Village Tragedy is very melodramatic. 'Twixt Duty and Revenge depicts the incidents of a young fireman and a faithless wife. The vaudeville artists are our old minstrel entertainer, Billy Richardson, the great stump speech artist, who has some new wheezes and up-to-date jokes, which cause great laughter. Mr. Harry Raynor, comedian, enacts the drunken swell in the orthodox style.

ATTERCLIFFE.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manageress, Miss Ethel J. Hope.—An entire change of pictures embraces, amongst others, The Bank Burglars, Crazed by Telephone, The Island of St. Kilda, Police Women, The London Animal Hospital, The Bully and the Recruit, A Week in Russia, and The Villain. Mr. Charles Verner, in his popular chorus songs, receives lusty support from the audience.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Bert Dent; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harry Sanders.—The capital holiday programme submitted here, to crowded houses, is headed by Mr. Charles M. Daly's company in the laughable comedy sketch *I Must Have It*, the parts being well taken by Mr. F. Hulme Sharpe (the Tramp), Mr. Val Gully (the lawyer), Mr. Guy Blythe (the Nephew), and Miss Dora Hilstrom (the Barmaid). The Days give a clever and bewildering "thought-reading" performance; Mr. Jimmie James is heartily applauded for his "one-man minstrel troupe"; a popular item is furnished by Mr. Jan Danbert, illusionist and smoke-painter; Sterling and Cashen (lady and gentleman) are good in a versatile comedy act; the Trevors are well received in a vocal scena, *The Miner's Welcome Letter*; plenty of fun is caused by Mr. Harry Friskey, comedy juggler; Mr. Sheldon Mills is a pleasing comedian and dancer; and Mr. Clayton's pictures, Off for the Holidays, cause hearty laughter.

AYR.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—The fare at the Gaiety is most attractive, and is consequently being well patronised, despite the frost and snow. The piece is *The Gay Gordons*, and the combination playing it quite a new one. Miss Norrie West is responsible for the exacting part of Peggy Quainton, and does it ample justice; as Victoria Siddons Miss Mabel Dent is very charming; as Mary McLeod Miss Kathleen Dighton supplies a clever study; Mr. H. M. Johnson as Andrew Quainton is dignified and refined; Mr. Charles Childerston as Angus Græme provides a very fine bit of acting, and his singing is delightful; Mr. Edward Carlton as Nervy Natt makes a clever clown. The orchestra is augmented, and under the leadership of Mr. Leonard Leslie.

BACUP.—NEW COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood.—Miss Marie Dagmar's company is paying a welcome return visit with *The Tyrant*. Miss Marie Dagmar gave a capital impersonation of Tisbe; Mr. Roy Fortescue submitted a powerful portrayal of Angelo; Mr. Carthage Caldclaech was responsible for a well-studied piece of acting as Homode; and Mr. Edward E. Louis as Rudolph puts a wonderful amount of dramatic force into his interpretation. Pau was successfully played by Mr. T. Ashmore; Lieutenant Tasker was represented by Mr. John Turnbull in a capable manner; Mr. Frank Etheridge as Victor and Mr. Tom J. Taylor as Nobbo were responsible for much fun; Miss Margaret Frame won sympathy as Lady Katherine; Miss Lallah Shelton made a good impression as Eulie; Miss Nellie Freeman was a lively Reginella; and Miss Emmie Burns as Daphne made the most of a small part.

BARNSLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. A. C. Mitchell.—Mr. Fred Granville opened here on Christmas Eve with his second grand pantomime, entitled *Little Aladdin*, and will continue this week. The book, by Mr. Joseph L. Barry, is well written, and the piece is produced with a wealth of dress and scenic effect. Miss Minnie D'Aubyn is very popular in the title-rôle; Miss Belle Brocade is successful as the Princess; Miss Ethel Dunville is a pleasing Prince Pekoe; Miss Gladys Wells scores as Radia; Miss Ella Dare does well as Saucee; and Miss Rose Lelar as Lumino and Miss Violet Lelar as Lardi Doo both find favour. As Widow Twankey Mr. Happy Attwood is throughout vastly amusing; Harley and Hardon as members of the Pekin Police keep the audience in roars of laughter with their smart business; Mr. Harry Kirk is an eccentric comedian of ability, and his performance of Abanazar proves enjoyable; Mr. Herbert Lewis is good as the Emperor; Mr. Harry Keeble is an amusing Wun Lung; and Mr. Harry Hutin a satisfactory Wishee Washee. Specialities are introduced in the Palace scene, including the Yorkshire Mill Lasses, the Sisters Dunville, and Harley and Hardon, eccentric comedians.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Proprietors, the Barnsley Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Will Smithson.—Bert Wickham, styled "the world's champion all-round athlete," in a number of feats of strength, including his latest performance, Man v. Motor, was the chief attraction of last week's bill. A smart turn was contributed by the Falcons, comedy acrobats; the Faludy troupe of Austrian acrobatic experts were well received; the Four Netherlands are pleasing singers and dancers; and there were other turns by the Fitzroys (Fred and Lilian), society gymnasts; Clack and Clack, comedy acrobats and barrel jumpers; Gena Manon, vocalist and soubrette; the Lovelaces, American song illustrators; and the Palacescope.

With La Milo at the head of a capital programme, crowded houses are the rule this week. La Milo, in inimitable poses of most famous statues, is accorded a hearty welcome; Ralph and Nellie Howard are most successful in a comedy duo, entitled *Military Mad;* Mr. Walter Burnand shows great ability as a character impersonator; Theo. Boumeester and company are successful in a dramatic sketch, entitled *Who is Guilty?* Mr. Boumeester's impersonation of seven of the characters is remarkably clever. Other thoroughly enjoyable turns are supplied by the Primrose Quartette, harmonising male vocalists, in song scena; Gladys, dainty singer and dancer; and Albert, a clever comedian; Alec B. Thorne, Scotch comedian; Chas. Cassell, vocal comedian; and the Palacescope.

PUBLIC HALL.—Manager, Mr. Edward Cheesman.—Mr. Jasper Redfern presented an attractive programme here last week, including Les Ados, the Roman gladiatorial athletes; Clark and Glenny, in a farcical sketch, *The Christmas Ghost;* Leolin, novelty juggler; Haig and Novel, in refined comedy; Harry Goodburn, comedian; John Shaw, blind musician; George Griffin, eccentric vocalist; the Seven Perezofs, in their great novelty juggling act, *A Supper at Maxim's;* and a number of animated pictures were also depicted.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company in *The Bondman* is here this week. The piece is admirably staged and dressed. Mr. R. Scrope Quentin as Jason portrays the character in an imposing manner—a fine voice and a commanding stage appearance; the Michael Sunlocks of Mr W. H. Hargreaves is polished and dignified, and withal very impressive; Miss Georgina Wynter is charming as Greeba; full of spirit and feeling, she takes the part to perfection. Quite a clever piece of acting is given by Mr. W. H. Rotheram as Father Ferrati, the old Sicilian priest.

HIS MAJESTY'S.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's company is paying a return visit in *With Edged Tools*. The stage effects and dresses are beautiful, and the company is of all-round excellence. Special mention should be made of Mr. William Grant as Jack Meredith, who gives a really brilliant performance; Mr. Campbell Goldsmith as Victor Durnovo gives a very clever interpretation of the part; Miss Alice Belmore as Millicent Cheyne has a fine conception of the character, and Miss Marie Leonard as Jocelyn is perfection in the part. The incidental music, written by Messrs. Lalham and F. Buller, adds considerably to the effect of the play.

TIVOLI.—Lessee and Manager, Signor R. Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edgar G. Laban.—The star item last week was supplied by Pitchel and Scales, who provided a clever acrobatic entertainment; Ryan and Hall created roars of laughter with their comicalities and wrestling bouts; Eric, comedian, sang some good songs; Edwards and Dacre were capital in a duologue; Tee and Tee gave an original musical turn; Lillian Lowe sang in a very pleasing manner; and Vernon's Bioscope concluded the programme with some good pictures.

An excellent array of talent is on the bill here this week. The Five Whiteleys are exceedingly clever acrobats and wire-walkers; Walls and Mackenzie, operatic singers, give a charming vocal scena, *Christina of Sketra;* Zenora gives a really clever exhibition of novelty hand-jumping and equilibrism; Jack Crawley is very good in a scena, *Lights Out;* Shirley and Ransome's vocal scena *'Arf a Quid* had a splendid reception; and some fine pictures were shown by Vernon's Bioscope.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Owners and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ralph D. Fenton.—An up-to-date picture and variety programme is provided here this week. Cinderella, Santa Claus, and other seasonable pictures were much enjoyed, and C. H. Burns, in a versatile musical scena, was capital.

BARRY DOCK.—THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Mr. Harry Starr presents *Otto the Outcast* and *Carl the Clockmaker* here this week. In addition to Mr. Starr, the cast includes Messrs. Will Hee, Alvin Sawyer, E. Firth, A. Allen, and Misses Effie McIntosh, Kate Norris, Cissie Hastings, and Madge Blundell. All the parts are capably filled.

BATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—For the Christmas attraction the management was fortunate in arranging with Mr. George Edwardes to start another tour of his principal company in *The Merry Widow* at Bath. The company includes several members who appeared locally upon the first visit, and the performance maintains all its gaiety and charm. Mr. Leonard Mackay is at hand to present his admirable portrayal of Prince Danilo, as also is Mr. Lionel Victor to repeat his righly-humorous study of Baron Popoff. Mr. Tom Redmond retains the character of Nisch, which is quite a masterpiece of quiet humour. Miss Octavia Barry still furnishes fine vocalism as Natalie, for which she is justly accorded much applause; Miss Nora Barry has succeeded to the title-rôle in place of Miss Louie Pounds, and the new-comer is to be congratulated upon achieving so personal a success; Mr. Haigh Jackson is heard to advantage in the tenor rôle of Jolidon. An innovation is the latest dancing sensation Les Apache, in which Mr. A. J. Majilton and Miss Dora Langham score an emphatic hit. The several minor parts are all exceedingly well played, the general *tout ensemble* being fully up to the high standard associated with Mr. Edwardes's productions. Mr. Harrison Frewin (so long with the Moody-Manners Co.) is the musical director, Mr. Somers Bellamy undertakes the stage management, and Mr. Douglas Millar and Mr. Chas. F. J. Watts are the general and advance managers respectively on the tour.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—A capital turn is given by Clown Barker with his wonderful performing animals, assisted by Miss Rozsika; the Five Bombays come in for an ovation for their plantation clog-dancing; Sergt. Brennan shows to what heights of skill diabolo can be played; as instrumentalists the Three Transfields give evident pleasure; the Forsyths, comedy artists, find favour in their interlude, *The Tramp in the Nursery;* Amos Howard exhibits great ability as a coon dancer, as does Colin Mail, a young light comedian; Norah Desmond, although billed, was unable to sing early in the week through indisposition, but the films illustrating her songs were shown, and the audience enjoyed singing the choruses; Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are both interesting and amusing.

THE Fun City, which opened on Christmas Eve at Bath, under the management of Messrs. Larcher and Carl Fredericks, has drawn thousands of patrons already to enjoy the feast of good things provided. Free vaudeville performances are given twice daily, those regularly appearing being Miss Della Fredericks, the Raleighs, Mlle. Leoville, and Æolia, all of whom give infinite pleasure to the crowds who witness their clever efforts.

BATLEY.—THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Whitty; Manager, Mr. Alfred A. Taylor.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company in *The Great White Chief* opened here to a crowded house on Monday night. The company includes several clever actors and actresses, and the show generally was much appreciated.

BEDFORD.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—*Cinderella* commenced on Christmas Eve for fourteen nights and several matinées. The production is that of Mr. Graham Falcon, and the eleven scenes and a short harlequinade are got through exceedingly well and to the delight of large houses. The dresses of the ladies are well thought out and richly coloured, and Mrs Graham Falcon, who designed them, is to be heartily congratulated on her good taste. Miss Norah Neville is a dainty Cinderella, and plays her part in a vivacious manner; Miss Frankie Manners appears as Prince Elegant, and her singing and acting materially add to the success of the pantomime; Miss Dot Carey personates Dandini in a lively manner, and her singing is praiseworthy; Baron Stoney is played by Mr. Wentworth Fane; and the ugly sisters are portrayed by Mr. Albert Evremonde and Mr. Claude Morton, who keep the pot of fun boiling. Mr. Geo. Whillis, the Billy Buttons, is a good comedian and dancer; Miss Beatrice Maude appears as Margery, a dainty dairymaid; Mr. Ben Walters and Mr. Fred Wallace cause much fun as Slip and Slop, and take part in a very amusing turn with the Cat (Mr. Will Telford). The pantomime is produced by Mr. Albert Evremonde, under the personal direction of Mr. Graham Falcon, the incidental music being composed and arranged by Mr. H. Elphinstone Stone, the theatre band conductor.

BELFAST.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—On Monday Mr. F. R. Benson and company opened a two-weeks' engagement in *The Merchant of Venice*, in which Mr. Benson's impersonation of Shylock was irreproachable, his fine acting gaining him loud recalls at the end of each act. Mr. Benson is, as usual, well supported by a competent cast. Miss Dorothy Green's charming interpretation of Portia reflected much credit on this capable actress; and praise is due to Mr. J. Moffatt Johnston, who at short notice undertook the rôle of Launcelot Gobbo; Mr. E. S. Warburton would, indeed, be difficult to excel in his able impersonation of the Prince of Morocco; Mr. G. Hannan Clark was entirely convincing as Antonio; and Mr. F. G. Worlock acquitted himself with distinction as Lorenzo; Miss Olive Noble capably represented Jessica; and Mr. W. Ribton Haines was all that could possibly be desired as the Duke of Venice. Other rôles were cleverly sustained by Miss Regina Lawrence, Miss S. P. Nicholson, Miss L. Hanman, and Messrs. Murray Carrington, H. O. Nicholson, J. P. Wilson, &c. During the week *The Taming of the Shrew, Twelfth Night*, and *Hamlet* have been performed, and to-night *Macbeth* will be produced.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Will Sley and Fred Willmott; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—On Monday the pantomime *Jack and Jill* commenced the last six nights of its engagement here. During the holidays phenomenal crowds enjoyed the performance of such prime favourites as Miss Nellie Rodney, Miss Harriet Fawn, Messrs. Horace Jones, Bruce, Cotton, &c., who were accorded a tremendous reception. *The Gathering of the Clans*, in which about fifty performers take part, is loudly cheered nightly.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—The star here is Gustave Fasola, whose Oriental feats have caused much amazement, and he has been thoroughly successful. Matthews and Cowper appear in their capital sketch *When the Clock Went Wrong*, written by Mr. E. C. Matthews, which is certainly most mirth-provoking, keeping the audience highly amused; Cull Pit, the droll deceiver, assisted by Mlle. Adele, appears to great advantage in his original and funny act; and Miss Bertha Winder, the champion lady clog and big-boot dancer, gains a terrific reception. Ross and Lewis appear in their humorous and unique dancing act, and Miss Dorothy Sephton is a capital comedienne. Also here are Mr. Harry Tompa, comedian, and the Bioscope.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Will White.—Under the skilful direction of the courteous manager Mr. Will White, the following films have been exhibited:—Sunshine after Storm, Living Blackboard, His Wedding Morn, Four-Footed Hero, Heard on the 'Phone, &c. In addition, Clamp and Clancy, comedians and dancers, and Mr. Jack Hylton, comedian, appear with much success.

ST. GEORGE'S HALL.—General-Manager, Mr. Robert Wilson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—The success of this popular hall continues to be maintained, and during the week the following beautiful films have been shown:—Wanted, a Nice Young Man, Call me at Seven, Plumber and Lunatics, Motherless Child, &c. Mr. Charles Cardle, gipsy vocalist, is accorded a good reception nightly, and Mr. Dan Ellis is a capital humorist with good songs.

CLIFTONVILLE HALL.—General-Manager, Colonel Fredk. T. Cummins.—During the holidays enormous crowds visited this Rink to enjoy the unique novelties presented by the popular manager Col. Cummins. Roller skating is now all the rage in Belfast.

BILSTON.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. John M. Dawson; Business-Manager, Mr. S. Hadaksis Dawson.—The Amateur Dramatic Company of the Wolverhampton Technical School gave two performances in aid of the Staffordshire General Hospital on Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 23 and 24. The pieces presented were *A Rough Diamond, In the Eyes of the World*, and *Who's Who*. As a Christmas attraction we have *The Lighthouse Robbery*, presented by Mr. E. H. Knight's company. The part of Tom Manly has a capable exponent in Mr. Geoffrey Broughton; Miss Hilda Baynton is sweet and sympathetic as Rose Prescott; Miss Lilian Bates makes a sprightly Ruth; and Mr. Arthur Beaufort is very amusing as Sam Kidder.

BIRKENHEAD.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—Mr. James Kiddie's pantomime *Little Cinderella and the Glass Slipper* inaugurated what promises to be a most successful season on Boxing Day. The book is written by Mr. Joseph L. Barry, who has followed the principal points of the familiar story. The elaborate and beautiful scenic effects are from the brush of Mr. James Greenhalgh, and the overture, incidental music, choruses, and songs have been arranged and selected by Mr. George Burton. The title-rôle is sustained with particular charm and grace by Miss Hettie Gale, who quickly instals herself a favourite, singing her allotted numbers with delightful finish. Mlle. de Rose gives a fine performance of Prince Perfect, displaying vocal powers of quite exceptional merit; and Miss Edie May as Dandini is seen to decided advantage. Much of the success attending the production is due to Mr. Joe Huda, a comedian of resource, whose untiring exertions in the part of Pimples, the page, are worthy of special commendation. The two quarrelsome sisters are represented with great verve by Mr. Harry Bliss and Mr. W. G. Wesley; the impecunious Baron is humorously impersonated by Mr. Leslie Hawkins; Mr. J. M. Hawtrey is thoroughly successful as Malicio, the Spirit of Mischief, introducing several songs with great effect; Miss Norah Riberio is an admirable Sunbeam, the fairy godmother; and prominent in the cast are Mr. William Verto, Miss Pollie Kiddie, Miss Ada Tyrrell, Miss Nellie Barrett, and Miss Hilda Clairemont. Specialities include some clever acrobatic feats by the Lisando Brothers. The evolutions of Mlle. Barrett and her clever troupe of lady dancers are greatly admired, and the magnificent costumes and accessories are worthy of the admiration they evoke. The orchestra is under the direction of Mr. James A. Lowe, and a successful career may be safely predicted for the production when it goes on tour. Business here is simply immense.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—A capital holiday company includes Mr. Tom Edwards, the well-known and popular ventriloquist, and Harry Rogers and his able company in the dramatic episode *Told in a Flat*, who have made a hit. Prominent turns are also furnished by Boyd and Gilfain, burlesque operatic vocalists; the Channings, instrumentalists and vocalists; Doody and Wright, Australian comedians; Charles Coll, light comedian; Walter Emerson, comedian and dancer; Miss Gwennie Hasto, a talented comedienne; Miss Lorna Doone, vocalist and entertainer; and Brown's Royal Bioscope.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Ball.—George Hackenschmidt, in his exhibitions of wrestling, is the leading attraction here. A liberal programme is also contributed to by Lyster and Cooke, musical comedians; Stelling's performing dog; Les Rallis, acrobats; Jack Hayward, Scotch comedian; the Two Clares, comedians; Miss Daisy Hinks, comedienne; and the Hippodrome pictures.

BIRMINGHAM.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—Mr. Melville's Christmas fare is *On His Majesty's Service*, wherein, under his *nom de theatre* of Andrew Emm, he appears as Bob Whittles, acting in the true spirit of comedy, and enjoying the utmost popularity with his patrons. Mrs. Melville (Miss Rose Ralph) as Madge has a part wherein she is able to display that sympathetic charm she indubitably possesses; Mr. Frank Beresford does admirably as Frank Fairway; Mr. Francis Everard's utility is palpable in the rôle of Will Rawson; Mr. Gerald Kennedy shows skill by making much of the part of Capt. Hedley; Mr. George Maxted scores as Ned Farley; and the rest act completely up to their parts.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. M. A. J. Robertson.—*Her Fatal Marriage* is serving the public here well, with Messrs. Hinton, Green, and Zillwood's company. The play is described elsewhere.

PALACE THEATRE, BORDESLEY.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—*Her Marriage Vow* has, with Messrs. Edward L. Garside and J. Forbes Knowles's company, proved very popular here with the holiday folk. Mr. Charles B. Bedells plays the heavy rôle, Gilbert Carlton, in a forceful manner, gaining general execrations with his well-simulated villainy; Mr. J. Forbes Knowles infuses great warmth and power into his part of Ned Benton, and is highly popular; Miss Lillian Herries carries the audience with her emotional powers as Kate Walters; Miss Nelly Shirley portrays her rôle as Hester Norton with great skill; the character of Daffy Dan shows many fine points in the acting of Mr. Vincent Wardle; Mr. Jno. W. Ryder forces applause as William Walters; and the comedy is excellent in the hands of Mr. H. Vernon, Miss Grace Garside, Miss Winifred Barton, and Mr. Wilford Bailey.

GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—The excellent bill here is headed by Albert Chevalier, who, in *Behind the Scenes*, is loudly applauded. "The Globe of Life" is a sensational cycling feat presented by Wizard and Irene Stone; the singing of Luis Alvarez and Sybil St. Elmo is excellent; Phil and Nettie Peters, Enzer, Grant and Grant, and Lily Flexmore all do capital turns.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—Morris Cronin and his clever troupe of jugglers are the "big turn" here, and well deserve the applause which greets them; the quaint patter of Mike S. Whallen can always keep the house in a roar of laughter; Mary Mayfield and company have a dramatic sketch, *The Yellow Fang;* and a bright comedy item is presented by Florence Smithers and company. The Sisters Jerome, Helen Trix, and Jack Smiles complete the company.

HIPPODROME.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Lyons.—Mme. Albani is here, and the huge building has been crowded, the great songstress being vociferously applauded. There is a good variety bill. The Bijou Juvenile Troupe appear in *Pansy's Birthday;* while Thorpe and Coe have a pleasing playlet. Honors and Le Prince are clever and humorous in their acrobatic act; some capital national dances are provided by the Ongars; and other prominent turns are Paulton and Doley, cycle comedians, and Russell Carr, ventriloquist.

GAIETY THEATRE. — General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—May Clifton and her company, in the extravaganza, *Jack in Japan*, is proving a big attraction; and Mat Wilkinson's Merrymakers are responsible for plenty of fun. The Smart Set provide a bright musical and dancing entertainment; Tate and Tate, in their act, *The Barmaid and the Customer*, are most amusing; Rastus and Banks, coloured entertainers; Sisters Aindow, J. W. Ellison; and Clark's Nippers, make up an excellent bill.

ASTON HIPPODROME.—Resident-Manager, Mr. T. H. Middleton. — Harriet Vernon is the bright and popular star this week, her songs being loudly encored; Dulcie Milner and George Storey soon sing and dance themselves into favour; Dallas and Vardon have a smart little musical comedy act which is much appreciated; the Lavails are expert on self-revolving bars; while the Martelloni Family are acrobats of the first order. Leslie Race and Flake White complete the programme.

KING'S HALL.—Proprietors, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy —The pictures here are much appreciated, especially Blue Beard. The vaudeville programme includes Nesta Nixon and Jackson and Mart, whose songs and dances were much admired. In the same building, the Exhibition Hall, which holds about 450 people, was opened on Boxing Day by Messrs. Moore and Kennedy with a bustling minstrel entertainment, headed by Geo. Snow. The show is bright and amusing.

QUEEN'S HALL.—This beautiful building in Edward-street Parade was opened on Boxing Day by Messrs. Moore and Kennedy with a picture show, which proves attractive.

BISHOP AUCKLAND.—EDEN THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. Huntley.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company occupies the boards here this week with *The Worst Woman in London*, and a crowded house was present on Monday. Mr. F. Vernon Travers as James Milford is a typical country gentleman, and Mr. Geo. Gaisford an excellent Jack Felton. Mr. H. W. Monte gives a capital portrayal of Hugh Drayton, and Mr. Willie Scott (Bob Goldfinch) and Miss Polly Marsh (Matilda Parker) keep the house in screams of laughter. Miss Dorothy Haigh is a charming and winning Ruth Milford, and Miss Edith Blande is admirable in the title-rôle.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone. — Mr. Fredk. Mouillot's company is reaping a rich harvest here this week with *A Message From Mars*. Mr. Wallace Widdicombe plays Horace Parker with true artistic skill; whilst Mr. William H. Brougham is successful as the Messenger, and Mr. Norman Clark presents an excellent study of the Tramp. A charming Minnie Templer is found in Miss Rose Helme; and other parts are also in efficient hands.

GRAND THEATRE.—Owner, Mr. T. Sergenson; Responsible Tenant and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Hunter.—A very suitable holiday programme was provided here last week. All the artists were well received, but probably Madge Gray, the Lancashire comedienne, got the lion's share of applause. Fred S. Peake and company found favour in a playlet entitled The Hypocrite; whilst Cliff Rock, a capable baritone vocalist; Dick Bradley, cyclist; Phillips and Merritt, comedians; Voldan Brothers, acrobats; the Langfords, singers and dancers; Mini and Mart, paper manipulators; and Morimura, a Japanese magician, were also included in the bill.

Le Diabelo, in a "looping" act, tops a varied bill here this week. Other turns are contributed by the Jackley Trio, in a drawing-room entertainment; the Markies, in a comedy sketch entitled *From Pavement to Stage;* Harry Blake, a very clever character-comedian; the Colonials, in a comedy scena; Sisters Draycott, vocalists; Stidder and Dunbar, in *The Dancer's Dilemma;* and Mabel Florence, a pleasing and dainty comedienne.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—Nellie Wallace, the popular eccentric comedienne, topped a big bill here last week. Syd May, the mimic, is a tremendous favourite in Blackpool, and his efforts were loudly applauded; Tom Edwards, the amazing ventriloquist; Maude Marshall, character vocalist; Burns and Bentley, dancers; Sinclair and Parr, comedians and vocalists; Lalie Brooke, in a pleasing scena; Sinclair and Whiteford, in an amusing sketch; and McCann, with his performing dogs, were also appreciated in their respective turns.

Visitors here this week are highly delighted with the fare provided. Marie Jones, in a quick-change act, is a great favourite; Ted Karno and company evoke hilarity in their sketch, *Dinner Hour;* the Two Woodwards excel as cyclists; Lily Arthur sings and dances well; Les Aribos show their feats of strength; and Leslie's Comedy Cadets appear in a clever scena. Maudy Lordy's Dogs and Bostock's Baboons also appear.

BLYTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur C. Moody.—Mr. William Maclaren and Miss Lily C. Bandmann, on a welcome return visit, opened on Christmas Eve for eight nights with *Claudian*. Mr. Maclaren in his inimitable impersonation of the title-rôle aroused admiration; Miss Bandmann in the part of Almida was again a decided success.

THE EMPIRE (late the Theatre Royal).—Lessee, Mr. Arthur C. Moody; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lacey Lyne.—The programme submitted here was met with success. This week's company includes Rosie Dawn, a clever Scotch comedienne; Harry Walker, comedian; Three Musical Starlands; the Weimars, musical sketch artists; Will Hughes, the Eton Boy; and Hearn and Palmer, acrobatic comedians.

THE GAIETY. — Lessees, Messrs. Claggers. — The Surrey and Carlton company of six artists introduce a clever dramatic sketch, *Two Little Soldier Boys*, that went well; Rose Adams, Chas. Field, Billy Ankers, Eros, and Ella and Edwards rendered good turns.

HIPPODROME.—The Edison Pictures are still in possession, and meeting with liberal patronage.

BOLTON. — THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Moncur.—Mr. Charles Constant's Christmas pantomime of *Aladdin and His Lamp* had a most successful send-off at its inaugural representation on Boxing Day, and is now attracting large audiences. The story (told in twelve scenes) allows abundant opportunity for a succession of brilliant sets and sprightly and humorous acting. The part of Aladdin is admirably filled by Miss Lillie Blythe, whose vivacity and charm are irresistible, her impersonation being thoroughly successful. Miss Dorothy Dempster deservedly shares the honours by a winsome rendering of Princess Badroulbadour. The part of Widow Twankey is taken with much humour by Mr. Victor Stevens; Mr. Tom J. Morton has a fund of humour of a quaint and original kind as Abanazar; Mr. Martin D. Pitts is imposing in the part of the Emperor; and Little Britton is successful as Wishee-Washee. Miss Margery Seymour sings herself into favour as Fairy Aurolia; the Brothers Hinson are highly amusing as Policemen of Pekin; and Miss Maggie Bowman (as Chee-Kee), Miss Louie Danby (as Pekoe), and Miss Florence Fortiscue (as Dan-dee) are also seen to advantage in their respective parts. Specialities are introduced with excellent effect by Bowman and Morton, Stuart and Stuart, the Three Brendas, Hinson Brothers, and the Panama Sextette; whilst Miss Maud May Murray is responsible for a capital display of aerial serpentine dancing. The latest vocal and instrumental items have been compiled by the musical director, Mr. W. Neale, and the entire production bids fair to excel any previous efforts.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—A heavy holiday week here, including three matinées, is in progress. The programme comprises Botello and Virginia, daring aerial gymnasts; Fraser and French, hurricane wooden shoe marvels; A. E. Clifford, versatile vocalist; Bonnetti and Corri, eccentric jugglers; Cline and Clarke, black and white speciality dancers and comedy artists; Cortus, light-weight athlete; Brull and Helmsley, the dainty damsel and the dancing dude, in *Fun in a Music Shop;* Ted Saunders, mimic; Ada Parker, a merry and bright comedienne; a realistic scenic representation of the Johnstown Flood, U.S.A., in 1836; and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. R. Harrison.—An old Bolton favourite in the person of J. W. Hall, comedian, is the principal turn here, and much support is accorded him by Cara Magda, Continental gymnast; A. Rinder, vocalist; Blanche and Powell, society entertainers; the Lovelaces, in illustrated songs; Amy Russell, soprano vocalist; Charles Lestree, juggler; Chard's Troupe of Trained Dogs; and the Empire Bioscope.

BOSCOMBE.—HIPPODROME, LTD.—Joint-Managing Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Clifford King.—A capital programme, presented this week before crowded houses, includes Joe Peterman and company with *The Singing Servants;* Mr. Chas. Miller's famous Elephant Trio give a strikingly intelligent performance; Harry Carsdale, the farmyard linguist, is famous; Onda and Artell perform a clever acrobatic and rope feat; George Grogie, the Sussex yokel, comes in for applause; Lena Leslie as comedienne and Lilian Rigby as instrumentalist and dancer also deserve mention. The Hippo pictures conclude the bill.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, Messrs. David Allen and Sons; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Hubert Dunbar.—Mr. Mouillot's pantomime of *Mother Goose*, produced under the direction of Mr. F. Leslie Moreton, eclipsed previous Boxing Day productions. The audience, which filled every nook in the theatre on Saturday, got the best to be had in the way of crisp, up-to-date dialogue, sparkling and tuneful music, and beautiful mounting; and added to these they had the untiring efforts of a first-rate company under the stage-management of Mr. Howard Leslie. Miss Olive Eltone and Miss Florrie Saunders were both charming and well up to their respective parts as principal boy and girl; as Gretchen, a maid-of-all-work, Miss Dorothy Payn exhibited a vivacity well suited to the part; Mr. Edmond Russell as Mother Goose was excellent, and contrived whenever he was on the stage to evoke hearty laughter; Mr. Victor Kahn as Jack and Mr. Lawrence Hanray as Lord Overdrawn proved capital fun-producers, the former's whistling solo and the latter's songs (composed by himself) being vociferously encored. Some pretty dances were nicely executed by Sinclair's Four Parisian Girls; and the wrestling turn by the Miller Brothers was, perhaps, the most amusing turn in the whole pantomime. Great credit is due Mr. Jean Desormes, the musical conductor, and also to Mr. Hubert Dunbar, Mr. Mouillot's astute manager, whose anxiety to study the comfort of the audience is much appreciated by them.

BRADFORD. — THE EMPIRE. — Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Those delightful entertainers, Bella and Bijou, headed the bill here last week with *The Suffragette*, amongst their excellent and well-acted sketches. The Gaudsmidts, clown acrobats, with their trained French poodles, furnished an excellent turn; there was some capital clog-dancing by the Eight Lancashire Lads; Thora, a lady impersonator and ventriloquist, contributed a good entertainment; as a dandy comedienne, with immaculate "get up," Madge Osmond proved entertaining; the vocal contributions by the Crown Trio have a military flavour, and were well rendered; comedy and pathos were well blended in the capital little Cockney sketch, *Me and 'Er*, given by Duncan and Godfrey; Mina Denvil, a young comedienne, with an excellent voice, was also very well received; and some entertaining pictures were shown by the Bioscope.

A genuine success is scored here this week by the Original Gnikshank, whose funny patter and excellent songs, with accompaniments on 'cello and banjo, are particularly entertaining. Lottie Lennox quite wins her audience with her songs "Put on Your old Green Bonnet" and "There'll be no War"; in a miniature Sicilian drama, *What Women Do for Men*, F. W. Purcell's company are much appreciated; Rousby's company introduce some effective scenic spectacular effects in *Greater London*, which win applause; Bessie Slaughter is a versatile contralto vocalist whose songs are popular; a very clever comedy acrobatic entertainment by the Falcons is highly appreciated; an aeroplane burlesque by Verno and Voyce, *The Fly-far Man*, amuses the audience greatly; *The Rag Doll*, by the Martineks, is a novel act which is particularly diverting; Arthur Albert, comedian and actor-vocalist, submits a good turn; and there are some capital pictures shown by the Bioscope.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Harrison.—A remarkable performance was last week submitted by Minerva, a lady who not only defied the handcuffs and the strait-jacket, of regulation pattern, but freed herself from a padlocked barrel, which was filled with water. Flo Inman proved herself to be a dainty comedienne and dancer; Emmie Ames presented with success a pretty song-scena, "Emmie's Christmas Tree"; Julian Ross and Harry Bancroft were both good comedians with capital songs; a cleverly-acted protean sketch, *An Anglo-American Alliance*, won applause for Wilton Heriot and company; in *A Tramp's Holiday* the Beisons performed some clever trick cycling; Les Zelovas were smart as acrobatic equilibrists; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux concluded.

A striking and particularly artistic exhibition of Living Bronze Statuary by Mlle. Clasen and her four assistants wins marks of genuine appreciation here this week; Les Elgonas win applause, too, for a distinctly sensational gymnastic performance; J. H. Greener, the Singing Pit Lad, has a voice of exceptional quality; there is some good broad comedy in the turn by Marion Armitage, comedienne; the Della Sisters, The Ladies in Black, entertain with their vocalism; Walker and May, coloured singers and dancers, present a capital turn; Margaret Radcliffe, the Illustrated Songstress, is entertaining; a most diverting turn is the mélange of music, singing, and dancing submitted by Ross and Grayson; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are interesting.

BRIDLINGTON.—GRAND PAVILION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Charles Palmer.—The Christmas attraction here was Mr. Herbert Ralland's company in that fine play of Mr. Pinero's *His House in Order*. Miss Elsie Roberts, in the character of Nina, gave a superb rendering, and was thoroughly deserving of the frequent calls she received; Hillary Jesson was in the capable hands of Mr. Herbert Beaumont, who gave a vigorous exposition of this very exacting part; Mr. J. Parish Robinson was an admirable Filmer Jesson; Mr. Langford Thomas was well suited as Sir Daniel Ridgeley; Mr. Dudley Stuart made the most of the character of Pryce Ridgeley; Mr. Richard Dalton was a breezy and cheery Dr. Dilnot; Mr. Randolfe Reade as Major Maurewarde and Mr. L. Seth Wallis as Harding lent valuable aid; and as Derek Jesson Miss Peggy Ray made a very smart and capable boy. Miss Avis Grahame as Lady Ridgeley Miss Victoria May as Geraldine, and Miss Kate Neville as Mlle. Thome were all admirably fitted; and a most effective rendering was given to this fine play. For the remainder of the week we have the New Bioscope Trading Company and a good variety show, including Sill and Silicott, the silent comedians, in their laughable absurdity *Lively Luggage*, and the Brothers Almo in a fine triple horizontal bar act.

SEA OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. Harry Timbridge.—A fine series of animated pictures was the great attraction here for the holidays, and some dramatic and humorous films were very effectively displayed.

THE PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Delmar.—The Delmar Picture Palace still keeps up its popularity, and the constant introduction of new films of up-to-date subjects meets with the full approval of the patrons of this popular resort. The ballroom, too, is open during the holidays, and adds to the attractions.

BRIGHTON.—ALHAMBRA.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Alfred Smith.—A very attractive programme is sustained here this week. Colin Bryce and company are highly successful in *Are You a Socialist?* the Hanlon troupe win hearty applause for their excellent aerial act; Bert Terrell, Dutch comedian, gives his songs in good style; Ernest Ball, actor-vocalist, is well received; Ethel Douna is a graceful vocalist and neat dancer; Barford and Carson are an amusing pair of comedians; Les Henris submit a skilful equilibrist act; Maggie Rimmer sings and dances herself into favour; the Sisters Du Cane are high-class vocalists and expert dancers; Charles Craston, a quaint comedian, is very popular; and the Alhambra Picturegraph proves interesting and amusing. During the week special daily matinées are given. The programmes submitted comprise exhibitions of Jury's Imperial Pictures and vocal selections by Mme. Edith Welling (soprano) and Mr. Ben Brammall (baritone). Prominent among the pictures are Aladdin and A Christmas Eve Dream.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. B. Brown.—An excellent company is engaged here this week. The Leslie Brothers, Australia's eccentric musical comedians, evoke the heartiest of laughter and applause with their original act *Music Mad;* Violet King, entertainer at the piano and accomplished violinist, is a great favourite; Wright and Lawson are a couple of very diverting eccentrics; Carl Lynn achieves distinct success as a wonderful mimic of animals; Lanos and Montes submit a good comedy acrobatic turn; the Serenaders are a pleasing "Old Venice" quartette of vocalists; Mike Nono, "the Irish cowboy," is a unique comedian and dancer; Dave Carter, tenor vocalist, sings tastefully; the Three Comerfords are capital comedy acrobats; and Carrie Laurie's miniature comedy company, in *The Belles of the Kitchen*, display admirable dancing and singing.

COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. M. Barrasford.—The exhibitions of animated pictures here continue to attract crowded houses. The Count of Monte Cristo conveys a very stirring story, The Legend of the Stars is replete with pathetic incidents; The Reconciliation is a capital love story, and much fun is afforded by A Marvellous Escape, How the Artist Paid His Rent, and Behind the Scenes with the Marionettes. Two "real singing pictures"—A Christmas Carol and A Jolly Christmas Eve—are presented by the Cinephone with realistic effects. The Barrasford Sable Operatic Minstrels maintain their great popularity with their excellent singing and humorous jokes. Mr. Arthur W. Briggs merits warm commendation for his cleverly descriptive pianoforte accompaniments to the pictures.

PALACE PIER THEATRE.—The entertainments provided here for the Christmas holidays are of a varied and interesting character. *The Water Babies* and *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves*, with a very amusing harlequinade, are admirably submitted by King's Royal Bioscope. The fine set of films also includes Jim the Chimney Sweeper and The Harlequin's Story. In addition to these attractions Mr. J. E. Cowell's dramatic company submit the farce, *The Kiss in the Dark*, in which the characters are admirably sustained by Mr. J. E. Cowell (Mr. Pettibone), Miss Bertha Felsing (Mrs. Pettibone), Mr. R. Elsworth (Frank Fathom), and Miss Blakemore (Mary).

ARCADIA PICTURE PALACE.—Capital programmes are provided here for the Christmas holidays. Animated pictures give much-appreciated representations of the pantomime stories of Red Riding Hood and Bluebeard, and others are of a dramatic and humorous character. The pictures are varied by the renderings of vocal and instrumental selections.

BRISTOL. — PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Edward Crosland's "Melody Makers" head the programme with a successful musical and comedy entertainment, entitled *The Burglar's Dream;* Les François are smart acrobats, &c.; R. Cameron Matthews and company amuse with their farcical sketch, *The Honeymoon Baby;* Tiny Arnold sings and dances with much skill; The Claymores are competent vocalists, dancers, and jugglers; Spangles and Sawdust excel in a comedy stage aerial act; Arthur Stacey obtains applause for his comic songs and dancing; Harry Bold, raconteur, is successful; and the performance concludes with animated pictures.

EMPIRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—Marie Kendall, the popular comedienne, heads the programme, her pleasing turn obtaining full appreciation; Dorothy Grimston and Company have an excellent dramatic sketch, *The Money Spider;* it is well played and obtains considerable applause. The Spanish Amio Trio do some smart rifle-swinging and acrobatic acts; Rose Cambry, Australian burlesque actress, does a pleasing turn; Cummin and Seaham do a good comedy acrobatic act; Cyril Dane, light comedian, is appreciated; Barney Ives, illusionist, is successful; Steve McCarthy, comedian and dancer, is well received; and The Xentrix sing and dance well in their scena *The Garden of Terpsichore*. New subjects projected by the bioscope conclude the entertainment.

COLSTON HALL.—The "Joseph" Poole's myriorama opened here on Christmas Eve to a packed house. Performances are given twice daily, and the season bids fair to be highly successful. The panoramas and dioramic effects are quite up to the usual high standard of "Poole's," if not still more effective; the animated pictures are very much up-to-date; there is a competent vaudeville company and an excellent band.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—Mr. Watson's benefit on the 23rd ult. drew an overflowing house, and a large number of variety turns were given by artists from the district and neighbouring towns. Among those were Messrs. Crade, Kaye, and Crathorne in *Supper for Two;* Bert Gibbons, comedian; W. Scott-Joint, bass; Beattie and Babs in song and dance scena, *A Pavement Rehearsal;* C. Edwards-Horobin, character comedian; Wee Ella Fields, comedienne and clever dancer; Little Miss Alexander, elocutionist; Little Bob Shillin, comic; Joseph B. Montague and Hilda Blanche in *A Matter of Sport;* T. Carlyle; Herbert Dickinson; Will Hay, comedian; Tom Taylor, comedian; Bros. Kauffman and Co., in *A Brother's Sacrifice;* and Ena Moore in Cleopatra dance. Boxing Day Robert Courtneidge's company commenced the new version of *The Dairymaids*. Mr. Johnny Osborne as Joe Mivens and Miss Gladys Silvana as Eliza kept the house in roars; Peggy is well played by Miss Empsie Bowman; Mr. Nelson Keys gives prominence to the character of Lieut. Sam Brudenell, dancing and singing well; Mr. J. Herbert Willis does well as Lieut. Frank Meredith; Mr. Percy Marshall is capital as Dr. O'Bryne; Miss Penelope Pyechase is well presented by Miss Lucy Edwin. The chorus is efficient under Mr. Albert Bartlett, and the scenery and staging are excellent.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—*Tom Jones*, by Mr. Robert Courtneidge's capital company, is paying a welcome return visit here. Miss Florence Smithson as Sophia Western is a pretty personality, and her well-cultured singing brings forth repeated encores. Mr. Harry Welchman again gives a fine interpretation of Tom Jones, and Mr. Ambrose Manning is highly interesting as Squire Western; Mr. George Elton is a volatile Partridge, and the ever-laughing Gregory is, as before, represented by Mr. J. T. Macmillan; Miss Joan Ritz is a delightful Honour, and Lady Bellaston is haughtily depicted by Miss Alice Oppitz; Mr. John Morley displays an excellent bass voice as Mr. Allworthy; Mr. Deane Percival is good as Blifil; and Dobbin is a very funny character by Mr. Lionel Braham. The scenery and dresses are beautiful, and Edward German's delightful music is well rendered by principals and chorus.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—This place of amusement was well filled on Monday evening, when a varied programme was presented. In the musical farcical comedy entitled *The Poor Beggar* Mr. John Le Hay and Company scored a great success; the Five Kaytons, in their acrobatic pot pourri, won warm applause; and Pietro, the contortionist, gives a demonstration of wonderful suppleness and dexterity; Mr. Harry Briggs, for his imitation of a little girl, was loudly applauded; Mr. Percy Farrimond, now on another visit, was appreciatively received, especially for "In Dreamland"; M. H. Thiessen, with his acrobatic dogs, supplies an excellent turn; Fred and Lulu Camplin, in their musical comedy, *A Dressing-room Interlude*, introduce smart dances, &c.; and the four Sisters Netherland, singers and dancers, meet with hearty recognition for their *Tale of the Stockings* and bare-foot dance. The pictures are diverting.

The George Bonhair Troupe have a smart Risley act; Marcel and Boris, equilibrists, are well received; Rousby and Rene's *Fine Feathers* is capitally done; Vena Valma, the musical comedy maid, for her singing and dancing meets with generous acceptance; and the Bros. Lydamore, patterers and dancers, Wills and Mackenzie, in the vocal scena, *Christina of Sketra*, with its beautiful setting, and Mr. Fred Land, eccentric comedian, are other attractions.

PALACE THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—Sammy Shields, Scotch comedian, proves very popular here; Elroy, the armless wonder, can do everything almost with his feet; Captain Devereux's Dogs are finely trained; the Four Pawels, lady and gentlemen acrobats, present graceful feats; the Ringling Trio, in a comedy speciality act, *The Manager's Lunch*, do some good acrobatic work; and Johnny Holland and Company present a capital sketch. Other artists are The Garricks, in a song scena, and Cherry Lass, comedienne and dancer.

A local attraction is provided this week in the appearance of the full Burnley Temperance Prize Band, which has a good record of successes, and which, under Mr. P. Fairhurst's lead, has improved considerably this year. Mlle. Clasen's living art bronzes are beautiful; Miss Carlotta Levey has two popular choruses in "Study those who study you" and "He was one of the boys"; Johnny Dwyer's more acceptable item was his home song; and Percival, the comedian at the piano, Ford and Barras, Rose and Wold, and Deans and Wilton are also on the bill.

BURTON-ON-TRENT. — OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. de Hague Body.—Mr. Dudley Bennett and Mr. T. C. Wray's company is appearing here with the greatest success in *Miss Hook of Holland*. On Boxing Night hundreds had to be turned away, and Monday evinced a similar experience. In the name-part Miss Ethel James gives a lively and finished performance; Mr. Charles Maclagan as Mr. Hook fairly brings down the house with his drollery; Captain Adrian Paap, as presented by Mr. J. B. Fox, is a clever conception; Mr. Edward Floyd also does well as Bandmaster Van Vuyt; Mr. Fred Dark proves himself a good comedian as Simon Slinks; and Miss Muff Carew as Mina sings well and dances cleverly.

BURY (Lancs.). — ROYAL, LTD. — General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Acting-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter. — Mr. Geo. D. Day's company opened here on Saturday last in *The Prodigal Son*, with Mr. Albert Ward again as Oscar Stephenson. It is a part particularly suited to him, and a powerful performance is the result. Mr. Jackson Hayes is decidedly good as Stephen Magnusson; and a careful study of Magnus Stephensson is submitted by Mr. J. Weldon Atherstone. Oscar Neilsen is capably portrayed by Mr. David Beattie; in the dual rôles of Thora and Elin Miss Doris Roberts proves herself an actress of ability; Helga Neilson is cleverly played by Miss Pearl Gardner; and Miss Florence Lovell is a sympathetic Anna Magnusson. A skilful character study is that of Miss Ina Rozant as Margaret Neilsen. The remaining parts are capitally portrayed by Messrs. J. E. Savery, A. J. Williams, R. C. Brooksmith, and Charles Seymour, who gives an excellent rendering of John Vidalin.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Acting-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—The Six Æolians are appearing as star turn this week, and give a refined and entertaining item. *My Lancashire Wife*, a sketch presented by Duncan and Brasque, meets with well-deserved approval. Beatie Allen, a local lady making her first appearance, shows distinct promise; she possesses a very good voice, and her turn is most refined and enjoyable. The Trentanovi Sisters submit a clever gymnastic act; a capital exhibition of juggling is presented by Rene, quite a young artist; the military poses of the Edmunds are much appreciated; Ray Renis (magician), Will Mitcham (musical comedian), and the Ottograph films are all good.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles F. Wilson.—In a Suffragette skit, *Should Women Have Votes?* Mr. Fred Maitland is most amusing; a Scottish romance, *Pride of the Heather*, is presented by Helen Kennedy and Clare Shirley, and the company acquit themselves very creditably; Jim Cheetham's imitations of birds are capital; Alfred Graham's Juveniles include some clever people, and their turn goes with a good swing; Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilde and their talking and singing shadows are well received; Lew Peterman (Hebrew comedian), Godfrey, Ltd. (illusionist), and the Biograph pictures complete the bill.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS. — THEATRE ROYAL. — General-Manager, Mr. Auguste A. Penleve.—The attraction here for Boxing Night and the first three nights of the week was Mr. Charles Carey's company in *After the Ball*. Mr. Michael Naven was responsible for an excellent rendering of Jack Danby; other prominent rôles being sustained by Mr. Charles Carey, Mr. Fred Pollard, and Mr. Ted Clifton. Miss Marie Ault scored heavily as Mary Chovey; Miss George-Wallis made a pleasing Veda Downe; as Mrs. Downe and Ida Miss E. Patterson and Miss Carrie Wood made the most of their parts; and Miss Madge Lacey was successful as premier danseuse.

CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—Nothing could have been better chosen for a holiday piece than *The Diver's Luck*, which attracted a big house on Monday night. Mr. Arthur Emm is responsible for the company. Mr. Harry Cullenford as the diver, Martin Faber, played with great judgment; Mr. Fred A. Marston as the good-hearted Barney Bawn was highly successful; Mr. William J. Miller gave a realistic representation of Tom Hall; Miss Dora Pass as Helen Wyngate made the part prominent; and Miss Pearl Noyle, Mr. Joe Rowland, and Miss Holly Haslewood were also good.

GUILDHALL.—Mr. Ernest Mansell, with his Graphic Life-motion Pictures and company, including Miss Maude Evelyn and Mr. George Ritter, opened on Monday and gave capital shows.

CARDIFF. — EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—L'Incognita, the unknown soprano, appeared for the first time in Cardiff last week, and secured a triumph; one of the best of Fred Karno's productions is *The Mumming Birds*, which made a return visit, and caused unceasing laughter; Bert Williams' smart gags and ventriloquism gained him much applause; Mabel Mavis rendered sweet music on the glasophone and pianoforte; a first-class comedietta entitled *Semi-detached* was presented with great ability by the Meymotts; Lionette Roberty and company are capital transformation dancers. The Bros. St. Clair, expert trick cyclists, the Grosvenors, vocalists, and a screaming film on the Bioscope completed a programme which delighted huge audiences.

At the head of a capital programme this week is the well-known actor-vocalist George Leyton, who once again appeals to large audiences with his veteran songs; "The Last Muster" is Mr. Leyton's latest success, which has taken very well here. The famous Craggs are great favourites in Cardiff, and their clever sketch, entitled *Billy*, is received with much appreciation. A very unusual turn is provided by Frederic Villiers, the renowned war correspondent, who proves most interesting in an illustrated lecture, "Fifteen Minutes on the Warpath"; a capital display of living statuary, originated and designed by Mr. Albert Toft, is given under the name of "Makers of History"; Nina Wood is an entertaining artist, and at the piano wins enviable applause; the Jackson Family supply a delightful musical act with all their usual skill and brilliancy; Spry and Monti keep the house amused with their hotch-potch of nonsense; Randolph King, "the one-man programme," Maude Vera, a dainty comedienne, Edie Endon, a capital sand-dancer, and the interesting Bioscope complete a fine bill of fare.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Under the management of Mr. Rollo Balmain.—Large audiences visited the Royal last week, the piece put forward, *When it Was Dark*, having aroused much interest on its former visit a few months ago. Mr. Haldane Dalton submitted a weird rendition of Constantine Schwabe, throwing considerable realism into the difficult part; Mr. Wilfred Lyndon filled the rôle of Basil Gortre with exceptional skill; Mr. Alfred Collingham acquitted himself of the responsibilities of Harold Spence with the ease of an experienced actor; as Sir Robert Llewellyn, Mr. Charles Brandon played the character to perfection; and the Rev. Mr. Byars was quite safely entrusted to the capabilities of Mr. Wm. H. Burton. Miss Ethel Griffies achieved an undoubted success as Gertrude Hunt, and could not well be improved upon; and Helena had, at the hands of Miss Marie Barrett, a sweet and unaffected impersonation. Mr. George Tawde as Charlie Gayfly and Miss Tessa Myers as Gracie Goldeye enlivened the piece with their wholesome and clever comedy.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton.—The sketch which topped last week's bill was *Dr. Parker*, excellently enacted by Sydney Mason and Theresa Moore. Second on the menu was clown Barker, with his refined comedy animal act; the Five Bombays, in harmony singing and plantation clog dancing, were another clever turn; and Rowe and Roe, cross-talk comedians; Bernardo, the idiotic juggler; and Earle and Godfrey, comedy artists and dancers, contributed successful work.

The appearance this week of Arthur Norton, the undefeated 9st. Graeco-Roman champion of the world, has caused a rush for seats; the nightly contests prove most exciting displays. Other competitions open to the public are provided by Ford and Barras, capital dancers. Maurice Hoffman

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and company have a sensational episode entitled *Sorrows of Satan;* the Babusio Bros. are remarkable head-balancers; the Gallimore Trio are amusing; Jamie Piper is a marvellous instrumentalist; and the Fordyces are skilful dancers and diverting comedy artists. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are to the fore with new films.

CARLISLE.—H. M. THEATRE.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart McKim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds's company in the sensational drama *Women and Wine* is a big attraction for the holiday week. Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds appears as the hero, and gives a distinctly impressive and powerful rendering of a by no means easy character; Mrs. C. St. Elmo as Marcel Rajadont, the adventuress, acted with fine effect, her imposing appearance, too, fitted the character exactly, and her performance throughout met with well-deserved recognition; a nice character sketch of the blind father was contributed by Mr. J. Mitue-Taylor, and Mr. R. Foulis showed to advantage as a French bully. The heroine was excellently interpreted by Miss Violet Sims, a refined and clever artist. Mr. Harry Harrop was responsible for the comedy, and created much amusement. The minor parts were well filled, and the Lottie Stone troupe of dancers contributed an acceptable and well-applauded act in the Bal Masque scene.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Morgan.—Mr. Jack Haddon's company in a pantomime entitled *The Babes in the Wood* fills the bill this week. It is quite well written, and played with all the necessary amount of dash and go to ensure success. The Wicked Uncle of Mr. Charles May caused considerable merriment; Messrs. August and September as the Ruffians are in great form, and repeat their success of last year; Miss Millie Ealger as Robin Hood and Miss Winnie Usher as Little John are already big favourites; as the Lace Girl Miss Maude St. John's attractive appearance and effective style is much admired; and the Dame of Mr. Harry Ellison creates endless amusement and applause. The John Ridding quartette of dancers contribute, perhaps, the most appreciated turn in the performance, their dancing being particularly neat and clever. The minor parts are well filled, the chorus strong, the dresses and scenery pretty and effective, and the whole performance gave immense satisfaction to a large audience.

CARMARTHEN.—ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—Proprietors, Public Rooms Co.; Secretary, Mr. Edward Baldwin.—Miss Inez Howard's powerful company appeared here on Tuesday evening in the romantic military drama *The Midnight Wedding*. Miss Ethel Savill impersonated the dual rôles of Princess Astrea and Second-Lieutenant Karl Helsburg excellently, both parts being taken with conspicuous ability; Mr. Frederick W. Freeman gave a fine and masterly interpretation to the part of Paul Valmar; Mr. W. H. Baker as the Crown Prince Leopold was most impressive; Mr. W. J. Rea as Lieutenant Eugene Von Strelsburg and Mr. Cyprian H. Matthews as Captain Rudolph Von Scarsbruck gave powerful and effective delineations to their respective parts; Rozel was in the capable hands of Miss Ruth Wingrove; Miss Elsie Dene was a winsome and captivating Kathie; Mr. Will Glaze as Private Bobo was intensely amusing; Mr. Will Charlton as Sergeant Max and Mr. Alfred Richards as Corporal Otto were very successful; while Father Gerard found a splendid exponent in Mr. James Winter. The minor parts were most capably interpreted. The piece was elaborately mounted and enthusiastically received.

CASTLEFORD.—ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Hy. Masterman, J.P.—On Monday a packed audience assembled at early doors to witness Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson's new military drama, *The King and the Unknown Woman*. Of the performance, although only on its second week on tour, there can be little else than praise. There is strength in the plot, and many scenes are written with power. The staging is really excellent, and the uniforms are gorgeous. Miss F. Conyers Radcliffe deserves high praise for her careful, unaffected, and convincing portrayal of the unknown woman, Zora; Mr. Stephen Scanlan acts with much determination and dramatic power as the cowardly and villainous Prince Menski; Miss Muriel Inglis plays with admirable spirit and vigour, and quite realises the vindictive character of Countess Melveitch; Miss Cissie Podmore is a pert and sprightly Schnapps, and her quaint antics keep the house amused; much diverting fun is also introduced by Mr. Wm. E. Passmore as Corporal Stack; General Platz finds an earnest and able exponent in Mr. W. R. Winning; Mr. Cyril Harrison displays much tact in his handling of the part of Captain Gara; Miss Morna Dunayne gives an interesting performance as Elsie; while Little Elsie Clark ably and intelligently sustains Cæsar.

QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Chas. Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will H. Emerson.—The chief item here is Shirey, Liggins, and company (including Miss Ella Murlone), in a scena, *An Alabama Farmyard*. With harmonious ditties and humorous sayings they win loud applause. Another turn which finds well-merited applause is that of the Cattania Trio, who give a refined muscular act on the trapeze; Clifford and Yorke appear with great success as the Weary Wanderers, and loud applause greets their efforts; Great Scott is an expert juggler and ladder balancer; Bert Rayburn is a quaint comedian of distinction and personality; Lydia Rale as a banjo and mandoline song illustrator is thoroughly appreciated; Winona is an extra turn, and her clever rifle shooting from a trapeze in the auditorium finds well-merited favour; Chas. Woodward also appears as a comedian; and Baroux and Bion are named "comedy concoctors." Some excellent films, projected by the Loyal Dominion Co., close an enjoyable evening's performance.

CHATHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard.—Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company is making a first appearance in *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*. The bulk of the work falls upon Messrs. Alfred Brandon, Melville Bickford, and Ernest Cox, as the three Princes of Sylvania. They are excellent in their respective rôles, and are freely applauded throughout. Mr. H. Burton puts a lot of expression into the part of Nathan, a dumb servant; Mr. Kenneth Black makes a natural Bishop of Illyria; and Mr. Robert Noble a fine Captain Hector. Miss Ethel Bracewell gains the sympathy of the audience as Monica; Miss Gertrude Branscombe makes a most attractive Camiola; and Miss Jessica Black is a lively Viola.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Capt. H. E. Davis.—E. Chimes scores here as the crazy musical butcher; the hit of the evening is made by the Gothams; the Three Orros give an artistic display of strength; Marie Wilton proves a pleasing serio; one Billy Farrell spins some capital yarns in a telling manner; Maud Weildon, comedienne, and Bernard Corke, in sketches at the pianoforte, also appear; while the Edisonograph has new and interesting films.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—Here we have the Three Royal Dreadnoughts, whose expert rifle-shooting act is much admired; Coverdale creates unbounded merriment by his original comedy turn; loose-limbed Ray Maskell pleases all with her dancing; the Victas score as barrel jumpers; *The Sleepwalker* is an amusing sketch, ably produced by Walter Ellis and company; Lacey's Erascope has a seasonable film, entitled How a Slum Waif Met Father Christmas; Harry Simms, with chorus songs, and Rose Gaston, comedienne, complete the company.

CHESTER.—ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—On Boxing Day George Brydon-Phillips's pantomime *Puss in Boots*, written by Victor Stevens, opened here for a three weeks' run. It is the quintessence of humour, picturesqueness, and refinement. Mr. Geo. Beyerley, under whose able stage direction it was produced, deserves unstinted praise. The cast attained an all-round excellence, the Dame being played with great effect by Tom Ashby. The principal boy, Jack, found a dashing and charming exponent in Ethel Dunbar; Bernard and Weston, the lazy brothers, Bill and Sid, kept the house in a roar of merriment from start to finish; Richard Lomas impersonated the Cat in a manner worthy of a Lauri; and H. A. Langlois as the Terrible Ogre ably acted his gigantic part. Leslie Digby as King Koko is worthy of praise, and the Amaranda of Maggie Allwood is good; Kitty Vivian as Prince Ferdinand scored a deserved success, and so, too, did Alec Wylie as the Notary. The part of Princess Pansy was sustained with great power, charm, and vivacity by the principal girl, Mavis Hope, whose songs, rendered with perfect sweetness and expression, captivated the hearts of the audience. In the "immortal line," H. Hodgkins as Mephisto excellently portrayed the Scarlet Devil, and the Fairy Hymen of Jeannie Langlois was the personification of grace and beauty. The minor parts were well acted, and the chorus ladies sang and danced in excellent tune and time. The specialities were in the capable hands of the Sisters Milburn and Cane, and Eugene and Willie. The scenery painted by E. G. Banks is pretty, and the staging effective. Mr. William T. Gliddon arranged the excellent music, which is rendered by the orchestra under his skilful direction. Judging by this week's audiences, the business should be good.

CHORLEY (Lancs.).—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Santé.—Mr. C. W. Mill's company occupies this house this week with the excellent drama, *A Warning to Women*. Mr. H. C. Robinson gives a fine exposition of Dr. Marcus Dread; Mr. William Vane plays capitally as Shaun; Mr. Henry Rutland presents an admirable portrayal of Squire Kennion; Mr. W. Palliser Acock being conspicuous as Ferdinand de Joules. Lord Eversleigh is cleverly undertaken by Mr. Leicester Jackson; and Mr. C. O'Connor is good as Fergus M'Naughton; Moira Kennion being rendered with emotional power by Miss Blanche St. Albans.

COATBRIDGE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Coatbridge Theatre Company, Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Commins.—Mr. John Leopold and company occupy the boards here this week on a return visit with *New Frivolity*, and on Monday evening the house was well filled. Mr. Watson Hume capably enacts Oliver Buckwheat; Mr. John Leopold, jun., makes an excellent Daniel Teething; Mr. James Harding gives a forcible rendering of Jules Vermiglio; and Professor Fumble is safe in the hands of Mr. Tom Leopold. Miss Cathleen Cavanagh is suited to the rôle of Mme. Cobweb; Miss Amy Hall is very successful as Lucy Buckwheat; and Vinnie Moore is cleverly undertaken by Miss Gertie Winter.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—Mr. Walter Melville's production of *The Girl Who Wrecked His Home* commenced an eight-days' visit here on Boxing Night. Mr. Fred Goddard was admirably suited to the part of Jack Marshall; Miss Louise Hampton made a charming and pathetic Bertha; Miss Winifred Whyte imparted plenty of dash to the part of the adventuress; Leonard Kenyon and Josh Crockett were depicted with the necessary "devil" by Mr. Walter Gregory and Mr. Geo. A. Lester respectively; and comedy was capitally introduced by Mr. Alfred Richards as William Stevenson and Mr. Francis Hope as Tommy Biffin.

HIPPODROME.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—The Great Roland occupies the top position on the bill this week, and in conjunction with Miss Marjorie Russell, presents quite a shoal of really artistic mysteries; Kelway and company, in the sketch *The Post of the People*, introduce a novelty of undoubted merit; Les Almas give a fine exhibition of equilibristic possibilities and lightning-like tumbling; Harry Bent amuses vastly with his mimicries; Mitchell and Mace as twin dancers excel; Carlotta Lunn bounds into popularity with her appealing songs; and the Gaumont films are keenly appreciated.

CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—This week Mr. John Gerant and company are here with *At Duty's Call*. Mr. John Gerant as Harold Allison plays with force and cleverness; and as Captain Geo. Allison Mr. Chas. Calvert is very smart. Mr. E. St. John skilfully portrays General Gordon; whilst Mr. John Kollen gives a good account of himself as Hassan. Miss Beatrice Western is a charming Dora Drummond; and as Salema Miss Ada Roscoe plays with ease and effect. The comedy parts are well sustained by Mr. Harry Pues and Miss Eva Belle.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. R. H. Bell.—Mr. Seymour Hicks's company opened a week's engagement here on Boxing night in the *Gay Gordons*. The play was seen here for the first time, and was a great success, the houses on Monday and following nights being packed, and the principals recalled several times. Miss Maie Ash, who impersonates Peggy, is a bright and clever actress; she sings some catchy airs and was accorded a hearty reception. Mr. Stanley Brett as Angus filled the part effectively, and his drolleries kept the house in a continual titter; Miss Connie St. Claire as Mary McLeod sings a number of songs in good style; Miss Ida Mann as Janet and Miss Lily Maxwell as Victoria are both excellent; Mr. E. Stoatham as Nervy Nat is capital, and the part of his wife Charlotte is well filled by Miss Nellie Dade; Ernest Torrence as Andrew Quainton is also good.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Thomas F. O'Brien.—The Elster Grime Opera Company opened a week's engagement here on Boxing Day in the *Bohemian Girl*, and got a good reception. The different numbers were admirably rendered and the play was well staged. Mr. Gilbert King as Aunt Arnheim sang and acted well; the Thaddeus of Mr. Albert Kewley was capital; Mr. Percy Martin as Florestein pleased; Mr. J. Kneall Campbell as Devilshoof created much laughter; the other parts which were well filled are Captain of the Guards, Mr. J. Holden; Queen of the Gypsies, Miss Agnes Mann; Buda, Miss Madge Quilliam; and Arlino, Miss E. Lynham. *Maritana, Faust, Lily of Killarney, Rigoletto, Il Trovatore*, and *Rose of Castile* are in the répertoire. Large audiences are attracted at each performance.

COVENTRY.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Barwell.—*When Knights Were Bold* is being presented at the above house this week, and is drawing crowded houses. The company is a capable one, under the direction of Mr. James Welch, and includes Mr. Henry J. Ford, who makes a huge success of the part of Sir Guy de Vere, and is ably supported by a cast which includes Mr. V. Sansbury, Mr. Cecil Clayton, Mr. Guy Lane, Mr. H. A. Lyons, Miss Ethel St. John, Miss M. O'Hea, Miss Ruth Bower, Miss M. Ryder, and Miss Bessie Walters. The piece is preceded by a duologue, *The Wrong Side of the Road*.

HIPPODROME THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. S. T. Newsome.—Crowded audiences visit this place nightly this week. The popular comedy artist, Nellie Wallace, is a very great favourite in Coventry, and gives three songs at each performance; Sid Cotterill, the popular comedian, and company, make a hit in *The Substitute;* the Three Bounding Navvies, Wild, Willie, and West, create endless fun with their extraordinary acrobatic feats; the Sisters Gladwin introduce their latest sensation in dances, including "La Danse des Apaches"; the Five Vernons, xylophone specialists, give a very fine turn; and other artists are Elsie Steadman and Bert Lytton. Bioscope Pictures finish the evening's entertainment.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. K. Draco.—A capital programme is attracting large audiences at the above house. Carl Wilbur and company appear in an American comedy sketch, *61, Prospect Street*, which is well acted; the Bros. Wills are a couple of clever and refined acrobats; A. Prince's Mascots are pleasing comedians and vocalists; Brent and Brand are a couple of vocalists with a great range of voice; Arthur Rose is an actor mimic, and presents *The Actor's Last Call;* Grey and Welford give an amusing comedy boxing act; Fred Clements, comedian, and Mabel Hind, comedienne, also contribute capably; the Bioscope Pictures concluding.

CRADLEY HEATH.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jno. H. Morton.—*The Woman Who Sinned*, presented by Mr. Edward Vivian and company, holds the boards here. Miss Augusta Tullock undertakes the part of Judith Sardoris in a style peculiarly her own, winning constant applause; Mr. James Musgrove plays Jack Carrington in a masterly manner; Mr. Wm. Delacy as Percy Hogg, and Rosie Watson as Maude Riggs are responsible for the comedy; Mr. Edward Vivian gives a careful presentment of Silas Norris; Mr. Lionel Yeomans as Eugene Darville gets constant recalls; Mr. Blake Thornton makes a first-rate Sergeant Jones; Miss Dorothy Seamons deserves special mention for her Lady Munro; Miss Dorothy Vivian is good as Blind Meg; Miss Eva Coleridge does good work as Hester Norris; Will Kirk as Jack Scamp is well chosen; as also are the other three characters.

CREWE.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. Howard.—J. W. Turner's opera company played *Maritana* here on Monday. Mr. Turner appeared as Don Cæsar de Bazan successfully, and was accorded a hearty reception; Mr. Tom Griffiths, in excellent voice, was well suited to the rôle of Don José; Mr. Frank Clarke's portrayal of King Charles was excellent; and Mr. George Ridding as Captain of the Guard sang with earnestness. Mr. R. Cummings as Marquis de Montefiore, made a good impression; and Mr. P. Newton was a commendable Alcade. Miss Jeanne Jeune as Maritana acted cleverly, and sang with sweetness and charm; Miss Maud Esdale was suitably placed as the Marchioness; and Miss Jessie Dennis was an effective Lazarillo. *Il Trovatore, Martha, Bohemian Girl*, and *Faust* completed the week's programme.

CROYDON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Harry Osmond.—The Bioscope pictures and illustrated songs are the attraction here, and are well received.

PUBLIC HALL.—Mr. Ernest Mansell's splendid series of animated pictures are drawing large audiences here, and giving great satisfaction. The subjects are varied, amusing, and interesting.

EMPIRE PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Walter Gibbons and Thomas Barraaford; Manager, Mr. Eustace Jay.—The programme here is exceptionally good. Alice Hollander, Australian contralto, gives a pleasing turn; Russell Brandon is a smart American coloured dancing comedian; Cora Corina is a neat comedienne; G. Charley, French protean artist, is a great success; the O'Gorman Bros. submit a clog-dancing turn; Wilson Hallet's imitations of children are praiseworthy; Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope is up to the mark; and a turn which is keenly relished is Lew Lake's company, including Bob Morris, in the invigorating sketch *Five Years Later*.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Bell.—The seasonable fare here last week took the shape of pantomime. *Aladdin* was the subject chosen, and Miss Edith St. Clare had arranged a first-class company, which did justice to it. Miss Edith St. Clare played the title-rôle, supported by Miss Lily Lonsdale as the Princess. Mr. Ernie Myers as Abanazar, Mr. Frank A. Wood as the Emperor, the Brothers Brooks as the Emperor's faithful henchmen, the Sisters Brand as the second boy and girl, Miss Mabel Roberts as the Fairy, Mr. Fred W. Graham in his old part of Widow Twankey, and Mr. Geo. Parry as the Vizier, constituted the principals. There are other minor parts, and a very strong chorus under the leadership of Mr. Landor. As specialities, the Canton Troupe of dancers and the Krakes and the Brothers Brooks were engaged. The music is written by Walter McMillan, and the book is by Jas. J. Hewson. The scenery by H. O. Richardson and dresses and costumes by Mrs. Howarth are entirely new for this pantomime, and the whole production is in the capable hands of Mr. Fred W. Graham. Mr. B. Haldane is Miss St. Clare's general-manager.

Miss Edith St. Clair and company's *Aladdin*, which was produced here on Christmas Eve, is a big success, and is playing to full houses. Miss St. Clair as Aladdin is a sprightly youth, and sings some catchy songs; Mr. Ernie Myers is a tireless worker, and he is exceedingly funny as Abanazar; Mr. Fred W. Graham is a capital Widow Twankey; Miss Lena Brand and Miss Edie Brand as Prince and Princess work well together, their singing and dancing being excellent; the Brothers Brooks are exceedingly droll as the Policemen; Miss Lily Lonsdale as Princess Badroulbadour has a lovely voice and sings with great power; Mr. Frank Wood as the Emperor gives a fine performance; Mr. George Parry as Wot-iz-it has been well chosen. There are several fine scenes, and the dresses are beautiful. The Krakes give a clever comic performance on the bars; and the Canton Girls gain applause for their acrobatic dance.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Theatre, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Hersee.—Mr. Jack Haddon's company, in pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*, last week played to full houses twice nightly. Miss Millie Engler gave a fine performance as Robin Hood; Mr. Harry Elliston was the dame, Mrs. Gadabout, and caused roars of laughter; Messrs. August and September, as the Ruffians, were up-to-date with their gags and songs; the John Ridding Quartette were good; and the Kentucky Trio submitted a capital performance. Miss E. Parry was sweet as the Fairy; Miss Winnie Usher showed to advantage as Little John; and Mr. Charles May as the bad Baron was excellent. The Babes were prettily played by Miss Dolly McCalla and Miss Dorma Morgan. With a good chorus of ladies the pantomime went with a fine swing.

Joe Reichen's performing dogs are the chief attraction this week, and are extremely interesting. The Carpos Brothers are smart acrobats; Edwards and Dacre, in comedy duologue, entitled *What a Life!* score a success; My Lady Dainty, comedienne, is tuneful and pleasing; the Gregson Comedy Trio are funny in *The Dummy;* Alec Kennedy, actor-vocalist, is well appreciated; and the Pepiscope is showing some very fine pictures, the whole making a capital New Year's show.

DARWEN.—PICTURE PALACE AND THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, the Animated Pictorial Enterprises, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. A. Whitehouse.—For the second week, under the new management, a capital bill is provided. In addition to the pictures, Soleni gives an entertaining turn of mystery and illusions; Miss Isabel Moss is a refined vocalist quite above the average; and Clive and Vera are amusing in their comedy duo.

PUBLIC HALL AND PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Lessees, Messrs. Thomson, Lewers, and Bennett; Manager, Mr. J. E. Thomson; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Kerrigan.—The Two Le Bruns, in their novel vocal and juggling act, and Edie, the child juggler and singer, create a favourable impression; Fox and Melville, song illustrators, win applause; Mabel Martin, speciality instrumentalist, and the Percys, in a comedy duo, are much appreciated. The pictures are of a high-class character.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—Mr. Arthur Carlton presented the Christmas pantomime *Aladdin* at this house on Boxing Day (two performances). The present version was originally produced at the London Hippodrome, whence it comes with all the attendant gorgeous scenery, sumptuous costumes, brilliant lighting effects, *et hoc genus omni*. The local stage-manager and producer is Mr. J. W. Hemming, who has been assisted by Mr. Geo. Mortimer Hancock, while the musical portion is in the hands of Mr. J. Morton Hutcheson, the general business-manager being Mr. Herbert Sidney. The name-part is filled with conspicuous success by Miss Lallah Davis, who sings and acts with a delightful dash and vivacity. Possessed of a charming voice and manner, she is heard with the greatest possible acceptation in the songs allotted to her, especially in the familiar "Have you got another girl at home like Mary?" Indeed, her work throughout is such as to reflect upon her much credit. Mr. Fred Carey as Abanazar is another outstanding feature of the pantomime, his energy being only equalled by his ability in everything he does, and that is a lot, from the rise to the fall of the curtain. He is, indeed, screamingly funny, and his thousand and one eccentricities keep the audience in a perfect roar, while he remains at the last as thoroughly entertaining as he was at the beginning. Miss Hedda Hirlemann as the Princess combines with a dainty stage presence a sweetly pretty voice and a sympathetic delivery. The Harrison Brothers, eccentric comedians, as Sloppa and Koppa, the comic Chinese policemen, are provocative of much merrimene; and Mr. Fred Ramsdale, as the "Merry Widow" Twankey, plays the part with much humour, his impersonation being devoid of the vulgarity with which in years gone by it was mistakenly thought necessary to invest the rôle. As the Emperor Mr. Alf. Maynall is another hard-working and entirely competent entertainer; and Mr. Tony Freedman as Washee, the Chinese laundry boy, is also a deserving artist, the business introduced by both being of an original and diverting character. As the Geni of the Lamp Mr. Henry Maynard is in every way acceptable, his well-trained tenor voice being heard to advantage in everything he attempts, his rendering of the familiar old song, "I'll sing thee songs of Araby," being specially noticeable. The Sisters Hampell figure agreeably as Pekoe and Nicee, and give a special turn, which is well received. Miss Marie Louise makes a pleasing appearance as the Geni of the Ring; and other minor characters are in the hands of Misses Irene Stamford, Louie Desmond, Doris Grey, Carrie Young, Marie Adams, Olive Beavan, Cora Mezetti, Prudence Davies, Amy Williams, Grace Noble, &c. There is a large and powerful chorus, an augmented orchestra, and, altogether, the production is one of the best of its kind that has been seen in Derby for some years.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes.—A capital top-line turn this week is provided by Zarmo, a juggler, whose clever and amusing tricks win unstinted applause. Albert Damm and Page, equilibrists, may be commended for the remarkably neat way in which their daring feats are submitted; the Three Delaries in a scena, *The Demon Grotto*, give an excellent gymnastic display; Phillips and Merritt are pleasing vocalists and dancers; the Brothers Esdale are successful in song and patter; the Gilberts are responsible for some clever dancing; the Two Errolls, tumblers and leapers, are both clever and amusing; and E. H. Allen, comedian, has a fund of quiet humour which is duly appreciated. The Bioscope, with a laughable film, concludes a varied and up-to-date bill.

DEVONPORT.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. G. S. King.—Last week the patrons of the theatre thoroughly enjoyed the performance of the drama *Man to Man*. Mr. Edward Lloyd as the hero, George Gordon, supplied an acceptable version of the part; Mr. Frank Adair as Richard Ellerton made a thoroughly despicable villain, and proved himself a clever actor; and Miss Louie Adair was a sympathetic and attractive heroine as Ethel Maythorne. Mr. H. Bruce Williams was praiseworthy as Samuel Plumtree; Mr. Clifford Bown was genuinely funny as the convict Bill Berkeley; Mr. Leonard Clapham excellent as the mad clergyman; and Mr. H. Holland a hardworking Matthew Ellerton.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—The principal attraction last week was a bioscopic representation of the famous Gotch-Hackenschmidt wrestling match, the various films being followed with great excitement; Leo Stormont gave an enjoyable rendering of some of Kipling's ballads; Cameron Matthews and Co. created roars of laughter with their sketch *The Honeymoon Baby;* Fred Howard supplied some interesting caricatures; whilst Miss May Fairclough was successful with some excerpts from Shakespeare. The other artists were Wm. Gourlay (comedian) and Cash and Clair (novelty clog dancers).

This week, Chanti, billed as the modern Proteus, furnishes an entertainment in itself, his quick-change acting and dancing, assisted by mechanical effects, being very cleverly performed; Steve Bartle, instrumentalist, reaps much applause; Hicks and Hunter perform some graceful and accomplished evolutions on ice-skates; and Barrington Foote and company supply two sketches, one or which, *The End of the Story*, finds considerable favour. Tom Foy strikes out an original line; Bert and Dora are a smart comedy pair; and Edie Coolville excels as a dancer.

DONCASTER.—NEW GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—*Second to None*, which unfolds a story of the Royal Scots Greys, opened here on Monday. It was capitally staged. A soldierly bearing lent vraisemblance to Mr. C. W. Spencer's presentation of Sir Reginald Greystone, V.C., Colonel of the Royal Scots Greys; and Mr. Frederick F. Lloyd's Philip Mannering, with his energetic movements and facial contortions, proved him a master of this particular rôle; Mr. Leonard Williams as the hero gave an appreciative reading of Harry Wilding, and was well received; the comic element, with which the piece is well flavoured, came with great acceptance from Messrs. H. Macaulay and Eric Wilde, who negotiated with easy aplomb the parts of Privates Flutter and Bertie; Miss Ward's portrayal of Nell Greystone was a triumph, as was signalised by the warm and grateful applause bestowed upon her; Miss Grace Harlington played the rôle of Mary Greystone with a refined and intelligent appreciation; and honourable mention must be made of Miss Clarrie Yandell, who accounted delightfully for the housemaid, Norah.

DUBLIN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—The Moody-Manners Opera Co. commenced its annual season here on Boxing Day, when *The Bohemian Girl* was presented to a crowded house. The Arline of Miss Kate Anderson was a commendable performance, her singing being greatly admired, and Mr. Charles Manners displayed his accustomed ability in the rôle of Devilshoof. Mr. Lewys James successfully fulfilled the part of Count Arnheim; Miss Toni Selter acquitted herself effectively as the Gipsy Queen; Mr. F. Davis as Florestein made excellent use of a good voice; and the part of Thaddeus was capitally filled by Mr. Seth Hughes. In the evening, before a large and appreciative audience, *Maritana* was presented. Miss Rosa O'Farrell made her début in the title-rôle, and met with an enthusiastic reception; Mr. John Child as Don Cæsar de Bazan sang and acted with his accustomed refinement; and Miss Bessie Weir did particularly well as Lazarillo. The Don Jose of Mr. William Dover was a splendid performance, both vocally and histrionically; and Mr. Charles Manners was dignified as the King of Spain. On Monday night *Faust* was produced to a packed house, and was well received. Miss Rosa O'Farrell made a sweet and winsome Marguerite; Mr. Charles Manners acquitted himself, both vocally and histrionically, in artistic style as Mephistopheles; Miss J. McCarthy proved herself a capable actress in the rôle of Martha; Mr. Seth Hughes gave a masterly rendering of Faust; and Messrs. William Dever and D. Gulland and Miss Bessie Weir deserve praise as Valentine, Wagner, and Siebel. An imposing performance of *Aida* was given on Tuesday. Mme. de Vere Sapio acted in highly-finished style and sang to advantage in the title-rôle; Mr. Philip Brozel achieved a distinct success in the part of Ramides; Mr. Lewys James was creditable in the part of Amonasro; Ramphis was in the capable hands of Mr. Charles Manners; Miss Toni Seiter was admirable as Amneris; and Mr. Charles Magrath did full justice to the rôle of the King. The dresses and scenery were splendid, and the chorus and orchestra, under the conductorship of Signor Romnaldo Sapio, deserving of high praise. The répertoire for the week includes *Il Trovatore, Cavalleria Rusticana, Pagliacci, The Puritan's Daughter, The Meistersingers, Faust*, and *The Lily of Killarney*.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. W. S. Pearce; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Hereford Jones.—This place of amusement, which has entered on the last two weeks here under the present management, is presenting a capital programme, which is being attended by full houses nightly. The pictures include a good spectacular pantomime, entitled Aladdin; or, The Wonderful Lamp, The Deathbed Marriage, The Chemist's Shop, The Rival Lovers, Invisible Fluid, A Famous Escape, The Robber Outwitted, and If Women were Policemen. In the variety entertainment the Ellerslies, who have been re-engaged, appear in a humorous sketch, *Cross Purposes; or, a Matrimonial Muddle;* Arthur Green is a smart patter comedian and dancer; and Bob Pearson acquits himself well as humorist and guide.

EMPIRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—A bright and attractive programme is submitted here, the top turn being Arthur Watson and Flo Stanley's company in a lively sketch, *The Cruise of H.M.S. Victory*, which creates uproarious laughter. The old favourite W. J. Ashcroft is here again, and scores his usual big success; the clever and interesting dances executed by the Vera Troupe are deservedly applauded; the Mayvilles' liliputian act supplies an enjoyable turn; Deans and Wilton are highly diverting as comedy acrobats; Charles Vincent is most popular as a comedian; Violet Englefield, burlesque artist, has many admirers; Victor Travers, eccentric comedian, scores; Jenny Lynn, an excellent comedienne, is warmly received; and Films, Ltd., depict the drama of Shamus O'Brien.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—A good bill of fare at this popular house includes the Three American Pattersons in a clever high-bar trampolin act, which meets with approval; Fred Sinclair and company appear in a sketch entitled *Poor Arthur*, which causes no end of laughter; in a refined vocal and instrumental speciality the Three Brights are well received; as an illusionist and card expert Mons. de Lil would be hard to beat; Ronald Bayne and Miss Evelyn Hope acquit themselves well in the historical scena *An Emperor's Divorce;* Kitty Cameron is a chic comedienne and dancer; Valvero in his sketching scene, "A Naval Bombardment," makes a big hit; Hulbert is a smart and amusing ventriloquist; Joe Atkins does exceedingly well as a comedian; and the Bioscope concludes.

ROUND ROOM ROTUNDA.—The Irish Animated Photo Co., which has entered on its second week here, continues to draw full houses both at the afternoon and evening performances. The pictures shown are interesting and amusing. The pantomime of Puss in Boots, The Doings of a Sack of Coal, A Man of Many Falls, The Feats of the Italian Cavalry, The Railway and Motor Trips through the Continent, &c., are all heartily enjoyed. A capital variety programme is contributed to by Mr. Patrick O'Shea (tenor), Miss Agnes Meehan (contralto), and Mr. William Grant (baritone).

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The company here this week includes Professor Green and son with their Punch and Judy show; Jack Danby, society conjurer; Miss Vera Winston, ballad vocalist; and the Zingaras, comedy entertainers. The cinematograph depicts the pantomime of Beauty and the Beast.

DUDLEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—This house was packed from floor to ceiling on Monday by an appreciative audience to witness Mr. and Mrs. Levy and Mr. J. E. Cardwell's famous juvenile pantomime, *The House that Jack Built*. The company was an excellent all-round one, and included many clever juveniles with a bright future before them. Miss Florrie Taylor as Jack acted with a dash and verve that captured all hearts; while Jill was well placed in Miss Evelyn Major, as charming and dainty a principal girl as could be wished. The Fairy Queen, Miss Olive Purcell, has a good voice, and soon wins favour; the second boy (Colin), Miss Hetty Jones, and a little Dutch girl, Miss Jennie Marsden, are prettily-played parts; Wee McGregor is represented by little Gladys Wise, a genius of juvenile comedy; the well-known comedians, Doyle and Gibson, are immensely funny as Scragga and Scraggles; Will McNorton was very successful as Squire Bounce; Mr. Paddy Sloan is a good character comedian of musical methods; Messrs. Jefferson and Adamson and Master Fred Drummond excel in the animal parts. All the other artists vie with each other to make the pantomime an unqualified success.

DUNDEE.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe.—The grand fairy pantomime *Robinson Crusoe* was produced here on Monday evening. A full notice appears in another column.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessees, the United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. S. McIntosh.—Vaudeville gives way here to Mr. Harry Roxbury's great comic spectacular pantomime, *Mother Goose*. The scenery is really magnificent, and the music of the most tuneful description. Quite a galaxy of knockabouts and laughter-makers are included in the company. Mr. Harry Roxbury in the title-rôle is a host in himself; Miss Maud Prenton and Miss Lily Palmer, the principal boy and girl respectively, fairly captivate the audience with their fine singing and dancing; Miss Lois Caris as Fairy Content also makes a hit. Specialities are introduced by Towyn Thomas's Royal Welsh Entertainers, who provide an excellent musical turn; the Four Sydney Girls, who dance in graceful fashion; and the Miltons, clever skating comedians.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee, Mrs. Lillie Williams; Licensee and Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts; Business-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—Mrs. Lillie Williams's record pantomime success *Dick Whittington* is running along very merrily here, and at both houses there are always large and delighted audiences, who testify their appreciation of the seasonable fare in no half-hearted fashion. Miss Gertie Douglas (Dick) is a decided favourite, as is also Miss Hetty Lind (Alice), and both these clever artists are cheered to the echo nightly. Miss Cicely Kent (Fitzwarren's Cook) is also a huge

favourite with all parts of the house; she works hard, and thoroughly deserves her success. Miss Osceola Martinek (Princess) has a large number of admirers, and also Misses Winifred Dagmar and Madge Goodall, the second boy and girl respectively, the latter of whom scores in a smart song and dance. Mr. Sam Thomson (Idle Jack) is the life and soul of the pantomime, being ably assisted in the fun-making by Messrs. Phil Conway, Harry Loftus, Henry Jones, and S. Jackson.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. Lillie Williams; Business-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—Quite a carnival of moving pictures is submitted here this week by the Prince Edward Picture Company. Among the films shown are The Burning of Rome in the Time of Nero, A Glimpse into Nature's Realm, Nick Carter, Detective, Duty v. Revenge, The Toy Soldiers, The Flying Machine, The Hanging Lamp, Patsy has a Dinner of Horsemeat, A Typical Father-in-Law, and a very laughable picture entitled My Uncle's Boots. A fine variety turn is provided by Hyam Long, a clever conjurer.

NEWMAN'S PICTURE PALACE.—Mr. Fred Newman's programme of pictures include An Indian's Honour, Rifle Bill, A Chieftain's Revenge, Wild Men of Borneo, The Fairy's Curse, The Christmas Turkey, &c. The variety items include Charles Cusley, a fine coon singer and clog dancer, and Little Mary Easson, a clever little singer.

KINNAIRD HALL.—Hamilton's Excursions are located here for the winter season. A large audience enjoyed the trip on Monday evening under the guidance of Mr. Claude Howell, who is now looked on as quite an institution in Dundee. In addition to the splendid dioramic pictures there is a variety entertainment of a high-class order. J. A. Wilson introduces a wonderfully clever dog into his act, "The Troubles of a Recruiting Sergeant"; the Brothers Lauri are very clever acrobats; and the St. Johns are cultured musicians. Jack Henri is a Scotch comedian of merit; and the entertainment is brought to a close by a hilarious sketch, *The Haunted House*.

EASTBOURNE.—DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray King and Clark.—The grand Christmas pantomime *Robinson Crusoe; or, Man Friday and the King of the Cannibal Islands*, commenced a seven-nights' engagement, under the general management of Mr. F. Leslie Moreton, on Boxing Day. Miss Mina Green is a dashing representative of Robinson Crusoe, speedily making herself a firm favourite; her songs are particularly well rendered. The Polly of Miss Daisy May is a charmingly dainty assumption, full of excellent work throughout. The chief fun-provider is Mr. Oliver J. Round, whose Dame Crusoe evokes practically continuous laughter; and he is afforded excellent support in his congenial task by Messrs. Walter Rousby (Billy Crusoe), Ernest Sefton (Will Atkins, an especially humorous portrayal), and Mr. F. W. Bowes (Bumper). Miss Nellie Rousby suitably fills the smaller part of Jenny; Mr. Charles Resbi is an absolutely ideal representative of Friday, and he is responsible for a neat speciality in *Komical Konjuring;* Mr. George Macliver and Mr. Roland Stagg suitably present the respective parts of King Kachemalivo and Piccalilli, and Miss Mary Hope gives a charming representation of the Princess Moonshine, scoring a distinct success by her rendering of the tuneful "Red Wing"; Miss Dorothy Tempest (Coraline) and Mr. J. Knox Orde (Davy Jones) make the most of their opportunities, and Mr. Edgar Pleon completes the cast of principals with an amusing animal study. Mr. Michael Dwyer has his choral (a good-looking bevy of girls) and orchestral forces well under control, and Mr. J. Le Fane is responsible for the smart stage-management. The clever introductions of the Fedora Quartette of dancers are immensely popular, a remark applicable with equal truth to the work of the Viviana Troupe in *The Animated Toy Shop*.

PIER PAVILION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. G. Hayes.—Cyril Gilbert's grand comic Christmas pantomime *Red Riding Hood* commenced a fourteen-nights' engagement on Christmas Eve. Miss C. Harlow is a satisfactory representative of Robin Hood, her many introductions, including a smart display of bâton swinging; Miss E. Schofield is cast as Red Riding Hood, and during the evening she has many opportunities of proving her skill as a dancer, her Umbrella dance being especially popular. Mr. Fred Walker is a very amusing Granny, his laughable "All through meeting a pal in the rain" item being one of the hits of the pantomime. Misses E. Victoria and Lena Selwyn are excellent as Jack and Jill respectively, and Miss Ruby Royal fills the small part of Fairy Bluebell. The villains of the pantomime are portrayed by Mr. Alfred Hicks (the Wicked Wolf), Reed Pinaud, jun. (characteristically sly as Lawyer Fox), Mr. E. J. Allnut (very amusing as Baron Baplot), and Messrs. Teddy Hood and Willie Hicks (Pen and Ink). The specialities are contributed by Reed Pinaud, jun., and his American Kandy Girls (three of whom are very clever dancers), Mr. E. J. Hicks and his famous Clerks in a Dutch quartette and dance (undoubtedly the best item in the pantomime), and Will Dale (tramp cyclist).

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; District-Manager, Mr. George Egbert; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—This week's capital bill is headed by Lyons and Cullum (American pot-pourri and speciality artists), the gentleman a remarkable mimic, and the lady a very dainty dancer. Mabel Thorne scores an immense success with three novel songs, and the Two Lillies contribute some particularly excellent Terpsichorean items, their Mirror dance being a very clever deception; Nat Travers's coster songs are a popular feature of the programme; Miss Rose Atherton and company evoke merriment in the well-played sketch *Murphy's Affinity;* Charles Pastor is a comedian of very original methods; Katie Weston contributes a catchy chorus song; and new pictures are added.

ECCLES.—CROWN THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Albert Rogers.—The attraction is Mr. J. Gar Kiddie's pantomime company in *Little Bo-Peep*. Not the least feature of the show is the splendid way it is staged and dressed, and the swing that is maintained throughout. The title-rôle is ably rendered by Miss Lizzie Payne. Miss Ivy Gallard is successful as Boy Blue; Miss Elsie Peach depicts the Fairy wonderfully; the comic business is well placed in the hands of Mr. Harry Royde as Baron Hardup, Mr. J. W. Groves as Granny Brown, Messrs. Grapho and Jackson as Johnny Stout and Johnny Green, Mr. Willie Harris as Tommy Long, and Mr. Albert Kail Stern as Rastus Brown. Mr. W. H. Gatty's Demon is a capable impersonation. The sheep are admirably trained, and the living statuary tableaux is fine.

EDINBURGH.—ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—Messrs. Howard and Wyndham have with characteristic enterprise again secured a recent London success as the attraction for the Christmas and New Year holidays. Mr. George Edwardes's company began an engagement of several weeks' duration on Monday of last week with the bright musical play, *Havana*. Although it was the opening night of the tour, the members of the company played with a spirit and ease that displayed no lack of rehearsal, and the piece went with the greatest animation from first to last. Miss Gertrude Lester made an unmistakable hit as Consuelo, acting with passion and charm, and singing with much sweetness and expression. Her rendering of "I'm a Cuban girl" was encored with enthusiasm, and she had to repeat the other numbers of her part. Miss Luna Love acted vivaciously as Anita, sang with humour, and danced with great neatness. Her Apache dance with Mr. George Gregory, who was exceedingly amusing in a quiet style of humour as Nix, was a tremendous hit, and the artists had to respond again and again to the loud applause of the audience. Mr. W. H. Rawlins, droll as usual, played with immense vigour as Reginald Brown, and scored a success with his topical song; Mr. T. C. Maxwell was a manly Jackson Villiers, and sang well; Mr. Will Hindson was a brisk, lively Frank Charteris; and Mr. Frank Hector as Adolphe acted pleasantly and danced with grace and neatness. Miss Florence Phillips in a clever dance showed marked ability; and good work was done by Mr. Edward O'Neill as Diego, Mr. Campbell Bishop as Bombito, and Mr. Hugh Bevan as the Sentinel. The chorus, under the direction of Mr. Andrew McCunn, sang with admirable precision, and the piece had all the advantage of beautiful mounting.

The initial success of *Havana* has been followed by a brilliant record during the holiday week, when both the matinée and evening performances have attracted crowded houses. The singing and acting of Miss Gertrude Lester as Consuelo are pleasing features in the production; Miss Jessie Broughton's song in the second act stands foremost among the vocal numbers; and the energetic dancing of Miss Florence Phillips is spirited in the extreme. Mr. W. H. Rawlins and Mr. George Gregory, with their well-contrasted methods of humour, are increasingly happy in the diversion they create, and their topical songs provoke a brisk demand for encore verses.

KING'S THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard.—A compressed and attractive version of *Aladdin*, arranged to suit the two-houses-a-night system during the Christmas and New Year holidays, started here on Monday of last week. The author of this pantomime is Mr. A. E. Sidney Davis, and the company engaged in the production give a good account of themselves and their work. In the name-part Miss Minnie Olive makes a bright and pleasing principal boy; the Princess is charmingly represented by Miss Alice Digby; and to Miss Daphne Gelstone as the Slave of the Ring fall the chief vocal honours of the piece; while in a lighter vein Miss Gwen Clifford's laughing song, in the rôle of Scrubbee Tubbee, is vastly appreciated. The leading comedians, who combine successfully in keeping the fun alive, are Mr. Charles Adeson as the Widow Twankhurst, Mr. Bob Owen as the Emperor of China, Mr. Jack Harrington Weeks as the Grand Vizier, and Mr. Bert Danson as Abanazar. A well-trained chorus of fifty male and female voices does excellent service; and many fine costumes produce good colour effects in the more important scenes.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—Mr. Frank A. Gotch, the champion wrestler, was here last week in a sketch entitled *All About a Bout*, in which he displays dexterity and strength in the exposition of wrestling; Miss Nellie Le Breton's illustrated song was given in a pleasing style; and Miss Millie Payne sang with humour and effect. The Misses Florence and Lilian contributed a delightful musical turn; and Miss Ida Kathrena's clever sketch, *The Human Doll*, was loudly applauded. Messrs. Fred Kitchen and Frank Lister were very dramatic in a scene, *No. 99;* and a realistic representation of the Johnstown Flood Catastrophe was shown by Mr. Syd Cook. Mr. Harry Bedford approved himself a capital comedian; and the Bioscope illustrated the wrestling match between Gotch and Hackenschmidt.

Special attractions, as well as extra performances, have been provided this past week, a capital holiday programme being headed by Herman Melot, whose deftness in conjuring easily places him among the chieftains of his art; Miss Marquis introduces a number of highly-trained horses, which are put through some singular exercises; the Strolling Players submit a pleasant musical turn; and operatic selections, contributed by Les Voces, are favourably received. An outstanding name on the bill is that of Victoria Monks, whose songs, whether new or old, are delightfully rendered; and other successful vocalists are found in Nance Elder and Austin Rudd; while Bob Hamilton is in great demand as a popular Scottish comedian. The Three Cape Girls prove themselves skilled dancers; and the Bioscope films, giving Peeps into Nature's Realm, are exceedingly interesting.

COOKE'S ROYAL CIRCUS.—Proprietor, Mr. John Henry Cooke; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. C. Burns.—The special item of last week's bill was the production of Mr. Cooke's spectacular pantomime, entitled *King Gold and the Lucky Little Lassie*, in which over a hundred Edinburgh children take part. All the familiar characters of nursery tales, old and new, from "Dick Whittington" to "Peter Pan," are prettily presented; nor are such fighting forces as the Suffragettes and the Gordon Highlanders omitted from the list of juveniles who troop into the arena appropriately attired. Mr. Harry Dale makes a genial King Gold; and Miss Cora Irene a handsome Prince Sovereign. Miss Marie de Carteret is quite charming as a good fairy; and Miss Mary Kinnaird figures as the Lucky Little Lass; while Talberto and Douglas do double and treble duty as the King's bodyguard, the two cruel uncles, and other personages, whose cue is to promote merriment. The pantomime was preceded by a clever variety programme, in which horses and dogs, as well as human performers, took part. Interest was added to the proceedings on the opening night by the presence of the Earl of Haddington, who handed a handsome bouquet to Miss Ernestine Rosa Cooke, on the eve of her leaving Edinburgh for London.

EXETER. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—A crowded house welcomed *Cinderella* on Boxing night. The book is by Mr. F. Leslie Moreton, and closely follows the thread of the old story. Miss Violet Hollom made a winsome Cinderella, acting, dancing, and singing well, and was encored for her song in the Palace scene. Miss Edith Housley as Prince Charming was excellent, playing and singing with plenty of spirit. She was recalled for her rendering of "A White Man," whilst the duet "A tiny seed of love," in which she joins Cinderella was redemanded. As Dandini Miss Minnie Love was responsible for good acting and singing. The chief success at the opening performance was, however, scored by Mr. Kennedy Allen as Baron Blighter. Throughout he kept the house in roars of laughter. Miss Kathleen Flynn made the best of the part of Baroness Blighter; Messrs. Frank Weir and Frederick Park are good comedians as the Ugly Sisters; while the diminutive Mr. Willie Atom made a "hit" as Buttons. Miss Elsie James sang well as the Fairy; and Miss Kitty Allen was a vivacious Martha. The specialities are the Berlin Belles and the Three Martinettes. Mr. F. Chevalier Le Grand ably conducted. The production was in the hands of Mr. Guyton Heath.

THE NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fredreick Sandy.—Large houses are the order this week, and the management are to be congratulated on the entertainment given. At the top of the bill are Mr. Laurence Irving and Miss Mabel Hackney, in sketch *Peg Woffington*, and, needless to say, they play worthily up to their reputation, and are enthusiastically applauded for their fine efforts. The other characters were well portrayed. The Burnells, in their musical and comedy act, *Playmates*, cause roars of laughter; Horace White gives a smart ventriloquial performance at the piano; Bert Woodward does some clever tricks on a bicycle; Wilson and Waring are amusing in their comedy American duo; A. G. Una proves himself an eccentric comedian; Jennie Reeve is a dainty comedienne; and the Hippodrome pictures complete.

FALKIRK.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—A return to the legitimate last week came as a refreshing change after a run of variety business. Mr. John Clyde and company presented the ever-green Scottish drama, *Jeanie Deans*, of which a very capable and intelligent presentation was given. Mr. Clyde himself took a double rôle, those of John, Duke of Argyle, and the Counsel for the Defence in the well-known trial scene, and gave an excellent portrayal of both parts; Miss Lena Levenstone played Jeanie Deans, and of this character gave an artistic and sympathetic interpretation; the other notable parts are those of Effie Deans, by Miss Ella Sennett, Madge Wildfire, by Miss Belle Cecil, and Dumbiedykes, by Mr. Wm. Geo. Robb.

Fred Darcy's company on Monday opened a fortnight's engagement here with the pantomime *The Forty Thieves*. The piece is well staged, and many novel features are introduced, forming a really entertaining evening. Ali is represented by Mr. Wal Croft, who is rich and prodigal in "business" of the orthodox order, and sings a number of quaintly appropriate songs; Mr. Reg Ewen takes the part of Cozia Baba, Ali's wife, and is a worthy helpmeet in the mirth-provoking line; while Mr. Ted Wooten as Cassim sings a series of songs in good style; Miss Isa Bell makes a dainty and attractive Captain of the Forty Thieves; while Miss Mary Poulton as Ganem and Mlle. Carita as Morgiana both sing with much sweetness; Messrs. Sandy and Carl contribute liberally to the fun of the pantomime. Specialities include the Five X-Rays, expert and comedy acrobats; the Cavalotte Brothers, all-round instrumentalists; and the Esmeralda Girls, dancers.

FOLKESTONE. — PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. H. W. Roland.—That ever-popular musical comedy, *The Gay Gordons*, is presented here this week by one of Mr. Seymour Hicks' touring companies, under Mr. W. A. Seymour's capable management. Miss Nell Carter in the rôle of Peggy Quainton, the millionaire's daughter, delighted everyone; Mr. Frank Lincoln as Angus Graeme gave a spirited rendering; Mr. Tom Graves as Nervy Nat was irresistibly humorous; Mr. Edward Nainby did well as Edmund Siddons; Miss Josie de Florac as Mary McLeod was delightful; Miss Mabel Dent also gave a pretty study of Victoria Siddons; and Miss Ida Laurie as Charlotte Siddons was at all times amusing. Miss Emily Mellon as Janet McLeod gave a sympathetic portrayal.

GAINSBOROUGH. — KING'S THEATRE. — This theatre reopened on Boxing Night to a crowded house, under the management of Mr. Fred Leighton (late of the Palace, Manchester), who is the managing-director of the Gainsborough Theatre Co., the new proprietors. Mr. W. Graham Arthur's company presented *The Mockery of Marriage*. Miss Mabel Liston gave a good rendering of Alva Kenyon; Mr. Arthurs being successful as Jack Stanley. Mr. Geo. Tempest brought out the villainies of Sir Montague Jephson effectively; the comedy element was well played by Miss Muriel Monteath; and Mr. Frank Masters, Mr. Ralph Armfield submitted a strong character sketch of Seth Pearse. *Every Inch a Man* was played the latter part of this week.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Gainsborough Empire Syndicate.—Tom Bassett, comedian, paid a return visit here last week, when the company also included Saville Bradley's pantomime company, in *Ructions;* Four Hull Newsboys, vocalists; Victor Champion, baritone; and some good pictures.

This week we have *The Stowaway*, condensed so as to play twice nightly, and it is well interpreted by Mr. Victor du Cane, Miss Winifred Maude, and full company. Varieties are supplied by Tom Bassett (comedian) and Pictures. The above place of amusement, after having served that purpose under various titles for many years, finishes its career this week, the building having been purchased by the War Office for the use of the Territorials.

GATESHEAD. — KING'S THEATRE. — Lessees, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager and Licensee, Mr. Harold Arnold.—John Clempert in his exhibition of breaking from various bonds is starring here this week; Miss Ethel Pender-Cudlip and Mr. Claude Anderson appear together in a scene from *Il Trovatore*, and bring down the house; Geo. C. Doughty and company, in *Captain Cupid*, are amusing; the Sisters Lee are very entertaining vocalists, dancers, and acrobats. Harry Morris, comedian; Harry Vardon, ventriloquist; and the usual pictures are also in the bill.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; General-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Dixon.—Messrs. Hardie and Von Leer's company in *A Sailor's Wedding* proved a sound attraction here.

GLASGOW.—GRAND.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. B. G. Macklachlan; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. Christie Grant.—The pantomime *Cinderella* is now in full swing and drawing good houses. Miss Queenie Finnis is charmingly refined in the title-rôle; and the lively capers of Mr. Barry Lupino furnishes continuous amusement. The domineering Baroness, by Mr. Tom Conway, and the diminutive Baron of Mr. George French, have proved great favourites; while Mr. Whit Cunliffe as the accomplished Dandini adds greatly to the success of the pantomime. The Fairy Godmother of Miss Olive Tempest is delightful from beginning to end; Miss Kate Walbron and Miss Nelly Cozens do not make the sisters of the heroine so much "ugly" as forward and presumptuous, which is an improvement; the Salomé song and dance is tuneful and graceful in a marked degree; Mr. French's Scotch song, "In the kilt," is a lively bit of singing, while the accompaniment is a perfect mosaic of Scotch music. On Monday evening Miss Violet Halls was unable to appear, owing to indisposition, but Miss Nellie Wigley proved an excellent understudy in the part of Prince Cassimir.

PRINCESS'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—Crowded houses are a nightly occurrence, and *Diccory Dok* is shaping in a way that will quite equal past south-side successes. The principals work in the greatest harmony, and hearty applause greet their efforts. Miss Ella Retford is singing and dancing as sprightly as ever; and Peter Bermingham's quaint sayings are thoroughly enjoyed. Miss Maggie Fraser and Miss Edith Haley contribute several good songs, and are special favourites; Mr. Syd Walker, in conjunction with Mr. Cliff Lake, are very funny as the Travelling Physicians; able support is given throughout by Messrs. Harry A. Gribben and Ainslie Burton, Miss Flora Cromer, and the Sisters Bartholomew.

METROPOLE, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—Mr. Fredk. Melville's powerful drama, *Married to the Wrong Man*, continues to draw good houses here, attracted by the effective acting of Miss Gertrude Boswell as the girl struck dumb, and Mr. Oswald Cray as Jack Gladwin.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—A good house extended a most hearty welcome to Mr. Robert Macdonald's company, in *The Dairymaids*, on the first visit of this lively musical play to Govan, and it is certain to prove an excellent attraction during the New Year holidays. Miss Isa Bowman acts with sprightly vivacity and sings well as Peggy, being specially well suited in the part, and she caught the fancy of the audience from her first entrance; Miss Kathleen Severing as Winnie is possessed of a sweet, but somewhat light, voice, and rendered her various numbers in artistic style; Mr. Dan Agar as Joe Mivens proves a great favourite, and the fun was fast and furious all the time he was on the stage; Mr. Richard Telford as Lieut. Brudenell and Mr. Horace Manger as Lieut. Meredith, were a smart couple of young officers, and sang, danced, and acted all through with infinite enjoyment; Mr. Frank Barclay is well suited as Dr. O'Bryne, and his love scenes with Lady Brudenell (cleverly played by Miss Babs Christopher), were extremely good. Miss Edie Martin proved herself a clever comedienne as Eliza, Miss Doris Dickens was a charming Helen, and the severe aspect of Miss Pyechase was amusingly portrayed by Miss Kitty Kirwan. Mr. H. H. Shaw conducted the augmented orchestra. The play was splendidly staged, the set in Act 2, Miss Pyechase's Academy, being the actual scene used in the original production at the Apollo.

EMPIRE.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Manners.—George Auger and company, in their humorous playlet, *Jack the Giant Killer*, take the leading place, and prove decidedly funny; *No. 99*, an American dramatic sketch, played by Kitchen and Lister's company, is both thrilling and appealing; one of the cleverest Japanese combinations travelling is the Andos Troupe, whose work is decidedly clever, their daring acts of balancing and rope-walking calling forth hearty plaudits; another turn responsible for much of the evening's enjoyment is that provided by Cornalla and Eddie, whose juggling and general eccentricities are thoroughly appreciated; Nellie Falco and S. K. Eida give a most interesting exhibition of ju-jitsu, depicting numerous overpowering grips and holds; Bennie Barrow sings a couple of baritone songs with great taste; Harry Bedford pays a return visit, and is as popular as ever; Millie Payne is a quaint comedienne of more than average ability, and is well received; Blanche Vincent keeps well up to date; and the films shown on the Bioscope are of the usual high standard.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Councillor E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock.—The New York Comedy Four head this week's bill with vocal and comedy efforts, which are most enjoyable; the Royal Tokio Troupe give a daring and sensational Oriental display, their three-ladder act being well worth seeing; Reg. Bolton's comedy scena, *The Editor's Imp*, has a decidedly original flavour; Ryan and Hall give an exceedingly laughable show; the Society Quartette as singers and dancers score a success; the Pichel Troupe give a show of graceful acrobatics in a most attractive style; W. E. Hilton, a ventriloquist of talent, with the assistance of "Jock," supplies good fun; and also on the programme are Jimson's "Pets at Home," a fine exhibition of animal training, and Miss Nellie Lawrence, who sings and dances well. The Bioscope concludes.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Evan Good.—A varied and attractive bill has been arranged for the holiday crowds, the star turn being Herbert Lloyd, in the best of his old business, on which he has grafted a lot of new and very funny items; Madge Gray is a smart and clever comedienne, whose dialect songs and patter take very well; V. L Granville gives a smart protean sketch, entitled *'Twixt Dawn and Daylight*, in which he plays half a dozen characters; Harry Brown, the eccentric coloured comedian and dancer, is responsible for many hearty laughs; Mr. C, who sings and talks, takes equally well in both items; and another similar turn is that of Maude Courtney, the American girl. Daisy James is well received, especially for her "picture hat" song; Mike Cray is an amusing juggler of the eccentric order, and has a well-trained dog assisting him; the Maningos, neat equilibrists; Rosina Gordon, a smart dancer; and Rubie and Elsie Redfern, in a drawing-room act, complete a varied programme.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—Carl Hertz, the famous illusionist, heads the bill here, and by his magic arts beguiles the house for a good quarter of an hour; the original protean lady, Addie Dorina, successfully impersonates six characters in *Dr. Spot's Patients*, in which she is assisted by Frank Weathercroft; Marcel and Boris give a wonderful exhibition of hand-balancing; Carney Brothers possess decided vocal talent, as is seen in their scena, *Brothers;* the eccentric comedy line has an able exponent in Mark Cowan; Raie Walters proves an attractive comedienne; and Jack Neil, a popular local comedian, gets some hearty laughs.

COLISEUM.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—The star attraction this week is Frank A. Gotch, in the highly-interesting sketch, *All About a Bout*, in which the champion's skill as wrestler and actor are fully demonstrated, while his famous match with Hackenschmidt is also shown on the Bioscope. Campbell and Barber appear in their comedy cycle act, and provoke a deal of merriment; the refined entertainment of Albert Whelan is always popular here; another pleasing performance being the instrumental mélange of Florence and Lillian. Mabel Bright displays versatile talent in portraying various pantomime characters; Scotch song and dance is worthily represented by George S. Melvin; Clarke and Hayden's musical duologue, *By Appointment*, deserves praise; "the dolly girl," Ida Kathrena, is clever and original; and Nellie Le Breton's illustrated Dutch song goes well.

PANOPTICON.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—Signor Bandoni is the principal attraction, and his illustration of a one-man orchestra is exceedingly clever; another good turn is that by Marshall and Wright, eccentric comedians and dancers; Mattie Carson, comedienne and big boot dancer, and Nellie Elaine, comedienne, complete the variety part of the entertainment. The Bioscope Pictures are always in great demand here, and form a speciality.

GLOSSOP. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—An attractive entertainment is provided here this week by Mr. Sydney Spenser's own company in the musical play *Frits*. Mr. Geo. M. Newall makes the most of his opportunities as the villainous Colonel Crafton; Mr. Sydney Spenser himself gives a characteristic interpretation of Bowery Bill; Mr. J. B. Stewart in the title-rôle of Fritz is successfully in evidence; Mr. Julien Mitchell earns frequent applause for his manly portrayal of Jack Armstrong; Mr. Ed. Jenner as Gregory Graham makes a typical lawyer; Mr. Walter A. Hilton as Gussy Graham treats the character effectively; and Mr. Arthur Gribbin as Sambo Squash, a nigger, gives a humorous impersonation; and Miss Lizzie Hall (Mrs. Sydney Spenser) captivates with her vivacious Katrina, Miss Hetty Senior giving an attractive rendering of Florence.

GLOUCESTER. — PALACE.—Owners, Messrs. Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole.—Vonetta, illusionist and protean artist, is appearing here with success this week; the Sisters Gerette, on the double trapeze, do a clever and graceful performance; Fred Curran, parody singer and comedian, goes well, as does Oakdene, nautical ventriloquist, Eva Lumley and company in comedy skit are applauded, and Bowers and Bardell in refined comedy performance find favour; Jim Topping, comedian, is a lively comic singer; and Lazern, magician, also appears. The Palacescope concludes.

KING'S HALL.—Lessees, Messrs. Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. T. Rea.—Another capital programme of animated pictures is put on this week to good houses.

GREAT YARMOUTH. — ROYAL AQUARIUM.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale. — Mr. Charles Macdona's principal company, in *Mr. Popple*, is the Christmas attraction here. In the title-rôle, Mr. Charles Macdona is irresistibly funny; Miss Nellie Hodson sings and dances well as La Bolero; Mr. Tom May is a humorous Platt, his singing and dancing, in conjunction with Miss Nellie Lomas, a vivacious Louise, being much appreciated; Mrs. Hennay and Mrs. Doring have clever exponents in Miss Lilian Last and Miss G. Aylward; Mr. Edgar Ward is a good Jacques Kenyon; Mr. Lauri Lisle a funny George Hennay; and the same remark applies to Mr. James Stephenson as Doring. Miss Marjory Grey is a charming Violet Brinton and Mr. Willie Hartell a clever head waiter at the Blitz.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. George Gilbert.—Excellent turns fill the Christmas bill at this popular establishment. A smart sporting novelty, entitled *France v. England*, illustrating the art of self-defence, is very popular; the Robertys appear in an exceptionally clever balancing act; the Royal Ohmys are repeating their success as equestriennes; Daisy Palmer executes a clever dance; the Musical Palmers are first-rate musicians; the Aeroplanes, are daring gymnasts; Jessie Ward, the juvenile soprano, has an excellent voice; R. C. Note sings good chorus songs; and the Matreseos and Master Claude complete the bill.

GREENOCK. — ALEXANDRA THEATRE, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—*The New East Lynne* was performed here last week by Mr. W. W. Kelly's company. Miss Marion Lind submitted a pathetic and impressive portrayal of the dual rôle of Lady Isabel and Mme. Vine, and had capital support from Mr. Frederick Harker, a capable exponent of Archibald Carlyle, and from Mr. W. H. Garbois as Francis Levison, Mr. Richard Nugent as Murty O'Flynn, Mr. Byron Pedley as Mr. Dill, Miss Sophy Shenton as Cornelia Carlyle, Miss Josephine Gwinne as Barbara Hare, and Miss Guinevere Shilton in the dual rôle of Afy and Joyce Hallijohn.

Messrs. John Clyde and company provide an excellent attraction for the holidays in the historical drama, *Rob Roy*. Mr. Clyde excels in his powerful portrayal of the bold outlaw; Mr. J. W. Bowie fills the rôle of Francis Osbaldiston with credit, singing his numbers capitally; as Bailie Nicol Jarvie Mr. Wm. G. Robb scores a distinct success; and Mr. George Hunter makes an excellent Dougal Cratur. Miss Joan Keddie, by her graceful acting and cultured singing, makes a hit as Diana Vernon; and Miss Clare Cowper appears successfully as Helen Macgregor.

EMPIRE.—Lessees, the Greenock Empire Syndicate; Responsible-Manager, Mr. Edward McCormick; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. J. Colquhoun.—An attractive company was headed last week by Ritter and Foster, an American comedy duo, who were accorded well-merited applause; Bains and Reed, in their unique act, *Humsti-Bumpsti*, were also warmly greeted; whilst Prof. Norton, conjurer, Ada Gatley, a clever slack-wire artist, the Violas, in a second sight entertainment, and Car-

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ney Bros., character duettists, were all much appreciated. The pictures displayed by the Bioscope were good.

Heading the bill here this week is Dave Samuels, the well-known Hebrew comedian, whose comic versatility and catchy songs are highly appreciated; the Five Tritons appear in a musical scena to great advantage; Bob Nicol is highly successful as a mimic of popular music-hall artists; Lozelle presents a smart gymnastic act; and Mlle. Leoville, lady conjurer and jester, Kate Gourlay, Scottish character comedienne, Charles Fraser, descriptive vocalist, and the Bioscope are other attractions.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry L. Skivington.—Messrs. J. G. Brandon and company provided last week's star attraction with their American dramatic sketch, *The Girl and the Tough*; the Pichel Troupe aroused enthusiasm by their remarkably clever Risley performance; V. L. Granville contributed excellent impersonations of various characters; David Stewart, tenor vocalist, obtained considerable applause; and Harry Arnold, comedian, was good. On the Dramoscope the pantomime *Cinderella* was portrayed.

At the head here is Mlle. Lumiere, the great danseuse, who wins favour for her exceptionally clever turn, which is enhanced by some pretty electrical effects. At the bottom, that comical trio, the Kurios, appear, and their lively comedy business arouses great merriment; Slippere, the blind musician, meets with an enthusiastic reception; the Brooklands, duettists and dancers, are well received; George Prince is an amusing comedian; and Al and Lal, novelty musicians, are popular; while the Dromoscope shows a series of amusing pictures.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—The romantic drama, *The Midnight Wedding*, is repeating its former success here. Mr. Alfred Paumier is again responsible for its presentation, and gives a vigorous portrayal of the interesting character of the sword-master, Paul Valmar; Miss Yvonne Orchardson invests the part of the Princess Astrea with pleasing charm, and is especially good in the emotional scenes; Mr. E. Booth Conway suitably marks the villainy of Captain Rudolf von Scarsbruck; as his accomplice, Lieut. Eugene von Strelsburg, Mr. E. Winnington Barnes is satisfactory; Mr. John Nesbit acts with dignity as the Crown Prince; the amusing parts of the Three Troopers are capitally played by Mr. James E. Page as Sergeant Max, Mr. Harry Richardson as Corporal Otto, and Mr. Algie Spalding as Private Bobbo; Miss Gwladys Faunce acts daintily as Kathie.

THE PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—Last week Miss Ella's daring performance with her magnificent lions was a popular attraction, and the animals showed evidence of remarkable training; Marie Collins is a comedienne whose style proved highly pleasing; Miss Ethel Stephenson, a local contralto vocalist, who is embracing the variety profession, last week made her début on the variety stage; the Marvellous Woodwards combined clever cycling with equilibristic feats; and other good turns were contributed by Harry Zetter, comedian and eccentric dancer; Charlie Deane, with a fund of entertaining business; and Mamie Fenton, Scottish comedienne.

Sam Mayo's return this week is very popular with the admirers of this quaint comedian. His lackadaisical style adds greatly to the humour of his eccentric ditties. Mlle. Renee is a skilled performer on the ocarina, post horn, cornet, saxophone, &c.; the Royal Delomes give a clever exposition of clog-dancing, their speciality, "The Phantom Clogs," being particularly good; Morrin and Cardiff also contribute a capital dancing act, and combine with it an abundance of humorous dialogue; King and Derwin create amusement with their burlesque, *The Rival's Arrival*; Gordon Kingston is a successful actor-vocalist; and George Ridgwell, a vocalist and cornet soloist, gives a pleasing turn.

GUERNSEY.—THEATRE ST. JULIAN'S.—Lessee, Mr. Ed. Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—Vaudeville was resumed here last week. Eddie Coolville is a good comedienne; Ethel Scheffer is always successful in illustrated songs; Fyne and Fane are a smart pair; and the Arntees, a coloured couple, made a decided hit. Miss Lilly Pearl and company gave a couple of clever items in *The Dream that Came True* and *The Way Out*; Pallister's Bioscope was also to the front.

On Boxing Night the building was simply packed to witness the interpretation of *The Coal King*, by Mr. A. Clifton Alderson and his company. The drama is of intense interest, and contains soul-stirring incidents. Mr. F. M. Dalton is excellent as Dick Shirley; Mr. A. C. Alderson plays Tom Roberts with earnestness and power; Sir Reginald has an able exponent in Mr. Ulick Burke; the rascally Walter Hartford is realistically depicted by Mr. Escott Robson; Jim Williams (Mr. Sam Roberts) and Araminta Green (Miss Max Hinton) are responsible for the comic element, and an amusing pair they are; Miss Joan Wellman does well in the arduous rôle of Mad Ann; and Miss Winifred Love is an altogether charming Grace Shirley.

HALIFAX.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—*The Girl Who Took the Wrong Turning* is here this week. F. Ronald Adair makes a typical breezy sailor as Willie Mason; Mr. Sidney Sarl's Bill Slater is a good charater well played; Mr. F. B. Robertson is successful as Jack Fenton; Mr. Frank Denis makes a dignified successful city man as Richard Fenton; Mr. R. Wood makes a gentlemanly villain as James Harcourt; Miss Jessie Belmore is easy and natural as Sophie Coventry, and is a decided success; Miss Zoe Davis is well placed as Lucy Coventry; and Miss Nannie Meade makes the most of the thankless part of Vestale Clere.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—The Auto Heroine and other good pictures are being shown at the Grand. Chas. Bowker, tenor vocalist, proves popular, and the Fitzroys (society acrobats) give a graceful and clever turn.

THE PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Foster.—Lyons Trio, pantomimists and dancers, give a clever and acceptable turn in dumb show; Avon and Crest are two comedy artists who are warmly appreciated for their smart work; Wilton Heriot and company appear in a well-dressed and well-played protean sketch; Kirk and Saraski provide an aquatic turn which is accorded hearty applause; Rapoli, the Herculean juggler, is as clever and popular as ever; Venturini provides a conjuring turn and introduces a clever illusion *Daos*; Harry Luck, comedian, and Ray Royal, descriptive vocalist, also appear.

VICTORIA HALL.—The Carl Rosa Opera company opened at this hall on Boxing Day with *Il Trovatore* (matinée) and *The Bohemian Girl* (evening), *Faust* (Monday), *Cavalleria Rusticana* (Tuesday), in which Mme. Marie Alexander as Santuzza and Mr. Edward Davies as Turiddu shone conspicuously, ably supported by Mr. Dillon Shallard as Alfio, Miss Annie Walker as Lola, and Miss Douglas Wilson as Lucia, followed by *Pagliacci*. The famous Prologue was finely sung by Mr. Charles Victor, whose work throughout was an artistic success. Mr. Hanns Robert created a good impression as Canio. Mr. Hebden Foster (Silvio) possesses a voice of excellent operatic quality. Miss Beatrice Miranda sings and acts well as Nedda. *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Carmen*, *Esmeralda*, *Tannhäuser*, and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* have also been played.

HANLEY.—GRAND.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand.—A capital programme here includes Miss May Audrey, a charmingly-dressed comedienne, with catchy songs; Emerson and Baldwin star in an original juggling act; Miss Ella's lions show magnificent training; Shrillo is recalled for his clever whistling; the Lukushima Troupe of Japanese entertainers are a big hit; Will Dalton is a good comedian; and Harry Letter is very quaint and creates much laughter The Grand pictures show very clearly The Chauffeur's Dream, and a fine burlesque detective film. David and Marriott also appear in a musical scena.

KING'S.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy; Manager, Mr. H. Kennedy.—The Red Indian and the Child is a magnificent picture, and is the talk of the town; Waterproof Willie, Banana Skins, Mysterious Thief, The Locket, and The Duellists, among others, evoke loud plaudits. Cinderella is much enjoyed, and the film is excellent. Mr. T. E. Johnstone makes a great hit in topical ditties.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. William Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Fielding-Smith.—King Pantomime holds sway at the above theatre this week, and a very excellent rendering of *Red Riding Hood* is provided by Mr. John Tiller's company. Miss Decima Brooke appears in the title-rôle, and her songs and dances were appreciated by crowded houses. Miss Maisie Jerrard as Prince Charming is all that can be desired. The comedy part of the programme is well looked after by Mr. F. Russell (the Baron), Mr. Howard Ward (Dame Crump), and Johnny Stout and Johnny Green are smartly exploited by Messrs. Will Lytton and Walter Watson. The Poppy Quartette and Excelsior Troupe of children add charming specialities.

HARTLEPOOL.—EMPRESS.—Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. Alfred Mathams.—The splendid selection of films shown by the Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope was last week supplemented by Dot Demayo, whose songs were capitally rendered and prettily illustrated, and Will Smith, a comedian who added to the laurels previously gained here.

This week an excellent display of films by the Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope is being thoroughly enjoyed by audiences who well fill the place twice nightly. Especial mention may be made of the pictures Fisheries of Astrachan, Beginning of the Serpentine, and the Dog's Revenge, which are particularly interesting. The list of pictures shown is an extensive one, and is supplemented by a gramophone competition and a speciality act by the Three Rabys, which takes very well

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. E. Dobney.—Consul has arrived, and is taking the town by storm. Packed houses are filled with wonderment twice nightly at his almost human performance. The novel song-scena *A Scottish Exile's Dream* is a vehicle for introducing some favourite Scottish songs, which are capitally rendered by John Donald; Frank Leon is an expert dancer, whose skill has many times been enjoyed here; Feo Inman is neat and pretty in song and dance; a musical comedietta, *Mam'selle Pom-Pom*, proves amusing as rendered by H. C. Lovell and company; a unique performance is given by the Sovereigns, one-legged equilibrists and chair-jumpers; and Will McIvor, comedian, and Clarice Clarke, vocalist, add pleasing turns to the list, which concludes with some interesting pictures by Raymond's Bioscope.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company began its spring tour here on Boxing Day with *Brewster's Millions*, giving two performances to enthusiastic and crowded audiences, and the same excellent results have been experienced throughout the present week. The new effects introduced into the third act have elicited loud expressions of astonishment. Mr. Percy Hutchison gives a forceful and clever exposition of the embarrassments and perplexities of Monty Brewster; Miss Cicely Stuckey is winsome and graceful as Peggy; and Miss Lilias Earle is very pleasing as Mrs. Dan de Mille; Mr. Cyril Rawdon acts with much feeling as Charlie Harrison; Mr. Frank Hill attracts notice by his quaint mannerisms as Rawles, the butler; Mr. Robert Forsyth is an impressive Mr. Grant; and valuable assistance is rendered by Mesdames Sybil Walsh, Eva Stuart, Frances Davie, Mary Seton, and Messrs. A. Andrews, Henry Hampson, Aubrey Mather, Charles Esdale, Otho Hazlewood, Douglas Greet, U. S. Haye, G. Salver, and A. P. Kaye.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. Vivian Fisher.—The funniosities of Wal Owen, the silent comedian, are absurdly comic; Mlle. Zelda plays very prettily on some novel instruments; clever and effective films are shown by the Bio-photoscope; Dunning, the popular ventriloquist, thoroughly amuses his audience; an original episode, entitled *Her Devonshire Dad*, is delightfully acted by Mr. Victor Widdicome and company; Kahn and Kahn are skilful illusionists, their display of second-sight being quite remarkable; a dainty and graceful dancer is seen in Mabelle May, who excels equally as a vocalist; Austin Lenton and Agnes Lane, who are resourceful artists, contrive to extract a great amount of fun from a comedy concoction, *Unconsidered Trifles*.

PIER PAVILION.—General-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—Mr. J. D. Hunter's thirtieth annual pantomime is a great success and is filling the Pavilion. Defoe's imaginary tale has been moulded for the purpose by Mr. Ernest Carpenter, and Mr. Surtees Corne has supplied the music, and Robinson Crusoe is depicted surrounded by brilliance and beauty. The scenic effects are charming, and the artists enter into the mirthful entertainment with much spirit. Miss Cynthia Luping is admirable in the title-rôle; Miss Lallah Melrose as Polly is lively and winsome; Miss Rita Emson as Captain Lanyard and Miss Kitty Emson in the part of Nancy Lee easily win their way to favour. Genuine fun is introduced by Mr. Matt Melrose as Mrs. Crusoe, who is assisted in plenty of excellent fooling by Arthur Lenville, George Luping, and George Lorraine. During the various scenes bevies of pretty girls, with dresses of delicate tints, crowd the stage and form a ballet of exceptional beauty. Many pleasing and up-to-date songs are introduced, and the drolleries and whimsicalities are plentiful. Altogether a more joyous pantomime it would be difficult to find.

PUBLIC HALL.—Sub-Lessees, The People's Picture Palace Company; Managing-Director, Mr. F. R. Griffiths; Local Manager, Mr. Harry W. James.—Large audiences were attracted here for Boxing Day, and the excellent selection of pictures was much enjoyed.

HEREFORD.—GARRICK THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. P. Barnsley.—A first visit is being paid by Mr. Charles M. Bestic's company in the musical comedy *The Flower Girl*, and the house was packed on Monday by an enthusiastic audience. Miss Lilian Drake, who plays throughout with a natural air, is capital as Lizette, speaking her lines with fluency, and using her voice with effect in the musical numbers; delightfully chic is Miss Kitty Hyde, who sings and dances cleverly in the rôle of Lily; the part of Joe Wheeler is admirably undertaken by Mr. John T. MacCullum, who keeps the house in loud laughter; much animated and mirth-provoking business is done by Mr. Louis Du Cane as Reggy Rackit; Mr. Robert Cranny is responsible for some good work as Billy Greenhill; and Mr. Henry Adnes is excellent as Alphonse.

HORWICH.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessees, the Horwich Theatre Co.; Manager, Mr. R. H. White.—Mr. Frank J. Pitt's *£1,000 Reward* was the attraction last week. Miss Kathryne Eckhart gave an artistic representation of Mme. Sansom, the repentant victim of Gilbert Lisle; Mr. F. J. Pitt's portrayal of the astute detective, Vincent Rainsford, was a masterly one; Gilbert Lisle's villainy was thoroughly exploited by Mr. J. Wilton; Fred Ingleford is well sustained by Mr. Fred G. Kay; and the son by Mr. Wilson Roberts. Mr. Joe English revelled in the part of Dick Springthorpe, and danced himself into the affections of the audience; Arthur Merton as Fighting Jepps was excellent; Mr. Frank Dallas played the bombastic old school detective, Inspector Gilbert, in grand style; Meg was prettily rendered by Miss Nellie Navarro; Miss Minnie Goepel played Kitty, Dick's sister, with the greatest success; and the bibulous landlady, Mrs. McCarthy, had an ideal representative in Miss Alice Clarke. The minor characters were in capable hands.

Despite the severe weather a large audience gave Mr. Geo. Cremen's company a hearty welcome on Monday in *The World's Verdict*. Sir Geoffrey Woodleigh, the old Squire, is well represented by Mr. William Forde; Mr. Frank Wheatley paints Jasper Woodleigh in lurid colours; Mr. Llewellyn C. Hughes's representation of Geo. Ashford is manly; Sammy Carrot gives Mr. R. A. Earl plenty of scope for uproarious comedy; Mr. H. P. Warburton plays powerfully as Nathan Black, the maniac inventor; Miss Cicely Clutterbuck gives an interesting impersonation of Florence; Miss Dora Warburton plays Nellie Ashford with feeling; and Miss Kitty Macpherson is a typical Cockney lass, Miss Molly St. George, in the rôle of Cora, is forcible.

HUDDERSFIELD.—HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—The principal item in the holiday bill is the new production of Howard and Collinson and company entitled *A Little Piece of Dresden China*, a laughter-raising medley. Others appearing are Tee and Tee, musical grotesques; Elly Adair, Irish comedienne, the McConnell Trio in a brightly-written and capably-presented operatic burlesque; Harry Lawson, comedian; the Three Langfords in a smart dancing speciality; Chas. Dixon and company in a sketch entitled *Uncle Obadiah*; and Kioto and Esa, a pair of Japanese equilibrists of special cleverness. New pictures are presented on the Bioscope.

HULL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Manager, Mr. Tom Bogue.—*A White Man* has been the Christmas attraction at this house, and the way it has been received gives endorsement to the views before expressed as to the merits of this striking play. The mounting is very pleasing, and the audiences have followed with an absorbed interest the doings of the White Man. Mr. F. E. Petley, who plays the part of Jim Carstairs, has thereby established himself a favourite here; the Nat-u-ritch of Miss Margaret Fairleigh has been acknowledged on all sides as a beautiful performance; Mr. R. A. Brandon played the part of Big Bill with cleverness; completely successful was Mr. Eric Hudson as the Indian Chief; and the Countess Kerhill was pleasingly played by Miss Eleanor May.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Mortons, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—An abnormal house even for this very popular place of entertainment awaited the coming on Monday of Mr. Walter Melville's company in *The Beggar Girl's Wedding*, this latest success of Mr. Melville meeting with the reception it deserved. Every incident was followed with enthusiasm by the vast audience, and the doings of the beggar-girl bride met with full approval. Miss Vashti Wynne played the part of the beggar girl with sympathy, and Jack needed no better exponent than Mr. Otto Minster; the adventuress at the hands of Miss Olive Warne was a clever study; the comic relief was well provided by Mr. Herbert Lloyd and Miss Eva Dare; and full praise is bestowed on Miss Anita Playfair as the servant girl.

THE HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Harry Dunford.—The Ten Loonies top the bill in their eccentric musical act; Mlle. Sylvesto is a contortionist of much ability; and Adah Payne, vocalist, has a host of admirers. Other turns include Edwin Austin, Burns and Bentley, J. H. Ellis, Florence Raymond, and Ethel Stephenson.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Slingsby.—Marguerite Ismay and her coons appear in a very pretty vocal scena. Other artists completing a good company include Mamie Morris, D. W. Watson, Beau and Belle, J. F. Franklin, Venola Bros., and George Bernard.

THE CIRCUS.—Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Emerson.—An entirely new set of animated pictures is being shown.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—*The Prodigal Parson* was last week presented here by Northway and Garrod's company. Mr. Logan Darra as the Rev. Tom Godley displayed good acting ability; Miss Violet Hammersley gave an interesting impersonation of Fern Godley; and Miss Madge Gillard very pleasingly took the rôle of Myrtle, their blind child. Miss Alice Buckland was good as Gretchen Van Crans; and Mr. Owen Remonde was very amusing as Phil Drive. The Ben Jaggins of Mr. Charles Ashwell was a praiseworthy performance; Mr. Roland A. Bridge was aptly chosen for George Markley, a detective; and the villainy of Enoch Jaggins was well carried out by Mr. Alfred Northway.

Good houses are this week witnessing Mr. J. P. Moore's pantomime *Dick Whittington*. Miss Bessie Willow makes a good principal boy; Miss Madge Locke as the principal girl sings herself into favour; Miss Garibaldi as Fairy Queen is much applauded; the Cat is cleverly represented by Mons. Pauletti; Mr. Percy Victor scores as Fitzwarren, whilst Mr. Willie Oswald gains well-earned applause for his Idle Jack; Mr. Fred May as Betsy Mary Ann works well; Messrs. Doyle and Massey add to the amusement as Shuffle and Shirk; and Mr. E. Ellmore and Miss Ena May respectively as the Emperor of Morocco and Princess Charming are praiseworthy. During the evening the following artists appear:—Pauletti, in a bicycle act; Serpentino, contortionist; Victor Brothers, Olympian athletes; Oswald and Locke, comedy couple; Doyle and Massey, in a boxing act; Street and Round, duettists; Victor's dogs, and the Palace troupe of dancers.

ILKLEY.—KING'S HALL.—Proprietors, the Ilkley Urban District Council; Licensee, Mr. Frank Hall.—Mr. Allan Wilkie's Shakespearean company opened a seven nights' engagement on Saturday, when there was a crowded house. *The Merchant of Venice* was played on the opening night. Mr. Wilkie as Shylock gave a very clever impersonation; Mr. Alexander Marsh took Bassanio in his very best style; Mr. Frank Royde as Gratiano made a good impression; the Portia of Miss Haidee Gunn, a praiseworthy effort, deserved the appreciation it received. On Monday night *Hamlet* drew a large audience. Mr. Wilkie took the title-rôle in an excellent manner; while Mr. Alexander Marsh played the Ghost. Miss Haidee Gunn represented Ophelia in her usual finished style. For Tuesday night *Othello* was played, Mr. Wilkie again taking the title-rôle, with Mr. Marsh as Iago and Miss Gunn as Desdemona. For Wednesday night *Romeo and Juliet* was selected.

INVERNESS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Cameron Burgess.—*The Lady of Ostend* was presented last week to highly-appreciative audiences by Mr. Lawrence Brough and his excellent company. Dick Whortles was amusingly acted by Mr. Aubrey Cheshire, and his friend, Le Baron de Longueville, was inimitably given by Mr. Lawrence Brough; as Joseph Carbury Mr. Tom Mowbray was excellent, and so was his wife Miss Bessie Harrison; Miss Betty Park was suited in every way to the part of Dorothy Whortles; Millie Grace was charmingly personated by Miss Alice Leigh; Miss Edith Adeson was good as Jane; Toby Krockitt was very well done by Mr. Watkin Wynne, and his wife, The Lady of Ostend, was effectively presented by Miss Maud Buchanan. James by Mr. Harry Collier, and Thomson by Mr. W. Mayne Lynton, were well done.

Mr. Lawrence Brough and his talented company gave a fine representation of *The Saucy Sally* on Monday night. In the leading part Mr. Brough as Herbert Jocelyn does excellent work; Mr. W. Mayne Lynton ably presents the part of Captain Jocelyn, and as Percival Chudleigh Mr. Harry Collier is good. Mr. Tom Mowbray makes a capital Jack Buncome, and a very clever impersonation of the waiter Perkins is submitted by Mr. Aubrey Cheshire. Miss Olga Esme is a charming Rosie; Miss Bessie Harrison as the Mother-in-Law and Miss Maud Buchanan as Cecile both do well, and all the other parts are well filled. Prior to the farce Mr. Aubrey Cheshire gave clever musical sketches, for which he was heartily applauded.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company in *Mrs. Dot* opened on Boxing night. Miss Decima Moore as Mrs. Worthly (otherwise Mrs. Dot) is an attraction not to be missed by Ipswich playgoers; Miss Emma Hutchison impersonates Lady Sellinger to the life; and Miss Ethel Grahame is a graceful Nellie Sellinger, Miss Celia Gordon being an admirable Eliza MacGregor. In the difficult part of James Blenkinsoff Mr. Frank Lacy gives a masterly interpretation, the transition from the cynic to the passionate wooer being very cleverly done; Mr. Philip Leslie as Freddy Perkins, and Mr. James Gelderd as Gerald Halstane, are wholly satisfactory.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—An excellent bill last week was headed by Mr. George D'Albert, whose genuinely funny efforts and excellent songs were greatly appreciated. *The Cowboy Millionaire*, by Mr. Harry Roxbury and company, was extremely popular; Herbert La Martine is a very clever clog-dancer; and La Belle Greta is also a skilful exponent of terpsichore. Gladys and Alber are diverting comedy duettists; Harry Ray and Lillie Calden have a very amusing turn; and Harry Hallam and Josephine Stanton have a breezy sketch, entitled *A Broken Journey*. Harry Briggs is a clever vocalist, and imitates children to the life.

A strong company is playing this week to crowded houses. Carter Livesey and Lilian Rosebery had a hearty welcome back with their clever skit *Would-be Actors Rehearsing a Drama*; Max Gruber and Miss Adelina are also on a return visit with their clever elephant, horse, and pony; the Cattaneo troupe of acrobats are particularly smart and humorous; the Lannons are agile dancers; Charles Russell has a song-scena entitled "The Veterans, or 1854," in which he is assisted by several local warriors; Leonie Dixon is a skilful dancer and tuneful singer; Harry Taft has talent as a siffleur; Charles Tempest is an amusing comedian; and the Bioscope concludes.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Locke.—*The Girl Who Lost Her Character* company is well received here this week. Mr. E. McLean as the Rev. Robert Everton supplies an excellent performance; and Mr. Harold Macartney is well placed as Jack England. Mr. G. Mitchell looks and plays the part of James Sutton to the letter; Mr. G. H. Asquin causes much amusement as Dick Punch; and Captain Geoffrey Caversham is ably handled by Mr. R. Ferris. Miss Lydia Mannington as (the mystery) Marian Franklin gives an excellent portrayal; Miss Cecilia Dare as Molly Vernon is quite at home in the part; and as Rose Seymour Miss Greatwick is simply charming. The scenery and dresses are excellent.

JERSEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Edward Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—Mr. A. Clifton Alderson and company opened here on Monday in *The Coal King*. As Tom Roberts Mr. A. Clifton Alderson keeps up his reputation as a finished actor, and, having a big local reputation, was warmly received; Mr. Escott Robson gave an effective rendering of the rôle of Walter Hartford; Miss Winifred Love was a charming Grace Shirley; Miss Joan Wellman was excellent as Mad Ann; Miss Max Hinton caused much amusement as Araminta Green; and was ably supported by Mr. Sahm Roberts as Tim Williams. The numerous other characters were in safe hands.

KEIGHLEY.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. R. Kendall; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Carson.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company in *The Great White Chief* proved an attraction last week. Mr. Mansell Fane appeared as Le Stanley, and his songs were encored; Mr. Hugh Brady made a hit as Reindeer; Mr. George Butler scored as Hartley Deane; and Mr. J. Dobson Clyde played in an excellent manner the part of Sparrowhawk. Comedy was supplied in an able manner by Mr. Millar Wilson and Miss Amy Ross Clyde; Miss Pollie Denville was successful as Latika.

KETTERING.—AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Payne.—Mr. Harry Joseph successfully produced on Boxing Night his pantomime of *Aladdin*, which, judging from the opening performances, should have a long and prosperous career. The title-rôle is admirably maintained by Miss Janet Lawton, and Miss Kitty Avey is a charming Princess. The comic element is very strong. Mr. Will Terry as Abanazar, Mr. Harry Harcourt as the Widow, and the Brothers Shephard as What Oh and What Hi keep the audience in roars of laughter. Clever specialities are introduced by Herman and Evelyn, the Four Sisters Sligo, Casselly, the Gibson Girls, and the Sabot Trio. Mr. F. G. Hime is an efficient musical director.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Managers, Messrs. Alf Bailey and Co.—The Christmas attraction here is Miss Inez Howard's company in *The Soldier's Wedding*. Mr. Chas. Baker is a manly hero, Mr. Frank V. Fenn a successful Charles Courtney, and Mr. Alexander Williams and Little Johnnie as Tommy Sprat and Teddy Munroe respectively contribute some admirable comedy. Miss Jean Wigney gives a sympathetic performance as Nancy Lee, and Miss May Rosine is pleasing as Lizzie Walker.

KIRKCALDY.—HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. G. W. Walker.—Dr. Walford Bodie remains another week, and continues to attract record crowds; Will Candlish, negro comedian, is a favourite with a clever turn; Maddison and Webb present a very funny sketch; and a really smart contribution is given by Musical Silvo; the Zeenas give a wonderful display of acrobatic work; and equally successful gymnasts are the Mars Trio. Others who are good are Little Dolly Robson, George Hyatt (comedy juggler), Nannie Shaw (Scotch vocalist and dancer), Ryde and Beenan (sketch artists), and Mr. Tweed Andrews (comedian). The pictures are good.

PAVILION.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. G. W. Walker.—We are favoured with a visit from Mr. Leoni Clarke, whose performing animals are causing quite a sensation; a neat turn is that by Miss Nettie Hawthorn, a smart comedian and dancer; Mr. Jack Allison, negro comedian and dancer, has a warm reception; and Mr. Wallace Muirhead, tenor vocalist, who is on his third week, still scores. The pictures are excellent.

LANCASTER.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. C. Howitt.—Mr. Haldane Crichton's company with *The Cingalee* has proved a big holiday attraction; Mr. Jack Crichton is well suited to the part of the lawyer; Mr. Walter Wardroper is capital as Harry Vereker, and Sir Peter Loftus is cleverly depicted by Mr. F. W. Ford; the part of Bobby Warren could not be in better hands than those of Mr. Scott Cullen, and Mr. Douglas Munroe is good as Boobhambar; Miss Pauline Hague's portrayal of Lady Patricia Vane is all that could be desired; Miss Margaret Pitts and Miss Mercy June appear successfully as Angy Loftus and Synoura Ossett respectively; and Miss Mollie Wolstenhulme is a pleasing Nahoya. The dresses and scenery are very nice.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor and Manager, Messrs. John Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—A first-rate entertainment is arranged here, and capital business has been done. Pasquali Brothers are the cleverest acrobats seen for some time, and they are recalled nightly; Fatmah Diard is a vocalist of no mean order; and the gymnastic display of Natalia and Diana is excellent; the Dandies, five in number, sing well; Goggin and Davis, comedians, are smart; Rose Brayton, comedienne, is well received; and Harry Harris has some good patter. The Hippograph completes.

LEAMINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. George G. Ridley.—Mr. Edward Compton is always a most welcome visitor here, and the engagement of this talented comedian, together with his celebrated comedy company, for the Christmas holidays is highly appreciated. There was a crowded house on Boxing Night when the company opened with the ever-popular *Davy Garrick*. Mr. Compton appeared for the 1486th time in the title-rôle, and his performance showed no falling away from the high standard to which he has attained in previous years. Mr. Henry Crocker was a dignified Gresham, and Mr. Henry Worrall excellent as Tallyhaut, Garrick's rival. Miss Kathleen Leigh was also a pleasing Violet. The humour of Gresham's guests was well maintained by Mr. Philip Gordon, Mr. W. Johnston, Mr. Ivan Leslie, Miss Marie Hassell, and Miss Constance Merton. On Monday evening an excellent representation of Sheridan's immortal comedy *The School for Scandal* was given. Mr. Edward Compton won fresh laurels as Charles Surface; Miss Viola Compton was delightfully refreshing as Lady Teazle, and Mr. Henry Crocker admirably played Sir Peter Teazle. The other characters were sustained with distinct merit. The plays included:—*The Rivals* (Tuesday), *Davy Garrick* (Wednesday), *She Stoops to Conquer* (Thursday), *The Scarlet Coat* (Friday), *The School for Scandal* and *A Reformed Rake* (Saturday). Friday evening was devoted to a benefit for Mr. Edward Compton.

LEEDS.—EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. G. Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex Galley.—The Boissett Troupe are the big feature of this week's bill, their ever-popular sketch *The Bricklayers* being provocative of great merriment; Lydia Yeamans makes a big success of her vocal and mimicry turn; Mabel Bardine and company provide an interesting sketch which is well liked, the comedy side being well represented by Jack Lane, Fred Wilkinson, and Tom Parker; Carney and Armstrong get a big reception for their clever novelty; and Leo Tell is distinctly successful.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—That accomplished actor-musician Jan Rudenyi, with a capable company, presents a capital dramatic sketch which is high in favour; the Three Romas in classic posings are an interesting turn; Jennie Alexander is a very clever juvenile artist; a new comedienne, Mamie Fenton, is having a big week, whilst of the rest Rell and Butt and Phern and Phern in different phases of comedy entertainment are prominent.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford.—A varied bill is topped by the Alexandra Operatic company, who present a scene from *Faust* in accomplished style. There is a prodigality of humour in Mooney and Holbein's turn; Gus Garrick is a popular comedian; Dale and O'Malley are high in favour; and the Havanna Troupe include much acceptable comedy in their clever turn. Serious acrobatics are indulged in by the Krags Trio and the Hectors, and a successful appearance is made by Frivola and Deep and Dora Brooklyn.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—The Australian Twin Andersons lead the bill here, their vocal and dancing turn being particularly well done. Another popular pair are Sinclair and Parr, who disport in an entertaining scena; a clever sketch is presented by Cosgrove and Burns; the Three Bordellas score a success; Fred Dunstone is a popular comedian; and there are good turns by Victor Courtney and Jeanette Hall.

LEICESTER.—PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. S. Buccleuch.—*Chums Till Death*, a most interesting and well-acted playlet, is the chief attraction in this week's programme, being presented in a style leaving nothing to be desired by Mr. Albert Marsh's company. It has also the merit of being excellently staged. Mr. Albert Marsh is exceedingly good as Joe Saunders; Miss Gracie Mortimer as Mary Brandon plays admirably; Mr. Frank Tennant is a thorough success as Ned Singleton; and Mr. Harry Buss as Billy, Mr. William Brandon as Josiah Venables, and Mr. A. Paris as Bob are others who render good service. The Cumberlands made a hit in a really smart cycle act, in which they introduce many clever acrobatic feats; J. W. Rowley is as good as ever, and retains his great popularity; Arthur Aldridge renders a couple of songs in a manner that earns for him the highest praise and applause; Larry Lewis is a droll comedian who compels hearty laughter; Mabel Fairchild scores a well-deserved success in her delightful dancing scena *A Belfry Dream*; Violet Stockelle is a charming and well-costumed comedienne; Baker and Balfe are very clever xylophone players; Naughton and Gold are entertaining comedians and expert dancers. Interest is centred in the exclusive bioscope film of the wrestling match Gotch v. Hackenschmidt.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joe Lawrence.—The principal item in this week's bill is the really mirth-provoking sketch entitled *Dingle's Double*, which proves very popular. Miss Edie Dawson as Mrs. Dingle, Mr. Helier Le Maistre as James Dingle, Mr. Phil Lester as Archie Framland, and Mr. George Brentwood as Jim Stent are to be singled out for portrayals of special merit. Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Hayes are responsible for hearty laughter in their screaming duologue *The Other Mrs. Brown*; Charles Banks, a very funny comedian, introduces his clever dog Woof, and is well received; Johnny and Willie Downs are a couple of smart young coon acrobats who deputise with great success for the Three Royal Temples; Hilda Mascot (burlesque actress), Bertha Norwood (comedienne), and Vera Violet (comedienne) are other artists who give entertaining turns. A special feature is Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope, which admirably depicts Rover's Christmas, The Blind Foundling, and Beautiful Scandinavia, films of rare merit and interest.

EMPIRE.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Company; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles R. Craig.—A delightful programme of animated pictures here this week includes, among a host of others, both comic, serious, and coloured, such gems as:—Love at First Sight, The Greed of Gold, The Cracksman and the Black Diamonds, Little Mother, and Sold by His Parents. Bert Bowden, a quaint and popular comedian, and Millie Neil, an admirable vocalist, are also appearing with success.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaum

Miss Madge Douglas as Rosie Newton, Miss Irene Carrington as Bella Newton, Miss Marie Pemberton as Maria Bella, Miss Phyllis Elton as Annitta, Mr. Fred Gresham as Pat O'Brien, Mr. Charles D. Pitt as Colonel Bruce, Mr. Fred Newland as Lord Newton, and Mr. J. W. Boyling were all conspicuous with embodiments calling for praise. The romantic comedy-drama *One Woman's Wickedness* was staged on the last three nights.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. George Stanyon.—Mr. Waller Jeffs' select programme of pictures, under the management of Mr. Fred Jeffrey, are the holiday attraction here. The films, which are of great variety, include Faust (in fifteen coloured tableaux), Quaint Holland, Animated postage Stamps of the World, Raised from the Ranks, The Children's Circus, The Wizard, &c. Miss Leah Pinnick, in new illustrated songs, and Mr. Walter Roselle, in "Masks and Faces," provide entertainment of a refined and popular nature, which is accorded a full meed of appreciation.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. W. Heath.—Miss Ellen Snow and company are this week paying a return visit here with *Why Men Love Women*. Mr. Lionel Gadsden impersonates with telling effect the part of Captain Staniloff; Lieut. Tommy Fitzherbert is cleverly portrayed by Mr. N. Carter Slaughter; Mr. Oliver Rogers submits a fine performance of the persecuted Gerald Fielding; Mr. Ernest Griffin deserves praise as the Maharajah; Miss Ellen Snow, a prepossessing heroine, acts with considerable restraint and finish; and Miss Florence Nelson is successful as Muriel Zoluski. The comedy is well looked after by Mr. Harwood Roberts as Orlando Figgins and Misses Nita Owen and Queenie Lytton.

GRAND THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Leigh Grand Theatre and Hippodrome, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Benson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Woolstencroft.—The leading item here is a smart comedy sketch entitled *An Airship Elopement*; Miss Zadia Slack gives entire satisfaction with her flight of pigeons; Messrs. Lennard and Verreker appear successfully in illustrated songs; Yorkshire Tom is a clever mimic, Carrie Bowles a dainty comedienne, and Mr. Leo Carle a clever and original entertainer; the Brothers Durant, society acrobats, are amusing; and the Attilas, gymnasts and equilibrists, provide a smart turn, as does also Pongorilla, "The Man of the Woods"; Billy Dewey, comedian, is also good, and the Bioscope pictures finish.

ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—Lessees, Mr. and Mrs. J. Frank Walker; Manager, Mr. J. Frank Walker.—The Sovereign animated pictures continue to be highly popular here.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Licensee and Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—One of Mr. Fred Karno's companies has occupied this theatre during the New Year holiday week with the musical farce *His Majesty's Guests*. Mr. George Hester as Sergt. Lightning takes the leading comedy rôle with lively energy; the universal provider Mr. Miffin is well represented by Mr. Charles Usher; Mr. E. Freshwater and Miss Aggie Morris figure prominently as Flash Jack and his shoplifting accomplice; Miss Edith Ager as Dolly Miffin, with Mr. Sid Kearns as Minks, helps things along; and some good songs, besides a plentiful seasoning of diverting business, are successfully supplied in the course of three brisk acts.

LIMERICK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. George Victor Fogerty.—Boxing Night and the week following saw us with the Horace Wheatley combination variety company, the turns of the clever members eliciting well-merited applause. Mr. Wheatley as an Irish comedian is a clever vocalist and actor, and the well-trained baritone voice of Mr. James Moran was much appreciated. Mr. Thomas Finglass as the whole-hearted coon was very clever, and Miss Gracie Persèe was a capital vocalist and graceful dancer. The Bioscope was an additional attraction, and the short sketches were much appreciated.

LINCOLN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Payne Seddon and Ernest Pope; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ernest Pope.—Mr. Louis Calvert's company created the best of impressions with *Sunday*, two immense audiences packing the house on Boxing Day. Mr. William Gilford as Brinthorpe and Miss Janet Lind in the title-rôle won high favour, but Mr. James Hussey as Lively scored heavily, and Mr. R. F. Symons, Mr. A. C. Holmes, and Mr. G. Marriott, jun., gained encomiums. *His House in Order* was to open on Thursday.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Arthur Miller.—Cissie Walmer has returned to the scene of many former triumphs, and creates a great hit again with song and dance; *The Last Halt*, a Siberian episode, is effectively presented by Mr. W. H. Benson, with Miss Mabel Wynn finely playing the part of the Jewess, and other turns are well given by Sergt. Mumford, Earle and Godfrey, Chas. Lewis, Cissie Esdaile, and the Menzies.

LIVERPOOL.—ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—On Saturday last Mr. Sam Duckworth's company commenced a seven nights' engagement here with *Her Nameless Child*, which has proved popular. In the rôle of Anthony Ford, Mr. J. W. Evelyn distinguished himself, playing with good effect; Mr. Sydney C. Cranston worthily represented Arthur Ford; Mr. Arthur E. Pringle was well placed as Lord Woodville; Mr. F. Thompson made an efficient Mong role; Miss Pattie Hastings pleased greatly with her Phyllis Ford; Miss Mona Gray acquitted herself well as Lady Woodville; Miss Renie Douglas proved an exceedingly humorous Bessie Brooks; and Mr. Larry Clements was good in the character of Tom Rivers.

STAR THEATRE. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr Harris Fineberg.—Capital business continues to be done here with Mr. J. Gar Kiddie's pantomime *Babes in the Wood*. Mr. Fineberg's patrons evidently know a good thing when they see it.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—Foremost here this week was Van Biene, whose reception for his playlet *The Master Musician* was extremely flattering; Fred Lindsay gave a clever and interesting turn with the long whip; the Dauntons-Shaw Troupe of trick cyclists were greeted with rounds of applause; *The Magic Carpet* proved an illusion that bewildered the audience, the characters in it being held by Messrs. John Warren, F. Morton, H. J. Collis, F. G. Fenn, and Miss Mollie Wynter; Harry Freeman brought some new songs; Brix and Annie had a funny trifle, *In a Barber's Shop*; the Brothers Bright showed much ability as athletes; and others who appeared were Cissie Thompson, comedienne, and Bell Davis with her Pick-Chick actors.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville. After a short spell of pantomime, the management here has gone back to drama, presenting this week one of a domestic type, entitled *The Better Land*. The interesting work is from the pen of Miss Dorothy Granville, and among the principals are Miss Nina Blake Adams, who presents the pathetic rôle of Doris in most capable fashion, and Mr. Leonard Andale (Philip).

LYRIC. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—Heading the bill here this week was Mr. Mat Montgomery's company, with the new humorous sketch *Lady Lanigan, Laundress*, a notice of which appears in another column. The Three Stewarts gave a clever acrobatic act; Henri Bekker, assisted by Mlle. Mai, offered a smart conjuring act, with comedy; a neat vocal scena came from the Eight College Girls; Dan Filmer had some funny songs; Marlo showed himself to be an expert juggler; as a comedienne and dancer, Ivy Adelaide afforded satisfaction; and Ossi Souplessi, the anatomical wonder, and W. B. Raby, comedian, also appeared.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—Principal here this week was the lively sketch *The Cowboy Millionaire*, presented by Mr. Harry Roxbury's company, which included the able comedian Tubby Edlin. Fred Russell pleased as much as ever with his ventriloquial turn; the Denwertz Troupe of acrobats earned loud applause; a smart gymnastic act was submitted by Ariel and Astarte; My Fancy delighted everyone with her sand dancing; the operatic vocalists St. Ruth and Conyers pleased immensely; *The Strike* was a dramatic episode, in which the able French actor Edouard José played with power; Andrews and Thompson afforded much pleasure with their trifle, *The Rube and the Romany*, singing with taste; La Belle Greta gained a cordial greeting for her Spanish songs and dances; and Mayme Cannon, comedienne, contributed several well-received numbers.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—The stock company here this week gave *The Green Bushes*, the principal parts in which were taken by Messrs. David G. Noble (Connor), Sydney Grant (George), E. D. Allen (Wild Murtough), Tom H. Solly (Grinnidge), Cecil Ravenswood (Jack Gong), Leo Montgomery (Captain Dartois and Paddy Kelly), R. Seath Innes (Darby Donovan and Dennis), Miss Florence Palmer (Miami), and Miss Lilian Radbourne (Geraldine). Mr. Anthony Brown's Bioscope showed the latest films.

OLYMPIA.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton.—*The Volcano* remained here a second week, and played to big audiences. An able equestrian act was presented by Karl Reinsch and Miss Lucie; the concertina playing by Percy Honri gained for that accomplished artist loud applause; Harry Grey gave a most amusing turn; Frank Hartley, for a boy, showed great talent in the juggling line; May Brilliant pleased much with her singing and dancing; Hamilton Hill, possessed of a capital baritone voice, gave some of his latest songs; C. H. Charlton presented a clever conjuring turn; and Olive Armidale, vocalist, afforded satisfaction.

PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—Crowded houses have been the rule here this week to listen to Miss Marie Loftus, who had a big reception; her burlesques of music-hall styles proved exceedingly droll. Pichel and Scale, a smart couple of comedy acrobats, caused shouts of laughter; a neat little comedy, *St. Valentine's Day*, came from the Wyffs; Lalie Brook amused greatly with her scena *Girls, Past and Present*; the Three Alskarnos did well as Risley comedians; Ted Waite proved himself a most diverting comedian; Jack Truman sang several popular songs to everyone's satisfaction; E. Morrisey had a novel equilibristic musical act; and acceptable items also came from Mi Narom, comedienne, and Cyril Jephson, comedian.

GRAND TIVOLI.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jasper Redfern.—This new venture, where Bioscope pictures and vaudeville are given, promises to be successful. The Park Palace, under the same management, is also doing well with a similar style of entertainment.

ROSCOMMON. — Acting-Manager, Mr. J. M. Crewdson.—Here this week the stock company gave *When Rogues Fall Out*. Mr. Percy Boucher, an old Liverpool favourite, played his original part of Billy Faggles, which created much laughter; Mr. Butler Stanhope was seen to great advantage as Sir Henry Lorriemore; Mr. A. Wilson Rae did well as Jack Burton; Miss Flo Russell acted with sound judgment as Madge Lorriemore; and other parts well presented were Jack Lorriemore (Mr. Fred Roden), Stephen Ralston (Mr. Geoffrey Sutherland), and Bill Jenkins (Mr. Harry Lemar).

NEW CENTURY PICTURE HALL.—Proprietors, The New Century Animated Picture Company, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter H. Hook.—An admirable show of pictures is given twice nightly at the newly-acquired hall in Mount Pleasant, and public support has proved very encouraging. During the week the films presented included A Broken Heart; Funny Guests; The Quack, or Every Picture Tells a Story; Lost at Sea; The Rocking Chair; and Grandfather's Birthday. We note that special precautions against fire have been taken at this hall by the lantern being in a recess outside the building, so that should an accident occur to a film the recess can at once be shut off from the auditorium.

LLANDUDNO.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Ritson.—*Jack and the Beanstalk* opened here on Boxing Night. Jack is well portrayed by Miss Isa Bernard; Phyllis is daintily played by Miss Rena Rees, and her song, "If I plant a tiny little seed," was vociferously encored; Mr. Bert Allen as Simple Simon is a unique character; Mr. Harry May as Dame Trot is most amusing, his Welsh accent finding favour; the Godfrey Girls dance well; Miss Isa Davis is a good mimic; and Will Belasco is an instrumentalist of more than ordinary ability.

LONGTON.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Longton Theatre, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. H. Sherriff Howard.—Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson is playing to excellent business here this week with the romantic play, *Who is She?* Mr. Hill-Mitchelson as Prince Bora has a part eminently suited to his incisive style, and gives a most telling and finished performance; Mr. Graham Woods as Prince Vladimir appears with conspicuous success; Miss Alice Barber plays with delicious naïveté as Countess Ladori, and is ably seconded by Mr. Sinclair Holden as Captain Arthur Gower. The title-rôle has an admirable exponent in Miss Violet Carlyle; and the remainder of an excellent company are adequate in their respective parts.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Resident-Business-Manager, Mr. W. Payne Seddon.—The special attraction here for Boxing Day was Mr. George Robertson's company in *A Message from Mars*. Mr. Gordon Starkey as Horace Parker, played with commendable zeal; Mr. Lionel Yaldwyn as the Messenger treated the house to a fine piece of acting; Mr. Percy Tyler played the Tramp to perfection; Arthur Dicey was safe in the capable hands of Mr. Burton W. Yaldwyn; Miss Edith King's Minnie Templar was charming; Miss Nora Kingsley did well as Miss Parker; Miss Dorothy Cecil as Bella was most fascinating.

LOWESTOFT.—MARINA.—Manager, Mr. E. A. Smith.—Drama is once more in evidence here, Mr. Walter Melville's company appearing this week in *A Girl's Cross Roads*. Miss Hilda Beverley appears successfully as Barbara Wade, and Messrs. Chas. Franmore, W. J. Butler, and Norman B. Cannon also add to the general success in the more important characters.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—Frank Elliston's company in *Aunt Matilda* head the bill this week. Others appearing include Francis's Royal Midgets, the Four Scoreys, Wragg and Wragg, and Roseltha. The British Biograph company are presenting a grand pantomime film, Puss in Boots, in addition to other interesting subjects.

MACCLESFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—Mr. Morton Powell's company opened to a crowded house here on Saturday in *The Woman Who Gambles*. As Count Otto Steinbach Mr. Clifford Rean preserves a dignified and manly demeanour throughout; Mr. Norman A. Overton displays an ample sense of villainy in the rôle of Baron Cratzlaw; Mr. Reginald Fox depicts the heroic character of Lieut. Karl Ctzartoriski in masterly style; Mr. Raymond scores as the Hon. Bertie Bray; a capital portrayal of the somewhat trying rôle of Countess Natalie Steinbach was given by Miss Laura Walker; as Cora Gouldhart, Miss E. Conway did well; the Lanette of Miss Brenda May deserves much praise; whilst Miss L. Rignold as Mlle. Lila Leyelda and Miss Lily Malvern as Stella Malakoff gave excellent portrayals.

MAIDSTONE. — PALACE. — Manager, Mr. S. Baskerville.—A capital bill is headed by the Courtiers, under the direction of Paul Mill, who gives an act full of good music and dainty humour; the Zenory Brothers are novel acrobats with some new feats; a comedy sketch, *The Extra Turn*, is received with hearty laughter; Ferris and May, in *Two's Company*, submit a smart musical duologue; Major and Mack are funny patter comedians; Johnny Gilmore does well as a comedian; and other items of the bill are Bert Erroll, vocalist, and the Palace pictures.

CORN EXCHANGE.—Manager, Mr. J. Beslee.—The holiday attraction here is the pantomime *Dick Whittington*, produced on Boxing Day by Mr. Ernest Adrim's company. The pantomime follows the old story on familiar lines, and goes with a swing. The scenery and costumes are well above the average, and the pantomime is full of good jokes, bright music, and funny business. The company work hard to support Mr. Nevill Graham, who, besides playing the part of the Emperor, is responsible for the production. Mr. Will Daniells as Alderman Fitzwarren bears the brunt of the fun on his shoulders, and comes through the ordeal with flying colours; Mr. Bert Warner makes a lifelike Cat; as Dick, Miss Violet Oram sings well, and is responsible for some tuneful duets with Alice (Miss Madge Carew), who acts and sings throughout in a very charming manner. The production should have a successful run.

MANCHESTER.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Dry.—A capital programme here this week is headed by the Merrions, vocal and instrumental comedy entertainers; while the animal circus presented by Carl and Mary Ohm is a prominent feature of the evening; A Be-be's picture post-card album is a novelty, very prettily shown; and other entertaining items are *The Master Card*, a clever sketch speciality; Will Sullivan, a smart comedian; Smith and Johnson, the society coloured duo; Playfair and Vera, in a paper speciality; Frank E. Golby, child mimic and comedian; Jim Cunliffe, a local comedian of merit; Bennett and Stirling, comedy duo; and Tom Morris, whistler.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Hewitt.—Mr. C. Watson Mill and a talented company are playing here this week the successful romantic play *For Love and the King*, which is drawing good houses. Mr. C. Watson Mill has a good part as Farval, the young heroic soldier of fortune, and Miss Rosalind Tate as the Princess of Athene plays well up to requirements; Mr. Henry Earlesmere is excellent as Vladimir Obrenovic; and other essential rôles are cleverly exploited by Mr. John Barton, Mr. A. H. Leslie, and Miss Frances Tierney; while Mr. Geoffrey Chate and Mr. Jim K. Woods provide the necessary humour.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—The principal attraction here this week is Fred Karno's company in *The Bailiff*, a rôle played with marked success by Albert Bruno, supported by a capable cast; Bellew and Stock's company in *An Outside Chance* includes the clever boy actor, Edward Garratt, who is well received; and other smart items given are: Fred Earle, the "Seaweed" comedian; Walter Aubrey, speciality dancer; Werds Bros., clever comedy acrobats; the Musical Jees, in their smithy act; Bertha Stuart, Scotch character vocalist; and Nellie Farrel, a neat Irish comedienne.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—*The Sands of Dee* remains the chief attraction here; Mme. Alice Esty, the celebrated prima donna, gives several selections from her répertoire, and meets with a big reception; the Gems are excellent in a brisk entertaining speciality of song and dance; the Hartley wonders do some marvellous jumping; Tom Haig and Millie Novel are exceedingly smart, the tumbling of the former being something out of the ordinary; Billy is a well-trained horse; Maggie Walsh, the Lancashire singing mill girl, has a good voice, and is well received; George Rae, Scotch comedian, scores with some eccentric dancing; and Mazie Hibbs dances nicely. Up-to-date pictures are shown on the American Bioscope.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Walter de Frece; Manager, Mr. A. J. Carter.—Messrs. Charles Fletcher and John Tiller's company are playing here with success for a second week their capital version of *Little Red Riding Hood*.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. R. Trippett.—*A King for a Day*, a vastly amusing pocket musical comedy, excellently presented, by Sidney Dooley and Charles Seymour's company is the star attraction here this week; Diano Hope, ably assisted by Monte Bayley and Charles Levey, is seen to advantage in a society episode, *Her Good Name;* Clifford Stuart, a capital eccentric comedian, makes a big hit; Herbert and Linden are particularly good dancers; and Dix, the necromancer, is entertaining; other enjoyable items are offered by George Acre, character vocalist; the Wedburns, popular comedians; Dewars Brothers, juvenile hand equilibrists and acrobats of ability; and Mark Merry, comedian. The Wrong Lottery Ticket, the Bioscope film, is good.

TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—A good programme here this week is headed by Lily Burnand, who is as lively and taking as ever; F. V. St. Clair, with up-to-date verses, is highly popular; and Lulu Evans, a very pleasing comedienne, makes a decided hit; Mlle. Yetta is exceedingly clever on the wire; the Northcotes, refined duettists, are excellent singers; Mr. and Mrs. Royston Dene, nicely assisted by Miss Eileen Dartrey, play well in that capital comedy episode *My Lady's Chamber;* whilst other enjoyable and smart turns are given by Bonny and Smartt as the dresser and the call boy; Cliff and Kean, clever dancers; and Clapham and Riskit in neat comedy parallel bar act. Ruffell's excellent pictures complete.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—James and Jenny Lee top the bill here this week, and go through a remarkably clever performance; the Spanish Juanitos are exceptionally smart acrobats; Allsopp and Bekwith, a popular comedy duo, are entertaining; Primavesi juggles in a first-rate manner; Mark Olive, assisted by Daisy Baldry, is good in his whistling scena, *The Candy Store;* Will and Alicia Frohman give a pleasing instrumental act; Stacey and Williams have some amusing cross-talk; Wynne Darrell, comedienne, dances neatly; and Forrest and King are good acrobatic dancers. A deputy turn for Jack Franklyn by two amusing comedians was greatly appreciated. The 10.40 Express is the subject of the Bioscope.

HULME HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thos. Baker.—Riano and his band are to the front here this week, and meet with a deservedly good reception; the Wartana Trio are clever lady jugglers, and are well received; Bradley, the cycling Jew, gives a good performance; Corman's juveniles are entertaining; Will Walton, quaint comedian, causes much laughter; Mint and Mart are paper manipulators extraordinary; the Roxbys take well in their speciality; and other enjoyable items are Elleze and Henri De Lyle, assisted by juvenile quartette; A. H. Drinkwater; and A Mother's Fault on the Bioscope.

MANSFIELD. — GRAND THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Capt. Clayton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Mark Lorne.—Captain Clayton's pantomime, *Cinderella*, was produced here on Boxing Day, and is now running smoothly to packed houses. In the title-rôle Miss Nita Dunville is charming, and easily succeeds in gaining the appreciation of the audience. Her style is bright and refined, and her songs are rendered in capital style. Miss Amy Allnutt as the Prince is very attractive, and plays the part in a graceful manner; and Dandini secures a talented exponent in Miss Lottie Mellor. Mr. Clarence Turner and Mr. Gus Granville as the Broker's Men are extremely funny, and keep the audience in a continuous roar. Another diverting performance is that of Mr. Jerrold Manville as Baron Hardup; Lily and Gertie are in the capable hands of Messrs. Gilbert and Woodward; Mrs. Cecil Clayton sings her numbers sweetly as the good Fairy Sunshine; and Mr. Gus Berridge does well as the Demon. Mr. Fred Dunville as Buttons is very comical; and the remaining parts are well filled by Miss Linda May, Miss Mollie Revell, Miss Preston, and Miss Gladys Hawthorn.

MARGATE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. E. Michael; General-Manager, Mr. W. W. Kenne.—*Under Two Flags*, presented by Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company, has provided the Christmas attraction, opening on Saturday, with a matinée on Monday afternoon, and playing the three succeeding evenings. Miss Molesworth sustains the leading rôle of Cigarette with charming vivacity. The change from the light-hearted vivandière to the loving and lovable woman is wonderfully good, the acting being natural and well sustained. The Bertie Royellieu of Mr. Mark Blow is worthy of high commendation, and the remainder of the company sustain their respective parts with effectiveness, Mr. R. Harley-West as Barklie Cecil Royellieu, Mr. Charles Brooke as Lord Royellieu, Miss Mayne Hope as Princess Venetia Corona, Miss Joan Sterne in the rôle of Countess Olga, Miss Lucy Greame as Lady Guinevere, and Miss Kitty Fitzgerald as Lavina sharing largely in the success of the production. For the remainder of the week *At Roaring Camp* was to be played by the same company.

HIPPODROME. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree. — Heading the programme last week were D'Artagnan, a lion of large proportions, but of great gentleness and docility, and his little playmate Chocolat. Among other things the forest king rides a horse. Presented by M. and Mlle. Gaillard, the turn has been much enjoyed. The Flying Hanlon troupe of gymnasts gave a good show; and other contributors included George Grogie, the Sussex yokel; Sid Penna, in a comedy musical act; Elmer Spyglass, baritone; Bert Woodward, cycling coon; and Marie Wilton, comedienne.

Miss Beaumont Collins has been presenting this week the dramatic playlet *The House of Terror*, in which, as Meg Harding, she is supported by a very capable company. Mme. Dalmere's cleverly trained animals (cats, rabbits, rats, &c.) provide a most entertaining turn, and the other contributors to an enjoyable programme include Winnie Travers, comedienne; Gravetta and Parr, in a smart pot-pourri; La Belle Margo, trapeze and rope specialist, and Albert Hall, comedian, in addition to which there are two sets of interesting pictures.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees, The South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Albert Jackson.—*In Holy Russia* is being presented by Mr. J. Rice Cassidy's company this week. Renee Rubinoff is capably portrayed by Mrs. Cassidy and Micky Nolan has an amusing representative in Mr. Cassidy.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—Picitt and Lizette, illusionists and pantomimists, head an attractive programme, and their magical extravaganza *The Crazy Cook* receives appreciation. The Three Lloyds contribute a clever turn. Others appearing with success are Renob, newsboy mimic; Selby and Myers, comedians and dancers; Three Pirmans in a pot-pourri act; Fanny Robina, burlesque actress and vocalist; Harry Bland, comedian; Florry Cooper, vocalist; and the Biograph with new films.

METHIL.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Methil Theatre Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. J. Burnett.—The programme last week was a varied and attractive one. The Danas, in a sketch, *On the Honeymoon*, were responsible for much laughter; Jack Allison scored as a negro comedian and sand-dancer; the Zeenas were good in a gymnastic act; and other popular items by Bros. Garvey, dancers, Francis J. Mack, Irish vocalist, Miller and Brogden, with some clever patter, and Sisters Terry, comediennes and dancers, completed the bill. The Gaietyscope showed a series of up-to-date films.

Mr. Carson's company is this week presenting a new military drama, *A Fight for a Throne*. Mr. Jerrold Reed as Nicolai I. gives an excellent interpretation; Mr. Charles E. Linney is well suited as Otto, Prince of Weimar; Mr. John Millward represents Captain Jack Fortescue in creditable style; Mr. Patrick Evans acts with sincerity and strength as Lieut. the Hon. Percy Fitzmaurice; Miss Dora Hammersley is realistic as Princess Esmee of Viazma; Lady Pat, Maid of Honour to the Princess, has an able exponent in Miss Emmaline B. Louis; Miss Madge Clayton is good as Sister Agatha; and Miss Margarette Tueskie is very satisfactory as Countess Valeska Lorenski; the other characters in a long cast being all well played. The drama is staged and costumed in high-class style.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company is here this week in *The Power of the Cross*. Mr. Geo. A. de Gray submits a clever study of the mysterious Baron Curzola; Mr. A. J. Haviland is a manly Dr. Fairfax; while the vacillating Gerald Fairfax is faithfully portrayed by Mr. Robt. Hall. Mr. T. Bowson ably typifies the shady lawyer, Benjamin Hawke; Miss Annie Hylton interprets with sympathy and natural grace the character of Margaret Seaton; the adventuress, Rita Lascelles, is played with much skill by Miss Stella Carmichael; Miss Ella Turner is a capital Dolly Gray; Miss Phyllis Vaughan is a pleasing Blanche Kingsley. Rich Hibernian humour is put into the character of Timothy O'Dowd by Mr. Tyrone Power.

NEW PICTURE HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. Will Hunter; Manager, Mr. E. H. Jones.—The list of pictures this week is a most excellent one in every respect, and includes some up-to-date dramatic and comic films.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson.—Crowded houses are greeting with rapturous delight the performances of Mr. Geo. Dance's company in the musical play *Miss Hook of Holland*. From beginning to end there is not a dull moment, and the happy blending of mirth and music has hit the popular fancy to a nicety. As Sallie Miss Ella Stanley is delightful, her natural grace and dainty presence winning the admiration of all. The drolleries of Mr. A. Wellesley as Mr. Hook, her father, are provocative of much amusement, and Mr. Walter Balfour, Mr. Sam Robinson, Mr. Frank Crimp, as Captain Paap, Lieutenant Coop, and Bandmaster Voyt respectively, are exceedingly good. Miss Cissy Sefton is well suited to the part of Mina, and Miss Tattie Leonard is good as Gretchen. Mr. Geo. Mundie, jun., is excellent as Ludwig Schnapps, and Mr. Geo. Faby does well as Hans Mass. The piece is staged most artistically.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Chas. Rembges.—The comedy-drama *The Fighting Parson*, which Messrs. Geo. Gray and company are producing, proves a great success. The New York Nippers, in a new novelty dancing act, provide an interesting turn, and Ugo Nap presents a burlesque scena that excites a great deal of laughter; the Brothers Idento are clever jugglers; and Wyze and Adna are excellent society entertainers. Andy Fagan, comedian and dancer, and Nellie Martell, comedienne, are very pleasing.

HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Manager, Mr. A. E. Nicholls.—Miss Vesta Tilley, who should have appeared here this week, was unable to do so owing to indisposition, but the management succeeded in obtaining an admirable substitute. The screamingly funny absurdity entitled *Black Diamonds*, presented by Messrs. Brown, Le Clerq, and company was well received, and heartily applauded. Mason and Bont created a great impression with their clever gymnastic feats, and Estrella proved a smart barefooted dancer. Leslie Clark and company were very amusing in a sketch entitled *Wanted, a Wife*.

MORECAMBE.—ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Lessee, Lieut. Julian Malvern; General-Manager, Mr. C. M. Julian.—On Boxing Night Messrs. Hardie and Von Leer's company opened to a crowded house with *Two Little Vagabonds*, and the piece went splendidly from start to finish. Miss May Hart and Miss Josie Beltram are respectively Dick and Wally, and very excellent impersonations they give of those well-known characters in the ever-popular play. Miss Leonora Castelle is admirable as Marion Thornton, and Miss Gertrude Marion is capital as Barbara Scarth. Mr. Geo. Denham is always a manly Thornton, and comedy is abundantly provided by Miss Dorothy Hart, Messrs. Herbert Russell, Leo St. Clair, and Fred Archer. The business management is in the capable hands of Mr. Arthur E. Melbourne.

NEW BRIGHTON.—WINTER GARDENS.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. H. E. Jones and A. Douglass.—This week Bonsanquet with his wonderful violins is a great attraction here. Mme. Ghita Corri, the well known vocalist, is also making a pronounced success with her character types. Mr. Ernest Lord's company, the Excelsiors, consisting of Miss Gertrude Grant, Miss Alice Singleton, Mr. Harker Holt, Mr. Frank M. Quinn, and Mr. Ernest Lord, present songs, duets, monologues, and concerted items in a really clever and artistic style, and gain loud laughter and applause. The Dutch Lovers, as rendered by Mike and Lena, give every satisfaction, and the gentleman is a capital dancer. The Winter Gardens is famous for the animated pictures they manage to exhibit, and this week there are again some of the best procurable, all of which are delightful.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—Mr. Frederick Melville's well-known drama *The Ugliest Woman on Earth* was the attraction here last week. The delineation of the difficult title-rôle was undertaken by that talented actress Miss Beatrice Homer, who succeeds in holding the attention of the audience throughout the piece by her powerful acting. Other leading rôles were ably taken by Mr. Phillip Darien, Mr. Leyton Cancellor, Mr. Leonard Thackeray, Miss Gertrude Harrison, Miss Nellie Jackson, and Miss Violet Macaree.

A welcome return visit is being paid this week of Mr. Walter Melville's striking drama *A Soldier's Wedding*. As on the previous occasion, crowded houses are the order, and the greatest appreciation is shown of the many thrilling incidents in the play. The company is well balanced and capable.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. W. Bolam; Manager, Mr. H. G. Elliott.—Mr. Lingford's company, in *A Fight for a Throne*, drew good houses here last week, the principal characters being all capably sustained.

The Love that Women Desire is attracting large audiences here this week. Mr. Herbert Pearson gives a fine performance as Philip Carnaby, and Miss Maud Hastings as Sybil Thorburn acts with much ability and charm. Other leading characters are ably presented.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—Always a favourite with Tynesiders, Mr. Albert Chevalier added yet more to his popularity last week, when he appeared in a sketch entitled *Behind the Scenes*. He played the part of Achille Talma Dupard, an old French actor, and his delightful performance fairly brought down the house. Another noteworthy turn on an altogether enjoyable programme was that of Fred Ginnett and company, in *Hunting Morn;* Ike and Will Scott were again to the front in their amusing turn; and Harry Leyburne, a really clever impersonator and mimic, met with a hearty reception. Other capital turns were contributed by Les Voces, Eight of Hearts, Chas. Coverdale, and E. J. Sheldon, the Bioscope completing.

The chief feature of this week's programme is Ye Colonial Septette, a company of talented vocalists and musicians, who give a charming entertainment. In the sketch *Neighbours* the Albert and Edmunds comedy troupe contribute an amusing turn, and the Four Jumels present a very pleasing musical act. Another clever item is that of the Rawsons, a couple of youthful entertainers. The character impersonations of Victor Newman show great ability, and the Coloured Meisters are four darkies with particularly good voices. Ernest Clifford and Cliff Ryland are diverting comedians, and the Four Figaros give songs and dances of different nations with grace and skill. The Bioscope completes a varied programme.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—The pantomime *Forty Thieves* was last week's chief attraction at this popular house, and among the many clever artists in the cast mention may be made of Mr. Bob Selvidge, Miss Bertha Clifton, and Miss Cecilia Gold.

The chief attraction of a good holiday programme here is provided by Haley's Juveniles in a carnival scena. Other well-known artists appearing are the Columbia Trio, Dorothy L. Clark, Robbie Roy, Hersler Bros., Radford Duo, Four Athos, and Fred Edwards's company.

SKATING RINK, EXHIBITION BUILDINGS.—Manager, Mr. F. B. Crowe.—The popularity of rinking seems ever on the increase, and during the holidays every session has seen the floor crowded with enthusiastic skaters. The management are providing many special attractions, including races for local amateurs, which prove exceedingly popular.

NORTH SHIELDS. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—Messrs. Jazon and Nightingale's pantomime *Aladdin* was produced here on Christmas night before a large audience, and was favourably received. The book is from the pen of Mr. E. C. Jazon. As Aladdin Miss Edna Latonne meets with appreciation; Miss Luna Lisle proves an attractive Princess Badroulbadour; the Sisters Brenton as Pekoe and Caramel come in for hearty receptions; and the Sisters Darnton as Genii of the Ring and Slave of the Lamp are cordially greeted. As the Emperor of China Mr. Clifton Hall is worthy of praise; Mr. Walter Bishop appears successfully as Abanazar; Mr. Percy Curry makes a hit as Widow Twankey; and Messrs. Rex and Ford are funny as Ping and Pong. Specialities are successfully introduced by the Sisters Darnton, popular vocalists; the Sisters Brenton, excellent dancers; Kavados, the wondrous cannon ball juggler; and Messrs. Rex and Ford, comedians.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—The holiday programme here is headed by Mr. Adam Tomlinson,

PROVINCIAL PANTOMIMES.

"DICK WHITTINGTON" AT ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

Mr. Charles Revill's pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, was produced on Christmas Eve, Mr. Herbert W. Harwood, under the direction of Messrs. Dottridge and Longden, being the producer. The book has been written by Mr. J. J. Hewson. The action is divided into eleven scenes, which are a mixture of song and dance and all sorts of extravagant fun. The spectacular portion is gorgeous, and a distinct advance in scenic staging upon what we have had beforetime. A brisk and diverting version of the story is provided, and one finds that Dick Whittington emerges in the end into affluence and a Lord Mayorship, with a pretty bride in Alice. Miss Florrie Gallimore is seen to advantage in the title-part. She acts with animation, and sings a number of serio-comic ditties, including "My girl is a Yorkshire girl" and the popular "Oh, oh, Antonio," meeting with much approval. Miss Josie Delaine is a neat and trim little Alice. She sings sweetly, and accentuates her dialogue with clearness; she is very light of foot, and extremely graceful and neat in action. Miss Rose Alderman as Fairy Sunshine merits commendation for vocal talent, and wins admiration by her gracious presence and engaging style. Other noteworthy ladies in the cast are Miss Rose Tilley as Viscount Piccadilly, Miss Dolly Victor as Molly, Miss May Mackenzie and Miss Lizzie Shelmerdine as Ralph and Polly, and the bevy of pretty girls who appear as fairies, market girls, guards of honour, and chorus singers. The comedians form a strong body. Mr. H. O. Wills stands at their head as Jack Idle, and he keeps the house well amused all the time he is on the stage, and that is almost continuously. His comic ditties and his smart gags take immensely. His efforts are cleverly seconded by Mr. Jack Mackenzie, a quaint and masculine Sarah, the cook to Fitzwarren. Mr. Leo King as King Rat has the Mephistophelian manner and dress, and works with great energy. He sings well, and is applauded heartily for his rendering of "Asleep in the deep." Alderman Fitzwarren has a good representative in Mr. Jimmy Wood; Mr. Tod E. Fields is an amusing chief officer Tarpaulin; and Mr. Alf Clegg does good feline imitations as the Cat. The Herald Comedy Four, a clever quartette, represent respectively the Emperor, the Empress, and the Princess Amarynth of Morocco, and a fourth a Jack Tar. They sing part-songs in a very eccentric but very pleasing and artistic way. Some of the old ballads, "Sally in our alley," and other familiar and ever-popular ditties, are thus harmonised, and applauded to the echo. Their dress is a special feature, and wins great admiration. The pantomime is a very good one and is bound to attract.

"JACK AND JILL" AT BELFAST.

On Christmas Eve Mr. Fred W. Warden produced his annual Christmas pantomime, and judging from the reception accorded by a crowded house, Mr. Warden has added another success to the many gained under his régime. *Jack and Jill* is the title of this year's production, and the book, by Mr. J. Hickory Wood, is quite coherent, the plot being clearly worked out. The locals, by "S.A.P.," are but few, but doubtless many more will be introduced during the run of the pantomime. The music, which is certainly bright and tuneful, has been arranged, selected, and composed by the clever local musical director, Mr. Samuel P. Swanton, and he must be congratulated thereon. Among the song hits may be mentioned "Have you got another girl at home like Mary?" "Hang out the front door key," "What a terrible thing it would be," and "She's my best girl," and these will soon be sung and whistled all over the city. The scenery is really gorgeous, and the scenic artists, Messrs. George Jackson, Bruce Smith, and G. Jansen have certainly provided us with some of the most artistic sets ever produced anywhere. What could be more beautiful than Scene 6, The Magic Hill, with novel mechanical effects, or The Palace of Jewels, with its glittering precious gems? The scenes presented are The Entrance to the Magic Well, The Baron's Cornfield, The Office of the Baron's Solicitor, House of the Widow Cobble, Interior of the Shoe, The Magic Hill, Happy Land, The Fairy Fountains, The Rival Wells, Exterior of Prince's Palace, The Palace of Jewels. The costumes, by Comelli, executed by Anges Scott and assistants, and Alias, of London and Paris, are strikingly rich, and must indeed have cost a fortune. The ballets and incidental dances have been arranged by Elena Estelle, and they are undoubtedly a feature. Regarding the cast, Mr. Warden has, as usual, secured a particularly strong and talented company, including such notable Belfast favourites as Mr. George Lashwood, Mr. John A. Warden, and Miss Dorothy Ward. Chief honours are due Mr. George Lashwood, who on Thursday must have made the hit of his career, judging from the ovations accorded the genial George. He appeared as Prince Opulent, and carried himself with a dash and spirit that was most infectious. His host of Belfast admirers would hardly be satisfied, even with triple encores. Mr. Lashwood rendered "Hang out the front door key," "Penelope," "She's my best girl" (in the latter being assisted by a chorus of eight and a tiny mite of some five summers), and many other songs, and his success, which was in every way complete, must have been most gratifying. Miss Dorothy Ward (who made herself such a great favourite last year) renews her acquaintance with many admirers. She appears as Jack, and again achieved a notable success. She sang "Bombardier," "A tiny seed of love," "My girl's a Yorkshire girl," "Miss Carnation," &c., in the latter being assisted by a local boy with a wonderful soprano voice. Miss Ward, who gained quite a triumph, was not permitted to leave the stage until she was presented with no fewer than nine floral offerings. Miss Ethel Fink, who at practically the last minute was called upon to fill the part of principal girl, Jill, must be congratulated on her sweet and charming interpretation. She sang "Saturday afternoon," "Have you got another girl at home like Mary?" and the catchy choruses were quickly taken up by the vast audience. Mr. John A. Warden, brother of the managing-director (Mr. Fred W. Warden), appeared as Baron Bounce, and his exceedingly droll impersonation was only what might be expected from an artist of Mr. Warden's high reputation. He sang "What a terrible thing that would be," with many topical verses, which was frequently encored. It is doubtful, indeed, if the rôle of the Widow Cobble could have been in better hands than that of Mr. George Miller. His unctuous humour, which was never forced, and sparkling witticisms, kept the house in roars of laughter, and unquestionably Mr. Miller was thoroughly and deservedly successful. Miss Stella De Marney, with a handsome stage presence, was cast for Margery, and her dainty and fascinating impersonation was especially commendable. She rendered "Come, be my rainbow," with beautiful stage effects, in which the cinematograph played an important part, and her graceful dancing gained her a good reception. As Gleam (a fairy), Miss May Rawlinson could hardly be excelled, her tuneful rendering of "Sweetheart days" affording infinite pleasure. In the small part of Jack Straw, Mr. Fred Conquest ...e the most of his opportunities; and Mr. Harry ...on as Glum, the demon, was admirable. MacMahon, who is also responsible for ...uties of stage-management, appears the Baron's solicitor; and Miss ... seen to advantage as Zoe, Queen of Happy Land. Among the specialities may be mentioned the Tiller Superba Troupe, who, during the course of the pantomime, execute some capital dances with great effect. It only remains to be added that the initial performance went without the slightest hitch, which is certainly most creditable to Mr. Warden and all concerned. It is safe to predict that *Jack and Jill* will enjoy a most prosperous run, and on its noteworthy success Mr. Fred W. Warden, who has worked so assiduously, deserves the heartiest congratulations.

"BOY BLUE" AT BIRMINGHAM.

Boy Blue is Mr. J. F. Graham's eleventh annual at the Prince of Wales's, and without any mincing of words he has eclipsed himself, both in his production and his cast. On Christmas Eve, the night of production, applause rained thick from the conclusion of the overture to the finale, which was appropriately enough "A White Man," for Mr. Graham certainly is a "white man every time" in the matter and manner of his Christmas pantomimes.

The story opens at the Village of Whare, an exquisite rural scene by R. C. Oldham. The Baron Brag (Mr. Tom E. Murray) has incontinently dismissed his housekeeper, Martha (Mr. Horace Mills), who is bent on reprisals. Howbeit, Martha coming in for much moneys, she is taken back to the Baron's hearth and heart to boot, the said Martha being in happy ignorance of her sudden accession to wealth. Here, a wandering Princess arrives (Miss Gladys Ivery). Gloria is her name. She encounters Boy Blue (Miss Hetty King), and it is plain they are "meant for one another." But the Princess, who is attended by Chocolate (Mr. G. H. Elliott), has perforce to sing "to the villagers" for her supper, "Antonio" being her selection, which she delivers with a charming air, and during which the peccant lover Antonio is sequestered by the police. In this scene Miss Hetty King also gives her admirers a taste of her vocal and acting talents in "Those saucy seaside girls." Scene 2, The Baron's Kitchen, is noticeable for Mr. Jay Laurier's first song, "I don't care if there's a girl there." Mr. Laurier plays the Baron's servant, Jiggory, and looks like being a bigger favourite even than he was here last year. Scene 3, The Wedding Reception, is where Mr. Tom E. Murray as the Baron comes out with special unction, and with Mr. Mills as his bride, Martha, keeps the audience rocking with laughter. A pretty duet for Margory (Miss Connie Emerald), the Baron's daughter, and Prince Opulent (Miss Rita Everard), is a distinguishing feature of Scene 4. It is entitled "Take your hands away." This is The Harvest Field, where we find Boy Blue, who, in the previous scene, has had to bid his uncle, the Baron, farewell, on account of Martha's machinations. Here Miss King, with a true ring of pathos, sings "Good-bye to dear old London town," the effect being very fine. Here enters Martha, who is on "a separation" bent. She (Mr. Mills) sings here with great success and style "All he left me was the old cracked basin that we strain the taters in," and the way he danced round on one leg was intensely droll. Here also, Mr. G. H. Elliott (Chocolate) takes his chance well, singing, with some clever juvenile support, "My pal Bill," and the audience almost rose to him so delighted they were. The Lyric Quartette opened this scene with a well-rendered glee. Scene 5 is the Solicitor's Office, where the Baron and Martha are arranging for the "separation," which does not "come off." Scene 6 is The Path of Roses, which the good fairy Roseleaf (Miss Olive Adair) causes Boy Blue to tread. This leads up to a beautiful transformation scene, culminating in Roseland, with a background of most exquisite colour. Here Miss Rose Tyrell's talent is reflected in the admirable work of the ballet. The dresses, too, are a poem in harmony, and have never been equalled here, neither in taste nor gorgeousness.

Part two opens Up the River, where the Eight Stella Girls at once "took" with an exceedingly pretty and effective "swing" song and dance. Then arrives Boy Blue, dressed appropriately in immaculate cerulean, having been rehabilitated by the Good Fairy. She here sings Lashwood's song, "Hang out the front-door key" with much distinction. Here, also, Mr. G. H. Elliott as Chocolate sings, with the admirable help of twenty-four very cleverly-trained girls, "Sue, Sue," and he also gained vociferous applause. Meanwhile, the comedians leave not a dull moment, their admirable humour percolating intermittently. Scene 9, The Ante-Chamber in the Palace, is where Miss Rita Everard as Prince Opulent sings "A tiny seed of love" in charming style; and a pretty love scene ensues 'twixt "him" and Margory, also with Boy Blue and the Princess, who has returned to "her people," whither Boy Blue has followed her. This closes to "Esau, take me on the see-saw" and "Mandy's wedding." Next we see the Baron and Martha ensconced in the Diving Bell to escape the creditors, and a very clever and funny scene it transpires, with the marriage amenities and "music at home." Next we are In the Heart of the Forest, where a ballet of autumn leaves and song-birds takes place. Then comes Boy Blue, who, proves the rightful heir to the "moneys" aforesaid, singing with popular illustrations, "He's a white man every time," and with enormous success it should be added. Anon, Mr. Horace Mills as Martha gives a rich "Salome" burlesque, in which the audience revelled; and Miss Gladys Ivery as the Princess scored a hit with "The Taxicab." A topical duet, "They always do," by Miss King and Mr. Laurier, also "took" well. Another irresistibly funny scene was that of Scene 12, The Billiard Room. Here, the comedians made full use of their opportunities. Scene 13 was no unlucky number, for here Mr. G. H. Elliott sang another song, "I want you to see my girl," to wit, and the audience roared its approval in volumes. The final scene is The Carnival and Ball Masque, where the lovers are united, and this is a veritable blaze of colour, with the Stella Girls to the fore, and the effect on the audience was electrical. Mr. Graham was summoned to the front, and when the curtain was down, the company itself burst into cheers of admiration for their chief. Miss Hetty King as Boy Blue makes a very pretty and charming "boy"; she looks the part, and is very nice and dainty in all she does. The dresses she wore on Christmas Eve were very fetching, like herself, and she may well be written a success. Miss Gladys Ivery is a principal girl of high distinction, and as the Princess Gloria made herself a first-class favourite. Miss Rita Everard, a princely Prince Opulent, possesses a graceful, willowy figure and excellent powers of vocalisation, and her value in the show must be immense. Miss Connie Emerald appears successfully as Margery, and her acting and singing is all that could be desired; and Miss Olive Adair acts well, if briefly, as the Good Fairy.

Mr. Tom Murray's humour proves as rich and potent as when it was first broached in Birmingham some twelve years ago. Whether he is talking, singing, or dancing, there is humour in it, and his Baron will surely become one of Birmingham's biggest favourites. A capital contrast to Mr. Murray's oily and imperturbable manner is Mr. Horace Mill's character of Martha. Full of the humour of his part he keeps the house rocking with laughter in all that he does. Mr. G. H. Elliott invests the genus coon with a handsome, elegant, and quite debonnair style and manner, and, moreover, his success is legitimate, in that he is original. Mr. Jay Laurier is another comedian of great unction as Jiggory. He is never at a loss, meeting one sally with another, till the audience roars with laughter. Mr. J. Alexander is the Solictior; and Mr. K. F. Graham makes up and acts with remarkable fidelity both as Bovril, the bull, and Teddy, the bear.

The music, from the overture to the finale, shows Mr. W. Southworth at his most musicianly and very best. The scenery quite surpasses anything of the past, and for this Messrs. R. C. Oldham, H. Emden, D. G. Hall, and J. McLennan are to be credited. The special fancy ball costumes are by Clarkson, and with the specially ornate scene, with its tiers of "boxes," furnish a brilliantly variegated scene. Mr. John Alexander acts as stage-manager, deriving much assistance from the experience of Mr. A. W. Peers, assistant stage-manager. Mr. Henry Johnston's work in front of the house should this season be very heavy. The book is by J. Hickory Wood, and is thoroughly up to date and full of good things.

"DICK WHITTINGTON" AT BIRMINGHAM.

The Theatre Royal, in deciding to produce its own pantomime this year, is to be congratulated fully and heartily, for its courage has been rewarded with very big success. From the time of the rising of the curtain on Boxing Day there was no doubting the success of *Dick Whittington*. The overture and music, to commence with, is on a special, though not obtrusive, scale, being composed by the *chef d'orchestre* here, Mr. Guy Jones, and it is all very admirable. Scene 1 is the Belfry of Bow Church, ushered in by the overture in consonance with the bells. Passing on from the "Rats Party," where Dick's welfare is threatened, we find ourselves in Scene 2, Fitzwarren's Universal Stores, where the proprietor shows a remarkably rich and varied stock-in-trade as painted by that eminent scenic artist Mr. W. R. Young. A very animated scene is passing here, with customers and attendants joining in the opening chorus, dressed in all the colours of the rainbow and just as harmoniously blended. Here Fitzwarren (Mr. John Power) introduces himself in song, and proves a very admirable alderman indeed, and a merchant of energy to boot. Calling for Alice, she appears in the engaging presence of Miss Aimee Grey, who sings in a pleasant musical voice "The moon he loves a coon." Now comes Dick Whittington (Miss Sybil Arundale, looking like one of Dickens's heroes stepped out of the pages), and, the coast being clear, he and Alice fall to love-making, encouraged and abetted by Tabby (Mr. Fred Whittaker), the intelligent and necessary Cat. A duet for Dick and Alice ensues, "See-saw," and then the Cook, Constance (Mr. Arthur Reynolds) warbles "Girls, study your cookery books." But now we are getting to the "zoological" moment, as Idle Jack (Mr. Tom Foy) puts it. Dick is accused of common theft, and the coins being found in his wallet, in accordance with a deep-laid plot of the Cook and Idle Jack, Dick is driven forth, friendless. Scene 2 is Fitzwarren's Wine Cellars, where Bottles, the office boy (Lupino Lane), sings in a very sprightly manner "What's the use of a girl?" also dancing in a most approved of style. Miss Clara Reid (Marjory) sings and dances excellently well in "I'm not going away with you"; and then Highgate Hill (Mr. R. C. McCleery) appears to view, with its miles of woodland scenery and real sheep and shepherdesses. Here Dick, who arrives weary and travel-stained, sings a special number composed by Mr. Guy Jones, "More than all the world to you." In this Miss Arundale sang with real feeling, showing, moreover, a remarkable range of voice. After some amusing play from the Cat, while Dick is asleep, the Spirit of the Chimes (Miss Violet Baynton) summons her fairy forces, a happy-faced and elegantly-dressed throng, this being followed by the leit-motif of the music, which inspires Dick to return to London.

In Scene 5, the Jolly Sailors, Miss Aimee Grey's fine voice is heard again in "Have you got another girl at home like Mary?" which is followed by the unconventional entry of Captain Barnacle and his Mate (Messrs. Drew and Alders) from aloft in a barrel, which bursts its timbers and discloses the amusing pair. This is followed by Idle Jack's heroic, but of course immensely funny, finish for the Marathon Race. Mr. Foy (Idle Jack), whose success throughout is beyond question, here sings "My girl's promised to marry me when I've got a hundred pounds." Next, Dick seeks the Captain, and signs on; likewise the Cat "signs on." And then we see Old London Docks, with the good ship Pitch and Toss lying at anchor and the handsomely-dressed crowds on holiday bent. Drew and Alders here give a quarter of an hour's capital entertainment with their speciality, and Bottles, arrayed as a naval officer, leaps into still greater popularity than before in the song "There's a locket in your pocket." Dick's farewell to Alice on the Embankment finishes the first half. Here the curtain is raised again, and a very pretty effect was gained by showing the ship in the distance at night, lights up, with Alice standing on the quay looking wistfully at the speeding bark.

Scene 7, the Palace of the Emperor of Morocco (Mr. W. R. Young), is one of exceeding and quite barbaric splendour, the music also partaking of the barbaric, and the throng of langorous beauties and singing girls helps up the picture. Here the Emperor (Mr. Eric Campbell, of splendid physique and voice) appears with his daughter, Princess Rosydawn (Miss Ethel Negretti), who is endowed with all the graces of beauty, voice, and Terpsichore. Here arrive the shipwrecked crew, whom the Emperor threatens to throw to "the mad footballers" unless they rid him of the rats which vex his soul and deplete his larder. This is done, and Dick is rewarded with a ship's cargo of gold. In this scene the Princess makes violent love to Idle Jack, afterwards singing "A tiny seed of love" in a fine, ringing voice. Here also Lupino Lane's (Bottles) eccentric dance, eke Wee Wallace's (Kazrac) clever steps, won the audience; indeed, the latter dances with the ability of one thrice his age. Dick (Miss Arundale) here sings "A waltz, waltz, waltz!" cleverly and humorously worked up, and gracefully withal. Next we are en route for England with the Emperor and his suite, and after a song, "Boodleum," from the Cook, Messrs. Drew and Alders while away the moments as burlesque conjurers. Next, Wee Wallace shows his marvellous ability in "Carolina Brown," supported handsomely by Mr. Bert Coote's Marigny Troupe, a charming and clever bevy of lady dancers. Miss Violet Baynton, the Fairy, also won applause with "My pretty piece of Dresden china," and then we are back at the Fitzwarrens', who are in penury, and whom Dick has come to surprise with his weath and position as Lord Mayor. "Michael McGininity" is another vocal success here for Miss Arundale. This scene is enlivened by Pussy's excursion around the ledge of the private boxes and dress circle, and Mr. Whittaker, the personator, for his temerity was admired not only by the children but everybody else for the diversion it caused. Another song from Mr. Reynolds, the Cook, entitled "Goodbye, Mr. Teddy Bear," and we are in a Quiet Corner (Scene 10) laughing uproariously at Mr. Tom Foy as a juggiery assistant, in which rôle he "makes good" for the crockery trade. The last scene of all is the Guildhall, and most brilliant it is with its procession of ancient trade guilds of London, presenting all the glories of an historical pageant. Here Dick is united to his Alice, and all ends "happy and glorious."

Mr. Tom Foy's Idle Jack is an unqualified success, the audience taking to him and his peculiar form of humour instantly. Miss Sybil Arundale possesses all the attributes of a successful Dick, and her histrionic ability, singing, and dancing won the highest admiration. Mr. John Power as Fitzwarren never lets things flag for a moment while he is on the stage. Mr. Arthur Reynolds is very successful as the Cook, doing a large amount of work well. Mr. Fred Whittaker, most excellent of tabbies, is the joy of the children. He more than gets into the skin of the part, he gets into the very heart of it. Lupino Lane is a youthful performer whose promise is unbounded. His success as Bottles is already assured and his popularity great. Mr. Harry Lupino makes a formidable King Rat, and Wee Wallace is another young artist who promises well. Needless to say, he is a big favourité now. Miss Ethel Negretti (the Princess) is an artist of great charm, her graceful gestures, lovely voice, and good looks making her a most "desirable parti" with the audience. Miss Ada Whittaker is admired for her graceful carriage as Tommy Tapes, the dandy; and Mr. Ted Foy, Mr. John Foy, Mr. E. Delfosse, and Mr. W. E. Gulson's Bow Bells Quartet shine in addition to those mentioned in the description above. The pantomime is produced by Mr. Herbert Cottesmore, and that a pantomime so elaborate and gorgeous should be produced in such a state of perfection and without a single hitch is its own testimonial. The "book" is by Mr. Philip Rodway, the Royal acting-manager, and Mr. Douglas Buchanan, who have collaborated to good purpose. The costumes are by Wilhelm and Crafter, and executed by an eminent firm in Paris, and Obronski and Co., of London.

"RED RIDING HOOD" AT BIRMINGHAM.

There is no need to feign admiration of Mr. Lester Collingwood's sixth annual pantomime at the Alexandra. *Little Red Riding Hood* is distinctly the best he has yet produced for his Birmingham friends. Scene 1, The Village of Sweedledale, which is full of the wolf and his depredations, is a splendid rural setting. The villagers, in their gay costumes, sing a rousing opening chorus led by the Tivoli Girls, who do a smart skipping-rope dance. Prince Roseleaf (Miss Ivey Roze) and Margery Daw (Miss Joyce Stevens), the second lovers, join in a duet, "If your hair was not so curly," and prove themselves capital vocalists and dancers. Then comes Colin (Miss Ellaline Thorne) singing "Have you got another girl like Mary?" with decided distinction. Simple Simon (Mr. George Penn), whom the Baron retains for his "fell work," next appears, causing great diversion, followed by Little Red Riding Hood (little Maudie Olmar), who at once pleased with her pretty little speech. Next Jimmy Green and Peter Piper (Messrs. Stephens and Rennior) entered, and at once sent the audience into paroxysms of mirth. The Baron (Mr. Frank Blythe) now enters, bent on securing some "papers," which Dame Durden (Mr. Albert Schafer) possesses. To this end he is in league with the Wolf (Mr. Frank Bolger), who is intent on the death of both the Dame and Red Riding Hood. The Baron sings "Put me on an island where there are no girls," whereon he is "evil entreated" through suffragists, and great is the diversion thereof. A trio for the Baron and Jimmy Green and Peter Piper follows, entitled "Of course not! Very well then"; and then Greeba (Miss Winifred Norman) sings "Under the linden tree," with all the volubility and high spirits of the Dutch girl character now so popular. The Baron calls to his aid Simon, Peter, and Jimmy to evict the Dame, but she proves one too many. Scene 2, The Corridor in the Castle, enables Mr. Geo. Penn to utilise his gifts as a raconteur, which are very considerable, and he also sings "Go to sleep" with very amusing effect. Here enters Roseleaf (Miss Ivey Roze) singing "Every fellow's in love with a girl" with a nice agreeable voice and a capital swing. Messrs. Stevens and Rennior vouchsafed a duet, "He said all right, I'll do it," which made a great hit. Scene 3, The Market-place of Sweedledale, is another highly pleasing set, and is marked by the arrival of the Dame, marketing bent. She sings "My troubles," which is replete with entertaining experience. A duet, "Star of my life," for Margery (Miss Joyce Stevens) and the Wolf (Mr. Frank Bolger) followed, in which the rich full voices of both came out with effect. "Won't you waltz the Merry Widow waltz?" in which singing and dancing vied in excellence, brought Colin (Miss Ellaline Thorne) and Miss Muffit (Miss Dolly Denton) more applause and floral tributes to boot. An exceedingly pretty gipsy dance was done by the Tivoli Girls, and Little Red Riding Hood (Maudie Olmar) sang "Baby Bunting," when it was at once seen that the little lady, who is but eleven, had been trained and coached to the point of perfection, her singing and dancing evoking quite a demonstration of approval. Nevertheless, she is snatched up by the Wolf and carried off. "The old French bonnet," by the Baron (Mr. Frank Blythe) proved a pretty song, pleasantly sung, and was eminently popular. Meanwhile the pursuit of the Wolf grows hot, relieved by the clever playing of Mr. Geo. Penn (Simon) on a pair of common or fire bellows, plus some clever imitations on the violin, interspersed with smart jokes. The Wolf's Lair is quite a desirable spot of rustic beauty as depicted by the artist, and here Colin and his friends come to seek the little maid, Red Riding Hood. Here Miss Thorne's distinctly mellifluous voice came out again splendidly in "A tiny seed of love," and Red Riding Hood being discovered, she, out of her gratitude, naturally gave another clever song and dance, which met with clamorous applause. The good fairy Brightstar (Miss Daisy Clements) added to the harmony of the situation with "Master Cupid," which was followed by a butterfly dance from the graceful Tivoli Girls, with the chorus arrayed as birds of gorgeous plumage. But, alas, Red Riding Hood has again fallen into the clutches of the Wolf, though nothing can detract from the gaiety of the scene. In scene 6, Outside Dame Durden's Cottage, Miss Muffit (Miss Dollie Denton), the principal girl, who has ere this made several hits during the night, notably in "Waiting," has a pretty song, entitled "Love light," which brings her many ardent advances from the audience. Then the Wolf (Mr. Frank Bolger) sang "Revenge" in a voice of rare power and quality. He is joined by the Baron, who to aid him in his quest for "the papers," seeks to secure the volatile Greeba, who at once sings of "Mr. Schmidt" with true Dutch humour. In scene 7, Inside Dame Durden's Cottage, the Musical Schafers give their renowned speciality act, and Miss Ellaline Thorne sings "Don't put your umbrella up till it rains" in a strikingly pretty dress, coming out strongly as a dancer. The Dame retires to rest but is disturbed by the marauders, Peter and Jimmy, in search of "the papers." Anon, the Wolf appears, and the Dame disappears, to reappear later on, Red Riding Hood being saved from the Wolf's maw. Scene 8, The Reception Lobby, is occupied with the Baron's amorous but rejected advances to Miss Muffit, and the song, "I was lonely," which Miss Ivey Roze, as the Prince Roseleaf, sings with her usual happy expression; while Messrs. Stephens and Rennior show more of their prowess as dancing and knockabout comedians. The final scene, The Great Reception Room, is a veritable marble hall of rare beauty, with its variegated lights, rich colouring, enhanced by the gay dresses of the chorus and principals. The speciality here is that of the Molasso Troupe, who with their truly terrific whirlwind dances and evolutions raise a hurricane of huzzas.

There is no need to recapitulate after the above, though Mr. Frank Blythe as the Baron is to be commended as a pleasing innovation. He is not the conventional Baron, but a fine singer, with a "musical comedy" appearance. The book is well written by Mr. Frank Ayrton; the scenic effects must enhance the fame of that clever artist, Mr. Edward Hall; Mr. Herbert Barnes' part is also incalculable, he, as conductor, carried the pantomime safely through, and his overture and orchestration is good.

"RED RIDING HOOD" AT BRADFORD.

None of Mr. Laidler's praiseworthy efforts in the way of pantomime has held out greater promise of success or started more auspiciously than *Red Riding Hood*, which was presented to a crowded audience at the Prince's on Christmas Eve. Mr. Arthur W. Field, the author of the "book," has supplied a genuine fairy story, which is compact, distinctly original in its treatment, and the dialogue is brimful of screamingly funny puns and local allusions. The striking and very effective scenery is the work of Messrs. E. Egerton, Elkan Bros., and Obronski; Mr. Harry Rushworth has put together a lot of popular airs, and has also composed some effective music for the production, which opens with The Lair of the Wolves. King Wolf is an outlaw, and a price is set upon his head; he wants a dainty dish, and on a vision of Red Riding Hood appearing, he vows to eat her. He is cautioned, however, by Fairy Truelove to beware, and war to the knife is declared between the two. The scene changes to Merryvale Hall, a very fine bit of painting. There is revelry here, and the pastoral surroundings are pretty and gay. After some funny business with Mother Hubbard, who owes her rent to the Baron and Baroness, the thread of the story is resumed by Red Riding Hood entering. She has been frightened by the Wolf, but she finds a protector in Prince Alluria, who falls in love with her. The Wolf is in league with the Baron and Baroness, and we are taken to The Baron's Picture Gallery, where there is more plotting against Red Riding Hood, who has been furnished with a magic brooch by the Fairy to protect her against harm. On her way to the Dame's cottage she gets lost in The Frozen Wood, and is sought for in vain by the Prince and his retinue. Fairy Truelove changes the scene to The Fairies' Glade, and a brilliant Floral Ballet ends the first act. Act 2 opens with a pretty and effective scene, The Market-place of Merryvale. A reward is offered by the Prince for the head of the Wolf, who is following Red Riding Hood to Granny's cottage, where the nursery tale is told in the orthodox way, the culminating point being the killing of the Wolf by the Prince, who is united to Red Riding Hood, all ending happily in The Royal Palace of Alluria, a very gorgeous scene of great beauty and brilliance.

Mr. Harry T. Butler, who has stage-managed the production, has done his work well, for the initial performance went without a hitch. Miss Lottie Stone's Six Parisienne Belles dance charmingly, and amongst the many specialities introduced, a children's Maypole Dance is pretty, a Ballet of Floral Fays is very charming, a children's scena "Policemen and Cooks" is a quaint conception. The Grand March of the Knights of Alluria is very effectively arranged. The Brothers Elvio's act is very funny, and a coon act by the children, "Mandy's Wedding," is capitally done. The costumes are very effective. Miss Florrie Forde makes a striking figure as the Prince, and wears some pretty and costly "creations"; her songs are popular, "Oh! oh! Antonio," "Is everybody happy here," and "Only a dream" are amongst her best efforts. Miss Susie Belmore is a charming and graceful Red Riding Hood, who is already an established favourite with her audience. Mr. J. A. Wilson fills the part of King Wolf with intense dramatic power; Miss May Harriss is a very pretty Fairy Truelove. There is considerable humour in the Baron Wrumlotte of Mr. Allan Carruthers, and Miss Marie West is effective as the Baroness. Mr. Bert Byrne is an old favourite, and his Mother Hubbard is delightfully quaint and original. Mr. James Ross Elvio as Jimmy Green and Mr. Harry Elvio as Johnny Stout contribute most diverting comedy. Mr. Will Lindsay, with his Yorkshire dialect and quaint mannerisms, is particularly amusing. Mr. Walter Buxton's voice is heard to advantage in the part of Simon the Cellarer. As Martha Ann Miggs Miss Victoria Cross is remarkably quaint. Miss Grace Elvo is an imposing figure as the Equerry, the Hon. Bertie Blueblud. Miss Lily Beagle is a pretty Margery Daw, and Mr. C. H. B. Churton's impersonation of the Dog and Mr. Frank Robinson's Bear add considerably to the fun of the pantomime, for which a long run is predicted.

"JACK AND JILL" AT BRADFORD.

Jack and Jill is this year the subject of Mr. John Hart's annual pantomime, which was most successfully produced at the Theatre Royal on Christmas Eve. Mr. T. F. Doyle is again the author of the book, and he has displayed excellent taste and much originality in his treatment of the legend. The story is compact, and the dialogue teems with humour. In the abode of the Demon Gloom we learn that nineteen years ago King Pomposo's son was carried off by Sir Randolph de Homer, in revenge for a fancied slight, and that the child was left on the doorstep of Dame Horner, his deserted wife. Gloom saw the transaction, and as he hated the King, he took from the neck of the infant a lucky sixpence (which had been placed there by the Fairies on the night of his birth), and placed it round the neck of the infant son of a fool of the village, Silly Billy, who afterwards becomes a servant in the King's palace, along with the hero of the story. The King, who has sought his lost child in vain, is told in a dream that his heir is a scullion in the Royal kitchen, and, on inquiry, he finds that Billy is in possession of the lucky sixpence, and he at once acknowledges him as his heir. Billy persecutes Dame Horner's daughter Jill with his attentions, although he is engaged to a kitchen-maid, Mary-Mary; he is also jealous of Little Jack Horner, the supposed son of the Dame, and he persuades the King to dismiss him, and also to turn the Dame and Jill out of their cottage, and by these means he hopes to persuade Jill, when she is homeless, to marry him; but Jill is faithful to Jack, and Billy is defied. Sir Randolph reappears in the disguise of The Unknown, and he recognises Jack as the child he left at the door of the wife he deserted. He tells the Dame of the true parentage of her adopted child, although he can't explain how it is that Billy possesses the lucky sixpence. Jack finds a friend in Fairy Sunshine, who tells him that he will find a golden plum in his Christmas pie, and that by its aid he can reach the Magic Well on the hill in Poppyland, from which he is to bring a pail of water and present it to the King as a sure remedy for the gout, from which His Majesty suffers. Jack is anxious to do all the good he can, and along with Jill the journey to the well is made. On the way, Billy and his myrmidons rob Jack of the plum; but he and Jill climb the hill, and secure the magic water. In the descent, however, they come tumbling down, Jack's crown is hurt, and the water is lost, at which the Demon rejoices, and the hill and well vanish. Sunshine, however, promises Jack further help, and the first act closes with a charming Ballet of Sunflowers and a Tableau of Phœbus in his magnificent car, attended by Dawn and Morning, a climax of great beauty and brilliance.

In the second act we find that Jill has been carried off by Billy, and she is a prisoner in the Palace. The King is appealed to by Jack and the Dame, to no purpose; but he makes it known that Jill shall marry the man who first succeeds in procuring the water from the well, and that he shall succeed to the throne. Billy seeks the Demon's aid; he is furnished with an enchanted pail, and told how to find the well. Jack follows him, and Billy and his men threaten Jack; but the Unknown turns up in time, and Billy is compelled to give up the pail of water, the lucky six-

pence, and the plum. Billy then accuses Jack of robbery, and he is put in prison, but he is released by Sunshine. The Unknown now reveals himself, and the King orders his execution during a fit of the gout, when Jack enters with the magic water. A drink restores the King to health, Jack's story is told by the Unknown and the Dame, he is acknowledged as the rightful heir, and he and Jill are united.

A great feature of the production is the beautiful scenery. The opening scene, The Abode of Gloom, by Mr. D. G. Hall, the resident artist, is an Egyptian interior, copied from the Muemnonium, and is a fine, vigorous bit of work. The second scene, The Royal Kitchen, by Mr. George Jackson, of Bristol, is a bold, telling example of scenic art. Mr. Hall's Sylvan Glade is a bit of lovely pastoral scenery; and his Dame's Kitchen is a quaint conception. The Way to the Well is prettily painted by Mr. Jackson. Scene 6 consists of three distinct pictures, which are artistically treated by Mr. R. C. Oldham, viz., Poppyland, Hill and Well (Night), The Lily Dell (Dawn), and The Sunflower Glade (Morning). The final tableaux of the first act are marvels of effective colouring and grouping by Mr. Jackson, and the electric lighting is dazzling; and amongst other fine specimens of artistic skill particularly striking in the second act are The Racecourse, The Reception Room in the Palace, The Fairy Forest, and The Hall of Knights, by Messrs. Hall and Oldham, who have surpassed themselves in the solidity and fidelity of their work. We have nothing but praise for the costumes, which are in perfect taste, gorgeous in colour, and very charming in their multiplicity and design. Mme. Royce, who has this year arranged the ballets, groupings, and children's entertainments, has accomplished her difficult task with skill. Mr. C. W. Chambers, the conductor of the orchestra, has selected and arranged some charming music and catchy melodies. There is fun galore, and Mr. Doyle, who is mainly responsible for the production, may be congratulated on the success of the initial representation. Mr. Charles Norton as King Pomposo quickly won favour with his excellent racecourse sketch, his clever imitations of music hall celebrities and his song, "After you with the girl." As Augustus Count Caramel, Miss Edie Rivers is sprightly, and her song, "Sue, Sue, Sue," goes well. There is originality in Mr. Jack Cromo's style as Dame Horner; he is very funny. His song, "I will, I won't," is a capital number; he is irresistible in his "Directoire Dress" skit and his Suffragette speech. Miss Vera Vere is a charming Jill, and her song, "Humpty Dumpty," is a bright effort. As Little Jack Horner Miss Vera Vere is vivacious and sprightly, and her song, "Over the garden wall," is amongst her best efforts. Mr. Albert Le Fre, who is the Unknown, alias Sir Randolph de Horner, is a host in himself, and his resources are endless; his "Scare-crow" song and dance is clever, he has some screamingly funny business with a jug, and his character sketches are very mirth-provoking—in fact, it is a laugh all the time he is on the stage. Mr. Josh Dixon is a quaint Yorkshire dialect comedian, who is funny as Billy Badlot, with two capital songs, "The Yorkshire Girl" and "Well, well, well." As Mary-Mary Miss Minna Merry is quaint and grotesque. The Haytors (Arthur and Frank), as Snivel and Drivel, are remarkable exponents of the leg-mania style of dancing. Miss Winnie Haytor acceptably filling the part of Marjory Daw. Mr. Albert Chapman renders the rôle of Gloom with power, and his voice is heard to advantage in the song, "Cigarette." "The tiny seed of love" is the best vocal effort of Miss Winifred Wyndham, who is the charming Fairy Sunshine.

"ALADDIN" AT GRAND THEATRE, BRIGHTON.

So many pantomime successes have been achieved at the Grand Theatre, Brighton, that it is not surprising the production of *Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp* at that popular house on Christmas Eve was another distinct triumph; it evoked great enthusiasm, and *Aladdin* is undoubtedly one of the best of the pantomimes which have been seen upon the local boards during a long series of years. Written and invented by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Carpenter, the pantomime presented the leading features of the well-worn story; it was produced by Mr. Charles Lake, under the personal supervision of the acting-manager, Mr. Ben Court; the new and elaborate scenery was painted by Messrs. D. B. Young and H. L. Lee; the sparkling and melodious music was composed and arranged by Signor G. D. La Camera; the children were trained and the ballets arranged by Mme. Lottie Stone; the costumes were by Miss A. Clarence and her assistants; the mechanical effects were by Mr. W. Blades; the properties by Messrs. E. Frape and Darby; and the electrical effects by Messrs. Hammond and Morley. The pantomime, which ran brightly and smoothly from start to finish, possesses those elements which are necessary to ensure complete success. The songs—humorous and sentimental—and the duets were admirable; the fun afforded by the leading comedians was of a healthy and mirth-provoking character; the dancing was graceful and exhilarating; the dresses handsome; and the spectacular displays, in conjunction with the splendid scenery, were marked by artistic finish that could scarcely have been improved. The first scene to claim special attention was The Market-place, Pekin, an elaborately-arranged set, replete with rich colouring, which harmonised with the blending hues of the pretty costumes. The Cave, a veritable store-house of brilliant gems, was rendered additionally attractive by the charmingly dressed ballet of bats; while The Gardens of the Emperor's Palace was associated with a beautiful "feast of lanterns," in which pretty dances were again prominent. The final scene, Aladdin's Palace, carried off the palm for gorgeous colouring, beautiful dresses, artistic groupings of handsome chorus girls, and cleverly executed electrical effects—a fitting close to a most enjoyable evening. The representations of the various characters merit unstinted praise. Miss Aimée Roberts as Aladdin makes a dashing and vivacious principal boy. She looked the part to perfection, and, though apparently suffering from a cold, gave evidence of the possession of a pleasing and well-trained soprano voice. She was highly effective in the song "Make yourself at home," but won her greatest success in "The soft wind sighs among the trees," one of Signor G. D. La Camera's choice compositions. Miss Blanche Marion made a graceful and refined Princess Badroulbadour, and gave very tasteful rendering of her songs, being especially effective in "Come be my Rainbow"; while her dainty and nimble dancing evoked frequent and cordial applause. The love duets of Aladdin and the Princess were also much admired. Mr. Leo Sterling as the Emperor of China was a host in himself, and, with Miss Addie Love, the Slave of the Lamp, contributed musical specialities, which were among the most pleasing features of the pantomime. Mr. Sterling, an expert executant of solos on the one stringed violin, cornet, bugle, and post-horn, won well-deserved applause; while Miss Addie Love whose artistic vocalisation was not surpassed during the pantomime, was particularly brilliant in "My Bombardier." Mr. Edwin Garth scored heavily as the voluble Widow Twankey, whose merry laugh elicited responsive laughter among the audience. He pattered in very humorous style and was highly amusing in his songs "Study your cookery book" and "We've lost our happy little home." Messrs. Bennett and Martell as Tip Pi and Wot Toe respectively, were responsible for some of the most entertaining fun of the evening. They might reasonably be termed, from their physical proportions, "the long and the short of it." The taller one is a clever high-kicker and contortionist, and the shorter one is droll in voice and gesture. They made a great hit in their burlesque sailor speciality, and while they occupied the boards the house rippled with laughter. Miss Jennie Albert as Pekoe and Miss Rosie Albert as Pitti Sing contributed some pleasing duets and dances; and Miss Cassie Clare was an attractive Slave of the Ring.

Mr. Frank Dunlop merits warm praise for his impersonation of Abanazar: he was full of life, and found great favour with the audience by his capital rendering of the comic song "Daring deeds." Much pleasure was afforded by the Lottie Stone quartet of dancers, who were seen at their best in their quick-change act, which included characteristic songs and dances. The choruses were grandly sung, the evolutions were marked by precision, and the members of the orchestra, under the tactful conductorship of Signor G. D. La Camera, acquitted themselves admirably. It may confidently be anticipated that *Aladdin* will have a long and prosperous run.

"SYLVIA IN SUNLAND" AT BRIGHTON.

A very hearty reception was given to the musical fairy play, *Sylvia in Sunland*, by the large audience in the Brighton West Pier Theatre on Thursday afternoon, Dec. 24, when it was produced under the direction of Mr. Trevor Lowe, with Mr. Walter Cross as stage-manager, and the performance, although denominated a "public dress rehearsal," ran so smoothly and with such a graceful swing that the play will, doubtless, enjoy a long and prosperous career. Written by Norman Page, the libretto is smart, and conveys a charming story, while the music, by Bernard Page, who is also responsible for the verses, is melodious and refined. The special electric lighting effects and properties are by Messrs. G. Sheppard and C. Robins, and the new and original costumes by Mme. Markwick and Messrs. B. and H. Drury. Especial praise must be given to the scenery. The set descriptive of a Sussex Cornfield, with its busily-working windmill, is a delightful stage-picture; while others deserving praiseworthy notice are Among the Suns and The Palace of the Golden Cloud. After a short prologue we are introduced to a country scene, where a number of mischievous youngsters are enjoying themselves, thanks to the Fresh Air Fund, but at the same time are exciting the anger of Farmer Jerry and his man, Josher. Chivvy, a London street Arab, meets Sylvia, the farmer's daughter, and the pair, who quickly become friends, make up their minds to endeavour to brighten the lives of slum children. They are aided by the Spirit of Kindness, and set out on a journey to the fairy land ruled by King Never-Come-to-the-Point, to secure the flowers of happiness. The Imp of Mischief, Scratch-Jahr, dogs their footsteps, and does his utmost to thwart them. They, however, pass successfully through Sleepy Hollow, Nodland, The Lair of the Lizzard (where Chivvy kills King Lizzard), and The Land of Cockles and Mussels, and, reaching the Foot of the Sunbeam Ladder, gain access to the Palace of the Golden Cloud, where Chivvy and Sylvia become King and Queen, and impart happiness to myriads of poor children. Mr. Trevor Lowe and his well-selected company acquit themselves to the complete enjoyment of the audience. Miss Gladys Storey gives a charming and delightful impersonation of Sylvia, and displays very tasteful vocalisation. She is sure to become a great favourite owing to her bright and winsome personality. Mr. Donald Calthrop submits an earnest and convincing enactment of Chivvy; while Mr. George Howard as Farmer Jerry and Mr. Edmund Baker as the farm labourer, Josher, are well suited, and evoke many a hearty laugh with their drolleries and quaint patter. Mr. Trevor Lowe, who may be warmly and deservedly congratulated upon the success of the production, is responsible for an excellent portrayal of the lazy King Never-Come-to-the-Point; Mrs. A. B. Tapping achieves great success as Lady Huntworth and Queen Snore; and Mr. J. Edward Pearce makes the most of his opportunities as the Rev. Canon Colchester and the Lord Chamberlain. Miss Alys Rees is graceful and sympathetic as the Spirit of Kindness; Miss Clara Earle is a lively and attractive Scratch-Jahr; and commendable support is rendered by Mr. Thomas Lind (King Kangaroo), Mr. Penn Hamilton (Jack-o-Lantern), Miss Verner Dean (Tom), and Miss Dorothy Mason (Effie).

"ALADDIN" AT BRISTOL.

There was a large attendance at the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, on Christmas Eve, when Mr. J. M. Chute produced the forty-second pantomime at this theatre, and as a coincidence it may be remarked that the title of the first pantomime produced here, in 1867-68, was also *Aladdin*. The "book" is the joint work of Messrs. R. Courtneidge and A. M. Thompson, and the lyrics are by Messrs. Charles Taylor and Dudley Smith. The well-known story of *Aladdin* is worked out in eleven scenes:—The Tombs, Egypt, Street in Chang Li Hang, Exterior of Palace, Interior of Palace, Outside the Cave, The Cave, Shop of Widow Twankey, Gardens of Aladdin's Palace, Emperor's Palace, Court of Justice, and Chrysanthemum Fête, all excellent work by Mr. George Jackson and Mr. Conrad Tritschler. The charming costumes are designed by Wilhelm, and executed by Miss Shapcott, Mrs. Bristowe, and assistants, and Miss Fisher, London. The music has been arranged, selected, and composed by Mr. G. R. Chapman. The ballets and incidental dances are arranged by Miss Kate Brandon; the machinery and mechanical effects by Mr. H. Wilson; the elaborate properties and paraphernalia by Mr. H. Momber; and the electric lighting and dioramic effects are by Mr. Arthur Bawn. The harmony of colour in the various groups and the stage management generally reflects much credit upon Mr. Henry Tromer, the producer of the pantomime, who was assisted by Mr. David Fisher, jun.; and the entire production has been under the personal supervision of Mr. James Macready Chute. With his usual good fortune Mr. Chute has got together an excellent company; they all work hard and so successfully that the opening performance went without a hitch. Miss Ouida Macdermott, as Aladdin, makes a handsome and graceful principal boy; she acts with much dramatic skill, and with such earnestness that now and again one is induced to forget for the moment that it is "only pantomime." Miss Macdermott speaks her lines admirably, she sings her songs in a pleasing and artistic manner, and in all respects plays the part for "all it is worth." Miss Deborah Volar is pleasing as the Princess En-Chan-Ting; she acts sufficiently for the part, has a very pleasing singing voice, which she uses in refined and artistic style in all her songs. Miss Topsy Sinden is cast for Yu-Bu-Tee, Daughter of the Moon, and, though the part is not of vast importance, her dainty style and pleasing appearance makes it interesting. Miss Sinden executes several dances in her well-known graceful manner; these are all appreciated, but a highly dramatic veil dance, in the Cave scene, "brought down the house" on Christmas Eve. Miss Daisy Lloyd Wood has a smart comedy part in Our Mary Ann (from London). She has a chic and attractive style, she sings her songs with expression, and dances prettily. Mr. W. H. Powell as Widow Twankey keeps the audience amused, and, while avoiding being "too funny," is always entertaining. In the second part of the pantomime Mr. Powell has a burlesque Salome dance, which took immensely. Mr. Arthur Sutcliffe makes the most of Pekoe. He has several good songs, which he sings well. Mr. Alfred Clark plays the Emperor of China in the usual broad comedy style; he is evidently a merry monarch if somewhat avaricious. Mr. Bransby Williams impersonates Abanazar in quaint dramatic style, if on unconventional lines. His Magician is a fine performance, with a touch of weirdness about it, but it would be much more effective in Oriental costume. Mr. Williams also successfully introduces imitations of popular actors, and also some character sketches. Miss Florence Foster is smart and taking as Ah-Sing, both singing and dancing acceptably. Miss Flora Gordon is a stately Slave of the Lamp; Mr. Jocelyn Hope as the Genie of the Ring speaks his lines well, and has an effective dramatic style quite in keeping with the part, which is somewhat prominent in this pantomime; Mr. Walter Fairbrother and Mr. Herbert Uzielli are capable exponents of Amenophis and Zoroaster; and Miss Nellie Palmer and Miss Sabina Guiver look stately and attractive as Love and Power in the Cave scene.

The chorus has been considerably strengthened in this pantomime; evidently some of the voices are exceptionally good, and they do their work effectively. Very appropriate incidental music has been composed by Mr. G. R. Chapman in his best style, much of it being far superior to what is usually expected in pantomime, and his very capable orchestra did full justice to his compositions on the opening night. The costumes are superb, being rich in material, tasteful in design, and most effective in the way of blending of colours. High commendation is deserved for the scenery, consisting in the main of heavy and complicated sets, the Oriental style always affording scope both for the picturesque and imposing when in the hands of such competent scenic artists as Mr. George Jackson and Mr. Conrad Tritschler. In the Cave scene exceptionally effective tableaux of Wealth, Power, Fame, Glory, and Pleasure are introduced, the object being the temptation of Aladdin, and it would be very hard to go "one better" than these tableaux in the way of chasteness of design, perfection of posing, and harmony of colour. The concluding scene, Chrysanthemum Fête, is one blaze of electric light at the finish, the effect being most grand and imposing, the principals, ballet, extra ladies, &c., being all dressed most magnificently. Mr. Chute had an enthusiastic call at the close of the pantomime, his hearty reception being very gratifying.

"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD" AT BRISTOL.

This pantomime was produced at the Theatre Royal, Bristol, on Christmas Eve, the first performance going very smoothly. The pantomime is written and arranged by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Carpenter; the medley overture and incidental music are composed, selected, and arranged by Mr. Edwin Jacobs; the costumes are designed by Miss Clarence and Miss Douglas, mechanical effects by Mr. Harry Blake, properties by Mr. S. Miller, and electrical effects by Mr. George Brummell. The entire pantomime was produced under the personal supervision of Mr. Ernest Carpenter, and it is effectively stage-managed by Mr. Ivor Harvey. The company is evidently a hard-working one, and full justice was done to the respective parts on the opening night. Miss Ethel Hall is pleasing as Boy Blue, she both singing and dancing well; Miss Marie Free acts in excellent style as Margery Daw; and Miss Daisy Dennis acts remarkably well as Red Riding Hood. She has some pretty songs and dances, which are much appreciated. Miss Violet Gillis and Miss Gertie Hall both do excellently in their respective parts of Jack Horner and Miss Muffit; Mr. Frank Hemming displays considerable ability as Baron Baddelot; Messrs. Crosby and Walker are amusing as Johnny Stout and Jimmy Green; Mr. K. Scott-Barrie makes a good part of Dame Trot—he is always amusing, though not too boisterous; Mr. Frank Victor impersonates the Wolf in good style, his singing being much applauded; Master Thomas Johnson causes considerable fun as the Teddy-bear; Miss Rose Challis and Miss Nellie Danvers are successful as Tommy Tucker and Peter Piper; and Miss Margaret Webster looks imposing as the Rose Queen. The Silvan Quartette (the Misses Maggie Davis, Ethel Morgan, Marie Lind, and Ethel Hodgson) execute difficult dances effectively; and clever speciality dances are given by the Misses Lee and Clifton. The scenery is excellent, reflecting much credit upon Mr. W. J. Cox, the resident scenic artist. They are entitled The Witches' Cave, Village of Heydowndery, Buttercup Dell, The Wood, Red Riding Hood's Nursery, Fairy Land, Glade in the Wood, Dame Trot's Kitchen, Outside Dame Trot's Cottage, and Palace of Delight. The costumes are tasteful, and in the final scene of the pantomime both rich and elegant. Numerous pretty specialities of song and dance are introduced by the principals, and obtain full appreciation.

"BABES IN THE WOOD" AT CARDIFF.

There was a packed Bank Holiday audience on Saturday afternoon, when Mr. Balmain opened his first pantomime season in Cardiff. The subject chosen is *Babes in the Wood*, presented by Mr. Charles Chard. The book has been specially written for this theatre by Mr. J. L. Barry, who deserves more than a word of praise for placing before Cardiffians a neat and concise version of the well-known adventures of the two babes. The management have spared no trouble or expense to make the performance a success, and a very pretty show indeed has been put on. It is full of fun, gaiety, and good humour, and is in the hands of a really clever and capable set of artists, who make the very best of the parts assigned to them. The scenery of this production is very striking. The Enchanted Glade in the Heart of the Forest has a most pleasing effect, being not too gorgeously set up, but sufficiently coloured to be artistic. The Banqueting Hall is also realistically portrayed. The costumes are of a high order; the taste displayed in this direction is certainly worthy of note. The romantic part of Robin Hood is undertaken by Miss Marie Burdell with a dash and convincing style quite acceptable, and it is safe to say she will soon establish herself as a prime favourite. Her song "Antonio" is her best, and, although her numbers generally are rendered in too quiet a manner, this will, no doubt, improve as the pantomime progresses. A success from start to finish is Miss Nellie Lunelle, the principal girl, Maid Marian, her sprightliness and breezy interpretation of the part calling forth well-merited applause. Her songs are extremely well sung, "Drummer Boy," a catchy ditty, being rendered with much spirit and military dash. The sisters Jessie and Lily St. Julian, as Little John and Merry Mavis, are artists of ability, their dancing being first class and the duet, "Sue, Sue," sung in an excellent manner. Miss Ivy Sinclair as Will Scarlet makes the most of her opportunities; and a captivating rendition of Lavinia is tastefully given by Miss Linda Dunlo. Miss Marion Hood as Allan-a-Dale and Miss Dora Phillips as Sylvania show much promise. The two Babes are represented by Miss Lily Belle (Harold) and Miss Violet Chard (Lucy). The latter is a talented young actress; her singing and dancing, of fine quality, are decidedly one of the successes of the piece. Miss Belle's bare-footed dance is noteworthy. A number of clever comedians are constantly causing fun and laughter, their songs, gags, and patter evoking hearty merriment. Chief of the comedians is Mr. Charles Chard, his impersonation of Razzle Dazzle being brimful of wholesome humour. Mr. Robert Williams as Sir Broker de Pawn is funny from start to finish; while Mr. Arthur Budd is much at home as Friar Tuck, his fine baritone voice gaining for him enviable applause. The ruthless villains, Burgling Bill and Gentle Georgie, put forward by Jerry Driscoll and James McGrath respectively, are cleverly expounded, the eccentric sham fight in the woods being irresistibly droll. Mr. Mac Norton as Arcnianta Koffcake is also very good. A pleasing item is that of the American Quartette of Lady Dancers (principal dancer, Miss Maude Clarke), and the Two Dominos (clown and donkey) contribute an amusing interlude. All-round, the production is an unqualified success, and Mr. Dick Lincoln, as general manager, and Mr. Chard are to be congratulated upon presenting one of the smartest pantomimes ever produced at the Theatre Royal.

"CINDERELLA" AT CARDIFF.

The production of the New Theatre pantomime on Boxing Day was an undoubted success, and Messrs. Robert Redford and Milton Bode must have been themselves surprised at the enthusiasm their show aroused in the holiday crowds which packed the building to its utmost capacity. The libretto of Cardiff's *Cinderella* has been specially written by Mr. George Rowlands, and a capital story this gentleman has succeeded in writing. The main idea of the popular fable is strictly adhered to, and the misfortunes of the fireside maid are kept well before the audience. In accord with the story is the scenery, and the several artists have proved more than equal to their responsibilities. The four outstanding sets are The Woodland Glade (S. King Alexander), The Fairy Toilet (J. A. Hicks), The Prince's Ballroom (Ernest Howard), and Cinderella's Wedding (J. A. Hicks). In each scene the blending of colours is perfect, and the admiration of the audience found vent in frequent exclamations of delight and surprise. The costumes were another source of pleasure, the taste displayed in the ballroom and wedding dresses being exquisite. The pantomime, moreover, is rich in artistic talent. Miss Moya Mannering is in the title-rôle, and achieved great success. She is an ideal Cinderella, and sings her numbers in bewitching style, her best songs being "Come round on Sunday" and "Shadowland." Miss Ida Strattam is particularly gifted for the rôle of principal boy, with a handsome figure and commanding personality. Miss Strattam combines a convincing style and dashing manner. She has, of course, several songs, but her most popular is "I want you to see my girl," which she renders with exceptional spirit. The sisters of Cinderella are entrusted to ladies, a course which has been amply justified. Miss Jennie Rubie as Mehitable and Miss Nelly Lauraine as Melpomene are remarkably amusing. Miss Lucie Lever as the Fairy Godmother achieves a prominence in the production by her excellent singing. The comedians are a happy combination of talented fun-makers. The well-known Mr. T. W. Volt is the Baroness, and a remarkably clever impersonation this gentleman presents. His "get-up" is very droll, and his airy, quaint humour was the cause of endless laughter on Boxing Day. Mr. George Brooks is allotted the part of Whiffles, the baronial retainer, and his performance is one of the funniest in the whole production. He has a capital song, entitled "Happy Land," which brings him a hearty round of applause. As the Baron Mr. Tom Fancourt is provided with ample opportunities for the display of his versatility, his funniest piece of business is his wrestling bout, a clever and exceptional performance, which thoroughly merited the uproarious applause accorded. Dandini is entrusted to Mr. Charles Hanbury, and as portrayed by such a popular artist is an improvement on the old representations by a lady. As second boy and girl, Miss Felicia Firmin and Miss Victoria Sievers are excellently placed.

A word of praise is deserved by Mr. Henry W. May, who specially composed the music; while Mr. Ed. H. Whitehall is in charge of the orchestra and chorus. Mr. George Rowlands is responsible for the production, which, however, enjoyed the personal supervision of Mr. Milton Bode. Mr. Geo. McCloskie is the stage-manager, and all concerned are to be congratulated upon a production which is certain to bring them well-deserved reward.

"DICK WHITTINGTON" AT CROYDON.

Mr. Roland Daniel, the esteemed manager of the Grand Theatre, Croydon, produced on Boxing Day a version of *Dick Whittington* which does him every credit as a good, workable pantomime, full of life and colour. The book has been entrusted to Mr. William Wade, who has told the favourite story in a straightforward manner, the dialogue, smartly and interestingly written, having in many parts a quaint and refreshing style. The story commences in Cheapside, where we are introduced to all the principal characters. Dick arrives at Alderman Fitzwarren's, footsore and weary, in search of a fortune in London. Alice takes a fancy to the homeless boy, but Idle Jack is jealous of Dick's popularity, and plots against him. Dick is accused of theft and driven from Fitzwarren's house. He makes his way to Highgate Hill, where he rests with his cat. The message of the bells induces him to turn back to London, and he is persuaded to seek his fortune in foreign parts. He lands, with his faithful cat, on the coast of Morocco, puss rids the kingdom of its plague of rats, and Dick reaps a rich reward. Returning to his native land he is in time to rescue Alice and her father from poverty. The lovers are united and their happiness complete when we leave them in all their glory at the Guildhall. Lively and tuneful music has been introduced by Mr. Fritz Hart, and this feature of the pantomime has not been neglected in the slightest degree. Melodies pleasing to the ear run throughout the piece and are admirably rendered by the augmented orchestra under Mr. Hart's bâton. The scenery is bright and artistic, and in this department Mr. A. R. Lingham may be specially commended for his really beautiful sets—Old Cheapside, Fitzwarren's Store, Highgate Hill, the Emperor's Palace, and the Guildhall. The dresses are rich and brilliant, and a fascinating chorus of pretty girls set them off to perfection. The ballets and dances, arranged by Miss Lottie Stone, deserve special mention. Miss Stone's troupe of dancers, with Miss Maud Marinelli as solo dancer, are unflagging in their Terpsichorean wonders. We can also freely compliment the stage-manager, Mr. Walter L. Rignold, and his assistant, Mr. Fred Chesham, upon their share in the success of the production.

The company has been well selected, and they work together. Miss Georgina Delmar electrifies her audience by her vigour in the title-rôle, and just touches the right note. An artist of approved talent, she is tremendously popular, whilst she has ample opportunities of displaying her attractive singing powers in such numbers as "Sue, Sue, Sue," "My dream girl," and "A tiny seed of love." Miss Ethel Lawson has a persuasive manner, and shows incessant animation as Alice Fitzwarren, winning an easy victory over her attentive listeners. Her songs, "Maidie and her little Teddy bear," "Dearest Gretchen," and "Pretty bird" are much enjoyed, and she renders them with all the necessary "go." Miss Gladys Warren's free and easy style fits the rôle of Tommy Turner to perfection, and a welcome is given to her ditties, "I don't care if there's a girl there" and "I want you to see my girl." Miss Rhoda Ray plays with grace and vivacity as the Princess of Morocco, and deserves a warm tribute of praise. Her song, "My pretty piece of Dresden china" is encored. Miss Lily Laughton enacts the part of the Fairy Queen in highly finished style, and has a sweet singing voice, and Misses Bertha Lorraine and Mabel Courtney are pretty and dainty as Hafiz and Abdul. Mr. Percy Cahill proves himself a veritable tower of strength as Jack Idle, and his business, facial expression, and quaint and curious acting win him cordial greetings. He scores with songs, "That's how I do it" (with dance), "It wasn't long before it shifted," and his wheeze "You are like our Georgie" always hits the mark. Mr. Edgar Driver is a nimble and natural cat, and altogether his is a meritorious performance. Mr. Luke Forster makes a good impression and never fails to amuse as Alderman Fitzwarren. He is never at a loss, and can hold his own with any member of the hard-working company. Mr. Maitland Marler is a side-splitting Martha Mixitt, the cook, and does himself every credit. His whimsical efforts receive the highest recognition, and his duet on topics of the day with Idle Jack, "What a terrible thing," makes a big hit. Mr. Fred Dornan contributes his full quota as the Emperor of Morocco, and his voice gives capital effect to "The little maid of Monte Carlo." Mr. Fred Solo appears as Captain Taffrail in a breezy and humorous vein, and he keeps everything lively whilst he is about. His one song and dance create a perfect hurricane of laughter. Mr. J. R. Val is very diverting as Ben Bobstay, and compels the audience to recognise the value of genuine fun. Mr. Charles Pearce is suitable as the carrier, and Mr. Fred Chesham is adequate as the Vizier. A particularly amusing feature is the harlequinade (at matinées only), full justice being done by Mr. J. R. Val as clown, Mr. Fred Solo as Pantaloon, Miss Maud Marinelli as Columbine, and Miss Louise Maitland as Harlequin. Taken altogether on its merits Mr. Roland Daniel's first annual should have a prosperous career, and we tender that gentleman our warm congratulations.

"ROBINSON CRUSOE" AT THE METROPOLE, DEVONPORT.

Mr. G. S. King has this year supplied his patrons with an excellent pantomime. The scenes are admirably painted, the sets presenting a perfect blaze of colour. Miss Florence Carlisle is Crusoe, and the management have made an excellent choice, her acting being smart and attractive. Her vocal numbers, particularly "Ida, of Devonshire," are taken up with great enthusiasm. Miss Gertrude Blanche as Crusoe's sweetheart is particularly fascinating, and is likely to become one of the most popular members of the company; Miss Foy Desmond is a charming Fairy Queen, her singing and graceful acting being much admired. Her rendering of "Il Bacio" is rapturously encored. The Misses Kitty and Nainer Geronde make a fascinating pair as Dolly Dimple and Billy Taylor, their duet, "A little bit of Dresden china," taking well. Their accomplished dancing is also an additional attraction. Mr. Will Sherlock is a first-rate Will Atkins; Mr. Henry Eglington is responsible for roars of laughter as Mrs. Crusoe; Mr. Monte Miller gives a dramatic representation of the Stormfiend; and Mr. Fred Anderson is diverting as Tommy Tickle, steward of the Saucy Sally. Mr. J. A. Thomson has written the book, and is to be congratulated on the success attendant on his efforts. The incidental music has been arranged by Messrs. Arthur Sheldrake and Claude Yearsley.

"ROBINSON CRUSOE" AT DUBLIN.

The popular pantomime of *Robinson Crusoe*, produced by Mr. Harold L. Hilliard, was received with rapturous delight by a large and enthusiastic audience at the Gaiety Theatre on Boxing Day. The book is cleverly written and up-to-date and the plot well described by Mr. Jack Winyatt, and Mr. Sydney Shaw is responsible for the catchy music which he has composed and selected. The first scene opens with Davy Jones's Locker, where Will Atkins and Davy plot against Robinson, but are opposed by the Fairy Queen. The Port of Hull is a pretty and effective set, and here we meet Mr. Crusoe, Mrs. Crusoe, Polly Perkins, and Robinson, the scene finishing with the departure of the Saucy Spanker. Scene 3 is Mrs. Crusoe's Schoolhouse, where animated incidents take place. The Deck of the Saucy Spanker is a picturesque set, and the dance of middies is exceedingly well done. Capital comedy is here contributed by Will Atkins, Mrs. Crusoe, Bo'sum and Mate, and Mr. Crusoe. Scene 5, the Open Sea, ends with a tableau, The Raft. The first part concluded with the Coral Realms of Aphrodite, with an aerial ballet the members of which distribute flowers amongst the audience. The second part opens on the Island of Orchids, where a most effective chorus is rendered, concluding with a grand Ballet of Orchids. Scene 10 is the Sea Coast and Scene 11 depicts the Hut. Another part of the island is revealed in Scene 12, and the Garden of the Palace with the entrance of Amazonian warriors gives occasion for another spectacular ballet.

Miss Winifred Hare is a prepossessing and attractive Robinson Crusoe, and sings "Keep a-whistling," "Banish all sorrow," and "Bombardier," which are vivaciously rendered and warmly encored. Miss Kathleen Gray, who has been engaged for a special part, enacts Jack Rattlins, and her songs were quickly taken up by the audience; "Antonio" and "A tiny seed of love" will soon be heard all over Dublin. Miss Elsie Molloy plays Polly Perkins in a captivating manner, and her songs and dances are greatly appreciated. Miss Gladys Whyte is Princess Saccrina, and her song, "Sue, Sue," is warmly encored. Miss Marie Jones (the Fairy of the Sea) has a beautiful voice, her rendering of "Star of the earth" being very fine. Amongst the comedians special mention must be made of Mr. J. J. Dallas, the well-known Gaiety favourite. His impersonation of Mrs. Crusoe is the cause of much hearty laughter, the singing of "Cookery book" and "What I suffered" being especially droll. Mr. Barney Armstrong's conception of Will Atkins is richly comic, and his business with his Secretary (Mr. Jimmy Steel) is the cause of much mirth. His songs are "Eva," "Put me upon an island," and "Harrigan." Mr. Harry Lappo impersonates Mr. William Crusoe in capital style; and Mr. Walter Barrett, who enacts Davy Jones and also the Cannibal King, proves his possession of a capital voice, his song "Revenge" being admirably sung. Keith and Rigby, the Bo'sum and Mate, exhibit some very smart knockabout work. Praise must be given to Mr. Frank Gala as Man Friday, together with his skating speciality; and the Carlyles won rounds of applause for their "Whirlwind" dance. The staging and scenic effects were excellently carried out and the choruses were admirably sung, the gorgeous dresses being attractively displayed. The pantomime was produced in a most efficient manner, and great credit is due to Mr. Harold L. Hilliard and Mr. H. Leighton Rooke, under whose management the production has proved so successful.

"ROBINSON CRUSOE" AT DUNDEE.

A big audience gave an enthusiastic welcome to Mr. Robert Arthur's fairy pantomime *Robinson Crusoe*, which was produced by Mr. Milton Bode at Her Majesty's Theatre, Dundee, on Monday evening last. The theme, which is handled by Mr. J. Hickory Wood in his best style, enables the scenic artist and costumier to revel in a lavish display of scenery and dresses, which has been taken full advantage of. The nine scenes in which the pantomime is played comprise The Port of Hull, Between Decks, The Main Deck, The Wreck, In the Jungle, The Palm Grove, Crusoe's Island Hut, On the Way to the Palace, and The Palace of the Empress. The magnificent scenery which has been designed and executed by Messrs. Arthur Betts and J. J. Markwell Davis is all in the very best taste, The Port of Hull, In the Jungle, and the Palace of the Empress being conspicuous examples of beautiful stagecraft. A most judicious selection of songs has been made from the cream of the latest popular melodies by Mr. Frank Seddon and Mr. Knight Pearce, who are responsible for the music. The handsome dresses are by Messrs. J. A. Harrison, Ltd., and attracted much attention, especially from the fair members of the audience. The company, a large one, includes quite a galaxy of ming; and Miss Jennie Lynwood makes a d[illegible]ntal pictures. Robinson; she has a lithe, hap[illegible]

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is well equipped with a particularly pleasing singing voice. She made quite a hit with her first song "Oh, oh, Antonio!" In this song she is assisted by a large chorus and the inevitable ice-cream man and his barrow. She was also conspicuously successful in "I don't care if there's a girl there," for which she was heartily encored. Miss Lucy Coventry, a dainty little lady who sings prettily and dances with much animation, makes a delightful Polly Hopkins. She is much applauded for her taking song "Sue, Sue, Sue," and a pretty sentimental air entitled "I never reply." She followed up the latter with a very nimble dance, the audience recalling her several times. Miss Rosie Bartlett was a gallant Lieut. Bob, winning rounds of applause for her spirited rendering of "I want you to see my girl." She also scored a decided hit with "Saturday afternoon," which was sung with much effective force. Miss Luna Lyndon made an excellent Jennie Perkins, being much applauded for her rendering of "The Hottentot drum-major." The Empress of Jungalow had a capital exponent in Miss Rose Cabani, who sung "Laughing eyes" very happily, and gave a very tricky dance. Miss Muriel Wantace was altogether excellent as Roma, the Spirit of Adventure. The company is very strong in comedians, chief honours lying with Messrs. Keith and Merson, who kept the house in continuous fits of laughter. Their funniosities are original and up to date, while their business and gags are of the most mirthful description. Their burlesque wrestling bout was ludicrously funny, and in addition they displayed marvellous powers as contortionists. They also scored in a clever topical duet "If we were Members of Parliament," and infused a great deal of humour into their "Alphabet" song. The Mrs. Crusoe of Mr. Harry Ugar is also a very comical creation. He sings with much success a very amusing ditty entitled "I'm waiting," and creates much hilarity by his funny suffragette speech. Mr. Donal MacDougal is decidedly effective as a Doric-spoken Will Atkins, his song "I'm coortin' Jean M'Craw" winning a well-deserved encore. Mr. Percy Johnson made a droll Bill Crusoe; and the rôle of Friday gave Larola, a brilliant equilibrist and sleight-of-hand artist, plenty of scope to display his undoubted ability. The Six Lancashire Lasses danced with much animation, and were warm favourites throughout the evening. The Georgia troupe of three male vocalists introduced a medley of popular airs, for which they had a good reception. Altogether the piece went from start to finish with a completeness and harmony which speaks well for its probability as a draw. The stage-manager is Mr. W. H. Cecil Pierpoint, who deserves the greatest praise for the way the heavy scenery was worked on the opening night. The splendid orchestra was conducted very effectively by Mr. Knight Pearce. *Robinson Crusoe* is certainly worthy to be ranked among the best Mr. Robert Arthur has presented at this beautiful house, and his courteous and energetic acting-manager Mr. Louis Karpe is to be congratulated on having such a seasonable and attractive programme to offer to his patrons at this festive season.

"MOTHER GOOSE" AT HANLEY.

Messrs. C. G. Elphinstone and J. F. Elliston set out at the Theatre Royal on Boxing Day on their merry and successful career with *Mother Goose*, which will for weeks bring joy and laughter to many thousands in this densely populated district. The book is by Mr. J. Hickory Wood, and the familiar story is closely and cleverly followed. It is presented in ten scenes, several being of exquisite beauty, and all reflecting the greatest credit on the artists. Everything goes with wonderful smoothness, showing evidence of painstaking and thorough rehearsal. The pantomime is a brilliant show, with an abundance of comicality, tuneful, catchy songs and music, smart dances, gorgeous dresses, and remarkable stage effects. The principal boy (Colin) is Miss Margaret Ruby, who is as vivacious as she is sweet voiced, and renders her songs charmingly, "Antonio" and "Seed of Love" being her two chief numbers. She became an instantaneous favourite with the packed house. Miss Millie Doris makes a charming Jill, and her songs, of which "Sue, Sue, Sue," is favourite, are most successful. Miss Lola Patey wins warm approval as Gretchen; she is dainty and altogether delightful, acting charmingly and singing sweetly. Her great song hit is "Bubbles and Sunbeams." Rich and Rich have a lot of comedy work as Mother Goose and Jack, and a great measure of the success attained is due to this comical, yet clever, couple. Mr. Charles Homer is the Demon King, and his fine voice and business are greatly admired. Mr. J. C. Scatter scores in his dialect part of the Mayor of Tapham; the Brothers Smarte realise their name in deed; Mr. Fred. Barnes (Lord Pudsey) makes a hit, as does Mr. Leonard Maitland in a dude impersonation of the Hon. Urbsey Slack. The Fairy (Miss Beatrice Felsted) has a fine figure and sings sweetly; the Alexandre Dancers please with their clever efforts in terpsichore. The musical conductor is Mr. F. Seddon, to whom great praise is due. The stage management reflects great credit on Mr. Claude Agnew, and the show goes merrily along without a hitch. The lighting, so cleverly worked, is quite a feather in the cap of Mr. Gilbert, the resident electrician. *Mother Goose* may well be expected to lay "golden eggs" for both Mr. Ellison and Mr. Elphinstone.

"THE FAIR ONE WITH THE GOLDEN LOCKS" AT HULL.

A very enthusiastic audience welcomed Mr. Morton's pantomime, *The Fair One with the Golden Locks*, on Boxing Day, and from the reception accorded it it is safe to say that the whole of the five weeks it is destined to run will witness crowded houses. It is a comedians' pantomime, and one in which no great pretensions are put forward for spectacular display. There is naught in the pantomime to offend the most delicate ears. Its songs are catchy, and of course include "Oh, oh, Antonio." The book has much merit, which is understood, its author being Mr. Stanley Rogers. The foremost honours are easily carried off by Mr. Jas. Chippendale, who is really funny, and has the often lacking sense of humour. From the very first he has taken the taste of the public. As General Slop-off and Admiral Bunker Mr. C. Calvert and Mr. C. Harvey invest their work with originality, and are highly amusing. Another extremely clever turn is that of the knockabouts, Messrs. Green and Wood. These silent fun-makers are among the best in the pantomime. Amongst the ladies Miss Hersee, a daughter of the famous prima-donna, sings sweetly, and wins the good will of the house. Miss Madge Brownie is a vivacious principal girl, whilst the boy part is allotted to Miss Mimie Fisher, whose efforts are applauded. If freedom from vulgarity, witty, clever comedians, and a wholesome entertainment have their proper value, then the pantomime run should be very prosperous.

"ALADDIN" AT LEEDS.

Mr. Frank Macnaghten's annual pantomime at the Theatre Royal is *Aladdin*, and every sign of a long and successful run was given when the piece was produced on Christmas Eve. Following his usual rule, Mr. Macnaghten has left the production in the hands of Mr. John Tiller, by whom, together with Mr. Charles Fletcher, the book has been written. Great care and expense have been lavished on the scenery, the artists including Hawes Craven, Henry Emden, E. H. Ryan, and T. F. Dunn. A capable company is employed in the exploitation of the story, a particularly popular engagement being that of Miss Lillie Soutter as Aladdin. This lady has a good presence and an equally good voice, and was particularly well received at the opening performance. Miss Adela Crispin is a pleasing and attractive principal girl, and, possessing a fine voice, scored well in a vocal scena. The comedy element is very strong, a prominent part being taken by Mr. Will Bishop, whose Emperor is drawn on novel lines, and is always irresistibly funny. Mr. Martin Adeson as the Widow Twankey fairly revels in a generous part, and is throughout vastly entertaining. Mr. Tom Dunmore avails himself of his great opportunity for fun-making in the part of Abanazar, and in many encounters with his assistant—a part cleverly played by Mr. Chris Baker—the pair are very successful. The diminutive Barney Dixon has a roving commission, and is frequently very droll. As second boy and girl Miss Victoria Charlton and Miss Hilda Major fill their parts in pleasing style, and Miss Lizzie Hay is vigorously applauded for burlesque dancing specialities. The Brothers Lang are also popular, and attractive items are supplied by the Tiller troupe of dancers and the Twelve Manchester Mites.

"SINBAD THE SAILOR" AT LEEDS.

Mr. John Hart's annual grand pantomime, which is this year based on the story of *Sinbad the Sailor*, was produced on Wednesday, the 23rd, before an audience which crowded the theatre in every part, and with every appearance of success. The book is again from the prolific pen of Mr. J. Hickory Wood, and in it he has found plenty of work for all concerned, and also scope for some brilliant spectacular display. The two most notable sets are The Shipwreck, in the first act, and The Diamond Valley, a scene of glittering beauty, whose brilliance is enhanced by the evolutions of a well-trained ballet and chorus, gorgeously gowned. The management have been happy in their choice of principals, particularly so in the engagement of Miss Nell Emerald as Sinbad. Bright, graceful, and versatile to a degree, her acting is quite easy and unaffected, and nothing could have been more delightful than her performance on the first night, when she was repeatedly applauded for her vocal renderings, notable success being achieved with the ditty, "I want you to see my girl." Miss Daisy Dormer makes a dainty and pretty Ruby, of engaging manners, and she takes particularly well in the rendition of "My girl's a Yorkshire girl," with a bevy of beclogged factory girls as chorus. Mr. Rowland Hill is very droll as Mrs. Sinbad, affording the audience great enjoyment, and his catch-phrase, "You're asking for it," will soon be a byword. Mr. William Stephens is irrepressible as Hinbad. He has a hand in every bit of fun going, and allows no dull moment whilst he is on the stage. His song "I'm afraid to go home in the dark" takes immensely. Those excellent comedians Harrigan and Holt are fitted with sailors' parts, and are provocative of great hilarity on numerous occasions. Mr. Colin Coop as the Emperor and Mr. Lawrence Caird as the Envoy assist in much humorous business, and generally enhance their respective reputations. Radford and Valentine introduce their well-known comic jugglery performance in the second act, and get a big reception; Mr. E. W. Royce is weirdly interesting as the Old Man of the Sea; a graceful and accomplished vocalist, Miss Annie Schuberth, is the good fairy Roma; and Mr. Cyril Thompson, who is possessed of a powerful baritone voice, is well placed as the Storm Fiend. Miss Dorothy Frostick is in the cast as solo dancer, and is very successful; Mr. Henri Jaxon is partly responsible for the arrangement of the music, and under his bâton all goes off with a pleasing rhythm. The entire pantomime went with the utmost smoothness from first to last, and reflected the greatest credit upon Mr. Hart and his stage-manager, Mr. Fred Epitaux, under whose supervision the production had been rehearsed.

"HUMPTY DUMPTY" AT LIVERPOOL.

On the evening of Wednesday, 23rd ult., Mr Robert Arthur gave his patrons of the Royal Court Theatre, Liverpool, a glance at his thirteenth pantomime, which bears the title of *Humpty Dumpty*. Each succeeding year Mr. Arthur principally aims at spectacular effect, and his latest production certainly lacks naught in this respect; in fact, his scenic artists particularly, Messrs. Stafford Hall, G. E. W. McKie, and J. Fowler Hogg, have surpassed themselves. The story, which comes from the able pen of Mr. Frank Dix, is of a character to especially appeal to the little ones, and no doubt a large proportion of those who during the next two months may visit the Royal Court will be those of the younger generation. The curtain rises upon a nursery situated locally, where we find a mother endeavouring to explain to her questioning boy (a part neatly taken by Master Bobbie Andrews) the story of Humpty Dumpty's downfall. The lad drops asleep over his book, when the Queen of Humpty Land appears from the fireplace, and transports him, along with his two Gollywogs, who have become animated, to the realms of Fairydom. We there learn that Humpty, the son of the Old Woman Who Lives in a Shoe, has, for daring to make love to the King's daughter, been incarcerated in an egg, which is seen poised on a wall. Learning of Humpty's fate, the boy adventurer knocks down the egg, which breaks, thus releasing the hero, who, along with the Princess Curlylocks, hastens off to the Old Woman of the Shoe residence. In this scene we are introduced to all the well-known nursery characters so dear to the hearts of young folk. The enraged King and Queen follow in hot pursuit, whereupon a further journey is taken to Rainbow Land, which is reached by boat, and then on to the city of Benares, where the runaway couple find safety. Mars, by electrical railway, is next visited, and here they are married by Twinklestar, just prior to the arrival of the Royal pursuers. The curtain then comes down on the opening scene, where the boy is awakening from his dream. For a first night's production the pantomime ran with surprising smoothness, showing that the rehearsals had been carried out with great diligence and finish. This fact was particularly noticed by the delighted audience, who gave the whole of the artists and company rounds of applause at the end of the pretty and amusing story. Miss Lily Morris made a handsome and dashing Humpty, and immediately sprang into favour. Her song "A tiny seed of love." was joined in by her hearers, who demanded encores, while her other number, "I want you to see my girl," went with a swing that greatly tickled the ear. Miss Mabel Green was a charming principal girl, and in every way proved a success. She received a hearty greeting for her "Moonflower" song. A deal of the success of the pantomime will undoubtedly be due to the efforts of Mr. R. H. Douglass, who, in addition to holding the office of stage-manager, is the amusing King of Humpty Land. His quaint delivery and really funny antics kept everybody in shouts of laughter. An able assistant was Mr. Arthur Rigby (Queen), who gave us an uncommon kind of comic female, he succeeding in provoking merriment without the customary aid of a red nose. He was most amusing while acting as chairman at a children's dinner party, where he was interrupted by one of the little ones declaring herself to be a Suffragette. His song "Women, stick up for your rights," accompanied by some excellent patter, was a feature which found general acceptance. Mr. T. A. Shale deserved much praise for his good work as King Crumpet; Moon and Waters showed themselves particularly clever simultaneous dancers; Mr. Edward Thirlby did everything necessary as the Old Woman of the Shoe; Spot and Seth Whyte were a funny pair of Gollywogs; and Mr. G. W. Cockburn satisfactorily undertook the part of Twinklestar. As mentioned before, the scenery was superb. Mr. Stafford Hall has, in the course of many years, given to the stage some wonderful brush work, but on the present occasion he seems to have excelled himself. The picture of Rainbow Land presented a palace situated on a reflecting lake of golden brilliancy, while that depicting the city of Benares was perhaps the finest piece of work ever executed by the accomplished painter. With merely the assistance of two short side-cuts a lovely full stage view of a sunlit city sloping down to the Ganges was shown, and so realistically were the domes, temples, palaces, &c., put on the canvas, and so clearly did the 270 human figures stand out, many of them being grouped about a sacrificing ceremony, that one could almost believe he was looking down over a parapet upon a gorgeous Indian scene of real life. Mr. McKie is also to be complimented upon his picture of the "Shoe," which was tastefully surrounded by variegated foliage. Several specialities were introduced into the pantomime by the Victor Comedy Eight; the Eight Sunbeams danced gracefully; and Harding's electrical ballet called forth great applause. Mr. J. O. Shepherd (musical conductor) and Mr. Jullien H. Wilson supplied pretty and appropriate music. Mr. George Corney made some cunningly-constructed properties, his eggs particularly being works of art. That which was knocked off the wall parted into three portions, and from the yellow-coloured contents that poured in a most natural fashion upon the greensward emerged Humpty Dumpty; while another, which on opening revealed a couple of artists standing amidst scores of electric lights, fixed on the interior, was a fine sample of Mr. Corney's ingenuity. The costumes were designed by Edel, of Paris, and executed by Miss Hall, Mrs. Mitchell, and assistants at Mr. Robert Arthur's London depôt; the wigs came from Clarkson, London; armour by White and Co.; and mechanical effects by M. P. Sinnott and Harry Knott. In conclusion, Mr. Arthur Lawrence, the popular acting-manager of the theatre, deserves thanks for his assistance in placing the pantomime on such a complete and satisfactory footing.

"JACK AND THE BEANSTALK" AT LIVERPOOL.

Should the great success which attended last year's pantomime at the Liverpool Shakespeare be repeated this year, then all concerned will have no cause to complain. As far as can be judged from the initial production of *Jack and the Beanstalk*, submitted on Saturday afternoon last by Mr. B. Steyne for Mr. Tom B. Davis, who has a working arrangement with Mr. Wentworth Croke, there is every promise that public patronage will be as great as twelve months ago. The book follows the old story of Jack selling his mother's cow for a handful of beans, the growing of the wonderful stalk, and the hero's adventures in Giant Land. The opening scene represents the village of Arcadee, a brilliant piece of colouring, from the brush of Mr. Ernest Howard. Here the Dame (Mr. Dan Crawley) gets early to work, and makes his audience shriek with laughter by reason of his antics with the Cow (Griffiths Bros.). The noted comedian takes great liberties with the text, pouring in shoals of witticisms and patter, much to the improvement of the pantomime. He alone promises to make it "go." Jack (played with exquisite touch by Miss Ada Reeve) helps with the fun, which is also contributed to by Mr. Arthur Poole, a most humorous King. The next big scene is the Fairground, and Mr. Thomas Holmes, the resident artist, deserves great praise for this piece of work, the Giant's Kitchen being another worthy specimen of his efforts. At this juncture the Bros. Griffiths introduced a burlesque wrestling match that convulsed the audience, and after Jack had disposed of the cow, which takes the parting in a sorrowful manner, he is transported to the land where the beans, watered by fairy hands, are seen growing. The third scenic artist engaged on the pantomime, Mr. W. R. Young, here shows several picturesque cloths which redound to his credit. At the rear are the gates leading to Giant Land, and Jack, dressed in shining silvery armour, strikes these with his sword, whereupon they burst open, and are outlined with many electric lights. The effect is fascinating. Next comes the Giant's Library, where a pretty scene is shown as Jack, by means of a magic wand given to him by his guardian fairy, releases the giant's prisoners, who turn out to be the familiar nursery characters. This episode delighted the younger members of the audience. Jack then slays the giant, and the closing scene, where he and the Princess are reunited, is a charming interior from the brush of Mr. Stafford Hall. A striking and pretty finish to the pantomime is the lowering from the flies of an immense white horseshoe, bearing in electric lights the wish "Good luck for 1909." The three principal artists to whom reference has been made were well supported by others of lesser standing in the cast. Miss Florence Imeson looked pretty as the Princess, and received a warm welcome for her singing of "The old French bonnet," and her dainty dancing; Miss Jessie Lonnen as Jack's sister was graceful and bright; Mr. Edwin Adeler made the Duchess a really amusing character, and was well received for his song, "There's a sun still shining in the sky"; Mr. Bobbie Allandale pleased everybody with his Prince, his capital voice being heard to advantage in several numbers, particularly "A tiny seed of love" and "L.S.D."; Mr. Laurie De Frece made the most of the humorous Miffins, the major-domo; the minor rôle of the Giant was satisfactorily undertaken by Mr. Jack East; Griffin and Ardell came in very usefully as knockabouts; and Miss Marie Vere was an imposing Fairy Queen, while her allotted songs were rendered in good style. Miss Reeve wore some charming dresses, and her vivacity and winning grace gave infinite pleasure. Among her songs were "Goo Goo Land," "Have you got another girl at home like Mary?" "Find the man," "I don't care if there's a girl there," and "When Richard the First was King." The able little artist came in for a rousing reception. Mr. Arthur Poole gave the "Alphabet" ditty with great gusto, and this number is likely to be a favourite with the children, who received it with evident pleasure. Special mention should be made of the really lovely dresses worn by the numerous companies of pretty girls, the blending of the colours being exceedingly delightful. Various specialities were brought into the pantomime. The Tiller Troupe of dancers, with clowns' faces behind, made an impression; Mr. Laurie de Frece and Miss Florence Lascelles gave the dance of the Apaches; and Griffin and Ardell went through some clever acrobatic tumbling. The dresses were provided by Llandoff and Co., Paris, Obronski and Co., and Elkan Bros., London; properties by L. Bateman; processions and ballets arranged by E. T. Steyne and Minnie Smith; and the incidental and other music by Leonard Hornsey and Guy Jones. There is little doubt that the present Shakespeare pantomime will prove as successful as any of the twenty that have preceded it, all of which, by the way, have been superintended by the present esteemed manager, Mr. John Gaffney.

"ALICE" IN MANCHESTER.

Mr. William Greet's production of *Alice in Wonderland*, followed by *Through the Looking-glass*, took place at the Gaiety Theatre, Manchester, on the afternoon of Saturday, Dec. 26, before a well-filled house. It is meant to run through a long succession of matinées, and if the initial audience's enthusiastic appreciation is a guide to its prospects with the playgoers, young and old, for whom it is intended, there is no need to fear for its success. It enjoys with *Peter Pan* the distinction of affording unalloyed pleasure to those (and they are many) who delight in those unsophisticated joys of youth which are awakened by the genius of imagination. Its humour is simple enough for the young, yet also subtle enough for their elders. It is the kind of play that divests the parent of his superiority of outlook and brings him consciously and willingly to the acceptable level of the child. Always fresh and welcome, with its gryphon, its mock turtle, its mad hatter and Cheshire cat, its animated playing-cards and chessmen, and all the rest of its quaintly-conceived *personæ*, it is a welcome relief from the usual round of entertainment, and it is something to be thankful for that such charming plays exist at all.

Mr. William Greet has been fortunate in being able to secure Miss Maidie Andrews for the part of Alice, in which she appeared at the Apollo Theatre last Christmas. A more realistic exponent it would be hard to conceive. Natural, unassuming, and of a pleasing personality, every movement and every intonation are those of a child in veritable wonderland. Many clever young people are in the cast beside, however, and great praise is due in particular to Miss Ivy Sawyer, first as the Dormouse and afterwards as the Cornflower, and to Miss Florrie Bond as an especially graceful and engaging Cheshire Cat. Mr. Frank Collins as the Mad Hatter has opportunities which he knows how to avail himself of, and not a single point of his humour is lost on the audience; while Mr. Percy Davidson makes a really comic figure of the Mock Turtle. Among others, Mr. Percy Favelle is good as the Gryphon, and in the second act a remarkably smart and humorous Gollywog dance is given in that rôle by Mr. Will Bishop, jun. Between the first part and the second animated pictures by Jury's Bioscope are shown.

The music, which is always tuneful and appropriate, is by Walter Slaughter, and Mr. Will Bishop has arranged the dances and produced the play.

"GOODY TWO SHOES" AT MANCHESTER.

By arrangement with the United Theatres Co., Mr. F. W. Wyndham (assisted by Mr. Sidney Watson) produced a new and original version of *Goody Two Shoes* at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, on Wednesday, Dec. 23. The splendid record of this theatre for magnificence of setting and excellence of cast has been always an assurance to the public of a really good show, and a big audience was present on the opening night to give the pantomime a start upon what is sure to prove a successful career. The book, written expressly by J. Hickory Wood, contains interesting variations of the story of Goody, the Baron's adopted daughter, whose fortunes and personal temper are controlled by the good fairy and the bad by virtue of the miraculous properties of the shoes; but, of course, the good fairy triumphs in the end, with the usual pleasing results, and (equally of course) the development of the story is never allowed to obtrude itself to the exclusion of the particular kind of entertainment one looks for in pantomime, though it is appreciably there for cohesion, like the links in a chain.

The scenery has been painted by Messrs. T. F. Dunn, T. Holmes, W. Glover, and Stafford Hall, nine of the twelves scenes being due to the first-named. Of these, the County Fair, containing all the attractions of a showground, with a fine perspective, is a highly effective "set" for comedy; while as an example of woodland beauty, the Forest scene, at the opening of the second part, is full of extraordinary charm. Among other striking sets are The Baron's Armoury and The Widow's Reception (the latter by Stafford Hall), while not one fails short in any respect of the quality demanded by first-class pantomime. As for the costumes, it needs an effort of memory to recall anything quite so gorgeous and tasteful. The incidental music, too, which has been selected, composed, and arranged by Alfred Carpenter, is invariably cheerful and inspiriting.

In the very centre of the story figures Miss Hylda Dugdale as Goody Two Shoes, and she plays the part with a charming appreciation of the author's ideas. Incidentally she sings "Antonio" with great success, and renders very prettily a dainty "Rainbow" scena. In close touch with her comes Prince Spritely, in a very becoming disguise, which is not less splendid in its way than the subsequent trappings of his identity, and this attractive personage is embodied by Miss May Beatty, who is in every way well equipped for the requirements of a dashing principal boy. Some of the best songs of the evening are allotted to her, these being "A White Man," "A tiny seed of love," and "Bombardier." Mr. Mark Sheridan is at the head of the fun-makers as Baron de Boots, one of the Old Nobility, and this sterling comedian may always be depended on for a brisk and resourceful entertainment. His impersonation of the Baron is quite in his best style, and it embraces at least one speciality interlude which is worth recording, namely, his endeavour to obtain apartments as a seedy actor at the door of Widow Leather's residential shoe. Among his songs, one on the peculiarities of "Manchester" is especially clever and successful, and he has a good number also in "I don't care if there's a girl there." His principal supporters are the Brothers Egbert (Seth and Albert), whose eccentricities as a couple of the unemployed are provocative of considerable amusement. Much of their clever speciality work is embodied in the action, and they are throughout an appreciable asset of the show. Mr. Harry Conlin is also much to be commended for his smart and busy work as Widow Leather, which is comic without being exaggerated out of reason, and he scores a distinct success in his song entitled "My love." Miss Lizzie St. Quinten as Malvolia, the bad fairy, and Miss Lilian Hewitson as Claribelle, the good fairy, are vocally and histrionically good; Miss Amy Singleton as the Baron's second wife works hard and satisfactorily in a rôle not often seen in pantomime (it is really a "straight" one); and opportunities to shine are afforded also to Miss Marie Ashton as Rupert, the Baron's eldest son, and Miss Mabel Hirst as Margery, the Widow's eldest daughter, of whom the latter is furnished with a song that quite took the fancy of the house on the opening night—"If you've got another girl like Mary." Here, it will be seen, are the materials for a good run, especially when are added to them the various picturesque and vocal achievements of a well-trained chorus and a finely-organised ballet, the latter including some very pretty spectacles by children.

"HUMPTY DUMPTY" AT MIDDLESBROUGH.

The gorgeous pantomime, *Humpty Dumpty*, which was produced for the first time on Christmas Night, is steadily winning its way to popular favour. Mr. J. F. Elliston is once again responsible for its production, and he is to be congratulated on its success. The inventor and writer of the pantomime, Mr. John Hickory Wood, is a past-master in the art, having been responsible for several Drury Lane successes, and in the adventures of Humpty Dumpty he has found a story exactly to his taste. His efforts have been ably seconded by Mr. Carlile Vernon, whose catchy music is of popular type. There is some really beautiful scenery, the various sets representing The Home of Neptune, The Red Coral Grotto, and the White Coral Grotto being particularly fine. The final scene, The Grand Hall in the King's Castle, is absolutely bewildering in its magnificence. The costumes, specially designed by A. Comelli and Alias, are very becoming, and there are some clever mechanical effects by Mr. F. W. Davies. Miss Florence Wix as Rudolph, a harlequin, otherwise Lord Gay, makes a charming principal boy, and quickly wins the hearts of all. She is ably supported by Miss Dolly Ross, who, as Prince Sprightly, the King's son, has a pleasing presence. Miss Audrey Esmonde is the leading lady, and as Princess Aurora, the King's daughter, she sings and dances with charming vivacity. She has a delightful companion in the person of Miss Nell Carmichael, who, as Cherry, proves very winsome. Miss Emilie Warner is a picturesque Fairy Queen. Much rollicking humour is introduced into the story by Mr. George Danvers, who plays the title-rôle with rare skill; while Mr. George Campbell as Martha, his mother, gives a most comical interpretation, the drolleries of these artists evoking roars of laughter. Mr. Rex Kempton is exceedingly good as Bison Bob, a circus proprietor; and the Lecardo Brothers, as Brick and Brack, cause endless amusement by their acrobatic eccentricities. Mr. Willie Black gives a fine impersonation of the part of King Solumn. There is an excellent ballet, and the Walmsley Troupe of dancers give a clever exhibition. The Quality Quartette are responsible for some good singing.

"ALADDIN" AT NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Without doubt the twelfth pantomime under the Robert Arthur régime at the popular Theatre Royal is an unqualified success, as the plaudits of a crowded audience testified on Boxing night. This year's *Aladdin* is a happy combination of fun and frolic, magnificent scenery, beautiful costumes, and splendid choral effects, admirably supported by the augmented orchestra under the able bâton of Mr. George F. Ford. The story as adapted by Mr. Frank Dix adheres pretty closely to the familiar tale of Aladdin's adventures with his wonderful lamp, the comedy being worked in to suit the diverse talents of the company under engagement, whilst the fairy tale proper is treated with a touch of lightness that cannot fail to please. First of the principals to be introduced was Mr. Horace Lane as the Vizier, and he was closely followed by Messrs. Regan and Ryan, the policemen, who danced with comic effect. Mr. Malcolm Scott, the Widow Twankey, had a cordial reception, and his dissertation on "Geography" was full of satirical hits. Miss Violet Lloyd, the vivacious Aladdin, rendered the song "Saturday afternoon" with a keen sense of humour; and Miss Maud Thorne, the Princess, scored with "Sue, Sue, Sue." Other notable items were the patter and song "I love dancing," by Happy Fanny Fields, who kept the house in laughter whenever she was on the stage. A ballet of lanterns brought a lengthy scene to a picturesque close. In the Exterior of the Cave Mr. Harry Tate as Abanazar had the house with him in his "Diamonds" song. Miss Violet Lloyd's rendering of "The tiny seed of love" gained a deserved encore. The Home of Jewels, one of Mr. Stafford Hall's interiors, was a notable specimen of stage-management, the discovery, with gradual growth of light, of groups of exquisitely attired dancers being a triumph. A *pas seul* in old-fashioned ballet style by Miss Doris Dean that was heartily applauded terminated the first part.

The second half is laid in Pekin, where Happy Fanny Fields convulsed the audience with her picture post card song and amusing business with the occupant of a box, after which Mr. Harry Tate's very funny mimicry of Mr. George Robey made way for Mr. Tate's droll *Golfing* sketch, which kept the audience in roars of laughter. A song with a chorus for Mr. Harry Claff, the Emperor, had two encores, "Monte Carlo" being a number that this practised vocalist did every justice to. Mr. Malcom Scott's skits on the Directoire dress and the Salome dance aroused general amusement, and success was scored by Miss Violet Lloyd with "The White Man" song and Miss Florence Hersee's dance to the "Teddy Bear's Picnic" music. "Mrs. Twankey's Laundry" introduced more fun, for which Mr. Malcolm Scott was chiefly responsible. Miss Fields' "Drums" song and patter went as well as anything she had done; a topical song was rendered by Mr. Lane, and Mr. Harry Tate's *Motoring* act proved to be one of the most diverting features of the evening. A beautiful stage picture, The Fairy Forge, winds up a pantomime which may be placed amongst Mr. Arthur's greatest successes.

"HUMPTY-DUMPTY" AT NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

The pantomime season was inaugurated on Christmas Eve, when in the Tyne Theatre, Newcastle, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, the lessees, presented their twenty-sixth annual pantomime, *Humpty-Dumpty*. The book is written expressly for this theatre by Mr. J. Hickory Wood, and was produced under the personal direction of Mr. F. W. Wyndham, assisted by Mr. John J. Lloyd. Mr. Hickory Wood has had to construct a story of his own for this annual. The old nursery legend would not serve, so with the aid of the Fairy Queen he brings Humpty-Dumpty back to life again, after the great fall from the wall, and endows him with a misshapen human figure. Humpty-Dumpty is given the power of having every wish gratified, but must finish with a truly unselfish wish, otherwise he is doomed. Thus he has all the best of the handicap for the hand of the Princess Aurora, King Solumm's daughter. This melancholy old ruler has promised his daughter's hand to anyone who shall make him laugh, and here the various comedians, in their different rôles, try their luck in vain, but Humpty-Dumpty, with his malicious power, is successful. The Princess, however, refuses, and the King, by way of solving the difficulty, tells how he has lost a ring, and promises that the finder, whoever he may be, shall wed the Princess. The fun and merriment continue as the various suitors proceed in their search for the ring, and in the end Humpty-Dumpty, who has found the trinket, gives way, and wishes the Princess and her lover "a silver wedding, a golden wedding, and a diamond wedding," and by this display of unselfishness saves himself from destruction.

Many of the scenes are gorgeously beautiful. The Throne Room, which ends the first part of the pantomime, with its glitter of gold and jewels, and the final picture, blazing with light and colour, elicit unstinted admiration. The costumes are equally effective. The principals are all excellent. Mr. George Elliston is the Humpty Dumpty, and endows the part with quaint humour. The old woman of pantomime is ably impersonated by J. E. Nightingale, and King Solumm by Shaun Glenville, both comedians provoking laughter with their amusing business. "Carlton," the Bison Bob, is a skilful conjurer; and Arthur Prince, the clever ventriloquist, is conspicuous all through the pantomime. Jock Walker is a Scotch comedian of undeniable quality. Niels W. Gade, the Spirit of Ambition, has a fine voice, and uses it admirably. Miss Rhoda Gordon, as Cherry, a pierrette, sings a couple of songs charmingly; Miss I. Coley is a captivating Prince Spritely; and Miss Evelyn Hope is a dainty Claribel. Miss Lily Iris makes a very "fetching" principal boy, and keeps the audience in the highest spirits. Miss Ida Rene acts the principal girl with sweetness and grace, her remarkable dancing and excellent singing winning all hearts. The Lottie Stone troupe of dancers, and the principal dancer, Miss Violet Hope, merit unstinted praise, and commendation must also be extended to Mr. John J. Lloyd, who has assisted Mr. Wyndham in the production; to Messrs. E. H. Ryan, William Glover, Gordon Dunn, and T. F. Dunn for the beautiful scenery; to Mr. E. J. Rogers for the music; and to Mons Comelli and M. Aljas for the beautiful costumes and designs.

"ALADDIN" AT NOTTINGHAM.

The story of Aladdin and his wonderful lamp is always a safe foundation for a gorgeous pantomime. In the present instance the book is from the pen of Mr. J. Hickory Wood, which fact is sufficient guarantee of its superior quality. With such a foundation and scaffolding, a clever set of artists, carefully selected by Mr. J. F. Elliston, produce a pantomime at the Grand Theatre which is to all appearances going to prove a gigantic

success, judged by its reception at its first two shows. The story is followed in the conventional style sufficiently to link together a more or less coherent plot. The scenes are nine in number, the first (Market Place in Pekin) and the last (Porcelain Palace) being especially noticeable where all are good. The music is very good, and its execution and selection reflect great credit upon the conductor, Mr. Arthur Braddock, who also, in conjunction with Mme. Phasey, has very carefully trained a large and successful chorus and ballet. Amongst other specialities should be mentioned "the wonderful bubble fountain." Its mechanism is concealed, but its effect is to produce a veritable fountain of iridescent soap-bubbles, which float about in the limelight with most charming results. After all, however, the artists are looked to most of all by the audiences, and here one can allot nothing but unstinted praise. Miss Mabel Carr makes a fine Aladdin, and will prove not only "his mother's joy" as per the bill, but also the joy of the houses, who readily open their hearts to anyone who secures their approval as Miss Carr has done. The Princess Badroulbadour is found in the winsome person of Miss Molly Wynne, whose charming manner and graceful style will doubtless make her a popular favourite. The second boy and girl, Miss Gertrude Lytton and Miss Maud Rayne, are above the average, and sing and dance themselves through the play in a very satisfactory manner. The fun is fast and furious, and it is difficult to say who squeezes the most out of his or her part in this department. Miss Elsie Roby is funny throughout, and in her speciality turns convulses the house with laughter; whilst Mr. William Fullbrook secures the heartiest of receptions every time he shows himself upon the stage. The Dame part is undertaken by Mr. Tom Kelso, who misses no single opportunity of getting his points; and Mr. George Fearnley works hard as the Grand Vizier. Even this array has not exhausted the laughter-making talent of the company. Like the best wine, reserved till the end, mention must be specially made now of Burley and Burley. Many comedy duo artists have appeared in Grand pantomimes from year to year, but no pair yet in which genuine humour was more highly developed than in Burley and Burley, who work real hard for the success they achieve and undoubtedly deserve. Miss Edie Graham as Nicee has a part for which she is amply capable; and the Genie of the Ring and Spirit of the Lamp are ably represented respectively by Miss Jessie Leslie and Mr. Fred Leglare. Some excellent special dancing is provided by the Walmsley Sextette and by Mr. Harris Coonie. The number of catchy songs in the pantomime is somewhat limited, but amongst them, "Hello, little boy," by Miss Molly Wynne, "A little wooden hut in Norway," by Miss Gertrude Lytton, and "She sells sea shells," by Mr. Wm. Fullbrook, have decidedly taken the popular fancy, and the quasi-topical "A White Man" is also likely to be a winner. As before mentioned, the chorus is large and good, and the whole of the production bespeaks hard work, and to Mr. Lewis Leslie and Mr. C. Fielding-Smith, who are respectively manager and acting-manager for Mr. J. F. Elliston, the greatest of praise is due. The whole performance passed off without a hitch, and Mr. Harry Upton, the genial manager of the Grand, no doubt congratulates himself, and with every right, upon another pantomime success at this popular house.

"CINDERELLA" AT NOTTINGHAM.

The twelfth annual of Mr. Robert Arthur was launched on Boxing Night at the Theatre Royal, Nottingham, to the accompaniment of hearty laughter and the greatest appreciation of the really excellent fare provided. Naturally there must follow judicious pruning, and alterations here and there, but, generally speaking, the pantomime is well equipped, and everything points to an admirable production. Mr. Frank Dix has been again requisitioned for the "book," and the oft-told tale of "Cinderella" is charmingly treated by this gifted author. He is a past-master in the art, and has given a thoroughly sound groundwork on which the artists will be enabled to build up a huge pile of fun and frolic. Described as an operatic production, we can safely say that it fully deserves the appellation. Mr. Jullien H. Wilson and Mr. John Armstrong (the musical conductor of the theatre) have provided a delightful collection of haunting refrains, rousing choruses, and catchy melodies. The orchestration is to be specially commended, and some of the vocal numbers are of a much higher standard than those usually associated with pantomime productions. The scenic arrangements are a pronounced success, as can only be expected from the brush of that famous artist, Mr. J. Fowler Hogg. The Merry Wild Woods makes a delightful pastoral set, where the volatile villagers, in picturesque costumes, disport themselves, and forms the usual opportunity for introducing all the principal characters. Cinderella (Miss Madge Vincent) acts as the good Samaritan to an old woman, who eventually turns out to be her fairy godmother. It is here she first meets the Prince (who has assumed the guise of his valet) and treats the audience to a pretty rendering of the song "Carnation." Dandini (Miss Marie Empress) scores heavily with the rousing "Bombardier," and the Prince (Miss Cressie Leonard) captivates the whole house with her vocalism in "Won't you come to Connemara?" There is a capital finale, in which the chorus give early evidence of their power and effectiveness. The Baron's Picture Gallery scene enables those inimitable comedians, Alexandre and Hughes, to exploit their humorous cross-talk and enliven the proceedings with selections on the guitar. Miss May Lillian Levey as one of the Ugly Sisters helps matters along musically by a capital song entitled "Eva," and the receipt of the Prince's invitation to the ball gives rise to much comical fooling.

The Kitchen scene, in which the scenic artist displays some of his best detail work, is the centre of uproarious fun. Alexandre and Hughes are again the recipients of hearty commendation for some excellent concertina duets, and a plaintive song by Cinderella, "Nobody loves me," brings tumultuous applause. The Prince and Cinderella are here associated in a melodious duet, "A tiny seed of love," and the appearance of the Fairy Godmother brings us to Scene 4, the Fairy Boudoir. The harmonious blending of colour in white, gold, and heliotrope, with the handsome and effective dresses, make a truly gorgeous show, and the appearance of Cinderella's carriage, drawn by four tiny black ponies, completes the magnificent spectacle. Act II. opens in the Ball Room, and the guests are discovered dancing a minuet. Dandini's song "Have you got another girl like Mary?" is given in spirited style, and the Prince adds to his (or her) laurels with a delicious rendering of the coon song, "Sue." Mr. Harry Brayne submits a cleverly-written skit on the British workman, and the comedians make matters lively for everybody. The sudden darkening of the stage as the clock strikes twelve and the rapid flight of Cinderella are smart pieces of stagecraft. The Exterior of the Baron's Mansion provides an excellent opportunity for the Baroness (Mr. Johnnie Schofield), and his ditty "Let me sing," with its accompanying "business," provides endless amusement and uproarious mirth. The Baron's Hall is used for the entry of the Prince to discover if Cinderella was really at the ball, and to make the proclamation that whoever could wear the silver slipper found at the ball should be the Prince's bride. The trial of the shoe takes place at the Prince's Garden, a strikingly handsome scheme in white and pink. Cinderella's triumph and a lovely floral ballet brings to an end one of the most beautiful and merry pantomimes ever produced here. Miss Cressie Leonard is a most captivating exponent of the Prince, her acting and vocalism being altogether delightful, and we confidently predict for her a huge success. The Cinderella of Miss Madge Vincent is another charming piece of work, and her winsomeness is quite an attractive feature. Miss Marie Empress is full of life and movement in her portraiture of Dandini; as the Fairy Godmother Miss Alice Tremayne makes an excellent impression, and her vocalism is not the least enjoyable part of her performance; Miss May Lillian Levey and Mr. Harry Brayne make a capital pair as the Ugly Sisters, and their drolleries are abundantly rewarded; Mr. Johnnie Schofield cuts a quaint figure as the Baroness, and scores heavily in his volatile humour; no more whimsical pair of comedians could be imagined than Alexander and Hughes, and the fun goes fast and furious while they occupy the stage; Mr. Walter Uridge, a broker's man, and Mr. Stanley Maude, a footman, do well in their respective parts; the Eight Madeira Girls dance prettily; and the band adds a share to the success under the bâton of Mr. John Armstrong. The stage-manager, Mr. Tom Blacklock, is to be heartily congratulated on the excellent results of his energy, and to the acting-manager of the theatre, Mr. Howard Finney, must be accorded a large amount of praise for his untiring zeal and urbanity, both before and behind the curtain.

"CINDERELLA" AT PLYMOUTH.

Judging from the reception accorded on Saturday, *Cinderella* should easily prove the most popular Plymouth pantomime presentation. Mr. Fred Bowyer, who is responsible for the book, has adhered to the main features of the legend with commendable accuracy, the more modern and topical matters being so interwoven as not to affect the general trend of the story. The opening scene, In Fairyland, supplies a very pretty picture, in which the attractive costumes are materially set off by a judicious manipulation of the lights. Old London, a picturesque stage realisation of the metropolis in the spacious days of the fifteenth century, is soon followed by one of the prettiest scenes imaginable, In the Woods. We here see a herd of live deer quietly grazing in a cool-looking and leafy glade. A babbling brook which comes rioting down adds greatly to the *vraisemblance* of a delightful woodland. Cinderella's coach is drawn by four pretty ponies; and in the Ball Room the different principals appear in some gorgeous costumes, and the latest songs are introduced. The final scene is The Palace of the Prince, whose retinue wear strikingly pretty dresses.

Miss Maisie Ellinger makes a dashing principal boy, and quickly has the whole house with her in the famous number, "Oh, oh, Antonio." She also scores in the more serious "White Man." Miss Lucie Caine as Cinderella has a part to which her daintiness and charm are particularly well adapted; Miss Nellie Sheffield, an old Plymouth favourite, as Dandini had a regular West Country welcome on making her reappearance. Her two songs were both rewarded with clamorous encores. Mr. W. H. Kirby as Peter Pepper does yeoman service on the comic side; and Miss Louie Tinsley as Phyllis and Miss Denny Fitzherbert as Zena strike out an original line as the ugly sisters, their most diverting number being "Millionaires." Special tribute is due to Mr. E. Woodville for the particularly tuneful music for which he is responsible.

"ROBINSON CRUSOE" AT SALTLEY.

Robinson Crusoe here is the clever production of Miss Lena Stanton and Mr. Harry Josephs, and is ably equipped to stay the three weeks allotted by the management. A clever principal boy in Miss Stanton, smart comedians, a well-attired and good-looking chorus, and quite adequate scenery, are the ingredients, and the public on Boxing Day were well pleased with the whole. The first scene opens in Davy Jones's Locker, where Will Atkins is seeking Davy Jones's aid to destroy his rival in love with Polly Perkins. This Will Atkins is a cunning but droll rascal, played by Mr. Melville Page, and in Scene 2, the Port of Hull, he gets in a large amount of fun, aided by Mr. Sydney Dean as Mrs. Crusoe, the Brothers Ray as McCross and McBones, and Little Keeno, who, as Sunny Jim Crusoe, pervades the pantomime with his clever witticisms. Here, Miss Lena Stanton as Robinson rescues Polly Perkins (Miss Gertie Lovedale) from the clutches of Will Atkins, and the fun increases rapidly. Captain Billee Taylor (Miss Marie Gerard) sings "I'm afraid to come home in the dark" to plentiful applause; and a ditty from Mrs. Crusoe, "Kate, Kate," fetches much laughter for Mr. Melville Page's efforts. Then Little Keeno's song, "This is the job for me" proved very popular, with a dance to succeed. Will Atkins, as a "pirate landlord," again creates mirth with his efforts to evict Mrs. Crusoe from her home; and Miss Gertie Lovedale as Polly sings "I want to be among the boys," with a joyous style that quite captivates. Moreover, she speaks well and distinctly in her rôle. Then Miss Lena Stanton, who really makes a fine-looking, bonny hero, sings with a fresh and strong voice, "Antonio," with "effects," and the effect was very good. Here, Polly disguises herself as a boy, and, love being blind, is not recognised by her lover Robinson, and then we find all aboard the Lucky Lobster. A most amusing topical quartette for the comedians has preceded this, entitled "Bread and Jam"; and now the Captain (Miss Marie Gerard), who is exceedingly vivacious and good-looking, sings "When the hills are white with heather," wherein she shows she can be sympathetic as well as spirited. She also sings "I want you to see my girl" successfully. The Brothers Ray contribute a clever comedy and trick-cycling act in this scene, and Will Atkins' plot to sink the ship having succeeded, we next see Crusoe on the raft. A song for the Fairy Britannia (Miss Rene Willoughby), entitled "Love," opens the second half, on the Island of Palms, and then appears Friday (Mr. E. Floyd-Gwyne), the humour of the pantomime being much increased by this smart representative. Miss Stanton, the hero, here sings "Sue, Sue, my cinnamon Sue," with fine power and charm as well; and the company join in "A Jubilee To-day," which proves another exhilarant. In Scene 8, Another Part of the Island, Mr. Sydney Dean as Mrs. Crusoe shows much humour in his treatment of the song "The Directoire dress"; and in the "hut" Miss Stanton sings with fine dramatic effect in the scena, "Red Wing." The Interior of the Isle of Palms is another notable scene, and Mr. Melville Page's song as Will Atkins, "Excelsior, muddled up," contributes to the humour of it. Polly, rehabilitated in the dress of her own charming sex, sings with a good voice and expression, "Ah, do come home," and Little Keeno as Jimmy Crusoe evokes roars of laughter with his next effort, "To-ro-li-to-rol-lay." Crusoe, being rescued by a crew of British tars from the Cannibal King, he, together with Polly, joins in the duet, "Esau, Esau, take me on the see-saw," which is illustrated with "effects," and proves decidedly popular. In Scene 12, which is a Palace scene of much beauty, the Leopold Legiere troupe of acrobats perform some startling feats, and Little Keeno gives some remarkable lifelike imitations of popular performers, which, with the ensemble, bring the pantomime to a very successful conclusion, and, amid great plaudits, the Alhambra Girls, vocalists and dancers, lead the chorus in their picturesque groupings and dancing. The pantomime is written, as well as produced, by Mr. Harry Josephs; Mr. Ray M. Lancaster's musical arrangements are perfect; the scenery is greatly to the credit of Mr. R. P. Smith; and the costumes are by M. Delavanti, W. Kennedy, and assistants.

"GOODY TWO SHOES" AT SHEFFIELD.

If the walls of the Theatre Royal, Sheffield, could speak, what a tale they could tell of the pantomimic glories seen on its historic boards during the 135 years of its eventful existence! Countless happy children have had their first and never-to-be-forgotten peep at the enchanted realms of the fairies here, and made the rafters ring with the heavenly music of their gladsome voices. The material part of a theatre, like men and women, grows old, but the spirit of the playhouse is ever-youthful, and Boxing Day saw boxes, stalls, pit, and gallery packed with the accustomed crowd of expectant sightseers, when, after a lively mélange of popular songs by Mr. Dean and his merry men, the curtain went up on Mr. John Hart's third Royal annual, *Goody Two Shoes*, which, in point of scenic magnificence, costly and artistic dresses, and well-arranged ballets, is quite up to the high standard of Mr. Hart's productions at the Lyceum. The first performance on Christmas Eve went very well, and to those who were present it was quite evident that when the artists had "got into their stride," the pantomime would be as popular for its fun and drollery as it is already notable for the exquisite beauty of its *mise-en-scène*. Mr. Hart's refined taste in the matter of sartorial display is known to all lovers of this very important department of the theatre, and the costumes of the principals, chorus, ballet, and children, designed by the talented Comelli, are all of the most charming design, and even to the untrained perception of the "mere man" it is quite obvious that the material and trimmings are of the most costly, as they are of the richest texture. The hats are triumphs of the millinery ateliers, and many of the "confections" worn by the ladies of the company are positive dreams of beauty. As Miss Ethel Irving remarked, "draw the women to the play and the men will follow on," so for one reason only the Theatre Royal pantomime is bound to have a good run, as all the women in the district will want to feast their eyes on these chaste productions of the designer and the costumier's art. Elaborate scenery is also one of the special features of Mr. Hart's annual. Conventional pantomime "slap-dash" will not do for his fastidious taste, and if he has any special penchant it appears to lie in the direction of Arcadian landscapes and Watteau effects. Mr. D. G. Hall and his talented "brethren of the brush" have, as usual, been given every encouragement, and it is no mere figure of speech to say that they have surpassed themselves in their fine examples of the scenic artist's delightful craft put on the Royal stage this season. The story of *Goody Two Shoes* is rather a thin one, but Mr. J. Hickory Wood, the author of the libretto, has done his best to infuse dramatic interest in the nefarious doings of the Mephistopheles-like demon Spite, whose base designs on the happiness of the Prince Sprightly and his pretty sweetheart are ultimately frustrated by the fairy power of Fortuna. The attraction of the annual, from an acting point of view, will be found in the bits of comedy introduced, and the vivacious little interludes, savouring of Offenbachian opera-bouffe, which are deftly worked into the main fabric of the play. Most of the favourite comic songs and catchy ditties have been secured, and the purely music-hall business puts the proper amount of exhilaration into the whole without any suggestion of being "out of the picture." The annual starts in the time-honoured and good old fashion, with a demon scene, The Magic Workshop, after which comes the beautiful Village of Anywhere, with its charming park-like surroundings and all the soothing characteristics of a trim and well-ordered English hamlet. There is the usual rustic dance, and most of the characters are introduced. Near the Forest is a lovely landscape cloth, with a fine view of an old castle standing in relief against a well-painted background of purple hills and a splendid sky. The Widow's Shoe is a big, built-up scene, in which much practical fun is provided, also special features, including a very laughable racing burlesque, with a noble sportsman, who "rides to win," *à la* Mr. Harry Tate. After a pretty scenic representation, with fine lighting effects, of "Sunrise," the most novel and exquisite set scene of the pantomime is revealed. This is called The Butterflies' Ball, and is what may be termed an edition de luxe of the old transformation scene, minus the "rises and sinks." The general impression produced by the picture is that of a gigantic valentine, with a never-ending vista of delicate filigree work, with exquisitely-coloured tracery of flowers fading by imperceptible graduations into a lovely sky of turquoise blue. It is a picture inspired by the best traditions of the Telbin school, full of poetic fancy, correct drawing, and harmonious colouring. The dawn gives place to the full light of a summer's day, the stage is flooded with light, and from flowery avenues on either side glide a multitude of girls and children, attired in resplendent costumes with gossamer wings, representing the many coloured varieties of the butterfly. After a graceful dance, a tableau is formed, and a gigantic butterfly descends, formed of hundreds of coloured electric lights. The second part of the annual begins in the cool and restful seclusion of A Woodland Glade, whose subdued tones prepare the eyes of the spectator for the dazzling white and gold splendours of The Widow's Mansion. This set extends to the back wall of the theatre, and it is a triumph of architectural detail and correct perspective. Here come the widow's guests attired *à la* Watteau, and deporting themselves with the courtly grace and delicious insouciance of the merry throng in a Boucher picture. An elegant Pompadour ballet is introduced here, and a bright touch of gaudy colour is added to the picture by the lively antics of children made up as clowns, pantaloons, columbines, harlequins, zanies, scaramouches, punchinellos, and, of course, the irrepressible pierrot. The final spectacular scene is the Prince's Flower Garden, with well-designed and solid-looking terraces and steps flanking a part of the Royal château. A good all-round company has been secured, the title-rôle being sustained by the local favourite, Miss Sylvia May, who looks dainty and bewitching as the sylvan beauty who, like Cinderella, captures a prince for a husband. Miss May sings acceptably, and her manner and enunciation are marked by grace and refinement. Miss Olive Crellin is the elegant and handsome representative of the gallant young Prince. She looked the ideal hero of the fairy story-books, and she acted and sang in a bright and vivacious way that soon secured her the favour of the house on Boxing Day. In Miss Irene Verona many Sheffielders welcomed an old favourite of comic opera fame. Miss Verona brought the well-trained skill and distinction of the able and experienced artist to bear on the part of the Baroness. Miss Daisy Stratton acts well and looks charming as Marjorie, and her catchy songs and graceful dances were enthusiastically applauded. Miss Lillie Howard was a tall, handsome, and tuneful Fairy Fortuna; and Miss Madge Quest looked smart as Rupert. Mr. Frank Calvert as the Baron was full of resource, and he adopted several disguises with mirth-provoking effect. Mr. Jack Pleasants followed his characteristic methods as the simple youth, Jack, and his comic songs were very cordially received by his many local admirers. Mr. Marriott Edgar's Widow Nibblett was a clever character-sketch, caricatured just sufficiently for pantomime purpose, full of quiet drollery and free from anything offensive. Mr. Edgar has the good fortune to sing the popular song "Oh, oh, Antonio!" Mr. Fred Hobbs makes a very effective Demon Spite, and the Brothers Valdo cause much amusement as the Bull. The ballet has been trained by Mme. Louie; Mr. Henry Dean occupies his old post at the conductor's desk; and the stage is carefully overseered by Mr. Ivan Capell (assisted by Mr. Finn Doyle), inspired by the artistic mind of John Hart and the energy and tact of the veteran pantomime producer, T. F. Doyle.

"ROBINSON CRUSOE" AT SHEFFIELD.

To thousands of hard-workers, old and young, in South Yorkshire, Yule-tide would be bereft of half its significance without the honest fun and glittering feast of fancy provided at the Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield, where years ago the "magnificent Ducrow" held sway and instituted the annual spectacles which won for good old "Tommy's" the title of the Sheffield "Home of Pantomime." What a tale of past glories and famous performers could the old stage tell! Nelly Farren, Louie Sherrington, Georgina Smithson, Jenny Hill, Jenny Wilmore, Annie Adams, Bessie Bonehill, Sam Cowell, "Bill" Wallet, the Queen's Jester, George Leybourne, &c., *ad lib*. Old Sheffielders never forget old favourites, but they are just as loyal and sympathetic in their encouragement to new talent, and Christmas Eve saw the spacious theatre packed from floor to ceiling; the same sea of happy expectant faces met the conductor's gaze as he bowed to the hearty plaudits; the magnetic influence of an audience determined to be happy permeated the atmosphere; and the artists, stimulated to "do all they knew," were assured of success before the curtain rose.

Of course this Dickens's spirit would not last without a good show to back it up, and Messrs. Dottridge and Longden, together with Mr. Forsdike, have in *Robinson Crusoe* provided an annual which adheres to the traditions that have spelt success in other years. The book by Mr. H. Flockton Foster is well written, and the lyrics are full of quaint fancy humour, and nautical suggestions set to appropriate music and admirably orchestrated by Mr. Frank Barrett and Mr. G. Ess. *Crusoe* gives the scenic artist and machinist every chance for theatric display, and Messrs. H. O. Richardson and assistants, evidently uncrippled by any sordid considerations, have fully utilised the large stage room and resources of the Alexandra, and the result is a series of brilliant set-scenes that, for artistic conception, technical skill, and glowing but harmonious colouring, equal, and in one case absolutely surpass, anything seen on the stage famous for its spectacular triumphs. This is The Coral Cave and Home of Neptune's Daughter. It is no discredit to the artist to say that the famous scene in *Babil and Bijou* and the work of the great Beverley have inspired him in this notable effort to materialise a beautiful and poetic conception. The great depth of the stage is utilised, and when the scene is graced by mermaids, tritons, and other spirits of the ocean, who appear from large shells and coral grottoes, the hand of a master of theatric effect is revealed in every artistic touch, and the usual adjectives are too hackneyed and commonplace to do justice to a picture that will never fade from the memory of lovers of form and colour. Taking the scenes in their proper sequence the first is Davy Jones's Locker, followed by the Old Port of Hull, an idealised view full of old-world interest. On either side are quaint sixteenth century houses, and at the wharf is moored a fine old "bottom" of the Golden Hind type, the very sight of whose high poop fills the mind with visions of sunny lagoons, pirates of the main, and buried treasure. After the usual funny business in the 'tween decks scene comes the main deck of the Pirate King. Here the atmosphere of the "spacious days of Elizabeth" is maintained, and after a pleasing hornpipe ballet, Will Atkins scuttles the gallant craft, and there is a quick mechanical change to The Open Sea, with an effective tableau representing Crusoe clinging to a rock, amid the waste of Moonlit waters. Scene 5, Under the Sea, precedes the above-mentioned Coral Cave scene, where a charming ballet, followed by Crusoe's departure in a golden shell, brings the first part of the annual to a fitting conclusion. The curtain next rises on the Isle of Juan Fernandez, where Mr. Richardson has most lovingly depicted the exquisite and luxurious verdure of those "Isles of the Blest" beloved of modern adventure-writers. This is no conventional "Dutch-pink" tropical scene, but a finely-conceived and realistically painted representation of the varied plants and gorgeous flowers of the Pacific islands, the rich tones and umbrageous depths of the palmetto and cactus woods on either hand, being relieved by a delicious suggestion of space in a beautiful "backing," showing a stretch of white sunlit beach washed by the blue waters of a lagoon. The imaginative spectator may in fancy hear "the roar of the surf on the barrier-reef." The grand barbaric ballet and entry of the Cannibal King's Amazon Army proved a spectacular *tour de force*, which brought down the house on the opening night. A solidly built-up scene is Crusoe's Hut, where plenty of fun and excitement is provided, and finally Crusoe's adventures finish at the King's Palace, in the Grove of Golden Palms. This is the culminating scene of refulgent glitter, and in it the clever scene-painter's inventive brain, wonderful fertility of resource, and facile treatment of large masses of colour have had full scope, and where this artist's skill may have come short in the matter of dazzling display, the genius of the electrician, the costumier, and the jeweller has been enlisted to add to the glories and to give material expression to a stage-manager's dream of sensuous beauty and barbaric splendour. To come to the human interest of the annual, it was soon proved that the management had carefully studied the taste of the Alexandra *clientèle*, a good company of burlesque artists being headed by Miss May Mars, a lady whose commanding presence, pretty face, charming smile, and fine vocal organ make her a fitting successor to those famous stars, Miss Georgina Smithson, Miss Milly Howes, and Miss Bessie Bonehill who have preceded her as Crusoe on these historic boards. Miss Mars made a great impression some months ago by her magnificent acting and singing as Cleopatra at the Empire, and she now shows her great versatility by the arch naïveté of her style and the refined vivacity with which she enters into the fun and abandon of the comic scenes. Miss Mars makes a big hit with "My girls a Yorkshire girl" and "Sea-shells," and she also delights the less robust section of the audience with several musicianly selections, which will add to her popularity as a finished vocalist. It is hardly necessary to say that such a graceful and shapely artist wears her tasteful costumes with distinction, or that her dramatic appearance in the well-known Lydia Thompson dress in the island scene nightly brings down the house. Miss Mars is a great success with a talent-admiring audience, to the majority of whom her personal charms would count as nothing unless backed up by artistic ability. Miss Nancy Thornton made an ideal heroine as Polly Perkins, Crusoe's tasty bit o' bunting. She looked exceedingly pretty in her dainty dresses, and she sang, danced, and acted with a whole-souled enjoyment that carried the audience with her, and made her position as a favourite secure on the opening night, a position strengthened by the warm applause of succeeding holiday crowds. Miss Kitty Brewster looked a picture of a dusky barbaric beauty as the King's daughter Lu-Lu, and she danced and played the banjo as a Brewster should do. Miss Rita Vincent was a fair and radiant vision as Amphitrita, the Queen of the Sea, and her singing was enthusiastically applauded. The Sisters Cora appeared successfully as Jack and Sally, and their clever song and dance business was received with cordial favour. The well-known dramatic artist, Mr. Ivan Berlyn, played the part of Will Atkins on traditional burlesque lines. In make-up and bearing he was the typical "bold, bad buccaneer villain of the deepest dye," and though he will fill countless boyish breasts with awe and secret admiration, and cause speechless horror to thousands of virtuous little girls, he is a merry villain withal, and his comic songs, eccentric business, and the comical luck of success that follows his crafty plotting end in making the "bad man of the piece" a tremendous favourite with old and young. Mr. Jack Lennol was the incarnation of quaint drollery and infectious humour as the lively Mrs. Crusoe, and in that inspiring ditty, "Oh, Antonio!" this clever comedian provides one of the big vocal hits of the annual. Mr. Arnold Richardson is a warm favourite as Billy Crusoe, and he sings and dances in an energetic manner. Mr. Flockton Foster looks a true son of Neptune as the breezy Cuttle, master of the Saucy Polly. Mr. C. D. North is first-rate as the cannibal potentate, King Hullo-Bullo. Mr. Oswald Battye makes an agile and mirthful Friday, and Mr. C. D. North is a melodramatic and sonorous representative of the Storm Fiend. The clever pair of comic bar performers, Messrs. Elton and Elma, appear successfully as Will Atkins' rascally minions, and their speciality act on the triple bars causes roars of hearty laughter. The celebrated Brewster Troupe with dances and banjo selections are loudly applauded, and the ladies of the *corps de ballet* all deserve credit for their graceful movements. Mr. Frank Barrett conducts the augmented band in an efficient manner, and Mr. Flockton Foster, stage-manager, and Mr. J. Kelsall, his assistant, have helped Mr. C. H. Longden in the toil of production. Messrs. Dottridge and Longden, with the personal connivance of Mr. W. D. Forsdike, the genial managing-director, and Mr. C. W. Ramsay, his popular *aide-de-camp*, have provided in *Crusoe* a pantomimic triumph that will draw crowded houses for many weeks.

"MOTHER GOOSE" AT ST. HELENS.

This year's pantomime, which commenced its run on Boxing Day at the Theatre and Opera House, is *Mother Goose and the Bird that Laid the Golden Eggs*. It is produced on a grand scale by Messrs. Bliss and Bliss, who have gathered together a company of well-known and accomplished artists to assist. The subject lends itself more to fun and frolic than to spectacular display, and the former quality is exceedingly well catered for, while the latter is by no means neglected. The story, as written by Messrs. Brian Daly and John M. East, is an interesting one, and relates the fortunes good and otherwise of Widow McGooseley and her daughter Jill, and maintains its attraction from start to finish. A beautiful rustic scene, showing the exterior of the widow's house, first charms the eye, and here and in the next scenes, amidst a troupe of bonnie lads and lassies, are introduced the principal characters. The Widow, who is impersonated by Mr. Leo Bliss, has a fund of natural humour, which shows itself in every action, and consequently is a most amusing person, and the peculiar ways of her silly son Jack, as portrayed by Mr. Ernest Percival, are provocative of laughter. In a dainty soft gray dress and old-fashioned poke bonnet, which adds to the attractions of a pretty face, Miss Ray Ford declares herself to be Jill, and naturally the dashing Prince Lothario (Miss Ethel Dunford), who happens to be passing, falls deeply in love with this vision of beauty. They reveal their mutual affection in a duet entitled "The garden of my heart" very feelingly, and Jill executes a delightful dance with pleasing gracefulness and skill. Mother Goose also gives a good song, and Katterina, a Dutch girl, impersonated by Miss Nellie Reilly, sings and dances herself into the good graces of the Widow and everyone else. The Widow, having fallen on evil days, is persecuted by Septimus Snatchall (whose terrible deeds are amusingly portrayed by Mr. George Bliss), and his dusky bailiffs (Messrs. Pete and Juno). To the accompaniment of excellently-executed songs and dances, they agreeably proceed to carry out their onerous duties when the stately Goose (Mr. Lambert Eaton) comes to the rescue by obligingly laying a number of golden eggs, thus raising the Widow to a state of affluence. The Prince's father, King Geezer (Mr. Louis Kerno), possessing very little money but a fine voice, sings in the following scene, "Do you want any coal," evidently with a view of enriching himself by the disposal of that seasonably expensive commodity, and the Price likewise being down on his luck, but certainly not looking it, charmingly sings in a very sweet voice, "Poverty Street." The halls of gold is a splendid set, and herein the now wealthy widow's rich dwelling special items are rendered by Messrs. Pete and Juno. George Bliss and Miss Nellie Reilly. A pretty dance is presented by the Sylva Troupe. In the following scenes Jill, touched by jealousy, plaintively sings "If I had a pal like you," for which she is enthusiastically encored, and the Prince in, perhaps, the prettiest scene of all, renders "Shadowland" most effectively. Pride always precedes a fall, and the Widow, in her endeavour to become beautiful, loses everything, including the golden goose, and it is only by the good offices of Fairy of Wisdom (Miss Damaris du Pere), who restores the Goose, that everything comes right and ends happily with the union of the Prince and Jill in a scene of splendour, in which the whole company, dressed in most artistic costumes, take part. Of the artists, nothing but praise can be said. Miss Ethel Dunford is a charming principal boy, and acts with a due appreciation of the part. Miss Ray Ford is sweet and attractive; she sings pleasingly and her dancing is delightful. Mr. Leo Bliss make a capital Widow, and Mr. George Bliss does good work as Septimus Snatchall. Mr. Louis Kerno has a good voice, and the character of the King suits him well, and Mr. Ernest Percival as Jack is always laughter-provoking. These four have many funny items together, and are responsible for most of the hilarity. Messrs. Pete and Juno also render excellent aid in this respect, and Miss Nellie Reilly is a gay and sprightly little lady, who is sure to became a favourite. The Two Rubies dance well, and the Sylvia Troupe of dancers give a fine display of their art. Miss Kittie Glannon is quite the village belle as Bessie, and Miss May St. Pierre is a pretty Margery, and both might with advantage have more to do. Mr. Frank Proben is capital as the Demon, and Miss Damaris du Pere is a graceful Queen. The chorus is a capital one. The whole of the costumes are beautiful and costly, and are designed and executed by Miss A. Burrows and Miss E. Schorn. The elaborate scenery is painted by Mr. Alfred Terraine and the music is under the direction of Mr. Alan D'Albert. Much hard work has fallen to the share of Mr. H. F. Housden, the courteous business-manager.

SINCE mentioning Messrs. Vaughan and Cook, of Goswell-road, the specialists in the heating and lighting of theatres, as having completed the work at the New Hippodrome at Devonport, we find they have completed a large number of other contracts. Among them are the Tottenham Palace, the Palais Cinema at Richmond, the Grand Opera House, Oldham, the Empire at Edmonton, the National Hall, Hornsey, the Hammersmith Picture Palace, the Parkhurst Theatre, and the Electric Theatre, Rye-lane, Peckham. They have just started the Lyric at Bromley, the Royal Sceptre at Canning Town, and the New Hall at Tooting. The old-established firm is thoroughly up to date, and as they have excellent craftsmen their work is to be found at an enormous number of theatres.

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

CHRISTMAS PRODUCTIONS.

DRURY LANE THEATRE.

On Saturday, Dec. 26, the Children's Pantomime, by J. Hickory Wood and Arthur Collins, Music composed, selected, and arranged by J. M. Glover, entitled

"DICK WHITTINGTON."

Idle Jack	MR. WILKIE BARD
Alderman Fitzwarren	MR. JOHNNY DANVERS
Will Worthless	MR. AUBREY FITZGERALD
Mouser, the Cat	MR. GEORGE ALI
Sarah Slapp	MR. ARTHUR CONQUEST
Captain Keel	MR. BERT MONKS
Dick	MISS QUEENIE LEIGHTON
Prince of Phantasia	MISS TRULY SHATTUCK
Alice	MISS MARIE WILSON
A Serving Maid	MISS NELLIE STRATTON
Spirit of Love	MISS DORIS TREVELYAN
Katrina	MISS MARIE GEORGE
Tax Collector	MR. FRED PENLEY
The Farmer	MR. EDWARD MORGAN
The Herald	MR. GUY WILLIAMS
Spirit of Industry	MISS IRENE SMITH
Spirit of Fame	MISS CRISSY CRANFORD
Spirit of Wealth	MISS JOAN BURTON

Messrs. Hickory Wood and Arthur Collins have contrived and constructed a really charming pantomime at Drury Lane this year. The main lines of the Whittington legend cannot, of course, be departed from without outraging long-venerated traditions; but the theme has been handled in a truly intelligent and artistic spirit. Seldom have we seen a more beautifully-painted set than the fifth in the first act—Mr. Henry Emden's idea of the view from Highgate Hill in the Middle Ages. The treatment of the sky, and the delicacy of the bluish-grey tones in the distance, raise this scene to a very high level of excellence, and confer great credit on the artist. The last scene of the same act, The Harbour of Gold, is a marvellous instance of what the same clever painter can do in the way of complicated spectacle. The background at first is architectural, and the "wonders of the world" are symbolised by queens of the four quarters, borne aloft on chairs, and raised on man's shoulders above the crowd of natives and fairies, who perform evolutions on the stage. Eventually the scene develops into a very beautiful fantasy, the keynote of which is Fame. The ballet groups itself in the middle distance, and, at the back, a number of *coryphées*, blowing horns, are elevated; while a lace-like "cloth," glittering with silvery sheen, descends from the flies. With the aid of coloured lights, the result is dazzlingly beautiful, and is a striking proof of the height to which modern pantomime spectacle can be carried. Mr. R. C. McCleery has supplied a pleasant seashore scene in Phantasia, and is also responsible for the admirable background for the last scene of the second act. Mr. Harry Brooke's masterpiece is the Court of Hustings, an excellent example of his art; and Mr. Bruce Smith's brilliant shop interior—reminding one of a section in the White City—is quite up to that able artist's standard. No pantomime production at Drury Lane would be complete without the presence of Mr. J. M. Glover in the conductor's chair, and his composing, selecting, and arranging the music has been done this year with his usual skill and judgment. Now and then, in some stirring situation, one's ear is startled by a really fine bit of writing and scoring, and the ordinary music of the pantomime is just what is required. As we have said, Mr. Hickory Wood and Mr. Collins have not strayed far from the beaten path in concocting the "book," but there are some pleasing and ingenious touches, as notably the utilisation of the "Pied Piper of Hamelin" idea in connection with Dick's rat adventure. To the librettists is also due credit for the amusing scene in which Fitzwarren, come down in the world, is visited in his cellar-tenement by Idle Jack, who has become a Guardian of the Poor and is "rolling in riches"; and for the screamingly funny trial scene in which the jury play upon brass instruments. The costumes, designed by Comelli, are exquisite, the mediæval fashions being cleverly utilised for the purpose of stage effect, and the supernatural shapes, notably some large-winged spirits in the Harbour of Gold scene, being splendidly imposing. The original incidental songs, &c., by Messrs. Arthur Sturgess, Eustace Ponsonby, and Arthur Wimperis, are valuable contributions to the very successful result; and the experienced and able stage-management of Mr. Ernest D'Auban, exerted under the all-seeing eye of Mr. Collins as grand producer and superintendent, must also be heartily commended. The Harlequinade, which was omitted at the production, is now spiritedly supplied by the Pender family, with Mr. Bob Pender as Clown. Now that the time of performance has been reduced to the ordinary limits, this part of the entertainment, which still has a charm for the patrons of pantomime, might well be elaborated and made of importance.

The cast was remarkably well chosen, the various creations fusing into one harmonious and effective whole. The contrasts between the various styles were of the strongest. Mr. Wilkie Bard's dry, deliberate method was very effectively applied to developing the humours of the part of Idle Jack. To see him receiving instructions from his master on the subject of shop-keeping, and blundering most completely and ridiculously, was most diverting; and Mr. Bard introduced many droll details, such as a "floppy" dog who followed him to Highgate Hill, and a fireman who came to him with objections on the stage. Mr. Bard's songs went extremely well, especially one directed against the suffragettes, a mob of whom attacked and maltreated Idle Jack outrageously; and the "seashore shells" ditty has a very "taking" tune, and is likely to become popular. A printed apology was circulated for Mr. Johnny Danvers, who had undertaken the part of Alderman Fitzwarren at short notice, owing to the unfortunate breakdown of Mr. Neil Kenyon; but there was no necessity for any allowance being made. Mr. Danvers was excellent as the store-keeper, and supplied his full share of the fun. Mr. Aubrey Fitzgerald gave a quaint and curious representation of Will Worthless, commendably serious in its eccentricity, and always clearly-cut and well-defined. He rendered his song of etiquette in the sixth scene very neatly and smartly, and supplied a highly original and piquant contribution to the scene of amusement. His property giraffe sent the house into convulsions. One of the greatest hits in the performance was made by Mr. George Ali as Mouser the Cat. The costume differed in many ways from the usual feline dress, the head being big, and the body stout and tiger-like. The movability of the eyes and jaws were taken full advantage of by Mr. Ali, who endowed Dick's faithful friend with human expression and gesture, his pantomime rivetting the attention of the house. His business of nausea after smoking a pipe was quite comical, and he was loudly applauded at each exit. The Cat in *Dick Whittington* is one of the greatest successes of the show. Mr. Arthur Conquest supplied a neat, smart, humorous, and never overdone impersonation of Sarah Slapp, and proved himself a clever scion of a gifted race, and Mr. Bert Monks deserved praise for his competent depiction of Captain Keel.

Miss Queenie Leighton cut a bold and striking figure in the character of Dick, her dashing and downright method being very acceptable, and her spirited singing bringing down the house. It was a trying ordeal to have to deliver a pæan in praise of Mr. Chamberlain amidst a running fire of cries of "No politics," and doubtless some less controversial theme will be found as a substitute for this dangerous ditty. Throughout Miss Leighton was a tower of strength in the pantomime, acting the rôle with an earnestness and vigour that were very commendable. That attractive artist, Miss Truly Shattuck, with her dark and brilliant beauty, her fine voice, and her slashing style, was an ideal representative of the Prince of Phantasia, and sang and acted with an impulse and an energy which completely carried away the audience. She was applauded and encored again and again. Miss Marie Wilson made a refined and engaging Alice, looking very pretty in the becoming costume of the period, and acting with grace, gentleness, and sympathetic expression. Miss Nellie Stratton was praiseworthy as the Serving Maid; and Miss Doris Trevelyan sang in capital style as the Spirit of Love. Miss Marie George is such a favourite that her success is assured as soon as she appears in the familiar short jacket and wooden shoes, and her Dutch accent, her lively dancing, and the "taking" way in which she rendered a ditty about the Fatherland, and another about a husband who is afraid to come home in the dark, gave the greatest pleasure to the public with whom she is so popular. Her Katrina this year is as big a hit as any of her previous creations of the same kind. Minor characters were carefully and conscientiously sustained. Mr. Fred Penley did good work as the Tax Collector, Mr. Edward Morgan was efficient as the Farmer, Mr. Guy Williams performed his duties satisfactorily as the Herald, and Misses Irene Smith, Crissy Cranford, and Joan Burton spoke their lines with feeling as the Three Spirits.

Dick Whittington shows the extraordinary advance that has been made in the production of pantomime in late years. Mr. Collins gives more largely and more liberally every year, and the name and fame of Old Drury grow greater annually.

"CINDERELLA" AT THE ADELPHI.

Pantomime, by A. M. Thompson and Robert Courtneidge, produced on Thursday, Dec. 24.

MORTALS.

Archibald (Baron Lacklands)	MR. DAN ROLYAT
Choddles	MR. STEPHEN ADESON
Daisy	MR. JOHN HUMPHRIES
Mopsa	MISS MABEL RUSSELL
Arethusa	MISS MARIE RIGNOLD
Rudolph	MISS CARRIE MOORE
Princess Roxana	MISS DOROTHY LAINE
Gaston	MISS MAUDIE THORNTON
Dandini	MR. FRED LESLIE
Marquis Oakdeans	MISS MARJORIE MANNERS
Duchess of Foxbrush	MISS VIOLET GRAHAM
Lord Chestnut	MISS BELLE ROSS
Lord Beechwood	MISS MURIEL VARNA
Duke of Foxbrush	MISS ETHEL DENNY
Earl of Hawthorn	MISS RHODA CLIGHTON
Earl of Marshmallow	MISS MAISIE SINCLAIR
Lady Sweetbriar	MISS LILY VANLON
Prince's Footmen	G. PARTE AND G. SMITH
First Woodcutter	MR. CHAS. JAMES
Second Woodcutter	MR. CHAS. CHAMIER
Gretchen	MISS NORAH DWYER
Cinderella	MISS PHYLLIS DARE

IMMORTALS.

The Fairy Godmother	MISS GERTRUDE SINCLAIR
Malevolentio	MISS LOUIE LOCHNER
Icicle	MISS MARGARET KEANE

Mr. Robert Courtneidge, who is associated with Mr. George Edwardes at the Adelphi, comes to that house with an enviable reputation for the production of pantomime, and his bright, sparkling, fanciful, refined, and admirably-acted version of *Cinderella* is quite worthy to take its place among the most noted realisations of that world-famed story. In the country, we know, the stage-work of Courtneidge bears the stamp of excellence, and that his Christmas pieces possess a character of their own may be learnt after witnessing the latest pantomime at the Adelphi, a house famous for such spectacles. Liberality is spread over each department—scenery, mechanical effects, dresses, and, more important than all, company. Scenes of great beauty, groupings of glittering splendour—and we have both in profusion—would be useless without a cast possessing the daintiness, and the humour, and the jollity that are demanded in every Yuletide piece. We may say at once that the authors of *Cinderella* are specially fortunate in their interpreters. Mr. A. M. Thompson has collaborated with Mr. Courtneidge in the telling once again of the story of the humble heroine, who has ever been associated with the "grate." The persecution to which Cinders is subjected is scarcely so rigorous as pantomime usages permit, and the love interest is not so much insisted on as is usual. The elder sisters are neither particularly overbearing, aggressively malicious, nor ugly, and are even ruled by sweet reasonableness. Cinderella comes to her heritage of love and devotion in a beautiful scene by Mr. R. McCleery. Mr. Conrad Tritschler distinguishes himself greatly in what may be called the transformation of the Baronial Kitchen into a wonderfully beautiful toilet chamber, a dream of ivory-coloured daintiness. In a wooded scene Mr. Tritschler has also done exceedingly well. Mr. W. R. Coleman is responsible for a scene of considerable beauty in his realisation of the Palace Interior. Cinders is taken from the beautiful "white" apartment to the ball in a crystalline coach, drawn by four little brown ponies, who will be beloved by the youngsters.

The pantomime has the advantage of the services of Mr. Dan Rolyat, a comedian, as the Baron. He has played the part in previous representations in the provinces, and is therefore on quite familiar ground. To speak of him as a resourceful comedian is but faint praise. He positively bubbles over with fun, and in every scene in which he appears he is responsible for diverting business. He scores in a topical song, "Poor Uncle John," but his dancing is a liberal education in comicality of movement; and it reaches the highest level of alertness in a remarkable solo in which he astonishes one by his surprising contortions. That his work as Joe Mivens in *The Dairymaids* and as Partridge in the opera of *Tom Jones* is not forgotten was shown by the hearty reception given to him on both Christmas Eve and Boxing Night. Mr. Rolyat as Archibald is associated in his scenes with Mr. John Humphries as Daisy—a part he has previously played in the provinces. He is diverting to a degree, and his parody of the "Merry Widow" waltz is admirable. Mr. Stephen Adeson is already making the very most of his opportunities in the part of Choddles, in which he is responsible for "Sing us a song of something to eat, and give the girls a rest." He joins Miss Phyllis Dare, a dainty Cinderella, in "When you smile, smile, smile." Miss Dare is also fortunate in her coadjutor in the very successful number "Rainbow." He is none other than Mr. Fred Leslie, jun., who is playing Dandini in a way that shows considerable promise. He is heard to advantage in the tuneful and ear-haunting "Oh, oh, Antonio," which is one of the most successful selections in the production. Miss Carrie Moore as Prince Rudolph of Sylvania cuts a pretty figure as principal boy, and her vocal endowment enables her to do complete justice to such numbers as "Come back to Connemara." She is well suited, too, with "Take me round in a taxi-cab," in which she has the assistance of an octet of smart lady chauffeurs. The assignment of the parts of the Sisters to actresses is a fashion that is growing, and when such experienced and clever ladies as Miss Marie Rignold (Arethusa) and Miss Mabel Russell (Mopsa) are engaged, the innovation—if it may be so called—is a very welcome one. Miss Rignold (a daughter of the late Mr. William Rignold), is very whimsical in her high falutin', and she constantly evokes laughter. Miss Russell's vivacity and buoyancy are refreshing, and her dancing is particularly well worth watching. Miss Gertrude Sinclair as the Fairy Godmother gives significance to her lines by her clear utterance. Miss Maudie Thornton, whose success in *The Antelope* is well remembered, makes the best of the slight part of Gaston; Miss Violet Graham fascinates by her dancing; and Miss Louie Lochner, Miss Marjorie Manners, Miss Muriel Varna, Miss Maisie Sinclair, Miss Norah Dwyer, Miss Ethel Denny, Miss Belle Ross, Miss Lily Vanlon, Miss Margaret Keane; Messrs. G. Parte, G. Smith, Charles James, Charles Chamier all add to the effectiveness of the different scenes. Miss Elise Clerc, who is shortly to go to the Alhambra, has arranged the ballets, and this fact alone is sufficient to account for their excellence. Some of the lyrics are from the pen of Mr. Arthur Wimperis; and special numbers have been composed by Mr. Herbert Haines, Mr. Alfred Haines, and Mr. Arthur Wood, the musical director. In the stage management, Mr. Robert Courtneidge—who had a special call on Christmas Eve—is assisted by Mr. Reginald Highley. Mr. Herbert Ralland is managing the house, being assisted by Mr. A. W. Ashdowne.

"BABES IN THE WOOD" AT THE KING'S, HAMMERSMITH.

Pantomime, produced on Boxing Day, Dec. 26.

Robin Hood	MISS WINNIE BROWNE
Maid Marian	MISS MARIE DAINTON
The Baron Swanker	MR. GEORGE MOZART
Phyllis Macwhackington	MR. JAMES A. WATTS
Tilly	MISS GWENNIE HARCOURT
Perks	MR. ALEC GODFREY
Percy, Cecil	MESSRS. HALL AND EARLE
Dorothy	MISS VERA SANDERS
Norman	MISS ELSIE FORSTER
Dobson	MR. RUDOLPH KLOSS
Friar Tuck	MR. REG. EDWARDS
Knox	MR. L. VICTOR
Danny	MR. FRED MOZART
Will Scarlet	MISS MIRIAM GRAINGER
Margery Daw	MISS OLIVE WEST
Lovelight	MISS MADGE BELL
Herne the Hunter	MR. JOHN SANDBROOK
Cock Robin	MISS MARJORIE GUMMERSON

A record attendance was established on Boxing Day at the King's, when Mr. J. B. Mulholland's seventh "annual" was produced in the shape of *Babes in the Wood*. Needless to say, every expectation was realised, and the reception awarded to the pantomime and performers was so eminently favourable that no doubt can be entertained as to the huge success of the undertaking. *The Babes* follows very much in the footsteps of tradition, but Mr. Fred Bowyer, the author of the book, has introduced Robin Hood, his sweetheart Maid Marian, and his merry followers to assist in carrying the story to a pleasant ending. In Scene 1, The Haunt of Herne the Hunter, we hear of his assistance to be given to Baron Swanker, who wishes to rid himself of the Babes and then marry their cousin Maid Marian, so as to gain possession of their wealth; but the Fairy Lovelight has a word or two to say in opposition. The scene then changes to Meadowsweet Village, a charmingly old-fashioned rural set, in which Robin masquerades as Colin, a gamekeeper, in order that he may meet his sweetheart, Marian. The Baron employs Percy and Cecil to carry off the Babes, and after arranging with them, makes a speech to the villagers, but is rudely interrupted by the suffragists. A rattling hunting chorus and ballet follow, and then we are moved to Scene 3, The Village School. After Maid Marian has sung a song of "Bubbles" to a number of children dressed as in Millais' celebrated picture, the serious business of the school begins, and, as presided over by Phyllis Macwhackington, governess to the Babes, and in love with the Baron, proves a very laughable affair. Percy and Cecil, on the Baron's instructions, carry off the Babes from the school, and in Scene 4, The Forest (a piece of very daninty painting), the robbers quarrel between themselves, and after a clever burlesque fight they go off waltzing, leaving the Babes to take care of themselves. In their despair the children lie down to sleep on a bank, and Herne the Hunter appears, thinking they are now in his power; but in this he is thwarted by Lovelight, who orders her attendant, Sprite Cock Robin, and his companions to care for the Babes, and return them to safe quarters. Marian, meeting Robin in the wood, calls him by his proper name, and the Baron overhearing, orders his arrest, but Hood's foresters quickly make their appearance, and with a very picturesque tableau Part I. comes to an end.

Part II. opens at Saltville-on-Sea, where all the principal characters appear in disguise as pierrots and itinerant musicians, but all follow modern methods and form a combination. A clever entertainment follows, in which all take part with so much success that the audience asked eagerly for more. Scene 2 is a room in the Baron's house, where we find Phyllis waiting up for the return of the Baron, who, when he does appear at a window, is half-seas over. The Babes are returned, but are now under the safe care of Marian, and therefore the Baron's main endeavour is to get her to marry him; but in this and the succeeding scenes he is quite foiled by Robin, who, after a time, is pardoned and comes into his own again as the Earl of Huntington. Scenes 4 and 6, The Garden of Roses and The Earl's Palace are, indeed, beautiful, and earn warm praise for the painter, Mr. F. J. Dowling, who is responsible for the whole of the artistic scenery.

Now for the acting. First and foremost we have the inimitable Mr. George Mozart as the Baron Swanker. There was never an instant's doubt as to his success. From his first entrance to the close he held the audience in excellent humour, his comical acting, singing, and amazing versatility being highly satisfactory. Mr. Mozart's songs "Walks" and "On and off the stage" are bound to become most popular. The fact that Miss Marie Dainton was engaged for the part ensured that Maid Marian would be an eminently pleasing and delightful personage, and so she was. Miss Dainton's acting and singing, together with her celebrated imitations, will tend to make her an immense favourite in West London. A handsome and refined Robin Hood was Miss Winnie Browne, who created a most favourable impression, and who will undoubtedly become a general favourite. Her songs "Bombardier" and "I should like to have a shot at that" were very pleasantly rendered. The Phyllis Macwhackington of Mr. James A. Watts was quickly appreciated. His rich humour soon caught on, and when he appeared in a Directoire dress and sang of it the enthusiasm of the audience was unbounded, to be repeated later when he gave a screaming burlesque dance of "Salome." Miss Gwennie Harcourt made a clever Tilly (maid of all work); and Mr. Alec Godfrey was a lively Perks. The robbers, Percy and Cecil, found very able representatives in Messrs. Hall and Earle, who, besides being drily humorous, gave an excellent acrobatic display. The Babes (Dorothy and Norman) were exceedingly well impersonated by Miss Elsie Forster and Miss Vera Sanders. Dobson, Friar Tuck, Will Scarlett, Margery Daw, and Alan-a-Dale were all brightly and energetically played by Mr. Rudolph Kloss, Mr. Reg. Edwards, Miss Miriam Grainger, and Miss Olive West. Miss Madge Bell sang prettily as Fairy Lovelight; and Mr. John Sandbrook was a sonorous Herne the Hunter. Miss Marjorie Gummerson was a pert and vivacious Cock Robin. The large chorus was all that could be desired, both in voice and appearance. Ballets, undertaken by the Asturias troupe of National dancers, met with distinct approbation. Miss Bessie Royce was an extremely graceful *première danseuse*. The dresses, by Alias, Baruch and Simmons, and Mme. Julia Beaumont, were marvels of beauty, colouring, and richness. The music, by Mr. B. J. Patterson and Mr. Ernée Woodville, has been capitally composed and selected, and the former capably directed the orchestra. The whole production reflects the greatest credit on Mr. J. B. Mulholland and his able stage-manager, Mr. Joseph R. Tate.

"THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT" AT HOLLOWAY.

On Boxing Day, Dec. 26, at the Marlborough Theatre, Holloway, the Pantomime, written by J. Hickory Wood, Music by Dudley Powell, entitled,

"THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT."

Prince Opulent	MISS MADOLINE REES
Princess Prue	MISS KITTIE DOUGLAS
Jack	MISS WINIFRED WARD
Jill	MISS MAIDIE SCOTT
Tommy	MISS MAUDIE FRANCIS
Margery	LITTLE ROSIE LEE
Siren	MISS NELLIE HOWARD
White Heather	MISS GLADYS SOMAN
Father Hubbard	LITTLE ZOLA
Squire of Whare	MR. DICK TUBB
Ripp and Rapp	MESSRS. FARR AND FARLAND
Cat	MR. SAM POLUSKI, JUN.
Circe	MISS MAY DAVIS
Honey	MISS JESSIE BUCKLE
Mother Hubbard	MR. FRED EMNEY

The first performance on Boxing Day afternoon of the Marlborough Theatre pantomime was received by a crowded audience with every sign of satisfaction, judging by the frequent applause during the representation and when at six o'clock the curtain descended upon the gorgeous and enchanting Palace scene. There were a good many child critics present, and as they were heard to express a favourable opinion regarding the feast of fun and the wealth of scenic splendour which the management had provided, the fact in itself affords convincing evidence of the success of the Christmas piece. The pantomime was produced by Mr. W. H. Morgan, under the personal supervision and direction of Mr. Fred Karno—a name that is closely associated with the production of hilarious stage productions that have given delight to thousands of patrons of our most popular places of entertainment in London and the provinces.

As the story of *The House that Jack Built* is told in a few lines of doggerel verse, Mr. J. Hickory Wood, the author of the book of words, has borrowed from several other familiar nursery stories and ingeniously woven together a coherent tale, the hero of which is Jack Hubbard, a son of the dame of immortal fame. The first scene represents the village of Whare, and here are found a merry party of lads and their lasses, who sing in joyous strain. Hither comes the Princess Prue in disguise, she having run away from the parental home because of her refusal to wed her parents' choice, Prince Opulent, son and heir of King Oof. This young man follows in pursuit of the bride selected for him, but it seems that the Princess, charming as she is, has made no lasting impression on him, because when he meets Jill, daughter of Mother Hubbard, he falls in love with her at first sight. Curiously enough, the Princess has a similar experience when she sees Jack, Jill's handsome young brother. The remainder of the story can be told in a few words. The good fairy, White Heather, smooths the path of her protégé Jack, and eventually she enables him to build, by magic powers, a wonderful house, and to claim the hand of the lovely Princess. But to return to the village scene. The entrance of Mother Hubbard is followed by a very comical domestic episode between her and her diminutive husband. At first they bill and coo like turtle doves; but soon the couple fall out, and abuse each other so violently that a policeman makes his appearance. It is, however, for the offence of gleaning corn from the fields belonging to the Squire of Whare that the old lady is "run in"—and not she alone, but the whole family. After a burlesque trial in the Squire's hall (the Prince acting as magistrate) and a pretty scene outside His Royal Highness's castle, the dame's kitchen is revealed, and here some screamingly funny comic business is introduced. Mother Hubbard's very knowing Cat, accused of the murder of the canary, and threatened with punishment, climbs into a private box, and thence nimbly makes his way round the dress circle to the opposite side of the house, again regaining the stage. Much merriment is caused when the dame gives her dwarf of a husband a bath and then carries him off to bed. A dark scene follows, in which the "Immortals" appear, and some excellent choral singing is given, this being the preliminary to an electrical floral ballet, which is strikingly effective. The dresses of some of the dancers are illuminated by electric lights, and finally a brilliant picture is obtained by the illumination of the whole stage by myriads of these fairy-like lights.

The second part opens with a picturesque scene representing a cornfield in the autumn, and here the youthful representatives of Tommy and Margery, Mother Hubbard's twins, display precocious cleverness in some smart burlesque business, assisted by other members of the company. In the Haunted Chamber scene continuous laughter is excited by the weird experiences of Father and Mother Hubbard after their retirement to their respective beds; and next we behold the wonderful house that Jack built, not forgetting the Cat, the Rat, and the Cow with the crumpled horn. Succeeding scenes are the Wishing Gate, Lovers'-lane, the Aeroplane, concluding with the Silver Palace, a dazzling picture, in which the colour tones are charmingly harmonised. Here enter all the principal characters arrayed in the most brilliant costumes imaginable; and the applause of the audience testifies to the scenic triumph achieved.

Miss Madoline Rees is the Prince Opulent, and is in every respect well qualified for this part. As a vocalist she very early in the afternoon made a hit by her rendering of "Bombardier," with its catchy chorus sung by a bevy of girls dressed as soldiers. Later she sang "Have you got another girl at home like Mary?" and other ditties with much spirit. Miss Kittie Douglas was a charming representative of the Princess Prue, and one of her most pronounced vocal successes was "A tiny seed of love," which was greeted with much applause. Miss Winifred Ward was a sprightly Jack, and proved, indeed, to be quite an ideal hero of the love story. She sang "I want you to see my girl," "Any girl will do," &c., with excellent effect, and was untiring in her efforts to please. And no one could desire a more attractive exponent of the part of Jill than Miss Maidie Scott, who quickly became a prime favourite with the audience. Very artistic and charming was her rendering of "Will you be my Teddy bear?" assisted by Miss Ward as a soldier and a number of children representing bears. In the next scene she was vociferously recalled for her exceedingly clever treatment of "We all work but father," and later she delighted the audience with "A leader of society" and "I'm afraid to go home in the dark." Never in Holloway has a pantomime heroine received a warmer welcome than did Miss Scott on Boxing Day. Tommy and Margery, Mother Hubbard's twins, were smartly played by Miss Maudie Francis and Little Rosie Lee, both clever children well versed in their business. Miss Gladys Soman as the Good Fairy scored as a vocalist, and Miss Nellie Howard was excellent as the enchantress who endeavours to work mischief. Coming to the comedians engaged, Mr. Fred Emney is entrusted with the part of Mother Hubbard, and a more genuinely humorous exponent of the dame it surely would be difficult to find. In every scene in which he appeared he helped to maintain the fun at the highest pitch, and by perfectly legitimate methods he caused uproarious laughter from old and young alike. In this task he was ably assisted by Little Zola, who has had much experience as a pantomime comedian, and whose diminutive stature, remarkable agility, and quaint manner all helped to win him the immense popularity he has gained at Holloway. His ditty "Whoever would have thought it?" was very well received. Mr. Dick Tubb as the Squire of Whare, "one of the old school," cut a funny figure and met with deserved success. Messrs. Farr and Farland as Ripp and Rapp were prominent throughout, and contributed to the fun by their amusing cross-talk. Mr. Sam Poluski, jun., was a very active Cat, and rendered valuable assistance in the scheme of amusement. Favourable mention should also be made of Miss May Davis as Circe and Miss Jessie Buckle as Honey. Miss Lottie Stone's troupe of lady dancers fully maintained their reputation as terpsichorean experts. The dances and brilliant processions were admirably arranged by Mme. Elise. The scenery, designed at the Karno Scenes Factory by E. Grimani, excited general admiration, and the charming costumes were by Harrison, of Leicester-square, and Mme. Day. The music was composed and arranged by Mr. Dudley Powell, who also acted as conductor.

"THE BABES" AT THE SHAKESPEARE.

Pantomime, by F. Maxwell Stuart, Produced Dec. 24.

Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett's fourteenth annual pantomime produced here on Christmas Eve, whilst essentially an entertainment for the juveniles, should also appeal to those who like a high-tone Christmas entertainment, in which genuine mirth and melodious music intermingle with graceful dancing and spectacular processions. The piece is a mixture of *Babes in the Wood* and *Robin Hood*, and Mr. F. Maxwell Stuart, the author of the book, has compiled a pretty story, the plot of which is in evidence throughout. The music has been cleverly arranged by Mr. Alf. J. Lawrence, and the dresses call for special mention. The pantomime is divided into eleven scenes, commencing with the Demon's House, from which we proceed to the Village Green, a very pretty set. Another effective scene is the Baron's Kitchen, in which the Two Missouris have an opportunity of displaying their clever trampoline act, which was greatly enjoyed by the audience. The concluding scene of Part 1 is the Land of Flowers, introducing a grand procession of fairies representing different flowers. The blending of the colours in this scene showed exquisite taste, and the whole effect was very striking and evoked great applause. The most notable scenes in the second act are the Woodland Glade and The Hall, Huntington Castle. In the latter, which forms the final scene of the pantomime, special mention must be made of the vocal minuet, which was pretty and effective. The electrical effects of this scene were on a scale of unparalleled magnificence and excited general admiration.

The cast is a strong one. At the head of the scheme of fun are Messrs. Nat Clifford and Harry Phydora, the former as the impecunious Baron and the latter as the Village Schoolmistress, who aspires to become a Baroness. Mr. Nat Clifford worthily maintains his high reputation as a comedian, and keeps the fun going fast and furiously. His clever drollery and eccentric dancing keep the audience in roars of laughter, and altogether he was very successful. He has a number of songs, amongst which the most successful were "I don't care if there's a girl there" and "A silver spoon in his mouth." Both these were rendered with considerable comic effect, and were warmly received. In Mr. Harry Phydora is found a capital Dame, and he plays the part with a keen sense of humour. His make-up is excellent, and he works energetically throughout, being responsible for a good deal of the fun. His most effective numbers are "When I was in the chorus of the Gaiety" and "When there's a woman in the house," both of which received well-merited encores. He also assisted the Baron in the duet "I prophesy," which was very amusing. Mr. Will Harris is well suited to the rôle of Georgie, the Baron's son, and scores a hit with his song "Cos he was smarter than me." This was sung with a deal of expression, and was warmly applauded. Mr. Jack Denton makes the most of his opportunities as the jovial Friar Tuck, and acquits himself with success. The Two Missouris as Snatcher and Catcher introduce their knockabout business with the most satisfactory results, and their clever specialities are rewarded with loud applause. Two more diverting robbers than Pick Lock and Till Litter, as played by Messrs. Fyne and Hurley, could not be imagined, and even without the aid of the Fairy Queen the Babes need not have been seriously alarmed, for the robbers thought more of creating general hilarity than doing evil. They were untiring in their efforts to amuse, and caused considerable laughter in their "Heroes" song. The Miltons as Louisa and Jack Slim also render valuable assistance. Mr. Glanmore Jones is an imposing Demon, and his fine voice is heard to advantage in several songs. Miss Nancy Hearne, an established favourite here, is an attractive and dashing Robin Hood, and enters with spirit into the business of the part. Possessing a vivacious personality, and singing her songs with excellent effect, Miss Hearne repeats her previous successes. A number of popular songs are allotted to her, amongst which we may mention "I want you to be my girl" and "Have you got another girl like Mary?" (with business by the conductor), which were both demanded again by the audience.

Miss Lena Brickwell is a bright and pleasing Maid Marion, acting with refinement and singing with a charm of manner: her songs, which were well received, include "Come round on Sunday" and "If I should plant a tiny seed of love." Her duet with the Baron, "Mingle your eyebrows with mine," was very humorously rendered, and, with the comic by-play of the Baron, made this a very effective number. The Babes, Miss Dorothy Miller and Baby Hutt, earn considerable applause by their clever acting and dancing, and it is well merited, for their performance is particularly ingenious and entertaining. Their duet "Run away from Old Man Goblin" was enthusiastically encored. Baby Hutt also has a pretty song, "Goodbye, Teddy Bear," with graceful dance, which was re-demanded. Miss Florence May is a very pretty Dolly; Miss Wilfred Howard's fine presence and voice is well suited to the rôle of Will Scarlett; and Miss Vera George is a commanding King Richard. Fairy Moonbeam has an excellent representative in Miss Eva Colton, whose fine voice is heard to particular advantage in the pretty song "The Beautiful Land of Nod," gaining a well-deserved recall. Miss Kathleen O'Neil as Allan-a-Dale, Miss Eva Brickwell as George A. Green, and Miss Olive Mortimer as Mat of the Mill also render valuable assistance. Some excellent dancing is contributed by Miss Beatrice Howard's celebrated Troupe of Twelve Gipsy Girls, and the Shakespeare Glee Singers gain considerable applause for their harmonious rendering of humorous glees. The general work of the chorus is above reproach, and the concerted pieces are given with vigour and tuneful effect, that reflect great credit on all concerned.

Mr. Frank Seabrook is acting-manager for the production, and, with Mr. H. Percival Young, the resident acting-manager, is assiduous in looking after the comfort of the audience. The pantomime

is a really excellent sample of its kind, and judging from its cordial reception on Christmas Eve, should have a very successful run.

"RED RIDING HOOD" AT THE KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Boxing Night, the Pantomime, Written by Frank Dix, Music by J. H. Wilson, entitled

"RED RIDING HOOD."

Boy Blue	Miss Lulu Valli
Miss Muffett	Miss Queenie Essex
Jack	Miss Angela Ward
Jill	Miss Marjorie Moore
Johnny Stout, Willie Green	Poluski Brothers
Grunter (the pig)	Archibald
Squire Vaux	Mr. Ernest Thiel
Mrs. Hubbard	Mr. Leonard Teel
Snatcher (the dog)	Mr. Fred Zietz
The Wolf	Mr. Harry Benson
Tiger	Tiny Tim
Daddy's Girl	Miss Violet Edge
Bertie	Miss Rosa Costa
Fairy Queen	Miss Florence Ray
Red Riding Hood	Miss Winifred Delevanti

There were many anxious moments when the curtain rose on Mr. Robert Arthur's eleventh Kennington pantomime on Boxing Day, for, despite the previous long list of successes the enterprising "booming," by which Mr. Harry B. Brandreth, the astute acting-manager, had kept *Red Riding Hood* well in the public eye, had prepared the overflowing audience for something exceptional, and everyone concerned in the production was alert to note if the popular expectations had been realised. But the verdict was not long in coming, for the first scene ended amid a furore of applause, and from that point onwards the production was a triumph, in which all participated without stint, and which must have delighted the heart of Mr. Dix, who shouldered the double burden of authorship and production, and who had worked like a Trojan to make the show go. The pantomime is one which appeals alike to the imagination of the children and the passing fancy of their elders. The nursery story is preserved as a groundwork, and on this Mr. Dix has grafted an interesting comedy, for merriment is the word which dominates the pantomime. No one can see *Red Riding Hood* without catching the humour which infects it in every phase, and coming away happier than he went. Mr. Dix has introduced a lot of local colour, and has given some quaint turns to his fertile genius. He never allows the Wolf to sing. Time and again the Wolf comes on, and in orthodox fashion essays to sing "The Wolf," but he is summarily suppressed, and does not get any satisfaction until the end, when the pig is given him as a sort of consolation prize. Then again, greatly daring all the conventions, Mr. Dix has brought in "The tiny seed of love," from Omar Khayyám, but he does it so artistically that no one can take offence, and the sweet way in which Miss Lulu Valli interprets the song brings down the house. To give anything like an adequate description of *Red Riding Hood* is not possible within this limited space, but its main features might be briefly indicated. The curtain rises on the Wolf's Lair, a rocky recess in the forest, and a chorus of wolves sing an operatic melody by Mr. Wilson, in which they state their intention of settling the fate of Red Riding Hood with the aid of the Squire of Vaux, who desires her fortune and estate. The Squire enters into the conspiracy, and there you have the theme, which is cleverly worked out, with the aid of the winsome Fairy Queen, who never fails to rescue Red Riding Hood from the Wolf, and of Boy Blue, who, helped by Miss Muffett, checkmates the Squire. Scene 2 is a magnificent piece of painting and staging, The Village of Kennington Cross, in all its ancient picturesqueness, and Mr. McKie and Mr. Stafford Hall may well be proud of their handiwork. Again there is a taste of Mr. Wilson's pretty music by the silvery-voiced Fairy Queen, and Red Riding Hood appears with letters for Mother Hubbard and the rest. Mr. Leonard Teel is a great humorist, and the reputation of the Poluskis as mirth-makers is too well known to need description, so between them it may well be imagined that the fun is fast and furious. The Wolf, which has been caught by Boy Blue in the forest, is brought in caged, but Johnny Stout and Willie Green let it out. The Poluskis have some smart gags in this scene, and also sing a duet, "The bad boys of Bow," with great effect, while there is a rattling chorus of villagers. Here it might be said that the chorus is strong and well-balanced, and throughout sings splendidly. Boy Blue introduces his first song, "There is not another girl like Mary," and the way in which Miss Valli makes it go puts this melody amongst the foremost of pantomime numbers. Miss Muffett, having been rescued by Boy Blue from Johnny and Willie, who frighten her with an enormous spider, gives a taste of her quality as a singer, a clear soprano voice of wide compass taking Miss Queenie Essex at once into the front rank of principal girls. The School scene which succeeds the Village is chiefly notable for some clever by-play between Jack and Jill and Mother Hubbard, whilst Miss Queenie Essex sings a lullaby song very prettily. Archibald, the famous pig, is brought in here squealing lustily, much to the amusement of the house, while Jack and Jill make a distinct hit with the duet "Anyone will do." Miss Violet Edge proves herself the possessor of a remarkably powerful contralto voice, which is heard to full advantage in "Daddy," while variety is lent to the musical numbers by a "Teddy Bear" song by one of Victor's children and a clever imitation of Vesta Tilley by Rosa Costa. These specialities over, the curtain rings up to the fourth scene, The Glade—another excellent set—in which Miss Valli sings "The tiny seed of love" with much feeling, the chorus being echoed by Miss Queenie Essex as she wanders down the woodland path. The whole effect is distinctly striking. A little later Miss Essex's beautiful voice is heard again trilling the soft notes of "Bubbles in the sunbeam," whilst as she sings countless bubbles well up at the back of the glade, a novelty on which the Kennington management may well pride itself. In this scene Mrs. Hubbard drinks the love-philtre intended for Miss Muffett by the Squire, and henceforth pursues him with an ardent affection which is worthy of a better cause. The first act terminates with a gorgeous Butterfly ballet, blithesomely led by Miss Monica Bevan, in which all the resources of wonderful dresses, well-trained dancers, and the brilliant scenic illusion produced by a shower of golden-brown leaves blend to make a fitting finale. The ballet is splendid, and Miss Madge Martin, the mistress, should be fully satisfied with the result she has achieved. The second act opens with The Squire's Front Garden, in which Red Riding Hood appears, having escaped the Wolf, and in which Boy Blue sings "Sue, Sue, Sue," and Miss Muffett warbles "It's a handy little thing to have about the house. Then, again, Boy Blue has a vocal innings with two really fine pantomime songs "The White Man" and "Bombardier," both treated with much spirit and accompanying chorus effects, so that the inevitable encore has to be taken in each instance. The second scene furnishes Mr. Leonard Teel with an opportunity of singing in rattling style "He's after me," and the third scene, The Daily Mail Ideal Home, finds Mother Hubbard and the Poluskis busily engaged at their pranks. Here, too, the Wolf sails in in true nursery-rhyme fashion, puts Mother Hubbard to flight up the chimney, and assumes her night cap, with which she essays to impose upon Red Riding Hood. The dialogue delights the children and so does the denouement, the deliverance of Red Riding Hood by the Fairy Queen and the appearance of Boy Blue with the news that the child heroine is heiress to all the property that the Squire enjoys. The two closing scenes, The Squire's Grounds in Old Kennington Lane and The Conservatory in Vauxhall Gardens, are devoted to the conventional ending of the story, to magnificent staging, in which Mr. David Marshall introduces brilliant electrical effects, and to a wonderful ballet that is a fitting tribute to the Goddess Terpsichore.

And now to sum up. The company is strong in ability and numbers, the dresses are gorgeous, the music is bright, the dancers are pretty, the fun is overflowing, the staging is of the highest order, novelties are plentiful, and nothing is wanting to make the Kennington pantomime a huge success. Miss Lulu Valli is a dashing principal boy; Miss Queenie Essex a charming principal girl. Endowed with all the artistic graces, they make an ideal couple. Little Miss Winifred Delevanti is a Red Riding Hood born to the part, and is at once the joy and envy of all the youngsters. In Miss Florence Ray, Kennington has a distinctly new type of Fairy Queen. Young and pretty, she withal has a beautiful voice, which makes her principal number, "Dreamland," one of the features of the show. Miss Angela Ward and Miss Marjorie Moore are admirably placed as Jack and Jill, and whether in song or dance or raillery are equally at home. The Poluski Brothers are great. They loom right through the pantomime, and put in some of their very best work. It is all original comedy with them, sheer brains in every gag or wheeze or line of patter, and *Red Riding Hood* furnishes another laurel to their chaplet. Mr. Ernest Thiel is excellent as the villainous Squire, and should go far; while Mr. Leonard Teel makes a big hit as Mother Hubbard, and is already a popular favourite. His song, "The hand that rocks the cradle," gets a big encore. Mr. Harry Benson does all that is required of him as the Wolf; and Mr. Fred Zietz is extremely lively in the rôle of Snatcher, the dog. Sinclair's Eight Radium Girls deserve a meed of praise; and the precociousness of the Victor children should delight the heart of their trainer.

"DICK WHITTINGTON" AT BRIXTON.

Pantomime, by Newman Maurice, produced on Boxing Day.

Immortals

King Rat	Mr. Russell Moyle
Rodentio	Mr. Fred Salcombe
Knaw	Mr. Sam Lynd
Bite	Mr. Syd Vaughan
Nibble	Mr. Harry Eversley
The Little Fly	Little Rita Parker
The Nasty Spider	Mr. Harold Webb
Fairy Bowbell	Miss May Curtis

Mortals.

Dick Whittington	Miss Maud Esmond
Alice Fitzwarren	Miss Flora Morris
Sarah	Mr. Newman Maurice
Idle Jack	Mr. Will Smith
Alderman Fitzwarren	Mr. Allan Dale
Lazy, Crazy	Messrs. Pearson and Davis
Tom Tit	Miss Ruby Bland
Harry the Harrier	Miss Florrie Peters
Bertie the Bounder	Miss Marie Seymour
Jock the Jocular	Miss Flora Leslie
Ernie the Earnest	Miss Phyllis Gordon
Will the Willing	Miss Minnie Leonie
Sam the Smith	Miss Ethel Trace
George the Baker	Miss Dennis Warwick
Frank	Miss Florrie Ansell
Prince Rataplan	Miss Amber Wyville
Princess Zulika	Miss Dorothy Irving
Sultan	Mr. Fred Monty
Lieut. Swanker	Miss Dorothy Maurice
Tommy, the Cat	Master Stanley Lauri
Rahat	Miss Florrie Davis
Hadji	Miss Mab Stuart
Lakoum	Miss Claire Aldwin
Hassan	Miss May Bell

Amid every sign of a highly successful run, Mr. Frederick Melville, in conjunction with Mr. Newman Maurice, presented his second pantomime at Brixton on Boxing Day at the matinée. The house was densely crowded, and each item in a four-and-a-half hours' feast of fun and frolic was applauded with vigour by the audience. Particularly is the Brixton pantomime lucky in a number of smart comedians, who indulge in jokes and gags, which, being largely local, hugely amuse the patrons of Mr. Melville's pretty house.

Dick Whittington's story, as presented by Messrs. Newman Maurice and Fredk. Melville, follows closely the legend of the feline pet and his master. We are taken from the entry of Dick in the scene in Olde Eastcheap, where he sees and falls in love with Alice, to his "Turn again, Whittington," at Highgate, to Morocco, and back to "dear old London town," where he is made Lord Mayor, which enables the management to give a capital representation of the Lord Mayor's Show. In this Dick rides a white steed, and many of the prize-winners' dresses from Covent Garden Fancy Dress Ball (which are supplied by Mr. Willie Clarkson) figure in the procession, and all ends happily with Bow bells ringing out their sweet melody. Mr. Newman Maurice has written a capital book, interwoven with some graceful lines and some excruciating puns. There are ten scenes, which include The Belfry Tower at Bow, Exterior of Fitzwarren's Shoppe in Cheapside, Fitzwarren's Emporium, On the Road to Highgate, Highgate Hill, Deck of the good ship Alice, The Rocky Coast of Morocco, The Sultan's Palace, Ye Olde Pudding Lane, and Lord Mayor's Show, by Mr. H. K. Brown and assistants. Mention is deserving the sets of Highgate Hill, with real rabbits running about, and the Sultan's Palace at Morocco; indeed, the whole reflects high credit. Plenty of popular music is provided by Mr. Frank Bradsell, and the "gods" join liberally in the choruses of "There's a girl," "Dear old London Town," &c. The dancing, too, and clever poses of the Frisky Girls are delightful, and win approbation. In particular, too, the Fairy Ballet must not be omitted. Everything has been done on a liberal scale, and we heartily congratulate Mr. Fredk. Melville and his trusty lieutenant, Mr. Will T. Taylor, on a brilliant success.

Miss Maud Esmond is an ideal Dick Whittington. Throughout the pantomime this clever artist sings in capital style the up-to-date songs of the day, and acts with verve in capturing the love of the Alderman's daughter. To Miss Flora Morris is assigned this part, and no more dainty representative of Alice Fitzwarren could be desired. Mr. Allan Dale is the mercenary Mercer, Alderman Fitzwarren, and, in company with the other clever comedians, evokes roars of laughter. Mr. Newman Maurice, the "plain cook," Sarah, is a host in himself, and the shopping expedition he indulges in and other comicalities will ensure his popularity with future audiences. Mr. Will Smith, too, scores unmistakably with his funny gags as Idle Jack, the lazy apprentice. Then there are Messrs. Alec Pearson and Jock Davis as the Alderman's clerks, Lazy and Crazy. Their acrobatic and knockabout business is deserving of warm praise. The Brixton pantomime is undoubtedly rich in comedians, who provide hilarious fun. Master Stanley Lauri worthily upholds the name of a renowned family in his delineation of Tommy the Cat. Master Lauri, no doubt, will be the delight of youngsters who visit this pantomime. Miss Amber Wyville is a handsome representative of Morocco's Prince Rataplan; and Miss Dorothy Irving is his sweetheart Zuleika. The humours of the pantomime are added to by the bright acting of Miss Dorothy Maurice as Lieut. Swanker, of the good ship Alice, and Mr. Fred Monty as the Sultan of Morocco. Miss May Bell is a dashing Hassan; Miss Mab Stuart and Miss Claire Aldwin are delightful as the Emperor's "Turkish Delight." There are also a number of dashing representatives of Old London apprentices in Miss Ruby Bland (Tom Tit), Miss Florrie Peters (Harry), Miss Marie Seymour (Bertie Bounder), Miss Flora Leslie (Jock), Miss Phyllis Gordon (Ernie the Earnest), Miss Minnie Leonie (Will the Willing), Miss Ethel Trace (Sam the Smith), Miss Dennis Warwick (George the Baker), and Miss Florrie Ansell (Frank the Goldbeater). The immortals are safe. In the capable hands of Mr. Russell Moyle we have a good representative of King Rat; Rodentia (Mr. F. Salcombe), Knaw (Mr. Sam Lynd), Bite (Mr. Syd Vaughan), and Nibble (Mr. Harry Eversleigh) as his attendants are very good. The Little Fly is well played by Little Rita Parker; the Nasty Spider is sufficiently cobwebby in Mr. Harold Webb's hands; and the Fairy Bowbell is sweetly enacted by Miss May Curtis. It may be mentioned that at matinées, which are given four times weekly, an old-fashioned harlequinade "just to please the children" is provided.

"RED RIDING HOOD" AT THE LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH.

Pantomime, by Victor Stevens, produced on Boxing Day.

Mr. Geo. Brydon-Phillips produced, by arrangement with Mr. Wentworth Croke, at the matinée on Boxing Day his *Little Red Riding Hood* pantomime at the above house, where it will be "at home" for three weeks. Judging from the satisfactory reception and the smoothness of the initial performance, there can be little doubt that the pantomime will meet with much success. Mr. Victor Stevens is the writer of the book, which keeps well to the old tale, and at the same time plenty of opportunity for funny business is given, and of this advantage is taken to the fullest extent.

The pantomime opens in the Village of Sweet Content (a very effective set), and we meet in turn Grannie—full of troubles; Little Red Riding Hood—sweet and youthful; the Prince—badly in love; then the wicked Squire, whose agent, Lawyer Slyfox, decides should marry Red Riding Hood, for which purpose they evoke the aid of the Wolf. This is followed by three particularly pretty woodland scenes, during which the Fairy and Wolf are continually crossing swords, metaphorically speaking. The timely arrival of the Prince saving Red Riding Hood from the Wolf closes the first part.

In Part II. we see Granny disappear and the Wolf take her place in bed; the return of our heroine, who is once more saved by the Prince when almost overcome by the Wolf; the finale being the Wedding Festivities at the Palace—another scene of much splendour. The costumes throughout are also particularly pretty and effective. Of the songs, the most successful are "Little Teddy bear," sung by Little Red Riding Hood, and "It seems to make the sun shine brighter" and "Won't you come to me in Canada," by Miss Kittee Rayburn, who in the latter song fairly brought down the house.

Of the cast, nothing but the highest praise is due to Mr. Phillips for his able selection of the various clever people he has engaged to interpret the characters. Miss Kittee Rayburn is in every way a most successful Prince; her clever acting, the charming rendering of her songs, and her handsome presence all combine to make her an ideal Prince. In Miss Ena Corelli, who plays Little Red Riding Hood, Mr. Phillips has a vivacious and sweet little lady, whose dancing is a delight for all who witness the show. In Bishop and Vale, the Simple Simon and Johnny Stout, we find a really clever pair of knockabouts, whose antics meet with roars of laughter. Mr. Henry de Solla is excellent as Lawyer Slyfox, and also gives some entertaining and agile dances; Mr. Will Vokes is a humorous Squire, and, with Miss Alice Vokes as Marjorie Daw, also shines in the dancing line. Mr. Tom Carrick is most amusing as the Dame. The antics of Mr. James Ewins as the Poodle provoke much laughter, and as the Wolf Mr. Harry Ewins works hard and successfully. Some sweetly-rendered songs are given by Miss Edith Jefferies as the Fairy; and little Miss Euphan MacLaren displays great dancing ability as Cupid. Jack and Jill are pleasingly performed by Miss Kitty Wells and Miss Maisie Mildare.

After all matinée performances an excellent harlequinade is given by Mr. Harry Ewins and company. So, with a well-written story and excellent company of artists and a chorus that sings and dances well and pretty scenes, Mr. Phillips has a pantomime he might well be proud of, and it will undoubtedly meet with the success it certainly deserves at Mr. Croke's charming and cosy house in Hammersmith, where Mr. Fred S. Jennings reigns a popular and obliging general manager.

"RED RIDING HOOD" AT THE DALSTON.

Produced on Christmas Eve.

Fairy Glowworm	Mlle. Tessie D'Alberti
Lupus	Mr. Richard Hamilton
Baron Badlot	Mr. Tom Melbourne
Dame Mary Trott	Mr. George Rapley
Simple Simon	Mr. Sydney T. Russell
Johnny Green, Jimmy Stout	Messrs. Kerr and Koe
Boy Blue	Miss Florrie Bray
Prince Charming	Miss Kitty Marion
Miss Muffit	Miss Nellie Moore
Maud Matilda	Miss Madge Seymour
Margery Daw	Miss Lilian Rose
Red Riding Hood	Miss Prudence Ayrton

The pantomime this season at the Dalston Theatre is founded on the well-known story of *Red Riding Hood*. The "book" is written by Frank Ayrton, the music is composed and arranged by Geo. D. Fox, and with Mr. Fred J. Little and Mr. Fred Darcy rests the responsibility of general production, Mr. Ernest Longstaff being musical-director. A rural scene, The Village of Maybloom, is the locality chosen for first introducing most of the characters to the audience. Here is disclosed the fact that a certain Baron Badlot, who occupies a castle not far distant, is not entitled to either his broad acres, his money, or anything else for the matter, for he is simply a usurper, little Red Riding Hood being the actual heiress to the property. But spectators have to possess themselves in patience while the ingenious story is gradually told, and while Dame Mary Trott, Red Riding Hood's grandmother, who is continually declaring with gusto that her relative is the rightful owner, and that "she has the papers to prove it," approaches the identical moment when she deems it advisable to produce the all-important deeds, which is the beginning of the period when everyone connected with the story, except the wicked Baron and his associates, are rendered happy ever after.

Of course, before all this happens, everyone is made to literally roar with laughter over the fun that takes place in the village school, and poor Granny is eaten by the Wolf, and makes a miraculous reappearance; but all ends in the reward of the good and the discomfiture of the bad, which is the culmination most appreciated by audiences, especially at Chirstmas time.

The title-rôle falls to the lot of Miss Prudence Ayrton, who is a dainty and becomingly modest little Red Riding Hood. She plays the part carefully and thoughtfully, and her rendering of the song "Come round to tea" is evidently to the taste of the listeners. Another song, "Come over the garden wall," is given with equal success, and at the conclusion of each verse Miss Ayrton executes a neat dance. Prince Charming finds a dashing representative in Miss Florrie Bray, whose excellent presence, clear pronunciation of her lines, and general air of healthy good humour, place her on good terms with the audience. The Princess's song concerning a yacht goes with a good swing. Miss Kitty Marion is a decided favourite as Boy Blue, proving herself an artist of genuine ability. She has marked charm of style and appearance, acting with sprightly vivacity and being an excellent singer, her song, "A White Man," bringing down the house. Miss Nellie Moore is Boy Blue's companion and friend, Miss Muffit, and both her singing and dancing are keenly appreciated, her dancing securing demands for repetition. Miss Madge Seymour creates a good deal of amusement as Maud Matilda. Miss Lilian Rose makes a decided hit in the character of Margery Daw. Her vivacious, but delicate style and tuneful vocalisation, render her a decided acquisition to the cast. Her rendering of the popular song, "In the garden of your heart," is decidedly sweet. Miss Tessie D'Albert is Fairy Glowworm, the influence for good throughout the piece, and her singing is quite on a par with the virtues of the character she represents.

The male cast in the pantomime is quite equal in the matter of excellence to that section of characters represented by the ladies. Mr. Tom Melbourne is decidedly interesting as the wicked Baron, and his deeds prove that, although he is always declaring that other people "want watching," that precaution is decidedly necessary where he is concerned. He takes part with Miss Nellie Moore in representing a variety of characters, which are hit off so true to life that the turn quite takes the audience by storm. Mr. Richard Hamilton as Lupus, the Wehr Wolf, is encored for his singing; in fact, without any disparagement to the part he essays in the pantomime, which is supposed to include devouring, he proves himself a much better singer than an eater. Mr. George Rapley is responsible for much merriment as Dame Trott, who proves to be a somewhat muscular female. Mr. Sydney T. Russell is Simple Simon, the Baron's page, and his song "Don't put me with a suffragette," is absolutely up to date. Some topical references in the course of the performance include allusions to the visit of Carrie Nation, who is twitted with attacks on trade, even to the extent of "making the publican's clothes (close)." Messrs. Kerr and Koe, as the tired pair Johnny Green and Jimmy Stout, are real laughter-makers; the Sidney Girls are the principal dancers; the Dayton Family as acrobats cause the audience to marvel at their agility; and there is an harlequinade in which Mr. Tom Green is clown, Mr. G. Claremont Pantaloon, Miss N. Elsie Columbine, and Mr. Mountford Policeman. Foremost in the matter of scenery must be mentioned the transformation, The Seasons, The Village of Maybloom, and The Enchanted Wood.

"CINDERELLA" AT FULHAM.

Pantomime produced on Boxing Day.

Immortals.

The Fairy Godmother	Miss Mabel Rose
The Snow Queen	Miss May Edbrook

Mortals.

Prince Casimir	Miss Agnes Tandy
Dandini	Mr. L. W. Harris
Hercules	Mr. Freddie French
Tiny	Mr. Ted Young
Cinderella	Miss Nora Wadeley
Araminta	Miss Alice Inman
Elvira	Miss Emily Stevens
Capers	Mr. Arthur White
Joseph	Mr. Harry Carlisle
Duke of Whistbridge	Miss Dollie Hook
Viscount Euchre	Miss Toni Mansell
Marquis of Gamesby	Miss Lena Johnson
Lord Dice	Miss Rosa Rawlins

Mr. Robert Arthur's fifth pantomime bids fair to be as much a success as any of its predecessors. Mr. Stanley Rogers is responsible for the writing and the production generally, while Mr. Harry Richardson with Mr. G. M. Saker have arranged the music. The time-honoured story is adhered to in the main, and serves to provide a coherent plot, while Cinderella's sisters are played by actresses instead of the former "comedians." The pantomime mother-in-law remains a stronghold of the mere man, who continues to raise the frequent and the hearty laugh thereat. *Cinderella* opens with a couple of pretty scenes—winter and summer in a glade, and these serve to set the story going and introduce us to some of the principal characters. These are the usual *dramatis personæ*—Cinderella, the Prince, his valet, Cinderella's family, and so forth. A quiet scene in the Baron's Library is followed by Cinderella's historic kitchen. Much fun is extracted from the troubles of the Baron, who is, as usual, over-ruled by his more robust spouse. Cinderella has a pretty song about the children going to bed, the Baroness gets there with a song on the modern Salome, and Cinderella and Capers have a curious duet concerning the doings of a parrot and certain other beasts. In due time the Fairy Godmother appears, makes the arrangements for the ball, including the hurried leaving at 11.55 p.m. The scene changes to the Portals of Fairyland, an artistic study in flowers. The Fairy Godmother has a pretty song here, "Roses everywhere," and the scene changes again to the home of the Fairy Godmother. In this there is a note of novelty, as the whole has a lace-like effect, the colouring being white and a pale yellow. A ballet of fairies follows, and this is succeeded by an Oriental dance in the now fashionable sinuous mode, very well done by the Lottie Stone Troupe. Cinderella is now introduced *en princesse* and is provided with her coach, which is drawn by real ponies, two demure little mouse-coloured animals from the well-known provider of theatrically-disposed creatures Mr. T. G. Hales, the coach being brilliantly illuminated. The second act begins with the Ballroom Scene, which is more akin to the French eighteenth-century period than the old English baronial style. This idea is kept up by the dresses of the guests, which are of the Watteau style and make an uncommonly pretty picture. The Prince has a good song, introducing the inevitable Merry Widow waltz, and the Baroness is equal to the occasion with a hat of colossal dimensions. The Baron next contributes a capital set of dances, in which Mr. French shows his skill in different styles of dancing. A gavotte by the guests also makes a good show. On the disappearance of Cinderella, the ball (and the scene) comes to an abrupt termination. Scene 2 represents the front of the Baron's mansion, and witnesses the return of the revellers to their home. In this scene there is introduced some capital business by the Baron and Baroness. The best of this is the wrestling scene, in which the Baron is forced by his better half to encounter Joseph, a royal flunkey of colossal proportions and abnormal muscular development. By sundry artifices the Baron overcomes his opponent, and by his victory is straightway transformed from the mere worm of the former scenes into a masterful personage who henceforward dominates his family. Scene 3 shows an ante-room in the Palace. The ceremony of trying on the slipper is gone through to the accompaniment of much laughter. The final scene is a simple and tasteful one: it is a garden scene, again reminiscent of the eighteenth century, and well worked out. There are a ballet of flowers, and a dance by the Stone Troupe. This time it is an acrobatic dance, remarkable for the vigour and agility of the performers. With the entry of the Prince and Cinderella for their wedding the play is brought to a close.

The company contains some excellent artists. Miss Mabel Rose makes a good Fairy Godmother and sings well, and Miss May Edbrook is admirable as the Snow Queen. The principal boy is Miss Agnes Tandy as Prince Casimir. She does not appear to have overmuch to do, but plays and sings excellently. Her valet, Dandini, is portrayed by Mr. L. W. Harris, who makes a fine figure, and scores with one or two good songs, notably "I don't care if there's a girl there." Hercules (Baron de Debtington), the impecunious father of Cinderella, is impersonated by Mr. Freddie French. The Baron is very much in the piece, and Mr. French's excellent business is provocative of endless laughter, for he is a master of make-up and facial expression, and is moreover a smart singer and a dancer of more than ordinary ability. He is well supported by Mr. Ted Young as the Baroness, who is equally ready with side-splitting business and good songs. The daughters of the Baron are represented by Miss Alice Inman and Miss Emily Stevens, who present two different types of old maids, and help to keep the fun going. Mr. Arthur White takes the part of Capers, the Baron's man-of-all-work. He is a capable comedian and no mean acrobat and dancer. Mr. Harry Carlisle is an admirable flunkey as Joseph, and gives a good representation of the magnificent menial, whose tone is irreproachable while his grammar is indifferent. He plays well in the very ludicrous wrestling scene with the Baron. Miss Dollie Hook as the Duke of Whistbridge (Master of the Prince's Household) is a piquant little figure, and acts smartly. She does well with a song, "My girl is a Yorkshire girl."

The dominant note of the production is that of tasteful simplicity. The comedians have plenty to do, and there is no lack of laughter at their efforts, which, it may be said, are always in excellent taste.

So far as providing a reasonable book, good acting and singing, bright music, and tasteful dresses and scenery, with comedians who can amuse without being vulgar, can go, Mr. Arthur has made a decided bid for success, and it is to be hoped that the public will appreciate his efforts and fill the house for weeks to come.

"HUMPTY DUMPTY" AT NEW CROSS.

Pantomime, by Hickory Wood, produced on Boxing Day.

We have to chronicle another emphatic pantomime success for this theatre, the first under the present management. The opening performance went with remarkable smoothness, and it is safe to predict that *Humpty Dumpty* will have a prosperous run. The production is distinguished by capital acting, excellent singing on the part of the principals, dancing of a most graceful kind by a clever quartette (Tiller's Superba), and attractive ballets. Then there are gorgeous dresses, beautiful scenery, and an indefatigable stage-manager (Mr. Charles Goff), who also plays Humpty Dumpty with considerable success. Mr. Fred Eastman's impersonation of King Sollumm is one of the hits of the entertainment; his quaint humour and easy style on the opening night were evident from the first. He sang several numbers, including "A B C," with success. Mr. Stratton Mills will be a great favourite as Martha. He is genuinely funny, and made a decided success. Another excellent performance is that of Mr. Carl Howard, who is very good indeed as the circus proprietor, Bison Bob, whose leading attractions are Brick and Brack, played with much energy and go by Fremel and Fremel, a capital pair of knock-about comedians. The harlequin of the circus, named Rudolph, is the principal boy, and has a charming representative in Miss Edna Morgan, who is an excellent actress and vocalist. Miss Hanid Alexander is a delightful Princess Aurora, singing, dancing, playing, and acting all with equal and distinct success. The Cecilias, an attractive pair, play Prince Spritely and Cherry in very pleasing style, and introduce their clever instrumentalism with excellent effect. Miss Cecilia Maude is the Fairy Claribel, and this clever lady sings in a manner to win all hearts. Mr. Roland Chester as the Demon of Ambition displays a fine singing voice, which he uses to the best advantage. The whole entertainment is under the direction of Mr. Leslie Moreton. Mr. Clarke Richardson is the able musical-director; and Mr. Bertram Iles looks well after the comfort of patrons of the theatre.

The plot of the pantomime is clear and well told, and is, in brief, the story of Humpty Dumpty with embellishments. Scene 1 shows him as an egg, seated on a wall; the egg falls and breaks, and discloses Humpty, who is watched over by Fairy Claribel and Soaro the Demon. Claribel gives him six wishes, to be granted when and where he chooses. We next find him in the Courtyard of the Palace, where every possible joke is being tried to make King Sollumm laugh. The reward for success is to be the hand of Princess Aurora and a large sum of money. Among others, Rudolph tries and fails. Humpty's first wish is for a mother. Instantly Dame Martha appears, and succeeds in making the King laugh. Humpty loves Aurora, but Rudolph determines to win her, and the Fairy promises her help towards recovering a fairy ring which will bring him luck. All the characters start out in search of the ring, the King—who has married Martha—among the rest. A pretty scene at the seaside shows the Entrance to Diving Bells. The King and Queen claim the chief diving bell, and are soon seen in it at the bottom of the sea, where there is much fun. In a delightful Fairy Grotto we see Rudolph receive the ring from a fairy hand. This concludes the first half of the pantomime. The second half opens with Scene 7, The Throne Room of the Palace, where matters begin to clear up, and so proceed through Scenes 8, 9, and 10. Rudolph claims his bride, and Humpty Dumpty expends his last wish, and, renouncing all claim to the Princess, wishes happiness to all. The final scene, a very fine one, employs the full strength of the company. It is entitled A Congress of all Nations.

"CINDERELLA" AT THE WEST LONDON.

Pantomime, Produced on Boxing Day, Dec. 26.

Prince Rupert	Miss Kitty Tims
Baron Boldheart	Mr. Will Skelton
Arabella Jane	Mr. George Cave
Lucretia Maud	Mr. Arthur Stevens
Cinderella	Miss Phyllis Yorke
Billy Buttons	Mr. Ernest Coyle
Dandini	Miss Alice Wade
Rosalind	Miss Louie Belrose
Fairy Godmother	Miss Victoria Rochester
Demon Discontent	Mr. Frank Viner
Hyacinth	Miss Violet Parry

This Boxing Day production at Mr. William Bailey's historical home of pantomime in Marylebone, is a more than usually hilarious and melodious "annual," and its success was at once apparent. Mr. Wm. Bailey, jun., has adhered very closely to the familiar story of Cinderella, the lonesome kitchen drudge who afterwards blossoms into the lovely Princess of nurseryland memories. Scene 1, The Village of Sunshine, is a pretty and effective setting, and here we are introduced to Prince Rupert, Baron Boldheart, Arabella Jane, Lucretia Maud, Dandini, and Billy Buttons. Some very amusing by-play here ensues, which keeps the house in roars of laughter. After the departure of Prince Rupert and his followers to the hunt, Cinderella enters, and in tuneful voice plaintively sings "I want somebody to love me." Prince Rupert's unexpected return affords him his first glimpse of Cinderella, and the usual love passages ensue, resulting in "Cinders's" shyly-given promise to attend the castle ball that night. Scene 2, The Lovers' Walk, gives Demon Discontent and the Fairy Godmother an opportunity to introduce a most melodious duet, "Shadowland." The Baron's Kitchen is a fine, spacious set, and some capital foolery here takes place between the impecunious Baron and his hungry daughters. The arrival of Dandini with the invitations for the ball puts one and all in a fluster of excitement. The entrance of the Fairy Godmother and her promise of help to her lonely god-child, ends in the first appearance of the lovely electric lighted coach, drawn by the sweetest of Shetland ponies, which is to convey Cinders to the

castle. Scene 4, The Boudoir, principally consists of the efforts of the ugly sisters to complete their toilet for the ball, in which Billy Buttons, in his endeavours to assist, makes matters worse. This scene is one of the funniest in the pantomime, and the house rings with peals of laughter. On the road to the castle the beautifully-transformed Cinderella passes in her gorgeous coach. Scene 6, The Vestibule, quickly hurries us along to the fancy ball, where some pretty measures are daintily tripped, ending in the hurried flight of Cinderella as the clock strikes twelve, leaving her glass slipper behind in the dear old traditional way. In Scene 8, The Market Square, Prince Rupert's proclamation is given, promising his hand and heart to the glass slipper's owner. Following an interval the curtain rises on a magnificent transformation scene, a feature which this old Church-street house has ever been noted for. In saying that the blend of colour, warmth, and spendour, and picturesqueness of grouping is quite up to the standard that Marylebone expects, the highest praise has been given. A sign of the times is the decadence of the harlequinade, but the West Londoners evidently still have a warm corner in their hearts for this old-fashioned feature of pantomime, which brings to a close one of the completest and prettiest hardy annuals that Mr. William Bailey has ever put before his patrons. The producer, Mr. Samuel James, has every reason to be gratified with the results accomplished, mainly due, of course, to his personal supervision. The music of Mr. Percy Kurutz is both tuneful and appropriate, whilst the genial Mr. James Sinclair studies the welfare of everybody in front, in his usual suave and tactful way. Miss Kitty Tims is a divinely tall and swaggering hero, with a good stage presence and a well-trained voice, which is heard to most advantage in the numbers "A song about the boys" and "Hats off to the King." The Cinderella of Miss Phyllis Yorke is a dainty portrayal, and her sweet smile and neat dancing enchant everyone. Miss Louie Belrose is full of light and amusing gaiety as the village beauty Rosalind, her rendering of "My pretty piece of Dresden china" being delightfully *chic*. Miss Victoria Rochester is possessed of a voice with a fine range, and though her chances as Fairy Godmother are necessarily somewhat curtailed, she nevertheless is a great favourite, and her song, "All the world loves a lover," catches on immediately. Miss Violet Parry is much appreciated as Hyacinth; and Miss Alice Wade contrives to score all the evening with her bright and lively impersonation of Dandini. In addition to being the fortunate possessor of a neat and trim figure, Miss Wade has also an engaging personality and a pretty voice, which is heard at its best in "Won't you waltz the Merry Widow Waltz?" Mr. Frank Viner as the Demon King makes good use of his opportunities; Mr. Will Skelton is full of resource and alertness as Baron Boldheart, and his droll rendering of "I couldn't come home in the dark" is decidedly popular. Mr. Ernest Coyle is a most diverting Billy Buttons, his spirits and energy never once flagging, and his success is unmistakable. Mr. George Cave as Arabella Jane and Mr. Arthur Stevens as Lucretia Maud, the inevitable ugly sisters, play into one another's hands admirably. Their various disagreements with the much-harassed Baron and the unfortunate lackey Billy Buttons, are all full of genuine fun and unctuous humour. Lucretia's "Song about the girls" is archly rendered; whilst Arabella scores one of the hits of the evening with Miss Vesta Victoria's world-famous ditty, "Poor John." The success of this pantomime should be beyond doubt, and, judging by the reception given it and the good wishes of everyone in the neighbourhood, it is to be hoped and expected that Mr. William Bailey will find his old patrons rallying round with their generous support of a good show, well dressed, well staged, and loyally interpreted.

"BLUEBEARD" AT THE CAMDEN.

Produced on Boxing Day, Libretto and Lyrics by Hugh Mytton, with Music by Mark Strong.

Blue Beard ..... Mr. Ben Albert
Sister Ann ..... Mr. Ernest Rees
Mustapha ..... Mr. Harold Carson
Selim ..... Miss Addie Lennard
Lieut. Persey Pryde ..... Miss Violet Vaughan
Esau ..... Mr. Harold Clemence
Shacabac ..... Miss Helen Cunningham
Boatswain and Mate .. Messrs. Ferguson and Mack
Wilhelmina ..... Miss Lottie Sargent
Silvery Thames ..... Miss Lena Denton
Fatima ..... Miss Lydia Flopp

The Camden reopened its doors once more on Boxing Day, when, under the auspices of Mr. Walter Gibbons, a pantomime was produced. Since the last Christmas season this handsome and comfortable theatre has passed through many phases, and until recently it seemed likely that the inhabitants of North London would this year have to forego their usual pantomime season at this house. Happily all is well, for Messrs. St. John Denton and Peter Davey have come forward and provided a Christmas production in the shape of *Blue Beard*, which is a capital entertainment, and is at once both amusing and pleasing to the eye. No special striving is made to place any big spectacle on the stage, but the whole show is of uniform quality throughout, for there are many scenes which are pleasing to the eye, as the dresses and general colour scheme show the best possible taste. Blue Beard's Garden is a fine set, while that of the Look-out Tower is an extremely fine piece of perspective; and the final tableau of the Fête of Roses is a perfect feast of colour. The book is cleverly devised, and follows pretty closely the accepted story of this much-married Prince, whose secrets of the past are discovered by Fatima. A modern touch is given to the story by the introduction of a party of English girls, who are so fascinating that we feel sure that did Blue Beard exist to-day he would certainly have wished to include them in his schemes as the present-day author suggests. The company is a strong one, and is headed by Mr Ben Albert and Mr. Ernest Rees. The former as Blue Beard is a host in himself, and fairly revels in his part. Mr. Albert has a peculiar style of his own, which compels laughter, and his songs, "Why?" and "There's an exhibition," both brought down the house. Mr. Ernest Rees as Sister Ann is extremely comical, and gives a very diverting sketch of this elderly lady with a glib tongue. There seems to be no limit to Mr. Rees's resources for fun-making, and his lines fairly bristle with funny gags and topical allusions. He is well served with songs; that of "Robinson Crusoe" is decidedly quaint, while his Salomé skit, in which Mr. Ben Albert assists, must be written down as quite one of the hits of the production. A dashing Selim is found in Miss Addie Lennard, who is very bright and lively, and was a great favourite from her first appearance. Her dialect song is very clever, also "I want you to see my girl," and she joins Fatima in that popular song, "The tiny seed of love," which goes splendidly. Miss Lydia Flopp makes a most bewitching and dainty Fatima, and charmed everyone with her very pretty number, "Shadowland," which she sings suspended on a large moon. Another tuneful song is that, "Won't you play at sweethearts," which Miss Flopp gives in the most fascinating way. Ferguson and Mack are a couple of droll fellows who keep the fun going very fast while they sing, dance, and cross-talk, and they score with a funny duet, "Solomon." Wilhelmina, the Dutch girl, is brightly played by Miss Lottie Sargeant, who has a Dutch song, which is very pretty. One wishes that Miss Sargeant had more to do. Shacabac has a very prepossessing representative in Miss Helen Cunningham; while Persey Pryde, the naval lieutenant, is capitally played by Miss Violet Vaughan. Mr. Harold Carson works hard as Mustapha, and achieves success. Esau, the baboon, is cleverly played by Mr. Harold Clemence; Miss Lena Denton is very pretty and smart as the leader of the English girls. The dancing is very pretty, and Miss Geraldine Somerset does a *pas seul* in one scene, and scores a great success for her graceful art. The chorus does much useful work in the best possible manner, while the orchestra, under the able bâton of Mr Mark Strong, renders yeoman service. Messrs. Denton and Davey have every reason to be gratified with the success of their pantomime, and the highest credit is due to Mr. Buckstone Clair, the producer, for we understand that the pantomime has been produced and arranged in a very brief space of time. We are glad to welcome back here Mr. Leslie Hughes, who resumes his former position as manager, and we are sure that his old friends will soon gather round him again.

"ROBINSON CRUSOE" AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

Pantomime, produced on Christmas Eve.

Robinson Crusoe ..... Miss Lillie Lassah
Polly Hopkins ..... Miss Venie Clements
Friday ..... Mr. Harry Zietz
Will Atkins ..... Mr. Bert Edwards
Mrs. Crusoe ..... Mr. E. Harvey White
Bob Halyard ..... Miss Elsie Allen
Sally Primrose ..... Miss Gladys Allen
Princess Zanatel ..... Miss Cissie Murphy
The Sultan of Baraboomba .. Mr. Scott Russell
Captain and Mate ..... Passmore Brothers
Mr. Primrose, Bombala, Ben, Bob ..... The Melody Four
Davy Jones ..... Mr. C. Gifford
Aphrodite ..... Miss Lallie Campbell
Jack the Monkey ..... Mr. Leon Dubois
Tommy Tiller ..... Miss Marjorie Bowyer

The only Crusoe of this year's London pantomimes is to be found at the Crystal Palace, where he was welcomed on Christmas Eve by a crowded and enthusiastic house, who marvelled at the magnificence of the staging and enjoyed to the full the melody and mirth of the pantomime. The work, which is divided into two parts, is from the pen of the prolific librettist Mr. Fred Bowyer, the music, some of which is very striking, being composed and arranged by Mr. Leonard Gautier. There are thirteen scenes, the first of which reveals Davy Jones's Locker, where the plot to effect the undoing of Robinson Crusoe is hatched by Davy and his myrmidons. The Ancient Port of Hull is a scene of bustle and excitement, and here Robinson rescues his beloved Polly from the clutches of Will Atkins, who connives with Davy Jones to compass his destruction. Robinson takes service on board the Saucy Sally, and is followed by his mother and Polly, who disguises herself in the traditional way as a sailor boy. The 'Tween Decks of the Saucy Sally gives opportunity for some boisterous fun in the bunks, and is followed by a set representing the deck of the schooner, when Will Atkins' fell purpose of scuttling the ship is accomplished. The vessel speedily becomes a wreck, and there is a quick change to the Open Sea, where Robinson is seen guiding his raft to shore. He stops to render help to Atkins, who, however, repays the kindness by pushing his rescuer into the sea. Mrs. Crusoe, the Captain, and the Mate succeed in clambering on to the raft, and a merry interlude is the result. Meanwhile, Crusoe has descended to the depths of the ocean, where the good offices of Aphrodite secure him a welcome to the Nymph's Garden, and after a series of glittering fairy revels Robinson is conveyed to the surface of the sea by means of their queen's diving-bell. The Island of Golden Palms, in which the second part opens, displays a wealth of colour and picturesque costumes. The arrival of the Captain and his Mate is the source of much amusement, and Mrs. Crusoe's advent is similarly mirth-provoking. Here Crusoe rescues Friday from his captors, and receives from the grateful black a promise of eternal fidelity. The Interior of Crusoe's Hut affords a glimpse of his domestic arrangements, and opportunity is taken for the introduction of a series of amusing specialities. Here, too, Crusoe and Polly are reunited, and the pantomime ends with a representation of the Sultan's Palace, where a gorgeous procession is beheld, scarlet-coated drummers and gaily-decked *coryphées* contrasting pleasingly with rich-robed chieftains and ermine-clad courtiers, the curtain going down on a dazzling scene of splendour.

Favourites of former pantomimes figure in this year's annual, and a hearty welcome is extended to all. Miss Lillie Lassah has again the title-rôle, and exerts a fascinating influence by reason of her charming personality, her tuneful singing, and expert dancing. Her sweet-toned voice has gained in strength, and all her songs are rendered with the utmost effect. She succeeds admirably in "Good morning, Mr. Postman," in which assistance is rendered by a bevy of what might be described as post-maidens, and in "Let's have a song about the boys" her triumph is equally great. Miss Lassah is an ideal principal boy, and if there are any prizes in prospect this year she may safely be "backed" for a place. Another welcome reappearance at the Palace is that of Miss Venie Clements, who is as pretty and vivacious a Polly as could be desired. Her dancing is particularly agreeable, her graceful movements arousing much admiration. Several songs fall to her share, that of "Come and be my little Teddy Bear" being engagingly rendered, and "Oh, oh, Antonio!" being the source of unlimited fun, especially when a dark-visaged organ-grinder emerges from among the audience and joins in a clever imitation of the Apache dance. "A tiny seed of love," sung with Robinson, is also productive of unlimited applause, Miss Clements' dainty dance at the end captivating all. Perhaps her chief effects are gained in association with Mr. Bert Edwards, with whom she renders the duet "Oh, sir, go hon!" which was the hit of the evening. Mr. Edwards has the part of Will Atkins, and plays drolly throughout, his singing of "What a terrible thing it would be!" getting many recalls. The Passmore Brothers furnish numberless merry moments as the Captain and the Mate. Their comic resources are unlimited, and their daring knockabout act and smart sayings were responsible for frequent and hearty laughter. An auburn-haired Mrs. Crusoe is found in Mr. E. Harvey White, whose unexaggerated methods of fun-making are irresistibly humorous. He was recalled in the song "Study your cookery-book," and in the clever duet "Do you remember? How can I forget?" he and Mr. Bert Edwards scored repeatedly. Mr. Scott Russell, who has made many a hit in pantomime, obtains one of his most pleasing successes as the Sultan of Baraboomba, who turns out to be a canny Scot and the husband of Mrs. Crusoe. His fine voice is heard to particular effect in the funny but tuneful song "Don't go out in the lifeboat," the last verse of which had to be repeated. Miss Lallie Campbell is a prepossessing Aphrodite, and sings "I'd do anything in the world for you" with much charm. Mr. C. Gifford gives a duly dramatic touch to the evil-disposed Davy Jones; Mr. Harry Zietz, who produced the pantomime, acts realistically as Friday; and Mr. Leon Dubois as the monkey performs marvellous tricks on the perpendicular rope. Misses Elsie and Gladys Allen, who represent Bob Halyard and Sally Primrose, distinguish themselves greatly in a duet and a neat dance, executed with wonderful rapidity; and Miss Cissie Murphy is a picturesque Princess Zanatel. A distinctly pleasing feature of the pantomime is found in the Melody Four, who won encomiums for their part-singing, and carried out a cleverly contrived piece of "spoof" ventriloquism. Mr. Bannister Howard himself was among the audience on the opening night, and must have felt extremely gratified at the smooth working of his third Palace annual and at its hearty reception at the hands of an assembly that filled nearly every part of the capacious auditorium.

"THE BABES IN THE WOOD" AT THE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE.

Pantomime, by Frank Ayrton, produced on Boxing Day, Dec. 26.

Robin Hood ..... Miss Kitty Clinton
Maid Marion ..... Miss Alice Maple
Will Scarlet, Daisy Buttercup ..... The Sisters Morgan
Sir Rupert de Guile ..... Mr. Charles Clarke
Reggie ..... Miss Gracie Mortimer
Rosie ..... Miss Hester Reeve
Wilhelmina Wilkins ..... Mr. Will Lorenzi
Sally Slapp ..... Mlle. Rita
Percy Perkins ..... Mr. F. C. Roma
Friar Tuck ..... Mr. Edward de Vere
Roger Ratys, Timothy Taxys ..... Messrs. Barrett and Knowles
Envy ..... Miss Edna Cragge
Content ..... Miss May Cartwright

The story of *The Babes in the Wood* is told in a simple manner in this production. The opening scene depicts the Village of Jolly Well, when Robin Hood is declared an outlaw. Enter the wicked uncle, Sir Rupert de Guile, who is also the very hard up Squire, and cannot pay his bills. He is the guardian of Reggie and Rosie (the Babes), who stand between him and £15,000. He wishes to remove them, so enlists the services of Roger Ratys and Timothy Taxys, bold, bad robbers, who agree to "kill the kids" for a stipulated sum of money. The nursery of the Babes is next visited, when a good deal of rollicking fun is introduced, and we proceed onwards to the Fairy Bower, which brings the first part of the pantomime to a close. In the second half we find the Babes have been sent into Sherwood Forest for a picnic with the two robbers, whom their uncle describes as two kind gentlemen. At the crucial moment, when these two bad men are about to put an end to the youthful career of our two Babes, one relents, and a very comical fight ensues between them. Robin Hood appears and rescues the children, and in the end virtue is victorious, villainy vanquished, Maid Marion makes Robin Hood happy, the Babes are made happy, and last, but not least, the audience are made happy (judging from the reception the production received on Boxing Day). The last scene shows the Earl of Huntingdon's Palace, which is a very gorgeous set, bedecked with equally fine costumes. The pantomime abounds with humour and the dresses are smart, the staging being effective.

Miss Kitty Clinton is a dashing Robin Hood, her principal songs being "I don't care if there's a girl there," "A tiny seed of love," and "A white man." Miss Alice Maple is a successful Maid Marion, who obliges, among other songs, with "Couldn't come home in the dark." The Sisters Morgan are a decidedly taking couple as Will Scarlet and Daisy Buttercup, their duet "Sue, Sue, Sue," being one of the most successful numbers in the show. Miss Alice Morgan is also successful in "Antonio." Mr. Charles Clarke is a "very" wicked Uncle, and Mr. Will Lorenzi causes much amusement as the faithful nurse Wilhelmina Wilkins, a topical duet introduced by these two comedians, "What a terrible thing that would be," being a distinctly taking number.

The Babes are Miss Gracie Mortimer (Reggie) and Miss Hester Reeve (Rosie), both of whom are possessed of excellent voices and are accomplished dancers, their duet "A pretty piece of Dresden china" being a very tuneful addition. Miss Hester Reeve (who is a younger sister of Miss Ada Reeve) scores also in "I know a lovely garden." Messrs. Barrett and Knowles as the Robbers are a clever couple of comedians, their two principal numbers being "My word, if I catch you bending," and "What! what! what!" Mlle. Rita and Mr. F. C. Roma as Sally Slapp and Percy Perkins are responsible for a good deal of the humour of the piece. Mlle. Rita provides a distinctly clever "grotesque" dance, and is also an expert contortionist. Their respective songs are well received, but we would suggest that the first-named artist dispense with her "Salome" song, which is out of place in a children's pantomime. A clever long buck dance is executed by the Sisters Harcourt, and Miss May Cartwright is a dainty Content, the good fairy who watches over the destiny of the Babes; while Miss Edna Cragge is sufficiently malicious as Envy, the bad fairy. The pantomime, when it plays more closely, which it will do when some judicious cuts have been made, will be a fine show, and we must congratulate Mr. Charles Barnard on his first Christmas pantomime here. A very important feature, the orchestra, under the direction of Mr. W. Stephenson, must also be commended upon their most excellent work.

"CINDERELLA" AT THE PAVILION.

Pantomime, Produced on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24.

Fairy Godmother ..... Miss Fay Reyne
Demon Chauffeur ..... Mr. Gray Langston
Baron Hardup ..... Mr. Frank Lilliput
Jock ..... Mr. Sydney Benson
Sophonista ..... Mr. James Danvers
Araminta ..... Mr. Gus Danby
Baroness Hardup ..... Mr. Johnny Johnston
Prince Florizel ..... Miss Fifi Gordon
Dandini ..... Miss Ida Lawrence
Countess Kinkey ..... Miss Mildred Parr
Count Kinkey ..... Miss Alice Knibbs
Selina ..... Miss Constance Coopman
The Author ..... Miss Annie McCarthy
Cinderella ..... Miss Dorothy Rundell

After four years without a Christmas pantomime, the Pavilion Theatre has reverted to its old traditions by opening on Christmas Eve with the ever-welcome *Cinderella*. Mr. Jonathan Jones, who is responsible for the book, has done his work remarkably well, and provided a well-connected and pretty story, keeping strictly to the conventional lines, while in many instances the libretto is of an unusually high standard of excellence. The pantomime runs through fourteen scenes, and opens with the Author seeking at the Toy Shop for a Demon, and being supplied with a chauffeur for that purpose. After the glass slipper has been made at the Fairy Workshop, we pass to the Village, where a welcome is given to Baron Hardup on his return with his newly-wed Baroness. The usual accidental meeting of Cinderella and Prince Florizel, and the invitation to the Ball, and the sympathetic assistance to the old woman who turns out to be the Fairy Godmother are incidents familiar to all; while the subsequent ending with the marriage of the Prince and Cinderella finishes the old-time story to the satisfaction of both young and old. The music, which is in exceedingly good taste, has been selected, arranged, and composed by the accomplished musical director, Mr. Victor Vorzanger, who is to be highly commended upon his work. The scenery, which has been specially painted for the production by Mr. Leveson Linton, is admirable, his Fairy Workshop and Fairy Glade being especially pleasing to the eye, while the Ball Room and Palace of Delight are good specimens of colouring. The chorus and ballet have been well drilled, and reflect every credit on the producer, Mr. George Taylor, who has worked exceedingly hard.

As Baron Hardup the short comedian Mr. Frank Lilliput is a host in himself, and brings the house down with his funny antics and his songs "If the missus says it's black" and "Tra la la." He is ably seconded in his efforts by Mr. Johnny Johnston as the massive Baroness Hardup, who is full of humour throughout the performance, creating infinite amusement with his "Laughing" and "Whistling" songs and the inevitable Suffragette business. Miss Fifi Gordon, who took up the part of Prince Florizel at a few hours' notice, is to be highly complimented upon the general smartness and "go" she infused into the character, singing her numbers, particularly "Firefly" and "I want you to see my girl," with *éclat*. Sophonista and Araminta, the quarrelsome daughters of the Baroness, were played on the usual lines by Messrs. James Danvers and Gus Danby, the latter rendering with good effect "The Directoire Girl." Jock, the Baron's page, has a capital representative in Mr. Sydney Benson, whose songs and dances are executed with neatness; while the acting of Miss Constance Coopman as the slavey, Selina, is excellent. Miss Ida Lawrence is a dashing Dandini, and sang with piquancy "Wink," and Miss Alice Knibbs and Miss Mildred Parr as the Count and Countess Kinkey were applauded for their efforts. As Cinderella Miss Dorothy Rundell was entirely successful, her portrayal being marked by much tenderness, as well as histrionic ability, while her songs "Wildflower" and "Teddy Bear" were much to the taste of the audience. Miss Annie McCarthy was heard to advantage in "A Dutch Girl," and Mr. Gray Langston made the most of the Demon Chauffeur. The Fairy Godmother was enacted with stateliness by Miss Fay Reyne, who sang with expression "Roses everywhere" and "Il Bacio." Enthusiastic applause was obtained by Mr. Leonard Gorney for his marvellous protean dance, his changes of costume in a space of ten seconds being done with a perfectness that is almost incredible.

"ALADDIN" AT STRATFORD.

On Boxing Day, Dec. 26, at the Borough Theatre, Stratford, the Pantomime, by Iam Query, entitled

"ALADDIN."

Aladdin ..... Miss Ethel Ward
Badroulbadour ..... Miss Lena Verdi
Sau See ..... Miss Ethel Ashton
Pekoe ..... Miss Florence Dudley
Mrs Twankey ..... Mr. Arthur Stigant
Abanazar ..... Mr. Hal Forde
Emperor ..... Mr. C. Ballard Brown
Grand Vizier ..... Mr. Frank Couch
Washee Washee ..... Mr. Ernie Mayne
Bobee ..... Mr. Pat Redmond
Copee ..... Mr. Dan Redmond
Genius of the Ring ..... Miss Mabel Gordon
Slave of the Lamp ..... Mr. J. M. Jones
Orlock ..... Mr. Laurence Winning
See Zing ..... Mr. Fred Harding
Lord Chamberlain ..... Mr. James Williams

Mr. Fred Fredericks's twelfth annual pantomime at the Stratford Borough Theatre was produced on Boxing Day at a matinée performance, and was enthusiastically received by a packed house. *Aladdin* is a subject which readily lends itself to lavish treatment in the way of dresses and scenic effects, and of this full advantage has been taken. The "book" is from the pen of that prolific pantomime writer who elects to be known as "Iam Query," and, besides serving its purpose for the introduction of a long series of beautiful stage illustrations, the familiar story is of entrancing interest to the juveniles, as well as containing many smart lines and witticisms for the benefit of their elders. Much admiration is aroused at the scene depicting the Gold and Silver Mines in the Mountains of the Sun, which is absolutely a wealth of rainbow colouring and of rhythmical movement by numberless performers; while the culminating scene, entitled Aladdin's Ivory Palace, with its animation and artistic setting, provides a picture which is likely to linger long in the memory. The Port of Pekin at Night, in which Chinese lanterns are carried hither and thither, is also well applauded, while much impressiveness is added to the cave scenes by the very adroit manner in which the stage traps are utilised. If there is one fault at present it is that the interpolated comedy business and songs—of which the pantomime contains a plethora—unduly prolong the first part.

Excellent judgment has been shown in the selection of a well-balanced cast. In the name-part Miss Ethel Ward figures, and a very genial, alert, and buoyant Aladdin she makes; while her songs, "I want you to see my girl" and "Hello, little boy, hello!" are finely rendered. Miss Lena Verdi is a vivacious and girlish Princess Badroulbadour, whose charms extend far beyond the footlights. Her flirtation song, "Wouldn't you care to be the bridegroom?" is rendered most coquettishly, and is a very popular number, while Miss Verdi wins a splendid reception for her speciality item, in which imitations of music hall celebrities are introduced. Mr. Ernie Mayne's quaint and stolid appearance as Washee Washee is immediately suggestive of mirth, and his excessively absurd depiction of an English nobleman travelling in China to learn the customs of the country and who there becomes assistant to the Widow Twankey is the source of endless merriment. His songs allow for many witty introductions, while his parody of "Cupid" is one of the funniest things in the pantomime. Mr. Arthur Stigant is eminently successful as the Widow Twankey, his sleek, unctuous style, ready resource, and eccentric costumes making him a highly popular Dame. He has a burlesque Directoire song, in which he is helped by a confederate in the conductor's chair, which is very amusing, and cleverly worked, and "Afraid to go home in the dark" and "A to Z" are other songs in huge favour. Mr. Hal Forde is particularly good as Abanazar, who looms so largely in the story, his clear enunciation being most welcome, and this clever comedian does not overlook the dramatic possibilities of the part. His "Doomsday Book" song contains many local and topical allusions which are readily recognised, and he is equally successful with other numbers. Miss Florence Dudley is a handsome, shapely, and active Pekoe, and her songs provide a vocal treat. Miss Ethel Ashton makes a pert and piquant Sau See, and in the rôle of *première danseuse* contributes several solo dances which are keenly enjoyed. Mr. Frank Couch makes the utmost of his opportunities as the Grand Vizier, and his performance is highly creditable. The Brothers Redmond as the two policemen Bobee and Copee are responsible for many mirthful moments, their clever knockabout business being highly diverting, while their speciality act wins some of the heartiest applause heard during the evening. Mr. C. Ballard Brown portrays the Emperor very appropriately; Mr. J. M. Jones submits a smart performance as the Slave of the Lamp; and Miss Mabel Gordon is a graceful Genius of the Ring. Among the concerted numbers, the topical duet "Ice cream! Baked chestnuts!" between the Widow Twankey and Abanazar is in high favour, while the Princess and Aladdin are very cordially received in "A tiny seed of love."

The scenery is by Mr. Henry Emden and Mr. George Dodson; Mr. George Saunders is the able machinist; properties are by Messrs. Stokes and French, and the electric effects by Mr. A. Marshment. Mr. B. Barrow is once again responsible for the incidental music, and he is also to be congratulated upon the splendid ensemble he secures. Congratulations are also due to Mr. A. L. Pitman, the stage-manager, for the smoothness of the initial performance. The enthusiastic reception accorded to Mr. Fred Fredericks when he appeared at the interval and at the end of the matinée should augur well for the success of *Aladdin*. Mr. Frank Rothsay, the popular and urbane acting-manager, looks well after the front of the house.

"CINDERELLA" AT KINGSTON.

Pantomime produced on Boxing Day.

The Fairy Mistletoe ..... Miss Alice Coverick
The Spirit of the Purple Heather ..... Miss Providence Lesley
Prince Paragon ..... Miss Hilda Vining
Dandini (his valet) ..... Miss Bessie Butt
The Baron Shotocash ..... Mr. Lauri Wylie
Cinderella (his daughter) ..... Miss Dorothy Grassdorf
Salome ..... Mr. Arthur Carlton
Potipha ..... Mr. Bobbie Hall
The Hon. Miss Peggy Poudre ..... Miss Edith Deverell
Bill May (proprietor of a pierrot troupe) ..... Miss Nellie James
Chary McTash ..... Mr. George Hirste
Mr. Gollywog ..... Miss Alice Mosley
Mrs. Gollywog ..... Miss Dolly Rawleigh
Stumpy Dumps ..... Mr. C. Kingsley
Top Taffy ..... Mr. F. Percy Cann

The twelfth annual Christmas pantomime was produced at the Royal County Theatre on Boxing Day before a house that filled the cosy little riverside theatre from floor to ceiling, and it was received with unmistakable signs of approval in all parts of the building. Mr. Peter Davey, the energetic and painstaking managing-director, who has again devised and arranged the production, has done his best to go one better than anything he has attempted before, and it is freely admitted that *Cinderella* takes the palm amongst former Christmas productions. The familiar story is told in a series of nine scenes, some of which are of surpassing beauty. Chief amongst these is the Baron's Great Hall, a pretty woodland glade showing a long vista of silver birch and purple heather, and the scene in which the State ball takes place, and in which the Prince finds the owner of the traditional slipper. Nearly all the scenery has been painted by Mr. George Miller, the resident artist, whilst valuable contributions have been made by Mr. Joseph Harker and Mr. A. G. Betts. The story follows pretty much upon the lines of those that have already been told, with deviations made to add to its attractiveness. Cinderella is still the drudge of the household and the constant slave of her two ugly sisters. There is still the good fairy watching over her, who appears to her in her distress from amid the ample folds of a bunch of mistletoe blazing with numerous electric lamps. It is in a wood that the Prince meets her first, and then he has changed places with his valet in order the better to press his suit. After the ball, when the slipper is found, the little maid, divested of her fairy habiliments, is led back to the dais in her rags to receive the betrothal kiss of her royal lover. The pantomime sparkles with fun and pretty music from beginning to end, and the fun is of a kind that the most prudish could take no objection to. The chief honours in tickling the risible faculties unquestionably belongs to Mr. Lauri Wylie, an old Kingston favourite, who appears in a number of astonishing disguises, with an infectious drollery, and always with a new joke on his lips. Mr. Wylie has an opportunity in one of the scenes of introducing his marionette show, of which he is an accomplished performer. The two ugly sisters find capable exponents in Mr. Arthur Carlton and Mr. Bobbie Hall, who between them contribute much to the hilarity of the performance. The way in which Mr. Hall plays with a piece of dough in the Baron's kitchen fairly brings down the house. Another artist deserving of note in this direction is Mr. George Hirste, who plays the part of a Scotchman, Chary McTash, with great success. A winsome and engaging Cinderella is presented by Miss Dorothy Grassdorff, who not only possesses a pretty voice, but is a skilful dancer. Her song and dance, "In the garden of my heart," were received with loud expressions of approval. Mr. Davey has also been fortunate in securing the services of Miss Hilda Vining to play the Prince, which, in her hands, is all that could be desired. Gifted with a fine presence, Miss Vining also possesses a voice of remarkable sweetness and compass, and her song, "Cinderella," was one of the musical numbers that will be longest remembered. Great praise must be awarded to Miss Bessie Butt, who appears as Dandini, the Prince's valet. Miss Butt, an artist of unquestioned ability, quite excels herself at Kingston, throwing a dash and spirit into her performance that at once makes her friends in every part of the house. Her coon song and dance, "Sunlight Sue," secured an ovation. Of others taking part in the performance, a word of mention is due to Messrs. Kingsley and Percy Cann, who gave a droll representation of two "brokers' men," and of Miss Alice Mosley and Miss Dolly Rawleigh, who appeared with success as Mr. and Mrs. Gollywog, for there is a gollywog scene in the pantomime for the benefit of the children. A charming appearance was made by Miss Edith Deverell as the Hon. Miss Peggy Poudre. There is a full chorus, admirably trained, and the performance goes with a merry swing from the beginning to the end. The libretto and the lyrics have been written by Mr. Hugh Mylton; the music has been selected and arranged by Mr. Hugo Rignold, the *chef d'orchestre*, and includes original pieces by himself and other local composers. Miss Nellie James has been responsible for the invention and rehearsing of the dances, Mrs. Peter Davey has had the fashioning of the costumes, which are of a most elaborate character. Mr. Wilson Blake is acting as stage-manager.

"PUSS IN BOOTS" AT SOUTHPORT.

The Opera House was reopened on Boxing Day, when a crowded and enthusiastic audience greeted the production of Mr. J. F. Elliston's pantomime, *Puss in Boots*. The lyrics are from the pen of Mr. J. Hickory Wood, who fully justifies his high reputation for this class of amusement, the well-known nursery story being unfolded with a freshness and charm that delighted both old and young. The gorgeous scenic effects and the dressing were in keeping with the excellence usually associated with Mr. Elliston's Christmas productions, and that gentleman, together with Mr. Harry Rogerson, the stage-manager, may be congratulated on the success of the first presentation. By permission of the various publishers, the tuneful music was specially composed and arranged by Mr. Arthur Braddock and Mr. George Ess. Miss Ethel Ra Leslie, in the rôle of the principal boy, Colin, combines a good stage presence with piquant and artistic acting; her best vocal numbers were "The white man through and through" and "Connemara," for which she was warmly applauded. Mr. Fred Lincoln as Dame Shortly was responsible for much merriment, his humorous song, "Laying the linoleum on the floor," being highly appreciated. Gretchen (the Dutch servant) was capitally portrayed by Miss Zona Joy, who sang "Good-bye to Charlie" and "Antonio" in excellent style. Mr. Harry Rogerson was exceedingly droll in the character of King Grabbus, and finds plenty of scope for displaying his humorous versatility. Miss Bessie Herbert made a dashing Prince Rudolph, her song "Kitty," being very acceptably rendered. Baron Rumphiz had a commendable and amusing representative in Mr. Harry Edlin. Miss Issa Steel depicted the good Fairy Felina with artistic effect; Princess Ivy was vivaciously portrayed by Miss Gladys Christoe, and the same may be said of Miss Gladys Hicks as the miller's daughter Phyllis. Other good character sketches were those supplied by Mr. Hal Bert as Slyboots (the king of cats), Miss Annie Stewart as Doris, Mr. Ben Corday as Digestion, and Zelina as Fritz, the juggling waiter. Under the direction of Mr. George Goss, the choruses were rendered in excellent style; and praise is also due to the Albion Quartette and the Amazonian Trumpeters.

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

THE ALDWYCH.

On Saturday, Dec. 26, Revival of the Comedy, in three acts, by Brandon Thomas, entitled
"CHARLEY'S AUNT."

Colonel Sir Francis Chesney, Bart. ..... MR. BRANDON THOMAS
Stephen Spettigue ..... MR. ROY BYFORD
Jack Chesney ..... MR. HASTINGS LYNN
Charley Wykeham ..... MR. RICHARD B. MASON
Lord Fancourt Babberley .. MR. STANLEY COOKE
Brasset ..... MR. SYDNEY COMPTON
Donna Lucia D'Alvadorez .. MISS VERE GERALD
Kitty Verdun ..... MISS AMY BRANDON THOMAS
Amy Spettigue ..... MISS G. DENBY-RUSSELL
Ela Delahay ..... MISS EVELYN BEAUMONT

The sportive old lady from Brazil—"where the nuts come from"—is again on a visit to the Metropolis for the festive season, and is "at home" for three weeks, afternoons and evenings, at the Aldwych, old friends voting the frivolous dame as entertaining as ever; and she has soon established herself a favourite with those who are making her acquaintance for the first time. The season started by Mr. Brandon Thomas of his evergreen play on Boxing Day promises to be a most successful one, judging by the cordial reception given it on its reproduction by a crowded house, and it would certainly be difficult to find a merrier or more enjoyable entertainment for the Christmas holidays. The company responsible for the representation is an excellent one throughout, the all-important part of Lord Fancourt Babberley being again undertaken by that funny comedian, Mr. Stanley Cooke. Mr. Cooke, having played the rôle something over 2,000 times, is quite aware of its comic possibilities, and his performance throughout is a most mirth-provoking and clever one. Very funny is "Babs'" business in the first act, before he dons the petticoats, notably his efforts to annex the champagne of his college chums, and also his successful manœuvring to obtain the loan of half-a-crown, which is eventually bestowed on the tactful Brasset, from whom it was originally borrowed. As "Charley's aunt" his impersonation would be difficult to improve upon, the many awkward situations the old lady is placed in, and the droll lines put into her mouth, being done full justice to by the resourceful comedian. A funny and well-managed incident is that in which the quaint old lady receives an offer of marriage from Colonel Chesney, and her efforts to elude the amorous attentions of Stephen Spettigue also compel hearty laughter. Altogether, a most humorous and finished portrayal. The author, Mr. Brandon Thomas, is again seen in the part of the genial father of Jack, Colonel Sir Francis Chesney, and his impersonation is a natural and admirable one throughout, particularly droll being his treatment of the scene where he proposes to "Charley's aunt." Mr. Roy Byford gives an excellent portrait of the pompous Stephen Spettigue; and the impecunious and irresponsible undergraduates, Jack Chesney and Charley Wykeham, are alertly, smartly, and humorously enacted by Mr. Hastings Lynn and Mr. Richard B. Mason: the college scout Brasset being played in a quietly funny style by Mr. Sydney Compton. Spettigue's ward and niece, Kitty Verdun and Amy Spettigue, have attractive and intelligent representatives in Miss Amy Brandon Thomas and Miss G. Denby-Russell; Miss Evelyn Beaumont is a delightfully dainty Ela Delahay; and the real Donna Lucia D'Alvadorez is played with distinction, dignity, and no little sense of humour by Miss Vere Gerald. Mr. Brandon Thomas is also responsible for the curtain-raiser, the amusing and well-written little piece, *A Highland Legacy*, in which he so cleverly impersonates the canny, but good-hearted Tammy Tamson MacDonnel, the representatives of the other parts—all admirable little portraits—being Messrs. Hastings Lynn, Sydney Compton, Roy Byford, David Denard, and Misses Joan Dilla and Amy Brandon Thomas.

"FAUNTLEROY" AT THE COURT.

The first revival under Miss Mouillot's administration at the Court merits the heartiest support. Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett's story took a firm hold on the public on its stage production in 1888, and its sentiment appears now as fresh and fragrant as ever. Two versions of the novel were produced in the same year, the first by Mr. E. V. Seebohm, which saw the light at the Prince of Wales in the February; the second, by Mrs. Hodgson Burnett herself, being brought out under the title of *The Real Little Lord Fauntleroy* at Terry's in the following May. It was the latter version that Miss Mouillot produced in conjunction with Mr. Will Dennis at the Court on Boxing Day, and the appreciation of the audience was evident in the enthusiasm aroused. The story, it will be recalled, is that of Cedric, a little boy of ten, who is surrendered by his mother to his grandfather, the Earl of Dorincourt, in order that he may take up his inheritance. Cedric is the offspring of the Earl's third son, and as both the elder sons have died he is the heir to the title and estates. The Earl was opposed to the marriage of Cedric's father, and makes the condition that the mother shall not visit her child. How the boy works upon the sympathies of the solitary old Earl, and finally succeeds in completely softening his heart, is told in touching style which must move the hardiest playgoer.

A strong cast has been engaged to support the play. The title-rôle on its first production, it will be remembered, furnished a triumph for Miss Vera Beringer, who, by the way, is now appearing as Fairy Godmother in a neighbouring pantomime production. It is now portrayed by a boy, Master Lenton Murray, who, we are glad to note, has had his licence, at first granted only for a week, extended to a month. The youthful actor is gifted beyond his years, and gives a performance that charms all by its unaffectedness and quaint aristocratic air. Master Murray's articulation is especially to be commended, and every word of the dialogue can be readily heard. Mrs. Errol, formerly played by Miss Winifred Emery, is now represented by Miss Eva Moore, who invests the rôle with a sweetness and pathos that are very touching. Mr. Will Dennis realises with full force the character of the old Earl, a part created by Mr. Alfred Bishop. His irascibility and constant outbursts of temper are admirably assumed, and his acting while undergoing the process of subjugation at the hands of Cedric is remarkably fine. Mr. Havisham, who in the first production was played by Mr. Brandon Thomas, is sustained by Mr. George Canninge, who supplies a faithful reproduction of the old family lawyer of a Dickensian type that is still to be met with, and acts and speaks with a quiet ease that is very effective. The malevolence of the unscrupulous Minna is realistically suggested by Miss Gertrude Netterville; and Miss Mary Brough appears with excellent effect as Mary. Mr. Hobbs, originally in the hands of Mr. Albert Chevalier, is now entrusted to Mr. William Lockhart, who gives a comical performance; Mr. T. N. Walter is a thoroughly effective Higgins; Mr. J. Poole Kirkwood as Thomas and Mr. Norman Clifton as Wilkins add considerably to the comedy relief; and the cast is completed by Mr. Christmas Grose, who combines the duties of stage management with the representation of Dick Tipton, a part originally played by Miss Esme Beringer.

ISLINGTON THEATRE.

On Boxing Day, the Drama, in Three Acts, entitled
"THE CRICKET ON THE HEARTH."

Mr. Walter Gibbons, having acquired the Grand Theatre for his Islington vaudeville enterprise, has converted the old Mohawks hall into a drama house. Messrs. Herbert Blackmore and Lionel Wallace, who are responsible for the production, have chosen the play based on Dickens's well-known story. A very capable company has been engaged, which includes some well-known names, and every credit must be extended to them for a capital all-round performance. Mr. W. T. Elworthy as Perrybingle gave a good impersonation, which was distinguished by great directness of method. Another altogether admirable performance was that of Mr. Archibald Maclean as Gruff Tackleton, the unpleasant nature of the rôle being well realised. Mr. Augusta Wheatman as Caleb Plummer is capital in the attractive part of the old toymaker, and scored a great success. Mr. Laurence Leyton as the Stranger did well in a very restricted part; Miss Frances Rutledge as Mary Perrybingle acted with power and effect; Miss Gladys Archbutt as Bertha portrayed the blind girl very sympathetically, and is to be congratulated; Miss Maud Stainer as Tilly had very little to do, but did that little very well; Miss Rita Trekelle as May Fielding was satisfactory, as was Miss Alice Gordon in the part of the Mother; the cast being completed by Miss Iredale Hope and Mr. Edward Whiting. The scenery and effects were very satisfactory, but the inclement weather was not without its effect on the audience.

BRITANNIA THEATRE.

On Monday, Dec. 28, the Drama, by Chas. H. Longdon and Eric Hudson, entitled
"TWO LITTLE HEROES."

The drama submitted this week has a strong domestic and human interest, and naturally appeals to the paternal instincts of the audiences that have visited the theatre during the week. Mr. Harry Tresham has a part that suits his personality well, and he plays in a natural and free-and-easy manner the character of a French naval officer, Henri de Courcelles. Mr. H. Ryeland-Leigh has gained unenviable notoriety as the villain, being always cast for that particular character, and this week he is duly responsible for causing a considerable amount of misery as the Marquis de Verannes, a part that gives him ample scope for the display of his abilities. Mr. C. Alan-Hineson makes an excellent Jacques Fourniere, and uses to the utmost the scanty opportunities given him; a kind-hearted and sympathetic Abbé Vincent St. Paul is submitted by Mr. Conrad E. Clerke, who gives an ideal portrait of the priest; Dr. Bartrand is well played by Mr. Herbert Young; the two cut-throats, Lagourdaine and Raval, are ably represented by Messrs. Herbert Young and Ivan P. Gore, the latter making up to represent Guy Fawkes; the two orphans are artistically represented by Miss Florence Barnes as Gabriel and Miss Evelyn Kington as Valentine; considerable amusement is caused by Mr. H. G. Brandon as Achille le Grand and Miss Edna Lester as Lulu, these two performers keeping the audience in a merry mood; Miss Ethyle Gordon Murray's Catherine is a good performance, and although the character does not present many opportunities, Miss Murray makes it stand out prominently by her strong acting; and Miss Lalla Stanhope is again allotted a part that suits her personality, and she does full justice to the character of Marie St. Geran, playing in a quiet, unobtrusive manner, never out of the picture, and her winsome and dainty style is entirely in keeping with the part. The drama is well mounted, and full advantage is taken of the opportunity given to dress the play in an artistic manner, the uniforms blending well with the ladies' costumes. The orchestra plays some excellent selections during the evening. The performance is closed by some fine pictures depicted by the Bioscope. Mr. Fred A. Fowler, the resident-manager, is kept fully occupied in attending to the comfort of his numerous patrons.

THEATRE ROYAL, WOOLWICH.

On Boxing Day, the Drama entitled
"THE NIHILIST."

Presented on Boxing Night, before a crowded house, where even standing room was unavailable, *The Nihilist* proved a great attraction. The plot of the drama being unfolded in Russia lends itself to thrilling treatment, and the authors, Messrs. Hugh Montgomery and O. Silverstone, are not slow in taking every advantage of their opportunity, consequently *The Nihilist* is well stocked with blood-curdling situations and exciting incidents. Mr. Joseph Millane gives a powerful rendering of the character of Ivan Nowasky, the village blacksmith; Karl Orloff is ably undertaken by Mr. Cowell Clark; Mr. O. Silverstone looks well as Prince Alexander, and maintains a strong hold of the audience; Mr. Newton Buckland contributes a good study of Pierlree Petoff, of the secret police; Mr. J. Brunelle Harvey is well suited to the part of the exiled priest Father Gourko; Mr. Henry Wright as Bobbie Smart, a British subject, provides a large amount of comic relief, in which he is strongly assisted by Miss Jessica Ford as Katrina Zindoff, who plays her rôle in a vivacious manner; Miss Edna Clare as Alexina Orloff is well placed; Miss Florrie Kelsey provides a very effective performance as Princess Olga, while little May Edise as Little Alexina supplies a clever impersonation. Mr. Morgan Dale, Mr. S. G. Eugene, Mr. Edward Dowds, and Mr. James Hamilton lend suitable assistance in minor parts.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD.

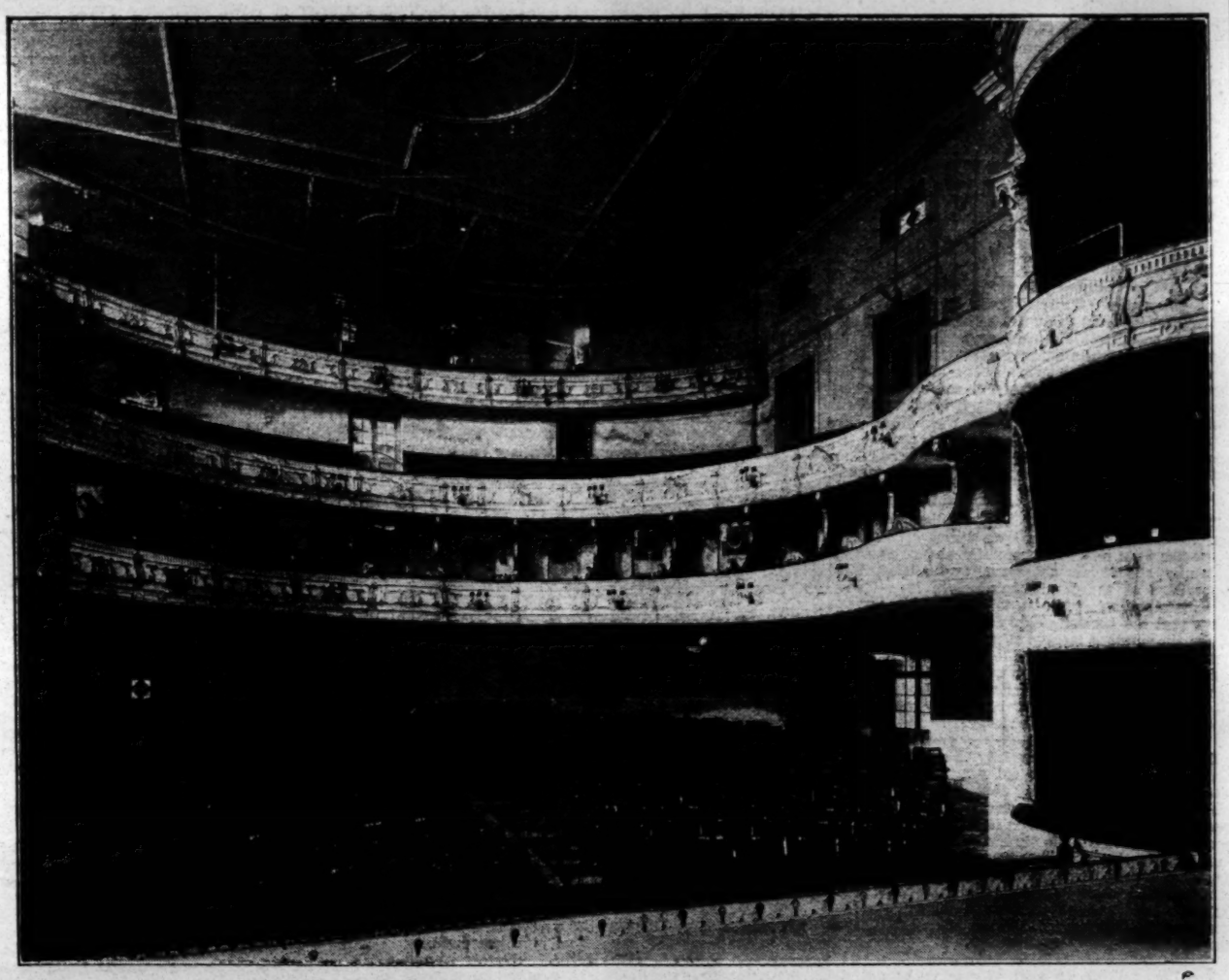
On Monday, Dec. 28, for the first time in London, the Drama, in Five Acts, by T. G. Bailey, entitled
"HOW WOMEN RUIN MEN."

Jack Fairclough ..... } MR. SIDNEY RENNEF
Maurice Fairclough .... }
Bruno Schlag ..... MR. RICHARD VANE
Major Bagstock ..... MR. STEPHEN LANGTON
Freddy Fondheart .... MR. ALEX. WILSON WYNNE
Jimmy Chucket ..... MR. FRED ELVIN
Dr. Methvin ..... MR. MATT RUSSELL
Karl Swarts ..... MR. FRED ASTLEY
Earl's Court Attendant ..... MR. JOHN BLYTH
Sylvia Grey ..... MISS DORIS BROOKES
Mercy Grey ..... MISS GRACIE JONES
Belle Plantin ..... MISS ANNIE BRUNNETT
Mrs. Meadows ..... MISS LILY STANLEY
Jennie Chucket ..... MISS KITTY RUSSELL

Produced at the Victoria Theatre, Broughton, on Nov 9, *How Women Ruin Men* has quickly found its way into the metropolitan area, and at the Stratford Theatre Royal on Monday, despite pantomime attractions, a full house witnessed the performance and unmistakably expressed their approval of the piece. The story is told lucidly and in language far above the average met with in melodrama, though it cannot be said that the comedy scenes, which are but scantily connected with the play, enjoy the same superiority. The piece is interpreted by a particularly capable cast, under the direction of Messrs. Sidney Rennef and G. M. Copping, and it is exceedingly well mounted and dressed.

Sylvia Grey is the woman whose misdeeds suggest the title. Sylvia is a thoroughly bad lot, who can well be described as possessing "the face of an angel and the soul of a devil." When the story opens she is affianced to honest Jack Fairclough, but the prospect of humdrum respectability has no attractions for her, and when Bruno Schlag, a polished German adventurer, appears on the scene, he has not much difficulty in persuading Sylvia to elope with him to Germany. Fairclough only thinks that she has gone to take up that he is a much-sought-after Colonial who has been honoured by royalty for heroic deeds, agrees to leave her husband and fly to Paris with him. Here Maurice reveals his identity. But vengeance is not his. It is contrived that Bruno Schlag should be informed of his wife's elopement, and his is the hand which is the final undoing of the woman, he himself falling dead from a pistol shot before he can do further murder. Maurice's oath fulfilled, the end sees his betrothal to Mercy.

Mr. Sidney Rennef, in the dual rôle of Jack and Maurice Fairclough, acts with virility and earnestness, and carries conviction with every word he utters. Miss Doris Brookes as Sylvia Grey plays with much fluency and latent strength, looking the part well, and declaiming the lines allotted to her with point and emphasis. Mr. Richard Vane is to be commended for an artistic, restrained performance as the German adventurer Bruno Schlag, which is in no way detracted from by the necessary adoption of an accent. Mr. Stephen Langton as the brusque, debonair Major Bagstock is excellent; Mr. Alex. Wilson Wynne in the light comedy part of Freddy Fondheart does well; and Mr. Fred Elvin is a very amusing Jimmy Chucket. Miss Gracie Jones is a sympathetic and charming Mercy Grey; and Miss Kitty Russell is a bright and entertaining Jennie Chucket. The minor parts are in quite capable hands.



VIEW OF INTERIOR OF THE NEW EMPIRE THEATRE, CALCUTTA.
JOINT PROPRIETORS, MR. MAURICE E. BANDMANN AND MR. A. STEPHEN.

OPENING OF GRAND, OLDHAM.

The new Grand Theatre and Opera House, Oldham, was thrown open to the public on Christmas Eve, and a large audience took advantage of the opportunity of visiting one of the prettiest and cosiest theatres in the provinces. Every portion of the house was well-filled by a representative audience, all the seats in the dress circle and orchestra stalls being booked well in advance. Nothing but expressions of admiration were heard at the pretty appearance of the theatre. The opening attraction was the pantomime, *Aladdin*, the story of which has been written by Mr. Arthur W. Field, and the music and lyrics composed, selected, and arranged by Mr. Walter Scott. In the selection of the company, Mr. Dottridge has been very fortunate. Miss Ray Wallace is the hero, and her captivating manner and delightful singing quickly made her a first favourite. Her numbers include "Antonio," "If you want to make love to a girl," and "Opportunities," all sung in capital style. Miss Mildred Bryan as Princess So-Shi repeated her former success, her tuneful voice being used with good effect in "Take me in your arms" and "Far away in Australia," and she also joined with Miss Wallace in two duets. Miss Jennie Hallworth as Pekoe and Miss Marion Walker as Wan Lung were admirable in their respective rôles. Miss Phyllis Seymour as Prince Tokay and Miss Isa Gibson as Nicee also sang and danced in a capital manner. Miss Flo Collier as Sau-Cee acted in spirited fashion, and did well with Mr. Joe Robins in their variety business. The latter appeared with great success as Widow Twankey, and he kept the house roaring with laughter. Mr. Bert Harrow was no less successful in his endeavours to amuse. Mr. Leonard Russell as the Emperor used his fine voice to great advantage, and Mr. E. W. Avery made the most of Ching Chang. Mr. Hugh Cedar as Wishee Washee helped to keep the ball merrily rolling, and Messrs. Maxford and O'Neill as Coppa and Stoppa were effective members of the force. Miss Nellie Duval as the Genie of the Ring had the benefit of a fine presence and a sweet voice, which she used well, and Mr. Edward Elgar was a capital Slave of the Lamp. Messrs. Rolfe, Eadie, Stephens, and Dillon formed a capable quartet, and earned much applause. A feature of the pantomime is the Children's Dream of Toyland, invented and produced by Mlle. Pauline Rivers. From the House of Toys emerge the animated presentment of the kiddies' dreams, dolls they have dreamt of, marching out in delightful manner, and singing and dancing in a most graceful style. Included also in the company are the Pauline Sextette and the Dainty Dandies. Amongst the vocal tit-bits are "My Little Money Spider" and "Only Boys," sung capitally by Misses Nellie Langley and Gertie Langley. Miss Lena Melville was very smart in Scotch dances, and the toe dancing of Miss Edie Howarth was of a very clever character. The production concluded with myriads of lights, forming a pretty picture, and Mlle. Rivers had to bow her acknowledgment. The scenery is excellent, some fine specimens of the artists' work being shown. The Interior of the Magic Cave called forth rounds of applause, as did the Chrysanthemum Carnival, Mr. Dottridge duly appearing in answer to loud applause. The remaining scenes are equally good. Mr. Herbert King stage-managed the production, and under his guidance it runs right merrily.

NEW THEATRE FOR CALCUTTA.

A temple of the drama which, from all accounts, possesses the attributes of a London house has been provided for Calcutta, and bids fair to inaugurate a new era of amusements in the Far East. Mr. Maurice E. Bandmann and Mr. A. Stephen are the proprietors of the new edifice, in the erection of which a record in theatrical construction is claimed. The building of the New Empire Theatre was begun in the spring of the present year, and it was opened on Dec. 5, the work having been completed within a period of nine months. The theatre is divided into four distinctive parts, viz., the stalls, with a seating capacity for nearly 500 people; the grand tier, consisting of boxes only; the dress circle, with a seating capacity for nearly 300 people; and the amphitheatre, which will accommodate 500. The great beauty of the theatre is its wonderful line of sight and its marvellous acoustic properties. The house being built on the cantilever principle, there are no columns to obstruct the view, consequently there is not a seat in the house which does not command a clear view of the stage. Large foyers and marble promenades surround each tier, and the grand marble staircase leading right up as far as the dress circle stands out in grandeur. Each box on its grand tier has its own separate entrance and a comfortable seating capacity for six people, and the proscenium boxes accommodate ten people, who can all see comfortably. The boxes are handsomely draped with rich Utrecht velvet curtains.

The decoration is white and gold throughout, with red velvet, carpets, and hangings. A very pretty feature of the theatre is the principle of lighting. From each circle and box stand out electric fittings, consisting of triple electric candles, each one shaded by red silk, which throw a rich light over the interior. The ceiling is quite a work of art, and is studded with electric light. A rich Utrecht velvet tableau curtain is provided, and a safety curtain is worked by electricity, and can be raised or lowered in a few seconds. The stage is an exact copy of His Majesty's in London, and is complete with every mechanical contrivance. It is capable of holding any production. A whole scene can be lowered or raised according to the will of the producer. There is a large property room and scene dock, with a formidable opening capable of admitting the largest piece of scenery that would ever be used on the stage. The scene doors leading out into the compound are so large that a carriage and pair could drive either in or out of the stage at a comfortable pace.

The dressing-rooms, of which there are sixteen, are quite apart from the stage, and are fitted with every modern convenience. There are lavatories on each floor, and each dressing-room has large windows, and in each one there is a ceiling fan. As regards the fans in the theatre, there are considerably over 100, and they are arranged in such a manner as not to obscure the view. The stall fans are all on standards, which in the cold weather can be lifted out entirely.

The seats have all been brought out by Mr. Bandmann from England, and have been specially made for the Indian climate. They are all modern tip-up chairs, with comfortable arms and backs and gilt metal standards. In the stalls there are foot rests for each seat. The dress circle seats are most comfortable, consisting of cane tip-up chairs, supplied with gilt metal standards. The amphitheatre has an absolutely clear view of every part of the stage, the promoters being particularly desirous of affording every comfort to their patrons. Emergency exits are numerous, and Mr. Bandmann is confident that the building could be emptied within a minute. The theatre is built throughout of brick, stone, and concrete, the outer roof spanning over 80ft. In this roof there is a special installation of ventilation.

The exterior of the building is very handsome, and its tower can be seen from almost any part of the town. Powerful arc lights will light it up at night. The electric installation is the finest obtainable, and equal to any European theatre. From the enormous switchboard on the stage every light in the house can be controlled—dimmed or put out at will. The stage is lit with a three-colour system, so that any lighting effect required can be obtained on a second's notice. Six powerful reflectors are also for use on the stage, apart from the innumerable side lights, ground lights, &c. With one lever every light in the building can be put out instantaneously, and also put up again. The orchestra is sunk well down, so that there are no instruments to obscure the view. There are four bars, one on each tier, and these bars are not sub-let to anyone, but will be run by the management themselves. Messrs. Mackintosh Burn are the architects and builders.

The opening attraction was *The Mikado*, which was heartily enjoyed by an audience that filled nearly every part of the theatre and displayed great enthusiasm. A more pretentious production was reserved for the following week, when *Havana* was staged in most elaborate style. The dressing of the piece elicited the highest commendation. In prettiness it would be a difficult matter to beat the costumes. The scenery on each rise of the curtain exacted applause, and the general lighting and limelight arrangements were perfect. The performance gained the highest admiration. The company included Miss Constance Lait as Consuelo, Miss Florence Beech as Anita, Miss Mabel Gregory, Miss Wilmot Karkeek, Miss Elsie Probyn, Miss Blanche Vauden, and Mrs. Henry Dallas. Mr. Henry Dallas and Mr. Frank Danby were respectively the Bosun and the Yacht's Boy, and other members of the cast were Mr. Fred Coyne, Mr. Villiers Arnold, Mr. John Doran, Mr. Dan Clifford, and Mr. Edward Granby.

Mr. Bandmann relied upon pantomime as his Christmas attraction, and it is his intention during the coming season to present the most famous Drury Lane dramas. Mr. Bandmann's London manager, it should be added, is Mr. James Bury.

ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH.

The management of this theatre is fully entitled to, and deserves congratulations on, its judgment in the selection and engagement of a holiday programme. Commencing from Boxing Day, the Moody-Manners Opera Company is giving representations from its repertoire of well-known operas, and will continue its occupation of this well-appointed house for the two following weeks, during which time the operas *Faust*, *Tannhäuser*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *I Pagliacci*, *Maritana*, *Carmen*, and *Madame Butterfly* will be presented. The latter opera, being the one under notice, was introduced on Monday night before a full house, the large audience showing unmistakable signs of their keen appreciation of Puccini's weird and Eastern-garbed music, and bestowing enthusiastic applause upon the principal artists engaged, who, we may here mention, deserved the praise so liberally meted out to them. In the title-rôle Miss Enriqueta Crichton (Cho Cho-San) renders her score with artistic ability, and her acting of the tragic part is a noteworthy feature. Miss M. Dennis as Susuki displays a well-trained voice, which she uses to the best advantage, her acting being finely touched with pathos. B. F. Pinkerton is capitally essayed by Mr. Charles Carter, who makes the most of an excellent tenor voice and achieves distinction. Mr. Marshall Vincent as Sharples gives a good taste of his quality and deserves commendation. Miss V. Barry as Kate Pinkerton is successful. The remaining members of the cast do ample justice to the parts allotted them, and the greatly augmented orchestra under the bâton of Mr. Cuthbert Hawley deserves praise.

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

MR. BEERBOHM TREE must have been much gratified by reading the letter which the Minister of the Italian Royal Household addressed to Mr. H. S. J. Booth, the chief organiser of the recent matinée given by Mr. Tree at His Majesty's Theatre, in connection with the Adelaide Ristori Memorial Fund, in which the Minister says:—"The details of this worthy manifestation have been received with special interest by His Majesty, who rightly appreciated this homage and the accompanying feelings of friendship towards Italy. I am now commanded by His Majesty to convey to you in the Royal name his best thanks, and to express to you and to all who are associated in the noble enterprise the sovereign's gratification."

MRS. D'OYLY CARTE, lady vice-president of the Strand District of the League of Mercy, gave a special matinée of *The Pirates of Penzance*, at the Savoy Theatre, on Wednesday afternoon, the proceeds to be devoted to the League of Mercy. In aid of the same beneficent society the Lady Mayoress has given her patronage to the fancy dress dance (fancy dress optional) for children and adults, to be held at the Hotel Cecil on Monday.

MISS VIOLA TREE will retire from the stage for one year at the end of the run of *Pinkie and the Fairies*, in order to devote herself to the study of singing with a view to qualifying herself for grand opera. Miss Tree is acting on the advice of her music teacher, Signor Visetti, whose recommendation is endorsed by Sir Hubert Parry and Sir Villiers Stanford. The clever young lady has already given ample evidence of her accomplishments in the arts of both acting and singing, and her début in the opera *Francesca*, which was produced at His Majesty's by the Royal College of Music on the 3rd ult. was highly promising.

THE sudden advent of winter played havoc with the amusement business, and the attendances at both theatres and variety halls were enormously depleted. The prospect of issuing forth even for a few moments into the blinding snow, and taking the few steps in the slush necessary to reach motor-car or cab, could not be faced by the ordinary members of the playgoing public, and booked seats were sacrificed by the hundred, while the cheaper portions of the houses suffered accordingly. Fortunately the frost was of comparatively brief duration, and the thaw that set in quickly restored business to its normal condition.

"PENELOPE," a new play from the facile pen of Mr. W. Somerset Maugham, will make its appearance at the Comedy on Saturday. Mr. Maugham has once again selected a charming Irishwoman for the principal character, but on this occasion she is a young wife and she exerts her fascinations triumphantly over her husband, a gentleman of the same warm-hearted race, whose taste for pretty faces is too pronounced. The title-rôle will be played by Miss Marie Tempest, and that of the husband, Dr. O'Farrell, by Mr. Graham Browne The cast will also consist of Mr. Alfred Bishop, Miss Kate Bishop, Mr. Eric Lewis, Miss Norma Whalley, Mr. Herbert Ross, Mrs. Calvert, Mr J. H. Brewer, and Miss Ethelwynn Arthur-Jones.

MISS JULIA NEILSON and Mr. Fred Terry will reappear at the New Theatre on Thursday, when *Henry of Navarre* will have its introduction to London. The two principals will have the support of Messrs. Malcolm Cherry, A. E. Anson, Harry F. Wright, Walter Edwin, Horace Hodges, J. Carter-Edwards, George Dudley, Maurice Tosh, C. R. Gibbon, Maurice Elvey, Philip Merivale, Sydney Porter, and R. Easten Pickering, and Misses Tita Brand, Kathleen Doyle, Gladys Gardner, Kitty Carteret, Gwen Thomas, and Beatrice Manning.

MISS EVELYN MILLARD brings the successful run of *Idols* to a close to-day, in order to make way for the promised revival of *The Adventure of Lady Ursula* at the Garrick on Tuesday next. The character of Lady Ursula, in Mr. Anthony Hope's charming comedy, has always been a favourite with Miss Millard, who made a distinct hit in the original production at the Duke of Yrk's Theatre in 1898, when the play had a run extending over a year. The cast will be completed by Miss Dora Barton, Miss Dolores Drummond; and Messrs. Herbert Waring, Charles Fulton, J. L. Mackay, Lytton Grey, Owen Roughwood, Evelyn Vernon, Heath Haviland, Gerald Jerome, A. E. Benedict, John W. Laurence, and Frank Danby.

MR. RUTLAND BARRINGTON will deliver an address to the members of the O.P. Club in the Grand Hall at the Criterion on Sunday, Jan. 17, when "Encores: Their Advantages and Drawbacks" will be discussed. Another Savoyard, Miss Jessie Rose, will take the chair.

MR. SEYMOUR HICKS is actively engaged in rehearsals of the new musical play, *The Young Duke*, which is to be brought out at the Hicks Theatre about the middle of next month. The score of the new piece, which is based upon *A Court Scandal*, has been composed by Mr. Frank Tours. Not the least interesting feature about the production is that it will serve for the appearance of Miss Ellaline Terriss for the first time at the head of her own company, under the management of Mr. Charles Frohman.

THE *Merry Widow* dinner arranged by the O.P. Club to celebrate the success of an opera which has created a world's record will be held on Sunday, Jan. 31, at the Hotel Cecil. Mr. George Edwardes, Miss Lily Elsie, and Mr. Joseph Coyne will be the guests of the evening, and invitations will also be extended to the members of the Daly's Theatre company. The president, Mr. Max Pemberton, will be in the chair.

"JACK STRAW" concludes its career this week, and the Vaudeville will subsequently revert to serious drama. The piece decided upon for production will be a new play called *Olive Lattimer's Husband*, by Mr. Rudolph Besier, whose *Virgin Goddess* was produced by Mr. Otho Stuart at the Adelphi in the autumn of 1906. Interesting engagements have already been made in those of Mrs. Patrick Campbell and Mr. Lyn Harding for the leading parts.

MISS ELLEN TERRY has found it impossible to play in *Pinkie and the Fairies* nine times a week. Her part in that attractive play will therefore be taken at the Monday and Wednesday matinées by her daughter, Miss Edith Craig.

MR. RICHARD GREEN, who is playing Max in Wilfred Cotton's *Butterflies* company at Glasgow, holds the Royal Humane Society's certificate for saving life. The gallant deed was accomplished some ten years ago, and on Sunday, Dec. 13, when Mr. Green was singing at Brighton, a fine young fellow came round after the concert to thank the popular vocalist for having saved his life.

SOME of the successes at the Paris theatres are lucrative. "The Variétés," says our correspondent, "continues to do well with *Le Roi*. The gross receipts since the work was launched show the respectable figure of over £40,000, and seats continue to be booked a long time in advance. The next play on the list is *Le Circuit*, by MM. de Flers and Francis de Croisset; but some time will elapse before *Le Roi* will disappear from the bill."

WITH a view to ascertaining the opinions of some representative theatrical managers in regard to the questions raised by Mr. Harcourt's Theatres Bill, a representative of the *Morning Post* has called upon Mr. George Alexander. "I much prefer to be under the Lord Chamberlain," he said with emphasis: "and I hope personally, for the sake of the Drama generally, that we shall always be under his jurisdiction. But at the same time I think that the present Act—the Theatres Act of 1843—is obsolete, and my wish is to have Free Trade in amusements.

"So far from wishing the censorship to be done away with I should rather think that it ought to be extended further, so as to include the music halls. I certainly think that something should be done to place matters upon a more sensible footing. It is ludicrous that people should go on producing these 'Sketches' in music halls and yet be prosecuted as at present: it is time that these prosecutions should be done away with."

"WHY not leave well alone?" represents the attitude taken up in regard to the Bill by Mr. Henry R. Smith, partner with Mr. Ernest Carpenter in the management of the rejuvenated and popularised Lyceum. "What has arisen recently, or, indeed, at any time, in the conduct of theatres," asked Mr. Smith, "which should cause anyone to bring forward a Bill on these lines? I really see no necessity for it. I know of no London manager who has expressed any feeling antagonistic to the Lord Chamberlain or to the way in which the duties of his office are carried out. Mr. Carpenter and myself have always found him perfectly reasonable in regard to the censorship of plays, and I cannot see that he has treated anybody badly.

"WE have no desire to introduce anything that might be objectionable into our plays; we want to present what is popular. We are perfectly satisfied with the reader of plays, who is a man of wide experience, and have no desire to change a system which has lasted long and worked well. But if there are any London managers who are dissatisfied with the Lord Chamberlain's department let them speak out now and say why they are dissatisfied. Some dramatic authors, I dare say, may desire a change; but the managers, so far as I know, are quite content to let well alone. The Lord Chamberlain has the power to grant or to refuse licences, and if a licence were abused it would very quickly be revoked."

"WE have too many theatres in London already," proceeded Mr. Smith, "and it is quite right that the established houses should have their licences continued. Competition among theatrical proprietors is very keen. We do not want theatres in every street in London. As for the suggestion that the power of licensing and controlling theatres in the central parts of London should be transferred to the London County Council, we think that the present system, under which the County Council issues a certificate stating that they are satisfied of the adequacy of the provision made for the protection of the public against fire and the Lord Chamberlain grants the licence, is a good one.

"I THINK the County Council discharge their duties properly. They do not insist upon anything which is not absolutely necessary, but they do insist upon the public being protected against fire. Here at the Lyceum, which is one of the largest theatres in Europe, and where we are catering for the masses, we hail with delight the taking of all such precautions. It is quite right that the London County Council should have control of theatres in this respect for the protection of the public, which is a thing that every right minded manager welcomes.

"WHAT has happened within the last year or two to change the general condition of affairs? There has been no serious calamity and no trouble, and why should we not leave well alone? The supervision of the Lord Chamberlain is a thing of long standing; while it is only within recent years that the London County Council has stepped in for the purpose merely of protecting the public against fire. In regard to the censorship of plays and the grant of licences, we would rather be in the hands of the Lord Chamberlain and the London County Council than of any newly-appointed body of whom we have no knowledge."

MISS EVIE GREENE, Miss Lily Elsie, and Miss Margaret Cooper saw the old year out under extraordinary circumstances. Just before midnight the popular actresses proceeded to the Embankment, where they distributed tickets to 250 hungry and homeless men. The tickets entitled the holder to the Salvation Army's pint of soup and half-pound of bread, half a pound of cake, a roll, two oranges, and some coppers, the gift being the proceeds of an entertainment given at the Kennington Theatre by Mr. H. Bernhardt, the concert director, of Regent-street.

THE Drury Lane dresses, as was to be anticipated, are marvels of taste and elegance. Miss Marie George as Katrina has five dresses, all of the German peasant type. The first and simplest is in red, the bodice being trimmed with green and yellow silk. A similar fashion is followed in the second, which is, however, in purple-pink silk trimmed with flowers. The third is an apprentice boy's suit in cloth and cashmere, and is succeeded by a dress of black silk trimmed with ribbons and bands of white silk work in Czech black and red embroidery. The fifth, a dress of azure blue silk, is trimmed with Czech gold and silver lace, and with it is worn a pale azure apron and a head-dress of gold lace.

MISS QUEENIE LEIGHTON, in the title-rôle, also affects five dresses. The first is an apprentice costume of brown cloth, with white sleeves, and leather apron, tights, and boots; the second is similar, with an under-dress in a shade of brown and *fraise écrasée*; No. 3 is the same dress in a ragged condition, with a long brown cloak; and the fourth is a rich costume of reddish purple embroidered in red and scarlet; the last being a blue-black dress, supplemented with an extremely rich blue-black and gold Lord Mayor's robe.

A TRIO of toilets suffices for the Prince of Phantasia, played by Miss Truly Shattuck. The first is a fancy costume of Royal blue velvet, with sleeves of white silk edged with fringe, a yard long, of silk shaded from white to blue, while her marabout toque is trimmed with long blue feathers. The second is the national costume of Phantasia, half Oriental, in purple silk, richly embroidered with gold, a wreath of flowers on the head, her long cloak being ornamented with a sort of Maori gold trimming. The third dress is somewhat like the first, but in Oriental white and hyacinth blue.

MISS MARIE WILSON invests Alice with five captivating costumes. She has first a mediæval fancy costume of very pale pastel blue, the bodice of which is trimmed with emerald green. The head-dress is of white lace, adorned with orange ribbon. Next comes a gown of pink silk, with an over-dress of muslin and a lace bodice. The third is a rustic peasant dress of Oriental blue cotton, with a printed design in salmon pink; and afterwards a ragged street dress in various shades of lavender is worn, with a green and white apron. When Miss Wilson makes her entry as Lady Mayoress she is arrayed in a soft white satin gown, over a white and silver under-dress. It is made on classical lines, regardless of trimming, and with a long train, while a mediæval head-dress completes the costume.

THE Hutchison tours have made a most auspicious start. At Swansea on Boxing Day *Peter's Mother* broke all previous Christmas records there by playing to £251 in the two performances, a fact on which both Mr. Brooks, the lessee of the Grand, and Mr. Hutchison are to be congratulated. *Brewster's Millions* opened a return visit at Hastings on Saturday, and beat not only its own remarkable receipts there last August, but also the Christmas records of the theatre. *Mrs. Dot* also commenced its spring tour with enormous houses at Ipswich on Boxing Day.

THE next of the Hutchison companies to start is *Lady Frederick*, with Miss Eleanor Delaporte and Mr. Robert Minster. The first date is at the Theatre Royal, Bath, on Jan. 4, and the tour is booked throughout the spring.

WORK is proceeding apace upon Mr. Mulholland's new theatre at Wimbledon, full particulars of which have already appeared in *The Era*. Even the holidays were not allowed to interfere, and the blizzard only caused the loss of one day. After the series of delays, due chiefly to methods of the local authority, exceptional efforts are now being made, and it is confidently anticipated that the theatre will be completed in all respects well before the end of the summer. The advent of one of London's very largest playhouses is being warmly welcomed in the neighbourhood.

IT is not impossible that in planning the New Theatre, Wimbledon, on such spacious lines, the proprietor has had in mind the possibility of its partial use for high-class variety purposes. A sign of the times is the variety seasons which, during part of the year, are sandwiched with the "legitimate" drama at some of the finest theatres in the country. Mr. Mulholland has been for many years an active member of the Theatrical Managers' Association. He is a man with his finger on the pulse of the time, and his theatre with a holding capacity of four thousand may not be intended solely for the drama.

MISS EMMA HUTCHISON and Mr. Percy Hutchison's latest acquisition is Mr. Roy Horniman's clever play, *Idols*, which they will send on tour, opening on Jan. 25 at Cheltenham. Miss E. Goodall has been engaged to play Miss Millard's part of Irene Merrian, and Miss Moyra Cregan will be the Minna Hart. Mr. Herbert Ford has the lead, Mr. A. B. Imeson is entrusted with the part of Gerald Merrian, Mr. J. E. Watson will manage the tour, and the advance-management will be in the hands of Mr. J. Major Ward. This is the thirty-ninth play toured under the direction of Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison, and it will be staged with the thoroughness invariably associated with that enterprising management.

AMONG the victims of the awful catastrophe in Italy were the baritone Anceschi and his wife, of the Teatro Massimo, together with the soprano Mlle. Marie Fougères and her mother, who were killed in Messina. An elderly musician escaped from Reggio carrying his mother on his back and leading his wife by the hand.

MR. GEORGE ELLISTON was called upon to play the title-rôle in *Humpty Dumpty* pantomime at the Tyne, Newcastle, at barely three days' notice. He only arrived in Newcastle from London on the Monday, attended a full-dress rehearsal on the Wednesday, and took part in the opening performance the following evening.

WE regret to announce the death of Mr. H. Sharpe, the resident scenic artist of the Theatre Royal, Jarrow, which occurred suddenly on Monday morning. Mr. Sharpe was connected with the theatre over thirty years, and was universally respected.

MR. WILFRED COTTON'S *Butterflies* company, with the scenery, dresses, and electrical effects of the original production at the Apollo, is the Christmas and New Year attraction at the Royalty Theatre, Glasgow, where it opened on Monday evening with most gratifying results, the audience including the Lord Provost, and many magnates of the city. Mr. J. A. Robertson, the composer, was present in his capacity of musical director.

THE New Public Hall and Theatre, Aberaman, was opened on Monday evening, and a very large audience assembled to do honour to the occasion. The full seating accommodation of the new building is about 1,500, and the comfort of the audience has been studied in every particular. The scenery and effects are very elaborate, and the stage appointments leave nothing to be desired. The lighting is by electricity; emergency gas fittings have also been judiciously arranged. The production for the opening was *The Mikado*, by the Aberaman Operatic Society.

MR. C. ST. JOHN DENTON has received a cable from Australia as follows: "*Cinderella* pantomime enormous. Notices magnificent. Success undoubted." The book of this pantomime is by Stanley Rogers, and is the same that was such a success at the Shakespeare, Liverpool, last year, and the Grand, Glasgow, this season.

THE part of Mrs. Caddisbroke, in *The General's Past*, which was originally to have been played by Miss Ethel Warwick, will now be played by Miss Lucy Ashworth, and Miss Gwynne Herbert will enact that of Mrs. Curry in *The Test*. Both pieces, it will be remembered, are to be presented by the Dramatic Productions Club on Sunday evening and Monday afternoon next.

MISS GRACE LESTER commenced on Monday her seventh engagement with Mr. Frederick Melville at the Theatre Royal, Sunderland. Miss Lester is now engaged for the part of the Mother Superior in *Her Forbidden Marriage*, a part she played successfully on a previous tour.

SIGNOR CARUSO, the famous Italian singer, who is now appearing at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, was greatly distressed on hearing of the news of the misfortunes of his countrymen in Southern Italy, and announced that he intended to devote the night's salary, amounting to £500, to relieving the sufferers by the earthquake. Signor Bonci has followed Caruso's example, and is devoting a night's salary to the fund.

MR. ROLAND YORKE entertained the members of his *Old Home* company to dinner on Christmas Day. He also concluded forty consecutive weeks' tour, and is playing to packed business, the ordinary door on two nights last week remaining unopened. So great is the success of this play that it is well booked into 1910.

THE booming of pantomimes has been brought to a fine art by Mr. H. Barrett Brandreth, the acting-manager of Kennington Theatre, in the case of *Red Riding Hood* this Christmas-tide. For several weeks prior to the production Mr. Brandreth kept the Kennington pantomime prominently before the playgoing public by means of the daily newspapers. There were successively articles on the need of an educated pig, interviews with the call boy who possessed his own motor car and had a private income, sketches of how chorus girls are fed, and other interesting items of information in various London newspapers. It was not surprising, therefore, that *Red Riding Hood* was booked up for three weeks before the dress rehearsal was held—a tribute alike to the astute business methods of Mr. Brandreth, and to the high reputation which the Kennington annual enjoys.

"DOROTHY," so successfully revived at the New Theatre on the 21st ult., will be transferred to the Waldorf on Monday, with Mr. C. Hayden Coffin and Mr. Arthur Williams in their original parts, and Miss Constance Drever and Miss Louie Pounds as a new Dorothy and Lydia, Miss Coralie Blythe as Phyllis, Mr. John Bardsley as Geoffrey Wilder, and Mr. Lempriere Pringle as Squire Bantam.

THE present revival of *Dorothy* furnished something of a record in the annals of "hustling" in regard to a West End production. Practically all the engagements were made only twelve days before the actual date of production, and arrangements had then to be made for the costumes and scenery. Seemingly insurmountable obstacles were overcome, and the curtain was raised at 8.15 on the night the play was advertised to be revived.

THE sick children at the Great Ormond-street Hospital had sent them a few days since by Miss Lily Elsie, of *The Merry Widow* company, a sleigh laden with bon-bons and yoked to a couple of white steeds, which automatically nodded their heads. The kind thought of the popular artist was greatly appreciated by the little patients.

"THE DAWN OF A TO-MORROW," a drama of London slum life, by Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett, was produced at the Academy of Music, Norfolk, U.S.A., on the 18th. The theme of the play touches on Christian Science. Sir Oliver Holt is in bad health, and his physician has told him that he cannot live. He gives out that he is going to Paris, but he has decided to go into the slums and kill himself, believing that he can do this in such a way that his identity will never become known. He meets "Glad," an optimistic little creature who associates with thieves, but who possesses a wonderful knowledge of the doctrines of the preachers and philosophers. The girl and Sir Oliver become interested in each other, and she dissuades him from his suicidal intent. He forgets his troubles, becomes a well man, and again ascends to a state of happiness and prosperity. Miss Eleanor Robson appeared as "Glad." Mrs. Burnett went over from London to witness the first performance of her play.

"THE PICKPOCKETS" is the title of a new play by Mr. C. M. S. McLellan, the author of *Leah Kleschna*. It was produced at the Apollo Theatre, in Atlantic City, U.S.A., on the 14th, with Mr. Arnold Daly in the principal rôle. He assumed the character of David Murray, a young millionaire who has been won over to the Socialistic views held by Judith Zaraine, a strike leader. Miss Katherine Kaelred, an Australian actress, appeared in the latter rôle.

"THE WRITING ON THE WALL" is to be the name of the play that Mr. W. J. Hurlbut, author of *The Fighting Hope*, has written for Miss Olga Nethersole. The scenes are laid in New York.

MR. FRANK J. PITT will conclude his tour, which has extended over two and a half years, of the detective drama, *£1,000 Reward*, at the Queen's Theatre, Fleetwood, this evening. After a few weeks' rest he will produce Walter Howe's domestic drama, in four acts, for which scenery is being painted by Phil V. Davis. The incidental music has been written and composed by Herbert A. Harrison, of the Theatre Royal, Aldershot. The bookings already include most of the leading theatres.

MR. REGINALD DANCE, playing *Raffles* with his own company, had the distinction of beating all previous records at the Empire Theatre, Swindon, on Boxing Night.

ONE of the many enjoyable features of Mr. St. John Denton's delightful pantomime at the Camden Theatre, is the speciality dance given by Miss Geraldine Somerset, who has made a big success in it.

A VERY pleasant evening was spent at the Duke of Edinburgh Hotel, Barrow-in-Furness, on Christmas Day, when the members of *The Bondman* company, who are appearing at the Royalty Theatre in that town, were entertained by Mr. Wentworth Croke. Full justice was done to the sumptuous repast provided, and afterwards the company proved themselves most versatile in some excellent musical numbers. Mr. and Mrs. Croke's health was drunk amid musical honours and vociferous cheering, and a telegram was sent to Mr. Croke, expressing deep appreciation of his kindness and the excellent *esprit de corps* that existed between himself and his several companies.

MR. J. MAJOR WARD, late general manager of King's Theatre, Kilmarnock, having just finished a tour with *The Walls of Jericho*, has been engaged by Mr. Brandon Thomas as acting manager for his season at the Aldwych Theatre.

MR. ERIC H. ALBURY has been engaged by Mr. Lionel Rignold for the part of the Cabin Boy (Steward) and stage manager for his forthcoming tour of *The Early Worm*. Mr. Albury will also understudy Mr. Rignold in the rôle of the Worm.

THE members of H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's *Leah Kleschna* company dined on Christmas Day at the Station Hotel, Nelson. Mr. Arthur Leigh presided, and among the guests were Mr. George Mudd, the popular manager of the Nelson Theatre, and his assistant, Mr. Hatfield. After dinner, the company adjourned to the music-room, where singing and recitations were indulged in until the early hours of the morning.

MR. J. HENRY TWYFORD, who has just concluded a long tour in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, playing the duel leading rôle of Neville Landless and Mr. Datchery, will be in the cast of the Playactors' next production at the Court Theatre on Jan. 10.

BY way of advertising his several *Butterflies* companies on tour, Mr. Wilfred Cotton has devised a novel form of throw-away which is exciting much attention in Glasgow, where the principal company has been secured as the holiday attraction. It takes the form of an ingeniously painted *papier maché* butterfly affixed to a Scottish "burr," which adheres to everything it comes in contact with, and is in much demand by the *jeunesse dorée* of the city, who indulge in mimic warfare with them between the acts. It is quite an everyday occurrence to see staid citizens, stalwart policemen, messenger boys, &c., perambulating the principal thoroughfares, blissfully unconscious that some practical joker has attached to their backs one of these picturesque devices bearing the inscription: "Direct from the Apollo Theatre, London."

ON Christmas Eve at the Theatre Royal, Worthing, Mr. Charles M. Bestic was presented with a handsome cigarette case by the members of his *Flower Girl* company. The gift was handed to Mr. Bestic on behalf of the company by Mr. John T. MacCullum, who, in a few well-chosen words, conveyed to Mr. Bestic the heartiest wishes of all present for prosperity in the new year and also their appreciation of the many kindnesses they had received at his hands. Mr. Bestic, in reply, said he was deeply affected, and thanked the company on behalf of himself and Mrs. Bestic (who was presented with a handsome bouquet). The company travelled by special saloon from Paddington on Christmas Day, being entertained to a luncheon on the journey by Mr. Bestic, and opened on Boxing night at the Garrick Theatre, Hereford, to a packed house.

THE run of *Lady Epping's Lawsuit* at the Criterion will terminate on Tuesday, and on the following evening Miss Mary Moore will revive *Mrs. Gorringe's Necklace*, the performance of which, however, can only be for three weeks, as Miss Evelyn Millard commences her tenancy of the Criterion on Feb. 1. A special and last performance of *Lady Epping's Lawsuit* will be given on Thursday afternoon next.

"MRS. GORRINGE'S NECKLACE" bears the distinction of having been the means of Mr. H. H. Davies's first introduction to the London public. It was produced at Wyndham's on May 16, 1903, and after playing with great success all the season it was reproduced in October of the same year at the New Theatre, where it enjoyed a further run. In the forthcoming revival Miss Mary Moore will resume her former part of the delightfully irresponsible Mrs. Gorringe, and Mr. Yorke Stephens will play Sir Charles Wyndham's part of Captain Mowbray, a rôle to which Mr. Stephens is well accustomed. The remainder of the cast will comprise Mr. Fred Lewis, Mr. Leslie Faber, Mr. Reginald Walter, Mr. Lawrence White, Miss Marie Illington, Miss Dorothy Thomas, Miss Helena Drew, and Miss Ethel Marryat.

THE death occurred on Christmas Eve of Baron François Auguste Gevaërt, who was one of the most remarkable Belgian musicians of his time. He was born at Huysse, a village near Oudenarde, in 1828. He was the son of a baker, and was intended for his father's trade, but his musical gifts became so apparent that he was sent to the Conservatoire at Ghent. For a time he was organist of the Jesuit Church at Ghent, and it was in that town that he produced his first opera, *Hugues de Somerghen*, in 1848, and it was soon followed by another, entitled *La Comédie à la Ville*, given at Brussels.

A ONE-ACT opera entitled *Georgette*, produced at the Théâtre Lyrique, Paris, in 1852, was succeeded two years later by *Le Billet de Marguerite*, in three acts, and by *Les Lavandières de Santarem* in 1855. Three other operas produced at the Paris Opéra-Comique—*Quentin Durward* (1858), *Le Diable au Moulin* (1859), and *Château Trompette* (1860)—were all favourably received, and *Le Capitaine Henriot* (1864) obtained a real success at the time. The composer succeeded Fétis as director of the Brussels Conservatoire in 1871. From that time he devoted a great deal of his attention to works on music, and many valuable treatises from his pen appeared.

THE Children's Theatre in New York will shortly be built, plans having been furnished and a site secured. The founders of the juvenile playhouse, where fairy stories, pantomimes, and other entertainment suitable for the young will be performed, include, it is stated, Mrs. Carter Harrison, of Chicago, Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett, and Mrs. Russell-Sage. It is expected to open next autumn.

THE theatre will be octagonal, and, instead of the ordinary orchestra chairs, pewlike boxes will be installed capable of holding from four to eight persons. From Monday to Saturday it is planned to give daily matinées beginning at four o'clock in the afternoon and ending at half-past five. Performances will also be given on Friday and Saturday evenings, and on Saturdays and holidays it is intended to have plays of a fairyland nature to be selected by the board of managers. The prices of seats will range from two to four shillings, and among the provisions for the comfort of the audience is that of an apartment where refractory children may be dealt with.

MISS BESSIE BUTT, who has so often made a success in the title-rôle of *Cinderella*, has this year essayed the character of Dandini in the same pantomime, and, judging by the success that has attended her efforts, the clever little lady has to be added to the list of principal boys who can sing, dance, and act to perfection. At the Royal County Theatre, Kingston, Miss Butt has carried all before her, and her exceedingly pretty song, "Sunshine Soo," is likely to haunt the neighbourhood for many weeks to come.

MISS BEATRICE WILSON has sustained a heartfelt loss by the death of her Japanese spaniel "Kara," to which she was greatly attached. The animal, which was only four years old when he died, was given to Miss Wilson by Mr. Norman V. Norman, and was her constant companion.

MR. LEWIS CASSON has been the recipient of numerous congratulations on his wedding with Miss Sybil Thorndike, which took place at Aylesford Parish Church on the 22nd ult. Mr. Carson is among the most promising of our younger leading actors, and the distinction which he won during the Vedrenne-Barker régime at the Court will be well remembered. He is an ardent advocate of combination among members of the profession, and the Actors' Association has been much strengthened by his work on the Council of that body.

A MEMENTO of *The Merry Widow* was presented to visitors to Daly's Theatre on Saturday afternoon, when every member of the audience received a copy of Queen Alexandra's Christmas Gift Book. The books were enclosed in large red, white, and blue envelopes, and were distributed in every part of the house, without exception.

MR. GEORGE LESTOCQ will take on tour, commencing in February next, that funny farcical comedy *The Sportsman*.

MISS BEATRICE FELSTED, who is Fairy Queen with Mr. J. F. Elliston this year, has just had a good offer for panto in the West End for 1909-10.

AT the dramatic reading of *King John* to be given by the British Empire Shakespeare Society on Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 5, at the Victoria Hall, Archer-street, W., the cast will include Mr. Robert Loraine, Mr. Acton Bond, Mr. Walter Ringham, Mr. Arthur Burne, Mr. C. Leveson Lane, Mr. A. Harding Steerman, Mr. A. V. Bramble, Mr Lane Crauford, Mr Frederick James, Mr. George Owen, Mr. Lewis Willoughby, Mr. Arthur Tranton; Miss Sybil Ruskin, Miss Eve Tame, Miss Marion Grey, Miss Enid Rose, and Miss Esme Beringer.

THE revival by the English Drama Society, under the management of Mr. Nugent Monck, of the Nativity group from the fourteenth century mysteries called "The Chester Plays," has been postponed until Thursday, Jan. 14, Friday, 15th, Monday, 18th, and Tuesday, 19th, at 3.30 p.m. each day. The "Mysteries" will be presented at the Fortune Playhouse, Brewer-street, Regent-street.

MR. TOM B. DAVIS has added another attractive feature to *The Belle of Brittany* at the Queen's Theatre in the shape of a dainty dance by Miss Vivien Talleur. The charming dancer is new to London, and, although born in England, made her reputation in America under the banner of Mr. Charles Frohman.

FULHAM meets Stockport, at Stockport, to-day, when the London team will be selected from Fryer, Skene, Collins, Wyllie, Parsonage, Suart, Harrison, Dalrymple, Freeman, Millington, Lipsham, Charlton, and Leigh. At Fulham to-day in the match Fulham Res. *v.* Maidstone, the home team will be represented by Crossthwaite, Harper, Holtum, Mouncher, Waterson, Prout, Barton, B. Millington, Carter, McCourt, and Lee. The kick-off is at 2.30.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Tit for Tat.

I HAVE witnessed many funny incidents during my long experience as a business-manager, writes Mr. E. W. Silverthorne. The following amusing little episode occurred about ten years ago, when I was manager for Mr. Edward Terry, and the *venue* was the Royalty Theatre, Glasgow. Whilst we were giving the usual matinée (to a big house) of *Sweet Lavender*, a gentleman, who was sitting in the first row of the pit—and who, I discovered later, had been the main support at a wine party—requested two ladies who were sitting immediately in front of him, occupying pit-stalls, to remove their hats. On receiving a point-blank refusal, he elbowed his way out of the pit after noticing a solitary pit-stall vacant in front of his tormentors, and "transferred" to this seat. To my amazement, before sitting down, he rapidly divested himself of both coat and waistcoat, and rolling them up, promptly elevated himself to a position which practically obscured the entire centre of the stage from the ladies' view. Adding insult to injury, he turned round and leered at them with a smile of truculent triumph, remarking, "What do you think of my back for width?" It was then I found it necessary to have the gentleman removed.

Cicely's Complaint.

THE theatrical man of the *Cosy Corner* continues to give advice gratis to ladies of the profession. His most recent "case" is the following:—"Cicely is on the stage, but her experience of the profession up to now has not been very encouraging. It cost her a two-guinea fee at an agent's and over eighteen months of weary waiting before she obtained an engagement at all. After one or two small-salaried minor affairs she was engaged for pantomime, then was out until this autumn, when she went on tour with a musical comedy. She says the company was a poor one, visiting third-rate towns and fit-ups; the work was hard, and they did not always receive their salary. A lot of the girls left, and at last Cicely was dismissed for disobedience at rehearsal. She left at a moment's notice, and had to return to her home in Birmingham upon money lent her by her friends. Cicely declares that she did nothing to merit dismissal, and certainly, if her statement is a true one, she has been very harshly treated. She wants to know whether she should sue her late manager for two weeks' salary in lieu of notice—to which she is entitled according to her contract, she says—or not."

"From what you tell me, Cicely," says her *Cosy Corner* counsel, "your company was like, alas! too many upon the road—an indifferent attraction and a hand-to-mouth existence, and I should say you are very well out of it. Of course, it was hard that you should have to submit to such treatment, but it is an experience that will stand you in good stead. I should say you would almost certainly win your claim to two weeks' salary; but the manager of the company would be difficult to get hold of, and even then you would not be certain of getting your money. Two weeks' salary at 25s. a week is £2 10s. I should say you would be put to more than that amount of trouble to get it. Is it worth it?" The answer obviously is in the negative. Let Cicely go back to work, and be obedient at rehearsals.

Held by the Nose.

MR. RUDYARD KIPLING, says the *Express*, has written a play which no manager is bold enough to produce. He dramatised 'The Jungle Book' into a most exquisite, most beautiful bit of work, and he wrote twelve new lyrics for it as only he could write them. Several managers recognised the beauties of the work, but feared that the difficulties of production would prove insurmountable. Mr. H. Hay Cameron, who suggested the dramatisation, says:—"In the Jungle scene I should have had the curious animals which are a feature of the book wandering about in the moonlight, with their heads now and then appearing. I should have had fireflies flitting about. I should have had Oriental music from the orchestra, with a suggestion of tom-toms; and, above all, I should have had Oriental perfume in the house, for I believe that we are influenced through the nose as well as by the eyes and ears."

Military Supers.

AN amusing incident, says the same paper, was witnessed in the course of a play produced at Moscow a few years ago, when the management secured the assistance of a number of soldiers to march on in a procession. All went well as a marriage-bell until the soldiers, marching on gorgeously arrayed, to their dismay beheld their General seated in the stalls. In an instant the company came to a halt and stood at attention, and though the stage-manager in the wings alternately stormed and pleaded, nothing would induce them to continue their parade until their officer, rising to the occasion, shouted from the stalls, "All right, my children, play away," whereupon the men, wheeling off dutifully, answered, "At your command, General," and all was peace.

Odd Incidents.

A REMARKABLE scene was witnessed at Broken Hill, Australia, during the pantomime of *Jack and the Beanstalk*, when on the opening night a bull terrier, brought into the theatre by an occupant of a stall, bounded on to the stage and "went for" Jack's "cow," the fore and hind quarters of which parted company in an agonised attempt to get away from the attentions of the terrier by seeking flight in different directions. Early in the spring of 1905 there were witnessed in our theatres several unrehearsed scenes in addition to the incident that took place at Wyndham's Theatre during the run of the farcical comedy, *The Lady of Leeds*, when a man in one of the top boxes stood up and remarked, "Ladies and gentleman, without wishing to interfere with this performance, I must mention that there is a real ginger-ale manufacturer bearing the name mentioned in the play, who protests in the strongest manner against his name being so freely used."

A Shaln Suffragette.

THERE were several unrehearsed incidents associated with the very successful matinée in aid of the Liverpool Hot-Pot Fund, recently given at the local Hippodrome. Miss Mabel Green, Mr. Arthur Rigby, and some of their fellow-artists had volunteered their services, and were offered a motor 'bus to take them to the Hippodrome and bring them back again. On leaving the Hippodrome Mr. Rigby, who was attired as a dame of pantomime, was violently attacked with "suffragitis," and insisted on addressing the considerable crowd (which managed to keep pace with the vehicle) on the subject of the woes of the women. Cheers, ironical and otherwise, greeted his fierce pronouncement that "men were a useless commodity, not even ornamental, and should be crushed to a pancake." "Pankhurst, you mean," shouted someone. The crowd had assumed formidable proportions by the time the 'bus had reached the bottom of Islington, and continual laughter greeted the comedian's sallies. Arrived at the door of the Court Theatre, the crowd surged round the 'bus, and prevented egress. A scene of much animation occurred, the crowd good-humouredly trying to prevent the artists getting out, and it was only upon the impromptu suffragist's admission that "she," for one, very much admired Mr. Lloyd George, and "thought Herbert Gladstone a dear," while as for Asquith, "she" said "words failed her"—only then that they were permitted to alight and the good-natured and amused people dispersed.

THE THEATRES BILL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—The introduction into Parliament of Mr. Harcourt's Bill, which proposes to transfer the licensing department of the Lord Chamberlain's office to the London County Council, is, in my opinion, a good opportunity for a full consideration of the licensing question for the whole of the country as regards uniformity. Mr. Jocelyn Brandon and Mr. George Alexander have a notice of motion down on the L.C.C. agenda paper which, if passed, would mean "Free Trade" for the whole of the Metropolitan places of amusement, inasmuch as it would allow the licensee of any place of amusement, providing he was a fit and proper person, to give either a dramatic or music-hall entertainment in his establishment. This would be a very useful thing as far as it went, but unless every other licensing authority in the country had, or took, similar power it would not prevent confusion, because of the difficulty that would arise in booking sketches or short plays in London that could not be booked in certain provincial towns because the local licensing authorities had not removed the present restrictions on music-hall or dramatic productions.

The question of "Free Trade" in amusements is bound to come to the front soon, because it hampers the development of the business and affects the interests of all classes engaged in the entertainment world. If a proprietor of a place of amusement were allowed to provide either a music-hall or a dramatic entertainment in accordance with the changes in taste of his patrons, it would free the whole business from harassing restrictions, and give free scope to proprietors, playwriters, composers, actors, musicians, variety artists, stage hands, and all concerned in theatrical and music-hall work, and allow the best of all kinds of entertainments to rise. It is certainly a ridiculous restriction that the proprietor of a theatre who finds that his patrons are leaving him for the variety halls should be compelled to give up his dramatic licence and take out a music and dancing licence to meet the new demand. On the other hand, it is equally absurd that the proprietor of a music-hall who finds his patrons want dramatic fare in the form of short plays should have to confine such plays to a duration of thirty minutes, with a limited number of characters. This restriction presses also very hardly upon the actor and actress who find themselves thrown out of employment by such restriction. There can be no doubt that if Mr. Harcourt's bill were amended so as to establish a uniform system in these matters for the whole of the country it would be a most desirable thing. There is also the question of entertainments being given in places that are not licensed by any public authority, and are, therefore, under no such obligations as are imposed upon proprietors of theatres and music-halls, although they charge prices for admission just the same. This is a glaring injustice, and one that affects the safety and protection of the public.

There is also the question of Sunday entertainments which are now becoming so popular, owing to the efforts of the various Sunday societies. This is a matter that the musicians are vitally interested in. This popularising of Sunday music in the past has inflicted a great hardship upon musicians in summer resorts. There was a time when Sunday concerts were almost unknown at our seaside resorts. We first had the introduction of the one hour's sacred concert "after church" on Sundays. This became a great success, and the word "sacred" was dropped and an afternoon concert in addition introduced. This again was a success, and there are places now where the bands play on Sundays just the same as they do during the rest of the week. This means the musician has had a compulsory seven days' week forced upon him in his summer engagements. Now it is obvious that Sunday concerts during the winter months have come to stay, and are bound to grow. The musician is beginning to realise this, and although he does not wish to deprive the public of Sunday music, he does not intend its development to force a seven days' weeks upon him in his winter engagements. Whatever managers decide to do in their own interests concerning licensing matters, the A.M.U. would certainly be neglecting their duty and the interests of musicians generally if, in response to the growing demand for Sunday concerts, they did not take steps to safeguard the musician against a seven days' week in places of amusement during winter months.

In my opinion what is most wanted now is a round-table conference of the various interests involved, so that joint action could be taken when Mr. Harcourt's bill is under discussion in the House of Commons. Certainly the various organisations representing the actors, sketch-artists, variety artists, musicians, stage-hands, and others, should lose no time in deciding on joint action, and if the proprietors could see their way to join hands, the legitimate demands of all would be irresistible, and the theatrical and music-hall business placed upon a sounder and better footing.—Yours faithfully,

C. JESSON, L.C.C.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—In your last issue you say, with reference to the proposed Bill to abolish the power of the Lord Chamberlain, "the licensing of theatres is now under the control of the local authorities in practically the whole of Great Britain where theatres are found, except the central district of London, the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and places where his Majesty resides." By an Act of Parliament which was passed since I have been in management, the licensing of theatres in Cambridge came under the control of the local authorities, exactly like other provincial towns, and the licence of our New Theatre is annually granted by our County Council, and, unlike Oxford, is subject to no other control.—Yours faithfully,

W. B. REDFERN,
Managing-Director New Theatre Co., Ltd.
New Theatre, Cambridge.

Too Difficult.

"MR. GEORGE ROBEY," says *Cassell's Saturday*, "tells a story reminiscent of his childhood days. He used to be very fond of music halls even before he had any idea of going 'on the boards,' and spent much pocket-money at the box-office. One night, while he was in the gallery of a small hall, a performer on the stage offered to provide at a second's notice a rhyme to any word a member of the audience cared to suggest. 'Try "tuberculosis,"' suggested young Robey. 'Thanks,' replied the performer, 'but I never argue on religious subjects.'"

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MISS FREDA GODFREY.

Over a hundred and fifty principal parts in the space of ten years is a noteworthy achievement, and pretty Miss Freda Godfrey might well be proud of having accomplished it. Miss Godfrey has made more rapid strides than usually fall to the lot of our younger actresses, and now holds the enviable position of being leading lady in Mr. Leonard Rayne's No. 1 South African Company. Though fond of old England, Miss Godfrey prefers the freedom of the Great Continent, where she has endeared herself to South African playgoers. As the result of hard and strenuous work, when every shilling had to be more than earned before obtained, Miss Godfrey has benefited to such an extent that nothing comes amiss. Ophelia one night, Aurora in *Oh, Susannah* the next, Wally in *Two Little Vagabonds* to follow, then Kathie in *Old Heidelberg*—such a list will give an idea of a colonial week's work, for stock business is carried on by Mr. Leonard Rayne's companies in South Africa, and the latest London plays are presented in a manner worthy of the great Metropolis itself. Starting as a child actress, Miss Godfrey had played with various English companies, though her principal work has

[*Photo by Rita Martin.*
MISS FREDA GODFREY.

been done with her present manager. This tour's parts include Ophelia, Juliet, Desdemona, Virginia, Kathie, Lady Gwendoline (*Raffles*), Lady Hermione (*The Flag Lieutenant*), Nat-u-ritch (*A White Man*), Batty (*Breed of the Treshams*), Carlotta (*Morals of Marcus*), and Minnie (*Message from Mars*). She is passionately fond of music, her favourite composer being Greig. She is also given to horse riding and fishing, and is ardently attached to the profession which has done so much for her.

DEATH OF MRS. ARTHUR JEFFERSON.

Widespread regret, not only amidst the ranks of the theatrical profession, but also those of social circles in the various towns with which her name had been associated, was manifested when it became known that Mrs. Arthur Jefferson—professionally known as Madge Metcalfe, her maiden name—had passed away in Glasgow. The numerous telegrams and letters of condolence from all parts of the country bore eloquent testimony to the chain of friendships she had forged during her theatrical career. Prior to her marriage she was not in any way theatrically connected, and it

THE LATE MRS. ARTHUR JEFFERSON
(Miss Madge Metcalfe).

speaks volumes for her abilities and energy to find that she was soon afterwards playing the leading "heavy" rôles in her husband's plays. Her most important part was Olga Snake in *The Bootblack*, in which she excelled, and, beautifully gowned, made a most imposing appearance, the Press in every town visited according her its unstinted and certainly well-deserved praise. In addition to acting, she proved an invaluable aid to her husband in the decoration schemes for his various theatres, and play-staging, and he attributes much of his early success to her artistic taste in that direction, as well as to her business tact. She had been in indifferent health for the past year or two, but the end was unanticipated, coming with startling suddenness, but in perfect peace and calm resignation. The remains were interred in Cathcart Cemetery, which is beautifully situated in the suburbs of Glasgow, and her last resting-place was entirely covered with beautiful wreaths. She leaves four children to mourn her loss.

AT the Theatre Royal, Bolton, in Mr. Charles Constant's pantomime of *Aladdin*, Miss Maude May Murray is causing quite a sensation with her beautiful electrical aerial dances. Her effects are magnificent, and nothing more effective has ever been seen at this theatre before.

"THE KINGDOM OF KENNAQUHAIR."

A Musical and Satirical Play, in Three Scenes, by V. Park, with several New Songs by W. H. C. Nation, produced at the Royalty Theatre on Dec. 26.

Squire Addlepate ..... MR. T. P. HAYNES
Sophron ..... MR. WATTY BRUNTON
Ernest Wilmot ..... MR. ALEC DAVIDSON
Flutter ..... MISS UNA BRUCKSHAW
Bouncer ..... MISS MABEL FUNSTAN
Aminta ..... MISS ANGELA HOPE
Beatrix ..... MISS MARGARET WEBSTER

Domestics and Harvesters by Misses Patricia Musgrave, Mayse Scott, Jennie Ansell, Beatrice Gomez, Marie Brand, Dareen Drew, Winifred Hanes, &c.

Mr. W. H. C. Nation must be a very busy man one way and another, for in addition to his work of the editor of a magazine, as a playwright, and song writer, he controls a West End Theatre, where he produces and stage-manages new plays. He is, indeed, a versatile gentleman, and he shows wonderful vigour, enterprise, pluck, and perseverance. In his present production, *The King of Kennaquhair*, he gives us a play which may be regarded as of a somewhat seasonable character in that in several respects it resembles a pantomime, and this will be apparent to the reader later on. The story may be briefly epitomised. A young nobleman, who has been parading as a commoner under the name of Charles Wilmot, is deeply in love with the pretty daughter of Squire Addlepate, a territorial magnate in, we presume, the delectable country known by the designation of Kennaquhair. But there is another suitor for the hand of the fair Aminta—which is the name of the Squire's daughter. The rival is a gallant and, it must be confessed, somewhat bold and impertinent young fellow called Flutter, who appears on the scene with an assistant appropriately named Bouncer. Flutter describes himself as Lord This and Viscount That, and he certainly succeeds in making some of the villagers believe that his pretensions are genuine. There is a duel between him and Wilmot consequent upon many wordy encounters, but the fight is stopped before any harm is done. What happens after this can be, of course, easily enough surmised. Flutter is unmasked, and Wilmot's claims to an earldom are proven to the hilt.

The piece was, on the whole, creditably presented, and there was an adequate chorus. Mr. T. P. Haynes cut a quaint figure as Squire Addlepate, and was throughout consistently amusing. His songs "Tricks of the trade" and "Acting on the sly" were pleasingly rendered, the latter with the assistance of the chorus. Miss Angela Hope as Aminta, the Squire's daughter, was a graceful and sweet heroine, and she gave a very pretty rendering of the verses of "The Sower," imitated from a French harvest song by Mr. Nation. Mr. Alec Davidson acted and sang nicely as Ernest Wilmot, his numbers "The horrors of war" and "The fireman," being much appreciated. Miss Una Bruckshaw was dashing and lively as Flutter, and she pleasingly delivered the lines of "The song of the bird," the music to which is the work of Mr. Wm. Corri. Mr. Watty Brunton as Sophron, the steward, Miss Mabel Funstan as Bouncer, and Miss Margaret Webster as Beatrix furnished suitable representations, and sang their respective songs "Under the arches," "Fair Devonia's apple trees," and "The Smart Set ladies" to the great enjoyment of the audience.

ACTORS' DAY.

The following financial statement, made up to Sept. 30, 1908, has been forwarded to us:—

RECEIPTS.

1907.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Sept. 21 Balance from last Account:—		
On Current Account at Bank	193 6 6	
On Deposit	500 0 0	
In hand	12 5 5	
		705 11 11
Contributions		320 9 7
Interest on Deposit		13 19 7
		£1,040 1 1

A. E. DRINKWATER,
Hon. Secretary.

PAYMENTS.

1907-8.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Grants and Loans, less amounts repaid		31 4 0
Sundry:—		
Rent	11 5 3	
Office Fittings, Furniture, &c.	16 6 7	
Advertisements	40 11 1	
Printing	35 6 3	
Stationery	9 13 4	
Typewriters	22 7 8	
Postage	23 4 7	
Miscellaneous	8 15 1	
		167 9 10
1908.		
Sept. 30 Balances:—		
On Current Account at Bank	66 11 7	
On Deposit at Bank	750 0 0	
In hand	24 15 8	
		841 7 3
		£1,040 1 1

SYDNEY VALENTINE,
Chairman of Advisory Board.

I have compared this Account with the books and vouchers of the Fund, and certify it correct. I have verified the cash balances. Certain items have also been received on account of other Funds,* which have been handed to their respective Executives.

A. G. SAYERS,
Chartered Accountant.

19, Hanover-square, London, W.,
Nov. 11, 1908.

* This refers to money collected in 1907. On forms supplied for that year certain contributors directed that their contributions should be sent to existing Funds. These sums—namely, to the Actors' Benevolent Fund £42 6s. 8d., to the Actors' Orphanage £22 16s. 5d., and to the Theatrical Ladies' Guild £23 11s. 5d.—have already been certified by the Honorary Auditor, paid to the respective Executives, and the amounts published. The Advisory Board desire to point out that this has no reference to the 1908 collection. In 1908 and in future years the whole amount collected will be for the mutual help of contributors only, and will be exclusively and independently administered by the Actors' Day Advisory Board on this basis. This is in accordance with the unanimous resolution at the annual general meeting, held at the Kingsway Theatre, on March 19, 1908.

SYDNEY VALENTINE,
Chairman of the Advisory Board.

ON Boxing Night Mr. Horace Stanley presented at the Royal Theatre, King's Lynn, *Guilty Gold* to a delighted holiday audience, who packed the place from floor to ceiling. The scenery is most elaborate, and the production is on a large scale. On Monday the same company appeared in the ever-welcome *10.30 Down Express*, which proved as successful as on former visits. We may state that Mr. Pareezer has some excellent bookings for the forthcoming spring.

THE PERENNIAL "PETER PAN."

Fourth Revival, at the Duke of York's Theatre, on Dec. 23, 1908, of the Fairy Play, in Five Acts, by J. M. Barrie, Music by John Crook.

Peter Pan ..... MISS PAULINE CHASE
Jas. Hook ..... MR. ROBB HARWOOD
Mr. Darling ..... MR. REGINALD OWEN
Mrs. Darling ..... MISS SYBIL CARLISLE
Wendy Moira Angela Darling ..... MISS GERTRUDE LANG
John Napoleon Darling ..... MASTER GEORGE HERSEE
Michael Nicholas Darling ..... MASTER HERBERT HOLLOM
Nana ..... MR. EDWARD SILLWARD
Tinker Bell ..... MISS JANE WREN
Tootles ..... MISS DOROTHY MINTO
Nibs ..... MISS NELLIE BOWMAN
Slightly ..... MR. A. W. BASKCOMB
Curly ..... MISS IRENE CLARKE
First Twin ..... MISS MAY KINDER
Second Twin ..... MISS IVY KNIGHT
Smee ..... MR. GEORGE SHELTON
Gentleman Starkey ..... MR. CHARLES TREVOR
Cookson ..... MR. CHARLES MEDWIN
Mullins ..... MR. CHRIS. WALKER
Cecco ..... MR. WILLIAM LUFF
Jukes ..... MR. JAMES ENGLISH
Noodler ..... MR. JOHN KELT
Great Big Little Panther ..... MR. HUMPHREY WARDEN
Tiger Lily ..... MISS MARGARET FRASER
Mermaid ..... MISS MARJORIE MOORE
Baby Mermaid ..... MISS BERYL ST. LEGER
Liza ..... MISS TESSIE PARKE
Crocodile ..... MASTERS B. ROSE AND W. CHILD
Ostrich ..... MASTER MARINI

We may use the sentence of dear, lovable little Wendy, and say that *Peter Pan* is "frightfully fascinating"; and it is really a question whether juveniles or grown-ups enjoy its humour, its daintiness, and its charm the most. James Hook, that most remarkable of pirates, whose ghastly smile vanishes on the approach of the crocodile—a saurian that would even deceive "an allegory on the banks of the Nile," as Mrs. Malaprop has said—once more exercises his scientific mind in original "swearing"; Tinker Bell, a mere flash in the pan, as it were, may again be reproached for lightsome behaviour; and for the fifth time the moral possibilities of Smee, *with a mother*, give one furiously to think. All the familiar scenes and incidents—the building of Wendy's house, the fight on the pirate ship, the home underground, the dwelling in the tree-tops, and the adventures on the lagoon rock are again to be enjoyed in their entirety—not a line or a bit of "business" is missing. No one would have it otherwise; for *Peter Pan* has become a classic of the English stage, and the beautiful score of Mr. John Crook emphasises that fact.

Miss Pauline Chase is as tender, as frolicsome, and as boyish as ever in the title-rôle, her acting since last year having considerably improved. Mr. Robb Harwood is master of the unctuous method that gives the best possible point to the alternate bluff and craven fear of James Hook, a pirate of the pressgang days—a black flag captain exactly realising the reckless sea robber of boyish imagination. The scene on the vessel is as whimsical as ever; and here we may mention the good work of Mr. George Shelton as Smee, a capital bit of acting, especially when manipulating the sewing machine, and Mr. Charles Trevor as Gentleman Starkey, who makes the kiddies shout with laughter by his acting when he is under the revengeful eye of the Redskin Great Big Little Panther, a satisfactory impersonation by Mr. Humphrey Warden. Mr. Charles Medwin, Mr. Chris. Walker, Mr. William Luff, Mr. James English, and Mr. John Kelt are other pirates. Miss Gertrude Lang, the new Wendy, has nothing to fear by comparison with her predecessor. A more lovable little mother could not be. Master George Hersee is growing rather big for the part of John Napoleon Darling, but is quite excellent. Miss May Kinder as the First Twin does the pillow-case dance neatly; Miss Dorothy Minto is an attractive Tootles; Miss Nellie Bowman a lively Nibs; Mr. A. W. Baskcomb a quaintly laconic Slightly; Miss Irene Clarke a clever Curly; and Master Herbert Hollom a very natural boy as Michael. Mr. Reginald Owen does all that is necessary with the part of Mr. Darling; Miss Sybil Carlisle's portrait of young matronhood in the part of Mrs. Darling is exquisitely sympathetic, especially in the last act; Mr. Edward Sillward, a wonderful animal impersonator, is both a joyful and sympathetic Nana; Miss Jessie Parke's 'Liza is quaintly old-fashioned; and very dramatic is Miss Margaret Fraser as Tiger Lily. The box-office of the theatre again becomes a model of the house built for Wendy, and Mr. James Mathews, Wendy's representative in front, beams on all good boys and girls who come in their crowds to the Duke of York's.

WAGNER AND SCHOPENHAUER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Now that one hears so much of the coming performances of Wagner's operas, it is odd that one does not hear the name of Schopenhauer mentioned in connection with them. Sufficient stress has never yet been laid on the fact that the whole pith and kernel of *The Ring of the Niblungs* is, according to Wagner's own statement, an illustration of Schopenhauer's "Theory of the Denial of the Will-to-life." Without an understanding of Schopenhauer it is as absurd to think a man can understand Wagner's operas as to suppose there could have been a St. Paul if there had been no Christ, or a Plato if there had been no Socrates. Yet how many of the spurious Wagnerites who will wag their heads at Covent Garden over the forthcoming performances will have bethought themselves to read this clearest and greatest of all philosophers as a necessary preparation?

It is difficult to see what Mr. Bernard Shaw means when he speaks in "The Sanity of Art" of the Schopenhauer revival. I should be glad to hear that Schopenhauer had come in, to say nothing of having come in and gone out and come back again!

The Englishman's incapacity for mental effort where it is a question of goods one does not weigh and measure is proverbial, but Schopenhauer presents none of the terrors of ordinary metaphysics: he has taken the pains to write with extraordinary clearness. Some working hypothesis of the meaning of life a man must have, and now that theology has both her legs in the grave, the time has certainly come for us to draw our inspiration, as Wagner did, from the noble fount of Schopenhauer.—Yours faithfully,

J. T. PRESSLIE.

5, Edith-road, Peckham, S.E.

[Schopenhauer's "working hypothesis of the meaning of life" was that it wasn't worth living.—ED., *The Era*.]

THE French stage continues to be unclean. "*Le Foyer*," says our excellent Paris correspondent, "although a most unpleasant piece, is still drawing crowded houses at the Comédie Française. As I have informed you already, the authors had written a fourth act, which M. Claretie refused to produce at any price. The scene of that act is laid in 'Le Foyer,' a home for destitute little girls, managed by a middle-aged spinster, whose character is a nauseous mixture of cunning and vice, of which her little charges are the victims. I willingly believe—in fact, I know—that the doings in these so-called homes baffle description. For all that, the stage is scarcely the place to parade all this moral dirt, and it is more than likely that the public would have protested against this tableau of profligacy if the Comédie Française management had been weak enough to mount that act."

THE PRIMROSES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Would you kindly permit me to appeal through *The Era* columns to my ever good-hearted brother and sister artists to subscribe just as much as they can afford towards the most distressing case of the Primroses, otherwise known as the Misters Worth? The details of the recent lawsuit will be fresh in the minds of your readers. Edith Worth will probably never be able to walk again—certainly she will never be able to perform on the stage, while her sister is recovering from an attack of brain fever. To be given £700 one day, and have it taken away a couple of days later—think what that means! Boys and girls, when I have asked you before to aid me in helping those in need and in suffering, right royally have you rallied round and handed over cheques, gold, and silver. I feel justified in asking you now for a case so thoroughly deserving of your sympathy and your subscriptions. I herewith enclose a donation. Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,

JOE ELVIN.

[We have much pleasure in opening a fund, as Mr. Elvin wishes. Subscriptions sent to Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, Hon. Treasurer, at *The Era* Offices, will be duly acknowledged in these columns.]

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

	£	s.	d.
Gus Elen	5	5	0
Joe Elvin	2	2	0
Hymack	1	0	0
Percy Maye	0	2	6

At the Opera House, Tunbridge Wells, Fred Ginnett and Wal Pink's company in *St. George and the Dragon* is the principal item in the programme, introducing the seven champions of Christendom. Miss Cissie Wade is a martial St. George, Miss Dora Gregory is the Enchantress, Mr. Harry Valdo the comic woodman, and the other parts are well sustained by Messrs. H. Calver, T. E. Forster, and Miss Ella Mills. Other turns include Arthur Kenny, cyclist; the Four Sisters Victoria, instrumentalists and dancers; Gladys Witton, contralto; Cash and Clair, in dancing act; and Phil Bransby, coster comedian, in his convict song.

The pantomime *Puss in Boots* had a rare send-off on Boxing Day at the Theatre Royal, Worcester, when the theatre was crowded at both the afternoon and the evening performance. Mr. Carlton has spared neither trouble nor expense in his endeavour to maintain the reputation of the Worcester Christmas production, and the results achieved are in every way admirable. The scenery and costumes are well up to the level of towns of much larger dimensions, and the company of artists is both numerous and capable. Mlle. Lucretia makes a dashing principal boy, and she has some excellent songs, which have already "caught on." Miss Evelyn Desa, an old Worcester favourite, appears as Princess Iris, and delights both young and old with a singularly charming manner. Miss Louie Love is well suited as Fairy Queen, and the part of Pompey is safely entrusted to Miss Nancy Renshaw, who sings well and plays the bones with marvellous facility. Mr. Sam Lock makes the most of a fine voice in the part of the Ogre. There are no less than eight comedians in the company, of whom Mr. Fred Lyndo and Mr. Michael, as the King and Queen respectively, are the principal. Then there are Messrs. Carl and Carr as Rufus and Uriah, Mr. E. D. Nicholls as the stuttering Baron, Mr. Chas. Leverton as Freddie, and Mr. Byden Currie and Mr. Jack Osmond as the Cat and Donkey respectively. A numerous and well-trained ballet, directed by Miss Belton, do excellent work, and Mr. J. W. Austin's arrangement of the music leaves nothing to be desired.

AT the Empire Music Hall, Wrexham, a number of seasonable pictures are shown by the Empire electric animated Bioscope. Will Willis, a most amusing comedian, and Venie Veldon, a comedienne and clever dancer, also take part in the entertainment.

"THE GIRLS OF GOTTENBERG" is proving an immense attraction this week at the Royal, York. Mr. Bertie Wright has never had a part more suited to his style than that of Max Muddelkopf. It is an effort worthy of the highest praise, and the applause which greets him is fully deserved. Mr. Chas. Berkeley as Brittl Bottl is a distinct success—his dancing is a special feature; Mr. Tom Shelford gives another of his clever character sketches, and makes Prince Otto a most amusing person—his clever singing finds much favour; as Mitza Miss Simeta Marsden is most aptly placed—she is lively, full of vivacity, and, what is more, a neat dancer and clever singer. These qualities make the rôle a most attractive one. Miss Maisie North is a captivating Elsa; and Miss May Marshall is a handsome and interesting Clementine, who in some captivating costumes looks charming.

BARTON AND ASHLEY produce a screaming sketch, entitled *Adam the Second*, at the Opera House, York. Their popularity seems to increase with each visit, and their reception has been most cordial. The Mysterious Mephisto is a popular turn; and the following artists complete the company: Chas. Rowen, Prince Schaboo, Frances Hanlon, the Rangers, Tennis and Laune, and Angelina.

"BLUEBEARD" is always a favourite story at pantomime time, and at Her Majesty's Opera House, Workington, the way the plot of the old yarn has been weaved into modern song and dance at this theatre reflects the greatest credit on all concerned. George Constance has given the public a very artistic and realistic set of sketches, dances, situations, and screamingly farcical displays, which ought to satisfy the most greedy appetite for fun and stage effect. Selim is well portrayed by Miss Daisy Lake—a very jewel in the part. Bamboozallem finds a fitting exponent in Mr. Jack Parker; Miss Marie Duncan as Fatima is well worth going a long way to see; and Mr. Johnny Clegg's Sister Ann is a piece of real good pantomime work. The special artists are Harlin and Haslon, the Floridorians, Russel and Gage, the Sandow Girls, Walter B. Trear, and Dolly Moor.

MAC'S Happy New Year programme is enjoying good patronage at the Theatre Royal, Workington. Kendic and Laura are dainty vocalists and dancers; Major Arnold, necromancer, whose strange and weird manipulations brought rounds of well-deserved applause; Willie Roberts is a clever young comedian, whose songs are always acceptable; and genial Harry Jennings is well up to his usual high standard. Well-balanced quartettes are given by Mr. George Eastwood's party.

THE list of song writers who have successfully drifted into pantomime authorship is not a long one, and when the ability to produce and stage manage is added to the above, the list dwindles considerably. As a matter of fact, at the moment, we know of only one who can claim to have been successful in all these lines. We refer to Mr. A. E. Sidney Davis, who, as a song writer, has achieved distinction with such well known numbers as "Au revoir, my little hyacinth," "Can't you think of any other name but Baby?" "Peggy, the pride of the mill," and "Sunshine Soo."

MR. DAVIS has this year written and produced one of the most successful provincial pantomimes, viz., *Aladdin*, which is playing twice nightly to crowded houses at the King's Theatre, Edinburgh. As Mr. Davis has long been known as agent and business-manager, he can fairly claim unusual versatility.

ACCRINGTON NEW HIPPODROME.

On the ashes of the old Accrington Hippodrome, burnt to the ground on the night of June 26 last, has arisen, Phœnix-like as it were, a new and particularly handsome structure, which is to be the future home of variety entertainment in Accrington. And quite a palatial house of entertainment the public will find it, when the new Hippodrome is opened on Monday next. The wonderful expedition with which the Hippodrome has been erected is regarded as having created something like a local record in the way of quick work in putting up and fitting big buildings. From the very first any amount of "hustle" was exhibited, and though it was only on Aug. 5 that the contractors commenced work, the building itself was practically finished two or three weeks ago, and even the internal fittings are in a commendably forward state.

The new theatre is a structure worthy of the town in every respect, and we are assured that the entertainments to be provided will be of the best. First-class variety artists are to be engaged, and, in addition to variety performances, we may even be occasionally favoured with opera. The building itself has been erected on the most up-to-date principles. All entrances are from the front, in Ellison-street, and to facilitate the two performances a night the exits are quite apart from these. Seating accommodation is provided for 1,600 people, but in all 2,000 persons can be entertained at the same time. Rising right from the stage to the rear, the seats are conveniently arranged. The stalls, back pit, and circle afford every possible comfort to the patron. The whole building is elaborately furnished and decorated, and every convenience is provided. There are refreshment bars for both pit and circle. The stage is a large one, the width being between 30ft. and 32ft. It is provided with a fireproof curtain, in addition to sprinklers, and the scenery is being provided by the well-known artists, Wilkins Bros., of Liverpool. Throughout the building fire appliances are fixed, and in the "flies" and in front of the house are the latest spring coupling fire apparatus. The building is provided with both gas and electricity throughout. There is a thorough system of heating, excellent dressing-rooms for artists, and instead of the old drop scene, fine tableaux curtains will be used.

Mr. W. Mould, the popular manager of the old Hippodrome, will have control of the new hall, and he will be assisted by the following: Mr. Dudley, formerly of the Wilson Barrett's Companies and Prince's Theatre, London, advertising manager; and Mr. Dempsey, stage manager. Mr. Taylor, of St. Helens, will be conductor of a full orchestra.

The architect for the new building is Mr. Bertie Crewe, of London, and the contractors Messrs. J. Parkinson and Sons, of Blackpool. The latter have done the building, joinery work and painting; and other sub-contractors were: A. and B. Dean, Birmingham, upholstering; F. De Jong, London, decorators; Morrisons, Blackpool, electricians; and J. Tweedale and Co., of Newcastle, plumbers, who have also fixed the heating apparatus and provided the steel curtain.

MR. SYDNEY COMPTON is now fulfilling his fourth West End engagement as Brassett in *Charley's Aunt*, under the management of Mr. Brandon Thomas, at the Aldwych Theatre, his previous seasons being at the Comedy, Terry's, and Royalty Theatres.

NOTICES of *Antony and Cleopatra* at Manchester, *In the Eyes of the World*, at Grimsby, and *A Repentant Sinner*, at Stourbridge, are unavoidably omitted from this issue, but will appear next week.

"LADY LANIGAN, LAUNDRESS."

A Sketch, by J. Russell Bogue, produced at the Lyric Theatre, Liverpool, Dec. 28.

Lady Lanigan	MR. J. RUSSELL BOGUE
Quill Driver	MR. RICHARD WEBB
Sergeant Drill	MR. CLAUDE AYMOND
Bertie	MR. WILFRED COMPTON
Buggins	MR. A. E. FRANCIS
Denny	MR. J. HITCHINS
Selina	MISS E. M. WALTON
Bridget	MISS MARIE E. ROBERTSON

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

Several months ago this sketch was produced for copyright purposes, since which time special scenery has been painted and a capable company got together. It was received with considerable favour on Monday night, and should prove popular wherever presented. The business takes place in a laundry, which is very naturally arranged, the black and white tiling having an attractive appearance. Mr. Quill Driver, solicitor, comes to collect the overdue rent, and threatens to take possession. He is repulsed by Mrs. Lanigan and her girls; but on his return next day changes his attitude, having meanwhile ascertained that she has acquired a title and fortune through the death of a relative. His efforts towards inducing her to marry him promise to be successful, but, unfortunately, a document relating to Mrs. Lanigan's good fortune is stolen from his pocket, and handed to her, whereupon he hurriedly decamps. The sketch is exceedingly amusing, particularly the episode of the man in possession having to take refuge in the steam boiler from the infuriated washerwomen. Mr. Bogue, the author, was delightful as the Irish laundress; the rôle of the solicitor found a capital representative in Mr. Richard Webb; Mr. A. E. Francis made an exceedingly humorous bailiff; the character of the dude Bertie was made very laughable by Mr. Wilfred Compton; the bombastic soldier Drill was handled in good style by Mr. Claude Aymond; Miss Robertson played nicely as Bridget; Mr. J. Hitchins proved a lively boy Denny; and the rôle of Selina was ably handled by Miss E. M. Walton.

IN connection with the picketing operations conducted at the Cork Palace Theatre, a prosecution under the Trades Disputes Act was dealt with by the local magistrates on Tuesday, the defendants including prominent local trade unionists. It was contended that the method in which the picketing was carried out constituted a breach of the Act of 1906. After a prolonged hearing the case was dismissed, the stipendiary holding that the defendants' conduct did not come within the provisions of the Act. An application to have a case stated will be made.

A FANCY dress ball was carried out with much éclat at Covent Garden on New Year's Eve. A number of beautiful costumes were displayed, and Mr. W. Clarkson was successful in gaining second prize for a lady's dress entitled "New Year's Eve," and third prize for one dubbed "Skating Mad." Mr. Clarkson was also a winner at the Olympia Skating Carnival, where he took first prize for ladies with a costume entitled "Violets," and first prize for gentlemen with "Zulu."

At the Exchange Hall, Wellingborough, *The Prodigal Son*, well played and finely mounted by Mr. Wentworth Croke's company, proved an enormous attraction for Boxing Day and Monday and Tuesday of this week. Mr. T. W. Dunscombe's Magnus was in every way a fine performance, and Mr. George Edwin Clive was good as Oscar, whilst Miss Dora Gregory acquitted herself well as Thora and Elin.

BATTERSEA PALACE.

Mr. James McCarthy, the resident-manager of the Battersea Palace, has an interesting list of attractions to offer his patrons this week, and visitors to this popular place of entertainment have not failed to appreciate the good fare provided. Mr. Sydney Mason and Miss Theresa Moore are presenting the now well-known dramatic sketch *The Usurer*, in which Mr. Mason's clever study of the part of Herbert Dane has won for him no small degree of recognition. Of Miss Moore's portraiture as the heroine we have had previous occasion to speak in terms of high praise, and the character, from the point of view of Miss Moore's acting, seems to gain with continued acquaintance. The two principals receive good support from Mr. H. Russel as Captain Manners, Mr. Syd Leslie as the adventurer Marsden, Mr. Harry Arnold as Johnson, the secretary, and Mr. E. J. Harris as the page boy.

Harry Desmond makes for merriment with "One and sixpence a week" and "I'm 'appy, very 'appy," the latter being a characteristic coster ditty. Miss Tina Frank is an engaging comedienne, and her vocalism as applied to "Antonio" and "Hello! little boy" wins her immense favour with the audience. Davis and Dean are seen and heard to advantage in an exceedingly quaint comedy and shadow dancing act; and Miss Nina Moore affords her hearers considerable delight by her expressive delivery of her "Slavey" song and the other entitled "Something more about that." Childie Stuart, too, distinguishes her little self by the quite enchanting manner in which she sings "Girls from Kay's" and "A pair of stockings." Hemsley and Ambrose prove exceedingly diverting in their petite act, *The Coster's Motor Honeymoon*; Miss Josephine Crook, whose name is so prominently associated with illustrated songs, gives a pleasing and refined turn, her well-trained voice being employed to good effect in such numbers as "Take me to your heart again" and "Don't forget your Ivy."

His Father's Teacher, an episode of the unemployed trouble, introduces to us a couple of juvenile characters similar to those in a celebrated drama which has had a remarkably successful career. In the sketch under review little Rupert, son of Sir Herbert Blakiston, takes pity on a poor waif called Joe, and provides for his welfare. The pathos of the situation is realistically conveyed by Miss Ethel Green in a clever study of the waif, and Miss Chrissie Francess as the aristocratic boy, the latter's father finding a capable representative in Mr. Charles Geoffrey; the rôle of a policeman being undertaken by Mr. Herbert Russell. The entertainment concluded with a film, Jones's New Suit, by Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

THE staffs of the Bury Theatre and Circus of Varieties had a dinner at the Queen's Hotel on Wednesday evening last. About fifty persons were present, and Mr. Otto C. Culling, general-manager for the Northern Theatres Co., presided. Those who contributed to the programme included Mr. E. Thornley Dodge, Mr. Jas. K. Harrison, Mr. P. Cook, Mr. T. Crompton, Mr. Whittam, Mr. H. H. Potter (assistant-manager), Mr. A. Eckersley, and Mr. Harry Bridge (musical-director of the theatre).

DR. BLACK NOBLE had a pleasant little surprise last week, when Mr. Brandreth, on behalf of the staff of the Kennington Theatre, presented him with a red and gold real Dresden china tea service, in recognition of the doctor's services rendered so whole-heartedly on many occasions.

MR. J. P. MOORE'S pantomime of *Dick Whittington*, we learn, broke all records for receipts at Kidderminster on Boxing Night.

EDMONTON EMPIRE.

The opening of the new music hall at Edmonton on Boxing night was an event which will be remembered by thousands of the people in the neighbourhood. For some time previous to the throwing open of the doors shortly after six o'clock for the first house a large and ever-increasing crowd gathered outside the walls of the handsome edifice, and it was scarcely a matter for surprise that every seat was occupied before the curtain was raised. The handsome scheme of decoration, which included an artistic blending of white, cream, gold, blue, and light brown, was an object of universal admiration, and Messrs. Harry Bawn and Jesse Sparrow, the managing-directors, must have experienced something more than a pang of pride as they realised that they were mainly responsible for establishing in a none too bright neighbourhood a handsome and comfortable place of amusement. We gave a full description of the building at the time of the laying by Mrs. Bawn of the foundation stone in September last, and it is not necessary to say more on that point except to refer to the beautiful proscenium draping and curtain, which are of red plush, and the act drop, which reveals blue curtains prettily hung together. Naturally, all the directors were present on this auspicious occasion, their names, in addition to those already mentioned, being Messrs. H. Balding and Marshall Frost.

The programme was a seasonable one, containing, as it did, Mr. Andie Caine's tabloid pantomime in three scenes, entitled *Goody Two Shoes*, a rollicking, lively production, which was hugely enjoyed. In it Mr. Caine gave an intensely amusing characterisation of Dame Freckles, and his song, "Oh, girls, the Exhibition's fine," was rendered with quaint expressiveness. Miss Hawthorne Shwaites was a sprightly principal boy (Prince Poland), and she sang her number, "Sue, Sue, Sue," in enchanting style. A graceful and engaging principal girl (Goody Two Shoes) was found in Miss Violet Macintyre, who had a capital ditty in "Goody Two Shoes." Mr. George Lester at a ludicrous figure as Baron Graball, and with the assistance of Harry and Edwin, who were highly entertaining as the ruffians, Biffam and Blasham, created uproarious merriment. The members of an adequate and well-trained chorus acquitted themselves most creditably, particularly in the opening chorus, in "Babies on parade," and in the finale, "Poppies." The three scenes, The Village of Sylvania, The Baron's Grounds, and the Palace, were pleasing specimens of the scenic artist's craft. The directors were fortunate in being able to secure My Fancy's services for the opening night. That lady was in exceedingly good form, and her dancing scena, descriptive of the seasons, winter, spring, and summer, won for her the enthusiastic plaudits of the spectators. Mr. Gilbert Girard submitted an agreeable and clever performance, in which he imitated the sounds made by various musical instruments and by animals, his efforts at mimicry being most natural and realistic. Mr. Frank Hardie and company appeared in the dramatic episode. *The Old Brigade*, in which piece that experienced actor, Mr. Fred Dobell, submitted an extremely interesting and able study of old Peter Pryde, Mr. Hardie playing in excellent fashion as Lieut. Dix, Miss Irene Carlton charming all with her portrayal of the heroine, Rose Garland, and Messrs. Ernest Swttrim and C. Goodman commendably enacting the rôles of young Pryde and the lawyer respectively. Mr. Hamilton Hill, the Australian baritone, who, by the way, sang the National Anthem at the opening of both performances on Boxing Night, delivered in an altogether admirable manner the sentimental song, "Oh, she was a grand old lady." Princess Pauline, whose appearance is as attractive as the subject of her "turn," was heard to great advantage in "Alice, where art thou going?" and "My wedding day." Serpentillo distinguished himself once more in his particular way, his various contortions creating a feeling of wonderment in the minds of the audience. Jeapes's Animated Graphic projected several up-to-date films. Mr. Angelo Asher, who has been appointed musical-director at the Edmonton Empire, introduced a new fashion for conductors of orchestras. He appeared in a new style of dress suit, the lapels of the coat being of white corded silk and looking very effective. Mr. A. R. Hollands is the manager of London's newest theatre of varieties, and he was very much *en evidence* on his opening evening.

At the Alexandra Theatre, Widnes, this week we have Mr. Percy Williams's company here with *The Fatal Wedding*. Mr. Cecil A. Melton is a capital Howard Wilson; Mr. Frank Harrison does sound work as Robert Curtis; Mr. Chas. Locke is an amusing Toto; Mr. Cyril Melton is responsible for an excellent study of Schwartz; Mr. Frank Ashley is the kind-hearted policeman; and Mr. J. Newton is good in the small part of the Rev. Dr. Lanceford. A sympathetic study of Mabel Wilson comes from Miss Ethel Kay; Miss Elaine Vanbrugh acts with force and ability in the part of Nora; and Miss Ethel Serjeant is a humorous Bridget. One of the big successes of the play is the Jessie of little Lulu Wohlmann. Miss Dorothy Darthy is good as Frank. The specialities of the children in the third act are unusually good

At the Theatre Royal, Tyldesley, Messrs. Northway and Garrod's company are presenting *The Prodigal Parson*. Mr. Logan Darra gives a meritorious performance as the Rev. Tom Godley; Enoch Jaggins is interpreted in an admirable manner by Mr. Alfred Northway; Mr. Charles Ashwell plays in the right spirit as Ben Jaggins; Mr. Roland A. Bridge is well suited as the Detective; Miss Violet Hammersley makes a charming and sympathetic Fern Godley; and Miss Madge Millard is a commendable Myrtle. Mr. Owen Redmonde as Phil Drive and Miss Alice Buckland as Gretchen are responsible for much amusement.

For the past fortnight the Dublin public have had the opportunity of witnessing, at the Theatre Royal Hippodrome, the new programme indicator, which is the invention of a popular Dublin citizen. The apparatus, which is fitted up on each side of the stage, shows all the "turns" that are over and also the "turn" that is on at the time. It is a marvellously simple invention, and possesses all the essentials of novelty and simplicity. The apparatus was fitted up and worked under the personal supervision of Mr. Hunter M'Allen, A.M.I.C.E.

AT the Town Hall, Folkestone, Miss Rosaline Thorne is singing with great success her latest illustrated song "Little brown eyes," also her nurse's song, "Under the Red Cross," which is much appreciated.

ACCRINGTON NEW HIPPODROME.

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ON THE ROAD, JAN. 4.

ALADDIN (BODE).—New T., Cambridge.
ALADDIN (KIDDIE).—Castle T., Stockton.
AT DUTY'S CALL.—T. R., Coatbridge.
BENSON, MR. AND MRS. F. R.—T. R., Belfast.
BONDMAN, THE (CROKE).—Court T., Warrington.
BREWSTER'S MILLIONS.—Lyceum T., Ipswich.
BULMER, MR.—Junction T., Manchester.
CARL ROSA OPERA.—Palace T., Newcastle.
CASSIDY, MR. J. RICE.—T. R., Ton-y-pandy.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE), N.—H. M. T., Barrow.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE), S.—Osborne T., Manch'ter.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE), M.—Bury St. Edmunds.
CINDERELLA (BODE).—New T., Cardiff.
CINDERELLA (KIDDIE).—T. R., Birkenhead.
CLAUDIAN.—Theatre Royal, Jarrow.
COMPTON COMEDY CO.—O. H., Northampton.
COUNTRY GIRL IN LONDON.—Grand T., Halifax.
DAIRYMAIDS, THE.—T. R., Huddersfield.
DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY.—Town Hall, Macclesfield.
DICK WHITTINGTON (KIDDIE).—Avenue T., Sunderland.
D'OYLY CARTE.—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
DRIVEN FROM HOME.—T. R., Woolwich.
EMPTY CRADLE.—Court T., Bacup.
EVE OF HER WEDDING.—T. R., Wednesbury.
EYES OF THE WORLD.—T. R., Aston.
FACE AT THE WINDOW.—Ferndale.
FATAL WEDDING.—Clarence T., Pontypridd.
FLAG LIEUTENANT.—T. R., Middlesbrough.
GIRL'S CROSS ROADS.—New T., Oxford.
GIRLS OF GOTTENBERG (DANCE).—T. R., York.
GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER.—O. H., Coventry.
GLOSSOP-HARRIS.—Alexandra T., Widnes.
GREED OF GOLD.—Carlton T., Greenwich.
HAVANAH.—T. R., Chatham.
HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE.—Grand, Doncaster.
HER LOVE AGAINST THE WORLD.—T. R., Consett.
HER NAMELESS CHILD.—Met. T., Birmingham.
IDOL OF PARIS.—T. R., Chesterfield.
JACK THE GIANT KILLER (BODE).—O. H., Leicester.
KING AND THE UNKNOWN WOMAN.—Prince's, Preston.
LA COMEDIE ANGLAISE.—Wirksworth and Hednesford.
LADY FREDERICK.—T. R., Bath.
LANCASHIRE LAD.—Grand T., Chorley.
LEAH KLESCHNA.—T. R., Swindon
LIGHTHOUSE ROBBERY.—T. R., North Shields.
LITTLE BREADWINNER.—T. R., Blyth.
LOVE OF THE PRINCESS.—T. R., South Shields.
LUCKY 'LIZA.—Court T., Galway.
MAN TO MAN.—T. R., West Bromwich.
MAUDE, MISS W.—T. R., Margate.
MERRY WIDOW.—Gaiety T., Ayr.
MISS HOOK OF HOLLAND.—P. O. W., Nuneaton.
MISS HOOK OF HOLLAND (DANCE).—Halifax.
MOODY-MANNERS (A).—T. R., Dublin.
MOODY-MANNERS (B).—Artillery T., Woolwich.
MRS. DOT.—T. R., Colchester.
MY MIMOSA MAID.—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
NEW EAST LYNNE (KELLY).—Grand T., Walsall.
OLD FOLKS AT HOME.—Royalty T., Barrow.
OLD HOME, THE.—Sutton-in-Ashfield.
PETER'S MOTHER.—Merthyr.
POWER OF THE KING.—T. R., Bargoed.
PRITT, STEPHEN, REPERTOIRE.—Met. T., Gateshead.
PRODIGAL PARSON.—Grand T., Mansfield.
PRODIGAL SON (CROKE).—T. R., Crewe.
PRODIGAL SON (CROKE) (M.).—King's Lynn and Grantham.
PRODIGAL SON (DAY).—Palace T., Newcastle.
RED RIDING HOOD (BODE).—T. R., Brighton.
ROBINSON CRUSOE (BODE).—H. M. T., Dundee.
ROYAL DIVORCE.—T. R., Bilston.
SEND HIM VICTORIOUS.—Star T., Swansea.
SERGEANT BRUE.—Hippo., Stalybridge.
SIGN OF THE CROSS.—Grand T., Wolverhampton.
SILVER KING (POLINI).—T. R., West Bromwich.
SOLDIER OF FRANCE.—Prince's T., Blackburn.
SOLDIER'S HONOUR.—New T., Aberdare.
STARR, HARRY, REPERTOIRE.—Queen's T., Pembroke Dock.
THIEF, THE.—Wellington and Bridport.
TODDLES.—T. R., Hull.
TOM JONES.—Victoria T., Broughton.
TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS.—O. H., Treherbert.
TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS.—Alexandra T., Hull.
VILLAGE BLACKSMITH.—Todmorden.
WALTZ DREAM.—King's T., Glasgow.
WARNER, MISS GRACE.—Sacriston.
WAY OF THE WORLD.—T. R., Leicester.
WHAT A WOMAN DID.—T. R., Crook.
WHEN IT WAS DARK.—Grand T., West Hartlepool.
WHEN KNIGHTS WERE BOLD.—O. H., Burton-on-Trent.
WHITE MAN, A.—P. O. W., Grimsby.
WHO IS SHE?—T. R., Castleford.
WILKIE, ALLAN, & CO.—T. R., Macclesfield.
WITH EDGED TOOLS.—T. R., Darlington.
WOMAN PAYS, THE.—Royalty T., Llanelly.

"ALADDIN" AT WESTON-SUPER-MARE.

For several years past Mr. John H. Thomson has been responsible for the production of a pantomime at the Knightstone Pavilion and Opera House, and each show has always proved superior to its predecessor. This year *Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp* is the title chosen, and, produced on Boxing Day, proved no exception to the rule. Mr. Chas. Wood has followed the story closely, and has written a book replete with smart and humorous dialogue. The pantomime is in two parts and ten scenes, all of which are beautifully painted, especially the Palace scene and the transformation (The Seasons), in which the artist has surpassed himself. In the former scene the Sisters Isabelle (two very charming ladies) and the Geisha Troupe of dancers are loudly applauded for their Terpsichorean efforts, and the Sisters Hylton excel as duettists. Mr. F. Sparrow Harris, leader of the orchestra, has composed, selected, and arranged some very catchy and pleasing music. The dresses are gorgeous and the mounting splendid. Mr. Chas. Wood, on whose shoulders the burden of the production has rested, must have worked with untiring energy to make the show go as it did from start to finish without a hitch, and must have been greatly elated with the reception his efforts received. Aladdin is interpreted by Miss May de la Grange in that dashing style that is requisite as principal boy. She possesses a handsome presence and a good voice, which she uses well in "I don't care if there's a girl there" and "Nancy," both songs proving a big success. Miss Jessie Hylton, a pretty little lady, portrays the Princess ably. A most artistic performance of the Genii of the Lamp is given by Miss Ada Victoria. Miss Phyllis Hylton is entitled to eulogy for her acting as the Genii of the Ring. Miss Edith Isabelle possesses a very sweet voice, and acts with much distinction as Pekoe; and there is nothing but praise for Miss Cissie Lenore as Nicey. The Widow Twanky is played by Mr. Norman Langford, who proves a comedian of versatility. Abanazar is impersonated by Mr. Chas. Wood, who is a great favourite locally; his mock tragedy in the character is the work of a thorough artist, and evokes unstinted applause. Mr. Laurie Howard is really good as the Vizier, and his dancing is undoubtedly above the ordinary. Mr. Jack Selway as Chin-Chin is commendable, and numerous other characters are well looked after. The chorus is a strong one and thoroughly well trained. Mr. Manaton courteously looks after the front of the house.

"THE SHERIFF AND THE ROSEBUD."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Your Liverpool correspondent's report on the performance at the Empire Theatre last week reads as follows:—"An acceptable dramatic sketch, *The Sheriff and the Rosebud*, was given by W. Mowbray Harle and company." May I ask you to correct this error in your next issue? The company is run by my daughter, Miss Ida C. Morgan, under my direction.—Your faithfully,

E. P. MORGAN.

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

Notice to Contributors.

All communications intended for publication should be sent to "THE EDITOR," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

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Communications.

Business Communications should be addressed to The MANAGER,
"THE ERA" BUILDINGS,
5, TAVISTOCK-STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.
(two doors off Wellington-street).
Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephones, 4747 and 1433, Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We cannot undertake to answer the inquiries of correspondents by post. In all letters names and addresses must be given as a guarantee of good faith. Initials only or pseudonyms will be used in the replies if so desired.]

V. B. M. ZANCHI.—*At the Shaftesbury Theatre, April 12, 1898. Miss Edna May made her first appearance on the London stage.*

J. A. W. (Shepherd's Bush).—*Consult our advertising columns for the names of publishers. Either Messrs. Francis and Day or Mr. B. Feldman might be able to arrange for a melody if they think the verse and the subject good enough to put to music. You might submit a copy of songs you have written to a music hall comedian at your local variety theatre. Keep copies of your verses.*

H. ZINGLER.—*Write and inquire of the Play Societies. Miss Winifred Mayo, 93, Oakley-street, Chelsea; Mr. A. E. Drinkwater, 9, Arundel-street, Strand, would inform you.*

SLEEPING DOG.—*Mlle. Zanfretta, of the Empire, Leicester-square, might be able to tell you.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a **Birth, a Marriage,** or a **Death,** or an **"In Memoriam"** notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is **One Shilling and Sixpence.**

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

GILES.—On Dec. 29, 1908, Mrs. Giles, wife of Harry Friskey, comedy juggler, gave birth to a daughter. Mother and daughter both doing well. Happy New Year to all Friends.

YOUNG.—Dec. 28, at Humber-street, Chapwell, the wife of John (Young) Copeland, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

DARIEN—MACAREE.—On Dec. 8, by special license at Manchester, Philip Darien to Violet Macaree.

GARBOIS—LIVINGSTON.—On Dec. 22, by licence, at Old St. Paul's, Edinburgh, by the Rev. A. E. Laurie, W. H. Garbois, Dublin, to Alice E., daughter of the late Rev. Thomas Gott Livingston, Addingham.

LAUREL—ELCOCK.—On Dec. 20, at St. Bartholomew's Church, Stamford Hill, N., by the Rev. Goddard, Fred Laurel to Florence Marguerite Elcock, professionally known as Florrie St. Roy.

WALKER—FERNANDEZ.—Dec. 29, at Liverpool, Roderick Walker (of the Peerless Potters) to Jessie, third daughter of J. Fernandez (The Lizzette Troupe).

DEATHS.

GRACE.—At Hanley, on Dec. 18, Edmund Grace, actor, age sixty-two years. R.I.P.

HARVEY.—Dec. 26, John Harvey, the dearly-loved husband of Carlotta Zerbini, in his 63rd year. Formerly trombone soloist at Covent Garden Promenade Concerts.

SAMWELLS.—On Christmas night, at his house, 22, Bridgefield-street, Stockport, Roland Samwells, ringmaster and scenic artist, aged 49.

PIKE.—Dec. 25, at Bridlington, Ernest Lingard Pike (Ernest Devereux), age 29 years.

IN MEMORIAM.

ADAMS.—In ever-loving memory of my darling mother, Sarah Ann Adams (Cicely Nott), widow of Saml. Adams, Esq., who fell asleep Jan. 3, 1900. Ever deeply mourned by her devoted daughter Ada Blanche.
I lov'd her. Ah! no tongue can tell
How much I lov'd her, and how well.
God lov'd her, too: He thought it best
To take her Home with Him to rest.

ADAMS.—In loving memory of my darling mother, Sarah Ann Adams, widow of Samuel Adams, Esq., who died Jan. 3, 1900. Ever mourned by her devoted daughter, EDITH BLANCHE TULLY.

ATKIN.—In ever loving memory of my dear husband, John A. Atkin, who passed away Jan. 2, 1907.—Florence Atkin.

CROSSE.—In sweet remembrance of Edward Crosse, composer and conductor, my chum of 35 years, who passed to the light beyond in the dawn of the year 1907.—HARRY.

CULLING.—In ever-loving memory of Ada Clare (Mrs. Otto C. Culling), who passed away Dec. 31, 1903. Never forgotten by Georgie de Lara Allen.

HODGSON.—In loving remembrance of A. R. Hodgson, also A. Gow Bentinck.—A. P.

JORDISON.—In loving memory of my dear wife, Nellie, who died Jan. 7, 1901. Never forgotten by her husband and daughter Elsie.

LESLIE.—In loving memory of Minnie Leslie (Mrs. John Cecil), who died Jan. 2, 1907.

WESTBROOK.—In loving memory of Augustus Westbrook, the beloved husband of Jenny Mills, who died Dec. 29, 1905. Ever with me in my thoughts.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—
Mrs. John Billington—Monday, Jan. 4.
Ulrick Burke—Monday, Jan. 4.
Mrs. Edward Saker—Tuesday, Jan. 5.
Gordon Craig—Wednesday, Jan. 6.
Ben Davies—Wednesday, Jan. 6.
Albert C. Duncan—Wednesday, Jan. 6.
Maud Russell—Friday, Jan. 8.
Flora Blake—Friday, Jan. 8.

MR. SIDNEY DAVIS wires the National Music Co. as follows:—"Your song 'You all want something to cuddle' is already being sung and whistled on the streets of Edinburgh." This is one of a great many telegrams received by the National Music Co., doing this wonderful song justice.

"KATE, won't you roller skate?" the first skating song in the market, is rapidly becoming very popular. You can hear it sung and whistled on all the skating-rinks already. George Elliott, Frank H. Fox, Ella Lane, Jennie Hartley, H. G. High, and several other artists are singing this number with great success. It is another of the National Music Publishing Co.'s winners.

THE Empire Theatre, Oldham, was well filled last Tuesday week, on the occasion of the Oldham Police Concert, when Mr. Wm. Lawton's "Amphion" Concert Party gave a capital programme.

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.

No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this list.

Aerian, Mr. Frank
Alexander, Mr. Chas.
Allister, Mr. Harry
Anger, Captain G.
Armitage, Mr. Harry
Artois, Mr. Alfred
Ash, Miss M.
Ashman, Mr. Joseph
Athol, Mr. Harry
Avery, Miss Madge
Bahadur, Singh
Baines, Mr. Hamilton
Barclay, Mr. Lawrence
Barrath, Mr. W. B.
Bertini
Bickford, Mr. Melville
Biddall, Brothers
Biddlecombe, Mr.
Bignell, Mr. Chas.
Bland, Mr. Sidney
Blinn, Mr. Holbrook
Bordeverry, Col. G.
Boyne, Mr. L.
Bradley, Mr. Bert.
Brasque, Mr. Albert
Bromley, Miss C.
Bunce, Mr. H.
Cameron, Mr. H. H.
Carlo, Miss Phœbe
Chambles, Mr. John
Chapman, Mr. H. A.
Chard, Lieut.
Chirgwin, Miss Clara
Chorley and Connor
Chung Ling Soo
Clark, Miss R.
Clemence, Mr. Harold
Cliquot, Mr. C.
Collins, Mr. Albert
Cornwallis, Miss M.
Costello, Mr. H.
Cromwell, Miss Cecil
Cronin, Mr. Morris
Cudd, Mr. W.
Currie, Mr. Byden
Dagmar, Miss Marie
Daly, Mr. Dutch
Damerell, Mr. S. T.
Danvers, Mr. James
Dawson, Mr. John
Dean, Miss Ella
Deane, Miss Nellie
Dennis, Miss Maud
Denton, Mr. O.
Dereve, Mr. Edgar
De Stainer, Miss C.
Donaldson Brothers
Dorina, Miss Addie
Du Bois, Mr. Ed.
Edwards and Ward
Ellicott, Miss Violet
Elton, Mrs. S.
Elworthy, Mr. W. T.
Ernesto
Fandall, Miss Kitty
Fatima, Mlle. La Belle
Fillis, Mme.
Fontenoy, Miss R. de
Ford, Mr. Teddy
Fox, Mr. Bob
Francis, Miss M.
Fryer, Mr. Austin
Fuller, Mrs. Walter
Garner, Mr. Booth
Gascoigne, Mrs. H.
George, Mr. E.
Ginnett, Mr. F.
Grace, Miss Amy
Grey, Miss Minnie
Grein, Mr. and Mrs. J. T.
Grey, Miss Marian
Grey, Mr. Heaton
Gribben, Miss May
Gwenn, Mr. Edmund
Gwynne, Miss Daisy
Hall, Mrs. James
Harper, Mr. Morris
Harvard, Mrs. G.
Haytors, The
Hazell, Mr. W. E.
Heale, Mr. Jack
Henry, Miss Florence
Hill, Mr. Hamilton
Hollander, Miss A.
Honri, Mr. Percy
Horton, Mr. Fred
Horton, Mr. W.
Howard, Mr. G.
Howard, Mr. Stanley
Hungerford, Miss Mona
Jago, Mr. William
James, Mr. Sidney
Johnson, Mr. Kid
Jones, Mr. Theo.
Jordan, Mr. Gerald
Julian, Mr. Johnny
King, Mlle. Edie
King, Miss Hetty
Kirk and Neil
Kirkdale, Mr. R. D.
Körber, Hern. Hause
Lafayette, The Great
Le Neve, Mr. W.
Laurie, Miss Cicely
Laurie, Mr. Arthur
Lea, Mr. Wm.
Leeson, Miss W.
Lennol, Mr. J.
Lento, Mr. Will
Leon, Mr. Alfred
Lloyd, Mr. James
Long, Mr. Hyam
Lowell, Mr. Frank
Langton, Miss H.
Lowis, Mr. Edward
Loftus, Miss Ethel
Lupina, Mr. G.
Mackay, Mr. W. J.
Marks, Mr. J.
Malone, Miss Kitty
Malone, Miss Pat
Martens, Capt. H.
Marvin, Mr. A. C.
Massey, Mr C. E.
Mayer, Miss Daisy
McNaughton, Mr. Chas
Meers, Mrs.
Moore, Miss Eva
Moore, Mr. H. Marshall
More, Mr. Reuben
Morris, Mr. Allen
Mortimer, Mr.
Murray, Mr. Thomas E
Needham, Mr. R.
Neville, Mr.
Newburn, Mr. George
Newry, Mr. J.
North, Mr. Benson
Novaro, Mme. Mary A.
Oakis, Mr. Wm.
O'Brine, Miss Kitty
O'Connor, Miss Isabel
Ord, Mr. and Mrs.
Peroto and Mortimer
Porter, Mr. Sidney
Potter, Mrs. J. Brown
Raby, Mr. W. B.
Rastus and Banks
Ray, Miss G.
Raynor, Miss Dorothy
Robini, Miss F.
Rogers, Mr. Gilbert
Romer, Mr. Adrian
Rose, Mr. Arthur
Rose, Mr. Leonard
Rosiee, Mr. J. A.
Russell, Mr. J. W.
Russon, Miss Alice
Sansbury, Mr. V.
Saydon, Miss Nancy
Sealby, Miss Mabel
Seeley and West, Messrs.
Shepherd, Mr. Fredk.
Shrapnel, Mr. Leonard
Sleath, Mr. Herbert
Snow, Mr. and Mrs. G. F.
Spree, Mrs. D.
Stanley and Greenop
Starbuck, Mrs.
Stelling and Revell
Stewart, Mr. Hamilton
Steyne, Mr. E. T.
Storer, Miss K.
Tate, Mr. Harry
Taylor, Mr. R.
Toft, Mr. J.
Trant-Fagan, Mr. W.
Tribune, Mr. D.
Valentine, Mr. H. E.
Valli, Mr. Valli
Vaughan, Mr. Wilfred
Verdi, Mlle. A.
Villier, Mr. H.
Walker, Comical
Ward, Mr. Stockall
Warden, Mr. John A.
Watson, Prof. Arthur
West, Mr. R. H.
White, Miss Kitty
Williams, Mr. Chas. H.
Wilson, Miss G.
Woodford, Miss Kitty
Woolstinholme, Mr. T. B.
Wyatt, Mrs. Alice
Wylie, Mr. Lauri
Yeulett, Mr. F. R.

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Bill matter must be sent in fourteen days before opening, in accordance with Clause 18, same to be sent to Manager, Queen's. Artists please note rehearsal must be attended Mondays, 1.0 o'clock, according to contract.

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Open 7.15; Sat. Matinées, 2.15.

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Jan. 4.—Sydney Mason and Theresa Moore, in "The Usurer," Three Sisters Dixon, Walter Wade, Tom Woottwell, Fred Poplar, Kitty Wager, Tom and Marie Motramo, Yorke Wilson, Rappo and Ella, Hughes and Elliott, Diamond and Hart, Mab Hopwood, Agnes Hanson, Rose and Challoner, Alice Hughes and Co., Ada Millas, and New Bioscope.
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At 6.45 and 9.10.

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See THE ERA ANNUAL, 1909.

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NEW PIECES PRODUCED
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ALPHABETICAL LIST OF ILLUSTRATED BIOGRAPHIES.

Adeson, Mr. Charles	April 25, 1908
Allen, Mr. Frank	Feb. 22, 1908
Ames, Miss Emmie	Jan. 4, 1908
Anson, Miss Carlotta	June 13, 1908
Atwill, Mr. Lionel	June 27, 1908
Bailey, Mr. Gordon	May 30, 1908
Bandurria, Late Mr. George	Dec. 14, 1907
Barber, Mr. Alfred S.	Nov. 21, 1908
Barrasford, Mr. Thomas	Feb. 29, 1908
Barwell, Miss Edith	April 11, 1908
Bateman, Miss	March 14, 1908
Beck, Mr. Fred	April 4, 1908
Beckwith, Late Mr. J. W.	Nov. 21, 1908
Beresford, Mr. Frank	July 18, 1908
Berte, Late Mr. Charles	May 30, 1908
Booker, Late Mr. George A.	April 4, 1908
Boulton, Mr. Matthew	April 4, 1908
Brett, Mr. Edwin	Feb. 22, 1908
Brickwell, Miss Maimie	Nov. 21, 1908
Brodie, late Mr. Matthew	Jan. 11, 1908
Brydon-Phillips, Mr. G.	Jan. 4, 1908
Buxton, Mr. Fred.	June 27, 1908
Carnegy, Miss Mary	March 7, 1908
Carpenter, Mr. Ernest	Feb. 22, 1908
Chambers, Miss Lizzie	June 6, 1908
Clinton, Late Mr. Dudley	Oct. 10, 1908
Cole, Mr. E. W. Maule	Feb. 1, 1908
Collins, Mr. George	March 21, 1908
Cookson, Mr. S. A.	April 11, 1908
Corlass, Miss Georgie	Sept. 5, 1908
Cory-Thomas, Late Mr. L.	Nov. 21, 1908
Corri, Mr. William	July 25, 1908
Craven, Late Mrs. H. T	March 28, 1908
Crewe, Mr. Bertie	March 28, 1908
Croke, Mr. Wentworth	Sept. 5, 1908
Cromwell, Mr. William	Jan. 25, 1908
Crouch, Mr. Herbert	Oct. 31, 1908
Davis, Miss Lallah	March 7, 1908
Dean, Mr. Walter	May 16, 1908
De Banzie, Mr. E. T.	Oct. 3, 1908
Denton, Mr. C. St. John	Jan. 4, 1908
Derry, Miss Joan	Feb. 8, 1908
Dexter, Miss Elizabeth	Feb. 15, 1908
Dickeson, Mr. Herbert	June 13, 1908
Donegan, Mr. James E.	July 11, 1908
Dorgere, Mlle. Arlette	May 30, 1908
Doyle, Mr. C. Milley	Nov. 7, 1908
Draycott, Mr. Charles	June 13, 1908
Drewry, Miss Maude Stewart	April 4, 1908
Dunville, Mr. T. E.	April 11, 1908
Dyas, Late Miss Ada	March 21, 1908
Edgar, Mr. Marriott	Oct. 10, 1908
Edis, Miss Anita	May 9, 1908
Edmonds, Mr. E. Vivian	June 27, 1908
Edouin, Late Mr. Willie	April 18, 1908
Edwards, Late Mr. G. H.	April 11, 1908
Empress, Miss Mario	Feb. 8, 1908
Feldman, Mr. Bert	Dec. 14, 1907
Fenton, Mr. Frank	June 6, 1908
Firmin, Miss Dorothy	Sept. 12, 1908
Fisher, Mr. Charles	Sept. 12, 1908
Fitzgibbon, Mr. H. B.	July 25, 1908
Forde, Miss Florrie	March 21, 1908
Francis, Late Mr. William	Jan. 25, 1908
Francks, Mr. Hawley	Nov. 7, 1908
Frank, Miss Ada	July 25, 1908
Gay, Mr. Walter	July 11, 1908
Gibbons, Mr. Arthur	July 4, 1908
Gilbart, Miss Eleanor	Nov. 21, 1908
Gilmore, Mr. Paul	July 18, 1908
Godfrey, Mr. Dan	Aug. 29, 1908
Goldston, Mr. Will	Feb. 22, 1908
Goodall, Miss Edyth	June 13, 1908
Grant, Mr. Christie	Feb. 29, 1908
Gregory, Late Mr. John	Dec. 28, 1907
Gribben, Mr. Harry A.	March 7, 1908
Grimes, Mr. W. J.	May 23, 1908
Hamilton, Miss Rose	April 18, 1908
Hanbury, Late Miss Lily	March 7, 1908
Hansard, Late Mr. J. B.	Feb. 8, 1908
Hardacre, Miss Ethel	July 4, 1908
Harding, Mr. Alfred	May 2, 1908
Harker, Mr. Frederick	Oct. 3, 1908
Harmer, Miss Dolly	Nov. 7, 1908
Harvey, Miss Rose	July 25, 1908
Haviland, Mr. William	Nov. 14, 1908
Hawthorne, Miss Lil	Feb. 15, 1908
Holding, Mr. Thomas	Jan. 18, 1908
Holland, Mr. Arthur E.	May 16, 1908
Holmes-Dallimore, Mr. A.	Sept. 12, 1908
Homewood, Mr. A. S.	Nov. 21, 1908
Howard, Mr. Robert H.	Oct. 3, 1908
Howe, Late Mr. J. B.	March 14, 1908
Hudson, Mr. Eric	Nov. 7, 1908
Hudspeth, Late Mrs. J. H.	March 7, 1908
Hutton, Mr. Ralph	July 25, 1908
Irving, Late Sir Henry	Oct. 21, 1905
Irving, Mr. H. B.	Nov. 7, 1908
Imeson, Miss Florence	Feb. 29, 1908
Jesson, Mr. C.	Sept. 5, 1908
Jones, Mr. Tom	April 4, 1908
Kay, Miss Ethel	March 28, 1908
Kilburn, Late Mr. Harry	Dec. 5, 1908
King, Mr. Claude	June 20, 1908
Lambert, Mr. R. Lawson	Feb. 8, 1908
Lanner, Late Mme. Katti	Nov. 21, 1908
Latimer, Miss Edyth	Nov. 14, 1908
Leon, Miss Connie	April 4, 1908
Lester, Mr. Alfred	May 9, 1908
Lester, Late Mr. Harry	Oct. 10, 1908
Lewis, Late Miss Rosie	Oct. 24, 1908
Little, Mr. Fred J.	April 18, 1908
Lloyd, Miss Alice	Sept. 5, 1908
Loncraine, Miss Ruby	Oct. 3, 1908
Lucas, Mr. and Mrs. E. H.	March 14, 1908
Macowan, Mr. and Mrs. Norman	July 18, 1908
Maude, Miss Henriquette	Nov. 7, 1908
Maundy-Gregory, Mr J.	May 23, 1908
Melford, Late Mr. Austin	Jan. 25, 1908
Mellon, Mrs. Alfred	July 18, 1908
Miller, Mr. Fred	Sept. 5, 1908
Mortimer, Mr. Leonard	Sept. 5, 1908
Neale, Mr. W. Vaughan	Oct. 17, 1908
Nordon, Miss Lilla	Oct. 3, 1908
Notrelle, Miss Rosalie	Sept. 26, 1908
Olive, Miss Edyth	July 4, 1908
Orford, Miss Emmeline	March 7, 1908
O'Sullivan, Late Mr. Denis	Feb. 8, 1908
Percy, Mr. Esme	July 4, 1908
Potts, Mr. W. E.	June 27, 1908
Price, Mr. Wylie	June 6, 1908
Phydora, Mr. Harry	Aug. 29, 1908
Raby, Miss Mary	May 16, 1908
Radcliffe, Miss Florence	April 4, 1908
Read, Mr. T. E.	Oct. 3, 1908
Rees, Miss Rosemary	March 14, 1908
Reynolds, Mr. Walter	Oct. 31, 1908
Rickards, Mr. Harry	May 16, 1908
Rolyat, Mr. Dan	March 28, 1908
Roma and Romani	April 4, 1908
Ronalds, Miss Stanley	March 28, 1908
Searelle, Late Mr. Luscombe	Dec. 21, 1907
Shepherd, Mr. Leonard	July 25, 1908
Shuttleworth, Late Mr. Wm.	Nov. 14, 1908
Simpson, Miss Sadie	April 25, 1908
Sinden, Miss Topsy	Dec. 28, 1907
Snazelle, Mr. G. H.	July 4, 1908
Stanmore, Mr. Frank	March 14, 1908
Starr, Mr. Geo. O.	Feb. 8, 1908
Sugden, Mr. Rex	Nov. 7, 1908
Tate, Late Mr. Alfred	Sept. 26, 1908
Thompson, Late Miss Lydia	Nov. 21, 1908
Vron, Miss Elsie	July 25, 1908
Waller, Late Mr. John	April 4, 1908
Walters, Miss Rale	Nov. 21, 1908
Waxman, Mr. Morris D.	April 11, 1908
West, Mr. Alfred	May 16, 1908
White, Mr. Chas. A.	Oct. 10, 1908
White, Mr. Reginald	April 25, 1908
Willard, Miss Amy	April 11, 1908
Wilmott, Mr. Charles	Oct. 10, 1908
Winstanley, Late Mrs. J. A.	Dec. 12, 1908
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THE ERA

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 1909.

THE DRAMATIC YEAR.

It becomes yearly more difficult to concoct a really good play for the London market; and this fact should make us indulgent in dealing with those which are actually written. For some time past we seem to have settled down into what may be called a very creditable dramatic output. There is something in our English play emporium for all tastes. And we have a great advantage in the fact that several of our managers are sufficiently "established" to be able to try experiments. It is too much to expect of the small capitalist to run risks with his eyes open. But the big firms cannot very well lose money—the "personal following" and the promptness with which a modern-life play can be taken off prevent this; and they often recoup themselves, unconsciously, in reputation. The production of a play like *The Thunderbolt* by an author like Mr. PINERO at a theatre like the St. James's gives a *cachet* and a bold advertisement to the theatre which have a distinct, though often unappreciated, value. *The Thunderbolt* was a work of which any author might be proud; and it will be a worthy addition to the list of Mr. PINERO's published plays. Another piece in which the author endeavoured to keep on a high plane was Miss CICELY HAMILTON's *Diana of Dobson's*. It was at the same time a clever comedy and a scathing indictment of our social system; and the difficulty of making such a combination is so great that Miss HAMILTON deserves applause and respectful admiration. A third play which came little short of being a masterpiece was Mr. BERNARD SHAW's *Getting Married*, which was produced at the Haymarket in May. The supposed necessity of protracting the "conversation" to three portions apparently led Mr. SHAW to tack a parcel of mystic nonsense on to two acts of exquisitely humorous comedy. The most important SHAKESPEAREAN revival of the year was Mr. BEERBOHM TREE's production of *The Merchant of Venice* at His Majesty's in April. Mr. TREE's Shylock was a noble and well-reasoned reading of the rôle, and will not easily be forgotten; and his superb production of a fine version of *Faust* by Messrs. STEPHEN PHILLIPS and COMYNS CARR was one of the memorable events of the year. Mr. PHILLIPS also proved his poetic gift in a version of "The Bride of Lammermoor," entitled *The Last Heir*, in which, at the Adelphi, Mr. MARTIN HARVEY gave a picturesque, poetic, and tragic representation of Ravenswood. A very fine revival of *Romeo and Juliet* was given by Messrs. SMITH and CARPENTER at the Lyceum; and Mr. LEWIS WALLER's reproduction of *Henry V.* at the Lyric was a credit to all concerned. And amongst the intellectual plays of the year must be included Mr. ROY HORNIMAN's *Bellamy the Magnificent*, presented at the New Theatre in October. A curious phenomenon in connection with the career of this play was the interest taken in the hero by the public, who refused to "turn down their thumbs" at the conclusion, and insisted on Bellamy's life being spared. In all probability this feeling was greatly owing to the fact that the part of Bellamy was played by Sir CHARLES WYNDHAM, who endowed it with an amount of attraction and amiability that excused the errors of the exquisite.

Where the year's output is largest and most excellent is in sound, practical dramatic material, of which there has been a liberal supply. Mr. ALFRED SUTRO has seldom done better work than in *The Builder of Bridges*, in which he combines the skill of SARDOU with the earnestness of HENRY ARTHUR JONES; a delightful mixture of breezy melodrama and conscientious realism was *The Flag Lieutenant* at the Playhouse; and Mr. J. M. BARRIE, in his lighter vein, contributed a most delicate evening's diversion in *What Every Woman Knows* at the Duke of York's. A really brilliant and well-constructed comedy, Mr. W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM'S *Mrs. Dot*, was produced by Miss MARIE TEMPEST at the Comedy; and Mr. EDWIN MILTON ROYLE'S Western drama *A White Man* had a successful career at the Lyric. All these pieces were thoroughly good and strong of their kind; and the reception they met with was very well deserved.

The list of artistic and interesting, but not epoch-making, plays of the year is a gratifying one. We have very pleasant memories of *The Beloved Vagabond*, produced at His Majesty's in February last, and of Mr. TREE's charming performance as Paragot; of Mr. JOHN MASEFIELD's beautiful little dramatic poem *Nan*, so admirably acted at the Royalty; and of Mrs. PATRICK CAMPBELL's rare and powerful acting in *Deirdre* and *Electra* at the New. The success of the Sicilian players at the Shaftesbury was owing partly to the fire and earnestness of their acting and partly to the "sensation" created by certain *épatant* extravagances of detail. They were over-praised, and are now almost forgotten. *Lady Epping's Lawsuit*, presented by Miss MARY MOORE at the Criterion, was slight in texture, and owed its success greatly to the perfection of Miss MOORE's playing of the principal part; *The Marriages of Mayfair*, which filled the stage of Drury Lane Theatre in September, was a first-rate specimen of strong spectacular drama; and in *Idols*, which appeared at the Garrick the same month, Mr. ROY HORNIMAN, armed with an effective and all-conquering situation, courageously defied ethical criticism, and did so with complete success. The crop of musical comedies and light operas has been quite up to the mark. *Havana* at the Gaiety, *A Waltz Dream* at the Hicks, *My Mimosa Maid* at the Prince of Wales's, and *The Belle of Brittany* at the Queen's have shown the immense improvement in taste and refinement that has taken place in this class of entertainment. This is satisfactory, seeing that it forms the favourite amusement of such a large section of the public. We must not omit to mention the success of *The Passing of the Third Floor Back* at the St. James's—a piece which, in many ways open to criticism, had a moral earnestness which, combined with Mr. FORBES ROBERTSON's fine performance in the leading part, won the hearts of the playgoing public. An event of the year which must be recorded with warm satisfaction was the triumphant return of Mr. H. B. IRVING to London with *The Lyons Mail* at the Shaftesbury, in which he repeated the success of his famous father in the dual part of Lesurques and Dubosc. Altogether, the past year has been pleasant, prosperous, and productive, and the prospects of the drama for 1909 are decidedly hopeful.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

Minutes of the council meeting held at 353, Strand, on Tuesday, Dec. 22. Present: Miss Lucy Sibley (in the chair), Misses Agnes Imlay, Rose Mathews, Messrs. Cecil Brooking, Clive Currie, E. Gurney, Frederick Morland, Frederick Annerley, C. F. Collings, Franklyn Walford, and Mr. Hubert Blount (secretary).

The minutes of the council meeting held on Dec. 15 were read and confirmed.

Miss Imlay read the Finance Committee's report, which the council adopted.

A committee to draw up the annual report was appointed, consisting of Mr. Morland, Miss Mathews, Miss Imlay, Mr. Brooking, and Mr. C. F. Collings.

The secretary asked permission, on behalf of Miss Beatrice Chester, to exhibit a notice with regard to the "Theatrical Anti-Vivisection League." The council decided not to exhibit this notice on the ground that it might prove a source of controversy, and received instructions to write to Miss Chester expressing their regret that for this reason they were unable to accede to her request.

It was decided that in future no notice or poster of any description or kind be exhibited in the Association's rooms without the sanction of the council.

Miss Rose Mathews asked the council whether they could see their way to make some suggestion for the benefit of the Play-Actors in view of the fact that that body had been instrumental in introducing a considerable number of new members, and a resolution was passed to the effect that "in view of the possibility of the Association moving into larger premises at the end of 1909, the council of the A.A. should approach the council of the Play-Actors with a view to taking premises where they can be accommodated."

Minutes of the council meeting held on Tuesday, Dec. 29. Present: Mr. F. Morland (in the chair), Messrs. Robson Paige, Richard A. Greene, C. F. Collings, Misses Rose Mathews, Agnes Imlay, and Mr. Hubert Blount (secretary). The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. A letter was read from Dr. Sinclair informing him that he was removing to Aldeburgh, and the Secretary received instructions to write to him stating that the council would be glad if he would remain on the list of hon. medical officers.

Miss Imlay read the finance committee's report, which was adopted, and Mr. Morland read the "Annual Report" Committee's report, which was also passed.

The question of holding a meeting of members for discussion of topics of interest to the profession was discussed, and the secretary received instructions to ascertain from the manager of the Cabin whether the rooms could be used on a Sunday evening for that purpose

"THE DOLLAR PRINCESS."

A New Play, with music, from the German of A. M. Willner and F. Grunbaum; produced for the first time in England at the Prince's Theatre, Manchester, on Thursday, Dec. 24.

Freddy Fairfax .....MR. ROBERT MICHAELIS
John, Earl of Quorn ....MR. VERNON DAVIDSON
Dick .....MR. HOWARD CRIDLAND
Tom .....MR. HARRY PARKER
Duke of Stonehenge ..MR. ROBERT ST. GEORGE
Sir James McGregor .....MR. WILLIE WARDE
Sir Anthony Phipps .....MR. PHILIP SIMMONS
Vicomte de Champigon ..MR. WILLIAM GUILBERT
Phineas Q. Conder .....MR. RICHARD GOLDEN
Alice .....MISS HILDA MOODY
Daisy .....MISS ALICE POLLARD
Lady Augusta Broadstairs..MISS MABEL DUNCAN
Hon. Edith Dalrymple .....MISS DORIS DEWAR
Lady Dorothy Datchet .....MISS MAY SARONY
Dulcie Dobbins .....MISS ALICE MOFFAT
Olga .....MISS KITTY GORDON

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Great expectations heralded the production of *The Dollar Princess* at the Prince's Theatre, Manchester, on Christmas Eve, the popular idea being that this latest enterprise of Mr. George Edwardes was destined to rival the success of *The Merry Widow*. It can hardly be said, however, that rivalry exists, or is likely to exist, between the two; not because one of them transcends the other in point of interest or setting, but because of the essential differences between them. The last-named piece is, as everyone knows, peculiarly "Continental," picturesque, and sensuous in a high degree. *The Dollar Princess*, on the other hand, is more temperately homelike, more familiarly staged, and depends directly upon sentiment—a clever and distinctly pleasing play upon the sentiment of love—for the success of its appeal. The atmosphere and situations are quaint, pretty—and moral. And, without doubt, they spell success.

The story has been adapted for the English stage from the German of Willner and Grunbaum by Basil Hood. The lyrics are by Adrian Ross, and the music is by Leo Fall. It is not a complicated story, but it is based on a situation which has strong claims to originality, and which is of the very essence of comedy. Phineas Q. Conder, president of the Oil Trust, is wealthy enough to indulge to his heart's content in the rather imaginative hobby of having about him, as servants of the household, none but impecunious ladies and gentlemen of the British aristocracy. His butler is the Duke of Stonehenge, his footman is Sir James McGregor, his valet Sir Anthony Phipps, his chef the Vicomte de Champigon; while other distinguished hirelings who sink their prestige to the level of mere household utility are John, Earl of Quorn, Lady Augusta Broadstairs, Lady Dorothy Datchet, and the Hon. Edith Dalrymple. Conder's pleasure lies in the profuse application of their titles to these people who serve him so obsequiously, but it must be admitted that the humour of the situation from their side is not exploited to any notable degree, which seems a pity. His daughter Alice, however, the "dollar princess," plays the mistress in supercilious style, conscious of her position, and spoiled by the idea of the millions which make the situation possible. Something of the same impulse is in his niece Daisy, though she is a lighter and flightier personage, and is having some good fun out of the fact that John, Earl of Quorn (Conder's horseman), is in love with her, and she in love with him. Conder has commissioned his nephew Dick and his brother Tom to bring him a housekeeper from Europe; he wants a distinguished and attractive lady of a nice age whom he can marry; and when Dick and Tom return—an event which takes place in the first act—they bring with them a supposed Russian Princess, who is in reality a Lion Queen, known on the halls as Olga. At about the same time comes Freddy Fairfax, who has known Olga, and who seeks employment of Conder upon the strength of a letter of introduction. This is when the story takes piquancy and sentiment into itself. Freddy's interview happens to be with Alice, and it seems that he is just the man to take that young lady in hand. She at first dismisses him curtly, but, on Freddy's refusal to be fobbed off by her, eventually engages him herself to be her own private secretary. There is something about Freddy which unsettles her, and it takes dim shape when he comes into contact with Olga upon that pretty lady's appearance in the house. She begins to be piqued by jealousy. Freddy, being obviously a natural hand at love-making, knows exactly how to tease her and at the same time fan the flame, never showing her until the right moment that he is deeply in love with her. As for Olga, Conder shows his hand at once, and she is not averse. So the action goes on. In the second act, Daisy commands John, Earl of Quorn, to marry her, on a footing of mere friendly convenience, and he obeys. Also Conder chooses Olga as the object of his suit, and, since marriages are in the air, Alice, too, must choose a husband. After some finessing, Alice plunges insolently into the choice of Freddy, on the assumption that she can "buy the man; a tramp, a pauper—or a clerk"; who will just dance like a wooden monkey "when Alice pulls the string." It leads to a tremendously effective finale, for Freddy repudiates her with a punishing scorn, and throws up his place in the house. The sequel occurs at Freddy's bungalow in California, where he has "struck ile" and made a huge fortune. Alice comes to Freddy's knees; the "Russian Princess" deception is exploded, though Olga does not lose Conder by it; and Daisy accommodates herself to a more wifely notion of her relationship to the Earl of Quorn.

Many really splendid passages come into the development of the story. One of them is the "Inspection" duet, when Alice decides to employ Freddy; another, the "Typewriting" episode, when she orders him to take down a florid love-letter to an imaginary Isidore, in the hope of arousing his jealousy; while the "Hansel and Gretel" duet of Daisy and Quorn, and the subsequent "Reminiscence" on the same theme, are among the best of the musical items. Among the songs, Freddy's "My Dream of Love" and Olga's "Many a lover" and "The Lion Queen" and memorable, the first-mentioned being, perhaps, the best of all. It would be hard to overpraise the efforts of the cast. Miss Hilda Moody as Alice acted and sang with gratifying success, and a more artistic rendering of Freddy than that of Mr. Robert Michaelis could hardly be imagined. As Olga Miss Kitty Gordon did extremely well, considering her recent appointment to the rôle; while Miss Alice Pollard as Daisy, finely matched by Mr. Vernon Davidson as the Earl of Quorn, contributed materially to the success. Mr. Richard Golden as Conder stood forth throughout as a quaint and resourceful comedian, who is sure to make more of the part than he did on the opening night, though after the first act his opportunities are not too ample. Others deserving of praise were Mr. Willie Warde, Mr. Howard Cridland, and Mr. Harry Parker.

No doubt remained at the fall of the curtain about the magnitude of the success. Mr. George Edwardes, called upon to acknowledge the applause of the audience, said, while thanking everyone, that he was glad he had brought the piece to Manchester, which he should always think of henceforward as far more appreciative than hypercritical.

PRESENTATION.—At the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, on Christmas Eve, Mr. Harry Ashton, the advertising-manager for the Howard and Wyndham Syndicate Glasgow Theatres, was the recipient of a handsome marble timepiece and a pair of bronze ornaments, from the members of his billing staff, as a mark of their esteem.

"THE KNIGHT OF THE BURNING PESTLE."

Beaumont and Fletcher's Satirical Burlesque of 1612, Reproduced at the Gaiety Theatre, Manchester, on Thursday, Dec. 24.

Speaker of the Prologue ....MR. CARMEN WOODS
A Citizen .....MR. EDWARD LANDOR
His Wife .....MRS. THEODORE WRIGHT
Ralph, his Apprentice .....MR. ESME PERCY
Venturewell, a Merchant .....MR. JULES SHAW
Humphrey .....MR. LEONARD MUDIE
Merrythought .....MR. CHARLES BIBBY
Jasper .....MR. BASIL DEAN
Michael.....MISS BEATRICE CHETWYN
Tim.....MR. JOSEPH A. KEOGH
George .....MISS ENID MEEK
Host .....MR. FRANK RADCLIFFE
Tapster .....MR. J. H. ETHERDO
Barbar .....MR. A. PERCIVAL
William Hammerton .....MR. JOHN BEECH
George Greengoose .....MR. CHARLES LORAINE
Jasper's Boy .....MR. GERARD WYNNE
Servant to Venturewell..MR. KINGSTON TROLLOPE
Luce .....MISS HILDA BRUCE POTTER
Mistress Merrythought .....MISS ADA KING
Pompiona .....MISS LILIAN CRISTINE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Francis Beaumont and John Fletcher were younger contemporaries of Shakespeare, who was writing his latest plays when they were at the beginning of their dramatic collaboration. Of the fifty odd plays that pass under the names of Beaumont and Fletcher, many were written single-handed by Fletcher, while others were produced in collaboration with Massinger and other writers of the time. In at least two of them Fletcher's writing is intermixed with Shakespeare's. Of the plays that Beaumont and Fletcher wrote together, *The Knight of the Burning Pestle* is certainly one, and it is at once the earliest and the best of English burlesques.

Thomas Heywood and others had written plays dealing with the exploits of valorous London apprentices, and it is this class of play that Beaumont and Fletcher set themselves to burlesque. Whether the authors had read "Don Quixote" is doubtful, for Shelton's translation of Cervantes appeared (1612) after the performance of the play. It is possible that they read the work in Spanish, but the resemblances between "Don Quixote" and *The Knight of the Burning Pestle* were, after all, not so close as to make it necessary to suppose that they were indebted to the Spanish masterpiece, or to give occasion for comparison either in point of idea or characterisation. A century after the Restoration the play was again seen on the stage; but this was followed by a long gap of obscurity, though it was known to students as an example of bright and genial humour, for its next appearance was not until November, 1904, when the Mermaid Society revived it at the Royalty. Saturated with an old-world flavour, its atmosphere under the influence of the management of the Gaiety Theatre is capitally sustained by the special scenery and costumes that have been made for the event, by the music which has been specially written by Mr. Granville Bantock, by the songs of the period specially selected by Dr. Henry Watson (and sung in excellent spirit by Mr. Charles Bibby as Old Merrythought), and by the dances arranged by Miss Nellie Chaplin. The latter are taken from Playford's *Dancing Master* (1665), and are of particular interest inasmuch as they are correct reproductions of the dances of the Tudor period. Miss Chaplin's dancers give joyous and delightful expression to these unforgotten evidences of the pastoral gaiety of our forefathers. The dances themselves are so delightful, so full of the atmosphere of fresh spring life, that they contribute in no small measure to the success of the play.

Miss Horniman's company showed themselves well able to get the best possible effect out of the material of this unusual enterprise. The fun began when a number of the artists ascended to the stage from a corner of the stalls, and the speaker of the prologue engaged in parley with the citizen and his loquacious wife. As the Citizen Mr. Edward Landor made good play with his comedy gifts, and Mrs. Theodore Wright scored continuously with her naïve intrusions upon the progress of the plot. Mr. Emé Percy as Ralph, the grocer's apprentice, who would-be heroic, made a capital burlesque figure, especially on his attempt to succour the distressed damsel, Mistress Merrythought, and later to overthrow the giant Barber in an encounter of lance against barber's pole. Comic passages occur also between young Jasper Merrythought and Humphrey (Messrs. Basil Dean and Leonard Mudie), who are rivals for the hand of Venturewell's daughter, Luce, a rôle played with proper humorous insight by Miss Hilda Bruce Potter. The coffin episode, when Jasper persuades Luce to escape from her father's roof, was also notably well done, as was the impersonation of the bibulous and aptly vocal Merrythought by Mr. Charles Bibby. Besides these, Miss Ada King was conspicuously good as Mistress Merrythought; Mr. Jules Shaw gave a very smart and polished rendering of the merchant, Venturewell; Miss Lilian Christine looked and acted well as Pompiona; and the many smaller parts, quaint and varied as they are, were cleverly handled by the remainder of the cast. It only remains to be added that the costumes are historically accurate in design; the scenery provides delightful glimpses of Old London, from the brush of Mr. Hugh Fremantle; and the piece was fully appreciated by the audience on the opening night. Under Miss A. E. F. Horniman, to whom Manchester is indebted for the opportunity of seeing so quaint and interesting a departure, Mr. B. Iden Payne has the production in hand, while Mr. Edwin T. Heys adequately looks after the comfort of visitors.

"THE LADY OF KENSINGTON GARDENS."—Those of our readers, particularly of the fair sex, who are permitted the opportunity of throwing aside their theatrical cares for a few hours, will find agreeable recreation in turning over the pages of Mr. J. A. T. Lloyd's new novel, "The Lady of Kensington Gardens." For in it Mr. Lloyd introduces us to one of the most strange feminine characters that has ever graced the world of fiction. It might be said that the real nature of a woman is an inscrutable mystery; but, apparently, Mr. Lloyd has attempted to probe the mystery if one may judge by the remarkably clever psychological study to which he treats the reader. Earlier in the book there is an amusing conversation between a clergyman and an actress, which will well repay perusal.

THE success of Mr. Charles Darrell's play, *The Eyes of the World*, at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Grimsby, came near to being marred on the 22nd ult through an accident occurring to Miss Ethel Van Praagh, which might have had serious results for that gifted actress. In response to repeated "calls" the curtain had been raised several times, and on each occasion Miss Van Praagh was the recipient of floral tributes; but the applause still continuing, the curtain was again raised when a large basket of flowers was presented. As Miss Van Praagh stepped forward to receive the gift, the bell was accidentally rung, and the curtain descended before the lady had time to get clear of it. A shriek from the audience warned her of her danger, and with great presence of mind the actress fell prone upon the stage. Some of the stage hands rushed forward promptly and dragged her from her perilous position, so that the curtain only grazed her head as it reached the stage.

THE MARTIN HARVEY DRAMATIC CLUB.

Mr. Martin Harvey, in his speech at the annual dinner of the Martin Harvey Dramatic Club at the Gaiety Restaurant on the 20th ult., said:—

"And now, ladies and gentlemen, it is my further pleasure to say a few words about the Kit Marlowe Dramatic Club, and of your doings in the past year. I must congratulate you upon the fact that in last February you were able to chronicle your hundredth performance since the founding of the Club, and that your finances are in a satisfactory state. That is more than some managers could honestly say at the end of one hundred performances, and I heartily congratulate you. Then I look down your programme for the coming session, and a very attractive one it seems to be. In January a dance, in February a performance, but another dance very soon afterwards, then in April, just to keep up appearances, a performance, but a house dinner to quickly follow.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I read in the biographies of Kit Marlowe that *he led a reckless dissipated life!* Well, now I understand why you have taken poor Kit Marlowe as your titular deity, and I must say a fresh light is thrown upon the rollicking picture which is presented to my eyes at this moment. However, there is safety in numbers, and I see a very wise provision in Rule 16 that you must not use the name of Kit Marlowe in connection with affairs other than those of the Club—*affairs*, ladies and gentlemen. I suppose this means the sort of thing that is described in the papers as 'shameful *affairs* in Park-lane.' I take it you must not rollick alone or in twos and threes, but only in connection with the *Club*, and, as I say, there is safety in numbers. And now that I have said something about the abuses of your Club I ought to speak of its uses. Well, they seem to me many. One of them is the opportunity it gives to Mrs. Martin Harvey and myself of enjoying your hospitality and sharing in your reckless and dissipated life. Then I have no doubt some of the members of your Club, by accident or design, become regular members of the stage calling, and have had the opportunity of gaining their first experience at the expense of your audiences, just as I am gaining my experience of extemporaneous speaking at your expense to-night. You may not think it, but it *is* extemporaneous, and if you ask me how I do it I will tell you a story of Charles Lamb and his pipe.

"Charles Lamb was puffing away at his churchwarden, emitting the most voluminous clouds of smoke, and a friend of his asked him how he managed to pour forth such thick volumes of smoke. Charles Lamb replied, with his characteristic stutter, 'I strive after it as some men strive after virtue.' So, ladies and gentlemen, I have striven after extemporaneous speaking, and I wish my eloquence were as fine and rolling as Charles Lamb's volume of tobacco smoke.

"So I pass on quite naturally to my own experiences of the amateur stage. Very early they commenced. I think I cannot have been more than seven when I made my first appearance in a romantic melodrama (my predilections soon began to make themselves felt!) called *The Frog and the Princess*. You may think I was cast for the Frog, but I wasn't. I played the Princess, and therefore made my first bow in a petticoat. I address myself to the ladies particularly when I confess to them that I disgraced that petticoat by drinking more sherry on that occasion than was good for me. Someone lifted me up on a table that I might inspect myself in the looking-glass over the fireplace, but it was a shamefully bedraggled Princess that confronted my unsteady gaze. Shades of poor Sydney Carton were already perhaps stealing over me.

"But I hear you saying, You ought to be talking about the Kit Marlowe Dramatic Club. Ladies and gentlemen, I am coming back to you, and this time with a severe admonishment. How is it I see none of Marlowe's plays in your répertoire?

"I see *Kit Marlowe*, but by my friend W. L. Courtney, and lower down I see *The Strange Adventures of Miss Brown*, by R. Buchanan and one Charles Marlowe, but this Marlowe, I have a shrewd suspicion, wears, as your humble servant wore on the occasion I have told you of, a petticoat. Where are *Dr. Faustus*, and *Tamburlaine*, and *The Jew of Malta*, and *Edward II.*?

"If you ask that of an actor-manager, he would have his answer promptly, 'They are in the State-aided theatre.' But you, ladies and gentlemen, are proof against such sordid considerations, and, in the expectation that your future répertoire will include these great works, and in the hope that you may wax in strength and courage to attack your ambitious work, I drink, and I ask you to drink with me, 'The health—the continued health—of the Kit Marlowe Dramatic Club.'"

ACTORS' UNION.

The usual committee meeting of the Actors' Union took place on the 18th ult. at 49, Bedford-street, Strand, and the following members were present: Messrs. Frank Gerald (chairman), F. Rawson Buckley, E. Howard Templeton, Cecil G. Calvert, J. Hastings Batson, Royce Milton, Jerrold Heather, Leslie Arthur, George P. Lester, George H. Child, Edwin J. Collins, Doré Lewin-Mannering, James English, W. Ruddle Brown, Edward Y. Rae, and Kenneth Blackmore (secretary).

Communications were received from the following members of the committee: Messrs. Clifford Rean, Paul Lovett, Alfred Maitland Stapley, and Campbell Goldsmid.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Two matters of importance with regard to the future policy of the Union were discussed at length.

The resignations of Mr. and Mrs. J. Milne Taylor and Mr. R. White and Miss Sheila Dawn were accepted with regret.

Three new members were elected.

The secretary was instructed to thank Mr. J. Hastings Batson for his donation of 10s. 6d. to the Actors' Union Benevolent Fund.

The secretary was instructed to remind members that no cards for the year 1909 will be issued unless membership cards for 1908 are returned to him fully paid up, and to draw attention to the fact that the subscription for 1909 will be 1s. 8d. per month, payable by the 7th of each month, or 15s. per annum, payable by Jan. 21.

The secretary reported four engagements during the week made through the Union Agency.

The secretary reported that he had made arrangements with the insurance company by which the insurance coupons on next year's cards remain good if the coupon is signed by the member and left at home, thus obviating the necessity of carrying the voucher about.

Friday last being Christmas Day, there was no meeting of the committee for that week.

Those members who wish to take advantage of the reduction of five shillings in the annual subscription are warned that no annual subscription (15s.) will be accepted if received after Jan. 21, 1909. Members who have not paid their monthly subscription of one shilling and eightpence by the 7th of each month will be out of benefit.

In future there will be no stamps for sale at the agencies, all subscriptions to be forwarded to the head office. Only members of the committee will be supplied with books of stamps for sale to members.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

IN reference to the dispute with the V.A.F., the Agents' Association meeting took place on Wednesday, at 5 p.m. At 7.15 p.m. Mr. Appleton, the general secretary of the Federation of Trade Unions, telephoned to the general secretary of the Variety Artists' Federation, and reported he had received a letter from the Agents' Association, stating that they had agreed to go to arbitration.

A PRIVATE meeting of the Variety Artists' Federation, under the chairmanship of Mr. Joe O'Gorman, was held yesterday at the Bedford Head Hotel, when the present position in the matter was laid before the members.

IN all probability the parties to the arbitration will be those gentlemen who have conducted the negotiations for the two interests up to the present time. Thus, Messrs. Joe O'Gorman, Wal Pink, W. H. Clemart, and William Lee will most likely represent the artists, and it is understood that Messrs. Hugh J. Didcott, George Barclay, Sidney Hyman, and Manny Warner will appear on behalf of the agents.

THE terms of reference were on Thursday drawn up between the representatives of the General Federation of Trade Unions and the agents, and these were under consideration yesterday by the V.A.F. Executive. The next question will be the appointment of an arbitrator.

MR. NEIL KENYON was unfortunately too ill to take up his part in the Drury Lane pantomime on Boxing Night, and has not appeared therein during the week. He had been unwell for some time, and is suffering from nervous breakdown. In his dilemma Mr. Arthur Collins was able to realise the value of such a sound comedian as Mr. Johnny Danvers, the former corner-man of the Mohawks, who had about two hours to learn Mr. Neil Kenyon's lines.

MR. NEIL KENYON wishes to contradict the statement which has been made in the Press to the effect that his absence from Drury Lane pantomime is owing in any way whatsoever to his relations with Mr. Wilkie Bard. Mr. Bard and himself are on the most friendly terms, being brother Rats.

DURING the week Neil Kenyon has received an offer from America to open in the first week in February at an enormous salary. He has also had several inquiries from West-End halls and from two provincial pantomime managers. It will be quite a few days before his doctor is expected to allow him to get about.

MR. BRANSBY WILLIAMS, who is at the Prince's, Bristol, has been hightly complimented on his success by Mr. Chute, and has also been much gratified at receiving so many telegrams of good wishes. Mr. Fred Terry "wished him all the success he deserves." Mr. George Alexander wired: "Success. Keep my memory green with your splendid imitations." Sir Charles Wyndham sent the following:—"Wish you all success, though I understand you are cutting the ground from under my feet.—Chas. Wyndham." He also received one from Wilkie Bard, amidst all his busy time, which was greatly appreciated.

MISS KITTER RAYBURN, always as conscientious and earnest as she is charming, has become an immediate favourite at the Lyric, Hammersmith, where her tuneful songs have inspired most enthusiastic chorus singing during the week. She has much improved, both as actress and singer, and we should not be surprised to find her nearer west next Christmas.

MRS. CLEMENT SCOTT is offering £100 for a really dramatic and sensational sketch suitable for the music-halls. Mrs. Scott will give this amount for that she considers the most suitable, and will present the work with herself in the chief rôle, which, by the way, must be a sympathetic one, in England, and later in America and Australia, in which countries she is now planning an extensive tour. The sketch should not contain more than four characters, and must only play fifteen minutes. Mrs. Clement Scott invites all who are interested to send their manuscripts addressed as follows:—"£100 Sketch," care of *The Era* Office, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.

THE legitimate dramatic houses do not extend the hospitality of their stages to the one-act play or curtain-raiser, and the days of the Adelphi screamer are over. Sometimes a clever entertainer plays the people in, and at minor houses the cinematograph is often put up. Young authors who wish to win their spurs as dramatists turn, therefore, to the variety theatres, where it is generally admitted they receive their best encouragement. Still, there is many an unknown aspirant for fame who finds the conditions insisted on by some music-hall managers irksome and difficult to meet. Many such should be unearthed by Mrs. Clement Scott's offer.

MR. E. W. MACKNEY, the veteran singer of "The whole hog or none," who is an octogenarian, was present in both houses at the opening of the Edmonton Empire on Boxing Day. He was the first comedian of the variety stage to be called "great" by his manager, Mr. Charles Morton, who billed him as the Great Mackney many years since at the Canterbury, where he played five years almost continuously. He claims to have been the first to introduce an entertainment at the piano, and we feel sure that an introduction to Miss Margaret Cooper would lead to mutual congratulations.

IN connection with the recent action brought by Mr. Gray, known upon the music hall stage as the "Fighting Parson," against the Variety Artists' Federation and Odhams (Ltd.), printers of the federation's organ known as *The Performer*, for damage for slander arising out of an article published in the paper during the music hall war, an application is, immediately upon the Court's sittings, to be made for judgment.

MR. ALFRED MOUL, on Monday evening next, will present Mlle. Leonora, in the new playlet, or episode, which has been named *La Petite Bohemienne*. The music is by François Thomé, the well-known French composer, and Leonora will be supported by Miss Julia Seale, Mlle. Salandri, and M. Volbert. It will be in two scenes, laid in the Austrian Alps at Christmas time. In this little piece it has been the aim of author and composer to provide Mlle. Leonora with a vehicle not only for the display of her powers of miming and dancing, which were so well expressed in *Sal, Oh My*, but also to show the patrons of the National Variety Theatre her skill with the guitar, and that she possesses a well-trained voice. For the convenience of the Press, the first performance of *La Petite Bohemienne* will be given at nine o'clock on Monday evening.

ALL nominations of candidates for the V.A.F. Executive Committee election must be received at the head office by 12 noon on Saturday next. All male members over twenty-one years of age are eligible for office, providing they have been members for the preceding six months, and are not in arrears, as per the rules. The nominee must signify in writing his willingness to serve, if elected, and must be proposed and seconded by two members in full benefit.

MR. J. R. HORROCKS, lately with Mr. Thos. Barrasford at the Grand Theatre, Stockton-on-Tees, has been appointed stage-manager to the Oldham Empire Theatre, and commenced his duties last week.

MR. T. L. GOLDSMITH has been appointed local manager of the Putney Hippodrome, vice Mr. Marner, who is now officiating at Hengler's. The newcomer, by his courteous attention to patrons, should soon make a host of friends.

MR. BOSTOCK, of Glasgow, has, it is understood, purchased a hall in Wishaw, at which he intends to run first-class variety entertainments after the necessary refitting and upholstering. The Scotch circuit of this enterprising gentleman is rapidly on the increase.

THE Albert Theatre, Brighouse, was crowded with children of the poorest class on Boxing Day, when the proprietors, Messrs. Beanland and Emerson, entertained over 500, and at the close of a capital variety performance each child was served with a substantial meat tea and also given a little present.

IN the Sheffield Stipendiary's Court on Thursday, Dec. 24, Lewis Wilkinson, of 65, Infirmary-road, who has been a trader in the Sheaf Market for twenty years, was charged with selling pirated music. He was fined £2 10s. and costs—£4 6s. 6d. in all.

MR. HENRY J. BILSBOROUGH, of Leeds and Bradford, in conjunction with Messrs. Uloth and Sparks, of London, acting for Messrs. Popplewell and Illingworth, have sold the Queen's Theatre, Shipley, to a syndicate controlled by Mr. W. Turner, of the Regent Theatre, Salford, and the Opera House, Salford. The theatre is undergoing a scheme of reorganisation under the management of Mr. Illingworth.

MR. ERNEST BRIDGEN, whose fourth year of office has just commenced at the New Cross Empire, was presented on Christmas Eve by the patrons and staff of that house with a leather suit-case, with silver-mounted fittings. In his reply of cordial thanks the recipient said he was proud of the excellent relations that existed between him and his staff, and trusted they would always be maintained.

MR. HARRY LISTON, with his celebrated two hours' entertainment *Merry Moments*, is making his farewell tour. It is to be hoped that Londoners will have the chance of hearing this hardy veteran of variety, who has done more than most of his fellows to advance the cause of wholesome and mirthful entertainment. In his "fun without vulgarity" Mr. Liston is charmingly assisted by Miss Lord Lumley.

PLANS have been passed by the Dewsbury Corporation for a new place of amusement, to be erected opposite the north front of the Town Hall. It is to be called the Empire Palace Theatre, and is to hold 2,000 people at the least. The main entrances will front Wakefield-road, near the terminus of the Dewsbury and Ossett tramway. Messrs. Chadwick and Watson, of Leeds, are the architects.

A COMPANY has just been registered under the title of the Hippodrome (Durham), Limited, with a capital of £5,000 in £5 shares, to carry on the business of music hall and theatre proprietors, &c., at Durham or elsewhere. Subscribers include Mr R. Pepi, of the Middlesbrough and Darlington Hippodromes, with other prominent gentlemen.

THE first anniversary of the opening of Mr. Barrasford's handsome Hippodrome, Sheffield, was celebrated in befitting manner on Wednesday evening, Dec. 23, after the second performance, when advantage was taken of the occasion to make a presentation to Mr. P. D. Elbourne, the genial and popular resident-manager.

THE presentation, which took the form of a beautiful illuminated address, together with a substantial cheque, cases of table cutlery, fish eaters, and dessert knives, was made in the presence of a large company of friends by Alderman T. Nixon, who spoke of the great success of the Hippodrome during its first year, under the able management of Mr. Elbourne, and paid a high tribute to that gentleman's courtesy and ability. Mr. Elbourne suitably replied, acknowledging the great kindness of his friends, and referred in appreciative terms to the working staff.

ON Christmas night the employees of the Glasgow Pavilion held their fourth annual supper and dance in the Masonic Hall. A merry party of about 140 sat down to supper at midnight, and after "the wee short hour ayont the twal" dancing and other amusements kept the fun going briskly till nearly 5 a.m. Ex-Bailie Connell presided, and the invited guests included Mr. Peter Bermingham, Jack and Evelyn, Miss Gladys Godwynne, Mr. W. F. Frame, Mr. Walter Freer, Mr. L. S. Langfier, and *The Era*'s Glasgow representative.

MR. SAMUEL LLOYD, general-manager at the Pavilion, was the recipient of a beautifully framed enlargement of a photo of the Pavilion staff, executed in Langfier's best style, while Mme. Lloyd received a splendid case of cutlery. Mr. Evan Good, assistant manager, who acted as M.C. at the dance, was presented with a richly-chased silver cigar case, and Mr. Howard W. Galpin, conductor, received from the members of the orchestra a handsome and appropriate gift., viz., a gold sovereign case of beautiful design.

MR. JOHN CLEMPERT had a rousing reception last week from crowded houses at Sunderland. He had accepted a challenge for £100 that he would not jump from Wearmouth Bridge into the river handcuffed. He arrived at 12.30. The Chief Constable and a strong body of police were there before him, and refused to allow him to venture. Thousands of people were there. Nothing daunted, he has accepted a challenge to jump from the High Level Bridge at Gateshead into the Tyne, handcuffed and leg-ironed, at 12.30 on Thursday.

MR. CLEMPERT was also the hero of a street fire incident on Wednesday at 4.30 p.m. An escape of gas near a street lamp at the corner of The Crescent, Gateshead, was the cause of a fire all round and about the lamp. Mr. Clempert, seeing it from his window, at once rushed out with a load of sacking, climbed the lamp, and smothered the flames, at the expense only of a scarred hand and damaged clothing, and was the recipient of loud and prolonged applause at the King's Theatre at both shows the same night.

DR. WALFORD BODIE, now on his native heath and setting the heather on fire, is playing to packed houses at the Hippodrome, Kirkcaldy, despite the fact of its being his second visit within two months. He has also made arrangements to take over the New Pavilion, Kirkcaldy, which has just been rebuilt and fitted and upholstered by Dean and Sons, of Birmingham, at great cost, and is now one of the finest theatres in Scotland. It will be run in conjunction with his Welsh halls, and several other places he is arranging in Scotland. Truly the doctor is a busy man. Mrs. Bodie has been unable to spend the New Year at their Highland home, the Manor House, Macduff, owing to the trains being snowed up.

"WHY THE THIRD FLOOR PASSED" was produced with every possible success at the Metropolitan last Monday. This is the second successful sketch written by Mr. J. J. Spencer Sutcliffe, whose *Pigs in Clover* is winning all along the line.

LAST Saturday night John Lawson put up a record for the Willesden Hippodrome with *Humanity*. So successful has the revival of this playlet proved that it will again be seen at the Grand, Clapham Junction, next week.

MR. MARK MELFORD, to quote his own words, considers that he has "overwritten himself," and is reluctantly disposing of his remarkably successful sketches—the neat and original little pocket vaudevilles so well adapted for touring parties.

MR. ARTHUR SLATER "the whistling man in white," starts on Monday next a thirty-seven weeks' provincial tour, returning on Sept. 20, 1909, to play the Gibbons' halls.

MR. ERNIE MAYNE has scored a tremendous hit at the Borough Theatre, Stratford, in *Aladdin*, in the specially-written part of Washee, the English Nobleman. This is his first attempt in a London pantomime, but it won't be his last.

MR. JACK WOOLF, where help is needed for the suffering and poverty-stricken, is both sympathetic and practical. He has collected quite a large amount during the year for various local institutions, and also contributes to the professional charities, having sent this week 30s. for the benefit of the Music Hall Home.

WE shall shortly have two Nations in London. One is W. H. C. at the Royalty, and another is Mrs. Carrie, the famous American drinking saloon wrecker, who comes to the Paragon and Canterbury Jan. 25. Her temperance talks will no doubt drive many to the bars to quench their thirst by lemonade and other exhilarating beverages.

THE Edmonton Empire, the latest addition to the variety theatres in London Suburbia, was opened on Boxing Night under the managing-directorship of Messrs. Harry Bawn and Jesse Sparrow. Hilarious holiday audiences packed the house at the two performances, and each item on the bill was greeted with enthusiasm.

THE acting-manager is Mr. A. R. Hollands, from the Brighton Hippodrome. The orchestra is under the direction of Mr. Angelo A. Asher from the Chelsea Palace; the stage-manager is Mr. Harry Shewan, formerly at Shepherd's Bush Empire and Ipswich Hippodrome; and Mr. Charles Yates is the electrician.

THE other evening, when Miss Gertie Gitana reached the Canterbury Theatre stage door, she was astonished to find that her chauffeur had driven off at full speed with her baggage and music to the Oxford, thinking, of course, he had got his passengers safely inside the motor carriage. Imagine the humour of the situation on arrival at the Oxford!

"FATHER CHRISTMAS" was quite an attraction in Balham on Chistmas Eve. It was a sight to see the youngsters holding on to his robes as he walked to and fro, with the announcement on his chest and back as follows: "Stop right here for Gus Elen's Toy Distribution at 3 o'clock to-day." Wigs and costume were supplied by Willie Clarkson.

MR. WHITBY NORTON, of Bradford, has been appointed musical director of the West End Pier, Morecambe, for the next season. Mr. Norton is a member of a Bradford family of musicians well known in the West Riding of Yorkshire, and he has been prominently associated with instrumental music in Bradford and district for many years.

THE biggest salary ever earned probably by a child of her years will be paid by Mr. Stoll to little Miss Elise Craven when she finishes her engagement as Queen of the Fairies in *Pinkie and the Fairies* at His Majesty's Theatre. The eleven-year-old tot, who became famous on her first appearance on the stage on Saturday night last, will receive £100 a week for an engagement of not less than eight weeks at the London Coliseum. She has been trained by Miss Elise Clerc.

ON Sunday, Dec. 20, Mr. Edward H. Lucas read Dickens's "Christmas Carol" at the Metropole Theatre, Birmingham, to a crowded audience, there being hundreds turned away. After the reading he had a very pleasant surprise in the shape of a presentation of a handsome illuminated address from the Birmingham Temperance Society, also a flashlight photograph of last year's audience—a record attendance.

MISS EDITH FINK (Mrs. George Lashwood), on a moment's notice almost, took the part of principal girl in the *Jack and Jill* pantomime at the Palace, Belfast, and thereby relieved the management from an awkward predicament. Miss Fink's performance as Cinderella at the Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool, last year, placed her among the front rank of principal girls, and there is a whisper of a flattering offer from a very exclusive quarter for next season.

MR. ROBERT FOSSETT, the champion trick jockey-rider of the world, winner of several medals, who has for the past thirteen years appeared in London, and is now performing at Austin Fryers' Circus, Alexandra Palace, is issuing a challenge for £1,000 to ride against any circus rider in the world. He will ride act for act, including any of the various jumps (all to be previously specified), for the foregoing sum. The judging is to be placed in the hands of a committee of professional circus riders and recognised sportsmen.

MR. ALBERT MARSH'S playlet, *Chums till Death*, opened at the Palace Theatre, Leicester, on Monday to two of the largest audiences ever seen there. On Monday next the above successful miniature drama will be seen at the Paragon. The fact that Mr. Marsh was associated a few years ago with the Pavilion Theatre, playing the principal heavy and character parts for a number of years, should assure him a hearty welcome.

SAHARET, the famous Australian dancer, appeared at the Coliseum on Monday with striking success. Saharet's style has nothing in common with that made fashionable of late by Miss Maud Allan and others. She is a very active and graceful *danseuse*, attractive in appearance, and endowed with an amount of acrobatic skill which greatly adds to the effect of her performance. She was warmly applauded on Monday, and was recalled again and again, her pretty costume being greatly admired.

The Montpelier Palace, Walworth, started entertainments very successfully on Boxing Day under the management of Mr. Howard de Wing and under favourable auspices. A shortened version of *Aladdin*, in two acts, by Mr. Will Mayne, who played Abanazar, was the chief attraction, which was much helped by the bioscopic reproduction between the acts of scenes from the career of the Pekin *gamin*. The pantomime was most heartily received. The Breitmans (Fritz and Louise) also met with favour in their Tyrolean comedy sketch, *Love Wins*. The musical director is Mr. S. G. Lucas. The house looked particularly bright, and to such a teeming neighbourhood the cheap and wholesome art presented should prove a boon.

"RING UP 735 EAST," that enormously successful sketch which, when produced by Messrs. Grahame and Conyers, we predicted would enjoy a long run on the variety stage, will top the bill next week at the Queen's, Poplar.

MR. SPENCER BARRY, the popular stage-manager of the Empire Theatre, left England on Thursday, under an old contract with Mr. Williamson, to produce *Havana*, *The King of Cadonia*, and *The Dollar Princess* in Australia. After that he makes a tour of the world in search of novel attractions.

MR. FRED FORDHAM, who writes from the Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, where he has undergone an operation for gastric ulcers, desires to express his gratitude to Mr. Frank Macnaghten for a donation of £3 and to Mr. George Barclay for a gift of £1. It will be some months before the invalid will be able to resume work.

AT Lancaster this week Charcot has again been demonstrating his wonderful powers to packed houses. His blindfold drive on Tuesday caused the whole town to turn out, and the street were lined with thousands. His act goes stronger than ever, and we have it on the best authority that Charcot intends shortly presenting a greater surprise to the entertainment world.

AFTER a short run, Gilbert's Palace of Varieties, Exeter, has been closed. Cathedral towns are never considered good for stage business of any kind, and Exeter, it appears, has not belied their reputation.

MISS VIOLET HALLS, the principal boy of the *Cinderella* pantomime at the Grand, Glasgow, had to undergo an operation to her right eye on the 27th ult., when the part of Prince Casimir at a moment's notice was taken up by Miss Nellie Wigley, the second boy, who deserves every praise for her admirable rendering.

THE Town Council of Forfar is open to receive offers from managers of al fresco entertainments, to be given in the Recreation Park, Forfar, during the summer months of 1909, from the beginning of May to the end of September. Conditions may be learned from Mr. William Gordon, solicitor, Forfar, on or before Monday, Jan. 16.

MR. HENRY LUDLOW concludes a twelve months' engagement to-day at the Hippodrome, Peckham, supporting Miss Lilian Dundas in Cecil Raleigh's sketch *The Doom of Delilah*.

MR. WILMOT EDSON, the popular young variety agent, on Monday night successfully launched a pantomime at the King's Theatre, Edinburgh, the same being played twice nightly. The book is by Mr. A. E. Sidney Davis, the well-known song-writer, who is the author of several popular songs, notably "Au revoir, my little Hyacinth," "Amelia Snow," and "Can't you think of any other name but Baby?" Mr. Davis also produced and stage-managed.

MISS MARGARET MURCH, at present starring with conspicuous success in the dramatic episode *What Women Do for Men* on the Stoll circuit, has been specially engaged to create the title-rôle in a playlet on the subject of Madame de Lambolle, which will be produced for a trial week at one of Messrs. Stoll's London houses at the expiry of Miss Murch's present contract.

ON Christmas Eve a special children's matinée and Christmas feed to 5,000 of the poorest children of the neighbourhood was given at the Surrey. The entertainment, consisting of appropriate pictures and turns calculated to delight such an audience, was provided absolutely free by the artists, and, in addition, voluntary contributions enabled the management to ensure to each child a bag of substantial food, fruit, and a toy. Mr. Roy Cochrane, manager for Mr. Frank Macnaghten, is delighted at the result.

THE inmates of the Music Hall Home, who are all old performers, had a grand Yuletide, thanks to the kindness of several friends. Joe Elvin sent two large puddings and a large cake and box of cigars; Harry Barnard, the treasurer of the Home Fund, sent something nice and short; from Mrs. V. Cowper, 38, Abbey-road, St. John's Wood, came some entertaining matter for the "boys"; Harry Blake visited them on Christmas morning with cigarettes, tobacco, and cigars; Mrs. O'Brien, of Rule's, Maiden-lane, presented twenty-six tins of tobacco; and Tom Branson, the Grand Saloon, Hastings, and Walter Norman, of the Hippodrome, Hastings, sent Christmas cards, tobacco, and pipes. Mrs. Fruin and her daughter (the matron) were kept busy looking after the comfort of all—a labour of love when one sees that it is appreciated.

THE funds are now considerably overdrawn, and it is to be hoped that all in the variety profession will put their best help to the "New Year Shilling Appeal Fund" and try and win, not only the gold medal, but the grateful thanks of the poor old brother artist. Benj. Woodger, the secretary, would be glad to send a collecting card if you will only try. Drop a postcard to 31, Wilson-road, or Empire, Camberwell, S.E. Don't forget that your old clothes are always useful. Harry Barnard has given £3 3s. to the Home Fund. Kindly send in your cards and have another. The old boys wish every helper a Happy New Year. The next committee meeting will be held on Thursday, at Camberwell, 12 noon.

A VERY pleasant and interesting gathering took place at the Star and Garter Hotel, Liverpool, on Christmas Day, when the members of *An Outside Chance* sketch company were entertained by the proprietors (Messrs. Bellew and Stock). Advantage was taken of the festive gathering to present to Master Edward Garratt, the "star" of the company, on behalf of the management, a handsome present on the occasion of his birthday and in celebration of his four years' connection with Messrs. Bellew and Stock's management. The gift took the form of a handsome watch and chain, the former being engraved with the initials of the recipient. In acknowledgment Master Garratt made a neat and smart little speech. A toast to the health and continued prosperity of Messrs. Bellew and Stock was heartily drunk by the company.

ON behalf of the committee of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, 61, New Oxford-street, W.C., Miss Melinda May (secretary) wishes to thank all those who so kindly responded to the appeal for the poor and crippled children, making at least one more memorable and happy day in their lives. Gifts were numerous, and, in addition to those already acknowledged: £5 5s. from Joe Elvin, 5s. from Gladys Marius, 10s. from Lydia Yeamans Titus, 2s. 6d. from Mrs. Jack Camp, Mr. G. H. Richards £2, A. Friend 2s. (through Miss Elmore), Mr. Biggs 2s (through Mrs. Ginnett), Mrs. Fruin, M.H.H., for Christmas gifts, pretty toys from Cecilia Loftus, large box of sweets from Mrs. Harry Lester, sweets from Flo Banks, clothing from Mme. Haydee, boxes of clothing from Mrs. Ernest Collins, Mrs. Carl Hertz, Miss Aitkin, and Mrs. Hole, boots and slippers from Mr. S. Aarons, parcel of music from Miss Sheard, gift of dolls from Mrs. Chas. Coborn, and parcel of ties from Henry Prenton. There was a great treat for about thirty families on Thursday, when beef, plum-pudding, and tea were given them at the Guild for Christmas Day. All friends of the charity are heartily welcome to tea and reception held every Wednesday, four to five o'clock.

AN extremely popular figure in the music-hall world has determined on Brighton as her future home, and taken over the proprietorship of a well-known local hotel. Miss Peggy Pryde is now the proprietress of the Sussex Hotel, East-street. Jennie Hill's petite and dashing daughter is a particular favourite with Brighton audiences, and the announcement of her latest venture will be read with interest by numerous admirers.

FOR days past workmen have been busily engaged in renovating the premises, and it may safely be said that none has worked with greater energy than the famous comedienne. Looking in for a few minutes on Monday, a representative of the *Sussex Daily News* found Miss Peggy working like a Trojan, putting the finishing touches to a hard week's work. "Ah," she said, cheerily, "I think we have now got things in ship-shape order to last us over Christmas, when there are to be more alterations."

"I AM just making this a little home," explained Miss Peggy. "I have all my professional engagements to fulfil for the next five years, but whenever I can be in Brighton I shall be here, always pleased to see old friends." She has received shoals of good wishes.

MLLE. LYDIA KYASHT, the new *première danseuse* of the Empire Theatre, appeared on Thursday night in two new dance creations of M. Alexander Genée, the teacher of his niece, Mlle. Adeline Genée. The first was a flag dance in the Champs Elysées scene of "A Day in Paris," and the second an elaborate *polka fantasie*—lasting five minutes—in the final scene. Mlle. Kyasht, was received with enthusiasm by a crowded house.

MR. FERDINAND CONTI writes:—"In your last week's paper you were good to refer in glowing terms to my 'masterful' performance as the little Japanese major in the sketch *A Japanese Revenge* at the Peckham Hippodrome. The part is played by Mr. Arthur Chesney."

"WANTED, immediately, lady dancer, to dance in lion's den; must be courageous, resolute, and of good appearance. Apply, Fun Fair, Warwick-road entrance, Earl's Court Exhibition." This remarkable advertisement, which appeared in Monday's papers, has brought the Earl's Court Toy City and Fun Fair a host of replies.

THE management, it appears, have acquired two "forest-bred" lions—Brutus and Cleopatra—and they advertised for a lady to dance in the lions' den. Up to yesterday the number of courageous ladies willing to undertake the task reached something like 500. Stage-struck servant girls, barmaids, and shop assistants were among the applicants, as were likewise a number of gentlewomen residing in the country, who enclosed testimonials from clergymen and local magnates.

THE fancy dress roller skating carnival held on Thursday night at the Olympia Rink proved eminently successful from the point of view of numbers and varied picturesqueness of costumes. In the prettily-decorated hall hundreds of skaters saw the Old Year out and the New Year in, the proceedings concluding at three o'clock on Friday morning. The gentleman who on this occasion lost his beauty sleep attending the function on our behalf sends us the following postcard description, which gives a terse indication of what was to be seen and of what happened:—"Manager says 4,000 to 5,000 on floor skating. Music, waltz and two-step; every kind of costume, representing country and every profession—army, navy, scholastic, theatrical, East End 'Arrys, policemen, firemen, soldiers in gay uniforms, kings, queens, Eastern potentates, jockeys, Mephistopheles and Fairies American Indians, several denizens of the forest (baboons, bears, &c.) and one rather novel and effective costume made up of pawntickets, with headpiece of three golden balls."

THE next important event at the Olympia Rink will be a skating "Cinderella" on Jan. 19, to be followed by a "Barnyard" fête on Feb. 2. In the latter the skaters will wear the typical "smocks," &c., of the true old-fashioned farmer. There is to be a great skating championship meeting during the last week in February.

MR. J. COLLINS, whose Stella and other troupes of dancers are so well known on the halls, has scored a great success with his two-houses-a-night pantomime *Puss in Boots* at York and Scarborough. The beautiful scenery, including four full sets, the gorgeous dresses by Alias, London, and Picaird and Roche, of Paris, as well as a very powerful company of principals, are very highly praised.

MR. GORDON WILSON (G. W. Glenny), the well-known veteran actor-author and lecturer, who boasts of threescore years' stage experience in varied lines, opened at the King's Theatre, Gateshead, on Monday, the 28th ult., being specially engaged as lecturer and Press representative by Mr. John Clempert, the Siberian jail-breaker.

THE funeral of the late Mrs. Hettie de Frece, wife of Mr. Jack de Frece, took place on Christmas Day from 245, Brixton-road, at 11 o'clock. The interment was held at the Jewish Cemetery at Willesden. The impressive services were conducted by the Rev. Samuel Rosenbaum. It was truly a pathetic sight which met the gaze of the friends when they beheld the husband at the grave. The poor soul was only thirty-three years of age, and has left a name behind her that will live for many and many a year in the hearts of the friends and people who knew her personally. She was indeed a loving and devoted wife, mother, sister, and friend. "May the Almighty rest her soul in peace."

THE following ladies and gentlemen sent wreaths: Mr. and Mrs. Walter de Frece, Mr. and Mrs. Sim L. Lion and family, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Shaw, the Stoke Newington Palace orchestra, Messrs. Amery Parkes, and Macklin company, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hertz, Mrs. L. Charlesworth, Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Nathan, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ginnett, Mr. and Mrs. George Barclay, the Stoke Newington Palace house staff, Miss A. Barnett, Mr. and Mrs. C. Purslowe, Mr. and Mrs. M. Raymond, Mr. and Mrs. Jury, Miss Marie Lloyd, Mr. Alec Hurley, Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Higgins, Mrs. E. Copes, Mr. and Mrs. A. Lotto, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Reeves, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Elvin, Dr. and Mrs. Robertson, Mr. and Miss L. Braham, Mr. Jack Lotto, Mr. and Mrs. George Abel, Mr. and Mrs. R. Warner, Mr. and Mrs. W. Nathan, Messrs. Somers and Warner, Mr. Ben de Frece, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Pacey, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hast, the De Frece's office staff, Miss Millie Hylton, Miss Evelyn Taylor, Mr. Leo Fritz, Mr. Will Sley, Mr. and Mrs. B. Bent and daughter, Mr. T. J. Robinson (Palace, Stoke Newington), Mr. Amos Parker, Mr. and Mrs. Dutch Daly, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Claxton, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Neiman, Mr. and Mrs. Henry de Frece, Messrs. I. and H. Lotery; Baby Carl Hooper, Mr. and Mrs. Will Poluski, jun., Mr. and Mrs. George Essayan, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Day, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas, Dr. and Mrs. Bocklet, the Members of the Pimlico Lodge, the members of the Brixton Sports Club, Mr. and Mrs. Edelsten, Mr. Ted Cowan, Miss Flo Cecil, Mr. Harry Taft, and Mr. and Mrs. Issy Woolf.

Mr. Jack de Frece desires to tender through our columns his most sincere thanks for the many expressions of sympathy which he has received in his sad bereavement, and which it is quite impossible for him to answer individually.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

DOLLY AND ELSIE have made a big hit with "Sue, Sue" (Francis, Day, and Hunter), in Cullen and Carthy's pantomime *Babes*. This very pretty number is being enthusiastically encored at each performance.

THE three great London pantomimes have "Hall-marked" Messrs. Francis, Day and Hunter's triumphs in the provinces by making the absolute feature numbers those published by the eminent firm. The following list will testify this:—Drury Lane, "I'm afraid to come home in the dark," sung by Miss Marie George, for which she is recalled again and again, and "She sells sea shells," sung by Mr. Bard; Adelphi Theatre, "Come, be my Rainbow" and "Jean from Aberdeen," sung by Miss Phyllis Dare; "Every fellow's in love with a girl," by Mr. Addison; "Molly Bawn" and "Oh, Antonio," by Mr. Fred Leslie; "I'm afraid to come home in the dark," Miss Mabel Russell, and "Take me round in a taxi-cab," sung by Miss Carrie Moore; Lyceum Theatre, London, "Sue, Sue, Sue" and "Bombardier," sung by Miss Dorothy Craske, "Come, be my Rainbow," by Miss Alice Russon, "Shadowland," by Miss Eva Kelland, and "Darling Teddy Bear," by Miss Marjory Carpenter. "My girl's a Yorkshire girl," "Oh, Oh, Antonio," and "Sue, Sue, Sue" are the undeniable hits of the provincial pantomimes. Press, public, artists, and managers are unanimous in their praise of these numbers, which have absolutely electrified all England. At the Grand Theatre, Leeds, Miss Daisy Dormer has made the hit of the pantomime with "My girl's a Yorkshire girl." At Sheffield the same success has been repeated, as well as Hull, Bradford, and Glasgow.

MISS MAY MARS at Sheffield is scoring heavily with the song "Sea Shells." It is the first time that a principal boy has attempted a comic song and has achieved such a success as Miss Mars has done. One of the greatest and best featured songs at the Adelphi Theatre, London, is "Come, be my Rainbow." In this charming song Mr. Robert Courtneidge, who is famous for "producing" songs, has undoubtedly excelled himself. It would be a wise move on the part of managers visiting London to see how beautifully "Come, be my Rainbow" is staged.

AT the same theatre Miss Mabel Russell is receiving a perfect ovation for the charming rendering of "I'm afraid to come home in the dark" and "Alice, where art thou going?" Miss Carrie Moore's song, "Take me round in a taxi-cab," is another prominent feature, as is Miss Phyllis Dare's "Jean from Aberdeen." "Every fellow's in love with a girl," sung by Mr. Adeson, and "Oh, Oh, Antonio," by Mr. Fred Leslie, jun., are two songs that are taken up with great enthusiasm.

MISS IVEY ROSE, at the Alexandra, Birmingham, has received the warmest praise from the Press, who in each case mention that her greatest song hit is "Every fellow's in love with a girl."

G. H. ELLIOTT, the famous chocolate-coloured coon, is creating quite a sensation at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham, with his song "Sue, Sue, Sue," the number that has outrivalled all his previous hits in popularity.

MISS MADGE TEMPLE, who created such a sensation a little while back with her wonderful matinée hat burlesque, is this week fulfilling a starring engagement at the New Cross Empire, where she is singing her songs, "Esau, take me on the see-saw," and "Come, be my Rainbow. It must indeed be gratifying to this lady to see how extensively her "Rainbow" song has been taken up by practically every panto. manager all over England.

MR. HERMAN E. DAREWSKI, JUN., again this year as last year, is responsible for several of the great pantomime song successes, viz., "Sue, Sue, Sue," words by Lester Barrett, "Bombardier" (Weston and Barnes), "Every fellow's in love with a girl," words by Lester Barrett, "L.S.D.," words by Charles Wilmott, and "Far away in Australia," Charles Wilmott.

THE Four Black Diamonds, who have been successfully touring the Continent for fourteen months, have returned to the Alhambra, where they are repeating their former triumphs. The song which they have made the feature of their act, "When the swallows build their nest, Sweet Marie," bids fair to become one of the most popular songs of the day.

MR. HARRY FREEMAN has already struck oil with two new numbers, "Everybody knows it's there" and "Don't forget to write me every day." The latter number achieved popularity at once, and is now the reigning success in Manchester.

MR. HARRY RANDALL, who, as the Cook at the Coronet, sings with Mr. E. Lewis, the Idle Apprentice, the comic husband-and-wife duet, "'Do you remember?' 'How can I forget?'" easily obviates the difficulty of the two characters not being wedded by "making believe" they have been tied together for years. Great success has attended this duet's production, likewise, at notably the Crystal Palace, at Plymouth, and elsewhere. Messrs. Francis and Day are the publishers.

AT Fulham Miss Nora Wadeley, the charming principal girl, has made a tremendous hit with "Sue, Sue, Sue," Messrs. Francis and Day's charming song. Of this number, at Nottingham likewise, the *Guardian* says, in speaking of its delightful rendering by Miss Cressie Leonard:—"It reaches a high level of excellence, and is one of the rare coon songs to which one can listen with the greatest enjoyment."

MR. WILL GODWIN at the Metropolitan is meeting with huge success with his new chorus song, written and composed by Harry Castling, entitled "On the banks of the old canal." It is published by Messrs. Francis and Day.

MISS MARIE GEORGE gets a round after each verse and chorus of Messrs. Francis and Day's "I'm afraid to come home in the dark," which is only to be expected when a great song and a first-class artist come into conjunction.

AT the Theatre Royal, Bristol, Miss Ethel Hall, the charming Boy Blue, has been carrying the tremendous audiences by her rendition of Messrs. Francis and Day's "Oh! Oh! Antonio," and one of the principal papers declares that the multitudes of patrons at each performance claim "Antonio" as *their* song and not Boy Blue's!

THE great dailies of the provinces are according a full meed of praise to Messrs. Francis and Day's "My girl's a Yorkshire girl," which is one of the greatest pantomime hits of the time, the *Yorkshire Post*, the *Yorkshire Observer*, and the *Sheffield Independent* being particularly loud in their praises. Enormous orders for copies are being received by every post by the publishers.

MR. R. G. KNOWLES, who opened at the Lincoln-square Theatre, New York, on the 14th ult., had a great reception, his song, "L.S.D.," by Wilmott and Darewski, being voted the "real thing." Mr. Knowles is singing more and pattering less than formerly.

(*Continued on page 28.*)

BRANSBY WILLIAMS, MOTORIST.

The sphere of the motor-car is wide in its extent, and to none does its usefulness and its many other advantages appeal more than to members of the variety stage. By its means they are able to accept engagements in halls situated at long distances which would be quite impracticable by horse conveyance or by railway. One of the earliest to use a car professionally was Mr. Bransby Williams, whose delightful and artistic renderings of the characters from Charles Dickens undoubtedly stamp him as the finest exponent of the works of the great novelist. Mr. Williams has used a Napier car for a long time past, and has chosen as his new car one of the 15 h.p. noiseless Napier landaulettes as being the car that would fulfil his requirements by running with dead regularity night after night across London—in many cases where two houses a night prevail making four journeys per night. One hardly realises the strenuous life behind the scenes. Balham to Poplar and back twice in an evening, or Ealing to Brixton, an equally far cry.

To keep undeviating time, and so obviate upsetting the management's arrangements or disappointing the public, one must have a reliable car. Mr. Williams realises this, and has never kept the horse waiting or missed his turn whilst using a Napier. He also runs his Napier for his provincial engagements, and does his journeys to all the large towns in it. The photograph of him standing beside his new noiseless Napier is an excellent likeness, and shows the details of the car well. The extra high luggage-rail on the roof will be observed. Their great utility is more apparent to the artist than to the layman; for Mr. Williams travels with rather large property baskets.

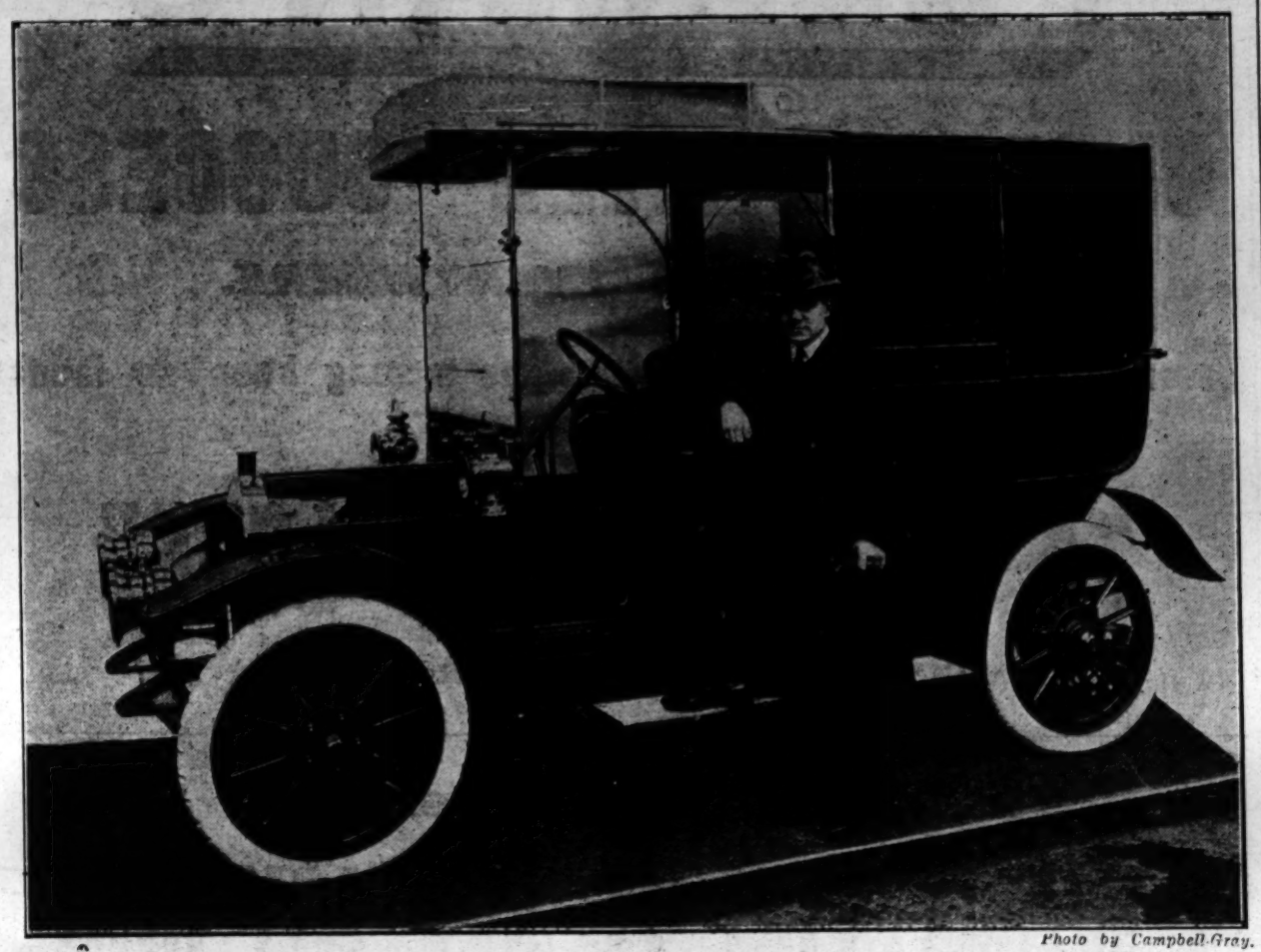


Photo by Campbell-Gray.

MR. BRANSBY WILLIAMS WITH HIS 15 H.P. NOISELESS NAPIER MOTOR LANDAULETTE.

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER'S
PANTO. HITS.

GREAT BRITAIN ELECTRIFIED WITH OUR OVERWHELMING WHIRLWIND OF WINNERS.

THE ABSOLUTE HITS AT ***DRURY LANE.***

'I'M AFRAID TO COME HOME IN THE DARK'
Sung by Miss MARIE GEORGE.

'SHE SELLS SEA SHELLS.'
Sung by WILKIE BARD.

THE ABSOLUTE HITS AT THE LYCEUM.

'SUE, SUE, SUE' & 'BOMBADIER.'
Sung by Miss DOROTHY CRASKE.

'COME BE MY RAINBOW.'
Sung by Miss ALICE RUSSON

'SHADOWLAND.'
Sung by Miss EVA KELLAND.

THE ABSOLUTE HITS AT THE ADELPHI.

'COME BE MY RAINBOW.'
'JEAN FROM ABERDEEN.'
Sung by Miss PHYLLIS DARE.

'OH! OH! ANTONIO!' & 'MOLLY BAWN'
Sung by FRED LESLIE, Jun.

'I'M AFRAID TO COME HOME IN THE DARK'
AND
'ALICE WHERE ART THOU GOING?'
Sung by Miss MABEL RUSSELL.

'TAKE ME ROUND IN A TAXI-CAB.'
Sung by Miss CARRIE MOORE.
AND
'EVERY FELLOW'S IN LOVE WITH A GIRL.'
Sung by STEPHEN ADESON.

THE PROVINCES FOLLOW THE LEAD OF THE THREE LEADING LONDON PANTOMIMES

'OH! OH! ANTONIO!' 'MY GIRL'S A YORKSHIRE GIRL.'
'SUE, SUE, SUE' and 'I'M AFRAID TO COME IN THE DARK' are
THE ABSOLUTE HITS OF THE PROVINCIAL PANTOMIMES.

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER, 142, Charing Cross Rd., London, W.C.

KITTEE RAYBURN,

AT THE LYRIC OPERA HOUSE, HAMMERSMITH.

Daily Telegraph:—
A gorgeous Prince Amoroso. The music of her songs is bright and catchy, of which she has several, the most notable, "Canada," "It seems to make the sun shine brighter," the choruses of which were sung by the audience with great enthusiasm.

Daily Mail:—
Judging by the principal boy's reception, she will prove one of the most successful. Her song "Won't you come to me in Canada?" (a copy of which was recently accepted by the Prince of Wales) is the hit of the performance.

Referee:—
There are many pretty songs in this pantomime, "It seems to make the sun shine brighter," "The Starlight Girl," and notably "Won't you come to me in Canada?" with which graceful Miss Kittee Rayburn brings down the house.

People:—
The chief character, Prince Amoroso, is sustained by Miss Kittee Rayburn, a lady who has a great reputation on the halls. Her songs bring down the house. We may add that together with the rendering of the character this dainty little lady is one of the mainstays of the show.

Westminster Gazette:—
Kittee Rayburn makes a handsome and vivacious Prince. A feature of this pantomime is that she sings only her own songs, the proceeds from the sale of which she is devoting to the Unemployed, which fund should benefit substantially judging by the enthusiasm with which "Won't you come to me in Canada?" was received and encored again and again.

Stage:—
Undoubtedly the chief honours of the pantomime must be accorded to Miss Kittee Rayburn. Her brightness and pleasing way win the hearts of her audiences, and her vocal numbers are admirably rendered. She knows how to sing effectively and make the most of her songs, so that the encores are continuous. "From the lips of your Starlight Girl," "Canada" (an exceedingly popular number), and another very good song, "When you know you've got a pal somewhere." In a topical duet with Mr. Henry De Solla (Lawyer Slyfox) entitled "By and by" many recalls are demanded.

Performer:—
Kittee Rayburn as principal boy not only won the hearts of the Hammersmithites, but of her fellow artists as well. "Won't you come to me in Canada?" took the house by storm.

Mr. Brydon Phillips, the producer of the pantomime, writes on the 27/12/'08:—Dear Miss Rayburn,—I feel I must write and thank you for your most admirable efforts last night at the Lyric, Hammersmith.

Mr. F. S. Jennings, the Resident-Manager of the Lyric, Hammersmith, personally congratulated Miss Rayburn upon her admirable performance on Boxing Night.

THE TIVOLI.

The inclement weather notwithstanding, the Tivoli has been well filled by hilarious audiences determined to make the best of the rapid climatic changes of dear old London. Frost and fog have exercised their sway outside; but inside good business has killed the one, and Mr. Joe Wilson's broad expansive smile "scotched" the other. Mr. Henri De Vries, who was recently seen here in *Page 97*, a protean drametta of considerable ingenuity, brings along a sketch of a much lighter texture, known as *A Modern Othello*. There are three characters—O'Thellow, Mona (his wife), and Mr. C. Larkson (a wig-maker). The Cassio in this instance who causes the jealousy is the last-mentioned. It is supposed that the young wife has, unknown to her spouse, been in treaty with Larkson for a "transformation." Portions of a letter, some suspicious-looking marks on a blotter, and other trifles supply "confirmation strong" of the wife's dalliance with the wig-maker, who has a very warm time when he calls on "Othello," whose onslaught evokes considerable laughter. Of course, the mistake is cleared up. The piece, which is from the pens of Ina Leon Cassilis and Auguste Van Biene, has no particular merit; but it is well played by Mr. de Vries, Miss Dorothy Drake, and Mr. Arthur Stanley. *Charles His Friend*, which was originally produced last year at the Palace Theatre, is a trifle that enables Mr. Courtice Pounds to display his excellent voice. He has in Miss Pearl Keats a delightfully vivacious actress, who plays the part of the maid.

Mr. Arthur Lester once again presents *A Restaurant Episode*, which has been so cleverly elaborated that in every line there is a laugh. Mr. Lester's style is his own, and, in consequence, he is equally acceptable on both the variety and theatrical stage. He is capably supported by Miss Gwen Howard. The house rocks with laughter when Little Tich appears as a policeman; and there is nothing funnier in the bill than Mr. Tom Dunville's "Territorialist." Mr. Haldane should certainly make his acquaintance. The comedian's description of a thin horse is exceedingly diverting. Miss Marie Lloyd, the very personification of jollity and hilarity, as an elderly aspirant for the hymeneal knot, illustrates also with a vast amount of cleverness the power of eyes that are continually on the wink—a distant echo of an earlier triumph in her career. Mr. George Formby sets everyone laughing by his Lancashire humour in "One of the boys." Orpheus opens the programme with well-played instrumental selections; Miss Minnie Mace dances daintily; the San Remo Girls are well received; Hilda Jacobsen sings effectively a popular chorus song; Les Marbas are clever and attractive acrobatic dancers; and other turns include Charles Whittle, Jordan and Harvey, Desroches and Bianca, May Moore Duprez, Cole and Rags, and Ruffell's Bioscope.

THE Oldham Empire Theatre of Varieties, Ltd., opened their newest house of entertainment on Christmas Eve, with a new version of *Aladdin*, produced by Mr. E. Dottridge, the general-manager. The theatre stands in a prominent position within easy reach of all tramway routes, being situated near the centre of the town, the main entrance opening on King-street, and the remaining entrances in Chaucer-street. The building presents a very attractive and imposing appearance on the outside.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

(*Continued from page 27.*)

MESSRS. B. FELDMAN AND CO. are very gratified with the following letter received from Mr. G. H. Elliott. It speaks for itself:—"Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham, Dec. 30. Dear Mr. Feldman,—You will be very delighted to know your song, 'I want you to see my girl,' is a terrific hit, sensational success. The following will prove it. First of all the song has one of the hardest situations in this pantomime; it is the last solo song in the show; it is sung by myself in a front scene (front cloth) the scene before the Palace. On our opening night I went on to sing this song at 11.5 p.m., and at the finish there was a storm of applause, cheered to the scho. Being so late the encore was tried to be cut, but after several calls the audience would not allow it to go, and insisted on more, and the encore saw a couple more genuine calls. So when you consider the song followed every song in the pantomime and then went with a storm it shows the merit of the song. Boxing Night it was two minutes to eleven when I sang it, and about 10.47 p.m. or 10.45 p.m. since Boxing Day. Please accept my very best wishes for the New Year. Wishing you a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year, with best wishes and regards, sincerely yours (signed) G. H. Elliott."

MISS DORA LYRIC, one of our greatest chorus singers, opens on Monday at the Oxford and Crouch End with the latest and greatest hit of the year, "If I should plant a tiny seed of love in the garden of your heart."

FIVE HUNDRED telegrams from all parts of the kingdom chronicle the sensational success of Messrs. B. Feldman and Co.'s pantomime songs. This firm, long famous for its wonderful successes, have broken all their past great records this season, and are to be heartily congratulated on this fact.

TOM E. MURRAY, who is this season the principal comedian at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham, has, through M. Witmark and Sons, issued a delightful volume of monologues, cross talk, and odd jokes, which he calls "Tales I have told." The success of the book is proven by the fact that on the very day it was published it was taken up by the railway book-stalls, and is already enjoying a big sale. There is a laugh in every line, and it will be invaluable to all entertainers, professional and amateur alike.

MISS DOROTHY FIRMIN, the charming principal girl at the Coronet pantomime, scored a first-night hit with the delightful ballad "Some day you'll come back to me." This is another gem from the Witmark catalogue.

FEW managers are as painstaking and artistic in presenting a song as Mr. Rich. Waldon, the manager of the Princess's Theatre, Glasgow. In his present pantomime he has excelled himself by the beautiful and original environment he has given to the song "As long as the world rolls on," sung by Miss Ivy Proudfoot and a full chorus. No more elaborate or effective finale for a first part of a pantomime has ever been seen, and the song is immediately caught up by the delighted audience.

IN every important pantomime the quaint strains of "Teddy Bear's Picnic" will be heard. Not since "Hiawatha" has a melody caught on so quickly. Mr. John W. Bratton, the composer who gave us "My cosy corner girl" and countless other infectious melodies, is to be heartily congratulated and likewise the publishers, M. Witmark and Sons.

BASS vocalists, who have scored with H. W. Petrie's famous song, "Asleep in the deep," will be glad to hear that Messrs. Sheard and Co. will shortly publish a splendid new bass song by the same composer entitled "At night on the stormy deep," which they consider a worthy successor and a song that is sure to give satisfaction.

MR. PETRIE has also entrusted Messrs. Sheard with the publication of his new vocal waltz, "Starlight," which will also be issued in the course of a few days. Fairy queens and soprano and mezzo vocalists generally should secure a copy at once, as it is a bright, flowing, and melodious composition.

A BOOM in roller skating is with us again. Messrs. Sheard inform us that they have accepted a new chorus song on the subject called "Two pair of rollers and a girl," by J. W. Sandys, a new writer who they think will be sure to make a name for himself. It will shortly be published in conjunction with another song by the same author entitled "The faithless Frau."

ON Boxing Night, at the Town Hall, Burslem, Mr. T. Colclough (baritone) received a most flattering reception with Stanley Gordon's fine song "When the ebbtide flows." The North Staffs. orchestra, under the conductorship of Mr. John Cope, accompanied the vocalist.

MR. BALLARD MACDONALD writes Messrs. Sheard from New York that he has placed his song, "Who'd like to pay for my holiday?" introduced in this country by Miss Yolande Noble, with two first-rate American artists. The song will shortly be issued in New York by Messrs. J. W. Stern and Co.

MESSRS. SHEARD wish to call the attention of illustrated song vocalists to their advertisement on page 41, wherein they announce that they are supplying coloured lantern slides, for six of their popular songs, at half price during the month of January only.

A FEW weeks since Messrs. Sheard announced the publication of the pretty little song "The wedding of the stars," by J. Anton Dailey, composer of "Dreaming" and "Sweetheart Days." They have now to announce that they have been fortunate enough to secure the British and Colonial rights of Mr. Dailey's latest song hit, "When I look into your eyes." It is a dainty ditty for sweethearts, and forms a first-class number for principal boys.

MR. COLIN COOP has found another winner in Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford's latest song "Run away from old man goblin," at the Grand Theatre, Leeds. It scored instantaneous success.

MESSRS. PRICE AND REYNOLDS make a special feature of songs suitable for children, and their latest find is Wilson and Jaxon's pretty fairy song "The Pixy and the Iris," beautifully worked in Mr. John Hart's pantomimes.

MISS ANNIE SCHUBERTH, the operatic soprano, playing Fairy Queen at the Grand Theatre, Leeds, wires Messrs. Price and Reynolds. "'If the world were mine to give' terrific success." This song promises to be the hit of Mr. John Hart's pantomime.

MISS MAIDIE SCOTT, playing Jill at the Marlborough, scored with three of Price and Reynolds's songs—"Maidie and her little Teddy bear," "Father's got a job," and "Mother is the leader of society."

MISS DAISY WOOD LLOYD is making a huge success with her sister Alice's song, "You splash me and I'll splash you," at Bristol.

FELDMAN'S

UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS

PROCLAIMED EVERYWHERE.

Never in the history of Pantomime has a song been so lauded by the Press as

"A TINY SEED OF LOVE"

(IN THE GARDEN OF YOUR HEART).

ALL THE STARS ARE SINGING

'I WANT YOU TO SEE MY GIRL.'

DON'T BE MISLED.

YOUR SUCCESS IN PANTO. IS VITAL TO YOU.

"A WHITE MAN."

THREE ENCORES CERTAIN.

NO PRINCIPAL BOY CAN AFFORD TO MISS THIS SENSATION.

"CONNEMARA." "THE BUBBLE AND THE SUNBEAM."

"PEGGY, THE PRIDE OF THE MILL."

"IT'S NOT SO MUCH THE WALTZ DREAM." "TRAMCAR."

"HARRIGAN." "GIRLS, STUDY YOUR COOKERY BOOK."

"GIRLS, GIRLS, GIRLS." "SHINE, LITTLE MOONFLOWER."

"CALL ROUND ON SUNDAY." "GOOD-BYE TO MAUDIE."

WIRE TO US FOR BAND PARTS.

OUR 12th HOUR SENSATION.

"I WANT TO ROLLER SKATE, JOHNNY."

WIRE FOR THIS AT ONCE.

B. FELDMAN & CO.,

2 & 3, ARTHUR STREET, W.C.

Telegrams, "Humfriv, London." Telephone, No. 4447 Gerrard.

BOXING DAY AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

The pleasures of the Palace at Sydenham were enjoyed by a vast crowd on Boxing Day, when Mr. Geo. O. Starr put forward a most attractive series of amusements lasting throughout the day. Two enormous audiences were drawn to the theatre, where Mr. Bannister Howard presented his pantomime *Robinson Crusoe*, of which a notice appears on another page. The giant Christmas-tree, laden with a profusion of toys, decorated, as of yore, the South Nave, where also was established Ye Olde English Circus, run by Mr. Fred J. Connor, of which three performances were given to large audiences. The programme included the best circus talent available, and was full of interest. Mr. John Irvin is a fearless equestrian, and his juggling feats on a bareback horse, in the course of which he manages to send small discs spinning through paper hoops and catch them on a stick, aroused much wonderment; Miss Douglas, in a high school act, put her steed through many graceful manœuvres; and Little Mona Connor rode her pony Shamrock through a daring hurdle act, posing in varied positions, and catching up a flag from the ground while dashing Mazeppa-like round the ring. A novel and varied performance was submitted by Miss Ada Pinder, who excels in equestrian exercises. Her collie dogs accomplished some smart tricks, and a pretty finale was furnished when a flight of pigeons were let loose, and perched themselves on her head and shoulders, and even on the gun which she discharged. The Four Kellys, described as America's premier troupe of acrobats, did some expert tumbling, and clever foot equilibrism was furnished by Mons. Jean. An attractive young lady, aptly called La Belle Duchess, has among her company of intelligent animals a couple of stallions, who engaged in a boxing contest with marvellous spirit, while her ponies and dogs were equal to sitting down to a dinner party. The most exciting item of her performance came with the high-leaping feats of a number of hounds, who cleared fences some ten or a dozen feet in height amid enthusiastic applause. A pound a minute was to be earned by anyone able to ride Sunny Jim, a mule owned by Happy Hicks, round the ring in approved style, and similar inducements were offered to those who could maintain their equilibrium on his revolving table. The efforts of several participants on Boxing Day caused great fun, though but little apparent reward for those who essayed either feat. The clown element in the circus is liberally provided. Whimsical Walker, who was a notable success of last year's show, is instrumental in provoking endless laughter with his oddities; Bishop and Winkles also create unlimited mirth with diverting conceits; and the Brothers Austin combined with their quaint comedy a skilful chair turn. At the end of the performance Father Christmas issued forth with his escort of clowns to distribute toys to the children.

All the fun of the fair was to be found in the South Nave, where Ye Yuletide Fayre was located. Thriving business was done by Hyatt's galloping horses and cockerels, swings, racing motors and bicycles, and the houp-la; while the aerial flight or Slide for Life, the Haunted House, the Search for the Suffragette, Miss Nellie Hyatt's juvenile motor roundabouts and swings, Bailey's royal Punch and Judy show appealed successfully for support.

Crowds collected round the skating-rink in the North Nave, where a football match on rollers proved both exciting and amusing. The Palace has ever been the stronghold of roller-skating, and the present revival of the exhilarating sport must be due in a great measure to the consistent way in which it has been fostered at the Palace. Its specially prepared rink furnishes one of the finest surfaces to be found anywhere, as the thousands who donned the skates on Boxing Day were all eager to admit.

Mr. Robert Leadbetter's fine collection of wild animals still occupies its accustomed position on the North Tower Garden Terrace, and furnishes a most interesting exhibit. The menagerie contains nine lions, a magnificent specimen of the race being found in Prince, one of the largest in the country, who was born in the menagerie. Royal Bengal tigers, a pack of Siberian and Canadian wolves, camels, Prince Albert (the huge Alaska bear), Tree-ilby (the baby camel), Babs (the baby elephant) are all on view, and form a most entertaining and instructive show. It is indeed one of the finest zoological collections ever put before the public.

The Auxeto Gramophone supplied selections from Patti, Melba, Caruso, and other celebrated vocalists in the Concert-room, to which admission is free, and numberless exhibitions and museums kept the attention of the holiday crowds on the alert. Popular organ recitals were given by Mr. Walter W. Hedgcock, and the Crystal Palace Band did yeoman service under the direction of Mr. Herbert Godfrey.

MESSRS. MORLEY AND CO. have found a huge success in Miss Edith Fortescue's latest song "Starshine." Talbot and Pearce have introduced this number into their latest Japanese sketch, now on a six months' tour. Miss Florence Esdaile, who sailed on s.s. Galeka last Saturday for South Africa, will make "Starshine" her leading song at the Empire, Johannesburg.

"STARSHINE" has proved a big pantomime winner. Miss Rita Vincent had made a big hit with it at Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield. Mr. Peter Davey has specially featured "Starshine" at his Royal County Theatre, Kingston, pantomime, where it is sung by Miss Alice Coverick; and the following are a few amongst a whole host of artists now singing "Starshine":—Miss Marie Beresford, Miss Rosina Effingham, Miss Violet Baynton, Miss Gladys Hicks, Miss Margaret Seymour, Miss Celia Sarron, Miss Lou Charlesworth, Mlle. Rina Benita, Miss Mina May, and Miss Phyllis Hylton.

LANTERN slides of "Starshine" are issued by Bamforth and Co., of Holmfirth, Yorks, and considering the fact that they are considered the finest slides issued, they are bound to be very largely used.

WILKIE BARD'S great song "Put me upon an island where the girls are few" has turned out to be the big Drury Lane winner this year. It has a chorus never to be forgotten, and judging from the exceptionally fine Press notices from all the leading newspapers it will undoubtedly be sung, played, and whistled at every street corner for months to come. It is published by the National Music Publishing Co., 132, Charing Cross-road. They have reserved it exclusively for London for Mr. Bard, but will give permission to all comedians playing in provincial pantos.

LOWENWIRTH AND COHAN'S magnetic chorus song, "My little Eva," which the National Music Publishing Co. have so highly recommended for pantomime, has undoubtedly turned out a great winner. It is being sung in almost every pantomime this year, and those who had not secured it before their opening are now applying for it. Good judges, too.

"WHEN the leaves are tinged with gold" (that 100 guinea song), written by J. F. Lambe, composed and sung by Fred Elton, and made free for pantomime by the National Music Co., has turned out a winner. Miss Madoline Rees had the audience absolutely cheering with it at the Marlborough Theatre, Holloway, on Boxing Night. The numerous other artists singing it report exactly the same success.

"TO-MORROW."
OR,
THE STORY THAT NEVER GROWS OLD.

A Spectacle, in Two Parts and Six Tableaux, produced by Bolossy Kiralfy and Frank Parker at the London Hippodrome on Christmas Eve.

Willie .....MASTER JAMES HOLLOM
Mildred .....MISS BEATRICE WILLEY
Albert .....MR. STUART ALEXANDER
"Happy-ever-after" Fairy ..MISS GRACE GRAY
"Snowflake" Fairy .....MISS MAY HOLLOM
Red Pot .....MR. O. E. LENNON

Mr. Oswald Stoll in securing the services of Mr. Bolossy Kiralfy to supply the Hippodrome novelty for Christmas has not only engaged one of the greatest *metteurs-en-scène* of the time, but has practically given him *carte blanche*. The result is that *To-Morrow* marks a very advanced development in arenic spectacle. Remarkable ingenuity has been shown in utilising the stage in conjunction with the arena, and the vista of loveliness in the last scene will long be a joyous remembrance to the cohorts of kiddies for whose enjoyment *To-Morrow* has been specially prepared. It is really quite an eye-opener for the grown-ups, who naturally cling to the conventional belief that the possibilities of the ring as the home of scenic magnificence are very limited. The production indeed creates a record in hippodramatic magnificence, if we may be allowed to use the phrase, and in its accomplishment we should mention Mr. Frank Parker, who has given his ingenious help and the benefit of his large experience in the staging of the spectacle.

When the circular curtain rises we are shown the reception hall of Mr. Barrington's house on Christmas Eve. The children are just off to bed, all of them anticipating the pleasure of "to-morrow," except Willie, who inquiringly asks why isn't to-morrow to-day? He falls asleep, and discovers in dreamland a land of promise and fulfilment. A hurried interview with Father Time precedes his first meeting with Santa Claus, a merry old soul indeed, who transports Willie to the region where Santa's toys are made. The realms of Lowther Arcadia surely never had a braver or a quainter array of characters. Fairies, harlequins, hobby-horses, columbines, Teddy bears, clowns, dolls, punchinellos, woolly rabbits, gnomes, roosters march in procession and dance before Willie's astonished eyes as he comes down a faerie staircase that has a translucent glow. Holding the hand of his kindly guide he expresses himself satisfied. He has the further novel experience of being driven back to his own home in a sledge drawn by a couple of reindeer. He wakes up on Christmas morning to find his stocking well filled and toys galore. Here the little story ends; but the last scene, "the entertainment of peace and love" on New Year's Eve, is not only the crowning joy of the spectacle, but sounds a note of Imperial triumph. Rich in allegorical suggestion, imposing in its magnificence, and glowing with colour, the picture presented is the perfection of stage grouping. The back of the stage is decorated with a gigantic Christmas-tree, carrying living dolls, and stretching away, is the gorgeously-dressed procession headed by Britannia clothed in the Union Jack, and riding in a golden chariot drawn by three milk-white steeds. Other figures typify Industry, Commerce, Science, Art, and Agriculture. Banners are held on high, flags wave in the air, and the huge Imperial garland floating over the scene in its ascent bears with it gossamer-winged fairies. A final blare from the trumpets of Herr Errhorn's excellent orchestra is the signal for a blaze of light, no less than 15,000 electric lamps shedding their incandescence on a very beautiful and finely-imagined spectacle.

A very slight love story is outlined in the first scene, where Albert asks for Mildred's hand. Mildred is extremely well played by Miss Beatrice Willey, who scores in her numbers. She is joined in a duet by Mr. Stuart Alexander, but this number, no doubt, will become more effective with repetition. Master James Hollom, who represents Willie, is intelligent and distinct; and we have an occasional spell of fun from Mr. O. E. Lennon who joins Miss May Hollom, the "Snowflake" fairy, in a duet and dance. The music by Paolo Giorza is particularly melodious, the dance measures being most exhilarating. In the last scene the strains are, of course, more grandiose and triumphant, and here we have agreeable reminiscences of Wagner. The costumes—a feast for the eye—have been designed by A. Edel, and Mr. Willie Clarkson has, as usual, done much excellent work in the wigging department. The engineering chief, Mr. H. W. Hawkins, should also be mentioned.

In the variety portion of the entertainment we have an exhibition of wire-walking by Caicedo which has won applause in all parts of the world. He is as agile, as intrepid, and as graceful as ever in his somersaulting on the "thread." By the facility of his movements he puts the spectator quite at their ease. The Dunedin Family of cyclists have also achieved fame in all parts of the world, and have richly deserved their triumphs. Such genuine ability, such an apparently easy conquest of difficulties, such perfectly developed control of balance are rarely to be witnessed in the world of the wheel. The two pretty girls are delightful to watch, and we say this without in any way wishing to discount the merits of their big brother's marvellous series of tricks on a safety, culminating in a perambulation of a tight wire with a machine which he "mains" to one wheel. We have an interesting exhibition of pictures by the Pathégraph; fun is supplied with complete success by the Fratellinis; Rochez's performing monkeys are quaint creatures that cause much diversion; a very remarkable instance of cleverness in training is to be observed in the performing zebras, elephant, horses, and dogs, introduced by the Corradinis; and the Huxter Brothers, in a leaping act, and the Lumars, on the electrical horizontal bar, are other attractions. The much-travelled Mr. Fred Trussell, who has been receiving many cordial and seasonable congratulations, courteously sustains the best traditions of management here.

MASONS AT WORK.

An extra emergency meeting of the Chelsea Lodge No. 3098 was recently held at the Town Hall, Chelsea, the primary reason for holding same being to allow (by courtesy and permission of the reigning Master Mr. Henry Coutts) Mr. Wolfe S. Lyon to initiate one of his sons, who was about to return to Canada, into the secrets and mysteries of the craft. There was a larger attendance of the members than could have been expected, having regard to so great a number being away fulfilling pantomime engagements. The Lodge was formed by Messrs. Serpentello, acting W.M.; Albert Le Fre, I.P.M.; W. H. Atlas, acting S.W.; Harry Bown, J.W.; Wolfe S. Lyon, Treasurer; C. J. Doughty, Secretary; W. F. K. Walton, S.D.; James S. Lyon, acting J.D.; Douglas White, acting I.G.; and Willie Benn, acting Organist; A. E. Micklin, E. T. R. Lester, Stewards; and J. H. Macnaughton, Tyler. After opening the Lodge, Mr. Serpentello vacated the chair in favour of Mr. Wolfe S. Lyon, who initiated Messrs. Horace O'Malley and James E. Dunedin, in addition to his son, Alfred E. Lyon. The members present comprised Messrs. James W. Mathews (the first Master of the Lodge), Herbert Choneng, Henry Crocker, Bonker Andrews, J. W. Ellison, H. C. Lovell, R. E. Wilding, Tom Edwards, Augustus Dale, Frank Hardie, J. Grant, E. H. Seener, B. Fridkin, Herbert La Martine, Horace Arondale, Leon Zeitlen, T. G. Davis, &c., &c.; and the following visitors:—J. Worth, P.A.G.P.; A. Solomons, W.M., Thorn Mill Lodge 3163; Harry Ray, Liverpool Dramatic 1609; Tom Clare, Lyric 3016; W. Kelly, Loyal and Royal 2952; N. S. Lyon, Joppa 188; and Hamilton Hill, Cannon 1539.

"THE BLIND MUSICIAN."

Musical Playlet, by John Jackson, produced at the Empress, Brixton, on Monday, Dec. 28, 1908.

Rowland Lucas .....MR. S. F. PERCY
Mrs. Rowland Lucas ....MISS DAVIES WEBSTER
Richard Digby .....MR. GEORGE LYTTLETON
Winnie .....MISS G. HASTINGS WALTON
Dorothy .....MISS ROBERTS PULLEYNER

This little play, which is set in three scenes, has no doubt seen the light owing to the success achieved by M. Van Biene with his evergreen *Broken Melody*. It has not the same interest running through it, but gave pleasure to the large audience at this popular hall on Monday.

The theme throughout is the very old one of a married lady's love for another man, this time an utter scoundrel. Rowland Lucas is a blind musician, and he is married to a beautiful woman, but she, instead of helping him in his affliction, takes advantage of his misfortune and encourages the attentions of Richard Digby, a man engaged to their daughter. This scoundrel betrays Mrs. Lucas, with the inevitable result that the "blind musician" discovers the blow to his family honour, and, taking the advice of his old mother, practically turns his wretched wife out of the house.

In Scene 2 we find Mrs. Lucas at a London hotel, bitterly regretting her folly. Digby enters, and endeavours to persuade her to share his flat, and offers her some pearls he has stolen. She is about to refuse both his home and pearls, when Rowland's mother and daughter arrive, and prevail on the unfortunate lady to return to her husband, and in future to lead a virtuous life. Feeling keenly the trouble she has brought on her husband, needless to add she cheerfully accepts this offer. Scene 3 sees a reconciliation between the kind-hearted blind musician and his erring wife. Mr. John Jackson's sketch is wanting in that briskness so essential to the music-hall playlet, and the dialogue at times is weak. *A Blind Musician* gives Mr. S. F. Percy, for whom the sketch is written, exceptional opportunities for two violin solos, and undoubtedly could the dialogue be much cut down, and this clever artist supplied with more solos, it might ensure success. Miss Davies Webster is excellent as Mrs. Lucas; Mr. George Lyttleton sufficiently plausible as the betrayer (Digby); and Miss G. Hastings Walton (Winnie) and Miss Roberts Pulleyne (Dorothy) also are helpful in their respective parts.

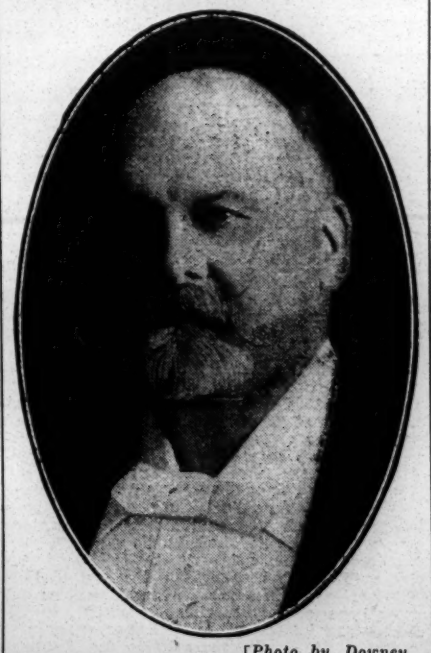
The Empress bill also includes that clever comedian, Mr. John Lawson, in *Pigs in Clover*; Cecil Merry and company in their capital sketch, *The Barrister's Dilemma*; Tom Woottwell proves amusing with his capital songs; the Two Anartos give a really clever eccentric act; Miss Rose Dearing is heard to great advantage in her song "A tip I got from mother"; Lotto, Lilo, and Otto are entertaining in their laughable cycling episode; Miss Dorothy Gould, Miss Chummie La Mara, Monty Walker, Jolly Jimmy Walker, Lydia and Amelys, all add to a splendid holiday bill, which reflects credit on the enterprising management.

FUNERAL OF MR. SWANBOROUGH.

The funeral of Mr. Edward Swanborough, who died at the age of 68, after a long illness, on Dec. 21, took place at Brompton Cemetery on Thursday, 24th. The mourners included Mrs. Lyon (only surviving sister), Mr. H. Swanborough (son), Mr. W. S. Lyon, Capt. and Mrs. F. Lyon, Mr. Edward Terry, Mr. Henri Gros, Mr. Henry Tozer, Mr. J. Norman Berlin (representing staff of Chelsea Palace), Mr. Doughty (who, with Mr. Lyon, represented the Chelsea Lodge of Freemasons), Mr. F. H. Pedgrift ("The Era"), Mr. Frank Hardie (members of the same lodge), Mr. James Weaver and Mr. A. Chenery (representing the Lodge of Asaph, of which Lodge deceased had been Past Master), and Mr. Hugh Astley (for directors of London Pavilion).

The beautiful floral offerings from the family and friends included wreaths from Sir Squire and Lady Bancroft, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Terry, Mr. and Mrs. Henri Gros, Mr. Beauclerk, Mrs. and Miss Stevens, and Dr. and Mrs. Blaikie; also very handsome wreaths from the directors, staff, and orchestra of Chelsea Palace, directors of London Pavilion, brethren of Chelsea Lodge of Freemasons, and brethren of Lodge of Asaph.

Unfortunately, owing to the fact that it was Christmas week, the funeral arrangements (which were quietly and efficiently carried out by Messrs Garstin) had to be hurried, and many colleagues and friends have expressed regret at knowing too late to send floral tributes or to attend. Edward Swanborough, from his genial, kindly nature, died universally regretted by those who knew him. He bore his three years' suffering very bravely, trying to make the best of it to the last. The deceased gentleman married Miss Fanny Hughes, a most attractive actress of the seventies, who predeceased him.



[*Photo by Downey.*

THE LATE MR. EDWARD SWANBOROUGH.

"THE CONQUERING HERO."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I note in your issue of last week the report of a sketch, produced by a Mr. Leon M. Lion, under the title of *The Conquering Hero*. This bears a remarkable resemblance, in practically every particular, to a sketch written and produced by myself last autumn, entitled *The Courage of Charlie*. This sketch, with Mr. Eustace Sydney as Charley, Mr. George Mortimer as the Burglar, and Miss Shirley Dalton as Mrs. Charley, first saw the light at the Palace, Greenwich, and has since been played by my *Collar Stud* company on many occasions.

I note also in your comments on the Metropolitan production that something of the same kind had been done previously upon the legitimate stage as a curtain-raiser. If such is the case, the coincidence of a similarity of ideas is still more extraordinary.—Yours faithfully,

HUBERT BARTLETT.

Hippodrome, Putney, Dec. 23.

NEW YEAR'S COLLECTION FOR THE MUSIC HALL HOME.

In again directing the attention of our readers to *The Era* New Year's Shilling Fund on behalf of the Music Hall Home we are in the happy position of being able to associate with the appeal thus being made the name of the foremost music hall comedienne—Miss Marie Lloyd. It seems scarcely necessary to remind our readers of the deep interest Miss Lloyd has ever taken in matters affecting the welfare of her brothers and sisters of the variety profession. It is her desire that her "year" will be marked by a considerable increase in the subscriptions of previous years, and she therefore, through *The Era*, commends the Music Hall Home to the charitably-minded. Mr. Thomas Barrasford, the President of the Fund, is again this year exerting himself in its behalf, and this fact is sufficient indication that he is satisfied as to the way in which the institution is being conducted, and that he considers it worthy of support.

Mr. Ben Woodger, the secretary of the Music Hall Home, tells us that last year (1907) the inmates averaged ten, but that this year there have been as many as twelve. The address of the Home is 31, Wilson-road, Camberwell, and there the matron (Mrs. Fruin) busies herself for the comfort and convenience of her "family." At present there are eleven of these, and the desire is to increase the number, which can only be done when sufficient funds for the purpose are collected. During the past twelve months three or four of the inmates have recovered their health and strength sufficiently to enable them to look for engagements. These secured, they left the Home, and the vacancies thereby created were immediately filled up. Now, this Home requires keeping up, and it cannot be kept up on air. There is no need for us to refer to all the good work which has been performed by the institution in the past, as that must for the most part be within the recollection of our readers. The ages of the inmates range from fifty to seventy-six. In all probability these men will be maintained in the Home until the day of their death, and their funeral expenses paid for out of the funds of the Home.

The Era New Year's Shilling Fund is the main source of income to the Home, and this means of sustenance is added to by the donations of artists, either given directly, or through the collecting boxes through which many managers of variety theatres collect pennies from "dead-heads" and from artists who desire free admission.

This year Mr. Woodger is endeavouring to get out six hundred *Era* Shilling Fund collecting cards, and anyone can be supplied with one by sending a postcard to Mr. Woodger.

Briefly, we may once more repeat that the objects of the Music Hall Home Fund are to provide shelter for deserving members of the variety profession who have been stricken with poverty or illness in their declining years, or who have in other ways fallen on evil times. Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, the hon. treasurer, will be pleased to receive filled-up collecting cards addressed to him at *The Era*, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C., and to acknowledge them in these columns.

[*Photo by Sarony.*

MISS MARIE LLOYD,
The Fair Worker for the Home.

MR. THOMAS BARRASFORD,
President of the Home.

FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	Shillings.
Marie Lloyd	53
Bert Williams	30
Jack Woolf	30
Leoni Clarke	21
Gus Elen	21
Mr. Hymack	20
O. M. Dayton	10

PRICE & REYNOLDS'

SIX PANTOMIME "HITS."

"MAIDIE and HER LITTLE TEDDY BEAR."
"RUN AWAY FROM OLD MAN GOBLIN."
"THE PIXY AND THE IRIS."
"MR. GOLLYWOG, GOOD NIGHT."
"IF THE WORLD WERE MINE TO GIVE."
"FUNNIOSITIES."

PRICE & REYNOLDS, 41, BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W.

Collected by Horace Wheatley, £2 10s.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Horace Wheatley	2	0	0	Grandma	0	1	0
T. Wheatley, jun.	0	1	0	Auntie	0	1	0
Kathleen Wheatley	0	1	0	Mack W. (the dog)	0	1	0
Norah Wheatley	0	1	0	Ernest Poweel	0	1	0
Eileen Wheatley	0	1	0	Will Vay	0	1	
H. Wheatley, jun.	0	1	0				

Collected by the Musical Johnstons, 6s.

Dorothy Drew Johnston	0	1	0	J. A. Johnston	0	1	0
A. E. Johnston	0	1	0	Dave Carter	0	1	0
F. Johnston	0	1	0	Fred Ralph	0	1	0

Collected by The Maples, 10s.

Fred Maple	0	1	0	Dusty Rhodes	0	1	0
Amy Maple	0	1	0	Joe Tennyson	0	1	0
Edward Lauri	0	1	0	Bates Maddison	0	1	0
May Beatty	0	1	0	W. H. Wallis	0	1	0
Cissie Lauri	0	1	0	Ben Brown	0	1	0

Collected by Dave Carter, £1 10s.

Dave Carter	0	1	0	Rose Elliott	0	1	0
He of the Top-note	0	1	0	Al. Johnston	0	1	0
He of the Top-note	0	1	0	W. Ellwanger	0	1	0
He of the Top-note	0	1	0	J. J. Harvey	0	1	0
He of the Top-note	0	1	0	Dan Conroy	0	1	0
He of the Top-note	0	1	0	Bowker Andrews	0	1	0
He of the Top-note	0	1	0	J. W. Wilson	0	1	0
James Shewart	0	1	0	W. H. McCarthy	0	1	0
James Mooney	0	1	0	Young Dave Garrick	0	1	0
Percy Haley	0	1	0	Lancelot B. Andrews	0	1	0
Master May	0	1	0	Geo. Hughes	0	1	0
Fred Morley	0	1	0	Doc. Robertson	0	1	0
Alf. Ripon	0	1	0	Baby Robertson	0	1	0
Sammy Shields	0	1	0	D. J. Pigott	0	1	0
W. F. Heeley	0	1	0	Will Oliver	0	1	0
B. C. Meely	0	1	0	Morny Cash	0	1	0

MISS GRACIE MORTIMER.

Little Gracie Mortimer, who has made a really artistic success as the boy babe, Reggie, in the Elephant and Castle pantomime *Babes in the Wood*, is the only surviving daughter of the popular sketch producer Mr. Leonard Mortimer. Her father had no intention of placing Gracie on the stage; but a few years ago, at the South London Palace, he was very glad to utilise her services—a little child actress being suddenly taken ill—so at the age of seven little Miss Mortimer made her London début in *The Undesired*.

She has had no stage tuition whatsoever, excepting Mr. Mortimer's instruction to "always be natural, Gracie; but if you want to break your father's heart become a 'theatrical' child, talk as 'shoppy' as your elders, and use eye-black in the daytime"! It is her childish freshness and her easy adaptability to the stage that has won her many friends before and behind the curtain at the Elephant and Castle Theatre—her first professional engagement away from her father's companies, and her first pantomime.

At the conclusion of her engagement with Messrs. Lester Collingwood and Charles Barnard, she will be fully equipped with an excellent supply of original songs and dainty dresses, and launched upon a music hall and musical comedy career.

Photo by South London Photo Co.

MISS GRACIE MORTIMER.

THE Rue des Martyrs, Paris, was the scene of the amusing escapade on Tuesday afternoon of "Toto," a pet monkey belonging to Mlle. Yvonne Silvestre, a young and charming actress. During his mistress's absence, "Toto" got out of the window, and, after cautiously letting himself down a drain-pipe, alighted at last in the midst of a quantity of goods exposed for sale outside a fine grocer's shop. There, "Toto" found nuts, raisins, and figs; and there, for some moments, to the delight of the crowd that immediately assembled, "Toto" made an excellent meal.

PANTOMIME AT HENGLER'S.

The admirably-appointed equestrian establishment in Argyll-street has come under the ever-widening control of Mr. Walter Gibbons, who has had the house cleaned and renovated, and on Boxing Day made a contribution to the Christmas entertainments with a production of *Cinderella* played almost entirely in pantomime. The transformation of the ring into a woodland glade, afterwards to a realistic kitchen, and then into the ball-room of a Palace, was a veritable revelation of the art of scene setting. The ball-room, indeed, furnished a most artistic spectacle, with festoons of flowers reaching from the ceiling to marble pillars similarly decorated, while handsome settees and appointments completed the illusion. The story of the little Cinderwench is embellished by novel features. A gay and festive rustic dance precedes the appearance of the Baron and his unprepossessing daughters, who indulge in a picnic. Cinderella comes to collect fuel, and renders assistance to an old woman, who promises her fortune. The Fairy Godmother exercises her beneficent influence in the second scene, that of the Baron's kitchen, when the traditional series of transformations take place, and Cinderella, her rags changed to silks and satins, departs for the ball in a magnificent carriage, drawn by miniature ponies. Cinderella's arrival at the ball, her subsequent flight minus a shoe, and her final triumph, when the glass slipper is fitted on her foot, are all depicted with striking fidelity, and the piece ends in a scene of splendour. A number of interesting engagements have been made for the pantomime. A welcome reappearance is made by Miss Vera Beringer, who, as the Fairy Godmother, has most of the dialogue, and speaks it with much elocutionary ability. An able actress is also seen in Miss Polly Emery, who returns to the West-end in the part of one of the Sisters. Her coadjutor in comedy is Mr. Deane Tribune, and together they make much fun, the scene of their toilet being very diverting. Mr. Arthur Ricketts adds to the hilarity as the Baron; and Mr. Harry Barford is a humorous Page. In the title-rôle Miss Lillian Pollard acts with girlish grace. Cinderella has a life-size "Teddy" bear for a constant companion, and her dance with him is a marvel of daintiness and skill. Miss Murielle Langley is a handsome and gallant Prince; and Miss Madge Campbell makes a dashing beau as Dandini. The gyrations of the corps de ballet, some eighty strong, are artistically performed, but a little more attention might be paid to the singing of the chorus, which, on the occasion of our visit, was lamentably weak. Music by Mr. James Sales formed a melodious accompaniment to the pantomime, which was invented and produced by Mr. Walter McEwan, the story having been written by that gentleman in conjunction with Miss Beringer.

The pantomime is preceded by a regular circus entertainment, in which clever performers take part. Miss Victoria Dagmar does difficult and graceful tricks on the horizontal bar, droll imitations of her feats being given by the clown who accompanies her. Carpet-spinning extraordinary is done by the Goldinis, who also indulge in a variety of other feats, a little girl doing some smart acrobatism and executing a clever step-dance on an iron platform, from which sparks seem to be emitted. Alf and John Frederick amaze all with double juggling on horseback; Charles and Alfred Clarke's somersaults, both on saddle and bareback, gain much admiration; Howe and Ardie, comedy ring performers, raise many a laugh; Tudor's ponies do tricks that are extraordinary; and Miss Annie Clarke does a neat equestrian act. The star turn of the ring is furnished by the Clarke Family, who do a series of surprising feats on horseback, tumbling, posing, leaping from ground to saddle, and bestriding the horse five deep with wonderful sureness and agility. The clever troupe, who have recently come from a prosperous tour on the Continent, earn quite an ovation. Performances are given twice daily at Hengler's, where Mr. Foster C. Marner is installed as manager.

Under Mr. Walter Gibbons's direction the prices have been rearranged on an extremely popular basis. Mr. Gibbons is determined that there shall be nothing cheap and nasty in the constitution of the entertainment, and the advance bookings are so attractive that he is sure the general public will appreciate the opportunity which will be given to them of seeing, for a very moderate price, a high-class entertainment, frequented by the best class of theatre-goers, and constituting an entirely new departure from the old traditions.

"MY LADY'S BOWER."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I note that Miss Zona Vevey is travelling a scene entitled *My Lady's Bower*. May I be permitted to say that I toured a scena under this title, 1907-08, and would be glad if you could find room for this statement, as I should not like to be accused of copying Miss Vevey's idea should I revive the scene, which I had intended to do. Thanking you in anticipation, I beg to remain,

Yours faithfully, PERCY MAYE.

Tivoli, Pentre, Dec. 26, 1908.

["My Lady's Bower" is also the title of a song by Miss Hope Temple, and it was written by her about 1888.—ED., *The Era*.]

A CINEMATOGRAPH fire occurred in the East-end late on Monday night. It was, fortunately, unattended by any scenes of panic. It occurred in the York Minster Hall, Commercial-road. As soon as the film caught fire the manager announced that the performance was over, and the people left in good order, most of them without any idea that there had been any sign of fire.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

FAIRS, FEASTS, AND WAKES IN ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND WALES FOR JANUARY.

ENGLAND.

1. Bacup (22,500)
1. Bolton (162,220)
1. Bristol (309,849)
1. Lancaster (40,300)
6. Bradford (236,240)

SCOTLAND.

1. Aberdeen (153,108)
1. Ayr (27,531)
1. Biggar (1,200)
1. Dundee (153,066)
1. Edinburgh (208,969)
1. Govan (76,351)
1. Kelso (4,006)
1. Kirkcaldy (22,347)
1. Leith (4,006)
1. Motherwell (54,274)
1. Renfrew (9,297)
1. Stirling (18,406)
6. Leven (6,000)

WALES.

11. Bala (2,000)

Hyde Road, Manchester.

THE Christmas Fair at this popular suburb of Manchester was under the direction of Messrs. Hibbert and Sons, who exhibited their celebrated combination of fair-ground popular amusements. These included the fine sets of racing cockerels and electric jumping horses, steam yachts, big boats, and park swings. The other entertainers were Professor Dalma and Messrs. Chapman and Kent, with interesting side shows; J. White and Thomas's shooting concerns, and throwing games by Messrs. Murphy, Whatmore and Cottam; football penalties by Messrs. Bell, Cottam, and Nixon; houp-la maypoles by Messrs. White, Thomas, Towers R. Ingham, and Thwaites; character delineators, Messrs. Dalma and Benbar.

Marshall Hill's Fun City, Bedminster.

THE capacious fair-ground known as Organ's-yard, leased by Mr. Marshall Hill for the Christmas holidays, was most skilfully arranged, and the following excellent entertainments were provided for this thriving suburb of Bristol. Messrs. Anderton and Rowland's superb cinematograph theatre with up-to-date films proved an immense success. So also were the mystic novelties exhibited by Professor Ruby, including his well-known optical illusion La Morte. The other side-show was Mr. J. Matthews' temple of magic. The machines were provided by the lessee, and included the up-to-date novelties, the motor track, the galloping horses, flip-flap, aeroplanes, and park swings, under the direction of the proprietor and Mr. Ernest Hill.

THE juvenile swings were provided by Messrs. James and Bernard Hill, and the helter-skelter tower by Mr. Bernard Hill. Shooting concerns and throwing games, houp-la frames, and variety stalls were by the following well known West of England caterers:—Mr. J. Herbert, Professor Ruby, and members of the Hill family.

Deptford Holiday Fair.

THIS well-known fair was opened for the Christmas and New Year season on Dec. 15, for its usual run of six or seven weeks. The principal amusements on the ground are:—J. Chipperfield's cinematograph theatre, R. Chipperfield's mirror show, Taylor and Plinston's cake-walk machine, Knighton's aeroplanes, C. Cain's houp-la frame, T. Beech's football game, Irwin's galloping horses, S. Weatherhead's park swings, Bishop's shooting saloons, Knighton's cup breakers, Weatherfield's cokers, R. Chipperfield's pipe breaker, and other minor novelties.

Notes from Wales.

FRANK BOSTOCK, with his jungle of animal life, continues to be a triumphant attraction at Mountain Ash. The programme for the holidays consists of some new and extremely clever turns with trained animals. Messrs. Haggar and Son's No. 1 Bioscope under the direction of Mr. Walter Haggar are having their usual success at the same place attracting large audiences to witness their splendid range of up-to-date pictures. Mr. Haggar's No. 2 concern is stationed at Aberdare, where he is paying a most welcome visit. Mr. E. Danter with bioscope show, switchback, shooting galleries, swings, &c., is at Newport (Mon.). Mr. J. Danter is located at Barry Dock with his various amusements for the holiday season

PONTYPRIDD is rich in popular amusements for the holidays, the splendid concerns of H. Scard, Dooner and Son, and John Studt are giving the people of Pontypridd splendid exhibitions of living pictures. Messrs. H. Studt and Son are at Swansea with their celebrated machine novelties. Mr Sid White with his show and aggregation of machines is at Cardiff. Mr. Steel Parry is at Bridgend with bioscope exhibition. The permanent amusements at Cardiff include: Madame D'Arc' waxwork exhibition and Stoll's panopticon and museum of mirth.

The Annual Business Meeting of the Guild.

WE draw our readers' attention to the preliminary advertisement of the annual meeting of the Showmen's Guild at Manchester, fixed for Wednesday, Jan. 13, at four o'clock in the afternoon. Those old friends of the Guild, the Rev. H. Norburn, rector of St. Agnes' Birch, Manchester (hon. local chaplain), and Mr. Charles Howard (hon. local solicitor), have kindly promised to attend and to speak at the gathering. The meeting will be, as usual, held in the Memorial Hall, Albert-square, and will be preceded by a business meeting of the Executive Council at the headquarters of the Guild, the Black Lion Hotel, Salford, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon. Committee men within easy access of Manchester are earnestly requested to attend the business committee. The agenda paper contains a matter of great importance to the whole body of itinerant amusement-caterers. It is at this meeting that the retiring Executive Council nominates the executive for the ensuing year, the annual report and financial statement are submitted and adopted, and the whole of the business of the public meeting in the afternoon is arranged.

MR. P. COLLINS is nominated as president for 1909. There are other nominations which have been forwarded to the Guild Secretary and endorsed by the divisional committees. These new officials are men who have proved their ability and worth during the past year of arduous and important work. The nomination list is open, and, indeed, is not closed until the moment of election at the public meeting. Nominations may be sent in to the Guild Secretary, care of *The Era*, or to Mr. T. Hurst, hon. secretary, Broadhurst, Pendlebury, Manchester.

The Success of the Fun City, Olympia.

THEY say that money talks and so do figures, and no greater proof of the popularity of the Fun City at Olympia is required than the fact that no less than 22,347 paid for entrance on Boxing Day, while on Monday the attendance was almost as large. Crowds of holiday children have been delighted with the wonderful intelligence of Woodward's seals, which remain on the bill of the free variety show for the next week, whilst Morpheus, the Scotsman who has been asleep for thirty-five years, is the centre of a bewildered crowd from morning till night.

Central Cricket Ground, Hastings.

Crowds have been attracted during the holidays by the visit here of Mr. C. Harris's steam circus combination, which includes galloping horses, motor-cars for little folk, boat swings, pipe, cocoanut, and other shies, and a quoit bank, the latter especially having a crowd of onlookers. The visit lasted for a week.

THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD OF GREAT BRITAIN.

SUBSCRIPTIONS IN 1908.

THIRD LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

	£	s.	d.
The Lancashire and Cheshire Stallholders Society	10	0	0
Mr. John Collins, 3rd subscription	5	0	0
Messrs. Relph and Pedley	2	2	0
The World's Fair	1	1	0
Mr. John Evans, jun.	1	1	0
Mr. W. Murphy	1	1	0
Mr. Frank Mellor	1	1	0
Mr. A. Ball	1	1	0
Mr. W. Clark	1	1	0
Mr. T. Payne	1	1	0
Mr. G. A. Biddall	1	0	0
Mr. Wm. Mitchell	0	10	6
Mr. Wm. Mitchell, jun.	0	10	6
Mr. B. Mitchell	0	10	6
Mr. T. Mitchell	0	10	6
Mr. Alf Burton	0	10	6
Minerva Automatic Co.	0	10	0
Mr. and Mrs. H. Peters	0	10	0
Mr. T. Birchall	0	10	0
Mr. John Lovett	0	10	0

Mr. T. Hurst, 5s.; Mr. Platt, 5s.; Mr. W. Irvin, 5s.; Mr. T. Dawson, 5s.; Mr. S. Elliott, 5s.; Mr. Tom Paulo, 5s.; "Colin Clout," 5s.; Mr. S. Bolesworth, 5s.; Mr. John Veti, 5s.; Mr. E. Corner, 5s.; Mrs. Lovett, 5s.; Mr. N. Dick, 5s.; Mr. J. Hickey, 5s.; Mr. H. Morrison, 5s.; Mrs. H. Gamble, 4s.

Mr. G. Tucker, 3s. 4d.; Mr. A. Pullen, 3s. 4d.; Mr. H. Miller, 3s. 4d.; Mr and Mrs. Knowles, 3s. 6d.; Mr. and Mrs. A. Broughton, 3s. 6d.; Mr. McIndoe, 3s.; Mr. H. Strand, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Macintosh, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. S. Johnson, 2s. 6d.; Prof. C. W. Johnson, 2s. 6d.; Mr. H. Nuttall, 2s. 6d.; H. S., 2s. 6d.; Mr. F. Harniess, 2s. 6d.; Mr. J. Monks, 2s. 6d.; Mr. J. Biddall, 2s. 6d.; Mr. W. Starr, 2s. 6d.; Mr. W. McArdle, 2s. 6d.; Mr. W. E. Roche, 2s. 6d.; Mr. H. Smith, 2s. 6d.; Mr. D. Watson, 2s. 6d.; Mr. T. Kayes, 2s. 6d.; Mr. J. Clarke, 2s. 6d.; Mr. M. Morris, 2s. 6d.; Mr. O. Sedgmore, 2s.; Mr. J. Pickles, 2s.; Mr. J. Matchett, 2s.; Messrs. Miller Bros., 2s.; Mrs. Starkie, 2s.; Mr. Hamer, 2s.; Mr. J. Miller, 2s.; Two Colliers, 2s.; Mrs. Moone, 1s.; "A Friend," 1s.; Mr. F. McArdell, 1s.; Mr. J. Taylor, 1s.; Mr. W. Strand, 1s.; Mr. C. Horne, 1s.; Mrs. Shields, 1s.; Mr. J. Slater, 1s.; Mrs. W. Boswell, 1s.; Mr. W. Smith, 1s.; Mr. J. Radcliffe, jun., 1s.; Mr. A. Carrick, 1s.; Mrs. Coates, 1s.; Mr. G. Blockley, 1s.; Mr. T. Evans, 1s.; Mr. W. Harris, 1s.

The proceeds of the Ayr Fair Benefit Night, per Mr. George Green:—

	£	s.	d.
Mr. George Green	7	12	0
Mr. John Wilmot	6	16	0
Mr. S. Macintosh	1	12	0
Mrs. Johnson	1	10	4
Messrs. Baker and Sons	1	10	0
Mr. N. Talbot	1	1	0
Mrs. Manders	1	0	9
Mr. J. Howard	0	16	1
Mr. P. Swallow	0	15	9½
Mr. G. Carter	0	15	0
Mr. J. Day	0	15	0
Mr. J. Wingate	0	12	2½
Mr. H. Irvine	0	12	2
Mr. J. Wilmot, jun.	0	10	6
Mr. W. Moore	0	10	3
Mr. H. Irvine, jun.	0	10	0

Mr. J. Gibbons, 9s. 8½d.; Mr. D. Moore, 8s. 6d.; Mrs. Stevenson, 8s.; Mr. A. Lawrance, 6s. 10½d.; Mr. E. Sheeran, 6s. 2d.; Mr. J. Beattie, 6s. 10d.; Mr. D. Rostron, 5s. 8d.; Mr. E. Stevenson, 5s. 2d.; Mr. W. Merrick, 5s. 2d.; Mr. J. Blockley, 5s.; Mr. N. Irvine, 5s.; Mr. S. Biddall, 5s.; Mr. J. Styles, 5s.

Mr. W. Codona, 4s. 7d.; Mr. J. Anderson, 4s. 6d.; Mrs. Blockley, 4s. 6d.; Mrs. Bradley, 4s. 4d.; Mr. H. Smith, 4s. 2d.; Mr. J. Buckley, 4s.; Mrs. Smith, 4s.; Mr. G. Blockley, 3s. 9d.; Mr. J. Dobbin, 3s. 8d.; Mr. Robertson, 3s. 6d.; Mr. Gow, 3s. 3d.; Mr. J. W. Kelly, 3s. 3d.; Mr. J. Hughes, 3s. 2d.; Mr. J. Knight, 3s. 1d.; Mr. Martin, 3s. 1d.; Mr. J. W. Moss, 3s.; Mr. H. Dawson, 3s.

Mr. H. Chapman, 2s. 6d.; Mr. J. Caddick, 2s. 6d.; Mr. D. Graham, 2s. 6d.; Mr. A. Carrick, 2s. 6d.; Mr. W. H. Hadfield, 2s. 1d.; Mr. D. Evans, 2s.; Mr. C. Smith, 2s.; Mr. Nelson Boswell, 2s.; Mrs. Mitchell, 2s.; Mr. J. Slater, 1s. 10d.; Mr. Montana Bill, 1s. 9d.; Mr. C. Nelson, 1s. 8d.; Mrs. Galloway, 1s. 7½d.; Mr. R. Russell, 1s. 7d.; Mr. P. Veitch, 1s. 6d.; Mr. H. Glenroy, 1s. 6d.; Mr. J. Goldberg, 1s. 6d.; Mrs Hunter, 1s. 6d.; Mr. A. Palmer, 1s. 2d.; Mr. H. Johnson, 1s. 1d.; Mr. M. Kennedy, 1s. 1d.; Mr. W. Newey, 1s.; Mrs. Cook, 1s.; Mr. F. Goldberg, 1s.; Mr. Faulkner, 1s.; Mr. P. Swallow, jun., 1s.; Mr. W. Smith, 1s.; Mr. J. Codona, 9d.; Mr. W. Hiscoe, 7d.; Mrs. Brady, 3d.

The total amount was £36 11s. 7d.

Proceeds of the Rotherham Fair Benefit Night:—

	£	s.	d.
Messrs. P. Collins and Son's concerns	7	1	7
Mr. G. H. Kemp's Cinema. Theatre	4	2	9
Mr. John Collins' concerns	3	18	4
Mr. E. Farrar's Coliseum	1	10	0
Prof. D'Osta's show	0	9	4
Mr. Dunwell Johnson	0	6	3
Mr. T. Westwood	0	5	0
Mr. W. Turner	0	5	0

Amounts under 5s.: Mr. W. Shaw, 4s. 11d.; Mrs. Marsden, 4s.; Mr. J. Patterson, 3s.; Mr. E. Ball, 3s.; Mr. W. Steward, 2s. 6d.; Mr. J. Gledstone, 2s. 6d.; Messrs Wright and Co., 2s. 6d.; Mr. T. Lever, 2s. 6d.; Mr. G. Wright, 2s.; Mr. E. Middlebrook, 2s.; Mr. J. Stockwell, 2s.; Mr. J. Illingworth, 2s.; Mr. T. White, 2s.; Mr. W. Pullen, 2s.; Mr. H. Johnson, 1s. 6d.

Benefit proceeds at Wrexham Fair:—

	£	s.	d.
Messrs. P. Collins and Son's concerns	£4	0	0
Sahib Leo's show	0	7	9

Subscriptions at Wrexham meeting:—

	£	s.	d.
Sums under 5s.	£2	10	0

Mr. T. Proctor (Lincoln meeting), 1s.

Small subscriptions at Darlington meeting:—Mr. A. Campbell, 2s.; Mr. E. Waite, 2s.; Mr. E. Sheeran, 1s.; Mrs. Nicholls, 1s.

Small subscriptions at Leicester meeting:—Mr. T. White, 2s. 6d.; Mr. F. Kent, 2s.; Mr. H. Barnes, 1s.; Mr. J. Sinclair, 1s.; Mr. W. Adams, 1s.; Mr. J. Holmes, 1s.; Mr. F. Silvester, 1s.; Mr. R. Burdan, 1s.; Mr. W. Harrison, 6d.

Small subscriptions at Redruth meeting:—Mr. H. Smith, 2s. 6d.; Mr. Charles, 1s.

Defence of Mitcham Fair Fund:—

	£	s.	d.
Mr. S. Forest	1	1	0
Mr. R. Clasper	1	1	0
Mr. John Laing	1	1	0
Mr. S. Bolesworth	1	0	0
Mr. W. Stenning	1	0	0
Mr. F. Bailey	1	0	0
Mr. H. Peters	1	0	0
Mr. H. Peters, jun.	1	0	0
Mrs. Edwards	1	0	0
Mr. S. Mayne	1	0	0
Mr T. Knighton	1	0	0
Mr. H. Castle, jun.	1	0	0
Mrs. Bird	0	10	0

Small subscriptions at Greenock Fair:—Mrs. Smith, 3s.; Mr. Wm. Strand, 2s. 6d.; Mr. E. Stevenson, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. W. Wilmot, 2s. 6d.; Miss Wilmot, 2s. 6d.; Miss L. Wilmot, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Rostron, 2s. 6d.; "Volcano," 2s. 6d.; Mr. E. Sheeran, 2s. 6d.; Mr. W. Newey, 2s. 6d.; Mr. C. Nelson, 2s.; Mrs. Hunter, 2s.; Mr. C. Johnson, 2s.; Mr. G. Blockley, 2s.; Mr. J. Matchett, 2s.; Mr. H. Palmer, 2s.; Mr. C. Wallis, 2s.; Mr. J. Buckley, 2s.; Mr. S. Monti, jun., 2s.; Mr. D. Irvin, 2s.; "A Friend," 2s.; Mr. J. Wright, 1s.; Mrs. Cooke, 1s.; Nelson Pickles, 1s.; Mr. C. Dawson, 1s.; Mr. C. Smith, 1s.; Mrs. W. Strand, 1s.; "A Friend," 1s.; Mr. W. Slater, 1s.; Mr. J. Spencer, 1s.; Mr. A. Testo, 1s.; Mr. W. Rostron, 1s.; Mr. Campbell, 1s. Mr. Towers (Bramley meeting), 2s. 6d.

Small subscriptions at Holbeck meeting:—Mr. T. Burgin, 2s. 6d.; Mr. S. Doubtfire, 2s. 6d.; Mr. Lewis, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. E. Ball, 2s. 6d.; Mr. W. Holdsworth, 2s.

Small subscriptions at Hull Fair:—Mr. John Seeds, 3s. 6d.; Mr. J. Ratcliffe, 3s. 6d.; Mr. G. Westray, 2s. 6d.; Mr. J. Gledstone, 2s. 6d.; Mr. T. Westwood, 2s.; Mr. J. Thompson, 2s.; Mr. J. S. Stockwell, 2s; and 6s. in smaller sums.

Collected by Mr. Prideaux: Miss Hollamby, 2s. 6d.; Mr. W. Meadows, 1s.; Mr. S. G. Stone, 6d.; Mr. R. J. Adams, 6d.; Mr. G. H. Veal, 3d.; Mr. H. Webber, 3d.; Mr. S. P. Burden, 3d.; Mr. J. F. Miles, 3d.

Mr. E. Harris, 5s.; Mr. J. Harris, 5s.; Mr. W. Harris, 5s.; Mr. Walter Harris, 5s.; Mrs. Kefford, 5s.; Mr. H. Barnard, 5s.; Mr. E. Shaw, 5s.; Mr. J. Silk, 5s.; Mr. C. Ives, 5s.; Mr. G. H. Prideaux, 5s.; Mr. R. J. Prideaux, 5s.

Note.—Members and subscribers whose names do not appear in any of the lists already published are requested to communicate direct to the Guild Secretary, *The Era* Offices, London, and the omission will be rectified in the next list published.

Committeemen with counterfoil books are requested to send them at once to the secretary. There are some outstanding subscriptions. Members may send their subscriptions to the secretary, or to the treasurers, Mr. Wm. Mitchell, Heywood, Manchester, or Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, at *The Era* Offices, London.

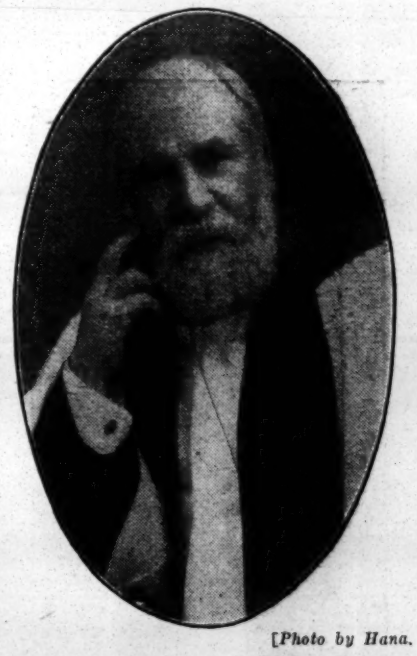
A NEW YEAR'S WISH.

BY THE CHAPLAIN.

A Happy New Year unto you all, my dear friends
of the fair,
To wish all good things may befall, and freedom
from all care
Your "Parson" hopes that in the year of nineteen
hundred and nine,
Peace and prosperity may be yours, that were not
in "auld lang syne."

That Corporations may be fair, and County
Councils true
Unto the showmen's interests—this is his wish for
you.
Ye caterers for the people's fun, good luck attend
your ways,
Who do your best for the teeming crowds, on
England's holidays.

May Charters granted in olden days unbroken still
remain,
May fairs and feasts and old-time wakes their
wonted hold maintain.
Cinematographs and roundabouts, shows and
shooters rare,
Be always to the front, the same as "All the Fun
of the Fair."



[*Photo by Hana.*

THE REV. T. HORNE,
Chaplain the Showmen's Guild.

The Showmen's Guild has flourished now, full
twenty years and more,
God's blessing rest upon it in the future, as of
yore.
Good wishes to the founders, the executive, and all
Who give their best work to its cause; and rally to
its call.

Then this is the Chaplain's wish to you—to you
his dear old friends,
That the coming year brings hope fulfilled and
joy that never ends,
From day to day as you go on your journeys without fear,
"For God and for good," he prays that all may
have a glad New Year.

Carmarthen.

THE holiday season has meant large audiences at the Phœnix Theatre at the Carmarthen Pleasure Fairground, the plays presented being such as to draw crowded houses. The proprietor-manager, Mr. Harry Cowell, appears to strike the popular taste. On Monday evening *Jane Shore* was placed upon the boards; Tuesday, *Emblems of the Cross*; Wednesday, *The Fortune Teller*; Thursday, *Mona*; Friday, *The Colleen Bawn*. For Saturday afternoon a children's pantomime, *Cinderella*, was announced; and for Saturday evening, *Charles Peace* and the *Two French Jack Sheppards*.

Holiday Fairs at Bristol.

ON the East-street (Bedminster) ground are: Mr. John Jones's theatre of varieties and cinematograph, W. C. and S. Hancock's four-abreast galloping horses, Mr. Burton's shooting gallery and shooter, park swings and houp-la frames by Mr. J. Jones.

ON the Stapleton-road ground are: Mr. James Cole's switchback roundabout and houp-la frames, and small varieties by various caterers.

THE Jacob-street ground contains galloping horse set and helter-skelter tower by Cole Bros., and with them are the usual addenda of fun providers and minor amusement-caterers.

ON the Lawrence Hill pitch the local showman, Mr. Pruett, has located his well-known aggregation of amusements: galloping horse set, slipping the slope slide, houp-la maypoles, and stalls and varieties, with all the fun of the fair.

THE Red Cross ground is the locale of Mr. E. H. Justin's numerous modern amusements. These include cinematograph theatre, the haunted castle, the Brooklyn machine (Taylor and Plinston patent), and helter-skelter tower.

AT Hot Wells Mr. J. Herbert provides various amusements of a minor character, such as houp-la frames, Emma sheets, football penalties, &c.

SHOWMEN AND VAN-DWELLERS' PROTECTION ASSOCIATION.

(THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD.)

NINETEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

The close of 1908 marks the twentieth year of your organised trade defence work. Your society has won during the past twenty years an acknowledged place amongst the societies and trade unions of organised industry.

Your representatives are accepted and heard in your interests before Parliamentary Committees and at the Home Office and other great departments of State.

Twenty years ago it was thought a presumptuous thing that showmen sought by combination and by duly accredited officials to be heard as workers with a legitimate trade and business and having rights to conserve and interests to protect.

How you won your right to be heard as an organised body is now ancient history, but that right remains one of your most valuable assets, and every year's work demonstrates its increasing usefulness.

For example, this year, in connection with the Children's Bill your representative was in friendly conference with the Right Hon. Herbert Samuel, Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, and the Guild and its work were fully understood and acknowledged. With regard to the Movable Dwellings Bill, your officials were able to open up important negotiations with the promoters of the measure, and although the concessions you sought were not obtained, there is no doubt that, by your determined stand for your rights as workers in the commonwealth, you have made a profound impression upon public opinion, and have effectively checked the promoters of class legislation.

With the resurrection this year of the Movable Dwellings Bill of 1890, with additional penal clauses and new sponsors, you were thrown once again, as at the beginning of your corporate existence, into the vortex of public agitation. Most fortunately this new agitation came at a time when, for the first year since 1898, you were free from the arduous and costly work of opposition to private Bill legislation in the Committee Rooms of Parliament.

Whilst every possible means were taken to arrive at just terms with the promoters of the Movable Dwellings Bill, the work of agitation against it was vigorously carried forward. Resolutions against it were passed at a public protest meeting at King's Lynn, the Mayor of Lynn presiding, and members of the Corporation present. At a similar public gathering at Gloucester, with the Mayor in the chair and the City Sheriff supporting the resolution against the Bill; at Hull, with a member of the City Council presiding in the absence of the Chief Magistrate; and at Rotherham, with the Mayor present and speaking in sympathy with the object of the meeting. This public sympathy and civic recognition of your organisation must be of extreme value to you, and an incentive to greater and higher endeavour in your work as entertainers of the people.

Your executive officials organised and carried out with most encouraging success protest meetings of showpeople at the great fairs of Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Blackburn, Huddersfield, Darlington, Oldham, Greenock, Wrexham, Leicester, Lincoln, Boston, Keighley, Bramley, Redruth, Perth, and a number of smaller fairs in various parts of the United Kingdom.

At all of these meetings petitions against the Bill were numerously signed. Your executive council acknowledge with great satisfaction the immediate and hearty response of all sections of the fairground industry to their call for support and united effort against the serious dangers threatened by the Bill. In several instances without any inspiration from your officials meetings were held, resolutions condemning the measure passed, and subscriptions obtained. In the face of a common danger every showman determined to strengthen the fighting forces of showland, and to stand shoulder to shoulder with his fellows against the enemy.

These special efforts were particularly noticeabel in Yorkshire, Lancashire, and the Northern and Midland counties, where the heart of showland beats in unison with the great heart of the people, whose fairs and holidays you maintain and defend.

As showing the solidarity of the showman world in this work of defence, it is worthy of special note that Scotland (although the Bill does not apply to that country) joined hands with their English brethren, and both at Greenock and at Ayr subscribed most liberally to the defence fund.

Your executive council in laying down the burden of responsibility you committed to them at your last annual business meeting at Manchester acknowledge with gratitude the immense help they have received from the whole body of members, and from the allied industries. Especially do they acknowledge the great help rendered by show proprietors who have lent their shows for the meetings of your society at the many fairs visited by your Chaplain and Organiser during the past twelve months. In this word of praise must be included the working staff of each concern, who so loyally responded to the call of duty and assisted to make the meetings successful.

Benefit performances or special subscriptions in aid of the Defence Fund have been given at Huddersfield, Keighley, Wrexham, Lincoln, Darlington, Hawick, Dumbarton, Leicester, Birmingham, Dartford, Mitcham, Greenock, Ayr, Gloucester, Hull, Rotherham, Holbeck, and Bramley (Leeds).

Your executive officials have been engaged in extremely important work in defending your business from attacks either by new bye-laws or by the invasion of your ancient trade rights secured by charter or prescription. The most notable of these instances have been at Mitcham, Hereford, Reading, Buxton, Brecon, Ludlow, and Penzance. Your executive council have dealt in these cases with an entire regard to your interests and have obtained considerable concessions. In every instance they have had both public sympathy and assistance in the endeavour to maintain your rights. This has been notably the case at both Mitcham and Penzance, where questions of grave importance have arisen, especially touching the business interest of the local showpeople.

Strictly adhering to the rules and constitution, your executive officials have not committed you to the defence of special fairs that have no bearing upon the whole industry.

They have, however, in every case rendered all the assistance they could, and have spared neither time nor labour in assisting the local showpeople in the defence of their business at the fairs threatened.

Both at Mitcham and at Penzance the wisdom of this course of action has been fully shown in the impression made by their endeavour to bring about a settlement by mediation and conciliation, and not by proceeding to expensive litigation to settle matters that only have a local and not a national bearing on the industry you are combined to defend.

Another sign of the growing importance of your organisation is seen in the steadily increasing reference to your executive officials by Corporations and public bodies when dealing with matters of importance to the show business. The Corporations of Gloucester, Hull, Ripon, Buxton, Brecon, Reading, Ealing, Penzance, and Ludlow, have been in correspondence with and in some instances have seen your officials in conference, and important matters have been settled by negotiation.

In the determined opposition to the new Movable Dwellings Bill your executive Council have taken all possible action. Owing to the great pressure of Government business (bringing with it the effectual blocking of private bills) the Movable Dwellings Bill is still waiting for Committee in the House of Lords.

Under the most favourable conditions it cannot go down to the House of Commons until the next Sessions of Parliament.

Your Executive Council have all their fighting forces and material against the Bill quite ready and waiting for the enemy to move. Your society is ready and fully equipped for the fight, whether in the House of Lords or in the Commons.

You are not now, as you were in 1890, a young and inexperienced society. You have served a long and expensive apprenticeship in the work of Parliamentary defence. You have behind you the immense force of an educated public opinion, as eager as you are to see justice done.

There is one note of regret—deep and profound in the heart of Showland—that must be sounded, adverse as your Executive Council is to give it utterance—the year 1908 is the last year of office of your venerable and beloved President, Lord George Sanger. If ever a man earned the right to close a great and honoured career in absolute quiet and freedom from onerous responsibility, that man is your leader and champion, George Sanger. In the sunset of life he retires, after full seventy years on the road, during all that time earning and building up the illustrious fame that will for ever give dignity and honour to the name "showman."

Your Executive Council feel with you the irreparable loss his decision to retire means, but at the same time recognise that that decision was made after most careful thought and in the confident assurance that others would take over the reins of supreme government, and that the general well-being of the whole body of travelling showmen would continue to animate all who desire the uplifting and the betterment of the popular fairs, feasts, and wakes of the British people. In your name and in their own your Executive Council tenders to your veteran champion, life-long friend, and benefactor George Sanger their heartfelt tribute of gratitude for his many and great services and munificent contributions to the society's funds. To all of us who have been engaged in the strenuous fight for life and liberty against the massed forces of puritanical rancour and narrow-minded prejudice, and are fast becoming, as Lord George Sanger now is, "veterans at rest after many fights," it is a most serious reflection, that the passage of time will inevitably bring to each of us in our turn the call to retire. Whether slowly and serenely in a grand old age, or suddenly—as with such hard workers in our cause as the late James Hibbert and William Shuttleworth—the call will surely come to pass on the work to others. May we do so in full confidence that the demand for workers will be ever met with a ready and whole-hearted response. In full faith and good heart that it will be so, your Executive Council submit this report of your society's many departments of useful labour in 1908.

Signed on behalf of the Executive Committee,

GEORGE GREEN, V.P.,
Chairman of Committee.
T. HURST,
Hon. Secretary.
T. HORNE,
Chaplain.

Dec. 30, 1908.

CINEMATOGRAPH FIRES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—In February last, on my initiative, a deputation from the L.C.C. addressed the Home Secretary on the dangers of fires at cinematograph exhibitions. Two Sessions have passed since Mr. Gladstone used these words in reply: "It must be admitted that there was great danger in connection with such exhibitions. Though they had been very fortunate up to the present, they could not shut their eyes to the fact that there might be a very serious accident, or even a catastrophe, and it was most desirable that legislative powers should be taken to put these unlicensed places throughout the country under proper authority, and he would consider whether it would be possible to deal with the matter by a short Bill in the current Session. He was well aware of the importance of the matter."

Notwithstanding the right hon. gentleman's portentous foreboding, which admitted a full knowledge of the risk, his Department has been quite content to fall into an unheeding sleep. Even when I nudged the officials last June by a question put for me in the House, an evasive yawn was the only answer I obtained.

Perhaps the latest cinematograph panic, at Stratford on Saturday last, where a score of people were injured through an unlicensed apparatus in an unlicensed building, will cause a rubbing of the departmental eyes. If not, I will remind the Home Office that about 200 of these unlicensed and unsupervised exhibitions are being given daily in the County of London, and somewhere about 300 in the greater Metropolitan area, besides an enormous number in every portion of the United Kingdom. And it is not an exaggeration to say that a trifling fire which is extinguished by the finger and thumb of some wide-awake operator occurs somewhere in the country on every day in the year, and that every one of these insignificant fires has the possibilities of a Newmarket, a Barnsley, or a Boyersville disaster in it.

Then it is evident the public must be protected against these Providence-tempting displays, and these dangerous shows must be compelled to adopt safety regulations.

At present no law exists under which they can be controlled. But a short Act of Parliament was practically promised to the Council's deputation in February last! And a Bill to maintain order at public meetings was passed in ten minutes the other day! Then why during two whole Sessions has not the Government spent at least as many minutes over a Bill to save human life? No Bill has been passed, and therefore, if the serious accident should happen which the Home Secretary foreshadowed in February last, the L.C.C. will not have been to blame, for the Council is, and has long been, anxiously waiting for the power to do its obvious duty. But without this legislative power the Council continues to be helpless, and should Mr. Gladstone's catastrophe occur, on the Home Office must rest the entire responsibility.—Yours, &c., WALTER REYNOLDS, L.C.C.

County Hall, Dec. 29, 1908.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I should be sorry to see too many restrictions placed upon cinematograph exhibitions, as I am convinced that they are both amusing and instructive, and they should be quite safe without any legislative interference, if only the necessary care were bestowed upon the lantern by careful operators. The fact is that those gentlemen often get careless with frequent showing, and neglect the attention which is imperative to ensure perfect safety; and if an official of the London County Council, well acquainted with the working of a cinematograph apparatus, were to visit these unlicensed entertainments, there would be very few accidents similar to the sad affair at Stratford.—Yours faithfully,

E. W. CARPENTER.

Christmastide at Middlesbrough.

ON the Market ground were: Henry Cariss with galloping horses, Luke Rich with juvenile horses and swings, Mrs. E. Twilly with park swings and rifle saloons. The minor amusements were: Winchester and rifle saloons by Cariss, Barugh and Dufficld, A. Crow, and W. Watkins; houp-la frames by J. Arthur, A. Crow, and Wilkie Bros.; with coker shies by Luke Rich.

FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Pathé Frères.

WOMEN CHAUFFEURS.—This scene recalls the film The Inexperienced Chauffeur, which met with such great favour with the public. It represents the first appearance of the woman chauffeur. Her awkwardness leads her into all sorts of laughable and exciting accidents and incidents, and, finally, she receives her due at the hands of her numerous victims.

THE FISHERMAN'S FIANCÉE.—A young and pretty fisherwoman is engaged to a big Norman lad, Charles, but she has, without knowing it, attracted the notice of a young ne'er-do-well, who thinks that his wealth will soon make her change her mind and give up her other lover. Having bought of her a basketful of fish, he asks her to take it to his home, which she does, followed from a distance by Charles, who, having seen the way the young townsman behaves to Kate, is afraid of a danger of some sort to her. As soon as she has set foot in the house Mr. Ne'er-Do-Well tells her of his love; but as she will not listen to him, he is going to make her pay dearly for it. Meanwhile Charles, who is growing impatient, rushes into the house just in time to give the other man a lesson which he is very much in need of; then he takes away his fiancée. Ne'er-Do-Well, in his rage, thinks of a means of revenge. He orders two of his servants to dress up as two fishermen, and then with their aid he securely fastens Charles on to a rock which will shortly be covered over by the in-coming tide. A courageous child, seeing him there, unfastens him before the tide is high enough to sweep him away. The girl's mother, a poor madwoman of whom nobody took any notice in all these happenings, springs at the ruffian's throat the moment he comes to kidnap her child, and strangles him pitilessly.

TRAGICAL ENDING TO A SHROVE TUESDAY.—Disguised as an Incroyable, Mr. Rave goes to the masked ball, in spite of Mrs. Rave entreating him to remain with her. This makes her suspicious, and, putting on a man's costume, of the 1830 period, she also goes to the ball. The ballroom is filled with a motley crowd, moving among garlands of flowers and brilliant lights. The Incroyable meets a "Merveilleuse," and exclaims, "I know you!" This is not true, for had he recognised her he would not have said it. She takes his arm, and, leaving the crowd, they go and sit down on a solitary bench. "Give me your rose," says the Incroyable, and as he opens his pocket-book to put it in, the Merveilleuse sees between the sheets the photograph of his wife. "You are not free!" she exclaims, but he gives her the photo, saying, "You may tear it up." During all this conversation the young wife, hidden behind a bush, is very sad at what she hears, especially when she perceives that these words are spoken by her husband. "You shall soon be my wife, when I have abducted you." "Abducted me! How will you do it?" "In a Sedan chair or on my horse's back. Wait a little, I shall be back in five minutes." During his short absence Mrs. Rave, thanks to her man's costume, makes love to the Merveilleuse, who flirts with her, and when the Incroyable returns he sees that he has been abandoned for the dashing "young man." A slap is heard. Seconds are hastily summoned, and a duel takes place. The last picture shows Mrs. Rave fatally wounded and her husband, tearing away the mask, just in time to recognise her and ask for her forgiveness before she passes away.

A TROUBLESOME TWITCHING.—Mr. Rude has the bad habit of always putting out his tongue whenever he speaks. His wife advises him to see a physician. On his way to the man of science he puts out his tongue in the face of everybody. Angry words are exchanged. Mr. Rude asks to be excused for his bad manners, and explains that he has a nervous complaint of which he hopes to be cured soon. The physician makes him put out his tongue, and after a few magnetic passes commands him not to do so again. But Mr. Rude must be a refractory subject, for on his way home he puts out his tongue more often than ever.

POLICEMAN IN SPITE OF HIMSELF.—During Mrs. Faraway's absence, Sarah, Peter, and Charles, the three servants, have a very good lunch, which they wash down with a bottle of champagne. Suddenly Peter has a brilliant idea. He leaves the table, goes up to Mrs. Faraway's dressing-room, puts on her spare wig, dons one of her gowns, and reappears in the dining-room, where he strikes a severe attitude. The servants have not yet recovered their wits when the entrance-bell rings. Mrs. Faraway's nephews are back from Chicago, and they have come to see their aunt. Sarah shows them into the drawing-room, and the would-be aunt receives them as best "she" can. Unfortunately, the nephews, noticing that their aunt is not a tectotaler, avail themselves of her drunkenness to help themselves to a part of the fortune which is to eventually revert to them. Peter, the would-be aunt, catches the two nephews at their work. He grasps them by their collars, and marches them off to the police station with a vigour and strength one would never have suspected in so frail-looking an "old lady."

WHEN LOVE WILL.—"If you can give roses human life I shall be yours," says the titled lady to her young page-boy, who had been bold enough to tell her of his love, and she goes away, leaving him desperate and powerless. Love, however, makes him discover in a far-away castle a bed of large living roses, and in their hearts beautiful women's heads. The boy goes in search of the enchanted flowers, which are separated from him by a hundred-and-one obstacles. Yet Love being a great magician, the page-boy, with her help, overcomes every difficulty and conquers the roses, together with the hand of his beloved.

Edison Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

THE TALE THE TICKER TOLD.—This picture tells the story of men money-mad, of intense passion, reckless revenge, and of a woman's devotion and love. It shows how, once embarked on a current of speculation, man is at the mercy of chance, and invites disaster—a story of stocks and bonds, hate and love, where the monotonous click of the "ticker" and the relentless "tape" make or mar happiness, while life is ofttimes the stake. In the mad rush of speculation we have the story of a hero battling for money for the woman he loves, and are also shown the hatred and antagonism of a rival who lays deep plans to bring disaster upon the favoured man. During a time of panic the Stock Exchange becomes a veritable inferno, men's passions are at white heat, and reason is apparently dethroned. Our hero strains every nerve in an effort to protect his interests against his unseen foes, his rival gloating over his every reverse, eventually losing his own fortune, the woman he desired, and his reason. Then—when failure and ruin bring his schemes to naught—oblivion!

THE ANGEL CHILD.—Although handicapped with an "Angel Child," a daughter whose age interferes with her plans, a buxom widow determines to try matrimony again. The "child" enters into the spirit of the game, and—when mother has dressed her in youthful attire, giving the necessary coaching how to act—decides to look after her own interests. The Angel Child begins to make things pleasant when the suitors arrive. Number One is soon disposed of. He is an effeminate youth, and, as she insists on singing and reciting in an exaggerated style, he pleads that he has another engagement and goes. A long-haired poet now comes to read his poems to the widow, and ask for advice regarding his new book. He gets this from the child. She smears him with toffee, plays with his curly locks, and succeeds in putting him to flight. A dignified suitor shows up next in the form of a fat and bald old man. The girl disposes of him by crushing his hat, pulling his whiskers, and then upsets his dignity by removing his wig. A French count is the next suitor. He plays horses with the child, and during this diversion she upsets a bowl of goldfish over his trousers, and so he departs. Billy Goodfellow is in a fair way to win "mamma," but the child decides to put the finishing touches to the matter, so during mamma's absence she dons lengthened skirts, thus winning Billy for herself, and upsetting mamma's plans altogether.

The London Bioscope at Bombay.

Our Bombay correspondent writes: Crowded houses are the order of the day with the fine new machine just imported by Mr. Bandmann into India. It is undoubtedly the finest machine shown here in Bombay, and the packed houses show its increasing popularity. A splendid collection of films has been continually supplied, and with a complete change of films twice weekly nothing need be said further as regards its success. The visit of Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer and her Shakespearean company is being eagerly awaited, and I anticipate a record for Bombay in the welcome.

MR. ALFRED WEST, of the Polytechnic, has just received a cable from his son at Malta, where he is exhibiting "Our Navy and Our Army," en route for home after a tour in India, that he has left to obtain cinematograph photos of the disaster at Messina. By a curious coincidence, Mr. Alfred West happened himself to be in the West Indies at the time of the similar disaster at Jamaica, and the photographic records he was then able to secure are among the best of his collection.

MESSRS. WEISKER BROTHERS' (of Wilde-street, Liverpool) operator is now on the scene of the awful calamity in Calabria, and films of this appalling disaster will be in England early next week.

PUTNEY HIPPODROME.

An exceedingly well-filled house greeted the rising of the curtain at the Hippodrome, Putney, on Monday evening, when the management presented a programme of an interesting and varied character. After the overture, a pot-pourri of popular airs, had been smartly played, Miss Millie Howell, a prepossessing young comedienne with a good voice and perfect articulation, sang two ballads replete with sound sentiment, the titles of which were "You will still be my girl" and "For better or for worse." Mr. Charles Carr followed in a strikingly realistic cowboy costume, which looked very picturesque, with a serenade to his "Prairie Flower," and concluded a very successful turn with some clever dancing. Miss Kitty Colyer, in a dainty costume of electric blue, sang of her unwillingness to leave her "Little snow house," which apparently she preferred to much more palatial establishments, and although her judgment might be criticised, her rendering of the song could only be commended. Her second appearance gave her the opportunity of displaying her cleverness in an acrobatic and speciality dance, which was also greatly appreciated.

A skilful and grotesque cycling exhibition was given by Les Marsumas, a couple of nimble navvies, who combined expert riding with excellent fooling, and earned a hearty recall. Yvonne Lamor, billed as "the somewhat different comedienne," was evidently indisposed, but the gentleman who filled the vacancy appropriately appeared as Father Christmas, with a good Santa Claus make-up. After singing a pleasing ditty he made the whole house roar with clever imitations of children in various anecdotes, and had every reason to be delighted with his reception. Mr. Charles J. Johnson, the prize cake-walk coon, who had a gratifying reception, gave us "Mandie Brown," an old favourite, followed by "Mumbling Mose," a really clever coon song, and concluded with a wonderfully neat cake-walk. A pleasing item was provided by Messrs. Lowenwirth and Cohan, Hebrew comedians, excellently made up. Their fantastic exploits with the King's English were particularly diverting, and kept the audience in roars of laughter.

Messrs. Howard and St. Clair took part in a very amusing sketch, entitled *Do You Want Any Coke?* in which the former, a vendor of coke, turns actor at the instigation of a lady upon whom he calls in the way of business, and the fun created upon his donning a Grecian kind of costume is simply uproarious. Eugénie Fougère also appears.

THE PECKHAM HIPPODROME.

In spite of the inclement weather an audience, which packed the house from floor to ceiling, assembled at the Peckham Hippodrome last Monday evening, attracted, no doubt, by the excellent programme, which included several star turns and a couple of first-class dramatic sketches. Miss Georgina Leno, daughter of the late lamented Dan Leno, a dainty little lady, was heard to great advantage in "Pretty See-Yu," winding up with a graceful dance. Kelly and Agnes were also much applauded for their dancing and singing, the gentleman of the party proving himself a clever eccentric comedian. Miss Belle Harcourt, whose Christian name aptly describes her, has a good descriptive song, "He was one of the boys."

A coloured comedian, Mr. Billie McClain, and his company, consisting of one lady and two gentlemen, were loudly applauded for their instrumental and vocal entertainment. Ruffell's pictures on the Bioscope, consisting of Life on a Fishing Smack, and a comic series of films, The Prize Camel, were much appreciated.

Lillian Dundas, a well-known Lady Isabel in *East Lynne*, is seen to much advantage in a sensational sketch, *The Doom of Delilah*, while two gentlemen whose names are not in the programme play powerfully as Jack Weston and Philip Royston respectively.

Harry Ford, who had a most enthusiastic reception, scored well with his quaint ditties, "What do you want it for, I'd like to know?" and "What a face!" The Union Jack Boys, consisting of ten youngsters dressed as sailors, appear in a realistic representation of a rampart overlooking the sea, and execute very ably a hornpipe and various melodies, such as "Excelsior," "Love me and the world is mine," &c., their turn being one of the best on the programme. The lightning comedian, Mr. Harry Champion, who is greeted with uproarious applause, executes in his well-known style two amusing numbers, "I do pity myself, I do," and "Out went the gas"; while the strong programme concludes with Mr. Fred Eustace's stirring and well-mounted sketch, in six scenes, *Our Curate*, in which Mr. Fred Eustace, as the curate, who is the embodiment of muscular Christianity, Miss Mary Eustace as the wronged heroine, and Mr. Alfred Harding as the villain, greatly distinguish themselves.

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MOSS'S EDINBURGH CARNIVAL.

Sir Edward Moss is a real benefactor of his fellow-creatures. For many years his annual carnival at the Waverley Market, Edinburgh, has been thronged by thousands of holiday-makers, who are sure of an innocent, wholesome entertainment in a roomy building, secure from all adverse conditions of weather. On Monday evening last the twenty-fourth season was opened. The Market, bright with many additional electric lights, and decorated with much taste by Messrs. W. S. Brown and Sons, presented a glittering appearance, the scheme of colour being admirably worked out. Amer's Military Band has been specially engaged, and the playing of these musicians is a distinctly pleasing feature of the programme. The platform entertainment is of an interesting and varied nature, and includes a large number of the smartest turns in the equestrian and vandeville world. Woodward's sea lions display the surprising sagacity and the remarkable results of patient training which characterise their performance; the Holloways go through a series of daring wire-walking feats, the lady of the troupe being especially fearless in her jumping acts; Mr. Frank L. Gregory's company, in their hoop-rolling, are very clever, and their work is, in many respects, fresh and extraordinarily well done; Feynard's lilliputian circus is a performance in itself, the diminutive artists and horses giving a really admirable equestrian entertainment; Burke, Andrus, and Frisco act with mirth-provoking effect in a farcical sketch, *Trafalgar Square, London, 4 a.m.*; the Saxon Trio of athletes evoke the enthusiasm of the audience in their deeds of strength; and other performers who contribute to an excellent programme are the Five Mowats, expert manipulators of Indian clubs; the Sauteron Wonders, in an amusing jumping act; Hugo and Smit, clever knockabouts; and Tambo and Tambo, dexterous tambourine spinners. The side shows are sufficiently diverse to please all tastes. Pharos shows wonderful power in passing an electric current through his body, enabling him to light gas jets with his finger-tips. The Westwood Giant Children from New Zealand; Ebrahim's troupe of Indian fakirs; the Adeles, in a mystifying thought-reading entertainment; and Osca's snake charmers from Arizona are a few of the many attractions, which, in conjunction with Wilmot's circling cars and steeplechase hunters, will certainly sustain the popularity of Moss's Carnival.

THE first annual staff dinner in connection with the Hippodrome, Stoke-on-Trent, took place on Christmas Eve at the Sutherland-chambers. Seventy sat down to a sumptuous dinner at 12 p.m. The following toasts were proposed:—"The King," "Mr. and Mrs. Edwardes and Family," "Mr. and Mrs. Miller," "The Press," &c., after which the tables were cleared, and song and dance ruled, all present enjoying themselves thoroughly.

MLLE. JEANNE FRANSIOLI, the charming lady whom Mr. Goldin apparently materialises out of space, is, in private life, Mme. Goldin. She is, as her stage name denotes, an Italian by birth, and to her ingenuity Mr. Goldin owes in no small degree the success of his illusions. But his stage secrets are safe with his beautiful better half, and, if anything, she keeps a stricter watch on prying eyes in the wings than does Mr. Goldin himself.

THE Music Hall Ladies' Guild, at the Horns, Kennington, on the 23rd ult., entertained nearly one hundred of the poorest children of the variety profession at dinner, tea, entertainment, and a Christmas tree, and gave them gifts and clothing. Many clergy interested in the work of the Guild were present. Miss Cissie Loftus, who had promised to be among the entertainers, was unable to attend through overwork, but sent a message and gifts for the children. A number of performers gave their services.

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INVENTIONS.

[The particulars furnished below of recent applications for patents are taken from the official records. Correspondence is invited with our readers on all matters relating to new ideas and inventions, with a view to affording them advice and assistance. Letters should be addressed to the Manager, Inventions Department, "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London.]

Inventors and others who have no business representative are invited to communicate with the Manager of the Inventions Dept. as above.

APPLICATIONS.

26,397.—Ludlow Patton Perkins, of Manchester, Improved apparatus for playing a game of chance.

26,423.—John Mancini, of London. Improvements in apparatus for playing games of skill.

26,465.—Anton Louis Brockman, of London. Improved indoor game.

25,532.—Thomas Ritchie, jun., of Edinburgh. New form of curling-stone, to be used in the game of parlour, or indoor, curling.

26,603.—William Henry Austin, of London. New or improved indoor ball game.

26,677.—Percy Bennett, of Lincoln. Improvements in kinematographs or bioscopes.

26,686.—Samuel Haskins and brothers and Jesse Haskins, of London. Improvements in and relating to interlocking fire-resisting screens, curtains, doors, and such-like structures.

26,723.—William Henry Aston, of London. Improvements in and connected with hand-rails for use with spiral and other endless conveyors or stairways.

26,760.—Ernest Bethel, John Jones Bell, and Lewis Emanuel Ford, of Liverpool. Illusive toy or puzzle, especially applicable for use in connection with advertising.

26,789.—Emory Walter Goodrich, of London. Improvements in and relating to projection apparatus.

26,890.—Thomas Clegg, of Huddersfield. Improvements in or relating to phonographs, gramophones, and similar instruments.

27,001.—George Alfred Bennett and Arthur Burman, of London. Pleasure lift.

27,003.—Newton Henry Nixon, of London. New or improved elbow pad, or rest for use when shooting with rifles or other firearms.

27,016.—Charles Clay, of London. New or improved apparatus for indoor golf practice.

27,040.—Emile Hertz Klaber, of London. Improved means for actuating the brakes of gramophones and like machines.

27,058.—William Richard Inshaw and Frederick William Savage, of London. Mechanical animal or model for amusement purposes.

27,111.—Leo Roland, of London. Apparatus for stage acrobatic performances.

27,120.—Henry Quartermain, of Woking. Bioscope safety stand or box for fire prevention or extinction.

27,127.—Gustave Ouviére, of London. Improvements in and connected with illuminable transparencies and means for displaying the same.

27,157.—Robert Rutson Fowler Neville and William Henry Westby, of London. Improved indoor and outdoor race game.

27,205.—Frank William Ordish, of London. Apparatus for games.

27,256.—Charles Randolph Uebelmesser, of London. Improvements in moving-picture apparatus; applicable also to other purposes.

27,284.—Herbert Charles Kingaby, of London. Improved game.

27,307.—Mary Jane Moss, of Bury. Device whereby automatic action is obtained, more particularly in connection with such things as the figures of human beings, birds, animals, fishes, or inanimate objects appearing from and disappearing into apertures in toy houses, and the like; but capable also of application in other directions, such as the automatic movement of limbs or parts of such figures.

27,327.—James R. Stewart, of Glasgow. Phonographic itinerant frame for displaying posters or bills for the purpose of audible advertisement.

27,342.—Robert Herman Gehrke, of Kingston-on-Thames. Chairs for theatres.

27,376.—Antoine Jacques Michel Poch and Prosper Jacques Pierre Poch, of London.—Process of and apparatus for obtaining on a screen luminous projections visible in full light.

27,393.—George Jessop, of London. Aeroplane scenic chute.

27,513.—William Spiers Freeman, of Otford, Kent. Improved disappearing target.

27,560.—Karl Georg Schipp, of London. War game.

27,583.—Witold Prus Szczepanowski and Waclaw Czernuwski, of London. Improvements in or relating to apparatus for producing animated pictures by the movement of a vehicle.

27,617.—Thomas Hervey Rochford, of Dublin. Improvements in programme indicator for theatres of varieties, music halls, and the like.

27,652.—Charles Stanley Montgomery Raikes, of London. Improved method of and means for producing scenic effects.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS ACCEPTED.

27,000.—Schuff and Weingärtner. Targets.

8,503.—Hughes. Merry-go-round.

19,546.—Houdini. Illusion apparatus.

20,107.—Forrester. Wheel-shaped cycle tracks of that class in which the wheel is vertically supported and rotatable by the action of cyclist riding upon the inner surface of the rim or track.

21,328.—Pollock. Optical lanterns for enlarging and the like.

3,798.—Moy and Bastie. Cinematograph cameras.

5,182.—Leigh. Table game.

9,711.—Horsman. Automatic light cut-offs for machines for projecting kinematograph pictures.

21,059.—Lungren. Insulated projecting lantern.

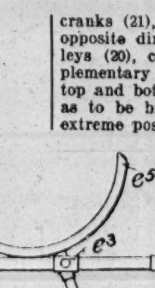
SPECIFICATION OPEN TO INSPECTION.

27,342.—Gehrke. Chairs for theatres.

ABRIDGMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

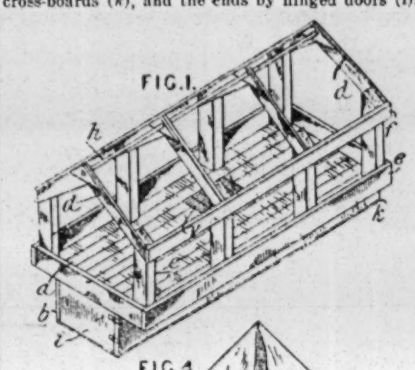
16,378.—Cycle-racing apparatus. Pottenger, H. T. B., of Croydon, Surrey.

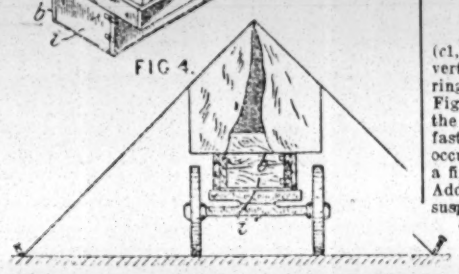
In cycle-racing apparatus for use in music-halls or other places of amusement, the cycle is supported entirely on a single frame, which is mounted on wheels, and may be provided with an adjustable front steering wheel supporting arms (*p*) and a distance recorder (*q*). The velocity of the back wheel (*h*) of the cycle is reduced by a train of gearing, and the reduced velocity is imparted to the carriage supporting the cycle, which is held in a clip (*p*). The front wheel rests in a support (*e5*), which is movably mounted in sockets (*e3*), and connected to the front wheel (*e*). The rider is, therefore, able to steer the carriage, the intermediate wheels (*f*) being mounted in a swivelling bracket to facilitate this. To allow of adjustment when the carriage rests on a sloping floor, the axles of the wheels (*d*, *f*) are mounted in bearings, adjustable by means of screwed rods. An idle wheel (*r*) prevents backward movement of the cycle.



16,410.—Tents. Orr, R. P., of New York, U.S.A.

A tent frame consists of a board floor (*a*) supported about a foot above the ground by longitudinal sill (*b*), posts (*c*), erected along the edges of the floor, rafters (*d*), and a ridge-pole (*h*). The posts (*c*) are held vertical by detachable skirt boards (*e*) and rails (*f*), and the rafters are stiffened by triangular tie-plates. A store closet is provided by connecting the bottoms of the sills by cross-boards (*k*), and the ends by hinged doors (*i*):

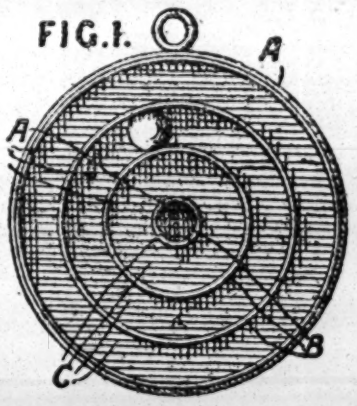




Access may be had to the store closet from the interior of the tent by means of a trap-door (*v*) in the floor (*a*). Removable panels are fitted between the posts (*c*) to protect the inmates when the tent is occupied late in the season. The tent frame may be mounted upon the bolsters of an ordinary farm wagon, as shown in Fig. 4, and is readily transportable thereon.

17,099.—Toy targets. Marshall, D., of Cheltenham.

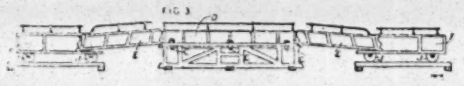
The face of a toy target (*a*) is divided up into annular channels (*c*) by circular ribs (*b*). The



channels are of a suitable size to receive and hold a ball or like missile which may be projected at the target. In a modification, the face of the target is covered with wire netting, the meshes of which receive and hold the missile.

17,402.—Amusements for fairs, &c. Taylor, W., of New Brighton.

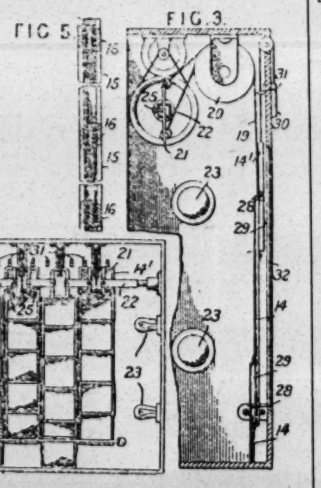
A platform (*d*) mounted on cranks (*c*) attached to shafts, one of which is rotated by a motor, is



hinged to platforms (*e*), in turn hinged to platforms (*f*) mounted on rollers (*j*). People walk over one set of platforms and return along another set.

17,093.—Advertising. Fawkes, J. W., of California, U.S.A.

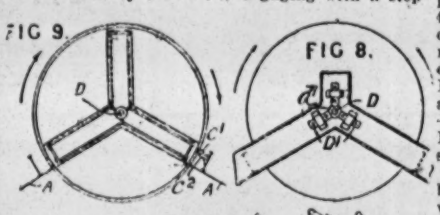
In an advertising device constructed as a theatre curtain or exhibition space a series of display frames, fourteen carrying pictures or other matter, is reciprocated by oppositely disposed

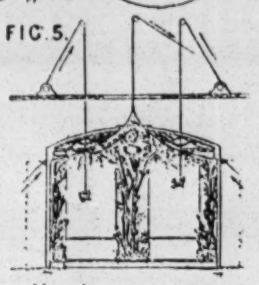


cranks (21), so that the adjacent frames move in opposite directions. Cords (19), mounted on pulleys (20), connect the frames and cranks. Supplementary frames (14¹) may be mounted at the top and bottom of the frames (14) in such a way as to be brought into a display position in the extreme positions of the main frames effected by pins (28) on the frames (14¹) working in loops (29) on the main frames. Each upper supplementary frame is counterbalanced by a weight (30) and held by stops (31). The frames are mounted in a casing behind an opening (32), in which is a sheet of glass of irregular cross-section, preferably with a series of leaf-like depressions. The frames may be constructed of V-shaped side-pieces (15) and S-shaped cross-pieces (16), into which the display plates are sprung. The crank-shaft comprises a number of preferably square sections (22), in which the cranks (21) are adjustably mounted by screws (25). The pictures, when transparencies, are illuminated by lamps (23).

17,449.—Producing illusions. Delloye, H. L., and Henard, A. E., both of Paris.

In a polygonal reflecting room for reflecting multiple images for producing illusions or decorative effects, each corner is constructed of mirrors fixed at the required angle to one another on a vertical shaft (*d*), the different pairs of mirrors having different decorations, such as columns, plants, or flowers, &c., so that the same room may be made to represent in turn a large room with columns, a flower garden, &c., by rotating the corner mirrors. The corner mirrors, after rotation, are kept in line with the fixed mirrors (*a*) of the walls by a bolt (*c2*) engaging with a stop

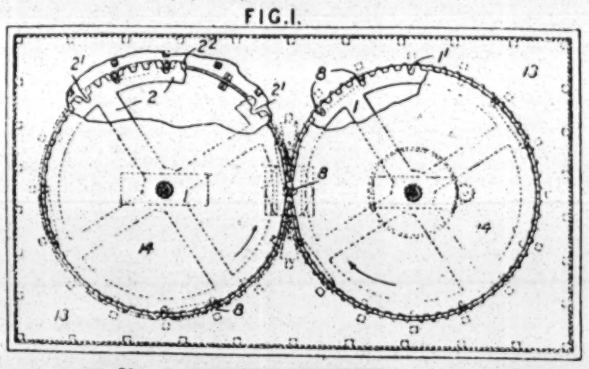


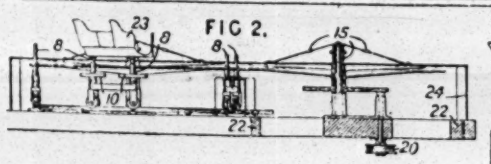


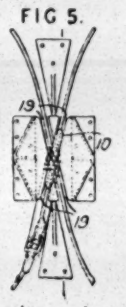
(*c1*, Fig. 9). The movable mirrors are adjusted vertically by sliding pieces (*d1*), fastened to a ring (*d1*) and engaging with the rotating shaft (*d*, Fig. 8). The ceiling is made to harmonise with the room decorations by decorated cupolas, which, fastened to frameworks on rails, can be made to occupy the upper part of the room in succession, or a fixed cupola with accessory screens may be used. Additional effect is given by illuminated objects suspended on wires passing through holes in the cupolas or screens (Fig. 5).

16,730.—Transporting apparatus; roundabouts. Darcy, F., of Philadelphia, and Speck, S. H., and Hill, H., of West Haven, all in U.S.A.

A rotary transporter, as applied to a roundabout, is described. Intermeshing gear-wheels (1, 2, Fig. 1) have a series of corresponding slots (1¹, 2¹), which engage supporting-rods (8) of the cars (23, Fig. 2), and carry them round in a figure-of-eight course. The slots (1¹, Fig. 1) are between the teeth of the wheel (1), but the slots (2¹) take the place of teeth in the wheel (2). A flange (2²) continues



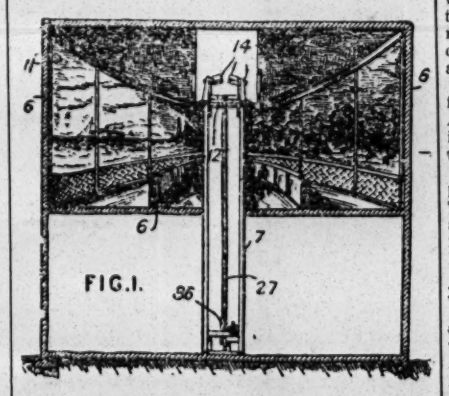


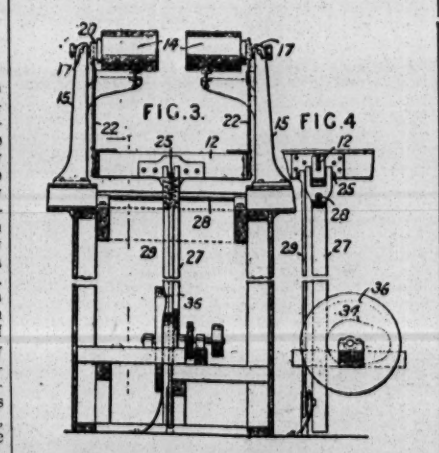


the sides of the slots (2¹). The crossing-over of the car is effected by the parts (10, Figs. 2 and 5) entering guides (19, Fig. 5), as shown. The whole device is driven from a pulley (20, Fig. 2), and is enclosed by a fixed platform (13, Fig. 1) and revolving platforms (14), the latter being supported by tie-rods (15, Fig. 2). A casing (24) on foundations (22) is added. The wheel (2, Fig. 1) may have pin-teeth, in which case the flange (2²) may be omitted. Four wheels or more may be used instead of two.

17,357.—Scenic exhibitions. Gordon, R. G., of Alberta, Canada.

An illusion of travelling in a ship, &c., is produced by imparting up-and-down and side movements to pictures projected on an enclosing wall or screen (11) by rocking a cradle (12), carrying the picture slides (20), in a universal manner on pivots (25, 28). The spectators reach an enclosed part of the stationary deck by a central companion way or shaft (7), and a series of stationary lanterns (14) are adjustably mounted in curved slots





(17) in pedestals (15) at the top of the shaft. The picture slides are connected by links (22) to the cradle or rocking frame (12), which rocks on pivots (25) in a forked upright (27) mounted on a horizontal shaft (28). The upright (27) is rocked by a cam (34) and a face cam (36), acting on a bar (29) fixed to the pivot (25), imparts a rolling motion to the cradle.

EARL'S COURT SKATING RINK.

THE SKATING BOOM.

CHAT WITH MR. P. W. WILLARD.

Remarkable success has already attended the roller skating rink in the Empress Hall in the Exhibition grounds at Earl's Court. The rink was opened on Dec. 5, and is the property of a company known as Rinking, Ltd., the managing-director of which is Mr. P. W. Willard, who has opened a rink at Balham, and is directing arrangements in connection with the establishment of others at Nottingham, Bristol, and Cardiff. The Empress rink—where Mr. E. Court is manager and Mr. Robert Aginton the "star" fancy skater—will finish the present season at the end of March, but Rinking, Ltd., will run it for the next seven successive winters.

If anything had been needed—and it has not been—to give roller skating a fillip, the blizzard visitor of this week gave it. The mammoth rink at the Empress Hall has been packed at every "session," and there are three of them every day. Roller skating lay practically dormant in this country for eighteen years until Mr. P. W. Willard came along and set 400 men to work converting the old Empress Theatre at Earl's Court into a vast skating area. Many of us can remember the Empress Theatre as "Venice," with its lakes and gondolas; again as a complete "Japanese Village," and again as a "Jungle." To-day the roll of the wheeled skate is heard day and night, like the roar of the surf, in this aspect-changing building. To-day acres of maple-wood make a skating surface second to none in the world. "Meet me at the Rinkeries, Earl's Court," has now become an oft-repeated phrase between young couples who daily keep tryst there. In few places in London is the convenience of young people studied to such a degree as at the Empress Theatre. There are alcoves, warmed by special apparatus, where one can sit and watch the skaters as long as one pleases. Everywhere white-capped waitresses are willing to supply all kinds of refreshment.

Mr. Willard has built and "run" more rinks than any other living man. As long ago as 1872 he was managing one in Sydney, and since then every big town in America, Great Britain, and the Continent, and even in far-away Japan, has been indebted to his enterprise for the chance to indulge in a delightful pastime. "Be graceful—skate!" is his motto, and every moment of his life is devoted "to making the advice good," as he himself says. That motto laid the foundation of Mr. Willard's fortune. Mr. Willard was first in the field in this country with roller skating, and started the present boom, for the Empress Hall was the first rink to be opened.

To suit the convenience of patrons there are at the Empress Rink three sessions daily, viz., 11 to 1, 2.30 to 5.30, and 7.30 to 10.30. Over 8,000 pairs of skates, provided by the best English firms, have been stocked, the hire of the same being well within the reach of all at the prices of 6d. per pair for ordinary skates, or 1s. per pair for ball bearing skates. A cosy and comfortably furnished club, entitled "The Empress," has been erected, and will be found an ideal rendezvous for constant visitors.

Many novelties will be introduced by the management from time to time, embracing skating gymkhanas, fancy dress carnivals, sports on wheels, push ball, hockey, and polo. There are three refreshment bars at which first-class refreshments will be furnished at most moderate charges, and an excellent military band is in attendance at every session.

A great boon to those learning to skate has been furnished in a specially set apart "Learners' Annexe," where the assistance of twenty skilled instructors is at the service of those requiring them.

The price of admission has been fixed at sixpence, but season tickets may be obtained for 7s. 6d., or 17s. 6d. for those providing their own skates, with, of course, the use of floor. The rink is thoroughly warmed and carefully ventilated, brilliantly lit, and tastefully decorated.

Rochdale Christmas Fair.

THERE can be no doubt that, under Mr. Mitchell's able management, Rochdale Winter Fair maintains to the full its great popularity. The show list includes Sedgwick's great No. 1 menagerie, Blackley's cinematograph theatre and the No. 2 concern—living marvels; Barker's fine art gallery is also on exhibition.

THE machine novelties, always an attractive list at this Fair, were mainly provided by the Mitchell family, and included the Lessee's steam yachts, W. Mitchell, jun.'s, motor-cars, Thos. Mitchell's racing birds, T. Forshaw's bicycle track, and J. Sharp's range of park swings.

THE other amusements were: Shooting ranges by Hughes and Martin and John Sharp. The throwing games, in endless variety, were provided by Messrs. Thomas, Butterworth, Ingham, Henshaw, Forshaw, and Martin. Variety stalls and roll-up boards by Messrs. Redfern, West, and Blackley. Football penalty frames by Forshaw and J. Chadwick, and the new houp-la sensation by Forshaw and Ingham Bros.; J. J. Butterworth provided the refreshment saloons.

The Fun City at Bath.

Mr. Fredericks has again succeeded in drawing together the most attractive company of entertainers for the annual holiday fair at Bath. These include Miss Agnes Beckwith, champion lady swimmer; Aeolia, the daring gymnast; the Elbad, thought readers; Prince Ishmael, Indian Fakir; the beautiful Leoville, wire walker; Professor J. Whitmore, illusionist; Miss Della Fredericks, the dainty vocalist; Madam Grace Burns, with her wonderful exhibition of working bees and ants; and the Bioscope, with up-to-date pictures. The band is that well-known combination, the Scarlet Ladies' Orchestra. There are also the usual side-shows and stall novelties, the whole making one of the best entertainments of its kind in the provinces.

ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR AT "MERRIE ISLINGTON."

Just about the time that Messrs. Read and Bailey started the World's Fair at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, some thirty years ago, the prophets of evil said "that British Fairs would soon be a thing of the past." One learned pundit averred that "the London showman would soon be as extinct as the dodo." The moral of the above remark is a most ancient one—"Never prophesy until you know."

The Fairs of Great Britain have increased and prospered with the growth of the nation. London to-day contains more shows than existed fifty years ago in the whole of the United Kingdom. Yet London is not the greatest centre of British showland. The World's Fair took hold of great London, and it supplied a demand which no other form of cheap and popular amusement can supply.

The people want the fair, and they support it, and that is the economic reason for its existence.

Mr. T. E. Read, the enterprising lessee, has broken all previous records this year in the extent, variety, and drawing power of the world of shows he has massed together on the covered space at his disposal. This year the Gilbey Hall (a new extension of the Great Hall) is crammed by show and machine novelty, and every available inch in the immense Central Hall is occupied by amusements dear to the heart of the British public.

The Main Entrance Avenue.

Here we find the gigantic Christmas tree provided by Mr. Read for his armies of children, who delight to bring their parents to the Fair. Mr. Frank Turner, as usual, has a splendid array of up-to-date automatic machines and novelties, and side-show novelties in the entrance way.

The trade exhibits, too, in the entrance are of great interest to showpeople and the general public. There are traction engines by R. Garrett and Sons, engineers; electric light appliances by F. A. Glover and Co. (the electricians of the Hall); and trucks and ladders by H. C. Slingsby. The refreshment stalls are by Messrs. W. R. Slatter and Son, and Messrs. Gordon and Dilworth exhibit their well-known sauce and other specialities.

The Great Central Hall.

The superb cinematograph theatre of Mr. Wm. Taylor occupies the premier position. The artistic front from the *atelier* of Marenghie et Cie., Paris, is a gem of beauty, and the magnificent organ discourses the best music. Mr. and Mrs. Taylor must feel as the conqueror Alexander felt when he lamented that there were no other worlds to vanquish. Mr. and Mrs. Taylor have achieved the highest possible pinnacle of success in the profession that for their whole lifetime they have so singularly and fully adorned. It is a show of shows.

Mr. Frank Turner's Exhibits.

Mr. Turner's shows are a special feature of the World's Fair. This year he exhibits, in addition to the automatic machine galleries and pavilions, the Fun Factory, the Mysterious Castle, the Electric Fish Pond, the Military Rifle Range, and a galaxy of small machine novelties.

The Side Shows and Mystic Temples.

W. Le Neve and Norah Sullivan with their school of athletes and boxers, John Hasling with midget show and fat girl show, Wm. Bedford with the miniature animal jungle, "The Secret of Life" Temple, and the weird demonstrations of the Greek mysterious magic of the ancient Greek magicians, Lewis's marvellous pythons and other huge snakes in picturesque snake jungle, and Read's Haunted Swing and electric kicking stairway form the exhibits of the invincible band of fun-smiths and expert showmen in the Great Hall.

The Machines and Roundabouts.

These include Wm. Wilson's three exhibits—the motor-car switchback circular track, the jumping horses, and the big wheel; Mr. Read's Channel Tunnel Railway, and the helter-skelter tower, or "slipping the slope."

The other exhibitors are H. Read with rifle jungle, C. Bailey with similar concern, Flinston Brothers with their famous Brooklyn cake-walk machine, and Messrs. Slatter and Son's juvenile roundabouts.

In the New Gilbey Hall.

The side shows and varieties are Stanborough and Hughes' portable Empire Theatre of Varieties, the Mandingoe Warriors in native dances in times of peace and war, Montezuma, the marvellous horse, the Marvellous X-rays and Electric Wonder Show, Hyatt's new machine, the aeroplane revolving cars and his second machine novelty, the juvenile motor-cars and rollicking porkers, Estelka Daly, the expert cheirotechnist, Thomas's roundabouts and swings, a set of bicycles and racing cars, H. Read's No. 2 shooting range, and auto machines by F. Turner.

The Old Fair Attractions in the Gallery.

Here, on the four sides of the vast quadrangle of the hall, are some of the most up-to-date variety frames, throwing games, and hoop-la maypoles. These are provided by those experts of the minor novelty world, Messrs. Pickard Brothers, Hussey Brothers, Taylor, Sharpe, Brown, Walcot, Street, Slatter, Bedford, the Novelty Company, Traylen, and others.

Of Wombwell's menagerie and of the great Free Circus we have already spoken in our first notice of this Fair. To sum up the whole matter, Merrie Islington maintains its proud pre-eminence as being in word and in deed the World's Fair.

The attendance on Boxing Day exceeded all previous records, and everything is going strong and well.

BOSCOMBE HIPPODROME REOPENED.

The reopening performance of the Boscombe Hippodrome on Monday, Dec. 21, was under the distinguished patronage of Lord and Lady Abinger. On the rising of the curtain the orchestra played the National Anthem, and Lady Abinger was presented with a bouquet by Mr. Fredk. Mouillot. Quite a transformation has been effected, mainly due to the entirely new proscenium, the façades of the tiers of boxes in cream and gold, also the old decorations giving way to Watteau paintings. The electric light has been entirely readapted, and everything has been done appertaining to comfort and to make it a brighter and more compact and elaborate hippodrome. An additional entrance has been built, with a vestibule and cloak-rooms, and there are now two lounges at either end of the promenade. There is also a new fireproof curtain of steel and asbestos, supplied with water sprinklers. Great credit is due to Mr. Bertie Crewe, the architect, and also the contractors, for the way in which the work has been carried out.

An excellent bill had been provided, which included Wizard and Irene Stone, performing "the globe of life"—looping the loop on a motor-cycle—the most daring cycle sensation ever presented. Alice Pierce was very successful in her impressions of popular players; as a tenor vocalist Arthur Hickman was heard to great advantage; the Three Panamas, in a comedy acrobatic pot-pourri, were extremely clever, and their "tumbling" performance kept the house in convulsions; Arthur Croxon, as the mimetic comedian, was much appreciated; and Wyotti, the witty juggler, is rightly named, and received deserved applause. The Hippodrome pictures, portraying all the latest subjects, were extremely good.

In conclusion, Bournemouth has now one of the most elaborately decorated and appointed Hippodromes in the South of England, and we wish Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece every success in the future.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(*Continued from page* 11.)

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—The holiday bill of fare is provided here by Messrs. Dudley Bennett and T. C. Wray's company in *The Catch of the Season*. Mr. Herbert Dyer as musical director contributes largely to the effect of the entertainment. Mr. Wm. Green takes the part of the Duke of St. Jermyns, acting nightly with humour; a sweeter little Cinderella than Miss Dorothea Clarke it would be difficult to find, fairylike, girlish, and buoyant, and her performance is delightful; Mr. J. W. Bruce's Lord Dundreary is an excellent character study; Master Ernest Grate is really funny as the page, Bucket; and Miss Alice Hamilton (Lady Crystal), Miss Barry Eldon (the Hon. Honoria Bedford), and Miss Kate Robertson (the Hon. Sophia Bedford) all do admirably; and Miss Clair de Vere's Duchess of St. Jermyns is attractive. Mr. Franklin Miles's Sir John Crystal is excellent. Mr. Geoffrey Berwick's caricature of the police magistrate is amusing; and Miss Grace Hampton makes a charming Lady Caterham, with a combination of stage presence, ready wit, and dash providing an ideal and dignified portrayal.

NORTHWICH.—PAVILION.—Proprietress, Mrs. Fletcher; Manager, Mr. Phil Royston.—Mahatma, assisted by Mr. Chas. N. Steen, is the draw this week. Query Stratton presents a good turn, and Billy Briggs does well. Ruffell's Bioscope pictures are both humorous and entertaining. There are two performances nightly this week.

CENTRAL THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden.—Messrs. Chas. Lintone and Vic Hunter's pantomime company in *Robinson Crusoe* is the attraction this week. The title-rôle is impersonated by Mme. Lizzie Lintone with much vivacity; Miss Helen Barton plays Polly Perkins gracefully; Misses Alice and Lily Raymond do good work as Billy Crusoe and Alice Perkins; and Mr. Vic Hunter is a diverting Mrs. Crusoe; Mr. Chas. Orme gives an excellent delineation of Will Atkins; Messrs. Dan Dunville and Harry Wallis are an extremely funny pair as Pinchem and Snatchem. The specialities include the Lintone Trio, concertina experts; Serpento, the human eel; Stylvo and his cleverly-trained dog Rennie; the Three Sisters Raymond, vocalists and international dancers; Jack Gascoyne, a good ventriloquist; and the Flora Troupe of expert dancers.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr Fred Morgan.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's excellent company in *The Christian* opened here on Boxing Night to a crowded and delighted audience. Miss Doris Gilham gave a powerful and well-pleasing representation of Glory Quayle, and won favour all round. Mr. Henry Renouf was equally effective in the part of John Storm, whilst Miss Margaret Brodie excellently acted that of Polly Love. Miss Senna St. Clair was good as Mrs. Callender; Mr. Edward Ling was successful as Father Lamplugh; and Mr. C. Turpin was commendable as Archdeacon Wealthy. The other characters were suitably filled. The piece was well mounted.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—Mr. John Haddon's company in the pantomime *Jack and the Beanstalk* had an overwhelming reception at the two performances on Monday. The lyrics are by Mr. Brian Daly and the music arranged by Mr. Ernest Ramsay. Produced under the personal supervision of Mr. Haddon himself, the pantomime went with every success Miss Alina Obrey as Jack admirably rendered her songs, assisted by an efficient chorus, and her performance was much admired. Mr. Dave O'Toole was amusing as Dame Trotter, and with Mr. Bob Baxter as Silly Billy caused endless amusement. Messrs. O'Malley and Brown as Dip and Dap, the Squire's flunkeys, showed themselves capital comedians. Mr. Hal Forde, sen., was good as Squire Musty, and Miss Bessie Knight as his niece Dora was most successful. Mr. Tom Packer as Grumbles the Giant aroused much appreciation. The other parts were admirably filled. The pantomime is well staged, the singing and dancing good, the costumes very pretty, and the scenery, by Mr. Geo. Harris and Mr. William Charles, much to be commended.

AGRICULTURAL HALL ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—The New Era pictures continue successful here, and the singing of Miss Gladys Vane is much appreciated.

AGRICULTURAL HALL.—Mr. Chas. Thurston's World's Fair is still here, and is being extensively patronised.

NOTTINGHAM.—EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—The artistic display of the Elliott Savonas in their Palace of Orpheus makes a charming setting for the musical contributions, and an enthusiastic welcome is accorded them; Frederic Melville's "Moto Girl" provides a mystifying illusion, which pleases; the musical comedy duo *Charlie's Visit* makes for endless fun as presented by Eadie and Ramsden; Henry Carlton adds to the merriment in his musical absurdity, *The Window Cleaner;* Melia and Mozarabar are a clever pair of equilibrists; and the programme is capitally helped by Pat Rafferty, comedian; John Macauley, character vocalist; Frank Sylvo, comic juggler; Alf Holt, mimic and whistler; and Bioscope pictures.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. E. Lockwood; Treasurer, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—As an exponent of ju-jitsu Yukio Tani stands high, and he is drawing large and enthusiastic admirers to each performance; the Tossing Austins give an interesting exhibition of juggling and dancing; a smart little sketch entitled *Hester's Mystery* is supplied by Horace Pollock and company; Bellman and Moore are comedy artists of no mean order; the Ansonia Trio supply a clever acrobatic turn; Mons. Gerard accomplishes some daring and skilful feats of jugglery; the Four Aces submit a dexterous acrobatic performance; Rose Elliott vocalises pleasantly; Tom Yorke proves an entertaining coster comedian; and there are excellent films on the Barrascope.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietors, Theatre and Entertainments Company; Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joseph Coyle.—Mr. A. E. Smith's pantomime *Jack and the Beanstalk* was produced here on Boxing Day. The house was packed to overflowing, and enthusiasm was unbounded throughout. The music is sparkling and catchy. The dresses are pretty and the scenery is good. The choruses are sung with much tunefulness and precision, and the play is carried through without a hitch. Some effective and clever dances are given, and the excellent humour provided keeps the audience in a constant state of hilarity. Miss Kathleen Garnon as Jack moves brightly through the piece, and is a generous contributor to the musical department, scoring well in her songs, the chief of which are "Have you got another girl like Mary?" "I don't care if there's another girl there," and "Bombardier"; Miss Frankie Barton as Jill, the principal girl, besides having a charming stage appearance, possesses a fine voice, which is used effectively in her rendering of "Oh! oh! Antonio," and "Poverty-street." The Sisters Holman as Margery Daw and Tommy Tucker fit their parts successfully. Their dancing is something above the average, the tambourine dance especially giving evidence of marked ability. Their duets are well rendered and very pleasing. Mr. Billy Taylor, a clever comedian, sustains the part of Dame Durden, his comicalities and versatility providing endless amusement. He is ably supported by Foley and Francis as Simple Simon and Johnny Horner. Miss Gertie Leno makes a dainty Queen of Light, her acting is graceful, and in her singing of "When the roses bloom again" she scores a success. The Bendenes give a fine contortionist display, and Miss Ella Verrier appears as a clever young dancer.

OLDBURY.—PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Jas. Tyrer.—This week's bill includes the well-known gymnasts Petro and Leon, who perform some remarkable feats; Walter Levalle, coster comedian; Miss Bellmore; T. W. Barrett, the nobleman's son; and the *Cinderella* pantomime on the Bioscope. Other turns include A. Vowles Reeves and Miss Pritchard.

OLDHAM.—COLOSSEUM THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Wm. Eastwood.—Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Levy and J. E. Cardwell's juvenile company is doing good business in the second week of their stay in the pantomime *Babes in the Wood*. Wee Georgie Wood again proves most amusing in his delineation of Leslie, and Little Peggy McDonnell sings and dances in dainty fashion. Miss Dolly Dodds charms the audience with her vivacious acting as Marion, and Miss Daisy Wood makes a dashing Robin Hood. Misses Trixie Wyatt, Annie Brumby, Marie Lumberg, and Annie Adamson are excellent in their respective parts; Miss Jennie Hughes is a graceful Fairy Dew Drop, and sings her numbers with good effect; Mr. J. G. Aitken as Sandy Simple contrives to get much humour out of his part, and is ably seconded by Mr. Jimmie Watson as Lucinda Lovejoy, both artists causing hearty laughter. Mr. Neil Hardy makes a smart Baron Strangeways. The villains of the piece, Willing and Weary, are ably sustained by Messrs. Graham and Barron, who do some smart dancing; Mr. Harry Leander is capital as Friar Tuck; and Master Jack Harrison does well as Grinde, the miller. Specialities are provided by Harry Leander; Levy and Cardwell's International Dancers; Wee Georgie Wood, and Peggy McDonnell; and a harlequinade in the form of a circus delights the children.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—This house of entertainment was reopened with a variety programme, with B. A. Rolfe's Ten Dark Knights topping the bill, and some excellent singing and musical selections are given. Coram, in his popular ventriloquial act, is a capable turn; Sinclair and Whiteford, in *Getting Even*, arouse hearty laughter; the Austral Trio are excellent in a refined musical mélange; and the Gautschmidts are clever in an acrobatic novelty. Vena Valma sings and dances very well; Elsie Claire is a talented singer; and W. G. Webber contributes some finely-sung bass songs. The Bioscope concludes with an interesting picture.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Kilrow.—Rosie Ring, in a novel pot-pourri act, has a good reception; Lloyd's Napoli Singers provide capital harmony; Mark Melford and company are very amusing in the comedy sketch *Non-Suited;* Wishart presents some smart illusions; and the Sisters Terry sing well, and gain much applause. Lester and Moure are good in an eccentric comedy act; Ellis and Ellis are smart in a singing and dancing speciality; and E. Frisbey is very good as a boy soprano. The Dottoscope depicts new pictures.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Nuttall.—Elma and Rega, acrobats in funniosities, are smart; Biff Hall is a capital character comedian; Arthur Alexander and company present a well-acted dramatic episode, *For the Honour of the Family;* Bains and Reed are smart in an original speciality; Sid Kenneth and Maud Kane, an excellent comedy duo, appear in *A Few Words.;* The Milfords sing and dance well; and Cliff Rock has a good voice. McAskell is a very amusing comedy conjurer. The Dottoscope is a feature of the programme.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. Thorne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. Sharrocks.—Jake Friedman and company top the bill in *Happy Holland*, and have a hearty reception. Miss Florence Hunton as Gretchen is dainty, and sings well; whilst Jake Friedman appears with great success as Jakey Doclevasal. A realistic picture of the Gotch and Hackenschmidt match is well received; Minnie Hunt and Rhys Thomas are amusing in their duologue, *Her Birthday;* a clever turn is provided by S. and G. Auer; Massona is a smart juggler; and Lena Pana, at the piano, is capital. Chas. Sloman, quaint comedian, completes the programme.

OXFORD.—EAST OXFORD THEATRE.—Lessees, East Oxford Theatre, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Stuart.—Messrs. G. M. Polini and Austin Melford's company are here with *The Silver King*, which drew a large audience on Boxing Day. Mr. Fred D. Daviss easily scores high honours with his penetrating and sympathetic portrayal of Wilfred Denver; Mr. Edward J. George is well at home in the part of Daniel Jaikes, which fits him admirably; and Mr. Stanton-Sharp is strenuous and convincing as Capt. Herbert Skinner. Miss Louie Hale is effective as Tabitha Durden; Miss Margaret Rorke does well as Susie; Miss Madge Morley easily gains the sympathy of her audience with a clever study of Nellie Denver; and Miss Flossie Hall Daviss gives proof of considerable ability as Cissie.

NEW THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Oxford Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. C. Dorrill; Assistant-Manager, Mr. G. T. Lucas.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company, including Miss Agnes Verity and Mr. Austen Milroy, opened to a full house on Boxing Day with *From Slave to Princess*. Mr. Austen Milroy gives a very robust and spirited interpretation of Prince Julian, and Mr. Roy Jackson is powerful as Michael Bardoni. Mr. R. Harley West is very successful as Lieut. Alexis; Mr. Fred Clifford does well as Peter; and Mr. Will Hook is amusing as Patrick O'Brien. Miss Dorothy Last gives a graceful rendering of Vera; Miss Daisy Carlton makes a vivacious Amelia; and Miss Agnes Verity sustains Princess Claudia with great force and conviction. On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday the same company presented *Under Two Flags*.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—Mr. Savile's twelfth annual pantomime in town, *Puss in Boots*, is running right merrily in this, its second week. The company has not been slow in getting the rough edges knocked off incidental to the initial performances, with the result that now the pantomime runs with complete smoothness and precision. The success already achieved augurs well for a most brilliant run of several weeks.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Stead.—A capital programme is being submitted here this week, and is contributed to by the following talented artists:—The Four Royal Scots, in a musical sketch entitled *When the Cat's Away;* W. L. Murray, who gives a series of muscular studies and also an exhibition of weight-lifting; the Leotard Brothers, whose hand-balancing and hat-throwing is excellent; Radie Furman, who delights with her dancing; J. A. Cassels, Scotch comedian, who is very funny and entertaining; Alf Chester, comedian, who is applauded; Richard Taylor, whose ventriloquial turn causes much amusement; and S. Bedford's company, in an enjoyable sketch entitled *The Second Mrs. Chester*. The Hippodrome Bioscope also adds to the entertainment of the holiday audiences.

PEMBROKE DOCK.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Tom Barger; Business-Manager, Mr. Norman Barger.—Opening on Boxing Day and continuing for the following week, Mr. Oswald Brooks presented to record houses *The New Housemaid*. Mr. Edward Mervyn is capital as Peter Pinkerton, J.P.; Mr. Reginald Hargreaves plays well as his nephew, Frank Pinkerton; Mr. Howard L. Tracy as the Hon. Bertie Rashleigh is good, and keeps the fun going briskly when disguised as the new housemaid; Mr. Archie Selwyn maintains to perfection the part of the Rev. Stephen Stingles, equal praise being due to Mr. P. Ramsay Forman as Marmsbury Doom, a detective. Mr. Herbert Colley in the rôle of Rosebery, the butler, causes considerable amusement, and he receives able support from Miss Caroline Carlton as Lettice, the cook. Miss Dot Seilby as Caroline, Peter's sister, is well suited to the part; Miss Babs Stuart is clever as Dulcie, her niece, and gains general admiration; Miss Renee de l'Estrade capably maintains the part of Lucy Merton; and Miss Marion Pollock as Nellie Haddock and Mr. Charles White as Police-constable Nailor complete the cast. *Brokers Ahead* is presented as a curtain-raiser with much success, the cast consisting of Mr. Edward Mervyn, Mr. Archie Selwyn, Miss Marion Pollock,(Mr. Herbert Colley, and Miss Renee de l'Estrade.

PENTRE.—TIVOLI PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Managing-Director, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—An attractive bill draws large audiences here this week. Corbin's Dogs top the bill, and their performances are the acme of canine intelligence; Kyoto, in a Japanese mysterious and humorous act, is deservedly applauded; Jack Marks, the juvenile Hebrew comedian, as "Ikey Moo" is much appreciated; The Vanderbilts are artists of exceptional merit, and portray various characters with great effect; Ernesto is an equilibrist and juggler who holds the audience by his skill and dexterity; Allen and Harte, speciality dancers and duettists, are cordially received; Mario Leonard, in pictorial numbers, is much appreciated; May Geraldine, comedienne and dancer, is entertaining; and Miss Amy Anderson and Co., in *The Banana Queen*, contribute untainted comedy. The Tivoliscope concludes.

PERTH.—THE PERTH THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—Perth is fortunate in being visited this week by one of Mr. George Edwardes's companies in the renowned musical comedy *The Merry Widow*. Miss Mysie Devine makes a charming Sonia, and meets with much success, as also does Mr. Frank Green, who takes the part of the Prince. Mr. Edward D'Arcy and Miss Ada Thomas are very humorous as Baron Popoff and his wife; while Mr. Fred Fowler as Nisch also provides much of the humour. Mr. Ripley Evans gives a capital performance as Vicomte Carmille de Jolidon; and Mr. William Allison as the Marquis de Cascada, Mr. Fred Pedgrift as M. de St. Brioche, and Mr. Clifford Seyler as General Novakovitch, all show ability. Miss Katie May as Frou-Frou dances gracefully.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—The Royal was closed last week in preparation for the pantomime *Cinderella*, which was produced on Boxing Day.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. J. Field.—The Christmas week programme would have satisfied the most fastidious, all turns being alike of first-rate merit. Les François, who have had the honour of appearing before His Majesty, furnished an acrobatic performance which was an entertainment in itself; Mendel, the blind pianist, again appeared, and gave his wonderful musical display; Spangles and Sawdust performed some marvellous mid-air feats; the Xentrics were warmly applauded for some skilfully executed dancing; Allan and Hart presented an interesting number as Protean artists; Edie Coolville proved herself an attractive and entertaining comedienne; Pop Dearly sang some taking coon songs; and the Cosman Couple presented a smart comedy act.

Large holiday audiences have nightly packed the building to enjoy a fine programme. Miss Gwennie Llewellyn, a youthful vocalist possessing a voice of surprising clearness and range, is "star," and fully deserves her position on the bill, her selected songs being loudly applauded. The Seven Perezoffs provide an amusing comedy juggling pantomime; Dusty Rhodes again meets with a hearty welcome, and Harry Tate's No. 1 Company furnishes a diverting skit on the less-enjoyable side of motoring. Mlle. Eldee furnishes some particularly graceful poses in an original number; Walter King's woes still supply much amusement, and Clarice Sefton is an accomplished specialty dancer. Some interesting films on the Palascope conclude.

PONTEFRACT.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Tom Diacoff.—That Edward Ranier's company secured a success last week is evident in so far as they remain at the top of the bill this week in another stirring playlet, *A Son's Devotion*, which is no less appreciated; the Four Dorians do a graceful and clever gymnastic act, and are decidedly above the average; Rousby and Rene, in a duologue *Fine Feathers*, give a very human study of Lancashire life in a sympathetic style; Gibbon and Bell are nimble and expert dancers; the Sisters Henderson play the harp and dance equally well, whilst Fred Bamford whistles like the lark; Tom Gott, comedian, delivers himself of some most amusing patter in the very broadest "Yorkshire"; and Gertrude Martini sings some very pertinent songs in a convincing way. The pictures are all that can be desired.

PORTH.—THE PALACE.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole; Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—Heading the bill here we have Fraser's "Enchanted Iona," a turn which merits the greatest praise; Will Probyn's Brooklyn Comedy Four in a nautical scena are accorded a warm reception; Gene Selby does remarkably well as the original Coffee-coloured Coon; the Bros. Dean, twin dancers, are exceptionally smart; the Zaid Trio contribute greatly to the evening's enjoyment in their original speciality; Frank F. Street meets with approval as a comedian; and the Sprees deserve credit for their endeavours in the scena entitled *Twickenham Ferry*. The Palascope, as usual, pleases all.

PORTSMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison presented *Peter's Mother* here last week. Mr. Townsend Whitling played Sir Timothy Crewys with ability; Peter Crewys was sustained in effective fashion by Mr. Vivian Gilbert; Mr. Edward Jephson made a typical Dr. Blundell; Canon Birch was ably taken by Mr. Walter Russell; and Mr. Drew Mackintosh did sound work as John Crewys. Miss Mary Griffiths was well suited as Lady Belstone; Miss Josephine Rae as the spinster sister was amusing; and Miss Hilda Sims as Sarah and Miss Violet Ley as Lady Mary Crewys were admirable. *Turtle Doves* was the curtain-raiser.

Mr. George Dance's company opened its tour with *Havana* on Boxing Day, when the house was crowded to excess for both matinée and evening performances. The production possesses all the advantages of lavishness in the way of staging, new and handsome costumes, and brilliant scenic effects for which Mr. Dance is conspicuous. The ladies and gentlemen of the chorus carry out their duties with ease, and reflect credit upon their conductor, Mr. Albert Vernon. Miss Hebe Bliss seems happily placed as Consuelo; she possesses both good voice and dramatic expression. As Jackson Villiers Mr. Cecil Parkes acts expressively, his friend Hon. Frank Charteris having an agile and effective exponent in Mr. Bay Russell, who assists in a semi-acrobatic dance with Miss Violet Dene (Maraquita). Mr. Sydney T. Pease is highly successful as Nix, his doleful countenance and droll mannerisms making him irresistibly funny; his matrimonial monologue and *Merry Widow* skit with Anita (Miss Gladys Guy) were hits of the evening. Mr. Tom Seymour as Reginald Brown made a typical sailor, full of rollicking fun and humour, his songs "Filibuster Brown" and "How did the bird know?" being favourite numbers. Miss Helen Langton made an imposing Isabelita, while the fortune teller Symra Verrions had an attractive exponent in Miss Toni Seymour. Bombito had a satisfactory impersonator in Mr. Frank Sealey. Adolfo is in the capable hands of Mr. George Story.

PRINCE'S.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—Pantomime is again the reigning attraction here, the task of producing it having been entrusted to the competent hands of Mr. J. F. Elliston, whose excellent work was admired by crowds who visited this popular house on Boxing Day. The story *Cinderella*, so dear to children, was condensed by Mr. St. John Hamund, and was elaborated in two acts comprising eleven scenes, many of great brilliancy, under the stage-management of Mr. Fred Mulvey. A dainty and charming Cinderella was seen in Miss Connie Leon, who distinguished herself in the song "Bubbles." Her suitor, Prince Florizel, was characteristically impersonated by Miss Maude Mortimer, whose dash and go made her an ideal principal boy. Her chief numbers were "Let's have a song about the boys," "The White Man," and "I want you to see my girl," and all went remarkably well. The success of the pantomime largely depends upon its comedians, and the engagement of Mr. W. T. Thompson for the rôle of Buttons goes far to fulfil that requirement, his quaint drollery keeping the audience in high spirits whenever he is on the boards. He was well supported by Mr. Stanley Vandyke as the impecunious Baron Harduppe, their principal hit being a caricature of the leading variety artists. Miss Minnie Miriam made a smart, captivating Dandini; the Fairy Godmother had a stately representative in Mlle. de Velin, and Father Time's impersonator was Mr. George Belrose. The jealous Sisters were amusingly portrayed by Misses Edith Barwell and Annie Cohen, the latter's song being "Oh, oh Antonio"; the Sisters Edwardes (Colin and Rose) are a valuable acquisition to the cast. Mr. J. Collins's Six Monte Carlo Girls sang and danced cleverly. The chorus and orchestra did well under the direction of Mr. Basil Horsfall.

KING'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Marner; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Joseph Hart's racing spectacle, *Futurity Winner*, came here last week. Lennard and Veraker in illumined pictorial songs took the fancy of the house greatly; the Bijou Juveniles gave a pleasing show; Gus Garrick was very successful; Lanas and Montes, comedy acrobats, proved an acceptable turn; Le Freya contributed an artistic and novel performance; Raven Wood, card manipulator, had some excellent tricks; and Anitita and August in a bright comedy act; Mike None, the Irish cowboy; the Four Maisonias, in an extremely fine musical act; and the Barrascope pictures completed a capital bill.

The programme this week is *The Butler's Party*, presented by Joe Peterman; another capital playlet is *In the Old Neighbourhood*, by Jas. Callaghan and Jenny St. George; the Brilliants display skill on the xylophone; the Carmos are clever jugglers and balancers; Henry and Tyler are amusing in their cycling comedy, *Humours of the Highway;* Henry Helme, Tony Black, Iris Banfield, and the Barrascope Pictures complete the entertainment.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Captain Warren Wright; Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—Heading the bill last week were Muller, Chunn, and Muller, hoop jugglers; Henry Hilton, card manipulator, gave a clever entertainment; the Resua Trio in an acrobatic tight-wire act were good; the Three Brights in a refined vocal and instrumental speciality were admirable; Dave Samuels, American Hebrew comedian, caught on well; the Sisters Brooke, dainty vocalists and dancers, were well received; Jack North, the peculiar comedian, was responsible for a much-liked turn; Henry Herne, Ida Millais, and company presented an original water sensation in three scenes, gaining hearty and well-deserved applause; and Payne's excellent and seasonable pictures concluded.

For the star turn this week the management presents *The Little Stowaway*, which was well received by appreciative audiences. An exceptionally strong cast includes Mr. John K. Walton as the good-hearted old sea captain, whose kindliness touched the hearts of the "gods." As Lieut. Burton, R.N.R., Mr. Arthur Temple has a thankless part, but plays it to perfection. Miss Marjory Armstrong as the Little Stowaway proved herself a capable little actress in a very trying part. The Vasilescus provide a clever and laughable triple horizontal bar act; Bert Weston makes a decided hit with his clever and amusing patter and his topical song; May Loftus, described as the juvenile champion clog dancer of the world, is heartily applauded; Mr. Fred Elton has a tuneful voice, and his sketch at the piano is much appreciated; Joe Humphreys scores with his song "Bravo, Billy," and other excellent turns are provided by Irene Meldon, Ike Monckton, and Payne's Bio-Photoscope.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Acting-Manager, Col. Roberts, V.D.; Resident-Manager. Mr. George Harris.—Yukio Tani headed the bill here last week. The Louisiana Trio of coloured vocalists and dancers pleased greatly; Frances McNulty, characteristic comedienne, gave an excellent turn; Mlle. Renée, in a refined instrumental act, charmed everyone; the Three Romas were wonderfully smart; the Victas, barrel jumpers, were also very good; Mike S. Whallen, Irish comedian, was immensely popular; and the Hippo. pictures of up-to-date character finished a good programme.

This week the principal attraction is Fred Karno's sketch *The Yap Yaps*. D'Arc's Marionettes in imitations of famous vaudeville artists provide another good turn. Mr. Arthur Croxon displays ability as a mimetic comedian. The Three Panamas, Edie Anderson, Chas. Leighton, and a capital picture from Ruffell's Bioscope, Raised from the Ranks, pleases greatly.

PEOPLE'S PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Pearce.—This house receives its full share of patronage. The entertainment is sustained by J. P. Boston, Dick Bradly, the Haydors, Mabel and Rosa, Madge Dorsay, Mint and Mart, the Two Bruntons, Clown Agouste, and Lilian Savaro.

PRESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, the Executors of the late W. Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—By arrangement with Mr. Cyril Maude Messrs. Lyn Harding and Sidney Cooper are presenting *The Flag Lieutenant* here, and it has proved an immense draw. The company is an exceptionally strong one all round, and the manner in which the play is produced is worthy of the highest praise, the scenery, dresses, and uniforms being really magnificent and perfect to the most minute details. The large audiences that have attended bear testimony to the popularity of the play. Mr. George Mallett is a typical Vice-Admiral Sir Berkeley Wynne; Mr. Lionel Atwill as Richard Lascelles (Flag Lieutenant) is admirable, and both looks and acts the part to perfection; Mr H. Montague Love is the Major William Thesiger, and it would be difficult to find anyone better suited to the part; Messrs. Hugh Wakefield and Lyonel Watts as Horatio Hood and Edward Lee (Midshipman) are both good; Mr. W. J. Yeldham as the mischief-making General Gough-Boyle is capital; Mr. John Wheatman is typically humorous as Michael Palliser; Mr. Edward S. Petley as Surgeon Walter Crutchley is most natural; Miss Florence Jackson is a firm favourite with the audience, and her Mrs. Cameron is an excellent bit of acting; Miss Viva Birkett also comes in for a large share of the applause for her excellent and sympathetic rendering of the part of Lady Hermione Wynne; Miss Marjorie Dore is very good as Viola Hood; Miss Stella Leigh also scores as Mrs. Gough-Boyle, and Miss Winifred Vallant deserves praise for her capital Lady Dugdale.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Matthew Glenville and Fred Osmond's pantomime *Aladdin* is this week's attraction. The company is a good one, and includes Miss Hettie Zillwood, Miss Maggie Hobart, the Ella Walmer troupe of dancers, the Brothers Lavelle, comedy acrobats, the Three Behans, comedy artists and dancers, and the Gaudo Vocal Male Sextette. With such speciality turns included in the cast it is little wonder that the fun is fast and furious from rise to fall of the curtain. Miss Hettie Zillwood is a sprightly Aladdin, Miss Maggie Hobart an exceedingly dainty Princess Balroubador, Mr. Matthew Glenville an irresistibly funny Emperor, and Mr. Fred Osmond a no less amusing Vizier. Mr. Fowler Thatcher is the diverting Abanazar; Mr. Arthur E. Behan a very funny Mrs. Twankey; the Bros. Lavelle are in their element as the two policemen, Pee-Lah and Kopp-Ah; Mr. Freddie Edwards is a capital Wishee-Washee; Mr. J. Sutton Edwards is good as Diabolo, the slave of the lamp; Miss Lou Charlesworth, a charming Electral, the genie of the ring; and Miss Cissie Behan and Miss Kitty Behan as Pekoe and Cher-Ke respectively win much applause.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—Captain Roberts, the Army Staff trumpeter, assisted by two ladies, two ponies, and his comical soldier boys, Curt and Alexander, gives an excellent display, in which he proves himself to be a musician, athlete, and balancer of no mean order; Williams and Warden have a side-splitting vaudeville act, *Mr. Dooley*, which evidently pleases; Johnson and Bert present their novel act *A Queer Customer*, and win much applause; Lewis's Mannikins is an excellent fit-up and a most cleverly manipulated show, and certainly the best seen here; Beattie and Babs win much applause for their bright song and dance scena *A Pavement Rehearsal*, which is very cleverly rendered; Margaret Drew is a dainty singer of chorus-songs. Billy Williams, Jenny Shields, Arthur Royce at the piano, and the Bioscope are other attractions.

RADCLIFFE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. George T. Sante; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Boothman.—Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company opened to a good house with *The Lancashire Lad*. Mr. Charles Stafford was good as David Elmore, and Mr. G. C. Wallace was seen to advantage as Max Carlton; Mr. Hugh Wallace gave a capital rendering of Jem Wincott; Mr. Will Brereton would be hard to beat as Professor Boulanger; Mr. W. Kenion as John Willie and Mr. G. Watson as the Village Sponge added to the amusement of the piece; Miss Nell Oliver was most effective as Lorna Wincott, and Miss Molly Monaghan caused much merriment as Mother Wardle; Miss L. Pearce fairly revelled in the part of Jane Alice, and Miss Phyllis Elton deserves a word as Jessie. The three variety artists, Miss E. Roselle, Miss Gertie Gaye, and Miss Daisy Gaye, introduced a turn which proved most acceptable, and the stage effects during the turn were admirable.

RAMSGATE.—ROYAL PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; Resident-Manager, Mr. Dan Forrest; Lessee, Mr. Ernest Mansell.—The Christmas attraction at the Royal Palace Theatre has this year taken the form of pictorial pantomimes, represented by Mr. Ernest Mansell's graphic life-motion pictures. The shows have been given twice nightly since Boxing Day, and the audiences have been large and appreciative except upon those afternoons when the streets were snowbound, the weather adversely affecting the attendance at matinées arranged. The pantomimes, effectively presented in picture, are *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves* and *Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp*. The films are excellent and full of interest, and they are supplemented by others of a general character. Mr. T. C. Callaghan, the well-known eccentric comedian, has also proved very popular at the various shows. Mr. Mansell is continuing with success his series of sacred concerts on Sundays.

RAWTENSTALL.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; General Business-Manager, Mr. A. R. Feather.—*The Eyes of the World* was presented here on Monday by Ethel van Praagh and J. Edward Whitty's clever combination. As Helen de L'Orme Miss Ethel van Praagh was most powerful and convincing; as Esme de Carnac Miss Beatrice Fitzhugh gave a clever rendering; Miss Nellie Garside was a delightful Susanne, and Miss Irene Stanhope an admirable Avice de L'Orme; as Hector de L'Orme Mr. George D. Daiper was most successful; as Gaston de Carnac Mr. Will Casey was natural and refined; and as Achille Mr. J. Edward Whitty was decidedly good, Mr. Charles Stirling being equally successful as Octave.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton.—Messrs. F. J. Little and F. Darcy are having a capital run with their pantomime of *Whittington and His Cat*, which they have produced in sumptuous style. The title rôle is filled with grace and vivacity by Miss Beatrice Varley, who is also highly successful in her singing; Miss Vera Dudley is a dashing Captain Ralph Mainbrace; Miss Ida Brophy acts very daintily as Alice Fitzwarren; Miss Adelaone Tohie plays effectively as the Princess Zorilda; and Mr. J. Templar Ellis as Alderman Fitzvarren, Mr. Syd Crossley as Sarah the Cook, and Mr. James Kurry as Idle Jack keep the fun going fast and furious throughout. Messrs. Clifton and Gibson do some skilful step-dancing as the Bo'sun and his Mate; Mr. James Stratton is very good as the representative of Tom the Cat; Miss Beatrice Moore is a captivating Fairy of the Bells; Mr. Caryl H. Storrs sings and acts well as the King Rat; and Mr. Geo. Bishop is an able impersonator of the Emperor of Morocco. The Oowana Girls are a capital quartette of dancers; the Enrico Martiolo Trio introduce some very skilful and daring feats of juggling and balancing; and the Mohamed Ben Mohamed Troupe give a very smart acrobatic performance. The pantomime is elaborately mounted and the scenery and costumes highly effective.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. E. Draco.—The artists engaged here are Elsie Earle, who introduces a pleasing song-scena, "*A Garden of Flowers*"; Jack Hamilton, a clever comedian and dancer; Tangar, the West African wonder worker, who gives a capital sleight of hand and magical display; the Three Hodginis, in a very smart and novel acrobatic turn; and Lew Towers, an amusing light comedian. Arthur Dandoe's company appears with success in a very amusing musical burletta, entitled *The Phonograph Belle*; and some very effective pictures are shown on the Bioscope.

LARGE TOWN HALL.—Messrs. Poole's Myriorama is here, as usual, for the Christmas season, and is again drawing crowded houses. The pictures depicted embrace scenes in all parts of the world. A capital series of animated pictures is also shown, including an excellent series of scenes from "Oliver Twist" and a large number of humorous subjects. The variety entertainment is also of a high order, and comprises Miss Frederica's wonderful performing terriers and cake-walking pony; the Maclaines, in a smart conjuring display; the Tissots' living marionette entertainment; Eileen and Maynie, in a pleasing musical turn; and the Seddons, the lady juggler and the lazy waiter.

REDDITCH.—PUBLIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. T. E. Field.—Mr. Edmund Tearle's company was here on the 26th, 28th, and five following nights. On the 26th *It's Never Too Late to

was excellent. On the 30th, in *East Lynn*, Miss Clinton played Lady Isabel admirably.

ROCHDALE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Burton.—*The Village Blacksmith* is the attraction here this week. Mr. Sam Livesey submits a powerful impersonation of John Strong; Captain Leo is cleverly sustained by Mr. Albert Sinclair; Harry Strong is admirably enacted by Miss Lily Leicester; Mr. Edwin Maydew is an effective Lucas Marler; Mr. Fred Haming an amusing Billy Twigg; Miss Cassie Le Grande is a convincing Ruth Parkins; and Miss Maggie Edwards portrays with telling effect the rôle of Kate Strong.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—The Harvey Boys, who head the bill here this week, create roars of laughter with their comedy boxing act; Stewart and Morgan submit some acceptable vocalism; Martin Henderson, blind musician, renders some finely-executed numbers on the concertina and piano; and other items are submitted by Marie Powell (comedienne), Albert Letine (female impersonator), Morimura (Japanese illusionist), Ada Gatley (in a pot-pourri speciality), and the Empire Bioscope pictures.

NEW HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, The Jackson Family; Business-Manager, Mr. Jno. Jackson; Resident-Manager, Mr. James Jackson, sen.—George D'Albert and company present *The Outpost;* the Warsaw Bros. are deservedly appreciated in their musical comedy act; Dare Austin, in *His Wedding Morn*, submits a capital duologue; the Raymond Trio are refined and clever in their musical and dancing act; and Miss Maudie Ford (comedienne), Dick Kendall (comedian and dancer), Joe Almasio (jumping juggler), and the Hippodrome pictures complete an attractive programme. The Voldam Bros. were unable to appear on Monday evening.

ROTHERHAM.—HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. Edgar Fox; Resident-Manager, Mr. Claude Shayler.—An excellent bill has been got together here for the holiday week, crowded houses being the result. Ajax and George are responsible for an extraordinary gymnastic act; and Kent and Earle give a very pleasing drawing-room scena; David Poole has a smart ventriloquial turn; and the Celtic Trio are brimful of fun in their comedy act; the Cheers introduce a number of highly-trained cats; Dan Robans as a Continental vocalist is heard to great advantage; Harvey's American Boys and Girls score a great success in their song-and-dance novelty; Messrs. Frank Bernard and company introduce a funny sketch in *Hello*—Howard, a lawyer, is cleverly enacted by Mr. M. C. Arthur Fairfax, and Blatz is most amusing in the hands of Mr. Frank Bernard. The Hipposcope contines to provide some excellent films.

THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Messrs. E. C. Jason and Richard Nightingale are producing here an elaborate pantomime of *Dick Whittington*, and are receiving record patronage. Miss Maud Beaumont is a smart exponent of the title-rôle, being ably seconded by Willie Vanda as Thomas the Cat; Miss Vera Snowden as Alice is graceful; Mr. Wm. Miller is amusing as Fitzwarren; Mr. Fred Ward, an old local favourite, gains many friends as Jack; Mr. Allen Amber scores as Sarah; the Willoughbys are seen to advantage as Captain and Mate of the Saucy Sally, knockabouts; Miss Daisy Dashwood is a sprightly Prince of Morocco; and Miss Olive Audrey as Fairy Bountiful sings with great effect. Specialities are introduced by the Vandas, the Willoughbys, Peace and Ward, Salida and Vone, creole performers, and Terry and Snowden. Rustic ballets are prettily executed by specially-trained children.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Mr. Sam Duckworth's company had a good reception by a full house on Monday, when *The Conscience of a Judge* was presented. Mr. Stanley Bedwell as Herbert Granstone ably sustained the title-rôle; Mr. Frank Eaglesfield did well as the villainous Sir Edward Mervin; Miss Eva Moss was very successful as Jessica Draycott, and a charming Ethel Vaughan was that by Miss Mabel Coleman. Mr. Martin Pedler was smart as Cecil Bentley; Mr. Frank Eden caused much fun as Horatio Winters in conjunction with Mr. Dalton Bosher as John Summers and Miss Bessie Frank as Mary Wilson. Little Kitty was cleverly portrayed by Miss Elsie Isaacs. Mr. Cecil Renton (Geoffrey Granstone), Miss Mona Dawlish (Mrs. Draycott), and Mr. Ford Edwards (Old Jervis) also did good work.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—Fred Granville's comic pantomime *Beauty and the Beast* commenced here on Boxing Day, and draws excellent houses. The production is under the personal supervision of Mr. Granville. It is brought up to date, and the scenery, by W. Wells and T. Holmes, is excellent. Very pretty dresses add much to the show. The gags are highly amusing. Some excellent songs are rendered in creditable style. The dances are very clever and well arranged. Beauty is smartly played by Miss Maud Sprightly; Miss Lily Sprightly is a dashing Silver Buttons; Miss Hilda de Gray is a charming Prince Greatheart; Mr. Sam Foster (Sammy), Mr. Juan Wood (Winkles), Miss Florrie Sprightly (Wilhelmina), Daleno and Stream (two Bailiffs) work hard and are very successful laughter-raisers. The speciality dancing by Kennedy's Kiddies is very smart. There are also very amusing and acceptable specialities by the three Sisters Sprightly, Messrs. Daleno and Stream, and the Sisters Kebble. Mlle. Benita does well as Fairy Sunlight. Two shows nightly and several matinées

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Slatter.—Zona Vevey, assisted by Herr Max Erard (with special scenery by W. Maughan), gives a clever performance in *My Lady's Bower;* Sandy McNab in *The Egyptian Mummy* keeps the house in roars. Other good turns include Horace Sade, characteristic dancer; Frank E. Ford, dancer; Les Zelovas, smart Continental acrobats; the Deuchars, duettists and dancers; Fame and Fortune, comedy eccentrics; and Braund and Davies (Teddy and Bert), comedians

OPERA HOUSE AND ASSEMBLY ROOMS, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. E. Percival.—Among this week's pictures are Tarn Mountains, Princess Tricksy, The Terrible Fly, Providence of Chance, Father's Holiday, Servant of an Acrobatic Family, Holiday of Life, On Guard at a Powder Magazine, and I Will if I Catch You. "Far away" is the illustrated song, by Mr. Tom Sherlock, which goes well.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. H. D. Lyle.—Messrs. F. Marriott-Watson and Sanderson Moffatt's company is here again this week with *A False Wife*. Lieut. Geo. Mansfield is skilfully drawn by Mr. Sanderson Moffatt; Mr. Elton Morgan gives a breezy portrayal of Ben Rattler; Mr. Owen Edwin is amusing as Archibald; Jean Berand's villainy is successfully depicted by Mr. Reg. Kloof; Mr. Geo. Langham gives a satisfactory study of Sir Colin; Zorak is carefully drawn by Mr. F. Marriott-Watson; as Estelle de Lussan Miss Florence E. Florence wins great praise; Agnes Weyland leaves nothing to be desired as depicted by Miss Phyllis Hamilton; Sarah is skilfully presented by Miss Flo Norman, and as Bessie Miss Norah Waylett does well.

SHEFFIELD.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—According to the custom of recent years, musical comedy is the Christmas theatrical fare provided here. On Boxing Day there was a crowded audience to welcome the great Sheffield favourite, Miss Marie Studholme, who appeared, supported by Mr. Frank Curzon's company of London artists, in the tuneful and brilliantly-staged musical play *My Mimosa Maid*, by Paul Rubens and Austen Hurgon. Miss Studholme, with her pleasing vocalism, charming personality, and fascinating smile, was received with enthusiasm, and it was evident that she still occupies a proud and honestly-earned position in the estimation of all lovers of the lighter form of dramatic entertainment. All the parts were well played, and the band and chorus were first rate. Miss Studholme's visit is for thirteen nights, so big business is assured.

EMPIRE PALACE.—The Moss Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—The holiday bill of fare at the palatial Empire comprised the following talented artists:—Bella and Bijou, the popular and smart duettists, in their clever society burlettas; the Ten-Ji Troupe of extraordinary Japanese wonder-workers and conjurors; Mr. Charles Stevens, vocal comedian; La Belle Nello, equilibrist, &c.; McCann's well-trained dogs; Hayes and Wynn in a novel act; Mr. Tom Bryce; Miss Jeannie Mackay; the accomplished Dumond Trio, speciality artists; &c. The performance concludes with new Bioscope pictures.

THE HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. D. Elbourne.—Crowded houses have this week cheered the Christmas company, which includes Brinn, in his spectacular athletic act and feats of strength; Ted Curtis and his agile piccaninnies; Mr. C. F. Best, an original humorist; Mr. Herbert Clifton; Mr. W. Reynolds's company; Mr. Ted Cowan; Friend and Downing; and the diverting pair Maxie and Pete. The Barrascope, with beautiful coloured films, is still a popular feature.

GRAND THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. A. W. Turpin.—Animated pictures and vaudeville turns are delighting big crowds at Sheffield's leading picture theatre.

CENTRAL THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Jasper Redfern and Co., Ltd.—This resort, devoted mainly to animated pictures, is doing first-rate business.

THE PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. Peach.—First-rate moving photos of every description are here delighting Bioscope lovers.

ALBERT HALL.—Manager, Mr. J. Peace.—The celebrated Chas. W. Poole Myriorama and Bioscope entertainment opened for a month's stay on Christmas Eve, and big houses have been the rule through the holidays. The variety troupe includes the Royal Banzais, Japanese jugglers; Little Alright; Mr. Harry Raymond; Mersano, the "Captain Kettle" conjuror; Mr. Dan Davies; Mr. Willie Dean; Mr. Sydney Bach; Mr. Frank Lyndon; and the Seven Bramusas, instrumentalists.. A grand mechanical and electric spectacle —"The Warfare of the Future"—is loudly applauded.

MONTGOMERY HALL.—The Imperial Animated Picture Co. is located here with the latest marvels in coloured films and up-to-date photography.

SHREWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Director, Mr. W. Yates Gregory; General-Manager, Mr. Thos. Baugh.—Following an attractive Christmastide programme of variety turns and pictures, which drew large and appreciative houses, the management has this week, with characteristic enterprise, put on an entirely different set of turns. Savile Bradley and company are here with a very smart series of pantomime sketches, their knockabout business being particularly good; Professor Lorenzo and his finely-trained troupe of performing dogs proves a bright and pleasing item; the Sisters Ely are pretty and talented; the Maddison Bros., quaint comedians and comic boxers, provide plenty of wholesome fun; Castancia is a charming juvenile comedienne; Mitz, an expert Japanese juggler, wins enthusiastic applause; Sid Herman is a faithful delineator of Hebrew types, and works hard to entertain; and the Godfreys contribute a funny sketch entitled *The Slavey and the Coon*. Bioscope pictures, up to date and good, are, as usual, highly appreciated

SMETHWICK. — ROYAL. — Proprietor, Mr. C. Barnard; Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson.—Pantomime is unusual Christmas fare here, but that it is much appreciated has been fully demonstrated by the crowded audiences which have attended since Messrs. Cullen and Carthy opened on Saturday with *The Babes in the Wood*. It is a merry piece throughout, with pretty ballets and catchy songs. The plot is hatched, as usual, in Cloudland, and the Palace scene is a fitting climax to a series of effective settings. The company is a strong one. Miss Bessie Cohen is the principal boy, and is a great favourite as Robin Hood; Maid Marian (Miss Ruby Roya) and the Babes (Misses Dollie Cullen and Elsie Jordison) are also well received. Messrs. Cullen and Carthy as the Robbers, Little Cluley as Bantam, and Tom Drew as the Dame, are clever and entertaining comedians. The chorus is well balanced and the dresses are capital.

SOUTHAMPTON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fredk. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Weston.—Mr. Walter Howard's Lyceum drama *The Prince and the Beggar Maid* is the holiday attraction, and proves a huge success, the acting, staging, and effects being very fine throughout. Mr. Howard himself gives a capital portrayal of Prince Olaf.

PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. Trussell.—John Hart's racing scena *The Futurity Winner* is proving a great draw, the finish being highly sensational. Feldman's Beau Ideal troupe of juveniles are particularly clever; and others appearing are:—Bernardo, comedy juggler; Dan Merrett, drum soloist; Annie Heath, comedienne and dancer; Donnas Trio, speciality artists; and Beale and Broadway, comedians.

HIPPODROME.—Joint Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and W. de Frece; Manager, Mr. H. Yardley.—That wonderful magician Chung Ling Soo is still a popular favourite, his tricks completely mystifying everyone; the Louisiana troupe of dancers are three experts; Willie Gardner dances on skates; Diamond and Hart are smart cross-talkers; and Harry Russell and company in a comedy sketch, *Binks' Blunder*, cause roars of laughter.

PHILHARMONIC HALL.—Messrs. Andrews's pictures are seasonable, and the hall is packed at every performance.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—The Walturdaw animated pictures are attracting big crowds twice nightly, all the latest films being shown.

VICTORIA HALL.—Mr. Jacob Studt's world's fair and bioscope singing and talking pictures are creating quite a sensation, and liberal patronage is accorded this popular entertainment.

PIER PAVILION.—This building has been transformed into a skating rink, and at the opening on Boxing Day all three sessions were crowded. Mr. Edwin Roberts, an old-time roller skating champion, is rink master and instructor, and the venture promises to be a huge success.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Directors, Messrs. George Conquest and Richard H. Nerney; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—Houses packed to overflowing gave striking testimony throughout the Christmas holiday to Mr. Edward Graham-Falcon's efforts to provide a pantomime of both interest and enjoyment. *Aladdin* is an entertainment in two parts, as diverting as it is successful. The scenery is an exceptional feature of excellence, while the dresses are tasteful and elaborate. Some clever turns in the speciality entertainment in the second part win especial favour, in which the La Dor Troupe figure prominently as acrobats with smart feats; the Misses Carrie Warner, Amelia Graham, and Lorrie Wells as dancing girls; Mr. Albert Laurence, with a pleasing rendering of "Dear heart"; and some remarkable bone-solos by Mr. Percy Galino. The name-part has an all-round exponent in the talented Miss Amy Bellwood, who gives every satisfaction; the Princess, too, is equally fortunate in having so able an interpreter as Miss Daisy Kersey, who is successful in acting, singing, and dancing; Mr. Albert Laurence is a comedian well suited to the rôle of Widow Twankey; Mr. Ernest Carlton as Abanazer, the magician, is also prominent; and Mr. Will Burton makes a good character of the Emperor.

SOUTH SHIELDS. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—Mr. Stephen Pritt's drama répertoire company was playing *A Woman's Passion* last week. Lord Vale was ably portrayed by Mr. Edmund Grogan; the Drabengro was a powerful performance by Mr. Archie Helsby; Mr. David McFarlane was a good Sir Randal Derrick; Miss Rosa Mervyn a forceful Claire Trevenen; Miss Emmie Barton a successful Winifred Hamlyn; and the gipsy queen was well accounted for by Miss H. Lawson, the comedy element being well sustained by Little Poulton, Miss Gertrude Purnell, and Mr. A B. Douglass.

At the Theatre Royal this week Mr. T. Edward Ward's company appear in *The Love of the Princess*, a clever drama by Mr. C. Watson Mill. Mr. Wilson Coleman as Prince Conrad has a fine presence, and acts with considerable power; Miss Maisie Hanbury is a charming Princess Idalia, and captures the hearts of the audience. Another good part is Lady Irene, by Miss Olive Lloyd. The cast is an unusually strong one.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, the South Shields Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—Albert and Edmunds troupe of comedians were here last week in their sketch, *Neighbours;* Charles Bignell, in amusing songs, was well received; Bennie Barrow, a young baritone, showed great promise; Stacey and Williams were a clever comedy pair; good barrel jumping was exhibited by the McIleaveys; and other good items were contributed by Nance Elder, comedienne; Walter Aubrey clever dancer; and the Bioscope.

The top of the bill this week is Machnow, the Russian giant, the tallest man in the world; Wood, Wells, and Wilkins are good in their humorous vocal sketch, *The Piano Tuner*; and E. J. Sheldon is an expert whistler and dancer. Sybil Lester, the girl vocalist; Duncan and Godfrey, in their famous coster comedy, *Me and 'Er;* Edward E. Ford, Australian sundowner, submitting impersonations of various faces; Harry Leybourne, mimic; and the Bioscope are also in the bill.

TIVOLI, LAYGATE CIRCUS.—Proprietor, Councillor J. K. Hall.—The Ormesby quartette of vocalists provided some excellent numbers last week; Max Lindo exhibited great strength in his athletic exhibition; Charles Cassell was popular; and the Tivoloscope completed the bill.

This week Marcus Boyle, London comedian, has a big reception; Sisters Russell, burlesque actresses, display ability; and Mme. L. Clair makes a good impression in her illustrated songs. The Bioscope completes the bill.

STAFFORD.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr James Elphinstone.—*A Bunch of Violets* is the holiday attraction here. Mr. W. S. Hartford as Sir Philip Marchant is the central figure, and as the gentlemanly villain brings to bear on his rôle the skill of an experienced actor; as Mark Murgatroyd Mr. Horace Sinclair gave a fine interpretation of the level-headed Yorkshireman; Mr. David Curtis's Jacob Schwartz was a good assumption; Mr. William A. Armour sustains the part of Harker with effect; Miss Dora Price sympathetically fills the part of Lady Marchant; Miss Rosamond Thompson made a charming Violet; and Miss Florence Tyrrell made an effective Mrs. Murgatroyd, her acting throughout being a fine study.

STALYBRIDGE. — HIPPODROME. — Lessee and Manager, James Fioni; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. A. Jackson.—A strong variety company is occupying the boards here this week. The bill is topped by Fritz Ressler in his sensational looping the loop act on a half-inch wire track. The company includes Mr. Sam Dalton, comedian, and Miss Lillian Travelli, comedienne, two strong local favourites.

ST. HELENS. — HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley and Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Leo Weisker.—Charles Aldrich, at the top of the bill, is a host in himself; his wonderful versatility and marvellous quick changes delighted everyone. Zeta Grey created much amusement with her sketch, singing well and causing great fun with her dialect. Godfrey James sings with a sweet tenor voice; Mr. and Mrs. Shelley give a sketch which is truly described as comedy, and are greeted with roars of laughter; Probyn and Bates are also very funny; and Lauri Leyton is a ventriloquist of merit.

STOCKPORT. — THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and Mr. J. E. Cardwell's pantomime *Little Red Riding Hood* was produced here on Christmas Eve, and is now running merrily, and to the evident pleasure of large audiences. It is delightfully entertaining throughout, with its sparkling music, up-to-date songs, magnificent dresses, and charming scenery, together with an abundance of wholesome fun provided by clever comedians. Among the latter Messrs. Denby and Dent as Doleful Dan and Whimsical William are very funny, and achieve much success with their amusing patter and their comical saying, "Have a bit a dance?" Mr. Billy Melia as Sunny Jim gives capital support, and is appreciated for his clever clog-dancing; Mr. V. Wakeman provokes plenty of laughter as Dame Trot; Mr. J. J. Mannix acts the part of Baron Hardup satisfactorily, and displays ability as a coon vocalist and dancer; Miss Fanny Adamson is a captivating Boy Blue, and is making "Afraid to come home in the dark" a very popular ditty; charming and graceful and a delightful vocalist is Miss May Gibson, who fills the part of Miss Muffitt; Little Iris Vivienne in the title-rôle is sweetly unsophisticated; Miss Helen Dunscombe is a very pleasing Will Scarlet; Miss Daisy Clifford sings and dances ably as Marjory Daw; Miss Clara Bramwell impersonates the good fairy, Silvia, with dignity and grace; and Mr. Will Gibson in the character of the Wolf makes the most of the part.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, the Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—Seasonable fare also forms the attraction here in the pantomime *Robinson Crusoe*, which is presented twice nightly by Mr. Harry Burns's company, and provides a capital entertainment. A comedian of undoubted ability is Mr. Arthur Aiston, who as Will Atkins is genuinely funny and amusing; Dame Crusoe, in the hands of Mr. Henry Curwen, is responsible for much mirth; and the Brothers Ramsey as Captain Cuttle and Mate are a diverting pair of knockabout artists; Mlle. Du Roche is a delightful Robinson Crusoe and Miss Marie Bell makes a charming Polly Perkins, whilst the Yankee-Doodle Girls are distinctly clever, and command much appreciation.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES. — CASTLE THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Charles Imeson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cecil Imeson.—Mr. James Kiddie's pantomime, *Little Aladdin*, opened here on Boxing Day. Miss Marie Beresford as Aladdin was very successful, her singing delighting the audience; Miss Lyé Jeffries made a charming Princess; vocalising with good taste, Miss Lily Ennes, as Pekoe, took well; Miss Emmie Milsted as Darkie Diabolo captivated the audience with her singing and dancing; Miss Rose Pareezer looked pretty in the rôle of the Fairy Queen; Mr. Harry Pleon made a good Widow Twankey, his impersonations in the Palace scene receiving loud applause; Mr. Joe Bell as Wishee-Washee was exceedingly funny, as also was Mr. Walter Purvis as Abarazar; Mr. Joe Burgess as the Emperor did well; and Ray and Ross as Spy and Kop caused much laughter. The chorus and ballet were very powerful, and Mr. John S. Kershaw conducted ably.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stainton.—Fred Storey, in *Rip Van Winkle*, heads the bill here, and has a hearty reception. The Delevines are very clever, and take well; Miss Georgette Thierry's company, including Mr. Bernard Liell, in a sketch, *A Daughter of the Revolution*, act with real dramatic skill, and are applauded; Rowlands and Ford, patterers and dancers, are successful; Sim Maree, contortionist, is very clever; Joe Belmont, human bird, whistles in rare style; and Harry Nelson, Tyneside comedian, is as popular as ever. The Bioscope concludes.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—Mr. M. Montgomery's stock company are giving *Flowers of the Forest* here, the leading characters being well sustained. Payne's Bio-photoscope is still very popular.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Miller; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. Moroney.—In the sketch *The Merry Widower* some ludicrous and amusing situations are ably depicted by Mr. Henry Herne, Miss Ida Millais, and company. Very smart acrobats and tumblers are the Faludy Troupe of Continental artists; the Saxonias are instrumentalists of no mean order, and their rendering of the "Poet and Peasant" is very fine; Effie White's dancing as "The Spirit of the Cave" is charming, and the coloured slides used are very pretty; Nell Cotter has a good appearance, and renders her songs well. Other contributors are Argo, Eugene Brant, Carelo, and the Bioscope.

SUNDERLAND.—KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. S. F. Davidson; General-Manager, Mr. Alexander Telford; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Sydney Reach.—Mr. C. St. John Denton on Saturday produced Mr. S. F. Davidson's first pantomime, *Sinbad the Sailor*. The book is written by Mr. William Wade and the music composed and selected by Mr. Forbes Martin. The scenery is particularly fine, and gives evidence of much labour, thought, and taste on the part of Mr. Julian Hicks, the designer. Particularly noticeable are the electric lighting effects in the scenes The Wreck, The Orange Grove, and The Diamond Valley, by Mr. C. Harland, all of which evoked much enthusiasm. The dresses are also worthy of special comment, for which great credit is due to Miss Fisher and Mrs. Nicholl. Mr. Denton has selected a very strong company of artists, all of whom appear to be putting their best talent into the work. Miss Jessie Wilton is the principal boy (Sinbad), and certainly does full justice to the part. Her vocal abilities are good, and quite on a par with her histrionic skill. Miss Wilton emphatically scores in two of her songs, "The White Man" and "I Want You." The principal girl, Miss Christina Roy, as Zobeida, also plays her part capably, and with charming grace, and is a most acceptable vocalist. These two artists present a pleasing duet, "A tiny seed of love," which meets with great applause. The song "Good Night" is also rendered by Miss Roy in exquisite style. Miss Madeline Rossiter acquits herself with remarkable success as the dark Princess Zorilda, and introduces some very clever specialities. Miss Rossiter introduces some graceful dancing, for which she was heartily applauded; her vocal efforts are no less satisfactory, and the duet "Timbuctoo," which she sings with Mr. Frank Lynne, promises to be one of the hits of the production. The second boy, Miss Sissie Brand, plays the part of Heesatoph with great energy, and also excels in song and dance. Miss Roberta Svensden is capital in every way as the Fairy Queen, and her vocalism stamps her a capable artist. Mr. Will Johnson endows the extravagant character of Mrs. Sinbad with a host of comicalities; he possesses a special gift of humour, which he thoroughly exercises, much to the enjoyment of the audience. The nautical rôle of Capt. Bowline is in the efficient hands of Mr. Fred Beck, who contributes no mean share to the general mirth. Mr. Frank Lynne acts commendably as Binbad, and is decidedly amusing. He sings an excellent song, "Sea shells," which is sure to catch on. Messrs. Walton and Lister, more popularly known as "The World's Worst Wizards," take the parts of First and Second Mates, and perform a conjuring act which created great amusement. Mr. J. A. Howitt (the energetic stage-manager) portrays the Old Man of the Sea in a manner most thrilling. The remaining rôles are all entrusted to most capable hands. There is a full chorus and ballet, and specialities are given by Miss Hope Trevelyan and little Nellie Denver. The last-named dances a hornpipe in quite captivating fashion. All concerned are to be heartily congratulated on the great success of the opening performances of Mr. Davidson's first pantomime.

AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Hy. Esden; Assistant-Manager, Mr. John Pellow. — This theatre was reopened on Saturday night with the pantomime of *Dick Whittington*. The production is under the supervision of Mr. James Kiddie, and from the opening performances it seems clear that this pantomime will take a good hold on the Sunderland public. There are ten scenes, and the setting is very fine. The music and costumes are also both worthy of special notice. Miss Lena Page, the principal boy, personates the hero, Dick, and earns the high appreciation of the audience both for her singing and her clever acting. Miss Nellie Merton, the principal girl, is charming as Alice. She sings delightfully in "The cat has killed all the rats" and "The lovelight in your eyes." Miss Florence Hilton acts admirably as Sir Algernon de Nash, and has a most attractive ditty, "The Merry Widow." Miss Lillie Storrie is a winning Fairy Queen, and proves herself a vocalist of considerable worth. Miss Edna Francis and Gipsy Ray also went through their parts in an excellent manner. The comedians were never idle, and never failed, and a burlesque fairy scene and card game were specially funny, and caused roars of laughter. Mr. Fred Spencer scored all along the line as the Dame (Fitzwarren's cook), his many absurd make-ups causing great hilarity. The Hannaway Brothers also seemed to have an endless fund of humour, and were continually appearing with some fresh drollery. Mr. George Rydon was an excellent Idle Jack and Mr. Denis McCarthy gave a splendid rendering of Alderman Fitzwarren, and both contributed liberally to the humour. Mr. Bert Hudson takes the part of the Cat, to the extreme delight of all, and more especially the children. There are numerous up-to-date songs sung in an excellent manner by many of the principal artists. The company is a strong one, and full justice is done to the piece by all concerned. There is a good chorus and ballet, and Miss Dorothy Dryden excels in special dances in a fairy ballet. The pantomime is well staged, and all effects are excellent.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden; Assistant-Manager, Mr. George Dunn.—Mr. Frederick Melville's company in *Her Forbidden Marriage* is drawing crowded houses this week. Miss Grace Lester gave a fine delineation of the arduous rôle of the Mother Superior; George Maddison was skilfully handled by Mr. Henry Lonsdale; and Lucy was sympathetically rendered by Miss Emilie Doone. The "villainy" was contributed by a very clever couple, Miss Florence Hunt and Mr. Louis Hector; Miss Rosie Leamore and Mr. Fred de Vere were a most amusing pair, the audience being kept in a continuous roar all the time they were performing; Mr. Wilfred P. Mansfield was good as Sir George Lancaster, and all the other parts were in most capable hands.

EMPIRE THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Hy. Esden.—At the head of the bill is a stirring Scottish spectacle, *The Gathering of the Clans*, produced under the direction of Mr. W. Selkirk. The scenery and music were most appropriate, and all the movements were creditably executed. A welcome reappearance was made by John Terry and Mabel Lambert, and their impressions of English types as seen through American eyes were clever; the old favourite Witty Watty Walton captivated the audience with his bright, rollicking ways and smart patter; Roma and Romani gave a refined and artistic musical turn, which was thoroughly appreciated; Charles Santon, famous for his double voice, sang his songs in an admirable manner; Miss Henriquette Maude, the little New Zealand Travelling Girl, is immensely popular here, and her entertainment is very successful: the Eight of Hearts all danced in clever style, and George Antill proved himself an entertaining comedian.

PALACE THEATRE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Lennox Barry; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Hy. Curry.—Charcot with his automatic man is at the top of the bill this week, and, together with his medium, is creating unbounded enthusiasm and amazement; the Vays are most realistic in their scena *Life in the Slums*, and yet introduce comedy with good taste; Luis Hardt, "the mighty atom," performs some marvellous feats of strength and displayed great muscular development; and Cavalli entertained with a good ventriloquial turn. Jock Walker and Oliver Conroy, comedians, Otto and Olgar, and James Lowery are also in the bill.

SWANSEA.—THE GRAND.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Page.—Mr. Leigh Lovell, Octavia Kenmore, and company presented a répertoire of Ibsen plays at the Grand last week. On the Monday they presented *A Doll's House* in irreproachable style. Mr. Leigh Lovell as Tovvald Helmer was at all times excellent; and Miss Octavia Kenmore as Nora Helmer presented a perfect study of the character. On Tuesday *Hedda Gabler* and on Wednesday *The Master Builder* were played.

Holiday attraction is provided at the Grand by Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company with *Peter's Mother*. Miss Violet Ley gives a humane and touching portrayal of the title-rôle and Mr. Vivian Gilbert's Peter is deserving of the highest praise. Mr. Drew MacIntosh is admirable as John Crewys, Q.C. Miss Hilda Sims as Sarah shows undoubted talent.

THE STAR.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. F. Powell.—Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company was here last week with *The Face at the Window*. Paul Gouffet was played by Mr. Scott Leighton, who was decidedly successful; Mr. Gilbert Hall's delineation of La Loup made one shudder, so striking was his naturalness; Miss Elsie Marriot-Watson as Marie de Brisson was very clever.

Mr. Fredk. Melville's company with *Her Road to Ruin* is doing good business at the Star this week. Miss Beatrice Edwards as Jess is an immense success, and Mr. Harry Walston as the curate plays cleverly. May Willoughby is rendered by Miss Alice Bowes in a charming style. Fine acting is also done by Mr. Alex. Bradley as Philip Hardy, the villain.

THE EMPIRES, LTD.—Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—Last week *Casey's Court*, with Mr. Will Murray as Mrs. Casey, proved a great attraction; *The Daughter of the Regiment* was charmingly performed by Mlle. Adele Prescott and company; George Young, the blind musician, was another of the outstanding features of the programme; accomplished singers and dancers, the Imperial Russian Troupe provided capital entertainment; and the Sisters Urma gave a novel trapeze display. Sybil St. Elmo pleased all as a ballad and operatic vocalist; whilst Vanando's ventriloquial act was most acceptable. Tom Collins excelled at bright comedy; and Beattie Kent sang and danced well. The Bioscope, as usual, was good.

A fine holiday programme is headed by Fred Karno's Troupe in *Mumming Birds*, and real good is the humour they provide. Another feature of the programme is provided by Miss Mabel Mavis, whose skill on the piano is exceptional. The Meymotts give a rollicking sketch, *Semi-detached*, in amusing style. Ethel Newman gives a monologue, "Her Wedding Day," which commands attention. The Brothers St. Clair are clever comedy knockabout cyclists; Leonette Roberty and her transformation dancers give a pretty exhibition; the Three Sisters Grosvenor are heard to advantage in old-time ballads; and B. Williams is an accomplished ventriloquist. The Bioscope picture is a seasonable one.

THE PALACE.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—A seasonable exhibition of pictures was given here last week, chief of which is the pictorial pantomime, Donkey Skin. Messrs. Tom Jones, John Stephens, and Miss Beatrice Morris render vocal items.

A real holiday programme of pictures includes The 10.40 Express and other fine films. The vocal part of the programme is given by Master Jimmy Northey, Mr. Andrew Bell, and Miss Maggie Lewis.

SWINDON.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wiltshire Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr Alfred Manners.—The above theatre reopened on Boxing Day with Mr. Reginald Dance's company in *Raffles*. Mr. Dance occupies the title-rôle with great success; Curtis Bedford is capably taken by Mr. Edward Irwin, and the Harry Manders of Mr. A. P. Bell is good. Mr. Oswald Griffiths displays ability as Crawshay; Mr. P. Alexander makes an excellent Lord Amersteth, and Mr. F. C. Poole an amusing Lord Crowley. Miss Frances Tetheradge acts the part of Gwendoline with charm and feeling, and Miss Marguerite Unetta sustains Lady Ethel with distinct credit. The Lady Melrose of Miss Edith Lofting deserves mention; Miss Mollie Tremaine's portrayal of Mrs. Vidal leaves nothing to be desired, and Marie, the French maid, is well taken by Miss Ethel Grahame.

TORQUAY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—The pantomime season is now in full swing here, and Mr. John A. Thomson's production of *The Babes in the Wood* promises to be even more successful than his previous ventures have been. From beginning to end the play is full of fun and frivolity, catchy songs, graceful and clever dancing, whilst there is not the slightest semblance of vulgarity in any shape or form. The dressing and staging of the piece are certainly excellent, and in particular should be mentioned the brilliant Flower scene at the conclusion of the first act, which is really a triumph of picturesqueness. Miss Pattie McCarthy as Robin Hood makes a dashing principal boy, and her graceful personality soon win her popularity. Miss Nina Carlton as Maid Marian gives a charming and winsome impersonation, whilst her vocal items are a great success, especially "Connemara" and "Ida from Devonshire," each of which earn her repeated applause. As the Babes Miss Cissie Williams and La Belle Sylvia are admirable, whilst the effective dancing of the latter is much admired; Mr. Frank Halpin is well placed as Will o' the Wisp, and his powerful bass voice is heard to considerable advantage; and Miss Norah Prendergast sings very sweetly

of the Baron is extremely good; Mr. Lovell Rowland as Weary Willy is irresistibly funny, and is full of quaint sayings, whilst Mr. Herbert Walton is also very amusing as Tired Tim. A word of praise is also due to the chorus, each of whom does well, and contribute to the success which the opening performance achieved. The music, which is of a bright and attractive character, is composed by Mr. Arthur Sheldrake, who is also the conductor. Many specialities are introduced, amongst them being Les Millicent Frères, gymnasts, whose performance is really marvellous. The pantomime was produced under the personal supervision of Mr. John A. Thomson, with the services of Mr. Frank Medhurst in the responsible part of general-manager.

WAKEFIELD. — OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Messrs. W. H. Hallatt and Walter Howard's company in the drama *Her Love Against the World*, opened here on Christmas Eve and remains during this week. Mr. Fred Emery gives a fine and manly rendering as the Earl of Strathmere; the part of the Princess of Idalia is charmingly filled by Miss Grace Heywood; Mr. W. H. Hallatt is an impressive Prince Othmar; Miss Rosie St. John a good Lionel; Mr. Lewis Gilbert puts in some good work as the Prince of Ravensburg; Mr. Victor Rowland fills with distinction the part of Prince Maurice; and Miss Blanche Neele is clever as Shulah.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. S. Tolfree.—Last week the Columbia Comedy Trio provided a talented and humorous vocal turn, which was greatly appreciated; the Attila Brothers, strong men, appeared in a smart act; Miss Alma Curzon, comedienne, won great favour; Master Richard May, boy tenor, sang nicely; Mr. Frank Coyle, comedian, submitted an acceptable item; the Venola Brothers showed themselves to be clever comedy acrobats; and the Wambas were successful in a speciality act.

Mr. James Willard and company appear here this week in a powerful sketch, *The Ace of Hearts*, their clever acting evoking much applause. Miss Sara Rosebury, dialect comedienne, delights with sweet songs and amusing patter; Barney Noble, comedian, does well; Les Montaldos introduce some performing pigeons; Harry Taylor, versatile comedian, is a distinct success; Chant and Chant are a smart comedy couple; and Little Eileen, vocalist and dancer, provides an admirable turn.

WARRINGTON. — ROYAL COURT.—Proprietor, Mr. Joseph Beecham; General-Manager, Mr. A. M. Loader; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. Smiley.—Messrs. Pardoe and Miss Lottie Holland's company are again doing good business with *Cinderella*. Fresh songs and jokes are introduced, and the pantomime goes with a merry swing.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, the Franco-British Animated Picture Company; Managing-Director, Mr. Turner; Manager, Mr. J. Waters.—A first-class entertainment is provided for the patrons of this house, and the pictures especially are a delightful assortment. The Salestos are wonderful head and hand balancers; Dalton and Elston are capital comedians; and Dan Fraser, with his Scotch songs and patter, is always amusing.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. G. D. Bradbury.—A capital programme is down for the delectation of the patrons of this house, and Adderley Howard's company, including Miss Dolly Elsworthy, score splendidly in the sketch *The Orange Girl*, a story reminiscent of the life of Nell Gwynne. The Waltons are clever and funny gymnasts; the Betsons, comedy cyclists, are very amusing in the sketch *A Tramp's Holiday*; Johnny Dwyer is a decidedly versatile comedian; Rose and Wold score in their wire act and the Hyde and Cody Trio are clever eccentrics; Julian Ross is a good comedian; and the pictures are excellent.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Richard Nightingale; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Berson.—A return visit is being paid by Messrs. Lloyd and Frank Adair's company in the sensational drama *Man to Man*, which is being well received by full houses nightly. Mr. Frank Adair as the wicked Richard Ellerton acts with great ability; Mr. Edward Lloyd makes a manly and interesting George Gordon; Mr. Leonard Clapham is all that could be desired as the parson, Philip Ormond; a clever bit of character acting is displayed by Mr. Clifford Bown as the convict, Bill Burgy; the humorous element is in the hands of Mr. Bruce Williams, who does well; Miss Adeline Lester portrays the character of Miss Dove with talent; Miss Evelyn Warde is good as the Gipsy; Miss Ada Martin makes a smart maid, Mary; Miss Louie Adair proves herself the feature of the play by her accomplished acting of the character of Ethel Maythorne. The piece is well mounted.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. A. Withers; Manager, Mr. A. Ainsleigh.—A special holiday programme is put on here this week, the Five Sisters Warwick topping with their wonderful trick cycle act, which combines grace, beauty, and talent. Jack Heath is a good comedian, while the banjo solos of Casselli are well received. The audience appreciate the smartness of Nash and Noel; a clever turn of mystifying is submitted by Jean Seul; Daisy Silcott is a very versatile burlesque artist; roars of laughter greet the Madcaps in their speciality of singing and dancing. Some fine pictures conclude an interesting show.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—GRAND.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. Herbert E. Feather.—Tom H. Taylor's *Worst Woman in London* company again appeared here last week. The company was a capable one, and the artists handled their respective rôles in able fashion, particularly Mr. Geo. Gainford, who appeared as Jack Felton, Mr. F. Vernon Travers as James Milford, Miss Edith Bland, and Miss Dorothy Haigh.

Messrs. Holland and Wood's pantomime *The Forty Thieves* is paying a week's visit, and on Monday was received with unmistakable signs of appreciation by a well filled house. The pantomime is produced in some ten scenes, all of which are artistically executed and excellently staged. Bob Selvidge undertakes the rôle of the Captain of the Forty, and his popularity is more firmly established than ever; Miss Cecilia Gold as Morgiana and Miss Bertha Clifton as Ganem act and sing prettily; the antics of Clarence, the donkey, as played by Chris Le Brun are exceedingly funny, and create roars of laughter; Walter Bosco as Cassim and Robb Wilton as Cogia have between them some funny business, which never fails to take on; and speciality dances are successfully introduced by the Three Sisters Tree, who are old-time favourites here, and the Imperial Quintette.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. E. Dobney.—Some of the smartest juggling and club throwing it has been the lot of a West Hartlepool audience to witness was last week done by Emerson and Baldwin; the juggling by Cestria was smart and funny, but it was in his acrobatic work that he was particularly successful; considerable amusement was caused by Ross and Grayson in a mélange of music, singing, and dancing. The gentleman, while in some inconceivable positions, manipulated the keyboard of the piano skilfully; Walter Clyde, vocalist, was well received in a couple of songs; Les Elgonas performed some sensational feats on the rings; Harry Luck's songs were provocative of much laughter; Cherry Lass provided an attractive song and dance; and a new and interesting series of pictures was shown on Raymond's Bioscope. The management gave a special matinée for Boxing Day, and a concert on Sunday evening, in aid of the Mayor's fund for the relief of the unemployed.

WEST STANLEY. — THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Manager, Mr. M. H. Lindon; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Kelly; Stage-Manager, Mr. Fred Angus.—Mr. James Bell presents Miss Annie Bell and a specially-selected company in *The Idol of Paris*. The part of Flare Flare is faithfully depicted by Miss Annie Bell; Mr. Gordon Robey is excellent as Prince Sergius Zoreski; Mr. Wilson Howard successfully portrays Philippe D'Esterre; Gustav Langlois, the notary, is in the hands of Mr. Alfred Glenville; Mr. Chris. Roberts is all that can be desired as Theo. Recline; the part of Victor Cashelle is played carefully by Mr. Phil Rivers; Miss Pharaoh Bernharth is well presented by Miss Rachel Anderson; and Miss Phena Powell is clever as Mlle. Sancterre.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. C. Rawes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. G. W. Montrose.—A fine company has been provided by the management here for the holiday week. Topping the bill are the well-known Glenroy Troupe of international dancers in their novel specialities; Miss Nellie Walton, the Lancashire mill-girl, has a hearty reception on her return visit; the Bros. Corcoran introduce musical effects and quick changes; Macintosh and Royal, clog-dancers, and the Ormsby Quartette have a good reception. The Vicoscope concludes.

WEYMOUTH.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. J. Nobbs.—Mr. John A. Thomson's pantomime *Sinbad the Sailor* opened on Boxing Night to a crowded house, and universal approval was expressed. Miss Edith Wallis made a dashing Sinbad, and Miss Irene May as Zorilda won general favour by her charming acting. Miss Lily English played Hassan in a sprightly and captivating manner, and similar praise is due to Miss Violet English as Haidee. Mr. Syd H. Morton won rounds of applause as Captain Bluebottle, and Mr. Syd Godfrey created roars of laughter as Mrs. Sinbad. Mr. Ted Oak and Mr. Kit Elm had some capital knockabout business, and the singing and dancing of Sinbad's companions and mates was heartily applauded. Miss Amy Cooper, the Three Sisters Macrae, and the Spadonis all contributed to the success of the piece.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. R. Wallis.—The opening performance in this theatre took place on Boxing Day, when Messrs. Austin and Dixon presented *Mother Goose* to a crowded and delighted audience. Mr. Sydney James was simply perfect as Mother Goose, and was the life of the pantomime; Miss Mabel Austin was a typical Mother's Son; Daisy, the village belle, was charmingly represented by Miss Winnie Murray; the Squire was in the capable hands of Mr. Eric Dean; and Annabel, his daughter, was capitally played by Miss Cissie Astbury. Miss Gertrude Bond made a splendid Fairy Queen, and Mr. Nicklin Williams played the Spirit of Avarice with good effect. There is a ballet of forty, and the pantomime is well staged.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Wigan Entertainments Co.—The local operatic society have occupied this popular place of amusement for the last two weeks in *The Geisha* and *A Country Girl*. In the impersonation of the title-rôle Mrs. McNally made a capital country girl; as Mme. Sophie Miss M. Worwick was a great success; Barry found an able exponent in Mr. T. Wall; while Mr. S. Garratt was highly appreciated as Geoffrey Challoner. Miss McGill was a charming Marjorie; and Miss A. Worswick furnished a striking character as the Princess of Bhong. Mr. R. H. Layland was a typical Sir Joseph Verity; while the part of the Rajah of Bhong was in the capable hands of Mr. A. Ellis.

Large and appreciative audiences have assembled here this week to witness Mr. Edward Marris's company in *Dick Whittington*. Mr. J. Waldron scores more than ever as Idle Jack; Miss Ettie Waldron is a captivating Dick; Miss Doris Gilbert makes a charming Alice; Miss Nora Doone a vivacious Tinkabell; the part of the Emperor is in the capable hands of Mr. James Gordon; and Mr. H. Pearce deserves special mention as Alderman Fitzwarren; Mr. B. Watson (Captain Mainbrace), Mr. Will Naylor (the Mate), and Mr. W. Vester (Julia) also act exceedingly well in their respective parts.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Wigan Entertainments Co.—Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson's talented company, in *The King and the Unknown Woman*, was here last week. Mr. Stephen Scanlan acted with sufficient villainy the part of Prince Menski; Mr. J. Stillwell as Prince Loris and Mr. W. R. Winning as General Platz were also admirable in their respective rôles. Miss F. Conyers Radcliffe was a charming Zora; and Miss Muriel Inglis a vivacious Countess Melveitch.

Kartelli is a wire artist of no mean merit, and his entertainment is a most enjoyable one; Thora is a clever ventriloquist, his make-up and costume of a woman deceiving many; Heeley and Meeley are clever acrobats; and the Banton Franklin Trio contribute bright musical selections; Tom Lloyd receives quite an ovation for his songs; the Soho Trio dance themselves into favour; Wallie Gilbert is applauded for his vocal selections; and Maud Kaye is a smart comedienne. Other acceptable turns are given by Mark Anthony (comedian), Roland Bros. (equilibrists), and Bob Spencer (comedian).

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Co.—The usual high standard of living pictures was maintained here last week. The chief of these were The Greed of Gold, Sold by His Parents, and Love at First Sight. Sid Mayne, boy coster comedian, proved a very acceptable turn.

A fascinating picture, entitled In the Shadow of the Law, forms the chief of a highly interesting series here.

WOLVERHAMPTON. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Barnard; Resident-Manager, Mr. Gerald Spencer.—The management are to be congratulated on providing such a fine attraction as Mr. Wentworth Croke's company in the new version of *The Christian* for the Christmas holidays, and were rewarded with a record attendance on Boxing Day. It would be difficult to imagine a finer conception of the part of John Storm than that given by Mr. Roy Redgrave, whose portrayal was thoroughly consistent throughout; the dual traits in Glory Quayle's character were cleverly delineated by Miss Daisy Scudamore; Mr. Wilfred Noy was excellent as Horatio Drake; Mr. Herbert Hewetson gave a well-studied rendering of Lord Robert Ure; Mr. Thomas Barry played with quiet dignity as Father Lamplugh; Mr. John J. Hooker made a capital Archdeacon Wealthy; Mr. Bruce Lindley was effective as Parson Quayle; and Mr. Royce Milton did well as Lord Storm; Miss Cora Dene presented a very pathetic picture of Polly Love, her acting where she parts with her baby exercising a great effect; Miss Muriel Marsden was convincing as Black Meg; Miss Molly Hayden made a motherly Mrs. Callender; Miss Kitty Symons did well as Lady Robert Ure; and the minor characters were all well sustained. The play is admirably staged.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frank Weston.—A very attractive bill is presented here, and crowded houses are the rule. The great Zerbinis Troupe are the principal turn, and present an elaborately-staged scena, entitled *The Enchanted Glen*; the Four Rubys are responsible for a really clever acrobatic-bending act; Takio causes considerable amusement with his mimicry; Wyotti is a dexterous juggler; George Collins's assumption of a merry widow is received with roars of laughter; Austin and Cowen are a smart comedy duo; and Ruby Emerson makes a hit with "I love only one girl."

WORTHING.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold.—Opening on Boxing Day, and continuing throughout the present week, Clarence C. Corri's company are presenting *The Dandy Fifth* to good business. The company throughout is an excellent one, the chorus is extremely well balanced, and, with the orchestra agumented, a thoroughly enjoyable performance is provided.

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"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.
"Wire," "The Era, London."
"Ring-up," 4747 or 1433 Central.

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COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD,
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GRAND THEATRE, LUTON.
Jan. 25, Feb. 8, March 8, 29, April 5, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.
First Vacant Date, March 15, 1909.
Add., E. G. FALCON, County T., Bedford.

THREE PROGRESSIVE THEATRES.
WANTED, High-class Companies,
DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE,
Feb. 15, March 1, 8, 15, 22.
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS.
March 29, May 3, 10, 17.
PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE.
March 15, 22, April 26, May 10, June 7, on.
Apply for all above,
ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

THE GRANVILLE THEATRES, LIMITED.
Managing-Director, Mr. FRED GRANVILLE.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.

WANTED, Powerful Dramatic Attractions,
Jan. 25,
Feb. 1, 8, March 8, onwards
GRAND THEATRE, RAWTENSTALL.
Vacant Feb. 1, 8, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
Vacant Feb. 22, April 5, 19,
and Autumn Dates.
Re dates,
FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's T., Liverpool.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for Feb. 8, March 15, 22, April 5 and 12.
Apply Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-street, S.W.

BRIXTON THEATRE, S.W.
WANTED, First-class Companies,
Spring and Autumn.
FREDK. MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

WANTED, Pantomime Companies.—Mr. Dan Barnard, General-Manager of the following Theatres: Royal, Aston; Royal, Smethwick; Royal, Wolverhampton; Royal Chatham; Royal, Woolwich; and Elephant and Castle, will be Touring Lancashire and Yorkshire during the week of Jan. 11, and will be pleased to hear from Proprietors of Travelling Pantomimes who are performing in these counties, with reference to next season's dates. Letters only, Gothic House, Chislett-road, West Hampstead.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, Musical Comedies and Pantomimes preferred,
Feb. 8, March 22, April 5, on.
three or six nights.
W. E. POTTS.

WANTED, High-class Company, Jan. 25.
W. E. POTTS,
Opera House, Dunfermline.

EMPIRE THEATRE, SWINDON.
WANTED, First-class Musical Comedy and Dramatic Attractions; also Big Variety Combinations. Managers with First-class Companies only apply, direct, to ALFRED MANNERS. Wanted, First-class Musical Comedy Attraction, March 29, 1909.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
The only Theatre in the Town.

WANTED, Musical Comedy, April 12. Note.—The Conference of the Teachers' National Union is held in Morecambe during Easter; a few dates also vacant in July, Aug., and Sept.
Address, CHAS. M. JULIAN, General-Manager.

WEYMOUTH.—NEW PAVILION THEATRE.
Erected by the Corporation at a cost of nearly £20,000. Seating, Decorating, and Furnishing by Messrs. Dean and Sons. Dimensions, stage to flies 21ft., stage to grid 43ft. 6in. Weymouth being the headquarters of the Channel Fleet, good Business can always be relied upon.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Spring and Autumn, 1909. All communications,
WALTER R. WALLIS, Municipal Offices, Weymouth.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for Hippo. and Palace Theatre, Spennymoor, Co. Durham. Open to arrange for First-class Panto. or Musical Comedy.

Address, C. ALGIE.

OPERA HOUSE, WORKINGTON.
WANTED, First-class Dramatic or Musical Attraction, Jan. 18.
Apply,
STANLEY ROGERS, Theatre Royal, North Shields.

WANTED, First-class Company,
Musical preferred,
Feb. 8 week.
Opera House, Southport.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, PEMBROKE DOCK.
WANTED, Musical Attractions,
Musical Attractions.
March 1, various, on.
Address, NORMAN H. BARGER.

PALACE THEATRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
WANTED, Strong Dramatic Attractions,
April 19, May 10, June 7 and 14.
Apply, T. W. ROWE.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
WANTED, Strong Musical Attractions for Feb. 15, May 10, 17, 24, and 31.
First-class Companies only.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies.

ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH
Vacant Jan. 11, Feb. 1, 8, 22,
onward with exceptions.

All communications re dates,
ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant April 5, May 17 June 14,
onward with exceptions.

EMPIRE, WORCESTER.
See Music Hall Artists Wanted Column.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY, S. WALES.
Vacant April 12, May 24, 31, June 7,
onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME,
BARRY DOCK.
Vacant March 1, June 7, Aug. 2,
onward, with exceptions.

The Three Great Pantomime Successes,
"ALADDIN." Feb. 8, onward
"CINDERELLA," Feb. 8, 1909, onward.
"PUSS IN BOOTS," Feb. 8, 1909, onward.
Can also arrange Production Dates for next season for the above.
All communications,
ARTHUR CARLTON,
Theatre Royal, Worcester.

Telegrams: "Carlton, Worcester."

Booked by
MOSS' EMPIRES, LIMITED.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE,
GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM,
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS,
and
GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Vacant Dates, May 3, 10, 24, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Aug. 9, 16, Sept. 20, Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Dec. 6, 13.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE.
Vacant Dates, May 10, June 14, 28, July 5, 12, 19, 26, Aug. 2, 16, 30, Nov. 8, 22, 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM
Vacant March 29, April 19, May 3, 10, June 7, 21, 28, Aug. 2, 9, 23, 30, Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 15, 22, Dec. 6, 13, 20.

GRAND, GLASGOW.
Vacant April 5, 19, May 10, 17, 24, 31, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Sept. 6, 13, 20, Oct. 4, 11, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22.

Address,
with full particulars, terms, &c.
where can be seen, to
Moss' EMPIRES, LIMITED,
Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street,
London, W.C.
Envelopes marked "Theatres."

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
The Chief Theatre of the Town and District.
The only Theatre in the Town lighted by Electricity.
WANTED, Companies, March 1, 15, 22, 29, April 26, onwards.

Our Season's Bookings, which Managers are requested to compare with elsewhere, include:—Miss Lena Ashwell's Co., "Diana of Dobson's," Mr. Geo. Alexander's Co., "The Thief," F. R. Benson's Co., "The Dairymaids," Mr. Percy Hutchison's Cos., "Mrs. Dot," "Brewster's Millions," "Lady Frederick," "Leah Kleschna," "With Edged Tools," "The Christian" (new version), "A White Man," "Jack Straw," "Sergeant Brue," "You Never Can Tell," "The Flag Lieutenant," "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," Mr. Harry Nicholls, "The Beloved Vagabond," "Diana of Dobson's" (return), Mr. Geo. Alexander's Co., "The Builder of Bridges," and Mr. George D. Day's Co., "The Prodigal Son" (return).

All communications,
CALVERT ROUTLEDGE, H. M. T., Barrow.

OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER.
WANTED, Companies; holds £100; Vacant Feb. 4, 11, March 22, and Easter, onwards. Bookings: Merry Widow," "Dairymaids," "Prince of Pilsen," "Prodigal Son," "The Christian," &c. J. P. MOORE, King's Hall, Birmingham.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

WANTED, Musical Attractions, March 15, on, Grand, Chorley; also March 15, on, Grand, Radcliffe. SANTE, Radcliffe.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLCHESTER.
WANTED, Good Companies, Musical preferred, March 15, Easter (7 nights), June 21 (Pageant Week). Wire, MACDONA.

WANTED, good Companies, for Treherbert and Maesteg, Jan. 18 (Treherbert three nights), Feb. 1 (three nights each), Feb. 8 and 15 (week each), 22 (three nights each), March 1, 8, and following dates, with exceptions. Companies must be good, then business is certain. Silence a polite negative pro tem. Apply, C. W. POOLE, Palace Theatre, Gloucester.

WANTED, for Empire, Greenock, Dramatic and Musical Comedy Attractions, also Pantomimes, twice nightly, January, February, and March dates. Sharing terms.

PALACE THEATRE,
EBBW VALE.
WANTED, Known, Wanted, Known, Vacant Jan. 11, for Strong Attraction.

E. TILNEY, Pavilion, Abertillery.

NEW PALACE THEATRE, WATFORD.
The only place of amusement in the town. Lighted by electricity. Holding capacity, £75.
WANTED, Strong Dramatic and Musical Comedy Companies. First-class only.
Feb. 1, March 15, April 5, 26.
SYLVESTER, 217, Piccadilly, W.

NEW PALACE THEATRE, WATFORD.
WANTED, First-class Pantomime, Feb. 15, playing twice nightly, to follow "Aladdin."
SYLVESTER, 217, Piccadilly, W.

GRAND THEATRE, BLACKPOOL.
WANTED, for Dates in Feb. and March, First-class Pantomimes, Dramatic Attractions, or Musical Comedies, on Share or Certainty; to play twice nightly. All applications to T. A. EDWARDES, Grand Theatre, Derby.

KING'S THEATRE, KILMARNOCK.
Lessee and Manager, J. CUMMINGS.
WANTED, First-class Musical Comedy and Pantomime Attractions,
March and April.

WANTED, for New Standard T., Hetton, good Drama or Musical Shows, Feb. 8 (?), 22, March 1 and 8. Apply early, CHAPMAN.

NEW HIPPODROME, SCARBOROUGH.
Managing-Director, WILLIAM PEACOCK.
One of the most luxurious Theatres in the North.
Now running one house nightly at 8.
Holding capacity, 2,000.
Popular Prices, 3d. to 1s. 6d.
WANTED, Star Variety Combinations and Pantomime Companies, on Sharing Terms.
Wanted, Feb. 8, only First-class Attractions.
Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK, Opera House, Harrogate.
Silence a polite negative.

COMPANIES WANTED.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
Seating capacity 3,500.
Acknowledged to be one of the largest, best-equipped, and most handsome Theatres in Great Britain.
The Premier and Central Theatre of the District
Now Booking Spring and Autumn, 1909.
WANTED, First-class Attractions only, Feb. 15, 22, 29,
Easter, April 12, on,
with exceptions.
We are prepared to give excellent terms for really Big Attractions for these dates.
All communications, JNO. ED. JOWSEY,
Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough.
Telegrams, "Magnet."
'Phones 413, 426, 500.

WANTED, good Pantomime, one week, Jan. 25, twice nightly,
Share or Certainty.
Wire, FRED W. WOOD, Queen's Theatre, Leeds.

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE BEGGAR GIRL'S WEDDING."
WALTER MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION.
WANTED, April 5, Aug. 9, Nov. 1, 22.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C

"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME."
By Walter Melville
WANTED, Feb. 15, March 29, April 5, 12.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, April 5, 12.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 15, Aug. 2, 9.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
WANTED, Aug. 2, Nov. 8, 15.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

WALTER MELVILLE'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 18, Feb. 8.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

FREDERICK MELVILLE'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 11, 18, Feb. 1, March 1.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Feb 8, April 12, Aug. 2, 16.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Feb. 1, March 1, April 5, Aug. 2.
DOUGLAS BRUCE,
7, Wentworth-road, Harborne, Birmingham.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."
WANTED, Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1.
ANDREW MELVILLE, Met. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."
WANTED, Jan. 18, 25, March 1.
ANDREW EMM, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"EDUCATION OF ELIZABETH."
A Bright and Merry Play.
WANTED, Theatres, immediate Dates, Jan. 4, 11, 18.
Printing and Agent ready.
Wire, C. BOWMAKER, Kuraal, Bexhill-on-Sea.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, for this Phenomenal Success, Weeks of
Jan. 25 and Feb. 1.
Jan. 25 and Feb. 1.
Jan. 25 and Feb. 1.
Wire or write to
W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, March 22, April 5, 12, onwards.
CHARLES HARRINGTON,
Public Hall, Arbroath, N.B.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, April 12, 19, 26.
April 12 19, 26.
May 17, 24, 31.
May 17, 24, 31.
All communications, J. W. CORDINER,
Jan. 4, Public Hall Theatre, Macsteg.

"SILVER KING" CO.
WANTED, Dates as follow: March 8, April 19, May 3, Aug. 30, Sept. 20, 27, Nov. 1, 8, 15.
Address,
POLINI, 93, Penge-road, London, S.E.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."
EUGENE C. STAFFORD'S No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Feb. 8, 15, 22, April 19, May 31.
E. C. S., Bishopsdale, Biddenden, Kent.

Mr. WENTWORTH CROKE'S COMPANY, in "EAST LYNNE."
This Company will consist of the Pick of the Artists of "The Christian," "The Bondman," and "The Prodigal Son" Companies.
June, July, and August settled.
WANTED, April 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, June 14 (?).
Address, Piccadilly-mansions, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

MR. LEWIS WALLER'S CO.
"ROBIN HOOD."
WANTED, Feb. 1 (?), Feb. 8.
F. CLIVE ROSS, 47, College-place, N.W.

LINGFORD CARSON'S CO.
"THE GREAT WHITE CHIEF," the Money-Maker. Forty people on stage. Excellent Musical Numbers.
WANTED, Known, vacant Jan. 4, Feb. 1, 8, March 8, 15, 22. All coms., L. CARSON, Batley Theatre, Batley.

"TODDLES."
WANTED, Theatres, for above, Jan. 11 (week or three nights) and Feb. 15.
Production Enormous Success at Harrogate.
Wire, MURRAY KING, Londesborough, Scarborough.

STEPHEN PRITT'S REPERTOIRE CO.
Presenting Beautiful Modern Dramas of English Life.
WANTED, good Theatres, for Jan. 18 and 25, Feb. 8 and 15. Big success at South Shields last week. Refer Messrs. J. and F. Coulson. Next week, Metropole, Gateshead.
Address permanently,
STEPHEN PRITT, T. R., Preston.

"CLAUDIAN."
WANTED, May 24, between T. R., Manchester, and Shakespeare T., Liverpool. WILLIAM MACLAREN, T. R., Jarrow-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Known, the great success of the coming year will be "Was She to Blame?" by Mrs. F. G. Kimberley. First tour fully booked; no holiday date vacant until Autumn, 1910; Production Easter, Junction, Manchester. For dates wire, KIMBERLEY, GREEN, and HINTON, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, a few Dates in Spring for Hutchison Tours.
"MRS. DOT," Jan. 18, March 1.
"LADY FREDERICK," Feb. 8 and 15.
"PETER'S MOTHER," Feb. 15, March 1 and 8.
Address, PERCY HUTCHISON,
"Brewster's Millions" Tour, en route.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 8, 15, May 17, 24, Whit week, Aug. Bank Holiday, Aug. 16, onwards. Address, ARMADALE and WARREN, Opera House, Ferndale.

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Jan. 18, April 5, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 1909.
FRANK M. THORNE, Royalty T., Llanelly.

THEATRES WANTED.

Miss MARY NEIL,
in her Great Successes,
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS,"
by Charles Darrell,
and
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
by Charles Darrell,
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres,
Wire for Jan. 11.
Wire for Jan. 11.
also Vacant for either Play,
Jan. 18, Feb. 1 and 8, March 29,
April 5, May 10 and 24.

Miss Neil begs to inform Managers that she is now rapidly booking 1910 for her next new production.
Coms. to GEO. KIRK,
to-day, New T., Cambridge;
next, Marina T., Lowestoft.

"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
By Geo. A. De Gray.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
Wanted, Jan. 11, 12, 13 (Scotland), Jan. 18, 25.
Wire, wire, wire.
"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
Wanted, Feb. 8, March 15, 22, 29.
Re both plays, GEO. A. DE GRAY.
P. O. W. Theatre, Mexborough. (third visit); next, T. R., Tyldesley (return).

HARDIE and VON LEER'S COYS.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres,
"TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS,"
Vacant Feb. 8, March 8.

"TWO LANCASHIRE LASSES IN LONDON,"
Vacant Feb. 1, 15, March 29, May 3.

"THE SAILOR'S WEDDING,"
Vacant Feb. 8, 15, March 1, 8, May 3, 24.

E. P. CLIFT, 110, St. Martin's-lane, W.C.
Wires, "Vagancy, London." Tel. No. 7504 Gerrard

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANY.
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
A Powerful Domestic Drama, in four Acts,
by Walter Howe.
WANTED, March 1, 8, 29,
April 26, May 3, 17, on.
Splendid plants of pictorials by
David Allens and Moody Bros.

Queen's Theatre, Fleetwood (three weeks).

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
The Drama that Booms itself.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Cast of Recognised Artists. Each Member with not less than 10 years' experience.
Magnificent printing. Beautifully mounted.
WANTED, Feb. 1, 15, Easter.
FRED BULMER, Junction T., Manchester.

FRED GRANVILLE'S TOURS.

"THE BETTER LAND."
The Greatest Domestic Drama of the Day.
WANTED, for this Phenomenal Success, Feb. 1 and 8.
Only Vacant Dates this Spring.
Address, FRED GRANVILLE,
Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

"WHY MEN LOVE WOMEN,"
by Walter Howard.
WANTED, Good Theatres, Jan. 11 and 18 (wire), also Feb. 22 (Midlands or North), Aug. 23 (precede Scarborough), Sept. 27.
ELLEN SNOW, To-day, T. R., Leigh; next, Grand T., Nelson.

"HIS SISTER'S HONOUR."
WANTED, through Change of Route, Jan. 11 and 18.
Third Year of Tour. Third.
Sumptuously staged, beautifully dressed, and played by a sound all-round cast.
Wire, E. A'DELL, to-day, County Hall, St. Albans; next, Empire Theatre, Cradley Heath.

WANTED, First-class Theatre, for
JAMES KIDDIE'S
JAMES KIDDIE'S
Latest and Greatest Success in Pantomime,
"ALADDIN."
"ALADDIN."
Vacant Feb. 1.
Vacant Feb. 1.
Can play twice nightly if required.
Address,
THOS. SWINTON, Alexandra Theatre, Widnes

S. RENNEF'S and G. M. COPPING'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, "LOVE RULES THE WORLD," Jan. 18, 25, onward. Thanks C. Barnard, Esq., for four contracts after seeing show; also Wentworth Croke, Esq., for contracts, Hammersmith.
"HOW WOMEN RUIN MEN."
Wanted, Jan. 18, 25, onward, for this really Wonderful Play.
G. M. COPPING, T. R., Stratford; next, G., Radcliffe.

"THE DAIRYMAIDS."
WANTED, March 15, Midlands.
ROBERT MACDONALD, Theatre Royal, Bury.

"THE 10,30 DOWN EXPRESS"
and "GUILTY GOLD."
WANTED, Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1, May 3.

HORACE STANLEY,
To-day, King's Lynn; next, PETERBORO', return.

WANTED, Feb. 8, 15, March 1, April 19, May 31, for "The Cingalee."
HALDANE CRICHTON, Opera House, Blackpool.

"THE MASTER CRIMINAL."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Feb. 15, 22, 29, April 12, for this Great Success.
HENRY L. OSMOND, New T., Hetton-le-Hole.

"I DEFY THE WORLD."
By Arthur Shirley and E. Hill-Mitchelson.
Mr. F. B. Woulfe as Leon Darville.
WANTED, Good Theatres. Jan. 25 (3 nights), March 22 (?), April 5 (?), 12, and on.
Address,
CHAS. M. JULIAN,
Jan. 4, Pardoe Theatre, Middleton.

"HER MARRIAGE VOW."
Vacation.
WANTED, good Theatres only, Feb. 1, 8, 15, March 8, Easter (?), and Whit; also Booking Autumn. GARSIDE and KNOWLES, T. R., Scarboro'.

E. HILL-MITCHELSON'S CO., "WHO IS SHE?"
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 1, 22.
E. HILL-MITCHELSON, Queen's T., Longton.

"DANDY FIFTH."
WANTED, Jan. 7, 8, 9 (wire), also Feb. 22, and few subsequent dates. Address, this week, CORRI, T. R., Worthing; next, Garrick, Hereford.

FREEMAN AND DERRICKE'S CO.
"A WHITE DEMON."
"CURRENT CASH."
WANTED, Dates, Jan. 11, 18, and on, with exceptions. Wire for Jan. 11. CHARLES FREEMAN, this, T. R., East Dereham; next week, Pal., Boston.

ROSE MONCRIEFF'S COMPANY.
in the Military Musical Comedy Drama,
"THE BELLS OF OLD YORK."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 15, April 12, Aug. 2, and few later. Address, Brixton T., S.W.

WEST LONDON THEATRE.
PANTOMIME.
"CINDERELLA."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Jan. 25, Feb. 1 and 8, for this Elaborate Production, which is booked at above theatre for four weeks.
SAMUEL JAMES,
Warwick House, 8, Warwick-court, W.C.

"A MESSAGE FROM MARS."
No. 1 Company.
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
Feb. 22, March 22,
North or Midlands.
Apply, F. MOUILLOT,
1, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

"DICK WHITTINGTON."
Brixton Pantomime.
Entire Production.
WANTED, Theatres, to follow run at Brixton Theatre, Feb. 8 (?), 15 (?), 22, and on.
FREDK. MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

THEATRES WANTED.

Mr. CHARLES M. BESTIC'S
LONDON COMPANY,
in
The Successful Musical Comedy
"THE FLOWER GIRL,"
by
W. T. Gliddon,
including
John T. MacCallum, Henry Adnes,
Miss Lilian Drake, Miss Georgie De Lara,
supported by a
Powerful Company.
WANTED, Feb. 8 and 15, March 15 and 22.
Re dates to
JAMES LESLIE, General-Manager,
Theatre Royal, Colchester.
and all other communications to
CHARLES M. BESTIC,
1, Sidney-road, Stockwell, London, S.W.
The Daily Telegraph says:—
The composer has penned a sufficient number of lively tunes, and it may be added quite truthfully we never heard a better chorus.
The Daily Chronicle says:—
A bright musical comedy, with many pleasing musical numbers.
The Morning Leader says:—
"The Flower Girl" is well played by Mr. Charles M. Bestic's company.
The Star says:—
"The Flower Girl" is admirably presented by Mr. Charles M. Bestic's company.
The Referee says:—
The fun is both fast and furious, and provoked uproarious laughter.

Mr. and Mrs. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S CO'S.
"BOUND TO WIN."
WANTED, Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 22, March 1.
Wanted, Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 22, March 1.
Magnificent show. Racehorses toured. Special cast.
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR."
Wanted, Feb. 8, Feb. 8 Feb. 8,
to precede Halifax. The Great Success.
Managers refer to Ebbw Vale this week.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
Wanted, March 8, 22, April 5, 12,
for this Great Old Favourite. Special Band.
Wire for all these Great Attractions to
KIMBERLEY, Palace T., Bordesley, Birmingham.

MR. AND MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"ROLLICKING RORY."
Entirely new
Irish Musical Fairy Play.
Everything carried.
As funny as any Pantomime.
Only five vacant dates in 1909.
WANTED, Jan. 18 (North),
Feb. 1, 8, 15.
CHALMERS MACKEY, O. H., Perth, N.B.

FRED GRANVILLE'S PANTOMIMES.
"ALADDIN."
Success!!
Has broken all Pantomime Records at Theatre Royal, Barnsley. Refer A. C. Mitchell, Esq.
Vacant Feb. 1, 8, 15.

"BABES IN THE WOOD."
Success!!
Playing to enormous business at Theatre Royal, Dewsbury. Refer Otto C. Culling, Esq.
Vacant Feb. 1, 8, 15.

"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST."
Success!!
Drawing crowded houses at the Regent Theatre, Salford (twice nightly). Refer W. Turner, Esq.
WANTED, Feb. 1, 8.
Re Dates, address,
FRED GRANVILLE,
Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

"THE SORROWS OF SATAN."

"NANA, THE RAGE OF PARIS."

WANTED Jan. 18, follow Margate, Feb. 1, various onward dates.

A Reference
to
any Theatre played,

say,
Princess's, Glasgow,
Grand, Swansea.
Theatre Royal, Belfast,

Will Ensure a Booking.

Wire or write,
LOIE ESMOND, T. R., Edmonton (fifth visit).

E. HILL-MITCHELSON'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, Wanted, for
"WHO IS SHE?"
Feb. 1 and Feb. 22.
Magnificent Production.

E. HILL-MITCHELSON,
Theatre Royal, Castleford.

WANTED, Jan. 11, for Walter Howard's "Man and Wife," possibly vacant, through breach of Contract. Principal Company, including John F. Traynor, E. Van Biene, and Miss Kate Hallam, three or six nights.
Wire, VAN BIENE, to-day, King's Theatre, Sutton-in-Ashfield; then, Standard Theatre, Hetton, Durham.

MONTAGUE BEAUDYN'S SUCCESSES.
"SEND HIM VICTORIOUS."
A Perfect Show in Every Detail.
One of the Strongest Casts Touring.
WANTED, Jan. 13, Jan. 18, Jan. 18,
"THE POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN."
Something really Original and New.
The Show that Draws all the Week.
Vacant Jan. 25, Jan. 25, Jan. 25.
"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND," Touring 1909.
"A TRAITOR PRINCE," Touring 1909.
Wire, T. R., Ton-y-pandy. Write, Star, Swansea.

"THE IDOL OF PARIS."
"THE IDOL OF PARIS."
By Charles Darrell.
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
Jan. 11, 18.
Jan. 11, 18.
Admitted by Press and Public to be one of the Biggest Successes Touring.
Wire for Jan. 11, 18. Wire.
JAMES BELL, T. R., Darlington.

WANTED, First-class Theatre, for Feb. 22, for Bliss and Bliss's Grand Pantomime, "Mother Goose"; also Managers to see this show with view of arranging Production for 1909. All records broken at Opera House, St. Helens.

All coms. to
GEORGE and LEO BLISS,
Opera House,
St. Helens.

WANTED, Theatres, for Silverstone and Wright's Great Success, "The Nihilist." Broke all records, T. R., Woolwich, Boxing Night. Managers wanting really First-class Draw apply for Jan. 11, Feb. 1, 11, 12, 13, 15, 22, March 1 (?), Aug. 2, 9, on. SILVERSTONE, T. R., Woolwich; next, Ferndale.

THE GIPSIES AND THEIR JESTER.
WANTED, Pier Pavilions, Winter Gardens, &c.
Only Vacancies Next Summer:
Week commencing Monday, April 19, 26,
May 3, 10, 17, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Sept. 20, onwards.
Mr. D'ARCY CLAYTON, 23, Brockman-rd., Folkestone.

LOUIE FREEAR AND STAR VARIETY CO., including D'ARTAGNAN, THE EQUESTRIAN LION, the most Sensational Act before the Public.

WANTED, Immediate Dates, on Sharing Terms.
ARTHUR,
157, Hill-street, Charing Cross, Glasgow.

ARTISTS WANTED.

"HIS SISTER'S HONOUR."
"THE ROMANY'S REVENGE."
WANTED, for Spring and Summer Tour, Artists in all Lines. Age, height, photo., last two refs., absolute lowest terms,
E. A'DELL, Empire Theatre, Cradley Heath.

WANTED, for "When Other Lips," Lady, Small Showy Heavy; also Young Girl, experienced, look 15; First-class Comedian; Gent, three small parts; Carpenter. Photos., terms, refs., or useless. T. ARTHUR JONES, 32, Wightman-road, Finsbury Park, N.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Powerful Juvenile Leading Lady and Gentleman, Heavy Man, Char. Actor, open Jan. 18, Sketches. Letters only, photo. essential. FRED BROOKE, 55, Ridley-road, Dalston, N.E.

WANTED, Soubrette, good figure, trial week, Sketch, London (small Chambermaid part), Tour to follow if suitable. Photo., experience, &c., C. LILLFORD DELPH, 2, Lyndhurst-mansions, Vera-road, Fulham.

LONDON MATINEES.
WANTED, Known, Several Fine Parts Open to Actors of Experience desiring London showing, also to Couple of Young Actors.
Expenses. Call,
Chandos Hall, Maiden-lane, Monday 1.30 to 2.30.

WANTED, Actor, to Manage Strong Dramatic Sketch; must be able to Book same, or useless. Box 5,297, "The Era."

WANTED, Contralto, Young, Dancer; also four Pretty Girls (Amateurs), Singers and Dancers, for occasional Chorus work. Audition Tuesday, 44, Gower-street, W.C., 10-4.

WANTED, Six First-class Chorus Ladies, rehearse at once. Full particulars, photos., &c., JAZON, Theatre Royal, Chesterfield.

WANTED, good Baritone, able to play Piano and play Heavy Part in Sketch for Halls, only first-class performer need apply; rehearse one week, open London, Jan. 25.
Write, SKETCH, Hippo., Birmingham.

WANTED, Baritone, who is good Accompanist, for Long Summer Season. Send fullest particulars, letters only, with lowest terms, A. N., c/o Sampson Low, 100, Southwark-street, S.E.

WANTED, Bright Young Girls for Stage, ages about 14-15 years; must be respectable and live with family. Good figures. Call, Mrs. List, 228, Camberwell New-road, S.E.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Pair of Knockabouts, Sing and Dance; also Comedian. Apply,
JAMES KIDDIE, Castle Theatre, Stockton-on-Tees.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions, Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, Contracts, for Painting Scenery, First-class Work guaranteed. CECIL E. HICKS, Painting Room, Princess's Theatre, Oxford-street, London, W.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery, Special Productions, or Stock. K. J. MCLENNAN, Scenic Artist, P. O. Wales's Theatre, Birmingham.

WANTED, Contracts for every description of Scenery, Pantomime, Stock, &c.
SCENIC STUDIO, Gaiety, Blyth.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
W. BERNASCONI, Scenic Artist,
53, St James's-place, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Scenic Artist, abstainer, Engagement in Provinces; good all-round worker; best refs. Salary £2 per week. Address, Box 5,296, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Scenery, Effective and Cheap for Productions, Sketches, or Stock. J. JACKS, Scenic Artist, 46, Holloway-road, London, N.

WANTED, Engagement, J. Alex. Barker, Scenic Artist, just concluded Durward Lely's "Royal Divorce" Transparent Speciality, "Charge of Light Brigade," Battle of Waterloo. 89, Oran-street, Glasgow.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Known, a gentleman is prepared to Finance, Lease, or Buy Music Hall or Theatre in good town, or Finance Musical Comedy or Drama that is well booked up for 1909.
Address, with full particulars,
Manager, Box 5,304, "The Era."

WANTED, Advance Agent, young, sober, and experienced in English and Welsh (S.) Fit-ups. Good salary to right man. Give recent references (three), age, terms, X. Y. Z., c/o D. Allen and Sons, 17, Leicester-street, London, W.C. Letters only.

WANTED, Young Man, as Advance, used to smalls; preference to one who can play piano. Address, BIOSCOPE, Delvin, co. Westmeath, Ireland.

HIPPODROME AND PALACE THEATRE,
SPENNYMOOR, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, thoroughly Practical Electrician, combine Cinématograph Operator, to Bill two days a week.
Address, C. ALGIE.

WANTED, First-class Practical Electrician, to take full charge; only competent and reliable men need apply.
FRED KARNO, 28, Vaughan-road, Camberwell, S.E.

WANTED, First-class Practical Property Master, to take full charge; only competent and reliable men need apply.
FRED KARNO, 28, Vaughan-road, Camberwell, S.E.

WANTED, Man, to do Billing; wife to check Circle.
Address, Box 5,305, "The Era."

WANTED, for a few weeks only, a Lady (experienced) to take charge of Pantomime Wardrobe, &c., on Tour; also Carpenter, one willing to work.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire Theatre, Oldham.

WANTED, Re-engagement, as Business or Acting-Manager of Variety Hall, Theatre, or Establishment where sound experience, energy, and faithful services will be appreciated. Accountant. Highest references; moderate salary. HAGUE, Town Hall, Scarborough.

WANTED, by Young Man, shortly Disengaged, Re-engagement as Acting-Manager in Music Hall; thoroughly experienced, smart and energetic. Particulars to J. KEYFORD, 97, Queen-street, Dumfries, N.B.

WANTED, Known, Young Man will give Cash Bonus to any person getting him a good berth as Acting-Manager in a Music Hall, with a recognised firm; experienced in all branches of Music Hall work. Particulars to Box 5,293, "The Era."

WANTED.—Manager of many years' practical experience in Booking Turns and Arranging Programmes is open to Re-engagement in town or country; a thorough knowledge of Productions, and can take entire charge; would give a fortnight as probation. Salary moderate. MANAGER, 36, Freegrove-road, Holloway, N.

WANTED, Known.—American Manager, well known, is prepared to Introduce and Manage a Lady of Talent in America. She must possess a good voice, and be capable of playing Boy's Parts.
Also able to arrange her own passage.
Address in first instance, with full particulars for interview, enclosing photo. (which will be returned), to MANAGER, Box 5,303, "The Era."

WANTED, Situation, as Electrician, in Theatre or Music Hall, having had full charge at Theatre Royal, Glasgow, for over fifteen years; abstainer. Address, W. MORTON, Paisley Theatre, Paisley.

WANTED, Known, Harry Sanderson, Master Carpenter, Hippodrome, Todmorden, at Liberty Jan. 18. Address, 64, Oswald-st., Rochdale.

WANTED, Engagement as Maid to Professional Lady; good needlewoman; tall, neat appearance; good refs. last five years. BROWN, 5, Angel-road, Hammersmith.

WANTED, Situation, as Useful Maid to Professional Lady; good refs.; willing, domesticated, age 26. KENWAY, 66, Burton-road, Brixton, London, S.W.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, Musical-Director, Pianist, Panto. Terms, photos., references,
AUSTIN, Theatre, Worthing.

WANTED, Conductor (Pianist), for Touring Pantomime. Open immediately. Wire, FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, First-class Orchestral Leader, for Booth Liner, sailing Jan. 9. Applicants state age, two references as to character, &c., C. W. BLACK, 14, Castle-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Leader, commence Jan. 4. Apply, with refs.,
SYKES, Musical-Director, Palace, Southampton.

WANTED, for Palace and Hippodrome, Blackburn, First Violinist, to open Jan. 4; must be thoroughly experienced in Variety. Apply, stating age, term, and references, to A. HEYES, Musical-Director.

WANTED, good First Violin and Clarionet.
WILL SMITHSON,
Empire, Barnsley.

WANTED, to Open Monday, Jan. 11, Solo Cornet, for Small Orchestra, for permanency. State lowest terms and references, &c., W. K. GATLEY, Theatre Royal, Macclesfield.

WANTED, at Once, good Cornet Soloist, for Small Exhibition Orchestra, travelling fortnightly throughout the year. Apply with references, WM. SCHOTTLER, Musical-Director, Bath.

WANTED, immediately, First Cornet, First and Second Horns, E flat, Sight-readers or useless. Wire, RICHARDS, 59, Greenway-street, Smallheath, Birmingham.

WANTED, Brilliant Solo Clarionet, to tour with Military Band, commence immediately. None but thoroughly experienced, reliable, competent people need apply. Permanent, comfortable engagement. Apply, with lowest terms and references, to REANO, Hippodrome, Hulme, M'chester.

WANTED, Clarionet, Cornet, Euphonium, Bombardon, and Drums. Terms, shares. Pitching in West-End London. BANDMASTER, 8, Richmond-street, London, N.W.

WANTED, Clarionet, Cornet, and Trombone, to open at once. Wire lowest for nine performances to H. WAMBA.

WANTED, Bass Player, fully experienced. Lowest terms, references, to
STANLEY ROGERS, Theatre Royal, North Shields.

MILTON BODE AND EDWARD COMPTON'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Trombone, open at once. Write full particulars, references, and lowest terms, to C. B. FOUNTAINE, Manager, Royalty Theatre, Chester.

WANTED, for Scotland, Euphonium, Baritone, Bass, two First Cornets, French Horn, Trombone, Double Drums, class performers only. Wire lowest, "MUSICUS," 1, Sterndale-road, West Kensington, London, W.

WANTED, Euphonium or Trombone, Shares. SEC., 95, Stow-hill, Newport, Mon.
Happy New Year to All.

WANTED, at Once, good Bombardon Player, for Pitching. Terms, shares. No fares paid. BANDMASTER, 77, Carlisle-street, Edgware-rd., London.

WANTED, for Reading Professional Town Band, good E flat Horn and Trombone. Terms, shares. SEC., Castle Inn, Reading.

WANTED, Harpist, to combine Horn or some other Instrument, and Full Orchestra, for eight nights, Grand Opera, commencing Monday, Jan. 11. Terms, refs., &c., E. H. PAGE, New Prince's Theatre, Blackburn.

WANTED, Pianist, to combine Violin. Age, references, lowest terms,
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, Pianist, to open Jan. 11; must be used to twice nightly Variety. State lowest terms, references, MANAGER, Empire, Greenock.

WANTED, Pianist, Violin, 'Cello, Bass, for First-class Bioscope Show; good Musical-Director write. AUGUSTE DENTON, Empire, Southampton.

WANTED, a thorough good Pianist, to travel with Auction Mart, one used to the business preferred. Apply, Auction Mart, Rhos, near Wrexham.

WANTED, immediately, First Violins, Second Violins, Violas, 'Cellos, Basses, Flutes, Oboes, Clarionets, Bassoons, Horns, Cornets, Trombones, Drums, for Moss' Empires Limited. Permanent engagement. First-class players with good references and experience need only apply.
Apply by letter, with full particulars, to the
MUSICAL ADVISER, Cranbourn-mansions,
Cranbourn-street, London, W.C.

WANTED, First-class Orchestral Solo Violinists. Pianists, 'Cellolists, for Cunard Mediterranean Service; Engagements from Feb. and March until Aug. and Sept., 1909. Audition in London or Liverpool necessary before engaging.
Applicants state age and give two references as to character, &c., to
C. W. BLACK, 14, Castle-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Young Lady Brass Players (beginners), for Long Engagement. Write or call, BISERA, 14, Canterbury-road, Brixton, London.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept.,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C
Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER."
"Re Advertisement, 'WANTED, DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Musicians who contemplate making Engagements at Northampton to communicate in first instance with J. B. WILLIAMS, General-Secretary, Amalgamated Musicians' Union. Wanted, 'Cello and Bass, for Palace, Lincoln. For terms and particulars apply to Branch Secretaries of A.M.U. All applications must be sent through the B. Sec. to the Lincoln Secretary.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical Director (Violin), Dramas, &c., composed arranged, composer music "Silver King," "Lights o' London," &c. Victoria Theatre, Ramsgate.

WANTED, Known, Henry Sprake, senior, Musical-Director, Disengaged, formerly Adelphi Theatre, Strand, and recently Broadway Theatre, New Cross (five years), large and up-to-date library, Musical Numbers for Animated Pictures a Speciality; can supply and lead good Military Band for Skating Rink. Address, C/o "The Era."

WANTED, Known, W. H. Brinkworth, Musical-Director, Violin, Piano, Palace T., Ramsgate, Disengaged. Composing, Arranging. 7 Pretoria-mansions, Elderfield-rd, Clapton.

WANTED, Engagement, thoroughly experienced Musical-Director, London Theatre or No. 1 Touring Company; highest credentials. MUSICA, 45, Lansdowne-road, Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement as Conductor (Violinist), from Feb., First-class Music Hall only, in or near London. Add., Box 5,291, "The Era."

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, Leader or First Violin; first-class refs.; sober and reliable; open Monday. VIOLIN, 10, Bath-hill-terrace, Yarmouth.

WANTED, by Lady Violinist (not Leader), also Light Vocalist, Engagement, London or Provinces; experienced Orchestra work. 59, Ansdell-road, Peckham.

WANTED, by Second Violin, Engagements, only moderate wage desired.
Box 5,292, "The Era."

WANTED Permanent Engagement, by experienced Violinist; steady and reliable; good references. FRED SHARPE, Buxton House, Oundle-road, Peterboro'.

WANTED, Engagement, by Smart Young Violinist; first-class player, and experienced. For particulars, refs., &c., apply, Box 5,302, "The Era."

WANTED, by Cornet, Engagement at Theatre or Music Hall; just out of shop. G. L., 100, Eversleigh-road, Lavender Hill, Battersea.

WANTED, Engagement by Cornet, thoroughly experienced, any business; good references. F. WATSON, 11, Borthwick-rd., West Hendon, N.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Solo Clarionettist, thoroughly experienced in First-class Theatres and Varieties; steady, reliable. PROFESSIONAL, 17, Cyril-avenue, Bobbersmill, Nottingham.

WANTED, Engagement as Double Bass, through season terminating, Windermere, First-class Variety, &c.; highest refs. BERTHORE, 20, St. John's-road, Cambridge.

WANTED, Engagement, good String Bass, experienced in all Lines, age 30. Wire or write, FEHRENTZ, 88, Blackfriars-rd, Oxford.

WANTED, Known, First-class Double Bass Player, at Liberty; town only. CEO. GODFREY-JONES, 74, Merton-road, Wimbledon, S.W.

WANTED, by Trombone, combine Euphonium, Soloist; permanent Engagement; fully experienced; good references. GEORGE GRUBER, Cold Waltham, Pulborough, Sussex.

WANTED, by Trombone, Engagement, or Deputising; any business.
SAM FREDERICK, 44, Harders-road, Peckham, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, by Trombonist, exceptional experience, ability, and references; Lib. Jan. 10, if pressing, 3rd. SERGT. TAYLOR, A.S.C. Mess, Aldershot.

WANTED, Known, Bombardon and Trombone, Disengaged owing to closing of Zoo. Address, BOMBARDON, Zoo, Mountain Ash, Glamorgan.

WANTED, Engagement, permanency, First Horn, 6 years' experience in Orchestral work, commence at once. Write, FRENCH HORN, 86, Richmond-road, Dalston, N.E.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ethol Litolff, experienced Orchestral 'Cellist, Disengaged Jan. 7. Address, The Octagon Café, King Edward-st., Hull, Yorks.

WANTED, by 'Cello, Engagement; good reference; any business; age 30. Address, R. SORTIN, 54, Torrens-buildings, City-road, E.C.

WANTED, Engagement, Viola or Second Violin, any business; experienced. H. OLDFIELD, 83, Avondale-square, Old Kent-road, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, Flute and Pic., experienced any Business, Disengaged 4th; young, sober, reliable. FLAUTIST, 10, Bath-hill-terrace, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, Engagement, Pianist, Orchestral or Accompanist; good sight-reader, well experienced. TOPSY WAUD, Ashmoor, High Cliff-drive, Leigh-on-Sea.

WANTED, Engagement, Pianist, Miss Emily Lloyd, Orchestra, Solos, Accompanist, &c. 64, South-Western-road, Twickenham, London.

WANTED, First-class Pianist, to play to pictures; can join Monday. Address, COTTRELL, Daly's Picture Hall, Consett, Durham.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Pianist (Mus.-Dir. De Frece Circuit), First-class Bass, First-class Drums, with Tymps., all fully experienced; good refs. MUSICIANS, 10, Banks-st., Blackpool.

WANTED, by Pianist and Accompanist, Engagement in or near London, Concert or Orch., Double Second Violin; well up in Var., Dram., and Mus. Com.; age 24; good appearance. 99, Albion-road, Stoke Newington, N.

WANTED, Engagement, or Deputise, can start at once, Double Drums and Effects. Refs. and experience; any bus. JAS. ROGERS, 42, Cambridge-street, Camberwell.

WANTED, Engagement as Double Drums and Effects, thoroughly experienced and reliable; Liberty any time, any business. 9, Byron-st., Buxton.

WANTED, Engagements, by Miss Winnie Watson's Poppy Orchestra, the Premier Ladies' Band, including Soloists and Singers from Franco-British, Olympia, and Principal Exhibitions, Palace Pier, Brighton, &c. Smart scarlet costume. Good offers invited for any number or business. 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton. Tel. 5100 Nat.

WANTED, Known, Efficient Foreign Band, in smart Uniform, can be Engaged for Concerts, Exhibitions, Seaside Resorts, &c. Apply, Box 5,274, "The Era."

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

CIRCUS, HULL.

WANTED, for the above, Feb. 8, 15, the Cream of Artists in all Branches of the Equestrian, Gymnastic, and Vaudeville Profession; also good Spectacle.

State full particulars,
EDWARD EMERSON,
General-Manager,
Circus, Hull.

HIPPODROME AND PALACE THEATRE,
SPENNYMOOR, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Equestrians, for one week, Jan. 4, Clowns, &c., any Act that can be done in a 40ft. Ring. Address, C. ALGIE.

HIPPO. SPENNYMOOR, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Circus Artists, open Monday, Jan. 4. Will Harry Metcalf communicate? Property Man write.
ALGIE.

WANTED, for a Scandinavian Circus (eight months' tour), an Acrobatic Troupe with several acts; must be useful. GUISE, 25, Bonham-road, Brixton. Several Flying Trapeze Troupes wanted from middle of January.

WANTED, at Once, good Second Mounter and Tumbler, used to Comedy.
Lowest terms to Box 5,309, "The Era."

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, that the
THREE ROYAL OHMYS,
favourite riders to the Crown Prince of Denmark, and Greatest of all Three-horse Riders, conclude to-night six weeks' successful engagement with Mr. Gilbert at his Hippodrome, Great Yarmouth, and open at Angie's Hippodrome, Spennymoor. Will be at Liberty Jan. 18 with six big acts, including the Greatest Three-horse Act now before the Public. For particulars, address THE ROYAL OHMYS, Hippodrome, Spennymoor. A Happy New Year to All.

WANTED, Known, the Stephenson Equestrian Family, with plenty of Acts, Ground Acts, Animal Acts, and Riding Acts. Big Success, John Henry Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh; Spangeletti's Baboons and Dogs, sixth week in programme, and going better every time. Harry Stephenson, Jockey Act Rider. "Don't forget, Jockey Act Rider." Address as above for particulars.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known. Comical Walker, Talking Clown, with a number of good Comic Entrées, now appearing with enormous success, Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh, third return engagement; Liberty shortly for long Tour or short Engagements. Address WALKER, Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Known, Rollo, King of the Air, Sensational Trapeze and Slack Rope Performer, Liberty Jan. 11. Address, WILMOT'S Carnival, Iona-street, Leith, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Known, Four Escaladers, champion Double Ladder Experts, Head and Hand Balancers, Comedy Artists, Liberty Jan. 11 and onwards. All communications, 41, Ellbroad-street, Bristol.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

YARMOUTH & LOWESTOFT HIPPODROMES.
YARMOUTH & LOWESTOFT HIPPODROMES.

THE PALACE, GORLESTON.
THE PALACE, GORLESTON.

HENGLER'S, GLASGOW.
HENGLER'S, GLASGOW.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, and Specialities in all Lines, immediate and future dates.

Now Booking for Summer Season.

Impossible to reply to all.

GEO. ZALVA'S Agency,
The Hippodrome,
Yarmouth.

BRITANNIA THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, Jan. 11, and onward, Variety Artists, in all Lines, Specialities, Comedians, Comediennes, Sisters, Doubles doing Singles.
Please state lowest in first letter.
A. E. PICKARD,
Sole Proprietor and Manager,
Britannia, Glasgow.

KING'S THEATRE, EDINBURGH.
WANTED, First-class Variety Star Artists, all Lines. Nothing too Big.
A. MASCARD, Manager.

CLYDEBANK NEW GAIETY THEATRE.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Variety Artists, in all Lines, Good Specialities and Dramatic Sketches, for immediate and future dates. Full particulars in first letter to A. E. PICKARD, Sole Proprietor.

WANTED, Monday, Jan. 11, and onwards, Variety Artists, all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, KITCHINGMAN, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED Variety Artists in all branches, for Scotland. Address, JAMES ANDERSON, the old reliable Scotch Agent, at the Musical Artists' Club, 32, Stockwell-street, Glasgow. Open daily from 11 till 3 and from 7 till 12 p.m., and on Sundays from 10 a.m. till 12 midnight. Glad to see all the boys up.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.
WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, Twice Nightly; also WORCESTER EMPIRE, Twice Nightly. Wanted, Artists doing Double Turns, used to Picture Shows. No wires, please. ARTHUR CARLTON, Palace, Worcester.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Acts with Drawing Powers (Nothing too Big), Dec. 28, onwards. CLAGGERS, Gaiety, Blyth.

POOLE'S MYRIORAMA.
WANTED, to open Monday, Jan. 11, at Swansea, Variety Artists.
Comedy Numbers preferred. Nothing too big.
Apply, POOLE, Albert Hall, Swansea.

WANTED, Monday and onwards, Variety Artists all Lines, small Hall. Irish Comedians wire lowest. FLETCHER, Pavilion, Northwich.

GEORGE SMYTHSON'S AGENCY.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, The Pick of the Entertainment World.
If you have the "goods," I can place you.
Good Acts Known to Me
send full list of bookings
(including engagements fulfilled during 1908).
Must enclose full list, or useless writing.
Quote actual lowest in each instance for
Principal Provincial Halls,
Minor Provincial Halls,
and London.
Big Novel Acts, in London particularly,
State when and where can be seen.
GEORGE SMYTHSON,
38, Craster-road, Brixton Hill, London, S.W.
No callers except by appointment.

O. MAUS DAYTON'S ANGLO-CONTINENTAL VARIETY AGENCY.
Representative, WILL B. CRABTREE.
WANTED, Artists, now playing London and district, to write in immediately, giving Open Dates and full particulars. Please state time you are on, so that act can be seen by us. Interviews by appointment only. Silence a polite negative. Happy New Year to All.
O. MAUS DAYTON, The Dayton Family,
Dalston Theatre, London.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists, all Lines, Big Specialities, Novelties, Comedians, Serios, Jan. 11, onwards. Lowest terms and bookings, EDGAR STEBBINGS, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester. Tels., "Stebbing, Manchester." 'Phone 9261.

VICTORIA T., STANLEY, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Star Artists for immediate and future dates. T. C. RAWES, Proprietor.

WANTED, Artists, Double Turns, Sketches, doing Singles, two weeks, Jan. 11, 18, 25, onwards. CHARLES A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, Specialities, Sisters, all useful for Tour, splendid opportunity for clever Amateurs. Letters, with stamps, MANAGER, 126, Southwark Park-road, S.E.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now onwards.
Apply, Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

BEANLAND AND EMERSON'S VARIETY AGENCY.
ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
WANTED, Artists of every Description, for immediate dates and onwards, for several Halls, Lancashire and Yorkshire. V.A.F. Contracts used. Send full list of Bookings and Terms.

FRED DURHAM'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Jan. 4, on. 1a, Loughboro'-rd., Brixton. 'Phone 15 Brixton.

VENTOM SWIFT'S AGENCY,
1, West Tollcross, Edinburgh.
WANTED, Artists known to me, for Aberdeen, Dundee, Glasgow, Greenock, &c. All Artists vacant "Monday next" keep me posted every Tuesday.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Jan. 11 and on, near London.
CADLE'S Agency, 105-106, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, for T. A. Edwardes's Variety Theatres. Artists in all Lines, Combinations with drawing Tops entertained, for dates in Feb. and March. Address, T. A. EDWARDES, Palace, Derby.

WANTED, Artists, Novelties, Vocalists wishing to introduce or produce New Acts, apply HOWARD DE WING, Manager, Montpelier Palace, Walworth. Large stage for rehearsals. Trial turns Thursdays, 12 to 2.

EMPIRE, GRANTHAM.

WANTED, Wanted, Known, Artists holding Contracts for March 8 and 22 weeks.
Please Note.
The Empire will be closed these weeks.
All contracts cancelled.

(Signed) J. A. CAMPBELL.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Artists, of Note.
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,

DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY — I can book you Immediate Dates,
DALTON'S AGENCY — and
DALTON'S AGENCY — Dates onward.
DALTON'S AGENCY — No Guessing.
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY — Send full list
DALTON'S AGENCY — and very lowest
DALTON'S AGENCY — (this essential),
DALTON'S AGENCY — and permanent addresses,
DALTON'S AGENCY — also
DALTON'S AGENCY — weekly apartments
DALTON'S AGENCY — address.
DALTON'S AGENCY
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DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY — 29, Mauldeth-road West,
DALTON'S AGENCY — Withington,
DALTON'S AGENCY — Manchester.
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY — I said "Agency."

N.B.—State where never played.
Viviana and Co. wire address. Urgent.

NEW PAVILION, KIRKCALDY.
Important Announcement.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, Big Sensational Novelties, nothing too big, Jan. 11, onwards. Will give £150 to £200 per week for Star Attractions. The Pavilion, which has been fitted and decorated throughout by Dean and Sons, Birmingham, is now one of the finest Theatres in Scotland.
All letters address,
Dr. WALFORD BODIE, M.D.,
Pavilion Theatre,
Kirkcaldy, N.B.

Great success this week of the following Artists:—Leoni Clarke, Tweed Andrews, Professor Henri and his Mechanical Lady, Nettie Hawthorn, Mars Trio, Li Chang Hi, Jack Allison, Musical Silvo, Mr. and Mrs. David Thomson, The Lorrisons, Dolly Robson, Mr. Scott Skinner Ryde and Beeman, Bella Skene, Daisy Taylor, Sydney Lochlynne, Vulcaris, Minnie Halford, James Gray, George A. Park, The Safety Bioscope, London, Jack Easy, Violet Davidson, The Zeenas, Geo. Hyatt, Will Candlish, Nannie Shaw, Dr. Bodie and full Staff.

BODIE'S HIPPODROMES,
FERNDALE AND PONTYCYMMER.
WANTED, Artists all Lines, Big Star Turns, with own Companies, Share or Certainty, for the Hippodromes, Ferndale and Pontycymmer, two of the most pretty and cosy Theatres in Wales, fitted throughout by Dean and Sons, Birmingham. Not wooden buildings, but substantial brick and lime. Dr. Bodie took over £300 in one week.
All letters address, with sample lithos., &c., to
TOM N. MILLS,
General-Manager,
Bodie's Hippodrome,
Ferndale.

HIPPODROME, KIRKCALDY.
WANTED, Known, to all Artists holding Contracts signed by Mr. E. Bostock, the same will hold good.
Signed, WALFORD BODIE, M.D.
Pavilion, Kirkcaldy.
Jan. 1. 1909.

WANTED, all Clients to Send full Bookings. Important. FRANK LYNNE'S Agency, 77, Angell-road, Brixton, S.W. 'Phone 1,303, Brixton.

WANTED, for Jan. 4 and onwards,
Stars in all Lines.
Stars in all Lines.
Full up for smaller items.
CADLE'S Agency, 105-106, Strand, W.C.

VERNO'S AGENCY,
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Stars, Specialities, Novelties, and Artists of every Description, for Jan. 11, on.
Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone, 2076 Royal.

ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, CASTLEFORD.
WANTED, the Greatest Stars in the Business, nothing too big, Share or Salary. Artists of every description. Particulars, BEANLAND and EMERSON, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

WANTED, all the Leading Stars, Novelties of every description, for Leading Music Hall in the North. Money no object to the right people. Send photo., terms, and bookings next week to YATES'S Agency, Opera House, Dunfermline.

WANTED, for Poole's Myriorama (owing to disappointment), Star Turns, for Jan. 4, 11, 23, and Feb. 1, bigger the better. All particulars and terms to F. MAYER, Manager, Colston Hall, Bristol.

WANTED, for Dooner Electric Bioscope Co., a First-class Double Singing and Dancing Turn,
for Monday, Dec. 28, one or two weeks.
State lowest terms,
DOONER'S Bioscope, Maesteg, Glam.

WANTED, Star Turns, Tops, Middles, and Bottoms, Jan. 11, 18, 25, on; must be big. Send Bookings and lowest. Robertys wire. GEO. AYTOUN, 103, Kennington Park-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Good Turn, Jan. 11.
WILL SMITHSON, Empire, Barnsley.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY,
170, SALTMARKET, GLASGOW.
'Phone (Nat.) 234Y5 Tron.
WANTED, immediate and onwards, the Best Talent for England and the North. Note.—This is a Real Agency, not "a flash in a pan." Over twenty years' standing. Occupy my own time and do it for a living and not for pin-money. Know Talent and how to book it. Where did I get my experience from? Why, by travelling the world over and being a Performer, and Topped Bills for over twenty years. That's all. My terms are 10%.

DEETRICH AGENCY,
'Phone 1269 Royal. 31, Islington, Liverpool.
WANTED, the Biggest Acts in the Market, for immediate and future dates. Money no object, but no fancy prices paid. Also good small Acts always entertained. Artists that have written previously kindly write again with full particulars.

BARNARD'S AGENCY, Shaw-street, Liverpool.
Tel. 2349 Royal.
WANTED, Big Acts, and Artists in all Lines, for immediate and future Dates, for North, South, East, West of England. Send full list Bookings and Vacancies.

WANTED, for the Marina Theatre, Ramsgate, season commencing March 1, 1909, good Refined Acts of every kind. Hall small. Terms must be reasonable. Full particulars and list of bookings in first instance to sole booking agents, DEETRICH Agency, 31, Islington, Liverpool. 'Phone 1269 Royal.

WANTED, for Empire, Greenock, twice nightly, Star Acts. Nothing too Big. Salary or sharing terms; also Pantomimes and Combinations.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, PONTEFRACT.
NEW EMPIRE, WAKEFIELD.
In due course of erection.
WANTED, the Greatest and Best Acts in all Lines, Comedy Acts, Sketches, anything big. All communications, TOM DIACOFF, Pontefract.

HIPPODROME AND PALACE THEATRE,
SPENNYMOOR, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Specialities of every Description, Sketches, &c., big Aerial Acts, Ring or Stage.
Address, C. ALGIE.

WANTED, Big Specialities, Jan. 25 (North). Anything that can follow the Sauteron Wonders. Letters only, c/o Craigie, 21, Broughton-street, Edinburgh.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME, ALDERSHOT.
WANTED, First-class Varieties, Novelties, for Feb. 1 (week). Lowest terms to J. GLADWIN (Manager for Mr. Sounes)

PALACE THEATRE, GRIMSBY.
WANTED, Good Top, Jan. 11, also Tops and Bottoms, for Feb. 1 and onwards. State when last in Grimsby, lowest terms, and full particulars,
G. RHODES PARRY, Palace, Grimsby.

WANTED, for Palace Theatre, Reading, Tops and Bottoms of Bills, Several Dates, this and next year. Letters only, STANHOPE and Co., Ltd., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Jan. 11, Top and Bottom Liners, Speciality Act. I can fix you. Lithos., full bookings, GANNON, West-grove, Bristol. Miss Yvonne Lamore send dates.

WANTED, a small Animal Act, Lady to travel Picture Entertainment, Villages North; no fancy price, but sure. A. POOLEY, c/o Post Office, Slough, Bucks.

WANTED, immediately, Ghost Illusion, with or without full Company, or will Hire or Purchase complete Fit-up for same. Experienced Manager write, DELMAR, Palace, Bridlington.

WANTED, Young Lady who can Juggle, use the Clubs, or Sing and Dance; or good Comedy Man, for Juggling Act. Address, JUGGLER, 123, Kennington-road, London.

WANTED, Operator, own machine, films, &c., electric and gas; long Tour; would entertain Partner. ANDRE, G.P.O., Mountain Ash, S. Wales.

WANTED, Biograph Operator, one who understands Motor Cars preferred.
BIO, 3, West-grove, Bristol.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Mlle. Naveeda, the Premier Lady Illusionist, and her Company, are at Liberty Jan. 4 and 18, with the most Novel and Sensational Illusionary Act ever presented. Starring, Hippodrome, St. Helens, where please communicate, or permanent address, 32, Cavendish-st., Manchester. Salary or Shares.

WANTED, Jan. 25, on, by Empress, the Original Lady Handcuff Manipulator. No bluff necessary. A good Act always speaks for itself. Hippodrome, Dumfries.

WANTED, by Miss Alice Oakley, Comedienne, Mon. next, Jan. 4, also 11, 18. Wire or write, 31, Ellison-street, Gateshead-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Monday next, Jan. 4, 11, precede Stoll Halls, Jean Macduff, Lady Scotch Comedienne; Peggy Lyndon's Dainty Musical Act. This, Wales; excellent Turns, one or both, any distance. Great success Paisley, Edinburgh, Scarboro', &c. Wire offers to MELVILLE, Portobello.

WANTED, Known, Sisters Milton (Soprano and Contralto) are accomplished duettists.—Era. These cultured young vocalists made a conquest of the house.—Plymouth Independent. Disengaged. M. MILTON, Palace Theatre, Bristol.

WANTED, Known, Terry Sisters, Highly Talented Comediennes, Mimics, and Dancers, at Liberty Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25. Address, Theatre Royal, Oldham.

WANTED, Known, the Highly Talented Sisters Terry, at Lib. Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1. Finish to-night, Royal, Oldham. Jan. 4, Pavilion, Bridlington.

WANTED, Known, Arthur Bright, Popular Comedian and Milanese Piper; also if desired, another distinct Act, as Olly Oban, Illustrated Songster. Just concluding over two years' successful Engagement in Scotland with James Montague, Esq. Vacant from Jan. 11. St. Margaret's Hall, Dunfermline.

WANTED, Monday next, also Jan. 11, by Leslie Clements, Coloured Coon Singer and Banjoist. Wire, Empire, Dundee.

WANTED, Monday, by Harry Elliott, England's Greatest Chorus Singer, suitable for any Entertainment; any distance. Wire, Foresters' Music Hall, London.

WANTED, by Bob Roberts, Patter Comedian. Vac. 11th.
28, Criskell-street, Holbeck, Leeds.

WANTED, by Cade Burnett, Actor-Vocalist, Vacant Jan. 11, Jan. 11. This week, Terrific Success, T. R., Canterbury; next week, St. James's Hall, Kingston.

WANTED, Immediate Engagements, Dan Ashton, Lancashire's Popular Collier Comedian. Original Songs, Scenas, Jokes, &c. No misunderstandings. All communications, 26, Wood-street, Openshaw.

WANTED, Monday next, and on, George Battle, Actor-Vocalist. Chorus sung every town. Song Scena, Success Everywhere. Hippo., Staveley, Chesterfield.

WANTED, Known, Carl St. Clare (?), Wonderful Vocalist and Impersonator, Liberty Jan. 4, 11. Coms. 18, Grafton-street, Leeds. Wire, wire, wire.

WANTED, Jan. 4, by Bosanquet, in New Novel Act, "The Human Violin." A Sure Draw. Wire, Winter Gardens, New Brighton.

WANTED, Jan. 4, 11, Bu-Val, Happy Dutchman (Concertina). Reply, PRINGLE'S Pictures, Rochdale.

WANTED, Known, Pat O'Connor, Comedian and Exhibition Dancer. Last week, Park Palace, Liverpool; this week, Special Concerts; Liberty Jan. 4. Wire, 7, Poplar-street, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Jan. 11, 18, by Carl Hershal, Humorous Magician. Terrific Success this week, New Picture Palace, Bolton; next, Pavilion, Chorlton, Manchester. Managers, come and see this act if you want something good. All coms., 27, Minto-street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

WANTED, Jan. 11, onwards, by Li-Chang-Hi and Co., Chinese Illusionists. This week, starring, Adam Smith Hall, Kirkcaldy. D.C. Lithos; Electric Fit-up.

WANTED, by Morimura, Marvellous Japanese Illusionist, Jan. 11 and 18, for his Original Oriental Magic Act, including Beautiful Illuminated Electric Stage Effects. Concludes to-night, Empire Theatre, Rochdale; next week, Olympia Annexe, London.

WANTED, Known, Little Hackenschmidt, World's Champion Bantamweight Wrestler, wishes a Happy New Year to All. Re Vacancies, 34, Margaret-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Chevalier T. H. Crowther, Free, Home or Abroad; two good acts, 200 pairs Roller Skates, and few Latest Illusions. 20, Lynthorne-road, Frizinghall, Bradford.

WANTED, Jan. 4, 11, Lavelle R. Scroggs, Acrobatic Hand-jumping Pedestal Act. This, Theatre Royal, Chesterfield; perm., 30, Hallam-st., West Bromwich.

WANTED, Jan. 11, onward, The Great Kroston (Kyoto), Japanese Sensational, Humorous, Mysterious Act; May Sumner, Comedienne and Dancer. Enormous Success, Tivoli, Pentre. Jan. 4, E. Theatre, Blaina, Mon.

WANTED, Proprietors and Managers to Know that N. C. Bostock and Nellie Elliene have been engaged by C. M. Daly, Esq., for the whole of his theatres, and at their own terms. Vacant Jan. 4 and 11. Wire, Opera House, Dunfermline.

WANTED, Monday, on, The Mannikins. Harry and Maud. Living Marionettes, Electric Theatre, also Double Singing Turn. 66, Wenlock-street, London, N.

WANTED, Jan. 11, by Elliott and Warne (Carrie and Tom), Comedy Artists, Tumblers, and Dancers. A sure success on any Programme. Wire, Empire, Southport.

WANTED, Monday next, also Jan. 11, by Clive and Vera, in their Novelty Comedy Act, "Squire and Dairymaid." Wire, Hippo., Darwen. After Sat., 17, New York-st., C.-on-M., Manchester.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Monday next, by Marcus Boyle, Comedian; also Ada Whitton, Burlesque Actress; one or both. Wire, 33, George Scott-street, South Shields.

WANTED, by Mlle. Sylvesto, Unique Contortionist, and her Comedian, Jan. 4, 11, 18. Big success this week, Bottom of Bill, Hippo., Hull. Wire.

WANTED, Jan. 4, 11, and 18, Alex and Jolly, Funniest and Smartest of all Three-Bar Acts. 13, Westfield-terrace, Sheffield.

WANTED, by Wright and Elton, Novel Comedy Act, Jan. 4, 25. Wire, P., Northampton; after Saturday, 83, Lenthall-road, Dalston, London. Wire.

WANTED, by Avrignya, great Jap Juggling Number, Big Act for Pantomime, free for Monday. Address, C/o "The Era."

WANTED, Monday next, by the Two Le Bruns, Unique Vocal and Juggling Speciality.
Wire, Public Hall, Darwen.

WANTED, Known, Les Zanonis, unrivalled Boy and Girl Club Jugglers, are unexpectedly vacant Jan. 11. Offers. This, Hippo., Spennymoor; next, Hippo., Rotherham.

WANTED, Known, what a draw Four Cecilians are. Make enquiries. Next, Tivoli, Liverpool. Vacant Jan. 4. Don't want the earth.

WANTED, Monday, by Great Scott, the Ladder King, the Only Juggler on the Balancing Ladder. Usual Success, Queen's Theatre, Castleford.

WANTED, Dates, onward, The Peps, Most Talented Trampolin Performance before the Public. Managers, note.—This Act will Please any Audience. We always Shine. Dog Prince, the talk of every town. All say, What a wonderful performing dog you have. Come to Scotland for a week, staying five, perhaps longer. Played two Engagements; re-booked at each. Happy New Year to All. Monday, Opera House, Dunfermline, Scotland; free Jan. 11.

WANTED, Known, Ringling Trio, Acrobatic Comedy Act on Stilts, &c., Vac. Monday next, Jan. 11 and 18. Wire, Pal., Burnley.

WANTED, by Attilla Bros., Original Grecian Gladiators. Attilla Bros., Refined Strength Display, Lib. Jan. 11, Feb. 1. Hippo., Spennymoor; next, Empire, Burnley.

WANTED, Known, Lolo Trio, Queenie Lolo and May, Refined Lady Trapeze and Teeth Experts, Contortionist and Acrobatic Dance Artists, Magnificent Silver and Electric Apparatus. Liberty 4th, 11th, and 18th. Address, 127, Aughton-road, Birkdale, Southport.

WANTED, Known, Valvo, Ventriloquist, vacant Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25, and Feb. 1 (through transferring dates), Smart Act, no Fixing; for Halls, Panto. (play part), or Pictures. Star Attraction guaranteed. Share or Salary. Wire or write, 90, Amberley-street, Bradford.

WANTED, Known, Liberty Jan. 11, 18, Le Warren, Novelty Ventriloquist. Tremendous Success, Palace, Kilmarnock; next week, Theatre Royal, Workington. Liberty Jan. 11, 18.

WANTED, Known, Geo. Gulliver, Ventriloquist, thanks H. Vivian-Fisher, Esq., Hippo., Hastings, for paying salary in full Xmas week and for very comfortable engagement.

WANTED, Jan. 18, 25, by Gulliver, Ventriloquist. Address, Public Hall, Rochdale.

WANTED, by Rich Taylor, The Whistling Ventriloquist, Feb. 1, through Palace, Sunderland, closing. This week, Hippo., Paisley; next, Hippo., Hamilton.

WANTED, Feb. 1, 8, 15, by Hulbert, Ventriloquist; and De Lil, Illusionist; two smart Acts. Offers invited. Assembly Rooms, Leigh.

WANTED, Managers and Agents to Know, the only vacant dates 1909 for
"THE CRAZY COOK"
are Feb. 1, 15, 22, March 15, 22.

PICITT AND LIZETTE,
Illusionists and Pantomimists,
in their great Magical Extravaganza,
"THE CRAZY COOK."
"THE CRAZY COOK."

A Big Magical Act. A Big Comedy Act.
A Big Animal Act, all in one.
50 Birds and Animals, 50.
The most Realistic Kitchen Set ever Staged.
Everything carried, including Scenery.
Splendid Lithos.

If you want a Real Novelty, the above dates offer your only opportunity.

Wire, Coliseum, London.

WANTED, Jan. 18, 25, for John Leopold's Co., "Houseboat" and "Frivolity," or Leopold's Star Vaudeville Combination. Communications, JOHN LEOPOLD, Alexandra Theatre, Greenock.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty, Ida Herrington's Sketch Co., eight in number, in "Wedding Mishaps." Great success Empress, Brixton. Com., 19, Tunstall-road, Brixton.

WANTED, Jan. 11, for Matt Wilkinson's Laughter-makers, in Comedy Acts; also Violet Beatrice, Boy Impersonator. Gaiety, Birmingham; next, P., Scarborough.

WANTED, Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 15, and on, "Battle of the Belles," Comedy Act.
FRED MOULE, Jan. 4, Palace, Cork.

WANTED, Monday, also 11th, by Billy Ross and Co., Greatest Boxing Act before the Public. Competitions nightly. Starring, Hippodrome, Peterborough. Wire.

WANTED, by Miss Ella's Lion Show, Jan. 18, 1909, onwards, with exceptions.
A Sure Draw and Moneymaker.

Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

WANTED, by Alice Laserno's Fourteen Performing Cats, most elegant and refined show, at Liberty Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25. Address, 91, Rusholme-road, Manchester.

Wire Jan. 11. Wire.

WANTED, Known, Hinton and Wooton, Originators of Act and Title, "A Football Match on Bicycles," vacant Jan. 11, through transferring same for King's, Edinboro'. Address, Jan. 4, Hippodrome, Kirkcaldy, N.B.

WANTED, Known, Cumberlands, the only Acrobating Cyclists in the World.
We accept any challenge as Acrobatic Cyclists.
All letters to
E. G. CUMBERLAND, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Cyclinis Trio, Knockabout Cyclists, Football Match on Bicycles, Iona-street Carnival, Edinburgh, vacant 4, 11, wire above. (See Cards).

WANTED, Jan. 4, 11, and 18, Swift Duo, Novel Cycling Speciality. Wire or write,
89, Bristol-street, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Pauletti, Bicycle Act. Big Success Cat. Complimented by everyone. Offers invited. T. R., Ilkeston; next, P. O. W., Mexboro'. Kind regards Jo-Jo.

WANTED, Known, that Tom Hearne, All-round Tumbler, late of The Four Hearnes, also Dagmars, is at Liberty to join a First-class Troupe. Address letters, 95, Fentiman-road, Clapham-road, London.

WANTED, Engagement, B. Pearson, Lecturer, Humorist, and Advertising Representative, free Jan. 11; eight months with Colonial Pictures, Queen's Theatre, Dublin.

WANTED, Engagement, Smart Boy, Sketch Troupe, or Assistant to Artist; little experience with Marionettes. J. F. HARRISON, 2, Poplar-terrace, Liscard, near Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Prof. Lenton's Bioscope Entertainments; Change of Pictures Nightly or Weekly; Machines, Films, and Accessories Bought, Sold, or Hired Out to any amount. 2, Capener's-yard, Knightsbridge, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Milton's Marionettes are at Liberty for First-class Trades Exhibition. Marionettes, I said. Address, 77, Virginia-street, Southport.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD OF GREAT BRITAIN.
THE U.K. VAN-DWELLERS' AND SHOWMEN'S PROTECTION ASSOCIATION.
WANTED, Known, Annual Meetings, MANCHESTER.
THE MEMORIAL HALL, ALBERT-SQUARE, Wednesday, Jan. 13, 1909, commencing at 4 p.m. prompt. Speakers:—The Rev. H. Norburn and Rev. T. Horne, T. Watson Wright, Esq., Chas. Howard, Esq. Chairman:—THE NEW PRESIDENT.
LONDON.
THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL HALL ISLINGTON
(by kind permission of T. E. Read, Esq.),
Wednesday, Jan. 23, 1907.
Presidential Address by THE NEW PRESIDENT.
The other speakers will include the Organising Chaplain, the Hon. Solicitor, and Friends and Supporters of the Guild, commencing at 11.30 in the forenoon. THE ANNUAL BUSINESS COMMITTEE MEETING at the "Black Lion Hotel," Salford, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon of Jan. 16.
T. HURST, Hon. Sec.

WANTED, Known, Wanted, Known, that the Next Meeting of the BRITISH ROUNDABOUT PROPRIETORS' AND SHOWMEN'S UNION will be Held at the Founders Arms, Ashburner-street, Bolton, on Wednesday, Jan. 6, at 11 a.m.
A Good Muster of Members is requested.

(Signed) T. HURST, Secretary.

WANTED, Wanted, Known, Direct from Paris to South Wales, just arrived quite safely by G.W.Ry.,

the latest 1909 112-Key Orchestraphone,

the largest and grandest Organ ever produced in Europe.

One ton heavier than any other.

One of Gavioli's Productions.

It has been Purchased at great cost by Mr. Sidney White, the South Wales Amusement Caterer, of Cardiff.

This Beautiful Piece of Mechanism is on view, and can be seen any time on the Show Ground, Iron Bridge, Merthyr, where the People of South Wales will have the honour of first hearing The Latest Masterpiece of Musical Combination.

The Orchestraphone was erected under the Personal Supervision of Chiappia, of London, Sole Agents for Great Britain to Gavioli, of Paris.

WANTED, Known, Wanted, Known, The Public put Pennies in the Slots, but I take Sovereigns from the Cash Boxes.

The above was the recent remark of an operator of
"The Magical Mills Machines."
"The Marvellous Mills Machines."
"The Money-making Mills Machines."

Send to Sole Agents for Illustrated Catalogue,

MINERVA AUTOMATIC CO.,
14, Charterhouse-buildings, London, E.C.

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Hal Godfrey and Co., Dunn and Reno, Three Carleus, Mayme Cannon, C. Cardow, Harry Brown, Aribos, Russell Carr, Pictures, Dale and O'Malley.

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Kenneth and Kane, Massona, Lennard and Veriker, J. P. Corrall, Princess Pocahuntas, Sisters Trentinovis, Weisker Bioscope.

HIPPODROME, EALING.

Tom Edwards, Tom Costello, Cyrus Dare, Alice Pierce, Jenny Deane, Little Victoria, Pictures, Olga Dora, Arthur Melrose, Les Rubens.

EMPRESS, BRIXTON.

Gus Elen, Chas. Austin and Co., H. Clayton and Co., Kitty Seymour, Lillie Langtry, Marie Blythe, Winnie Oldershaw, Mabel Mignon, Gladys Mavius, Marie Roberts, Pictures, Northern Troupe, Eadie and Ramsden, Lewenwirth and Cohan.

PALACE, HAMMERSMITH.

Archie Pitt, Morny Cash, Edie Veno, Marie Lloyd, Belles of the Kitchen, Billy McClain and Co., Pictures, Rita and Mack, The Davonports, O'Gorman Bros., Cissie Dryden, Brent and Brand, Joe Mac, Albert Wyndham and Co.

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THE EMPIRE, HOLBORN.

Chas. R. Whittle, Ed. E. Ford, Willie Gardner, Harry Champion, Chas. Johnson, Goodwin and Piccaninnies, Rose Dearing, Fred Edwards and Co., Pictures, Howard and Collinson, Hayman and Franklyn, Recco, Mrs. Lewis Waller and Co., Kitts and Windrum.

HIPPODROME, WILLESDEN.

Joe Archer, Martin Conway, Chas. Carr, Eugene Stratton, Arabella Allen, Yvonne Lamore, Pictures, Howard and St. Clair, Marsumas, Hillman and Russell, Amy Clevere, Bert and Dora.

OLYMPIA, SHOREDITCH.

Wallau, Chas. Pastor, Varsity Girls, May Fairclough, Lew Lake and Co., Pictures, Charlie, Ritter and Foster, Roxborough and Wright, Haines, Borthwick, and Co.

EMPIRE, CROYDON.

Arthur Reece, Ted Cowan, Carl Hertz, Amy Sullivan, Eileen Douglas, Irma Lorraine, Pictures Fielding and Hull, Selby and Myers, Lowenwirth and Cohan, Harry Maxam.

ISLINGTON EMPIRE.

Kisby, Harry Russon, Chas. Johnson, Adcy Spencer, Varsity Girls, Pictures, Seven Wulfrunas, Lee and Kingston, Kitts and Windrum, "Futurity Winner." Jack Charman.

HIPPODROME, BALHAM.

Dion Wade, Kurkamp, Sisters Caselli, Ethel Newman, Leah Arden, Pictures, Joe Elvin and Co., Howe and Ardie, Cecile François and Co., Muir and Bartlett.

HIPPODROME, PUTNEY.

Ambrose Thorne, Mark Leslie, Daisy Hurdle, Evelyn Taylor, Pictures, Mendel, Orpheus, Lyons and Cullum, A. Roberts and Co., Enid Errol.

HIPPODROME, POPLAR.

Herbert Shelley, Lazerne, Monte Walker, Rosie Archer, Ivy Leaf, Belle Harcourt, F. Edwards and Co., Pictures, Eadie and Ramsden, Mark Melford and Co., Two Cromwells, Alan Holt and Co., Theo and Leo.

HIPPODROME, ROTHERHITHE.

Will Musgrave, Claude Gardiner, Marie Blythe, Lew Lake and Co., Pictures, Hans and Lux, Prof. Thornbury, Grey and Melford, Chas. Bignell.

PALACE, CAMBERWELL.

Wilson Hallett, Arthur Rose, Mdlle. Fougère, Evelyn Taylor, Ella Lorraine, Pictures, Hackenschmidt, Union Jack Boys, Bowden and Stol, Celest Valazzi, Four Goldinis.

HIPPODROME, NOTTINGHAM.

Mme. Albani, A. E. Clifford, J. Hayworth, Lyons Trio, Kraggs, Ada Parker, Radford Duo, Pictures, F. L. Grogory Troupe.

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Friend and Downing, Rob Roy, Ongars, Honor and Le Prince, Croisit Trio, Gus Garrick, Stowe Bros., Pictures, Mooney and Holbein, Leslie Bros.

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HIPPODROME, WOOLWICH.

Fred Curran, Frank Maura, Nora Stockelle, Little Vi Davis, Cissie Thompson, Mdlle. Fougère, Pictures, Lew Lake's Vocalists, Col. Gaston Bordeverry, Brooklyn Comedy Four.

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Edwin Boyde Wilson Hallett, Will Driscoll, Edie Anderson, Clara Beck, Pictures, John Lawson and Co., Horace and Olgar's Cats and Dogs, Catherine Clark and Co., Billie Burford, Rastus and Banks.

HIPPODROME, PECKHAM.

Rudge Whitworth, Fraser and French, Beattie Rennie, Pictures, J. F. Preston and Co., Borghetti Troupe, Wm. Lee and Co., Brooklyn Comedy Four, Ansonia Trio, Three Laurels.

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THE PALACE THEATRE, SUNDERLAND.

The Lessees of the PALACE THEATRE, SUNDERLAND, GIVE NOTICE that as they will CEASE to be in OCCUPATION and POSSESSION of that Theatre after the 2ND JANUARY, 1909, all contracts with Artists for subsequent dates are cancelled.

By Order,
E. J. HILLS,
Secretary,
United County Theatres, Ltd.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, BELFAST.

NOTICE.

The DIRECTORS having decided to REVERT to DRAMA, the above Theatre will CLOSE as a VARIETY HOUSE on SATURDAY, the 20th day of FEBRUARY, 1909.

Will Artistes holding contracts kindly accept eight weeks' notice of cancellation, as per arbitrator's award.

Signed,
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PALACE, LEICESTER.

Rehearsal at 2.30 for :—
Elliott Savonas, Sisters Jerome, Takio, Fred Keeton, Chas. Fisher's Opera Co., Sisters Urma, Tom Collins, Beattie Kent, Bioscope, F. W. Purcell's Co., in "What Women Do for Men."

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
I'Incognita, Master Edward Garratt and Co., Enzer, Maud and Sidney Wood, May Edouin, Burnetti, Chronomegaphone, Arthur Astill, Bioscope, Zeynardt's Lilliputians.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Consul, Chas. Vincent, Falco and Eida, "That Brute Simmons," Cornalla and Eddie, Zerbinis, Victor Travers, Three Welsh Girls, Bioscope, George Auger and Co.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"The Volcano," Percy Farrimond, The Mayvilles, Campbell and Barber, W. J. Ashcroft, The Rawsons, Luis Alvarez, Jack Lane, Bioscope, Woodward's Seals.

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Horace Goldin and Jeanne Fransioli, Cline and Clark, Pat Rafferty, The Anartos, Austin Rudd, Arthur Aldridge, Three Lloyds, May Brilliant, Bioscope, Daley Cooper and Co., in "Scotch Mixed."

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Ginnett's "Dick Turpin," George Young, Kent and Keith, Achmed Ibrahim Troupe, J. H. Scotland, Jennie Hartley, Billy Hobbs, Mary Ambrose, Bioscope, Carter Livesey, Liliam Rosebery and Co.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco, Virto and Venita, Laurie's Kindergarten, Ted E. Box, Tom Bryce and Miss Price, Maud A. Edwards, Albert Christian, Kate Cohen, Bioscope, The Craggs.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Moss' Empires' Grand Pantomime, "Humpty Dumpty."

THE LONDON COLISEUM

Rehearsal at 10 a.m. for :—
Miss Cecilia Loftus, Saharet, Joseph Hart's "Polly Pickle's Pets," Wyndham and Kitty, Albertus and Millar, Millie Hylton, Five Mowatts, Gustave Fasola, Picitt and Lizette, Maxey and Peter, Bioscope, Eli Hudson, and Olga and Elgar.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Karno's Co., including Fred Kitchen, in "G.P.O.," Barrington, Kroney Bros., Chronomegaphone, Madge Temple, Octavian Owis, Lily Esplin, Bioscope, Frederick Villiers, The Selbinis.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Sam Mayo, La Belle Nello, Clark and Hayden, Bob Hamilton, Dumond Trio, McCann's Dogs, Chas. Stevens, Jeannie Mackay, Bioscope, Ten Ji Troupe.

EMPIRE, SWANSEA.

Rehearsal at 3 for :—
George Leyton and Co., in "The Last Muster," Moto Girl, Maud Vera, Lyric Mummers, Spry and Monti, Randolph King, Edie Endon, Bioscope, Jackson Family.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.

Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Albert Chevalier and Co., in "Behind the Scenes," Lilian French, Harry Herbert, J. W. Rowley, The Lukushimias, Alexandra Dagmar, J. P. Ling, Gladys Hooley, Bioscope, The Gaudsmidts.

PHILHARMONIC HALL, CARDIFF.

Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Company as booked.

EMPIRE, NEWPORT

Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Karno's "Mumming Birds," Grosvenor Sisters, Bros. St. Clair, Bert Williams, Master Frisbey, Mabel Mavis, Bioscope, The Meymotts, Lionette Roberty.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Karno's "Football Match," Arthur Albert, Sybil St. Elmo, Stein Eretto Troupe, Carney and Armstrong, Tom Moore, Maizie Hibbs, Bioscope, Syd May.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Nellie Wallace, Fred Earle, Fayre and Manning, Hartley Wonders, Maggie Walsh, Theo Bouwmeester, Carina Sisters, Mabel Bright, Bioscope, Darnley's "Brigands of Tarragona."

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Cruikshank, Lottie Lennox, Bessie Slaughter, Roma and Romani, Rousby's "Greater London," Verno and Voyce, Nellie Le Breton, Frank F. Street, Bioscope, Les Martineks.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Kate Carney and Co., Percy Hannan, Three Prestons, The Mezzettis, Joe O'Gorman, Guyer and Valli, Rhoda Paul, Arthur Gill, Harry Lawson, Gotch *v.* Hackenschmidt Film.

The following are booked in conjunction with the above:

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUBLIN.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Ernest Shand, Harry Tomps, Dorothy Sephton, Cull-Pitt, Ross and Lewis, Leo Tell, Pictures, Matthews and Cowper Co., &c.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Peterman's No. 1 Co., in "Singing Servants," Torbay, Trefelyn David Trio, Ida Kathrina, Florence and Lillian, Harry Bedford, Pictures, Millie Payne.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—
Arthur Saxon Trio, Frank Sylvo, Dacey and Lewis, Wood, Wells, and Wilkins, Walter Munroe, Madge Osmond, Bioscope, The Cumberlands.

IMPERIAL HALL, WALSALL.

Company as booked.

THEATRE ROYAL, CROYDON.

Animated Pictures and Illustrated Songs.

EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Marie Loftus, Victor Newman, Four Jumels, Four Pigaros, Vetter Bros., Blanche Vincent, Bioscope, Selkirk's "Gathering of the Clans."

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Ye Colonial Septette, Master Clifford, Fanny Robina, Alf Holt, The Dardinis, Cliff Ryland, Florry Cooper, Pictures, Tennessee Guards.

SIR EDWARD MOSS' CARNIVAL.

WAVERLEY MARKET, EDINBURGH.

Rehearsal at 11 a.m. sharp.
Yukio Tani, Fred Lindsay, Five Kaytons, The Resas, Deans and Wilton, Bostock's Baboons, Merrill and Ward, The Victas, Leonie Clarke, The Attilas, Burke and Andrus, Amer's Band, &c., and all Entertainments, Side Shows, &c., engaged.

IMPORTANT NOTICES.

RE APPLICATIONS FOR ENGAGEMENTS.

All applications by either Artists or their Agents must be made to the Head Office. Lowest terms must be stated, and distinction made between salaries required for larger and smaller towns. Vacant dates should be stated. If a list of existing bookings be sent, it will render selection easier.

Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not rebooked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follow :—

EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, NEWCASTLE, AND DISTRICT.
MR. S. GETHING, Empire Theatre, Glasgow.

BIRMINGHAM, NOTTINGHAM, LEICESTER, AND DISTRICT.
MR. HATTON WHARTON, Empire Theatre, Nottingham.

SOUTH WALES DISTRICT.
MR. ALBERT MITCHELL, Empire Theatre, Cardiff.

LEEDS, SHEFFIELD, HULL, BRADFORD, AND DISTRICT.
MR. T. GERALD MORTON, Empire Palace, Leeds.

LIVERPOOL, MANCHESTER, AND DISTRICT.
MR. ALBERT BULMER, The Empire, Liverpool.

LONDON DISTRICT.
MR. J. CHRISTIE, Empire Theatre, Shepherd's Bush, W.

N.B.—Mr. OSWALD STOLL or Mr. FRANK ALLEN can be seen by appointment on all matters arising out of the above, and for the discussion of entirely new Numbers.

All Artists or Agents who communicate with our District Representatives must have made definite applications, in accordance with above directions, to the Head Office, at the same time, or just previously.

Artists and Agents are requested to note that the Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington, Standard Theatre, Shoreditch, and the Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, come within the areas absolutely barred by us. Artists and Agents are also requested to note that the Hippodrome, Aston, Birmingham, comes within the area absolutely barred by the Grand Theatre and Empire Palace, Birmingham.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have at least Fourteen Band Parts for English Orchestrations, and Seventeen Band Parts for Foreign Orchestrations. Matter of Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to Co-operative Offices, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced. Artists' Scenery, Properties, &c., MUST be fireproofed in accordance with the regulations of the Licensing Authorities.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

No order or contract for goods or services must be accepted for any of the foregoing theatres except upon receipt of an Official Form, issued from the Co-operative Offices, London, and signed by either Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. Frank Allen, or the Chief Accountant, otherwise the Company concerned will not be responsible for same, and will refuse payment. In special cases, where goods are required at once, suppliers must look to the individual placing the order, who will be personally liable, unless an official confirmatory order, signed as above, is received within forty-eight hours. Invoices must be sent to the Theatre, but monthly statements should be sent to the Co-operative Offices. The individual Company on whose behalf orders are signed is solely responsible for payment. The Management will not hold themselves responsible in the event of loss of or damage to any MSS., Songs, &c., submitted for consideration.

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10 GREAT WINNERS 10

*HAVE YOU GOT ANOTHER GIRL LIKE MARY?
*I DON'T CARE IF THERE'S A GIRL THERE.
*WON'T YOU WALTZ THE MERRY WIDOW WALTZ?
MY PRETTY PIECE OF DRESDEN CHINA.
*CAROLINA BROWN OF CHINATOWN.
*AYESHA MY SWEET EGYPTIAN.
*DON'T PUT YOUR UMBRELLA UP BEFORE IT [STARTS TO RAIN.
ANYWHERE WILL DO.
A TO Z (THE ALPHABET CHORUS SONG).
SALOME (THE SHEEP'S HEAD AND TIN TACK).

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3. **WHEN THE SUNRISE PAINTS THE DISTANT HILLS WITH ROSE** (Any Voice.) *Slides by Scott and Van Altena.* (16.)
4. **THE LAST VOYAGE.** (Bass.) *Slides by De Witt C. Wheeler.* (16.)
5. **A SWEETER STORY STILL.** (Any Voice.) *Slides by De Witt C. Wheeler.* (16.)
6. **THE OLD WARRIOR.** (Baritone.) *Slides by Chatham Pexton.* (18.)

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By Edith Fortescue.

A FEW TOWNS ONLY LEFT.

VALSE REFRAIN—
Starshine, Starshine,
Come back once more into the sky,
Tell me, tell me,
All that you told me that night gone by.
I am not lonely-hearted,
For when the clouds have parted,
After the shadow beyond the rain
Starshine will come again!

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TO MUSICAL DIRECTORS.
Full Orchestra Parts of the new Valse, "La Catalana," by L. Carvelli, performed with great success under Mr. Dan Godfrey at the Covent Garden Balls, will be sent gratis on application to the Composer. Soprano Vocalists singing in French or Italian should send for a Complimentary Copy of the grand Valse Song, "La Volupté." L. CARVELLI, 24, Duke-street, Brighton.

NEW PIECES PRODUCED AT THE LONDON THEATRES.
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Artists engaged will please note that rehearsals at ALL Halls take place at 12 o'clock noon each Monday.

No excuses whatever for non-attendance will be entertained.

All billing matter and notification of appearance, accompanied by samples of pictorial printing, must be sent to the London Offices, Oakley House, Bloomsbury-street, W.C., fourteen clear days prior to opening, or contract may be cancelled at the option of the Management.

All Scene and Property Plots of Sketches, Scenas, &c., must be sent to Foresters' fourteen clear days before opening.

All Artists carrying scenery must have same fire-proofed, in accordance with L.C.C. regulations, otherwise it will not be allowed in the Halls.

Artists please note that when stage staff are required on Sunday, according to the "award," their time must be reckoned from that given in "call."

In cases of emergency after office hours, Mr. Baugh may be consulted at the Foresters' Theatre, Cambridge-road, E.

Telephone 5954 Avenue.

Telegraphic address, "Stageyness, London."

CALLS

FOR WEEK COMMENCING

MONDAY, JAN. 4, 1909.

PALACE, BRADFORD.
Madge Grey, Deans Wilton, Olms and Carbeth, Margaret Radcliffe, Poole and Maguire, Brull and Hemsley, Four Pawles, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Clack and Clack.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.
Tate's "Fishing," Johnny Dwyer, Tom Yorke, H. C. Lovell and Co., Belle Braham, Lisbon and Barker, Menotti, Rose and Grayson, Cherry Lass, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, HALIFAX.
Harvey's Boys and Girls, Mack Ollive, The Sovereigns, Two Lillies, Amos Howard, George Acre, Cissie Esdaile, The Juanitos, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
Karno's "Dandy Thieves," Emmie Ames, Ray Royal, Capt. Devereux, The Betsons, Harry Bancroft, Carlotta Levey, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
The Carmos, Five Bombays, Cosgrove and Burns, Clown Barker, Powell's Marionettes, Kinnard, Lily Luraine, Warsaw Bros., Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
Pictures, The Fordyces, Sergeant Brennan, Fred Wright, Maud Garland, Della Sisters, "Last Halt."

THEATRE ROYAL, ROTHERHAM.
"The Better Land."

THEATRE ROYAL, CHESTERFIELD.
"The Idol of Paris."

THEATRE ROYAL, LEEDS.
"Aladdin."

THEATRE ROYAL, ATTERCLIFFE.
"Dick Whittington."

KING'S, NOTTINGHAM.
Picture Entertainment.

PALACE THEATRE, BATH.
Beau-Ideal Juveniles, Avon and Crest, Nirvanah, Bernardo, Norah Desmond, Jim Cheetham, Sable Fern, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE THEATRE, LINCOLN.
Gallimore Trio, Four Temples, Colin Mail, Zeta Russell, Mamie Morris, Fred Herbert, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, &c.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, CARDIFF.
Helen Roberts, Rowlands and Ford, Yettmah, Chass Lewis, Cissie Lupino, Orbasany's Cockatoos, "House of Terror," Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, WARRINGTON.
Lockhart's Elephants, John Donald, Russell Brandow, Three Alskarnos, Sisters Brooke, J. H. Greener, Les Elgonas, Four Garricks, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, BURNLEY.
"Happy Holland," Kirk and Saraski, J. Holland and Co., Flo Inman, The Waltons, Milton Trio, Julian Ross, Haydee's Marionettes, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PIER PAVILION, SOUTHPORT.
Matinée Monday.
The Nonentities, Mr. and Mrs. Hayes, Evered and Mills, Earl and Godfrey, Leo, Jessie Star, Hilda Mascot, Shenton and Chicks, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PIER PAVILION, WEYMOUTH.
Venturini, Elroy, Three Transfields, Melba Twins, Elton and Edwin, Charles Woodward, Josephine Crooke, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard, Bros. Ashley, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, BOW.
Matinée Every Monday.
Raymond, Dan Merritt, Douglas Troupe, Ryder Sloan, Davis and Dean, Starr and Jerome, Ida Ross, Ethel Scheffer, Tina Frank, The Howards, Dingle's Double, Brewery Picture.

FORESTERS'.
Matinées, Monday and Thursday.
Raymond, J. C. Manley, Cassie Walmer, Keosanley's Dogs, Lorne and Vallance, Master Day, Percival Boys' Brigade, The Arntees, Four Mimosas, Eddie and Emmie.

SADLER'S WELLS.
Matinée Every Monday.
Raymond, Edith Chantler, J. C. Jacques, The Leonas, Bianco and Emilie, Lillie Ray, Henry Iralinger, Carmondy, Robinson, Franks and Co., Childie Stuart, Edith Lewis and Co.

PALACE, BATTERSEA.
Matinée Monday, at 2.30 o'clock.
Raymond, Jim E. James, Star Football Picture, Marguerite Ismay, Metz and Metz, Chas. Rayner, Victoria Green, The Monckton, Four Sisters Gilbey, Rosie Gaston, Bernard Mervyn and Co.

SURREY THEATRE.
All Artists engaged for Surrey Theatre must bring 14 Band Parts.
Matinée Every Monday.
Hanvarr and Lee, Raymond, Evalos, Mr. E., The Dillons, The Hodginis, Taree, Boden and Bell, Queenie Dell Iris Yohé, Fred Maxwell and Co.

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WILKIE BARD'S Drury Lane RIOT!

"PUT ME UPON AN ISLAND WHERE THE GIRLS ARE FEW."

What the Press says:—

The Weekly Dispatch:—Mr. Wilkie Bard is discovered sleeping peacefully among a pile of fabrics in the Alderman's shop. He wakes up, and sings a "catchy" Suffragette song, which threatens to be one of the popular ditties of the ensuing year. Its refrain is:—

Put me upon an island where the girls are few,
Put me amongst the most ferocious lions of the Zoo;
You can put me upon the treadmill and I'll never, never fret,
But for pity's sake don't put me near a Suffragette.

It is one of those haunting refrains that we know are going to be an obsession.

The Daily Mail:—Mr. Wilkie Bard has two great songs in the piece. "Put me upon an Island" he plaintively asks in the first, and he repeats its refrain with all the more fervour when he is surrounded by a band of violent ladies, for they give good reason to sing, "But don't put me near a Suffragette."

The Umpire:—But his Suffragette song is a gem.

The Daily Mirror:—Two of his songs get as much applause each as anything else in the Panto. One is about Votes for Women, "Put me upon an Island where the Girls are few."

The Daily Express:—One of his songs, "Put me upon an Island where the Girls are few," was rendered with rare and great comic restraint.

And a host of other notices too numerous to mention.

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By FRED GROVE.
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A GHOSTLY PANTOMIME.
By W. SCOTT PHIPP.
Illustrated by Photograph and Autograph.
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I BECOME A DETECTIVE.
By DECIMA MOORE.
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WOLVES.
By JOHN LAWSON.
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THE MISSION OF THE KINEMATOGRAPH.
By CHARLES URBAN.
Illustrated by Photograph and Autograph.
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PEACE HATH HER VICTORIES.
By H. J. HITCHENS.
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A DOG, A JARVEY, AND I.
By MISS EVIE GREENE.
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THIS WEEK'S NOVELTIES.

THE FISHERMAN'S FIANCÉE.

Code Word, "FACADE."

A pretty fisherwoman is engaged to a big Norman lad, but, having unwittingly attracted the notice of a young townsman on his holidays there, Mr. Ne'er Do Well buys of her a basketful of fish, and asks her to take it to his home. Charles, her sweetheart, having some misgivings as to the other man's designs, follows Kate from a distance. At last, impatient at her long absence, he comes in, just in time to give the impudent a lesson, which so rankles on the latter's mind that he orders two of his servants to dress up as fishermen and have Charles tied on to a rock shortly to be covered over by the incoming tide. Charles, however, is set free by a courageous child, and he arrives at the house of his fiancée to find that the girl's mother, a madwoman, has strangled the scoundrel in her endeavour to protect her daughter.

740ft. The Subject, **£12 6s. 8d.** Toning, **£1 15s. 0d.**

A TROUBLESOME TWITCHING.

Code Word, "FLECHE."

Mr. Rude is afflicted with the bad habit of always putting out his tongue whenever he speaks. On his way to the specialist he puts out his tongue in the face of everybody. This causes sundry and disagreeable incidents to take place. The learned professor makes him put out his tongue, and, after a few magnetic passes, commands him not to do so again. Mr. Rude must be a refractory subject, however, for on his way home he puts out his tongue more often than ever.

330ft. The Subject, **£5 10s. 0d.**

TRAGICAL ENDING TO A SHROVE TUESDAY.

Code Word, "FIL."

Disguised as an incroyable, Mr. Rave goes to the masked ball, in spite of Mrs. Rave entreating him to stay at home. This makes her suspicious, and, putting on a man's costume of the 1830 period, she also goes to the ball. While her husband is making love to an unknown lady, Mrs. Rave is hidden behind a bush, and she hears everything. Profiting by his short absence, she appears to the lady, and, thanks to her masculine attire, she can flirt with the "Merveilleuse." Mr. Rave, on his return, gives a slap to the bold "young man." Seconds are hastily summoned, and a duel takes place. Mrs. Rave is fatally wounded, and her husband, tearing away her mask, recognises her, with sorrow, and has just time enough to ask for her forgiveness before she passes away.

478ft. The Subject, **£7 19s. 4d.** Colouring and Toning, **£5 15s. 0d.**

POLICEMAN IN SPITE OF HIMSELF.

Code Word, "FRAISIER."

During Mrs. Faraway's absence, Sarah, Peter, and Charles, her three servants, are having a good time in the dining-room, where they are enjoying their lunch. Suddenly Peter leaves the table, and, dressing himself in Mrs. Faraway's gown, after putting on her spare wig, he comes back to his friends, who are scared out of their wits by his appearance in such an attire. Meanwhile, Mrs. Faraway's nephews, just home from Chicago, come to pay the old lady a visit. Peter receives them, but the scamps, noticing that the would-be aunt is not a teetotaler, avail themselves of "her" inebriate state and help themselves to the money. Peter, however, catches them at their work, and they are astounded to find that the fragile-looking woman can grasp them both by their collars and march them off to the police-station.

412ft. The Subject, **£6 17s. 4d.**

DRUNKARDS' FANCIES.

Code Word, "FRAGILITE."

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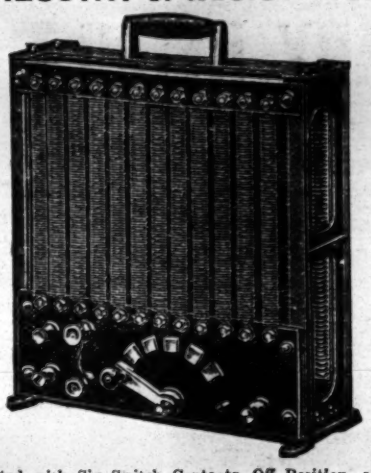

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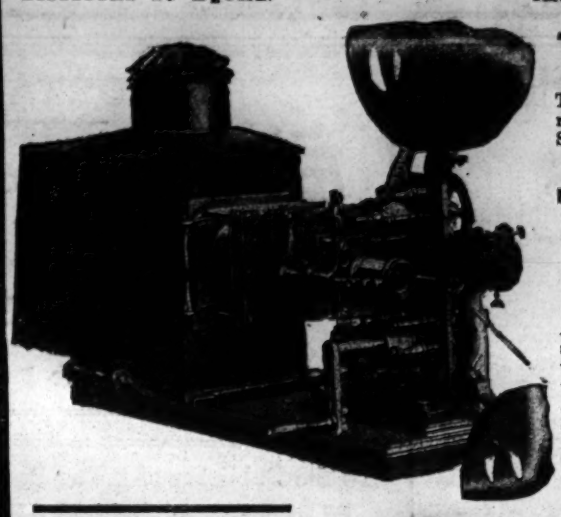

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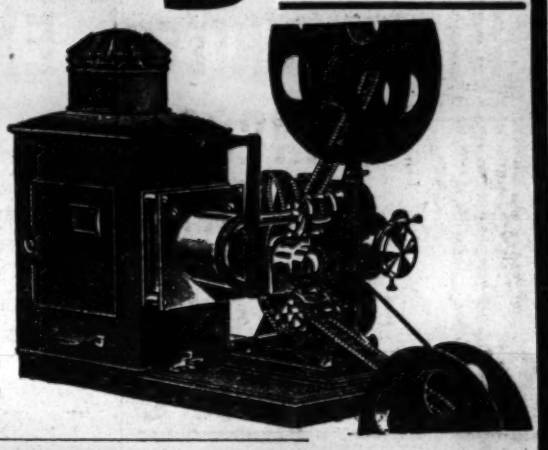

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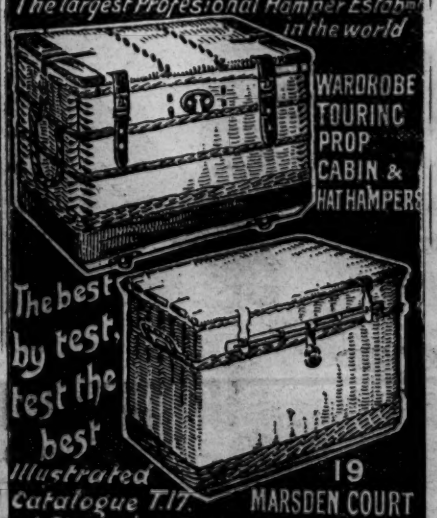

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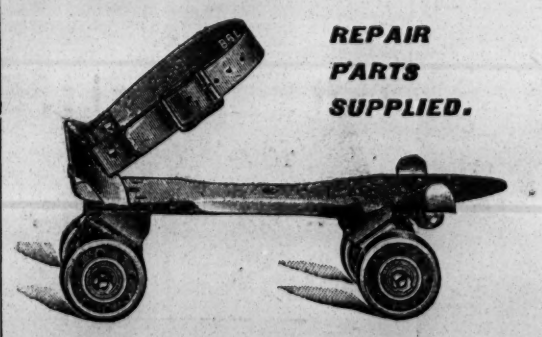

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AUDREY, MISS MAY, the People's Comedienne. Next, Empire Theatre, Oldham. G. FOSTER.

BADDOW and "TIM." Monday. Lyric, Liverpool.

BANZAI FAMILY, On Tour, Genuine Japanese. On Tour. Agent, Mr. GEO. FOSTER; or c/o "The Era."

BARCLAY, GEORGE, and CO., 221, Brixton-hill, London, S.W. Variety Agents. Telephone, 884 Brixton.

BARTHOLOMEW, SISTERS, Most popular in "Diccory Dok." Princess's Theatre, Glasgow.

BARTLETT, ROSIE, "Robinson Crusoe" Panto. This week, H. M. Theatre, Dundee.

BATTLE, GEORGE, Actor-Vocalist. Success of Song-Scena "Old and Grey." Wire for Mon. next. Hippo., Staveley, near Chesterfield.

BAYNE and HOPE (RONALD and EVELYN), end of 4th year's consecutive bookings. "An Emperor's Divorce."

BAYNE and MURRAY, the Black and White Comedy Vocal Duo. Return Monday to the Queen's Picture Theatre, Dublin.

BEATRICES, TWO, Duettists and Dancers. Mon. next, Pal., Northampton. Vac. Jan. 18, to follow Dewsbury. Wire or write.

BEAUMONT, MISS MAUDE. Theatre Royal, Attercliffe. Title-rôle, "Dick Whittington." Thanks all Friends for Wires.

BEECHAM and WHEELER'S Musical, Dramatic, and Variety Agency, 12 and 13, Henrietta-st., W.C. Tele., 1280 Gerrard.

BELLONINI, WALTER, Moss and Stoll Tour. London Halls.

BENTLEY'S VARIETY AGENCY, Cromwell House, Surrey-st., Strand, W.C. Telegrams, "Yeltneb, London." 'Phone, 12706 Central.

BERLIN BELLES, LES, Vocalists and Speciality Dancers. "Cinderella" Panto. Encored nightly. Theatre Royal, Exeter.

BERNARD, GEO., the Singing Actor. Lofty wisdom is circled round with rugged rocks. Monday, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

BEST, CHAS. F. It's Never Too Late to Bend. Hippodrome, Sheffield.

BLARNEY and KENNARD, Comedians with Waltzing Dog. Success, Hip., Accrington. Monday, Hippo., Leigh.

BLOUNT, ARTHUR, BLOUNT, The Patter Comedian and Eccentric Entertainer. Town Hall, Farnborough. Own company.

BLYTHE, MARIE. Jan. 4, Hippo., Rotherhithe. Agents, S. M. HYMAN, Ltd.

BODIE, ALBERT EDWARD, The Manor House, Macduff, N.B.

BODIE, DR. WALFORD, the Laird of Macduff. Hippodrome, Kirkcaldy, N.B.

BOHEMIANS, THE (WILL and MADGE), Instrumentalists. This, Hip., Tonypandy; next, Hip., Aston. Vac. Jan. 11 and 18.

BORELLI, SIGNOR and MADAME. Different from all others. Apollo Theatre, Vienna.

BOSANQUET, Enormous Success, Winter Gardens, New Brighton. Vac. Jan. 4. Perm., 31, Hermitage-rd., Finsbury Park, London.

BOSTOCK, N. C., and NELLIE ELLIENE, Vacant Jan. 11. All Daly's Theatres Booked. Opera House, Dunfermline.

BOULTON, FRED, and MLLE. BARTENELLI. Will Atkins and Second Girl, a Speciality. T. R., South Shields.

BOWERS and BARDELL, Comedians, Dancers, &c. Con. Pav., Gloucester; Mon., Grand, Gravesend. Vac. Jan. 11, 18.

BOYLE, MARCUS, Latest Hit, "My Merry Widow." A Stormer. Permanent, 39, Hedon-road, Hull.

BRADY, JAMES, Eccentric Joker. Originality and Ability. Palace, Grimsby.

BRAMHAM, JOHN. Professionals' House of Call in Bradford is the Oddfellows' Arms (Saloon Bar Entrance, opposite Palace).

BRENTON, SISTERS, Duettists and Dancers. Panto., T. R., North Shields. Agent, EDGAR STEBBINGS, Manchester.

BROCADE, BELLE, The Versatile Vocal Comedienne. This, Theatre Royal, Barnsley. Prin. Girl, "Aladdin."

BROOKES, ALF (Dame), Araminta Koffkake, "Babes in the Wood." Dewsbury; next, Hip., Huddersfield. Vac., North, April 12, 19.

BROOKLANDS, THE MERRY, Concludes Zoo, Glasgow, and Hip., Greenock. Jan. 4, Sheffield; Long Tour to follow.

BROOKS, GEORGE H., Musical, Dramatic, and Variety Agent, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

BROWN, PAPA, Variety Agent, Holland House, Durand-gardens, S.W. Tel., "Jibbers, London." 'Phone, 887 Brixton.

BRUE, MARK, RAY SUN. Permanent Address, 69, Roan-street, Greenwich, S.E.

BURNELLS, Jan. 4, Gloucester Palace. Vacant Jan. 11 and 18.

BURTON, GEORGE, Pantomime Specialist, Author, Composer, Arranger, open. Gen.-Man., "Cinderella" Co., T. R., Birkenhead.

BUTT, BESSIE, Principal Boy, "Dandini." Royal County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames.

CABAN'S FRENCH CIRCUS. Colston Hall, Bristol. Big Success.

CADLE'S AGENCY, 105 and 106, Strand. Telephone No. 1975 Gerrard.

CAINE, ANDIE, "Goody Two Shoes." This, Empire, Edmonton; next, Palace, Chelsea.

CARL and CARR, 20th Century Comedians, Rufus and Uriah, "Puss in Boots," Theatre Royal, Worcester, Success.

CARLTON, HENRY, The Window Cleaner. Enormous success Starring on Moss and Stoll Tour.

CARTER, DAVE, He of the top note. The Celebrated Irish Tenor.

CHANT and CHANT, Vocal Comedy Act. Middle of Bill Hippo, Wakefield. Mon., Empire, Hull. Return. Vac. 11, 18, 25.

CHARD'S DOGS, Hippo., Dewsbury. Happy New Year to Everybody. My Heart's Wish.

CHEERS, THE, with their Wonderful Cats. This, Hippo., Rotherham. Jan. 4, Palace, Blackpool.

CHESTER and LEE'S Gorgeous Theatre des Fantoche. Winter Gardens, Blackpool, third week.

CLARK, MASTER HARRY, The Pocket Vance. Empire, Edmonton. Perm. Add., 335, Coldharbour-lane, Brixton.

CLIFFORD, CHARLES, C.D.D., the Renowned Harpist and Humorist, on Tour. 15, Priory-gardens, Highgate, London, N.

CLIFFORD, ERNEST. Monday next, South Shields. Tremendous success, Empire, Newcastle.

COLEMAN, NELLIE, the Only Female Comedian. Palace, Perth.

COLVERD, MISS JOSIE. Offers invited. Coms., 30, Mayflower-road, Clapham.

COLVIL & TATE (JACK & ANNIE), Comedy Artists. Vac. Jan. 18, 25. Jan. 4, Colston Hall, Bristol; Jan. 11, H., Tonypandy.

COOLVILLE, EDIE. Usual Success this, Hippo., Devonport. Jan. 4, Canterbury, London; Jan. 11, Paragon.

CORNELL, ARTHUR, At Liberty. Address, 43, Elm-park-mansions, Chelsea, S.W.

COVENTRY, LUCY, Big Success Principal Girl, Milton Bode's Panto., H. M. T., Dundee. Happy New Year to All.

CRAIG, ROZE, and CRAIG, Novelty Gymnastic Juggling Speciality. C/o "The Era" Office.

CROSS, CRISSIE, Smart Singer and Dandy Dancer. Agents, CLAXTON and OLIVER. This week, Weddes Hotel, Greek-street, Soho.

CROSSLEY, SYD. Instantaneous Success as Sarah the Cook. Royal County Theatre, Reading.

CUMBERLANDS, CUMBERLANDS. New and Up to Date.

CURRY, PERCY, Widow Twankey in Jazon and Nightingale's Panto. This, T. R., North Shields; next, G. T., Burnley.

CURZON, ALMA, Chic Comedienne. New Gaiety Th., Clydebank; Glasgow to follow.

CYCLINIS TRIO, Knockabout Cyclists, Football Match on Bicycles. Perm., 120, Gaythorpe-st., Moss Side, Manchester. See Wants.

DAHL, RUBY, in Her Original Act. 115, Abbeville-road, Clapham Park, S.W.

DALLWOOD, MISS NELLIE, Comedienne and Buck and Top-boot Dancer. Per., 85, Hackford-rd., Brixton, S.W. 'Phone 560 Brixton.

DALTON'S AGENCY. Telegrams, "Granbeste, Withington, Lancs." 29, Mauldeth-rd. West, Withington, Manchester.

DALY, MADGE, Another Success, as Prince, in "Cinderella." Osborne Theatre, Manchester.

DANCY, ETHEL, Contralto, Ballad Vocalist. Jan. 4, Palace, Grimsby. Jan. 11, Whitehaven.

D'AUBYN, MINNIE, Title-rôle, "Aladdin"; next, T. R., Accrington. No vacancies till July. FRITZ'S Agency.

DAVIS, A. E. SIDNEY, Author, Producer, and Stage Manager. "Aladdin," at King's Theatre, Edinburgh.

DAYTON FAMILY, THE, Dalston Theatre. Fred Little's Panto. Coms., the W. R. Booking Office.

DEETRICH AGENCY. 'Phone, 1,269 Royal. 31, Islington, Liverpool. Always Vacancies for Stars.

DE HENAU and MLLE. ALADINA, Marvellous Painter and Cockatoos. Salon Novedades, Alicante (Spain).

DELLA SISTERS, Ladies in Black. Big Success, Pal., Bradford; next, Pavilion, Leicester.

DE ROSE, MLLE., J. H. HAWTREY, Principal Boy, Malicio, Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

DERRY, MISS JOAN, Soubrette and Boy Impersonator. Address c/o "Era."

DEVEREUX'S FAMOUS DOGS, On Tour. Liberty May 24. Address, Palace, West Hartlepool.

DIACOFF, TOM, Pontefract. Prosperous New Year to All.

DIGBY, MISS ALICE, Principal Girl, "Aladdin" Panto., King's Theatre, Edinburgh. Address, 119, Brixton-road, London.

DILLONS, BOUNCING, Bouncing Competition, fully protected. Jan. 4 Sadlers Wells (third return).

DOLLY, AGNES, and MAUD, The Famous Singing Boxmakers. Mon., T. Hall, Merthyr, return. Few vacs., 1909.

DOLLY and ELSIE, Enormous success of "Sue, Sue." Jan. 4, T. R., Smethwick.

DORRETTA, DAINTY, the Coming Star. On Tour.

DOUGLAS and GORDON. Vacant Jan. 11 and 18. Jan. 4, Tivoli, Pentre, South Wales.

DOYLE and GIBSON, Comedians. Levy and Cardwell's "House That Jack Built." Opera House, Dudley.

DRAYCOTT SISTERS, The Harmony Gems. This, Grand, Blackpool. Jan. 4, Grand, Manchester.

DUNCAN and BRASQUE, Enormous success, "My Lancashire Wife." Vac. Jan. 25, Feb. 1. Hippodrome, Rotherham.

DUNNING, and KAHN and KAHN, Topping the bill Hippodrome, Hastings. Monday, Winter Gardens, Bournemouth.

DURHAM, FRED, Dramatic and Variety Agent. 1a, Loughborough-rd, Brixton. 'Phone, 15 Brixton.

EARLE, ELSIE, in her Latest Successful Song-Scena, "A Garden of Flowers." The first of its kind. This week, Palace, Reading.

EARLEY, SADIE, Scena, "Memories," including "That is All," by permission of Messrs. Chappell and Co. C/o S. Wall, Oldham.

EDWARDS and WARD, in their Smart and Refined Comedy Act. Another Success, Hippodrome, Hyde.

ELLA'S, MISS, Educated Lion Show, Best in the Profession. Jan. 4, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

ELLERTON, A., Gag Act for Baron or Dame, "The Turkish Bath." Fees, £2 2s. Effra Dene, Church-road, Brixton, S.W.

ELLIOTT SAVONAS, THE, Musical Marvels. Jan. 4, Palace, Leicester.

ELLIS, FRED, Comedian. "If I'm not original, I try to be." Jan. 4, Empire, Wolverhampton.

ELSWORTHY, MISS DOLLY, Sole Proprietress "Orange Girl" and "Sweet Mistress Dorothy" Cos. Next week, Pav, Glasgow.

ELTON and ELMA, Comedy Bar Act. Tremendous Success. Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield.

ERROL, MISS ENID. This week, London Pavilion. Jan. 4, Putney Hippodrome.

ESCALADERS, FOUR, Champion Double Ladder Experts, Head and Hand Balancers. Lib. Jan. 11. Next, Poole's, Bristol.

ESDALE BROS., Comedians and Speciality. Vac. Jan. 11. This, Pal., Derby; next, Hip., Darwen. Letters direct, or WILL SLEY.

ESMOND, MAUD. Title-rôle, "Dick Whittington." Brixton Theatre, S.W.

EUGENE and WILLIE, Royalty T., Chester. Hit of the Panto. as Fiddling Cooks. Own Speciality. Terms and dates above.

EUSTACE, FRED. Jan. 4, Hippodrome, Rotherham. The Amber Light.

EVILO, IDA, Novel Trapeze Act. This week, Hippo., Tony Pandy; next week, Temperance Hall, Merthyr. Vacant Jan. 18 and 25.

FANSHAW, WILL, and Co., Eight Turns, including New Sketch. Liberty Jan. 11, onwards. 2, Jubilee-street, Liverpool.

FIELDING, ANNIE, and BERT HULL, New Scena, "Bathing." This, Balham; next, Croydon.

FIMANS, THE. Their Comedy is a feature of the Pantomime.—Vide Press. Next, N. T., Cambridge.

FINDEN, HAROLD (MR. and MRS.), Playing "A Desperate Remedy," Grand, Bolton.

FIONI'S, JAMES, AGENCY, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool." 'Phone, 1686 Royal.

FITZROYS, THE ORIGINAL, Society Gymnasts. Jan. 4, Hippodrome, Aston. Lib. Feb. 1.

FLORADORAS, Draw Everywhere. This week, Hippo., Ashton; Mon., Victoria Theatre, Stanley, Durham. Liberty Jan. 25.

FOLAY and FRANCIS, Comedians. Panto., P. O. W. T., Nuneaton; Jan. 4, T. R., Ilkeston. Compliments of season to all.

FORD, MISS RAY, wishes to thank Miss Lily Woolf for all dresses. Admired by everyone. See Back Page.

FORD, SISTERS. Hippo., Sheffield. Monday, New Palace, Oldham. Happy New Year to All Friends.

FORTUNE and GRANVILLE, Savoy House, 115, Strand, London, W.C. Telegrams, "Waggishly." 'Phone, 1309 Gerrard.

FRANCISCO, Equilibrist. Starring last week, Grantham. Starring this week, Pav., Chorlton. Monday, Grand T., Rawtenstall.

FREDRICKS, CARL, Gen.-Manager "Fun City," Drill Hall, Bath and a Prosperous New Year to All.

FRENCH, FREDDIE, Baron, in "Cinderella." Grand Theatre, Fulham, S.W.

FRENCH'S, GEORGE, TROUPE, Acrobatic Cyclists, and the SNOW FAMILY, Expert Skaters. On Tour.

FROHMAN, WILL and ALICIA, Smart Instrumental Act. Next week, Hippodrome, Preston.

FULTON, FRED, "Jack the Giant Killer" Panto. This and next, Century Theatre, Motherwell.

GALLARD, IVY, Prin. Boy, "Bo-Peep," King's, Longsight, Manchester. Third week of success. Coms., E. W. SELMAN.

GALLIMORE TRIO. Bookings Complete. Jan. 4, Palace, Lincoln.

GARVEY, BROS., Character Comedians, Clog and Top-boot Dancers. Vac. Jan. 4 & 11. Coms., 119, Bessemer-st., Grangetown.

GASTON, LILY, and VINNIE LOFTUS Thank Managers for Offers. This, Queen's Hall; next, King's H., Birmingham.

GELDERS, THE (VAN and LILY), Magicians. Playing Special four weeks with S. H. Carter Harrogate. Happy New Year to All.

GILBERT, CONNIE, (Queen of Song). This, Palace, Camberwell. Next, Empire, Dudley.

GLOBE FILM TRADING CO. still going strong at the only address, 346, Brixton-road. Mr. Walter Payne.

GODFREY, LTD., Illusionist and Magician. Conclude to-night, Hippo., Bury. Coms., 15, Boundary-place, Liverpool.

GRAPHO and JACKSON, Jimmy Green and Johnny Stout. King's Theatre, Longsight.

GRAY, GEORGE, GRAY, GEORGE. "Parson Grey, V.C."

GULLIVER, GEORGE, wishes everybody a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Public Hall, Rochdale.

HARDY, NEIL, Baron, "Babes in the Wood." This and next, Colosseum, Oldham.

HARLAND and ROLLISON. Synod Hall, Edinburgh. Until Jan. 23, '09.

HARRIS, WILL, Eccentric Comedian. Panto., Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham, S.W. Perm. address, Beaufoy Institute, Lambeth.

HARRY and EDWIN, Mr. Andie Caine's "Goodie Two Shoes." Jan. 4, Chelsea Palace.

HART and CO., Dramatic and Variety Agents, 7, Lancaster-house, Rushcroft-rd., Brixton. Tele., 116, Brixton.

HEATH, HAROLD, The Dandy Copper Coon. Jan. 4, Hippo., Stoke.

HENDERSON, SISTERS Jan. 4, Dumfries (3) and Hawick (3).

HERALD COMEDY FOUR. Tremendous Success Pantomime, Theatre Royal, Ashton-under-Lyne.

HERBERT, FRED, Premier Up-to-Date Vocalist. Jan. 4, Palace, Lincoln. Vacant Jan. 11.

HESS and LISBON, A happy and prosperous New Year to all. Until further notice, Curzon Hall, Birmingham.

HIGHAM, FRED, Variety Agent, 9, York-road, London, S.E. Always vacancies for Star Turns. 'Phone, 300 Hop.

HOLMAN SISTERS, Smart Boy and Girl. Panto, "Jack and Beanstalk." This, P. O. W. T., Nuneaton; next, T. R., Ilkeston.

HORACE and OLGA'S Great Table Troupe of Dogs and Cats. This, E. Islington; next, Grand, Clapham.

HUGHES and ELLIOTT, Singing and Dancing Act. Shoreditch; next, Middlesex. 1909-10, Gibbons' and Syndicate Halls.

HULA, SISTERS, Vocalists and Expert Dancers. All coms., Theatre Royal, Nottingham. Happy New Year to all.

HULBERT, Ventriloquist, and DE LIL, Illusionist. Two smart acts. Vac. Feb. 1, 8, 15. Assembly Rooms, Leigh.

HUXTER, THREE BROTHERS Hippodrome, Leicester-square, W.

HYMACK, MR., Return American Engagements. Low's Exchange, 1123, Broadway, New York, U.S.A.

JAMES, CHAS. A., Waxworks and Varieties, 30, Henry-st., Dublin. Always Openings for Novelties.

JONES, MARIE, The Versatile Protean Actress, Jan. 4, Hippo., Queen's Park.

JONES, SAM, Acting-Manager, City Varieties, Leeds.

JUDGE, LILY and ELSIE, with their Society Bird Act. Hippodrome, Leigh. Vacant Jan. 18 and 25.

KAP DWA, the Two-Headed Giant, 12ft. in length, Liberty from Jan. on, for Exhibitions. MARTINO, 102, Belgrave-gate, Leicester.

KEENE, BILLY, and JESSIE ADAMS, with The Pierrots, in America. Letters, C/o Pat Casey, St. James-buildings, Broadway, N.Y.

KEITHS, THE ORIGINAL MUSICAL (CARLINA and CHARLIE). Jan. 4, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

KING, LEO, Demon King and Stage-Management, Dottridge's "Dick Whittington" Panto., T. R., Ashton-under-Lyne.

KROSTON, THE GREAT (the Original Kyoto). MAY SUMNER. Two Distinct Acts. Tivoli, Pentre. Mon., Empire T., Blaina, Mon.

LASSAH, LILLIE, Panto., Principal Boy, "Robinson Crusoe." Crystal Palace Theatre.

LEIGHTON, LOTTIE, Big Success, Empire, Southport. Jan. 4, E. Greenock. Agent, DAVID HART, Esq.

LENNARD and VEREKER, Picture Song Experts. This week, Hippo., Leigh; next, Hippo., St. Helens.

LENNOL JACK, MR., Pantomime, Dame Crusoe, Alex. T., Sheffield. Has vacs. Easter to Whitsun.

LEONARD, MARIE, in Pictured Melodies. This, Tiv., Pentre; next, E. Watford. Few vacs. 1909. 128, Kennington Park-road, S.E.

LEONAS, THE, Musical Novelty Act and Expert Banjoists and Fencers. Huge Success, Surrey, London.

LEONS, TWO, and MITZI Theatre Royal, Shrewsbury; also CASTANCIA. A Happy New Year to All.

LESLIE and PLAYER, Comedy Duettists, finish, H., Dewsbury; this, H., Ashton; next, H., Bury. Only 6 weeks vacant.

LEWIS, FRED, Circus Agent, America, Great Britain, and Ireland. Disengaged. Poste Restante, Belfast.

LI-CHANGHI and CO., the Star Attraction at Adam Smith Hall, Kirkcaldy, this week and next. D.C. Lithos.

LILLIES, TWO. This, Hippo., Eastbourne; next, Palace, Halifax. Few vacancies. FORTUNE AND GRANVILLE.

LISLE, MISS LUNA, Principal Girl, "Aladdin" Panto. Jan. 4, Gaiety Theatre, Burnley.

LISTON, MR. HARRY, on Farewell Tour. Miss Lumley and Party. Some Vacant Dates. Address, St. George's Hall, London, W.

LIVESEY and ROSEBERY'S Compliments of Season to all. Hippodrome, Huddersfield.

LIZZETTE TRIO, THE, Lady Acrobats. MOLLY AUGARDE, Vocalist. Jan. 4, Town Hall, Falkirk, N.B.

LORCH FAMILY, the World-renowned, Risley Act, including three Ponies, one Donkey. Colosseum, Linz a.D., Austria.

LOTTO'S AGENCY, 10, Greek-street, Soho, W.; also 119, Charing Cross-road.

LOUBERTS, FOUR, Great Comedy Act, on Tour. 49, Wyke-gardens, Holland-street, Clapham-road, S.W.

LOVELACES, THE, American Song Illustrators. This week, Empire, Bolton; next week, Hippodrome, Stockton.

LUCRETIA AND JOSEPHINE, Principal Boy and Phyllis, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

LYNCH, AGNESE and ARTHUR, In American Picture Songs. This, Empire, Dudley; Mon., Hippodrome, Hyde.

LYNDON, LUNA, Second Girl, Milton Bode's "Robinson Crusoe." Booked '08, '09, '10. Lib. Feb. month. Offers. H. M. T., Dundee.

LYTTON, BERT, the Swell Comique. This week, Hippodrome, Coventry; Jan. 4, Empire, Oldham.

MARQUIS and TRULY, Speciality Comedy Duo, Starring again, Queen's, Gateshead; next, Hippo., Spennymoor.

MAYE, PERCY, Success, Success, Tivoli, Pentre. Next, Grand Theatre, Gravesend.

MAYNALL, ALF, Emperor, "Aladdin" Panto. Grand Theatre, Derby.

McASKELL, Monday next, Grand, Manchester. Would buy good secondhand Blick Typewriter.

McNEIL, SHEILA, Scotch Comedy Artist. Jan. 4, Royal Pal., Ramsgate. Thanks WAL OWEN'S Agency. Vac. Jan. 11.

MEIER and MORA. Continental Tour. Jan. 1-31, Leibich's Est. Theater, Breslau, Germany.

MELDON, IRENE, The Dainty Dot. This, Empire, Portsmouth; next, Queen's, Poplar.

MERLIN, MAX, The Crocodile, At Liberty. 65, Caledonian-street, Leeds.

MILLARD, GEORGE, Comedian; also THE BROGDENS, Comedy Couple. Vac. 4th and 11th. Add., 52, South-street, Spennymoor.

MILNER, PRINCE, TRIO, England's Representative Pot-Pourri Act. This week, Pal., Kilmarnock; next, Hipp., Paisley.

MILSTED-BELL TRIO, Jas. Kiddie's "New Aladdin." Castle Theatre, Stockton-on-Tees.

MILTON'S MARIONETTES. For Vacant Dates, Address, Permanent, 77, Virginia-st., Southport.

MOHAMED BEN MOHAMED'S Nine Genuine Sousa Arabs. Palace, Gloucester.

MOLTENO, AGNES, with Beautiful Scena, "A Dolly and a Coach." Jan. 4, Hippo., Wakefield. Next Vac. Jan. 25.

MONTEFIORE, ERNEST, and CO., "The Little Colonel" Scena. Jan. 4, Empire, Rochdale.

MORANDER, DARIUS, and ALMA, Producing Feb. 1, a New Scena, "The Awakening." Fast Booking 1909. Palace, Exeter.

MORRIS, MAMIE. Big Success, Empire, Hull. Monday, Palace, Lincoln.

MUIR and BARTLETT'S Great Laughter Makers. Gibbon's Circuit. Address, 63, Ham Park-road, West Ham.

MUNROE, MR. WALTER. Enormous Success of "Come Back to Connemara" and "Molly Maloney." H. M., Walsall.

MURIEL'S, LAURA, Scena, "Merry Widow," "Prodigal Son." Just concluded Palace, Morley. 11, Wilton-st., Manchester.

MURRAY, MAUDE MAY, in her Beautiful Electrical Aerial Dances, Theatre Royal, Bolton. Immense Success. Immense Success.

NAROM, MI This week, Pavilion Theatre, Liverpool. Next week, Hippodrome, Preston.

NEIL, NELLIE. Big success, this week, Richmond Hippodrome and Palace, Hammersmith.

NEIMAN'S VARIETY AGENCY, 1, Imperial-mansions, Charing Cross-road, London, W.C. Telephone No. 8488 Gerrard.

NETHERLAND, FOUR SISTERS, Empire, Barnsley; Syndicate Halls to follow. A Happy New Year to All.

NOBLE, J. H., the American Protean Actor. Vacant Jan. 4 and onwards. Wire, Victoria Hotel, Pendleton, Manchester.

NORA, NELLIE, Dainty Instrumental Act, thanks Managers for Offers. Jan. 4, Royal Assembly Hall, South Shields.

NORTHCOTES, THE, (MADGE) High-class Duettists. (MAY). This, Tivoli, Manchester; next, Circus, Bury.

NOTE, R. C., DAISY DEVONPORT. What a Hit this week, Hippo., Yarmouth. Monday, Theatre Royal, Dumfries.

OKABE FAMILY, THE, Japanese Artists. Jan. 1 to 31, c/o Scala Theatre, Kopenhagen.

OWEN, WAL, the Agent, thanks Miss de Rowse, Sheila McNeil, and Zelda for diamond ring.

PACEY, TOM, Agent, 186, Brixton-road, S.W. Tele., "Paceys, London." 'Phone 87 Brixton.

PALETTE and Dog "Max," in Artistic and Musical Pot-pourri Act. Monday, Market Hall, Whitehaven.

PALMERS, THE MUSICAL. Monday next, Empire Palace, Portsmouth. A happy and prosperous New Year to all.

PAULETTI, Somersaulting and Jumping Cyclist. This, T. R., Ilkeston; next, P. O. W., Mexboro'.

PEPS, THE, Modern Comedy Gymnasts. Opera House, Dunfermline, Scotland.

PERMANE'S, W., "Teddy Bears," At Liberty. The Real Thing. The only show. 74, Kennington-road, S.E.

PHILLIPS and TERRY, Disengaged Jan. 4 and 11. Address, 115, Narbonne-avenue, Clapham Common.

PICKARD, A. E., American Museum, Glasgow. Gaiety Theatre, Clydebank. Britannia Theatre, Glasgow.

POLLARD, FRED, "The Levinsky." Granville, 7.30 and 10.10. Vacant 18th. Granville, Walham Green.

POYNTON, MR. ALFRED, THE Impersonator, Resting by Doctor's Orders. Address, Blenheim Hotel, Brighton.

PURVIS and PARTNER, Abanazar and Princess, Panto., "Aladdin," Castle Theatre, Stockton.

RAE, GEO., Scotch Comedian. Still making a big hit Stoll Tour. Booked till 1914. See Back Page. Happy New Year to All.

RAIE, LYDIA. Last week. Success, Market Hall, Whitehaven. This, Queen's, Castleford; next, Empire, Blyth. C/o "The Era."

RAPLEY, GEO., Dame, Little and Darcy's "Red Riding Hood." Dalston Theatre.

RAY and LINGARD, Comedy Duologue Artists. Vacant March 1, 8, and 15, 1909. Address, Grand Theatre, Fulham, S.W.

RAYNOR and ESTO (JACK and KATIE). Caught bending nightly. Happy New Year to All. No vacs. Please add., "Era."

REDFERN, RUBIE and ELSIE, with Banjoes, Piano, Singing, Dancing. Jan. 4, Palace, Blackpool. Vac. Jan. 11.

REEVES, FRED, Variety Agent, The Cedars, Grove-rd., Brixton. Tel., "Formerly, London." 'Phone 1066 Brixton.

REEVES, VOWLES, Versatile Comedian. "The Squire's Social." Concert Season. Coms., C/o "The Era."

REGAN and RYAN, The Original Walking Conversationalists. Theatre Royal, Newcastle.

RENE, the Girl Juggler; ROY BEAVIS, Magician. This week, Circus, Bury; next, Queen's, Shipley.

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ROWNTREES, THE (BERT and EDNA). Smart Singing and Pattering Duo. Monday next, A. Theatre, Brighouse.

SABINO, the Merry Musical Minstrel, concluding to-night Emp., Leith, N.B. Mon., King's T., Hanley; vacant Jan. 25 and Feb. 1.

SAN REMO GIRLS, Comedians and Speciality Dancers. This week, Tivoli.

SANTOI, MARIE, and CO. Prosperous New Year to All. This, Euston Palace; Jan. 4, Empire, Middlesbrough.

SAVILE, AMY, Dainty Comedienne. Jan. 4, Hippodrome, Dover.

SCOREYS, THE FOUR, Jan. 4, Tivoli, Liverpool.

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ST. RUTH and CONYERS, Operatic Duettists. This, H., Liverpool; next, H., Sheffield.

STUART, MR. BARNEY. Vacant Jan. 11 onwards. Monday, Gaiety Palace, Clydebank, N.B.

SUTHERD, DICK, "Oxo," the Original Bullfighter, "Mam'selle Pom-Pom" Co. This, P., W. Hartlepool; next, P., Blackburn.

TAMAMOTO, C., The Japanese Blondin. Next, People's Palace, Portsmouth. P.s., 310, Camberwell New-rd.

TAYLOR and BRIDGE, Singing Lancashire Mill Lads. Jan. 4, Hippodrome, Rotherham.

TEMPLES, THREE ROYAL, This, Hippo., Wigan; next, Palace, Lincoln. Manager, Wallie Gilbert.

TERRY SISTERS, Highly Talented Mimics, Vocalists, &c., finish to-night, Royal, Oldham. Jan. 4, Pavilion, Bridlington.

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VIOLI, Lady Instrumentalist. Cromwell Hall, Lancaster.

VIVIAN, WEE MONA, This week, Empire, Dudley. Next, Palace, Northampton.

WALDOW, J. E., Character Vocalist and Dancer. Liberty Monday. All coms., 21, Gloucester-street, Middlesbrough.

WALKER'S WOULD-BE ACROBATS. GLOBELLA, Juggling. Two distinct Turns. Vac. shortly. Add., Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh.

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WISPER, Comedy Juggler; BEATTIE BLOOM. Comedienne. Monday, Tivoli, Brierley Hill; vac. Jan. 11 and 18. Feb. 8, 15, 1909.

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Presented at the Lyric Theatre, Liverpool, on Monday, Dec. 28, 1908,

"LADY LANIGAN, Laundress."

By J. RUSSELL BOGUE, Author of "Trip to Blackpool," "Trip to Rum, Fum," &c., &c.

Public Opinion stamped it as:

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"A DECIDED SUCCESS."
"A GENUINE SUCCESS."

Press Opinions.

On holiday occasions the management of the Lyric Theatre always make special efforts in the way of providing something particularly attractive for their patrons, and for this festive season of the year they have "put on" an entertainment which is bound to afford the utmost enjoyment to those who witness it, the principal attraction being a farcical comedy drama, entitled "Lady Lanigan, Laundress," by J. Russel Bogue, which created roars of laughter from beginning to end.—*Liverpool Daily Post and Mercury*, December 28th, 1908.

The wooing of the proprietress of a laundry—an Irish widow, very much in debt—by rival suitors, provides some excellent humour in a sketch, entitled "Lady Lanigan, Laundress," which is being presented at the Lyric Theatre this week by Mat Montgomery and his company. It is the chief feature of an attractive programme, the fun throughout being fast and furious.—*Liverpool Courier*, December 28th, 1908.

A splendid combination occupy the boards of the Lyric Theatre, and both houses were well patronised. As the "bill-topper," "Lady Lanigan, Laundress" (by J. Russell Bogue), was a regular "side-splitter," and afforded the keenest enjoyment. —*Liverpool Echo*, December 28th, 1908.

An excellent holiday programme is submitted to the Lyric patrons this week, and heading the list is a farcical comedy presented by Mr. Mat Montgomery, entitled "Lady Lanigan, Laundress." The piece was thoroughly enjoyable, and created roars of laughter.—*Liverpool Evening Express*, December 28, 1908.

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Huge Success as
COLIN,
"Puss in Boots" Pantomime.
All coms., JOHN A. WALKER, EMPIRE, BELFAST.
Telegraphic Address, "Pharaoh, Belfast."

FANNY ROBINA, FLORRY COOPER,
Two Star Turns, no matter where we go; all towns are alike to us. Always a great success. Vacant Jan. 11. Address, EMPIRE, S. SHIELDS.

"Emmie's Christmas Tree."
Still Huge Success.
EMMIE AMES.
Usual Success,
PALACE, BLACKBURN.

I Have No Vacancies. Always Working.
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The World's Greatest Chorus Singer.
"Oh, oh, Antonio" (by Murphy and Lipton),
Enormous Success,
PRINCE'S THEATRE, BRADFORD.

"An actress of the Nellie Farren type."
MISS DOLLY HARMER
opened with success, CHELSEA PALACE, after four months' enforced idleness through throat trouble. Address, 14, Waterloo-road, S.E.

A Coming Top-liner.
NANCE ELDER,
The Clever and Versatile Comedienne.
This week, usual success, Empire, Edinburgh.
Next, COLISEUM, GLASGOW.

Address, 1, Arodene-road,
Brixton Hill, S.W.,
for
Yours very truly,
CONSTANCE MOXON.

Great and Glorious Success
of
MISS OUIDA MACDERMOTT
as Aladdin,
PRINCE'S THEATRE, BRISTOL.
Communications, HARTLEY MILBURN or TOM SHAW.

The Chorus Queen.
The Queen of Song.—Vide Press.
FRANCES LETTY,
America's Greatest Lady Wooden Shoe Dancer.

The Acknowledged Hit of every Programme.
The Acknowledged Hit of every Programme.

Next week,
PALACE, ABERDEEN.
Miss Letty thanks Proprietors and Managers for offers; fully Booked.

Important Production Jan. 25, 1909, of Original Comedy Scena, entitled, "Quit this House and Go," written by Leslie Race, composed by A. D. McFarlane and Leslie Race, introducing Frances Letty's "Silent Coon."
Look out for Frances Letty's "Silent Coon."
Look out for Frances Letty's "Silent Coon."
Look out for Frances Letty's "Silent Coon."
A Chorus Song everybody will be Singing.
"Back, Back to Pimlico."
"Back, Back to Pimlico."
The Artist with a Budget of Chorus Successes.
"Does Anyone Want a Girl?"
"I'll Wait for You."
"Bring Ma Furniture Back, Mr. Brown."
"You Can't Blame the Girls."
"Have Your Ears Been Burning, Mr. Jackson?"
"Pack Up Your Trunk and Go."
"Back, Back, to Pimlico."
And my Latest,
"Quit This House and Go."
Publishers, Francis, Day, and Hunter.

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Exclusive Agent,
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Comedienne and Speciality Dancer.
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London Season and Special Concerts.
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WINNIE STANHOPE,
Light Comedy, Patter, and Flirtation Songs.
Par excellence.—Vide Press, Public, and Managers.

Jan. 4. HIPPODROME, HASTINGS.

MISS ROSE HAMILTON,
London Nightly.
Coms.,
27, Holland-road, Brixton, S.W.

The original Lass o' Killiecrankie.
SHEILA McNEIL,
A Scotch Comedy Artist away from all others.
Jan. 4, ROYAL PALACE, RAMSGATE.
Vacant Jan. 11, 18.

KATE WALBRAN.
Huge Success, ARAMINTA,
GRAND, GLASGOW.

MISS FIFI GORDON,
Principal Boy, Pavilion Theatre, East.

Took up the part at 24 hours' notice owing to the indisposition of Miss Adele Levey.

MISS BESSIE BUTT,
Principal Boy,
DANDINI,
ROYAL COUNTY T., KINGSTON-ON-THAMES.
And what a success.
Personally complimented by Peter Davey, Esq.
"Sunshine Soo," by Davis and Godfrey.
Encored time after time.
The prettiest coon style song of the day.
1909 practically booked up.
To all friends,
A Prosperous New Year,
with good health to enjoy same.

MISS MABEL CARR,
Principal Boy,
GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
The Nottingham Guardian says:—
Aladdin is fortunate in having such a winsome principal boy as Miss Mabel Carr. She is pretty and vivacious, sings agreeably, and knows her business. Altogether she is one of the most refreshing boys Grand Theatre pantomime has ever known. All coms. next four weeks as above.

MISS VENA VALMA, the Musical Comedy Maid. This week, EMPIRE, OLDHAM. Miss Vena Valma made quite a hit with her pretty and intelligent imitations of a number of the girls of musical comedy.—Oldham Chronicle, Dec. 29.

MISS HARRIETT VERNON.
In a Budget of New Songs, including
"A Real White Woman."
By Leslie Race and George Prince.

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Rep., LESLIE RACE.

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Address,
C/o "The Era."

MISS LELIA ROZE,
"A Dressing Room Dream."
Address, 2, Addison-road, Bedford Park, West.

MISS RACHEL LOWE.
Address,
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An Artiste to her finger tips.
MISS DAISY DORMER,
Principal Girl,
GRAND THEATRE, LEEDS.

KATE CARNEY,
KATE CARNEY,
Scoring a Tremendous Success Everywhere.
Scoring a Tremendous Success Everywhere.
KATE CARNEY.
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KATE CARNEY.
In Her Popular Scena,
"THE YIDDISHER BOY." "THE YIDDISHER BOY." "THE YIDDISHER BOY."
Also the Musical Comedietta,
"GOOD MORNING, MISTER POSTMAN."
The Song Par Excellence.
"FROM POVERTY-STREET TO GOLDEN-SQUARE."
Monday Next,
EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.
All coms., Sole Agents, GEORGE BARCLAY AND Co.
'Phone, 2093 Tottenham.

A "Star" that never fails to shine.
GERTIE GITANA.
Jan. 4, PALACE THEATRE, GLASGOW.
Eleventh Return to London Coliseum.
GERTIE GITANA.
London's Favourite Comedienne.
Agents, G. BARCLAY and Co.
Business-Manager,
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'Phone, 2,098 Tottenham.

MABEL SINCLAIR,
The Premier Lady Ventriloquist.
Scores an emphatic success on Orpheum Circuit, U.S.A.
Jan. 4, INDIANAPOLIS (IND.).
Stoll Tour, 1909-10-11.

MISS LENA VERDI,
Principal Girl,
BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.
Enormous Success.
Agents, G. and F. PEEL.

FLORRIE ROBINA, LENA PINAUD,
LENA and MILLIE PINAUD, PAVILION T., EASTBOURNE, in Panto. GREAT SUCCESS. Eastbourne society says, Lena Pinaud, the daughter of the well-known talented artist, Florrie Robina. How dare I be talented! It's like my cheek!

MISS BILLIE BURFORD,
Monday, GRAND, CLAPHAM.
"Why be Ashamed of Him Now."
Published Francis and Day.
"Anything to Please a Girl." Sole Properties.

"I'm Leaving Monte Carlo."
"I'm Leaving Monte Carlo."
"I'm Leaving Monte Carlo."
Published by the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.

"Winkles and Watercresses."
"Winkles and Watercresses."
"Winkles and Watercresses."

An entirely New Departure in Chorus Songs.

"If I should plant a tiny seed of love
in the garden of your heart."
The Success of the Year.
B. FELDMAN and Co., 2 and 3, Arthur-street, W.C.

MISS DORA LYRIC,
MISS DORA LYRIC.
MISS DORA LYRIC.

Acknowledged by everyone this week at the Oxford as the greatest populariser of Chorus Songs.

Chorus Sung by the entire Audience.

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Starring Monday,
THE OXFORD (10.0 o'clock)
THE OXFORD (10.0 o'clock)
THE OXFORD (10.0 o'clock)
and
CROUCH END (8.45 o'clock).
CROUCH END (8.45 o'clock).
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Fully Booked till 1912

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Great Success of New Numbers.
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MISS RAY FORD,
Playing JILL, Principal Girl, Bliss and Bliss's "Mother Goose" Panto.
Foremost of a fine array of principals is Miss Ray Ford as Jill. Her deportment is winsomeness itself, and her dancing is of a quality not often seen in St. Helens.—St. Helens Reporter.
Thanks to all friends for wires, cards, and presents.
All communications,
OPERA HOUSE, ST. HELENS.
A Happy New Year to All.

MISS QUEENIE LEIGHTON,
DRURY LANE'S PRINCIPAL BOY,
wishes to thank all dear friends for telegrams, flowers, and letters of congratulation, and hopes they will all have a very happy 1909. Not had time to send cards this year.

Address, Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

MISS MAIE HOEY.
Miss Maie Hoey is a perfect exponent of her delightful art. This charming lady presented a series of Eastern dances with such grace of movement and originality of conception that none could fail to appreciate the very high merit of her performance. It is not often that so finished a dancer is seen on the London stage.—Reynolds's, Dec. 27, 1908.

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(ROSA and KITTY),
Pantomime,
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Concludes to-night Broadhead's splendid Hall, The Pavilion, Liverpool. The biggest hit I have ever made in Liverpool; that's saying something. Monday, STOLL'S EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND.
Special Notice.
"The Old Serio-Comic and the New" and "Singers, Past and Present"
are my Sole and Original Property.
The first to introduce this kind of Show. More will be heard of this later. Proprietors are again cautioned against infringement.

"The Girl that's full of ginger," by Harrington and Powell.

MISS LILLIE LANGTRY
Syndicate and Gibbons' Halls till further notice. All songs sung by me are my sole property. No one has permission to sing them.

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The Inimitable
PATTY YOLE,
A Comedienne and a dancer.
Coms., GEO. REGAN (Regan and Ryan),
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LIL HAWTHORNE.
London Season.
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THE SUPREME SAND DANCER.
"THE SEASONS" (Winter, Spring, and Summer).
The most Novel Dancing Scena on the Stage.
HIPPODROME, SHEFFIELD.

MISS MAYME CANNON,
In her latest successes.
"Take Me Where the Lights are Low," by Harrington and Powell; "If You Haven't Got a Girl," by Maurice Scott and Joe Burley
Jan. 4, PALACE, NEWCASTLE.
Sole Agent, WILL OLIVER.

MISS DAISY JAMES,
Everybody's Favourite.
Great Hat-traction, "The Umbrella Hat."
Next week, PARAGON.
Jan. 11, PALACE, CAMBERWELL.
MISS DAISY JAMES,
Wishes everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year.
Coms., 65, Sudbourne-road, Brixton Hill, S.W.

"The Irresistible Comedienne."
MISS DAISIE MORELL.
Terrific Success, Principal Boy,
PAISLEY THEATRE, PAISLEY.
Sole Agent, LEO FRITZ.

CISSIE THOMPSON,
Comedienne.
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HIPPODROME, WOOLWICH.

"The Era" says: A wonderful musician.
MISS MABEL MAVIS,
The Most Versatile Lady Musician on the Stage. EMPIRE, NEWPORT.
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WHITE STARS,
with Harry Burns's "Robinson Crusoe."
Arthur Aiston as Will Atkins.
Empire, Stockport; next, EMPIRE, YORK.

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Classical Musicians,
Monday, PALACE, HULL.
Only Agent, WILL OLIVER.

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"Song Sketching."
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Nothing like it anywhere.
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TOM KELSO, EDIE GRAHAM, & CO.,
Comedy Absurdity, "The Silly Servant."
The Usual Success in our new characters, Widow Twankey and Special Part (Nicee).
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The World's Greatest Duettists and Dancers, in their latest new, novel, and original act.
Tremendous success, and re-booked everywhere.
Monday, MARINA THEATRE, LOWESTOFT.

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MILSTED and BELL,
DARKIE DIABOLO and WISHEE WASHEE
Instantaneous Success, Laughter and Applause,
Jas. Kiddie's New "Aladdin" Panto.,
CASTLE THEATRE, STOCKTON-ON-TEES.

THORPE and COE.
"My Burglar," sixteen minutes' laughter.
A Top Liner.
Vacant Jan. 11, one week only.
To-day, H., Birmingham; Jan. 4, E., SOUTHPORT.

MINNIE HUNT and RHYS THOMAS,
in new duologue, by Wal Pink, entitled
"The Wire and the Liar."
Jan. 11, PAVILION, GLASGOW.
Own Scenery and Properties.
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Comedy Entertainers,
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Until further notice.

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(RITA and KITTY).
Immense Success, Captain and Nancy,
"Crusoe" Panto., PIER, HASTINGS.
Many thanks to friends for wires.

Screams of Laughter by the
Refined Twentieth Century Comedians,
CARL and CARR,
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CARL and CARR,
now playing
RUFUS and URIAH,
"Puss in Boots,"
Fourth Year,
with Arthur Carlton, Esq.,
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.

Open for First-class Panto. Offers 1909-10.

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Managers and Agents Seeking New Acts should see the Irish-American
BOG-TROTTERS
SHAMUS and KITTIE,
High-class Comedy Duo, Jig and Reel Dancers, in their Speciality, "Merry Minglings."
To-night, 10-30, Victoria Hall, Waterloo-road, where they caused a Sensation Saturday Evening last.

The Famous
HICKS'S CLERKS.
Tremendous Success as Red Riding Hood, Baron, Jack, Wolf, and Pen, in Successful Pantomime, "Red Riding Hood."
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Marvellous Acrobatic Comedy Cyclists, in their New and Up-to-Date Cycle Act; and the SNOW FAMILY, Expert and Grotesque Skaters. Enormous success Albert Hall, Swansea (second week). At Liberty June 7, 1909.

ASTLEY'S AMERICAN CIRCUS,
Great Comedy Act.
Roars, screams, yells of laughter.
Vacant Jan. 4 and 18.
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CORONET THEATRE, W.
Bookings now complete 1909.
34 weeks secured in 1910.
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"Put Me a Girl Inside."
By Worton David and Kenneth Lyle.
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Sportsman, Author, and Traveller
There's nothing in the game.

MR. ARTHUR SLATER,
The Whistling Man in White.
Booking New Whistling Scena.
"A Day in the Woods" (own set).
Next, CIRCUS, BURY.

MR. WALTER CURTIS,
The Merriment Merchant.
EMPIRE, BURNLEY.

MENDEL, Marvellous Blind Pianist,
HIPPODROME, PUTNEY, next week.
Permanent Address,
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The Man who made "Harrigan" Popular.
The Genial
HORACE WHEATLEY.
Jan. 4, THEATRE ROYAL, WEXFORD.
Vacant Jan. 19. Address, c/o "The Era."

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The Renowned Protean Actor,
2,000th Performance as Dan the Outlaw.
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POPLAR.
Sole Agent, R. WARNER and Co., Ltd.

MR. and MRS. EDWARD H. LUCAS,
In their Original Scenes from Dickens.
This week, Granville, Walham Green;
Next week, HIPPODROME, NORWICH.

Vacant Jan. 4, 11, and 18.
DATAS,
The Memory Man. Had no open time for the last six years, and fears no rival.
Communications, PACEY'S Agency, Brixton-road.

"Ye Dame."
MR. ROWLAND HILL.
carried off premier honours last night. He plays Mrs. Sinbad, and a most whimsical old personage she is as he depicts her. Mr. Hill was full of energy and resource, and well provided with amusing patter. He kept the house rocking with laughter most of the evening. He caught the fancy of the "boys" in the gallery, and on one occasion, as he entered to the incidental music of "I'll be your sweetheart," they sang the chorus through in his honour.—Yorkshire Daily Observer, Dec. 24, '08.
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Open to Buy Funny Songs, &c.
MR. MARK SHERIDAN,
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Bohemia, Lorn-road, Brixton, S.W.

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Versatile Comedian.
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Agents, G. and F. PEEL.

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The Continuous Comedian.
Monday next, EMPIRE, BARNSLEY.
All the Best Syndicate Halls Booked.
Will Buy Funny, Clean, Songs.

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An instantaneous success.

Press and Public full of praise.

A clean and artistic performance

MR. HARRY CONLIN,
DAME,
THEATRE ROYAL, MANCHESTER.

LIEUT. TRAVIS
wishes to thank numerous inquirers re his accident. He is progressing favourably, and will be able to resume business in about five or six weeks.

JACK HAMILTON,
Refined Light Comedian.
Making big success Palace, Reading, this week. Monday, 4th, Hippo., Eastbourne. Vacant Jan. 11.

JACK SMILES.
And when Jack Smiles
the Whole World Laughs.
Comedian and Dancer.
This week, Empire, Birmingham.
Great Success.
SOUTHPORT to follow.
Vacant Dates and Terms,
Apply, 11 Woodville-road, Leytonstone;
And Jack Smiles.

ALEC KENDAL, Fitzwarren. Still Sticking at. CORONET THEATRE, NOTTING HILL, W. See Notices. Described as a Novelty, Original, Inimitable, Saucy, Mad, Great, Eccentric, Clever. TOM SHAW, Esq., Strand, W.C. A Happy New Year to Some of You.

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Splendid Company of Minstrel Performers.
Can be Seen Daily at the
QUEEN'S HALL, BIRMINGHAM.
Splendid Opinions of Press and Public.
The Birmingham Daily Mail says:—Snow and Farron's Minstrel Performance is of a very high standard.
So say Messrs. Moore and Kennedy, Proprietors, the Men that Know.

CLACK and CLACK,
The Original and Only Act on the Stage, Lady Acrobatic Barrel-Jumpers. Bottom of Bill, Muncaster Theatre, Bootle. Always a Success, whether the top, middle, or amongst the wines. Four calls nightly each house. Jan. 4, PALACE, BRADFORD. Lib. June 14, for Gates. CLACKIE.

MINERVA,
American Queen of Mystery,
Originator of the wonderful
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Minerva, the original woman bridge jumper.
Minerva, the original woman jail breaker.
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Minerva, the original strait-jacket queen.
Minerva, the little blonde American lady.
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"THE KING O' THE CASTLE."
"I've Got No Go in Me."
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The Original Comedy Whistling Comedian.
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Welsh Comedian.
Big Success Everywhere.
Songs Wanted. No trash.
Managers' Club, Savoy Mansions.

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DUBLIN.

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"THE LAST MUSTER,"
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Jan. 4, EMPIRE, SWANSEA.

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the Eminent Scotch Baritone Vocalist,
in Scena, "A Scottish Exile's Dream."
PALACE, WARRINGTON.
WEE WILLIE OLIVER, the Ten per Cent. Agent.

Great Success of "I'm Looking at You,"
by Worton David.
FRED DURBAN,
Light Character Comedian.
Also Catchy Songs by Kenneth Lyle and Collins and Ridgwell. Splendid wardrobe.
Everything up to date. London Halls.
Only Few Vacancies in 1909. Coms. to NEIMAN'S Agency, 1, Imperial-mansions, Charing Cross-road.

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New Zealand's Representative.
CARL COLYER,
Colonial Comedian.
This week,
HAMMERSMITH PALACE and STANDARD.

HARRY NATION,
Reliable Comedian.
With a successful act that follows anything.
London Season and Special Concerts.
Coms., SOMERS AND WARNER, or NAPOLI and Co.

I said last week—
I know agents that would book me, but couldn't,
And agents that could book me, wouldn't.
WILL GODWIN,
There are managers and managers that know good value.
A little bit of pink on any programme.
New Song, "When I've a Hundred Pounds."
New Song, "On the Banks of the Old Canal."
Another "If Those Lips Could Only Speak,"
Entitled,
"Will You Remember Me."
The worm's killed; let's heal the sore.
WILL GODWIN.
and
GLADYS GODWYNNE,
An Actress, a Vocalist, a Dancer.
Sole Agents, FRED REEVES and Co.
For the finest value in the market.
Six nights vacant Monday next, London, Canterbury, and Paragon to follow; Collins's, London, Crouch End, Norwich, and Ipswich.
A Prosperous New Year to Everybody.
GLADYS GODWYNNE,
Can be seen at Crouch End Jan. 25.
GLADYS GODWYNNE.

A. J. MILLS and BENNETT SCOTT, the acknowledged leading Songwriters.
We set the Fashion in Songs.
THE SENSATIONAL HIT IN THE THEATRE ROYAL PANTOMIME, GLASGOW (SUNG BY GEO. ROBEY), WAS
WILL EVANS'S
GREAT COMEDY CHORUS SONG,
"A to Z."
"A to Z."
£2 2s. each Town. What a winner!
"A to Z."
"A to Z."
DON'T BE BLUFFED. THIS IS THE COMEDY SONG OF THE YEAR.
Only a few Towns left, so hurry up.
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Our best ever. Miss Florrie Forde's Great Hit.
"MY GIRL'S A YORKSHIRE GIRL."
Second only to above. Miss Florrie Gallimore's "cinch." Secured for everywhere. Publishers, Francis, Day, and Hunter.

For Songs, Sketches, &c., write the Song Writers,
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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDEEN.—H. M. THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—The D'Oyly Carte company opened their second week on Monday with *The Yeomen of the Guard*. The house was packed in every part. Mr. Billington was exquisitely droll as Shadbolt; and Phœbe was charmingly impersonated by Miss Lillian Engholm, in the regrettable absence through illness of Miss Beatrice Meredith; Miss Ethel Morrison was also on the sick list unfortunately, but her part of Dame Carruthers was played with the utmost credit by Miss Ellen Whyte; Mr. Charles R. Walenn was delightfully amusing as Jack Point; and Elsie Maynard found a fascinating representative in Miss Clara Dow; Mr. Stratford Moss carried himself gallantly and sang most tunefully as Colonel Fairfax; Mr. Leicester Tunks was an ideal Sergeant Meryll, and among the other members of the company who deserve mention were Mr. Sydney Granville (Lieutenant of the Tower); Mr. Hugh Blackmore (Leonard Meryll); and Miss Mabel Graham as Kate. The choruses were sung with charming effect. *Patience* was staged on Tuesday.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessees, The United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—The principal turn is that of Mr. John Clempert, the "Siberian Prison Breaker," who gives a most remarkable exhibition of his strength and dexterity; Barton and Bright are a couple of exceedingly bright and originals comedians; the finely-rendered selections from *Il Trovatore* by Miss Ethel Pender-Cudlip and Mr. Claude Askew are heartily appreciated; Mr. Harry Morris is a good character comedian; Lozell shows much skill as an equilibrist; Madison and Webb are certainly very clever in their line; and Mr. Francis Letty is successful, both as a singer and dancer.

ALHAMBRA MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. John Sinclair.—General-Manager, Mr. G. B. Lee.—Included in an excellent company are such capable artists as Mr. Percy Forde, female impersonator; Miss G. Stewart, soprano; Mr. Harry Martell, conjurer; and the Three Macs, burlesque comedians. The fine cinematograph display is followed with the keenest interest, and the house continues to be well filled nightly.

EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Managers, Messrs. R. Calder and J. Montague.—The notworthy spectacular act, *Peggy's Birthday Party*, has proved completely successful. All the juvenile principals show quite remarkable talent, and the variety part of the programme is taken by a large company of capable performers, among whom Miss Marie Rose, comedienne, and Mr. Archie Murray, coon humorist and instrumentalist, stand out prominently.

GAIETY (St. Katherine's Hall).—Lessee, Mr. Dove Paterson.—The first-class cinematograph entertainments here continue to be very largely patronised. On Monday a deeply interesting series, The Auto-Heroine, was exhibited for the first time in Scotland. Miss Jessie Dudgeon, a remarkably expert and graceful young dancer, appears with unqualified success nightly.

Johnny Trundley, the "fat boy of Peckham," still continues the principal attraction at Humber's Waxwork. He is a great favourite with the spectatorate.

ABERTILLERY.—THE PAVILION.—Lessees, E. and H. Tilney; Manager, Mr. E. Pryce.—Mr. Ernest R. Abbott and company are here for another week. For the first three nights *The Man of Her Choice* was played, while the remainder of the week was taken up by the production of *Trilby*. Mr. Ernest R. Abbott must be commended for his clever and difficult piece of work as Berkeley Hilderson; Miss Ada Abbott as Barbara Linley provided an impressive and altogether pleasing study; comedy was suitably represented by Mr Frank Stephens as Morris.

THEATRE METROPOLE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. J. Seaborn.—Miss Marie Dagmar and company are presenting the drama, *The Tyrant*. The title-rôle is well sustained by Mr. Roy Fortescue, who performs his part with extraordinary skill; while Homedei, the Avenger, finds a capital exponent in Mr. Carthage Caldcleugh, who shows great dramatic power in his acting, for which he receives rounds of applause. A most praiseworthy performance is given by Miss Marie Dagmar, who gives a delightful impersonation of Tisbe, and creates quite an impression; while Lady Kathrine is excellently portrayed by Miss Margaret Frame, in quite a real and natural manner. Humour is excellently provided in the piece, and the remainder of the cast is taken by talented and clever artists. The mounting of the piece is really brilliant.

ACCRINGTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—Mr. Fred Granville's company opened here on Monday with the pantomime *Little Aladdin*. The house was packed to overflowing, and enthusiasm was unbounded throughout. The title-rôle is impersonated by Miss Minnie D'Aubyn with vivacity; Miss Belle Brocade proves an attractive Princess Badroulbadour; Miss Ethel Dunville makes a delightful Prince Pekoe; and Radia, the lady with the magic lamp, is played effectively by Miss Gladys Wells. Mr. Happy Attwood, a clever comedian, sustains the part of Widow Twankey, and his comicalities provide endless amusement; Mr. Harry Kirk appears successfully as Abanazar; Mr. Harry Keeble makes a hit as Wun Lung, and Mr. Herbert Lewis as the Emperor of China is worthy of praise. Messrs. Harley and Hardon are in their element as the two policemen, Bossi and Wrong Un, and Mr. Harry Hutin is a capital Wishee-Washee. Specialities are successfully introduced by the Sisters Dunville, Harry Keeble, Miss Minnie D'Aubyn, the Yorkshire Mill Lasses, and the Sisters Le Lar. The pantomime, which is well staged, was produced by Mr. Frank L. Hayter.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Accrington Hippodrome Co.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—Miss Harriett Vernon heads the bill in her latest scena, *A Yuletide Story*, and was received with rapturous applause; Sam Richards' Eight College Girls provide a very acceptable turn; Marcel and Boris, a wonderful equilibristic pair; the Bros. Ford contribute a smart dancing act; Marlo is warmly applauded for a capital juggling performance; Cliff and Kean are very popular; Letine is an accomplished female impersonator; and Leslie Race delights with his song.

ALDERSHOT.—ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—The pantomime *Cinderella* is on a successful second week, the performance now running with a pleasing smoothness from beginning to end. Several new features have been added in the mirth-provoking acts by the versatile quartette of comedians, Messrs. Dan Harley, Fred Melton, Keane Harker, and H. A. Griffiths. New songs and dances have also been introduced, and the many capital evolutions by the well-trained chorus are a feature that enhances the success to no small degree. Miss Ella Willmer's is a delightful portrayal of Cinderella—a rôle she invests with a charm throughout—and she is indeed a past-master of the Terpsichorean art. Miss Victoria Carmen's dashing Prince Charming is another huge success, and her good soprano voice is heard to perfection in "My home is far away." Miss Ida Dorrie's Dandini is well played, and she appears as soloist with an armoured and helmeted bevy of young ladies in a musical march, which is excellently carried through. Miss Fairfax is good as the Fairy; while as the Ugly Sisters Misses Anna Beaumont and Fanny Wallace are helpful in keeping the ball a-rolling in the humorous scenes. Mr. Frank Lennard as the Demon Malignant sings and acts well. A host of others in minor parts and the brilliant choruses help considerably in bringing about a complete success. The pantomime is tastefully dressed and staged.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill, jun.—The pantomime *Dick Whittington* is a great success, and is filling the house nightly. The principal contributors to the fun and frolic, and to the artistic features, are:—Misses Florrie Gallimore (Dick), Josie Delaine (Alice), Rose Alderman (Fairy Sunshine), Rose Tilley (Viscount), Dolly Victor (Molly), The Herald Comedy Four, Mr. H. O. Wills as Jack Idle, Mr. Jack Mackenzie as Sarah, Mr. Leo King as King Rat, Mr. Jemmy Wood as Alderman Fitzwarren, Mr. Ted E. Fields as Tarpaulin, Mr. Alf. King as the Cat, and Harwood's Juveniles.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr W. Leech; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Burslem.—The inimitable Zona Vevy appears in her dainty songs with catchy choruses. She is accompanied on the pianoforte by the celebrated Herr Max Erard, composer of all Zona Vevy's songs. "My Lady's Bower" is a specially-painted scene, which is used for extra illustration by the artists. Will Walton, the quaint comedian, is well worth his salt; the Victoria Troupe of instrumentalists, vocalists, and dancers command the interested attention of the audience; and Natalia and Diana, aerial gymnasts, are a daring couple of supple ladies, clever trapeze performers. Beattie and Babs, Johnson and Bert, present an extremely amusing act, *A Queer Customer;* Marlow and Manton (Harry and May) give a screaming comedy sketch, *Winning a Wife*, in which there is much to divert and amuse an audience; Pasquali Bros. are tumblers and equilibrists whose familiar business is done very expertly and cleverly; the Bioscope illustrates a railway scene, 10.40 Express.

THE NEW PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech; Assistant-Manager, Mr. T. Owen.—The Animated Picture Exhibition for the current week includes some entirely new films. Amongst others is a comedy trick subject. The Hand of a Wizard; Evil Spirit of a Boarding School is a coloured film; Love on a Farm is a love episode; Poor Girl's Christmas is a touching picture; among the screamers are A Barber's Christening, Domesticated Elephants, Small Seller of Plaster Figures, Collecting Rent, and Unlucky Jim. The Bridge of Sighs is a vivid depiction. The vaudeville artists are Jackson and Mart, a couple of eccentrics, very amusing in song, dance, and cross-talk; an operatic tenor, Mr. F. S. Gilbert, sings some good ballads; Beatrice Allen is a good vocal comedienne; Lewis's Mannikins are remarkably good.

THE PICTUREDROME.—Lessees, Messrs. Weisker Bros.; Manager, Mr. Jas. Marks.—The new films here exposed for the week are The Prima Donna, The Juvenile Ju-Jitsu, Flash James, a domestic drama; Tomkins Buys a Donkey, The Kaleidoscope, and His First Experience in Chemistry. The Blind Farmer Saved by His Dog is very good. That is a fine artistic set of pictures, A Modern Grace Darling. An excellent patter turn is given by a couple of juvenile artists; Miss Lalla Le Main impersonates marionettes in clever style, and songs are well rendered by the vocalist.

ATTERCLIFFE.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manageress, Miss Ethel J. Hope.—This week there is a change from the usual "picture entertainments" here, and the boards are occupied by Messrs. E. C. Jazon and Richard Nightingale's pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, which is drawing crowded houses. It is a production full of fun and go, with tuneful music, pretty scenery and dresses, popular songs, neat dancing, interesting ballets, and a good all-round company. Miss Maud Beaumont in the title-rôle makes a splendid principal boy, with a captivating style; Miss Vera Snowden is winsome as Alice; the comedians work hard and successfully in their respective parts, and include Mr. William Miller (Fitzwarren), Mr. Fred Ward (Jack), Mr. Allen Amber (Sarah), the Willoughbys (Captain and Mate), and Mr. Pete Vone (Emperor); Miss Olive Audrey sings well as Fairy Bountiful; and a good performance of the indispensable cat is given by Mr. Willie Vanda. Interesting specialities are introduced by the Vandas, slack wire and globe performers; the Willoughbys, acrobats; Salida and Vone, Creole performers; Pearce and Ward, in a comedy act; and Misses Terry and Snowden, duettists. Mr. Wallie Spinner is an efficient stage-manager, and Mr. J. Haydn James occupies the conductor's chair.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Bert Dent; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harry Sanders.—The principal feature of this week's programme is the excellent acting of Miss Renee Glendower and company, in a well-conceived, artistic playlet, entitled *A Bit Too Clever;* Scottie's Troupe, in a pathetic scena, "The Cry of the Children," meets with approval; Whizzing the Whirl, described as a "great sporting novelty," is the cause of hearty laughter, and in connection with it local contests for prizes are held at each performance. Other items are furnished by Miss Marie Stroud, comedienne; Nash and Noel, smart cross-talk comedians and dancers; the Prinellas, in a novel farmyard scena, "A Country Flirtation"; Mr. Herbert Rule, comedian; Mr. Jamie Piper, instrumentalist; the Bros. Lidville, comedians; and Mr. Clayton's "Attergraph" pictures.

AYR.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—Mr. George Edwardes's company opened on Monday in *The Merry Widow*. As Sonia and Danilo Miss Mysie Devine and Mr. Frank Greene were simply admirable, so pat and neat was everything that they did; Mr. Edward D'Arcy was inimitable as Baron Popoff; Mr. Fred Fowler was excellent in the part of Nisch, and provoked the audience to laughter; Mr. Rinley Evans acted the part of Jolidon well; while the same may be said of Mr. Clifford Seyler as General Novokovitch. Miss Ada Thomas was very clever as Natalie; Miss Kate May was smart in the dancing part of Frou-Frou; all the other members of the company give fine support, and the result was a most complete and enjoyable production. There are to be three matinées during the week.

TOWN HALL.—The Prince Edward Bioscope are having two shows daily in the Town Hall, and are drawing great crowds to each performance. There is a concert party, besides the pictures, and the entertainment is much appreciated.

TOWER PICTURE PALACE.—A cinematograph show is being run in the Wallace Tower Hall by Mr. J. McDougall, a local amusement caterer, and his exhibition is creating a good impression, as he is running the very latest and best films to be had, and he is having his reward in crowded houses at each show.

BACUP.—NEW COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood.—Miss Nancy Battersby's company is appearing here this week with *The Empty Cradle*. Mr. Urquhart gives a dignified impersonation of Sir Carnaby Bloodworth; Kenneth Bloodworth finds a clever exponent in Mr. C. H. Seaton; Mr. Walter Steele as Carnaby Bloodworth, the villain, portrays his character well; Mr. Fred Wells does full justice to the character of James Boswell; as Little Misery Mr. Wallace Black was all that could be desired; Miss Nancy Battersby depicted Ida Boswell with touching pathos; Mr. Kenneth Scott as the Hon. St. Clair Selby and Miss Connie Meadows as Sarah Puddicombe introduce a good deal of humour; Miss L. Earle ably sustains the rôle of Mary Barton and Mrs. Tom Wilson was suitably placed as Martha Boswell.

BARNSTAPLE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Bridge Trustees; Manager, Mr. Harry Ashton.—The Franco-British Picture Co. furnish the attraction here this week. The programme includes Mr. John Wheelan, tenor vocalist; Mr. John Summers, who possesses a fine baritone voice; Miss Evelyn Geldard, a mezzo-soprano of pleasing quality; and the Haverleys, American song illustrators; Nick Carter and Mary Queen of Scots constitute notable features among a very fine selection of pictures.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's company in *The Old Folks at Home* is here this week. The dressing is beautiful and there are some very ingenious stage effects. Miss Maud Warburton as Dorothy has a splendid conception of the character; she is particularly good in the emotional parts; Mr. Frank Liston gives a clever portrayal of the part of Lord Kenilworth, a polished scoundrel; Mr. H. E. Herberte as Andrew Ross, makes a capital hero; Mr. Charles Hall as Hugh Robin and Mrs. Clara Santley as his wife leave nothing to be desired; the remainder of the cast is in most capable hands.

HIS MAJESTY'S.—Lessees and Managers.—Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company are appearing here in the revised version of *The Christian*. The company is an excellent one, and all the characters well sustained. Particular mention must be made of Mr. Henry Renouf, who gives us a superb John Storm; Miss Doris Gilham, who is a charming Glory Quayle; and Mr. Edwin Long, who is perfection as Father Lamplugh.

TIVOLI.—Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edgar G. Laban.—The Delevines are the premier turn here with a comedy act, *Flipp and Flopp*. They are excruciatingly funny, and keep the audience in roars of laughter; Mr. Harold White, in a ventriloquial monologue, assisted by the most excellent mechanical figures, gives an entertainment of a very high order; Major Arnold gives a capital sleight-of-hand and magic turn; Walter Emerson is very quaint in his songs; Nellie Walton's songs are well rendered; Carl Colyer is an excellent comedian, and he scores with his hat trick; Vernon's Bioscope is, as usual, excellent.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Owners and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ralph D. Fenton.—A capital pictorial programme is provided here this week, interspersed by the Zeevens, who appear in a musical scena, and Miss Edna Carina, who renders some capital songs.

BATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—On Monday Bathonians had the chance of starting *Lady Frederick* on her spring tour, and the critical audience that attended were enthusiastic in their appreciation of the piece and players. Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison, under whose direction the tour is, have made a wise choice in engaging Miss Eleanor Delaporte to portray the title-rôle; the burden of the comedy lies practically upon her, and right well did she surmount the heavy task. Excellent support was given by Mr. Robert Minster, who, as Paradine Fouldes, added yet another character to his already long list of successes; Mr. E. F. Meads further enhanced his reputation as one of the best young actors of the day as Lord Mereston; and the part of Captain Montgomery was cleverly handled by Mr. Edward Bonfield. The two young lovers Gerald O'Mara and Rose Carlisle found capital representatives in Mr. Barnet Parker and Miss Lynn Fontaine. Lady Mereston was enacted in convincing style by Miss Celia Gordon. Captain Gerald Gamblier, in addition to undertaking the duties of stage-management, appeared as Admiral Carlisle with credit. A humorous performance was that of Miss Phillis Manners as Mme. Claude. Small parts were well played by Mr. John Orme (Thompson), Mr. Harry Winton (Pierre), Mr. Bruce Smith (Albert), and Miss Rita Ward (Angélique). A pretty little piece, *The Peacemaker*, proved a capital curtain-raiser.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth).—Several of the turns in this week's bill have been seen locally before, such as Feldman's Beau-Ideal Troupe of Juveniles, and Sable Fern, the popular comedienne, who by their talents are always sure of a cordial welcome; Norah Desmond, happily recovered from her indisposition, is rendering her illustrated songs with all her wonted effect; a most picturesque interlude is that given by Mlle. Sidy Nirvanah and her statue horse in pleasing and artistic poses; Bernardo gives a humorous comedy juggling act that causes the heartiest laughter; Avon and Crest prove themselves a couple of comedy artists that know how to make an audience enjoy themselves with merriment; Jim Cheetham gains applause for his whistling specialities; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux include The Salving of the Gladiator.

BELFAST.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Mr. F. R. Benson and company commenced on Monday the concluding week of their engagement here, when *The Taming of the Shrew* was performed. As Petruchio Mr. Benson achieved a great success, being accorded a capital reception, and Mr. W. Ribton Haines convulsed the audience with his humorous impersonation of Grumio; a most capable actress, Miss Dorothy Green, acquitted hereself with high distinction as Katherina; while the rôle of Bianca was charmingly played by Miss Olive Noble; Mr. F. G. Worlock must be congratulated on his perfect assumption of Lucentio; and the rôle of Baptista was in the skilful hands of Mr. E. A. Warburton; Mr. J. Moffat Johnston would, indeed, be difficult to excel as Vicentio; and Mr. H. O. Nicholson was all that could possibly be desired as Gremio. Other rôles were cleverly sustained by Miss Leah Hanman, and Messrs. G. F. Hannam Clark, J. P. Wilson, Guy B. Rathbone, &c. On Tuesday *Romeo and Juliet* was produced with every element of success, and during the week *The Merchant of Venice, The School for Scandal,* and *Richard III.* have also been performed.

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. A. Salmond.—The success of Mr. Fred W. Warden's Christmas pantomime *Jack and Jill* is assured, crowds being unanimous in their praise of such a gorgeous production. Mr. George Lashwood is the premier favourite, and such stars as Mr. John A. Warden and George Miller also command their quota of admirers; Miss Dorothy Ward and Miss Ethel Fink's rendering of many chorus songs have been rapturously encored nightly. The pantomime is certain to enjoy a most prosperous run.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Will Sley and Fred. Willmott; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—Mr. Harry Roxbury, with his pantomime *Mother Goose*, arrived here on Monday, and the initial production in Belfast met with an instantaneous success. The scenery is good, while the company, which has been carefully selected, is a first-class one. Mr. Roxbury himself appears as Mother Goose, which he invested with much merriment, and he was ably assisted by Mr. J. W. Gallagher, who was undoubtedly very droll as Jack, his comic songs being much enjoyed; Miss Maud Prenton cut a dashing figure as Colin, her rendering of "I want you to see my girl" and other songs affording much delight; and Miss Lily Palmer was a vivacious Jill, her singing of "Sue, Sue, Sue," being excellent; Miss Lois Caris was a sweet Fairy Content, while the rôle of Demon Discontent was well played by Mr. Brian Henry; Mr. Fred Hutchings added to the general merriment by his inimitable impersonation of Muggles; while Mr. Geo. Castrey was good as Erie. The specialities include Towyn Thomas' Royal Welsh Entertainers, Sydney Russell's Four Sidney Girls, who dance well, and the Miltons, skating comedians, whose act is certainly very funny, being greeted with shrieks of merriment. The Hipposcope is also included in this fine programme.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—The leading position here is held by Mr. Joe Peterman and his No. 1 company of singing servants, the various rôles being cleverly filled by Messrs. Frank Leedam, Walter Williams, Arthur Leyston, Will Jorden, &c., their vocalism being first-class. Florence and Lillian play a number of musical instruments to perfection, and Millie Payne's droll songs create much amusement; as a comedian Mr. Harry Bedford is one of the best; and the Trefelyn David Duo appear with much success in their musical scena. Also appearing are Torbay, comedy silhouettist; Miss Ida Kathrina, the Dolly Girl; and the Bioscope, which, under the direction of Mr. McGibney, exhibits some beautiful films.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Will White.—Under the direction of Mr. Gerald Tweedie the following films have been exhibited:—The Shaughraun, He Who Arrives Late, The New Recruit, Custom House Officials, &c. Miss Bella White, a clever comedienne, who dances well, appears with success; also Mr. Chris. Masters, vocalist.

ST. GEORGE'S HALL.—General-Manager, Mr. Robert Wilson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—Under the direction of Mr. Hugh Beckett the following films have been exhibited here:—Snatched from a Terrible Death, Motor-Boat Race, Only a Dart, Artist's Model, Pirates' Honour, School Friends, &c. Also appearing are Mr. Bob Robinson, a droll Scotch comedian; and Mr. Wm. H. Carson, a capital trick cyclist.

CLIFTONVILLE HALL.—Resident-Manager, Colonel Fred T. Cummins.—The success of the Rink continues unabated, and the skating Cinderella announced by the popular manager is certain to command great favour.

BILSTON.—NEW ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. John M. Dawson; Business-Manager, Mr. S. Hadskiss Dawson; Musical Director, Mr. J. E. Machin.—Mr. W. W. Kelly's company is here this week with *A Royal Divorce*. The Napoleon of Mr. Keith Fraser is a finished and impressive performance; Miss Margaret Watson wins unstinted admiration as the divorced Empress Josephine; her acting is marked by an earnestness and grace which is most acceptable. As Talleyrand Mr. Percy H. Vernon proves to be the right man in the right place; Mr. Ernest Plumpton is very good as General Augereau; and Miss Maud Lacy makes a pleasing Stephanie de Beauharnais; Miss Winnie Tempest successfully depicts the character of the haughty Austrian Marie Louise.

BIRKENHEAD.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—Mr. James Kiddie's pantomime, *Cinderella and the Glass Slipper*, is in the second week of a successful run. Magnificent scenery, beautiful costumes, funny comedians, pretty faces, charming music, and dainty dances combine to form a delightful entertainment. Miss Hettie Gale continues to maintain her popularity in the title-rôle; Mlle. De Rose wins general admiration by her elegant performance of Prince Perfect; and the drolleries of the page, Pimples, are well elaborated by Mr. Joe Huda. With customary liberality Mr. W. W. Kelly has generously entertained detachments from several local charitable institutions.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Albert Bellman and Lottie Moore, in their clever American comedy act, *A Bit of Vaudeville*, are a prominent attraction, and Mr. J. C. Piddock and his able company, in their musical fantasy, *The Capture of Venus*, are

on a welcome return visit. A capital company also includes King's College Boys, accomplished vocalists; Sammy Shields, Scotch comedian; the Histts, in a smart musical act; Miss Rale Walters, a vocalist of exceptional merit; Mr. Gus Hindell, comedian; Mr. Charles Cordle, coon vocalist; and Brown's Royal Bioscope.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Ball.—Mr. Walter Reynolds' company in a condensed version of that gentleman's drama, *Sweet Innisfail*, is the premier attraction here. Other prominent turns are those of Jena Pena, piano entertainer; Charles Sloman, comedian; Lanos and Montes, eccentric acrobats; Miss Ruby Emerson, comedienne; the Four Rubies, lady acrobats; Emerson and Baldwin, juggling comedians; and the Hippodrome pictures.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—The success of *Dick Whittington* has exceeded all expectations, and Miss Sybil Arundale (Dick) and Mr. Tom Foy (Idle Jack), and the company, are enjoying the utmost favour.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*Boy Blue* has settled down into a huge success, its brilliant cast and lovely production being at once the wonder and admiration of all. The principals, as already described, include Miss Hetty King, Mr. Tom E. Murray, Mr. G. H. Elliott, Mr. Horace Mills, Miss Gladys Ivery, Miss Rita Everard, Mr. Jay Laurier, &c.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. T. Guest.—Energy and enterprise have once more scored here, and *Little Red Riding Hood*, Mr. Collingwood's latest, and certainly his best, pantomime up to date, looks like achieving another record. There is nothing wanting in the efforts of Miss Ellaline Thorne, Miss Dolly Denton, Miss Ivey Roze, Miss Joyce Stevens, Mr. Frank Blythe, Messrs. Stephens and Rennior, &c., while the dresses and scenery warrant high praise.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*Her Nameless Child* is here with Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company, under the direction of Mr. Sam Duckworth. Miss Pattie Hastings as heretofore keeps the audience rapt by her poignant personation of Phillis Ford; Mr. Sidney C Cranston gives a powerful, but tender, impersonation as Arthur Ford; Mr. Arthur E. Pringle's Lord Woodville has a consummate air of villainy; and Mongrole is portrayed with considerable effect by Mr. Frank Thompson. Miss Mona Gray delivers herself with striking success as Lady Sibil Woodville; and Mr. J. W. Evelyn, Mr. Larry Clements, and Miss Renie Douglas are very helpful to the success.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—Miss Lena Stanton and Mr. Harry Josephs' very excellent production of *Robinson Crusoe* holds the stage here. Miss Stanton's singing dancing, and acting in the title-rôle have made her very popular, and the company and production enjoy favour.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. J. Robertson. — Messrs. Van Praagh and J. Edward Whitty's company are performing here the new play, *The Eyes of the World*. Miss Ethel van Praagh as Helene carried her heavy burden supremely well, and the effect on the audience was electrical; Mr. George Daiper showed all the cynicism and sordid brutality of the husband, his gradual awakening to remorse at the conclusion of the second act, and his final act of reparation in the third, being graphically depicted; Mr. Will Casey as De Carnac acted with all the needed suavity and polish; Mr. Charles Sewell as Paul Roqueville was never at a loss; and Mr. Charles Stirling showed the manly characteristics of Octave de Carnac admirably. Miss Beatrice Fitzhugh as the mistress fighting to retain her lover, acted vividly; Miss Irene Stanhope gave a sweetly sympathetic portrayal of Avice; Miss Nelly Garside was very clever in mock-dramatic style as Susanne Pomfleure, and was ingenuous and sunny withal; Mr. J. Edward Whitty as Achille Fanfarade proved himself a light comedian of resource and power; and Mr. Bert Hendley as Brigard and Miss Ivy Courtney as the maid were successful. The play is handsomely mounted.

PALACE THEATRE, BORDESLEY.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—*Bound to Win*, played by Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company, has drawn largely here during the week. Miss L. Addison (Mrs. Kimberley), the authoress, plays Gladys Orme powerfully; Mr. Kimberley develops the traits of Harry Lindon in excellent style; Miss Cissie France shows dramatic ability as Winnie Oakley; Miss Violet Langley's Marion Forbes is a heroine to whom the audience warms heartily; Mr. Frank Harcourt gives a fine realisation of Philip Ayre; Mr. Allen Hope as Horatio Buffet acts with comic ability; and the support includes Miss Bella Power, Mr. Sidney Cooper, and Mr. Dick Thorpe.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone. — *The Cingalee*, very efficiently played by Mr. Haldane Crichton's company, is drawing good houses here this week. The title-rôle is in the able hands of Miss Mollie Wolstenholme, whose singing and acting are admirable; Miss Pauline Hague confirms the good impression she has made in former visits here by her accomplished representation of Lady Patricia Pane; Mr. Jack Crichton, also a great Blackpool favourite, scores a big success as Chambuddy Ram; Mr. Walter Wardroper as Harry Vereker and Mr. Douglas Munro as Boobhamba likewise make the most of their respective parts; special dances are introduced by the Sisters Amaranth and by Mr. Harry Edward Ray; and Mr. Herbert Ivey conducts a capable chorus.

GRAND THEATRE.—Owner, Mr. T. Sergenson; Responsible Tenant and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Hunter.—The New York Nippers top the bill here this week, and their turn gives great satisfaction; Charles M. Daly's company of comedians also give a capital entertainment; and A-Ba-Be's Picture Post-card Album is another pleasing act. Prince Schaboo, vocalist; Mostol, in a musical act; the Kymros, Welsh vocalists; Chiko, contortionist; and Nellie Martell, comedienne, are also well received.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—A very varied and pleasing bill of fare is provided here this week. John G. Brandon and company, in a dramatic sketch; Heeley and Meeley, in a comedy scena; the Sisters Redfern, clever drawing-room entertainers; Daisy Mayer in music, song and story; Cynthia, the marvellous midget; Maude Courtney, the talkative girl; the Cheers, with their performing cats; and the Natty Janowsky Troupe of acrobats, are all excellent in their respective turns.

BLYTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur C. Moody.—*The Little Breadwinner*, presented by Mr. J. A. Campbell's company, has met with an enthusiastic reception here. As Lord Dorrington Mr. J. Monkhouse played the part well; and Mr. Reginald Brown acted with ability as Richard Lawrence. Mr. A. Maurice was a good Joseph Prior; and Little Irene in the title-rôle won hearty applause. Mesdames Josephine Richards, Millie Ford, and Kitty Melville were good in their respective parts.

EMPIRE. — Lessee, Mr. Arthur C. Moody. — The new arrivals include Stanto, musical comedian; Will Marsh, comedian; Lydia Rale, banjo queen; Fred Dice, song and dance artist; Will Punch, juggler; and Jarvis and Julian, comedians and dancers.

BOLTON. — THEATRE ROYAL, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Moncur.—*Aladdin*, so successfully produced on Boxing Day, is running with perfect smoothness and drawing large audiences. Miss Lillie Blythe, who so brightly fills the title-rôle, is becoming very popular, and Miss Dorothy Dempster, the Principal Girl, is winning fame and the hearts of her audience. In his part of the Widow Twankey Mr. Victor Stevens is a source of much merriment; Mr. Tom J. Morton elicits hearty laughter as Abanazar, the magician; and the Brothers Hinson are a funny pair.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—A daring cycle sensation in the Globe of Life, or Looping the Loop on a motor-cycle, is being performed here by Wizard and Irene Stone. Other turns appearing are the Levans, song illustrators; Phillips and Merritt, society entertainers; Dick, Thomas, and Lincoln Taylor, in their quick-change scena *Fun on the Midland*; Frank Cass, vocal comedian; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden, sketch artists; Geo. Russell, vocal comedian; Will Mitcham, musical comedian; Seener and Fridkin's Imperial Russian troupe of singers and expert dancers; and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. R. Harrison.—Les Adoe, in "Olympian play," who top the bill here, perform some wonderful feats of strength; another good turn on the bill is Ada Gatley, in a pretty performance on the slack wire; the Rinders are good in illustrated song; Harry Wright, comedian; Three Grovini Sisters, tumblers, benders, and acrobats; Andy Fagan, comedian and dancer; Nellie Gannon, contralto vocalist; Clarke and Glenney, in their amusing sketch *The Haunted House*; Tudor's four highly-trained educated ponies (assisted by Tudora); and the Empire Bioscope.

BOOTLE. — MUNCASTER THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Wilmott; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Young.—This week we have a variety programme, with Mr. A. D. Adams, Mr. Stanley S. Gordon, Miss Nina Vaughton, and Miss Louie Heathfield, members of the stock company, playing a dramatic sketch, entitled *The Iron Hand*; a very clever and entertaining turn is done by Milner and Stacy, in comedy duologues. The company includes Sid Herman, Hebrew comedian; Lucy and May, patterers; Pinkie Wilmott, with illustrated songs; and excellent pictures on the Bioscope.

BOSCOMBE.—HIPPODROMES, LTD.—Joint Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Clifford King.—The top-of-the-bill turn this week is Dutch Daly, with his inseparable concertina and stories, ancient and modern; D'Arc's Marionettes are life-like in representations of all the star artists of the day, and receive hearty applause; the Florias, in a neatly-executed equilibrist performance, and are well received; the Indento Bros. are truly eccentric jugglers; the Louisana Trio, in their dancing, are interesting; and Oliver Martyn, patter comedian, deserves mention. Flo Deighton, ballad vocalist, was unable to appear on Monday night owing to illness. The Hippo. pictures conclude an interesting bill.

BOSTON.—PALACE.—Manager, Mr. E. Cass.—*The White Demon* is being played this week by Messrs. Freeman and Geo. Derrick's London company. The acting is very good throughout the piece, and it is well staged. The company are also performing *Sapho*, and *Current Cash* during the week.

BRADFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson. — Judicious pruning has enhanced the excellence of Mr. Hart's pantomime, *Jack and Jill*, which ranks as one of his many delightful productions in this direction. The lovely scenery and exquisite dresses are continual themes of admiration, and these adjuncts, coupled with the all-round capabilities of the exceptionally clever company, are sufficient for the guarantee of an unqualified success. The clever and versatile comedian Mr. Albert Le Fre is already a great and deserving favourite in his character of The Unknown; there is no end to his resources as a fun-maker, his burlesques are screamingly funny, and one of his best and biggest hits is "The dancing family." As Pomposo Mr. Charles Norton is a decided success, too, and his clever mimicry is one of the many good things in the pantomime; Mr. Jack Cromo's Dame Horner is a performance replete with humour, distinctly original, and irresistible; as Billy Badlot Mr. Josh Dixon is responsible for much of the hearty laughter; the Haytors are a clever trio of dancers, and amusing, too; Mr. Albert Chapman as Gloom wins favour with his vocalism; Miss Minna Merry is quaint as Mary-Mary; Miss Isabelle Dillon's vivacity and brightness are features in her performance of Little Jack Horner; and Miss Vere Vere is very charming as Jill. The stage effects and ballets are beautiful, and they elicit great applause.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Councillor Francis Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—Mr. Laidler has scored another big pantomime success with *Red Riding Hood*, which, from its initial performance, has held out the promise of establishing a record here as a money-maker; the brightness of the production generally, and a happy understanding and combination amongst the clever artists, are in the main responsible for this result. There is broad fun galore, and not a dull moment from the start to the finish of the performance. As Mother Hubbard, the clever comedian, Mr. Bert Byrne, is delightfully quaint and mirth-provoking; and Will Lindsay's Simple Sammy is a source of continuous hearty laughter. The Elvios are a smart couple, and very funny as Jimmy Green and Johnny Stout; and as Baron Wrumlotte Mr. Allan Carruthers contributes to the fun. As the Prince, Miss Florrie Forde is an outstanding figure, and the budget of popular songs she introduces are a leading feature of the pantomime; Miss Susie Belmore's natural charm and grace have established her a prime favourite as Red Riding Hood; Miss Victoria Cross is very quaint as Martha Ann Miggs; as Simon the Cellarer Mr. Walter Buxton contributes good songs; and Mr. J. A. Wilson dramatically fills the part of the wicked Wolf. The ballets and children's scenas are very attractive, and the stage effects are gorgeous productions of colour and lighting, which evoke applause.

THE EMPIRES. — Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—No comedian has ever scored a greater success here, or elicited heartier laughter with his songs, than Sam Mayo, who is appearing this week and convulsing the audience with his quaintness; the Ten-Ji Troupe of Japanese wonder-workers are clever, and they introdnce some remarkable tricks in the way of conjuring; Jeannie Mackay is a charming and cultured soprano vocalist; McCann's finely-trained dogs are put through a clever performance; a very striking turn by La Belle Nello, a graceful contortionist, wins applause; there is some fine violin playing in the humorous instrumental turn by the Dumond Trio; Bob Hamilton's Scotch comedy is of a very diverting order; Charles Stevens submits a good turn as a character comedian; and there are some very fine pictures shown by the Bioscope.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Harrison.—Madge Gray, a popular comedienne and clever mimic, is winning applause well merited here this week; George Haley, a local baritone of quality, is deputy for Deans and Wilton, comedy acrobats; Olms and Carbeth are amusing with their comedy juggling; Brull and Hemsley submit a very bright and entertaining sketch, *Fun in a Music Shop*, successfully; there is some clever barrel jumping done by Clack and Clack; Margaret Radcliffe's songs are prettily illustrated; Poole and Maguire, comedy duo, submit a good turn with some claim to originality; the Four Pawles are clever acrobats, with feats novel in character; and there are some entertaining features in Raymond's Biotableaux.

BRIDGEND.—TOWN HALL.—Manager, Mr. T. D. Schofield.—Mr. Tom Owen, the famous Welsh comedian and his royal pierrot troupe are the attraction this week. The versatile principal proved as amusing and popular as ever, keeping the audience in a continual titter. Clever rag-time dancing is performed by Mr. Bert Crosline; Miss Lilian Therese's mandoline solos are sweet and pretty; Miss Esaline Thorne is a fascinating comedienne; and Miss Ethel Vere is an attractive soubrette. The songs by Miss Catherine May, Miss Molie Gwynne, Mr. Reginald Bale, Mr. Cecil Bradly, and Mr. Harry Vernon are of all-round excellence. The sketch, *Chequers*, by members of the troupe, goes with an excellent swing.

BRIGHOUSE. — ALBERT THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Beanland and Emerson; Manager, Mr. Chas. H. Beanland.—Variety once more occupies the boards here, the principal attraction being Ella's lions, in some marvellous tricks; Les Frères Babusio are clever head-to-head balancers; Carl Benme is a good ventriloquist; Beanland and Bath, in their novel speciality act *Cartoons and Comedy* are very successful. Although Mr. C. H. Beanland (the popular manager) was suffering from a severe cold on Monday, they were compelled to respond to a hearty encore. The Rowntrees are capital duettists and patterers, and the same remark applies to Hillitt and Hallett; Musical Keith gives a neat and refined musical act; Harry Gold, with his song-scena *Cloudland*, is well received; and animated pictures by the Loyal Dominion Co. complete.

BRIGHTON. — GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Gates; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ben Court.—*Aladdin* is running merrily here, and the pantomime, attracting large audiences, seems certain to enjoy a long and prosperous career. Miss Aimée Roberts is a vivacious Aladdin, and displays tasteful vocalisation; Miss Blanche Marion imparts grace and refinement to her impersonation of the Princess, and dances admirably; Miss Addie Love (Slave of the Lamp) is an excellent vocalist; she and Mr. Leo Sterling (Emperor of China), a clever solo instrumentalist, submit some warmly-appreciated musical specialities; Mr. Edwin Garth is very entertaining as the garrulous Widow Twankey; and Mr. Frank Dunlop affords much amusement as Abanazar; while Messrs. Bennett and Martell as Tip Pit and Wot Toe respectively, evoke the heartiest of laughter with their patter and droll antics. The Lottie Stone Quartet win great favour with their charming dancing.

ALHAMBRA.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Alfred Smith.—There is an excellent company here this week. Hilda and Beatrice are delightful instrumentalists; Spangles and Sawdust are very skilful and entertaining in their comedy aerial act; Vincent Kelway and company are well received in the romantic sketch, *The Poet of the People*; Abalo and Hurst are very funny comedians, and score heavily in *The Sport and the Shoeblack*; the Great Barton, mimic, is capital in *Fun in a Farmyard*; Willie Allan, Scotch eccentric, gives a pleasing turn; Herbert Waller is a good light comedian; Lily Kirton renders her songs in captivating style; Princess Pauline is highly successful with her songs; Gladys Whitton is a dainty comedienne; and the programme also includes the Alhambra Picturegraph.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. B. J. Brown.—A high-class programme is sustained here this week. The juggling McBanns contribute a very clever turn with clubs, varied by some smart hat-throwing; Henry Helme, "the singer from the French Alps," achieves great success; Conway and Leland, "the Merry Monopedes," are skilful and very entertaining performers; the Three Garganis, comedy acrobats, win hearty applause; Elmo and Rego are funny acrobats; the Primrose Four furnish a rich musical treat with their artistically-rendered vocal quartets and solos; John Grun Marx, "the modern Hercules," displays some astonishing feats of strength; Arthur Prince's Mascots appear in a bright musical entertainment; Webb and Branston, operatic duettists, are cordially applauded; and the Two Woodwards, trick cyclists, win great applause with their balancing feat.

WEST PIER.—Secretary, Mr. A. W. Scholey.—The musical play *Sylvia in Sunland* has been considerably improved since its initial performance. New songs have been added, and the comedy element has been strengthened. Miss Alys Rees (Spirit of Kindness) achieves great success with her song "Little Miss Glowworm"; Miss Gladys Storey is a great favourite, and makes her Sylvia a charming and winsome impersonation; Mr. Donald Calthrop as Chivvy, the London street-boy, introduces some clever burlesques of well-known actors; Mrs. A. B. Tapping is excellent as the Queen; and other highly-effective portrayals are submitted by Mr. Trevor Lowe (King), Mr. J. Edward Pearce (Lord Chamberlain), Miss Clara Earle (Scratch-Jahr), Mr. George Howard (Jerry), and Mr. Edmund Baker (Josher). Songs introduced by Miss Lilian Henderson and Miss Daisy May are warmly appreciated.

COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. M. Barrasford.—The animated pictures here prove highly attractive at the three daily exhibitions. Lorenzo de Medici is a thrilling drama; French and German Manœuvres, Victoria Falls, and Sports in Switzerland are very interesting; and much amusement is afforded by A Man of Many Falls, The Antiquary Burglars, and The Quick-Change Mesmerist; "Real Singing Pictures" by the Cinephone include "The miner's dream of home" and "In cellar cool," which are thoroughly realistic. The Barrasford Sable Operatic Minstrel Troupe are re-engaged, and appear with marked success in entirely new numbers. Mr. Arthur W. Briggs acquits himself admirably as accompanist.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—*Aladdin* is proving very successful here; the scenery, dresses, and setting generally are much admired. All the principals are successful with their respective parts, including Miss Ouida Macdermott, Miss Deborah Volar, Miss Topsy Sinden, Miss Daisy Lloyd Wood, Miss Florence Foster, Mr. Bransby Williams, Mr. W. H. Powell, Mr. Arthur Sutcliffe, and Mr. Alfred Clark. The pantomime goes remarkably well, and bids fair to have a long and prosperous run.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Alty.—Here also the pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*, is highly successful. It is staged with much taste and liberality. The company is a capital one, including Miss Ethel Hall, Miss Marie Free, Miss Daisy Dennis, Miss Violet Gillis, Miss Gertie Hall, Mr. Frank Hemming, Messrs. Crosby and Walker, Mr. K. Scott-Barrie, Mr. Frank Victor, Miss Rose Challis, and Miss Nellie Danvers. Some pretty dances are given by the Silvan Quartette.

PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—The Seven Perezoffs amuse with their comic juggling pantomime *An Animated Supper at Maxim's*; Harry Tate's sketch company is successful with *Motoring*; Mr. Maurice H. Hoffman and company score with a good dramatic sketch, *The Death of Chatterton*; Champney and Rowe have a good musical comedy duologue, *The New Housekeeper*; Walter King, comedian, is appreciated; and Hicks and Hunter, vocalists and skate dancers, obtain applause. There are also some fine animated pictures, including, amongst others, The Interior of a Newspaper Office.'

EMPIRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—Rameses heads the programme with his Egyptian mysteries, for which he obtains much appreciation; Captain Felix and his Seventeen Gordon Highlanders present a capital turn of pyramid building, storming the fort, and various evolutions, &c.; Katie Weston is a pleasing vocalist and dancer; Bonetti and Corrie do some smart eccentric juggling; Nat Travers pleases as a coster comedian; May Day is a promising juvenile vocalist and dancer; Will E. Stoppit is smart as an eccentric tumbler, &c.; Phil and Nettie Peters, American-Dutch eccentrics, do a capital turn; J. W. Elliston, vocal comedian, has some excellent songs; and the performance concludes with animated pictures.

COLSTON HALL.—The "Joseph" Poole Myriorama is doing good business here. The panoramas, animated pictures, and dioramic effects are all of the very best, and there is also a good variety company and a capital band.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company had a very flattering reception on Monday, when they presented *Tom Jones* to a full house, and at the end of each act the curtain had to be raised several times. Miss Florence Smithson made an excellent Sophia Weston, and gave much pleasure with her singing; the title-rôle was acted and sung well by Mr. Harry Welchman; Mr. Geo. Elton simply revelled in the part of Benjamin Partridge; much merriment was caused by Mr. Ambrose Manning, who made a typical old English squire of uncontrollable temper; Miss Alice Oppitz cleverly presented Lady Bellaston; Mr. J. T. McMillan contributed to the fun as Gregory; Miss Joan Ritz as Honour danced and sang charmingly; Miss Cecilia Wilman was also successful as the Hostess. The choruses (under the direction of Mr. Edward Thornton) showed good training. The scenery was particularly fine.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—*Woman and Wine* is being produced here this week by Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds's company a big audience on Monday showing keen appreciation of the performance. An artistic rendering of the student, Dick Seymour, is given by Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds, and as his father, a blind artist, Mr. J. Milne-Taylor is no less successful; Mr. Harry Harrop as Charles Sauter, Mr. W. Manning as Prof. Sauter, and Miss Ethel Vinroy as Janet Marlow occasion great laughter; as Marcel Rigadout Miss C. St. Elmo appears with success, and Mary Andrews is capably portrayed by Miss Violet Sims. The Lottie Stone Troupe of dancers are smart.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—An appreciative audience filled the house on Monday. The Eighteen Lancashire Singers, ten of whom are ladies, under the conductorship of Mr. Thos. Grundy, scored a success; Mr. W. G. Webber, bass vocalist, sang ballads effectively; Mr. Walter Stanley caused much mirth; Mr. Walter Curtis's patter kept the audience in a good humour; and Miss Janet Hermann, a Burnley-lane young lady, made an encouraging début. Miss Ina Lorimer, Scottish comedienne and dancer, won warm applause for her dancing, and the Attilla Bros. as Olympian gladiators, &c., were loudly applauded for a capital display. The Auers have a clever speciality in *Jumps, Bumps, and Rags*, and Hugo and Smit, acrobatic and knockabout bar artists, perform a number of clever and humorous tricks. Rover's Christmas is an excellent series of pictures by the Theatrescope.

PALACE THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—Jake Friedman is winning success in *Happy Holland*; Miss Florence Hunton as Gretchen is particularly pleasing; and the other parts are ably taken; Mlle. Haydee's miniature vaudeville theatre is an elaborate and up-to-date show; as aquatic acrobats Kirk and Saraski gave a very creditable exhibition, and were greatly appreciated; the Milton Trio, vocalists, dancers, and paper manipulators, won encores; *My Friend Boots*, presented by Johnny Holland and company, created roars of laughter; the Waltons are a couple of smart eccentric acrobats; and Julian Ross is a comedian with two good songs. Flo Inman is a pleasing comedienne, and Charlotte Corday is thrillingly represented on the Cinematograph.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. de Hague Body.—*When Knights were Bold*, presented by Mr. Jas. Welch's capable company, is drawing crowded houses here this week. Roars of laughter greet each appearance of Mr. Hy. J. Ford, whose ability as an actor is equalled by his keen sense of humour; he is irresistibly funny as Sir Guy de Vere. Miss Agnes de Liana gives a dignified and spirited rendition of the romantic Lady Rowena; Miss Ethel St. John is a bright and pleasing Sarah Isaacson; Mr. Guy Lane (the Dean), Mr. Vernon Sansbury (the Jew), Mr. Cecil Clayton (the Jester), and Mr. H. Agar Lyons (Sir Brian) are eminently successful in their respective rôles; Mr. Reginald Hunter does extremely well as Barker; as does also Mr. Talbot Homewood (Wittle), Miss Mabel Younge (Hon. Mrs. Waldegrave), and her attendant ladies, Miss Maev O'Hea, Miss Ruth Bower, and Miss Marion Ryder add considerably to the success of the play, which is admirably staged.

BURY (Lancs).—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Acting-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—*The Dairymaids*, presented by Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company, is proving a great attraction. Miss Empsie Bowman is a sprightly and captivating Peggy; as Winifred Miss Vera Crichton has an opportunity of displaying her vocal powers, and her singing meets with well-deserved approval; Miss Carrie Lacey is a stately Lady Brudenell, and Miss Lucy Edwin admirably fulfils the requirements of the part of Miss Pychase; a highly diverting performance is furnished by Miss Gladys Silvani as Eliza, of which she makes a clever character study; Mr. Johnny Osborne revels in the part of Joe Mivens, and keeps the audience in continuous good humour; his efforts are ably seconded by Mr. Nelson Keys as Lieut. Sam Bradenell, whose dancing is particularly good; Mr. Percy Marshall gives a clever performance as Dr. O'Byrne; Mr. J. Herbert Willis and Miss Hazel Saqui give valuable assistance. The play is splendidly staged and costumed, and the chorus, both from an acting and singing standpoint, are excellent.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; General Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Acting-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—The Five Vernons are splendidly received, and their selections on the xylophones are distinctly clever; Coram is a wonderful ventriloquist, and causes great amusement; Arthur Slater shines as a whistler, his bird imitations particularly, are capital; Bert Rayburn, comedian; McOleaveys clever jumpers; the Northcotes, duettists; Sadie Earley, in a pathetic scena, *Memories*; and Donaldson and Ferina, in a dramatic episode, entitled *The Veteran's Birthday*, are all good.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Wilson.—Leonard Charburn's Troupe of Young Stars are attracting large houses, and their turn is much appreciated; Burns and Bentley are good simultaneous dancers; Ruhart submits an amusing exhibition of humorous juggling; Stacey and Williams are neat dancers; the other turns of Sidney Brandon, boy character impersonator; Harry Zetter, comedian and eccentric dancer; Leslie and Player, duettists; Wartana Trio, jugglers; Smith and Johnson, coloured artists; and the Bioscope pictures, all meet with approval.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—General-Manager, Mr. Auguste A. Peuleve.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company in *The Christian* is drawing good houses here. Mr. P. Gedge Twyman plays John Storm with much dramatic power; the villainy of Lord Robert Ure is cleverly depicted by Mr. G. Montague Lane; Mr. Edward Ouston presents a thoroughly meritorious sketch of Horatio Drake; good performances of Father Lamplugh and Archdeacon Wealthy coming from Mr. John H. Batson and Mr. William Mallalieu. Miss Marjory Fane's acting as Glory Quayle displays considerable force; praise is due to Miss Alice Maude and Miss Gladys Vernon as Mrs. Callender and Polly Love; and Miss Grace Baring is good in the small part of Black Meg.

CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—Mr. Milton Bode's pantomime *Aladdin* is here for the week, and on the opening night created a very favourable impression. Mr. J. Hickory Wood is responsible for the construction of same, and he has done his work thoroughly. Miss Blanche Astley, in the title-rôle, is seen to advantage, playing the part with ability; Miss Elise Skillings has a nice voice, and gave an excellent representation of Princess Yo-San; Miss Bob de Loriere as Pekoi scored with her singing; Miss Eva Chadwick was a dainty Niese; Mr. John E. Conan was smart as Widow Twankey; Mr. Harry Morgan (Abanazar) worked very hard, and with success; as did Mr. Neville Delmar (the Grand Vizier). A comical exhibition was given by the Firmans, a pair of first-class comedians; Collins's celebrated troupe of dancers, and the Moxon Trio, speciality acrobatic artists, introduced some highly interesting turns. A special word of praise is due to Mr. Trueman Towers for his stage management.

CARDIFF.—NEW THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—The pantomime *Cinderella* has been acknowledged a great success, and full houses continue the rule. Miss Moya Mannering in the title-rôle and Miss Ida Stratham as the principal boy are considered the best duo at the head of pantomime that Cardiff has ever seen.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—The popular character-actor, Mr. Albert Chevalier, appears in a capital sketch, *Behind the Scenes*, and, supported by a large and talented company, creates a great success. At the conclusion of his most entertaining performance the continued applause accorded the clever comedian proves how popular Mr. Chevalier is with every class of audience. Miss Alexandra Dagmar is also on the programme, and a delightful turn this skilful comedienne introduces, her tuneful vocalism and amusing story-telling being particularly pleasing. A wonderful performance is provided by the Lukushimas, a clever troupe of Japanese acrobats, who win uproarious applause; another sensational acrobatic number is that given by the original Gaudsmidts, additional interest being taken in their turn by the remarkable tricks of the dog Wigon; the well-known comedian, J. W. Rowley, appears in a couple of his most successful songs; Gladys Hooley is accorded marked approbation for her beautiful violin playing in a most attractive scena; while Harry Herbert scores with a humorous female impersonation. J. P. Ling, a gifted mimic, and Lilian French, a smart comedienne and step-dancer, complete the list. On Wednesday, the 6th, a grand fashionable matinée was given, by kind permission of Mr. Stoll, in aid of Cardiff Lifeboat Fund.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Under the Management of Mr. Rollo Balmain.—The pantomime *Babes in the Wood* has entered upon the second week of its run, and is now in full swing. All the artists have thoroughly mastered their respective parts, and are achieving great reputations in the district. The performances have been well patronised, and the production has every look of gaining unprecedented success.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton.—The Westgate-street house has literally been besieged at every performance this week by eager patrons to witness the famous Salome dance by Miss Ellen Roberts. Those who expected great things were not disappointed, as this talented young lady rendered Mendelssohn's "Spring Song" dance and the Salome dance with a grace and refined movement which delighted all those that were privileged to be present at such a clever and artistic representation. Miss Beaumont Collins has undoubtedly presented in *The House of Terror* the finest and best-acted dramatic playlet yet performed at the Palace, her rendering of Meg Harding being a triumph of histrionic ability, and gaining for her tremendous applause, never so well earned. Mr. George Ingleton is also great as John Dason, the facial expressions of the gentleman cracksman being perfect, and not by any means overdone. The other two rôles are most realistically portrayed. An unequalled cockatoo pantomime is presented by Irma Orbasany, the tricks and evolutions of these extraordinary birds reflecting the utmost credit upon their trainer; Chas. Lewis is a clever and novel ventriloquist; and Mi Yettmah, a Japanese conjurer, most mystifying. A charming and able speciality dancer is Cissie Lupino; while Rowlands and Ford, Scotch and Welsh comedians, cause many a laugh. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are an attraction.

CARLISLE.—H. M. THEATRE.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart McKim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—Mr. Seymour Hicks's company in *The Gay Gordons* holds the boards this week. Mr. Charles Childerstone as Angus Greame gives a most finished and artistic performance, and Mr. Harry M. Johnson is exceedingly funny as Andrew Quainton; the part of Nervy Nat is well played by Edward Carlton; and Mr. Robert Rivers as Edmund Siddons makes the most of his opportunities; Miss Marie West is the Peggy Quainton of the piece, a part which she plays with delightful charm; and the comedy part of Victoria Siddons has a good exponent in Miss Florence Somers; Miss Sophie Lingwood is successful as Janet McLeod; and Miss Louie Emery is admirably suited as Charlotte Siddons; Miss Katherine Dighton as Mary McLeod and Miss Rosa Wynford as Lady Millicent do well. The whole performance goes with an exhilarating swing.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Morgan.—Walter Bellonini tops the bill here this week, and submits a most wonderful juggling act; Wills and Mackenzie in a vocal scene, *Christina of Sketra*, give some singing of a very high order; the Bros. Roland are very successful in a clever equilibristic act; Talbot and Pearce appear in a bright and lively little Jap scena, and meet with a most enthusiastic reception; Cumminger and Colonna are marvellous sand-dancers; Edwards and Dacre are appreciated in a comedy duologue, *What a Life*; Lilian Lowe, vocalist also appears. The Pepiscope completes.

CASTLEFORD.—ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Henry Masterman, J.P.—Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson's company is on a return visit with *Who is She?* Some realistic scenery aids the performance, and the attendance is good. As Prince Vladimir Mr. Graham Woods is excellent, his soldierly bearing being combined with a good delivery; although suffering from a throat affection, Mr. Jerrold Heather presents the cowardly and unscrupulous

brings down the house with his acrobatic dance in the third act; Mr. Geo. F. Story proves most amusing as Thedon Adolfo, and makes a hit with "Hello, people," in which he is ably supported by six lively ladies, impersonating the Touring Newspaper Beauties; the bulk of the comedy business is in the hands of Messrs. H. C. Barry, a very clever and droll Nix; and Mr. Tom Seymour quite an excellent Reginald Brown; and other rôles are very ably filled.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Capt. H. E. Davis.—Master Wilbert E. Blincoe, vocalist, opens the programme here, and is followed by Daisy Elphinstone, in some nicely illustrated songs; Jules Kiaro gives a very clean equilibristic display; Ford and Hanson please with musical selections and burlesque imitations of famous composers; Maud Lordy makes one of the hits of the evening with her cleverly trained dogs; Annie Braddan, with dialect and chorus songs in a prime favourite; plentiful applause is awarded to Frank Hardie and company for a capitally staged sketch, *The Old Brigade;* and the Edisonograph's films make an entertaining item.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—At the top of the bill we have Miss Carlotta De Yonson and company, who present an excellent playlet, entitled *Sexton Blake*, Miss Ida Barr has a fine stage presence, and the choruses of her songs are taken up by the "gods" with surprising readiness; there is much novelty in the rifle manipulation act contributed by the Amio Trio; Harry Luck's songs go well, particularly "The old black bag"; Wyotti proves smart and amusing in his juggling act. Others who appear are Ford and Maxwell, comedians and dancers, and Marion Armitage, low comedy vocalist; and Lacey's Erascope has new films, including The Little Fiddler.

CHORLEY.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Santé.—Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company is here with *The Lancashire Lad*. As David Elmore Mr. Alec Alexander plays with considerable strength and power, Mr. T. G. Vane undertaking Max Carlton with distinct success. Mr. W. Kenion wins entire approbation with his humorous interpretation of John Willie Wardle; Mr. Will Brereton well sustaining the character of Prof. Napoleon Boulanger. Miss C. Leyland is charming as Jessie Wincott; Miss Nell Oliver giving an admirable exposition as Lorna Wincott. Jane Alice Clitheroe and Mother Wardle are exceedingly well sustained by Miss L. Pearce and Miss Molly Monaghan. There is an excellent variety programme rendered in Act 3, in which Miss E. Rosette and Miss Gerty Gaye are conspicuous with clever dances and songs.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Chas. Macdona; Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—Mr. Charles M. Bestic's company in *The Flower Girl* opened a week's engagement here on Monday before a thoroughly delighted audience, a state of things accounted for by the extreme brightness and sparkle of the show. Miss Kitty Hyde sang nicely in the title-rôle, and her dancing, too, was much appreciated; Miss Georgie de Lara appeared in the topical part of the militant Suffragette; probably the most popular couple were Mr. Henry Adnes and Miss Lilian Drake as M. and Mme. de Racquet, and certainly there was an immense amount of fun created by these two. Mr. John J. McCallum gave a droll impersonation of Joe Wheeler; and Johnny was aptly portrayed by Mr. John Latham.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Colchester Hippodrome Co.; Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—Quite an innovation, in the shape of a legitimate show, is being given at this variety house this week, to wit, Miss Emma Hutchison and company, in the three-act comedy, *Mrs. Dot*. Staged in accordance with the usual lavishness of the Hutchison companies, the piece has one outstanding feature, viz., the delightfully cynical, matter-of-fact man about town, James Blenkinsop, as delineated by Mr. Frank Lacy, his study being a most clever one; Miss Nancy Beresford, charmingly gowned, displayed the capricious impetuosity of Mrs. Dot in a really captivating style; Mr. Hugh Kennedy, well groomed, made a polished and natural Gerald Halstane; Miss Hutchison herself, though obviously labouring under the disadvantages of a cold, imparted the necessary worldliness to the part of Lady Sellinger; and as the daughter Nellie Miss Ethel Grahame appeared to be capitally placed. Mr. Philip Leslie showed real merit as Freddy; and Mr. William Midgley made an admirable gentleman's gentleman.

CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—*Her Love Against the World* is being presented here this week by Mr. W. H. Hallatt and Walter Howard's company. Mr. Fred Emery in the part of Eric is accorded much applause; as Lionel Miss Rosie St. John is clever; Mr. Lewis Gilbert gives a convincing portrayal of Ulric; Mr. W. H. Hallatt is smart as Prince Othmar; General Gessler and Colonel Esterhazy are well taken by Mr. Chas. Hann and Mr. John Chesson respectively; and as Iris Miss Grace Heywood comes in for much appreciation. The part of Shulah is well sustained by Miss Blanche Steele. Mr. Henry B. Lewis and Mr. John Mill sustain the comedy efficiently.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. R. J. Bell.—Hardie and Von Leer's company in *The Sailor's Wedding* opened a week's engagement here on Monday, when the capable and clever company was well received. As Gordon Drake Mr. C. W. Standing scored a decided success; Miss Winifred Pearson filled the difficult part of Leonore de Gresac with distinction; Mary, the heroine, was sustained by Miss Mary Pemberton, whose acting was full of grace and tenderness; Mr. Hodgson Taylor, as Giovanni Ferici (the villain) played with great force and earnestness; Sir Victor Lascelles was admirably enacted by Mr. Cecil Klein; and the other parts were capably filled.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Thomas F. O'Brien.—Mike S. Whallen, comedian, proves his versatility; Mlle. Polo, a clever gymnast, performs a number of daring feats; Irene and Morton appear in a comedy act, which includes jokes, lively songs, and pretty dances; Mahatma gives an interesting exhibition of thought-reading while blindfolded; Tom Bassett, comedian, gives interpretations of Hamlet and Shylock, and wins great applause; Miss Frances McNulty is a clever change artist, and contributes some very nice step dances; George Adams possesses a good baritone voice, which he uses well; Moule and Nicholls' company, in a burlesque entitled *The Battle of the Belles*, are very laughable; and the Palascope shows some dramatic pictures which please.

COVENTRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—A stirring drama, entitled *The Girl Who Lost Her Character*, by Walter Melville, is again at the above house the company being the capable one of Mr. Bruce Douglas. Chief interest centres round the title-rôle, Molly Vernon, which part is ably portrayed by Miss Cecila Dare; Mr. R. Perrin as Captain Caversham, and Miss Lydia Mannington as Marian Franklin do full justice to extremely difficult parts. Amongst others who assist capably to the success of the piece are Mr. E. McLean (Rev. Robert Everton), Mr. Harold Macartney (Jack England), Mr. G. H. Asquin (Dick Punch), Miss Mabel Thorpe (Isabella Jones), Mr. G. Mitchell (James Sutton), and Miss Dalcie Greatwick (Rose Seymour). The piece is capitally staged.

THE EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. K. Draco.—For this week the above house has been turned into a theatre proper, and the well-known piece *The Girls of Gottenberg*, by George Grossmith and L. E. Berman, presented, the company being one of Mr. George Dance's. Mr. Bertie Wright is well known in Coventry, and his interpretation of Max Moddlekopf was successfully received on Monday night; Miss Simeta Marsden gives a charming and successful rendering of Mitzi, an inn-keeper's daughter, her dancing being very graceful; Mr. Charles Berkley admirably portrays the character of Sergeant Britti Botti, the last two being responsible for some charming numbers. Miss Masie North is successful as Elsa. Other parts are as follow: Prince of Saxe-Hildershelm, Mr. Tom Shelford; Clementine, Miss May Marshall. The augmented orchestra is under the direction of Mr. Otto Manns.

CRADLEY HEATH.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jno. Morton.—*His Sister's Honour*, staged by Mr. A'Dell's company, occupies the boards this week. Mr. Evelyn A'Dell as Frank Stanley acts with telling force; Miss Flora Leslie as Dora Stanley displays great histrionic ability; Mr. Walter Wilson as Sir Richard Redvers submits a careful study; Mr. Edwin Clarke makes a capital Dr. Godfrey; Mr. A. Preece as Timothy Timid, and Miss Maudie Vincent as Marie Mickle, prove themselves comedians of no mean order; Mr. Sidney Verner is a typical P.C. Worthy; and Miss Ethel Ashleigh as Ivy Merton acts with much taste and feeling.

CREWE.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alfred Cuthbert.—Mr. Wentworth's Croke's company is playing *The Prodigal Son* to full houses here this week. Miss Valerie Crespin is superb as Thora Neilson, and afterwards gains fresh laurels as Elin; Miss Barbara Gott gives a praiseworthy rendering of Anna, the Governor's wife; Miss Mildred Cottell is a clever Helga Neilson; and Miss Marie Harcourt an excellent Margaret Neilson. Mr. Hugh Montgomery gives a masterful portrayal of Magnus Stephenson; and Mr. Gordon Macintosh as his brother Oscar plays his part admirably. Mr. Bellenden Clarke makes an effective Stephen Magnussen, Mr. Philip Renouf a capable Oscar Neilson, Mr. E. Rivarz a good Sheriff, Mr. Bruce Lindley a commendable Dr. Olsen, and Mr. Charles A. Maynard a successful Neils Filsen.

CROYDON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Roland Daniel; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Ernest Archer.—*Dick Whittington* is in full swing, and is giving unmitigated satisfaction at two performances a day.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Harry Osmond.—The animated pictures are still a feature here, and are well worth seeing.

PUBLIC HALL.—Mr. Ernest Mansell's Graphic Life-Motion Pictures are in their second week. Many new and novel subjects are introduced, and the whole is a very enjoyable evening's entertainment. Mr. Hal Dane, versatile comedian, submits several amusing songs.

EMPIRE PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Walter Gibbons and Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Eustace Jay.—Carl Hertz, with the assistance of Miss Emeline D'Alton, proves himself an illusionist of no mean ability; Eileen Douglas, musical comedy artist, is exhilarating; Ted Cowan is an amusing comedian; Arthur Reece, comedian, makes a big hit in his latest successes; Lowenwirth and Cohan are Hebrew comedians who know well how to entertain; Amy Sullivan is a pleasing comedienne; Fielding and Hull are marvellous sketch artists; Harry Maxam is a side-splitting comedian; Selby and Myers are interesting comedians and patterers; Irma Lorraine causes a sensation in her series of artistic animated tableaux; and Ruffell's animated pictures are relished.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Bell.—Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's company is paying a visit here with Mr. H. S. Merriman's play *With Edged Tools*. Mr. William Grant is successful as Jack Meredith; Miss Marie Leonhard as Jocelyn Gordon is undoubtedly good; Miss Esther Belmore as Millicent Chyne is admirable; the part of Sir John Meredith is excellently played by Mr. J. A. Rosier; Victor Durnovo is in the capable hands of Mr. Campbell Goldsmid; Mr. Chas. Hartopp as Guy Oscard is good; and Miss Marion Fawcett is a typical Lady Cantourne.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Theatre, Limited; Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Hersee.—Appearing here are the Five Whiteleys in their acrobatic, wire-walking, and musical pot-pourri act; F. V. St. Clair, who makes a big hit with his up-to-date songs; Miss Sybil Montague, a fine soprano vocalist; Harry Cooke, comedian; Tate and Tate, in the sketch *The Barmaid;* Hunter and Mario, in comedy; and the Rangers, cycle performers.

DARWEN.—PICTURE PALACE AND THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, The Animated Pictorial Enterprises, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. A. Whitehouse.—Polo and Florence are this week's top-liners in their head and hand-balancing feats, for which they receive rounds of applause; Ess and Hoey give an excellent turn of speciality dancing; the Brothers Esdale are clever patter comedians in addition to their novel musical glasses and whistling; and P. Rhodes, the singing miner, is well received. Among the best of the pictures are The King's Pardon and The Waif's Christmas.

PUBLIC HALL AND PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Lessees, Messrs. Thomson, Leivers, and Bennett; Manager, Mr. J. E. Thomson; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Kerrigan.—Wyllie, tramp musician and story-teller, is both quaint and clever; Elsie Vane is well received in her songs; Joe Sterling, eccentric comedian, creates roars of laughter; and George Grayson gives two good baritone songs. The excellent pictures include The Hero of Valmy and Saved from the Sea.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—The pantomime of *Aladdin* entered upon its second week on Monday night, when a full house enjoyed the performance. There is much to commend in the entertainment, a clever troupe of comedians working hard to ensure its success. Of these, particular mention should be made of Mr. Fred Cary, whose representation of Abanazar, the magician, is one of the best things witnessed in local pantomime. Miss Lallah Davis scores a distinct success as Aladdin; and the other parts are equally well sustained. Several fresh songs have been introduced this week, and the choruses were all well received. The general effect is satisfactory, and Mr. Edwardes may be congratulated upon the result of his endeavour to provide an entertainment worthy of the theatre. For this he has to thank Mr. Arthur Carlton, under whose direction the piece has been produced.

PALACE THEATRES OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes.—W. J. Churchill occupies first position this week, and Monday night's reception testified to his popularity. Another capital turn is that of the Three Pirmans, pantomimic gymnasts, who achieve well-merited success; the Days cause no little wonderment with their exhibition of second sight; the Sisters Desmond, character duettists, have songs both smart and tuneful; the Two Eduns appear to distinct advantage in a vocal scena, *The Garden;* and Sira, a one-legged acrobat, performs his tricks with surprising agility; Harry Simms, light comedian, renders his chorus songs in a smart manner. The Bioscope, with a dramatic film, adds greatly to the enjoyment.

DEVONPORT.—THEATRE METROPOLE.—Manager, Mr. G. S. King.—Mr. John A. Thomson's pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*, is now running smoothly, and the various artists have become general favourites. The comic side is particularly strong, and special mention must be made of the quaint make-up and demeanour of Mr. Fred Anderson as Tommy Tickles, the eccentricities of this capable artist being responsible for roars of hearty laughter.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—Miss Helen Trio supplies a high-class drawing-room entertainment; Miss Dorothy Grimston and company have a highly-exciting dramatic episode in *The Money Spider*, which is followed with close attention; Carl Lynn, animal mimic, furnishes some realistic representations of different animals, his efforts being rewarded with hearty applause; and Rex Fox appears equally at home when performing either as a slack wire-walker, ventriloquist, or musician. Arthur Stacey, comedian, has an original style, which proves popular, his dancing being an additional attraction; the Claymores entertain with some interesting juggling; and Harry Bold contributes no small share to the harmony of the evening.

DONCASTER.—NEW GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—*Her Forbidden Marriage* is being presented here. Mr. Harry Lonsdale was convincing and incisive as George Madison; Mr. Louis Hector as Charles Devereux evoked warm appreciation; Mr. C. Davidson's interpretation of Geoffrey Broughton was clever; and mirth was provoked by Mr. Fred de Vere as Timothy Tuttut. Miss Isla Garnett-Vayne daintily presents Lucy, and Miss Florence Hunt forcibly sustains the part of Lady Lucretia.

DUBLIN.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland. — The pantomime of *Robinson Crusoe* is now running with a great swing and large audiences are attracted nightly. Miss Winifred Hare has become a big favourite, and her songs are loudly applauded; Miss Kathleen Gray is most successful as Jack Rattlins, and her singing is greatly admired; Mr. Barney Armstrong continues to cause plenty of fun in the character of Will Atkins, and with Mr. J. J. Dallas as Mrs. Crusoe, with his humorous songs, the laughter never ends. As Man Friday, Mr. Frank Gala is most successful; Mr. Harry Lappo as William Crusoe and Mr. Jimmy Steel as Little Jimmy also add some amusing scenes. The remaining parts are well sustained, and Kirby's aerial ballet is a most sensational performance.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—The Moody-Manners Opera Company, Ltd., entered on their second week on Monday night. *The Meistersingers* was again performed before a very crowded audience. The orchestra was conducted under the able baton of Herr Richard Eckhold. Mr. Philip Brozel sang his music in a most artistic manner in the rôle of Walther Von Stolzing; and Mr. William Dever achieved a distinct success and acted splendidly the part of Sextus Beckmesser, and sang with excellent taste. Miss Kate Anderson's rendition of Eva was a very effective performance; and Miss Toni Seiter did admirably as Magdalene. Mr. Charles Magrath, although suffering from a cold, did full justice to the part of Veit Pogner; and Mr. Lewys James cleverly fulfilled the part of Hans Sachs. On Tuesday *Il Trovatore* was the attraction, when Mr. John Child appeared as Manrico; he was in excellent form, and sang with exquisite taste. Mr. Lewys James was particularly good as Count di Luna, and his rendering of "The Tempest of the Heart" was magnificent, gaining rounds of applause; Miss Kate Anderson makes a charming Leonora; and Miss Toni Seiter gave a very successful rendering of Azucena. The chorus and orchestra did their work well, and Signor Sapio conducted with his accustomed ability. During the week the following operas are announced:—*La Traviata, Tannhäuser, The Star of the North, Eugene Onegin, The Jewess,* and *The Bohemian Girl*.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. W. S. Pearce; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Hereford Jones.—The genial manager of this establishment has left nothing undone to provide his patrons with an excellent programme, on this, their last week here, after a long and most successful run. The pictures shown, which are both exciting and amusing, include Who Wins, The Modern Style of Housemaid, Constable Please, Follow Your Leader, William Tell, The Wonderful Lantern, The Baron's Crime, Caught Redhanded, The Caterpillar Engine, &c., and the artists appearing are Jolly Jack Murray, comic vocalist and comedian; Bayne and Murray, in their laughable sketch, *The Midnight Apparition*, and Bob Pearson, the popular humorist and guide.

EMPIRE — General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh. — A most original and mirth-provoking sketch, *The Clock Went Wrong*, presented by Matthews, Cooper, and company, is the *pièce de résistance* of this week's bill, Mr. E. C. Matthews's humorous character study being especially enjoyed. The old Dublin favourite, Charles Coburn, enhances a big local reputation as a comedian; the Lashmars, in their speciality comedy act, *Bits and Pieces*, prove vastly amusing; Cull Pitt, the droll deceptionist, is deservedly popular; Harry Tomps is no less successful as a comedian and raconteur; Machnow, who claims to be the tallest man in the world, arouses great interest; Ross and Lewis are to the foré in their humorous dancing performance; as a mimic Leo Tell is a host in himself, and his turn is deserving of every praise; Dorothy Sephton is a pleasing vocalist; and the Empire Pictures are up to the usual standard.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—Haley's Juveniles, in a charming carnival scena, head the bill here this week, and are accorded a flattering reception; another capital turn is provided by the Maddison Brothers, whose smart patter and comedy boxing act keeps the house convulsed with laughter, and is nightly encored; in a daring and sensational wire act Allas evokes rounds of applause; Kenway and Emery, in their comedy duologue, "Turtle Doves," give an amusing turn; and Corris Brothers, novelty balancers and jugglers, score a big success; as does also Jack Ramsey, a humorous Scotch comedian. Emil and Ediss secure unstinted approval for their clever banjo playing; and Will Brookes, descriptive vocalist, and Bertha Winder, the dancing marvel, also secure well-deserved recognition. The Bioscope picture is entertaining.

ROUND ROOM ROTUNDA. — The Irish Animated Photo. Company, who have entered on their third week, continues to fill the house twice daily. The change of pictures, which are of the usual high class character, include:—China of To-day, Scenes of Life in the Balkans and Brittany, The Rebellious Stick, The Manœuvres of Toy Soldier, The Mysterious Hand of the Wizard, View of Venice, &c., and the vocal items contributed by Mr. Patrick O'Shea (tenor), Miss Agnes Meehan (contralto), Mr. William Grant (baritone), and the selections by the Swiss Orchestra add considerably to the success of the entertainment.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The following artists are appearing here this week:—Glynn and Glynn, sketch artists; Harry Desborough, quaint comedian; Miss Neil Glennie, coon vocalist and dancer; Prof. Green and Sons' Punch and Judy Show; and the cinematograph depicting the pantomime of *Beauty and the Beast*.

DUDLEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—Mr. and Mrs. Levy and Mr. J. E. Cardwell's juvenile company in *The House that Jack Built* is having a successful run here, opening their second week on Monday; Miss Florrie Taylor as Jack and Miss Evelyn Major as Jill have immensely increased their popularity; and Miss Gladys Wyse as Wee MacGregor continues to fascinate her audiences with her braw Scotch, and dances the true Scottish National dances in a fascinating manner. The pantomime goes with a good swing from start to finish.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. H. Waters.—Topping the bill this week is Yangar, the West African wonder-worker, who mystifies his audience and receives hearty applause; Lenton and Lane in *Unconsidered Trifles*, are smart and clever, and their patter has the virtue of originality; Mlle. La Freya, in her artistic visions, supplies a pretty and entertaining turn; Renee Grahame is a charming comedienne with well-rendered songs; Spencer and Marks are good comedians, with a good turn; Lizzie Hands is exceptionally fine in voice and figure; and Chas. Tempest, with his facial contortions, creates considerable amusement. The popular Empire pictures help to complete a strong programme.

DUNDEE.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe.—*Robinson Crusoe* continues to attract crowded houses nightly. There is a fine combination of principals, with Miss Jennie Lynwood doing clever work in the title-rôle; Miss Lucy Coventry is a delightfully vivacious Polly, her fascinating manner and expert dancing winning her many admirers; Miss Rosie Bartlett gives a very spirited performance as Lieut. Bob, and renders her songs with much effect; Miss Luna Lyndon introduces a new song this week, "Waiting for a girl," which goes with a bang. Much of the success of the production is due to the versatility and amusing antics of those born drolls, Messrs. Keith and Mason; their comic business all through is highly diverting, their comic resources being seemingly unlimited, while their work has the further recommendation that it is not hackneyed. Larola, a remarkably clever equilibrist, has made a huge hit as Friday; Messrs. Harry Ugar, Percy Johnson, and Donal MacDougal work hard in keeping the fun going. A special word of praise is due to the Six Lancashire Lasses, whose agile and picturesque dancing is quite a feature of the pantomime.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessees, The United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. S. McIntosh.—After three weeks of successful pantomime, this popular house once more reverts to vaudeville fare, a capital bill being this week headed by Fred Storey and company, in a magnificent production of *Rip Van Winkle*, in which some splendid scenic effects are introduced. In his scena, *Flights of Imagination*, Luis Hardt displays his wonderful strength with much effect; Ellis and Ellis delight the house with national songs and dances; Jack Harrison furnishes some enjoyable moments with his humorous ditties; Douglas and Clarke provide some mirth-provoking business, and score with their clever dancing; the efforts of Sibb and Sibb on the double trapeze are much appreciated; Hewitt and May's unique musical act is much relished; Reg Beauchamp, the new dame comedian, is decidedly quaint, and Jack Binns proves popular as a vocal comedian. Some interesting films shown by the Palascope complete the bill of fare.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee, Mrs. Lillie Williams; Licensee and Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts; Business-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—Mrs. Lillie Williams' great laughing success *Dick Whittington* continues its record-breaking career, and has fulfilled the highest expectations, both in respect to artistic excellence and as a drawing force. Miss Gertie Douglas and Miss Hetty Lind, the principal boy and girl respectively, are huge favourites, the audiences joining in the choruses of their songs with great gusto; Miss Cicely Kent as Fitzwarren's cook continues to win honours with her clever comedy creation, while Miss Osceola Martinek as the Princess is encored nightly for her artistic dancing. Mr. Sam Thomson, the leading comedian, has made a tremendous hit; everything he says or does sends the house into convulsions. The pantomime is certainly the most charming and tuneful production that has ever been staged at this popular house.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. Lillie Williams; Business-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—The Prince Edward pictures are still attracting huge crowds to this cosy hall. Amongst those shown this week are:—Raised from the Ranks, Buffalo Bill, Aladdin and his Lamp, Snow Shoots, Brave Children, and a side-splitting film entitled An American's Trip Through Europe. A fine variety programme is provided by Le Wist, a clever ventriloquist, and Reno, whose smart conjuring performance is mysterious in the extreme.

NEWMAN'S PICTURE PALACE.—In addition to a very fine cinematographic programme Johnny Beveridge, the blind comedian, appears with success in several new songs, and Ryde and Beeman provide much amusement with their patter and songs.

KINNAIRD HALL.—Hamilton's Diorama is being well patronised, the pictures being of a most enjoyable and instructive nature. Some fine films are shown by means of the Eragraph, while several variety turns of much excellence further contribute to the enjoyment of the entertainment.

GILFILLAN HALL.—Quite a feast of cinematograph and variety business is provided here by the Dundee City Concerts and Entertainments Company, Ltd. Some excellent pictures are shown, Christmas—from the Birth of Christ to Present Time being a remarkably good film. Over the Sticks is a thrilling picture of a steeplechase, while among the comic pictures The Depilatory Powder and The Treacle Dodge are ribticklers. Varieties are introduced by Wilbert and Warner and the Poole Family, instrumentalists, while Mr. Ernest Jones makes a delightful accompanist on the piano.

DUNFERMLINE.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE. — Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts. — *Robinson Crusoe and His Man Friday* is to be added to the list of successes. Since the first night of its production here, on the last day of the year, crowds have been unable to gain admission. Miss Amy Randolph proves herself a very capable principal boy, and is a general favourite; Mr. Fred Davies as Will Atkins plays drolly throughout, and his methods of fun-making are much appreciated; Mr. Tom Gilmore as Captain Skuttle and Friday is quite equal to anything that may be desired in his dual part; Justin and Mantel as Bailiff Bom and Bailiff Bim put in some excellent work; the Sisters Selwyn as Tom Bowling and Bessie Barr may be highly commended, and the Sisters Poole Pelham as Jack Taffrail and Sally Sauce also deserve praise. Miss Cecilia Maynard makes a good Sam Spar; Mr. Brete Harte as His Majesty Kernoodlum contributes largely to the success of the pantomime; Mr. J. Telly Dillsen is irresistibly humorous and creates much laughter; Polly Perkins finds a clever exponent in Miss May Carter; the Ten Dixie Girls contribute skilful dancing; Mr. Edward Benson as Davey Jones and Miss Dora Lindsay as Fairy Pearl distinguish themselves; specialities are contributed by the Ten Dixie Girls, Sisters Selwyn, Sisters Poole Pelham, Fred Davis, Justin and Mantel, Lindsay and Harte, and the Marvellous Bounding Peps. The dresses and stage effects are elaborate, the new electrical installation adding greatly in the effect.

ECCLES. — CROWN THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert Rogers.—Thompson Carruthers' sensational novelty, "Master Card," gives great satisfaction; Coverdale and Huxley's Juvenile Troupe in musical scena, entitled *Pansy's Birthday*, prove themselves well trained; the Godfreys (Didie and Kate) are very amusing in musical sketch *The Slavey and the Cook;* Playfair and Vera, in their paper speciality, are clever; Clifford Stuart, comedian, gives a good account of himself; Ted Waite renders several side-splitting songs, and calls forth repeated applause; Bennett and Stirling, comedy duo, please; Alman Correze gives a smart exhibition with heavy weights; Frank E. Solbey, child mimic and novelty comedian, meets with warm approval; The Shipwreckers are depicted on the Bioscope.

EDINBURGH.—COOKE'S CIRCUS.—Proprietor, Mr. John Henry Cooke; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. C. Burns.—The pantomime *King Gold and the Lucky Little Lassie* continues to attract crowded audiences to Mr. Cooke's popular place of amusement. The spectacle, while interesting to persons of all ages, makes a special appeal to children, as more than one hundred juveniles take part in the production. The dresses are gay and bright, the fun, for which those genial drolls, Talberto and Douglas, are largely responsible, is highly entertaining, and the pantomime goes to the accompaniment of hearty laughter and applause. Mr. Cooke has added another triumph to his many past successes. The equestrian programme is admirable, as usual, the balloon polo matches by international teams being particularly exhilarating. Alphonso, a smart foot equilibrist, does some very neat work; the Brothers Hennessy are graceful and daring performers on the bar; and Whillet and Joseph, club manipulators, give a very clever and tasteful exhibition.

KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Edinburgh Construction Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard.—For the closing week of the *Aladdin* pantomime season extra attractions introduced into this lively performance have included Mr. Mike Cray, the eccentric comedy juggler, with his dog Dooley, whose joint antics have provided considerable amusement. The efforts of the principal players have been cordially appreciated during the run of the piece, the honours among the ladies being pretty equally shared by Miss Minnie Olive, Miss Alice Digby, Miss Daphne Gelstone, Miss Kitty Clare, and Miss Gwen Clifford. To the comedians, Mr. Charles Adeson, Mr. J. Harrington Weeks, and Mr. Bert Danson, praise is due for much excellent entertainment. In the absence of Miss Olive on Monday evening, Miss Josephine Ellis sustained the part of Aladdin with pleasing success.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—Mr. Morris Cronin and his troupe in their weird and novel performance provide the leading turn in a popular holiday programme, which is also notable for the very enjoyable sketches of sundry British types of character presented by Terry and Lambert, two of the brightest entertainers America has furnished to our variety stage. The bioscope pictures of a local Marathon race, from Falkirk to Edinburgh, were increased in interest by the appearance of the young French athlete H. Saint Yves, winner of the cup, who made a short speech. Of the single-handed turns, Mr. Harry Leybourn and Mr. Chas. Santon were both highly successful in their respective vocalisations; as was also Mr. E. J. Sheldon in his whistling songs; and the exhibition of Silveter's gigantic mechanical working head was a quaint novelty. In Brix and Annie's pantomime show Brix displayed his talents as a lightning artist, using strange materials; the Gems gave a bright musical mélange, which was enthusiastically received; and the Eight of Hearts combination of singers, dancers, and posturers gave a characteristic display of their abilities.

Moss's CARNIVAL. — A fresh programme at the Waverley Market this week introduces, amongst other clever artists, Mr. Yukio Tani, a well-known exponent of ju-jitsu wrestling, who offers the sum of £100 to the man who defeats him, £20 to the one who stands before him for fifteen minutes, and a solid silver cup to any amateur athlete who lasts that time. Mr. Tani has so far been successful against all comers, although several of the entrants have made a good show, notably Mr. C. Lawrie, of Glasgow, who was only overcome after a splendid effort lasting 10min. 30sec. Mr. Fred Lindsay gives his remarkable performance of whip manipulation, disarming a man with a revolver, and overturning him at the same time; flicking the ash from a cigar in a smoker's mouth, cutting a cigarette in two, and accomplishing many other extraordinary feats. Merrill and Ward are both daring and amusing in their cycling performance; Leoni Clarke's ponies, cats, monkeys, and canaries evince the wonderful results of patient training; the Five Kayton's perform some surprising feats in their somersaults from a spring board; the Victas, in their barrel-jumping act, are extremely clever; the Attilas give an exhibition of marvellous balancing; the Resas are expert jugglers; and Bostock's Baboons are seen in their unique and interesting entertainment.

EXETER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford. — The second week of the Christmas pantomime *Cinderella* opened on Monday before a large and appreciative house. The production has been very successful, and Mr. Mouillot's company is to be congratulated on its efforts. The principal artists have settled down to their parts, and they are ably assisted by the well-balanced chorus. Miss Violet Hollom in the title-rôle and Miss Edith Housley as the principal boy have quite established themselves as favourites; as the second principal boy Miss Minnie Love renders some good songs, and is regularly recalled for her song, "Sue, Sue, Sue"; while Miss Ethel Monks as Lord Chamberlain is encored invariably for her song "Mary." Mr. Kennedy Allen as the Baron continues to keep the house in roars of laughter, and he is especially good in the parody song, "Mary of Argyle." Mr. Willie Atom as Buttons ably assists in the laughter-making.

THE NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frederick Dandy.—The top of the bill this week is Miss Esther Palliser, the prima donna; her songs are "Don't come in, please," "Lulu and the bee," and Gounod's "Waltz Song," and she is loudly applauded by the large houses for her efforts. The Romps, the juvenile lady entertainers, sing some very tuneful songs and choruses; the Creo Brothers in their comedy acrobatics do some smart work; Smiler Lee is distinctly funny in his latest London successes; and the Xentrica in the Garden Terpsichore are entertaining. Dot Hardy and Queenie May, character comediennes, are quite in keeping with a distinctly all-round turn; the Hippodrome Pictures conclude.

POLKESTONE. — THE PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Mr. Alfred Paumier and Mr. Walter Howard this week present their No. 1 company in that excellent drama *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*. Miss Annie Saker thrilled a large house with her powerful and dramatic impersonation as Monica, the Beggar Maid; Mr. Walter Howard as Prince Olaf seemed quite at home fulfilling the part of a chivalrous soldier and gentleman; excellent support throughout was given by Mr. Graeme Campbell as his brother, Prince Michael, in a somewhat difficult part of the play; Mr. Ivan Cleveland as the third brother, Prince Hildred of Silvania, the evil genius, kept the spirit of animosity in the piece ever alive; Captain Hector, Mr. Reginald Stevens, was all that could be desired in his representation of a faithful soldier in Princess Monica's bodyguard, and was ably assisted by Mr. Reginald Payne as his lieutenant, who falls in love with Captain Hector's sister, Viola, represented by Miss Elsie Walton, who played her part with a naïve simplicity that left nothing to be desired; Miss Ivy Millais as Camiola rendered a touching portrayal; Mr. Kendal Chalmers as Nathan, Prince Michael's faithful dumb servant, was an interesting study.

GAINSBOROUGH.—KING'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Gainsborough Theatre Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Leighton.—Mr. Ernest Adrian's pantomime company opened on Monday to a good house with *Dick Whittington and His Cat*. Miss Violet Oram played the title-rôle in a capable manner, and Miss Madge Carew was a pleasing Alice; Mr. Bert Warner gave a clever rendering of the Cat; Mr. Will Daniels as Fitzwarren and Mr. Adrian as Idle Jack were amusing; Messrs. Frew and Frew were comical exponents of Bill Buttercup and Captain Cowslip, and Caraline, the cook, was played by Mr. Mark Mooney; Miss Mary Alexander sang sweetly, and gave an excellent representation of the Fairy Queen. Amongst the specialities, which included Eventu (mad juggler) and the Tina Trio (clever acrobatic dancers), the principal honours were taken by the De Wynne Bros., who gave one of the cleverest and most effective acrobatic turns which we have seen. Dresses pretty and scenery and general appointments excellent.

GATESHEAD.—KING'S THEATRE.—Lessees, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager

comedy element is in safe hands. Messrs. Richard Telford, Frank Barclay, and Horace Manger give able assistance; and the mounting, as we have previously recorded, is on a specially lavish scale.

EMPIRE.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Manners.—The Strolling Players give a bright and breezy performance here of their musical pot-pourri. Some wonderful feats in the cycling line are shown by the Daunton-Shaw Troupe, a clever combination; Hermann Melot's conjuring again mystifies the audience completely, his dexterity being wonderful; Bertha Stuart's Scotch songs are received with much favour; and another enjoyable turn is that of Les Voces, in their operatic selections. Miss Marquis and her trained ponies make an excellent item on the programme; Geo. Antill's "Scarecrow" song and dance is a weird turn; Frank Hartley, the boy juggler, Miss Carrie de Mar, and the Bioscope complete a diversified bill.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Councillor E. H. Bostock; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock.—Another pantomime occupies the boards here, Mr. Jack Haddon's *Babes in the Wood* opening on Monday last. Miss Millie Engler is a dashing Robin Hood, full of energy and go, and is provided with a good selection of the popular songs of the day; Miss Dorma Morgan is a fetching Maid Marian; and the Babes are cleverly acted by Misses Madge and Dolly McCallan. Mr. Charles May is very amusing as Baron Skeemalot, and is well supported in the fun-making by Mr. Harry Elliston as the Dame, and by Messrs. August and September as the Ruffians. Miss Winnie Usher makes a smart Little John; Miss Maude St. John acts well as Marjery May; and as the Fairy Miss E. Parry is extremely good. The pantomime is well staged, and the fun is brisk throughout.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Evan Good.—A clever and varied musical, dancing, and comedy turn is contributed here by the Ten Dark Knights, and proves to the taste of the holiday audiences; Dolly Elsworthy and company repeat their previous successes here with *The Orange Girl*, in which Miss Elsworthy as Nell Gwyn gives a very clever performance. The Schiavonis Troupe of acrobats are seen in a specially clever turn, the work of the ladies being particularly smart; Dave Samuels, the quaint Hebrew comedian, who was so successful here a few months ago, is again delighting the audiences with his humour in song, dance, and patter; Nellie Farrell is a smart little serio; Gertrude Moore takes well in her songs and dances; and a most enjoyable turn is that of Slippere, the blind pianist and 'cellist, in his musical items and imitations.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—A strong holiday bill is headed by Gertie Gitana, a deservedly popular artist here, and she again scores a big hit in all her various songs; Jas. Willard's company, in the thrilling playlet *The Ace of Hearts*, give an excellent performance, and the sketch is received with rapt attention; Columbia Comedy Trio take well in their vocal comedy items, their singing being good and the fun kept going briskly all the time; Otto and Olga, in their mock operatic duets and instrumental selections, contribute a most interesting part of the programme, and are much enjoyed; Parker and Parr give several duets, interspersed with Welsh comedy; Vincent, in his daring acrobatic somersaults from a height, Cavalli, a clever ventriloquist, and some new films on the Bioscope all provide enjoyable turns; and the performance concludes with the musical and vocal selections of the Five Tritons.

COLISEUM.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—After an absence of some years, Fred Walton is again giving his impersonation of the "Toy Soldier" here, and his silent comedy is very amusing; Mary Mayfren and company appear in a powerful sketch entitled *The Yellow Fang*; the Albert and Edmunds Troupe give a lively interlude, called *Neighbours*, with lots of knockabout fun in it; Larry Lewis as a comedian increases in popularity each visit; and another favourite is Violet Stockelle, a clever comedienne. The Coloured Meisters contribute several harmonious songs, and enjoyable turns are also given by Nance Elder, Bennie Barrow, and the Beautiful Lillian.

GAIETY, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—The pantomime of *Dick Whittington* is proving a first-rate holiday attraction here, and the management have reaped the reward of their enterprise. Miss Dinah Morris as Dick plays with lots of dash and energy, and Miss Frances Drew is a charming Alice; Mr. Sam Morris as Idle Jack, Mr. George Reeves as the Cook, and Mr. George Bailey as Fitzwarren look well after the comedy parts, and the fun never flags for an instant. Handsome dresses and a large and attractive bevy of choristers complete the ensemble.

PANOPTICAN.—Proprietor, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—Phenomenal business has been done here during the holidays, as many as 37,000 people being recorded by the turnstiles on New Year's Day. The variety turns this week include Grace Darling, a vocalist with a taking style; Bros. Starr, two clever instrumentalists and cross-talkers; H. M. Sommers, a neat exponent of clog-dancing art; and Murray Bros., negro comedians. The Bioscope films are kept well up to date in humorous and dramatic subjects.

GLOSSOP.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—Miss Violet Osmund presents, for the first time in Glossop, the successful musical play, *The Belle of the Ball*. Mr. J. W. Morton, in the rôle of Sir Francis Lake, creates a good impression; Mr. F. Lloyd makes an admirable Gussie Maitland, his dancing being well received; Mr. Gomer May is a typical Farmer Jones; and Mr. Alexander Loftus gives a humorous rendering of Timothy Timkins. Miss Gladys Carlton, in the title-rôle, is responsible for a charming performance; Miss Vera Grafton as Queenie Trevors, a Suffragette, meets with approbation; and Miss C. Norreys and Miss C. L'Estrange create endless laughter by their ludicrous appearances as the two ugly stepdaughters of Farmer Jones. The chorus, which is well balanced, is under the direction of Mr. W. Mendows.

GLOUCESTER. — PALACE.—Owners, Messrs. Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Director, Mr. C. W. Poole.—The Mohamed Troupe of Arab acrobats give a characteristic performance, and Corbin's clever dogs win rounds of applause for their smart act; Mr. J. H. Milburn is as agile as ever, and goes great with his facial business; Messrs. Haig and Novel are decidedly funny; and Joe Humphries does excellently with a descriptive song. Zeta Grey and company in *The Lancashire Lass* have a good sketch, which is enhanced by the lady's capital vocalism; St. George Sylvesta, conjurer, gets on good terms with the audience, and Messrs. Henny and Blanche prove their ability as comedy acrobatic dancers. The Palacescope shows good films.

KING'S HALL.—Lessees, Messrs. Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. T. Rea.—The animated pictures and illustrated songs are still popular.

AMONGST the first to give a matinée in aid of the sufferers by the Italian earthquake are Messrs. Poole, who announce a performance on Jan. 7, under the patronage of the Mayor, Mayoress, Mr. Russell Rea, M.P., Mr. Henry Terrell, K.C., and many county families.

GRAVESEND.—GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Wright.—Mr. Edward Cranston and Mrs. Bennett appear in an intensely dramatic sketch, *The Moreton Pearls*. The former proves herself a really capable actress, and the latter gives evidence of considerable histrionic power. Percy Maye scores a great success as a female impersonator; Harry Oxberry does well as a comedian; Jessie Starr is a bright and dashing comedienne; Dowers and Bardell evoke roars of laughter in their comedy act; and Mr. Leslie Pearl and Miss Lily Pearl, in their comedy, *A Bit of String*, keep the audience in a perfectly happy state from the commencement to the end. Miss Lily Pearl also scores in her extra turn as a comedienne.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—ROYAL AQUARIUM.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Owing to the success of Mr. Charles Macdonna and his company in *Mr. Popple*, it is running for another week.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. George Gilbert.—The beautiful building has been this week transformed from a Hippodrome into a smart and comfortable music hall, and the crowds that attended on Monday and Tuesday show it has evidently caught on. Excellent and remarkably steady pictures are being exhibited, the one entitled The Shipowner's Daughter being worthy of special mention. Excellent variety turns intersperse the pictures. E. V. Barr, a local comedian, has created quite a furore with his funny songs and quaint stories, and Harry Sullett is very popular with his songs and dances.

THE GEM.—Proprietors, The Yarmouth Amusement Centre, Ltd.; Resident-Director, Mr. C. B. Cochran; Manager, Mr. Sidney Lawrence.—Excellent pictures are being shown here this week, the one entitled Santa Claus being very popular with the juvenile patrons. The illustrated song "Just some one" has caught on.

GREENOCK.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—Mr. John Leopold's company is causing much diversion here this week in *New Frivolity*. Oliver Buckwheat is played by Mr. Watson Hume with conspicuous success; Mr. Tom Leopold makes an excellent Professor Fumble; Mr. J. Hardie as Jules Vermiglio gets as much out of the part as possible; Samuel Vermiglio is humorously depicted by Mr. Willie Leopold; and Daniel Teething is ably taken by Mr. John Leopold, jun. Miss Amy Hall makes a graceful Lucy Buckwheat, Miss Gertie Winter a charming Vinnie Moore, and Miss Cathleen Cavanagh a successful Mme. Cobweb. *New Frivolity* is preceded each evening by *The Houseboat*, which proves highly amusing.

EMPIRE.—Lessees, the Greenock Empire Syndicate; Responsible-Manager, Mr. Edward McCormick; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. J. Colquhoun.—The Tokio troupe of Japanese performers give a capital exhibition of remarkable equilibristic work; Pete and Minnie Lee again present that entertaining item *A Scotchman in London*; Pueblo and Cropp submit a clever pot-pourri act; Barney Noble, vocal comedian, makes a most welcome reappearance; whilst Lottie Leighton, comedienne and dancer, Arthur Lynn, tenor vocalist, and the Bioscope all add to the success of the entertainment.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry L. Skivington.—The principal attraction here this week is undoubtedly the Six Brothers Luck, Ltd., in their well-staged farcical sketches *The Demon of the Cellar* and *The Hermit*. Florence and Rose Showell are popular duettists; the Three Comedy Chanters submit humorous and harmonious interludes; Lily Arthur is an attractive comedienne and dancer; and Sim Maree is a wonderful contortionist. The Dromscope shows up-to date pictures.

TOWN HALL.—Proprietors, the Greenock Corporation.—The B.B. Picture company is here on a return visit. The excellent pictures continue to be well abreast of the times in cinematograph work. In addition to the pictures good variety turns are provided by the Boston Twins, Flora Macdonald, and Daisy Sloan.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—*A White Man* is proving highly popular. Mr. Frank E. Petley plays the fine character of Jim Carston with becoming dignity; Mr. A. R. Richardson, in the difficult part of the Earl of Kerhill, accomplishes excellent work; Mr. Gerald Earle portrays vividly the desperado, Cash Hawkins; Mr. Eric Hudson gives a capital character study of the Ute chief, Tab-y-wana; Mr. Henry Hare does well as Bud Hardy, the sheriff; Mr. R. A. Brandon gives an interesting portrayal of Big Bill; and the other cowboys are cleverly represented by Mr. Cecil Yapp as Shorty, Mr. Martin Henry as Andy, and Mr. Andrew D. Molony as Crouchey; whilst Mr. F. Martin Thornton is equally good as Baco White. Miss Eleanor May wins complete approval as Diana, Countess of Kerhill; Miss Gertrude Price is good as the Dowager Countess; Miss Margaret Fairleigh is responsible for excellent acting in the pathetic part of Nat-u-ritch; and Miss Bessie Jukes is pleasing as Little Hal.

THE PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—The Musical Courtiers are a very popular combination of operatic vocalists, and their condensed version of *The Bohemian Girl* is a delightful speciality; Stewart and Morgan also provide an entertaining musical turn, their vocal scenas being warmly appreciated; James Brady is a droll comedian with an ample fund of witticisms; the Dorians, a quartette of trapeze performers, give a smart display; a capital burlesque is provided by Eva Lumley and Freda Ettrick's company in *Jimmy All-of-a-Twist*; Gladys and Alber combine good comedy with clever acrobatics; and Ethel Dancy is a balladist with a pleasing voice and good songs.

GUERNSEY.—THEATRE ST. JULIAN'S.—Lessee, Mr. Edward Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—This week Mr. A. Clifton Alderson has presented *It's Never Too Late to Mend*. Mr. Escott Robson gives a finished performance of George Fielding; Mr. A. C. Alderson adds to his reputation by a clever portrayal of Tom Robinson; Mr. Leslie Vyner makes an ideal Chaplain; Mr. Frank Dalton a good Levi; Mr. Ulick Burke represents with much force Mr. Meadows; Mr. Henry Williams is a satisfactory William Fielding; and Mr. Sam Roberts's depiction of Peter Crawley merits praise. Miss Max Hinton successfully appeals as a poor waif.

HALIFAX.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—*Miss Hook of Holland* is the attraction at the Royal this week, and has drawn big houses. Mr. Alfred Wellesley's Mr. Hook is a fine performance, the "house" appreciating every point; Mr. W. Balfour sings and acts well as Captain Paap; Bandmaster Van Voyt has an able and praiseworthy exponent in Mr. Frank Crimp; Mr. Fred Lyne's Simon Slinks is a noteworthy performance—his comedy is good and his acting natural; Miss Gertie Melville makes a fascinating Sally; Miss Cissy Sefton meets with a hearty reception, but she has not enough to do as Mina for a lady of her talents; and Miss Tattie Leonard leaves nothing to be desired as Gretchen.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks. — *A Country Girl in London* is being played here. Mr. W. V. Garrod gives a good account of the part of Frank Gordon; Mr. Leonard Booker is effective as Godfrey Clinton; Mr. Clifford Marle gives a fine character study of the somewhat secondary part of Job Smithers; Miss Josephine Colona gives a realistic performance as the discarded mistress of a German swindler; and Miss Bertha Kingston is effective as Marjorie Hamilton.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Foster.—Mack Ollive, of *The Belle of New York* fame, gives an interesting whistling turn, assisted by Miss Daisy Baldry; the Spanish Juanitos are marvellous tumblers; the Sovereigns, two one-legged artists, give a wonderful exhibition of balancing and jumping; the Two Lilies give a novel and clever simultaneous dancing act—they are young, pretty, and exquisitely dressed; Harvey's American Boys and Girls give another acceptable turn, ably assisted by a clever juvenile, Daisy Dennis; George Acre, character comedian, is well received; Cissie Esdaile, comedienne, and Amost Howard, a capable coloured dancer, also appear.

VICTORIA HALL.—The Carl Rosa Opera Company completed a successful round of nine performances here last Saturday. On the Friday evening there was a most enthusiastic audience to see *Esmeralda*. Miss Burgess was splendid in the name-part, and had a rousing reception; Miss Cartwright has a sweet voice, and was eminently successful as Fleur-de-Lys; Miss Wilson was admirable as Mme. Lois; Mr. Wheatley (Phœbus) was in magnificent voice, and did well throughout; Mr. Winckworth's fine voice was heard to advantage in the part or Frollo; as Quasimodo Mr. Victor did well both in singing and acting; Mr. H. Foster (Chevrbuse), Mr. O'Connor (Gringoira), and Mr. Clendon (Clopin) were all successful.

HAMILTON, N.B.—HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. René Clayton.—The Four Royal Scots, in a medley of vocal and instrumental music, are topping the bill here, and proving a big draw; Mr. W. T. Murray does a most interesting and artistic turn, in which his wonderful muscular development is seen to advantage; Radie Farman is a big favourite with her extremely quaint singing and dancing; G. A. Cassels is applauded; and Alf Lester is well received in a couple of songs. The Leotard Brothers do some clever hand balancing and hat throwing; S. Bedford and company are excellent in a clever little sketch, *The Second Mrs. Chester*; and Rich. Taylor, whistling ventriloquist, and the Hippodrome Bioscope conclude a very excellent programme.

HANLEY. — ROYAL. — Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—*Mother Goose* continues to attract packed houses, both at matinée and evening performances, and a successful run is absolutely assured. There is not a dull moment from start to finish in the pantomime, which is finely staged and admirably acted; Miss Lola Patey's Gretchen, a Dutch servant, is the talk of the district—she is truly fascinating in song and manner. Miss Beatrice Felsted is a winsome Fairy, with a splendid voice; Miss Margaret Ruby is a clever principal boy; Miss Millie Doris as Jill is a picture of daintiness; Mr. Harry Rich is responsible for continuous laughter by his magnificent impersonation of Mother Goose; Mr. Fred Barnes, who plays Lord Pudsey, is a perfect picture of the part, and his vivacity, splendid voice, smart dresses, and original style all go to make his portrayal a huge success; Mr. Leonard Maitland's dude interpretation is quite unique; Mr. Charles Homer is the Demon Malignum, and he does it well; Mr. Douglas Campbell is a fine Goose; the Brothers Smarte are highly commendable for their animal business; Mr. Chas. Rich as Jack makes a hit; and Mr. J. C. Scattar has a part to which he does himself justice. Miss Edith Cornish and Miss Marie Clifton have small parts, which they play perfectly. Now that the pantomime has been properly condensed it is truly magnificent. Mr. Frank Parker is the manager for Mr. J. F. Elliston, Mr. Claude Agnew stage-manager, and Mr. Frank Seddon musical-director. The scenery and dresses furnish quite a dream of harmonious blending of colours. Messrs. Elliston and Elphinstone and all concerned are to be congratulated upon a production which is certain to bring them well-deserved reward.

GRAND. — Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand.—Park's Eton Boys and Girton Girls return with an entirely new repertoire, and their success is remarkable. *The Spy*, a thrilling sketch, is received with great favour; Hunt and Thomas appear in *His Birthday*, and are tumultuously applauded; Lennie and Hast present the *Sea Nymph* with great success; Raymond's Bio-tableaux shows how Arabian pottery is made and a real screamer; the Carpos Brothers are good; Fred Walmsley is a clever comedian; Rosie Lloyd is a chic comedienne; and My Lady Dainty is also an artist of decided merit. The management of Mr. Arthur Rand is splendid, and the great houses testify to his excellence in skilful booking.

KING'S.—Lessees, Messrs. Kennedy and Moore; Manager, Mr. H. Kennedy.—Extraordinary business is this week attracted to witness a magnificent series of films. Blue Beard was followed with intense excitement. Flight from the Harem and A Servant to an Acrobatic Family were loudly applauded. Amongst others are The Unlucky Bridegroom, The Magic Tinder-box, Bear Hunting in Russia (very fine), and The Lost Picture. Sabino returns and again wins great favour by his clever instrumentalism.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—An enjoyable evening may be spent by lovers of the twice-nightly fare at the Opera House this week. The Four Rubys are the acme of skill and graceful in their marvellous contortionist act; Estrella is a clever barefoot sand dancer, and also gives some pretty national dances; Harry Meegan is a comedian who deserves a good word, his facial expression and patter being very smart; Zasma, in a gymnastic scena, *An Evening's Pleasure*, is highly entertaining; Miss Rachel Lowe, who tops the bill, is a charming singer of novelty songs; Godfrey quite comes up to the average illusionist; and J. H. Ellis is an amusing and entertaining comedian. A capital little sketch by the Aeronauts entitled *An Airship Elopement*, winds up the bill.

HARTLEPOOL.—EMPRESS.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Alfred Matham.—Some excellent films entirely new to a Hartlepool audience are being shown by Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope. Considerable amusement is caused by Why He Signed the Pledge and Following in Father's Footsteps.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—Mr. Frederick Mouillot's pantomime company on Monday opened a week's visit with *Robinson Crusoe; or, Man Friday and the King of the Cannibal Islands*. Mr. J. La Fane stage-managed, and Mr. Michael Dwyer, who composed and arranged the pleasing musical numbers, had the direction of the capable orchestra. The dresses and scenery are bright and pleasing, and fine stage effects are provided in the scene depicting Under the Sea and that representing Cupid's Palace. There is much merry fooling by Mr. Oliver J. Round as Dame Crusoe and Mr. Ernest Sefton as Will Atkins. As principal boy Miss Mina Green achieves a great success, her songs being very well sung; Miss Daisy May as Polly dances prettily, and quickly gained the approval of her audience; Mr. Charles Resti makes an acceptable Friday, and gives a clever conjuring display in the Hut scene; Mr. Edward Pleon is an agile Monkey; Miss Mary Hope sings well in her rôle of Princess; the Fedora Quartet and Viviana and company, in the Toy Shop scene, contribute some clever dancing; and the chorus acquit themselves exceedingly well.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Vivian-Fisher; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—Mr. Hesketh Heath, an excellent baritone, renders his songs with animated pictures; the rifle-shooting of Winona, the American artist, is remarkably expert; T. W. Barret, the vocalist, is very droll as "the nobleman's son"; the Two Dalgarnos introduce an interesting and well-acted comedy act, *Caught Napping*; a versatile vocalist and pleasing dancer is found in Miss Winnie Stanhope; the patter and comicalities of Grogie are highly amusing; Wilson's Miniature Circus is a great success; some of the dogs which appear Mlle. Rosini has trained to perfection, responding to her every word or gesture with amazing quickness and docility.

PIER PAVILION. — General-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter. — Good audiences are still patronising Mr. J. D. Hunter's pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*, which is holding the boards here. Repetition only serves to ensure a decided gain in finish and smoothness. The musical director and conductor, Mr. Surtees Corne, has been exceedingly happy in his selections of songs and lyrics. The duets, by Mr. Matt Melrose and Miss Lallah Melrose, are delightfully rendered; humorous songs are introduced full of mirth and fun by Messrs. Arthur Lenville, Dennis, and Morris; an excellent vocalist is found in Miss Flo Macdonald as the Fairy; Miss Judith Espinosa as the principal ballet dancer exhibits some graceful and delicate movements. The scenery is, as before, a marked feature. The Port of Hull, The Deck of the Saucy Sally, The Open Sea, with Crusoe steering his raft to the shore, are distinct and well-defined pictures. The old-fashioned harlequinade is dispensed with, but a more rational conclusion inspires the writer, and the artists and the ballet associate in a pleasing final dance.

On New Year's Eve, Mr. Walter Norman, assistant-manager to the Hastings Hippodrome, was requested to appear on the stage to sing. With characteristic geniality he responded, and sang "Auld Lang Syne," the chorus being heartily taken up by the band and audience.

HEREFORD.—GARRICK THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. P. Barnsley.—The attraction here for this week is being provided by Clarence C. Corri's company, with *The Dandy Fifth*. Mr. Coningsby Brierley as Trooper Brown gained much applause for his exhilarating comicalities and agile dancing; Mr. Percy Baverstock scores a great success with a fine representation of the Colonel, being an actor of more than average ability; Mr. Charles Sims brings the freshness of the "Ould Counthry" over the footlights whenever he is upon the stage as Sergt. Major Milligan; Mr Arthur Radcliff as Dick Darville is favourably received; Mr. Jack Leyland makes the character of Sir Victor particularly enjoyable, his easy acting and singing are thoroughly appreciated; Miss Norra Morra is very smart, and enters into the spirit of the part with great gusto; Miss Maud Nicholls as Mrs. Von Blitzen was very well suited; and a word of praise is due to Miss Una Palmer as Kate Lorimer.

HORWICH.—PRINCE'S.—Lessees, The Horwich Theatre Co.; Manager, Mr. R. H. White.—Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company opened on Monday to a packed house with *The Love that Women Desire*,, and received quite an ovation. The scenery and accessories are very fine. The company is an exceedingly good all-round one, and includes Mr. J. O. Stewart, Mr. Thorpe Courtney, Mr. Herbert Pearson, Mr. Francis Cavanagh, Mr Sydney Rudge, Mr. Wilton Read, Mr. Richard Oliver, Mr. B. Morris, Mr. John Hignett, Mr. J. W. Wilkinson, Mr. George Singleton, Mr. Arthur King, Mr. Bert Butler, Mr. S. Dale, Mr. Stephen Willis, the Misses Maud Hastings, Annie Grattian Clyndes, Dorothy Hildebrande, Violet Young, and Vere Rose.

HUDDERSFIELD. — HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—Fred Granville's pantomime *Babes in the Wood* is being presented here twice nightly. The principal parts are played by Miss Cissie Paris, who is a dashing Robin Hood; Miss Marie Elsie, a vivacious Maid Marian; Violet Wilson and Baby Boden as the two Babes (of great precocity); the Kimberley Boys, a pair of diverting comedians; Mr. Norman Hall as the wicked uncle; Mr. Alf Brooks, with some taking songs, as Araminta Koffkake; Mr. H. Val Morgan, singing well, as Aconita; and Miss Hilda Brent as the Fairy Queen. A lively chorus, the latest songs, and some pretty scenery make up a bustling entertainment.

HULL.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Mortons, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. W. F. Morton.—*The Fair One With the Golden Locks* has entered upon her second week with much *éclat*, and the reception accorded her has been very hearty; a great part of the success of the pantomime is secured through the efforts of Green and Wood, one a wonderful tumbler; Mr. Jas. Chippendale, the Dame, is one of the best ever seen in this city; he has the gift of humour, so often lacking in pantomime comedians. Miss Mimi Fisher and Miss Madge Browne meet with success as first boy and girl; the Monte Carlo Girls are dainty dancers.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Manager, Mr. Tom Bogue.—*Toddles* has drawn big houses to the Royal this week. Its farcical comedy rôles are very efficiently filled. Mr. Murray King is a fine representative of the fatuous lord; Miss Naomi Neilson plays the part of the "marriage machine," Lady Dover, with considerable skill; Miss Evelyn Shelley succeeds admirably as Mrs. Joblyn; Miss Doris Langdon was a very captivating Constance Constance. The play is well mounted, and has an attractiveness all its own.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Mortons, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—*Two Little Vagabonds*, an old favourite here, is doing fine business. Wally and Dick are cleverly portrayed by Miss Josie Beltram and Miss May Hart. The remainder of the cast do good work.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—Mr. A. E. Smith's pantomime *Jack and the Beanstalk* is here this week. Miss Kathleen Garnon as Jack wins much admiration, Miss Frankie Barton being equally successful as Jill; the Sisters Holman as Margery Daw and Tommy Tucker give charming characterisations; Miss Gertie Leno as Queen of Light sings nicely; the excellent comedy is one of the leading features of the pantomime, in this respect great praise being due to Mr. Billy Taylor (Dame Durden), Mr. Bert Boothroyd (Squire Scarperletty), and Messrs. Foley and Francis (Simple Simon and Johnny Horner). Specialities are given by the following:—The Bendenes, clever contortionists and balancers; the Sisters Holman, smart duettists and dancers; Foley and Francis, comedians of more than ordinary merit; and Miss Ellie Verrier, a highly commendable toe dancer. The strong and capitally trained chorus is an acquisition, Mr. Charles Pearson being the musical director.

ILKLEY.—KING'S HALL.—Proprietors, The Ilkley Urban District Council; Licensee, Mr. Frank Hall.—Mr. Allan Wilkie's company continued their stay at Ilkley until the end of last week. On Thursday *Julius Cæsar* was played, with Mr. Wilkie as Mark Antony, Mr. Alexander Marsh as Brutus, and Miss Haidee Gunn as Lucius. On Friday *She Stoops to Conquer* was a great success. Mr. Wilkie gave a very good impersonation of Mr. Hardcastle; Mr. Alexander Marsh as Young Marlow was excellent; and Miss Haidee Gunn was coquettish and sympathetic as Kate Hardcastle. The last night (Saturday) opened with *The Sleigh Bells*, with Mr. Wilkie in the part of Mathias. In *Davy Garrick* Mr. Alexander Marsh played the title-rôle.

INVERNESS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Cameron Burgess.—Mr. Lingford's Carson's company is this week presenting *A Fight for a Throne*. Mr. John S. Millwood as Captain Jack Fortescue plays well and scores continuously; Mr. Jerrold Reed as Nicolai I., King of Saxovinia, gives an excellent interpretation; the part of Prince Otto is capitally played by Mr. Charles E. Linney; as Tom Ferret Mr. Charles H. Hughes provides capital comedy; Miss Dora Hammersley as Princess Esmee wins much approval; Miss Margarette Tueski gives a powerful impersonation of the exacting part of Countess Voleska Lorenski; as Lady Pat Miss Emmeline B. Lewis is good; and all the other rôles are well filled. The mounting is excellent.

IPSWICH. — LYCEUM THEATRE. — Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is drawing crowded and enthusiastic audiences this week with *Brewster's Millions*. Mr. Percy Hutchison in Monty Brewster has a part that suits him to the life, and in his racy impersonation he never loses an opportunity. He is well supported by Miss Cicely Stuckey in the part of Margaret Gray; Miss Lilias Earle (who is well known in Ipswich) is excellent as Mrs. Dan de Mille; Miss Frances Davie is an emphatic Janice Armstrong; Miss Eva Stuart and Miss Sybil Walsh are respectively Barbara and Trixie; and Miss Mary Seton is a good Miss Boynton. The parts of the numerous friends of Monty Brewster are all well filled. They include Mr Cyril Rawden as Charlie Harrison, Mr. Robert Forsyth as Mr. Grant, Mr. A. Andrews as Colonel Drew, Mr. Henry Hampson as Archie Golding, Mr. Aubrey Mather as McLeod, Mr. Charles Esdale as Frank Bragdon, Mr. Otho Hazlewood as Horace Pettingill, Mr. Douglas Greet as Tommy Smith, Mr. W. S. Haye as Jack Gardiner, and Mr George Salver as Captain Perry, and Mr. A. P. Kaye as Mons. Bargie. The staging is excellent, and the celebrated Yacht scene, with its beautiful cloud and electrical effects, caused a sensation, which culminated in enthusiastic plaudits.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—Mr. Jack Haddon's company, in *Jack and the Beanstalk*, is playing to crowded houses and delighted audiences. It is a very bright production. Miss Allina Obrey as Jack sings and acts well, and is assisted by a good chorus. Mr. Dave O'Toole as Dame Trotter and Mr. Bob Baxter as Silly Billy cause endless amusement; and Messrs. O'Malley and Brown are good and active comedians. Mr. Hal Forde is the Squire Musty; and his niece Dora is prettily played by Miss Bessie Knight. The Giant is well represented by Mr. Tom Packer; Miss Marie Rayner is good as the Wicked Fairy; and the other parts are well filled. The quartette of lady dancers are particularly graceful. The scenery is effective and pretty, and everything works well.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Locke. Mr. W. Maclaren and company are presenting *Claudian*. — In the title-rôle Mr. Maclaren is powerful and impressive; Miss Lily C. Bandmann is simply charming in the part of Almida; Miss Ruth Trafford as Edessa is well received; Mr. Bernard Elliott plays with force and skill the part of Thariogalus; Mr. Douglas Earle is seen to advantage as Agazil; and Mr. C. T. Chaloner does full justice to the part of Belos.

JERSEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Edward Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—This week Mr. A. Clifton Alderson's company is presenting the late Charles Reade's famous drama *It's Never Too Late to Mend*. The all-important rôle of Tom Robinson is admirably played by Mr. A. Clifton Alderson; Mr. Escott Robeon appears as George Fielding; Mr. Leslie Vyner is good as the Rev. Francis Eden; Mr. Sam Roberts is an amusing Peter Crawley; Mr. Frank Dalton is an able Isaac Leir; Mr. Charles Wentfield does well as Mr Hawes; Mr. Ulick Burke sustains the unpopular part of Mr. Meadows; and Mr. Henry Williams undertakes William Fielding. Miss Max Hinton figures as Joseph; Miss Susie Emerald appears as Mary; Miss Joan Wellman plays Mrs. Morton; and Miss Winifred Love is a charming Susan Morton.

KEIGHLEY.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. R. S. Kendall; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Carson.—Miss Edith St. Clare's *Aladdin* company is here. Miss Edith St. Clare is the principal boy, and proves very successful. She is a local favourite, and her songs go with a swing, especially "She is a Yorkshire girl." Another charming vocalist is Miss Lily Lonsdale, and her Princess is a delightful performance. The comedy is in the excellent hands of such well-known comedians as Mr. Fred Graham, Mr. Ernie Myers, and the Bros. Brooks. Mr. Frank A. Wood is well suited to the part of Emperor, and his singing is very artistic; Mr. George Parry is seen to advantage as the Vizier; and the Sisters Brand are much appreciated. Specialities are provided by the Krakes and the Canton Girls. Mr. Ed. Landor is an excellent conductor and Mr. B. Haldane is the courteous business-manager for Miss St. Clare.

KIDDERMINSTER.—NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon.—The boards are occupied this week by Mr. T. Edward Ward's company in *Second to None*, a story of the Royal Scots Greys. Mr. C. W. Spencer ably portrays the character of Sir Reginald Greystone, and Mr. Frederick Loyd that of Captain Philip Mannering. Miss Ward gives an excellent display of acting as Nell Greystone. The play is well staged.

KIRKCALDY.—HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. G. W. Walker.—Variety is giving place to drama this week. *Jeannie Deans*, in the capable hands of Mr. John Clyde's company, had a warm reception. Mr. Clyde, who is well known in these parts, appears with much success in the rôles of the Duke of Argyle and the Counsel for the Defence; he acts throughout with histrionic skill, and in a way that is very convincing. The comic element is ably treated by Mr. Geo. Robb, of whom we cannot speak too highly, as the Laird of Dumbiedykes he is thoroughly amusing; Mr. Robert Graham as David Deans portrays the old man wonderfully, and as his daughters, Effie and Jeannie, Misses Ella Sennet and Lena Levenstone suit admirably. The smaller parts are in good hands.

ADAM SMITH HALL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. G. W. Walker.—Mr. David Thomson, Scottish comedian, heads the bill, and justifies his position; Li-Chang-Hi is responsible for some clever illusions, and Mr. Sydney Lochlynne, the farmyard mimic, is paying a welcome return visit; Vulcaris is a society entertainer of no mean order, and Jack Easy as the football comedian scores a success; Daisy Taylor is a smart juvenile comedienne, and dancer, and Little Minnie Halford as music hall star impersonator has a great reception; the Real Mackays, singers and dancers, who are always favourites here, make a hit; Mr. Scott Skinner, the renowned violinist, Mr. Geo. A. Park, vocalist, and Miss Violet Davidson, vocalist and mimic, are also successful.

LANCASTER.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. C. Howitt.—Mr. Chas. Constant's pantomime *Blue Beard* is the attraction this week, and is of all round excellence. The songs are popular, the scenery and dresses elaborate, the gags good, and the dancing and singing clever. Mr. Johnny Clegg as Sister Ann, the dame, is exceedingly funny; Miss Daisy Lake is a dashing Selim; and Fatima is daintily portrayed by Miss Marie Duncan. Mr. Jack Parker as Bamboozlum is eccentric; and Mr. Ellis Carlyle is a stately Blue Beard. Specialities are introduced in a pleasing manner by Harlin and Hanlon, the Florodorians, Russell and Gage, Sandow Girls, Walter B. Frear, and Dolly Moore.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. J. Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—Miss

indication of a very successful run. Capable acting, brilliant stagecraft, and gorgeous dresses combine to make a most enjoyable performance. Miss Daisy Dormer has established herself a prime favourite as principal girl, her style being bright and refined, whilst she has a good voice; Miss Nell Emerald's conception of Sinbad is a triumph for that vivacious and versatile lady, and she comes in for a big ovation nightly; of the comedians, Mr. Rowland Hill as the Dame is making a big impression, and deservedly so; and Mr. William Stephens is also responsible for much genuinely funny business.

THEATRE ROYAL.—*Aladdin*, revised and improved, now goes with a delightful swing. Than Miss Adela Crispin it would be difficult to imagine a more attractive Princess, and her vocal numbers make her an immense favourite; Miss Lillie Soutter, the idol of a previous pantomime here, is quite at home as Aladdin, and her singing and dancing cannot be too highly praised. Another popular performance is that of So-Shi by Miss Lizzie Hay, whose rendering of "My girl's a Yorkshire girl," with the tiniest of the Manchester Mites by way of chorus, creates quite a furore. The comedians are untiring in their efforts to please, Mr. Martin Adeson as Dame, Mr. Sydney Vincent as Grand Vizier, and Mr. Will Bishop as Emperor in particular catching the eye on many occasions.

EMPIRE.—Moss Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex. Galley.—George Gray, with his *Fighting Parson*, is this week's principal attraction, and an ovation is accorded the sketch nightly; a clever turn by the Musical Jees goes well; an old favourite, Witty Watty Walton, scores again with comedy items; Duncan and Godfrey, in a neat sketch, are well received; Hayes and Wynne do well in a similar line; the work of the Crown Trio is interesting; and capital turns are also forthcoming from Dennis Drew and the Eight Lancashire Lads.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford.—A bright and attractive compressed pantomime, *The Forty Thieves*, is filling this popular hall, pretty scenery, a capable chorus, and plenty of fun being leading features. That popular comedian Bob Selvidge is at the head of affairs as Ali Baba, and he again achieves a personal success. La Belle Greta and Hersleb Brothers are particularly prominent in the variety company which supports.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—Mlle. Adele Prescott is here, engaged in the presentation of abbreviated versions of *The Daughter of the Regiment* and *The Last Rose*, and her fine vocal work has aroused the enthusiasm of full houses; the Gladenbecks, in acrobatic speciality, are doing well at the bottom of the bill; Baker and De Sales are amusing on novel lines. The programme includes other acceptable comedians in Frank Leslie and Fred Melford; whilst Carlo Cestria, comedy juggler, Amy Russell, vocalist, and Ruby Bijou, speciality dancer, are also vastly popular.

CITY VARIETIES.—A clever turn by Abel and Welsh secures prodigal applause here; Wyze and Adna get a big reception for a comedy sketch; Fred Land, the popular comedian, is having a big week; and of the rest, Billy French Karoly Cynski, and Silly Billy Elliott are particularly prominent.

LEICESTER.—PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. S. Buccluch.—At the head of a good all-round "show" this week are the Elliott-Savonas, in their delightful musical creation, *The Palace of Orpheus*, which affords this talented troupe full scope for the display of their well-known abilities as musicians, and wins for them the greatest admiration and applause from all sections of the audience. At the other end is Mr. F. W. Purcell's excellent company, including Miss Margaret Murch, in the intensely interesting Sicilian miniature drama *What Women Do for Men*, which is accorded a very good reception. Another favourite turn is provided by Charles Fisher's Pocket Opera Company, in excerpts from *Il Trovatore*, the singing of Miss Zelia Lusano as Leonora Azucena, Mr. Chas. Fisher as Manrico, and Mr. Alec Johnstone as Count di Luna evoking unstinted approbation; the Three Sisters Jerome display great vivaciousness and clever dancing in their novel act, *Aunty's Maid;* Takio is a remarkably smart Japanese mimic of sounds; the Sisters Urma give a clean and pretty performance on the trapeze; Fred Keeton, an excellent comedian, sings his songs to the accompaniment of hearty laughter; Tom Collins, a capital light comedian, is popular; Beatie Kent, comedienne and clever dancer, is entertaining. The Bioscope shows a good film, entitled After Many Years.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joe Lawrence.—The principal item in this week's bill is Mr. Wilfred H. Benson's company, in the episode *The Last Halt*, which is meeting with a full measure of deserved success; Miss Mabel Wynn plays admirably as Rebecca Marstien; and Mr. Wilfred H. Benson as Prince Paul Lerkoff and Mr. Harry Gilbey as Captain Marakoff are others in the cast deserving of special commendation. Sergeant Brennan, the gyroscopic marvel, is remarkably smart, and is making a splendid impression; the Sisters Della, the ladies in black, who are possessed of a good stage presence, are great favourites, their song "Girls" being taken up all over the house. Other artists who appear with success are Fynn and Fayne, patter comedians; the Fordyces, a couple of clever youngsters, in a comedy and dancing act; Fred Wright, eccentric comedian and speciality dancer; and Maud Garland, vocalist. Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope retains its great popularity with Birds of St. Kilda and the *Morning Leader* picture, a most interesting film.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Company; acting-manager, Mr. Charles R. Craig.—The usual excellent and diversified show of pictures are displayed here this week, the best being Customs Officer's Revenge, In the Shadow of the Law, The Jilted Woman's Revenge, and Brothers in Arms, which are interspersed with De Vere's Marionettes, a cleverly-worked and well-staged and popular puppet show, and Charles Relph, a good chorus vocalist.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—The melodrama of circus and sporting life entitled *The Way of the World* is the attraction this week, being well presented by Messrs. Herbert Skardon and H. Sherwood Martin's company, in which Miss Sidney Crowe as Lady Adela Hardy scores a pronounced success. Mr. Herbert Skardon plays extremely well as Cecil Hardy; and Miss Violet Lytton is also very good as Kate Montague. Mr. Edward Avinal is most effective as Captain Fred Slade; Mr. Clarence Temple is excellent as Matthew Malyon; and Mr. Victor Gordon as Horatio Bluff, Mr. D'Arcy Kelway as Joe Sparrow (with song), and Miss Violette Vivienne as Pollie Belle are each responsible for humorous and popular embodiments. Mr. Pat Quinn is capital as Sir John Hardy; and Miss Marie Marsh acts well as Little Eric Malyon.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. George Stanyon.—Mr. Walter Jeffs' New Century Pictures still retain their great popularity. This week's programme includes the Cinephone (with pictures that talk, sing, and act), Motoring Over the Alps, Butterflies, Christmas Eve Dream, The Hostage, The Last Bullet, Faust, The Great Moscow Floods, The Little Mother, A Day at the Races, Ski-ing at St. Moritz, Rival Cyclists, Tompkins Buys a Donkey, Indiarubber Shoes, &c. Miss Leah Pinnick retains her popularity with new illustrated songs; and Mr. Walter Roselle, the cicerone, scores his usual success as an entertainer. Mr. Fred Jeffreys is the most courteous of managers.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. W. Heath.—Messrs. Pardoe and Miss Lottie Holland's company opened here on Monday in a highly satisfactory version of *Cinderella*. Miss Lottie Holland made a dashing Prince Charming, her singing being highly appreciated; Miss Beatie Howard was a winsome Princess Rosala; Miss Ronad Dora works hard as Dandini, and her efforts meet with success; Miss Nellie Rose charmingly portrayed Cinderella, although she was suffering from a bad cold; the Ugly Sisters were ably undertaken by Messrs. N. and J. Dench. Too much praise cannot be bestowed on Mr. George Hyam for his untiring efforts as Scott. Messrs. Alf Grady and Mike Hastings (Blobbs and Blabbs) and S. Dorma (Baron No Cash) also assist in the fun-making. Mr. Tom Griffith sings a couple of songs in good style; the Edingale Trio contribute some pretty dances; and the Marvellous Pardoes, gymnasts, receive great applause. The scenery and dresses are excellent.

GRAND THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Leigh Grand Theatre and Hippodrome, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Benson; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Woolstencroft.—Ben Harris and his nippers head the bill here this week, and are very successful in a dancing, singing, and boxing act, entitled *A Promising Pupil;* Ellis and Son, in their musical act, are very good; the Sisters Judge, with their performing birds, are deservedly applauded; Jiff Dixo, swell comedian, is most acceptable; Messrs. Evelyn and Norrie provide an excellent sketch, entitled *Set a Thief*, which is well received; the Jackley Trio are clever and amusing, especially George in his whistling act. Other turns are Blarney and Kennard, comedians, and Miss Flo Warner, comedienne, and the Bioscope pictures.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Licensee and Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—In the production of *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*, from the Lyceum Theatre, London, as presented here by Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's principal company, playgoers have found a most interesting and enjoyable holiday-week's entertainment. The piece is admirably staged, and the cast strong all round. The three feminine rôles are most happily filled by Miss Ethel Bracewell, who makes a winsome Princess Monica, by Miss Jessica Black, whose Viola is a bright and sunny little personage, and by Miss Gertrude Branscombe, singularly successful as Camiola; the three Sylvanian Princes, Hildred, Michael, and Olaf, are cleverly differentiated by Mr. Alfred Brandon, Mr. Melville Bickford, and Mr. Ernest Cox, each of these powerful characterisations being deserving of high praise. Other important parts—the Bishop of Illyria, Captain Hector, and Lieut. Karl Stromberg—are effectively acted by Messrs. Kenneth Black, Robert Noble, and J. H. Vyvyan; the dumb attendant, Nathan, is made needfully grim by Mr. H. Burton; and the many minor rôles receive careful and spirited interpretation. Crowded houses have testified to the excellence of this attractive drama.

LINCOLN.—ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Seddon and Pope; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ernest Pope.—Mr. Reginald Dance is here for three nights with a return visit of *Raffles*, in which he is scoring heavily in the rôle of the amateur cracksman; Mr. Edwin Irwin is again *au fait* in the rôle of Bedford, and helps to make the exciting scenes go with a snap, and the support is excellent. *A Woman Worth Winning* finishes off the week.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Arthur Miller.—Minerva, the handcuff queen, creates a furore with her act of shedding manacles while in a butt of water; the Gallimore Trio present a lively comedy turn; the Royal Temples sing effectively; and Fred Herbert, Colin Main, Zeta Russell, and Mamie Morris all score, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux winding up a capital show.

LIVERPOOL.—ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—A very smart little pantomime, entitled *Cinderella*, opened here on Monday evening, and afforded the utmost enjoyment to a crowded audience. Messrs. Jayon and Nightingale sent an all-round capable company, which included several comedians of especial merit. Miss Molly Doon held the title part, and acted and sang in a manner which earned for her the entire approval of her hearers; Miss Vera Mayne looked exceedingly well as the Prince, and rendered several numbers with taste; Dandini found a worthy and vivacious exponent in Miss Beattie Foster; Miss Flo Burnett had a good appearance as the Princess, and earned applause for her delightful singing; Leo Fields caused endless laughter with his antics as Buttons, in fact, he was very prominent in keeping the audience merry; the two ugly sisters were most admirably impersonated by Wallace Whitney and Harry Plowden; the Danbys, in the rôles of the court bailiffs, helped greatly with the fun; and the parts of the Marquis of Taxes and Dorothy, the pet of the village, were well presented by Miss Beatrice Sinclair and Miss Lily Hales. The whole production was a good evening's show.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—Mr. J. Gar Kiddie's clever and pretty pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*, has put in a third and last week. The patrons of the popular Star appreciated the change from the usual dramatic fare, which is to be resumed on Monday.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—An attraction here this week was the intelligent monkey Consul, whose tricks afforded delight; the giant actor, George Auger, and his little company went through a pleasing playlet, *Jack the Giant Killer;* the very diverting sketch *That Brute Simmons*, given by F. W. Purcell's company, was richly enjoyed; the Ten Zerbinis provided a pretty and clever novelty, *The Enchanted Glen*, into which sweet music and living tableaux were appropriately introduced; Nellie Falco and S. K. Eida gave an exhibition of ju-jitsu, and danced excellently; an amusing comedy acrobatic act came from Cornalla and Eddie; the Three Welsh Girls pleased generally with their harmonised illustrated songs; and there likewise appeared Charles Vincent, comedian, and Victor Travers, eccentric comedian.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.—Here during the week *A Message from Mars* occupied the stage, among the principal artists being Messrs. W. Widdicombe and W. H. Brougham and Miss Rose Helene.

LYRIC.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—The principal item here during the week was a condensed form of *The Grip of Iron*, presented by Messrs. George Blount and E. H. Knight's company, with Mr. Fred Powell as Simmonet; Vasey and Ramsey were a couple of very amusing comedians and good speciality dancers; Baddow went through a neat ventriloquial turn; Probyn and Bates gave a funny skit, *The Dude and the Soubrette;* Massoni showed much skill as a juggler; Stiddar and Dunbar, comedy artists, did well; and Charles Rose, comedian and expert dancer, and Gena Marion, comedienne, also provided acceptable contributions.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—Top of the bill here this week were the droll comedians Friend and Downing, "Rosenthal and Harrigan," who caused roars of laughter; in their *Music Mad* act Leslie Brothers showed ability as instrumentalists, and proved diverting; a novel sporting scena, *From the Times of the Crusades*, was provided by the Three Croisits; Mooney and Holbein had a lively comedy sketch, which was received with every pleasure; Gus Garrick, assisted by the Slipinski troupe of Russian dancers, gave his appreciated music-hall tit-bits; as comedy acrobats Honors and Le Prince amused greatly; the Stowe Brothers had a smart turn as novelty equilibrists; *A Whirl of Dance* was the title of a smart quick-change creation by the Ongars; Raven Wood, assisted by Miss Vivian Bell, showed great skill as a conjurer; and Robbie Roy, comedian, was also in the list.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—*Lady Satan*, from the pen of W. P. Sheen, has during the week been given here by the stock company Mr. Sydney Grant held the rôle of Captain Clive; Mr. David G. Noble acquitted himself as Lieut. Rutherford; Mr. Tom H. Solly proved a humorous Zachariah Touchit; Miss Florence Palmer was Dora Forrester; and Miss Lilian Radbourne played effectively as Isola. Some pleasing bioscope pictures were shown by Mr. Anthony Brown.

WESTMINSTER.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—In addition to a series of fine cinematograph pictures exhibited here this week the following artists appeared:—Dorien and Doritz, with their amusing auto-mechanical novelty act, *The Erratic Hotel;* Frank Wever, coloured comedian and sand-dancer; and Harry Barclay, vocal comedian.

OLYMPIA.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton.—That fine spectacle *The Volcano* put in a third week here; Captain J. Woodward's sea lions and seals were watched with interest; W. J. Ashcroft, the original "solid man," appeared with his latest songs; Campbell and Barber showed themselves to be a couple of clever acrobatic comedy cyclists; Luis Alvarez, a Spanish tenor, with a fine voice, sang several pieces in a manner which earned for him loud applause; the Liliputian Mayvilles pleased immensely with a novel act; Percy Farrimond, the singing collier, was appreciated; and also in the list were the Rawsons (Miss Margaret and Master John), entertainers; and Jack Lane, "the Yorkshire rustic."

PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—After a remarkably successful run of three weeks at the Belfast Hippodrome Mr. John Tiller's brilliant pantomime, *Jack and Jill*, commenced a week's engagement here on Monday, giving three shows daily. The general opinion of the crowded audiences that came forward to witness this latest production was that nothing like it had been seen in Liverpool for many years. From the start to the finish there was not a single dull moment, and the audiences fairly shrieked with laughter. The costumes were pretty, the dialogue packed with plenty of fresh witticisms, while the principal artists were of an unusually capable body of vocalists, &c. Mr. Bruce Green made as humorous a Dame as could be desired; Harry Cotton, in the rôle of the Baron, and Horace Jones, Ginger, aided immensely with the fun; the Two Le Creus stood out specially with their own particular tricks of arousing merriment, one being the commanding-general, and the other representing the whole of the army; Miss Nellie Rodney was a sweet Princess, and gained much applause for her able rendering of several of the most popular pantomime songs; Miss Harriett Fawn personated the Prince, a part in which she excelled, her songs being received with warm approval; Jack and Jill were most intelligently interpreted by Misses Cissy Iris and Nelly Grimshaw; Jean Gaynor was a humorous Prime Minister; S. Oscar Karno acted well as the Evil Genius; and Miss Jessie Vernon looked pretty and graceful as the Fairy Godmother. Some of the specialities introduced were greatly appreciated, particularly the gorgeous Scotch ballet, consisting of fifty handsome girls, dressed in military tartan costumes and armed with bucklers and swords, whose evolutions in the brilliant episode *The Gathering of the Clans* called forth thunderous applause. This was the greatest feature of the pantomime. Mr. William Corri specially conducted, and the production ran smoothly and smartly.

GRAND TIVOLI.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jasper Redfern.—The fine series of animated pictures shown at this newly-opened place continue to draw the public During the week the following artists also appeared:—Daly and O'Brien, a smart American "tanglefoot" dancing comedy duo, who made a first appearance in this country; the Two Kays, with their operatic vocal scena; Les Tripellos, musical instrumentalists; Maro duo of bar comedians; the Itrams, equilibrists; Herbert and Lynden, dancing comedians; and the Four Scoreys, with a musical mélange, introducing a capital lady acrobatic dancer.

NEW CENTURY PICTURE HALL.—Proprietors, The New Century Animated Picture Company, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter H. Hook.—At this hall in Mount Pleasant a new series of pictures are given weekly, the latest to be presented being Nick Carter, King of Detectives; The Energetic Woman; Sunshine after Storm; The Magic Wand; Wonderful Horsemanship by Officers of the Italian Cavalry; The Elixir of Youth; and The Bargain Sale. Public patronage is good.

REYNOLDS'S EXHIBITION.—The fifty-first annual pantomime by means of marionettes is now being given at this old-established and popular resort in Lime-street. East year the enterprising proprietor provides his youthful patrons with a capital miniature show, and this year's, under the title of *Red Riding Hood*, promises to surpass all others. The work of manipulating the little actors is again in the able hands of Mr. Jennion, whose fame is widespread, and who can cause his dolls to exhibit movements that, to the youthful eye, are exceedingly lifelike. The scenery and dresses are artistic and striking, and the pretty music provided by Mme. de Gray meets with warm approval. One of the special features introduced is the Salome dance, which is cleverly executed by a puppet. Business with Mr. Reynolds is very satisfactory.

LLANELLY.—ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting-Manageress, Miss Alice Rocheforte.—*The Woman Pays* is staged here this week by Mr. Frank M. Thorne, the author, who appears with success as Micky Maloney. In the part of Sid Armstrong, Mr. Phil Harper does exceedingly well, Miss Maud Russell sharing his success as Madge Armstrong; Mr. Beresford Innes as Cyrus Treadgold and Mr. J. Davidson as Roger Marchant both work well; the Misses Kate Blair, Anena Walton, and Florence Thorne are much to be commended for intelligent interpretations of the parts of Nell Morland, Polly Stokes, and Tabitha respectively.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Resident Business-Manager, Mr. W. Payne Seddon.—Mr. Louis Calvert's fine comedy drama *Sunday* is proving a great attraction here this week. Miss Janet Lind as Sunday plays the rôle with great power and pathos, her efforts being applauded time after time; Mr. Wm. Giffords as Colonel Brinthorpe was most successful; Mr. B. Williams as Arthur Brinthorpe made the most of an ungenerous part; whilst Mr. Richard Treve as Tom Oxley played grandly; the "Boys" receive due treatment in the hands of such capable artists as Mr. Richard F. Symons, Mr. A. Cotton Holmes, Mr. James Hussey, and Mr. George Marriott, jun. Miss Lila Barclay as Mrs. Naresby and Miss Jessie Stone as the Nun fulfil their respective parts with great ability.

LOWESTOFT.—MARINA.—Manager, Mr. E. A. Smith.—This week we have Miss Mary Neil and her company in the drama *From Shop Girl to Countess*. In the leading rôle Miss Neil gives a careful study, and makes full use of her opportunities. Other parts are ably treated, and the scenery and dresses are in thorough keeping with the play.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—Frank Elliston and company are again included in the bill with a comedy episode, *My Lady Betty*, a story of 1770, which is exceedingly well done. De Lilo and Metz contribute a smart juggling act; Morander and Darius present a fine athletic turn; and Jessie Ward does well as a juvenile soprano. Wilton Heriot and company are also in the bill, and the Biograph contributes, amongst other subjects, On the Road of Life and A Spanish Bull Fight.

MACCLESFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—Mr. Allen Wilkie's Shakespearean company is paying a welcome return visit here. *The Sleigh Bells* and *David Garrick* were both successfully presented on Monday. As Matthias Mr. Allen Wilkie created great enthusiasm by his brilliant performance; Mr. John Paley as Hans and Mr. F. J. Fay as Walthar are thoroughly appreciated; Mr. Ernest Digges as Christian gives a spirited impersonation; Miss Hunter Watts' performance of Annette is decidedly clever; and Miss Agnes Gagan as Catherine does well. In *David Garrick* Mr. Alexander Marsh handles the title-rôle with ease and refinement; the Alderman Ingot of Mr. Houston Meharry was a clever study; Miss Haidee Gunn is received with especial favour as Ada Ingot; and Miss Mildrd Surrey does full justice to the part of Tabitha Crabshaw. The week's bill also comprises *Hamlet*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Julius Cæsar*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, and *Two Orphans of Paris*.

MAESTEG.—TOWN HALL THEATRE.—Lessees, Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. G. F. Knowles.—Mr. Henry Swinerd's company in *Dare Devil Dorothy* occupy the boards here this week. Miss Nellie Valentine takes the title-rôle in a manner which charms the audience, while Miss Nellie Harcourt as Judith scores a great success. The part of Captain Geo. Fielding is enacted in a gentlemanly and refined manner by Mr. Walter Ashby; Mr. Will Brereton causes much amusement as Silas Crump.

MAIDSTONE.—PALACE.—Manager, Mr. S. Baskerville.—Mr. Geo. D'Albert, the popular comedian, has some well-sung songs, and is accorded a flattering reception; Pat Mattock scores a success in the sketch *The Cert;* the Elite Harmony Boys sing and dance admirably; Chas. Lilburn, comedian, and Ronald George, instrumentalist, do well, and others appearing are Harry Anderson (vocalist), Miss Winnie Derson (comedienne), and the Bioscope.

MANCHESTER.—ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manger, Mr. J. Mason.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's excellent company in *The Christian* are attracting good houses here this week. Mr. Roy Redgrave as John Storm acts with great force, and Miss Daisy Scudamore imparts the necessary passion and levity to the rôle of Glory Quayle. Mr. Thomas Barry makes a very good impression as Father Lamplugh, Miss Cora Deane gives a charming impersonation of Polly Love, and others conspicuous are Mr. Herbert Hewitson, Miss Molly Hayden, and Miss Kitty Symons.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Dry.—Variety rules here, a brisk programme being headed by Billy Williams, the popular Australian comedian. Sandy McNab and Co. in *The Egyptian Mummy* are also prominent and amusing; Captain Roberts and his company give a smart and comic athletic act; and Lily Hayes, comedienne and dancer, is neat and dainty. Other enjoyable items are Graham's Juveniles; Les Zelovas, equilibrists and acrobats; Fame and Fortune, patter comedians; Frank E. Ford, coloured dancer; and Braund and Davies, comedy merchants.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Hewitt.—Hibbert and Bulmer's human drama *The Girl Who Went Astray* is proving an attraction here in the hands of Mr. Bulmer's company. It is a capital play, well staged, and very capably presented. Miss Gwynne Warren as Madge Harvey, the title-part, is quite realistic and convincing, and as Violet, the girl who stayed at home, Miss Ada M. Ryder gives a clever and natural delineation. Mr. John B. Shinton as the heroic Captain Frank Julian plays admirably; Mr. Fred Lloyd makes an effective villain as Rupert Murdoch; and very amusing business is provided by Miss Mary Dalby as Molly Smart, Mr. Evan Roland as Adolphus Boomer, the detective, and Mr. Tod Squires as James Yellowsocks.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—The principal attraction here this week is Van Biene, the well-known actor-musician, in a playlet, assisted by Mary Mannering; the Andos Happy Little Japs are also large on the bill, and are successful in their sensational acrobatics and equilibrism; Percy Honri, concertinist, gives a neat, pleasing, and popular turn; Albert Whelan, the Australian entertainer, provides some very fine little examples of mimicry; and Vanando is a clever and amusing ventriloquist. Other good turns are Fred Wilkinson, a sensational illusionist; the Three Cape Girls, comediennes and long-boot dancers; Phil Parsons, comedian; and Alice Maydue, character comedienne.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—*The Sands of Dee* remains one of the attractions here; Lydia Yeamans, the well-known actress-vocalist and baby impersonator, is to the front, and is greatly appreciated; Howell and Scott score as Hebrew patterers and dancers; Karl Reinsch and Miss Lucie are seen to advantage in a neat equestrian act of great merit; Harry Grey, eccentric comedian, makes a big hit; the Brothers Bright are smart athletes; and other entertaining items are given by Belle Davis and her Pick-chicks, Rosa Leader, the merry musical mimic, and Olive Armidale, dainty comedienne.

PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. J. Carter.—Fred Karno's latest creation, *The Yap Yaps*, is the attraction here this week, and is excellently presented. Gus Le Clerq is capital as the Hon. Charlie Chinn, and H. V. Surrey is particularly effective as a dude of the G. P. Huntley order. Incidentally, Johnny Summers and Young Josephs, champions of the art of self-defence, have a good set-to. Another big item is the Gotham Quartette, comedians and vocalists, who are loudly applauded; Minnie Leslie and Edgar Stevens are very pleasing in their delightful vocal comedy sketch *Love Levels All;* Harry Carsdale scores as a farmyard mimic; Marie Glenn is a good character vocalist; and Gicardo is a very promising juggler.

KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. James R. Trippett.—Mr. J. Gar Kiddie's excellent pantomime *Little Bo-Peep* is a big attraction here this week, packed houses being the rule. The company is a strong one, the scenery is good, the dresses pretty, and the dancing of a high order.

TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Herbert Lloyd, the "King of Diamonds," is highly diverting, as usual; Helen Charles in her drawing-room entertainment is excellent, particularly in her child imitations; May Clarke, comedienne, is pleasing and sings well; the Custances score in a brisk sketch, *A Game for Two;* Rose Gower has a good voice; Albert St. Clair, double-voiced vocalist, makes a hit; and other good turns are offered by Rose and Wold on the tight-rope; Violet Fernie, serio and dancer; and the Vanderbilts, comedy duo. Ruffell's Bioscope pictures are capital.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—Leo Dryden, the popular actor-vocalist, scores a big success here this week with his excellent character-studies; Marie Jones, in a quick-change scena, *The Way to Win a Bet*, shows much talent; some exceptionally smart gymnastic and acrobatic feats are gone through by the Rizarelis and Recar Trio respectively; *The Kilties' Camp*, a Scottish military sketch, introducing national singing, piping, and dancing, gains great applause; Williams and Warden have some neat patter; M. H. Thiessen introduces successfully two very intelligent dogs; Corman's Juveniles are a pleasing troupe, the statue act being particularly effective; Dalston and Euston are good dancers and patterers; and Will Sullivan gives an amusing song. The Wrong Lottery Ticket is shown on the Bioscope.

HULME HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thomas Baker.—An excellent all-round programme is offered here this week, including Leslie's Comedy Cadets; Charles Parker's Six Aelonians in vocal and dancing act; Carl and Mary Ohm's Animal Circus; and Diana Hope, supported by Monte Bayley in the society episode *Her Good Name*. Lalie Brooke, the old-fashioned girl, is pleasing in the scena *The Old Sundial;* Cara Magda, a clever lady gymnast, gives a daring act; and Sullivan and Edwards are astonishing dancers. Other smart turns are those of the Rose Trio, acrobatic waiters; Tod Lowen, comedian; Charters and Clare, in mock drama scena; and Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilde in novel speciality. The Fisherman's Daughter is a good Bioscope subject.

MANSFIELD.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Capt. Clayton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Mark Lorne.—Messrs. Northway and Garrod's company presented *The Prodigal Parson* here on Monday to a good house. Mr. Logan Darra was very successful as the Rev. Tom Godley; Mr. Alfred Northway was capital; the Ben Juggins of Mr. Chas. Ashwell was excellent; the Phil Drive could not have been in better hands, Mr. Owen Remonde being very humorous; Mr. R. A. Bridge did well as the detective; Miss Violet Hammersley played Fern Godley sweetly and sympathetically; Miss Alice Buckland was excellent as Gretchen Van Cramio; and Miss Madge Gillard was very pleasing as Myrtle, the blind child.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees, The South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Albert Jackson.—*Peter's Mother*, presented by Miss Emma and Mr. P. Hutchison's company, is here this week. Miss Violet Ley acts in a captivating manner as Lady Mary; Mr. Vivian Gilbert as Peter delivers his lines admirably; Mr. Drew Mackintosh figures to advantage as John Crewys, Q.C.; Miss Mary Griffiths displays skill in the character of Lady Belstone; and a like compliment is due to Miss Josephine Rae, who, as the funny spinster, Miss Georgina Crewys, is also good. Mr. Walter Russell as the Canon seems quite at home in the part, and Mr. Edward Jephson as Dr. Blundell invests the part with due dignity; Mr. Townsend Whitling ably depicts the unsympathetic Sir Timothy Crewys; and Miss Hilda Sims is excellent as Sarah.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—Mrs. John Lawson and company, who top the bill in the playlet *The Devil's Sunday*, in which Mrs. Lawson figures as Fay Faber, thoroughly deserve the loud plaudits greeting their efforts; *Casey's Court*, with Will Murray as Mrs. Casey, is another popular item; the Brothers Dean score as dancers; Dolly, Agnes, and Maud are paying a return visit with increased popularity; the Woellhafs are clever comedians. Other good turns are Fred Austin, comedian and acrobatic dancer; Ida Evilo, in a trapeze act; and animated statues by Mons. and Mlle. Fransoli.

METHIL.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Methil Theatre Company, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. J. Burnett.—Mr. Howell Webb is here this week with a large company, and is presenting *The Two Orphans* and *East Lynne*. The former had a good reception from a crowded house and proved full of interest from start to finish. *East Lynne* was reserved for the latter part of the week.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Mr. J. P. Moore's Pantomime *Dick Whittington* is the attraction here this week. Miss Bessie Willow is delightful in the title-rôle; Miss Madge Locke, as the principal girl, wins general favour; Miss Lilas Gray is a clever second boy as Viscount Piccadilly; and a pleasing second girl, Princess Charming, is Miss Ena May. Ald. Fitzwarren is played with much energy by Mr. Percy Victor; a capital Dame is found in Mr. Fred May; Messrs. Ernie Victor, Willie Oswald, F. Street, and Doyle and Massey help the fun along admirably; while the Cat is cleverly played by Mons. Pauletti. The specialities are a strong feature, and include Victor's Musical Dogs, Street and Round (duettists), Doyle and Massey (boxing bout), Oswald and Locke (comedy couple), Victor Bros. (athletes), Serpentino (contortionist), Pauletti (in a clever bicycle act), and the Sisters Derville (graceful dancers).

NEW PICTURE HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. Will Hunter; Manager, Mr. E. H. Jones.—The programme here maintains its usual excellent standard, and this week's films include The Guardsman's Bride, The Parkkeeper's Daughter, Drummer's Day Off, Students' Jokes, and Italian Honour.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Ed. Jowsey; Manager, Mr. W. Ker Chatto.—Mr. J. F. Elliston's pantomime, *Humpty Dumpty*, continues to draw good houses here, and the performance is affording everyone considerable pleasure. As the principal boy Miss Florence Wix has won the hearts of all by her tasteful singing and acting, while Miss Dolly Ross is successful as Prince Spritely; Miss Audrey Esmonde is a captivating Princess Aurora, and Miss Nell Carmichael as Cherry is also delightful; the laughter-making is undertaken by Mr. George Danvers, Mr. George Campbell, Mr. Willie Black, and Mr. Rex Kempton. The pantomime is magnificently staged, the dresses are lovely, and some very clever dancing is introduced.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson.—Messrs. Lyn Harding and Sidney Cooper's company present for the first time in Middlesbrough the romantic play *The Flag Lieutenant* here this week. The staging of the play is magnificent, and from beginning to end there is not a dull moment; Mr. Lionel Atwill gives a remarkably fine portrayal of the part of Richard Lascelles, and Mr. Montagu Love makes an admirable Major Tesiger; Admiral Wynne could not have been in better hands than those of Mr. Geo. Mallet, while an excellent impersonation of Capt. John Penrose is given by Mr. Claude Little. A good deal of the success of the play is due to Miss Florence Jackson, who gives a charming representation of Mrs. Cameron; Miss Viva Birkett's acting as Lady Hermione Wynne is well worthy of special note.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Charles Rembges.—The Boisset troupe cause much laughter here this week in *The Bricklayers*, and Adam Tomlinson is responsible for much amusement with his songs and patter; Marie Santoi and company are good in a musical comedy, and some clever dancing is given by the Glenroy troupe; Harry Webber, comedian; Geo. Hall and Minnie Whenton also provide excellent turns.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Manager, Mr. C. E. Nicholls.—The Ten Loonies, the famous mad musicians, present their sketch, *Dotty*, here this week, and score a great success: F. A. Martell, equilibrist, gives a wonderful exhibition, and Shirley and Ransome in *'Arf a Quid* are well received; Miss Ada Fawn is a delightful burlesque actress; and other items are given by Alex Kennedy, actor-vocalist;

tion for her wonderful manipulation of the glassaphone; Master Frisby sings illustrated songs; Bert Williams, ventriloquist, provides an entertaining turn; and Leonette, Roberty and company are responsible for clever dancing; the Three Sisters Grosvenor sing fragments from popular melodies sweetly; and the Brothers St. Clair, knockabout cyclists, arouse enthusiasm.

NORTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr Horace Lee.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company with *Are You a Mason?* is attracting large and delighted audiences here this week. As George Fisher Mr. H. Langdon Bruce is very smart; Mr. E. H. Paterson makes a clever Amos Bloodgood; Mr. Stanley Groome makes a hit as Frank Perry; Mr. G. P. Polson is well suited as John Hylton; and Mr. Erskholme E. Clive makes the most of Hamilton Travers. Miss Adelaide Grace as Mrs. Caroline Bloodgood is worthy of the highest praise; Miss Mary Kilpack makes a capital Lottie; Miss Rita Narcelli is smart as Ena Perry; and the remaining parts are well sustained.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—The Gregson Comedy Duo in *The Dummy* meet with great success here. Miss Rose Dawn, Scotch comedienne and dancer, has many admirers; Messrs. Hearn and Palmer, comedians, are clever; the Sisters Russell, comedy artists, are popular; the Morellis provide an enjoyable vocal and musical act; Messrs. Alvenox and Cleo in their ladder act are loudly applauded; and the Mouldoscope still retains its popularity.

NORTHWICH.—CENTRAL THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden.—Mr. Coleman Davies' company, in the drama, entitled *Beneath the Stars*, is here this week. Mr. Harry Reynolds does well as Lord Sylvester; as also does Mr. B. Halley as Mathew Marsden; the villainies of the play are entrusted to Messers. Terry Davies and Arthur Prescott as Major Blonson and Silas Clipper respectively; a manly and telling portrayal is the Stephen Harcourt of Mr. Harry Harrald, and Mr. Coleman Davies as Jemmy Hopblossom carries all before him with his life-like delineation. Becky Wiggins is a lively and chic impersonation by Miss Ennice Udall; Miss Maurice Winter does exceedingly well as Paulina Petrovski; whilst a more charming or sweet depiction of Angel Marsden could not be than that of Miss Edna Earl. *Jerry the Tramp* was billed for Thursday and Friday.

THE PAVILION. — Proprietress, Mrs. Fletcher; Manager, Mr. Phil Royston.—A strong feature of the programme this week is the singing and dancing of Edie and Doris, two very attractive juveniles; Harry McKenry is bright and breezy; Miss Amy Taylor sings with taste and feeling; Warren Fane seems to be boneless, and can twist his body into all shapes; Miss Edie Doranti does well in her songs; and the New Bioscope pictures are wonderfully good.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Morgan.—This week we have the musical comedy, entitled *Gay Bohemia*, the libretto by Mr. J. Hickory Wood, and the music by Mr. John Crook, the latter a native of this city. Miss Rose Herzec as Molly Ogilvie was most pleasing, and her singing much appreciated; and Miss Ellice Rayne was heartily greeted as Maime Ship. Mr. Lester Carey, Mr. Ernest Stanley, and Mr. Tim Ryley were very good in their respective parts. Mr. Arthur Roby ably conducted.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—There are some good turns here this week, among them being Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Lucas in scenes from the writings of Dickens, which they present with much discernment, and receive hearty applause. J. W. Wilson and Nellie Waring are very vivacious, and create great laughter in their comedy act, *An Ugly Duckling*; Fred Maitland is also humorous as the latest Parliamentary candidate, in *Talked Out; or, Should Women Have Votes?* Paul Vaudry is a clever juggler; Mysticus gives an interesting performance; Musical Silvo, on the musical glasses, &c., is most entertaining and deservedly appreciated; Camilla Feo, in song and dance, with the Hippo. Bio. completes a pleasing programme.

AGRICULTURAL HALL ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—The New Era pictures have a change each week and continue successful.

AGRICULTURAL HALL.—The great winter carnival, under the management of Mr. Charles Thurston, is still continuing its success, and the side shows of Mr. J. Holmes and others are well patronised.

NOTTINGHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—The early promise of *Cinderella* is being abundantly maintained. Songs are encored, and laughter is the outcome of each appearance of the comedians. All the artists enter fully into the spirit of their respective parts, and each performance gains in excellence.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Harry Upton.—*Aladdin* is running smoothly and well. Crowded houses evince hearty appreciation of the efforts of each member of the cast, whose popularity increases nightly, and deservedly so.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—Fred Karno's comedians in *The Football Match* are given ample scope for manufacturing merry moments, and the results attained are ample proof of their ability in that direction. Syd May's wrestling match with a dummy figure is a screaming absurdity, and he is no less clever in his mimicry; a skilful acrobatic troupe is seen in the Stein-Erettos, who perform their feats while walking on their hands; Carney and Armstrong gain a warm welcome for their whistling and singing; Maizie Hibbs dances aceptably; and Sybil St. Elmo proves a pleasing vocalist; Arthur Albert is well rewarded for his singing, and the comicalities of Tom Moore draw applause. Films are shown on the Bioscope.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Manging-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Lockwood; Treasurer, Mr. A. V. Carnell. — Tremendous houses have greeted the apearance of Mme. Albani this week, and the gifted artist, who was in splendid voice, has been accorded a reception that was a veritable triumph. Herr Zakovsky has also gained the greatest appreciation for his skilful solos on the violin; the hoop-rolling of Frank L. Gregory and his assistants made an attractive as well as dexterous performance; and the Krags Trio were responsible for some daring and clever gymnastic feats; amongst xylophonists the Brilliants assuredly take a high place; and the mimicry of the Radford Duo is an expert turn; uproarious laughter greeted the antics of the Three Lyons; and the programme also contained A. E. Clifford, vocalist, Ada Parker, dancer, Jack Hayworth, comedian, and films on the Barrascope.

OLDHAM.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Mayall.—*Aladdin* is now going into its third week, and all the artists have settled into their respective parts. Miss Ray Wallace, in the title-rôle, acts in her clever manner, and receives excellent support from Miss Mildred Bryan as Princess So-Shi, who uses her fine voice with good effect; Miss Flo Collier as Sau-Cee is highly successful, especially in a speciality act with Mr. Joe Robins. The latter still appears as Widow Twankey, and his appearance causes hearty laughter. As a mirth-provoker Mr. Bert Harrow, in the rôle of Abanazar, has endless opportunities, which he takes full advantage of. Miss Isa Gibson as Nicee is a dainty artist, and she sings and dances in a capital manner, along with Miss Phyllis Seymour as Prince Tokay, who is also very smart. Miss Marion Walker as Wan Lung does smart work, and also appears with success in a Suffragette act with Mr. Harrow, causing much merriment. Miss Jennie Hallworth makes a dashing Pekoe, singing her songs very cleverly. Miss Nellie Duval again does well as the Genie of the Ring. Elgar and Cedar also do well, their old-time act being well received. Mr. Leonard Russell, the Emperor, sings his numbers in a masterly manner, and Mr. E. W. Avery makes a capital Ching Chang. Maxford and O'Neill cause much amusement as Coppa and Stoppa. Mlle. Pauline Rivers' juveniles continue to add much to the success of the show, the singing and dancing being heartily enjoyed, and they receive much applause. Mr. Herbert King stage-manages the production, and Mr. Walter Scott is the musical director.—Miss Ray Wallace, who appears as Aladdin in the Grand pantomime, was unfortunately taken ill after the first show on Christmas Eve, and Miss Rosie Ray played the part at short notice, and during the week, with excellent results. Miss Wallace, now happily recovered, resumed work on Saturday last.

COLOSSEUM THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Wm. Eastwood.—Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and J. E. Cardwell's juvenile pantomime company continue to draw good houses. Wee Georgie Wood and Little Peggy McDonnell as the Babes Leslie and Marjorie are exceedingly clever with their singing and dancing; Dolly Dodds is a great favourite as Marion ,and Miss Daisy Wood as Robin Hood is a smart boy. Misses Trixie Wyatt, Annie Brumby, Marie Lumberg, and Annie Adamson are highly successful in their respective parts. Miss Jennie Hughes sings in a delightful manner as Fairy Dewdrop. The comedians work well together, and provide much amusement. Mr. Jimmie Watson as Lucinda is very good, and Mr. J. G. Aitken sings his Scotch songs with good effect. Mr. Neil Hardy makes a humorous Baron, and Master Jack Harrison does well as Grinde. Messrs. Graham and Barron as the two ruffians introduce some extremely clever dancing. A feature of the show is the bird ballet, with suitable dresses, and a fine statue ballet. Mrs. Levy ably stage-manages and Mr. Levy wields the baton with effect and directs a capital chorus.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—The Four Holloways give a marvellous display of trick cycling and acrobatic feats on the wire; Arthur Dandoe's company in a musical burletta, *The Phonograph Belle*, provide a turn full of good jokes and good singing; V. L. Granville is smart in a protean act, *'Twixt Dawn and Daylight*; May Audrey sings some refined songs in a capital manner; Fred Mason is smart in good songs and whistling solos; Cynthia Brook is an excellent comedienne; Bert Lytton is very good as a swell comique; and a very funny picture on the Bioscope completes the bill.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Kilrow.—La Belle Duchess presents some cleverly-trained stallions, ponies, and dogs with success; *The Maid of the Alps*, a well-acted dramatic sketch, is ably done by Mr. George M. Marriott and company, including Miss Edith Finlay; David Poole again proves a most capable ventriloquist; Seeley and Rhodesia are smart novelty entertainers; King and Derwin are good in a refined burlesque; Alice Blamford has a fine voice, and she sings nicely; Jeannie Alexander is a clever child mimic; Sidney and Elvo provide a good comedy cycle act; and the Dottoscope concludes.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Nuttall. — Mark Adams and company in *The Wanderer* provide a capital musical act; De Vere and Oakes are a capital comedy duo; C. H. Charlton in a conjuring turn is most capable; and the Orchids introduce good vocal comedy; Will Dalton sings some funny songs in good style; the Sprees are very good as the rustic and the maid; and E. Kershaw, the boy soprano, sings well. A feature of the bill is the fine picture shown on the Dottoscope.

THE PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. Thorne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. Sharrocks.—Joe Peterman and company top the bill in *The Pawnbroker*, a really humorous sketch, which is heartily enjoyed; Harry Taft is smart as a whistling comedian; the Harvey Boys cause screams of laughter with their comedy boxing act; Elmar sings some capital songs with good results; Jenny Lynn is a smart character comedienne; and the Sisters Ford, duettists and dancers, are very good. Langslow gives a smart display as a marksman and wire expert; the Three Orleans are excellent in a good singing and dancing act; and the Palace pictures are again very good.

OXFORD.—NEW THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. C. C. Dorrill; Assistant-Manager, Mr G. T. Lucas.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark B'ow's company are giving excellent performances of *At Cripple Creek*, which was received with the utmost enthusiasm by a full house on Monday. Mr. Austin Milroy is a manly and interesting Joe Mayfield; Mr. Roy Jackson is admirably suited as the villainous bully Martin Mason; Mr. Valentine Hervey is equally good as his accomplice, Alveraz; Mr. R. Harley-West ably depicts the faithful Indian Wahketah; and Messrs. H. Stewart and Will Hook contribute plenty of fun as Ben White and Reggie Harwood. Baby Betty acts with intelligence, and sings delightfully as Little Tatto; Miss Daisy Carlton acts in bright fashion and dances gracefully as Maggie Mason; Miss Dorothy Lart is a good Belle Gordon; and Miss Agnes Verity plays with wonderful power and quite thrills the house as Dynamite Ann.

EAST OXFORD THEATRE .— Lessees, East Oxford Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Stuart.—Mr. Walter Melville's company is here with *A Girl's Cross Roads*. Mr. Norman B. Cannon gives an excellent rendering of Jack Livingstone, and is ably assisted by Mr. Edward Valentine as Dr. Weston; Mr. Harry Cane as the old farmer, John Meadows, is admirable; while Mr. W. J. Butler is effective as Cuthbert Lumley, and Mr. Fred Withers is natural as Luke Ramsden. Mr. Fred Hodson is a clever and convincing comedian as Toby Turvy; Miss Muriel Dean is a winsome Constance; and Miss Jeannie Thomas a sprightly Tilly Vane. Miss Nita Langford does well as the abandoned Nellie Meadows; while Miss Hilda Beverley presents a thrilling study of Barbara Wade.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—*Puss in Boots* continues to improve in popularity, and the undoubted merits of Mr. Savile's pantomime, both as regards spectacular display and lively fun, entitle it to a foremost place. Miss Daisy Morell is excellent as Colin, both her singing and acting being highly commendable; the part of Princess Ivy is charmingly played by Miss Katie Yates, whose songs are greatly appreciated; Miss Florence Lewis makes a handsome Prince Rudolph, with a fine appearance and a good voice; Miss Moyna Hill is a dainty and charming Phyllis, pleasing all by her singing and artistic methods; Miss Mabel Earle and Miss Jessie Jukes are an attractive couple, and work cleverly together as Jack and Jill, their singing and dancing being much enjoyed; Miss Topsy Johnson makes an excellent Felina, speaking her lines and singing exceedingly well; as King Grabbus Mr. Walter Kooney is a quaint comedian, whose dry, effective style never fails to elicit laughter; Mr. Harry Karr as Dame Shortly works hard and successfully, and has already made quite a hit in his personation of the part; Mr. Fred C. Fields has all the necessary qualifications for the part of Baron Rumphiz, whom he endows with many whimsicalities; Mr. J. K. Macfarlane is a Scotch comedian of the most convincing kind, and his Sandy Macmuggles is full of quaintness and humour; Mr. Glen Alva must be awarded praise for his decided cleverness as Slyboots, the cat; and Mr. Arnold Harley is to be complimented upon his assumption of Digestus. Mention must be made of an exceptionally clever trio, Misses Edna Evelyn, Becca Stirling, and Lily Bell, who dance with commendable vivacity, and whose exhibitions are a feature of the pantomime. Mr. Bernard A. Leslie's stage-management is, as usual, excellent.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Stead.—The Pichel Troupe, Risley acrobats and tumblers, head the bill here this week, and submit a marvellous performance; a comedy scena, *The Editor's Imp*, is one of the best that has been seen here, and is contributed by Reg. Bolton; the New York Comedy Four, as a vocal and comedy combination, receive unstinted and well-merited applause; Ryan and Hall, funny acrobats, eccentric comedians, and burlesque wrestlers, are vastly entertaining; the Four Kurios give a delightfully humorous concoction of pantomime, art, and mystery; as characteristic singers and specialty dancers the Society Quartette are flatteringly received; the Milner Trio are responsible for an excellent pot-pourri act, H. P. Milner giving one of the smartest and most original performances on the single-thread wire; Jimson's *Pets at Home* introduces three dogs, which perform in a marvellously clever manner; and the Bioscope concludes with really humorous pictures.

PEMBROKE DOCK.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Tom Barger; Business-Manager, Mr. Norman Barger.—Mr. Harry Starr is presenting to large and appreciative audiences *Otto the Outcast*, and *Carl the Clockmaker*. In the title-rôle of the former piece Mr. Harry Starr gives a fine performance, introducing in the course of his performance a well-trained parrot; Mr. Will Hee as Vidocq, with several aliases, is a sensational villain; as Daddy Bruneau Mr. Alvin Sawyer is very successful; the Marquis Marcella de Laporte is in the capable hands of Mr. Edwin Firth; plenty of fun is provided by Mr. Arnold Allen as Augusten Carrotte, ably supported in his efforts by Miss Effie Macintosh as Susette; Miss Madge Blundell as Corinne Jarbeau infuses much sympathetic power into her part; Miss Kate Norris as Lara achieves undoubted success.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Miss Inez Howard's company, under the management of Mr. Henry Chattell, paid a successful visit here the latter end of last week, presenting *The Midnight Wedding*. Miss Ethel Savill displayed undoubted ability in the dual rôles of Princess Astrea and Second-Lieut. Karl Helsburg, Mr. Frederick W. Freeman giving an excellent impersonation of Paul Valmar; Mr. W. H. Baker as Crown Prince Leopold, Mr. W. J. Res as Lieut. Eugene Von Streisburg, Mr. Cyprian H. Matthews as Captain Rudolph von Scarsbruck, Miss Ruth Wingrove as Rozel, Miss Elsie Dene as Kathie, Mr. Will Gluze as Bobo, Mr. Will Charlton as Sergeant Max, Mr. Alfred Richards as Corporal Otto, and Mr. James Winter as Father Gerard completed a well-chosen cast.

PERTH.—PERTH THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Mackey's company provides the entertainment here this week with the musical comedy absurdity *Fun on the Bristol*. Mr. Chalmers Mackey as Widow O'Brien is very humorous; Mr Edward Warden is excellent as Captain Cranberry; Mr. St. John Stewart as Tom Cranberry and Mr. Richard Hutton as Dick Sparkes give good performances; Mr. J. P. McBride as Count Menaggio is successful; Mr. Henry Sainsbury as Jerry contributes to the fun; and Mr. Edward Jeffs plays the part of the detective with acceptance. Mme. Constance Bellamy as Nora O'Brien shows great capabilities, her singing being very good; Miss Nana Flensberg makes a charming Dora McAllister; and Miss Adele Liddon as Bella gives satisfaction.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—*Cinderella* is now going very strong, and crowded houses are nightly testifying their appreciation of the capable company's efforts. Miss Maisie Ellinger is making a bold bid for first favourite, while other very popular members of the company are Miss Lucie Caine and Miss Nellie Sheffield, the dancing of the latter being a particularly strong point. Mr. Devereux's trap-door business holds the numerous juvenile patrons of the pantomime spellbound, and the particularly pretty staging is a source of universal admiration.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—De Gracia's Royal Assam elephants form a unique star turn, and after the animals have displayed their almost human intelligence in a variety of ways their trainer receives hearty applause; Edward Crossland's Melody-makers supply an original and tuneful song-scena entitled *The Burglar's Dream*, which proves generally popular; Teddy Edmonds and company in *The Lady Jockey* submit a smartly executed sporting sketch, in which Mr. J. Rous distinguishes himself as a tipster and Mr. J. Almasio and assistant perform some jugglery feats, both humorous and clever; Gene Selby furnishes some skilfully executed bone manipulation and juggling, and Leo and Roland earn plenty of commendation as equilibrists. The Palascope's interesting films continue to attract, and Tiny Arnold proves of material assistance to the success of the programme.

PONTEFRACT.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Tom Diacoff.—The sensations of the patrons of this popular hall are startled by the extreme daring of Le Diabolo, who rides an ordinary bicycle round and round a huge revolving wheel, and the feat renders the spectator breathless. Morrin and Cardiff serve out most humorous patter and are smart dancers; Miss Carmer Barrie is a dainty and chic comedienne; the Deuchars sing duets and dance very daintily; Venola Brothers are really quaint and funny in their gymnastics on the rings and bar; whilst Will Beanland is as like to woman as it is in man to be, and makes those of his audience who are without a programme believe that he is in reality what he assumes to be; Mueller and Cozue give a bright and brisk comedy duo; and the pictures are particularly good.

PORTH.—PALACE.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole; Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—The chief place is taken by the Four Burnells, who contribute excellently to the evening's enjoyment in their comedy sketch *Playmates*; Harry Hayton, comedian, meets with a good reception; he is undoubtedly comical. A turn which deserves much credit is that of Theresa and May in their protean singing act; Nellie Coleman makes a capital hit as the female comedian, her various representations being really good; Oakdene gives an excellent ventriloquial entertainment; the Sisters Gerretti trapeze performers, are accorded an enthusiastic reception, receiving rounds of applause for their exceedingly smart and daring performance; Jim Topping is most amusing as a comedian; Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Bentley are seen to advantage in the sketch entitled *The Terror of Turney's Rents*, the acting meeting with the greatest approval. The Palascope with its fine pictures concludes.

PORTSMOUTH.—ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Mr. George Edwardes's company is paying a return visit with *The Merry Widow;* it is just a year ago since the same cast, with some few exceptions, created quite a furore here, and, judging from Monday night's reception, its fortnight's engagement should be a pronounced success. The piece is richly dressed and elaborately mounted, the chorus is particularly strong, and a considerably augmented orchestra is under the direction of Mr. Harrison Frewin. Sonia has a charming and dainty representative in Miss Nora Barry; while Miss Octavia Burry continues in her old part of Natalie, whose vocal numbers were rendered with her usual taste; Mr. Haigh Jackson's cultivated baritone was heard to great advantage as Viscomte de Jolidon; the two comedians, Messrs. Lionel Victor and Tom Redmond, were irresistible as Baron Popoff and Nisch, while the hero, Prince Danilo, was adequately impersonated by Mr. Leonard Mackay; the dancing of Miss Dora Langham and Mr. Alfred H. Majilton was warmly applauded; and others rendering effective aid were Messrs. Somers Bellamy, Norman Green, Grafton Williams, J. S. Durant, Misses Pollie Edwards, Kathleen Courtenay, and Beryl Vaudrey.

PRINCE'S.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Agate.—*Cinderella* is further entrenching herself as a favourite here, especially among the juveniles. Miss Connie Leon is still a great favourite, her song, "The bubble and sunbeam," exciting the attention of the audience; Miss Maude Mortimer as the Prince continues to captivate the audience, and her songs are whistled in the street. A feature of the production is the "Swing" song by the Six Monte Carlo Girls; the Broker's men are amusingly impersonated by Messrs. Victor and Lewis, and, with Mr. Stanley Vandyke (the Baron) and Mr. W. T. Thompson (Buttons), fun waxes fast and furious when these gentlemen are on the stage. The Harvard Sextette, attired in Eton jackets, do well in their song "Gay little girl"; the pretty scenes, the Vision of Cinderella and the Ballroom at the Palace, are charming; and the handsome dresses and effects help considerably towards the success of the performance.

KING'S.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Claude Marner; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Thos. Barrasford.—An exceedingly clever turn is that of Charles Aldrich, who is very versatile; Signor Barba Longa's powerful baritone voice delighted the audience with "The Toreador" &c.; Gerard, termed the herculean juggler, displayed his immense strength in the approved style; music had pleasing exponents in Norman and Leonard Trio; another clever juggling act was the Wallys; Horace Porlock's company provided the sketch, *Hester's Mystery*; the Broadway Girls danced; and Bains and Reed displayed their skill as acrobats.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Capt. E. H. Warren-Wright; Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—Crowded and enthusiastic houses testify to the excellence of the programme provided this week. Vonetta, the lady illusionist, tops the bill, providing an act lasting twenty-six minutes, during which, besides, executing some highly-amusing and diverting tricks, she arrays herself in no less than twenty-four costumes; Emma Don as a male impersonator scores a distinct success in her songs; the Musical Palmers prove themselves expert players upon the post-horn and hand-bells. Their "Village Blacksmith," aided by the Cinematograph, being much appreciated; Munroe's Comedy Team are well received, the smallest member proving himself a vocalist of no mean order; T. E. Hughes is very popular in his songs; Ted Karno and company provide ten minutes of excellent fooling; and Daisy Hicks and Payne's Bio-Photoscope complete an attractive bill.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Harris; Assistant-Manager, Col. F. W. Roberts.—A wonderful exhibition of the magician's art is given this week by Chung Ling Soo, whose dexterity is little short of marvellous; Will English's funny business and songs hit the taste here; in *Black Justice* Big Ben Brown, Little Geo. Le Clerq and company evoke much laughter; Bert Marsden, Ethel Walker, Jessie Lee, and various up-to-date films from Ruffell's Bioscope complete a good entertainment.

PRESTON. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, the Executors of the late W. Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—Mr. Leonard Boyne's West-end company is this week presenting *Raffles*, which obtained a hearty reception on Monday. As Raffles Mr. Eille Norwood displays much dramatic power, calling for the highest praise; no less noteworthy is the excellent portrayal of the cool and collected American criminologist Curtis Bedford by Mr. E. W. Thomas; Mr. Arthur Willoughby is a quiet and dignified Earl of Amersteth; and Mr. Cecil Brymer displays much ability as Viscount Crowley; another clever actor is Mr. Harold West, who as Harry Manders (Bunny) comes out strong, especially in the scene with Raffles (his friend) in the fourth act; Mr. Dalziel Heron gives a clever bit of character acting as the burglar, Crawshay; Miss Beatrice Fitzgerald is a winsome Lady Ethel, and plays her part naturally; Miss Agnes Knights is excellent as Lady Melrose; Miss Lucie Milner is a bright and vivacious Gwendoline Conran; Miss May Brooke must be congratulated on her clever portrayal of Mrs. Vidal; and Miss Dorothy Gordon is a capable Marie. In the minor parts of Golby, Merton, and Barraclough Messrs. James Williams, H. Allen, and Arthur Fitzgerald are very capable; Lord Ronold Corfe, by Mr. Harold West, and Lady Cynthia Corfe, by Miss Beatrice Fitzgerald, being also excellently rendered, and causing much laughter. The staging of the play is perfect. Mention must be made of the very clever presentation of Langton Matravers by Mr. Dalziel Heron in the curtain raiser, *A Lesson in Shakespeare*.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff. — Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson's company is appearing in *The King and the Unknown Woman*. Mr. James Stillwell is a manly Prince Loris, and acts well throughout; Mr. Stephen E. Scanlan displays the necessary villainy as Prince Menski without overdoing the part; Mr. W. R. Winning is a typical General Platz; and Mr. Cyril Harrison is clever as the nonchalant Captain Garda; Mr. William E. Passmore causes much amusement as Corporal Stack, and receives able support in the comedy parts from Miss Cissie Podmore as Schnapps; little Elsie Clark shows much careful training as Cascar; Miss F. Conyers Radcliffe as Zora is excellent, and Miss Muriel Inglis is most refreshing as the Countess Melvitch. Miss Norna Damayne wins much sympathy as Else, and Miss Ada Douglas is a sprightly Maid. As Kiloff and Petra Messrs. Fred C. Roper and C. H. Henderson are good. The play is lavishly mounted, and the uniforms and costumes are handsome.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—Messrs. Sidney Dooley and Charles Seymour are paying a return visit with their condensed musical comedy *A King for a Day*, in which appear Messrs. Bert Atherton, Fred Danvers, Sidney Dooley, and Robert Barbour and Misses Edith Watkins and Vera Vizard, and a smart and sprightly chorus of pretty girls, and meets with an appreciative reception. The Faludy Troupe of Royal Hungarian acrobats perform some remarkably clever feats; Allsopp and Bekwith, the comedy couple, contribute some smart dancing and songs; Horace Sade is a clever characteristic dancer; Lester and Moure, in an eccentric comedy act, *A Day at the Beach*, causes much laughter; Lew Peterman is a Hebrew comedian, and Mi-Narom is a clever comedienne, and contributes some comic songs which create much mirth; Will and Alicia Frohmann give an artistic and clever musical act. Uncle's Picnic on the Bioscope concludes a capital programme.

RADCLIFFE. — GRAND OPERA HOUSE. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Boothman.—Messrs. Sidney Rennef and G. M. Copping's company is here with *How Women Ruin Men*. Mr. Sidney Rennef does ample justice in the dual rôle of Jack and Maurice Fairclough; the treachery of Bruno Schlag is ably depicted by Mr. Richard Vane; Major Bagstock has a fine exponent in Mr. Stephen Langton; Mr. Alex. Wilson Wynne is acceptable as Freddy Fonheart; and Mr. Fred Elvin causes some amusement as Jimmy Chucket, being ably assisted by Miss Kitty Russell as Jennie Chucket; in the heavy part of Sylvia Grey Miss Doris Brookes scores a success; and Miss Gracie Jones as Mercy Grey is all that can be desired.

RAMSGATE.—ROYAL PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; Resident-Manager, Mr. Dan Forrest; Lessee, Mr. Ernest Mansell.—At the Palace Theatre during the past week the Graphic Life-Motion Pictures have attracted large and enthusiastic audiences. Constant changes of programme ensure the variety of the entertainment, and some very fine films are exhibited. Incidentally Miss Sheila McNeil, "the female Harry Lauder," is a really funny comedienne.

RAWTENSTALL.—GRAND THEATRE. — Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; General-Business-Manager, Mr. A. R. Feather.—Dr. Walford Bodie is here this week with his exceptionally clever vaudeville company, and opened on Monday night to a crowded and delighted house. The variety turns included Bella Skene, burlesque actress; the Great Fransisgo, a truly marvellous equilibrist and juggler; Tom Neville, comedian; Nan Macduff, lady ventriloquist; Little Dolly Robson, who sang charmingly; Stella de Vere, comedienne; Helen Henri, vocalist; the Three Delaries, with a fine and sensational trapeze act; and Hyam Long, a most amusing and original versatile musical turn. Dr. Bodie also gave his usual wonderful exhibition of his powers as a paralysis and bone specialist, the building resounding with cheers at his marvellous performances. Altogether a most exceptionally brilliant and enjoyable performance was witnessed, not a single turn being without considerable merit, whilst many were of the highest class ever seen in this theatre.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Benton.—Messrs. F. J. Little and Fred Darcy's pantomime of *Dick Whittington and His Cat* is still proving a great attraction here. Miss Beatrice Varley continues to please as the hero, and Miss Ida Brophy is still a great favourite in the part of Alice Fitzwarren. An additional attraction is provided this week in the appearance of the Four Eugenes, who achieve a great success in their speciality act, in which they perform some extraordinary gymnastic and acrobatic feats. The other features of the pantomime continue to meet with popular appreciation.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. E. Draco.—A novel attraction is provided this week in the form of a "tabloid" pantomime, with two shows a night. The company is under the management of Mr. J. Collins, and the subject is *Puss in Boots*. The plot is necessarily a slight one, and the scenes and business briefer than usual, but a very bright and enjoyable entertainment is the result. Miss Ethel Beech makes a dashing and attractive impersonator of the hero, Juan; Miss Eva Ellis is a charming Princess Carita; Miss Elsie Don acts and sings well as Lola; Miss May Otto is a very dainty Fairy Queen, and sings with much artistic taste; Mr. Wyn Weaver makes the most of the part of the King of Pandalusia; Mr. William Benson is good as the indispensable masculine Widow; Mr. A. Watts as Sancho, Mr. Algernon Lea as Pancho, and Messrs. Ferris and Farnley as Bill Balio and Jo Bailo are all exceedingly funny; the Cat is well represented by Mr. Harry Seymour; Collins's Sextette of expert dancers introduce some graceful dances; and the Eight Gems are aptly described as "children of exceptional merit." The other members of the company are all well up to the mark. The pantomime is well staged, and the scenery is highly effective.

LARGE TOWN HALL.—Mr. Joseph Poole's Myriorama is still being exhibited here to crowded houses. This is the last week of the season, and several novelties are introduced into the programme. There is an entire change in the animated pictures, and the variety entertainment is well sustained.

ROCHDALE.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Burton.—*Butterflies* is fulfilling a welcome engagement here this week. The play is full of sparkling humour throughout, and is lavishly mounted. Mr. Harrison Brockbank is a host in himself as Puck, his vocalism and acting being of a very high standard; Mr. Johnnie Wilkinson is amusing with a capital impersonation of Yarker; Mr. Edwin H. Wynne fulfils the difficult rôle of Christopher Podmore with distinct success; Mr. Alan Mudie as the irrepressible Peter plays his part to perfection; and Mr. Cyril Biddulph is all that could be desired as Max Riadore. Miss Lilian Wesson is an attractive Elsie Podmore; Miss Ada Davidson enacts with success the part of Nora Podmore; and Miss Annie Heenan wins all hearts with a charming presentment of Rhodanthe. Miss Millie Gordon scores heavily in the classic Danse du Papillon; and a capital chorus renders valuable aid.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves. — The Piccolinos, miniature cyclists, acrobats, dancers, wire-walkers, &c., fairly bring down the house with a capital performance; Austin and Cowan present a very acceptable musical act; Ernest Montefiore and Co., in a dramatic and musical sketch, *The Little Colonel*, win deserved applause; and other artists include Alf. Penny, comedian; Clarice Clarke, character vocalist; Jack Rae, comedy gymnast; Arthur Holland, character vocalist; and the Bioscope pictures.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Jackson Family; Business-Manager, Mr. Jno. Jackson; Resident-Manager, Mr. James Jackson, senior.—John Warren and company introduce in *The Magic Carpet* a series of illusions served up with dramatic mounting; the McConnell Trio, in a musical comedietta, *The Airship*, are amusing and clever vocalists; the Three Cunards submit an exceptionally smart dancing act; Miss Elly Adair, Irish comedienne and dancer; Three Seabournes, equilibristic wonders; Miss Zaida, on the slack wire; Arthur Woodville, comedian; Pongorila, in *The Man of the Woods*; and the Hippodrome pictures complete a most attractive bill of fare.

ROTHERHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Miss Dorothy Granville's company is here this week with an interesting domestic drama, *The Better Land*, and excellent houses are the result. Mr. Leonard Faredale gives a clever portrayal of the part of Philip Radcliffe, and Miss Nina Blake is both pleasing and sympathetic as Doris, a most difficult rôle.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. Edgar Fox; Resident-Manager, Mr. Claude Shayler.—Joe Reichen's dogs give brilliant evidence of careful and successful training; Miss Effie White is deservedly applauded for her kaleidoscope dance, "The Spirit of the Cave"; Lina Leslie is a pleasing comedienne; Taylor and Bridge are well received as singing Lancashire mill lads; Les Zanonis are very clever juvenile jugglers; Fred Eustace and company produce an interesting sketch, *The Amber Light*. Mr. Fred Eustace is a typical Yankee as Hyram P. Fletcher, and Mr. Alfred Harding does well as James Dalton, Mr. Charles Gordon scores as Sir John Montague, M.P., and Miss Mary Eustace is very pleasing as Mary Montague. J. H. Carney gives a clever turn as a quick-change artist; and the Brasques present a very smart playlet, *A Society Butterfly*, which receives well-deserved applause.

SALFORD.—P. O. W.—Proprietor-Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—A good house on Monday welcomed Messr

Helen G. Edwins is a capable Mrs. Naresby; and Miss Nance Stone as the Nun does well.

SHEFFIELD. — LYCEUM THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—The second week of Miss Marie Studholme's engagement opened on Monday, when a crowded audience again received this popular Sheffield favourite with enthusiastic applause, when she repeated her charming performance in Rubens and Hurgon's delightful musical play *My Mimosa Maid*. The talented members of Mr. Frank Curzon's strong company were all successful, and the chorus and band conduced greatly to the perfect ensemble of the performance.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. Henfrey Aldred.—Mr. Hart's third Royal annual, *Goody Two Shoes*, is being played nightly to a large and admiring audience.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. William D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden have again "struck oil" with the magnificently-staged and funny pantomime *Robinson Crusoe*, and the big theatre is packed at every performance

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—The Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—The honour of "topping the bill" is shared this week by Miss Nellie Wallace, the funny eccentric comed-d'enne and clever dancer, and Mr. Fred Earle, a mirth-provoking comic singer. The pièce de résistance is Mr. Herbert Darnley's funny, spectacular, and pantomimic absurdity *The Brigands of Tarragona*, which, well mounted and smartly played by a company of forty comedians, vocalists, and dancers, proves very acceptable to the Empire habitués. Mr. Theo. Bourmeester, a clever quick-change actor, is heartily applauded, and Fayre and Manning, Miss Maggie Walsh, the Carina Sisters, and Miss Mabel Bright are all very well received. An interesting and pathetic film, Educating Blind Children, by Pathé Frères, is loudly applauded.

THE HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. D. Elbourne.—A splendid company is here this week, and this big house is nightly crowded. *61, Prospect Street*, in which Mr. Caryl Wilbur and company appear, is well received; Miss Dorothy L. Clarke brings down the house with her pleasing vocalism; a very original and daring acrobatic act by the smart Denmartz Troupe is received with enthusiastic applause; My Fancy, the expert step-dancer, is a favourite here; the Havanna Troupe appear in a laughable comic ballet, and introduce some marvellous tumbling and acrobatic tricks; the Alexandra Operatic Trio in the Prison scene from *Faust* delight lovers of high-class music; and other pleasing turns are the Edwards' Sketch Co.; St. Ruth and Conyers, duettists; Andrews and Thompson, ballad vocalists; and the Barracscope, with a series of new pictures, including a seasonable photographic fantasia, The Nightmare, which causes roars of laughter.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. A. S. Turpin.—Illustrated songs and first-class moving pictures continue to please large audiences.

CENTRAL THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Jasper Redfern and Co., Ltd.—Up-to-date animated pictures and vaudeville are received nightly with hearty applause.

THE PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. Peach.—A fine programme of comic, romantic, and dramatic bioscopic pictures is submitted here this week.

ALBERT HALL.—The "Charles W. Poole" myriorama and variety company continue to do good business.

MONTGOMERY HALL.—The Imperial Picture Co.'s artistic films, and the second-sight experts, Collin and Irene, are delighting and astonishing crowded houses.

SHREWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Director, Mr. W. Yates Gregory; General-Manager, Mr. Thos. Baugh.—Mr. F. R. Benson's fine north company is here this week—an agreeable change after a run of vaudeville fare—playing *The Merchant of Venice, The Merry Wives of Windsor, Othello, The School for Scandal, The Taming of the Shrew, Twelfth Night*, and *Richard the Third*. *The Merchant of Venice* was beautifully staged and admirably performed on the opening night. Mr. Henry Herber gave a remarkably good exposition of Shylock, artistic and faithful throughout; Mr. James Berry as Antonio acted with dignity and talent; Mr. Cyril Sworder infused plenty of spirit into the part of Gratiano, his touch of comedy in the trial scene being a pleasant bit of relief; Mr. Evered Vanderlip as Bassanio merited high praise; Mr. Lewis as Lorenzo rendered the sympathetic passages of the rôle with refined expression; Miss Gladys Vandersee made a sweet and cultured Portia; Miss Violet Farebrother was attractive and successful as Nerissa; Miss Jean Graeme as Jessica acted most creditably; Mr. Chas. Trail made a dignified Duke of Venice; Mr. Robt. Atkins as Prince of Morocco was deserving of encomiums; Mr. Victor Wiltshire and Mr. Chas. S. Sparrow as Salanio and Salarino were sympathetic friends of Antonio and Bassanio; Mr. Andrew Leigh was satisfactory as Clerk of the Court; Mr Bishop played well as Tubal; Mr. A. Fayne was a very creditable Launcelot Gobbo; Mr. Sam Cohen made a capital Old Gobbo, and the parts of servants were filled in a capable fashion by Miss Palgrave and Miss Hilda Gonne.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Messrs. Conquest and Nerney; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lingham Power.—New features are introduced in the production of *Aladdin*, which makes this pleasing pantomime more enjoyable than ever. Mr. Edward Graham-Falcon's company please at every performance. The two most favoured specialities are those furnished by the La Dor Troupe, a sextette of acrobats who entertain with skilful feats in an easy and commendable manner; and by Mr. Percy Galino, with bone solos, whose imitation of the Village Blacksmith is cleverly and successfully rendered. Miss Amy Bellwood maintains her reputation in the name-part, and with Miss Daisy Kersey as the Princess shares honours in both singing and dancing; Mr. Ernest Carlton as the magician (Abanazar), and Mr. Will Burton as Stonee-Brokee, also maintain last week's success; while Mr. Albert Laurence in his humorous characterisation of Widow Twankey is heartily received, and who creates real good fun. The dancing girls—Misses Carrie Warner, Amelia Graham, and Lorrie Wells—are seen to advantage in pretty songs and dances.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE WINTER GARDENS.—Proprietors, The Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens Co., Ltd.; Secretary and General-Manager, Mr. R. Singleton.—Mr. J. F. Elliston's successful pantomime *Puss in Boots*, which entered on its second week here on Monday, continues in public favour, and is enhanced by several new features and some smart topical local hits. Miss Ethel Ra-Leslie, who has become quite a favourite here, depicts the rôle of Colin with much piquancy, and repeats her former success; Mr. Fred Lincoln creates no end of merriment by his droll impersonation of Dame Shortly; Mr. Harry Edlin as Baron Rumphiz has plenty of scope for his display of comedy, of which he takes full advantage; Mr. Harry Rogerson, Mr. Bert Hall, Miss Gladys Christoe, Miss Issa Steel, Miss Bessie Herbert, and Miss Zona Joy are each more prominent and attractive in their respective parts.

SPENNYMOOR.—CAMBRIDGE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; General-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance; Resident-Manager, Mr. David Collins.—A visit is being paid to the above theatre this week by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Draycott's répertoire company, the following pieces being played during the week:—*The Octoroon, The Shaughraun, The Colleen Bawn, The Stolen Birthright, The Shadows of a Great City*, and *It's Never Too Late to Mend*.

THE HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. C. Algie; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. Sleep.—An excellent company is at this house, with the Royal Ohmy's topping the bill.

STALYBRIDGE. — HIPPODROME. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Fioni; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. A. Jackson.—Mr. Harry Benet's company is drawing crowded houses with *Sergeant Brue*. Mr. Denis Lyndon in the title-rôle worthily sustains the eccentricity of the part; the Lady Bickenhall of Miss Ray Anderson displays ability; Mr. H. Quiningborough as Crookie Scrubbs is responsible for clever character acting; Mr. Lister Morrah as Michael Brue acts and sings effectively; and Mr. T. G. Warren is unusually quaint as Mr. Crank.

ST. HELENS.—THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, St. Helens Theatre, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. A. McLeod Loader; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. E. Johnson.—The second week of *Mother Goose* is in full swing. As usual, the principal artists have become great favourites, and have worked hard to gain their popularity. Everything goes smoothly, and more amusing items have been introduced. Miss Ethel Dunford as Prince Lothario continues to charm with her gay manner and sweet voice, and Miss Ray Ford, the pretty Jill, is as delightful as ever; Mr. Leo Bliss makes the character of Mother Goose very amusing, and Mr. George Bliss as Septimus is the pantomime villain to the life; Mr. Louis Kerno's dancing and singing as the King are much appreciated, and applause always greets the efforts of Messrs. Pete and Juno.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Leo Weisker.—A sketch, entitled *Lady Lanigan, Laundress*, heads the bill this week, and is played with much spirit by Mr. Matt Montgomery and his company, and plenty of laughter is the result. The Sisters Trentanovi's trapeze act is pretty, effective, and clever; Princess Pocahuntas has a voice of splendid range, and her return is welcome; the Olmars pose excellently; and Kenneth and Kane are amusing. J. P. Carroll knows well how to rattle the tambourine, and the bar act of the Ramlos is good; Lennard and Verriker's pictorial songs are very fine, the lady being possessed of a sweet, powerful voice.

STOCKPORT.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—The pantomime *Little Red Riding Hood* continues to attract large audiences, who are delighted with its many entertaining features. Miss May Gibson, the principal girl, has gained in favour with her sweet rendering of "Shadowland"; the comedians, working well together, are as funny as ever; and a distinctly pretty scene is the Snow Ballet.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—Les François, in their equilibristic act, are the chief attraction here, and are warmly applauded for their marvellously clever feats; most entertaining are the Colonials in their musical comedy scena, *Unexpected Guests;* Rose D'Aulby sings well-chosen songs in excellent style; Ajax and George accom-lish much that is wonderful in their gymnastic act; Dan Robans is a baritone vocalist of ability; abundant laughter is provoked by R. Cameron Matthews and company in their comedy sketch, *The Honeymoon Baby;* the Royal Delomes are pleasing duettists and expert dancers; and the Cameo Troupe in *Rustics at Play* meet with satisfactory favour.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES. — CASTLE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Charles Imeson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cecil Imeson.—Mr. James Kiddie's pantomime *Aladdin* commenced its second week on Monday. Miss Marie Beresford as Aladdin has a fascinating style, and her singing is well appreciated; Miss Lyc Jeffries is a charming Princess, and does full justice to the songs; Miss Emmie Milsted as Darkie Diabolo is a dainty dancer, and wins loud applause for her vocal efforts; Miss Lily Ennes makes a charming Pekoe; Miss Mabel Milsted as Frou-Frou is a skilful dancer; Mr. J. Burgess is well suited as the Emperor; Mr. Harry Pleon as Widow Twankey is very funny, and keeps the house in a constant titter; Ray and Ross as Spy and Kop are clever comedians; Mr. Joe Bell does well as Wishee-Washee, and has become a great favourite; Miss Rose Parfezer makes a charming Fairy Queen, and does well with her singing. The company is supported by a powerful chorus and ballet, under the direction of Mr. John S. Kirshaw.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stainton.—A Beauty and Hair Competition is attracting crowded houses; Newmann and Browne, in a musical episode, *What Might Have Been*, do well; the Lovelaces, song illustrators, are good; Tom Lloyd, comedian, is very popular; the Three Calbos are daring in an acrobatic feat; Dancit is responsible for some clever clog-dancing; Farrell and Dunn, comedians, create much laughter with their patter, and are clever dancers; Kartelli gives a thrilling and novel slack-wire act; and the Bioscope concludes with a funny film, The Tricky Convict.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—Mr. M. Montgomery's stock company is producing here this week the romantic drama *Denounced*. The leading characters are in the able hands of Messrs. Ernest Wingfield, Fred Terris, and Arthur Byron, the Misses Lilian Beaumont, Lina Nazeby, Daisy Norman, and Violet Wingfield. Some entertaining Bi-photoscope views are shown.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Miller; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. Moroney.—The musical comedy sketch, *The Cruise of H.M.S. Victory* is presented by Arthur Watson and company. The playlet is well staged, and the parts are admirably filled. Miss Flo Stanley is most natural as the lost heiress; Arthur Watson as the sailor Detective is a smart and clean comedian; and Miss Nellie Grant is a stately Lady Teasum. The Paul Kramer Trio appear in a clever gymnastic act, one of the troupe performing some exceptional head-balancing feats on the flying trapeze; Harry Friskey, American comedy juggler, is very funny; Mr. and Mrs. Royston Dene play the society sketch *My Lady's Chamber* to the life; Harry Heath, coon vocalist, is a fine dancer. Also contributing are Miss Indiana, Lambert and Butler, and Les Currys. The Bioscope shows a comic film, which causes much laughter.

STOURBRIDGE.—ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Douglas C. Phelps.—This week we are receiving a visit from Miss Lena Stanton and Mr. Harry Joseph's company, with the pantomime *Aladdin*. Miss Janet Lawton undertook the title-rôle. Her singing and dancing greatly pleased the audience. Miss Kitty Avey provided a most winsome Princess. The fun of the piece was ably carried out by Messrs. W. and F. Shepherd, in the characters of What Hi and What O; Mr. Harry Harcourt was an acceptable Mother Twankey, and his song "Study your cookery book" caught on finely; Mr. Will Terry as Abanazi proved a splendid character, and his performance added greatly to the success of the opening performance. The chorus and scenery are very good.

SUNDERLAND.—KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. S. F. Davidson; General-Manager, Mr. Alexander Telford; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Sydney Reach.—*Sinbad the Sailor* is now in full swing. Miss Jessie Wilton as Sinbad does full justice to the part, and for her rendering of *The White Man* is being recalled time after time. Miss Christina Joy plays with charming grace as Zobeida; Miss Madeline Rossiter is an unqualified success as Princess Zorilda; Miss Sissie Brand as Heesatoph, who plays with great energy, is scoring well with her song "My pal in the gallery"; Miss Roberta Svensden completely captivates her audiences with her sweet voice; Mr. Will Johnson as Mrs. Sinbad has an inexhaustible fund of humour; the humorous rôle of Captain Bowline is in the capable hands of Mr. F. Beck; Mr. Frank Lynne, an excellent Binbad, has a great hit in his song, "Sea-shells"; Messrs. Walton and Lister, "the world's worst wizards," are extremely popular as the First and Second Mates, and their burlesque conjuring act continues to amuse; Mr. J. A. Howitt portrays "The old man of the sea" in a most stirring manner; and Little Nellie Denver continues to be popular.

AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Hy. Esden; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Pellow.—The pantomime *Dick Whittington* is now in its second week, and is having a good run. A more dainty and charming actress than Miss Lena Page could hardly have been found for the title-rôle; Miss Nellie Merton as Alice is also a graceful and winsome artist; than Miss Florence Hilton as Sir Algernon de Mash there could not have been a more popular suitor for the hand of Alice; the gyrations of Salome are cleverly done by Miss Dorothy Dryden; heaps of fun are forthcoming from the Hannaway Bros. and Mr. Fred Spencer; while Mr. Dennis McArthy has established himself in favour.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Hy. Esden; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Geo. Dunn.—Mr. Walter Melville's company in *A Soldier's Wedding* had an exceedingly attentive hearing on Monday night. Mr. Wingold Lawrence played the soldier, and his finished portrayal brought forth warm praise; Nancy Lee was sympathetically presented by Miss Dorothy Richardson; the adventuress, Julie de Beauvris, and her accomplice, Charles Courtney, were in the capable hands of Miss Mary McAnley and Mr. Gerald Jordan; David and Peggy Munroe were well looked after by Mr. Frederick Biron and Miss Mabel Lowe; and Teddy was capitally played by Little Albert. The comedy was in the capable hands of Miss Mattie Everett and Mr. Johnny Chippendale; Mr. Beresford Whitcombe was a satisfactory Colonel Graham; and Mr. Fred Yarnold an excellent Nathaniel Lee.

EMPIRE THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—Miss Marie Loftus figures at the top of the bill this week, and has had most enthusiastic receptions. Her songs are heartily applauded, and her burlesques cause roars of laughter; *The Gathering of the Clans*, under the direction of Mr. W. Selkirk, retains its popularity; admiration is also won by the Four Figaros, international vocalists and dancers, with their trained goose; the Four Jumels give an entertaining musical act; the Vetter Bros. prove themselves intrepid gymnasts; Miss Vio Lette is a capital juvenile male impersonator; Blanche Vincent gives pleasure with her pleasant singing; and Mr. Victor Newman's impersonations of the late Mr. Wilson Barrett and Beerbohm Tree are interesting.

SWANSEA.—THE GRAND.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Page.—Mr. E. Oswald Brooks's company is to be congratulated on an excellent performance of *The New Housemaid*. Mr. Howard L. Tracey, in the title-rôle, is so irresistibly funny as to ensure the success of the piece, and Miss Babs Stuart as Dulcie, by her pretty personality and charming acting, deserves the applause given her; Miss Renée de L'Estrade charms the audience by her delineation of Lucie Merton, and Mr. Reginald Hargreaves' impersonation of Frank Pinkerton could scarcely have been bettered; as Roseberry, the amorous butler, Mr. Herbert Colley makes a decided hit, and similar distinction is won by Miss Dot Seilby as Caroline Pinkerton. A carefully-selected company renders great support.

THE STAR.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—Mr. Montague Beaudyn's company is accorded a hearty welcome at the Star this week in *Send Him Victorious*. Mr. Frank Holyoake gives an impressive impersonation of the King of Ravonia; Mr. G. M. Montanini plays cleverly as Col. Heinrich Kaufman; Mr. Bert Woodin keeps the audience in good humour as Geordie Walker; Miss Madge Palmer is exceptionally clever as Gretchen Holtz, her dancing being capital; and Miss Katherine Herbert makes a lasting impression by her portrayal of the Countess Kara van Mechlenberg.

EMPIRES, LTD.—Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—A good all-round programme is headed by George Leyton, who, in his effective scena, *The Last Muster*, is heard to great advantage. The Auto Girl is a really marvellous exhibition. A musical turn of exceptional quality is given by the Jackson family, whose skill elicited the loudest appreciation. An excellent quick-change turn is given by Randolph King, and Spry and Monti, with good dancing and patter, are acceptable. The Lyric Mummers contribute a turn quite out of the common; Maude Vera and Edie Endon do well; and the Bioscope completes.

SWINDON.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wiltshire Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Manners.—Large houses this week welcome the return visit here of the dramatic success *Leah Kleschna*, which is presented by H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company. Mr. William Clayton cleverly portrays the part of Kleschna, and Paul Sylvanie is effectively rendered by Mr. Charles Barrett; Raoul Berton is successfully depicted by Mr. Arthur Leigh, and Mr. William Heilbronn ably enacts Schram; Mr. Algernon J. Hicks makes a capital General Berton; Miss Bessie Rignold as Leah Kleschna gains complete sympathy by her dramatic acting, and Miss Ethel Russell as Madame Berton, Miss Dorrie Turner as Sophie, and Miss Emmie Wallace as Clare Berton are also good. The smaller characters are well placed.

TON-Y-PANDY. — ROYAL. — General-Manager, Mr. S. Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ridgewood Barrie.—Mr. J. Rice Cassidy and company are paying a welcome return visit with *In Holy Russia*. Mr. H. Compton gives a breezy picture of Colonel Richard Forest; Mickey Nolan is, as usual, capably undertaken by Mr. Cassidy; Mr. P. Copeland does well as Sir Harry Beresford; and the Count Gregory Petrolski of Mr. R. Leslie is praiseworthy. Mr. St. George Frere scores heavily as Michael Natolski; and Baron von Pleve is well played by Mr. Carl Beechy. Mr. G. Lawton displays considerable skill as Ivan Overitch; Mrs Cassidy as Rubee Rubinoff creates great enthusiasm; and Miss A. McNeill is suitably cast as Catska Lavotsky.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager and Lessee, Mr. Will Stone.—Heading the bill here is Clive Watts, eccentric dancer; Jean Kram is amusing as an "erratic juggler"; Harry Bland is well described as an eccentric comedian; Master Trevor Watkins, boy soprano, and the Raynors add to the evening's enjoyment. The leading films are The Clockmaker's Secret and A Modern Grace Darling.

TORQUAY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—Mr. John A. Thomson's pantomime *The Babes in the Wood* continues to attract good audiences. Miss Pattie McCarthy enhances her popularity by her energetic impersonation and pleasing singing as principal boy, and Miss Nina Carlton also wins frequent applause as Maid Marian. Mr. Frank Halpin is well placed as Will o' the Wisp, a rôle which affords plenty of scope for his excellent bass voice; La Belle Sylvia introduces some pleasing step-dances as the Babe; and Miss Cissie Williams in a similar capacity does well. Mr. Gus Walker as the Dame is as funny as ever; Mr. Lovell Rowland brings in new patter, and thoroughly delights the audience by his quaint antics; and Mr. Herbert Walton is equally amusing.

TREHERBERT.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Poole's, Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stephens.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company in the *Two Little Drummer* Boys was accorded a hearty reception on Monday by a crowded house. Mr. Ed. Bikker made an ideal General Kingsley, Mr. Harry Scott a capital Capt. Frank Carsdale, Mr. Oswald Douglas an effective Capt. George Darrell, and Mr. Will Percy a humorous Quiney O'Quirke, being ably assisted by Mr. Dick Seddon in the part of Tim Trimmer. Miss Maggie English as Eric Wilson and Miss Maudie Douglas as Jack Smith were excellent. Miss Violet Ingram as Margaret Rivers was good; Miss Mary Ainslie gave a fine reading of the part of Alma Kingsley, and Miss Edith Dene caused roars of laughter as Molly Meadows.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Welton Dale.—Hippodrome season, Mouillot and De Frece Circuit.—In addition to the production of a new sketch by Mr. Ginnett, entitled *Claude Duval*, the programme at the Hippodrome this week includes some excellent turns, notably the Alberto Trio, in a skilful athletic and balancing act; Mme. Dalmere, with her educated family of dogs, cats, and birds; Joe Mac, comedian, whose patter fairly caught on with the house; Ethel Arundel, a pleasing young vocalist; and last, but not least, the upside-down marvel Almon, who was deputising in the absence through illness of De Lilo and Metz. The Bioscope, owing to its popularity, is now shown twice at each entertainment. The new sketch had a very cordial reception. Three episodes in the life of the famous highwayman are given in three scenes, in which Mr. Arthur Max as Duval introduces the famous trained horse Roy, a cream gelding, who is a marvel of animal sagacity. The first scene is the arrival of the Windsor coach at a wayside hostelry, and is full of bustle and animation; the next scene is the stopping of the coach by Duval on a lonely moor, and the gallant highwayman dances a minuet with one of the fair passengers, and at the same time loyally returns a portfolio to Lord Leicester on learning that he is the King's messenger. In the third scene mine host of the inn has decided to betray Duval for the fifty guineas offered for his apprehension, and just as Duval is at close quarters with the constables a Royal pardon arrives, obtained through the intercession of Lord Leicester, and handed to Duval by the Lady Doris, with whom he danced the minuet. Mr. Harry Calver took the part of Lord Leicester and Mr. G. Hammond of the Innkeeper, while Miss Ray Heyden was a charming Lady Doris. Some excellent comedy was introduced by Mr. Jack Collinson as Fritz Blickenhausen, a comic passenger on the coach, and by Miss Bob Catto as Polly. The sketch is full of life and animation, and promises to be a very popular addition to Mr. Ginnett's list.

TYLDESLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. W. Brierley.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company in *The Power of the Cross* is drawing good houses on a return visit. Mr. George A. de Gray retains his force and skill as the evil genius Baron Curzola; Dr. Leslie Fairfax has a capital representative in Mr. A. J. Haviland; Mr. Robert Hall has a fine conception of the part of Gerald Fairfax; Mr. T. Bowson presents an accurate portrait of the unscrupulous lawyer Benjamin Hawke; Miss Annie Hylton is a sweet and graceful Margaret Seaton; Miss Stella Carmichael gives a skilful performance as Rita Lascelles; Blanche Kingsley has a delightful exponent in Miss Phyllis Vaughan; Miss Etta Turner is a lively Dolly Gray; and Mr. Tyrone Power as Timothy O'Dowd is exceedingly funny.

WAKEFIELD. — OPERA HOUSE. — Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Mr. Walter Melville's company is here this week in the drama *The Beggar Girl's Wedding*. Mr. Otto Minster submits a fine portrayal as Jack Cunningham; Mr. James C. Taylor exhibits strong dramatic power as Dr. Millbank; the humorous element is well provided by Mr. Herbert Lloyd as Derby Storm; and Miss Daisy Maynard as Tina Torkington. Mr. Ernest G. Batley is effective as Norman Marsh; Miss Olive Warne is successful as Maud Villiers; and Mr. Herbert Morgan does full justice as Gilbert Lindsay. Mr. Harry Playfair well sustains the rôle of Joe Webster, and Mr. Horace Kenny is good as the Dodger; Mr. Doris Whyte acts charmingly as Elsie Cunningham; and Miss Vashti Wynne merits praise for her clever impersonation as Bessie Webster.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—Miss Agnes Molteno and company present a beautiful musical scena which evokes hearty appreciation; the Paul Hesse Trio appear in a smart wire act; Phillips and Bristow are expert dancers; Rousby and Rene, comedy artists, are amusing; the Menzies, sketch artists, prove popular; Charles Ulrick, equilibrist, is a distinct success; and Ivy Aberdare, comedienne, dances well.

WARRINGTON. — ROYAL COURT.—Proprietor, Mr. Joseph Beecham; General-Manager, Mr. A. M. Loader; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Smiley.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company is reappearing here in Hall Caine's play *The Bondman*. Miss Georgina Wynter scorés a success as Greeba, her acting always having that charm and naturalness as to win all hearts; a sprightly Christian Ann is Miss Emilie Mayhew, and a matronly Mrs. Fairbrother is Miss Madge Laverton. Mr. R. Scrope Quentin as Jason developed all the morose nature requisite to make the part a success, and his elocution at times reached the hall mark of perfection; Mr. W. Henry Hargreaves submitted a clever study of Michael; Mr. Oswald Lingard with his Scriptural quotations was a complete success; and in the dual rôle of Father Ferrati and Grandfather Mr. W. H. Rotherham was seen to advantage in smart character sketches. Mr. Wilfred Beckwith was a dignified Governor, and the two juveniles, Miss Gertrude Helme and Master Walter Neville, caused much merriment in the respective parts of Mona and Danny. The two Callow girls were ably represented by Miss Marie Greenhous and Miss Julia M. Willis. The minor parts are all in adequate hands and the staging up to the Court's high-class reputation.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, The Franco-British Animated Picture Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. Turner; Manager, Mr. J. Waters.—Good business is again the order this week, and an excellent entertainment is provided. The Sages are capital sketch artists, and their act, *If You're Going I'm Coming Out*, is a most laughable absurdity and well acted; Ena Compton is a charming comedienne, and she has a choice selection of songs; E. Morrisey in an equilibristic musical act also scores, and the pictures are good.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. G. D. Bradbury.—Lockhart's elephants top the bill here this week, and form a splendid addition to a good all-round entertainment. They perform some wonderful tricks. The Three Alskarnos are capital Risley comedians, and the songs of Mollie and Winnie Brooke are much enjoyed. Russell Brandon is seen to advantage in a song and dance turn, and J. H. Greener has a capital voice, and his songs are all well received. John Donald scores a great success in a song scena, *A Scottish Exile's Dream*. The Garricks (four) are also applauded for a novel and delightful vocal act; Les Elgonas are clever gymnasts, and the pictures are good.

WEDNESBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr. Tom Kuner.—Mr. Wilson Benge is presenting *The Eve of Her Wedding*. Mr. Wilson Benge, in the important part of George Tremain, plays with artistic taste, and as Squire Leverton Mr. Arthur Keand sustains the part with admirable effect; a powerful interpretation of Dick Leverton is submitted by Mr. Harry Wanson; Mr. Chas. Digby as Rudolph Earle gives an interesting performance; and Dean Clifton is cleverly enacted by Mr. Wallace Campbell. Valuable assistance is forthcoming from Mr. Chas. Groves in the rôles of Paul Cairshaw, alias Hyram P. Younger. A charming and interesting representation of Mavis Leverton is furnished by Miss Sadie Smith; Miss Amy Milsted as Edith Trevanion and Miss Daisy Cook as Gwendoline Younger prove highly capable in their respective parts; and the characteristic rendering of Renie de Telle by Miss Effie Bartlett is a complete success.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. R. Nightingale.—A hearty welcome is being accorded this week to G. M. Polini and Austin Melford's company, which is appearing at this place of amusement in *The Silver King*. The part of Wilfred Denver, made famous by the late Wilson Barrett, is ably sustained by Mr. Fred. D. Daviss, Mr. Edward J. George is admirable as Daniel Jaikes, the part of the "Spider" is in the capable hands of Mr. E. Stanton-Sharp; Miss Madge Morley gives a very fine presentation of Nellie Denver; Miss Flossie Daviss as Cissy, Denver's daughter, is also very fine; and special mention should be made of the admirable acting of Mr. W. Leslie Ellis as Henry Corket, Mr. Arthur Wright as Elijah Coombe, Mr. E. Stidwell as Samuel Baxter, Miss Margaret Rooke as Susie, and Miss Mabel Gardener as Mrs. Gamage, while the other parts are all excellently sustained.

NEW HIPPODROME. — Manager, Mr. Archie Ainsleigh.—This week there is a welcome return visit of our old friend *Aladdin*, who, in the person of Miss Marie Wall, presents a very charming appearance, and fills the rôle most excellently; while Mr. Bob Stevenson as Widow Twankey is delightful. Miss Emmie Cozens as Princess Badroulbadour is very clever, and Little Babs Lloyd is a charming Fairy Queen; Staffo, the Grand Vizier, is excellent in a juggling act; Tom and Neil as Wishee and Washee give some smart boxing and wrestling turns; while Harry Rose as the Emperor and Mr. Geo. Helen as Abanazar do much to make the pantomime a great success.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—GRAND.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. Herbert E. Feather.—Mr. Morton Powell's production of *When It Was Dark* is proving successful here. Mr. Wilfred Lyndon undertakes the rôle of the Rev. Basil Gortre, and capitally discharges his responsibility; Constantine Schwabe has an impressive rendering at the hands of Mr. Haldane Dalton; in the part of Gertrude Hunt Miss Marguerite Trevosper has some difficult work, which she does in an able manner; Helena Byers has a good representative in Miss Marie Barrett, and the rôle of the Rev. Mr. Byers is creditably presented by Mr. William Burton.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. E. Dobney.—Fred Karno's *Dandy Thieves* has been witnessed in West Hartlepool on previous occasions, but never has it gone so well as on Monday evening, when two packed houses were kept in continuous laughter by the comedy play of George Heston, who in inimitable style essays the rôle of Sergeant Lightning. In *A Tramp's Holiday* the Betsons introduce some really clever comedy cycling; Captain Devereux, Emmie Ames, and Ray Royal are old favourites here who go as well as ever, "Emmie's Christmas tree" especially so; Carlotta Levey's chorus songs are much enjoyed, and Harry Bancroft contributes two taking songs. Raymond's Bioscope concludes.

WIDNES. — ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Jas. Kiddie; Secretary, Mr. Tom Swinton.—This week Miss Frances Glossop Harris is here with her company in the Drury Lane drama *The Royal Oak*. Mr. Frank Cellier is delightfully debonair as Charles II.; Mr. Percival Madgewick is a sympathetic Darien Cholmondeley; the scheming Colonel Ancketell is finely played by Mr. Arthur Goodsall; one of the successes of the evening is Mr. E. Stuart Kindens's quaint Walk-in-the-way Dearlove; Mr. Harold Haigh, in a fine make-up as the Rev. Melchezideck, does well; Miss Florence Glossop Harris acts feelingly and with artistic restraint as Mildred Clavering; Miss Mary Goulden does sound work as Bevis Cholmondeley; Miss Gertrude Tate is a winning Patty Woodroofe. The historical costumes are very picturesque, and the play is finely staged.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—The pantomime *Dick Whittington* is being repeated here to crowded audiences.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—La Milo, the celebrated exponent of "living statuary," is the chief centre of attraction for large audiences; George Prince causes quite an ovation with his comic songs; and the Merrions, vocal and instrumental entertainers, have a capital reception. Botello and Virginia give a sensational gymnastic performance, while the Vasilescu Troupe are exceptionally clever comedy bar artists. Frank Leon is loudly applauded for his clog-dancing; Ernest Hildred contributes some baritone vocal selections in fine style; and Tom Parker causes much merriment with his songs. Lizzie Kirk is a comedienne entirely above the ordinary, and Mlle. Ameda is a skilful equilibrist.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Co.; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Woon.—Animated pictures are shown here in a style which leaves nothing to be desired, and the hall is rapidly rising in popularity. The chief pictures are The Patriot; or, the Horrors of War, The Legend of the Ghost, The Little Magician, A Jealous Fiancée, Bobby on the Spree, and Levitsky's Insurance Policy. James Conroy is a clever comedian, and is much applauded for his performance. Crowded house nightly.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles Barnard; Resident-Manager, Mr. Gerald Spencer.—Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hinton, Travis Green, and Ruth Zillwood's company opened here on Monday in *Her Fatal Marriage*. Mr. Arthur Hinton is thoroughly at home as Zaco Maletto, alias Captain Vigo; Mr. Victor Millard as Wilfred Gray makes a manly young cleric; Mr. Percy Morton Wright is good as Colonel Crichton; Mr. Fred Hewitson does what little he has to do as Jim Rogers well; Mr. Gerald Byrne scores heavily as the half-witted Paul; and Mr. Henry Emerson makes a good detective as Smart. The comedy element is in the hands of Mr. Frank Brunell (Peter Pimple), Mr. Laurence Grove (Sergeant Wiggins), and Miss Laura Wright (Dolly Dimple); the latter lady simply convulses the house. Miss Ruth Zillwood displays no small amount of artistic ability as Myra Maletto, and Miss Lydia Andre plays with sympathy and charm as Lily.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"LE LYS."

Comedy, in Four Acts, by Pierre Wolff and Gaston Leroux, produced at the Vaudeville, on Dec. 18.

Odette	MME. SUZANNE DESPRES
Christiane	MLLE. MADELEINE LELY
Simone	MLLE. DHERBLAY
Lucy	MLLE. FARNA
La Mère Didier	MME. ELLEN ANDREE
Suzanne	MLLE. DELZA
Comte de Magny	M. LERAND
Arnaud	M. ROUSSELLE
Chabreloche	M. JOFFRE
Cernay	M. PIERRE JUVENET
Gérard de Magny	M. COSTE
Henri	M. ROGER VINCENT

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, Dec. 24.—*Le Lys* is a bold and elegantly-written work on a theme that is being discussed all over the world. The title of the play is synonymous with Odette, the eldest daughter of Comte de Magny, a ruined nobleman living on his estate in the country. De Many has a son and two daughters—Odette, aged thirty-five, and Christiane, ten years her junior. Gérard, the son, is about to marry a girl, neither young nor intelligent, but with a large dowry, the daughter of a manufacturer in the neighbourhood. Congratulations are pouring in on the family, when the fiancée's father suddenly comes upon the scene and declares that the marriage cannot take place. The de Magnys are dumbfounded, and wonder what can be the reason. No explanation is given, but Gérard discovers that his sister Christiane is supposed to have a liaison with Georges Arnaud, the proprietor of a historical manor. Arnaud is an honourable man, in love with Christiane, and separated from his wife, who refuses to divorce him because her principles as a Catholic forbid. When Christiane acknowledges the truth of the accusation, the indignation in the family circle is acute. But Odette now comes boldly forward, and in most pathetic and sincere accents covers Christiane with her sisterly wing by describing the wretched existence of a woman forced to lead a single life without love or being beloved. She, Odette, has passed from joyful youth to austere middle age, a victim to social observances. Her father having squandered his fortune in gambling and on women, she did not marry for want of a dowry, and she will not allow her younger sister to be sacrificed. In the last act Arnaud and Christiane are living in Italy. According to French law, when husband and wife have been separated for three years the consent of only one of the parties is necessary to obtain a divorce. Arnaud and his young companion, therefore, resolve to wait quietly for the moment that they can be united, when Odette unexpectedly calls upon them, accompanied by Chabreloche, an old friend of the Magny family. Odette's mission is to induce her sister to return home, but when she discovers that Christiane and Arnaud are intensely happy, she does not broach the subject, and departs, leaving them to their happiness. Mme. Suzanne Desprès gave a splendid rendering of the difficult rôle of Odette, a rôle of concentration and earnestness. Mlle. Madeleine Lély was a charming and impassionate Christiane, and those talented actors MM. Lérand, Rousselle, and Joffre rendered excellent service.

PARIS, THURSDAY, Dec. 31.—The year finishes badly. Heavy thunderclouds have gathered over our heads, charged with lawsuits and disputes that will soon burst over the theatrical world. The house that is faring worst in this respect is the Opéra, managed, as you know, by MM. Messager and Broussan, who by this time no doubt regret they ever accepted the lucrative but difficult post of directors of our first lyric stage. One of their great annoyances at the present moment is the *Monna-Vanna* affair. Here—as in most troubles—it is a case of "Cherchez la femme," although you need not look for her very far, for she is no other than Mme. Georgette Leblanc, the wife of M. Maurice Maeterlinck, who supplied the libretto for the before-mentioned opera. It certainly is quite natural that the great Belgian author should like to have the title-rôle sung by Mme. Leblanc; but he commits an unpardonable mistake in trying to compel MM. Messager and Broussan to entrust the part to her. Mme. Leblanc is a great, a very great actress. As a tragedienne she is unrivalled, as has been proved by the triumphs she has scored on the stage at different times. But, for some curious psychological reason, she prefers to appear in opera, for which she is less suited. Thus, when M. Maeterlinck's *Ariane et Barbe-bleue* was brought out at the Opéra Comique, M. Carré allowed her to create the chief rôle, with the result that the work had but a short run. On the other hand, when *Pelléas et Mélisande* was accepted at the same house we witnessed the same storms that are now raging at the Opéra. Mme. Georgette insisted on being specially engaged for the work, but she met with such strong opposition on the part of M. Debussy, the composer, backed by M. Carré and M. Messager, then chef d'orchestre at that house, that the gifted artist did not push things further. It was Mlle. Mary Garden who appeared as Mélisande, and the work enjoyed a tremendous run. This time, however, both M. Maeterlinck and Mme. Georgette are obdurate, and although M. Février—who wrote the music for *Monna-Vanna*—sides with the Opéra management, M. Maeterlinck has given MM. Messager and Broussan legal notice that he will claim £400 damages for every performance of the work produced without his sanction. The Opéra management, on the other hand, consider they have the right to give the rôle to whoever they like, and have fixed the première of *Monna-Vanna* for Jan. 13 with Mlle. Bréval in the leading part. This is how the matter stands at present.

UNFORTUNATELY, this is not the only trouble that has befallen our Opéra. Wanton attacks have been made on M. Broussan by a certain section of the Paris Press with the deliberate object of ousting him from his post—attacks chiefly in connection with the artists he engaged when he took over the management. Nor can it be denied that at the first glance it seemed perhaps strange that several vocalists were engaged at a respectable salary with little talent and less voice. For all that, M. Broussan's detractors know perfectly well that at the time he made these engagements he could not do otherwise. He had what we call here "la main forçée," the direct result of State intervention and State subsidy, which you in England consider a wonderful blessing, ignoring the fact that it opens the door to underhand dealings. You will understand this better when I tell you that in all subsidised houses the appointment of the manager rests with the Minister of Public Instruction and Fine Arts. Nor need I lay stress on the fact that the moment the post of director of a subsidised theatre becomes vacant candidates come forward in shoals. Each candidate, of course, has his backers, invariably political men—mostly Deputies or influential financiers—and the applicants, in order to keep their friends' zeal at boiling point, make promises which they afterwards find not easy to keep. And thus, in order to please a Deputy or a Senator, the poor candidate, once raised to power, is compelled to engage Mlle. X. or M. Y. because he or she happens to be a protégé of one of these gentlemen. There can be no doubt that similar pressure was brought to bear on M. Broussan, who, smarting under these attacks, is now dismissing artists right and left. The list of victims is a long one, and comprises Mmes. Mérentié, Borgo, Paquot d'Assy, Miranda, Augussol, Passama, Mastio, d'Elty, de Buck, Samara, Vinci, and Durif; MM. d'Assy, Boulogne, Vilmos Beck, Garbelly, Corpail, Paty, and Nuibo, who goes over to the Opéra Comique. This wholesale massacre, which includes several really distinguished singers, has come upon the public in the way of a surprise; but when we heard that M. Alvarez had also been dismissed we were really astounded. M. Alvarez has been the "star" tenor at our Opéra since 1892, and he made his last appearance in *Tannhäuser*, which he has sung some hundreds of times.

AT the Théâtre Réjane *Raffles* has been revived with much success. That clever actor M. Tréville is now appearing in the name-rôle.

PARIS, THURSDAY, Jan. 7.—The only novelty this week has been the new revue at Olympia. It bears the title *1909—Des femmes, rien que des femmes!* and, in fact, the only man among this phalanx of ladies is our old friend Footit, the "compère," who has but little to say, but says it funnily. The work is splendidly mounted, and of the ten tableaux The Palace of Hats, Snob Hotel, The Dinner at the Opéra, and En route for America had the most success. The strong cast comprised Mlle. Anne Dancrey, the graceful dancer; Mlle. Allems, of music-hall renown; Mlle. Gina Palerme, Mlle. Mathilde, Gomez, and many other well-known artists. Altogether a very pretty show.

LET us begin the New Year with a laugh, and may I be allowed to supply it by divulging to the readers of *The Era* a queer little industry, profitable to those who practise it, but reprehensible from a moral point of view? This industry consists in exploiting the foibles of the guileless stranger and provincial; and, like most diabolical inventions, alas! it succeeds only too well, especially if it is borne in mind that many strangers and provincials—I mean the raw article—are so dazzled by the fascinations of the Gay City that they lose the little brains they brought with them from their native town. These good people come with the notion that the Paris actress is the most enchanting woman in creation, and their one ambition is to be allowed to approach these divine creatures. It occasionally happens that, by a lucky chance, one of these innocents is introduced to the great Sarah, or to Mme. Réjane, or to some other celebrity, who, in return for his respectful bow, rewards him with a sweet smile. From that moment he is a lost man. He dreams of that smile, he pesters his friends with his raptures about the great artist until Fate, in the shape of some scheming individual, conducts him to the "salons" of Mme. de X——, where, he is told, the great men and women of France congregate. Paris abounds in "salons" of that kind. Farce writers have described them, and now and then they are visited by the police, when some of these great men and women of France are entertained for a few months at the expense of the Republic. Our innocent is introduced into that milieu, where he meets generals, countesses, scientists—the celluloid article that passes for ivory. Mme. de X——, the charming hostess, then takes her guest in hand. Having graciously allowed him to lose a few pounds to her at *écarté*—where she showed a playful knack at turning up the king—she deflects her conversation to the drama, and, having listened with apparent interest to the man's effusions about his theatrical goddess, she whispers to him to call on her the next day. The conversation between the Paris lady-spider and the country-fly is typical, but never varies. The latter hears to his joy that he has made a deep impression on his goddess, who is anxious to meet him, but in secret, as she is closely watched by jealous adorers. Mme. de X—— says she will be only too happy to assist him in that little adventure, but, unfortunately, precautions will have to be taken that will cost money. Our innocent consents to everything. He squeezes a handful of banknotes into the kind lady's hand, and a few days later he departs from Paris in the happy belief that he has been the "amant de cœur" of a great Paris theatrical star. He will continue to believe it, even if someone tells him that the whole thing was a "fake," that the actress he met was "faked" so as to resemble his goddess, and that this "faking" process, for identical purposes, is practised in Pairs on a large scale.

ALTOGETHER, in the theatrical world, France is overrun with fakes. Many a time whilst travelling in the provinces have I entered a dingy music hall with a flaring announcement over the door that M. Paulus or some other great star would appear in his répertoire. And I always was amused to see the audience applaud the out-at-elbows artists who unblushingly passed themselves off as the genuine article. Dranem, the famous comedian, has a tremendous amount of imitators, calling themselves Dranomm, Drannem, Drahnem, &c. Pseudo Mounets and pseudo Le Bargys are also plentiful, and, if I am not mistaken, Mme. Sarah Bernhardt, whilst in Chili, was compelled to call in judicial aid to prevent a lady from impersonating her. As a rule, however, the members of the Paris stage refrain from taking action against these impostors, for whom they feel more pity than anger. Apropos of this, an amusing story is told of M. Galipeaux, the well-known comic actor, famous for his practical jokes. One afternoon, whilst driving through a small watering place, he saw to his astonishment a huge poster outside the local Casino announcing that the "Great Galipeaux" was to give a recitation. Carefully muffled, Galipeaux took his seat among the audience, and rewarded his imitator with tremendous applause. After the recitation, however, he went up to that gentleman, and, shaking him by both hands, said, "I am delighted, sir, to make 'my' acquaintance."

I AM sorry to announce the death of M. Joseph Renot, who for many years was connected with the Ambigu, where during the late Grisier management he held the post of stage-manager. As an actor he was much liked and appreciated by the public. It was he who created the rôle of Lord Beverley in *Les Nuits du Boulevard*, and that of Garibaldi in the play of *Général Bordone*. His wife, Mme. Marcelle Renot, is a distinguished actress. M. Renot will be deeply regretted by all who knew him and had occasion to appreciate his qualities.

A VERY painful impression was also created in the theatrical world by the news that Mlle. Biaxa Duhamel was actually dying from want. The news came like a shock to us all. She created the name-rôle in *Miss Hellyett*, when she astounded all Paris by her charm and skill. It was her début on the regular stage, and she took the world by storm. The work, it will be remembered, had a phenomenal run, but, curiously enough, Mlle. Duhamel's success came to an end when the piece was withdrawn. One of our leading morning papers at once set a subscription on foot, and I am happy to state that the members of the Paris stage are responding splendidly to the appeal.

EVER since the entente with England the Germans do not lose an opportunity of showing their hatred towards France. This time they have gone very far indeed. A French periodical in Alsace-Lorraine intended to give a matinée in aid of the victims of the earthquake in Italy. *Les Plaideurs* by Racine, and M. Tristan Bernard's *L'Anglais tel qu'on le parle* were to be given. But the Ministers of H.I.M. Guillaume Touche-à-Tout refused their consent, and the matinée will not be held. This attitude in the face of a great national calamity deserves the censure of the civilised world.

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THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"DIE ZWILLINGE,"

Comic Opera, in Three Acts, by Karl Weiss, produced at the Komische Oper, Dec. 22.

Sebastian	HERR MARAK
Viola	FRAULEIN DECTIEN
Olivia	FRAULEIN ENGEL
Orsino	HERR EGENIEFF
Andreas	HERR KREUDER
Malvolio	HERR MAUTLER
Tobias	HERR THOMASCHEK
Maria	FRAULEIN KORBER
Narr	HERR ZADOR
Antonio	HERR HEYTER
Lorenzo	HERR ARMSTER

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, Dec. 24.—In happy contrast to the modern blood-and-thunder musical drama comes this merry little opera of the Austrian composer, Karl Weiss, well known here not only by his compositions, but as a first-rate pianist. He has drawn his new work—as have others before him—from Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, and has produced a fascinating and delightful comic opera that will not readily be forgotten. The music is thoroughly in keeping with its subject—obviously its first duty. There are solos and concerted numbers which charm all hearers, and the instrumentation is very fine, without any exaggerations. One scene in the second act (which is the best) is especially effective. Andreas and his friends entice, by their singing, Maria and Malvolio out of the house. The Jester (Narr) sings a serenade, which is followed by a finely-written trio in canon form; this develops into a quartette with the assistance of Maria, and then—as Malvolio comes—into a quintet; finally, the chorus appear and join in, a splendid volume of sound closing the scene. The interpretation was a good one on the whole, if we except the rôle of Viola, which was not satisfactorily rendered. Herr Mautler carried off the laurels as Malvolio; and Fräulein Körber as Maria assisted him ably. Orchestra and chorus, under Kapellmeister Waghalter's excellent conductorship, went faultlessly, and Herr Moris staged the work with customary good taste. The composer was called repeatedly before the curtain and enthusiastically applauded.

THE clever Viennese comedian, Herr Alexander Girady, who is still giving a successful season at the Thalia, made a great hit on Saturday in L'Arronge's immortal volks-play, *Mein Leopold*. Herr Girady was as good in the rôle of Weigelt as were his famous predecessors, Georg Engels and Emil Thomas (both, unhappily, with us no longer), and that is praise sufficient. To say he had the large audience with him in every phase of the doting old father is quite superfluous. It was a rôle that suited him to perfection. The local company supported the guest admirably, and the good old play will assuredly draw throughout the holidays.

DR. PAUL LINDAU, the eminent author and manager, has been engaged by the Royal Schauspielhaus authorities to fill the posts of dramatic adviser and stage-manager. These positions in our State playhouse are capital things in the way of salary and pension, as well as honour, and Dr. Lindau is heartily congratulated by his many friends and admirers.

ONE of the principal actors of the Royal Schauspielhaus, Herr Adalbert Matkowsky, is seriously ill with nervous troubles in a sanatorium in a Berlin suburb. The clever artist has been ailing for some months past, but managed to keep at his post until comparatively recently. Only a week or two ago Herr Matkowsky was the recipient of many honours on the occasion of his fiftieth birthday.

DR. RICHARD STRAUSS'S new opera, *Elektra*, which is to be produced for the first time on any stage, at the Royal Opera, Dresden, very soon, excels its predecessor, *Salome*, a hundredfold in the way of difficulties of all kinds, which is saying a good deal. Frau Schumann-Heinck sings the part of Klytemnestra. In connection with the production—which the composer conducts—there is to be a Strauss week at the Dresden Royal Opera, including *Salome*, *Feuersnot*, and the *Sinfonia Domestica*.

"DER GRAF VON GLEICHEN,"

Play, in Three Acts and a Prologue, by Wilhelm Schmidtbonn, Produced at the Deutsches Chamber-Plays, Dec. 23.

Engelbrecht	HERR WEGNER
Notburg	FRAULEIN DURIEUX
Angel	FRAULEIN ROTHE
Naémi	FRAULEIN EIBENSCHUTZ
Heimeran	HERR PAGAY
Kriegsknecht	HERR MOISSI
Johannes	HERR MOMBER
Helche	FRAULEIN KURTZ
Mutterchen	FRAULEIN MULLER
Kaplan	HERR ZILLICH
Veronika	FRAULEIN SCHIFF
Magd	FRAULEIN FRANKE

BERLIN, THURSDAY, Dec. 31.—The latest work of Herr Schmidtbonn was an unqualified success, and a well-deserved one. It is in the style of the old-time drama, the language pathetic and powerful by turns, but always superior, as is the author's characterisation. Out of the legend of Count Gleichen, the hero of the Holy Wars, Herr Schmidtbonn has formed his effective play, taking and adding to the original as his fancy prompted him. In an allegorical prologue, with which we could dispense, we see the Count Engelbrecht—who has been a captive of the Turks many years—resisting the overtures of a mysterious visitor, who is no other than the arch-enemy Death. The King of Terrors finally renounces his intended victim, on condition that the young Turkish woman who shall rescue Engelbrecht, fall to his scythe. After over a dozen years passed in his dungeon, the Count is secretly liberated by the Turkish girl, Naémi, who is as gentle as she is beautiful and virtuous. Gleichen, in his overwhelming gratitude, sets her on his waiting steed, and carries off the willing girl to his home, where his wife welcomes him as one returned from the grave. Here the conflict begins which forms the main theme of the play. In the first great joy at seeing her husband again, the Countess agrees to the wishes of the liberated man that Naémi shall have equal rank and privileges with herself. That such a state of things could continue, however, is naturally impossible, and the elder woman finally orders her young rival out of the house. Count Engelbrecht insists on her remaining, and poor Notburg—the rightful mistress—becomes desperate. She entices Naémi to the brink of a precipice, and pushes her over. She then confesses her crime to her husband, trusting he will pardon it for her great love's sake. But the Count thrusts his wife from him, and sets out on his wanderings through the world, with a firm conviction that he will never know happiness again. His one companion is the same uncanny customer we saw in the first scene, so we may conclude Count Gleichen is not long for this world. The interpretation of the piece was remarkably good, Fräulein Durieux giving a magnificent rendering of the rôle of the much-tried Countess. The author was repeatedly called in response to hearty applause, in which the Crown Prince—who was present with a number of officers—joined.

ANOTHER of the waltz operettas with which we have been deluged of late years was produced at the Theatre Des Westens last week, making a very favourable impression. The composer is again Oscar Strauss, the title is *Der tapfere Soldat*, and the joint authors of the amusing text are Herren Bernauer and Jacobson. The plot is drawn from Mr. Shaw's comedy, *Heroes*, but a good deal of liberty has been taken with the original, to fit it into the frame of an operetta. The music is bright and melodious, but the work will hardly prove a dangerous rival to its predecessor, *Der Walzstraum*, and certainly not to the immortal *Merry Widow*. It was very well performed and the composer was enthusiastically applauded.

THE Lessing Theatre made a *faux pas* for perhaps the first time in its life on the evening of Christmas Day. This most classical of all theatres (and famous as the best Ibsen stage throughout Germany) tried its hand at a farce, and a very poor one into the bargain. It was a three-act piece, entitled *Bretzenburg*, by MM. Skowronnek and Richard Wilde. The main idea is the very old one of a stray infant. In this particular case the baby is dropped into the lap of a young lady in a railway carriage, who is on her way to the little town where her fiancé lives. The "situations" which arise may be readily imagined, and details will be superfluous. The Lessing company were quite out of their element, and though they gave themselves visible pains, the result was anything but a success. A cordial reception was accorded, the popularity of Herr Skowronnek being evidently sufficient to carry him safely over a poor play poorly acted.

"DER SATYR," a three-act piece, translated by Herr Schönau from the French of MM. Berr and Guillemand, has made a decided hit at the Trianon. It is very cleverly acted and admirably mounted, and has every prospect of a long run.

AT the Gastspiel Theatre—formerly known as the Wolzogen—a new farce entitled *Drahtlose Telegraphie*, by Herren Friedmann and Lunzer, was produced in time for the holidays. It is not in the least original, but is sufficiently amusing to create hearty laughter—provided the audience is not blasé. The acting was good and the applause loud and genuine.

HERR SKOWRONNEK'S ever-popular comedy *Husarenfieber*—which ran nearly three hundred nights at the Lustspielhaus—was put in the bill at the Friedrich-Wilhelm Städtisches for the holidays, making a tremendous success. As a matter of course merriment reigned each night of the holidays, not a serious play being given. I am glad to be in a position to state that excellent business has been the rule, almost without exception.

A NEW German operetta in three acts, by Martin Knopf, text by Max Nowack, was produced at the Residenz Theatre, Dresden, last week, and achieved a very great success. The title is *Das Heiratsbad*.

"DIE SUNDE,"

Comedy, in Three Acts, by Max Bernstein, produced at the New Schauspielhaus, Dec. 31.

Zumbusch	HERR WERNER
Charlotte	FRAULEIN GOERICKE
Proell	HERR BOREE
Amanda	FRAULEIN CARLSEN
Boss	HERR WALDEN
Wetting	HERR RETZBACH
Koller	HERR KUHNE
Helldohler	HERR VON DUNIECKI
Resi	FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER
Vincenz	HERR HUGO
Reisender	HERR ROMBERG

BERLIN, THURSDAY, Jan. 7.—New Year's Eve always brings a rush of novelties, the theatres on that night, as a rule, being crowded. Perhaps the best of the new pieces last Thursday was Dr. Bernstein's comedy; it was, at least, the most successful. There is a conspicuous absence of all plot, but the wit is undeniable, and there is almost a superabundance of it, the audience hardly having time to breathe for laughter. The fun is better appreciated by a German audience, it is true, the Public Prosecutor playing a leading part. The author is—as will no doubt be remembered—the famous Munich barrister who defended, with such consummate skill, Herr Maximilian Harden, in the notorious Moltke and Eulenburg cases. As is perhaps only natural, Herr Bernstein frequently enjoys poking fun in his plays at the Public Prosecutors, and in this piece, too, it is the "Staatsanwalt" Wetting who is made the scapegoat. Wetting is a narrow-minded pedant, who is in love—as much as his selfish nature permits—with a pretty and well-endowed maiden named Charlotte. Presently, however, there comes along one of those smart young journalists of the immortal type of Konrad Bolz, who promptly falls in love with Charlotte. She cannot resist Paul Voss, whom she knew as a child before he set out on the travels which have helped to make him such a delightful companion, and she compares him with her dry-as-dust Staatsanwalt to the latter's great disadvantage. It is not an easy thing to break a betrothal in the Fatherland, but the lovers, of course, succeed in the end. There are various incidental episodes, several other official functionaries being held up to ridicule in the author's customary clever manner, and the audience thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The capital acting considerably aided the success of the piece, which will doubtless enjoy a lengthy run.

A GOOD old Berlin burlesque made a hit at the Berliner Theatre on New Year's Eve. The author, David Kalisch, has long been gathered to his fathers, but his numerous farce-burlesques will live in the theatres of his native city. This particular one—*Einer von unsere Leut*—is as sentimental in parts as it is funny in others, partaking more of the nature of a volks-play, while some up-to-date couplets have been added with good effect. Fräulein Dora, one of our most fascinating soubrettes, created a perfect furore with the singing of several of these songs.

"DER SCHLAGBAUM," a three-act comedy by Heinrich Lee, has been revived at the Royal Schauspielhaus after an interval of many years. It was produced—if my memory fail me not—at the Berliner Theatre, under the management of the late Intendant Prasch, and was at that time fully described in your columns. The reception accorded to it last week was such as to justify the prediction of a considerable run.

THE Luisen Theatre produced a new farce on Saturday last with every appearance of success. Herr Duchow is the author—a writer who has already made his mark in similar pieces—and the title is the somewhat unmeaning one of *Der fliegender Berliner*. It is the story of a master shoemaker, who becomes wealthy by the winning of a lottery prize, but who is the victim for years of his manager—a smart villain who robs his employer at every turn. That all comes right in the end, and that the thief meets with his deserts is a matter of course. The acting was very vivacious, making up for the tediousness of several of the scenes.

BERNARD SHAW'S quaint comedy *The Doctor's Dilemma* reached on Saturday its twenty-fifth performance at the Deutsches Chamber Plays. It still attracts fairly good audiences, for which fact the very good acting is chiefly responsible.

I REGRET to record the untimely death of Fräulein Grete Müller, a member, for the last year or two, of the Friedrich Wilhelm Städtisches Theatre. Grete Müller was only just turned twenty-two when she was called away, but she had been before the Berlin public for fifteen years, being one of a large and well-known family of actors. Her first important part was that of the child-king in Herr von Wildenbruch's fine play *König Heinrich*, which was produced under Herr Prasch's management at the Berliner Theatre some twelve years ago—a part in which she aroused the admiration of all critics. Since that time she has played at many leading theatres, always with distinct success. The cause of the talented young artist's death was heart disease.

MR. EDITOR,—SIR,—Would you kindly correct in your report the following mistake? In your notice of the Shakespeare, Clapham, Mr. Will Harris is singing his latest success, "I planted it in the garden," and not "Cos he was smarter than me.' Thanking you in anticipation.—Yours faithfully ASHLEY BEALE."

AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, DEC. 16.—Miss Annie Russell, who is appearing at Weber's Theatre in *The Stronger Sex*, a three-act comedy, by John Valentine, received a cordial welcome on her return to the local stage after a year's absence. Miss Russell acts with her usual skill and personal charm the part of Mary Barrington, the American heiress and husband-tamer, and is ably supported by Mr. Oswald Yorke, Mr. Robert Drouet, Miss Helen Tracy, and Miss Alma Kruger, minor parts being well played by Messrs. Doré Davidson, William Wadsworth, and Elwyn Eaton.

Mme. Mimi Aguglia and her company of Sicilian players are fulfilling an engagement at the Broadway Theatre that has proved fairly successful. Their performances are remarkable for their realism and power, but as very few Americans understand their language, their audiences are chiefly composed of their fellow-countrymen.

The Mollusc, when its New York engagement ended, was sent "on the road." Miss May Irwin succeeded Miss Alexandra Carlisle in the title-rôle, and continued to appear also in the curtain-raiser, *Mrs. Peckham's Carouse*. In St. Louis a few days ago Miss Irwin was taken seriously ill with tonsilitis, and her engagements for the next few weeks have been cancelled.

The corner-stone of the New Theatre was laid yesterday afternoon with appropriate ceremonies in the presence of a representative gathering of several hundred people. A choral song, composed by Mr. Percy Mackaye, was sung by a chorus of 120 voices, after which Mayor McClellan addressed the assemblage. President Roosevelt sent his good wishes, and Mr. Richard Watson Gilder composed a piece of verse for the occasion entitled "Shakespeare's New Home." The New Theatre will begin its first season next November, under the direction of Mr. Winthrop Ames, and Mr. Lee Shubert will be the business manager. There will be a permanent stock company, composed of eminent players, and financial success is to be a secondary consideration. The theatre is advantageously situated at the corner of Sixty-second-street and Central Park West.

NEW YORK, DEC. 23.—The most important event at the theatres during Christmas week will be the appearance this evening at the Empire Theatre of Miss Maude Adams in the four-act comedy, by James M. Barrie, entitled *What Every Woman Knows*. The house is sold out, and for once the ticket speculators have been defeated, thanks to the strenuous efforts of Mr. Charles Frohman. Mr. Joseph O'Mara in *Peggy Machree* opened at the Broadway Theatre on Monday, after a prosperous tour of the principal cities, and was accorded a most enthusiastic reception. Mr. Wilton Lackaye in Cleveland Moffett's new drama *The Battle* began an engagement at the Savoy Theatre on the same evening, and scored a success. At the Casino to-night the favourite comedian, Mr. Eddie Foy, will appear in a two-act musical comedy, entitled *Mr. Hamlet of Broadway*.

"SKYSCRAPERS" is the novel title of a comedy, in three acts, that was recently produced at the New German Theatre in this city. Written by two Austrians, Messrs. Carl Roessler and Ludwig Heller, the play gave the Americans another opportunity of seeing themselves as others see them. The plot deals with the family affairs and matrimonial complications of a millionaire New Yorker, Francis Cormack, and his four daughters. Ethel Santley, the eldest, has been three times married and three times divorced, and ere the play ends she plans to take her fourth plunge into the troubled sea of matrimony. Florence, Countess Taxenbach, is her father's business associate, and the other daughters, Grace and Violet, are unmarried. The family are staying at the Hotel Astor, where Count Taxenbach introduces Baron Zeissl, an impecunious young Austrian whom the Count has met abroad. The Baron is at first supposed to be a guest, but he is really employed as a waiter. Violet, the youngest daughter, a self-willed girl, is attracted to the Baron at once. Herold, a director in Cormack's Bank, is a suitor for Ethel's hand, but she tells him he must do something daring in order to win her love, and Ethel's father has promised his consent to the union if Herold can make a million dollars in twenty-four hours. How he complies with this condition and does the daring deed at the same time is by abstracting a large sum of money from Cormack's safe. He speculates during the day, and wins a large amount. Cormack sends out detectives to catch the thief, whose identity is, of course, unknown to him. In the meantime, Violet has obtained a cheque for a goodly sum from her father, and engaged the Baron to accompany her to Europe as her courier. They are arrested as they are about to go on board the steamer, and during their detention by the police they become engaged to each other. Herold's purpose being accomplished, he restores the money to Cormack, and Ethel consents to marry him. Violet's engagement displeases her father, but he has to grin and bear it. So much for the story; and now for the incidentals. The former husbands of Ethel, three in number, assemble to see "our wife" so that she may ask their advice regarding her fourth venture. She remarks that it is "so nice for them to have a comfortable little chat together." Another "typical American girl" falls in love with an operatic tenor, an Indian Rajah, a French Prince, and a minister in the brief space of three days. Yet another is an athletic schoolgirl, who parades the parental home in gymnasium bloomers, swinging Indian clubs. On her return from school this striking young person demands to see her millionaire father, of whom she has heard so much but never seen, until she has come to the conclusion that he is a myth. When he appears she immediately "strikes him" for a trip to Europe. The millionaire's wife has a leaning towards theosophy. The Indian Rajah, who has come to America to arrange for the building of a railway in his domain, is convinced that the happiness of his people depends on his keeping out the skyscrapers. The journalistic enterprise of the Americans is illustrated by a reporter who wears a frock coat decorated with a nosegay, and grey kid gloves. Around his neck is strung a camera and in his hand he carries a red leather memorandum book.

MISS ADELINE GENEE, during her engagement in Washington with *The Soul Kiss*, was received by President Roosevelt, by special appointment, at the White House. Miss Genée is at present winning the applause of the multitude at Ford's Opera House in Baltimore.

IN the course of the hearing in Paris last week of a charge against a man who bought a pair of opera-glasses which had been stolen from a theatre, it was stated that 1,400 pairs of glasses are purloined from the theatres of Paris in the course of a year.

MAKES THE SKIN AS SOFT AS VELVET.—Beetham's "LAROLA" Preserves the Skin from the effects of frost, cold winds, and hard water. Entirely removes and prevents all roughness, redness, irritation, chaps, &c., and KEEPS THE SKIN SOFT, SMOOTH, and WHITE at All Seasons. INVALUABLE for the COMPLEXION, DELIGHTFULLY SOOTHING AND REFRESHING after golfing, cycling, motoring, dancing, &c. Gentlemen will find it wonderfully soothing if applied after shaving. Bottles, 1s., 1s. 9d., and 2s. 6d. each, of all Chemists and Stores. M. BEETHAM AND SON, CHELTENHAM.—[ADVT.]

"ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA."

Revived at the Queen's Theatre, Manchester, on Saturday, Dec. 26.

Cleopatra .....Miss Darragh
M. Antony .....Mr. Jerrold Robertshaw
Octavius Cæsar .....Mr. Hamilton Deane
M. Æmil Lepidus .....Mr. J. H. Atkinson
Sextus Pompeius .....Mr. John Wainwright
D. Enobarbus .....Mr. Frank Woolfe
Ventidius .....Mr. J. Sheldon
Eros .....Mr. Leonard Robson
Scarus .....Mr. Ellersley Pyne
Philo .....Mr. D. Davis
Agrippa .....Mr. W. F. Stirling
Proculeius .....Mr. Gordon Kingsley
Thyreus .....Mr. Jack R. Darnley
Menas .....Mr. A. D. Anderson
Candius .....Mr. H. Marston Clifford
A Soothsayer .....Mr. George Fitzgerald
Mardian .....Mr. Alfred Hilliard
Diomedes .....Mr. Hornby Warburton
A Clown .....Mr. J. F. Fox
First Soldier .....Mr. Leslie Bennett
Second Soldier .....Mr. Walter T. Clifford
Third Soldier .....Mr. Vaughan
Octavia .....Miss Madge Raper
Charmian .....Miss Phyllis Relph
Iras .....Miss Ella Thornton

(From our own correspondent.)

Antony and Cleopatra, Mr. Richard Flanagan's fourteenth annual Shakespearean revival, was put on at the Queen's Theatre, Manchester, on Saturday, Dec. 26, with every promise of success. *Antony and Cleopatra* stands somewhat outside the range of the dramatist's best work; neither the one character nor the other is limned with that profound intuition and sharp outline which distinguish many better-known tragic figures in his works; nor does the sense of tragedy accompany to any very marked degree the slow and laboured movement of the plot. Consequently, unless the two central parts are in the hands of an actor and actress of transcendent individuality the purport is apt to seem less impressive than it is, and to be obscured by the mere spectacular interest. The latter element, however, it must be admitted, is a great consideration of the many patrons of the Queen's Theatre, and if they have magnificence of setting they are not too critical of the rest, though they are never lacking in their appreciation of great drama and good acting. Good acting—admitting, of course, that the staging is up to the very high standard which has contributed so much to the success of these revivals—will account to a large degree for the success of the present production. In the hands of Miss Darragh and Mr. Jerrold Robertshaw the chief parts are expounded with due sense of their tragic import, so that, to some degree at least, the apprehension of a tremendous issue is created in the audience, and tends to pervade the whole surface of the play. The passion of Antony for Cleopatra was a glorious but ignoble thing; it presents the spectacle of a well-beloved and heroic conqueror sacrificing honour and power to the allurements of a woman—a splendid temptress—comparable only with Helen of Troy, whose love was the last attainment, the highest reach, of mortal happiness. Antony's abandonment to this, with its attendant tortures of the mind, form an excellent trial of Mr. Robertshaw's ability. He essays it in the manly but variable temper of the original; he is clear, direct, and strenuous as required; and on the opening night his efforts met with their due reward of praise. His whole performance was, in fact, finely subordinated to the dominating thought of Cleopatra. The influence of the beautiful Greek, in the person of Miss Darragh, is curiously penetrating, though it would be as idle to assert that she realises one's idea of Cleopatra as a woman as to undertake to produce Cleopatra from the dead. Miss Darragh invests the part with the personality of a purely emotional actress. She has natural charms, and is therefore pleasing to the eye; her movements are supple, sinuous, and suggestively characteristic; and her voice sounds along her lines like a beautiful musical instrument. Cleopatra was perhaps more voluptuous than Miss Darragh would endeavour to suggest, both in temperament and costume. It is, nevertheless, as fine an impersonation as playgoers were led to expect from an actress who has had ample experience in high-class drama, and who can convey much in a look or a tone. Mr. Hamilton Deane as Cæsar fills the part with dignity, delivering his lines with studious care and manly effect. Mr. Frank Woolfe as Enobarbus has more plastic opportunities, and he uses them with the skill and resource of an actor who has previously made his mark in these productions. Mr. Leonard Robson as Eros, Miss Phyllis Relph as Charmian, and Miss Ella Thornton as Iras were also very good in an unassuming way. One must not forget, also, the Agrippa of Mr. W. F. Stirling, Mr. John Wainwright's Sextus Pompeius, and the Lepidus of Mr. J. H. Atkinson, whose gift of humour, by the way, has less chance this year than heretofore. Of the scenery, much praise in detail might be written, but every set is beautiful, dignified, and worthy of the theme they illustrate. Mr. William Palmer may be congratulated especially upon The Landing-stage of Cleopatra's Palace, Near Misenum, The Banks of the Nile, and the brilliantly-effective tableau of the Sea Fight near Actium. There is also a very brave show of costumes, Egyptian and Roman, red cloaks and plumes, brass helmets and shining armour, and other gorgeous trappings of pomp and circumstance. Some incidental singing by the Queen's Theatre choir is enjoyed, and an Oriental dance by Miss Eva Moore is gracefully and effectively done. The music which accompanies the action has been composed by Dr. Henry Watson (Cantab.), and though it is sometimes intrusive and monotonous, it is agreeable on the whole. An elaborate tinted souvenir of the production, supplied within the theatre, is from the press of Mr. Geo. Hargreaves, and contains, beside Mr. Palmer's drawings, an illuminating exposition of the play by Mr. J. Cuming Walters, editor of the *Manchester City News*.

GREENWICH THEATRE.

On Monday, Jan. 4, the Drama, in Four Acts, by H. R. Sylva, entitled
"GREED OF GOLD."

Mr. T. Morton Powell's company, in *Greed of Gold*, is drawing excellent business this week. The character of Tom Wolstead, the dumb man, is capitally impersonated by Mr. James Jarrett, who works with untiring energy, and makes an emphatic success. Mr. Henry Parr gives an excellent performance of Harry Hood. Mr. Alf. Stretton plays well as Arthur Erroll; Mr. Arthur Benfort gives a clever rendering of Cully Snig; Mr. Charles E. Wood is very amusing as Conn Creamer; Mr. Brightside has an excellent representative in Mr. Victor C. Rolfe; Mr. J. Field is good as Mee Chow; Mr. D. Carr is smart and incisive as Markham Keene; Mr. C. Williams is good as John Hagley, as is Mr. C. Osborne as Police-constable Head; Mr. C. R. Eglinton is well placed as Counsel for the Prosecution; and other parts are well acted by Messrs. Ernest W. Launder and J. Wilkie. Miss Maud M. Powell gives an attractive rendering of Dora Hood, whose little son is well represented by Miss Beatrice Maud Hughes; Patty Marfield is brightly and pleasingly acted by Miss Florrie Hayes; and the ill-fated Mrs. Maxwell is played with ease and dignity by Miss Jennie Douglas Hicks. The scenery is good, and the Engine House at Glynn Mills is especially realistic.

A Copy of "The Era" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

"THE EYES OF THE WORLD."

Drama, in Three Acts, by Charles Darrell, produced at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Grimsby, on Monday, Dec. 21.

M. Achille Fanfarade ..Mr. J. Edward Whitty
M. Hector de l'Orme....Mr. George D. Daiper
M. Gaston de Carnac .....Mr. Will Casey
M. Paul Roqueville .....Mr. W. Rowe
Octave .....Mr. Charles Stirling
Brigard .....Mr. Bert Hendley
Mme. Esmé de Carnac Miss Beatrice Fitzhugh
Mlle. Susanne Pomfleure..Miss Nellie Garside
Avice .....Miss Irene Stanhope
Antoinette .....Miss Ivy Courtney
Hélène de l'Orme ....Miss Ethel Van Praagh

(From our own correspondent.)

Miss Ethel Van Praagh and Mr. J. Edward Whitty could scarcely have wished for a more enthusiastic reception than was accorded the first performance of their new venture, *The Eyes of the World*, at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, on Monday evening last week. The first act concluded to the accompaniment of a perfect furore of applause, and the subsequent acts were received with equally emphatic expressions of approbation on the part of the audience.

The author has laid his plot in an influential circle of modern French society, displays a singularly intimate knowledge of his subject, and essays a tilt at the essentially French matrimonial custom of family-arranged marriages. In powerful fashion he emphasises the dangers of domestic infelicity which may attend upon loveless unions, but whilst this is a prominent feature of the play, it is not the prime motive. The fundamental subject of the play is the ancient law which decrees that the sins of the fathers shall recoil upon their children.

Hélène de l'Orme is a high-minded, warm-hearted woman, allied to an unworthy husband, who is incapable of appreciating her true qualities. She bears the indignities that are thrust upon her with as much patience as her refined temperament will admit, until a chance circumstance reveals to her the guilty intrigue that exists between her husband and Esmé de Carnac, the wife of a close friend. Her high sense of honour is so outraged by the discovery that she determines to unmask the whole hideous business, but to avoid the scandal which would thus be divulged to the eyes of the world she is prevailed upon to maintain secrecy. Not even the deceived husband, Gaston de Carnac, is enlightened, but though Hélène consents to secrecy she refuses to remain further with her unfaithful husband, and goes into voluntary exile with her child.

The second act (the date of which is definitely fixed as June 21, 1908) finds Hélène, after a lapse of ten years, still separated from her husband, and as no reason for this matrimonial estrangement has been made public, it is inevitable that, in the eyes of the world, the sole blame is attached to the woman. Thus Hélène finds herself socially ostracised, whilst the really guilty woman remains a leader of influential society, and continues the *liaison* with Hélène's husband. This act provides the finest scenes of the play. There is a touching scene in which Hélène discovers that her daughter, Avice, has formed an attachment for Octave de Carnac, the son of Esmé de Carnac. The possible consanguinity between the young couple renders it imperative that the desired betrothal should be abandoned, and in order to convince Octave of this, Hélène is compelled to reveal to him the story of his mother's shame.

Afterwards it is conclusively proved to Hélène that her fears are groundless, and she then hopes to secure the happiness of her child by bringing about a marriage with Octave. But a new difficulty presents itself. Octave's father will not consent to a marriage unless Hélène will conform to convention by returning to her husband, or, as another resource, yield her own life to remove the barrier. Hélène is now placed between the alternatives of wrecking her daughter's life or suffering bitter self-martyrdom. She fights hard to soften the heart of Octave's father, but her pleas fall upon deaf ears, until (this in the third act) she is driven in desperation to break silence and justify her separation from her husband by revealing to Gaston de Carnac (Octave's father) the perfidy of his own wife.

Gaston is incredulous, but Hélène's husband, in whom remorse has been gradually but surely awakening, unexpectedly corroborates her by confessing his guilt and that of his paramour. Although in this brief synopsis of the plot this *dénouement* may seems abrupt, it is not so in reality, but is artistically and naturally effected. Gaston de Carnac, although stunned by the revelation of his wife's infidelity, removes his objection to the marriage, the happiness of the young couple is assured, and a reconciliation is effected between Hélène and her husband.

As may be imagined, the play called for much deeply emotional acting, and the greatest share of this fell upon Miss Ethel Van Praagh, as Helene de l'Orme. She represented the tender devotion of the mother with sincerity, and displayed dramatic fervour in the intensely emotional scenes that occur at the conclusion of each act. Mr. George D. Daiper acted with distinction as Hector de l'Orme, and Mr. Will Casey was equally good as Gaston de Carnac. The interesting character of Octave found a sympathetic exponent in Mr. Charles Stirling. Mr. W. Rowe portrayed Paul Roqueville with suitable dignity. Miss Beatrice Fitzhugh admirably realised the overbearing conduct of Esmé de Carnac; and Miss Irene Stanhope was charmingly ingennous as Avice. The light-comedy relief was capably provided by Mr. J. Edward Whitty as Achille Fanfarade and Miss Nellie Garside as Susanne Pomfleure.

THEATRE ROYAL, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Jan. 4, the Drama entitled
"DRIVEN FROM HOME."

Mr. Andrew Melville's large and talented company is presenting this week a really interesting play, and in *Driven from Home* are found numerous scenes abounding in strong situations and stirring incidents, interspersed with plenty of humour, the latter being received by the audience with every manifestation of approval. The drama is well mounted, the scene depicting the Interior of the Saw Mills, with the machinery in motion, being noteworthy. Mr. Felix Pitt undertakes the character of Anthony Raybrook with excellent effect, and although an unsympathetic part, he gives a clever impersonation, using his powerful voice with much ability. Miss Violet Ennis Lawson essays the dual rôles of Laura Raybrook and Walter Hatherleigh the younger. In the former character she offers a pathetic rendering of the daughter driven from home, and acts in a painstaking style; in the latter part as the boy she makes an excellent impression. Mr. P. George Beresford as Walter Hatherleigh instils considerable feeling into the part, and scores highly. Mr. C. Burdon as Geoffrey Waring gives a good delineation of the character, and supplies a clever study. Mr. Percy Dawson puts a good deal of dramatic power into his representation of Willie, the outcast, and succeeds to the utmost. Mr. Fred C. Imbert is thoroughly diverting, and imparts much humour to the part of John Anderson, for which he is heartily recompensed; Miss Susie Bevan as Margaret Bailey also assists to keep the ball of fun rolling, in which effort she is quite successful. Dick Saunders is in the very capable hands of Mr. E. Finlay, who does ample justice to the part. Mr. Harry Cornwall makes a most suitable Jabez Thomas. The remaining members of a long cast lend adequate assistance.

DEATH OF GEORGE LAURI.

In circumstances of the saddest character the death has taken place in Sydney, New South Wales, of the comedian George Lauri, a member of the famous family bearing that name, who was found dead with his throat cut in the early part of this week. About nine months ago Mr. Lauri suffered a breakdown in health due to overwork, and his doctors ordered him a sea voyage. He accordingly set out for New Zealand and the Blue Mountains, and finally went to America, returning by way of San Francisco. His efforts to secure a restoration to health were unhappily unavailing, and he went back without having benefited in any way.

The deceased comedian was the son of John Lauri, the famous ballet master, who was associated in that capacity with the terpsichorean triumphs at Her Majesty's, the Gaiety, and Lyceum Theatres. He was brother to Mrs. Walter Slaughter and the late Mrs. Harry Ulph, and cousin to Mr. Edward Lauri, the well-known London actor. George Lauri went to America some twenty years ago, and appeared there with the late Willie Edouin, playing his parts and helping to make a fortune for his manager. He then went to Australia under the management of Williamson and Musgrove, where he speedily took the place of the late William Elton, who was acknowledged to be the greatest favourite who ever went out to that country. Mr. Lauri commenced with Gilbert and Sullivan opera, following on with Gaiety and Daly's successes, in which he played principal comedian, a rôle which he retained to the time of his death. The Musgrove-Williamson company eventually developed into the Royal Comic Opera company, under the sole direction of Mr. Williamson. Mr. Lauri's most notable successes were as Jack Point in *The Yeoman of the Guard* and Tweedlepunch in *Florodora*.

One of the quickest studies in existence, Mr. Lauri had a répertoire second to none, and it may be said of him that he could play in any comedy opera at a night's notice. He had a wonderful voice, and was an accomplished dancer. He was a unique personality among playgoers, and it is a remarkable fact that his admirers would not allow him to appear in any make-up beyond that of wig and grease-paint. If he put on a beard or any other disguise the audience would demand that they should be removed. They

THE LATE MR. GEORGE LAURI.

wanted the comedian himself, and it was confidently predicted that unless George could be readily recognised the piece could never hope for success.

Mr. Lauri was an ardent sportsman, and owned several racehorses. His influence in the promotion of charity was phenomenal, and it was generally admitted that he could collect more money for philanthropic purposes than anybody in the Commonwealth, not even excepting the Governor-General himself. He had only to walk about among the merchants and plead his cause, and money would roll in to whatever extent he desired. When any charitable object was mooted he was always first in the field, and he presided over practically every charity in the city. His efforts in respect to the companies with which he was connected were equally admirable. He established a fund by which the minor members of the companies, the chorus, and auxiliaries were for a nominal subscription assured of their salary and medical attendance during illness, and were often sent away to a sanatorium at the expense of the Fund, which grew to such an extent that money could be devoted to outside charities. Truly George will be sadly missed by the poorer members of the profession in Australia! We offer our sincere condolences to the bereaved relatives. By the death of George Lauri, his cousin, Mr. Edward Lauri, becomes the only remaining male member of the family appearing before the public.

"Ticey," a comedy, in four acts, by William Gillette, was performed for the first time in New York at the Liberty Theatre on the 18th ult. The play was originally entitled *That Little Affair at the Boyd's*, The scenes are laid in England, and the chief characters are Kitty Cameron, a famous actress, and an ambitious playwright named Stephen Boyd. The latter is an idealist, and his plays have just missed being successful. Kitty and he have grown up together, but have drifted apart. Although they are in love with each other, love has been subordinated to ambition and has remained unexpressed. Boyd has tried to sell his latest play, but without success. Unknown to Kitty, he has followed her from town to town, and at last they meet by accident in a restaurant. She has seen the manuscript of his play, as it has been submitted to her manager, and as the result of their conversation she realises the situation and perceives the obstacle to Boyd's success. Knowing that he is too proud to accept assistance, she has recourse to a subterfuge. In the second and third acts she appears as Ticey, a clumsy, ignorant "slavey," in the household of the playwright's mother. With consummate tact she contrives to point out the mistakes in Boyd's play. He revises the manuscript, and submits it to a manager, and it is accepted at once. On the night of the first performance Ticey disappears from the household and assumes the leading rôle in the play, which proves a big success. Boyd is now in a position to propose to Kitty, and she accepts him. He fails to discover that she and Ticey are one and the same person, but as the curtain falls she remarks, "Some day I may tell you something." Miss Mary Ryan as Kitty Cameron was charming, and as the smudge-faced kitchen drudge, Ticey, she brought out the humour and sentiment of the situation delightfully. Mr. Winchell Smith was very good as Stephen Boyd, and Mr. Dallas Welford gave an amusing impersonation of a Cockney bounder named Wedgeley. The play was performed in the afternoon for the benefit of a local charity.

"A REPENTANT SINNER."

Drama, in Five Acts, produced at the Alhambra Theatre, Stourbridge, on Saturday, Dec. 26.

Daniel Debenham ....Mr. Archie W. Chappell
John Merryweather ....Mr. Herbert Robinson
Stephen Lorridale .....Mr. Aidan Lovett
Mark Witherley ....Mr. Stewart Quartermayne
Ezekiel Progg .....Mr. Charles Howarth
Blind Peter .....Mr. Evan Benton
Ben Bowser .....Mr. Willie H. Vernon
Major Tillock .....Mr. James Lewis
Flappy .....Mr. Holman Harris
Hon. Pethwick Bray ..Mr. Archie W. Chappell
Bullet .....Mr. Wyndam Jackson
Inspector of Police ....Mr. George Harrison
Bill Tarpot .....Mr. Bert Tomlins
Village Boy .....Master George Nash
Dora .....Miss Amy Dalby
Ariminta .....Miss Jenny Bostock
Fanny Jiggs .....Miss Beatrice Reynolds
Mary .....Miss G. Lillian
Winnie Haughtington ....Miss Lilleth Gabriel
Sybil Meriscord .....Miss Bertha Deene
La Belle Estelle .....Miss Marie De Roos

(From our own correspondent.)

It may be at once conceded that *A Repentant Sinner* is a drama decidedly above the average, both in strength and consistency of story. It has a theme which is never lost sight of from beginning to end, and with really funny comedy naturally introduced the play should be one to please every class. It speaks volumes for its engrossing power that, though the curtain did not finally fall till a very late hour, the whole of the audience, which occupied every inch of the theatre, remained till the end. The story opens in the living room of Mulberry Farm on Christmas Eve (a charmingly picturesque and homely set). Dora, the daughter of a farmer named Daniel Debenham, although engaged to John Merryweather, a young doctor, who is expected, has been for the time blinded by her infatuation for Stephen Lorridale, a stranger from town, who has been staying in the village. When John tells her of his appointment as house surgeon at a London hospital, which will hasten their marriage, he is decidedly hurt at Dora's coldness. Her Aunt Ariminta suspects the conditions, and confides her suspicions to the farmer, who is much upset when they are confirmed by a blind old farm hand, who has overheard a conversation between Lorridale and Dora. Daniel, feeling uneasy, confides to Dora in a most natural and touching scene that the mother she has always mourned as dead really deserted him many years ago, and for all he knows may yet be alive. Hoping her mother's story may be a warning, he retires, leaving Dora torn with anxiety 'twixt love and duty. Stephen Lorraine appears at the window, and after a powerful scene Dora has bidden her home good-bye. As the bells proclaim that Christmas has dawned, the farmer is seen stricken with grief, realising that his daughter has fled from her home as her mother, his wife, did eighteen years before.

A month passes, and we are at the Doctor's, in London, whither the farmer has come, having fallen on hard times. To John he shows an old case containing jewellery, which had belonged to his runaway wife, and which he proposes to sell in order to find Dora. La Belle Estelle, a wealthy patient (who suffers from a peculiar heart trouble), is announced, and, being left alone, recognises the jewellery left on the table by Dan as her own. Eventually these two meet, and though Dan recognises his lost wife, Estelle disclaims all remembrance of having seen him before. In Act III. we find Estelle at home in a gorgeous establishment in Kensington, which is, in reality, little better than a gambling hell. Lorridale, who is the head of a secret society, announces to Estelle his intention of introducing into their circle a young girl, who is to answer the purpose of a decoy. The girl is, of course, Dora, whom Lorridale has kept in hiding since the night she fled. She asks Lorridale to delay their marriage no longer, and he makes arrangements to leave for Paris that night. John calls to see Estelle, and is horrified to meet Dora, who disclaims all knowledge of the character of the house. Little dreaming it is her own daughter, Estelle decides to save this girl from a fate similar to her own. Lorridale enters to find Dora gone. Later the house is surrounded by the police, but Lorridale escapes. On learning that she has saved her own child, Estelle falls, apparently dead. It is really one of her old heart attacks, and she thus escapes the law. In the next act search is being made for Dora, who has escaped in the night from Estelle's house. Eventually in a garret on Tower Hill Dora learns that Estelle is her mother. Lorridale is confronted by John and a fight ensues, Lorridale being shot by Mark Witherley. It is harvest time, when we are once again back at Mulberry Farm. Dora and John are about to marry, and Dora pleads with her father not to cloud her happiness by leaving her mother unforgiven. Estelle enters, and after a very pathetic scene she and Daniel are once more united.

Mr. Archie Chappell gave an excellent performance of Dan, supplying light and shade to a complex character. Mr. Aidan Lovett was a virile Lorridale, and received excellent support from Mr. Quartermayne as Mark Witherley. Mr. Herbert Robinson was the Doctor to the life. The comedy, which is a strong point, received excellent treatment at the hands of Messrs. Charles Howarth and Willie H. Vernon, Miss Beatrice Reynolds, and Miss Jenny Bostock. Miss Marie de Roos was good as Estelle, and Miss Amy Dalby was a natural and interesting Dora. The other numerous characters were excellently played. The scenery, painted by Mr. John Cunningham, was on a lavish scale, and the special overture and incidental music by Mr. Harry L. Gibson were much admired. The whole production was under the direction of Mr. Douglas C. Phelps, who was cast for the part of Dan for Thursday and Friday, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

A new modern comedy in three acts, entitled *Betty's Engagement*, by G. E. Jennings, will be produced at the Kinton Theatre, Henley-on-Thames, on Thursday. The cast will include Miss Gertrude Henriques and Miss Hilda Thorpe.

An interesting ceremony was performed in the lounge of the Opera House, Crewe, on Saturday evening, when a party of friends and well-wishers met together for the purpose of presenting a cheque, subscribed by themselves, to Mr. Charles Howard, the resident manager for Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett, on the occasion of his leaving Crewe to join Mr. Bennett at the Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham. During the short time he has been at the Opera House Mr. Howard has made himself very popular, and he carries with him the best wishes of all. Mr. Alfred Cuthbert will co-operate with Mr. Bennett in the management of his Crewe theatre.

One of the principal features in the successful pantomime at the Dalston Theatre is the revival of a good old-fashioned harlequinade, invented and produced by that well-known pantomimist and clown Mr. Tom Green. During the past few years this important item has disappeared from the Christmas productions, but a few of the London managers find that the harlequinade is a source of amusement for the youngsters, and, for that matter, of some of the elders, who remember the days when they revelled in the antics of Dick Stilt, Harry Boleno, Huline, Harry Payne, Fred Evans, Chas. Laurie, Alf Griovenella, and many Evans, Chas. Lauri, Alf Giovenella, and many others. It is a fact worthy of note that at the Dalston Theatre the audience remain in their seats to the end to see Mr. Green's harlequinade.

"LA BEAUTE DU DIABLE."

Drama, in Five Acts and Eight Tableaux, by Jules Mary and Emile Rochard, Produced at the Ambigu, Paris, on Dec. 23.

Nathalie .....Mme. Tessandier
Suzanne .....Mlle. Paule Andral
Claudine .....Mlle. Cecile Barre
Rose .....Mlle. Emmy Lynn
Eva de Saint-Valéry .....Mlle. Jeanne Clade
Comte de Croix-Vitré .....M. Camille Bert
Le Général .....M. Bellieres
Henriot .....M. Ville fils
Laurent .....M. Morgan
Marberoux .....M. Liezer
Dornak .....M. Blanchard
Docteur Fontehailles .....M. Maurice Mayen

(From our own correspondent.)

This is a well-constructed melodrama, and the fact that it contains a great many villains proved an element of success. The villain-in-chief is Nathalie, a widow. Her husband having left her and her little boy, Laurent, penniless, she is compelled to accept the hospitality of her brother-in-law, Philippe de Croix-Vitré, the husband of the beautiful Suzanne. Nathalie is anxious that her son should inherit enormous property of the Croix-Vitré family. As Suzanne expects to become soon a mother, the treacherous Nathalie arouses in Philippe a suspicion that his wife is not faithful to him, adding that she has secret rendezvous with a certain Marberoux. This Marberoux has for a long time past pestered Suzanne with his declarations, to which the lady refused to listen. In the opening act—a kind of prologue—happening to meet Suzanne in a lonely spot in the park, he tries to assault her, whereupon the terrified woman draws a small dagger and stabs him. Attracted by her screams, Philippe and Nathalie rush to the rescue, when, to Suzanne's horror, Marberoux informs Philippe that he, Marberoux, has been Suzanne's lover. With that lie on his lips he dies. Suzanne's protestations are of no avail. Philippe believes her to be guilty. He will not even see Rose, the little girl to whom she has given birth, and who, under an assumed name, is handed to the care of a farmer's family. Sixteen years are supposed to have elapsed. Suzanne, in order to have Rose near her, tells Philippe that the child died from an accident, and she cleverly manages to get Rose engaged in her service as laundry-maid. The wily Nathalie, however, watches. She compels Suzanne to confess that Rose is her daughter, but despite her entreaties Philippe continues to doubt her word. When Suzanne sees that Marberoux's supposed dying confession has made an ineffaceable impression on him, she resolves to sacrifice her life to save her child. She throws herself off the rocks, and in a dying shriek proclaims her innocence. Philippe at last is convinced, but too late; and he is struck with an apoplectic fit, that leaves him paralysed. Nathalie and her unworthy son, Laurent, then want to lay their hands on the fortune that seems within their grasp. But after a series of thrilling scenes their efforts are frustrated. Laurent tries to kill Rose, but he is strangled by Philippe, who recovers sufficient strength to punish the miscreant. The wicked Nathalie goes mad when she sees the dead body of her son; but Rose, heiress to the immense Croix-Vitré property, becomes the wife of Henriot, an honest young farmer, who helped her in all her troubles. The Ambigu evidently took much trouble over the work. It is well mounted, and no fault can be found with the acting. Mme. Tessandier's rôle as the sombre Nathalie was particularly unpleasant, but the gifted actress made the most of it. Mlle. Emmy Lynn made a triumphal début as Rose. Mlle. Cécile Barré was a sprightly Claudine; M. Camille Bert cleverly impersonated the disbelieving husband; and MM. Bélières, Villé, Morgan, and Liézer completed a first-class ensemble.

COLONEL MAPLESON ON BOOK-KISSING.

To the Editor of The Era.

Sir,—A very eminent prima donna (who is at present under engagement to me, but whose name I purposely withhold for fear that this letter might be regarded as an advertisement) was recently subpœnaed as a witness in a law case. The Book which was handed her to kiss was dirty and ill-smelling. Some days after the lady in question was troubled with a rash on her mouth and chin, which finally affected her throat. The doctor pronounced it a malignant itch, and he felt no hesitancy in declaring it to have been transmitted to his patient through the foul Testament she had been compelled to kiss at the Court. It took two months to cure this ailment, and during this time the prima donna lost a considerable sum through inability to fulfil professional engagements. Ever since the science of preventing disease became a serious study attention has been drawn to the danger and risks which witnesses run in kissing Court Testaments. Even a casual inspection of these books is sufficient to show their horribly grimy condition, and a microscopical examination would undoubtedly reveal a state of things too disgusting to contemplate. The late Judge Pitt-Taylor is reported to have stated that he considered the practice of kissing the Book as insanitary, repulsive, and absolutely unnecessary; and he advocated in language not less emphatic that the older ceremony of laying the hand on the Testament should be reverted to.

Not long ago it was proved that a witness suffering from a virulent contagious disease of the lips was allowed by a High Court judge to kiss the Book, and although there was a talk of drawing the attention of Parliament to the matter, nothing has been done to remedy the evil.

Why not adopt in this country the Scottish system, whereby the oath is administered by the witness holding up the right hand when taking the ordinary oath.

I remember about five years ago, during an epidemic of small-pox in London, that the High Court judges had notices issued informing witnesses of their right to be sworn in the Scottish form in accordance with the provisions of the Oaths Act. "Kissing the Book" is unknown in Continental countries, where the old English form is used of laying the hand upon an open Bible whilst repeating the words, "I swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth," excepting in France, where the same formula is used, but the witness holds up his right hand instead of touching the Bible.

Witnesses in English Courts should take the law in their own hands, and refuse to kiss "filthy and unclean" books, rather than run the risk of catching a cutaneous disease or something worse.—Yours faithfully,

HENRY MAPLESON (Colonel),
President of the International Society of Music.

47, Charing Cross-road.

Mr. Mayor-Cooke will open on Monday as the Demon at the Empire, Southend, in Messrs. Conquest and Bateman's revival of the dramatic success *The Crimes of Paris*. It is interesting to recall that in the production of this drama at the Pavilion, Mile End, in the 'eighties Miss Ada Reeve played the part of the child.

Miss Chrissie Ralland, a popular member of the Wheeler-Edwardes company now touring in the Far East, was married quietly recently to Mr. C. H. Rodwell, Imperial Secretary to Lord Selborne, High Commissioner of South Africa. We offer the clever young actress and vocalist our sincerest congratulations.

PROVINCIAL PANTOMIMES.

"THE FORTY THIEVES" AT CHELTENHAM.

Mr. J. Bannister Howard's pantomime *The Forty Thieves* was produced at the Cheltenham Opera House on Boxing Day by Mr. Charles A. East, under Mr. Bannister Howard's personal direction, and has proved an immense success. Mr. Redford is to be congratulated on his arrangement to revivify the Crystal Palace success of last Christmas, with the original scenery, dresses, armour, &c., and the result has more than justified his venture. The book, by Mr. Fred Bowyer, adheres with rather more than usual fidelity to the familiar story from the "Arabian Nights," and is plentifully interspersed with tuneful ditties, popular items being introduced from *The Merry Widow*, *Girls of Gottenberg*, and *Miss Hook of Holland*. The result is a combination of story and song which, with admirable staging, acting, and dressing, makes up as bright and sparkling an entertainment as has been seen on the local boards. Nine scenes are presented. Bagdad is a picturesque city indeed; and Outside the Robbers' Cave is a charming stage picture, especially when the richly-caparisoned forty are assembled, glowing and scintillating in the limelight; but the greatest triumph of effect is reached in the scene depicting the Interior of the Cave, when the Fairy Queen calls down the golden rain. The closing scene, Verandah and Terrace Gardens, in which a pretty ballet is introduced, forms a gorgeous climax. The number of speaking parts is unusually small, hardly a dozen in all. Of these the most notable are the two smart comedians who appear as Ali Baba and his better and larger half. Mr. A. G. Spry's Ali is a really comical creation, with plenty of quaint by-play and patter, and he makes a great hit with his parody song, "You, you, you." Mr. Paddy Dupres puts an enormous amount of "go" into the part of Mrs. Ali Baba; he is quite the very latest thing in dames, and contributes the lion's share of the fun. His song, "My old man's gone football mad," caught on wonderfully. There are two boys, Ganem (Miss Josie Farrington) and Abdallah, the Captain of the Robbers (Miss Olive Astor). Ganem is the hero, but Abdullah is the more striking and picturesque figure, and sings the patriotic song "A White Man" in the very best style, so we conclude that "he" is the principal boy; but Miss Farrington is a graceful "boy," who dances well and sings pleasingly "Carolina Brown" and "If I had a pal like you." The part of Morgiana is prettily and daintily played by Miss Nellie Barnwell, who sings charmingly two of the greatest successes, "Oh, oh, Antonio!" and "Have you any more at home like Mary?" The Sisters Elsie and Mabelle May (Hassan and Zobedia) are refined and clever duettists and dancers, their prettiest turn being "My own Dutch maid." Mr. Charles A. East plays with spirit the rôle of the villainous Cassim in addition to the arduous rôle of stage-manager. As Horace, the donkey, Mr. Len Loan does remarkably well; and as Hassarac and Bassanac Messrs. Walker and Lucerne do the knockabout business with abundant and energetic humour. Miss Rosina Effingham sings nicely in the part of the Fairy Queen. The music is the work of collaborators, Messrs. Joseph Samlon and Herbert Bogetti, and the latter directs the chorus and augmented orchestra.

"JACK THE GIANT KILLER" AT MOTHERWELL.

Messrs. R. C. Buchanan and Ernest Stevens's comic pantomime *Jack the Giant Killer* is doing well here. The book is by Stanley Rogers, and abounds in comic situations. The scenery is excellent, there being nine scenes, The Village of Daisynook, Courtyard of Blunderbore's Castle, and King Fad's Palace calling for special mention. Miss Madge Allan is a sprightly and gallant exponent of the title-part; and sings her songs in a very pleasing manner, "I don't care if there's a girl there," "Sue, Sue, Sue," and "Antonio" being especial favourites. Miss Lilian Errol is a charmingly sweet Marjory Daw, and renders her numbers (of which "Come and be my little Teddy Bear" and "Anywhere with you" prove most popular) very prettily. Miss Madge O'Neill is a dashing and debonair Mephisto, and is already an established favourite. Her fine voice is heard to advantage in a couple of tuneful melodies, "On the hills of Donegal" and "Far away in Australia." Mlle. Telka as the Spirit of Love scores a big success in her singing of "A tiny seed of love." Mr. Harry Farrow is one of the quaintest Dames seen here for a long time; he bubbles over with fun, and his business is funny in the extreme. Mr. Johnny M'Elroy is decidedly good as Simple Simon, his songs "Afraid to come home in the dark" and "Salomé" calling for special mention. Mr. Charles Sandford as King Fad is quaintly funny. One of the drollest things of the pantomime is Mr. Bob Anderson's singing of "Put me on an island," in which he has the assistance of a bevy of enthusiastic Suffragettes. Mr. Fred Fulton makes the most of his limited opportunities as Spareribs and scores highly. Mr. Bert Hilderesley does well as Sammy; Daisy is prettily played by Miss Lily Holland, who dances daintily; Queen Caressa is aptly embodied by Miss Evelyn Robson; and Mr. W. S. Stevenson admirably sustains the rôle of Giant Blunderbore. A popular feature of the production is the dancing of the Duquesne Trio, and mention should also be made of little Sadora Ornum in her song and dance. Praise is due to Mr. Stanley Lupino for his clever work as the Family Cow and his quaint dancing as the dog Towzer. Mr. W. S. Stevenson is responsible for the admirable stage-management, and a word of praise is due to Mr. Frederick Ganz, the musical-director.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—SIR HENRY IRVING.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun.*

Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News.*

THE Fulham Football Club will meet West Bromwich Albion at Fulham to-day at 2.30. The home team will comprise Fryer, Charlton or Lindsay, Sharp, Collins, Parsonage, Suart, Harrison, Dalrymple, Freeman, Millington, and Lipsham or Mouncher.

THE Rev. H. D. Hinde, vicar of Old Southgate, figured as a playwright on Wednesday evening, when his comic opera, *Thorstein Abbey*, was produced in the village hall. The piece is in a prologue and two acts, and deals with metaphysics, the spirits of ancient Norsemen being "reincarnated" in the persons of modern individuals. The piece was performed by local amateurs.

MR. AND MRS. J. H. SAVILE entertained the whole of the pantomime company of *Puss in Boots* at Paisley after the performance on New Year's Eve, and wine and wit flowed freely until the New Year. The same evening all the principals, both ladies and gentlemen, had received handsome presents during the performance from notable Paisley residents who have visited the pantomime. On Saturday last Mr. and Mrs. Coates engaged the whole of the boxes and dress circle, and presented the principal ladies with boxes of chocolates and the gentlemen with boxes of cigars. The pantomime, it is pleasing to learn, has broken all records of attendance.

THE MUSICAL YEAR.

The past year commenced with operatic performances by the Carl Rosa Opera Company, who began their short season at Covent Garden in December, 1907, giving a memorable performance of Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* on Jan. 1, 1908. Another interesting feature of the Carl Rosa season was the revival of Goring Thomas's delightful opera *Esmeralda*, not heard in London for many years. Shortly after this season came the production of Wagner's *Ring of the Nibelung* in English by the Royal Opera Syndicate, given under the direction of Dr. Hans Richter, with an admirable translation of the text by Mr. Frederick Jameson. So unanimous and enthusiastic were the musical critics and opera-goers in praise of these performances that the second cycle was attended by huge audiences. A large number of the vocalists were English, and included Mme. Agnes Nicholls, Miss Perceval Allen, and Mr. Walter Hyde, who created a most favourable impression by his performance of Siegmund; while an excellent Wotan was found in Mr. Clarence Whitehill. So great, indeed, was the success of the initial performance of the *Ring* in English that a second season has been arranged for this year under the same great conductor, in which a still larger percentage of English singers have been engaged. Students from our great Schools of Music will be well represented, Miss Dilys Jones, from the Royal College of Music, and no fewer than four vocalists trained at the Guildhall School of Music—Miss Marie Alexander, Miss Edith Clegg, Miss Maria Yelland, and Mr. D. Brydon-Ayres—have been engaged for the *Ring* performances.

On April 30 the Grand Season opened, and lasted for thirteen weeks, being particularly brilliant throughout. The conductors were Dr. Richter, Messrs. Campanini, Panizza, and Percy Pitt. The special novelty of the season was Bizet's *Pescatori de Perle*; while revivals of Gluck's *Armida*, Meyerbeer's *Gli Ugonotti*, and Verdi's *Otello* were given. For the rest the repertory consisted mainly of standard and familiar works, such as *Traviata*, *Lucia*, *The Barber of Seville*, and *Faust*, in which those great operatic stars Mme. Melba and Mme. Tetrazzini shone with equal lustre. Although no entire *Ring* performances were given, splendid representations of *Walküre*, *Meistersinger*, *Tristan*, and *Gotterdämmerung* under Dr. Richter aroused great enthusiasm. *Manon Lescaut* and *Fedora* also proved attractive revivals. Mme. Melba, to commemorate her twentieth year at Covent Garden, gave a most successful matinée in aid of the London Hospital, with the result that £2,000 was given to that excellent institution. In May a grand gala performance in honour of the President of the French Republic took place, the first act of *Pescatori de Perle* and the Garden scene from *Faust* being given, Mesdames Melba and Tetrazzini appearing. Excellent results were achieved by Mlle. Destinn and Messrs. Zenatello, Bonci, Van Rooy, and other well-known vocalists, while a large number of native singers in the cast proved a welcome and important feature. In August the Moody-Manners Opera Company again gave a most successful season of opera in English at the Lyric Theatre, and the Royal Academy of Music gave admirable student performances of *Un Ballo in Muschera*, *The Magic Flute*, and *Carmen*; while the students of the Royal College of Music were heard in Verdi's *Falstaff* and Goetz's last opera, *Francesca*. Capital also was the Guildhall School of Music students' performance of Gluck's *Iphigenia in Tauris*. In the autumn the Popular Promenade Concerts at Queen's Hall, under Mr. Henry J. Wood, took place. Among a large number of novelties, perhaps the most important was a pianoforte Concerto in G minor by Mr. York Bowen, and a Symphony in E by Mr. Balfour Gardiner. Also an interesting feature in the programme was the performance of Haydn's six early symphonies. In Mr. Wood's absence at the Festival at Sheffield, M. Edouard Colonne conducted. At the Norwich Festival Mr. Henry Wood conducted for the first time. Performances were given of Brahms's "Requiem," Dvorák's "Stabat Mater," and Beethoven's "Choral Symphony"; also Mr. Julius Harrison's "Cleopatra." The most important event of the last autumn season was the first production in London of Sir Edward Elgar's fine Symphony in A flat, which, admirably played by the London Symphony Orchestra under Dr. Richter, had a most enthusiastic reception from the musical public. The Patrons' Fund concert given at Bechstein Hall on Dec. 7 did not prove particularly inspiriting, the best items being a Pianoforte Trio in E flat by Mr. Edward Isaacs and a Concertstück by Mr. George Dyson. At Queen's Hall in January a most curious concert was given, Mr. Joseph Holbrooke's symphonic work, "Apolla and the Seaman," being performed in darkness as regards the audience, only a very subdued light being allowed the orchestra, who played behind a thin curtain. In the middle of the platform was erected a large screen on which, from time to time, a few lines of Mr. Herbert Trench's poem, set to music by Mr. Holbrooke, were thrown from a powerful magic lantern. The experiment, however, did not prove an entire success. Some portions of the poem are undeniably powerful, while at times Mr. Holbrooke's music contains much beauty, particularly a fine "Dead March." Of concerts there has been a perfect host, and the new St. James's Hall opened in Great Portland-street will no doubt prove a great boon to concert-givers. Among the deaths of the past year are included the famous violinist Sarasate, Edward Macdowell, Jacques Blumenthal, Clara Novello, Pauline Lucca, Denis O'Sullivan, Wilhelmj, and Edward Chadfield.

AMUSEMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

JOHANNESBURG, DEC. 9.—EMPIRE.—Proprietors, The Empire Theatres, S.A., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Sydney Hyman.—Here we have an interesting bill. Ruby Norton is a *chic* comedienne; Marguerite Arnoldi is the possessor of a well-cultured voice; much merriment is caused by Syd Sylvester, comedian; the classical dances of Amylla are a draw, the graceful movements of the lady being watched with keenest interest. Others are Blake and Granby, Edward Clarke and Winning Widows, Charles Mildare (whistler), Dot Stephens, Syd Burns, and Gladys Huxley.

MR. FRANK WHEELER arrived this week from England, bringing with him the principals for his new South African Juvenile Opera Company. *Blue Bell in Fairyland* and *Alice in Wonderland* are announced to be the first productions.

STANDARD THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Leonard Rayne; Manager, Mr. Grant Fallowes.—Yet another success has been presented by the Leonard Rayne company in *Mrs. Dot*, a charming comedy. Miss Gertrude Godart as Mrs. Dot acquitted herself admirably; the James Blenkinsop of Mr. Chas. Howitt was a realistic representation; Mr. A. Brough Pierce as Gerald Halstane is deserving of high praise; Mr. Malcolm Tearle as Freddy Perkins acted with good judgment and discretion; as the valet, Charles, Mr. Harry Paine lent able support; Miss Eva Speight (Lady Selinger) scored a distinct success. All the minor parts were well accounted for, and the staging left nothing to be desired.

MR. FRANK MUNDILL has secured the rights of the successful drama, *The Woman from Scotland Yard*, by Geo. Edwin Clive, and will shortly send it on tour with new scenery and a strong cast.

MR. W. H. ARMSTRONG, the well-known professionals' solicitor, has been away from business for eight weeks, having been for six weeks of that time confined to his bed. He is now quite well again.

PRESENTATION TO MR. YATES-GREGORY.

By thoughtfully providing an excellent dinner at the George Hotel, Shrewsbury, to which the entire staff of the Shrewsbury Theatre Royal and Hippodrome and a few personal friends were invited, Mr. W. Yates Gregory, the new lessee and director of that old-time place of amusement, marked the commencement of the New Year and of his latest enterprise—seasonable liberality which was thoroughly appreciated; while the guests, not behindhand on their part, sprung upon their host a pleasant surprise by presenting him on the occasion with a handsome tantalus, having a label attached engraved as follows:—"Presented to W. Yates Gregory by the management, staff, and friends of the Theatre Royal, Shrewsbury, Jan. 1, 1909." The presentation was made by Mr. Thos. Baugh, Mr. Gregory's general-manager, who, in the course of a capital speech, alluded to his chief's high personal attributes and straightforwardness of character. He had, he said, known Mr. Gregory for many years, and it was the proudest moment in his life to ask his kind acceptance of the gift as a tribute of the respect of the theatre staff towards him and of the sincere goodwill of those friends who had joined them in thus showing their appreciation of his estimable qualities. On behalf of the company present he wished Mr. Gregory long life and prosperity.

Mr. Chas. Kerry, a well-known Salopian of the county town, heartily endorsed the sentiments of Mr. Baugh, and expressed the sincere hope that the Shrewsbury public might for many years have the privilege and pleasure of seeing Mr. Gregory among them. Their historic theatre, he remarked, had for some time been languishing, but under Mr. Gregory's enterprising, tactful, and up-to-date management there were very promising signs of a new era of prosperity. Their host was devoting his energy, ability, and long experience on behalf of this his new enterprise, and he trusted that "proud Salopians" would respond as they ought, and give him every help and encouragement.

Prolonged cheering punctuated the eulogiums of the speakers, and Mr. Gregory was greatly touched by their cordiality and by the sincerity of his guests. Speaking with some little emotion, he returned heartfelt thanks to those who had contributed to the handsome gift which he had received. With reference to Mr. Baugh, he said he had in that gentleman a general-manager whom he had known for upwards of fourteen years, and one whom he could trust implicitly. When engaged in business elsewhere he could always leave Shrewsbury with the satisfactory knowledge that when he returned he would find everything in order. The gift which his guests had so liberally made to him would be a link which he hoped would bind him to Shrewsbury for years to come. During the short period he had sojourned in the historic old town he had made a number of friends, and already he felt quite at home among them. Although his other enterprises demanded his personal attention week by week in various parts of the country, he was always quite glad to return to the quiet pleasures and comfort of Shrewsbury.

After the hearty cheering following Mr. Gregory's speech had subsided, several toasts proposed from the chair were drunk with enthusiasm. "The King" having first been loyally done justice to, "The Staff" appropriately came next, and to this Mr. Baugh, Mr. Parkinson, and Mr. Montague in turn responded in a manner which left nothing to be desired. Mr. Page, the local leader of "The Band," suitably acknowledged this toast, and Mr. Gregory then gave "The Visitors." In a humorous speech, Professor Hubbard, of Birmingham, a relative of Mr. Gregory, replied, and he was ably supported by Mr. Geo. Finch, of Shrewsbury. The harmonious and cordial character of the gathering will, it is trusted, prove a happy augury for the future success of this theatre under its new management.

BRITISH EMPIRE SHAKESPEARE.

One of those agreeable entertainments which do so much to promote the study of Shakespeare and at the same time serve to display the devotion of our leading actors to the memory of the Bard, was given at the Bijou Theatre, Bayswater, on Tuesday afternoon, when *King John* was recited under the auspices of the British Empire Shakespeare Society. The play is one of the most picturesque of the works of the poet, and, read as it was by practised elocutionists, afforded a most enjoyable afternoon. Well-known names were, as is usual, included in the cast. Mr. Acton Bond, under whose direction the tragedy was given, recited the title-rôle with well-judged emphasis throughout. The constant changes of tone were cleverly contrived, and the beauties as well as the subtleties of the verse were skilfully brought out. The tragic gifts of Miss Esmé Beringer were well employed in the character of Constance, whose stirring speeches were declaimed with telling effect. The grief-stricken accents of the bereaved mother were also artistically affected, and the admiration of the audience was expressed in enthusiastic cheers. Mr. Robert Loraine, who was the Bastard Philip Faulconbridge, delivered his lines with admirable expression and clearness, his finished style being invaluable in an exacting part. Mr. Walter Ringham spoke with rugged eloquence and force as Hubert De Burgh, and the great success of the affecting scene where Arthur's life is threatened was shared by Miss Felicia Roche, who should make an ideal Prince Arthur in appearance, and spoke with pleasing distinctness, though with hardly sufficient power to make herself audible throughout the auditorium. Miss Sybil Ruskin was heard to every advantage in the rôle of Elinor, widow of Henry II., whose lines she invested with much pathos. Cardinal Pandulph was effectively sustained by Mr. A. Harding Steerman; Mr. Arthur Burne used a fine voice skilfully in the thrilling deliverances of the Earl of Salisbury; and Mr. Frederick James as the Earl of Norfolk and as Robert Faulconbridge acquitted himself ably. Mr. Arthur Trantom did excellent service as the Earl of Essex and as a messenger, and Mr. Lewis Willoughby's delivery of the dialogue that falls to the Dauphin was admired. A representative of the Academy of Dramatic Art was found in Mr. George Owen, who doubled the parts of the Earl of Pembroke and a French herald; Mr. Lane Crauford and Mr. A. V. Bramble also did double duty in minor parts. Mr. Howard Rose as Prince Henry was efficient, and the cast was completed by Miss Eve Tame and Miss Marion Grey. Miss Enid Rose again read the stage directions with her accustomed clearness.

THE first annual meeting of Morton's (Limited), Hull, since its reconstruction, by which the Hull Grand Theatre was included in the scope of its operations, was held recently in the Alexandra Theatre, Mr. William Morton presiding. A dividend of 7 per cent., free of income-tax, was declared on the Ordinary Shares, and £708 carried forward. The shareholders congratulated the directors on the very satisfactory result of the year's working. Messrs. W. F. and George Morton (directors) and Mr. G. A. Gale (auditor) were re-elected.

SIR CHARLES SANTLEY is finishing his "Reminiscences of My Life," which will be published by the firm of Pitman in the course of the next month or so. A career so crowded with brilliant associations should prove of absorbing interest, and the work will no doubt be eagerly sought after.

AMUSEMENTS IN BARCELONA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BARCELONA, DEC. 24.—There is nothing produced in Spain that corresponds with the English pantomime, so the festive season makes not the slightest alteration in the usual programmes. *Sherlock Holmes* and *Old Heidelberg* continue to be the attractions at the Teatro Principal, and as this theatre is the most important in Barcelona, all the pieces are written in Catalan, and not Spanish. This is to be regretted with such a piece as *Old Heidleburg*, which would lend itself much better to an adaption in Spanish.

AT the Circo Barcelonas the Curzon Sisters, direct from the London Hippodrome, brought a successful engagement to a close. Their act caused quite a sensation here, but it was a cause of regret to both Mr. Curzon and the management that the construction of the theatre did not permit them to work their act in the body of the hall, and therefore they had to perform on the stage. Maxim and D'Elb are doing very well here. This talented couple are quite a feature of the programme, and are still as much applauded as during their first week here. The Trio Marnos are comedy acrobats of undoubted ability, and introduce several new tricks, which in itself is worthy of much recommendation. Equally successful are the Sisters Naldy in a well-staged pot-pourri act, in which they appear to advantage as acrobats, illusionists, and sharp-shooters. A feature of this number is a cinematograph film depicting the departure of these two young ladies from the house, their arrival at the theatre and dressing-room, and concludes with their appearance upon the stage. It is quite an interesting opening to a pleasing number. Coming direct from a month's engagement at the Soriano, Drawe, Frisco, and Hambo repeat their previous success. There is, of course, no "barring act" here, and on account of the great scarcity of speciality turns artists frequently appear at an opposition hall after fulfilling a successful engagement. The Trio Goltz are well applauded; whilst Tubby and Madd render songs equally well in French and English, their dancing being also much admired. A word of praise is due to the Trio Delmontes for their characteristic Spanish dances.

THE Teatro Soriano has a capital company for Christmas, and amongst the most successful artists are the Six British Girls, a troupe of admirably-trained acrobatic dancers. La Renée was an instantaneous success, and was recalled no fewer than ten times. Her act consists of classical poses, but relies more upon the very beautiful lighting effects, which are as near perfect as it is possible to me. Still appearing here are the Zuresky Troupe of Russian singers and dancers, who have quite taken the Catalans by storm. Brosa exhibits his well-trained troupe of dogs, which are distinctly above the average; whilst the Davis Troupe are acrobats of more than average ability. Also appearing are the Trio Claris and the Deux Bernethes. The midget Tom Thumb has arrived at the Polliarma, and is astonishing the natives with his amusing songs and dances. Also on the bill are Frank D'Ort and Leonard, acrobats; the Four Imperial Girls, acrobatic singers and dancers, should have opened at the Circo Barcelonas the other day, but upon their arrival they found that one of their trunks was missing, which placed them in a difficult position.

BARCELONA, JAN. 2.—At the Teatro Principal, the last representations of *Old Heidelberg* has had a successful run.

AT the Circo Barcelonas several artists bring their engagements to a close, including Maxim and D'Elbe, who appear in a comedy act that has provided much amusement, and the Sisters Naldy. This latter number is entirely new, and is extremely well mounted. Also leaving are Drawee, Frisco, and Hambo, who although two months in Barcelona still seem as fresh as in their first week. The Four Imperial Girls opened on Wednesday, and had a hearty reception. The Stewart Family do a lively knockabout act. Liane d'Eve, a Parisian "star," has a fine voice, and appears in a beautifully staged act. Another newcomer is Miss Bow and her funny assistant, the latter being greatly responsible for the success of the act. The success of this theatre is due to the untiring efforts of the genial and courteous manager, Mr. Fernando Bayes.

THE principal attraction at the Soriano is Miss Juillette's Sea Lions. They juggle and balance articles in a wonderful manner. Still appearing at this hall is Mlle. Renée in her artistic poses.

AT the Palacio de Ilusion Mlle. Rose d'Avon presents her trained birds, and the Trio Lucerito, acrobats, are well received.

ON January 1 the subscription list for the new music-hall was presented to the public. The building is to be called the Kurzaal de Barcelona, and the capital is fixed at a million pesetas (about £35,000). The theatre is to be commenced on January 15 upon the site of the Teatro Tivoli, and is contracted to open the first week in May with a gala to the poor of Barcelona. The entertainments to be given will include comic opera, ballets, and variety shows.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

Minutes of the council meeting, held on Jan. 5 at 353, Strand. Present: Mr. F. J. Arlton, in the chair; Messrs. Clarence Derwent, Richard Greene, C. Walker, F. Morland, J. Poole Kirkwood, Robson Paige, C. F. Collings, Miss Rose Mathews, and Mr. Hubert Blount, secretary.

A letter was read from one of the members of a French company recently playing in London, to whom the courtesy of the Association was extended, expressing his thanks and appreciation of the kindness he had received in the following terms:—"Your souvenir [the A.A.] is the best I and the others keep in our inmost hearts among all the pleasant remembrances of London."

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The Secretary read a letter from a member calling attention to the bad ventilation in one of the dressing-rooms of a provincial theatre, and received instructions to take the usual course in the matter. It was proposed that another dance should be held on the 28th inst., and the Secretary received instructions to put a notice on the board to the effect, and asking any lady or gentleman who wished to take a ticket to give in her or his name to Mr. Bowen.

A letter was read from a member complaining of the loss of an engagement, owing to the fact that a communication had not been re-addressed to him. The Secretary was instructed to inform the applicant that every investigation had been made, but that no trace of any post-card addressed to him had been discovered. A letter was read from the Cabins, Ltd., asking for a cheque in payment of the rent, which the Secretary was instructed to draw. A letter was also read from Miss Agnes Imlay expressing her regret at her inability to attend either the finance committee or the council meeting.

The Hon. Solicitor reported that he had interviewed a member, and advised her.

The Secretary was instructed to put up a notice in the office to the effect that subscriptions are now due.

Mr. Arlton read the finance report, which the council adopted.

It was decided to establish a standing order book, and a committee consisting of Mr. Morland, Mr. Greene, Mr. Kirkwood, and Mr. Arlton was formed to inspect the minutes for the last three years, and extract any by-laws that had been passed.

The Secretary informed the council that the managing director of the Cabins would allow them to use the rooms on Sunday evening for the purpose of holding the meeting of members. The council, however, decided to postpone the meeting until Sunday week, and gave the Secretary instructions to put up a notice to the effect that a meeting of members would be held on Sunday, the 17th inst., at 8 o'clock, at which Mr. Morland would make some suggestions as to the £2 minimum. Miss Rose Mathews would occupy the chair.

Miss Mathews handed to the chairman a letter she had received from the Secretary of the Play-Actors, to the effect that the Play-Actors were extremely grateful to the Actors' Association council for the kind and helpful suggestion made in their proposition, but that in view of the fact that the present season, and with it the term of office of the Play-Actors' council, was drawing to a close, it was thought wise to defer a definite answer till after the general meeting on Jan. 18.

The council decided to start a book of complaints of theatres, in which the following were to be entered:—The date of the complaint, the name of the manager and complainant, the nature of the complaint, what action was taken, and the result.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Certain false statements having been industriously circulated in the Press to the effect that our little society, The Playactors, intends to "throw the Playactors' performances open to the whole London stage, and to put the provincials back into obscurity," may I ask you to be kind enough to permit me, as a member of the Actors' Association and councillor of the Playactors' Society, to deny the truth of this assertion through the valuable medium of your columns, as such false statement is likely to give rise to misunderstanding in the minds of a large number of the profession and public?—Yours faithfully,

ARTHUR APPLIN.

353, Strand, W.C.
Jan. 5, 1909.

MR. EDITOR,—SIR.—In your notice of last Saturday of the Shakespeare, Clapham, production of *Babes in the Wood* you say that Will Harris sang "Cos he was smarter than me." The above song was sung by me—the author and composer. I am only doing my speciality in the pantomime in conjunction with my wife May, and "Smarter than me" is my opening number. Thanking you in anticipation.—I am, yours faithfully, MARK MILTON, Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham, Jan. 6.

WHAT EVERY ARTISTE KNOWS!

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"The famous prima donna and operatic soprano, Mme. Ella Russell, told me the other day, in the course of conversation, that she never attempted to travel anywhere without a bottle of OWBRIDGE'S LUNG TONIC. She so firmly believes in it, and has derived such invaluable benefit from its use, that she strongly recommends it to all her friends."

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THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER made some informing comparisons between music and the drama at the Conference of Teachers which he attended in his capacity of member of the London County Council at the Holborn Restaurant on Thursday. Important as music was, the eminent actor said, it was limited in its scope. They knew very well that there were thousands of people who did not know the difference between "God save the King" and "Rule Britannia," but there was not a single child born in the gutter and a single child born in the purple which had not within it the dramatic instinct. Nobody would suggest that a person could play the piano without lessons, yet there were thousands of people who would gladly play Hamlet without experience.

WITHIN the last few years, continued Mr. Alexander, actor-managers had shown their great sympathy with and their great respect for music. When he contemplated the production of *Paolo and Francesca* he approached his old friend Sir Arthur Sullivan, and asked him to write the music. Sir Arthur replied: "My dear Alexander,—The theatre is not the place for music. When the curtain is up the music interrupts the actors, and when the curtain is down the music interrupts the audience."

MRS. D'OYLY CARTE will revive *The Gondoliers* at the Savoy for a limited number of performances on Monday, Jan. 18. Mr. Rutland Barrington, who played Giuseppe Palmieri in the original production in 1889, will now be seen in a new character, that of Don Alhambra, formerly sustained by Mr. Denny. Mr. Henry A. Lytton will undertake Giuseppe. Mr. C. H. Workman will again be the Duke of Plaza Toro, Miss Louie René will resume her old part of the Duchess, and Miss Jessie Rose that of Tessa, and Miss Elsie Spain will figure as Gianetta. Others in the cast will be Mr. Leo Sheffield, Mr. Henry Herbert, and Miss Dorothy Court.

MR. ARTHUR BOURCHIER spent Christmas on the Continent, and has now returned to London to engage in rehearsals of Henry Bernstein's play *Samson*, which will be produced at the Garrick on Wednesday, Feb. 3. A trial run will be given at the Grand, Swansea, the week previous, with Mr. Bourchier and Miss Violet Vanbrugh in the two leading rôles. The strong cast will include Miss Marie Illington, Miss Edyth Latimer, Miss Pamela Gaythorne, Mr. Kenneth Douglas, Mr. Arthur Whitby, Mr. Leon Quartermaine, Mr. William Burchill, Mr. Bertram Forsyth, Mr. Alfred Bristowe, and Mr. Charles Bryant.

THE brief holiday which Mr. Bourchier permitted himself allowed him to take a trip to Austria and Hungary. At the invitation of the management of the Bourg Theatre, the eminent actor witnessed a performance of an interesting play, entitled *Tantris der Narr*, which he describes as a very beautiful poetic drama, founded on the story of "Tristran and Isolde," which received the Emperor's prize. In Buda Pesth he was fêted by Director Beothy, and enjoyed a delightful representation of a musical comedy based on Zangwill's *Merely Mary Ann*. Another musical comedy which Mr. Bourchier saw, and for which he predicted a great success in this country, was *Der Tapfer Soldat*, a version of Bernard Shaw's *Arms and the Man*.

MISS LENA ASHWELL has been fortunate in securing practically the whole of the original cast for her revival of *Diana of Dobson's* at the Kingsway on Monday. Miss Ashwell as Diana, Mr. C. M. Hallard as Captain Bretherton, and Mr. Norman McKinnell as P.C. Fellowes will be supported by Miss Nannie Bennett, Miss Mary Barton, Miss Muriel Vox, Miss Doris Lytton, Miss Ada Palmer, Miss Frances Ivor, Mr. Lemmon Warde, Miss Gertrude Scott, Mr. Dennis Eadie, and Miss Beryl Mercer.

THAT Miss Ashwell does not intend to allow the musical morceau to oust the dramatic playlet from her programme is proved by the fact that, although the string quartette will be included in the bill, Miss Cicely Hamilton's comedy will be preceded by *Charlotte on Bigamy*, by Edward A. Parry, which formed one of the quartette of playlets produced at the Kingsway in May last. Miss Gertrude Scott, Mr. Dennis Eadie, and Mr. C. M. Hallard will resume the parts they then played, but Mr. Michael Sherbrooke will be replaced by Mr. Maitland Dicker.

COLONEL MAPLESON, managing-director of Mapleson and Co., Ltd., has returned to London from the Continent, where he made numerous engagements with important operatic, dramatic, concert, and variety artists. Mr. J. D. McLaren, for many years manager of the Carl Rosa Opera Company, Concert Direction Daniel Mayer, and of Mitchell's Royal Agency, has been appointed acting manager of Mapleson and Co., Ltd.

MR. CECIL RALEIGH betook himself to Lisbon for the holidays, and has now returned to work at a new drama for Old Drury. He and Mr. Henry Hamilton have submitted the rough scenario of a play to Mr. Arthur Collins, by whom it was immediately accepted for production in due course at the National Theatre. The story of the new work is thoroughly English in character.

MR. JOHN COLLINS, who was for sixteen years manager of the Theatre Royal for the Waterford Corporation, has now taken the establishment over on a long lease. Many improvements have been made. The dress circle has been remodelled and refurnished, a second circle has been added and equipped with tip-up chairs, and the stalls have also been renovated and made as comfortable as possible. Behind the scenes improvements are also going on. The dressing-rooms are well fitted and well lighted, the stage has now admirable limelight projectors, and nothing has been left undone for the comfort of both audience and artists. Mr. Collins's son, Mr. Maurice Collins, officiates in the capacity of acting-manager

"THE GAY GORDONS" have just finished an engagement, and, large as the theatre is, it was totally inadequate to accommodate the crowds who turned up nightly. The early doors were besieged at each performance, and standing-room only was the order. Mr. Stanley Brett as Angus Graeme made many friends in Waterford (of which city he is a native); Miss Maie Ash won all hearts with her delightful interpretation of Peggy, and the rest of the company gained honours.

MISS MABEL LOVE has concluded her very successful engagement as Lady Frederick under the management of Miss Emma and Mr. Hutchison, but at their special request has consented to play the part again, for one week only, at Torquay, from Monday next. From Jan. 18 onwards Miss Love will be at liberty to accept other engagements.

MISS JULIA NEILSON and Mr. Fred Terry, having collected a considerable sum by means of the sale of their autographs, have devoted the whole of it to charities, and the secretary of the Actors' Benevolent Fund asks us to acknowledge with grateful thanks the receipt of £10 which has been sent to him by Mr. Garrett, their manager. Mr. Weedon Grossmith has also sent a further sum of £1 and Mr. Allan Aynsworth 15s., both amounts having been collected for the fund by means of their autographs.

MISS JULIA NEILSON was rapturously received on her reappearance, after a long indisposition, at the New Theatre on Thursday. Her success and that of Mr. Fred Terry in the new play, *Henry of Navarre*, was very pronounced, the course of the performance being marked by no fewer than thirty-eight curtains. There were five after the first act, ten after the second, and six after the third, while at the end of the play the enthusiasm of the audience expressed itself in seventeen recalls.

A VETERAN actor passed away on Monday, when Richard Walton died at 4, Regent-road, Bedminster, Bristol, his death having been hastened by poverty. Mr. Walton began his professional career in the company run by his elder brother Fred, the father of Alfred Hemming, Witty Watty, John W. Retta, George, William, and Fred Walton. Afterwards he and his wife played leading business in various stock companies in the old circuit theatres. A little over thirteen years ago he had the misfortune to have a paralytic stroke, and since that time he has been paralysed, and his wife has become a great sufferer from rheumatism, a double disaster that ended their stage career. After a long illness Mr. Walton tried to earn a few shillings by making small matchwood boxes, and his wife went out as charwoman, but afterwards they were compelled to seek parish relief.

WHEN the Old Age Pension Bill passed Mr. Walton's hopes were raised, and he felt that he would no longer be dependent on others; but when told he could make no claim, the disappointment was so great that he took to his bed, and the end soon came. His widow, who is of the same age as her late husband, is without means, and any donations, however small, will be thankfully received by her at the above address.

THE Baddeley Cake was cut for the 115th time at Drury Lane on Twelfth Night, when Mr. Harry Nicholls, the Master of the fund, officiated for the fifth year in succession, and in a short speech referred to the historical character of the ceremony. Baddeley's Cake, it will be remembered, was first provided in 1794, through a fund left by the actor, consisting of £100 invested in Consols. Everyone present on Wednesday drank to the memory of the old actor, who, it should be added, accompanied the bequest of the yearly cake with more substantial charities to his future comrades in art.

A MEETING of the committee of the Managers' Club was held on the 1st inst. Present: Mr. M. V. Leveaux (in the chair), Mr. F. Weathersby, Mr. A. Bertram, Mr. E. Graham-Falcon, and Mr. M. Martin (secretary). The following gentlemen were elected members of the club: Mr. H. Armitage, Mr. B. M. Meyer, Mr. George Conquest, Mr. W. A. Seymour, Mr. S. Horncastle, Mr. Bertie Shelton, Mr. Stanley Ashworth, and Mr. Cyril Vernon.

THE committee of the Touring Managers' Association, Ltd., met at the Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, Strand, on the same day. Present: Mr. E. Graham-Falcon (in the chair), Mr. M. V. Leveaux, Mr. F. Weathersby, Mr. A. Bertram, and Mr. M. Martin (secretary). Arising out of the business of the previous meeting the secretary was directed to ask the railway companies for a reply in reference to touring managers travelling at three-quarter fare when visiting their companies.

A LETTER was received from the Lord Chamberlain stating that the new clause in his regulations refers to public entertainments other than stage plays. It was reported that performances were given of a pantomime stage play in an upstairs room attached to a public-house in Southend, and the secretary having notified the Mayor of Southend, received a reply that the letter was read to the justices at their sessions on the 29th ult. The secretary was requested to find out what action had been taken in the matter, and further to notify the justices' clerk that the committee intend to oppose the licence of the public-house in question at the next sessions. The following gentlemen were duly elected members of the Association: Mr. H. Armitage, Mr. B. M. Meyer, Mr. George Conquest, Mr. W. A. Seymour, and Mr. Stanley Ashworth.

THE Actors' Day Advisory Board has been strengthened by the addition of Mr. J. Forbes-Robertson. The subscriptions on account of 1908 amount to £258 14s. 7d., which, up to corresponding date, is considerably in excess of the previous year's contribution for the same purpose. The organising committee will be greatly obliged if all intending contributors who have not yet sent in their donations will do so as early as possible. Cheques and money orders should be made payable to the Trustees, Actors' Day Fund, and posted to them at Dudley House, 37, Southampton-street, Strand.

RICHNESS and splendour characterise the costumes worn by Miss Julia Neilson in *Henry of Navarre* at the New Theatre. In the first scene Miss Neilson is seen in a charming dress of rich rose-coloured brocade, opening over a satin petticoat embroidered with jewels of a kind of dull olive tone that produce strange iridescent effects in the shifting light, and add greatly to the beauty of the dress. For her first reception of Henry of Navarre Marguerite is arrayed in a gown of green tinsel veiled with a darker net, and jewelled in gold and green The falling sleeves of cloth of gold are jewelled with emeralds. The satin petticoat in a deep shade of green is also enriched with gold embroidery, and gold and emeralds and other jewels combine to form the antique headdress, half coronet, half cap.

IN the second act she appears in a wonderful creation, in which silver and gold and jewels are lavishly displayed. It is composed entirely of silver tissue, covered with glittering lines of golden sequins in a cheque pattern, and enriched with sprays of flowers worked in silver and gold. It opens over a white satin petticoat, also elaborately jewelled and embroidered. The pointed bodice is also jewelled, large emeralds being used to give needful touches of colour; the long drooping sleeves of silver tissue catch the light as they sway to and fro with every movement of the speaker; and the high Italian ruff and the elaborat headdress are marvels of the designer's art. In the last act Miss Neilson supplies an agreeable contrast in a simple loose white gown veiled with transparent crêpe de chine, with fringes and tassels of silver.

MISS TITA BRAND as Queen Catherine includes in her costumes a gorgeous gown of black and gold brocade opening over a petticoat covered with a chessboard pattern entirely formed by different jewels, each square being picked out with pearls. Round the waist and falling down to the hem of the skirt is a chain of huge topazes linked with gold.

THE special matinée of *Charles I.* in aid of the School for Mothers, St. Pancras, to be given by Mr. H. B. Irving and Miss Dorothea Baird and company, under the patronage of H.R.H. the Princess of Wales, will take place on Thursday, Feb. 11, at the Shaftesbury Theatre.

AN interesting experiment is to be made in Clifford's Inn Hall on Wednesday next, when a private performance of Molière's last play *Le Malade Imaginaire* is to be given in costume under the direction of Mr. Kenelm Foss. Tickets are being sold at the uniform price of half-a-crown, and can be obtained prior to the date of the performance on application to Mr. Foss at 15, Clifford's Inn, E.C.

MR. H. B. IRVING will celebrate the 100th performance of *The Lyons Mail* on Saturday next, when the piece will attain its longest run. Such excellent business is being done at the Shaftesbury that it is very unlikely that any fresh production will be required before the time arrives for Mr. Irving to start on his provincial tour.

A MEETING of the members of the Actors' Association will be held at the offices, 353, Strand, on Sunday, the 17th inst., at 8 o'clock, when Mr. Morland will make a few suggestions as to the £2 minimum. Miss Rose Mathews will take the chair.

MISS EVELYN MILLARD dresses Lady Ursula at the Garrick in costumes that have equal claims to admiration. In the first act she is arrayed in a rich dress of brocaded silk, flowered pink in the old-fashioned style. The very full polonaise is lined with pink silk, and opens over a white satin petticoat ornamented with a deep pink ruching. Five graduated bows of black velvet ornament the chemisette, and give character to the corsage, while the hat worn with this costume is of pale brown straw lined and trimmed with black velvet and finished with a bunch of baby roses under the brim.

THE two next acts find Lady Ursula in a masculine costume of pale blue satin with white ruffles and silver ornaments. In the fourth act she returns to feminine attire, in the shape of a beautiful costume of white satin. The pointed bodice is embroidered with pearls, and the white-brocaded polonaise, which is made with a Watteau pleat at the back, opens over a petticoat of white satin partially veiled with a deep lace flounce.

MISS DOLORES DRUMMOND as Mrs. Fenton wears with becoming stateliness in the first act a gown of cinnamon brocade and satin; while Miss Dora Barton wears a pretty frock in pale blue brocade.

ENTHUSIASTIC scenes were witnessed at the Broadway Theatre, New Cross, on New Year's Eve. At the conclusion of the pantomime, in the magnificent Assembly of Nations scene, Mr. Bertram Iles, the manager, went on the stage, and on behalf of Messrs. Moss' Empires thanked Broadway patrons for their support during the past half-year. He was pleased to announce that the exceptional spring bookings made their patronage assured in the near future. As to the pantomime, he had only to look at their faces and listen to their plaudits to feel sure that its tremendous success would continue during its six weeks' run.

MR. ILES concluded by inviting all to join in the time-honoured custom of singing "Auld Lang Syne." The packed house immediately rose to its feet and sang the refrain with great gusto, strangers gripping each other by the hand and joining the chorus of the assembled company on the stage. A banner was then lowered from the flies with the season's greetings, and the evening concluded with ringing cheers and mutual good wishes.

THE secretary of the Actors' Benevolent Fund wishes us to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of three small parcels of hats and clothing which he has received from an anonymous giver, and which have proved most useful.

MESSRS. GARSIDE AND KNOWLES have paid eight visits to Greater Birmingham in sixteen months, six with *Her Marriage Vow* and two with *The London Fireman* and *Saved from the Sea*. The whole three plays have been done by them at the Palace Theatre, Bordesley, and Mr. Forbes Knowles, under whose direction they were presented, had several letters last week from patrons of the Bordesley Theatre expressing their pleasure and appreciation of Mr. Knowles's acting, and wishing him and Mr. Garside every success. One lady wrote that if all plays were like Messrs. Garside and Knowles's the drama would be more popular with the intelligent classes.

SIGNOR QUINZI, a well-known operatic baritone, who was singing in Verdi's *Aïda* at the Vittorio Emanuele Theatre, Messina, a few hours prior to the earthquake, arrived at Naples on Saturday. He says: "Thanks to the hour at which the catastrophe occurred, I was decidedly *en déshabille*. I decided to make an effort to secure some kind of covering, and, groping among the ruins, found a chest with some of the theatrical costumes in it. So I arrayed myself as Radames, and then made my way to the Marina, where the soldiers—small blame to them—took me for a madman."

MR. GEORGE LESTOCQ intends to produce a new one-act musical play in conjunction with *The Sportsman*. Mr. Lestocq is also arranging with a well-known quartette to appear in this new musical play.

MR. EDWARD CHESTER, the general-manager of Mr. James Kiddie's *Aladdin* company, was called upon on the 30th ult. to play the Emperor, and continued in the part for the remainder of the week.

MR. LEONARD PAGDEN has been engaged by Mr. George Alexander to play Edward Thursfield, the leading part, in the forthcoming first tour of *The Builder of Bridges*.

AN interesting theatrical football match for the League Cup was decided last Sunday at Blackhorse-lane, Walthamstow, between the Gaiety Theatre and Walthamstow Palace. The former won easily by ten goals to nil, their forward line being particularly prominent throughout. It should be mentioned that the match was Walthamstow's first, but they are by no means novices at the game, and when the team has practised more it should certainly do well. Both teams were well supported by their friends, many of whom travelled long distances to be present.

MR. E. W. MAULE COLE has been engaged to play the Dean in *Dandy Dick* and Sir George Sylvester in *The Adventure of Lady Ursula* for the Tenby Amateurs in Hunt week on Monday and Thursday next.

OWING to the sudden illness of Mr. Charles Benson last week at Scarborough, Mr. Algernon W. Lee was called upon to play the part of the Dame in *Puss-in-Boots* at a few hours' notice, and was complimented by his manager. We are sure all friends of Mr. Benson will be sorry to hear of his illness and will hope for a speedy recovery.

THE enthusiasm over *Brewster's Millions* this week at the Lyceum Theatre, Ipswich, has been tremendous, people flocking from all the outside districts. Although the piece was in Yarmouth at the end of August last, trains are bringing people in who wish to get another sight of the marvellous yacht scene.

"TODDLES," produced in the country by Messrs. Murray King and Clark, has opened at the Theatre Royal, Hull, this week and the reception accorded it has exceeded expectations. Some doubts were expressed as to whether its fun would be sufficiently strong for the provinces, but any visitor to the Royal this week would have those fears allayed by the screams of laughter which continue the whole evening. Mr. Murray King, hitherto known principally as a low comedian, carries the whole piece on his shoulders, and has scored a pronounced success. *Toddles* looks like being one of the biggest money-makers on the road.

MR. CHARLES MANNERS has brought up the total of members of the National English Opera Union, which he founded, to the number of 3,000. A proposal has now been put before them which has for its object the carrying-out of a short season at Drury Lane Theatre in May next. It is proposed to produce three new English grand operas, namely, *Thelma*, by Mr. Coleridge-Taylor; *Duke or Devil*, by Mr. Nicholas Gatty; and *Ingomar*, by Mr. Colin McAlpin.

DURING the first week of the season operas from the répertoire of the Moody-Manners Company, which includes Wagner's *The Mastersingers*, *Lohengrin*, and *Tannhäuser*, and Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*, will be mounted. During the second two of the new operas will be given, and the last week's programme will be made up of the third opera and of repetitions of such of the other new works as the public may decide by plebiscite. The prices for seats have been fixed to suit the slenderest purses, and range from 6d. to 6s. Whether the season is held or not depends on the response received from the members of the Union.

MISS CONNIE LEON, who was so long associated with *The Prince of Pilsen*, playing the French maid, and was afterwards engaged by Mr. George Edwardes as walking understudy to Happy Fanny Fields in *The Girls of Gottenberg*, is a most versatile little lady. She is playing Cinderella at Portsmouth, and is meeting with every success.

THE Messrs. Maundy-Gregory have arranged to give a benefit matinée of their revival of *Dorothy* at the Waldorf Theatre, on a date shortly to be announced, for the Lord Mayor's Mansion House Fund in aid of the sufferers in the recent earthquake in Italy. The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs will attend in state, and much influential patronage has already been obtained. All the principals and chorus have unanimously decided to support Mr. Maundy-Gregory in his efforts in such a beneficent cause.

MR. ARTHUR VEZIN, who has just finished a two years' engagement with Mr. Gaston Mayer's company of *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch*, has been engaged for his provincial company of *The Builder of Bridges*.

THE popular young actor Mr. Aubrey Mallalieu, a member of the late Herbert Flemming's company in Australia, has been engaged by Mr. J. C. Williamson, the veteran manager of the Commonwealth.

MR. ALFRED NORTHWAY and Mr. W. V. Garrod's record tour of 152 consecutive weeks with *The Prodigal Parson* will end to-night. After a short rest the piece will be sent out again, equipped with new scenery and printing. Messrs. Northway and Garrod's other production, *A Country Girl in London*, has proved a great success, and is fully booked to 1910. Their next venture, bearing the striking title *Are You the Man?* is by the same author, Mr. Frank Price.

MISS ROSE MONCRIEFF will commence her spring tour of *The Bells of Old York*, by Rass Challis, at Abertillery at the beginning of February.

MISS DOROTHY GRASDORFF, who is playing Cinderella at the County Theatre, Kingston, is scoring a big success, and is quite an established favourite.

MR. LEIGH LOVEL, who with Miss Octavia Kenmore has been touring in Ibsen's plays almost continuously during the past two years, has now five works in his répertoire. In addition to these, Mr. Lovel will shortly produce at Miss Horniman's theatre in Manchester the translation in verse by Professor Herford of *Love's Comedy*, which charming play has never been acted in England. Mr. Lovel will also do *Brand* at a later date, and has in hand a slightly abridged version of *Peer Gynt*.

MR. E. HILL MITCHELSON leaves England on Tuesday for a holiday. In the course of his travels he will visit France, Italy, Turkey, Greece, the Holy Land, and Egypt, taking a long journey up the Nile.

"THE BABES IN THE WOOD" at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, is a decided success, the "House Full" boards being the rule rather than the exception. Mr. George Mozart, Miss Marie Dainton, Miss Winnie Browne, and Mr. James A. Watts have firmly established themselves as favourites with the numerous patrons of the King's. The whole of the magnificent scenery, with the exception of one or two small pieces is from the brush of Mr. Alfred Drayton, one of the youngest of our scene painters and a pupil of the famous Walter Hann.

"OLIVE LATIMER'S HUSBAND" is the title which has been bestowed upon Mr. Rudolf Besier's new play, which Messrs. A. and S. Gatti will produce at the Vaudeville Theatre. In addition to Mrs. Patrick Campbell and Mr. Lyn Harding the engagements so far include those of Mr. James Hearn, Miss Helen Ferrers, Miss Dagmar Wiehe, Miss Elsie Chester, Mr. Wilfred Draycott, and Mr. Charles Troode.

MISS EDYTH GOODALL, who has so successfully played Nellie Denver in *The Silver King* for the past year, has been specially engaged by Mr. Percy Hutchison to sustain Miss Evelyn Millard's part in *Idols* on tour.

MR. WENTWORTH CROKE and Mr. G Brydon Phillips' pantomime at the Lyric Opera House, Hammersmith, has caught on with great tenacity, having grown in favour since Boxing Night. Accordingly, it is with great regret that the management are obliged to take it off next Saturday on account of previous arrangements. Judging by the present state of business it could have enjoyed a very long run.

MR. FRANK HOWARD, who has just concluded his sixth engagement as manager, together with the part of Bertie, in Lester Collingwood's *When London Sleeps* company, has been engaged by Mr. Walter Melville as general-manager for *The Beggar Girl's Wedding* tour.

MISS ETHEL IRVING, suffering from a cold, was out of the cast of *Dolly Reforming Herself* at the Haymarket last week, but took up her rôle on Monday. During her absence the part was played by Miss Ada Webster. Another victim to the inclement weather was Mr. Dan Rolyat, who had temporarily to relinquish his character owing to loss of voice, but returned to the Adelphi on Wednesday.

MR. BERNARD ELLIS, late of the Adelphi Theatre, has been most unfortunate, having met with a serious accident which permanently disfigured him. Mr. Ellis was an original member of the Compton Comedy Company, and also for thirteen years a member of the Adelphi Theatre orchestra, where his father, the late Edwin Ellis, was for seventeen years musical director. An appeal, supported by Mr. William Rose, F.R.C.S., in his capacity as senior surgeon to the Actors' Association, has been made, with a view to give Mr. Ellis a fresh start in life, and to enable him to return to his profession, his present means of subsistence being precarious. Reference may be made and subscriptions sent to Professor William Rose, F.R.C.S., senior hon. consulting surgeon to the Actors' Association, Union Club, Trafalgar-square, and 10, Queen's-gardens, Lancaster Gate, Hyde Park, W. On the list of subscribers are Mr. William Rose, £5 5s., and Mr. H. B. Irving, £1 1s.

MR. MARTIN HARVEY begins his provincial tour on Monday, starting at Bournemouth. Portsmouth, Sheffield, Hull, Cardiff, Preston, Bradford, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Birmingham, Leeds, and Swansea will be among the towns visited. His répertoire will consist of *The Corsican Brothers*, *The Breed of the Treshams*, *The Only Way*, *The Cigarette-Maker's Romance*, *The Conspiracy*, and *The Last Heir*.

A MATINEE in aid of the League of Mercy is being organised by Lady Paget to take place on Jan. 19, Miss Evelyn Millard having kindly lent the Garrick Theatre for the occasion. Several very clever artists are to take part in the programme, and Princess Christian and a number of distinguished ladies have given their immediate patronage.

THE season of grand opera in English at Covent Garden begins on Saturday. Meanwhile, rehearsals are proceeding with the utmost vigour, forty principals, a chorus of ninety, an orchestra of one hundred, and a ballet of twenty-four being concerned in the production. For the rôle of Siegfried Herr Peter Cornelius, of the Royal Opera, Copenhagen, has again been engaged. Three complete cycles of "The Ring" will be given, commencing with *The Rhinegold*, on Saturday evening. The other works to be performed are *Madame Butterfly*, *Faust*, and the prize opera, *The Angelus*.

THE name of Mr. Francis H. Bull should not be overlooked in the credit given to the revival of *Dorothy* in marvellously quick time at the New Theatre last week. Mr. Bull painted the scenery, and the work of the clever young artist was universally admired.

THE matinée hat has come under the ban of the municipal authorities at Rio de Janeiro, who have prohibited the wearing of any form of headgear in theatres. Managers have been warned that they will be held responsible for every infraction of the rule, under a fine of £25 for each "crowned head."

SINCE Boxing Day there has been a considerable amount of cutting in the Kennington pantomime of *Red Riding Hood*, and it has been reduced to its accustomed limits. There has been, too, a slight alteration in the cast, Mr. Robert Howard taking up the part of the Squire of Vaux this week with considerable success. The enterprising acting-manager at Kennington (Mr. H. B. Brandreth) is inventing fresh methods of booming, and one of the most notable of these is the offer of a "fiver" and a season ticket to anyone who can detect Miss Lulu Valli, the clever and dainty Boy Blue, going into the theatre. Miss Valli has thoroughly entered into the spirit of the thing, and has successfully evaded the vigilance of the watchers at various doors by arriving as a cabman, as goods in a crate, and concealed among coal bags.

THE members of Mr. Wentworth Croke's *The Prodigal Son* company were entertained by Mr. Croke to a dinner at the Swan Hotel, Crewe, on Sunday. After an excellent repast a merry and jovial evening was spent, the company amusing themselves with songs, recitations, music, and various games. Mr. Croke's health and prosperity was proposed by Mr. Charles Herrick, the business-manager of the company, and was duly toasted with musical honours, everyone present joining heartily in the chorus.

MISS HOPE TREVELYAN, Mr. Claude Trevelyan's niece and favourite pupil, a little actress-vocalist of sixteen summers, who has earned our commendation several times during the past year in London, is winning all hearts in Sunderland by her sympathetic rendering of Mr. Trevelyan's song-scena "Buy my primroses." Both on Saturday and Monday an encore and two recalls rewarded the sweet singer at the King's Theatre.

MR. BRYDON PHILLIPS'S Chester pantomime has proved very successful, and the advance booking is remarkably good. At the matinée on Wednesday Lady Arthur Grosvenor and party occupied two private boxes.

WE regret to learn that Mr. F. Warden-Reed has had a slight nervous breakdown, due to overwork, and, by doctor's orders, has been compelled to give up the management of the Gaiety Theatre, Chatham, in order to take a few weeks' rest in the country. Mr. Warden-Reed, however, is progressing very favourably, and hopes to resume work shortly. Meanwhile, Mrs. Warden-Reed will undertake the duties of management.

THE Afternoon Theatre is extending its operations to Bernard Shaw, whose *Admirable Bashville* will be given at His Majesty's on Tuesday, Jan. 26 and Feb. 2, Thursday, Jan. 28, and Feb. 4, and Friday, Jan. 29, and Feb. 5. The drama, which is in two tableaux, was produced by the Stage Society at the Imperial in the June of 1903. For the present revival the strong cast will consist of Miss Marie Lohr, Mr. Ben Webster, Mr. Lennox Pawle, Mr. Charles Quartermaine, Mr. Henry Ainley, Mr. Courtenay Foote, Mr. James Hearn, Mr. Edward Sass, Mr. Halliwell Hobbes, and Miss Rosina Filippi. *Tilda's New Hat*, the comedietta by George Paston which was recently produced by the Play Actors, will follow Mr. Shaw's piece, Miss Agnes Thomas, Miss Florence Lloyd, and Mr. Denis Eadie being included in the cast.

MR. F. R. BENSON'S company played an interesting hockey match with a local team, the Malone, at Stranmills, Belfast, on Saturday. It was greatly regretted that Mr. Benson was unfortunately unable at the eleventh hour to turn out, and his absence told much against the company's team. Mr. Benson's company consisted of—Goal, J. Moffatt Johnston; backs, Guy B. Rathbone and Murray-Carrington; half-backs, J. H. Howell, S. Hanman Clark, and R. Gregson; forwards, F. G. Worlock, J. Moore, J. P. Wilson (captain), R. H. Mannox, and R. Lucas.

THE ground was in capital order, and play was very fast. The exchanges were of an even nature for the first quarter of an hour, but gradually the Malone attack wore down the company's defence, and at the interval the homesters led by 3 goals to 1. In the second half capital half-back and forward play enabled the Malone to add four more scores, and the company, being unable to reply, a rather one-sided game ended as follows:—Malone, 7 goals; Mr. Benson's company, 1 goal. At the conclusion of the game the teams were entertained to tea by the Malone club.

MISS MARY MOORE dresses with exquisite elegance as Mrs. Gorringe at the Criterion. In the first act she wears a silk frock made in the corselet style and enriched by deep encrustations of écru lace, with a deep hem of pale mauve velvet. The bodice is entirely composed of écru lace and net with close-fitting, transparent sleeves, touches of blue being introduced in the form of cretelles and pipings. Miss Moore's evening gown is of pale blue silk. It opens at the side over an under-skirt of cream net embroidered with sequins, and folds of the swathed bodice are carried up to the shoulder, whence they are continued in a falling drapery reaching the train of the skirt and richly embroidered.

MISS MARIE ILLINGTON, who plays Mrs. Jardine, is also tastefully gowned. Her beautiful evening frock of white crêpe de chine with its wide black lace border and deep black velvet hem was greatly admired.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Lashwood Among Lunatics.

IN the course of an interview with a pressman the other day Mr. George Lashwood related an exciting experience he once had in Liverpool. "It is just three years ago," said Mr. Lashwood, "and I was assisting to entertain the inmates of one of the workhouse asylums. When I had finished my portion I went into the bathroom to have a wash. There were two other persons in the room at the time, and I commenced to chat with them, knowing, of course, that they were inmates. I asked them in a breezy fashion 'how they liked the show,' when, to my complete amazement, one said:

"'I think some of you might have changed places with the audience!'

"I had some doubts then about their insanity. The other said:

"'Are you one of us?'

"'Yes,' I replied to humour him.

"'He lies!' cried the first. 'He is the evil genius of Napoleon, *and has a glass body! Break him! Break him!*'

"Immediately they, and another who had in the meantime entered, pounced upon me, seized my hands and legs, and bounced me on the floor, thinking, no doubt, I would shiver into a thousand pieces. As I did not, they knelt upon me and tried to drag my clothes off. All this time I was shouting 'Help, help!' and now a couple of attendants arrived on the scene. They dragged the lunatics from me, ordered them out, and apologised for my unpleasant experience."

Gymnasts and "Go."

"YEARS ago," writes Mr. Butler Stanhope, "there was an eccentric and erratic manager in the North of England, who had the greatest horror of any play falling flat or going, as he thought, slowly. He was no great lover of 'Macready pauses,' and was all for bustle and go—a 'cut-the-cackle-and-come-to-the-hosses' sort of man. If he saw any scene going tamely he would rush on the stage (whether sustaining a part or not) and 'stir them up a bit.' He always had a stock of properties, such as a hot poker, clams, a frying pan with a false bottom, a sweeping brush, a pair of bellows, a policeman's rattle, and a bell, stored in the wings for cases of emergency. If the comedy-man, character-man, or responsible lacked energy he would rush on with a stuffed stick or one of his special props and 'make things hum.' If it was the villain he would dart on with a pair of combat swords, demand satisfaction for some imaginary wrong, throw down one of the swords, and bid him pick it up and fight to the death, to the no small delight of the 'gods.' On Saturday night there would be three dramas and variety people doing turns between them. One Saturday the climax was reached. There were a couple of gymnasts engaged, and it was getting late. The last drama was on, and the gymnasts were getting impatient for their turn, and were bothering the manager to know when to appear. The drama was in full swing, and the manager was flustered a little. He exclaimed, 'Go on now!' The front scene was set, and, greatly to the amazement of the actors, they saw the two trapeze artists clamber up the ropes and begin to swing through the air. The excitement was intense. The audience shouted, and the dramatic people soon finished their performance and left the gymnasts to conclude the entertainment.

Putting Him Out.

"One of my most trying experiences in the Western States," writes Mr. Richard Golden in *Ideas*, "happened in the mining district of Nevada. I was the villain in a lurid melodrama, called *The Edge of the Cliff*; in fact, the character was such a thorough-paced blackguard that the simple souls of the miners were much perturbed. During the first act a man called out, when I was hatching a plot for the death of the heroine, 'That —— cuss had better go slow!' and they hissed me right heartily, which I took as a compliment to my acting. In the next scene I had to sit at a candle-lit table to write a note to a confederate so as to ensure the kidnapping of the girl and the capture of papers which would cause her property to fall into my hands. As I pretended to write I spoke the words and had got to 'Remember, the documents are near the old oak-tree,' when a shot rang out and a bullet put the candle out! I felt distinctly uncomfortable, but I re-lit the candle, and as I took up the pen again a fellow in the audience jumped up, crying excitedly: 'I put that candle out so you couldn't write to your crook pal. You write another word and I'll put you out!' I turned to him and looked along the barrel of a six-shooter. I felt mighty queer until the sheriff took the gentleman in hand and convinced him that it was all nothing but play-acting. After the performance I met the person with the gun, and he was good enough to express him sorrow by saying that he was glad he shot the candle and not me. I was rather glad, too."

Miss Terry's Double.

MISS EDITH CRAIG, who is taking Miss Ellen Terry's place in *Pinkie and the Fairies*, is her mother's double. "We are so alike," Miss Craig said to an *Express* representative, "that when I was playing in *Getting Married* a lady wrote to my mother and warned her that some one was imitating her in appearance and voice. Very often when my mother had to appear in a vision in one play, she was too tired to stand still all the time, and I used to take her place. Not one of the audience knew the difference." Miss Craig smiled. "Even the stage carpenter," she added, "touched his hat and said, 'Yes, Miss,' and was quite polite to me, thinking I was Ellen Terry. My singing voice," concludes Miss Craig, "is just as bad as mother's."

How to Become an Actress.

THE editor of the *Ladies' Home Paper*, having received letters from readers asking for information as to the best way to obtain a footing on the stage, has secured the services of a well-known member of the theatrical profession, who will reply to all communications sent in. He deals with his first fair querist as follows:—"'Young Actress' is a professional reader who writes to me for advice. She is starting her career, and is full of enthusiasm for the life she has adopted. There is one thing that oppresses her. She tells me that she is not pretty, and this she thinks may be a drawback, as an actress needs to be pretty, she says, nowadays. Would it not be possible, she asks, for her to make-up so that she would look pretty from the front? And would it not be better for her to dye her black hair a golden colour? (1) Make-up, of course, will do a very great deal to remedy the defect you complain about, and you should study the art. Let the grease-paint be very evenly applied, the rouge not too pronounced on the cheeks or lips; let the line of the eyebrows be improved, and the flesh tint merge quite naturally into the real flesh colour at the neck. Be careful to carry the artificial colour well beneath the chin, as nothing looks worse than a distinct margin between the paint and the natural flesh at the neck. If you use liquid white for the arms, hands, bust and neck, do not use it too thickly. (2) I should certainly not dye the hair. Why should you? The colouring Nature has given you must surely be the best. (3) Prettiness is decidedly an extra attraction to the naturally gifted actress, but at the same time it is a far more valuable asset to possess a magnetic personality."

"HENRY OF NAVARRE."

Romantic Play, in Four Acts, by William Devereux, Produced at the New Theatre on Thursday, Jan. 7.

Charles IX. .....MR. MALCOLM CHERRY
Henry de Bourbon .....MR. FRED TERRY
Duc de Guise .....MR. A. E. ANSON
Duc d'Anjou .....MR. HARRY F. WRIGHT
Arthur de Mouhy .....MR. WALTER EDWIN
Cosmo Ruggieri .....MR. HORACE HODGES
Marshal de Tavannes ..MR. J. CARTER-EDWARDS
Chancellor de Birague ....MR. GEORGE DUDLEY
Duc de Retz .....MR. MAURICE TOSH
Duc de la Rochefoucauld ....MR. C. R. GIBBON
M. des Valles .....MR. MAURICE ELVEY
M. de Besme .....MR. PHILIP MERIVALE
Nancey .....MR. SYDNEY PORTER
Page .....MR. R. EASTEN PICKERING
Catherine de Medici .....MISS TITA BRAND
Marie Belleforet .....MISS KATHLEEN DOYLE
Charlotte de Sauve .....MISS GLADYS GARDNER
La Belle Dayole .....MISS KITTY CARTERET
Mlle. de Montmorenci ....MISS GWEN THOMAS
Mlle. de Torigni .....MISS BEATRICE MANNING
Marguerite de Valois .....MISS JULIA NEILSON

Mr. William Devereux and Mr. Fred Terry deserve pæans of praise for having written and produced such a fine play as *Henry of Navarre*. It contains enough historical truth to create an illusion of reality, but no pedantic scruples are allowed to prevent it being a very powerful and thrilling drama. The difficulty of combining the two requisites is immense. Honour in the highest, then, to the dramatist who dares to attempt the almost impossible, and to the manager who has the wit to appreciate such a piece when he reads it, and the culture and enthusiasm to cast, mount, and present it as it deserves.

The keynote of the play is struck at the beginning. We listen to the plottings of Catherine de Medici; we are shown the timorous scruples of Charles IX.; and the characters of Henry de Bourbon and Marguerite de Valois are drawn in a very diverting scene, in which he piques his future wife by assuming a rustic and boorish air, and then making love to her in the most ardent, poetic, and romantic manner. Henry knows that he is surrounded by enemies, Catherine especially being anxious to get rid of him; but he remains at Court, partly for the sake of the Huguenot cause, partly for the love of Marguerite. He cannot quite make up his mind whether she is in the plot against his life; and his final words in the first act are, "Does Marguerite know?"

The Court astrologer and purveyor of poisons, Cosmo Ruggieri, thinking that Henry is certain to become King, gives him a ring the stone of which will change colour if placed near poison. In doubt as to his wife's complicity, he neglects her to such an extent that, in a moment of bitter resentment, she makes an assignation with Henry's deadliest enemy, the Duc de Guise. Then comes an explanation between her and her husband. Henry convinces her of his affection, and she tries to cancel the appointment with De Guise. The end of this second act is irresistibly effective. The Queen-Mother has given Marguerite some deadly poison, and has told her that it is a love-philtre. Marguerite, at a ball at the Louvre, drops this into a goblet of wine and hands it to Henry. The magic ring turns green; Henry's suspicion is aroused, and he asks her to drink first, which she joyously prepares to do, when he dashes the cup down, as if by accident, snatches up another, and drains it to her health.

In the third act Henry's jealousy is excited by rumours that his wife has made an assignation with De Guise; and the King of Navarre at first prepares to kill the Duc. Then he perceives that the Queen-Mother is using the situation for her purposes. Whichever is the victor in the duel, she will have one enemy the less. He resolves not to fall into the error of slaying De Guise, which would raise the population of Paris, to his ruin; and when Marguerite, on De Guise's arrival in her apartment, cries for help, Henry arrives, masked and disguised, assists the Duc to escape by a rope ladder, and presents himself to the King and courtiers, who come expecting to find De Guise. "Where should a husband be," says Henry, "but in his wife's bedroom?"

The last act is very strong indeed. Charles's consent to "St. Bartholomew" is obtained; the massacre begins, and Henry dashes into the fray to save De Mouhy, bringing him in wounded. De Guise and his men enter, and the Duc turns from Henry with scorn when he sees the white band which Marguerite—like the lady in Millais' picture—unknown to Henry, has bound to his arm to save him. Henry tears the false badge off indignantly, and is hard pressed, but he is saved by the King for Marguerite and future greatness.

The acting was remarkable, not only for the energy and dramatic power displayed, but for the care and finish with which the characters were delineated. Mr. Fred Terry's features lent themselves admirably to the representation of the alert and subtle Henry de Bourbon, and with the aid of a delicately skilful make-up he managed to give the idea of the personage exactly. The part is one of the strongest that have been written for a leading actor for a long time, being full of effective contrasts, and Mr. Terry took full advantage of all his opportunities. He was equally excellent throughout the progress of the play; and whether Henry de Bourbon was joking gaily in the teeth of imminent danger, making love with true Gascon ardour, or cleverly eluding the snares of his enemies, Mr. Terry was always equal to the demands made upon him. The result was a creation of distinguished merit, immensely successful, and exciting the audience to a high pitch of enthusiasm. Miss Julia Neilson is such a mistress of the art of depicting characters like that of Marguerite de Valois—queenly, impulsive, and just a trifle coquettish—that her success in the character was certain. In the first act she took her share capitally of the scene in which Henry piques the vanity of Marguerite by his bluntness; and in all the more serious passages, in the depiction of indignation, love, and agonised interest, Miss Neilson showed the value of her ripe training and liberal resources. The part suited her splendidly, and she filled it with a strength and skill which made it one of her most triumphant achievements, her appearance in the gorgeous attire of the period being not the least agreeable factor of her very fine performance. An important personage in the play is Catherine de Medici, and it was well that so able an actress as Miss Tita Brand was secured to sustain it. Miss Brand looked the terrible Queen-Mother very effectively, and carried an imposing costume with ease and dignity. She did not fall into the error of making the remorseless Catherine too old and ugly, and her exultant smile at the prospect of each new deed of darkness was very natural and significant. An impersonation which made a great impression on the audience was the Cosmo Ruggieri of Mr. Horace Hodges—a grim, solemn, and mysterious embodiment which had a great deal to do with the success of the play. There was a calm superiority about Mr. Hodges's reading of the rôle which, combined with a judicious make-up, riveted the attention of the house whenever the crafty astrologer was on the stage. A performance of remarkable merit was Mr. Malcolm Cherry's Charles IX. The part is cleverly drawn, and Mr. Cherry's development of it was always telling and expressive, and at times powerfully intense, notably in the scene in which Charles, enraged at the prophecy of his coming death and the succession of the Duc d'Anjou, springs upon the latter and tries to murder him. Here Mr. Cherry rose to a height of almost tragic passion. Another strong and tense rendering was Mr. A. E. Anson's Duc de Guise—villainous but not exaggerated, emphatic but never melodramatic, and replete with aristocratic audacity and cruel pride. Mr. Harry F. Wright as the Duc d'Anjou might have stepped out of an old portrait of the period, so exactly did he realise one of the sleek and scented exquisites of the sixteenth century. He had little to say, but his pantomime and facial expression were excellent. A sound and sterling performance of the part of Arthur de Mouhy was given by Mr. Walter Edwin, who supplied an agreeable portraiture of the commonsense, matter-of-fact, faithful adherent of the versatile Henry of Navarre. Miss Kathleen Doyle as the merry lady-in-waiting, Marie Belleforet, contributed some acceptable comedy, and was as bright and vivacious as could be desired in her scenes with Mr. Edwin, which were very amusing; and Miss Gladys Gardner enacted Charlotte de Sauve very smoothly and carefully, and looked the character well. Mr. J. Carter-Edwards's ripe experience made him a most desirable representative of Marshal de Tavannes; Mr. George Dudley did good work as Chancellor de Birague; Mr. Maurice Tosh was very commendable as the Duc de Retz; Mr. C. R. Gibbon merits mention as the Duc de la Rochefoucauld; Mr. Maurice Elvey contributed a neat rendering of the rôle of M. des Valles; Mr. Philip Merivale was excellent as M. de Besme; and Mr. Sydney Porter was entirely efficient as Nancey, Mr. R. Easten Pickering playing a page neatly. The Court ladies had handsome and intelligent representatives in Miss Kitty Carteret, Miss Gwen Thomas, and Miss Beatrice Manning. Mr. R. C. McCleery's scenery was enthusiastically admired; it was very artistic and picturesque, and the details had evidently been carefully studied. The play, produced under Mr. Terry's direction, enlisted the interest and sympathy of the audience early in the evening, and the performance culminated in a demonstration the like of which has not been heard in a London theatre for a long time.

THE CRITERION.

On Wednesday, Jan. 6, Revival of the Play, in Four Acts, by Hubert Henry Davies, entitled "MRS. GORRINGE'S NECKLACE."

Captain Mowbray .....MR. YORKE STEPHENS
Colonel Jardine .....MR. FRED LEWIS
Lieutenant David Cairn ....MR. LESLIE FABER
Mr. Jernigan .....MR. REGINALD WALTER
Charles .....MR. LAWRENCE WHITE
Mrs. Jardine .....MISS MARIE ILLINGTON
Isabel Kirke .....MISS DOROTHY THOMAS
Vicky Jardine .....MISS ELFRIDA CLEMENT
Miss Potts .....MISS ETHEL MARRYATT
Mrs. Gorringe .....MISS MARY MOORE

Miss Mary Moore has added another leaf to her laurels as a manageress by reviving Mr. Hubert Henry Davies's play, which is one of the best that clever dramatist has written. The combination of a domestic tragedy with an abundance of amusing comedy relief makes a most agreeable and interesting evening's entertainment. *Mrs. Gorringe's Necklace* was produced at Wyndham's Theatre in the May of 1903, with Sir Charles Wyndham as Captain Mowbray, Mr. Alfred Bishop as Colonel Jardine, Miss Mabel Terry-Lewis as Isabel Kirke, and Miss Mary Moore as Mrs. Gorringe. The love interest of the play is by no means conventional. Captain Mowbray, a man past his first youth, who has made a fortune in South Africa, is secretly enamoured of Isabel Kirke, step-daughter of Colonel Jardine, in whose house the action of the piece occurs. Isabel has given her heart to a weak and worthless but prepossessing young man, David Cairn, and is doing her best to cure him of his various vices—gambling included. Cairn loses heavily, and, being in want of money, yields to temptation and appropriates a necklace belonging to Mrs. Gorringe, a silly and affected person, who is staying with the Jardines much to the irritation of Mrs. Jardine, who is equally absurd but in a different way. Mrs. Gorringe misses her necklace, and sends to London for a detective. Stung by remorse, Cairn resolves to return the ornament, and hides it *pro tem.* in a vase which stands on a side table. Mowbray finds out that Isabel loves Cairn, and is so much distressed that he tries to leave the house quietly and at once. This excites the suspicion of the detective, which is increased when the necklace is found wrapped up in Mowbray's handkerchief, which he had lent to Cairns, who goes off on foreign service, letting suspicion rest upon Mowbray, who screens him for the sake of Isabel. She, it is now disclosed, has been secretly married to Cairn, who eventually returns and offers to confess to the theft. Coming, however, to the conclusion that he is incorrigible, he goes out into the garden and commits suicide, leaving Isabel free to marry Mowbray, whose merits she has learned to appreciate.

Miss Mary Moore's Mrs. Gorringe is one of those masterpieces of unconcious satire in which Miss Moore revels. The make-up is a marvel of subtle observation, and the voice, attitude, and *minauderies* of the ridiculous lady are irresistibly comic. There is a realism about the embodiment which raises it to the level of high art. Mrs. Gorringe's conceit, her idea of her own irresistible attractiveness, her insistence on detail in her description of the way in which she discovered her loss, and her utter ignorance of the light in which she is regarded by others are shown by Miss Moore in a manner for which all lovers of humorous acting should be grateful. Mr. Yorke Stephens, an artist who is always safe, sound, and successful, depicts Captain Mowbray in a firm and finished style, and deserves very warm praise for his strong, steady, and skilful performance. He makes Mowbray acute as well as affectionate; and the slight gauntness of the African adventurer is cleverly suggested. The ease and aplomb of the rendering are excellent. A delightful contribution to the evening's amusement is made by Miss Marie Illington in her original character of Mrs. Jardine. As the typical British matron endowed with manner and position, Miss Illington sends the house into ecstasies of mirth by her exquisitely droll impersonation, the effect of which is greatly increased by Miss Illington's imposing appearance in some striking costumes. The difficult and exacting rôle of Lieutenant David Cairn has a judicious and suitable exponent in Mr. Leslie Faber, who played it at Wyndham's in 1903, and whose admirable rendering was keenly appreciated at the Criterion on Wednesday. Mr. Reginald Walter, another member of the original cast, again endows Mr. Jernigan with all the stern and solid seriousness of the typical detective; and Mr. Lawrence White speaks his lines well and bears himself creditably as Charles. Miss Dorothy Thomas is a very winning representative of Isabel Kirke. She has a fine appearance, a soft, mellow, and distinct delivery, delicate grace, and much gentle earnestness; and she acts with ease, feeling, force, and judgment. Miss Elfrida Clement is duly pert and pretty as Vicky Jardine; and Miss Ethel Marryatt is once more happily available for the little part of Miss Potts, which she sustains carefully and well.

Mrs. Gorringe's Necklace is preceded by Miss Rosina Filippi's bright and smart duologue *The American Widow*, in which Mr. John Toke enacts the Earl of Somerville very pleasantly, and Miss Frances Vine, with an excellent American accent, plays Mrs. Vanbright with all the necessary quaintness and vivacity

THE GARRICK.

On Tuesday, Jan. 5, revival of the Play, in Four Acts, by Anthony Hope, entitled "THE ADVENTURE OF LADY URSULA."

Lady Ursula Barrington ..MISS EVELYN MILLARD
Dorothy Fenton .....MISS DORA BARTON
Mrs. Fenton .....MISS DOLORES DRUMMOND
Sir George Sylvester .....MR. HERBERT WARING
Mr. Dent .....MR. CHARLES FULTON
The Earl of Hassenden .....MR. J. L. MCKAY
The Rev. Mr. Blimboe .....MR. LYTTON GREY
Mr. Castleton .....MR. OWEN ROUGHWOOD
Quilton .....MR. EVELYN VERNON
Sir Robert Clifford .....MR. HEATH HAVILAND
Mr. Devereux .....MR. GERALD JEROME
Mr. Ward .....MR. A. E. BENEDICT
Mills .....MR. JOHN W. LAURENCE
Servant .....MR. FRANK H. DANBY

The Lady Ursula Barrington is one of Miss Evelyn Millard's best parts, and *The Adventure of Lady Ursula* is one of Mr. Anthony Hope's best plays. There is a distinct literary flavour about the dialogue; and the whole work is conceived and carried out in a very pleasant and happy vein. Mr. Hope has indeed caught very cleverly the polished, slightly formal spirit of eighteenth-century society, and has handled his theme with the ease which comes of intimate acquaintance with the literature of the "period." Some of the epigrams thrown in by him are excellent; and the artificial parts of the piece are as good as the ingenuous ones. There is a great deal of unsophisticated gaiety in *The Adventure of Lady Ursula*, which was produced at the Duke of York's Theatre on Oct. 11, 1898, with Miss Millard in the leading female character, Mr. Herbert Waring as Sir George Sylvester, Mr. George Raiemond as the Rev. Dr. Blimboe, Mr. Charles Fulton as Mr. Dent, Mr. Sam Sothern as Lieutenant Ward, Miss Agnes Miller as the sedate Mrs. Fenton, and Miss Florence Haydon as Miss Dorothy. As our readers may remember, the whole complications of the plot are caused by the rash vow of Sir George Sylvester, who, having killed a friend in a duel about a woman, resolves that he will never meet one again. This, of course, involves the exclusion of petticoats from his house, and so, when the Lady Ursula Barrington, in a mischievous mood, pretends to faint on his doorstep, he merely places the porter's lodge at her disposal. Her hot-headed brother, the Earl of Hassenden, happens to pass by, is enraged at the insult offered to his sister, and insults Sir George grossly. A duel is inevitable unless something is done to stop it. So Ursula dresses up in her brother's clothes, and presents herself to Sir George as her younger brother, who is really in Paris. After some amusing scenes between them, in which Sir George becomes more and more interested in Ursula—whom he thinks he has not seen—she escapes, still in disguise, to London. Here she appears at Sir George's lodgings in St. James's, and a bully named Dent nearly succeeds in picking a quarrel with her. This is prevented by the arrival of Sir George, who begins to suspect the trick that has been played upon him, and, in order to force an acknowledgment from Lady Ursula, challenges the supposed Sir Walter for his insulting conduct in suddenly leaving the house at Edgware. Lady Ursula offers to fight him with pistols across a table; and the jest is carried nearly up to firing point when Sir George stops. The pair are now deep in love with each other. The last act is brisk and exciting, Lord Hassenden turning up at the Edgware mansion to seek his sister, and finding instead his sweetheart Dorothy Fenton, who has come there for the same purpose. This almost leads to another challenge; but Lady Ursula arrives in female attire, and reconciliations and explanations end in her betrothal to Sir George.

Miss Evelyn Millard is perfectly at ease and at home in the part of the Lady Ursula Barrington, and she plays it with all the vivacity and accomplishment required. The slightly hoydenish spirit of the character is cleverly tempered with good breeding, and the spontaneous gaiety of the girl is always allowed to break through the formality of the fine lady. Miss Millard is completely mistress of the rôle, and the ease and smoothness with which she renders it make her performance truly delightful. She makes a handsome appearance in the male attire of the period, which, by the bye, lends itself better than some would to the concealment of sex. The variety of emotions with which the author has supplied his heroine are depicted by the actress with consummate skill and striking power of expression. Mr. Herbert Waring's Sir George Sylvester has all the necessary "style" and weight; and he gives a remarkably good idea of the slightly saddened, cynically humorous, but still young nobleman. He is much assisted by the sumptuous costumes which he wears. They are dazzling and becoming, and Mr. Waring carries them with all the required largeness and freedom of spirit. The air of calm predominance is assumed by him with ease; and the embodiment, altogether, is a fine example of high comedy acting. Miss Dora Barton is really bewitching as the gay, careless, impulsive Dorothy, acting with a crisp alertness that is very effective, and looking remarkably pretty in the dainty dresses of the time. Miss Dolores Drummond's Mrs. Fenton is one of those unimpeachable renderings of middle-aged ladies which she knows so well how to supply, and combines dignity and deportment with a pleasant tinge of humour. The minor characters are most of them important, and are all admirably sustained. We must particularly praise Mr. Charles Fulton for his bold and vigorous performance as Mr. Dent; and Mr. J. L. MacKay ably emphasises the combative instincts of the Earl of Hassenden. Mr. Lytton Grey is commendably solid and benign as the Rev. Mr. Blimboe, the combination of dignified courtesy and respect for "betters" being delicately indicated; and Mr. Owen Roughwood gives a careful and creditable representation of Mr. Castleton, Mr. Evelyn Vernon's Quilton being quite the old-fashioned family retainer. Mr. Heath Haviland shows ability as Sir Robert Clifford; Mr. Gerald Jerome does good work as Mr. Devereux; and Mr. A. E. Benedict is efficient as Mr. Ward, Mr. John W. Lawrence giving an intelligent performance as Mills, and Mr. Frank H. Danby being assiduous as the servant. Mr. W. Hemsley's scenery, especially the picturesque Edgware interior, greatly assists the illusion; the dresses could hardly have been improved upon; and a word of praise is well deserved by Mr. Edmond Ricketts's orchestra, the Mustel Celesta-Organ, an agreeable instrument, being used with effect.

Worse than the Goodwins.

A GOOD story is told of a certain theatre-proprietor's farewell. His little wooden theatre had existed a season, but the box-office had not been overworked. The final night came, and the broken-hearted owner made his speech. "I must thank you," he said, "for the way you have rallied round this temple of Thespis. It is not a great theatre, I admit, but it is the best I could afford. I thank you, people of Blankham, for the way you have patronised me: but, Heaven help me, if I had built this place on the Goodwin Sands, I should have had more support from the shipwrecked sailors!"

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

"THE TEST."

Play, in Three Acts, by T. W. Eastwood, produced for the first time at the Court Theatre on Sunday, Jan. 3.

Mr. Dalton .....MR. DENNIS CLEUGH
Grace .....MISS EDYTH OLIVE
Mr. Curry .....MR. HUBERT WILLIS
Mrs. Curry .....MISS GWYNNE HERBERT
Dorothy .....MISS DOROTHY FANE
Miss Appleby .....MISS ALICE MANSFIELD
Footman .....MR. A. DOUGLAS NEWMAN

The degree of excellence which was reached by the first essay of the Dramatic Productions Club a month ago was but ill maintained by their latest selection, which was given at the Court Theatre on Sunday and reproduced the following afternoon. The subject of "free love" has never been regarded with sufficient seriousness to warrant its discussion on the stage, and in dealing with the theme the author of *The Test* has provided a play of meagre proportions filled out by high-flown language which the keenest perception might fail to follow. The principals are Aubrey Dalton, an artist, and Grace, an "idealist." The latter refuses an offer of marriage by Aubrey, having come to the conclusion that love is of too soulful a character to be contracted by the marriage tie, so the couple set aside that formality and begin housekeeping forthwith. After a few months Grace, who writes books to propagate her theory, gives way when she contemplates the future in store for a probable offspring, and asks Aubrey to marry her. Her demand is not altogether uninfluenced by the fact that he has developed signs of interest in a young girl named Dorothy, who is staying with her uncle and aunt at a hydro. in North Wales, where the whole of the action takes place. For the sake of convention Aubrey and Grace pass as Mr. and Mrs. Dalton; but Dorothy, with all the innocence—and perhaps a little more—of girlhood, accompanies Aubrey on his sketching trips among the hills. The latter is indeed deeply in love with Dorothy, and answers Grace's request by declaring that he cannot live without Dorothy, and intends to offer her marriage. He does so at the first opportunity, explaining his position with regard to Grace; but Dorothy, in the only scene which has any dramatic worth, repels him with scorn. Grace's exalted ideas of womanhood forbid her marriage with Aubrey now that he has ceased to love her, and, awakened to a sense of his loneliness, Aubrey takes refuge in suicide.

The opportunities for effect given to the artists were scant. Aubrey Dalton is an unprincipled cad and an insufferable bore, who is continually adjourning the action of the play while he indulges in rantings about nervous force, in the course of which he is fain to liken himself to a burst of thunder. Mr. Dennis Cleugh made the part as possible as might be, and did his best to give colour to his utterances. Miss Edyth Olive was little more fortunate as the "idealist," Grace, but she invested the part with feeling. There was little chance for the display of passion, but the hard, dry accents necessary to indicate the depths of despair were admirably assumed. Dorothy was interpreted with delightful freshness and animation by Miss Dorthy Fane, who contributed skilfully to the scene in which she disposes of the pretensions of Aubrey. An accept-member of the *dramatis personæ* was an old maid, who is constantly expounding the virtues of the Christian spirit. Miss Alice Mansfield gave a droll exposition of the part, her method of delivery being responsible for much of the mirth aroused. Mr. Hubert Willis was painstaking as ever in his rendering of the rôle of Mr. Curry, Dorothy's uncle, and as Mrs. Curry the artistic excellence and refinement of Miss Gwynne Herbert were again conspicuous.

Some compensation for the disappointment of the earlier part of the afternoon was found in the following piece, which was a comedietta, by Clotilde Graves, entitled

"THE GENERAL'S PAST."

Major-General E. D. Sassnidge
MR. MICHAEL SHERBROOKE
Sir Chas. Belphin, J.P.....MR. SCOTT BUIST
Colonel W. de Pegg Cholmondeley
MR. WALLETT WALLER
Giovanni Gioacca .....MR. LEON M. LION
Mrs. Cholmondeley ..MISS GERTRUDE HEINRICH
Mrs. Caddisbrooke .....MISS LUCY ASHWORTH

Setting aside the improbability of the episodes presented, Miss Graves may be said to have fashioned a merry farce brightened by amusing dialogue. Sir Charles Belphin, a justice of the peace, goes in fear of the discovery of his courtship with a young widow, whose first husband has been only a few months dead. In order to escape observation the pair arrange to have a dinner at a London restaurant, but scarcely has the meal begun when they are joined by the widow's neighbour, a Major-General Sassnidge, who is an inveterate scandal-lover and the dread of the lovers. The Major-General is abnormally short-sighted, and having broken his spectacles, mistakes Belphin and the widow for two old friends who had invited him to dinner. In the course of the meal the Major-General, who passes as a bachelor, grows reminiscent, and dilates upon an escapade of his married life which involved his appearance in the Divorce Court. The widow and her wooer thus secure a formidable weapon, and are able to dictate terms to enforce the General's silence. The little piece was merrily played. Mr. Michael Sherbrooke gave a diverting sketch of the meddling Major-General; Miss Lucy Ashworth made a comely and charming widow; and Mr. Scott Buist sustained the rôle of Sir Charles Belphin with buoyancy and spirit. Mr. Leon M. Lion played comically as an Italian waiter, whose constatnly reiterated "If you pleese!" always obtained a laugh.

The Masher Amazed.

"EVER had any 'scenes' outside?" said the stage-door-keeper at the Gaiety Theatre to a *Daily Mail* man the other day. "Now and then. Nothing to equal the night poor Bill Terriss was stabbed to death as he was going into the Adelphi. But one thing I did see once as I never shall forget. A young feller had been fair persecuting a pretty young actress for weeks and weeks. One night she brings her brother down to the theatre. Like her he was; small, too, but as wiry as they make 'em, and a rare light-weight boxer for all his slim figure. Well, after the show that night there was the young feller waiting as usual, and presently he sees what he thinks is the girl coming out in a big cloak what she usually wore. As usual, he sidles up to her, and this time she doesn't pass him by as usual, but takes his arm and walks a few paces with him. Then all of a sudden she kicks off her cloak, throws her hat o' one side, and sets about him. It was the brother dressed up, and the hiding that young feller got he'll remember till his dying day. But that sort of thing don't happen nowadays. Times is changed."

MISS WINIFRED MAUD and her company have been appearing at the Theatre Royal, Margate, in *The Convict* for the first three nights of the week. As Dora Miss Maud has played with conspicuous success, and has been capably supported by Mr. Leonard S. Harrison as Charles Renshawe; Mr. Gordon Ingram as Jack Britton; Mr. Max Carson as Capt. Harley; Mr. Victor Du Cane in the rôle of Freddy Freckles; Miss Amy Waitland as Jennie Freckles; Mrs. Wingold Lawrence as Olga Brandon; and other members of an all-round capable company. For the remainder of the week *The Stowaway* was played by special request.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE EMPIRE.

Among the variety attractions presented by Mr. Harry Hitchins at the Empire is Miss Lalla Selbini, whose name suggests that she comes from Italy, though we happen to know that she is quite English. At one time she was associated with the celebrated cycling troupe pioneered by her father; but a year or two since she began to engineer a show of her own, which improves in its conception and execution every time we see it, until it has developed into a triumph of versatility. As at the Alhambra, the beautiful Lalla comes on to the stage in full walking costume—a pretty dress that entirely suits her charm as a brunette. But after a few juggling feats, she discards skirts for the simplicity of a kind of bathing costume, close-fitting to the contour of a perfect figure, and accomplishes cycling feats of considerable variety and difficulty. On one wheel she is decidedly clever, and her tandem feats are also cleverly done. She has a younger brother, who is a born comedian. Dressed in Chinese costume, he does many diverting tricks, and joins his sister in a really clever parody of the Italian singing girl (from Saffron-hill), accompanying her as an organ-grinder, with a property monkey. The turn is a great success, the artists being recalled several times.

The Perezoffs have a novel setting to their smart juggling turn. It is the dining-room of a restaurant, and the waiters throw to each other all the requisites for laying a table, which is accomplished in less time than it takes us to record the fact. The guests enter, and after expressing surprise and astonishment at the original methods by which they are served with viands, join in the fun themselves. The final feat of a shower of plates, which are thrown at lightning speed, and caught by one of the troupe with both the left and the right hands, is loudly applauded, and the performance throughout is exhilarating and smart.

The great feature of the ballet *A Day in Paris* is undoubtedly the Apache dance of Mr. Fred Farren and Miss Beatrice Collier; but a new feature are two new dance creations of M. Alexander Genée, the teacher of his niece, Mlle. Adeline Genée, which are exploited by Miss Lydia Kyasht. The first is a flag dance in the Champs Elysées scene, and the second an elaborate polka fantasie—lasting five minutes—in the final scene. Mlle. Kyasht is nightly received with enthusiasm.

Miss Josephine La Barte, the entertainer at the piano, has a song quite in the humorous vein when she sings "Nicholas, don't be ridiculous." Miss Evelyn D'Alroy and Mr. Charles E. France win hearty applause for Mr. Alfred J. Locke's duologue *A Blank Cheque*, which is admirably played; the pictures of the riding of Italian Cavalry are most interesting; and other turns in a fine bill are the Four Amaranths, capital dancers; Hayes and Merritt, in a trampolin act; and Pewitt, the human head.

THE PALACE.

The programme of the Palace Theatre was augmented on Monday by a distinctly clever turn in McMahon and Chappelle, who appeared for the first time in this country. The entertainment is an "illustrated duologue," called *Why Hubby Missed the Train*. Outside an American railway station arrives a young lady, who is presently followed by a young man. He is the cause of the train being missed, but excuses himself with the remark that "he did not miss it by very much in minutes." The wife argues, and the man talks back, and the epigrams which ensue do not fail to thoroughly amuse the audience. The moving scenery used in the act is distinctly novel to the English variety stage, and there is no doubt that Mr. Butt, in exploiting new American "turns," has scored in his latest selection. During the recent wintry weather one of the songs rendered by the Palace Girls at the popular house in Cambridge-circus proved unexpectedly topical. Its title is "Little Snowstorm, go away, and come again another day." We do not quite desire this, nor are these very charming young ladies really sincere in their wish, as they bask in front of an Alpine scene in full summer foliage. They are very fascinating, too, in their "Teddy Bear" song and final dance. Mr. Herman Finck's cleverly arranged musical pot-pourri, "Now and Then," is already a popular feature of the programme. About eighty popular airs are included. We have "Get your hair cut" served up with the "Pilgrims' Chorus" of *Tannhäuser;* and Lassen's beautiful "All Souls' Day" becomes mixed up with rag-time. What matters? It is all quite inspiriting and tuneful.

In the list of Mr. Butt's artists we come across "Hicks and Terriss," a new turn in variety, and do not for the moment realise that the manager of the Palace is having his little joke, and that he is referring to the popular Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Hicks, who have caught on by the delightful irresponsibility and breeziness of their acting, singing, dancing, and—may we say?—gagging, in *Fly-by-Night*, the aeroplane sketch, recently noticed at length in these columns. The house laughs heartily at "Seymour's" topical hits, and are immensely tickled when he says his motto is "Nil Dorando."

Les Fleury duo are very popular in their representations of Parisian types, and repeat their success of last year; the Bogannys, lunatic bakers, are among the funniest of acrobats, and present a very smart show; Nelson Jackson's stories and songs are exceedingly popular; and Lyster and Cooke, Jack Lorimer, Aimée de Leska, and Max Laube are other turns in an excellent bill.

THE CANTERBURY.

The Callan and Ardel company are presenting a new singing, dancing, comedy, and acrobatic scena, entitled *Scenes on the Mississippi*, at the Canterbury this week, and the trifle has been received with marks of approval. The scene is the bankside of the famous American river, and the characters all appear with blackened faces. There does not seem to be any continued story, but a series of incidents. The scena opens showing a group of natives singing "The Swanee River," after which there are some appropriate larking and jesting. Then a boy, with a nice soprano voice, steps forward and renders the lines of "Star of the night" in beautiful style. This is followed by the singing of "Happy as can be" by a talented quartette of harmony singers. There are some really funny comedians in Messrs. Callan and Ardel's party, and these engage in highly diverting frolics and acrobatics until and even after a smart corps of infantry march forward. The voices of these are heard to great advantage in "The Mississippi Brigade," and their drill exercises are neatly and precisely performed. Altogether *Scenes on the Mississippi* furnishes a pleasing music hall entertainment.

Little Tich, pertinently described as "the one and only," is delighting folks on "the other side of the river" with his wondrous comicalities, and his numbers, "A sergeant of the police," "The King of Ko-Ki-Ko," and "Little Miss Turpentine," are fruitful in the matter of the raising of laughter. Miss May Moore Duprez is surely as jolly as ever a Dutch lassie was, and her medley of Dutch songs and patter and her vivacious interpretation of the song "Gretchen" prove our statement to the hilt. Devon and Earle appear in an exceedingly clever clog-dancing act; and Mr. Frank H. Fox, a comedian with a bright style, offers a tuneful number in "When the women get the vote." Mr. Sam Williams, the popular chorus comedian, has a taking song in "Back to Ceylon"; and Miss Edie Coolville, a comedienne with a most attractive personality, offers pleasing vocal items in "The Isle of Wight" and "Can you see any green in my eye?"

Tee and Tee, the creative musical eccentrics, introduce some novel ideas in their act. To begin with, we see a tramp, seated at the foot of a signpost, perched on a milestone. He is enjoying his lunch, and is rudely interrupted by an eccentric motorist in a fearful and wonderful car. However, the combination proves most agreeable, for the two men extract melody out of the motor-car, the signpost, and other things. The "turn" wins the unstinted approval of the audience. Mr. L. B. Athol, too, wins favour with his singing of "Never tell your troubles to your friends"; Miss Clara Beck gives expressive rendering to the song "All I want is a man," and dances extremely well. Barclay and Netta's Jockeys appear in an amusing racecourse scene; and Miss Kitty Collier distinguishes herself as a comedienne, her dancing being particularly commendable. Hampton and Bauman, the Darktown entertainers, present their character scena, *Down in Kentucky*, in which they submit a selection of "Southern" airs; and Mr. Joe Elvin and company create roars of laughter in the sketch *The Wrong House*. Ruffell's Bioscope projects a number of interesting films. Manager Charles W. Adams is, as usual, to the forefront in the matter of attending to the convenience of his patrons and the requirements of the house.

ISLINGTON EMPIRE.

At this popular house for the holiday week Joe Elvin was at the top of the bill in a revival of *The Wrong House*. The popular comedian is in great form, and constant laughter greets the progress of the sketch. He is capitally supported, and the scenery and effects are very complete. Eugenie Fougere appears in a somewhat cosmopolitan turn, the whole of which is essentially Parisian. Arthur Melrose, a whistling word comedian, gives a clever show, and meets with a good reception. The Athlones, athletes, give a neat turn that serves to display both their strength and ability, which gains well-earnt applause.

Park's Eton Boys and Girton Girls submit a most entertaining series of songs and dances with capital effect, their reception being an enviable one. Herbert la Martine displays his well-known skill as a dancer. To every sign of admiration and approval Billie Burford sings a descriptive song very commendably. Bert Brantford has a cleverly written song which he sings with good effect. Leah Arden has a powerful voice, which is used to great advantage in a ballad. Annie Braddan does very well in a humorous song. Kurkamp, the singing conductor, makes a hit in the well-known excerpt from *Il Trovatore*, and is equally successful in his song, "Two Eyes of Grey," which was most artistically rendered.

Horace and Olga's great troupe of performing cats and dogs gave a wonderfully clever turn, which was very fully recognised by the house. The appointments for this act are on a singularly complete scale. Spencer and Marks, in a speciality act, do fairly well, one of the duo being a good dancer. The Bioscope is good as usual; and Mr. Adams, the manager, is very courteous in the front of the house. Mr. Petersen's orchestra is a great feature of the evening.

THE CHELSEA PALACE.

Seasonable entertainment is provided at the cosy Chelsea Palace this week, and audiences of holiday proportions are loud in appreciation of the various performers who fill Mr. Henri Gros' judiciously selected bill. The festive period is represented in *Goody Two Shoes*, in which all the glories of pantomime are reflected. The production is that of Mr. Andie Caine, who put it on at Chelsea in the summer. It has been received this week with every sign of satisfaction, the smart costumes and elaborate scenery combining to furnish a pretty show. Fun is the chief ingredient of the production, and the laughter that begins with the arrival of Mr. Caine, who plays the dame, continues unabated throughout the piece. Mr. George Lester also supplies a diverting performance as Baron Graball, and Harry and Edwin do some clever acrobatic dancing as Biffem and Basham. Miss V. Macintyre plays and sings prettily in the title-rôle, and Miss H. Thwaites makes a typical principal boy, rendering the popular "Sue" in excellent style. An old familiar friend is found in the Brothers Horne's boxing sketch, *The Biter Bit*, which still has the power to arouse laughter. The comely young lady who acts the barmaid sings well and dances expertly.

Caricatures of the lady coon have been brought almost to a fine art by Miss Florence Yaymen, whose vocal eccentricities find general favour. She has discovered the existence of an hitherto unknown species in that of a Chinese coon maiden, and her antics and singing in that character are so broadly comical that many recalls are bestowed. Miss Lillie Langtry maintains the high pressure of activity with which she has so long been associated, and her movements on the stage are characterised by even greater rapidity than ever. As "The girl who can't keep still" her high spirits are very exhilarating, and the audience are quite fascinated by her flittings across the stage at express speed in illustration of her song. Later she returns in raiment of ruddy hue to tell in tuneful rhyme of a lamb who was lost at Shepherd's Bush Exhibition, when her wonderful agility is again exhibited. Miss Langtry supplements her song with a swiftly executed dance in which her twinkling feet seem to attain a record speed, all the while preserving symmetry of motion. Miss Langtry's success at Chelsea is great and well-deserved. *Le Café Chantant* is presented by Mr. Henri Cazman, whose talents are utilised in a variety of imitations and illusions.

As an eccentric musician Bi-Bo-Bi scores, as he might be expected to; Miss Katie Marsh is a dainty comedienne, and Mr. Sid Bandon, comedian, and Mr. A. T. Bute, eccentric comedian and dancer, also contribute to the bill. A special attraction is provided by Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope, in which the *Morning Leader* £100 prize picture was presented for the first time to the public eye on Monday. The film consists of a series of sensational snapshots of the most recent happenings in all parts of the world. Some dozen or so incidents are thus illustrated, and the series is completed with views of the preparation in every department for the issue of a great daily paper. It is a brilliant collection, which has the added zest of carrying the chance of a £100 prize for anyone who furnishes the best title. The show at Chelsea is smartly worked under the direction of the competent young manager, Mr. J. Norman Berlin, who has an able acting-manager in Mr. George B. Andrews. The new musical director at Chelsea is Mr. Charles Aves, who on the occasion of our visit was absent from his post owing to indisposition, which we trust is only of a temporary character.

ROTHERHITHE HIPPODROME.

Negro artists were in strong evidence at this popular house last week, and whatever may be the faults of the coloured race, they are without question most capable performers. Tiger Lily is a really wonderful dancer. With the concertina in hand, she punctuated every note of the instrument with the fall of her feet in a truly artistic manner. Matthews and Brown rendered in a vivacious and taking way a comedy entitled *That's All*, and gained the hearty applause of a large audience. Texas Hattie is equal to most of her white sisters on the tight-rope. It would be hard to believe that such gymnastics, practically in the air, could be accomplished unless one had personally seen them.

Parker, P.C., presented by that clever and versatile actor Mr. Chas. Austin, once more threw the house into convulsions. He was ably supported by Messrs. Chas. Neville, Harry Lennox, and Fred Murray. Webb and Branston delighted the audience with airs from the operas. Both are possessors of really nice voices, and the only fault with their turns is that they were all too short. Rosie Archer is an accomplished mimic. All her imitations were good, though perhaps the best was her realisation of Kate Carney. Chas. Harvey scored, as he always does here, with his amusing and original songs. Walter Stanley presents good songs with taking and popular melodies. The Bioscope, always good at this house, maintained its reputation for novelty; whilst the orchestra, in the absence of Mr. Fisher, rendered most attractive music under the able guidance of his deputy. It is a pleasure to get out of the fog and frost into this comfortable house. The genial manager, Mr. A. F. Vernal, and his courteous assistant, Mr. Murray, are ever to the front in assisting their patrons to spend a pleasant evening.

THE FORESTERS'.

Crowds are attracted this week by the excellent programme submitted at this cosy establishment, which has recently been thoroughly redecorated throughout. Top honours in the holiday bill were given to the Six Brothers Luck, in their latest absurdity, *Lift-ems Ltd.*, by Chris Davis. The scene is a completely fitted grocery stores, where the assistants are holding a meeting. Suddenly the master enters and dismisses the lot. A young swell then takes charge of the establishment, being soon reinforced by several of his friends, who indulge in some good fun which keeps the audience in continual mirth, some clever tumbling being witnessed. The arrival of a bevy of lady friends adds to the joy of the new assistants, and the wrecking of the premises by an explosion is a sufficiently sensational finale.

Miss Florence Yaymen, coon caricaturist, provides an interesting item with her novel songs, "Waiting" and "Ching a Ling," concluding with a neatly executed dance and some shrilling war-whoops. Mr. E., with the assistance of pictures thrown on the screen, and a beautiful vocabulary, tells many an interesting story, humorous and pathetic. Miss Lily Kirton, an attractive young lady with good style and clear enunciation, receives an ovation for "What you've not got, you can always do without," and a bright and tuneful little Irish song. Boden and Bell, juvenile vocalists and dancers, are a clever pair who work extremely well together in their songs, concluding with a neat dance. The Olaves, in juggling and gymnastics, are enjoyable, the lady performing many difficult feats, and being ably assisted by the gentleman in his juggling.

The Bouncing Dillons, comedy gymnasts, are excellent, the lady's beautiful figure making a pretty picture while posing on the loose rope. Bouncing Willie is quite at home on the springs, performing, among other feats, a double somersault.

Miss Edith Lewis and company, in a sensational episode, *Avenged*, provides a dramatic scene which is always enjoyed when well played, as it is by Mr. Bert Morley as Capt. Pierpont, Mr. T. Templeton as Capt. Richter, and Miss Lewis as Vera. Charles Raynor, character comedian, amuses with "The girl with the angel face" and "Putting it down." The Temeraires, in a farcical protean absurdity, *Home Comforts*, supply an interesting ten minutes. Raymond's Biograph presents many interesting films.

SHOREDITCH OLYMPIA.

The way in which this hall is quickly gaining great popularity is really remarkable. At every performance the house is packed to the extreme, and the entertainment provided is always up to a high standard of excellence. The programme for the holidays contains many novelties, all of which meet with distinct approval. The principal attraction is undoubtedly the appearance of Mrs. Lewis Waller, in *The Admiral's Lady*, a delightful comedy of much interest. Mrs. Waller capably handles the rôle of the very uneducated Lady Rumblow, and plays with vigour throughout. She makes a careful and clever contrast between the lighter portions of the part and those of a more serious nature, and the manner in which she changes from one mood to the other shows considerable skill and ability. Mr. Edmund Waller supplies a notable and praiseworthy delineation of Admiral Rumblow, and discharges his duties with marked success. As Harry Rumblow, the son, Mr. G. Heathcote is well placed, as also is Mr. H. Coreney as the Duke de Villaflors. Mr. C. Sykes does well as Ille de Fonso; and Mr. E. Beer is all that could be desired as Captain Braddon. Isabel, the daughter of the Duke, is sweetly portrayed by Miss Dorothy Ripley; whilst Miss K. Vise plays with the necessary stiffness and reserve as the Duchess. Miss Colli does all that is possible with the small part of Betty. The staging and mounting of this interesting playlet are carried out in a manner worthy of special comment.

Leslie's Five Merry Maids appear in an act which comprises several songs capably rendered, some neatly executed dances, and also what might be termed an acrobatic exhibition on a revolving windmill. The special scene carried is wonderfully pretty, and with the numerous different coloured electric lights the effect is very elegant. Mr. Will Musgrave proves particularly amusing in his jovial rendering of "It's a good job I had my mother with me," and later, in a song of a somewhat similar type, "It's a good job the Sergeant came along." The Seven Wulfrunas show considerable acrobatic ability in their comedy creation, *Fun in a Café*. Some extremely difficult feats are performed by the party, and fun rages fast and furious during their occupation of the stage.

Miss Nora Stockelle gives much pleasure with her rendering of "I'm going back to London," and quickly dances herself into favour. Mr. Monte Walker scores a decided hit with his song "By the seaside," and is deservedly applauded. The old favourite Miss Marie Blythe engages the rapt attention of the audience with her chorus song, "Don't put your umbrella up," and proves equally successful in her second contribution, "The old love is the best." Her efforts are much appreciated, and her choruses are quickly taken up by the audience. Celest proves himself to be a clever gymnast, and in his sensational and remarkable wire act holds the audience in a state of breathless excitement. Bowden and Stol, a quaint couple, perform many humorous, though clever, antics. Their difficult feats are carried through with a coolness which makes their performance all the more amusing. Their efforts meet with applause which is well deserved. The Stowe Bros. also add to the success of the evening with their extremely clever and wonderful gymnastic display. Mr. Morny Cash sings his old favourites, "Do whatever you like with me," and "Bed." Although both contributions have had considerable wear, they still appear to give delight and amusement, and Mr. Morny Cash is deserving of praise for his hilarious drollery. Some excellent and interesting pictures are shown by Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope. Mr. H. H. Ketteman and his able lieutenant Mr. Albert Victor Adams adequately attend to the comforts of the audiences in front of the house, and discharge their duties with courtesy and tact.

QUEEN'S, POPLAR.

A strong company draws exceptionally large audiences here, and great gratification in the business done is felt by Messrs. F. and M. Abrahams. Tom Leamore, the incarnation of mirth, heads the humorous element, and recounts in his own peculiarly droll style his peregrinations as an itinerant insurance agent, after which he gives a characteristic study of the down-at-heel swell—an exceedingly clever piece of acting. Irene Meldon, the rapidly rising serio, brings the house down with a couple of finely-rendered songs. Indeed, at the hands of a critical audience this young artist's reception is nothing short of a triumph. Possessed of a rich and extremely clear voice, her numbers, couched in the usual light sentimental strain, draw forth a tremendous round of cheering, renewed at the conclusion of a smart skirt dance. Another favourite, though of a slightly different type, was Yolande Noble, whose piquancy and charm quite catch on with the occupants of both stalls and gallery. Miss Noble is gifted with comedy, and is daintiness personified. Henry Hilton provides a very entertaining interlude with a smart exhibition of legerdemain of the new order. Some of his tricks are unsually neat, and quite baffle the audience. The Camplins seem to exercise quite a powerful hold on the audience; their duologue, besides being original, is invested with a humour of its own.

Powerfully dramatic, and appealing strongly to the sentiments of an audience at all times sympathetic with the toiler, *Ring Up 735 East* can claim to be a brilliant success. This sketch was produced for the first time at Willesden recently, and a full report was then given. It is only therefore necessary to say that repetition has given the players a better opportunity of realising to the fullest extent the great opportunities provided for strong emotional acting. New to the cast is Mr. Cruikshanks, who fills the part of Jack Stapleford. The sketch is undoubtedly one of the finest in point of dramatic force that has been staged for some time. The staging is first-rate and the acting good.

Phil Bransby makes one of the chief hits of the evening; the Barton Franklyn Trio also add to the pleasure of audiences.

"SCOTCH MIXED."

A Musical Sketch by Frank Price, produced at the Hackney Empire on Monday evening, Jan. 4.

Jeremiah Johnson .....MR. DALEY COOPER
Jack Ainsley .....MR. CLIFTON YATES
The McPlhail .....MR. NAPIER BARRY
Alexander Dougal ....MR. REGINALD CROMPTON
Lady McTavish .....MISS VIOLET CLAIRE
Flora McTavish .....MISS EILEEN GILBERT

The bill at the Hackney Empire contains an attraction in the shape of a new musical sketch by Frank Price entitled *Scotch Mixed*, in which Mr. Daley Cooper and company appear. The rising of the curtain discloses the great hall of Lanchile Castle with a group of guests dancing. A bioscope man named Johnson is trying to get in to secure a good film, and Jack Ainsley, a guest, has promised to do his best to secure him admission. Lady McTavish, the hostess, is anxiously awaiting the arrival of The McPhail, a highland chieftain, whom she has not apparently met before, but whom she desires to see wedded to her daughter. The idea suggests itself to Ainsley, who has his own particular plan with regard to the daughter, to pass off Johnson as the noted Highland chief, and accordingly the operator finds the door opened and himself greeted with every sign of respect. The action now begins to develop, for Johnson, unable to understand the references that the hostess addresses to him, is informed by Ainsley that the lady is demented and must be humoured. The bogus chieftain begins to enjoy himself in his new position, and is succeeding very well when the real possessor of the title is announced, and after having had his claim laughed at by the company, he engages in a fight with a retainer of the hostess, and his impersonator, who has gone to secure the incident on a film, falls through the wall.

Mr. Daley Cooper works very hard as Johnson, his song and dance being particularly good. Mr. Clifton Yates as Ainsley did what little he had to do very well, and was associated with Miss Eileen Gilbert in "The Gay Gordons," which went capitally. Mr. Napier Barry as The McPhail was characteristic, and the same remark applies to Mr. Reginald Crompton, who displayed ability with the bagpipes. Miss Violet Claire as Lady McTavish was satisfactory, and Miss Eileen Gilbert as her daughter was commendable. The scene, by Mr. Julian Hicks, was very effective, and the mounting by Mr. Clarkson was on a very complete scale.

Another big feature in the programme is Goldin, the illusionist, assisted by Jeanne Fransioli and company. Cline and Clark, black and white comedy artists, in a couple of songs and dances, made a good impression, their dancing being distinctly good; Two Anartos in an act consisting of music and cross-talk made themselves great favourites; a turn of great artistic merit is Arthur Aldridge, the tenor, who sang two songs, the last, "In Manus Tuas, Domine," bringing the house down. This artist, who has both a good voice and style, made one of the hits of the night. The Three Lloyds in a double-bounding cable act displayed great agility and cleverness, and deservedly gained a cordial reception; May Brilliant in "Mandy's wedding," followed by a dance, went very well; Austin Rudd, in his policeman song and a parody on "Love me, and the world is mine," caused a great deal of amusement, the first song being by far the better. Mr. Greco's fine orchestra are giving German's "Three dances from *Nell Gwynn*" as an overture, and Mr. Percival, the acting-manager, and Mr. Trussell, his assistant, are both very attentive in the front of the house.

THE Gallimore Trio leave England for America on Oct. 13, 1909, and return in March, 1910.

BILLY ROSS AND CO. are going big at Peterboro', Maidstone, and Exeter with their Irish comedy boxing act. The competitions are a great draw.

MR. EDITOR,—SIR,—Will you kindly correct an error in your report of my Crusoe at the Pier Pavilion, Hastings. It should have been Miss Cynthia Lupino, not Luping.—Yours faithfully, (Miss) CYNTHIA LUPINO, Pier Pavilion, Hastings, Jan. 4."

THE Musical Palmers have been most successful this week at the Empire, Portsmouth, with their animated Bioscopic novelty The Village Blacksmith, the euphonium solo with organ obbligato being much admired.

MISS EVA COLTON is making a big hit as the Fairy Queen in *The Babes in the Wood* at the Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham. Her rendering of the pretty song "The Beautiful Land of Nod" is vociferously applauded by the audience.

E. V. BARR, a local comedian, has been creating quite a furore at the Hippodrome, Great Yarmouth, with his funny songs and stories. He recently secured at a trial performance at the Assembly Rooms, Wood Green, a gold medal offered for the best amateur comedian, and this success resulted in his securing offers from several managers. Mr. Barr has evidently a future.

MISS CARLOTTA ZERBINI is mourning the loss of her husband, Mr. John Harvey, who died on the 26th ult at the age of sixty-two. Mr. Harvey was a clever musician, and was formerly trombone soloist at the promenade concerts at Covent Garden. During the latter years of his life he was afflicted by paralysis, and was tended with loving care and devotion by his wife.

MR. TOM DIACOFF'S long-promised treat to the poor children of Pontefract on New Year's Day was a great success. At one o'clock nearly 700 children were accommodated in the pit and the gallery of the Alexandra Theatre and served with pork pie, mince pie, and cake. The children were waited upon by several ladies in the town. At the close of the repast the inmates from the Workhouse, the old people from the Almshouses, and the children from the Cottage Homes were admitted to the theatre, which was also thrown open to the public at large. It is estimated that nearly 1,400 people were present.

"'TWIXT DUSK AND DAWN.'

An Original Drama Petite, in Three Scenes, by Wilfred H. Benson, presented at the Battersea Palace on Monday, Jan. 4.

Baron Leon Murtoni ....MR. BERNARD MERVYN
Lieut. Jack Desmond .....MR. PAUL LOVETT
Nathan Jacobs .....MR. WALTER CAMERON
Chief Warder Hardy .....MR. W. G. BLAU
Mabel Desmond .....MISS MAMIE RENDLE
Countess Delia Redaire .....MISS B. DOYLE

'Twixt Dusk and Dawn, an admirably-written petite drama by W. H. Benson, and recently produced at Sadler's Wells, duly arrived at the Battersea Palace this week, and to judge by the reception that greeted its interpretation an unqualified success is assured. The plot which is unfolded is, briefly: Baron Leon Murtoni has had for his mistress a woman of mystery named Countess Delia Redaire, who, apparently tiring of him, confesses that ten years ago she murdered his two friends. In escaping she injured her arm, on which she still carries the scar. He informs her that he will hand her over to justice; she, in her fury, stabs him, and thinks him dead. Lieut. Jack Desmond, who enters immediately the deed was committed, is accused of the crime by the Countess, and is sent to prison. Incidentally the Countess loves Desmond and the Baron his wife, and they have enticed Jack to their rooms in order to ruin him, but are frustrated by the arrival of his friend Nathan Jacobs, who wins back the money he has lost, and persuades him to leave. Mrs. Desmond comes in seeking her husband, and the Baron attempting to molest her is knocked down by the infuriated husband, who unexpectedly returns and threatens to kill him, which statement is used to assist in obtaining his conviction. In the second scene we find the convict has escaped, and is being searched for by the warders. Ultimately he is captured by the chief warder, Hardy, whose life he had recently saved, and who in return assists him to escape. The third scene is again the Countess's apartments. She intends to leave the country, but the supposed dead Count presents himself, much to her discomfiture, and really now being in love with her wishes to make her his wife. This is not to her liking, but to get him out of the way for a few moments she consents, and persuades him to go and arrange for a boat to take them away, in the meantime putting a deadly drug in a glass of wine which she intends him to drink; but he, watching her movements, changes the glasses during her absence. They both partake of the wine, and after they have drained their glasses she taunts him with the fact of his having only a few minutes to live; but he tells her that he has changed the glasses, and that she has been poisoned. She cries for mercy, but too late, and in a few moments drops dead at his feet; and the curtain falls leaving the Baron prostrate with grief.

This highly dramatic sketch was skilfully and artistically played by Mr. Bernard Mervyn and his talented company, including Miss B. Doyle, a really fine actress, who plays the part of the Countess with consummate skill. Her acting in the last scene, where she is in the throes of the deadly drug and striving to live, is vividly depicted, and merited all the applause received for her most realistic performance, which shows her to be an artist of no mean pretentions. Mr. Mervyn is no less successful as Baron Murtoni, a character that suits him admirably, giving him ample opportunities of displaying his histrionic abilities. Every point is made to tell, and Mr. Mervyn's performance is a very fine character study. We must heartily congratulate Mr. Walter Cameron for his most humorous interpretation of Nathan Jacobs, a part which is brought into prominence by the clever performance of the artist, and no doubt his phrase "Isn't it warm?" will be heard in the streets of Battersea at an early date. Mr. Paul Lovett is well placed as Jack Desmond; Miss Mamie Rendle obtains all that is possible out of the part of Mabel Desmond; and Mr. W. G. Blan scores as the representative of the kind-hearted warder Hardy. The sketch was produced under the personal direction of Mr. Fred Baugh.

"THE BELLE OF THE ORIENT," presented by Joe Peterman's company, is the leading attraction at the Hippodrome, Margate, this week. There are also in the programme Frank Jester, Mamie Iris, the Almos, and Nellie Nestle. Some very amusing pictures are also shown.

AT the Empire Palace Theatre, South Shields, the head of the bill is the Colonial Septette, a troupe of excellent artists, who contribute a fine musical performance, and introduce old-world dancing with excellent lighting, scenic, and dramatic effects to an admiring audience. The Tennessee Guards exhibit wonderful evolutions with marvellous precision; the Dardinis contribute a good comedy juggling act; Cliff Ryland as a storyteller is well received. The remaining good items are Fanny Robina, comedienne; Florrie Cooper, ballad singer; Alf Holt, mimic and whistler; Ernest Clifford, comedian and dancer; and the Bioscope.

THIS week's bill at the Royal Hippodrome, Eastbourne, is headed by the Frantz Comedy Five in a smart display of amusing acrobatic feats, presented in a most entertaining manner; Elsie Ward contributes a song and dance item; Jack Hamilton's songs, anecdotes, and dance combine to furnish a very enjoyable turn; the Two Pems are popular with their humorous cross-talk; Shrillo's operatic whistling brings down the house; Mlle. Ollino is a smart and particularly fascinating lady conjurer. A pathetic musical episode, *Truth in Absence*, is most artistically played by Mr. Harry J. Crane, Miss Annie Milburn, and Miss Edna Payne. The Hippodrome pictures conclude

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AT the Pier Pavilion Theatre, Eastbourne, a vaudeville company is headed by Les Rallis, in their very clever and highly-amusing absurdity, *The Artist and His Monkey;* Lilian Rigby submits an entertaining turn of instrumentation and dancing; La Belle Margo is a successful trapeze and rope gymnast; Harry Bent's mimicry of well-known variety stars receives the approbation it merits; Charles Leighton's tramp at the piano act is immensely popular; Mitchell and Mace prove themselves simultaneous dancers of exceptional cleverness; the Katos are old local favourites, and their living marionette entertainment is as popular as ever. Miss Carlotta Lunn (chorus comedienne), Ena Richards (*chic* comedienne and dancer), and a capital display of Bioscope pictures complete the programme.

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ON THE ROAD, JAN. 11.

ALADDIN (KIDDIE).—T. R., Jarrow.
AT DUTY'S CALL.—Grand T., Lancaster.
BONDMAN, THE (CROKE).—T. R., Bury.
BREWSTER'S MILLIONS.—County T., Reading.
BULMER, MR.—Grand T., Swansea.
CARL ROSA OPERA.—Palace T., Newcastle.
CASSIDY, MR. J. RICE.—Royal, Pontypridd.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE), N.—T. R., Sth. Shields.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE), S.—Junc. T., Manchester.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE), M.—Wellingborough and Peterborough.
CINDERELLA (KIDDIE).—O. H., Wakefield.
CLAUDIAN.—Grand T., West Hartlepool.
COMPTON COMEDY CO.—Grand T., Wolverhampton.
COUNTRY GIRL IN LONDON.—Osborne T., Manchester
DAIRYMAIDS, THE (COURTNEIDGE).—T. R., Hud'sfield.
DAIRYMAIDS, THE (MACDONALD).—Perth and Falkirk.
DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY.—T. R., Leamington.
DICK WHITTINGTON (KIDDIE).—Avenue, T., Sund'l'nd
D'OYLY CARTE.—O. H., Southport.
EMPTY CRADLE.—Empire T., Cradley Heath.
EVE OF HER WEDDING.—T. R., Ilkeston.
EYES OF THE WORLD.—T. R., Woolwich.
FATAL WEDDING.—Grand T., Swansea.
FLAG LIEUTENANT.—Castle T., Stockton.
FOR LOVE AND THE KING.—O. H., St. Helens.
GAY GORDONS, THE (N.).—King's T., Kilmarnock.
GIRL'S CROSS ROADS.—T. R., Brighouse.
GIRLS OF GOTTENBERG (DANCE).—Gaiety T., Chatham
GLOSSOP-HARRIS.—Dundalk and Portadown.
GUILTY GOLD.—O. H., Dudley.
HER FATAL MARRIAGE.—T. R., Smethwick.
HER LOVE AGAINST THE WORLD.—T. R., Sunderland.
HER NAMELESS CHILD.—O. H. Kidderminster.
JACK THE GIANT KILLER.—O. H., Leicester.
KING AND THE UNKNOWN WOMAN.—Rotunda Theatre, Liverpool.
LA COMEDIE ANGLAISE—Bakewell and Leek.
LADY FREDERICK.—O. H., Torquay.
LEAH KLESCHNA.—T. R., Hull.
LIGHTHOUSE ROBBERY.—Miners' T., Ashington.
LITTLE BREADWINNER.—Lyceum T., Long Eaton.
LOVE OF THE PRINCESS.—New T., Blyth.
LUCKY 'LIZA.—T. R., Waterford.
MERRY WIDOW.—Century T., Motherwell.
MISS HOOK OF HOLLAND.—Alhambra, Stourbridge.
MISS HOOK OF HOLLAND (DANCE).—Birkenhead.
MOODY-MANNERS (A).—T. R., Dublin.
MOODY-MANNERS (B).—Court T., Warrington.
MRS. DOT.—Artillery T., Woolwich.
MY MIMOSA MAID.—T. R., Preston.
OLD FOLKS AT HOME.—Eden T., Bishop Auckland.
OLD HOME, THE.—Grand T., Mansfield.
PETER'S MOTHER.—Lyceum T., Newport.
POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN.—Star T., Liverpool.
POWER OF THE KING.—Pontycymmer and Ferndale.
PRODIGAL SON (CROKE).—T. R., Merthyr.
PRODIGAL SON (CROKE), (M).—T. R., Lincoln.
PRODIGAL SON (DAY).—H.M. T., Aberdeen.
ROBINSON CRUSOE.—Maesteg and Aberavon.
ROYAL DIVORCE.—Palace T., Ebbw Vale.
SECOND TO NONE.—T. R., West Bromwich.
SEND HIM VICTORIOUS.—Treharris and Maesteg.
SERGEANT BRUE.—Grand T., Blackpool.
SIGN OF THE CROSS.—O. H., Northampton.
SILVER KING (POLINI).—T. R., Leicester.
SOLDIER'S HONOUR.—Royalty T., Llanelly.
STARR, HARRY, REPERTOIRS.—Ferndale and Abertillery.
THIEF, THE.—Winchester and Romsey.
TOM JONES.—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS.—Mountain Ash.
TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS.—H. M. T., Barrow.
UNCLE TOM'S CABIN.—Falkirk and Perth.
VILLAGE BLACKSMITH.—Prince's T., Preston.
WALTZ DREAM.—King's T., Glasgow.
WAY OF THE WORLD.—Wednesbury.
WHAT A WOMAN DID.—T. R., Hebburn.
WHEN IT WAS DARK.—Victoria H., Barnard Castle.
WHEN KNIGHTS WERE BOLD.—O. H., Crewe.
WHITE MAN, A.—Grand T., Doncaster.
WHO IS SHE?—Queen's T., Keighley.
WILKIE, ALLAN, & Co.—Court T., Bacup.
WITH EDGED TOOLS.—T. R., Middlesbrough.
WOMAN PAYS, THE.—Metropole T., Abertillery.
10.30 DOWN EXPRESS.—O. H., Dudley.

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SPECIAL NEWSPAPER EXPRESS SERVICES now running on the London and North-Western, Great Northern, Midland, and Great Central Railways, carry *The Era* to the following important cities and towns at the times named. Newsvendors and subscribers obtain their papers at a much earlier hour than was previously possible :—

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DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—SIR HENRY IRVING.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

MESSRS. BEANLAND AND EMERSON displayed much forethought when they entertained 800 of the little folk at the Queen's Theatre, Castleford, on the 29th ult, each one being given a bag containing a pork pie, a slice of cake, a piece of Christmas cake, and a Bath bun. After justice had been done to these dainties, the children were taken back into the hall to see the animated pictures, of which there was some 25,000ft. of film. They were presented on leaving the theatre with an apple, an orange, and a bag of sweets. A number of teachers from the various schools very efficiently helped to organise the happy party.

INDISPENSABLE! Rayne's "Pocket Date Book." Contents: Map (19in. by 10in.), showing the distance betwixt the various music halls at a glance Will tell if one hall is within the barring radius of the other, thus saving fears, worry, and anxiety. All about artists' luggage, list of clubs, information about stamping contracts, foreign money table, London music halls and theatres, their telephone numbers, list and address of photographers, size of theatrical printing paper, names and addresses of theatrical railway managers, &c. Price 1s., post free. The proceeds from the sale will be divided equally amongst the two great charities of the dramatic and musical professions, the Actors' Benevolent Fund and the Music Hall Home Fund. "THE ERA" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

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The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

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Communications.

Business Communications should be addressed to The MANAGER,
"THE ERA" BUILDINGS,
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Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephones, 4747 and 1433, Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We cannot undertake to answer the inquiries of correspondents by post. In all letters names and addresses must be given as a guarantee of good faith. Initials only or pseudonyms will be used in the replies if so desired.]

T. W. P.—*Arthur Rigby is in pantomime this year at the Court Theatre, Liverpool, playing Queen in the production of* Humpty Dumpty.

VICTOR AND SHAER.—*The comedians you mention probably owe their songs and patter to the brains of an American, but we have no information on the point.*

CONSIE (Mascotte).—Castles in Spain *was produced at the Royalty Theatre on April 18, 1906. It ran about a month. An advertisement in our columns would probably secure you a good banjo instructor.*

H. HARRISS.—*It is not an insult to send a stamped addressed envelope to anyone from whom an answer is required. Personally, we think it saves time and facilitates a reply.*

ARTHUR WILLIAMS.—*We will do so next week, with pleasure.*

ADMIRER.—*Miss Lily Brayton made her first appearance on the stage with the Benson company, of which Mr. Oscar Asche was a member; but we have no record of the date of their marriage, which was about 1900, nor can we discover the exact date of her first appearance from any stage biography. Her favourite flower is the violet. We always respect professional reticence as to date of birth. A letter to the Green Room Club, Leicester-square, would reach Mr. Asche.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a Birth, a Marriage, or a Death, or an "In Memoriam" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is One Shilling and Sixpence.

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

DAMPIER.—Jan. 5, at 4, Atherford-road, Clapham, S.W., the wife of Claude Dampier (Irene Vere), of a daughter.

LEWIS.—Dec. 31, at 49, Bonchurch-road, Brighton, Freda, the wife of Watty Lewis (of Tate's "Fishing" company), of a daughter.

MELVILLE.—Dec. 29, at Silsden, Josephine, wife of Carl Melville, of Garrett's Empire Theatre, of a son.

DEATHS.

ALLEN.—Dec. 29, 1908, at Hemsworth, owing to a fall downstairs, Marie Allen, aged 32.

BUCKLEY.—Jan. 4, Frank Buckley (musical clown), of 34, Glebe-place, Chelsea.

DU CANE.—On Jan 1, Augusta Du Cane, the dearly-loved mother of Lois, Frank, and Victor Du Cane, in her seventieth year. R.I.P.
Interred at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, Kensal Green.

HEMMING.—Jan. 4, at his residence, 4, Regent-road, Bedminster, Bristol, Richard Walton Hemming.

IN MEMORIAM.

ANDERSON.—In loving memory of dear Auntie Anderson, who passed away Jan. 6, 1900. Never forgotten by Fanny Robina.

HARCOURT.—In ever-loving memory of my dear husband, Fred Harcourt, who passed away Jan. 12, 1906.
Never forgotten by his loving wife and son.

HARPER.—In loving memory of my lifelong friend, Charles Harper, of 3, Lidlington-place, N.W., Professor of Music (late of the Royal Academy, Sacred Harmonic, Covent Garden, and Savoy). Died Jan. 5, 1893. Interred in St. Pancras Cemetery, Finchley. Always thought of and ever grieved for by Elise.

HARRISON.—In affectionate remembrance of Fred L. Harrison (of Fred and Lillie Harrison, variety artists), who died Jan. 4, 1904. Interred at Nunhead Cemetery, London. "Do not forget me."

LLOYD.—In ever-loving memory of Richard William Delarue Lloyd, father of Amy Elvira, who died Jan. 4, 1899, at 67, Swinton-street, London, W.C. Never forgotten by his devoted wife and family.

MACCABE.—In loving memory of Joseph Maccabe (Joe Mac),
Died Jan. 11, 1893. Gone, but never forgotten by his wife.
ALICE MAYDUE.
R.I.P.

PARDOE.—In ever-loving memory of our darling little son (Jackie), who departed this life Jan. 7, 1908, aged twenty-two months. Never forgotten by his sorrowing mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Pardoe.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following ladies and gentlemen :—

E. S. Willard—Saturday, Jan. 9.
George Conquest—Saturday, Jan. 9.
John Lawson—Saturday, Jan. 9.
Jessie Bond—Sunday, Jan. 10.
Effie D. Crawford—Monday, Jan. 11.
Lady Bancroft—Tuesday, Jan. 12.
Haidée Wright—Wednesday, Jan. 13.
May Lilian Levey—Wednesday, Jan. 13.
Edward Compton—Thursday, Jan. 14.
Evie Greene—Thursday, Jan. 14.
Dolly Harmer—Thursday, Jan. 14.
Sam Redfern—Thursday, Jan 14.
Rutland Barrington—Friday, Jan. 15.
Alexandra Carlisle—Friday, Jan. 15.
Jean de Reszke—Friday, Jan. 15.
Minnie Cunnigham—Friday, Jan 15.

SANDY MCNAB is at present making an enormous success on the Broadhead halls with his novel sketch, *The Egyptian Mummy.*

THROUGH a severe attack of bronchitis, Miss Ada Fawn, who occupied the premier position on the bill at the Palace, Derby, last week, was unable to fulfil her engagement.

THE latest quotations for music hall shares are as follow :—Alhambra, 1⅞; Canterbury, ½; Empire (15s. pd.), 1¼; Do. (10s. pd.), 1⅛; London Pav. Ord., 4½; Do. Pref., 5½; Metropolitan, 14/-; Moss Empire, 5⅜; Do. 5 per cent. Pref., 4½; Oxford, 6⅜; Palace, ; Tivoli, 5⅝; United Varieties, 1 ; Variety Con- Theatres, 11/6.

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A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.

No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this list.

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Alexander, Mr. Chas.
Allister, Mr. Harry
Ardale, Mr. Leonard
Armitage, Mr. Harry
Artois, Mr. Alfred
Ash, Miss Maie
Ashman, Mr. Joseph
Athol, Mr. Harry
Avery, Miss Madge
Bahadur, Singh
Ball, Mr. Alfred
Banzai, Family
Barclay, Mr. Lawrence
Barker, Mr. John
Beaute, Mons.
Bertini
Bickford, Mr. Melville
Biddall. Brothers
Blail, Mr. Wilfred
Bland, Mr. Sidney
Blinn, Mr. Holbrook
Boielle, Mr. Arthur R.
Bordeverry, Col. G.
Boyne, Mr. Leonard
Bradley, Mr. Bert.
Brodie, Mr. Walter
Bromley, Miss Con
Brownson, Miss Amy
Bunce, Mr. H.
Carlisle, Mr. F.
Carlo, Miss Phœbe
Casson, Mr. Frank
Cavendish, Miss K.
Chambers, Mr. John
Chard, Lieut.
Chetwyn, Miss Beatrice
Chorley and Connor
Chung Ling Soo
Clark, Miss R.
Clavering, Miss Nita
Clemence, Mr. Harold
Collins, Mrs. P.
Corbett, Mr. Matt.
Cromwell, Miss Cecil
Currie, Mr. Byden
Daly, Mr. Dutch
Damerell, Mr. S. T.
Dare, Mr. C.
Daventry, Miss Marie
Dawson, Mr. John
Dean, Miss Ella
Deane, Miss Nellie
Dennis, Miss Maud
Denton, Mr. O.
Dereve, Mr. Edgar
De Stainer, Miss C.
Dorina, Miss Addie
Dubois, Mr. Ed.
Dunlo, Miss Linda
Ellicott, Miss Violet
Elsie, Miss Marie
Elton, Mrs. Fred
Ernesto
Fatima, Mlle. La Belle
Field, Mr. Fred
Fillis, Mme.
Fontenoy, Miss R. de
Ford, Mr. Teddy
Francis, Miss Maisie
Fuller, Mr. Walter
Gardner-Brown, Mr. D.
Godfrey, Mr. Diddie
Grey, Miss Minnie
Grein, Mr. and Mrs. J. T.
Grey, Mr. Heaton
Gribben, Miss May
Gwenn, Mr. Edmund
Hall, Mrs. James
Harper, Mr. Morris
Harris, Mr. H. T.
Harvard, Mrs. G.
Hildyard, Miss Maud
Hill, Mr. Hamilton
Holland, Mr. Arthur E.
Hollander, Miss A.
Honri, Mr. Percy
Horton, Mr. Walter
Howard, Mr. Stanley
Irving, Miss Elsie
Jago, Mr. William
James, Mr. Stanley
Johnson, Mr. Kid
Johnston, Miss Jenny
Jordan, Mr. Gerald
Klein, Miss A.
Klein, Fräulein
King, Miss Edith
Kirk and Neil
Kirkdale, Mr. R. D.
Korber, Hern. Hans.
Lafayette, The Great
Langton, Miss Helen
Le Neve, Mr. W.
Laurie, Miss Cicely
Laurie, Mr. Arthur
Law Brailsford, Mr. H.
Lea, Mr. Wm.
Leeson, Miss Winifred
Lento, Mr. Will
Leon, Mr. Alfred
Le Roy, Mr. and Mrs.
Levante, Mme. Marie
Lewis, Mr. Edward
Long, Mr. Hyam
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Loftus, Miss Ethel
Lupina, Mr. G.
Malone, Miss Kitty
Marks, Mr. J.
Martens, Capt. H.
Mayer, Miss Daisy
Meers, Mrs.
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Middleton, Mr. Frank
Middleton, Mr. Howard
Milian, Mr. Max
Moore, Miss Eva
Morris, Mr. Allen
Mortimer, Mr.
Mudie, Mr. George
Murray, Mr. Thomas E
Neiman, Mr. V.
Neville, Mr. J
Newry, Mr. J.
Norman, Mr. N. V.
North, Mr. Benson
Novaro, Mme. Mary A.
Oakis, Mr. Wm.
O'Connor, Miss Isabel
Ord, Mr. and Mrs.
Patterson, Miss Emily
Paul, Miss Ethel G.
Paulton, Mr. Ed. A.
Peroto and Mortimer
Perrette, Mr. W. H.
Porter, Mr. Sidney
Potter, Mrs. J. Brown
Preston, Mr. J. F.
Ray, Miss Belle
Ray, Miss G.
Raynor, Miss Dorothy
Rivers, Miss Edie
Rogers, Mr. Gilbert
Rose, Mr. Arthur
Rose, Mr. Leonard
Ross, Miss Maude
Russon, Miss Alice
Sansbury, Mr. V.
Scalby, Miss Mabel
Seeley and West, Messrs.
Shepherd, Mr. Fredk.
Sleath, Mr. Herbert
Spree, Mrs. D.
St. Clair, Mr. F. V.
Stewart, Mr. Hamilton
Storer, Miss Kathleen
Studholme, Miss Marie
Studt, Mr. J.
Tate, Mr. Harry
Taylor, Mr. Richardson
Tempest, Mr. Chas.
Terry, Mr. John S.
Toft, Mr. J.
Trant-Fagan, Mr. W.
Tribune, Mr. Deane
Turner, Mr. Bernhardt
Valentine, Mr. H. E.
Valli, Mr. Valli
Wamba, H.
Warden, Mr. John A.
Wellesley, Mrs.
West, Mr. Reginald H.
Wheelers, The Juggling
White, Miss Kitty
Williams, Mr. Chas. H.
Wilson, Miss Geraldine
Wilson, Miss
Winton, Mr. Chas.
Wood, Mr. A. C.
Woolstinholme, Mr. T. B.
Wyatt, Mrs. Alice
Wylie, Mr. Lauri

WOOLWICH HIPPODROME.

The various "turns" for the current week are being highly appreciated by large audiences. At the top of the bill is Colonel Gaston Bordeverry, the rifle and pistol expert, his disrobing of a lady with rifle shots and playing an accompaniment on the piano by the same method meeting with enthusiastic applause, as also does his playing of selections on the musical chimes. A noteworthy feature in the evening' entertainment is Frank Maura, described as the Mexican wonder, who supplies a foot-juggling act of extreme neatness which ranks with the finest of its kind, and is accorded a flattering reception. Mr. George Gilbey is, as usual, the source of much merriment; his Dame song puts him on very good terms with the audience, and again, as the "New constable on the beat," he provokes roars of laughter for his genuinely funny expressions.

Mr. Fred Curran imparts much humour to his songs, and scores considerably in his rendering of "In the twi-twilight." Baby Vi Davis, a very engaging and talented little mite, wins all hearts. She is the possessor of quite a powerful voice, and displays much ability in one so young, and is accorded a hearty welcome. Mr. Will Probyn's Brooklyn Comedy Four are heard to advantage in what may be described as a double duet where the two tenors sing "You'll remember me" while the other two render "Rocked in the cradle of the deep." Their other part-songs and diverting contributions prove very acceptable. Miss Cissie Thompson is happily suited in the song "Riding round on a roundabout," and is successful; Miss Eugènie Fougère contributes a lively turn after the French fashion; Lew Lake's vocalists are again paying a visit here, where they are always sure of a warm welcome, and in their song-scena *Stick it, Jerry* maintain their hold. The Bioscope, depicting Yachting on the Solent and The Paris Fire Brigade, still proves itself very popular.

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West, Arthur	1	1	0
Besley, Rev. W. P.	1	0	0
Pringle, Wm.	1	0	0
Bartlett, J. J.	0	10	6
Devereux, W. and P. Knox	0	10	6
Llewelyn, Fewlass	0	10	6
Yateman, Miss May	0	10	6
Graham, Miss Violet	0	10	0
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THE ERA

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 1909.

THE NEW THEATRES BILL.

The very interesting letter from Mr. C. JESSON, L.C.C., which we printed last week, draws attention to certain points in Mr. ROBERT HARCOURT'S Theatres Bill which are well worthy of consideration. As our readers are aware, by the second clause of the Bill it is proposed to enact that the powers of the Lord Chamberlain under the Theatres Act, 1843, in respect of the licensing and closing of theatres within the ancient Parliamentary boundaries of the cities of London and Westminster, and of the boroughs of Finsbury and Marylebone, the Tower Hamlets, Lambeth, and Southwark, shall be transferred to the London County Council. Also that the licence of the London County Council shall be required in respect of a theatre within the said ancient Parliamentary boundaries authorised by virtue of letters patent from His Majesty or his predecessors in the same manner as if no letters patent had been granted in respect thereof; but that nothing in the Act shall affect the powers of the Lord Chamberlain under the Theatres Act, 1843, in respect of the licensing and closing of theatres in those places outside the Administrative County of London in which His Majesty, his heirs and successors, shall in their Royal persons occasionally reside. Of the first clause in the Bill—which proposes that it shall not be necessary to submit any stage play to the Lord Chamberlain before the first acting or presenting thereof, whether for hire or otherwise, and it shall not be lawful for the Lord Chamberlain to forbid the acting or presenting in Great Britain of any stage play—it need only be said that it has met with almost unanimous disapproval from every manager and dramatist who has been approached on the subject. Mr. FORBES ROBERTSON says, "I am not in favour of the Bill." Miss LENA ASHWELL, judging from conditions in countries without censors, considers our present conditions preferable. Mr. SYDNEY GRUNDY can imagine no greater disaster than the passing of this clause. Mr. LEWIS WALLER can "see no reason for changing the existing order," and Mr. GEORGE ALEXANDER hopes the censorship will be retained. And the prevailing feeling about this part of the Bill is well expressed by Mr. HENRY R. SMITH, who asks, very pertinently, "What has arisen recently, or, indeed, at any time, in the conduct of theatres which should cause anyone to bring forward a Bill on these lines? I really see no necessity for it. I know of no London manager who has expressed any feeling antagonistic to the Lord Chamberlain or to the way in which the duties of his office are carried out. Mr. ERNEST CARPENTER and myself have always found him perfectly reasonable in regard to the censorship of plays, and I cannot see that he has treated anybody badly. We have no desire," Mr. SMITH goes on, "to introduce anything that might be objectionable into our plays; we want to present what is popular. We are perfectly satisfied with the reader of plays, who is a man of wide experience, and have no desire to change a system which has lasted long and worked well. But if there are any London managers who are dissatisfied with the Lord Chamberlain's department let them speak out now and say why they are dissatisfied. Some dramatic authors, I dare say, may desire a change; but the managers, so far as I know, are quite content to let well alone. The Lord Chamberlain has the power to grant or to refuse licences, and if a licence were abused it would very quickly be revoked."

But while these and similar opinions are expressed concerning the Censorship section of the Bill, it is by no means the same concerning the rest of it. Mr. ALEXANDER, while he prefers to be under the Lord Chamberlain, thinks at the same time that the present Act is obsolete; and his wish is to have Free Trade in amusements, and the opinions of most practical persons on the subject are well summed up by Mr. JESSON in the admirable letter to which we have alluded. Says Mr. JESSON: "If a proprietor of a place of amusement were allowed to provide either a music-hall or a dramatic entertainment in accordance with the changes in taste of his patrons, it would free the whole business from harassing restrictions, and give scope to proprietors, playwriters, composers, actors, musicians, variety artists, stage hands, and all concerned in theatrical and music-hall work, and allow the best of all kinds of entertainments to rise. It is certainly a ridiculous restriction that the proprietor of a theatre who finds that his patrons are leaving him for the variety halls should be compelled to give up his dramatic licence and take out a music and dancing licence to meet the new demand. On the other hand, it is equally absurd that the proprietor of a music-hall who finds his patrons want dramatic fare in the form of short plays should have to confine such plays to a duration of thirty minutes, with a limited number of characters. This restriction presses also very hardly upon the actor and actress who find themselves thrown out of employment by such restriction. There can be no doubt that if Mr. HARCOURT'S Bill were amended so as to establish a uniform system in these matters for the whole of the country it would be a most desirable thing. There is also the question of entertainments being given in places that are not licensed by any public authority, and are, therefore, under no such obligations as are imposed upon proprietors of theatres and music-halls, although they charge prices for admission just the same. This is a glaring injustice, and one that affects the safety and protection of the public."

The dramatic theatre and the variety theatre are now so interpenetrated with each other that there can be no question of opposing interests. Many of our theatres are offering entertainments which make no greater demands upon the intellect and the attention than are made at our leading variety theatres; and at these latter some of our best actors, actresses, and singers are earning handsome salaries in sketches. At the same time, there are hundreds of entertainments given *for profit* in unlicensed buildings which are subject to no inspection, and are often mere death-traps. Against these all whose interests are affected should certainly combine. Questionable as it is in parts, Mr. HARCOURT'S Bill may supply the nucleus of a really useful Act of Parliament; and Mr. JESSON'S suggestion of a "round-table conference" of representatives of the various interests involved is an excellent one, and one which we hope to see carried into effect.

MISS MARJORY CARPENTER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I find that there is a widespread impression in the minds of the public that my little daughter, Marjory, is only permitted by the authorities to play her part in our pantomime for a few days.

I should therefore be greatly obliged if you would allow me the opportunity of explaining that this idea is quite erroneous, the decision of the magistrate being that she may appear up to 10.30 for the run of the pantomime, and this only means that, at the evening performances she will not be able to appear in the last scene.

Most of the other children engaged in West End productions are licensed until the fall of the curtain, and the somewhat extraordinary limitation in the case of my own daughter has surprised us all very much. The Act of Parliament is, in my opinion, a most necessary and proper one, but I am sure that the framers of the Act never meant it to apply to such a case as this, where there can be no question as to the education, or the adequate safeguarding of the interests of the child.

At all events, for the children employed at other theatres, who are strangers to the managements, to be fully licensed, whilst my daughter at the Lyceum is restricted, does seem to me to reveal a very curious and unfair operation of the law.—Yours faithfully,

ERNEST CARPENTER.

Lyceum Theatre, W.C., Jan. 1.

AT Bayreuth last week Fräulein Eva Wagner, daughter of the great composer, was married to Mr. Houston Stewart Chamberlain. The bridegroom is the son of the late Rear-Admiral Chamberlain, and a well-known authority on Wagner.

SIR ALEXANDER MACKENZIE will give a course of lectures, with musical illustrations, at the Royal Institution next month, the first being fixed for Feb. 6, when he will deal with Mendelssohn. The popular principal of the Royal Academy has lately completed an important choral work, founded upon the Scandinavian legend of Baldur, the Sungod.

THEATRICAL and music hall managers and orchestral conductors will do well to refer to an announcement in our advertisement columns in which an important notice affecting the copying of band parts is published by Messrs. Chappell and Co. The famous musical firm give notice that the copying of the band parts or any of the music of any copyright operas published by them either for the use of theatres or for any other purpose is an infringement of their musical copyright; that on and after this date no such unauthorised copying can be permitted, and that all manuscript copies not bearing Messrs. Chappell's stamp are illegal, and are liable to confiscation. A list of the operas the sole publishing rights of which for Great Britain and the Colonies are vested in Messrs. Chappell and Co., Ltd., is also given.

AT the Theatre Royal, South Shields, Mr. Charles Elderton's Christmas pantomime *Robinson Crusoe* is being performed this week to large audiences. The piece is bright, the music is of a sparkling and sprightly character, catchy songs and clever dances are introduced, and the costumes, mounting, and scenic effects are of an excellent description. Miss Ida Bell in the title-rôle is very effective; Miss Gertie Garagan makes a charming Polly Perkins; another dashing part is Captain Kettle by Miss Lena Lewis, who sings well; Mr. James Grant as Mrs. Crusoe gets a good deal of fun out of the part; the Princess Popsy of Miss Nellie Stuart is very praiseworthy; much merriment is caused by Mr. Teddy Worth, Mr. Percy Wright, Mr. Carson Hicks, and Messrs. Will and Fred Elton as Billy Crusoe, King Ki-Koko, Friday, Dick Dogknot, and Peter Porthole respectively. A clever comedy bar act is introduced by the Three Eltons; the Marblesque Trio contribute good white living pictures; Miss Bartinelli as a contortionist excels; Miss Olive Sara introduces a musical speciality and Indian club exhibition.

ACADEMY OF DRAMATIC ART.

The Council of the Academy of Dramatic Art, comprising Sir Squire Bancroft (president), Sir John Hare, Mr. Tree, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Forbes-Robertson, Mr. Cyril Maude, Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Mr. Edward Terry, Mr. E. S. Willard, Mr. Pinero, Mr. J. M. Barrie, and Sir William S. Gilbert, announce the conclusion of a highly satisfactory autumn term's work.

The recent formation of the Body of Associates, who have the right of voting as occasion may require for the filling up of vacancies on the Board of the Council, has been further developed by the election of many ladies distinguished in the theatrical profession. The list of Associates who up to the present have accepted the Council's invitation consists of Mr. Henry Ainley, Mr. William Archer, Mr. Oscar Asche, Miss Lena Ashwell, Mr. Allan Aynesworth, Lady Bancroft, Mr. George P. Bancroft, Mr. Granville Barker, Mr. E. A. Bendall, Mr. F. R. Benson, Mr. Alfred Bishop, Mr. Dion Boucicault, Miss Lilian Braithwaite, Miss Lily Brayton, Mrs. Patrick Campbell, Mr. J. Comyns Carr, Mrs. D'Oyly Carte, Mr. R. C. Carton, Mr. C. Haddon Chambers, Mr. Harold Child, Miss Constance Collier, Mr. W. L. Courtney, Mr. Hubert Henry Davies, Mr. Gerald du Maurier, Miss Gertrude Elliott, Miss Winifred Emery, Mr. Frederick Fenn, Mr. Norman Forbes, Mr. Basil Gill, Mr. J. T. Grein, Mr. Sydney Grundy, Mr. Lyn Harding, Mr. Martin Harvey, Mr. William Haviland, Mr. Anthony Hope, Mr. H. B. Irving, Miss Ellis Jeffreys, Mr. Jerome K. Jerome, Mr. Frederick Kerr, Miss Gertrude Kingston, Mr. W. J. Locke, Mr. Percy Macquoid, Captain Robert Marshall, Mr. W. Somerset Maugham, Miss Evelyn Millard, Miss Eva Moore, Miss Mary Moore, Mr. Henry Neville, Mr. Louis N. Parker, Miss Kate Rorke, Mr. Bernard Shaw, Mr. Alfred Sutro, Mr. E. Lyall Swete, Miss Ellen Terry, Mr. Frederick Terry, Mrs. Tree, Miss Irene Vanbrugh, Miss Violet Vanbrugh, Mr. A. B. Walkley, Mr. Herbert Waring, Mr. Ben Webster, and Mr. J. Fisher White.

Many of the above ladies and gentlemen have kindly expressed their willingness to lend their valuable assistance upon occasions by way of reinforcing the regular staff, and, together with members of the Council, voluntarily to superintend certain rehearsals of specially-selected senior students. During the past term this purely honorary work has been conducted by Sir William S. Gilbert, Mr. Forbes-Robertson, Mr. E. S. Willard, Mr. Martin Harvey (who also lectured upon "Character and the Actor"), Mr. Gerald du Maurier, Mr. Henry Ainley, and Mr. H. B. Irving. In the coming session it will be undertaken by Sir Squire Bancroft, Sir John Hare, Mr. Pinero, Lady Bancroft, Mr. Oscar Asche, Mr. Allan Aynesworth, Mr. Dion Boucicault, and Mr. Lyn Harding. Also addresses will be delivered by Mr. H. B. Irving upon "The Actor's Calling," by Mr. J. T. Grein upon "The Drama of 1908," and by Mr. J. Fisher White upon "The Actor's Art."

A theatrical library, for the use of all connected with the Academy, has been inaugurated, and presentations to it have been made by Sir Squire Bancroft, Sir John Hare, Sir William S. Gilbert, Mr. Forbes-Robertson, Mr. Pinero, Mr. E. S. Willard, Mr. William Archer, Mr. George P. Bancroft, Mr. E. Lyall Swete, and Mr. J. Fisher White. A wardrobe has also been started, Mr. E. S. Willard having given a collection of valuable costumes, and a considerable number having been purchased by the Academy from the Dover Pageant.

The object of the Academy is to provide, as is done in other countries, a thorough general training for the dramatic stage in England, and to be the equivalent here of the Paris Conservatoire. It also aims to take the place of the old stock company system, and in this regard its Council is able to state that in the past term of eleven weeks some of the advanced students rehearsed and acted upon the Gower-street stage at least twenty character of widely different types.

The term, which was attended by eighty-five pupils, closed with the presentation by Lady Bancroft of prizes, an additional one being now given annually by Mr. Gerald du Maurier, to the following successful students:—Mr. Coats Bush, Mr. Lane Crauford, Miss Winifred Fairweather, Mr. Charles Graham, Mr. Clifford Heatherley, Mr. Valentine Penna, Miss Violet Roberts, Miss Enid Rose, Miss Athene Seyler, Miss Pearl Timberlake, and Mr. Geoffrey Wilkinson. The next entrance examination will be on Tuesday next, the Lent term beginning on the following Saturday. Candidates are informed that all applications should be addressed to the Administrator, Academy of Dramatic Art, 62, Gower-street, W.C.

AMUSEMENTS IN NAPLES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NAPLES, DEC. 15.—TEATRO SAN CARLO.—The grand season at this principal theatre opened on the 8th inst. with Wagner's *Il Crepuscolo degli Dei* (*Die Götterdammerung*). The audience was a brilliant one, being composed of all the representatives of the Neapolitan aristocracy. One and all who could get admission in the grand auditorium showed the greatest appreciation during the memorable performance by applauding for some minutes and cheering all the artists, and recalling again and again the conductor, Signor G. Martucci after the fall of the curtain on each act. The performance has been magnificent, and the management's *mise-en-scène* perfection under the direction of Prof. A. Fuchs, who has been specially engaged from the Monaco Theatre. Mme. F. Litwinne (Brunhilde) exercised all her fascinating powers both vocally and histrionically; Signor Borgatti (Sigfrid) was all that could be desired, confirming the impression that he is the only tenor on the Italian stage who can competently sustain such a rôle. Gutruna was impersonated by Miss White, an American, and a very promising pupil of a Neapolitan maestro, and she proved herself well worthy to take part in such an excellent performance. The young baritone, Cesare Formichi, as Ghunter acquitted himself nobly. Signor O. Luppi (Hagen) and Misses Lollini, Wheeler, and Powers completed the cast.

R. TEATRO MERCANDANTE.—A very successful season has just closed at this theatre with Puccini's *Tosca*, Leoncavallo's *Bohême* and *Pagliacci*, Cilea's *Adriana Lecouvreur*, *Fedora*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, and others.

TEATRO BELLINI.—This popular theatre has just inaugurated a very promising season of opera with Verdi's *La Forza del Destino* and *Traviata*. In the first-named opera the artists are Signora Massaceni-Riga, Signora Castellano, Cav. Procacci, Signor V. Morghen, and others. In *La Traviata* Signora Trezzi and Signori Folco and V. Morghen emerged well. Both operas have been a great success both artistically and financially. Of the artists named Signor V. Morghen, the popular baritone, had a flattering success, especially considering that, owing to the unavoidable absence of his chef-colleague, he had to come to the rescue of the management by appearing in both operas in succession.

THE Mendelssohn Centenary will be commemorated on Feb. 3 at Queen's Hall by a special concert, at which the "Hymn of Praise" will be interpreted by the Sheffield Amateur Musical Society, conducted by Mr. Henry Wood. The programme will include solos by Mme. Lillian Blauvelt, Miss Edith Miller, and Mr. Gervase Elwes. In the evening, in the same building, the London Choral Society will give a performance of *Elijah*, the vocalists engaged being Miss Agnes Nicholls, Miss Gwladys Roberts, Mr. Cynlais Gibbs, and Sir Charles Santley.

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

AMERICAN VAUDEVILLE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, DEC. 23.—Mr. William Hawtrey and his company are appearing at the vaudeville houses in a dramatic sketch, called *Compromised*. Mr. Hawtrey impersonates a worthless husband, who deserts his wife, and returns to invade her home after she has happily remarried. He threatens to compromise her, but a burglar's bullet kills him just in time to save the wife from an unpleasant explanation to her second husband. Mr. Hawtrey's tour has taken him across the continent, a distance of three thousand miles, and success has everywhere attended him. The American public want tragedy in their vaudeville nowadays.

MR. WILLIAM H. THOMPSON has acquired a dramatic offering that the late Sir Henry Irving made famous, namely, *Waterloo*, and is portraying brave old Corporal Brewster in a lifelike manner at Hammerstein's Victoria Theatre. Mr. Thompson is a native of Scotland, and one of the cleverest character actors on the American stage. One never forgets his impersonation of Thomas Whamond, the chief elder, in *The Little Minister*.

MISS JESSIE PRESTON, "the Glasgow lassie," has crossed the bridge to Brooklyn, and is singing at the Orpheum. Miss Ruth Allen and her Six London Johnnies are at the same house. Mr. Percy Williams runs the Orpheum, and always has a splendid bill there. Miss Maude Odell is also entertaining the Brooklynites at the Fulton Theatre.

MISS LUCY WESTON is the "head-liner" at Keith and Proctor's Fifth-avenue Theatre, where her songs suit the taste of the audience to a nicety. Among the other entertainers are Harry Gilfoil, who imitates birds and beasts, and Annette Kellermann, in swimming and diving feats.

MISS VESTA VICTORIA is singing "Now I have to call him father," at the American Music Hall, and the other songs in her budget that have made her such a "tip-top" favourite, including the one in which the appearance of her ballet skirt provokes loud guffaws. Miss Josephine Sabel, the popular songstress, and Miss Francesca Redding and her company are also in the bill.

SEVERIN, a French pantomimist, made his American début at the Lincoln-square Theatre last Monday. His tricks of facial expression are clever and amusing. Mr. R. G. Knowles remains here for a second week. His monologue has a diverting effect, and the best of good humour prevails during his confidential chats with the audience.

"THE SQUAW GIRL," described as a "pretentious scenic offering," is one of the present attractions at Keith and Proctor's 125th-street Theatre. It is a story of the West, the heroine being a white girl, who was captured by Indians in her infancy, and reared as one of their own. A young Indian brave, the son of a chief, claims her for his bride, but a young Army officer proves his successful rival. Rock and Fulton, the popular dancers, are among the other attractions.

MR. ROBERT HILLIARD, in a dramatic sketch, called *Number 73*, heads the programme at the Colonial. He plays a convict in ragged clothes, and is the central figure of some very interesting happenings. Karno's comedians are appearing here in *The Slums of London*, and winning much applause. Mr. Hymack, the "chameleon comedian," is very successful in his lightning change act, and the Avolos, xylophonists, are also in the bill.

THE Elinore Sisters, with songs and repartee; John C. Rice and Sally Cohen, in their funny sketch, *The Kleptomaniacs*; Selma Braatz, lady juggler; and Jesse Lasky's Viennese operetta, *The Love Waltz*, are the leading attractions at the Alhambra.

"WHITTINGTON" AT WALTHAMSTOW PALACE.

Dick Whittington	MISS DAISIE YATES
Alderman Fitzwarren	MR. HARRY D. LYNDON
Alice	MISS CONSTANCE MORI
Idle Jack	MR. J. HARRIS
Captain Kettle	MR. H. MADDISON
Bill Blower	MR. R. MORRIS
Dolly Dimple	MISS LILY PARKER
Hon. Bertie	MISS ETHEL ROBERTSON
Emperor of Morocco	MR. ARTHUR WADE
Princess	MISS GRACIE WOODLEIGH
Choppem	MR. HARRY PASTOR
Cat	MR. PETE ALMONTE
King Rat	MASTER W. FRANKLIN
Fairy	MLLE. LILIAN
Betsy	MR. DAN THOMAS

Far and away the best pantomime ever seen at the Walthamstow Palace is *Dick Whittington*, and Mr. Arthur J. Barclay's chief occupation during the week has been absolutely limited to turning money away from the doors. When one has seen the show, wonderment at this state of affairs ceases—is stifled. The pantomime is a surfeit of beauty and laughter from beginning to end, and if it were a race between the two, perhaps the laughter colt would come in an easy winner. Beautifully staged, exquisitely dressed, and played with rollicking spirit from beginning to end, *Dick Whittington* should be a popular favourite wherever he appears.

First and foremost, Mr. Dan Thomas is simply irresistible as Betsy, the cook. His spontaneous and unforced flow of humour holds the house every moment he is on the stage, and that is practically during the whole performance. The term "rich and abundant humour" is the only language in which Mr. Dan Thomas's performance can be properly described. The house simply "rises" to him. The hero is charmingly impersonated by Miss Daisie Yates, a captivating figure, pleasant actress, and charming singer. Another of the best is the Idle Jack of Mr. J. Harris, a performance replete with humour. Alice has a charming repesentative in Miss Constance Mori, and Dolly Dimple is prettily played by Miss Lily Parker. Mr. Harry D. Lyndon is immensely funny as Alderman Fitzwarren, although some of his "dealings" as a "universal provider" might not meet with the approbation of a Radical Government. Miss Gracie Woodleigh is a pretty and gracious Princess. Choppem, the head man to the Emperor, is played very funnily by Mr. Harry Pastor. A big hit is made by Mr. Pete Almonte as the Cat—a capital piece of pantomime. Mr. Arthur Wade is a good Emperor of Morocco, and sings with refreshing richness. Captain Kettle has a good representative in Mr. H. Maddison, while Mr. R. Morris as his mate, Bill Blower, is not far behind. The Flip Flap Girls' Quartette give a fine high-kicking dance. The whole production reflects the highest credit on the stage-management and supervising energies of Mr. Dan Thomas.

SEYMOUR HICKS'S production of *The Gay Gordons*, under the sole direction of Mr. W. A. Seymour, is at the Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne. Mr. Frank Lincoln's Angus Graeme is sufficiently volatile, and he scores an indisputable triumph; Mr. Tom Graves causes an immensity of laughter as Nervy Nat, an effective contrast being provided by Mr. Edward Nainby as Edmund Siddons; Mr. Ernest Ruston fits the part of Andrew Quainton exactly, and Mr. Norman Forrest adds to the general merriment in the rôle of Corporal John Smith. Miss Emily Mellon is a quite delightful representative of Janet McLeod; Miss Mabel Dent is a charmingly dainty representative of Victoria Siddons, making a big hit with her organ-grinder song; and Miss Ida Laurie presents a most laughable characterisation of Charlotte Siddons. Miss Nell Carter's Peggy Quainton is scarcely capable of improvement, so altogether pleasing is it in every particular. The minor parts are most ably filled, and Mr. Arthur Spittle has his large chorus and orchestra well under control.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

SYDNEY, Nov. 24.—Miss Margaret Anglin has returned to the metropolis for a Shakespearean season at Mr. J. C. Williamson's Theatre Royal, appearing in *The Taming of the Shrew*. Her success was genuine and instantaneous, and the vast audience cheered and clamoured for a speech at curtain fall. Much as such actresses condemn this modern nuisance, this was so decided a compliment that the clever Thespienne said a few words. In addition to Petruchio's determination to subdue the virago, there was such added charm about this latest Katharine that the winning of her was a glorious incentive. Mr. Henry Kolker made Petruchio sufficiently masterful without being brutal, and through all his boisterous noise and bluster there was always the motive, *i.e.*, to better the woman for her own sweet sake. Miss Anglin and Mr. Kolker acted to, for, and with each other to complete realisation of the author's intention. The great speeches were splendidly delivered and loudly cheered, and every Petruchial whip-crack sent the women into paroxysyms of laughter. Mr. Myles Clifton was Grumio, and a most excellent Grumio; Mr. Johnson Weir did all that was necessary with the part of Baptista; the fair Bianca had a competent impersonator in Miss Alina Vaughan; and Mr. Cyril Mackay gave us a delectable Lucentio. The mounting of this play was lavish, and Mr. Williamson is to be thanked for letting us see Miss Anglin in a legitimate rôle.

THE National Opera Co. (John Wren's), at the Criterion, played *Les Cloches de Corneville* all the week. On one night a very clever local amateur, Mr. R. B. Orchard, undertook the rôle of Gaspard with distinct success. Now *The Lilly of Killarney* is the bill, with Miss Rosina Buckmann as Ann Chute; Miss Ailleen Hodgson, Eily O'Connor; Mr. Wilson Pembroke, Hardress Cregan; Mr. Jay Ryan (a newly-arrived baritone), Danny Mann; Mr. Edward Wynn, Miles-na-Coppaleen; Mr. G. H. Snazelle, Father Tom; and Mr. McNaughton Duncan, Corrigan. The most successful items are intruded ones—"The Kerry dance" and "The wearing of the green." One wonders if spirits can hear, and, if so, what the wraith of Jules Benedict thinks about it.

"THE MERRY WIDOW" keeps on her merry and lucrative way with the new attraction, Miss Betty Ohls, in the lead. Miss Florence Young, Mr. Reginald Roberts, Mr. Higginson, Mr. Gouriet, and Mr. W. S. Percy are all prodigious favourites, and Mr. G. H. Smith, once of Wilson-Barrett connection, manages in Mr. Goodman's absence.

"THE PRINCE CHAP" ceases to charm at the Palace after this week, and *A Message from Mars* will be delivered on the 28th to Mr. H. R. Roberts as the embodiment of human selfishness.

THE Tivoli has Miss Hulo Hodgson and Mr. Harry Lowther as its latest arrivals, and they play well a very clever sketch called *Barmaids*. The wonderful dogs trained by Professor Duncan do a new turn as firemen at a conflagration.

KEMBLE AND THE APPLE.

A writer who saw Kemble in the winter, in *Coriolanus*, in the year 1806, says: "Had he only acted in that character he would have been deemed the very greatest male actor ever seen; it was in all points of conception, look, and utterance, equal to the Lady Macbeth of Mrs. Siddons. In no other part whatever, did he, or could he attain equal eminence. In every other, as compared with his masterful energy in this noble creation of the poet, he was only secondary.

"I frequently saw him in *Coriolaus*, but I happened not to be present when the apple fell on the stage between him and Volumnia, a part which Mrs. Siddons sustained with all her wonted dignity." This incident of the apple gave rise to one of those occasional scenes, in which Kemble displayed his overcharged self-possession, and rendered the occurence so important, to those who witnessed it, as to give it the impression of an event. At the moment when Volumnia is supplicating her son, the conqueror, to spare her country, the apple fell between them; taking up the missle with all the dignity of the character, he advanced, Coriolanus-like, to the front of the stage, and addressed the audience as follows:

"Ladies and Gentlemen,

"I have been many years acquainted with the benevolence and liberality of a London audience; but we cannot proceed this evening with the performance, unless we are protected, especially when ladies are thus exposed to insult."

A person in the gallery called out "We can't hear."

Kemble replied indignantly,

"I will raise my voice, and the galleries shall hear me."

"This protection is what the audience owe it to themselves to grant; what the performers, for the credit of their profession, have a right to demand, and what I will venture so far to assert, that, on the part of the proprietors, I here offer a hundred guineas to any man who will disclose the ruffian who has been guilty of this act.

"I throw myself, ladies and gentlemen, upon the high sense of breeding that distinguishes a London audience; and I hope I shall never be wanting in my duty to the public; but nothing shall induce me to suffer insult."

In this little affair, says Galt, the true spirit of Kemble was fully illustrated. There was that skinless sensibility which rendered him on all occasions so acute to the very shadow of affront. For the scene was always listened to with silence and awe, such as ever attended the united efforts of Kemble and Mrs. Siddons, and certainly it might have occurred to him that the sudden appearance of the apple was not intended as a personal insult to either, and did not justify so much ado about nothing. It was indeed an accident; for the apple was not thrown at the performers, but at some disorderly females in the boxes, and only by chance fell upon the stage.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—SIR HENRY IRVING.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News*.

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican*.

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star*.

WHEN Foote was sitting with Lord H—— (who was much addicted to the bottle) previously to a masquerade night, he asked Foote "what *new* character he ought to appear in?" "New character!" said the other, pausing for some time, "suppose you go *sober*, my lord!"

FOOTE, who was ever in the extremes of fortune, now at the top and now at the bottom of her wheel, once happened to be in the latter condition, when Macklin had an opportunity of retorting on him. They were both at the Bedford coffee-house together; when Foote, perhaps to keep up the appearance of prosperity, was every now and then showing off a fine gold repeating watch, which he kept either dangling in his hand or up to his ear. At last he suddenly exclaimed, "Zounds! my watch is *stopt!*" "Poh! Poh!" said Macklin, never mind that, Sam; you may depend *upon it, it will soon go.*"

VARIETY GOSSIP.

MR. WALTER DE FREECE will add several more houses to his ever-growing circuit. The first, the New Hippodrome, Southend, for which the architect's (Mr. Bertie Crowe's) plans have already been passed, will open about Whitsun week, and will be followed by the New Hippodrome, Northampton, a spacious building, to accommodate an audience of close on 4,000.

As a result of the recently-arranged combination for booking purposes between Moss' Empires, Ltd., and the De Frece Circuit, the Palace, Stoke Newington, will be taken over by the former company as from Feb. 1 next. We understand that it is not Mr. Stoll's intention to run the house as a music hall.

THE Ilford Hippodrome, under Mr. Frank Matcham's guiding hand, is growing apace, and should be ready for opening early in June. The theatre is being erected by a syndicate, in which Mr. Walter de Frece and Mr. George Dance are the principal movers, and will be purchased by the London Theatres of Variety, Ltd

IT has been decided to hold the London mass meeting of the Variety Artists' Federation tomorrow (Sunday) evening at 6 o'clock at Terry's. The V.A.F. executive have received numbers of messages from members all over the country promising to stand by the Federation whatever decision is arrived at. The Sunday Manchester meeting will be held at the Salisbury Hotel, Oxford-street, at 6.30. The dispute is referred to fully in another column.

MISS VESTA TILLEY will appear again in America this spring. By the kindness of Moss' Empires, Ltd., the Portsmouth Hippodrome, Ltd., and Oldham Empire, Ltd., who have postponed Miss Tilley's engagements with them, the famous male impersonator will play six weeks in New York under Mr. Percy G. Williams's management on the conclusion of her annual visit to the Palace Theatre, where she opens at the end of January.

MR. FRANK ALLEN, assisting-director of the Moss, Stoll, Thornton, and Allen combination, has had a marvellous escape from serious injury. On Tuesday, at 8 a.m., whilst taking his customary morning ride in Richmond Park, his horse took fright and bolted, throwing him rather badly. Fortunately no bones were broken, Mr. Allen escaping with a few bruises and a severe shaking. After a few days' rest it is expected that the popular director will be all right again.

MR. GEORGE LAURI, the comedian, whose sad death in Australia is reported in another column, under circumstances which point to suicide, was a cousin of the late Charles Lauri, the well-known animal impersonator, and a brother of Mrs. Slaughter, the widow of Walter Slaughter, the musical-director, and uncle of Mr. Harry Ulph. Mr. George Lauri was exceedingly well known as a comedian in Australia. He leaves a widow and grown-up son.

MR. FRED KARNO writes: "With reference to your notice in Jan. 2 issue, under the heading 'Variety Gossip,' mentioning Exeter as being no exception to the rule of cathedral towns being bad for stage business, I would like to point out that since the opening of the New Hippodrome at Exeter, the most renowned and salient stars have appeared there, and with regard to the enormous business done I can refer you to Miss Evie Greene, Laurence Irving, Miss Esther Palliser, Master Max Darewski, &c. We also have all the big stars booked to appear there during coming weeks."

MISS MAUD ALLAN is gradually recovering from the sprained ankle which stopped her performances at the Palace in October last, the injury proving more serious than was at first suspected. So satisfactory has been Miss Allan's recent progress, however, that she has now been enabled to start for Switzerland on a short holiday, and will probably make her reappearance at the Palace towards the end of the month. Meanwhile, it may not be uninteresting to state that Mr. Alfred Butt, having had the foresight to insure Miss Allan against disablement, the Palace directors have received from the company interested a sum running well into four figures.

MISS HENRIQUETTE MAUDE, "the little New Nealand girl," who has appeared in more of the world's theatres and places of amusement than any other artist, will open at the London Pavilion on Monday. New slides have been prepared for the illustration of her short and interesting lecture on her journey across the hemispheres.

MISS VESTA VICTORIA, now on a twenty weeks' tour on the William Morris circuit in the States, is hoping that her London engagements may be put back so that she will be able to stay longer. Just before she sailed from England she signed for a solid three years for the West End halls, and was offered a five-year one at the same terms. Miss Victoria has five new songs, and three of them have been great successes in London.

THEATRICAL and music hall managers and orchestral conductors will do well to refer to an announcement in our advertisement columns in which Messrs. Chappell and Co. give notice that the copying of the band parts or any of the music of any copyright operas published by them either for the use of theatres or for any other purpose is an infringement of their musical copyright; that on and after this date no such unauthorised copying can be permitted, and that all manuscript copies not bearing Messrs. Chappell's stamp are illegal, and are liable to confiscation.

"LA DANSE DES APACHES," which is so important an attraction in the ballet *A Day in Paris* at the Empire Theatre, and which has become as great a "classic" as "The Merry Widow Waltz," may now fairly be described as the talk of the United Kingdom. There is scarcely a pantomime throughout the country but has its imitation based upon the remarkable performances of Mr. Fred Farren and Miss Beatrice Collier.

MR. HARRY HART, who is now in his eighty-first year, is lying seriously ill at his residence in Kentish Town. Mr. Hart claims to have given numerous "stars" their first chance on the stage. He was the first manager of the old Argyll Rooms, when they were transformed by Mr. Bignell into the Trocadero, and during his career he has owned the Raglan, the Montpelier, the Marylebone, Sun, Bedford, and other halls. His last enterprise was at Ramsgate.

MR. MARK MELFORD'S American engagement is likely to be postponed in favour of renewed London engagements, notably the house in which he is an established feature—the London Pavilion.

MISS DAPHNE DE ROHAN, who died on Nov. 10 last, was for a short time on the halls, wherein she acted with her own company in a sketch of which she was part author. Earlier in her career she had appeared at the Trocadero under the name of Lorraine as a mandolinist, an instrument which she played with considerable skill. She wrote a duologue entitled *My Wife*, which was successfully produced at both theatres and halls, and also appeared as a reciter at the Metropolitan in a descriptive monologue specially written round an interesting military case, in which a subaltern at Shorncliffe Camp was honourably acquitted of a charge of theft.

DR. BODIE has taken over the new Pavilion, Kirkcaldy, which he has closed for two weeks for further structural alterations and improvements at a cost of over £2,000. The new Pavilion will be one of the finest up-to-date theatres in Scotland.

HE is also making arrangements to take over the Hippodrome, late King's Theatre, and several other halls and theatres in Scotland. All contracts held by the late proprietors are cancelled, but artists are requested to write to Dr. Bodie for future dates.

THE picketing still continues outside the Palace Theatre, Cork. The strike is unsettled. The proprietor of the theatre (Sir Alfred Dobbin, Kt., J.P.) has not taken back the two men into his service at his warehouse.

THE United County Theatres, Ltd., ceased to be in occupation and possession of the Palace Theatre, Sunderland, on Saturday last, and all contracts with artists for subsequent dates are cancelled.

THE Palace Theatre, Belfast, will close as a variety house on Saturday, Feb. 20, and Mr. Fred W. Warden, managing-director, asks artists to accept eight weeks' notice of cancellation, as per Arbitrator's Award.

THE Town Council of Forfar is open to receive offers from managers of al fresco entertainments, to be given in the Recreation Park, Forfar, during the summer months of 1909, from the beginning of May to the end of September. Offers to be lodged with William Gordon, solicitor, Forfar, on or before Saturday, Jan. 16.

MESSRS. BROADHEAD AND SON are arranging to build two new theatres in Liverpool. It is to be hoped that the enterprise will meet with the success which has fallen to their Manchester houses, due to careful catering and a judicious selection of managers. The Royal Osborne Theatre in particular, standing, as it does, in a rather trying district, has attained to the reputation of an especially well-ordered house under the easy and tactful management of Mr. J. Mason, who has youth as well as ability on his side, and who is typical of his compeers. Messrs. Broadhead believe in a combination of popular fare and youthful but practised energy at the helm.

MR. OSWALD STOLL kindly granted permission on Sunday last for two concerts to take place at the Leicester Palace Theatre on behalf of the Leicester Poor Boys' and Girls' Summer Camp and Institute, when the famous Grenadier Guards' Band was the principal attraction. The vocalists were Mr. Alexander Tucker and Master Harry Smith, the accompanist being Miss Louie Taylor. The concerts were in all respects most successful, the beautiful building being filled on both occasions. The Mayor of Leicester (Alderman Lakin) proposed, and Mr. Tyler seconded, a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Stoll, on whose behalf Mr. C. Finch-Hatton, the acting-manager of the Palace, responded.

MR. HORACE LIVERMORE informs us that the management of the Palace Theatre, Baldwin-street, Bristol, have arranged for a special matinée in aid of the sufferers in the earthquake in Calabria, to be held on Wednesday, the 27th. A very comprehensive programme has been arranged.

THE many friends of Mr. G. D. Bradbury, manager of the Warrington Palace and Hippodrome, will be glad to hear that he has now been dismissed from the Warrington Infectious Diseases Hospital, where he has been lying with a serious attack of diphtheria. He is now recuperating, and hopes in the course of a fortnight to resume active duties.

A PLEASANT little ceremony took place behind the scenes of the King's Theatre, Edinburgh, on Christmas Night, when Mr. Jules Guitton, the musical director, was presented with a solid silver cigarette case from the members of the orchestra. Mr. Guitton, who began his duties in September last, has not only made the orchestral selections a feature of the programme, but has endeared himself to all by his forceful and sympathetic personality.

MESSRS. STEWART AND CHALKEN, a well-known firm of Wakefield solicitors, have arranged the purchase on behalf of Messrs. Sherwood and Co., proprietors of the Wakefield Opera House, of extensive premises and land situate in Kirkgate, Wakefield, and known as Murgatroyd Yard, covering an area of 1,075 square yards, upon which an up-to-date Empire is to be erected. Mr. Frank Matcham, of London, the eminent theatre and music-hall architect, is engaged upon the plans.

THE Corporation of Scarborough invite tenders from entertainers for the occupation from May 1 to Sept. 30, 1909, of spaces on the North and South Sands, the stage and arena of the Alexandra Gardens (evenings only), and the Clarence Gardens. Further particulars may be obtained on application to D. Arthur Nicholl, Town Clerk, Town Hall, Scarborough, before the 15th inst.

THE first official reference to the scheme foreshadowed in the proposed Bill for a casino and marine palace on a new pier to be constructed at Brighton occurred at Tuesday's meeting of the Brighton and Hove Intercepting Outfall Sewers Board. Mr. Hugo Talbot (the clerk) announced that a meeting of the General Purposes Committee had been held earlier in the day to consider the effect of the proposed structure upon the main intercepting sewer of the two towns, which at the spot in question was directly under the crown of the beach.

THE surveyor had directed special attention to the fact that, according to the plans submitted, the scheme, if passed by Parliament, would enable the company to purchase or acquire by agreement or compulsion all rights and interests of the foreshore and the beach in or upon which the proposed pier might be constructed, and to stop up or divert roads, sewer, and other works.

No mention was made of the town sewer in the Bill or upon the plans, but it was absolutely necessary for the Board to safeguard their property and to prevent any interference with it. A sea-wall might be necessary for the protection of the sewer. The committee recommended that the Bill should be opposed, and the board unanimously instructed the clerk to take the steps necessary for that purpose.

THAT enterprise pays in the variety world has been strikingly demonstrated at the Birmingham Hippodrome this week. Madame Albani has always been a big favourite in Birmingham, and this week she has made her first appearance on a music-hll stage in Birmingham at the Hurst-street house. She had been "boomed" in a thorough manner by the local manager, with the result that there have been crowded houses twice every evening during the week. The scene on Monday was a remarkable one, every seat in the huge hall being occupied and all available standing room utilised. Outside, people waiting for the second performance gazed upon a huge poster announcing "House Full."

MR. HARRY LYONS, of the Hippodrome, Birmingham, was on New Year's night presented with a choice hammered-silver cigarette-case by Madame Albani in commemoration of her more than successful visit to Birmingham's popular Hippodrome, and her first engagement under the Barrasford directorate.

MR. TOM LEAMORE has once more resumed business after his illness. He is working five turns this week, and on Monday next will be doing the same. Mr. Leamore has but few halls booked in the provinces, and we shall therefore expect to see a great deal more of him in London.

MR. HARRY BAWN was presented with an inscribed wallett by the artists working on his opening bill on the Saturday evening of last week at the Empire, Edmonton. All the artists engaged that week were Brothers of the Chelsea Lodge or their wives.

MR. MICHAEL NOLAN, his many friends will be sorry to learn, is lying ill at his South London home. Mr. Nolan's engagements of late have been sadly interfered with by bronchial attacks. We hope to hear soon of a great improvement in his condition.

MISS DORA LYRIC is singing, by special request, at the Oxford, "If I should plant a tiny love-seed in the garden of your heart," that popular pantomime chorus song, published by Feldmans, which is being sung in all the pantomimes. Miss Lyric has the whole house with her, and the unanimity of the chorus is simply wonderful.

MISS GLADYS HOOLEY scored a great success at Cardiff on Monday with her new violin scena, *Fiddle and I*, for which a very effective set has been specially painted by Leolyn Hart and Co. Miss Hooley is booked with Mr. Stoll for a twenty-eight weeks' tour.

MR. GILBERT LAYE produced a farcical act entitled *The Airship*, introducing an aeroplane, at the Empire, Shepherd's Bush, as far back as Dec. 10, thus preceding Mr. Seymour Hicks's production at the Palace Theatre. In justice to himself, Mr. Laye desires to mention this fact with a view to future business.

MR. HARRY PLEON, who has been evoking the laughter of Stockton audiences as Widow Twankey, has had to take to his bed in consequence of a severe chill. He has been ordered rest.

AT the third annual general meeting of the Variety Artists' Federation to be held on Sunday, Jan. 17, with Mr. Joe O'Gorman in the chair, will be submitted a new rule, which provides that no member of the Federation expelled during the past, present, or any future dispute, shall be reinstated.

THE monthly meeting of the management committee of the Music Hall Sick Fund will be held at the Crown Hotel, Charing Cross-road, on Wednesday next, at 4 p.m. The principal business on the agenda is to formally confirm the election of Mr. Pat Carey as hon. treasurer to the Fund, in place of the late Mr. Frank Heath.

MR. FRED MILLER, in his letter acknowledging the cheque for the amount subscribed by some of his friends to his testimonial on leaving the Canterbury, takes the opportunity of warmly thanking them and his good friend Mr. W. H. Armstrong, solicitor, of Renfrew-road, Lambeth, for their united and able efforts on his behalf.

MR. HUBERT BARTLETT (the author of the famous *Collar Stud* sketch), whose two little comedies, *The Courage of Charlie* and *The Lady and the Lunatic*, have been played with such success by the German Society of the Regent-street Polytechnic during Christmas week, has just completed a new musical monologue for Miss Mabel Johnson, late of the Serenaders. Miss Johnson will open with this at the Palace, Cork, on Monday.

MR. CHARLES FISHER will present his pocket-opera company in *Il Trovatore* on Monday at the Hackney Empire, where popular audiences are particularly fond of the lilting melodies of Verdi. Tabloid opera is much in demand at the variety theatres, and Mr. Charles Fisher supplies a particularly attractive representation of some of the chief scenes of the famous work.

MR. CHARLES S. KITTS (Kitts and Windrum) met with a somewhat serious accident last Sunday evening while extinguishing a fire at a friend's house. He was treated in a most courteous and prompt manner at King's College Hospital, also by Dr. Black-Noble, who has now the case in hand. It will be some weeks before Mr. Kitts recovers the use of his right arm.

MUSIC-HALL aspirants are to have a chance of showing their ability at the Fun City, Olympia Annexe, where a competition for valuable prizes has been fixed by Mr. C. B. Cochran, the manager, for Friday, Jan. 22, at 7 p.m. Entries are to be sent to that gentleman at the above address, the word "Amateur" to be written on the left-hand corner of the envelope.

MISS MARIE REEVE, who has recently returned from South Africa, is playing with conspicuous success the part of Sinbad in Mr. Fred J. Little's Christmas production at the Grand Theatre, Huddersfield. After pantomime she will open at the principal London halls with new songs from the pens of A. J. Mills and Bennett Scott.

THE third Bohemian smoking concert of the Vaudeville Club will be held at the club premises on Sunday, Jan. 31, when Mr. Fred Ginnett, the King Rat for 1909, will take the chair. Already a number of well-known artists have given in their names, and everything points to a fine programme.

MRS. BARRASFORD has most successfully initiated Ethiopian minstrelsy at the Court Theatre, Brighton, which is being run on the twice-nightly plan. The burnt-cork business includes smart patter and jokes on the part of the corner men, comic songs, dances, and sketches, and as it is intended to give stock minstrel shows, suitable vocalists and cornermen of experience are required. Applications marked "Minstrel" should be sent to T. Barrasford, 11, Leicester-place, W.C.

MR. AND MRS. EDWARD H. LUCAS sail on Sunday, Jan. 17, per s.s. Kaiserin Auguste Victoria for America, and will leave Waterloo at 10.35 a.m. on that date. They open at the Lincoln-square Theatre, New York, under the management of William Morris, on Feb. 1. They are taking with them the whole of their scenery, furniture, costumes, and effects.

"THE CRYSTAL GAZER" is the title of an amusing sketch produced for the first time on Monday at the Battersea Palace, the author being Mr. Leopold Montague. There are only two characters—a young lady and a professional fortune-teller. The latter is expecting the arrival of a client who has written to say that she has lost her pet dog and she desires that he should discover its whereabouts. So that when a young lady enters his consulting-room he at once concludes that she is the owner of the missing canine. Instead, she is quite another person who wishes to know where her sweetheart is. A very amusing situation is thus evolved, epecially as the fortune-teller looks into the crystal and tells his fair visitor that "he" whom she seeks is in a dogs' home! Miss Doris Foote acted with naturalness as the visitor and Mr. E. C. Lilly submitted an admirable interpretation of the crystal-gazer.

THE Holborn Empire on Friday next will have a special night. The exact date of the completion of the third year of the new house's existence is Jan. 29.

DR. WALFORD BODIE will make his entry again into London on Monday at the Palace, East Ham, where he broke all records on his last visit. He has been engaged at the biggest salary ever paid to any artist in London. He will introduce his new act, including his latest sensation, *The Cage of Death*, which has created a furore in all the large provincial towns.

AN interesting series of "Urbanora" animated pictures of India—all taken within the past two months—will be presented at the Palace Theatre on and after next Monday, Jan. 11. The imposing State visit of Lord Minto to Lucknow, typical street scenes, fakirs, jugglers, religious fanatics, stragglers from the forces of disorder—these and many other illustrations of native character and customs are among the subjects which contribute to a display which is peculiarly appropriate at the present time.

A STRIKING scene was witnessed at the Cardiff Empire on Friday night, the 1st, at the close of the song-scena given by Mr. George Leyton, when the Lord Mayor of Cardiff (Alderman Lewis Morgan) presented to the eight local Crimean and Indian Mutiny veterans who had during the week taken part in the performance a portion of the money obtained by the sale of Mr. Leyton's songs. The house had been effectively decorated for the occasion, the stage boxes being covered with Union Jacks.

AT the end of the turn the Lord Mayor, accompanied by Miss Morgan, Colonel J. J. David, and Mr. C. H. S. Dring (manager of the Empire), came to the footlights. Mr. Dring, in welcoming the Lord and Lady Mayoress, said it was the former's first public appearance in the New Year, while the Lady Mayoress was also making her first public appearance after her illness. The Lord Mayor hoped one result of the function would be the creation of a local fund for the assistance of the Crimean and Indian Mutiny veterans.

MESSRS. RICHARDS, BURNEY, AND CO., of High-street, Shoreditch, proprietors of the London Music Hall and Collins's Music Hall, sued Austin Rudd, in the Shoreditch County Court on Thursday, to recover £9 10s., damages for breach of contract. Mr. Whetton, instructed by Messrs. Strong, Mercer, and Co., was counsel for the plaintiff, and Mr. Parkes appeared for the defence. The defendant signed a contract to appear on Jan. 6, 1908, at Collins's for a week, but on that date he telegraphed that he could not "do four turns" as he had a relaxed throat.

MR. RUDD said that, acting under instructions from his medical adviser, he decided only to do two turns a night, and as his Walham Green engagement was the easiest he did that. He had an attack of rheumatic fever three years ago, which had left him with a weak heart and a constantly-recurring relaxed throat.

JUDGE SMILY said that if an artist booked himself up for half a dozen halls at which he could not possibly perform, it did not rest with him to pick and choose which contract he would fulfil. If he performed at one place the plaintiffs were entitled to think that he ought to have performed for them. There would have to be a verdict for the plaintiffs for the £9 10s. claimed and costs.

ON behalf of the committee of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, 61, New Oxford-street, W.C., Miss Melinda May (secretary) wishes to thank the following:—Mrs. Herbert Shelley, for collecting 8s. 1d. (donation 2s. 6d.); Miss Lottie Albert, donation 3s.; Mr. Joe O'Gorman, gentlemen's clothing (through the Sisters Macarte). Miss May omitted to thank the deputation from the Grand Order of the Water Rats, namely, Mr. Fred Ginnett, Mr. Eugene Stratton, Mr. Wal Pink, and Mr. Johnnie Alexander, who attended the Horns, Kennington, on Dec. 23, the evening of the Christmas Tree and treat.

THE clergymen who were present on that occasion were the Revs. Stephen Barrass, Donald Hole, Gordon, and Humphries. Miss A. C. Clarke, A.C.U., was also present, and did her best to assist and make the children happy. The committee also wish Miss Melinda May to be thanked for the numerous packets of tea she gave to the many pensioners. Also a vote of thanks to Mr. Joseph Sams, proprietor, Horns, Kennington, for the splendid dinner and tea he provided. Friends of the charity are heartily welcome to tea and receptions held every Wednesday, four to five o'clock.

FRED KARNO'S company appears in *The Bailiff* at the Hackney Empire next week. It might be said that Mr. Karno's idea of sending out various companies arose by accident. He was playing at Dublin, and on the Monday morning at rehearsal he heard from the resident-manager that Belfast wanted a "top of the bill" by hook or by crook for that night, as the "star" attraction had suddenly fallen ill. Someone said jokingly to Mr. Karno, "Why not split our company for to-night, or until they get another turn; half of us can go to Belfast, and it will save the situation." He said nothing, but got a trunk call to the Belfast manager, who jumped at the offer. Since then Mr. Karno's companies have been numerous.

AT St. Werburgh's Church, Dublin, there was a scene of unusual excitement on Dec. 29 when Bella, the daughter of Mr. Jack White, the popular stage-manager of the Empire, Dublin, and captain of the tug-of-war team who won *The Era* Shield right out, was married. The lucky bridegroom was Corporal Paul Hall, of the 11th Hussars, who was in his dress parade regimentals.

THE wedding was attended by several military and naval comrades of the bridegroom, and the guests also included the bride's father and mother, Mr. Harry J. Baynton, musical director, Mr. George H. Marsh, manager, and most of the Empire staff; also several of the artists, including Mr. and Mrs. Harry Mayville. The wedding was very picturesque, and the bride and bridegroom left the church to the strains of the "Wedding March," played by Mr. F. Harmen, a local celebrity. The party then adjourned to the Dolphin Hotel and held a reception breakfast, the wedding cake being cut by the bridegroom's sword. Amongst the numerous presents stood prominent a breakfast silver tea and coffee service, with a suitable inscription, from the staff of the Empire. In the evening the wedding party occupied a box at the Empire, and at the conclusion of the show the orchestra, under Mr. Baynton, played the famous "Wedding March" to the cheers and applause of all present.

AFTER the performance a concert and dance took place on the stage, when a most enjoyable and happy time was spent, and congratulations too numerous to mention were showered upon the happy pair. Among those present were Mr. A. S. Findlater (managing-director), Mr. and Mrs. George H. Marsh, Mr. H. J. Baynton, Mr. F. Baynton, Mr. W. Laidler (assistant-manager), Mr. Joseph White (electrician), Mr. and Mrs. Harry Mayville, of liliputian fame, several of the *H.M.S. Victory* sketch company, Mr. F. Ockindon, the bridegroom's late band-sergeant, Mr. T. Groves, and most of the Empire staff.

MR. LINDSAY SUTTON (of the firm of Messrs. Andrew, Wood, Purves, and Sutton, solicitors), Great James Street, Bedford-row, has been elected Junior Warden of the Coach Makers and Coach Harness Makers' Company. Mr. Lindsay Sutton is a son of Mr. Henry Sutton, who was formerly chairman and managing director of the Alhambra Company, and is now associated with the syndicate halls.

THE Terriers held a grand ladies' concert on Sunday at the Three Stags Hotel, Kennington. W. H. Atlas was in the chair, and there was a record attendance. Amongst the artists who appeared were the following:—Andie Caine, Curtis Leo, Gus Harris, Barney Hyams, James Traynor, Baby Atlas, Eddie Comet, Ernest Powell, Bert Marsden, Albert Mason, Mrs. Traynor, Charlie Cornish, and others.

THE annual dinner of the Terriers' Association (for Terriers only) will take place to-morrow (Sunday) at the Hôtel Boulogne at 7 p.m. Mr. Jesse Sparrow, the president of the fraternity, will be in the chair.

MR. LEONARD MORTIMER'S *Bubbles*, produced this week at the Bedford, includes in the cast Mrs. Brown (a hearty lady of seventy-five years) as the mother. When *Bubbles* next appears it will be known as *The Golden Ace*.

A WELL-KNOWN manager sends us some interesting information regarding the amount of admission money he has controlled during his engagements in the past twelve months, these engagements having been entirely in the provinces, and divided between theatre and variety business. From Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1908, the gross amount reaches the substantial sum of £27,792 10s. 8d. These figures are the record of a single manager only, and seem to contradict the impression that the year 1908 was a bad one from the show business point of view.

MR. JOHN CLEMPERT, the famous Russian wrestler, who has been scoring an extraordinary success in Aberdeen, is a splendidly built young man, and was born in Russia some thirty years ago. He has crammed as much incident into his life as would satisfy half a dozen ordinary men. Joining the Russian army, he, for some trivial political offence, was exiled, along with others, to Siberia. On the way, however, young Clempert escaped, but was recaptured. He was equally unfortunate in a second attempt, but perseverance gained its reward at last.

POSSESSED of great strength, Mr. Clempert accepted the challenge of a famous Russian champion wrestler in a circus one night and defeated him. He was immediately engaged by the proprietor as a weight-lifter and strong man, and soon was made manager of the concern. He first came to England in 1899, and appeared at the Stoke Newington Palace in London in a sensational act, which, owing to an accident, he abandoned. Since 1903 he has made a special show of wrestling, handcuff work, and escapes.

His experience of the torture jacket induced him to take it as a test, and before long he was able to get out of it with ease. Mr. Clempert first tried his sensational act in a padlocked tank without water, and perfectly airtight, but by and by went in for the water as being a better draw. To come out of the tank just takes him from fourteen to sixteen seconds. A more versatile man than Mr. Clempert would be difficult to find. A practised artisan, he is both blacksmith and carpenter; while he has appeared on the stage as skater, dancer, cyclist, weight-lifter, and wrestler.

MR. HERBERT H. LAIDMAN, the popular manager, at the close of the second performance at the Woolwich Hippodrome on New Year's Eve, was made the recipient of a gold watch-chain. The presentation, which took place on the stage, was made by Mr. Chisholm Taylor (manager of the Artillery Theatre), on behalf of the staff of the Hippodrome. Mr. Laidman expressed the pleasure it gave him in accepting so handsome a gift, and thanked the donors in suitable terms.

AT Mr. William Payne's third annual New Year's party at the South London Palace to the Southwark and Lambeth kiddies, the Mayor of Southwark (Mr. John Wylde, J.P.), who was again accompanied by Sir William Henry Dunn, J.P., was present, with several members of the local Council. Tastefully decorated with flags and evergreens, the fine house was packed with a happy and boisterous throng, to whom were handed round tea, fruit, &c. Among the numerous interesting turns was the pantomime *Aladdin*, presented by Dan Thomas and company.

Now that Mr. Edward Swanborough has passed away, the honour of being the doyen of the music hall managers, says the *Daily Chronicle*, falls on the shoulders of Mr. Henry J. Hitchins, who has been at the Empire since its opening as a variety theatre on Dec. 29, 1887. He consequently "came of age" last Tuesday, and the event was celebrated in an appropriate manner. Mr. Hitchins is one of the most unassuming men in the profession. Born in Lincoln, he was brought to London when a boy, and studied at University College School. On leaving that institution he was engaged as a clerk in the Lombard-street branch of the London and County Bank, with which company he remained for four years. Finding, however, that promotion was very slow, he became an actor, and made his début at the Gaiety in *A Serious Family*, Morris Barnett's adaptation of *Le Mari à la Campagne*.

FOR the year he remained at that theatre his salary was only a guinea a week, but the experience was extremely valuable. One day he read an advertisement for an acting-manager at a West End theatre. He thought he could do no harm in applying, and, to his surprise, obtained the appointment—which was for James Guiver's season at the Princess's in 1873, when Charles Dillon revived *Manfred*. Three years later he was engaged by Alexander Henderson for the Criterion, and while there many now notable pieces were brought out, including *The Great Divorce Case* and *Pink Dominoes*. Subsequently he represented Henderson at the Strand, and there witnessed the production of *Madame Favart* (in which Florence St. John first secured fame) and *Olivette*. He also had to look after his interests at the Royalty, and, in addition, had to appear every evening at the Globe in Alfred Murray's *Seeing Frou Frou*, his part, by a coincidence, being that of Vavasour, the acting-manager.

IT was Mr. Hitchins who suggested the name of the Empire for the establishment in Leicester-square, the original intention of those who opened it as a theatre in 1884 with Hervé's *Chilperic* being to call it the Queen's. Here is his reminiscence of that famous opéra-bouffe: "The company included Herbert Standing, Harry Wardroper, Paulus [who made a second appearance at the Empire when it was a music hall, and died last year], Felix Bury [one of the famous gendarmes in *Geneviève de Brabant*], James Powers, Harry Paulton, Camille d'Arville, Agnes Consuelo, Sallie Turner, and Madge Shirley. A memorable feature in this spectacle was the procession of fifty 'amazons,' each of whom carried three little electric lamps, which produced, as the programme described it, 'the most startling and gorgeous effect.' Each lady had to carry on her back a battery weighing no less than seven pounds."

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

THE pantomimes, both London and provincial, have settled down into their stride, and from all quarters come repeated managerial eulogiums of Messrs. Francis and Day's numerous "winners" in the song line, and the staff at both the Charing Cross-road and Denmark-street establishments have been kept working at high pressure to keep pace with the large orders for copies of the various numbers that have taken town and country by storm.

ALL Derby is now humming and whistling one of Messrs. Francis and Day's latest additions to their series of sixpenny popular editions—to wit, "Every fellow's in love with a girl," which Mr. Harry Simms so ably sings in the pantomime there.

AMONG the new songs and dances just acquired for publication by Messrs. Francis and Day are: "Hooch, Sandy!" (sung by Alick Lauder), by T. F. Robson and Donovan Meher; "When the Territorials parade," by A. Bagley and John Neat; "The whiskers round the bottom of your trousers" (Joe Archer), by Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford; "You toast the muffins and crumpets" (Miss Kate Carney), by Paul Pelham and Herbert Rule; "Don't go out without your sunshade," by Frank Leo; "They won't know oi coom from the country" (George Bastow), by F. W. Leigh; "When Mister Coventry comes knocking at the door" (Miss Evelyn Tayler), by Paul Pelham and Herbert Rule; "Queen of a hundred isles," by Charles Hilbury; "Man, man, you think you're cock o' the walk!" by Frank W. Carter; "When Mr. Wren married Miss Nightingale" (Miss Rose Elliott), by H. Staunton and H. Carlton; "Twinkling star" (Miss Gipsy Woolf), by A. Bagley and Donovan Meher; "The little pub we use just round the corner" (George French), by Harry Wincott and G. W. Foster; "The vision of Salome," dance, by Archibald Joyce; "Maggie frae Dundee" (sung by George French), by the late Albert Hall; "For months and months, and months" (Jack Smiles), by Joseph Tabrar; "If you were a star in the sky," by Scott Mackenzie and H. E. Pether; "I want to be introduced if it's a girly girl!" (Phil Parsons), by Fred Godfrey and Terry Sullivan; "When is my birthday, daddy?" by Chas. Collins and Fred E. Terry; "I'll be glad when the daisies are growing," by Chas. Collins and Chas. Ridgwell; "Don't go worrying your pals" (Miss Gladys Mavius), by G. A. Stevens; "My Indiana Queen" (Gordon Stretton), by Tom Mellor and Harry Gifford; "A rose from Cupid's garden," by J. P. Long; and "I do make a hit with the ladies" (Miss Hetty King), by Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford.

MISS KITTIE RAYBURN'S songs, "Won't you come to me in Canada?" and "It seems to make the sun shine brighter," both of which are published by Messrs. Francis and Day, are "booming" considerably, thanks to the fair artist's magnificent rendering of both numbers in pantomime at the Lyric Opera House, Hammersmith.

MESSRS. FULLAGER AND CO. are preparing slides for the following songs: "Jennie don't swing on the gate," "I'm wearing my heart away for you," "Don't break your loving heart for me," "Little silver moonbeam," "When the primrose comes again," and "Hold me tighter, Mr. Lighter."

MESSRS. MELLOR, LAWRANCE, AND GIFFORD, individually and collectively, are responsible for some big pantomime hits. Three songs particularly are being sung and applauded all over the universe, namely, "She sells sea-shells" (the tongue-twister), "Have you got another girl at home like Mary?" and "I want to go to Idaho."

MESSRS. FRANCIS, DAY, AND HUNTER have secured a new song from the pens of Tom Mellor and Harry Gifford, entitled "My Indiana Queen," sung by Gordon Stretton, the new coon singer, who is making rapid strides in the profession.

WILKIE BARD'S great suffragette song, "Put me upon an island where the girls are few," grows more popular every day, it being the undisputed hit of the Drury Lane pantomime. The entire Press have acclaimed this number as the Drury Lane gem, and the National Music Publishing Co. are receiving applications for permission to sing it by every post in all the principal pantomimes in Great Britain. It is reserved exclusively for Wilkie Bard for London.

THE two fine chorus songs, "I wish I had a pal" and "Call round any old time," are being sung with the greatest possible success by principal boys and girls all over the country, "I wish I had a pal" being another Drury Lane winner, sung by Miss Queenie Leighton, and published by the National Music Publishing Co.

HARRY CONLIN wires the National Music Publishing Co. to the effect that he introduced their dame song, "You all want something to cuddle," for the first time in the Theatre Royal, Manchester, on Saturday night, and it met with instantaneous success.

WILL GODWIN'S great success, "When I've a hundred pounds," is being sung by Tom Foy at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham. He writes the National Music Publishing Co. that this is his greatest pantomime success, and it is already being sung and whistled all over Birmingham.

"KATE, WON'T YOU ROLLER SKATE?" has turned out to be a tremendous success, as anticipated by the National Music Publishing Co. It is being made free to all music-hall artists, and is a certain encore winner

THE National Music Publishing Co. have received at least 80 to 100 telegrams informing them of the sensational success of the catchy chorus song "My little Eva."

MR. ALBERT CHEVALIER, who has been secured for the States by Mr. William Morris, returns to the Coliseum next week with *Behind the Scenes*. Apropos to his reappearance at the London house, it is interesting to recall the names of those on the programme of the old Prince of Wales's Theatre, Tottenham-street, where Mr. Chevalier got his first small speaking part. They were Mr. and Mrs. (now Sir Squire and Lady) Bancroft, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Kendal, Charles Coghlan, John Clayton, Kate Phillips, Arthur Cecil, H. Kemble, Charles Sugden, and Marie Litton. Six of these players have joined the great majority. After this engagement Mr. Chevalier toured with Mr. and Mrs. Kendal in *Diplomacy*, and then, under John Hare's management, appeared at the Court in *A Scrap of Paper*.

MR. CHEVALIER tells a rather amusing experience he once had during an Irish tour. "I was playing," he says, "in a small town in the West of Ireland, the name of which I forget. I went into the hall in the afternoon, where I was to give my entertainment, and was amazed to see that there was not a single seat in it. 'Good gracious,' I said to the caretaker, 'where are the seats?' 'Oh,' replied the easy-going personage, 'I'll bring in some benches, if ye like, but I didn't know ye'd want any.' He departed for the benches, and I remarked to him, as he placed them in position, that they were thick with dust. 'An' won't the people dust them soon enough when they sits on them?' he replied, cheerfully."

V.A.F. AND THE AGENTS.

STRIKE THREATENED.

VIEWS OF AGENTS AND MANAGERS.

What seems, at the time of writing, to be something like a crisis in the dispute between the Variety Artists' Federation and the general body of music hall agents has been brought about by the refusal of the artists' executive to accept Clause 5 in the terms of reference (for arbitration purposes). That clause provides that no person shall be allowed to be agent and artist at the same time. This stipulation has the support of the General Federation of Trade Unions.

The question from the point of view of the agents may be summed up in the words of one of their number as follows:—

"The agents were asked to send in a list of the terms of reference upon which they would be willing to arbitrate, and these were drawn up and decided upon thus:

"1. Amount of commission for engagements booked in the United Kingdom.

"2. Amount of commission for engagements booked abroad.

"3. Deduction of proprietors' commission.

"4. Re-engagement clause.

"5. That no person shall be allowed to be agent and artist at the same time.

"These terms of reference were sent to the General Secretary of the Federation of Trades Unions, and he approved of them. They were then sent to the Variety Artists' Federation, the executive of which absolutely refused to allow Clause 5 (which they deleted) to go before the Arbitrator in any fashion whatever.

"The position at the moment, therefore, is that the V.A.F. have refused to permit Clause 5 to go before the Arbitrator, and the agents strictly adhere to that clause. Matters are therefore at a standstill, and a strike has been threatened. At meetings held on Friday (yesterday) throughout the country, members of the Variety Artists' Federation were asked to vote upon a resolution drawn up by th eexecutive committee of that organisation. The result of these meetings will be submitted to general meetings to be held in London and Manchester on Sunday, when the course of action to be followed will be decided. A direct ballot of all the members of the federation would be impracticable, as they are continually travelling from town to town, but the meetings are expected to form an equally effective means of testing the feeling of the profession

"The agents are now advertising a notice as follows:

"NOTICE TO ARTISTS:

"The Executive Committee of the V.A.F. object to the following clause being submitted to the Arbitrator:

"'That no person shall be allowed to be an agent and an artist at the same time.'

"WHY?

"A report has appeared in the Press of a statement said to have been made by Mr. W. H. Clemart to the effect that the V.A.F. had severed its connection with the trades unions. The truth of this statement has yet to be proved, as we understand that six months' notice has to be given in writing to the Federation of Trades Unions, and up to the present we have not heard that such notice has been given.

"The agents do not seem in the least perturbed at the report that the members of the V.A.F. are going on strike. The artists are saying that the managers are helping the agents by refusing to book artists direct; but the statement of Mr. Tozer set out below seems to suggest that managers are holding aloof. It will be remembered that the V.A.F. recently rescinded their rule as to prohibiting an artist being an agent and an artist at one and the same time. Mr. Joe O'Gorman, who is the head of the Water Rats' Agency, is also a performer, and has a year's dates in hand. The object of the clause in dispute is to prevent an artist from 'running a book' at the same time that he is fulfilling an engagement. This doubling of artist and agent is considered unjust to established agencies, in that the latter are unfairly handicapped in the matter of expenses. Moreover, the combination of two occupations by one person is distinctly against trade union principles."

MANAGERS' VIEWS.

Speaking to a Press representative on the same subject and on the possibility of a strike, Mr. Henry Tozer, chairman of the Tivoli, Oxford, and Associated Halls, said: "As far as the managers are concerned we are quite quiescent. We regard it as a storm in a teacup. It is easy enough to assert that the managers have supported the agents, but how? There is nothing whatever to strike for. All the causes were removed by the arbitration award in the last strike. Moreover, it would be an illegal strike surely, for under that award no strike or cessation of work must take place till 1912 without six months' notice.

"The managers have not held and are not holding any meeting, as they do not regard it as a matter concerning them. If there is a strike the managers will regard it with equanimity. We shall be able to get on very well, and, besides, so many of the best artists are leaving the Federation. We are a hundred times better off than we were at the time of the last strike, and even if all the members of the Federation went out we could give good shows. There are so many other turns."

TRADE UNION ATTITUDE.

The view of the General Federation of Trade Unions on the V.A.F.'s refusal to submit Clause 5 to arbitration may be gathered from the annexed extract from the letter to Mr. W. H. Clemart appearing in the *Performer* from Mr. W. A. Appleton, secretary of the first-mentioned organisation. Under date Jan. 4 Mr. Appleton, after noting that the V.A.F. committee refuses to submit Clause 5 with the other clauses to the Arbitrator, goes on to say: "The agents are just as firm in demanding that this question shall be submitted to the Arbitrator. I have submitted this phase of the situation to a specially-convened meeting of my emergency committee, and I am instructed to say that in their opinion your request that all matters in dispute should be decided involves the consideration of this point, and if the negotiations fail through your refusal to submit this point with the others, they will be unable to guarantee any support in the event of an open conflict between the parties directly concerned."

Mr. Clemart considers "the attitude of the General Federation of Trade Unions perplexing and inexplicable; and their refusal to give the Variety Artists' Federation any further support or assistance in the matter, because the agents are just as firm makes us wonder who is affiliated to them—ourselves or the agents. We are under the impression that we were contributing to their funds something like £100 per annum for protection and assistance when being oppressed by outside conditions."

Mr. W. H. Clemart, on behalf of the executive, has written as follows to Mr. Appleton:—"In reply to yours of Jan. 4, I am instructed to inform the General Federation of Trade Unions that no further advice or assistance in reference to the agency dispute is asked for, or required. In the previous dispute such advice and assistance was not necessary to the success of the artists' cause, and the Variety Artists' Federation feels quite capable and is willing to fight the present situation unaided. Twice in the same week, when the V.A.F. representatives have not agreed with the General Federation of Trade Unions' Committee, threats have been made that, if they did not do as dictated, the General Federation of Trade Unions would wash its hands of the whole matter. Such treatment was not expected from a society to which the Variety Artists' Federation was supposed to be affiliated. It is now understood that a communication from the General Federation of Trade Unions has been sent to the Agents' Association, agreeing that the agents' demands are just and reasonable, when, in such circumstances, it would have been at least decent to have maintained silence and neutrality by refraining from voicing opinions calculated to be detrimental to the interests of the Variety Artists' Federation."

A DRASTIC RESOLUTION.

Members of the Variety Artists' Federation were called upon yesterday to decide their course of action. Meetings held in seventy towns in the country at noon were asked to vote upon the following resolution:—

"That this meeting empowers the Executive Committee to take such steps as may be deemed necessary, however drastic, to bring to an immediate termination the dispute which has now lasted sixteen weeks between the Variety Artists' Federation and the Agents' Association, who are being unwarrantably supported by certain managers, whose sole intention is to inflict permanent injury on the V.A.F."

At a meeting of the Variety Artists' Federation, held yesterday at the Bedford Head Hotel, Mr. Joe O'Gorman presiding, a motion was carried, with only four dissentients, recommending that the above resolution be submitted to the mass meetings of the V. A. F. convened for Sunday at Terry's Theatre and at Manchester.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—As one who has been held responsible for the late music hall strike, may I be allowed to say a few words on the strike now threatened by the executive of the V.A.F.?

In the first place, then, is the point at issue of any real importance to the profession generally, or is it merely a matter that would benefit individuals rather than the Federation as a body? Surely it is the latter. The rule qualifying membership, which kept the Federation closed to any but those who were solely *bond-fide* artists was rescinded a litle while ago for the express purpose of benefiting certain individuals who desired to be agents as well as artists for certain reasons. Had the V.A.F. officials even a superficial knowledge of the first principles of trade unionism they would have known that "one man one job" is a maxim ever to be firmly held to. Their ignorance has made it apparent to the trade union authorities that really the agents are more entitled to be a trade union than they are themselves.

So much for the point at issue. Now, what about their prospects of success should a strike be called? To put the matter bluntly: their fighting leaders are gone; their ranks are decimated by discontent, dissension, and empty date-books; their funds are depleted by law costs; and there are at least two artists ready to take the place of every one who comes out on strike. As for the support of the general body of trade unionists, let anyone go round, as I have done, and sound the opinions of the secretaries of the many organisations, and he will find that any practical aid, or even sympathy, will be wanting.

I put the situation thus plainly because I want to prevent the present rulers of the V.A.F. from rushing the Federation upon certain destruction, and, indeed, annihilation.

It is to be hoped that the rank-and-file will think for themselves and vote on Sunday for wiser and more moderate courses to be followed. It is also to be hoped that the result of the election for committee now taking place and subsequent election of office bearers will bring about many "changes in the Cabinet." Should this happen, then the V.A.F. may be reformed, and recover the support and allegiance of hundreds who have left it. The action of the Artists' Protection League (not a trade union) will depend upon the result of the V.A.F. meeting on Sunday. If a strike is decided on, then we shall call a mass meeting for the following Sunday, at which it will be open to all connected with the entertainment world to protest against the action of the V.A.F officials as being damaging to the best interests of every section of the music hall world. With that object, and that object alone, in view I ask for the assistance and co-operation of all who desire to bring about a time of peace and prosperity after the strife and depression of the past eighteen months.—Yours faithfully,

FRANK GERALD.
4, Mitre-court Chambers, Temple, E.C.
Jan. 7.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—In view of such an alarming rumour that the greatest disruption ever known is about to take place, I beg the insertion of this humble epistle to prevent it. With all due deference to those who are engineering the Federation fight, I think there are hundreds of artists who disagree with their arbitrary methods. There is plain proof of it in the resignations that have been tendered not only by the rank and file, but also by some of its leading advocates.

I may be wrong, but I am of the opinion that had a little more tact and discretion been used by the "heads" of the Federation in their negotiations with those on whom the artists depend for their living, matters would have never reached the present crisis.

I don't hold a brief for either proprietors or agents, but I certainly think "the labourer worthy of his hire." I am quite aware there are good and bad agents, yet why in the name of conscience need there be all this rumpus? If an artist doesn't want the agent he need not have him—whether he charges 5, 10, 15, or 20 per cent. If the artist accepts the agent's contracts and signs them, let him be a man and abide by them. What Federation is necessary to either make or mar such negotiations?

No words of mine are necessary to prove that many artists have to thank their agents for receiving greater salaries than they ever expected. Any agent who can get me work at the salary I receive is welcome to his 10 per cent. as long as I live, and I am certain this assertion will be endorsed by thousands who get their living behind the footlights.

If the V.A.F. thinks it can wipe out the agent, or ride the high horse over the proprietor, it is labouring under a great delusion. Even if a strike be ordered, and all artists obeyed the command, they (the artists) would get such a beating that their position in future would be "confusion worse confounded." Let the executive think over the fact that it cost the Engineers during their strike £9,000,000, and they had to go back for less than they came out for. The North-Eastern strike cost £2,000,000, and they had to go back for a shilling a week less than they came out for. What funds have the V.A.F. got in comparison with the millions of money that supported these two great lost battles against the masters? I have heard it asserted that the shareholders will have "something to say" if the halls close down. Had they anything to say—or have they anything to say when any great fight is waged between capital and labour? They know full well if labour wins they lose. If labour organises, so do the masters; if artists combine, so do the proprietors. If either of the two former arrogate to themselves the superiority of their own strength or position, well, it only remains for them to try the tug-of-war. There has been too much of the one-man opinion dominating the Federation in its drastic ukases.

No one dare oppose the ruling spirit. What is wanted is a strong man to show the weaknesses,

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER'S
PANTO. HITS.

GREAT BRITAIN ELECTRIFIED WITH OUR OVERWHELMING WHIRLWIND OF WINNERS.

THE ABSOLUTE HITS AT ***DRURY LANE.***

'I'M AFRAID TO COME HOME IN THE DARK'
Sung by Miss MARIE GEORGE.

'SHE SELLS SEA SHELLS.'
Sung by WILKIE BARD.

THE ABSOLUTE HITS AT THE LYCEUM.

'SUE, SUE, SUE' & 'BOMBADIER.'
Sung by Miss DOROTHY CRASKE.

'COME BE MY RAINBOW.'
Sung by Miss ALICE RUSSON

'SHADOWLAND.'
Sung by Miss EVA KELLAND.

THE ABSOLUTE HITS AT THE ADELPHI.

'COME BE MY RAINBOW.'
'JEAN FROM ABERDEEN.'
Sung by Miss PHYLLIS DARE.

'OH! OH! ANTONIO!' & 'MOLLY BAWN'
Sung by FRED LESLIE, Jun.

'I'M AFRAID TO COME HOME IN THE DARK'
AND
'ALICE WHERE ART THOU GOING?'
Sung by Miss MABEL RUSSELL.

'TAKE ME ROUND IN A TAXI-CAB.'
Sung by Miss CARRIE MOORE.
AND
'EVERY FELLOW'S IN LOVE WITH A GIRL.'
Sung by STEPHEN ADESON.

THE PROVINCES FOLLOW THE LEAD OF THE THREE LEADING LONDON PANTOMIMES

'OH! OH! ANTONIO!' 'MY GIRL'S A YORKSHIRE GIRL.'
'SUE, SUE, SUE' and '!'M AFRAID TO COME IN THE DARK' are
THE ABSOLUTE HITS OF THE PROVINCIAL PANTOMIMES.

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER, 142, Charing Cross Rd., London, W.C.

madness, and insuperable folly of a strike. The combine and the agents, although they may not shout so loud, have quite as much brains and capital behind them as the Federation, and if it comes to a fight, God help the poor deluded artists led into it.—Yours faithfully,

FREDERICK CHARCOT.

59, Crowndale-road, London, N.W.

In a communication to his agent Mr. Ian Colquhoun writes:—

"I have to-day written to the V.A.F. and informed them that, after reading the result of the test case in Mr. Justice Darling's Court, I had come to the conclusion that there could be no longer any honourable objection to members of the Variety Artists' Federation paying their commission if they wished to do so, and that I had hastened to my agent's office and paid all commission due up to Sept. 26, as I was only too desirous of paying my debt freely incurred and justly due. Since that date all my commission has been held by the various managers, and I am quite willing to do anything you may direct to enable you to obtain the monies so held."

"LA PETITE BOHEMIENNE."

An Episode, Music by Francis Thomé, produced at the Alhambra on Monday, Jan. 4.

Carita ..... MLLE. LEONORA
Manuel ..... MISS JULIA SEALE
Count Lagrange ..... M. VOLBERT
The Countess ..... MLLE. SALANDRI

La Petite Bohémienne, a pantomimic episode, in which Mlle. Leonora finds a medium for her gifts as a mime, a dancer, and a singer, was produced at the Alhambra on Monday. It will be remembered that this charming girl was pleasingly prominent in the burlesque *Sal-oh-My!* in which her ability and beauty created a most favourable impression. The newer trifle which she illuminates by her versatility and charm reminds one in its story of *La Cigale*, and it is prettily illustrated. We are on the borders of the Austrian Alps in mid-winter; and as the curtain rises the villagers are seen leaving the church after vespers. Manuel and Carita, two strolling minstrels, representatives of picturesque stage vagabondage, are feeling the pinch of poverty and the chilling blight of the frost. Carita, though evidently suffering from exhaustion, sings and attempts to dance, but collapses before the brightly-lit mansion of Count Lagrange, a wealthy artist. Moved with pity for the plight of the young singer and also struck by her beauty, he has her carried into the house, after applying restoratives. Manuel is, however, left outside.

In the second scene, the artist's studio, Carita has been installed as model, and her beauty holds her benefactor in thrall. His protestations of love, however, do not meet with a favourable response. The Countess, too, has watched the growing infatuation of her husband for the dancer. Entering the studio in a rage she destroys some studies, and her attitude determines the fate of Carita, who, on re-entering in her tatters, is handed over to Manuel, after that faithful minstrel has expressed very strong opinions of the Count's conduct.

M. Francis Thomé has written the music, and his well-known melodious grace and power of delicate expression are to be recognised in a most pleasing score, which is beautifully played by the the fine orchestra under Mr. George Byng. Mlle. Leonora interests us all the time in the thorny career of "the little Bohemian," and Miss Julia Seale's art enables her to realise the devotion and chivalry of Manuel. M. Volbert and Mlle. Salandri as the Count and Countess are quite adequate, and the little piece, of which the author remains anonymous, creates a most favourable impression.

Another view of *Paquita* enables one to enjoy in a fuller sense the art of Mlle. Britta, who is surely gaining the hearts of Alhambra patrons by her beauty and grace. Her miming in the prison scene of this beautiful Mauresque ballet shows considerable power, and her dancing, besides its technical excellence, is distinguished by both joyousness and abandon. Miss Julia Seale plays with a distinguished air and considerable significance the part of the love-lorn prince; Signor Rosi is also agreeably prominent; and Miss G. Cormani shares the success of a *pas de deux* with Mlle. Britta.

The Cattaneos contribute to the varieties one of the smartest and funniest acrobatic acts that it has been our pleasure to witness for years. The member of the troupe dressed as a waiter, in addition to being a remarkably fine performer, is a humorist of the first rank. The Max Wessely Troupe have a very pretty set for their juggling act, and the lady of the crowd is not only particularly smart but decidedly handsome, looking particularly neat in her riding habit and very attractive in a second gown of shaded pink satin. Charlene and Charlene, on a return visit, repeat their success.

The powerful mimodrama *The Red Hand* is shown on the screen in a series of fine films, for which the enterprising Messrs. Pathé Frères are responsible. The drama is acted by such artists as M. Severin, undoubtedly the finest pantomimist in the universe, the creator of "'Chand d'Habits"; M. Max Dearly, Mlle. Mistinguette, and Mlle. Napierkowska. The drama is in eleven tableaux, exhibiting the purlieus of Modern Paris, the taverns and supper-rooms of Montmartre, the resorts of the Apaches, and the fashionable restaurants. The music of *The Red Hand*—a shortened version of which, by the way, was seen last year at the Palace Theatre—is by M. Fernand Le Borne, and it is finely played by the orchestra under Mr. George Byng, whose score of *Paquita* is full of suave melody.

THE directors of the new Tivoli, Ltd., have declared an interim dividend for the six months ending Dec. 31, 1908, at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum.

MR. WILL MAY is the merry Buttons in the production of *Cinderella* at the West London, and is playing the part with considerable success, causing much laughter by his funny business.

MISS ROSALINE THORNE has just returned from Folkestone, where she caused quite a furore with her song "Little brown eyes" and her dramatic song "Under the Red Cross." This popular artist is now in town for the season.

DUNNING and Kahn and Kahn return to town on Monday, opening for an eight weeks' run on the Gibbons Circuit and at the Syndicate halls. The tour in the country has been a pronounced success, the new features produced making a decided impression everywhere.

MR. H. A. SIMMONS, the famous roller-skater, finishes the tour of the Crawford Rinks on the 16th, and is open for engagements on the halls. His work at Olympia, Kensington, on the opening week was very much admired. In an attractive act he shows what is possible on rollers.

A VARIETY entertainment will take place at the Queen's Hotel, Leicester-square, at three o'clock p.m., on Tuesday next, for the benefit of the Messina Earthquake Fund. Among those who will contribute to the programme are Miss Elsie Craven, the Fairy Queen from His Majesty's Theatre, supported by her teacher, Mlle. Elise Clerc; Mlle. Leonora, from the Alhambra; Miss Carrie Moore, Mr. Maurice Farkoa, Mr. Arthur Playfair, Mr. John McCormack, and others. Tickets, 1 guinea each, may be had from the Queen's Hotel. The Italian Ambassador will be present.

THE PRIMROSES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Would you kindly permit me to appeal through *The Era* columns to my ever good-hearted brother and sister artists to subscribe just as much as they can afford towards the most distressing case of the Primroses, otherwise known as the Sisters Worth? The details of the recent lawsuit will be fresh in the minds of your readers. Edith Worth will probably never be able to walk again—certainly she will never be able to perform on the stage—while her sister is recovering from an attack of brain fever. To be given £700 one day, and have it taken away a couple of days later—think what that means! Boys and girls, when I have asked you before to aid me in helping those in need and in suffering, right royally have you rallied round and handed over cheques, gold, and silver. I feel justified in asking you now for a case so thoroughly deserving of your sympathy and your subscriptions. I herewith enclose a donation. Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,

JOE ELVIN.

[Subscriptions sent to Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, Hon. Treasurer, at *The Era* Offices, will be duly acknowledged in these columns.]

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

	£	s.	d.
Frank Macnaghten and his Directors	100	0	0
Gus Elen	5	5	0
T. G. Hales	5	0	0
Joe Elvin	2	2	0
Hymack	1	0	0
Percy Maye	0	2	6

Mr. Frank Macnaghten and his directors, recognising the hardship of the above case, have very kindly promised to head the appeal with a generous donation of £100. They also promise a benefit at the Surrey, which should yield another hundred pounds. It is intended that the amount collected for the appeal shall be doled out weekly for the sole benefit of Lily Worth.

HILDA AND BEATRICE, in their refined musical scena, are this week topping the bill at the Brighton Alhambra, where they have won great enthusiasm for their singing and harp selections.

MUCH topical humour has been introduced in Mr. Bolossy Kiralfy's production, *To-Morrow*, at the London Hippodrome, and, together with the beautiful setting of the dances, that fine production continues to be as popular as ever.

MR. JAMES HARE, who recently made such a success with his dramatic episode *The Guilty Man*, has, on the advice of many variety managers, decided to change the title. The sketch will in future be known as *No. 30, Bedwood-square*. The bookings are in the hands of Mr. Will Sley.

MISS MABEL MAVIS

IN CARDIFF.

Miss Mabel Mavis, who is this week a popular attraction at the Cardiff Empire, where her unique genius is enthusiastically appreciated by huge audiences, goes to Swansea Empire next week. Miss Mavis's work belongs to the highest class, for which the Stoll Empires are famous above all others, and it is significant of the success of the educative forces that have been at work in these Empires that artists whose speciality is musical, such as Miss Mavis's act, are accorded

MISS MABEL MAVIS.

the most vociferous applause. Miss Mavis, who is a trained and cultured artist, is a pianist of remarkable ability, and her work on the "glassophone," a musical contrivance new to most audiences, gives evidence of her versatile powers. There is no solcist on the musical glasses who can be compared with her; and all her work is marked by genuine training. Among the various items in her répertoire, she plays the piano with right hand alone, left hand alone, with left hand and sketching with right, playing with the elbows, playing piano, covered, with back to instrument, playing mandoline behind the head, &c. But her glassophone solos are even more remarkable, and in her own sphere she is the finest artist of the day. Personality counts for much on the stage; and Miss Mavis dominates and charms through the indefinable attribute of personality—the gift, if it may so be called, that also so distinguishes Mr. Harry Lauder. The reception accorded Miss Mavis at Cardiff Empire this week shows that the trained musical artist is always popular when he or she knows what the public demand and gives the public his or her best. At Swansea next week, and at Newport on the week following, Miss Mavis will doubtless repeat her remarkable success at Cardiff Empire.—*South Wales Daily News*, Dec. 26, 1908.

PIRATED MUSIC.

AT the Woolwich Police Court on Tuesday Jack Cole, of Anglesea-road, Woolwich, was summoned for having sold and offered for sale a copy of pirated music at a stall in Beresford-square, Woolwich.

Mr. Mulligan prosecuted for the Music Publishers' Association; and Mr. Walton defended.

The facts on which the prosecution relied were that on Nov. 28 a man, acting under instructions from Arthur Preston, chief agent to the association, saw the defendant. On Nov. 30 this man paid to the defendant 10d. (6d. for the "Merry Widow Waltz" and 4d. for "Love me, and the world is mine"). This music (it was said) the defendant promised to have in readiness for delivery on Dec. 5, and, as it was not handed over, the man (Ambrose) addressed a wrapper to himself, in which, on Dec. 8, he received through the post a copy of the latter piece of music.

The summons, as originally drawn, alleged that the offence was committed on Nov. 30, the date of the payment to the defendant, but, on the application of Mr. Mulligan, the magistrate permitted its amendment, the date of the offence being made Dec. 8.

Mr. Walton now submitted that the facts did not disclose a sale, as required by the Act.

The Magistrate: If this music had been legitimate, and the copies were not paid for, would you, if asked to issue a writ, say there was no sale?

Mr. Walton said his view was that to render himself liable the defendant must have the music in his possession.

The Magistrate said there was no doubt that a sale was completed on Dec. 8.

The defendant (who had been fined for a similar offence) was fined £5, with 23s. cost, or one month, the Magistrate observing: "I look upon this as sheer robbery; stealing the brains of another man, and in a very mean way."

THE LORD & LADY MAYORESS OF CARDIFF AT GEORGE LEYTON'S MILITARY NIGHT AT THE CARDIFF EMPIRE.

MILITARY NIGHT AT CARDIFF EMPIRE.

Lord Mayor and the Veterans.

A striking scene was witnessed at the Cardiff Empire last night at the close of the song-scena given by Mr. George Leyton, when the Lord Mayor of Cardiff (Alderman Lewis Morgan) presented to the eight local Crimean and Indian Mutiny veterans who have during the week taken part in the performance a portion of the money obtained by the sale of Mr. Leyton's songs, Mr. Leyton giving the whole of the money thus realised in the various towns he visits to the veterans who assist him in giving a touching and realistic background to his songs. The house had been effectively decorated for the occasion, the stage boxes being covered with Union Jacks, and red, white, and blue streamers overhanging the valiance in the proscenium. The decorations were kindly supplied by Messrs. James Howell and Co. When the Lord and Lady Mayoress arrived, accompanied by the Misses Morgan and the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor J. W. Courtis), they were saluted by the eight veterans, who were drawn up in line. The old soldiers, in red tunics and wearing their medals, were vociferously applauded when they came on the stage. Their ages ranged from 70 to 80. At the end of the turn the Lord Mayor, accompanied by Miss Morgan, Colonel J. J. David, and Mr. C. H. S. Dring (manager of the Empire), went before the footlights. Mr. Dring, in welcoming the Lord and Lady Mayoress, said it was the former's first public appearance in the New Year—(applause)—while the Lady Mayoress was also making her first public appearance after her illness. (Renewed applause.) The Lord Mayor hoped one result of the function would be the creation of a local fund for the assistance of the Crimean and Indian Mutiny veterans. (Applause). The Lord Mayor, who had a splendid reception, remarked, amid laughter, that it was the first time he had appeared before the footlights. He made handsome acknowledgment of the kindly thought of Mr. Leyton, and of the splendid work he had done in assisting the veterans, his efforts having produced a sum of no less than £3,400 for the relief of these old heroes in various parts of the country. (Applause.) He then spoke of the splendid services the latter had rendered to their country and of the claims they had upon the sympathy and help of those who were more fortunately circumstanced. A great deal of injustice under which the veterans suffered was due to thoughtlessness, and not to any disinclination to help them. The movement inaugurated by Mr. Leyton deserved every support and sympathy. (Applause.) The Lord Mayor presented a five-shilling piece to each veteran as "an earnest of what he had received at the second performance on Saturday night, when the week's programme ended." Another pleasing ceremony was then witnessed, Miss Morgan handing to each veteran a quarter of a pound tin of tobacco and a churchwarden pipe, the gift of Mr. George Chamberlain, of the Victoria Hotel. Mr. Leyton having briefly thanked the Lord and Lady Mayoress and the audience, the veterans marched off the stage amid ringing cheers.—South Wales Daily News, Jan. 2.

CARDIFF EMPIRE AND THE VETERANS.

A "MILITARY NIGHT" IN AID TO-NIGHT.

There are still among us many Crimean and Indian Mutiny veterans, and at this festive season of the year it is pleasing to note that some thing is being done to comfort them in the fast-fleeting days of their life by providing them with money beyond their well-earned pensions, by which they will be able to obtain very many little necessaries now beyond their reach. In aid of such funds there will be a "military night" at the second performance of the Cardiff Empire to-night (Friday), to which the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress (Alderman Lewis Morgan and Mrs. Morgan), Colonel Gaskell, Colonel J. J. David, Major Prothero, Major William Sheen, Major Caple, and officers of the local Territorials have given their patronage. At this performance Mr. George Leyton will present his military scena, "The Last Muster," in which nine of Cardiff's veterans will appear, and then the artist's collection of songs will be sold—as at all other Empire performances during the week—and the proceeds handed over to the Veterans' Fund. In all Mr. Leyton has collected in this way £3,418 odd, and has been thanked for his efforts by Lord Roberts, Lieut.-General Sir James Hills-Johnes, and other famous military officers.

The veterans to appear will be:—

R. Butler (aged 76), 1st Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers.
W. Wade (73), Wiltshire Regiment.
N. Randall (72), 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers.
C. Giles (76), Royal Marines.
T. Vaughan (72), 1st Battalion Welsh Fusiliers.
James Newbury (76), 16th Lancers.
E. Price (78), 10th Hussars.
D. Howells (75), 1st Bengal Fusiliers.
James O'Brien (73), Royal Welsh Fusiliers.
—Western Mail, Jan. 1.

CARDIFF VETERANS.

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE AT THE EMPIRE.

With the view of assisting the fund promoted in aid of local Crimean and Indian Mutiny veterans, a special military performance was given at the Cardiff Empire on Friday evening by Mr. George Leyton, under the patronage of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Cardiff, Major Protheroe, Colonel Gaskell, Colonel J. J. David, Major William Sheen, and Major Caple. The house was crowded, and the gathering was a huge success. On the arrival of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress the veterans formed a guard of honour in front of the Empire, and Mr. George Leyton presented to the Lady Mayoress a bouquet of violets and red and white tulips, forming the national colours, red, white, and blue. At the close of the performance there was a scene of great enthusiasm, eight of the veterans being lined up with the Lord Mayor and his daughter, Miss Morgan, Colonel David, the deputy-mayor (Mr. J. W. Courtis), Mr. Leyton, and Mr. C. H. S. Dring. The Lord Mayor, after being introduced by Mr. Dring, said that it was a pleasure to him to give whatever help he could to such a deserving cause, and he hoped that Mr. Leyton would carry on the good work he had inaugurated. They were all gratified to know that Mr. Leyton had contributed no less a sum than £3,418 to the Veterans' Fund, exclusively of what had been collected during the present week. Mr. Leyton made an acknowledgment of the kind remarks of the Lord Mayor, and said that what he had undertaken was a duty of honour which he meant to continue. It was an encouragement to him to know that his efforts had received the recognition of men like Lord Roberts and Sir James Hills-Johnes. The Lord Mayor afterwards presented to each of the veterans a sum of money, and his daughter (Miss Morgan) handed to each a tin of tobacco and a pipe, the gift of Mr. George Chamberlain.—Western Mail, Jan. 2.

FELDMAN'S

ARTISTS WHO ARE SINGING FELDMAN'S SONGS IN PANTOMIME.

LONDON DISTRICT.

MISS HANID ALEXANDER.
MISS PRUDENCE AYRTON.
MISS FLORENCE BRAY.
MISS LENA BRICKWELL.
MISS BESSIE BUTT.
MISS VENIE CLEMENTS.
MISS KITTY CLINTON.
MISS ENA CORELLI.
MISS ROSE COSTA.
MISS MARIE DAINTON.
MISS KITTY DOUGLAS.
MISS MAUD ESMOND.
MISS QUEENIE ESSEX.
MISS DOROTHY FIRMIN.
MISS LYDIA FLOPP.
HAL FORD.
MISS MAUDIE FRANCIS.
FERGUSON AND MACK.
MISS FIFI GORDON.
MISS DOROTHY GRASSDORFF.
MISS NANCY HEARNE.
BABY HUTT.
MISS CONSTANCE HYEM.
MISS EDITH JEFFERIES.
MISS QUEENIE LEIGHTON.
MISS ADDIE LENNARD.
EDWARD LEWIS.
MISS CARRIE MOORE.
MISS EDNA MORGAN.
SISTERS MORGAN.
MISS MADOLINE REES.
MISS LILLIAN ROSE.
MISS DOROTHY RUNDELL.
SYDNEY RUSSELL.
MISS LOTTIE SARGENT.
MISS MAIDIE SCOTT.
MISS TRULY SHATTUCK.
ARTHUR STIGENT.
MISS AGNES TANDY.
MISS LULU VALLI.
MISS LENA VERDI.
MISS ETHEL WARD.
MISS WINIFRED WARD.
E. HARVEY WHITE.
MISS MARIE WILTON.

BELFAST.
MISS DECIMA BROOKE.
MISS EDITH FINK.
GEORGE LASHWOOD.
GEORGE MILLER.
MISS DOROTHY WARD.

BIRMINGHAM.
MISS SYBIL ARUNDALE.
FRANK BLYTHE.
G. H. ELLIOTT.
MISS RITA EVERARD.
MISS HETTIE KING.
MISS ETHEL NEGRETTI.
MISS CLARA REID.
ARTHUR REYNOLDS.
MISS IVEY ROSE.
MISS JOYCE STEVENS.
MISS ELLALINE THORNE.

BRIGHTON.
EDWIN GARTH.
MISS GERTRUDE GILLIAM.
MISS BLANCHE MARION.

BRADFORD.
MISS FLORRIE FORDE.
CHARLES NORTON.
MISS VERA VERE.
MISS WINIFRED WYNDHAM.

BRISTOL.
MISS VIOLET GILLIS.
MISS OUIDA MACDERMOTT.
MISS DEBORAH VOLAR.

CARDIFF.
MISS MARIE BURDELL.
MISS NELLIE LUNELLE.
MISS MOYA MANNERING.
MISS IDA STATHAMS.

CROYDON.
MISS GEORGINA DELMAR.
MISS GLADYS WARREN.

DUBLIN.
BARNEY ARMSTRONG.
J. J. DALLAS.
MISS KATHLEEN GRAY.

DUNDEE.
MISS ROSIE BARTLETT.
MISS MAY CARTER.
MISS HETTIE LIND.
MISS AMY RANDOLPH.

EDINBURGH.
MISS MENA BRAE.
WILL EVANS.
MISS JANE EYRE.
MISS MINNIE OLIVE.

EXETER.
MISS VIOLET HOLLEM.
MISS EDITH HOUSLEY.

GLASGOW.
MISS DECIMA BROOKE.
WHIT CUNLIFFE.
HARRY DENT.
MISS IRIS HOEY.
MISS VIOLET LORAINE.
SAM MORRIS.
MISS ELLA RETFORD.
GEORGE ROBEY.
FRED RUSSELL.

HANLEY.
DOUGLAS CAMPBELL.
MISS LOLA PATEY.
MISS MARGARET RUBY.

LEEDS.
MARTIN ADESON.
MISS NELL EMERALD.
MISS LILLIE SOUTTER.

LIVERPOOL.
BOBBIE ALLANDALE.
MISS MABEL GREEN.
MISS FLORENCE IMESON.
MISS LILY MORRIS.
ARTHUR RIGBY.

MANCHESTER.
MISS MAY BEATTIE.
MISS IVY GALLARD.
MISS PEGGY McDONNELL.
MISS LIZZIE PAYNE.
GEORGE WOOD.

NEWCASTLE.
MISS LILY IRIS.
MISS VIOLET LLOYD.

NOTTINGHAM.
MISS MABEL CARR.
MISS CRESSIE LEONARD.
MISS MADGE VINCENT.

PAISLEY.
MISS MOYNA HILL.
MISS DAISY MORRELL.
MISS KATE YATES.

PLYMOUTH.
MISS LUCIE CAINE.
MISS MAISIE ELLINGER.
ALF. E. PASSMORE.

PORTSMOUTH.
MISS CONNIE LEON.
MISS MAUDE MORTIMER.

SHEFFIELD.
MISS MAY MARS.
MISS NANCY THORNTON.

OTHER PROVINCIAL TOWNS.

MISS OLIVE ASTOR.
MISS MADGE BROWNE.
MISS DOT CAREY.
MISS NINA CARLTON.
MISS GLADYS CHRISTIE.
MISS MAY DE LA GRANGE.
MISS ETHEL DURNFORD.
HARRY EDLIN.
MISS RAY FORD.
MISS MARIE JERRARD.
MISS MINA GREEN.
MISS NORA GUY.
MISS MOLLIE HACKETT.
MISS MAUD HERSEE.
MISS FLORENCE HILTON.
MISS HEDDA HIRLEMANN.
MISS MARY HOPE.
MISS ZONA JOY.
LITTLE KEENO.
MISS GERTIE LENO.
ARTHUR LENVILLE.
MISS LOUIE LOVE.
MISS CYNTHIA LUPINO.
MISS JENNY LYNWOOD.
MISS LALLAH MELROSE.
MISS NELLIE MERTON.
MISS MAUD PRENTON.
MISS ETHEL RA LESLIE.
MISS RENA REES.
MISS MARIE REEVE.
MISS NORA RITERIO.
MISS CHRISTINE ROY.
MISS LILLIE STORRIE.
MISS LENA STANTON.
MISS JESSIE WILTON.
MISS FLORENCE WIX.

B. FELDMAN & CO.,

2 & 3, ARTHUR STREET, W.C.

Telegrams, "Humfriv, London." Telephone, No. 4447 Gerrard.

INVENTIONS.

[The particulars furnished below of recent applications for patents are taken from the official records. Correspondence is invited with our readers on all matters relating to new ideas and inventions, with a view to affording them advice and assistance. Letters should be addressed to the Manager, Inventions Department, "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London.]

Inventors and others who have no business representative are invited to communicate with the Manager of the Inventions Dept. as above.

APPLICATIONS.

27,716.—George W. Russell, of Eastbourne. Improvements in roller skates.

27,717.—Francis Alexander Thomassin, of London. New improved indicating device for establishing synchronous running of cinematographs and gramophones or the like.

27,765.—John Henry Faulkner, of London. Improvements in or relating to target-practice apparatus.

27,766.—Cecil Milton Hepworth, of London. Improvements in or relating to apparatus for use in synchronously operating combined cinematographs and gramophones or the like.

27,790.—Société Anonyme La Photographie des Couleurs, of London. Photographic objective allowing several images of the same object to be produced.

27,793.—Société Anonyme La Photographie des Couleurs, Joseph Sury, and Edmond Bastyns, of London. A photographic objective of triangular prismatic form, allowing several images of the same object to be produced simultaneously.

27,884.—Frederic Denham and the Advertising Concessions (Parent) Company, of London. Game and means of playing the same.

27,957.—Edward George Handel Lucas, of Croydon, Surrey. Improved process of treating photographic sensitised gelatine films or ordinary gelatino bromide prints for reproducing any photographic image.

28,039.—John Edward Cooper, of Stockton-on-Tees. Improved stairway for the purposes of recreation and amusement.

28,111.—Henry Ansel Hannum and Ralph Charles Hannum, of London. Emergency exit door locks.

28,118.—George Herbert Ward and John Roger Ward, of Liverpool. Improved method of, and means for, operating theatrical curtains, cloths, and the like.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS ACCEPTED.

6983.—Robson. Optical lanterns used in connection with cinematographic displays.

11,446.—De Bernochi. Method of, and means for, transmitting pictures and the like from a distance.

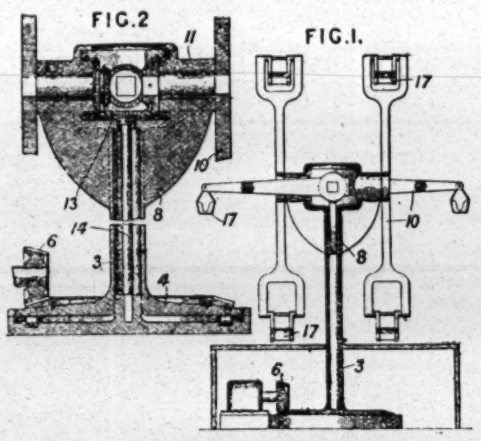
22,333.—Jirotka. Game apparatus.

22,415.—De Proszynski. Pneumatic apparatus for effecting the synchronisation of a cinematograph and a phonograph.

ABRIDGMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

17,873—Roundabouts. Winnett, J. S., and Boerth, H. J., both of Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A.

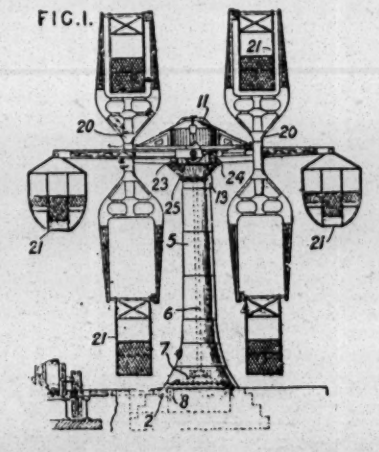
A hollow post (3) has its lower end formed as a disc (4), and its upper end formed as a bracket



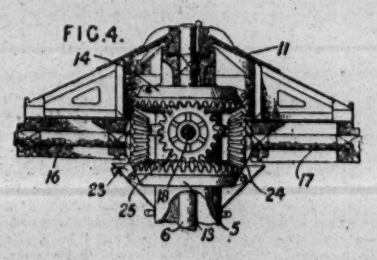
(8), which provides bearings for shafts (11). To the inner ends of the shafts are secured bevel-wheels, which gear with a bevel-wheel (13) secured to the top of a fixed post (14). Cars (17) are pivoted to bifurcations at the end of arms (10), which are secured to the outer ends of the shafts (11). When the post (3) is rotated by the driving-gear (6), the arms (10) are caused to revolve, the neighbouring arm having opposite motions about the horizontal arms.

17,874.—Roundabouts. Winnett, J. S., and Boerth, H. J., both of Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A.

An amusement device consisting of a tubular column (5), which serves as a support for a re-



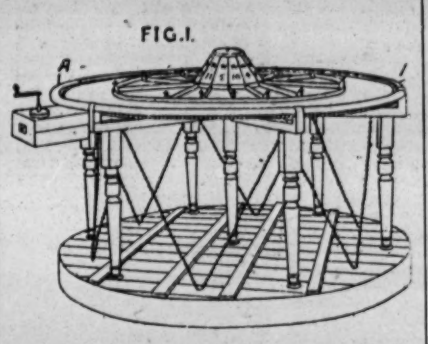
volving frame (11) keyed to a driving-shaft (6). The frame is provided with bearings for shafts 16, 17, 18, which are secured at their outer ends to revolving frames (20) carrying cars (21). The inner ends of the shafts are keyed to bevel-wheels (23, 24, 25, respectively), which gear with bevel-wheels (13, 14) bolted to the tubular support. The



shaft (6), when driven from a shaft (2) by means of bevel-wheels (7, 8), imparts to the cars a motion which is the resultant of a rotation about the column and a revolution about the shafts.

17,925.—Games. Martin, E., of Southend-on-Sea, Essex.

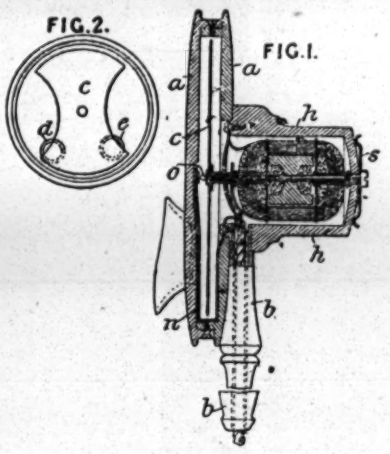
A game for several persons is played on a revolving disc or table (A), which is operated by hand or other means. Upon the table are placed weighted cones, which are rounded off at the base and are provided with rings secured to the vertices. The object of the game is to pass a rod through the ring attached to a cone. In consequence of the rounded base, a cone at once erects



itself when knocked over by a fruitless stab. A prize may be placed in a division of the revolving table.

17,955.—Stereoscopic optical projection apparatus. Topp, M. M., of Odense, Denmark.

A hand appliance for the observation of the pairs of images necessary for stereoscopic vision thrown in quick succession upon the same screen, as by a cinematograph, consists of a rotating shutter driven synchronously with the projection apparatus to expose the eyes momentarily and in succession for the purpose of limiting the vision of each one to the appropriate series of alternate



views. The device consists of a frame (*a*) provided with a handle (*b*), eye-openings (*d*, *e*), and a screen (*c*), rotated in front of these openings synchronously with the shutter of the projector by means of an electro-motor carried in the device. The dull, almost opaque screen (*c*) increases in thickness towards the periphery, and is directly connected to the shaft of the motor. The armature and the field winding are fed through wires placed in the handle (*b*). Perfect synchronism may be obtained by turning the whole motor on its bearings in the rear wall of the casing (*h*) by means of a spring (*s*), which slides upon the back wall of the casing. Friction is minimised by having a tapering pivot of conducting material (*o*), rotating on a bearing in the spring (*n*), which is connected to one of the wires, the rotary pin being connected to one end of the armature winding.

THEATRICAL ENTERPRISE.

L. A. THOMPSON SCENIC RAILWAYS, CONTINENTAL.—Dec. 10. £100,000 (£1). To acquire, by licence or otherwise, from J. H. Iles, or others, the right to erect and exhibit on the Continent L. A. Thompson's Scenic Railways, to acquire leases or concessions of sites in Paris, Vienna, Cologne, or elsewhere, &c. The signatories are: W. D. Cooper, 31, Crossfield-road, West Green, N.; G. H. Latter, 43, Ambler-road, Finsbury Park, N.; E. J. Ford, 7, Tyndale-terrace, N.; R. W. Ednie, Craven House, Kingsway, W.C.; H. Whiteley, 92, Audley-road, Hendon, N.W.; W. Snelgrove, 1, Oxford-road, Sidcup; W. S. Pearce, 210, Strand, W.C. (one share each). Minimum cash subscription, 10 per cent. of the shares offered to the public. First directors (not less than three nor more than seven): J. H. Iles, 210, Strand, W.C.; A. J. Mason, 135-137, New Bond-street, W.; G. W. Paton, Grove Hall, Woodford, N.E.; G. W. F. Reed, 135-137, New Bond-street, W.; and W. S. Pearce. Qualification, £250. Remuneration (exclusive of managing director's salary), £300 per annum and a percentage of the profits, divisible. 210, Strand, W.C. (100,619.)

HIPPODROME (DURHAM).—Dec. 14. £5,000 (£5). As title. Private. Erimus Chambers, Middlesbrough. (100,672.)

THEATRES.—Dec. 10. £500 (£1). As title. Private. 40, Britannia-square, Worcester. (100,628.)

PROVINCIAL ELECTRIC THEATRES.—Dec. 11. £20,000 (£1). Cinematograph entertainers, &c. Agreement with R. G. Hill and J. J. Bamberger. Private. 20, Bedford-street, W.C. (100,640.)

TOURNAMENT HALL SKATING RINK COMPANY.—Dec. 10. £12,000 (£1). To take over the roller skating rink carried on at Tournament Hall, Edge-lane, Liverpool. Agreement with the Samuel Skate Manufacturing Company and C. P. Crawford. Minimum cash subscription, seven shares. (100,630.)

TO STAGE MACHINISTS AND ELECTRICIANS. — The Manager will be pleased to receive particulars of any new stage appliances or ideas for same for illustration in this column.

Can You Invent?—Do you wish to know of prizes offered to inventors valued at £10,000, £5,300, £5,000, £4,000, £1,000, £400, £300, £200, £100, and £50? If so, then get a copy of *Patents and Designs*, a newspaper called into existence by Mr. Lloyd George's Patents and Designs Act, 1907, which lately came into operation. *Patents and Designs*, price 2d., can be had at all bookstalls, newsagents', and at the Publishing Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MR. CHARLES COBORN, who is this week delighting large audiences at the Empire, Dublin, has been obliged to forgo several important concert engagements in London owing to extended bookings in the provinces. His numerous Irish admirers are complaining of the infrequency of his visits to the Sister Isle, and the Press, as usual, are loud in their praises of his performances.

SACCO, whose full name is Guiseppe Sacco-Homann, the fasting man, on Monday commenced a forty-five days' fast in the King Edward Hall, Hanley, under the management of Messrs. Moore and Kennedy. He is an Austrian, forty-two years of age, and for sixteen years has undertaken fasting exhibitions in all the European countries. His record is 52 days at the King's Hall, Birmingham.

SOME excitement was caused late on Tuesday night, during the second performance at the Woolwich Hippodrome, by the sudden failure of the electric light, owing to the earthing of the current. The hall was plunged in darkness, but the orchestra at once struck up a lively air, which had a calming effect on the audience, and when the large central gas burner was turned on confidence was restored.

NEW YEAR'S COLLECTION FOR THE MUSIC HALL HOME.

In again directing the attention of our readers to *The Era* New Year's Shilling Fund on behalf of the Music Hall Home we are in the happy position of being able to associate with the appeal thus being made the name of the foremost music hall comedienne—Miss Marie Lloyd. It seems scarcely necessary to remind our readers of the deep interest Miss Lloyd has ever taken in matters affecting the welfare of her brothers and sisters of the variety profession. It is her desire that her "year" will be marked by a considerable increase in the subscriptions of previous years, and she therefore, through *The Era*, commends the Music Hall Home to the charitably-minded. Mr. Thomas Barrasford, the President of the Fund, is again this year exerting himself in its behalf, and this fact is sufficient indication that he is satisfied as to the way in which the institution is being conducted, and that he considers it worthy of support.

[*Photo by Sarony.*

MISS MARIE LLOYD,
The Fair Worker for the Home.

Mr. Ben Woodger, the secretary of the Music Hall Home, tells us that in 1907 the inmates averaged ten, but that in 1908 there have been as many as twelve. The address of the Home is 31, Wilson-road, Camberwell, and there the matron (Mrs. Fruin) busies herself for the comfort and convenience of her "family." At present there are eleven of these, and the desire is to increase the number, which can only be done when sufficient funds for the purpose are collected. During the past twelve months three or four of the inmates have recovered their health and strength sufficiently to enable them to look for engagements. These secured, they left the Home, and the vacancies thereby created were immediately filled up. Now, this Home requires keeping up, and it cannot be kept up on air. There is no need for us to refer to all the good work which has been performed by the institution in the past, as that must for the most part be within the recollection of our readers. The ages of the inmates range from fifty to seventy-six. In all probability these men will be maintained in the Home until the day of their death, and their funeral expenses paid for out of the funds of the Home.

The Era New Year's Shilling Fund is the main source of income to the Home, and this means of sustenance is added to by the donations of artists, either given directly, or through the collecting boxes through which many managers of variety theatres collect pennies from "dead-heads" and from artists who desire free admission.

Anyone can be supplied with a collecting-card by sending a postcard to Mr. Woodger.

Briefly, we may once more repeat that the objects of the Music Hall Home Fund are to provide shelter for deserving members of the variety profession who have been stricken with poverty or illness in their declining years, or who have in other ways fallen on evil times. Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, the hon. treasurer, will be pleased to receive filled-up collecting cards addressed to him at *The Era*, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C., and to acknowledge them in these columns.

MR. THOMAS BARRASFORD,
President of the Home.

FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	Shillings.
Joe Elvin, per Marie Lloyd	105
Marie Lloyd	63
Bert Williams	30
Jack Woolf	30
Leoni Clarke	21
Gus Elen	21
Mr. Hymack	20
O. M. Dayton	10
E.	5

PRICE & REYNOLDS'

SIX PANTOMIME "HITS."

"MAIDIE and HER LITTLE TEDDY BEAR."
"RUN AWAY FROM OLD MAN GOBLIN."
"THE PIXY AND THE IRIS."
"MR. GOLLYWOG, GOOD NIGHT."
"IF THE WORLD WERE MINE TO GIVE."
"FUNNIOSITIES."

PRICE & REYNOLDS, 41, BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W.

Collected by Horace Wheatley, £2 10s.

Horace Wheatley	40	Grandma	1
T. Wheatley, jun.	1	Auntie	1
Kathleen Wheatley	1	Mack W. (the dog)	1
Norah Wheatley	1	Ernest Powell	1
Eileen Wheatley	1	Will Vay	1
H. Wheatley, jun.	1		

Collected by the Musical Johnstons, 5s.

Dorothy Drew Johnston	1	J. A. Johnston	1
A. E. Johnston	1	Dave Carter	1
F. Johnston	1	Fred Ralph	1

Collected by The Maples, 10s.

Fred Maple	1	Dusty Rhodes	1
Amy Maple	1	Joe Tennyson	1
Edward Lauri	1	Bates Maddison	1
May Beatty	1	W. H. Wallis	1
Cissie Lauri	1	Ben Brown	1

Collected by Dave Carter, £1 10s.

Dave Carter	1	Al. Johnston	1
He of the Topnote	1	W. Ellwanger	1
He of the Topnote	1	J. J. Harvey	1
He of the Topnote	1	Dan Conroy	1
He of the Topnote	1	Bowker Andrews	1
James Shewart	1	J. W. Wilson	1
James Mooney	1	W. H. McCarthy	1
Percy Haley	1	Young Dave Garrick	1
Master May	1	Lancelot B. Andrews	1
Fred Morley	1	Geo. Hughes	1
Alf. Ripon	1	Doc. Robertson	1
Sammy Shields	1	Baby Robertson	1
W. F. Heeley	1	D. J. Pigott	1
B. C. Meely	1	Will Oliver	1
Rose Elliott	1	Morny Cash	1

Collected by Three Sisters Lee, £2 0s. 6d.

E. F. Murray	2½	E. Pender Cudlip	1
Fred Ginnett	2	J. Morgan	1
Reg. Beauchamp	2	George Narow	1
M. Arnold	1	Herbert Mack	1
A.	1	Jas. E. Donegan	1
W. Murray	1	Jim Dunedin	1
Thomas Lee	1	George French	1
Mina Lee	1	Gent Lotto	1
Jeanette Lee	1	Syd Pete	1
Leonie Dixon	1	T. C. Downie	1
Marie Empress	1	Schus	1
Sue Lewis	1	Ned	1
Jas. W. Dixon	1	Three Orleans	1
R. A. Johnson	1	Reg Bolton	1
Ernie Warsaw	1	H. Finden	1
R. H. Douglas	1	Hanvarr	1
Mrs. Dent	1	Hanvarr, jun.	1
W. W. Walton	1	Anna Lee	1
Harry Curry	1		

Collected by Sisters Ford, 3s.

Cissie Ford	1	Jack Hayworth	1
Emmie Ford	1	Walter Williams	1
John Simms	1	Frand Leidam	1
George Rapley	1	W. Richardson	1
Colibris Midgets	1	Joe Athos	1
Colibris Midgets	1	John Trowel	1
P. E. Edmond	1	Hectors	1
Arthur Woodville	1	Thorpe and Co.	1
Horace Pollock	1	Rastus and Banks	1
M. Simms	1	Mrs. Haley	1
Hughie Rostron	1	Milner and Storey	1
Little Innocence	1	Jimmy and Fanny	1
Earl of Dudley	1	Raven Wood	1
Cecile Eldred	1	Vivienne Bell	1
Sam J. Downing	1	W. M., Friend	1

Collected by Jimmy Shields, £1 15s.

Johnson and Bert	2	Monty Walker	1
Billy Williams	1	J. E. Wilkes	1
Jimmy Shields	1	Floradoras	1
Edward Rowland	1	Mr. J. Burslam	1
George Shields	1	Arthur Royce	1
Sam Thomson	1	Margaret Drew	1
Harrison Brookbank	1	Beatie and Babs	1
Dolly Ross	1	Frank Coyle	1
Ernest Krake	1	Friend	1
Fred J. Hudson	1	Pal	1
George Edney	1	S. F.	1
Mr. and Mrs. Will Pettitt	1	Tom Joy	1
Ernest Dillon	1	Henry Herne	1
Percy Farrimond	1	Leonard Fisher	1
Evelyn and Norrie	1	Will S.	1
George Cooper	1	Sam B	1
J. W. Hall	1	Devonshire, Barnsley	1

ALEXANDRA PALACE.

The looked-for pantomime in the theatre has given place this year to an exhibition of living pictures, entitled Cinderella, including a harlequinade, with other films, by that noted firm Pathé Frères. In addition, a variety entertainment, consisting of Arthur Thomas, musical clown; A. J. Hill, the living Lilliputian; Kenneth Hardy, ventriloquist; and Mlle. Neville, with illustrated songs. There were two shows on Boxing Day.

The Central Hall was transformed into a well-arranged circus, under the direction of Mr. Austin Fryers, of Hengler's Circus fame. The equestrian acts were all that could be desired, the evolutions of Little Reggie and his pony calling for special commendation. Messrs. Tom and Robert Fossett were met with well-earnt approval for their daring and intrepid performances. Charleroi, the juggler, Henry Spink, gymnast, and Mlle. Emme were each and all successful in their particular lines of business. The comic element was well sustained by Comical Cooke and Garfold, whose untiring efforts to amuse were never lacking. A huge elephant, rejoicing in the name of Punka, was one whose education had been by no means neglected. The Three Flying Arenuses on bar and trapeze were also flatteringly received; whilst Mme. Otto on a rolling globe and serpentine dance, with Mlle. Neville and her donkey, Vesuvius, made up a well-arranged programme. The last-named caused considerable amusement through the inability of anyone riding it, and earning the promised reward of ten golden sovereigns.

The circus gave four shows on Boxing Day, and with fresh features in its bill of fare will probably gain even greater notoriety.

MR. M. V. LEVEAUX has been appointed by the directors of the Empire the Press representative for that house.

CLAUDE DUVAL.

Sketch, in Three Scenes, by Fred Ginnett and Wal Pink, produced at the Opera House, Tunbridge Wells, on Monday, Jan. 4.

Claude Duval ..... MR. ARTHUR MAX
Lord Leicester ..... MR. HARRY CALVER
Silas Dedgold ..... MR. GEORGE HAMMOND
Fritz Van Blickenhausen ..... MR. JACK COLLINSON
Polly ..... MISS VICTORIA DOUGLAS
Lady Doris ..... MISS RAY HEYDEN

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Claude Duval has several times been the hero of stage entertainment, notably in the libretto of the late Edward Solomon's opera of that name; and Messrs. Ginnett and Pink have made picturesque use of the highwayman's memory. The first scene is an old-fashioned wayside inn. The Windsor coach arrives, and Duval robs a Dutch passenger while paying compliments to his wife. On Hounslow Heath Duval stops the coach, and robs my Lord Leicester, and returns his valuables on learning that he is the King's Messenger. The highwayman also dances a minuet with Lady Doris. In the third scene Duval is betrayed by a treacherous innkeeper, but Lady Doris arrives with the King's pardon, and the highwayman is saved from the gallows. The part of Claude Duval had a strong and spirited exponent in Mr. Arthur Max, who gave a graceful and gallant rendering of the rôle. Mr. Harry Calver was capital as Lord Leicester. Mr. George Hammond contributes a good character study as the Innkeeper, and Mr. Jack Collinson's Fritz Van Blickenhausen was very funny. Miss Victoria Douglas as Polly was pretty and lively, and Miss Ray Heyden dances very nicely, and was a charming Lady Doris. The sketch had every advantage in the way of scenery and accessories, and a trained horse did some clever tricks, which were ingeniously introduced.

A STRONG attraction at the Bedford this week is Buster Brown, the roller-skate expert, in his trick and comedy skating. A competition among amateurs has been initiated, and prizes were to be presented to the winners last evening.

MR. ARCHIE GOODALL, the well-known International football player, has been secured by Mr. Oswald Stoll for the Empire, Birmingham, in his feat of "walking the hoop," an acrobatic display without the aid of hands. The act will be at the Grand Theatre, Derby, next week.

LA MILO triumphs are becoming daily occurrences, as was evidenced at Coventry recently. Setting out from London in a luxurious white car gaily decorated with flowers and festive with ribbons, she made for Birmingham, where, after successive enthusiastic welcomes en route, she was the centre of most expressive appreciation. On her way to the Grand Hotel she became the centre of enthusiastic excitement, and crowds soon gathered to give her a real English welcome.

LA MILO then motored to Coventry, and made straight for the King's Head Hotel. Here Coventry proved its loyalty to its Lady Godiva, cheer after cheer greeting her, and ere she had the opportunity to alight from her car she was surrounded by enthusiastic admirers, who, having commandeered a two-horse brougham which stood near, requested her to step into it. On her having done so, the horses were at once taken out, and La Milo found herself being drawn through the city, again its idol and again in triumph.

MR. ELI HUDSON and Madame Olga and Mlle. Elgar, who are accomplished musicians, came to the Coliseum on Monday. Mr. Hudson is A.R.C.M. and late professor Royal Military School of Music. He commenced the study of the flute and piccolo at the age of five under his father, and appeared in public at the age of seven, causing a great sensation as a prodigy. He gained an open free scholarship at the Royal College of Music, distinguishing himself greatly during his three years there. At the end he won the Associateship and secured for himself the reputation of the premier English flautist.

MADAME OLGA is a lady with a remarkable and well-trained soprano voice. She gained the same scholarship at the Royal College of Music as Madame Clara Butt, and was chosen by the College to take principal part in the three operas publicly produced while she was there. She has a répertoire of fourteen operas. Mlle. Elgar is a young lady of fifteen years, and is acknowledged to be the finest girl piccolo player in the world.

THE principal attraction at the Peckham Hippodrome this week is Mr. John F. Preston's popular racing sketch, *A Ride to Win*, in which Mr. Preston and Miss Mabel Barlow appear with great success, supported by an excellent company. The mounting is very effective, and three thoroughbred racehorses appear upon the stage in the final scene at Sandown Park. William Lee and company appear with success in an emotional sketch, *King's Counsel*; the Borghetti Troupe are loudly applauded for their wonderful head-balancing act; the Ansonia Trio of acrobats are much appreciated in their clever entertainment; while Cyrus Dare scores well with his unique imitations of childlife in various phases. Other turns are the Brothers Werda (eccentric acrobats), Fraser and French, Rudge Whitworth, Beattie Rennie, Will Probyns, Brooklyn Comedy Four, and Ruffell's Bioscope.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

Oldham Seeks a Monopoly of Fairs.

MR. T. HURST, hon. secretary Showmen's Guild, has obtained a copy of a new Improvement Bill promoted by the Corporation of Oldham. The Bill contains additional powers clauses of a most drastic character. One object sought is of the utmost importance to showmen. It proposes to make it an offence to hold a fair within the borough without the consent and licence of the Council. The penalty for infringement is put at £50 for the first offence, and £10 a day for continuing the offence. This is a matter of serious moment to the whole body of Lancashire showmen. Oldham, like most populous towns, is fast absorbing the surrounding villages; in fact, the villages form part of the borough for local government purposes. Inside the wide borough boundaries there are ten local or suburban wakes. These local wakes are as ancient in origin and as popular in their hold on the public as the great Oldham Wakes itself.

THE executive of the Showmen's Guild is taking immediate steps to bring before the Mayor and Corporation of Oldham the far-reaching character of the additional powers they are seeking. If friendly overtures fail, the Guild will oppose the Bill in Parliament. The Guild spent £500 ten years ago to defeat similar proposals by the Corporation of Halifax, and two years later prevailed upon the Corporation of Rotherham to drop similar clauses from the Rotherham Bill.

Free Trade in Fairs.

EXCEPT and only where monopoly rights in fairs exist by ancient Royal grant or charter, the organised showmen have been successful in maintaining the important principle of free trade in fairs. Whilst the showmen are compelled to submit to monopoly covered by charter, they have opposed (and have invariably been successful in their opposition) all attempts to obtain such exclusive and restrictive powers by Private Bill legislation

The Local Showmen at Work.

INSTRUCTED by Mr. Hurst, Messrs. J. H. Geoghegan and J. Platt, Oldham showmen, attended the town's meeting, and protested against the clauses penalising show business. The Bill, despite vigorous opposition by the allied local interests threatened, was approved by the statutory majority, and now goes to Parliament. The Guild executive will have this extremely grave matter before them at the Manchester meeting next Wednesday.

MEMBERS enrolled for 1909.—Mr. T. Burgin and Mr. H. Studt. Mitcham Fund, Mr. Saunders, £1. Subscription, 1909, Mr. J. Ravenscroft, 10s.

Guild Services at the World's Fair.

WITH the co-operation of the lessee, Mr. T. E. Read, the Guild Chaplain is holding services for showpeople at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, every Sunday of the World's Fair. The long committee-room, in the Barford-street entrance-hall, next to the children's school, has been fitted up as a chapel for the showfolk and their friends. The Guild Chaplain began his work last Sunday, and although the service was not widely announced, the opening night was fairly successful as to numbers, and very encouraging in its promise of growth and popularity.

THE Chaplain was assisted by Miss Turner, who kindly accompanied the service at the harmonium, and also sang with great acceptance Liddle's beautiful setting of "Abide with me," and Messrs. Frank Turner and Plinston Brothers acted as churchwardens.

The Guild Chaplain's "At Home."

EVERY Sunday night, from 7 to 9.30 p.m., the Rev. T. Horne will be "at home" in the Guild Chapel to welcome all showpeople. He hopes that his many London friends will pay him a friendly call. The Guild service will begin at 8, and last about 40 minutes. Those visitors who do not wish to join in the Guild service may visit their friends in the caravans, and if so disposed may return for the last three-quarters of an hour, and resume their friendly intercourse with the Chaplain and fellow Guild members. Coffee and cigarettes at 9.

Why Not a Showmen's Club?

HERE'S the idea, and it only needs working out. Why not meet for mutual benefit every Sunday night at the World's Fair? The showman and the showwoman will be all the better men and women for such comradeship. Then accept the Chaplain's advice, and fraternise at the oldest and the greatest centre of showlife in winter quarters in the world, the World's Fair at Islington. Olympia and Earl's Court should join in this common centre of neighbouring on the Sunday nights. So come, come every Sunday, and visit the Chaplain and his World's Fair flock at home. Outside friends interested in show business, whether traders or patrons of showland, will be welcome. Mothers and fathers, bring your children. Do not stay away on their account. Next Sunday and every Sunday night the Chaplain's "at home," 7 to 9.30. Do not forget it. Tubes to the Angel. You can reach Barford-street, behind the great hall, viâ Liverpool-road, in five minutes.

Trade Societies at Manchester.

THE annual business committee of the Showmen's Guild will be held at the Black Lion Hotel, Salford, on Wednesday, Jan. 13, at 11 o'clock a.m., and the public meeting at 4 p.m. the same day; evening committee at 6 p.m. The Roundabout Proprietors and Showmen's Union will meet for a two-days' session on Tuesday, Jan. 12. See advertisement.

Carmarthen.

MR. HARRY COWELL, the proprietor-manager of the Phœnix Theatre at the Carmarthen Fairground, has this week again an attractive bill, and as a result good houses have assembled. On Monday evening *The King* was presented; on Tuesday evening, *In the Streets of London*; on Wednesday evening, *Poor Jo, the Crossing Sweeper*, concluding with the laughable farce, *Mother-in-Law*; and on Friday evening, *Black-eyed Susan*. For Saturday afternoon a children's pantomime, *Bluebeard* was announced, and for the evening *Sweeney Todd*, followed by the well-known farce, *Joey in the Wash-tub*. The company continue to give very good interpretations to the plays presented nightly.

World's Fair.

NOTWITHSTANDING the severity of the weather, the World's Fair at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, has been drawing exceptionally big crowds of the amusement-seeking public. There is certainly a greatly-increased and varied programme of amusements this season, and a vast number of entirely new attractions. The great free circus is entirely up-to-date and exceptionally good this season, and running a great change of programme weekly, while the marvellous Flying Banvards are the most daring and marvellous troupe of aerialists possible to see in any part of the world. This, and the intrepid performance of the novel act by the man up the pole, is also included in the great list of free attractions. Likewise Bostock's and Wombwell's Menagerie. There are a number of other amusing and interesting shows, games, &c.; also Hagenbeck's great Indian Jungle and herd of colossal elephants. In fact, the World's Fair is a marvellous show for the million, at the popular admission of 6d., of which the lessee, Mr. T. E. Read, is the pioneer.

REVIEW OF EVENTS IN 1908.

1909 has the promise of great things for all sorts and conditions of showmen. We are almost at the end of the serious trade depression that has so impoverished the workers of our country. We, therefore, anticipate more spending money will be brought to the fairs in the New Year.

In our last year's pilgrimage of the great fairs of England, Scotland, and Wales we saw how wonderfully the industry of the fairground is appreciated by the people; every class and every section of society now visits and enjoys the fun of the fair.

The Scanty Means of the People.

There were crowds of people, but amongst the most numerous body of the people but little margin of spending money. Men and women had to be content with patronising one or two shows; the money would not permit of more. Had there been good trade, or full time with the workers, every show would have had a chance, for your worker is no niggard. It was quite significant to see the poor response to the most attractive outside efforts of really clever paraders to draw the crowd. We often looked from the showfront upon the crowd, and we saw that it was not lack of desire, but poverty of means, that prevented the people rushing inside.

Good Trade a Supreme Interest.

We have often deplored the want of interest shown by the average showman in national matters. The fluctuations of trade and business, the rise and progress of the national sources of trade and enterprise are vital things to showland. Yet how few there are who give any time or thought to these matters. How few who endeavour to be abreast of the times we live in with regard to the commercial side of national life. Yet showmen are the first to suffer when the dark days come. People at once economise on their spending funds. This is true at all times of national poverty.

The Big Things of the Past Year.

First of all we must put the Movable Dwellings Bill. The proposals of its promoters dealt a killing blow at the show and fairground industry. The way in which the attack was countered, and for the moment defeated, is a demonstration of the unity and solidarity of all sections of the showman world. The matter was of universal importance. Every interest was threatened. There was no need to discriminate between one class of amusement caterers and another—all alike were bound to suffer if the Bill became law. The various trade societies, with one consent, fell into line, and with one consent recognised that the mother society, "the old Van-dwellers' Association," with its magnificent fighting record, was the one to do battle again with the massed forces of fanaticism and rancour.

The Showmen's Guild to the Rescue.

The admirable machinery of the Guild was strengthened in its work of defence; the Round about Proprietors' and Showmen's Union and the Stallholders' Society co-operated with the old society, and the Parliamentary agitation began. This Parliamentary work was followed by mass meetings against the Bill at all our important fairs. East, West, North, and South with one voice denounced it, and at every meeting, whether confined to showmen only, or those to which the public were admitted, resolutions condemning the measure were passed. Meetings at London, Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Hull, Gloucester, Darlington, Lincoln, Leicester, Boston, Oldham, Greenock, Porth, Redruth, Rotherham, Huddersfield, Hawick, Keighley, and Dartford were unanimous in their reprobation of the Movable Dwellings Bill. Petitions (extensively signed) were sent up to Parliament, and others are now in preparation for the same goal. Influential noblemen and gentlemen were approached, and the showmen's brief against the obnoxious Bill was printed and is now ready to bombard Parliament at the first moment of approaching danger.

The Response to the Call for More Money.

The response has been eminently satisfactory. The Yorkshiremen gave a big lead at Eastertide at Huddersfield and Keighley; the Midlands at Leicester and Birmingham; Wales at Wrexham and Porth; the Western showmen at Redruth and Penzance; the Scotchmen at Greenock and Ayr; in fact, the Scotch showmen top the list in their assistance sent to their English brethren and in defence of the common cause. This generous response is remarkable for the fact that it includes the humblest and the smallest traders, as well as the great ones of the showman world.

Mitcham and Penzance Fairs.

As showing the far-reaching influence of the Guild, the developments at Mitcham are most significant. There is a prospect (even yet) of the trouble with the abolitionists being settled and the old fair being endowed with a long lease of vigorous life and progress. The Guild has constantly kept the people of Mitcham alive to the serious danger before them of losing their fair, and success is extremely likely. There are two proposals from the London showmen now before the conservators—(1) to remove the fair by consent to a better and larger site on the common; (2) failing that, to buy the fair rights back again and continue the fair on its present restricted ground. How this will be met and dealt with 1909 will show us. Penzance is an entirely local matter (and in that sense is like Mitcham). The questions at issue do not concern the whole body of showmen. At Penzance public opinion is entirely with the maintenance of the fair, and the grant of just and proper terms of tenancy to the showpeople. The strike made by the showmen has, unfortunately, raised other questions with regard to the tenure of the markets, and, in consequence, the matter is now to be tested in the High Court. the Corporation seeking an injunction to restrain anyone infringing their charter, whereby they claim a monopoly of fairs and markets within a radius of seven miles of the centre of Penzance.

The Rev. T. Horne as Mediator.

When the strike against excessive tolls took place, the Guild Chaplain was asked to go down and to offer his services to both sides as mediator. This work of mediation is still proceeding, and there are strong hopes of a settlement that will be acceptable to both sides. The Guild Chaplain has also usefully intervened at Johnstone, near Dumfries, at Brecon, Reading, Ripon, Ludlow, and Buxton. His expert advice has been sought by numerous public bodies when dealing with the fairground business. In this and in many other ways the Guild has touched with success the life of the country, and it is recognised to-day as the official society of showland.

Twenty Years Ago and Now.

When the Van-dwellers' Society sent forth its first book of membership, the Guild Chaplain was asked to write the preface. He wrote, amongst other things, these pregnant words: "We stand for advance as well as defence." This year the nineteenth annual report tells a story of advancement all along the line that reads like a romance of success. Showmen are strong with the vigour and strength of well-organised corporate life. It is no longer, as it used to be in showland, "every man for himself, and let the weak go to the wall." There is beginning to blossom in our midst the fine flowers of brotherly care and regard for the wider interests of the whole body of entertainers.

The Public and the Work of the Guild.

1908 saw the high tide of public opinion flowing in favour of justice to the travelling showmen. At Gloucester, with the Mayor presiding, and the City Sheriff speaking in support, resolutions against special legislation to penalise showlife were passed. The same thing took place at King's Lynn, Hull, and Rotherham—open meetings of the sympathetic public to see justice done to showpeople. We have, indeed, advanced since 1889.

The Rev. T. Horne's Book of Stories.

The Guild Chaplain recognised many, many years ago the poisonous effect on public opinion of stories dealing with the (supposed) life of showland that presented false views of it. He determined to present true views of showland, and to fix these on the public mind in the best manner. He wrote his now well-read series of stories in our pages under the title "Stories of Showman Life." He gave true pictures as the antidote to the poisonous and libellous trash that had universally been taken as truth. These stories, in their collected form, are now before the public, and we anticipate that their influence will be wide and far-reaching, and that the people he loves to speak about will be all the better understood and appreciated.

Lord George Sanger's Farewell.

The one sad note in a triumphant year's record is the retirement from the Guild presidency of the world's most famous showman, George Sanger.

LORD GEORGE SANGER.

Yet who can blame him? He has earned his time of absolute repose. Yet partings are ever sad, and the passing of the veteran president from the old society is indeed cause for the sad note in 1908.

THE PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE GUILD.

Here and now is neither the place nor the time to tell the life-story of Patrick Collins. He looms too largely in the front of things—things as they actually are, here and now—to be put into proper perspective; he is too great a force in showland to be dealt with or adequately estimated for the purposes of biography.

Were we asked to say at once what is the most striking characteristic of the man we would define it as "directness." He knows what he wants and goes straight for it—and nearly always gets it. Other men have the same genius of business ability, the same capacity for arduous work, yet lack the direct enterprise and the immediate decision of Patrick Collins. They see all the possibilities of some novelty that springs at a bound into public favour; but whilst the others hesitate Patrick Collins goes straight for it—and at once. In this promptitude of decision lies his abounding success. We heard at Hull Fair an apt illustration of this. A new machine—a French notion—the "rollicking porkers," had taken the

Photo by Morris.

P. COLLINS, THE MONARCH OF MODERN SHOWMEN.

public fancy at Nottingham and at most of the big fairs in showland. Collins, in the short interval of four or five days, changed a set of racing birds into a weird composite set of fabulous animals, half bird, half pig. Of course, in order to secure this metamorphosis, the quick, deciding mind of the man had to calculate the time it would require to place the contract for the carved and modelled heads and the engineering difficulties with the machine itself. All this had to be provided for in advance. Like a general massing his forces, the modern showman must leave nothing to chance or so-called "good luck." The really lucky man in showland is the man who considers every little detail of his business and leaves nothing to good luck. He succeeds because he has taken care to provide for success.

Another example of the organising ability of the man came under our notice at the same fair. A business rival had a breakdown with his machine. He went the whole town over and could not get the necessary crank or part of the machine he needed. In our hearing he was lamenting his ill-luck, when Mr. Collins promptly said, "Why, man you should have come to us; we always have a spare one or two with us ready for any emergency."

This, again, is characteristic of the man. As a business rival he fights fair, and never allows the wellsprings of brotherly kindness to become choked up with the accretions of the competitive strife of varying interests. He is a good fighter, but always a true friend. One other characteristic is of especial interest. Patrick Collins has the supreme genius of enlisting and retaining the best ability in showland. He is a brainy man and knows the value of brains, and he believes in paying brains its true value. Hence—one other great element in his success—he has at every one of his shows and machines a capable lieutenant, who is not merely a trusted servant, but is that infinitely more valuable coadjutor, an original and dependable worker. There is one directing mind at the head of the whole organisation, "the governor," as he is affectionately termed by his working staff. Yet the managers and the agents-in-advance of all his numerous shows and machines have full scope to exercise their original ability and to develop individual character and talents.

We must not dare to really finish this character sketch of the President-elect of the Guild—and, indeed, we never meant to do so—without a special tribute of esteem and admiration for Mrs. Collins, who has been all through his career "his right-hand man and helpmeet."

Gifted with equal charm of personality, directness of aim, and genuineness of character, together they have worked, together they have met all that life's varying fortunes mean to the sons and daughters of showland. I venture to give Mr. Collins's own tribute to his wife's good worth: "I am what I am to-day because she has stood by me in the dark days and in the sunshine. God bless her!"

There is joy in the house of Collins, for there is the third generation in the direct line to carry on its noble traditions. Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Ross Collins have been blessed by the birth of a daughter—a genuine show girl, to the manner born. We have already tendered our congratulations to the loving parents and grandparents.

The coming meeting of the Showmen's Guild at Manchester will witness the conferring of the Blue Riband of Showland on Mr. Patrick Collins, the titular head of his house and the real monarch of modern showmen. From the early days of the Guild's struggle and strife for public acceptation and recognition as a force in public life down to the present moment Patrick Collins and his gracious wife have never wavered in their support and in their work for its success. The honour that will be theirs has been arduously won, and it is well deserved. We therefore congratulate the whole showman world that its new president has so wisely and so courageously come to the front. It is no light task to follow so great, so good, and so famous a man as George Sanger; it is, in very truth, an enterprise demanding just such qualities of heart and mind that we know Mr. Collins to possess.

A GOOD FRENCH SHOWWOMAN.

"The education of the children of travelling showmen is still an unsolved problem in England, but there is an old showwoman, now dying in Paris, who has worked out a solution single-handed for many such children in France. She was born in a showman's caravan nearly eighty years ago. She grew up making and helping her father to exhibit marionettes, and knew nothing of reading or writing till she was near middle life. She had learnt to count by taking the sous of the people who flocked to the show as it went about from fair to fair all over the country. When her father died she set up a show of her own, and she then set herself to learn reading and writing, and succeeded without any teaching. When the Franco-German War broke out Mlle. Bonnefois volunteered as a nurse, and rendered valuable service on the Paris ramparts. And then she conceived the idea of setting up a little school round the steps of her *roulotte* (caravan) for the children of showmen and hawkers who went about, as she did herself, from one place to another in the fairs. 'These poor children cannot be sent off to school; we must take the school with us,' she decided.

She engaged a regular teacher, and wherever her show and 'the fair' went, there went also her school and her teacher. Two teachers were soon needed. The school was a striking success. For twenty-five years the children of this itinerant population—a numerous one in France, the land of fairs—have been regularly 'going to school' in the midst of the fair, wherever it might be stationed. And some of these pupils have presented themselves for the regular school examinations and have passed with honour; some have even gained scholarships at the Lycées. The French Academy recognised the showwoman's work and rewarded it. The other day the old lady was taken ill in her *roulotte*. The news soon spread, and the nuns of one of the few convents now left in Paris went to the fair, which was at the east end of the city, and took the sick woman and her house on wheels to the nunnery. The *roulotte* was left in the courtyard, where, to the sufferer's great joy, it was allowed to remain, while she herself was laid in a real bed under a real house-roof for the first time in her long life. Her great grief is giving up the superintendance of her school; but the good work is to be kept up under competent management."

The *Manchester Guardian*, to whom we are indebted for the above interesting paragraph, does not know, apparently, of the good work of the Showmen's Guild with regard to the education of the showman's child. We can assure our contemporary that the problem is solved in this country—that fewer children escape the educational net amongst showpeople as a class than obtains in other classes. Except and only in that extreme corner of England, Cornwall, there is no need for special machinery to follow the children from fair to fair. In the West of England, particularly in Devon and Cornwall, travelling schools have followed the fair. A reference to the file of *The Era* will show any inquirer that the number of children actually needing such special schools was too small to justify the expense and toil, and that it is extremely problematical whether, regarding the matter from any practical standpoint, such special educational machinery is anything less than a counsel of perfection, an admirable and blessed counsel of perfection, and we have already wished it God-speed. That true friend of the Western show child—Mr. Geoffrey Norton, hon. agent for the Showmen's Guild in the West of England—spent hundreds of pounds in equipping a school van last year. He carried it on with both acceptance and success, until he was met half-way in his itinerary of the Western fairs with a school van and staff of teachers sent out by the Exeter Diocesan Mission. The consequence of this overlapping was that Mr. Norton, after all his generous expenditure and good effort, had to retire, in order to prevent the anomaly of *not enough* scholars to go round. What were the conditions of show life in France when the good Mother Bonnefois began, and what they are to-day, we are without accurate information; but there is no problem about the child of the fair in this country of free schools and compulsory attendance.

FAIRS, shows, wakes. Seventy thousand showmen of the United Kingdom required to send for the Showmen's Year Book for 1908. Edited by the Rev. T. Horne. Entirely re-arranged, corrected, and enlarged. 100 pages. Price 1s. Principal contents:—The Passion for Pageantry, Constitution and Rules of the "Showmen's Guilds," Lists of Fairs, Local Feasts and Wakes, Synopsis of Bye-laws, &c., &c. Invaluable to all who follow the fair. Address, the Publisher of *The Era*, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, London, W.C. Telephones: 4747 and 1433 Central.

THE SHOWMEN'S ANNUAL SOCIAL FESTIVAL AT BOLTON FAIR.

From every point of view the annual supper and ball at Bolton is the big social event of the year. Originated by Mr. George Cornwell, and carried through by him and Mr. Robert Pike (markets and fairs superintendent), Mr. William Pike, and the Guild Secretary (Mr. T. Hurst)—himself a Boltonian—it has grown in popularity each year since its happy institution. Bolton possesses a grand ballroom, equal to the best in the world, called the Empress Ballroom. It was at this magnificent Terpsichorean temple that some three hundred guests—the flower of beauty and chivalry in showland—assembled on Wednesday evening last, Jan. 6. Supper was served at ten o'clock, and dancing began at eleven, and was kept up until 4 a.m., Thursday.

The Welcome of the Corporation.

A most pleasing feature of the gathering is the kindly welcome given to the showmen tenants of the Markets and Fairs Committee. Alderman Dickinson (chairman), Alderman Greenwood (vice-chairman), and Councillors Webster, Rimmer, Warburton, Jones, Heywood, and Boardman were the guests of the evening, and with them were Mr. Bradbury (assistant solicitor, Town Clerk's Department), Mr. Robert Pike (market superintendent), and Mr. Wm. Pike. Other guests were Market Superintendent Hardman and Mrs. Hardman, of Preston, and Market Superintendent Farnworth and Mrs. Farnworth.

Interesting Short Speeches.

At a suitable interval between the dances, Mr. P. Collins, president-elect of the Showmen's Guild, took the chair. With him on the bandstand (used as a platform for the short meeting) were the Rev. T. Horne, Mr. T. Hurst (hon. sec.), and Messrs. George Kemp, V.P., G. H. Cornwell, V.P., J. Whiting, V.P., John Collins, V.P., John Green, Wm. Sedgwick, T. Payne, V.P., W. Holmes, S. Braham, S. Mercer, T. Wortley, J. Pattison, T. Burgin, Mark Whatmore, R. Mellor, Frank Mellor, and many others.

Mr. P. COLLINS, in a brief speech, expressed his pleasure at being present for the first time at the Bolton Festival, and assured his friends that it would be the beginning, to him, of many such pleasures. (Applause.) He welcomed the presence of their honoured guests, the Chairman and members of the Markets and Fairs Committee. He heartily desired the most friendly and cordial relations with all Corporations, and hoped that more of such gatherings would mark their business year by year. (Cheers.) He called upon Alderman Dickinson to speak to them.

Alderman DICKINSON (who was received with cheers) said that for many years past his committee and their excellent officer, Mr. Superintendent Pike, had entered into the most harmonious relations with their showmen tenants at the Bolton Fairs. This, he felt sure, was the right policy. (Cheers.) He heartily wished them a prosperous New Year, and that next year would find them gathered together again for another delightful social festival as the one they were now enoying. He asked them to remember that all the committee were ready to consider suggestions for the betterment of the Fair, or to examine into any matters of grievance. (Hear, hear.) Again he wished them all a happy New Year. (Great applause.)

Alderman GREENWOOD, in response to the Chairman's request, also spoke. Let them remember, he said, that so long as the Bolton Fairs were carried on by the showmen in the admirable manner that characterised their present success, that the Corporation would continue to co-operate with the fairground and amusement caterers in providing wholesome amusement for the people. (Applause.)

Councillor WEBSTER, in a warm tribute of praise to the Showmen's Guild and its Chaplain, endorsed the views of the previous speaker. He was delighted year by year, he said, to meet their old and tried friend, the Guild Chaplain. In Mr. Horne the showpeople had a "fighting parson" able and ready to do battle for the showmen's cause. (Great cheering.)

Superintendent PIKE (who was received with great cheering) was "bright, brief, and brotherly" in his short address. Alderman Dickinson had given them, he said, the wisest possible counsel. Where difficulties existed, he asked them to bring their troubles to the real fountain-head of authority—the Markets and Fairs Committee. (Cheers.) He was the executive officer of that committee. His duty lay in obeying its instructions. Without the proper authority he was helpless, so let them always trust the committee to to see justice done, and he would (for his part) continue his endeavours to promote the cordial relations between the showpeople and the Bolton Corporation. Applause.)

The Rev. T. HORNE, who, for the sake of the eager dancers, heartily agreed with the admirable brevity of the previous speeches, proposed the complimentary vote to the guests of the evening and to the Ball Committee. This was seconded by the Chairman, and carried amidst great applause.

The Principal Guests at the Ball.

Messrs. P. and J. Collins and party, Mr. and Mrs. Kemp and party, Mr. and Mrs. John Green and party, Mr. and Mrs. George Cornwell and party, Mr. and Mrs. John Whiting and party, Mr. and Mrs. S. Braham, Miss Braham, and party, Mr. and Mrs. T. Payne and party, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Sedgwick and party, Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell and party, Mr. Holmes, Miss Holmes, and party, Mr. and Mrs. T. Wortley and party, Mr. and Mrs. B. Mitchell and party, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Mitchell, jun., and party, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Kemp, and over two hundred more guests. The whole festival was a brilliant success. This year, as upon all previous occasions, the proceeds will be given to the funds of the Showmen's Guild of Great Britain.

Yorkshire the Football Victors.

The Showmen's football match, Yorkshire *v.* Lancashire, at Bolton, resulted in a win for Yorkshire.

The Great Yuletide Fair at Crystal Palace.

MR. CHAS. HYATT, the popular amusement caterer, must have had a broad smile when he saw the crowds enjoying to the full the many attractions afforded by his Fair, the gay couples on his galloping horses and cockerels, which were crowded all day. Then the haunted house and home-training bicycles, and aerial flight, the Suffragettes' Chase, park swings, juvenile motor roundabouts, midget swings were well patronised. In Novelty Court racing motors, with all kinds of games, and that great sensation, the houp' la, held crowds all day.

THE Fun City in the Olympia Annexe continues to flourish, and doubtless owing to the exceptionally strong bill provided each week, the free variety entertainment is one of the most popular of its kind ever presented to the public. Next week strong additions to the bill include Clown Caban's famous French Circus, Mlle. Clementine, the rifle expert—during her engagement at the Fun City the William Tell act will be omitted—and Picitt and Lizette, the crazy cooks from the London Coliseum.

THE Shop Assistants' Marathon has been definitely fixed for January 15. Mr. C. B. Cochran, the genius of the Fun City, never sleeps, his whole time being taken up with the hatching of new ideas, and interesting items for the future include the Music Hall Aspirants' Scholarship and a Covent Garden Market porters' basket carrying race.

FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Pathé Frères.

CARLO'S REVENGE.—Carlo has been tied up to a lamp-post in order the better to look after a basket, full of eatables, left there by cook. A thief approaches, and, thanks to a trick of his own, he secures the basket. Carlo barks madly, and turns round and round the lamp-post without being able to overtake the man. On being released by cook, Carlo runs after the thief as fast as his legs will carry him, and he chases him doggedly. Gendarmes join in, and the thief throws himself into the water. Carlo fetches him out, and causes him to be captured by the gendarmes. Carlo has had his revenge, and he now returns home with the basket and its contents

RIP'S INHERITANCE.—This playlet, by Madame Maxime Villemer, has been acted by M. Desfontaines, M. Chelles, and Mme. Gabrielle Fleury, of the Odéon Theatre. The story is this:—Rip is a well-behaved dog, learned, modest, and faithful to his master, a retired colonel, who, having never married, lives in the sole company of his four-legged friend. Rip, sitting on his hind legs, listens gravely, albeit indifferently, to the reading of his master's will, which makes him the colonel's sole heir. Before answering the last call, the old soldier fastens his will inside Rip's collar, and after his good master's departure Rip is turned out of the house by the butler. Wealth does not always mean happiness, as Rip soon discovers, for not being able to speak and change his inheritance into paid-for food, he steals from the shop windows like a common stray dog. Rip feels so sad and lonely that he lies down at the foot of a tree waiting for the next adventure, when suddenly a little boy takes pity on him, and asks his mother if he may adopt him. Rip is now one of the family. His new masters are humble folk, and the boy's father, being an invalid, spends his days in his armchair. The mother is an ironer. Yet Rip is happy, and he follows the boy whenever he goes to play, but he must be careful not to make a noise on the stairs, for dogs are not allowed in the house. One day one of those individuals who steal dogs for earning about a shilling, chains up our friend Rip and takes him away. Rip escapes, however, and arrives home just as his good masters receive the news that they will be sold up. Rip looks at them all with sorrowful eyes, but the porter's wife, coming in, would show him the door. The little boy clasps the dog's collar with both his hands, and—the collar snaps. The will is found, which will stop the distraint, and the heir, not being of age, his benefactors will enjoy the fortune.

THE CABIN BOY'S SISTER.—This is a touching story of two orphans without a kindly friend to take care of them. In the docks the two are busy writing on a large case "This side up." When their task is ended the boy shuts his sister in the case, and manages to have same carried on board the ship Sea Star, of which he is the cabin boy. He clandestinely goes to his sister's hiding place and shares with her his daily meals. One day the crew discover the secret and adopt the two children.

GOOD FRIENDS.—Mrs. Bond and Mrs. Share meet in a large shop, and exchange their usual greetings and bits of gossip. They have just bought, unknown to each other, the same kind of material for their dresses. They meet again at the dressmaker's, where Mrs. Share chooses the same fashion as that of Mrs. Bond's dress. The dresses are ready, and when Mrs. Bond tries hers on she is delighted, for it is just lovely; but as she sees at the bottom of the very same box from which her gown has been taken another dress just the replica of that "lovely gown," her bad temper is so roused that she sobs loudly, and tramples on the dress. Her old maid picks it up presently, and makes herself a present of it. There is a ring at the bell, and a messenger hands an invitation to tea from Mrs. Share. Mrs. Bond declines; but on second thoughts she sends her maid in her stead, wearing the fateful gown, which produces amongst Mrs. Share's guests a fit of laughter, for the old lady looks like a grotesque copy of the hostess. The latter, however, has no sooner spied the maid than she sinks into an armchair, a prey to hysterics. But Mrs. Bond enjoys herself immensely.

THE LOCK-KEEPER'S DAUGHTER.—During a sentimental walk along the river a husband thinks that he does not reign supreme in the heart of his wife, and in order to get rid of the man he is jealous of he pushes him into the water, and the current carries him along. At the lock the keeper's daughter is plying the heavy gates when she suddenly perceives the body of the drowning man. She swims to his rescue, and helps him to the bank. Tended and cared for in the humble home of the keeper, the young man realises when the hour comes for him to leave such a safe shelter that he loves the girl who has saved his life, and the end of the story is that he marries her.

THE BEWITCHED MANOR HOUSE.—In this we get some clever trick scenes. There lived in the Middle Ages a princess whose name was Berthilde, and she was a godchild of the Elf Queen. A malevolent Spirit, very powerful and jealous of the possessions of the queen, thought he would persecute the princess. One day, Berthilde having ventured upon his domains, the Spirit changed her and her servants into hideous monsters. The queen was not powerful enough to prevent this, but she had foretold that it would happen, adding that the enchantment would cease the moment a handsome young prince should go to the enchanted manor house and vanquish the evil spirit. One fine night the Knight of Marjoram is riding along with his faithful servant when he sees a group of demons dancing in the moonlight. The knight and his valet ride to the castle, and visit the deserted rooms without meeting any human being. In the dining hall elaborate dishes fly about them, but it is in vain that they try to catch them. Soon, however, the monsters which inhabit the place come to the knight, with the evil spirit at their head, and Sir Marjoram, after a few clever passes of his sword, kills his enemy. Princess Berthilde and her servants are then changed back to their former selves, and the knight, falling in love with her at first sight, asks for her hand, which is granted to him.

Gaumont Co.

VOLCANIC CHIMNEY.—The members of a family are greatly disturbed owing to the fact that the fire will not burn. The sweep is called in, and, after having swept the chimney, such a tremendous draught is created that all the occupants and furniture are promptly drawn through the grate up the chimney. Even passers-by in the street are not safe. They are seen being drawn through the window, turning somersaults and various other evolutions before disappearing up the chimney. The next scene shows the top of the roof and the chimney, which has now changed to a veritable volcano. The people and furniture are blown violently from the flue and fall in a heap on the ground. The furniture catches fire, and paterfamilias is seen violently attempting to extricate himself, when the firemen arrive and rescue him.

PROMISCUOUS PROPOSALS.—This subject illustrates how love is no respecter of persons, and the way various people succumb to this malady is very amusing.

Edison Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

COCOA INDUSTRY, TRINIDAD, BRITISH WEST INDIES.—"Home-keeping youths have ever homely wits" asserts the immortal bard; but in the days of the moving picture he can no longer plead excuse, for he can now travel, seated in a plush opera chair, visit all countries, and see the operation of numerous industries. The Edison Co. here offer the busy, studious man an important and interesting picture showing the complete operation of the cocoa industry in the British West Indies. The picture commences with the planting, and then, by various stages, the whole process is followed, until we see the resultant product loaded into the ships. We are next introduced to the workers enjoying their amusements. First we have the snake-charmer and his beautiful daughter, then the peculiar stick fights of the natives, and so on through a holiday carnival. After this we are shown a reception at which the guests are being served with hot cocoa; and thus our trip is ended, with an increase of knowledge at a small cost and no inconvenience.

A STREET WAIF'S CHRISTMAS.—This story tells of a crippled child of wealthy parents who is saved from being killed by a runaway team by Marie, a waif of the streets. Recognising no social distinctions, the children become firm friends, and Ronald presents to Marie his toy Jester. This she hugs to her bosom and wanders about. Ronald now writes to Santa Claus, asking him for a little sister. Marie writes a letter to Santa Claus on a frosted window pane, asking him to grant Ronald any request he may make, then sinks unconscious in the snow. She now dreams that the Jester has come to life, and summons a chariot from Fairyland, in which they go to Toyland. Here she is greeted by Santa Claus, who gives her a hearty welcome and invites her to go with him on his round of visits. A beautiful doll is taken along. Marie wakes and finds herself in a warm bed in Ronald's home, his father having found her in the snow, and against the chimney stands the empty doll's box. Upon looking into this she finds some beautiful clothes, which she puts on. Thinking to surprise the people, she gets inside the box, and when it is opened Ronald is sure Santa Claus has granted him his wish. As no one claims Marie, Ronald's father adopts the girl, and the children are both made happy.

SAFETY ANIMATED PICTURES AT CROYDON.—A most interesting demonstration was given at the Large Public Hall on Wednesday morning (says the *Croydon Citizen*) by Mr. Ernest Mansell, proprietor of the King's Service and Graphic Animated Picture Entertainments. There were present Superintendent Dane, chief of the Fire Brigade, Mr. E. C. Grigsby, secretary at the hall, and representatives of the Croydon Press. Mr. Mansell's object was to practically demonstrate the absolute safety of the cinematograph machines he is using with all his companies. The machine, which is guaranteed fireproof, and enclosed in an iron operating house, is one of the absolutely latest and most improved productions of Messrs. Wrench and Sons, of 50, Grays Inn-road, W.C., and in the hands of Mr. Fred Kenway, an expert of five years' experience, chief operator and electrician to Mr. Mansell, it was most conclusively shown that to fire the film on this machine is quite impossible. In front of the arc light is a sliding shutter of iron and asbestos, and between this and the picture film is an automatic shutter which rises as the operator begins work and falls directly he stops. The film passes through a special fireproof film-trap, and by this invention no more than two inches of film can be fired, and even under conditions of the grossest carelessness, which an expert for the sake of his own reputation would never risk, all that can happen from exposure to the heat of the light is that the above-mentioned length of film is fired, and is immediately and automatically smothered by the fire-box and completely prevented from spreading by the safety film-trap. A further safeguard is a shield preventing a broken film from passing over to the heated lantern body. An attendant is always on duty ready to lower the shutters on the operating box to entirely enclose the apparatus from the public. As well as these precautions, every possible appliance is also to hand in case of emergency, and Superintendent Dane, at the request of Mr. Grigsby, showed the excellent fire-extinguishing arrangements connected with the building by bringing the hose ready for use in 30sec. Asked his opinion, Superintendent Dane said that the machine just exhibited by Mr. Mansell was the best he had ever seen anywhere.

THE Palace Theatre, Sunderland, of which the general-manager is Mr. Henry N. Phillips, has been leased to the New Era Bioscope and Vaudeville Co., Ltd., and reopened on Monday as a picture palace, the two inaugural entertainments being a great success. The special interesting pictures included views of Palermo before the earthquake, Jack Johnson, the pugilist, in training, and other films, all of which were well received. The resident-manager is Mr. Fred J. Reece.

SOCIETÀ ITALIANA "CINES," LTD., ROME.—The Società Italiana "Cines" has just completed the reorganisation of the establishment for the production of cinematograph films, under the direction of Mr. Carlo Rossi, who has furnished the company with his perfect machinery. In a few days the "Cines" Co. will open a branch in London at Dacre House, Arundel-street, Strand, W.C. for the sale of their new productions, which will be of fine photographic quality, and the subjects most original and interesting.

THE "Cines" Co. intends to put on the market, regularly, dramatic, historical, and comic subjects, which have been arranged by well-known authors and carried out by first-class artists of Rome and Paris, and will be produced amidst the beautiful, natural, and romantic scenery for which Italy is famous. The firm will do no hiring.

Sheffield Winter Fair.

CHRISTMASTIDE and New Year are great popular festivals in Steelopolis. As far as the somewhat limited space at the command of the Corporation permits, there is always a big fair at Christmas time. This year the big shows were Messrs. Farrar and Tyler's two superb cinematograph theatres, and a similar concern (the Palace of Delight, Mr. John Proctor, proprietor); Pattison's mechanical promenade was a big attraction, and most deservedly so, for a show that won the public patronage on merit alone.

SHEFFIELD FAIR is always rich in its array of machine novelties. These included motor-car sets by Messrs. J. W. Waddington, G. T. Tuby, W. H. Marshall, Hull and Proctor, Gavan, Shaw, Amos, and Williams. The other novelties provided were shooting jungles, rifle ranges, and batteries, by Lieske, Burton, Lever, Bentley and Richards; houp la circles and stalls by Johnson, Shaw, Peters, Smith, Illingworth, and Calver; throwing games and cokers by Burgess, Doubtfire, Illingworth, Johnson, Ashcroft, Livey, Steward, Fawcett, and Middlebrook.

EARTHQUAKE IN CALABRIA AND SICILY.

JANUARY, 1909.

Our OWN Operators are at present at the scene of disaster, and we are daily expecting news of their return.

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AND AT

PARIS, BERLIN, BARCELONA, BRUSSELS, MILAN, MOSCOW, & NEW YORK.

Bolton New Year Fair.

A BIG success in every way was this fair. The principal shows and machines were Kemp's, Payne's, Clark's, and Norman's cinematograph theatres; Sedgwick's and Chipperfield's menageries; T. Wortley's two side-shows; Pattison's mechanical promenade; Braham's temple of magic; West's midget ponies; Blakey's mystic shows; P. Collins's haunted castle and Brooklyn cakewalk machine; the machines of the Mitchell family, the Holden family; and the single-sets of John Green and John Whiting; George Cornwell, Mrs. John Cornwell, Holmes, Sedgwick, Jewell, and Hughes and Martin provided shooting ranges; and Messrs. Shuttleworth and Holmes, juvenile roundabouts.

No doubt the tremendous popularity of roller skating at the present time, along with the fact that there is to be a roller skating championship, in which £400 is offered in prizes, has turned the thoughts of speculation towards the possibilities of a roller skating rink as a money-making proposition. As this craze is but a periodical one, quick action must be taken in the opening of a new rink, and the purchase of roller skates is one of the first items that demand consideration. To the man who intends starting a rink the immediate delivery of a good quantity of roller skates is an imperative matter. It is interesting to note, therefore, that Messrs. Brown Brothers, Ltd., of Great Eastern-street, E.C., carry a large stock of roller skates, and are thus in a position to supply any quantities immediately. Their stock includes the well-known Winslow-Union, and other makes, in all sizes.

PERHAPS the most remarkable fact in connection with the great success that has been achieved by the mammoth skating rink at Olympia is that the patronage bestowed upon it has shown a gradual and steady increase numerically ever since the day it was first opened. In proof of this it may be mentioned that last Monday the figures touched a record, for no fewer than 7,763 passed through the turnstiles on that day. This is truly an eloquent proof of the wonderful popularity now attained by this popular pastime.

THE next event of importance will be a skating Cinderella on the evening of Tuesday, Jan. 19. On this occasion it will be necessary for all skaters to appear in regulation evening dress, and a "barn-yard" carnival, a complete novelty in this country, will be held at Olympia on Feb. 2.

THE first Fancy Dress Skating Carnival of the season will be held at the Crystal Palace on Wednesday evening next. Judging will take place at eight, after which Professor Powell will give a cakewalk on skates. Subsequently there will be a march past of all the competitors, and the awards and prizes will be distributed. Prizes will be given to ladies and gentlemen for the most handsome, most original, and advertisement and comical costumes. Prizes will also be given to boys and girls.

THE Skating Gymkhana at the Crystal Palace will be held on Saturday next. The events will include a one-mile handicap, wheelbarrow, hurdle, obstacle, and sack races, and musical chairs. Competitors' entrance will be free.

MR. EDITOR,—SIR,—In your notice of Fun City, Bath, in yesterday's *Era* you say: "The band is that well-known combination the 'Scarlet Ladies' Orchestra.'" The statement is incorrect, as it is my "Poppy" orchestra that is playing there.—Yours faithfully, W. WATSON, 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton, Jan. 3, 1909.

A CAPITAL game of rink hockey between Goys' and Sylvans was witnessed by a very large crowd at the Crystal Palace on Saturday. Mr. Green, the rink superintendent, was the referee. The result was a win for Goys' by three goals to two.

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March 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5, May 10, 17, on.
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON N.E.
Jan. 25, March 22 April 5, May 17, 24, 31, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING.
March 8, April 5, 12, 19, May 3, 10, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER,
April 5, 12, 26, May 10, 17, 24, 31, Aug. 2, 9, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
Varieties, Twice Nightly, 7 and 9 p.m.
Vacancies for First-class Attraction in April, September, and November.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON,
Feb. 22, March 1, April 12, May 3, 10, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD,
Feb. 15, 22, April 26, May 17, 24, 31, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON.
March 29, April 5, Sept. 20, 27, Oct. 4, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER.
March 8, April 12, May 3, 17, 24, 31, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
Feb. 1, Feb. 18 (3 nights), March 1, 8, 15, 29, on.
Wanted, First-class Pantomime Productions, for Opera House, Leicester, next Xmas, six weeks certain;
also Pantomimes for other Theatres.
Please say where can be seen.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Attraction, for Dalston, Jan. 25,
Pantomime preferred.
Wire, MILTON BODE, County Theatre, Reading.

WANTED First-class Attractions, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD,
Feb. 15, March 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON.
Jan. 25, Feb. 8, March 8, 29, April 5, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.
First Vacant Date, March 15, 1909.
Add., E. G. FALCON, County T., Bedford.

WANTED, First-class Attraction, Jan. 28 (three nights).
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

THREE PROGRESSIVE THEATRES.
WANTED, High-class Companies, DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE,
March 1, 8, 22, April 5, 12, May 3.
Easter Vacant for Big Musical Attraction or London Star.
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS.
May 10, 17, June 7, on.
PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE.
March 22, April 26, May 10, June 7, on.
Apply for all above,
H. W. ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
Managing-Director, R. C. BUCHANAN.
WANTED, First-class Attractions for the following Dates:—
NEW GAIETY THEATRE, LEITH, Feb. 8.
GRAND THEATRE, FALKIRK (3 nights), Feb. 15.
NEW CENTURY T., MOTHERWELL, March 1.
ALEXANDRA THEATRE, GREENOCK, March 8.
THEATRE ROYAL, COATBRIDGE, March 15.

BRIXTON THEATRE, S.W.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Spring and Autumn.
FREDK. MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

WANTED, First-class Attractions for Feb. 15, March 15, 29, April 5, and May 3. Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-street, S.W.

On and after Feb. 1 the Palace Theatre, Belfast, will revert to its former title and occupation.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE, BELFAST.
Re-opening with Ada Reeve's Co. in "Butterflies."
WANTED, First-class Companies only, Feb. 8, March, and on, with exceptions.
THEATRE ROYAL, BELFAST.
Popular Prices.
Vacant for First-class Melodramatic Attractions only, Feb. 8, and on.
For both theatres, address FRED W. WARDEN, T. R.

NEW GRAND THEATRE, OLDHAM.
WANTED, a Company for five nights to oblige a manager,
commencing Monday, Feb. 15.
Address, ERNEST DOTTRIDGE.

ROYAL PALACE THEATRE, RAMSGATE.
Under New Management. Sole Proprietor, Lord GEORGE SANGER; Lessee, ERNEST MANSELL; Business-Representative, BERT ATKINSON.
WANTED, First-class Companies, from July and onward. First-class Attractions only.
All coms. re dates, address, BERT ATKINSON, Royal Palace Theatre, Ramsgate.

THEATRE ROYAL, CARDIFF.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
the Best Attractions Touring,
for Spring and Autumn Dates.
Address,
ROLLO BALMAIN.

LYCEUM THEATRE, GOVAN, GLASGOW.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, for Feb. 1.
Address to
J. H. OAKDEN, as above.

PALACE THEATRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
WANTED, Powerful Dramatic Attractions, April 12 (Easter) and 19, June 7 and 14.
Apply, T. W. ROWE.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
WANTED, good Attraction, April 12. Note.—The Conference of the Teachers' National Union is held in Morecambe during Easter.
Address, CHAS. M. JULIAN, General-Manager.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.
WANTED, Good Companies,
Feb. 15, March 8, 22,
and several good Autumn Dates.
J. B. HOWARD, 15, Clifford's-inn, Fleet-street.

OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER.
WANTED, Companies; holds £100; Vacant March 22, 29, and Easter, onwards.
Bookings: Merry Widow," "Dairymaids," "Prince of Pilsen," "Prodigal Son," "The Christian," &c. J. P. MOORE, King's Hall, Birmingham.

GRAND THEATRE, BLACKPOOL.
WANTED, for Dates in Feb. and March, First-class Pantomimes, Dramatic Attractions, or Musical Comedies, on Share or Certainty; to play twice nightly. All applications to T. A. EDWARDES, Grand Theatre, Derby.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

THEATRE ROYAL, STOCKPORT, and THEATRE ROYAL, ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.
WANTED, two First-class Pantomime Productions, for the above Theatres next Xmas.
Address, with full particulars,
CHARLES REVILL, Stockport.

KING'S THEATRE, KILMARNOCK.
Lessee and Manager, J. CUMMINGS.
WANTED, First-class Musical Comedy and Pantomime Attractions,
March and April.

THEATRE ROYAL, KING-STREET, DEAL.
WANTED, Good Musical Attractions or Pantos., immediate dates. JAS. C. WHITE.

THEATRE ROYAL, LEIGH.
WANTED, Strong Dramatic Attractions, Feb. 1, April 5. HEATH.

WANTED, for the Theatre Royal, Jarrow, First-class Attractions, for Feb. 22, March 1, 15, and 29. Apply, HUGH ROBERTSON, Jarrow.

GAIETY THEATRE, MANCHESTER.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for Feb. 15 and 22.

WANTED, Company, three nights, Jan. 18, 19, and 20. Drama preferred.
JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

HIPPODROME AND PALACE THEATRE, SPENNYMOOR, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, First-class Dramas, Pantos., or Musical Comedies, for immediate dates.
Address, C. ALGIE.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, PEMBROKE DOCK.
WANTED, Musical Attractions,
Musical Attractions.
March 1, various, on.
Address, NORMAN H. BARGER.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for Grand, Llandudno, Whit, July, and September.
HALDANE CRICHTON, P. O. W. Theatre, Grimsby.

COMPANIES WANTED.

Booked by
MOSS' EMPIRES, LIMITED.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE,
GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM,
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS,
and
GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Vacant Dates, May 3, 10, 24, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Aug. 9, 16, Sept. 20, Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Dec. 6, 13.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE.
Vacant Dates, May 10, June 14, 28, July 5, 12, 19, 26, Aug. 2, 16, 30, Nov. 8, 22, 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Vacant March 29, April 19, May 3, 10, June 7, 21, 28, Aug. 2, 9, 23, 30, Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 15, 22, Dec. 6, 13, 20.

GRAND, GLASGOW.
Vacant April 5, 19, May 10, 17, 24, 31, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Sept. 6, 13, 20, Oct. 4, 11, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22.
Address,
with full particulars, terms, &c.
where can be seen, to
Moss' EMPIRES, LIMITED,
Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street,
London, W.C.
Envelopes marked "Theatres."

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. HUGH ROBERTSON.
The Premier Theatre in the Furness District, with a holding capacity of £90 at ordinary prices.
WANTED, really First-class London Successes, for Feb. 15, March 8 and 22, on, with exceptions.
Season's Bookings include among others: J. W. Turner's Grand Opera Company (return) Mr. Wentworth Croke's "The Bondman," "Amasis," Mr. Charles Frohman's "Raffles," Mr. George Dance's company in "Miss Hook of Holland," Mr. Wilfred Cotton's Company in "Butterflies," Mr. Seymour Hicks' Company in "The Gay Gordons," and Mr. George Edwardes's Company in "The Merry Widow," Paumier and Howard's "The Prince and the Beggar Maid," and "The Midnight Wedding."
All applications for dates to
HUGH ROBERTSON,
Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

PAVILION THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for
April 25,
May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31,
June 21, 28.

PALACE THEATRE, EBBW VALE.
Three or four nights,
March 15,
April 19, 26,
May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31,
June 7, 28,
and onward.

Send full particulars, terms, &c.,
E. TILNEY, Abertillery.

Above Theatres are run on First-class Lines.
Make enquiries.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, Musical Comedies and Pantomimes preferred,
Feb. 8, March 22, April 5, on.
three or six nights.
W. E. POTTS.

WANTED, Musical Attractions, Feb. 1 (?), March 15, April 5, and Autumn, Chorley; March 22, 29, and Autumn, Radcliffe. SANTE, Radcliffe.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLYTH-BY-SEA.
Lessee and Manager, A. C. MOODY.
WANTED, Attractions, Feb. 22 and March 22.
Professional Houses of Call:—
Adelphi Hotel, opposite Stage Door, Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Waterloo Hotel, facing Tyne Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Proprietors, Messrs. Evans, Beadling, and Moody.

THEATRE ROYAL, BATLEY.
WANTED, Panto. or Strong Drama, Feb. 15, through Company Disbanding.
J. EDWARD WHITTY, T. R., Woolwich.

EMPIRE THEATRE, SWINDON.
WANTED, First-class Musical Comedy and Dramatic Attractions; also Big Variety Combinations. Managers with First-class Companies only apply direct to ALFRED MANNERS. Wanted, Strong Attraction, Feb. 1, 2, 3, and March 8, through obliging.

WEYMOUTH.—NEW PAVILION THEATRE.
Erected by the Corporation at a cost of nearly £20,000. Seating, Decorating, and Furnishing by Messrs. Dean and Sons. Dimensions, stage to flies 21ft., stage to grid 43ft. 6in. Weymouth being the headquarters of the Channel Fleet, good Business can always be relied upon.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Spring and Autumn, 1909. All communications,
WALTER R. WALLIS, Municipal Offices, Weymouth.

WANTED, Known, Unexpectedly Vacant, Premier Provincial Theatre, Jan. 11. 18. Panto. preferred. Address, WEATHERSBY, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, London. Telegrams, "Frivolous, London."

GRAND T. AND HIPPO., STALYBRIDGE.
Twice Nightly and Tuesday Matinée.
WANTED, First-class Twice-nightly Panto. Feb. 15 or 22.
Apply, JAMES FIONI, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

PALACE THEATRE, MAIDSTONE.
WANTED, First-class Pantomime, Feb. 1; also Musical Comedy, Feb. 15 and 22, March 15, and April 12.
KARNO, 28, Vaughan-road, Camberwell.

WANTED, for the New Theatre, Consett, First-class Attractions, for Feb. 22 and March 1.
Apply, HUGH ROBERTSON, Theatre Royal, Jarrow.

WANTED, good Drama or Musical Comedy, Jan. 18.
Add., H. J. SNELSON, Queen's Theatre, Fleetwood.

DUMFRIES AND HAWICK.
WANTED, Companies, Jan. 25 and Feb. 8

LONDONDERRY,
April 19.

LINCOLN,
Feb. 22, March 15, 22, and April 19.

LOUGHBOROUGH,
April 26 (last three nights).

WORKSOP,
Jan. 11, Feb. 15 and 22 (last three nights only)

RUGBY,
March 1 and Easter.

WHITBY,
Aug. 2 and 9, 16 (three nights), 25 (three nights).

W. PAYNE SEDDON, Theatre Royal, Dumfries.

WANTED, Feb. 11, 12, and 13, three nights; also Feb. 18, 19, and 20, three nights, First-class Companies. Apply, W. YATES GREGORY, Theatre Royal, Shrewsbury.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, April 26, May 10, 17, 24.
Now Booking Autumn Dates.
Address, T. ALLAN EDWARDES

WANTED, Monday next, Jan. 11, Dramatic Attractions, with own Scenery, to play twice nightly. Share or certainty. Wire, EDWARDES, Palace, Derby.

WANTED, for Pardoe's Theatre, Middleton, Lancs. (Full Band, Staff, and Electric Light). Panto. or Good Drama, Feb. 8, 15, and March 1. SIDNEY DENCH, Manager for the Pardoes.

NEW PALACE THEATRE, WATFORD.
WANTED, First-class Pantomime, Feb. 1. Playing Twice Nightly, to follow "Aladdin."
SILVESTER, 217, Piccadilly, W.

COMPANIES WANTED.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
The Chief Theatre of the Town and District.
The only Theatre in the Town lighted by Electricity.
WANTED, Companies, March 1, 15, 22, 29, April 26, onwards.

Our Season's Bookings, which Managers are requested to compare with elsewhere, include:—Miss Lena Ashwell's Co., "Diana of Dobson's," Mr. Geo. Alexander's Co., "The Thief," F. R. Benson's Co., "The Dairymaids," Mr. Percy Hutchison's Cos., "Mrs. Dot," "Brewster's Millions," "Lady Frederick," "Leah Kleschna," "With Edged Tools," "The Christian" (new version), "A White Man," "Jack Straw," "Sergeant Brue," "You Never Can Tell," "The Flag Lieutenant," "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," Mr. Harry Nicholls, "The Beloved Vagabond," "Diana of Dobson's" (return), Mr. Geo. Alexander's Co., "The Builder of Bridges," and Mr. George D. Day's Co., "The Prodigal Son" (return).

All communications,
CALVERT ROUTLEDGE, H. M. T., Barrow.

NEW PALACE THEATRE, WATFORD.
The only place of amusement in the town. Lighted by electricity. Holding capacity £75.
WANTED, Strong Dramatic and Musical Comedy Companies. First-class only.
Feb. 1, March 15, April 5, 26.
SYLVESTER, 217, Piccadilly, W.

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE BEGGAR GIRL'S WEDDING."
WALTER MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION.
WANTED, April 5, Aug. 9, Nov. 1, 22
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C

"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Feb. 15, March 29, April 5, 12.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, April 5, 12.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 15, Aug. 2, 9.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
WANTED, Aug. 2, Nov. 8, 15.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

FREDERICK MELVILLE'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, Theatres, March 1 (?), Aug. 2, 9, on, various.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres,
Feb. 8, April 12, Aug. 2, 16.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Feb. 1, March 1,
April 5, Aug. 2. DOUGLAS BRUCE,
7, Wentworth-road, Harborne, Birmingham.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."
WANTED, Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1.
ANDREW MELVILLE, Met. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."
WANTED, Jan. 18, 25, March 1.
ANDREW EMM, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
for this Phenomenal Success,
Weeks of
Jan. 25 and Feb. 1,
Jan. 25 and Feb. 1,
Jan. 25 and Feb. 1.
Wire or write to

W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, April 12, onwards.
CHARLES HARRINGTON,
Grand Theatre, Falkirk (3); Perth (3).

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."
EUGENE C. STAFFORD'S No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Feb. 8, 15, 22,
April 19, May 31.
E. C. S., Bishopsdale, Biddenden, Kent.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, April 12, 19, 26
April 12, 19, 26.

May 17, 24, 31.
May 17, 24, 31.

All communications, J. W. CORDINER,
Jan. 11, Theatre Royal, Leamington.

Mr. WENTWORTH CROKE'S COMPANY,
in "EAST LYNNE."
This Company will consist of the Pick of the Artists of "The Christian," "The Bondman," and "The Prodigal Son" Companies.
June, July, and August settled.
WANTED, April 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, June 14 (?).
Address, Piccadilly-mansions, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

MR. LEWIS WALLER'S CO.
"ROBIN HOOD."
WANTED, Feb. 22, March 1.
F. CLIVE ROSS, 47, College-place, N.W.

"THE FLAG LIEUTENANT."
"THE FLAG LIEUTENANT."
LYN HARDING and SIDNEY COOPER'S CO.
WANTED, March 8, Midland or North, owing to alteration of arrangements.
SIDNEY COOPER, Lyceum, Newport, Mon.

S. RENNEF AND G. M. COPPING'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, for "Love Rules the World," Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22. Refer E. Barnard, Esq., re Show, Elephant and Castle Theatre, S.E.
"HOW WOMEN RUIN MEN,"
Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, onward.
Splendid Productions. Good Casts and Printing.
G. M. COPPING,
Radcliffe; Monday, Queen's, Liverpool.

HARDIE and VON LEER'S COYS.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres.
"TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS,"
Vacant March 8.

"TWO LANCASHIRE LASSES IN LONDON,"
Vacant March 29, May 3.

"THE SAILOR'S WEDDING."
Vacant March 1, 8, May 3, 24.

E. P. CLIFT, 110, St. Martin's-lane, W.C.
Wires, "Vagancy, London." Tel. No. 7504 Gerrard

E. H. BERTRAM'S No. 1 CO., in "SOMEBODY'S SWEETHEART," the Up-to-date Musical Comedy Drama, by Edward Marris.
WANTED, March 15, April 12, and 19, for this Splendid Production. Add., Queen's Theatre, Leeds.

"THE IDOL OF PARIS."
"THE IDOL OF PARIS."
"THE IDOL OF PARIS,"
by Charles Darrell.
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
Jan. 18,
Jan. 18,
Feb. 8, 22,
Feb. 8, 22.
Miss ANNIE BELL as FLARE-FLARE.
Admitted to be one of the Biggest Successes Touring.
Wire Jan. 18. Wire.
JAMES BELL, T. R., Darlington.

"THE MASTER CRIMINAL."
WANTED Good Theatres, Feb. 15, 22. HENRY L. OSMOND, Theatre Royal, Seaham Harbour.

M. RUSSELL ROSSE'S TOURS.
WANTED, for Comedy Répertoire, Jan. 18 and 25, also dates later on.
Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, W.C.

"THE EYES OF THE WORLD."
WANTED, good Theatres, Feb. 1 and March 15.
See Companies Page.
J. EDWARD WHITTY, T. R., Woolwich.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates, for
"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
Jan. 14 (3 nights), Jan. 18, 25.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"GREED OF GOLD."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Feb. 8, March 22, 29.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"THE LITTLE OUTCAST."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
March 8, 15, 29.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

New Play
by
Mrs. Morton Powell.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,

"HOW GIRLS ARE BROUGHT TO RUIN."

"HOW GIRLS ARE BROUGHT TO RUIN."

"HOW GIRLS ARE BROUGHT TO RUIN."

Production,
QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL,
Jan. 26.

Vacant
Feb. 8, 15, 22, April 12, Oct. 4.

MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

MISS HILDA BEVERLEY
in
"A DESTROYER OF MEN."
WANTED, Theatres, for
a Few Vacant Dates in 1909.
Now Booking 1910.
Miss HILDA BEVERLEY,
"A Girl's Cross Roads" Co.,
New Theatre, Brighouse, Yorks.

MISS MARY NEIL,
in her Great Successes,
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS,"
by Charles Darrell,
and
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
by Charles Darrell,
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres.
Wire for Jan. 18.
Also Vacant for either Play.
Feb. 1 and 8, March 29,
April 5, May 10 and 24.

Miss Neil begs to inform Managers that she is now rapidly booking 1910 for her next new production.
Coms. to GEO. KIRK,
This, Marina T., Lowestoft;
next, T. R., Birkenhead.

MR. AND MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.

"ROLLICKING RORY."
Entirely new
Irish Musical Fairy Play.
Everything carried,
As funny as any Pantomime.
Only five vacant dates in 1909.
WANTED, Jan. 18 (North),
Feb. 1, 8, 15.
His Majesty's Theatre, Carlisle.

"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
By Geo. A. De Gray.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
Wanted, Jan. 11, 12, 13 (Scotland), Jan. 18, 25.
Wire, wire, wire.
"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
Wanted, Feb. 8, March 15, 22, 29.
Re both plays, GEO. A. DE GRAY,
T. R., Tyldesley (return);
next, Prince's T., Accrington (return).

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
The Drama that Booms itself.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Cast of Recognised Artists. Each Member with not less than 10 years' experience.
Magnificent printing. Beautifully mounted.
WANTED, Feb. 1, 15, Easter.
FRED BULMER, Grand T., Rawtenstall.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 8, 15, May 17, 24, Whit week, Aug. Bank Holiday, Aug. 16, onwards. Address, ARMADALE and WARREN, Opera House, Treherbert.

MR. AND MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COS.
"BOUND TO WIN."
WANTED, Feb. 22, March 1, April 12. Enormous success. See the piece at the Palace, Bordesley, this week; Racehorses toured; new Scenery.
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR."
Wanted, Feb. 8, Feb. 8, Feb. 8.
The great money-maker. Refer.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
March 8, 22, April 5, 12.
Splendid Band to parade; smart Uniforms; good Cast; everything done to ensure success with all of the above Plays. Wire for same to KIMBERLEY, Palace T., Bordesley, Birmingham; next, Hippo., West Bromwich.

KIDDIE'S KOMEDY KOMPANIES.

J. GAR KIDDIE'S
SUCCESSFUL PANTOMIMES,
"LITTLE BO-PEEP."
"BABES IN THE WOOD."
Now playing to packed houses at King's, Longsight, and Star, Liverpool.

Managers invited to see these productions with view to booking next year.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
"LITTLE BO-PEEP,"
Vacant Jan. 25,
through Seacombe being closed on account of fire.
Can play twice nightly if required.

Write or wire,
J. GAR KIDDIE,
King's Theatre, Longsight, Manchester.

FRED GRANVILLE'S PANTOMIMES.
"BABES IN THE WOOD." "ALADDIN,"
"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST."
Three Record Successes.
WANTED, Feb. 1, 8, 15.
Address, FRED GRANVILLE,
Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

ROSE MONCRIEFF'S CO.,
in the Military Musical Comedy Drama,
"THE BELLS OF OLD YORK."
WANTED, Theatre, Feb. 15, April 12. Bookings include Metropole, Birmingham; Star, Swansea; Walsall, Stratford, Aberdare, Llanelly, King's Lynn, Abertillery, &c., &c. Address, Brixton Theatre, London.

"THE LIGHTHOUSE ROBBERY."
The Finest Spectacular Drama Touring.
All Drama Records recently Broken at Bilston.
Refer. Refer.
Fast Booking Spring, Summer, and Autumn.
WANTED, Feb. 15, March 4 (three nights), March 15, 22, and Easter, on.
Managers wanting a really high-class show, apply E. H. KNIGHT, 7, The Crescent, Barnes, S.W.

ERNEST R. ABBOTT'S "SAPHO" CO.
WANTED, the week of Jan. 18, between South Wales and London, and Autumn Dates.
Return dates offered everywhere. Fourth year.
Note.—"Sapho" can be played in conjunction with Sutton Vane's "A Wife's Triumph" and répertoire of eight plays. Old-established company of seventeen recognised artists. ERNEST R. ABBOTT, to-day, Pavilion, Abertillery; next, Star, Swansea.

"THE 10.30 DOWN EXPRESS"
and "GUILTY GOLD."
WANTED, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 8,
March 8 (3 nights).
HORACE STANLEY,
To-day, Peterborough; next, DUDLEY, 3rd visit.

THEATRES WANTED.

LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH, PANTOMIME.
LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH, PANTOMIME.
LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH, PANTOMIME.
LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH, PANTOMIME.
LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH, PANTOMIME.
LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH, PANTOMIME.
LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH, PANTOMIME.
LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH, PANTOMIME.
"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD."
"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD."
"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD."
"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD."
"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD."
"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD."
"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD."
"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD."
By Victor Stevens.
By Victor Stevens.

A Great Success!!
A Great Success!!
A Great Success!!

The Talk of Hammersmith and District.
The Talk of Hammersmith and District.
Voted by the Public to be one of the
Voted by the Public to be one of the
Best and Funniest Pantomimes in London.
Best and Funniest Pantomimes in London.
A Pantomime with a Story, wedded to Pretty Music, and Clever Turns woven judiciously in the same.
A Real Pantomime, not a Variety Show with the Numbers of the Turns missing from Proscenium Wings.
Good Chorus Singing, and the Strongest Dancing to be seen in any Pantomime.
WANTED, Good Theatre, Feb. 1, 1909.
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Wanted, Good Theatre, Feb. 1, 1909.
KITTEE RAYBURN AND STAR COMPANY.
KITTEE RAYBURN AND STAR COMPANY.
KITTEE RAYBURN AND STAR COMPANY.
KITTEE RAYBURN AND STAR COMPANY,
including
WILL AND ALICE VOKES.
TOM CARRICK.
BISHOP AND VALE.
HARRY EWINS.
JAMES EWINS.
SANDY LAWSON,
and
HENRY DE SOLLA.
CORA CORELLI.
EUPHAN MACLAREN.
EDITH JEFFERIES.
DOROTHY EWINS.
KITTY WELLS.
NELLIE LA ROSE.
and
A BEVY OF PRETTY WOMEN.
No Extras.
Business-Manager, ALFRED REYNOLDS.
Special Note.—Kittee Rayburn holds Sole Rights in all her songs, which are vociferously encored nightly, "Won't you come back to Canada?" receiving seven and eight encores, and is sung all over the neighbourhood.
Wanted, Good Theatre, Feb. 1, 1909.
Wanted, Good Theatre, Feb. 1, 1909.
Wanted, Good Theatre, Feb. 1, 1909.
Wanted, Good Theatre, Feb. 1, 1909.
Wanted, Good Theatre, Feb. 1, 1909.
A Sure Money-maker.
A Sure Money-maker.
A Sure Money-maker.
A Sure Money-maker
A Sure Money-maker.
Music Hall Proprietors please note that this Pantomime is strong enough to supply a full evening's entertainment without the support of other Turns.
The Era says: Mr. Phillips has a pantomime of which he may well be proud.
Pleased to arranze for Christmas 1909-10, for above (twentieth season).
Address, BRYDON-PHILLIPS, Royalty Theatre, Chester, or ALFRED REYNOLDS, Lyric Opera House, Hammersmith ('Phone 142 Hammersmith), where the Pantomime can be seen all next week.

Mr. CHARLES M. BESTIC'S
LONDON COMPANY,
in the Successful Musical Comedy,
"THE FLOWER GIRL,"
by W. T. Gliddon,
including
John T. MacCallum, Henry Adnes,
Miss Lilian Drake, Miss Georgie De Lara,
supported by a
Powerful Company.
WANTED, Feb. 15 and 22, March 22, April 19.
Re dates to
JAMES LESLIE, General-Manager,
and all other communications to
CHARLES M. BESTIC,
1, Sidney-road, Stockwell, London, S.W.
The Daily Telegraph says:—
The composer has penned a sufficient number of lively tunes, and it may be added quite truthfully we never heard a better chorus.
The Daily Chronicle says:—
A bright musical comedy, with many pleasing musical numbers.
The Morning Leader says:—
"The Flower Girl" is well played by Mr. Charles M. Bestic's company.
The Star says:—
"The Flower Girl" is admirably presented by Mr. Charles M. Bestic's company.
The Referee says:—
The fun is both fast and furious, and provoked uproarious laughter.

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANY.
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
A Powerful Domestic Drama, in four Acts,
by Walter Howe.
WANTED, March 1, 8, 29
April 26, May 3, 17, on.
Splendid plants of pictorials by David Allens and Moody Bros.

Queen's Theatre, Fleetwood (three weeks).

WANTED, Known, the great success of the coming year will be "Was She to Blame?" by Mrs. F. G. Kimberley. First tour fully booked; no holiday date vacant until Autumn, 1910; Production Easter, Junction, Manchester. For dates wire, KIMBERLEY, GREEN, and HINTON, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

MONTAGUE BEAUDYN'S SUCCESSES.
"SEND HIM VICTORIOUS."
A perfect show in every detail.
WANTED, Aug. 2, 23, 30.
"THE POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN."
Something really Original and New.
The Show that Draws all the Week.
Vacant Jan 25, Jan. 25, also Feb. 22, March 1, 8.
"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND." Vacant July 19.
"A TRAITOR PRINCE." Vacant March 1.
Wire, Star, Swansea. Write, Star, Liverpool.

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Jan. 18, April 5, Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, and 22. FRANK M. THORNE, Metropole Theatre, Abertillery.

WANTED, for "Second to None," Theatres, April 5, 19, 26, Aug. 30, and Sept. 6.
T. E. WARD, T. R., West Bromwich.

"HER FATAL MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant Feb. 8 and 22 (to precede and follow Liverpool), entire production travelled, including electrical fittings. A play that will create talk in every town, and draw audiences to witness the greatest sensation of the time. Re dates, ARTHUR HINTON, to-day; T. R., Wolverhampton; next, T. R., Smethwick.

CHAS. FREEMAN AND GEORGE DERRICKE'S CO., "A WHITE DEMON," "SAPHO," "CURRENT CASH."
WANTED, Jan. 18, through misunderstanding.
Wire, Wire, Wire,
Palace T., Boston; next, New Town Hall, Alfreton.

WANTED, Good Theatres, Feb. 1, 8, 15, March 8, Easter, and Whit, for "Her Marriage Vow." GARSIDE and KNOWLES, T. R., Scarboro'.

WANTED, Feb. 8, 15, March 1, April 19, for "The Cingalee."
HALDANE CRICHTON, P. O. W. Theatre, Grimsby.

WANTED, "Under Two Flags," Feb. 15, 22, March 22, 29; "Cripple Creek," Feb. 22, May 17. MARK BLOW, 11, St. Edmunds-terrace, Regent's Park, London.

WANTED, Mark Blow's Latest Success, "The Luck of Roaring Camp." Feb. 15, March 22, 29. MARK BLOW, 11, St. Edmunds-terrace, Regent's Park, London.

THEATRES WANTED.

"TODDLES."
"TODDLES."
"TODDLES."
"TODDLES."
"TODDLES."
"TODDLES."
"TODDLES."

Owing to the extraordinary success of this production in the country, as shown by its enthusiastic welcome at
THE THEATRE ROYAL, HULL,
this week, together with the splendid Notices and business done,
MURRAY KING AND CLARK
will prolong their Original Tour.

WANTED, Feb. 15, March 1, and onwards, to Easter; also Autumn dates, starting Aug. 2 Apply, KING, Devonshire Park T., Eastbourne.

Hull Daily News says: Seldom has the Theatre Royal resounded with more boisterous laughter than it did last night, when Mr. Murray King and company presented "Toddles." The play was exquisitely staged.
Eastern Morning News says: "Toddles" is screamingly funny. He provokes laughter throughout the play, and there are times, after a long spell of continuous side-wracking, when it is positively a relief to have him off the stage. But he is soon on again, and the smiles quickly develop into convulsive laughter. The play is quite as funny as a pantomime. Mr. King is an ideal Toddles; no one who really enjoys a good laugh should miss seeing him. He has been with us before, but we shall remember him as Toddles.

"TODDLES" HAS CAUGHT ON.
"TODDLES" HAS CAUGHT ON.

STEPHEN PRITT'S REPERTOIRE COMPANY.
Presenting Beautiful Modern Dramas of English Life.
This week, Met., Gateshead; next, Consett.
Copy of letter, published by kind permission:—
T. R., South Shields.
Jan. 5, '09.

DEAR SIR,—
We thank you for your most courteous letter, and may say we are only too pleased to answer any enquiries we may have as to the excellence of your attraction.
As soon as we get pantomime settled for 1910, we shall be pleased to arrange a return.
With every good wish for 1909.
Yours faithfully,
J. and F. COULSON.

S. Pritt, Esq.

WANTED, for above, Good Theatres, Jan. 25, Feb. 8 and 15.
Now Booking Spring and Autumn.
Address permanently,
STEPHEN PRITT, T. R., Preston.

WANTED, High-class Theatre or Music Hall, for
JAMES KIDDIE'S
Latest and Greatest Success in Pantomime,
"ALADDIN."
"ALADDIN."
"ALADDIN."
Vacant Feb. 1.
Vacant Feb. 1.
Can Play Twice Nightly if required.
Wire,
THOS. SWINTON, Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

WANTED, First-class Theatres, Xmas, 1909, onwards, for
O. MAUS DAYTON'S PANTOMIME.
O. MAUS DAYTON'S PANTOMIME.
"BABES IN THE WOOD."
"BABES IN THE WOOD."
Seventy to Eighty People, including
the Famous
DAYTON FAMILY
DAYTON FAMILY
(twelve in number)
In the Greatest Acrobatic Act in the World, "Le Rendezvous," possessing the most Originality, Refinement, Cleverness, and Comedy, and which is always a draw.

Now appearing with tremendous success at the Dalston Theatre, N.E., where the Act can be seen. Now is the time for Managers and Proprietors to secure for next season a Pantomime that will eclipse all records.

Produced on Up-to-date Lines.

All communications,
O. MAUS DAYTON,
The Dayton Family,
Dalston Theatre, N.E.

E. HILL-MITCHELSON'S COMPANIES.
"WHO IS SHE?"
"WHO IS SHE?"

WANTED, for above Magnificent Production, Feb. 22.
E. HILL-MITCHELSON,
Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

"I DEFY THE WORLD."
By Arthur Shirley and E. Hill-Mitchelson.
WANTED, Good Theatres, Jan. 25 (3 nights), March 22, April 12, and on.
Address, CHAS. M. JULIAN, Jan. 11, T. R., Edmonton.

WEST LONDON THEATRE.
PANTOMIME.
"CINDERELLA."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Jan. 25, Feb. 1 and 8, for this Elaborate Production, which is booked at above theatre for four weeks.
SAMUEL JAMES,
Warwick House, 8, Warwick-court, W.C.

WANTED, Known, a gentleman is prepared to Finance, Lease, or Buy Music Hall or Theatre in good town, or Finance Musical Comedy or Drama that is well booked up for 1909.
Address, with full particulars,
Manager, Box 5,304, "The Era."

THE GIPSIES AND THEIR JESTER.
WANTED, Pier Pavilions, Winter Gardens, &c.
Only Vacancies Next Summer:
Week commencing Monday, April 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Sept. 20, onwards.
Mr. D'ARCY CLAYTON, 23, Brockman-rd., Folkestone.

WANTED, for Special Productions of "Mr. Popple" and "The New Mephisto," including Mr. Charles Macdona and Company of Forty, Dates in Spring and Autumn.
Address, Marina Theatre, Lowestoft.

"LUCKY 'LIZA."
WANTED, Feb. 15 and 22.
DICKIE CLARE,
T. R., Waterford.

MISS LOUIE FREEAR
and Star Variety Company, including D'Artagnan, the Equestrian Lion.

WANTED, Large Halls, Theatres, on Sharing Terms. Apply,
Mr. ARTHUR, 157, Hill-st., Charing Cross, Glasgow.

WANTED, First-class Theatres and Halls, for the Great Vonetta and Strong Vaudeville Co Vonetta's Colossal Act will pack any theatre. Fine lithos. and throwaways. Vacant Jan 18, Wire Empire Palace, Portsmouth; also Feb. 1 and March 1, North.
Address communications to
Mr. T. M. PAUL, next week, Palace, Plymouth.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Full Company for Spring Tour of "Human Nature," including Girl for Frank; Boy for Dick the Waif (must be small and over 14 years of age). Lowest terms and photos. indispensable. Interview by appointment only. MANAGER, 52, Warbeck-road, Shepherd's Bush.

WANTED, for "Somebody's Sweetheart" Co., First-class Principal Comedian, Character Actor, Comedy Old Woman, and Petite Lady for Boy's part; must sing and dance. E. H. BERTRAM, Queen's, Leeds.

WANTED, immediately, Light Comedian, young, for Sketch. Letters only. ALICE MAY, c/o "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, a Single Young Man, for Small Part and Baggage. Apply by letter, stating references and terms, 66, Doddington-grove, Kennington Park, S.E.

ARTISTS WANTED.

MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Artists, for two weeks certain, Production of New Play, Tour to follow. Robust Leading Actor, for Sailor, must be tall and breezy; Powerful Juvenile Leading Lady, must be young, possess power and pathos; Heavy Character Actress, for brutal type of part, middle aged; Character Comedian, for sanctimonius hypocritical type; Cockney Comedian; Gentlemanly Heavy; Ladies for small parts, one to double Old Hag; two Responsible Actors, to combine Stage-management; good Carpenter, to play small parts.
All other Vacancies are filled.
Rehearse Jan. 18; open Jan. 25.

MORTON POWELL,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

WANTED, Known.—American Manager, well known, is prepared to Introduce and Manage a Lady of Talent in America. She must possess a good voice, and be capable of playing Boy's Parts.
Also able to arrange her own passage.
Address in first instance, with full particulars for interview, enclosing photo. (which will be returned), to MANAGER, Box 5,303, "The Era."

WANTED, Smart Young Amateur Gentleman, of good appearance, for Lady Impersonation in Farcical Sketch; must have decent singing voice (not necessarily falsetta), and have an idea of acting.
Particulars, &c., to Box 5,318, "The Era."

WANTED, Clever Pretty Girls, 14 to 16, with good voices, for Engagements after Panto.; those with knowledge of Dancing preferred. Call, SINCLAIR'S Agency, 118, Kennington-road, S.E.

WANTED, First-class Humorists and Vocalists, for High-class Seaside work.
Box 5,319, "The Era."

WANTED, for Concert Party, three Gentlemen, three Ladies, must invest; state amount.
Letters only,
Mrs. J. C. PINNIGER,
19, Edbrooke-road, St. Peter's-park, Paddington.

WANTED, Bass or Baritone, join High-class Concert Party, able to accompany preferred. Write only, "D.," 8, Wiltshire-road, Brixton.

WANTED, two tall Chorus Ladies for Sketch (London); must possess good voices and appearance. Letters only, 23, Elm-grove, Peckham.

C. W. POOLE'S No. 1 MYRIORAMA.
WANTED, a Smart Elocutionist, as Guide, smart appearance absolutely essential. State age and photographs if possible. J. R. POOLE, Synod Hall, Edinburgh.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

FRED J. LITTLE'S MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC AGENCY, 4, Arthur-st., New Oxford-st., London.
WANTED, Pantomime Artists, in all Lines, for next year. Please send full particulars where can be seen working, parts played, and absolute terms.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Managers who contemplate building up their next year's Pantomimes, to see Tom Green's Harlequinade at the Dalston Theatre. Billed by the Management as Invented and Produced by that Expert Clown and Pantomimist, Tom Green. Billed by the Management the next day as Enormous Success. See Tom Green's Old-fashioned Harlequinade. Announced on the Programmes as the Inimitable Clown. Advertised in the papers as the Famous Clown. Tom Green courteously invites Managers to see for themselves, and can arrange for Production of same, with complete Scenery, Properties, Costumes, and Mechanical Tricks, as now used at the Dalston Theatre. Address, TOM GREEN, Clown, The Dalston Theatre, London, N.

WANTED, Stylo, Wonderful Hoop Juggling Effects, Fine Panto. Speciality; vacant next week. Address, 25, Clifford-street, Manchester.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Scenic Artists, Theatre Managers, &c., to write for Leete's Catalogue of colours, varnishes, painting brushes, and every requisite for scene painting and theatre decoration. The fullest range of colours in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions, Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, Contracts, for Painting Scenery, First-class Work guaranteed. CECIL E. HICKS, Painting Room, Princess's Theatre, Oxford-street, London, W.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery; Effective Artistic Work, Good Joinery, Moderate Prices. Large Studio and Workshop. CHARLES SAYER, Scenic Artist, 2, Clarendon-road, Croydon.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery, Special Productions, or Stock. K. J. MCLENNAN, Scenic Artist, P. O. Wales's Theatre, Birmingham.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery, compare my prices, Chamber Sets from £3; Cloths from 20s. Estimates free. COOKE, Udimore, Rye.

WANTED, Known, Scenery for Drama, Sketch or Act. Good work at fair prices. Large studio and workshop. T. C. DALY, 31, Hinckley-street, Bradford, Manchester.

WANTED, Contracts for every description of Scenery, Pantomime, Stock, &c.
SCENIC STUDIO, Gaiety, Blyth.

WANTED, Wanted, Known, W. BERNASCONI, Scenic Artist, 53, St. James's-place, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, J. Jacks, Scenic Artist, supplies Scenery and Properties for Kinématograph Picture Takers. Address, 46, Holloway-road, London, N.

WANTED, Engagement, J. Alex. Barker, Scenic Artist, just concluded Durward Lely's "Royal Divorce." Transparent Speciality, "Charge of Light Brigade," "Battle of Waterloo," 89, Oran-street, Glasgow.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Smart Acting-Manager, for Permanent Picture and Variety Theatre. State qualifications, salary required, and send copies of testimonials.

Box 5,317, "The Era."

WANTED, Smart Young Manager, to take full Management of small Music Hall (Performer preferred), North of England. State full particulars, JOHN SCOTT, 101, Morris-street, Oldham.

WANTED, Wig Dresser, to walk on in Costume Sketch; Dress Wigs in spare time.
State salary, height, age,
CALVER, Hippodrome, Margate.

CASTLE THEATRE,
STOCKTON-ON-TEES.
WANTED, to Open Monday, Jan. 18, a Good Electrician.
Terms and last references to
J. CHAS. IMESON, Theatre Royal, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, Electrician, for London Music Hall, must be all-round man, not afraid of work; and Bioscope Operator.
Apply by letter, stating age, references, experience, and salary required, to HIP., Box 5328, "The Era" Office, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Tall, Smart Assistant, to take charge of Scenery and Electric; must understand electric fittings, temperate. Photo., refs., and wages required, to T. M. PAUL, Palace, Plymouth

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, a Baggage Man, to make himself generally useful, for six weeks.
Lowest terms to E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

WANTED, Position as Manager, Assistant Ditto, Variety Theatre, Circus, or otherwise, by A. Turle; well up in every branch of the business; strictly sober and attentive; age 37. Wire or write, 38, Whiterock-st., West Derby-rd., Liverpool.

WANTED, by Young Gentleman, position as Assistant-Manager, First-class Theatre or Music Hall. Box 5,310, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, to Proprietors of Large Establishments, Kursaal, Pleasure Piers, Winter Gardens, &c.—A retired builder's general foreman is open for an Engagement as Resident-Caretaker or Clerk of Works; thoroughly experienced in the supervision of all repairs, upkeep, and control of Staff; aged 45, married; first-class references; small salary. Box 5,308, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Disengaged, Willie Griffin, Carpenter and Parts; Mrs. Griffin, Wardrobe; joint or single, resident or tour. 52, Hartley-road, Radford, Nottingham.

WANTED, by a recognised Electrical Engineer, Berth as Chief Electrician to Music Hall or Theatre. Expert knowledge, including Bioscope if required. ELECTRIC, 24, St. Donnatts-rd., Lewisham.

Billposting Companies, Proprietors, &c.
WANTED, Known, Successful Billposting Manager of business with annual turnover of £3,000, will be at Liberty shortly, and invites offers; thoroughly experienced and practical; age 34, and married; first-class life-long testimonials. Full particulars from Box 5,311, "The Era."

WANTED, Situation as Wardrobe Keeper, can cut and make, and thoroughly understands both Ladies' and Gentlemen's Costumes. ALBERT RICHARDSON, 37s, De Laune-street, Kennington Park-road, S.E.

WANTED, Re-engagement as Wardrobe Mistress, or Assistant in large Co. Last engagement, Martin Harvey's Co. S., 7, Henstridge-villas, St. John's Wood, N.W.

WANTED, Engagement as Maid to Professional Lady, good needlewoman, tall, good refs. last five years. BROWN, 5, Angel-rd., Hammersmith.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
Managing-Director, R. C. BUCHANAN.
WANTED, First-class Leader-Conductor, Trombone, 'Cello, and Violinist. Please send terms, references, and state age, to R. C. BUCHANAN, 102, Bath-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Wanted, Bandmaster, for Ocean Liner;
must be thoroughly efficient
Violin Conductor.

Apply by letter,
BANDMASTER,
3, Fenchurch-street E.C.

WANTED, Musical-Director (Piano), also smart Violinist, for Picture Show, in London, twice nightly. Apply MATINEE CONDUCTOR, Victoria Hall, Walthamstow.

WANTED, immediately, First-class Musical-Director for a few weeks.
Apply, MILTON BODE,
County Theatre, Reading.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS S.E.
WANTED, Leader, Open at Once. Terms, age, references, and all particulars to S. CLARKE RICHARDSON, Musical-Director.

WANTED, Good Leader. Former applicants write again.
SYKES, Musical-Director, Palace, Southampton.

WANTED, First-class Variety Leader, open Monday week. Particulars to GEO. ENCYL. LEWIS, Hippodrome, Scarborough.

W. HAMILTON'S EXCURSIONS.
WANTED, to join Jan. 18, at Dundee, First-class Violinist; must wear evening dress. Terms and references, Kinnaird Hall, Dundee.

WANTED, Experienced First Violin and 'Cellist, Ladies, permanency.
Write, Box 5,325, "The Era."

NEW HIPPODROME, SCARBOROUGH.
WANTED, First Violin and Drummer, used to Variety, to open Monday, Jan. 18. Lowest terms and references to Mr. GEO. ENCYL LEWIS, Musical Director.

WANTED, for P. Staff, Worcester Regt., Clarionet Player. Testimonials to J. KNIGHT, Bandmaster, Norton Bks., Worcester.

WANTED, for Grand Cirque, Hippodrome, Menagérie, Pinder Frères, France, for Tenting Season, 1909. First-class Slide Trombone, also Double Drummer, with Effects (only sober man wanted). Terms, &c., address, CH. KETTERING, Bandmaster, 27, Rue de la Poterie, Mons, Belgium.

WANTED, an experienced Trombone, to open at once. Latest references and salary to MUS.-DIR., H. M. Theatre, Aberdeen.

WANTED, First-class 'Cellist, Flute, Pianist, and Drummer; all must be Soloists.
Box 5,322, "The Era."

WANTED, for Band, Royal Marines, Chatham Division, good Violoncello Player, Symphony Concert work, no sea service; one who can double Clarionet preferred. Full particulars to CHARLES HOBY, A.R.C.M., L.R.A.M., Bandmaster.

WANTED, for Jan. 18 onwards, good Lady Pianist, for Ladies' Orchestra; one able to do Turn preferred. Fares paid.
Address, Dr. ORMONDE, Post Office, Naas, Ireland.

WANTED, Pianist, to travel with Auction Mart; must be able to read at sight; useful during day; one used to the business preferred. Wire, EDWARDS and PAGE, Glyn Neath, Glam.

WANTED, thoroughly competent, experienced Variety Pianist, for Alhambra, Brighton, one house, no matinées; refs., &c. M.-D.

WANTED, Pianist, Vocalist, Illustrated Songs, (own slides), Sight-reader, for small Picture Hall. Permanent. Photo., A. WHITELEY, 36 Rushton-road, Thornbury, Bradford. After Sunday, People's Palace, Kenilworth.

WANTED, Pianist-Vocalist, for Pictures (Illustrated Songs), to open Jan. 18; also competent Effect Worker and Biller. Open Jan. 15. References and lowest, MANAGER, 18, Siddall-street, Oldham, Lancs.

WANTED, Side Drummer, must be a really First-class Player.
One of the best Regimental Rifle Bands in the Service.
Apply to P. S.,
c/o Hawkes and Son,
Denman-street, Piccadilly Circus, W.

WANTED, Young Lady and Gent. Mandolinists (Sight-readers).
Apply at once, by letter,
MADAME, 53, Burton-road, Brixton, S.W.

LORD JOHN SANGER AND SONS, LTD., ROYAL CIRCUS. Tenting Season, 1909.
WANTED, Double-handed Musicians, to Form String and Brass Bands. Terms, 35s. and 32s. 6d. weekly, and substantial bonus. Commencing in March. Apply, with references, &c., to CLEM. A. LAWRENCE, 21, Bridge-road, Southampton.

WANTED, for Long and Short Season, Orchestral Instrumentalists; Brilliant Solo Violinist as Leader also required. Box 5,321, "The Era."

WANTED, for Messrs. Paumier and Howard's Companies, a tall, smart young Bugler, who can sound the Assembly Call. Apply, with terms, height, &c., to FRANCIS HAWLEY, Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne.

WANTED, First-class Orchestral Solo Violinists, Pianists, 'Cellists, for Cunard Mediterranean Service; Engagements from Feb. and March until Aug. and Sept., 1909. Audition in London or Liverpool necessary before engaging.
Applicants state age and give two references as to character, &c., to
C. W. BLACK, 14, Castle-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Violinists (Leader), Pianists, Harmoniums, at once, for restaurant business; only thoroughly experienced need apply. 13, St. Mark's-crescent, Regent's Park.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

COUNTY ASYLUM, WHITTINGHAM, PRESTON.
WANTED, Musician Attendants, First Violin, and Flute and Piccolo; not over 35 years of age, and single. Must be competent players. Wages commencing at £33 per annum, increasing to £38 in the first year, then by annual instalment up to £45, and, according to promotion, to £50 and £55, with board, lodging, washing, and uniform.
Apply to the MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

WANTED, Violin (Leader), Cornet, 'Cello, or Double Bass, for Liner, sailing Jan. 22. References to BANDMASTER, 87, Darnley-road, Gravesend.

SOUTHPORT CORPORATION BAND.
WANTED, from May 17 to Oct. 3, Flute, Piccolo, Solo Clarionet, Horns, Bassoons, Solo Trombone, B Flat Saxophone, Second Cornet, Bass Clarionet, Repiano Clarionets, and B Flat Bass. Address applications, stating references, to Messrs. BARTLE and RIMMER, Belmont-street, Southport.

WANTED, Bombardon, Euphonium, Saxhorn, Solo Cornets, Monday or Wednesday; business Pitching; terms Shares. Permanency. Apply, BANDMASTER, 78, Dundonald-road, Wimbledon.

WANTED, Young Lady Brass Players (beginners), for Long Engagement. Write or call, BISERA, 14, Canterbury-road, Brixton, London.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical Director (Violin), Dramas, &c., composed arranged, composer music "Silver King," "Lights o' London," &c. Victoria Theatre, Ramsgate.

WANTED, Known, Henry Sprake, senior, Musical-Director, Disengaged, formerly Adelphi Theatre, Strand, and recently Broadway Theatre, New Cross (five years), large and up-to-date library, Musical Numbers for Animated Pictures a Speciality; can supply and lead good Military Band for Skating Rink. Address, C/o "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, thoroughly experienced Musical-Director, London Theatre or No. 1 Touring Company; highest credentials. MUSICA, 45, Lansdowne-road, Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, Well-known Young Musical-Director and Brilliant Pianist, quick Transposer, Composer, and Arranger. LESTRANGE, Post Office, Eversholt-street, N.W.

WANTED, Engagement as Conductor (Violinist), from Feb., First-class Music Hall only, in or near London. Add., Box 5,291, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, in or near London, clever Conductor, Composer, &c.; also Solo Pianist, Accompanist. A. B., 75, Oakley-sq., N.W.

WANTED, Permanent Engagement by experienced Violinist; steady and reliable; good references. FRED SHARPE, 102, Oundle-road, Peterborough.

WANTED, by Second Violin, Engagement. Only moderate wages desired.
Box 5,306, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Violinist, immediate, any Bus.; good refs.; total abstainer; permanency. HORACE T. V. WALPOLE, A.C.V., 34, Melrose-road, Eaton, Norwich.

WANTED, Engagement, First Violin, experienced all Lines; refs.; strictly steady and reliable. VIOLINIST, 1, Gathorne-road, Wood Green.

WANTED, Engagement, by Young Lady, Violin and Vocalist, as Second Violin in Orchestra, Musical Comedy, &c. Miss L., 41, Acklam-road, Notting Hill.

WANTED, Shop, by Cornet, First or Second. Permanency desired. At Liberty.
Apply, CORNET, 29, Endless-street, Salisbury.

WANTED, by First-class Solo Cornet, Engagement, thoroughly experienced, brilliant repertory, just free. Box 5,326, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Solo Clarionettist, thoroughly experienced in First-class Theatres and Varieties; steady, reliable. PROFESSIONAL, 17, Cyril-avenue, Bobbersmill, Nottingham.

WANTED, Known, Clarionettist seeks Engagement in London, used to Lightning Programmes; good references.
Box 5,312, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Clarionet, sober, reliable, and experienced; good ref.; Disengaged Monday. Apply, CLARIONET, 23, Eva-street, Mountain Ash.

WANTED, Engagement, Clarionet, thoroughly experienced, steady and reliable, any Business; good references. BRISTOW, 163, Great Knollys-street, Reading.

WANTED, Engagement as Double Bass, through season terminating, Windermere, First-class Variety, &c.; highest refs. BERTHORL, 20, St. John's-road, Cambridge.

WANTED, by experienced Bassoonist, Engagement; prima references.
Box 5,309, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Trombonist, exceptional experience, ability, and references; Lib. Jan. 10, if pressing, 3rd. SERGT. TAYLOR, A.S.C. Mess, Aldershot.

WANTED, Engagement, by Trombonist, Theatre or Military Band, London or Suburban. T. A., 75, Northcote-avenue, Southall.

WANTED, by Trombone, combine Euphonium, Soloist; permanent Engagement; fully experienced; good references. GEORGE GRUBER, Cold Waltham, Pulborough, Sussex.

WANTED, by Trombone and Cornet, together or separate engagements, any business, excellent references. Box 5,324, "The Era."

WANTED, by experienced Bombardon, Engagement; thoroughly efficient, any Business. 7, Sidney-street, Manchester. After Monday, 17, Plato-street, York-road, Leeds.

WANTED, Engagement, by A. Ward, French Horn, Operas, &c.
179, Garrioch-road, Glasgow.

WANTED, Engagement, permanency, First Horn, 6 years' experience in Orchestral work, commence at once. Write, FRENCH HORN, 86, Richmond-road, Dalston, N.E.

WANTED, Engagement, by Oboe, young, experienced, sober; good references; can open at once. Address, F. BARLEY, 33, Bockhampton-road, Kingston-on-Thames.

WANTED, Wanted, Engagement, by Experienced Oboe.
WEBB, 50, Kennington Park-road, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Flute and Piccolo, through disappointment; also Trombone; together or separate; good refs. C/o J. Hannavy, Barracks, Dumfries, N.B.

WANTED, Engagement by Flautist, at Liberty about Feb. 6; any business.
Address, R. S. BALLANTINE, Hengler's, Glasgow.

WANTED, by experienced Flute and Piccolo, Engagement, any bus.; excellent references; sober, reliable. FLAUTIST, 9, Woodford-ter., Pavilion-road, Worthing.

WANTED, Engagement, Lady Pianist, good Accompanist and Sight-reader, or Ladies' Orchestra. Well recommended. M. SCULLEY, 12, Stockwell Park-road, S.W.

WANTED, by Young Lady, Engagement as Professional Pianist, thorough good Sight Reader and Accompanist; knowledge of Singing and Elocution. Write, HUTCHINS, 193, Brixton-hill, London.

WANTED, by Young Lady, Re-engagement as Pianist, Dramatic or Variety, MS., &c.; good refs.; near Islington preferred. Miss LINGHAM, 12, George-street, Dunstable.

WANTED, by Pianist and Accompanist, Engagement in Concert or Orchestra; combine Second Violin; well up in Variety, Dram., and Mus. Com. 99, Albion-road, Stoke Newington, N.

WANTED, Engagement, by Bert Holmes, Versatile Pianist; extensive rép.; good references; vac. Monday. Wire or write, 10, Church-st., London-rd., Leicester.

WANTED, Engagement, as Double Drums and Effects; any business; out through disappointment. J. PEARSON, 24, Albion-street, Darlington, Durham.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, immediately (disappointment), First-class Drums and Effects. Arrange, Copy. Any Business. Wire, TIMPANI, 86, St. John-street, Lichfield.

WANTED, by Amy Vetta, Engagement as Double Drums, Ladies' Orchestra. Salary 30s. weekly. Address, c/o "The Era."

WANT £D. Offers for Miss Winnie Watson's Pop'ay Orchestra, the Premier Ladies' Band, including Soloists and Singers, from Franco-British and Principal Exhibitions. Now Fun City, Olympia, and Bath. Any business, any number; smart Scarlet Costume. 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton. Tel., 5,100 Nat.

WANTED, Known, Shikisimma Band, Original Ladies' Japanese Orchestra, at Liberty for Exhibitions, Hotels, Piers; extensive répertoire, latest music. Winshill, Howard-road, Newbury.

WANTED, Known, Rabottini's Italian Band (Conductor, F. P. Rabottini) can be engaged for Exhibitions, Concerts, Dances, Summer Engagements, in smart National Uniforms. Signor Rabottini, as Composer and Conductor, holds letters from His Majesty the late King of Italy, Earl Roberts, Lord Kitchener, Lord Cromer, Col. Dick Conyngham, H. B. Irving, Esq., and eminent musicians. Rabottini's Band met with great success at the Royal Albert Hall, London County Council, Palace Pier Pavilion, Brighton, Provinces, &c. Apply for terms, Press Notices, &c., CONDUCTOR, 150, Goldhawk-road, Shepherd's Bush. 'Phone 111 Hammersmith.

WANTED, by First-class Military and String Band, Seaside Engagement, 1909; all British Performers; Smart Uniform, Up-to-date; High-class and Popular Music; any number up to 30. Particulars, CONDUCTOR, Ivanhoe, 55, Bournemouth-road, Merton Park, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Efficient Foreign Band, in smart Uniform, can be Engaged for Concerts, Exhibitions, Seaside Resorts, &c. Apply, Box 5,274, "The Era."

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

CIRCUS, HULL.
WANTED, for the above, Feb. 8, 15, the Cream of Artists in all Branches of the Equestrian, Gymnastic, and Vaudeville Profession; also good Spectacle.
State full particulars,
EDWARD EMERSON,
General-Manager,
Circus, Hull.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, that the Three Royal Ohmys (favourite Riders to the Crown Prince of Denmark) have made the greatest success ever known at the Hippodrome, Spennymoor. Hundreds turned away nightly; people walk miles to see this great Act. The Royal Ohmys are the talk of the town and district. Complimented by everybody. Note.—Will be at Liberty Jan. 18. Address, The Royal Ohmys, Hippodrome, Spennymoor.

WANTED, Known, The Stephenson Equestrian Family, with plenty of Bareback Riding Acts, also smart Performing Animal Act, Trick Pony, good Equilibristic Act, Clowns, &c., at present Mr. John Henry Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh, and a big success.

WANTED, Known, De Ora, Gymnastic Sensationalist, now at the Public Hall, Croydon, with Mr. E. Mansell's Graphic and King's Service Picture Co. Vacant Jan. 11, 18, and 25, for Circuses, Halls, Carnivals, Skating Rinks, also Galas, Flower Shows, Water Shows. Agents, ROSEN and BLISS, London.

WANTED, Known, Big Success, Alvantee, King of Slanting Wire. Fun City, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Lib. Jan. 18, 1909.

WANTED, Known, Rollo, King of the Air, Sensational Trapeze and Slack Rope Performer. Big success, Wilmot's Carnival, Edinburgh; Liberty Jan. 18 and onwards.

WANTED, Known, The Three Altons, Demon Contortionists; also as Tella and Gardelle, Gymnasts. Liberty for Tenting. 6, Victoria Park-road, London, N.E.

WANTED, Engagements, for Airship Flights, Balloon Ascents, Captive Balloons, Balloon Races, Parachute Descents, gas or hot-air balloons, by Lady or Gentlemen Aeronauts.
SPENCER BROS., LTD.,
45B, Aberdeen-park, Highbury, London, N.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

BRITANNIA THEATRE, GLASGOW.
WANTED, Jan. 18, and onward, Variety Artists, in all Lines,
Specialities, Comedians,
Comediennes, Sisters,
Doubles doing Singles.
Please state lowest in first letter.
A. E. PICKARD,
Sole Proprietor and Manager,
Britannia, Glasgow.

CLYDEBANK NEW GAIETY THEATRE.
WANTED, Variety Artists, First-class Acts of all kinds, Star Comedians, Comediennes, Specialities, &c., &c., for immediate and future dates.
A. E. PICKARD, Sole Proprietor and Manager.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists all Lines, Jan. 18 onward. Hall small, so no fancy prices. Terms, lowest, particulars, LOUDEN, Hippodrome, Airdrie, N.B.

WANTED, Monday, Jan. 18, and onwards, Variety Artists, all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, KITCHINGMAN, Aquarium, Scarborough.

FETE AND GALA SEASON, 1909.
WANTED, Variety Artists, Big Specialities, Novel Acts, all Kinds of Acrobats, Juggling, Flying Shows, Aerial Sensations, &c., &c., for May 31, June 28, July 5, 12, and Aug. 2, onward. Send full particulars and sample lithos. to WILDER, Agent, Gt. Francis-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, Variety Artists, for nine nights, commencing Thursday, Jan. 21, Comedy Turns, good Sketches, anything Novel. State inclusive terms for nine nights first letter, or wire, MANAGER, Hippodrome, Tredegar, Mon.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.
WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, Twice Nightly; also WORCESTER EMPIRE, Twice Nightly. Wanted, Artists doing Double Turns, used to Picture Shows. No wires, please. ARTHUR CARLTON, Palace, Worcester.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Acts with Drawing Powers (Nothing too Big). Dec. 28, onwards. CLAGGERS, Gaiety, Blyth.

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, for T. A. Edwardes's Variety Theatres, Artists in all Lines, Combinations with drawing Tops entertained, for dates in Feb. and March. Address, T. A. EDWARDES, Palace, Derby.

WANTED, Artists Double Turns doing Singles, two weeks, Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1. CHARLES A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

BEANLAND AND EMERSON'S VARIETY AGENCY.
ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
WANTED, Artists of every Description, for immediate dates and onwards, for several Halls, Lancashire and Yorkshire. V.A.F. Contracts used. Send full list of Bookings and Terms.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists, all Lines, Big Specialities, Novelties, Comedians, Serios, Jan. 18, onwards. Lowest terms and bookings. EDGAR STEBBINGS, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester. Tels., "Stebbing, Manchester." 'Phone 9261.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Jan. 25, onward. State absolute lowest terms and bookings, MANAGER, Empire, Blaina, Mon.

VICTORIA T., STANLEY, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Star Artists for immediate and future dates. T. C. RAWES, Proprietor.

WANTED, Artists, for King's (Exhibition) Hall, Birmingham, next to Grand Theatre. Vacant for Novelties of any kind. Splendid position. Holds 450. Address, KENNEDY and MOORE, King's Hall, Birmingham.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

O. MAUS DAYTON'S VAUDEVILLE COS.
O. MAUS DAYTON'S VAUDEVILLE COS.
O. MAUS DAYTON'S VAUDEVILLE COS.

WANTED, Artists for the above, March 1, 8, 15, May, June, Oct. 4, 11, and later dates.
All Contracts as per Arbitrator's Award, and no commission deducted; therefore please quote lowest terms.
O. MAUS DAYTON'S PANTOMIME.
O. MAUS DAYTON'S PANTOMIME.
"BABES IN THE WOOD."
"BABES IN THE WOOD."
"BABES IN THE WOOD."
Xmas, 1909.
Wanted, Artists in all Lines for the above.
Those interested see Panto. Advertisement under "Theatres Wanted."

O. MAUS DAYTON'S
O. MAUS DAYTON'S
ANGLO-CONTINENTAL VARIETY AGENCY.
ANGLO-CONTINENTAL VARIETY AGENCY.
ANGLO-CONTINENTAL VARIETY AGENCY.
WANTED, Artists in all Lines, suitable for England and the Continent, Music Halls, Fêtes, Galas, &c. Nothing too big, nothing too small. Send lowest terms, list of bookings, lithos., memos., post-cards, or other advertising material. Although every effort is made to give prompt attention to all communications, it is impossible to book all, impossible to answer all. Please do not forget this. All letters are filed for reference. Silence a polite negative pro tem.
Interviews by appointment only.
All communications, O. MAUS DAYTON,
The Dayton Family.
Dalston Theatre, London.
Representative, Will B. Crabtree.
P.S.—Why should not an Artist be an Agent if he has the necessary capital and abilities? Artists do not object to Agents becoming Artists if they have the necessary qualifications.

WANTED, for Jan. 18 and onwards,
Star Artists in all Lines,
Star Artists in all Lines,
Star Comedians, Star Ladies, Star Troupes,
Tops, Middles, and Bottoms,
Call or write at once, sending fullest details, list of Bookings, lowest Salaries, &c.,
Be Sensible and I will fix you up.
Only those who pay 10% need communicate.
Would-be Solicitors, Agitators, Orators, and Trouble-makers keep away. I have to live and pay expenses.
GEORGE SINCLAIR'S Agency,
Established over 20 years,
118, Kennington-road, S.E. 'Phone 1038 Hop.

NEW PAVILION, KIRKCALDY.
WANTED, Artists all Lines, Big Sensational Novelties; big price given to any Turn that can Draw. Grand Re-opening, Jan. 18, and onwards.
Important Notice.
Dr. Walford Bodie, having taken over the above beautiful theatre, all Contracts not signed by him are null and void. Artists holding Contracts signed by Messrs. Williams or Walker may write in for future dates. The hall is now closed for further extensive alterations at a cost of over £2,000, and when finished will be one of the finest theatres in Scotland. Electric light throughout; seating and fittings by Dean and Sons Birmingham. All letters address to Sole Director and Proprietor,
Dr. WALFORD BODIE, M.D.,
Palace, East Ham.
Head Office for Bodie's Halls, Tours, and Enterprises, 163, Blackfriars-road, London, S.E.
Telegrams, "Bodieism, London."

GEORGE SMYTHSON'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, The Pick of the Entertainment World.
If you have the "goods," I can place you.
Good Acts Known to Me
send full list of bookings
(including engagements fulfilled during 1908).
Must enclose full list, or useless writing.
Quote actual lowest in each instance for
Principal Provincial Halls,
Minor Provincial Halls,
and London.
Big Novel Acts, in London particularly,
State when and where can be seen.
GEORGE SMYTHSON,
38, Craster-road, Brixton Hill, London, S.W.
No callers except by appointment.

JACK DE FRECE,
JACK DE FRECE,
THEATRICAL AND MUSIC HALL AGENCY,
THEATRICAL AND MUSIC HALL AGENCY,
178, Charing Cross-road, London, W.C.
WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, to Send their Lists of Vacant Dates, and where Booked.
Nothing too Big.
Can Guarantee Twenty-four Weeks Certain
to all Suitable and Approved Turns.
In all cases state very lowest terms.
JACK DE FRECE,
Theatrical and Music Hall Agency,
178, Charing Cross-road, London, W.C.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Monday next, and onwards, hall very small. State absolute lowest. AUBREY, Victoria Hall, Rhymney, Mon.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, Jan. 18, and on, near London.
CADLE'S Agency, 105-106, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now onwards.
Apply, Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Jan. 18, onwards, Star Artists, Big Specialities. Mark envelopes "Variety."
PRINGLE'S Picture Palace, Glasgow.

FRED DURHAM'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Jan. 11, on. 14, Loughboro'-rd., Brixton. 'Phone 15 Brixton.

WANTED, Star Artists (must be draws), Jan. 18, 25, on. GEO. AYTOUN, Variety Agent, 103, Kennington Park-road, London, S.E.

VERNO'S AGENCY,
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.
WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, for January 18, on.
Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone, 2,076 Royal.

VENTOM SWIFT'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Artists known to me, for Aberdeen, Dundee, Glasgow, Greenock, &c. All Artists vacant "Monday next" keep me posted every Tuesday. 1, West Tollcross, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
HARRY BURNS'S AGENCY.
Established 1895.
Head Office, Welburn House, Hartlepool.
Telephone Nos. 231 and 231a.
Telegrams, "Chosen, Hartlepool."
(Not West Hartlepool.)

WANTED, all Clients to Send full Bookings. Important. FRANK LYNNE'S Agency, 77, Angell-road, Brixton, S.W. 'Phone 1,303, Brixton.

PALACE THEATRE, GRIMSBY.
WANTED, Tops and Bottoms, for Feb. 1 and onwards. State when last in Grimsby, lowest terms, and full particulars,
G. RHODES PARRY, Palace, Grimsby.

WANTED, for Palace Theatre, Reading, Tops and Bottoms of Bills, Several Dates, this and next year. Letters only. STANHOPE and Co., LTD., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Jan. 18, Top and Bottom Liners. Speciality Act. I can fix you. Lithos., full bookings. GANNON, West-grove, Bristol. Miss Lalonde Noble send dates.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY,
170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.
WANTED, the Best in all Lines, big and small, for immediate dates and on. Those who are willing to pay 10% write me; that's all.

WANTED, Youth, must be a good Tumbler. Long Engagement to the Right Party.
Address, O. K., General Post Office, Swansea.

HAMILTON'S EXCURSIONS.
WANTED, Monday, Jan. 18, onwards, Big Specialities, Novelties, and Comedy Acts. Warlock and Wills write. Apply, with lowest terms, to V. HAMILTON, Curzon Hall, Birmingham.
Appointments by letter only.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Artists, of Note.
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY — I can book you
DALTON'S AGENCY — Immediate Dates,
DALTON'S AGENCY — and
DALTON'S AGENCY — Dates onward.
DALTON'S AGENCY — No Guessing.
DALTON'S AGENCY
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DALTON'S AGENCY — Send full list
DALTON'S AGENCY — and very lowest
DALTON'S AGENCY — (this essential),
DALTON'S AGENCY — and permanent addresses,
DALTON'S AGENCY — also
DALTON'S AGENCY — weekly apartments
DALTON'S AGENCY — address.
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DALTON'S AGENCY — 29, Mauldeth-road West,
DALTON'S AGENCY — Withington,
DALTON'S AGENCY — Manchester.
DALTON'S AGENCY
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DALTON'S AGENCY
I said "Agency."
N.B.—State where never played.
Viviana and Co. wire address. Urgent.

ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, CASTLEFORD.
WANTED, the Greatest Stars in the Business, nothing too big, Share or Salary. Artists of every description. Particulars, BEANLAND and EMERSON, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

WANTED, for Jan. 18, and onwards,
Stars in all Lines.
Stars in all Lines.
Full up for smaller items.
CADLE'S Agency, 105-6, Strand, W.C.

WILL SLEY.
180, Oxford-road, Manchester.
WANTED, for Jan. and on,
Star Turns,
Comedians,
Serios,
Gymnasts,
Acrobats,
Bar Performers,
and
Any New and Novel Acts,
also Comedy Sketches.
Those not willing to pay usual 10% commission save stamps.
Telegraphic address, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone 09144.

WANTED, for Jan. 11 and 18, Singles and Double Turns, for Small Hall just outside of London.
Call, LITTLE'S Agency,
4, Arthur-street, New Oxford-street.

WANTED, three good Variety Turns, Jan. 18, one week, Lancashire; three weeks from Feb. 5. Letters only. MANAGER, Picture Co., 15, Westfield-terrace, Sheffield.

CLIQUOT'S UNIVERSAL VARIETY AGENCY,
46, Brunswick-street, Manchester.
WANTED, Big Attractions, for Jan., Feb., March.
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY. Big Star Acts.
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY. Artists all Lines.
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY. Nothing too Big.
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY. for Midlands.
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY. for North,
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY. for everywhere.
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY. Can Book you.
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY. Notice.
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY. Is a Bona-fide Agency.
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY. 35 years' experience.
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY. Knows the
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY. value of an Act,
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY. My friend (?) A. W.
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY. Laughed too soon.
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY. Who Laughs now?
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY. All coms. as above.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, PONTEFRACT,
and
NEW EMPIRE THEATRE, WAKEFIELD
(in course of erection).
WANTED, the Cream of the Profession to write in for the above and other towns. Acts unknown to me can have a trial show, Jan. 21, 1909.
Nothing too Big.
Can Mount any Show on the Road.
We only engage Talent.
All communications to the
General-Manager,
TOM DIACOFF,
Pontefract.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.
WANTED, Specialities, Comedians, &c., Jan. 18, Feb. 1, 8, and later.
JAMES FIONI'S Agency, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

HIPPODROME AND PALACE THEATRE,
SPENNYMOOR, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, First-class Specialities of every Description, Aerial Shows suitable for Ring or Stage, First-class Combinations. Share or certainty. Address, C. ALCOCK.

WANTED, Feb. 1, and on, First-class Variety Companies, complete in themselves;
also Drama and Musical Comedy. All twice nightly.
Apply, DIRECTOR OF VARIETIES,
Grand Theatre, Blackpool.

WANTED, for Galas, Easter, Whitsun, June, July, August, Gymnasts, Acrobats, Cyclists, Big Novelty Acts. Bills, lithos., terms, WOOD, caterer, Easton, Bristol.

WANTED, First-class Comedians, Serios, and Specialities (no Sketches), for Jan. 18 and Feb. 1. Apply, with lowest terms, LUCK, Hippodrome, Warrington.

WANTED, Smart Comedian, to play Coster Part in Sketch. Apply, Monday morning, 233, New Kent-road, S.E.

WANTED, Wanted, Comedians,
Comedy Sketches, and Lady Vocalists, Serios,
for Picture Shows;
preference given to those that can work Sunday Concert; no item too small if good.
Immediate Dates.
Apply,
GEO. ZALVA'S Agency, Hippodrome, Yarmouth.

WANTED, good Lady Acrobat. Will Miss Rogers (late of Ara, Zebra) write immediately? LETTA, 11, Addison Park-mansions, Kensington, W.

WANTED, Smart Acrobatic and Buck Dancer, who can Sing; must be good-looking, not over 5ft. 3in. Communicate at once,
SINCLAIR'S Agency, 118, Kennington-road, S.E.

WANTED, Young Girl, Good Wooden Shoe Dancer. State age, height, &c. Letters, with photo., to ALPHA, G.P.O., Accrington.

WANTED, immediately, good Legmania Man, willing to make himself useful. Apply by letter only, 25, Manhattan-mansions, Holloway.

DAN NOBLE'S AGENCY,
272, Liverpool-st., Salford, Manchester.
WANTED, Acts of all Descriptions, immediate and later. Full list of bookings. Absolute lowest and permanent address imperative. Al and Lal and Lambert Hands send addresses.

WANTED, Acts of all Kinds, S. Wales and District, also North of England. Send Bookings and lowest terms, MARTINO'S Agency, 125, Barcroft-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, First-class Acts of all Kinds, for immediate dates, price no object; also Acts that have Feb. 1 and 8 vacant in Wales.
Send full list of Bookings and permanent address to J. BROWN and Co., 58, Chicksand-street, N.E.
Tel. No. 1098 City. By appointment only.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
the Greatest Acts in the Profession.
the Greatest Acts in the Profession.
the Greatest Acts in the Profession.
the Greatest Acts in the Profession.
I am quite prepared to guarantee
forty weeks each year
to Artists
should I agree to accept
their Sole Agency.
Please forward
full list of Bookings
and absolute Lowest
in the first instance,
to
HARRY BURNS,
HARRY BURNS,
HARRY BURNS,
Established 1895,
Head Office,
Welburn House, Hartlepool.
'Phones, 231 and 231A.
Wires, "Chosen, Hartlepool."

WANTED, a good Comic Juggler, or a Comic Refined Turn, to open Monday next.
Wire,
lowest terms,
BOSWELL, Oadby, Leicester.

WANTED, for Stock Minstrel Shows,
Tenors,
Baritones,
Bassos,
good Corner Men, used to the part.
Long Engagement for suitable people.
Required to play twice nightly, thirty to forty minutes each show.
Apply by letter to
T. BARRASFORD, 11, Leicester-place, Leicester-square, W.C.
Letters marked "Minstrel."

WANTED, First-class Vocalists, Comediennes, Dancers, Novelties. Call or write, with songs, &c., GRESHAM Agency, George Hotel (first floor), 57, Liverpool-road, Islington, N.

WANTED, for Empire, Greenock, twice nightly, Star Acts. Nothing too Big. Salary or sharing terms; also Pantomimes and Combinations.

WANTED, Illustrated Vocalists and Acts of Every Description, Immediate and Future Dates. Artists when writing enclose photo. or blocks where possible, VICTOR BRANFORD, Edison's Pictures, T. R., Canterbury.

WANTED, for Immediate and Future Dates, Big Illusions, Musical Acts, Conjurers, Ventriloquists, Acrobats, &c., suitable for Picture Hall. Quote lowest terms to HARRY ESDEN, Avenue Theatre, Sunderland.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Six Young Ladies,
Six Young Ladies,
Six Young Ladies,
Six Young Ladies,
ages from 14 to 16 years;
must have really good voices.
must have really good voices.
must have really good voices.
must have really good voices.
Apply personally at the
Foresters' Vaudeville Theatre,
Cambridge-road, Mile End,
on Friday, Jan. 15, 1909,
to Mr. FREDERIC BAUGH.

WANTED, for the 18th, near London, Smart Sisters, Sing and Dance; Comic Singer; Bioscope, complete outfit (gas). Lowest terms to GLOVER, Hippo., Richmond, till to-night; then, Grand, Clapham.

WANTED, Respectable Young Girl, about 14-16 years old,
for Novelty Act.
Good home with well-known troupe.
Call personally, not later than 6 p.m.,
LIST, 228, Camberwell New-road.

WANTED, Young Lady Skater, one with a Knowledge of Cycling preferred. Address, O. K., General Post Office, Swansea.

WANTED, Girl, of good character and attractive appearance, for High-class Illusion Act, under 5ft. in height, and not to exceed 7st. in weight; knowledge of Stage Deportment essential; permanency to suitable girl. Apply by letter, enclosing full particulars, &c., to Box 5,316, "The Era."

WANTED, good Comedy Acrobat, with Funny Tricks, for Parallel Bar Act. Full particulars, MILLWARDS, 28, Wilton-street, Oxford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, First-class Animated Picture Show, must guarantee up-to-date exhibition, one hour, show twice nightly. Terms must be moderate. BALL, 17, Ashbourne-road, Birmingham.

270 Replies.
WANTED, Wanted, Known,
Sir,—
I inserted an advertisement, asking for Music Hall Artists in the last week's issue of "The Era." May I say that I am absolutely astounded at the number of replies I received to my small advertisement, no less than 270 Artists favouring me with applications. May I by this means thank the many artists who sent in their terms, as it is impossible for me to reply to each individual. I thank all for their very kind promptitude in responding to my advertisement.
I remain, yours faithfully,
ALFRED BALL.
New Lyceum, Tilbury Docks, Essex.
3/12/'08.

WANTED, Cinématograph Operator, with machine, gas, complete, shows hour, twice nightly; smalls; South Wales. SEC., 1, Commercial-street, Nantymoel, Glam.

WANTED, for Small Hall (permanent), Practical Operator (gas), own machine, films, screen; also to work Illustrated Songs; abstainer preferred. A. WHITMAN, 36, Rushton-road, Thornbury, Bradford; after Sunday, People's Palace, Kenilworth.

WANTED, Smart Operators, thoroughly competent, build up and take out Show, used to both currents. PAYNE, 346, Brixton-road, S.W.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Jan. 18, between Plymouth and Scarborough,
the Great
VONETTA,
VONETTA,
VONETTA,
Queen of the Vaudeville World.
Vonetta's Act is impossible to describe, being a whirlwind of surprises.
Elaborate Scenery, Dazzling Electric Spectacle, Mammoth Illusions, Masterpieces of Conjuring, Protean Changes, bewildering in their rapidity.
A genuine Box Office Attraction.
VONETTA is breaking records everywhere she appears. Will Book on Salary or Shares.
The finest stock of lithos. and throwaways on the road. This week at Portsmouth. Chung Ling Soo appears at the Hippodrome, Chas. T. Aldrich at the King's, and in spite of opposition at other theatres—"Merry Widow," "Cinderella," &c.—Vonetta is drawing crowded houses to the Empire Palace. Refer to Capt. Warren Wright.
Wire, T. M. PAUL, Empire Palace, Portsmouth; Palace, Plymouth, after Sunday. Also vacant Feb. 1 and March 1, North.
Managers, if you want to fill your houses, Book VONETTA.

WANTED, by Dolly Brough, Comedienne and Clog Dancer, Monday (Jan. 11), second week here owing to success. Wire, wire, Pavilion, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Proprietors, Managers, and Agents in search of a Talented Novelty should see Edie Le Brun (of the Two Le Bruns), the incomparable child juggler and comedienne. Vacant Jan. 25, Feb. 1.
Address, Palace, Denton, Lancs.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Cissie Gazetti, Comedienne, at Liberty Monday, also Jan. 14.
Wire, County Hotel, Stockport.

WANTED, Known, Maude Botha, the Comedienne from South Africa. Last week, Palace, Walthamstow; this week, Palace, Tottenham. Out next week through misunderstanding. Wires, 16, Helix-road, Brixton Hill, S.W.

WANTED, Jan. 18, 25, and Feb. 1, by Two Beatrices, Duettists and Expert Dancers. Wire or write, this, Palace, Northampton; Monday, Hippo., Dewsbury. Offers invited.

WANTED, Known, Rubie and Elsie Redfern, in their New Drawing-room Act, with Piano, Banjoes, Singing, Dancing, &c, Palace, Blackpool. Vacant Jan. 11 and Feb. 1. After Saturday, 60, Denmark-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Terry Sisters, Highly Talented Mimics, Vocalists, Dancers, &c.; at Lib. Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1. Comunicate, Pavilion, Bridlington.

WANTED, Engagements, Dan Ashton, Lancashire's Popular Collier Comedian, Original Songs, Scenes, Jokes, &c. 26, Wood-st., Openshaw.

WANTED, Jan. 25, onwards, by Bert Rayburn, Comedian, to follow Attercliffe. This, Bury; next, Hull. Offers, C/o Farrow, Royton, Manchester.

WANTED, Jan. 11, onwards, by Sam Clarke, Gradely Lancashire Humour by a Gradely Lancashire Lad. Wire, C/o Farrow, Royton, Manchester.

WANTED, Jan. 11 and 25, George Battle, Actor-Vocalist. Wire or write,
2, King John-street, Spennymoor.

WANTED, Jan. 18, 25, Harry Tullett, the Youthful Eccentric Comedian and Dancer. Record success, this, Hippodrome, Yarmouth; next, Hippodrome, Lowestoft.

WANTED, Known, one-string Fiddle Expert, getting Double Encores, wants Tour with Bioscope Company. Write or wire, J., 367, Harold-road, Hastings.

WANTED, Monday next, by Vulcaris, as Entertainer or Pianist, or Pianist-Entertainer; just concluded New Year Special Engagement, Kirkcaldy. Wire, Music Hall, Peterhead, N.B.

WANTED, three weeks, by Vulcaris, the Scottish Grossmith (unexpectedly Vacant). Those who know me or my Act, wire offers for Monday, Music Hall, Peterhead.

WANTED, by Perce Upton, Eccentric Comedian, Jan. 18 till Feb. 15, through misunderstanding, Tour, Pictures, or Halls. Wire, 52, Bolton-road, Stratford, E.

WANTED, Known, Yorkshire Tom, Great Mimic, wants Jan. 18, onwards. Wire, 3, Bolton-road, Kearsley. Monday next, Hippo., Bury.

WANTED, Known, Little Hackenschmidt, starring return and enormous success, Palace, Northampton, with latest novel bill matter that draws. Coms., White Horse, 37, Rupert-st., London, W.C.

WANTED, Known, at Lib., Jan. 11, 18, and 25, any distance, the Great Li-Chang-Hi and Charming Assistants, Chinese Illusionists and Wonder Workers. Always Something New and Original. Wire or write, CHANG, Hippo., Kirkcaldy, N.B.

WANTED, by Morimura, Marvellous Japanese Illusionist, Jan. 18 and 25, for his Original Oriental Magic Act. Concludes to-night, Olympia Annexe, London; next week, Albert Hall, Swansea.

WANTED, Jan. 25, on, The Great Kroston (Kyoto), Japanese Contortionist, Humorous Juggler, and the Mysterious Box, 15 minutes; also Miss May Sumner, a refined Comedienne and Dancer. Success, Empire, Blaina. Jan. 11, Oddfellows' Hall, Dowlais, South Wales.

WANTED, Feb. 3, 15, Fred and Lillie Monckton, in Latest Screaming Farcical Episode, "Two in a Flat." This, Palace, Battersea. Terrific Success. Jan. 11, Surrey Theatre, London.

WANTED, Monday next, by Lillian and Agouste, Contortionists; Mons. Savaro, Bird Imitator; North or Midland preferred. Wire offers, Theatre, Hawick.

WANTED, by Will Candlish, Black Emperor, Star Musical Comedian and Raconteur, and Nannie Shaw, Scotch Character Vocalist and Expert Dancer, Jan. 18, 25, and Feb. 7. This, O. H., Edinburgh; next, O. H., Londonderry.

WANTED, Known, Stylo, Marvellous Hoop Juggling; Beatrice Bonnie, Artistic Comedienne; only vacancy, next week, wire, 25, Clifford-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, The Lovells, Bert, Great Speciality Jumper, Elsie, the Youngest Trick and Barrel Jumper in the World. Vacant, Jan. 18, 20, 34, Brook-street, Dewsbury.

WANTED, Monday next, also 18th, Cagner and Steele (Will and Victoria), Duettists. Palace, Northampton; after Sat., 2, Berwick-pl., Nottingham.

WANTED, Monday next, through misunderstanding, by René, Girl Juggler; Roy Beavis, Magician. Wire, Queen's Palace, Shipley.

WANTED, Jan. 11, 18, by Will Saunders, Great Comedian; also May Vincent, Songstress. Wire, 53, Nichols-street, Leicester.

WANTED, by Mlle. Sylvesto, Graceful Contortionist, and her Clever Comedian, Jan. 11, 18, 25. Big Success, Hippo., Spennymoor, Co. Durham.

WANTED, by Holgar and Raymond, the Talkative Two; also Lady doing Single; Vacant Jan. 11 and 18. Wire or write, Theatre, Tranent, near Edinburgh.

WANTED, Monday, Jan. 11, 18, Charles and May Dana, Comedy Duo, "Honeymooning"; also Vent. Show if required. Wire, Theatre Royal, Workington.

WANTED, by Mike and Lena, Comedy Dutch Duo, Song, Dance, Dialect, Monday next, also Jan. 18, 25. Wire, 38, Berwick-street, All Saints, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Thorpe and Cox present the Most Successful of all Comedy Playlets, "My Burglar." Vacant Monday next, Jan. 11. Wire, Empire, Southport (bottom of bill).

WANTED, Jan. 18, 25, and Feb. 1, by Colvil and Tate, Comedy Artists and Dancers. Success everywhere. The hit of the Programme this week with Poole's Myriorama. This, Colston Hall, Bristol; next, Hippodrome, Ton-y-Pandy. (See Cards).

WANTED, Jan. 4 and 11, Bros. Almo, Comedy Three-Bar Act. Wire, Pav., Bridlington; after Sat., 13, Westfield-terrace, Sheffield.

WANTED, Known, Petro and Leon, Sensational and Comedy Gymnasts, Liberty Jan. 11, 18. Wire, Empire, Wrexham. After Sat., 27, Smith-st., Preston.

WANTED, by Hector and Sultan, the Men who cause peals of laughter, Monday next. Wire, 7, Magdala-street, Lodge-lane, Liverpool.

WANTED, Jan. 11, 18, 25, Alex and Jolly, Smart Comedy Three-bar Act.
13, Westfield-terrace, Sheffield.

WANTED, Known, "The Village Blacksmith," "The Village Blacksmith," the Musical Palmers. Big Success this week, Empire, Portsmouth; next, Colston Hall, Bristol, with Joseph Poole, Esq. Vacant Jan. 25 and Feb. 1. Film carried.

WILSON JAMES'S NEW COMPANY,
THE EUTERPEANS.
A High-class Costume Concert Party of five Artists.
WANTED, Known, a few Vacant Weeks next Summer, in May, June, and Sept. Address, Mr. WILSON JAMES, 108, Sumatra-road, West Hampstead. Telephone 1222 P.O., Hampstead.

WANTED, Known, Wartana Trio, Modern Lady Jugglers, require 11th, 18th, Feb. 1. Wire this, Hippo., Bury; next, 32, Halston-street, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Engagement, by Indian Jugglers, including Famous Basket Trick. Apply, INDIAN SHOWMAN, 4, Seagrave-road, West Brompton.

WANTED, Known, Great Scott, the Ladder King, the only Juggler on the Balancing Ladder. Mon., Palace, Cork. Vac. 18th and 25th.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Dates, onward, The Pepa, Most Talented Trampolin Performance before the Public. Managers, note.—This Act will Please any Audience. We always Shine. Dog Prince, the talk of every town. Finish to-night, Opera House, Dunfermline, five weeks grand success in Scotland; free Jan. 11, onward. 64, Upper Sutton-street, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, La Dor Troupe (seven in number), Male and Female Acrobats, &c., on Tour with Falcon's Pantomime, "Aladdin," Speciality in Palace Scene; also Produce Harlequinade. Thanking Proprietors for Offers. For vacant dates, Theatre Royal, Canterbury.

WANTED, Jan. 18, 25, by Gulliver, Ventriloquist. Another big success again this week, Pringle's Pictures, Rochdale. Highly complimented by management on Monday night. Monday, 46, Derngate, Northampton.

WANTED, Feb. 1, by Rich Taylor, the Whistling Ventriloquist, through the Palace, Sunderland, closing. Next week, Hippo., Glasgow.

WANTED, Jan. 11, 18, 25, and on, by Grieve, Novelty Ventriloquist, Funny Show, fine Singing. Offers invited for week or Tour. Mexboro' House, Mexboro', Yorks.

WANTED, Managers to Note, the Disappointment Turn, Rennie, Ventriloquist, never Books ahead. The Turn for Monday next. Wire best offer, Queen's, Gateshead.

WANTED, Known, Grieve, Ventriloquist, Novelty Show, Funny Business, Good Singing. Jan. 11, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford; 18th, Liberty. Wire offers.

WANTED, Feb. 1, 8, 15, by Hulbert, Ventriloquist, and De Lil, Illusionist. Two Smart Acts. Offers invited. Hippodrome, Hastings.

WANTED, Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 15, and on, "Battle of the Belles," Comedy Act.
FRED MOULE, Jan. 11, Hippo., Stoke.

WANTED, Monday next, also 18th, by Billy Ross and Co., Greatest Boxing Act before the Public. This, Empress, Brixton. Audience still laughing. Wire.

WANTED, by Miss Ella's Lion Show, Jan. 18, onwards, with exceptions.
Com. week Jan. 11,
Palace Theatre, Long Eaton.

WANTED, Known, Proprietors and Managers requiring a Novelty, secure Fontainbleau, Wonderful Troupe of Black Russian Performing Poodles; all prize winners, and a picture on the stage. Just concluding tour. Vacant Jan. 18, 25. FONTAINBLEAU, Town Hall, Cleckheaton.

WANTED, Known, Hraton and Wooton (who advertised in last week's "Era" vacant Jan. 11 through transferring date), wish to thank the following gentlemen for wires re that date:—Mr. Newsome, Hippodrome, Coventry; Hengler's Circus, Glasgow; Mr. Lloyd, Pavilion, Glasgow; King's, Gateshead; and Palace, Bristol, and Will Dalton, and wish to state we have settled at Pavilion, Glasgow, where address all letters.

WANTED, Known, Cyclists Trio, Knockabout Cyclists, Football Match on Cycles. Vac. 11th, 18th. Iona-street Carnival, Edinburgh. After Sat. to perm. (see Cards).

WANTED, Known, Bauletti, the Man with the Funny Acrobatic Cycling Act. This, P. O. W., Mexboro'; next, Queen's, Farnworth. Thanks for card.

WANTED, Jan. 11, 18, and 25, Swift Duo, Funny Cycle Speciality. Wire or write, 89, Bristol-street, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, that Tom Hearne, All round Tumbler, late of The Four Hearnes, also Dagmars, is at Liberty to join a First-class Troupe. Address letters, 95, Ventiman-road, Clapham-road, London.

WANTED, Engagement, in Troupe, Comedy, or Sketch, or Partner Singing, Dancing, Tumbling. HARRY GILBERT, Post Office, Kennington, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Boy 15, would like Situation as Conjurer's Assistant or Boy Comedian, or anything. Would make fine boy comedian.—Vide Gus Hindell. All communications to JOE MCKIE, 24, Cecil-street, Carlisle.

WANTED, Known, Prof. Lenton's Bioscope Entertainments; Change of Pictures Nightly or Weekly; Machines, Films, and Accessories Bought, Sold, or Hired Out to any amount. 2, Capener's-yard, Knightsbridge, S.W.

WANTED, Jan. 25, one week, Royal British Animated Pictures and Vaudeville Co. can supply any amount of pictorials, &c. Address, PICTURES, 13, Westfield-terrace, Sheffield.

WANTED, Known, experienced Operator, thoroughly competent; first-class references; at Liberty Jan. 25. Permanency only. Address, Box 5,323, "The Era."

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD OF GREAT BRITAIN.
THE U.K. VAN-DWELLERS' AND SHOWMEN'S PROTECTION ASSOCIATION.
WANTED, Known, Annual Meetings, MANCHESTER.
THE MEMORIAL HALL, ALBERT-SQUARE, Wednesday, Jan. 13, 1909, commencing at 4 p.m. prompt. Speakers:—The Rev. H. Newburn and Rev. T. Herne, T. Watson Wright, Esq., Chas. Howard, Esq., Chairman:—THE NEW PRESIDENT.
LONDON.
THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL HALL ISLINGTON
(by kind permission of T. E. Read, Esq.),
SUNDAY.
Presidential Address by THE NEW PRESIDENT.
The other speakers will include the Organising Chaplain, the Hon. Solicitor, and Friends and Supporters of the Guild, commencing at 11.30 in the forenoon. THE ANNUAL BUSINESS COMMITTEE MEETING at the "Black Lion Hotel," Salford, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon of Jan. 13.
T. HURST, Hon. Sec.

WANTED, Known, Solo
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the
BRITISH ROUNDABOUT PROPRIETORS' AND SHOWMEN'S UNION
will be Held on Tuesday next, Jan. 12, at 1 o'clock, at the Union's Headquarters, the Black Lion Hotel, Salford.
All members are particularly requested to attend.
T. HURST, Secretary.

WANTED, Known, Wanted, Known,
The Public put Pennies in the Slots,
but
I take Sovereigns from the Cash Boxes.
The above was the recent remark of an operator of
"The Magical Mills Machines."
"The Marvellous Mills Machines."
"The Money-making Mills Machines."
Send to Sole Agents for Illustrated Catalogue,
MINERVA AUTOMATIC Co.,
14, Charterhouse-buildings, London, E.C.

WANTED, Known, .22 Cartridges, "R." "H." "D." "P" brands, Winchester repeaters, Globes, Targets, Water Balls. GERMER, 74, Falmouth-road, London, S.E.

CAKE WALK. Regd. Trade Mark. CAKE WALK.
WANTED, Known, TAYLOR, PLINSTON, BROS., and Co., Sole Makers and Patentees of the Only Cake-Walk Riding Machine in the World. Royal Letters Patent, No. 17402, Jy. 30, 1907. No. 25150, Nov. 13, 1907, and No. 2649, Feb. 6, 1908. In the Chancery Court, Jy. 3, 1908, Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady Granted an Injunction against defendants for infringement of our Patent No. 17402. This Machine is a Triumph of Engineering Skill for Simplicity, Lightness, and Durability.
It is a Record Money-maker.
Write or call on the Sole Makers and Patentees, Farncombe-street,
and 94-98, Bermondsey-wall, London, S.E.

WANTED, Novelties, with good Flash, three weeks certain for right people. Carl Whyte wire. NICHOLAS, 113, Fore-street, Upper Edmonton, N.

LONDON, PROVINCIAL & CONTINENTAL VAUDEVILLE COMBINATION.

TELEPHONES: 1668 Gerrard. 3182 Gerrard. 1669 Gerrard. 3183 Gerrard.

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HENGLER'S CIRCUS.

GRAND PRODUCTION OF "CINDERELLA" AND OTHER SPECIAL NOVELTIES.

THE ALHAMBRA, PARIS.

Bernardi, Shang Hai, Les Fleurs, Prof. Norton, Les Hoyns, R. A. Speedwell, Bros. Bradshaw, Pictures, Mlle. Florizell, Klein Family.

HIPPODROME, BIRMINGHAM.

F. L. Gregory Troupe, Gus Garrick, Robbie Roy, Leslie Bros., Garganis, St. Ruth and Conyers, Pictures, Bros. Wills, Stowe Bros., Milner and Storey.

HIPPODROME, BRIGHTON.

Ariel and Astarte, Ted Curtis, Bros. Horne, Fred Russell, Maxey and Pete, Brinn, Pictures, F. Edwardes' Co., Radford Duo, C. Aldrich.

HIPPODROME, SHEFFIELD.

H. Roxbury and Co., Dan Filmer, John Marx, Dunn and Reno, La Freya, Pictures, Alf. Gibson, Mlle. Rénee, Juanitos Troupe.

HIPPODROME, LEEDS.

C. Cardow, Honors and Le Prince, Denwartz Troupe, Pantomime, Pictures.

PAVILION, NEWCASTLE.

Lena Wyllie, Sisters Ford, Caryl Wilbur, Paulton and Dooley, C. Greta, Pictures, My Fancy, Friend and Downing, Herbert Clifton, Faust.

HIPPODROME, ST. HELENS.

HIPPODROME, EALING.

Ambrose Thorn, Mark Leslie, Six Roma Girls, Yvonne Lamor, Mlle. Fougère, Pictures, Dreadnaughts, Lowenwirth and Cohan, Fredo and Preston, Katherine Clark Duo.

EMPRESS, BRIXTON.

Tom Parker, Geo. Gilbey, Mac Toi, Little Miss Muffitte, May Bass, Bros. Carney, Pictures, Neil Kenyon, Mrs. Lewis Waller and Co., Paul Mill's Sketch.

PALACE, HAMMERSMITH.

Tom Parker, Sammy Shields, Mark Leslie, Geo. Gilbey, Julia Feaviour, Pictures, Hunter and Maris, Kelly and Agnes, Three Orleans, Carl Hertz, Victoria Monks, Kendrick and Laura, Little Victoria, Lily and Antley.

OLYMPIA, SHOREDITCH.

Cyrus Dare, Sisters Caselli, Ada Cerito, Wm. Lee and Co., Pictures, Lafayette.

THE WEEK'S CALLS

THE EMPIRE, HOLBORN.

Eugene Stratton, Martin Conway, Allen Doone, Raie Walters, Varsity Girls, D. Grimston and Co., Jack and Evelyn, Pictures, Bros. Bright, Three Cunards, Valazzi, Zaid Trio, Tom Edwards, Anna Kenwick.

HIPPODROME, WILLESDEN.

Buglar Carr, Geo. Gilbey, Monte Walker, Minnie Mace, Kitty Colyer, Cissy Dryden, Pictures, Rastus and Banks, Lew Lake's Vocalists, Lowenwirth and Cohan, Muir and Bartlett, Hackenschmidt, Joe Elvin and Co.

EMPIRE, CROYDON.

Chas. R. Whittle, Ed. E. Ford, Kisbey, Adey Spencer, Rosie Archer, Helen Charles, Pictures, Howe and Ardie, Phil and Nettie Peters, John Lawson and Co., The Gothams.

ISLINGTON EMPIRE.

Arthur Reece, Ted Cowan, Marie Lloyd, Amy Sullivan, Ella Lane, Pictures, Howard and St. Clair, Fielding and Hull, Billy McClain, Carlisle and Baker, Bowden and Stol, Union Jack Boys, Ritter and Foster.

HIPPODROME, BALHAM.

Harry Russon, Edwin Boyde, Chas. J. Johnson, Queenie May, Edie Anderson, Maidie Burke, Pictures, A. Roberts and Co., Kitts and Windrum, Haley's Girls of the Garden.

HIPPODROME, PUTNEY.

Sammy Shields, Kurkamp, Jack Charman, Little Vi Davis, Ida Clare, Alexandra Dagmar and Clown, Pictures, Mark Melford and Co., Kitts and Windrum, Carlotta de Yonsen and Co.

HIPPODROME, POPLAR.

Will Musgrave, Fred Clements, Billie Burford, Mabel Hind, Pictures, Charlie, Massumas Prof. Thornbury, Celest, Hans and Lux, Chas. Austin and Co., Manning and Gommersal.

HIPPODROME, ROTHERHITHE.

Charles Pastor, Ellis and Watts, Nora Stockelie, Adèle Lincoln, Jenny Reeve, Pictures, Kate Carney and Co., Lyons and Cullum, Souplessi, Four Blackbirds.

PALACE, CAMBERWELL.

Tom Costello, Cyril Dane, Sisters Melba, Billie Burford, Pictures, Fred Karno's "Mumming Birds," The Courtiers, Lew Lake and Co., in "Bloomsbury Burglars," Gibbon and Bell, Goggin and Davis, Nancy Charman.

HIPPODROME, NOTTINGHAM.

Hal Godfrey, Dale and O'Malley, Andrews and Thompson, Elmo and Rego, Wild, Willie, and West, Pictures, Croisit Trio, Three Carleus, J. C. Piddock and Co., Harry Brown.

THE LONDON CASINO

will be open at the end of November, 1909.

THE ALHAMBRA, BRUSSELS.

H. de Serris, Sears, Auben, Lionel Duo, Lee Fung Foo, Lancashire Lads, Les Barrois, Anñeda and August, Simms and Simms, Tagliabut Trio, Three Braggs, Pictures, Harry and Paul.

HIPPODROME, LIVERPOOL.

Russell Carr, Woodwards, A. E. Clifford, Ada Parker, Hesleb Bros., Havannas, Pictures, W. E. Stoppit, Bijou Juveniles, Mme. Albani, Colombia Trio.

HIPPODROME, RICHMOND.

Dan Daly, Irma Lorraine, Mlle. Fougère, Molly O'Connor, Pictures, Haines, Borthwick, and Co., Prof. Dunning, Kahn and Kahn, The Katos, Peter Shannon.

EMPIRE, SWINDON.

Musical Comedy and Dramatic Season.
Bill matter for this hall to be sent direct to Mr. Manners, Empire, Swindon.

KING'S THEATRE, SOUTHSEA.

Cecile and François, Mooney and Holbein, Four Aces, Pictures, Cornalia and Eddie, Henry Helme, Forsyths, Ongars, Montgomery and Co., Johnson and Devere, Gicardo.

HIPPODROME, WOOLWICH.

Herbert Shelley, Chas. Craston, Harry Champion, Dolly Golden, Maggie Rimmer, May Fairclough, Pictures, Graham and Harrington, Chanti, Selby and Myers.

GRAND, CLAPHAM JUNCTION.

Joe Archer, James Fawn, Arabella Allen, Eileen Douglas, Dora Daly, Pictures, Mark Melford and Co., Three Laurels, Lambert and Glover, Joseph Hart's "Futurity Winner."

HIPPODROME, PECKHAM.

Willie Gardener, Marie Santoi and Co., Alice Hollander, Mlle. Marjutti, Enid Errol, Pictures, Recco, Great Troba, France and Stewart, Col. Gaston Bordeverry, Dean Tribune and Co.

BRITANNIA, HOXTON.

Drama. Twice Nightly.

ISLINGTON THEATRE.

Drama. Twice Nightly.

KILBURN EMPIRE

(IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION).

ILFORD HIPPODROME

(IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION).

CAMDEN THEATRE.

Grand Christmas Pantomime "Bluebeard." For Special Matinées see Newspaper advertisements.

All communications, bill matter, &c., for London Halls to be sent to Mr. Walter Gibbons at above address.
Those for Continental and Provincial Halls to Mr. T. Barrasford at above address.

INTERVIEWS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

BAND PARTS ARE REQUIRED FOR AT LEAST 14 DIFFERENT INSTRUMENTS.

OFFICE HOURS: 10 to 5 p.m.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, to Open Monday, Novelties of all Kinds, also Marionettes, Waxworks, and Ventriloquist, likewise Houp-la, Automatics, Darts, Shooting Range, &c. Good Space to Let for Midget Photos. Wire, 21, Edward-street, Brighton.

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Rehearsal at 1 for :—
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Rehearsal at 2 for :—
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Rehearsal at 1 for :—
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Rehearsal at 1 for :—
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Rehearsal at 2 for :—
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Rehearsal at 2 for :—
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EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
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LONDON DISTRICT.
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N.B.—Mr. OSWALD STOLL or Mr. FRANK ALLEN can be seen by appointment on all matters arising out of the above, and for the discussion of entirely new Numbers.

All Artists or Agents who communicate with our District Representatives must have made definite applications, in accordance with above directions, to the Head Office, at the same time, or just previously.

Artists and Agents are requested to note that the Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington, Standard Theatre, Shoreditch, and the Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, come within the areas absolutely barred by us. Artists and Agents are also requested to n ote that the Hippodrome, Aston, Birmingham, comes within the area absolutely barred by the Grand Theatre and Empire Palace, Birmingham.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have at least Fourteen Band Parts for English Orchestrations, and Seventeen Band Parts for Foreign Orchestrations. Matter of Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to Co-operative Offices, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced. Artists' Scenery, Properties, &c., MUST be fireproofed in accordance with the regulations of the Licensing Authorities.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

No order or contract for goods or services must be accepted for any of the foregoing theatres except upon receipt of an Official Form, issued from the Co-operative Offices, London, and signed by either Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. Frank Allen, or the Chief Accountant, otherwise the Company concerned will not be responsible for same, and will refuse payment. In special cases, where goods are required at once, suppliers must look to the individual placing the order, who will be personally liable, unless an official confirmatory order, signed as above, is received within forty-eight hours. Invoices must be sent to the Theatre, but monthly statements should be sent to the Co-operative Offices. The individual Company on whose behalf orders are signed is solely responsible for payment. The Management will not hold themselves responsible in the event of loss of or damage to any MSS., Songs, &c., submitted for consideration.

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PALACE, BLACKBURN.
Les François, Capt. Devereux, Julian Rose, Brull and Hemsley, Kirk and Saraski, Warsaw Bros., Flo. Inman, Madge Grey, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, HALIFAX.
Consul, the Betsons, Rose and Wold, Olms and Carbeth, Della Sisters, Les Elgonas, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Effie Vincent.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
Friedman's "Happy Holland," Deans and Wilton, J. Holland and Co., George Acre, Belle Braham, Clack and Clack, Poole and Maguire, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
Belle Davis and Chicks, Sable Fern, Archie Pitt, Orbasany's Cockatoos, Taree, Jim Cheetham, Ted Karno and Co., Carney and Armstrong, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

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Pictures, Arntees, Geo. Marriott, Bonazas, Zano Bros., Rose D'Aulby, Ella and Edwards, Will Douglas and Co.

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Beau-Ideal Juveniles, Elroy, Marie Grey, Nirvanah, John Donald, Milton Trio, Powell's Marionettes, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

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Six Bros. Luck, Hilda Mascot, the Sovereigns, Cherry Lass, Lisbon and Barker, Three Transfields, Harvey's Boys and Girls, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

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Lockhart's Elephants, Three Temples, Russell Brandow, Menotti, J. H. Greener, "Mlle. Pom-Pom," May Henderson, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Harvey Boys.

PIER PAVILION, SOUTHPORT.
Matinée Monday.
Four Garricks, Sisters Brooke, Sidney Dolf, Ethel Sheffer, Chas. Coll, Merrie and Morton, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Lottie Bray, Roxborough and Wright.

PIER PAVILION, WEYMOUTH.
Helen Roberts, Dancing Gilberts, Edith Courtney, Josephine Crooke, the Cromwells, Phern and Phern, Norman Osborne, Walker and May, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, BOW.
Matinée Every Monday.
Pictures, Edith Chandler, T. C. Jacques, Cassie Walmer, Keosanley's Dogs, Boden and Bell, Bernard Mervyn and Co., Atlanta, Metz and Metz, Iris Yohe, Morris Ford.

FORESTERS'.
Matinées, Monday and Thursday.
Harry Ford, Pictures, Merritt, Gladys Witton, the Howards, Arnold Bell and Co., Clara Pledger, Gordon Stretton, Marguerite Radcliffe, Ted Lowery.

SADLER'S WELLS.
Matinée Every Monday.
Pictures, Evalos, Mr. E., the Dillons, Tina Frank, Dingle's Double, Rosie Gaston, Chas. Denton, Brewery Picture, Little Ruby, Harry Desmond.

PALACE, BATTERSEA.
Matinée Monday, at 2.30 o'clock.
The Leonas, Pictures, Sisters Du Cane, Quintette Trio, Harry Marvelle, Hanvarr and Lee, Dolvere and Gordon, Dewar and Dunville, Robson and Co., Sidney Mason and Co., J. C. Manley.

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All Artists engaged for Surrey Theatre must bring 14 Band Parts.
Matinée Every Monday.
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WILKIE BARD'S Drury Lane RIOT!

"PUT ME UPON AN ISLAND WHERE THE GIRLS ARE FEW."

What the Press says:—

The Weekly Dispatch:—Mr. Wilkie Bard is discovered sleeping peacefully among a pile of fabrics in the Alderman's shop. He wakes up, and sings a "catchy" Suffragette song, which threatens to be one of the popular ditties of the ensuing year. Its refrain is:—

Put me upon an island where the girls are few,
Put me amongst the most ferocious lions of the Zoo;
You can put me upon the treadmill and I'll never, never fret,
But for pity's sake don't put me near a Suffragette.

It is one of those haunting refrains that we know are going to be an obsession.

The Daily Mail:—Mr. Wilkie Bard has two great songs in the piece. "Put me upon an Island" he plaintively asks in the first, and he repeats its refrain with all the more fervour when he is surrounded by a band of violent ladies, for they give good reason to sing, "But don't put me near a Suffragette."

The Umpire:—But his Suffragette song is a gem.

The Daily Mirror:—Two of his songs get as much applause each as anything else in the Panto. One is about Votes for Women, "Put me upon an Island where the Girls are few."

The Daily Express:—One of his songs, "Put me upon an Island where the Girls are few," was rendered with rare and great comic restraint.

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CHOOSING HER FIANCÉ.

Code Word, "FRICASSEE."

BY MR. DANIEL RICHE.

Miss Mabel hesitates between three suitors, equally rich, well-bred, and agreeable. She says that she will choose the one who accomplishes for her sake the most uncommon feat. One of them, a tall, strong man, jumps from the top of a six-storey house, and lands safely in the street. The second has an aeroplane flight, and he beats the long-distance record. The third gentleman starts in a motor-car, wondering the while how he could win Mabel's love. He sees on the road a poor old beggar and his little grand-daughter in tears. This so moves him that he carries them to the hospital, where they will be cared for; and his kind heart wins him the day.

676ft. The Subject, **£11 5s. 4d.**

RIP'S INHERITANCE.

Code Word, "FRICHE."

BY MADAME MAXIME VILLEMAR.

Acted by Messrs. Desfontaines and Chelles, and Mme. Gabrielle Fleury, of the Odéon Theatre, Paris.

Rip is the sole heir to a colonel, who, before answering the last call, pins his will inside the dog's collar. The poor animal, having been turned out of the house by an unkind butler, wanders about the streets dejectedly until a little boy, having pity on him, takes Rip home with him. The two are good friends, and they share each other's pleasures; but one day the dog is stolen by an individual who thinks he will receive a shilling from the police for bringing them a "stray dog." Rip breaks away, however, and arrives home just as his masters receive the news that they will be sold up, for they are poor folk, and the head of the family is an invalid. The porter's wife tries to send the dog away, for such animals are not allowed in the house, but the boy clasps his friend's collar, which snaps in his hands, thus discovering the will that will stop the distraint. The heir, not being of age, his benefactors will enjoy the fortune and pet him as much as they can.

757ft. The Subject, **£12 12s. 4d.**

GOOD FRIENDS.

Code Word, "FOURNAISE."

Mrs. Bond and Mrs. Share meet in a shop, and exchange their usual greetings and bits of gossip. They buy, unknown to each other, the same kind of material, and choose the same fashion for their new dresses. When Mrs. Bond realises that her gown is exactly like that of her friend, she sobs loudly and trampies on the unlucky garment. Her old lady's-maid picks up the limp thing, and makes herself a present of it. Presently Mrs. Bond receives from Mrs. Share an invitation to tea, and a brilliant idea strikes her. Her old maid will go, with the new dress on, and Mrs. Bond will enjoy herself. And so she does when she sees poor Mrs. Share a prey to hysterics on perceiving the old maid, who looks a perfect grotesque copy of herself.

412ft. The Subject, **£6 17s. 4d.**

CATCHING CROCODILES.

Code Word, "EXTRAIT."

An interesting scene of South African life. Half-naked savages, perched on trees along the river, shoot the crocodiles with European guns. Then they tow them on shore, and have them carried on camels' backs to their village, where they perform wild dances as a sign of rejoicing for the capture of the huge animals.

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Code Word, "FUREUR."

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Code Word, "FRITURE."

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THE BEWITCHED MANOR HOUSE.

Code Word, "FREGATE."

Princess Berthilde, who lived in the Middle Ages, was a godchild of the Elf Queen. A malevolent spirit changed the princess and her servants into hideous monsters for having trespassed on his dominions. The Queen had known for a long time that it would happen thus, adding that the enchantment would cease with the arrival of a young prince at the manor, who would vanquish the evil spirit; and truly it happened as she had foretold. The Knight of Marjoram and his faithful servant came one night, and found the manor-house empty but for the elaborate dishes which flew about, but never within reach. At last the spirit appeared, with its suite, and the knight killed it, while Berthilde and her servants changed back to their former selves. The prince and the princess were afterwards married as a reward for Sir Majoram's gallant deed.

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THE LOCK-KEEPER'S DAUGHTER.

Code Word, "FISSURE."

During a walk along the river a husband pushes the man he considers as his rival into the water. At the lock the keeper's daughter, seeing the drifting body of the drowning man, swims to his rescue and helps him to the bank. Tended and cared for in the humble home, the young man realises when the hour comes for him to leave such a restful shelter that he loves the girl who has saved his life, and the end of the story is that he marries her.

230ft. The Subject, **£3 16s. 8d.** Toning, **10s.**

THE LEGEND OF THE FORGET-ME-NOT.

Code Word, "FRIMOUSSE."

A note is slipped into Rosine's hand while out in the wood with her old aunt. This makes her watch at her window on her return for her sweetheart, the dashing guardsman. Mrs. Greedy, the aunt, having surprised the two exchanging a few words, the boy runs away, and collides with an old marquis coming to court the girl. Mrs. Greedy is sweet on the old man's money, but nothing can make Rosine give up Philip, and the young people decide on eloping together. They have the start, but, instead of putting a greater distance between them and their pursuers, they stop to pick flowers along the river. Their enemies, arriving behind them by surprise, Philip is so astonished that he loses his balance and falls into the water, which ripples a little, and now large patches of forget-me-nots cover the place of the accident and form the words "Forget-me-not."

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A TROUBLESOME TWITCHING.

Code Word, "FLECHE."

Mr. Rude in this story is afflicted with the awkward habit of putting out his tongue when he least wants to. On his way to a specialist he gets into trouble for putting out his tongue in the face of everybody. After a few magnetic passes the man of science commands him not to indulge in this pastime again, but Mr. Rude must be a refractory subject, for he now shows his tongue more often than ever.

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THE FISHERMAN'S FIANCÉE.

Code Word, "FACADE."

The villain here never thought that a madwoman would end his life so suddenly, when trying to carry away her daughter, a young girl of the coast, after securely fastening on to a rock her fiancée, a stout Norman lad; and this is just what occurred, for the mother had enough reason left in her to understand that the good-for-nothing townsman was trying to force her to do something which was not to her liking. Now that the young couple are rid of the "gentleman" they feel more happy, for they realise that the shadow of a crime does not come between them.

740ft. The Subject, **£12 6s. 8d.** Toning, **£1 15s. 0d.**

TRAGICAL ENDING TO A SHROVE TUESDAY.

Code Word, "FIL."

It is to be hoped that small bickerings between members of a family will rarely end in the same way as this did. Mr. Rave, meaning to have a good time, goes to the masked ball, leaving his wife at home; but the lady is suspicious, and she also betakes herself to the ball. Seeing that her husband is flirting with a masked girl she approaches the young lady and makes love to her, for it must be said that Mrs. Rave had disguised herself in man's attire. On his return Mr. Rave means to punish the impudent young man, and, after hastily summoning the witnesses, he unwittingly kills his own wife, whom he has mistaken all the time for a boy.

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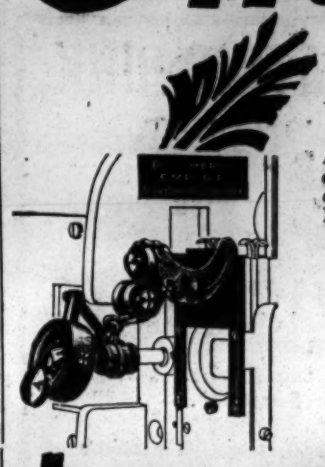

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MARIE HARCOURT, Aunt Margaret and Magnus, "Prodigal Son." Grand T., Swansea.

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERAMAN.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr H. Jackson Withers.—Miss Marie Dagmar's company opened here to a crowded house on Monday. Miss Dagmar gave a fine interpretation of Tisbe; Mr. Roy Fortescue submitted a powerful performance of Angelo; the rôle of Lady Katherine was sustained with excellent effect by Miss Margaret Frame; Mr. Carthage Caldcleugh furnished a capital study of Homodei; and Mr. Ed. E. Louis gave a vigorous and effective performance of Rudolph. Miss Lallah Shelton was good as Eulie, and much fun was caused by the efforts of Mr. Frank Etheridge as Victor and Mr. Tom J. Taylor as Nobbo.

ABERDEEN.—H. M. THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—*The Prodigal Son*, as admirably played by Mr. George D. Day's company, draws crowded houses this week. That powerful actor Mr. Albert Ward gives a splendid impersonation of Oscar Stephenson; Mr. Alfred Goddard makes a manly Magnus; Miss Dorrie Roberts is excellent both as Thora and Elin; and Miss Pearl Gardner as Helga Neilsen portrays with much skill the part of the villainess of the drama. All the other characters are capably represented.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessees, The United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—Mr. Fred Karno's company appears in a delightful musical farce, *The Dandy Thieves*, which is rapturously applauded from start to finish. The cast includes some very able comedians, among them Mr. George Hester as Sergeant Lightning; Mr. Ernest Freshwater as Lord Easem, alias Flash Jack; and Mr. Charles Usher as the Universal Provider; while Lady Maud is most vivaciously impersonated by Miss Aggie Morris. Mr. Fred Earle, comedian, is very popular; the Vays produce a deeply-interesting slum scena; Hewett and May appear with success in a novel musical act; Ellis and Ellis dance and sing admirably; and Mr. Reg. Beauchamp shows a good deal of promise as a comedian.

ALHAMBRA MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. John Sinclair.—The company for the week includes such popular favourites as Cambo, the "man monkey," a capital instrumentalist and ventriloquist; Miss Jennie Stuart, a vocalist of talent; and Mr. R. F. Roberts, a good comedian and remarkably expert one-legged dancer. A deeply-interesting hour's entertainment by cinematograph is given by Mr. Kennedy.

EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Managers, Messrs. R. Calder and C. Montague.—A bright and attractive spectacle, *Peggy's Birthday Party*, continues to run with unflagging success, and, in addition to other artists, those exceedingly popular entertainers, Miss Marie Rose, comedienne and dancer; Mr. Jack Marson, vocalist and raconteur; and Mr. Archie Murray, coon comedian, are included in the company. Mr. Calder's cinematograph display is well worth the seeing.

ABERTILLERY.—THEATRE METROPOLE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. J. Seaborn.—Mr. Frank M. Thorne's company in *The Woman Pays* had a warm welcome on Monday. Mr. Frank M. Thorne, the author of the piece, handles the part of Mickey Maloney in a capable manner; Mr. Phil Harper gives a fine impersonation of Sid Armstrong; Roger Marchant finds a competent exponent in Mr. J. Davidson; Madge Armstrong is ably portrayed by Miss Maud Russell; and Miss Kate Blair contributes a pleasing study of Nell Morland; Mr. Beresford Innes is successful as Cyrus Treadgold; Luke Morland is satisfactorily presented by Mr. Dunlop Stewart; Miss Anena Walton is a humorous Polly Stokes; and Miss Florence Thorne a successful Tabitha.

THE PAVILION.—Lessees, Messrs. E. and H. Tilney; Manager, Mr. E. Pryce.—Miss Harriet Greet's company is here in *The Sign of the Cross*. Mr. Leonard Yorke gives a clever interpretation of Marcus; Miss Hazel Dent makes an ideal Mercia; Nero finds a capable exponent in Mr. Edward Clowes; the parts of Tigellinus and Licinius receive justice from Mr. G. Osmond Tearle and Mr. Rupert Carlton respectively; Glabrio is capitally portrayed by Mr. Donald McAdams; Miss Effie Dane is successful as Stephanus; Berenice is presented effectively by Miss Florence Maber; and Favius and Titus are played impressively by Mr. G. Edwardes and Mr. W. Parkin.

ACCRINGTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company are presenting *The Power of the Cross* here this week. Mr. George A. De Gray submits a powerful impersonation of Baron Curzola; Mr. Robert Hall ably sustains the part of Gerald Fairfax; and Mr. Alexandra J. Haviland's portrayal of the brother, Dr. Leslie Fairfax, is deserving of the highest praise; Mr. Gilson Brooke is very successful as the banker, David Kingsley; Mr. T. Bowron is an effective Benjamin Hawke; and Mr. Tyrone Power was extremely amusing as Timothy O'Dowd; Miss Annie Hylton portrays with telling effect the rôle of Margaret Seaton; Miss Stella Carmichael gives considerable proof of ability as Rita Lascelles; Miss Phyllis Vaughan plays with charm and feeling as Blanche; and Miss Etta Turner makes a vivacious Dolly Gray. The play is admirably staged.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Accrington Hippodrome Co.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—Heading the bill here is Francis Gerard, the Herculean juggler, who manipulates cannon balls, shells, &c., with marvellous dexterity; Coram, the popular ventriloquist, is deservedly applauded; Bert Tyrell, Tyrolean vocalist, is much appreciated; and the Sisters Trentanovi are responsible for a most graceful transformation gymnastic act; Sidder and Dunbar, in a comedy musical act, prove entertaining; Probyn and Bates appear with success in their comedy skit, *The Dude and the Soubrette*; Alex. Kennedy scores as an actor-vocalist; Mr. and Mrs. Shelly in a refined comedy duologue supply much amusement; and some interesting films on the Bioscope conclude.

ALDERSHOT.—ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Gladwin.—*The Girl with the Angel Face*—a drama that is claimed to have connection with the Druce mystery—is a change from a good run of comedy. Mr. H. Naylor Grimston impersonates the Squire with ability, whilst as old Jasper Death Mr. F. J. Evison proves himself a clever character actor. Miss Mildred Carr is a buxom and blythe Mollie; Miss Phyllis Dailley portrays the rôle of Ena with suitably pathetic results, and shows capable acting; Miss Florrie Green in the title-rôle combines youthfulness and wickedness as the conspiring temptress, and works hard; Mr. Austin Mortimer plays the conventional villain Arkwright with fair results; whilst as the clergyman Mr. Dobell Lyle is excellent. Messrs. Guy Routh, Dicky Bird, J. L. Mann, and others in small parts do well. The drama is effectively staged and dressed.

ARBROATH.—ARBROATH THEATRE.—Mr. Lawrence Brough and a talented company appeared here on the evenings of Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, in the farcical comedy *The Lady of Ostend*. As Matilda Carbury Miss Bessie Harrison looked and played the part of Dick's mother-in-law to perfection; Miss Maud Buchanan played with becoming dignity the part of the seemingly-injured wife; Dick Wortles found an able exponent in Mr. Aubrey Cheshire; Tom Mowbray made a very amiable father-in-law; the Baron de Longueville was cleverly acted by Mr. Lawrence Brough—it was a smart and careful bit of acting; and Mr. Watkin Wynne looked every inch the prizefighter in the part of Toby Knockitt. The other parts were in good hands.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill, jun.—With the withdrawal of the pantomime, in consequence of prior arrangements, we have a week of drama, with Mr. Frank Lindo and company in *Home, Sweet Home*. Mr. Lindo sustains the part of Stephen Armitage, a young fisherman, with great ability; Miss Marion Wakeford gives a sympathetic interpretation of Joan; Mr. D. Lawrence Doyle is really excellent as David Armitage; as the unscrupulous Private Secretary Mr. Leo R. Neilson is an adept at delineating those shades of human character which are opposed to all the virtues; Mr. Norton Shields does good work as the Duke of Ancaster; and Mr. Richd. Walsh is well fitted to delineate the varied passions which are paramount in Dick Redmayne the fisher lad.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr W. Leech; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Burslem.—The fairy pantomime *Cinderella*, produced by Mr Sidney Cooper and the Tally-ho Trio, is being produced here. Miss Jessica Brooke is a dainty little Miss, light of foot and sweet of voice, as Cinderella. She sings and dances well. Miss Madge Daly as Prince Charming has plenty of the necessary dash in manner and vivacity and boldness; Miss May Maddison is also a good Dandini; Mr. Harry C. Momber is really comical as the Baron's Page; Mr. Gus Drake is Lord Verisoft; and Messrs. Newham and Latimer as the Ugly Sisters do some amusing business in a very original and diverting manner; Baron Doonaught (Mr. Eric Farr) and Graham and Ceesam (Mr. Wm. Doust and Earle Chaste) are Brokers' Men, but the three named form the Tally-ho Trio, and give examples of tuneful harmony; Miss Ida Scott is a dainty Fairy Godmother.

THE NEW PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech; Assistant-Manager, Mr. T. Owen.—The week's bill at the Pavilion offers amusement as well as instruction. The animated pictures are numerous and choice, and for the most part the films illustrate some amusing incident. The artists for vaudeville interludes are the popular Merrions in vocal, instrumental, and comedy business; Mr. Sidney Brandon, character delineator, gives some impersonations; the original Roxbys, Phil and Kitty, are also in the bill.

THE PICTUREDROME.—Lessees, Messrs. Weisker Bros.; Manager, Mr. James Marks.—The Picturedrome lessees and the manager, Mr. Marks, have achieved something smart in the reproduction of films of the late earthquake at Messina and Calabria. The spectacle is awe-inspiring. The firm's photographer did his work expeditiously, and the messenger arrived at Liverpool on Monday, and the films were shown on the screen at the Picturedrome in the evening.

ATTERCLIFFE.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manageress, Miss Ethel J. Hope.—Mr. Frederick Melville's play *The Ugliest Woman on Earth* is being presented by an excellent and well-balanced company. Mr. Philip Darien gives a forceful and finished rendering of the part of Jack Merriman; Mr. Leyton Cancellor proves himself a capable actor as Hubert Gold; a good character sketch is given by Mr. Leonard Thackeray as Antonio Luchesi; comedy has an able exponent in Mr. William De Brigord as Tom Redvers; Miss Beatrice Homer in the title-rôle has a trying and difficult part, which she sustains in admirable style, and scores an emphatic success; Miss Violet Macaree as Morita, Miss Nellie Jackson as Aggie Brown, and Miss Gertrude Harrison as Rose Courtenay are very good in their respective parts; a word of praise is due to Mr. Harry Leyton as Raggles; and Mr. Gerald Nolan as Dr. Carr. The play is admirably mounted, and under the stage-direction of Mr. Leonard Thackeray. Mr. Leyton Cancellor is general-manager of the company.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Bert Dent; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harry Sanders.—A most interesting feature of this week's programme here is described by the wideawake management as a Trial Turn Carnival, open to all who have never had a week's salaried engagement at any music hall. Several valuable prizes are offered, and the first-prize winner will have the option of several weeks' engagements at Mr. Edwardes' various halls. There are numerous entries, and some really good talent has been found. In addition the following appear: Chant and Chant (lady and gentleman), in refined and pleasing comedy duologue and dance; Mr. Ben Jackson, expert banjoist; the Ringling Trio, in speciality act; the Sisters Todd-Buller, vocalists and dancers; Mr. Charles Lloyd, comedian; Miss Cissie Barwick, descriptive vocalist; Mr. Edgar Forrest and company in sketch *Oh! My Mother*; Miss Vera Guyon, vocalist and dancer; and Mr. Clayton's pictures, The Guardsman's Bride.

AYR.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—This week the theatre is occupied by a company of Messrs. Buchanan and Stevens in *Jack the Giant Killer*. Miss Madge Allen as Jack makes a sprightly and vivacious "boy," and as the heroine Miss Lillian Errol is splendid. They have admirable support from a capable company, and the knockabout business is a prominent feature in the show.

BACUP.—NEW COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood.—Mr. Allan Wilkie's company is paying a welcome return visit here this week, and on Monday played *The Merchant of Venice*. Mr. Wilkie gave a powerful rendering of Shylock, and Mr. Alexander Marsle as Bassanio met with a good reception; Miss Haidee Gunn was an effective representative of Portia; Mr. John Paley as Antonio and Mr. Ernest Digges as Lorenzo both acquitted themselves creditably; Mr. Jan Fleming was humorous as Lancelot Gobbo; and Miss Hunter Watts as Jessica well sustained the character. *The Sleigh Bells, Julius Cæsar, Macbeth, Hamlet*, and *Othello* are also billed.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—*Butterflies* opened here on Monday, and was immediately popular. Mr. Harrison Brockbank as Puck gets through his heavy part with great success, his singing and acting being alike excellent; Mr. Edwin H. Wynne as Christopher Podmore is a distinct success; Mr. Johnnie Wilkinson as Yarker is full of quaint humour; the Peter of Mr. Alan Mudie is bright and sparkling; and Mr. Cyril Biddulph is well placed as Max Risdore. Miss Annie Heenan as Rodanthe is really bewitching; Miss Lilian Wesson's Elsie Podmore is full of life; and Miss Ada Davidson suits the part of Mrs. Dora Podmore to perfection. The dances are beautifully arranged and the choruses rendered in an admirable manner.

HIS MAJESTY'S.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—*Two Little Vagabonds* is paying a welcome return visit here. Mr. George Denham—a satisfactory George Thornton—is supported in a clever manner by Miss Leonora Castille as Marion Thornton; Miss May Hart as Dick and Miss Josie Beltram as Wally are sympathetic.

TIVOLI.—Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edgar G. Laban.—A capital programme here includes the Russian Imperial troupe, the Meuters, Sybil Montague, the Rangers, George James, and Vernon's Bioscope.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Owners and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ralph D. Fenton.—Some very fine and up-to-date pictures are drawing capital houses here.

BARRY DOCK.—THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brogden.—*The Diver's Luck*, presented by Mr. Andrew Emm's company, attracted a good house here on Monday. Mr. Harry Cullenford as Martin Faber is capable; Mr. Fred A. Marston as Barny Bown and Miss Pearl Noyle as Peggy prove effective in their respective parts; Mr. Wm. J. Miller gives a clever study of Tom Hall; Mr. Joe Rowland as Snowball is highly amusing; Maurice Wingate is ably depicted by Mr. C. Osborne; Helen Wingate is cleverly portrayed by Miss Dora Pass; Miss Kate Haslewood and Mr. Clifford Hamilton show to advantage as Daffodil and Bolter respectively.

BATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—Pantomime is holding sway here this week, Mr. J Bannister Howard having transferred from Cheltenham his production of *The Forty Thieves*. There is plenty of fun throughout, for which Mr. A. G. Spry (Ali Baba), Mr. Paddy Dupres (Mrs. Ali Baba), and Mr. Len Loan (the Donkey) are mainly responsible. Cassim is enacted by Mr. Chas. A. East, who also undertakes the arduous duties of stage-management successfully. Miss Nellie Barnwell is a sprightly Morgiana; a dashing Abdallah is found in Miss Olive Astor; and Miss Josie Farrington makes an engaging Ganem. Two ladies who put plenty of life into their work and can dance cleverly are the Misses Elsie and Mabella May as Hassan and Zebedia. There are a number of smaller parts and a large chorus, who do their evolutions with smartness. Mr. Hubert Bozetti is the musical director, and Mr. Herbert Austin looks after the front, in conjunction with Mr. L. A. Long, the local acting-manager.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—Crowds are being drawn here this week to witness Minerva in her mysterious water-barrel trick, a performance that baffles all as to its solution. An illusion that equally puzzles the audience is that introduced by Venturini, entitled *Daos*. Kennard also bewilders by his clever conjuring; Lily Luraine plays upon a number of brass instruments in a way far above the average; Cosgrove and Burns, in their vocal and comedy act *The Singing Academy*, cause plenty of merriment; Mamie Morris, dancer and baton manipulator, finds favour; Chass Lewis proves himself a first-rate ventriloquist; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are always watched with interest.

ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Howes.—The Columbia Animated Picture Co. opened a return visit here on Monday last, a capital up-to-date exhibition of films.

BATLEY.—THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Whitty; Manager, Mr. Alfred A. Taylor.—Mr. Fred Granville's company opened here on Monday with *Aladdin*, a bright, entertaining production, full of fun and go, with tuneful music, capital scenery, pretty dresses, smart dancing, and popular songs. The company is one of all-round merit. Miss Minnie D'Aubyn as Aladdin is an attractive and capable principal boy, and Miss Belle Brocade is equally dainty and successful as Princess Badroulbadour. In the funny business Mr. Happy Attwood as the Dame scores heavily, providing endless amusement, and he is ably supported by Harley and Hardon as the Pekin Policemen. Others who meet with success are Miss Ethel Dunville, who makes an excellent Prince Pekoe, Miss Gladys Wells as Radia, Mr. Harry Kirk as Abanazar, Mr. Harry Keeble as Wun Lung, Mr. Herbert Lewis as the Emperor of China, and Mr. Harry Huttin as Wishee Washee.

BEDFORD.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—Pantomime is this week followed by comic opera in the shape of *The Dandy Fifth*, which is admirably presented by the company of Mr. Clarence C. Corri. The cast is a strong one, and includes Mr. Percy Baverstock, whose impersonation of the "peppery" colonel is much appreciated. Mr. Arthur Radcliffe as Dick Darville gives an excellent performance; Mr. Charles Sims creates roars of merriment as Sergt.-Major Milligan; and Mr. Coningsby Brierley as Trooper Brown is remarkably versatile, and deserves the applause bestowed on him. Mr. Jack Robinson is capital as Sir Victor; Kate Lorimer finds an able exponent in Miss Una Palmer. Miss Nora Morra acts with verve as Polly; and Miss Maud Nichols as Mrs. Von Blitzen and Miss Dorothy Clarke as Antoinette are well suited.

BELFAST.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Mr. Seymour Hicks's company opened here on Monday in the musical comedy, *The Gay Gordons*. In the rôle of Angus Graeme, Mr. Stanley Brett was exceedingly humorous and decidedly smart; the rôle is one that fits Mr. Brett like the proverbial glove, and he kept the fun going merrily. A more delightful impersonation of Peggy Quainton than that furnished by Miss Maie Ash could not be desired, and she sang all her songs with the greatest effect; as the old showman, Nervy Nat, Mr. E. Statham Staples was simply inimitable, and there was not a dull moment while he was on the stage; the rôle of Edmund Siddons was funnily interpreted by a droll comedian, Mr. George Carroll; as Victoria Siddons Miss Lily Maxwell sang and danced with much acceptance; and the rôle of Charlotte Siddons was filled with conspicuous success by Miss Nellie Dade; as Archibald Speedy Mr. George Paulton was capital; and admirable impersonations of Andrew Quainton and Viscount Dalesbury were furnished by Messrs. Ernest Torrance and Edward Leith; Miss Ida Mann was charming as Janet M'Leod; and other characters were excellently sustained by Miss Connie St. Clare and Messrs. Paul Plunket, G. Dewey Gibson, W. Norman, and F. Adair. The specially augmented orchestra was under the skilful direction of Mr. K. Ernest Irving.

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. A. Salmond.—Third week of Mr. Fred W. Warden's pantomime, *Jack and Jill*, and no abatement of patronage. Mr. Geo. Lashwood's songs, rendered by this capital comedian in his own inimitable style, are nightly cheered to the echo; while Mr. John A. Warden's topical song, "What a terrible thing it would be," with new and up-to-date verses, has been frequently encored; Miss Dorothy Ward has many admirers, and is always certain of a terrific reception. The pantomime concludes next Saturday, 23rd inst., when it will be transferred to the Theatre Royal, Dublin, for five weeks.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fred Willmott and Will Sley; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—Mr. Harry Roxbury's pantomime *Mother Goose* is in the last week of its engagement here. The piece has been most successful, and no wonder, as it is most amusing. The comedians, Messrs. Harry Roxbury, J. W. Gallagher, Fred Hutchings, &c., are simply inimitable in their various rôles. Haley's Juveniles also appear, and their carnival scena has been received with acclamation nightly.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—The Saxon Trio top the bill here, and amidst much excitement introduce their thrilling act, entitled *The Living Bridge*, in which they support a full-sized bridge while a motor-car full of people passes over it; a very pleasing performance is provided by the Strolling Players, whose act is an acquisition to any programme; Angelina's juggling feats are quite amazing; Les Voces sing with much taste and expression; and Leo Tell's mimicry of animals would, indeed, be difficult to excel; also here are Miss Frances Hanlon, comedienne; Stacey and Williams in their comedy act; and the Bioscope.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. William White.—This old-established theatre continues to draw large audiences with moving pictures. In addition Pueblo and Cropp, comedians, and Mr. Dan Henry, acrobatic comedian, appear with success.

ST. GEORGE'S HALL.—General-Manager, Mr. Robert Wilson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—Pictures are also a feature of the programme here. Madame Isa Aitken, Scottish contralto, renders songs in pleasing style; and Mr. W. J. McNeice's Irish songs and dances have afforded much pleasure.

CLIFTONVILLE HALL.—General-Manager, Col. Fred T. Cummins.—The popularity of roller skating here remains undiminished, and Col. Cummins is ever on the alert for novelties to please his host of patrons.

BILSTON.—NEW ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. John M. Dawson; Business Manager, Mr. S. Hadakiss Dawson.—Mr. Douglas Bruce's company is here with *The Girl Who Lost Her Character*, which meets with popular approval. Mr. K. McLean depicts the upright, manly young parson, Robert Everton, in an admirable manner, and Mr. Richard Ferris is equally successful with the opposite character of Captain Caversham. Miss Cecelia Dare, Miss Lydia Mannington, and Miss Cherry Veheyne render excellent service in their respective parts. The scenery is exceptionally fine.

DRILL HALL.—This house is occupied for a week by the Anglo-American Animated Picture Company, together with Mr. Will Hunter, singing ventriloquist.

BIRKENHEAD.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—A fine performance of the musical play *Miss Hook of Holland*, given by Mr. George Dance's principal company, is filling the house nightly with large and fashionable audiences. Anything better than the rendering of Mr. Hook by Mr. Alfred Wellesley is seldom seen, and it is gratifying to observe that the sterling merit of the effort is thoroughly appreciated. Mr. Fred Lyne, a comedian of the first water, gives a humorous and clever portraiture of Simon Slink; Mr. Frank Crimp brings exceptional vocal and histrionic powers to bear upon the part of the bandmaster, Van Voyt; and Mr. Walter Balfour is well suited as Captain Paap. Miss Gertie Melville wins all hearts by a spirited and charming assumption of the title-rôle, giving her various songs with delightful grace and verve; Miss Cissy Sefton as Mina, participates largely in the success of the evening; and Miss Tattie Leonard is a commendable Gretchen. Mr. George Mudie, jun. as Ludwig Schnapps, and Mr. Tom Robertson as Lieut. de Coop accord valuable assistance. Subordinate parts are all in able hands, and the chorus is numerous and efficient. The piece is admirably staged, and the augmented orchestra is under the direction of Mr. Evelyn Baker.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Mr. Fred Edwards and a capital company, including Miss Bertha Northern, are appearing in a smart sketch, entitled *Kleptomaniacs*, with distinguished success. The Lyons Trio of dancers and comedians are on a welcome return visit; and Dusty Rhodes, comedian and raconteur, and the Glenroy Troupe, in their terpsichorean entertainment, are renewing previous successes. Miss Daisy Mayer, a talented coon vocalist, is a general favourite. A fine combination also includes Miss May Audrey, vocalist and dancer; Mr. Tony Black, Scotch comedian; Mr. Phil Bransby, coster comedian; and Brown's Royal Bioscope, with some up-to-date pictures.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Ball.—A novel and daring cycling act by Wizard and Irene Stone, entitled *The Globe of Life*, is a strong attraction; and the extraordinary gymnastic feats of the Paul Kramer Troupe are also a leading feature. Elmer Spyglass is a baritone vocalist of ability; and the Five Broadway Girls are smart vocalists and dancers. Miss Marie Glenn, a charming vocalist; Dick Kendall, comedian; Indiana, and the Hippodrome Pictures are also entertaining.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*Dick Whittington* is drawing townsfolk and country visitors in happy throng, and bids fair to eclipse all previous Royal successes on this subject, which is saying much, for it is one that has in the past furnished this theatre with its greatest triumphs.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*Boy Blue* has made a hit, and a very palpable hit, too, for the management here, the house being crowded at every performance. Beauty of scene and richness of humour are both conspicuous here.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. T. Guest.—*Little Red Riding Hood* has provided another success for Mr. Collingwood, who always seems to be able to go one better each year. Pretty scenes and merry fun, and, in sooth, large audiences, are the distinguishing features of this year's production.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*The Girl Who Wrecked His Home* has elicited a favourable response here, with Mr. Walter Melville's company. Miss Louise Hampton's portrayal of Bertha Marshall continues to command the deepest sympathy, the suffering and remorse of the unhappy, misguided girl being made most poignant; Mr. Walner Gregory depicts the villainies of Leonard Kenyon in a lurid style; Mr. Fred Goddard repeats his popular impersonation of Jack Marshall, which commands applause at every turn; Miss Winifred Whyte shows a capital conception of the evildoer's rôle, Val Raymond; Miss Lulu Bowes is very charming and acts excellently as Winifred; and Mr. Alfred Richards, Mr. Francis Hope, Mr. Geo. P. Lester, Miss Ida Thompson, and Mr. Herbert Goddard deserve praise.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—Miss Lena Stanton and Mr. Harry Josephs' production of *Robinson Crusoe* has far exceeded previous pantomime records here, the three weeks allotted it by the management here having proved all too brief for the delighted public of Saltley. Mr. Joseph's production and Miss Stanton's impersonation of the hero, will be remembered with pleasure.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. J. Robertson.—Messrs. Cullen and Carthy's clever and bright production of *The Babes in the Wood*, from the Smethwick Theatre Royal, is richly enjoyed here. The scenery and dresses are notable for their rare beauty, and Messrs. Cullen and Carthy's humour as the robbers has made the theatre ring with laughter. Miss Bessie Cohen is a tried artist, and her acting is delightfully true to the character of Robin Hood; Miss Ruby Royal is a sweet and melodious Maid Marion; the Babes are paragons as played by the Misses Dolly Cullen and Elsie Jordison; Mr. Arthur Stratton is very comical in his acting as the wicked Uncle; Mr. Tom Drew is an able and very humorous Dame; and there are others, in addition to the clever specialities of Les Belles Americaines, the Melbahs, and Little Clulev, &c.

PALACE THEATRE, BORDESLEY.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—*The Midnight Wedding*, with Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company, lends its attractions here for this week. Mr. Paumier is of the company, and as the hero, Paul Valmar, keeps the audience in a finely excited state with his dramatic and romantic acting; Miss Yvonne Orchardson as his vis-à-vis, Princess Astrea, is taken into great favour for her really clever acting of the part; Mr. F. Booth Conway shows all the subtlety and villainy of Captain Rudolf, and Mr. A. E. Winnington Barnes is clever in the accompanying rôle, Lieut. Eugene; Messrs. Jas. E. Page, Harry Richardson, and Algie Spalding keep up a goodly supply of humour as the rivals, and Miss Gladys Faunce is a capital support as Kathie.

GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—Fred Karno's company is proving an attraction here in the farcical absurdity *The Football Match*. Miss Marquis presents a stud of well-trained horses, whose performance is remarkable; the Sisters Urma display their acrobatic abilities on the trapeze with much skill; Falco and Edia have a smart Japanese act; Nellie Le Breton is applauded for her Dutch songs, as also is Nellie Farrell. The Eight Lancashire Lads and Bert Williams add to the fun of the evening.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—The attraction here is Mr. Van Biene, the well-known actor-musician, who presents *The Master Musician*, in which his 'cello rendering of "Home, Sweet Home" is repeatedly encored; Albert Whelan does an excellent turn, his imitation of popular music-hall artists is clever; the Weymotts are responsible for a little comedy, *Semi-Detached*, which is well played; Karl Ransch and Miss Lucie appear in an equestrian act far above the average; and good turns are done by Mina Denvil, the Brothers St. Claire, Dorothy and Alexander, Fred Keeton, and the Cape Girls.

HIPPODROME.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Lyons.—Frank L. Gregory and his troupe of hoop rollers are decidedly clever here; the Australian Leslie Brothers' entertainment, *Music Mad*, is exceedingly funny; Gus Garrick is very popular; the Three Garganis are clever and humorous acrobats.

GAIETY THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—The historical sketch *Nell Gwynne* is being presented here. The company is a good one, the acting all round being excellent. Lady Mansell's Juveniles show great merit; Gus Harris is a well-known Hebrew impersonator; C. H. Carlton has some smart illusions; and Victor Courtney, the Haverleys, Harry Taylor, Maudie Ford, and Heary and Francis complete the company.

ASTON HIPPODROME.—Resident-Manager, Mr. T. H. Middleton.—George D'Albert and his company present a sketch, *It's Never Too Late to Mend*, here. It has a firm hold on the audience. Plenty of amusement is caused by This Quartette; the turn is novel and good, and deserves the loud applause that greets it; Marcel and Boris are equilibrists of the first water; Dorothy Watson, who renders her songs at the piano, is warmly applauded; Kenneth and Kenneth have a smart comedy duo; the Brothers Ford are clever dancers; Amy Russell, who has a charming soprano voice, is heard to advantage; the Prinellas, in their farmyard scene, and Fritz Kronaw, the king of whistlers, complete the programme.

KING'S HALL.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy.—Mlle. Evino presents a clever and refined trapeze act here, which is applauded; Savino, coloured musician, is highly entertaining; The Road to Life and The Curate's Honeymoon are excellent pictures.

CURZON HALL.—Hamilton's Excursions is drawing large audiences. The entertainment is a good one and thoroughly up to date, especially the pictures of the great earthquake. The panoramic views are magnificent. There is also an entertaining vaudeville programme.

QUEEN'S HALL.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy.—This new place of amusement is making rapid strides. George Snow's Minstrels are a capital entertainment, while their sketch *Tickle Me* is funny. The Red Indian and the Child is an interesting picture story.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — EDEN THEATRE. — Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. Huntley.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's company is here this week with *The Old Folks at Home*. Mr. Frank Liston plays the part of Lord Howard Kenilworth in a characteristic manner, and Mr. H. E. Herberte gives a well-studied portrayal of Andrew Ross; Mr. T. G. Vane (Hugh Lovell) and Mr. Arthur Dudley (Jock) are good; Mr. Eugene Santley (Christopher Robin) and Miss Clara Santley (Martha Robin) in the title-rôle present their parts with ability; Mr. Frank Kaffrey is funny as Ben Jolly, and is capably assisted by Miss Maude Grayson as Susan Giles; Miss Kate Frond portrays the part of Patricia Bathurst capably; and Miss Maud Warburton is an effective Dorothy.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—The Blackpool Lyric Operatic Society has possession here this week, and under the skilful direction of Mr. E. Thornley Dodge, who is surely the last word as a coach and producer, is playing *The Toreador*. The theatre is packed at every performance, and ample testimony is shown in the orthodox manner of the audience's appreciation of the performance, which almost entirely redounds to the credit of Mr. Dodge.

GRAND THEATRE.—Owner, Mr. T. Sergenson; Responsible Tenant and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Hunter.—A tabloid version of *Sergeant Brue* is being given here twice nightly by Mr. Harry Benet's company. Mr. Dennis Lyndon is successful in the title-rôle; and Mr. Quiningborough causes amusement as Crookie Scrubbs. Lady Bickenhall is charmingly represented by Miss Ray Anderson. Messrs. T. S. Warren and Lister Morrah are also good in their respective parts.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—The place of honour in this week's bill is occupied by Fred Eustace and Co. in a clever sketch, entitled *The Amber Light*. Other contributors are Amerson and Baldwin, American jugglers; Bessie Benson, comedienne; Gwennie Hasto, a pleasing singer and dancer; Arthur Rose, in a vocal scena; Bros. Roland, equilibrists; the Oakes, novelty comedy duo; and Lily Flexmore, aptly described as the extraordinary girl. Vernon's Imperial Bioscope shows pictures of the Messina earthquake.

BOLTON. — THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.— Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Moncur.—Mr. Charles Constant's pantomime of *Aladdin*, which has now entered on its third week, still holds the stage. Miss Lillie Blythe's singing, dancing, and acting in the title-rôle have made her very popular, and the company and production enjoy favour.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—An excellent company is engaged here, chief among whom is La Milo, who gives her beautiful representations of ancient and modern statuary, concluding with her famous impersonation of Lady Godiva, as given in the recent Coventry pageant; T. C. Edwards, Australian baritone; Edie Grey and company, in harmony and dance; Geo. French's troupe of comedy cyclists; the Snow family, grotesque skaters; Martin Henderson, blind English concertina soloist; Edie Veno, eccentric comedienne; the Four Eugenes, in their refined aerial gymnastic stage performance; and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. R. Harrison.—At the head of the programme here are the Piccolinos, "miniature" cyclists, acrobats, dancers, wire-walkers, &c. Other clever turns are Clarice Clarke, character vocalist; Arthur Holland, refined character vocalist; F. A. Nartell, in extraordinary feats as an equilibrist; Austin and Cowan, vocal entertainers; Nance Elder, star comedienne; Alf Penny, comedian; J. Collinson and company, in a sporting sketch, entitled *Who's Won?*; and the Empire Bioscope.

BOOTLE. — MUNCASTER THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Wilmott; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Young.—Top of the bill this week is a sketch entitled *A Wheel of Fortune*, played by Mr. Albert Lember and company. Mr. J. P. Carroll proves successful with his wonderful tambourine playing; a refined vocal and musical act is given by the Ellimans; Cliff and Kean gain favour with their dancing, and Pinkie Wilmott, owing to success, remains another week. The programme concludes with a fine series of pictures on the Bioscope.

BOSCOMBE.—HIPPODROME, LTD.—Joint Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Clifford King.—James Eadie and Cissie Ramsden, in their smart musical comedy duo *Charlie's Visit*, win golden opinions; the Hiatts are highly successful in their American comedy musical mélange; the Gilberts give an excellent turn in a smart tight-wire act, and show great agility in their movements; Harry Nation, as a character comedian, comes in for a good share of applause; Hettie Lee, comedienne and dancer, furnishes a very pleasing turn; Cissie Lupino, in a dancing act, keeps the attention of the audience, and deserves the encores she receives; Dex, comedy necromancer, is much appreciated. As usual, the Hippodrome Pictures, up-to-date, conclude the bill.

BOURNEMOUTH. — THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, Messrs. David Allen and Sons; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Hubert Dunbar.—A hearty reception awaited Mr. Martin Harvey and his company on Monday, when *The Corsican Brothers* was presented. This popular actor is at his best in the dual parts, and easily held his audience interested throughout the play, at the close of which he had to respond to calls again and again. Strong support came from Mr. Alford Mansfield, who gave a realistic and carefully-finished study of the villain De Chateau Renaud; Mr. Albert E. Raynor as M. le Baron de Montgiron, Mr. George Cook as M. le Baron Martelle, Mr. C. J. Cameron as M. Favrolles, and Mr. H. Watson as M. Beauchamp were all excellent in their respective parts. Miss N. de Silva gave a clever rendering of Emilie de Lesparre; so did Miss Mary Rorke of Mme. Savilis del Franchi. *The Breed of the Treshams* is billed for the latter half of the week.

SHAFTESBURY HALL.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Kingston.—Mr. T. J. West's animated pictures are a great attraction, and include subjects of great interest and amusement. Mlle. Nina Lorenza renders piquant songs sung at the piano and tells quaint stories; Miss Annie Knowles' rendition of popular ballads on the tenor trombone should be heard by all.

BRADFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—Mr. Hart's beautiful pantomime *Jack and Jill* is delighting his patrons, and the company, having settled down to their work, leave absolutely nothing to be desired. Miss Dillon, the principal boy, and Miss Vera Vere, the principal girl, are graceful and full of vim, and Mr. Albert Le Fre, Mr. Jack Cromo, Mr. Charles Norton, and Mr. Josh Dixon are a very popular and versatile quartette of comedians, who elicit very hearty laughter. The beautiful scenery and costumes win unstinted marks of admiration.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Councillor Francis Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—The success of Mr. Laidler's bright and gloriously funny pantomime, *Red Riding Hood*, is guaranteed. Miss Florrie Forde, as principal boy, has won her way to fame with her popular songs, and she has a charming partner in Miss Susie Belmore, the principal girl. Mr. Bert Byrne and Mr. Will Lindsay are very prominent amongst a hardworking and capable company of comedians, who never fail to keep the fun going. The fine stage effects elicit hearty marks of appreciation.

THE EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Limited; Resident Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—The famous Craggs are on a return visit with their remarkable acrobatic display in the funny sketch *Billy, New Steward of the Channel Queen*. Great applause and laughter greet them. Phil Parsons contributes an acceptable turn as a comedian. In a pantomimical sketch, *Aladinette*, Miss Mabel Bright (who is assisted by Mr. George Cooper) displays smartness and versatility in her assumption of some half-dozen characters. The Hartley Wonders give a clever exhibition of jumping. As comedians and rhythmic dancers Fayre and Manning are good. Lydia Yeamans (who is assisted at the piano by Frederick Titus) earns applause for her excellent vocalism, and elicits laughter with her clever child mimicry. Maggie Walsh, "the Lancashire singing mill girl," wins appreciation. In a musical mélange the clever Carina Sisters display artistic skill. An intensely dramatic and cleverly-acted protean sketch, *Who is Guilty?* by Theo Bouwmeester, is very warmly applauded; and there are some fine and stirring pictures shown by the Bioscope.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident Manager, Mr. E. Harrison.—Mr. Fred Evered, a diverting lady impersonator, and Mr. Frank Sumner, a very fine cultured baritone vocalist, are prominent members of "The Nonentities," an entertaining concert party, which also includes an excellent quartette of vocalists in Miss Counsel, Miss Large, Mr. Oscar Mills, and Mr. Wolsey. Jack Ollive, in a very clever whistling scena, earns well-merited approbation. There is some clever ice-skate dancing by Hicks and Hunter. Roars of laughter greet the agile Gallimore Trio, in their excruciatingly funny pantomimic sketch. Sergeant Brennan is here again, illustrating the possibilities of "Diabolo" to great applause. Cissie Escalle is a bright and charming comedienne. The Garden Troupe are entertaining as national dancers. Great physical strength and remarkable agility are features of the fine acrobatic display given by the Three Stenarts; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are an interesting item of the excellent programme.

BRIDGEND. — TOWN HALL. — Manager, Mr. T. D. Schofield.—Mr. Ted Hopkins, the well-known Welsh comedian, paid a visit here on Tuesday and Wednesday with his company in Mr. D. V. Crossley's adaption of *Babes in the Wood*. As Lewis Bach and Evan Bach Mr. Ted Hopkins and his brother Mr. Dick Hopkins, gave amusing representations of the Robbers; May Hopkins made a pretty and graceful Robin Hood; Miss Ethel Rainsforth was a fascinating principal girl; Miss Marie Lawrence as Will Scarlet well supported Miss Hopkins; Miss Jean Beresford was an attractive Phyllis, and Miss Ellanene Gastella a capital Fairy. Mr. George Grant as Belinda and Mr. George Kelly as Baron Hardup contributed to the merriment.

BRIDLINGTON.—GRAND PAVILION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Charles Palmer.—The animated pictures continue a source of attraction, and the Biograph Trading Company showed a new series on Monday evening, one of the finest films being one representing scenes from *A Tale of Two Cities*. The variety turns this week include The Zeenas, in a clever triple-bar performance, in which the two show some smart comedy business as well as being well-trained balancers; Les Clercs give a remarkably fine show of juggling.

THE PALACE.—Manager, Mr. J. W. Delmar.—The patrons of this home of animated pictures are being constantly treated to novelties in humorous, historical, and other of the best cinematograph pictures, which Mr. Delmar has secured a reputation for producing to the best advantage.

BRIGHTON. — GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Gates; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ben Court.—*Aladdin* is still attracting crowded houses here. Miss Aimée Roberts, a bright and attractive principal boy, has added a couple of new songs—"Just Someone" and "Oh! Antonio"—with marked success. Miss Blanche Marion is a dainty Princess and an agile dancer; Miss Addie (Slave of the Lamp) sings very artistically; and delightful dances are contributed by the Lottie Stone Quartette. Abundance of fun is provided by Mr. Edwin Garth (Widow Twankey), Mr. Frank Dunlop (Abanazar), Messrs. Bennett and Martell (Tip Pit and Wot Toe), and Mr. Leo Sterling (Emperor), who is also a skilled instrumentalist. The pantomime promises to have a record run here.

ALHAMBRA.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Alfred Smith.—Alice Hughes and company give a delightful performance of the musical comedietta *Star of the Bazaar*; the Three Gartis appear in a refined vocal and dancing act with great success; Campkin and the Whitworth Girls are much appreciated in their clever cycling turn; Albert Hall is an eccentric comedian; L. B. Athol sings with dramatic expression; Freda Fern is a capital comedienne and dancer; Marie Nestle is a dainty vocalist; Frank Lester, character comedian, is well received; Sylvene is a refined and clever equilibrist; Marjorie Maidment sings and dances admirably; and the Alhambra Picturegraph is interesting and amusing.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. B. J. Brown.—Maxey and Pete are excellent trick and comedy cyclists; the Radford Duo are entertaining mimics; Ariel and Astarte win hearty applause for their neat gymnastic act; the Brothers Horne are very popular in their comedy boxing sketch; Raven Wood, assisted by Miss Vivian Bell, gives a delightful and mystifying exhibition, comprising thought transmission and clever card manipulation; Ted Curtis and Piccaninnies submit a pleasing turn; Fred Edwards' company achieve success in *A Nice Quiet Morning*; Ray Maskell is a dainty comedienne and speciality dancer; Charles F. Aldrich, "America's most versatile performer," wins enthusiastic applause with his marvellous quick changes and impersonations; Fred Russell, ventriloquial humorist introduces "Coster Joe" with distinct success; and Brinn, juggler and cannon manipulator, is highly successful in *Pastimes on a Battleship*.

WEST PIER.—Secretary, Mr. A. W. Scholey.—Improved with new songs, dances, and jokes, the musical fairy play *Sylvia in Sunland* runs brightly and merrily. Miss Gladys Storey is a graceful and captivating Sylvia; Miss Alys Rees makes an attractive Spirit of Kindness; and Mr. Donald Calthrop is an admirable Chivvy. The comedy element is very ably sustained by Mr. George Howard (Jerry), Mr. Edmund Baker (Josher), Mrs. A. B. Tapping (Queen), Mr. Trevor Lowe (King), and Mr. J. Edward Pearce (Lord Chamberlain).

PALACE PIER THEATRE.—King's Royal Bioscope continues to prove attractive here. Prominent among the pictures are The Ass's Skin, descriptive of the well-known fairy story; a scene from *The Tale of Two Cities*; and the Drury Lane Harlequinade. Other films are of an amusing character.

COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. M. Barrasford.—The series of animated pictures exhibited here still proves highly attractive. Baby's Chum is a telling story of canine sagacity; the Terpsichorean Rose is a picture of mystery; An Unlucky Shot is replete with sensational incidents; and the amusing films include Paddy Eats Horseflesh, One Minute too Late, and The House Decorator. The "real singing picture," The Taximeter Cab, is presented by the cinephone. The entertainment is rendered additionally attractive by the excellent turn given by Barrasford's Sable Operatic Minstrel Troupe.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—*Aladdin* fully realises expectations, and crowded houses are being nightly secured, the matinées also being well attended. Miss Ouida Macdermott, with her fine voice, good presence, and dramatic style, makes an ideal exponent of the title-rôle; Miss Deborah Volar is pleasing as the Princess; she has some nice songs, which she sings well; Miss Topsy Sinden's exquisite dancing is exceptionally attractive; Miss Daisy Lloyd Wood scores a decided success as Mary Ann (from London); and the comedians, including Mr. Bransby Williams, Mr. W. H. Powell, Mr. Alfred Clark, are popular in their respective parts. The staging of the pantomime is in all respects equal to anything attempted here, which is saying much in the way of praise.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Alty.—*Little Red Riding Hood* is proving attractive, full houses being the rule at each performance. The production is of all-round excellence, the songs are popular, the scenery and dresses elaborate, and the dancing and singing clever. Full justice is done to their respective parts by Miss Ethel Hall, Miss Marie Free, Miss Daisy Dennis, Miss Violet Gillis, Miss Gertie Hall, Mr. Frank Hemming, Messrs. Crosby and Walker, Mr. K. Scott-Barrie, and Mr. Frank Victor. The smaller parts are all carefully played. The Sylvan Quartette are very competent dancers, and pleasing speciality dances are given by the Misses Lee and Clifton.

PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Maurice H. Hoffman and company head the programme with their dramatic sketch, *The Sorrows of Satan*, which obtains considerable appreciation from all parts of the house; Joe Almasio, jumping juggler, does a capital turn; the Three Pirmans provide a good comedy potpourri act; Arthur Woodville, light comedian, is successful; the Five Bom-Bays entertain with harmony, singing, and clog-dancing; Oakdene amuses as a comedy ventriloquist; Leo and Roland, equilibrists, are experts in their line, their ladder feat being very clever; Harry Ray and Lillie Culden please with their comedy act; and interesting animated pictures conclude the entertainment.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—The comedy duo Clark and Hamilton head the bill, and obtain well-deserved appreciation; the Four Burnells present a smart pot-pourri act; Adelaide Waldorf is a pleasing and expressive vocalist; Milton and Mora, comedy bar gymnasts, do a good turn; Beatrice Rene, comedienne, interests with various styles of vocal items; Buster Brown excels in his skating act; Harry Harris, comedian mimic, is successful; the Lewis family amuse with their vaudeville entertainment; and Tom Jones, Welsh comedian, scores with his smart songs and quaint patter. Interesting animated pictures conclude the performance.

COLSTON HALL.—The "Joseph" Poole myriorama continues to attract a large attendance at each performance. The panoramas, dioramic effects, and variety turns are all exceptionally good, and the orchestra is well up to the mark.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—Excellent houses are enjoying the smart acting of *Raffles* by Mr. Leonard Boyne's company. Mr. Ellie Norwood shows much ability in the way he sustains the title-rôle. Harry Manders Bunny is well played by Mr. Harold West; Mr. R. W. Thomas is good as the detective Bedford; Miss Beatrice Fitzgerald is a charming Lady Ethel; Miss Lucie Milner ably portrays Gwendoline Conran; Miss May Brooks is very clever as Mrs. Vidal. Mr. Arthur Willoughby (the Earl), Mr. Cecil Brymer (Viscount Crowley), Mr. Dalziel Heron (Crewshay), Mr. Edwards (Goldby), Mr. Stephenson (Marion), Mr. Arthur Fitzgerald (Barraclough), Miss Agnes Knight (Lady Melrose), and Miss Dorothy Gordon (Marie) each do well in their various characters. The above was preceded by a one-act play by Mr. Eric Lewis, entitled *A Lesson in Shakespeare*, which gave Mr. Dalziel Heron, Mr. Harold West, and Miss Beatrice Fitzgerald a good opportunity of showing their versatility.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—The boards here are occupied by Hardie and Von Leer's company in *The Sailor's Wedding*. Mr. C. W. Standing makes an excellent Gordon Drake; Mr. Cecil Klein a natural Sir Victor Lascelles; Mr. Hodgson Taylor a capable villain; and Mr. F. Finch Smiles a theatrically repulsive Giacomo. Miss Mary Pemberton is a charming Mary; Miss Winifred Pearson a sufficiently vixenish Lenore; Jack Hawkins and Bill Burns are humorously presented by Messrs. Pemberton and Ford; and Polly Clark is a lively personage by Miss M. Sadie.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—The Five Mowatts, jugglers, in their surprisingly dexterous club-throwing, are greeted with applause, and the delightful tenor duets of Stewart and Morgan win much approbation; Beatie and Babs score a distinct success with dances and burlesque; Mr. Dave Samuels, American Hebrew comedian, has good patter and clever songs; the Musical Keiths contribute popular selections on xylophones; and Hans and Lux, eccentrics, are good at cross-talk. Mario, juggler, is smart, and the Imperial Chinaware Factory is shown by the Empire Theatrescope.

PALACE THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—Lockhart's Elephants, introduced by Captain Taylor, give remarkable evidence of successful training and intelligence; Menotti is an extraordinary balancer and an expert rifle shot; May Henderson, coon vocalist, is full of life and vitality; Russell Brandon is a clever eccentric dancer, and J. H. Greener, singing pit lad, hits the sentimental taste with his songs. The Harvey Boys are responsible for continued laughter; H. C. Lovell and company present a well-dressed comedy sketch *Mamselle Pom Pom*; the Three Temples, operatic vocalists, are good; and For the Love of an Actress is illustrated by Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. de Hague Body.—Fred J. Little and Fred Darcy's *Dick Whittington* company is drawing crowded houses here. Miss Beatrice Varley infuses dash and spirit into the rôle of Dick; as principal girl Miss Ida Brophy sings and acts extremely well; the Alderman Fitzwarren of Mr. J. Templar Ellis is an amusing effort; Sarah (Mr. Syd Crossley) and Idle Jack (Mr. James Kurry) cause continuous merriment; while the clever antics of Dick's feline friend, Mr. Jas. Stratton, are watched with gleeful interest; Princess Zorilda finds a pleasing representative in Miss Beatrice Moore, whose song, "A tiny seed of love," fairly brings down the house; Mr. Caryl B. Starrs, Miss Dolly Harcourt, and Miss Vera Dudley creditably fill their respective parts; clever dances are given by the Oowana Girls and Messrs. Herbert and Rennie; also marvellous juggling and balancing tricks by the Enrico Martialo Trio.

BURY (LANCS).—ROYAL, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant Resident-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—Acceptable fare is presented this week by Mr. Wentworth Croke's company in *The Bondman*. The cast is strong and the staging excellent. A sound and powerful reading of Jason is furnished by Mr. R. Scrope Quentin, whose efforts are ably seconded by Mr. W. Henry Hargreaves as Michael; Mr. W. H. Rotherham, who doubles the rôles of Father Ferrati and Grandfather, is a character actor of decided ability; Mr. Wilfred Beckwith and Mr. Fred J. Waller give excellent interpretations of Governor Testa and Dr. Boni respectively; and Adam Fairbrother has a capital exponent in Mr. Oswald Lingard. As Greeba Miss Georgina Wynter is particularly good, and fully merits the applause accorded; Miss Madge Lanerton as Mrs. Fairbrother and Miss Lilian Mayne as the Housekeeper are capital. The remaining characters are ably portrayed by Mr. George R. Austin, Marshal of Police, and Miss Dorothy Radcliffe and Miss Julia N. Willis as the Callow Girls.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; General Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant Resident-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—Mephisto, in his bewildering illusory act, is the chief attraction here, and is most mystifying; a clever acrobatic display is given by the Four Rubys; Tennis and Laune are clever duettists; the Raymond Trio display ability on a variety of instruments; Will Mitcham, musical comedian, Tom Gott, in Yorkshire songs and stories, Edwards and Ward, comedy entertainers, Hillett and Hallett, patter comedians and dancers, and the Ottorgraph pictures are all acceptable items.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Wilson.—A good all-round bill at this house is headed by Rosie Ring and her String of Rosies. Dancing, singing, and a trapeze act are introduced successfully into her scena *A Rose Garden*. M. H. Thiessen has some cleverly-trained dogs; Yorkshire Tom is a good animal mimic; Will Sullivan, comedian, meets with a flattering reception; and Allsop and Beckwith are a popular comedy couple. The Recar Trio, lady acrobats, Three Rizarelis in a revolving trapeze act, Blarney and Kennard, comedians, the Sunbeams on wheels, Jim Cunliffe, comedian, Frank E. Solby, child mimic, and Vio Land, comedienne, complete an enjoyable programme.

CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—The charming musical play *Havana* paid an initial visit on Monday night, and was well taken up, the company being one of Mr. George Dance's. Miss Hebe Bliss as Consuelo was a striking success, having a very nice voice; Mr. Tom Seymour is always funny, and in Reginald Brown he had a part that suited him splendidly; Mr. B. Russell as the Hon. Frank Charteris introduces some good dancing; Mr. Cecil Parkes was all that could be desired as Jackson Villiers; Mr. H. C. Barry made a real good character of the Bo'sun Nix; Mr. Sidney T. Pease was excellent as Bombito del Campo; Mr. George Storey was highly amusing as the Don Adolfo; Miss Gladys Guy was very taking as Anita; while the Misses Helen Langton, Violet Dene, Kathleen Haddon, Beryl Gordon, Jose Sullivan, Maude Lennard, Rosa Sullivan, and Toni Seymour were all charming, and gave first-class assistance. Mr. Herbert Bryan is responsible for the production.

CARDIFF.—NEW THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—On Monday night Messrs. Milton Bode and Robert Redford's pantomime *Cinderella* opened another week of its successful run, the crowded house showing with what popularity the performances are still being received. The magnificent scenery and dresses are the talk of the district, and eclipse by far anything yet attempted in this direction. All the artists have set down to the usual swing, and everything runs with a smoothness for which the management deserves high commendation. Miss Moya Mannering in the title-rôle has captured the hearts of everyone, singing her songs and dancing with charm and grace. It is quite agreed that Miss Ida Statham as Prince Florizel is the most capable principal boy the New Theatre has ever seen; her vivacious and easy manner, combined with a sweet style of rendering her songs, has made her a great favourite. The comedians are working together with distinct ability, Mr. Charles Hanbury as Dandini, Mr. Tom Fancourt as Ajax, Mr. T. W. Volt as the Dame Winnie, and Mr. George Brooks as Whimes making lasting reputations for themselves; the ugly sisters, Melpomene and Mehitable, Miss Nellie Lauraine and Miss Jennie Rubie respectively, are quite a success, and secure their full share of the general applause. Mr. Ed. H. Whitehall has his chorus well in hand, and uses his bâton with much skill.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—The thrilling sketch entitled *The Yellow Fang* is being presented here by Miss Mary Mayfren and company the skilful acting of Miss Mayfren and the sensational and interesting story unfolded, making the number the most successful on the programme; Albertus, the American eccentric, and Miss Jessie Millar, in an interesting club show are particularly versatile; a hit is made by Harry Grey, the Australian comedian; most entertaining and mystifying is the item given by Oswald Williams, who is assisted by La Barte; much applause is earned by Percy Hannan, a young American tenor; Gladys Mavius is responsible for delightful step-dancing; while the beautifully illustrated song of Master Frisby is sympathetically rendered. Great excitement is caused by the representation on the Bioscope of the Messina earthquake disaster. Other names on the programme are the Three Prestons, in their screaming absurdity *The Liftman's Rise* and Olive Armidale, a dainty soubrette.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Under the management of Mr. Rollo Balmain.—Mr. Charles Chard's up-to-date pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*, concludes this week at the popular Royal. On Wednesday a grand benefit performance was given for the Babes, Miss Lily Belle and Miss Violet Chard, while on Friday another benefit was accorded the hard-worked comedian and producer of the pantomime, Mr. Chard.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton.—At the head of a talented vaudeville programme is John Donald in a novel song-scena, entitled *A Scottish Exile's Dream*, his rendering of Scotch ballads being distinctly high-class; a pleasing and unusual turn is provided by Feldman's beau ideal troupe of juveniles in a pretty garden scene, the dancing and singing being exceptionally good; Paul Powell's electrical marionettes certainly deserve their high reputation; Mlle. Sidy Nirvanah presents with good effect her artistic poses in colours; the Milton Trio of vocalists, dancers, and paper-tearers are more than clever; Marie Grey, comedienne, Elroy, the armless wonder, and the Bioscope are also included in the bill.

CARLISLE.—H. M. THEATRES.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart McKim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Mackey's company is here in *Rollicking Rory*. Mr. Chalmers Mackey in the title-rôle found ample scope for his rare fund of Irish wit and humour; Mr. J. P. McBride, though suffering from a severe cold, acted with spirit and a nice appreciation of the character. In the heavy part Mr. Edward Warden scored heavily, and Mr. St. John Stuart contributed a capital sketch of Shaun Brady. As the heroine Miss Nana Flensburg was a big success. Miss Adèle Liddon gave an excellent performance of Roos's mother; Mrs. Chalmers Mackey, too, filled her part with tact; and Miss Constance Bellamy—always a favourite here—sang as charmingly as ever.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Morgan.—The top and bottom of the bill are filled by F. V. St. Clair and Marie Collins, who are both on return visits; the former was in great form on the opening night, his rhyming allusions to local events—delivered in a style all his own—thoroughly delighted his audience, who cheered and encored him again and again. Miss Collins repeated the songs of her last visit. Zetta, a young lady with a distinctly taking style, gained applause for her clever wire act; Rene contributed a bright and clever turn; and Roy Beavis conjured to everyone's wonderment and delight. Langslow g

and dancers; Bert Welch, ventriloquist; De Lilo and Metz, in a brisk, acrobatic display; Harry Friskey, a nimble and eccentric juggler; the Howard-Collinson company, in a knockabout scena, entitled *A Little Bit of Dresden China*; Godfrey James, the singing collier; and George Barnes's company in *Fun on a Racecourse*.

CHELTENHAM. — OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—Messrs. Dudley Bennett and T. C. Wray's company, in *The Catch of the Season*, provide a bright sequel to the pantomime season this week. Mr. William Greene as the Duke of St. Jermyn's exhibits a keen sense of drollery, and acts and dances capitally; Miss Dorothea Clarke plays the part of Angela Crystal with individuality, as well as daintiness, and sings charmingly; Master Ernest Grata as the love-sick Page is a very clever little chap indeed; in the parts of the spiteful stepmother and her two *passé* daughters Miss Edna Eden, Miss Barry Eldon, and Miss Kate Robertson are excellent; Miss Grace Hampton is good as the genial Lady Caterham; Mr. Joseph Bruce is well placed as Lord Drandreary; Mr. Franklin Miles does well as Sir John Crystal; and Miss Claire de Vere is pleasing as the Duchess. The chorus is strong and attractive, and the whole of the music is under the capable direction of Mr. H. A. Dyer, Mus.Bac.

VICTORIA ROOMS.—Lessee, Mr. E. B. Shenton.—Boswell's Stage Circus is this week paying a visit here, and providing any amount of rollicking fun and entertainment. Chief of a number of interesting turns, Kame Yasuda, the Japanese acrobat, does some astonishing feats, and also revives Diabolo to a remarkable degree, and the beautiful ponies and dogs exhibit wonderful intelligence that speaks volumes for the skill with which they have been trained.

CHESTER. — ROYALTY THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—The pantomime *Puss in Boots* continues to draw good houses in this the third and final week of its successful run. The Maples (Fred and Amy) add to the merriment of the show, which is the best of its kind ever seen in Chester.

CHORLEY (Lancs).—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Santé.—Messrs. Jazon and Nightingale are the first to invade us with pantomime this year, and on Monday evening scored a great success with *Aladdin*. The scenery, by Mr. W. Todd, is bright and pleasing, the music catchy and up-to-date, and the cast good all round. Aladdin is undertaken by Miss Edna Latonne, who gives a brilliant and dashing portrayal; Miss Luna Lisle is responsible for a capital rendering of Princess Badroulbadour; the Emperor of China is in the capable hands of Clifton Hall; Walter Bishop scores as Abanazar; Mr. Percy Curry, the chief mirth provider, excels as Widow Twankey; Miss Cicely Darnton charmingly presents the Fairy of the Ring; the Sisters Brenton as Pekoe and Caramel respectively and Rex and Ford as Ping and Pong are good. There is a capital chorus and ballet, the specialities including Kavados, an exceptionally expert juggler; the Sisters Darnton, excellent vocalists; the Sisters Brenton, finished dancers; and Messrs. Rex and Ford, clever comedians. The production is under the management of Mr. Richard Nightingale.

COATBRIDGE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Coatbridge Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Commins.—The management has scored a success in bringing for this week Messrs. Fred J. Little and Fred Darcy's pantomime company, in *The Forty Thieves*. Mr. Wal Croft, with his Scotticisms, delights the audience as Ali Baba; Mr. Reg. Ewen scores as Cogia Baba; Mr. Ted Wootten is favourably received as Cassim Baba; and Bossi, the donkey, is cleverly portrayed by Mr. Harry Alvey. Amongst the ladies, first place must be given to Mlle. Carita, who, with her sweet voice, as Morgiano captivates the audience from the start; Miss Mary Poulton gives a clever impersonation of Ganem, Ali's son; and Miss Isa Bell makes a capable Abdallah. The specialities are all excellent, and a word of praise is due to the Five X-Rays, who, in their acrobatic feats, keep the house in roars of laughter, and the Cavallotti Bros., in their original musical speciality, are thoroughly enjoyed.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Chas. Macdona; Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company in the play *At Cripple Creek* opened a three nights' engagement here on Monday. Mr. Austin Milroy acted the part of Joe Mayfield with power and pathos, whilst the juvenile rôle of Little Tattoo was skilfully delineated by Baby Betty; Miss Agnes Verity played the part of Ann with much emotion; and Miss Daisy Carlton showed much dash in the character of Maggie. The villainous schemers Martin and Manuel were adroitly shown by Mr. Roy Jackson and Mr. Arthur North respectively; Mr. Reginald Harley-West was highly popular as Wakhetah, his timely warnings quite exciting the upper house; Mr. Horace Stewart and Mr. Will Hook introduced some effective comedy; and Miss Dorothy Lart made a charming Belle Gordon. The latter half of the week is allotted to a return by that great play with a moral, *A Message from Mars*.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Colchester Hippodrome Company; Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—King Luis and partner give a very fine exhibition of hand-balancing; the Alberto Troupe present some nice feats of equilibrium; George Grogie, the Sussex yokel, excels in his nonagenarian study; Allen and Austin provide amusement as comedians; Lily Kirton appeals strongly as a comedienne; and La Belle Margo gives an exhibition on the trapeze and slack rope. Pictures by Pathé form a strong order, and are gaining steadily in popularity.

CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Mr. Stephen Pritt's company opened on Monday with *A Woman's Passion*. Mr. Edmund Grogan plays with ability as Lord Hubert Vale; Mr. David McFarlane is a satisfactory Sir Randall Derrick; Mr. Archie Helsby gives a natural interpretation of the Gipsy Doctor; Vicary is in the clever hands of Mr. A. B. Douglass; Miss Emmie Barton effectively plays the part of Winifred Hamlyn; and as the Gipsy Queen Miss Nellie Lawson is very good.

DALY'S HALL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. John Cattrell.—Mr. John Cattrell brings a new feature into the town in the shape of a twice-nightly show, the chief attraction being the Cinematograph. Amongst the best of the pictures are The Rag-Picker's Daughter and That Fatal Sneeze.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. R. J. Bell.—Mr. F. R. Benson and company opened a two weeks' engagement here on Monday, in *The Taming of the Shrew*. To Mr. Benson was accorded a warm welcome. Mr. Benson's Petruchio is a fine conception; Miss Dorothy Green makes an excellent study of Katharina; Mr. W. Ribton Haines as Grumio is droll; Mr. H. O. Nicholson as Gremio is decidedly humorous; Miss Olive Noble is a captivating Bianca; Mr. E. A. Warburton an acceptable Baptista; and Mr. J. M. Johnston a successful Vincentio. Miss Foreman as the "lady with song" is admirable; Mr. Warlock as Lucentio presents a good study; and Mr. Guy B. Rathbone is also excellent. *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Richard III.* are also in the répertoire. Wednesday's performance was in aid of the Italian Earthquake Fund.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Thos. F. O'Brien.—A programme of all-round merit is provided here. Mr. Authur Watson and Flo. Stanley and their troupe of comedians and dancers, in the musical comedy sketch, entitled *The Cruise of H.M.S. Victory*, are capital artists, and are much appreciated; Great Scott, equilibrist and juggler, goes through a number of clever and exciting ladder tricks; Miss Mabel Johnson is a vocalist of much ability; Archie Roger, is a smart acrobat; Les Valencia, lady acrobats and dancers, contribute difficult feats; Evelyn Taylor, comedienne, sings catchy songs; the Maddison Bros. introduce an amusing boxing contest; and the Palascope continues to please.

COVENTRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's company is here this week performing *A Broken Heart*. The play is effectively staged. Mr. Clinton Baddeley takes the part of Jack Barnard, the honest blacksmith, in a very effective manner; Miss Sheila Walsh gives an excellent interpretation of the character of Mary Barnard, the blind outcast; Stephen Raylton, the villain of the piece, is taken with great success by Mr. G. Moreton-Williams; other characters are played by Mr. E. Rawlinson as Josh Giles, Mr. Tom Armitage as Tony Tibbets, and Miss Daisy Rocheford as Little May.

HIPPODROME THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. S. T. Newsome; Stage-Manager, Mr. J. E. Wright.—Gustave Fasola, the famous Indian Fakir, is top turn this week, and gives a marvellous performance; Jessie M. Lyons and company give a dramatic episode, entitled *The Broken Medal*, with Miss Lyons in the principal part; the Czar's Royal troupe of dancers appear in a Russian whirlwind dance; Professor Lux's performing pets are a feature of the evening; Mr. H. Leslie Bell and company in a comedy vaudeville are amusing; Mabel Thorne, comedienne, sings a couple of good songs, as also does Mr. Dave Carter, the Irish tenor.

THE EMPIRE.—Proprietor, Mr. George Dance; Manager, Mr. K. Draco.—*Sweet Innisfail*, by Walter Reynolds, is presented by his own company, and is well played, the scenery being very good; the Bros. Ashley again appear in a comedy boxing sketch; Spencer and Marks are clever comedians and dancers; Jack Hayworth obtains a good reception as a comedian; Ford and Hanson appear in a musical speciality act; and Connie Gilbert and Nellie Neal are capable comediennes. The Bioscope pictures conclude.

CRADLEY HEATH.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jno. H. Morton.—This week we have Messrs. Battersby and Forbes' company, with *The Empty Cradle*. Mr. St. Clair Forbes as Kenneth Bloodworth, acts with taste and feeling; Mr. Claude H. Seaton as Carnaby Bloodworth deserves special mention; Miss Nancy Battersby wins complimentary recognition as Ida Boswell; Mr. Kenneth Scott is a humorous Hon. St. Clair Selby; Miss Connie Meadows is also extremely funny as Sarah Puddicombe; Mr. D. Urquhart as Sir Carnaby Bloodworth shows dignity and feeling; Mr. Fred Wells makes a capital gipsy; and Mr. Wallace Black as Little Misery wins much sympathy.

CREWE.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alfred Cuthbert.—Mr. James Welch's company in *When Knights Were Bold* is drawing capital houses here nightly. Mr. Henry J. Ford keeps the audience convulsed with merriment as Sir Guy de Vere; Mr. Vernon Sansbury is quite at home as Isaac Isaacson; Mr. Cecil Clayton is a clever Charles Widdicombe; Mr. Guy Lane as the Rev. Peter Pottlebury, D.D., is a typical dean; Mr. H. Agar Lyons is good as Sir Brian Ballymote; Mr. Talbot Homewood is a clever Wittle; and Mr. Reginald Hunter a diverting Barker. Miss Agnes de Lilana gives a highly effective rendering of Lady Rowena Eggington; Miss Ethel St. John is a successful Sarah Isaacson; Miss Mabel Younge makes a stately Hon. Mrs. Waldegrave; and Misses Ruth Bower, Leslie Blake, Marion Ryder, and Bessie Walters as Lady Millicent Eggington, Lady Marjorie Eggington, Kate Pottleberry, and Alice Barker respectively deserve praise. *The Wrong Side of the Road* is a delightful little curtain raiser.

CROYDON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Manager, Mr. Roland Daniel; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Ernest Archer.—The success we anticipated for Mr. Roland Daniel's pantomime *Dick Whittington* has been realised and it has now entered upon its second edition with new songs and comic business. Mr. Fritz Hart has been exceptionally happy in his selection of the catchy melodies, and there is a wealth of splendour in the magnificent scenery and dresses. Miss Georgina Delmar's admirable rendering of the title-rôle has been received with every manifestation of approval; Miss Ethel Lawson sustains the part of Alice Fitzwarren with brightness and spirit; the coquettish ways of the Princess are prettily depicted by Miss Rhoda Ray; Miss Lily Laughton as the Fairy Queen renders her song "My sweet Egyptian" with expression; Miss Gladys Warren plays with warmth and perseverance as Tommy Turner; and the Lottie Stone troupe of ladies may be commended for their excellent dancing. Mr. Edgar Driver is great in his business as the Cat; Mr. Luke Forster is in his glory as the droll Alderman Fitzwarren; Mr. Percy Cahill has made a palpable hit as Jack Idle, and his antics evoke loud shouts of laughter; Mr. Fred Wornan is a jolly old Emperor of Morocco; Mr. Maitland Marler keeps the audience in a merry mood as Martha Mixitt, and his songs, "In a cheap excursion train" (with novel stage effects) and "I'm coming out as Salome," are welcome items; Mr. Fred Solo is active and amusing as Captain Taffrail; and Ben Bobstay is safe in the care of Mr. J. R. Val.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—The American Bioscope company continues to give an interesting and varied series of animated pictures and illustrated songs here. Mr. Fred D. Jones and Harry Lewis are the vocalists.

EMPIRE PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Walter Gibbons and Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Eustace Jay.—John Lawson and company in the graphic sketch *Pigs in Clover* causes a sensation; Adey Spencer is a charming character vocalist; Howe and Ardie are irreproachable comedy gymnasts; Rosie Archer is a clever mimic at the piano; Kisbey is a humorous patterer; Charles R. Whittle, comedian, sings in fine style; Phil and Nettie Peters are first-rate entertainers; Helen Charles is a real mimic; Ed. E. Ford, comedian, is quaint; the Gotham Comedy Quartette in mirth and melody are successful; and the new films on the Bioscope are pleasing. Mr. Eustace Jay is an admirable manager, and Mr. Sydney R. Axford is an excellent musical director.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Bell.—Mr. Fredk. Mouillot's company opened here on Monday with *A Message from Mars*. Mr. Wallace Widdicome portrays Horace Parker in good style; Mr. William H. Brougham as the messenger presents the part in a capable manner; the tramp is well sustained by Mr. Norman Clark; Mr. Robert Grex is good as Arthur Dicey; Mr. Alfred Drayton makes an effective policeman; Miss Winifred Knightly is excellent as Miss Parker; Miss Rose Helene is charming as Minnie Templer; and Mr. Guy O'Neil a capital Dr. Chapman.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Theatre, Limited; Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Hersee.—The Ten Loonies, in their hilarious musical sketch, are no strangers here; the music rendered is good, and the parts full of fun. Horace White's ventriloquial performance is well received; Shirley and Ransome in their coster episode; the Gladenbecks in a clever acrobatic performance; Wills and Mackenzie, from the D'Oyly Carte Opera Co.; Wilfred Burnard, character impersonator; the Three Sisters Dixon; and the Pepiscope pictures are other attractions.

DARWEN.—PICTURE PALACE AYD THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, The Animated Pictorial Enterprises, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. A. Whitehouse.—R. Cameron Matthews and company, in their farcical comedy *The Honeymoon Baby*, create roars of laughter; Charles Woodward, comedian, gains applause with his songs and patter; the Brothers Idento give a fine exhibition of comic juggling; and Clarice Sefton provides some clever speciality dancing. Among the best of the pictures is the dramatic one Saved by Love.

PUBLIC HALL AND PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Lessees, Messrs. Thomson, Leivers, and Bennett; Manager, Mr. J. E. Thomson; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Kerrigan.—James Lowery, the singing furnaceman, proves a favourite; Cara Magda does some daring feats on the flying trapeze; and Dan Rodney is an amusing comedian. The pictures are well up to the standard set at this house.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—The pantomime *Aladdin*, which continues to run with commendable smoothness, will be withdrawn at the end of the week. A particularly strong local attraction has been provided this week by the engagement of Archie Goodall, an old Derby County football player, in his sensational act "Walking the Hoop." The performance is a truly marvellous one, and as a test of endurance and surprising muscular display has perhaps rarely, if ever, been surpassed. The pantomime will be succeeded by that charming play *Peter's Mother*, a dramatised version of Mrs. Henry de la Pasture's entrancing novel of the same name.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes.—Phil Rees and his stable lads are an attractive star turn here. The Hyde and Cody Trio are clever knockabouts; Les Currys, charming lady musicians; Prince Schaboo, a Hindo basso, renders his songs in good style; and Chiko, contortionist and equilibrist, Vincent, an acrobatic table expert, Lambert and Butler, comedians, and the Bioscope pictures are other items.

DEVONPORT.—THEATRE METROPOLE.—Manager, Mr. G. S. King.—Mr. G. King's popular house is nightly the rendezvous of crowds of young and old alike, and *Robinson Crusoe* from all appearances has firmly established himself in Devonport for some weeks to come. Various changes have been made since the initial performances, and the pantomime can now be voted one of the most attractive shows in the provinces.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—Mr. Fisher White's company, in a Russian episode entitled *A Royal Heart*, presents a stirring and dramatic episode, which receives plenty of appreciation from the houses. Mr. Scott Craven as the Grand Duke plays a prominent part. Charles Hera is a first-rate juggler and equilibrist; the Brooklyn Comedy Four supply plenty of amusement in *Mirthful Mariners*; Bert Errol is a smart female impersonator; Champney and Rowe furnish an amusing duologue, and Alice Blandford receives merited appreciation for her vocal efforts.

DEWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Asquith.—Very welcome indeed is the advent here of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Draycott's répertoire company, the performance of no less than six different plays being characterised by exceptional quality and merit. Mr. Draycott deepens and matures as an actor, and his versatility has increased materially as one witnesses his finely-artistic comedy work in the rôle of Conn, the Shaughraun. In this he is most earnestly and loyally supported by his clever wife, who shows a sterling sympathy, emotional power, and effectiveness of action in the part of Clare Ffolliott. Very agreeable and suited to the character of Captain Molineaux is Mr. George Steel. The cast is particularly strong, and affords a support which contributes in the smallest details to the full realisation of the play, a fact amply borne out by the extremely cordial recognition of the audience. The plays in the répertoire are *A Stolen Birthright*, *The Shaughraun*, *The Octoroon*, *The Colleen Bawn*, *East Lynne*, and *Shadows of a Great City*.

DONCASTER.—NEW GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—*A White Man* is being played here this week. Virile and breezy, with exceptionally fine declamatory powers, Mr. Frank E. Petley is an ideal Captain James Wynnegate, V.C., afterwards known as Jim Carson. The Earl of Kerhill, his cousin, loses nothing of interest in the hands of Mr. Harold J. Richardson. As the Dean of Trentham Mr. Louis Ashmeade has the bearing and general *tout ensemble* of ecclesiastical dignity. The Big Bill of Mr. R. A. Brandon furnishes a study. A meed of praise is due to Mr. Eric Hudson for his conception of Tab-y-wana, Peace Chief of the Utes. Prim, and elegant in old-time courtesies, Miss Gertrude Price scores a success as the Dowager Lady Kerhill, and a facile daintiness is observable in Miss Margaret Duncan's effort in upholding Lady Mabel Wynnegate. One of the most acceptable items is presented by Miss Margaret Fairleigh, who, as Nat-u-rich, betrays considerable attainments in the knowledge of native characterisation. Miss Eleanor May, as Countess of Kerhill, displays a winsome personality and natural charm, which constitute her a warm favourite.

DOVER.—ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. S. W. Winter; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. W. Holford.—A well-balanced programme is being presented this week, with the Arthur Bedini Trio as the star turn. These clever artists appear in a comedy pantomime act, their antics being highly amusing. Shrillo displays wonderful skill as a whistler; a pretty turn is given by Wilson's miniature circus, including Mlle. Rossini and her educated little dog Rosie, and Starlight, the smallest trained pony in the world. The Amio Trio have a novel Algerian act; Mlle. Ottini's sleight-of-hand work is neat and pleasing; Bert Woodward performs marvellous feats on a bicycle; and Fred Costin is a comedian with good songs.

DUBLIN.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland.—*Robinson Crusoe*, which has entered on the third week here, seems to have lost none of its popularity. Miss Winifred Hare is quite captivating as Robinson Crusoe, and Miss Elsie Molloy is engaging as ever as Polly Perkins. The eccentricities of Mr. J. J. Dallas as Mrs. Crusoe, Mr. Harry Lappo as William Crusoe, and Mr. Barney Armstrong as Will Atkins are most diverting.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—The Moody-Manners opera company has entered on a third week here, and on Monday *Lohengrin* was given. In the name-part Mr. Philip Brozel both sang and acted to perfection. Madame de Vere Sapio was in every way a charming Elsa, being heard to great advantage. Mr. Charles Moorhouse as Frederick of Telramund is deserving of high commendation; Miss Toni Seiter made a thorough success as Ortrud; Mr. Charles Manners delighted all with his singing and acting as the King; and Mr. R. Cliffe was also good as the Herald. The excellent chorus and orchestra under the conductorship of Herr Eckhold won distinction. The staging and dressing left nothing to be desired. On Tuesday evening *The Bohemian Girl* was again presented.

EMPIRE — General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—The prominent attraction here this week is Joe Peterman's company in *The Singing Servants*. The Trefelyn-David Duo, in their vocal and musical scena, win unstinted applause, and Harry Bedford is a particularly good vocal comedian. Florence and Lillian, in a pleasing musical mélange, are well appreciated, and Crissie Cross sings well and dances neatly. As a comedy silhouettist Torbay is irresistibly funny; and Millie Payne, comedienne, sings in smart style. Ida Kathrina contributes pleasing vocal items, and the Empire pictures are, as usual, entertaining.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Assistant Manager, Mr. H. A. Murpy.—The Juggling McBans take first honours here this week, their clever performance being received with shouts of applause. The Thompson-Carruthers company present with success a sensational novelty entitled *The Master Card*; and the Sisters Lytton, refined duettists, create a favourable impression. As a character actor and mimic Tom Stuart is a huge success, and capital coon singing and dancing are provided by Harold Heath, Forest and King, acrobatic dancers, meet with much approval, and Edmunda is very popular in his ventriloquial entertainment. Herbert and Lindon, comedians, are also prominent and well received; and Flo Warner, comedienne, contributes some pleasing items. The Bioscope depicting "Milliners' Pranks" completes the bill.

ROUND ROOM ROTUNDA. — The Irish Animated Photo Company are still here, and the constant change of pictures continues to attract crowded audiences daily. Among the films shown this week, which are both pathetic and humorous, are Sicily before the recent Earthquake, Realistic Scenes of Sicilian Cataclysm and Ruins of Messina, the Manœuvres of Italian Cavalry, An Exciting Motor Race, &c. The vocal items contributed by Mr. Patrick O'Shea (tenor), Miss Agnes Meehan (contralto), and Mr. Ralph Goggin in illustrated songs, together with the Grandpierre orchestra, add considerably to the enjoyment of the entertainment.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The excellent programme submitted here this week includes: The Stanleys, comedy entertainers; Harry Desborough, character vocalist; Miss Nell Glynn, coon vocalist and dancer; Gunn Cooke, tenor vocalist; Miss Queenie Swift, charming soubrette; Glynn and Glynn, vocalists and dancers; and the Cinematograph.

DUDLEY. — OPERA HOUSE. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—Mr. Horace Stanley and company in the successful play *Guilty Gold* are here this week. Mr. Stanley, the author-actor, in the part of Septimus Sweet is brimful of humour; Miss Kate Kilpack is smart and vivacious as Nancy Bright; Mr. Fred Wilberforce is sufficiently villainous as Ralph Bartlett; and a powerfully played part is that of John Middleton by Mr. Frank Seymour. Miss Cora Linda is pleasing and pathetic in the dual rôle of Elsie and Hettie; Miss Violet Crauford displays distinct ability as Rhoda Hampton; and Mr. T. Arthur Plummer receives deserved applause for a convincing and natural representation of a clergyman. The play is well staged.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manger, Mr. F. H. Waters.—An attractive programme here this week includes the following artists:—Leslie, Lyn, and Willie, three funny fellows, who are very musical; Bi Bo Bi, an eccentric and clever musician; Baker and De Sales in songs and dances; Gravetta and Parr, pot-pourri artists; Stan Aubrey, comedian and dancer; Miss Belle Harcourt, comedienne; and James Basnett, vocalist. The Empire pictures are new and interesting.

DUNDALK.—TOWN HALL THEATRE.—Proprietors, Urban Council.—This week Mr. Payne Seddon is presenting Miss Florence Glossop-Harris and her Shakespearean company, which opened on Monday night with *The Merchant of Venice*. Mr. Frank Cellier's impersonation of Shylock was a finished performance, and gained for him many recalls; Miss Florence Glossop-Harris was most charming in her interpretation of Portia, and at once won the high appreciation of the house; as Lancelot Gobbo Mr. Arthur Keane was capital; while Mr. A. D. Layland's Antonio was a distinct success. As Prince of Morocco Mr. Arthur Goodsall gave a very fine impersonation of the part, being both dignified and impressive; Lorenzo was always safe in the hands of Mr. Murray Kinnell; and Mr. Leslie Newman as Solanio was all that could be desired. As Jessica Miss Gertrude Gilbert was seen to decided advantage. The other parts were filled by a very excellent company while the scenery, costumes, and appointments were perfect.

DUNDEE.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe.—Mr. Milton Bode's pantomime *Robinson Crusoe* entered upon its last week here on Monday evening, and throughout its three week's run splendid houses have been the rule. The tuneful music, the bright settling and pretty dresses, added to the clever work of a clever company, have all combined to make the pantomime an ideal holiday entertainment. Miss Jennie Lynwood as Robinson, by her attractive acting, Miss Lucy Coventry, as Polly, by her vivacious manner and delightful dancing, and Miss Rosie Bartlett, by her dashing performance as Lieutenant Bob, have all made themselves very popular with all parts of the house. The knockabouts, Keith and Merson, have made a huge hit, their comic business, which is entirely free from the slightest tinge of vulgarity, is excruciatingly funny. A return visit from this clever couple will be eagerly looked for and welcomed by Dundonians. The singing of the Georgia Troupe has always been received with applause, and an extra special word of praise should be accorded to the Six Lancashire Lasses, whose artistic and clever dancing has all along been a feature of the pantomime.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessees, The United County Theatres, Ltd; Manager, Mr. S. McIntosh.—Topliners here are Barton and Ashley in their bright and breezy comedy act *Canal Boat Sal*, which delights immensely. The selections from *Il Trovatore* by Ethel Pender-Cudlip as Leonora and Claude Anderson as Manrico is most enjoyable, their singing being superb; Frances Letty scores a brilliant success in her amusing and clever coon scena; Gertrude Moore's singing and dancing act has a capital reception; Madison and Webb in their clever and racy turn *The Amiable Idiot and the Soubrette* are great favourites; Harry Morris, whose make-up and witty patter are unusually good, proves very entertaining; Lozelle appears in a very attractive speciality, which is of a decidedly novel nature; Harry Vardon's ventriloquial turn has the merit of being up to date; and Dave Austin and company are successful in a laughable sketch. The Palascope completes a most attractive bill.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee, Mrs. Lillie Williams; Licensee and Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts; Business-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—The curtain will ring down to-night (Saturday) on Mrs. Lillie Williams' successful pantomime *Dick Whittington*, the bookings for which have broken all records at this house. Miss Gertie Douglas has been an ideal Dick, and Miss Hetty Lind has charmed everyone with her delightful singing as Alice. Mr. Sam Thomson has achieved a terrific success as Idle Jack. A new song, "Arabella Brown," was introduced on Monday evening by Mr. Harry Loftus, and caught on at once; Miss Madge Goodall also introduced some fresh specialities in singing and dancing, which proved most enjoyable; while Miss Osceola Martinek gives a clever Spanish fandango in place of her former Indian dance. The Pickel Troupe of Acrobats have also been added to the company, which goes on tour with the best wishes of all who have enjoyed this brilliant entertainment.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. Lillie Williams; Business-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—Some excellent pictures are shown this week by Mr. Newman. Among the films exhibited are Facing Death to Save a Child, The Gold-seekers, Two Pigtails, The Man with Many Faces, and Rum Kilns Ashore. In addition, variety turns are contributed by Ondra, an expert juggler and triple-bar performer, and Flo Dixie, a charming soubrette.

NEWMAN'S PICTURE PALACE.—Another fine programme of pictures is given this week, an entrancingly beautiful film being Barbara Freitchie. Another outstanding feature is a very pretty film showing beauty spots of old Devonshire; The Hero of Valmy, The Lock-keeper's Daughter, The Gold-seekers, Saved from the Sea, An American's Visit to Europe, and Adventures of Two Chinamen in London all prove popular. Splendid variety turns are rendered by Renot, the newsboy mimic, and J. T. Cooper, an A1 comedian.

KINNAIRD HALL.—Hamilton's Excursions continue to draw large houses here. The dioramic pictures are dreams of beauty, and under the expert guidance of Mr. Claude Howell the trip gives infinite pleasure to both old and young alike. There is also an enjoyable variety programme, which includes some very fine cinematographic views, the entertainment concluding with a very amusing sketch, *The Haunted House*.

DUNFERMLINE.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.—Mr. Ian Maclaren's Shakespearean company is paying a return visit here this week, opening on Monday night with *Hamlet*. In the title-rôle Mr. MacLaren's portrayal is excellent, and is worthy of the highest commendation; Mr. Matthew Boulton makes a particularly strong Claudius; Mr. F. Stafford Dawson is a decided success as Polonius; and Mr. Guy Cunningham is well placed as Horatio. Miss Gertrude Littlewood is dignified as the Queen; Miss Katherine Harrington is a fascinating and pathetic Ophelia; and the other parts are in capable hands. The week's répertoire includes *Twelfth Night*, *David Garrick*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Merchant of Venice*, and *Macbeth*.

EASTBOURNE.—DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray King and Clark.—Mr. Alfred Paumier and Mr. Walter Howard's capable company is appearing here in *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*. The play is proving attractive and interesting, the scenery is excellent, and the company, without exception, worthy of much praise. As Monica Miss Annie Saker is sympathetic and winning; Miss E. Walton is a brightly-interesting Viola, and Miss Ivy Millais is a complete success in the appealing part of Camiola. Mr. Walter Howard is happily placed as Olaf; Mr. Graeme Campbell as Michael gives a sound and finished performance; Mr. Ivan Cleveland is a judicious Hildred; Mr. Reginald H. Stephens a crisp and assertive Hector; Mr. Reginald Payne contributes good light comedy work as Karl; Mr. Francis Hawley is a dignified Bishop; Mr. Kendal Chalmers an expressive Nathant; and the remaining parts are played with care and credit.

THE ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; District-Manager, Mr. George Egbert; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—Mr. Ben Nathan heads the bill here this week, and his clever impersonations provide genuine laughter. The sketch *A Pair of Lunatics*, played by Mr. Nathan and Miss Jenny Housley is highly diverting. Mr. Barney Ives is an expert illusionist; the Brothers Werds serve out abundant fun as American eccentrics; the Sarony Sisters are well received as whirlwind dancers; Miss Adah Payne sings with refinement; and new films are shown on the Bioscope.

THE PIER PAVILION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. E. Oswald Brooks' company is appearing here in *The New Housemaid*. Mr. Howard L. Tracy works hard and well as Bertie Rashleigh; Mr. Edward Mervyn is a gay and rollicking Peter Pinkerton; Mr. Reginald Hargreaves a pleasant and clever Frank; Mr. Archie Selwyn as Stiggles contributes the able work of an able actor; Mr. P. Ramsey Forman is an effective Mormsbury Doom; and Mr. Herbert Colley does well as Roseberry. A performance full of life and brightness is given by Miss Babs Stewart, an engaging Dulcie; Miss Dot Seilby makes her points cleverly as Caroline; Miss Renee de L'Estrade is a creditable Lucy Merton; Miss Caroline Carlton helps ably as Lettice; and Miss Marion Pollock takes her share capitally as Nellie Haddock.

ECCLES. — CROWN THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert Rogers. — John Tiller's pantomime company in *Red Riding Hood* is playing to crowded houses. One of the special features of the show is the splendid scenery and dress. Miss Decima Brook fits the title-rôle in a capable way, and renders several catchy songs in good voice; the singing of the Fairy (Miss Florry Page) is very much appreciated; Miss Maisie Jerrard makes a typical Prince Charming; Miss Emmie Franks is all that can be desired in the part of Tommy Tucker; Miss Louie Davies makes a chic Margery Daw; Mr. Howard Ward as Dame Crump fulfils his duties in first-class style. Much fun is caused by Messrs. Fred Russell, Will Lytton, and Walter Watson in the respective characters of Algernon Fitz, Baron of Kash, Johnny Stout, and Johnny Green. The Wolf is depicted by Mr. Dave Laird. The Poppy Quartette of Dancers are exceptionally smart.

EDINBURGH.—ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. William M. Downie.—The engagement of Mr. George Edwardes's company in *Havana*, the closing nights of which are announced, has been a great success here. Miss Gertrude Lester has won golden opinions by her splendid singing and acting as Consuelo, and Mr. Gregory and Mr. W. H. Rawlins, by their admirable humour, have been of immense service to the play. Miss Luna Love's bright style has a never-failing attractiveness, and the other members of the company have all contributed to one of the best musical pieces that have been seen here within recent times.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—This week's leading turn has been provided by Bellew and Stock's company in the racing sketch *An Outside Chance*, which is made racy by Master Edward Garratt's appearance in the part of the precocious infant Goliath Higgins. Currie de Mar, not hitherto seen in Edinburgh, was also prominent in the bill, and her several songs, including "Lonesome Flossie," received due appreciation; George Robey and Victoria Monks appeared and sang, by deputy, through the medium of Gaumont's Chronomegaphone; the American Bioscope displayed some fine films; Albert and Edmund's troupe of some dozen agile performers romped briskly through a rough-and-tumble pantomime absurdity, entitled *Neighbours*; and the Schiavonis exhibited considerable skill as comedy acrobats, the feats of a lady member of the company being particularly startling. Characteristic comedian turns were contributed by Clif Ryland, who indulged in some quaint patter, and by Ernest Clifford, who put in some neat dancing; and the export juggling of Enzer, with the delightful singing of the Coloured Meisters, formed two of the most interesting and enjoyable items on the programme.

KING'S THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard.—Pantomime succeeds pantomime at this house, Mr. Fred Granville's company opening an engagement for twelve nights on Monday last with a version of *Beauty and the Beast*. The story is relegated to the background, but the piece is so full of bright business, and is so well acted, that the narrative matters very little. A band of excellent comedians, including Mr. Sam Foster, a very droll

dering, winning loud applause from the audience; Mr. Charles Resti, in the character of Friday, introduced some finished conjuring in his amusing sketch, *Komical Konjuring*, this being the signal for much laughter; Mr. Ernest Sefton made an excellent comic villain as Will Atkins, playing his part with a spirit which left nothing to be desired, and at the same time he contributed largely to the success of the piece; he was ably assisted throughout by Mr. Walter Rousby as Billy Crusoe, who, with his mother, Dame Crusoe (Mr. Oliver J. Round), kept the fun ever alive. Viviana and company, in their success *The Toy-Shop*, amused all. The various dances were well executed, and the work of a large chorus most praiseworthy.

GAINSBOROUGH.—KING'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Gainsborough Theatre Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Leighton.—This week we have an excellent variety company working on the two-houses-a-night principle. The Reays give an artistic and clever turn as silver chain gymnasts; Polo and Florence, French equilibrists, are equally successful in a somewhat different line; Mabel Kessler furnishes a clever performance on the cornet and posthorn; and the rest of the company include Will Owen (Dame comedian), Dalton and Euston in *Gratitude*, Gladys Cooper, comedienne, and some excellent pictures on the Bioscope.

GATESHEAD.—KING'S THEATRE.—Lessees, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager and Licensee, Mr. Harold Arnold.—Prolonging their stay for another week, Chas. Majilton's company of comedians have been adding to our gaiety with *The Trippers* and *Round the Clock*. Reski and Raski, in a grotesque tumbling act, are funny; Little Rose Pink, in song and dance, is very popular; Major Arnold, with clever magic, is appreciated; Paul Cavalli shows wonderful feats of strength; and George Lawrence, light comedian, Nellie Walton, the singing mill girl, and the Kingscope also furnish enjoyable turns.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; General-Manager, Mr. Robert G. Elder; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Dixon.—Mr. Walter Melville's company, in *The Soldier's Wedding*, provides capital entertainment at this house. Mr. Wingold Lawrence is a manly Jack Brown, and a refreshing impersonation of an army officer is supplied by Mr. Beresford Whitcomb; Mr. Gerald Jordan is just villainous as Chas. Courtney; Miss Dorothy Richardson is a charming Nancy Lee; Miss Marie McAuly makes the most of her opportunities as Julie de Beauvrias; and Miss Mabel Lowe does well as Peggy Munroe.

GLASGOW.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—*Cinderella* continues to draw good houses here, and the young people's hearty laughter at its comical points is pleasing to hear. Mr. George Robey as Billy Buttons is the principal fun producer, and is ably seconded by Mr. Harry Dent as the Baron; Miss Violet Loraine has a powerful voice, and as the Prince of Floravia uses it effectively; Miss Iris Hoey as Cinderella sings and acts charmingly; Miss Edith Kirkwood, who impersonates the Good Fairy, is also a pleasing singer. Prominent promoters of fun are the trio of suffragettes enacted by Mr. Willie Garvey as Mrs. Kilkenny, ably supported by the Brothers Obo as Misses Pankie and Hardie Kilkenny. Mr. Vernon Booth as the Bad Demon rolls forth his denunciations of everything good in a sonorous voice; Miss Mag Hamylton as Dandini looks, sings, and dances pleasingly; and as the Chevalier Saltarello Mr. Paul Sundberg dances skilfully.

KING'S, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. Hugh Macfarlane.—*The Waltz Dream* is now running its fourth and concluding week here, and has fully justified its selection as the Christmas and New Year attraction. Mr. Robert Evett as Lieut. Niki has become a great favourite, and Miss May de Sousa's performance as the lady conductress of the band has gained much appreciation; Mr. Eric Thorne and Mr. Leslie Holland are comedians of much resource, and the fun of the opera has been much enjoyed. With Miss Ethel Cadman as the Princess and Miss Amy Augarde as the lady-in-waiting the vocal numbers are in excellent hands, and the gay dresses, the large and attractive chorus, and the augmented orchestra under Mr. Hamish McCunn, combine to make a notable production.

ROYALTY, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Carpenter.—*Butterflies*, now in its last week, continues to meet with undiminished popularity, thanks to the untiring efforts of an exceptionally talented company. Mr. W. Louis Bandfield as Widgery Blake plays as merrily as ever, and Mr. Blake Adams has made the character of Christopher Podmore one of his most popular creations; the vocal efforts of Mr. Richard Green as Max Riadore contribute considerably to the success. Another good portrayal was that of Miss Georgie Corlass, who has established herself a great favourite; Yarker, in the hands of Mr. William Spray, stands out prominently; and Miss Stella St. Audrie does meritorious work as Nora Podmore. Amongst others who add to the success of the play are Mr. Roy Sydney as Peter, Mr. Alfred Selby as Paul, Miss Alice Sands as Lalage, and Miss Constance Clive as Elsie Podmore. The chorus is well up to its work.

GRAND, LTD.—District-Manager, Mr. B. G. Maclachlan; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. Christie Grant.—*Cinderella* continues its prosperous career at this handsome theatre, giving unqualified delight to large and fashionable audiences at each performance. The production is a charming blend of the humorous, the spectacular, and the tuneful, with the humorous predominating, so that the ménage of Baron Debtington (Mr. George French), and his bulky spouse (Mr. Tom Conway) is responsible for a vast amount of merriment. In this connection much credit is also due Miss Kate Walbran and Miss Nelly Cozens, who give decided character to the ugly sisters; while clever work is done by Mr. Barry Lupino in the rôle of the page Capers; as Prince Casimir, the imposing figure and refined method of Miss Violet Halls show to advantage; and as Cinderella, the sweetness and simplicity of Miss Queenie Finnis' acting is all that could be desired; the Dandini of Mr. Whit Cunliffe is quite a gay personage, and in some of his songs the chorus is used with effect; Miss Olive Tempest makes a charming Fairy, and as the Duke of Whistbridge Miss Nellie Wigley sings and acts with much grace.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; acting-manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—To show the popularity of *Diccory Dok* here, it need only be mentioned that the Princess's is giving matinées daily. Miss Flora Cromer and Miss Ella Retford as principal boy and girl gain in public favour week by week; Mr. Peter Berningham's pawky Scotch humour never fails to raise roars of laughter; and another favourite comedian is Mr. Syd Walker as Professor Pillbox; Misses Edith Haley and Maggie Fraser are a most popular couple of vocalists, and the audience never tire of them; the opposing demon and fairy are well represented by Miss May Beatrice, who declaims her lines well as Discord; and Miss Ivy Proudfoot, who, as the fairy, shows herself to be a vocalist of much ability. A word of praise is due to Messrs. Charles Stevens and Harry Brett for their clever work as knockabout comedians. The Irish songs and dances of the Sisters Bartholomew go extremely well. Mr. Ainslie Burton as the Dame and Mr. Harry A. Griffen as the Baron have worked up a lot of new and funny business, ably assisted by Mr. Walter Dale as Sparkle. The splendours of the scenes—Beneath the Sea and the Palace—result in calls for Mr. Waldon and the scenic artist, Mr. J. C. Boutor, at every performance.

METROPOLE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—*Woman and Wine* is being presented here this week by Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmond's company with realistic effect. Miss C. St. Elmo takes the part of the notorious Marcel Rigadout, and infuses all the desirable "vim" into the part; as the heroine Mary Andrews, Miss Violet Sims is neat and sympathetic; Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds plays with much histrionic ability the character of Dick Seymour; and the Hugh Seymour of Mr. J. Milne Taylor is very successful; Mr. R. Foulis as Alphonse Beaudet is a power in the production; Pierre Crucru has an effective rendering at the hands of Mr. Edwin T. Kisby. The comedy parts are made most amusing by Mr. Harry Harrop as Charles Santer, Mr. W. Manning as Professor Santer, and Miss Ethel Vinroy as Janet Marlow. The Lottie Stone troupe of dancers in the ball scene is quite a good turn, while the duel incident in the flower market demands praise.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—After a merry holiday season with *The Dairymaids*, Mr. Waldon introduced to his patrons a play of a more sombre and thrilling class, viz., Fred Melville's *Married to the Wrong Man*, which had been doing good business at the "Met." for the last few weeks. A great deal of the success of the performance is attributable to the fine acting of Miss Gertrude Boswell in the rôle of Ruth, her dumb show in the closing act calling for special mention; Mr. Oswald Cray as Jack Gladwin stands out prominently, giving a most satisfying representation of the hero; Mr. H. Lane Bayliff as Capt. Deering carried himself consistently with the character, and was ably assisted in his villainy by Mr. Charles Vivian as Jasper Skinner; Mr. Arthur T. Lennard as Sergt. Manners looked and performed his part well; Mr. Sid Claydon's humour as Timothy Clinker was highly relished; Misses Rosalie Notrelle, Violet Vincent, May Davis, and Dorothy Haig worthily sustained their parts. The staging is good.

EMPIRE.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Manners.—The Empire still continues to have its fair share of patronage. Sam Mayo retains all his quaintness; Morris Cronin pays a return visit with his talented and amusing troupe of jugglers; Terry and Lamber are at all times received with open arms, their work is clever and delivered in a manner pleasing to all; th. Eight of Hearts are a trouple of clever girls, whose dancing and various athletic poses appeal to the majority of audiences; a classical musical turn is provided by Roma and Romani, and their selections on their numerous instruments are executed delightfully; Brix and Annie present *Fun in a Barber's Shop*, largely composed of lightning sketching, which is clever and much appreciated; an old Glasgow favourite is Wittie Wattie Walton, who gets through a lot of work of an amusing character; H. Saint Yves, the recent Scottish Marthon race winner, is also on the bill, and is assisted by the bioscope depicting his latest success; Luis Alvarez is a pleasing tenor, and his songs are well selected and tastefully rendered. A novel turn is Silvester's gigantic mechanical working head, the facial expressions of which are remarkable.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Councillor E. H. Bostock; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock. The principal turn this week is that of the Six Bros. Luck in their laughable pantomimic extravaganza *The Hermit*, which keeps the audience heartily laughing for nearly half an hour; a powerful American sketch called *The Girl and the Tough* is presented by Mr. John G. Brandon and company, and is notable for its tragic denouement; Isa Hamilton sings several Scottish songs in characteristic style; Otto and Olga perform operatic selections both seriously and in burlesque style; Rich. Taylor is a highly amusing ventriloquist; Bostock's baboons show what monkeys can be trained to do; Kitty Beresford is a pleasing comedienne, who is well described as chic; Fred Walmsley's patter is replete with wit and humour. The Bioscope is shown if time permits.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Evan Good.—The bill here is headed by Mlle. Maria Vinent, the Spanish singer and dancer, whose romantic tale nas been told in the magazines, and her songs and characteristic dances take well; popular Rose Elliott is receiving numerous recalls at every performance for her "sensible songs"; Sibb and Sibb give a trapeze performance, smart, graceful, and daring; Minnie Hunt and Rhys Thomas have a new sketch, *The Wire and the Liar*, which is smartly written and cleverly acted; while Miss Hunt takes well in the favourite old song "Tell me, my heart." Daisy Irving, a sweet singer with a quiet style, is heartily received; Hinton and Wooton's football match on bicycles never fails to rouse lots of enthusiasm, their manipulation of the ball being marvellous; Hammond and Wyatt, two well-developed ladies, who appear as Sandow girls, contribute a novel turn; the Three Seabornes in their equilibristic and acrobatic display, complete an excellent bill.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; General-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—An excellent star turn, new to Glasgow, is provided this week in Callahan and St. George, the former as an old Irishman proving himself an actor of very special merit, while the lady is a harpist and vocalist of considerable talent; Sinclair and Whiteford cause roars of laughter with their smart sketch *Getting Even*; Florence and Rose Showell are clever duettists, and their singing is much enjoyed; Mlle. Eldee gives a series of artistic poses with limelight effects; Charles Rose is an exceedingly smart dancer; Fame and Fortune contribute a clever acrobatic and speciality turn; Harry Arnold takes well as a Scotch comedian; and the Bioscope shows an interesting series of views of Mr. Wilbur Wright's aeroplane.

COLISEUM.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—A good bill is provided this week, and theatre-goers are taking full advantage of it. George Leyton, with his Crimean veterans, is vastly popular in his military scena, entitled *The Last Muster*. Mr. Leyton's rendering of his patriotic songs is well received. To Mr. Fred Storey is due a word of praise for his production of *Rip Van Winkle*. The piece is carried through without a hitch. In the title-rôle Mr. Storey does full justice to the part, while he other members of the company receive unstinted applause. The musical Jees again present their smithy scene, and are responsible for a great deal of amusement; an entertaining turn is that provided by the Great Olympians, whose company is composed of members of both sexes, thoroughly instructed in the art of ju-jitsu; Harry Leybourn is a good female impersonator; and Charles Mattison, who sings well, is accompanied in his songs by Bioscope illustrations; Alice Maydue is amusing in her coster work; and E. J. Sheldon (a study in black and white) sings several good songs. The various methods of training as adopted by Johnson and Burns, in view of their recent bout for the world's championship, are clearly depicted on the Bioscope.

GAIETY.—Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—The attendance here is still good, and the success of *Dick Whittington* is flattering to the management and artists alike. Dinah Morris as Dick and Frances Drew as Alice command most attention, their singing and dancing being the feature of the production. Capital support is given by the other artists, and the bursts of applause which greet their efforts denote the fullest enjoyment. This is the concluding week of the pantomime.

PANOPTICON.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—The variety turns include Buchanan and Farren, singing, dancing, and pattering comedians; Harry Dalton, quaint Scotch comedian; Chandos George, assisted by Mlle. Leonetta, in their song scena, entitled *The Desert*; and Alma Curzon, popular comedienne. The Bioscope is a favourite part of the entertainment here, and the pictures displayed are both interesting and amusing.

GLOSSOP.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—This week Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company is here in *The Love that Women Desire*. Mr. J. O. Stewart, an interesting Squire Abingdon, is backed up in capital fashion by Mr. S. Leigh Courtney, who plays the part of, Richard Abingdon; Mr. Herbert Pearson delineates Philip Carnaby, the hero, in meritorious style; Mr. Francis Cavanah is a kind-hearted Doctor; Mr. William Reed is a manly Frank Hardy; Mr. John Hignett an eminently successful Denis O'Rourke; and Mr. J. W. Wilkinson adds a spice of humour as P.C. Sowerburry; Miss Maude Hastings in the character of Sybil Thornton is responsible for an emotional interpretation; Miss A. Gratton Cleydes embodies Madge Abingdon with force; and Miss Vere Rose earns admiration in the rôle of Marquina.

GLOUCESTER.—PALACE.—Owners, Messrs. Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. T. Rea.—The Andos are a marvellous troupe of Japanese jugglers, equilibrists, &c., and the New York Comedy Nippers have a very good dancing act, and do well; Henry Hilton is a smart card manipulator and magician; and Bonnetti and Corrie are a capital pair of eccentric jugglers; the Westbrooke rely on their dancing, which is graceful and pleasing; Theresa and May introduce a protean act, which is very acceptable; and Steve Bartle with concertina and edephone solos receives applause; Harry Hilton, comedian, has a funny sailor song; and the Palacescope, with a diving and water polo film, is interesting.

KING'S HALL.—Lessees, Messrs. Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. R. T. Rea.—Up-to-date illustrated songs and animated pictures have proved so popular that matinées are added. Messrs. Poole invited the old age pensioners to Saturday's matinée, and the old people much appreciated the attention.

THE matinée at the Palace, Gloucester, on Jan. 7, resulted in thirty-odd pounds being handed to the fund in aid of the sufferers by the Italian earthquake. Mr. C. W. Poole announced amid applause that he would make the amount up to £40. The Mayor voiced the thanks of the recipients.

GOOLE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Fred Greaves.—*Parson Thorn* was presented here on Monday night to a crowded house by Messrs. Horace Edward and Moseley Warden's company. In the title-rôle a fine manly performance was given by Mr. Terence O'Brien; Mr. C. Wordley Hulse gives a powerful portrayal of the scheming Mr. Wylde Crewell, J.P.; Mr. R. Davy Cooper is an excellent Sir Geoffrey Dashwood; Mr. Horace Moseley is most amusing as Paddy McQuirk, and keeps the house in continual merriment; he is ably supported by Miss May Warden as Dolly Doddles, their songs and dances being loudly applauded; Mr. Sylvester Stuart is very funny as P.C. Mutton; Miss Maude Elliott gives an excellent interpretation of a trying rôle as Dorothy Thoroughgood; Miss Madaline Grande is worthy of special praise for her excellent portrayal of Folly Bishop. The minor parts are in capable hands. On Thursday the company presented the musical drama *The Betrayer*.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—ROYAL AQUARIUM THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Mr. Frederick Melville's company, in *Her Forbidden Marriage*, is the attraction here. Mr. Harry Lonsdale makes a manly George Madison; Miss Florence Hunt ably depicts Lady Lucretia; Miss Grace Lester displays marked ability as the Mother Superior; Mr. Louis Hector is an excellent Charles Devereux; Miss Isla Garnet Vayne, a charming Lucy; and Mr. W. Mansfield a satisfactory Sir George. Mr. Leslie Nutter is a funny Jenkins; and Miss Grace Emery a vivacious Patty.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. George Gilbert. The high standard of pictures inaugurated here last week is being fully maintained, the film illustrating a trip through the Pyrenness being exceptionally fine. T. W. Lenner creates roars of laughter with his funny songs; Tom Taylor's excellent voice is heard to advantage; the Lydamores are seen in a smart gymnastic act; and Flora Lennard also appears.

THE GEM.—Lessees, The Yarmouth Amuement Centre, Ltd.; Resident-Director, Mr. C. B Cochran; Manager, Mr. Sidney Lawrence.—The management gave their patrons a great treat on Friday the 8th by exhibiting a special film illustrating the Hackenschmidt v. Gotch wrestling match. This week the illustrated song, "Village by the Sea," is very popular.

GREENOCK.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—Mr. Wilmot Edson's company are this week presenting twice nightly the fairy pantomime *Aladdin*. In the title-rôle Miss Minnie Olive plays brightly and winsomely, and scores with her songs; Miss Alice Digby imparts considerable charm to the rôle of the Princess, and the Slave of the Ring, Miss Daphne Gelstone, sings and acts effectively; Mr. Charles Adeson's droll and clever impersonation of the Widow Twankhurst merits unstinted praise; Mr. Bob Owen acts and sings well as the Emperor; the Grand Vizier is cleverly played by Mr. Jack Harrington Weeks, while Mr. Bert Danson is an unfailing and irrepressible mirth-provoker as Abanazar; clever specialities are introduced by Olive and Owen, the Sisters Raymond, and Miss Gwen Clifford, who contributes a laughing song with much success. The choruses are rendered with spirit, the scenery and dresses are bright, and the colour effects excellent.

EMPIRE.—Lessees, the Greenock Empire Syndicate; Responsible-Manager, Mr. Edward McCormick; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. J. Colquhoun.—The principal attraction this week is Andrew Jephtha, the welter-weight boxing champion of the world, who, assisted by Jack Turner, gives several fine exhibitions of the art of boxing, and presses into his service several local athletes, with whom he has many bouts. An admirably-acted sketch, entitled *The Silent Sentinel*, is also a feature of the programme, and entertaining turns are contributed by the Four Sisters Gilby, instrumentalists and dancers; Baby Baker, a wonderful child artist; Stevens and Gillard, lightning cartoonists and impersonators; Arthur Lynn, tenor vocalist; Bertha Barnes, chanteuse; and Naughton and Gold, comedians. Jack Johnson in training for his fight with Tommy Burns is shown on the Biscope.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry L. Skivington.—Top of the bill here this week is a well-staged dramatic episode, *The Ace of Hearts*, the character in which are ably undertaken by Messrs. James Willard, Jackson Wilcox, and Miss Muriel Palmer. Capital turns are also provided by Mike Cray and his clever little dog Dooley; the Falcons, comedy acrobats; Parker and Parr, comedians and vocalists; the Orchids, American vocal comedy duo; and Cumminger and Colonna, clever sand-dancers. The entertainment has also included an interesting series of pictures.

TOWN HALL.—Proprietors, the Greenock Corporation.—The B. B. Picture Company are presenting an entire change of pictures here this week. Good vaudeville turns are submitted by the Boston Twins, vocalists and dancers, and Miss Jennie Sneddon, illustrated songstress.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—The first visit of *The Cingalee* is arousing considerable interest. It is presented by Mr. Haldane Crichton's company, with Mr. Jack Crichton in the amusing character of Chambhuddy Ram, a part from which he extracts the maximum of humour. Miss Mollie Wolstenhulme admirably realises the Cingalese girl Nanoya, and her charming singing is one of the features of the comedy. Miss Pauline Hague gracefully plays Lady Patricia, and also sings well; Miss Alice Nixon imparts pleasing vivacity to her representation of Peggy Sabine; Mr. Harold Wardroper does well as the Hon. Harry Vereker; Mr. Douglas Munro is amusing as Boobhamba; Mr. F. W. Ford gives a capital portrayal of the eccentric Sir Peter Loftus; and Mr. Scott Wallen is good as Bobby Warren.

THE PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—Captain Fred Woodward's seals and sealions are proving as attractive as on former visits here, and their wonderful feats of juggling occasion highly-favourable comment; Spry and Austin have a distinctly original and amusing vaudeville speciality, which is presented in pleasing style; Miss Agnes Molteno wins much favour in her artistic vocal scena, *A Dolly and a Coach*, and is assisted by Mr. T. Edwards and Little Dolly; the Two Lillies are charming dancers, their mirror dance being especially good; Johnny Dwyer is a versatile entertainer, equally good in humorous or serious subjects; Charles Ulrick is a smart foot juggler and barrel manipulator; and Rosie Reval is a successful vocalist and dancer.

GUERNSEY.—THEATRE ST. JULIAN'S.—Lessee, Mr. Edward Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—This week Mr. A. Clifton Alderson brings his season to a close with *Lady Windermere's Fan* and *East Lynne*. In the first-named piece Mr. Alderson's Lord Windermere was most enjoyable; Mr. Escott Robson gave further proof of his abilities as Lord Darlington; Mr. Ulick Burke was successful as Lord Augustus; and Mr. Leslie Vyner was suitably cast a Mr. Cecil Graham. Miss Enid Ross was an effective and clever Duchess; Miss Joan Wellman merits praise for an artistic portrayal of Mrs. Erlynne; and Miss Max Hinton was all daintiness and charm as Lady Windermere.

HALIFAX.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—*Two Lancashire Lasses in London* is being presented here. Mr. Harold Cotter was good as John Edmunds; Mr. Chris. Mason made an excellent Samuel Hallett; the Rev. Frank Selby is ably taken by Mr. J. E. Fletcher; and Jonas Deane (Mr. A. Elwyn) and Jim Price (Mr. Jack Miller) are excellent. Constance and Nellie (the two sisters) are in the capable hands of Miss Roslyne Vane and Miss Alice Defoe. Bessie Edmunds is also well played by Miss Stanley Burt, and Jane Adelaide Bloomfield finds an able exponent in Miss E. Shaw.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—J. Gar Kiddie's *Little Bo-Peep* is playing to big houses. Mr. W. H. Gatty, a fine singer, is the Demon Wolf; Miss Elsie Peach, the Fairy; Miss Ivy Gallard, Boy Blue; Mr. Harry Royde, the Baron; Mr. J. W. Groves, Granny Brown; Miss Lizzie Payne, Little Bo-Peep; Miss Marie Harding, Margery Daw. There is a quartette of very good acrobatic dancers.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg H. Foster.—The big attraction at the Palace this week is undoubtedly Consul the Great, the educated chimpanzee. Consul's marvellous performance was followed with silent and rapt attention by an appreciative audience. Les Elgonas are clever and finished gymnasts; Olms and Carbeth give a humorous juggling act; Effie Vincent is a dainty singer; Rose and Wold appear in a comic wire-walking sketch; the Betsons give a humorous bicycle act; the Della Sisters, the ladies in black, also appear. Three very good pictures complete.

HAMILTON, N.B.—HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr René Clayton.—The Four Kurios, in their clever and original turn, are topping the bill here this week; the New York Comedy Four, in their vocal and comedy act, are warmly received; the Milnes Trio are big favourites, especially Mr. H. P. Milner in his clever wire act; Ryan and Hall contribute one of the funniest burlesque turns seen here; *Gimson's Pets* is a clever sketch, which serves to introduce some cleverly-trained dogs; and the Society Quartette are clever and dainty dancers. Reg. Bolton, in his really funny scena *The Editor's Imp*; the Boxing Kangaroo, with his trainer, Ben Tully; and the Bioscope conclude.

HANLEY.—ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—*Mother Goose* continues to lay golden eggs at every performance, for packed houses are testifying to its all-round excellence. Miss Lola Patey is undoubtedly the primo favourite, closely followed by the "Rich Mother Goose" and Fred Barnes.

GRAND. — Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand.—Capital houses are attracted this week to see Horace Goldin, the clever illusionist; the dramatic sketch *No. 99*; Bert Weston, who is a terrific success; Raymond's Bio-tableaux, which shows pictures of the Italian earthquake; Don and Mabel; Fred Elton; Lanos and Montes, acrobats, and Florence N. Gardner.

KING'S.—Lessees, Messrs. Kennedy and Moore; Manager, Mr. H. Kennedy.—A capital series of films is exhibited this week, and Mr. Frank Leslie, comedian, supplies the vaudeville items successfully. Sacco, the fasting man, is facing his forty-five days' fast heroically, and huge crowds are attending his feat of endurance.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eric Fielding Smith.—Mr. J. F. Elliston's company appeared in *Puss-in-Boots* on Monday. The piece was admirably staged, and the costumes presented a feast of colour. Miss Ethel Ra-Leslie, as the principal boy, was enthusiastically applauded for her brilliant acting and fine singing, her voice being powerful, particularly in its higher register; Mr. Fred Lincoln, as the Dame, well maintained the traditions of the title-rôle; Mr. Harry Rogerson, as the indolent and irresponsible King Grabbus, adapted himself well to his part. The local topical hits were very smartly and aptly made (mostly by Mr. Harry Edlin as Baron Bumphiz). The impersonation of Miss Gladys Christoe as Princess Ivy was one of quiet charm. Mr. Hal Bert, as Puss-in-Boots, was agile enough to please the most exacting.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—*The Gay Gordons* company opened on Monday under the direction of Mr. W. A. Seymour. Miss Nell Carter was in the cast as Peggy Quainton, but had contracted a chill, and her place was filled at short notice by Miss Mabel Dent, who was cast for Victoria Siddons, and who acquitted herself as Peggy with marked ability. Miss Emily Mellon played exceedingly well as Janet McLeod; Mr. Frank Lincoln was all that was necessary as Angus Graeme; some very laughable comedy was supplied by Miss Ida Laurie as Charlotte Siddons, Mr. Tom Graves as Nervy Nat, and Mr. Edward Nainby as Edmund Siddons; and Mr. Charles Tyers gained much applause as Jack McPhrisky. Mr. Ernest Ruston was convincing as Andrew Quainton. The scenery and dresses were excellent, and the augmented orchestra was well directed by Mr. Arthur Spittle.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Vivian-Fisher; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—Charles Cardle, the gipsy vocalist, sings some good songs; an expert illusionist is seen in Mons. de Lil; the Alhambra pictures deal with the recent earthquake; Blanche and Powell are clever musical entertainers; Miss Nellie Lawrence possesses a remarkable voice compass; Hulbert keeps the audience highly amused with his ventriloquism; a smart patter comedian is found in Bert H. Delmar; Fred S. Peake is associated with Edwin Morton, Ronald Douglas, and Miss Dora Davis in an interesting and exciting dramatic sketch, *The Gambler*.

PIER PAVILION.—General-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—The success achieved by *Robinson Crusoe* during the past weeks has induced the management to continue it for another week.

HUDDERSFIELD.—HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—The chief place in the bill this week is occupied by Mr. John F. Preston and Co. in the elaborate racing sketch entitled *A Ride to Win*, which is well played and much appreciated. Also in the bill are the Pemms, comedians; Miss Mabel Florence, comedienne; Stelling and his intelligent and merry little canine partner; Dan Robans, a tenor singer of more than ordinary merit; and Edgar Stevens and Miss Minnie Leslie in their finely-rendered musical episode *Love Levels All*. The Dardinis are here for the first time in their humorous juggling act. Some very amusing pictures on the Bioscope complete the programme.

HULL.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Mortons, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. W. F. Morton.—The pantomime has now entered upon its third week, and success is attending it, due in a large measure, as one has previously recorded, to the efforts of the comedians, headed by Mr. Chippendale. The songs and choruses have been well chosen, whilst the speciality dances of the Monte Carlo Troupe are a feature of attraction.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Manager, Mr. Tom Bogue.—Messrs. Armitage and Leigh have gathered a good company together for the interpretation of *Leah Kleschna*. The name-part is cleverly portrayed by Miss Bessie Rignold, who demonstrates forcibly that she inherits the histrionic qualities of the family; her reading of the rôle proves her to be an artist of no mean order, and she carried the house with her throughout. Mr. Wm. Clayton is a fine Kleschna, and in every phase of the reading his talent is revealed. Raoul finds an effective representative in Mr. Arthur Leigh; and the Schrams of Mr. Wm. Heilbronn is a good study of a difficult rôle. The other characters are well placed.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Mortons, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—*A Fight for Life* is a strong play, and one eminently to the tastes of the patrons of this house. Miss Ada Frank is a pleasant Suzanne; Mr. Dan Bryan does well as Dan Murphy; the cripple is cleverly portrayed by Mr. Clifton Earle; Miss Elsie Shelton makes a sweet and sympathetic picture as the blind girl Marie; and Mr. Courtney Robinson is a good Count. The play was enthusiastically received.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—*The Eve of Her Wedding* is the attraction this week, the exponents being Mr. Wilson Benge and Co. Miss Sadie Smith cleverly handles the pathetic part of Mavis Leverton; Mr. Wilson Benge as George Tremain displays good acting ability; and the Jack Herne of Mr. Edward Keith is a praiseworthy performance. Miss Daisy Cooke plays with effect as Gwendoline Younger; and Mr. Chas. Groves, jun., is responsible for the double rôle of Paul Cairshaw and Hyram P. Younger. Mr. Fred Rivers as Giovanni presents an excellent reading of the part; Mr. Charles Digby as Rudolph Earle is very amusing; Miss Effie Bartlett's Renie de Telle, an adventuress, is a clever performance; and Mr. Wallace Campbell as Dean Clifton acts effectively as the evil genius of the piece.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Mr. Arthur Carlton's pantomime of *Cinderella* opened for the week on Monday under most favourable auspices. Miss Victoria Carmen, as Prince Charming, is also excellent; Miss Ida Dorrie is a graceful Dandini; and Miss Ray Fairfax a bright and lively Fairy, who sings well. Mr. H. A. Griffiths as the Baron, Mr. Keane Harker as Pimple, Dan Harley and Fred Melton as the Broker's Men, are all excellent. Mr. Frank Lennard, as the Evil Spirit, has a fine bass voice, which he uses to good effect.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—The bill this week is a very good one. Dallas and Varden have an amusing musical dialogue entitled *That Husband of Mine*; Miss Camella Feo, a graceful dancer, is popular; Musical Silvo has more than ordinary talent on musical glasses of all descriptions; Mr. T. W. Wilson and Miss Nellie Waring appear in a comedy act, entitled *The Ugly Duckling*; Paul Vandy is a juggler of no mean order; and Fred Maitland has an amusing dialogue with a lady sitting in the stalls on the subject of votes for women. Mr. and Mrs. Edward Lucas gave original scenes from Charles Dickens, in which the eccentric and pathetic are blended. The Mysticos have a clever performance called *Spirit: Spiritualism or What?*

JERSEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Edward Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—Mr. A. Clifton Alderson concludes his season here this week, and is charming his patrons by giving them a capitally-acted rendering of that brilliant play *Lady Windermere's Fan*. Miss Max Hinton makes a graceful Lady Windermere; Miss Joan Wellman is good as Mrs. Erlynne; and Miss Enid Ross appears as the Duchess of Berwick and Miss Winifred Love as Lady Agatha Carlisle. Mr. Vyner is excellent as Cecil Graham; Mr. Sam Roberts ably impersonates Hopper; Charles Dumby is ably delineated by Mr. Frank Dalton; the parts of Lord Darlington and Lord Augustus Lorton are really well rendered by Mr. Escott Robson and Mr. Ulick Burke; whilst Lord Windermere is splendidly played by Mr. A. Clifton Alderson. On Thursday evening the performance was under the distinguished patronage of his Excellency Major-General Hugh Sutlej Gough, C.B., C.M.G.

KIRKCALDY.—HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—Miss Lillie Williams is presenting her *Robinson Crusoe* pantomime this week. The scenery and effects are attractive. Speciality turns are given by the Ten Dixie Girls, who present a very pretty song and dance scena; Lindsay and Harte, who bring down the house with a Scotch comedy act; the Sisters Selwyn and the Sisters Poole Pelham, smart dancers; Miss May Carter, a particularly clever dancer; and Justin and Mantell, acrobats.

LANCASTER.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. C. Howitt.—Mr. John Gerant's company, in *At Duty's Call*, is the attraction this week. As Harold Alison Mr. Gerant appears to special advantage, delivering his lines with remarkable clearness; Mr. Chas. C. Calvert is capital as Capt. George Alison; and the same may be said of Mr. Ernest St. John as General Gordon; Miss Beatrice Western gives a fine portrayal of Dora Drummond; Miss Ada Roscoe is an acceptable Saloma; and Miss Eva Belle does well as Mary. The comic element is in the hands of Mr. Harry Ives, who makes the most of it.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. J. Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—A really first-rate programme is arranged here, at the head of which is Eldra and his wonderful dog, Prince. One of the best sketches seen for some time is *My Burglar*, presented in a praiseworthy fashion by Harry Thorpe and Zoe Coe; Alice Maude is a juvenile m

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford.—The excellent *Forty Thieves* pantomime remains on from last week, and is again filling the house to overflowing. The principals, Bob Selvidge, Chris Le Brun, Bertha Clifton, and Cecilia Gold have each elaborated their parts to some purpose, and the show goes with delightful briskness. Honors and Le Prince and the Denwartz Troupe are the chief of the supporting variety company.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—A compressed and attractive version of *Dick Whittington*, arranged to suit the twice-a-night system, is here presented by Mr. Edward Marris, and a clever company give a good account of themselves. In the name-part Miss Etty Waldron shines brightly, both singing and acting being most accomplished; Miss Doris Gilbert is charming as Alice, especially winning plaudits for good vocal work; Joe Waldron has the very heavy comedy part of Idle Jack, and is a source of unending merriment; whilst capital assistance is rendered by Mr. Billy Watson, Mr. Will Naylor, Mr. Will Vestor, and Mr. Dick Nash. Mr. Arthur Lawrence gets a big reception for his vocal work as the Emperor, whilst Mr. Herbert Pearce as Fitzwarren is also prominent. Some clever specialities are provided by the Belasco Trio. The staging and dressing are of high artistic merit, and under the direction of Messrs. E. H. Bertram and Joe Waldron the piece moves through ten scenes in bright and mirthful style.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—A clever turn by Matthews and Brown, a coloured pair of eccentrics, is as popular as anything here, and deservedly so. The Faludy Troupe are doing a remarkably fine acrobatic show; vocal comedy by the Comedy Chanters is a popular feature; the Sisters Belmont sing and dance to general satisfaction; and that clever comedy pair Gold and Sterling are well liked in a humorous sketch.

LEICESTER.—PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. S. Buccleuch.—Great interest is centred here in the appearance of Machnow, the Russian giant, who is reputed to be the tallest man in the world. He makes quite a host of friends among the audience of both sexes, who seem quite anxious to grip the giant's hand. Miss Mabel Mavis, the delightfully entertaining musician and glassophone soloist, is receiving a cordial welcome; W. J. Churchill, an established Leicester favourite, is creating the greatest merriment; Vanando is a first-class ventriloquist, who scores a well-deserved success with a particularly bright show; Duncan and Godfrey are very smart in their Cockney comedy *Me and 'Er*; Hayes and Wynne are a clever singing and dancing couple; Mona Garrick depicts in a satisfactory manner scenes and characters from famous plays; Sybil St. Elmo is an attractive ballad and operatic vocalist; Ernest Cadle's *Casey's Court*, presented by a company of thirty, is amusing, as depicting a street urchin's idea of a high-class variety entertainment. New business has been introduced, the gags, songs, dances, &c., adding to its attractiveness. The Bioscope is again a feature of the programme.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joe Lawrence.—The principal attraction here this week is Geo. M. Marriott's company in a romantic military sketch showing an episode in the life of *Cigarette*, in which Miss Edith Finlay admirably sustains the principal rôle. A particularly bright and smart comedy acrobatic and risley act, entitled *The Bakers' Beano*, is submitted by Will Douglas's troupe of Five Jolly Bakers, who are cordially welcomed; the Zano Bros. are a success in their funny triple bar act; the Arntees, coon comedy artists and dancers, are capital entertainers; the Bonanzas give a good show as hand balancers and staircase performers; other artists are Rose D'Aulby, chorus vocalist, and Ella and Edwards. As usual, special interest is taken in the pictures, which are clearly depicted by Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Company; acting-manager, Mr. Charles R. Craig.—At this home of cinematograph pictures there is again the usual well-diversified programme of grave and gay films, interspersed with many beautiful examples of coloured photographs. Miss Daisy Elphinstone, an excellent ballad vocaliet, is an additional attraction.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—The usual cordial reception is nightly accorded Messrs. G. M. Polini and Austen Melford's specially selected company in the evergreen drama *The Silver King*, which is under the business management of Mr. Henry Chadwick. Mr. Fred D. Daviss gives a really fine performance in the title-rôle, and Miss Madge Morley, a recent addition to the company, plays sympathetically and with every success the part of Nellie Denver; Daniel Jacques, the faithful servant, is still in the safe hands of Mr. Edward J. George; Mr. E. Stanton-Sharp plays with telling effectiveness as The Spider; Mr. Arthur Wright is good as Elijah Coombe; and Miss Flossie Hale Daviss cleverly enacts the part of Cissie; Mr. E. Stidwell as Samuel Baxter, Mr. Leslie Ellis as Henry Corkett, Mr. Fred May as Cripps, and Miss Lila Barclay as Olive Skinner are others who deserve special praise. The drama is staged in a thoroughly satisfactory manner.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Licensee and Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—In *New Frivolity* and *The Houseboat*, typical specimens both of the bustling, go-as-you-please kind of entertainment which has not yet lost its admirers, the original Leopolds and their company find opportunities for their special business in quick changes and lively athletics. Messrs. John, Willie, Tom, and Ernest Leopold are prominent in various disguises; useful assistance is also rendered by Mr. Watson Hume as an amorous stockbroker, Mr. Wilfred Vaughan as a deserted French husband, and Mr. W. H. Howarth as a dunce; and needful feminine rôles are successfully filled by Miss Cathleen Cavanagh, Miss Amy Hall, Miss Queenie Bronte, Miss Gertie Winter, and others. Songs and dances supply occasional interludes, and several grotesque or extraordinary turns form special features of the performance, in which a gallery of living statues and their antics rank among the most amusing scenes.

LICHFIELD.—ST. JAMES'S HALL.—Mr. W. Payne Seddon presented Mr. Herbert Ralland's company in *His House in Order*. The Hilary Jesson of Mr. J. Herbert Beaumont and the Nina of Miss Elsie Roberts were excellent impersonations, both artists being frequently recalled during the evening. The cast included Mr. J. C. Robertson as Filmer Jesson, M.P.; Mr. Langford Browne, Sir Daniel Ridgeley; Miss Peggy Rae, an admirable Derek; Miss Victoria Wray as Geraldine; Miss Katie Neville, Mlle. Thome; Miss Avis Grahame, Lady Ridgeley; Mr. R. Reade as the Major; and Mr. R. Dalton as Dr. Dilnott. An all-round representation of very great excellence was given. The comedy was staged with care and completeness.

LIMERICK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. G. Victor Fogerty.—Appreciative audiences greeted the return visit of the Elster-Grime Grand Opera Company, under the Guthrie management on Monday and Tuesday. The company opened with *Maritana*, Mr. McIntyre enacting the rôle of Don Cæsar with marked ability; Mr. Frank Land was at his best as Don José; as the King of Spain Mr. Gilbert King was commendable, and Miss Lynham was an artistic Maritana; Miss Mann was a clever Lazarillo, and Miss Gilbert sang the rôle of the Duchess with sweetness. Tuesday night was equally successful with Mr. Land as the Count in *The Bohemian Girl*, Mr. McIntyre as Thaddeus, and Mr. King as the King of the Gipsies. Last week end was agreeably filled up by the first appearance of Mr. Seymour Hicks's delightful *Gay Gordons* company, in which Mr. Stanley Brett appeared to much advantage as Angus and Miss Maie Ash as the captivating daughter of the American millionaire. Both artists got an ovation, and the houses were packed nightly.

LIVERPOOL.—ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—A first visit was paid to this city during the week of a charming play, entitled *The King and the Unknown Woman*, the author being Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson, who has given many stirring dramas to the stage. As usual, this latest effort of the well-known actor-author was lavishly mounted, and interpreted by an able company. Foremost was Mr. Stephen E. Scanlan, of "Traitor" fame, whose conception of Prince Menski got hold of the audience; Mr. James Stillwell gave a most admirable reading of the part of Prince Loris; Mr. W. R. Winning thoroughly understood the requirements of General Platz; Mr. Cyril Harrison made an excellent Captain Gara; delightful comedy was provided by Mr. William E. Passmore (Corporal Stack) and Miss Cissie Podmore (Schnapps); Miss F. Conyers Radcliffe proved eminently successful as the heroine Zora; Miss Muriel Inglis found great favour for her admirably-acted Countess Melveitch; and good work was also done by Miss Norma Dumayne (Else) and Miss Elsie Clark (Cascar). Matinées are now becoming the rage in Liverpool, and one was held here on Wednesday.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—The attraction this week was Mr. Montague Beaudyn's company in *The Power of a Wicked Woman*. Mr. Beaudyn acquitted himself as Phillip Carey; Miss Irene Munro played Helen Terraire with much power, and captivated her audience; Mr. Tom Robertson showed to advantage as Horace Winter; the part of Guy Oliphant was capably undertaken by Mr. Arthur Cresswell; Miss Blanche Hill was a thoughtful Denise; Mr. James Burt lent valuable support with his Lord Dumley; and other well-held characters were Nellie Montague (Miss Cecilia Crawford), Marie (Miss Phyllis Rae), and Bransby (Mr. Arthur A. Tomlin). A matinée was given on Thursday.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—The big line here this week was Frank A. Gotch, the American champion wrestler, who, along with a company of players, presented a comedy athletic sketch, *All About a Bout*; Hermann Melot astonished his audiences with particularly smart conjuring; a neat ventriloquial turn was given by David Poole; Clark and Hayden had a smart musical comedy duologue, *By Appointment*; Fred Curran pleased with his clever parodies; Amélie de L'Enclos sang several soprano solos in most pleasing style; the Delevines were able dancers and amused greatly with the act *Flipp and Flopp*; the clog-dancing of Bertha Winder gained for her much approval; and Tony Spring as a barrel jumper performed some clever feats.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.—*How Women Ruin Men* was given here during the week by Messrs. Sydney Rennef and G. M. Copping's company. Among the artists were Messrs. Rennef, S. Langton, A. Wynne, Fred Elvin, and R. Vane; Miss Doris Brookes, Miss Kitty Russell, and Miss Gracie Jones.

LYRIC.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—Mr. Jack Haddon's pantomime *Jack and the Beanstalk* has occupied the boards here during the week. Large audiences have enjoyed the exceedingly humorous production. Miss Alma Obrey was a lively Jack; Miss Bessie Knight pleased as Dora; and endless laughter was provoked by O'Mally and Brown, the two flunkeys; Bob Baxter (Silly Billy), Dave O'Toole (Dame), and Hal Forde, sen. (Squire Musty). Many popular songs were introduced, and the fun was fast and furious.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—Large audiences have assembled here during the week to hear Mme. Albani, whose appearance on the music-hall stage has aroused considerable interest. The distinguished vocalist delighted her hearers with excerpts from operas and with popular ballads. Her accompanist was Mr. Victor Marmont. The Havanna troupe presented an amusing comedy acrobatic act; a refined musical scena *The Human Motor-car* was given by the Hersleb Brothers; the Columbia Comedy Trio provided a much enjoyed operatic and humorous turn; as trick cyclists the Woodwards earned much applause; Ada Parker sang and danced most tastefully; the Bijou Juvenile Troupe had a refined musical scena *Pansy's Birthday*; a most diverting comedian was Will E. Stopitt; and contributions also came from A. E. Clifford, vocalist; Russell Carr, military ventriloquist; and Herr Zakovsky, violinist.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—The attraction here during the week has been *In Sight of St. Paul's*, from the pen of Sutton Vane. It was well presented by the stock dramatic company, the principal characters being undertaken by Messrs. Cecil Ravenswood (Mr. Chichester), David G. Noble (Tom), Leo Montgomery (Harry), Sydney Grant (John Gridson), E. D. Allen (Fretley), R. Seath Innes (Treacher), and Tom H. Solly (Palfrey); Miss Florence Palmer (Aileen), and Miss Lilian Radbourne (Cynthia). Mr. Anthony Brown's Bioscope showed the latest films.

WESTMINSTER.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—In addition to an excellent series of cinematograph pictures the following artists appeared here during the week:—The Musical Marlows, with their refined entertainment *Music Hath Charms*; Young Amos, coloured comedian and eccentric dancer; and Billy Dooley, comedian and dancer.

OLYMPIA.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton.—Top of the bill here this week were Mr. Laurence Irving, Miss Mabel Hackney, and company, with the stirring sketch *The King and the Vagabond*, which was received with general appreciation; Miss Dolly Elsworthy and company presented a charming episode entitled *Sweet Mistress Dorothy* that gained considerable favour; the Stein-Eretto troupe of hand-jumping acrobats went through a remarkable performance which earned loud applause; Ross and Lewis were a couple of very amusing American comedians; Rosa Loader did excellently as a musical mimic; and the list also contained the names of Alf Chester, comedian, the Crisps, with a juvenile musical and dancing act, and Frank Cass, comedian.

PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—The enjoyable programmes presented here have resulted in big business. This week the remarkable performances of Houdini, "the handcuff king," astonished everybody, particularly his work of getting out of a padlocked iron can filled with water; Sandy McNab and company caused shrieks of laughter with their sketch *The Egyptian Mummy*; a rousing reception was given to Billy Williams, a most popular comedian, who had to respond to several encores; Rembrandt, assisted by Miss Louie, executed some exceedingly clever oil paintings in quick time; Leslie's Comedy Cadets presented a most acceptable military scena, *After Lights Out*; and turns were also given by Harry Zeiter, comedian and eccentric dancer, Margaret Drew, singer of chorus songs, Burns and Bentley, excellent dancers, and Val Marome, comedienne.

GRAND TIVOLI.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jasper Redfern.—The public seem to have taken to the new form of entertainment provided at this hall. The animated pictures shown during the week were varied and interesting, while variety turns were given by the following:—Satani, magical novelty; Oswald Bentley, comedian; Draycott Sisters, duettists; Tiny and Mite, child vocalists and dancers; Olive May, with illustrated songs; Tom Joy, eccentric singer; and the Five Musical Tritons, who had a bright and clever entertainment.

PARK PALACE.—Lessee, Mr. Jasper Redfern.—Among the many animated pictures given here throughout the week was a prettily-coloured one entitled The Talisman. A pleasing all-round vaudeville show was also given by Shenton's Chicklets with *The Children's Birthday Party*; J. H. Ellis, comedian; the Two Kays, operatic vocalists; Leolin, juggler; Marion Adelaide, vocalist; and the Four Scoreys, with musical mélange.

NEW CENTURY PICTURE HALL.—Proprietors, The New Century Animated Picture Company, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter H. Hook.—A fine and up-to-date series of films are shown here thrice daily. Principal among them during the week were a most striking one showing the flight of Wilbur Wright's Aeroplane, Life and Customs on the Island of St. Kilda, Adventures of Detective Nick Carter, The Italian Naval Manœuvres, and many exceedingly humorous ones.

LLANELLY.—ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Resident-Manageress, Miss Alice Rocheforte.—Under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley, *A Soldier's Honour* is being staged here this week with considerable success. Miss Edie Macklin takes the part of Jemima and Miss Mabel Mannering that of Cora Lee in excellent style. Mr. Millar Armstrong does well as Capt. Deane; and Mr. T. Arthur Ellis is very good as Capt. Temple. The play is well mounted and dressed.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Resident Business-Manager, Mr. W. Payne Seddon.—Mr. Reginald Dance and company in *Raffles* have been playing to excellent houses here. Mr. Reginald Dance's Raffles is a grand conception, finely carried out; Mr. Edward Irwin as Mr. Curtis Bedford makes an excellent detective; Mr. Oswald Griffiths as Crawshay is a realistic burglar; and Mr. P. Alexander as Lord Amersteth acts with ability. Mr. F. C. Poole gives great assistance as Lord Crowley; and Miss Edith Lofting as Lady Melrose, Miss Marguerite Unett as Lady Ethel, Miss Frances Titheradge as Gwendoline, and Miss Mollie Tremaine as Mrs. Vidal, play together with much charm and sweetness. Miss Dora Digby, as the French maid Marie, proves herself a most capable artist.

LOWESTOFT.—MARINA.—Manager, Mr. E. A. Smith.—This week drama gives place to comedy, and we have the first appearance locally of *Mr. Popple (of Ippleton)*, presented with evident taste and skill by Mr. Macdona's company. Mr. Macdona in the principal rôle scores heavily, and is strongly supported by Miss Nellie Hodson, whose excellent work we can well recall on the occasion of a previous visit as Julie Bon-Bon in *The Gay Parisienne*, also presented by Mr. Macdona.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—Excellent business continues here. The Aeroplanes present a sensational trapeze act in the roof of the huge building, and secures warm applause. Bob Elliott, sand dancer; Harry Tullett, comedian; the Three Mattresses, comedy bar performers, and Saville Bradley's company in *Ructions* are also in the bill. The British Biograph Company include a fine production of the Suffolk Tragedy of Maria Martin, which arouses great interest.

MACCLESFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—Miss Violet Osmund's company is paying a visit here this week with *The Belle of the Ball*. Mr. Alexander Loftus as Timothy Timkins proves himself to be an able mirth-provoker; Mr. F. H. Morton gives a first-class presentation of Sir Francis Lake; Mr. Johnnie Schofield, jun., as Bobbie Fletcher, is an amusing dude; and Mr. Gomer May is an ideal Farmer Jones. Miss Gladys Carlton as Poppy enters thoroughly into the spirit of her part; Miss Vera Grafton is a charming Queenie Trevor; as Lucy Forster Miss K. Mange does well; and the sisters Alice and Mary Jones find two capable exponents in Miss Norreys and Miss C. L'Estrange.

MAESTEG.—TOWN HALL.—Lessees, Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. G. F. Knowles.—A tremendous house welcomed Mr. Harry Benett and his company on Monday in the pantomime *Robinson Crusoe*, Miss Nellie Dyson, in the title-rôle, fascinates the audience. As Polly Miss Stella Millar is all that can be desired. An auburn-haired Mrs. Crusoe is found in Mr. D. Phillips, whose funny Welsh sayings delight the people; Mr. J. H. Wakefield achieves great success as Little Willie Curly. Mr. Harry Benett is exceedingly comical as Billy Crusoe; Rand and O'Ryan as Flip and Flap provide a deal of amusement. Specialities are introduced by Kloof and Ramsey, musical eccentrics; Lonzo Brown, coon vocalist and sand dancer; Saxo, posthorn soloist; and the Veronia Troupe of acrobatic dancers. The dresses and scenery are gorgeous and effective.

MANCHESTER.—ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Mason.—Messrs. Northway and Garrod's company are here this week with *A Country Girl in London*. Mr. W. V. Garrod as the hero Frank Gordon has a part well suited to his undoubted abilities, while, in the opposite character, Godfrey Clinton, Mr. Leonard Booker makes good use of his opportunities. Miss Bertha Kingston, as Marjorie Hamilton, the title-part, wins applause for a clever and sympathetic portrayal, and as the betrayed Gwendoline Gordon, Frank's sister, Miss Josephine Colona finds a rôle of great scope and interest. Mr. Seymour Perry as Wilberforce Ruddyphat, and Miss Ethel Whiteley as Adelaide, his wife, work well in a humorous direction, Mr. John Belton as Oppenheim adding to the amusement by his comical use of broken English. Others worthy of mention are Messrs. Clifford Marle and John S. Sheridan. The play is admirably staged and thoroughly enjoyed.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Dry.—John Tiller's pantomime *Jack and Jill*, written by Charles Fletcher and John Tiller, is being played here twice nightly this week. It is a bright and merry show, very well exploited by the cast. Cissy Iris and Nelly Grimshaw are in the title-parts; Harriet Fawn is the Prince and Nelly Rodney the Princess; and Harry Cotton, Bruce Green, and Horace Jones have no difficulty in getting fun out of their respective parts of the Baron, the Dame, and the Page. The dresses and scenery are pretty, and the singing is excellent. Enjoyable specialities are added by Le Cren Trio, the Eight Merry Midgets, the Tiller quartet of dancers, and the Imperial ballet troupe. Good houses are attracted.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Hewitt.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company, after a successful week at the Royal Osborne Theatre, is here in the Lyceum version of *The Christian*, and is again drawing good houses.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—An excellent programme here is headed by Herbert Darnley's comedy company in *The Brigands of Tarragona*, one of the most laughable productions seen in Manchester for a long time. Also prominent on the bill is L'Incognita, the masked vocalist, whose delightful singing evokes the most enthusiastic applause; W. J. Ashcroft, the solid man, continues popular; Victor Travers, eccentric comedian, is genuinely funny; the Beautiful Lillian contributes some wonderful trick cycling; an elaborate musical act, with electrical and scenic effects, is provided by the Ten Zerbinis; and other good turns are the Three Sisters Jerome, in their clever and pretty dancing act; Harry Simms, light comedian; and Conn and Conrad, in a well-conceived and entertaining novelty, *The Twentieth-Century Burglars*.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—*The Sands of Dee* is still drawing large audiences here. Captain Jos. Woodward's famous juggling sea-lions and seals go through their very wonderful performance: F. W. Purcell's company are seen to advantage in a capital sketch, *That Brute Simmons*; whilst other entertaining items are given by Campbell and Barber, clever acrobatic comedy cycle duo; Doroswami, the Indian Kubelik; Three Welsh Girls, good singers; the Mayvilles, in their living marionette performance; Frank Hartley, smart boy juggler; and Charles Vincent, comedian. Up-to-date subjects are shown on the Bioscope.

PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. J. Carter.—Fred Karno's *Yap Yaps* continues to attract and amuse large audiences, while Captain Bevan's Gordon Highlanders share the honours in their exhibition of various lightning manœuvres; Sidney and Elvo provide a sensational and comedy cycling act; Ruby Emerson, vocal comedienne, is well received; some smart athletics are performed by the Krags Trio; and others duly appreciated are Fred Ellis, comedian, and Jack Marks (described as the smallest and youngest comedian in the world), who is certainly clever and precocious.

KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. James R. Trippett.—Zona Vevey, assisted by Max Erard, provides the star turn here this week, and is very successful; Lallie Brooke, a pleasing vocal comedienne, sings well; Gillin scores as a ventriloquist; Playfair shows his wonderful ability in a paper-manipulating speciality, whilst his charming partner Vera sings delightfully; Frank E. Ford makes a hit with clever dancing; Mi Narom does well as a comedy artist; Bennett and Stirling, comedy duo, are good; and Alfred Graham's Juveniles are seen in a pleasing vocal scena. Pictures complete.

TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Miss Florence St. John tops the bill here this week in her delightful comedy sketch *My Milliner's Bill*, and is ably assisted by Mr. Chas. B. Bedelia. Mr. Ernest Legh and company are also to the front in a pleasing version of *David Garrick*, which is well acted. Webb and Branston are excellent operatic duettists; Rose and Challoner are a clever duo; Sam Williams scores with his song "Romany"; Lily Arthur is a vocal comedienne with plenty of "go"; Irene Francis sings and dances nicely; and other good turns are those of Ford and Maxwell, expert dancers, Charlie Carr, comedian and dancer; and Jack Ramsey, Scotch vocal comedian.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—*A King for a Day* is paying a return visit, and as presented by Messrs. Sidney Dooley and Charles Seymour's company is highly amusing. Lester and Moure are smart singers and dancers; the Godfreys are very funny in a musical comedy sketch; and the Days repeat their wonderful telepathy performance. Lidden and Hayward are skilful at the piano; Lew Peterman, the Hebrew comedian, sings well; Will Walton, comedian, is diverting as a comedy suffragist; the Rose Trio do some neat acrobatic feats; and A. H. Drinkwater is a pleasing light comedian. Stick Fast is shown on the Bioscope.

HULME HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thomas Baker.—Ruhart, comedy parodist, provides the star turn here this week, and meets with a big reception; Leonard Charburn's troupe of young stars, under the direction of R. L. Griffiths, are pleasing in a pretty scena, *A Picnic up the River*; Marie Jones scores a big success as a protean artist; Ben Harris and his Nippers are capital in a comedy boxing speciality entitled *A Promising Pupil*; Valvers is wonderfully clever with crayon drawings; the Victoria troupe are entertaining and versatile; and other smart turns are offered by Horace Sade, dancer, Leslie and Player, comedy duettists and patterers, and Les Zelovas, acrobatic equilibrists. Scenes from the recent earthquake are shown.

MANSFIELD.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Capt. Clayton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Mark Lorne.—Mr. Roland Yorke's company opened here on Monday with *The Old Home*. Mr. Chas. Franmore's representation of Daddy Dean was of a high order; the Rev. Eric Armstrong was well sustained by Mr. Horace Denton. Miss Gertrude Bonser was a charming Hazel Dean; Mrs. J. W. Braithwaite as Bridget Donaghan, and Mr. Fred L. Connynghame as Sam Adams, enacted the humorous parts in excellent style; Mr. Roland Yorke as Lord Avondale was exceedingly good. Miss Mattie Crawford as Polly Popp, and Mr. J. W. Braithwaite as Dr. Warburton completed an excellent cast.

MARGATE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. E. Michael; General-Manager, Mr. W. W. Keene.—Miss Loie Esmond and her company have been appearing here this week, playing alternately three nights each *The Sorrows of Satan* and *Nana*. On Monday night the engagement commenced with *The Sorrows of Satan*, in which Mr. Edward Neville presented the part of Prince Lusio Rimanez with effectiveness; Mr. F. Dougles Howard was good as Geoffrey Tempest, and Mr. Edwin Ramsdale was amusing as Morris; Mr. E. Holland Day, in the rôle of Amiel, the Prince's valet, was good; Miss Loie Esmond played delightfully as Diana Chesney; Miss Rosie Neville was excellent as Lady Sybil Elton; and Miss Hilary Burleigh made as much of the small rôle of Mavis Clare as possible. The remainder of the cast included Mr. J. Le Fleming, as Earl of Elton; Mr. Fred White, as Charles Grimes; Miss Cecil Byrne, as Mrs. Grimes; Mr. Claude Casey, as Lord Lynton; and Miss Mary Askew, as Mary. On Tuesday night, in *Nana*, the principal characters were sustained and well played by Miss Rosie Neville, in the part of Nana; Mr. F. Douglas Howard, as Philippe; Miss Hilary Burleigh, Blanche Fougere; Miss Loie Esmond, Rose Nugion; Mr. Claude Casey, M. Fountaine; Mr. E. Holland Day, George Hugon; Mr. Edward Neville, Hector; Mr. J. Le Fleming, M. Duval; Mr. Fred White, Henri; and Mr. Edwin Ramsdale, Victor.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fred. Mouillot and Walter De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—*Claude Duval*, a spectacular romantic story told in three acts, is one of the prettiest and most effective sketches put on the stage here for a long time, and it has this week been received with unqualified approval. Roi, the cleverly trained gelding, adds greatly to the success of the production; Frank Maura, foot equilibrist, gives a capital turn, showing marvellous dexterity; Diamond and Hart, comedians, present a varied show of patter, song, and dance; Arthur Kenny, cyclist, performs some smart tricks; Bert Marsden, comedian, is amusing; the Bros. Michel, in living statuary and as gymnasts, are good; and Ethel Arundel, vocal comedienne, goes well.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees, The South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Albert Jackson.—*The Prodigal Son* played by Mr. Wentworth Croke's company, is here. Mr. Hugh Montgomery presents an artistic study of Magnus; the part of Oscar is skilfully undertaken by Mr. Gordon Mackintosh; Miss Valerie Crispin as Thora, and afterwards as Elin, is particularly good; Mr. Bellenden Clarke plays the Governor effectively; and his wife has a capital exponent in Miss Barbara Gott. Oscar Neilson is played with earnestness by Mr. Philip Renouf; as Margaret Neilson Miss Marie Harcourt is most praiseworthy; and Miss Mildred Cottell capably handles the rôle of Helga Neilson.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—Foremost in this week's programme is an amusing scena, presented by Donaldson Bros. and company, entitled *Sports in a Jungle*. Mendel, the blind pianist, is a great favourite, and his efforts are loudly applauded; Zarmo is a skilful juggler; whilst other meritorious turns are given by Onda and Artell, in gymnastic pot-pourri act; Allan Hanbury, comedian; Rosie de Deve, comedienne; and Hearne and Palmer. Some good pictures are shown by the Biograph.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Mr. Fred C. Somerfield's company is this week playing here the drama *Geoffrey Langdon's Wife?* Mr. Paul Beckett is prominent with a weird and effective interpretation of Felix Beverley; Mr. Ed. E. Ashby plays with distinct ability as Jack Stirling; Geoffrey Langdon is presented with strong dramatic power by Mr. Wilson Summers; Mr. Cyril Grier ably fills the rôle of Colonel Mills; Miss Mary Lovett, in the part of Mary Langdon, combines a natural grace with high dramatic instinct; Miss Katie Lever is pleasing as Sweet Nancy; whilst Miss Kathleen Magee is excellent as the Hon. Mrs. Sands.

NEW PICTURE HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. Will Hunter; Manager, Mr. E. H. Jones.—An excellent series of animated pictures this week includes, amongst others, Curfew Shall Not Ring To-night.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Ed. Jowsey; Manager and Licensee, Mr. W. Ker Chatto.—Mr. J. F. Elliston's pantomime, *Humpty Dumpty*, continues to draw good houses here. The humorous element has greatly improved, and with the introduction of Palles and Cussick, two well-known comedians, their advent should greatly strengthen the cast. Miss Barbara Babbington, who has taken up the part of Princess Aurora, has infused much more life into the pantomime, and is scoring in her song, "How would you like to flout me"; Miss Florence Wix's fine acting and singing, the splendid harmony of the Quality Quartette, the acrobatic tricks of the Lecard Brothers, the dancing of Walmsley Quintette and Jack Hayton, and the funny patter of Rex Kempton, elicit much appreciation from the audience. The scenery and dresses have earned everybody's praise.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson.—Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company give an excellent performance this week of Mr. Henry Seton Merriman's work, *With Edged Tools*. Mr. Wm. F. Grant gives a good portrayal of Jack Meredith; and Miss Marie Leonard a capital delineation of the character of Jocelyn Gordon. Mr. J. A. Rosier is excellent as Sir John Meredith; and Mr. Chas. Hartopp as Guy Oscard does full justice to the part. Miss Alice Esther Bellwood gives a pleasing portrayal as Millicent Cheyne; and Miss Violet Thorold is charming as Marie. The remainder of the cast, Messrs. Campbell Goldsmid, J. Pocket, F. Layton, Aries Conway, and Wentworth Graeme, and Misses Marion Fawcett, Florence Dulhurty, Fanny Evans, and Emilie Finch, are all that can be desired.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Charles Imeson.—Miss Alice Pierce, the distinguished emotional American actress, is here this week, and delights all with her impressions of star players; Gunger and Valli are very amusing; and the Australian Twin Andersons are very good in a singing and dancing act; Jack Smiles, comedian, causes much laughter; and Duncan and Brasque score a great success in a playlet, *A Society Butterfly*. Primvessi, a juggler, also does well.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Peppi; Manager, Mr. C. E. Nicholls.—John Clempert, the original Siberian gaol-breaker, accomplishes several mystifying feats, in which he displays a complete mastery over locks and chains; the Five Whiteleys give a clever acrobatic turn; and Luis Hardt performs some wonderful feats of strength. Miss Teddy Edwards's company, in *The Lady Jockey*, a sporting farce, are very amusing; and Ernesto, juggler, Tate and Tate, Carl Colyer, and Edwards and Dacre also add to a capital programme.

MOTHERWELL.—NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hales.—Mr. George Edwardes' company opened to a packed house here on Monday, in *The Merry Widow*. Miss Mysie Devine gives a delightful impersonation of the title-rôle, singing and dancing in a manner captivating to her audience; the gay and spontaneous acting of Mr. Frank Greene makes him an ideal Danilo; Miss Ada Thomas sings and acts with great dramatic power as Natalie; Mr. Ripley Evans's fine voice being heard to advantage in the various numbers allotted to De Jolidon; very droll indeed is the Baron of Mr. Edward D'Arcy; the discreet Nisch being humorously portrayed by Mr. Fred Fowler; Frou Frou is prettily played by Miss Kate May, to whom a word of special praise is due for her spirited dancing; Cascada has a fine exponent in Mr. William Allison, which remark also applies to Mr. F. Pedgrift as St. Brioche; Mr. Clifford Seyler as Novakovitch; Mr. Robert Needham as Khadja and Mr. Adrian Beaumont as the Waiter at Maxim's; Misses Winnie Bailey, Marjorie Villis, and Luci Donati are alike excellent as Olga, Sylvanis, and Prascovia. Dresses and scenery are exceptionally good and there is an augmented orchestra under the bâton of Mr. E. Vousden.

MUSSELBURGH.—GAIETY.—Proprietor, Mr. Hugh Ritchie; Lessee, Mr. A. W. B. Kingston.—The pantomime *Little Red Riding Hood* is presented here this week. The book is by Mr. Tom Ellis, who is also the producer. The title-rôle is played by Miss Clarice Jenner and the Prince by Miss Emma Poole. Messrs. Tom Ellis as the Baron, James Dale as the Wolf, and Ted Mooney as the Dame all do well. Dainty dancing and sweet singing by Misses Marion Ellis, Mary Crown, Daisy Winthorpe, and Dolores Hope help to brighten up the well-known fairy tale.

NELSON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. T. Greenwood Croft; Business-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Mudd.—Messrs. Bliss and Bliss's pantomime company, in *Mother Goose*, has been here this week, and had a gratifying reception on Monday, when every available seat was occupied. The show is an uncommonly good one, the story being told in a bright and attractive manner. One of the features is the graceful dancing of Miss Ray Ford, who makes a charming Jill; Miss Ethel Dunford is a successful Prince; and Miss Nellie Reilly as Katterina, the Dutch girl, leaves little to be desired. Mr. Len Bliss makes plenty of fun out of the character of Widow McCooseley, and as Jack Mr. Percival is a great success; Messrs. Pete and Juno, Snatchall's dusky servants, are a boisterous pair

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—At the head of the bill here we have the Three Floradora Girls in *Two's Company, Three's None*, which has been greatly relished; Mr. Chris Raglus, comedy juggler, causes plenty of hearty laughter; Mr. Harry Gold, in his vocal scena *Cloudland*, has been greatly appreciated; Messrs. Gilroy and Gross, American comedians and dancers, are received with much favour; and the pictures displayed by the Mouldoscope are as much enjoyed as ever.

NORTHWICH.—CENTRAL THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden.—Mr. Edward Vivian's company in *The Woman Who Sinned* is here this week. Mr. Lionel Yeomans is good as Eugene Durville; a fine manly portrayal of Jack Carrington is given by Mr. James Musgrove; Mr. Edward Vivian as Silas Norris stands out pre-eminently; Messrs. Wilkirk and William De Lacy cause much merriment as Sergeant Jones and Percy Hogg respectively; Miss Eva K. Coleridge is a charming Hester Norris; Miss Rosie Watson a chic Maude Riggs; Blind Meg a telling Dorothea Vivian, and Judith Sartoris is in the capable hands of Augusta Tullock.

THE PAVILION. — Proprietress, Mrs. Fletcher; Manager, Mr. Phil Royston.—The Sisters Pardy present a pleasing musical turn; George Hurman is quaint; Miss Flo Villier dashing and chic; Messrs. Shelton and Fergus are a humorous pair; Todd and Peet are most acceptable; Little Dot sings in fine style; Charlie Barrett is good; and the Percys give a commendable show. Ruffell's Bioscope pictures reach a high standard.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Morgan. — Mr. George Dance's company in *Havana* is announced to appear here for three nights this week, namely, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, with a matinée on Saturday. This will be the first representation of *Havana* in Norwich, and a strong and able company has been engaged for the purpose. The chief parts will be—Miss Hebe Bliss as Consuelo, Miss Gladys Gay as Anita, Mr. Jackson Villiers as Cecil W. Parke, Mr. B. Russell as Hon. Frank Charteris, Mr. George Story as the Don Adolpho, and Mr. Tom Seymour as Reginald Brown. Mr. Albert Vernon will conduct.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—The Elliott Savonas' resplendent show and excellent musical talent command admiration from all. They are most successful and much appreciated. Wilton Heriot and company, in a comedy sketch, *An Anglo-American Alliance*, are very successful; Pat Lynch is a clever step-dancer and deservedly applauded; Yettmah is a good Japanese juggler, assisted by Miss Sosa San; Mlle. Florence is pleasing as a singer of illustrated songs; Cookson proves a capable ventriloquist; Nellie Ridgway scores as a singing comedienne on a wire; and Signorita Eloina displays ability as a Spanish gymnast. The Hippo Bio is particularly good this week.

AGRICULTURAL HALL.—Mr. Chas. Thurston continues successfully to carry on the Fun Carnival. The motor-cars are very attractive, and the animated pictures are good, and include The Indian Earthquake Disaster. The side shows of Mr. John Holmes and others continue to do well.

AGRICULTURAL HALL ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—The pictures here this week consist of interesting as well as amusing subjects. Scenes on Lake Genda and of Palermo are very pretty. Last year's Derby Day, boxing bouts by Jack Johnson, and some films representing the Sicilian earthquake, with songs by Miss Gladys Vane, make a pleasing entertainment.

NOTTINGHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—The success of *Cinderella* is thoroughly assured, judging by the large and enthusiastic audiences. Miss Cressie Leonard's Prince gains nightly in favour, and her charming vocalism evokes unstinted applause; Miss Madge Vincent as Cinderella is also thoroughly appreciated; Miss Alice Tremayne (Flora) and Miss Marie Empress (Dandini) add much to the brightness of the production; and Miss May Lillian Levey as one of the ugly sisters is a decided acquisition to the comedy element. The "flow of humour" is abundantly provided by the comedians, Messrs. Alexandre and Hughes, Johnnie Schofield, and Harry Brayne, whose efforts gain in popularity at each performance. The Eight Madeira Girls dance vivaciously.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Harry Upton.—*Aladdin* is in full swing and making fresh friends each night. Miss Mabel Carr (Aladdin) continues to charm by her vivacity and brightness; Miss Molly Wynne (the Princess) is the recipient of the heartiest applause; and valuable help is rendered by Misses Maude Rayne, Gertrude Lytton, Edie Graham, Jessie Leslie, and Elsie Roby; Mr. Fred Leglare gives a robust representation of the Spirit of the Lamp, and Mr. Lewis Leslie as the Emperor achieves success. The fun-making is capitally exploited by Messrs. Tom Kelso, William Fulbrook, George Fearnley, and Burley and Burley. The Six Yokohama Japs also provide an excellent speciality.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—Fred Karno's comedians in *Mumming Birds* are excellent mirth provokers, and throughout their turn the fun is maintained at a high pitch; the La Scala Opera Company, including Mrs. Arthur Rousbey, Miss Alice Rene, Mr. Edward Arthur, and Mr. Burns, has aroused the greatest enthusiasm by selections from *Cavalleria Rusticana*; the Cumberlands provide a really clever cycle act; and Annie Purcell sings in pleasing style. The programme is further enlivened by the efforts of Nellie Coleman, comedienne; Charles Santon, vocalist; Will English, coon singer; Walter Munroe, comedian; Agnes Tina, a smart little child actress, and the Bioscope.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Lockwood; Treasurer, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—J. C. Pidcock and company have a capital sketch in *The Capture of Venus*, in which music and scenic arrangements play a prominent part, although a large element of fun is present; as comedy acrobats, Elmo and Rego bid for favour in no uncertain manner; Hal Godfrey scores heavily in an amusing item entitled *A Bad Boy*; and the Croisit Trio gain appreciative applause; Dale and O'Malley add to the fun; as also does Harry Brown in a comical song; Wild, Willie, and West provide an entertaining turn; and Andrews and Thompson call for a share of praise. The Barrascope shows excellent pictures, and the Three Cyrieus complete a popular programme.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietors, Theatre and Entertainments Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joseph Coyle.—Mr. Frank Bateman and Mr. Stuart Lomath's company is presenting *Sapho* here this week. Mr. Lomath as Jean Gaussin plays in a masterly manner, and is undoubtedly good; Mr. M. Curtis does remarkably well as Henri Dechelette; Mr. Geo. Herbert is successful as Jules Delbret; and Mr. H. Aynsleigh is seen to advantage as Famant. Humorous diversion is created by Mr. Percy Shaw as Uncle Cesaire, ably assisted by Miss Ellen Owen as Cleopatra. The difficult rôle of Sapho is filled by Miss Lizzie Montague. Her acting gives evidence of ripe experience, and she scores a distinct success. Miss Mable Durham as Alice and Miss Nelly Durham as Irene are both well suited.

OLDBURY.—PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. Jas. Tyrer.—Howard and Thorne head the bill this week with a very amusing sketch, entitled *Mary Ann*, which keeps the audience in a good humour; Prof. Alviera and Mlle. Jeanetta, illusionists, are interesting; Dr. Oliver sings a couple of capital songs; Miss Alice May is well received for her two items; and the pictures are excellent.

OLDHAM.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Mayall.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's pantomime *Aladdin* concludes its allotted stay here this week. Miss Ray Wallace has recovered from her recent illness, and she introduces her well-known mimetic act with great success; Miss Mildred Bryan continues to delight with her singing as the Princess; Miss Isa Gibson and Miss Phyllis Seymour are capital; Miss Jennie Hallworth is a clever Pekoe, and Miss Marion Walker is an excellent Wan Lung; Miss Flo Collier does some clever work. The comedians are doing well with new songs and smart gags, and everything runs smoothly; Mr. Bert Harrow and Mr. Joe Robins head the list of fun providers, ably seconded by E. W. Avery. Messrs. Maxford and O'Neill, and Cedar and Elgar; Mr. Leonard Russell also scores; Mlle. Pauline Rivers is nightly called upon to respond for her troupe in the Children of Toyland, in which clever singing and smart dancing are introduced by Misses Lena Melville, Gertie and Nellie Langley, and Edith Howarth.

COLOSSEUM THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Wm. Eastwood.—Messrs. Levy and Cardwell's juveniles conclude their three weeks' stay this week end in *The Babes in the Wood*, and good business has been done. Miss Peggy McDonnell as Marjorie and Georgie Wood as Leslie are delightful; Miss Dolly Dodds is as good as ever as Maid Marion, and Miss Daisy Wood is a dashing Robin Hood; Miss Jennie Hughes sings in excellent voice as the Fairy; Misses Wyatt, Brumby, Lumberg, and Brumby are capital in their respective parts. The comedians continue to amuse in a clever manner, Messrs. Jimmie Watson and J. G. Aitken being highly diverting; Mr. Neil Hardy also does much towards success; Mr. Harry Leander is capital, and Master Jackson works hard. The ballets and chorus are ably conducted by Mr. H. B. Levy.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—The Boisset Troupe head the bill in *The Bricklayers*, and keep the house in roars of laughter; Bellman and Moore present some real vaudeville very smartly; Rose Cambry is a capital burlesque artist, and the Haydons, in their speciality are very amusing with good comedy; Ian Colquhoun has a fine baritone voice, and sings with good effect; Bradley and Barnes are clever in their singing comedy act; Lillian Neville is excellent in operatic selections; Thora receives much applause for his novel ventriloquial act, and the Bioscope depicts a capital film of Palermo and surroundings.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Kilrow.—The Five Kaytons appear in a humorous acrobatic pot-pourri with success; Kartelli is very smart in a novelty wire act; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden present a sketch with much humour; Hilda and Beatrice do very well in a refined musical act, with harp and pianoforte solos; Dolly Harmer sings her numbers with her usual success; Slippere plays the piano well; Jack Trueman has a good tenor voice and sings well. Beattie Allen is a smart ballad vocalist; and the Dottoscope shows good pictures.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Nuttall.—Ada Fawn appears in her clever burlesque, singing with success; Mr. Henry Coutts and company produce a clever protean act, *Outflanked*, with good results; Blanche Vincent has a sweet voice, and she sings well; Melia and Mozarabar introduce their cleverly trained pigeons and ravens, and do well; the Seymours are very good in an equilibristic juggling act; Alpho is a capital ventriloquist; and Jack North sings some funny songs. The Dottoscope depicts a dramatic film, Face to Face.

THE PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. Thorne; Assistant-Manger, Mr. E. Sharrocks.—Miss Peggy Pryde has a capital reception for her fine songs and character studies; Hayman and Franklin provide excellent comedy in their new duologue; Harry Carsdale gives a clever turn as a farmyard linguist; the Walleys provide a smart juggling turn, and the Ansonia Trio, in a very good equilibristic act, score heavily; Minnie Wheaton is a capital comedienne; the Two Brilliants are excellent xylophone soloists; and Dion Wade is a good comedian. The Palace pictures are up to the usual standard.

OXFORD.—NEW THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. C. C. Dorrill; Assistant-Manager, Mr G. T. Lucas.—For the seventeenth year running Mr. Milton Bode is again providing the pantomime at this theatre, and the reception accorded to *Aladdin* on Monday night, the best opening night Mr. Bode has had here, by a most enthusiastic and delighted house, proved that he had once again hit the public taste, and Tuesday's packed house showed what the local verdict was. Miss Blanche Astley is a most vivacious Aladdin and sings and dances delightfully; Miss Elsie Skillings is a handsome and fascinating Princess; Miss Bob de Loriere is uncommonly good as Pekoe; and Miss Eva Chadwick is a good Nicee. Mr. John E. Conan scores a genuine success as the Widow, and keeps the house in roars of laughter all the time he is on the stage; Mr. Harry Morgan is excellent as the Magician; and the Fimans keep the ball of fun rolling merrily in their humorous performances of Chew-Chew and Chop-Chop. The Moxon Trio give an original and clever acrobatic display; and Collins's troupe of dancers are highly successful. The scenery and dresses are alike beautiful, and the whole pantomime goes with a swing that promises a most successful week's business. Matinées are given on Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Mr. Trueman Towers is Mr. Bode's general-manager.

EAST OXFORD THEATRE. — Lessees, East Oxford Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Stuart.—Messrs. Austin and Dixon's company is fulfilling a six nights' engagement with the pantomime *Mother Goose*. Mr. Sydney James is the life and soul of the piece with his inimitable performance as Mother Goose; while Miss Mabel Austin makes a charming Lubin. Mr. Eric Dean is good as Squire Close; Mr. Nicklin Williams is very effective as Avarice; and Mr. Will Raglan as Robert and Mr. Tom Read as Timothy are both amusing. Mr. Ted Lockstone does well as Billy; and Mr. Jack Harrington makes the most of Parchment. A word of praise is due to Master Fred Cox for his successful rendering of Amelia Jane (the Fairy Goose). Miss Winnie Murray is captivating as Daisy; Miss Cissy Astbury shows ability as Annabel; and Miss Gertrude Bond sings well as Benevolentia. Mlle. Le Mair contributes some clever dancing; and the Sisters Grovini are smart acrobats.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—*Puss in Boots* is now in its fourth week. Mr. Savile's pantomime succeeding beyond the most sanguine expectations. Since the holidays an additional scene has been introduced into the pantomime, and one which affords the greatest delight and merriment. This is what is called "Mush's 'Bus," in which, with properties, a moving back-cloth, and a revolving platform, a realistic street scene is gained. The manner in which the various passengers, in grotesque make-up, attempt to board what appears to be the moving vehicle, is provocative of the heartiest laughter. The mechanical arrangements of this revolving stage are entirely new and original. Mr. Jack Mundy, the master carpenter of the theatre, worked on an old idea, with the result that he has invented and executed a much more simple and less expensive mechanical contrivance than any hitherto known in this particular line of business.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Stead.—There is being performed here this week, twice nightly, Mr. Jack Haddon's pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*, which abounds in mirth and fun, and the singing, scenery, and dresses are all worthy to be praised. Miss Millie Engler makes a dashing Robin Hood; while the Maid Marian of Miss Dorman Morgan is excellent in every respect. The Babes are cleverly acted by Misses Madge and Dolly McCalla, who acquit themselves well in deportment, dancing, and singing; Miss Minnie Usher as Little John is admirable; Miss Maud St. John makes a captivating Marjory May; and the Fairy has a capital exponent in Miss E. Parry. As Euphemia Gadabout Mr. Harry Elliston is decidedly funny and humorous; Mr. Charles May as Baron Skeemalot is diverting, and scores a success; and Messrs. August and September as Noby Tyke and Soppy Sam create plenty of fun by their droll business.

PEMBROKE DOCK.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Tom Barger; Business-Manager, Mr. N. Barger.—This week Mr. Teddy Myles's company is here. During the first part of the week *An Abandoned Woman* was presented. Miss Nellie Thorne-Hallam as Ninon Malvoisin showed exceptional ability; Miss Lily Annesley as Eleanor Dean was charming; Miss Queenie Fraser-Brunner as Sally Sloper, with Mr. Teddy Myles as Paddy Boyle, ably supplied the comic element; Mr. Wm. Fraser-Brunner as Phillipe Malvoisin was clever; as Capt. Herbert Seaton Mr. Arthur P. Leo came out strongly. Mr. Frederick Healey undertaking the part of Sir Marmaduke Seaton in a capable manner. As Sammy Sharp Mr. Victor Garnet-Vayne was a favourite; the part of Eleanor's child was well performed by little Maude Addison.

PENTRE.—TIVOLI PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Gunn.—Topping a fine bill this week are Zeta Grey and company in *The Lancashire Lass*; Jenny Alexander, the clever child mimic and impersonator, is well received; wonderful feats of illusion are done by St. George Sylvesta, supported by Miss Vera de Courtney; George Prince, the crazy comedian, creates roars of laughter with his funny songs; Clayton Bentley's company, in their tragic episode, *The Terror of Tierney's Rents*, deserves much praise; A-Ba-Be, in a novel act, "The Picture Post-card Album," is highly appreciated; Madge Osmond, the ideal swell, is loudly applauded; and the Tivoliscope, with a fine series of animated pictures, concludes.

PERTH.—PERTH THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—Mr. Robert MacDonald's company in *The Dairymaids* is being well received here this week. Miss Isa Bowman makes a charming and attractive Peggy; Mr. Dan Agar as Joe Mivens at once installed himself as a great favourite, being full of fun; Miss Edie Martin as Eliza is admirable; Lady Brudenell is well represented by Miss Babs Christopher; and Mr. Frank Barclay makes a typical Dr. O'Bryne, R.N. Miss Doris Dickens and Miss Kathleen Severn are deservedly successful as Helen and Winifred; Mr. Richard Telford and Mr. Horace Manger as Lieutenants Sam Brudenell and Frank Meredith contribute to the humour of the piece. The theatre is to be occupied during the latter half of the week by *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

PETERBOROUGH.—NEW HIPPODROME, LTD.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards; Manager, Mr. Frank Gallagher.—A capital programme this week includes the Maningos, marvellous equilibrists; Chas. Lilburn, a man with many funniosities; Ronald George, in the musical act *The Night Watchman*; Harry Blake, with his allegorical comedy scena *The Man in the Moon*; Dot Hardy, comedienne; Frank Leon, the dancing marvel; and the Xentrics, vocalists and dancers.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—This year's pantomime, *Cinderella*, appears to be creating a record, and packed houses nightly gladden the hearts of company and management. The comedians are particularly good and refreshingly original. Mr. W. H. Kirby as Peter Pepper, and Messrs. Woodhouse and Wells, as Bill and Ginger, are prime favourites in this department, the latter pair being nightly encored for some well-executed dancing. Mr. Alf. E. Passmore as the Baroness has some wonderful dresses and hats; the Misses Louie Tinsley and Denny Fitzherbert are very original as the ugly sisters.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—Vonetta gives a highly interesting quick-change turn, appearing in no fewer than twenty-four different costumes in a remarkably short space of time; Harry Bert is a mimic of no mean ability, his contribution receiving hearty appreciation; George C. Doughty and company, in *Captain Cupid*, prove themselves capable comedy artists; Albas supplies a wire rope turn, characterised by skill and daring; Tom Lloyd's humorous contributions find plenty of favour; Cummin and Seaham as acrobats have a name which should be a draw in itself; and Charlotte Lunn entertains with some choice vocal efforts.

PONTEFRACT.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Tom Diacoff.—Tudor's four educated ponies provide a most pleasing turn, and show exceptionally careful training; Fred Carr and Ada Rose present a natural and bright vocal interval in *A Winning Double*, and Belle and Bright score a decided hit with their funny sketch *Kiss Me Again, Dear*. Bradley, the cycling Jew, appears to be capable of anything on wheels, whilst Mint and Mart introduce an interesting novelty in paper-manipulation, the lady producing elaborate antimacassars and a pair of window curtains of intricate design really "while you wait." Miss Maud Clifton sings some good songs, and possesses a voice out of the ordinary; Taylor and Bridge, the Lancashire Mill Lads, harmonise popular ballads very sweetly; and Elsie Moore is a chic and dainty comedienne. The Alexscope pictures complete a most attractive bill. The manager takes his benefit next week, when a monster programme is promised.

PORTH.—PALACE.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole; Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—An attractive current programme has been arranged here, Topping the bill are the Mohamed Troupe of Nine Genuine Suasa Arabs, whose clever performance gives entire satisfaction; Joe Humphries scores a success in comedy and character songs; Haig and Novel are exceptionally good in their comedy act; Joan Deering, speciality artist, vocalist, and violinist, deserves praise; Lina Leslie makes a capital comedienne, and Edward Crossland's Melody Makers, a sextette of harmonious vocalists, deserve special mention. Heenny and Blanche are also quite up to date in their original speciality.

PORTSMOUTH.—ROYAL.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Mr. Geo. Edwardes's company, with *The Merry Widow*, continues to hold the boards, and the elaborately-produced play, with its splendid cast, has again been attracting large audiences.

PRINCE'S.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Agate.—Mr. J. F. Elliston's pantomime, *Cinderella*, continues to be one of the chief attractions, and is in the heyday of its success, scarcely a vacant seat being visible. Mr. W. T. Thompson (Buttons), with his new jokes, Ripples (Miss Edith Barwell), and Dimples (Miss Annie Cohen), are full of humour; while the singing and dancing of the Six Monte Carlo Girls and the Harvard Sextette are an enjoyable feature, the handsome dresses and beautiful scenery being an especial charm.

KING'S.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Claude Marner; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Thos. Barrasford.—A brightly-staged playlet is presented by Mr. M. Montgomery in *Lady Lanigan, Laundress*; the Ongars are very smart and agile dancers; a sensational cycling feat is performed by Johnson nd Devere on the tight wire; Henry Helme's powerful baritone voice is greatly appreciated; Cornalla and Eddie are very diverting in their noisy comedy act, with its knockabut business; Cecile François and company present *An Artist's Studio*; also in favour are Mooney and Holbein, Gicardo, the Four Aces, the Forsyths, and an interesting picture by Gaumont, The Traitor, is shown from the Barrascope.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Capt. E. H. Warren-Wright; Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—Charcot is making his first appearance with his "automatic" man, and the wonderful performance baffles and impresses the onlookers; Violet King plays delightfully on the violin; Lillie Langtry renews her popularity here; Arthur Slater shows himself a siffleur of no mean ability; the Tossing Austins, the Lannons, and Sid Bedford and company, in farce, *The Second Mrs. Chester*, are acceptable turns.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Harris; Assistant-Manager, Col. F. W. Roberts.—George Auger and company with *Jack the Giant Killer* is the premier attraction. Mr. Auger himself impersonates the giant, for which his great stature lends reality; while the dwarf, Jack, is capitally enacted by Ernest Rommel. Marie Kendal is an immense favourite, her songs, with rollicking chorus, being taken up by the audience vociferously; Wilson Hallet gives some clever imitations of young children; an interesting turn are three elephants, presented by Mr. Chas. Miller; Flo Deighton, the Sisters Lavender, Lee and Kingston, and Steve McCarthy merit favourable mention.

PEOPLE'S PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Pearce.—The array of talent here includes the Cedricks, Marie Tilley, Dave Wallace, Jean Cratineo, Vela, and the Bennetts, with the pictures, make a good entertainment.

PRESTON. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, the Executors of the late W. Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—"House full" has been the order of things here this week, and the particular cause has been Miss Marie Studholme and company, in *My Mimosa Maid* (Frank Curzon's company). Miss Studholme as Paulette met with a great reception, and received numerous well-merited encores; Mr. Charles McNaughton also came in for a large share of applause for his excellent rendering of Victor Guilbert, and, in conjunction with Mr. Charles E. Paton as Max Guilbert and Master Archie McCaig, kept the house in a continuous roar of laughter. Mr. Percy Carr sang and acted well as M. Emili Gerard; and the make-up and droll impersonation of a Waiter by Mr. Arthur Jackson calls for special note. As Captain Louis du Laurier and Lieutenant Jean Courmandet Mr. Powis Pinder and Leslie Winter respectively both looked and acted well. Mr. Elliott Skinner was very good as Boss; Miss Ruby Gray was a sprightly Marcelle Pilanie; Miss May Garstang is to be congratulated on her clever performance as Madame de Pilanie; as Popitte Miss Eva Sandford was a firm favourite, and also had to respond to many encores. Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon the exceedingly able chorus, under the direction of Mr. Harry R. Matthews. The piece was mounted and dressed in a lavish manner, which called forth the highest appreciation from record audiences.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Much interest is taken this week in the special engagement of Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company, in *The Village Blacksmith*, and the wrestling match in the last act rouses the audience to a high state of enthusiasm. Mr. Sam Livesey is the village blacksmith, John Strong, and rivets the attention of the audience throughout with his excellent portrayal; Miss Lily Leicester gives a very clever presentation of Harry Strong, his child; Mr. Albert Sinclair as Captain Leo displays sufficient villainy to suit the most exacting and withal plays the part well; Mr. Edwin Maydew as Lucas Marler ably supports him; Mr. George Wilton makes an excellent St. John Harman; Mr. Fred Haning comes in for a good share of applause for his capital portrayal of Billy Twigg; as does also Mr. Thos. E. Marshall as Jeremiah Parkins. Mr. A. Walker is clever as Humpty Tarn (a mute); and Mr. Halstead seems quite at home as mine host of the King's Arms. Messrs. Gus Ratcliffe, S. Bale, E. Morris, and Bert Butler, as Inspector Grant, Detective Staple, P.C. Wilkins, and a servant, are all good in their respective parts. Miss Maggie Edwards fulfils the by no means easy rôle of Kate Strong most satisfactorily, and wins the sympathy of the audience; Miss Cassie Le Grande's portrayal of Ruth Parkins is no less commendable; Mrs. T. C. Livesey gives a clever character study in Sal Parkins; and Miss Edith Giddens is excellent as Martha Mopps. The play is mounted with great care, and is proving a draw.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—Leo Dryden presents a selection of old and new favourites, and needless to say, wins hearty applause; Billy Farrell, the quaint coon vocalist, is well received; Marlow and Manton (Harry and May) present a smart little sketch, entitled *Winning a Wife*; Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilde are paying a return visit in their talking and singing shadowgraphy, and are as popular as ever; Smith and Johnson are a smart coloured duo, and sing and dance well; Pasquali Bros., tumblers and equilibrists are an exceptionally smart turn; Natalia and Diana are graceful and clever on the aerial trapeze; the Maxwells, acrobats, present a decidedly novel act, with their really wonderful acrobatic dogs; another good turn is that of the Kilties Camp, in which Scotch singing, piping, and sword dancing, all of which is exceedingly well rendered, is introduced. Lily Hayes, chic comedienne and clever dancer, meets with a gratifying reception. An excellent film, Monte Carlo in a Motor Car, concludes.

RADCLIFFE. — GRAND OPERA HOUSE. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Boothman.—Mr. Walter Melville's latest success, *The Girl Who Took the Wrong Turning*, is doing exceedingly well here. Mr. Sidney Sarl has a part in Bill Slater which suits him admirably, and which he fills most naturally; Mr. Frank Denis is very good as Richard Fenton; Mr. J. Ronald Adair does good work as Willie Mason; Mr. Frank R. Robertson is at home in the part of Jack Fenton; while Mr. Fred Ingram causes some amusement as Johnny Walker. Miss Nannie Meade fills the heavy part of Vesta le Clere with much credit, and Mr. Raymond Wood is to be complimented for his acting in the part of James Harcourt; Miss Marie Kildare deserves praise as Poppy Slater, while Miss Zoe Davis and Miss Jessie Belmore as Lucy and Sophie Coventry are both good in their respective parts.

RAMSGATE.—ROYAL PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; Lessee, Mr. Ernest Mansell.—On each evening of the past week Mr. Victor Du Cane's company has been appearing in *The Stowaway* or *The Convict*. There have been big houses and most appreciative audiences. Miss Winifred Maude's songs have gone admirably, and the general production has been thoroughly popular. With characteristic enterprise Mr. Mansell, the new lessee of the Royal Palace Theatre, has introduced, during the intervals in the dramas, a series of living pictures—an excellent innovation.

RAWTENSTALL.—GRAND THEATRE. — Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; General-Business-Manager, Mr. A. R. Feather.—Mr. F. Bulmer's powerful company is giving a capital performance of *The Girl Who Went Astray*. Miss Gwynne Warren, in the title-rôle, submits a fine portrayal, and Miss Ada M. Ryder as the sister, Violet Harvey, gives a realistic and sympathetic impersonation; Miss Mary Dalby is a capital Moliy Smart, and Miss Sybil Houghton and Miss Freda Fredericks are good as Eleanor Merton and Flo Fortesque. As the hero, Captain Frank Julian, Mr. John B. Shinton appears to great advantage, his interpretation being manly, strong, and realistic; as Rupert Murdock Mr. Fred Lloyd supplies an excellent study; as Adolphus Boomer Mr. Evan Roland is clever and refined; and Mr. Todd Squires makes an excellent James Yellowsocks. The remaining characters are all ably sustained, and the staging of the piece is praiseworthy, the dresses being elaborate.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Benton.—*Brewster's Millions* is being presented here this week by Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's principal London company. Mr. P. Hutchison plays the part of Monty Brewster in a clever and spirited manner. Miss Lilias Earle as Mrs. Dan de Mille and Miss Cicely Stuckey as Peggy (Monte's fiancée) both give finished performances, and all the other parts are in very capable hands. The Yacht scene is extremely good, the storm being depicted in wonderfully realistic style. A special matinée was given on Wednesday.

THE PALACE. — Managing Director, Mr. G. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. E. Draco.—The Palace is occupied this week by the Reading Operatic Club, who are giving a very fine amateur performance of *Les Cloches de Corneville*.

ROCHDALE. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, the Northern Theatres Co., Limited; Managing Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Burton.—*The Beggar Girl's Wedding* is the attraction here this week. Mr. Otto Minster is a powerful exponent of the part of the hero, Jack Cunningham; Mr. J. C. Taylor as the eccentric Doctor Millbank plays in capital style; and Mr. Herbert Lloyd fulfils with conspicuous ability the part of Dicky Storm. Norman Marsh is in the safe hands of Mr. Ernest G. Batley, and Mr. Herbert Morgan cleverly portrays the villainies of Gilbert Lindsay. Miss Daisy Maynard presents a spirited embodiment of Tina Torkington; Miss Doris Whyte sweetly enacts the part of Elsie Cunningham; and Miss Olive Warne is effective as Maud Villiers. The title-rôle, Bessie Webster, is finely portrayed by Miss Vashti Wynne.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—J. W. Hall tops the bill here this week with his witty patter and songs; Blanch and Diacoff give a sensational bicycle performance; Harry Toft proves an amusing comedian; Nellie Moore is a refined character impersonator; and other artists appearing include U. C. Ugo, in "Mirthful Mysteries"; Nellie Nora, instrumentalist; Clark and Glenney, in a laughable sketch, *The Haunted House*; and the Empire Bioscope pictures.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Jackson Family; Business-Manager, Mr. Jno. Jackson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Jas. Jackson, sen.—Harry Tate's No. 1 company submits the laughable burlesque *Motoring*; the Five Sisters Warwick are graceful and refined trick cyclists; Mis Ghita Corri is a vocalist of exceptional power, and scored a great success in "Character Types"; Devon and Earle are smart wooden shoe dancers. Miss Lizzie Glenroy, Scotch comedienne and dancer; Ingram and Irving, in *The New Office Boy*; Ferris and May, in *Two's Company, Three's* ——? Ashley's American Circus; and the Hippodrome Pictures complete an enjoyable bill of fare.

ROTHERHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Messrs. Edwin C. Jazon and Richard Nightingale are this week presenting a pretty production of *Cinderella*. Miss Molly Doon is an interesting heroine, and Miss Vera Mayne a smart Prince Brilliant; Miss Beattie Foster a sprightly Dandini; Miss Lily Hales a pleasing Dorothy; Mr. Leo Fields is an amusing Buttons; and Miss Cissie Gordon does well as the Marquis of Taxes. Miss Flo Burnett is deservedly applauded for her songs as Queen Bountiful; Mr. Fred Lake scores heavily as the Baron; and Wallace Whitney and Harry Plowden are clever as Arabella and Isabella. Specialities are introduced by Messrs. Whitney and Foster and The Dandys as Kuff and Kollar, knockabouts. Pretty ballets are arranged under the direction of Mrs. E. C. Jazon, and pleasing musical numbers are presented by a largely augmented orchestra under the direction of Mr. J. W. Johnson.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. Edgar Fox; Resident-Manager, Mr. Claude Shayler.—Mr. J. Collins's pantomime *Puss in Boots* is being presented here. Miss Eva Ellis is a pleasing Princess Carita; Miss Ethel Beech a smart Juan; Mr. Wyn Weaver an amusing King; and Mr. Wm. Benson scores as Donna Dolores; Miss May Otto as Perdita the fairy is deservedly applauded for her songs, and Miss Elsie Don is very sprightly as Lola, singing with great success; Mr. Harry Seymour gives a clever representation of the cat, and Messrs. Bert Goodwin and Len Hammond are amusing as the bull.

SALFORD.—P. O. W.—Proprietor-Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company is appearing here in *At Roaring Camp*. Mr. Robert Purdie gives a strong impersonation of Will Gordon; Miss Olive Wilton powerfully acts Nell Curtis, putting a lot of life into the character; Tom Barnes is cleverly portrayed by Mr. Charles E. Johnson; Miss Florence Melrose-Millett ably sustains the adventuress Jovita. Much fun is caused by Mr. Clarence Ibbotson as the negro servant Ebenezer; an impressive Gonzales is presented by Mr. George Porteus; Tommy is brightly played by Little Audrey; Miss Nora Dillon (Fanny), Miss Gracie Lawrence (Pinky), Miss Jennie Clare (Mrs. O'Flynn), Mr. Hyland O'Shea (Paddy McGinty), and Mr. G. Cuthbertson (Old Pard) give good support.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levey and J. E. Cardwell's pantomime *Little Red Riding Hood* commenced on Monday with a good swing, which kept the audience in excellent humour from start to finish. The staging is excellent, and the dresses are exceedingly tasteful. The title-rôle is delightfully played by Little Iris Vivienne; Miss Fannie Anderson is a sprightly Boy Blue, and one of her songs, "Afraid to come home in the dark," is very popular; Miss May Gibson sings well, and plays Miss Muffet charmingly; Mr. V. Wakeman is a very funny Dame Trot; Denby and Dent do a lot of work, and keep the aud

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—The Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—A good all-round company is here this week, the artists being the intrepid Holloways, four in number, in their daring and graceful feats on the lofty wire; Mr. Percy Honri, the talented and versatile entertainer; Messrs. Howell and Scott, two laughable Hebrew comedy artists and dancers; Bonnie Goodwin's clever little Piccaninnies; Messrs. Pacey and Lewis, eccentrics; the Woods, comedy duettists; Theresa de Silva, a handsome burlesque actress and vocalist; and Zeyward's Lilliputians, who provide a novel and pleasing acrobatic and equestrian entertainment. The Bioscope, with the Johnson and Burns Training pictures, concludes.

THE HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. D. Elbourne.—Mr. Harry Roxbury's company is here this week in *The Cowboy Millionaire*, with Mr. Tubby Edlin in the title-rôle. That old local favourite Mr. Alfred Gibson, the original "Put your head from the window, Fred," is again doing well; and the programme also includes La Freyra, a graceful *poseuse*, with artistic scenic and electric effects; Dane and Reano, in a novel act; Mr. Dan Filmer, vocal comedian; Mr. Charles Cardow, comic vocalist; Mlle. Renée, in a refined musical interlude; John Marx, athlete; the Barrascope, with up-to-date pictures; and the Juanitas, in a smart and graceful act.

ALBERT HALL.—The Chas. W. Poole Myriorama concludes a three-weeks' visit to-night.

THE picture theatres, the Grand, the Central, the Montgomery, and the Pavilion, with the latest topical, fantastic, historical, and romantic films by Pathé Frères, the Gaumont Co., and the Sheffield Photo Co., are all doing excellent business.

SHREWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Director, Mr. W. Yates Gregory; General-Manager, Mr. Thos. Baugh; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. B. Parkinson. — Lillie and Elsie Judge's cockatoos, macaws, &c., give a remarkably interesting and novel performance, which is enthusiastically received; an exceptionally pretty and entertaining show is that of Chester and Lees' marionettes; Baddow proves himself a ventriloquist of the first water, and his turn is quite up-to-date and diverting; Zelda plays with talent upon a number of original instruments—a pleasing, bright, and clever turn; Stanley Main is an accomplished entertainer à la Grossmith, and his mimicry is loudly applauded; McAskell, comic conjurer, well deserves his place on the programme, and vastly amuses his audiences; Wall Owen is a droll comedian; and the pictures are, as usual, of the best description.

SMETHWICK. — ROYAL. — Proprietor, Mr. C. Barnard; Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson.—Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hinton—Travis Green and Ruth Zillwood's company is presenting *Her Fatal Marriage*. Mr. Arthur Hinton dominates the play with his strenuous acting as Captain Vigo and Zaco Malletto, keeping things at high tension throughout; Mr. Victor Millard is manly and convincing as the Curate, Wilfred Grey; Mr. Fred Hewitson does what little he has to do as Jim Rogers capitally; Mr. Gerald Byrne achieves a success as the half-witted Paul; and Mr. Percy Morton Wright is well placed as Detective Smart. The comedy element, in the hands of Mr. Frank Brunell (Peter Simple), Miss Laura Wright (Dolly Dimple), and Mr. Laurence Grove (Sergeant Wiggins), is very fine, and at times they simply convulse the house. Miss Lydia Audre is a charming and sympathetic Lily; and Miss Ruth Zillwood is seen to great advantage as Myra Malletto, acting with artistic ability.

SOUTHAMPTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fredk. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Weston.—Mr. Mouillot's pantomime, *Mother Goose*, opened on Monday, and is attracting crowded houses. The story is compact, and the dialogue teems with humour, and the music is bright and up to date. Miss Olivia Eltone is a dashing principal boy and scores all along the line; as Jill Miss Florrie Saunders acts and sings remarkably well. Both ladies are great local favourites, their pretty songs and dances being highly appreciated. Miss Dorothy Payn, a newcomer, plays the part of Gretchen for all it is worth, and brings down the house with her farmyard imitations. The fun is fast and furious while Messrs. Edmond Russell (Mother Goose), Victor Kahn (Jack), and Lawrence Hanray (Lord Overdrawn) occupy the stage, and the wrestling turn by the Miller Bros. is one of the funniest things in the panto. Excellent dancing is given by the Parisiana Quartette, and the final scene, "The Land of Heartsease," is grand and imposing. Mr. Howard Leslie is stage-manager and Mr. Wallace J. Court the courteous business manager.

PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wm. Trussell.—Belle Davis and her pickchick actors supply the star act; another attraction is Irma Orbasany's cockatoos; George Carney and Frank Armstrong create considerable mirth; Ted Karno's *Dinner Hour* sketch is popular; and Sable Fern is a sweet singer of sensible songs. Others who contribute are Taree, in a musical speciality act, Archie Pitt, comedian, and Jim Cheetham, boy whistler.

HIPPODROME.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Yardley.—Evie Greene, the popular vocalist, tops a strong programme and scores an immediate success; D'Arc's marionettes are simply wonderful; Dutch Daly, with his smart patter and clever concertina playing, is always welcome; Ethel Walker, with songs at the piano, is a smart artist, and others in a programme of all-round excellence are Oliver Martyn, patter comedian; Jessie Lee, comedienne and dancer; and Belford and Mars, comedy duo.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing Directors, Messrs. Geo. Conquest and Richard H. Nervey; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—Great interest was shown on Monday in the drama *The Crimes of Paris*, which is being presented nightly this week by Mrs. Frank Bateman and Mr. Geo. Conquest, the popular chief of the local theatre, whose appearance among the clever company was the occasion of a hearty reception. The play throughout maintains a deep interest, and is splendidly mounted. Mr. Mayor-Cooke, as the demon, Viscount de Vismes, works with skill and success; while Mr. Kendrum Milson, in the character of Jules Martel gave a meritorious performance. Mr. Clavering Craig impersonates the detective rôle of Pepin Cardel in masterly style; and Mr. Geo. Conquest provides a humorous rendering of Joshua Johnson, Mr. Herbert J. Walton being a good exponent of Pierre Pelporte. Miss Flora Hastings is both strong and entertaining in her delineation of La Belle Hélène, who, with Miss Enid Edoni, in a dignified and striking personality of Angele Martel, is well received. The Misses Vera Clavering Craig as Jaques Martel and Christine Bickerstaff as Lizette alike give good impersonations; and Messrs. Geo. Conquest, jun., Geo. Harvey, and J. E. Abbott give pleasure as the thieves.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE WINTER GARDENS.—Proprietors, The Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens Co., Ltd.; Secretary and General-Manager, Mr. R. Singleton. The admirers of light opera are favoured this week by a visit of the D'Oyly Carte principal répertoire company, which opened on Monday in the ever-popular *Mikado*, and judging from the cordial appreciation of the large audience which witnessed the excellent all-round performance, it was evident that Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan's delightful operas have lost none of their attractiveness and charm. Mr. Charles R. Walenn was highly humorous in the part of Ko-Ko, which he depicted in a finished manner both histrionically and vocally; Mr. Fred Billington, in his old rôle of Pooh-Bah, repeated his former inimitable impersonation; the title part was undertaken by Mr. Leicester Tunks with adequate effect both as regards singing and acting; Nanki-Poo had an excellent representative in Mr. Stafford Moss, whose vocal numbers were much admired; the three little maids were charmingly and piquantly depicted by Miss Clara Dow, Miss Mabel Graham, and Miss Lillias Engholm, the latter appearing owing to the indisposition of Miss Beatrice Meredith; Miss Ethel Morrison was a highly commendable and forceful exponent of Katisha; and Mr. Sydney Granville played well in the part of Pish-Tush. *The Yeomen of the Guard*, *Iolanthe*, and *The Gondoliers* are also billed.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—Mr. Wentworth Croke presents the new version of *The Christian*. A capital conception of the Hon. John Storm is given by Mr. Henry Renouf. Miss Doris Gilham's Glory Quayle is full of artistic merit and catches the sympathy of the audience. The remaining parts are well supported and the scenery and mounting all that can be desired.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—The chief attraction is W. Selkirk's juvenile Scottish spectacle, *The Gathering of the Clans*, in which a good deal of singing and dancing is introduced, and some drills performed in excellent style. Mr. Ernest C. Gittins' popular military sketch, *The Daughter of the Regiment*, is well sustained, the part of Marie being played by Mlle. Adèle Prescot; Victor Newman contributes some good character sketches; good musical numbers and dances are introduced by the Four Figaros; and Burnetti, the original character musician, scores. The remaining good items are Arthur Astill, the whistling ploughboy; Toff Noel, a new comedian; and the Bioscope.

TIVOLI, LAYGATE CIRCUS.—Proprietor, Councillor J. K. Hall. — A merry comedy act, *The Registry Office*, is provided by Wilkinson's Laughter Makers, and meets with a hearty reception; Violet Beatrice, a dainty impersonator, creates good impressions; Peter Pan, American comedian, does well; and the Tivoloscope completes.

STAFFORD.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Elphinstone.—Leoni Clarke, the cat king, heads the bill, and submits a wonderful show of performing animals, cats, rats, mice, monkeys, &c.; the Vocas, with illustrated songs, are good; the Jollions, in electric scena, had a flattering reception; Two Leons, comedy duettists, were amusing; Castancia, the marvel, sings with wonderful voice for a child; and Mitzi, Japanese speciality, is smart and clever. The Vernon animated pictures conclude a very interesting entertainment.

STALYBRIDGE. — HIPPODROME. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Fioni; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. A. Jackson. Messrs. Pardoe and Miss Lottie Holland have again included Stalybridge in their tour with *Cinderella*, and the crowded houses testify their appreciation of the efforts made for their amusement. Miss Nellie Rose appears in the title-rôle, and Miss Holland is a robust Prince Charming; Miss Dora Round is a dainty Dandini; and Mr. S. Dormer (Baron), the Brothers Bert and J. Dench (Ugly Sisters), and Mr. George Hyam (Scoot, the man in possession) render valuable assistance; Mr. Tom Griffith as Father Time is warmly applauded for his vocal contributions. Specialities are contributed by the Pardoes, Alf. Graby, and Mike Hastings, patterers and dancers; Zenieth, animal impersonator; Edingale Trio, Continental dancers; and others.

ST. HELENS.—THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, St. Helens Theatre Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. A. McLeod Loader; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. E. Johnson.—*For Love and the King* is being presented here this week by Mr. C. Watson Mill and his company with much success. The character of Jarval is assumed by Mr. C. Watson Mill in a manner which indicates great dramatic power and skilful handling; Mr. Villiers Stanley plays the romantic Prince Uros very effectively, and the beggar maid, Natila, has a sweet impersonator in Miss Joan Ellis. A powerful character sketch is given by Mr. John Burton as Michael Obrenovic, and Mr. Henry Earlesmere shows himself a capable actor in the part of Vladimir, his son; Mr. Geoffrey Chate is good as the scented fop Duke Fernand, and the dignity of the King is well depicted by Mr. Frank Lyndon. Miss Rosalind Tate makes a gracious Princess of Athene, acting with ease and womanly feeling; Mr. Jim K. Woods causes much amusement in the part of Cari Oppenheim, and Miss Lily Winter (Grazia) gives splendid aid all round. The costumes are very beautiful, and the scenery is exceedingly effective.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Leo Weisker.—*The Grip of Iron* is played by Mr. Geo. Blunt and Mr E. H. Knight's company with success, Mr. Fred Powell being seen at his best in the part of Simmonet. The Zenary Brothers, smart and clever equilibrists, are much applauded; the Brothers Corcoran play various wind instruments with skill; Merrin and Cardiff are capital dancers and amusing cross-talkers; Letine (female impersonator) gives a good turn; and Gena Manon sings well. The whistling of Fred Bamford is marvellous; and James Hargreaves and company give an excellent entertainment by themselves.

STOCKPORT.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. William Revill.—*Little Red Riding Hood* is succeeded this week by Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's pantomime *Dick Whittington*, with a cast that would ensure the success of any pantomime, including, as it does, many artists of acknowledged ability. Standing out prominently is Florrie Gallimore, who impersonates Dick in true artistic style, and sings her songs in a manner that delights everyone, "My girl's a Yorkshire girl" in particular meeting with gratifying success; H. O. Wills is excruciatingly funny, and causes endless laughter as Idle Jack; Josie Delaine, who excels in the terpsichorean art, for which she commands the heartiest applause, is a captivating Alice; and the Herald Comedy Four as the dusky rulers of Morocco display their ability as harmonisers, and are in great favour. Jack Mackenzie as the Dame, Sarah, is genuinely amusing; the Cat has a nimble representative in Alf Clegg; Rose Tilley makes a smart Viscount Piccadilly; and Dolly Victor is a graceful Molly; whilst more than a word of praise is due to Rose Alderman, whose sweet vocalism as the good Fairy Sunshine is a very pleasing feature.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—The opportunity afforded sport-lovers of seeing the Gotch v. Hackenschmidt pictures has been largely availed of and much appreciated here this week. In addition, there is a capital array of artists appearing. Clown Barker, assisted by Miss Rozsika, in his comedy animal act, is thoroughly amusing; the Sisters Geretti are exceedingly clever on the trapeze; Mlle. Naveeda is a delightful vocalist, as well as a talented illusionist; the Four Jumels are entertaining in their musical act; Sinclair and Parr are diverting comedians and capable vocalists; and among others who contribute successfully are Jack Neil, Scotch comedian and dancer; Ruby Bijou, barefoot dancer; Bert Bowden, comedian; and Jim Topping, comedian.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES. — CASTLE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Charles Imeson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cecil Imeson.—Messrs. Lyn Harding and Sidney Cooper's company present *The Flag Lieutenant* here this week. Mr. Lionel Atwill as Richard Lascelles gives a clever impersonation of the fine part created by Mr. Cyril Maude; Mr. Montague Love meets all the requirements of the difficult rôle of William Thesiger; Mr. George Mallett, as the Hon. Sir Berkeley Wynne, K.C.B., is excellent; Messrs. Hugh Wakefield and Lyonel Watts give an amusing portrayal of the merry midshipmen; Miss Florence Jackson makes a charming Mrs. Cameron; Miss Viva Birkett is very natural as Lady Hermione Wynne; Miss Marjorie Dore as Viola Hood made all that was possible out of her part. The staging of the play is magnificent.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stainton.—Mr. Harry Burns' pantomime *Robinson Crusoe* is being presented here twice nightly this week. Mr. Arthur Aiston as Will Atkins is a clever comedian, there never being a dull moment while he is on the stage; Mr. Henry Curwen makes a capital Dame Crusoe; the Brothers Ramsey are a clever pair of knockabout artists and create much laughter; Mlle. du Roche makes a charming Robinson Crusoe, her vocal efforts being well received; Miss Marie Belle as Polly Perkins is responsible for some good singing; Mr. Bert Coote's troupe of Yankee Doodle girls are clever dancers.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—Mr. M. Montgomery's stock company is playing this week a thrilling drama, *The Sins of the Fathers*. Judging by the reception on Monday the piece should have a successful run. Payne's Biophotoscope concludes with a good film, The Pretty Dairymaids.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Miller; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. Moroney.—The Delaries, as "Demons of the Grotto," give a fine show on the rings and trapeze; Fred Moule and company in *The Battle of the Belles*, which causes much amusement; Geo. S. Melvin, Scotch comedian, whose dancing it is a treat to watch; Sira, the one-legged acrobat; the popular Gregson Comedy Trio, in *The Dummy*; the Sisters Desmond; Ethel Stephenson, contralto; Ada Gatley; and the Bioscope are other attractions.

SUNDERLAND.—KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. S. F. Davidson; General-Manager, Mr. Alexander Telford; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Sydney Reach.—The pantomime *Sinbad the Sailor* is now thoroughly under way. Miss Jessie Wilton is considerably increasing her popularity as Sinbad; Zobeida still finds a charming exponent in Miss Christina Roy; while Miss Sissie Brand gives a vivacious rendering of Heesatoph. The graceful dancing of Miss Madeline Rossiter as Princess Zorilda proves to be one of the chief attractions of the pantomime, and Miss Roberta Svensden is excellent as the Fairy Queen. Miss Hope Trevalyon is also worthy of special mention for her excellent rendering of the Primrose song, and also Little Nellie Denver for her clever dancing. Mr. Will Johnson has hit the local taste and become a popular favourite. Mr. F. Beck as Captain Bowline is still as humorous as ever, and the same may be said of Mr. Frank Lynne as Binbad and Messrs. Walton and Lister, "the world's worst wizards." Mr. J. A. Howith portrays the Old Man of the Sea in good style. The whole of the company appear to be doing their utmost to make the production a success.

AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Hy. Esden; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Jno. Pellow.—*Dick Whittington* is now in full swing at this theatre, thanks to the excellent management of Mr. Cyril Dundas, the energetic stage-manager. Miss Lena Page as Dick has completely installed herself in the public favour, and Miss Nellie Merton makes a dainty Alice. Miss Florence Hilton is an extremely gallant Sir Algernon de Nash, and Miss Gipsy Ray makes a dashing Captain Navycutte. Miss Lillie Storrie has won great favour as the Fairy Queen with her sweet voice. There are numerous other ladies in the cast, all of whom make themselves popular with their audiences. As Fitzwarren's Cook Mr. Fred Spencer is undoubtedly seen at his best, while Mr. George Rydon is also extremely amusing as Idle Jack. The Hannaway Brothers are a never-failing source of amusement, their boisterous fun fairly taking hold of the house. Mr. Dennis McArthy makes an excellent Alderman Fitzwarren, while the antics of the Cat are well carried out by Mr. Bert Hudson. Mr. A. J. Milne is good as King of the Rats, and Miss Dorothy Dryden receives great applause for her clever dancing.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. R. Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. H. Esden; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Geo. Dunn.—This week we have Messrs. W. H. Hallat and Walter Howard's principal company in *Her Love Against the World*. Miss Grace Heywood is a great success as the Princess, her clever acting making her a warm favourite with the audience; no less successful is Mr. Fred Emery as Eric, her soldier lover, whose magnificent deportment wins warm approval; as Eric's brother Nello Miss Rossie St. John is highly appreciated; Prince Ulric is given a capital rendering by Mr. Lewis Gilbert; Mr. W. H. Hall as Prince Othmar, Mr. Victor Rowland as Prince Maurice, and Mr. Arthur J. Moss as Sergeant Kaspar are all excellent in their respective parts. The comedy of the piece is excellently handled by Misses Gertie Reid (Katinka) and Hettie Ferguson (Gretchen), and Messrs. Henry B. Lewis and John Mill as Heinrich and Fritz Pimpernickle.

EMPIRE THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—The chief turn this week is given by Miss Cissie Lawson and company in a sketch entitled *The Devil's Sunday*. Miss Lawson acts on strong lines as May Faber, and the other characters are all good in their parts. John Warren is also of special interest this week in his conjuring feats. He was exceptionally deft in the manipulation of his silk handkerchiefs, but he excelled particularly in his renowned magic-carpet illusion. The dramatic part of this was also well done. The programme is profuse in comedians this week, Tom Moore, character comedian, Tom Collins, and Larry Lewis all being entertaining on their own lines. The Bob Hanlon troupe of gymnasts are also worthy of special notice. Miss Violet Stockwell and Miss Beattie Kent were both pleasing vocalists and dancers.

PALACE PICTURE THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Henry N. Phillips; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fred J. Reece.—There are some splendid films on view here this week, chief among which are some excellent pictures of the Italian Earthquake. Whaling Off the Irish Coast, Catching Crocodiles, and A Visit to the Couillett Steel Works are both instructive and interesting. The Sunderland and Sheffield United Match was also a capital film. The pictures are well interspersed with good music from a well-equipped orchestra conducted by Mr. Leslie Russell.

SWANSEA.—THE GRAND.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Page.—Mr. Percy William's company give a realistic performance of *The Fatal Wedding* here this week. Mr. Cecil A. Melton and Miss Ethel Kay as Mr. and Mrs. Wilson arouse the sympathy of the audience by the naturalness of their acting, and Mr. Percy Ballad and Miss Elaine Vanbrugh develop to the full their opportunities as the unscrupulous Robert Curtis and Cora Williams. Jessie is played by a child actress, Lulu Wohlmann, who shows distinct promise.

THE STAR.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—Mr. Ernest A. Abbot's company have a great reception at the Star, where they are playing a répertoire of plays, including *A Wife's Triumph*, *Sapho*, and *Lady Audley's Secret*, in a manner that ensures good houses. Opening with the former play on Monday, Mr. Francis Trevor as Frank Walton is always good, and Mr. Bonhote Wilson played in masterly fashion the part of Ellis Jordan; Bessie Dewsbury has a most charming and talented delineator in Miss Ada Abbot; Miss Florence North is also a success as Alice Wilton.

EMPIRES, LTD.—Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—Herbert Carter and his company appear in *David Garrick*, and the applause they receive is eloquent testimony of the excellence of their production; Harry Herbert made his first appearance in Swansea, and is assured of a hearty welcome next visit; the Lukushimas are Japanese entertainers, whose turn is a really notable one; Alexandra Dagmar is a great success, and J. W. Rowley goes better than ever. The Original Gaudsmidts are quaint clown acrobats, and their dogs are really wonderful; J. P. Ling is a mimic of more than average ability; and Gladys Hooley, in a scena, *Fiddle and I*, is a violinist of merit. Bioscope concludes.

SWINDON.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wiltshire Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Manners.—This week's attraction is Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and Mr. J. E. Cardwell's juvenile company, in *The House that Jack Built*. Miss Flo Taylor fills the rôle of Jack with great success, and Jill is charmingly taken by Miss Evelyn Major. Fairy Twinkle Star, in the hands of Miss Olive Purcell, could not be better placed; and Miss Hetty Jones as Colin gains favour. Miss Gladys Wyse is excellent as Wee MacGregor; and Gretchen is in the capable hands of Miss Jennie Marsden. Aunt Purdy is well played by Mr. H. Hillerby; and Mr. Paddy Sloan makes a capital Squire Bounce. Messrs. Doyle and Gibson as Scraggs and Scraggles are exceedingly funny. Specialities are introduced by the Forget-me-Not Quartette. The smaller characters do well, and the chorus is strong.

TORQUAY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is appearing here this week in *Lady Frederick*. Miss Mabel Love as Lady Frederick Berolles is charming to a degree. She portrays all the varying moods of that wayward and contradictory character in a powerful and yet entrancing manner, and certainly adds another triumph to her many successes. No less praiseworthy is Mr. Robert Minster, whose forceful delineation of Paradine Foulkes is an admirable one, and wins him frequent applause. Miss Celia Gordon is seen to considerable advantage as Lady Mereston, and Mr. E. F. Meads gives a capital impersonation of her son, Lord Mereston. Mr. Patrick Quill as Sir Gerald O'Mara is decidedly good; whilst Miss Lynn Fontanne is vivacious and winsome as his fiancé, Rose. Mr. Edward Banfield has an unthankful task as Captain Montgomery, but he does it well; and the rôle of Admiral Carlisle is in the capable hands of Captain Gerald Gambier. Miss Rita Ward makes a typical Angelique, and the lesser parts are ably sustained. The play is preceded each evening by *The Peacemaker*.

TREHERBERT.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Poole's, Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stephens.—Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company opened on Monday with the sensational drama, *The Face at the Window*, and, judging from the appreciation shown by the large audience present, good houses are assured. Mr. E. Hoggan-Armadale gave a capital reading of Lucio Delgado; Mr. Scott Leighton made an excellent Paul Gouffet; Mr. Alfred Warne was good as Henry de Brisson; Mr. Arthur Beverley made the most of his opportunities as Lucian Cortier; Mr. Bert Ellis was very humorous in the rôle of Peter Pottleberry; Miss Elsie Marriott Watson made a decided hit in the part of Maria de Brisson; and Miss Ruth Glyn caused much laughter as Babette.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Welton Dale.—The display of "House Full" boards was a gratifying indication of Miss Eva Moore's popularity with local playgoers on the occasion of the flying matinée of *Little Lord Fauntleroy* on Tuesday afternoon with the full Court Theatre company. The Hippodrome programme is also a strong one this week, and includes Annie Lang, Ford and Ford, Chas. Rest, Johnny Cecil, and Looping the Loop on the wire, as well as the Bioscope pictures.

TYLDESLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. W. Brierley.—Mr. Harry Tilbury and company are appearing here this week in *The Blind Foundling*. Mr. Fred Owen acquits himself creditably as Parson Ray; Mr. Horatio Sinclair gives a skilful portrayal of Mark Redman; the part of Gerald Dalton is in the capable hands of Mr. Victor Rae; Mr. Edward Brown does justice to the rôle of Squire Waterford; Mr. Geo. Walkley figures as Jaikes Romono with success; Miss Belle Tilbury as Isabel creates a favourable impression; Miss Annie Newall is a praiseworthy Violet Waterford; Little Phyllis makes a sweet and pathetic Fairy; Miss A. T. George is well placed as Winnie Dobbins; and Mr. Harry Tilbury supplies a very humorous rendering of Dick Dobbins.

WAKEFIELD. — OPERA HOUSE. — Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Mr. James Kiddie's pantomime *Little Cinderella* is here for six nights. Miss Hettie Gale is a winsome and dainty Cinderella, singing her numbers in pleasing style; Mlle. de Rose makes a dashing Prince Perfect, her fine voice being heard to advantage in several songs; Miss Edie May is responsible for good acting as Dandini. The chief success of the pantomime is owing to the unflagging efforts of Mr. Joe Huda, who keeps the house in continuous merriment in his clever rendering of Pimples the Page. He is well supported by Mr. Leslie Hawkins, who is highly successful as the Baron; Mr. Harry Bliss and Mr. W. G. Wesley are good comedians as Ethel and Maude, the ugly sisters; Mr. J. M. Hawtrey sings well and is able as Malicio; Miss Norah Roberts is an admirable Fairy Queen. Other principal parts are well filled by Mr. William Verto, Miss Ada Tyrrell, Miss Polly Kiddie, Miss Nellie Barrett and Miss Hilda Clairemont. The Lisando Brothers give a clever acrobatic performance in the palace scene. Mlle. Barrett and her troupe execute some pleasing dances. The principals work in the greatest harmony, and hearty applause greets their efforts. The orchestra is under the able direction of Mr. James A. Lowe.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—Miss Amy Anderson and company appear in a novel vaudeville sketch *On and Off the Stage*, which proves popular. Miss Effie White displays terpsichorean ability in her kaleidoscope dances; Mr. George Bernard, actor-vocalist, provides an interesting turn; Mr. D. W. Watson is successful in a musical turn; Mueller and Coyne, comedy couple, are amusing; Rex Hartley, mimic, does well, and Mr. W. R. Vowles and Edith Bryans, vocalists, have a good reception.

WARRINGTON. — ROYAL COURT.—Proprietor, Mr. J. Beecham; General-Manager, Mr. A. M. Loader; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. Smiley.—The visit of the Moody-Manners opera company has been attended with signal success here, and on Monday night a large and fashionable audience gave the artists an enthusiastic reception. *Carmen* was staged, and in the title-rôle Miss Rosina Brynon acted and sang admirably; Miss T. Addington as Michaela, charmed all with her vocalisation; Mr. Paul Weiss imbued the part of Don Jose with plenty of dramatic force, and his rich tenor voice was heard to advantage; Mr. Charles Moorhouse as Escamillo also scored well, and his rendering of the "Toreador" song was rapturously encored; Mr. R. Carton and Mr. G. Gorst as Moralis and Zuniga respectively, assisted much in the success achieved. On Tuesday *Lohengrin* attracted a large house. *Madame Butterfly*, *Faust*, *Tannhäuser*, and *The Bohemian Girl* are billed.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, The Franco-British Animated Picture Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. Turner; Manager, Mr. Jack Waters.—The Itrams are the chief attraction here this week, and their pot-pourri act is exceptionally good; Kitty Cameron is a dainty comedienne; Bert Lytton is rightly defined as the "swell comedian." The pictures are a choice collection.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. G. D. Bradbury.—The Six Brothers Luck are responsible for much mirth here this week with their sketch *Lift 'Ems, Ltd.*; Harvey's American Boys and Girls, including Miss Daisy Dennis, sing some charming songs and glees; Lisbon and Barker are smart comedians; the three Lady Transfields are delightful instrumentalists; the Sovereigns astonish all with their chair jumping and tumbling, especially as they have each only one leg; Cherry Lass is a chic comedienne; and Hilda Mascot scores with her songs. The pictures are good.

WATERFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager and Lessee, John Collins; Acting-Manager, Maurice Collins.—This week Dickie Clare's company in the musical extravaganza *Lucky 'Liza* occupies the boards. Their reception has been good, the large audiences appreciating and enjoying this musical absurdity. Miss Vesta Brownie fills the title-rôle exceedingly well, her dancing being exceptionally good; Mr. Dickie Clare appears in his usual triple part with success. The Astor Trio in their smart dances have been encored nightly. The remaining parts have all been well filled, in fact, one sees uniformly good acting throughout.

WEDNESBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby.—This week Messrs. Shardon and Martin's No. 1 Company in *The Way of the World* is proving an excellent attraction. The appearance of Miss Sidney Crowe in the rôle of Lady Adela Hardy evokes hearty applause, whilst the portrayal of Cecil Hardy lay in the worthy hands of Mr. Herbert Skardon; Mr. Edwin Avinal plays with marked ability the important part of Captain Fred Slade; an interesting character is that of Matthew Malyon, ably rendered by Mr. Clarence Temple; Horatio Bluff, by Mr. Victor Gordon, being warmly appreciated; as Joe Sparrow Mr. D'Arcy Kelway proves highly humorous, his songs being artistically rendered; Mr. Pat Quinn does some good work as Sir John Hardy; the part of Kate Montague is ably presented by Miss Violet Lytton, and as Pollie Belle Miss Violette Vivienne makes the most of her opportunities; Miss Marie Marsh as Little Eric Malyon proves quite a favourite. On Monday evening Messrs. Scott's grand circus opened here for the season to a crowded and enthusiastic audience. A capital programme is provided, the variety consisting of sixty horses and artists. The Bros. Scott, champion double jockey act riders, received a most hearty reception; loud applause is also accorded Master Alaska for his daring rough-riding performance; Little Len, the indiarubber contortionist, also proves a great attraction; excellent fun is provided by Tomato, the up-to-date clown, whose quaint sayings win for him the applause of all his audience; a good sketch presented by two funny clowns, entitled *The Midnight Express*, or *Danger on the Line*, keeps the house in roars of laughter; Mons. James, the great trick act rider, also proves a huge success.

WELLINGBOROUGH.—EXCHANGE HALL.—*The Christian* was very ably presented by Mr. Wentworth Croke's company on Monday and Tuesday. Judging by the audiences Hall Caine's dramas are a good draw here. John Storm had a capital exponent in Mr. P. Gedge Twyman and Miss Margery Fane was a very satisfactory Glory Quayle.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. R. Nightingale.—There is a powerful attraction at this place of amusement this week, Mr. T. Edward Ward's company producing the popular drama *Second to None*, and West Bromwich audiences have shown an appreciation of it that the play and the company fully merit. Miss Ward in the character of Nell Greystone is very charming, and acts with rare skill and vigour; Mr. C. W. Spencer as Sir Reginald Greystone has a difficult rôle, which he fills well; Mr. Fredk. F. Lord is capital as Captain Philip Mannering; and Mr. Frank R. Gwyn Richardson as Lieut. Ballater and Mr. J. G. Maine as Sergeant Jack Harrison are also good.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Archie Ainsleigh.—There have been large audiences during the week to welcome Mr. F. G. Kimberley's company in the sporting play *Bound to Win*, in which the authoress, Miss L. Addison, plays a distinguished part as Gladys Orme. The piece goes at a great pace, there being no fewer than nine scenes, and excitement is maintained all through. Mr. F. G. Kimberley is excellent as Harry Lyndon; Mr. Ernest C. Edwards as Squire Forbes is good; and so, too, are the other characters, not omitting the two thoroughbred horses, Ste Elsie and May Sanday, which give reality to the scene.

WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA.—THE KING'S HALL.—Lessee, Captain Claremont.—The Jolly Japs provide an excellent entertainment at the King's Hall this week. A capital house witnessed the performance on Monday, and the efforts of each member of the company were greatly appreciated. Miss Dorothy Doria rendered her songs in a charming, unaffected manner, and her duets with Mr. Stanley Adams and Mr. Douglas Phillips were enthusiastically received. Miss Violet Carmen has a captivating voice, and her songs and recitations are given in a pleasing style. Mr. Fred T. Daniels as the "funny man" keeps his audience laughing from the moment he comes on the stage till he leaves it, and Messrs. Stanley Adams and Douglas Phillips make splendid soloists.

WEST STANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Stanley Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Kelly; Stage-Manager, Mr. W. Angus.—Chas. Elderton's grand pantomime *Robinson Crusoe* opened here on Monday to a fine house. Miss Rosa Revell is excellent as Crusoe. The following specialities appear: The Three Eltons, bar specialists; Carson Hicks, coon singer and dancer; Baby Queenie, dancer; the Boultons, comedy entertainers; Miss Bartinelli, contortionist; Marblesque Trio in living statues; Miss Olive Sara, musical mélange; Stuart and Worth, the funny duo; Sisters Rynehardth, dancers; and Rowe and Holden, cake-walk artists.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. C. Rawes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. George W. Montrose.—Taka, the champion ju-jitsu wrestler, assisted by Adolph Shanley, is drawing tremendous houses here. Other turns include R. C. Note, the popular vocalist; Dainty Daisy Davenport, comedienne and dancer; Zasma, assisted by the beautiful Delowie, in gymnastic scena; Miss Marie Ray, vocalist; Florence Carlow, the chic comedienne and dancer; Biff Hall, the melancholy Hebrew comedian; and the Vicoscope.

WIDNES. — ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Jas. Kiddie; Secretary, Mr. Tom Swinton.—This week Captain Clayton's pant

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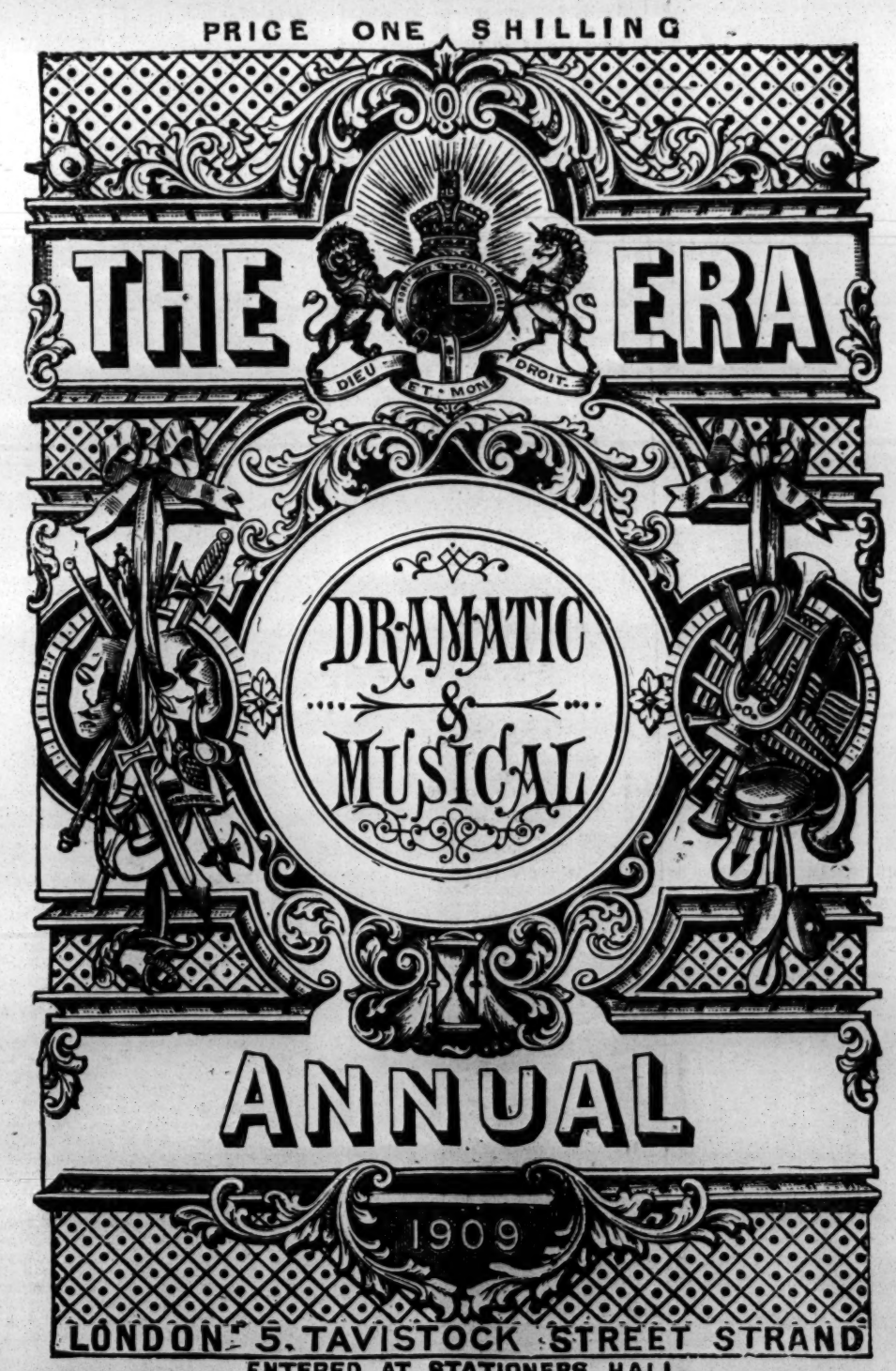

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NEW PLAYS OF THE MONTH.

LONDON.

DEC. 1. *Love's Garden*, fantasy, story and music by H. C. Pélissier, lyrics and dialogue by Arthur Davenport (The Follies)—Apollo.
" 1. *Faust; or, The Merry Mephistopheles and His Mysterious Mysteries*, pantomime, written, composed, and arranged by H. C. Pélissier and Arthur Davenport (The Follies)—Apollo.
" 7. *For Love of a Woman*, drama, in four acts, by Nita Rae—Theatre Royal, Stratford.
" 7. *The Last of the De Mullins*, play, in three acts, by St. John Hankin—Haymarket.
" 7. *Isaac's Wife*, play, in three acts, by F. D. Bone and Teignmouth Shore—Court.
" 8. *Emily*, play, in one act, by Margaret M. Mack (Afternoon Theatre)—His Majesty's.
" 8. *Zanetto*, opera, by Mascagni—St. James's.
" 14. *Love Rules the World*, drama, in four acts, by T. G. Bailey (originally produced at the Star, Liverpool, July 1, 1907)—Elephant and Castle.
" 14. *The Flower Girl*, musical comedy, in two acts, book, music, and lyrics by William T. Gliddon—Shakespeare.
" 14. *Mademoiselle Fifi*, from the French of Guy de Maupassant (produced by the Cercle Artistique)—Rehearsal Theatre, W.C.
" 17. *Olivia's Sweetheart*, comedy, in one act, by Affleck Scott—King's, Hammersmith.
" 18. *Notre Edouard*, play, in one act, in French, by Constance Meredyth—Criterion.
" 18. *Estrella*, musical wordless play, by Marguerite Barrellier (Mrs. Barnett)—Guildhall School of Music.
" 19. *Pinkie and the Fairies*, fairy play, in three acts, for children and others, by W Graham Robertson, music by Frederic Norton—His Majesty's.
" 20. *Management*, comedy, in four acts, by Curtis Brown (English Play Society)—Kingsway.
" 20. *Mumby*, play, in one act, by George H. Blagrove (English Play Society)—Kingsway.
" 20. *Oop at Kierstenan's*, play, in three acts, by Bertha N. Graham (The Play Actors)—Court.
" 21. *Dick Whittington*, pantomime, by Frank Dix, music by Julien H. Wilson—Coronet.
" 23. *Little Red Riding Hood*, pantomime, books and lyrics by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Carpenter, music by H. Sullivan Brooke—Lyceum.
" 24. *Red Riding Hood*, pantomime, by Frank Ayrton, music by George D. Fox—Dalston.
" 24. *Robinson Crusoe*, pantomime, by Fred Bowyer, music by Leonard Gautier—Crystal Palace.
" 24. *Cinderella*, pantomime, by A. M. Thompson and Robert Courtneidge, lyrics by Arthur Wimperis, music by Herbert Haines, Alfred Haines, and Arthur Wood—Adelphi.
" 26. *The Kingdom of Kennaquhair*, musical and satirical play, in three scenes, by V. Park, with songs by W. H. C. Nation introduced—Royalty.
" 26. *Aladdin*, pantomime, by "Iam Query," music by B. Barrow—Borough, Stratford.
" 26. *Dick Whittington*, pantomime, by Newman Maurice—Brixton Theatre.
" 26. *Humpty Dumpty*, pantomime, by J. Hickory Wood—Broadway, New Cross.
" 26. *Blue Beard*, pantomime, by Hugh Mytton, music by Mark Strong—Camden.
" 26. *Dick Whittington*, pantomime, by J. Hickory Wood and Arthur Collins, music by J. M. Glover—Drury Lane.
" 26. *The Babes in the Wood*, pantomime, by Frank Ayrton—Elephant and Castle.
" 26. *Cinderella*, pantomime, by Stanley Rogers, music by Harry Richardson and G. M. Saker—Grand, Fulham.
" 26. *Red Riding Hood*, pantomime, by Frank Dix, music by J. H. Wilson—Kennington.
" 26. *The Babes in the Wood*, pantomime, by Fred Bowyer, music by B. J. Patterson and Ernée Woodville—King's, Hammersmith.
" 26. *Cinderella*, pantomime, by Hugh Mytton, music by Hugo Rignold—County Theatre, Kingston.
" 26. *Red Riding Hood*, pantomime, by Victor Stevens—Lyric, Hammersmith.
" 26. *The House that Jack Built*, pantomime, by J. Hickory Wood, music by J. Dudley Powell—Marlborough.
" 26. *Cinderella*, pantomime, by Jonathan Jones, music by Victor Vorzanger—Pavilion.
" 26. *The Babes in the Wood*, pantomime, by F. Maxwell Stuart, music by Alf. J. Lawrance—Shakespeare.
" 26. *Cinderella*, pantomime, by William Bailey, jun., music by Percy Kurutz—West London.
" 28. *How Women Ruin Men*, domestic drama, in four acts, by T. G. Bailey (originally produced at the Victoria Theatre, Broughton, Nov. 9, 1908)—Theatre Royal, Stratford.

REVIVALS.

DEC. 1. *The Pirates of Penzance; or, The Slave of Duty* (originally produced at the Opéra Comique, April 3, 1880)—Savoy.
" 7. *King René's Daughter*, play, in one act, adapted from the Danish of Henrik Hertz by the Hon. Edward Phipps (originally produced at the Lyceum as *Iolanthe* on May 28, 1880)—Shaftesbury.
" 8. *Hannele*, dream poem, by Gerhart Hauptmann, translated by William Archer (originally produced at the Scala Theatre on April 12, 1908) (Afternoon Theatre)—His Majesty's.
" 21. *Dorothy*, comedy opera, by the late B. C. Stephenson and Alfred Cellier—New.
" 23. *Peter Pan*, fairy play, by J. M. Barrie, music by John Crook (fourth revival)—Duke of York's.
" 26. *Little Lord Fauntleroy*, version of Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett's story, by herself (originally produced at Terry's May 14, 1888)—Court.
" 26. *Charley's Aunt*—Aldwych.

PROVINCES.

DEC. 1. *Her Secret Lover*, play, in four acts, by Mrs. F. G. Kimberley (copyright performance)—Opera House, Dudley.
" 2. *The Little Devil Chooses*, by Kate Goddard and F. A. Stanley—St. John's Hall, Wembley.
" 4. *The Sentimentalist*, play, in one act, by J. M. Cuthbertson—Athenæum, Glasgow.
" 7. *The Woman Who Sinned*, drama, in four acts, by Augusta Tullock — Palace, Boston.
" 7. *On the Other Foot*, burglar incident, in one act, by Sydney Blow and George Bellamy—Gaiety Theatre, Hastings.
" 9. *Slander*, drama, in three acts, by C. F. Nordlinger, adapted from the Spanish play by José Echegaray — Theatre Royal, Birmingham.
" 14. *The Haunted Man*, a psychological fantasy for Christmas, in three acts, dramatised from Charles Dickens's story by E. C. Bolelle—Oddfellows' Hall, Jersey.
" 18. *Love the Conqueror*, play, in five acts, by Frank Lindo—Palace, Newcastle.
DEC. 19. *Paying the Debt*, play, in one act, by Harold B. Lewis (copyright performance)—Theatre Royal, Ashton-under-Lyne.
" 21—*The Eyes of the World*, "conflict of sex, in three encounters," by Charles Darrell—Prince of Wales's, Grimsby.
" 24—*The Knight of the Burning Pestle*, Beaumont and Fletcher's satirical burlesque (revival)—Gaiety, Manchester.
" 24. *The Dollar Princess*, play, with music, from the German of A. M. Willner and Grünbaum—Prince's, Manchester.
" 26. *A Repentant Sinner*, domestic play, in five acts—Alhambra, Stourbridge.
" 26. *Antony and Cleopatra* (Richard Flanagan's fourteenth Shakespearean revival)—Queen's, Manchester.
" 28. *Her Fatal Marriage*, play, in four acts, by Clarence Burnette and A. Hinton—Theatre Royal, Aston.

PARIS.

DEC. 2. *La Boscotte*, drama, in five acts and six tableaux, by Georges Maldague—Ambigu.
" 7. *Le Foyer*, comedy, in three acts, by Octave Mirbeau and T. Natanson—Comédie-Française.
" 9. *Sanga*, opera, in four acts, by E. Morand and Paul Choudens, music by Isidore de Lara—Opéra-Comique.
" 9. *L'Oiseau blessé*, comedy, in four acts, by Alfred Capus—Renaissance.
" 15. *La Femme X—*, play, in five acts, by Alexandre Bisson—Porte-Saint-Martin.
" 16. *Jeanne qui rit*, comedy, in three acts, by Soulié and Darantière—Réjane.
" 16. *Fritzchen*, drama, in one act, by Sudermann, translated by Touchard—Réjane.
" 18. *Le Lys*, comedy, in four acts, by Pierre Wolff and Gaston Leroux—Vaudeville.
" 23. *Le Beauté du Diable*, drama, in five acts and eight tableaux, by Jules Mary and Emile Rochard—Ambigu.

BERLIN.

DEC. 1. *Israel*, play, in three acts, by H. Bernstein—Neues.
" 2. *Versiegelt*, comic opera, in one act, by Leo Blech—Royal Opera.
" 2. *La Habanera*, three-act opera, by Raoul Laparre—Royal Opera.
" 2. *Die Entgleisten*, four-act volks-play, by MM. Brentana and Gisbert—Luisen.
" 11. *Rabagas*, four-act comedy, by Sardou—New Schauspielhaus.
" 11. *Thummelumsen*, comedy, in four acts, by Gustav Wied—Hebbel.
" 22. *Die Zwillinge*, three-act comic opera, by Karl Weiss—Komische Oper.
" 22. *Der Satyr*, three-act farce, by MM. Berr and Guillemand—Trianon.
" 23. *Der Graf von Gleichen*, three-act play, by W. Schmidtbonn — Deutsches Chamber Plays.
" 23. *Die glückliche Zeit*, comedy, in three acts, by R. Auernheimer—Lustspielhaus.
" 23. *Der tapfere Soldat*, operetta, in three acts, by Oscar Strauss—Des Westens.
" 23. *Drahtlose Telegraphie*, three-act farce, by MM. Friedmann and Lunzer—Gastspiel.
" 26. *Bretzenburg*, three-act farce, by Herren Skowronnek and Wilde—Lessing.
" 30. *Onkel Casimir*, operetta, in one act, by M. Winterfeld—Apollo.
" 31. *Die Sünde*, comedy, in three acts, by Max Bernstein—New Schauspielhaus.
" 31. *Der Schlagbaum*, three-act volks-play, by H. Lee—Royal Schauspielhaus.
" 31. *Brüderlein fein*, musical volks-play, in five acts, by H. E. Falschholz, music by Leo Fall—Bernhard Rose.

AMUSEMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

DURBAN.—HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Empire Theatres, Ltd., S.A.; Manager, Mr. Aubrey Hyman.—The star turn here is La Belle Tortajada, in a novel operetta, *The Début of Dolores*. On the night of her appearance she was received with vociferous applause. An acceptable turn are Lawson and Namon. The male partner is an exceptionally clever trick cyclist, whilst the lady gives a smart exhibition of ball-punching. Clare and Pastor, dancers and xylophone players, are always a welcome turn; the Dixon Troupe of dancers and singers meet with appreciation; Tom Burrows, champion club-swinger, manipulates the clubs in a clever manner. Others that go to make up a fine programme are Nellie Hamilton (comedienne), Mme. Dora Ceremenda (operatic singer), Harry Wright (comedian), and the Bioscope.

IT does not seem that the popularity of *The Merry Widow* in South Africa will show any signs of abating for some time to come yet. This was proved by the splendid house that received the revival of this evergreen musical comedy at His Majesty's Theatre, Johannesburg, by the Wheeler-Edwardes' 1908 Gaiety company.

LAST Thursday saw the first production on any stage of the musical comedy, *The Cadet*, by Signor Dossi. The cast was entirely composed of amateurs, who acquitted themselves in a capable manner. The music was catchy, and the dialogue was smart, and sparkled with plenty of wit. The production was staged in a lavish manner.

A REMINISCENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—May I draw your attention to the fact of its being just fifty years ago (Boxing Day, 1858) since the disastrous gas accident at the old Victoria Theatre, in which thirteen persons were killed and about forty injured? I was employed at the theatre at the time, and succeeded in turning off the gas, as they were dying from suffocation. Perhaps there may be some of your numerous readers who may also remember the circumstance.
—Yours faithfully, E. CORBETT.
90, Blackfriars-road, S.E., Dec. 31, 1908.

"NYMPHIDIA," a musical fairy play, in three acts, written by Harry de Koningh, music by Frederic Leeds, was produced at St. Peter's Hall, Brockley, on Saturday. The plot is as follows:—Nymphidia, for rebellious conduct, has been banished from Fairyland by Titania, the Queen of the Fairies, until she shall regain her lost home by some notably good deed. Dolorus, the King of "Little Britain," has lost his only son John, who has been found, and brought up in lowly circumstances by Dame Goodenough. John falls in love with the innkeeper's daughter Rose, but she is spirited away by a wicked dwarf, Baron D'Umphti, who poses as the lost heir to the throne. Ultimately Nymphidia rescues Rose, and restores her to her true love, who is subsequently proclaimed as the rightful heir. Nymphidia is rewarded by regaining Fairyland, and the rascality of the dwarf is exposed. The musical play *Nymphidia* affords a pleasant evening's entertainment, but its merits cannot be fully gauged until it is performed by professional artists.

INTO the band competition engineered at last Saturday's matinée at the Theatre Royal, Workington, three bands entered, viz., 5th Lancs. Royal Garrison Artillery, 5th Border Regiment, and the Seaton Brass Band. The first and last-named played "Good night beloved" in good form, but they were outclassed by the Borderers quartette who chose "Native vale" as their test, and came in an easy first in the contest. Mr. George Eastwood, bandmaster 5th Border Regiment, conducted the winning set, and his fine cornet performance did much to ensure success.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

SYDNEY DEC. 1, 1908.—The Margaret Anglin season at Mr. J. C. Williamson's Theatre Royal is a distinguished success. Whether it be that the eminently talented actress has created a revival vogue for Shakespearean drama, or that the local Shakespearean Society has resurrected an interest in the classical plays, certain it is that the booking and enthusiasm are both very great. The other night some two hundred University students went to see *The Taming of the Shrew*, and they were so enthralled that they quite forgot their customary misbehaviour when in a theatre. On the 5th, *Twelfth Night* is to be staged, with Miss Anglin as Viola, and it is hoped that Mr. G. S. Titheradge will be sufficiently restored to take his share of the performance.

"THE MERRY WIDOW," with Miss Betty Ohls in the name part, is attracting all lovers of bright music and dainty, sufficient surroundings. The glorious voice of Miss Florence Young rings out true and rich as ever, and with Mr. Higginson and Mr. Reginald Roberts, the ensembles and duets are made most enjoyable features. The waltz duet, as done by Mr. Higginson and Miss Ohls, is refinement itself as compared with the initial rendering. *The Duchess of Dantzic* is in rehearsal.

MR. H. R. ROBERTS, at the Palace, under Mr. Allan Hamilton's direction, has replaced *The Prince Chap* with a revival of *A Message from Mars*. As the selfish Horace Parker, ultimately repentant, the whole gamut of human nature is skilfully played by Mr. Roberts. His beautiful voice and handsome appearance attract in any part he may choose to act, but the straight definite lines drawn in depicting Parker are most artistic and thoroughly enjoyable. Mr. A. E. Greenaway brings the message from the far-away planet, and with his stalwart form comes the atmosphere of his celestial home. Mr. Frank Lamb shows us a tramp of the most convincing type, convincing to anybody but Horace Parker, whose strength of harshness is really brought out and accentuated by Mr. Lamb's most excellent acting. It is an ideal characterisation. Miss Fanny Erris was most excellent in the scene where Minnie Templer breaks her engagement with Parker. She scored a success throughout. Miss Beatrice Usher surprised everyone by her matured style as Aunt Martha Parker, and she added much to the good all-round performance.

THE TIVOLI welcomed back two sterling favourites, Goodfellow and Gregson, who have improved in style and entertainment. Everything they do is new and catchy. Mr. Rickards' bill is a very important and attractive one, and full houses reward his enterprise.

MR. CHARLES HOLLOWAY, long and popularly known as an actor and manager, died on Nov. 29, from pneumonia. He leaves a widow, the well-respected actress, Miss Alice Deorwyn, and a daughter, Miss Beatrice Holloway, who is making rapid strides in the van of acting. Mr. Holloway was a genial, large-hearted man, and his passing will be mourned by many who were connected professionally and otherwise with him from time to time.

SYDNEY, DEC. 8, 1908.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, J. C. Williamson; Business-Manager, Edward Major.—The Margaret Anglin season is—*mirabile dictu!*—drawing to a close. The last, and greatest, impersonation of this admirable actress is Viola, in *Twelfth Night*. It is a realisation of all one's loftiest ideas in the interpretation of the character. The boyish assumption never ventures on act or look unbefitting the maiden who puts it on; and the growth of Viola's love is exhibited with a charm of modesty delightful to witness. The support was fine. Mr. George S. Titheradge was the Malvolio, wondrously treated with dignity and finesse, creating comedy in all possible innocence. Mr. Henry Kolker was a handsome manly Duke Orsino, and his lines were beautifully spoken. Miss Susie Vaughan, a sterling Shakespearienne, made Maria of unusual attractiveness; and Miss Alma Vaughan created an Olivia of impressionable charm and daintiness. Mr. Sydney Stirling gave a finished portrait of Sir Andrew Aguecheek, a dandy without being a fool. Mr. Winfird Hunter was an important Sebastian; whilst the fun of Mr. J. A. Fitzgerald as Sir Toby Belch was boisterous. As the clown, Feste, Mr. Dion Titheradge gave a good account of himself. Fabian (Mr. Cyril Mackay), Antonio (Mr. Johnson Weir), and a sea captain (Mr. Harry Overton) were capably acted. Mr. J. W. Hazlitt stage-managed the play. Mr. J. C. Williamson acknowledges his indebtedness to Mr. Musgrove for the beautiful scenery, painted for the Courtneidge production at Manchester. The play is mounted and costumed superbly. It is played in four acts and eleven scenes, beginning at the second scene, with Viola and the captain on the shore. Miss Anglin was loudly recalled and loaded with floral offerings.

PALACE.—Lessee, Allan Hamilton; Manager, George Baller.—Miss Maggie Moore reappeared on the 5th as Lizzie Stofel, in *Struck Oil*, the part created by her here thirty-four years ago. A crowded house gave her an affectionate greeting, cheered and encored her every song, called her after every act, and at curtain-fall insisted on a speech. Mr. H. R. Roberts was the John Stofel, and though handicapped with youth and slimness, he interpreted the old Dutchman well. Mr. J. P. West, a veteran in the part, was again the Deacon Skinner, acting the unctuous old scoundrel to the life. The rest of the company was admirably fitted, Madge Herrock being a lovable Mutter Susan, and Messrs. A. E. Greensway, Charles Stamford, and Fred Francis, as the three young friends, military and medical, of the Stofels.

MADAME SLAPOFFSKI and Herr Emil Greder are still appearing in *Faust*, with Herr Slapoffski as conductor.

HER MAJESTY'S.—Lessee, J. C. Williamson; Business-Manager, G. H. Smith.—*The Merry Widow* is a veritable boom, and, but for other arrangements made, could easily run all through the Christmas season.

THE TIVOLI. — Sole Proprietor and Manager, Harry Rickards; Business-Manager, J. C. Leete.—The Sisters Reno, just arrived, are already most popular; and the Marconis succeed in mystifying large audiences, which delight in being deceived. The rest of the important bill is as last noted.

THE NEWBURY SPADA CONCERTS are still increasing in value if the augmented audiences are any indication. Country visitors are already flocking in for Christmas, and all are anxious to hear the great tenor, Philip Newbury, now in better voice than ever before.

THE SYDNEY PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY gave a very fine performance of Elgar's *Caractacus*, on the 3rd, with Andrew Black in his original rôle of Caractacus. The other soloists were Miss Zara Wolkinski, a very clear-voiced and well-trained soprano; Mr. Jas. Crabtree, tenor; and Mr. C. Larsen, a conscientious basso. Mr. Joseph Bradley conducted. M. Henri Staell led, and Mr. Ernest Truman played the organ. The choruses were sung better than on any previous Philharmonic first night, and the orchestral work was very fine. I have often told your readers that Sydney, as a whole, is *not* a musical city. Responding to clamours that poor music-lovers should be permitted to hear the works of the great masters, the Philharmonic Committee set apart 300 seats at a shilling (usual price 5s.), and twenty music-lovers turned up. Nuff sed!

IN order to show their appreciation of Mr. Robert Arthur's efforts in the cause of local charities during the past year, the Mayor and Councillors of Southwark have booked the whole of the stalls area at the Kennington Theatre on Tuesday next.

THE DRAMA AND THE FOLK-SPIRIT.

The purpose of this paper may be described as an attempt to seek out the antecedent conditions by which the English drama came into being, and to enquire whether that drama has throughout its career been a reflection of the age, or whether, as the majority aver, it is simply a mode of entertainment worthy of no more serious consideration than that accorded to the business of the showman. It is, in fine, an endeavour to determine whether the drama has met a real psychological need in the evolution of the English people. In answering this question it will be necessary to examine the process by which such phenomena as plays originated, and to discover the causes which led to their existence. And in this undertaking the fact must not be lost sight of that progress in any art is dependent upon the tendencies and forces in the community. When a community has reached the contemplative stage of civilisation mental cravings arise, and to those mental cravings have been attributed the birth of all the arts. To the pursuit of such pleasures as those ministered to by art-forms can be credited a large share of the socialising influence which drama has possessed in inspiring certain intense activities. For, throughout the career of the English drama, it will be seen that if it served no other useful purpose, it has at least demonstrated its utility as an inspirational force in cultivating the idea of co-operation. That it has been a real live growth has been shown by its quick response to the influence of cross-fertilisation, and if that be regarded as one of the factors in social evolution, it will be found that the introduction of foreign ideas into English drama has made for its betterment. A conclusion like that follows from the axiom that progress arises from the fusion of unlike elements, and our drama has a long record of transfusions.

The miracle play found its birth in the desire of the priesthood to inculcate the doctrinal teachings of the Church by means of the dramatic form, and therefore it cannot be regarded as a real manifestation of the folk-spirit. Before it could reach that stage in evolution, the miracle play had to be released from clerical control, and the first reflection the drama bears upon contemporary life will be discovered precisely at that moment when the performance was transferred to the churchyard. In the mid-fourteenth century "Creation of the Universe" and "The Fall of Lucifer," the development of an historical situation is shown to occur in obedience to the mental craving for an art-form which would answer the enquiring spirit of the age, thus preparing the path for regular drama. After that the miracle play is found to contain reflections upon contemporary events, reserved for delivery by the buffoon, and it included historical, as well as grotesque, allusions and satire, the fool having the licence of comment which it was feared the wise man might abuse. To the people the miracle play came as a mirror of life—perhaps a very much refracted mirror—but it contained the germ-idea of future drama, including melodrama and society plays. In the realm of melodrama Herod may be cited as the primitive transpontine villain, who gave way to an abandon of fury; and as to society satire. Sir David Lyndesay's play provides a good example of the earlier form. Even in the thirteenth-century play of *Noah's Flood*, traces are exhibited of the modern farce form. Noah and his wife are represented as indulging in a diverting discussion just on the eve of the Flood. The wife refuses to go into the Ark without the company of her fellow-gossips, and when at last Noah has managed to persuade his good lady to accept ship-room, he only gets smacked for his trouble.

One historian at least attributes the rapid spread of Reformation principles to the preparation the minds of the people had received from plays like Sir David Lyndesay's satire. So that in these initial forms there is some indication of the tendencies and forces in the community, as showing that the drama did answer a real psychological need to a people without the educational aid of books.

Towards the second half of the sixteenth century the morality died out, because it was an effete form, and had ceased to reflect contemporary life. Comedy, in the form of plays like *Tom Tiler*, was taking its place. Although authorities differ on that point, the Interlude was virtually a comedy which differed from the ordinary form because it was not divided into scenes, but it has little claim to be a reflection of the folk-spirit, as it was an entertainment usually given in the banqueting halls of the nobility.

Literature was beginning to appeal to the people—the rhymed Chronicle is an example of its popularity. To the sixteenth century the first faint breath of the new learning came, imparting fresh vitality to English life. Every day, for instance, the daughter of Henry VIII. began by reading in the Greek Testament or by studying the tragedies of Sophocles. The spirit of the Renaissance infused its fire into the drama, inspiring the people to new racial activities. It is Symonds who divides the drama during the reigns of Elizabeth and King James into three stages—first, a period of preparation and tentative effort; second, a period of maturity when the type of drama is fixed by one master mind and perfected by another; and the final stage when decadence set in. With the first stage the people had little concern. The revival of classical learning made the drama the pet field for the classical experiments of Sackville, Norton, Hughes, Gascoyne, Edwards, and Lyly, and as the form was founded on the pedantic rules of Aristotle and Seneca, it bore little interest to the general public. The people had other entertainment. Frequently the common players so far forgot themselves as to produce a play containing political satire, but an officious commonalty was instrumental in suppressing this method of public comment upon political action. The decree of the Sovereign and Council of 1556 prohibited all players and pipers from strolling throughout the United Kingdom as disseminators of sedition and heresies. Kyd came with his tragedies of blood and death, Greene and Peele with their mordant melodramas, and bombast in blank verse, appealing to a Bankside audience with crude natures, apt to mistake grandiose words for strength of passion. This was an early manifestation of the folk-spirit emerging into freedom after the bondage of ignorance. Gross as it may have been, it was the first real attempt to reveal the motivitation of men's actions. In that sense it was a demonstration of the eager passion of the age to acquire knowledge. Formerly, men had quarrelled, had fought and died, and there was little question asked as to the why, wherefore, and whither. The curiosity of the crowd had never been aroused because, being under the mental slavery of ignorance, it knew no motives, and, clod-like, it did not care to inquire. But an intellectual uplifting had come, and the people began to realise the hidden beauties of the intellect. Man was in process of being revealed to man. One is tempted to turn aside and regard the contrast which is afforded by contemplating the fresh, unwearied aspect of that period towards drama, and that of the modern. "Probably there is nothing," a well-known writer has said, "which serious intellects hate so much as an intellectual treat. To be made to sit out a performance at the Comédie Française would be, to a great many of us, an unmitigated bore." The attitude is that of many of present-day intellectuals towards drama.

The classical drama was entirely foreign to the spirit of the time, and held no vitalising quality in it. The truth is that, unless the drama commands a national public by living in sympathy with the entire people at a certain moment of intensified vitality, it cannot flourish. To that fact may be laid the disappearance of the classical drama.

The evolutionary stage which succeeded this was to usher in Marlowe and the Elizabethan playwrights who, in the language of Milton, "pierced dead things with inbreathed sense." There is one phase of these dramatists which is apt to be overlooked, but which had an important bearing upon their success. They were not mere chamber-students, judging effects, like gem-setters, in privacy. Their trade was learned by coming into actual contact with the people. They were frequently employed in doing odd jobs for the company, and this mode of living helped to acquaint them with the nature of the mental fare demanded by their auditors. The wonder is that, in these conditions, their plays are so free from the taint of theatricalism. But there is a wide difference between mere sentimentalism presented in the theatrical mode, and the stuff that is demanded by elemental natures thirsting for knowledge of the truth about man. Much that was coarse in the drama of that period in regard to woman-kind should be excused by the fact that the female parts were played by boys, and that license was condoned when the audience knew there was no such thing as a female actor. Man had come into the precious possession of his own intellect—oppressive feudalism and ecclesiastical tyranny had gone, and untrammelled by these burdens upon the mind, every man felt royal in his own humour, and walked about with appetite unmasked. The life interest was alive and the drama in cultivating racial activities came as a vehicle to exhibit human character in action. Indeed, Heywood claimed for it that the pageantry of heroism and patriotism bred virtue. The cold treatment which Ben Jonson received affords illumination on the taste of the period. Poetry to him meant moral education, with the due observance of precedents in poetry. To him the end of poetry was to inform men in the best reason of living. Such was a poor instrument to shadow forth the spirit of his age which was concerned only with actuality. There was a contempt for studied purity of style and a liking for vigorous red-hot drama. At the Palace, the Inns of Court, and the Universities, drama was the common form of entertainment, and pageantry in the provinces.

To the third period of Renaissance-drama in England, the remark may be applied that an art-form will remain, although the spirit which gave it birth may have vanished. To that period in time Symonds relates Webster, Massinger, Ford, and Shirley. For them can be claimed the class of play which exhibited cleverness of technique, and some quite inspired plays, but there is an obvious affectation of novelty and a laboured complexity in their plots which betrays the mind of the dramatic workman rather than the playwright of genius. The blame did not rest wholly upon them; the age was no longer heroic. Something akin to the evolution of the Greek drama had happened to the English product—it ceased to represent contemporary life, and having no informing purpose it died. As Green points out, the life of our drama was fast ebbing away. The Great Rebellion with its sinister meaning for the people sucked the interest out of stage representations. A wide stream of Puritanism overspread the land, for good or ill, and whatever evil sequel followed, in its initial career it was responsible for a new moral and religious impulse. The scholar Cansabon, visiting England, remarked on the great abundance of theologians. But whatever supporters of Puritanism may say in its favour, it will be hard to deny that it was not responsible for the death of humour. The colour of life became a depressing drab. Little wonder, then, that the next manifestation of drama was to come in an essentially gross and corrupt form. Charles I. made it the recreation of a small aristocratic clan. Actors in the royal Masques openly mocked at the king on the stage. The dramatists blindly devoted themselves to the Court; when that decadent spirit set in the drama, ceasing to be a reflection of the public spirit, disappeared.

Reviving under Charles II., it had gotten to itself some form of genius, but it simply renewed the corruption of former comedy, devoting itself to the exhibition of duelling, illicit amours and fine gentlemen's sport. It was a replica of the French comedy without its delicacy or good taste. The people then had no drama—the countryman's only form of giddiness was the peculiarly innocuous Maypole, or some other less innocent sport.

It has been contended that tragedy died because comedy appealed to a commoner intelligence. The statement is plausible enough, although discounted by Elizabethan experience, but it is not quite true, for this rare form of art must appeal to the whole public to maintain its life, and not having answered that condition, tragedy fell away into the regions of artificiality. Out of the old masters' plays, dramatists like Dryden, Otway, Congreve, Wycherley, Farquhar, and Vanbrugh set themselves to refine their motives, and produce a style more in keeping with the current conditions of social life. They have been rightly named vamped-up dramas, in which the playwrights offered operatic pictures, incantations, torture scenes, and spectacular effects. Such could never have become an art form for reflecting the minds of the people. As in France the drama was an entirely artificial product—the special entertainment of a coterie—so the English product appealed to a limited section. From that point in history, as it failed to meet any psychological need in the evolution of the people, it gradually ceased to count as an educational factor.

In the early part of the eighteenth century the energy of the trading classes helped to produce an era of national prosperity. Amongst the higher classes Montesquieu said, "everyone laughs if one talks of religion." That lethargy extended to the clergy, whilst the middle-class distinguished themselves by their piety.

The play had ceased to interest the general public. It did not cease to attract in London and in other provincial centres, but it was confined essentially to a play-going public. At the London theatres the better classes and their women-folk occupied the boxes. The pit was almost wholly given over to young lawyers, young City men, and students, whilst the upper boxes were occupied by the lower classes. Pit and gallery usually held a noisy crew. But even though there were six theatres, the number does not compare favourably with the six theatres which were in existence in the lesser-populated London of the sixteenth century. The reason for this difference is not far to seek. It is a truism in sociology that until the physical pleasures of a people have been completely satisfied there is little room for the growth of intellectual pleasures. Students who are acquainted with the history of the people will find that during the eighteenth and early part of the nineteenth century, when the proletariat were engaged in the class war, that the English drama became a thing of shreds and patches. The converse side of this picture will be found in the seventeenth century. Then England had shaken off the chains of oppressive feudalism and ecclesiastical tyranny, and that gladness and elasticity of spirit which came to the people was reflected in their drama, which was universally popular.

If we take the definition of drama as being the re-creation of a significant moment or crisis in human life, the product of the last two centuries will not easily stand the test. These class upheavals had certainly suspended the æsthetic development of England, just as they did during the Civil wars.

(To be continued.)

KEAN AS RICHARD III.

"Kean's conception of Richard," wrote Macready, as quoted in Furness's splendid Variorum edition of *Richard III.*, which was recently forwarded to us for review, "was decidedly Shakespearean. He hurried you along in his resolute course with a spirit that brooked no delay. In inflexibility of will and sudden grasp of expedients he suggested the idea of a feudal Napoleon. His personation was throughout consistent, and he was only inferior to Cooke where he attempted points upon the same ground as his distinguished predecessor. These points have often proved stumbling-blocks to actors and false lights to the discernment of audiences. . . . My father and self were betimes in our box. Pope was the lachrymose and rather tedious performer of Henry VI. But when the scene changed, and a little keenly-visaged man rapidly bustled across the stage, I felt there was meaning in the alertness of his manner and the quickness of his step. As the play proceeded I became more and more satisfied that there was a mind of no common order. In his angry complaining of Nature's injustice to his bodily imperfections, as he uttered the line: 'To shrink my arm up like a withered shrub,' he remained looking on the limb for some moments with a sort of bitter discontent, and then struck it back in angry disgust. My father, who sat behind me, touched me, and whispered, 'It's very poor!' 'Oh, no!' I replied, 'it is no common thing,' for I found myself stretching over the box to observe him. The scene with Lady Anne was entered on with evident confidence, and was well sustained, in the affected earnestness of penitence, to its successful close. In tempting Buckingham to the murder of the children he did not impress me as Cooke was wont to do, in whom the sense of crime was apparent in the gloomy hesitation with which he gave reluctant utterance to the deed of blood. Kean's manner was consistent with his conception, proposing their death as a political necessity, and sharply requiring it as a business to be done. The two actors were equally effective in their respective views of the unscrupulous tyrant; but leaving to Cooke the more prosaic version of Cibber, it would have been desirable to have seen the energy and restless activity of Kean giving life to racy language and scenes of direct and varied agency in the genuine tragedy with which his whole manner and appearance were so much more in harmony. In his studied mode of delivering the passages: 'Well! as you guess' and 'Off with his head! So much for Buckingham!' he could not approach the searching, sarcastic incredulity, or the rich vindictive chuckle, of Cooke; but in the bearing of the man throughout, as the intriguer, the tyrant, and the warrior, he seemed never to relax the ardour of his pursuit, presenting the life of the usurper as one unbroken whole, and closing it with a death picturesquely grand."

H. Crabb Robinson wrote of the same performance on March 7, 1814: "At Drury Lane and saw Kean for the first time. He played Richard, I believe, better than any man I ever saw; yet my expectations were pitched too high, and I had not the pleasure I expected. The expression of malignant joy is the one in which he surpasses all men I have ever seen. And his most flagrant defect is want of dignity. His face is finely expressive, though his mouth is not handsome, and he projects his lower lip ungracefully; yet it is finely suited to Richard. He gratified my eye more than my ear. His action was very often that of Kemble, and this was not the worst of his performance, but it detracts from his boasted originality. His declamation is very unpleasant, but my ear may in time be reconciled to it, as the palate is to new cheese and tea. It often reminds me of Blanchard's. His speech is not fluent, and his words and syllables are too distinctly separated. His finest scene was with Lady Anne, and his mode of lifting up her veil to watch her countenance was exquisite. The concluding scene was unequal to my expectation, though the fencing was elegant, and his sudden death fall was shockingly real. But he should have lain still. Why does he rise, or awake rather, to repeat the spurious lines? He did not often excite a strong persuasion of the truth of his acting, and the applause he received was not very great. . . . I do not think he will retain all his popularity, but he may learn to deserve it better, though I think he will never be qualified for heroic parts. He wants a commanding figure and a powerful voice. His greatest excellences are a fine pantomimic face and remarkable agility."

F. W. Hawkins wrote: "Kean came out from behind the scenes with a step so natural and so appropriate that the audience, accustomed to a fine, picturesque, and heroic stride, were absolutely startled; and communing with his own gigantic thought, he silently rubbed his hands—what a daring innovation!—they saw that no common man was before them. The soliloquy proceeded; there was no ferocious and studied declamation—all was easy, natural, and unlaboured; and as, with a beautifully expressive action, he gave out the line: 'The dogs bark at me as I halt by them!' the first applause elicited that night broke out in fervent enthusiasm. The soliloquy went on; the audience saw that the actor had become Richard himself—there was the devilish but calm calculation, as if solely occupied with means, and not wasting a reflection on qualities; the terrible jocundity, sure of his purpose, seeming to hug himself in his very heart on assassination, enjoying it almost as a joke, and exulting in it as an advantage. And then came the scene with Lady Anne, the nauseousness of which had been much increased by Kemble and Cooke; the former whined it in a way not at all attractive to the ear; the latter was harsh, coarse, and unkingly. Not so Kean. An enchanting smile played upon his lips; a courteous humility bowed his head; his voice, though hoarse with cold, was yet modulated to a tone which no common female mind ever did, or ever could resist. . . The quickness of familiar utterance with which the actor said of Hastings: 'Chop off his head!' . . . revealed a courageous adoption of the simplicities of the commonest every-day life and exhibited his superior understanding, his noble disdain of what was little, and his thorough comprehension of the part. . . . Richard, conscious of his towering superiority over those by whom he is surrounded, could feel nothing but contempt for the wavering, pusillanimous Hastings, and would consequently deliver the order as Kean did—in a manner which showed that he despised his victim equally from the consequences that might ensue from his execution. Moreover, the king was addressing himself to a friend in confidential conversation, and on a subject that necessarily supposed a perfect familiarity with murder. A similar absence of all theatrical flourish marked his acting when, on being taunted by the little Duke of York, the expression of his countenance formed a fine picture of stifled rage and affected composure. . . . Nothing could have been more happy, nothing more electric, in its effect that the soliloquy where he debated what course to take with the young princes. His apprehensive mind kindled at his casual mention of *the Tower;* it communicated itself in a blaze to his ardent and fiery spirit, and in the fatal lightning of his eye. . . the audience saw that the remorseless deed he contemplated was already done! . . . [Also] his interview with Buckingham, in which, entirely separating himself from the solemn pedantry of the stage, he placed his hands carelessly and gracefully behind him as the Duke described his reception by the citizens; and, above all, the scene with the Lord Mayor, in which the scarcely subdued triumph which glittered in his eyes as he refused the crown, and the accession to the pleas of his confederates with 'Call him in again,' all exhibited an originality new to the audience."

THE THEATRE IN GREECE.

Greece, says a contributor who recently travelled in that country, was the birthplace of the theatre, and its capital can boast of the first theatre ever erected, namely, that of Bacchus, built, it is said, by Philos considerably more than two thousand years ago. According to our best authorities, England did not possess a proper theatre until the year 1574, when James Burbage obtained the first Royal licence to act plays in London at the Globe, Bankside, but long before that miracles were represented in the open fields, where the devil appeared in person on the stage, shearing the bristles of the hogs; hence the old proverb, "Great cry and little wool." Geoffrey, prior of St. Swithin's, Winchester, is usually credited with the introduction of theatrical exhibitions, the first being performed eight years before the building of the Globe.

One of the Greek poets—Thespis by name—was the inventor of tragedy. Some 2,400 years ago he went from town to town on a cart, upon which was erected a temporary stage, where two actors, whose faces were daubed with the lees of wine, entertained the audience with choral songs, &c. His representations, as may be supposed, were very rustic and imperfect. Even in those very early days there were people who objected very strongly to the theatre, such as it was, and it is recorded that Solon, one of the wisest men of the day, was the chief objector. Anyway, the theatre went on, and to-day there are to be found in every hole and corner of Greece remains of what must have been magnificent structures. To describe them all would fill volumes.

I was very much surprised to find, when travelling in Greece recently, the old original theatre of Bacchus in such an excellent state of preservation. Many of the seats which accommodated the thousands of spectators who assembled to witness the masterpieces of Sophocles, Aristophanes, and other writers still remain, some being cut out of porous stone and others of Pentelic marble. One of the latter in the centre was reserved for the priest of Dionysos, as the still legible inscription indicates. The original stage was merely a rough wooden platform; the stone one, of which some very fine remains are now to be seen, was not built until about B.C. 340. The theatre was open to the sky, as were all the early theatres in Greece, and many of the modern playhouses are fitted to this end to-day. The modern Greek loves open-air theatricals, although so afraid of rain. To-day there are many theatres in Greece—good substantial structures with roofs in the chief towns and "fit-ups" in the country villages. I visited most of them when living in the country for some five years, and a friend tells me in a letter, dated from Athens a few weeks ago, that theatrical matters are still going ahead.

Although so full of ancient remains of open-air theatres, Greece, in its capital, has two of the most modern. The best is the Royal, which owes its existence to the King, and is built on the lines of the Royal at Copenhagen. It was built in 1901, and is very beautiful indeed; it will hold 1,000 people, and is often used as a ballroom. The company is a stock one, and paid all the year round, the King contributing 100,000dr. a year. European talent, too, is often seen there. The next theatre in importance is the Municipal, which has an enormous number of boxes. It is, however, a little too large and draughty to be really comfortable. In 1900 a Miss Duncan did a Maud Allen act there. French and Italian operas appear to be the most popular in summer, and in winter Greek dramas and comedies and translations of English, French, and German pieces.

Athens has ten summer or open-air theatres, and even at the lowest of these the songs and plays are most proper. The Greek hates indecency, and I know of cases where things have been thrown at singers of suggestive French songs. As a Greek novelist once wrote of his people, "we are not sufficiently civilised to be immoral." Competition cheapens the price of admittance, and some have seats as low as twenty lepta, or one penny in English money.

I am not an admirer of the orthodox Greek play, and it was not until I saw *Charley's Aunt* that I really enjoyed myself. I knew *Charley's Aunt* from A to Z, and was intensely interested in the Greek representation of it. Friday, Aug. 19, 1898, was the date, and I particularly mention it because I have seen it stated many times since my return that the play was to be translated into the Greek language.

First of all, a few words about the theatre itself. The proscenium, footlights, wings, &c., were like those of any respectable English playhouse, but there were no boxes, family circle, or gallery; it was all on a level, or nearly so—one vast pit. In front were, of course, the most expensive seats, and at the back were the "gods." The place was all open to the sky, and the lighting was by immense arc lights placed on poles in the centre gangway.

The scenery for *Charley's Aunt* was very funny indeed. In the main, it was intended to represent England, and Oxford in particular, but did not, for tropical plants, both painted and real, were in great profusion. Such plants and trees we never see here in England unless it be at some botanical garden, but in this Grecian theatre we saw them through the window of Jack Chesney's rooms in St. Olde's College, Oxford (Scene 1), and when we came to the College Garden scene it looked as if the stage was set for a Robinson Crusoe pantomime. In Spettigue's Drawing-room scene all things were correct.

The characters and costumes were passable. With the exception of Lord Fancourt Babberley and Stephen Spettigue, all might have been direct from the Globe. The latter was made up with long, auburn "mutton-chop" whiskers, so dearly loved by the Continetal cartoonist, while the former (Charley's Aunt) was an exact duplicate of the late Herbert Campbell and as unlike Mr. Penley as it is possible to find a man.

So far as my limited knowledge of modern Greek allowed me to judge the play, the translation kept fairly close to the original "book," with two exceptions. These were the conversations between Kitty Vernon, Amy Spettigue, Jack Chesney, and Charles Wykeham in the first scene and between Donna Lucia and Ela Delahay in Act II. All the best of the love-making passages were cut very short or left out entirely, for such things would probably not have been understood; love-making and marriages in Greece are quite different from what they are in England. "Where the nuts come from" and the "washing-day" lines in the first act fairly brought down the house. The play proved to be immensely popular during its stay in Athens, and the whole affair seemed to be run for the benefit of the Greek Aunt, who was certainly a very clever actor, and he made a fine, stout old Aunt.

I found, also, that *Charley's Aunt* was immensely popular among the Greeks in Asia Minor, it being constantly given in Smyrna, where the natives—Turks as well as Greeks—crowd to see it, and give it their unstinted approval. It was acted there, for example, eleven times from January, 1900, to June, 1905, the company coming from Athens. There is no doubt that the modern Greek lends itself very particularly to such a piece, some of the Grexisms being inimitable.

The Greeks, particularly those at Smyrna, also flock to see good tragedy. In 1905 *Hamlet* was played there in Greek, and afterwards in Athens. But at Smyrna, the Sultan—the time being before his "reformation"—fearing always to publish anything with an alarming title, refused the word "Hamlet" to appear, for some reason or other, on the bills, and so the play was called *The Mysterious Testament.*

The circus, too, is very popular in Greece and, like the theatre, performances take place in the open air. Most of them finish up with a sort of ballet, and the spectacle of about fifty ballet girls dancing in the ring, so near that the audience may touch them and say a few words to them, is one that appeals very strongly to the "gilded youth" of to-day in Athens. French clowns seem to be very popular, and in some performances their work is exceedingly crude, particularly in the country villages. A few of the performers are English, and I came across one in a very peculiar way. I was sitting in the front row of one of the Athenian circuses watching a "jockey act," when the performer fell from his horse opposite to where I sat. As he got up from the ground I heard him utter some good old English swear words. "Are you English?" said I. "Yes, thank Heaven," he replied. After the performance we adjourned to an adjacent café and drank to "good old England."

The lot of an actor here in England is a hard one, but it is very much harder in Greece. The tales of hardships my jockey friend and others told me are too terrible for words.

RELIGION AND THE DRAMA.

Mr. Forbes-Robertson, in an interview with John Garrett Leigh, which appeared in that very interesting publication *The Treasury* for November, said, "he was immersed in correspondence, much of it, he informed me, from kindly admirers who felt it incumbent upon them to give expression to the influence which the play had had upon them. I pointed out to him that in my visits to *The Passing of the Third-floor Back* I had felt something unusual in the audience around me. It was as if, at first, they were almost hostile.

"'Oh, yes,' he replied, 'we have felt it too. We felt it especially last night. But you must remember that the opening of the play represents the characters in unfavourable circumstances. One dislikes them profoundly. They are depraved and anything but attractive, and the initial attitude of the audience is quite comprehensible. They do not realise that they are present at the unfolding of a symbol. And that is the secret of the whole play. What is essential in it is its symbolical character. The Passer-by is no more than the symbol of the better self. He is the symbol of all Christlike attributes. No more than that is he "Christ in Bloomsbury."'

"'Many of us feel that the play is significant of a distinct movement towards the religious play,' I ventured; 'not the play which handles religious incidents or incidents surrounding religious issues, but rather reveals the depths of the religious temperament.'

"'No doubt something of the kind is in the air. There are distinct tokens of it. Friends of mine have been most impressed by a play which is being produced now in America under the title *The Stranger in the House.* It goes farther than the English mind would tolerate. Certainly the Censor would not sanction it. Even if it could be produced in England by some device on a Monday, the theatre would be empty on the Tuesday. The idea is that an Oriental takes a position as butler in a modern household on the condition that he retains his robes. You see him as the curtain rises. He is laying the table with his back to the audience. Soon he turns suddenly and the audience beholds—our Saviour! However reverently it be handled, the idea would shock an English audience. But, as I say, it indicates that some such idea is in the air.'

"'It certainly is of profound importance to the religious community.'

"'Ah, yes,' he continued, 'but serious thinkers have faced the idea long ago. They have been driven to it by their reflection on human character as it is to-day. So deep and serious a thinker as Mr. Jerome faced it, and in his own way. I ascribe the profound impression which the play has made on the public mind to the influence of such morality-plays as *Everyman.* They prepared the way, undoubtedly; but we must not forget that serious thinkers have arrived at such a conception quite apart from movements in the public mind. Mr. Bernard Shaw has said to me that there is unmistakable genius in the play. It is this genius which is independent of general tendencies, even though the tendencies are there. I do not see how those tendencies would act on the true dramatist.'

"'There is a lack of what we conventionally call "incident" in the play,' I suggested.

"'Yes, there is. That is what I felt even at the first reading. It seemed to me that nothing happened, save that there were a number of ordinary people who, under a certain influence, became other than ordinary. And yet I felt compelled to try it. The idea was so big and so beautiful. It was a big scheme. It was a beautiful motive. I felt that the big idea and the beautiful motive held me and that I must go on.'

"'And you are satisfied?'

"'Well, one has to think of financial successes, and it has been a big financial success. But there is another success and another kudos, and these are very precious to me; and it seems to me that in this other sense the play is more than a success. I must leave this theatre on Nov. 7, but I am taking another theatre for the play, and I hope to make an announcement shortly. You see, that indicates confidence in the success of the play.'

"'There was a big risk with so unconventional a theme?'

"'Yes, and with so delicate a treatment. So much is just indicated and no more. The love-story, for example—there is just enough, just the indication of what is meant. So fine and delicate is the indication that it might or might not have "caught on." It might, indeed, have occasioned resentment, and I was well aware of this. But I was also aware that in every line of the play there was beauty, and my great gratification is that the audience follow the delicate beauty so wonderfully well. The key-note to me is "All men and all women are beautiful"—you remember the line wherein the Passer-by speaks to the painted lady. It is a deeply symbolical and, I think, a profoundly beautiful thought, and that is the clear lesson of the play.'

"'There are those who still urge that the play comes near to the embodiment of the Christ'—I felt that I had to put it to Mr. Forbes-Robertson, even with reluctance after his clear disclaimer. 'They point out, for example, that when the Passer-by leaves finally a sort of mystic light seems to follow his footsteps.'

"'It isn't at all a mystic light. There is no such intention. It is merely a lamp-light, or it merely indicates a lamp-light to show his departure. It is not intended as a mystic light, and nothing is there which could, or should, give such an idea.'

"'They point out, too, that a sort of omniscient knowledge is claimed for the symbolic personage. For example, he says to the worldly woman, "I remember you when you were a girl," and some people argue that a sort of divine knowledge is intended.'

"'No; here again you have the merely symbolical. He is the symbol merely of the remembrance which she had of her girlhood.'"

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SIR FREDERICK BRIDGE'S JOKES.

"Sir Frederick Bridge," writes Matthew Cripps, in the *Woman at Home*, "is as ready to joke with the great as he is with the small. And one respects him for this. The story of his conversation with a certain cabman is worth repeating. He is an intelligent jehu and is often the driver of the cab which takes Sir Frederick from Dean's-yard to the Albert Hall. Moreover, he is a musician. 'Why do you take the "Hallelujah Chorus" so fast?' he asked one day. On another occasion, cabby wanted to know if he knew Perosi's 'Transfiguration,' and offered to lend him a copy. Since then Sir Frederick—so the story goes—calls him 'Perosi,' which some of the less romantic messengers outside the Hall have changed to 'Rosie'! It is worth noting, by the way, that 'Perosi,' or 'Rosie,' plays the organ instead of driving his cab on a Sunday. Once upon a time, on one of those occasions when Sir Frederick listens to music, he was at a Philharmonic concert, and directly in front of him sat a charming lady with a delightful but tremendous *chapeau.* It blocked Sir Frederick's view of the platform. After dodging about for some time from one side to the other, like the long-haired man of Pianola fame, he remarked to his companion: 'If I had known as much as I do now, I would have brought the library steps with me.'

"As a lecturer Sir Frederick has few equals. He will often drive a point home in the midst of the laughter. 'Singers,' he once remarked, 'who make the most effect are not always the singers with the most magnificent voices. They are the singers who use their brains.' Then perhaps a second afterwards he will tell you that 'every musical pirate ought to be hanged with a "common chord"!'

"Sir Frederick is great on the Elizabethan days of music. Once when he was talking about the Shakespearean song—'Where the bee sucks there suck I,' he pointed out that the modern version had it—'Where the bee sucks there lurk I.' Present-day people, he observed, seem to have an antipathy to the words 'Suck I.' But why? 'Lurk I' possibly suggests the man waiting around the corner to take the bees' honey, or something else. Sir Frederick clung to the old style. On another occasion he interpolated into his lecture the story of an old man who believed in the superstition of olden times, that to keep a violin mellow you must put put it 'neath the bedclothes. Well, somebody went to bed early one night, got into it rather plumply, and smashed the mellowing violin! So the old chap made another out of his own head. 'And,' said Sir Frederick, 'he found afterwards that he'd got enough wood left to make another.'

"At one of the lectures which Sir Frederick gave some time ago, he dilated upon his pet subject of sight-singing. He was talking about Peacham's 'Compleat Gentleman.' 'Peacham says: "I desire no more of you than to sing your part sure and at first-sight."' Sir Frederick proceeded to comment thereupon. 'That is all he asks. Then you will be a complete gentleman. Without that you will not be one. How many gentlemen are there here to-night? I do not believe there is one. I may except these choir-boys; they may be called young gentlemen. They do not do it as well as you think they do. Like Dr. Thomas Busby, one has to spend money on switches and diachylum plasters.' He is proud, and worthily proud, of his Westminster boys. Sometimes the audience goes into raptures over their beautiful singing, and they are vociferously encored. But Sir Frederick playfully intervenes: 'You shan't encore the boys. You can't encore the lecturer, so you shan't encore them.' But they do, and get it. 'Now I'll introduce you to another composer—a modern one. His name is Bridge. But please let me tell you it is not a name to play with!' And so a delightful evening ends.

"Sir Frederick tells one of his graphic little stories in connection with the Wesleyan Hymn-book. It is a 'hit' at the editorial committee. He says it was a very 'artful' committee. They put before him a tune which they claimed to be of Handelian derivation. Sir Frederick thought otherwise. In fact, he sent it back with the caustic comment that Handel would turn in his grave every time it was sung. But the committee would not be denied; for they submitted it once more, with the allurement that if he would only include it, a *pianissimo* should be marked against it, 'so as not to disturb Handel.'

"Sir Frederick's humorous bent is shown very considerably in his glees and part-songs. For instance, his 'Bold Turpin' is a capital thing, and is famous because it is dedicated to the late Dr. Turpin. Then, among his many other pieces may be mentioned 'The Flirt,' 'The Goose,' 'The Goslings,' and an 'Ode to the Terrestrial Globe'; all of which are perfectly delightful. He has also written some tuneful carols.

"Once there appeared the following notice—obviously the work of Sir Frederick—in the Abbey practice-room: 'The *Great* and *Swell* occupants of the *Organ Loft* invite the *Choir,* if they can descend *Solo(w),* to a friendly *Manual* and *Pedal Exercise,* entitled *Cricket.* Every player is requested to provide a *Full Score,* and it is hoped many *Runs* will be executed, though no *Great Shakes* are expected. All particulars will be settled at the rehearsal on Tuesday next, at a quarter to eleven. P.S.—A ball-proof cuirass will be provided, and a *doctor will attend.*'

"No one gets angry at Sir Frederick's wit, and I am sure M. Paderewski will have a laugh at his little bit of applicable Shakespeare.

"'Come, Philomel . . .

Make thy sad grove in my dishevelled hair.'

"The witticisms of the Monday evening practices of the Royal Choral Society are legion. During one rehearsal, somehow a musically-minded dog got into the Hall, and ran across the platform. Of course there was a pause in the work and a good deal of bantering. But above it all could be heard Sir Frederick saying, 'Evidently, from the look of things, we are going to have a selection of Bach.' Sir Frederick does not forget to drop on the lady or gentleman who sings when there should be a rest—a silence. 'Now, if anyone wants to go down to fame as having sung a solo in the Albert Hall, now's their chance.' Or, again: 'Take your copies home,' he might say if the Society was practising a new work, 'and worry your neighbours with it.'"

AN artist belonging to the Royal Academy was eternally complaining of illness, but could never tell what was the matter with him. At last he married; which being told to Foote, he exclaimed, "I heartily wish him joy; for now he'll readily find out what's the matter with him." The same artist meeting him some time afterwards, exclaimed, "Well, Foote, you have been premature about my finding out my disorder, as I have got the best wife in the world." "I am sorry for that, my dear friend; for you know the old proverb, bad is the best."

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THE TALKING PHOTOGRAPH.

Mr. Thomas Bedding, F.R.P.S., recently read a paper before the London and Provincial Photographic Association. Referring to moving pictures in America, Mr. Bedding stated: The moving picture in America is a form of entertainment which satisfies the temperamental demand of a nation for constant change, variety, and novelty in its amusements. Made commercial about fourteen years ago, the device of projecting by artificial light numerous small photographs in consecutive series so as to give an audience the illusion of lifelike motion is now firmly established in public favour. The moving picture theatre to-day is as marked a feature of American amusement life as the house on the boards of which the living actor struts his brief hour for the amusement of the people. In New York City alone there are between two and three hundred moving picture theatres. It is probably near the mark to say that the average daily attendance at these theatres reaches the number of half a million persons. In Denver recently 11,000 people patronised a moving picture theatre in one day. In Philadelphia theatres have been specially built for the moving pictures, which equal in completeness, costliness, and beauty the most elaborate of the old-fashioned form of theatre. And what is true of these cities is generally true of the whole of the large cities of the United States of America, where the capital invested in the moving picture industry runs into hundreds of millions of dollars. This photographic ministration to the pleasure of the eye is a natural development in a country where the cults of the spectacular in advertising devices, in illuminated signs, and in the science of directing attention to the saleable articles are carried to their uttermost limits.

In England, hitherto, the moving picture has been exploited as a supplement to the daily newspaper. A horse race, a ceremony, a procession, the arrival or departure of a King or other notability—some happening of the day, in short, has furnished the theme for an evening turn at the theatre of varieties. England is such a small place that the lovers of topical moving pictures are easily catered for. The very vastness of the United States, on the other hand, operates against this usage of moving pictures. In both countries we shall see a vast growth in popularity of moving pictures in narrative form—plays, operas, sketches, songs, dances, and so forth shown by simple optical projection on a stationary screen.

A development of the system is obvious to those who, like myself, have followed the evolution in moving pictures work since the productions of Lumière, Birt Acres, and others in 1895. The association of the photograph with the phonograph was a logical combination that was bound sooner or later to be made. A living performer on a stage does no more than appeal to the senses of sight and hearing. A moving picture on the screen interests the eye alone; but if it can be made to seemingly talk or sing as well as move, dance, or walk, we arrive at that fine point in scientific ingenuity where Art successfully displaces (and replaces) Nature. It does not precisely matter how, or by what means the optic and aural nerves are excited to produce in the brain the sensations of movement and sound; the resulting effect is the same, whether it be by human or mechanical agency. The emotions of pleasure and interest are aroused, and the mind is stimulated and absorbed. Caruso and Melba do no more; Irving and Jefferson did no more. The human machines—for such these gifted persons are or were—have merely been replaced by the mechanical productions of the studio and workshop, which millions, instead of merely hundreds, can see and hear at one time. Argue round this proposition as you will, and as much as we may, it is a fact that the equality of Art with Nature is in process of daily demonstration, and that a combination of the work of the camera and the phonograph gives us a result as sensuously if not as aesthetically pleasing as the real thing.

We must realise that the public taste in the matter of entertainments has undergone great changes in recent years. The times are too strenuous for the long drawn out dramas, tragedies, and the like of our parents. We take our pleasures in tabloid doses—many and often. Short plays, quick and numerous turns at the variety theatres: these are the comparison phenomena of the paragraphic newspapers; the automobile, the Kodak, the motor-boat, and many other conveniences of the Age of Speed. The civilised world, it is said, is rapidly becoming Americanised. A good thing, too, for Americans know how to get more out of life than most other people. If we must be entertained, let us be entertained quickly, brightly, and cheaply.

The talking photograph, then, makes its appearance at the psychological moment. The world has been waiting for it, and should be happy now that it has got it. Excuse me for saying that "it has come to stay." Of two hackneyed phrases that and the other—"a long felt want"—I have chosen, I think, the least undesirable. The Melba, Caruso, Irving, or Jefferson of the future instead of wearing herself or himself out in public will live comfortably on an early-made reputation by producing phonographic "records" in the boudoir or the study.

Ignorant persons of the superior variety sometimes jeer at the photographic qualities of moving pictures. They know nothing of the great difficulties of making them. They do not realise the fact that by the time it reaches the screen each little photograph in the series is magnified many hundreds of times. The consequence is that each microscopical defect or mark on the film is enormously enlarged, and the marvel is not that the photographs as seen by the public are not entirely faultless, but that they are so good, so even in quality, so realistic in effect. A more wonderful illusion than the talking photograph does not exist in the world to-day. You get a faithful reproduction of the original scene and the people in it; you watch their lifelike movements and gestures; you listen to their voices whether speaking or singing—in a word, the whole thing when well done is so astounding that people are known, at the first blush, to refuse to believe in the possibility of the phenomena being other than real.

It is clear that this form of entertainment is capable of great development. The arts of the painter, the dramatist, the musician, the costumier, are being pressed into its service; the intellectual cravings of all classes in the community will be catered for; and before long hardly a village in the civilised world will be without its talking picture theatre. It is all an obvious and legitimate growth and modern science and enterprise, and I specially predict the greatest popularity for this kind of entertainment in England, where, as I have said, those responsible for the amusement of the people are just waking up to the immeasurable possibilities of the talking photograph.

Mr. Bedding concluded by giving a short account of the manner in which talking photographs are made by the Cameraphone Company, of New York, of whose experimental department he had charge.

BARON NEWMAN, the celebrated gambler (well-known about town in Foote's time by the title of the left-handed Baron) being detected, in the rooms at Bath, in the act of secreting a card, the company, in the warmth of their resentment, threw him out of the window of a one pair of stairs room where they were playing. The Baron meeting Foote some time afterwards, loudly complained of this usage, and asked him what he should do to repair his injured honour. "Do!" said the wit, "why, 'tis a plain case; never play so *high* again as long as you live."

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

"THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT" AT THE MARLBOROUGH.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

The precise period of architecture of the house that Jack built is not known to historians, and it is not even certain that its designer held the imprimatur of the Royal British Institute of Architects; but as a vehicle of fun, designed by Mr. Hickory Wood and musically illustrated by Mr. Dudley Powell, it certainly is worthy of its place at a theatre that has established in the northern heights an enviable reputation for frolic and frivolity in its Christmas productions. The head and front of the whole scheme is Mr. Fred Karno, whose lieutenant, Mr. W. H. Morgan, has done much to add to the cohesiveness of the scenes and to the perfection of the ensemble. There is, too, one of the prettiest electric ballets we have seen for years. It comes at the end of the first part, and its brilliancy and beauty are due to the invention and taste of Mr. P. C. Armstrong from "Amurrica." Ballerine are glowing with coloured bulbs, and hundreds of lights hang in florally-designed "ropes" from the grid, the whole stage being a blaze of harmonious incandescence. The audience on the night of our visit were evidently highly delighted with this charming exhibition, and signified their pleasure in the most enthusiastic manner.

One of the chiefs who contribute greatly to the success is Miss Maidie Scott, who plays Jill. Miss Scott makes an attractive figure of the daughter of Mother Hubbard; but it is when she sings "Maidie and her Teddy bear" that one discovers what a favourite she is with the Hollowayssiders, who encore the popular song with "vociferous vociferation." It loses nothing in the stage-management, the introduced chorus wearing "bear" dresses and the general ensemble being most effective. Another popular number which derives much of its interest from Miss Scott's rendering is "Everyone goes to work but father," which is another triumph. Mr. Fred Zola's diminutive stature and quaint expression are factors in his comic rendering of Father Hubbard, and his song and quaint dance enable him to score a hit. He shares the drollery of many a good scene with Mr. Fred Emney, who comes from Drury Lane, in the part of Mother Hubbard, a dear old lady who sets much value upon herself, and displays no little anxiety concerning her Old-Age Pension. Miss Madoline Rees has a capital song as Prince Opulent; and Miss Kittie Douglas (Princess Prue) is quite in keeping with the prevailing fashion when she most successfully sings "A tiny seed of love," which is in every pantomime. Miss Maudie Francis, who, though very young, has already a big pantomime reputation, plays Tommy with much "boyishness," and after giving a good account of "Mr. Gollywog, good-night," dances in a way that wins all hearts. Miss Winifred Ward asserts the claims of heredity in a neat and attractive impersonation of Jack, which is both buoyant and boyish. Mr. Sam Poluski, jun., also has family traditions, and his Cat is a great favourite with the youngsters, especially when he stalks round the grand circle. Mr. Dick Tubb is quietly comic as the Squire of Whare, especially with his patent reversible wooden steed. Messrs. Farr and Farland contribute their quota to the fun as Ripp and Rapp; Miss Nellie Howard and Miss Gladys Soman look well and sing capably as the enchantress Siren and the fairy White Heather; and Little Rosie Lee, Miss May Davis, and Miss Jessie Buckle complete the cast. Miss Lottie Stone's troupe of agile and attractive dancers score in their well-staged scena, "Sue, Sue, Sue," which is admirably done. Mr. J. Murray Heriot, the business-manager of the theatre, welcomes one heartily at Holloway, where "houses" are about as good as they can be. Mr. Harry J. Brett is the business-manager for Mr. Fred Karno.

"DICK WHITTINGTON" AT BRIXTON.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

This popular place of amusement has throughout the holiday season been on each occasion crowded with delighted bodies of young and old playgoers, pleased with their local pantomime. On the evening of our visit Dick's adventures in Old East-cheap, at sea, and Morocco were watched and cheered by an enthusiastic house. Mr. Newman Maurice's book, brimful of mirth and local quips, causes roars of laughter, while added to this is the clever comedian's capital impersonation of the cook Sarah. Mr. Maurice has seldom done anything funnier. Admirable support in the laughter-line is rendered by Mr. Allan Dale as Alderman Fitzwarren and Mr. Will Smith as Idle Jack. The charms of Miss Maud Esmond in the title-rôle have resulted in making her a popular local favourite. Her songs, "Good-bye, dear old London town," and "Have you another girl at home like Mary?" are distinctly popular. To Miss Flora Morris must also be awarded praise for a sweet and captivating Alice. This dainty little lady sang very nicely the songs allotted her.

Among the specialities must be mentioned the caricature of Salome by Mr. Newman Maurice. This grotesque business provokes loud laughter. The knockabout business of Messrs. Pearson and Davis is also to the taste of the audience. The Frisky Girls' poses and dancing deserve mention among the good things of Brixton's *Dick*. We have spoken before of the pretty scenery provided, but mention should be made of the finale to the Highgate Hill scene, which is very pretty, and reflects credit on the enterprising management. The tuneful music throughout is appropriate. Messrs. F. Melville and Newman Maurice are to be congratulated on their endeavours, and to Mr. Will T. Taylor praise must be given for his admirable way in dealing with crowds who nightly besiege the theatre for admission. The pantomime is played at four matinées weekly, and throughout the run additional songs, jokes, &c., are provided.

"RED RIDING HOOD" AT HAMMERSMITH.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

The lineage of the heroine of the hood is unknown to Burke; but that she is a peeress in her own right in the nursery is an accepted fact. Her history and her justification as a celebrity of imperishable memory are being set forth with an accompaniment of seasonable prettiness and comicality that proclaim Mr. G. Brydon Phillips to be a gentleman possessing a large conception of the possibilities of pantomime and the ability and experience to carry them out. *Red Riding Hood* endures for a short time the winter of her discontent in a beautiful snow scene; and practical fun is to be noted from the first scene until Granny teaches the young idea how to shoot in the village schoolroom. The romance of the story is kept well in view by Miss Kittee Rayburn as Prince Amoroso, who has to perform prodigies of valour in her continual rescue of the heroine. Miss Rayburn is neat, animated, and dapper, and her well-graced figure looks exceedingly well in her principal boy's costume of white with cloak and hat to match. The chivalry of such a part naturally attracts the childish fancy, and, though always bright in her work, this charming comedy actress does nothing to spoil the illusion. She tackles the chief situations with rare spirit, and two of her songs are decided hits. The snow scene forms an appropriate background for her number "Come to me in Canada," in which the entire audience make the auditorium ring with the chorus. Her second selection, "It seems to make the sun shine brighter," is a harmonious homily on friendship. Miss Rayburn has become an immense favourite, and the unemployed of Hammersmith are to have the profits from the sale of these two songs, which are being sung everywhere. Miss Ena Corelli acts prettily and daintily as the heroine, and her incidental combat with the wolf is hailed with delight. She also is able to give expression to the distress of Riding Hood, and in a juvenile performance this is a great deal. Messrs. Harry and James Ewins, experienced pantomimists, do all that is necessary for the part of the wolf and the white poodle, and are also the principals in the harlequinade that is given at afternoon performances. Messrs. Bishop and Vale submit their speciality, and play the parts of Simple Simon and Johnny Stout. Miss Edith Jefferies as Fairy Gossamer is highly successful in her singing of "A tiny seed of love," which we hear everywhere. It is specially illustrated with coloured pictures, and the words of the chorus are also thrown upon the screen. Miss Jefferies sings with culture, and gives her dialogue clearly. Miss Euphan MacLaren, who appears as Cupid, is a graceful dancer, and heads the pretty ballet of snowflakes. Mr. Henry de Solla shows the advantage of legitimate experience in his rendering of Slyfox. Not a word is slurred, and the actor is very careful to give every emphasis to the evil designs by a mock tragic air that is most effective. He also assists the humour, and shares with Miss Rayburn the success of the topical duet "By-and-by." Mr. Tom Carrick has his best chance as the Dame in the School scene, where the fun is uproarious; and Mr. Will Vokes as the Squire scores by his excellent dancing of the same pattern as that which in the palmy days of the Vokes Family delighted audiences at Old Drury. Miss Maisie Mildare, in addition to p'aying Jill, plays Columbine, and is altogether a graceful performer. Miss Kitty Wells as Jack is also well placed; and the part of Marjorie Daw receives its due significance from Miss Alice Vokes, who joins Mr. Will Vokes in a speciality turn. The pantomime is written by Mr. Victor Stevens.

"CINDERELLA" AT KINGSTON.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

A second visit to the well-appointed Royal County Theatre at Kingston-on-Thames this week more than confirms the favourable opinion formed of the pantomime *Cinderella* when it was produced there on Boxing Day, and which was then received with open arms by all who witnessed it. Mr. Peter Davey, the hard-working managing-director, who has devised and arranged the show, deserves, and has received, congratulation upon having placed before his patrons a beautiful production, full of life, colour, and harmless fun, and that he has succeeded in pleasing the public is amply evidenced by the crowded houses at both matinée and evening performances. Since the opening night the pruning-knife has been at work, improvements have been made in various directions, and new songs and dances have been introduced. Miss Hilda Vining as the Prince and Miss Bessie Butt as Dandini, his valet, are still the two chief favourites, and their efforts, vocally and otherwise, are frequently rewarded with hearty plaudits. Miss Vining's singing of the song "Cinderella," rendered by a voice of remarkable flexibility and compass, is one of the gems of the production. Miss Butt's success as the lively and vivacious Dandini is beyond all cavil, and the audiences are prodigal in showing their appreciation of her efforts. Her songs, "I want you to see my girl," "Sis, sis, give us a kiss," and "Sunlight Sue," are given with inimitable expression, and the dances which follow are noticeable for the grace and agility that characterise them. The boys in the gallery have made Dandini their special favourite, and never lose a chance of joining in the refrains. Miss Dorothy Grassdorf has also made a host of friends by her winsome picture of Cinderella. The pantomime is well favoured by the comedians taking part in it, and when any of them are on the stage there is continuous laughter in every part of the house. Mr. Lauri Wylie, who plays the Baron, is responsible for most of the fun of the production. He nearly always now appears in a disguise, and takes the trouble to explain it when he comes on. His drolleries when he applies at an improvised post-office for an Old-Age Pension, first for himself at ninety-eight, and then for his father and grandfather, are irresistibly funny. Mr. Wylie's clever marionette performance, in which he impersonates George Robey, Eugene Stratton, and Harry Lauder, are also hugely appreciated, especially by the little ones, large number of whom have visited the theatre since the opening night. Some clever comedy work is also put in by Mr. Arthur Carlton, whose saying in the part of one of the ugly sisters "He's a nice fellow!" has found its way into the streets; as well as by Mr. Bobbie Hull, who as the other ugly sister plays extraordinary antics with a piece of dough and a paste-board in the Baron's kitchen. Mr. George Hirste as a Scotch taxi-cab driver adds considerably to the merriment, and is well rewarded for his singing of "My bonnie Jean." The whole production goes with a merry swing, and good business is likely to be continued until it is withdrawn.

On Monday a second batch of the poor children of the town were, through the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Davey, permitted to view the pantomime, and a number of the children from the scattered homes of the Kingston Union were also invited on the same day by one of the members of the Kingston Board of Guardians.

ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Jan. 11, the Comedy entitled

"MRS. DOT."

By arrangement with Miss May Palfrey, Mr. W. Somerset Maugham's amusing and entertaining comedy *Mrs. Dot* is being produced for the current week by Miss Emma Hutchison's clever company, and the mirth-provoking qualities of the play are being heartily enjoyed and keenly appreciated by Artillery audiences, who are ever ready to respond to well-conceived humorous situations, more especially when the points are judiciously marked by such talented artists as they are in the case under notice. Miss Emma Hutchison offers a good rendering of the part of Lady Sellenger, the fashionable woman and mother, who is considerably concerned in the matter of her daughter's matrimonial welfare, and her portrayal is all that could be desired. In the title-rôle Miss Nancy Beresford succeeds to the utmost, the vivacious manner with which she undertakes the characterisation of the scheming and lively widow being irresistibly fascinating. She meets with a very cordial reception, which she entirely deserves. James Blenkinsop, the cynic, who does not object, where women are concerned, to calling a spade a spade, is a clever study in the hands of Mr. Frank Lacy, whose easy and natural manner secure for him a large amount of popularity. Miss Ethel Grahame makes a charming Nellie Sellenger, and is happily suited to the part; Miss Sybil Brooke as Miss Eliza Macgregor is also a valuable member of the cast. Mr. Hugh Kennedy stands out prominently in the character of Gerald Halstane; Mr. Charles A. Staite is amusing as Freddie Perkins; and Mr. William Midgley makes a capable Charles. Minor parts are undertaken by Mr. H. Simpson, Mr. K. Brandon, Mr. Frank Leach, and Mr. F. Abbott.

THE AWARDS. The three interim Awards and the final Award, corrected and revised by George Ranken Askwith, Esq., the official arbitrator appointed in the Music Hall Dispute, may be had in pamphlet form at "THE ERA" Offices. Copy, including postage, three-half-pence. Address: The Publisher, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

Minutes of the council meeting held on Jan. 12. Present:—Messrs. F. J. Arlton (in the chair), Henry W. Mote (honorary solicitor), Richard A. Greene, Frederick Morland, Robson Paige, Clarence Derwent, Clive Currie, Cecil Raleigh, C. F. Callings, Chris. Walker, and Cecil Brooking; Miss Rose Mathews, Miss Marion C. Lind, Miss Agnes Imlay, and Mr. Hubert Blount (secretary).

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Mr. Morland pointed out that the paper to be read on Sunday dealt with some "objections" as to the £2 minimum, and not "suggestions," as stated on the notice-board.

The secretary read a letter from a member suggesting that a fund should be started to pay off debenture debt, and received instructions to reply to him to the effect that the council entirely agreed with the idea, but thought that at the present moment it would be inopportune to ask for money, and suggested that either Easter or October would be better.

A letter was read from the acting-manager of a provincial theatre, in which he stated he was very pleased to accommodate the A.A. doctor with seats, whenever business permitted.

Mr. Raleigh reported to the council that he had succeeded in obtaining from Messrs. Spiers and Pond, the Victoria Hall, at the Criterion Restaurant, for the purpose of holding the annual general meeting on Feb. 9 next. The council instructed the secretary to write a letter of thanks to Messrs. Spiers and Pond, and also passed a vote of thanks to Mr. Raleigh. It was decided that nominations for the council must be sent in by Tuesday next. The secretary also received instructions to put up a notice in the room to the effect that it is hoped that all members will pay their subscriptions before the general meeting, but that a portion of the hall will be reserved for those members who have not paid their subscriptions, and that these latter will not be permitted to vote. Mr. Cecil Raleigh was elected as chairman of the general meeting.

The finance committee's report was read and adopted.

Six engagements were reported since the last meeting of the council.

ACTORS' UNION.

The usual committee meeting of the Actors' Union was held at 49, Bedford-street on the 8th inst., and the following were present: Messrs. E. Howard Templeton, Cecil G. Calvert, Frank Gerald, Henry Bedford, Paul Lovett, Edwin J. Collins, James English, Robert M. Taylor, F. Rawson Buckley, H. Tripp Edgar, and Kenneth Blackmore. Communications were received from Messrs. Fred F. Loyd, Frank Strickland, Jerrold Heather, Geo. P. Lester, Walter L. Rignold, Roy Hilton, Edward Chester, Clifford Rean, Geo. H. Child, and John Hastings Batson. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Fifteen new members were elected. It was decided that only members who have returned their membership cards for 1908 fully paid up be given new membership cards for 1909.

A landlady having complained that a member left her without paying her bill two years ago, it was decided that no complaints with reference to the conduct of members prior to their joining the Actors' Union could be entertained by the committee.

Mr. Walter Rignold occupied the chair at the usual weekly meeting of the Actors' Union held at Hummums' Hotel on Tuesday afternoon. He stated in the course of his remarks that a benevolent fund in connection with the Union had been in existence for some time. Twenty-three new members had been enrolled during the last ten days. The members' books for the year 1908 were returnable, fully paid up, on Feb. 1. He reminded the meeting of the resolution passed on Dec. 1: "That the present form of subscription of sixpence per week for forty weeks be altered to 1s. 8d. per month, or 15s. per year, payable in advance. To be in benefit the monthly subscription must be paid by the 7th of each month, and the annual subscription by Jan. 21 in each year." Mr. Cecil Calvert, Mr. H. Tripp Edgar, and Mr. Frank Gerald also spoke.

GREENWICH THEATRE.

On Monday, Jan. 11, the Drama, in Four Acts, entitled

"DAY TO DAY."

Mr. Morton Powell's company is appearing here this week in the realistic drama entitled *Day to Day*. The play is interesting and well acted by all concerned, notably by Miss Maud M. Powell, a charming heroine; Miss J. D. Hicks, a clever Agnes Calthorpe; and by Miss Florrie Hayes, a bright and entertaining Nancy Whey. Little Nell is prettily represented by Miss H. M. Hughes. Mr. Alf. Stretton gives an excellent performance of Paul Inglewood, afterwards Paul Pentacost; Mr. Henry Parr is very good as Drinworth Dyke; Mr. Arthur Beaufort plays with excellent effect as Billy Blake; Mr. C. Eldred Wood is a clever Fizzle; Mr. James Jarrett a capital Charles Neill; Andrew Calthorpe is well acted by Mr. Victor C. Rolfe; Mr. Henry Carr is well suited to the character of Sergeant Kilbridge; and Mr. John Field and Mr. Eglington are very good in their respective parts. On Thursday *Honour Thy Father* replaced *Day to Day*.

A Waltz on the Wall.

"ONE night," says the *Evening News* anonymous "Old Man," "I went with Henri Laurent, the composer of numerous waltzes, to a little hot-potato shop in an alley by the side of Drury Lane much frequented by the Bohemian fraternity. The walls of this little place were white-washed, and it occurred to me that they would be the better for a little decoration. 'Laurent,' I said quietly, while we were enjoying our hot potatoes, 'write an original waltz on the wall.' At first he refused, but after a little persuasion he there and then composed a new waltz and wrote it on the wall. When the hot-potato seller discovered what had been done he was furious, for he had a strong objection to his customers scribbling on the walls; but when he was told who the culprit was he became highly pleased. Instead of rubbing it out, he took great care that it should not be obliterated, and proudly pointed it out to all new customers. The 'Donna Julian Waltz' became very popular, and hundreds of people went to the hot-potato shop to see the original score written on the wall."

PRESENTATION.—Herr Adam Seebold, the musical director of the orchestra at the Empire Theatre, Southend-on-Sea, was on Saturday, the occasion of his birthday, presented with a gold-mounted ebony bâton by the members of the orchestra, as a mark of their respect and esteem.

MANY of our readers must have perused with interest the excellent and instructive articles by Cuthbert E. Smedley, A.C.A., on "Theatrical Accounts for Business-Managers," which have appeared from time to time in this paper. They are now collected into book form, and may be purchased at this office. No manager or business-manager should be without a copy of this most useful and valuable work. The author, who has endeavoured to set out some of the most salient features of theatrical business management, and to show how the affairs of a theatre can be most efficiently controlled by the adoption of systems of internal check, is indebted to Mr. A. Binnie, F.C.A., and also to Mr. F. H. Podgrift, of *The Era*, for many valuable suggestions.

DOGS AS ACTORS.

Miss Margaret Chute, who bears a name honoured in drama, sent to a recent number of the *Illustrated Kennel News* an interesting article on "Dogs as Actors."

"In 1813 at the old Surrey Theatre," says Miss Chute, "a play was produced, entitled *Llewellyn, Prince of Wales, and the Dog Gelert*. The dog on this occasion was the 'star,' for the whole play centred round him—had there been no dog there could have been no play. We are not told the breed of this sagacious animal, but of his success there is not a shadow of doubt.

"About the same date a man called Genest compiled an exhaustive history of the stage, in which he says something about dogs as actors. 'Quadruped performers are a disgrace to the stage, but the dog in this piece—*The Dog of Montargis*—must be exempted from the general censure; the original animal was very clever.' Thus Mr. Genest. But modern playgoers may be forgiven for differing from him in condemning quadruped performers as a 'disgrace to the stage.'

"Years have rolled on since those words were written. In comparison with the few dog actors of Genest's knowledge we know of many, and our experience has not led us to use the word 'disgrace' in describing their performances. From the appearance of Gelert in 1813 to that of Pingo—a diminutive Yorkshire terrier—in 1908 there has not been one dog on the stage who has not proved an ornament and an attraction. Indeed, in several cases a four-legged performer has made the greatest success in a play, drawing hundreds of people night after night by the magnetism of his inarticulate art.

"In 1814 *The Dog of Montargis*—the play to which Genest refers—was produced at Covent Garden Theatre. It was written round a true incident in which a man was murdered in the Forest of Bondy, and the murderer tracked by means of his dog. One day this dog suddenly sprang at the throat of a man and almost killed him, whereupon the wretch, terror-struck, confessed he was the murderer. This dramatic incident formed the basis of the play, and everything depended upon the cleverness of the dog. He was called Dragon, and his acting was so marvellous that the play achieved a remarkable success, running for thirty-nine performances—truly a stupendous run!

"Lion, a wonderful St. Bernard, played in *Hans the Boatman* at Terry's Theatre. He afterwards went twice round the world, playing in the principal cities of India, Australia, Japan, and South Africa, on one occasion travelling from Sydney to Chicago, via London, without a break—17,150 miles—for which performances he holds a record among doggy actors.

"He was everyone's favourite; In New York he became a public hero through saving a child from drowning, and altogether was the dearest dog imaginable. But he had other claims to consideration, for his father was Bayard, the champion St. Bernard, he himself being registered at the Kennel Club as Nord, though always known as Lion.

"In *Hans the Boatman* this great dog was the attraction of the play; his master became blind and parted from his wife, and the dog was the means of reuniting them in a touching scene which never failed to move the audience to tears. Lion used to stroll quietly to the wings every night and stand waiting for his cue. When the time came he always went on without a word from anyone and played his part like a true artist. His utter dejection when his master recovered his sight in the play, and he, like Othello, found his occupation gone, was most pitiful. The company declared that he knew and understood every word of the play, which certainly appeared true.

"He played for many years, gradually becoming very feeble, until at last his hindquarters became paralysed and he could no longer walk properly. So in Johannesburg the old Lion was left at home every night, and a new Lion took his place. The poor creature bore it for a few nights, but his distress was so great that finally he was helped down to the theatre and was allowed to lie, as usual, in his master's room. Then habit and will-power proved stronger than nature. When his cue came the huge creature, though unable to stand properly, dragged himself by inches on to the stage, and went through his old business before his understudy had a chance. The heroic effort was too much for him; as the curtain fell he dropped back exhausted, and died a few minutes later. Died, as every true artist wishes to die, in harness.

"Thus ended a long, hardworking life of fourteen years, and now Lion lies at rest in a quiet corner of the veldt, under the Southern Cross.

"In more recent years a clever little Yorkshire terrier appeared in *My Wife* as the Haymarket Theatre. This tiny creature was an unfailing source of delight to playgoers and players, his cunning wickedness being an everlasting joy. In the first act a duologue (?) took place between one of the actors and the dog, who lay placidly on a table and appeared to understand everything that was said.

"One night during this scene the actor turned aside, and was astonished to hear shrieks of laughter from the audience. He calmly continued speaking, but the laughter only increased. Then, suddenly turning round, he discovered he was addressing the empty air. The dog had gone! The little monkey had seized his opportunity, dashed off, and cunningly hidden behind some scenery, from which he obstinately refused to come out, knowing perfectly well he had been naughty. Needless to say, this incident, although extremely funny, did *not* receive an encore.

"One of the cleverest dogs that ever fascinated an audience was Binkie, the fox-terrier in *The Light that Failed*. His master was Mr. Aubrey Smith, who was so admirable as Torpenhow in the play; and Mr. Smith, who has had dogs of his own for twenty-five years, says that Binkie was the most human, intelligent, plucky, affectionate dog he had ever known. He quickly learnt to shut doors and fetch slippers, taught himself to extinguish a lighted match, and was quite a professional at hide-and-seek, never failing to find the ball, even if it was concealed behind a picture or at the bottom of the coalscuttle.

"His first appearance was not an overwhelming success owing to an accident, for which he was not to blame. After rehearsing splendidly he made his entrance on the first night quite correctly, when Mr. Smith turned to speak to somebody, and accidentally hit Binkie on the nose with his stick. The dog naturally concluded he was wrong, and made an abrupt exit. On another occasion he knew his mistress was behind the scenes, and made a hurried and unrehearsed departure—through the fireplace!

"Bobby's Beat is a clever sheepdog, who recently appeared at the Adelphi with Mr. Martin Harvey in *The Last Heir*, making a great success. He is by Beat the Band ex Babs the Babby, and in addition to his theatrical work has done a lot of winning, and hopes to do some more. Bobby dearly loved his part, and when 'overture and beginners' were called each night, an exciting struggle took place to prevent him rushing on before his cue. The fascination of the footlights is evidently as strong in dogs as in human beings, for when *The Last Heir* was withdrawn and Bobby had to be left behind at night, he nearly howled the roof off in his bitter distress.

"These are but a few of the many talented dogs who have won histrionic laurels. They may truly be said to belong to that happy band who are 'born great,' for though in one sense they have had greatness 'thrust upon them,' it is only by their innate genius that they have been able to grasp opportunity and win their dramatic spurs."

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"DER LETZTE STREICH DER KONIGIN VON NAVARRA."

Tragedy, in Four Acts, by Johannes Raff, produced at the Lessing Theatre, Jan. 8.

Margarete	FRAULEIN BERTENS
De la Haye	HERR OTTO
Graf Heinrich	HERR GERHARDT
Simone	FRAULEIN WASA
Graf Johann	HERR BURGARDT
Julienne	FRAULEIN SILTEN
Fräulein De Courdeilles	FRAULEIN BIENS
Fräulein D'Espernon	FRAULEIN VALLENTINE
Brassac	HERR VALENTINE
Fleury	HERR FRANK
Duverneuil	HERR BUSE
Raoul	FRAULEIN WICHMANN
Grimand	HERR CORNY

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, Jan. 14.—This was the initial performance of a new undertaking, which has been called into existence under the name of the Academic Stage, something akin to the Free Stage Association, also with the laudable intention of discovering new talent. It was not a very happy opening, all things considered. The author is undoubtedly talented, but he has attempted too much in the way of expressing every known phase of human passions; his "temperament" runs away with him, and the result is high-flown sentimentality. Where the audience were expected to weep, they frequently laughed, which, naturally, marred the effect.

Margarete, the Queen of Navarra, is a very bad old woman indeed. She is only happy when arousing the worst passions of those about her and making everyone miserable. Her Court is famous for its immorality, she herself being the most immoral of all. The "last trick" of her despicable Majesty is to entice a happy wedded pair—Count Heinrich and his beautiful Simone—to her notorious Court, and deliberately set to work to make them unfaithful to each other. Exposing them to the most seductive of temptations, she succeeds partially in her aim, but with consequences she has not reckoned upon. Heinrich kills his rival, De la Haye, and then himself; Simone dies of a broken heart, and the wicked old Queen very properly loses her reason. There is also another victim in the wholesale massacre, and that is the unfortunate lady whose charms made Heinrich—for a brief space—forget his allegiance to his Simone. She, too, expires abruptly, presumably of a broken heart, after having played with fire. The interpretation was, with one exception, inadequate. Fräulein Bertens was magnificent in the part of the reprehensible Queen, making her terribly convincing. The author was called and cordially applauded.

RICHARD STRAUSS' new opera *Elektra* will be produced at our Royal Opera on the 8th of next month, and rehearsals, under the supervision of the composer, who will conduct his work on the opening night, are in full swing. The name-part will be sung by Fräulein Plaischinger, that of Klytemnestra by Frau Goetze, the American singer Frances Rose gives the rôle of Chrysothemis, and the parts of Ægisth and Orest will be sustained by Herren Grüning and Hoffmann respectively. The orchestra is being increased by some twenty musicians, and the scenic arrangements present stupendous difficulties.

A NOVELTY which is being anticipated with general interest is Mr. Maugham's comedy *Mrs. Dot*, which is to be produced in German at the Royal Schauspielhaus. The author is here superintending rehearsals. It is confidently expected that their Imperial Majesties will be present.

A NEW theatre is about to be added to our already large number. The enterprising manager's name is not to be made public for the present, but I am told, on good authority that it is a well-known author. The site is chosen and the company engaged. Encouraged, no doubt, by the success of other operetta theatres, the new house will be exclusively devoted to that particular branch.

HERR HAUPTMANN has just completed his new drama *Griselda*, which has been acquired by Herr Brahm, and will be produced at the Lessing very shortly. At a performance of *Die Raub der Sabinerinnen* at this theatre a few nights ago the Crown Prince and Princess were present. Their Imperial Highnesses enjoyed the amusing farce immensely, and Herr Brahm was summoned to their box to receive expressions of their appreciation.

KATZ AND DOGS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Actors and actresses who keep dogs should note that every dog owner who has a dog not under the age of six months has to take out a dog licence on Jan. 1 under a penalty of £5. As a dog owner I have for a great number of years taken out my licence on Jan. 1, or on the 2nd should the 1st happen to fall on a Sunday, and to my great surprise I received on the 8th inst. a notice from the County Council that my licence expired on the 31st ult., with the intimation that it must be renewed on the 1st inst. Having taken out and paid for the latter on the 1st at the Westbourne-grove Post Office, the authorities who are responsible for sending out these notices must be perfectly aware of the names of those owners who have paid their licences on that date and the three subsequent days from the counterfoils of the post offices who report and transfer the money for such payments daily. From the returns of the Inland Revenue Department last year no fewer than 1,759,074 dog licences were taken out, and as 90 per cent. of dog owners pay for their licences between Jan. 1 and 3, I consider it a wanton waste of several thousand pounds in postage, envelopes, and stationery to send out to nearly 1½ million dog owners such notices when they have already paid for them. With a view to stop such waste by the London and other County Councils I should like to hear from those of your readers who, like myself, have received such notice several days after they have paid for their licences.—Yours faithfully,

ALEX. D. KATZ.

35, Sackville-street, London, W., Jan. 13, 1909.

MR. EDITOR. Sir,—May I correct a small error in the otherwise admirable notice of my production of *Love and the Thief*, in your issue of Jan. 9? The play was not written by myself, but by Miss Edith Carter.—Yours faithfully, Horace Sinclair, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford, Jan. 10, 1909.

THE staff of the London and County Printing Works (printers of *The Era*) make a preliminary announcement that their annual Bohemian concert will be held on Monday, the 22nd prox. In consequence of the overflowing attendance last year, it has been deemed wise for the forthcoming gathering to secure the King's Hall at the Holborn Restaurant, and every effort is being made to excel even the great social, artistic, and financial success secured in 1908. The popular works manager (Mr. E. Mynott) will again be in the chair, and Mr. and Mrs. Upcott Gill and Mr. and Mrs. Crandon Gill have promised to be present.

THE proceeds of the concert will be used to augment the fund started to found a pension in connection with the Printers' Pension, Almshouse, and Asylum Corporation—a trade charity which is deserving of every support. The secretarial duties are once more in the able hands of Mr. J. A. Lawrence (London and County Printing Works, Drury-lane, W.C.), who will be pleased to supply tickets and to reserve tables for parties of eight or more, and to acknowledge offers of financial and other assistance.

"DIANA OF DOBSON'S" REVIVED.

Greeting of the heartiest character was given to Miss Lena Ashwell on Monday, and the warmth of her welcome on her first appearance caused a smile momentarily to dissipate the discontent of Diana. In the elegant brochure which serves the purposes of a programme at the Kingsway, Miss Ashwell tells her patrons that she feels no apology is necessary in reviving *Diana of Dobson's* rather than a new play, as Miss Cicely Hamilton's romantic comedy was withdrawn last year in the heydey of its success owing to the fact that she was compelled to take a rest prior to her provincial tour. The attitude of the audience on Monday evening confirmed the wisdom of Miss Ashwell's decision, and numberless curtains testified to the agreeable effect of the piece, in which romance, realism, and risibility are so cleverly combined.

With one exception the cast is identical with that of the original production last February. The comedy gifts of Miss Ashwell are again pleasingly prominent in the rôle of the self-possessed young drapers' assistant, who "lives in" at Dobson's at a salary of 5s. a week, and utilises a legacy of £300 by going in for a month's enjoyment on the Continent, where she passes as a widow. Diana's mordant satire is sharpened to its finest point, the actress's voice telling irresistibly in every line. A particular moment of triumph is reached in the scene in which Diana reveals to her admirer the duplicity she has practised, and her denunciation of the uselessness of the upper classes is thrilling in the extreme.

Mr. C. M. Hallard repeats his fine performance of the young guardsman who is moved by Diana's scornful utterances to attempt to earn his living by means of casual labour. It is a part that calls for delicacy of treatment if its sentiment is to be thoroughly grasped, and the skill with which Mr. Hallard gives character to the rôle greatly enhances his reputation as a finished artist.

One of the distinct hits of the performance is the Sir Jabez Grinley of Mr. Dennis Eadie. His sketch of the Cockney parvenu is artistically coloured by many touches of humour, and few more exact copies of the original can have been met with on the stage. Mr. Eadie's success as a laughter-maker is complete. Miss Frances Ivor has favourable opportunities for her diverting powers as Mrs. Cantelupe, and the response of the audience is unanimous. Miss Ivor's clever methods are employed to excellent purpose, and much enjoyment is derived from her work.

A fascinating Mrs. Whyte Fraser is again found in Miss Gertrude Scott, whose representation of a society lady is superb in voice and style, while the vocal contrasts she supplies are admirable. Mr. Norman McKinnel acts the policeman with a rigid adherence to the peculiarities of the force, and the manners of Constable Fellows are reproduced in every detail.

Miss Mary Barton is the newcomer to the cast, replacing Miss Christine Silver as Kitty Brant, of whom she gives a sweet and winsome representation. Miss Nannie Bennett deals sympathetically with the rôle of Miss Smithers; Miss Muriel Vox's Miss Jay retains all its comic features; Miss Doris Lytton is still delightfully ingenuous as Miss Morton; and the grimness of Mrs. Pringle is amusingly assumed by Miss Ada Palmer. A neat study from life is that of the depraved Old Woman, presented with a deep sense of humour by Miss Beryl Mercer; and Mr. W. Lemmon Warde's waiter completes the faultless cast.

The principal piece is preceded by *Charlotte on Bigamy*, the comedietta by Edward Parry which proved one of the most promising of the quadruple bill with which Miss Ashwell experimented in May last. Judge Parry's play deals with no abstruse problem, as its title would seem to indicate, but is the story of a country girl who loves an engine driver. When she learns that he is unable to offer marriage because he has already a wife who long ago deserted him, she suggests that they shall commit bigamy, and have a wedding for the sake of appearances. Such a contingency is, however, averted by the fact that it is shortly proved that the engine driver is a free man, his supposed wife being herself a bigamist of several degrees before she married him. Again the cast of the original production has been retained with one exception. It is that of Mr. Maitland Dicker, who submits a quite refreshing impersonation of the kindly old father of Charlotte. That rôle is again portrayed by Miss Gertrude Scott with much feeling and dramatic power; Mr. Dennis Eadie repeats his skilful depiction of the smart and cockneyfied Bragby; and Mr. C. M. Hallard once again gives a strenuous and consistent rendering of the Scottish engine driver. Both plays are being produced by Mr. Norman McKinnel, and the mounting is remarkably fine. The Kingsway String Quartette play tastefully during the intervals, their selections being drawn from a répertoire of classical music from numberless sources.

MR. FRANK HOWEL EVANS, who won the £100 prize offered by the *Red Magazine* for the best short story of 8,000 words, was an actor before he became an author. In the old days of Miss Sarah Thorne's stock season at Margate he was engaged there for two years, and the company included many whose names have since become well known—Miss Violet Vanbrugh, Miss Gertrude Kingston, Mr. Charles Rock, Mr. Philip Cunningham, and many others figuring in the casts. Mr. Howel Evans also played with Mr. Harry Nicholls, Miss Jennie Lee, the late Miss Alice Lingard, Mr. Lionel Brough, and Mr. George Gray's sketch company. *The Wrong Side of the Road*, a curtain-raiser from his pen, has been played by Mr. James Welch's *When Knights Were Bold* company on tour since July last.

SIGNOR TAMINI, the new tenor, is to make his first appearance on the operatic stage in this country at Derby. The singer has been engaged by the Carl Rosa Opera Company, at a salary higher than the company have ever paid an individual performer before. He will make his initial appearance in the part of *Lohengrin*.

AN edition of the compositions of Mozart written in 1765, when he was living with his father at Chelsea, has just been issued. The original manuscript volume came into the possession of Herr Ernst von Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, who last year presented it to the Kaiser, by whom it was assigned to the Royal Library at Berlin. The volume, which consists of forty-three compositions, has a preface in which some particulars of Mozart's life in London are recorded.

A SERIES of eight matinées under the patronage of the Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery, Earl of Wemyss and March, Earl and Countess Poulett, Lady Henry Somerset, Lady Millais, &c., will be given at the Bijou Theatre, Archer-street, Bayswater, on the Fridays in February and March of *The Wars of the Roses* series of *England's Throne*—the history of England in dramatic form by Miss Catherine Lewis. Among the company engaged are Messrs. Gerald Venning, Ned Llewellyn, Cecil Osborne, Douglas Alington, and Donald R. Young; Misses Catherine Robertson, Lydia Hayward, and Pax Robertson.

FIVE HUNDRED REPLIES in answer to one advertisement in the Wanted Columns of *The Era*. Mr. Albert Hengler, writing from the Hippodrome, Glasgow, says:—"My advertisement in the last issue of your paper brought me close on 500 replies—an excellent result." Particulars of the publisher, *The Era* Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS.

NEW YORK, JAN. 6.—Miss Maude Adams is fulfilling her annual engagement at the Empire Theatre once again. Her appearance at this house has been one of the joys of the Christmas holiday season for several years past, and seats are at a premium just now at Mr. Charles Frohman's principal theatre. Once again Miss Adams has scored a pronounced success in a play written by James M. Barrie. Her Maggie Wylie in the four-act comedy *What Every Woman Knows* is truly an exquisite portrayal. On the opening night the audience was enthusiastic in its approval, and Miss Adams was recalled again and again. One lost count of the number of times the curtain rose and descended. Mr. Richard Bennett gave an excellent representation of John Shand; and all the other characters were well acted, particularly those of the Wylies by Messrs. R. Peyton Carter, David Torrence, and Fred Tyler. Miss Beatrice Agnew did well in the unsympathetic rôle of Lady Sybil Lazenby, and Miss Ffolliott Paget played with distinction the part of the Comtesse de la Brière.

"PEGGY MACHREE" has proved immensely successful at the Broadway Theatre, and during the past fortnight thousands of playgoers have experienced a thrill of delight in listening to the simple old Irish ballads which Mr. Joseph O'Mara sings so entrancingly. It is a treat as rare as it is enjoyable, and when a singer receives a round of applause, not merely at the end of his song, but after each verse, as Mr. O'Mara did on the night of my visit, there can be no question about his success. His rendering of "The Old Plaid Shawl" evoked such an outburst of applause as one seldom hears in a Broadway playhouse, and in the last act, when he responded to an encore by singing "The Wearing of the Green," the house was electrified. Mr. O'Mara thanked the audience in a short speech, after which a beautiful floral harp was presented to him. It is interesting to note that he appeared on the same stage ten years ago De Koven's comic opera *The Highwayman*. Miss Adrienne Augarde was a captivating Peggy Machree; and Mr. Dan Fitzgerald as the superstitious Michael Donoghue was the most mirth-provoking little Irishman imaginable. Very amusing, too, was Mr. John D. O'Hara as the lugubrious Scotchman, Alexander McDougal. Messrs. Joseph Brooks and A. W. Dingwall have produced the play in an admirable manner, the scenery being uncommonly beautiful. Everything, in fact, is in keeping with the spirit and atmosphere of this delightful comedy.

MISS MAXINE ELLIOTT opened the theatre that bears her name on the 30th ult., and appeared in the title-rôle of a three-act comedy called *The Chaperon*, by Marion Fairfax. A brilliant audience received the play with manifest approval, and Miss Elliott scored a personal success of the first magnitude. The new playhouse presented a very handsome appearance, good taste being conspicuous in every detail. *The Chaperon* is an agreeable and entertaining comedy of American life and character. The Countess Van Tuyle, the wife of a worthless Austrian whom she is seeking to divorce, arrives at a lodge in the Adirondacks just in time to render a service to several members of the Coombes family hospitable people, who, in addition to their own daughters, have several young lady guests who need the protective influence of an older person. Mr. and Mrs. Coombes are suddenly called to the bedside of a sick relative, and the Countess comes to stay with the girls during their absence. The father and mother have hardly departed, however, when several members of the opposite sex appear upon the scene to woo the marriageable daughter and her attractive companions, and all the girls are engaged, or in a fair way of being so, before the curtain falls. The Countess—usually called Madge—has been jilted by Jim Ogden, who withdrew his offer of marriage when he heard that she was an heiress. Madge treasured a portrait of her old sweetheart and some of his letters, and these things the Count has found, and threatens to use as evidence against her. So when Jim turns up unexpectedly at the lodge there are complications. For the Countess's mother, anxious to avoid the notoriety of divorce has summoned the Austrian Count in the hope of effecting a reconciliation between the pair. When Madge hears of his coming she flees precipitately, taking Jim with her, and eventually landing with him on a deserted island after an escape from a leaky canoe and a watery grave. Dawn finds Jim snoring, and Madge, bedraggled and dressed in Jim's coat and waistcoat, sneezing after a night in the rain. Another canoe pushes its way through the underbrush, and the Count appears in time to see his wife in the arms of the young American. Jim wants to thrash the foreigner, but desists for the moment, and the arrival of a native in a canoe enables Madge to escape. The two men are left to fight it out, and when they next appear, in the last act, the Count has a black eye. When Madge gets back to the lodge she finds all of her charges "paired off" except the youngest, and the cook has gone, and the maid and butler have decamped with the silver. Another native brings back the marooned pair from the island, the Count agrees to a compromise, and there is prospective happiness for Madge and Jim. Mr. Julian L'Estrange as Jim Ogden was manly and engaging; Mr. J. R. Crauford was excellent in the part of Mr. Coombes, and the other rôles were in good hands

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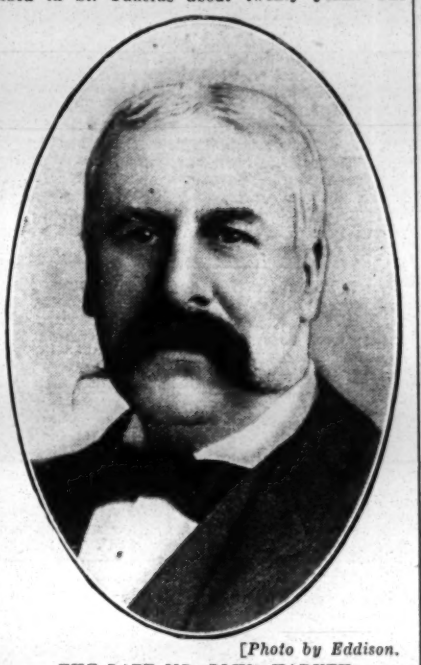
MR. JOHN HARE, a well-known concert agent in the North of England, died on Sunday at Newcastle-on-Tyne at the age of eighty-seven.

DEATH OF JOHN HARVEY.

Mr. John Harvey, the famous trombone soloist, recently passed away at 105, College-place, Camden Town. The deceased, who was sixty-three years of age, had been ailing for the past six months, and recently underwent an operation, from which he did not recover, death ensuing from exhaustion on the 26th ult. The late Mr. Harvey was one of the very few and probably the finest trombone soloist in the world. He could play solos on that instrument and also on the euphonium as other musicians could perform on the cornet. He was a Yorkshireman by birth, and spent many years in America, returning to England thirty-five years ago. He played trombone solos at the celebrated Covent Garden Promenade Concerts for some years, and was a well-known figure at all the principal London concerts, and also performed at the Opera under Sir Michael Costa. Unfortunately, some twenty-five years ago he was seized with paralysis of the tongue, owing to continuous playing of the trombone, and was precluded from further following his successful musical career. He, however, continued to perform at minor concerts. He was a well-known figure in Camden Town, having resided in St. Pancras about twenty years. The



[*Photo by Eddison.*

THE LATE MR. JOHN HARVEY.

late Mr. Harvey leaves a widow, who is well known and highly appreciated in the theatrical world as Miss Carlotta Zerbini, and who has played prominent parts in some of the best known comedies and musical plays. Among recent productions in which Miss Zerbini has distinguished herself are *Billy's Little Love Affair* at the Criterion, *That Brute Simmons* and *Beauty and the Barge* at the Haymarket, and *The Dairymaids* at the Apollo.

The funeral took place on the 7th inst. at the family grave at Highgate, the arrangements being entrusted to Messrs. Beckett and Sons, Prince of Wales-road, Kentish Town. The mourners were Mrs. Harvey, widow; Mr. and Mrs. Halfpenny, brother-in-law and sister; Mr. and Mrs. Marshall, nephew and niece; Miss Norrish, niece; Mr. and Mrs. Grahame, nephew and niece; Mrs. Ben Landeck, niece; Mrs. Musworth, sister-in-law; Mrs. Charles Harrington, sister-in-law; Mr. E. Z. Halfpenny, jun., nephew; Mr. Thurlow Halfpenny, nephew. The following sent flowers:—Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Norrish, Mrs. Gill, Mr. F. P. Harvey, Mrs. Davey, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. Halfpenny, E. Z. Halfpenny, jun., Thurlow Halfpenny, H. H. Halfpenny, John Halfpenny, Arthur Halfpenny, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Landeck, Mr. and Mrs. Grahame, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor.

THE Duchess of Rutland, as the president of the committee organised to promote a matinée at the Queen's Theatre, in aid of the Royal Ear Hospital, Dean-street, has decided to postpone the event from Jan. 26 to Thursday, Feb. 18. In face of the awful catastrophe in Sicily, the committee are convinced that at the present moment the needs of Italy take precedence over all other charities.

THE Hildenborough Village Players, who begin their seventh season on Tuesday, Feb. 9, will produce a folk play entitled "In Days of Yore," which has been written as usual by Messrs. John Johnson and Dagney Major. The scenes are laid at Tonbridge, Sevenoaks (Knole Place), and Penshurst, and depict episodes from the history of these places. Into the last episode of the play scenes from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* have been introduced.

THE book of Mr. Pinero's brilliant play *The Thunderbolt*, which proved so successful at the St. James's Theatre last year, is to be published by Mr. Heinemann on Jan. 21.

[*Photo by The Graphic Photo Union.*

FOOTBALL AND FUN.

A comic football match was played on Tuesday afternoon at Craven Cottage, between a Fulham team and the artists engaged in the production of the *Little Red Riding Hood* pantomime at the Lyric Opera House, Hammersmith. About 700 spectators were present, and the proceeds were handed over to local charities. Miss Kittee Rayburn, the charming Prince, kicked off, and seven goals were scored by each side, according to the official result.

There were about twenty players in the pantomime team, including six half-backs and ten forwards, all in costume.

A great deal of merriment was created by the antics of the players. Skene played centre-forward for Fulham, and another goalkeeper, Crossthwaite, played at outside right. Some amusement was caused by a donkey ridden by one of the pantomime artists, which took up its position under the bar, and several shots collided with its body.

Mr. H. Ewins was attired as a wolf, and his brother, Mr. J. Ewins, as the faithful dog. Johnny Stout and Simple Simon were there in the persons of Messrs. F. Bishop and J. Vale. Mr. S. Collins represented a gorilla.

An amusing incident occurred when Skene, the Fulham custodian, scored a goal for his side, for he was promptly arrested and escorted from the field by a couple of policemen.

MAPLESON AND DRURY LANE.

"What will Mapleson do?" was the first question musical London propounded to itself in the early months of 1867, after the common fate of theatres had overtaken the old opera house in the Haymarket, and as people are always ready to engage in that kind of mental gymnastics known as "jumping at conclusions," the picture of the company scattered, and the manager literally nowhere, was, no doubt, repeated in the mind's eye of very many wiseacres. Mr. Mapleson did not, however, give his followers the managerial blessing, and bid them do the best they could for themselves. Instead of any such affecting ceremony being performed, the search for a theatre was forthwith commenced, and the temporary shelter of Drury Lane was secured. Thus fortified, the burnt-out manager prepared to do battle for the operatic honours and, possibly, profits of 1868, and, supported by a considerable amount of popular sympathy, boldly faced his competitor of Bow-street. The renters' privileges were argued and, perforce, admitted; the ancient Drury was divided into snug boxes artfully draped with amber satin, in imitation of the late Her Majesty's Theatre, and every preparation was made for the approaching season. Titiens, the magnificent empress (to speak by the Italian card) of *soprani*, Trebelli-Bettini, the queen of *contralti*, Santley, the king of *bassi*, and Mongini, the most useful of the modern *tenori*, closed round their old standard-bearer, who threw down the brand-new glove of "Her Majesty's Opera," and invited the gentleman over the way to "come on." The challenge was, to all appearances, accepted, and the musical public settled itself to enjoy the usual gladiatorial struggle, though in a partial change of arena. The consoling reflection that London was to have its two operas as usual, and that competition was to be the order of the genteel season, was, however, rudely disturbed. We were threatened with a Joint Stock Limited Liability "Grand Opera Company," which implied the purchase of that neat little edifice, the Royal Italian Opera, and the extinction of the Maplesonian troupe as a separate and rival company. The opera, one and undivided, was to have had a coal factor, a coal merchant, a goldsmith, a clerk in holy orders, a solicitor, an ex-engineer, and an advertising agent for its high priests. From this heterogeneous conclave Mr. Mapleson was to receive £15,000 for acting as manager. For the best possible reason this noble scheme was abandoned, and disconsolate connoisseurs revived under the prospect of livelier competition than ever.

In the meantime the rebuilding of Her Majesty's Theatre had been decided upon, and at Drury Lane on Saturday, March 28, 1868, Mr. Mapleson opened the ball with *Lucrezia Borgia*. "Wanted, a tenor," that most pathetic of managerial cries, was answered by Signor Fraschini, a native of Padua, whose years number half a hundred. The Signor was a great success at Her Majesty's in 1847. His particular triumph was Edgardo, and at his delivery of the "malediction" the blue blood in the boxes and stalls, and the baser fluid in the pit and the gallery, invariably ran cold. Fraschini played Roberto to Jenny Lind's Alice, in May, the same season, and, a month earlier, Verdi's *I Due Foscari* was produced in his special behalf. On the opening night of Her Majesty's Opera, Titiens, the only Lucrezia, Trebelli-Bettini, the best Maffeo Orsini since Alboni, and Santley, who acts the part as well as any brother in art, and sings the music much better, all trod the stage of Garrick, the Kembles, Edmund Kean, Macready, and the "foremost man" for the first time. Mdlle. Kellogg arrived early in the season, and on April 4 sang in *La Traviata*, that naughtiest and most sensuous of operas, in which Violetta, the queen of the *demi-blonde*, is compelled by the destroying angel to bid adieu to champagne, Alfredo, and every kind of impropriety. On Thursday, the 9th, the clever young American played Linda in *Linda di Chamouni*. Signor Bettini was a better Carlo than Signor Emanuele Carrion, or Mr. Tom Hohler; Madame Trebelli-Bettini was a better Pierotto than Mdlle. Grosal or Madame Demeric-Lablache; and Signor Zoboli, in the absence of a better *buffo*, resumed the part of that ancient libertine, the Marquis de Boisfleury. Signor Scalese played the Marchese in 1866. Mdlle. Kellogg's achievements included four new characters—Gilda in *Rigoletto*, produced April 18; Ninetta in *La Gazza Ladra*, May 4; Amina in *La Sonnambula*, May 21; and Maria in *La Figlia del Reggimento*, June 27. Her Gilda, apart from its vocal excellence, is deeply poetical as a conception. Mr. Santley's Rigoletto may not be the Rigoletto of Ronconi, but it is an impressive and highly pathetic performance. The English baritone sings the music as the Italian never sang it in his life. The Duke of Mantua, at the beginning of the season, was Signor Fraschini, and at the end, Signor Bulterini, with Madame Trebelli-Bettini and Signor Foli as Maddelena and the bravo Sparafucile. *La Gazza Ladra* has been banished from London since 1863. Such a thing of beauty should be a joy to opera-goers season after season, and the cast of Her Majesty's could only be improved upon in one instance. Mdlle. Kellogg's Ninetta was a success; and Madame Trebelli-Bettini's Pippo is the best since Alboni's days of active service. Fernando, Tamburini's great part, fell to the lot of Mr. Santley, who sang the florid music of Rossini as if he had done nothing else for years past. Signor Bettini is in his proper place as Gianetto; but Signor Foli (who is not predisposed to comedy) is emphatically out of place in such a part as the Podestà. Mr. Charles Lyall's Isaac is a good character study. The young American's capability as an actress is commensurate with her perfection as a vocalist, and in the character of Maria, the Vivandière of the incomparable regiment, this union was particularly apparent. Signor Bettini played Tonio, and M. Gassier, Sulpizio. Mme. Demeric-Lablache made an admirable Marchioness. Mlle. Christine Nilsson, the "Swedish nightingale" number two, appeared for the first time in the season as Violetta. In due course she resumed the characters of Marta (to the Lionello of Signor Fraschini, and afterwards of Signor Mongini), Donna Elvira, Margherita, and the Queen of Night. Her great impression was made in Lucia, which she played for the first time in England on Saturday, May 23. The *Lucia* nights were neither few nor far between as the season progressed, and the exquisitely refined performance of the heroine has greatly increased Mlle. Nilsson's popularity. Cherubino, in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, was another new and perfectly successful venture on the part of the fair Christine. *Don Giovanni* was brought forward as early as April 11. There is no one to compete with Mlle. Titiens as Donna Anna, an impersonation that stands alone in intensity of feeling. Mlle. Sinico, the first Donna Elvira of the season, subsequently made way for Mlle. Nilsson. Mlle. Kellogg remained in undisturbed possession of Zerlina from the beginning to the end of the operatic term. M. Gassier and Mr. Santley both played the invincible Don; and the season gave us two Leporellos—Signor Zoboli and Signor Fiorini, a new bass. In the case of this illustrious stranger an artistic collapse must be recorded. He sank at once from Leporello to a kind of operatic utility man, worthy of such parts as Raimondo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, and a priest in *Il Flauto Magico*. This mystical and magnificent opera of Mozart was reserved for July 18, the last night of the subscription season. Mlles. Titiens, Nilsson, and Sinico appeared as Pamina, Astrifiammante, and Papagena; and Signor Bettini, Mr. Santley, Signor Foli, and Mr. Lyall as Tamino, Papageno, Sarastro, and Monastatos. Other operas presented were *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Fidelio*, Cherubini's *Medea*, *Les Huguenots*, *Faust*, *Rigoletto*, *La Traviata*, *Norma*, *Il Trovatore*, and *Semiramide*.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"LA TRAGEDIE ROYALE,"

Play, in Three Acts, by M. de Saint-Georges de Bouhélier, produced at the Odéon on Jan. 7.

La Princesse Irène	MLLE. BARJAC
Alfréda	MLLE. FABRE
Mariette	MLLE. LUKAS
Le Roi Edgard	M. DESJARDINS
Polydre	M. BERNARD
Tricard	M. DESFONTAINES
Cecilian	M. VARGAS
Lahurial	M. JOUBE
Mimile	M. ROLLAN
Joseph	M. FABER

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, Jan. 14.—The first thing that struck us when we beheld King Edgar, the principal figure in M. de Bouhélier's play, *La Tragédie Royale*, was that he bore a family likeness to King Lear, and might have passed himself off as a poor relation of that luckless monarch. Edgar's fate, too, is dismal; and he, too, has his Cordelia, only that her name is Irène. The young author's idea when he wrote his work was undoubtedly a good one, but, unfortunately, he made too great a display of grandiloquent dissertations, which somewhat grate on our nerves. In the opening scene we are in the wine-shop of a certain Polydre, where a few people are assembled, to whom he announces that a revolution has broken out, and that King Edgar has been dethroned. Whilst he is discoursing in this way, the door opens, and in walks an old man led by a graceful young girl. They are the king and his daughter Irène, whose lives were threatened by the mob. None of the people present recognise them, and King Edgar is compelled to listen to the ribald jokes levelled against himself by the blackguard company, which includes a woman of the "unfortunate" class, a mechanic, and a lackey formerly employed at the palace. For a long time the king remains silent. When, however, the ex-lackey launches out in a dirty story, supposed to have happened to the Crown Princess, the old man can no longer restrain himself; and the means he uses to silence his detractors is original. Pulling out a handful of gold, he throws it in the face of the miscreants, who then recognise the royal couple, and tie them to one of the pillars of the wine-shop. Irène dies, although we do not know whether from ill-treatment or from the effect of the long speeches. As to her father, he loses his reason, which surprises nobody. It was rumoured that it was intended to make a demonstration against the play. It is difficult to understand what could have given rise to this absurd story, considering that royalty is represented by virtue, whilst democracy is impersonated by a crowd which any jury would at once have convicted only by looking at their faces. M. Desjardins did full justice to the rôle of the king; Mlle. Barjac was a pathetic Irène; M. Desfontaines supplied a good sketch of a "man of the people"; and Mlle. Faber gave much colour to the part of Alfréda, the "unfortunate."

M. ALEXANDRE ARNOUX'S symbolic comedy, *La Mort de Pan*, was produced the same evening. It is written in melodious verse, and met with a cordial reception.

"LA TOUR DU SILENCE,"

Play, in Three Acts, by M. Collyn, produced at the Théâtre des Arts on Jan. 9.

Sémiramis	MLLE. VERA SERGINE
1e Suivante	MLLE. HELENE FLORISE
2e Suivante	MLLE. LILIANE MARGYL
3e Suivante	MLLE. GUINTINI
Stratès	M. DE MAX
Le Grand Prêtre	M. DUREC
Un sacrificateur	M. DAYLE
L'envoyé indien	M. TELLEGEN
Muttakil	M. PRIEUR
Le Général	M. BABY

Miss Andrews, the intelligent manageress of the Théâtre des Arts, is continually taken to task for producing plays that are not of French origin; and I notice a certain spitefulness in the way the Paris Press discusses the works brought out at the Théâtre des Arts. It is, however, to be hoped that Miss Andrews will not allow herself to be intimidated, and will continue to show herself eclectic in the selections of the works she produces at her house. M. Collyn's *La Tour du Silence* is a highly interesting work, and special praise is due to the management for the manner in which they mounted it. Sémiramis, Queen of Babylon, is waging war against the Indian Prince Stratès, and is marching at the head of her great army. She is surrounded by the intrigues of her courtiers and generals. The Grand Priest plots against her, affecting to be acting as the mouthpiece of the Babylonian gods. Stratès sends a messenger asking Sémiramis to grant peace. The valiant Prince does not wish for war, because he has seen Sémiramis, and is consumed by passion for her. One night he crosses the river which divides their respective camps alone, and appears in Sémiramis' tent to declare his passion. The queen yields before such ardour. On the following day she summons her generals to tell them that peace has been made with Stratès, to whom they are to do homage as their king. But the Archpriest intercepts the messenger and sends another, ordering an instant onslaught. Then Stratès, hearing from the Archpriest that Sémiramis has made a vow, and that the gods will only be appeased by a human sacrifice, makes himself the sacrifice by withdrawing into the Tower of Silence. Mlle. Vera Sergine as Sémiramis was very queenly, and very sweet and womanly in the love scene. M. de Max was a superb Stratès. M. Durec gave a clever impersonation of the scheming priest; and the other parts were also well sustained.

WE had another disturbance at the Comédie-Française on the occasion of the seventeenth performance of *Le Foyer*. The riot had been organised by some of the gilded youths of the so-called Young Royalist party. Three or four boxes were filled with anæmic-looking, narrow-chested, narrow-minded boys, who, in the second act, at the beginning of the scene between Baron Courtin and the Abbé Laroze, started hissing with all their might. But the stalwart Municipal Guards on duty in the house entered the boxes, and in a twinkling swept them clear of their occupants, to the loud cheers of the audience. The authorities are determined to put down all these childish demonstrations with a strong hand, and the number of Guards on duty has been considerably increased. But the authors of *Le Foyer* rub their hands with glee, for people now flock to the Comédie-Française not so much to see the play as to witness a row.

MR. J. F. ELLISTON, the pioneer of high-class travelling pantomimes, is disposing of his principal productions, *Cinderella* having already been acquired by a well-known manager in the south.

PRESENTATION.—A pleasing ceremony took place at the Carlton Theatre, Greenwich, on Monday, when the whole of the staff gathered on the stage after the performance and presented the manager with a handsome timepiece, and his sister with a silver cruet, as a mark of respect and esteem in which they are held by the employees under their management. The presentation was made by the musical director, Mr. John A. Powell, and Mr. Gillespy suitably responded and thanked the staff for their handsome present.

CHILDREN ON THE STAGE. The Act affecting the employment of children on the stage came into force on Saturday, Oct. 1, 1904. Managers, agents, entrepreneurs, and performers wishing to possess a copy of the complete Act in a concise form can do so by forwarding three stamps to the Publisher, *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

SIR CHARLES WYNDHAM will occupy the chair at the annual general meeting of the subscribers of the Actors' Benevolent Fund, which will be held on the stage of the Criterion Theatre on Thursday, Jan. 28, at 12 noon, to receive the report of the committee and the accounts for the year 1908. The attendance of subscribers is requested, and all those interested in the work of the Fund are invited to be present.

MR. BEERBOHM TREE, who is in Cairo at present, brightened the proceedings at the nineteenth annual dinner of the Old Neuenheimers Society, held in London on Saturday night. A feature of the dinner was the reading of messages from celebrities, and that from Mr. Tree read: "Before completing my education by learning about the East—you see, I am going to produce a play on Modern Egypt, and, like Mr. Micawber, who inspected the Medway when he went into the coal trade, I am going to inspect the Nile—I must send you a few lines to congratulate you and your fellow-scholars of Neuenheim on your present festival . . . I think the Germans from boyhood were greater idealists than are the commercialised and more prosperous Germans of to-day, and there is one quality by which I imagine the Teuton of those days was, and I hope is still, distinguished, and that is the quality of true friendship between man and man."

MR. MARTIN HARVEY at Bournemouth to-night concludes the first week of his spring tour. The engagement was the initial attraction of the dramatic season, and has proved splendidly successful, thus confirming the pleasant state of things on the popular actor's first visit last year.

IT is now practically certain that Mr. Martin Harvey will be impelled to include this southern resort in his regular spring tour itinerary. A feature of the week was the number of motor parties who travelled to Bournemouth to see Mr. Harvey and his company, one of them coming from as far as Fordingbridge, in the heart of the New Forest, and another from Salisbury.

ON Monday Mr. Harvey, Miss de Silva, and his company are due at the Theatre Royal, Portsmouth, where they commence operations with *The Corsican Brothers* and *The Conspiracy*, and later in the week give *The House of Pierre*, *The Breed of the Treshams*, and *The Only Way*.

AMONG the new centres which Mr. Harvey is to visit during this tour are Rochdale, Swansea, and Halifax; whilst in May a number of special flying matinée trips are to be indulged in. Mr. Frank B. O'Neill remains in the position he has held for so many years, still acting as Mr. Harvey's indefatigable business-manager, and Mr. H. J. Loveday, who has apparently solved the problem of eternal youth, is still stage director, Mr. Alfred Rivers being stage-manager as before.

THE company includes the names of Miss Mary Rorke, Miss Madge Fabian, Miss Maud Rivers, and Miss Bessie Elder, Messrs. Fred Wright, sen., Charles Glenney, A. E. Raynor, Alfred Mansfield, Leonard Craske, George Cooke, Philip Hewland, C. J. Cameron, Denholm Muir, and Percy Foster; while Miss N. de Silva is, of course, Mr. Harvey's chief colleague and supporter. This talented and charming actress is now playing the rôle of Emilie de Lesparre in *The Corsican Brothers*, in addition to all the other leading lady parts in the répertoire.

MR. ARTHUR BOURCHIER has induced Mr. Henry Bernstein, the author of *Samson*, to come to London, and superintend the final rehearsals of the English adaptation of his play at the Garrick Theatre on Feb. 3.

MR. LEWIS WALLER will produce at the Lyric on Feb. 2, in co-operation with Mr. Tom B. Davis, a new drama in four acts called *The Chief of the Staff*, written by Mr. Robert MacDonald, the scene of which is laid in a Republican State of South America. Mr. Waller will have a character after his own heart in that of the hero, and he will be supported by such able artists as Mr. William Haviland, Mr. A. E. George, Mr. Sheil Barry, Miss Madge Titheradge, Miss Auriol Lee, and Miss Evelyn D'Alroy. Mr. Waller will revive the first part of *Henry IV.* at a series of special matinées on Tuesdays and Fridays, himself playing Hotspur, Mr. Louis Calvert will be Falstaff, Mr. A. E. George Henry IV., and Mr. H. Jarman Owen Glendower, Mr. Robert Loraine enacting Prince Hal, and continuing, of course, his engagement with Mr. Frederick Harrison at the Haymarket.

MR. CHARLES HAWTREY, we are glad to hear, has got over his recent operation, and is now recuperating in the country. He will reappear in London at the Royalty Theatre, under the auspices of Mr. Tom B. Davis, in a revival of *Jack Straw*.

THE Shaftesbury is to undergo extensive alterations after Mr. H. B. Irving has finished his season there. The improvements will include the provision of a new entrance with a double staircase sweeping round to the first circle and the introduction of an entirely new arrangement of seats, altering the "eye-line" from the stalls and circle, and giving all parts of the house a better view of the stage. The interior walls will be redecorated in a novel fashion, and the whole theatre will be newly upholstered and painted. It is expected operations will be finished by March.

MR. ARTHUR WILLIAM A' BECKETT, who died on Thursday in St. Thomas's Nursing Home, was the author of several three-act comedies which were produced in London between 1870 and 1890, including *On Strike*, a social problem, produced at the Court in the October of 1873; *Long Ago*, a one-act drama, done at the Royalty on April 22, 1882; and *About Town*, a comedy, in three acts, which was first performed at the Court Theatre on May 12, 1873, with Mr. Edgar Bruce as Sir Walter Mervyn, Mr. Chippendale, jun., as Monteagle, and Miss Kate Bishop, Miss Marie Litton, Mr. George Rignold, Mr. E. C. Righton, and Mrs. Stephens in the cast. The comedy was first played in America at Daly's Broadway Theatre, New York, on Sept. 29, 1873, with Miss Minnie Walton in Miss Bishop's part. A member of the Bar, Mr. a' Beckett was appointed Master of the Revels by the Honourable Society of Gray's Inn, and produced *The Maske of Flowers* in the hall of the Inn in honour of Queen Victoria's Jubilee.

MR. H. B. IRVING'S charming souvenir of the 102nd consecutive performance of *The Lyons Mail* includes several illustrations of historical interest, such as a portrait of the unfortunate victim of 1796, a picture of the actual mail-cart, a map of the scene of the crime, a picture of the tomb of the rehabilitated Lesurques, a reproduction of a page of the late Sir Henry Irving's prompt-book, which proves that it was he who introduced the "business" with the flower pot in the final scene, a portrait of Charles Kean in private life, and another of Sir Henry as Dubosc. An essay, "The History of the Play," by Mr. Austin Brereton, a clever article, "The Source of the Play," by Mr. H. B. Irving, and short biographical sketches of Mr. Irving and Miss Dorothea Baird complete one of the most interesting souvenirs of the period, and Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode may be warmly congratulated on the excellence of the publication.

MR. FREDK. MOUILLOT sends us a very pretty souvenir of the anniversary of the opening of the Grand Hall in connection with the Theatre Royal, Bournemouth, in 1907. The souvenir contains portraits of Mr. Chas. Manners, Miss N. de Silva, Mr. Martin Harvey, Miss Ellaline Terriss, Mrs. Brown Potter, and Sir John Hare, with a view of the lounge and promenade, and some interesting and informative letterpress.

MISS MABEL LOVE is concluding her engagement this week as Lady Frederick, in which she has starred with Mr. Percy and Miss Emma Hutchison's company, receiving high eulogium from discriminating audiences everywhere. Miss Love was the first to play the part out of London, and her introduction of the fascinating lady to suburban and provincial audiences has been a constant triumph. Miss Love has given evidence of rare dramatic and comedy gifts, and the opinions of both Press and public everywhere have been unanimous in her praise.

MISS ANNIE HUGHES, whose son, Master Richard Devereux, created such a pleasing impression at the juvenile ball at the Mansion House on the evening of the 8th inst., as His Imperial Majesty the German Emperor, is not, and never was, the wife of Mr. William Devereux, the author and actor, as has been so often stated. Miss Annie Hughes first married a Mr. Nicholas Lawrence Devereux, an Irishman, of County Wexford, whose father was member for Wexford and Justice of the Peace for many years. Miss Annie Hughes married a second time Edmund Fitzmaurice Tenon, son of the late Colonel Tenon, V.C., whose professional name is Mr. Edmund Maurice. Miss Annie Hughes in private life is therefore Mrs. Fitzmaurice Tenon.

THE announcement from Mr. Murray of the "Bancroft Memoirs, Old and New," in which Sir Squire and Lady Bancroft make important additions to their work "On and Off the Stage," which was published in 1888, and ran through seven editions, will be hailed with delight by all interested in the stage. The volume covering the intervening period, and describing Sir Squire and Lady Bancroft's experiences up to date, is certain to be widely popular.

CROWDED houses and people turned away has been the cry all along the line of *The Merry Widow* tour, and provincials have enjoyed performances in every respect equal to those at Daly's itself. Mr. Frank Greene, the dashing Prince Danilo, now touring with *The Merry Widow* in the North, has been snapped up by that astute Australian manager Mr. J. C. Williamson. Mr. Greene and his charming wife, Miss Lottie Sargent, have signed contracts for Australia from June next.

THE first of Miss Marie Tempest's charming dresses in *Penelope* is a gown of blue and white check silk, very simply made in the usual corselet style. The gown is ornamented down the front of the skirt by a double row of white buttons, looped together by loops of the same material as the dress; and the same ornamentation appears on the sleeves. The bodice is composed of white embroidery, with a chemisette of tucked net, and the sleeves are finished with a cuff of embroidery and tuckings of net.

PENELOPE'S second gown is of champagne-coloured crêpe satin. The corselet skirt falls in pointed draperies over a sweeping underskirt of the same material; but a unique effect is given to the gown by the falling draperies being kept in place by swathed bands of crêpe satin, crossed and threaded through large eyeholes. The bodice is of transparent net patterned with the satin in a very handsome design. The gown worn by Miss Tempest in the last act is distinguished by Soutache trimming in the form of a broad band outlining the chemisette, and forming a deep falling drapery at the back. It is composed of Rose de Bois satin, and the sleeves are of rose-coloured embroidered net. A beautiful cloak of mauve grey in rich silk, lined with grey marquise, completes the costume.

THE efforts made by Mr. Louis Karpe, the manager of Her Majesty's Theatre, Dundee, in behalf of charity have resulted in the substantial sum of £233 14s. 6d. being devoted to local institutions.

THE annual pantomime supper and ball at Belfast will take place on Wednesday at Ye Olde Castle in that city. Mr. James M. McCann, the popular manager of the Theatre Royal, Belfast, has charge of the arrangements, and nothing will be wanting on his part to make the occasion a brilliant success.

OUR readers will regret to learn that Mr. George R. Weir, the veteran of Mr. F. R. Benson's company, is lying ill in a private ward at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast. Sir William Whitla, M.D.—who has been exceedingly attentive to Mr. Weir—is unremitting in his attention, and it is to be hoped that the popular actor will soon be convalescent.

AN interesting reading of *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* was given on the 7th inst. in the Ulster Minor Hall by the members of the Belfast Branch of the British Empire Shakespeare Society, largely assisted by members of Mr. F. R. Benson's company then appearing at the Theatre Royal. Included in the cast were Mr. E. A. Warburton, Mr. Alfred Wild, Mr. W. Ribton Haines, Miss Olive Noble, Miss Dorothy Green, and Miss Leah Hanman.

"THE BOND OF MARRIAGE," a play in four acts, by Walter Nixey, was produced for copyright purposes at the Royalty Theatre, Llanelly, on Jan. 7.

A GIRL of fifteen figured as a dramatist last week, when *For King or Parliament*, a three-act historical play, by Lady Maud Kathleen Cairnes Plantagenet Hastings, was produced at Grendon Hall, near Nuneaton. Lady Maud is the eldest daughter of the Earl of Huntingdon.

THE Lyric, Hammersmith, pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*, must perforce retire from the boards of this theatre this evening on account of previous bookings on both sides. The business has been so great that strenuous effort were made to try to lengthen the run, even to the extent of paying a heavy penalty, but it was found impracticable. Messrs. Wentworth Croke, G. Brydon-Phillips, and the local manager, Mr. Fred S. Jennings, are to be heartily congratulated on the results achieved by their fine production.

MR. OSCAR ASCHE and Miss Lily Brayton will open their spring tour at Portsmouth on Feb. 8. After a tour of the principal provincial towns they will proceed to Australia for a lengthy stay.

A SPECIAL matinée under the immediate patronage of the Duchess of Albany and Her Grace the Duchess of Newcastle will be given at the Playhouse on Tuesday, Feb. 9, in aid of the Dolling Memorial Home. At this performance, which is under the direction of Miss Bateman (Mrs. Crowe), will be produced a one-act play by Ashton Pearse, entitled *Her Proper Mate*, in which Mr. E. Harcourt Williams, Mr. Wilfred Forster, and Miss Jean Sterling Mackinlay will appear. Following will come a comedy, in three acts, called *The Grandsire*, kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. George Alexander. The cast will include Mr. Harcourt Williams, Mr. Edmund Gwenn, Mr. Hubert Harben, Miss Leah Bateman Hunter, and Miss Bateman (Mrs. Crowe). A play called *The Grandsire*, it may be added, was produced at Terry's in 1889.

MR. F. R. BENSON has made arrangements with Mr. Robert Arthur for a third répertoire season at the Coronet Theatre, beginning on Monday, Feb. 8, and lasting four weeks. Twelve plays of Shakespeare, including the histories: *Richard II.*, *Henry V.*, *Henry VI.* (part 2), and *Richard III.* will be given. The programme will also contain Sheridan's *The School for Scandal*, *The Belle's Stratagem*, by Hannah Cowley, and *A Midnight Bridal*, a play in one act adapted from the story of Halliwell Sutcliffe by Mrs. F. R. Benson and H. O. Nicholson.

MISS GENEVIEVE WARD has again been secured for the part of Volumnia in *Coriolanus*, and will also appear as Queen Margaret in *Richard III.*, with which the series will begin. In addition to Mr. and Mrs. Benson the company will also include Messrs. W. W. Caithness, Murray Carrington, G. F. Hannam Clark, W. Ribton Haines, J. Moffat Johnston, H. O. Nicholson, Guy B. Rathbone, George R. Weir, Edward A. Warburton, Alfred Wild, J. Plumpton Wilson, and F. G. Worlock; and Misses Elinor Aickin, Marian Foreman, Dorothy Green, Leah Hanman, Alice Nicholson, Olive Noble, and Alison Trent. Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, is patron of the performances, and the London Committee includes many influential names.

MR. BENSON closed his fortnight's visit to the Theatre Royal, Belfast, on Saturday with a masterly impersonation of Richard III. He was enthusiastically called to the footlights, and, addressing a large audience, thanked them heartily for their kind welcome. He did not know if Richard III. in person was ever in Belfast, but he thought not, because there must have been some record in the police court, where he would have been up for assault and battery. At any rate, they had made his substitute very welcome that night. He wished them farewell with the very best wishes for the new year.

THE F. R. Benson (North) Company opened their spring tour at the Theatre Royal, Shrewsbury, on Monday, Jan. 4, 1909. Mr. Yates Gregory, who recently took over the theatre, did everything possible for the comfort of the company, with the result that the theatre was crowded nightly with enthusiastic audiences, which speaks volumes for the work done by the enterprising new management and the popularity of the F. R. Benson (North) Company. The North Company, after touring in Scotland will visit Birkenhead, Warrington, Norwich, Tunbridge Wells, Folkestone, Eastbourne, Hastings, &c., concluding their tour the last week in June. Mr. Henry Herbert, in addition to playing the leading rôles, is also responsible for the productions of the company, and the tour is under the direction of Mr. W. H. Savery.

MR. CHARLES MANNERS sends us the following epistle, which he describes as "the saddest anonymous letter I have ever received":—Dublin, Friday, 12.30 p.m. Dear Mr. Manners,—I have just returned from hearing Tschaikowsky's opera, *Eugene Onegin*. I feel I cannot rest till I have written these few lines asking you to repeat this glorious opera once again before you go. I have heard many operas, but none which pleased me more that this one has done to-night. I would not ask for better artists than Madame Fanny Moody as Tatiana and Mr. Lewys James as Eugene Onegin. In fact I was held spellbound during the whole performance. Believe me when I say that you will be granting a dying request if you will let me hear once again this, as I said before, *glorious opera!*—Yours, A SINCERE OPERA-GOER." Mr. Manners regrets that he has no means of informing the poor person why he cannot accede to his wish, as no address is given for reply.

THE West London Philanthropic Society is again indebted to the management of the Lyric, Hammersmith for a substantial increase to their funds. A few weeks ago a benefit performance of *The Silver King* brought them in nearly £50, and now they receive another £25 as the result of a football match between the Lyric pantomime company and the Fulham Football Club.

THE match was played in costume, and proved particularly interesting and humorous. The pantomime company had the assistance of the Lyric's popular manager, Mr. Fred S. Jennings, who proved a most agile and unique back. £35 was taken at the gates and collected by the ladies of the pantomime, and the Fulham directors generously added £15, so a total of £50 is equally divided by the above-named society and the Peterborough Benevolent Society (of Fulham). Miss Kittee Rayburn added to the pleasure of the occasion by kindly kicking off.

Two members of the same aristocratic family have sought a bride on the musical comedy stage, for on Saturday last Mr. Reginald Wyndham Bruce, a cousin of the Hon. Henry Lyndhurst Bruce, who married Miss Camille Clifford, was wedded to Miss Addie Lewis, a young actress, who made her début in *The Three Little Maids* at the Prince of Wales's Theatre about four years ago. Mr. Reginald Bruce is a lieutenant in the King's Own Scottish Borderers. The wedding took place at St. Anne's Church, Eastbourne, and immediately afterwards the couple came to town.

A NEW drama, entitled *The World, the Flesh, and the Devil*, from the pen of Lesser Columbus, is to be produced at the Pavilion Theatre, on Monday, Feb. 1. The new piece is remarkable from the fact that all the villains are lawyers, and the heroes and heroines are their clients.

MESSRS. HENRY SWINERD AND J. W. CORDINER'S *Dare-Devil Dorothy* company will on Monday pay its sixth visit within three and a half years to the Royal Aquarium Theatre, Great Yarmouth. The company now includes Miss Nellie Valentine, Miss Nellie Harcourt, Miss Ethel Griffies, Mr. Walter Ashley, Mr. Walter B. Nugent, and Mr. Will Brereton.

THE "Merry Widow" dinner which the O.P. Club are holding at the Hotel Cecil on Jan. 31 has been limited to 500, and only a few tickets are left. All the principals concerned in the production of *The Merry Widow* cordially accepted the Club's invitation to be present. Mr. George Edwardes will answer to the toast of his health, which will be proposed by the president, Mr. Max Pemberton. The health of *The Merry Widow* will be pledged by Mr. Mostyn T. Pigott, and will be acknowledged by Miss Lily Elsie and Mr. Joseph Coyne. Mr. W. H. Berry will propose "The President."

THE Marquis of Northampton gave an entertainment on Wednesday evening to about 300 old lady residents on his estates in Clerkenwell and Islington. The entertainment took place in King Edward's Hall, Canonbury Tower, and after tea had been served an excellent programme, arranged by and under the direction of Miss Roma Castille, was given in the hall. Miss Castille, who is a young member of the profession, and is about to join the *Merry Widow* company, contributed several songs. The company also included Mr. Roland Henry, in comic sketches; Mr. T. Hearne, who gave humorous ditties; Mr. Ernest Sewell, in a conjuring and ventriloquial performance; and Mr. Robert Carr, vocalist. The old ladies thoroughly enjoyed the entertainment. The Marquis of Northampton would himself have been present but for the fact that he is slowly recovering from a serious operation, and is unable at present to leave his house.

THE annual general meeting of the Actors' Association will be held in the Victoria Hall of the Criterion Restaurant, on Tuesday, Feb. 9, at 2.30 p.m. It is hoped that all members will pay their subscriptions before this meeting, but a portion of the hall will be reserved for those who have not paid their subscriptions, and these latter will not be permitted to vote. Mr. Cecil Raleigh has consented to take the chair. Will members kindly send in their nomination to the new Council as soon as possible.

MR. ARTHUR VEZIN, who has just finished a two years' engagement with Mr. Gaston Mayer's *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch* company, has been engaged by Mr. George Alexander for his provincial tour of *The Builder of Bridges*.

MR. ACTON BOND will deliver the lines of Edgar in *King Lear* at the reading which will be given by the British Empire Shakespeare Society at the Bijou Theatre, Archer-street, on Feb. 2. Mr. Lyn Harding will read Lear; Mr. Fewlass Llewellyn, Kent; Mr. Shakespeare Stewart, the Fool; Mr. Howard Rose, France; Miss Adeline Bourne, Goneril; and Miss Dorothy Thomas, Cordelia.

MR. PAUL RUBENS, who is in Denmark accumulating data for his new opera, to follow, at some future time, *The King of Cadonia*, has already finished the first act of the musical play. Mr. Frank Curzon will include in the cast the principal artists now appearing in Mr. Frederick Lonsdale's work at the Prince of Wales's.

MR. ALBERT CHEVALIER has put the finishing touches to a new play for children, which is destined for production at a West End theatre next Christmas. The music of the piece, which is in two acts, is by Mr. John Crook.

THE directors of the Lyceum Theatre, Ipswich, together with Miss Parkin, their capable manageress, must be complimented upon the able way in which this pretty little playhouse is conducted. One of the excellent Hutchison companies has held the boards for the last two weeks, during which *Mrs. Dot* and *Brewster's Millions* established a record, many of the county families being among the patrons. So keen, indeed, were Ipswichians to see Mr. Hutchison in the part of Monty Brewster, that the advance booking totalled over £140 on the week.

THROUGH the kindness of Mr. Bannister Howard and Mr. Egbert Lewis, the matinée on Wednesday at the Theatre Royal, Bath, was set aside for a ticket benefit for Miss Lily Gullick, the local musical comedy actress, who for some time past has been suffering from blood poisoning, and quite unable to follow her profession. The house was well booked up, and the popular little lady will be cheered by so successful a result.

MR. T. G. BAILEY (author of *Love Rules the World*, *How Women Ruin Men*, &c.) has written another drama, entitled *How Women are Slandered*, and it was announced to be produced on Thursday last by Messrs. Watson and Owen at the Victoria Theatre, Broughton.

MR. W. PAYNE SEDDON was on Wednesday presented with a handsome sovereign case by the working staff of his Hawick theatre.

MR. GEORGE H. CHILD, who produced and stage-managed *Straight from the Shoulder* last autumn for Mr. R. A. Roberts, has been engaged by Messrs. Hinton, Green, and Zillwood to stage-manage their latest success *Her Fatal Marriage*.

MR. ROBERT H. HOWARD, who is playing the Squire in Mr. Robert Arthur's *Red Riding Hood* at Kennington, was engaged last Saturday week and opened at the following Monday's matinée. Although working on such short notice Mr. Howard gave general satisfaction, and has now settled down thoroughly in the part.

MR. GEORGE LESTOCQ has engaged Miss Agnes Maude to play in *The Sportsman*, which starts its tour at Brighton on March 1.

MR. EDWARD A. COVENTRY has been re-engaged by Mr. Gaston Mayer to play Stubbins in the South company of *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch*.

MR. T. G. HALES has succeeded in purchasing the fine Mount St. Bernard dog that was depicted in the *Express* of Monday last, belonging to the very prominent Miss Violet Charlesworth. It is Mr. Hales's intention to use the animal for stage purposes, and for the present he will stable the dog at 76, The Drive, Hove.

MR. WELDON ATHERSTONE, on the conclusion of his engagement as Magnus in *The Prodigal Son*, was, on Saturday last, surprised and deeply gratified by the presentation of a handsome travelling rug from "the girls and boys of Mr. Geo. D. Day's *Prodigal Son* company, with every good wish for the best of luck in 1909." This evidence of good fellowship was strengthened by Mr. Chas. Seymour, Mr. Day's stage-manager, who presented Mr. Atherstone with a hunter watch.

MR. ALEC ALVES, who has been playing Jacky in Mr. Louis Calvert's production of *Sunday* for the past two years, has been engaged by Mr. Maurice E. Bandmann to play juvenile lead in his dramatic company, and has sailed by R.M.S. Macedonia for Calcutta.

MR. HERBERT LEONARD'S successful play, *The Girl I Love*, is now being booked by Mr. P. Howard Sturgess, general-manager for Mr. Wentworth Croke.

"KROKE'S KRONIKLE" is the name of one of the most interesting, as well as amusing, theatrical publications. It is edited by Mr. Roy Redgrave, and the articles and sketches are contributed by members of Mr. Wentworth Croke's South company of *The Christian*, clever cartoons being furnished by Mr. Royce Milton. The magazine, which is published monthly, brings out the literary talents of the various members of the company, and makes excellent reading.

MR. GEORGE EDWARDES has settled on *Our Miss Gibbs* as the title of the new piece, which is to be produced at the Gaiety on the 30th inst.

MR. WILLIAM HOLLES AND MISS NANNIE GOLDMAN are starting their spring tour earlier than usual this year with Arthur Shirley's successful play *The Stepmother*, now in its third year. The piece made a marked impression in all the principal cities on its previous visits, and many returns are being made this spring and autumn. Mr. Shirley has considerably strengthened the second act, and added several new incidents likely to suit provincial audiences.

THE efforts of Miss Lulu Valli, the principal boy at Kennington, to elude observation whilst entering the theatre, were terminated on the 8th inst., when she was espied by an errand boy whilst disguised in masculine attire. The boy duly claimed the reward of £5 offered by Mr. H. B. Brandreth, the manager; but Miss Valli certainly gave her pursuers a run for their money.

MR. LYN HARDING will read the title-rôle in a performance of *King Lear*, which will be given by the British Empire Shakespeare Society at the Bijou Theatre, Archer-street, W., on Tuesday, Feb. 2. It is the first time the society has attempted the tragedy in London.

A MATINÉE of *Dorothy*, in aid of the Lord Mayor's Fund for the sufferers in the Sicilian earthquake, will be given at the Waldorf Theatre on Jan. 26, by permission of Messrs. E. D. and J. Maundy-Gregory. The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs will attend in state, and the principal artists and chorus will generously give their services.

MISS EVELYN MILLARD, when she opens at the Criterion in February, will continue there the run of *The Adventure of Lady Ursula*, which will be followed by the production of Mr. Robert Hichens's new play, in which she will be supported by Mr. Herbert Waring, Mr. Allan Aynesworth, and Mr. Henry Ainley.

MR. BRANDON THOMAS is enjoying such a successful time at the Aldwych, giving two performances of *Charley's Aunt* every day, that he has arranged to continue the season until Jan. 23, putting on *Good for Nothing* as a front piece, with himself as Tom Dibbles and Miss Amy Brandon Thomas as Nan. Mr. Cecil Barth, his general manager, has booked a long tour, practically extending throughout the year, at all the principal theatres in the country.

MR. TOM CRAVEN'S latest melodrama, which bears the pretty and attractive title, *When a Lass Loves*, was, as will be remembered, produced a few weeks ago with quite extraordinary success at the Theatre Royal, Margate. The piece will be sent on tour as soon as the elaborate scenery and pictorial printing can be got ready. The printing will be executed by Messrs. David Allen and Sons, and Mr. H. Cecil Beryl, who at once recognised "a winner" in this play, is now booking the dates.

OWING to the heavy work entailed in the production of the Ring and of the new opera, *The Angelus*, at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, there will be no performance on Tuesday evening next. *Madame Butterfly* will be postponed until Thursday, Jan. 21, and the première of *The Angelus* will take place on Saturday, the 23rd. All tickets booked for *Madame Butterfly* on Tuesday, the 19th, can be transferred to Thursday, the 21st, on application at the box office, or the money returned.

"PROTEUS IN PETTICOATS," a one-act comedy by Frank Ernest Potter, was produced for the first time by Mr. Edward Compton and his company at the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, on Monday.

MR. JOHN HAMES, who for some time has been suffering from a severe nervous disorder, the result, it is feared, of a fall some three years and a half ago, has been compelled to go into Charing Cross Hospital for treatment. It is to be regretted that he had to refuse two very advantageous offers only last Thursday week (the 8th). He will be very pleased to see any old friends. Visiting days are Wednesday and Friday, from 3 to 4 o'clock, and on Sundays, between 3.30 and 4.30. It is to be hoped his sojourn there will be brief, and that he will soon be at work again.

THE Popular Theatre, now in course of construction at Lisbon, collapsed on Wednesday morning, and is now a heap of ruins. The theatre was to have been opened at the Carnival.

MR. HENRY LUDLOW has been specially engaged by Mr. George Alexander to sustain Mr. Dawson Milward's part in the first tour of *The Builder of Bridges*.

A WONDERFUL musical prodigy has been discovered at Leipzig. She is a little girl named Pillar Osorio, who will celebrate her fourth birthday within a few weeks. At a recital in the Bluethnerschen Hall, before an audience in which many musical critics and men of science were included, Pillar Osorio played from memory a number of classical pieces with astonishing correctness of execution and touch. Scientists are greatly interested in the question of how the brain of a three-year-old child can be capable of the mental effort required to grasp all the intricacies of the classical pieces which the infant prodigy played.

THE death has taken place at her home in Boston, U.S.A., of Mrs. Evelyn Greenleaf Sutherland (John Rutherford), authoress of *The Breed of the Treshams*, with which Mr. Martin Harvey has been so successfully associated, and of *Monsieur Beaucaire*, which she wrote in conjunction with Mr. Booth Tarkington, and which has proved so popular in the hands of Mr. Lewis Waller. She was also the authoress of *The Road to Yesterday*, which has not yet been produced in this country, although the plot was read some time ago at Worthing. She was for years the dramatic editor and leader writer of the *Boston Commonwealth*, and was very well known in Boston, her literary career having begun with the winning of a prize in a competition for a ghost story in 1894. Mrs. Sutherland had the misfortune to set fire to her clothing at an open gas-stove, and, although her injuries might not necessarily have proved fatal, the shock proved too great for a weakened heart.

STATISTICS of last year's representations at the principal German theatres have just appeared. *Carmen* has proved the most popular opera, having been performed close on 500 times. Wagner's operas reach the number 1,938, the work most frequently performed having been *Lohengrin*—396 times. Verdi was represented by 757 performances, Lortzing by 660, Mozart by 474, Meyerbeer by 153. *Fidelio* was given 219 times, Gounod's *Faust* 248, and *Salome* 217 times.

OPERETTA has reigned supreme everywhere. *The Merry Widow* has seen 1,778 performances; while Oscar Strauss's *Dream Waltz* runs that popular work very close with 1,742; and the pretty little *Dollar Princess* was given 548 times. Schiller takes, as usual, the leading place among the classics with 1,442 representations, Goethe with just half that number. Shakespeare has been performed 948 times, Molière 185 times. Among modern playwrights Sudermann heads the list with 1,212 performances, Ibsen follows with 876, and Gerhart Hauptmann with 475.

THE Maxine Elliott Theatre, New York, is situated in West Thirty-Ninth-street, nearly opposite the Casino. It is absolutely fireproof, being constructed of marble, steel, and concrete. Furthermore, it is one of the two or three theatres in New York that are completely detached from other buildings. The seating capacity is about 900. It is said that the cost of the Dorset marble used in the front and in other parts of the theatre would be sufficient to build an ordinary playhouse.

MISS ELLIOTT herself suggested the marble façade, and the Petit Trianon at Versailles was her model for the general design of the interior. The walls, ceiling, and floor of the lobby are made of large slabs of white Italian marble, the stairs leading to the balconies being of the same material. The decorative scheme of the auditorium is copied from one of the old French palaces. Each dressing-room has a pier mirror and a comfortable arm chair. Miss Elliott's dressing-room is just off the stage, and is connected with a reception-room and a private bath-room. Although the theatre was completed with extraordinary rapidity, no effort seems to have been spared to make it safe and comfortable. No one could fail to admire the luxurious and tasteful appearance of the auditorium. The Maxine Elliott Theatre is jointly managed by Miss Elliott and the Messrs. Shubert. Miss Julia Marlowe, Mme. Nazimova, and Miss Mary Mannering will appear there in the near future.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Tree and Garrick.

"MR. BERSOHM TREE," says the *Pall Mall Gazette*, "as he contemplates with satisfaction the continued and growing success of that child of his creation, the Academy of Dramatic Art, may take pride in the remembrance that Garrick may be thought to have had some idea in the same direction. So much, indeed, can be gathered from a chance reference of Horace Walpole to his friend George Montagu regarding a performance at the then (in George II.'s time) famous Richmond Theatre, when 'we had a new actress, a Miss Clough; an extremely fine, tall figure, and very handsome; she spoke very justly and with spirit. Garrick (who is to produce her next winter), Barry, and some more of the players were there to see the new comedians; it is to be their seminary.' It was of Garrick's friend, Dr. Johnson, that the elder Boswell said, 'He set up a schule and ca'd it an academy'; and Garrick's own seminary has become an academy now."

They Knew the Feet.

MR. JAMES WELCH'S funniest story, as told in *Cassell's Saturday Journal*, is reminiscent of his first appearance on the stage in a small part and an extremely large moustache in a Liverpool theatre. "The tone of the audience," says Mr. Welch, "was by no means encouraging during the first few minutes of my professional career, but I bore up bravely under the sting of their ill-timed mirth. I say I bore up. Well, so I did, until, just before the time for my exit came along, a man in the pit shouted: 'Come out of that there moustache. I knows yer by yer feet.' Then I bolted from the stage."

What an Audience Will Swallow.

"I never saw an audience swallow 'soft sawder' so easily as I once did at Barrow-in-Furness," says Mr. J. Pitt Hardacre in some "Reminiscences" in *Tit-Bits*. "I was travelling with Mr. T. C. King, a well-known tragedian in his day. Mr. King was known familiarly as 'Tom,' and one night during our week's stay Jem Mace, the celebrated pugilist, was appearing at the music hall, which brought from Mr. King the remark, 'By Jove! here's history repeating itself with a vengeance—Jem Mace and Tom King opposing each other once again.!'

"As I had never seen anything in the way of professional sparring, I went across to the music hall. The place was crowded to the doors. We had got a very poor audience at the theatre, but with true professional courtesy the manager at the hall took me on to the stage, where I was introduced to the redoubtable Jem, and saw all that was going on from the wings. Two or three local men opened the ball by sparring for small prizes before the event of the evening came off, and then occurred the cheekiest piece of showman's bluff I ever heard. The stage was set with all Mace's trophies on a table at the back. Montague, Mace's manager, came on and gave a short history of Mace's career. He then described each trophy.

"'Ladies and gentlemen, this belt was won by Mr. Mace in his great fight with ——, in the year ——, at ——.' As each success with belt or cup was described the applause grew bigger and bigger, until he came to the championship-of-the-world belt, when the audience nearly shouted itself hoarse; but the climax was reached when Mr. Montague concluded somewhat after this fashion: 'I have been all over the world with Mr. Mace—on the prairies of America, in the backwoods of Canada, on the plains of India, in the cities of Australia—but Mr. Mace has always said to me, "Montague, you must take me to Barrow-in-Furness."' Then the house nearly came down.

For the "Poor People."

"I remember," continues Mr. Hardacre, "the following story in connection with the old Cork Theatre. There was once a well-known Irish manager called Huntly May M'Carthy. On one of his visits to Cork he found business so outrageously bad that he was at his wits' end. At last the idea struck him that he would get up a benefit for the 'poor of Cork.' He did so, and it being for such a deserving object he got the patronage of the Mayor and other notables of the place, and a big house was the result. Next morning the secretary and treasurer of the fund called at M'Carthy's lodgings with the idea of collecting the receipts. M'Carthy talked about all kinds of things except finance, and at last the subject was broached by the visitors. 'I beg your pardon,' says M'Carthy, 'I think you know the benefit was for the poor of Cork?' 'So we understand.' 'Then, gentlemen, I have divided the money amongst my own company, and if you can find a poorer lot in Cork you are welcome to let them have it.' But they couldn't.

"Another story shows the careless, happy-go-luckiness of the Irish character. King was playing Hamlet, and after the graveyard scene he discovered that his hands were filthy and black, as if he had been touching soot. He inquired the cause of the property man, who said, 'Shure, it's the glue-pot, sorr.' And so it was. The skull used in the play also did duty as the glue-pot."

Mr. Bourchier Back Again.

MR. ARTHUR BOURCHIER, recently returned from a Continental tour, has been talking to a *Standard* interviewer about the lighting of the stage in Germany. "They light their pieces," says Mr. Bourchier, "in many theatres absolutely like nature. For instance, if the scene portrayed is a room in an old castle, and the time is supposed to be sunrise, the stage will not be lit all over as is the custom in England. The footlights will be cut off and the stage left in darkness, and then those windows which are presumed by the management to face the east will gradually be brightened by the rays of the rising sun. I saw a most effective instance of stage lighting in Berlin. It was at the performance of a travesty of *Tristan and Isoult*. In one scene the characters sit round a supper board lit only with candles. All the other lights of the theatre are cut off, and the effect is wonderfully realistic."

Shrimper and Substitute.

"MASTER PHILIP TONGE, the latest little Lord Fauntleroy, was at Bexhill once on a holiday," says the *Evening News*, "when, owing to illness, or some similar cause, there was a disastrous gap in the programme of the afternoon concert at the Kursaal. The management knew that young Philip was in the town, and imploring messages were sent to Mrs. Tonge asking that the boy might fill the breach with some recitations. There was a frantic search. Philip was discovered waist-high in the sea, absorbed in the strenuous delights of shrimping. The awful predicament of the management left him entirely unmoved. Compared with shrimping, reciting was but indifferent sport. He was eventually overcome by his mother's persuasions, and consented to a brief appearance. He was bare-legged, tumbled, and sanded, and wet almost to the shoulders. The advisibility of attempting to make his appearance presentable was suggested, but here Philip stood firm. There was no time to be lost. It was necessary to return to the business of shrimping with the least possible delay. Thus, and not otherwise, would he go. And thus he went and appeared, a little wet and bare-legged figure, on the concert platform. He created great enthusiasm, and flew back to the shrimping directly he was released."

"PENELOPE."

Comedy, in Three Acts, by W. Somerset Maugham, produced at the Comedy Theatre on Saturday, Jan. 9.

Penelope .....MISS MARIE TEMPEST
Dr. O'Farrell .....MR. GRAHAM BROWNE
Professor Golightly .....MR. ALFRED BISHOP
Mrs. Golightly .....MISS KATE BISHOP
Mr. Davenport Barlow .....MR. ERIC LEWIS
Mrs. Ferguson .....MISS NORMA WHALLEY
Mr. Beadsworth .....MR. HERBERT ROSS
Mrs. Watson .....MRS. CALVERT
Mr. Anderson .....MR. J. H. BREWER
Peyton .....MISS ETHELWYNN ARTHUR-JONES

The favourable reception given to Mr. W. Somerset Maugham's new comedy at the Comedy on Saturday was chiefly owing to the excellence of the acting. *Penelope* may be described as consisting of a French philosophical plot, treated in a hybrid spirit, with purely English characters. The effect of this combination is not entirely satisfying, and is, at times, almost unpleasant. But the interest is never let drop, unless it is at the conclusion, when the long-foreseen *dénouement* is over-elaborated, and should certainly be condensed.

The plot of *Penelope* deals with the attempts made by Mrs. O'Farrell, who has been married only five years to a young West End doctor, to win back the affection of her husband, which he has transferred to a married woman named Mrs. Ferguson, whose spouse is a sea captain who is "serving his country" in the Mediterranean. There is a family council in the first act, at which are gathered Penelope's uncle, Mr. Davenport Barlow, an elderly fop with fashionable tastes; her mother, Mrs. Golightly, whose hobby is foreign missionary work; her solicitor, in this case a cypher; and her uncle, Professor Golightly, a mathematician. After the others have said their say, the Professor evolves the theory that Penelope has been treating her husband too well, and has been lavishing her fondness upon him too freely. If, says the Professor, she will only affect entire indifference, both to him personally, and to his infidelity to her, he will in the end be as weary of Mrs. Ferguson's endearments as he has become with respect to his wife's. So Penelope sets to work to try the experiment. Her husband accounts for his frequent absences by a story about a patient, a Mrs. Mack, who frequently requires to be operated upon; and fun is extracted in the customary way from his evasions and excuses. Mrs. Ferguson is a personal friend of Mrs. O'Farrell's; and, believing that the latter is ignorant of the intrigue, comes to see the doctor on pretence of consulting him about her health. So bold do the pair become that they arrange a trip to Paris together, giving out that Dr. O'Farrell has to put the mythical Mrs. Mack on to the Riviera train, while Mrs. Ferguson has been asked by the patient to take the place of her maid, who has been called away. Mrs. O'Farrell thinks that things have gone far enough, and tells her husband that she "knows all." He is astounded, not only at the extent of her information, but at the calm way in which she takes his infidelity. He waxes righteously indignant at her callousness, and reproaches her with it. He, at any rate, he says, has a "moral sense." However, in the end he is so far tamed and subdued by Penelope's attitude that he decides not to go to Paris with Mrs. Fergusson.

That lady's punishment comes in the last act. Penelope plays with her cleverly, until O'Farrell, very awkwardly, breaks off their relations, when Mrs. Ferguson flies into a passion, and pretends that she never cared for him. She is induced to console herself with Mr. Barlow, and then the erring husband has to make his peace with his wife. She delays her pardon for some time, but eventually grants it; and on their reconciliation the curtain falls.

It would be difficult for any play to fall flat with Miss Marie Tempest as the heroine, and as Penelope O'Farrell she displayed the vivacity, lightness of touch, and subtlety of inflection and grimace which make her such a consummate comedienne. Her by-play and facial expression were admirable, and the dry humour of her performance was delightful. The constant activity of her rendering of its innumerable, delicately-finished details and the marvellous variety of her method made Miss Tempest's Penelope O'Farrell a creation equal to any of her comedy impersonations. It is difficult to imagine a performance more lively, more intelligent, or more piquantly characteristic. In the scenes in which she had to exhibit deep and serious feeling Miss Tempest was as excellent as in the droll depiction of the wife's keen dissimulation or in the arch delivery of her ironical remarks. Her Penelope is certainly one of the best things that Miss Tempest has done. Mr. Graham Browne hit off exactly the characteristics of the fickle O'Farrell, to whose bewilderment and exasperation Mr. Browne did full justice. The part is neither a strong nor a pleasant one, and he was handicapped by its deficiences; but he sustained it with his wonted care and skill, and was particularly good in the scenes in which the doctor is embarrassed by want of cash and superfluity of non-paying patients. That ripe and sound comedian Mr. Alfred Bishop gave a reading of Professor Golightly that could hardly have been improved upon. The sober cynicism of the middle-aged philosopher was admirably indicated, and his *dicta* were pronounced with the firm authority and perfect balance and repose which are Mr. Bishop's best characteristics. Miss Kate Bishop was a most agreeable and amusing representative of Mrs. Golightly. Mr. Eric Lewis's Mr. Davenport Barlow was a masterpiece of alert and dainty comedy acting, his make-up and attire being marvels of effective appropriateness. It was a performance worthy of the best traditions of light comedy, polished down to the smallest detail, neat and amusing in every touch and turn of voice and attitude. Acting like this is indeed a credit to the English stage, and a tribute to the virtues of the school in which Mr. Lewis served his apprenticeship Miss Norma Whalley made a magnificent Mrs. Ferguson, and her acting in the highly dramatic scene in the last division of the play was powerful, intense, and energetic. Her suggestions of uncasiness and worried duplicity were skilful in their delicacy, and altogether her Mrs. Ferguson was a dazzling and commanding personage. The part is a critical one, hovering as it does between serious passion and egoistical silliness; but Miss Whalley managed to indicate the existence of both in the dashing and luxurious personage. Mr. Herbert Ross did what was possible with the small part of Mr. Beadsworth; and Mrs. Calvert, assuming a comely cheerfulness which the duties of her line of business have often denied her, was exquisitely unconscious and natural as the doctor's widow Mrs. Watson. Mr. J. H. Brewer did some droll work as a cringing patient on his first visit to a consulting-room; and Miss Ethelwynn Arthur-Jones added to the pleasure of the evening by her well-considered rendering of the rôle of an imperturbable maid-servant. The mounting of the piece was liberal and artistic. Messrs. W. Hann and Son supplied some smart and sunny interiors, and the ladies' dresses were charming and sumptuous examples of the prevailing fashion. Mr. Dion Boucicault's able stage-management of the production ensured a smooth and brisk performance.

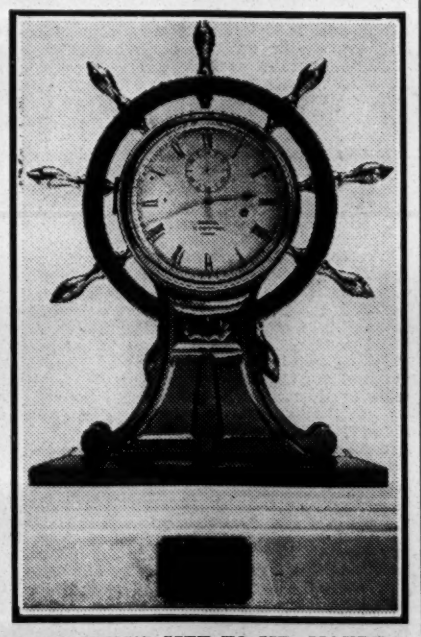
"THE EYES OF THE WORLD."

Play, in Three Acts, by Charles Darrell, Produced for the first time in London at the Theatre Royal, Woolwich, on Monday, Jan. 11.

M. Achille Fanfarade ..MR. J. EDWARD WHITTY
M. Hector de L'Orme ....MR. GEO. D. DAIPER
M. Gaston de Carnac .....MR. WILL CASEY
Octave .....MR. CHARLES STIRLING
M. Paul Roqueville .....MR. CHAS. SEWELL
Brigard .....MR. ALBERT HENDLEY
Ayice .....MISS IRENE STANHOPE
Mme. Esmé de Carnac MISS BEATRICE FITZHUGH
Mlle. Susanne Pomfleure..MISS NELLIE GARSIDE
Antoinette .....MISS IVY COURTNEY
Hélène de L'Orme ....MISS ETHEL VAN PRAAGH

An excellent reception was accorded the introduction to London of *The Eyes of the World* on Monday last, and Miss Ethel Van Praagh and Mr. J. Edward Whitty may be congratulated on their latest success, which drew hearty manifestations of approval from a large audience, who, not content with giving long outbursts of applause at numerous points during the performance, emphasised their keen appreciation by causing the curtain to be raised several times at the conclusion of each act. Mr. Charles Darrell, the author, from whose prolific pen many noteworthy dramas have sprung, has given of his best, the play being well conceived and powerfully written, and nearly every individual member of the cast has his or her chances of scoring, opportunities, we may here state, that are in no way lost sight of. The plot is laid in the high circles of French society, and domestic intrigue forms the basis of the play. The high-souled and loving Hélène de L'Orme is allied to an unappreciative husband, Hector de L'Orme, and bears up against the wrongs and indignities which are thrust upon her until it comes to her knowledge that her husband has formed a liaison with the wife of his best friend, M. Gaston de Carnac. Hélène then determines to leave her husband, but for the sake of her daughter, Avice, arranges that the matter of the intrigue shall be kept a profound secret. In the second act, when ten years have elapsed, we find that Hélène's daughter has formed an attachment to Octave, the son of Gaston de Carnac. In this scene is the meeting of Hélène with Hector and Gaston. The latter, who is still unaware of his wife's perfidy, will not permit the alliance of his son unless Hélène returns to her husband, which she absolutely refuses to do, and, for the sake of her daughter, would rather face death. There is a very dramatic episode where Hélène and her husband, having come to the conclusion one of them must die, decide their fate by the drawing of a card. The lot falling to Hélène, she attempts to take her life, but is saved at the last moment by her husband. In the third act comes the meeting of Hélène with Mme. Esmé de Carnac, the errant wife, and the angry encounter between the two women is very powerfully drawn. Eventually Gaston is made aware of his wife's intrigue, and Hector, whose eyes have been opened to his wife's devotion, repents and is forgiven.

Miss Ethel Van Praagh as Hélène de L'Orme submits a powerful rendering of the part, which is in every way suited to her high capabilities, her characterisation maintaining throughout high claims on the popular favour. As Achille Fanfarade, a young advocate, Mr. J. Edward Whitty gives a good delineation, and in the episode where he is supposed to be put under mesmeric influence to answer truthfully Susanne's questions he is thoroughly diverting, and is the source of much merriment. Mr. George D. Daiper brings the necessary experience and ability to bear upon his portrayal of the character of Hector de L'Orme, the unfaithful, though repentant, husband, and speaks his lines with dramatic effect. Mr. Will Casey fulfils every requirement in the part of Gaston de Carnac, and supplies an earnest study; Octave is capably represented by Mr. Charles Stirling, who acts with conviction; Paul Roqueville has a suitable representative in Mr. Charles Sewell; Miss Nellie Garside is a clever exponent of comedy, and in the character of Susanne Pomfleure makes that young lady a very agreeable and entertaining personage and a great favourite with the audience; Miss Beatrice Fitzhugh as Esmé de Carnac, the unfaithful wife and society woman, achieves distinction by a good delineation; Miss Irene Stanhope is suitably placed as Avice; while Mr. Albert Hendley and Miss Ivy Courtney lend sufficient assistance. Much care has been bestowed upon the mounting of the play, which is elaborate and effective, and the dresses are worthy of note.



THE KING'S GIFT TO MR. MAUDE.

The above, which we use, by permission of the *Daily Mirror*, is a picture of the present which the King sent to Mr. Cyril Maude after his visit with *The Flag Lieutenant* to Sandringham. It is a massive and beautiful clock in the appropriate form of a ship's wheel, made to a special design, and was accompanied by a charming letter expressing His Majesty's approval of the performance.

A ONE-ACT play by Major Philip Trevor, entitled *The Looking-glass*, was performed by children for the first time at the matinée at the Haymarket on Tuesday in aid of the Prince of Wales's General Hospital, Tottenham, and the Kensington District Nursing Association. It was a slight but pretty incident in child life, consisting of a conversation between some juveniles in their family affairs.

MISS KATE BISHOP, having left *The Passing of the Third Floor Back* company, to play in *Penelope* at the Comedy Theatre, Miss Elsie Keith Lytton has been appearing as Mrs. de Hooley. On Saturday last, through the indisposition of Miss Agnes Thomas, she was called upon to enact Mrs. Sharpe at the matinée, and so rendered the two parts with great success.

PLAY ACTORS.

"JOHN MALONE'S LOVE STORY,"
A Play in Four Acts, by Rachel Penn, produced at the Court Theatre, on Sunday, Jan. 10.

John Malone, M.P. .....MR. ARTHUR APPLIN
Esther Garthorpe .....MISS EDITH OLIVE
Sir Horace Garthorpe, M.D., F.R.C.S. MR. FRED W. PERMAIN
Mrs. Saxbey.....MISS ISABEL GREY
Tom Saxbey .....MR. LEWIS WILLOUGHBY
Kate Saxbey .....MISS WINIFRED MAYO
Sally .....MISS JEAN STERLING MACKINLAY
Bedford .....MR. FEWLASS LLEWELLYN
Marshall .....MISS INEZ BENSUSAN

If Rachel Penn (Mrs. E. S. Willard) can be induced to transform her play, *John Malone's Love Story*, into a novel, we do not think she need fear the result, and we are certainly of opinion that she might reasonably expect greater success with it than with the stage work under review. At the same time, let it be said that the piece gives evidence on the part of the authoress of an appreciation of dramatic situations, of a command of language, and of a talent for fine writing. And yet the play, thought interesting from several aspects, lacked the power to convince, even to hold the attention of the audience, and some of the conversations and scenes were drawn out to a rather wearisome length.

Esther Garthorpe is the secretary to John Malone, M.P., who is passionately in love with her. Scarcely less is Esther in love wtih him, but there are circumstances in her past life which compel her to keep Malone at an arm's length so far as the tender passion is concerned. For Miss Esther Garthorpe has a daughter living, and this is a source of shame to her father, Sir Horace Garthorpe, M.D., F.R.C.S. That gentleman sent Esther, when a girl of sixteen, to live with a titled woman whose mode of life was not such that it would have justified any self-respecting father in placing his daughter under her care. But Sir Horace has greater affection for his work than for his offspring, and he frankly admits that he doesn't want to be bothered with her. What happens is that the girl is taken advantage of in her innocence, and a female child is born. The baby is adopted by a kind-hearted greengrocer and his wife, and is decently brought up by them as their own child, under the name of Sally Fielding. Sir Horace, considering that Esther has brought dishonour upon the family name, declines to resume any relationship with her, and Esther is compelled to find some means of earning a livelihood, eventually becoming Malone's secretary. The opening scene, the morning-room at Saxbey Court, introduces us to most of the characters. There is Mrs. Saxbey, Esther's godmother, and grandmother of Tom and Kate Saxbey. Tom is an amateur artist, and he has found a kindred spirit in Sally, who has also taken up painting. They fall in love with one another, and announce their intention to go forth into the world to fight the battle of life together. Mrs. Saxbey refuses to give her consent to the union, but promises that if, after four years, Sally has made a man of Tom, and he can show that he has done something for himself, then she will be prepared to give them her blessing, as well as something more substantial. So Tom and Sally engage a studio in St. John's Wood. Things are not too bright for them, but they are managing to scrape along somehow. Esther commissions Sally—to whom, by the way, has not been revealed the secret of her birth—to paint her portrait, no doubt as a delicate means of rendering financial assistance. To the studio there comes another visitor in the person of Malone. He informs Sally that Esther is no longer working for him. Sally has previously hinted that she does not quite understand Esther—she is not even sure that she likes her—and Malone endeavours to weave a web of affection between the two. Later there is a very pathetic scene in which Esther tells Sally that she has a friend who had had a daughter, but had not been married. Her friend loved that daughter very much, but the daughter knew nothing of the circumstances attending the initial cause of her being. And then Esther asks Sally whether it would be wise to advise her friend to take the daughter into her confidence. Sally, after being informed that the daughter is perfectly happy, advises in the negative. In the concluding act Malone upbraids Sir Horace Garthorpe for his desertion of his daughter, and Sir Horace, in self-defence, angrily denounces her for having brought shame upon herself and upon him. In the end, however, Malone induces Sir Horace to a better and more charitable frame of mind, and the curtain falls on the lovers embracing one another after having proclaimed their loves.

Miss Edyth Olive had a difficult task in undertaking the rôle of Esther Garthorpe, but she brought out all the sorrow and pathos of the character with realistic earnestness. In the scene in which Esther asks her daughter for advice on behalf of a "friend"—a scene upon which we offer our congratulations to the authoress—the tragedy that was expressed by Miss Olive as the mother, entered with searching poignancy into the hearts of the audience. Altogether, the actress is to be commended for an admirable study. Mr. Arthur Applin, as John Malone, played throughout with the quiet dignity and the reserve which indicate the strong man; and Mr. Fred W. Permain furnished a striking portraiture as Sir Horace Garthorpe. Miss Jean Sterling Mackinlay was bright, vivacious, and girlish as Sally; and Miss Winifred Mayo was appropriately mischievous, sprightly, and gay as Kate Saxbey. Miss Isabel Grey was seen in a capital character study of the grandmother; and Mr. Lewis Willoughby appeared as Tom Saxbey and Mr. Fewlass Llewellyn as a butler.

DRAMATIC COINCIDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—To obviate any possibility of a charge of plagiarism in the future, will you permit me to explain, through the medium of *The Era*, apropos your paragraph concerning the forthcoming production of *The Chief of Staff* at the Lyric Theatre, that my play, *What Love Can Do*, written two yeare ago, but not yet produced, is also concerned with events transpiring in a South American republic.—Yours faithfully,

RICHARD A. GREENE.

Actors' Association, 353, Strand, W.C.
Jan. 14, 1909.

The Palmy Days.

AT all periods bygone times were better than the present. Everyone knows that the stage was never in such parlous state as it is now (whenever you happen to mention it). This is as it always has been. The "good old days" have always been lauded to the detriment of the bad new days. In a Press notice in 1797 of the reappearance of Mrs. Abington after seven years' retirement, the writer said of the original lady Teazle: "In this age of frivolity and folly when caricature and eccentricity threaten to bear down truth and nature and already almost put common sense out of countenance." In a prologue written by Dr. Johnson, and spoken by David Garrick in 1747, these lines appear:—

"'Tis yours this night to bid the reign
commence
Of rescued nature and reviving sense."

Those who are continually bewailing the degeneracy of the modern stage may take heart of grace and feel that when they recognise the drama is not what it was they may say, with Sir Francis Burnand, "No, it never was!"

"MONNA VANNA."

Lyric Drama, in Four Acts and Five Tableaux, by Maurice Maeterlinck, Music by Henri Février, produced at the Opéra on Jan. 13.

Monna Vanna .....MLLE. L. BRÉVAL
Prinzivalle .....M. MURATORE
Marco Colonna .....M. DELMAS
Guido Colonna .....M. MARCOUX
Trivulzio .....M. CERDAN
Vedio .....M. NANSEN
Torello .....M. TRIADOU
Borso .....M. GONGUET

(FROM OUR PARIS CORRESPONDENT.)

Monna Vanna, originally written as a drama, was produced at the Théâtre de L'Œuvre in May, 1902, with Mme. Georgette Leblanc in the name-part. It had a great success, and after a while M. Maeterlinck asked M. Février to set the play to music to a libretto compiled by the great Belgian author himself. But before the work was half finished serious trouble broke out between M. Maeterlinck and his collaborator. It will be remembered that MM. Messager and Broussan, managers of the Opéra, refused to entrust the rôle to Mme. Georgette Leblanc-Maeterlinck, whereupon the author informed these gentlemen through his lawyers that he prohibited the performance of *Monna Vanna* at that house. M. Février, on the other hand, sided with the Opéra management, and the Tribunal de la Seine decided that as a composer does the lion's share of the work, his wishes take precedence over those of his collaborator. Many people probably will approve this judgment; but others, I am sure, will not share that view. With every respect to the learned judges, I venture to say that nowadays in a lyric drama dialogue and music form an ensemble, and that it appears monstrous to ignore the wishes of the librettist, who in this case is one of the greatest littérateurs of the day.

The plot, which has undergone a slight alteration since it first saw the footlights, is as follows: It is the story of the beautiful Giovanna (Monna Vanna), who, like a second Lady Godiva, sacrifices herself for the good of her fellow-citizens. We are in the fifteenth century. The city of Pisa is menaced by the Republic of Florence. There are riots in the streets, the people are asking for food, and Guido Colonna, the commander of the garrison, has none to give them. He awaits the return of Marco, his father, sent on a mission to Prinzivalle, captain of the enemy's troops. Marco arrives with a promise of peace and plenty if Guido will consent to send Monna Vanna, his wife, to Prinzivalle for one night. She must come unclothed except for her mantle, without escort, and the city will be free. The proposition is monstrous, and Guido repels it. But Vanna, in pity for the people, agrees to the sacrifice, and, notwithstanding the jealous fury of her lord, starts on her journey. Prinzivalle can scarcely believe the news brought by his servant that Monna Vanna approaches. He receives her respectfully, and at once orders the chariots, laden with provisions, to start for Pisa. He then tells Monna Vanna of his love, and reminds her of an episode in their youth, when he restored a lost ring and received a kiss in exchange. Vanna remembers, and there is a subtle and delicate interchange of thought between the man and the woman. At the end of the scene Prinzivalle returns to Pisa with Monna Vanna, who answers for his life. Guido, in the meanwhile, vows vengeance against Prinzivalle, who, he believes, has been guilty towards Monna Vanna, and decrees that the captain must die if Vanna is to be pardoned. But Marco and the people are on the side of the woman who has saved the city, and as she approaches she is received with acclamations of joy. In vain she declares that Prinzivalle has respected her. Guido refuses to believe her, and the captain is condemned to rot in the lowest dungeon in the palace. Monna Vanna, suddenly seized with an inspiration, wrongfully accuses Prinzivalle, and, whispering to the prisoner that she loves him, exacts as her right the power to avenge herself on her husband. She claims the keys of his dungeon, and, opening the gates, the lovers roam hand in hand through the beautiful country that a change of scene discloses.

Many composers had asked M. Maeterlinck's permission to set his work to music, but it fell to the lot of M. Henri Février to undertake that task. To say that it is altogether satisfactory would be venturing too far, but it must be acknowledged that M. Février has written a straightforward score, without having recourse to Wagnerian inspirations. There are many pleasing numbers, although as a whole the work is somewhat monotonous. M. Février made the mistake of eliminating choruses that would have relieved the monologues of the principal characters and given colour to the music. The subject is dramatic enough to warrant powerful treatment, but the composer too often contents himself with melody in a facile vein. The love episode, which recalled a village scene rather than the reminiscence of youth in Venice, misses the undercurrent of passion that might have been supplied by a bolder musician. And it is here that the principal trouble lies. M. Février has not been bold enough, and his distinguished collaborator must have felt this when he first saw the score. It appears that M. Maeterlinck remarked on several occasions that the work was not big enough for the Opéra, and therefore more suited for the Opéra-Comique. This was an error of judgment. *Monna Vanna* is big enough for any stage, but it was the composer who belittled it. The most telling and picturesque number is the symphonic passing of the chariots and men laden with corn. The repetition of the three notes gives weight, and is certainly the cleverest rendering of the many scenes in the libretto.

The opera has been most gorgeously mounted. The scenery is artistic, and the dresses are picturesque. The grouping of the Italian peasantry is particularly effective. Mlle. Lucienne Bréval as Monna Vanna was the magnificent, chaste heroine M. Maeterlinck intended her to be, although she acted more than she sang her part. M. Marcoux as Guido secured a real triumph, and, despite his hoarseness, did full justice to the rôle. M. Muratore was a convincing Prinzivalle, and M. Delmas was excellent as Marco.

And where was M. Maeterlinck whilst his work was produced at the Opéra against his will? In his lawyer's office preparing an onslaught on MM. Messager and Broussan? Not a bit of it. The great author is a philosopher, and whilst people were looking for him in Paris, he and his talented wife were, and are still, basking in the sun at Grasse.

Löhr and Lore.

MISS MARIE LÖHR took the chair at the Playgoers' Club lecture on Sunday last, when Mr. Dion Clayton Calthrop discoursed on "The Passing of Pierrot." Mr. Calthrop, in the course of his lecture, said a great deal of drama in life is left untouched by people who write for the stage, because it is the one art which is so bound by conventions that it has scarcely room to breathe; managers have tight-laced its possibilities until it has the approved French figure. Some few have tried to get away from convention by writing for children, others by writing very intimately of social problems. The only true way to set to work is to write about children, which is the reason of the success of *The Third Floor Back*, where child-like and very simple words appeal straight from the Stranger to the hearts of his converts. We need to reinstate Pierrot among our immortals, the immortals man has created for his inmost needs, and when we do so that terrible bogey Mrs. Grundy, who is a false idol, will vanish in despair.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

NEW CROSS EMPIRE.

The large and enthusiastic audiences which are the rule here have been, if possible, larger and more enthusiastic this week. The bill is headed by *The Johnstown Flood*, a reproduction of the terrible disaster of May 30, 1889, when ruin overtook the town, and many lives were lost. The opening scene shows Johnstown as it appeared twenty-four hours previous to the disaster. Gradually the day draws to a close; the sun sets slowly in the western sky; lights appear in the houses, a mechanical train, cleverly constructed, passes on its way, the signals work as it meets a goods train; stars appear in the sky, lights go out one by one as the inhabitants seek repose. The sun gradually rises, heralded by the singing of birds. The day breaks gloriously; but towards noon a storm descends, accompanied by thunder and lightning, and a reservoir bursts and floods the town. We finally see Johnstown restored to its former peace and beauty. The entire effect is magnificent and impressive, and reflects great credit on all concerned. The lecturer is Mr. Harry Barker; the mechanical effects and scenery were built by Mr. Fred Regina, who must be warmly congratulated on his excellent work; and the scenery is exquisitely painted by Mr. Syd Cook.

Dick Turpin is always a welcome feature in the bill, and had a very warm reception on the night of our visit. The beautiful and marvellously-trained Black Bess is as great a favourite as ever, and her performance is most interesting. Mr. Fred Ginnett impersonates the famous knight of the road with dash and spirit, and is a huge favourite. So well does Mr. Jennings play Tom King that we are full of regret when he is betrayed by Susan Truelove, a part sustained with much success by Mrs. F. Ginnett. Mr. C. Barello is excellent as Simon Sharpscent, and Mr. Alf Burgess is an amusing Sammy. Mr. Guest is a picturesque Luke Rookwood; Mr. Bailey is good as the Tollgate Keeper, as is Mr. Edwards as the Ostler. Mrs. Jennings completes the cast with an excellent representation of the Landlady of the John Falstaff.

Billy Hobbs, coon impersonator and dancer, scores a success with his amusing song and patter; J. H. Scotland, whose fine voice and excellent method aroused the audience to enthusiasm, gave his songs, including "In happy moments," in capital style, and was recalled several times. Julia Kent and Alec Keith contributed a smart turn, which was well received; it consisted of *The Swell and the Coster* and imitations, which were cleverly done. Frank Seeley, eccentric comedian, fully justifies the description by his quaint rendering of "I am going home to mother," "Cinderella," and some clever patter; the Achmed Ibrahim Troupe consists of ten clever artists, whose remarkable agility and smartness are greatly appreciated; Miss Jennie Hartley is a charming soubrette, dainty and pleasing, who makes a hit with "Mr. Burglar" and a neatly-executed dance; Miss Mary Ambrose sings delightfully "If I should plant a tiny seed of love in the garden of your heart." The programme also included a very good extra turn by Lennie and Hast called *The Sea Nymph*, in which both artists appeared to the best advantage. There were also pictures shown by the American Bioscope, entitled Following in Mother's Footsteps. Mr. Bridgen is, as usual, indefatigable in looking after the comfort of visitors, and is ably assisted by Mr. C. Young.

STRATFORD EMPIRE.

This week's programme is full of interest from start to finish. There is quite a plethora of talent in the turn contributed by Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco. Le Roy performs some very bewildering conjuring and vanishing tricks; Talma's dexterous coin manipulation has only to be seen to be marvelled at; while Bosco's unforced humour is bound to remove any suspicion of tediousness which conjuring entertainments are prone to. All three are adepts at the art of extracting "something from nothing," as is evidenced by the multitudinous articles they obtain from the empty pockets of members of the audience, whose blank astonishment thereat (with perhaps a tinge of regret at being unable to accomplish the same feat), is an additional source of merriment. Carrie Laurie's Kindergarten are quite repeating former successes at Stratford, if not exceeding them. This clever troupe of juveniles reflect the greatest credit on their mentor, their vocalism being excellent; while the antics and byplay of the budding "Dan Leno" of the party provide much mirth.

Miss Maude A. Edwards is a decided acquisition to the ranks of polyphonic performers. Smartly attired in hunting costume, she introduces a very pert little stable lad, "Nobbler," though his frequent remark, "Hold my hand, Maude," is scarcely to be wondered at, and he certainly does render a pretty ballad in a *boy's* voice. Miss Edwards's ventriloquial act is most praiseworthy; she is welcomely distinct, and possesses a keen sense of humour. Carter Livesay and Lilian Rosebery are in great favour with their well-known skit *The Would-be Actors*, and this clever duo should not, for many a day, seek a successor to this exhilarating playlet. Mr. Ted E. Box proves himself a very versatile entertainer, and is quickly on the best of terms with the audience. He has a remarkable command of facial expression, a quaint and original style, while as a comedy siffleur he is almost in a street by himself. Mr. Tom Bryce, in his amusing sketch *The Dude's Wooing*, which introduces burlesque imitations of a Jew and a Scotchman, wins a rousing reception, which is fully merited, applause also being freely bestowed upon his assistant, Miss Price, a very pleasing vocalist. Mr. Albert Christian's fine baritone voice is heard to advantage in a couple of ballads, which are keenly enjoyed; and Miss Katie Cohen, in illustrated songs, provides a well-received turn. Virto and Venita's musical act is received with pleasure, the gentleman showing much skill with several rather unfamiliar instruments, while the lady impersonates a Salvation lassie with tambourine very engagingly. The clearly-shown Bioscope pictures are each week an interesting item, and Italy's Marvellous Cavalry is a subject which is keenly watched. The overture to the current programme is excellently rendered by the orchestra, under the able direction of Mr. Albert Whipp, Mus.Bac., and Mr. E. J. Macdermott, the popular acting-manager, looks well after the comfort of those "in front."

CAMBERWELL PALACE.

Folk on the Surrey side of the river have ever been keen supporters of theatrical entertainments, and it is scarcely, therefore, to be wondered at that the Camberwell Palace and other amusement establishments in the same neighbourhood are packed nightly. On the evening of our visit there was not a seat to be had "for love or money," as the old saying goes. And the programme this week is of the kind that would attract the most fastidious audience. One of the "big numbers" is furnished by Mr. Fred Karno's company of comedians in the laughable burlesque, *Mumming Birds*. We have so often spoken in terms of praise of this musical absurdity that further commendation of it would only be a work of supererogation. Suffice it to say that the members of Mr. Karno's company are as lively and hilarious as ever they were, and keep the house in roars of laughter. Mr. Tom Costello, appropriately described on the programme as "the essence of versatility," appears in his delightful character chorus songs, of which the special Irish emigrants' song-scena, entitled "Homeland, good-bye," wins the hearts of all with its enchanting refrain and the sentiment it expresses. Mr. Tom Costello understands well how to win the favour of an audience. Miss Billie Burford, who looks altogether charming in a beautiful costume, renders in most expressive style her song, "Why be ashamed of him now?"; and Miss Nancy Charman delivers in an engaging manner the lines of her verses on the subject of "Daddy." Miss Mollie O'Connor, who is deputising in the absence of Mr. Sydney Lee, affords evidence of considerable vocal talent by her singing of an Irish song; and Gibbon and Bell engage in some comedy acrobatics and contortionism, which are exceedingly effective. Mr. Cyril Dane, attired as a "swell comedian," has a capital ditty in "Take me to the land of girls," and no doubt, judging by his smart dress and handsome appearance, the fair denizens in that blissful kingdom would give him a very hearty welcome. He has a good voice, which he employs to the best advantages. The Sisters Melba, two rather juvenile artists, both of whom present a pleasing appearance in white satin costumes—one as a boy and the other as a girl—join in a duet, "Until we meet again," which proves to be quite an agreeable item. The Three Laurels are seen once more in their amazingly clever and daring acrobatic act, worked with the aid of a bouncing ping-pong table, and the Courtiers gain unstinted applause for their refined vocal act, the songs "Mandy" and "Glow-worm," being especially admired. Mr. Lew Lake and company create a veritable uproar of merriment with their wild antics, in *The Bloomsbury Burglars*, a farcical absurdity which seems to grow in popularity as it grows in years. Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope concludes with a series of interesting films.

RICHMOND HIPPODROME.

Excellent business is being done here despite the rival claims of King Pantomime elsewhere. The programme, as usual, is capital. Kato's Komical Kidgets, even with its phonetic alliteration, scarcely conveys an idea of the excellence of the show; a miniature hall is shown complete from limes to orchestra. The Kidgets themselves work hard, and sing, chortle, and dance with a vivacity that proves highly diverting. The performance is one of singular merit, and faultless to a detail. *Izzey Ickstein's Wedding Party* affords Dan Daly to descant vocally on the eccentricities of a Hebrew wedding. The audience appeared perfectly satisfied with the arrangements, and Izzie and Lizzie seem to have solved the problem of eternal conjugal happiness. Dan Daly, apart from being a clever comedian, boasts a capital voice; this was demonstrated in his second contribution, "Beware."

Quite marvellous are the tricks and thought transmission séance arranged by Kahn and Kahn. All efforts to baffle Miss Kahn's powers of transmission prove futile. The show is perfectly admirable, and no little skill is displayed. Irma Lorraine's performance should succeed not alone on its sheer merits, but by reason of her refinement and charm in a number of beautiful interpretations of gems of art. She scores a deserved success in a study of an Indian snake-charmer. Here we have a singularly graceful and clever impersonation. The audience cheered the clever lady to the echo, and a floral compliment was handed across the footlights. The O'Gorman Brothers dance with skill. The orchestra distinguished itself, under the bâton of Mr. C. W. Richardson, in a capital selection from *Sergeant Brue*, after which Professor Dunning brought along his ventriloquial figures, who contributed largely to the hilarity of the evening. The Professor should be proud of his family; their antics contribute materially to the success of the evening. "The Old Brigade," rendered by the Professor's trio was vociferously applauded.

There can be no question whatever about the huge success of that most exhilarating comedy sketch, *Half-a-Dollar*, admirably portrayed by Haines, Borthwick, and company. Here is a story sufficiently strong for a farcical comedy. The situations are novel and original, and the dialogue delightfully droll and often brilliant. The piece has the advantage of a really sterling company, who get every line home, and win right along the line. It is a thousand pities the names of these really talented artists do not appear on the programme, for they richly merit distinction; as it is, collectively they deserve unalloyed consideration and no little praise. *Half-a-Dollar* is one of the funniest sketches it has been our lot to witness for some months. Eugenie Fougère's methods are her own. Mr. Frederick H. Terrell, the business manager, does much to popularise "the little house on the green."

"IN THE HOUR OF PERIL."

Sketch, by F. Robson, produced at the Battersea Palace on Monday, Jan. 11.

Dick Manningham .....Mr. Frank Robson
Nicholas Sketovitch .....Mr. Algernon Syms
Claire Seymour .....Miss H. West
Angèle .....Miss Violet Campbell

Short, sharp, and sanguinary is the struggle between vice and virtue which goes on in the melodrama in miniature above named, which had its first production at the Battersea Empire on Monday, and met with a favourable reception. A naval officer figures as the hero, and with the incautiousness peculiar to his class confides in his gambling friend Nicholas Sketovitch, a Russian spy, that he is the bearer of an important despatch which he is to carry to the German Emperor. The Muscovite, having cheated the young officer out of his last £100, offers to make him an advance if he will allow him to look at the despatch. Dick's answer is a blow in the eye, for which the Russian vows vengeance. Taking advantage of a favourable opportunity the spy hits Dick over the head with a wine bottle, and hides him behind the curtains. The Russian is confronted by Angèle, a lady acquaintance, of whom he longs to rid himself in favour of Claire Seymour, the lady Dick is about to marry. Having covered Nicholas with a revolver, Angèle borrows the cloak and veil of Dick's betrothed, and in that character listens to the Russian's protestations of love, and gets possession of the despatch which he has stolen. Nicholas attacks her, but Dick recovers sufficiently to stagger forward and engage in a desperate struggle. The Russian is apparently getting the best of the fight when the police arrive, and Nicholas, seeing the game is up, leaps out of the window into the sea below.

The little piece gives the opportunity of listening once again to the voice of Mr. Algernon Syms, who has played Britannia heroes so often, but is now conspicuous as the villain. He shines malevolently in the rôle of the unscrupulous Russian, and makes the utmost of his chances for effect. Mr. F. Robson is a robust and chivalrous officer of His Majesty's Navy, and wins cheers, especially during the struggle with his foe, which is carried out as realistically as could be desired. Miss Violet Campbell is an unusually refined representative of "La Sylphe," as Angèle is known. The sketch was received with favour, the artists being recalled.

Leonard and Co., of 311, Oxford-street, who are the publishers of Daisy McGeoch's enormously-successful song "Two eyes of grey," have issued a simplified edition of Sarga's famous Oriental song "Sekah Allah," which has been sung by Mr. Joseph O'Mara and Mr. A. H. Gee. The dramatic impressiveness of the theme is well carried out in the music, which reaches a fine climax in the concluding joyous strains. Another excellent song, published by the same firm and by the same composer, is entitled "In the sun of thy smile." Baritones will find in this suave and agreeable melody a very effective vehicle for their voices. It lends itself admirably to the moods of an impassioned singer, and should have a great vogue.

DEATH OF TOM LOVELL.

Many of the older members of the profession will learn with regret the news of the death of Tom Lovell, better known as "Our Tom," for many years clown at the Britannia, also at Drury Lane under the management of the late Sir Augustus Harris. Although ailing for some time, the end came very suddenly, and he passed peacefully away on Monday, the 4th inst., and was laid to rest at Tooting Cemetery on Friday, the 8th inst. He was sixty-five years of age. Amongst the mourners, in addition to the relatives and friends, was Mr. Fred Odell, the well-known society entertainer. The relatives wish to express their thanks, through our columns, for the beautiful flowers, for the numerous letters and telegrams of sympathy received; also for sympathetic aid from the Actors' Benevolent Fund and Mr. E. Golding. The wreaths that were sent included one from Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Chirgwin, Mr. Jesse Sparrow, the Rev. W. A. Tooth (Brighton), Mr. W. L. Gay, Mr. and Mrs. F. Heed, and "M. and L.," and children, &c.

The late Tom Lovell in his long career on the dramatic and variety stage always showed that versatility that was as the breath of life to the old school of clowns, and the traditions of the famous Grimaldi had no greater admirer or follower than he, especially in his earlier years. To him it was no doubt saddening to witness the gradual decline of the popularity of the motley, both in the circus ring and in pantomime. We find a reference to him in a notice of the Lyceum pantomime, produced by E. T. Smith, entitled *Harlequin Cock Robin and Jenny Wren; or, Fortunatus, the Three Bears, the Three Wishes, and the Little Man who woo'd the Little Maid.* It

[*Photo by Wright.*

THE LATE TOM LOVELL
("Our Tom").

was written by Sir (then Mr.) W. S. Gilbert, and was produced on Boxing Day, 1867. This was some years before the famous partnership, first at the Opera Comique and then at the Savoy. Tom Lovell played pantaloon. The harlequin was N. Waite, father of Nettie Waite (Mrs. Will Poluski), and grandfather of Miss Winifred Ward, now playing principal boy at the Marlborough. In September, 1873, Tom played the policeman in E. L. Blanchard's farce, *Nobody in London*, at Drury Lane, and he returned to that theatre much later in his career to play in the harlequinade. Among the more important London engagements of his early professional life were those with the late William Holland, at the Surrey. In the pantomime *Dick Whittington*, produced Christmas, 1877, with the late Nellie Moon in the title-rôle, Mr. Lovell played clown. At Holland's benefit, when the People's Caterer played clown, Tom contented himself with the rôle of pantaloon, and Nellie Moon was columbine. He was at the Alhambra in 1873, with Fred Evans's comic ballet company, playing the old man of the period. At Christmas, 1873, he was at the Prince's, Manchester, where he produced the harlequinade, and played clown. A notable event of the same year was the comic cricket match played at Kennington Oval. Among the players were Messrs. Hemfrey (secretary of the Music Hall Recreation Club), Duce, Fred Laroche, and W. B. Fair, who batted in brilliant style. Among other players were "Over" Rowley, designated a jovial Lancashire lad, Tom Holmes (then of Holmes and Gant), now the well-known agent, Billie Bint (chairman of the Oxford), Walter Laburnum, Fred Coyne, and Tom Lovell.

In 1874 the deceased gentleman pioneered the Lovell and Almonte Troupe through America, in connection with Schumann's Transatlantic Combination. New York, Washington, Baltimore, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, Buffalo, Detroit, Cincinnati, St. Louis, and other cities were visited. At the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Glasgow, in December, 1875, Tom Lovell figured to advantage in a piece called *Rip-piti-pip*. But he found his staunchest admirers at the old "Brit.," the great theatre in Hoxton, in its palmy days under Mrs. Sara Lane, with whom he made his first appearance in 1878. The humble toilers were content with pantomime for three months of the year in those days, and a rousing cheer always went up when Tom Lovell year after year bounded on to the stage, and said, "Here we are again!" He fulfilled other engagements at the Olympic Theatre, and at the Crystal Palace under the management of Oscar Barrett, at Her Majesty's, under the management of the late Charles Harris, and at old Drury, under the direction of Sir Augustus Harris.

At the music-halls in the late seventies the deceased gentleman was a member of the trio, De Voy, Le Clercq, and Lovell, and later formed another trio known as the Three Toms—Rice, Melrose, and Lovell. Of late years the famous clown had been forgotten; but during his long stage life he contributed much to the wholesome amusement of the masses, and will be held in sweet remembrance by many a lover of pantomime. The last two years of his life were much cheered by the continued kindness of the Actors' Benevolent Fund. One most interesting event of his career we had almost forgotten. It was the saving of the life of a child by his favourite dog, at Westminster Bridge, in 1872.

Mr. Eric Williams made his first appearance for the National Sunday League at the Alhambra Theatre on Sunday night, and his recitations were heartily received by a very large audience assembled to hear a concert by the London Symphony Orchestra under the able bâton of Mr. Landon Ronald, and supported by Mr. John McCormack, the tenor, as vocalist.

On account of the great success of Cracroft's New Colliseum, he is staying a little longer at Porth. O'Neil does a very good turn, and the Sisters Limar are really clever; also Foster Santchuz is the talk of the town, and the booths, Whirling the Whirl, shooting jungle, cocoanut saloon, make this holiday resort very popular.

A POOR PIZARRO.

"Chetwood," says Mr. Edward Robins in "Nance Oldfield," "bubbles over with a stream of ever-flowing anecdote. Much that he gives us in his 'General History of the Stage' is only gossip, yet what is there more fascinating than tittle-tattle about players? The gossip of the drawing-room is merely inane, or else scandalous; but shift the scene to the theatre, and a story no longer bores; it is consecrated by the sacrament of interest. Is any apology necessary, therefore, if the quotation marks be again brought into requisition. This time the anecdote is of Thomas Griffith, an excellent comedian, and a harmless poet.

"'After his commencing actor, he contracted a friendship with Mr. Wilks; which chain remained unbroken till the death of that excellent comedian. Tho' Mr. Griffith was very young, Mr. Wilks took him with him to London (from Dublin), and had him entered for that season at a small salary. The "Indian Emperor" being ordered on a sudden to be played, the part of Pizarro, a Spaniard, was wanting, which Mr. Griffith procured, with some difficulty. Mr. Betterton being a little indisposed, would not venture out to rehearsal, for fear of increasing his indisposition, to the disappointment of the audience who had not seen our young stripling rehearse, but when he came ready, at the entrance, his ears were pierced with a voice not familiar to him. He cast his eyes upon the stage, where he beheld the diminutive Pizarro, with a truncheon as long as himself (his own words).

"'He steps up to Downs, the prompter, and cry'd "Zounds, Downs, what sucking scaramouch have you sent on there?" "Sir," replied Downs, "He's good enough for a Spaniard; the part is small." Betterton return'd, "If he had made his eyebrows his whiskers, and each whisker a line, the part would have been two lines too much for such a monkey in buskins."

"'Poor Griffiths stood on the stage, near the door, and heard every syllable of the short dialogue, and by his fears knew who was meant by it; but, happy for him, he had no more to speak that scene. When the first act was over (by the advice of Downs) he went to make his excuse with—"Indeed, Sir, I had not taken the part, but there was only I alone out of the play." "I! I!" reply'd Betterton, with a smile, "Thou art but the tittle of an I." Griffith seeing him in no ill humour told him, "Indians ought to be the best figures on the stage, as nature had made them." "Very like," reply'd Betterton, "but it would be a double death to an Indian cobbler to be conquer'd by such a weazle of a Spaniard as thou art. And, after this night, let me never see a truncheon in thy hand again, unless to stir the fire." . . . He took his advice, laid aside the buskin, and stuck to the sock, in which he made a figure equal to most of his contemporaries:

"'Our genius flutters with the plumes of youth,
But observation wings to steddy truth.'"

"TERRITORIALS."

Sketch, produced at the Bedford, on Monday, Jan. 11.

Lieut. Fred Waring .....Mr. F. Maxwell
Col. Hamilton .....Mr. P. Barry Lewers
Capt. Fortescue .....Mr. Murray Yorke
Capt. Manley .....Mr. Fred Bailey
Fritz .....Mr. Fred Beatty
Jess Hamilton .....Miss Lois du Cane

Mr. Fred Maxwell is producing another of his stirring military sketches at the Bedford this week. It is entitled *Territorials; or, The Boys of the New Brigade*, and is in four scenes. The opening one is laid in West Africa, where we find a force, under Colonel Hamilton, holding a position against invasion from a German force. The Territorials are awaiting reinforcements, which have been delayed. In the camp there is a traitor in the person of Captain Fortescue, who sells information to the enemy and endeavours to throw the blame on Lieutenant Waring, in love with Jess Hamilton, Colonel Hamilton's daughter, who is with her father as a Red Cross nurse. Jess and the Lieutenant unmask the Captain, but he makes good his escape. Lieutenant Waring is then sent out with a small force, and later learns that the reinforcements have been delayed and that the Colonel has been captured. After some exciting incidents Waring also is captured by the Germans, whose commanding officer turns out to be Captain Fortescue. Fortescue calls on Waring to deliver up a despatch which he has or he will shoot the Colonel, and further, if he still refuses, he will shoot Jess. The Colonel, with the true instincts of a British officer, orders Waring to remain silent, and so Colonel Hamilton meets his death. Fortescue is about to carry out the remainder of his threat when the relieving force arrives, and Fortescue meets with his well-merited fate, and Waring leads his troops on to relieve the beleaguered forces.

From this slight sketch it will be seen that there is a vivid story running through the sketch, and it is capitally played by the company. Mr. Fred Maxwell gave another of his fine impersonations, and as Lieutenant Waring scored a big success. Colonel Hamilton is finely embodied by Mr. Barry Lewers, while Mr. Murray Yorke plays the villain, Captain Fortescue, in fine style. Jess Hamilton is very sweetly portrayed by Miss Lois du Cane, who draws a clever picture of this noble woman. Messrs. Fred Bailey and Mr. Fred Beatty also lend valuable assistance. The sketch is capitally staged, and was received with the utmost enthusiasm.

THE GRANVILLE.

There is always a well-diversified programme to be found at this Walham Green home of vaudeville, and this week has proved no exception to the rule. The Gotham Comedy Quartette well merit their position at the top of the bill. Their harmonious part singing, coupled with their amusing low-comedy efforts, is sufficient to make their presence welcome in any company, and the warm reception accorded them was amply justified. Miss Nellie Chandos, a nimble dancer and a pleasing comedienne, gives an arch rendering of "Anywhere will do," which is much appreciated. Miss Helen Martin, a tuneful vocalist with a rich, well-trained voice, is heard to the fullest advantage in "The rose of my heart" and a selection of Irish songs. The Brothers Ford were deputised for on Monday by Max Martini, an agile and loose-limbed dancer; and Miss Rhoda Paul won much applause for her spirited rendering of her latest success "It's the Gay Gordons."

The Lancashire lad, Morny Cash, is rapidly forging his way to the front, and his quaint personality and delightfully sly humour should carry him far with any audience. "Beautiful bed" and "Do whatever you like with me" are two of his most successful ventures, and the house was extremely loth to lose him. Mr. Arthur Royce entertains admirably at the piano, and his musical monologue, *A Motor-car Honeymoon*, is neat and original. The Three Comerfords absolutely revel in their acrobatic feats, and their skilful efforts received every encouragement. Conway and Leland, the merry monopedes, also contribute to the evening's amusement, which is brought to a close by some capital pictures on the cinematograph, in which the films of the recent earthquake at Messina aroused most sympathetic interest. The orchestra keep well together under the skilful bâton of Mr. Frank Thomas, whilst Mr. Robert W. Duce looks after the comfort of one and all in his accustomed thoughtful and genial way.

A Copy of "The Era" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

ON THE ROAD, JAN. 18.

Aladdin (Kiddie).—Hippodrome, St. Helens.
At Duty's Call.—Hippodrome, West Bromwich.
Bateman and Lomath.—O. H., Hammersmith, W.
Benson, F. R. (N.).—H. M. T., Barrow.
Benson, F. R. (S.).—Abercarn and Ferndale.
Benson, Mr. and Mrs. F. R.—O. H., Cork.
Bondman, The (Croke).—T. R. Dewsbury.
Brewster's Millions.—O. H., Northampton.
Bulmer, Mr.—Queen's T., Liverpool.
Carl Rosa Opera.—Palace T., Newcastle.
Cassidy, Mr. J. Rice.—Maesteg and Treherbert.
Christian, The (Croke), N.—Metropole, Gateshead
Christian, The (Croke), S.—T. R., Aston.
Christian, The (Croke), M.—T. R., Lincoln.
Cinderella (Kiddie).—Grand T., Halifax.
Claudian.—H.M. Theatre, Carlisle.
Compton Comedy Co.—T. R., Huddersfield.
Country Girl in London.—Hippodrome, Salford.
Dairymaids, The (Courtneidge).—Victoria T., Burnley.
Dairymaids, The (Macdonald).—Ayr and Coatbridge
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—Aquarium, Gt. Yarmouth.
Dick Whittington (Kiddie).—Avenue, Sunderland.
Dick Whittington (Little).—P. T., Preston.
D'Oyly Carte.—T. R., Halifax.
Eve of Her Wedding.—T. R., Seaham Harbour.
Eyes of the World.—Gaiety T., Burnley.
Face at the Window.—Empire T., Cradley Heath.
Fatal Wedding.—Empire T., Swindon.
Flag Lieutenant.—Oxford and Cambridge.
Flower Girl, The.—D. P. T., Eastbourne.
For Love and the King.—Alexandra T., Hull.
Forty Thieves (Little).—C. T., Motherwell.
Gay Gordons, The (N.).—T. R., Perth.
Girl with the Angel Face.—T. R., Woolwich.
Girl's Cross Roads.—Todmorden.
Girls of Gottenberg (Dance).—T. R., Bath.
Glossop-Harris.—Omagh and Enniskillen.
Guilty Gold.—Metropole T., Manchester.
Harvey, Mr. Martin.—T. R., Portsmouth.
Her Fatal Marriage.—Empire T., Southend.
Her Love Against the World.—Metropole T., Glasgow.
King and the Unknown Woman.—P.O.W., Grimsby
La Comedie Anglaise.—Congleton and Newport.
Lady Frederick.—O. H., Cheltenham.
Leah Kleschna.—Prince's T., Accrington.
Little Breadwinner.—T. R., Sutton-in-Ashfield.
Love of the Princess.—T. R., Consett.
Lucky 'Liza.—T. R., Smethwick.
Man and Wife.—T. R., Tyldesley.
Merry Widow.—Alexandra T., Greenock.
Miss Hook of Holland (Dance).—T. R., York.
Moody-Manners (A).—T. R., Dublin.
Moody-Manners (B).—O. H., Blackpool.
Mrs. Dot.—Palace T., Maidstone.
My Mimosa Maid.—New T., Oldham.
Old Folks at Home.—T. R., Sunderland.
Old Home, The.—T. R., Ton-y-pandy.
Peter's Mother.—Grand T., Derby.
Power of a Wicked Woman.—T. R., Stratford.
Power of the King.—New T., Aberaman.
Private Secretary.—A. T., Woolwich.
Prodigal Parson.—Hippodrome, Salford.
Prodigal Son (Croke).—Grand T., Swansea.
Prodigal Son (Croke), (M).—O. H., Burton-on-Trent.
Prodigal Son (Day).—H.M. T., Dundee.
Raffles.—Court T., Warrington.
Red Riding Hood (Little).—L. T., Crewe.
Robinson Crusoe (Benet's).—New T., Aberdare.
Robinson Crusoe (Mouillot's).—T. R., Chatham.
Rollicking Rory.—Dumfries and Hawick.
Royal Divorce.—Victoria T., Kettering.
Send Him Victorious.—Greenwich Theatre, S.E.
Sergeant Brue.—P.O.W., Nuneaton.
Sign of the Cross.—County T., Reading.
Silver King (Polini).—T. R., Bury.
Sinbad the Sailor (Little).—Q. T., Longton.
Soldier's Honour.—Pavilion T., Abertillery.
Starr, Harry, Repertoire.—Metropole T., Abertillery.
Still Alarm.—P. O. W., Mexboro'.
Thief, The.—Godalming and Bognor.
Tom Jones.—O. H., Southport.
Two Little Drummer Boys.—T. R., Barry Dock.
Two Little Vagabonds.—Cambridge T., Spennymoor.
Uncle Tom's Cabin.—Coatbridge and Ayr.
Village Blacksmith.—O. H., St. Helens.
Waltz Dream.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
Warner, Miss Grace.—Standard Theatre, Hetton.
Way of the World.—Stourbridge.
What a Woman Did.—O. H., Kidderminster.
When Knights Were Bold.—Castle T., Stockton.
When Other Lips.—King's Lynn and Grantham.
Who is She?—Palace T., Bordesley.
Wilkie, Allan, & Co.—T. R., Barnsley.
With Edged Tools.—Star T., Liverpool.
Woman Pays, The.—Gaiety T., Worksop.
10.30 Down Express.—Metropole T., Manchester.

Miss Gladys Huxley, fresh from her South African triumphs, arrives in London to-day, according to a recent letter to Mr. Bert Feldman.

Mr. and Mrs. P. Herbert Coats, the cotton king, occupied a box at the Theatre Royal, Paisley, on Tuesday last, and presented to each of the principal ladies with a handsome piece of jewellery, and the comedians with a box of cigars. On Monday, Mr. Waldon, of the Princess Theatre, Glasgow, invited the whole of *Puss in Boots* (Theatre Royal, Paisley) company to a special matinée, to witness *Dickery Dock*.

The latest quotations for music-hall shares are as follow: Alhambra, 1⅞; Canterbury, ½; Empire (15s. paid), 1⅛; Empire (10s. paid), 1⅛; London Pavilion Ordinary, 4⅛; London Pavilion Preference, 5⅛; Metropolitan, 14s.; Moss' Empire, 5; Moss' Empire 5 per cent. Preference, 4¼; Oxford, 6⅛; Palace, 1⅜; Tivoli, 5⅛; United Varieties, 1; Variety Consolidated Theatres, 11s. 6d.

An exceptionally strong bill will be presented at the London Coliseum next week. In addition to Mr. Albert Chevalier and company, in *Behind the Scenes;* Saharet, the beautiful dancer; Marie Dressler; Colonial Septette, in an old-world musical sketch; and Eli Hudson, and Olga and Elgar, comes Mme. Alice Esty. Lily Burnand, Bert Woodward, the cycling coon, the Trentanovi Sisters, and Horace Pollock and company in Pinero's *Hester's Mystery*, are among other fresh turns.

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The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

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Communications.

Business Communications should be addressed to The MANAGER,

"THE ERA" BUILDINGS,
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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We cannot undertake to answer the inquiries of correspondents by post. In all letters names and addresses must be given as a guarantee of good faith. Initials only or pseudonyms will be used in the replies if so desired.]

G. R.—*We have searched our obituary lists for twenty years back, and can discover no notice of his death.*

LE TORT.—*There was a Thomas Bentley, a dramatic writer, who died in 1782; but we are unable to discover any biography or references to a Thomas Bentley, an actor.*

ARTHUR WILLIAMS.—*The cast of* Aurora Floyd, *dramatised by C. S. Cheltnam from Miss Braddon's novel of the same name, and produced at the Princess's on March 11, 1863, was as follows: Aurora Floyd, Amy Sedgwick; John Mellish, Hermann Vezin; James Conyers, Robert Roxby; Stephen Hargreaves, George Belmore; and Matthew Harrison, Charles Seyton.*

SYDNEY LANGWORTH.—*The production of* Caste *at the Prince of Wales's on April 6, 1867, was the actual first performance.*

W. BEAL.—The Sign of the Cross *was originally produced in America; first performance in England at the Grand Theatre, Leeds, Aug. 26, 1895; Lyric Theatre, Jan. 4, 1896. This is all the information we can give you.*

ADMIRER.—(1) *There is a performer by the name you mention. A letter addressed to him at our office would reach him. We are unable to tell you where he is performing this week.* (2) *The lady is married, we believe. Why not write to her?. Her address is in the first column of our back page.*

FRED T. RUNDALL.—*We have no exact record. The lady made her first appearance on the stage in 1892, and was for one year with Charles Wyndham at the Criterion, playing small parts, before appearing in musical comedy.*

T. J. LANDER.—*We do not know of the lady's movements, but we believe she is in New York with her own company. You might discover her whereabouts if you write to her uncle, Mr. Fred Odell, 87, Denmark-road, Camberwell.*

VAL BURTON.—*It was characteristic of E. T. Smith, the caterer, that he followed Gustavus V. Brooke at Drury Lane Theatre with a grand American equestrian company. This was in October, 1853.*

SYDNEY CORRESPONDENT.—*The address given to us of the lady you mention is 88, Holland Park-avenue, London, W. Her sister was on the stage here, but we have heard nothing of her lately. The Christian name of the lady coming from Australia was Marion, not Alice.*

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following Ladies and Gentlemen :—

J. Forbes Robertson—Saturday, Jan. 16.
Marie Dagmar—Saturday, Jan. 16.
Betty Hicks—Saturday, Jan. 16.
Janet Achurch—Sunday, Jan. 17.
Richard Warner—Sunday, Jan. 17.
Sam Poluski—Sunday, Jan. 17.
Olga Nethersole—Monday, Jan. 18.
Johnnie Schofield—Monday, Jan. 18.
Herbert Barrs—Tuesday, Jan. 19.
George Rae—Tuesday, Jan. 19.
Frank Stuart—Wednesday, Jan. 20.
Rose Hamilton—Wednesday, Jan. 20.
Constance Collier—Friday, Jan. 22.
Kitty Wager—Friday, Jan. 22.

A LADY passenger from Holyhead to Kingstown on Sunday wore a long red cloak trimmed with squirrel fur, had fair hair, and in every way answered the description given of Miss Charlesworth; but interviews with a Dublin representative of the Variety Artists' Federation and Music Hall Artists' Association all point to the fact that the lady was a variety artist en route to Cork.

MISS MAY AUDREY, who has lately made headway on the music halls with her dainty manners and catchy sayings, is now stricken down with quinsy, pleurisy, and bronchitis. Her illness started when she had finished her performance at the Empire, Oldham. Her sister managed to get her on to Birkenhead, but the journey completely finished her. With tender care and gentle nursing she is doing well, but it will be a few weeks before she recovers.

MRS. RYDER SLONE, the wife of the well-known comedian, underwent on Saturday last, at a private nursing home at Manchester, a very serious operation, which was performed by Dr. Helme, Dr. Wilson, and Dr. Hibbert. Mr. Slone had to give up work on the Thursday in order to be with the patient, who is progressing as favourably as can be expected, but her condition may still be regarded as grave.

CLEMPERT continues to score successes. After the first show on Monday at the Hippodrome, Middlesbrough, he was immediately engaged by Signor Pepi for Carlisle, Darlington, and Barrow. He will shortly produce an escape from a glass tank and several other attractive inventions. His defiance of the power of the strait-jacket has been astonishing asylum attendants.

FAIRS, shows, wakes. Seventy thousand showmen of the United Kingdom required to send for the Showmen's Year Book for 1908. Edited by the Rev. T. Horne. Entirely re-arranged, corrected, and enlarged. 100 pages. Price 1s. Principal contents :—The Passion for Pageantry, Constitution and Rules of the "Showmen's Guilds," Lists of Fairs, Local Feasts and Wakes, Synopsis of Bye-laws, &c., &c. Invaluable to all who follow the fair. Address, the Publisher of *The Era*, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, London, W.C. Telephones : 4747 and 1433 Central.

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a Birth, a Marriage, or a Death, or an "In Memoriam" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is One Shilling and Sixpence.

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

DAY.—Jan. 5, at Ramsey, Isle of Man, the wife of Harry Squire Day, of a daughter.

SMITH.—Jan. 9, at 100, Tetlow-street, Walton, Liverpool, the wife of A. E. Smith (Elsy Denys), of a fine daughter.

MARRIAGES.

DONALDSON—LYNE.—At Bury, Lancs., on Jan. 7, by special licence, David Donaldson to Ferina Lyne (Frances Ferina).

DEATHS.

HARE.—Jan. 10, at Newcastle-on-Tyne, John Hare, formerly concert agent, aged 87.

HART.—Jan. 8, at 1, Rochester-terrace, N.W., Henry Hart, late of Caversham-road, in his 82nd year.

LAUNDON.—On the 6th inst., Mrs. John Crossley Laundon, the very beloved mother of Miss Flo Cecil, Mrs. C. B. Charlesworth (professionally known as Miss Lily Landon), and Miss Linda Love, age 61.

Beloved by all who knew her.—R.I.P.

LOVELL.—On the 4th inst., Tom Lovell ("Our Tom"), late Britannia's clown, who passed peacefully away at his residence at Camberwell. Interred Tooting Cemetery, Jan. 8.

ROBINSON.—On the 11th inst., Mowbray Robinson, professionally known as Charles Mowbray, the dearly beloved husband of Maude Vena, after a painful illness of seven years' duration. Passed away peacefully at 76, Brooke-street, Kennington. The funeral will take place at Nunhead Cemetery on Saturday, the 16th inst., at 11.30. All friends are cordially invited.

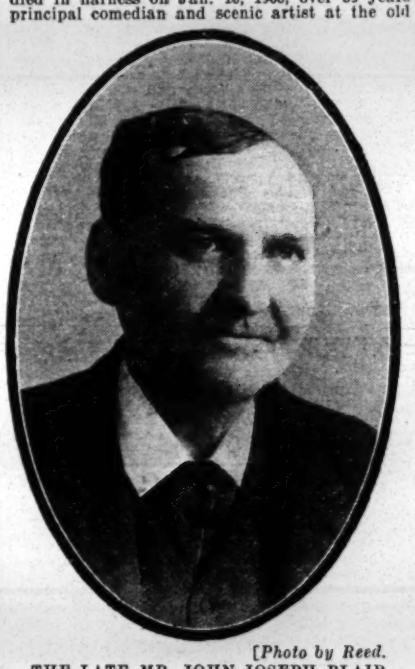
SHIRLEY.—On Jan. 6 suddenly, result of an accident, "Bob," dearly loved and only brother of Walter Kooney, aged 39 years. Rest, dear one.

SUTHERLAND.—Jan. 9, at her home in Boston, U.S.A., as the result of an accident, Mrs. Evelyn Greenleaf Sutherland (John Rutherford), dramatist and journalist.

IN MEMORIAM.

BELDING.—In affectionate remembrance of Henry Belding, who passed suddenly away from heart failure, Jan. 18, 1908. Never forgotten by his loving sister, A. G. S.

BLAIR.—In ever-loving and regretful memory of "Haserde," John Joseph Blair, who practically died in harness on Jan. 18, 1908, over 30 years principal comedian and scenic artist at the old



[*Photo by Reed.*
THE LATE MR. JOHN JOSEPH BLAIR (J. B. HANSARD).

Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly. Now resting at Shooter's Hill. Notice inserted by his wife and daughter, Thespian House, 20, Union-crescent, Margate.

CLARK.—In memory of Eliza Clark, who died Jan. 16, 1904. Never forgotten by her faithful servant and friend, Amelia Power. R.I.P.

HARCOURT.—In loving memory of Fred Harcourt, who died Jan. 12, 1906. Mourned by his sorrowing mother and brother Sam.

POOLE.—In loving memory of Fred Poole, who died suddenly, Jan. 17, '07. Always kindly remembered by George French and family.

READ.—In affectionate remembrance of my dear husband, Theophilus Read, late lessee of the World's Fair, Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, who departed this life, Jan. 16, 1906. "Though gone, not forgotten." In memory ever dear.

READ.—In loving memory of my dear father (and partner), Theophilus Read, who departed this life, Jan. 16, 1906. Deeply mourned by his only son, T. E. Read, daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren, Claude and Winnie. Always in our thoughts.

STEPHENSON.—In loving memory of Charles Henry Stephenson, comedian (Father Tom of Adelphi), who passed away in his eighty-second year, Jan. 20, 1905. Not forgotten by his friends and fellow-churchmen, New Church, Southport, nor his loving wife, Eliza Stephenson.

WRIGHT.—In loving memory of our dear father, Chas. Bartholomew Wright, who died Jan. 16, 1892. Never forgotten by his daughters, May, Fanny, and Maudie.

Oh, how we miss our darling Dad.—R.I.P.

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CHESTER	9. 3
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Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

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No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this list.

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Artois, Mr. Alfred
Ashman, Mr. Joseph
Athol, Mr. Harry
Avery, Miss Madge
Ball, Mr. J.
Barker, Mr. John
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Biddall. Brothers
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Cee Mee, Mr. H.
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Chung Ling Soo
Clavering, Miss Nita
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THE ERA

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 1909.

VOTES FOR ACTRESSES.

The recent meeting of the Actress's Franchise League at the Criterion Restaurant revealed the rather surprising fact that some of our cleverest actresses are in favour of voting powers being granted to women. The surprise was created by the knowledge that actresses are nearer to the possession of what is called "woman's rights" than any other females in the community. The actress, indeed, represents the ideal woman of the future. She meets man in the combat of life, and leaves it after what may be called a "drawn battle." If we can point to many cases in which the personal popularity and manly beauty of an actor have drawn thousands to the theatres at which he has appeared, we can also refer to at least an equal number of instances in which a leading actress has been a "powerful attraction." One of the complaints of the advanced woman is that her sex is treated by men with an artificial chivalry which is absolutely insincere, and which is only an artful method of tricking them into certain concessions by flattering their vanity. Actresses have not this grievance. At rehearsals when learning their business they are subject to the same wholesome corrections and criticisms as actors in the same condition. The remarks "Not a bit like it!" and "Would you mind saying that again, so that an audience could hear it?" are impartially addressed to male and female aspirants. If strong language be used—and in moments of excitement the best of us are only too prone to employ it—it falls on the ears of the short-haired and the long-haired alike. There is as little mercy shown to laziness and incompetence in petticoats as to the same defects in trousers. And the conventional attitude of the male, with its insulting "gallantry," its petting, superficial politeness, is exchanged for a blunt *camaraderie* and merciless frankness which to an enlightened and independent woman must be much more congenial than all the bowings and scrapings of the Court of LOUIS QUATORZE. The ladies' dressing-rooms are as clean and healthy as the gentlemen's; both sexes travel by the same class; and the apartments in the provincial towns are as luxurious and agreeable to one sex as to the other. The limelight shines impartially on the just and the unjust, on the down-trodden female and on the tyrannical and overbearing male.

It is difficult, therefore, to see what direct interest actresses have in obtaining the vote. They could hardly abolish unhealthy dressing-rooms by Act of Parliament, and that seems to be the only complaint that the actor and actress at present have which could possibly be dealt with by legislation. It is, therefore, with no selfish view that artists like Mrs. KENDAL, Miss VIOLET VANBRUGH, Miss IRENE VANBRUGH, Miss FANNY BROUGH, Miss GERTRUDE ELLIOTT, Miss COMPTON, Miss EVA MOORE, Miss DECIMA MOORE, Miss MOUILLOT, Miss CICELY HAMILTON, Miss TITA BRAND, Miss EDITH CRAIG, Miss CHARLOTTE GRANVILLE, and Miss FLORENCE WOOD desire the right of voting. Their motive is sympathy with their less fortunate sisters; and this is certainly a most meritorious impulse. But, as it is, women are treated better than men by the law in most trades. For instance, it has been enacted that they shall not be employed in white-lead factories. On the "equality of the sex" basis, this is all wrong. It should have been made compulsory for the manufacture to be rendered non-injurious, as it has always been found possible to do when the manufacturer has been in real earnest about it. If it is wrong to poison women, it is—always on the "equality" basis—equally wrong to poison the men who, by the altered arrangement, must take their places. With the increased number of women who not only earn their own living, but enjoy their independence, there is, certainly, a mass of females who are practically on an equality with men. To say that, child-bearing apart, the one sex is "weaker" than the other is to overlook the feats of female huntresses, hockey players, swimmers, acrobats, Dahomey Amazons, char-women, wrestlers, and political lecturers. Of course, the women cannot have it both ways. If the divorce laws are altered so as to be the same for both sexes, the laws about debt, maintenance, and all the enactments which give the wife an advantage over the husband must be modified also. A good many women, like the luxurious lady quoted by the speakers at the Criterion Restaurant meeting, perceive this, and prefer things to remain as they are. Indeed, from a certain point of view, the position of the wife whose only function is to spend in enjoyment the money which her husband earns by labour and anxiety could hardly be made more comfortable; and any change would be decidedly for the worse. The real question is not whether Mr. JOHN STUART MILL could pile up a certain number of arguments in favour of female suffrage, or Mr. BELFORT BAX can collect still more reasons against it, but whether the rank and file of the sex are sufficiently advanced and improved to do any good with the vote when they get it. As a rule, when a class is really in earnest about getting the vote it is fit to have it, but not before. A vote, as the women would soon find out, is a troublesome responsibility almost amounting to a nuisance. It involves the individual being worried at intervals by the party agents in his neighbourhood; it necessitates forming an opinion as to the relative demerits of two equally self-seeking and unscrupulous political parties; it leads to arguments with one's closest acquaintances and quarrels with one's best friends; and you have to turn out, perhaps on a wet night, and wait amongst a number of odoriferous persons in an elementary schoolroom in order to put a piece of white paper into a black box. As most of the votresses would "register" somewhere in London, the approach of a general election would make travelling managers uneasy; for, of course, every actress in each company would want to be "off," in two senses, in order to "record" in the metropolis. Do actresses, as a body, desire the vote? That is the question, and it could only be settled by a *plebiscite*.

MOLIERE ON THE HEARTH.

Some have surmised that the reason why the Roman Catholic Church refused to allow Molière to be buried in one of their churches was that they were afraid that his so often turning in his grave on the occasions of second-rate revivals of his works would endanger the stability of the sacred edifice. The productions of Molière's greatest plays were included in a period of about eight years. *The Misanthrope* was played in June, 1666, and ran for a month. *The Miser*, when first performed in the autumn of 1668, was rather coldly received, a surprising thing to modern readers. It was only in February, 1669, that *Tartuffe*, complete, was given, by the king's express permission, notwithstanding the strong opposition of ecclesiastics, and it scored a grand success, running for several months. *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*, still later, in 1670, gave us the masterly portrait of M. Jourdain, which part Molière played himself. In 1672 he produced *Les Precieuses Ridicules*, the great comedy against blue-stockings and pedants; while the concluding months of his life were relieved by satirising his own feelings in the *Malade Imaginaire*, in which he acted the part of Argan, on Feb. 17, 1673, though very ill. "In the evening of the same day," says Mr. Van Laun, "in his house in the Rue Richelieu, he burst a blood-vessel. Two nuns who had for some time past been living in the house stood by his bed, and to them he expressed his complete resignation to the will of God. They sent in succession for two priests to administer the last consolations of religion, but both refused to come. Before a third could be found, Molière was dead."

An English translation of the *Malade Imaginaire* was given at Clifford's Inn Hall on Wednesday evening. The performance was a modest and domestic affair, and deserves but brief notice. There was no scenery, the acting taking place before a big fire at one end of the hall, and the conclusion of the acts being verbally announced. Mr. Kenelm Foss, who was responsible for the revival, played Argan with much goodwill and energy, but with insufficient art and technique. He shouted in the louder passages, and lowered his voice excessively in the quieter ones; his careful make-up was contradicted by too-juvenile characterisation; he frequently gabbled; and his work on the whole, though earnest, was amateurish. Miss Vera Coburn gave a pleasing and intelligent performance as Angélique; she has an agreeable appearance and considerable charm, and shows promise. Miss Rose Vernon, gifted with a capital comedy face, was droll and original, if rather quaint in movement, as Béline; and Miss Nonie Kidd won a round of applause by her pretty delivery of little Louison's lines. Mr. Ernest Charles was weak but prepossessing as Cléante. Mr. James Delmage delivered M. Diaforns's lines in sonorous and emphatic style; and Mr. Roland Pertius was comical as the silly son, Mr. Fred Lewis enacting the notary, M. Bonnefoy, with care and discretion. A bold, full-bodied reading of the rôle of Tornette was given by Miss Margaret Bussé, whose energy and distinctness contrasted strongly with the weakness of some of the other members of the cast. The translation used was apparently that by Mr. Charles Matthew, M.A. It is absolutely literal, "the interchange of the soft transports of that untried fire with which heaven inspires us" being quite Molièrean.

A SUFFRAGIST ENTERTAINMENT.

The advocates of votes for women used the stage for their propaganda at the dramatic entertainment, given under the auspices of the Willesden and Brondesbury branch of the non-militant London Society for Women's Franchise, at the Brondesbury Hall on Thursday afternoon, when took place for the first time in London the performance of a folk play by Mrs. James Ward, entitled "MAN AND WOMAN."

Mrs. Fairly ..... MISS AGNES IMLAY
Lady Bounder ..... MISS URSULA KEENE
Mrs. Burdens ..... MISS INEZ BENSUSAN
Sir Reginald Bounder .... MR. ARTHUR DENNIS
Nurse Smith ..... MISS WINIFRED MAYO
John Fairly ..... MR. MAX COPLAND
Brother of Nurse Smith ..... MR. GUY GARROD

Excellently written and admirably acted, the sketch was likely to give pleasure even to those who disagreed with the principles which it inculcated. The scene is the living-room of Mrs. Fairly, a "comfortable" woman of the working-class, whose domestic happiness is contrasted with the bitter despair of her friend, Mrs. Burdens, a char-woman, whose husband drinks and refuses to work, and is a "bad lot" generally. Mrs. Burdens pours out her sorrow into the sympathising ear of Mrs. Fairy, who is harassed by the visits of the local candidate for Parliament, Sir Reginald Bounder, and his fashionable wife. The lady, who is canvassing, treats the supposed voter's wife with effusive kindness, and Sir Reginald is equally seductive in his style, until he discovers that, owing to a neglect to register, John Fairly has no vote. When he learns this, the candidate flies into a passion and indulges in angry abuse. Nurse Smith, a suffragist lecturer, now comes on the scene, and pleads the cause of her sex very eloquently, and John Fairly is converted to a belief in Women's Franchise by the Nurse's brother. Excellent impersonations of two types of working women were given by Miss Agnes Imlay and Miss Inez Bensusan, whose acting was admirably realistic, Miss Bensusan's delivery of the wretched wife's speeches being very strong, impassioned, and impressive. Miss Ursula Keene hit off neatly the artificial manners of Lady Bounder; Mr. Arthur Dennis, carefully dressed and well made up, gave a vivid portrayal of the egregious Bounder; and Miss Winifred Mayo delivered Nurse Smith's little lecture with delicate distinctness and dainty inflexion. Mr. Max Copland was characteristic as John Fairly, and Mr. Guy Garrod gave a satisfactory performance as the Nurse's brother. In the course of the afternoon some suffragist ballads were given. One of them, a parody on the song in *The School for Scandal*, by H. Crawford, may interest our readers. It was sung and chorused in the usual way:

"Here's to the baby of five or fifteen,
Here's to the widow of fifty,
Here's to the flaunting extravagant quean,
And here's to the hussy that's thrifty—
Please to take note, they are in the same boat:
They have not a chance of recording a vote.

"Here's to the lunatic, helpless and lost,
Of wits—well, he simply has none, Sir—
Here's to the woman who lives by her brains
And is treated as though she were one, Sir—
Please to take note, they are in the same boat:
They have not a chance of recording a vote.

"Here's to the criminal, lodged in the jail,
Voteless for what he has done, Sir,
Here's to the man with a dozen of votes,
If a woman, he would not have one, Sir—
Please to take note, they are in the same boat:
They have not a chance of recording a vote.

"Here's to the lot of them, murderer, thief,
Forger and lunatic too, Sir—
Infants, and those who get parish relief:
And women, it's perfectly true, Sir—
Please to take note, they are in the same boat:
They have not a chance of recording a vote."

LIEUT. ALBINI presented his mysterious "Lady in Black" performance before a large and aristocratic assembly at the Hotel Cecil on Thursday.

MISS GERTIE GORDON makes a charming second boy in Charles Constant's pantomime, *Blue Beard*, and the artistic and effective renderings of her songs gain her many encores.

MISS GERTIE GITANA is paying a return visit to the Coliseum this week with unbounded success. This makes her thirtieth week in London during the past twelve months.

PAPA BROWN and Arthur Day's action against the Taxi-Cab Co., for injuries received last May, has been settled out of Court, the Taxi-Cab Co. paying all costs, about £1,000.

MISS AMY MARSDEN, who has been so dangerously ill for some weeks after undergoing a double operation, is much better, and will resume business in February, when she commences the Stoll tour, opening at Hackney Empire.

THE adjourned inquiry was resumed on Wednesday into the circumstances surrounding the death of a travelling conjurer named Herbert Nottingham Turner, alias "Mexican Joe," who was found dead, with a terrible gash in his throat and other wounds, in a drying-shed at Swadlincote, Burton-on-Trent, on Nov. 28. The coroner intimated that the police were not able to throw any further light upon the matter, and the jury returned a verdict of "Wilful murder against some person or persons unknown."

THE latest artistic arrivals are the Corricks, an exceptionally talented family of musicians and entertainers, who for the past seven years have been successfully touring the Australian Commonwealth, New Zealand, Tasmania, Ceylon, India, Baluchistan, Burma, the Federated Malay States, Straits Settlements, Java, and Sumatra, including a six months' tour under the able direction of Mr. Maurice E. Bandmann, who controls the theatrical world from Cairo to Shanghai.

THE family consists of Mr. Albert Corrick, his wife, their six daughters, and one son, all gifted with more than usual ability, and collectively making up a combination so unique that they are bound to prove a distinct acquisition to the English musical world. Their programmes include orchestral selections, glees, choruses, vocal and instrumental solos and duets, expert handbell selections, national dances, excerpts from grand and light opera, ballads, and chorus song numbers.

WHILST at once impressed by the remarkable versatility and cleverness of the family as a whole, it is Miss Alice Corrick who claims particular attention. This "golden-throated young New Zealander," as a Bombay journal describes her, adds to the charm of a naturally beautiful soprano voice of remarkable freshness and purity that perfect method of production which characterises all great singers. In addition to the constant successes achieved by Miss Alice Corrick on tour, she has also distinguished herself in several oratorio and operatic productions in the Colonies and the East, for which she has been specially engaged in leading soprano rôles.

ACTION AGAINST "AMASIS."

In the Court of King's Bench on Thursday Mr. Justice Jelf delivered judgment in the action brought by Mr. William Hermann Scholz (professionally known as W. Gunn Gwennett) against Amasis (Limited) and Mr. Frederick Fenn. The plaintiff, it will be remembered, alleged that the comic opera *Amasis* was, in a great many respects, a copy of a composition of his own, entitled *The Son of the Sun*, and asked for damages and an injunction. The hearing of the case commenced on Nov. 30 last, and occupied four days, judgment being reserved.

In giving judgment in favour of the plaintiff, his Lordship said it was not disputed that *The Son of the Sun* was an original play written by the plaintiff during a period of three years beginning in 1894 and ending in 1897, and that all the proper steps had been taken to protect his copyright or right of exclusive representation. The case resolved itself into the question of fact whether by the performance of *Amasis* the defendants had infringed the plaintiff's copyright in *The Son of the Sun*. If the result of a comparison between the plaintiff's play and that of the defendant's led to the clear conclusion that the coincidences could not be accidental, and that, directly or indirectly, the latter was distinctly borrowed in a material and substantial part from the former, the liability of the defendants would be established without any extrinsic evidence of intentional copying. In the present case the plaintiff was unable to produce any direct evidence of intentional plagiarism. Moreover, Mr. Fenn had denied on oath that in writing *Amasis* he knew of the existence of the plaintiff or his play, or, directly or indirectly, borrowed any of its contents. The case, therefore, mainly depended on the comparison of the two plays. It must be borne in mind that two authors were fully entitled to take what was common knowledge, to draw from known sources, and to weave their own plots and build up their own compositions on the general lines of the common foundation. In the present instance there was a well-known common subject matter upon which various plots and stories had been built up, namely, the historical fact that in ancient Egypt cats were sacred animals, and that to kill a cat, even accidentally, was a capital crime. On that foundation had been built up a good part of such books as "The Egyptian Princess," a German work translated by Eleanor Grove, and "The Cat of Bubastes," by Henty. Having made himself fully acquainted with both *Amasis* and *The Son of the Sun*, his lordship came to the conclusion that except in name the characters were practically the same. The plot, as regarded the cat story at least, was in the main identical, though altered in certain details. *Amasis* seemed to him to adopt and—it might be—to improve on the cat story in *The Son of the Sun*. There was also an extraordinary resemblance between the details of the two plays. In both the hero was betrothed to the king's daughter; in both, he killed a cat by accident; and in both he was saved from death, though by a different development of the facts of the cat story. Nor did the similarity rest there, for in many cases the words were almost, if not quite, identical. The resemblances in characters, plot, details, and language left no serious doubt in his mind that *Amasis* took a material and substantial part of *The Son of the Sun*, and he could not reconcile the sum total of the resemblances with the theory of accidental coincidence.

Mr. Fenn and Mr. Faraday, his musical partner, were sued early in 1907 by a Mr. Pritchard for piracy by *Amasis* from a play of his called *The Mystic Cat*, and a number of plagiarisms and colourable imitations were alleged. That action was compromised by a payment of £100 by Mr. Fenn and £150 by Mr. Faraday on certain terms, it being admitted that, "so far as the resemblances were not accidental coincidences, they arose solely through a bonâ-fide misunderstanding." That looked very much like a veiled admission of plagiarism from Mr. Pritchard's play. Under all the circumstances, his lordship found as a fact that the defendants had infringed in a material and substantial part the plaintiff's copyright and right of exclusive representation. He gave judgment for the plaintiff against the defendant company and Mr. Fenn for £200 damages up to date, and an injunction restraining them from representing *Amasis* without the consent of the plaintiff, so as to infringe the plaintiff's copyright or right of representation. Defendants must pay the costs.

Defendants' counsel asked for a stay of execution, and remarked that the limited company had lost £6,500 in producing *Amasis*, and that Mr. Fenn had lost £1,400.

His lordship granted a stay on terms.

THE picketing continues at the Cork Palace. One of the leaders (a Mr. W. Cody) was on Saturday last sentenced to one month's imprisonment for his action.

To Mlle. Lydia Kyasht, the charming première danseuse at the Empire, has fallen the unusual experience of two Christmas days within a fortnight, as the Russian calendar is thirteen days later than ours. Theirs falls on Jan. 7.

MISS DECIMA MOORE brought to a conclusion her extra week of *Mrs. Dot* by giving at special request some of her popular selections from her répertoire, and is repeating them at the Tivoli, Manchester, next week.

THE management of the Palace, Attercliffe, in conjunction with Mr. King Alexander, of Scottie's Waifs and Strays, on Saturday morning last gave a free breakfast to 800 poor children of Attercliffe. Needless to say, the kindness was highly appreciated.

AUGUSTE VAN BIENE opens at the Hackney Empire on Monday. Besides being a great 'cello player, he is a keen football player and critic. His enthusiasm for the game may be judged from the fact that he is going to play in a match at Crouch End on Saturday next.

AFTER hearing witnesses for the prosecution in the case of Clementini Dolcini, the Italian rifle shot, who was charged with the manslaughter of her assistant, Thomas Lees, by shooting him during a public performance at the Middlesex, the grand jury at the Central Criminal Court on Tuesday unanimously ignored the bill.

THE Lord Mayor of London has given his patronage to a children's fancy-dress skating carnival, which will be held at the Empress Hall, Earl's Court, on the afternoon of Friday, Feb. 5. The proceeds of the event will be handed over to the Lord Mayor's Messina Fund. One of the many novelties devised for the occasion will be the pulling of a gigantic cracker, 7ft. in length, by two tiny children.

ALTHOUGH Miss Winifred Hare, the Dublin Gaiety's principal boy, has suffered badly with throat trouble since the beginning of the pantomime, she has pluckily "stuck it out," and is now doing her full show. "Bombardier," her great military number, goes splendidly. This also applies to "Keep a-whistling," where Miss Dolly Raynor assists Miss Hare with a whistling solo. Miss Hare's new song is the one for which she offered a prize of £100, which she has paid to the boy composer Max Darewski, who wrote it. It is being kept back for the second edition of the pantomime, which will be presented in a fortnight's time. It is called "The Nightingale's Courtship."

A SKETCH DISPUTE.

In the King's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice on Thursday, before Mr. Justice Channell, Mr. Wm. Hy. Bishop, a music hall artist, brought an action against Viviana and Co., in which damages and an injunction were claimed. The plaintiff complained that the defendants had performed and passed off as their performance a sketch entitled *My Golliwog*, of which he held the copyright. The defendants denied that there was any copyright or that they had passed off the sketch as their own.

Mr. Grimwood Mears appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. E. F. Lever for the defendants.

In opening the case for the plaintiff, Mr. Mears said that in 1899 Mr. Bishop invented a sketch, which principally consisted of a dance like a golliwog, and he performed the dance all over England and elsewhere more than 2,000 times. He has thus acquired a considerable reputation. At first Mr. Bishop gave a representation of a golliwog that was apparently wound up and danced. The machinery then ran down, the golliwog became lifeless, and fell on the floor. Later he had the idea of being suspended in mid-air during the performance. Counsel handed up photographs of the performer in the costume he wore.

His Lordship: I see. I thought it was a doll. (Laughter.)

Proceeding, Mr. Mears stated that in April or May, 1907, Miss Florence Coles, the proprietress of the defendant company, interviewed Mr. Bishop and asked him to arrange a sketch for her company. Mr. Bishop fell in with the idea, and submitted terms, but they were too high, and the matter fell through. In November, 1907, Mr. Bishop heard that the defendant company, in a sketch called the *Toy Shop*, were giving his dance, the dress and make-up being the same. The plaintiff had seen a golliwog doll in Germany, and had taken the idea from that. The defendants gave a show at the Crouch End Hippodrome, and it was then seen that the show was similar to the plaintiff's. One point of similarity (said counsel) was the introduction of a pageboy, who "wound up" the golliwog, which then began to dance on a pedestal. The pageboy said "Like my Aunt Sally." The golliwog crossed its legs, and the boy remarked, "Oh, look, he has got lockjaw."

Counsel went on to say that a curious situation arose. Messrs. Stoll, who had the power to prevent the plaintiff appearing at the Olympia, Shoreditch, sent a representative, who saw the defendant company play the sketch there, and then made an affidavit that the plaintiff had appeared. An interim injunction had been obtained against the defendants by the plaintiff before this action came on for trial.

Mr. Bishop gave evidence. He said there were seven performers in his sketch, including children. The children sang a song, and then went to bed. Then a child crept out and put the witness (the golliwog) on the stand. The page-boy then appeared, and the golliwog frightened him by knocking something out of his hand. He (witness) was the author of the dance apparatus and "gags" used. His salary for the sketch was about £30 a week.

Mr. Lever, cross-examining, referred to the dialogue in the piece—"The dustman is slumbering and coming along." The witness was not the author of the dialogue.

His Lordship: It was written for you by someone who is more poetical than yourself.

The Witness: Yes. (Laughter.)

Do you suggest that Mme. Viviana intentionally passed off her performance as yours?—Yes.

Some people thought it was you doing the dance?—Yes.

So we may assume that it was a good dance?—Yes.

Why should she give a good dance and try and persuade the public it was you?—Why should she do the dance at all? (Laughter.)

Evidence was given as to the similarities in the sketches.

For the defence, the defendant (Miss Florence Coles) said that she had not taken her sketch from the plaintiff's. About six years ago she produced a sketch called *Dollyology*. It was done in dumb show, the characters being dolls of various nationalities, and there was a golliwog who was a minor character. Later a little talk was put into the sketch, and it was called *The Toy Shop*.

In cross-examination, the witness said that when she appeared at the Olympia in Shoreditch, she had no idea she was deputising for Mr. Bishop, nor that her performance was described on the programme as *My Golliwog*. She did not see the programme at all.

His lordship held that the plaintiff had no copyright in the dance, and that there had been no passing off by the defendant of her dance as the plaintiff's dance. At the Olympia the circumstances were somewhat peculiar, and it should have been announced that Mr. Bishop would not appear.

Judgment was entered for the defendants with costs.

THE Tivoli football team continues its victorious career, and has recently beaten Fulham. The Broadway Theatre, New Cross, has resigned from the Music Hall and Theatrical League, and its record has been expunged. The Holborn Empire and the Tivoli are at present the two leading teams, having a record of six wins each.

ON behalf of the committee of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, 61, New Oxford-street, W.C., Miss Melinda May (secretary) wishes to gratefully acknowledge the following:—Mrs. Jennings (Fred Ginnett's *Dick Turpin* Co.), collecting £1, for one half-crown card; Miss Maggie Bowman, collecting 5s.; Miss Evelyn Mildred, donation 5s.; and Miss Lottie Albert, collecting from Mrs. Lewis Levy 2s. 6d. and Mrs. Samuel Wollranch 2s. 6d.; also box of clothing. Mrs. Keen (Keen and Waller), parcel of clothing; Doctor Goldberg, cheque for ton of coals; Miss Flo Banks, gentlemen's hats; the Sisters Stavordale, gifts for children; Mrs. A. Poole, 2s.; Mr. W. Cody, 1s. (through the Sisters Macarte); Mr. Thomas, donation 6d.; Mr. Browton, 6d

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EVERY member of the profession will be pleased to know that dear Mr. Pony Moore, aged eighty-eight, came purposely to spend the day at the Horns, Kennington, with his charming daughters, Mrs. Eugene Stratton and Mrs. Chas. Mitchell, on Dec. 23. Needless to say, he did not play at Hunt the Slipper. Mr. Douglas Stuart, Mr. T. C. Callaghan, and Mr. J. Alexander represented the V.A.B.F. All friends of the charity are heartily welcome to tea and receptions, held every Wednesday from four to five o'clock.

MR. GEORGE B. LEE has just terminated his engagement with Mr. John Sinclair as general-manager of the Alhambra Music Hall and the Sea Beach Zoo, Aberdeen, and returned to London. During his year's term of management he has done wonders at the Alhambra, which is now again one of the most comfortable houses of its kind in the North, and by none are his valuable services more cordially recognised than by Mr. Sinclair. Prior to leaving Mr. Lee was presented with a purse of sovereigns on behalf of the members of the staff. He is a Virginian by birth, and has had a varied experience, both in the States and in this country, as an actor, minstrel, stage-manager, and agent-in-advance. Recently, it is understood, Mr. Lee was offered the management of another Northern house, but he preferred to return to the Metropolis, temporarily at any rate.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

MR. ALBERT CHEVALIER writes to us to say that he is fully booked up in England, and that there is no foundation for the statement that he is going to America under engagement to Mr. William Morris. If he should accept a contract for the States it would most probably be with his old manager, Mr. Percy G. Williams.

MISS ANNIE HUGHES informs us that nothing is arranged at present concerning her appearance on the variety stage. Mr. Oswald Stoll made her an offer to play her original character (Saucers) in Mrs. Oscar Beringer's *A Bit of Old Chelsea* at the Coliseum next month, but she prefers to wait until she can be seen in something new and original. We assure Miss Hughes that Saucers would be quite new to audiences at the St. Martin's-lane house.

MISS VESTA TILLEY reappears at the Palace on the 25th inst. with a complete répertoire of new songs. This is her farewell appearance before starting an extended tour through America.

MISS ELLIS JEFFRIES and Mr. Herbert Sleath are among Mr. Alfred Butt's latest engagements for the development of high-class sketches at the Palace, and they will appear in a new playlet, as yet without a title, by Mr. Sidney Blow. It is a story of cross purposes, and deals with the conditions imposed by two extraordinary wills.

MISS MAUD ALLAN has now practically recovered from the accident which interrupted her Palace season; and Mr. Butt hopes to again present her at the end of the month. On her return to London from the Continent she will start preparations for a novel dramatic dance representation.

THE Variety Artists' Federation have decided for the present to lay on the table the letter in which Mr. W. A. Appleton (secretary of the General Federation of Trade Unions) asked for a withdrawal of the artists' aspersions, or their resignation.

MISS CISSIE LOFTUS has been suffering from bronchitis, but is improving. Her temperature is much lower, and she is no longer being attended by a throat specialist. When Miss Loftus is sufficiently well she will proceed to the South of France.

AN interesting reminder of the work of the music hall "star" in the earliest years of the history of the lesser stage is found in an advertisement of Mr. Sam Cowell's in *The Era* of June 11, 1854. It runs as follows:—"A Good Night's Work!—Mr. Sam Cowell will sing on Monday, June 12, 1854, at Royal Cremorne Gardens at Seven o'clock; National Hall, Holborn, at Half-past Eight; Canterbury Music Hall at Nine; Royal Vauxhall Gardens at Half-past Nine; Canterbury Hall again at Half-past Ten; and Evans's Grand Hotel, Covent Garden, at Eleven."

THE testimonial benefit to Mr. Jack Edgar, manager of the Metropolitan, at that house on Thursday drew two good audiences. Mr. Edgar's health has of late been indifferent, and his return after serious illness was thought to be an opportune time for the organisation of a tribute to his worth on the part of the public, and his most popular proprietor, Mr. Henri Gros, the "Guv'nor," as Mr. Gros is affectionately called, gave the testimonial benefit his heartiest personal support, and was present on Thursday to welcome his many friends in the West. Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ginnett, Mr. Charles Beecham, and Mr. Leon Zeitlin.

THE President of the Board of Trade has appointed Mr. G. R. Askwith, K.C., the Arbitrator in the Music Hall strike, and Assistant-Secretary (Railway Department) of the Board of Trade, to succeed Sir C. N. Dalton, K.C.M.G., C.B., as Comptroller-General of Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks, on the retirement of the latter at the end of February.

MISS HENRIQUETTE MAUDE'S engagement at the London Pavilion was postponed by Mr. Frank Glenister until Monday next in order that her picture and dramatic act might be properly billed. During her month's stay at the Piccadilly-circus house Miss Maude will give her impersonation of Little Lord Fauntleroy, choosing the youngster's first interview with his grandfather. "The Little New Zealander" played the part in the colonies when she was a girl of ten. She will also appear as Prince Arthur in a scene from *King John*.

THE case of Didcott *v.* Lloyd was down for hearing in the Westminster County Court on Wednesday as a claim for commission by Mr. Hugh Jay Didcott against Miss Marie Lloyd, who, on her arrival at Court, was told of a proposed settlement. An hour after the Court opened Mr. Walter Frampton, counsel for the plaintiff, informed the Registrar that the case had been settled. The terms did not transpire.

MR. E. V. PAGE points out to us that he commenced managing the Cambridge in January, 1883, and held the position for fifteen years, afterwards going to the Empress, Brixton, where he stayed for six years. He, therefore, claims a record of twenty-one years as a music-hall manager. He is now partner with his sons in an engineering and cycle business. A year or two since he married Miss Clorinda Thurtell, a charming vocalist. As a song-writer Mr. Page will be remembered as the author of "La-di-dah," sung by Nellie Power in 1882.

MR. G. H. ELLIOTT, the chocolate-coloured coon, who is appearing as Chocolate in *Boy Blue* at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham, has received numerous letters from children, who in their innocent way have asked him to forward them packets of chocolates, and he has been prompted by the letters to purchase 1,000 packets of Cadbury's chocolate, and these he is generously distributing among half a dozen local charitable institutions.

WITH each contribution he is sending the following letter to the persons in charge of the institutions:—"Dear Sir,—To acknowledge, if only in a small way, the kindness extented to me by the Birmingham people since my first appearance in the city, and particularly since my first introduction as Chocolate in the Prince of Wales's Theatre pantomime, I am presenting 1,000 packets of Cadbury's chocolate to children in several institutions. Herewith I send a parcel of packets of chocolate which I hope you will distribute among children in your home. Wishing them all a bright and healthy New Year, believe me, yours very truly, G. H. Elliott."

FROM the Bluecoat School, Birmingham, Mr. Elliott has received the following acknowledgment:—"Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge with very grateful thanks, in receipt of your kind present of chocolate for the children of this institution. It is indeed very kind of you to think of these orphans, and I can assure you we, one and all, appreciate your thoughtfulness and goodness. At the same time, I would like to thank you sincerely for your good wishes, and to say the children and officials desire to wish you a very 'Happy and Prosperous New Year.' Again thanking you.—Yours truly, W. E. Belton, Secretary."

AT the Croydon Council meeting on Monday, on the motion of Councillor Rogers, the licence of the Theatre Royal (late Hippodrome) was transferred to Mr. Oswald Stoll, of Chartfield, Putney-hill.

THE use of the Liverpool Olympia was on the 7th inst. kindly granted by Moss' Empires, Ltd., for the purpose of a charity matinée on behalf of the Liverpool Food and Betterment Association. The event was eminently successful, dozens of the music hall and theatrical artists engaged in the city putting in an appearance.

GARSTON, a suburb of Liverpool, is again seeking a place of amusement. Many years ago the late Mr. Montgomery had one in that locality, but there did not appear to be sufficient population to make it a paying concern. Since that time, however, the district has been absorbed by the great shipping port, the electric tramway system has caught hold of it, and the population is enormously greater. Consequently, a theatrical speculation in that direction has now more promise of success.

MR. FRANK MACNAGHTEN has secured a site situate at the junction of Kirkgate and Venn-street, Huddersfield, for the erection of a new variety house. The building will have seating accommodation for about 1,500, and be finished on the most modern lines. Building operations will be commenced at once, as the plans, which are being prepared by Messrs. Richard Horsfall and Son, architects, Halifax, are already well advanced.

AT the Edinburgh Empire Palace on Tuesday, when Messrs. Albert and Edmunds were performing, the former fell from one of the trick ladders, and sustained injuries. Under the care of Dr. Gunn, he was removed, with some difficulty owing to the pain he was suffering, to his rooms in Lauriston in a cab, where after medical examination it was found that his hurts, fortunately, were not serious.

MOSS' EMPIRES will strengthen their reputation for smartness at the Broadway Theatre, New Cross, to-night and at the afternoon's matinée, where Mr. Bertram Iles has arranged for Miss Hanid Alexander to sing a song, "Good-bye, girlie, I must go," by Miss Charlesworth and Clifton Bingham. As all our readers are no doubt aware, Miss Charlesworth is the much-talked-of young lady whose mysterious disappearance has caused such widespread interest.

SATURDAY being the birthday anniversary of Mr. H. Vivian-Fisher, manager of the Hastings Hippodrome, the artists and staff presented him with a handsome silver fountain pen, together with a pretty silver-plated sugar basin and cream jug. Amongst other gifts, too, were a handsome gold seal (Mr. and Mrs. Morrison), and a fine gold scarf-pin and stud set with a beautiful stone.

IN thanking the company present, Mr. Fisher expressed a hope that artists and staff would always work in harmony. At the conclusion, the health of Mr. Fisher was drunk to the strains of "For he's a jolly good fellow!"

THE Liverpool Licensing Bench on Tuesday considered an application for a provisional license for a variety (two houses a night) theatre from Mr. Joseph Baxter Lloyd, of Church-gate, Bolton. It was mentioned that a plot of land in St. Mary's-road, Garston, on a 999 years' lease and at a very reasonable rental, was to be acquired, and on it to erect a handsome building for variety performances and comedy plays of a highly respectable character. Mr. Lloyd, the applicant, is a gentleman with a large and successful experience in theatrical management.

THE Bench pointed out that if a two-houses-a-night performance was given provision would have to be made for the audience waiting outside for the second performance. In order to meet the views of the Bench on this point, the application was withdrawn for the present.

MR. OSWALD STOLL on Sunday last, for the sixth consecutive year, lent the Empire Theatre, Nottingham, entirely free of all cost for the annual sacred concert for the support and endowment of the "Empire Cot" at the Children's Hospital. The idea is a pretty one, and many a little one in its hour of suffering has slowly lettered out the inscription on the handsome brass plate adorning the cot, and thanked its donors in a way that words cannot express. The concert, which was arranged by Mme. Mary Lewin, and presided over by the Sheriff of Nottingham (Mr. Edwin Mellor), was an unqualified success. The collection realised nearly £50. Mr. Albert C. Duncan, resident-manager, and his staff worked indefatigably.

AN enjoyable evening was spent at the Manchester Hippodrome Café on Thursday, the 7th inst., the occasion being the first annual winter reunion of the staff. The proceedings commenced with an excellent repast served by the genial Mr. "Bob" Gardener, followed by a delightful programme of music. The company of over sixty included many of Manchester's notable social lights, the chair being taken by Mr. Peter Lawton, one of the city's leading merchants, in the vice-chair being Mr. William Proctor, whose interest in matters connected with music halls and theatres is well known.

OTHER visitors included Mr. H. Hall, manager of the Ardwick Empire; Mr. Fred Breakell, that sportsman of sportsmen; Mr. Alf. J. Carter, manager of the Palace Theatre; Chevalier Le Fosse, the eminent artist; Mr. C. A. Humphreys, representing Messrs. Johnson Bowler, the firm's accountants, Mr. H. Whittle, Mr. Baron, &c. It was hoped that Mr. Albert Bulmer, the district manager, would have been present, but he had important business at the head office, and therefore Mr. Nelson Barry, representing Mr. Stoll at the Manchester Hippodrome, responded to the toast of the firm, given by Mr. Harold Whittle.

AT the conclusion of his speech, Mr. Barry was the recipient of several tokens commemorating the occasion as follow:—Silver pencil-case (Mr. G. F. Reynolds, assistant-manager), pocket wallet (Mr. Harle, stage-manager), letter-case (Mr. Alfred Haines, musical director), silver cigarette case (Mr. Harry Garnham, advertising manager). Mr. H. Hall, manager of the Ardwick Empire, also responded. A hearty vote of thanks was proposed to Mr. Harold Whittle, who voluntarily presided at the piano.

THE Empire Palace, Sheffield, presented an animated appearance last Saturday afternoon, when Mr. Arnold Muir Wilson, solicitor, friend of the down-trodden and lover of children, concluded his annual Christmas benefactions to the poor of his native city by bringing 4,000 children to enjoy a special programme arranged through the generous co-operation of the Moss and Stoll directorate.

FIFTY tramcars were commissioned in the good cause, and the artists, including Mr. Herbert Darnley's company in *The Brigands of Tarragona*, Miss Nelly Wallace, Mr. Fred Earle, &c., were enthusiastically cheered. A special selection, suitable to the occasion, was given by the band under the direction of the talented conductor, Mr. H. Renton Gardner. The youngsters were suitably regaled, and at the finish 4,000 lusty voices gave loud cheers for Mr. Muir Wilson, the Empire directorate, Mr. Alan Dunbar, Mr. H. Renton-Gardner, the band, the artists, the staff, and a little one for themselves.

MR. HARRY BANCROFT and Miss Emmie Ames are sailing for South Africa on Saturday, the 30th inst., on the Armadale Castle.

MR. HERBERT SHELLEY, the well-known protean actor, has reached his 2,000th performance as Dan the Outlaw, a character in which he will be seen both at the Oxford and South London next week.

THE third annual general meeting of the Variety Artists' Federation will be held on Sunday at Terry's Theatre, Strand, London (kindly lent by Mr. Forbes Robertson), at 6 o'clock prompt. As Mr. Joe O'Gorman has resigned from the Federation, the chairman will be Mr. Joe Elvin.

THE representatives of the Variety Agents' Association, Messrs. Hugh J. Didcott, George Barclay, Will Oliver, and Emanuel Warner, and the representatives of the Variety Artists' Federation, Messrs. Joe Elvin, Wm. Lee, and W. H. Clemart (Mr. Wal Pink being unavoidably absent), met on Wednesday at the temporary offices of the Variety Agents' Association, 29, Leicester-square, at 4.30 p.m.

NEGOTIATIONS were conducted in a most friendly spirit. Terms of reference were practically agreed upon, and the names of several prominent gentlemen were discussed regarding the position of arbitrator. A considerable time was spent on Thursday and Friday in discussing the appointment of an arbitrator, but no decision had been arrived at when we went to press.

AT yesterday's meeting of the Variety Artists' Federation, presided over by Mr. Fred Herbert, the following resolution was carried unanimously:—"That this meeting places implicit confidence in the executive committee and in the Arbitration representatives."

COMPLAINT was made that certain agents already—in spite of the fact that nothing definite had yet been arranged in the matter of a solution of the dispute—were endeavouring to persuade artists to sign contracts by suggesting that if they endorsed the office copy, subject to the Arbitrator's award, everything would be in order. The executive advised the artists to await official notification that they were at liberty to sign office copies.

IT has been decided to call, for Sunday week, a mass meeting at which a resolution will be put in favour of an immediate termination of the existing dispute. A form of agents' office copy will be submitted. Any member of the profession willing to act upon a committee to carry out the arrangements of the meeting will oblige by communicating with Mr. Frank Gerald at 4, Mitre-court Chambers, Temple, E.C.

MISS DECIMA MOORE, the charming singer and actress, has decided to go on the vaudeville stage, and has placed her business in the hands of Louis de Reeder, Ltd.

MISS FRANCES LETTY, who has earned the title of the Chorus Queen, and is also a wonderful wooden-shoe dancer, produced on Monday last at the Palace Theatre, Dundee, her latest song-scena, entitled *Quit this House, Mr. Nigger, and Go*, in which she is ably assisted by her "silent coon" and two clever dancing "chicks."

THE curtain rises on a drawing-room, artistically furnished; the mounting of this scene—carried out by Miss Letty—looks superb. A wandering coon is attracted to a table on which are whisky, cigars, &c., and proceeds to make himself comfortable. Just as he is seated Miss Letty enters, and proceeds (in song) to order him out. His quick exit creates great merriment. As he leaves the music of a catchy reel is heard, and Miss Letty gives a fine exhibition of wooden-shoe dancing. The coon comes back, is peremptorily commanded to go chicken stealing, and returns with two large prize Leghorns. Then all start dancing, the curtain coming down on a lively and novel finish.

THE numerous friends of Mr. and Mrs. George H. Smythson will be pleased to learn that their daughter Indiana, thanks to five months' sojourn at a sanatorium on the south-east coast, has recovered from her late illness, and has now been enabled to return home thoroughly built up in health and looking better than ever.

THE Terriers' Association held their annual dinner (for Terriers only) on Sunday last at the Hôtel Boulogne, Jesse Sparrow (president) being in the chair. The Terriers present included A. Appleyard, W. H. Atlas, Johnny Alexander, Almon, W. Bassett, T. E. Box, Andie Caine, H. C. Courtney, C. Cornish, T. E. Callaghan, J. E. Dunedin, J. J. Elmo, Percy Ford, M. Frost, Harry Gage, F. Hughes, Barney Hyams, J. Harris, F. H. Kohler, H. V. Monkley, sen., H. V. Monkley, jun., P. Madden, Fred W. Millis, Bert Marsden, Fred Neiman, Ernest G. Powell, J. C. Pratt, S. W. Salter, Ben Woodger, and Arthur Were.

AFTER the usual loyal toast, Jesse Sparrow proposed "The Terriers' Association," responded to by Arthur Were. Harry Gage proposed "The Officers," responded to by J. C. Pratt; "Kindred Societies and Associations" was proposed by Fred Neiman, and responded to by Johnny Alexander; "Absent Terriers" was proposed by W. Bassett; Percy Ford proposed the health of the chairman. An enjoyable concert followed, J. C. Moore officiating at the piano.

SEVERAL important additions have been made to *To-Morrow*. Miss Fatmah Diard, the American soprano, and Mr. Fred Walton, famous as "the Toy Soldier" all over the world, are now included in the cast. Miss Diard, after successes in musical comedy in America, eventually joined the Bostonians to play Maid Marian in *Robin Hood*. Upon the completion of her engagement she entered on a further course of study in order to equip herself for grand opera with the famous Mme. Marchesi, and also under M. Mangin, chef d'orchestre of the Paris Grand Opera House. From Paris Miss Diard went to the Carl Rosa Opera Company as prima donna, leaving them to join the Castle Square Opera Company, and, incidentally, to make, perhaps, her most brilliant New York success in the title-rôle of *Lucia di Lammermoor*.

TWELFTH NIGHT was ushered in at the Chelsea Palace with the usual festivities. Mr. W. S. Lyon was once more requested to cut the cake, and before doing so expressed, in a pathetic manner, the sorrow that all assembled felt at the loss of their beloved manager, the late Mr. Edward Swanborough. But the dark clouds had a silver lining, and he was pleased to know that their esteemed managing-director, Mr. Henri Gros, was restored to health. The cake was then distributed to the whole of the staff and visitors.

MR. ANDIE CAINE proposed the health of Mr. Gros, and stated that notwithstanding any differences that might arise between artists and managers as a body, there was no individual engaged in the variety profession on whose word more reliance was placed or who was held in higher esteem than the gentleman referred to. As an artist, he had had direct transactions with him, which had always been of a most satisfactory nature, and he had much pleasure in asking the company assembled to drink to the continued health and prosperity of Mr. Henri Gros, the managing-direcor of the theatre. The healths of Messrs. Berlin and Andrews were also drunk with much enthusiasm, and the proceedings closed with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

THE usual monthly meeting of the committee of the Musical Hall Sick Fund was held on Wednesday at the Crown Hotel, Charing Cross-road. Mr. W. J. Wainratta (vice-president) occupied the chair, and there were also present Messrs. W. T. Eaton, T. Carney, F. Boyce, T. B. Brydge, Pat Carey (hon. treasurer), and R. T. Barnes (secretary).

MR. BOYCE proposed that Mr. Pat Carey be elected hon. treasurer in the place of the late Mr. Frank Heath. The Chairman seconded the proposal, and referred to the valuable services that Mr. Carey, an ex-president of the fund, had rendered the Society for many years. The resolution was carried unanimously, and Mr. Carey in reply said he should continue to do his utmost in promoting the best interests of the Society.

ON the motion of Mr. Pat Carey, seconded by Mr. Carney, it was resolved that a letter of condolence be sent to the widow and family of the late Mr. Frank Heath, who for several years rendered admirable service as hon. treasurer.

MR. CAREY called attention to one of the new rules in accordance with which members were required to pay a levy of sixpence on the death of a member. Some other business having been disposed of, the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

MR. W. F. WAINRATTA, an old member of the profession and vice-president of the Music Hall Sick Fund, leaves the old country for New York to-day (Saturday) on a visit to his old friend, Mr. Wm. T. Rock, President of the Vitagraph Co. of America. At the meeting on Wednesday of the Management Committee of the Music Hall Sick Fund, of which Society Mr. Wainratta has been a member for about thirty-six years, his fellow-members who were present heartily wished him a pleasant trip across the Atlantic.

MR. CHAS. FISHER'S "Pocket" Opera Co. have apparently created a great impression with their singing at Hackney Empire this week, being personally complimented and congratulated by Mr. Bertie Shelton, the director of Moss-Stoll's stage department.

AN important judgment under the Musical Copyright Act, referring to the question as to whether perforated rolls for use on "piano-players" may be regarded as copies of music or not, was on Wednesday given by the Lord Chief Justice, who, with Justices Bigham and Walton, sat as a Divisional Court of the King's Bench Division. The point arose in an appeal—Mabe *v.* Connor—against the decision of the magistrate sitting at Bow-street, who dismissed a summons issued against the seller of rolls which produced a song called "The Bandolero" on a piano-player.

THE Lord Chief Justice said the summons in effect charged the defendant with offering for sale pirated copies of a musical work. It was not disputed by Mr. Danckwertz (for the appellant) that if he were right in his contention, there would be a very great extension of the rights of the owners of musical copyrights, who would be able to enter the shops of the vendors of those rolls and seize them. But having regard to the case of Boosey *v.* White, the view of the magistrate was correct, and therefore the issue of those rolls did not infringe the copyright. The appeal was dismissed, but leave to further appeal was granted.

COPYRIGHT legislation is much behind modern requirements and sadly needs revision, and the development of mechanical instruments and the gramophone should at once bring to the forefront the necessity of new statutes that will sufficiently protect the publisher and the composer. Records of any kind should pay royalties to the publisher as well as fees to the singer, and the sooner the influential firms who issue our popular music bestir themselves to secure full protection for the rights the better for the musical industry all round.

LIZZIE GLENROY, Scotch comedienne and speciality dancer, has just recently returned from the Continent, where she met with most gratifying success. She is going back after the Moss tour.

MESSRS. MOSS AND STOLL, ever ready in the cause of charity, have consented to give the Holloway Empire free of all charge over for a concert on Sunday, Jan. 24, in aid of the Mayor of Islington's Fund for the wives and children of the unemployed. Mr. Bertie Ralland (the manager) has arranged a programme of exceptional merit, including as it does such well-known concert artists as Miss Bertha Bird, Miss Ada Tunks, Miss Hersie Reeve (a younger sister of the famous Ada), Messrs. Adolph Fowler, Bennett Griffin, Wm. Kingsley, Max Khan, and others. The entire staff and orchestra are giving their services.

LORD JOHNSTON gave judgment on Monday in the cross actions between "George Robey" (George Edward Wade), comedian, on the one hand, and Richard Waldon, manager and proprietor of the Palace Theatre, and a director of the Pavilion Theatre, Glasgow, and also by the Pavilion Theatre, Ltd., on the other.

GEORGE ROBEY entered into an agreement with the defenders to fulfil an engagement at the Palace Theatre and the Pavilion Theatre, Glasgow, for the week commencing March 16, 1908. On the Friday previous Robey ascertained that he was not billed to appear in Glasgow in the following week, and wired asking the reason.

HE received a reply—"You never sent bill matter of the notification; consequently contract broken. See Rule 6 of contract"; and "Call in order. Your name does not appear. Will not play you owing to breach of contract." Pursuer tried to obtain another engagement, but owing to the shortness of the notice the best he got was at Portsmouth Theatre, at a salary of £75 for the week. In the cross-actions Richard Waldon, as proprietor of the Palace Theatre, claimed £500, and the Pavilion Theatre, Ltd., also claimed £500 as damages for breach of contract.

LORD JOHNSTON held that Mr. Rich. Waldon was not entitled on March 13, 1908, to refuse to proceed with the agreement made with Mr. Robey in the preceding March, and he was therefore liable to Mr. Robey in damages. In the cross actions by Waldon and the Pavilion Theatre, Ltd., his Lordship held that, while they might have been entitled to sue for damages for breach of Rule 6, they were not entitled to break the contract in the way they did. He therefore sustained Robey's first plea in law, and allowed him a proof, limited to the question of damages, and he dismissed the cross actions as laid, and found Robey entitled to expenses.

"THE BOY SCOUTS," a new sketch, was produced with conspicuous success at the Crouch End Hippodrome on Monday, and the smart appearance of the boys and their evident ability made so great an impression that at the finish the enthusiastic audience stood up and cheered. There is the right kind of patriotism in the idea of the sketch, and Mr. Burney is to be complimented on the production, which has been given under the auspices of Mrs. Wal Pink. One does not forget Mafeking and Baden-Powell, and to that gallant commander is due the idea of the corps typified in the above great novelty, which should have a most successful career.

AT the conclusion of the V.A.B.F. meeting on Thursday a special meeting of the M.H.A.R.A. Committee was held to consider arrangements for the annual dinner.

VARIETY will be the fare next week at the Grand Opera House, Harrogate, of which the managing-director is Mr W. Peacock, whose enterprise is rapidly increasing the attractions of the lesser stage in the county of the Ridings.

WHEN Mlle. Genée, who is achieving fresh triumphs in the States, makes her reappearance at the Empire at the end of the summer, it will be in a new ballet specially written for Ler.

D'ARC'S MARIONETTES have just returned from America in order to fulfil their English contracts, from which they were unable to get released. Their success on the other side has been extraordinary, and their tour there, under William Morris, completes their circuit of the world.

MR. PERCY HONRI has issued a most amusing 1909 calendar. Its chief joy is a working figure holding a concertina, and the smiling face is Percy's. You pull the string and the instrument plays to a convulsive movement of the legs. One scarcely troubles about "dates" with such an amusing toy.

SNOW AND FARRON'S minstrel comedians (seven in number) have made a hit in Birmingham, and their success makes it certain that the Ethiopian serenader is again becoming popular. Mr. Snow is a son of the late Ted Snow, of the Mohawks.

MLLE. KYASHT'S new dances in the Empire ballet *A Day in Paris* have proved a big success, and besides these there is now a new dance for dainty little Phyllis Bedells. Fred Farren and Beatrice Collier are nightly encored in "La Danse des Apaches" in the Moulin Rouge scene.

MISS FRANCES LETTY will be seen next week at the Hippodrome, Peckham, Jan. 25 Canterbury, Feb. 1 Paragon, and then starts again on the Moss' Empires tour, returning to London again in October. Tom Claxton has her bookings, and no vacancies until well on in 1910 is the state of affairs.

DR. WALFORD BODIE is again creating a furore in London, and playing to packed houses nightly at the Palace, East Ham, his second visit. Monday next he returns to the Palace, Grimsby, after only six months' absence. He is very busy just now on the series of romantic hypnotic stories the first of which will appear in the February number of Pearson's *Novel Magazine*... They promise to be startling, weird, and wonderful.

THE usual weekly committee meeting of the M.H.A.R.A was held on Wednesday, when Mr. Fred Herbert took the chair, and there were present Messrs. J. Miller Northern, W. H. Atlas, T. C. Callaghan, J. Tray, H. Cee Mee, Wm. Welsh, Jeff Vendome, and Lieut. Albini. Fifty-one members joined the Association during the week ending Jan. 9, the weekly receipts amounting to £78 1s.

MESSRS. MUIR AND BARTLETT, in *The Collar Stud*, met with a rousing reception this week both at Willesden Hippo and the Palace, Hammersmith, at which latter place they are deputising for Miss Victoria Monks. One anxious member of the Willesden audience greeting Mr. Bartlett with the query, "Where's your missus?" Mr. Bartlett's prompt reply, "She'll be on presently," convulsed the band and satisfied the inquirer."

MISS DORA LYRIC, the refined chorus singer, terminates her engagement at the Oxford to-night, where her songs "I'm leaving Monte Carlo" and "If I should plant a tiny seed of love in the garden of your heart" have scored a great success. This artist has just secured another song from the pen of Messrs. Harrington and Powell, entitled "I want a boy who'll be my only boy," which, no doubt, will soon be sung all over London and provinces.

MR. THEODORE JONES, the Welsh actor-vocalist, has secured from Mr. Albert Voyce the performing rights of *Butcher and Baker* and *Capital and Labour*. He is also touring the vocal scenas *Mother Shipton*, *The Prodigal's Return*, and *Jack Sheppard*, all by the same author. The part of Jack he has most successfully played over 1,500 nights. Managers wishing a first-class vocal entertainment could do no better than to see these acts.

CHARCOT is again demonstrating his wonderful powers to packed houses at Portsmouth this week. With two other music halls, *The Merry Widow*, a pantomime, and half a dozen picture shows against him, he still plays to tremendous business. On Wednesday over 20,000 people gathered to see him start his great blindfold drive. Never in the history of Portsmouth has excitement run so high.

CHARCOT must have felt flattered at seeing both special and mounted police called out to assist him in his daring exploit. The management are to be congratulated on securing such a draw, through the instrumentality of Mr. Barclay, as we hear on good authority that that gentleman intends making things hum for Charcot by placing him shortly at a West End hall.

THE competition for what is termed by Mr. C. B. Cochran, the manager, a Music Hall Aspirants' Scholarship, takes place on Friday next at Fun City, Olympia Annexe. In reality it is an amateur competition for would-be Lauders, Cinquevallis, Lloyds, &c. A great many entries have been received, and they continue to pour in by every post. The competitors will be judged by a committee of men well known in the music hall world, and thoroughly competent to perform the onerous task imposed upon them. Entries are to be sent, marked "Amateur," to Mr. Cochran at Fun City.

THE next committee meeting of the Music Hall Home will be held at the Empire, Camberwell (by kind permission of Messrs. Jesse Sparrow and Percy Ford) on Thursday next at 12 noon. The secretary (Mr. Ben Woodger) desires to thank Smith and Johnson for parcel of clothes; George Weldon, Hippo. and Circus, Dewsbury, for box collection of £1 16s.; also Mr. W. Jones, of the Windsor, Strand, for kindly taking a box for the benefit of the institution.

THE Fred W. Millis Testimonial Committee have arranged to give a grand evening concert in aid of the fund, at the Empire Theatre, Camberwell (kindly placed at their disposal by the directors), on Sunday evening, Feb. 14. The chairman of the committee is Mr. Jesse Sparrow (president of the Terriers Association), Mr. Joe Elvin being the vice-chairman; and amongst other influential names who have joined the Grand Committee are Sir Edward Moss, J.P., and Messrs. Frank Allen, Arthur Branscombe, John Brill, Albert Chevalier, Edward E. Ford, John Lawson, Horace Livermore, and W. H. Westwood. A very strong programme of leading theatrical and variety stars is being prepared, fuller particulars of which will be duly announced. An Executive Committee of the Terriers Association and friends is organising the testimonial, and all particulars can be obtained from and donations sent to C. Douglas Stuart, hon. general secretary, 28, Wellington-street, Strand, W.C.; or Mr. Harry Gage, hon. secretary for the Terriers Association, 69, Kennington-road, S.E. Tickets and bills will be ready next week.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

MASTER MAX DARWSKI next week tops the excellent bill at the Empire, Sheffield, and is assured of a great reception. He will conduct those fine marches from his own pen, "The Franco-British" and "Royal Standard," both of which are published by Messrs. Francis and Day.

MASTER EDWARD FRISBY, at the Cardiff Empire, has been received during the week with acclamation for his able singing of Messrs. Francis and Day's "If everybody were as kind as you," four or five recalls being his nightly experience. He will be heard at Hammersmith during the coming week.

MR. G. H. ELLIOTT'S delightful singing of "Sue, Sue, Sue, I'm very much in love with you" has evoked the highest approbation of the Birmingham Press, the *Dispatch* saying, "When Mr. Elliott comes on and renders 'Sue, Sue, Sue,' he has the audience with him immediately," and from all quarters of Great Britain come like reports, the song being a universal favourite in pantomimes everywhere. Messrs. Francis and Day have been inundated with orders for copies of the delightful number.

MISS MADGE TEMPLE will, at the Shepherd's Bush Empire, on Monday, be heard in those favourite numbers, "Esau, Esau, take me on the see-saw," and "Come, be my rainbow," both of which emanate from the publishing house of Messrs. Francis and Day.

THAT fine song, "So what's the use?" which is published by Messrs. Francis and Day, has been introduced by Mr. Henry Carlton into his smart item, *The Window Cleaner*, with the best possible results.

MR. HAROLD BROWN, at the London Pavilion, has made a great hit with the fine bass song, entitled "The Laughing Cavalier," by A. Du Soir and A. J. Tunbridge. It is published by the Star Publishing Company.

NOTWITHSTANDING the strong counter-attraction of the principal pantomime songs, Mr. T. E. Baker, the Northern representative of Messrs. Charles Sheard and Co., writes that firm that decidedly the most popular song of the moment in the Northern districts is "Hurrah! for the Old-age Pension." It is whistled, hummed, and sung in every market-place.

MESSRS. SHEARD AND CO. have received very many applications for their sets of illustrated song slides, through their advertisement of the same in our columns. So great has been the demand that the firm has had to cable to New York for further supplies. Messrs. Sheard wish it to be known that any order sent them during the current month will be executed at half-price, even should the present stock be exhausted. They have received many highly-complimentary letters with respect to the quality of their slides, which are generally described as "beautiful" and "splendid."

HALL'S popular "Wedding of the Winds" waltz met with so favourable a reception at the Covent Garden Fancy Dress Ball on New Year's Eve, that it was down for the Friday's (yesterday) function. Th. Pinet's new valse Boston "Charme" was also down in the same programme.

MESSRS. MELLOR, LAWRANCE, AND GIFFORD have discovered a new coon singer, by name Gordon Stretton, and he has appointed them his sole authors and representatives. His turn is in great demand by managers and agents.

MESSRS. B. FELDMAN AND CO. have this week secured two big chorus songs from the pens of Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford, named respectively "The Rainbow and the Butterfly" and "Rain, rain, go away."

MR. ROBERT ARTHUR has secured Wilkie Bard's great Drury Lane success, "Put me upon an island where the girls are few," for all his theatres. The National Music Publishing Co. are informed that this song, on its first production at the Court Theatre, Liverpool, was a tremendous and instantaneous success. It has also met with the same success at Mr. Arthur's theatres in Nottingham, Newcastle, and Glasgow. Comedians in want of a certain winner should write the National Music Publishing Co. at once for permission to sing this great comedy number.

"I WISH I HAD A PAL" and "Call round any old time" are being sung in almost every pantomime in Great Britain, including Drury Lane. Principal boys or girls who anticipate changing their songs should immediately write to the National Music Publishing Co. for permission.

ALL Manchester is now singing and whistling one of the National Music Publishing Co.'s great "Dame" songs, "You all want something to cuddle," which Harry Conlin so ably sings in the pantomime at the Theatre Royal. This is one of the many towns where this song is making a big success.

"MY LITTLE EVA," which is being so widely sung in pantomime, is, if possible, in greater demand than ever. This is also published by the National Music Co.

"KATE, WON'T YOU ROLLER-SKATE?" the National Music Publishing Co.'s latest hit, is growing more popular day by day. There are at least twenty artists making a big success with this on the halls. To those wanting a free number, we would suggest them writing to the National Music Publishing Co. at once.

MESSRS. FELDMAN forecast another craze at an early date for their song entitled "Harrigan," which is being extensively sung to the rhythm of "Solomon."

MESSRS. LAWRANCE, MELLOR, AND GIFFORD have just published their latest composition "Polly, put the kettle on, and we'll all have tea," with Messrs. Feldman, and great things are expected by authors and publishers.

MR. BERT FELDMAN has left town for his annual pantomime tour of the provinces, during which he will visit almost every production in England and Scotland.

BEFORE leaving London Mr. Feldman secured a new song, entitled "Could I but look in the mirror of your eyes," which he predicts will be as popular as "If I should plant a tiny seed of love."

MISS JESSIE PRESTON, who has met with enormous success in America, has just cabled Messrs. Feldman that their song "I want you to see my girl" is a sensational success.

MR. CHARLES R. WHITTLE has another of Messrs. Feldman's songs that should be a worthy successor to "Put me among the girls," when the time is opportune for its exploitation.

MR. G. H. ELLIOTT, who is creating a veritable furore with "I want you to see my girl," one of Messrs. Feldman's most popular pantomime songs, has kindly presented Mr. Bert Feldman with a most interesting set of cards, reproducing the photographs of the clever principals of the Prince of Wales, Birmingham, pantomime

V.A.F. AND THE AGENTS.

THE LONDON MEETING.

The deadlock which gave so much anxiety throughout last week to the well-wishers of the variety profession was brought to a sudden and quite dramatic termination at Sunday's mass meeting of the Variety Artists' Federation by the resignation of Mr. Joe O'Gorman from the Federation, and the decision to admit to the terms of arbitration the proposal that no artist should be agent at the same time. The meeting was held at Terry's Theatre, which was crowded to the doors, and much enthusiasm was displayed. Mr. Joe O'Gorman presided, and was supported by Mr. Joe Elvin, Mr. Dutch Daly, Mr. C. C. Bartram, and Mr. W. H. Clemart (secretary), while among the executive committee on the stage were Messrs. Eugene Stratton, Tom Costello, Fred Russell, Fred Herbert, Harry Blake, Fred W. Millis, Bob Leonard, G. H. Chirgwin, the Bros. Poluski, George Mozart, W. H. Atlas, Geo. D'Albert, Hal Forde, Jas. Howard, J. W. Cragg, Neil Kenyon, Bernard Stavordale, G. H. Smythson, Jeff Vendome, V. L. Granville, Geo. Sanford, Sid Bandon, Horace Goldin, Chas. MacConnell, Dave O'Toole, Andie Caine, and Fred Ginnett.

After the secretary had read the notice convening the meeting, the chairman, who was received with loud and prolonged applause, said it was three years ago that day since his colleagues and himself laid the foundations of the Variety Artists' Federation. When they did so it was after mature consideration, and with the conviction that an organisation similar to the one which exists at present was absolutely necessary for the preservation of the interests of variety artists. They had removed many abuses, but many remained to be abolished. When the last strike took place—nobody in this world mentioned the word "strike" with more misgiving than their humble servant; he did not like it—when that strike took place they were a public organisation. They were not a registered trade union, but merely a body of men and women banded together with the sole intent of benefiting one another and protecting the interests of an honourable profession. When the strike took place they were not a trades union. They became a trade union afterwards for the simple reason that they were advised to. Look at the support they would get—two millions of capital and 2,500,000 trade unionists at their back! They became trade unionists and subscribed to the funds of the General Federation of Trade Unions a sum equivalent to £100 per annum. For that they offered them half-a-crown for every member out on strike. Fancy half-a-crown to men like them; it would not be sufficient to go round once for a drink! They were paying, therefore, for their support, but when the trade union officials came in they forced them to go to arbitration after they had won their fight. When they agreed to go to unconditional arbitration, instead of supporting them the Trades Federation went over to the other side. But what did the artists care for them? Their's was a business that was totally different from all other industries that he knew of. Trade union principles did not apply to variety artists. He dared say that if they had not been mixed up with the trade unions at the time of the last dispute they would have obtained everything they wanted in twenty-four hours. (Hear, hear.) So far as he (the chairman) was concerned, the Federation of Trades Unions would not touch many more hundreds from the Variety Artists' Federation. (Applause.) When they went to the meeting arranged at the House of Commons to meet four proprietors, four artists, and three representatives of the General Federation of Trades Unions, the managers, after the artists had accepted the propositions, said, "We do not want to be mixed up in it." He wished they meant it! They had proved conclusively that they did want to be mixed up in it. However, the artists agreed to go through with the proposition, and Mr. Clemart, Mr. G. B. Sinclair, and Mr. Wal Pink and himself were chosen representatives. The terms of reference to be dealt with were (1) to determine the powers and responsibilities of the two societies; (2) re-engagements; (3) rate of commission; (4) method of collecting commission. The artists objected to the re-engagement clause in toto, but eventually agreed under pressure to place the whole subject to unconditional arbitration. Then the agents came along and said "We also want introduced clause 5, which says that no artist shall be artist and agent at the same time." It was quite palpable to everybody in that business that that clause was not aimed at any of his brother artists; it was vindictively aimed at him (the chairman), because his comrades, the Water Rats, had supplied the sinews of war to found an agency on what they thought were equitable terms, namely five per cent. commission and no re-engagement clause. He had the finest book in the business—better than any three put together—but when he applied to a certain manager and quoted terms, he said, "What about split commission?" He (the chairman) replied, "I am only charging five per cent. There can be no splitting." Then the manager said, "I can do no business," and no business was done. Other artists had not had sufficient time to lay the foundations of a business, but with the assistance of his comrades he was put immediately in the position of having a business already established, and he did a lot of work. He was the object of the present attack, but he was not going to be coerced. His opponents found out that he had twelve months' engagements booked up, and that managers would not release him from them; otherwise clause 5 would not have been submitted in its present form; it would have been "That the Water Rats' Agency be abolished." He, however, had that work to do, and he was going to work it. (Cheers.) Mr. O'Gorman then referred in terms, complimentary and otherwise, to agents, both individually and generally. One agent had said to him, "We want to keep the agency business amongst ourselves." The artists might as well say they wanted to preserve the entertainment industry for themselves, and decide that there should be no more artists! (Hear, hear.) He could not see how the proprietors could favour a state of affairs which would allow the agents to become practical despots. He was now going to make a statement to which he was prepared to adhere to the absolute letter. He had told them that he did not like strikes, and he never did like strikes. He always tried to obtain everything for his brother and sister artists by peaceful means, and he was going to tell them now that there was going to be no strike (cheers), neither to-morrow nor any other day. (Renewed cheers.) He was a Jonah, but they were not going to throw him over to the whale; he was going to jump over himself. He had come to this conclusion, after mature consideration, that even at the cost to him of the most painful incident in his life, he would rather step out of the way and let them send clause 5 before the Arbitrator (cries of "No!"). He said "Yes," because of two evils they should choose the lesser. He was the bone of contention; until the question was decided let him step out of his position, and show all the world that he was not the self-seeking, money-making hypocrite that they tried to make him out. That he was prepared to do in order to avoid a rupture which might do imperishable injury to the profession. He was convinced it would throw the business back twenty years if they had a recurrence of the strike of two years ago. He knew the confidence that his brother and sister artists had in their executive, that were they to ask them to strike they would strike. (Cheers.) Therefore, he had taken the bull by the horns, and his position was that from that night they should allow him to stand on one side, while they went on with the negotiations, which he prayed would be successful. If he was outside of that organisation their opponents could not dictate to them what he should do with his time. That was his position, and he would ask them to weigh well what he had said, and, if it was possible, avoid anything in the shape of a rupture. In conclusion, he wished to say that since they honoured him three years ago by electing him chairman of the provisional committee, which founded that organisation, and repeated that honour, they had done everything that it was possible to show him that they appreciated his rough and humble efforts on their behalf. For that he thanked them. When the time arrived, and he was placed in a position to offer his services on behalf of his brother and sister artists, he would be there not in body alone, but with his whole heart and soul. (Applause.)

MR. BARTRAM commended Mr. O'Gorman's heroic action, but said the executive committee had not since this dispute accepted the resignation alluded to, and he did not think there was any need for him to resign. They had reason to believe that they demanded nothing but that which was just when they said that an artist had a right to become an agent. Let them put their resolution and abide by it.

MR. HAL FORDE said why not let clause 5 stand? They were convinced that they had a good case.

MR. CLEMART said he quite agreed with their chairman that it would be a great deal too much responsibility to put on one man's shoulders to involve the Federation in a general strike at the present moment. He thought Mr. O'Gorman had undoubtedly discovered the key to the situation in the position that he had taken. It was a very awkward position, and all the greater credit was due to him that he had the courage to do that which many another would never have had the pluck to do. He was thoroughly convinced that if they had an arbitrator of the slightest intelligence they could prove that an artist had just as much right to do agency work as anybody else. An artist's life did not last as long as that of an ordinary commercial man. The latter might perhaps rise to the position of managing-director of some firm, and have his valet and his motor-car, but as a rule, when a music-hall artist got into the fifties, he found himself going backward, and there was no market for his work. Personally, his view of the situation was rather a difficult one, because he occupied an official position. He had not been asked to give up all individuality in the matter; but, as the paid general secretary of the organisation, he must, of course, carry out the policy of the executive committee, although, perhaps, he might not always agree. His point of view was that it was a piece of unwarrantable impertinence for agents to introduce that clause. It was outside the dispute, and they had agreed to go to arbitration before the point had ever entered their minds. They hated Joe O'Gorman like poison, and they thought by this move that they were going to put him in such a position as he would have trouble to get out of, but he asked them had Joe got out of it with credit or discredit? (Cheers.) He did not know who the arbitrator was going to be. Their object would be to find a broad-minded man who could see facts. They did not want him to be biassed in their direction, but they would take care he should not be biassed in the other. If it were not for the likelihood of protracting the dispute, he would have liked to put an opposition clause, namely, "That agents should not be managers at the same time." (Cries of "Put it in.") No, he was only pointing out what they could do if they wanted to adopt their opponents' tactics. He would remind them that the London County Council had not spoken yet. The L.C.C. moved slowly. They might raise the contention that agents should not be managers, and instance the tying down of a man to a sole agency for two years—the artist to pay the agent's costs of postage, telegrams, railway journeys, and then pay ten per cent. on every engagement the man makes for three years—they would be abuses the arbitrator would also weed out. Then they might ask that no man should be an agent who had a wife working as an artist. If they took the Agents' Association and wiped off those three classes, there would not be much of the Association left. Mr. Clemart read a letter from Mr. Askwith, the arbitrator in the Award, which by some unfortunate circumstance had only fallen into his hands that night at the stage door. It had been found in an unused letter-box at the Federation's office. It was their custom, in order to facilitate business, to send to the post office for letters, which were rarely placed in the box. The letter read as follows:—

"Board of Trade Offices, Jan. 8, 1909.

"Dear Sir,—My attention has been called to various statements in the newspapers, particularly the *Daily Telegraph*, of Jan. 8, referring to the dispute between artists and agents, it being alleged in that newspaper that 'the Federation frankly admit that if the members are willing the arbitration award will be ignored and the strike take place.' If this paragraph is correct, and a strike against managers is suggested, I would call your attention to the paragraph on future disputes in the award, and to the fact that the managers entirely deny any unwarrantable support of the Agents' Association. Under these circumstances it appears to me it may be advisable to discuss the subject, with a view to a meeting with the managers, if necessary, as suggested before Christmas. I should be obliged if you would call on me at one o'clock to-morrow (Saturday) here to consider the seriousness of this position of proposed breach of the award. I should be willing to ask representatives of the Agents' Association to come, too, if you should think fit. Although I can only make a request to them to that effect, I presume they may be willing to endeavour to avoid disputes. As yet I have had no communication with them. Will you kindly wire me on this point in the morning?"

Yours faithfully,

G. R. ASKWITH.

Some questions were put as to the reason for the delay in receiving the letter, and Mr. Clemart said the letter was not stamped, and he thought that Mr. Askwith's office boy may have kept it in his pocket. He mentioned that in order that Mr. Askwith would understand that there was no discourtesy on his part.

MR. TOM COSTELLO, speaking as an old performer, who, however, had luckily kept pace with the times, said he was a long-suffering sufferer from the re-re-re-engagement clause, or, as some called it, the re-enslavement clause, but which he described as a positive blood clause. He added that the writer of "At Trinity Church" confessed to him on his dying bed that it was he who suggested that clause to his employer, a prominent agent, who grasped it eagerly.

MR. FRED RUSSELL said he came there that night with the firm intention of doing all he possibly could to prevent a strike being declared. The only object he had in coming from Birmingham was to fight that question. He considered the magnanimous manner in which their chairman had acted had absolutely solved the problem. Unless a resolution was proposed giving the committee power to order a strike he would have nothing to say, but it was moved he would have an amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think it is quite clear there is no intention of moving a strike resolution here to-night. Therefore Mr. Russell's last sentence is quite unnecessary.

MR. RUSSELL: We were called here for the purpose of moving a resolution calling a strike.

THE CHAIRMAN: Nothing of the kind.

MR. DAVE O'TOOLE: It has never been mentioned, ladies and gentlemen.

THE CHAIRMAN: The resolution that has been put all over the country was a very, very strong resolution, but the word strike was never mentioned, and it was not meant.

MR. RUSSELL: I say it was meant.

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER'S

PANTO. HITS.

GREAT BRITAIN ELECTRIFIED WITH OUR OVERWHELMING WHIRLWIND OF WINNERS.

THE ABSOLUTE HITS AT ***DRURY LANE.***

'I'M AFRAID TO COME HOME IN THE DARK'
Sung by Miss MARIE GEORGE.

'SHE SELLS SEA SHELLS.'
Sung by WILKIE BARD.

THE ABSOLUTE HITS AT THE LYCEUM.

'SUE, SUE, SUE' & 'BOMBADIER.'
Sung by Miss DOROTHY CRASKE.

'COME BE MY RAINBOW.'
Sung by Miss ALICE RUSSON

'SHADOWLAND.'
Sung by Miss EVA KELLAND.

THE ABSOLUTE HITS AT THE ADELPHI.

'COME BE MY RAINBOW.'
'JEAN FROM ABERDEEN.'
Sung by Miss PHYLLIS DARE.

'OH! OH! ANTONIO!' & 'MOLLY BAWN'
Sung by FRED LESLIE, Jun.

'I'M AFRAID TO COME HOME IN THE DARK'
AND
'ALICE WHERE ART THOU GOING?'
Sung by Miss MABEL RUSSELL.

'TAKE ME ROUND IN A TAXI-CAB.'
Sung by Miss CARRIE MOORE.
AND
'EVERY FELLOW'S IN LOVE WITH A GIRL.'
Sung by STEPHEN ADESON.

THE PROVINCES FOLLOW THE LEAD OF THE THREE LEADING LONDON PANTOMIMES

'OH! OH! ANTONIO!' 'MY GIRL'S A YORKSHIRE GIRL.'
'SUE, SUE, SUE' and 'I'M AFRAID TO COME IN THE DARK' are
THE ABSOLUTE HITS OF THE PROVINCIAL PANTOMIMES.

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER, 142, Charing Cross Rd., London, W.C.

Mr. O'GORMAN: Everything that this Federation has done has been opposed by Mr. Russell, and I am going to stand it no longer. The resolution to be settled here was as follows, and that resolution should never have gone to the Press until it had been decided here and at Manchester to-night. The resolution is:—"That this meeting empowers the Executive Committee to take such steps as may be deemed necessary, however drastic, to bring to an immediate termination the dispute which has now lasted sixteen weeks between the Variety Artists' Federation and the Agents' Association, who are being unwarrantably supported by certain managers, whose sole intention is to inflict permanent injury on the V.A.F." We were under the impression that it was necessary for all to make a stand. We thought it was time to call a halt after the dispute had gone on sixteen weeks. There was no mention certainly of a strike, but the inference taken was a very drastic one. I do think that it is wicked for anybody to propound strike principles or accuse your executive of proposing strike principles until they came here and heard from us that it was our intention to strike. That was the time, and not last Friday, and not until the resolution was put. The resolution that we want to put here to-night is a boiled-down version. Probably I had better say that it is the original resolution with all the venom taken out. It is as follows:—"That this meeting empowers the Executive Committee to take steps to bring to an immediate termination the dispute, which has now lasted sixteen weeks, between the Variety Artists' Federation and the Agents' Association." Surely that is modest and meek enough even for Mr. Russell?

Mr. RUSSELL: If you insist on introducing personalities you will goad me into—

The CHAIRMAN: What, Mr. Russell?

Mr. JOE ELVIN (interposing) said they had come that night to do the best they could for the Federation and to prevent a strike. Mr. Russell's opinion was that there was going to be one, and everybody thought so all over the country. He admired their chairman and Mr. Russell very much, and he had seen them very happy together. That was not a time for a fall out. They were in trouble, and the trouble was not finished yet. None of them wanted the strike, but they had all to be loyal and true. Let them get out of their difficulties peacefully, but if they had to fight they would fight. He was a peaceful man, and did not like to see fighting going on. They had been fighting ever since they had been a Federation, and it was because managers and proprietors made them fight. They had gone to arbitration with the managers, but some of the latter had broken the terms of the Award over and over again. If they worked peacefully with the artists it would be for the good of everybody, but when it came to the question of the agents, they had no right to be on the map. He begged their committee to act together in the dispute, and not raise quarrels among themselves. He admired the action of their chairman, which had much simplified matters. The thing was, were the agents going to find anything to put in the way? He joined the ship when the Federation was floated—he was their trustee, looking after their "oof"—and he was going to stick by the ship. If they went to arbitration with a fair and just arbitrator they would have nothing to fear. (Cheers.)

Mr. DUTCH DALY moved the adoption of the modified resolution quoted by the chairman. He said he had many personal friends among the agents, who were, as a rule, keen business men.

Mr. DUSTY RHODES seconded.

Mr. BARTRAM moved an amendment. He thought, with Mr. Clemart, that it was a piece of impertinence for the agents, after they had agreed at the House of Commons to four conditions, to add a fifth paragraph, which was never mentioned before. They had been fighting the whole question sixteen weeks, but they had been fighting for years and years as individuals. His amendment was as follows:—"That all words after 'Committee' in the first line and down to 'drastic' in the third line, and all words after 'weeks' in the fourth line to the end of the resolution, be deleted, and that words be substituted and added that the resolution shall read as follows:—'That this meeting empowers the Executive Committee to bring an immediate termination to the dispute, which has lasted sixteen weeks, by the acceptance of arbitration with the Agents' Association on the following points: (1) Amount of commission on engagements booked for the United Kingdom; (2) amount of commission on engagements booked for abroad; (3) deduction of commission by proprietors; (4) re-engagement clause; (5) persons acting in the dual capacity of artist and agent; (6) persons acting in the dual capacity of agent and manager; (7) sole agency office contract.'"

Mr. WALTER HAST said he would second the amendment if the words "proprietors of troupes" were added to the sixth clause. That meant that no working agent should be allowed to have his own troupe.

Mr. SERVAIS LE ROY opposed the suggestion, which, however, Mr. Bartram would not accept.

Mr. ATLAS seconded the amendment.

Mr. ABEL said that they had been waiting for four months. If they were going to add clauses when were they to look for a settlement?

Mr. TOM MAXWELL submitted that they had better leave the introduction of new clauses to some future time, and pass the original resolution.

Mr. DALY inquired whether, assuming that they put the terms of reference before the arbitrator, were they in a position to add something afterwards?

The CHAIRMAN: No; but arguments could be brought to bear during the hearing.

The amendment was put to the meeting and lost. After further discussion

Mr. CLEMART read a substituted resolution, which, he thought, would be accepted by the mover and seconder of the former motion. It was as follows:—"This this mass meeting records its entire confidence in the Executive Committee, and empowers it to take steps to bring about an immediate termination of the dispute, which has now lasted for sixteen weeks, between the Variety Artists' Federation and the Agents' Association."

Mr. Daly and Mr. Rhodes agreed.

Mr. EUGENE STRATTON, who was received with loud cheers, said he was a Federationist, and he thought their chairman had absolutely removed all obstacles out of their way. He thought they were wasting time by arguing on points that would keep them till Doomsday. He maintained that they had representatives who could argue as well as the agents could argue, and if they left the question to the same people as those who served them before they would save a lot of time.

The resolution was carried unanimously amid much enthusiasm.

Mr. KONORAH, the president of the International Artists' Lodge, who was received with cheers, said he was there at the order of the Executive Committee of the I.A.L. as president, and he came because he received a very urgent telegram. He came to pledge the full support of his society in everything they did. (Cheers.) He had hoped that some outlet might be found, and that their ultima ratio might be averted; but the I.A.L. were ready to go with them to the last ditch. They had just come themselves through a fight which the assistance of the V.A.F. helped to bring to a successful termination. They had trouble also with agents, but not in quite the same way, as the laws of this country were differently constituted. He was glad that they had come to the conclusion they had done. They would never have real peace until they had fairness in all their business dealings under regulated conditions. Any other peace was only a temporary one, but it was perhaps better than open war, unless they had adequate methods and adequate means.

Votes of thanks were passed to Mr. Konorah, to the Press, and to Mr. Forbes-Robertson, who lent the theatre subject only to the cost of light and cleaning.

Mr. JOE ELVIN moved a vote of thanks to the chairman, saying they were proud of him for the action he had taken in bringing about a peaceful settlement in this dispute. He had stepped into the breach manfully and with every good intention, and he could only say, "God bless old Ireland."

The CHAIRMAN, in reply, said the only thing he regretted in leaving the position of chairman of the Federation, and leaving the Federation, was that he should be unable to participate in the arbitration which was to follow. He had got such entire confidence in Mr. Clemart and Mr. Pink that he was perfectly satisfied that they would look after their interests. Unless they made a resolution or rule that no agent or artist-agent should be a member of their organisation, then they would find him coming back and paying up his dues. He realised quite fully that he was a stumbling-block to a settlement, but even at that sacrifice—and nobody knew what it meant to him—he suffered it most fervently rather than have a dislocation of that industry similar to that which happened two years ago.

The proceedings were brought to a close with the singing of the National Anthem.

THE MANCHESTER MEETING.

Mr. E. ADELER took the chair at a meeting of members of the V.A.F., held at the Salisbury Hotel, Manchester, on Sunday, when Mr. William Lee, a delegate of the Executive Committee, explained the negotiations which had taken place in regard to the dispute between the V.A.F. and the Agents' Association. Among the other artists present were Messrs. Albert Voyce, Mark Sheridan, the Brothers Egbert, Albert Schaeffer, Geo. B. Sinclair, W. E. Gillin, Wm. Brown, B. O'Malley, Lally Brookes, Hayman and Franklin, Fred Parr, Marie Jones, Slippere, Harry Conlin, and B. Heralds.

Mr. WILLIAM LEE, in a long speech, went very fully into the points of the dispute with agents, and criticised the action of the Federation of Trade Unions and Mr. Appleton, detailing also the points of reference agreed upon for arbitration, and referring to Mr. O'Gorman's contemplated resignation of the V.A.F. In conclusion he said: "I am perfectly satisfied it will be only a question of a very short time before the present dispute is settled. I know the settlement will bring great relief to you all; I know it will bring great relief to the agents, and we shall all be satisfied when we are able to go to work again."

Mr. ALBERT VOYCE said: All of us are working for the same cause, and I hope we shall soon see the beginning of something better, something nobler than ever existed in the Federation. In regard to the agents' dispute I have a proposition to make. The terms of reference, with one exception, were practically the same as the terms of reference originally agreed to by the Variety Artists' Federation, and therefore there was not much reason for a dispute—not much reason for the trouble; no reason for angry words. Clause 5 deals with the question of artists carrying a book. It is not within the power of any agent, artist, or manager to say no artist must carry a book; but it is within the province of the Federation to resume the position it occupied prior to this dispute, and it could do so with honour and credit and to the everlasting credit of Mr. Joe O'Gorman, who was prepared to make such a noble sacrifice as Mr. Lee had indicated. Clause 5, said Mr. Lee, had nothing whatever to do with this dispute. It has everything to do with it. We repealed a certain law in our book of rules in order to find a weapon to bring against the enemy. That clause of that law was repealed practically as a temporary expedient to enable us to fight the enemy. Therefore it is tantamount to an act of war, and it is only right and just that the terms of settlement should include this clause, and be discussed when the time comes for the terms of peace to be arranged. He asked that the twenty or thirty who had the privilege granted them under the rules to act as agents should now sacrifice themselves in favour of the great organisation which they all admired, and thus bring the dispute to an honourable and satisfactory end. He proposed therefore:—"That this meeting is of opinion that as the rule empowering certain members to act as agents only intended to meet a difficulty raised by the present dispute, no harm can be done by allowing the arbitrator to decide whether members of the Federation should be allowed to continue to act as agents." The agents insist that no artists must carry a book. It does not rest with any agent or artist or manager to say whether an artist shall carry a "book" or not, but it rests with this organisation to say whether an artist shall carry a "book." The agents want to protect their industry, and we want to protect ours. We would not like amateurs to come into our business—(a Voice: They do)—and cripple us. Let us play fair and just. Once we have arrived at an amicable settlement with the agents, will it be in their power to say whether an artist shall carry a "book" or not? It rests with the arbitrator to say whether we can carry a book or not. We want a clear, unbiased man, who knows the law of commission as it exists in the industrial world, to give us his opinion. Mr. Appleton may have been dictatorial in a way, but I think his advice was based on equity. If we went to war on Monday we should be practically in the same position later as when the war started. Agent-artists would still exist. There is nobody in this world who can stop a man entering one, two, or three industries, if he is capable and determined. I think the artist-agents who now belong to the Federation would be willing to sacrifice their membership in the interests of the great majority.

Mr. ALBERT SCHAEFFER seconded the resolution. He had come there from Birmingham because he believed there was going to be a strike. Mr. O'Gorman had done the lion's share of the work and interested himself greatly in the Federation, but no one was more bitter against artist-agents than Mr. O'Gorman himself.

At this point Mr. Schaeffer departed from the resolution, and commenced criticising the Executive Committee. Mr. Schaeffer was called to order by members of the audience, and told to confine himself to the resolution.

Mr. LEE: Mr. Chairman, if Mr. Schaeffer has any grievance against the committee he should make his complaint at the proper time and place.

The CHAIRMAN: I quite agree with Mr. Lee. When I took the chair I decided to err on the right side, but I think the time has come when I should assert myself and call Mr. Schaeffer to order. The resolution is a censure on the committee.

Mr. MUNROE: I propose that the meeting express its confidence in the Executive Committee.

Mr. VOYCE: I emphatically protest against any such description of my resolution. Have I said one word derogatory to the committee? (Cries of "No!") I decline absolutely to have it connected with any censure on the committee. Rather than that should be done I will withdraw it.

Mr. SINCLAIR: I am sorry to see that the keynote of peace struck by Mr. Lee has not been upheld by the last speakers. You must remember what you are doing by sending this proposition to London. You are allowing these agents to dictate to you. (Cries of "No!") The idea of the agents is to weaken your ranks. You do not know their methods like we know them.

Mr. HARRY VANDERBILT spoke in support of the resolution.

Mr. HENRY COUTTS asked if the agents were not within their rights in desiring to add another clause to the terms of reference before the document went before the arbitrator?

The CHAIRMAN: Certainly not.

Mr. SINCLAIR: Both sides agreed that the questions in dispute were on the original paper. It was only at the last moment that they added the clause about which all the trouble of late had arisen.

Eventually it was agreed to add to the resolution the following words: "And at the same time the question of agents acting as artists to be considered."

The resolution was then put to the meeting, and was declared carried by sixty-nine votes to forty.

Mr. VOYCE strongly resented the remark of the CHAIRMAN, who said the Manchester people wanted a little more backbone; they were more like molluscs than anything else.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Within the last few days the statement has obtained circulation in the Press that in the dispute with the agents, managers have sided with the latter, simply because they split commissions and pocket the amount.

This emanates from the executive of the Artists' Federation, for reasons I need not here labour, but whereas managers in their business over and above providing good entertainment desire to stand well in the eyes of the public, and the latter are not acquainted with the inner working of music hall enterprise, I trust you will grant me space on behalf of the members of my Association to answer those incorrect aspersions.

When after the strike arbitration was agreed to, one of the points of reference was *no commission to be deducted by management either where engagements booked direct or on behalf of an agent. This to apply to existing and future contracts.*

On this point I alone, in my official capacity, tendered evidence, and if not too lenghty for insertion, I attach reprint of that evidence and cross-examination. The award was issued without any comment by Mr. Askwith as arbitrator on the subject. Since the present dispute was ruthlessly started for purposes best known to its originators sixteen weeks ago, the leaders of the V.A.F. have promised our solicitor to bring the managers before the arbitrator, but up to now have found no time to do so. They have been too much occupied with losing lawsuits in the endeavour to deprive agents of their just earnings, and further to induce the General Federation of Trade Unions to assist them in issuing a million circulars warning their members to boycott music halls, or, if not, to support them in a general strike. Their success in the latter direction is best explained by the following extract from a letter sent by the secretary of the Trade Union leaders to the Artists' Federation.

"I have submitted this phase of the situation to a specially-convened meeting of my emergency committee, and I am instructed to say that in their opinion your request that all matters in dispute should be decided involves the consideration of this point, and if the negotiations fail through your refusal to submit the point with the others, they will be unable to guarantee any support in the event of an open conflict between the parties directly concerned.—W. A. APPLETON."

Trade Union leaders have heavy responsibilities, and an award being issued after costly arbitration they have, as a rule, the native sense of justice to abide by it. Besides, latterly facts and figures have been placed before these gentlemen showing, for instance, that if a salary cheque is drawn, say, for £300 on a Saturday £210, or more, goes to ten, eleven, or twelve artists, and the remainder to about fifty or sixty musicians and stage employees, most of whom belong to a Union, and thus the ridiculous spectacle in a strike or boycott would be presented of the "poor Trade Union artists" throwing the permanent employees out of work; besides, the £210 salary is generally earned two or three times over by the artists working two or three halls "on the Trade Union principle" of "one man one job." The wonder is that an association like this was ever allowed to become affiliated to a Trade Union Federation.

The managers have abided loyally by the award, and I have called a meeting of my members for to-morrow, when we shall decide as to requesting the arbitrator to give us an appointment with the leaders of the V.A.F., and take his opinion on the merit of the commission clause, on the various breaches by artists, on the continuous threat to boycott or strike, when he laid it down that no strike is to occur for twelve months without six months' notice, for it is high time that the true merits of the case were published; that an industry in which the public have invested millions be no longer jeopardised by the democrats who terrorise and coerce artists to the disadvantage of their prosperity, and pose all the while as "modern Bayards."

This is the first time, I think, that an association has laid down the edict that in order to coerce the agent it is just to avoid payment of a legitimate debt. What managers say is, they want to conduct their houses as they have been accustomed to, without hindrance and according to the award; they do not want "you" who have caused all the friction to come into their offices and dictate that they shall book artists with "you or anyone you choose to nominate."

If you have no space for the evidence placed before the arbitrator, and "the man in the street" wants to know why, at the request of agents, with the consent of artists, a fourth of the 10 per cent. collected is retained for extra work (and which forms part and parcel of the shareholders' revenue as vouched for by responsible auditors), surely the reply is the agent, as a business man, must think this prompt mode of getting his money pays him best (if it is 5 per cent. the Company does not get any profit). But the commission clause is not used for the purpose of coercing artists, and if the latter object to the mode of collection, it certainly does not mean that the contract is refused by *managers*.

In conclusion I leave your readers to judge what justification there is for all the hubbub and the threatening of strikes by a party which in January, 1907, were jubilant over the award, and in January, 1909, are afraid to face the arbitrator, and try to upset his award illegally.

As I finish this letter I note from the report of yesterday's meeting at Terry's Theatre that there is no strike to take place, and that Mr. Askwith has sent a wholesome warning to the leaders of this turbulent movement. But a portion of the mischief is done. The threat of the strike itself has undoubtedly injured our business for the week, and possibly for many weeks to come. It has caused managers expense and trouble to prepare for eventualities, while the charges against them of a vile and insinuating character remain on record in the Press at this moment; therefore I trust that, however lengthy, you will still find place for this communication. Thanking you in anticipation, I am, yours faithfully,

HENRI GROS,
President of the Entertainments Association.

Jan. 11.

STATEMENT BEFORE ARBITRATOR.

It has been stated that contracts are made by managers prejudicial to artists' interests, and of a nature so stringent as to prevent their general employment. I thought it might be advisable to show the necessity for some of the clauses that are in dispute, in a typical contract like the Metropolitan Music Hall, the first clause being the commission clause:—

"*The engagement having been made through an agent, it is agreed that the company shall deduct and retain ten per cent., and pay the same to the said agent, or as he may direct.*"

In lieu of the words, "or as he may direct," I think it should distinctly state "of which 2½ per cent. shall go to the company towards the cost of book-keeping, &c., and trouble of collecting." The objection by artists is puerile; there is no hardship for them. When they only pay their agent 5 per cent. there is nothing stopped. There is considerable trouble in keeping these accounts, and the agent gives the company 2½ per cent. People may be perfectly honest and take a considerable time to pay their debts, but the fact remains, the agents have had great losses in the past. It is a claim that is not easily recoverable when an artist is unfortunate, or dies, or travels for a long time on the Continent or in the Colonies, and agents who are business men have consented to give 2½ per cent. for this collection in order to get their money promptly.

The artist appends his signature to the contract, and is a party thereto, and, in many instances, prefers it, as he knows exactly the amount that is coming to him.

The statement made that in some instances the agent claims a further commission from the artist I can scarcely credit, and I doubt if any reputable agent could be produced who has done so, and

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ARTISTS WHO ARE SINGING FELDMAN'S SONGS IN PANTOMIME.

LONDON DISTRICT.

MISS HANID ALEXANDER.
MISS PRUDENCE AYRTON.
MISS FLORENCE BRAY.
MISS LENA BRICKWELL.
MISS BESSIE BUTT.
MISS VENIE CLEMENTS.
MISS KITTY CLINTON.
MISS ENA CORELLI.
MISS ROSE COSTA.
MISS MARIE DAINTON.
MISS KITTY DOUGLAS.
MISS MAUD ESMOND.
MISS QUEENIE ESSEX.
MISS DOROTHY FIRMIN.
MISS LYDIA FLOPP.

BELFAST.
MISS DECIMA BROOKE.
MISS EDITH FINK.
GEORGE LASHWOOD.
GEORGE MILLER.
MISS DOROTHY WARD.

BIRMINGHAM.
MISS SYBIL ARUNDALE.
FRANK BLYTHE.
G. H. ELLIOTT.
MISS RITA EVERARD.
MISS HETTIE KING.
MISS ETHEL NEGRETTI.
MISS CLARA REID.
ARTHUR REYNOLDS.
MISS IVEY ROSE.
MISS JOYCE STEVENS.
MISS ELLALINE THORNE.

BRIGHTON.
EDWIN GARTH.
MISS GERTRUDE GILLIAM.
MISS BLANCHE MARION.
MISS AIMEE ROBERTS.

BRADFORD.
MISS ISABELLE DILLON.
MISS FLORRIE FORDE.
CHARLES NORTON.
MISS VERA VERE.
MISS WINIFRED WYNDHAM.

BRISTOL.
MISS VIOLET GILLIS.
MISS OUIDA MACDERMOTT.
MISS DEBORAH VOLAR.

CARDIFF.
MISS MARIE BURDELL.
MISS NELLIE LUNELLE.
MISS MOYA MANNERING.
MISS IDA STATHAMS.

HAL FORD.
MISS MAUDIE FRANCIS.
FERGUSON AND MACK.
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MISS DOROTHY GRASSDORFF.
MISS NANCY HEARNE.
BABY HUTT.
MISS CONSTANCE HYEM.
MISS EDITH JEFFERIES.
MISS QUEENIE LEIGHTON.
MISS ADDIE LENNARD.
EDWARD LEWIS.
MISS DOROTHY MILLER.
MISS CARRIE MOORE.
MISS EDNA MORGAN.
SISTERS MORGAN.

CROYDON.
MISS GEORGINA DELMAR.
MISS GLADYS WARREN.

DUBLIN.
BARNEY ARMSTRONG.
J. J. DALLAS.
MISS KATHLEEN GRAY.

DUNDEE.
MISS ROSIE BARTLETT.
MISS MAY CARTER.
MISS HETTIE LIND.
MISS AMY RANDOLPH.

EDINBURGH.
MISS MENA BRAE.
WILL EVANS.
MISS JANE EYRE.
MISS MINNIE OLIVE.

EXETER.
MISS VIOLET HOLLEM.
MISS EDITH HOUSLEY.

GLASGOW.
MISS DECIMA BROOKE.
WHIT CUNLIFFE.
HARRY DENT.
MISS IRIS HOEY.
MISS VIOLET LORAINE.
SAM MORRIS.
MISS ELLA RETFORD.
GEORGE ROBEY.
FRED RUSSELL.

HANLEY.
DOUGLAS CAMPBELL.
MISS LOLA PATEY.
MISS MARGARET RUBY.

LEEDS.
MARTIN ADESON.
MISS NELL EMERALD.
MISS LULU RUSSELL.
MISS LILLIE SOUTTER.

MISS MADOLINE REES.
MISS LILLIAN ROSE.
MISS DOROTHY RUNDELL.
SYDNEY RUSSELL.
MISS LOTTIE SARGENT.
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ARTHUR STIGENT.
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MISS LENA VERDI.
MISS ETHEL WARD.
MISS WINIFRED WARD.
E. HARVEY WHITE.
MISS MARIE WILSON.

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BOBBIE ALLANDALE.
MISS MABEL GREEN.
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MISS LILY MORRIS.
ARTHUR RIGBY.

MANCHESTER.
MISS MAY BEATTIE.
MISS IVY GALLARD.
MISS PEGGY McDONNELL.
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GEORGE WOOD.

NEWCASTLE.
MISS LILY IRIS.
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PAISLEY.
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MISS MAISIE ELLINGER.
ALF. E. PASSMORE.

PORTSMOUTH.
MISS CONNIE LEON.
MISS MAUDE MORTIMER.

SHEFFIELD.
MISS MAY MARS.
MISS NANCY THORNTON.

OTHER PROVINCIAL TOWNS.

MISS OLIVE ASTOR.
MISS LILLIE BLYTHE.
MISS MADGE BROWNE.
MISS DOT CARRY.
MISS NINA CARLTON.
MISS GLADYS CHRISTIE.
MISS MINNIE D'AUBYN.
MISS MAY DE LA GRANGE.
MISS ETHEL DURNFORD.
HARRY EDLIN.
MISS RAY FORD.
MISS MARIE JERRARD.
MISS IVY GALLARD.
MISS MINA GREEN.
MISS NORA GUY.

MISS MOLLIE HACKETT.
MISS MAUD HERSEE.
MISS FLORENCE HILTON.
MISS HEDDA HIRLEMANN.
MISS MARY HOPE.
MISS ZONA JOY.
LITTLE KEENO.
MISS GERTIE LENO.
ARTHUR LENVILLE.
MISS LOUIE LOVE.
MISS CYNTHIA LUPINO.
MISS JENNY LYNWOOD.

MISS LALLAH MELROSE.
MISS NELLIE MERTON.
MISS IVY MOORE.
MISS MAUD PRENTON.
MISS ETHEL RA LESLIE.
MISS RENA REES.
MISS MARIE REEVE.
MISS NORA RITERIO.
MISS CHRISTINE ROY.
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certainly none who have obtained it. But if such has been done the names of the agents ought to be published. I venture to suggest that one or two members of the Agents' Association should be heard on this.

Cross-examined by Mr. Doughty :—

Q. You probably agree to this extent, that the agent is the agent of the artist, and not of the manager?

A. The agent is the agent of the artist, and is the primary culprit. He has run salaries up for the artist, and has made salaries excessive.

Q. Never mind that. He is the agent of the artist, there is no doubt about that?

A. Undoubtedly.

Q. And it is usual in all other businesses for the principal to pay his own agent?

A. They do that now.

Q. Directly.

A. Directly. Well, I gave you my statement on that, you know, very succinctly, and can only refer you to that. I say that the agent is a business man, and that it pays him better to give us a fourth share of his commission to get his money promptly. I do not want to sit here and throw the slightest aspersion upon artists, amongst whom there are a great many men and women whom I respect. I come into daily contact with them, and have lived on terms of business amity with them, but the agents evidently think it pays them, and they ought to be the best judges. I can give you one instance of an artist——

Q. You cannot argue from single instances.

A. I would rather not, but it is a question like this: the 2½ per cent. deduction entails a certain amount of work. I can show my salary books. The commissions are all put down on one side, and lodged in the bank on the Monday, and at the end of the month cheques are drawn for them; and it stands to reason—it answers itself—that if the agent says "It pays me better to give you 2½ per cent. off my earnings than to wait until I get paid," he must have a reason for this.

Q. Do you suggest that if artists paid their agents directly the agent would lose a quarter of his remuneration?

A. I would rather not say.

Q. I would like you to answer.

A. You are asking me to throw an aspersion upon a certain number of people. I have put it in as nice a way as I could. It is a debt that runs on, and is not easily recoverable. Some of the commissions in former years ran into hundreds of pounds before they were paid.

Q. They were paid, I suppose?

A. If an artist dies and there is no estate they are not paid.

To place the entire examination before your readers would occupy too much of your valuable space. Suffice it to say that after my evidence some agents were called as witnesses, and that Mr. Askwith, notwithstanding the very strong complaints on the subject by the V.A.F. Executive, did not disturb it by his award. I venture to think this speaks for itself.

THE V.A.F. EXECUTIVE.

The following members of the Executive Committee retire this month :—

Fred McNaughton	Harry Delevine
Wal Pink	Charles Pastor
R. A. Roberts	Fred Herbert
Harry Griff	J. McConnell
Gus Elen	James Foreman
Peter Bijou	Charles Gardiner
Harry Tate	Michael Nolan
Albert Le Fre	Andie Caine
Will Poluski	Johnny Gilmore
Horace Wheatley	Geo. B. Sinclair
Fred Russell	Charles Rich
Walter Munroe	Max Berol-Konorah
Harry Lauder	V. L. Granville
Signor Borelli	Maurice Geraldo
Charles McConnell	Russell Wallett
Harry Wright	Sam Delevine
Arthur Reece	Bert Williams
Johnny Alexander	William Lee
George D'Albert	Bert Byrne
Bob Leonard	Leoni Clarke
Joe Tennyson	Ryder Slone
Arthur Rigby	J. W. Wilson

All retiring officers and members of the Committee shall be considered re-nominated for election unless they notify the head office to the contrary.

There are forty-six vacancies. The first forty-two will be elected for three years and the next four for one year.

The following nominations have been received :—

Harry Barrett and J. W. Knowles (Barrett and Knowles).
Alec Hurley.
Ben Obo and Jim Obo (Bros. Obo).
Julian Mack.
John Warren (*Magic Carpet* Co.).
Sid Cotterell.
Albert Wamba.
Richard Voss.
Billy Brown (O'Malley and Brown).
Marriott Edgar.
Harry Stelling (Stelling and Revell).
Orpheus.
T. C. Callaghan.
Winfield Blake (Blake and Amber).
Bert Harrow.
Steve McCarthy.
Fred Curran.
Apollo.
Harry Wenburn.
James Mooney (Mooney and Holbein).
E. B. Seener and Boris Fridkin (Seener and Fridkin).
Henry Coutts.
Arthur Gallimore.
W. B. Raby.
Thomas Bright (Bros. Bright).

THE V.A.F. AND ITS CRITICS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—As a provincial member of the executive who has had the honour of being voted to the chair at something like ninety-five per cent. of the meetings I have attended, an honour I appreciate to the full, may I be allowed to say a few words in reply to one or two of our critics?

One writer to *The Era* says: "A strong man is wanted in the V.A.F." Surely Mr. O'Gorman proved himself to be such a man in allowing himself to be made the scapegoat of the Agents' Association, and by throwing himself from the quarter-deck of the ship Federation in the interests of peace. And we have others.

Mr. Gerald has Trade Unionism at his finger tips, and, according to the gospel of Gerald, Trade Unionism signifies one man, one job. If this is so, then let it apply all round. I meet in the provinces turns booked by agents who do three acts and many that do two. I was recently engaged with a comic singer; his wife did a serio turn, and then they played a sketch. I have been engaged with a troupe; one member did a serio turn and another sang illustrated songs.

Many of us never appreciated Trade Union principles; but, having become affiliated, we loyally stood by the executive. I would like to ask Mr. Gerald—Who was more guilty than he of engineering the disastrous strike of two years ago? I was speaking to a lady—a lady who had a big concert reputation, and who recently came on the halls; she said, "I am in sympathy with your Federation, and were you to strike, I should come out with you; but I must tell you I strongly object to your Trade Union methods." This has been the excuse of many artists for not joining the V.A.F.

When Mr. Gerald was nominated for re-election as our secretary, I believe Mr. Chirgwin and myself were his sponsors, for I was against swapping horses mid-stream. I may have been wrong; and when I have read Mr. Gerald's repeated attacks on us, I have come to the conclusion I was wrong. I remember one of Mr. Gerald's supporters getting up and saying, I am an anarchist, and he seemed as if he meant it, too. Well, we don't want anarchists in the V.A.F.

If we are still to remain affiliated with the Trade Unionists of this country, we shall loyally stick to the executive. On the other hand, I think the ship can swim without any assistance from the outside. Many proprietors and managers in the provinces strongly objected to the continual threat of "We have the Trade Unionists at our back," and rightly so, I think. We are strong enough to defend our own interests without using threats of that description.

I have been shown in the provinces letters from agents of the most threatening description; on the other hand, I have seen most gentlemanly letters to their old clients. One I read said: "You can pay up when the trouble is over and I hope we shall be as big friends as ever again." Now that was something like a letter to write, and that agent had never been a performer himself. The worst letters I have seen were from men who had themselves been performers, and men I had often booked myself when they could not always get their own engagements.—Faithfully yours, F. V. ST. CLAIR.

Palace Theatre, Carlisle, Jan. 15.

"PEGGY PRYDE'S" NEW HOME.

An extremely popular figure in the music hall world has determined on Brighton as her future home, and taken over the proprietorship of the Sussex Hotel, East-street, Brighton. Miss Peggy Pryde is now the proprietress of this hotel. Jennie Hill's petite and dashing daughter has proved a distinct success at the halls, and, by her vivacity and witty patter, no less than by her graceful dancing and musical accomplishments, has justified the highest expectations formed of her. She is a particular favourite with Brighton audiences, and the announcement of her latest venture will be read with interest by numerous admirers.

For days past workmen have been busily engaged in renovating the premises, and it may safely be said that none has worked with greater energy than the famous comedienne. Looking in for a few minutes yesterday, a representative found Miss Peggy, working like a Trojan, putting the finishing touches to a hard week's work. "Ah," she said, cheerily, "I think we have now got things in ship-shape order to last us over Christmas, when there are to be more alterations. Yes, have been almost worried to death trying to make the place look clean and attractive."

How Peggy got the licence was quite another story. "When I went down to the Town Hall," she confessed, "I was never so frightened in all my life. I stood in the Court feeling like a prisoner at the bar! But the nice gentlemen on the Bench smilingly reassured me, and everything was all right for the time being." Since taking possession of the premises she has not had much rest. "I'm going as fast as ever I can," she added, with a smile. Peggy has received shoals of good wishes from her friends wishing her success in the new undertaking.

"I am just making this a little home," explained Miss Peggy. "I have all my professional engagements to fulfil for the next five years, but whenever I can be in Brighton I shall be here, always pleased to see old friends."

Peggy found a few moments to chat about her stage life. "Yes, I have been many years on the

[*Photo by Talma.*

MISS PEGGY PRYDE.

boards. I began at Hull when I was only eight years old. I've been all through England and America, and in Africa. . . . No, I don't bother much about making-up—very little, any old thing, does for me. My mother left me her wardrobe, and whenever I want a new 'property' I just go and rummage, and I'm sure to find something to suit."

"Somebody told you I was as good as my mother? Well, that is a compliment. She was such a woman! Yes, it was her vitality, of course. 'Jenny Hill, the Vital Spark,' she was called everywhere."

Quaint little Peggy has long been a proclaimer of women's rights "on the stage." One can picture the vivacious and clever artist in a caricature gown and bonnet, with a caricature umbrella, delivering a caricature oration. The words literally leap from her.

"Hey? You say man rules the world? Yes! and who rules man? WOMAN!! Yes—and there's lots of you blokes here to-night know it to your sorrow."

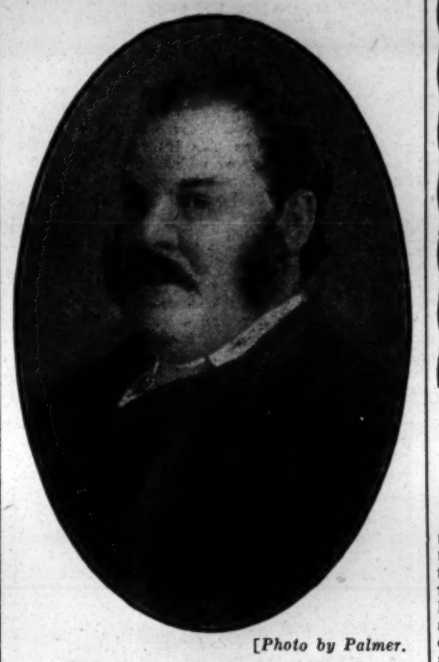
"What is my favourite part? I have so many. Yet I think I like —— as well as any. No. I don't see the audience as a rule; I sing to a gas jet. Sometimes, when I see a man laughing very much, I single his face and sing to him—it does one so much good, a jolly face. But a cold, unemotional face—oh, how that does depress one! No, I never feel tired. There is plenty to do. Good morning."

And singing merrily to herself the inimitable Peggy tripped away to give attention to making the "Sussex" as snug and cosy as possible for the host of friends she hopes to see in her new home.—*Sussex Daily News*, Friday, Dec. 25, 1908.

AT Stoke County Court on Wednesday, Will Calvert, a well-known Potteries comedian, sued Frederick Wood, a turf commission agent, for £15 damages for personal injuries. Plaintiff, whilst travelling in the train, donned trousers of abnormal size which he had purchased to perform in. Defendant, in fun, slashed at the trousers with a penknife. The blade cut through both pairs of trousers, besides plaintiff's underclothing, and injured his leg. Another slash cut plaintiff's thumb to the bone, and in consequence he lost three weeks' engagements. Plaintiff was awarded £10 10s. damages.

DEATH OF HARRY HART.

The serious illness of Mr. Harry Hart, reported in our columns last week, resulted in his death on the 8th inst., at his residence, 1, Rochester-terrace, N.W., in his eighty-second year. By his decease London loses its oldest music hall caterer and proprietor who in his day did much for the cause of cheap and wholesome entertainment for the masses. The example set by Charles Morton at the Canterbury was followed by Harry Hart, as he was universally known, and the earliest programmes at the Raglan, a hall with which his name was associated in the 'sixties and 'seventies, show that in the vocal and instrumental selections the operas of Verdi, Weber, Bellini, Meyerbeer, and Donizetti were drawn upon. Standard ballads and glees were also to be heard, and it is certain that there were in those days—the days of what has been termed the public-house annexe—a large



[*Photo by Palmer.*

THE LATE MR. HARRY HART.

number of capable and cultured vocalists entertaining at the halls. No fewer than 300 are to be found in a list published in *The Era Almanack* of 1873. It was at the Raglan that Mr. Hart gave a first London engagement to George Leybourne, and Miss Marie Lloyd appeared there under the name of Little Marie. While Mr. Hart was proprietor of the Sun in 1888 the tragic death of the great Vance took place. The seizure came directly after he had left the stage. He had just finished singing "Is he guilty?"

In 1867 there existed a large number of small halls that have now disappeared, some having been swallowed up in metropolitan improvements and others dying from inanition. Among them were the Apollo, Davey's, Deacon's, Eastern, Evans's, Gatti's (Arches and Westminster Bridge-road), Marylebone, the Raglan, the Regent, Scott's, the Strand (where Jolly John Nash and Kate Santley were such favourites), the Sun, the Trevor, Wilton's and the Winchester.

In the number of houses of lesser fame may be included the Eastern Alhambra, run with three houses a night under the management of Mr. Bob Fort, afterwards associated with the fortunes of the Foresters' in the Cambridge Heath-road, Mile End, and with the Theatre Royal, Margate. The Cosmotheca, in the neighbourhood of the Edgware-road also flourished, and Jenny Hill, Joe Cave, and Dan Leno all appeared there in the days of their youth.

Besides owning the Raglan, Mr. Harry Hart was running in 1867 and for many subsequent years the Alexandra, Ramsgate. In 1872 he acquired the Alexandra, Borough (which had just been rebuilt and renamed). It was originally called the Borough, and the licence was held by Mr. R. Gear, who was afterwards associated, like Mr. Hart, with amusements in Ramsgate. In 1877 Mr. Hart's name was connected with the Alexandra (Borough), the Raglan, the Alexandra, Ramsgate, and the Assembly Rooms in the same seaside resort.

In the early 'eighties the Raglan was absorbed in street improvements, and about this time the deceased gentleman acquired the Star, Bermondsey, which he presented to his son, Mr. John Hart, as a wedding gift. Mr. Harry Hart became proprietor of the Bedford in 1886, but sold that hall in 1895 to Mr. Tom Maltby, who in turn disposed of it to Messrs. B. P. Lucas and Johnson. The Bedford was the last London hall held by the veteran proprietor, whose career commenced at the Cyder Cellars in 1854. The following quaint announcement of the Cyder Cellars is from our issue of March 26, 1855:—"The C.C.—The Old Original Cyder Cellars.—Charles Brumfit begs to inform the nobility, gentry, and every other person who has an evening hour to spare (either for supper or amusement) about London, that the above well-known Supper-rooms are open every evening after nine o'clock. At that hour singing commences, supported by the first talent of the day; and suppers are supplied without the slightest possible reproach to the *Cuisine*. Gentlemen are requested to come in, and give the Establishment a trial.—*Crede Experto*." In those days a gentleman or a gentleman's gentleman could always have a song with his supper.

The funeral of the deceased gentleman took place at Willesden Cemetery at three o'clock on Monday. Many of the principal residences in Camden Town, where Mr. Hart was a big householder, had blinds down, and there was a very large following to the cemetery from the house of the deceased at 1, Rochester-terrace. Six mourning carriages followed the hearse. In the first were Mr. John Hart, proprietor of the Star, Bermondsey, and Mr. Samuel Hart, the agent, both sons of the deceased; in the second were Mr. Edward Hart, late proprietor of the Marylebone Music Hall, Mr. Jack Hart, and Mr. Michael Hart; in the third were the Rev. Mr. Spero and Mr. John Levy (nephew of the deceased); in the fourth: Mr. Harry S. Hart, the well-known agent, and Mr. Reginald M. Hart (grandsons), Mr. Archie Symons and Mr. John M. Levine (nephews). Included in the cortége were the staff of the Star, Bermondsey, Mr. A. Rowella, the late manager of that house, Mr. A. Goddard, Mr. Jack Spence, Mr. Michael Levy, Mr. Sam Levy, and Mr. James Hider, who had been in the employ of the deceased sixty-five years. There were no flowers, by request, and the plain coffin had no inscription. The funeral rites were reverently carried out by the Rev. Mr. Spero.

THE LLANDUDNO PIER COMPANY on Monday issued their report for 1908, and in view of the adverse conditions of last season it must be considered very satisfactory. The concerts season commenced three weeks later than in the previous year, owing to the lateness of Easter, and the revenue is £742. The expenses are £386 less than in the previous year, and the profit is £356 less, but it must be remembered that 1907 was an exceptionally prosperous year. A dividend of 12½ per cent. is recommended, with a bonus of 5s. per share.

PRICE & REYNOLDS'

SIX PANTOMIME "HITS."

"MAIDIE and HER LITTLE TEDDY BEAR."
"RUN AWAY FROM OLD MAN GOBLIN."
"THE PIXY AND THE IRIS."
"MR. GOLLYWOG, GOOD NIGHT."
"IF THE WORLD WERE MINE TO GIVE."
"FUNNIOSITIES."

PRICE & REYNOLDS, 41, BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W.

NEW YEAR'S COLLECTION FOR THE MUSIC HALL HOME.

In again directing the attention of our readers to *The Era* New Year's Shilling Fund on behalf of the Music Hall Home we are in the happy position of being able to associate with the appeal thus being made the name of the foremost music hall comedienne—Miss Marie Lloyd. It seems scarcely necessary to remind our readers of the deep interest Miss Lloyd has ever taken in matters affecting the welfare of her brothers and sisters of the variety profession. It is her desire that her "year" will be marked by a considerable increase in the subscriptions of previous years, and she therefore, through *The Era*, commends the Music Hall Home to the charitably-minded. Mr. Thomas Barrasford, the President of the Fund, is again this year exerting himself in its behalf, and this fact is sufficient indication that he is satisfied as to the way in which the institution is being conducted, and that he considers it worthy of support.

Mr. Ben Woodger, the secretary of the Music Hall Home, tells us that in 1907 the inmates averaged ten, but that in 1908 there have been as many as twelve. The address of the Home is 31, Wilson-road, Camberwell, and there the matron (Mrs. Fruin) busies herself for the comfort and convenience of her "family." At present there are eleven of these, and the desire is to increase the number, which can only be done when sufficient funds for the purpose are collected.

[*Photo by Sarony.*

MISS MARIE LLOYD,

The Fair Worker for the Home.

During the past twelve months three or four of the inmates have recovered their health and strength sufficiently to enable them to look for engagements. These secured, they left the Home, and the vacancies thereby created were immediately filled up. Now, this Home requires keeping up, and it cannot be kept up on air. There is no need for us to refer to all the good work which has been performed by the institution in the past, as that must for the most part be within the recollection of our readers. The ages of the inmates range from fifty to seventy-six. In all probability these men will be maintained in the Home until the day of their death, and their funeral expenses paid for out of the funds of the Home.

The Era New Year's Shilling Fund is the main source of income to the Home, and this means of sustenance is added to by the donations of artists, either given directly, or through the collecting boxes through which many managers of variety theatres collect pennies from "dead-heads" and from artists who desire free admission.

Anyone can be supplied with a collecting-card by sending a postcard to Mr. Woodger.

Briefly, we may once more repeat that the objects of the Music Hall Home Fund are to provide shelter for deserving members of the variety profession who have been stricken with poverty or illness in their declining years, or who have in other ways fallen on evil times. Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, the hon. treasurer, will be pleased to receive filled-up collecting cards addressed to him at *The Era*, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C., and to acknowledge them in these columns.

FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	Shillings.
Joe Elwin, per Marie Lloyd	105
Marie Lloyd	63
Bert Williams	30
Jack Woolf	30
Leoni Clarke	21
Gus Elen	21
Chas. Weldon	21
Mr. Hymack	20
O. M. Dayton	10
E.	6

Collected by the Hartley Wonders, 2s.

Hartley Wonders	1	Maggie Walsh	1

Collected by Horace Wheatley, £2 10s.

Horace Wheatley	40	Grandma	1
T. Wheatley, jun.	1	Auntie	1
Kathleen Wheatley	1	Mack W. (the dog)	1
Norah Wheatley	1	Ernest Powell	1
Eileen Wheatley	1	Will Vay	1
H. Wheatley, jun.	1		

Collected by the Musical Johnstons, 6s.

Dorothy Drew Johnston	1	J. A. Johnston	1
A. E. Johnston	1	Dave Carter	1
F. Johnston	1	Fred Ralph	1

Collected by The Maples, 10s.

Fred Maple	1	Dusty Rhodes	1
Amy Maple	1	Joe Tennyson	1
Edward Lauri	1	Bates Maddison	1
May Beatty	1	W. H. Wallis	1
Cissie Lauri	1	Ben Brown	1

Collected by Dave Carter, £1 10s.

Dave Carter	1	Al. Johnston	1
He of the Topnote	1	W. Ellwanger	1
He of the Topnote	1	J. J. Harvey	1
He of the Topnote	1	Dan Conroy	1
He of the Topnote	1	Bowker Andrews	1
James Shewart	1	J. W. Wilson	1
James Mooney	1	W. H. McCarthy	1
Percy Haley	1	Young Dave Garrick	1
Master May	1	Lancelot B. Andrews	1
Fred Morley	1	Geo. Hughes	1
Alf. Ripon	1	Doc. Robertson	1
Sammy Shields	1	Baby Robertson	1
W. F. Heeley	1	D. J. Pigott	1
B. C. Meely	1	Will Oliver	1
Rose Elliott	1	Morny Cash	1

Collected by Three Sisters Lee, £2 0s. 6d.

E. F. Murray	2½	E. Pender Cudlip	1
Fred Ginnett	2	J. Morgan	1
Reg. Beauchamp	2	George Narow	1
M. Arnold	1	Herbert Mack	1
A.	1	Jas. E. Donegan	1
W. Murray	1	Jim Dunedin	1
Thomas Lee	1	George French	1
Mina Lee	1	Gent Lotto	1
Jeanette Lee	1	Syd Pete	1
Leonie Dixon	1	T. C. Downie	1
Marie Empress	1	Schus	1
Sue Lewis	1	Ned	1
Jas. W. Dixon	1	Three Orleans	1
R. A. Johnson	1	Reg Bolton	1
Ernie Warsaw	1	H. Finden	1
R. H. Douglas	1	Hanvarr	1
Mrs. Dent	1	Hanvarr, jun.	1
W. W. Walton	1	Anna Lee	1
Harry Curry	1		

Collected by Sisters Ford, 30s.

Cissie Ford	1	Jack Hayworth	1
Emmie Ford	1	Walter Williams	1
John Simms	1	Frand Leidam	1
George Rapley	1	W. Richardson	1
Colibris Midgets	1	Joe Athos	1
Colibris Midgets	1	John Trowel	1
P. E. Edmond	1	Hectors	1
Arthur Woodville	1	Thorpe and Co.	1
Horace Pollock	1	Rastus and Banks	1
M. Simms	1	Mrs. Haley	1
Hughie Rostron	1	Milner and Storey	1
Little Innocence	1	Jimmy and Fanny	1
Earl of Dudley	1	Raven Wood	1
Cecile Eldred	1	Vivienne Bell	1
Sam J. Downing	1	W. M., Friend	1

Collected by Jimmy Shields, £1 15s.

Johnson and Bert	2	Monty Walker	1
Billy Williams	1	J. E. Wilkes	1
Jimmy Shields	1	Floradoras	1
Edward Rowland	1	Mr. J. Burslam	1
George Shields	1	Arthur Royce	1
Sam Thomson	1	Margaret Drew	1
Harrison Brookbank	1	Beatie and Babs	1
Dolly Ross	1	Frank Coyle	1
Ernest Krake	1	Friend	1
Fred J. Hudson	1	Pal	1
George Edney	1	S. F.	1
Mr. and Mrs. Will Pettitt	1	Tom Joy	1
Ernest Dillon	1	Henry Herne	1
Percy Farrimond	1	Leonard Fisher	1
Evelyn and Norrie	1	Will S.	1
George Cooper	1	Sam B	1
J. W. Hall	1	Devonshire, Barnsley	1

Collected by Kloof and Ramsay, £1 12s. 6d.

George Lashwood	2	J. E. Nightingale	1
Verona Quartette	2	A. C. Williams, stage representative, Pontypridd	1
Per Messrs. Benet and Kloof, Crusoe panto. company :—		Miss Nellie Dyson	1
Mr. Harry Benet	2	Miss Gertie Millar	1
Sisters Rowe	2	J. H. Wakefield	1
Billy Kloof	1	Rand and O'Ryan	1
Mrs. Kloof	1	Will and Roze	1
Little Jack Metz	1	Sam Saxo	1
U. G. Ugo	1	Ernest P. Grahame	1
Mrs. A. F. Bedford, V.A.F. Agency, Barnsley	1	Trixie Bascombe	1
Sandy McNab	1	Alf. Heath	1
Bert Weston	1	David Phillips	1
Syd Pete	1	Miss Eva Bentley	1
Arthur Maxey	1	William W. Fish	1
		Lonzo Brown	1
		Miss Holland	½

Collected by Seener and Fridkins, £2 5s.

Seener and Fridkins	5	Bertha Northam	1
John A. Leopold	5	Augustus Dale	1
Zeymand Andrews	5	William Ward	1
Mr. Edwardes	2	Herbert La Martine	1
Geo. Auger	2	Horace O'Malley	1
Ernest Rommel	2	Marie Loftus	1
E. Ch. Gittins	2	A. Dome	1
Dick Bell Rio	2	C. Coborn	1
Fredk. Wilson	1	Ae-Bo-Kou	1
X X X	1	D. H. C.	1
Boccaccio	1	Will Murray	1
A. H.	1	Joe Sylvana	1
Bertie Ralland	1	Tom Collins	1
Bertha Winder	1	W. H. C.	1

Collected by Regan and Ryan, £1 12s. 6d.

Fanny Fields	5	Room No. 4, M.T.	1
Violet Lloyd	5	Doris Dean	1
Malcolm Scott	5	Florence Hersee	1
Harry Tate	5	Harry Claff	1
Regan and Ryan	5	Horace Lane	1
Patty Yole	2½		

SHOWMEN'S GUILD OF GREAT BRITAIN.

ANNUAL MEETING AT MANCHESTER.

In point of numbers and interest the Manchester meetings this year have exceeded all previous records. All the trade societies dealing with the interests of Showland have been in session in committee at their headquarters—the Black Lion Hotel, Salford—or in public meeting assembled at the Memorial Hall, Albert-square. We understand that important matters dealing with the interests of Showland were dealt with at the Sectional Committee meetings, and the public meeting was of the most enthusiastic and successful character.

Delegates from all parts of Great Britain and Ireland were present. Notable amongst these were Messrs. Turnbull and Piper from Ireland, Messrs. George Green and Henderson from Scotland, Marshall Hill from the West of England, and delegates representing the Northern Counties, the Southern Counties, the Midlands and the Lancashire, Yorkshire and Cheshire districts.

There is one important fact very often overlooked, and that is that Manchester is the greatest centre of showlife in the world; that whilst on account of Parliamentary defence work, and for the purposes of public propaganda, it is wise and well for London to be the centre of the Executive Council, Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, Leeds, Newcastle, and Glasgow are all greater centres of showman life than the Metropolis. Representative showmen from all these great centres were gathered together this week in Manchester to deliberate upon and to further the best interests of the whole industry.

The Retirement of Lord George Sanger.

Before proceeding with the election of officers, the following resolution was moved by Mr. Frank Mellor, of Oldham, hon. local treasurer, and seconded by the Rev. T. Horne, organiser and chaplain :—

"This meeting of delegates of the Showmen's Guild, assembled at Manchester for its twentieth annual meeting, tenders to Lord George Sanger, the retiring president, heartfelt thanks for his services to the whole body of vandwellers, showmen, and amusement caterers. They place on record with profound respect and admiration their sense of his untiring zeal, great influence, and unstinted liberality in their interests and in the life of the humblest member of the fairground community. They wish him, in the eventide of life, all peace and abundant blessings."

Mr. FRANK MELLOR, in submitting the resolution, declared that he could not find words adequate enough to express the tremendous loss (which only the venerable age of their esteemed president had necessitated), a loss that they would all experience from the highest to the lowest in their ranks. To speak of him as the Grand Old Man of Showland and as the Empire's greatest showman were but to repeat phrases that had passed into the the vernacular of the people. In every town, in every village, and upon the highways of the land travelled they the country where they might, every little child as well as the grown up men and women were familiar with the name of George Sanger. He moved the resolution with the profoundest respect and gratitude. (Great applause.)

The Guild Chaplain's Tribute of Esteem.

At the request of the committee, the chaplain observed he had drafted the resolution submitted by Mr. Mellor. To him it was a matter of the deepest regret that the necessity had arisen to face the inevitable fact that when man reaches the patriarchial age of eighty-two years the limitations of human industry must be recognised. When we added to that dominant truth that George Sanger had lived one of the most strenuous lives of his own day, it was indeed straining all the expectations that could be reasonably demanded to ask such "a veteran after many fights" to continue to occupy the position of leader of his people. (Cheers.)

For well-nigh twenty years he (Mr. Horne) had had the inestimable advantage of being the colleague (and in many instances the very inadequate deputy) of the Grand Old Man of Showland. He was but voicing the thoughts of every mind in that great meeting when he said that in the retirement he had so well won he hoped that he would find all the joys and happiness of honoured old age, and that he would continue to have that esteem and affectionate regard in the hearts and minds of the show-loving public—that public which had by one consent ennobled him (without Royal Letters Patent) and had placed him in the highest niche of public admiration as "Lord" George Sanger.

In the dark and struggling days of their organisation, when to get from the public the barest acknowledgment of truths that were now universally accepted with regard to showman life had been an extremely hard task, it was the open book of George Sanger's life, lived in the sight of all men, that had enforced the multitude of sermons and speeches which he, their chaplain and advocate, had felt bound to deliver. To his great colleague and fellow-worker in the interests of the whole body of amusement caterers he would repeat :—

"In the glory of life's setting sun,
My brother, take thy rest;
Well hast thou fought, and well hast won
Thy guerdon with life's best."

Again from the bottom of his heart he reiterated the words of the resolution, and seconded it. (Great cheering.)

MR. CHARLES HOWARD (hon. solicitor), who presided over the opening part of the Congress until the election of the new president, put the motion to the meeting, and it was carried amidst immense applause and most evident emotion.

The Election of Mr. P. Collins as President.

MR. FRED BIBBY was bound to say that he felt it a peculiar honour to have been asked to propose to them for election the name of their new president. Before mentioning that name he could not refrain from a passing tribute to the great man who had left behind him such a record—an example of influence and munificence that it would be extremely difficult for his successors to imitate. He would hesitate no longer, but give them the name of Patrick Collins as president for the ensuing year on the nomination of the whole of the retiring executive. He felt quite sure that they would recognise, with him, that Mr. Collins, by great ability, untiring energy, and devotion to the interests of all who follow the fairs, was entitled to occupy the honourable position of president. He trusted that Patrick Collins's tenure of office would be marked by the same consequences and benefits to the whole of Showland as had marked his distinguished predecessor.

Again, he remarked, he was proud of the distinction that the Executive Council had conferred upon him by placing in his hands the resolution which he now proposed, "That Mr. Patrick Collins be the President of the United Kingdom Van-dwellers and Showmen's Protection Association, now popularly known as the Showmen's Guild." (Cheers.)

Mr. S. MERCER briefly seconded the resolution, and Mr. WILLIAM GIBSON, in a bright little speech, supported it. Mr. Gibson said that they had heard a great deal about the Grand Old Man of Showland, and George Sanger had indeed won the distinction of being the father of his people. His best wish for Mr. Collins was that "he would follow in his father's footsteps." (Great applause and laughter.) He had great pleasure in supporting Mr. Collins for the presidency. (Great applause.)

The CHAIRMAN *pro tem.*, after the formality of asking for other nominations in accordance with the democratic constitution of the Guild, asked the meeting, by show of hands, to express its opinion, and Mr. Patrick Collins was elected president amidst demonstrations of enthusiasm again and again renewed.

The Installation of the New President.

The CHAIRMAN, with a few gracious words welcoming the president, vacated the chair, and, in another outburst of applause, Mr. Collins began his task of presiding over the meeting. Most obviously under the stress of great emotion, the new president delivered the following presidential address :—

"Fellow-showmen and friends,—It gives me the greatest of pleasure to see you all here, and to wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year. There is only one that could have given me greater pleasure, that is to have had our honoured and esteemed president and friend, Lord George Sanger, amongst us and still well and hearty enough to continue in his office, thus making it unnecessary for me to assume the highly honourable, but difficult, position of leader of the Showmen's Guild of Great Britain.

"In thanking you all for the honour bestowed on me, and for the confidence placed in me, allow me at the same time first of all to thank, in your name and in my name, my worthy and honoured predecessor—Great Britain's greatest showman, our worthy Grand Old Man and generous supporter—Lord George Sanger. May he live long and remain in sufficient good health to enjoy his well-earned retirement after his many years of hard toil. I feel that to follow such a good leader makes my position doubly difficult, and nothing would have induced me to accept this great responsibility were it not that I know that I have in our reverend friend the Guild Chaplain so capable a supporter and so hardworking an associate, and I am quite sure you will all join me in according him the heartiest vote of thanks for the difficult and onerous work done by him for our benefit and in our interest.

"To show our appreciation of these men, we cannot do better than show that we all are determined to follow the most unselfish example set us by our two Grand Old Men. I now want you one and all to faithfully promise me that you will try to be worthy of such leaders and supporters; then our cause, which is a good one, is sure to prosper, and we need not fear to go forward in faith and confidence.

"I myself, in accepting the position to which you have done me the honour to elect me, promise you that I will at all times do all that lies in my power for the good of our common cause and for the preservation of our rights and liberties. May good-fellowship be always our aim. Only by unity can we hope to succeed." (Cheers.)

Election of Executive Council.

Mr. T. HURST, hon. secretary, then proposed the election of the following gentlemen on the Executive Council for 1909 :—

VICE-PRESIDENTS :

H. Ashington, Leeds; E. T. Read, London; E. H. Bostock, Glasgow; Frank C. Bostock, London; J. W. Bostock, London; John Barker, Norwich; Wm. Clark, Manchester; John Collins, Liverpool; Geo. Cornwell, Bolton; F. Turner, London; Robert Dixon, Salford; George Green, Glasgow; B. Howden, Boston; T. Harniess, London; G. H. Kemp, Leicester; R. Newall, Manchester; Thos. Payne, Ashton; H. Studt, Wales; Jacob Studt, Gloucester; John Studt, Wales; H. Toft, Dublin; D. Turnbull, Belfast; J. W. Waddington, Leeds; H. J. Wallis, Liverpool; J. Wilmot, Glasgow; J. Whiting, Manchester; W. H. Marshall, Bradford; J. Dooner, Wales; Wm. Hancock, Plymouth; Wm. Taylor, London; Alf. Ball, London; Marshall Hill, Coaley, Glos.; Wm. Pedley, Northampton; H. Cariss, Thornaby-on-Tees; R. Monte, Stockton-on-Tees; Wm. Murphy, Newcastle; James Manders, London; Arthur Henderson, Dundee.

HON. TREASURERS :

Wm. Mitchell, Heywood; F. H. Pedgrift, *The Era*, London; F. Mellor, Oldham.

HON. SECRETARY :

T. Hurst, Broadhurst Farm, Clifton, Manchester.

TRUSTEES :

Frank Turner, London; B. Mitchell, Heywood; John Wilmot, Glasgow; Wm. Mitchell, Heywood; H. Thurston, London.

SOLICITORS :

T. Watson Wright, C.C., 7, Friar-lane, Leicester; Charles Howard, 33, Princess-street, Manchester; Albert A. Strong, LL.B., 70, Gracechurch-street, London, E.C.

PARLIAMENTARY AGENT :

Frederick Millar, 25, Victoria-street, Westminster.

AUDITORS :

Halliday, Pearson and Co., Chartered Accountants, 13, Spring Gardens, Manchester.

BANKERS :

The National Provincial Bank of England.

OFFICE OF THE GUILD SECRETARY.

The Era Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London, W.C.

ORGANISER AND SENIOR HON. CHAPLAIN.

The Rev. T. Horne, c/o *The Era*, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

DIVISIONAL COMMITTEES :

For the London District.

A. Ball, W. Biddall, G. Beach, W. Beach, R. Clasper, S. Forrest, H. Forrest, F. Gray, T. Harniess, T. Knighton, Geo. Saunders, E. Lawrence, W. Le-Neve, S. Mayne, J. Manders, Wm. Taylor, H. Thurston, C. Thurston, F. Turner, W. Wilson, J. Hastings.

For the Manchester and Liverpool District.

J. Whiting, J. Collins, R. Newall, S. Mercer, W. Gibson, J. Ingham, J. Jewell, H. Shuttleworth, H. R. Hibbert, W. Chaplain, H. Wall, S. Plinston, H. Hughes, G. H. Cornwell, Wm. Mitchell, B. Mitchell, T. Payne, J. H. Geoghegan, E. Geoghegan, G. H. Kemp, H. J. Wallis, J. Ravenscroft.

For the Leeds, Bradford, and Northern Districts.

H. Ashington, J. Corrigan, B. Howden, G. A. Howden, R. Monte, W. Pedley, W. Steward, E. Thompson, G. T Tuby, J. W. Waddington, H. Cariss, E. Sheeran, G. Wright, T. Burgin, W. Fisher, E. Farrar, J. Monte, W. H. Marshall, G. Marshall, J. Relph, W. Shaw, W. Turner, S. J. Rostron, John Cottrell, G. W. Newsome.

For the Birmingham District.

P. Collins, S. Mercer, H. Wall, W. Leo, Geo. Bailey, J. Collins, Wm. Chaplain, J. Hastings, J. Jewell, S. Jeffereys.

For Wales and the West of England.

H. Studt, Jacob Studt, James Dooner, H. Scard, J. Fossett, J. Johnson, C. Heal, J. Jones, A. Anderton, F. Heywood, John Studt, Wm. Hancock, Marshall Hill, R. Dooner, J. North, J. B. Butlin, A. Rowland, J. Brewer, A. Wright, T. Rowland.

For Scotland.

John Wilmot, P. Swallow, James Wilmot, C. Irvin, H. Strand, J. Howard, J. Caddick, jun., George Green, A. Henderson, T. Paulo, J. McIndoe, Walter Wilmot, J. Day, J. Styles.

For Ireland.

D. Turnbull, H. Toft.

He concluded by proposing the election of the gentlemen whose names he had read to the meeting.

The GUILD CHAPLAIN and ORGANISER, in seconding the election of the official nominees, said that the Executive Council were aiming at maintaining the democratic and popular constitution of the Guild. The divisional committees were arranged in order that the popular will might be represented and expressed; also that whenever the executive officers of the Society were concerned in either meetings or defence work in any particular county or division of the country they might always have to support them and to direct them with valuable local knowledge the divisional committee. Their organisation was growing too rapidly, and had to meet so many new difficulties that it could no longer be effectively worked from one centre. The divisional committees (and, indeed, the whole of the Executive Council) were not naminated to be merely ornamental or to confer distinction upon the men called to office.

He himself knew that it was an honour and a distinction to be engaged in the service of one's friends and fellow-workers. However true that might be, the greater principle was behind it that each committee-man was called upon to work and to be ready to give time and ability at the call of the executive officials to further the great cause they had at heart. (Applause.)

In his itinerary of the British fairs in the past year he had taken note of the men who were really enthusiastic and willing to work for the Guild, and almost every new name they had had submitted to them for election was put down at his suggestion. It was this intimate knowledge of the local circumstances which he had gathered in his visitation of the fairs of Great Britain, enriched, undoubtedly, by the knowledge and experience of the Executive Council, that had mapped out the country into working divisions and had called men from all sections of the community of the fairground to take an active, responsible, and honourable position in the counsels of their Society and in the constantly-widening field of their enterprise. He had intervened at this point in the proceedings and had taken advantage of this opportunity to explain the truly democratic constitution of their Society fully, that the whole showman world might know that the mother of trade societies in Showland stood for all the interests, however individual and sectional, and that its proud distinction was "each for all, all for each." He seconded the resolution.

It was then submitted by the chairman to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Other Resolutions and Speeches.

The HON. SECRETARY proposed and the CHAPLAIN seconded that the annual report and the Chaplain's report be taken as read and adopted. This was carried.

Both these reports have already been given to our readers, and copies (reprinted from our columns) were distributed amongst the audience before the meeting commenced.

At the request of the president, the Guild chaplain and organiser, the Rev. T. Horne, read the financial statement for 1908 :—

Income from all sources, £613 10s. 4d.; expenditure on all counts, £587 9s. 8d.; cash in the bank, £26 0s. 8d. Grand total, £613 10s. 4d.

The items of expenditure were: salaries and wages, £44 2s.; printing and stationery, £55 5s. 7d.; petty cash, postages, and sundries, £55 1s. 11d.; expenses of meetings and propaganda work, £107 5s.; grant to Parliamentary Defence Fund and Defence of Fairs Account, £215 1s.

In making this statement of their finance public the Executive Council wish it to be clearly understood that any subscribing member, on application to the Guild Secretary, *The Era* Offices, Strand, W.C., would be supplied with a copy of the chartered accountant's fully audited and certified balance-sheet. He wanted also to refer to the most gratifying fact that compared with some of the previous years of their existence they had doubled their income (great applause), and what was of more importance, as indicating the solidarity of Showland in trade defence, they had more than doubled their member roll. This was clearly a matter for congratulation, because the increase was most largely in the numerous body of amusement caterers who followed our fairs with minor amusements. In other words, he said, it was the poorer members of the show community (who could only be expected to give the minimum subscription of 5s.) who had rallied to the call of the executive to fall into line, and to defend their common interests. (Cheers.)

Other interesting items of financial moment were read to the meeting by Mr. HURST (hon. secretary). Amongst these were the announcement that the proceeds of the Bolton ball amounted to £13 6s. 9d., and that the showmen's benefit performance for the Bolton charities had reached the handsome sum of £41 11s. 4½d.

Messrs. Superintendent Pike and Wm. Pike, T. Hurst, G. Cornwell, and the committee of the Bolton ball were accorded a hearty vote of thanks, and Mr. Wm. Pike made suitable response.

Resolution of Thanks to the Executive Council.

The Rev. H. NORBURN, Senior Honorary Local Chaplain, moved a resolution of thanks to the retiring Executive in the following terms :—"That this meeting thanks the Executive Council of the Showmen's Guild for its excellent work in 1908." He very much feared (he observed), and his fears were largely increased by the report they had all read with so much interest of the past year's work of the Guild, that Englishmen were fast losing that grand privilege and heritage of their fathers, individual liberty.

In the better organisation and in the municipalisation of the life of the people aggregated in large towns, a great deal of the liberty formerly enjoyed by the British people was of necessity denied to them. To the great spread of social advantages he had not the slightest objection, but he could not help noticing (and he was not alone in his observation) that things were being carried much too far in excess of the right use and advantage of municipal service. They had read in the reports of their society of a new Movable Dwellings Bill. In opposition to that Bill, the showmen took their stand upon the great principles of individual freedom and civil rights.

The attempt to stigmatise them as wandering gipsies and as outcasts and outlaws in sullen rebellion against the improved conditions of social life was a libel upon them as an industrious and God-fearing class in the community. (Applause.)

In "The Showmen's Brief against the Movable Dwellings Bill" it was clearly set out that the great injury sought to be inflicted by that Bill on van-dwellers was in making a fundamental change in the administration of the ordinary law of the land, that in all sanitary and educational matters the policeman should take the place of the sanitary inspector and the school attendance officer.

It was to him a change tremendous in its range that marked van-dwellers as a class separate and apart from the rest of the community—so great that it was incumbent upon the promoters of such legislation to show to the whole of the nation reasons sufficient to justify so drastic a change, and so direct an invasion of the rights of the individual. (Great cheering.)

To illustrate from an incident in his own experience this eagerness on the part of would-be reformers and faddists to make the policeman the "whip in hand" in civil as well as in criminal matters, he told them that for the first time in his life a policeman came to his door the other week and politely presented a sheet of blue paper. In amazement he said, "What is this, officer?" The reply was "It is a warning to you that you have not yet paid your dog licence." (Laughter.)

My friends (he said), it is humorous, but it is humour of a grim nature. He asked why should the policeman be employed to do the work of revenue officials? He keenly resented the police being employed for purposes better done and less obtrusively done by revenue officers, sanitary inspectors, and school attendance officials. (Cheers.)

Turning to the annual report of his dear friend and colleague in the ministry, Mr. Horne. He had been for years past profoundly impressed by the growing importance of the Guild Chaplain's work. Quite recently on the appearance of the Guild Chaplain's report of his itinerary of the British Fairs, he had noticed the unanimity with which the Press and the public of Great Britain had appreciated the Chaplain's unceasing devotion to the cause he had so much at heart—the uplifting and betterment of the popular amusements of the people, and with that (of necessity) the uplifting and betterment of the showman. (Great applause.)

As in the matter with which he had opened his address to them with reference to the curtailment of individual liberty, so with regard to the popular amusements of the nation, he was convinced that not only did the showman do an important work, but it was becoming an increasingly more necessary work, this provision for open-air and healthy amusements for the toiling masses of the land.

They were workmen who had no need to be ashamed of the ancient and honourable craft to which they belonged. (Great cheering.)

The Sanitary Sanity of Fun and Hilarity.

He ventured to hold the opinion that the stress and strain of modern life, the speeding up and machining of industries, made hilarity and honest laughter absolutely necessary medicine for the toilers of Great Britain. He had watched the faces of men and women in their busy streets with eyes fixed and strained, and with anxious faces, evidently pressing forward on enterprises of such engrossing importance that there was never a time for a smile or a cheery word. For such workworn people the fun and hilarity of the fairground was an effective medicine and corrective. He held with the scientific experts that the sanitation of the brain was as necessary as the sanitation of any other part of our complex physical nature. (Cheers.)

The Executive Council had done admirable work in 1908. The Chaplain's work had been acclaimed in every paper, and in every household in the land, and it was in acknowledgment and in praise of that excellent work that he had proposed the resolution he had already read to them. (Applause.)

The Parliamentary Solicitor's Tribute of Praise.

Your Executive Council, said Mr. T. WATSON WRIGHT, in seconding the resolution proposed by the Rev. H. Norburn, has done splendid work in the past year. The subscriptions have been largely increased, the members' roll has been doubled, and owing to the startling and alarming effect produced in showland by the Movable Dwellings Bill of the past session the whole body of British showpeople have been welded together, and now stood full front and strongly entrenched in defensive strength against their enemies. (Cheers.)

There were before the coming session of Parliament five Corporation Bills with clauses dealing with show life. The Corporations seeking these extra powers were: Oldham, Bury, Folkestone, Cardiff, and Greenock (in Scotland). It would be the duty of the new Executive Council in committee at London next week to consider these Bills in all their bearings. He would not anticipate the resolution which he was informed would be submitted to them later, condemning the proposals of the Oldham Corporation. This, however, he must observe, that the Corporation had neglected to acquaint themselves with the previous decisions of the Private Bills Committee of Parliament.

In every instance since the Guild commenced its Parliamentary work, they had successfullly petitioned against such powers being granted to local authorities, the most notable examples being the Corporations of Halifax and Rotherham. The Oldham Corporation asked for monopoly privileges that were *ultra vires* and alien to the spirit of constitutional liberty. (Cheers.) He would venture to warn the Oldham Corporation that no Government would grant them a monopoly of Fair Rights, or interfere with the principle of free trade in Fairs. (Applause.)

Again, he said, the Corporation of Folkestone was seeking powers to penalise, almost to extinction, the show business by vexatious regulations that would place the showman absolutely at the mercy of the Town Council. Their association had successfully petitioned against such powers, and in the specific instances of Eccles, Hyde, Mansfield, Acton, and a score of other local authorities, on their evidence before the committee that such restrictions would be in restraint of freedom of trade, these additional powers clauses had been thrown out of every Bill.

He was confident that the Corporations in question, when the Guild laid the evidence of their previous successes officially before them, would withdraw the clauses and not imperil the success of their Bills by the dead weight of clauses that the Parliamentary Committees had invariably thrown out.

He asked them not only to pass a vote of thanks to the Executive Council of the Guild, but to rally to the support of an organisation that stood as a bulwark of defence between them and their enemies. (Great cheering.)

The CHAIRMAN submitted the resolution, which was passed with acclamation.

Protest Against the Movable Dwellings Bill.

Mr. FRED BIBBY moved : "That this meeting of showmen delegates and members of the Showmen's Guild of Great Britain in public meeting assembled, protest against the Movable Dwellings Bill."

"We claim as lawful traders to be under and obedient to the ordinary laws of the realm. We deny that special inquisitorial and liberty-destroying legislation is needed for our trade and mode of life.

"If the promoters of the measure want to deal with and to penalise gipsy life, let them make their object clear in their Bill by exempting showmen and fairground traders from its proposed penalties and restrictions."

The obvious intention of the promoters of the Movable Dwellings Bill was to deal with gipsy life, and without entering into the rights or wrongs of the proposed interference with such a wonderful race as the gipsies, he did claim that legislation, however desirable to control gipsy life, ought not to be used to oppress amusement caterers.

The Showmen's Guild came into existence twenty years ago, to counter a similar attack embodied in the Movable Dwellings Bill of the late George Smith. It was rather late in the day when they remembered the vast strides the show business had made in the past twenty years, to pass invidious and class legislation that stigmatised the travelling showmen as gipsies and pariahs of human society.

He protested in their name against such restrictive legislation, legislation intended to deprive them of the rights of free citizenship, the right to carry their ability and talent to its best market—the fairs, feasts, and wakes of Great Britain—the right to carry on a business as legitimate and as necessary as any other industry, or calling, or profession in the land. He, therefore, submitted the resolution so admirably worded which had been placed in his hands. (Applause.)

The Guild Chaplain's Denouncement of the Measure.

The GUILD CHAPLAIN, on rising to second the resolution, was warmly cheered. They had been engaged during the past twelve months in strenuous opposition to this most obnoxious Bill. With the full authority of the Executive Council of the Guild, he had entered into negotiations with its promoters, in the peaceful endeavour to obtain such concessions and amendments as would exempt all itinerant amusement caterers from its drastic proposals. (Hear, hear.)

The end of all their endeavours had been practically nil, and he was driven to the conclusion that behind this Bill, ostensibly meant (as Mr. Bibby had already pointed out) to deal with gipsy life, there was a covert intention of penalising and restricting the life of all van-dwellers, whether the lordling and his lady caravanning as amateur gipsies, the showman in the Pullman car living carriages that they saw in such large numbers at their fairs, or the veriest hooped and tilted ramshackle cart of the travelling tinker or gipsy.

They would realise the seriousness of their danger when he told them that the promoters had refused to accept the exemption clause suggested by the Guild to the effect "that the Act should not apply to any showman or fairground trader in using caravans in the pursuit of his lawful trade and business." This had been refused. The promoters had also refused his (the speaker's) suggestion that if the promoters would alter the title, and call it "A Gipsy Encampment Bill," they, as an organised body, would withdraw their opposition, and take upon themselves the responsibility of proving, whenever demanded by lawful authority, that showmen van-dwellers were not gipsies. Having thus exhausted all the resources of peaceful negotiations, the organised showmen were justified in appealing to the justice-loving sense of their fellow-citizens against a measure that invaded the rights and liberties of the individual. (Cheers.)

He was particularly anxious that it should go forth from that meeting as the official declaration of the Guild that in principle they had no objection to either registration or licensing of vans, so long as such registration and licensing were reasonable in terms and conditions, and were not used to give local authorities power to prohibit fairs and van-dwellers within their border.

He had made it clear officially to the Government in an interview with the Right Hon. Herbert Samuel, Under Secretary of State for the Home Department, that the organised showmen offered no opposition to the Children's Bill, or to the educational clauses of that Act or of the Movable Dwellings Bill. (Cheers.)

The Guild Executive Council had declared its policy upon these important matters. They held that if negligent parents or guardians of children neglected their duty to child life, or subjected children to cruel treatment, that the fact of such persons being showpeople ought not to be used as an excuse for criminal and negligent conduct.

What they did object to was this, that the medical officer of health and the sanitary inspector—the proper and competent experts with regard to all sanitary matters—were to be supplanted by the policeman, and, further, that the policeman was to take the place of the school attendance officer. ("Shame, shame.")

He protested with all the vigour he possessed against such a stigma being placed upon show parents, and he was prepared to prove at any time, and had indeed tendered ample evidence to the Education Department, that the children of showpeople were, as a whole, less liable to escape the educational net of the nation than the children of other classes in the community.

With regard to sanitary matters, there had been no failure of the Public Health Acts either in the home life or in the fairground life of travelling showpeople. The ordinary law applied with equal rigour to movable dwellings and tents as to fixed abodes. It was a cruel and unjustifiable aspersion upon an honest, industrious, and clean-living class to seek for special powers that could only be used to penalise their calling and business in life, and to interfere with their domestic and civil rights and liberties.

He, therefore, in the name of the organised showmen of the empire, protested against the Bill, and seconded the resolution. (Great applause.)

The motion was then submitted and unanimously passed.

The Organised Showmen and the Oldham Corporation Bill.

Mr. FRANK MELLOR, Oldham, moved : "That this meeting of showmen protests against the proposed monopoly of Fairs clauses in the Private Bill of the Oldham Corporation, and it pledges itself to take all possible means to defeat the reactionary proposals of the Corporation, manifestly aimed at the principle of free trade in fairs."

Mr. Mellor asked the showmen present to consider the effect the proposal would have if passed into law on their business. No less than eight important local wakes within the ever-widening boundaries of the Borough of Oldham could only be held by licence and consent of the authorities. He, therefore, had no hesitation in telling the Corporation as a ratepayer of Oldham (and, in fact, he had already done so, by associating himself with a hundred other ratepayers in demanding a poll) that such interference with the people's rights and liberties would meet with the strongest resentment. (Cheers.)

Mr. THORNLEY in an admirable speech seconded the resolution. It was to him a matter of vital moment, as a tradesman, the encroaching persistence of corporations in seeking for powers to penalise and interfere with the private trader. He had watched with admiration for many years past the way in which showpeople had catered for popular amusements, and he agreed with their reverend friends who had already addressed them that instead of local authorities putting hindrances in their way, the showmen ought to be encouraged by the corporations in their necessary work of providing for the entertainment of the people.

He seconded the motion most readily, and wished the showmen every success in the firm stand they were making against this pernicious Bill of the Oldham Corporation.

The motion was passed with acclamation. The secretary announced a committee meeting for the evening and the annual London meeting of the Guild, at the World's Fair, Islington, on Wednesday next, Jan. 20, at 11.30 a.m., when Mr. Patrick Collins would preside, and the Guild executive officials and friends of their trade defence movement would take part in the proceedings.

The meeting terminated after a session of two hours' duration.

PRESENTATION.—On Saturday last Mr. George Dobler, assistant-manager of the Royal Hippodrome, Belfast, was presented by Mr. Harry Downs, manager, on behalf of the staff of the theatre, with a leather travelling bag with silver-mounted fittings, and for Mrs. Dobler a handsome silver-plated tea and coffee service.

FAIRS, shows, wakes. Seventy thousand showmen of the United Kingdom required to send for the Showmen's Year Book for 1908. Edited by the Rev. T. Horne. Entirely re-arranged, corrected, and enlarged. 100 pages. Price 1s. Principal contents :—The Passion for Pageantry, Constitution and Rules of the "Showmen's Guilds," Lists of Fairs, Local Feasts and Wakes, Synopsis of Bye-laws, &c., &c. Invaluable to all who follow the fair. Address, the Publisher of *The Era*, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, London, W.C. Telephones : 4747 and 1433 Central.

KINEMATOGRAPH REGULATIONS respecting the use of the Kinematograph in Theatres and Halls, also the Regulations respecting the use of Limelight, can be had, price 1d. (by post 1½d.), from *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C. All those who handle the Cinematograph or Limelight should possess a copy of these Regulations

FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Pathé Frères.

THE STORY OF PSYCHE.—In this extremely interesting film the scenes opens with the temple of Venus. Psyche, the king's daughter, is possessed of such wonderful beauty that the people mistake her for the goddess, who is now so jealous that she threatens her with her revengeful power. As soon as the temple is deserted, Venus calls in Cupid, to whom she gives an arrow wherewith to hurt Psyche. Psyche is walking about the gardens of the king's palace and presently she falls asleep near the source of a river. Cupid comes near her, and bends his bow, but the god is so fascinated by the girl's beauty that he falls in love with her, and goes away without hurting her. In Olympus Venus rouses the anger of the gods against Psyche and her people, while Cupid begs them to protect her. The gods try to please Venus and Cupid at the same time, and order a cataclysm to ruin the country: there are earthquakes, cyclones, and lightning. In the Palace hall, whose windows open on the now ravaged country, the king and his councillors are powerless to check the damage. People gather in the courtyards, asking for help, and the king summons the soothsayers, who search for an answer in the sky. Mercury appears, and delivers a message from Apollo asking for the sacrifice of Psyche. The king will not comply with this demand, but the people ask that Psyche should be sacrificed, while she herself says that she is ready. She goes out, clad in her regal attire, followed by her women, and proceeds towards the sea by torch-light. The procession is now at the bottom of a cliff washed by the tide. Once alone, Psyche gives way to her despair. Furies from the sea come to her, and try to take her away with them, but Zephir and Aquilon protect her and lift her up on the clouds. Psyche is now in the dwelling-place of Cupid. She is amazed at the beauty of her surroundings, and still wandering she enters Cupid's palace. Cupid is displeased by her seeming indiscretion, and he sends her away. She wanders about the garden sad and lonely. When Venus sees her sitting weeping on a marble step she allows herself to be touched by her misery, and she causes Psyche to marry Cupid. An apotheosis in which Psyche and Cupid are represented in the same attitude as that of the marble group by Canova in the Louvre Museum in Paris, forms a good finish to this film, which is remarkable for the plastic of its tableaux.

DEADLY PLANT.—Two young people, one boy and one girl, under age, have been left by their father's will to the care of a medical man, who goes with them during the summer to the mountains to gather plants. The brother and sister are becoming quite proficient in the art of herborising, and this causes the boy, who has just found a deadly plant, to give it to his sister, so that she may die, and leave him her part of the heritage. But the good doctor has seen him looking for the plant, and now that he sees the young lady writhing with the pain caused by the poison, he guesses what has happened, and gives her a suitable remedy. She recovers quickly, while the young would-be-murderer is handed over to the police.

IN THE LAND OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN.—This series treats the spectator to a number of attractive country and ocean scenes. We see the good ship bound for the Arctic seas, the meeting with the first ice, the arrival of the voyagers at the land of Spitzberg, with pictures of a glacier washed by the sea, and the coast half a mile distant, and, finally, of the "Midnight Sun."

DICK IS NOT DEAD.—Dick, who might give points to our friend Jim, so well known for his eccentricities, writes to a friend of his in order to inform him that he is not dead, but simply in love, and that, like Ruy Blas, he has become a servant so than he can live near the lady of his dreams. She, having surprised this correspondence, gives notice to her enterprising butler. Eventually Dick borrows a cripple's small carriage, and ties his vehicle to the motor-car of his beloved. Thus he arrives at the same time as the lady at the end of the journey, which has been bestrewn for Dick with nasty jolts and jerks. When the poor boy is found out, the lady orders her chauffeur to rid her of the intruder. In his despair Dick throws himself under a motor-car, the heavy machine rolls him over like a feather without hurting him in the least, and as soon as he is on his feet again, he tries to find another means of killing himself; but the revolver he uses will not go off, and it is in vain that he tries to hang himself. He also throws himself out of the window, and lands in a sewer main whose man-hole happens to be open. The sewer-man catches hold of him and puts him back in the street again, where Dick, surprised and charmed at the same time, perceives his idol, and kisses the stones she has walked on. This makes the sewer-man laugh, and Dick is so furious that he goes for him with all his might, and rewards his rescuer with a shower of blows.

THE DIFFERENT AEROPLANES.—These pictures are illustrative of the Voisin Works at Billancourt, where most of the existing aeroplanes were built; Messrs. Santos Dumont, Kapferer, and Archdeacon attending Mr. Delagrange's experiments; the Henry Farman aeroplane in November, 1907; Mr. Blériot meeting with an accident at Bagatelle; the Bréguet gyroplane, the Esnault-Pelterie, the Kapferer, and the Antionette aeroplanes; the monoplane with which Mr. Blériot tried to win the prize for height, and the Wright aeroplane piloted by Mr. Wilbur Wright at the Aubours Camp. This last aeroplane has beaten all previous records.

AT-HOME DAY.—During her master's absence, cook receives a visit from Private Pumpkins. It is with real pleasure that he partakes of a leg of chicken, after which he has his coffee in the drawing-room. Suddenly there is a ring at the door. Cook pushes Pumpkins into the bath-room, and he takes it all in. He admires the comfort of it, turns on the taps, and thinks he will have a free bath. Meanwhile cook, who has friends in the cavalry as well as the infantry, opens to Bragg, a dashing dragoon, who accepts with delight the other leg of chicken, and makes himself pleasant to the girl. A second ring at the bell. What is to be done? Cook pushes her dragoon into the bathroom, where he finds himself in company with Pumpkins, who is now trying to turn off the water-taps to stop the swelling inundations. Bragg deals him a blow, and the two tumble down in a heap on the wet floor. The noise attracts the master, who has just returned, and their look of horror may easily be pictured.

Gaumont Co.

THE EARTHQUAKE IN SICILY.—The Gaumont Company has just issued a very graphic film of the recent terrible destruction wrought in Sicily by the earthquake. Houses are thrown wholesale into the middle of the streets, and people are seen wandering about aimlessly. A continuous stream of injured is being borne on stretchers to the open-air hospitals, where doctors of all nationalities are ready to receive them. A man found robbing the dead is seen between two soldiers being led away to the fate he justly deserves. The picture concludes with a few survivors awaiting their turn to be transferred to one of the ships sent to their relief.

WIFE OR MOTHER.—A young farmer's wife is awaiting the return of her husband, when a woman offering lace for sale comes by. A shawl is selected and bought, but the girl's mother-in-law taxes her with being extravagant. The girl objects to being interfered with, and tells her husband that either she or the mother must leave the house. He takes his wife's part, and the poor old woman is told to go. Shortly afterwards the man is taken ill, and the wife, not knowing how to act, the doctor says his mother must return. The wife runs away, and after careful nursing the man recovers to find his wife gone and his mother back. He gazes on a portrait of the missing girl, and the mother, seeing that he is longing for her, fetches her home. The misunderstanding is then cleared up, and they ask their mother's forgiveness.

THE TWO PIGTAILS.—Two Chinamen arrive in Paris, and while sitting on a seat somebody ties their pigtails together. They both rush away, and in their mad career bring about several catastrophes. Eventually one gets caught up by a crane which is at work, and is only released when the top of his scalp comes off with the fatal pigtail.

ENGLAND V. AUSTRALIA FOOTBALL MATCH.—The Gaumont Company has secured a good film, even though the weather was bad, of the international Rugby match between England and Australia. Very fine pictures are given of the two teams, who posed specially for the camera, as well as their entry to the field, and some very exciting parts of the game.

WEST'S PICTURES, EDINBURGH.—The Modern Marvel Company, Ltd., of the Albert Hall, has a high name for first-class films, and the firm engage a considerable number of artists during the year. Mr. T. J. West does a large business in Australasia, where he employs over 300 people.

Edison Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

AN UNEXPECTED SANTA CLAUS.—A trio of good fellows call on Gayboy, and during the visit, being interrupted by a pedlar, they decide to buy his stock of Christmas decorations and invite some lady friends from the theatre for a good time on Christmas Eve. Invitations are sent out, presents bought, a tree set up, and a caterer is engaged. In addition, the caretaker is secured to take the part of Santa Claus. The festivities commence with Gayboy sending his wife an intimation that he is detained on important business. His boon companions arrive along with Tottie, Dottie, Rosebud, and Dimples, and the fun begins. Having received the note, Mrs. Gayboy decides to keep her husband company, and arrives at the office just as the caretaker is dressing for his part—Santa Claus. Grasping the situation, she squares him to let her take his place. Making up ready for her new part, she gets into another office to watch the hilarity of the party. Tottie Twinkletoes gives her latest dance from "gay Paree," and then Santa Claus is invoked to bring in the presents. The mirth soon turns to surprise when Tottie gets a pair of woolsocks instead of silk hose, and Dottie in place of the expected French slippers gets a pair of rough shoes. The girls, thinking themselves the victims of a coarse joke, start a lively scene, in the midst of which Mrs. Gayboy throws off her disguise and leads her husband out by the ear.

TURNING OVER A NEW LEAF.—It is New Year's Eve, and Jones is seen making for home after watching the Old Year out—through the bottom of a glass—in a very unsteady fashion. Next morning his wife has no difficulty in coaxing him to make a promise to be done with drink, tobacco, staying out late at night, to keep a check upon his temper, and give a hand to make the home a paradise. He starts all right, but little Willie soon upsets him. The drum is a very noisy instrument, so to calm himself Jones tries a strong cigar. His wife asks him to do a few odd jobs and mind the baby, but he refuses point blank, and makes a bee-line for his club to find consolation. With a few fellow sufferers he appears happy, and they decide on a little recreation. Getting hold of a water-cart they all mount and go for a ride, but every "pub." passed claims a victim, until Jones and one or two others are left. As if in league with the Evil One, the cart breaks down outside a brewery, and whilst waiting for the repairs to be finished they go inside the brewery. They come out one by one, Jones being last to leave. He is very pleased with things in general. When he gets home his wife is delighted to see him, and, using the rolling-pin to some effect, makes him still more pleased.

MR. H. BODDINGTON, the manager of the Clapham Assembly Rooms, which is just closing its picture season, occupies the unique position of being the only licensee under the auspices of the London County Council who holds the Kinematograph Association's certificate for proficiency as a biograph operator. It is an example worth following. If all the managers of picture shows held the manufacturer's certificate, dangerous or bad operating would soon become a thing of the past.

THE Willesden District Council have decided to take action against the numerous cinematograph shows which have recently opened in small shops, with a view to ensuring the safety of the audience in case of fire or panic by the provision of proper exits.

EAST HAM PALACE.

The premier attraction here this week is the return visit of the famous bloodless surgeon Dr. Walford Bodie, who is again delighting and astounding the Palace patrons with his marvellous feats with electricity. His latest sensation, *The Cage of Death*, during which he sends through his body many thousand volts of electric current, holds the large audiences spellbound. As usual, Dr. Bodie is endearing himself to the hearts of the parents and relatives of those crippled by paralysis, and each evening he has given many a cripple the ability to once again use his previously useless limb.

Little Dolly Robson, one of Dr. Bodie's cures, receives the warmest applause for her dainty singing, her favourite song, "I'm always in the way," being loudly applauded. Miss Cassie Walmer gives an excellent turn, her song "Good-bye, Ebenezer" causing much amusement. In rendering this song as an American lady, coster, "Johnnie" and a Hebrew would sing it in their style, Miss Walmer's mimicry is decidedly clever and funny. Her performance concludes with a smartly-executed sand-dance, which gained for her great applause. Miss Bella Skene sings two "catchy" songs, "I want to be a Merry Widow" and "My sweet Rainbow," each being pleasingly rendered and well received.

A very clever and diverting aerial act is given by Spangles and Sawdust; Selbo, the world's greatest club juggler and china plate thrower, wins great favour by his clever and almost bewildering performance, and he received on the evening of our visit a prolonged call for an encore. Wilman, the Australian instrumentalist, is also a very popular turn, and his playing of the post-horn, French horn, and other silver instruments is well received by the audience. Some disappointment was caused by the unavoidable absence of Viviana and company in the comedy scena *The Toy Shop*. However, an efficient deputy was secured in Professor Rickard and his gorilla.

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WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT, 1906. Effect on Theatres and Music Halls. By Albert A. Strong, LL.B., solicitor Price 6d. Published at *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

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No. 6436. Code, "Vendurecht." Approx. Length, 900ft.

TURNING OVER A NEW LEAF.

The New Year is the time for the making of resolutions—good, bad, and otherwise. Our story tells of a few good resolutions—to stop smoking, drinking, and staying out late at night—which did not come off, and the reasons why.

No. 6407. Code, "Veneciana." Approx. Length, 960ft.

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Edison Works, 200, Victoria Rd., Willesden, London, N.W.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

Alteration of Fair Date.

THE Corporation of Llandovery has petitioned the Home Secretary to alter the date of the August Fair from the 2nd of the month to the 10th. Any Welsh showman objecting to this change of date must lodge his complaint at the Home Office before Jan. 26, 1909.

Guild Subscriptions, 1909.

MR. J. CADDICK, JUN., 10s., for Defence Fund; Pharos, 5s.

PURCHASE'S menagerie and waxworks at Wood Green, N., are having a most successful season.

Showmen and the Oldham Corporation.

WE made in these columns last week a brief reference to the reactionary proposals of the Oldham Corporation in their new Improvement Bill. Our reference was to additional powers vastly in excess of the ordinary law that the Corporation is seeking in order to secure a monopoly in fairs. The *Manchester Guardian*, in its issue of Jan. 12, warns the Oldham Corporation of the rashness of the effort to secure powers of the drastic nature they desire. In its "London Correspondence" the *Manchester Guardian* says:—

"Legislation Affecting Showmen.

"THE showmen are making inquiries why the Oldham Corporation is proposing to secure powers to prevent the holding of a fair without the licence of the Corporation. The Parliamentary agent of the showmen has hitherto successfully opposed the insertion of such a clause in every case, and such has been the effect of the decisions of Parliamentary Committees on the point that for the past year or two there have been no such clauses attempted. This year there are a number of bills in which attempts are being again made to interfere with the showmen. But the Home Office have now taken upon themselves the duty of pointing out to Parliamentary Committees that in recent years the insertion of such clauses as that in the Oldham Bill has been absolutely refused by Parliament, and no Committee is so conservative in its attitude as the Police and Sanitary Committee, to which the matter will be referred in the ordinary course."

THE information that the Home Office is undertaking the work of warning corporations that such-like proposals have already been thrown out of corporation Bills by the Private Bills Committee is of the utmost value to the organised showmen. We may go a step further, and warn public bodies seeking for powers in excess of the ordinary law in order to restrict and to penalise show business that the Showmen's Guild, if compelled by corporations not amenable to the friendly warnings of the Home Office or the Local Government Board, will, in every instance of corporations seeking such powers, as in the case of the Acton local authority, ask for costs against the corporations. In the important Parliamentary case of the Acton local authority the Committee granted the Guild its costs. We were sanguine enough to believe that, with the heavy costs secured by the organised showmen against Acton, other public bodies would learn the lesson and not waste the ratepayers' money in seeking for extraordinary powers that can only burden their Bills and cause the Committees of Parliament to punish them by the imposition of costs for vexatious annoyance and damage to petitioners.

Subscriptions, 1909.

T. HAWORTH, 5s.; A. Jones (hon. member), 10s. 6d.; Mrs. Harrington (for 1908), 10s. 6d.; I. Lewin (for 1908), 5s.; Wm. Clark (for 1908), £1; Mrs. Thornley (hon. member), 10s. 6d.; and Mr. Holcroft (hon. member), 10s. 6d.

The Secretaryship of the Roundabout Proprietors and Showmen's Union.

WE are glad to be able to announce officially that Mr. F. Hurst, who has been secretary since the formation of the Union, has consented, at the urgent request of the committee members, to retain his office at an increased remuneration.

Ruffell's Bioscope at Sunderland.

THIS enterprising firm of cinematograph renown made a bold venture for public favour at the Palace Theatre, Sunderland. There are five other picture shows running in the town, and competition is keen and up-to-date. The New Era Animated Picture Co. (Ruffell's) are opening new ventures in various towns, and intend running their numerous shows on high-class lines.

Camel Races at the World's Fair.

THERE was great excitement at the World's Fair, Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, when the preliminaries for the coming great camel races were put into rehearsal this morning. Mounted by native attendants they cantered round the vast hall in laps at a great pace. Their comic antics give promise of some rare novel sport and great fun, and will be a new addition to the enormous programme now drawing such vast crowds to the fair, and the colossal show given is much appreciated.

THE Fun City at the Drill Hall, Bath, closes a successful period to-night (Saturday).

Close of the Waverley Market Fair, Edinburgh.

SIR EDWARD Moss' annual carnival in the Waverley Market closed its doors on Saturday evening after a very successful three weeks' run. There was a huge crowd present, and it was with difficulty one could move about. No disorderliness marked the closing, and after the band had played "Auld Lang Syne" and the National Anthem, the crowds streamed out quietly. Great interest was taken in the platform performance, and when Yukio Tani, the famous Japanese wrestler, made his appearance, the enclosure was crowded to overflowing and other advantageous positions were quickly commandeered. After the usual preliminary exhibition the Jap was opposed by K. C. Olsen, Newcastle, who, after a plucky bout tapped the mat in 7min. 45sec. Next C. Laurie, Glasgow, who made a capital stand earlier in the week, faced Tani. The Glasgow man did splendidly, and the Jap had more than once to bring into play his ingenuity to get clear of Laurie's holds. With his famous leg hold, however, Tani made Laurie tap the mat in 9min. 25sec. Laurie was presented with a silver cup for the amateur making the best stand against the Jap.

Presentation by the Showmen.

AN interesting presentation ceremony took place in Edinburgh on Saturday, the recipient being Mr. William Orr, representative of the North British Railway Company. Mr. Orr has been for a great many years associated with travelling showmen, and as some recognition for his many services in assisting them while travelling, the showmen at the Carnival presented him with a handsome gold watch and an illuminated address. Mr. G. Fronson, manager of Bostock and Wombwell's, presided, and handed over the watch on behalf of his colleagues. Mr. Thomas Howard, director of the Howard Family, made reference to the many good qualities of Mr. Orr. The recipient afterwards thanked the showmen for the gift and the kindly feeling which prompted them to subscribe for it. It had always been a pleasure to him to provide for their comfort when on the railway.

TENDERING FOR SITES AT FAIRS.

The executive council of the Showmen's Guild and the committee of the Roundabout Proprietors' and Showmen's Union, are acting together in a matter of the gravest possible importance. For the past few years advantage has been taken of showmen by corporations in the new method of advertising for tenders for sites on the fairgrounds.

This has been extremely cute business for corporations, but vicious and bad in principle and practice for showmen. It is notorious to those in the business that such methods let loose the floodgates of unfair competition, and tend to increase the bad blood existing in these keen competitive times between rival traders and amusement caterers.

We know of these things, and have watched them with growing alarm, and increasing concern. The time has now arrived for an effort to be made to put an end to these most unfair and vicious methods of competitive trading.

The Blackburn Easter Fair.

This important corporation is the last to adopt the method of advertising for tenders for their coming Easter Fair. The rents already are heavy, and the business very precarious, when the average weather conditions at Easter are taken (as they must be) into consideration.

A Deputation to the Local Government Board.

Acting for the allied trade societies, the Rev. T. Horne and Mr. George Green are moving the powers that be in this matter, so perilous with future evil if allowed to proceed unchecked.

Mr. George Green went fully into the question, and reference was made to the various statutes governing markets and fairs, and with regard to Blackburn the Blackburn Improvement Act and all their bye-laws relating to markets and fairs.

The Guild Chaplain and Organiser waited upon the Secretary to the Local Government Board, and in a long (and, we trust, fruitful interview) explained the showmen's position and claim in the matter.

Petition to the Local Government Board.

The following is the text of the petition drafted by the Guild Executive, and sent to that important department of State:—

THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD OF GREAT BRITAIN.
Offices: 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.
Jan. 12, 1909.

To the Secretary, Local Government Board.

SIR,—The committee of the above trade society have had before them the two advertisements herewith submitted.

They relate to an alteration in the methods of the Corporation of Blackburn in letting standings in their open market grounds for Easter Fair.

Our members have for many years attended the Fair; they have willingly paid the fixed tolls demanded by the Corporation; they object to the proposed method of letting by tender.

They submit that under the Blackburn Improvement Act and the Markets and Fairs Clauses Act (governing markets and fairs in the Borough of Blackburn) that the putting up of the standings for competitive tender is exceeding the powers possessed by the Corporation.

In the schedules of the Blackburn Improvement Act tolls for stalls and standings are fixed by statute, and they, therefore, respectfully submit that any new method of letting standings at prices in excess of the tolls fixed by statute is a violation of the existing law.

As traders and as amusement caterers, they carry on an extremely precarious business—a business always subject to the indeterminate elements of weather. It is essentially an open air and fine weather business—good or bad trade, and the coincidence of local holidays.

The only fair and just method of assessing tolls is by a fixed scale, having regard to the above fluctuating circumstances.

To be compelled to submit tenders introduces factors of grave danger to the stability of the business.

We hold that the whole spirit of legislation is to fix the scale of tollage in order (1) To protect the trader from undue exaction by the local authority; and (2) to enable him to accurately estimate the expenses attending his venture.

Tendering for sites (even if lawful) is extremely injurious, for it leads to cut-throat competition between rival traders, and that inevitably tends to reckless trading.

If these, our views, are in accordance with the accepted trend of legislation and the spirit of the Markets and Fairs Acts, we respectfully ask for relief in the specific case we have submitted to you.

We fear that other corporations will follow Blackburn. In fact, we know of many instances already of the vicious methods of advertising for tenders for spaces.

The amusement caterers and showmen are engaged in one of the most ancient of British industries. Over seventy thousand workers are directly concerned in its prosperity and continuance.

The industry also concerns indirectly a number of other trades. It is a highly specialised kind of work, and any departure from the ordinary and long accepted conditions of trade (and tendering for sites is a great departure) is of the gravest concern to the organised showmen, whom we represent.

Begging your most favourable consideration to the above statement, I remain, honoured sir,

Your obedient servant,
THOMAS HORNE,
Organiser and Chaplain.
For the Executive Council of the Guild.

South Wales Echoes.

MESSRS. WADBROOKE still have an attractive programme for their patrons at Pontypridd, and some smart variety turns are introduced.

MESSRS. R. DOONER AND SON at Maesteg have some interesting pictures, which have drawn good houses, also some smart variety items.

MESSRS. CRECRAFT, at Porth, still maintain their popularity. Many new pictures have arrived. The variety turns are popular.

MR. S. WHITE is at Merthyr Vale, where his new organ is much admired. With his Bioscope show he has his helter-skelter and tunnel railway.

MESSRS. HANCOCK'S Bioscope is still touring the Rhondda Valley with some good pictures and varieties.

MESSRS. WM. HAGGAR'S No. 1 and No. 2 shows are in the neighbourhood of Aberdare, where they are attracting good houses. Several new subjects are introduced.

THE World's Fair at Cardiff, with its many attractions, still proves a popular pleasure resort for Cardiff people and surrounding valleys.

Carmarthen.

THIS week again an attractive programme has been presented by Mr. Harry Cowell and his company at the Phœnix Theatre, at the Carmarthen Pleasure Fairground. On Monday *The Shaughraun* was produced; Tuesday, *Scamps of London*; Wednesday, *Gipsy Vengeance*; Thursday, *Saucy Susan*; and Friday, *The Wickedness of Man*. For Saturday afternoon a children's pantomime, *Beauty and the Beast*, was billed, and for Saturday evening *The Cruel Father*. The above varied programme has been most capably placed upon the boards each evening, and, consequently, large audiences have patronised the theatre.

FILM MANUFACTURERS AND EXHIBITORS AT DINNER

Mr. Robert W. Paul presided at a dinner held at the Holborn Restaurant on Thursday evening, and attended by cinematograph film manufacturers and exhibitors. The function proved a most agreeable one, for it brought into pleasant and harmonious relations many representatives of the two most important branches of the moving picture business. Amongst those present were Messrs. F. R. Griffiths (vice-chairman), W. F. Jury, W. Barker, M. Raymond, A. J. West, J. Williamson, A. E. Bromhead, T. J. West, A. Williamson, J. D. Walker, H. H. Wrench, A. Wright, W. Jeapes, J. Marten, E. T. Heron, J. Rosenthal, W. Jeffs, G. Brown, J. Avery, D. H. Smith, G. Henderson (Newcastle) F. Weisher, Haddow, Landeman, Stow, Nathan, Brockless, Bishop, Cricks, Howse, Kempson, and J. Brooke Wilkinson (secretary).

The chairman in proposing the toast of "The King," said that they were met together in the friendliest manner. At the present time the trade was in a flourishing condition, and it was getting bigger every day. It had progressed continuously for twelve years, and had now arrived at a stage when it was regarded as a very important industry in the eyes of the public. They—the manufacturers and the exhibitors—could congratulate each other upon being present at the first dinner of the trade, considered as a whole. They had had a dinner in connection with the Manufacturers' Association on one or two occasions, but had never had an opportunity of meeting together as on the present occasion. He thought that their coming together in such a manner tended to secure harmonious relations, and was for the good of the business. It was a most interesting business, and so long as they continued to delight the public they need not fear the future. Then the more brains they could introduce into the conduct of their undertakings, and the greater variety of thought they could bring to bear upon them, the better it would be for the success of the whole trade. There was plenty of room for individuality. The chairman concluded by associating with the toast the names of Mr. W. F. Jury and Mr. T. J. West.

Mr. W. F. Jury, responding to the toast, indulged in a fighting speech, in which he complained of bias on the part of the manufacturers against the exhibitors. He thought that, for the welfare of the animated picture trade, the whole matter should be thoroughly understood between the two parties—that the manufacturers should have their share of the spoils and that the hirers should have their share. He claimed that the exhibitors and the hirers were justified in getting a certain share of the profits of the business. There should be no cutting of prices—these should be maintained all through the trade. He thought it was only fair to the exhibitors, who had helped to build up the cinematograph trade, that they should not be barred or any bias brought to bear against them. He strongly condemned any lowering of the prices. It was no good selling a film at as cheap a rate as 3d. a foot when the film was worthless or of poor quality, and he hoped that the Manufacturers' Association would look at the subject in the proper light.

Mr. T. J. West, replying to the same toast, delivered an excellent address with capital elocution. They were living, he said, in very strenuous times so far as the cinematograph industry was concerned. Referring to the 3d. a foot film, he pointed out that a cheap quality meant general dissatisfaction as well as a risk of danger. The most important factor in relation to the industry was the public. He thought that the showman frequently got a great deal of credit he did not deserve. He had often, at the termination of a show, heard the encomiums of his patrons passed upon the pictures he had shown. It was the manufacturer who had enabled the showman to please the public, and so long as the public were being pleased the trade would not suffer. Mr. West expressed the opinion that everyone should do his utmost to elevate the show. It should also be made possible for the "little man" to get his films on the same terms as the "big man." The manufacturers could do much to elevate the business—in one way by refusing to have two different prices. He himself did not ask to be supplied with a film at a cheaper rate than was paid by any other showman. He was always willing to pay a fair and reasonable price for the product. In the case of a special picture, the production of which had involved much expense and trouble, it was only to be expected that the maker would charge a little more than for an ordinary film. Then those who rented films should only send out pictures concerning the quality of which no complaint could be advanced. The showman could assist the business by firmly making up his mind that he would never exhibit a picture which would offend any individual member of his audience. It was desirable that there should be formed a renters' association and a showmen's association, which would work in conjunction with the Manufacturers' Association, and it was desirable that these should help each other as much as possible. Mr. West concluded by remarking that the showmen and the renters owed a great deal to the manufacturers.

Mr. W. Barker rose to speak on the questions raised by Mr. Jury, but the chairman stated that it was not desirable to have a discussion at a complimentary dinner. A meeting would be arranged at which the matters under dispute could be thrashed out.

Mr. A. J. West proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. F. R. Griffiths for his services in arranging the concert portion of the evening's function, and to Mr. J. Brooke Wilkinson for his exertions as secretary. He hoped all would unite for the common good of the cinematograph art and industry. Mr. West interested his hearers by relating a few incidents connected with his experience of the business.

Mr. Griffiths returned thanks on behalf of the artists and himself.

Mr. M. Raymond proposed "The Press," and Mr. E. T. Heron replied.

The chairman announced that they had decided to hold, on Feb. 18, a joint meeting of manufacturers and exhibitors for the purpose of discussing the relations between the exhibitor and the hiring agent and the manufacturer, with a view to putting affairs on an amicable footing in their future work.

A vote of thanks to the chairman brought the proceedings to a close.

Roller-Skating at Liverpool.

BUSINESS continues to be good at the Tournament Hall in Edge-lane, Liverpool, where many hundreds attend daily to enjoy the exhilarating sport of roller-skating. Members of the theatrical profession, engaged in and about the city, often pay a visit, and during the week Mr. Frank Gotch, the American champion wrestler, put in several appearances and showed exceptional skill as a "rinker."

ON Tuesday evening the Skating Rink, Olympia, will be given up to a skating Cinderella, when it will be necessary for all skaters to appear in ordinary evening dress. These Cinderellas have proved highly popular on the provincial rinks under Mr. Crawford's management. On Jan. 22 he has placed the rink at the disposal of "Our Dumb Friends League," and there will be an afternoon carnival in aid of the society, to which H.R.H. Princess Christian has granted her special patronage.

INVENTIONS.

[The particulars furnished below of recent applications for patents are taken from the official records. Correspondence is invited with our readers on all matters relating to new ideas and inventions, with a view to affording them advice and assistance. Letters should be addressed to the Manager, Inventions Department, "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London.]

Inventors and others who have no business representative are invited to communicate with the Manager of the Inventions Dept. as above.

APPLICATIONS.

28,191. Percy Edward Slayton, of London. Table football played with draughts.

28,251.—Christopher Frederick Eckhardt and Alfred James Holladay, of London. Improvements in dolls, such as toy soldiers and the like.

28,284.—Alfred Fischer and Richard Goldenburg, of London. Improvements in vehicles suitable for purposes of sport.

28,310.—Scipio Africanus Mussabini, Charles Ransom, and John George Payne, of Wembley, Middlesex. Improvements in devices for indicating or recording points in games, and for other purposes.

28,336.—Henry William Hamblin Palmer, of Tunbridge Wells. Improvements in apparatus for photographing and exhibiting cinematograph and mutoscope pictures.

28,377.—Thomas Watson Hill, of London. Improvements in riding stirrups.

28,427.—Ronald Calcott Evans, of London. Improvement in roller skates.

28,490.—Louis Claude Joseph Bouracier, of London. Improvements in race games.

28,497.—Angel Bruno, of London. New or improved device for the purposes of amusement and entertainment.

28,515.—William Griffith Honey, of London. Improvements in apparatus for chess, draughts, and other games.

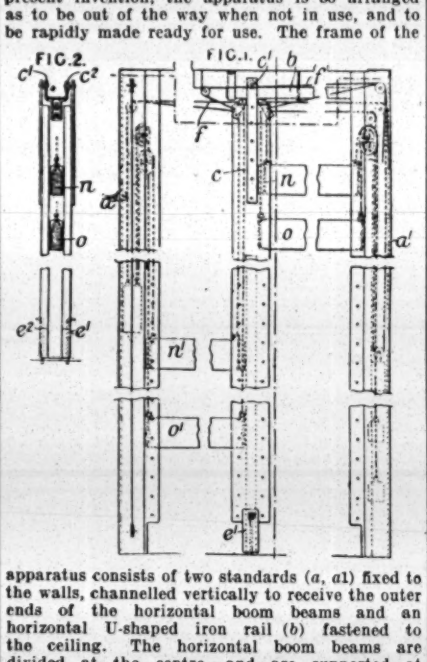
28,525.—Lucien Anspach, of London. Electric transmission of visual images.

28,564.—Henry Swallwood Yoxall and Joseph Easthope, of Birmingham. Improvements in wheels for roller skates and the like, and in the manufacture of the same.

ABRIDGMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

18,323.—Gymnastic apparatus. Larsen, N., of Copenhagen.

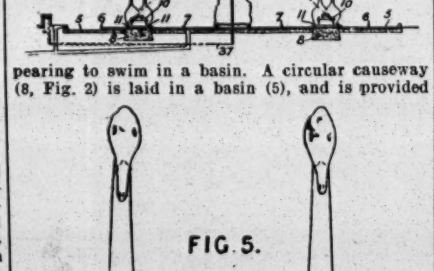
Horizontal bars.—Relates to that kind of gymnastic apparatus known as "double booms," consisting of two beams supported one over the other in the same vertical plane, and used for combined hanging and swinging exercises. According to the present invention, the apparatus is so arranged as to be out of the way when not in use, and to be rapidly made ready for use. The frame of the

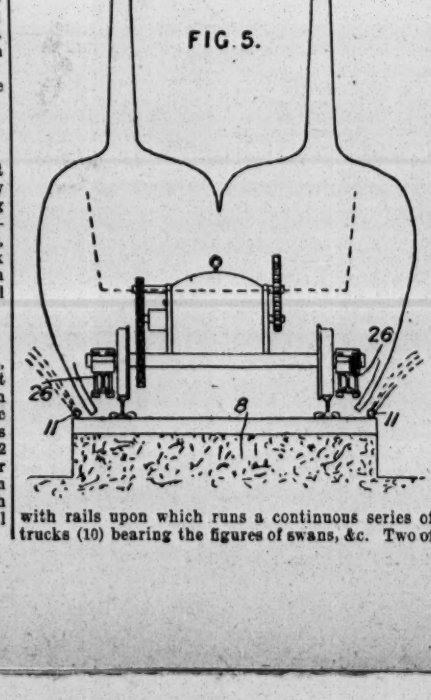


apparatus consists of two standards (*a*, *a*1) fixed to the walls, channelled vertically to receive the outer ends of the horizontal boom beams and an horizontal U-shaped iron rail (*b*) fastened to the ceiling. The horizontal boom beams are divided at the centre, and are supported at their inner end by an intermediate movable upright as shown, which is provided at its upper end with rollers (*c*1, *c*2) adapted to run on the rail (*b*). The upright (*c*) is drawn to and fro by means of a rope (*f*) and a system of pulleys. When in proper position, it is fixed to the floor by bolts (*e*1, *e*2), and in this position, the rollers (*c*1, *c*2) enter notches in the rail (*b*). The boom beams (*o*, *n*, *o*1, *n*1) are carried by ropes passing over pulleys and counter-weighted. When in position they are secured by bolts. The ends of the boom beams are enlarged to fit the flanges of the uprights, and the arrangement of ropes and pulleys is such that both ends of a beam are raised simultaneously by pulling on one rope. The lower beams are suspended by bolt-hooks, which are pivoted or swivelled on the beams, so that a beam in its lowermost position may be turned over with its square underside upwards to form a balance-beam.

18,478.—Roundabouts. Westerman, H. J., of South Columbus, Ohio, U.S.A.

An aquatic roundabout is provided with animal figures constructed to carry passengers, and appearing to swim in a basin. A circular causeway (8, Fig. 2) is laid in a basin (5), and is provided

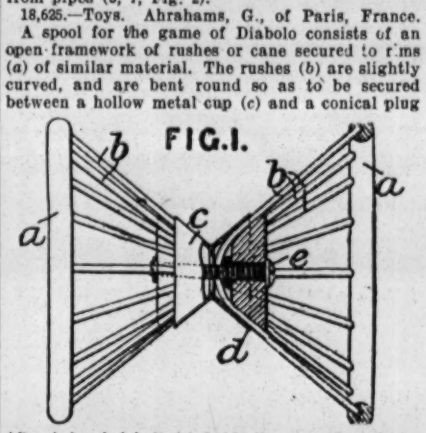




with rails upon which runs a continuous series of trucks (10) bearing the figures of swans, &c. Two of the trucks are motor-driven, and the others are connected to these and to one another by a double circular framework (26, Fig. 5) connecting together all the axles as shown. Current for the motors passes through leads (37, 38, 40, Fig. 2). In order to give the appearance of swimming and to hide the joints, &c., pipes (11, Fig. 5) are arranged to spray water as shown. Additional sprays issue from pipes (6, 7, Fig. 2).

18,625.—Toys. Ahrahams, G., of Paris, France.

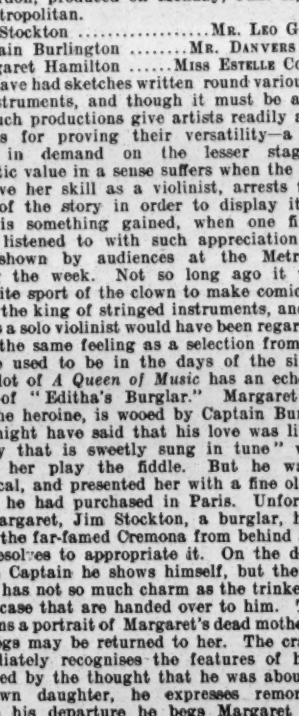
A spool for the game of Diabolo consists of an open framework of rushes or cane secured to rims (*a*) of similar material. The rushes (*b*) are slightly curved, and are bent round so as to be secured between a hollow metal cup (*c*) and a conical plug



(*d*). A headed bolt (*e*) holds the several parts together. In a modification, the parts are held together by a bolt having loose nuts at each end, washers being placed between the nuts and the plugs (*d*).

18,863.—Presses for playing-cards. Mosimann, H., of Bern, Switzerland.

A press for playing-cards comprises vertical legs (*a*1) on which bent or bellied spring plates (*b*) are adapted to slide. A post (*d*) carries a clamp (*e*) with a four-sided obliquely-cut aperture (*e*1). The



cards are laid between the spring-plates (*b*), and the clamp is pressed down at *i*. The upward pressure through the bearing-piece (*e*3) causes the clamp to engage the post (*d*) securely. When the part *k* is pressed down the clamp is released. In place of the post (*d*) a toothed rack and spring-controlled adjustable catch connected to a plate may be employed.

TO STAGE MACHINISTS AND ELECTRICIANS. — The Manager will be pleased to receive particulars of any new stage appliances or ideas for same for illustration in this column.

Can You Invent?—Do you wish to know of prizes offered to inventors valued at £10,000, £5,300, £5,000, £4,000, £1,000, £400, £300, £200, £100, and £50? If so, then get a copy of *Patents and Designs*, a newspaper called into existence by Mr. Lloyd George's Patents and Designs Act, 1907, which lately came into operation. *Patents and Designs*, price 2d., can be had at all bookstalls, newsagents', and at the Publishing Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

"A QUEEN OF MUSIC."

Musical and Dramatic Episode, by S. and L. Gordon, produced on Monday, Jan. 11, at the Metropolitan.

Jim Stockton ..... MR. LEO GORDON
Captain Burlington ..... MR. DANVERS YATES
Margaret Hamilton ..... MISS ESTELLE COLLETTE

We have had sketches written round various musical instruments, and though it must be admitted that such productions give artists readily accepted chances for proving their versatility—a quality much in demand on the lesser stage—their dramatic value in a sense suffers when the heroine, to prove her skill as a violinist, arrests the progress of the story in order to display it. Still, there is something gained, when one finds the violin listened to with such appreciation as has been shown by audiences at the Metropolitan during the week. Not so long ago it was the favourite sport of the clown to make comic capital out of the king of stringed instruments, and such a turn as a solo violinist would have been regarded with much the same feeling as a selection from a band of five used to be in the days of the sing-song. The plot of *A Queen of Music* has an echo of the story of "Editha's Burglar." Margaret Hamilton, the heroine, is wooed by Captain Burlington, who might have said that his love was like "the melody that is sweetly sung in tune" when he heard her play the fiddle. But he was more practical, and presented her with a fine old violin, which he had purchased in Paris. Unfortunately for Margaret, Jim Stockton, a burglar, hears all about the far-famed Cremona from behind a screen, and resolves to appropriate it. On the departure of the Captain he shows himself, but the beloved violin has not so much charm as the trinkets and a jewel case that are handed over to him. The case contains a portrait of Margaret's dead mother, which she begs may be returned to her. The cracksman immediately recognises the features of his wife. Abashed by the thought that he was about to rob his own daughter, he expresses remorse; but before his departure he begs Margaret to play the melody so often sung by the dead woman so dear to both. While she is playing he restores the stolen jewels, and eventually shoots himself. Miss Estelle Collette's rendering of a Hungarian dance by Brahms shows her to be an exceptionally capable violinist, her tone and technique being admirable. She also gives artistic distinction to the hackneyed melody "The song that reached my heart." Mr. Leo Gordon is characteristic as the cracksman, and displays no little feeling in the tenderer passages; and Mr. Danvers Yates makes a chivalrous and manly lover of Captain Burlington.

AT the concerts recently held in the Winter Garden of the Hôtel Metropole, Brighton, two young singers had a great success. Both were pupils of the well-known professor, Mme. Kate Flinn, and did her great credit. Miss Ruby Cobbett is a contralto with a beautiful voice, and she won a double encore for each of her songs and five recalls. Amongst her selections were "My gentle child with you," by Godfrey Nutting, and "The Gavotte" from *Mignon*, which she gave with fine effect. Miss Le Hay, the charming daughter of John Le Hay, created quite a sensation with a clever little song, called "Trimming a hat." She actually trimmed a hat and wore it while she sang, winning a recall. The success of these two young ladies served to show how diversified is Mme. Kate Flinn's talent of training.

THE SKATING RINK BOOM.

A CHAT WITH MR. F. W. NALL.

Mr. F. W. Nall, the gentleman who was responsible for the opening up, management, and operating of numerous rinks in America, has kindly given us his experience for the benefit of those who have an interest in roller skating. Mr. Nall is now busily engaged operating roller rinks in this country, and is also using his influence on behalf of the Richardson ball-bearing skates, which, he tells us, are most extensively used in America; in fact, no less a proportion than 80 per cent. of the rinks now operating in the States use Richardson skates.

The life and perpetuation of roller skating lies, in a great measure, in the hands of rink managers, many of whom kill all interest in the sport among their patrons either through lax management or by their avariciousness in prolonging their skating season to an undue length, permitting their patrons to "skate themselves to death."

I am a strong advocate of short seasons, and managers who know will bear witness to the fact that it is advantageous to close at the first approach of warm weather while the skaters still retain the desire to skate, and remain closed until the advent of cold weather, turning a deaf ear to all importunities to give them "just one night of skating" for which many will petition, refusing even what may seem a fabulous price for one night's rent of the rink with its equipment for a private skating party.

By closing while your patrons still possess the "fever," and giving them no opportunity for gratifying their desire for skating, they retain that "fever" throughout the summer season, and are eager and anxious for the reopening of the rink in order that they may indulge in their favourite pastime. On the other hand, when they are allowed to skate in an indoor rink constructed for winter use only, the conditions necessarily must be such as to detract from the thorough enjoyment of skating because of the heat, for nothing is more conducive to the creation of a distaste for skating than profuse perspiration.

Some Managers Short-sighted.

Many managers, in their short-sightedness, fail to recognise the truth of the foregoing, and persist in gathering the box-office receipts regardless of the atmospheric conditions until these receipts are such that they fail to equal the disbursements. Then, upon reopening for the following season, they bemoan their fate and wonder why patronage is so much less than during the former year, and in but few cases do they blame their own selfish greed for the changed conditions.

In the cities where more than one rink is in operation an agreement between the several managers relative to their closing and opening dates can generally be effected, for the good of all if gone about in the right spirit, which course I strongly recommend.

Managers must maintain and preserve order in their rinks at all times, exacting from patron and employee alike a cheerful compliance with all house rules, having no favourites, and the violator of a rule meriting punishment should be promptly disciplined regardless of his standing or social prominence.

The failure of managers to enforce their rules for fear of giving offence to some "favourite son" is often the "beginning of the end," causing the creation of no end of trouble for the unfortunate manager who fails to require an absolute obedience to the established rules by which all well-conducted rinks are regulated and governed.

Much depends upon the way you open your season. Demand at all times a strict compliance with, and obedience to, your rules, promptly suppressing all fast skating, ejecting from your rink for cause, if necessary, patrons who persist in flagrant disobedience, and who display no disposition to respect the rights of others. By so doing your patrons quickly discover that you mean business, and will govern themselves accordingly.

People in Balconies Should Act.

You in the balconies or on your promenades can see infractions of your floor rules that possibly escape the eye of your floor manager, and, when you do, act—don't hesitate. When called before you the offender knows of what offence he has been guilty, no matter how greatly surprised he may profess to be nor how much he may "stall around." Don't stand for any nonsense: inform him that the rink is being conducted for the benefit, pleasure, and amusement of the "many" and not for the "few." Caution him, make him realise that the rights of others must be respected, and, if he is the right kind, he will heed your admonition; if he isn't, the sooner you get rid of him the better. If you see and permit acts of any nature to transpire on the floor that should be prohibited these same acts can also be seen by your spectators, and possibly skaters as well, who quickly form their opinion of you and your management if not suppressed. For the good of the cause, instantaneous action is demanded to receive the goodwill, the patronage, and the pounds of your present patrons.

Don't "compliment" your "racers"; make them pay admission the same as your other patrons—except, of course, on the nights they race. If they want to practise let them do it between sessions, and hold them down at all other times exactly as your other patrons if you would maintain order on the floor. You cannot "call" a patron for fast skating and at the same time permit a racer simply because he *is* a racer to skate fast, so don't do it.

Promiscuous Passes Harmful.

A promiscuous use of passes and "complimentaries" is not to be encouraged; use discretion and put them out judiciously, and where you can see some return of one kind or another.

Watch your door carefully. An honest, conscientious door-tender is worth his weight in gold, and when you get one whom you know you can trust and who requires a ticket of admission from friend and stranger alike, pay any price to retain his services, for he will make money for you. Your cashier, too, must be polite and affable, as first impressions are everything, and your patrons must be met at the entrance with a courteous smile if you would induce them to return again.

Much of your success depends upon your assistants on the floor. The primary duty of an instructor is to instruct, and the manager wise enough when engaging his corps of assistants to make them thoroughly and distinctly understand their duties and then rigidly exacts from them a cheerful obedience at all times will escape many vexations and worrisome conditions with which he would otherwise find himself beset and surrounded.

Don's make the mistake of accepting the services of "volunteer" instructors—i.e., those who offer to work (?) gratuitously. The only "work" they are desirous of performing is to skate with your lady patrons who stand in no need of assistance to the utter neglect of those who do, turning either a deaf ear to all calls for assistance or greeting such with an air of scorn and derision, which is not only resented by the one asking for help, but in many cases is the cause of this beginner, and perhaps her friends as well, ceasing to visit your rink, transferring their patronage to one of your competitors, leaving you to wonder why you never see their faces again.

Points to Managers.

A man worthy of wearing your uniform and cap is worthy of his hire, and if you cannot afford to put him on the pay-roll don't accept his services. You deceive the public, you take their money under false pretences, and you delude yourself into the belief that you "get something for nothing" when really you are getting "nothing for something" every time you accept a "volunteer's" services.

Your regular patrons quickly discover that such an instructor is not on the pay-roll, with the result that all respect for the "volunteer's" authority is destroyed. He becomes absolutely worthless to you so far as the maintenance of order on the skating surface is concerned, and furthermore he is a constant source of dissatisfaction to those of your instructors who are on your pay-roll, creating discord and arousing discontent among them because he usurps privileges which you very properly deny them.

Don't allow your instructors to become "familiar" with your lady patrons; it engenders unfavourable comment among your spectators and invites criticism and discussion that will hurt you and your business. If you will remember always that what you observe others do also, and rebuke and reprove wherever and whenever it becomes necessary, you will discover that the occasion for such action on your part will be few and far between.

Another prolific source of trouble and the means of retaining or driving away patronage is your skate-room. Much depends upon the manner in which your patrons are received at the skate-room windows and the services given them by the skate boys, of whom you should have a sufficient number in your skate-room annexe to properly attend to your patrons' wants. The cheerful exchange of skates should be insisted upon at all times, and as many times as any one patron may desire in his or her effort to obtain a properly-adjusted skate.

Courtesy Means Pounds.

Require your skate men to willingly, cheerfully, and even smilingly exchange all skates for whatever reason as often as may be necessary if you would retain the friendship and patronage of your patrons. Courtesy and affability by them means pounds to you.

Furnish the man in charge of your skate-room with sufficient help to properly clean, oil, and repair your skate equipment, maintaining always a high degree of perfection in this department, which is of more vital importance than many managers seem to realise.

I have found the easiest, best and most satisfactory way of obtaining this perfection is not to have a "general cleaning day," such as is the vogue in some rinks—a day dreaded by all skate-room employees generally—but systematise the work, dividing it into a daily cleaning of certain sizes, devoting the same day each week to this particular size, which so apportions the labour that it can be done properly, and, becoming a part of each day's routine work, receives better attention and is more carefully and cleanly done, with a much more satisfactory result.

Your skate equipment must be kept up to the top notch of perfection if you expect to continue in business, and only personal supervision on your part can put and keep it there.

Make a determined stand against dust in your rink. Don't harbour the mistaken idea that it is unavoidable; you can avoid it if you will.

Use Dust-allaying Products.

There are several dust-allaying products and contrivances on the market which will do much toward eradicating this evil; or, if you don't choose to incur the expense which their purchase entails, the good old remedy of plenty of wet sawdust will work miracles.

If you are using steel rollers you probably bewail your "black" floor: so do your patrons when they fall and find themselves as black as chimney-sweeps upon rising. You can avoid this and have your floor as clean, or nearly so, as are the floors of rinks where other than steel rollers are used by wetting your sawdust with gasoline and by a daily use of the "wet blanket drag," which is nothing more than slipping a 2 by 4 through the fold of a horse or a bed blanket, attaching ropes to the ends of the 2 by 4, and then dragging the blanket over your floor, keeping the blanket wet by sprinkling, and washing it as often as its condition makes necessary.

This treatment obviates the necessity of using pumice, chalk, or whiting, and tends in a great measure to minimise the creation of dust, besides giving you a clean skating surface regardless of the roller you use.

Good music is a prime requisite for the successful management of a rink. Have plenty of it and of such a tempo that your skaters can skate to, and with it, timing their strokes in rhythmical unison to the beats in the measure of the selection being rendered by the band.

Bandmasters are prone to consider themselves and their band an entirely separate institution and beyond the jurisdiction of a rink manager, although they never fail to come to that manager on pay day, readily recognising his authority on such occasions, but seem loath to do so when that same manager attempts to dictate what music he wants and how and when he wants it.

The best way to avoid all conflicts is to insert a clause in your contract specifying the number of selections to be played each session, the duration of each, and how long an interval of time shall elapse between selections. Have an understanding also that such music as you deem unfit for skating shall be immediately side-tracked; no matter how full of harmony a piece of music may be, it must appeal to the "feet" as well as the "ears" of your patrons to be acceptable.

Roller skating is now enjoying its greatest popularity, and will continue to do so only through the concerted action and by the hearty co-operation of those having a vital interest in prolonging the life of the pastime. It is for the benefit of such that the foregoing has been written.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—SIR HENRY IRVING.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

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Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun.*

Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News.*

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Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE AND EDWARD COMPTON'S THEATRES.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, for THEATRE ROYAL, BRIGHTON.
March 8, 15, 29, May 10, 17, on.
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.
March 8, April 5, May 17, 24, 31, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING,
March 8, April 5, 12, 19, May 3, 10, 17, 24, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER,
April 5, 12, 26, May 10, 17, 24, 31, Aug. 2, 9, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
May 10, 17, 24, Sept. 13, 20, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON.
March 1, April 12, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD.
Feb. 15, March 1, April 26, May 17, 24, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON.
March 29, April 5, Sept. 20, 27, Oct. 4, 11, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER.
April 12, May 3, 17, 24, 31, June 7, 14, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
Feb. 1, Feb. 13 (3 nights), March 1, 8, 15, 29, on.
Wanted, First-class Pantomime Productions, for Opera House, Leicester, next Xmas, six weeks certain;
also Pantomimes for other Theatres.
Please say where can be seen.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED First-class Attractions, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD,
Feb. 15, March 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON.
Jan. 25, Feb. 8, March 8, 29, April 5, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.
First Vacant Date, March 15, 1909.
Add., E. G. FALCON, County T., Bedford.

WANTED, First-class Attraction, Jan. 25.
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

BRIXTON THEATRE, S.W.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Spring and Autumn.
FREDK. MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for the following dates:
Feb. 15, March 15, 22, 29, April 5, 12, 19, 26.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-st., S.W.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, April 26, May 10, 17, 24.
Now Booking Autumn Dates.
Address, T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
Mr. FRANCIS LAIDLER,
of the Prince's Theatre, Bradford,
Begs to Announce
that (by arrangement with Walter Reynolds, Esq., the owner, and Frank Macnaghten, Esq., he has Taken a Lease of the
THEATRE ROYAL, LEEDS,
as from April 19 next,
and intends booking the same High-class Dramatic and Melodramatic Attractions for Leeds as for Bradford, and, as far as possible, for consecutive weeks.
The Theatre Royal, Leeds, and the Prince's Theatre, Bradford, will now be undoubtedly the Best Pair of Dates for Drama in the Provinces.

WANTED, a Big Attraction, Feb. 15, for the GRAND THEATRE, OLDHAM,
Musical or a Big Pantomime preferred.
Can stage the largest of productions.
The Finest Theatre in the Provinces.
Address, ERNEST DOTTRIDGE.

WANTED, Known, Managers requiring Sound Attractions communicate with HERBERT GREVILLE, Direct Theatrical Exchange, 63, High Holborn, W.C.; or 'Phone, 4869 Holborn.

THEATRE ROYAL, BRISTOL.
Man.-Dir., Mr. ERNEST CARPENTER.
WANTED, Strong Dramatic Attraction, for Whit Week (May 31), June 7, 14, 21, 28, July 5, 12, Aug. 5.
Apply, W. F. CROWE, Lyceum Theatre, W.C.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, OLDHAM.
WANTED, to oblige a Manager, a Company for Feb. 15.
Address, ERNEST DOTTRIDGE, Esq.
WATKIN WYNNE.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-class Pantomime, for Feb. 1 or 8;
also Vacant Feb. 22, March 22, April 5, 19.
Address, THOS. SWINTON.

OPERA HOUSE, SOUTHPORT.
WANTED, Good Companies, Feb. 15, 16, and 17 (3 nights only), Feb. 22, and onwards.
Apply, MANAGER.

THEATRE ROYAL, NORTH SHIELDS.
WANTED, First-class Companies, May 24, June 7, 14; GRAND THEATRE, LANCASTER, Feb. 11 (3 nights), March 11 (3 nights), March 22, April 26, May 17, 24, 31. STANLEY ROGERS, Theatre Royal, North Shields.

PALACE THEATRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
WANTED, Strong Attraction, March 1 (to oblige a Manager).
Apply, T. W. ROWE.

THEATRE ROYAL, STOCKPORT, and THEATRE ROYAL, ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.
WANTED, First-class Dramatic Companies, for April 5 and 12.
Address, CHARLES REVILL, Stockport.

OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER.
WANTED, Companies; holds £100; Vacant March 22, 29, and Easter, onwards.
Bookings: Merry Widow," "Dairymaids," "Prince of Pilsen," "Prodigal Son," "The Christian," &c. J. P. MOORE, King's Hall, Birmingham.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, PEMBROKE DOCK.
WANTED, Musical Attractions, Musical Attractions.
March 1, various, on.
Address, NORMAN H. BARGER.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies,

ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH
Vacant March 1, 8, 22, 29, onward with exceptions.

All communications re dates,
ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant April 5, May 17, June 28, onward with exceptions.

EMPIRE, WORCESTER.
See Music Hall Artists Wanted Column.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY, S. WALES.
Vacant April 12, May 24, 31, June 7, onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME, BARRY DOCK.
Vacant March 1, June 7, Aug. 2, onward, with exceptions.

The Three Great Pantomime Successes,
"ALADDIN," Feb. 8, 1909, onward.
"CINDERELLA," Feb. 8, 1909, onward.
"PUSS IN BOOTS," Feb. 8, 1909, onward.
Can also arrange Production Dates for next season for the above.
All communications,
ARTHUR CARLTON,
Theatre Royal, Worcester.

Telegrams: "Carlton, Worcester."

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
The Chief Theatre of the Town and District.
The only Theatre in the Town lighted by Electricity.
WANTED, Companies, March 1, 15, 29, April 26, onwards.

Our Season's Bookings, which Managers are requested to compare with elsewhere, include:—Miss Lena Ashwell's Co., "Diana of Dobson's," (return), Mr. Geo. Alexander's Co., "The Thief," F. R. Benson's Co., "The Dairymaids," Mr. Percy Hutchison's Cos., "Mrs. Dot," "Brewster's Millions," "Lady Frederick," "Leah Kleschna," "With Edged Tools," "The Christian" (new version), "A White Man," "Sergeant Brue," "You Never Can Tell," "The Flag Lieutenant," "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," "The Beloved Vagabond," Mr. Geo. Alexander's Co., "The Builder of Bridges," Mr. George D. Day's Co., "The Prodigal Son," and Miss Lena Ashwell's Co. in "Grit."

All communications,
CALVERT ROUTLEDGE, H. M. T., Barrow.
London Representative,
HERBERT GREVILLE, 63, High Holborn, W.C.

THEATRES, DUMFRIES AND HAWICK.
WANTED, Circle and Stall Attractions, Feb. 15 and 22, to follow a run of Dramas.

OPERA HOUSE, LONDONDERRY.
Wanted, Good Dramas, to play twice nightly, Feb, 22 and March, répertoire preferred.
State lowest certainty if fares paid.

THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.
Feb. 22, March 15, 22, and April 19.

THEATRE ROYAL, LOUGHBOROUGH.
April 26 (last three nights).

WORKSOP, NEW GAIETY.
Jan. 11 (last three), Feb. 15 and 22.

RUGBY TOWN HALL.
March 8 and Easter.

SPA, WHITBY.
Aug. 2 and 9, 16 (three nights), 25 (three nights).
W. PAYNE SEDDON,
Theatre Royal, Loughborough.

KING'S THEATRE, KILMARNOCK.
Lessee and Manager, J. CUMMINGS.
WANTED, First-class Musical Comedy and Pantomime Attractions,
March and April.

GAIETY THEATRE, MANCHESTER.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for Feb. 15 and 22.

OPERA HOUSE, WAKEFIELD.
WANTED, Sound Attractions, March 8, 15, 29, April 26 (five nights), onwards.
Apply, SHERWOOD and Co.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLCHESTER.
WANTED, good Musical Attractions, March 15, April 19, May 10, 17, June 21 (Pageant week), Aug. 2, and onwards. Apply, F. GRAHAM MACDONA, Lessee and Manager.

PIER THEATRE, EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Mrach 1, 15, and various dates onwards; also one or two Season dates. Apply, G. HAYES, Pier, Eastbourne.

WANTED, Musical Attraction, Feb. 1 Chorley.
Address, SANTE, Theatre, Radcliffe.

WEYMOUTH.—NEW PAVILION THEATRE.
Erected by the Corporation at a cost of nearly £20,000. Seating, Decorating, and Furnishing by Messrs. Dean and Sons. Dimensions, stage to flies 21ft., stage to grid 43ft. 6in. Weymouth being the headquarters of the Channel Fleet, good Business can always be relied upon.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Spring and Autumn, 1909. All communications,
WALTER R. WALLIS, Municipal Offices, Weymouth.

WANTED, really Strong Attraction, for Feb. 1. Silence polite negative.
Wire, COURTICE, H. M. T., Carlisle.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLYTH-BY-SEA.
Lessee and Manager, A. C. MOODY.
WANTED, Attractions, Feb. 22 and March 22. Professional Houses of Call:—
Adelphi Hotel, opposite Stage Door, Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Waterloo Hotel, facing Tyne Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Proprietors, Messrs. Evans, Beadling, and Moody.

WANTED, First-class Companies, Grand, Llandudno, Whit, July, Sept.
Address, HALDANE CRICHTON.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Salford, First-class Companies, for Feb. 8, 15, March 1, 29, and onwards. Address, E. B. GOULDEN.

WANTED, Companies, Feb. 1 (3 nights), 8 (3 nights), 15, and on.
JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

HIS MAJESTY'S T., BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
WANTED, good Company, Feb. 15, to enable "Sergeant Brue" to transfer.
CALVERT ROUTLEDGE, H. M. T., Barrow-in-Furness.

EMPIRE THEATRE, SWINDON.
WANTED, First-class Musical Comedy and Dramatic Attractions; also Big Variety Combinations. Managers with First-class Companies only apply direct to ALFRED MANNERS. Wanted, First-class Musical Play or Pantomime for March 8.

THE GRANVILLE THEATRES, LIMITED.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, Powerful Dramatic Attractions, Feb. 1 and 8.
Feb. 1 and 8.
GRAND THEATRE, RAWTENSTALL.
Feb. 15, 22, March 1.
Re Dates, FRED GRANVILLE,
Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, Musical Comedies and Pantomimes preferred,
Feb. 8, March 22, April 5, on.
three or six nights.
W. B. POTTS.

COMPANIES WANTED.

Booked by MOSS' EMPIRES, LIMITED.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE,
GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM,
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS,
and
GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Vacant Dates, May 3, 10, 24, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Aug. 9, 16, Sept. 20, Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Dec. 6, 13.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE.
Vacant Dates, May 10, June 14, 28, July 5, 12, 19, 26, Aug. 2, 16, 30, Nov. 8, 22, 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Vacant March 29, April 19, May 3, 10, June 7, 21, 28, Aug. 2, 9, 23, 30, Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 15, 22, Dec. 6, 13, 20.

GRAND, GLASGOW.
Vacant April 5, 19, May 10, 17, 24, 31, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Sept. 6, 13, 20, Oct. 4, 11, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22.
Address,
with full particulars, terms, &c.
where can be seen, to
MOSS' EMPIRES, LIMITED,
Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street,
London, W.C.
Envelopes marked "Theatres."

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. HUGH ROBERTSON.
The Premier Theatre in the Furness District, with a holding capacity of £90 at ordinary prices.
WANTED, really First-class London Successes, for Feb. 15, March 8 and 22, on, with exceptions.
Season's Bookings include among others: J. W. Turner's Grand Opera Company (return) Mr. Wentworth Croke's "The Bondman," "Amasis," Mr. Charles Frohman's "Raffles," Mr. George Dance's Company in "Miss Hook of Holland," Mr. Wilfred Cotton's Company in "Butterflies," Mr. Seymour Hicks' Company in "The Gay Gordons," and Mr. George Edwardes's Company in "The Merry Widow," Pannier and Howard's "The Prince and the Beggar Maid," and "The Midnight Wedding," "The Flag Lieutenant."
All applications for dates to
HUGH ROBERTSON,
Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

THREE PROGRESSIVE THEATRES.
WANTED, High-class Companies,
DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE,
March 8, 22, April 5, 12, May 3.
Easter Vacant for Big Musical Attraction or London Star.
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS.
May 10, 17, June 7, on.
PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE.
March 22, April 26, May 10 (?), June 7, on.
Apply for all above,
H. W. ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
GRAND PIER, WESTON-SUPER-MARE.
The Finest and most Popular Pier in the West Country. Magnificent Pavilion.
Only First-class Attractions Booked.
Visited by thousands daily during the Season.
Spaces to Let for Real Novelties for Season 1909.
"Hicks' Voyages" and "Katzenjammer Castle" Booked. Small Shops to Let. Low Rentals.
Address, GENERAL-MANAGER.

NEW GAIETY THEATRE, METHIL, FIFE.
WANTED, Genuine Pay-box Attractions, for various Spring Dates, onwards; only First-class Companies entertained. Big business can be relied upon with good strong Drama or Musical Comedy. Refer Lingford Carson, Esq., John Clyde, Esq., Thomson Carruthers, Esq., A. B. Mackay, Esq. District population, within easy reach of theatre, roughly, 40,000. Apply for dates to Mr. J. C. BURNETT, Resident-Manager.

THEATRE ROYAL, CARDIFF.
WANTED, the Premier Companies, for Feb. 8, March 1-8, April 5, 19, various, onwards, Whit, for Musical Comedy.
Address, ROLLO BALMAIN.

BOROUGH THEATRE, HEYWOOD.
WANTED, First-class Company or Panto., Feb. 1 and 15. ALBERT JONES, Queen's, M'chester.

WANTED, March 22 or 29,
First-class Pantomime.
First-class Pantomime.
First-class Pantomime.
Twice Nightly.
Twice Nightly.
Twice Nightly.
Full particulars to
W. YATES GREGORY,
Theatre Royal and Hippodrome,
Shrewsbury.

NEW PALACE THEATRE, WATFORD.
The only place of amusement in the Town.
Lighted by electricity. Holding capacity £75.
WANTED, Strong Dramatic and Musical Comedy Companies, First-class only,
Feb. 1, 15, April 5, 26.
SYLVESTER, 217, Piccadilly, W.

ROYAL PALACE THEATRE, RAMSGATE.
Under New Management. Sole Proprietor, Lord GEORGE SANGER; Lessee, ERNEST MANSELL; Business-Representative, BERT ATKINSON.
WANTED, First-class Companies, from July and onward. First-class Attractions only.
All coms. re dates, address, BERT ATKINSON, Royal Palace Theatre, Ramsgate.

ST. ALBANS COUNTY HALL.
WANTED, Good Companies, with own Scenery, two nights, Feb. 5 6, 12, 13, and onwards; stage 40ft. by 25ft., proscenium opening 22ft., stage to girders 20ft. 9in.
Act drop, footlights, &c. Electric light throughout.
Sharing terms only. Apply, A. ROWDEN.

WANTED, Known, the Llandrindod Wells Development Association desire to arrange Dates in July, August, and September with First-class Theatrical, Concert, and Band Parties. Sharing terms.
Secretary, BRYAN SMITH.

THEATRES WANTED.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
for this Phenomenal Success,
Weeks of
Jan. 25 and Feb. 15.
Jan. 25 and Feb. 15.
Wire or write to
W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
WANTED, Weeks of
March 1 and 8,
March 1 and 8,
for this Remarkable Success,"
which in a fortnight at Dublin played to £1,400, and at Belfast turned hundreds away nightly.
Wire or write to
W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, March 22, April 12, onwards.
CHARLES HARRINGTON,
Theatre Royal, Coatbridge.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."
EUGENE C. STAFFORD'S No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Feb. 8, 15, 22,
March 29 (?), April 5 (?), 19; also Oct. 11, 18, 25, Nov. 8, onwards. Letters or telegrams to Bishopsdale, Biddenden, Kent.

E. HILL-MITCHELSON'S COMPANIES.
"WHO IS SHE?"
"WHO IS SHE?"
WANTED, for above Magnificent Production Feb. 22.
E. HILL-MITCHELSON,
Bordesley Palace, Birmingham.

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE BEGGAR GIRL'S WEDDING."
WALTER MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION.
WANTED, April 5, Aug. 9, Nov. 1, 22
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C

"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Feb. 15, March 29, April 5, 12.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, April 5, 12.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 15, Aug. 2, 9.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
WANTED, Aug. 2, Nov. 8, 15.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

FREDERICK MELVILLE'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, Theatres, March 1, 29.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres,
Feb. 8, April 12, Aug. 2, 16.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Feb. 1, March 1,
April 5, Aug. 2. DOUGLAS BRUCE,
Theatre Royal, Hyde.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."
WANTED, Jan. 25, Feb. 1.
ANDREW MELVILLE, Met. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."
WANTED, Jan. 25, March 1.
ANDREW EMM, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, April 12, 19, 26.
April 12, 19, 25.
May 17, 24, 31.
May 17, 24, 31.
All communications, J. W. CORDINER,
Jan. 18, Aquarium Theatre, Yarmouth.
Sixth visit in 3½ years.

WANTED, few Dates,
Hutchison Tours.
"Peter's Mother," vacant Feb. 15, March 8, 22, April 12.
"Brewster," vacant through obliging, March 29.
"Lady Frederick," vacant Feb. 22 (3 nights), Feb. 11 (3 nights), April 12.
"Mrs. Dot," vacant March 18, 22, April 12.
"Idols," vacant March 15, 29, May 31.
Address, En Route, "Brewster's Millions" Co.

MR. BRANDON THOMAS'S
"CHARLEY'S AUNT" COMPANIES.
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
Vacant Feb. 22 and 29,
March 1 and 29 (North),
May 17, 24, 31.
Wire or write, CECIL BARTH, Aldwych T., London.

MR. HERBERT RALLAND'S CO.
"HIS HOUSE IN ORDER."
WANTED, First-class Theatres, through obliging, Feb. 15 and 22, to follow Lyceum, Sheffield. HERBERT RALLAND, 23, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C.

"THE FLAG LIEUTENANT."
"THE FLAG LIEUTENANT."
LYN HARDING and SIDNEY COOPER'S CO.
WANTED, March 8, Midland or North, owing to alteration of arrangements.
SIDNEY COOPER, Lyceum, Newport, Mon.

WANTED, Feb. 8, 15, for "The Cingalee." All records broken each town visited.
Wire, HALDANE CRICHTON, Theatre, Grimsby.

"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
(Under the Sole Direction of the Author).
WANTED, Wanted, Dates.
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE,"
Wanted, Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1, March 1 (only vacancies till Whit). Wire
"THE POWER OF THE CROSS"
Wanted, Feb. 8 (between Newcastle and Birmingham), Feb. 22, 23, 24 (Wales).
Re both Plays, GEO. A. DE GRAY,
Prince's Theatre, Accrington (return).

"THE 10.30 DOWN EXPRESS"
and "GUILTY GOLD."
WANTED, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 8,
March 8 (3 nights).
HORACE STANLEY. Opera House, Dudley.
Next, METROPOLE, MANCHESTER.

MONTAGUE BEAUDYN'S SUCCESSES.
"SEND HIM VICTORIOUS."
One of the Big Successes of 1908.
A perfect show in every detail.
WANTED, through transferring St. Helens, March 1, March 1.
"THE POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN."
The Great Human Play.
Something really Original and New.
Liverpool Courier, Jan. 12, says: Play of commanding interest, stirring incidents, strong vein comedy. Managers are invited to see this show next week at T. R., Stratford. Vacant Jan. 25, Feb. 22, Mar. 1.
Wire for Jan. 25, wire for Jan. 25.
"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND." Vacant July 19.
"A TRAITOR PRINCE." Vacant March 15.
Wires, "Star, Liverpool." Letters, T. R., Stratford.

THE LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH, PANTOMIME,
"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD,"
One of the Suburban Successes.
The talk of Hammersmith and District.
Kittee Rayburn and Star Company.
WANTED, Feb. 8, 1909.
Wanted, Feb. 8, 1909.
Can also negotiate Xmas, 1909-10.
Address,
BRYDON-PHILLIPS, Royalty, Chester, till Sunday: after, Opera House, Coventry.

WANTED, Theatres, for "Second to None," by Walter Howard, for April 5, 19, 26, Aug. 30.
Address, T. E. WARD, T. R., Ilkeston.

"SECOND TO NONE,"
By Walter Howard.
WANTED, No. 1 Theatres only,
Vacant April 19, 26, Aug. 30.
Address,
T. E. WARD, Theatre Royal, Ilkeston.

WANTED, Known, Managers requiring Dates for Sound Attractions write HERBERT GREVILLE, Direct Theatrical Exchange, 53, High Holborn, W.C., or 'Phone 4869 Holborn.

WEST LONDON THEATRE.
PANTOMIME.
"CINDERELLA."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Jan. 25 (?) and Feb. 8, for this elaborate Production, which is booked at above Theatre for four weeks.
SAMUEL JAMES,
"Warwick House," 8, Warwick-court, W.C.

WANTED, Feb. 15, 22, "Under Two Flags." "At Cripple Creek," MARK BLOW, 11, St. Edmunds-terrace, Regent's Park, London.

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," April 5 (?), Nov. 1, 8, Dec. 6 and 27.
FRANK M. THORNE, New Gaiety Theatre, Worksop.

ROSE MONCRIEFF'S CO.
"THE BELLS OF OLD YORK."
WANTED, Theatres, April 12, Sept. 6, and Xmas. Bookings include: Royal, Belfast; Met., Birmingham; Star, Swansea; Royal, Stratford; Walsall, Aberdare, Llanelly, King's Lynn, Abertillery, &c., &c. Address, Brixton Theatre, London, S.W.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
Shakespearean and Classical Répertoire.
Also "THE THREE MUSKETEERS." "IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO MEND." "JEANNIE DEANS." "MARY WARNER." &c., &c.
WANTED, Jan. 25 and Feb. 8.
Wire, Theatre Royal, Colne.

"DICK WHITTINGTON"
(Including The Waldrons).
WANTED, through Seacombe Fire, Feb. 1, Feb. 1. Feb. 1.
The Touring Success of the Year.
Once or twice nightly. See Companies Columns.
Wire, MARRIS, Queen's, Leeds.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates, for
"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
March 1 (six nights), March 15, 22.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"GREED OF GOLD."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Feb. 8, March 22, 29.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton

New Play
by
Mrs. Morton Powell.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
"HOW GIRLS ARE BROUGHT TO RUIN."
"HOW GIRLS ARE BROUGHT TO RUIN."
"HOW GIRLS ARE BROUGHT TO RUIN."
One of the Strongest Casts Touring.
A Magnificent Production.
Scenery by W. Davies, and Roberts and Co.
Properties, curtains, &c., by Dean and Kendal Milne.
Dresses by Boué Sœurs, 9, Rue de la Paix, Paris, and Peter Robinson and Co., Ltd.
Printing by David Allen, Ltd.
Play by Mrs. Morton Powell.
Will Draw
the Women.
Will create
a Sensation.
Production, QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL, Jan. 25.
Vacant
Feb. 15, 22, March 1, 8.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

MISS HILDA BEVERLEY
in
"A DESTROYER OF MEN."
WANTED, Theatres, for
a Few Vacant Dates in 1909.
Now Booking 1910.
Miss HILDA BEVERLEY,
"A Girl's Cross Roads" Co.,
New Theatre, Todmorden.

MISS MARY NEIL,
in her Great Successes,
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS,"
by Charles Darrell,
and
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
by Charles Darrell,
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres,
Vacant for either Play,
Feb. 1 and 8,
April 5, May 10 and 24.
Miss Neil begs to inform Managers that she is now rapidly booking 1910 for her next new production.
Coms. to GEO. KIRK,
Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

Mr. and Mrs. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S CO.
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR."
WANTED, Feb. 8, Feb. 8.
The Piece to Draw.
Excellent cast, &c. Refer.
"BOUND TO WIN,"
including Racehorses. New scenery; special cast.
Vacant for Good Theatres,
Feb. 15, 22, March 1.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
Vacant March 8, 22, April 12.
Enormous Success of Present Tour.
Special Band to Parade in Smart Uniforms.
Wire for all plays to
KIMBERLEY, Hippodrome, West Bromwich;
next, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

Mrs. and Mrs. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"ROLLICKING RORY."
Romantic Irish Musical Fairy Play.
Everything carried.
WANTED, Theatres, only Vacant Dates in 1909, Feb. 8 and 15.
Jan. 18, Dumfries (3), Hawick (3).

"THE SORROWS OF SATAN"
and
"NANA, THE RAGE OF PARIS."
WANTED, Feb. 1, follow O. H., Blackpool.
Return, and third visit to Blackpool in 20 months.
Feb. 15, follow Met., Devonport, various onward dates.
Both plays
Mounted and Dressed in West End Style.
Business regularly excellent.
Wire or write, LOIE ESMOND,
To-day, Theatre Royal, Margate.
Jan. 18, Hippodrome, Sheerness.

HARDIE and VON LEER'S COYS.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres.
"TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS,"
Vacant March 8, May 31.

"TWO LANCASHIRE LASSES IN LONDON,"
Vacant March 29, May 3.

"THE SAILOR'S WEDDING."
Vacant March 1, 8, May 3, 24.
E. P. CLIFT, 110, St. Martin's-lane, W.C.
Wires, "Vagancy, London." Tel. No. 7504 Gerrard

"DICK WHITTINGTON".
(Including The Waldrons).
WANTED, through Seacombe Fire, Feb. 1. Feb. 1. Feb. 1.
The Touring Success of the Year.
Once or twice nightly. See Companies Columns.
Wire, MARRIS, Queen's, Leeds.

MR. NORMAN V. NORMAN'S TOURS.
Mr. NORMAN V. NORMAN
and
Miss BEATRICE WILSON.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres,
Feb. 22, Feb. 22, Feb. 22,
and
March 1.
Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, W.C.

Messrs. ARMADALE and WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 15, May 17, 24, Whit Week, August Bank Holiday, Aug. 15, Sept. 6, onwards.
Address, ARMADALE and WARREN,
Empire Theatre, Cradley Heath.

SIDNEY RENNEF and G. M. COPPING'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, for "Love Rules the World," Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22. Refer any theatre visited. Splendid cast. Best of printing. Good Production. Refer Charles Barnard, Esq., John Hart, Esq., Harris Fineberg, Esq., Messrs. Broadhead, M. Montgommery, R. C. Buchanan, Esq., who have all rebooked the show. "How Women Ruin Men." Several Spring and Summer Dates. G. M. COPPING, Queen's, Liverpool; next, Grand, Walsall.

"THE GREAT AWAKENING."
WANTED, to Open Feb. 15.
Young and Pretty Juvenile Lady,
Tall, Gentlemanly Heavy, must dress well;
Robust Character Actor, to Double and A.S.M. (tall);
also reliable Carpenter, to combine Baggage and play very small part.
References, photos. (essential), and full particulars, to MAUD HILDYARD, 11, West-square, Scarborough.

LINGFORD CARSON'S No. 1 CO.,
"THE GREAT WHITE CHIEF."
WANTED, Known, Managers should not miss this sure moneymaker. Star Cast. Good Musical Numbers. Vacant Feb. 1, 8, 15. March 8, 15. All coms., HUGH BRADY, T. R., Jarrow.

"THE MASTER CRIMINAL."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Feb. 15, 22, for this Great Success.
HENRY L. OSMOND, Gaiety T., Dundee.

"THE GIRL I LOVE."
WANTED, Dates, Easter, onwards.
P. HOWARD STURGESS,
17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

THEATRES WANTED.

FRED GRANVILLE'S PRODUCTIONS, LIMITED.
PANTOMIMES.
"BABES IN THE WOOD."
A Phenomenal Success!!!
Playing to Packed Business Nightly.
Refer Otto C. Culling, Esq.
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 1 and 8.
Also March 1, onwards.
Can arrange Good Theatre for Easter Production.
"ALADDIN."
Playing to Crowded Houses.
Refer Barnsley and Accrington.
Vacant Feb. 8, 15, 22, and later.
Can also arrange Good Theatre for Easter Production.
"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST."
Playing to holding capacity at King's Theatre, Edinburgh. Refer.
Vacant Feb. 1.
Also Wanted, Good Theatre, for Production next Christmas.
PLAYS.
"THE BETTER LAND."
The Most Successful Domestic Drama of the day.
Wanted, Feb. 1 and 8.
"DEFENDING HIS HONOUR."
No Vacant Dates.
"FOR BETTER OR WORSE."
No Vacant Dates.
Re Dates for Fred Granville's Productions, Address,
Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

"JEANNIE DEANS."
"JEANNIE DEANS."
"JEANNIE DEANS."
"JEANNIE DEANS."
"JEANNIE DEANS."
"JEANNIE DEANS."
"JEANNIE DEANS."
The Greatest of all Scottish Plays.
Scotland's recognised Leading Actor,
JOHN CLYDE,
JOHN CLYDE,
supported by a strong Company of Representative Scottish Artists,
in a grand production of this money-making Play.
WANTED, good Theatres only, for Feb. 15 (to follow Leith), and various onwards.
Last week at Hippodrome, Kirkcaldy, all Drama records broken by over £100 (refer Mr. Walker).
Drawings for three weeks (Greenock, Falkirk, and Kirkcaldy), not including New Year's Week, £672, actual figures. Exceptional business at Methil this week (record Tuesday), refer Mr. Burnett.
Apply,
JOHN CLYDE, 43, Great Western-road, Glasgow.

WANTED, Spring Dates,
for
"WHEN A LASS LOVES,"
an Entirely New and, in every acceptation of the word, Original Drama, in Four Acts,
written by Tom Craven.
Manager's Opinion.
T. R., Margate,
Dec. 5, 1908.
Dear Mr. Craven,
I feel I must write to congratulate you on the successful production of your really well written, well constructed, and unusually good melodrama, "When a Lass Loves."
The receipts were excellent, and the fact that they went up each performance, culminating in a Saturday night better than is usual at this time of year, should embolden you to agree with me that you have really written a "winner." I wish you much success with it, and feel sure it will make you much money.
Yours sincerely,
(Signed) W. W. KEENE.
This is undoubtedly one of Mr. Craven's best efforts. He sustains the interest of the audience from the rise to the fall of the curtain. The plot is replete with sensational incidents and dramatic situations, and the humorous element agreeably relieves the heavier portions of the play.—The London Era.
Special Magnificent Scenery.
Special original posters by David Allen.
Vacant March 1 and onwards for dates.
Write, H. C. BERYL, Pier Hotel, Brighton.

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANY.
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
A Powerful Domestic Drama, in four Acts, by Walter Howe.
WANTED, March 1, 8, 29
April 26, May 3, 17, on.
Splendid plants of pictorials by David Allens and Moody Bros.
Queen's Theatre, Fleetwood (2 weeks).

WANTED, Dates, Big Popular Theatres, WILLIAM HOLLES, and NANNIE GOLDMAN, in Arthur Shirley's Great Drama,
"THE STEPMOTHER."
Rouses the audience to a pitch of enthusiasm seldom witnessed in a theatre. Third Year of Successful Tour. Having decided to start Spring Tour at once, the following Dates are at present Vacant:—Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, March 1, 8, 22, 29, April 6, and Easter week. Bookings include:—T. R., Sheffield; Alexandra, Hull (return); Princess's, Glasgow; Lyceum, Govan (return); Palace, Newcastle (return); &c., &c.
Great Star Company of Guaranteed Ability.
WILLIAM HOLLES, 16, Great Newport-street, W.C.

GEORGE A. DE GRAY
presents his latest new Play,
"THE ANGEL OF HIS DREAMS"
"THE ANGEL OF HIS DREAMS"
"THE ANGEL OF HIS DREAMS"
(Under the Sole Direction of the Author).
A revelation in Domestic Drama. Magnificent Scenery specially executed by the West Riding Studio. Effective Printing by Staffords, Waddingtons, &c. Many thanks to the Enterprising Managers of the following Theatres for their confidence in Booking: Palace, Newcastle, South Shields, West Stanley, Preston, Oldham, Mexboro', Castleford, West Bromwich, Barnsley, Longton, Salford, Consett, Jarrow, Spennymoor, Barry, Aberdare, Pontypridd, Ton-y-Pandy.
Production, April 26, Theatre Royal, Castleford.

WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 2, 9, Sept. 20, Nov. 1, 8, 15, Dec. 13. All coms. GEO. A. DE GRAY, This, Prince's T., Accrington; next, T. R., Castleford.

"HER FATAL MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Big Theatres, for this Financial Success, Feb. 8, 22, March 8 and 22. Wire, Wire, ARTHUR HINTON, T. R., Smethwick; next, Empire, Southend.

"THE IDOL OF PARIS,"
"THE IDOL OF PARIS,"
By Charles Darrell.
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
Feb. 8, 22.
Feb. 8, 22.
A Financial Success Everywhere.
Miss ANNIE BELL as FLAREFLARE,
Supported by a Star Company.
Wire for Feb. 8 and 22. Wire.
JAMES BELL, T. R., Darlington.

THE MELODRAMA PRODUCTION SYNDICATE, LIMITED, Proprietors of "SEXTON BLAKE," "CONVICT 99," and "HUSH MONEY."
WANTED, March 1, unexpectedly vacant. A few of this year's dates vacant; now booking 1910. Apply, A. H. GRAHAME, 21, John-street, Adelphi, London, W.C.

WANTED, for "Her Marriage Vow." Feb. 8 15 March 8 Easter, and Whit. GARSIDE and KNOWLES, 64, Watson-street, Aberdeen.

"DICK WHITTINGTON"
(Including The Waldrons).
WANTED, through Seacombe Fire, Feb. 1. Feb. 1. Feb. 1.
The Touring Success of the Year.
Once or twice nightly. See Companies Columns.
Wire, MARRIS, Queen's, Leeds.

THEATRES WANTED.

Mr. CHARLES M. BESTIC'S
LONDON COMPANY,
in the Successful Musical Comedy,
"THE FLOWER GIRL,"
by W. T. Gliddon,
including
John T. MacCallum, Henry Adnes,
Miss Lilian Drake, Miss Georgie De Lara,
supported by a
Powerful Company.
WANTED, Feb. 15 and 22, March 22, April 19.
Re dates to
JAMES LESLIE, General-Manager,
Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne,
and all other communications to
CHARLES M. BESTIC,
1, Sidney-road, Stockwell, London, S.W.
The Daily Telegraph says:—
The composer has penned a sufficient number of lively tunes, and it may be added quite truthfully we never heard a better chorus.
The Daily Chronicle says:—
A bright musical comedy, with many pleasing musical numbers.
The Morning Leader says:—
"The Flower Girl" is well played by Mr. Charles M. Bestic's company.
The Star says:—
"The Flower Girl" is admirably presented by Mr. Charles M. Bestic's company.
The Referee says:—
The fun is both fast and furious, and provoked uproarious laughter.

CHARLES CONSTANT'S COMPANIES.
"ALADDIN" PANTO.,
Success at T. R., Bolton.
WANTED, Big No. 1 Theatre, between Middlesbrough and London, Feb. 22. Four weeks' run at Bolton terminates Saturday, Jan. 23. Managers of Big No. 1 Theatres are invited to see the production, with a view of arranging for next season.
"BLUEBEARD" PANTO.
After Easter this will be toured as a Burlesque or Musical Extravaganza; is a great success. Wanted, First-class Theatres, April 19 (to follow Brighton), and onwards.
"FLORODORA."
Tour commences July. Wanted, First-class Theatres.
Apply to CHARLES CONSTANT, Theatre Royal, Bolton.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
The Drama that Booms itself.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Cast of Recognised Artists. Each Member with not less than 10 years' experience.
Magnificent printing. Beautifully mounted.
WANTED, Feb. 1, 15, Easter.
FRED BULMER, Queen's Th., Liverpool.

"DANDY FIFTH."
WANTED, Jan. 25.
Wire, Wire, Wire, CORRI, County Theatre, Bedford; next week, Grand, Luton.

THE MAMMOTH VARIETY CO.,
including
The Great LOUIE FREEAR
The Great LOUIE FREEAR
and
D'ARTAGNAN, THE EQUESTRIAN LION.
WANTED, Large Theatres, Feb. 1 and 8, March 8, 15 (Midlands, Southern Counties, or London). MANAGER, c/o Gillies, 51, Lothian-road, Edinburgh.

THE GIPSIES AND THEIR JESTER.
WANTED, Pier Pavilions, Winter Gardens, &c. Only Vacancies Next Summer:
Week commencing Monday, April 19, 26,
May 3, 10, 17, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Sept. 20, onwards.
Mr. D'ARCY CLAYTON, 23, Brockman-rd., Folkestone.

BOSWELL'S STAGE CIRCUS.
WANTED, good Theatre or Music Hall, Jan. 25 (Midlands preferred), through transferring later date to oblige management, a magnificent programme, consisting of Educated Ponies, Donkeys, and Dogs, and a full Company of Varieties, good printing, everything carried; rental or share, or open to rent First-class Hall. Wires or letters, BOSWELL'S, Victoria Rooms, Cheltenham.

WANTED, Theatres, Halls, for Mr. Harry Liston's "Merry Moments" Company from Feb. 1; salary or share. Add., Grove Studio, Buxton.

DUVEEN'S VAUDEVILLE COMBINATION.
WANTED, good Theatres and Halls, Feb. 1, 8, 15, March 1, 15. Communicate, DUVEEN, Alexandra Palace, London.

WANTED, large Theatres and Halls, for permanent Picture Exhibitions, Purchase, Rental, or Sharing Terms. Full particulars to
PENDLETON and LANSDOWNE,
Bioscope Combine Provident Co-operative Hall, Rochdale.

WANTED, Jan. 25, Feb. 1 and 8, Theatre or a Good Hall, Royal British Animated Picture and Vaudeville Co., including Almo Trio, World's Greatest Three-Bar Experts. Can supply any amount of pictorials, &c. Will rent or share. ALMO, Drill Hall, Rotherham.

ARTISTS WANTED.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, for above, pretty young Juvenile Actress for Ruth, height not less than 5ft. 5in., must have good Singing Voice (Contralto or Soprano), and possess fashionable wardrobe. State age, exact height, and send two last references (which will be aplied for), photos., and lowest terms, to J. W. CORINER, Aq T., Great Yarmouth.

"THE EVE OF HER WEDDING."
WANTED, following Artists, to Rehearse Feb. 1:—First-class Heavy Lady, Lady for American Heiress; both must be young, and dress parts really well. Also Gentlemanly Heavy, Light Comedian, Young Juvenile Actor, also Character Actor. Send photos., references (which will be applied for), height, age, full particulars, and absolute lowest terms for spring and summer tour, to WILSON BENGE, T. R., Seaham Harbour.

"SEXTON BLAKE," "CONVICT 99,"
"HUSH MONEY."
WANTED, a few Artists, for these Plays; long Tours guaranteed.
Apply to the Proprietors, THE MELODRAMA PRODUCTION SYNDICATE, LTD., Registered Offices, 21, John-street, Adelphi, London, W.C.

WANTED, Known, Managers requiring Experienced Artists 'Phone 4869 Holborn, or write HERBERT GREVILLE, Direct Theatrical Exchange, 53 High Holborn, W.C.

WANTED, a Lady and Gentleman, for a few weeks, to play good Responsible Parts. No joint engagements. Full particulars, NORMAN. Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, W.C. Letters only.

WANTED, Juvenile Lady, capable of Light Comedy, for small important parts (dresses found), must have powerful voice. Photos., refs., and full particulars to GEORGE KIRK, T. R., Birkenhead.

WANTED, Lady Amateur, to play Small Part to give Services in lieu of Tuition; all expenses paid. Apply, B. L., Poplar Hippodrome.

LONDON MATINEES.
WANTED, Known, two Fine Parts Open to Actors of experience remaining in town during February and desiring London showing; also one young Actor, one young Girl, and small delicate-looking Child for good part. Expenses Call, Chandos Hall, 3.30 to 4.30 Saturday.

WANTED, to Open Jan. 23, Rehearse 18th First-class Leading Man; must be tall and young. State age, height, and send photo (private), Miss ELSWORTHY, Hippodrome, Manchester.

WANTED, good Juv. Man and Character Comedian; dress well on and off. Photos., refs. and full pars., HILL and AYRTON, Alhambra T., Stourbridge.

WANTED, Amateurs, with Voices, Ladies and Gents. Good opportunity for people meaning business. London applicants only HENRY, 441, Streatham High-road, S.W.

WANTED, Lady Soprano and Gentlemen, Bass and Tenor, or Light Bass, for Musical First Piece, to complete Quartette. Those who can Act in Comedy preferred. Lowest salary and particulars to S., 12, Brook-st, Kennington. Letters only.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
THE GRENFELL CLUB,
FOR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
23, Bedford-street, Strand.
Cosy Tea Rooms, Luncheons, Dinners, &c.
Open on Sundays.
No entrance Fee.
Residential Terms, Ladies only, from 18s. 6d. inclusive.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Lady, smart appearance, Engagement in Dramatic or Comedy Sketch. Now playing Panto. Lib. Feb. 8. E. RUSSELL, Zoo., Hippo., Glasgow.

WANTED, Engagement, any capacity, by young Character Actor; 8 years' experience; age 25, height 5ft. 10in. JOSEPH, 123, Wilberforce-road, Finsbury Park.

WANTED, by Baritone, with good voice, Engagements for Concerts, &c.; wants Summer Engagement with First-class Concert Party. Can be heard by arrangement. BARITONE, 25, Effingham-street, Pimlico, S.W.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

FRED J. LITTLE'S
MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC AGENCY,
4, Arthur-street, New Oxford-street, London.
WANTED, Pantomime Artists in all Lines, for next year. Please send full particulars where can be seen working, parts played, and absolute terms.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions, Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, Contracts, for Painting Scenery, First-class Work guaranteed. CECIL E. HICKS, Painting Room, Princess's Theatre, Oxford-street, London, W.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery; Effective Artistic Work, Good Joinery, Moderate Prices. Large Studio and Workshop. CHARLES SAYER, Scenic Artist, 2, Clarendon-road, Croydon.

WANTED, Contracts, First-class Scenery (compare Models and Prices). SCENIC CO., Rumford-street, C.-on-M., Manchester. WM. B. BOSTOCK, Scenic Artist to Sir John Hare.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery, Pantomime, Productions, Sketches, or Stock; good effective work, cheap. JACKS, Scenic Artist, 46, Holloway-road, London.

WANTED, Contracts for High-class Effective Scenery, very lowest prices; Scenery repainted or adapted. W. B. ROBINSON, 170, King's-road, S.W.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
W. BERNASCONI, Scenic Artist,
53, St. James's-place, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, J. Jacks, Scenic Artist, supplies Scenery and Properties for Kinematograph Picture Takers. Address, 46, Holloway-road, London, N.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED.—Every description of Theatrical Business transacted by HERBERT GREVILLE, Direct Theatrical Exchange, 53, High Holborn, W.C. 'Phone 4869 Holborn.

WANTED, at Easter, Manager for the Tynemouth Palace (fully licensed), one with complete knowledge of variety business and general experience of seaside entertainments. Liberal terms to the right man. Will not be required to book artists. State salary required and other particulars, to COCKBURN and LAMB, Estate Agents, 37, Howard-st., North Shields. Nat. Tel. 371

WANTED, First-class Manager, for Music Hall; must be used to twice nightly. Apply, letter only, WILL SLEY, 180, Oxford-road, M'chester.

WANTED, Young Gentleman, to assist Acting-Management; able to play small parts well. Full particulars, refs., and lowest terms, JOHN GERRANT, Hippodrome, West Bromwich.

"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Carpenter, Baggage Man, one able to touch up scenery preferred. Send terms and references, ARMADALE and WARREN, Empire T., Cradley Heath.

WANTED, a good Effect Worker, to combine Billing, permanent show, commence at once. Bosco, 33, Hallewell-road, Birmingham.

WANTED, Position as Acting or Assistant-Manager, for permanent First-class Picture or Variety Theatre, or other place of Entertainment, by smart active man; aged 32, with many years' experience, and highest references; good Organiser, and accustomed to control staff and take full management. At present engaged in similar position touring, but looking for change to fixed appointment. Communicate, Box 5,346, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Fred Lewis, Europe's most Famous Circus Agent, Dis. for coming Tenting Season. Add., C/o Stitt's Hotel, 20, Great Georges-street, Belfast.

WANTED, Known, Electrician seeks Permanent Engagement, Resident or Tour; practical all-round experience. Box 5,332, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement as Resident Master Carpenter; highest references; can paint; bench hand. Box 5,343, "The Era."

Billposting Companies, Proprietors, &c.
WANTED, Known, Successful Billposting Manager of business with annual turnover of £3,000, will be at Liberty shortly, and invites offers; thoroughly experienced and practical; age 34, and married; first-class life-long testimonials. Full particulars from Box 5,311, "The Era."

WANTED, by Married Couple, Situation as Caretakers or Place of Trust; good references; no encumbrance; age 34 and 36; wife good plain cook. B. B., 27, Wakefield-street, King's Cross.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, Conductor, for "The Great Lafayette," Musical Conductor who can play a brass instrument; must understand his business and a teetotaller. Call Saturday, 1 o'clock, SYD HYMANS, 29, Leicester-square, W.C., or write.

WANTED, Conductor, First Violin, Clarionet, Trombone, Drums.
Apply, WALTER P. WRIGHT, Theatre R., Leamington.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
WANTED, First-class Leader and Solo Cornet, to open at once.
Permanency to suitable men.
Terms, age, references, and full particulars to A. MOSCROP ALLISON, Conductor.

WANTED, Leader, Empire, Bristol.
Open at once. Terms 35/-.
H. E. HATLEY, Musical-Director.

WANTED, Brilliant Violinist, Soloist, thoroughly experienced in selection and small orchestra work; also Pianist, to combine viola or second violin, for hydro. Good salary. Box 5,350, "The Era" Office.

ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER.
WANTED, good Second Violin.
Write full particulars and salary required to C. B. FOUNTAINE, Manager.

W. HAMILTON'S EXCURSIONS.
WANTED, First Violin, must wear evening dress. Terms and references, Kinnaird Hall, Dundee.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, First Violins and Trombone or Euphoniums, for Exmouth Professional Band; Pitching; terms shares. SECRETARY, 5, Ann-street, Exmouth, Devon.

WANTED, Good First Violin, for Theatre Royal, Merthyr, to open Monday next, permanent. Wire lowest terms, FRANZ, Musical Director, Theatre, Bargoed, Mon.

WANTED, for Paisley Hippodrome, Good Solo Cornet, to join immediately, salary 32s. 6d.; also, to open Jan. 25, Reliable Conductor (Violinist), Solo Trombone, Clarionet, and Flute. Only strictly sober and competent parties need apply. Address, E. H. BOSTOCK, Hippodrome, Glasgow.

WANTED, at once, good Cornet and Euphonium Players, for Town Band. Terms, Shares. Address, J. H. GIFFORD, 4, Richmond-avenue, High-street, Southend-on-Sea.

HOWARD AND WYNDHAM, LTD., EDINBURGH.

WANTED, First-class Bassoon, open Jan. 25. State terms, references, age, &c., GEORGE BURNLEY, Musical Director, Theatre Royal.

W. HAMILTON'S EXCURSIONS.

WANTED, to join Jan. 25, Double Base. Terms and references, Kinnaird Hall, Dundee.

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.

WANTED, immediately, First-class Harp. Wire terms, McDERMOTT, Musical-Director.

WANTED, experienced Lady 'Cellist-Vocalist, commence Feb. 22, for month's tour. Lowest terms, STOCKHAM, The Grove, Villa-road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

WANTED, 'Cellist, for Concert work; not over 23 years. Can offer Long Contract. BROWN, 66, Talgarth-road, West Kensington, W.

WANTED, Lady Pianist, Vocalist, combined, also Refined Specialities. Send lowest terms, photos., &c., DUNLOP, 2, Glencoe-mansions, Chapel-st., Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, a First-class Pianist, for permanent Picture Show, in the Midlands. State lowest terms, Bosco, 33, Hallewell-road, Birmingham.

WANTED, at once, Pianist for Bioscope Show. Address, lowest terms, YELDING, Chatterton-road, Bromley Common, Kent.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Good Side Drummer, to enlist in Crack Regiment. Apply by letter, P. S., c/o Hawkes and Son, Denman-street, Piccadilly-circus, W.

COUNTY ASYLUM, WHITTINGHAM, PRESTON.

WANTED, Musician Attendants, First Violin, and Flute and Piccolo and Solo Oboe; not over 35 years of age, and single. Must be competent players. Wages commencing at £33 per annum, increasing to £38 in the first year, then by annual instalment up to £45, and, according to promotion, to £50 and £65, with board, lodging, washing, and uniform. Apply to the MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

WANTED, Various Instruments, for Grand Opera Season, beginning Feb. 8. Please state experience in Grand Opera and lowest terms. W. R. KING, The Dalston Theatre, N.E.

WANTED, immediately, smart Ladies' Orchestra (four or five), for High-class Pictures, must be young, good appearance, First-class Musician, and have extensive Répertoire. State positive lowest terms in first instance to HARRY ESDEN, Avenue Theatre, Sunderland.

WANTED, Ladies, Musicians, Violins, 'Cello, Bass, must be experienced. Write, Box 5,345, "The Era."

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept., "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.
Re Advertisement "'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER."
"Re Advertisement, 'WANTED, DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster, "Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical Director (Violin), Dramas, &c., composed arranged, composer music "Silver King," "Lights o' London," &c. Victoria Theatre, Ramsgate.

WANTED, Engagement, thoroughly experienced Musical-Director, London Theatre or No. 1 Touring Company; highest credentials. MUSICA, 45, Lansdowne-road, Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Musical-Director (Violin), Liberty shortly; experienced Variety, used quick programme. HERBERT STONE, c/o 12, Grove-street, Warrington.

WANTED, Engagement, by Conductor (Violin), thoroughly experienced Variety business, reliable, age 29; own library; London and Provincial refs. CONDUCTOR, c/o 8, Hardwick-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Musical-Director requires Engagement, either Resident or Touring; thoroughly experienced in control of large orchestras and choruses. Box 5,354, "Era" Office.

WANTED, immediate Re-engagement as Leader or First Violin, Theatres, Restaurants; London suburbs. OSCAR CREMER, 10, Caithness-road, Mitcham, S.W.

WANTED, by Second Violin, Engagement; only moderate wage desired. Box 5,329, "The Era."

WANTED, Perm. Engagement by experienced Violinist; steady and reliable; good refs. FRED SHARPE, 102, Oundle-road, Peterborough.

WANTED, Engagement, First Violin, Variety, London or near, refs., strictly steady and reliable; open Monday. VIOLIN, 1, Gathorne-road, Wood Green.

WANTED, Engagement, by Solo Violinist and Pianist, Accompanist, good sight reader, thoroughly experienced, memorise, transpose, abstainer, young. Wire or write, FRANK NICHOLS, 37, St. Mary's-road, Peckham.

WANTED, by Cornet, Settled Shop. Given up touring. Thanks for offers. Apply, CORNET, 29, Endless-street, Salisbury.

WANTED.—Clarionettist seeks Engagement in in or near London; Music Hall or Theatre; thoroughly experienced; good refs. CLAR., Box 5,335, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Clarionet, Disengaged; young, steady, reliable. Good testimonials and refs. GEORGE WHITE, 274, St. Paul's-road, Highbury.

WANTED, by Clarionet Player, permanent Engagement; Orchestral, Theatre, or Music Hall. First-class testimonials; total abstainer. BOAK, 88, Loughboro'-road, Nottingham.

WANTED, Engagement, by Solo Clarionettist, thoroughly experienced in First-class Theatres and Varieties; steady, reliable. PROFESSIONAL, 17, Cyril-avenue, Bobbersmill, Nottingham.

WANTED, Engagement as Double Bass, through season terminating, Windermere, First-class Variety, &c.; highest refs. BERTHORL, 20, St. John's-road, Cambridge.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Bassoonist, Engagement; experienced in Grand Opera, &c. SWAN, 99, Guilford-street, W.C.

WANTED, Known, Double Bass Player, at Liberty. GEO. GODFREY-JONES, 74, Merton-road, Wimbledon, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, good String Bass; experienced in all Lines; age 30. Wire or write, FEHRENTZ, 88, Blackfriars-road, Oxford.

WANTED, by Trombone, combine Euphonium, Soloist; permanent Engagement; fully experienced; good references. GEORGE GRUBER, Cold Waltham, Pulborough, Sussex.

WANTED, by Trombone, Engagement, through season finishing. E. JONES, c/o Mrs. Flint, Goose Green, Hadlow, Kent.

WANTED, by experienced Trombone, any Business; excellent refs.; also Flute and Piccolo. T. S., c/o Milligan, 52, English-st., Dumfries. N.B.

WANTED, Engagement, as Trombonist, in England preferred, any business. Good refs. FRED PERL, Trombonist, 20, McKerrell-st., Paisley, Scotland.

WANTED, Known, G Trombone wants Summer Engagement, First-class Work; twelve years with Amer's Band, Newcastle. Address, C. CARVER, Gateshead-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Engagement, permanency, First Horn, 6 years' experience in Orchestral work, commence at once. Write, FRENCH HORN, 86, Richmond-road, Dalston, N.E.

WANTED, Engagement, as Horn; any class of Business. A. WARD, 179, Garrioch-road, Maryhill, Glasgow.

WANTED, Engagement, by Young Lady 'Cellist, thoroughly experienced, Solo, Quartette, or Orchestra. Box 5,337, "The Era."

WANTED, Wanted, Engagement, by Experienced Oboe. WEBB, 50, Kennington Park-road, S.E.

WANTED, by experienced Flute and Piccolo, Engagement, any business; excellent references; sober and reliable. FLAUTIST, 9, Woodford-terrace, Pavilion-road, Worthing.

WANTED, Known, a Young Amateur Flute and Piccolo Player requires position in a Band. Please apply, D, A., 91, Taybridge-road, Clapham.

WANTED, Re-engagement as Flute and Pic.; just finished Continental Tour; London preferred. BROWN, 66, Talgarth-road, West Kensington, W.

WANTED, Engagement, Flute and Piccolo, London, through theatre closing; reliable, any business. References. PENFOLD, Palace Theatre, Stoke Newington, London, N.

WANTED, Engagement, Flute and Piccolo, experienced, any business, young, excel. refs., open at once. FLAUTIST, 43, Windsor-rd., Griffithstown, Newport, Mon.

WANTED, Engagement, Pianist, Miss Emily Lloyd, experienced orchestra, soloist, accompanist, now taking orchestra, deputy, Dis. 18th, capable any business. 2, Hampton-villas, Twickenham.

WANTED, Engagement, by Lady Pianist, good Accompanist, 39, Chelsham-road, Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, at Once, Position as Pianist for good Picture Show; age 23. HAROLD JONES, 16, St. Heliers-road, Blackpool.

WANTED, Engagement (disappointment). First-class Drums, own Timpani and Effects; Arrange, Copy; any business. TIMPANI, 26, St. Johnstreet, Lichfield, Staffordshire.

WANTED, Engagement, Double Drums and Effects; any business; good refs. MORRIS, c/o Mrs. McColl, 29, Albert-road, Crosshill, Glasgow.

WANTED, Offers for Miss Winnie Watson's Poppy Orchestra, including Soloists and Singers, from Franco-British and Principal Exhibitions. Now Fun City, Olympia, and Bath. Scarlet Costume. 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton. Tel., 5,100 Nat.

WANTED, Known, Shikissimma Band, Original Japanese Ladies' Orchestra, Lib. for Exhibitions, Hotels, Piers; extensive Répertoire, all Soloists. Winshill, Howard-road, Newbury.

WANTED, Known, Rabottini's Italian Band (Conductor, F. P. Rabottini) can be engaged for Exhibitions, Concerts, Dances, Summer Engagements, in smart National Uniforms. Signor Rabottini, as Composer and Conductor, holds letters from His Majesty the late King of Italy, Earl Roberts, Lord Kitchener, Lord Cromer, Col. Dick Conyngham, H. B. Irving, Esq., and eminent musicians. Rabottini's Band met with great success at the Royal Albert Hall, London County Council, Palace Pier, Brighton, Provinces, &c. For terms, Press Notices, &c., CONDUCTOR, 150, Goldhawk-road, Shepherd's Bush. 'Phone 111 Hammersmith.

WANTED, offers, Summer Season, by Signorina de Polo's Ladies' Orchestra, from Franco-British Exhibition, and others; silk costume. 12, West Hill-road, Wandsworth.

WANTED, Known, Efficient Foreign Band, in smart Uniform, can be Engaged for Concerts, Exhibitions, Seaside Resorts, &c. Apply, Box 5,274, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement by small Brass Band, Tenting or otherwise; good Répertoire of Music. L. WALTERS, 2, Pump-pail, Croydon, Surrey.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

YARMOUTH & LOWESTOFT HIPPODROMES.
THE PALACE, GORLESTON.
HENGLER'S, GLASGOW.

WANTED, Known, always openings for First-class Artists. Nothing is too big and no Number too small if good. Quote reasonable terms, and accept silence as inability to arrange at present.

GEO. ZALVA, Sole Agent, Yarmouth Hippodrome.

WANTED, all kinds of Equestrians for Continent, great vacancies. Appointment only. Silence polite negative. GUISE, 25, Bonham-road, Brixton. Photos. necessary.

WANTED, Whit Week, and onwards, First-class Novel and Sensational Gala Acts, of every Description, those doing two acts preferred, aerial, ground, cycle, bar, acrobatic, animal, and every new, for open air. Send lithos., memos., vacant dates, bookings, terms per day and week, permanent addresses, to GEORGE BURTON, Grand, Halifax.

WANTED, for Tenting Season, 1909, Good Aerial Act, Acrobats, Three Bars, Risley Troupe, and any Great Attraction that can be worked in a circus tent. Good Bioscope Operator with own up-to-date machine write. ALEXANDRA, 74, Northfield-street, Worcester.

WANTED, for Galas, near Chesterfield, few Open-air Acts (two days). Send lowest terms. SLADENE, 300, Portland-terrace, Langwith, Notts.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, that the Three ROYAL OHMYS, Favourite Riders to the Crown Prince of Denmark, have made the Greatest Success ever known at the Grand Hippodrome, Spennymoor. Just concluded second engagement in twelve months at Gilbert's Hippodrome, Yarmouth. Just accepted second engagement in twelve months with Beck Olsen. Just accepted second engagement in twelve months with Emerson, Esq., Grand Circus, Hull. This should prove to proprietors and managers that when the Royal Ohmys are once seen the public will not have anything else. Address, THE ROYAL OHMYS, Hippodrome, Spennymoor.

WANTED, Known, The Stephenson Equestrian Family Still a Big Success, Mr. John Henry Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh. Lady and Gentlemen Riders, Animal Acts, Performing Pony, Juggling Act, Double and Single Clowns, &c. For particulars, address as above.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Mdlle. Leoville, Tight-wire, and Æolia, Trapeze, two Acts. Finish-to-night four weeks Fun City, Bath; Monday, Hippodrome, Spennymoor, Durham; Liberty Jan. 25 and Feb. 1.

WANTED, Known, Good Hand-balancer, Hand-jumper, all-round Gymnast, wishes to join a Good Act, straight or comedy. Just finishing two years as comedy man with well-known act. WHITE, Circus, Bury.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

FETE AND GALA SEASON, 1909.

WANTED, Variety Artists, Big Specialities, Novel Acts, all Kinds of Acrobats, Juggling, Flying Shows, Aerial Sensations, &c., &c., for May 31, June 28, July 5, 12, and Aug. 2, onward. Send full particulars and sample lithos. to WILDER, Agent, Gt. Francis-street, Birmingham.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, Twice Nightly; also WORCESTER EMPIRE, Twice Nightly. Wanted, Artists doing Double Turns, used to Picture Shows. No wires, please. ARTHUR CARLTON, Palace, Worcester.

BRITANNIA THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, Jan. 25, and onward, Variety Artists, in all Lines, Specialities, Comedians, Comediennes, Sisters, Doubles doing Singles. Please state lowest in first letter. A. E. PICKARD, Sole Proprietor and Manager, Britannia, Glasgow.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, for Jan. 18, onward, Scotland (2 weeks certain), Doubles doing Singles preferred. Lowest terms. Artists known to me write. HARRY VARDON, this week, Palace, Dundee; Jan. 8, Palace, Aberdeen.

WANTED Monday, Jan. 25, and onwards, Variety Artists, all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, KITCHINGMAN, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Variety Artists all Lines, Doubles doing Singles, Dancing Specialities, Jan. 18, onwards. MACQUEEN, Picture Palace, Cowdenbeath, N.B.

W. HAMILTON'S EXCURSIONS.

WANTED, commencing Feb. 1, Variety Artists in all Lines; good Musical Turn write. Terms, Kinnaird Hall, Dundee.

WANTED, Variety Artists for Jan. 25 and on. JOHN ORTON HAYES, People's Theatre, Taunton, Somerset.

VERNO'S AGENCY,
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Variety Artists, in all Lines, for Jan. 25, onwards. Telegrams. "Merriment." Telephone, 2,076, Royal.

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates. WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

VICTORIA T., STANLEY, CO. DURHAM.

WANTED, Star Artists for immediate and future dates. T. C. RAWES, Proprietor.

JACK DE FRECE,
JACK DE FRECE,
THEATRICAL AND MUSIC HALL AGENCY,
THEATRICAL AND MUSIC HALL AGENCY,
178, Charing Cross-road, London, W.C.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, to Send their Lists of Vacant Dates, and where Booked.

Nothing too Big.

Can Guarantee Twenty-four Weeks Certain to all Suitable and Approved Turns.

In all cases state very lowest terms.

JACK DE FRECE, Theatrical and Music Hall Agency, 178, Charing Cross-road, London, W.C.

NEW PAVILION, KIRKCALDY.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, Big Sensational Novelties; big price given to any Turn that can Draw. Grand Re-opening, Jan. 18, and onwards.

Important Notice.

Dr. Walford Bodie, having taken over the above beautiful theatre, all Contracts not signed by him are null and void. Artists holding Contracts signed by Messrs. Williams or Walker may write in for future dates. The hall is now closed for further extensive alterations at a cost of over £2,000, and when finished will be one of the finest theatres in Scotland. Electric light throughout; seating and fittings by Dean and Sons Birmingham. All letters address to Sole Director and Proprietor, Dr. WALFORD BODIE, M.D., Palace, Grimsby.
Head Office for Bodie's Halls, Tours, and Enterprises, 163, Blackfriars-road, London, S.E. Telegrams, "Bodieism, London."

FRED DURHAM'S AGENCY.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Jan. 18, on. 14, Loughboro'-rd., Brixton. 'Phone 15 Brixton.

ALLIANCE THEATRICAL AND VARIETY AGENCY, LTD., 18-20, Manchester-st., Liverpool. Telegrams, "Films." 'Phone 6782 Central. Manager, EDWIN W. SMITH.
Sole Booking Agents for Alhambra, Belfast, St. George's Hall, Belfast, Hippodrome, Staveley, and Entertainments, Ltd.'s Tour.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines; Wanted, Specialities; Wanted, Dog Shows; Wanted, Novelties; Wanted, Illustrated Song Artists. Nothing too Big. Wanted, Artists to send full list of Bookings and lowest terms.

BARNARD'S AGENCY,
Shaw-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Artists, of all Descriptions, immediate and future dates; also Strong Attractions. Please send vacancies and bookings. 'Phone 2349 Royal.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists, all Lines, Comedians, Serios, Speciality Acts, Nothing too big, nothing too small, But must be Performers, Jan. 25, onwards.

Gigantic Attractions and Sensational Acts, for Fêtes and Galas, May 31, on. Acrobats, Gymnasts, Cyclists, Novelties. Lowest terms, lithos., &c., first letter, EDGAR STEBBINGS AND CO., 23, Egerton-street, Manchester. 'Phone 9261. Tels., "Stebbing, Manchester."

GEORGE SMYTHSON'S AGENCY.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, The Pick of the Entertainment World. If you have the "goods," I can place you. Good Acts Known to Me send full list of bookings (including engagements fulfilled during 1908). Must enclose full list, or useless writing. Quote actual lowest in each instance for Principal Provincial Halls, Minor Provincial Halls, and London. Big Novel Acts, in London particularly, State when and where can be seen. GEORGE SMYTHSON, 38, Craster-road, Brixton Hill, London, S.W. No callers except by appointment.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now onwards. Apply, J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

SKIVINGTON'S AGENCY,
SKIVINGTON'S AGENCY,
48, Brisbane-street, Greenock.

WANTED, for Principal Towns in Scotland, Star Artists in all Lines, and Full List of Bookings. Artists Vacant Monday next wire, contracts, Greenock.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, Monday, onwards. Apply, TOWYN THOMAS, Lessee, Hippodrome, Leek, Staffs.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines; must be first-class. CLIQUOT'S UNIVERSAL VARIETY AGENCY, 90, Rusholme-road, Manchester.

CLIQUOT'S AGENCY Wanted, Big Attractions,
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY for Jan., Feb., March.
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY Nothing too big.
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY Notice.
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY is a Bona-fide Agency.
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY Knows Value of an Act.
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY Please note above Address.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Artists, of Note. Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,

DALTON'S AGENCY
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DALTON'S AGENCY — I can book you
DALTON'S AGENCY — Immediate Dates,
DALTON'S AGENCY — and
DALTON'S AGENCY — Dates onward.
DALTON'S AGENCY — No Guessing.
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DALTON'S AGENCY — Send full list
DALTON'S AGENCY — and very lowest
DALTON'S AGENCY — (this essential),
DALTON'S AGENCY — and permanent addresses,
DALTON'S AGENCY — also
DALTON'S AGENCY — weekly apartments
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DALTON'S AGENCY — 29, Mauldeth-road West,
DALTON'S AGENCY — Withington,
DALTON'S AGENCY — Manchester.
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DALTON'S AGENCY — I said "Agency."

N.B.—State where never played.
Viviana and Co. wire address. Urgent.

PALACE, WATFORD.

WANTED, First-class Artists, all Lines. Jan. 25, Feb. 8, 22, March 1, 8, April 12. Full particulars, CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, all Clients to Send full Bookings. Important. FRANK LYNNE'S Agency, 77, Angell-road, Brixton, S.W. 'Phone 1,303, Brixton.

THE TIVOLI, SOUTH SHIELDS.

WANTED, Artists holding Contracts at the above Hall for Feb. 15, '09, and onwards, to note that such contracts are cancelled in accordance with Rule 7.—Signed, JOHN K. HALL.

WANTED, those desirous of entering the Music Hall Profession to give a trial show with a view to Booking the Macnaghten Circuit. This is a splendid opportunity for Amateurs and Professionals; over forty Artists booked last season. No fees, no commission charged, no interviews granted. All business must be done by letter (with stamped envelope enclosed for reply), direct to PETE MURRAY, Manager, Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery-avenue, London, E.C.

WANTED, for Jan. 25, and onwards, Stars in all Lines. Stars in all Lines. Full up for smaller items. CADLE'S Agency, 105-6, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Big Stars, Comedians, Serios, Novelties, &c., Tops and Bottoms, for Feb. 1 and onward. Lowest terms, bookings, &c., FREDERICK YATES, Agent, G.P.O, Glasgow.

WANTED, March 1, 8, and 15, First-class Variety Turns, First-class Variety Turns. First-class Variety Turns. First-class Variety Turns. Nothing too Big. Nothing too Big. Nothing too Big. Nothing too Big.

When replying please mark "Variety."

W. YATES GREGORY, Theatre Royal and Hippodrome, Shrewsbury.

WANTED, Talent, all Lines, Immediate and Future Dates.

Nothing too big.

10% Commissions only.

JAMES FIONI'S Agency, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool." Telephone, 1686 Royal.

WANTED, Turns, in all Lines, for Hippo., Wakefield, Empire, Hull, Empire, Swindon, and several other towns. Full list of bookings and terms to ALFRED SELWYN, Variety Agent, New Laithes, Horsforth, near Leeds.

VENTOM SWIFT'S AGENCY.
1, West Tollcross, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Best of First-class Talent for Scotland. Immediate Dates. All Vacant Monday next. Keep me posted every Tuesday.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY, 170, SALTMARKET, GLASGOW. Nat. 'Phone 234Y5 Tron.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, the Very Best of Talent now and later on. Nothing under 10%, that's all.

WANTED, Good Musical Acts, Brass Instruments preferred, for Gaineborough; also Good Comedians, Comediennes (ladies send photos.)., VENTOR'S Agency, 24, Devonshire-street, All Saints', Manchester.

WANTED, for Empire, Greenock, twice nightly, Star Acts. Nothing too Big. Salary or sharing terms; also Pantomimes and Combinations.

WANTED, Acts all Kinds, S. Wales and District, present and future dates. Particulars this week, MARTINO'S Agency, Temperance Hall, Merthyr Tydfil.

WANTED, Jan 25, Reliable Acts. I make no idle boast when I say I can fix you. GANNON, West-grove, Bristol.

WANTED, Acts all Kinds, immediate and later. DAN NOBLE'S AGENCY, Offices, 272, Liverpool-street, Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, First-class Acts for Gala, week May 31, Good Flying Act, Comedy Bar, Knockabouts, High Rope Act (Poncherry write). Clowns. Full particulars, CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Whit Week and onwards, First-class Novel and Sensational Gala Acts of every description. Those doing two Acts preferred. Aerial, Ground, Cycle, Bar, Acrobatic, Animal, and anything new for open air send lithos., memos., vacant dates, terms per day and week, bookings, permanent addresses, to GEORGE BURTON, Grand Theatre, Halifax.

WANTED, for Tenting Season, 1909, Good Aerial Act, Acrobats, Three Bars, Risley Troupe, any Great Attraction that can be worked in a circus tent. Good Bioscope Operator with own up-to-date machine write. ALEXANDRA, 74, Northfield-street, Worcester.

SYLVESTER'S 31st FETE SEASON, Whit Monday, onwards.

WANTED, Latest Novelties and Up-to-date Attractions, both Aerial and Stage, for above. State lowest terms per day (not week), enclosing specimen lithos., permanent address. Letters only. No callers. Mr. W. G. SYLVESTER, The Royal Caterer, 271, Clapham-rd., London, S.W.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.

WANTED, Star Attractions, all Lines, Feb. 1, 8, 15, later.

JAMES FIONI'S Agency, 21, Norton-st., Liverpool.

ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, CASTLEFORD.

WANTED, the Biggest Star Attractions on the road; nothing too big; Artists of every description, Jan. 25, onwards. BEANLAND and EMERSON, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

WANTED, Good Specialities, for Galas. Absolute lowest, perm. address, lithos., &c., CHAS. MELLOR'S Agency, 31, Alfred-place, Camp-rd., Leeds.

WANTED, First-class Combinations, for Oxford Music Hall. Address, SIDNEY BACON, 143, Charing Cross-road, London, W.C. Telegraphic add., "Nocabdis, London" Nat. Tel., 1881 Gerrard.

WANTED, for South Wales, Big Tops of Bill, April 5, 12, 26, May 10, 24, 31. Bottom of Bill, March 29, April 19, May 17. Also Smaller Acts in all Lines, April 12, 19, 26, and all May. Full particulars, CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, for Palace Theatre, Reading, Tops and Bottoms of Bills, Several Dates, this and next year. Letters only. STANHOPE and Co., LTD., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, for twenty weeks' Tour, Summer 1909.

High-class Speciality Entertainer; well up in Concerted items. State age, height, répertoire, lowest terms, &c., &c., HARRY LESLIE, 122, Platt-lane, Manchester.

PIER PAVILION, RYDE.
Lessee and Manager, REG. WISHART.

WANTED, Wanted, High-class CONCERT PARTIES, from Whit Monday, and onwards.

Please Note.

Mr. Wishart has made arrangements not only to admit Patrons Pier-toll Free, but also to convey them to and from the Pavilion on the Electric Cars Free.

Full particulars, King's Hall, Westcliff-on-Sea.

WANTED, Feb. 15, and on, First-class Variety Companies, complete in themselves; also Drama and Musical Comedy. All twice nightly. Apply, DIRECTOR OF VARIETIES, Grand Theatre, Blackpool.

WANTED, Ladies and Gentlemen, all Lines, Sketch. Photos., references, age, height, H. LESLIE BELL, Hippodrome, Coventry.

WANTED, Lady and Gentleman, clever, young, good appearance, Amateur, for London trial Sketch. Photos., experience, particulars, Box 5,353, "The Era."

WANTED, Fifty Amateurs, for Halls, Sketches, Troupes; also Partner required, assist. Call, afternoons, evenings, AUSTIN'S, 93, Gray's Inn-road, Holborn.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Six Young Ladies, Six Young Ladies, Six Young Ladies, Six Young Ladies, ages from 14 to 16 years;

must have really good voices.
must have really good voices.
must have really good voices.
must have really good voices.

Apply personally at the Foresters' Vaudeville Theatre, Cambridge-road, Mile End, 12 o'clock midday, Tuesday. to Mr. FREDERIC BAUGH.

WANTED, Smart Acrobatic Dancers, Smart Acrobatic Dancers, and Singers, and Singers, with good appearance, well up in kicking, cart-wheels, &c. Apply, first instance, to Box 5,347, "The Era."

WANTED, at Once, good Smart Dancers, able to Sing, for Music Hall Speciality. Write, or apply any day from 3 till 5, Stage Door. MADAME, Olympia, Shoreditch.

WANTED, at Once, young, attractive Girl, Acrobatic Dancer, height about 5ft. 2in. for Double Turn with another lady; good salary. Send photos. and particulars to C., 4, Great Colmore-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, Young Girl; must be good Step-dancer. Letters, with photo., stating age, height, &c., G. P., 43, Iffley-road, Hammersmith, London.

WANTED, Respectable Young Girl, about 14-16 years old, for Novelty Act. Good home with well-known troupe. Call personally, not later than 6 p.m., LIST, 228, Camberwell New-road.

WANTED, First-class Vocalist for Illustrated Songs. State age, experience, and lowest terms. Permanency if suitable. PENDLETON'S Animated Pictures, Provident Co-operative Hall, Rochdale.

WANTED, a really First-class Lady Vocalist, must have good voice; long engagement, commencing Jan. 23, permanent building Picture Show. Bosco, 33, Hallewell-road, Birmingham.

CLYDEBANK NEW GAIETY THEATRE.

WANTED, Reliable Star Comedians and Comediennes, Specialities, Sketches, &c., &c., for immediate and future dates. A. E. PICKARD, Sole Proprietor and Manager.

WANTED, Skater Ladies. State height, ability, town engagement, send photo. (returnable), Letters only, Capt. BEN WOODGER, Empire, Camberwell.

WANTED, Boys and Girls, Small, able to Sing and Dance, aged 14 or over; must be clever. Photos. (if any) will be returned. Apply, BEN HARRIS'S NIPPERS, Hippo., Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Bar Performer, for 5 months, America, height 5ft. 3in. State age, lowest terms, everything found. E. PIRMAN, Hippodrome, Devonport, Plymouth.

WANTED, immediately, a Young Tumbler to join Troupe. Communicate to Box 5,331, "The Era."

WANTED, a really First-class Lecturer, for Permanent Picture Show, in Midlands, open 23rd. Write, stating particulars and terms, to Bosco, 33, Hallewell-road, Birmingham.

WANTED, Bioscope Operator, own machine, for 25th; lowest, refs.; touring small halls. Lady Assistant (experience not necessary), also Pianist. Fullest particulars; refs. to be returned. Box 5,341, "The Era."

WANTED Bioscope Operator, one who has his own House and Cinematograph Machine. State lowest salary for picture shop, to PICTURE LAND CO., 26, Great Eastern-road, Stratford, E.

WANTED, First-class experienced Bioscope Operator. Terms and references, WOOD, Queen's Hall, Birkenhead.

WANTED, Operator, Machine, Sheet, and Two-hours' Show of Films (gas); change films weekly. Also Smart Fit-up and Seating wanted. Terms, MANAGER, 25, Albert-street Didsbury.

270 Replies.

WANTED, Wanted, Known, Sir,—

I inserted an advertisement, asking for Music Hall Artists in the last week's issue of "The Era." May I say that I am absolutely astounded at the number of replies I received to my small advertisement, no less than 270 Artists favouring me with applications. May I by this means thank the many artists who sent in their terms, as it is impossible for me to reply to each individual. I thank all for their very kind promptitude in responding to my advertisement.

I remain, yours faithfully, ALFRED BALL.
New Lyceum, Tilbury Docks, Essex.
3/12/'08.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Rosaline Thorne, Descriptive Vocalist, Jan. 18, 25; also Illustrated Songs. Address, 32, North-side, Clapham Common.

WANTED, Monday, Jan. 25, Illustrated Songs and Serio Turn; own Latest Slides. Moderate terms in or near London. Apply, HELEN RAYE, St. James's Hall, Kingston-on-Thames.

WANTED, by Two Beatrices, Duettists and Expert Dancers, Monday, also Jan. 25. Wire, Hippo., Dewsbury; after Sat., 23, St. George's-road, Southwark, London.

WANTED, Known, Ruble and Elsie Redfern, in their new drawing-room act, with piano, banjoes, singing, dancing, &c. Next week, Hippo., Shrewsbury; Jan. 25, Empire, Camberwell. Vac. Feb. 1 and 8.

WANTED, by the Spadonis (Madge and Sylvia), Duettists and Dancers, Feb. 15, 22, on. Address, 50, Lloyd-st., Greenheys, M'chester.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Greenock Telegraph, Tuesday, Dec. 29, says: The outstanding item is that contributed by Mlle. Lumiere, who not only presents a fascinating exhibition of the "poetry of motion," but simply amazes her audience by the lighting and other remarkable scenic effects with which her dancing is accompanied. The performance is beyond description in a brief notice; suffice it to say that it is beautiful, thrilling, and novel in the extreme, and is in itself, as the old saying has it, "worth the money charged at the doors." Vacant Jan. 18, 25. Wire for a big Attraction, Share or Certainty. 16, Newstead-road, Lodge-lane, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Terry Sisters, Highly Talented Mimics, Vocalists, Dancers, &c., at Liberty Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1. Communicate, Pavilion, Bridlington.

WANTED, Monday, by Sisters Todd-Buller, Character Duettists, Buglers.
This week, Palace, Attercliffe, where wire.

WANTED, Known, Neddy Vokes, the World-known Comedy Musical and Patter Comedian, Liberty Jan. 18, 25. Wire, Hippodrome, Spennymoor, Wire.

WANTED, Known, George Ritter, Speciality Musical Clown (Cuckoo), Double-handed, for Pictures, Liberty shortly. Good offers invited. This and next, King's Service Pictures, Corn Exchange, Doncaster.

WANTED, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, Harry Tullett, the Youthful Eccentric Comedian and Dancer. Usual Success. This, Hippo., Lowestoft; next, Hippo., Stalybridge.

WANTED, by Sammy Clarke, Lancashire Comedian and Dialect Patterer, Jan. 18. A sure success, sure success. Wire, C/o Farrow, Royton, Manchester.

WANTED, by Bert Rayburn, Quaint Comedian, Jan. 25, Feb. 1 and 8. Next week, Palace, Attercliffe. Communications, C/o Farrow, Royton, Manchester.

WANTED, Mon. next, by Beanland (?), also Jan. 25. Wire offers, till Sunday, Gaiety, Clydebank; after, 6, Shakespeare-street, Halifax.

WANTED, Known, Carl St. Clare (?), Wonderful Vocalist and Impersonator. Always a Tremendous Success. Liberty Jan. 18, 25. Coms., 18, Grafton-street, Leeds. Wire offers. Wire.

WANTED, Jan. 25 and Feb. 1, by E. W. Selman, First-class Comedian, sure hit, clean, smart, and refined. Always something new. Coms., Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, 18th, 25th, onwards, exceptions, Dan Ashton, Lancashire's Popular Collier Comedian, "Wigan Collier's Lament" (fully protected). Coms., 26, Wood-st., Openshaw.

WANTED, by Norman Hurste, Wales's Light Comedian, Jan. 18, onwards, with exceptions. Terms moderate. Write, Thornecombe, Whitchurch, Glam.

WANTED, Monday next, by Cambo, the Musical Monkey; two acts if required.
Wire, 59, Urquhart-road, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Known, Will Bell, the Great Irish Comedian and Dancer, wants Monday next. Wire, 18, Bear Tree-road, Parkgate, Rotherham.

WANTED, Monday, by
Barney Noble.
Wire,
24, Clarendon-place, All Saints, Manchester.

WANTED, by Morimura, marvellous Japanese Illusionist, Monday next, also Jan. 25, Original Oriental Magic Act. Concludes to-night, Albert Hall, Swansea; next week, 13, Windsor-terrace, Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, Feb. 1, onward, by the Great Krosston, in a new scene, from Kyoto, Japan, introducing a sensational burlesque Japanese speciality, contortionist, conjurer, a funny skit of jugging, and Oto, the only performing Pug Dog; also Miss May Sumner, a Refined Comedienne and Dancer. Enormous success, starring, Hippo., Tony-Pandy. Monday, Oddfellows' Hall, Dowlais. Wakefield to follow. Vacant Feb. 1, onward. Enough said. Inquire.

Wire, Jan. 18, Wire.
The Great Vincent, Acrobatic Table Expert.
WANTED, Jan. 18, through transferring the Hippodrome, Wigan. Wire, Palace, Derby. After Saturday, 129, Linaker-street, Southport.

WANTED, Known, Little Hackenschmidt, the Famous World's Bantam-weight Wrestling. Re Vacant Dates, White Horse, 37, Rupert-street, London, W.C.

WANTED, Feb. 8, 15, by Fred and Lillie Monckton, presenting their latest successful screamer, "Two in a Flat." This, Surrey Theatre, London; Jan. 18, Palace, Bow, E.

WANTED, Monday next, by Marcus Boyle, Comedian; also Ada Whitton, Burlesque. Wire one or both, 35, Rumford-street, C.-on-M., Manchester.

WANTED, April 19, on, by Herman and Evelyn, smart and refined Wire Act; also Casselly, Acrobatic Table Act. Next, Boro' T., Heywood.

WANTED, Jan. 18, 25, by Fern and Fawn, in Shriekingly Funny Episode, "The Conqueror," good Singles, Comedian, Soubrette. 16, Glen-st., Blackpool.

WANTED, Monday, on, The Mannikins (Harry and Maud), Living Marionettes, Electric Miniature Theatre; also Double Comedy Singing Turn. Palace, Dover.

WANTED, by Will Candlish, Black Emperor, and Nannie Shaw, Scotch Comedienne, Jan. 25, and on. Next, Gaiety, Glasgow.

WANTED, Monday next, also Feb. 1 and 8. Wire, City Hall, Cork, Wisper, the Great Comedy Juggler, and Beattie Bloom, Serio, with own Songs. Jan. 25, T. H., Merthyr.

WANTED, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, by the Two Le Bruns, unique vocal and juggling speciality. Add., Palace, New Brighton.

WANTED, Monday next, through misunderstanding, by René, Girl Juggler, Roy Beavis, Magician. Wire, Palace, Carlisle.

WANTED, Monday, Jan. 25, also Feb. 1, 1909, by Holgar and Raymond, the Talkative Two; also Rosie May, Serio. Managers wanting two really good acts, write or wire. This, Gaiety, Blyth; next, Co-operative Hall, Ashington.

WANTED, Jan. 25, Taylor and Bridge, Singing Lancashire Mill Lads. A show that is a positive success everywhere. Who wants us? What's that? You do! Then wire or write. This, Alex. Theatre, Pontefract; next, Hippo., Hyde.

WANTED, Monday next, 25th, also Feb. 1, by Colvil and Tate, Comedy Artists and Dancers. Our usual success, screams of laughter, this week, Hippo., Ton-y-Pandy, till Saturday; next, C/o Mrs. Wyrill, 33, Turkey-lane, Harpurhey, Manchester. Distance no object.

WANTED, Known, Lavelle and Scroggs, First-class Acrobatic Speciality, on High and Original Apparatus; vacant Jan. 18, 25, 30, Hallam-street, West Bromwich.

WANTED, by Wright and Elton, Novel Comedy Act, Jan. 25. This, Standard, London. Jan. 18, Tivoli, Pentre, where wire or write.

WANTED, Known, Leo and Roland, Novelty Equilibrists, introducing Great Sensational Ladder Feat, the most daring and skilful Hand-balancing Feat ever Performed. Fully protected by Royal Letters Patent, No. 27,111. Anyone infringing will be proceeded against. This week, Palace, Bristol; next, Pier Pavilion, Weymouth.

WANTED, Feb. 1, 8, on, by the Howard-Hugh Trio in Musical Sketch, and Doris Myddleton, Comedienne. Add., Picture Palace, Rhymney, Mon.

WANTED, by Phil Rees and his Lads, Monday next, also 25th and Feb. 1, for the Biggest Racing Act on the Variety Stage, "Not a Crook," produced here on Monday night, two encores and eight curtains being the result. Write or wire, Palace, Derby.

WANTED, Known, Ben Harris's Nippers, Vacant Monday.
Wire, Hippo., Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, by Mlle. Sylvesto, Graceful Contortionist and her clever Comedian, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 8. Wire, next week, Palace, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
Wanted, Wanted, Known,
Wanted, Wanted, Known,
Wanted, Wanted, Known,
THE CORRICK FAMILY
THE CORRICK FAMILY
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THE CORRICK FAMILY
of Entertainers.

Nine Brilliant Instrumentalists,
Vocalists, Handbell Ringers,
National Dancers,
Humorists, and
Bio-experts.

Just returned from a Phenomenally Successful Tour of the Australian Colonies, New Zealand, Ceylon, India, and the Far East.

Every member a Star Artist of remarkable versatility.

Professor Corrick, Conductor, Pianist, Violinist, Bass.
Madame Corrick, Contralto, Double Bass, Artist.
Miss Corrick, Pianist and Accompanist.
Miss Amy Corrick, Flautist, Vocalist, Dancer.
Miss Ethel Corrick, Violinist, Soubrette, Dancer.
Miss Jessie Corrick, Vocalist and Violinist.
Miss Ruby Corrick, Champion Lady Cornet and Mellophone Soloist, Vocalist, and Dancer.
Mr. Leonard Corrick, Baritone, Clarionet Soloist, Dancer, and Bio-expert; and (Viola).
Miss Alice Corrick, the Brilliant Dramatic Soprano.

Nightly changes of Programme, each a perfect galaxy of Musical and Pictorial Art, including Orchestral Selections, Choruses, Glees, Duets, Instrumental Solos and Duets, Cornet, Mellophone, Flute, Piccolo, Clarionet, Expert Handbell Ringing, National Dances, Excerpts from Grand and Light Opera, Ballads, Folk Songs, Chorus Songs, and Humorous Sketches, Monologues, and Songs, concluding with a display of Leonard's Beautiful Pictures,

Eight horse-power electric engine and dynamo carried on all country tours, brilliantly illuminating Halls inside and outside where necessary.

Open for Engagements singly or collectively.
Open for Engagements singly or collectively.
Open for Engagements singly or collectively.

For particulars apply to
Manager, Mr. HAROLD G. COULTER,
Woodfield Lodge, Mount Ephraim-lane,
Streatham, S.W.

WANTED, Known, The Musical Palmers wish to thank Captain Warren-Wright, T. M. Paul, Esq. (Venetia), and Will Stone, Esq., for Contracts. Still open Feb. 8 and 15 (Wales or Midlands preferred). Big success Colston Hall, Bristol (second week).

WANTED, Known, Wartana Trio, Modern Lady Jugglers, require 11th, 18th, Feb. 1. Wire this, Hippo., Bury; next, 32, Halston-street, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Les Zanonis, Boy and Girl Jugglers and Club Throwers, Feb. 1, to follow Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh. Communications, Queen's, Castleford.

WANTED, Known, Great Scott, the Ladder King. The Only Juggler on the Balancing Ladder. Decided Success, Palace, Cork (return). Vacant 18th and 25th.

WANTED, Jan. 18, and other dates, The Peps, most Talented Trampolin Performance before the public. Success with any audience. A performance for Pantomimes, Theatres, Picture Shows, Circus, and Galas; wonderful dog Prince. Big draw, and talk of the town. Always something new and original in hand. 64, Upper Sutton-street, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, Feb. 22 and on, by La Dor Troupe, seven in number, male and female Acrobats, in three distinct Acts. Theatre Royal, Margate.

WANTED, Known, Ringling Trio, Acrobatic Comedy Act on Stilts, &c. Enormous success Palace, Attercliffe (third visit); vacant Monday next; also Jan. 25, Feb. 1. Wire, Palace, Attercliffe; after Saturday, 407, Oldham-rd., Manchester.

WANTED, Monday next, and 25th, by Gulliver, First-class Ventriloquist; entire Act Original. Can follow anyone. Wire, 46, Derngate, Northampton.

WANTED.—Chass Lewis, Novelty Ventriloquist unexpectedly Vacant Jan. 25. A Clever and Original Act. Stoll dates to follow. Next, Palace, Southampton.

WANTED, Feb. 1, 8, 15, by Hulbert, Ventriloquist, and De Lil, Illusionist; two smart acts. Offers invited. Hippodrome, Yarmouth.

WANTED, Managers and Agents to Know that Feb. 15, 22, are the only
Vacant Dates for this Year.

PICITT and LIZETTE,
PICITT and LIZETTE,
in their Great Magical Extravaganza,
"THE CRAZY COOK."
"THE CRAZY COOK."
A Big Animal Act, a Big Comedy Act, a Big Illusion Act, all in one.
50 Birds and Animals 50.
The most realistic kitchen set ever staged.
Original Illusions, worked like Lightning.
Only Vacant Dates, Feb. 15, 22.
Everything Carried, including Scenery.
Palace, Bradford.

WANTED, Known, "The Galley Slave," splendid Top of the Bill, one of the strongest Dramatic Sketches on the road. Agent, FRED DURHAM, Loughborough-road, Brixton.

WANTED, Known, "Lady Lanigan, Laundress," the laughing success, ten Artists, Scene carried; a splendid Top; vacant Monday, 18th inst. Wire, RUSSELL BOGUE, King's T., Southsea.

"MY LANCASHIRE WIFE."
A Great Domestic Comedy Sketch.
WANTED, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 15, 22. A laugh from start to finish. Refer to Otto Culling, Esq., Bury, re the merits of above.
Address, DUNCAN and BRASQUE, Empire, Southport.

WANTED, Piers, Seaside Halls, for Fred Solo's Drolls and Demures and Cameo Concert Co's. Season and Tour. Fourth Year under own Management. For particulars, F. S., Grand Theatre, Croydon.

WANTED, Known, Williams' Dogs, in their Sensational and Amusing Acts, "The Deserter" and "Not Guilty," Re-engaged for a second week at the Leith and Edinburgh Carnival. Wire, Robin Hood, near Leeds.

WANTED, Known, Judge's Cockatoos, vacant Jan. 18 and 25, also Feb. 1. Wire, Hippodrome, Shrewsbury, after Saturday. See Cards.

A TOP LINER.
A SURE DRAW.
Le Diabelo Looping the Devil's Wheel.
WANTED, Known, Vacant Monday, 18th and 25th. Shares or certainty. Wire, 37, Chipley-street, New Cross, London.

WANTED, Known, Pauletti, Acrobatic Staircase and Somersaulting Table Trick Cyclist, at Liberty for Tenting, with two or three acts, three people. This, Queen's, Farnworth; next, T. R., Colne.

WANTED, by Cyclinis Trio, Knockabout Cyclists, Football Match on Bicycles, Vac. 18th, 25th. Wire offers. Perm. add. see Cards.

WANTED, Known, the Cumberlands accept any Challenge as Acrobatic Cyclists.
Waiting.

Address, c/o "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Known, Hal Berte, undoubtedly the most accomplished Roller Skater in England, has a few vacant dates, Rinks or Halls. Address, PROF. HAL BERTE, The Rinkeries, Aldwych, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Engagement, by first-class efficient Lecturer and Guide, with or without Novel Speciality. Highest credentials; age 33; height 6ft. Address, LOWTHER, 166, New Kent-road, London.

WANTED, Known, Man, Young, Intelligent, with Experience, would assist any capacity for a few weeks, London expenses only. Sketch Troupe or Artist. Box 5,336, "The Era."

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Prof. Lenton's Bioscope Entertainments; Change of Pictures Nightly or Weekly; Machines, Films, and Accessories Bought, Sold, or Hired Out to any amount 2, Capener's-yard, Knightsbridge, S.W.

WANTED, Kinematograph Engagements, Urban Machine (Medland's improved); also Desseinatograph, only Exhibitor in Colours. BRANDON MEDLAND, 44, Lorrimore-rd., Kennington, S.E.

WANTED, Halls, in or near London, for Cinématograph Shows, must be capable of holding money. Full particulars to H. ALLEN, c/o H. Ball, 43, Great Saffron-hill, Holborn, E.C.

WANTED, Known, Competent Operator, with latest Machine, and all accessories; gas or electric; permanency only. A. C., 2, Bridgford-street, Wandsworth.

WANTED, Known, Cinématograph Operator, Electrician, with complete latest Outfit, Disengaged, distance no object; or will sell. HARDING, 30, Morning-lane, Hackney, London.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
WORLD'S FAIR,
Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, N.
Lessee and Manager, T. E. READ.
The Sixteenth Original Annual
SHOWMEN'S SUPPER AND BALL
will take place on Wednesday, Jan. 20, 1909, at the Royal Agricultural Hall.
President, Rev. THOMAS HORNE; Chairman, T. E. READ, Esq.; Hon. Treasurer, W. METCALFE; Hon. Secretary, Mr. C. DAY.
Committee: Messrs. H. Read, C. Hyatt, W. Wilson, J. Tronson, A. Dashwood, Frank Turner, J. Hastings, F. Bibby, W. Slatter, T. Hurst, W. Le Neve, W. Taylor, W. Hussey, A. Ball, J. Thomas, T. Knighton, E. Hussey, H. Taylor, J. Wentworth, Mellor.
Supper at 11.45. Tickets for Supper and Ball, 4s. each. H. Bloodworth, M.C. "Success to the World's Fair." Tickets can be obtained of any of the above Committee.

THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD OF GREAT BRITAIN.
THE U.K. VAN-DWELLERS' AND SHOWMEN'S PROTECTION ASSOCIATION.
WANTED, Known, Annual Meeting, LONDON,
THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL HALL
ISLINGTON
(by kind permission of T. E. Read, Esq.),
WEDNESDAY, Jan. 20, at 11.30 a.m.
Presidential Address by Patrick Collins.
The other speakers will include the Organising Chaplain, the Hon. Solicitor, and Friends and Supporters of the Guild.
T. HURST, Hon. Sec.

WANTED, Known, Wanted, Known, that the Next Meeting of the British Roundabout Proprietors' and Showmen's Union
will be Held at the
Agricultural Hall, London, on
Wednesday, Jan. 20, at 2.30 p.m.

All members are requested to attend.
Signed, T. HURST, Secretary.

Established 1899.
WANTED, Known, Tom Norman (Silver King, registered), Showmen's Auctioneer, Expert and Authority, Valuer, Commission and Variety Agent. If you want to Buy or Sell anything connected with the business (privately or publicly), send to TOM NORMAN, Auction Dept., "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Known, .22 Cartridges, "R," "H," "D," "P" brands, Winchester repeaters, Globes, Targets, Water Balls. GREENE, 74, Falmouth-road, London, S.E.

CAKE WALK. Regd. Trade Mark. CAKE WALK.
WANTED, Known, TAYLOR, PRINSTON, BROS., and Co., Sole Makers and Patentees of the Only Cake-Walk Riding Machine in the World. Royal Letters Patent, No. 17402, Jy. 30, 1907, No. 25150, Nov. 13, 1907, and No. 2649, Feb. 6, 1908. In the Chancery Court, Jy. 3, 1908, Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady Granted an Injunction against defendants for infringemet of our Patent No. 17402. This Machine is a Triumph of Engineering Skill for Simplicity, Lightness, and Durability.

It is a Record Money-maker.

Write or call on the Sole Makers and Patentees. Farncombe-street
and 94-98, Bermondsey-wall, London, S.E.

WANTED, Showmen to Save Money by sending for Leete's Catalogue of Specially-prepared Paints, Colours, Varnishes, Brushes, &c., and every requisite for decorating Caravans, Roundabouts, Swings, &c. Cheapest house in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, Known, the Novelty Amusement Co. supplies all kinds of Slot Machines, suitable for Vaudevilles, Automatic Arcades, and Licensed Houses. Cash or instalments. 33, High-street, Kingsland, London.

WANTED, good Quick-shewing Novelties. Sharing Terms, with or without Paintings. thousands of people to draw from. Saturday a Burster. If you can show in 20ft. by 20ft. and deliver the goods, you will have record business. Apply, JOHN COLLINS, Fun City, Liverpool.

WANTED, at once, an experienced Palmist. Write, AUTOMATIC VAUDEVILLE,
50, Gold-street, Northampton.

WANTED, a thorough good Comedian, to travel with Auction Mart; one used to the business preferred. Apply, AUCTION MART, Summerhill, near Wrexham.

WANTED, First-class Handseller, who can play piano preferred. Wages £2 weekly; permanent situation. GREENWOOD, Everton-road, Longsight, Manchester.

WANTED, Midget Lady, height about 3ft., age over 14. £5 given for information leading to Engagement of Suitable Lady. Honest offer. Mrs. REEVES, 18, Genkins-street, Bursiem, Staffs.

WANTED, Smart Young Man, thoroughly up in Gas-fitting and Electric Lighting, for Touring Exhibition; abstainer. Only practical man need apply. Also Vacancy for man who can work Mirrors well. Apply, MANAGER, Exhibition, Newbury.

WANTED, Known, Bailey's "Punch and Judy," Champion Toby, still at Crystal Palace Daily. Complimented by all. Open for Engagements.

WANTED, Known, Milton's Marionettes are at Liberty for Tour. Exhibitions, Picture Shows, &c. Address, 77, Virginia-street Southport.

DUNDEE.
WANTED, to Let, Ground, at Greenmarket, Dundee,
for ensuing Summer, Autumn, and New Year Holidays.

Full particulars on application to

JAMES WALKER,
Superintendent,
Greenmarket, Dundee.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
PLEASURE BEACH, BLACKPOOL.
Greatest Combination of Open-air Attractions in the Country. For concessions for
Real Novelties for Summer Season, 1909,
address, PROPRIETORS, Pleasure Beach, Blackpool.

WANTED, to Let, to Travelling Auctioneers, Sequahs, Showmen, &c., Land and Buildings, 100ft. by 50ft., weekly, centre of Bristol. MANAGER, Winter Carnival, Old Market, Bristol.

WANTED, Known, Space to Let, for Gold Wire, Engraving, Jewellery, or good Novelty, Touring Exhibition, Town Hall, Bridgwater, Jan. 23 to 30.

WANTED, Let, two Large Floors, Shooting Range, Houn-la, Darts, Games; reasonable rent, good man with fit-up. Grand opening good Side-shows, Waxworks, Freaks; share or rent. No opposition. Apply personally, MANAGER, Fun Fair, Camden Town.

WANTED, to Let, in Doncaster, temporary Good Shop, in Best and Busiest Street; splendid position; rent £4 per week. ALFRED STUBBS, Askern.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA. No. 84, HIGH-STREET.
WANTED, to Let, Excellent Shop, with large fronage; magnificent position in the best centre; would suit caterer, exhibitions, bazaars, &c. Capital might be put in by present owner for suitable tenant for part profits. Write, stating terms, to Box 190, c/o S. H. Benson, Kingsway Hall, W.C.

WANTED, to Let, Three Shops, South Wales, good towns, best positions, Auctioneers, Exhibitions, Bazaars, Medicine Men. MICHAEL, 10, The Circle, Tredegar, Mon.

WANTED, to Let, Shop Premises, S.E. District, Automatic Machines, &c., cheap rent, small premium only for fittings. Box 5,344, "The Era."

WANTED, Spaces for ensuing Summer Season, erect Electric Circle Flying Machine, Working Coal Mine, other good Attractions, with responsible Management and positions; rent or sharing terms; new to England. G. LINGARD, 213, High-street, Camden Town.

WANTED, Spaces, Trades Exhibitions, Carnivals, Shops, or Arcades, for Jewellery, also Up-to-date Refined Games. LOVELUCK, Post Office, Chester.

WANTED, Space, in Good Trades Exhibitions, for High-class Toffee Making. Apply, W., 15, Severn-hill, Gloucester-road, Cheltenham.

WANTED, to Sell, two shows, No. 1, 20ft. by 30ft., Top and Side Tilts, Ropes, Stakes, Lamps, Curtains, three Paintings, Strong Man and Boxing, nearly new, Outside Stage, Music Hall, Ball Punching Platform, for parade, all in perfect condition, four passengers take above by passenger train free, £12 cash; No. 2, 24ft. by 36ft. Shuttered, all-round, painted, never been used, cost £20, price £8. Reason for selling, going into other business.

SAXO,
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WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT, 1906.

EFFECT ON THEATRES AND MUSIC HALLS.

BY

ALBERT A. STRONG, LL.B.

SOLICITOR.

PRICE SIXPENCE.

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EMPIRE PALACE, EDINBURGH.

Rehearsal at 1.30 for :—

George Gray and Co. in "The Fighting Parson," Four Figaros, Burnetti, Melia and Mozarabar, Duncan and Godfrey, Fred Earle, Victor Newman, Arthur Astill, Bioscope, Frederic Villiers.

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—

Joe Peterman and Co. in "The Butler's Party," Argo, Coverdale, Ten Ji Troupe, Glenroy Troupe, Annie Purcell, Harry Simms, Frank F. Street, Bioscope, L'Incognita.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—

Yukio Tani, Cliff Ryland, Helen Guest, Falcons, Amelia De L'Enclos, Musical Courtiers, Enzer, Ernest Clifford, Bioscope, Master Edward Garrett and Co.

GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—

Stevens and Buchanan's Grand Pantomime, "Cinderella."

ARDWICK THEATRE, MANCHESTER.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

George Auger and Co., Tom Collins, Ross and Lewis, Hermann Melot, Four Holloways, Henry Carlton and Co., Alf Chester, Beattie Kent, Harry Clifford, Bioscope.

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—

"Sands of Dee," Jack Smiles, Martineks, Cumberlands, Helen Trix, De Gracia's Elephants, Delevines, Dora Barrington, Bioscope, Dolly Elsworthy and Co. in "Sweet Mistress Dorothy."

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Horace Goldin and Jeanne Fransioli, Clark and Hayden, Jeannie Mackay, May Edouin, Dumond Trio, W. J. Ashcroft, McCann's Dogs, Thora, Bioscope, Fred Edwards and Co. in "Kleptomaniacs."

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Fred Lindsay, La Pia, Grosvenor Sisters, Fred Elton, Kroney Brothers, Musical Jees, Arthur Albert, Maizie Hibbs, Bioscope, Great Olympians.

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

E. Hill Mitchelson's Co. in "Who is She?"

GRAND, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Joseph Hart's "Polly Pickle's Pets," Jolly Jimmy Walker, Spry and Monti, Nina Wood, Theo Bouwmeester, Leonette Roberty, Selbinis, Mabel Mavis, Bioscope, Oswald Williams.

PALACE, LEICESTER.

Rehearsal at 2.30 for :—

Karno's "Mumming Birds," Agnes Tina, Three Cape Girls, Luis Alvarez, Rousby's "Greater London," Ethel Newman, Tony Spring, Bioscope, Sam Mayo.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Frank A. Gotch and Co., Gotch v. Hackenschmidt Film, Sybil St. Elmo, Frank Sylvo, Ten Zerbinis, Rhoda Paul, Fayre and Manning, Walter Munroe, Stein Eretto Troupe, Guyer and Valli.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Zeynard's Lilliputians, Dan Fraser, Billy Hobbs, Creo Brothers, Bioscope, Gems, Doroswami, Alice Maydue, Howard Brothers, Fred Storey and Co. in "Rip Van Winkle."

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Casey's Court, Millie Payne, Harry Bedford, "No. 99," Florence and Lilian, Bertha Stuart, Seeley and Rhodesia, Ida Kathrena, Bioscope, "Johnstown Flood."

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Miss Carrie de Mar, Lyric Mummers, Lily Flexmore, Gertie Gitana, Larry Lewis, Gaudschmidts, Amy Anderson and Co., Jackley Trio, Allan Hanbury, Bioscope, Auguste Van Biene and Co.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Fred Karno's Co. in "The Bailiff," Beatrice Bonnie, Stylo, Harry Lickson, Chas. Fisher's Opera Co., Van Allen, Billy French, Kathleen Cogan, Bioscope, Joe O'Gorman.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Morris Cronin, Bioscope, George Young, Stuart Engleton's Co. in "Cornered," Cline and Clark, Austin Rudd, Arthur Aldridge, Silveter's Mechanical Head, Three Lloyds, Jack Lane, Daley Cooper, Mabel Lait and Co. in "Scotch Mixed."

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Moss's Empires Grand Pantomime, "Humpty Dumpty."

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Rehearsal at 10 a.m. for :—

Marie Dressler, Albert Chevalier and Co., Mme. Alice Esty, Saharet, Lily Burnand, Horace Pollock and Co., Eli Hudson and Olga and Elgar, Trentanovi Sisters, Bert Woodward, Bioscope, Ye Colonial Septette.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Fred Ginnett's "Dick Turpin," Kent and Keith, J. H. Scotland, Keen and Waller, Jennie Hartley, Violet Stockelle, Mary Ambrose, Bioscope, Albert Whelan, Achmed Ibrahim Troupe.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

W. J. Churchill, Gotch v. Hackenschmidt Film, Maud and Sidney Wood, Theresa da Silva, Chronomegaphone. Goodwin's Piccaninnies, Percy Honri, Dennis Drew and Boys, Arthur Gill, Miss Marquis's Ponies.

EMPIRE, SWANSEA.

Rehearsal at 3 for :—

"Yellow Fang," Three Prestons, Tom Bryce and Miss Price, Gladys Mavius, Alburtus and Millar, Percy Hannan, Olive Armidale, Bioscope, Harry Grey.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.

Rehearsal at 3 for :—

Fred Karno's Co., including Fred Kitchen, in "G.P.O.," Harry Lawson, Madge Temple, Maude A. Edwards, Hayes and Wynne, Hanlon Troupe, Barrington Bioscope, Howell and Scott.

PHILHARMONIC HALL, CARDIFF.

Rehearsal at 3 for :—

Company as booked.

EMPIRE, NEWPORT

Rehearsal at 3 for :—

Hubert Carter and Co., J. P. Ling, Two Kays, J. W. Rowley, Lukushimas, Gladys Hooley, Bioscope, Harry Herbert, Alexandra Dagmar.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Laurence Irving, Mabel Hackney and Co. in "The King and the Vagabonds," The Crisps, Bob Hamilton, Eight Lancashire Lads, Jackson Family, Vanando, Matt Wilkinson and Co., Edie Endon, Bioscope, Geo. Leyton and Co. in "The Last Muster."

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Master Max Darewski, Chas. Vincent, Lil O'Gorman, Victor Travers, Coloured Meisters, Mayvilles, Campbell and Barber, Brix and Anni, Lily Esplin, Bioscope, John F. Preston and Co. in "Rogues of the Turf."

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Karno's "Football Match," Fred Wilkinson, Mabel Bright, Hartley Wonders, Carina Sisters, Phil Parsons, Walter Aubrey, Bioscope, Maggie Walsh.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco, Virto and Venita, Albert Christian, Ted E. Box, Laurie's Kindergarten, Sisters Urma, Three Sisters Jerome, Tony Black, Katie Cohen, Bioscope, Carter Livesey, Lilian Rosebery and Co

The following are booked in conjunction with the above:

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUBLIN.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Gittens' Opera Co., Frances Hanlon, Angeline, Stacey and Williams, Strolling Players, Les Voces, Toff Noel, Pictures, Tennessee Guards.

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Machnow, E. J. Sheldon, Terry and Bentley, Eight Pavilion Girls, Harry Leybourne, Crissy Cross, Pictures, Roma and Romani.

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Rehearsal at 12 for :—

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EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Burke, Andrus, and Frisco, "That Brute Simmons," Tom Moore, Vetter Brothers, Nellie Coleman, Jenny Lynn, Pictures, Selkirk's "Gathering of the Clans."

IMPORTANT NOTICES.

RE APPLICATIONS FOR ENGAGEMENTS.

All applications by either Artists or their Agents must be made to the Head Office. Lowest terms must be stated, and distinction made between salaries required for larger and smaller towns. Vacant dates should be stated. If a list of existing bookings be sent, it will render selection easier.

Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not rebooked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follow :—

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LEEDS, SHEFFIELD, HULL, BRADFORD, AND DISTRICT.
MR. T. GERALD MORTON, Empire Palace, Leeds.

LIVERPOOL, MANCHESTER, AND DISTRICT.
MR. ALBERT BULMER, The Empire, Liverpool.

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MR. J. CHRISTIE, Empire Theatre, Shepherd's Bush, W.

N.B.—Mr. OSWALD STOLL or Mr. FRANK ALLEN can be seen by appointment on all matters arising out of the above, and for the discussion of entirely new Numbers.

All Artists or Agents who communicate with our District Representatives must have made definite applications, in accordance with above directions, to the Head Office, at the same time, or just previously.

Artists and Agents are requested to note that the Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington, Standard Theatre, Shoreditch, and the Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, come within the areas absolutely barred by us. Artists and Agents are also requested to note that the Hippodrome, Aston, Birmingham, comes within the area absolutely barred by the Grand Theatre and Empire Palace, Birmingham.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have at least Fourteen Band Parts for English Orchestrations, and Seventeen Band Parts for Foreign Orchestrations. Matter of Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to CO-OPERATIVE OFFICES, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced. Artists' Scenery, Properties, &c., MUST be fireproofed in accordance with the regulations of the Licensing Authorities.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

No order or contract for goods or services must be accepted for any of the foregoing theatres except upon receipt of an Official Form, issued from the Co-operative Offices, London, and signed by either Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. Frank Allen, or the Chief Accountant, otherwise the Company concerned will not be responsible for same, and will refuse payment. In special cases, where goods are required at once, suppliers must look to the individual placing the order, who will be personally liable, unless an official confirmatory order, signed as above, is received within forty-eight hours. Invoices must be sent to the Theatre, but monthly statements should be sent to the Co-operative Offices. The individual Company on whose behalf orders are signed is solely responsible for payment. The Management will not hold themselves responsible in the event of loss of or damage to any MSS., Songs, &c., submitted for consideration.

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Artists please note that when stage staff are required on Sunday, according to the "award," their time must be reckoned from that given in "call."

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CALLS

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PALACE, BRADFORD.
Boxing Kangaroo, "Mam'selle Pom Pom," Lisbon and Barker, Shenton and Chicks, Eileen Douglas, Picitt and Lizette, Elroy, Powell's Marionettes, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.
La Milo and Cruickshank, Mack Ollive, Three Transfields, Clack and Clack, Sergt. Brennan, Elsie Vincent, Amos Howard, Gus Harris, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, HALIFAX.
Les Francois Troupe, Bernardo, Deans and Wilton, J. H. Greener, Sybil Montague, Mr. and Mrs. Hayes, The Stannings, Warsaw Bros., Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
Twin Andersons, John Lloyd, Jamie Piper, Mayme Cannon, Jack Neil, Rose and Wold, J. Holland and Co., Gallimore Trio, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
"Drummed Out," Maudie Forde, Venturine, Sidy Nirvanah, The Arntes, Chass Lewis, Sammy Shields, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
Cissie Esdaile, Geo. Marriott and Co., Munroe Team, Emma Don, Geo. Norton, Cherry Lass, A. Barraclough, Pictures.

THEATRE ROYAL, ROTHERHAM.
"The Midnight Wedding."

THEATRE ROYAL, CHESTERFIELD.
"The Better Land."

THEATRE ROYAL, LEEDS.
"Aladdin."

THEATRE ROYAL, ATTERCLIFFE.
"Cinderella" (Jazon.).

KING'S, NOTTINGHAM.
Picture Entertainment.

PALACE THEATRE, BATH.
Carney and Armstrong, Marion Armitage, Marie Grey, John Donald, Edith Courtney, "Morning Leader" Picture, Ted Karno and Co., Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE THEATRE, LINCOLN.
Beau-Ideal Juveniles, Capt. Devereux, Baker and Balfe, Hilda Mascott, Hicks and Hunter, Norah Desmond, Orbasany's Cockatoos, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, CARDIFF.
Sable Fern, Hetman and Co., Cosgrove and Burns, Walker and May, The Waltons, Lily Luraine, Kinnard, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, &c.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, WARRINGTON.
"Brigands of Tarragona," Belle Braham, Colin Mail, Flo Inman, Brull and Hemsley, Olms and Carbeth, Pyck, Tholl, and Taylor, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, BURNLEY.
Consul, Les Elgonas, Poole and Maguire, The Sovereigns, Goggin and Davis, Clarice Clarke, Sisters Brooke, Ross and Grayson, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PIER PAVILION, SOUTHPORT.
Matinée Monday.
Madge Grey, Ethel Sheffer, Garden Troupe, Sisters Clare, Clifford and White, Three Temples, Harry Breezy, The Fordyces, Carlotta Levey, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PIER PAVILION, WEYMOUTH.
The Howards, Takio, Simosa San, Milton Trio, Josephine Crooke, Percival, Harry Desmond, Leo and Roland, Mabel Thorne, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, BOW.
Matinée Every Monday.
Geo. Newburn, Raymond, Evalos, Mr. E., Leonas, The Bouncing Dillons, Taree, The Moncktons, "Conn," Clara Pledger, Bessie Neilson.

FORESTERS'.
Matinées, Monday and Thursday.
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SADLER'S WELLS.
Matinée Every Monday.
Harry Ford, Raymond, Merritt, J. C. Manley, Lorne and Vallance, Master Day, Amy Saville, Barclay's Jockeys, Two Lillies, Queenie Dell, Sivromis.

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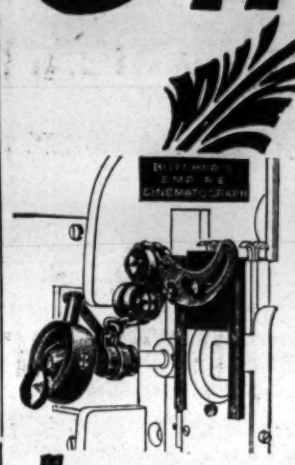

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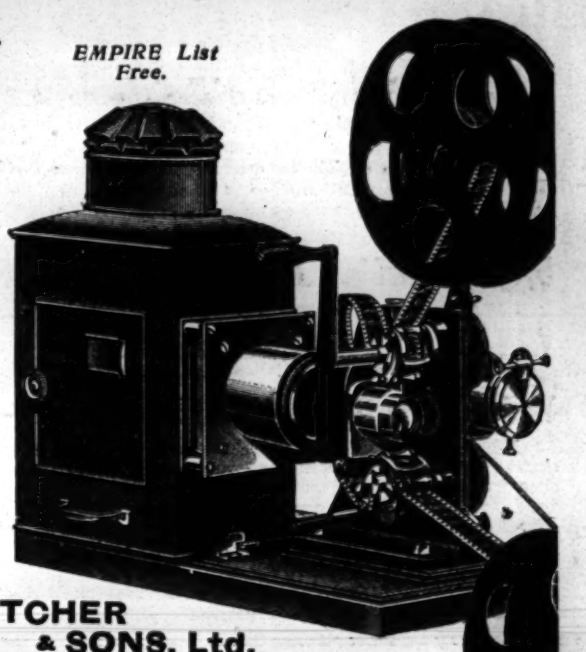

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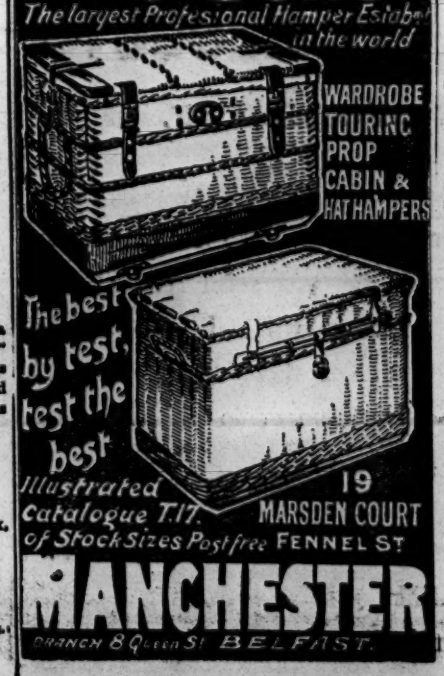

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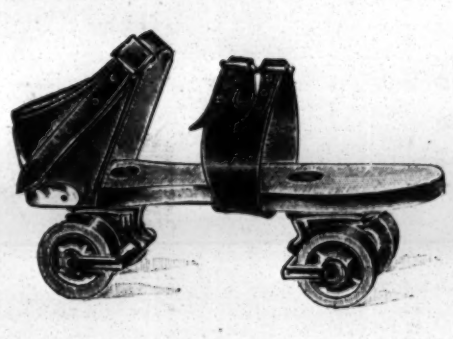

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ALEXANDER HELLARD, Town Clerk.

Town Hall, Portsmouth, January 14th, 1909.

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Albion House, Ramsgate. Jan. 14, 1909.

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDARE.—NEW THEATRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting-Manager, Mr. B. Richards.—Mr. Harry Benet's pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*, is attracting crowded houses here this week. Miss Nellie Dyson gives a dashing representation of Robinson, her songs being particularly well rendered; Miss Stella Millar is a delightfully vivacious Polly, her singing and dancing winning many admirers; the chief fun-provider is Mr. Harry Benet, whose Billy Crusoe evokes continuous laughter; Mr. Lonzo Brown is an ideal representative of Friday, and he is responsible for an expert speciality in sand-dancing; Mr. Sam Saxo is good as King Kop-em; and Miss Bertha Collins wins complimentary recognition as Princess Peerless. Mr. J. H. Wakefield scores a decided hit as Little Willie Atkins; specialities are introduced by Kloof and Ramsey, musical eccentrics; Saxo, musical marvel; Will and Roze, contortionists and conjurers; the Four Verona Girls, with novel acrobatic dancing act; and Rand and O'Ryan, comedy artists.

ABERDEEN.—H. M. THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—The comedy drama *A Message from Mars* is presented for the second time here this week. Mr. Wallace Widdicombe gives a spirited portraiture of Horace Parker; and the Messenger is ably played by Mr. William H. Brougham. Miss Rose Helene and Miss Winifred Knightley make a charming appearance in their parts of Minnie Templer and Miss Parker; and all the other members of the company give efficient support. The cleverly-arranged scenic effects materially add to the attractiveness of the play.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessees, The United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—The Ten Loonies appear with the utmost success in a boisterously amusing sketch, *Dotty*, which affords them full scope for the display of their remarkable talents. B. Troba is a singularly dexterous juggler; Mr. Dare Austen and Mr. Robert Harcourt are popular as comedians; Mr. Harry Vardon shows much ability as a ventriloquist; Mr. George Laurence is a dashing comedian; Miss Nellie Walton, the "Lancashire singing mill girl," is warmly encored; and Mlle. Eldee, "the girl in the golden frame," also makes a success.

ALHAMBRA MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. John Sinclair.—Among the artists this week are Mr. Percy Forde, one of the best female impersonators on the stage; Cambo, a versatile and accomplished instrumentalist, ventriloquist, and comedian; and Miss G. Stewart, a very tuneful soprano.

EMPIRE.—Managers, Messrs. R. Calder and J. Montague.—Included in this week's company are the popular entertainers, Mr. Bert Gilbert, coloured comedian and dancer; the Brothers Gilbert, smart acrobats; Miss Marie Rose, comedienne and dancer; Mr. Jack Marson, vocalist and humorist raconteur; and Mr. Archie Murray, banjoist and comedian.

ABERTILLERY.—THEATRE METROPOLE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. J. Seaborn.—A good reception was accorded to Mr. Harry Starr and company, who produced here the first part of the week the popular *Otto the Outcast;* the latter part of the week is taken up by the production of *Carl the Clockmaker*. Mr. Harry Starr showed power and skill as Otto, his quick changes being a speciality. Mr. Will Hee gave a fine delineation of Vidocq; Daddy Bruneau was capitally presented by Mr. Alvin Sawyer; Mr. Edwin Firth did justice to the part of De Laporte; Lara, the flower girl, was effectively played by Miss Kate Norris; and Corinne was excellently performed by Miss Madge Blundell.

THE PAVILION.—Lessees, Messrs. E. and H. Tilney; Manager, Mr. E. Pryce.—The well-balanced company of Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley is popular here in *A Soldier's Honour*. Mr. Millar Anderson gives a fine and masterly impersonation of Captain Deane; Cora Lee is well portrayed by Miss Mabel Mannering; Jemima Eliza is handled cleverly by Miss Edie Macklin; Mr. C. H. Gallier makes a careful study of General Rochester; Captain Temple finds a capable exponent in Mr. T. Arthur Ellis; and Mr. Andrew Money is a capital Henry Thornton.

ACCRINGTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—The patrons at this theatre are fortunate in having provided for them a visit by Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company in the dramatic success *Leah Kleschna*. Miss Bessie Rignold is a capable exponent of the title-rôle. She possesses a singular charm of manner, and she exercises a restraint in the more impassioned scenes which serves to deepen the impression created. Mr. William Clayton's fine stage presence and elocutionary powers are admirably suited to the part of Monsieur Kleschna; Mr. Arthur Leigh capably enacts Raoul; and Mr. William Heilbronn is responsible for a clever character study as Schram; Mr. Algernon J. Hicks doubles the parts of General Berton and Valantine Favre very successfully; and Mr. Charles Barrett is fairly convincing as Paul Sylvanie. Miss Dorrie Turner is charming as Sophie; Miss Ethel Russell a satisfactory Madame Berton; and Miss Emmie Wallace displays marked ability as Clare. The play is well mounted.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Accrington Hippodrome Co.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—Mr. Jack Haddon's pantomime *Jack and the Beanstalk* is being played twice nightly here this week to good houses. It is a bright and merry show, and very well exploited by the cast. Miss Alma Obrey is a most vivacious Jack, and sings and dances delightfully; Dora, the Squire's niece, has a charming representative in Miss Bessie Knight; Miss Kitty Chandos and Miss Dulcie Lloyd as the gay, youthful lovers are exceptionally good, and the graceful dancing of the Love-birds proves to be one of the chief attractions of the pantomime; Mr. David O'Toole is droll and clever as Dame Trotter; Mr. Bob Baxter is most mirth-provoking as Silly Billy; Messrs. O'Malley and Brown, Hal Forde, sen., and Tom Packer are all good in their respective parts; Miss Marie Rayner as the wicked Fairy Discordia is distinctly successful; and Miss Nellie O'Mara is captivating as the good Fairy Harmonia. Specialities are also introduced by Beattie and Babs, versatile juvenile artists.

ALDERSHOT.—ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Gladwin.—Mr. Seymour Hicks's company is here in *The Gay Gordons*. Mr. Frank Lincoln is an actor of marked ability and great resource, and it is pleasing to note his clever conception of Angus; Miss Nell Carter furnishes a fascinating portrayal of Peggy Quainton, and she deserves praise for her acting; Mr. Tom Graves is a great provider of fun as Nervy Nat; and Mr. Edward Nainby is another laughter-provoker as Edmund; whilst Mr. Ernest Ruston is capital as the millionaire, Quainton. Miss Ida Laurie's make-up and portrayal generally of Charlotte is good; and Miss Mabel Dent is a charming impersonator of Victoria, and sings sweetly, too. As the matronly Janet Miss Emily Mellon is capital; as Mary Miss Gladys Waring is a chic exponent; as Corpl. Smith Mr. Norman Forrest cuts a ludicrous figure in the final scenes whilst impersonating the lord; and as the society quintette Messrs. Mervyn Dene, Melville Florence, Cranston Nevill, W. Terriss, and Austin Green are good. Mr. Chas Tyers (Jack) goes through a marvellous eccentric dance which gains an encore; and Mr. Buchanan Wake does well as the lawyer. A number of others in the choruses and garden scenes help to the success. Mr. W. A. Seymour is manager of the company.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill, jun.—Pantomime has again possession of the Theatre Royal stage this week, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levey and Mr. J. E. Cardwell's company presenting *Little Red Riding Hood*. There are a number of specialities of a diverting character, plenty of fun, excellent vocalism, good dancing, and attractive ballets. Miss Iris Vivienne is a graceful little lady as Red Riding Hood, and invests her performance with a charm peculiar to herself; Miss Fannie Adamson is a graceful Boy Blue, her singing and dancing speeding her in favour; Miss Helen Dunscombe makes a perky and vivacious Will Scarlet; Miss Daisy Clifford is also "fetching" as Marjorie Daw; Miss May Gibson is dainty and pretty as Miss Muffitt, Boy Blue's best girl; the fun-makers are Mr. J. J. Mannix as Baron Hardup, Mr. V. Wakeman as Dame Trot, Mr. Billy Melia as Sunny Jim, and Denby and Dent as Doleful Dan and Whimsical William.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech; Assistant-Manager, Mr. James Burslem.—Billy Williams, the "man in the velvet suit," wins tremendous applause; the paper manipulations of Mint and Mart are really wonderful, artistic work being produced by deft fingers out of coloured paper; Corman's Juveniles appear in a clever vocal scena, their young voices proving fresh and tuneful; *The Waif*, a pavement sketch, is a capital portrayal of character; Allsopp and Bekwith are a clever comedy couple; Sandy McNab, in a funny Scotch sketch, *The Egyptian Mummy*, excites the risibilities of his audience to a remarkable degree; Leslie's Comedy Cadets appear in the military comedy scena, *After Lights Out;* an expert singing and ventriloquial performance is given by Mr. Harry Leslie; Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilde have a novel speciality in humorous talking and singing shadows; Bradley, the cycling Jew, is a marvel on the wheel; and Staig's Steeplejack Cyclists give a unique and daring performance. The Bioscope illustrates A Catching Dance.

THE NEW PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech; Assistant-Manager, Mr. T. Edward Owen.—Special attractions are provided for lovers of the animated pictures, the leading film being an illustration of the Johnson and Burns engagement; the whistling feats of Tom Morris are clever and artistic, and his imitations admirable; the Frohmans (Will and Alicia) give a dainty musical mélange.

THE PICTUREDROME. — Lessees, Messrs. Weisker; Manager, Mr. J. Marks. — A further series of Italian earthquake pictures includes the Burning of Messina Town Hall; The Inventor's Daughter is a thrilling melodrama of a modern type, which embraces a most sensational motor race; The Rival Stone Cutters is a striking picture; The Greek Slave and some Continental views, architectural and pastoral, are the most artistic on the programme; and The Electric Hotel and The Obstinate Umbrella provide screaming comedy; a notable picture is The Kids' Strike, wherein the youngsters of two schools revolt. The Capels are duettists of a high order, their rendering of Irish ballads being awarded most enthusiastic applause. There was a crowded house, and the manager, in announcing his future plans, gave a brief but interesting speech on the making of the pictures.

ATTERCLIFFE.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manageress, Miss Ethel J. Hope.—Messrs. Edwin C. Jazon and Nightingale's pantomime *Cinderella* opened to a good house on Monday. It is a bright, merry show from start to finish, plenty of fun, and a capable all-round company. Miss Molly Doon, in the title-rôle, is vivacious and pleasing; Miss Vera Mayne is a dashing Prince Brilliant, with a taking style; Miss Beattie Foster makes a pert Dandini; and Miss Flo Burnett is well placed as Queen Bountiful, her vocal numbers being rendered in good taste. The comedians introduce any amount of laughable interludes. Included are Messrs. Leo Fields (Buttons), Fred Lake (Baron Crooked), Wallace Whitney (Arabella), Harry Plowden (Isabella), and the Danbys (Kuff and Kollar). Misses Cissie Gordon and Lily Hales do well in the minor parts of Marquis of Taxes and Dorothy. Several specialities are introduced in the ballroom scene. Mr. J. W. Johnson is an efficient conductor; and Mr. F. B. Woolstenhulme is business and stage manager.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Bert Dent; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harry Sanders.—A Venus masquerade and picture-posing competition, open to "ladies only," for which valuable cash prizes are offered, is proving a most interesting feature here. A thrilling dramatic playlet, *The House of Terror*, is presented by Miss Beaumont Collins and company, the parts being cleverly played by Mr. George Ingleton as John Dason, Mr. George Blunt as Mark Verral, Miss Lucie Evelyn as Mother Grawley, and Miss Beaumont Collins as Meg Harding. Other turns include Les Currys, two smart ladies, in a musical act; Mr. Albert St. Clair, double-voiced vocalist; the Neilson Troupe, vocalists and dancers, in *An Impromptu Rehearsal;* Attergraph pictures of the earthquake at Messina; the Two McAleavy Marvels, trick and barrel-jumpers; the Betsons, comedy cyclists; and Mr. Bert Rayburn, comedian.

AYR.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—Mr. Robert Macdonald's *Dairymaids* has been here for three nights. The company is a good all round one, and several new songs, introduced since the last visit, add to the enjoyment of a very enjoyable production. Miss Isa Bowman was a pleasing and sweet Peggie, and sang her songs beautifully; Miss Kathleen Severn was as winsome as ever in the part of Winnie; Mr. Dan Agar as Joe Mivens was the soul of the piece, and along with Miss Edie Martin as the maid-of-all-work made things go merrily; Mr. Frank Barclay was a capital doctor; and Miss Babs Christopher a dignified Lady Brudenell; Messrs. Manger and Telford as the two lieutenants were responsible for a lot of the fun. The piece was well put on. Mr. Chas. Harrington's company is billed for the last three nights of the week in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

BACUP.—NEW COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood.—Captain Clayton's pantomime, *Cinderella*, is here this week. In the title-rôle, Miss Nita Dunville plays brightly, and scores with her songs; Miss Amy Allnutt as Prince Charming was enthusiastically applauded for her brilliant acting and fine singing; Miss Molly Revill is a bright and lively Fairy, who sings well; Miss Lottie Mellor is a graceful Dandini; and Mr. Jerrold Manville's clever impersonation of the Baron merits praise. Mr. Tom Gilbert and Mr. Woodwards as Gertie and Lilie, the ugly sisters, are a boisterous pair; and Mr. Gus Granville as Blustering Jim and Mr. C. Turner as Nervous Joe keep the house in continuous laughter whenever they are on, and in this respect Mr. Fred Dunville as Buttons adds invaluable assistance. Some clever specialities are provided by the Zola Troupe, La Belle Mascot, the Gibson Trio, the Dunvilles, Bros. Alpine, and the Royal Glee Singers. The singing is good throughout, and the humour excellent, and the scenery and dresses very attractive.

BARNSTAPLE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, the Long Bridge Trustees; Manager, Mr. Harry Ashton.—The first visit of *The Merry Widow* met with extraordinary success, packed houses extending a hearty reception to Mr. George Edwardes's company, who gave three performances here. In the title-rôle, Miss Daphne Glenne scored an instantaneous success, her acting and singing being much admired; she was happily partnered by Mr. Alec Worcester as the Prince, and their combined scenes, together with the famous "waltz," were rapturously encored. Miss Violet Hobson acted to the life the wayward wife of Popoff; Mr. Arthur Geary possesses a fine tenor voice, and his handling of Jolidon met with general approval; very clever too was Mr. H. Sinclair Cotter's portrayal of the self-opinionated Baron Popoff, his dry humour being immensely enjoyed; whilst Mr. Harry Emeric as the ubiquitous Nisch quickly established himself as a favourite. Much fun was caused by Mr. Cecil Warwick's delineation of the suspicious old soldier.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Messrs. Bliss and Bliss's pantomime *Mother Goose* is here. Mr. Leo Bliss as the Widow McGooseley is capital fun; and Mr. Ernest Percival is an amusing Jack. Miss May Ford is a winning Jill; and Mr. Louis Kerno a vivacious King Geezer. Miss Ethel Dunford is a captivating Prince Lothario; and the Two Rubies give specialities. Mr. Frank Probin sings well as the Demon of Folly; and Mr. George Bliss is a cheerful Septimus Snatchall. The scenery is good.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—F. R. Benson's Shakespearean company is here. In *The Merchant of Venice* Mr. Henry Herbert's Shylock has considerable originality and force; Mr. Charles Trail is a dignified Duke of Venice; Mr. James Berry a good Antonio; Mr. Evered Vanderlip a pleasing Bassanio; and Mr. Lewis a successful Lorenzo. Mr. A. Fayne is very amusing as Launcelot Gobbo; and Mr. Sam Cohen a capital Old Gobbo. Miss Gladys Vandersee plays Portia with great histrionic ability; Miss Farebrother is a winning Nerissa; Miss Jean Graeme a charming Jessica; and Mr. Robert Atkins a capable Prince of Morocco. *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Richard III.*, *Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Henry V.*, and *Hamlet* are also billed.

TIVOLI.—Lessee and Manager, Signor R. Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edgar G. Laban.—Harvey's American Boys and Girls are the premier turn here this week. They render some capital songs and choruses, and their dancing is delightful. The Crown Trio give a vocal scena of a very pleasing character; the three Sisters Dixon are excellent in their songs and dances; Reg. Beauchamp quite took the audience—he had a grand reception; Jas. Shingleton, the singing collier, renders his songs in a masterly manner; a very novel and clever act, *The Porter and the Parcel*, is provided by Howard and Collinson; and Vernon's Bioscope is a welcome feature on the programme.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Owners and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ralph D. Fenton.—Some very seasonable pictures are on show here this week, and are being much appreciated.

BARRY DOCK.—NEW THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brogden. — Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Kimberley's company in *Two Little Drummer Boys*, opened to a well-filled house on Monday. Mr. Harry Scott in the rôle of Frank Carsdale scores well; Mr. Oswald Douglas as Geo. Darrell imparts considerable force to that character; Mr. Edward Bekker makes a typical General Kingsley; and the comedy parts are well sustained by Mr. Will Percy (Quiney), Mr. Dick Seddon (Timothy), and Miss Elsie Dene (Molly Meadows) Miss Mary Ainslie ably impersonates Alma Kingsley; Misses Maggie English and Maudie Douglas appear to advantage as the two little drummer boys; and Miss Violet Ingram cleverly handles the part of Drunken Meg. Mr. Tom Beasley doubles the parts of Allen Kingsley and the Rev. John Rivers.

BATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—Mr. George Dance's company is here with *The Girls of Gottlenberg*. As Max Moddelkopf Mr. Bertie Wright is a host in himself, his quaint antics gaining him rounds of laughter and applause; Mr. Tom Shelford is well to the fore as Otto, rattling off the songs that fall to his share with the happiest results; the important part of Mitzi is capitally undertaken by Miss Simeta Marsden, who adds considerably to her reputation as a singer and dancer; Miss May Marshall portrays the comely Clementine in excellent fashion; a winsome Elga is Miss Maisie North, who also proves herself a vocalist and dancer of merit; the swaggering Captain Albrech is well impersonated by Mr. Hugh Henson; a special word of praise is due to Mr. Chas. Berkeley for his wonderfully agile dancing as the Sergeant. The other characters are well enacted, and the large chorus and augmented orchestra, under Mr. Otto Manns' direction, do their work in capital fashion.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—A much-appreciated vocal scena is that given by Mr. John Donald entitled "A Scottish Exile's Dream," his powerful baritone voice finding full scope in the ballads selected; another vocalist who secures hearty approbation for her songs is Miss Edith Courtney; humour is supplied in no uncertain fashion by Carney and Armstrong, a couple of comedians that win a big success; Ted Karno and company are paying a return visit in their pantomimic absurdity *Dinner Hour*, which goes well from start to finish; Childie Stuart again proves herself a chic comedienne in some taking ditties; and Marion Armitage, in her low-comedy songs finds some admirers. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, as usual, wind up the programme with new films.

BATLEY.—THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Whitty; Manager, Mr. Alfred A. Taylor.—Unlimited mirth, tasteful singing, effective scenery, beautiful dresses, and clever dances are features of the pantomime *Blue Beard*, presented here this week by Mr. Charles Constant's company. There was a crowded house on Monday night, and the performance was greatly enjoyed. Miss Daisy Lake is extremely popular as the principal boy, her vocal numbers winning loud applause; Miss Marie Duncan as Fatima is a favourite; Miss Laura Wickenden is successful as the fairy, her singing being much enjoyed; Mr. Johnny Clegg is a capital Dame; and Mr. Jack Parker scores as Bamboozlum. Specialities are introduced by Messrs. Harlin and Hanlon, the Florodorians, Russell and Gage, the Sandow Girls, Walter B. Frear, and Dolly Moore.

BEDFORD.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—*Robin Hood* is paying a welcome return visit this week, the company being that of Mr. Lewis Waller, under the direction of Mr. F. Clive Ross. Mr. Ethelbert Edwards is again seen as the bold, lusty, and handsome Robin Hood; Mr. Laurence Tessier is an excellent Will Scarlet; and Mr. Stenson Liddiard's features and voice fit him for the part of Allan a'Dale. Much rich humour is introduced by Mr. Bruce Winstone as Friar Tuck; Mr. J. N. Briant is an admirable exponent of Richard Cœur de Lion; and Mr. H. Elliot Ball gives a fine study of Prince John; Mr. F. Clive Ross seems to be particularly well suited to the part of Little John; Miss Cahill is a charming Marion; Miss Laurie Flockton as Adela and Miss Cordelia Fitzgeorge as Alison are praiseworthy. The scenery is exceptionally good.

BELFAST.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company opened here on Monday with *Under Two Flags*. In the rôle of Cigarette, a vivandiere, Miss Olive Wilton achieved a striking success; Miss Florence Melrose-Millett was delightful as the Princess; and Mr. Robert Purdie was admirable as Bertie Cecil Royellieu. In the difficult rôle of Colonel Chanteroy, the Black Hawk, Mr. Charles E. Johnson acquitted himself with distinction; and Mr. J. O. Cuthbertson appeared to advantage as Barklie Cecil Royellieu. Messrs. Charles Brook and George Porteous were effective as Lord Royellieu and Lord Rockingham; and the rôle of Lady Beatrice Guinevere was well sustained by Miss Madge Stevens. The humour of the piece was in the hands of Mr. Clarence Ibbotson, who was funny as Rake.

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. A. Salmond.—This is the last week of the highly successful pantomime *Jack and Jill*, and all concerned have every reason to congratulate themselves. On Wednesday Mr. Geo. Lashwood had a bumper benefit, and Miss Dorothy Ward, the charming principal boy, appealed to her many admirers on Friday.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fred Willmott and Will Sley; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The star here is Miss Harriett Vernon, the favourite comedienne, who appears to the utmost advantage in her latest song-scena, *A Yuletide Story;* Mr. V. L. Granville appears in his protean play *'Twixt Dawn and Daylight*, in which he cleverly presents several characters; and Messrs. James Willard and company produce with much success *The Ace of Hearts*. The impersonations of Mr. Tom Stuart reflect much credit on him. Also here are Mr. Charles Rose, comedian and dancer; Bros. Ford, comedians and dancers; the Howards, in their musical act; Mr. Leslie Race, a good comedian, and the Hipposcope.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—Machnow, the Russian giant, is here, and his appearance nightly on the stage has created quite a sensation. The Eight of Hearts appear with much success in their American songs, while their dancing is certainly first class. The Lashmars appear in their smart comedy act, *Bits and Pieces;* and Miss Crissie Cross is aptly described as a smart singer and dandy dancer. Terry and Bentley, comedy artists, gain a good reception, as does Mr. Harry Leybourn, a really clever female impersonator. The Bioscope is also included in the programme.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Will White.—This popular theatre enjoys a very large share of patronage. It is announced that over 50,000 people pay for admission every month. This week the following films have been exhibited—Mysterious Wardrobe, The Runaway Horse, Rival Sisters, A Workman's Dream, &c. Also appearing are the Lynches, illustrated song artists, who are nightly accorded a terrific reception; and the Wedburns, funny comedians.

ST. GEORGE'S HALL.—General-Manager, Mr. Robert Wilson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—Under the direction of Mr. Hugh Beckett a fine series of pictures has been exhibited here.

CLIFTONVILLE HALL.—General-Manager, Colonel Fred T. Cummins.—The success of roller skating here continues to be unbounded, and new competitions are announced, including a professional championship over a distance of one mile. Doubtless this will excite the keenest interest among the many devotees of rinking.

BILSTON.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. John M. Dawson; Business-Manager, Mr. S. Hadskiss Dawson.—Messrs. Austin and Dixon's company occupies the boards this week with *Mother Goose*, in which a brilliant spectacle is provided. Miss Mabel Austin makes a sprightly Lubin, and Miss Winnie Murray a sweet and charming Daisy; Mr. Sydney James as Mother Goose keeps the house in continuous laughter; Mr. Ted Lockstone (Billy), Mr. Jack Harrington (Parchment), Mr. Will Raglan (Robert), and Mr. Tom Rend (Timothy) all contribute largely to the amusement of the piece. Some exceptionally pretty dances are introduced by Mlle. Le Mair and the Elysium dancers; and top-boot stepping is done by Read and Wright.

BIRKENHEAD.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—Miss Mary Nell and Mr. George Kirk's company in the drama *From Shopgirl to Duchess*, present an attractive entertainment. Miss Nell gives a highly successful and praiseworthy rendering of Sylvia Grey, and proves herself to be an emotional actress of exceptional power; the Duke of St. Baynum is well played by Mr. Douglas Cecil; Lord St. Orbortrude is capitally represented by Mr. Douglas Tremayne; Mr. Frank S. Strickland is well suited as Gilbert Spate; and Mr. T Lionel Ellis is an efficient Sir Morris Maitland. Miss Beatrice Hudson is an admirable Lady Celeste Delarmere; Miss Amy R. Ellis earns distinction as the Dowager Duchess of St. Baynum. The comedy element is well supplied by Mr. Henry Gerald as Tommy Tinkler and Miss Georgie Hawkins as Tilly Dobson. Remaining parts are in able hands, and the scenic effects are really fine.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. D. J. Clark.—Reano's Band are fulfilling a first engagement here, and their fine instrumental performance is enthusiastically received. George Blunt and R. H. Knight's company in a condensed version of *The Grip of Iron* (with Mr. Fred Powell as Simmonet) is a leading attraction; and Lady Mansel and her troupe of clever juveniles in *A Concert Rehearsal* provide an interesting turn; Phillips and Merritt, society entertainers, have made a hit, and a capital programme is contributed to by Mysticus, in a clever and amusing act; Miss Stella Dell, an accomplished comedienne; Talbot and Pearce in an entertaining Japanese duologue; Miss Janette Hall, lady baritone vocalist; Mr. Ted Waite, an excellent comedian; and Brown's Royal Bioscope.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Ball.—Mr. Fred Karno's company of comedians in the boxing sketch *Yap Yaps* head a strong combination, and have caught on immensely; Langslow, shooting expert, accomplishes some startling feats while balanced on the slack wire; and Miss Irene Meldon is a taking comedienne and dancer. Other prominent turns are those of Wyotti, a smart juggler; Fred Ellis, comedian; Jack Rae, comedy gymnast; and the Hippodrome pictures.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*Dick Whittington* is meeting with extraordinary success, and the artists continue to appear, without exception, in the very best of form. Miss Syhil Arundale has quite captured the public's affections as Dick, her portrayal being a highly romantic and fascinating one; Miss Aimee Grey's singing and acting give special importance to the rôle of Alice; Miss Clara Reid makes a winsome Marjory, while her dancing is remarkably clever; Miss Ethel Legrette as the Princess in the second part quickly establishes herself a favourite with her exceptionally fine singing, while the clever comedy powers in "making love" to Idle Jack cause great delight; Miss Ada Whittaker is smart as Tommy, the dandy, and Miss Violet Baynton is a very good Spirit of the Chimes; Mr. Tom Foy as Idle Jack has "come" to stay for many weeks; the audience absolutely revels in his quaint fun-making; and he is well supported by Mr. Jno. Power as Fitzwarren; Mr. Arthur Reynolds as the Cook; Lupino Lane, whose remarkable agility as well as his clever dancing make him specially popular as Bottles; Mr. Eric Campbell, who makes a stalwart and vocally perfect Emperor; Wee Wallace Lupino, another clever dancer, who is made much of as Kazrac; and Mr. Harry Lupino as King Rat. Mr. Fred Whittaker gives a clever study of the Cat; and Drew and Alders make capital fun with their specialities as Captain and Mate.

PRINCE OF WALES'S, LTD.—Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*Boy Blue*, with its "pack of aces," all stars, has completely broken the record here. Miss Hetty King is blithe and bonny as Boy Blue, and brings down the house with her popular songs; Miss Gladys Ivery wins the favour of all with her really fine singing and acting as the Princess Gloria; Miss Rita Everard is divinely tall and shapely, and in truth very mellifluous, as Prince Opulent; Miss Connie Emerald acts and sings prettily as Marjery; Mr. Tom E. Murray keeps the house in roars with his funny japes and jokes as the Baron; Mr. Horace Mills amuses with his ludicrous but indubitably smart travesties as Martha; Mr. G. H. Elliott gains admiration with his immaculately dressed and perfectly rendered coon creations as Chocolate; Mr. Jay Laurier is rich in repartee and humour as Jiggory; and Mr. J. Alexander, as the repressed solicitor, Mr. Chatter; Mr. H. F. Graham, in his faithful "studies" of the rampageous Bull and Bear; and Miss Olive Adair, who acts gracefully as the good Fairy Roseleaf, contribute valuably to the success. The Eight Stella Girls are the "cynosure of all eyes" in their fascinating swing song, &c., and the Lyric Quartette discourse harmoniously as villagers.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. T. Guest.—*Little Red Riding Hood* is now going with a capital swing, and the clever little heroine herself, Little Maudie Olmar, is the idol of the always crowded Alexandra. Miss Ellaline Thorne (Colin) puts plenty of life into her character, while her sweet, expressive singing and graceful dancing complete the audience's satisfaction. Miss Dollie Denton makes a most seductive Miss Muffit, with her alluring ways and taking songs; Miss Ivey Roze sings and acts with dashing vivacity as Prince Roseleaf, and has made herself a big favourite; Miss Joyce Stevens as the second girl, Margery Daw, lacks nothing in ability or charm, and her success is complete; Miss Winifred Norman shows an agreeable flow of spirits as the volatile Greba; and Miss Daisie Clements thoroughly shares the success as the Fairy. The comedians, Messrs. Stephens and Rennoir, as Johnny Green and Peter Piper, are fully up to date, and they are admirably assisted by Mr. Albert Schafer as Dame Durden, Mr. George Penn as Simple Simon, and Mr. Frank Blythe as the Baron. The Three Tivoli Girls lend a beauty and grace of their own to the production, the Molasso Troupe astound and thrill with their remarkable "cyclonic" dance, and the admirable Schafers vouchsafe their musical speciality to great applause.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*Aladdin*, as furnished by Messrs. Jazon and Nightingale, is affording Mr. Melville's patrons a rare treat. The dresses are handsome, the scenery superb, and the artists excellent. Miss Edna Latonne as the hero is endowed with a dashing style and good songs, and the Princess, as enacted by Miss Luna Lisle is captivating. The Sisters Brenton are very popular as Pekoe and Caramel; and the Misses Ada Jenner and Lily Reno are acceptable in their parts; Mr. Clifton Hall scores as the Emperor; Abanazar looms large in the person of Mr. Walter Bishop; Gin Sling, the Vizier, is well played by Mr. Frank Vant; Mr. Percy Curry evokes mirth as the Widow Twankey; and Ping and Pong are amusingly portrayed by Messrs. Rex and Ford. The Misses Cecily and Gladys Darnton are successful as the Genius of the Ring and Slave of the Lamp respectively. A number of clever specialities also appear, including the Sisters Brenton, expert dancers; and Kavados, a clever juggler.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*The Woman from Russia* is making a successful appearance here, with Miss Adria Hill and Mr. Robert Ayrton and company. Miss Hill's fine and famous emotional powers are shown admirably in the rôle of Wanda Sonorovitch; Mr. Ayrton displays himself to signal advantage as Frank Haldane; Miss Edith Tempest gives a clever presentment of the sister, Edith; Mr. Royce Carleton has a congenial rôle in the Hon. Reginald Fitzgerald; Mr. Fred G. Ingleby makes a successful character of Captain Alexis Zarviski; Mr. Richard Pitt is well put to play James Haldane; and Mr. Horace Buckley as Jerry Moriarty, Mr. Montague Turner as Ezra Caroni, and Mr. Dighton Probyn as Wun-hi are successful. Miss Nell Ingram does well in the rôle of the slavey, Mary Ann Smith.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. J. Robertson. — *The Christian* is gaining full houses and fine receptions here for Mr. Wentworth Croke's company. Miss Daisy Scudamore gives a telling portrayal of Glory Quayle, and is much applauded; Mr. Roy Redgrave shows rare dramatic power as John Storm; Mr. Herbert Hewetson is all that the part of Lord Robert Ure should be, acting with quiet force and much polish; Mr. Wilfred Noy presents the rôle of Horatio Drake to full advantage; and those of Father Lamplugh and Archdeacon Wealthy are well represented by Mr. Thomas Barry and Mr. Jno J. Hooker. The Polly Love of Miss Cora Deane and Mrs. Callender by Miss Molly Hayden are meritorious performances; Miss Muriel Marsden acts capitally as Black Meg; and a uniform merit marks the other portrayals.

PALACE THEATRE, BORDESLEY.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—*Who is She?* is the title of the play here, and it is carried to a very successful issue by Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson's company. Mr. Horace Booth succeeds Mr. Mitchelson in the heavy lead, Prince Bora, and submits a comprehensive study of the rôle; Mr. Graham Woods continues to thrill with his heroic manner and deeds as King Vladamir; Miss Violet Carlyle invests the nameless heroine with a glamour and mystery which is irresistible in its fascination; Miss Marie Robson plays the part of Theta Noveitch on clever lines; Miss Alice Barber is very worthy to be praised as Countess Ladori; and Miss Mabel Ronald, Mr. Alfred Grenville, and Mr. Edward Swinton are prominent in the cast.

GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—A pantomime phantasy, *Polly Pickle's Pets in Petland*, is scoring a big success here. The musical numbers are bright and catchy, while the dresses and scenic effects are above the average. Oswald Williams mystifies his audience. Theo Bouwmeester has a dramatic sketch, *Who is Guilty?* This clever protean artist portrays seven distinct characters. The Selbinis (trick cyclists), Spry and

broker, is an attractive item here, full of fun and well staged; A-Ba-Be's picture postcard poses are artistic; Webb and Edna Branston are loudly applauded for their operatic duets; and a musical prodigy is Luigi Salvino. Phil Bransby (in coster studies), Carl and Mary Ohm's Circus, Arthur Boyne, Charles J. Johnson (comedians), and the Westbrooks (in a novel dancing act) complete a bright and entertaining programme.

ASTON HIPPODROME. — Resident-Manager, Mr. T. H. Middleton.—The principal turn here is Kartelli, whose display on the slack wire is marvellous; as a ventriloquist Coram is far above the average; Mersano, the King of Coins, is exceedingly smart with his tricks; the Lombards are equilibrists of a talented order; Lena Leslie is applauded for her songs; Blake and Amber have a good sketch; while Lennard and Verriker present their pictorial songs with effect.

BISHOP AUCKLAND.—EDEN THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. Huntley.—Mr. Walter Melville's company oepned to a good house on Monday in *The Soldier's Wedding*. Mr. Wingold Lawrence gave a typical presentation of Jack Brown; Mr. Gerald Jordon played the part of Charles Courtney in a painstaking manner; and credit is due to Mr. Beresford Whitcomb (Colonel James Graham), Mr. Johnny Chippendale (Tommy Spratt), and Mr. Frederick Biron (David Munroe). Miss Dorothy Richardson plays Nancy Lee to perfection and Miss Marie McAulay is a clever Julie de Beauvrais.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—The Moody Manners Opera Company is providing a rich event for music lovers here this week, and it is gratifying to know that they are not slow to avail themselves of the magnificent fare provided. *Madame Butterfly* was presented on Monday night, and the success of the work was instantaneous. Miss Enriqueta Crichton, who played the title-rôle, quite surpassed herself, and was recalled half a dozen times at the end of each act. Both in acting and singing she was well-nigh faultless. Miss Rosina Beynon was also excellent as Suzuki; Mr. Charles Carter, although suffering from a cold, did well as Lieut. Pinkerton; and Mr. Marshall Vincent sang and acted remarkably well as the U.S. Consul; Mr. R. Bookes was good as Goro. *Carmen* was played on Tuesday with Miss Beynon in the title-rôle, and Mr. Paul Weiss as Don Jose, and met with the most cordial reception. *Faust*, *Tannhäuser*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Pagliacci*, and *Bohemian Girl* are included in the week's bill. Mr. Cuthbert Hawley is the capable conductor.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Sergenson; Responsible-tenant and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Hunter.—A very fine programme is provided here this week, the place of honour being worthily occupied by Fred Ginnett and company in a sporting sketch, entitled *Hunting Morn*. Another good sketch is given by Hy. Russell and company, and a clever turn is provided by Alfred Graham's Premier Juveniles; Jack Crawley contributes a novel act; and the Gregson Trio are responsible for much hilarity; Leah Arden, a pleasing comedienne; Sisters Desmond, duettists; J. B. Good, comedian, and Richard Hyde, society entertainer, also give the utmost satisfaction.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Geo. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—Fred and Downing, a pair of excellent comedians, top the bill here this week; Hammon and Wyatt, the Australian Sandow girls, also provide a good turn; and Bessie Slaughter, a fine contralto vocalist, Bi-Bo-Bi, eccentric musicians, Lizzie Glenroy, a clever Scotch comedienne, Fred Erick, a good vocal comedian, Les Valencias, acrobatic wonders, and Horace White, ventriloquist, are also well received.

BLYTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur C. Moody.—*The Dairymaids*, presented by Mr. R. MacDonald's company, has proved attractive here.

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. Arthur C. Moody.—Les Henris, in their specialities, are the star turn at the above. Among others, Reski and Ranski have proved popular.

GAIETY.—Lessees, Messrs. Claggers.—A pictorial programme has been submitted here with success.

HIPPODROME.—The Edison Pictures and the Cineophone have proved attractive here.

BOLTON. — THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Moncur.—Mr. Charles Constant's Christmas pantomime of *Aladdin*, which is now in its fourth and last week, is still being well supported, the various artists meeting with much favour from the audiences.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—A well selected variety company is appearing here, chief among which is Mr. Chas. Hera, who performs some wonderful feats of juggling; other turns are J. H. Bray, light comedian; Ruby Bijou, barefoot dancer; Harry Thorpe and Miss Zoe Coe in *My Burglar*; Clown Barker, in his comedy animal act, assisted by Miss Rozsika; W. E. Gillin, ventriloquist; Eric Johns, descriptive vocalist; Adah Payne, vocalist; Lanos and Montes, eccentric acrobats, in *A Trip in a Motor Car*; and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. R. Harrison.—This week's bill contains the following excellent turns:—Lennie and Hast, in *The Sea Nymph*; U. C. Ugo, in "Mirthful Mysteries; Nellie Moore, a clever character impersonator; Harry Taft, comedian; Nellie Nora, in her instrumental act; Frank Whiteley, comedian and dancer; Joe Atkin, vocal comedian; Menotti, "The Stockholm Wonder," and the Empire Bioscope.

BOOTLE. — MUNCASTER THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Young.—Chief attraction this week is Bostock's Baboons, who give a very clever performance; Henry and Tyler do some sensational trick cycle riding; George Acre is a pleasing comedian; Stidder and Dunbar do well in their musical act; and Kenneth and Kane gain favour with their eccentric dancing. Messrs. Ismay and Ingram complete the bill with a screaming sketch, entitled *The New Office Boy*.

BOSCOMBE.—HIPPODROMES, LTD.—Joint-Managing Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Clifford King.—Haidee Lee and Wallace Kingston head the bill this week with their latest success, *A Resourceful Lover*, and are much appreciated. Arthur Kenney, England's greatest sensational cyclist, can rightly claim this title, and his trick-riding and daring feats hold the audience spellbound; Rita and Mark are very amusing, and show agility in their comedy acrobatic and dancing act; Bert Marsden, as a character comedian, is great, and comes in for a good round of applause; Florence Deighton, ballad vocalist, is heard to advantage; Daisy Hicks, vocal comedienne, and Carla Magda, lady gymnast, are also worthy of mention. An interesting bill is closed with the Hippo. pictures, showing a film of the Messina Earthquake.

BOSTON.—PALACE.—Manager, Mr. E. Cass.—*The Shaughraun* was played on Monday to a packed house. Mr. Ernest Fare as Conn was very good, and the company throughout was well up to the standard. *The Octoroon* was billed for the latter part of the week.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, Messrs. David Allen and Son; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Hubert Dunbar.—There were but few vacant seats when Mr. George Edwardes's principal company opened on Monday in *The Merry Widow*. As Danilo Mr. Leonard Mackay was a conspicuous success. The part is one which suits him admirably, although he has little chance to use his fine voice. Equally popular was the character of Sonia, played by Miss Nora Barry, who proved herself to be an actress and singer of rare ability; Natalie could not be in better hands than those of Miss Octavia Barry, whose beautiful voice enables her to do full justice to the music belonging to the part; Mr. Lionel Victor made a big hit as Baron Popoff, a character in which his abilities as a comedian have full scope; Mr. Tom Redmond, with a new song, entitled "What every woman knows," was particularly good; so was Mr. Grafton Williams as General Novikovitch; while Mr. Haigh Jackson, the possessor of a really fine voice, played Jolidon exceedingly well. A new feature is the introduction of "La Dances des Apaches," most successfully done by Miss Dora Langham and Mr. Alfred H. Majilton. The orchestra, under Mr. Harrison Frewen, was unusually good; and the stage-management of Mr. Somers Bellamy deserves special mention.

BRADFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—Mr. Hart's *Jack and Jill* may rank amongst his many brilliant efforts in the way of pantomime, for the audiences are very large and very enthusiastic in their appreciation of the rich humour provided and the perfect feast of spectacular effects and lovely scenery which greet the eye from start to finish of the production. The principals are established favourites, who have won their way to favour by the display of exceptional ability.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Councillor Francis Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—*Red Riding Hood* is having a merry and prosperous run, and the rollicking fun and general brightness of the pantomime have long ago guaranteed its success. The principals are deserving and popular with the large audiences, whose marks of appreciation are very hearty and enthusiastic.

EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig. There is a fine programme here this week, and a very interesting feature is the performance of a wonderful stud of trained ponies, handled cleverly by Miss Marquis; Dennis Drew has a good voice, and he presents a military scena effectively, viz., *Back to Barracks*; Bonnie Goodwin (assisted by Lily Vine) scores a success with her coloured Apollo piccaninnies, who dance cleverly; the old favourite comedian W. J. Churchill elicits much laughter with his capital comic songs; *A Tennis Courtship* is a pretty scena, presented daintily by Maud and Sydney Wood; Arthur Gill is amusing as a many-voice entertainer; Teresa Da Silva, a vocalist with an exceptionally prepossessing appearance, is favourably received; Percy Honri combines humour with his clever performance as a concertina soloist; the Chronomegaphone presents striking talking and singing pictures of George Robey and Victoria Monks; and the bioscope illustrates the leading incidents in the wrestling match between Gotch and Hackenschmidt, interesting the audience greatly.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Harrison.—There is no lack of variety here this week, and H. C. Lovell and company in a screamingly funny burlesque, *Ma'mselle Pom Pom*, are foremost amongst the mirth-providers; Lisbon and Barker provide an amusing comedy turn; Paul Powell's very cleverly manipulated electrical marionettes provide a fund of genuine amusement; in *The Children's Birthday Party* Shenton and Chicks win applause for their dancing; Eileen Douglas, in charming and dainty style, sings of "The musical comedy girl"; in a very novel performance, *The Crazy Cook*, Picitt and Lizette do some amusing and very wonderful conjuring; Elroy, "the Armless Wonder," submits an astounding performance in picture painting, sketching, shooting, &c., with his feet; Joe Peterman and company in two bright scenes present an amusing burlesque sketch of merit, *The Singing Servants*; and there are some very entertaining features in Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

BRIDLINGTON.—SPA OPERA HOUSE.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. Harry Tunbridge.—Mr. Ernest Adrim's capital pantomime *Dick Whittington and His Cat* is a great attraction at this well-appointed theatre this week, and the artists receive well-merited applause for their excellent performance. In the character of Dick Miss Violet Oram is a smart and jaunty principal boy; Miss Madge Carew has a heavy part to perform in the piece as Alice, and does her work most efficiently; Mr. Will Daniels makes the most of the part of Alderman Fitzwarren; as Idle Jack Mr. Ernest Adrim keeps the house in constant merriment; and the cook, Ca-a-roline, finds a capital exponent in Mr. Mark Mooney, whose make-up in various characters, especially that of the Directoire Girl, gives him many opportunities of showing his ability. Frew and Frew as the sallormen Bill Buttercup and Captain Cowslip are very smart in their patter songs and eccentric dances; and the Cat is most ably played by Mr. Bert Warner, his amusing antics and cleverly-executed contortions gaining much applause. As Fairy Bluebell Miss Mary Alexander is very graceful; Miss Annie Faulkner is a fine Princess; Mr. Neville Graham makes the most of the part of the Emperor; and as the Demon Rat Mr. George Gordon plays well. The chorus is very efficient, and the staging and dressing admirable. The specialities include the great De Wynne Bros. in a most refined athletic act, their marvellous feats of balancing gaining them quite an ovation; and the Lina Trio, a charming troupe of lady acrobatic dancers, who are able exponents of their art. The whole show was well received on Monday by a full house, amongst the company assembled being the Chelsea football team, who were in training here for their Cup-tie engagement, and had been specially invited by Manager Tunbridge, and they expressed delight at the beautiful little theatre and the whole show.

THE PALACE.—Manager, Mr. J. W. Delmar.—The fine show of animated pictures this week includes some excellent coloured films, and the many humorous pictures shown keep Mr. Delmar's audiences in constant good humour.

BRIGHOUSE. — ALBERT THEATRE — Lessees, Messrs. Beanland and Emerson.—Variety reigns once more at this theatre, the principal engagement being that of the Tricky Japs in their balancing act. They are well supported by a good company of artists, including Jimmy Shields, one-legged comedian and dancer; Vasey and Ramsey in their comedy act, *The German and His Butler*; the Brothers Venola, comedy gymnasts; Flo Chevalier, with some good songs; Fred Herbert, with up-to-date ditties; Harry Tomlin, the versatile vocalist; Stan Aubrey, comedian and eccentric legmania dancer. The animated pictures shown by the Loyal Dominion Co. are capital.

BRIGHTON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Gates; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ben Court.—The pantomime, *Aladdin*, is still attracting large audiences here. On Monday evening the Brighton Cyclist Club paid their annual visit, and several other wheelmen were present, including members of the Brighton Wanderers, Brighton Imperial, Brighton Mitre, and the Brighton Stanley clubs. Presentations of bouquets and sprays were made by the cyclists to the leading ladies of the company, and the comedians also received gifts. Miss Aimée Roberts (Aladdin), Miss Blanche Marion (Princess), and Miss Addie Love (Slave of the Lamp) submitted charming impersonations; and abundance of fun was provided by Mr. Edwin Garth (Widow), Mr. Frank Dunlop (Abanazar), Messrs. Bennett and Martell (Tip Pit and Wot Toe), and Mr. Leo Sterling (Emperor). The Lottie Stone Quartette won hearty applause for their dancing.

ALHAMBRA.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Alfred Smith.—A very attractive programme is sustained here this week. Joe Peterman and company present the original musical extravaganza *The Belle of the Orient* with distinct success; Mlle. Matha wins cordial applause for her graceful gymnastic act; Will Brondele, light comedian, sings in good style; May Yoke is a charming comedienne; Boutelle is an expert juggler; Julie Gilbert, dainty comedienne, is well received; Andie West, trick and comedy pianist, is entertaining; Violet Fernie is a delightful comedienne and dancer; J. W. Ellison, a capital vocal comedian, achieves great success; and the Alhambra Picturegraph is interesting and amusing.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. B. J. Brown.—There is a capital company here this week. Neil Kenyon, Scotch comedian, submits a highly-amusing turn; Gus Garrick is very diverting with a burlesque of a Russian dancer; Mooney and Holbein appear with success in a comedy sketch; Dale and O'Malley, the "somewhat different comedians," are mirth-provoking; Charcot and his "automatic man" present a turn of a unique and bewildering character; the Ongars are smart dancers; Cecile François and company are well received in *An Artist's Studio*; Harry Brown, the American coloured comedian, wins very hearty applause; Hal Godfrey is amusing in *A Very Bad Boy*; and the Forsyths are musical eccentrics.

WEST PIER.—Secretary, Mr. A. W. Scholey.—The musical fairy play *Sylvia in Sunland* is achieving much success here, and proves especially delightful to the "little ones." Mr. Trevor Lowe makes a genial King; Mrs. A. B. Tapping gives a very humorous impersonation of the strong-minded Queen; Mr. George Howard as Jerry and Mr. Edmund Baker as Josher provide an abundance of fun; Miss Gladys Storey is a charming Sylvia; and Mr. Donald Calthrop's Chivvy is well played.

PALACE PIER THEATRE.—King's Royal Bioscope submits an entirely fresh set of films here this week, and the afternoon and evening exhibitions prove highly attractive. Don Juan is a highly interesting picture; another depicting the Waterways of Venice is admirably presented; and a panorama representing scenes of the ruins of Hyderabad is warmly appreciated. Other pictures are of a humorous character.

COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. M. Barrasford.—Among the series of animated pictures exhibited here this week the film representing the Terrible Earthquake in Messina proves especially attractive; Rifle Bill conveys a great American drama; and Lucia de Castlemerepossesses strong dramatic interest. Among the interesting pictures are Billy's Bugle, A Day at Home, Inoculation of Youth, and Bertie's Lesson in Hypnotism. The singing pictures submitted by the Cinephone give renderings of the songs "Every Fellow's in Love with a Girl" and "John, John, John." Barrasford's Sable Operatic Minstrel Troupe are re-engaged, and appear in entirely new numbers with great success. Mr. Arthur W. Briggs' descriptive accompaniments to the pictures merit warm praise.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—*Aladdin* attracts full houses at each performance, the general opinion being that it is the best pantomime produced here. The scenery and dresses are admirable, and the company is a capital one all round. Miss Topsy Sinden has been indisposed for a few nights, her part of Yu-Bu-Tee (Daughter of the Moon) being played by Miss Nellie Palmer. Miss Palmer scored an immediate success, her dancing being both clever and graceful. Miss Ouida Macdermott is very popular in the title-rôle. She acts admirably, and sings with much taste. Miss Deborah Volar is graceful and effective as the Princess. She is a cultured vocalist, and does full justice to all her songs. Miss Daisy Lloyd Wood scores as Our Mary Ann, her songs and dancing being much appreciated; Miss Florence Foster makes an attractive part of Ah-Sing; and Miss Flora Gordon is a graceful exponent of the Slave of the Lamp. The comedians are all well up to the mark. Mr. Bransby Williams is quaint and effective as Abanaazr, his skits and impersonations being well received; Mr. W. H. Powell is amusing as Widow Twankey; and Mr. Alfred Clark is decidedly good as the Emperor. Mr. Arthur Sutcliffe is a pleasing vocalist, and he makes the most of his part of Pekoe.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Arty.—Here the pantomime *Little Red Riding Hood* is very successful. It is staged with much liberality, the scenery is very effective, and the dresses are both rich and tasteful. Miss Ethel Hall and Miss Marie Free are pleasing in their respective parts of Boy Blue and Margery Daw; Miss Daisy Dennis acts, sings, and dances well as Red Riding Hood; and Miss Violet Gillis and Miss Gertie Hall do well as Jack Horner and Miss Muffit. The comedians, Messrs Frank Hemming, K. Scott-Barrie, Crosby and Walker, all work hard and successfully; Mr. Frank Victor sings well and acts efficiently as the Wolf; and the remaining parts are all carefully played. Pretty dances are introduced by the Sylvan Quartet and the Misses Lee and Clifton.

PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. J. V. Welchman.—An interesting dramatic sketch entitled *A Royal Heart* is being excellently played by Fisher White's company. The sketch deals with Russion incidents, and it is well staged. Kurkamp, singing conductor, obtains appreciation; Alice Hollander, contralto vocalist, sings ballads exceptionally well, and in a duet from *Il Trovatore* is capably assisted by Kurkamp; George C. Doughty and company have an amusing sketch, *Captain Cupid*; Harry Bent successfully gives impersonations of popular music hall artists; Tom Parker, comedian and dancer, obtains applause; and Carlotta Lunn is highly successful as a chorus vocalist. The performance concludes with a fine set of films representing Messina before and after the earthquake. A matinée, under distinguished patronage, will be given at the Palace on Wednesday, 27th inst., in aid of the fund for relief of the sufferers in the catastrophe in Southern Italy, the whole of the proceeds to be handed over without deduction.

EMPIRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—Carlotta de Yonson and company are successful in an interesting dramatic sketch entitled *Sexton Blake*, the sketch dealing with the case of the Neva Brotherhood. May Henderson, "the dusky comedy queen," provides an exceptionally good turn of song and dance; Joe Belmont scores with his whistling and singing turn, his imitations of various birds being faultless; Belford and Mars amuse with comedy, song, and dance; Wilson's Circus exemplifies the perfection of animal training; Pueblo and Cropp are versatile Creole artists; the Four Gilbeys are clever and attractive instrumentalists and dancers; and Dorothy Vernon is a pleasing comedienne. Interesting animated pictures conclude the entertainment.

COLSTON HALL.—The "Joseph" Poole Myriorama continues to attract good houses. Amongst new subjects added to the entertainment may be mentioned a realistic representation of the earthquake in Italy, depicting many interesting scenes of the recent catastrophe.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—In another column will be found the particulars of a new drama, by Mr. T. G. Bailey, entitled *How Women are Slandered*, produced here on the 14th inst. This week Mr. Walter Melville's company is on a return visit, with *The Girl Who Took the Wrong Turning*, and had a good house on Monday (18th inst.). Willie Mason is well played by Mr. F. Roland Adair; Mr. Raymond Wood made an excellent villain of James Harcourt; Miss Nannie Mead portrays the mysterious rich lady, Vesta Le Clerc, with her usual ability; Mr. John Wilson as Joe Fleicher and Miss Marie Kildare as Poppy Slater do some good comedy business; Mr. Sidney Sarl makes a good study of Bill Slater; Miss Jessie Belmore makes an impression as Sophie Coventry; and Miss Zoe Davis makes a charming Lucy Coventry; Mr. Frank Robertson very cleverly performs as Jack Fenton; and Mr. Fred Ingram does excellent comedy work as Johnny Walker. The other characters are in capable hands, and the staging is very good.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—The revised version of *The Dairymaids* is this week being presented here by Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company, and on Monday a capital house showed their full appreciation of the excellent performance. Miss Empsie Bowman makes a delightful Peggy and Miss Vera Crichton a most pleasing Winifred; Mr. Johnny Osborne as Joe Mivens is responsible for endless laughter, and in this is equally assisted by Mr. Nelson Keys as Sam Brudenell; Mr. Percy Marshall is a breezy Doctor O'Brien; Miss Carrie Lacey ably portrays the rôle of Lady Brudenell; Miss Gladys Silvani is eminently suited to the part of Eliza; and a capital Penelope Pychase is Miss Lucy Edwin.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—At the top of the bill here are the Four Black Diamonds, transformation vocalists and dancers, who give a most meritorious performance; the Daunton-Shaw troupe of cyclists are heartily applauded for a series of daring and amusing feats; Fiorelli and Elly, barrel and spade jumpers, provide a good turn; Milner and Storey, in song, dance, and patter, please greatly; Bert Weston is highly diverting with his song "Father"; C. Torbay, comedy silhouettist, is a most acceptable turn; and Lyster and Cooke win warm applause with instrumental selections. The Farmer's Nap is an amusing picture by the Empire Theatrescope.

PALACE THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—The chief attraction here is Mr. Frank C. Bostock's anthropoid chimpanzee "Consul," and extraordinary interest is being evinced as to the wonderful capabilities of this animal; Ross and Grayson are very funny in their musical mélange, whilst the Sovereigns, one-legged men, give an exhibition of long jumps; Poole and Maguire take part in an entertaining comedy duo; Les Elgonas perform a number of clever gymnastic feats; the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Male Voice Quartette tastefully render two glees; and Goggin and Davis have an excellent acrobatic speciality. Clarice Clark is a winsome vocalist, and Kidnapping is a fine picture by Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

BURSLEM.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. R. Collins; Acting-Manager, Mr. Matt. Hall.—The two-houses-a-night system has taken well here, and the programmes provided are good. Miss Marion, a lively little lady, the Sisters Ely, in clever songs and dances, and Leonoto, a smart comedy juggler, supply the vaudeville items. The pictures are clear and large.

BURTON-ON-TRENT. — OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett and Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. de Hague Body.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company is attracting good houses in *The Prodigal Son*. A powerful rendering of the part of Magnus Stephenson is given by Mr. T. W. Dunscombe; and Mr. G. E. Clive is responsible for a capital performance as his brother Oscar. Mr. Herbert Franklin gives a careful and well-considered representation of Stephen Magnusson; and Mr. A. E. Holland is an excellent Oscar Neilson. As Thora Neilson, and afterwards as Elin, Miss Dora Gregory has no difficulty in winning the sympathy of the audience; and Miss Chrissie Dunbar acts cleverly as Helga. Miss Maude Townsend is effective as Anna; and Miss Marie Tennant is a praiseworthy Margaret Neilson. The other parts are all capably filled, and the play is effectively mounted.

BURY (Lancs.). — ROYAL, LTD. — General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Resident-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—Messrs. G. M. Polini and Austin Melford's company is here in *The Silver King*. Mr. Fred D. Daviss is happily placed as Wilfred Denver, and gives an artistic rendering; Nellie Denver is sympathetically played by Miss Madge Morley; and Miss Florence Hale Daviss shows signs of careful training and distinct promise in the part of Cissy Denver. Mr. Edward J. George's performance as Daniel Jaikes is as enjoyable as ever; Mr. E. Stanton Sharp is a good Capt. Herbert Skinner; valuable support is given by Mr. Arthur Wright as Elijah Coombe; Henry Corket is ably impersonated by Mr. W. Leslie Ellis; and Mr. Arthur H. Rooke is successful as Geoffrey Ware. The other parts are all capably handled, Messrs. Fred May, E. Stidwell, Charles Birch, Percy Store, and Misses Louie Male and Margaret Rooke being prominent.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Resident-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—Harry Tate's No. 1 Company in *Motoring* are responsible for much laughter, and their burlesque is highly appreciated. Some excellent tumbling feats are submitted by the Maximilian Trio; a capital musical act is given by the Barton and Franklyn Trio; Harold Heath is a clever dancer, and possesses a pleasing voice; Marie Francis is a dainty comedienne; Nash and Noel have some smart patter, and also shine as dancers; Prince Schaboo, Hindoo vocalist, renders his songs in finished style; and Charles E. Brown is a clever mimic. The Ottograph Pictures conclude an excellent entertainment.

HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Milson.—The star turn this week is that of the Wakeman Quintette, a company of vocalists considerably above the average. Alman Correze is a clever juggler, and his droll assistant causes much amusement; the Godfreys' musical sketch goes with a rare swing; Sullivan and Edwards are capital simultaneous dancers; the original Roxbys, artists on three legs, give an enjoyable scena, *The Old Man's Garden*; clever effects on a concertina are produced by Edwin Austin; the Rose Trio, acrobatic waiters, are decidedly smart; Farrell and Dunn are good dancers and patterers; and quite a novel turn, and one highly appreciated, is submitted by Lester and Moore, American comedy artists.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS. — THEATRE ROYAL. — General-Manager, Mr. Auguste A. Peuleve.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company has drawn big houses with *Under Two Flags*. Mr. Austin Milroy arouses much applause as the hero, Bertie Cecil; Mr. Will Hook is quite equal to the part of Rake; Mr. Arthur North is a satisfactory Lord Rockingham; and Colonel Chanteroy is made sufficiently forbidding in the hands of Mr. Roy Jackson; other rôles being filled by Mr. Horace Stewart, Mr. Harley-West, and Mr. Charles Brooke. High honours fall to Miss Agnes Verity as Cigarette; Miss Dorothy Lart plays Princess Venetia with grace and dignity; and Miss Daisy Carlton makes a vivacious Lavinia.

BUXTON. — OPERA HOUSE. — Proprietors, The Buxton Gardens Co., Ltd.; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Arthur Willoughby.—This week we have had Mr. Arthur Carlton's company in *Aladdin*. The pantomime was well received. Among the artists deserving of special mention are Mr. Fred Carey as Abanazar, Mr. Tony Freeman as Washee, Mr. Alf. Maynall as the Emperor, Messrs. Harrison Brothers as Sloppa and Koppa, Mr. Henry Meynard as Geni of the Lamp, Miss Lallah Davis as Aladdin, Miss Hedde Hulemann as Badroulbadour, and Mr. Fred Ramsdale as Widow Twankey. The dresses and scenery are particularly appropriate.

CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—Miss Lena Ashwell's company in the taking comedy *Diana of Dobson's*, made a most successful début on Monday night; Miss Emelie Polini as Diana Massingberd, of course, is the central figure, and she obtained the undivided sympathies of the audience from start to finish; Mr. Ernest Young gave an admirable portrayal of Hon. Victor Bretherton; Mr. W. Kingsford Pearce was all that could be wished as Sir Jabez Grinley; the Misses Violet Gould, Dorothy Bell, Nannie Griffin, and Eva Leonard Boyne were good as the assistants and Miss Daisy England (Miss Pringle) and Miss Elspeth Dudgeon (Mrs. Cantelupe) rendered good assistance. The comedy was preceded by an excellent little piece, entitled *The Bishop's Candlesticks*, and was thoroughly played by Miss Daisy England, Miss G. de Serville, Mr. W. Kingaford Pearce, Mr. J. Benedick Butler, and Mr. Thomas Pauncefort.

CARDIFF.—NEW THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—*Cinderella* continues to draw full houses, and the popularity of Miss Moya Mannering grows with each performance.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—A powerful programme is in evidence at the Queen-street house. At the head appears Fred Karno's company in *The G.P.O.* The great success of the piece is due to Mr. Kitchen. Miss Maude A. Edwards is a wonderful exponent of the ventriloquial art, and on Monday received an ovation most thoroughly deserved; much disappointment was caused by the non-appearance of Madge Temple, the musical comedy queen, through indisposition, but an able substitute was found in Miss Edith Roberts, a talented comedienne; Edie Hayes and Mona Wynne, the singing and dancing couple, are extremely clever; Howell and Scot, Hebrew comedians, cause hearty laughter with their antics and Hebrew cake-walk; a sensational aerial gymnastic act is given by the famous Bob Hanlon Troupe; Barrington, in freak performances at the piano, is an old favourite; and Harry Lawson is a clever and eccentric comedian. Two humorous Bioscope pictures complete.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Under the management of Mr. Rallo Balmain.—*Her Nameless Child* is the title of the interesting drama presented this week, being well-staged and capitally acted. Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company undertake the production, and the piece has done good business. Mr. J. W. Evelyn is seen again in the trying part of Anthony Ford; as young Ford Mr. Sidney C. Cranston submits a telling impersonation; and Mr. Arthur E. Pringle acts the villainous part of Lord Henry Woodville most creditably; Miss Pattie Hastings as the suffering Phyllis Ford achieves success; and Miss Mona Gray as Lady Sibil Woodville makes a favourable impression; Mr. Larry Clements (Tom Rivers) and Miss Geraldine Verner (Cravout) work well together in the comedy scenes.

PALACE HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton.—At the head of the bill here is the American Queen of Mystery Minerva, who astonishes by her marvellous dexterity with the handcuffs; *The Death of Chatterton*, a dramatic sketch, is presented by Maurice H. Hoffman, Miss Ethel King and company; a capital turn is given by Cosgrove and Burns, two amusing artists, who possess most delightful voices; the Waltons, in Chinese garb, perform some clever acrobatic feats; while Sable Fern "goes down" exceptionally well; Walker and May, two coloured singers and dancers; Kinnard, a merry magician; and Lily Luraine, instrumentalist, and others, also contribute successfully.

CARLISLE.—H. M. THEATRE.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart McKim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—Mr. William Maclaren's company opened on Monday in *Claudian*. Mr. Maclaren, who again appeared in the title-rôle, gave a scholarly and artistic impersonation. Both in the prologue and the play proper he was splendidly effective, using his fine

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elocutionary power with impressive and dramatic effect. Miss Lily C. Bandmann's Almida was a finely-conceived and executed piece of work, her emotional scenes particularly were distinguished by her refined and convincing style; Mr. G. Edward Dustan as Theorus was a big success, and Mr. George Roberts was seen to great advantage as the Holy Clement. As Thariogalus Mr. Bernard Elliott contributed a sound performance, and Mr. Douglas Earle easily gained the sympathy of his audience by his effective acting as Agazil. In the slight comedy part of Belos Mr. Chal. T. Chaloner created amusement, and Miss Ruth Trafford acted with spirited ability as Edessa. The minor parts were all excellently interpreted. The scenery and dresses were unusually bright and effective, and the whole performance gave the utmost delight to an enthusiastic audience.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Morgan.—The bill is headed this week by Seener and Fridkin's Imperial Russian Troupe of singers and dancers, who give a particularly picturesque and popular performance; their dancing is distinctly novel and clever, and wins warm applause; Sibb and Sibb are again to the fore, and as trapeze artists their wonderful tricks, executed with rare skill and daring, again command admiration and enthusiastic approval; Tiny Arnold is as clever and vivacious as ever, and the Sisters Arnold contribute a successful musical sketch. Miss Teddy Edmond's company, in a sporting farcical act, entitled *The Lady Jockey*, keeps the house in a continuous roar of laughter, and a clever xylophone performance by the Five Vernons is a capital and greatly-appreciated turn. Carrie Joy, a comedienne with good style and a nice voice, and some excellent pictures by the Pepiscope completes.

CARMARTHEN. — ASSEMBLY ROOMS. — Proprietors, Public Rooms Co.; Secretary, Mr. Edward Baldwin.—Miss Inez Howard's company is here in *A Warning to Women*. Miss Edith Knight is a realistic Moira Kennion, the dipsomaniac; Mr. Stephen Crossley was a success as Dr. Marcus Dread; Mr. Leslie Beaufort fills the part of Shann with ability; Mr. J. Percival Jordan as Fergus McNaughton plays in a capable manner; Mr. Balfour Dennistoun is an excellent Lord Eversleigh; Mr. John Cullen's Squire Kennion shows ability; Rev. Emmanuel Wallace finds a satisfactory exponent in Mr. Charles H. Mortimer; Mr. Ern Turner provides plenty of fun as Mike McQuade; Mr. Roland Hope is an effective Ferdinand; Miss Minnie Halstan is admirable as the cripple boy; and Sheila Kennion is well portrayed by Miss Dorothy Lambert.

CASTLEFORD.—ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Henry Masterman, J.P.—Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company, under the general management of Mr. Hugh Wallace, in *The Lancashire Lad*, is playing to large and enthusiastic audiences. Mr. Chas. Strafford offers a manly and convincing portraiture of David Elmore; Miss Phyllis Elton plays Jessie Wincote with a power and pathos that wins and holds the sympathy of the house; Mr. Ernest Vaughan as the hypocritical Max Carlton submits a clever and finished piece of acting, while Miss Nell Oliver gives a fine impression of the fierce and callous Lorna Wincote. Mr. Hugh Wallace undertakes the difficult rôle of Jem Wincote with much success; Mr. Walter Kenyon gives an extremely diverting performance as John Willie; Miss Lottie Pearce is bright, pleasing, and vivacious as Jane Alice, and vastly amuses the house; the Sisters Daisy and Gertie Gage sing with sweetness and flexibility, and their graceful dances are much admired; Miss Eminiline Rosette has an attractive personality, and she sings and acts well as Kitty de Vere; Mother Wardle is presented with quaint humour by Miss Molly Monagham; Mr. H. N. Wilkinson is an amusing Professor; Messrs. George Watson and Sydney Rudge do clever work in their respective parts.

QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Proprietors, Messrs. Chas. Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will H. Emerson.—At the head of a long programme here is Ugo Nap, a comedian, assisted by Hilda Corelli, in a burlesque scena *Home Without a Mother*, assisted by a few local children; much amusement is caused, and the applause is unstinted; Chas. Ulrick, in barrel balancing, has great applause showered upon him; Mlle. Lumiere, in her kaleidoscope dance, is high in popularity. Warm favourites also are the Lizette Troupe, vocalists, dancers, and acrobats, and their business is pleasing, smart, and clever; the Bros. Ray as knockabout comedy cyclists create roars of laughter; O. Souplessi is a clever contortionist on the silver rings; the Les Zanonis (Lilian and Henre) as jugglers and club-throwers are neat and skilful; Hillet and Hallat sing and dance with success; Molly Augarde is applauded for a couple of good songs; and Will Marsh also sings a couple of songs in capital style. The Loyal Dominion Co.'s animated pictures form an attractive feature.

CHATHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard.—The first pantomime of the season is seen here in *Robinson Crusoe; or, Man Friday and the King of the Cannibal Islands*, toured by Mr. Frederick Mouillot, under the management of Mr. Jas. R. La Fane. In the title-rôle Miss Mina Green makes quite a hit with her lively acting and tuneful singing. She receives ample support from Miss Daisy May, a pleasing little Polly. As Dame Crusoe Mr. Oliver J. Round is very droll; Mr. Ernest Sefton's Will Atkins proves very popular; Mr. Charles Resti is Man Friday, and scores more particularly in his Komical Konjuring act. Viviana and company should be proud of the reception given to their act, *The Toy Shop*, and spirited dances are introduced by the Fedora Quartette. Mr. Michael Dwyer makes an able musical conductor, and business is excellent.

CHORLEY (Lancs.).—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Santé.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's capital drama *A Broken Heart* is here this week, and on Monday opened to a good house. The scenery is excellent. Mr. Clinton Harris gives a fine exposition of John Bernard; Mr. J. Moreton Williams undertakes Stephen Raylton in competent style; Mr. Vivian Charles is good as the Rev. Mr. Staunton; and Mr. S. Armitage wins entire approbation as Tony Tibbets. Mary Barnard is played with exceptional emotional power and undeniable strength by Mrs. Harry Foxwell; Miss Ethel Grey successfully coping with the part of Mrs. Kellet; Little May is creditably rendered by Miss Daisy Rocheford; and Sally Travner is humorously depicted by Miss Nancy Mitchell.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—Mr. Arthur Carlton's *Cinderella* opened an engagement here on Monday before a large and highly delighted audience. The show is handsomely staged and dressed, and contains some good musical numbers. In the title-rôle Miss Ella Willmer danced with exquisite grace, her petite figure being well suited to the character; Miss Victoria Carmen sang delightfully as Prince Charming, her voice being one of great penetrative power; Messrs. Harley and Melton worked most assiduously as the broker's men, and with marked success; whilst the immobile face of Mr. H. A. Griffiths as the Baron emphasised the drollery of his assumption. Mr. Keane Harker as Pimple, the obliging one, was also very popular; the Ugly Sisters were worthily represented by Anna Beaumont and Fanny Wallace; and Miss Ida Dorrie looked smart as Dandini. The large well-dressed chorus worked in most harmonious fashion.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Colchester Hippodrome Company; Directors, Mr. F. Mouillot and Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—*Claud Duval*, a romantic equestrian spectacle, heads this week's bill, and furnishes capital entertainment; the Five Whiteleys, speciality artists, compel the applause of all; Cash and Clare present a dancing act of much merit; Odeyne Spark dances daintily and sings popular songs; Mark Brand's eccentricities make him a general favourite; Chas. Williams is a good vocal comedian; and Pathé films contribute to the bill, which is concluded by the *Morning Leader* series.

CHESTER. — ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—Mr. Fredk. Melville's company in *Her Forbidden Marriage* holds the boards. Mr. Henry Lonsdale as the hero, George Madison, thrills the audience with his spirited acting; the villain Devereux is portrayed with quite Satanic power by Mr. Louis Hector; the old rustic Lambkin is a clever character impersonation, for which Mr. Vincent Loraine deserves praise; and the funny man, Timothy Tuttutt, is a success in the hands of Mr. Fred de Vere. Mr. Wilfred Mansfield plays Sir George Lancaster with dignity and feeling; Patty, the servant, is amusingly represented by Miss Grace Emery; the adventuress, Lady Lucretia Lancaster, is ably sustained by Miss Florence Hunt; the long-suffering heroine Lucy is sympathetically acted by Miss Isla Garnet- Vayne; and the Mother Superior of Miss Grace Lester is a praiseworthy performance. The other characters are well played.

CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—*The Love of the Princess* is staged here by the T. Edward Ward company. A spirited performance of Prince Conrad is given by Mr. Wilson Coleman; Mr. Ernest Imeson presents a capital reading of Count Danillo; Mr. E. H. Dobell is successful as King of Ilarnia; clever work comes from Mr. Graham Winsford as Prince of Narava; Mr. Beckett Bould and Mr. Douglas Watson as Lieuts. Orlan and Zaroff do excellent work; Miss Maisie Hanbury in the title-rôle is very good; Miss Nellie Graham is seen to advantage as Constantia; and Miss Olive Lloyd's rendering of Lady Ramona is well worthy of mention.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. R. J. Bell.—Mr. F. R. Benson's company opened the second week of its engagement with *Julius Cæsar*. Mr. Benson, in the part of Marcus Antonius, delighted his audience. His delivery of the oration in the Forum was a splendid example of the art of elocution, and roused the audience to enthusiasm. Mr. Benson and other members of his company were called before the curtain. Mr. Murray Carrington as Julius Cæsar filled the part admirably; Mr. E. A. Warburton as Marcus Brutus gave a talented exposition of the part; Miss Olive Noble as Calphurnia and Miss Dorothy Green as Portia were excellent.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Thomas F. O'Brien.—Bosanquet, the famous musician, delights his audience with his marvellous playing on the violin, imitating the human voice cleverly on one of his instruments; Callaghan and St. George (lady and gentleman) give an Irish sketch with great success; the Denaro Brothers (Hungarians) are a clever pair of acrobats and equilibrists; Florence Carlow, a dainty comedienne, sings and dances well; Zasma, assisted by Mlle. de Louie, gives a wonderfully clever gymnastic turn; Adams and Ward, acrobats, do some very clever work; and the Palascope pictures are heartily enjoyed.

COVENTRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—The pantomime season once again comes round, and during this week *Puss in Boots* is being presented by Mr. George Brydon-Phillips's company. Miss Ethel Dunbar is seen to advantage as the Marquis; Miss Kitty Vivian making a dashing Prince Ferdinand; Miss Mavis Hope makes a charming Princess Pansy; Bernard and Weston prove a couple of entertaining comedians; Mr. Tom Ashley as Dame Dorking and Mr. Leslie Digby as King Coke also contribute capably to the amusement; Miss Jeannie Langlois is a charming Fairy Hymen.

HIPPODROME THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. S. T. Newsome; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. E. Wright.—Marie Loftus, the great attraction at the above place this week, meets with a very hearty reception, being recalled several times at each performance; the Athos Troupe are an extremely clever quartette; Don and Mabel Keir in a Scottish scena, entitled *Sandy's Return*, give some good songs; Victor Courteney ("Boots" at the piano) gives imitations of banjo, musical box, &c.; Dion Wade amuses with impersonations of George Robey and others. Other artists who contribute are the Bros. Durant in their *Aeroplane* burlesque; Annie Heath, comedienne and dancer; and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shelley in a comedy sketch, *The Ideal Woman*. The Bioscope shows scenes of the recent earthquake at Messina.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. K. Draco.—One of the chief turns here is a small drama depicting an incident in the life of a society woman, and presented in an able manner by Alan Holt and company; another clever turn is that of Russell Car, an accomplished ventriloquist; the Croisit Trio perform remarkable feats of strength; the Three Chanters are responsible for some charming melodies; Jack Charman is an entertaining comedian; the Oakes comedy duo, and Belle Harcourt, comedienne, are a couple of favourite turns; and the Bioscope pictures are interesting.

CREWE.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alfred Cuthbert.—Messrs. Little and Darcy's company in *Red Riding Hood* is the attraction here. In the title-rôle Miss Prudence Ayrton wins golden opinions and sings well the songs "Come over the garden wall" and "Come round to tea"; Miss Florrie Bray, a commanding Boy Blue, is a general favourite; Miss Kitty Marion is successful as Prince Charming; Miss Nellie Moore is a dainty Miss Muffit, her songs and dancing meeting with unstinted praise; Miss Lilian Rose is a piquant Margery Daw, and makes a decided hit with the popular song "A tiny seed of love"; Miss Madge Seymour is responsible for a deal of fun as Maud Matilda; and Miss Tessie D'Alberti is a Charming Fairy Glowworm. Mr. Tom Melbourne makes a capital Baron Badlot, and along with Miss Nellie Moore sings a character song which goes well; as Dame Trott Mr. George Rapley is highly amusing; Mr. Richard Hamilton is clever as the Wolf; Mr. Sydney T. Russell as Simple Simon is good, and his song "Don't put me with a Suffragette," brings down the "house"; Messrs. Kerr and Koe as Johnny Green and Jimmy Stout are genuine "merriment merchants." The Sidney Girls are the principal dancers. Specialities are submitted by the Dayton Family, acrobats; the Eight Sunbeams, vocalists and speciality dancers; and Tiny May, toe dancer.

CROYDON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Manager, Mr. Roland Daniel; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Ernest Archer.—The excellent pantomime *Dick Whittington* has been a great success, but the bookings prevent it continuing here after to-night. The Mezzettis in duologue *The New Recruit* are engaged for the week.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—The American Bioscope pictures this week include juvenile ju-jitsu and other films both interesting and amusing. Mr. James Hope, baritone, and Miss Minnie Newman, soprano, are heard to advantage in illustrated songs.

EMPIRE PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Walter Gibbons and Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Eustace Jay.—Mr. Ernest Ball and company are causing a thrilling sensation here in the realistic drama *The Night Alarm*. Dorothy Gould, at the piano, wins favour; Howard and St. Clair in sketch *Do You Want any Coke?* cause incessant laughter; Ada Cerito, comedienne, is a great favourite; Fredo and Preston are clever dancers and comedians; Sid Cotterell and company keep the audience amused in sketch, *The Substitute*; Claude Gardiner sings the latest popular songs with effect; Carrie Laurie's company of talented youngsters are warmly received in the entertaining skit *The Belles of the Kitchen*; Harry Russon, actor comedian, is up to the mark; Bugler Carr in a balancing and musical act is successful; Les Paolias are invigorating in a speciality act; and the animated pictures and beauty competition complete the programme.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Bell.—Messrs. Mollison and Cooper's company is here this week with *The Bonnie Brier Bush*. Mr. William Mollison, a host in himself as Lachlan Campbell, is assisted by Miss Evelyn McNay, a charming and sympathetic Flora Campbell; Mr. Rutherford Mayne as Tammas Mitchell and Mr. R. B. Drysdale as Archibald McKittrick are extremely humorous; the Earl is well taken by Mr. Harold Neville; Lord Hay is played in a convincing manner by Mr. Archie W. Chappell; Mr. W. A. Mackersay as William McClure gives a finely-studied characterisation of that part; Miss Jeannie Fitzgerald is a pleasing Jeanie; Miss Elsie Vron as Kate Carnegie works well in the comedy parts; and Miss J. Worward as Margaret Howe wins much favour.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Theatre, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Hersee.—Miss Lottie Lennox, in her latest successes, arouses the large audiences to enthusiasm; the New Macs, dancers and comedians, are expert at their business; Cole-Cliffe, mimic, is good; Yetta is clever on the wire; and other good turns are:—Carl Colyer, comedian; Marstro and Mlle. Oretta, equilibrists and tumblers; Sisters Darrell, vocalists and dancers; and the Pepiscope pictures.

DARWEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, The Animated Pictorial Enterprises, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. A. Whitehouse.—This week Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and Mr. J. E. Cardwell's juvenile pantomime company in *The House That Jack Built* is playing to packed houses. The rôle of Jack is filled by Miss Florrie Taylor with much success, and Miss Evelyn Major is a most pleasing Jill; Miss Olive Purcell, a charming Fairy Twinkle Star, and Miss H. Jones a favourite as Colin, Gretchen being a pleasing character in the hands of Miss J. Marsden. Miss Gladys Wyse scores heavily as Wee M'Gregor; Mr. H. Hillerby is greatly amusing as Aunt Purdy; and Mr. Paddy Sloan makes the most of Squire Bounce. Messrs. Doyle and Gibson as Scragg and Scraggles, and Mr. Stanley Jefferson and Mr. Ireland Cutter as the Motor Tourists create much laughter. The Forget-me-Not Quartette provide some fine speciality dancing.

PUBLIC HALL AND PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Lessees, Messrs. Thomson, Lewers, and Bennett; Manager, Mr. J. E. Thomson; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Kerrigan.—Scott and Ward, comedians and dancers, top the bill, and are well received; Jack Ramsey is also a comedian of no mean order; and Fanny Needham is applauded for her singing and dancing. The two fine dramatic pictures Ingrate and Test of Friendship are shown for the first time in England.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—The Hutchison company is here this week with *Peter's Mother*. The play is exceedingly well produced, and is being liberally patronised. Miss Violet Ley plays with wonderful feeling and effect in the name-part, and Mr. Drew Mackintosh gives a manly depiction of John Crewys; Mr. Vivian Gilbert enacts Peter to the life, submitting a fine rendering of a difficult rôle. Miss Hilda Sims makes a charming Sarah; Sir Timothy is capably accounted for by Mr. Townsend Whitling, and Mr. Edward Jackson is good as Dr. Blundell. Lady Belstone, Miss Crewys, and Canon Birch are well played by Miss Mary Griffiths, Miss Josephine Roe, and Mr. Walter Russell. *Turtle Doves* is the *lever-de-rideau*.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes.—Owing to the absence through illness of Mr. James Fawn, the star turn here is provided by Mr. Harry Freeman, who scores an immediate success. The Paul Kramer Troupe of head-balancers are deserving of high commendation. Included in the troupe is Miss Martha Kramer, whose graceful feats of strength are an outstanding item of the show. Mackintosh and Royal give an excellent display of clog-dancing; Ida Kessanley's fox terriers are finely trained, and cause much amusement; the Langfords are a smart trio of dancers; Ruby Emmerson, a charming comedienne, is decidedly popular; Indiana gives a marvellous exhibition of flexibility. The Bioscope continues to be a well-appreciated number.

DEVONPORT.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. G. S. King.—*Robinson Crusoe* entered on the fourth week of his stay on Monday with unabated enthusiasm. Many new songs have been introduced, which materially add to the attractiveness of the production. Miss Carlile scores with her rendering of "Connemara"; Mr. Fred Anderson brings down the house with his efforts, "Sue, Sue" and "I'm going to retire"; Mr. Henry Eglington as Mrs. Crusoe receives tumultuous encores for "Don't you think you ought to see a doctor?" and "I want someone to love me"; and Miss Gertrude Blanch does excellently in "Mr. Wright, you're wrong."

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—Grant and Grant, American octoroons, fully deserve the premier position allocated to them on the bill, their singing and dancing being equally of first-class merit; Leonie de Lausanne apparently deserves her title of lady champion shot of the world, some of the attainments being little short of marvellous; Will Douglas's Five Jolly Bakers tickle the audience's risible faculties, whilst their gymnastic skill is far above the average; the Three Pirmans supply an interesting pot-pourri act; and Boden and Bell prove themselves highly accomplished juvenile dancers. Joe Humphreys' song, "Actions speak louder than words" has a rousing encore; Edie King quickly ingratiates herself as a comedienne and dancer; and the Bioscope and Hipposcope—particularly the former, depicting newspaper life—entertain with some highly-interesting films.

DEWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Asquith.—*The Bondman* pays its first visit here this week—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company. Studious and conscientious to a degree, Mr. R. Scrope Quentin appears in the rôle of Jason; in the rôle of Adam Fairbrother Mr. Oswald Lingard gives a sound performance; Greeba is most naturally and sympathetically depicted by Miss Georgina Wynter; in the dual part of Father Ferrati and the Grandfather an effective and valuable exponent is found in Mr. W. H. Rotherham; Mrs. Fairbrother is excellently represented by Miss Madge Lanerton; the Governor Testa of Mr. Wilfrid Beckwith and Dr. Boni of Mr. Fred J. Waller had a sufficiency of fibre and virility; Michael Sunlocks is represented by Mr. W. Henry Hargreaves with vigour and earnestness, which yield a most admirable interpretation; the two children, Mona and Danny, are rendered with a juvenile freshness and buoyant spirit by little Miss Gertrude Helene and Master Walter Neville.

DONCASTER.—NEW GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. J. U. Chapman.—Mr. J. Gar Kiddie's Christmas pantomime *The Babes in the Wood* is being well received. Mr. Edwin Lambert is exceptionally clever as Infernalito; Mr. Dan Tandy's Wicked Uncle is well conceived; Miss Marion Scott is admired as Robin Hood; Maid Marion is represented with skill by Miss Margaret Cathcart; Mr. Dawson Dewick pleases as Soft Sammy. The transformation is beautifully executed. Specialities are submitted by the Hammersley Troupe of Lady Dancers and the Lohrenz Quartette.

DOVER.—ROYAL HIPPODROME.—The Seventeen Gordon Highlanders are the chief attraction this week, and their performance is smartly done and full of interest; a clever exhibition of dancing is given by the Sarony Sisters; and Milton and Mora prove themselves experts on the triple bar. Gibbon and Bell appear in *Wanted, a Partner*, introducing a pretty dance and some exceptionally good acrobatic work; while Beale and Broadway, in refined harmony and tricky dancing, promptly win the approbation of the audience. A humorous duologue is presented by Cole and Wood; and Beatrice Rene as the Cosmopolitan Girl is a complete success.

DUBLIN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Armstrong.—The Moody-Manners' Opera Company entered on their fourth and last week here on Monday, when *Aida* was repeated before a large audience. Mme. de Vere-Sapio, in the title-rôle, sang with much charm and grace; Mr. Philip Brozel as Radames was in remarkably fine voice, his solos being admirably sung; Mr. Charles Manners scored his usual success as Ramphis; Miss Toni Seiter was exceedingly good as Amneris; Mr. Lewys James excellent as Amonasro; and Mr. Charles Magrath did extremely well as the King. The chorus was admirable, and the orchestra, under the conductorship of Signor Romnaldo Sapio, all that could be desired. On Tuesday evening *The Lily of Killarney* was presented to a full house, and met with a good reception. *Cavalleria Rusticana, Pagliacci, La Traviata, The Meistersingers, Madame Butterfly, Il Trovatore*, and *Maritana* were also announced.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing - Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland.—The grand pantomime of *Robinson Crusoe* continues here with unabated success, Miss Kathleen Gray as Jack Rattins being particularly good, her singing of "A tiny seed of love" and "Antonio" being worthy of special praise; Miss Marie as the Fairy renders her musical numbers in excellent fashion; Miss Gladys White acts well and sings tastefully as Princess Saccarina; Mr. Walter Barrett acquits himself well as Davy Jones and the Cannibal King; the rôle of Man Friday could scarcely be better placed than in the hands of Mr. Frank Gala, his skating being a special feature; Messrs. Keish and Rigby as the Bosun and Mate are as amusing as ever in their knockabout work; the Carlyles, in their "Whirlwind" dance, have several recalls; and Mr. Barney Armstrong as Will Atkins, Mr. J. J. Dallas as Mrs. Crusoe, and Mr. Henry Luppo continue to keep the fun going from start to finish.

EMPIRE. — General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—The chief item here this week is Mr. Ernest C. Gittin's company, in the musical sketch *The Daughter of the Regiment*, which is enthusiastically received. Another attractive feature is the Tennessee Guards, in their singing and gymnastic display; Les Voces sing several vocal numbers with artistic feeling; Frances Hanlon, comedienne, is accorded a hearty welcome; the Strolling Players find ready acceptance for their musical pot-pourri act; Stacey and Williams, the comedy pair, submit an amusing turn; and Angeline, in a smart and clever juggling act, is deservedly applauded. Toff Noel has catchy songs, and the Empire pictures conclude.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—Cornalla and Eddie, in their comedy acrobatic act, head the bill here, and prove a popular attraction. In a sensational gymnastic act, Botella and Virginia are the recipients of loud applause, and the Bros. Esdale are clever comedians and dancers; Eldra and his dog Prince provide an entertaining turn, and the vocalism of the Sisters Della is highly appreciated; E. S. Kempton scores as a comedian and dancer; and Miss Mabe Moss, comedienne, sings in good style. Dan Hendy, eccentric comedian, and Bert Bowden, vocal comedian, also appear with success, and Following his Mother's Footsteps is shown on the Bioscope.

ROUND ROOM ROTUNDA.—The Irish Animated Photo Co. is still the attraction here. The new series of pictures shown is followed with interest by large audiences daily, and the vocal items rendered by Mr. Patrick O'Shea, tenor, Mr. Ralph Goggin, baritone, and the excellent selections played by the orchestra, under the leadership of M. Grandpierre, win unstinted applause.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The change of programme here includes:—Marshall and Wright, eccentric comedians and dancers; Weary Wally Cleveland, comedian; Queenie Swift, soubrette; Gunn Kook, tenor vocalist; Leo Bowman, comedian and dancer; the Stanleys, comedy entertainers; and the cinematograph.

SAMUEL'S EXHIBITION PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. S. Samuels.—The following artists are appearing here:—Hal Howell, eccentric comedian; Fred Lolo, vocal comedian; Ned Byrne, whistling coster; Polly O'Shea, Irish comedienne; and Corney Caine, comedian and dancer.

DUDLEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—*Miss Hook of Holland*, in the charming person of Miss Ethel James, is delighting the patrons of this popular house this week. Miss James is the embodiment of grace and vivacity, and is in excellent voice; Mr. Charles B. McLagan, a Dudley favourite of many years' standing, is a distinct success and highly amusing as Mr. Hook. Another part deserving of praise is that of Simon Slinks by Mr. Fred Dark; Miss Muff Carew is quaint and amusing as Mina; Mr. J. B. Fox as Captain Adrian Paap, Mr. Edward Foyd as the Bandmaster, and Mr. Frank Attree as Schnapps distinguish themselves. All the principal songs are encored, the chorus is a powerful and well-balanced one, and elaborate scenery is carried.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, The Midland Entertainment Corporation, Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. H. Waters.—The Dardinis, comedy jugglers, are pleasing the many patrons of this house by their cleverness and comedy; Tee and Tee, musical eccentrics, are great; Hiram Travers, the original "pearly king," soon captures his audience with his catchy songs and jokes; Hesketh Meade sings "The Village Blacksmith" (illustrated) capitally; the Sisters Du Cane are charming vocalists and dancers; Nance Elder, comedienne, has songs that are complete contrasts; Will Toole is a good comic vocalist, and the Empire Pictures complete the programme.

DUNDEE.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe.—Mr. George D. Day's No. 1 company is appearing here in *The Prodigal Son*. Mr. Albert Ward's Oscar Stephensson rivets the attention of the house from first to last; Mr. J. Weldon Atherstone as Magnus is powerful and realistic; and Mr. Jackson Hayes excellent as Stephen. Mr. David Beattie submits a fine character study of Oscar Neilson; Miss Dorrie Roberts cleverly portrays the parts of Thora and Elen; Helga has a dashing and handsome representative in Miss Pearla Gardner; and Miss Maud Locker is an amusing Margaret Neilsen.

PALACE THEATRE. — Lessees, the United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. S. McIntosh.—An excellent bill is headed by Albert and Edmund's comedy troupe in a pantomimical real life absurdity, entitled *Neighbours*, which creates roars of laughter; the Vays in *Life in the Slums* give a vivid picture; George James's entertaining patter and songs cause great merriment; Mike Gray and his dog Dooley are popular; Henrietta and Selina delight everyone with their musical act; Sira, the one-legged acrobat, contributes a sensational act; Rose Pink, a bright and vivacious comedienne, sings capital songs.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee, Mrs. Lillie Williams; Licensee and Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts; General Manager, Mr. Frank Percival; Acting-Manager, T. Edward Evans.—Miss Winifred Chalmer's company is appearing here with much success in *The Master Criminal*. Miss V. St. Laurence plays the heavy part of Cecile in creditable fashion; Mr. Henry L. Osmond as Telford Lestage has a strong part, which he renders with distinction; as Philip Manners Mr. Cuthbert Taylor plays with ability, and Mr. J. C. Carlyle as Ben Beaudy gives an admirable presentation. The Gentleman Jim of Mr. Charles Tolcher is a clever bit of work; Mr. Harry Cooke as Tommy Dale is responsible for some capital comedy work; Miss Lilian Burns makes a pleasing and attractive Mabel Manners; and Miss Mabel Tremere as Peggy Perks is delightfully bright and amusing.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. Lillie Williams; Business Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—Large audiences are being attracted here by Newman's Original British Empire company, with a fine picture programme.

NEWMAN'S PICTURE PALACE.—A long and exceptionally interesting programme of pictures is given by Mr. Fred Newman at his popular west-end house this week.

KINNAIRD HALL.—Hamilton's Excursions conclude a very successful season here to-night (Saturday), large audiences having been the rule at every performance. On Friday night a complimentary benefit was given to Mr. Claude Howell to commemorate his twenty-first year as guide. In addition to the usual programme, a number of well-known local artists kindly lent their assistance.

DUNFERMLINE.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.—Mr. Hamilton Stewart presented here for the first three nights of this week *Sherlock Holmes*. Mr Joseph Millane as Sherlock Holmes gives a highly meritorious study; Mr. Douglas Murray is responsible for a good impersonation of Dr. Watson; Mr. Robert Gilbert as Professor Moriarty is well placed; Mr. Walter A. Chetham is a capable John Forman; Master Thomas Russell puts in some good work as Billy; Miss Elsie Goulding ably sustains the character of Alice Faulkner; and as Madge Larrabee Miss Edith Vogne gives a good exposition of the part. Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company in *When Knights were Bold* is billed for the last three nights of the week.

EASTBOURNE.—DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray King and Clark.—Mr. Charles M. Bestic's company is appearing here throughout the week in *The Flower Girl*. In the title part Miss Beatrice Nelson does graceful and charming work, and her cultured singing is worthy of special praise; Miss Lilian Drake, brimful of energy and brightness, is an ideal Lizette de Racquet; Miss Georgie de Lara, handsome and pleasing, is an attractive suffragette, Miss Greenhill, and Miss Elsie Love is excellent; Mr. John T. MacCallum works manfully as Joe Wheeler, and whether singing, acting, or dancing, he displays fine ability, and helps the fun along in a very happy manner; Mr. Louis du Cane as Reginald Rackit has a dude part which he plays to perfection; Robert Cranny is an interesting Billy Greenhill; Mr. John Latham sings finely as Johnny Wheeler, and his burlesque duet with Mr. MacCallum is one of the features of the evening; Mr. Henry Adnes is a most lively and realistic Alphonse de Racquet; and the remaining parts are ably filled. A large and tuneful chorus is under the direction of Mr. Louis Beaufort.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—Topping the bill here this week are the Seven Marvels, and their cleverly-varied and brightly-attractive work as singers and musicians eneures them a hearty welcome; the Three Orleans sing tunefully and dance exceptionally well; Miss Norah Noble sings sweetly and dances with much ability; Buster Brown is an exceptionally able skater on rollers, and he introduces very funny business; Miss Waldorf has a popular number in her illustrated songs; Mr. Ted Saunders is highly successful as a mimic; the Spanish Amio Trio have a novel speciality; and new pictures are shown on the Bioscope.

PIER PAVILION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes. Mr. J. D. Hunter's company is appearing here in *Robinson Crusoe*. The bright and funny pantomime has been produced by Mr. Matt Melrose, and the result does him very great credit. Miss Lallah Melrose, pleasing, attractive, and bright, holds the keenest interest of the audience as Polly, and her song "Will you come for a sail in my yacht?" is one of the evening's successes; Miss Cynthia Lupino is a shapely and smart Robinson Crusoe; Miss Rita Emson and Miss Kitty Emerson as Captain Lanyard and Nancy Lee are a dainty and picturesque couple, whose work is very acceptable; Miss Flora MacDonald sings well as the Fairy Queen; and Miss Judith Espinosa is a capital Princess, whose dancing deserves a special word of praise. Mr. Matt Melrose as Dame Crusoe works loyally and well, and his share in keeping the fun and laughter going is a very large one; Mr. Arthur Lanville is a highly-amusing and clever Will Atkins; Mr. George Lupino makes much of his part as Friday; Mr. Willie Hicks is a cleverly funny and effective Richard Hopkins; Mr. George Lorraine as Cannibal King adds materially to the general success; Messrs. Dennis and Morris as Jack and Jimmy are expert dancers; and Mr. Fred Earne is an agile monkey. Mr. Surtees Corne is the able conductor.

ECCLES.—CROWN THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert Rogers.—Mr. T. Morton Powell's company is here in *Greed of Gold*. Mr Henry Parr as Harry Hood plays forcibly; as Arthur Erroll Mr. Alfred Stretton makes a good impression; Mr. Vic C. Rolfe is a typical K.C.; Mr. James Jarrett gives a capable rendering of Tom Wolstead, the dumb man; much fun is caused by Mr. Arthur Beaufort, Mr. Charles E. Weed, and Miss Florrie Hayes in their respective rôles; Miss Maud M. Powell portrays the character of Dora with tenderness.

EDINBURGH.—ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—The run of *Havana* has been pleasantly followed by the production of *A Waltz Dream*, which is a very bright operetta of the most enjoyable description. As Lieutenant Niki Mr. Robert Evett, whose reception was cordial in the extreme, makes good his claims to distinction as an operatic vocalist and an agreeable actor, his impersonation of the character being admirably sustained; in the rôle of the Princess Miss Ethel Cadman was also eminently successful, her singing being marked by culture and ability; Miss May de Sousa created a most favourable impression by her acting and singing as the leader of the ladies' orchestra; and the big drum, Fifi, was well represented by Miss May Marton. In Miss Amy Augarde the part of Fr

respondent, gives an interesting fifteen minutes' chat about the many campaigns he has gone through, illustrating his remarks by actual photographs of stirring scenes of war; Minnie Duncan and Arthur Godfrey are exceedingly happy in the little coster comedy *Me and 'Er;* Melia and Mozarabar do some pretty scenes with trained ravens and pigeons; and the Four Figaros, a quartette of vocalists and dancers, appear in an entertainment entitled *Ten Minutes on the Continent.* The single-handed turns are fairly equal in merit, and include Burnetti, the original character musician; Victor Newman, the character actor, in various impersonations; Arthur Astill, a clever whistling mimic, and the "Seaweed" comedian, Fred Earle, of whom the audience would willingly see and hear more than time-limits permit. The bioscope pictures show striking views of the ruins of Messina after the recent earthquake.

KING'S THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard.—The second week of *Beauty and the Beast,* played by Mr. Fred Granville's company, has been even more successful than the first. Huge audiences have crowded the theatre, and money has had to be refused at the doors on several occasions. There is so much fun and gaiety in the pantomime that its popularity is well deserved. The abandon and humour of the Sisters Sprightly in songs, dances, and sketches are notable features in a capital all-round performance, in which the excellent comedians Messrs. Sam Foster, Juan Wood, Daleno and Stream provide much laughter-provoking business. Miss Cissie Trent makes a hit as Marmaduke Million, a village beau, and the charming young actress is nightly encored with enthusiasm for a spirited rendering of the catchy air "Have you got another girl like Mary?"; Mr. Leslie Austin and Mlle. Benita have deepened the impression made by their artistic singing; Miss Hilda de Gray as Prince Greatheart delights everyone by her graceful acting; and Kennedy's Kiddies contribute greatly to the exhilarating power of the entertainment.

COOKE'S ROYAL CIRCUS.—Proprietor, Mr. John Henry Cooke; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. C. Burns.—The promise of success given in the early performances of *King Gold and the Lucky Little Lassie* has been amply realised by the crowded houses which the piece has attracted to Mr. Cooke's bright and cosy house. The sturdy little Scotch children throw themselves into their work with an animation which repeated performances have never dulled, and there is real fun in the different scenes of the piece. Talberto and Douglas and Mr. Harry Dale by their humorous acting brightening every act. The canvases are cleverly filled in, the dresses are attractive, and the entire pantomime is on a level with the many meritorious spectacles produced at this house. There are various admirable turns in the miscellaneous part of the programme; smart and dashing feats by the Three Hodginis, "Continental Marvels," the Millwards in a pleasing and novel performance, and the always exciting musical scramble on horseback.

EXETER. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—Mr. Mouillot's pantomime *Cinderella* entered upon its second edition this week. New "business" and songs have improved what was already a first-class entertainment. Among the specialities for this week are the Seven Perezoffs in their juggling act, *A Supper at Maxim's,* which had an unmistakably cordial reception. The popularity of *Cinderella* is shown by the crowded and appreciative house.

THE NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frederick Sandy.—Colonel Gaston Bordeverry supports his claim to be the world's greatest rifle and pistol shot with some really startling and sensational feats; an excellent sketch, entitled *Christmas Eve,* is produced in an entirely satisfactory manner by Mr. Irve Hayman and Marie Montague, the latter a dainty little child actress; *My Lady Betty,* a romantic comedy episode, is performed with spirit and grace by Frank Elliston and company; the Maningos in their smart equilibristic act are well deserving of the enthusiastic reception they attain; the same remark applying to the Three Gartis; bright and entertaining business is also introduced by Vesta and Minnie Pine and the Leonards; and some interesting Hippodrome pictures round off a capital programme.

FALKIRK.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. W. Ebbutt.—Mr. Ian Maclaren in Shakespeare and old English comedy holds the boards at this house, and business is excellent. The Shakespearean selections included Hamlet, Shylock, Romeo, and Macbeth, together with David Garrick, and to each and all of these parts Mr. Maclaren gave a cultured and artistic rendering. He is supported by an excellent company, including Messrs. Mathew Boulton, F. Stafford Dawson, Guy Cunningham, Charles Kingsley, Bertram Ormerod, and Vernon O. Crabtree and Misses Gertrude Littlewood, Katherine Harrington, Ruby Maclaren, Ruth Dockray, Constance Brooks, and Gladys Carton.

FOLKESTONE. — PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. H. W. Roland.—Mr. Murray King and powerful company have played to full and appreciative houses the highly successful comedy *Toddles.* The title-rôle was in the safe hands of Mr. Murray King, who kept the audiences alive with merriment. Mrs. Evelyn Shelley as Mrs. Joblyn, the parvenu prospective mother-in-law of Toddles, proved herself to be a comedy actress beyond ordinary merit, and was largely responsible for the success of the production. Mr. Ardene Linden's Joblyn was exceedingly humorous. A pleasing innovation was made in the second scene by the introduction of Mr. Mattie Cheshire, a society entertainer, who cleverly sang two humorous ditties at the pianoforte. The parts of Freddy Gunner and Haslitt were excellently portrayed by Mr. Aleck Chumley and Mr. C. Douglas Cox. Mention should also be made of the clever acting of Mr. Richard Webb as the Maire. Lady Dover and Mrs. Bowler were admirably acted by Miss Naomi Neilson and Miss Mabel Ormonde. As *fiancée* to Toddles Miss Doris Langdon scored an undoubted success, her love scene in the last scene being a delightful piece of acting.

TOWN HALL.—The "Daily Mirror" animated pictures, under the management of Messrs. Allen and Vincent, proved a highly entertaining attraction for the week.

GAINSBOROUGH.—KING'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Gainsborough Theatre Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Leighton.—On Monday and Tuesday we had *The Cingalee,* and the company, which is a very strong one, presented by Mr. Haldane Crichton, met with great success, crowded houses being the rule each evening. Miss Mollie Wolstenholme sang splendidly as Nanoya; Miss Pauline Hague gave a good rendering of Lady Pat; and the Peggy of Miss Alice Nixon was charming; Voreker and Bobby Warren were capably played by Messrs. Harold Wardroper and Scott Cullen, and Sir Peter Loftus had a good representative in Mr. F. W. Ford. Chorus and scenery are excellent, and the dresses pretty and effective.

GATESHEAD. — KING'S THEATRE. — Lessees, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager and Licensee, Mr. Harold Arnold.—Barton and Ashley, in *Canal Boat Sal,* are starring here this week, and provide some refreshing comedy; Ellis and Ellis present a terpsichorean turn, which is heartily applauded; Joe Almasis, a jumper and juggler, has a clever assistant, the act being altogether meritorious; Frank H. Fox, a comedian with a refreshing style, is successful; Clarice Sefton presents an excellent dancing act; Little Dot Moss, toy comedienne, and the Kingscope are other attractive items.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; General-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Dixon.—*The Christian,* presented by Mr. Wentworth Croke's company, has created much interest here. Mr. Henry Renouf enacts with distinct credit the part of John Storm. His success is shared by Miss Doris Gilham, whose Glory is a talented assumption. Other parts are in very capable hands, and the production is excellent all round.

GLASGOW.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—*Cinderella* is still attracting good houses, and there are no signs of diminishing interest. The pantomime is going with a swing, which guarantees support for a long time yet. Everything seems quite fresh, and from a spectacular point of view alone is well worth seeing. The principals are still getting through their fun-producing with a spirit which never fails to keep up a continual chuckle all over the house. Standing out in bold relief is the one and only George Robey as Buttons, who is ably seconded by Mr. Harry Dent as the Baron. The pair work admirably to one another. As a contrast of characters, nothing greater could be fancied, the one slow and stolid, the other alert and ever on the move. Miss Iris Hoey as Cinderella has planted herself a firm favourite, her performance being as dainty as one could wish to see; Miss Meg Hamylton as Dandini has made a great impression with her winsome presence and tasty singing; while Miss Violet Loraine gets through a great amount of hard work as the Prince with decided ability and distinction. In regard to the musical part of the pantomime, it may be assured that many of the airs have come to stay. For instance, the song in Scene 1, by Miss Loraine, "The garden of your heart," is specially catchy; but all through many songs are introduced, such as the laughing song by the Bros. Obo, "Afraid to go home in the dark" by Willie Garvey in the character of Mrs. Kilkenny, and "A white man all the time," splendidly rendered by Miss Loraine, all of which are certain to be with us long after the curtain is finally dropped on this pantomime.

KING'S, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—After a month's run of *A Waltz Dream* we are having a three weeks' visit from *Havana,* in which Mr. George Edwardes's company were welcomed by a crowded and enthusiastic audience on Monday. As Consuelo, Miss Gertrude Lester returns to the theatre where she was so successful a year ago, and in acting and singing she proves an ideal representative of the Cuban belle; Mr. T. C. Maxwell as Jackson Villiers makes an excellent lover, and his fine voice is heard to much advantage in all his musical numbers; Mr. George Gregory as Nix, the melancholy bo'sun of the Wasp, made a great hit, as he plays from the first scene to the last with a lugubrious air of settled woe that has exactly the opposite effect on the auditors; as the yacht's boy, Reginald Brown, Mr. W. H. Rawlins is in a somewhat novel rôle (for him), but as far as the humour is concerned he could not be better suited. His topical song was much enjoyed. Miss Luna Love, who made a hit in pantomime in Glasgow two years ago, returns in this play as Anita, and acted, danced, and sang with infinite gusto all through; her "Apache" dance with the melancholy bo'sun was a huge success. Mr. Will Hindson is well suited as the amorous Frank Charteris; and as Don Adolfo, Mr. Frank Hector proves himself an able comedian and dancer. Mr. Edward O'Neill plays the part of the scheming Diego with the necessary melodramatic seriousness; Mr. Campbell Bishop is duly dignified as the Mayor of Havana; Miss Jessie Broughton received a hearty and well-deserved encore for her song in Act 2; Miss Florence Phillips as Tita acted with brightness and animation, and her various dances were received with acclamation. The scenery of Messrs. Joseph Harker and Alfred Terraine gives a picturesque setting to the play; and the large chorus and augmented orchestra were kept well in hand by Mr. Andrew Maccunn.

ROYALTY, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Carpenter.—The attraction here this week is furnished by Mr. Seymour Hicks's company in *The Gay Gordons,* which achieved a great success on its previous visits. In the part of Angus Græme, Mr. Stanley Brett acts with energy and enthusiasm; his merry little touches of side-play all tend to make the character highly diverting. Miss Maie Ash as Peggy Quainton deserves praise for her interpretation of this part; her singing meets with instantaneous approval, and for her songs, "See-saw" and "You, you, you," she has hearty encores. Miss Lily Maxwell as Victoria Siddons gives a fine performance, and her pleasing vocalisation is heard to advantage in several pretty numbers falling to the rôle; the eccentric and alert humour of Mr. E. Statham Staples finds a convenient channel in the part of Nervy Nat; Miss Nellie Dade is well suited as Charlotte Siddons; Mr. Ernest Forrence acquits himself well as Andrew Quainton; a fine performance is that of Miss Ida Mann as Janet McLeod. Other parts are well looked after, and the chorus render their work in fine style.

GRAND.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. B. G. Maclachlan; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. Christie Grant.—*Cinderella* is in a flourishing condition, and every week finds something new being added, thereby assuring the pantomime a prolonged run. The principals are untiring, and Mr. Whit Cunliffe has been particularly fortunate in his choice of character—Dandini—which he fills to a nicety, and plenty of scope is given him as a vocalist, which the audience thoroughly appreciate. The leading ladies have a large say in the success. Miss Violet Halls and Miss Queenie Finnis are very popular, and their singing and dancing provides sound enjoyment; while the drolleries of Messrs. Geo. French and Barry Lupino are responsible for continual outbursts of laughter. The scenery, dresses, and ballet are a specially pleasing feature of the production.

PRINCESS'S.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—The gay and attractive pantomime *Diccory Dok* is still being played to splendid houses, and from the enthusiasm shown it is evident Mr. Waldon's patrons come again and again to see their favourites. As principal boy, Miss Flora Cromar has made many friends; while her partner, Miss Ella Retford, repeats her former triumphs at this house. Misses Fraser and Haley, the clever duettists, make another attractive boy and girl; and a third pair of lovers are smartly represented by the Sisters Bartholomew. Amongst the comedians, Mr. Syd Walker (Prof. Pillbox) shows a genuine sense of humour; Mr. Peter Bermingham (Wee Hughie) supplies local colour; Mr. Harry A. Gribben is a good burlesque Squire; as the Dame, Mr. Ainslie Barton does well; Mr. Cliff Lake (Squills) and Mr. Walter Dale (Sparkle) are also good.

METROPOLE, LTD. — General-Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Assistant-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—Crowded houses are assembling here nightly to enjoy Messrs. W. H. Hallatt and Walter Howard's company, in the stirring military drama, *Her Love Against the World,* in which Mr. Fred Emery gives a fine impersonation of the hero, Eric, Earl of Strathmere; while Miss Grace Heywood makes an impressive heroine as Princess Iris of Idalia. A pleasing part is that of the boy, Lionel, nicely played by Miss Rossie St. John; the villain of the play is Ulric, Prince of Ravensburg, powerfully rendered by Mr. Lewis Gilbert; some amusing comedy is introduced in the complicated love affairs of Katinka (Miss Gertie Reid) and Gretchen (Miss Hettie Ferguson), whose lovers, Henrid (Mr. Henry B. Lewis) and Fritz (Mr. John Mill), also make love at cross purposes; Miss Blanche Steele as Shulah and Miss Julie de Esco as Corona are pleasing exponents of their parts; Prince Maurice gets a good rendering at the hands of Mr. Victor Rowland; while Mr. W. H. Hallatt is equally successful as Prince Othmar. The officers of the Saxonian army are ably represented by Mr. Chas. R. Hann as General Gassier, Mr. Webster Gray as Colonel Esterhazy, and Mr. A. B. Cushman as Colonel Lindorf. Mr. A. H. Hallatt as an army surgeon gives a satisfactory rendering of the part. The drama is very well staged, the camp scenes being highly realistic.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden. — *Robinson Crusoe,* from the pen of Mr. J. Hickory Wood, and produced by Mr. Milton Bode, is the fare provided this week. Miss Jennie Lynwood makes a sprightly Robinson, and gets through her work well; as Polly Hopkins, Miss Lucy Coventry is one of the successes of the piece, her all-round work, together with her singing and graceful dancing, at once making her a pronounced favourite; Miss Luna Lyndon is a smart little actress, and does well as Jenny Perkins; Miss Rosie Bartlett makes a neat Lieutenant, and her singing of "I want you to see my girl" is quite a feature; a popular artist is Miss Rose Cabani, to whom is entrusted the part of the Empress—she is well known in the city, and meets with a capital reception; to Mr. Harry Ugar is allotted the eccentricities of Mrs. Crusoe, and he carries through the part in good style; Mr. Percy Johnson makes a good appearance as Bill Crusoe. Much of the fun, however, is due to Keith and Merson, who as Samuel Salt and Peter Pepper keep the house in an uproar; the work of the former is particularly good. Very favourable mention must be made of Larola, who seems exactly suited to the impersonation of Friday; his antics are both pleasing and clever, and his work genuine. It is singular that the part of Will Atkins should be allotted to a Scotch comedian, yet Mr. Donal MacDougal makes the most of his part, and meets with a good reception; the Six Lancashire Lasses and the Georgia Trio add to the attractions of the pantomime, which is excellently staged. The ballet is neat and the chorus powerful and well balanced, and, in all, the show must be pronounced a success.

EMPIRE.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Manners.—Joe Peterman's company heads the bill, and in a burlesque operatic sketch, *The Butler's Party,* comes out well; as a comedian, Coverdale does many smart things, and has many clever sayings. His turn is responsible for much merriment. Well known in the city is the Glenroy Troupe; their dancing is thoroughly appreciated. That clever Japanese combination, the Ten-Ji Troupe, pay a return visit, and prove a very decided attraction; their sleight-of-hand, in conjunction with their smart juggling and mystical work, go far to please. L'Incognita is a soprano with a wonderful range of voice; her singing is delightful, and her songs are excellently rendered. In her present voice she will never lack for engagements. Annie Purcell is indeed a favourite in Glasgow, and her choruses are taken up with zest; Frank Street gives a very clever impersonation of R. G. Knowles, and is well received; Argo, the farmyard mimic, and Harry Simms, comedian, are also included, and meet with a fair share of patronage; the Bioscope films, depicting cross-country work by Italian cavalry, is also very much appreciated, and terminates a good programme.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Councillor E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock.—The entire entertainment this week consists of the pantomime *Robinson Crusoe,* in which a plentiful supply of popular songs and choruses keep crowded houses in good humour. Miss Amy Randolph makes a delightful Robinson; and Man Friday is

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Bookings ahead include: "Married to the Wrong Man" (now beating all records), "Why Men Love Women," "The Prince and the Beggar Maid," "Her Love Against the World," "Fatal Wedding," "Woman and Wine," "Silver King," "The Bondman," "Royal Divorce," "Her Forbidden Marriage," "Road to Ruin," "For Love of the Princess," "Who is She?" "Ugliest Woman on Earth," "Golden Ladder," "Coal King," "Two Little Drummers," "Crimes of Paris," "For Love and the King," "When London Sleeps," "The Blackmailer," "The Woman Pays," "A Broken Heart," "Power of the King," "A Rogue at Large," "Little Outcast," "Her Marriage Vow," "Driven from Home," "Midnight Mail," "No Wedding Bells for Her," "The Girl Who Went Astray," "Country Girl in London," &c.

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well handled by Mr. Tom Gilmour, who also doubles Captain Scuttle. Mr. J. Telly Dilsen as Mrs. Crusoe is responsible for a good deal of side-shaking; the Sisters Selwyn and the Sisters Poole Pelham are graceful dancers and pleasing singers; Messrs. Justin and Mantell are a pair of clever acrobats, who interpret the characters of bailiffs, Bom and Bim; Miss Dora Lindsay as Fairy Pearl sings pleasingly; and Mr. Brete Harte as Kernoodlum is an amusing potentate. Other effective parts are Polly Perkins, by Miss Elsa Arnell; Sam Spar, by Miss Cecilia Maynard; with Raffo and Jacko, by Messrs. Joe Carlyle and Paul Johnson. The pantomime abounds in good scenic effects.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Evan Good.—Mlle. Liane D'Eve, the famous French chanteuse, tops the bill here, and her dainty style and catchy songs prove highly popular, despite the fact that they are in French; the Juggling McBans give a very smart display of club juggling, with quite a lot of new and novel feats; Leo Dryden takes well in his descriptive songs and scenas, "The White Man" proving an especial favourite. Nellie Hewitt and Elsie May contribute a particularly good musical turn, in which a clever club-swinging item is introduced; Lozelle, in his trapeze act, is well received, and heartily applauded for a really novel turn; Arthur Croxton is a smart light comedian, and has also a genuine gift of mimicry, his children's studies being specially good; and Mark Leslie as a coon is deservedly recalled for his smart dancing.

PALACE. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Richard Waldon; General-Manager, Mr. Harry M'Kelvie.—The principal turn is provided by Hayman and Franklin, popular delineators of Hebrew comedy, in a new and original duologue, entitled *In the Hotel Lobby*. They have many admirers here, and their reception on the opening night was accordingly very hearty. The *Il Trovatore* selections by Miss Ethel Pender Cudlip and Mr. Claude Anderson were well rendered and thoroughly appreciated. Chard's Dog Circus is a clever and novel turn; Edwards and Dacre appear in comedy duologue, entitled "What a Life"; and Olive and Owen provide a vocal scena, "The Roadside Tinkers." Nell Cotter is a sprightly comedienne; Edie Veno, eccentric comedienne, and Selbo, expert juggler, also did exceedingly well, the entertainment concluding with a series of up-to-date Bioscope pictures.

COLISEUM.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—A specially strong company here is headed by Yukio Tani, the well-known exponent of ju-jitsu, and some exciting wrestling bouts have taken place. A house crowded to overflowing on Tuesday witnessed an exciting contest between Alex. Munro, the Govan wrestler, and Tani, in which the local man held out for fifteen minutes, and won the stake of £20. The company includes several good musical turns, notably that of the Courtiers, in a musical mélange founded on *The Bohemian Girl;* Amelie de L'Enclos in several beautifully-rendered solos; and Helen Guest, in popular illustrated songs. Cliff Ryland, quainter and more irresponsible than ever, keeps the audience in roars of laughter; Bellen and Stock's company, including Master Edward Garratt, take well in the racing playlet, *An Outside Chance;* Enzer, the soldier juggler, gives a clever display, assisted by Miss Clarice, the lady ji-jitsu expert; the Falcons, in their comedy acrobatic act, also prove one of the best items on a varied and interesting bill.

GAIETY, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—*Dick Whittington* and his retinue have gone after a successful stay of a month, and this house has fallen back on its old variety clothes. The management are to be congratulated on this week's company. Heading the bill we have Oswald Cray and company, in a dramatic sketch, *The Biter Bit*, which is strongly presented, and rewarded by a good reception; Rosie Dawn renewed her acquaintance with the Anderston folks, and delighted them with her clever dancing; the Sisters Lotus gave a couple of tuneful duets in creditable style; Geo. Westland, a pawky Scotch comedian, was in great demand, his patter being decidedly original and amusing; Jack M'Cormack, also a Scotch comedian, sang well; but the turn of the programme, from a humorous point of view, was undoubtedly Clarke and Glenney, in an absurdity entitled *The Haunted House*. This little sketch was excruciatingly funny, and was accompanied throughout by roars of laughter. The animated pictures—grave and gay—are well selected, and by no means the least interesting part of a grand entertainment. The popular manager, Mr. Bowerman, takes a benefit on Thursday, Jan. 28, when a greatly augmented programme is promised.

PANOPTICON.—Proprietor, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—The Westwood Family head the bill here this week. Two of the members are remarkably fat—Wilfred, who weighs 21st 7lb, and Ruby, who weighs 17st; their ages are eleven and fourteen years respectively. The Brothers Diania are amusing comedians; and the Sisters Lorraine sing and dance in fine style. Marie Ross, a clever comedienne, is worthy of praise; The House Decorator, A Fascinating Game, and An Energetic Woman are most amusing pictures shown by the Bioscope.

GLOSSOP. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—Mr. and Mrs. John Walter's bright and clever pantomime production is here this week. Miss Violet Thorne secures many admirers by her dashing representation of Robin Hood; Miss Lily Miller is a sweet and dainty Maid Marian; Miss F. Parkinson and Miss Kitty Chester as the Babes are contributors of no mean abliity. As the Bold Bad Men, Mr. Martin Haley and Mr. Dan Raynor are an able and humorous couple; Mr. Sam Lewis in the character of the Baron is great as a laughter-maker.

GLOUCESTER. — PALACE, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. T. Rea.—The Richards Trio of acrobats supply a laughable and clever act; and the Five Tritons put on an excellent musical turn. Harry Friskey, comedy juggler, is responsible for the heartiest of laughter; and Miss Flo Banks goes well with some capital songs. Tate and Tate are good in *The Barmaid and the Customer;* and the Czar Troupe of Russian dancers pay a welcome return visit. Mr. Harry Wenburn also pays a return visit, and his comic songs are appreciated; Edie Gray and company, in harmony and dance, are a trio whose voices blend well; Percy Farrimond, the singing collier, sings a good song; and the Bioscope is a head-liner this week with Italian Earthquake film.

KING'S HALL.—Lessees, Messrs. Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. R. T. Rea. — The Italian Earthquake film is the cause of crowded houses this week. The pictures are of a very vivid and realistic type, and a triumph of animated photography. Illustrated songs complete a remarkably good programme.

GRAVESEND. — GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Wright.—Leonard Mortimer and his No. 1 company are producing their telling sketch, *The Little Captain*, and receiving a great reception nightly; Will Nosam, the chocolate coon, sings well; Maggie Rimmer, "everybody's idol," scores in her songs; Phillips and Bristow are, as they are styled, wonderful dancers; the Menzies, in their funny comedy act, *The Suffragette*, evoke roars of laughter; Tom Carney, comedian and dancer, obtains a success; and Charles Craston, quaint comedian, causes much fun.

GREAT YARMOUTH. — ROYAL AQUARIUM. —Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Mr. Henry Swinerd's company in *Dare-Devil Dorothy* is paying a welcome return visit. Mr Will Brereton as Silas Crump keeps the house in roars of laughter; Mr. Walter Astley sings well as Harold Vivian; Miss Nellie Harcourt is a big favourite as Judith, her singing and dancing being greatly applauded; Miss Ethel Griffies and Miss Nellie Valentine are very good as the sisters Ruth and Dorothy; Mr. Walter Nugent makes an excellent Captain Dudley, and Mr. William Troutbeck is very funny as Smith.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. George Gilbert.—Rosie Lloyd is a big favourite with her popular songs; De Lil introduces some mystifying illusions; Martin and Son are successful with their illustrated songs; the pictures are first-class, and the films of Messina are the object of special interest.

THE GEM.—Lessees, the Yarmouth Amusement Centre, Ltd.; Resident-Director, Mr C. B. Cochran; Manager, Mr. Sidney Lawrence.—An exceptionally fine set of films is being shown this week, the coloured one illustrating the Ghosts Legend being worthy of special mention. The song "As the world rolls on" is illustrated by some excellent coloured slides.

GREENOCK. — ALEXANDRA THEATRE, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—*The Merry Widow* was presented here for the first time on Monday by Mr. George Edwardes's company, and made a great hit. The singing, dancing, and acting of Miss Mysie Devine in the title-rôle is fascinating; Mr. Frank Greene, with easy and finished acting, fills the part of Prince Danilo to perfection; Miss Ada Thomas enters cleverly into the delicate humour of the rôle of Natalie; Mr. Ripley Evans as the Vicomte Camille de Jolidon acts and sings in accomplished style; Mr. Edward D'Arcy as the Baron is vastly entertaining; Mr. Fred Fowler, with his quiet, unforced humour soon makes himself a prime favourite as Nisch; Mr. Clifford Seyler as General Novakovitch does well; Mr. W. Allison as the Marquis de Cascada is good, and Miss Katie May as Frou-Frou contributes a spirited dance. The girls at Maxim's are handsome and picturesquely gowned, adding much to the brilliancy of the scene.

EMPIRE.—Lessees, the Greenock Empire Syndicate; Responsible-Manager, Mr. Edward McCormick; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. J. Colquhoun.—Mr. Fred Eustace and company are scoring in the sketch, *The Amber Light;* the Two St. Johns submit a clever act, and Gertrude Moore, coon artist, is popular. Other turns include Ondra, comedian, juggler, and horizontal bar artist; Donaldson and Emslie, vocalists and sketch artists; and Charlie Stewart, a pleasing tenor. The Bioscope maintains its popularity.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry L. Skivington.—That versatile entertainer Jack Lorimer tops the bill here, and meets with a most cordial reception; capital turns are also provided by Volta, the electrical magician; Stella Stahl, comedienne and dancer; Will Mitcham, vocal and musical tramp; Chorley and Conner, comedians and dancers; Thomas and Taylor, in *Fun on the Midland;* and the Dromoscope.

TOWN HALL.—Proprietors, the Greenock Corporation.—The B. B. Picture Company is still here, and good audiences attend nightly. Variety turns are contributed by Miss Jennie Sneddon, vocalist, and Mr. Willie Hayward, instrumentalist.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson's romantic drama, *The King and the Unknown Woman*, is being presented in effective style. Mr. James Stillwell gives an impressive portrayal of Prince Loris; Mr. Stephen E. Scanlan vividly realises the scheming character of Prince Meneki; Miss F. Conyers Radcliffe is excellent as the mysterious prisoner Zoro; Mr. W. R. Winning acts with dignity as General Platz; Mr. Cyril Harrison does well as Captain Gara, and Miss Norman Dumayne as Else, Miss Muriel Inglis as Countess Melveitch, Miss Cissie Podmore as Schnappe, Mr. William E. Passmore as Corporal Stack, and Little Elsie Clark as Cascar also contribute to a successful performance.

THE PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—Dr. Bodie, after only a brief absence, is here again, and is repeating his former success. His composite performance, which includes an interesting electrical demonstration, an hypnotic séance, and an exposition of bloodless surgery, is received with warm appreciation; Williams and Warden contribute a smart Irish comedy speciality; Musical Silvo is a clever performer on a variety of instruments; Cade Burnett is an actor-vocalist with good songs; Bella Skene dances and sings pleasingly, and Dolly Robson is a capital vocalist and dancer.

GUERNSEY.—THEATRE ST. JULIAN'S.—Lessee, Mr. Ed. Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—Our first pantomime this season, *The Babes in the Wood*, is introduced by Mr. John A. Thomson, and immense houses have rewarded the enterprise. Everything is bright and attractive, the music tuneful, the setting rich, and the dresses superb. Miss Pattie McCarthy in the title-rôle immediately establishes herself a favourite; Miss Norah Carlton is bewitching as Maid Marian, scoring particularly with her vocal efforts; Miss Norah Prendergast (the Queen) and Mr. Frank Halpin (Will o' the Wisp) are to be complimented upon their combined musical numbers; Mr. Lovell Rowland (Weary Willy) and Mr. Herbert Walton (Tired Tim) are responsible for the lion's share of the comic element; Mr. Gus Walker makes the most of his opportunities as Pansy Blossom; and Mr. Digby Ross is the wicked Baron. Many attractive novelties are introduced, including that clever artist, Miss Cissie Williams, speciality dancer; the Sisters Thornton, international dancers; and the Butterfly Troupe. A sensational turn is provided by Les Milicent Frères. The chorus is strong, and work well together under the bâton of Mr. Arthur Sheldrake. Mr. Frank Medhurst is general-manager.

HALIFAX. — THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—The D'Oyly Carte principal répertoire company has delighted big audiences at the Royal this week, *The Mikado, Iolanthe, The Yeomen of the Guard*, and *The Gondoliers* being played. In *Iolanthe* Mr. Charles R. Walenn gave every satisfaction as the Lord Chancellor; Mr. Leicester Tunks and Mr. Stafford Moss (as the Earl of Mountararat and Earl Tolloller) sang well; Mr. Fred Billington sustained his popularity and reputation as Private Willis; as Strephon Mr. Sydney Granville was admirable; Miss Ethel Morrison made herself popular as the Queen of the Fairies; Iolanthe was nicely played by Miss Beatrice Meredith; Miss Clara Dow won all hearts as Phyllis; and Miss Mabel Graham, Miss Bertha Lewis, and Miss Lillias Engholm gave every satisfaction as Celia, Leila, and Fleta. Every praise is due to Mr. T. Silver for the way he handled the band, chorus, and principals, as conductor.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—Mr. James Kiddie's excellent pantomime *Cinderella* has played to densely-packed houses every performance. The cast is a long one, but special praise is due to Mdlle. De Rose as the Prince and Miss Edie May as Dandini. Mr. W. G. Wesley is a distinct success as Maud. The Lisando Brothers introduce a smart and clever hand-balancing turn.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Foster.—Les François are an undoubted feature of the Palace programme this week; their hand-balancing and tumbling is quick, smart, and clever. The troupe is well dressed, and had a splendid reception. The Warsaw Brothers, comedy musicians, pay a welcome return visit; Deans and Wilton are two funny acrobats; the Stannings are a troupe of clever juvenile dancers, introducing a clever little mite as a solo dancer; Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Hayes produce a diverting sketch, *The Other Mrs. Brown*. J. H. Greener, singing pit lad; Bernardo, comedy juggler; Sybil Montague, ballad vocalist; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux complete.

HAMILTON, N.B.—HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. Renè Clayton.—Pantomime is the attraction at this popular little house this week, Mr. Jack Haddon's company appearing in *The Babes in the Wood*. Miss Millie Engler, who combines a fine stage presence with a charming voice, scores a deserved success as Robin Hood; Maid Marian is pleasingly and prettily played by Miss Dorma Morgan; excellent low comedy work is done by Messrs. August and September as Soppy Sam and Noby Tyke; Mr. Harry Ellerton does well as the Dame, as also does Mr. Chas. May in the rôle of the Baron. The Kentucky Trio are warmly applauded for their dancing.

HANLEY. — ROYAL. — Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—A second edition of *Mother Goose* was seen on Monday, when new songs and business were successfully introduced. Business continues brisk, and brilliance is proving the keynote of success.

GRAND.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand.—The Boissets in *The Bricklayers* are the main magnet here. The Earthquake in Italy is splendidly shown by Mr. Tom Moore on the Bio-tableaux. Henry and Francis, comedy vocalists and instrumentalists, are very clever; Alexander and Scott, coon impersonators, are a hit; Martin Henderson, the blind musician, brings down the house; Norman Osborne has a unique ventriloquial act, entitled *The Actor and the Call Boy*, which is received with loud applause; "Billy," a most cleverly-trained horse, does everything but speak; and Rosie Reval is a success with her truly brilliant dancing.

KING'S.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy; Manager, Mr. H. Kennedy.—The pictures shown are well selected. Mlle. M. Margot sings some sweet songs with great charm. Sacco, the fasting man, continues well during his incarceration of forty-five days. He will fast until Ash Wednesday. He is being visited by large numbers.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. William Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eric Fielding Smith.—A well-contrasted variety entertainment is provided here. Wood, Wells, and Wilkins win favour in their comedy specialities; the Sisters Belmont dance with agility; Alpho, the ventriloquist, is funny; King and Derwin carry through their sketch with brightness; Marco Duo, triple bar comedians, excel in their speciality; Kydd and Kydd furnish some merry patter; Revill Hill portrays Lancashire character with skill; and Mme. Zilla mystifies by her demonstration of second sight.

HARTLEPOOL. — EMPRESS. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Albert Mathams.—Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope is still displaying films of quality such as to attract capital business. A splendid picture is that of The National Dances of Australia, as also is the one of The Land of the Gold. Considerable interest is centred upon The Fisherman's Fiancée, and laughter prevails whilst the pictures of The Milliner's' Pranks, The Tailor's Dummy, and The Runaway Dog are being shown. A "Do as You Please" competition and a Sunday concert are announced.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company opened here on Monday in *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*. The arrogant Prince Hildred was powerfully played by Mr. Ivan Cleveland; Prince Michael was presented by Mr. Graeme Campbell with dramatic effect; Mr. Walter Howard filled the rôle of the good-natured Prince Olaf consistently; Miss Annie Saker gave a fine interpretation of Monica; Mr. Francis Hawley submitted a good character sketch of the self-interested Bishop; and the comedy relief was pleasingly supplied by Miss Elsie Walton as Viola and Mr. Reginald Payne as Lieut. Karl Stromberg. Good assistance was rendered respectively by Miss Ivy Millais as Camiola, Mr. Reginald H. Stephens as Captain Hector, Mr. Kendal Chalmers as the dumb servant, and Mr. J. Chamberlain as Col. Wellenberg.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Vivian-Fisher; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—The principal feature in a good programme is a West African wonder-worker Yangar, whose appearance and mysterious disappearance, not only of himself, but of a variety of articles, is quite bewildering. Miss Ivy Adelaide is an attractive comedienne and dancer; Cora Corina dances and sings in different costumes with much success; Dan Filmer is comic as a vocalist and dancer; Mdlle. La Freya's artistic visions, as they are entitled, are very original and effective; and Mr. J. P. Walsh is an admirable vocalist.

PAVILION.—General-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—An agreable change is offered to the patrons of the pavilion by the appearance of Mr. A. B. Tapping and company in *The New Boy*. Mr. Tapping as Archibald Renwick is the principal actor, and treats the title-rôle admirably; Dr. Candy is well taken by Mr. Maule Cole; Felix Roach is effectively embodied by Mr. Frederick Moyes; Mr. E. Harrison makes an excellent French master; and Bullock and Stubber are well taken by Mr. C. Hawthorne and Mr. Farren-Taylor. Miss Edith Cruikshanks, in the character of Mrs. Renwick, gives delightful distinction to the part; and Miss Blanche Bayley interprets the servant with much brightness. The part of Nancy Roach, taken by Miss Clarissa Selwynne, is conspicuous for its winsomeness and charm.

HORWICH. — PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessees, the Horwich Theatre Co.; Manager, Mr. R. H. White.—Mr. A. Campbell Kelly's company in *The Trail of the Serpent* is paying a return visit. Mr. Kelly's impersonation of Ralph Hammond is a telling performance. Mr. Geo. Keith is a fine, manly Gerald Kingston; Gipsy Jake and Ben Chucks have capital exponents in Messrs. H. Glenny and H. K. Penn; Mr. Joe English, as William Higgin, has a part that suits him to perfection; Mr. Bernard Webb is a dignified Sir Gerald; Miss Mabel Spencer is a sympathetic Ethel; Miss Florence Spencer plays Rose Wilson (William's Tulip) effectively; and Miss Nana Cameron's Rachel is powerful.

HUDDERSFIELD.—HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—At the top of the bill is Miss Jennie Johns, comedienne, with some taking songs. The other artists appearing are Archie Pitt, comedian; Tamamoto, a clever Japanese performer on the wire and rope; Mrs. Bennett and Edward Cranston in a sketch entitled *Poor Master;* F. V. St. Clair, who gets a good reception for his local topical songs; King Luis and partner in a difficult and gracefully-executed Risley act; and John Marx, the great weight-lifter, in his record performance. A touching story without words on the Bioscope completes the programme.

HULL.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Mortons, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. W. F. Morton.—The pantomime still runs gaily along, and good houses have been the rule throughout the run. On Monday several new lyrics were introduced which have added to its interest. The comedians have won their way to the front by sheer merit, and it is only fair to say that Mr. Jas. Chippendale, to whom has been allotted the rôle of the Dame, is the best of that body. Miss Mimi Fisher has created a good impression for her work as principal boy; Miss Hersee has proved an attraction with her well-trained voice; and the Monte Carlo girls are dainty dancers.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Manager, Mr. Tom Bogue.—A new musical comedy, *Gay Bohemia*, was produced last Monday. The quality of the music is excellent, and the libretto fairly witty. Miss Rose Hersee, cast for the principal rôle, does good service; Miss Maud Marshall fills the rôle of Lucy with considerable credit; Mr. Tim Ryley works hard as the Hon. Bertie; and Miss Alice Payne made a capital American journalist.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Mortons, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—*For Love and the King* is a striking play, which is much appreciated by the audience. Mr. Watson Mills, the author, finds scope to demonstrate his powers as an actor as Jarval; Mr. V. Stanley is well cast as Prince Uros; and Miss Rosalind Tate is a fine representative of Princess Athene. The rest of the company do good work.

THE HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Harry Dunford.—*The Little Colonel*, a charming sketch, and Frank Harwood (the actor-vocalist) are favourite turns here. Dave Samuels delivers some amusing patter; the Sisters Draycott are good harmonising duettists; the Hyde and Cody Trio, Ford and Maxwell, and Winnie Stanhope complete a capital company.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Slingsby.—Appearing here are Miss Molteno and company, Maston, the Gentrys, Renson and Waite, and the Itrams.

THE CIRCUS.—Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Emerson.—Animated pictures, which include the Ruins of Messina, are being shown, and are getting large audiences.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—Mr. T. Edward Ward's company is here playing *Second to None*. Miss Ward as Nell Greystone achieves great success, and Miss Grace Harlington as Mary Greystone is much admired. Mr. Leonard Williams gives a manly interpretation of Harry Wilding, whilst Frank Wilding loses nothing at the hands of Mr. Chas. Halling. Mr. C. W. Spencer gives a finished reading of Sir Reginald Greystone, and Mr. Frank R. Gwyn-Richardson scores as Lieut. Archie Ballater. Mr. J. G. Maine plays well as Sergeant Jack Horseman. Mr. Geo. H. Davis (Joe Ruggles), Mr. H. Macauley (Private Flutter), and Miss Clarrie Yandell (Norah) are a lively trio. The evil genius, Captain Philip Mannering, is cleverly impersonated by Mr. Frederick F. Loyd. The scenery, uniforms, and dresses are much admired.

ILKLEY.—KING'S HALL.—Proprietors, the Ilkley Urban District Council; Licensee, Mr. Frank Hall.—On the last three nights of last week the Menston Amateur Dramatic Society performed *Iolanthe* in aid of the Ilkley Coronation Cottage Hospital.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company opened on Monday with the romantic drama, *From Slave to Princess*. Miss Dorothy Last played the heroine with grace and ability; and Miss Agnes Verity acted the part of Princess Claudia with admirable discretion. Miss Daisy Carlton scored greatly in the comic character of the Maid; in the exacting rôle of Prince Julian Mr. Austin Milroy deserves high praise; and as Michael Bardoni, the police spy and traitor, Mr. Roy Jackson acted with good effect. Mr. R. Harley West was excellent as Col. Alexis; and as Patrick O'Brien Mr. Will Hook made the most of the exceedingly humourous scenes. Mr. Fred Clifford as Peter, Mr. Fred Hilliard as Otto, and Mr. Geo. Porteous as King Adrian were all praiseworthy. *At Cripple Creek* is also in the week's bill.

HIPPODROME. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—The talented company known as the Elliot Savonas met with a great reception on Monday for their charming musical scenic display in the Palace of Orpheus. The saxophone band is delightful, and the variety of strange musical instruments employed combine to make a unique entertainment. Miss Nellie Ridgway cleverly sings and dances on a tight wire; and Mlle. Florence is very pleasing in her illustrated songs. A Japanese magic entertainment, by Yettmah and Sasa San, is bewildering and popular; Cookson is a clever ventriloquist; Pat Lynch as the dancing demon is vociferously applauded; Signorita Eloina, gymnast, is very active on the swinging bar and slack rope; Wilton Heriot and company have a comedy sketch, entitled *An Anglo-American Alliance*, which gives scope for plenty of fun and quick-change; and the Bioscope concludes.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Locke.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company is here this week with *The Great White Chief*. Mr. Mansell Fane gives a manly portrayal of Leo Stanley; Mr. Hugh Brady is excellent in the part of Reindeer; Mr. Geo. Butler plays with force as Hartley Deane; Mr. Millar Wilson causes amusement as George Rupbert Walker; Miss Pollie Denville is a charming Latika; Miss Amy Ross Clyde is a capable Martha Jane Curley; and Miss Dulcie Lawrence handles the part of Hester Stafford with skill.

JERSEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Edward Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—Mr. John A. Thomson's pantomime *The Babes in the Wood* is drawing crowded houses here. Miss Pattie McCarthy is a shapely Robin Hood, and Miss Nina Carlton is a dainty Maid Marion; Miss Norah Prendergast is the Queen of Good Intent, and Mr. Frank Halpin figures as the Spirit of Evil; whilst the Babes are represented by Miss Cissie Williams and La Belle Sylvia. Mr. Lovell Rowlands and Mr. Herbert Walton cause much amusement as Weary Willie and Tired Tim; Mr. Gus Walker is very funny as Pansy Blossom; Mr. Ross Warren keeps the ball rolling as Blinker; whilst Baron Graball is creditably played by Mr. R. Digby Worsley. Excellent specialities are introduced by Les Millicent Frères, who do some marvellous trapeze work; the Sisters Hypatia, who are really expert dancers; La Belle Sylvia, a delicious acrobatic dancer; the Sisters Thornton; and Miss Cissie Williams, a graceful toe-dancer. The pantomime is well mounted and staged; the chorus is comely; the songs are taking; and the orchestra is under the able bâton of Mr. Arthur Sheldrake.

KETTERING.—VICTORIA THEATRE.—Managers, Messrs. A. Bailey and Co.—Mr. W. W. Kelly's company is here with *A Royal Divorce*. As Napoleon Mr. Keith Fraser presents a powerful and artistic portrayal of the character; Mr. Percy H. Vernon admirably plays the wily Talleyrand; and Mr. Ernest Plumpton is successful as General Augereau. Miss Winnie Tempest gives a very fine rendering of Josephine; and Miss Reine Lowrey is dignified and capable as Marie Louise.

KIDDERMINSTER. — NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Managing-Director, Mr. Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon.—We have a visit this week from Messrs F. Marriott Watson and Sanderson Moffat's company in the romantic costume musical drama, entitled *What a Woman Did*. In the rôle of Rafaelle Duroc Mr. Marriott Watson excels; while Mr. Sanderson Moffat is equally good as Conrad de L'Orme; Mr. Reginald Kloof cleverly enacts the rôle of Black Pitou; Miss Florence C. Florence is very clever as Elise de L'Orme, Conrad's wife; and Miss Phyllis Graham as Little Conrad is real. There are some excellent songs and good dancing, and the mounting leaves nothing to be desired.

KING'S LYNN.—NEW ROYAL THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. B. Pareezer.—Mr. T. Arthur Jones has attracted large audiences here this week with his successful drama, *When Other Lips*. In the part of Ted Daunton Mr. T. Arthur Jones makes an excellent sailor lad; and Mr. Juan d'Alberti as Basil Cunningham acted with ability; Miss Marie Daventry as Ruth Lingley capably presented the typical heroine; and in the comedy parts Miss Lizzie Lemmon as Kitty Topwash and Mr. Cecil H. Raymond as Tommy Neccles kept the house in roars of laughter.

KIRKCALDY.—NEW PAVILION.—Lessee, Dr. Walford Bodie.—The leading attraction this week is the Bodiegraph, which is showing some excellent pictures, including views of Messina before and after the earthquakes. Turns are also provided by Prof. Glennie, who presents a clever and unique marionette show; Max Merlin, the human crocodile, who performs some wonderful feats of contortion; the Bros. Robson, comedians and smart dancers; Harold Carlyle, a local comedian of undoubted ability; and Garland, a good coster comedian.

LANCASTER.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. C. Howitt.—This week Mr. Chas. Draycott's company is here in a round of plays, which includes *The Stolen Birthright, The Octoroon, Sorrows of Satan, The Shaughraun, East Lynne*, and *It's Never Too Late to Mend*. The first-named piece was presented on Monday evening to a good house. Mr. Chas. Draycott appeared with much success as Stefano; Mr. Geo. Steel made a capital Prince Andrea Celsi; Mr. George Arthur and Mr. Wilfred J. Short were acceptable as Count Taddeo and Prince Silvati respectively; and Mr. Chas. H. Herbert did exceedingly well as Prince Antonio. Mr. Chas. Draycott gave a splendid portrayal of Princess Miranda, and was ably supported by Miss Marie Ellis as Fidella Silvati and Miss Eva Norman as Nita. The staging was excellent.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. J. Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—Alf. Gibson, comedian, is the star turn this week, and is recalled at each house. A very clever sketch, *Two's Company*, is presented in splendid style by Ferris and May; Frank Hartley, juggler, is paying a return visit, and is well received; and Mlle. Pollo gives a smart gymnastic act. Fred Land, comedian, causes roars of laughter; and St. Ruth and Conyers sing well together. The Hippograph is still an attraction.

LEAMINGTON. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. George G. Ridley.—The pantomime season being now at its height, Leamington is taking its share in the happy form of amusement this week. The attraction is Mr. Milton Bode's *Aladdin*, and the production is generally conceded to be the finest he has ever staged in this town. Crowded and most enthusiastic audiences each evening demonstrate what the local verdict is. The piece is beautifully staged and dressed, and abounding in delightful songs, graceful dances, and some excellent comic business, it goes with a merry swing from start to finish. Miss Blanche Astley is a delightful Aladdin, and sings and dances extremely well; whilst Miss Elsie Skillings makes a charming Princess. Quite a feature of the pantomime is the Directoire costume and song by Miss De Loriere, whose impersonation of Pekoe is a distinct success. Miss Eva Chadwick also makes an excellent Niese; Mr. John E. Conan provides a deal of fun with his extremely clever performance as the Widow, and his skits on the suffragette and the Merry Widow evoke roars of laughter; Mr. Will Gane, an old local favourite, helps materially with the fun as Lip Tung Tee; whilst the antics of the Fimans are both clever and amusing. Mr. Harry Morgan is capital as Abanazar; and Mr. Stanley Fields commendable as the Emperor. Another meritorious performance is Mr. Neville Delmar's Grand Vizier. The specialities include Collins's troupe of dancers, who are a decided acquisition to the pantomime, and the Moxon Trio, in their acrobatic act. An excellent chorus and augmented orchestra, under the direction of Mr. E. F. Trevor, adds much to the success of the production.

LEEDS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Mr. John Hart's pantomime, *Sinbad the Sailor*, continues to draw full houses, and deservedly so, for the production is full of life, colour, and harmless fund. In this latter connection much clever work is done by Mr. Rowland Hill, whose "dame" is a mirth-provoking personage. Mr. William Stephens as Hinbad adds considerable to the general merriment; whilst those experienced pantomimists, Harrigan and Holt, contribute a generous quota to the fun. Of the specialities, big success is achieved by Radford and Valentine, whose comedy turn is quite one of the most enjoyable features. The whole production goes with a merry swing, and the two matinées are also well attended.

THEATRE ROYAL.—*Aladdin* entered on a new lease of life here on Monday, when some successful new features were introduced and additions made to the cast. Tray and Rich add materially to the strength of the comedy element, their eccentric business and patter being provocative of much merriment; another popular addition is Miss Adela Rane, who, as Slave of the Ring, sings and acts in charming style; Mr. Sidney Vincent as Abanazar and Mr. Tom Dunmore have also elaborated their parts to some purpose, and each assist largely in many enjoyable interludes. The production generally has been brightened up all round, if that were possible, and great crowds besiege the theatre nightly for early admission.

EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex. Galley.—That prince of illusionists, Horace Goldin, is the bright particular star of this week's bill, and his performance is much enjoyed. Fred Edwards and company are provocative of great merriment with the sketch *Kleptomaniacs;* W. J. Ashcroft, the famous solid man, makes a successful reappearance; Thora constitutes an interesting mystery; a capital turn by the Dumond Trio goes exceedingly well, as also does a neat speciality by Clark and Hayden. Of the rest, May Edouin, Jeannie MacKay, and McCann's Dogs achieve good success at every appearance.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford.—Harry Roxbury here presents Tubby Edlin in a novelty item, *The Cowboy Millionaire*, and the entertainment is well to the liking of full houses; a clever comedy effort by Emerson and Baldwin is also a popular line; J. C. Piddock and company score with the screamer, *The Capture of Venus;* the Columbia Comedy Trio get a satisfying reception; that wonderful dancer, My Fancy, is doing her inimitable turn; and capital entertainment is also subscribed by the Woodwards, Arthur Prince's Mascots, the Radford Duo, and Bijou Juvenile Troupe.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—A clever comedy item, *Dingle's Double*, is played as leading turn, and great is the laughter thereat. That popular vocalist, George D'Albert, is rendering some new items with unexampled success; a pleasing novelty by Estrella is a much-enjoyed feature; and the comedy contributions of Maxwell and Francis are as popular as anything in the bill. Of the rest, Phillips and Terry (always favourites here), Fred Sheppard, C. Russell, and Jules Kiaro are doing particularly well.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—King's College Boys are the lead here, and achieve solid success nightly. The Three Cunards find an appreciative reception of their speciality; the Alskarno Trio are very popular with clever work; whilst Nat Watkins and Steve Bartle are prominent amongst the merriment-makers.

LEICESTER.—PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald

entertaining. The American Bioscope pictures clearly show The Devastation at Messina.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joe Lawrence.—Mr. G. M. Marriott's company, owing to the success achieved last week, is retained, and with *A Modern Millionaire* is topping the bill. Miss Edith Finlay is very good as Millie Maydue; Mr. Geo. M. Marriott scores a success as Joe Bingham; and Mr. John A. Stimson is funny as Billy Walters. The Munroe Comedy Team are popular favourites in a most enjoyable turn of melody, mirth, and music. Another turn who scores a well-deserved success is Emma Don, a very smart character comedienne. Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope is again a special feature. George Norton, comedian, raises much laughter, and others contributing acceptable turns are A. Barraclough, descriptive vocalist; Cherry Lass, comedienne and dancer; and Cissie Esdaile, vocalist.

EMPIRE.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Company; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles R. Craig.—Business here continues to be most satisfactory. The principal films this week include The Last Roll Call; or, Grandfather's Birthday, A Roman Idyll, A Nobleman's Pleasure, The Water Sprite, Gratitude, A Duel with Dynamite, A Broken Heart, Father Buys a Picture, and Man and Latchkey, which are interspersed with turns by Henry Villiers, a clever impressionist, depicting characters from Dickens, and Esta May, vocalist, whose song "Antonio" is enthusiastically sung by the audience.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—The attraction this week is provided by a welcome return visit of Mr. Harry Tilbury's company in the domestic drama *His Dishonoured Wife*, in which Miss Belle Tilbury plays with her accustomed success as Florence Lindon. Mr Victor Rae is very good as the hero, Frank Lindon; Mr. Horatio Sinclair is most effective as the evil genius, Lord Devant, who is assisted in a capable manner by Mr. Edwin Brown as Tom Redman; Mr. Harry Tilbury creates great merriment in the comedy part of Micky Doolan; Miss Etta Spalding as Araminta Dustpan is also the cause of much laughter; Miss Spalding plays well the child part of Mabel Lindon; and Miss Arline T. George as Alice Harvey and Mr. Fred Owen as Neil Locksley are also deserving of special praise.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. W. Heath.—Mr. C. Watson Mill's company is paying a return visit here in *A Warning to Women*. Mr. Harry C. Robinson strongly portrays Dr. Marcus Dread; Mr. William Vane submits a manly and telling impersonation of Shaun; Squire Kenyon is cleverly delineated by Mr. Henry Rutland; Mr. W. Palliser Acock is an amusing Ferdinand de Joules; Miss Blanche St. Albans gives a fine rendering of the difficult rôle of Moira Kenyon; Miss Ellen Beverley deserves praise as Molly O'Moore; and Miss Edith Rutland is very successful as Myles; the remaining parts are all in good hands.

GRAND THEATRE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Benson; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Woolstencroft.—The Faludy troupe of Hungarian acrobats head the bill here this week, and give an exceptionally smart turn; Tiny and Mite, child vocalists, provide some excellent singing and dancing; Princess Pochantus, who sings "An echo in the wood" in grand style, is deservedly applauded. The bill includes popular comedians in Mr. Charles Tempest and Mr. Oliver Conroy. A really marvellous performance is that of Mlle. Marjutti; the Four Spanish Goldinis are very clever in their carpet-spinning and electrical novelties; and Miss Ida Fair, comedienne, and the Bioscope pictures complete.

ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—Lessees, Mr. and Mrs. J. Frank Walter; Manager, Mr. J. Frank Walker.—The Sovereign pictures are still the leading features of the programme here, supplemented by the Pardys, in their drawing-room entertainment, and Miss Marie Roberts, an excellent contralto vocalist.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Licensee and Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—Pantomime has been inaugurated here this week by Miss Lillie Williams's production of *Dick Whittington and His Cat*, which has the advantages of up-to-date songs, attractive dresses, and a good setting. The cast includes Miss Gertie Douglas in the name-part, of which she gives a pleasant rendering; Miss Hetty Lind, who makes a charming Alice; and Miss Cicely Kent, to whom is allotted the rôle of Mary Ann, the cook. Miss Osceola Martinek and the Imperial Glee Singers are prominent with choice vocal numbers; other outstanding specialities are contributed by the Pichel troupe of Risley acrobats; and the Ten Corneville Belles provide some smart dancing. Mr. Sam Thomson as Idle Jack and Mr. Harry Loftus as Captain Bailey take the lead among the comedians; and with Mr. Harry Gilmore as the Cat, Mr. Phil Conway as Alderman Fitzwarren, Mr. Richards as the Sultan, Messrs. Henry Jones and S. Jackson as Lazy Bill and Reuben, and Mr. Kemble and Miss Olive Carter as King Rat and Queen Cat keeps the audience amused.

LIMERICK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. George Victor Fogerty.—Mr. Dickie Clare's musical comedy company is here in *Lucky 'Liza*, and gives entire satisfaction to appreciative audiences. As Silas Slim Mr. Clare proves a very fine character-actor; and Mr. T. W. Benson makes a really clever Paul Pettitoe. Mr. Norman Lee is good as Peter Pettitoe; and Mr. J. W. Forrest is very capable as Bill Biffins. The Misses Louie Astor, Lily Bell, and Beckie Sterling dance very gracefully; and as Sadie Potts Miss Evelyn Wood is chic and clever. Miss Helen Douglas makes a sage and sensible Maria Pettitoe. As Virginia Blatherwick Miss Kitty Clark is very good; whilst the hit of the evening is made by Miss Vesta Brownie as Eliza Bird, her singing and dancing being much applauded.

LIVERPOOL.—ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—Here this week Mr. Walter Melville's new drama, *The Beggar Girl's Wedding*, paid a first visit to Liverpool, and was received with every satisfaction. Besides being charmingly staged, the work was interpreted by a sound and accomplished body of artists. Miss Vashti Wynne as the "girl" played with an intensity and artistic appreciation that was pleasurable to witness; a manly Jack Cunningham was depicted most ably by Mr. Otto Minster; the eccentric Doctor Millbank found in Mr. James C. Taylor a very worthy exponent; Mr. Herbert Lloyd made a humorous Dicky Storm, being greatly assisted with the comedy by Miss Daisy Maynard (Tina Torkington); Norman Marsh was well presented by Mr. Ernest G. Batley; Mr. Herbert Morgan made a sufficiently villainous Gilbert Lindsay; and good work was also done by Mr. Ellis J. Preston (Robert Grimshaw), Miss Olive Warne (Maud Villiers), and Miss Doris Whyte (Elsie Cunningham). A matinée was held on Wednesday.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—That admirable play, *With Edged Tools*, paid a return visit to this popular theatre during the week, and was welcomed by large audiences, who evidently remembered the value which Messrs. Armitage and Leigh always give, both in quality of work and selection of artists. Mr. William F. Grant again presented his powerful study of Jack Meredith; Miss Marie Leonhard showed high accomplishments as the sympathetic Jocelyn Gordon; a rôle that stood out prominently and with considerable effectiveness was that of Victor Durnovo, skilfully handled by Mr. Campbell Goldsmid; as Sir John Meredith Mr. J. A. Rosier deserved great praise, his work being commendably sound; Miss Alice Ethel Belmore proved a pleasing Millicent Chyne; Miss Marion Fawcett acted with dignity and refinement as Lady Cantourne; the part of Lady Herries was neatly presented by Miss Florence Dulhunty; Mr. J. Pockett did well as Maurice Gordon; and Mr. Charles Hartopp proved a manly and vigorous Guy Oscard.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—A most interesting and very pleasing entertainment was during the week given by Zeynard's lilliputians, whose equestrian and speciality acts elicited great applause; the banjo juggling by the Howard Brothers proved eminently acceptable; Fred Storey and company gave some excellent scenes dealing with the story of "Rip Van Winkle"; the exclusive cinematograph pictures showing the training methods of the famous boxers Johnson and Burns were witnessed with attention; Alice Maydue provoked endless laughter with her songs and patter; the Gems provided a pretty musical mélange; Doroswami played the violin with unusual skill; as comedy acrobats the Creo Brothers showed to much advantage; and also in the list were Dan Fraser, an amusing Scotch comedian, and Billy Hobbs, coon comedian and dancer.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.—*The Woman Who Went Astray*, given here this week, was received with considerable favour. Miss Gwynne Warren held the part of the "woman," acting with dramatic force; Mr. J. Shinton was an excellent Captain Frank Julian; Miss Ada Ryder charmingly portrayed Violet Harvey; and the humour was adequately supplied by Messrs. E. Roland and Todd Squires.

LYRIC. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—Haley's Prize Juveniles headed the programme here this week, and delighted everyone with a pretty carnival scena, which introduced the two small duettists "Spot" and "Dot"; the Schiavonys troupe of acrobats went through some able feats; an attractive musical speciality, *The Sons of Toil*, came from the Corcoran Bros.; the popular vaudeville artists, Spry and Austin, were given a cordial reception on their return visit; Smith and Johnson, the coloured duo, pleased, as usual; Johnny Dwyer had several new and humorous songs; as a female impersonator Letine gave much satisfaction; some neat acrobatic work was shown by the Brothers Zenary; and Alec Kennedy rendered several acceptable songs.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—Pantomime held sway here during the week, Mr. William Holland sending an excellent show bearing the title *The Forty Thieves*. As Ali Baba Mr. Bob Selvidge created great fun, receiving valuable help from Mr. Chris Le Brun, who as the faithful donkey, Percy, was always at his heels; Miss Dolly Tree sustained the part of Abdullah with great satisfaction; Robb Wilton added immensely to the fun with his very amusing Cogia; Mr. William Bosco was a diverting Cassim; the Sisters Tree introduced a neat dancing and singing turn; the Misses Sadie Cassell, Phyllis Wardroper, Mabel Hope, and Fancy Free gave a clever exhibition of dancing; and other well-held parts were those of Morgiana (Miss Cecilia Gold), Ganem (Miss Bertha Clifton), Chief of the Police (Miss Frances Haskoll), and Hasserac (Mr. Jack Waller). The pantomime was staged in an admirable manner. In addition variety turns were given by Charles Cardow, comedian, and the Five Juanitos, acrobats.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—Here during the week the stock company gave *A Royal Revenge*, from the pens of Adrian O'Connell and Eugene McCarthy. Mr. Sydney Grant played very effectively the rôle of the King of Spain; Mr. David G. Noble made an excellent Pedro de Castro; Mr. R. Seath Innes acquitted himself as the hunchback, Mzeda; Mr. Tom H. Solly created a deal of amusement with his Michael Sancha; Miss Florence Palmer was particularly well suited with the character of Cosa Casilda; Miss Lilian Radbourne creditably impersonated Angela; and worthy support also came from Messrs. E. D. Allen (Don Juan), Leo Montgomery (Manuel), Cecil Ravenswood (Friar Dominic), and Miss Gertrude Entwistle (Paquita). Mr. Anthony Brown's bioscope showed the latest films.

OLYMPIA.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton.—Foremost here throughout the week was the exceedingly funny sketch *Casey's Court*, with Will Murray as Mrs. Casey; a realistic representation of the catastrophe known as the Johnstown flood was watched with deep interest; Fred Kitchen and Frank Lister's company gave a capital dramatic sketch, *No. 99*, in which Mr. Lister appeared; the songs given by Millie Payne kept the audience in good humour; Seeley and Rhodesia went through an entertaining turn of juggling, mirth, and music, which was highly gratifying; Bertha Stuart found much favour for her Scotch character songs; a refined drawing-room musical act by Florence and Lillian pleased greatly; Harry Bedford brought his latest amusing songs, which were acceptable; and Ida Kathrena, "the Dolly Girl," had a satisfactory turn.

PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—Great business continues to be done at this new place of entertainment. The big line this week has been Karno's *Dandy Thieves*, with Mr. George Hestor as Sergeant Lightning and Miss Aggie Morris in the rôle of Lady Easem; those exceedingly funny ones Wild, Willie, and West caused the audience to shout with laughter; Valvero's naval bombardment was a neat and uncommon show; the bioscope showed a striking picture of the earthquake at Messina; Leslie and Player proved very diverting with their comedy duets and patter; Leonard Charburn's troupe of youngsters gave a pretty scena, *A Picnic up the River*; as lady acrobats the Redcar Trio were distinctly good; a picturesque turn was that entitled *The Kiltie's Camp*, into which singing, piping, dancing, &c., were introduced; Rizarelis gave a sensational revolving trapeze act; and the list also held the names of Horace Sade, characteristic dancer, and Tod Lowen, comedian.

GRAND TIVOLI.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jasper Redfern.—The animated pictures shown here twice nightly continue to attract. During the week the following artists provided a pleasing vaudeville entertainment:—The Forrest comedy company, with a laughable sketch, *My Friend the Enemy*; Fame and Fortune, burlesque boxers; Chant and Chant, conversational duettists; Baby Sophie, a tiny vocalist; J. H. Carney, quick-change and high-stilt specialist; Kitty Cameron, soubrette; and Shirley Liggins and company, coloured exponents of comedy and harmony.

PARK PALACE.—Lessee, Mr. Jasper Redfern.—Here a good selection of bioscope pictures is also given twice nightly. During this week the following artists appeared:—Mark Merry, comedian; Wells and Warlock, comedians and dancers; the Vanderbilts, with a musical comedy-drama; Lillie Lemain, with a pretty speciality, "The Living Marionettes"; Henri Sonaba, who gave a musical instrumental act; and the Saletos, with a clever balancing and acrobatic performance.

NEW CENTURY PICTURE HALL.—Proprietors, The New Century Animated Picture Company, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter W. Hook.—Good business is being done here with some fine bioscope pictures. During the week the following were included in the programme:—The Earthquake at Messina, The Prize Camel, The Tricky Convict, Detective Nick Carter, The Last Cartridge, The Little Flower Seller, and A Child's Devotion. Illustrated songs were also given.

LLANELLY.—ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Z. Andrews; Manageress, Miss Alice Rocheforte.—Mr. Leon Vint's amalgamation of varieties is here this week doing well. Mr. Vint has a strong company, including Mme. Vint, the clever somnomist; the Misses May Bound and Georgie Jeans, Welsh vocalists; Wee Wullie, a young Scotch comedian; Miss Gertie Boyd, a clever soprano and sketch artist; Miss Lillie Le Main, a dainty dancer; Miss Gertie Vint, serio; Miss May Lillianne, instrumentalist; the Sisters Verner; Dare and Maurie; Clarence Cowell, comedian; and the Misses Dudley, Millie Morgan, Mona Ray, Nellie Roylett, who, together with Miss Marie Beresford, the clever musical directress, are all very good.

ATHENÆUM HALL.—Secretary, Mr. H. Boulton.—Here we have the Hopkins (Ted and May) in pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*. Miss May Hopkins is a very charming Robin Hood; and Maid Marian is daintily taken by Miss Ethel Rainsforth. Miss Marie Lawrence and Miss Jean Beresford, as Will Scarlet and Phyllis respectively, do very well; the two Babes are capitally represented by the little sisters, Effie and Dunnie Sinclair; Mr. George Grant makes a good Baron; and Mr. George Kelly is most successful as the Baroness. Messrs. Ted and Dick Hopkins as the Robbers are irresistible; the Misses Enid Lane and Edith Rainford are clever as Polini and Alan-a-dale. Miss Ellalene Gastella is a charming Fairy Queen.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Resident-Business-Manager, Mr. W. Payne Seddon.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard opened here on Monday with *The Forty Thieves*, and fully sustained his high reputation. Mr. A. G. Spry as Ali Baba and Mr. Paddy Dupres as Mrs. Ali Babi kept the house in a perfect furore of laughter; they were ably assisted by the Donkey, impersonated by Mr. Dan Loan. Miss Josie Farrington as Ganem played and sang in an artistic manner; Miss Nellie Barnwell as Morgiana succeeded admirably; Miss Olive Astor as Abdallah played and sang with gusto; whilst Miss Elsie May as Hassan and Miss Mabelle May as Nebedia charmed the house by their clever dancing.

LOWESTOFT.—MARINA.—Manager, Mr. E. A. Smith.—Drama and musical comedy has given place this week to pantomime, Mr. Graham-Falcon's company appearing in a most successful representation of *Cinderella*, which has already been favourably dealt with in these columns. The whole company work together with most happy results, the bright singing, smart dancing, and gorgeous costumes, added to which we are treated to a genuine fund of humour, all tending to a thoroughly enjoyable entertainment.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—The Janowsky troupe of acrobats are scoring a big success here this week, the programme presented being responsible for large and delighted houses. T. W. Lenner (comedian), S. F. Gilbert (tenor vocalist), Florence Leonard, and Flo Wright being also in the bill. The Biograph is showing a number of interesting films, including Black Beauty, A Family of Cats, A Redskin's Justice, and The Young Tramp.

MACCLESFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—*Love, the Conqueror*, is presented by Mr. Frank Lindo and his excellent company. As Brian Norval Mr. Frank Lindo gives a masterly performance, and is the recipient of well-earned applause; Miss Marion Wakefield as Mistress Beatrice Mortimer plays with admirable intensity, which commands due appreciation; Miss Nellie Benson acts gracefully as Dame Norval; and Miss Maude Leslie-Cudd makes a vivacious Susan Shortly. As Sir John Mortimer Mr. N. Shields is capital; Mr. Richard Walsh is very amusing as Peter; Mr. D. Lawrence Doyle proves successful as the rascally Count Leon Lascelles; Mr. Harry Belford as Andrew Allbertree and Mr. Tom E. Lewis as Capt. Rupert Armadale are responsible for sound impersonations; and Mr. Leo R. Neilson ably presents William of Orange. The scenery is effective.

MAESTEG.—TOWN HALL THEATRE.—Lessees, Poole's Theatres Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. G. F. Knowles.—Mr. J. Rice Cassidy's company appeared here on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before large audiences in *In Holy Russia*. Mr. Henry Compton did full justice to the part of Colonel Richard Forrest; as Laurie E. Steragoff Mr. Geo. F. Doyle displayed fine dramatic power; Mr. Rolf Leslie was commendable as Count Gregoris Petrolski; Mr. J. Rice Cassidy as Micky Nolan was as funny as ever, and kept the houses in roars of laughter; Mrs. J. Rice Cassidy showed much ability as Renée Rubinoff; Mme. Natolski was cleverly impersonated by Miss Alice Holland; and other minor parts were well sustained by efficient artists.

MAIDENHEAD.—TOWN HALL. — Secretary, the Town Clerk.—*Sinbad the Sailor* was presented here by Mr. John A. Thompson's company on the 15th and following night. Miss Amy Cooper sang well as Fairy Goodheart; Miss Edith Wallis was good as Sinbad; Mr. Syd H. Morton was an entertaining Captain Bluebottle; and Mr. Syd Godfrey an amusing Mrs. Sinbad. Special dances were contributed by the Coral troupe, the Sisters English, the Sisters Macrae, and Oak and Elm.

MAIDSTONE. — PALACE THEATRE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Baskerville.—A pleasing visit is being paid by Mr. Percy Hutchison and Miss Emma Hutchison's company in Somerset Maugham's charming comedy *Mrs. Dot*. Miss Nancy Beresford in the title-rôle has a part which is exactly suited to her lively temperament, and she scores heavily, her acting all through being excellent. Miss Emma Hutchison's interpretation of the haughty aristocrat Lady Sellenger could scarcely be improved upon. Mr. Frank Lacy as James Blenkinsop, the cynical but kindly man of the world, gives a clever and well-thought-out interpretation of the part; Mr. Charles A. Staite as Freddie Perkins is responsible for some hearty laughter for a clever piece of comedy acting. The remaining characters are in good hands, and the play is excellently mounted.

MANCHESTER. — GAIETY THEATRE. — Proprietor, Miss A. E. F. Horniman; Manager, Mr. B. Iden Payne; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edwin T. Heys.—The Christmas production here, *The Knight of the Burning Pestle*, has so far proved an unquestionable success, the bookings being ample, and the general attendances large. Good as the opening performances were, they have now attained to a standard that is very near to absolute perfection, the whole of the cast, citizens and players, working together with remarkable smoothness and humour. The matinées of *Alice in Wonderland* are also successfully continued.

ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Mason.—*The Babes in the Wood*, as presented by Messrs. Cullen and Carthy's company, may fairly claim to be one of the best pantomimes on the road. The singing is good, the fun always brisk and enjoyable, and the scenery and dresses are elaborate and pleasing. Incidental to the story, specialities are introduced with great success by Les Belles Americaines, a quartette of smart acrobatic dancers; Dolly and Elsie, in juvenile song and dance; the Melbahs, musical instrumentalists; and Messrs. Cullen and Carthy, assisted by Little Cluley, who keep the house in roars with their whimsicalities. In addition to the work of all these, much clever business is contributed by Miss Bessie Cohen as Robin Hood, Miss Ruby Roys as Maid Marian, Mr. Arthur Stratton as the Baron, and Mr. Fred Melville as Hearne the Hunter (an excellent vocalist).

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Dry.—Mr. Horace Stanley and company are here this week in *The 10.30 Down Express*, which is presented with success twice nightly. Prominent in the cast are Mr. T. Arthur Plummer as Jack O'Malley, a well-drawn heroic character; Mr. F. Wilberforce as the villainous Jack Inderwick; Miss Kate Kilpack as Peggy Potts; Miss Cora Linda as O'Malley's sweetheart, Bessie Leigh; and Miss Myra Mayne as Olive Coombes, an exacting part well played. Mr. Horace Stanley as Sam Wagstaff and Miss Ida Fane as Letitia Leigh are responsible for a deal of fun. All the minor parts are cleverly filled.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Hewitt.—Mr. Harry Burns presents here the pantomime of *Robinson Crusoe*. It is an entertaining production, and very prettily staged. Mme. Du Roche as Crusoe and Miss Marie Belle as Polly Perkins sustain the initial rôles in engaging style, and contribute some good singing; Mr. Harry Curwen makes an excellent Dame Crusoe; Mr. Arthur Aiston well develops his opportunities as Will Atkins; and Messrs. Alfred Weldon and G. H. Woodleigh are really capital as the Pirates. Other good parts are smartly handled, and graceful evolutions and dances are added by Bert Coote's troupe of Yankee Doodle Girls.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—Top of the bill here this week are George Auger and company in their novel and amusing playlet *Jack the Giant-Killer*. A star attraction also are some exclusive pictures of Johnson and Burns, the pugilists, in various training exercises. Hermann Melot, the well-known conjurer, is as successful as ever; the Four Holloways do some wonderful acrobatic feats, including trick cycling on a tight-wire; Henry Carlton is seen to advantage in his *Window Cleaner* sketch; and other good turns are provided by Alf Chester, versatile comedian; Beatie Kent, comedienne and dancer; Tom Collins, light comedian; Harry Clifford, comedian; and the Yankee Doodle duo, Jack Ross and Sue Lewis, in a truly comic and remarkably clever dancing act.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Manager, Mr. Wilson Barry.—*The Sands of Dee* is still "going strong." Dolly Elsworthy, ably supported, is well received in a delightful playlet *Sweet Mistress Dorothy*; the Delevines are very clever in their scarecrow dance; the Cumberlands as trick cyclists and acrobats are exceedingly smart; De Gracia's elephants are well trained and entertaining; the Martineks made a hit in their *Rag Doll* act; Jack Smiles, comedian, dances and smiles well; Dora Barrington, in song-scena, *Sentiment and Jest*, sings well; and Helen Trix is good at the piano. Up-to-date pictures are shown on the Bioscope.

PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Freece; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. J. Carter.—B. A. Rolfe presents the Ten Dark Knights, including Jack Smith, ably supported, in a capital coon act of singing, playing, and dancing. The great Roland, assisted by Marjorie Russell, is a first-rate illusionist; Charles Miller's elephant trio are wonderfully well trained; Paulton and Dooley are very funny as eccentric trick cyclists; Alec Kendall makes a hit with his smart patter; Will English, a coloured dancer, is excellent; Emlyn Jones and quartette are first-rate singers; Wilson and Waring are amusing in comedy act *A Bit of Nonsense*; and Vere and Royal, comedy duo, are entertaining.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. R. Trippett.—John Tiller's comic pantomime *Little Red Riding Hood* as presented here this week is a fine show, the scenery, dresses, and dancing—by the Poppy Quartette—being all excellent. Prince Charming is nicely played by Maisie Jerrard; and Decima Brooke is very pleasing as *Red Riding Hood*. Considerable amusement is caused by Fred Russell as the Baron; and by Will Lytton and Walter Watson as Johnny Stout and Johnny Green respectively. Emmie Franks is a smart Tommy Tucker; Louie Davies as Margery Daw is a neat dancer; Howard Ward as the Grandmother is good; Florry Page sings well as the Fairy; and Dave Laird as the Wolf is capital.

TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Decima Moore, the well-known actress and singer, is the star here this week, and meets with a good reception. Daisy Irving, a charming comedienne, has a sweet voice; Reynolds' Minstrels are entertaining in coon songs and dances; Minnie Wheaton sings and dances nicely; Beatrice Macadam in a musical act is excellent; Mr. and Mrs. Leonard in sketch *Coming Home* are vastly amusing; Mr. Bartlett Garth and company are good in dramatic episode *The Snowstorm*; whilst other smart items are given by Stratton, a lady impersonator, and Leonard Gale, vocal comedian. Ruffell's Pictures complete.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—Zona Vevey and Max Erard, after a highly successful week at the King's, Longsight, are delighting large audiences here with their altogether excellent vocal scena. Lallie Brooke sings "The old sundial" in an effective manner; Diana Hope and company present in powerful style a society episode *Her Good Name*; the Victoria Troupe are charming instrumentalists; Les Zelovas are neat acrobatic equilibrists; Jim Cunliffe, light comedian, has a pleasing style; the Rangers do some wonderful trick cycling; and Burns and Bentley are deservedly applauded for their simultaneous dancing. A White Shirt and A Tale of the Revolution are shown on the Bioscope.

HULME HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thos. Baker.—The Six Brothers Luck top the bill here this week in *Lift-'Ems, Ltd.*, and cause no end of laughter, the piece being screamingly funny. The Pasquali Brothers are exceedingly clever as tumblers and equilibrists; Harry Zetter makes a big hit as a comedian and eccentric dancer; the Wyffs are amusing in comedy sketch *St. Valentine's Day*; Jack Martin scores with song, "Taking his own wife's part"; Natalia and Diana give a very clever trapeze performance; Conan Dewson is excellent at the piano; and other smart turns are offered by the Bros. Milford, good dancers; M. H. Thiessen, with well-trained dogs; and Val Marome, vocalist. Rembrandt, lightning artist, did not appear on the occasion of our visit.

MARGATE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. E. Michael; General-Manager, Mr. W. W. Keene.—Mr. Edward Graham-Falcon's spirited pantomime company has this week presented, with complete success, *Aladdin*. Speciality turns are contributed by the La Dor Troupe of acrobats; the Misses Carrie Warner, Amelia Graham, and Louie Wells as dancing girls; Mr. Albert Lawrence, who sings "Dear Heart"; and Percy Galino, whose bone solos are cleverly rendered. Miss Amy Bellwood gives every satisfaction in the name-part; Miss Daisy Kersey is equally successful as the Princess; Mr. Albert Lawrence's Widow Twankey is excruciatingly funny without being vulgar; Mr. J. G. Forde is good as the magician; Mr. Will Burton is amusing as the Emperor; and Miss Georgie Mansell makes a delightful Slave of the Ring.

HIPPODROME. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—*His Father's Teacher* is a pathetic little sketch, in which Miss Crissie Francess and Miss Ethel Green are successful. Amandus, the cosmopolitan facial mimic; Allen and Austen, comedians; Byron, comedy clay modeller; Fred Dunstone, comedian; and Mlle. Rosina, expert instrumentalist, also contribute to an all-round entertaining programme.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees, The South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Albert Jackson.—The pantomime *Aladdin* opened here on Monday to a good house. Miss Marie Wall makes an admirable Aladdin; the Princess has a pleasing representative in Miss Emmie Cousins; and Miss Ruby Hayes as So-Shi, Miss Cissie Cowan as Pekoe, Little Babs Lloyd as Electra, and Miss Ivy Rochefort as Kasrac appear to advantage in their respective characters. Hayes and Watson provide plenty of amusement as Bo-Bi and Bo-Ko; and Mr. Bob Stephenson is brimful of humour as Widow Twankey.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—Mohamed Ben Mohamed Troupe of genuine Arabs head the bill here, and meet with a hearty welcome; Edward Crossland's Merry Makers submit an excellent turn, introducing good vocalism; the Four Dorrans provide a capital item; and Lilian Travelli, vocalist, Henry and Blanche in a speciality act, Martino, the man-frog, Sam Dalton, comedian, and Abel and Welsh, grotesque eccentrics, also entertain. Excellent films are shown by the biograph.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Matthew H. Glenville and Fred. Osmond's pantomime *Aladdin* reaches the high-water mark of provincial pantomimes. Miss Hettie Zillwood is a dashing Aladdin, and sings capitally; Miss Maggie Hobart combines a charming presence with a sweet voice as the Princess; Mr. M. H. Glenville makes an imposing figure of the Emperor; Mrs. Twankey is played with irrepressible humour and verve by Mr. Arthur E. Behan; Mr. Fowler Thatcher is a capital Abanazar; Misses Cissy and Kitty Behan and Mr. Freddie Edwards, Mr. Fred Osmond, and others contribute to the success of the performance. Specialities are given by the Brothers Lavelle, comedy acrobats; the Three Behans, in an amusing quick-change act; the Ella Willmer troupe of dancers; and the Gando sextette of male vocalists.

NEW PICTURE HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. W. Hunter; Manager, Mr. E. H. Jones.—An excellent series of pictures this week includes In the Shadow of the Law, Customs Officers' Revenge, Dressmaker's Dummy, and The Sandwich Woman.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Ed. Jowsey; Manager and Licensee, Mr. W. K. Chatto.—Mr. J. F. Elliston's pantomime *Humpty Dumpty*, which should rank amongst the most successful, finishes this week. The principals are to be congratulated on their efforts in providing such a fine performance. The principal boy and girl have been ably undertaken by Miss Florence Wix and Miss Barbara Babington, both of whom have won a great reputation. The gentlemen of the company worked with a right good will to keep the fun going, and in this were eminently successful. The scenery and dresses have been pleasing features of the production.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson.—Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company occupies the boards here this week in the new romantic play *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*. Miss Ethel Bracewell in the rôle of Princess of Illyria is a dainty figure, and wins the hearts of her audience as well as that of her Prince Olaf. Mr. Ernest Cox, in the latter part, makes an ideal soldier-lover, and the adventures of these two, supported by a capital company, form a fascinating story. Mr. Alfred Brandon is exceedingly good as Prince Hildred, and the parts of his brothers are well represented. Miss Gertrude Branscombe as Camiola, the beggar maid, is all that can be desired, and Miss Jessica Black is pleasing in the rôle of Viola. The piece is admirably staged.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Chas. Rembges.—Jake Friedman, Anglo-Dutch comedian, and his company give a fine performance here in their Dutch operetta *Happy Holland*; Leslie and Stevens sing beautifully in their act *Love Levels All*; Zarmio, juggler, does some smart tricks; the Austral Trio give an enjoyable musical entertainment; Reggio Bros. display great strength and agility in the gladiatorial act; and Chas. Carr, the Brooklands, and Joe Dale all give enjoyable turns.

HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Manager, Mr. C. E. Nicholls.—C. T. Alrich occupies the star position here this week; his impersonations, lightning changes, and travesties of

About six weeks ago I was suffering with

PIMPLES

ALL OVER MY FACE.

I was also suffering with SCURF IN THE HAIR. Being rather alarmed, I asked a friend's advice, and he recommended me to take "Clarke's Blood Mixture." I purchased a 2/9 bottle, and within a week I found marked improvement. The pimples

VANISHED LIKE MAGIC,

and the scurf is entirely gone. I cannot tell you how thankful I am at having taken "Clarke's Blood Mixture," and I shall recommend it to everybody, as I think it only right that such a remedy should be known.—(Signed), JOHN HENRY JONES, known as "Little Johnny," Llandudno's Popular Comedian, Thorndale, Llandudno, Feb. 24, 1908.

MR. JOHN HENRY JONES, (from a photo.).

CLARKE'S BLOOD MIXTURE,

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conjuring prove as clever as they are pleasing. John Wills and Bessie Mackenzie are exceedingly good in a vocal scena, and Harry Nelson, with his songs and patter, creates roars of laughter. The Society Quartette do some clever dancing; the Gladenbercks provide a wonderful turn; Hinton and Wooton's football match on bicycles rouses great enthusiasm; and Harry Morris and Edie Coalville also add to the entertainment.

MOTHERWELL.—New Century Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hales.—Messrs. Fred J. Little and Fred Darcy this week present their comic pantomime *The Forty Thieves*. Miss Mary Poulton is bright and dashing as Ganem, singing her various songs with an abundance of go; Miss Isa Bell cuts a smart figure as the Captain of the Forty; Mlle. Carita is sweet and dainty as Morgiana; Mr. Wal Croft, a great local favourite, finds a congenial rôle as Ali Baba; Mr. Reg. Ewen appears with success as Cogia; Mr. Ted Wootten is well suited as Cassim Baba; Mr. Chas. Weldon does well as Mustapha; and Sandy and Carl are a couple of excellent knockabouts. Specialities are the Esmeralda Trio of dancers, the Five X Rays, comedy acrobats, and the Cavalotte Bros., instrumentalists.

NELSON.—Grand Theatre.—Proprietress, Mrs. T. Greanwood; Business-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Mudd.—The chief attraction of a capital bill is Vonetta, illusionist and lightning protean actress, who has proved a rare draw. Other contributors are Gilroy, novelty ventriloquist; Trevor D'Alby and company, comedy tramp and rag artists; Dan Kino, in a nautical scena, "Boys of Britannia's Navy"; Tom Lloyd and Geo. Millard, comedians; and the Brogdens, a clever comedy couple.

NEW BRIGHTON.—Winter Gardens.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. H. E. Jones and A. Douglass.—This week Mlle. Mattie Lund heads the bill here and sings delightfully; Baddow, ventriloquist, has made a success; Mr. Charles Santon, the double-voiced vocalist, is also a great favourite; Juggling and oil painting are done by Mr. Charles Field, assisted by Mlle. Mansell; and Mr. A. H. Drinkwater is a light comedian with a good appearance. The animated pictures are being carefully selected.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—Mr. Arthur's production, *Aladdin*, still continues its phenomenal success. Happy Fanny Fields is quite in her element as Gretchen, and dances, sings, and chatters herself into popular favour; Miss Violet Lloyd is a refined and graceful principal boy; and Miss Maud Thorne is dainty and winsome as the Princess; Miss Florence Hersee and Miss Doris Dean uphold their well-merited popularity; Mr. Harry Tate, in his impressions of various comedians, his "golfing" and "motoring" and general business, continues to win unstinted applause; while Mr. Malcolm Scott, Regan and Ryan, and Mr. Horace Lane are all going strong.

Tyne Theatre and Opera House.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—*Humpty Dumpty* continues to further increase in popular favour, and crowded audiences each night witness this brilliant and amusing production. Mr. Arthur Prince keeps the house in great good humour with his ventriloquial entertainment and other specialities, and both he and Ida Rene (the principal girl) win fresh admirers nightly; gaiety is added to the pantomime by Miss Lily Iris, the charming principal boy, who sings and acts in a most attractive style; the low comedy business of Mr. J. E. Nightingall, Carlton, Shaun Glenville, and Jock Walker adds to the enjoyment; and the beautiful scenery, magnificent dresses, and well-balanced chorus all contribute to the great success of the production.

Palace Theatre.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—The second week of the Carl Rosa Opera company's season opened with *Lohengrin*, and the great master's inspiring music was never more perfectly rendered, principals, chorus, and orchestra fully realising the poetic spirit of the beautiful opera. Mr. Hans Roberts makes an ideal Lohengrin, and sings with great sweetness and power; the vocalisation of Miss Elizabeth Burgess is delightfully fresh, and she renders her songs in a manner which merits praise; a convincing study of Telramund is given by Charles Victor, whose voice is heard to great advantage; Miss Doris Woodall undertakes the part of Ortrud with passionate and intensely real art; and Mr. Arthur Winckworth is a splendid Henry, and portrays the character with fidelity and enthusiasm. During the week *Rigoletto, Faust, Carmen, Il Trovatore, Tannhauser*, and the *Bohemian Girl* will be presented.

Grand Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; Manager, Mr. H. G. Elliott.—The pantomime *Red Riding Hood*, now in its second week, is attracting crowded houses at every performance. Full of delightful singing, graceful playing and dancing, and much excellent fun, there is not a dull moment. Special mention should be made of Miss May Merry, Miss Jessie Templeton, Mr. Laurie Barclay, and Mr. C. K. Martinetti.

Empire Theatre.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—The special attraction this week is provided by a sketch, *All About a Bout*, in which Frank Gotch, the wrestling champion of America, is exploited. The entertainment is more humorous than otherwise, and is delighting the sport-loving public of Newcastle. A wonderful novelty is presented by the Ten Zerbinis in the *Enchanted Glen*, a musical and scenic display, which is exceptionally pleasing; Walter Munroe further endears himself to the hearts of the Empire patrons by his clever dancing and witty Irish songs; and Charles Guyer and Ida Valli go well in a clever American comedy act. Fayre and Manning, the two in green, Stein Eretto Troupe of wonderful hand-jumping acrobats, Sybil St. Elmo, Rhoda Paul, and Frank Sylvo also contribute splendid variety; and the Bioscope, depicting the famous Gotch Hackensmidt match, is of special interest.

Pavilion Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—The place of honour this week is filled by Madame Albani, assisted by Victor Marmont, pianist, and Herr Zakovsky, violinist. Other artists on an excellent bill are Denwartz Troupe, Frank L. Gregory and Troupe, Signor Barbalonga, Jack Marks, Wyndham and Waters, and Elmo and Rego.

Roller Skating, Exhibition Buildings.—Manager, Mr. Fred B. Crowe.—This pleasing and healthy pastime shows no sign of waning popularity, and each session sees the floor crowded with enthusiastic skaters. The professional championship race, to be decided on Jan. 28, is now the topic, and many entries have been received.

NEWPORT.—Lyceum.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—Mr. Fred Melville's company produced *Her Road to Ruin* to good houses here this week. As Jess Willoughby Miss Beatrice Edwards makes the utmost of a heavy and difficult part; May Willoughby is played with natural charm and grace by Miss Alice Bowes; and Mr. Henry Wolson displays plenty of spirit in the part of Frank Temple. Mr. Duncan Jarrow introduces realism into the character of Tom Wells, the poor journalist; Mr. Alex. Bradley as Philip Hardy makes a typical villain, and Miss Nellie Bonsor is particularly successful as Mary Dawson. Mr. V. R. C. Moore puts plenty of life into Chas. Cholmondley, and Mr. Dave Clarke makes a dignified Bishop. The fun of the piece is admirably catered for by Mr. Harry Talbot and Miss Marie Wright, and their turn of light comedy in the third act is exceedingly diverting.

Empire.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—A strong bill here includes J. P. Ling, a mimic of excellent ability; Harry Herbert, a comedian in good form; and Gladys Hooley, in an original scena, *Fiddle and I*. J. W. Rowley sustains his reputation; the Two Kays provide a pleasing musical turn; and Alexandra Dagmar roused warm applause in her success "A Marriage of Mayfair." The Iukushimas (Japanese troupe) perform some wonderful acrobatic feats; the Bioscope shows some interesting pictures of the recent earthquake in Italy. The star turn is undoubtedly supplied by Hubert Carter as David Garrick in a sketch by Louis Cohen, in which he is supported by Mrs. Calhaem, Miss Helen Russell, Messrs. Alex. Crighton, Frank Norman, and H. A. Stafford.

NORMANTON.—Picture Palace.—Messrs. Dobito and Buxton have opened these rooms as a picture and variety palace on the twice-nightly system, and are meeting with well-deserved success. Electric light has been installed and a gallery erected. Variety items are supplied by Mr. Fred Dobito, baritone; and Dobito and Buxton, duettists, are well received. The pictures are projected in fine style by Mr. Frank Lee.

NORTH SHIELDS.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—Messrs. R. C. Buchanan and Ernest Stevens's pantomime, *Jack the Giant Killer*, written by Mr. Stanley Rogers, is proving a great attraction here this week. As Jack Miss Madge Allen is a bright and attractive principal boy; Miss Lilian Errol plays with distinct success the part of Margery Daw; Miss Evelyn Robson is seen to advantage as Queen Caressa; and Miss Madge O'Niell makes a good Mephisto. As Dame Gabble Mr. Harry Farrow gives a droll and clever performance; Mr. Charles V. Sandford scores as King Fad; Mr. Johnny McElroy as Simple Simon creates much hearty laughter; Mr. W. S. Stevenson is well placed as Blunderbore; Messrs. Fred Fulton and Bob Anderson as the Giant's Cooks are very amusing; and some excellent dancing is introduced by the Duguesne Trio. The scenery and dresses are satisfactory.

Central Palace.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—The Three Raymonds, in their refined musical dancing act, top the bill here, and have made a great hit. Messrs. Elliott and Kennedy, Yorkshire and Irish comedians, are clever; Miss Patty Yole, comedienne and dancer, comes in for a hearty reception; the Balzens, Japanese entertainers, are very smart; Mr. Barney Noble, comedian, is popular; and the Mouldoscope is as entertaining as ever.

NORTHWICH.—Pavilion.—Proprietress, Mrs. Fletcher; Manager, Mr. Phil Royston.—The company of artists engaged this week includes Hewson's Æolians, in harmony, song, and dance; Miss Lot Lonsdale, a pleasing singer; Jack Kent, comedian; Chris Sylvene, on bar and rings; Burn and Burnard, in good sketch, and the Bioscope.

Central Theatre.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden.—Edmund Tearle and company are here this week with *The Three Musketeers, Jeannie Deans, Virginius, Hamlet, East Lynne*, and *It's Never Too Late to Mend*. They opened on Monday with *The Three Musketeers*, and the play was very ably presented. Mr. Tearle's strong performance of D'Artagnan was well supported by the fine delineation of Miladi by Miss Kate Clinton.

NORWICH.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Messrs. Hardie and Von Leer's company are here this week in *A Sailor's Wedding*. Miss Mary Pemberton pleasingly acts the part of Mary, and Miss Winifred Pearson deserves praise as Lenore de Gresac, whilst Miss M. Sadie made an admirable Polly Clarke. Mr. C. W. Standing was indeed good as Gordon Crake, and Mr. Cecil Klein equally so as Sir Victor Lascelles; Mr. T. French Smiles was successful as Giacomo, while Mr. Walter Pemberton as Jack Hawkins and Mr. Gerald Ford as Bill Burns created the humorous portion of the piece. The other characters were ably accounted for. The scenery, mounting, and acting were much appreciated.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—An enjoyable programme is submitted this week. The New York Comedy Four as vocalists and comedians are much appreciated; Ike and Will Scott are very humorous in their turn; Mlle. Renée's instrumental performance is very entertaining; Gwennie Hasto is a pleasing singer and dancer, while Ryan and Hall are amusing acrobats, comedians, and burlesque wrestlers. The other turns are Arthur Slater, the "man in white," who gives a pleasing whistling scena, *A Day in a Garden*; Tennyson and Wallis, comedians, and Walter Emerson, the "six foot of comicality." The Hippo Bio is very good this week.

Agricultural Hall.—Mr. Charles Thurston's Fun Carnival finished on Tuesday evening, having experienced a capital season.

Agricultural Hall Assembly Rooms.—The New Era pictures continue interesting, and Mr. Wilson Martell sings some excellent songs.

NOTTINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—*Cinderella* still continues to attract large and appreciative audiences. It is running with extreme smoothness, and all concerned are to be congratulated on its undoubted success.

Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Harry Upton.—The pantomime *Aladdin* is still satisfying large houses. The acting, singing, and dancing have been excellent all along, and every night has added to the popularity of the artists engaged.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—*The King and the Vagabond*, produced by Mr. Laurence Irving and company, is exceedingly attractive. Mr. Irving assumes the rôle of Louis XI. with eminent success, while Miss Mabel Hackney makes a delightful Gringoire, and the other members of the company all do well. Mr. George Leyton in his military scena, *The Last Muster*, is well received; and Vanando, who produces a really novel ventriloquial act, evokes storms of applause and laughter. The Jackson Family are extremely accomplished instrumentalists, and the Eight Lancashire Lads please all by their clever dancing; a really acceptable juvenile song and dance act is presented by the Crisps, and Miss Edie Endon, in song and dance, secures due recognition. Bob Hamilton, a Scotch comedian, and a sketch by Matt Wilkinson and company, together with the usual Bioscope pictures, complete the programme.

Royal Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Woodward's sea lions and seal form an excellent first turn here. The patience and perseverance necessary to train such unpromising material must be enormous. Leslie Brothers, in an undeniably first-class musical act, meet with well deserved recognition; and the efforts of Blanche and Powell in a similar direction are appreciated. Raven Wood is a card manipulator of extraordinary aptness; and the humour of Robbie Roy, a Scotch comedian, convulsed the house with laughter. The Five Broadway Girls, looking very charming and dancing well, earned ample recognition, whilst the humorous acrobatic feats of Cummin and Seaham caused both wonder and amusement; Maxey and Pete present some exceptional trick cycle riding, and prove to what perfection this art has been brought. Some good films on the Barrascope conclude a first-class programme.

NUNEATON.—Prince of Wales's.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joseph Coyle.—Mr. Harry Benet's talented company is providing a treat here by the performance of *Sergeant Brue*. Mr. Denis Lydon in the title-rôle and Mr. H. Quininborough as Crookie Scrubbs are responsible for some excellent comedy, and keep the house in a constant state of hilarity. Mr. Lister Morrah as Michael Brue acts capitally, and his singing is much appreciated—he and Miss Mabel Davis as Mabel Widget give a fine rendering of the duet "A night in Venice"; Miss Daisy Dale as Aurora Brue is successful and charming; Miss Ray Anderson makes a dignified and imposing Lady Bickenhall, and her excellent singing meets with much approval. The other parts are all capably filled. The well-drilled chorus and excellent mounting add much to the effect gained.

OLDBURY.—Palace of Varieties.—Proprietor Mr. Jas Tyrer.—This week's programme includes Messrs. Glyn and Glyn, a diverting couple; Prof. Oliver, coon delineator; and Miss Annie Blanchard, vocalist. The pictures are up to the usual standard.

OLDHAM.—New Grand Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Mayall.—*My Mimosa Maid*, played by Mr. Frank Curzon's company, drew a large audience on Monday. The company includes Miss Marie Studholme, and the popular artist was delightful in the part of Paulette, her singing and acting being as clever as ever. Miss Ruby Gray sang her numbers admirably as Marcelle, and received much applause; Miss May Garstang in the part of Mme. de Pilaine was capital; and Miss Eva Sandford as the flower-girl, Popitte, was very smart. Mr. Chas. McNaughton as Victor Guilbert was responsible for some excellent comedy and clever dancing; Master Archie McCaig as Bock is worthy of special mention for really clever acting; Mr. Chas. E. Paton was also to the fore as Max; and Mr. Percy Carr sang well as M. Emile Gerard. Mr. A. Jackson did good work as Grone; Messrs. Powis Pinder and Leslie Winter as Capt. Laurier and Lieut. Courmandet were capital officers of Zouaves; and a powerful chorus and augmented orchestra was ably directed by Mr. Harry R. Matthews.

Colosseum Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Wm. Eastwood.—Mr. Walter Melville's company occupies the boards, and a good audience welcomed *The Girl Who Wrecked His Home*. Miss Louise Hampton as Bertha Marshall gives a fine portrayal of the title-rôle; Mr. Fred W. Goddard makes a manly Jack Marshall, and his enemy, Leonard Kenyon, is played with suitable vindictiveness by Mr. Walner Gregory, his accomplice, Val Raymond, being capably sustained by Miss Winifred Whyte. Miss Ida Thompson cleverly enacts Winnie; Miss Lulu Bowers is charming as the grown-up girl; her sweetheart, William Stevenson, was well played by Mr. Alfred Richards; and the younger Willie is amusingly represented by Master Dick Evans. A rich vein of comedy is capitally exploited by Miss A. Burdete as Lottie and Mr. F. Hope as Tommy Biffin.

Empire Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—At the head of a capital bill here is Ernest Shand, whose reception is most cordial. Harry Tate's company in *Fishing* causes hearty laughter; John Warren presents a military mystery in *The Magic Carpet* in clever style; Stewart and Morgan sing delightfully; the Bros. Babusian perform their daring equilibristic act cleverly; Marion Fletcher proves a capable operatic vocalist; and Fritz Kornau whistles in fine style. Fred Peake and company in a dramatic sketch, *At Break of Day*, win success; and the Bioscope concludes one of the best programmes submitted here.

Royal Theatre of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Kilrow.—Mephisto is the principal attraction here in a mystifying illusory act, ably assisted by Miss Winifred Attondue. Frank Hardie and company in a military sketch, *For the Honour of the Regiment*, act very well; Miss May Loftus presents a novel dancing turn in a really clever manner, gaining much applause; Cestria, the original comedy juggler, provides a very amusing and clever act; Miss Rosa Loader, musical mimic, is excellent; Kirk and Saraski in an aquatic performance are smart; Clifford Stuart is a most versatile comedian; and Julian Ross is a smart light comedian. The Dottoscope concludes.

Hippodrome.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Nuttall.—Abato and Hurst appear in a comedy act, and Princess Pauline, comedienne, sings some good songs. Frank Coyle again proves most popular and amusing; Gold and Sterling have a good act in *The Maid and the Artist;* Adele Lincoln is smart in song and dance; Arthur Schofield is a good comedian; the Bros. Lane are very good on the bars; and a fine picture on the Dottoscope concludes.

Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. Thorne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. Sharrocks.—Messrs. Sydney Cooper and the Tally-ho Trio staged *Cinderella* here on Monday, and have been drawing large crowds. Miss Jessica Brooke in the name-part is a pleasing heroine, and gains much applause; Miss Madge Daly is a dashing Prince Charming; and Miss May Maddison is no less successful as Dandini. Miss Ida Scott is a most engaging Fairy Godmother, and sings well; Mr. Eric Farr as the Baron is a clever comedian, and he is ably seconded by Mr. Harry C. Momber as the Page. Messrs. Newham and Latimer in the characters of the sisters Cordelia and Camelia cause much laughter; the Tally-ho Trio introduce some very good harmony; the Sisters Florence do some smart dancing. The miniature coach and ponies are very pretty, the staging and dressing of the show really excellent, and there is a powerful chorus.

OXFORD.—East Oxford Theatre.—Lessees, East Oxford Theatre, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Stuart.—Mr. Julian Malvern's company is here with *I Defy the World*. Mr. F. B. Woulfe gives a robust and clear rendering of Leon Darville; Mr. Max Coutts is also very efficient as Count de Beaulieu; Mr. Charles Conway ably enacts Laroche; Mr. Alfred Denning comports himself well as General Delaporte; Mr. Walter Clarke is a success as Andre; and Mr. Eddie Vane as Najac, Mr. Alfred G. Raymond as Bochan, and Mr. Chas. M. Julian as Samuel Wozzle are all amusing. Miss Maude Lilian is effective as Maria Wozzle; Little Dorothy Love does well as Fanchette; Miss E. Loraine is graceful as Pauline Delaporte; and Miss Florence Delmar gives a powerful rendering of Blanche Darville.

New Theatre.—Proprietors, the Oxford Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. C. Dorrill; Assistant-Manager, Mr. G. T. Lucas.—Messrs. Lyn Harding and Sidney Cooper's company is paying a first visit with *The Flag Lieutenant*, and a crowded house on Monday gave the heartiest of welcomes to this successful play. The company is an exceptionally good one, and well deserved the hearty applause of the keenly-appreciative house. Mr. Lionel Atwill gives a talented performance in the title-rôle, his natural acting and good-humoured style quite infecting his audience; Mr. George Mallett is uncommonly good as the Vice-Admiral; Mr. H. Montague Love thoroughly enters into the part of Major Thesiger; Mr. E. S. Petley does very well as the Doctor; Mr. Hugh Wakefield and Mr. Lyonel Watts are an amusing pair of midshipmen; and Mr. W. J. Yeldham is a diverting General Gough-Bogle. Miss Florence Jackson acts with sympathetic power as Mrs. Cameron; Miss Viva Birkett is a handsome and fascinating Hermione; and Viola Hood, Mrs. Gough-Bogle, and Lady Dugdale find capable exponents in Misses Marjorie Dore, Stella Leigh, and Winifred Vallant. A return visit of *The Flag Lieutenant* will be eagerly looked forward to.

Town Hall.—Poole's Myriorama is, as usual, attracting large audiences here, and a strong variety programme adds to the attractions of the pictures.

PAISLEY.—Paisley Theatre.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—Mr. Savile's pantomime *Puss in Boots* has entered on its fifth and last week's run, having to be withdrawn in the height of its success to allow of touring engagements previously entered into being fulfilled. The pantomime has been financially and in all other respects an unbounded success. The artists have all worked hard and harmoniously together, the esprit de corps among them being decidedly pronounced. Miss Daisy Morell (Colin), Miss Katie Yates (Princess Ivy), Miss Florence Lewis (Prince Rudolph), Miss Moyna Hill (Phyllis), Misses Mabel Earle and Jessie Jukes (Jack and Jill), Miss Topsy Johnson (Felina, the Fairy Queen), among the ladies, and Mr. Walter Kooney (King Grabbus), Mr. Harry Karr (Dame Shortly), Mr. Fred C. Fields (Baron Rumphiz), Mr. J. K. Macfarlane (Sandy Macmuggles), Mr. Glen Alva (Sir boots), Mr. Arnold Harley (Digestus), among the gentlemen, are all to be complimented for their brilliant work, nearly all of whom have this week contributed new songs. Nor can the La Belle Trio, dancers—Misses Edna Evelyn, Becca Stirling, and Lily Bell—be forgotten. Their artistic Terpsichorean exhibitions have invariably been greeted with the most vociferous applause. Mr. Bernard A. Leslie, who goes on tour with the pantomime, has again proved his undoubted worth and ability in the capacity of stage-manager. Mr. Savile's benefit is billed for Friday evening, when, among other attractions, Mr. George Robey (Theatre Royal, Glasgow) has kindly consented, with the equally kind permission of Mr. Robert Arthur and Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, to appear.

Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Stead.—A capital programme of excellent variety is provided here this week. W. F. Frame, the well-known Scotch comedian, tops the bill, and wins golden opinions for his entertaining abilities; Sinclair and Whiteford, in their farcical comedy *Getting Even*, both score heavily; Florence and Rose Showell sing with much charm favourite and classical songs; the Howards, the originators of silent-thought telepathy, submit a marvellous performance; Mlle. Haydee's miniature vaudeville theatre is a source of intense enjoyment; Kitty Beresford, comedienne, has a hearty reception; Stanley, the singing collier, has many admirers; Delafiore plays on the xylophone with masterly ability; and the Bioscope pictures again provide interest and amusement.

PEMBROKE DOCK.—Queen's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Tom Barger; Business-Manager, Mr. Norman Barger.—Mr. Teddy Myles and company extend their visit, and remain here for the first three nights, presenting *Murder Will Out*. Mr. Teddy Myles in the rôle of Mat Harrison, a dog fancier, makes a "hit" with his song; Miss Queenie Fraser-Brunner as Aurora Floyd does well; Mr. W. Fraser-Brunner as Steve Hargrave plays excellently; and the other parts are well supported. Mr. Crossley presented Ted and May Hopkins in *The Babes in the Wood* on Thursday.

PENTRE.—Tivoli Palace and Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Resident-Manager, Mr. James Gunn.—Topping an entertaining bill here this week are the New York Comedy Nippers, in a clever pantomime and dancing act. Addie Dorina, in her production, entitled *Dr. Spot's Patients*, gives an admirable impersonation of the various characters as a quick-change artist; the Cromwells deserve praise for their unique juggling turn, which is much appreciated; Miss Hetty Knight contributes some smart up-to-date songs; a musical turn of a high order is given by Les Fransettis, comprising selections on the harp, violin, and xylophone; Wright and Elton are seen to advantage in a comedy act, entitled *The Lady Artist;* Sam Spira gives a delightful entertainment; and smart patter and humorous comedy numbers are contributed by the Rowntrees.

Drill Hall.—Will Stone's twentieth-century pictures continue as popular as ever.

PENZANCE.—St. John's Hall.—Mr. Harry Stewart's Royal Troubadours are here. Mr. Harry Stewart as a Protean quick-change artist maintains his reputation; Miss Kitty Woodford's trained dogs and Miss Graham's beautiful collection of birds are applauded; Leonard and Mac are two funny comedy merchants; Master Clyde Stewart, the "little boy with the big voice," is clever; and Doretta has a sweet voice and a charming manner, and is a graceful dancer. Miss Beatrice Wynne, a particularly sweet soprano, wins spontaneous encores. The Bioscope shows some remarkably clear pictures.

PERTH.—The Perth Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—Mr. W. A. Seymour's company in *The Gay Gordons* is here this week. Mr. Charles Childerstone scores an unqualified success as Angus Graeme; Edward Carlton as Nervy Nat and Robert Rivers as Edmund Siddons each give an excellent performance, and contribute much of the humour; Mr. Harry W. Johnson gives a good representation of Andrew Quainton, the American millionaire; Mr. Stafford Dickens as Corporal John Smith and Mr. Arthur Woolley as Archibald Speedy give every satisfaction; while Mr. R. H. Vallis is well received as Jack MacPrisky; Miss Marie West is a charming and go-ahead Peggy; Miss Kathleen Dighton as Mary McLeod is very attractive; Miss Florence Somers meets with much acceptance as Victoria Siddons; Miss Louie Emery as Charlotte Siddons could not be improved on; and the part of Janet McLeod is well rendered by Miss Sophie Lingwood.

PLYMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—*Cinderella* still pursues its way without sign of waning popularity. Miss Maisie Ellinger is a strong favourite as Prince Charming, her smart style and general debonair bearing admirably suiting the part; Miss Lucie Caine is graceful and attractive; and the Misses Louie Tinsley and Denny Fitzherbert as the ugly sisters, Phyllis and Zena, prove themselves humorists of no mean order; Messrs. Woodhouse and Wells as Bill and Ginger are a couple of the smartest patter comedians that have yet appeared at the Royal; whilst Mr. W. H. Kirby as Peter Pepper keeps the audience convulsed with his exceedingly droll style; Mr. Arthur Paterson as the Baron contributes no small share of the success of the evening; whilst Mr. A. C. Passmore works hard as the Baroness.

Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—The Saxons, described as the human pillars, furnish a very clever entertainment, their feats of weight-lifting and their exhibitions of strength being warmly appreciated; the Brothers Huxter, American speciality artists, supply a wonderful exhibition of acrobatic skill, which deservedly finds much favour; the Five Bom-Bays are heard to advantage in some tuneful plantation ditties, whilst their dancing is of a very high order; Oakdene, comedy ventriloquist, is a first-rate exponent of his particular art; the Musical Keiths' turn is one of the most interesting in the bill; Ray and Calden extract much merriment with their comedy act; and Arthur Woodville (light comedian) and Elsie Kerry (comedienne) complete an enjoyable evening.

PONTEFRACT.—Alexandra Theatre of Varieties.—General-Manager, Tom Diacoff.—Effie White introduces an artistic, not to say sensational, kaleidoscopic dance, which, with her graceful postures and the wonderful lighting effects, is indeed a thing of beauty; Ghita Corri shows a remarkable range of vocalisation, and is in addition a refined and cultured singer; Jessie Star is a Scotch comedienne in "kiltie and a' that" with a "Lauderesque" lilt in her songs; Leo, a ventriloquist, is exceptionally endowed; George Prince is a smart comedian, and the description applies equally to Will Dalton; the Three Sisters Lee are nothing if not versatile, for they dance, sing, and put in some clever acrobatic business; Edwards and Ward are comedy entertainers with quaint fancies and dancing; Fred Athalan does some astonishing feats of head-balancing; and Parker and Parr are good in a capital scena, *Taffy and the Toff*. In addition there are the pictures.

PORTH.—Tivoli Palace, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole; Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—A packed house was secured on Monday, the chief attraction being the Andos troupe of Japanese equilibrists, whose daring performances are accorded a hearty reception. Tom Joy is an all-round comedian, and his songs are greatly appreciated; Ada Fawn makes a hit, her singing meeting with the greatest approval; a notable turn is that of Henry Hilton, conjurer, whose quick and clever movements are watched with the greatest interest; Bonnetti and Corrie, eccentric jugglers, furnish much genuine fun; the Woolhafs, in their comedy act, are a smart couple; the sketch, entitled *The Collar Stud*, by Muir, Bartlett, and company, is as fresh as ever, the audience being kept in roars of laughter throughout. The Palacescope, as usual, never fails to please.

PORTSMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—The boards this week are in the occupation of Mr. Martin Harvey and his company, who opened on Monday night to a highly-appreciative audience with *The Corsican Brothers*. The rôle of the two brothers Franchi was handled by Mr. Harvey in his characteristically artistic manner, his remarkable development of the characters being followed with the utmost interest. The light-hearted Emilie de Lesparre was brightly interpreted by Miss N. de Silva; the libertine Chateau Renaud was skilfully treated by Mr. Albert Mansfield; his friend and second, M. Favrolles, was well played by Mr. Chas. J. Cameron; Miss Mary Rorke was well suited as Mme. dei Franchi; and other important parts found effective exponents in Messrs. A. E. Raynor, Percy Foster, Fred Wright, sen., Philip Hewland, and Miss Maud Rivers. The duel scene in the Forest of Fontainebleau was a fine exhibition of stage-craft. *The Conspiracy* preceded, and the latter part of the week is taken up with *A Cigarette Maker's Romance, The Breed of the Treshams*, and *The Only Way*.

Prince's.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Agate.—The concluding week of *Cinderella's* merry career is at hand. The pantomime has proved a *bonne bouche* of frivolity, pretty music, and charming scenery provided by Mr. Elliston under the stage-management of Mr. F. Mulvey. Great credit also attaches to Mr. Basil Horsfall, whose direction of the strong orchestra and chorus has materially contributed to the success of the entertainment. Miss Maude Mortimer, whose benefit was announced for last night (Friday), is as bright and vivacious as ever as the Prince Florizel, and pretty and demure Cinderella is quite at home in the hands of Miss Connie Leon; Misses Edith Barwell and Annie Cohen do well as the Sisters; Mr. Geo. Belrose and Mlle. de Velin as Father Time and Fairy Progress sing their duet very effectively; the Harvard Sextette, attired as Pierrots, sing a capital song; the Six Monte Carlo Girls gracefully display their Terpsichorean abilities; and the principal comedians, Messrs. W. T. Thompson, Stanley Vandyke, Victor and Lewis are funny as ever.

King's.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Claude Marner; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Thos. Barrasford.—The programme includes the Four McNultys; Rapoli, the Herculean Juggler; a sketch, *Avenged*, ably presented by Edith Lewis and company; Jack Hayworth; Andrews and Thompson in *The Robe and the Romany*; the Aribos; the Bros. Wills, the eccentric "gentlemen"; Will E. Stopit; Rose Elliott; and Reginald Bolton and company in a laughable farce, *The Editor's Imp*.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Capt. E. H. Warren Wright; Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—A musical comedy sketch of local interest is the premier attraction this week. *The Cruise of H.M.S. Victory*, as produced by Arthur Watson, Flo Stanley, and a troupe of comical comedians, is brimful of good, healthy fun, and thoroughly deserves the applause it receives. The Carpos Bros. perform some wonderful head-to-head balancing tricks; Cull Pitt and Adele prove themselves adept illusionists, their patter being very amusing; Fred Curran sings several quaint songs, chiefly parodies, in great style. Other excellent items are provided by Florence du Barry, comedienne; Chas. Rowen; and Phern and Phern, eccentric musicians. Payne's Bio-Photoscope shows new and interesting pictures.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris; Assistant-Manager, Col. F. W. Roberts.—A full house and plenty of enthusiasm are to be expected when Miss Evie Greene is here, and this visit is no exception to the rule. The talented actress-vocalist both sang and finally recited to the delight of her admirers. Dutch Daly is a favourite with his clever performance on the concertina and his droll stories. Other turns are the Hiatts, the Gilberts, Dex, Oliver Martyn, Margaret Ismay and Coons, and Jenny Reeves.

PRESTON.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, the Executors of the late W. Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—Pantomime has invaded Preston this week, and Mr. J. F. Elliston's company in *Puss in Boots* is exceedingly popular. The story is well told, and the dresses and scenery are really excellent, while the comedians have plenty of scope, and "gags" anent local matters and national political events are numerous. Mr. Harry Edlin as Baron Rumphiz and Mr. Harry Rogerson as King Grabbus cause much laughter, and fun reigns fast and furious; Miss Zona Joy is most entertaining as Gretchen, and contributes a Dutch song and dance which wins applause; Miss Ethel Ra-Leslie, who takes the part of Colin, makes an excellent principal boy, and is a firm favourite from the start, acting with plenty of dash, her fine voice being heard to great advantage; Mr. Augustin Symonds as the elder brother is also another clever comedian; Mr. Fred Lincoln is the Dame Shortly, and creates roars of laughter; as Sly Boots Mr. Hal Bert is very clever, and performs some smart acrobatic feats; Miss Gladys Christie as Princess Ivy is very winsome, and sings and dances well; Miss Bessie Herbert is a dashing Prince Rudolph, and Miss Gladys Hicks a most engaging Phyllis; Miss Issa Steel is the good Fairy Filma, and a very clever turn is introduced by Zelina as Fritz, the juggling waiter. Mention must also be made of the King's Trumpeters by the Three Lorimers, who add much to the grandeur of the march of the Silver Amazons. A very pretty and novel effect is provided by the "bubble fountain," seen for the first time here.

Royal Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—When John Tiller's name is associated with pantomime the public take it for granted that the "show" is good, and that the public is not mistaken is evidenced by the crowded houses (twice nightly) to see *Jack and Jill* here this week. It is certainly the finest production ever seen at this house, and in the grand Scotch ballet, "The Gathering of the Clans," the audience were aroused to a high pitch of enthusiasm. Jessie Vernon as Truth, the Good Fairy, and Oscar Karno as Carl, the Wicked Genius, are both very good in their respective parts; Mr. Harry Cotton is a mirth-provoking Baron Jolliboy; Bruce Green as Dame Durden is exceedingly funny, some of his gags being very original; then Mr. Horace Jones as Guyer, the Page, and Jean Gaynor as Trim, the Prime Minister, are another duo of

Makes the Skin as Soft as Velvet.—Beetham's "LAROLA" Preserves the Skin from the effects of frost, cold winds, and hard water. Entirely removes and prevents all roughness, redness, irritation, chaps, &c.,

comedians who keep things going merrily whenever on the stage; F. le Cren and H. le Cren as General Biff and Private Boff contribute very largely to the comedy, and their acrobatic dancing is a feature; Miss Adah le Cren is a bewitching Fantine; as Jack and Jill Miss Cissy Iris and Nelly Grimshaw are delightful exponents, and both sing and dance themselves into popular favour; Miss Nelly Rodney as the Princess charms with her dainty singing and dancing, while Miss Harriett Fawn makes an ideal Prince Fearnaught. In addition to the very excellent chorus of pretty girls the Le Creu Trio, the Tiller Quartette of Dancers, the Eight Merry Midgets, and the Imperial Ballet Troupe contribute specialities, and combine to make the pantomime the huge success it undoubtedly is.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—*Dick Whittington and His Cat* holds away here this week, and a capital pantomime it is. The dresses and scenery are fresh and good, and the chorus, though not large, is very efficient, and the book bristles with jokes. Mr. Carl B. Stoars is the evil genius, Rodent, and Miss Dolly Harcourt the Good Fairy Silverstone, who are always both in evidence at the right moment; Miss B. Varley makes an excellent Dick, and sings and dances well; Miss Ida Brophy is a very acceptable Alice Fitzwarren, who also sings prettily, and Miss V. Dudley an imposing Captain Ralph Mainbrace. Mr. Syd Crossland as Sarah (the Cook), J. T. Ellis as Alderman Fitzwarren, and James Curry as Idle Jack are a trio who never fail to raise a laugh whenever they appear; Messrs. Herbert and Rennie are a clever pair of knockabouts, who do well as Toby Fore and Bob Aft (the Bo'sun and Mate of the Lively Polly); Mr. James Stratton is a clever Thomas the Cat and a ratter who would put any terrier to shame; Mr. George Bishop, who possesses a good voice, is very good as Ali Hafez, the Emperor of Morocco, and Miss Beatrice Moore as Princess Zorilda, his daughter, is also a favourite. The principal dancers are the Four Oowana Girls, a clever quartette, who are also efficient vocalists, and they win much applause. The Enrico Martialo Trio appear in Scene 8 in their sensational juggling and balancing act, and prove an exceedingly popular addition to the capital company, which is drawing good houses.

ALWAYS to the front, Messrs. William H. Broadhead and Son, the enterprising amusement caterers, are about to erect a palatial skating rink in Preston. The site they have acquired is in the centre of the town, in close proximity to the tram centre. The floor space will be 245ft. by 95ft., and constructed entirely of maple, laid by a patent process ensuring a perfectly even surface; the floor alone is estimated to cost £3,000. There will also be a learners' department. The interior will be elaborate in decoration and electrically lighted, and a good band provided. It is expected to be ready in about six weeks' time.

RADCLIFFE. — GRAND OPERA HOUSE. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. George T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Boothman.—Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Levy and Mr. J. E. Cardwell have eclipsed their former efforts with their juvenile company in the pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*, which is attracting large and appreciative audiences. The performance of the Two Babes, Leslie and Marjorie, by Little Peggy McDonnell and Miss Sissy Wise, deserves unstinted praise; Miss Dolly Dodds is a favourite as Maid Marion; and as the principal boy, Robin Hood, Miss Daisy Wood leaves nothing to be desired. Miss Jennie Hughes as Fairy Dewdrop also receives her share of applause; Mr. J. G. Aitken as Sandy Simple causes roars of laughter; and Messrs. Graham and Barron as Willing and Weary bring down the house. Mr. Harry Leander deserves a word as Friar Tuck; and we must not omit Mr. Jimmie Watson, who impersonates Lucinda Lovejoy in capital style, and Mr. Neil Hardy, whose Baron Strangeways is very good. The Grand Bird Ballet, the Fairy Ballet, and the Statue Ballet, together with the International Dancers and Marguerite Quartette, add to the success of the piece.

RAMSGATE.—ROYAL PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Ernest Mansell.—Mr. G. Brydon-Phillips' company, from the Lyric Opera House, Hammersmith, is here with the successful pantomime *Red Riding Hood*. The engagement has proved highly popular, the audiences being large and enthusiastic. Miss Kittee Rayburn has elicited admiration for her representation of the dashing Prince Amoroso, and her musical numbers have been encored nightly; Miss Tena Corelli, in the title-rôle, did splendid work, and the same may be said of Will and Alice Vokes as the Squire and Margery Daw. The Wicked Wolf and the faithful Poodle were admirably played by Messrs. Harry and James Ewins respectively; and great fun was caused by the appearance of Messrs. Bishop (Simple Simon) and Vale (Johnny Stout). The Fairy Gossamer of Miss Edith Jefferies was an artistic contribution to the success of the show. Mr. Tom Carrick scored well in the responsible part of Dame Trot, and Mr. Henry de Solla was an effective Lawyer Slyfox. The pantomime was finely staged, and special mention should be made of the mechanical change from summer to winter. The chorus was strong and capable, and all round, in fact, *Red Riding Hood* went in first-rate style.

RAWTENSTALL. — GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; General Business-Manager, Mr. A. R. Feather.—This week we have Mr. Fred Granville's pantomime company here with *Little Aladdin*. Miss Minnie D'Aubyn is a thoroughly capable Aladdin; and Miss Belle Brocade a charming and dainty Princess. Miss Gladys Wells also scores as the Fairy, her songs being greatly enjoyed. As the knockabouts, Harley and Hardon are a great success; Mr. Happy Attwood is an immensely funny Widow Twankey; Mr. Harry Kirk a capital Abanazar, and Mr. Herbert Lewis a droll Emperor, with a capable supporter in Mr. Harry Keeble as the Vizier. As Pekoe, Miss Ethel Dunville is satisfactory.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Benton.—Mr. William Greet's company is paying another visit with *The Sign of the Cross*. Mr. Cyril Austen-Lee acts very powerfully as Marcus Superbus; Miss Constance Little gives a highly effective and sympathetic rendering of the part of Mercia; Mr. C. Yorke as the Emperor Nero, Mr. Charles Aldred as Sigellinus, Mr. J. Weatherall as Licinius, and Mr. Frank Wood as Glabrio act exceedingly well. Miss Beryl Hamilton assumes regal dignity as the Empress Poppæa; Miss Edith Drayson plays the part of Stephanus with pathos and feeling; and the remaining characters are all well sustained. A full chorus of male and female voices render the incidental music very impressively. The play is put on the stage in a very complete and satisfactory style.

THE PALACE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. E. Draco.—The artists engaged include Ethel Arden, who is supported by George Abel and company in the sketch *Three of a Kind;* Tom E. Hughes, an amusing comedian; the Floradoras, who are very successful in the musical comedy *Two's Company—Three's None;* the Two Tays, comedians; the Three Orros, Herculean performers on the silver chains; Ray Maskell, an attractive comedienne; Arthur Royce, a clever entertainer at the piano; and La Belle Duchess, who gives a novel turn with her two boxing stallions, ponies, and dogs. Some good pictures are also shown on the bioscope.

REDDITCH.—PUBLIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. F E. Field.—Miss Maggie Morton presented on the 15th and 16th *Is Life Worth Living?* The drama is very popular here, and big business was the result. Lionel Roy was well sustained by Mr. Pringle Roberts, Peter Slacks by Mr. Charles Mirian, and Joe Flop by Mr. W. Howson were excellent performances. Mesdames Miriam Richards, Margaret G. Davidge, Amy Lloyd-Earle, and Nina Harding, as Isabel, Babs Dabs, Sally Slacks, and Madge Roxton proved themselves most capable. The scenery and effects were all appropriate to the drama, especially the steam roller, which was received with much applause.

ROCHDALE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Burton.—Dottridge and Longden's pantomime *Aladdin* is the welcome attraction here. The scenery and dresses are bright and tasteful. The title-rôle is in the hands of Miss Ray Wallace, whose popularity is early established by a bright and winsome manner; Mr. Leonard Russell makes an imposing Emperor, his vocalism being particularly good; Miss Mildred Bryan, a capital Princess So-Shi, wins golden opinions; Mr. Bert Harrow takes premier honours as Abanazar, his merry wit and humour being quite irresistible; Mr. Joe Robins creates roars of laughter as the Widow Twankey, and with Miss Flo Collier as Sau-Cee contributes a capital burlesque on the railway porter; Miss Jennie Hallworth is a lively and vivacious Pekoe, and Mr. Hugh Cedar an amusing Wishee Washee. Miss Marion Walker deserves a word of praise for a charming impersonation of Won Lung. Specialities are introduced by Mlle. Pauline Rivers' Quartette, the Cestrian Quartette, and the Children's Dream of Toyland.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—An attractive bill of fare is presented here this week. *Who's Won?* a sporting sketch, is submitted by J. Collinson and company with effect; Boyne and Hope display considerable histrionic ability in *An Emperor's Divorce;* Slippere is a blind entertainer of exceptional talents; Lily Turner, descriptive vocalist, scored a success with "New Year's Eve"; Bert Lytton is a capital "swell comique"; the Fitzroys, gymnasts, are a clever couple; Renol, mimic, and the Bioscope pictures complete the programme.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Jackson Family; Business-Manager, Mr. Jno. Jackson; Resident-Manager, Mr. James Jackson, sen.—Seldom have we seen such a clever performance as that of Captain Walter Ashcroft's seals and sea lions. They balance and juggle and play instruments with almost human intelligence. France and Stewart present an interesting sketch, *The 100 to 1 Chance;* Heeley and Meeley, in *Two Lucky Tramps*, are both clever and amusing; Harry Drew is a vocalist of great power; Tony Iveson both amuses and astonishes his audience at the piano; Master Lloyd Shakespeare, cornettist, Escourt, entertainer, and the Hippodrome pictures also appear with success.

ROTHERHAM.—HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. Edgar Fox; Resident-Manager, Mr. Claude Shayler.—Pantomime again provides the bill of fare at this house, Mr. Harry Roxbury's company presenting *Mother Goose*. Miss Maud Prenton is highly successful as Colin, Miss Marjorie Prenton is a sprightly Phyllis, Miss Lily Palmer a smart Jill, and Miss Lois Caris as Fairy Content sings with considerable success. Mr. Harry Roxbury is most amusing in the title-rôle; Mr. J. W. Gallagher is responsible for much fun as Jack; Mr. George Castrey does well as Eric; and Mr. Fred Hutchings is deserving of mention as Muggles. The Lemaires are capital as the Horse, and Fred Guinness is a clever Goose. The Royal Welsh Entertainers give a highly finished musical turn, and Sydney J. Russell's Four Sydney Girls are seen in a number of clever dances. The Miltons in their comedy skating turn are rapturously applauded.

THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company is here with *The Midnight Wedding*. Mr. Alfred Paumier is a manly Paul Velmar; Mr. John Nesbitt is seen to advantage as the Crown Prince Leopold; Mr. A. E. Winnington Barnes scores as Lieut. Eugene; Mr. F. Booth Conway is a capable Captain Rudolph; Miss Gwladys Faunce a smart Kathie; Miss Nesta Sandford as Rozel, alias Satanella, shows ability; Miss Yvonne Orchardson in the dual parts of Second Lieut. Karl Helsburg and Princess Astrea gives a highly finished rendition of difficult rôles.

DRILL HALL.—The Chas. W. Poole's No. 1 Myriorama is on an annual visit here with an excellent selection of pictures. Specialities are introduced by the Royal Banzais, Japanese jugglers and equilibrists; the Seven Bramusas, juveni'e musicians, whose selections are vociferously received; and Dai Davies, a finished comedian and bird imitator. Films of the Messina earthquake are shown through the bioscope.

RUNCORN.—PUBLIC HALL THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Public Hall Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. E. S. Lea.—Mr. Haldane Crichton's *Cingalee* company has been secured for this week. Miss Mollie Wolstenhulme makes an attractive Nanoya; Miss Pauline Hague as Lady Patricia is a delightful singer; Mr. Jack Crichton provides a store of humour as Chambhuddy Ram; Mr. Douglas Munro impresses one as Boobhamba, and Mr. Scott Cullen presents a typical Bobby Warren. Mr. Walter Wardroper is seen to advantage as the Hon. Harry Vereker, and is well backed up by Miss Maudie Ray, Miss Edie Burton, Miss Ada Moore, and Miss Dorothy Temple, a galaxy of entertaining tea girls. Mr. F. W. Ford does well as Sir Peter Loftus, and Mr. Harry Edward Ray manages to draw a good deal of genuine amusement from Myamgah, his dancing also being much enjoyed.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Mr. Fred Granville's funny pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*, written by Joseph L. Barry, is proving an excellent draw. Miss Cissie Paris is a dashing Robin Hood; Maid Marian by Miss Marie Elsie is full of graceful vivacity; the Babes are very cleverly presented by little Violet Wilson and Baby Boden; the fun is kept rolling by the Kimberley Boys as the Ruffians, Mr. Norman Hall as the Baron, Mr. Alf. Brooks as the village schoolmarm, and Mr. Will Donnett as the page, Razzle Dazzle. Mr. H. Val Morgan as the Demon, Aconita, and Miss Hilda Brendt as Sylvania, the fairy, both sing well. There are several specialities, including Miss Cissie Paris, charming vocalist, Miss Marie Elsie, comedienne, the Kimberley Boys, eccentric comedians, Boden and Wilson, clever juveniles, Mr. Alf. Brooks, funny comedian, and the Six Emerald Gems. Some of the eight scenes are very pretty, and the choruses and manœuvres are well sustained. The whole is under the general management of Mr. Norman Hall.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—The principal attraction this week is Houdini, the handcuff king, who introduces his can trick to the astonishment of the large audiences. An excellent variety programme also includes the Merrions (Will, Harry, and Fred), vocal and instrumental comedy entertainers; Connie Mascot, comedienne and dancer; Clito Clifford, smart buck and sand dancer; Akbar, gymnast; Harry Fife, comedian and raconteur; Rose Cambray, burlesque artist; and Mark Cowan, clever comedian.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Slatter.—Mr. Alfred Northway and Mr. W. V. Garrod's company had a good reception when they commenced here with *A Country Girl in London*. Mr. W. V. Garrod ably sustained the part of Frank Gordon; Marjorie Hamilton was effectively played by Miss Bertha Kingston; Mr. Leonard Booker cleverly portrayed the adventurer, Godfrey Clinton, and was ably assisted by Mr. Clifford Marle as the ne'er-do-well, Job Smithers. Miss Josephine Colona gave an impressive performance as Gwendoline Gordon, and much enjoyable comedy was contributed by Mr. Seymour Perry as Wilberforce Puddyphat and Miss Ethel Whitely as his wife, Adelaide. The staging and scenery are good.

OPERA HOUSE AND ASSEMBLY ROOMS, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; General-Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Shepherd.—In addition to some excellent animated pictures illustrating the earthquake at Messina there are The Evasive Lodger, Mr. Fuss, London's Milk Supply, The Rent Collector, Gallant French Guard, and Jim Smith, Boxer. Mr. Tom Sherlock also pleases with his song, "Skylark."

SCARBOROUGH.—LONDESBOROUGH THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Waddington; Manager, Mr. Carpenter.—Mr. Herbert Ralland's company gives *His House in Order*. Miss Elsie Roberts admirably sustains the rôle of Nina; and Mr. Herbert Beaumont gives a really fine performance as Hilary Jesson; Miss Peggy Rae acquits herself very creditably as Derek Jesson; and as Filmer Jesson, M.P., Mr. Parish Robertson appears to advantage. Miss Victoria Wray and Miss Avis Grahame are very good as Geraldine and Lady Ridgeley respectively. The remaining characters are ably sustained by Mr. Randolfe Reade as Major Maurewarde, Mr. Richard Dalton (Dr. Dilnott), Mr. Dudley Stuart (Pryce Ridgeley), Mr. Langford Browne (Sir Daniel Ridgeley), and Miss Katie Neville as Mlle. Thome.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. L. Garside; Manager, Mr. F. P. Morgan.—Mr. Edward Marris' pantomime *Dick Whittington* is staged here this week, and is a very good all-round production. The scenery and dresses are very attractive, and the singing is of a high standard throughout. Miss Etty Waldron is very successful as Dick; and the Emperor of Morocco is capably presented by Mr. Arthur Lawrence. Miss Nora Doone as the Emperor's Daughter is excellent in every respect; and Miss Doris Gilbert acquits herself remarkably well. Mr. Joe Waldron keeps the house in the best of humours; and is ably assisted by Mr. Will Vester, as the Ugly Woman, Mr. Hubert Pearce, and Messrs. Billy Watson and Will Naylor, with Mr. Dick Nash as the Cat.

THE AQUARIUM.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman.—The Adras give a very clever performance on the high ladder; and Harry Blake, comedian, is exceedingly funny. The Orchids are well received as a vocal comedy duo; Carney Bros. score a great success; and Cumminger and Colanna provide a very interesting turn. Other artists appearing are Franco's Royal Midgets; Gicardo, the young juggler; and Arthur St. Clair.

THE NEW HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Tully. —Lillie Langtry heads the bill here, and is very popular, her songs and dancing evoking the most enthusiastic applause; the Rolands Bros. are particularly smart equilibrists; Joe Oliver scores well; and Park's Eton Boys and Girton Girls are a well-trained troupe of juveniles, whose singing delights all. Devid Donaldson and Frances Ferina are well received in their sketch, *The Veteran's Birthday*. Herbert and Linden deserved great praise; and Alfred Engene is very clever.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. C. Harrison.—*The Eve of Her Wedding* occupies the boards here this week, the company being Mr. Wilson Benge's. An effective study of George Tremain is submitted by Mr. Wilson Benge; the Squire Leverton of Mr. Arthur Keano is a realistic portrayal; Dick Leverton obtains skilful treatment at the hands of Mr. Henry Danson; as Giovanni Mr. Fred Rivers is consistently good; Dean Clifton's rascality is vividly depicted by Mr. Wallace Campbell; and in the dual rôle of Paul Cairshaw and Hyram P. Younger; Mr. Charles Groves, jun., exhibits much skill; Jack Herne is effectively drawn by Mr. Edward Keith; Mr. Charles Digby as Rudolph creates amusement; a winning assumption of Mavis Leverton is contributed by Miss Sadie Smith; Renie de Telle is skilfully treated by Miss Effie Bartlett; and Miss Daisy Cook as Gwendoline Younger acts praiseworthily.

SHEFFIELD.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—A large audience gave a hearty reception on Monday to Mr. J. A. Robertson's delightful extravaganza *Butterflies*. The beautiful scenery and the lovely dresses were the theme of general comment. There was a large and capable chorus, and the augmented band was under the direction of the composer, Mr. Robertson. Mr. Richard Green sang with his accustomed ease and sympathetic verve as Max; Mr. Blake Adams, a well-tried Sheffield favourite, again proved his claim as a fine character-actor by his clever comedy in the part of Christopher Podmore; Mr. William Spray was good as Yarker; Mr. Alfred Selby was the humorous representative of Paul; and Mr. W. Louis Bradfield kept the fun going in his characteristic manner as the irrepressible Widgery Blake. The ladies were all charming and talented, Miss Georgie Corlass, Miss Phyllis Monkman, and Miss Stella St. Audrie especially distinguishing themselves. The dances introduced were loudly applauded, and the artistic classical terpsichorean scena "La Naissance d'un Papillon" by Miss Phyllis Monkman was enthusiastically received.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. Henfrey Aldred.—Mr. Hart's annual, *Goody Two Shoes*, is being played to large and well pleased audiences. The exquisite ballet, "The Butterflies' Ball," is pronounced by competent critics to be the finest spectacular scene ever witnessed on the classic boards of the historic Arundel-street playhouse.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. William D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—*Robinson Crusoe* has surpassed all records at the local "Home of Pantomime," and the beautiful scenery, splendid dresses, catchy songs, and talented company, headed by Miss May Mars, the beautiful and charming Crusoe, are cheered to the echo nightly. As mirth-providers Elton and Elma, comic bar-performers, and Mr. Arnold Richardson (Billie Crusoe) are A1, and some good dancing, &c., is done by the celebrated Brewster Troupe. Miss Cora (of the talented Sisters Cora) has made a big hit with Kate Carney's great motto song "Poverty street," and Miss Rita Vincent's sympathetic rendering of the beautiful ballad "Starshine" is encored nightly.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—The Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—The company this week consists of Mr. J. F. Preston's sketch company in a short version of the exciting drama *Rogues of the Turf;* Campbell and Barber, in a daring and sensational cycling act; Brix and Annie, who cause merriment in a comic interlude *Fun in a Barber's Shop;* Mr. Charles Vincent, comedian; Miss Lily Esplin, serio-comic comedienne; Mr. Victor Travers, comedian; Miss Lill Gorman, vocalist; the Mayvilles, in their novel Lilliputian fantoches entertainment; the Coloured Meisters; and Master Max Darewski, the talented young composer and pianist, who conducts a full band in "William Tell" and other popular selections. New animated pictures conclude the performance.

THE HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. D. Elbourne. —*The Futurity Winner*, Mr. Joseph Hart's American racing sensation, was loudly applauded on Monday by a large audience, and others who appeared with deserved success were Mr. Henri Bekker, comic conjurer; Miss Lena Wylie, soprano vocalist; La Belle Greta, the graceful Spanish danseuse and vocalist; the Carlins Trio, equilibrists; Mr. Will Sullivan, eccentric comedian; the amusing and agile Three Garganis, comic acrobats; the Barrascope, with splendid new films; and the popular ventriloquial humorist Mr. Fred Russell, with his "old pal" Coster Joe.

THE Montgomery, the Grand, the Central, and the Pavilion are all doing good business as picture theatres, with the latest topical, comic, romantic, fantastic, and dramatic films.

SHREWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Director, Mr. W. Yates Gregory; General-Manager, Mr. Thos. Baugh.—There is an attractive vaudeville programme here this week. Ishmael, Indian illusionist, exhibits some bewildering conjuring tricks; the Cheers have a most pleasing cat show, remarkable items being cats jumping through fire-hoops and dropping from a height to be caught in a blanket; Mark Brue's eccentric songs and act, "On the Railway," are loudly applauded; the Sisters Redfern, dancers and instrumentalists, contribute a refined and smartly-put-on performance; Will Owen entertains with dances and Tyrolean songs; Irene and Morton give a capital comedy and dancing scena, "The Hobo and the Maid"; and Ray Sun is a dainty and clever comedy vocalist. New Bioscope pictures are very well appreciated.

SMETHWICK. — ROYAL. — Proprietor, Mr. C. Barnard; Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson.—A crowded house rocked with enjoyment at the funny pantomime presented here this week by Miss Edith St. Clare's very capable company. Heading the list of well-known artists is Miss Edith St. Clare as Aladdin, an ideal principal boy, who shows plenty of dash and go; Miss Lily Lonsdale is a charming and dainty Princess; Prince Hi-To-Nee and Loo-Li-Ah-Te have prepossessing representatives in the Sisters Brand; Mr. Fred W. Graham is a highly successful Widow Twankey; the Emperor is entrusted to Mr. Frank A. Wood, a most capable exponent of the part; the Brothers Brookes (Chinese Policemen) cause endless amusement; Mr. Ernie Myers as Abanazar keeps up a continual strain of fun; the singing of Miss Mabel Robarts as the Fairy Queen is greatly enjoyed; and Mr. George Parry is seen to advantage as Wot-is-it. The specialities include the Krakes, the Canton troupe of dancers, and the Brothers Brookes. The music is specially written by Mr. Walter B. McMillan. The book is by Mr. Jas. J. Hewson. The whole production is in the capable hands of Mr. Fred W. Graham. Mr. Ed. Landor is an excellent conductor, and Mr. B. Haldane is the courteous business manager for Miss St. Clare.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Directors, Messrs. Geo. Conquest and Richard H. Nerney; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—*Her Fatal Marriage* is being presented here by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hinton, Mr. Travis Green, and Miss Ruth Zillwood. Mr. Arthur Hinton presents an effective impersonation of Zaco Malletto; Miss Ruth Zillwood likewise displays skill and force in the rôle of Myra Malletto; Mr. Victor Millard makes a studious character of the curate, Wilfred Grey, who is well supported by Miss Lydia Audre as Lily; Mr. Gerald Bryne as Paul, the half-witted, is decidedly good, and Messrs. Percy Morton Wright and Henry Emmerson as Colonel Crichton and Detective Smart respectively, with Mr. Fred Hewitson as Jim Rogers, are all capable.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE WINTER GARDENS. —Proprietors, The Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens Co., Ltd.; Secretary and General-Manager, Mr. R. Singleton.—A highly enjoyable entertainment is provided by Mr. Robert Courtneidge's excellent company in the picturesque comic opera *Tom Jones*, which was presented on Monday to a large audience. All the principal characters were successfully portrayed. Miss Florence Smithson depicted the rôle of Sophia with irresistible daintiness and charm, her exceptional vocal powers being warmly appreciated. The comic element was effectively sustained by Mr. George Elton, whose volatile humour and versatility in the part of Benjamin Partridge created much merriment. The fine old English gentleman Squire Western was characteristically impersonated by Mr. Ambrose Manning; Mr. Harry Welchman submitted an artistic representation of the title-part both histrionically and vocally; Mr. Cyril Lane gave a grotesquely humorous impersonation of Gregory, and was ably assisted by Mr. Lionel Braham and Mr. T. Macmillan as Grizzle and Dobbin. Miss Joan Ritz was captivating and pleasing both in acting and singing as Honour; Miss Alice Oppitz gave a highly creditable delineation as the grand dame Lady Bellaston; Mr. John Morley played very well as Mr. Allworthy; the same may be said of Mr. Deane Percival as Blifil; and Miss Mary Southwell did well as Miss Western.

SOUTH SHIELDS. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—Messrs. E. C. Jazon and Richard Nightingale are presenting Mr. Edwin C. Jazon's pantomime *Dick Whittington* here. Miss Maud Beaumont is a sprightly principal boy; a captivating Alice is Miss Vera Snowdon; Fred Ward is good as the idle apprentice; and Fitzwarren and Sarah are well accounted for by William Miller and Allen Amber. Excellent specialities are introduced by the Willoughbys, acrobats and comedians; the Vandas, on globe and silver wire; Pierce and Ward, comedians; Salida and Vone, Creole performers; and Terry and Snowdon, duettists. The singing and dancing are excellent, and the scenery and mounting all that can be desired.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, the South Shields Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—Burke, Andrus, and Frisco, in their absurdity *Trafalgar Square at 4 a.m.*, are well received. An addition to the excellence of the entertainment is F. W. Purcell's company in *That Brute Simmons*, the company being supported by Mr. Julian Cross, Mr. Geo. Delaforce, and Miss Oliph Webb. A popular favourite is Nellie Coleman. *The Gathering of the Clans* is here for another week, and the children evince exceedingly good training and go through their evolutions very smartly. Other good items are the Vetter Bros., athletes; Tom Moore, comedian; Jenny Linn, comedienne; and the Bioscope.

TIVOLI, LAYGATE CIRCUS.—Proprietor, Councillor J. K. Hall.—R. C. Note is a popular comedian, and has a good reception; Sam Voss has a novel song scena as the street quack doctor, and scores heavily; Harry King, comedian, is also an attraction; and the bill is strengthened by the Bioscope.

STALYBRIDGE. — HIPPODROME. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Fioni; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. A. Jackson.—Nellie Wallace occupies the premier position on the programme, and her efforts as a character comedienne are most entertaining; Rose Gower is a sweet songstress, who is encored; and Astley's American circus, which is paying a return visit, has enhanced its popularity; Tom Gott is a new comedian, who is warmly applauded, and other excellent turns are given by Karoly Cynski, a clever musician; Harry Tullett, comedian; Mlle. Ameda, hand and foot equilibrist; the Cascoellas, comedy acrobats, &c.

ST. HELENS.—THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, St. Helens Theatre, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. A. McLeod Loader; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. E. Johnson.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company is here with *The Village Blacksmith*, and Mr. Sam Livesey is again seen to advantage in the title-rôle, a character in which he exhibits much power and vitality; Miss Maggie Edwards is in the part of Kate Strong, and plays it with appropriate feeling; Miss Lily Leicester is a sweet child actress, and appears as Harry Strong; Captain Leo is represented by Mr. Albert Sinclair, who acts the villain in a most natural manner; capital studies of character are presented by Mr. Thomas E. Marshall and Mr. T. C. Livesey as Jeremiah and Sal Perkins; and the other persons of the drama are in excellent hands, and the whole is well staged.

HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Leo. Weisker.—Pantomime comes as a welcome change to the usual variety programme, and Mr James Kiddie's *Little Aladdin* bids fair to become popular. It is a merry little production, and full of laughter-exciting incidents throughout; Miss Marie Beresford is the Aladdin, and her sweet voice is heard with pleasure in many favourite songs; a charming Princess is Miss Lily Lyle Jefferies, who immediately wins her way with her delightful singing, especially in "A tiny seed of love," in which the whole house join with wonderful effect; Miss Lily Ennes is a dashing Pekoe, and she also sings well and gains much applause; Miss Emmie Milsted (Darkie Diabolo) is at once a favourite, her dancing being graceful and clever; and Miss Rose Pareezer's fine voice and pleasing appearance as the Geni are much appreciated. Miss Vibran Weaver and Miss Fannie Douglas are pretty attendants; and Miss Sophie Melrose (Fan Pit) and Miss Mabel Milsted (Frou Frou) are both very attractive. The funny business is splendidly carried out by Mr. Walter Furvis (Abanazar), Mr. Dick Harcourt (Emperor), Mr. W. C. Bland (Widow Twankey), Mr. Joe Bell (Wishee Washey), Ray and Ross (Spy and Kop), and Mr. Barry Gilmore (Spotter), whose antics are very amusing. The costumes are pretty, and the staging excellent. The excellent chorus and orchestra are under the conductorship of Mr. John S. Kershaw.

STOCKPORT. — THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's remarkably successful pantomime *Dick Whittington* continues here this week in the height of popularity. The excellence of the entertainment is being recognised and appreciated by a crowded and delighted audience at every performance.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, the Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black. —The chief attraction here this week is Jan Rudenyi, who displays his ability as a violinist in a musical romance, *The Power of Music*, which is greeted with marked appreciation; an old favourite in Tom Bassett, actor-vocalist, repeats his former successes; the Smart Set in their refined drawing-room vocal entertainment are thoroughly pleasing; Martell is a clever equilibrist; Fred Horsfall, vocalist and mimic, gives amusing imitations; and Dunn and Reano, comedy gymnasts; May Audrey, comedienne; and Dancit, "queen of the golden clogs," add their full share to the evening's entertainment.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES. — CASTLE THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Charles Imeson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cecil Imeson.—Mr. James Welch's company, in *When Knights Were Bold*, is attracting large audiences here. Mr. Henry J. Ford enacts the heavy rôle of Sir Guy de Vere with the greatest success, not a dull moment being permitted; Mr. Vernon Sansbury is excellent as Isaac

WHAT ARE MILLIONS TO THE MAN WHO IS ILL

Only a bitter mockery. The world is full of delights in which he cannot share. He can buy them but not enjoy them, and is poor despite his millions. This is specially true of the dyspeptic—the man who cannot digest his food. When the stomach ceases to effectually perform its natural work, food ceases to nourish and causes pain, heartburn, wind, acidity, and a host of other troubles which spoil life. Perfect digestion is the foundation of sound health, and that is assured by the use of the world- renowned digestive tonic and stomachic remedy, Mother Seig el's Syrup.

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Isaacson; Mr. Cecil Clayton is very funny as the Hon. Chas. Widdicombe; the Rev. Peter Pottleberry, D.D., is cleverly acted by Mr. Guy Lane; Mr. H. Agar Lyons does well as Sir Brian Ballymore; and Mr. Talbot Homewood and Mr. Reginald Hunter give fine representations of Wittle and Barker. Miss Agnese de Llana acts the difficult rôle of Lady Rowena in admirable style; Miss Mabel Younge makes a charming Hon. Mrs. Waldegrave; Miss Ethel St. John achieves a success as Miss Sarah Isaacson; Miss M. O'Hea as Lady Millicent Eggington, Miss Ruth Bower as Lady Marjorie Eggington, Miss Marion Ryder as Kate Pottleberry, and Miss Bessie Walters as Alice Barker, are all good. *The Wrong Side of the Road* precedes.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—Mr. M. Montgomery's stock company is playing here the romantic drama *Scales of Justice*. Mr. Fred Terriss is especially good as Antonio Cordora, an adventurer; Miss Lilian Beaumont plays the dual part of Mary and Jenny Maxwell with great skill; being well supported by the rest of the company; and Payne's Bio-Photoscope shows some excellent films.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stainton.—Mr. Gar Kiddie's pantomime *Little Bo-Peep* is drawing crowded houses here this week. Mr. W. H. Gatty has a fine baritone voice, and is well applauded; Miss Elsie Peach as the Fairy Queen is responsible for some very good singing; Miss Lizzie Payne is a charming Bo-Peep; Miss Ivy Gallard does well as Boy Blue, her vocal talent being thoroughly appreciated: Mr. Harry Royde as the Baron is good; Mr. T. W. Groves makes himself popular as Granny Brown; Messrs. Grapho and Jackson are good comedians; Mr. Willie Harris as Tommy Long, and Mr. Albert Stern as Rastus Brown, are responsible for some clever eccentric dancing. The scenery and dresses are excellent.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Miller; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. Moroney.—Mr. Arthur Carlton's pantomime company in *Puss in Boots* has been transferred here from Worcester, where it has had a successful run. It is a breezy and bright little show, with plenty of good singing and a lot of amusing and clean comedy. The scenery and dresses are elaborate, especially worthy of mention being the reproduction of the Court of Honour at the Franco-British Exhibition, and the final scene, The Palace of Sunshine. In the latter takes place the procession of bearers, with the arms of various English cities and boroughs. Mlle. Lucretia is a charming Colin, and her songs, especially "Oh, oh, Antonio," meet with much favour; Miss Evelyn Desa is a pleasing Princess Iris, and her banjo selections are much appreciated; Miss Nancy Renshaw in the coloured part of Pompey submits "Sue, Sue, Sue" in a dashing manner, and is quite a favourite; the comedy duets of Carl and Carr are well given; and other members of the company and chorus give able support.

SUNDERLAND.—KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. S. F. Davidson; General-Manager, Mr. Alexander Telford; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Sydney Reach.—At this theatre the pantomime *Sinbad the Sailor* continues to attract large audiences, and on Monday night it entered upon its second edition. All the best of the original work has been retained, the story itself remaining unaltered, and laughter and applause were continuous during the evening. The new songs are in themselves a special feature. Miss Jessie Wilton as Sinbad takes her part with her usual spirit, and won great applause for her song "It's lovely to be in love"; while Miss Christina Roy was greatly admired for her rendering of the serio-comic song "Call round on Sunday"; Miss Madeline Rossiter was as pleasing as ever in her part of Princess Zorilda, and together with Mr. G. W. Desmond, scored a tremendous success in their duet, "If I had a pal like you," followed by a fascinating dance. Miss Rossiter's dancing called forth great admiration on all occasions; Miss Cissie Brand gave her usual dashing portrayal of Heesatoph; and Miss Roberta Svensden, the Fairy Queen, had ample scope for her excellent vocal powers in her song, "Come, be my rainbow," for which she received hearty applause. Miss Hope Trevelyan's rendering of the song "Whispers of love" was also highly appreciated. Mr. Will Johnson continues to support his part of Mrs. Sinbad to the unbounded satisfaction of his audiences, and has established himself a universal favourite with all. His latest song, "I told you I'd come," had an excellent reception. Mr. Frank Lynne continues to endow Binbad with a host of comicalities, and caused much laughter with his song, "If we hadn't any women in the world." Messrs. Lynne and Johnson gave an excellent timetable gag, which created much amusement. Messrs. Walton and Lester, "the world's worst wizards," have also introduced a new act in their nursery scene, which takes almost better than did their previous one, which is saying a great deal. They sing an amusing duet together, "Oh, those girls!" which proved an excellent hit, and also gave a good bookmaking gag, assisted by Mr. Lynne, which was well received. The sailors' chorus gave a splendid rendering of the "Excelsior" quartette; while Little Nellie Denver sang a pretty lullaby and executed some clever step-dancing. Mr. Chris Harland is to be congratulated on his excellent decorative lighting schemes, which called forth warm praise on all occasions, and especially in the "Rainbow" song. It is to be hoped that the pantomime will finish equally as successfully as it began.

AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden; Assistant-Manager, Mr. John Pellow.—The pantomime at this house has this week taken the form of "two shows a night." Miss Lena Page gave a good account of herself as Dick, while Miss Nellie Merton gave a pleasing portrayal of Alice; Mr. Fred Spencer as Fitzwarren's cook, and Mr. George Rydon as Idle Jack are equally good in their respective parts, both being a source of unending merriment; Miss Florence Hylton is a dashing Sir Algernon de Mash, and scores well with her singing; Hannaway Bros. are at their best and keep things alive; Mr. Denis McCarthy as Fitzwarren is also prominent. There are many others in the cast all of whom do excellent work.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden; Assistant-Manager, Mr. George Dunn.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's company in *The Old Folks at Home* are here this week. Miss Maud Warburton gave a very natural performance of Dorothy Robin, and Mr. H. E. Herbert established himself a warm favourite as Andrew Ross; a powerful contribution came from Mr. Frank Liston as Lord Howard Kenilworth, who is ably supported by Miss Kate Froud as the adventuress, Patricia Bathurst; Christopher and Martha Robin were impersonated in a convincing manner by Mr. Eugene and Miss Clara Santley; Mr. T. E. Vane was much admired for his clever handling of Hugh Lovel, and Mr. Arthur Dudley was good as Jock. The comedy was in the hands of Miss Maudie Grayson and Messrs. Frank Caffrey, William Myers, and Harold Shuter. The Excelsior Glee Singers also gave some very acceptable selections.

EMPIRE THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—The bill this week is topped by that favourite vocalist and mimic Miss Lydia Yeamans, and last night she proved that she is still a talented entertainer. Her rendering of "Sally in our alley" was excellent, and her imitation of a child-singer earned her quite an ovation. The act of *The Moto Girl*, presented by Mr. Frederic Melville, was also very interesting, and caused considerable amazement on every side; Pat Rafferty sang some very amusing songs in his usual genial manner, which created great laughter; Frank Cass, vocal comedian, also gave an excellent account of himself; the Three Welsh Girls were a very pleasing vocal trio; and the Bros. St. Clair were both clever and amusing in their renowned cycling act; Alf. J. Holt, mimic and whistler, gave an interesting turn; one of the chief events of the evening was a sketch, *Slippery Jim*, presented by Messrs. E. Dagnall and company, all the participants in which proved themselves to be of great histrionic ability. The sketch had an excellent reception.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Henry N. Phillips; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fred J. Reece.—An excellent programme of pictures is on view here this week; romantic, topical, and fantastical, all being of equal interest. Most noticeable was An American's Trip Through Europe. The Sunderland *v.* Sheffield United Cup tie match also evoked much enthusiasm. There were some capital humorous films, which created great amusement.

SWANSEA.—THE GRAND.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Page.—Mr. Wentworth Croke presents in faultless fashion *The Prodigal Son* at the Grand this week. Mr. Hugh Montgomery is to be congratulated for an exceptionally fine rendering of the part of Magnus Stephensson, and Mr. Gordon Macintosh as the brother, Oscar, by the faithfulness of his acting, makes the character a live one. Miss Valerie Crispin as Elin possesses great talent.

THE STAR.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—Miss Marie Dagmar and company appear in *The Tyrant*. Miss Marie Dagmar as Tisbe was unquestionably the success of the evening. Rudolph Prince de Roma had a fine impersonator in Mr. Edward E. Louis, and as the Tyrant Mr. Roy Fortesque displayed undoubted talent.

THE EMPIRES, LTD.—Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—Excellently staged, and acted in first-class style by Miss Mary Redfern and company, the dramatic sketch *The Yellow Fang* takes the Empire by storm this week. Harry Grey (the Australian Nugget), with new up-to-date songs, surpasses his former successes here—which is saying a lot. *A Scene at the Fairgrounds* enables Albertus, the American oddity, and Jessie Miller, a lady cornetiste, to shew undoubted cleverness; Tom Bryce, in a musical comedy *A Dude's Wooing*, displays cleverness and versatility; Gladys Mavins, in *The Eton Boys' Rehearsal*, dances and sings in great fashion; and Percy Hannan, the American tenor robust, uses his voice to advantage. The Three Prestons, in *The Liftman's Rise*, make a big hit, and Olive Armindale is tuneful and dainty. Messina pictures on the Bioscope concludes a great bill.

THE PALACE.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—The leading pictures at the Palace this week are Shakespearean films, Richard III. and The Tempest, vocal items being given by Miss Kate Eaton, Mr. George Parkes, and Messrs. Thomas and Woods (banjoists).

SWINDON.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wiltshire Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Manners.—Mr. Percy Williams' company in the drama, *The Fatal Wedding*, is here this week. Howard Wilson is skilfully handled by Mr. Cecil A. Melton; Mr. Percy Ballard ably performs the part of Robert Curtis; Mr. Arthur Vernon is amusing as Toto; and the role of O'Reilly is well filled by Mr. Frank Ashley; Miss Ethel Kay presents a sympathetic rendering of Mabel Wilson; and Miss Elaine Vanbrugh as Cora Williams acts with power; the Bridget of Miss Ethel Barjient is very good; and the child actress, Miss Lulu Wohlmann, gives a clever delineation of the character of Jessie, the little mother.

TON-Y-PANDY.— ROYAL. — General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ridgewood Barrie.—Mr. Roland Yorke and company are here this week in *The Old Home*. Daddy Dean is admirably played by Mr. Chas. Franmore; the Rev. Eric Armstrong has an able exponent in Mr. H. Denton; Mr. Yorke is thoroughly suited as Lord Avondale; Dr. Warburton is safely entrusted to Mr. J. W. Braithwaite; Mr. F. L. Connynhame does well in the comedy part of Sam Adams; Miss Gertrude Bonser elicits warm approval as Hazel Dean; and Mrs. Braithwaite ably upholds Bridget Donoghan.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. Will Stone.—Topping a great bill here is Marie Jones, protean actress, who fully merits the reception accorded her; Forest and King, novelty dancers do well; Harry Walker is a smart comedian; Savaro, an accomplished siffleur; and Lillian Clown Agouste is praiseworthy.

TORQUAY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—Messrs. Dudley Bennett and T. C. Wray's company in *The Catch of the Season* is proving a great attraction here this week. In the principal rôle of the Duke of St. Jermyns Mr. William Greene does extremely well, his singing being decidedly good and his dancing excellent, and he is accorded frequent encores; Miss Dorothea Clarke is a winsome and fascinating Angela, and is repeatedly applauded for a really clever piece of acting; Mr. Joseph Bruce makes a capital study of Lord Dundreary, and keeps the house in roars of laughter by his amusing impersonation; Miss Edna Eden is a typical Lady Crystal; whilst Miss Barry Eldon and Miss Kate Robertson as her two daughters both give excellent interpretations; Mr. Franklin Miles as Sir John Crystal is well placed, and Mr. Geoffrey Berwick is seen to advantage as Mr. Wm. Gibson; Miss Claire De Vere as the Duchess of St. Jermyns gave a charming representation, and Miss Grace Hampton also did well as Lady Caterham. Mention must also be made of Master Ernest Grata, who gave a very creditable performance as Bucket, the Page, his acting being very amusing, whilst he was encored several times for his clever rendering of his songs.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Wilton Dale; Business-Manager, Mr. C. Hoskins.—Hippodrome season.—A strong programme is presented this week, in which, perhaps, the Bioscope takes first place, as the management present the film of the Italian earthquake for the first time out of London, and also Italian Cavalry manœuvres. D'Arc's marionettes in clever representations of music-hall stars are also the great hit of the evening; Randolph King in his one-man programme of quick change impersonations; La Belle Margo in a pretty trapeze act; Nina St. Elmo, a dainty comedienne; Norman Holt, a clever raconteur with the aid of his concertina; and Albert Hall, comedian, complete an excellent programme.

TYLDESLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. W. Brierley.—*Man and Wife* is being presented here by Messrs. Van Biene and Traynor's company. Mr. John F. Traynor gives an earnest and impressive portrayal of Paul Revere; Mr. E. M. Hamilton realistically depicts the evil-disposed Captain D'Esparre; Colonel Latour has an admirable exponent in Mr. Edward Van Biene; Mr. George Overs as the cripple, Jean, does well; and Mr. Ambrose Horton is a commendable Sergeant Jacques. Miss Kate Hallam in the part of Marcelle acts with grace and feeling; Mrs. Revere receives careful attention at the hands of Miss Marguerite Thorne; and Miss Dora Hamilton is a sprightly Rosette. The twins, Bimbo and Bambo, are humorously impersonated by Mr. E. Hall Eldon and Mr. Geo. Vinning.

WARRINGTON. — ROYAL COURT.—Proprietor, Mr. Joseph Beecham; General-Manager, Mr. A. M. Loader; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. Smiley.—Mr. Leonard Boyne's company is here in *Raffles*. Mr. Eille Norwood in the title-rôle displays histrionic ability of a high order; Mr. Arthur Willoughby is a dignified Earl of Amersteth; a buoyant Viscount Crowley is found in Mr. Cecil Brymer; Mr. E. W. Thomas is successful as Bedford, the detective; a really clever character sketch of Crawshay, the burglar, is that submitted by Mr. Dalziel Heron; Mr. Harold West acts capably as Harry Manders; Miss Agnes Knight is a stately Lady Melrose; a charming Lady Ethel is Miss Beatrice Fitzgerald; Miss Lucie Milner submits a clever study of Gwendoline Conran; Miss May Brooke is well placed as Miss Vidal; and Miss Dorothy Gordon pleases all with a faithful interpretation of Marie. A pretty curtain-raiser is *A Lesson in Shakespeare*.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, the Franco-British Animated Picture Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. Turner; Manager, Mr. J. Waters.—There is an excellent company here this week, and the Four Scoreys, who head the bill, supply an excellent musical turn, their playing on a variety of instruments being capital. Annie Lang is a dainty comedienne and dancer; Jack Holland a quaint comedian full of funny sayings; and Arthur Atkinson's illustrated songs are a source of much pleasure. The pictures are a choice collection.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. G. D. Bradbury.—A hearty reception was accorded Mr. Herbert Darnley's company on Monday in *The Brigands of Tarragona*. Bull and Hemsley score well in the sketch *Fun in a Music Shop;* Flo Inman is a dainty comedienne; the illustrated songs of Belle Braham are much enjoyed; Olms and Carbeth are smart juggling comedians; Colin Mail, a good singer with good songs; and Pyck, Tholl, and Taylor, American comedy artists, are good singers and dancers, and their sketch *The Dancing Master* is very funny.

WEDNESBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Battersby.—Messrs. Bateman and Conquest's company, in *The Crimes of Paris*, is here. The drama, which is full of interest, includes Mr. Herbert J. Walton in the important part of Pierre Pelport, a moneylender, his acting being most artistic; Vicomte De Vismes is ably embodied by Mr. M. Cooke; Mr. Kendrum Milson makes up well as Jules Martel; and Pepin Cardel is ably presented by Mr. Clavering Craig. The Dummy, the Dandy, and the Plunger are effectively impersonated by Mr. Geo. Conquest, Mr. Geo. Harvey, and Mr. J. E. Abbot respectively; humour is shown by Mr. Roy Hylton in the rôle of Joshua Johnson; Miss Carrie Jones is responsible for a capital rendering of Charlotte; and the part of Lizette is ably depicted by Miss Christine Bickerstaffe. As La Belle Helene Miss Flora Hastings is all that can be desired.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Richard Nightingale; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Berson.—Pantomime reigns here this week, and is reigning most successfully, too. It is sufficient proof of this to say that it is that of Messrs. Pardoe and Miss Lottie Holland, and they tell once more the fascinating story of *Cinderella*, who, in the person of Miss Nellie Rose, creates a most favourable impression. She is a charming young lady who acts excellently. The same, too, can be said of Miss Lottie Holland, who as Prince Charming is as charming as the name implies. Miss Beatie Howard is capital as Princess Rosala; so, too, is Miss Dora Round as Dandini; Mr. Geo. Hyam as Scoot is very clever, and full of fun; while Messrs. N. and J. Dench as Eva and Maud are also very funny. Altogether it is an all-round capital show.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Tom Kuner.—Mr. John Gerant is this week presenting the popular military play *At Duty's Call* before large audiences at this place of amusement. The play is founded on a story of Gordon and Khartoum, and is told in a thrilling manner, keeping the audiences spellbound. As Harold Alison Mr. Gerant has a part admirably suited to him, and General Gordon is well depicted by Mr. Ernest St. John. Miss Beatrice Western is very charming as Dora Drummond, and Miss Ada Roscoe acts with much power as Salema, while all the other parts are well sustained.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. A. E. Dobney.—The Gallimore Trio of comedy artists are already popular here, and continue to please; Johnny Holland and company in screaming comedy are also old favourites, and are being retained for another week; the novelty dancing (in one rope) by the Australian Twin Andersons, Lillie and Minnie, is indeed a novelty, and is taking immensely; John Lloyd, the genuine singing collier, gains popularity with his audience; Mayme Cannon is a dainty and clever comedienne, whose style is most captivating, and she undoubtedly has a good future before her; Rose and Wold in comedy bounding wire act are smart; Jack Neil, eccentric Scottish comedian, is here again; Jamie Piper, a young instrumentalist, and some splendid films shown by Raymond's Bioscope are also attractions.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE. — KNIGHTSTONE PAVILION AND OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. W. Payne.—Mr. Geo. Edwardes' *Merry Widow* company is paying its first visit here this week, crowded houses being the rule. Miss Daphne Glenne as Sonia proves herself an artist of exceptional ability; very praiseworthy is Miss Violet Hobson as Natalie; Miss Eileen Clanford is extremely good as Olga; Miss Mary Florence excels as Sylvanie, and Miss Enid Forde's Prascovia is entitled to eulogy. Miss Mabel May is commendable as Frou-Frou; Mr. Alec Worcester gives an artistic impersonation of Prince Danilo; Mr. H. Sinclair Cotter makes the most of Baron Popoff; as the Vicomte Camile de Jolidon Mr. Arthur Geary gives a fine portrayal; whilst Mr. Harry Emeric as Nisch, Mr. Tom H. David (Marquis de Cascada), Mr. Spencer Lloyd (M. de St. Brioche), Mr. Cecil Warwick (General Novakovitch), and Mr. Clinton Reynold (M. Khadja) all excel in their respective rôles.

WEST STANLEY. — THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Proprietors, The Stanley Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Kelly.—Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds present with realistic effect the powerful play *Woman and Wine*. Miss Violet Sims is a sympathetic Mary Andrews; Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds plays with much ability as Dick Seymour; Miss C. St. Elmo takes the part of the notorious Marcel Rigadout with success; and Mr. R. Foulis as Alphonso Beandet and Mr. Milne Taylor as Hugh Seymour are very good; Mr. Edwin Kisby is an effective Pierre Crucru. The comedy parts are amusingly presented by Mr. Harry Harrop, Mr. W. Manning, and Miss Ethel Vinroy.

VICTORIA THEATRE—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. T. C. Rawes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. C. W. Montrose.—The Kurios, in their scene, introducing mirth, magic, and mystery, head a fine bill here; Geo. Battle, actor-vocalist; the Bros. Lydamore, the sporting duo; Renée Glendower and company, in the sketch *Lady Borgia;* the Rewcars, song and dance artists, and the Vicoscope are other attractions.

WIDNES.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Jas. Kiddie; Secretary, Mr. Tom Swinton.—*Are You a Mason?* is presented here by Mr. Chas. Macdona's company, and the screaming farce had a fine reception from a crowded house on Monday. Mr. E. H. Patterson was very droll in the part of Amos Bloodgood; Mr. H. Langdon Bruce created enthusiasm by his fine comedy work as George Fisher; as Frank Perry Mr. Stanley Groome was thoroughly at his ease; Mr. G. P. Polson presented an entirely acceptable character-study of John Halton; the Hamilton Travers of Mr. E. E. Clive was responsible for many hearty laughs; Mr. Wilton Ross played Ernest Morrison cleverly; Miss Adelaide Grace was excellent as Mrs. Bloodgood; and the Eva of Miss Rita Narcelli was thoroughly sound. Miss Rita Johnson as Annie was pleasingly natural; a remark which also applies to Miss Dulcie Verney's Lulu. *A Bad Penny* proved a capital curtain-raiser.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—*Secret Service* is billed here. Mr. Hamilton Stewart makes the most of his opportunities as Captain Thorne; Mr. Airelsford is in the capable hands of Mr. S. T. Ewart; Mrs. Varney is well sustained by Miss Evelyn Ward; Miss A. Bruce-Joy is a captivating Edith Varney; and Miss Mona Hungerford deserves great praise for her impersonation of Caroline Mitford.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Wigan Entertainments Co.—J. W. Hall's efforts as a comedian are as successful as usual; as a comedy juggler Raglus proves highly diverting, while all his tricks are performed in a very clever manner; the Enchanted Iona is a turn out of the common, in which mystery and merriment are introduced; Barney Murphy has a good reception for his imitations of different comedians, and the Three Bordellas give a neat athletic entertainment. Bert Castle obtains quite an ovation for his songs; Miss Ethel Loftus is a comedienne entirely above the ordinary; Walter Wade is highly applauded for his absurdity *Legs*, and Dalton and Euston are meritorious comedians. Interesting pictures are shown by the bioscope.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Co.—The chief picture, depicting the brigands of the Calabrian district before the earthquake, proves very interesting. The remainder of attractive and instructive films include:—An Indian's Honour, Nocturnal Thieves, and Oscar is Kidnapped. Tom Reed, a diverting comedian, proves very popular with large audiences.

WOLVERHAMPTON. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. Charles Barnard; Resident-Manager, Mr. Gerald Spencer.—*The Love that Women Desire* is being presented here this week by Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company. Mr. Herbert Pearson as Philip Carnaby makes a typical young yeoman; Squire Abingdon and his son Richard have two sufficiently villainous representatives in Mr. J. O. Stewart and Mr. S. Leigh Courtney; Mr. Wilton Reed plays consistently as Frank Hardy; and Mr. Francis Cavanah is very successful as Dr. Brandeth. Effective comedy business is introduced by Miss Dorothy Hildebrand as Patti Swift, Mr. John Hignett as Dennis O'Rourke, and Mr. J. W. Wilkinson as P.C. Sowerbury. Miss Maud Hastings as Sybil Thornburn is a very acceptable heroine, her acting in the last scene being particularly good; Miss A. G. Clyndes plays with force as Madge Abingdon; and a capital representation of an Indian maiden is given by Miss Vere Rose as Marquinha. A special word of praise is due to the excellent way in which the drama is mounted.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frank Weston.—Clark and Hamilton, who top the bill here this week, are a remarkably smart comedy duo. Their best item is the song and dance "Chrysanthemum," which is given in a very elaborate Japanese stage setting. Another good vocal and dancing number is that of Ted Curtis and his piccaninnies; Le Strad, in impersonations of celebrated musicians, is well received; the comic juggling of the Brothers Idento creates much amusement; and other interesting items are the Sisters Lavender, duettists and dancers; Jessie Lee, comedienne; Ethel Walker, with songs at the piano; and the Empire pictures.

WORCESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. F. Le Wards.—Variety show twice nightly has succeeded pantomime, and Mr. Carlton has provided a very strong and attractive programme, which includes Mr. Chas. Parker's Æolians, premier dancers and vocalists; Primrose and West, clever acrobatic comedy balancers; Will Saunders, eccentric comedian; Mill May, the youngest protean artist; McAskell, a comedy conjurer; May Vincent, a capable American vocalist; Vivian Foster, comedian; Wilfred Burrand, impersonator; the Tossing Austins, clever sleight-of-hand artists; and some capital pictures of the Messina Earthquake.

WORKINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. McKenzie Morgan.—The pictures here are as good as ever, and are varied by clever performances by Messrs. Mueller and Coyne, eccentrics, and Alma Curzon, with her latest song successes.

QUEEN'S OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Jackes.—*A Woman's Passion* is here played by Stephen Pritt's company. Mr. Edmund Grogan as Lord Vale is painstaking and effective; Mr. David McFarlane as Sir Randall Derrick is good; and Mr. Archie Helsby fills the rôle of the gipsy chief ably. Vicary is excellently portrayed by A. B. Douglas, and as the dwarf page Little Poulton leaves nothing to be desired. Winifred Hamlyn, the heroine, is finely represented by Miss Emmie Barton; and Claire Trevenen has a capable and charming exponent in Miss Rose Mervyn.

WREXHAM.—EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor and manager, Mr. John J. Scott.—This week E. W. Selman has proved a big attraction with his humorous songs; Howard and Wallace are most amusing in the sketch, *Taming a Wife;* and Jerome Howard takes well in his monologues.

YORK.—ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—*Miss Hook of Holland* is being played this week by Mr. Geo. Dance's company, and the theatre has been crowded by delighted audiences. In the title-rôle Miss Gertrude Melville gives a dainty impersonation, whilst her singing is one of the most pleasing features of a charming performance. A lively Mina is seen in Miss Cissie Sephton, whose quaint humour has been heartily enjoyed; as the unctuous Mr. Hook Mr. Alfred Wellesley is aptly placed—he never misses an opportunity, and gives a finished performance; Mr. Frank Crimp is in every respect an excellent Van Royt, singing in his well-known style; Mr. Walter Balfour is also a finished vocalist, being heartily encored for his song; Mr. Geo. Mudie, jun., overflows with humour as Schnapps; and Mr. Fred Lynn as Simon Slink has ample chance to prove himself a comedian of the first rank. The scenery and dresses leave nothing to be desired.

OPERA HOUSE AND EMPIRE.—Managing Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brooks.—Arthur Dandoe is causing much amusement in *The Phonograph Belle*, a sketch given with great success by his company; Maude Courteney gives her pleasing entertainment with success; Mr. "C." tells some anecdotes in excellent style; Frank Leon's dancing is a special feature; Shirley and Ransome's sketch *'Arf a Quid* is as popular as of yore; and the Three Calbas, Ajax and George, and Lizzie Kirk complete a company in which there is not a weak item.

EARLY DELIVERY.

Special newspaper express services now running on the London and North-Western, Great Northern, Midland, and Great Central Railways, carry *The Era* to the following important cities and towns at the times named. Newsvendors and subscribers obtain their papers at a much earlier hour than was previously possible:—Rugby, 4.30 a.m.; Coventry, 4.54 a.m.; Birmingham, 5.20 a.m.; Crewe, 6.5 a.m.; Manchester, 6.50 a.m.; Liverpool, 7 a.m.; Chester, 9.3 a.m.; Doncaster, 6.10 a.m.; York, 7 a.m.; Hull, 8.20 a.m.; Darlington, 8.58 a.m.; Scarborough, 10.5 a.m.; Newcastle, 10.10 a.m.; Leeds (Central), 6.58 a.m.; Huddersfield, 7.37 a.m.; Bradford (Exchange), 7.47 a.m.; Harrogate, 7.50 a.m.; Halifax, 8.17 a.m.; Burnley, 9.28 a.m.; Leicester, 4.36 a.m.; Nottingham, 5.10 a.m.; Derby, 5.35 a.m.

A TAX ON SALARIES.

A law has just come into force in Sweden compelling every foreign artist performing publicly in that country to pay a heavy tax of not less than 10 per cent. upon the entire earnings of every individual. Leaders of orchestras are feeling the inconvenience of this tax more than the individual music-hall performer, for where the proprietor of a band has to pay the tax upon each of his instrumentalists respectively, the single-turn artist, performing independent of others, has simply to forfeit a portion (one-tenth) of his or her salary to the Government. Articles upon this subject, advising hotel proprietors and theatre-managers to support Swedish artists, have been appearing in the Swedish newspapers in great number since the Act came into force on Jan. 1. Writing upon the question, our Göteborg representative says the tendency of this new legislature has been to drive foreigners out of the country, so as to enable Swedish artists to have the field to themselves.

Our correspondent expresses the firm opinion that, under existing circumstances, English artists, and particularly foreign orchestras, would do well to avoid making engagements in Sweden, unless they contract so highly as to sufficiently cover this very heavy tax. Movements to get such an Act into operation have been set on foot from time to time, but without success, during the past two or three years, but no sooner was a recent agitation made than the same became law, taking most of the foreigners by surprise. In an interview with Miss G. E. Hunt, who is at present in Göteborg with her "English Ladies" orchestra, our representative was informed that the tax is making it extremely difficult for foreigners to place contracts with Swedish hotel proprietors. "People," said Miss Hunt, "are very reluctant to engage our orchestras on account of the agitation that Swedes should patronise only their own bands and their own artists. In fact," Miss Hunt went on to say, 'I am having to considerably increase my fees in order to cope with the tax, and, unfortunately, I had signed my agreement to perform in this town before the police notices were distributed. My advice to agents for British artists is to avoid all contracts in Sweden. I feel confident that many who arrive here from England would have thought twice before venturing upon such a scheme had they been aware of the extremely high tax upon foreign artists. When considering the diminishing encouragement to foreigners, caused no doubt by the passing of this Act and the agitation which has been the result of such legislation, I can assure you that I would not have allowed any of my orchestras to remain in Sweden had it not been for the fact that in many cases the engagements had been commenced, and that there had been a number of special requests for my artists to perform here."

Continuing, Miss Hunt expressed the opinion that it was most unfair that outsiders are permitted to perform in England without fear of any special tax being imposed, whilst English people abroad have individually to pay heavily for the privilege of fulfilling engagements in certain Continental towns. Referring then to the political side of the situation, Miss Hunt said the Swedish people, in her opinion, would gain largely by the tax referred to. The foreigners, she held, are so taxed here that little chance remains for any money to be sent out of Sweden; for what each individual artist has left of his or her salary after meeting the tax must be spent in food and lodgings, and other necessaries which are purchased in the country. "Unfortunately," she concluded, "the same circumstances do not prevail in England, or the poor people of our country might feel the benefit, if money from foreign artists had to be spent in the country instead of being allowed to go out." Our correspondent has interviewed several other leaders of first-class orchestras abroad, each of whom expresses similar views to those of Miss Hunt, who may be taken as an authority, so far as orchestral matters are concerned. It may be mentioned, in this connection, that Miss Hunt, referred to above, is the daughter of Mrs. Hunt, of orchestral fame, who is known so well not only in the South of England, but on the Continent.

AMUSEMENTS IN BARCELONA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BARCELONA, JAN. 11.—The reception accorded to Henry Arthur Jones's comedy-drama *El Hipocrites* at the Teatro Principal upon the opening night has been continued throughout the week. The company has now settled down, and the individual artists have mastered the difficulties of their different rôles. There is no doubt that *El Hipocrites* is the success of the season, and is assured of a long run at this theatre.

THE Teatro Apolo last week presented *Hamlet*. Shakespeare is very popular here, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which was produced at the Novadades a few months ago, was a success. The productions at the Apolo cannot, however, be taken seriously, and although *Hamlet* as presented was far from being a travesty upon the play, still it could not be quoted as an artistic rendering.

AT the Teatro Nuevo Suffragettes are satirised in a mystical playlet, *Si las Mujeres Maudersen*. The first scene represents the interior of a laundry, when the news arrives that the House of Commons has granted women the vote, upon which all the laundresses throw down their work and prepare for the general election, for which the public are invited to select two Cabinets, one composed of men, the other entirely of women. Needless to say, the ladies are elected, with a female Prime Minister. Now the fun commences. We see women policemen and women soldiers—in fact, women everything. An amusing musical number is introduced, in which the lady Cabinet Ministers are depicted sending important State messages upon picture post-cards. The laws passed by this enterprising Parliament, whilst putting a heavy tax upon bachelors, still do not permit a married man to be out of doors alone. The playlet winds up with a general revelation. At the end man gets his rights through the aid of woman's old enemy—a mouse.

THE Circo Barcelones announces the ultimate days of the Ali Ben Hassan Troupe of Arabs. The Four Imperial Girls finished on Friday last, as did also Liane d'Eve. The Three Sisters Romano continue to charm all by their graceful dancing, these clever young ladies being also acrobats of no mean order.

IN spite of the formidable opposition of the Circo Barcelones, the Soriano continues to do good business. Mlle. Juliette's Sea Lions prove a decided attraction; and a novel act is provided by the Fedriani Troupe, acrobats on horseback. Drawee, Frisco, and Hambo have now been transferred to the Salon Doré, where they are a great success. Also on the programme are Topsy and Tapsen, acrobats; the Clown Brosca with his splendidly-trained animals; and the Trio Charis, acrobats.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—SIR HENRY IRVING.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

ROYAL OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.

In the presence of a large and enthusiastic audience the season of grand opera in English opened on Saturday, Jan. 16, with every prospect of success. Three representations of *The Ring of the Niblung* are to be given in the course of the four weeks' season, as well as performances of *The Mastersingers* and Mr. E. W. Naylor's new opera, *The Angelus*. The success of the *Ring* in English last year fully justified Dr. Richter in his belief that native vocalists could sing in grand opera, and the large number of English singers engaged is a welcome feature of the present season, while the great conductor's untiring zeal in training young native vocalists, many of whom have had little or no stage or operatic experience, should lead to excellent results. *The Rhine-gold*, given on Saturday, is the prelude to Wagner's great music-drama, and as the performance was given without a break from half-past eight until nearly eleven, the audience, until the close, had no opportunity of applauding an admirable representation. All the principal parts were in experienced hands. Mr. Clarence Whitehill sang Wotan's music with splendid breadth and beauty of tone, and acted the god in a most dignified and impressive manner. Mr. Thomas Meux also gave a powerful impersonation of Alberich. Equally successful were the spirited Loge of Mr. Walter Hyde and the womanly and expressive Fricka of Mme. Gleeson-White, whose vocalisation was admirable. Mr. Maurice D'Aisly also deserves hearty praise for his singing of Froh's music, while the two parts of Erda and Flosshilde were most successfully undertaken by Mme. Edna Thornton. Miss Edith Evans, the Freia, showed a great advance on her former efforts, and the two giants, Fasolt and Fafner, were cleverly rendered by Mr. Robert Radford and Mr. Francis Harford. Mr. Charles Knowles made an effective Donner, and Mr. Hans Bechstein, as on former occasions, proved a capital Mime, and the music of the Rhine Maidens was gracefully sung by Miss Alice Prowse, Miss Caroline Hatchard, and Mme. Edna Thornton. The superb playing of the orchestra under Dr. Richter, and the realistic scenery added greatly to the success of the first performance.

On Monday *The Valkyrie*, the most popular of the four dramas of the *Ring*, was given with brilliant success by the English artists. Two American ladies, Mrs. Frease-Green and Mrs. Saltzmann Stevens, both of whom have studied under M. Jean de Reszke, made their first appearance at Covent Garden in the parts of Sieglinde and Brünnhilde, and had a most hearty reception from the large audience. In the first act Mrs. Frease-Green, who has a flexible voice somewhat light in character, hardly did full justice to her powers, no doubt through slight nervousness, owing to a first appearance, and the beautiful duet in this act between Siegmund and Sieglinde lost much of its customary effect; but Mrs. Frease-Green showed evident ability as an actress, particularly in the wonderful second act, where Sieglinde's despair at Siegmund's death in the fight with Hunding was finely expressed. Mr. Walter Hyde has before proved himself an excellent Siegmund, and his fervent singing and manly acting on Monday night were warmly recognised by the audience. The rough, uncouth Hunding was admirably sung and acted by Mr. Robert Radford. In the first act the somewhat sudden appearance of dawn was hardly so effective as the more familiar slow breaking of dawn while the lovers sing their duet. In the second act Mr. Clarence Whitehill as Wotan surpassed himself by the nobility and power of his singing and dignified bearing. His scene with Brünnhilde, where his affection as a mortal clashes with his duty as a god, was masterly in its dramatic expression. Mrs. Saltzmann Stevens made a handsome Brünnhilde, and sang the music with great charm. She can hardly be described as a dramatic vocalist, but in the gentler moods of Brünnhilde she was extremely pleasing, while her beautiful rich voice made a most favourable impression. Mme. Gleeson-White sang the music of Fricka admirably, and the fight between Siegmund and Hunding on the rocks was capitally managed. At the fall of the curtain the audience displayed great enthusiasm, and insisted on five recalls. Such a fine performance of the difficult second act of *Valkyrie* does more for the cause of grand opera in English than a host of lectures and letters on the subject. The characters of Gerhilde, Ortlinde, Waltraute, Schwertleite, and Rossweisse were most ably sustained by Miss Caroline Hatchard, Miss Edith Evans, Miss Alexander, Miss Maria Yelland, and Miss Dilys Jones. The scenic effects in the last act were fully up to the Covent Garden standard, while the splendid orchestra was, as usual, above reproach. Dr. Richter conducted.

An excellent performance of *Siegfried* was given on Wednesday evening, and although the opera commenced at the early hour of half-past six the house was well filled when the curtain rose on the first act. Mr. Peter Cornelius, who appeared as Siegfried, sang with great spirit and fervour, while his buoyant and graceful action and fine figure fully realised Wagner's youthful hero. All the business of forging the sword was admirably carried out, and the anvil fell apart under the sword on this occasion at quite the right moment. The Mime of Mr. Hans Bechstein was extremely weird and grotesque, and it would indeed be hard to find a better exponent of the part. Mr. Clarence Whitehill sang the music of Der Wanderer grandly, and the terror of Mime, who sees under the disguise the god Wotan, was cleverly expressed. At the fall of the curtain after the first act Mr. Cornelius had a most hearty reception, and was recalled several times. In the forest scene of the second act Mr. Thomas Meux as Alberich deserved praise for his singing, and the beautiful playing of the orchestra was a delightful feature. Siegfried's fight with the dragon was, as usual, a somewhat tame affair, and one felt quite sorry for the poor dragon, who sang so well, for though he looked fierce and smoked like any motor-'bus, he had not a ghost of a chance against his active opponent, let alone the magic sword, and was completely knocked out in the very first round. It is a pity this fight could not be made more effective, for at Covent Garden under the clever stage-management of Mr. W. Wirk all things are possible. There is a famous dragon in Fleet-street, built on far better fighting lines, who would give Siegfried much more sport. Miss Caroline Hatchard sang the Waldorgel music charmingly; and the sepulchral tones of Mr. Francis Harford as Fafner were very effective. After the second act Mr. Peter Cornelius, with Mr. Bechstein and Mr. Meux, again received warm applause. Mrs. Saltzmann Steven, who was so successful on Monday night in the *Valkyrie*, again appeared as Brünnhilde; and Mme. Edna Thornton was heard to great advantage in the music of Erda. The scenic effects in the last act were most striking, and the orchestra, under Dr. Richter, played superbly.

OWING to the recurrence of the indisposition of Mr. Dan Rolyat, who is playing the Baron in *Cinderella* at the Adelphi Theatre, Mr. Vincent Erne again took his place last Saturday and Monday, the 16th and 18th inst.

"THE BABES IN THE WOOD" pantomime finishes a successful run at the Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham Junction, to-night. Mr. Frank Seabrook, the acting-manager of the pantomime, has during his stay made himself very popular with both artists and staff.

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

THEATRICAL WEDDING.

A wedding of considerable interest to a large number of the inhabitants of Doncaster was solemnised by special licence on Tuesday at the Collegiate Church of the Holy Trinity, Stratford-on-Avon, the contracting parties being Mr. John William Chapman, only son of the late Mr. John Martin Chapman and of Mrs. A. Chapman, of Doncaster; and Miss Ada Florence Faux, only daughter of Mr. Henry Faux, of Sparkbrook, Birmingham. The bride was given away by her father, and was attended by Miss Nellie Ashford, as bridesmaid, Councillor Joseph Grime, J.P., of Manchester, officiating in the capacity of "best man."

The bride was attired in a Directoire costume of rich cream cloth, handsomely trimmed with cream silk braid and hand-embroidered buttons, a pretty silk net embroidered blouse mounted on satin, and a large picture hat of cream moire silk, ostrich feather mount and plumes. She carried a hand some shower bouquet of tuber roses and lilies of the valley, and wore a dainty diamond bracelet, both presented by the bridegroom. The bridesmaid wore a silver-grey costume of Cotele cloth, trimmed with aluminium and silk braid and mauve Parma velvet, with embroidered buttons. Her ornament was a pearl pendant, presented by the bridegroom, and she carried a shower bouquet of Parma violets, also the gift of the bridegroom.

The service was choral, the organist playing selections from "Tannhäuser," and concluding with Mendelssohn's "Wedding March." The officiating clergyman was the Rev. W. Gardner Melville, the Vicar of the Collegiate Church of Stratford-on-Avon.

After the ceremony, a reception and lunch were held at the Swan's Nest Hotel, Stratford-on-Avon. Later in the afternoon the happy couple left amid the cordial good wishes and congratulations of their friends for London, en route for Torquay, where the honeymoon is being spent. The bride was presented with a pearl and diamond necklet and pendant, together with a handsome silver-mounted lady's dressing-case, subscribed for by a number of personal friends. She was also the recipient of numerous other presents, and several substantial cheques from her father and relatives.

The bride's present to the bridegroom was a diamond stud and pearl pin, and amongst the numerous other presents received by the bridegroom was a handsome dressing bag with silver monogram fittings, subscribed for by personal friends. A large number of employees at the Doncaster Grand Theatre and the members of Mr. Chapman's staff took advantage of the occasion to present him with a beautifully illuminated address.

Mr. Chapman has a large number of activities and pursuits, and his interests lie mostly in Doncaster. He is an old boy of the British School,

MRS. CHAPMAN (MISS ADA FLORENCE FUAX MR. J. W. CHAPMAN.

the present headmaster of which points to Mr. Chapman as ranking amongst one of the most successful of present-day business men who have received their early education at the British School. Mr. Chapman has organised local funds for charities, and is taking an active interest in a benefit concert, the proceeds of which are to be devoted to the relief of the sufferers by the earthquake in Italy.

As manager and lessee of the Old Theatre, in Doncaster, and managing-director of the Grand Theatre and Empire, he has been closely identified with the theatrical profession for over twenty-one years, and there is no provincial theatrical manager who commands greater respect. Not the least fervent amongst the numerous good wishes and warm congratulations that were received came from the members of the profession. In addition to managing the theatre, Mr. Chapman controls three other businesses, and is trustee for several estates.

THE second concert of the present season of the Crystal Palace Orchestral Society will be given on Saturday evening, Feb. 13. Mr. Walter W. Hedgcock, the musical director, has arranged an attractive programme. Sir Edward Elgar's cantata *King Olaf* will be given, and will be preceded by the overture to *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Mendelssohn). The principals will be Miss Ethel Wood, Mr. Gwylym Richards, and Mr. Julien Henry. The Crystal Palace orchestra and choir, numbering 300 performers, will take part. Mr. F. W. Holloway will be at the piano, and Mr. Walter W. Hedgcock will conduct.

Two concerts will be given at the Crystal Palace on Good Friday, April 9. At the afternoon concert the artists will be Miss Agnes Nicholls, Miss Gleeson White, Mme. Clara Butt, Mr. Charles Saunders, Mr. Kennerley Rumford, and Sir Charles Santley. Assistance will be given by the London Symphony Orchestra, the Crystal Palace Choir (augmented), and the Crystal Palace Military Band. Mr. Holloway will act as organist and Mr. Walter W. Hedgcock will conduct. At the evening concert Miss Phyllis Lett and Mr. Alfred Heather will be the artists, and the full band of the Coldstream Guards will be conducted by Lieut. J. Mackenzie Rogan. The accompanist will be Mr. Albert Fox.

THE artists engaged up to the present for the Handel-Mendelssohn Festival at the Crystal Palace on June 19, 22, 24, and 26 are Miss Agnes Nicholls, Miss Edith Evans, Mme. Clara Butt, Mr. Ben Davies, Mr. Walter Hyde, Mr. Watkin Mills, Mr. Kennerley Rumford, Mr. Robert Radford, and Sir Charles Santley. Principal violin will be Mr. W. H. Reed, Mr. Walter W. Hedgcock will be the organist, and Dr. Frederick Cowen will conduct. The London Symphony Orchestra will also take part.

To celebrate the Mendelssohn centenary the Dulwich Philharmonic Society will give a performance of *Elijah* in the concert room of the Crystal Palace on the evening of Jan. 30. The artists will include Mme. Conly, Misses Amy Sissons, Fannie Goldsbrough, Dorothy Fagge, and Jessie Smerdon and Messrs. B. Franklin Taylor, Thorpe Bates, S. J. Ladbrook, and Llewellyn Evans. Mr. C. H. Kempling will be the organist and Mr. Arthur Fagge the conductor.

BARRINGTON ON ENCORES.

Mr. Rutland Barrington gave an interesting lecture on "Encores" to the members of the O.P. Club at the Criterion Restaurant on Sunday. Miss Jessie Rose, who presided, in introducing Mr. Barrington, said: Ladies and gentlemen, your very kind reception of me to-night has made me so bold that I can no longer say, as I had meant to do, that I am nervous at finding myself in the place of honour to-night. I think the O.P. Club shows much courage in electing a chairwoman to rule on these occasions instead of a chairman, for you run a great risk every time of finding one who is at heart a Suffragette, and will rule you with a rod of iron. However, like Phœbe Meryll, I love all brave men, so you are safe for to-night. I have been asked to introduce to you that rising young actor, Mr. Rutland Barrington, whose career I have watched with interest almost from the cradle—*my* cradle—and as I am as anxious as you are to hear what he has to say about encores, I will at once give way to him, only thanking you from my heart for the wonderful kindness you have shown to such an obscure artist as myself.

In the course of his address Mr. Barrington said:—I have canvassed opinions in all directions on the subject of encores, and I find the votes I have recorded for and against fair and equal. Very few people are undecided on the matter. I need hardly say I did not consult any of my confrères, all of whom detest encores, and are bitterly disappointed if they do not get them. Of course, we know that the original meaning of encore—viz., sing it again—has undergone a modification, and now appears to mean, as a rule, sing something else—the same tune, if you like, but another verse. This has been greatly brought about by the modern lyric writer, who invariably has more to say than he can put into two, or even three, verses. It is also, I think, an established fact that he leads you to suppose that the verses go on improving in interest with number, and both he and the singer would be intensely disappointed if the audience stopped at the hors d'œuvres, and declined to discuss the fishy verse which he might have on the menu. I have heard managers declare that encores are a great test of an artist's capability, and it is just possible that the fact of this statement having leaked out might account for the bewilderment that all of us must have felt on certain occasions, when the readiness to comply with—one might almost say forestall—the wish for a repetition has been so pronounced as to leave the public no option in the matter.

In one popular London theatre there is a well-defined intention of always insisting on certain encores, which have become in a way traditional, and there is an equally well-defined sensation of annoyance on the part of a certain section of the audience at this insistence, culminating in many cases in a written remonstrance to the management, which is thereby placed in a most invidious position, for it is the easiest possible thing to freeze a friendly audience into an antagonistic one; while if the motive in refusing encores be honestly to save time, it very frequently defeats its object, and causes an awkward hiatus in the dialogue. In the case of some musical comedies that might not perhaps be considered a drawback by anyone except the author, in which case, that drawback becomes an advantage.

Many people say that hearing a pretty melody or clever song attracts them to the extent of wishing to hear it again, with a view, possibly, to memorising it, and from this point of view an encore is an advantage to them; but surely the advantage to the manager would be greater if they paid another visit, so that we may consider that advantage a drawback.

The reply furnished to my question by the first lady to whom it was put opened up a fresh view of the subject, which is not surprising when we consider the feminine capacity for throwing new light on all subjects. It was also indicative of that kindly thought for others which is, as a rule, so inconspicuous in man. She said, "I disapprove of encores because I think it must be such a tax on the artists." Now, while I personally hold the opinion, shared, I honestly believe, by the whole of the theatrical profession, that no artist should ever be called upon, under any pretext whatever, to pay taxes, except of course those spelt with an "I," it is an undoubted fact that if the taking of encores is a tax, it is met with a resignation denoting great nobility of character, and as nothing that conduces to the advantage of such a desirable end can possibly be regarded as a drawback, the womanly argument leaves us, as it so frequently does, vide Virgil, *in statu quo*.

How often one has heard the expression applied to an insistent audience, "They will have their money's worth." But if we come to analyse this, what a misleading statement it is. They have paid to hear the piece once, not twice, and as I am sure that no right-minded person would impute to the public a desire to get more for their money than they have any right to, we must either look elsewhere for the solution of their desire for encores, or discard the expression which has the drawback of being ambiguous combined with the advantage of a notorious means of expressing that drawback, and if you are able to gather clearly from this what I mean, you have the advantage of me.

It is generally admitted that nervousness is a great factor in the success of an artist, and I fancy few people would deny that there is no great future in store for the débutant who plays a part on a first occasion with the aplomb usually acquired by experience. An encore to an artist so constituted may be regarded, I think, as a drawback, the result probably being to still further inflate an already somewhat exalted mental attitude; but to an artist of the true nervous temperament there is no possible doubt whatever that the stimulus of a deserved encore is an advantage almost impossible to overrate.

It is a moot point whether the acceptance of an encore lies in the province of the artist or the musical director, formally called the conductor, and my contention is that, in the case of a solo, the artist could decide, while concerted numbers are left to the discretion of the conductor. I once argued this out with very capable musical director, who insisted that it was his affair to decide all encores, an opinion which he modified to a certain extent on my pointing out that if he took one for me which I did not consider to be one, or which I was possibly anxious to avoid on the ground of overtaxing a strained throat, it was always in my power to walk off the stage and leave it to the band. To be able to do this is undoubtedly an advantage, but it would be at the risk of creating a breach in the perennial *entente cordiale* existing between conductor and artist, which might present itself to the critical mind as a serious drawback. So there again we are balanced.

One advantage of allowing the granting of encores to remain at the discretion of the conductor would be that if he considered the song had not been very well sung he could refuse to take it, and the artist would probably be aware of the reason. But if, in spite of that, the public insisted on it, he could not well advance that reason except to the artist, who would be forgiven for doubting him in view of the applause received, which is another item on the drawback side of the ledger.

The origin of the custom of encoring is, I fear, lost in the mist surrounding the prehistoric age, as is also that one of giving matinées at half salary and doing precisely the same amount of work as at night; and it seems to me that it must have been initiated by an author, for there is no doubt that in these modern days an author reckons upon a certain number of encores, and is thereby enabled to curtail his work by a certain number of minutes, keeping in hand the material which, in the case of many musical comedies, can be put equally well into another work.

My personal feeling on the matter is that an encore is a compliment paid to the artist as well as an expression of the desire to have a repetition of something that has pleased; and I am by no means averse to getting encores myself—so much so that with very slight encouragement I would read the whole of this paper again! I hope this will not have the effect of causing you to receive my peroration, which, believe me, I am about to make, in absolute silence, because that would be a serious drawback to my present intention of taking advantage of all future invitations I may receive at your hands. I am quite in the dark as to whether or no I have thrown any light on the subject, but this may perhaps be demonstrated in the discussion which, I understand, is the next item on the programme. I can only thank you, in conclusion, for the courteous hearing you have extended to my first attempt at a lecture, and, by way of peroration, I will ask you to bear with me while I quote some lines bearing on the subject written by one of our little-known poets:—

To be or not to be—shall we encore
And bear the brunt of further melody,
Or be content with what has gone before?
Nor tempt these artists further flights to try
To die, to sleep! But how, then, shall we sleep
Save by allowing softly-spoken lines
In place of music cadences to creep?
Noise is the drawback that will bid us pause
And writhe uneasy on our padded stall;
And yet it should advantage us because
In noiseless slumber we should lose it all.

Mr. Henry Lytton, Mr. E. F. Spence, Mr. Alfred F. Robbins, Mr. T. McDonald Rendle, and Mr. Carl Hentschel took part in the discussion.

"MOTHER."

Drama, in four acts, by Sheila Walsh, Produced at the Opera House, Coventry, on Friday, Jan. 15.

Duncan Fairweather .....MR. HARRY FOXWELL
Frank Rodney .....MR. JOHN KELLAND
Stephen Carrington ....MR. MARTIN WILLIAMS
Jasper Randon .....MR. EDWARD RAWLINSON
Old Crumpet .....MR. VIVIAN CHARLES
Biggs .....MR. CHARLES GRANT
Rev. John Strong .....MR. HARRISON JAMES
Tommy Noblets .....MR. TOM ARMITAGE
Martha Fairweather .....MISS EMMA RAINBOW
Polly Crumpet .....MISS NANCY MITCHELL
Vesta L'Estrange .....MISS ZARA LEIGH
Hon. Mrs. Billy .....MISS DORA KELLAND
Nancy Bagot .....MISS KATHLEEN HUNT
Little May Rodney ....MISS DAISY ROCHEFORD
Nellie Fairweather .....MISS SHEILA WALSH

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The production of the domestic drama entitled *Mother*, which has been written by Miss Sheila Walsh, the leading lady in *The Broken Heart*, which is being played at the above house, took place on Friday, the 16th, and proved a great success. The drama is full of interest, pretty scenes and good acting are provided, and when on tour the play should prove very popular.

The scene of the first act is laid in an old Cornish village. Mr. and Mrs. Fairweather have set their hearts upon the union of their daughter, Nellie, and their adopted son, Frank Rodney; but a black cloud appears when Stephen Carrington, who vows, despite the opposition of her father, to win Nellie and change her cotton frocks to satin gowns. On Frank's return, after many years abroad, the pair become engaged, but the same evening Nellie agrees to go away with Carrington. The elopement is, however, stopped at the critical moment. The second act finds Nellie and Frank married, but evidently they are not very happy. Stephen again appears, and by a hold he has over Frank, compels Nellie to go away with him, and at the same time betrays the hiding-place of Frank to the naval authorities, by whom he is "wanted," and arrested, though he proves to be innocent of any offence. The third act is a most successful one, and is set in Stephen Carrington's mansion, and here Nellie is secretly visited by her friends while Stephen is engaged with his guests in the card-room, and, as a result, resolves to return to the old home, a resolve she is about to keep when her father returns, and there is an intensely dramatic scene between father and daughter, which is interrupted by the guests. Carrington, in his rage, strikes the girl, and is felled by her father. Rounds of applause greeted the close of the scene, and Mr. Foxwell and Miss Walsh were recalled, the latter being presented with a handsome shower bouquet. The play ends with the return of the daughter, who brings with her the papers showing the innocence of her husband, and everything ends to the satisfaction of the audience.

Miss Walsh played the part of Nellie remarkably well; Mr. Harry Foxwell was very good as Duncan Fairweather, skipper; Mr. John Kelland enacted Frank Rodney cleverly; Mr. Martin Williams ably portrayed the character of Stephen Carrington, and on him depended a great deal of the success; and the other parts are all in capable hands. Mr. Edward Rawlinson enacted Jasper Randon, Mr. Tom Armitage Tommy Noblets, Miss Emma Rainbow Martha (Duncan's wife), Miss Nancy Mitchell Polly Crumpet, and Miss Daisy Rocheford May, Nellie's daughter, and all gave quite capable performances.

A CHAPLET of flowers, bearing the inscription "A last tribute to a dear friend from the Kennington Theatre staff," was among the wreaths sent on the occasion of the funeral of the late Dr. Noble, of Kennington, who was one of the oldest and most respected patrons of the theatre.

AN ATTACK ON THE ORCHESTRA.

Mr. Rutland Barrington in his lecture to the O.P. Club at the Criterion Restaurant on Sunday made the following remarks:—"While on the subject of musical directors, may I be allowed to ventilate a grievance which I believe is shared to a great extent by audience and artist alike? I allude to the strenuousness of the orchestra accompaniments, which not infrequently amount to a a battle in which the overwhelming odds must end in the defeat of the singer. That many composers recognise this danger is certain, and is very strongly indicated by Arthur Sullivan, who took advantage of every opportunity to write unaccompanied quartettes, quintettes, and chorus, all of which are among the most popular numbers in his operas, and which are literally supported by the band with a few occasional chords, these only being inserted to keep the voices in tune. The orchestra has its opportunity in the overture and entrancts, and in my humble opinion should, at all other times, be the lifebuoy of support for the singer, and not the foaming wave of melody beneath whose resistless force he or she will inevitably drown. I do not wish you to imagine for one moment that I am pointing to any one particular musical director; my contention being that, with one notable exception, they are all subject to the praiseworthy desire to make the most of their share of the entertainment, and in extenuation I might suggest that it is unfair to expect them to add to their other accomplishments a knowledge of the Italian language. Why should all our musical terms be expressed in Italian, and how on earth can we all be expected to understand what is meant by piano?"

Mr. François Cellier has replied, in an interview in the *Westminster Gazette*, to these and other observations in Mr. Barrington's address:—

"Whoever Mr. Rutland Barrington was aiming at in his speech, I am quite certain it was not me. Sir Arthur Sullivan was a perfect master of the situation."

"Mr. Barrington suggests that the orchestra should be as a lifeboat to the singer, and not a foaming wave to drown him?"

"I quite appreciate the metaphor," Mr. Cellier replied, with a smile; "and it is scarcely necessary to remind Mr. Barrington that Sir Arthur Sullivan was often a good deal more than a lifeboat to him! Indeed, in one particular phrase in *Patience*, Sir Arthur put in a strenuous note for the sole purpose of saving Mr. Barrington from falling overboard. So far as the 'drowning' of the singer is concerned, that tragedy may come about from three causes, either together or separately—bad scoring, bad orchestra, and bad singing, but as a rule this difficulty is removed during rehearsal."

With respect to Mr. Barrington's remark as to whether the singer or the conductor should determine the question of taking the encores, Mr. Cellier pointed out that, so far as the Savoy was concerned, the matter was settled by the management.

"Mrs. D'Oyly Carte has received many letters complaining of encores, and they have been stopped because it was found that the enthusiasm of the people in the pit and gallery led to the annoyance of the occupants of the stalls. Many things in relation to encores would probably surprise the public if they were generally known. In *The Yeomen of the Guard*, for instance, we always have a passionate demand for a repetition, which I avoid with the utmost care. All lovers of this opera will remember the quartette towards the end, 'When a lover goes a-wooing'—a very sad number for Phœbe and Jack Point. The latter retires in distress at the loss of Elsie, and Phœbe is left on the stage to mourn the loss of Fairfax. Not only have Fairfax and Elsie to change too quickly to allow of the encore being taken, but Sir Arthur Sullivan expressly desired that a repetition should not be given, on the ground that the dramatic effect would be utterly spoilt. And that is why we always turn a deaf ear to the clamour of the audience for a second performance of that quartette."

A stout defence of the orchestra against the charge of over-strenuousness was made by Mr. F. Orcherton, the secretary of the Orchestral Association, who was himself in the Savoy Orchestra for fifteen years.

"You will never in any other orchestral performances get such pianissimos as are to be heard at the Savoy," he said. "The question of encores is entirely a matter for the conductor."

BRIGHTON MUSICAL FESTIVAL.

The Brighton Musical Festival, which closed on Saturday last, when afternoon and evening performances were given, proved highly successful from a musical point of view, and it is anticipated that the financial aspect will be satisfactory. Mr. Joseph Sainton, musical director of the municipal orchestra, and Mr. Robert Taylor, conductor of the Brighton Sacred Harmonic Society had been busily engaged during the past three months with the rehearsals of the principal works submitted at the Festival, and may be warmly and deservedly congratulated upon the results of their efforts. The performance of Sir Edward Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius* on the opening day (Wednesday) attracted an overflowing audience in the Dome, and the rendering of the masterly work (conducted by the composer) was excellent. Sir Edward Elgar, in a letter to Mr. Robert Taylor, congratulated him upon the success of the chorus, who, he said, "sang splendidly." The augmented orchestra did well, and the solos were finely rendered by Mr. John Coates, Mr. William Higley, and Miss Alice Lakin. The programme also included Sir Edward Elgar's symphony, *In the South*. Thursday evening was devoted to Wagner selections and S. Coleridge-Taylor's Bon-Bon Suite—the latter a series of six beautiful and romantically toned numbers. In the latter Mr. Julien Henry gave the baritone solos admirably. In the Wagner selections the soloists were Madame Agnes Nicholls, Miss Gertrude Lonsdale, Mr. John Coates, and Mr. William Higley. The performance of *Elijah* on Friday evening was a veritable triumph for the orchestra, Brighton Sacred Harmonic Society, and the soloists, Madame Agnes Nicholls, Miss Gertrude Lonsdale, Mr. Webster Millar, and Mr. Watkin Mills. Mr. Robert Taylor conducted. On Saturday afternoon the leading feature of the concert was the performance, with Mr. Joseph Sainton as conductor, of Elgar's new symphony, which met with an enthusiastic reception. Liapounow's pianoforte concerto, performed for the first time in England, was rendered very artistically by a gifted pianist, Mr. Arthur Newstead, who was splendidly supported by the orchestra. Sir Charles Villiers Stanford conducted his Irish Rhapsody in D minor and his "Attila" suite; and Sir Alexander C. Mackenzie conducted his own "Britannia" overture. Songs were rendered by Miss Alys Bateman and Mr. W. A. Peterkin. The principal feature of the final concert on Saturday evening was the impressive rendering of Tschaikowsky's "Pathetique" Symphony, No. 6, by the orchestra, conducted by Mr. Joseph Sainton. Mr. Edward German conducted his own highly descriptive "Welsh Rhapsody"; Mr. Percy Frostick played Paganini's violin concerto in D; Madame Ella Russell and Mr. Watkin Mills contributed songs; and the orchestra closed the Festival with Tschaikowsky's Solennelle Overture, "1812." Mr. Joseph Sainton, the conductor, was recalled again and again with intense enthusiasm.

MR. HENRY DOUGHTY will go on tour this spring with a new version of the drama *Godfrey Stirling*, produced by him at Fulham in 1905.

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

"RED RIDING HOOD" AT THE LYCEUM.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

Queues outside the Lyceum entrances are attaining remarkable proportions, and both at matinée and evening performances the ranks of waiting patrons have extended to record lengths. The popularity of Messrs. Smith and Carpenter's second pantomime at the Lyceum promises to exceed that of their first, and, from all appearances, the run might well extend beyond all customary limits. The story of *Little Red Riding Hood*, as dealt with by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Carpenter, is designed to engage the attention chiefly of the youngsters, and in inventing and producing the pantomime Mr. Carpenter has exerted his ingenuity to excellent purpose. The laughter of the little ones is agreeably evident; but there is no lack of hilarity on the part of their elders, who find in the comedians a constant source of mirth.

The prize principal boy of last year, Miss Dorothy Craske, is retained for the part of the Prince, and adds to the number of her admirers. She wears many striking costumes, looking especially smart in the scarlet uniform of the first part. Later, she wears a pretty satin suit of mauve, which is ultimately changed to a still more handsome one of violet hue. Miss Craske gains the plaudits of all with her singing and dancing, her rendering of "Tom, the Bombadier" and of "Sue," to which she adds a cleverly-executed dance, characterised by some novel steps, being particularly favoured.

A comedienne youthful in years but mature in ability, is found in Miss Marjory Carpenter, daughter of the popular managing-director, who enchants all by her dainty rendering of the title-rôle, her ingenuous manner giving added prettiness to the part. Miss Carpenter wins all hearts by her charming little scenas with her Teddy Bear, and pleases the eye with her light and graceful dancing, which is executed with wonderful finish. Miss Alice Russon is a winsome Margery Daw, carrying through her love scenes with agreeable archness. Her acting and singing is distinguished by much girlish grace, and she shares equally in the success of the "kissing" duet with the Prince, which is loudly encored; while her "Rainbow" song and dance, embellished by special effects, is accorded a similar distinction.

Our Good Fairy has a fascinating exponent in Miss Eva Kelland, whose appearance is enhanced by glittering robes, in which precious stones sparkle lustrously. Her songs well suit her cultivated voice, "Shadowland" being so effectively sung that a repetition has to be given.

In comedians the pantomime is rich. An overwhelming reception awaits Mr. Julian Rose, whose sagaciously witty Hebrew Baron is the cause of laughter loud and long. The fun of "Levinsky's Wedding" is uproarious, and Mr. Rose's dry drollery exercises an influence that is irresistible. Constant diversion is also created by Messrs. Forman and Fannan, who share the comic responsibilities of Jimmy Green and Johnny Stout. They are the cause of incessant laughter with their "cross-talk" and their numerous oddities, of which there is no stint. Mr. J. D. Hunter purveys much quiet humour as Dame Trot. He is the buxom old woman to the life, and his efforts at mirth-making are always welcome. Mr. Charles Penrose and Mr. Charles Ludlow are diverting representatives of Simple Simon and Silly Sammy, Mr. Jack Roker and Mr. Harry Gardner have small but useful rôles in those of Gaffer Giles and the frisky donkey; the robust voice of Mr. S. Major Jones declaims the lines of the Spirit of Evil with power and effect; and his subordinates, the Wicked Witches, have consistent representatives in Misses Avice Scholtz, Mollie O'Mara, Lina Imperiali, Marcelle Hudson, and Adie Webb.

The name of Espinosa looms prominently in the bill, and the production owes much of its effect to the clever dancer and comedian bearing that name. In addition to arranging the ballets, processions, and evolutions, four characters fall to his share, and each is marked by quaintness and skill. Realistic in every detail are his impersonations of the Wehr Wolf, the Scarecrow, the Snake, and Mr. Punch. His marvellous agility is shown in a variety of movements, which are at once novel and striking. The *première danseuse* is again Mlle. Ray Espinosa, whose pirouettes are executed with such grace and finish that the house applauds with enthusiasm. Her *pas de deux* with Mr. Espinosa are admirable examples of the art of terpsichore. Familiar figures of nursery lore have comely representatives in Miss Kitty Upton as Jack Horner, Miss Marie Clements as Miss Muffit, Miss Alys Hardy as Tommy Tucker, Miss Naomi Barton as Mary Contrary, Miss Juliette Susini as Peter Piper, and Miss Rita Pereira as Georgie Porgie.

The twelve scenes unfolded in the pantomime include many sets of remarkable beauty, which do infinite credit to Mr. E. C. Nicholls and assistants. Buttercup Dell is a charming realisation of a sylvan retreat, while in a woodland glade water lilies are seen peeping out of a pool, with cornfields glistening in the sun beyond. There is an instantaneous change to winter, and, after a momentary pause the wood, hitherto clothed in summer verdure, is shown with frosted trees and snow-clad hills, which sparkle in a myriad of electric lights. The final scene is one of remarkable grandeur, worthily representing the Palace in the Happy Isles. It is a vast combination of exquisite designs, in which gorgeous hues are combined with artistic effect. The crowning glory is obtained in the playing fountains, invented and arranged by M. Maurin, the exquisite designs portrayed under ever-changing lights sending thrills of admiration round the house. The mechanical effects are by A. R. George and assistants, and every opportunity for their ingenuity is afforded in the scene of the Animated Alphabet, and in Toyland, where all sorts and conditions of toys move about in fashion most grotesque. The properties are by W. Mountain and assistants; Mr. F. B. Fidge is responsible for the electrical effects, of which so much use is made throughout the production; and the floral decorations, which prove of such value to the mounting, are by J. Baumler and Co.

The variety and number of the costumes are quite bewildering, and Mme. Stafford and Morris Angel and Sons are to be complimented on the effect gained. The simple colours of the rustic dresses are in effective contrast with the military uniforms and elegant suits of the other members of the company, and the eye is constantly delighted with the picturesque raiment worn in every scene. The wigs are by Mr. C. H. Fox. Mr. S. Major Jones, who has an expert assistant in Mr. Henry Armstrong, is again to be felicitated on the smartness with which the production goes under his stage-management. A word should be devoted to the work of the augmented orchestra, which, under the direction of Mr. H. Sullivan Brooke, acquits itself irreproachably in the rendering of the music, which forms a melodious accompaniment, and contains many airs of a fascinating character.

The harlequinade finds a place in the programme at matinées, when numberless children are diverted by the drollery of Mr. Harry Gardner as clown, Mr. Charles L. Ludlow as pantaloon, and Mr. Arthur Medwin as policeman; and the duties of harlequin and columbine are discharged by Mr. Jack Roker and Miss Eunice Broadwood.

"HUMPTY DUMPTY" AT THE BROADWAY.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

This successful pantomime is running its course merrily. There are some changes and many additions to the already smart dialogue, and clever topical hits are included. Clever Miss Harold Alexander, whose songs at the piano have been such an attractive item, now introduces a Violet Charlesworth lyric entitled "Good-bye, girlie, I must go" with great success. There are many other improvements and innovations since the opening performance, all advantageous to the production. Miss Edna Morgan continues her delightful impersonation of Rudolph, and has made herself a great favourite; Miss Cecilia Maude's fine voice is heard to advantage in her rôle of Fairy Queen; Mr. Charles Goff has made a great success as Humpty Dumpty, of whom he gives a clever portrayal; Miss Cissie Cecilia is a bright and clever Prince Spritely, and Miss Violet Cecilia is a dainty and pleasing Cherry, their cultivated instrumental turn being warmly applauded; Mr. Roland Chester sings artistically as the Demon, and acts well; Mr. Fred Eastman continues his clever performance of King Solumm, and is a huge favourite; while Mr. Stratton Mills as Martha is quaintly humorous. Mr. Carl Howard is excellent as Bison Bob; Messrs. Fremel and Fremel are most amusing as Brick and Brack; and the remaining parts are well acted. Teller's Superba Quartet are a decided attraction. Mr. Bertram Iles, the popular and courteous resident-manager, is indefatigable in his efforts to secure the comfort of patrons.

"WHITTINGTON" AT THE CORONET.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

Mr. Robert Arthur's Coronet pantomime of *Dick Whittington* continues to run smoothly on the road to success. Since the first night its pace has naturally quickened, especially in the kitchen scene, which rather dragged on the first night. Considering that the pantomime has been running since Dec. 21, 1908, there are remarkably few changes. Miss Constance Hyem, the blithe, bonny, and vivacious hero of the story, had to give up owing to indisposition recently, and her part was filled at a moment's notice in most creditable fashion by Miss Constance Fox, who is to be warmly congratulated on her capable fashion of getting the management out of an awkward dilemma. Miss Constance Hyem came back to the cast last Saturday, and sings and acts in most charming and commendable style as the dashing Dick Whittington. Miss Anita Edis also had to give up the part of the Princess of Morocco, and Miss Brook undertook the part. A permanent change in the cast is that of Mr. Bertram Noel as Alderman Fitzwarren vice Mr. Alec Kendal, and to Mr. Noel is entrusted the celebrated ditty composed by Miss Violet Charlesworth, entitled "Good-bye, Girlie," which appeared in this week's *Dispatch*, and he comes on as a sandwichman and sings it to great applause. Especially noticeable, in addition to Miss Hyem's charming rendition of "A tiny seed of love," are the droll duet between Harry Randall as Mrs. Desiccated Edwardes and Mr. Edward Lewis as Idle Jack, "Do you remember," and the pretty song "Some day," daintily rendered by Miss Dorothy Firmin as Alice Fitzwarren. The duet between Alice and Idle Jack, "I want you," also possesses much merit in its pretty refrain. Miss Jean Gordon still dances delightfully, and Miss Gwen Thomson's Salome dance is also meritorious, while the tiny Sisters Herbert gain great applause. Needless to say, the part of Mrs. Desiccated Edwardes now fits Harry Randall like a glove, and he misses no chance of a bit of fun or harmless raillery against the idiosyncrasies of the moment, especially good being his suffragette outburst in Act II. The faithful feline of Mr. Johnny Fuller and the Demon Rat of Mr. Ernest Laws would be difficult to improve upon, and one and all work with a will to keep the production up to concert pitch throughout.

"ROBINSON CRUSOE" AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

[SECOND NOTICE.]

Nothing but congratulation is due to Mr. J. Bannister Howard on his pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*, now in the full tide of success in the Crystal Palace Theatre. Little alteration or cutting has been found necessary, the only difference being that the piece plays about a quarter of an hour less than on the first night. As is usual with Crystal Palace audiences, a feeling akin to friendship exists between the artists and their patrons, and the number of floral tributes of admiration which are nightly handed across the footlights is remarkable.

Miss Lillie Lassah, in the title-rôle, is as bright and dashing as ever, and scores heavily with her new song, "Mary," which she now sings in the second part, in place of "Boys," and for which she obtains many encores, similar distinction being won by her "Postman" song in the second scene. Miss Venie Clements is a tower of strength to the production, her natural cleverness and versatility giving great point to her many songs. Her "Teddy Bear" effusion, with "babby" imitations, and "Oh, sir, go hon!" sung with Mr. Bert Edwards, would have been encored until further notice had time permitted; but it was with "Oh! Oh! Antonio" that she made her greatest success, the Apache dance with which this number finishes being accorded an ovation. Mr. Harry Zietz has made his part of Friday a real joy to the youngsters, who must all recognise in his every gesture the close reproduction of Defoe's untutored savage. Another carefully-studied impersonation is the Monkey of Mr. Leon Dubois, every simian trait and movement being faithfully portrayed. A clever and agile rope act must also be set down to his credit. Mr. Bert Edwards has plenty to do as Will Atkins, and gives full rein to his funniosities, being seen at his best in his songs and scenes with Miss Clements.

The Mrs. Crusoe of Mr. E. Harvey White is one of the best dames we have seen, his get-up in fashionable evening dress in the last act being most grotesque. Miss Lallie Campbell is Aphrodite, the fairy queen, and her song, "I'd do anything in the world for you," goes very well. Her adversary, Davy Jones, is as weirdly dramatic as ever in the hands of Mr. C. Gifford.

The Melody Four, with their very varied accomplishments, make a welcome change to the ordinary business of the pantomime. Mr. Scott Russell's fine voice and presence render the Cannibal Sultan a noticeable figure.

The Passmore Brothers' exertions, in their respective rôles of Captain and Mate, result in continuous merriment; and Miss Cissie Murphy's "Rainbow" song, with its pretty colour effects, goes excellently. Mr. Leonard Gautier's incidental music is of a high order. A successful photograph of the entire company in the Palace scene was taken the other night, and should prove a pleasant souvenir of one of the best of Mr. J. Bannister Howard's productions

"BLUEBEARD" AT THE CAMDEN.

Besides being the hero of innumerable musical pieces, including Offenbach's celebrated opéra-bouffe *Barbe-Blue*, Bluebeard was the subject of a two-act tragedy by no less a personage than the Earl of Ellesmere, and of a serio-comic Oriental romance in one act by the celebrated Bishop Heber, author of the hymn "From Greenland's icy mountains." Neither of these authors has been drawn upon for the libretto or the lyrics of the pantomime *Bluebeard*, presented at the Camden by Messrs. C. St. John Denton and Peter Davey, the entire production being devised and arranged by the latter gentleman. Mr. Hugh Mytton, the author, as far as one can judge by the representation, has exorcised the spirit of dramatic seriousness, and has given to the Camden townfolk a version of the story that never causes one the slightest tremor as to the fate of Fatima, or the triumph of Selim. Mr. Ben Albert as representing the blue-bearded one is not particularly concerned with imparting to that tyrant an Oriental colouring. He takes all sorts of liberties, and in his rendering never gets away from the humour of Cockaigne. His justification is to be found in the peals of merry laughter that punctuate his funny business, his songs, his patter, and what may be termed his "spoof." His lecture on work and his terse description of "capital" are among the best things to be heard during the three hours' pantomime frolic. An excellent comedian, too, is Mr. Ernest Rees, the Sister Ann of the cast, who has a series of lectures, everyone of which is distinctly precious. Mr. Rees is arrayed in a series of wonderful garments, and his burlesque of the ancient ballerina is quite as droll as his appearance in Sister Ann's walking costume, in which her dameship's digits are protected from the frost by a diminutive muff ornamented with violets. His grotesquerie appeals especially to the spindle side of the audience, and it is without an atom of vulgarity. He shares with Mr. Ben Albert the triumph of a really funny burlesque love scene. Miss Addie Lennard is both a picturesque and a romantic goatherd, and so well graced and well equipped an actress is rarely seen in the part of principal boy. She gives a touch of pretty sentiment to her part, which, by her graciousness and charm, is lifted into interesting prominence. Unfortunately on the night of our visit Miss Lennard was handicapped by a severe cold and attendant hoarseness, and in consequence she had to cut her songs in order to get through, but one could always recognise in her impersonation of the rescuer of Fatima the work of an actress of real ability and undeniable charm. Miss Lydia Flopp's personal beauty gives all the necessary realism to the rôle of Fatima, and her song given while seated on the arc of a crescent moon is an attractive number. Miss Lottie Sargent as Wilhelmina, the Dutch girl, has a popular number in "I don't want to go home in the dark," and with her troupe of boys and girls in the costumes worn by the side of the Zuyder Zee she makes a very successful appeal to the suffrages of her audience in a catchy and tuneful number. Ferguson and Mack, who some years since used to amuse us with *McCarthy's Mishaps*, are concerned in furthering the cause of laughter, and they score in a special bit of sporting spoof with Mr. Ben Albert as a bookmaker. Miss Violet Vaughan, a smart and dapper naval lieutenant is heartily applauded and recalled for her singing of the popular ditty "The white man"; Mr. Harold Carson is responsible for the part of Mustapha; Mr. Harold Clemence is effective in the rôle of the baboon; and Miss Helen Cunningham plays Shacabac neatly. Mr. Leslie Hughes, who did so much for the popularity of this house a few years since, has resumed the position of manager, much to the delight of his many friends.

"CINDERELLA" AT THE WEST LONDON.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

It was pleasing to find a crowded and good-humoured audience assembled on a recent visit within the walls of this old Marylebone playhouse, and the enthusiastic reception given to the hard-working artists engaged must have been very gratifying to Mr. William Bailey, jun., the author, and to Mr. Samuel James, the producer, of the pantomime. A prominent feature is the bright and tuneful music, so ably interpreted by the band. As Prince Rupert Miss Kitty Tims wins rounds of applause, and her bold and dashing methods, coupled with her excellent voice, make her a warm favourite. "Oh, oh, Antonio!" "A song about the boys," and "Hats off to the King" are her most successful numbers. Mr. Will Skelton is drolly amusing as Baron Boldheart; and Mr. Will May is a decidedly quaint Billy Buttons, full of eccentric quips and cranks. Miss Victoria Rochester, as the Fairy Godmother, sings with tasteful effect. "All the world loves a lover" is her most catchy item; whilst the duet "Shadowland," with Mr. Frank Viner, the Demon Discontent, is another melodious effort, well applauded. Mr. George Cave as Arabella Jane and Mr. Arthur Stevens as Lucretia Maud, the inevitable Ugly Sisters, add much to the gaiety of the pantomime. Both these comedians labour unceasingly and play into one another's hands admirably. Some of the situations, with Billy Buttons and the Baron, are full of genuine humour and cleanly fun and at times the house rocks with laughter. Miss Alice Wade is vivacious and sprightly as Dandini; Miss Louie Belrose as Rosalind dances nimbly and sings well many popular ditties, including "Anywhere will do," "My pretty piece of Dresden china," "I don't care if there's a girl there," and "Won't you waltz the Merry Widow waltz?" Miss Phyllis Yorke is a dainty and refined Cinderella, and her winsome ways and pleasing smile gain the hearts of all; whilst her rendering of "I want somebody to love me" and "Sweep" is tastefully effective. The rest of the company work hard, and the chorus could hardly be improved upon. The dresses are bright and clean and the stage effects beyond reproach, the Transformation scene being a series of harmoniously-coloured pictures worth going a long way to see. With the "house full" boards out nightly Mr. Bailey may with every confidence look forward to a lengthy run, even for this old record-breaking pantomime house. Mr. James Sinclair, as usual, looks after the comfort of visitors in his accustomed genial way.

"RED RIDING HOOD" AT KENNINGTON.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

The career of the Kennington pantomime is being continued with unabated success, huge crowds patronising Mr. Robert Arthur's well-appointed theatre at both matinée and evening performances. Sparkling music and charming pictures combine with first-class fun to secure the success obtained by *Red Riding Hood*, for which Mr. Frank Dix has written an effective "book." Local interest is secured by the depiction of historic places in the neighbourhood. The Village of Kennington Cross, where the earlier events of the pantomime are enacted, is a very charming set, glowing with delicate hues. Admiration is commanded, too, by the scene of The Glade, an exquisite piece of sylvan setting, with a waterfall dripping picturesquely at the back. A Butterfly ballet is introduced, every species of the insect being displayed in glorious profusion, out of which the *première danseuse*, clad in golden raiment, emerges and performs a clever *pas seul*. A veritable transformation is then effected, the scene being obscured by a mass of descending foliage, while golden rain completes a picture of exceeding loveliness. The culminating triumph is the Conservatory of Vauxhall, where the pantomime ends in a blaze of splendour.

Favour has been found by all the chief artists. The brightness and buoyancy of Miss Lulu Valli are invaluable in the principal part, and Boy Blue has won the greatest admiration. Miss Valli has a fresh and tuneful voice, which finds appreciable use in her songs, those of "A White Man" and "Are there any more at home like Mary?" being especially favoured. Miss Queenie Essex as Miss Muffett is the personification of daintiness and charm. She dresses with much taste, and her pretty ringlets effectively crown her charming costumes. In singing and dancing Miss Essex is particularly good. "It's a handy little thing to have about you" being rendered with much humour; while "Sue," sung as a duet with Miss Valli, and supplemented by a clever dance, exerts a fascinating influence. The Poluski Brothers share equally the responsibilities of a large part of the fun in the rôles of Johnny Stout and Willie Green. They are indefatigable humorists, and their numberless diversions are rewarded by incessant laughter, for which their comic duel and popular "Didn't we? Yes, we did!" are largely responsible. A dame of much originality is presented by Mr. Leonard Teel, who lends masculine quaintness to Mother Hubbard. His immobility of feature enhances the effect of many witticisms, and his agility, which enables him to cross the stage in a series of kangaroo-like jumps, appeals powerfully to the sense of humour. Mr. Rob H. Howard has taken the place of Mr. Ernest Thiel as the villainous Squire Vaux, of whom he gives a melodramatic rendering in keeping with the part, his vocal abilities being also prominent. The Wolf is represented by Mr. Harry Benson, who makes of him a most ferocious animal, and the dog Snatcher has an alert and realistic exponent in Mr. Fred Zietz, whose canine proclivities are very pronounced. Miss Winifred Delevanti invests the title-rôle with much freshness and delicacy, and her youthful voice gives agreeable expression to the pleasing lines of the part. Miss Violet Edge, who appears in the interpolated rôle of a ragged orphan, sings "Daddy" in a cultivated voice. Miss Florence Ray makes a comely Fairy Queen, and exercises her benign sway with every effect. Jack and Jill have prepossessing exponents in Miss Angela Ward and Miss Marjorie Moore, who carry out their duties of second boy and girl with constant gaiety and good spirits. Tiny Tim is a smart Tiger; and Miss Rosa Costa completes the cast as Bertie.

The fun of the Schoolroom scene is furthered by Mrs. Victor's Folliettes, the "Teddy Bear" song and dance of Miss Lily Lang being well done. Miss Monica Bevan, the *première danseuse*, executes her *pas seul* in finished style, and the terpsichorean evolutions of Sinclair's Eight Radium Girls are remarkable for prettiness and skill. Unlimited credit is due to Miss Madge Martin, who produced the ballets, and everything proceeds with the utmost smoothness under the stage-management of Mr. Alec Flood and Mr. Philip F. Howley. The reputation for musical excellence which the Kennington Theatre has won is enhanced by the music by Jullien H. Wilson, some of which is of quite an operatic character, and the chorus do admirable service in its rendering.

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE THEATRE.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

Mr. Charles Barnard is doing enormous business here with his excellent pantomime *The Babes in the Wood*, which has wonderfully improved since our last visit. Miss Kitty Clinton's impersonation of Robin Hood is a distinguished performance. Her two principal songs, "A White Man" and "A tiny seed of love," are very successful, many-toned bells placed in various parts of the theatre supplying a remarkably pretty effect to the latter. Miss Alice Maple is a dainty Maid Marian, and continues to sing with much success "I couldn't come home in the dark." Her song, "My sweet little violet," followed by a clever dance, is also a popular number. The bewitching Babes, Miss Gracie Mortimer and Miss Hester Reeve, still delight both young and old with their excellent dancing and pretty songs. Miss Gracie Mortimer sings a song on "Home," into which she introduces a capital dance; and Miss Hester Reeves's introduction of "I know a lovely garden" provides her with ample opportunity for displaying her sweet voice. Their duet, "A pretty piece of Dresden china," is a delightfully pleasing number. The clever Sisters Morgan are quite established favourites, singing "Sue, Sue, Sue" as a duet in a most pleasing manner. Their other two duets, "Antonio" and "I want you to see my girl," are also popular. In the latter number they are assisted by a very youthful artist, who completes an admirable trio. These two vivacious artists are to be commended upon a fine and energetic performance throughout. A clever couple also are Rita and Roma, whose speciality dancing act and the accompanying song "Oh, Mr. Montagu" is greatly appreciated. Mlle. Rita is also seen in a clever grotesque dance, and Mr. F. C. Roma sings a very humorous number, "Is everybody happy here?" Messrs. Barrett and Knowles as the Wicked Robbers are irresistibly droll, their song, "What, what, what," with a screamingly ridiculous waltz gag attached, being quite the funniest thing in the show. Their "terrible" fight in the wood is also something that would send the most sober-minded individual into fits of laughter. Mr. Will Lorenzi continues to cause much merriment by his droll impersonation of the Nurse Wilhemena Wilkins, who dances the "Merry Widow Waltz"; and Mr. Edward de Vere infuses a good deal of comedy into the character of Friar Tuck; he is also responsible for the stage-management of the production, and is to be congratulated upon the smooth running thereof. Mr. Charles Clarke makes quite a terribly wicked uncle of Sir Rupert de Guille. In his duet, "What a terrible thing that would be," sung with Mr. Will Lorenzi, he has introduced a topical pantomime verse which is much to the liking of his audiences. Another excellent piece of foolery is the introduction of a burlesque quartette upon "The baby on the shore." Miss May Cartwright as Content, the good fairy, is a very graceful artist, and is extremely successful in her song "Seaside."

Mention must again be made of the last scene depicting the Earl of Huntingdon's Palace, a most elaborate setting, the dresses also being very fine indeed. The choruses are catchy and tuneful, and some well-arranged dances are executed by the Castle Girls and the Sisters Harcourt. Mr. Fred Bernado (late of the Alexandria, Birmingham) is now in charge of the front of the house, and during the short time he has been here, by his kind consideration for the comfort of his numerous patrons, he has made many friends. Mr. J. Truswell Holt is an energetic and courteous Press manager. The orchestra, under the direction of Mr. W. Stephenson, contributes in no small measure to the success of the pantomime, which will continue for four weeks longer, making a run of eight weeks.

"BABES IN THE WOOD" AT THE SHAKESPEARE.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

A rush is being made to Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett's pretty theatre at Clapham Junction to see the pantomime, which comes to a close this evening owing to the bookings previously made. *The Babes in the Wood* has proved an especial delight to children, and on Saturday afternoon last the theatre was occupied by a crowd of youngsters, most of whom were present at the invitation of the Mayor of Wandsworth. His Worship occupied a private box, and three ringing cheers were given for him in the interval. The Shakespeare is renowned for the effectiveness of its scenic display, and some handsome sets are provided. An effective sunrise is secured in the Bower of Roses, and the Land of Flowers, which ends the first part, is a magnificent display, in which a veritable living garden is presented, a bevy of ladies bearing in procession a specimen of almost every variety of bloom. The Hall at Huntingdon Castle is an imposing finale, the palatial interior being peopled by a vast crowd picturesquely arrayed, the handsome costumes showing up admirably under the rays of light which illuminate the scene.

High places in popularity have been obtained by all the leading artists. Miss Nancy Hearne continues to win golden opinions for her vivacious presentation of Robin Hood. Her songs have become the rage, and "I want you to see my girl," "Have you got another girl at home like Mary?" and "A White Man" never fail to receive encores, the audience joining lustily in the choruses. A dainty Marian is found in Miss Lena Brickwell, who wins scores of admirers by her pretty face and her bright and pleasing acting. Her songs, amongst which may be specially mentioned "Come round on Sunday," are sung with charming effect. The Babes, Miss Dorothy Miller and Baby Hutt, must be warmly commended upon the capable manner in which they sustain their respective parts. Both are gifted with vocal ability, and their duet, "Run away from old man Goblin," is smartly executed. "In Idaho" is cleverly rendered by Miss Miller, and "Good-bye, Teddy Bear," in the case of Baby Hutt, wins hearty recognition.

Mr. Nat Clifford as the Baron has established himself a warm favourite with Clapham playgoers, and to his untiring efforts much of the success of the pantomime is due. He is a comedian of ready resource, and extracts the utmost humour from the part. His rendering of the tongue twister song "Sea Shells" is one of the hits of the piece, and caused roars of laughter. Mr. Harry Phydora makes a diverting Dame, and is responsible for a good deal of the fun. His songs include "When I was in the chorus of the Gaiety" and "There's a girl inside," both of which are sung with good effect. Mr. Will Harris makes the most of the part of Georgie, and gains an encore for his lyric, "I planted it in the garden." Mr. Jack Denton is a jovial Friar Tuck, and acquits himself with credit; and Messrs. Fyne and Hurley are as droll a pair of robbers as could be imagined, their humorous antics and clever buffoonery being highly relished. The Two Missouris as Snatcher and Catcher have an opportunity of introducing their trampoline act, and their clever acrobatic and springing feats are watched with admiration. The Miltons as Louisa and Jack Slim also render valuable assistance. The fine voice of Mr. Glanmore Jones as the Demon is heard to excellent advantage in several songs.

The Fairy Moonbeam has a talented exponent in Miss Eva Colton. She has an excellent voice, which is heard to particular advantage in "The beautiful land of Nod," and there is quite an operatic flavour about her duet with the Demon. Miss Florence May as Dolly, Miss Winifrid Howard as Will Scarlett, and Miss Vera George as King Richard also contribute valuable assistance. Miss Beatrice Harold's Twelve Gipsy Girls appear in several charming costumes. Despite their Romany title they prove to be a troupe of comely English girls, who execute a number of novel and daring dances with much energy, springing on to one another's shoulders and posturing gracefully in equally precarious positions. Their tambourine dance, too, is a very pretty display. Another speciality from whom much enjoyment is derived is that of the Shakespeare Glee Singers, who render some well-chosen selections in harmonious fashion without allowing the humorous element unduly to obtrude. The chorus work very hard throughout, under the bâton of Mr. Alf. J. Lawrance, who himself displays the possession of a baritone of no mean excellence by rendering solo the chorus of one of the songs.

"BABES IN THE WOOD" AT KING'S, HAMMERSMITH.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

The success of the pantomime has exceeded all expectations, and has established the record for Mr. Mulholland's annuals. The "house full" boards appear at every performance, and one hears of delighted visitors from all parts of the metropolis and beyond. It is not to be wondered at that the pantomime has been stamped a huge success, as the production is very refined, and at the same time intensely funny, and appeals quite as much to the old as the young. A second visit shows that the rough edges have been smoothed down, and the result is vast improvements all round. For this a deal of praise must be bestowed upon Mr. Joseph R. Tate, the producer and stage-manager. The principal fun-maker is Mr. George Mozart, really a host in himself. While he is on the stage the audience is rocking with laughter, and his gags and comical acting are always keenly appreciated. If it were possible for Mr. Mozart to have achieved additional distinction as a comedian, his appearance at the King's as the Baron Swanker has done it. Another success has been made by Mr. James A. Watts as Phyllis Macwhackington. He works indefatigably, and causes uproarious mirth by his quaint make-up and singing, and quite a furore is caused by his splendid burlesque of Miss Maud Allan in the "Spring Song" dance of Mendelssohn. Immensely popular in Hammersmith is Miss Marie Dainton for her charming rendering of Maid Marian. Her songs are pleasantly sung, and her mimicry is an entertainment in itself. Equally popular is Miss Winnie Browne, who, as Robin Hood, has become a favourite here. Exceptionally good-looking, and with a handsome figure and nice style, she gains many friends at each performance. Miss Browne receives many encores for her song "I should like to have a shot at that," which has been specially written by Charles Willmot and H. E. Darewski. Miss Gwennie Harcourt as Tilly, the maid-of-all-work, is funny, and acts well with Perks, the page, quaintly played by Mr. Alec Godfrey. The two myrmidons, Percy and Cecil, are portrayed by Messrs. Hall and Earle, two dry humorists and exceedingly clever acrobats. The babes, Dorothy and Norman, undertaken by Miss Vera Sanders and Miss Elsie Forster, have little to do, but do it very well. Miss Madge Bell as Lovelight is pleasing, and Mr. John Sandbrook's fine voice is heard to much advantage in the song "Revenge." The Asturias, dancers, are composed of a clever set of young ladies, who gain much well-deserved applause. The chorus is a decidedly attractive one, and sing and act with animation. Mr. F. J. Dowling's scenery is the subject of much admiration, and the orchestra, ably directed by Mr. B. J. Paterson, leave nothing to be desired. With ten performances weekly to control, no little responsibility is cast upon Mr. Norman Walters, the very capable acting-manager, but he overcomes all difficulties and troubles with judicious suavity.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Jan. 18, the Musical Play, entitled "HAVANA."

Dalstonians are experiencing a treat this week, for the stage is occupied by Mr. George Dance's company in the musical play *Havana*, which thus starts its first tour in suburban London. The incidents of the "book" as arranged by Mr. George Grossmith, jun., and Mr. Graham Hill, the lyrics by Adrian Ross and George Arthurs, and the music by Leslie Stuart, are thoroughly to the taste of the audience, judging by the applause which is continuously maintained. Mr. Cecil W. Parke gives a manly rendering of the character of Jackson Villiers, of the steam yacht Wasp, and he sings and dances admirably; Mr. Bay Russell is equally happy in his rendering of the Hon. Frank Charteris; he is an alert dancer, and "The little supper party laid for two" goes remarkably well. Mr. A. Gordon Begg is Bombito del Campo; and his son, Thedon Adolfo, efficiently represented by Mr. George Story, is quite an interesting character, the leading part he takes in the pretty songs "The telephone" and "Hullo! people!" constituting him quite a favourite. Two of the funniest characters in the piece are Reginald Brown, the yacht's boy, represented by Mr. Tom Seymour, and Nix, bo'sun of the Wasp, played by Mr. H. C. Barry. The way in which Mr. Seymour sings "Filibuster Brown" and "How did the bird know that?" brings down the house. Miss Hebe Bliss scores effectively as Consuelo, Bombito's niece. Her song "I'm a Cuba girl" is nicely rendered, and her general style is pleasing. Miss Helen Langton acts with admirable effect as Isabelita, Bombito's sister; Miss Maud Lennard is a pleasing Teresa; Miss Gladys Guy is a charming Anita; and others in the cast are Miss Maud Seymour (a fortune-teller), Miss Elsie Deighton, Miss Jose Sullivan, Miss Kathleen Haddon, Miss Beryl Gordon, Miss Rosa Sullivan, Mr. Frank Scaley, Mr. Harry Campbell, Mr. Henry Holland, and Mr. James Davis.

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

Minutes of the council meeting, held at 353, Strand, on Tuesday, Jan. 19. Present:—Mr. Clarence Derwent (in the chair), Mr. H. W. Mote (hon. solicitor), Messrs. F. Morland, Clive Currie, Chris Walker, Robson Paige, J. Poole Kirkwood, Cecil Brooking, C. F. Collings, Cecil Raleigh, Misses Rose Mathews and Marion Lind, and Mr. Hubert Blount (secretary).

The secretary received instructions to write to a member, drawing his attention to the bye-law providing that a member cannot introduce the same friend more than twelve times in the year.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. It was decided to put up in the room a list of members who have paid their subscriptions up to date.

A letter was read from Mr. Herbert Dansey with reference to starting a play-reading committee, and the secretary received instructions to write and thank Mr. Dansey for his interesting letter, but regretting that the council considered the matter impracticable.

The hon. solicitors reported that they had advised a member, and had received a letter from a member, on whose behalf they would like to take counsel's instructions. Mr. Mote informed the council that he had written to the Income Tax Commissioners with reference to the demand note for £1 3s. 6d., payable on the debenture interest, and it was decided in future to deduct from the debenture interest the tax, and enclose to each debenture-holder a letter explaining, drafted by Mr. Mote.

Mr. Arlton read the Finance Committee's report, which the council adopted.

The council decided that in future the entire agency work be undertaken by the secretary only.

The secretary read a letter from Messrs. Boots, Ltd., expressing their regret at their inability to accede to the proposition that members of the A.A. should continue their subscriptions at the old terms, and received instructions to write another letter to Messrs. Boots, thanking them for their letter, and asking them whether they cannot exempt members of the A.A. from the extra fee of travelling exchange.

The following nominations have been made for the new council:—

Marion F. Lind, proposed by Marion Sterling, seconded by E. Story Gofton.
Frank J. Arlton, proposed by A. Morrice Seaton, seconded by Frank Dexter.
Richard Green, proposed by Dora Levis, seconded by Sylvia Morris.
Langford Reed, proposed by Sylvia Morris, seconded by Dora Levis.
J. Poole Kirkwood, proposed by F. J. Arlton, seconded by Robson Paige.
Frederick Morland, proposed by Robson Paige, seconded by Cecil Raleigh.
Fewlass Llewellyn, proposed by Rose Mathews, seconded by Clarence Derwent.
Lewis Casson, proposed by Frederick Morland, seconded by Robson Paige.
Agnes Imlay, proposed by E. Nolan O'Connor, seconded by William Dexter.
Clarence Derwent, proposed by Fred Grove, seconded by Charles Bruce.
Cyril Cattley, proposed by Clive Currie, seconded by George Bellamy.
Cecil Brooking, proposed by Frank Bayly, seconded by A. Morrice Seaton.
Rose Mathews, proposed by Cecil A. Collins, seconded by Joan Pereira.
Esmond Gilbart, proposed by Fewlass Llewellyn, seconded by Chris Walker.
Sebastian Smith, proposed by Clarence Derwent, seconded by F. J. Arlton.
Fred Annerley, proposed by Clarence Derwent, seconded by F. J. Arlton.
C. F. Collings, proposed by Murri Moncrieff, seconded by Arthur Dennis.
Arthur Applin, proposed by Frederick Morland, seconded by Cecil Brooking.
Robson Paige, proposed by Joan Pereira, seconded by Georgina Hamilton.
Clive Currie, proposed by William Pringle, seconded by Walter Ringham.
Jackson Wilcox, proposed by Cecil Brooking, seconded by Percy Crawford.
Italia Conti, proposed by William Pringle, seconded by R. Mayne-Young.
Cecil Raleigh, proposed by C. F. Collings, seconded by Frederick Morland.
C. Hayden Coffin, proposed by Frederick Morland, seconded by Clarence Derwent.
Helen Haye, proposed by Clarence Derwent, seconded by Cecil Brooking.

The council decided to close the rooms at seven o'clock for the present. It was also decided to place writing material in both rooms, as far as space will permit.

It was decided to institute a "House Committee," in order to arrange the rooms according to the best standard of comfort. The secretary received instructions to write to Misses Bensusan, Harcourt, and Mahone, asking them to serve on this committee, of which Messrs. Arlton, Brooking, and Paige were elected members.

A letter was read from Miss Gilbart, suggesting that concert artists should be eligible as members of the A.A. The secretary received instructions to write to Miss Gilbart, thanking her for her suggestion, and saying that it was under consideration, and would be heard at the general meeting.

Mr. Derwent suggested that the council should send some expression of opinion to the Play Actors on the result of their general meeting, and the secretary received instructions to write to the secretary of the Play Actors to the effect that the council had heard with much pleasure the decision arrived at with regard to the A.A. clause.

Mr. Brooking explained the scheme of "Telewriter," and the secretary received instructions to obtain full particulars of the working.

Bernard Stevens (proposed by J. Dixon Kenwin, seconded by Montagu Wigan), Estelle Wilson Stead (proposed by La Baronne St. Eon, seconded by Clarence Derwent), Mabyn Fay (proposed by J. Dixon Kenwin, seconded by Charles Danvers), Arthur Claremount (proposed by Brember Wills, seconded by Florence Wynn), and Grace W. Denbigh-Russell (proposed by Olivia Glynne, seconded by David Denard) were elected. The council sat until 7.15.

OBJECTIONS TO THE MINIMUM.

Miss Rose Mathews presided at a meeting which was held at the Actors' Association rooms on Sunday to discuss the question of the Minimum Wage.

Mr. FREDERICK MORLAND said his first objection was that the £2 minimum made no provision at all for beginners, and seemed to suggest that anyone, as soon as he or she came on the stage, should be entitled to the £2 minimum. Whether it was a boy who started as an office boy at 10s. a week, or whether it was a young man going into the Army or the Law—in neither case did he expect to earn at once such a wage as would entirely support him. He thought the principle that applied in all other professions was a principle which should apply in their profession. He did not see why they should insist that anyone coming on the stage for the first time, and being given a part, should have a right to claim the minimum in the same way as a person who had had experience. They had no right to expect that managers would undertake to exclude beginners altogether from their companies. They must not expect managers to look after actors' interests. Actors must look after these themselves. They had, perhaps, a right to try and arrange that only a certain number of beginners should be members of a particular company, but these beginners ought to expect a smaller salary than people who had experience. If they separated the £2 minimum and made it stand by itself they were striving after something which would do little or no good; but if they combined with that some demand for a more certain engagement that would be a different thing altogether. If they could make it the rule that the engagement should be for the tour or the run of the piece they would have got in the thin end of the wedge to a more definite engagement. It was the fortnight's notice, which was supposed to be the unwritten law of the profession, which caused such an element of uncertainty. They started off on a tour of ten, fifteen, or twenty weeks, but they had no assurance that their engagement would be longer than three weeks, and it was always open to the management to dismiss them on a fortnight's notice.

It was said that the present system was in favour of the actor who could throw up his engagement for something better; but if actors were going to think merely for themselves their cause was entirely hopeless. They must think of managers as well, and they could not expect a manager to be considerate to the actors if he felt that they would "chuck him up" at the first instance if someone offered them more. To obtain more certainty they might give up their illusory advantage of being able to throw up an engagement at a fortnight's notice. He had another objection to the £2 minimum, and that was this, that it did not really help the poorly paid actor as much as its advocates suggested it would. The real harm that came to their calling was from the cut-throat competition of one worker against another. People sometimes complained that the managers took the man who offered to come for the least money. He would think that hard lines when he found an actor who did not try to get as much as he could out of the managers. The only way to get rid of this was to do away with the competition amongst themselves. How far would this minimum do away with the competition amongst those who were at present badly paid? It was obvious that it would do away with the competition from below. The man who had secured £2 a week would know that no one could come and underbid him for 30s. unless he broke that rule. It would, to a great extent, ensure that the lower paid should not compete amongst themselves. But while the man who was earning £2 was not to reduce his salary to any extent at all, the man who was earning considerably more might. This competition might not affect him much in ordinary tours, but they all knew what summer tours were and summer terms. Let them take such an instance of this of two men, one earning £2 and one £4 or £4 10s. Both had got engagements for the spring and autumn. They finished up their spring engagement in May, and expected to begin again in August, and the manager was looking out for somebody at £2 a week, because in summer they must not expect full terms. The man who was earning £2 a week might not reduce his salary by 1s. The man who was earning £4 might come for as much less as he liked. If a manager was looking out for someone to fill a fair part he might very well say he did not mind running to 10s. more to get the man who earned £4 to play the part, though if neither were allowed to reduce their salary the £2 man would certainly get the engagement. The man who had been earning a good salary, and had been out of work a considerable time, would come and say, "I will come for £2 or £2 10s.," and he was competing against another man who could not reduce his salary at all. The people who were paid the smallest salaries would say that was very unfair. He objected to the £2 minimum because, while it was a hard and fast rule for certain salaries, it was not a hard and fast rule for the salaries above them. Even if they left the people paid up to £2 10s. out of the question altogether they would have competition. People who had good positions on the stage would go and underbid one another in order to get work. He did not see how they were to expect actors and actresses as a body to work whole-heartedly for a reform which would leave them entirely in the position in which they were to-day. When they advocated that no engagement should be taken up in the Agency for less than £2 someone proposed that the Agency should report how many engagements in the last three years had been made for less than £2, and it was stated that seven had been made. Some people seemed to think reform could be obtained by every actor and actress making up their minds they would not work for less than £2. That was perfectly futile. What was the good of a person who never dreamt of taking less than £4 or £5 solemnly recording his determination never to take less than £2? Another suggestion was that not only should they refuse to work for less than £2, but they should refuse to work in companies in which salaries of less than that amount were paid. If that resolution were taken by a large body of actors there would be a great deal of inconvenience. There were questions which concerned all. One of the most burning was payment for matinées and another was payment for rehearsals. While they were rehearsing they had a perfect right to claim that if the manager disposed entirely of their time they should receive payment for it. Payment for matinées was really a question of adjustment of salaries. Managers would not find any very great change in the amount they had to pay out; and actors and actresses would feel in the much more satisfactory position of knowing exactly what they were engaged for, and that everything above that was to be paid at the same ratio. The objections that he held to the £2 minimum, as it had recently been put forward, were:—

1. That it made no provision for beginners, who he did not think ought to claim the salary of a competent actor or actress.

2. That the £2 minimum by itself without a more definite engagement, without their being able to look forward to a certain number of definite weeks of engagement in the course of the year, was very little use, and that therefore while they were striving for a £2 minimum they ought also to strive for more definite assurance of work.

3. That the £2 minimum was unfair if it prevented the badly paid from reducing his salary, while it allowed the better-paid actor to reduce his as much as he liked.

4. That it did not affect the competition amongst better-paid actors, which was one of the greatest evils under which the profession was labouring.

5. That it was a reform which would only benefit a comparatively small part of the profession, which undoubtedly they ought to support as much as possible, but a general reform of the theatrical profession should be wider, and there were burning questions, such as payment for rehearsals and matinées, which should be taken up in any scheme of reforms advocated by the Actors' Association.

The discussion which followed was contributed to by Mr. Langford Reed, Mr. Chris Walker, Miss Davies Webster, Miss Eleanor Gilbart, Mr. C. F. Collings, and Mr. C. Cattley.

Mr. Morland replied, and a vote of thanks to Miss Mathews for presiding was carried unanimously.

AN AMENDMENT SCHEME.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—The minimum wage question is a big one, and to ensure any amount of success we must dig much deeper than has yet been done. It will of necessity entail some troublesome radical change, but I have endeavoured to think out a scheme whereby the change shall be as little as possible, dovetailing it in with our present system. The solution of the difficulty, so that we may obtain an advantage all round that shall be a real one, may be but the adoption of a choice of evils. I think it will be. But what may be an evil at first, may, after all, be a blessing in disguise. But some course must be taken. All that has been said on this subject is no doubt good and sound, taking into consideration the basis from which the start is made. This is the point at issue. In my opinion the basis of all the argument so far is a false one—unsound, unreliable, unbusinesslike—and anything built upon it must come to failure. It is assumed that actors and actresses, in their professional calling, can be dealt with in the capacity of wage earners on a similar basis to that of an ordinary trades union. How is this possible? For in no sense can our work be measured or calculated as can that of an engineer, a boilermaker, or any mechanic. Take any trade you choose connected with trades unionism. Should a master engage a man belonging to the union or otherwise, and that man's work be bad, or inferior, or only just below the standard required, who suffers? The master only who engages him, and who pays him his wages. Bad and inferior mechanical work can seldom be a matter of opinion, but of absolute fact. It can be thrown on the scrap heap, relegated to a lower price for special sale, and is always subject to inspection, alteration, &c., before being put on the market. But this one fact remains: the man who engages the inferior mechanic is the only loser. Now how can our profession be pushed forward on any basis that applies to mechanical work of any kind. As a profession we depend upon the appreciation of the public, as shown by the attendance at the theatres. At the present time that appreciation is very strictly limited. Nothing approaching what it might be. We play to but a very small percentage of the community. Many reasons may be assigned for this, but by far the greatest reason is inherent in our own ranks. Consider the influence of the incompetent, the bad or inferior workman in our midst. His bad work reflects directly on everyone with whom he comes in contact; not only the man who engages him and pays him, but the resident manager of the theatre in which his inferior work is done, and his fellow artists, by reason that his bad work means immediate bad business and discourages good business generally. Where the effect of his bad work ends there is no telling. It has gone out to rankle in the minds of an audience. You cannot exchange it. You cannot throw it on a scrap heap. You cannot lower the price of it and sell it by auction like a pair of boots, a gas stove, or an umbrella. His bad work may curtail the tour or cause it to be abandoned. Thus, unlike the mechanic, he directly interferes with the financial position of his fellow-artist. They require a right to protect themselves from him which no system of trades unionism will give. Bad work with us means bad business, and low salaries must be the rule so long as so much bad business is general. Then consider, the theatre is not an actual necessity to the public. Close all the theatres in the country for a month, six months, or twelve, it would not interfere much with public concern, but merely affect individual interests, and the public would simply laugh at the strike which had brought about the state of affairs. How can it be hoped to improve financially the artistic side of the profession by adopting schemes applicable only to the mechanical side of life, seeing the great difference of responsibility consequent upon bad or inferior work. In the case of the mechanic the loss is individual; in the case of the profession it is general.

It is, of course, no simple task even to suggest a sound practical policy that shall place the profession, so far as individual members are concerned, in a better financial position. That is the object of the £2 minimum idea. In theory the idea is good, of course, but in practice, if attempted on the trades union basis it would carry with it the elements of its own failure, being absolutely impracticable, and would only extend the evil it should seek to remove, viz., the presence of the incompetent in the ranks of the profession. The *removal* of the incompetent is necessary with a view to better business generally. Some action requires to be taken, and I think there is an alternative policy that would more effectually meet the case than that suggested by a general demand for a £2 minimum, carrying with it the possibility of a strike (for the one without the other is a grotesque absurdity), and realise the general wish without interfering with the salaries of the leading parts, except to increase their value, and without infringing on the domain of the labouring classes, even by the remote possibility of a strike. The root of the evil lies in the indifferent performances given week by week, and consequent limited attendance of the public. The result is obvious. Correct this and automatically you will correct many of the evils from which the profession suffers, particularly artists' salaries and short unremunerative tours. Chaos reigns with us as a profession, and the various sections with identical interests (dependent upon the appreciation and attendance of the public) are working in antagonism to what should be a direct combined effort.

It is necessary to consider the groundwork from which we start, and be sure that we are not working in the dark.

Can it fairly be said:—

1. That the profession is overcrowded.

2. That in its ranks are very many who are incompetent as actors and actresses.

3. That while many of these incompetents hold engagements, many fully qualified by sound ability and experience are lacking employment.

4. That the incompetents obtain and hold their positions by reason of the low figure for which they offer their services, and at which they accept parts.

5. That in consequence of this incompetency the state of business is much below what it might be, and would be, were the incompetent alienated out of the profession.

If all the above can fairly be answered in the affirmative, then there should be no great difficulty, and no time lost, in dealing with the matter, for it is evident that the incompetent is dealing disaster all round. He must be *removed*, not *encouraged*, unless he can remove his incompetency.

What brings him in possession of the engagement he is incompetent to fill? It would not be tolerated in any other calling, but is in our profession, and why? There is no one to say "No" to him except the manager who engages him, because he comes cheap. This would not matter if the result of his incompetence fell only on the man who engages him, as in every other business, but it doesn't. It strikes a paralysing blow at everyone connected with the particular production, seeing that it is calculated to, and certainly does, bring about bad business. Then why does the touring manager keep him? He either does not, cannot, or will not, recognise the failure, and there are other secondary difficulties of perhaps a minor character which I need not mention here. Why does the resident-manager engage a company on sharing terms in which the incompetent flourishes? The resident-manager only knows the cast from the day bill supplied, of which he may recognise three, or at most four, of the names, and if he only engaged companies the cast of which he knew to be sound all round, his theatre would be closed six or seven months out of the twelve. I am only speaking of melodramatic companies in the provinces, yet I think it is generally true of most companies. Even in the better-class companies he knows he must not expect too much, and much that is only just passable goes for what is good and sound.

I cannot tell, beyond what I have said, why the touring manager retains the incompetent. All I know is that he does it, and does it persistently, and there is no authority to tell him either that he must not, or that it will pay him better not to do so. But, seeing that it is a matter of direct interest to all concerned, especially the resident-manager for the particular week, there should be such an authority, properly organised, to acquaint the touring manager that not only is a single change desirable in the cast, but that a greater standard of excellence is required before any bookings can be entertained anywhere after a given date. In like manner could a few wholesome complaints be made by the artist and touring manager. The initial step might be taken by the resident-manager through his association, but for several reasons I don't think he will take the first move. He will look after his *own* interest, and I fear lose sight of the fact that that interest, so far as the attendance of the public is concerned, is bound up in the *general* interest.—Yours faithfully,

G. L.

ACTORS' UNION.

The usual committee meeting of the Actors' Union took place on the 15th inst., and the following were present:—Messrs. Frank Gerald, James English, Walter L. Rignold, Edward Y. Rae, Henry Bedford, Paul Lovett, E. Howard Templeton, H. Tripp Edgar, Clifford Rean, Langford Reed, Cecil G. Calvert, Robert M. Taylor, and Kenneth Blackmore, secretary. Communications were received from Messrs. F. Rawson Buckley, Frederick P. Loyd, Jerrold Heather, D. Lewin-Mannering, J. Hastings Batson, Edward Chester, Arthur Bawtree, Frank Strickland, George P. Lester, and Bruce Lindley.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The Club scheme was discussed at considerable length, and it was decided that a plebiscite of the members of the Union be taken on the subject.

A proposition that any member wishing to resign should be asked to reconsider his or her decision in view of the benefits likely to arise out of the Club scheme was carried.

Twelve new members were elected.

The secretary reported six engagements settled last week through the Actors' Union agency.

A well-attended meeting of the Actors' Union was held at the White Lion Hotel, Horsefair, Birmingham, on the 14th inst., with Mr. F. Rawson Buckley in the chair. Amongst those who were present were Miss Lily Belding, Mr. Alfred Richards, Mr. Fred W. Goddard, Mr. Herbert Goddard, Mr. Geo. P. Lester, Mr. J. Mackay, Mr. Albert Wainwright, Mr. E. Rayson-Cousens, Miss Leah Marlborough, Miss Edith Hall, and Miss Frances Harold. The Chairman, following the usual custom, opened the meeting by placing before those present the aims and objects of the Union, after which topics of general interest were discussed.

RELIGION AND THE DRAMA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—In your last week's issue, under the above heading, appears the report of an interview with Mr. Forbes Robertson, in the course of which he refers to my brother's play, *The Servant in the House* (produced in America a year ago and still running there), and says of it: "It goes farther than the English mind would tolerate. Certainly the Censor would not sanction it. Even if it could be produced in England by some device on a Monday, the theatre would be empty on the Tuesday," &c.

Allow me to correct Mr. Robertson's first statement. The play *has* been sanctioned by the Censor; it was duly licensed for England as far back as June, 1907; and, but for the timidity or lack of enterprise of certain managers to whom it was submitted, it would have been produced in London soon after that date. No "devices" therefore, is necessary for its forthcoming production in England.

I do not dispute Mr. Robertson's right to his opinion, but he must be gifted indeed if he can so confidently foretell the verdict of the entire British public. So *The Servant in the House* is to be permitted just one night's run in England? I scarcely dare to gainsay so dogmatic an assertion; and yet I *have* known instances of the capricious British public reversing the pre-judgments of the most expert theatrical managers! Mr. Robertson must pardon my excessive hopefulness, and indulge me in the belief that *The Servant in the House* will merit a slightly better fate in England than he allows for it. I have not played in the piece in America for six months without observing something of its effect upon audiences throughout that country. It has been translated and dramatically represented already in eight or nine European and other countries, and I shall be really quite disappointed if England prove behindhand in what appears to be taking the shape of a universal success.

Mr. Robertson proceeds: "The idea is that an Oriental takes a position as butler in a modern household on the condition that he retains his robes. You see him as the curtain rises. He is laying the table, with his back to the audience. Soon he turns suddenly, and the audience beholds—our Saviour! However reverently it be handled, the idea would shock an English audience."

This again is misleading, although I am far from suggesting that Mr. Robertson intended it to be so. The audience does *not* behold our Saviour. It sees the Bishop of Benares—long-lost brother of an English vicar and an English working-man, whose ordinary human identity is made quite clear at the outset of the play. The character is not represented on the stage as a re-incarnate Christ (there is no such attempt at the merely sensational "shock" which Mr. Robertson's words may be taken to imply). His actions are emulative of Christ's teaching—a very different matter from physical depiction of Christ on the stage, as in the Passion Play, for instance; and the "Oriental robes" to which Mr. Robertson attaches so much significance, are the natural garb of an Eastern bishop, assumed under no particular "condition"—as the reader of the play (published in book-form in England) can see for himself.

I can assure Mr. Robertson that quite a considerable number of the clergy—Anglican, American, Canadian, and divers sects—have witnessed *The Servant in the House*, and, far from being "shocked," have borne eloquent testimony to its profound truth and its deep spiritual influence upon humanity at large.—Yours faithfully,

EDMUND KENNEDY.

38, Sydney-road, West Ealing, W.

MR. CHARLES KLEIN, the American playwright, has written a new play, entitled *The Third Degree*, which deals with certain police methods used for the purpose of extorting confessions from persons accused of crime. The play has proved successful in several of the larger cities outside of New York.

MR. EDITOR,—Sir,—In your notice of *Her Forbidden Marriage* last week at Yarmouth you say that Mr. Leslie Nutter was a funny Jenkins. It should have read—Yours faithfully, JACK STEWART. Royalty Theatre, Chester, Jan. 19.

PLOTS AND PLAGIARISMS.

A correspondent who is by no means satisfied with the decision in the recent *Amasis* case, sends us scenarios of the plots of the two plays for comparison by our readers:—

"SON OF THE SUN."

Mentah, a brigand chief, abducts Ta-Ta, daughter of the King of Egypt. Her lover, Muimui, is condemned because he has killed a sacred cat. The cat, however, was not killed, but is in possession of Mentah. Muimui is granted seven days to find the Princess, as anyone finding her can claim her for his bride.

The brigands take Ta-Ta to their cave, which Muimui, with his elderly sister, enters in searching for her. They are both made prisoners, but Muimui and Ta-Ta are released to obtain a ransom, while the sister is held as hostage. The brigands send word to Amen-Amen, the High Priest, who wishes to marry the Princess, and has designs on the throne, that the Princess can be ransomed for 4,000 golden rings. He brings the money, and has the elderly sister palmed off on him.

Mentah, disguised as a priest, arrives at the Temple first and befools the King. Then Ta-Ta and her lover arrives, and also Amen-Amen with Phyrana, when Amen-Amen discovers he has been deceived. Mentah is then discovered and condemned to death, but is saved by Phyrana on condition that he marries her. Mentah discloses that the cat was not killed.

"AMASIS."

Prince Anhotep arrives at Memphis, where there is great rejoicing, as he is to marry Amasis, Pharaoh's daughter. Amasis is secretly loved by Cheiro, a scribe. Anhotep confides in Amasis that he has killed a sacred cat, the penalty for which is death. He eventually admits killing the cat, and the populace demand his death, and he is eventually sentenced.

Cherito, in order to save the life of Anhotep, declares that he killed the cat, the consequence is that he gets condemned to death as well.

Ptolemy, the Court embalmer, endeavours to embalm the Sacred Cat by a patent process, which kills him, and Pharaoh decrees that Ptolemy's death is sufficient to justify Anhotep and Cheiro being pardoned.

Cleophar eventually produces the cat embalmed, which, however, has been killed by drinking poisoned milk, which Bosibus was about to kill himself with, but he is prevented by Princess Plasterpoms, who induces him to marry her to save his life. Pharaoh pardons Bosibus, but makes him pay various marriage taxes.

Pharaoh takes Phizz for his wife.

Mr. Adrian Ross, in an article in the *World* says: "The recent decision of the *Amasis* case has again called attention to the dangers of plagiarism that are incurred by playwrights, and still more to the peril of an action for plagiarism that besets innocent authors. The cases that have been tried bearing on the subject have been generally most unsatisfactory in their course and result. There is hardly any dispute that is more likely to lead to unjust verdicts, except, perhaps, the familiar action for breach of promise of marriage. The average judge knows very little of the signs of plagiarism as distinguished from accidental similarity; the average juryman knows less than nothing. The *Cingalee* case showed the latter fact; the *Amasis* case, with all respect to the learned judge, gave some proof of the former point. . . .

"I confess that in the *Amasis* case I should have considered it a stronger evidence of plagiarism if the sacred animal on whose murder the two plays turned had been a cat in one and a crocodile in the other, and if parallel lyrics had not alluded to the proverbial nine lives of the victim. Anybody thinking of the consequences of killing a sacred animal would select the cat for treatment in ancient Egypt as naturally as the cow in India; and only if these creatures were already engaged would he substitute a crocodile in the one case and a peacock, perhaps, in the other. Similarly, anyone treating the death of a cat in a humorous manner would at once recall the proverb 'Care killed a cat,' and with it the adage about the nine lives. If he had just seen a lyric embodying the same idea he would probably try to devise something less hackneyed..

"Now, if the author of *Amasis* had made the *corpus delicti* a crocodile, but treated it with humour inappropriately feline, the inference against him would have been really strong. That is what the average man does not see. People do not plagiarise matter so much as treatment. When a manufacturer sets out to steal a patent, he imitates the process, not the actual material employed. If the patent is worked with nitrate of soda, he tries to imitate its results with nitrate of potash. If the liqueur is made with brandy, he uses whisky. Of course, an unskilful plagiarist simply steals the whole—merits, defects, and all. He has not enough technical skill to disguise what he has taken. A change of title and of the names of characters is enough for him. But the similarities alleged between plays in actions for plagiarism are usually either the unimportant details that no thief would leave in the stolen property, or the broad features that are alike in countless plays of the same type. . . .

"I remember two musical pieces coming out within a fortnight of each other. The first two lines of a song in each were identical in melody and harmony. One song was by Sir Arthur Sullivan: luckily for the other composer his work appeared first, or he would have been charged with plagiarism. I wrote part of the libretto of an opera a good many years ago and showed it to several managers. Since then I have seen, and even collaborated in, more than one piece embodying some of the main ideas of my hitherto unpublished effort. If my original collaborator had been approached by a speculative solicitor or a volunteer dramatic detective, and had listened to the tempter, I tremble to think what might have occurred. Fortunately, he is of so robust an intellect that I should rather tremble for the tempter.

"There is dramatic plagiarism, but it is not generally done by copying. There have been managers whom it was unsafe to trust with an original idea or striking situation; they would return the play and give the scene or idea to be worked out by an inexpensive hack. Apart from this, there is, and always has been, far more accidental similarity than conscious imitation. Subjects are 'in the air,' like inventions. Plagiarism, where it exists, is an evil, and should be put down; a wrong, and should be redressed. But the judgment on it should be that of experts who really know how it is done."

THE RICHARD WALTON CASE.

Mrs. Richard Walton, of 4, Regent-road, Bedminster, Bristol, wishes to return thanks for the appeal in *The Era* on her behalf. The following sums have been thankfully received:—

	£	s.	d.
A. B. F.	5	0	0
Will Haggar, jun.	2	0	0
W. Haggar, sen.	1	0	0
Miss H. Brinckman ....parcel and	0	10	6
Mr. Ed. Ebley	0	5	0
Mrs. Emanuel	0	2	6

MASTER PHILIP TONGE, who is playing in *Pinkie and the Fairies* at His Majesty's, has never played Little Lord Fauntleroy, as recently stated in a contemporary.

A FEW days since, through the kindness of Mr. Fred Mouillot and Mr. H. W. Rowland, the old folks from the Workhouse at Folkestone were present at the pantomime *Robinson Crusoe* at the Pleasure Gardens Theatre. The party, numbering 200, were entertained at tea, and presents of tobacco, tea, and sugar were distributed.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

SIR CHARLES WYNDHAM, when passing through Paris *en route* for Berlin, bought the English rights of Emile Fabre's latest play, *Les Vainqueurs*, produced at the Théâtre Antoine in November. When the adaptation is performed Sir Charles himself will sustain the principal part, which was created in Paris by M. Gemier. The hero, Pierre Legrand, an ambitious barrister, sacrifices his domestic happiness to his ambition. M. Gemier in his performance recalled some of the most famous French counsel.

AT a meeting of the Shakespeare Memorial Executive Committee, which was held on Thursday at the Mansion House under the presidency of the Lord Mayor, the reports of the two sub-committees appointed to examine the theatre proposal and to form a scheme for an appeal to the public for funds were adopted, and further matters affecting the movement were adjourned. The Executive Committee has agreed to the theatre scheme, but the matter has yet to go before the general meeting.

MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER will preside at the annual general meeting of the Actors' Benevolent Fund, which will be held at the Criterion Theatre on Thursday next, at twelve o'clock noon. Sir Charles Wyndham, the president, who was announced to occupy the chair is unavoidably detained abroad.

MR. MARTIN HARVEY has bought the English rights of André Rivoir's four-act drama *Le Bon Roi Dagobert*, which was produced at the Comédie-Française last October. The Dagobert of the play is young, a great sportsman, but fickle, and so hare-brained that on his wedding-day, whilst deer-stalking, he forgets all about his *fiancée*, a Spanish princess, and arrives at the palace only just in time to throw an embroidered cloak over his hunting garments to appear decently in church. Yet the Princess does not at all mind his being late. In fact, she would have been delighted had he stayed away altogether, for she is—or fancies herself—in love with one of her cousins, and has sworn to remain faithful to him. Whilst waiting for the King, she informs Eloi, the Prime Minister, that she intends to keep her promise, and therefore wants to return home.

ELOI, dreading political complications, then hits upon a strange stratagem. He prevails upon Nantilde, a young girl employed in the palace, and who has lost her heart to Dagobert, to impersonate the Queen during the night; and he bamboozles his royal master in the belief that an oracle ordains that he (the monarch) must, after he has retired to his apartment, keep the place in darkness whilst he is with the Queen and withdraw from the room before daybreak. This queer arrangement works well during two days, and then the unexpected happens. The young Queen, forgetting her cousin and her promise, suddenly becomes jealous of Nantilde, and insists on taking her place that same night.

THE two ladies meet the King in the darkened room. The bewildered sovereign then has his suspicions, and, calling on his people to bring torches, discovers that he has been fooled. In his wrath he sends his wife back to her father, and orders little Nantilde to be hanged on the nearest tree. But the good-natured Eloi does not carry out that cruel sentence, and smuggles the girl into a convent. A few days later the King accidentally finds out Nantilde's retreat; and as he also discovers that it is she whom he loves, he makes her Queen of the Franks.

DIANA'S didactic declamations on the petty tyrannies of the "living-in" system seem to have attracted even more attention on their second than on their first deliverance, and the complete success of the revival of *Diana of Dobson's* at the Kingsway Theatre will incline Miss Lena Ashwell, when she needs a new play, to follow this comedy by another, instead of by a serious piece—as has been unauthoritatively suggested. Miss Ashwell has, indeed, already accepted as a successor to *Diana*, a clever and unconvenional comedy at present called *The Truants*, by Wilfred T. Coleby, whose work has previously met with marked success at the Kingsway. It touches lightly on one or two much-discussed subjects, and presents Miss Ashwell herself in the entirely new rôle of a distinguished lady traveller and authoress.

MR. GEORGE EDWARDES has decided upon *Our Miss Gibbs* as the title of the new musical play which he produces at the Gaiety to-night. "Cryptos" is the name assumed by the author of the book, the construction having been left in the hands of Mr. James T. Tanner. The lyrics are by Mr. Adrian Ross and Mr. Percy Greenbank, and Mr. Ivan Caryll and Mr. Lionel Monckton have been entrusted with the music. Old Gaiety favourites return with to-night's production, Miss Gertie Millar and Mr. Edmund Payne having the leading parts. In the cast are also found Messrs. George Grossmith, jun., O. B. Clarence, Robert Hale, Arthur Hatherton, J. Edward Fraser, J. A. Evelyn, F. Payne, and H. B. Burcher; and Misses Denise Orme, Jean Aylwin, Gladys Homfrey, Maisie Gay, Kitty Mason, Olive May, Adeline Balfe, Rosie Begarnie, Gladys Cooper, Julia James, Enid Leslie, Crissy Bell, Suzanne Selbourne, and Gertie Thornton.

MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER will revive *The Prisoner of Zenda*, with Miss Stella Patrick Campbell as Princess Flavia, at the conclusion of the run of *The Builder of Bridges* at the St. James's Theatre. The late Edward Rose's adaptation of Anthony Hope's story was produced at that house on Jan. 7, 1896, with Mr. Alexander as Rudolf Rassendyll, Mr. Herbert Waring as Duke Michael, Mr. W. H. Vernon as Colonel Sapte, Miss Evelyn Millard as Princess Flavia, and Miss Lily Hanbury as Antoinette.

MR. LEWIS WALLER will produce *The Chief of Staff*, a play in four acts by Ronald Macdonald, at the Lyric on Tuesday, Feb. 2. Mr. Waller will have the part of a colonel of a republican State of South America, and strong support will be furnished by Mr. William Haviland, Mr. A. E. George, Mr. Shiel Barry, Mr. Cronin Wilson, Mr. S. J. Warmington, Mr. Reginald Dane, Mr. Caton Woodville, Mr. George Courtney, Mr. Patrick Digan, Miss Auriol Lee, Miss Evelyn D'Alroy, and Miss Madge Titheradge.

MRS. LANGTRY has completed the novel on which she has for some time been engaged, and the work will make its appearance both in serial and book form. The title is "All at Sea," and the book is about 75,000 words in length. The novel will be signed both as Lady de Bathe and as Lily Langtry.

MR. BRANDON THOMAS has decided to postpone the revival of *Good for Nothing*, as *Charley's Aunt* is being played twice daily at the Aldwych Theatre, and the strain of additional rehearsals is too great. The stage, moreover, is required every morning for another production.

MISS EVELYN MILLARD will, at the end of the month, transfer *The Adventure of Lady Ursula* to the Criterion Theatre, commencing her season there on Monday, Feb. 1. Robert Hichens' new play, which it has been decided to call *The Real Woman*, will be produced later on. The cast will be a powerful one, as Miss Millard has already secured the support of Mr. Allan Aynesworth, Mr. Herbert Waring, and Mr. Henry Ainley.

MISS DECIMA MOORE'S success on the variety stage has equalled her achievements on the theatrical boards. Her recent appearance at the Tivoli, Manchester, was a triumph. First she sang a song, "Violets and roses," then she gave a recitation, "Riding through the broom," with orchestral accompaniment, and afterwards a dainty ditty with a whistling chorus, concluding with that ever-popular ditty "A husband's plea." The *Manchester Guardian* says of her variety début: "Miss Decima Moore's art—she excels in cameo work—does not suffer by such an entertainment as that which she is giving at the Tivoli, and the audience must benefit by an entertainment that is not only diverting but educative in good taste. Little songs charmingly sung, little recitations in which words are treated as things of beauty and thoughts are interpreted as much by play of face and dainty gesture as by speech, little carols whistled with the sweetness of a linnet's trilling—these are what Miss Decima Moore offers, and she won the audience on Monday to express themselves rapturously."

MISS EMMA AND MR. PERCY HUTCHISON have commenced their spring tour auspiciously. Their No. 1 London company of *Lady Frederick* opened at the Opera House, Cheltenham, on Monday to magnificent business. The cast includes such well-known names as Miss Eleanor Delaporte and Mr. Robert Minster, both sharing the honours in Mr. Somerset Maugham's brilliant success.

FOLLOWING *Lady Frederick* yet another of the Hutchison's acquisitions, namely *Idols*, the great Garrick success, will be presented at the Cheltenham theatre on Monday for the first time in the English provinces, the staging and entire production being under the personal supervision of Mr. Percy Hutchison, who is also playing to colossal business with *Brewster's Millions*. Miss Emma Hutchison, who is on tour with another London triumph, *Mrs. Dot*, reports excellent returns and enthusiastic receptions en route. Two new plays, it may be added, have been acquired by this enterprising management.

MRS. KENDAL, president of the Actresses' Franchise League, took the chair at the first general meeting of members on the 15th inst. at Miss Winifred Mayo's, 93, Oakley-street, and made a most interesting and amusing speech, in the course of which she cheered her audience, composed exclusively of actresses, by telling them "man is improving!" She also said he objected to women having the vote because they would at once become men, would never have any more children, and would cease washing! In a spirit, one must fear, of wickedness, she tentatively suggested there might be an age limit for the franchise—say, no vote before thirty. Amidst a storm of laughter, one pretty girl of about three-and-twenty was heard to express a fear that under such circumstances no actress would ever be able to vote.

IT was announced that the next public meeting for members and their friends would be held on Friday, Feb. 5, at three o'clock in Clifford's Inn Hall, Fleet-street, and that Mrs. Marion Holmes would be the principal speaker. At the close of the meeting Mrs. Forbes Robertson proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Kendal for so kindly taking the chair, and it was seconded by Miss Decima Moore. Miss Edith Craig proposed a vote of thanks to Miss Mayo for lending her drawing-room, and it was seconded by Miss Adeline Bourne.

MR. F. R. BENSON will produce a new one-act play written by his wife and Mr. H. O. Nicholson in the course of his forthcoming season at the Coronet Theatre. The piece is entitled *A Midnight Bridal*, and is adapted from Mr. Halliwell Sutcliffe's story. The scene is laid near Edinburgh, after the battle of Culloden.

MRS. MAT ROSSON, widow of the once-popular comedian, passed peacefully away at her residence on Sunday. For several years she was leading lady under her husband's management at Sadler's Wells, Astley's, and the Holborn Theatres, and in her earlier days she played lead with Barry Sullivan, Samuel Emery, Charles Pitt, and many other stars of that time. Latterly she was with Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer, playing Queen in *Hamlet*, Nurse in *Romeo and Juliet*, Mrs. Candour, Mrs. Hardcastle, Cornelia Carlyle, &c., and for some time she played the Duchess in *Proof* with Mr. and Mrs. Maclaren. Her last engagement was with Mr. T. Arthur Jones in *The Girl of My Heart*.

MR. SEYMOUR HICKS'S new musical play, *The Dashing Little Duke*, is being busily rehearsed, and will be produced at the Hicks Theatre on Feb. 17, after a week's preparatory run at Nottingham. Miss Ellaline Terriss will play the principal part, and will be supported by Mr. C. Hayden Coffin and Mr. Courtice Pounds. One of the scenes is laid at Versailles, in a room in the Palace, and we may expect a very pretty and picturesque spectacle.

MR. ARTHUR COLLINS was entertained to supper by his staff on Tuesday night. On the following morning the esteemed managing-director of Drury Lane Theatre left London for California, where his wife is staying.

MESSRS. CHARLES ROGERS and W. E. Wilson have decided to tour the sensational drama *The Ladder of Life* this spring.

THE report that Mr. Charles Boult, the popular general-manager of Messrs. Little and D'Arcy's *The Forty Thieves* pantomime, had been waylaid and robbed whilst returning home from the theatre at Coatbridge, on the night of the 15th inst., caused much consternation amongst Mr. Boult's many friends in the theatrical world. We are glad to be able to contradict the report, as Mr. Boult is perfectly well, and his money is quite safe.

THE matinée of *Dorothy*, to be given at the Waldorf on Tuesday, in aid of the Lord Mayor's Mansion House Fund for the sufferers in the recent Italian earthquake, will be under the patronage of H.S.H. Prince Alexander of Teck and other distinguished people. The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs will attend in State. All the principals, including Mr. C. Hayden Coffin, Miss Constance Drever, Mr. Arthur Williams, Miss Louie Pounds, Mr. John Bardsley, Miss Coralie Blythe, Mr. Lempriere Pringle, Miss Emily Spiller, Miss Betty Hardress, and chorus of sixty voices are giving their services.

MESSRS. E. D. and J. MAUNDY-GREGORY have taken a further lease of the Waldorf Theatre, where *Dorothy* is making a pronounced success. Messrs. Maundy-Gregory have in hand two musical plays, which will be produced in due course with the best cast possible.

"THIS WOMAN AND THIS MAN," a play in three acts, by Avery Hopwood, was produced for copyright purposes at the Bijou Theatre, Bayswater, on Monday, Jan. 18.

"A HIGHWAYMAN BOLD," a comic opera, in two acts, the words, lyrics, and songs by Harry Corrin and Bert Harding, and the music by Bert Harding, was produced for copyright purposes at the Hippodrome, St. Helens, on Tuesday.

A COMPETITION of a curious character has just taken place in Paris, violins being played behind a screen by well-known artists, in order to test the merits of the instruments. The result was that the prize was awarded to a violin by Bernaedel, a Stradivarius being second, and a Vuillaume third.

MR. FRANK CURZON will produce his new play *An Englishman's Home* at Wyndham's on Wednesday next. The author, appropriately enough, bears the pseudonym of "A Patriot."

MR. NORMAN V. NORMAN, who has been far from well lately, is taking a longer holiday than usual. Mr. Norman, who is very fond of field sports in his leisure time, has been spending part of his vacation shooting in the West of England.

THE funeral of the late Mr. Arthur à Becket took place on Monday, the first part of the service being held in the Catholic Cathedral, Westminster. After the benediction on Sunday night the coffin was placed in the chapel of the Holy Souls, in the cathedral, and the following morning it was removed to the nave, where it was placed on a catafalque covered with a black pall on which was embroidered a white cross. At the base were placed a number of wreaths sent by members of the family, by the Institute of Journalists, and the staff of *Punch*. A Requiem Mass was sung with Gregorian music, Father Brown being the celebrant. After the service in the cathedral the body was taken by road to Mortlake, where it was interred in the Catholic cemetery.

THE next production of the Incorporated Stage Society will be a translation from the Russian of Turgenieff, together with a translation of *I Diritti dell' anima*, a one-act play by Guiseppe Giacosa.

MISS ANNIE HUGHES'S name in private life is Mrs. Fitzmaurice Lenon, not Tenon, as incorrectly given in our last issue.

THE Dramatic Productions Club have selected for their third essay a play in three acts, entitled *Strangers Within the Gates*, by Mr. H. C. M. Hardinge. It will be produced at the Court Theatre on Sunday evening, Feb. 7, and on the following afternoon at a special matinée, which is open to the public. The cast will be a strong one, and will include Mr. Malcolm Cherry, Miss Amy Brandon Thomas, Miss Maude Millett, Mr. Fred Lewis, Mr. A. E. Anson, Miss Blanche Stanley, Miss Granville, Mr. O. P. Heggie, and Mr. Douglas Homer. The action, which is begun in a hayfield on a Saturday, is carried to a garden, and is ended in a Rectory morning-room on Sunday afternoon. The play will be produced by Mr. Franklin Dyall.

MRS. PATRICK CAMPBELL wears only one dress in the new play *Olive Latimer's Husband* at the Vaudeville, but that one is of singular beauty. Over a close-fitting silver tissue under-robe is posed a dalmatic of black tulle, opened at one side to show the silhouette of the under-dress. The dalmatic is outlined with an embroidery of bright and smoked diamonds and opals, while the corsage of the under-robe is closely sewn with sparkling embroideries to match, giving the effect of a cuirass veiled by the black tulle over-dress. The sleeves are made of tulle to fit the arms as far as the elbows, with an edging of sparkling diamanté embroidery. Mrs. Campbell wears no ornament in her beautiful dark hair, but in her corsage is tucked a bunch of violets of two colours—palest Parma and deepest purple.

MISS HELEN FERRERS as Mrs. Finch is seen robed in a stately evening toilette of green velvet, with shoulder straps of diamonds, and a V-shaped décolletage, outlined by a white tulle modestie. The long cream lace sleeves are latticed down the back of the arms, and a single and very large purple anemone is worn at the waist. At the left side of the skirt there is just a touch of diamanté embroidery, in the form of straps that catch the draperies together.

MISS DAGMAR WIEHE looks charmingly girlish and pretty in an evening dress in shades of anemone pink and faintest mauve satin charmeuse. A short-waisted effect is given to the frock, which is trimmed with very beautiful white Irish "bébé" guipure, arranged in a long panel upon the skirt tapering off at the sides. The loosely-draped sleeves are caught in at the elbows, but separate to show the arms almost from the shoulders downward. The delicate mingling of faintest mauve with the pink of the robe in the form of a waist-band, with long ends gathered under diamanté buckles, which fall at the sides nearly to the hem of the skirt, gives an exquisite finish to the toilette.

THE ranks of the Follies at the Apollo will be strengthened on Monday by the return of Miss Gwennie Mars and Miss Effie Cook from Manchester, where they have been appearing with great success. Miss Mars brings with her a new song, "I love the Yankees," in which she gives an imitation of Mr. Harry Lauder.

MESSRS. A. AND S. GATTI will put on at the Vaudeville Theatre this afternoon, in front of *Olive Latimer's Husband*, a new one-act comedy, by Keble Howard, called *The Dramatist at Home*. Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Faber will play the two parts in the little piece.

THE Oxford University Dramatic Society will give performances of *The Frogs* of Aristophanes on Wednesday, Feb. 17, and following evenings, with the addition of several matinées. Sir Hubert Parry's music, composed for the 1892 production, will be employed.

THE English Drama Society will give performances of Robert Browning's *Pippa Passes* at the Fortune Playhouse, Brewer-street, on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday next week, with Miss Lucy Wilson as Ottima, Mr. Gordon Bailey as Sebald and Jules, Mr. Roderic MacLeod as Gottlieb, Mr. Guy Fletcher as Luigi, and Miss Lola Duncan as the Mother, and Miss Isabel Roland as Pippa.

As the result of an amalgamation between Messrs. Warden, Ltd., and the Belfast Hippodrome, Ltd., the Palace Theatre, Belfast, which has for some four years been devoted to variety performances, is about to revert to its old love and its former title of Grand Opera House. The theatre will be closed for one week at the termination of the pantomime *Jack and Jill*, so that renovations may be effected, and will re-open on Feb. 1 with Miss Ada Reeve in *Butterflies*.

THE Crystal Palace Bill has been passed by the Parliamentary examiners, and will be sent for first reading when Parliament assembles. The Bill enables the Crystal Palace Company to borrow £50,000 from the Public Works Loan Commissioners for the repair and improvement of the structure of the Palace, and also to borrow moneys for the redemption and discharge of all or any part of the Debenture stocks.

THE Lord Mayor presided at a meeting of Mayors and Town Clerks of the South London boroughs held at the Mansion House on Wednesday, to consider the future of the Crystal Palace. Nine out of the ten Mayors of South London were present, the company also including Mr. Ernest Schenk, chairman of the Crystal Palace Board, and Mr. Louis Sinclair, managing-director. After a long discussion, a resolution was unanimously carried in favour of the Crystal Palace being secured to the public in perpetuity as a national institution. It was further decided that full details of the proposals submitted to the executive committee formed at the Mansion House some time last year should be furnished to each Borough Council for its consideration, prior to the promised interview with the Prime Minister, the date of which is not yet fixed.

THE American production of Messrs. Cecil Raleigh and Henry Hamilton's Drury Lane drama, *The Sins of Society*, will take place under the direction of Messrs. Klaw and Erlanger, at the New Amsterdam Theatre, New York, on March 1, with Mr. Vincent Clive—whose fine performance in *The Marriages of Mayfair* will be remembered—Mr. Oscar Adye, Miss Lucy Sibley, and Mr. W. L. Abingdon in the cast.

WE regret to record the death of Jenny Mason, niece of the late Charles Mathews and Mme. Vestris, who passed peacefully away at 17, St. James's-road, Brixton, on Saturday last in her seventy-second year. Miss Mason made her first appearance at the Lyceum under the management of her aunt and uncle. She was the Fairy Queen at Drury Lane for ten years in succession under the management of the late E. T. Smith. Amongst the other theatres at which she appeared were Covent Garden, Her Majesty's, Olympic, Strand, Astley's, Surrey Gardens, Old Cremorne, and many others. In 1857 she married the late Chas. Watkins, the celebrated photographer of Parliament-street, Westminster. She leaves two sons and a daughter to mourn her loss. The latter, Effie Mason, will be remembered as Little Buttercup of the Children's Pinafore Co., and also as Pitti-Sing in *The Mikado*. The funeral took place on Thursday at the Lambeth Cemetery, Tooting.

ENTHUSIASTIC scenes were witnessed on the last night of Mr. Wentworth Croke's first annual pantomime, *Red Riding Hood*, at the Lyric Opera House, Hammersmith. The pantomime was one of the most successful in suburban London, and every possible effort was made to continue the run, as the capacity of the house was taxed at every performance; but the pantomime was booked for three weeks in the provinces, and it was found impossible to cancel the bookings. Miss Kittee Rayburn made a great hit as the Prince, and was on the last night presented with no less than twenty floral tokens.

DURING the Palace scene Mr. Wentworth Croke appeared on the stage in answer to loud applause, and said:—"Ladies and gentlemen, after such a brilliant and amusing evening's entertainment I am quite sure you won't want to be bored with a speech, so I will be brief. First of all let me thank you all for your presence here to-night, and at the same time hope that I may see you all here this time next year. Secondly, let me thank you most heartily and sincerely for the way in which you have received my first annual Lyric pantomime. Before wishing you good-night, I should like to take you into my confidence, and tell you that through the courtesy of a brother manager we have secured the services of the best of principal boys for my next year's pantomime, your old and great favourite, Miss Kittee Rayburn. Ladies and gentlemen, not good-bye, but au revoir."

THE curtain had to be raised at least twelve times after the performance, and then, although the band had played "The King," and the fire-proof curtain had been lowered, the audience refused to leave the theatre until Miss Kittee Rayburn reappeared and spoke a few words of thanks for the wonderful reception she had had. Next Christmas Mr. Croke intends that his Hammersmith pantomime shall be even bigger and better, and he will run it entirely himself. Moreover, he will provide that it shall have at least six weeks' run.

IN order to celebrate the great success of Mr. Wentworth Croke's first pantomime at the Lyric Opera House, Hammersmith, a supper and ball were given at the Broadway Hall on the 14th inst. The chair was taken at midnight by Mr. Croke, who had travelled from Liverpool to be present, and he was supported by the entire pantomime company and the staff of the theatre. Many nice things were said by the heads of departments, and Miss Kittee Rayburn responded on behalf of the artists. After supper dancing began, and was kept up until the early hours of the morning.

MME. MELBA will sing in Naples in aid of the fund for the relief of sufferers by the earthquake. The famous diva arrived in England on Wednesday by the Campania, and during the passage, at a concert in the saloon on behalf of the Liverpool charities for seamen and their orphans, Mme. Melba played accompaniments to several songs. The concert realised £80, half of which was obtained by the sale of Mme. Melba's autograph photographs.

MR. A. VALENZA has opened a studio for voice production at 64, Via Tarsia a Piazza Dante, Naples. Three of the pupils of Signor Valenza at the School of Music he had in partnership with Signor Tito Mattei have decided to go over next month, with the object of continuing their training under his tuition. The number of English-speaking pupils studying in Naples is largely on the increase, and it is evident that students are beginning to appreciate the fact that the best place to improve the voice is where they can breathe pure sea and mountain air, and where the temperature never exceeds the limits of a charming and soothing mildness.

THE continued success of *Little Lord Fauntleroy* at the Court Theatre has induced Miss Mouillot to continue the matinées of this delightful play till the end of the month.

MR. PENNINGTON-GUSH has been engaged by Mr. Ernest Carpenter to play Ross Christian in the suburban tour of *Pete* with Mr. Matheson Lang and the Lyceum company. The tour commences on Feb. 1 at Dalston.

WE understand that Mr. Francis Laidler, the enterprising lessee of the Prince's Theatre, Bradford, has taken over from Mr. Walter Reynolds the Theatre Royal, Leeds, and that Mr. N. Hepworth, Mr. Laidler's able lieutenant at Bradford, is to be the resident-manager.

AT the Gaiety Theatre, Hastings, between four and five p.m. on Monday afternoon, the men engaged on the stage setting scenes for Mr. Walter Howard's *Prince and the Beggar Maid*, that day arrived, noticed smoke in the flies, and investigation discovered dense smoke under the stage. They at once lowered the fire-curtain, connected the hose, and found some shavings had ignited in the carpenters' shop, which were immediately extinguished without recourse to outside aid. The whole incident began and ended within twenty minutes, but someone had telephoned to the fire brigade, who, with commendable promptness, were soon on the scene. A crowd of some two or three thousand people collected outside the building, and excitement ran high as Mr. Scutt, the local manager, arrived on the scene. He was dining when the hasty news reached him, and, reaching the stage-door with difficulty through the crowd, received the only real damage, personally, for, slipping on the hose in the dark, he fell heavily on some other obstruction, breaking a tooth and spraining his hand. Every credit is due to both Mr. Scutt and his staff for their promptness in dealing with the emergency, as also to the local fire brigade for its readiness had help been required.

MESSRS. JAY AND MANN have secured from Mr. Frank Curzon certain touring rights in *King of Cadonia*. Their first tour will start August Bank Holiday next.

AT the Royal Academy of Music the Sainton scholarship (for violin) has been awarded to William Hubert Davies, a native of Aberaychan, Jean Stewart Norwell being commended. The adjudicators were Messrs. Josef Blaha, W. Frye Parker, and Hans Wessely (chairman). The George Mence Smith scholarship (for male vocalists) was secured by Gordon Albert Yates, a native of London. The adjudicators were Messrs. Walter Mackway, Thomas Meux, and Richard Cummings (chairman).

MR. G. BRYDON PHILLIPS'S *Puss in Boots* pantomime terminated a very successful engagement last Saturday at the Royalty Theatre, Chester. The bookings during the run were greatly in excess of his previous production, *Little Red Riding Hood*, although the run was just on a week shorter.

MR. EDWARD CRANSTON has sustained a severe loss by the death of his father, Charles Nosotti, at the age of seventy-eight. Although not in the theatrical profession all his life, he had taken a keen interest in it. He was a valued friend of the late Charles Kean, and numbered among his many acquaintances the late John Toole, Wilson Barrett, Dion Boucicault, the Le Clercqs, and the Swanboroughs, besides being well known in theatrical circles of the present day. He was full of reminiscences, and only a few weeks ago, meeting Miss Ellen Terry, he told her he had nursed her when a baby, whereupon the distinguished actress invited him to call upon her and talk over old times.

"THE BABES IN THE WOOD" at the King's, Hammersmith, is still attracting large audiences both at matinées and evening performances. Miss Winnie Browne, the popular and charming principal boy, is a great favourite, especially with the children. She has received hundreds of letters from juvenile admirers since the run of the pantomime commenced. Mr. James A. Watts is scoring all along the line as the Dame; his impersonation being decidedly clever.

MR. WILFRED COTTON'S principal *Butterflies* company terminated a four weeks' engagement at the Royalty Theatre, Glasgow, on Saturday, amidst great enthusiasm. Floral tributes were showered upon the ladies of the company. Mr. J. A. Robertson, the gifted composer of the music, had an ovation when he entered the orchestra. Mr. Louis Bradfield and his confrères were cheered to the echo; Miss Phyllis Monkman had to repeat her Papillon dance three times and at the fall of the curtain the audience linked hands and sang in true Scottish fashion "Should auld acquaintance be forgot."

THE hockey club run by the members of Mr. Norman V. Norman's company finished a most successful half-season at Christmas. Seventeen matches were played, of which ten were won and seven lost, forty-six goals being scored by the team and thirty-one against. The team was very successfully captained by Mr. Reginald P. Lamb.

THE annual supper and dance in connection with the Belfast pantomime was held (by permission of Mr. Fred W. Warden) in Ye Olde Castle on Wednesday night last. The guests included Mr. Fred W. Warden (managing-director, Grand Opera House and Theatre Royal, Belfast), Mr. James M. McCann (acting-manager, Theatre Royal, Belfast), Mr. W. S. Salmond (acting-manager, Palace, Belfast), Mr. B. G. MacLachlan (Manager for Messrs. Stoll), Miss Dorothy Ward (principal boy, Palace pantomime), Miss Kitty Baughton, Miss Ethel Ramsay, Mr. E. Elkan, and Mr. George Brooks. A merry party assembled in the King's Hall at midnight and enjoyed a recherché supper. Dancing commenced about 1 a.m., the music being supplied in first-class style by Messrs. Quilliam, Doherty, and Murphy, and was indulged in until 5 a.m., Mr. James M. McCann acting efficiently as "M.C." The entire proceedings were most enjoyable, and not a little of the success was due to Mr. James M. McCann, the popular manager of the Theatre Royal, Belfast, who was most indefatigable in his efforts.

A NEW addition has been made to the company of dancers in *The Merry Widow* at Daly's in the person of Mr. Georgie Mahrer, a Continental performer of high reputation. He has been given a small part in the popular comic opera, and appears among the animated throng at Maxim's where he indulges in a couple of novel dances, one of which ends with a travesty of the Apache movement. His partner is the graceful Miss Gabrielle Ray, and the interpolation gave so much pleasure on the opening night that it had to be twice repeated. Apart from the novelty alluded to, the performance goes with its customary gaiety, Miss Lily Elsie, Mr. Joseph Coyne, Mr. J. F. McArdle, Mr. W. H. Berry, and Mr. Robert Nainby repeating their clever performances to the delight of immense audiences.

MR. WENTWORTH CROKE, accompanied by Mr. Frank M. Boyd, has started on his 30-40 Peugeot car for a motor tour of the provincial pantomimes from Aberdeen to Plymouth, in search of talent for next season.

MR. CHARLES ESDALE played the part of Monty Brewster on Wednesday afternoon at Reading, at a moment's notice, owing to Mr. Percy Hutchison being indisposed, and was warmly complimented on his excellent performance of the exacting rôle.

MR. VINCENT CLIVE is sailing for New York to play the part of the hero in *Sins of Society* at the New Amsterdam Theatre, returning in time to start rehearsals at Drury Lane for Messrs. Raleigh and Hamilton's autumn drama.

MR. ARTHUR JEFFERSON, in connection with the recent matinée benefit performance in aid of the unemployed fund given in the Metropole Theatre, Glasgow, has received from the ex-Lord Provost, Sir William Bilsland, Bart., a kindly-expressed letter, enclosing photographs of himself and Lady Bilsland.

MR. ARTHUR BOURCHIER'S cast of *Samson*, at the Garrick will include, besides Mr. Bourchier himself, Mr. Charles Bryant, Mr. Arthur Whitby, Mr. Kenneth Douglas, Mr. Leon Quartermaine, Mr. Bertram Forsyth, Mr. William Burchill, Mr. Charles Vernon, Mr. Alfred Bristowe, Mr. Douglas Imbert, Mr. Newton Dunne, Miss Violet Vanbrugh, Miss Marie Illington, Miss Edyth Latimer, Miss Margaret Vivian, and Miss Pamela Gaythorne.

MRS. FRANK BATEMAN AND GEO. CONQUEST, who have just scored such a success with the revival of *The Crimes of Paris*, have arranged with Mr. Arthur Shirley to write a new play for Mrs. Bateman, with a strong emotional part for that actress. The tour will commence at Christmas next at Southend-on-Sea. The partnership between Mr. Stuart Lomath and Mrs. Frank Bateman will terminate on June 5, and all communications should in future be addressed to "Bateman and Conquest."

AT St. Bartholomew the Great, West Smithfield, on Thursday afternoon, Mr. Frederick Baring Ranalow, the well-known light opera singer, only son of Mr. J. G. M. P. Ranalow, of Moorland, Nightingale-lane, was married to Miss Lilian Mary Oates, elder daughter of the late Mr. William E. Oates and Mrs. Oates, of Gestingthorpe Hall, Essex, and 14, Evelyn Mansions, S.W.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Poets and Music.

"BROWNING," said Sir F. Bridge in his address at the opening of the new session of Trinity College of Music on Tuesday, "rushed in where the other angels feared to tread, and discussed musical problems and introduced technical expressions with, I must say, very varying results. In 'Abt Vogler,' for example, he speaks of that master, as he improvises, 'sliding by semitones till he sinks to a minor,' a method of modulation which would be the very reverse of masterly; and 'I blunt it into a ninth' when it should be 'I sharpen it into a ninth,' finally atoning for it all by that immortal expression, 'the C major of this life.' Mr. Birrell in his edition has gone one better, for in a note to 'Master Hugues, of Saxe-Gotha,' he defines a fugue as a 'short melody.' I suppose his mind was temporarily distracted by efforts to promote harmony in Ireland."

"Vetted" Allusions.

"IF I might venture on advice, I should say, get any musical allusions 'vetted' by a musician. Some of the greatest have slipped for lack of such advice. George Eliot spoke of a sound as of 'a long-drawn organ stop.' An organ stop is a piece of wood with a knob on the end of it, which when drawn out an inch or two allows the wind pressure to enter a reservoir below a row of pipes. A 'long-drawn organ stop' can only mean a piece of wood which will draw out several feet, and the only sound it could emit would be a squeak if the mechanism within were rusty or dilapidated. Black in one of his novels describes how a young lady going to the piano dashed off Mozart's Sonata in A sharp, a key which, if it existed at all in practical politics (which it does not), would have a signature of four sharps and three double sharps."

Metal More Attractive.

MR. F. R. BENSON tells the following anecdote: "It was early one summer's evening, and I was dressing for Richard III., when I heard two little boys talking underneath the window of my dressing-room. One said, 'What is it to-night, Bill?' The other replied, 'It's Shakespeare's *Richard the Third*.' 'Who is he?' said the first lad. 'I know Henry Irving's *Richard the Third*, and Arthur Roberts's, and the Archbishop of Canterbury's, but I don't know Shakespeare's.' Now it happened to be a riverside town, and one of the boys said, 'Come on, I've no use for that kind of thing. We'll go down to the bridge and spit on the boats as they pass underneath.'"

The Secret of Failure.

"WHEN a singer," says Mr. Oscar Hammerstein in the *Mail*, "appears before half an audience or a very unresponsibe audience, she at once concludes that her failure is due to a conspiracy between the director and the public, quite forgetting the fact that her success means the director's success. She will believe that a green cat walked across the stage and 'hoodooed' the performance, or that a window is open at the right when it ought to be closed on the left, or that the stage-carpenter hammered on purpose during her big solo, or that the conductor made faces at her, or that, by remarkable manipulation, the director caused it to rain before the performance and the audience, as a result, got wet and in bad humour. She will rack her brain for every impossible reason for her failure, instead of trying to find out the real cause, which is herself. In all my experience I have never heard a star say frankly, 'I am bad in this part.'"

Stage Superstitions.

"ONE prima donna will not go on for a performance until she has dropped a dagger into the floor three times. If it sticks each time it is a good omen, and she feels that she will sing well and have big success. If not, it disturbs her during the whole opera.

"Another will not go on the stage until I have given her a quarter (1s.). She carries it during the performance. I might add that she saves the quarters.

"Some opera stars knock on the scenery before going on; others stamp on the floor three times. A curious superstition among them relates to the colour of green. Many grand opera stars avoid this colour as if it were poison. They won't wear green costumes, and detest operas with green rooms or palaces."

"Elevated" Enjoyment.

"PEOPLE who know the sort of plays produced in the English theatre in one of the European capitals during the tourist season will sympatise," says the *Morning Leader*, "with the retort of the Englishman who, after a satisfying dinner, appeared at the box-office demanding 'a shtall, the best shtall in the house, please.'

"The clerk, noting his crumpled and incoherent condition, would not give him one. 'But, my dear f'la, I inshist. I want shtall, see?' and he put down his money.

"'I can't give you the ticket,' said the clerk. 'You must take your money back.'

"'What's matter?' demanded the Englishman.

"'Well,' responded the clerk, 'you're drunk.'

"The Englishman gathered up his money with dignity. 'Of course, I'm drunk,' he said, cheerfully. 'D'you suppose I'd come to see this blamed show if I were sober?'"

Miss Nethersole on America.

MISS OLGA NETHERSOLE began her sixth American tour in Washington on the 11th inst., with a new play, by W. J. Hurlbut, entitled *The Writing on the Wall*. It is described as being "neither a Biblical play nor a problem play, but a real American play, dealing with matters of vital moment to America and Americans." Miss Nethersole appears as Barbara Lawrence, a New York society woman, who is interested in philanthropy and tenement reform. It is said that certain passages in the play are likely to be widely discussed in New York, for in the first act there is a plain exposition of the Trinity Church Corporation as the owner of slum tenements, and some outspoken lines that will create a stir. Miss Nethersole, in an address to the public, which has been given out in printed form, explained her reasons for discarding her familiar répertoire and appearing in a new and modern American play. Among other things Miss Nethersole said, "I have often been criticised for producing a certain 'class' of plays, and my answer has been that I have produced acknowledged masterpieces of the drama. Art, being without an ego, has no morals, and, as I see it, the true and absolute meaning of art is 'holding the mirror up to nature.' Now, however, I am going to break new ground, and, for a time at least, to devote my art to the American drama. It will perhaps be asked why I have not done so before. My answer is that in my judgment the real, the lasting, the vital 'American drama' has only lately been born, and if I may suggest what, to my mind, appears to be the inspiration of its birth, I would say that the 'old order of things,' the monopolies and tyrannies of business, are on the decline in the United States. The laws of the country are being observed and upheld. Money can no longer buy freedom for a man found guilty of crime. America is setting her house in order, and therein lies drama—drama that is vital, lasting, and interesting to the civilised world."

We shall be obliged if our readers will send us any amusing anecdotes they may hear, or accounts of any quaint incidents they may witness while acting or rehearsing.

"OLIVE LATIMER'S HUSBAND"

Play, in Three Acts, by Rudolf Besier, produced at the Vaudeville Theatre on Tuesday, Jan. 19.

Sir Charles Weyburn ..... MR. LYN HARDING
Colonel Mapleson-Finch .. MR. WILFRED DRAYCOTT
Berkeley Ogden ..... MR. CHARLES TROODE
James Morpeth ..... MR. JAMES HEARN
Doctor Wolfe ..... MR. LESLIE FABER
A Servant ..... MR. NORMAN WRIGHTON
Olive Latimer ..... MRS. PATRICK CAMPBELL
Mrs. Mapleson-Finch ..... MISS HELEN FERRERS
Doris Mapleson-Finch .... MISS DAGMAR WIEHE
Mrs. O'Connor ..... MISS ELSIE CHESTER
Nurse Cary ..... MISS BELLE NAPIER

Mrs. Patrick Campbell opened at the Vaudeville on Tuesday in a new play by Mr. Rudolf Besier entitled *Olive Latimer's Husband*. Mr. Besier is the author of *The Virgin Goddess*, which was produced at the Adelphi in 1906; and his latest effort is quite in harmony with the genius of Mrs. Campbell, who plays the principal part in a style which may well be termed inimitable. The piece is short—it only plays about a couple of hours—and the theme is a sad and bitter one; but Mr. Besier's treatment of it is so straightforward and sincere, so free from sensuous suggestion, and so ennobled by the spirit of suffering that the general effect is not repellant; and the interest from beginning to end is tensely sustained.

The action takes place at a country house. The owner, Harry Latimer, is lying seriously ill of typhoid fever. The history of his marriage with his wife Olive is a painful one. Her parents, Colonel and Mrs. Mapleson-Finch, are greedy worldlings, who are willing, indeed desirous, to sell their daughters to the highest bidder in the matrimonial market. Latimer fell passionately in love with Miss Olive Mapleson-Finch, and she was disposed of to him in the usual manner. Before marriage, however, she told him that she could never love him; but he was so infatuated that he consented to wed her in the hope that she might learn to do so in the end. Instead of this, she grew to detest him, and took as a lover a young man named Sir Charles Weyburn, an old school-fellow of Latimer's and his dearest friend. This is the situation when the curtain rises on a sitting-room at Brockham Lacey, with a second doctor being telephoned for, and a general atmosphere of anxiety and dread. The Colonel and his wife are exempt from these feelings, their minds being occupied with scheming for the sale of their second daughter, Doris, to an elderly and absurdly egoistical M.P., Mr. Berkeley Ogden. The Colonel, an easy-going, stupid creature, who lets all his acquaintances sponge on him, is under the domination of his wife, a hard, crafty, and merciless woman, who fully appreciates her husband's incapacity for intrigue. The doctor, an old friend of Latimer's, arrives, and discovers that the night before the patient made his condition dangerous by getting out of bed and writing a letter to Sir Charles. Mrs. Latimer, a Miss Cary, and Mrs. O'Connor, an old family servant, have been doing the nursing; which of them is responsible for Latimer having been thus allowed to leave his bed? Mrs. O'Connor says she never left the room, but admits that she fell asleep for a couple of hours. The doctor does all that he can to unravel the mystery; but he does not succeed in finding out the truth, which is that Mrs. Latimer came into the room while Mrs. O'Connor was asleep, and did not wake her, thus leaving Latimer uncontrolled. Olive imagines that her husband saw the hatred in her face when she entered, and that the letter he has written to Sir Charles contains an account of her heartless conduct; and she endeavours in vain to get the doctor to give up the letter. When Sir Charles arrives, his love for Olive is eclipsed by the pangs of conscience, for Latimer sinks and dies. The unhappy woman sees her sister about to make the same mistake in life as she—Olive—committed in marrying a man she could not love; and she violently opposes the sacrifice. Her mother and father—the latter is chronically impecunious, and hopes to borrow of his future son-in-law—are highly indignant; and Mrs. Mapleson-Finch continues to coerce Doris, to whom Mrs. Latimer makes a very eloquent appeal. Both Olive and Sir Charles suffer keenly under their punishment. He is tortured by remorse at the thought of his treachery to his friend; and she is in terror lest the reading of the letter shall kill his love for her. In the last act, driven to desperation, and determined at all cost to save Doris from a similar fate, Mrs. Latimer confesses that she wilfully left her husband unattended, wishing that he might die. Doris rebels, and refuses to marry Ogden. Olive demands from Weyburn the letter, which he has not yet read, and says she will read it aloud. To her surprise, it contains, instead of the expected denunciation, a confession of the writer's fault in marrying Olive as he did, and a wish that she may be happy with Sir Charles. But the experience she has gone through has killed her love for him, or, at any rate, made her feel that they must separate, though he departs saying that he shall always love her to the end. "Leave me alone with my husband!" says Mrs. Latimer, standing in a kind of trance; and on this impressive finale the curtain falls.

Mrs. Patrick Campbell is seen at her best in a character like this—nervously sensitive, highly-strung, and somewhat morbid. The delicate art with which she depicted the emotional anguish and the excited dread of the unhappy woman; the scorn with which she treated the mercenary parents and the petty and repulsive Ogden; the passionate affection of her pleadings with her sister; the devotion with which she flung herself into the task of Doris's enlightenment and defence; and the bitter energy with which she demonstrated her misery and revolt against circumstances combined to make Mrs. Campbell's Olive Latimer one of the most interesting and artistic performances that have been seen on the stage for some time. Mrs. Campbell's technique was never more sound and complete than it is at present. She has got rid of all her mannerisms, and what remains is pure art—simple, strong, and direct. Clad in some exquisitely appropriate gowns, Mrs. Campbell, with her willowy grace and pale beauty, was an ideal exponent of the part which she played so well. Mr. Lyn Harding enacted Sir Charles Weyburn with weight, strength, firmness, and directness. Mr. Wilfred Draycott, especially in his hunting costume, looked the ideal of a bluff, weak, self-indulgent sportsman, and acted with his accustomed ability and emphasis, the humour of the character being effectively developed. A highly-finished character-study was supplied by Mr. Charles Troode as Berkeley Ogden, the wig and make-up being especially admirable, and the general tone of the performance being smart, keen, and effective. Mr. James Hearn gave a capital rendering of James Morpeth; quiet and subdued at first, but developing into real vigour and depth of feeling when required, the reserved force of the embodiment giving it a most natural and impressive character. Mr. Leslie Faber was efficient as Doctor Wolfe; and Miss Helen Ferrers, magnificent in style, manner, and appearance, did justice to the hard worldliness of Mrs. Mapleson-Finch. A very winning representation of Doris Mapleson-Finch was contributed by Miss Dagmar Wiehe, who played the part with delightful ingenuousness and repose, her acting in the last part of the play being simple, but strong and expressive. Miss Elsie Chester's Mrs. O'Connor had an air of solemn mystery that well suited the rôle, and she delivered the denunciatory speeches of the old servant with a telling mixture of sorrow and indignation; and Miss Belle Napier was a tall and comely Nurse Cary. A special word of praise is deserved by the excellence of the orchestra.

"THE GONDOLIERS" AT THE SAVOY.

The Comic Opera, in Two Acts, Written by W. S. Gilbert, Composed by Arthur Sullivan, revived at the Savoy Theatre on Monday, Jan. 18.

The Duke of Plaza-Toro .. MR. C. H. WORKMAN
Luiz ..... MR. LEO SHEFFIELD
Don Alhambra del Bolero ..... MR. RUTLAND BARRINGTON
Marco Palmieri ..... MR. HENRY HERBERT
Giuseppe Palmieri ..... MR. HENRY A. LYTTON
Antonio ..... MR. FREDERICK HEWETT
Giorgio ..... MR. CECIL CURTIS
Annibale ..... MR. A. LAURENCE LEGOE
Francesco ..... MR. ERNEST LEXMAN
The Duchess of Plaza-Toro .. MISS LOUIE RENE
Casilda ..... MISS DOROTHY COURT
Gianetta ..... MISS ELSIE SPAIN
Tessa ..... MISS JESSIE ROSE
Fiametta ..... MISS ETHEL LEWIS
Giulia ..... MISS ADRIENNE ANDEAN
Vittoria ..... MISS BEATRICE BOARER
Inez ..... MISS AMY ROYSTON

The ever-popular *Gondoliers* was revived by Mrs. D'Oyly Carte at the Savoy Theatre as recently as the January of 1907, with Mr. C. H. Workman, Mr. Richard Green, and Miss Jessie Rose in the cast. The opera is one of the most delightful of the Gilbert-Sullivan series, and the spell of Sir W. S. Gilbert's libretto and the late Sir Arthur Sullivan's music has not vanished since the December of 1889, when *The Gondoliers* was produced, with Miss Decima Moore, who then made her first appearance on the stage at the age of eighteen, as the heroine. Miss Geraldine Ulmar was the prima donna, and Mr. Rutland Barrington returned to work at the Savoy, from which Mr. George Grossmith had seceded, the newcomers to the cast being Mr. W. H. Denney and Mr. Frank Wyatt. Miss Jessie Bond's Tessa, Miss Rosina Brandram's Duchess of Plaza-Toro, and Mr. Courtice Pounds's Marco Palmieri are quite well-remembered renderings. *The Gondoliers*, as has been well said, "is as spontaneous as the light-hearted laughter of the Sunny South and as luminous as an Italian summer sky." It is not the mere melodist who is heard in this charming score; the hand of the trained and expert musician is felt throughout in the most agreeable and admirable way. Sir Arthur Sullivan's delicate and insinuating musical humour is as irresistible in 1909 as it was twenty years since; and the composer's charming facility is well exemplified in the score, his fluent melodies being aided and embellished by his thorough knowledge of the orchestra and his remarkable instrumental resource.

The performance at the Savoy on Monday was marked by that delightful spirit of *camaraderie* between the players and the audience which has been created by Mrs. Carte's capital Gilbert and Sullivan revivals. It was a pleasant sight to turn one's eyes for a moment from the stage and to watch the individuals who composed the audience; to note the dreamy pleasure, the satisfied content which illumined the faces as their owners listened for the hundredth time to the exquisite "Take a pair of sparkling eyes" or the pathetic sweetness of "Kind sir, you cannot have the heart." If the performers had decided to satisfy the persistent demand for encores, the performance would have lasted till midnight. Each player, as he or she came on the stage, was greeted with enthusiasm; but the warmest welcome was reserved for those whose names have been longest associated with the famous operas—Mr. Rutland Barrington and Mr. Henry A. Lytton, although one might almost have imagined that Mr. C. H. Workman, who has put in some fine work during the two years he has been at the Savoy, was one of the old brigade, so tumultuous was the applause when he first made his appearance. Mr. Rutland Barrington as the Grand Inquisitor gives one of the ripest, the most mellow performances it is possible to imagine. His air of benevolent dignity, touched with rich humour, is truly superb, a feast of which one never tires. Mr. H. A. Lytton as Giuseppe, one of the Gondoliers, has not lost one whit of the freshness and charm which have always characterised his work, both at the Savoy and elsewhere. He has gained added clearness of articulation, and plays with an enjoyment of the part which acts like a tonic. As Marco, Mr. Henry Herbert sings with pleasing effect, though in acting he still has something to learn. Mr. C. H. Workman plays the Duke of Plaza-Toro on the well-known lines of dry, caustic humour, but manages, nevertheless, to infuse into the part some of his own distinctive personality. Miss Jessie Rose makes a very piquant little Tessa, both in appearance and method, and is much to be commended for her pretty, natural by-play. Miss Rose was apparently suffering from a slight cold on Monday evening; but, in spite of this, she was vociferously encored for her charming delivery of the song "When a little maiden marries." Miss Elsie Spain as Gianetta had many opportunities of displaying the full power and sweetness of her voice, which is a remarkably flexible one; and Miss Dorothy Court as Casilda was the daintiest, haughtiest little Queen imaginable, melting with bewitching tenderness in the arms of the faithful Luiz, earnestly played by Mr. Leo Sheffield. Miss Louie Rene is no unworthy successor of Miss Rosina Brandram, and has gained greatly in breadth of style and conception of character. Her fine contralto voice is fuller and deeper in tone, and her method even more attractive. The chorus is composed of sweet voices, the three Contadine, Fiametta, Giulia, and Vittoria, being pleasantly played by Miss Ethel Lewis, Miss Adrienne Andean, and Miss Beatrice Boarer. The scenery by A. Terraine and A. Warner is very pretty and artistic, and Mr. François Cellier conducts with his usual complete command of the fine Savoy orchestra.

BRITANNIA THEATRE.

On Monday, Jan. 18, the Drama, by Fred Moule, entitled

"GRIP OF THE LAW."

Large and appreciative audiences have visited this popular house to witness the exciting play *Grip of the Law*, which teems with thrilling incidents and appeals strongly to the taste of the patrons. It is smartly performed by the stock company. Mr. Harry Tresham ably represents the young cattle-dealer Dave Arkwright; Mr. H. Ryeland-Leigh is sufficiently despicable as the scoundrel Sergt. Frank Paul; an amusing impersonation of Zeph Sorrel, a stuttering detective, is submitted by Mr. H. G. Brandon; Mr. Herbert Young presents an artistic interpretation of Noel of the Night; an admirable character-study of Andy Blunt is given by Mr. C. Alan Hineson; Mr. Conrad E. Clark is admirably adapted to the character of Jacob Hockaday; Mr. Ivan P. Gore plays in a dignified manner as Colonel Digby Dunstan; Rose Hockaday is sympathetically undertaken by Miss Lalla Stanhope; Miss Florence Barnes is excellent as Marion Arkwright; Beulah Bliss is ably impersonated by Miss Edna Lester; and Miss Edith Rainleigh is an ideal Mrs. Baddiscombe. The drama was excellently mounted and smartly dressed. The orchestra, under Mr. F. W. Hatley, rendered some tuneful numbers during the evening, and a splendid evening's entertainment is terminated by some good pictures depicted by the Barrascope.

VOTES FOR ACTRESSES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—You close your article entitled "Votes for Actresses" in last week's *Era* with the words "Do actresses as a body desire the vote. That is the question." May I say to you and your readers that the question rather is, do actresses need the vote? and the answer is yes.

They need it, even if the disadvantages of not having it are apparently felt less by them than by some other classes of women, because they are women, and women need it as a moral recognition of their responsibility and stake in the affairs of their country, and as a public acknowledgment of their capability of judging and speaking for themselves on matters that concern them. They need it, too, even as men need it—for the education the responsibility of power brings with it.—Yours faithfully, A MEMBER OF THE A.F.L.

Jan. 18, 1909.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—In view of the growing interest on Female Franchise, I enclose copy of some correspondence on the subject.—Yours faithfully, DAISY HALLING.

Jan. 18, 1909.

[COPY.]

"DEAR MISS HALLING,—I don't know if you are yet a member of the Actresses' Franchise League, but am sure you must be in sympathy with its objects. Whatever party you may already belong to, the A.F.L. is to be on such entirely non-party lines that I am sure I may ask you to give us the support of your name and sympathy by joining us. As a member of the sub-committee for 'stewarding,' might I ask for your further support as member (nominally, if you are too much engaged to work for it) of this committee? Its object is to form a band of actresses who will give their services when able as stewards at meetings for Woman's Suffrage—London or provincial. There are also other sub-committees for reciting, acting, and otherwise helping the cause. If you could aid these also, we should be glad.—Sincerely yours, "DOROTHY BARRINGTON."

"DEAR MISS BARRINGTON,—The pleasure I feel at the prospect of actresses taking interest in public questions is only equalled by my regret that I publicly oppose the measure for which the Actresses' Franchise League stands. My reason for standing aloof from the A.F.L. is this: Many people in the movement with which I am now associated, who are considered 'extremists' on other matters, yet advocate the limited Bill, believing that it is the shortest route to adult suffrage. If I thought so I should support it. As it is, I oppose it as being a middle-class movement, and I stand without compromise for Adult Suffrage. I play second to no one in appreciation of the courage displayed by my sex throughout this agitation; I am grateful to the Suffragette movement, too (while bearing it a grudge for robbing the Socialist platform of most of its women speakers), for the extent to which it has interested women in and brought them out into public life.

"With all the personal good wishes for the supporters of a Bill that are compatible with a disaffection which I may not dissemble for the Bill itself,—Yours sincerely,

"DAISY HALLING,
"Hon. Sec. Manchester Branch Actors' Union."

P.S.—Might one suggest that the name "Actresses' Franchise League" is misleading? How many actresses would be enfranchised under the limited Bill? How many actresses possess property? Alas, my poor sister, "props." in a franchise interpretation are not property. Of course, the altruistic view suggests itself: That women without property who would not get the vote should work to obtain it for women who possess property. Then, doubtless, the women who got the vote would say to the women who didn't get it, in the words of the heroine as she exits R. U. E., "May Heaven reward you, for I never can." A comfortable way of ridding oneself of responsibilities.

MR. COMPTON AT WOLVERHAMPTON.

Mr. Edward Compton's birthday was on the 14th inst., and a large and enthusiastic audience assembled at the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, to see him in *A Reformed Rake*.

Mr. Compton said:—Ladies and Gentlemen,—Very many thanks for your generous reception of *A Reformed Rake* to-night. The comedy is an especial favourite of mine, and the part of Harry Jasper particularly appeals to me—not because he is a rake, but because he is a reformed rake. You all know a reformed rake makes the best husband, and you have also seen to-night that he also makes the best tutor, the best friend, the best lover, and the best of good fellows. So if there are any rakes in this house to-night, let me appeal to them to take the lesson to heart, and go home and reform! And now as to my birthday, for it would be false modesty in me to pretend that I did not know you are here to-night partly to honour that occasion with your kind thoughts and remembrance, and to wish me across the footlights "Many happy returns." Believe me, I am very grateful to you, and not a little touched. You saw that beautiful wreath that was handed up to me, and when I tell you that it came to me quite unexpectedly from the members of my company, you will understand that I was deeply touched by that also. Birthdays are very pleasant things, I find, with only one drawback: People will worry about my age. Now, why should they? I'm sure I don't. It's an elastic arrangement with me. I'm just as old of a day as the part I appear in at night. On Monday I was about thirty, on Tuesday I was only twenty-one, last night I was twenty-five, to-night, as you heard me say, I'm eight-and-twenty, and I make it a rule never to go beyond thirty-five, which reminds me of a little anecdote. I was once talking to a pretty young widow—beware of pretty young widows—who was really thirty-five, but was passing herself off as twenty-six. Happening to mention that she had a boy at school, I quickly inquired his age, to which she, off her guard, replied "Twelve." "What?" said I, rapidly calculating, "twelve?" "Yes," said she, recollecting herself, "but remember, I was married at thirteen!" She had me, so I proceeded to have her. "Madam," I said, "the only other lady whom I call to mind as being married at that early age was Shakespeare's Juliet—and she also was a heroine of fiction!" And so, ladies and gentlemen, if you ever hear people exaggerating my age, because I've been before the public a long time, just say, "Ah, but remember, he began life at fifteen." And you will have this advantage over my lady friend, you will be telling the truth. Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you once more for your presence here this evening, and for your goodness to me always, and I wish you all a kind good-night.

In the course of the evening Mr. Compton was presented wih a laurel wreath.

WHAT LOVE CAN DO.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—In your last issue Mr. R. A. Greene announces that he has written a play, not yet produced, entitled *What Love Can Do*. May I be permitted to say that my play, *What True Love Can Do*, was registered on July, 1906, and produced for copyright purposes the same year. Consequently, I think, although overlooked in the birthday honours, I have an exclusive right to my title.—Yours faithfully, BASIL YOUNG.

Croydon, Jan. 21, 1909.

"THE LYONS MAIL" STORY.

Mr. H. B. Irving, whose very fine revival of *The Lyons Mail* has been such a gratifying success at the Shaftesbury, contributes to his admirable and interesting souvenir of the ever-popular and historic drama a scholarly account of the source of the play:—

"At about nine o'clock on the night of April 27, 1796," writes Mr. Irving, "the mail travelling from Paris to Lyons was attacked and robbed at the Bridge of Pouilly, near Lieursaint, distant some twenty miles from Paris. The guard and postilion were killed, and 7,000,000 livres in notes, nominally a sum of £300,000, that were being dispatched to General Bonaparte's army in Italy, were secured by the robbers. These had been, to all appearances, five in number; four had ridden out from Paris to the scene of the crime, whilst the fifth had travelled in the mail itself as a passenger. At four o'clock on the morning of the 28th, a man of the name of Courriol brought four horses, covered with sweat, to a stable in Paris; and on the same day one of the three horses that had been harnessed to the mail was found wandering riderless in the city, having no doubt served to carry back to Paris the fifth robber who had accompanied the guard and postilion in the mail coach.

"Courriol was arrested a few days later, and with him a friend of his of the name of Guénot. The latter was, however, speedily released; his account of himself appeared to be quite satisfactory, and the examining magistrate informed him that, if he would call at his office on May 10, his papers which had been seized at the time of Courriol's arrest would be returned to him.

"As Guénot, on the appointed day, was making his way to the magistrate's office, he met a friend, one Joseph Lesurques. They were fellow citizens of Douai, and had both held municipal appointments in their native city; but Lesurques, having acquired by fortunate speculation a sufficient independence, had quitted Douai, and, with his wife and children, taken up his abode in Paris. Guénot told his friend how he had been accidentally involved in the recent crime that was the talk of Paris, and asked him to accompany him to the magistrate's office. Lesurques consented, and the two entered the magistrate's waiting-room. The room was filled at the time with witnesses from Lieursaint and its neighbourhood, who had been summoned to give evidence as to the movements and identity of the four horsemen seen at various points on the road from Paris during the afternoon preceding the crime. No sooner had Guénot and Lesurques entered the room than two of the witnesses declared that they recognised in these men two of the horsemen whom they had met on the day of the robbery of the mail. So positive were their declarations that both Guénot and Lesurques were arrested, and after a prolonged investigation sent for trial, along with Courriol and three others accused of complicity in the crime.

"The principal evidence against the prisoners was that of the thirteen witnesses from Lieursaint. Of these thirteen, seven positively identified Courriol, five Lesurques, and one Guénot. One of those who identified Lesurques swore that he remembered him the more distinctly as having given him a piece of string with which to mend his broken spur. The defence of Lesurques consisted in an alibi, to prove which he called a number of friends who had seen him in Paris at different times during the day of April 27. Among these he called a jeweller from whom he had made some purchases on that very day, which happened to be Floréal 8 in the Revolutionary calendar then in use in France. As corroborative evidence the jeweller produced his day-book. It was handed to the judge, who immediately, and with great indignation, called attention to the fact that in the entry relating to Lesurques the figure 9, or some other figure, had been erased and the figure 8 substituted. This erasure, which from the very circumstance of the production of the book may well have been the result of an error at the time the entry was made, and not a subsequent attempt at clumsy deception, sealed the fate of Lesurques. His other witnesses were not credited. To his plea that his independent means made his guilt unlikely, the judge, whose hostility towards him had been painfully evident throughout the trial, retorted that it was only the small crimes that were committed by the poor, that the great crimes were the work of the rich. Lesurques and Courriol were convicted and condemned to death, Guénot acquitted. Courriol, as he left the court, declared that Lesurques was innocent, and had taken no part in the crime.

"Supreme efforts were made to save Lesurques from the scaffold. Courriol and his mistress both protested that Lesurques had been mistaken for an arch-criminal and prison-breaker named Dubosc, who had been the prime organiser of the attack on the mail. He bore, they said, a strong resemblance to Lesurques, which, on the occasion of the robbery of the mail, was intensified by the fact that Dubosc, though a dark man, was wearing a blonde wig, that made his hair appear the same colour as that of Lesurques. Courriol gave the names of the five concerned in the crime. They were, besides Dubosc and himself, Vidal, whom some of the witnesses had mistaken for Guénot, Durochat, who had ridden in the mail-coach, and Roussi, an Italian. But all efforts to save Lesurques were in vain. He and Courriol were executed on Oct. 30, the latter exclaiming on the scaffold: 'I am guilty, but Lesurques is innocent.' Lesurques left the following letter addressed to Dubosc, which he asked to be inserted in the newspapers:—'I pray you, in whose place I am to die, rest content with the sacrifice of my life. If ever you are brought to trial, think of my children's disgrace, their mother's despair, and put an end to the misery caused by our fatal resemblance.'

"One of the magistrates who had investigated the case was so convinced of the truth of Courriol's statements and the innocence of Lesurques that he determined to hunt down and bring to justice Dubosc, and the other three accomplices in the murder. Two of them, Durochat and Vidal, were tried and executed, the one in 1797, and the other in 1798. Durochat admitted the innocence of Lesurques, and said that it was Dubosc whose broken spur had been mended on the day of the crime. The latter had been arrested at the same time as Vidal, but contrived to break out of prison. It was not until late in the year 1800 that Dubosc was rearrested and brought to trial. To establish his likeness to Lesurques the prisoner was made to put on a blonde wig in court. In spite of this, only one of the witnesses from Lieursaint who had originally identified Lesurques, admitted her error; the others, whether from fear or stupidity, declared themselve quite unable to recognise Dubosc as one of the four robbers. But there was strong evidence to prove his guilty association with Courriol and the other assassins, both before and after the crime. The jury, by way of compromise, convicted him as an accessory before the fact. He was condemned to death and executed, but, hardened to the last, made no confession of his guilt. Four years later, Roussi, the Italian, was arrested, and tried and condemned as one of the actual assassins. Before his execution he confessed the innocence of Lesurques."

HIS MAJESTY THE KING visited the Empire Theatre on Monday night and witnessed the performance of the ballet *A Day in Paris*.

MR. W. S. PENLEY on Monday, Jan. 19, at the Public Hall, Exmouth, produced a new comedy, entitled *The Bluebottle*, in which he appeared as the Hon. Archibald Chippendale.

AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, JAN. 13.—*The Battle*, a drama, in four acts, by Cleveland Moffett, has scored a decided success at the Savoy Theatre. It deals with the eternal conflict between capital and labour, and shows the weak points in the armour of the social idealists, the while it depicts the central character—a "trust magnate"—as a man of many admirable qualities, even though he once burned a rival oil factory. The dialogue is controversial, and is at times calculated to move those who hold strong views on either side to an expression of assent or dissent, as the case may be. In fact, the editor of a Socialistic magazine did rise in his seat and attempt to address the audience at one of the earlier performances of the play, and for several minutes quite a lively scene was enacted. With the exception of the aforesaid "magnate," all of the characters are poor people. The author shows how some of their theories "work out" when they are put to the test, and at the same time unfolds a dramatic story of a father's love. On the opening night the author denied that he was trying to preach or teach or to scold anybody, and declared that his only object was to provide an agreeable evening's entertainment. John Haggleton, a multi-millionaire, is a self-made man. He owns a number of tenement houses of the poorest and most insanitary type. At an early stage of his career his wife left him because her nature revolted against his piratical business methods, and took their son with her. The youngster has been brought up on social-settlement teachings in the poorest quarter of New York; a kindly old Socialist named Gentle having befriended the mother before she died, and then adopted the child. When the play begins, the young fellow has grown to manhood, and is a master diver known as Philip Ames, who has devoted himself to the cause of Socialism and reform. Gentle uses his knowledge of the relationship existing between his foster son and John Haggleton to bring about an interview with the rich man in his—Gentle's—wretched home, the object of which is to show the millionaire the evil of existing conditions and the opportunities to effect improvements on humanitarian principles. On being brought face to face with his son, who is kept in ignorance of the relationship, Haggleton is greatly moved. Gentle improves the opportunity by making some pointed remarks that strike home and have the effect of softening the callous nature of the man whose one aim has been to acquire an immense fortune at any cost. He believes, however, that Gentle is all wrong in his Socialistic ideas, and, acting on a sudden impulse, undertakes to give him a practical illustration of how the poor could help themselves if they had sufficient force of character. He was about to sail on his yacht, but he orders the captain to sail without him, in order that his change of plans may not become known. Then, under an assumed name, he comes to live in the tenement with Gentle and the rest of the poverty-stricken household. The first thing he does is to sell several articles of furniture and an unused sewing-machine for thirty dollars, and with that amount of capital he proceeds to build up a successful business. When the curtain goes up on the second act the squalid living-room has been completely transformed. The dirt and disorder have vanished, and the place looks clean and homelike. By the time the act is ended, a co-operative bakery has been formed and is doing well. Philip is foremost in carrying out Haggleton's schemes, and several of those who inveighed most bitterly against the combinations that crush out the lives of small enterprises are profiting under the arrangement, and suggesting how to make the business pay. One of them even goes so far as to advise using more yeast and less dough, and another, who has violently denounced the whole scheme, promptly changes his tone when he is offered a situation as foreman at a higher salary than he has ever earned. In the third act the apartment has been turned into an office, and the profits are steadily increasing. Philip has been completely won over to his father's ideas about business, and he finds himself arguing for expediency and the rights and wrongs of things from about the same point of view as the multi-millionaire. But the time comes when Haggleton's identity is disclosed, and he is obliged to confess that his wife abandoned him because he planned the destruction of a rival oil plant. Philip then declares that he will have no share in wealth that has been acquired by such criminal means. But at this juncture a man, crazed by his daughter's disgrace, which he attributes to poverty, rushes in with a pistol and fires at Haggleton. The son throws himself in front of his father, and is badly wounded, and during his illness the two are drawn together. In the last act everybody is apparently willing to make concessions, and Haggleton announces that he will devote a large slice of his fortune to the amelioration of the condition of the poor. The question is, how can this be done without demoralising those whom he wishes to befriend. One suggests model tenements, another a home for consumptives, and a third an ideal colony in the country. But all three are silenced by arguments proving their schemes impracticable. Only the capitalist can solve the problem. They must leave it to him. He walks over to his desk, takes out a roll of papers, and announces that he has already solved it. "Now, my plan is this——" he says. And as they gather round him the curtain falls. Mr. Wilton Lackaye's John Haggleton is a strong and interesting portrayal. Mr. H. B. Warner plays Philip Ames, and makes him the most likeable character in the play by his manliness and sincerity. Gentle, the Socialist, is admirably acted by Mr. E. M. Holland. Miss Elsie Ferguson, Mr. Gerald Griffin, and Mr. Charles Abbe distinguish themselves in prominent rôles.

ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Jan. 18, the Comedy, entitled "THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."

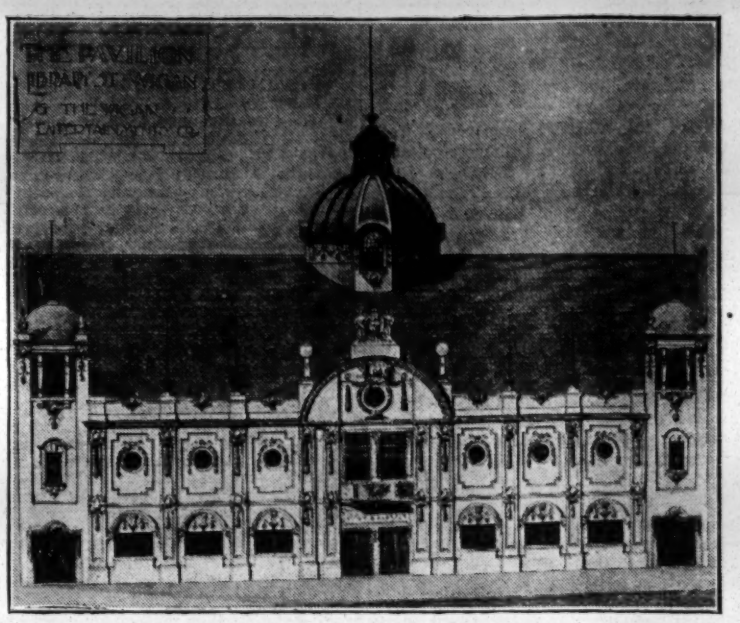
Messrs. Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth are ever ready to look after the welfare of their patrons, and are ably assisted in their endeavours by Mr. Chisholm Taylor, the acting-manager of this theatre. With a view of increased comfort to all on both sides of the footlights, additional heating apparatus has recently been installed and steam radiators have been placed in convenient positions, both in the auditorium and on the stage. The evergreen comedy *The Private Secretary* (Eugene C. Stafford's company) is paying a visit here this week, and the whimsical young clergyman is as conducive to hilarity as ever he was, and, in the hands of Mr. Donald Price-Evans, the Rev. Robert Spalding is a mirth-provoking character. Mr. W. Hargreaves submits a good study of Mr. Cattermole, and draws many a hearty laugh. Mr. Frederick Tyrrell stands out prominently in the part of Mr. Sidney Gibson; Mr. Herbert Garthorne makes a suitable Douglas Cattermole; Harry Marsland is capably undertaken by Mr. Geo. Edwards; Mr. Frank Stanley is successful as Mr. Marsland, M.F.H. Miss Nan Macrae is a charming Edith Marsland; Eva Webster is capably played by Miss Janet Warden; and Miss Marie Scharning imparts much humour to the character of Mrs. Stead. The comedy is preceded by a farce, entitled *The Wild Man from Borneo*, the characters of which are ably sustained by Mr. Herbert Garthorne, Mr. Geo. Edwards, Miss Janet Warden, and Miss Nan Macrae.

PRESENTATION.—Mr. Fred S. Jennings, the general-manager of the Lyric Opera House, Hammersmith, was presented on Saturday night last with a massive silver cigar cabinet, as a mark of esteem from Miss Kittee Rayburn.

THE NEW PAVILION, WIGAN.

In order to meet a long-felt want in the district, the Wigan Entertainments Company are erecting the above hall on the vacant land next to the Technical School, in Library-street. One of the principal features of the building is the immense width of the roof, and the entire absence of centre columns. This, of course, is the governing factor of any hall, as there are then no obstructions to the view of the spectators. In order to achieve this result, the whole weight of the roof is carried on four specially designed steel principals, 112ft. clear span between the walls, and which are built up of rolled steel tees and angles, riveted together by means of gusset plates. The principals, though light and airy in appearance, weigh six tons each, and are supported quite independently of the walls on steel stanchions 29ft. long, the total height from the floor to the ridge being 71ft.

The total length of the building is 134ft., and the roof boarding and slating is carried by means



Architects: Messrs. J. B. and W. Thornley, Wigan and London.

of fifteen lines of 8in. rolled steel joist purlings, secured to the rafters of the principals, and running the full length of the building. These are also braced by an ingenious arrangement of diagonal steel tie-rods. Of course, in designing an enormous roof like this special care has to be taken to ensure the whole of the steel skeleton being self-contained and self-supporting. This has been done in such a manner that the walls and coverings are merely adventitious, and the stability of the steel work in no way depends upon these. One of the chief advantages of this system of roof is that the whole of the steel framework can be erected before the building of the walls is commenced. A complete system of diagonal bracing is introduced into the steelwork so as to prevent any movement or vibration under the extreme stresses which such a large roof would be subject to in gales and stormy weather.

At one end of the building is a large gallery, 90ft. long and 27ft. wide, which is supported on steel girders connected to cast-iron columns and the vertical stanchions in gable framing. At the other end of the building is the stage, which is carried on a framework of steel stanchions and girders. The two side galleries, 14ft. wide, are carried upon a system of steel girders so arranged that the stanchions supporting the same only occur at intervals of 20ft., thus presenting practically no obstruction to the floor view. The crowning feature of this structure is the large steel dome, 24ft. in diameter, surmounted by a smaller hemispherical dome, on which is placed one of Shorland's latest extractors, the top of which is 85ft. above the ground level.

Another feature is the floor, which is laid in maple, so that the hall can be used for roller skating, a pastime which at present is the rage in all the large towns and cities. The hall is also so constructed that it can be used for political meetings, dances, concerts, also as a circus or music hall. It is expected that the holding capacity will be 3,500. The whole of the steel work has been designed, manufactured, and is being erected by Messrs. J. Booth and Sons, Hulton-lane Steel Works, Bolton; the brick and wood work by Messrs. John Johnson and Son, Caroline-street, Wigan; the cement and plaster work by Messrs. J. B. Johnson and Co., Liverpool; and the slating by Messrs. J. Liptrot and Sons, Pemberton. The building will be electrically lit, and will be heated and ventilated on the best and latest principles known to modern science. Externally, the structure will be carried out in a similar manner to the recent Franco-British Exhibition buildings, and will undoubtedly prove a pleasing architectural addition to the town.

MR. ALBERT LAYTEN will shortly produce a new musical comedy sketch, entitled *The Belle of Ostend*. The book is written by Ivan P. Gore, and the music has been composed by Frank Bradsell.

MLLE. GHITA CORRI, who is now touring the Lancashire and Yorkshire towns with the greatest success, has recently included "boys" in her deservedly famous song-scena *Character Types*, and alternates her Eastern Princess with an Italian peasant lad, and her rough Scotch fish-wife with an early Georgian Cavalier.

TRINITY COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

On Tuesday afternoon at the Trinity College of Music, Mandeville-place, Manchester-square, before a number of the professors and students of the college, Sir Frederick Bridge, M.V.O., delivered his inaugural address as chairman of the board.

Sir Frederick, who was greeted with cheers, said, "I have done a great many things in the course of a long life, but I never before have been called upon to address the students in a great musical institution. I am engaged at the Royal College of Music, but only as one of the staff, and I have never had time or inclination to become the head of a big educational centre such as this. Here I occupy a post which suits me down to the ground. I have not much to do, that is one thing; I can do it as I like, that is another thing; and I can do it when I like, that is still another thing." Sir Frederick, in making a graceful allusion to the late Dr. Turpin, for many years a great friend of his, said, "He was a devoted servant of the College and a kind friend and adviser of the young student, and I rejoice to think I have been considered worthy to fill his place." Sir Frederick also spoke of the value of personal effort, and quoted a text of Solomon: "'Seest thou a man diligent in his business, he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men," and advised the students to hand the text in their bedrooms. He also advised making "Don't grumble," a text, and hanging that up. Sir Frederick caused much amusement by saying, "I have long been connected with the College as honorary organist, but never allowed to play." In his remarks on what to study the learned organist strongly advised taking up more than one branch study, and learning counterpoint, which would not be found so extremely difficult. A knowledge of the great masters—Beethoven, Schumann, Mozart—was also important, as well as some acquaintance with literature, but not the game of bridge. The audience laughed when Sir Frederick said: "I am sick of the name of bridge. I cannot change my name, but I am sick of the game, and think it does much harm. Too much time is also wasted on athletics, in themselves good, but not when men stand smoking pipes while other fellows play games such as football." The students among the audience were highly amused when Sir Frederick, speaking of music, said: "For heaven's sake, don't let it make you into an æsthetic, long-haired prig. Don't let your hair grow long, or dress in some abnormal kind of German costume with a large flowing tie. Dress like reasonable human beings. Apprenticeship is also an excellent institution. I myself was apprenticed to a cathedral organist." In speaking of vocalists Sir F. Bridge said: "Singers should study not only the chief parts of a work, but the secondary parts as well. Their first chance will be, no doubt, to take a secondary part, but if they are ready for the first their opportunity may come sooner than they think. If, however, they insist on taking the first part, and then fail, it is hopeless to expect another chance." To these remarks of the speaker pupils ought to pay special attention, as they are most important. So many vocal students only condescend to learn the famous airs or scenas in an oratorio or opera and know nothing of the other parts. Sir Frederick continued his address by saying: "In music, of course, there must be brains. If you have not got brains you may as well give up music. You remember the great artist who, on being asked how he produced such beautiful colours, replied 'With brains!' This institution gives a number of scholarships, and I am sure they are bestowed upon worthy people. Scholarships are a trust; it is money placed into your hands, and it ought to return in credit to the institution. If not, you are cheating a bit, and you must not cheat. I have been so long connected with music, and I speak from my heart, as I know where the weak spots are, so I say to the pupils before me, Work, work, so that in the long run you may reflect credit upon the Trinity College of Music."

GAMAGE'S NEW MAGICAL THEATRE (Manager, Mr. Will Goldston).

"The Magician" says that the ceremony of opening the new theatre contained within the vast structure of Gamage's immense stores took place some time ago. The proceedings commenced with a champagne lunch, to which over one hundred prominent members of the Press sat down. Mr. A. W. Gamage made a genial host and a capital chairman. In an interesting speech, he gave some details of the firm's progress during the past years, and an outline of his company's plans for the ensuing twelve months. It would really seem that instead of resting upon the laurels of so many years' successful trading Gamage's have only just started. What the capacity of their business will be in ten years' time it is quite impossible to conjecture.

Lunch and speeches being finished, the guests were entertained with some examples of Mr. P. T. Selbit's fascinating legerdemain, which proved highly amusing and technically excellent. Mr. Will Goldston acted as stage manager, and all went well.

The theatre itself is a handsome fireproof building capable of accommodating three hundred people. A clear view of the stage is obtained from every seat, each row being raised above the one in front. The stage is quite commodious and well equipped for the convenience of illusionists; the lighting arrangement is perfect, it being possible to reverse the proscenium battens to dazzle the audience for black art effects, and to obtain as much brilliance or as dim a religious illumination as may be required for other purposes. Without the slightest doubt this is the finest magical theatre of its kind in the world.

Amongst those who visited the theatre during the first week of the opening were: Harry Houdini, Carl Hertz, Barney Ives, Gustave Fasola, Ramses, Herr Wingard, Horace Goldin, Walter Henderson, "Alvaro," "Hercat," and F. H. Pedgrift.

ON THE ROAD, JAN. 25.

ALADDIN (GLENVILLE & O.).—Victoria T., Broughton.
ALADDIN (KIDDIE).—Theatre Royal, Hyde.
AT DUTY'S CALL.—Theatre Royal, Leicester.
BABES IN THE WOOD (KIDDIE).—P. O. W., Grimsby.
BATEMAN AND LOMATH.—King's T., Sutton-in-Ashfield.
BEGGAR GIRL'S WEDDING.—Metropole T., B'ham.
BENSON, F. R. (N.).—Drill Hall, Durham.
BENSON, F. R. (S.).—Bridgend and Pontypridd.
BENSON, MR. AND MRS. F. R.—T. R., Bournemouth.
BONDMAN, THE (CROKE).—T. R., South Shields.
BREWSTER'S MILLIONS.—O. H., Southport.
BULMER, MR.—Theatre Royal, Leigh.
CARL ROSA OPERA.—Grand T., Derby.
CASSIDY, MR. J. RICE.—Metropole T., Abertillery.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE), N.—G. T., W. Hartlepool.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE), S.—T. R., Smethwick.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE), M.—Long Eaton and Loughborough.
CINDERELLA (KIDDIE).—Prince's T., Blackburn.
CINGALEE, THE.—Stafford and Shrewsbury.
CLAUDIAN.—Royalty T., Barrow.
COMPTON COMEDY CO.—Royalty T., Chester.
CONSCIENCE OF A JUDGE.—Star T., Swansea.
COUNTRY GIRL IN LONDON.—P. O. W., Nuneaton.
DAIRYMAIDS, THE (COURTNEIDGE).—Grand T., Wolverhampton.
DAIRYMAIDS, THE (MACDONALD'S).—Paisley T., Paisley.
DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY.—T. R., Edmonton.
DIANA OF DOBSON'S.—T. R., Bath.
DICK WHITTINGTON (KIDDIE).—Huddersfield.
DICK WHITTINGTON (LITTLE).—Eden T., Bishop Auckland.
D'OYLY CARTE.—Grand T., Croydon.
EVE OF HER WEDDING.—Albert T., Brighouse.
EYES OF THE WORLD.—Grand T., Halifax.
FACE AT THE WINDOW.—T. R., Bilston.
FATAL WEDDING.—County T., Reading.
FLAG LIEUTENANT.—T. R., Norwich.
FLOWER GIRL, THE.—Lyceum T., Newport.
FOR LOVE AND THE KING.—Grand T., Chorley.
FORTY THIEVES (LITTLE).—H. M. T., Carlisle.
FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS.—Lyric T., Hammersmith.
FROM SLAVE TO PRINCESS.—Pier T., Eastbourne.
GAY GORDONS.—Royalty T., Glasgow.
GAY GORDONS, THE (N.).—Grand T., Falkirk.
GEOFFREY LANGDON'S WIFE.—Gaiety T., Burnley.
GIRL WITH THE ANGEL FACE.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
GIRL'S CROSS ROADS.—Osborne T., Manchester.
GIRLS OF GOTTENBERG (DANCE).—T. R., Portsmouth.
GLOSSOP-HARRIS.—O. H., Londonderry.
HARVEY, MR. MARTIN.—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
HAVANA.—King's Theatre, Glasgow.
HER FATAL MARRIAGE.—T. R., Woolwich.
HER LOVE AGAINST THE WORLD.—Lyceum T., Govan.
HIS HOUSE IN ORDER.—T. R., Hull.
HIS SISTER'S HONOUR.—Garrick T., Hereford.
IDOLS (HUTCHISON).—O. H., Cheltenham.
JACK THE GIANT KILLER.—O. H., Leicester.
KING AND THE UNKNOWN WOMAN.—T. R., Jarrow.
LA COMEDIE ANGLAISE.—Leominster and Kington.
LADY FREDERICK.—Grand T., Oldham
LEAH KLESCHNA.—T. R., Colne.
LITTLE BREADWINNER.—T. R., Mansfield
LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD.—Colosseum, Leeds.
LOVE OF THE PRINCESS.—Alexandra T., Hull.
LOVE THE CONQUEROR.—T. R., Stockport.
LUCK OF ROARING CAMP.—Star T., Liverpool.
LUCKY 'LIZA.—Wexford and Pembroke Dock.
MACLAREN, IAN.—Century T., Motherwell.
MAN AND WIFE.—Queen's T., Longton.
MERRY WIDOW, THE.—Shakespeare T., Clapham.
MESSAGE FROM MARS.—H. M. T., Dundee.
MISS HOOK OF HOLLAND (DANCE).—T. R., Dewsbury.
MOLLISON, WILLIAM.—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
MOODY-MANNERS (A).—O. H., Cork.
MOODY-MANNERS (B).—Birkenhead.
MRS. DOT.—Margate and Bury St. Edmunds.
MY MIMOSA MAID.—Castle T., Stockton.
NEW HOUSEMAID, THE.—T. R., Belfast.
NIHILIST, THE.—Metropole T., Abertillery.
OLD FOLKS AT HOME.—Metropole T., Gateshead.
OLD HOME, THE.—T. R., Barry Dock.
PETER'S MOTHER.—T. R., Worcester.
POWER OF THE KING.—Mountain Ash.
PRIVATE SECRETARY.—T. R., Colchester.
PRODIGAL SON (CROKE).—T. R., Torquay.
PRODIGAL SON (CROKE), (M).—T. R., Shrewsbury.
PRODIGAL SON (DAY).—Theatre Royal, Ayr.
RAFFLES.—Theatre Royal, York.
RED RIDING HOOD (LITTLE).—T. R., Barnsley.
ROBINSON CRUSOE (BENEY'S).—Royalty T., Llanelly.
ROLLICKING RORY.—O. H., Workington.
ROYAL DIVORCE.—T. R., Worthing.
SECRET SERVICE.—T. R., Chatham.
SEND HIM VICTORIUS.—T. R., Stratford.
SERGEANT BRUE.—T. R., Leamington and Stafford.
SIGN OF THE CROSS.—County T., Bedford.
SILVER KING (POLINI).—Hippodrome, Todmorden.
SINBAD THE SAILOR (LITTLE).—T. R., Kidderminster.
SOLDIER'S HONOUR.—Pavilion T., Abertillery.
STARR, HARRY, REPERTOIRE.—Central T., Northwich.
STILL ALARM.—Victoria T., Broughton.
THIEF, THE.—Wokingham and Swindon.
TODDLES.—D. P. Theatre, Eastbourne.
TOM JONES.—T. R., Merthyr.
TURNER'S OPERA CO.—O. H., Coventry.
TYRANT, THE.—New T., Bargoed.
UNCLE TOM'S CABIN.—Gaiety T., Ayr.
VICTIM OF VILLAINY.—Pardoe's T., Middleton.
VILLAGE BLACKSMITH.—O. H., Doncaster.
WALTZ DREAM.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh
WHAT A WOMAN DID.—Aquarium, Yarmouth.
WHEN KNIGHTS WERE BOLD.—T. R., Middlesbrough.
WHEN OTHER LIPS.—Grand T., Blackpool.
WHO IS SHE?—Hippodrome, Salford.
WILKIE, ALLAN, & Co.—T. R., Castleford.
WOMAN AND WINE.—Court T., Wigan.
WOMAN PAYS, THE.—T. R., Consett.

A GAY assembly enjoyed the festivities provided by the Covent Garden ball during the early hours of Saturday morning last. Mr. W. Clarkson secured second prize for a striking dress, entitled "A Favourite Pantomime." "The Season's Festivities" was an effective pink satin dress, with pictorial emblems of skating carnivals, fancy dress balls, and children's parties.

THE Jedburgh Town Council, on the 13th inst., discussed a communication received from the Clerk of the Peace of Roxburghshire, pointing out that Jedburgh Public Hall was not licensed for the performance of stage plays, and that, unless a licence was obtained, parties giving such performances would be liable in penalties. The Council agreed to have the hall licensed for three months to cover the remainder of the present winter season. It is understood that the Act is to be put in force throughout the county of Roxburgh.

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Notice to Advertisers.

Advertisements should reach the Office early in the week, and not later than Thursday, 7 p.m. Remittances, payable to "THE ERA," LTD., and crossed Lloyd's Bank.

Communications.

Business Communications should be addressed to The MANAGER,
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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We cannot undertake to answer the inquiries of correspondents by post. In all letters names and addresses must be given as a guarantee of good faith. Initials only or pseudonyms will be used in the replies if so desired.]

A. E. VINDER.—Faust, *a tragedy in a prologue and five acts, adapted and arranged by W. G. Wills from the first part of Goethe's tragedy, was first performed at the Lyceum on Dec. 19, 1885, and ran continuously until the French play season the following year (1886). The run of* Faust *was continued until April 22, 1887, when various revivals were given,* Faust *being retained for certain nights and matinées only. Messrs. H. B. Conway and George Alexander both played the hero, and Martin Harvey filled the part of a soldier. Miss Ellen Terry's understudy as Margaret at the time was Miss Winifred Emery, who took the part several times. The piece was produced at the Star Theatre, New York, Nov. 7, 1887, with Henry Irving and Ellen Terry in their original parts of Mephistopholes and Margaret. It was revived at the Lyceum in 1888 and 1894.*

THEO DE BOUWMEESTER.—*The piece you refer to is* Heard at the Telephone, *a translation, in two acts, of* Au Téléphone, *by MM. De Lorde and Foley, and was produced at Wyndham's on March 1, 1902. Mr. Charles Warner played the part of the distracted husband, who listens in agony through the telephone to the shrieks of his wife, who is being murdered by Indians. Mr. Warner gave a condensed version at the Palace and at the Coliseum. We have been unable to trace the production of the piece in Paris. You could write to Mr. Charles Warner, at the Green Room Club, or care of* The Era.

C. H. J.—*Write to Stationers' Hall, London, E.C., for the necessary forms. The fee is 5s. each for registration of copyright and performing right.*

GARNHAM.—*Mr. Arthur Nelstone is not performing in London at the present time. The last time we heard of him he was in the Colonies. See notice above.*

LE TORT.—*We cannot find any mention of Thomas Benton. Possibly you mean Robert Bensley, a celebrated actor in his day, who made his first appearance at Drury Lane Theatre as Pierre in* Venice Preserved?

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following Ladies and Gentlemen :—

Suzanne Sheldon—Sunday, Jan. 24.
Walter Stanley—Sunday, Jan. 24.
Lawrence Barclay—Sunday, Jan. 24.
Bertha Kingston—Monday, Jan 25.
Albert Voyce—Tuesday, Jan. 26.
Harry Bedford—Tuesday, Jan. 26.
James Howard—Tuesday, Jan. 26.
Jimmy Shields—Tuesday, Jan. 26
Cecil Raleigh—Wednesday, Jan. 27.
Mrs. Stanislaus Calhaem—Wednesday, Jan 27.
Charles Bush—Wednesday, Jan. 27.
Frank Allen—Thursday, Jan. 28.
Mabel Mannering—Thursday, Jan. 28.
Julie Opp—Thursday, Jan. 28.

DEATHS OF THE MONTH.

DEC. 1. Mrs. Arthur Jefferson (Madge Metcalfe).
,, 2. James De Rees.
,, 2. Mrs. J. H. MaCann.
,, 5. Mrs. J. A. Winstanley, aged 42.
,, 6. Mrs. Prince.
,, 9. Ellis Titherington.
,, 9. Joseph (Pepi) Brull, aged 36.
,, 10. John Brabourne.
,, 11. Tom Florence.
,, 12. "Paddy" Watson, aged 62.
,, 14. Harrington Baily.
,, 14. William Tasker (Edgar Lee), aged 58.
,, 16. Frank Heath, aged 52.
,, 18. Edmund Grace, aged 62.
,, 20. Mrs. Oscar Barrett.
,, 21. Edward Swanborough, aged 67.
,, 23. Mrs. Jack De Frece, aged 33.
,, 25. Roland Samwells, aged 49.
,, 25. Ernest Lingard Pike (Ernest Devereux), aged 29.
,, 26. John Harvey, aged 62.
,, 29. Marie Allen, aged 82.

THEATRE ROYAL, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Jan. 18, the Drama, entitled "THE GIRL WITH THE ANGEL FACE."

The company of Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and James Willard, which is appearing here this week in the drama *The Girl with the Angel Face*, is composed of members of no mean ability, which accounts in a large measure for the good business qualities of the play. The mounting is a noteworthy feature, the various scenes being well executed. The drama is heartily received by large audiences. The strenuous part of Angel Leigh, the girl with the angel face, is cleverly essayed by Miss Florrie Green, and whether she be depicting the innocent and loving girl or the hating and murderous woman she is equally successful, and deserves high praise for an impressive rendering. Mr. H. Naylor Grimson offers a careful study of Thomas Wentworth; Stephen Arkwright has a capable representative in Mr. Austin Mortimer, and although an unsympathetic part, scores well; Mr. Fred C. Evison as Jasper Death imparts a good deal of comedy into the character of that scoundrel, which is well received; Mr. J. L. Mann gives a good portrayal of Martin Flood; the Rev. Gordon Cross is ably undertaken and made the most of by Mr. Dobell Lyle; Mr. Dicky Bird is amusing as Jim Bates; James Govett is well portrayed by Mr. Henry Lee; Miss Phyllis Dailley infuses much pathos into the part of Ena Wentworth; Miss Gem Lloyd shows to advantage as Nellie; Miss Mildred Carr is happily suited to the part of Mollie Maitland, and displays much talent.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a **Birth**, a **Marriage**, or a **Death**, or an "**In Memoriam**" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is **One Shilling and Sixpence.**

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

BUTT.—On Jan. 17, at 77, Clifton-hill, N.W., the wife of W. Lawson Butt, of a son.

NEVILLE.—Jan. 7, at 10, Newfield Street, Sandbach, Cheshire, the wife of F. H. Neville (Miss A. Beddard), of a daughter.

MELVIN.—At Gordon Villa, Arbroath, N.B., on the 17th inst., the wife of George S. Melvin, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

CHAPMAN—FAUX.—Jan. 19, at the Collegiate Church of the Holy Trinity, Stratford-on-Avon, Mr. J. W. Chapman, Managing-Director of the Theatre Royal, Doncaster, to Miss Ada Florence Faux.

HYLTON—LOVE.—Jan. 17, at St. Andrew's Church, Stockwell, S.W., Charles C. Hylton to Ivy Love.

DEATHS.

COTTELL.—On Jan. 18, George Lansdowne Cottell, aged 73. Friends, kindly accept this (the only) intimation.

CRISP.—Jan. 18, Minnie Crisp (née McMullen), aged 28, dearly beloved wife of Frank Crisp, of 1, Solon-road, Brixton, who died in childbirth.
"In the midst of life we are in death."

HAMILTON-BELL.—Jan. 19, at 5, Gladstone-terrace, Gateshead-on-Tyne, Kortright Hamilton-Bell, aged 17, only and dearly-loved child of Georgina Hamilton (Mrs. Hamilton-Bell).

HUGHES.—Jan. 8, W. Hughes, professionally known as W. Reuben Payne, the beloved husband of Beatrice Fitzhugh, of consumption.

MASON.—On the 16th inst., at 17, St. James's-road, Brixton, Jenny Mason (mother of Effie Mason) passed peacefully away at the age of 72. R.I.P. Gone, but never forgotten.

REYER.—Jan. 15, Ernest Reyer, French composer and musician, aged 86.

ROBSON.—On Jan. 17, Emily Maria, widow of the late Mat Robson, and dearly-loved mother of Marie Robson.

RUSSELL.—On the 8th inst., at 79, Denmark-street, Heaton, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Harry Russell, late stage-manager with Livermore Bros. for nineteen years. Sent by William Russell, son of deceased, of 79, Denmark-street, Heaton, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

VON WILDENBRUCH.—Jan. 15, Dr. Ernst von Wildenbruch, German playwright, aged 63.

IN MEMORIAM.

ANATO.—In ever-loving memory of Mlle. Nina Anato, wife of Mr. Walter Melbourne, who fell asleep Jan. 23, 1899.

LEGGETT.—In loving memory of Richard (Dick) Leggett, who died Jan. 25, 1906, after a life's work on the stage. Never forgotten by his loving children.

KITCHEN.—In ever-loving memory of my dear husband, Dick Kitchen, who passed away Jan. 21, 1907. Never forgotten by his loving wife, HERMANCE. To know him was to love him.

LOCKHART.—To the dear and sacred memory of my beloved husband, George Lockhart, who passed away Jan. 24, 1904. Good-night, beloved; God's will be done.

MELFORD.—In loving memory of Austin Melford, who passed away Jan. 23, 1908.

WOOD.—In loving memory of my dear father, Arthur O. Wood, who passed away Jan. 5, 1908. —GRACIE WOODLEIGH-HORSFALL.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

A LARGE number of people connected with both branches of the profession will regret to hear of the death of Mr. Arthur Lawrence, late bill inspector at the Leicester Pavilion Theatre, which took place at the residence of his brother at Gloucester early on Saturday morning last, at the age of forty years, from acute consumption. The deceased man, who had had every attention shown to him at the Gilroes Home for Consumptives, near Leicester, was discharged a few weeks ago as incurable, and the end came as above mentioned.

MR. LAWRENCE had been touring agent for some prominent companies, and also bill inspector at the Cardiff Theatre. He later entered the service of Mr. R. E. Liston (now acting-manager of the Leeds Theatre) at the Empire Music Hall, Leicester, being associated there with Mr. Joe Lawrence, the present acting-manager for Mr. Frank Macnaghten at the Pavilion, in the same town. After Mr. Liston's retirement he entered the service of Colonel Winstanley at the Royal Opera House, Leicester, where he remained for a considerable number of years, and finally he was engaged by his old friend Mr. Joe Lawrence as bill inspector at the Pavilion. The deceased man was always attentive to his duties, and carried out his work in a thorough and conscientious manner, and as a window-biller he was probably the most successful man in the profession in Leicester. His wife predeceased him about twelve months ago, from the same complaint.

THE funeral took place at the new Gilroes Cemetery at Leicester on Wednesday afternoon, when a number of sorrowing friends and comrades in the profession were present to pay a last mark of respect to one who had always had their esteem. The coffin was carried to its last resting-place by the following gentlemen :—Messrs. Frank Burdett, Bob Caswell, Andrew Humberstone, Sam Burley, and Fred King, his most intimate friends.

WREATHS, including many from the relatives, included one from Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lawrence (Pavilion Theatre), the staff of the Pavilion, the amalgamated staffs of the various places of entertainment, and Mrs. Wherry.

MESSRS. A. R. DEAN AND SONS, of Birmingham, are fully maintaining their prestige as the world's theatre decorators and furnishers. As theatre furnishers, upholsterers, cabinet makers, carpet manufacturers, iron founders, bar fitters, and fibrous plaster manufacturers, they hold a unique position, their work being found in most of the buildings of note throughout the kingdom. During the last thirty years A. R. Dean and Sons have either completely or partly furnished upwards of 1,842 public buildings, and last year alone 108 theatres, halls, hotels, and other edifices were either completely or partly furnished by them. A record which has not been approached by A. R. Dean and Sons before was thus gained, fully 98 per cent. of the contracts for this class of work last year going to the enterprising firm. Notwithstanding the immense amount of work entailed in completing these contracts, A. R. Dean and Sons take a proper pride in the fact that every contract was completed to time, and invariably gave the greatest satisfaction. This year A. R. Dean and Sons intend to beat their past records. Their contracts in hand already include the whole of the re-upholstery and re-carpeting of the Alhambra Theatre, Paris; the complete reseating of the New Holloway Hall, Holloway; the seating of the New King's Hall, Tooting; furnishing and seating of the New Hippodrome, Ilkeston; complete re-upholstering of the Theatre Royal, Ilkeston. The whole of the plastic and decorations and furnishing throughout at a cost, if required, of £2,000, of the New Royal Hippodrome, Blackburn; and the furnishing throughout of the New Palace Hippodrome, Dundee. A. R. Dean and Sons have made a study of the requirements of picture shows and similar exhibitions, and last year seated twenty-two picture palaces, including most of the Electric Theatre Company's. The fact that the services of Mr. A. F. Windibank are retained as manager of the theatre department is an assurance that this class of work will have the most expert attention.

MR. HERBERT LISLE, manufacturer of trick and novelty instruments, has removed to 209, Camberwell New-road.

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.

No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this list.

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Almasio, Mr. Joe
Anthony, Mr.
Antony, Miss Hilda
Armitage, Mr. Harry
Artois, Mr. Alfred
Ashman, Mr. Joseph
Athol, Mr. Harry
Bale, Mr. J.
Baldwin, Mr. C.
Barker, Mr. John
Barry, Mr. J. L.
Bassett, Mr. T.
Beaute, Mons.
Belmont, Miss Belle
Beresford, Miss Nancy
Biddall, Brothers
Bishop, Mr. Alf.
Blaie, Mr. Wilfred
Boielle, Mr. Arthur R.
Boyne, Mr. Leonard
Bradley, Mr. Bert.
Brandon-Gower, Miss G
Brasque, Mr. Albert
Bromley, Miss Con
Brownson, Miss Amy
Burgess-Barreth, Mr. W
Cady, Mr. F. W.
Callan, Mr. John
Carlisle, Mr. F.
Casson, Mr. Frank
Carter, Mr. Leslie
Cartlidge, Mr.
Cavendish, Miss K.
Cee Mee, Mr. H.
Chambers, Mr. John
Chapman, Miss Hetty
Chetwyn, Miss Beatrice
Chipperfield, Mr. J. W.
Clavering, Miss Nita
Clifton, Mr. Percy
Cohen, Mr. Louis
Collins, Mrs. P.
Connelly, Miss F.
Cromwell, Miss Cecil
Crystal, Miss Nita
Cullenford, Mr.
Currie, Mr. Byden
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Daventry, Miss Marie
Dean, Miss Ella
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Dereve, Mr. Edgar
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Dunlo, Miss Linda
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Elgar, Mr.
Elton, Mrs. Fred
Epsilon
Ernesto
Eugene, Miss Cora
Evans, Mr. Wash
Evans, Mr. W. E.
Fatima, Mlle. La Belle
Fillis, Mme.
Fionntta and Cley
Fleming, Mr. Hugh
Ford and Barras
Fordham, Mr. Fred
Francois, Sisters
Fuller, Mr. Herbert
Genée, Mlle. A.
Gennette, Mr. Claud
Gill, Mr, Ernest
Gittens, Mr. E. Chas.
Glynn, Mr. Harry
Grein, Mr. and Mrs. J. T.
Grey, Miss Marion
Gwenn, Mr. Edmund
Hall, Mrs. James
Hardie, Mr. Frank
Haywood, Miss
Healy, Mr. Robert
Helmer, Mr. Tom
Hollister, Mr. H.
Holmore, Mr. J.
Horton, Mr. Walter
Hron, Mr. E. T.
Hutchings, Mr. Fred
Ishmael, Prince
Jackson, Mr. J. G.
Johnson, Mr. Kid
Johnston, Miss Jenny
Jordan, Mr. Gerald
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Morgan, Miss Mabel
Mudie, Mr. George
Murphy, Mr. M. J.
Mystic
Neiman, Mr. V.
Nelson, Mrs. Harry
Nelson, Mr. Jim
North, Mr. Benson
Novaro, Mme. Mary A.
O'Connor, Miss Isabel
Onetti, Sisters
Paulton, Mr. Ed. A.
Perretts, Mr. Billy
Perrette, Mr. W. H.
Pleon, Mr. Harry
Poncherry, Mr. Chevalier
Potter, Mrs. Brown
Preston, Mr. J. F.
Raymond, Miss Marie
Raynor and Esto
Raynor, Mr. Jack
Reynolds, Mr. Arthur
Richardson, Mr. Harry
Rivers, Miss Edie
Robinson, Mr. Chas.
Rose, Mr. Arthur
Ross, Miss Maude
Russon, Miss Alice
Sainsbury, Mr. H. A.
Saville, Mr. Frank
Scanlon, Mr.
Scott, Messrs. W.
Sealby, Mr. Herbert
Seymour, Mr. Frank
Sheen, Mr. W. P.
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West, Mr. Reginald H.
Wheelers, The Juggling
Wilson, Miss Geraldine
Wilson, Mr. Chas.
Wyatt, Mrs. Alice
Wyndham, Mr. S.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN on Monday sent a charming and sympathetic letter containing postal orders to the well-known skater, Chevalier T. H. Crowther, who has been, and still is, suffering severely from rheumatism. An influential committee is now arranging to give him a bumper benefit.

VULCARIS, who is now well known in the North as well as in various parts of his native England as "the Scottish Grossmith," begins a series of popular once-a-week "vaudeville sit-round" concerts in the Trades Hall, Aberdeen, on Saturday next.

THE success achieved by Miss Bessie Butt as Dandini at the County Theatre, Kingston, is gratifying to all who have taken an interest in the career of this clever young artist. As this is the first principal boy rôle essayed by Miss Butt, Mr. Peter Davey must congratulate himself on the undoubted success of his experiment.

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6.30. Twice Nightly. 9 o'clock.
F. W. Purcell's Co., in "What Women Do for Men," Princess Pocahontas, The Four Elwyns, May Clifton and Co., in "Jack in Japan," Sisters Redfern, Dion Wade, Tee and Tee, Marie Faudelle, Jeapes' Animated Graphic, Tom Bass, Frank E. Taylor, and Mason and Bart.

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(facing Victoria Station).—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. T. S. Dickie.—One house nightly. Half-time 9.30, except Saturdays and holidays. Monday, Jan. 25, John Henderson and Co. in "The Land of the West," Union Jack Boys," Talbot and Pearce, Chas. Lilburn, Victor Widdicombe and Co. in "Her Devonshire Dad," Lil Elfreda, Gicardo, Probyn and Bates, Will Musgrave, Spencer and Marks, Nellie Nestle, Frank Jester, Edisonograph. Rehearsal Monday, 1 o'clock. Doors open 7.30 (Saturdays 7 o'clock). Commence 7.40 (Saturdays 7.16, with augmented programme). Tele., 503 Westminster. Assistant-Manager, Mr. Maurice Volny.

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PALACE OF VARIETIES, LTD.
Twice Nightly, at 6.10 and 9.
Monday, Jan. 25, Miss Carlotta de Yonson in "The Kidnapped King," Flo Inman, Essman, Chas. Bignell, Brian Butler, Belford and Mars, Five Johns, Milton and Mora, Alma Campbell, Mlle. Ottino, Elsie Ellis, Bioscope, Joe Belmont. Artists are notified that they must send their full Bill Matter in two clear weeks before opening. Rehearsal, 1 o'clock Mondays. All must attend. Artists not complying with the above rules are subject to having their Contracts cancelled at option of Management.

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Manager, Mr. BLYTH PRATT.

TIVOLI
Marie Lloyd, Little Tich, Alfred Lester, Fred Russell, The Bensons, Chris Van Bern, Louise Zetland, The Three Braggs, T. E. Dunville, George Formby, Violet King, The Romps, Geo. Newburn, Radie Furman, Bioscope, and Henri le Vries and Co. Open 7.30; Saturday Matinés, 2.15.

MIDDLESEX.
Jan. 25. Ashley's American Circus, The Sages, Kit Keen, Tom Leamore, Henri Cazman, Eva Lumley and Co., Florence Yaymen, Three Pirmans, Claire and Pastor, Bert Weston, Kendrick and Laura, Roy and Roy, Earle and Godfrey, Agnes Hanson, Lola Kornero, New Bioscope. All artists to attend Band Rehearsal, Mondays, 2.

METROPOLITAN.
At 6.45
and 9.10.
COURTICE POUNDS & CO., in "CHARLES. HIS FRIEND." VICTORIA MONKS, THE NORMAN AND LEONARD TRIO, Clara Beck, Harry Levain, FRED RUSSELL, Wyndham and Wyatt, Henry Hilton, Rita Rhylle, Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope.

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Joint Managers, M. Abrahams and C. Hector.
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Bill matter must be sent in fourteen days before opening, in accordance with Clause 18, same to be sent to Manager, Queen's. Artists please note rehearsal must be attended Mondays, 1.0 o'clock, according to contract.

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HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE, BRISBANE.
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Mr. GEORGE ALEXANDER (Vice-President), in the Chair.
The attendance of Subscribers is requested, and all those interested in the work of the Fund are invited to be present.
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ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.
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To receive a Report of Accounts and Expenditure and Receipts and Liabilities and Assets.
To elect twenty-five members of the Council and to transact any further Business of the Association brought before the Meeting by the Council or by any Members who shall have given to the Secretary seven days' written notice thereof.
Dated this 19th day of January, 1909.
By order of the Council,
HUBERT BLOUNT,
Secretary.
353, Strand, W.C.
The chair will be taken by Mr. CECIL RALEIGH.
All Members are entitled to attend, and every Member whose subscription for the current year is paid is entitled to vote.

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ALPHABETICAL LIST
OF
ILLUSTRATED BIOGRAPHIES.

Adeson, Mr. Charles	April 25, 1908
Allen, Mr. Frank	Feb. 22, 1908
Ames, Miss Emmie	Jan. 4, 1908
Anson, Miss Carlotta	June 13, 1908
Atwill, Mr. Lionel	June 27, 1908
Bailey, Mr. Gordon	May 30, 1908
Bandurria, Late Mr. George	Dec. 14, 1907
Barber, Mr. Alfred S.	Nov. 21, 1908
Barrasford, Mr. Thomas	Feb. 29, 1908
Barwell, Miss Edith	April 11, 1908
Bateman, Miss	March 14, 1908
Beck, Mr. Fred	April 4, 1908
Beckwith, Late Mr. J. W.	Nov. 21, 1908
Beresford, Mr. Frank	July 18, 1908
Berte, Late Mr. Charles	May 30, 1908
Booker, Late Mr. George A.	April 4, 1908
Boulton, Mr. Matthew	April 4, 1908
Brett, Mr. Edwin	Feb. 22, 1908
Brickwell, Miss Maimie	Nov. 21, 1908
Brodie, late Mr. Matthew	Jan. 11, 1908
Brydon-Phillips, Mr. G.	Jan. 4, 1908
Buxton, Mr. Fred.	June 27, 1908
Carnegy, Miss Mary	March 7, 1908
Carpenter, Mr. Ernest	Feb. 22, 1908
Chambers, Miss Lizzie	June 6, 1908
Clinton, Late Mr. Dudley	Oct. 10, 1908
Cole, Mr. E. W. Maule	Feb. 1, 1908
Collins, Mr. George	March 21, 1908
Cookson, Mr. S. A.	April 11, 1908
Corlass, Miss Georgie	Sept. 5, 1908
Cory-Thomas, Late Mr. L.	Nov. 21, 1908
Corri, Mr. William	July 25, 1908
Craven, Late Mrs. H. T	March 28, 1908
Crewe, Mr. Bertie	March 28, 1908
Croke, Mr. Wentworth	Sept. 5, 1908
Cromwell, Mr. William	Jan. 25, 1908
Crouch, Mr. Herbert	Oct. 31, 1908
Davis, Miss Lallah	March 7, 1908
Dean, Mr. Walter	May 16, 1908
De Banzie, Mr. E. T.	Oct. 3, 1908
Denton, Mr. C. St. John	Jan. 4, 1908
Derry, Miss Joan	Feb. 8, 1908
Dexter, Miss Elizabeth	Feb. 15, 1908
Dickeson, Mr. Herbert	June 13, 1908
Donegan, Mr. James E.	July 11, 1908
Dorgere, Mlle. Arlette	May 30, 1908
Doyle, Mr. C. Milley	Nov. 7, 1908
Draycott, Mr. Charles	June 13, 1908
Drewry, Miss Maude Stewart	April 4, 1908
Dunville, Mr. T. E.	April 11, 1908
Dyas, Late Miss Ada	March 21, 1908
Edgar, Mr. Marriott	Oct. 10, 1908
Edis, Miss Anita	May 9, 1908
Edmonds, Mr. E. Vivian	June 27, 1908
Edouin, Late Mr. Willie	April 18, 1908
Edwards, Late Mr. G. H.	April 11, 1908
Empress, Miss Marie	Feb. 8, 1908
Feldman, Mr. Bert	Dec. 14, 1907
Fenton, Mr. Frank	June 6, 1908
Firmin, Miss Dorothy	Sept. 12, 1908
Fisher, Mr. Charles	Sept. 12, 1908
Fitzgibbon, Mr. H. B.	July 25, 1908
Forde, Miss Florrie	March 21, 1908
Francis, Late Mr. William	Jan. 25, 1908
Francks, Mr. Hawley	Nov. 7, 1908
Frank, Miss Ada	July 25, 1908
Gay, Mr. Walter	July 11, 1908
Gibbons, Mr. Arthur	July 4, 1908
Gilbart, Miss Eleanor	Nov. 21, 1908
Gilmore, Mr. Paul	July 18, 1908
Godfrey, Mr. Dan	Aug. 29, 1908
Godfrey, Miss Freda	Jan. 2, 1909
Goldston, Mr. Will	Feb. 22, 1908
Goodall, Miss Edyth	June 13, 1908
Grant, Mr. Christie	Feb. 29, 1908
Gregory, Late Mr. John	Dec. 28, 1907
Gribben, Mr. Harry A.	March 7, 1908
Grimes, Mr. W. J.	May 23, 1908
Hamilton, Miss Rose	April 18, 1908
Hanbury, Late Miss Lily	March 7, 1908
Hansard, Late Mr. J. B.	Feb. 8, 1908
Hardacre, Miss Ethel	July 4, 1908
Harding, Mr. Alfred	May 2, 1908
Harker, Mr. Frederick	Oct. 3, 1908
Harmer, Miss Dolly	Nov. 7, 1908
Hart, Late Mr. Harry	Jan. 16, 1909

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 1909.

THE INFLUENCE OF THE DRAMA.

Those whose work lies behind the curtain, and whose minds are riveted upon the task of artistic representation, often fail to realise the serious view which is taken of the drama by many in the audience. It is the fashion to affect complete disillusionment as to the mimic life of the boards; but a play, to the young, the unsophisticated, and the imaginative is a very real and influential thing, and its importance in forming character and opinion can hardly be over-estimated. A striking proof of this statement was supplied on Tuesday, when the report of the divorce action brought by a Mr. LOCKE against his wife ELLEN was published. The unhappy woman, in a letter written to her husband, alluded to the struggle which had been going on in her soul, and to the deep effect which had been made on her by seeing one of Mr. HALL CAINE'S dramas at the Lyceum Theatre. Mrs. LOCKE wrote:

Do you remember me seeing *Pete?* God only knows what I suffered that night. Only I knew it was no use confessing to you. I have tried, with *Pete's* help, four times to break through this, and be a good wife to you.

There are numerous well-authenticated instances of the effect of a dramatic performance upon the conscience. The well-known scene in which Hamlet uses a play to "try the conscience of the king" was probably based on an actual occurrence; and the memory of LILLO'S tragedy of *George Barnwell* is connected with an interesting incident which was at one time frequently referred to as a proof of the valuable moral lesson which may be taught by a play. The drama of *George Barnwell* was based upon a ballad printed in the seventeenth century, and supposed to be founded on fact, and is an account of a young, unsuspecting man being seduced by the allurements of an artful courtesan. It was, after its production at Drury Lane in 1731, a great favourite at country theatres in the old days, and was usually performed once during the holidays, every season, at Covent Garden and Drury Lane. It was so successful when first produced at the latter theatre that it was performed for twenty nights to crowded houses; and QUEEN CAROLINE sent to the theatre for the manuscript, in order that she might peruse it. The tragedy was considered as a useful admonition to youth; and on one occasion at least it appears to have been the means of rescuing a young man from perdition. This was during the Christmas holidays in 1752, when Mr. ROSS played George Barnwell and Mrs. PRITCHARD Millwood. A few nights afterwards, Dr. BARROWBY, the physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, was sent for by a young gentleman in Great St. Helen's, who was apprenticed to a very eminent merchant. He found him very ill, and, as he suspected, of a complaint beyond the reach of medicine. The nurse told him that he sighed at times so very heavily that she was sure something lay heavy on his mind. The doctor requested to be alone with the patient, when after much solicitation he prevailed on the youth to unbosom himself. He said he was the second son of a gentleman of fortune in Hertfordshire; that he had formed an improper acquaintance with a female, which had caused him to embezzle and expend money belonging to his employer to the amount of £200. Two nights before the doctor saw him he had seen Mr. ROSS and Mrs. PRITCHARD play in *George Barnwell*, and was so forcibly struck with the coincidence between his own case and that of Barnwell that he had not enjoyed a moment's peace since, and wished to die, that he might avoid the shame which he saw hanging over him. The doctor offered to intercede with the father of the young man for the money, and assured him that if he failed in getting it by that means that he would furnish it himself. The father, who had been sent for, soon arrived. The doctor took him into a private room, and, after explaining the whole cause of the son's illness, entreated him to save the honour of his family and the life of his son. The father instantly went to his banker for the money, while the doctor returned to his patient, and informed him that everything would be arranged to his satisfaction, as his father would soon return with peace and forgiveness, and never mention or even think of the subject again. The youth, relieved from the load with which his mind was oppressed, soon recovered, and afterwards became a very eminent merchant. Mr. ROSS, the actor who was so instrumental in saving this young man, and who related the circumstance, said he never knew either the gentleman or his name, but that for nine or ten years afterwards he always received on his benefit a sealed note, enclosing ten guineas, with these words: "A tribute of gratitude from one who was highly obliged, and saved from ruin, by seeing Mr. Ross's performance of Barnwell."

The influence of the stage on simple and unformed characters is much greater than is generally supposed, and it works as strongly by inference and allusion as by actual suggestion. It is not so much what is dealt with in a drama as the spirit in which the subject is treated which improves or injures the spectator. We have frequently met with reported instances of the influence of a dramatic performance upon the heart and mind of an individual, turning him or her from the wrong path to the right one. It would be interesting to have these collected, if only as a plea for the much-abused drama. If any of our readers remember, either in themselves or in others, a change of heart being created by seeing a play, we shall be much obliged if they will write to us and describe the incident. It will not be necessary to disclose identity; and under the shield of a *nom de plume* the most intimate disclosures may safely be made.

A MERCY MATINEE.

A large and distinguished audience was liberally entertained on Tuesday at the Garrick Theatre, kindly lent by Miss Evelyn Millard, for a matinée in aid of the League of Mercy, of which Princess Christian is a patroness. Included in the programme were three new pieces from the same pen—that of Mr. Cyril Twyford. Each dealt more or less seriously with marital infidelity, the strongest being the one-act play entitled *009 West*. It tells how a husband, suspecting that his wife is unfaithful, compels her to ring up on the telephone "009 West," the number of her alleged lover, and to speak to him while her husband listens. By this means the husband's worst fears are confirmed, and, retiring to an adjoining room, he blows out his brains. The author was well served, Mr. Leslie Faber playing with striking power as the outraged husband, and Miss Granville employing her dramatic skill effectively in the varied phases of a difficult rôle.

The second piece made a pretence of being a comedy, and was called *Thin Ice*. The precarious surface hinted at in the title is trodden by a young husband, who has acquired the habit of staying out at night, and propitiates his adoring wife by presents of jewellery. Acting on the advice of a friend, the wife decides to have a night out, and effects a similar compromise with her spouse by leaving him a gift of a gold cigar-case. The young man is thus brought to book before he has gone too far, and the omniscient friend is reconciled to an admirer who had momentarily asserted his independence. Well-known artists were again included in the cast, but the material at their disposal was very poor. However, Mr. Chas. Quartermaine played the recalcitrant Benedict with commendable care. Mr. Thos. A. Braidon, under whose direction the matinée was given, used his light comedy gifts to all possible purpose as a weak young wooer; and Miss Alexandra Carlisle, Miss Francis Vine, and Miss Elsie Williams appeared in the feminine parts.

An episode entitled *Kiddie* furnished the third novelty. Husband and wife have obtained a divorce, and the former has been given the custody of their boy. The mother comes to plead to be allowed to keep the child, and in course of conversation convinces her husband that she is innocent, a sort of anti-climax being furnished by the arrival of a telegram saying that "Kiddie," who has been ill with diphtheria, is dead. The performance was welcome for an effective rendition of the husband by Mr. Henry Ainley, who acted in his usual artistic style; and Miss Susanne Sheldon invested with emotional power the part of the ill-judged wife, Mr. Herbert Dansey appearing in a minor rôle.

A miscellaneous programme of high-class quality was also provided, the singing of Signor Manrico Bacci, of Miss Julia Caroli, and of Mme. Hortense Paulsen giving infinite pleasure. Miss Helen Mar told many yarns with her customary humour, Miss Phyllis Bedells gave the skipping-rope dance from the Empire ballet; and Mr. Maurice Farkoa sang four of his daintily-rendered songs, two of which were due to recalls. An eagerly-awaited item came at the end, when Miss Lily Elsie and Mr. Joseph Coyne fascinated all with the *Merry Widow* waltz, which had to be repeated. Judging by the size of the audience, the society for which the matinée was given should benefit substantially

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THE eminent German composer Herr Paul Lincke has been sojourning in London for the greater part of a week, and has spent his time visiting matinée and evening performances at the principal West End theatres. The distinguished musician, whose "Luna" waltz is now the vogue in Germany, France, Belgium, Austria, and America, made some trenchant remarks on the apathy of British composers and the matter of lost royalties.

HE said: "What has surprised me here is that English composers have no organisation for the collection of fees for the public performance of their works. The society in France is most helpful to musicians in this respect, and a similar institution has lately been started in Germany. Several people ask—Why should the composer be paid for the performance of his work? You go to a concert and hear big artists interpreting noble compositions. At such a concert everybody is remunerated—vocalists, orchestra, conductor, programme sellers—except the man whose works you are listening to. Is this fair? A band plays in a restaurant and makes a name for itself by playing popular airs. Do the composers benefit one penny?

"THE French society, which has now been in existence some fifty years, originated in a curious way. A poor composer whose song was the rage of the day went to a café in Paris and ordered refreshment. His composition was sung, and aroused tremendous enthusiasm. People had gone there specially to hear it. When the waiter came to him for payment the musician refused to settle. The manager was called. He agreed that people had attended on purpose to listen to the work, but he did not see why he should entertain the composer.

"OUT of the action that naturally followed there came the establishment of the French society. The organisation is well known in this country, for Mr. Alfred Moul, the present managing-director of the Alhambra, used to be its English representative. But why don't you Englishmen form one of your own? Some of your brilliant composers would then materially add to their incomes."

"HOW WOMEN ARE SLANDERED."

Drama, in Four Acts, by T. G. Bailey, produced at the Victoria Theatre, Broughton, on Jan. 14.

Major Sterling, V.C. .....MR. LEONARD ROBSON
Squire Warberton .....MR. CLIFFORD GEORGE
Bob Warberton .....MR. ELLERSLEY PYNE
Doctor Hanley .....MR. LESLIE BENNETT
Sober Joe .....MR. WALTER CLIFFORD
The Parson .....MR. GEORGE MORTON
Master Jack Sterling ..MISS DOROTHY DEWHURST
Rosie Sterling .....MISS DORIS PEASE
Jimmy Chipps .....MR. J. F. FOX
Maud Warberton .....MISS PHYLLIS RELPH
Madge Gilroy .....MISS ELLA THORNTON
Patty .....MISS TILBURY GEORGE
Annie Body .....MISS FLORENCE MANNERS

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The theme of the above drama is the endeavour of a woman to obtain her ends by getting a scapegrace to assist her in damaging the character of his own sister (who is really a good woman), and the author has worked up a pretty story, keeping the audience on "tip-toe" of expectation throughout. Lieut. Sterling, a young soldier who had gained the coveted Victoria Cross, had protected Madge Gilroy some times before the opening of the play from the brutality of a man she was living with, and she had formed the resolution to marry her preserver. The lieutenant, however, was attached to Maud Warberton, and his affection was returned. The first scene is laid in Squire Warberton's garden, and an interview between the Squire and his son Bob shows the latter to be a gambler and a thief and a thorough disgrace to his family. The old man refuses to give him money, and tells him he will not have anything more to do with him. Maud (his sister) tries to persuade him to start a better life, and he promises to do his best if she will get him some money. Madge, whom he has known as "the Marchioness," arrives, and, seeing Maud in the company of a young man, determines she shall have Sterling herself. The lieutenant and Maud, however, plight their troth, the Squire giving his consent. Madge and Sterling meet, but the young man will have nothing to do with her. Bob quarrels with a shady sort of individual known as "the Parson." The former shoots at his adversary, but misses, and is himself stunned by a blow from "the Parson." The next moment Madge, picking up the revolver, shoots the Parson, and places the revolver in the hand of the unconscious Bob. He revives, and Madge tells him that unless he does as she commands, namely, abducts his sister Maud and takes her to a house of ill-fame, she will see that he is hanged. He defies her, and leaves. Madge rummages in the dead man's pocket, and is discovered thus employed by a man called Sober Joe.

Eight years elapse, and Act II. finds Madge paying Sober Joe to keep silence. Bob—now a complete wreck—having been haunted with the idea that he is a murderer, comes to ask Madge to help him. She promises on condition that he obeys her command. Sterling has been married eight years to Maud, and is away at the war, where he has become a Major. Maud is presiding at a children's party when Madge appears and gives the young mother to understand that her brother is a murderer, demanding her place as the price of Bob's freedom. The Major, welcomed back by a crowd outside, returns. Madge accuses his wife of infidelity, and adds that the children are not his. Maud's lips are sealed by the thought of the brother's crime, and she is banished from the house. The father keeps the girl, while the boy chooses to go with his mother.

In the third act Sterling has taken Madge to keep house, and, the little girl being in the way, Madge takes every opportunity of frightening her with a mask and cloak until she becomes ill. A nurse is engaged, and the child recognises her as the mother. It is decided to watch for the bogey woman, and Maud finds out and horsewhips Madge, taking the child away. Ten years afterwards Madge, still indulging her infatuation for Sterling, gets a letter sent to say Maud has been killed abroad, and Sterling goes to Italy to find the children, taking Madge with him. Madge and Maud meet, and Madge denounces her before the other guests as a woman whose reputation will not bear investigation; but Maud's son Jack comes to her side and vindicates his mother's honour. Meanwhile Sober Joe, having met with an accident, grows remorseful, and tells the truth about the murder and the way Maud acted to save her brother from the hangman. In the last scene Madge endeavours to shoot Maud, but is herself stabbed by the demented Bob.

The acting was excellent throughout. Miss Ella Thornton as Madge played with much ability; Miss Phyllis Relph portrayed the virtuous Maud in excellent style; Mr. Leonard Robson as the Lieutenant was every inch a fine young soldier; and clever acting of the scapegrace Bob was done by Mr. Ellersley Pyne. Mr. J. F. Fox as Jimmy Chipps, a chauffeur, policeman, shopkeeper, &c., took every opportunity of keeping the audience amused, and was well assisted by Miss Tilbury George as Patty. Miss Dorothy Dewhurst made a good Master Jack Sterling; Mr. Clifford George carefully acted the Squire; Sober Joe was in the capable hands of Mr. Walter Clifford; Mr. George Morton ("the Parson"), Miss Doris Pease (little Rosie), and Miss Florence Manners (Annie Body) gave good support. Several specialities were done in the first scene of the fourth act—the grounds of an Italian hotel—by Miss Ena Moore, a graceful Spanish dancer, Miss Clare Wolverson, vocalist, and Mr. J. F. Fox. The play is produced by Messrs. Watson and Owen, and the staging is all that can be desired. The curtain had to be raised many times, and at the end the author had to appear and acknowledge the enthusiastic plaudits.

THE O.P. Club have had to stop issuing any further tickets for the forthcoming *Merry Widow* Dinner.

OVER 200 of the local unemployed were entertained on the 14th inst. to a substantial mid-day meal by Mr. S. Winks, the energetic resident-manager of the Grand Theatre, Halifax. The guests were welcomed at the theatre by Mr. Wm. Robinson, the managing-director of the Northern Theatres Co., Ltd., and Mr. Winks. The guests were afterwards entertained to musical selections, and stayed to the matinée of Mr. J. Gar-Kiddie's pantomime, *Little Bo-Peep*, spending a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

THE children's turn came on Saturday afternoon, when 400 poor youngsters were invited to a similar repast. Despite the fact that a bitterly cold northerly wind was blowing accompanied by heavy falls of snow, the children began to assemble by 10.45, and continued to swell the hungry crowd until noon. Four hundred tickets had been distributed, but a number presented themselves at the doors without the magic pasteboard begging for admittance, and none were turned away. After the meal Mr. Winks conducted his visitors through several popular songs and choruses, and invited all to see *Bo-Peep*. The pantomime was thoroughly enjoyed. The artists had little chance with the popular songs, the youngsters taking up the refrain at once, and singing lustily to the bâton of the conductor. Mr. Winks is hoping to be able to give a similar treat to-day (Saturday).

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THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, Jan. 21.—Ernest Reyer, the celebrated composer, has passed away at the age of eighty-six, after a short illness. Like Berlioz—whose place he took on the *Journal des Débats*—he was not "a prophet in his own country," and the knowledge that he was so little appreciated by his countrymen embittered his life. The fact that he was a staunch supporter of Wagner at a time when the German master's very name was tabooed in France added to his unpopularity, and it was only after his great works *Sigurd* and *Salammbô* received official consecration by being produced in Covent Garden and at the Théâtre de la Monnaie in Brussels that it dawned upon the French public how absurd their attitude had been towards a man of whom his country might be justly proud. From that moment honours were showered upon him, and although Reyer's music is beyond the comprehension of the ordinary playgoer, the latter now listens to it reverently, which is more than that playgoer's father did.

ONE night, at a musical soirée at the house of a celebrated chocolate manufacturer, a musical banker was asked to "oblige the company" with a valse of Chopin. He did oblige, and whilst he performed I heard a lady behind me whisper in an admiring tone to her neighbour, "Doesn't he play beautifully for a millionaire?" There was deep philosophy in those words, of which the good lady, of course, was quite unaware. But I suddenly remembered them a few days ago when I attended the first performance at the Théâtre du Jardin d'Acclimatation of *Les Roses du Calife*, a one-act opera by the Princesse de Polignac. But what kind of house is the Théâtre du Jardin d'Acclimatation, and who is the Princesse de Polignac? The "Jardin d'Acclimatation" is the French equivalent for the Paris "Zoo," and boasts of a hall where popular concerts are given every Sunday afternoon. As to the Princesse de Polignac, her title speaks for itself. She is a great lady passionately fond of composing, and anxious to see her works produced. Ordinary mortals, with nothing but their talent to recommend them, have to wait several years before they are lucky enough to come across a manager willing to take them in hand. But the great in this world apparently know how the thing has to be done, for they always find an obliging manager, and, if necessary, papers ready to publish laudatory notices. For all that, I am glad to say that the Princesse de Polignac's composition is not at all bad—even for a princess. Her work shows distinct merits that raise her above the ordinary amateur, and the orchestration especially denotes no little skill on her part. The same compliment cannot be paid to M. de Dubor, the librettist. His story is naive. He shows us a Caliph so fond of his roses that he has issued an edict that anyone plucking one of his favourite flowers is to be put to death. One night Nosiba, the favourite lady in his harem, has made an appointment in the gardens with Nabegha, the Caliph's nephew, with whom she is in love, whereupon the Grand Vizier, mistaking them in the darkness for thieves, hits out with his sword and kills them. As an excuse for his stupidity the Grand Vizier makes the Caliph believe that the young couple were stealing roses, and that he performed his duty in despatching them; and the Caliph, lamenting the death of his favourite lady and of her companion, says that they were fated to die, and he philosophically orders the dances that had been interrupted to continue.

WITHIN the last few weeks wild rumours have been afloat that Mme. Réjane intended to withdraw from the management of the theatre that bears her name. It was even said that a gentleman from Marseilles was prepared to take over the house and make it the home for operettes. As these statements may prove prejudicial to Mme. Réjane's interests, it is but right you should know that there is not an atom of truth in them. It is impossible to say where and how they originated, but Mme. Réjane is anxious that her friends should know that she has not the slightest intention of parting with her house.

UNDER the auspices of the theatrical society "L'Inédit," an excellent comedy called *Notre Fille*, by M. André Paysan, was produced at the Théâtre Fémina. The plot is as follows:—M. and Mme. Lehidel, shopkeepers in a small provincial town, want their daughter Lucie to marry Jacques, a youth adopted by a deaf millionaire maiden aunt, whose money he is to inherit. Lucie does not care for Jacques; in fact, she thinks she is young and pretty enough to wait until the man of her choice should come upon the scene. M. and Mme. Lehidel, however, with the characteristic narrow-mindedness of provincial tradesmen, study only their own interest, inasmuch as they want to employ Jacques' money to develop their business. When Lucie sees that her parents' egoism is proof against her entreaties, and that she will be compelled to accept Jacques who will ask for her hand that afternoon, she takes a bold and curious resolve. She applies for help to Pierre, a youth studying medicine in Paris. He and she have been playmates, and she knows she can trust him. Having explained to him the nature of her trouble, she says: "You must confirm my statement that you are my lover—a statement that will frighten Jacques and his deaf aunt away!" The startled Pierre is not at all anxious to play this risky comedy. But Lucie coaxes him into submission, and when Jacques comes to ask for her hand the girl, pointing to Pierre, says that she is that man's mistress. The scene that follows baffles description. Jacques grins on the sly, and seems to treat the affair as a capital joke. But Mme. Lehidel faints, her husband behaves like a maniac, whilst the deaf aunt tries in vain to obtain some information as to what has occurred. Before this storm Pierre and Lucie beat a hasty retreat. In the next act we meet Pierre and Lucie in Paris, where they are living like brother and sister. Lucie has gone to a small restaurant in the Latin Quarter and is waiting there for Pierre, when, to her surprise, Jacques enters and joins a party of students and girls at another table. Lucie can hardly credit her eyes, for she fails to recognise in that bright, witty fellow the apparent dullard who at home looked so meek and mild. Jacques at last catches sight of her, and we witness a charming scene between these two people, who for years have been living almost side by side in the provinces, and, having remained strangers, now suddenly understand one another. They leave the restaurant engaged, and when the prodigal daughter returns home her parents forgive her escapade.

THE Théâtre Mévisto has given us four plays, of which *Le Reprouvé*, a drama, in two tableaux, by M. M. L. Aurenche, alone deserves special mention. The scene is laid in the mountainous district of the Ardèche, in the house of an old peasant, an upright man. Jean, his eldest son, has just returned from the regiment. His morals have become very loose, and when his mother remonstrates with him he lifts his hand to strike her, whereupon his father throws him out of the house. Ten years elapse. The mother has died from grief; and one night Jean, tracked by the police, returns home. He is so altered that nobody recognises him except the father, who forgives his erring child. But Jean does not want to bring further dishonour upon the family. He seizes a gun, rushes out into the darkness, and whilst the father and the other members of the family recite the prayer for the dead a faint shot is heard in the distance. Nobody except the father will ever know that the miscreant who blew out his brains was Jean.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"DAS MADCHEN AUF IRRWEGEN,"

Melodrama, in Four Acts and Twelve Scenes, by Walter Melville, German Translation and Adaptation by Siegfried V. Lutz, produced at the Luisen Theatre Jan. 15.

Jack Marshall .....HERR STUENKEL
Wenyon .....HERR ROHDE
Tommy .....HERR PAULI
Billy .....HERR BREDOW
William Stevenson .....HERR SCHNEEWEISS
Henry Stevenson .....HERR TREDORE
Crocket .....HERR BACH
Clemens .....HERR HORRMANN
Primrose .....HERR BERNHARDT
Thompson .....HERR TRICHLER
Frau Thompson .....FRAULEIN PAULI
Frances Raymond .....FRAULEIN BOHLMANN
Lotty .....FRAULEIN WILLE-BACH
Winnie .....FRAULEIN WEBER
Winifred .....FRAULEIN UMAINSKA
Bertha .....FRAULEIN KAHLENBERG

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, Jan. 21.—Of all the English melodramas produced at the Luisen, in the adaptation of Herr Siegfried Lutz—and they are many—this is perhaps the most successful. It met with an enthusiastic reception, and has been much praised by the critics. The genuine English fun, including the novel Punch and Judy scene, showed up in pleasant contrast to the graver scenes, while the "moral" of the play—which is much in the style of the German volks-piece—appealed convincingly to the audience. The interpretation was good all round, and the chief artists were frequently applauded by open stage. At the close of the third act Herr Lutz was called before the curtain by unanimous consent, and, amidst loud applause, several wreaths were handed up, one of which bore the inscription in gold letters: "From the British Dramatists' Association to their Champion in Germany."

ANOTHER highly-successful English play was Mr. W. S. Maugham's *Mrs. Dot*, which was produced at the Royal Schauspielhaus on Saturday. The house was crowded, and in one of the Imperial boxes sat the Kaiser and Kaiserin with their youngest son, Prince Joachim. That their Majesties enjoyed the amusing piece as much as anyone was obvious by the heartiness of their laughter and applause. It was a pity the author was not present to witness the success of his piece. The acting was very bright, Herr Vollmer (Blenkinsop), Herr Boettcher (Freddie Perkins), Herr Somerstorff (Halstane), Frau Butze as Lady Sellenger, and last, but by no means least, Fräulein von Mayburg in the name-part, being entitled to unstinted commendation. There is no doubt at all that *Mrs. Dot* will enjoy a long lease of life at our State theatre.

HERR KAINZ is with us once more, having deserted the Imperial Burg Theatre at Vienna for a month's season at the Berlin New Schauspielhaus. The famous actor opened on Sunday evening with *Julius Cæsar*, for which performance all tickets had been sold many days before, and could easily have been disposed of twice over. The Mark Antony of Herr Kainz is too well known to need description. It is sufficient to say he achieved a great triumph, and met with a welcome from his Berlin admirers (who have never become reconciled to his leaving them) such as must have delighted him.

THE Lessing Theatre is determined to try its hand at farce, and, after one or two failures, has at last reached the summit of its ambition. In the French burlesque-farce *Der König*, whose joint authors are Messrs. De Caillavet, De Flers, and Arène, the management has made a very decided hit. Regardless, therefore, of the amiable ridicule cast by the critics upon the new departure of this hitherto classic house, Herr Brahm pursues his novel course, and would be foolish to do otherwise when results prove so extremely satisfactory as in the present case. Among the delighted audience sat Dr. Richard Strauss, who sought and found in heartiest laughter relaxation from the cares of the *Elektra* rehearsals.

NOT only German drama and literature, but the whole German nation has sustained an irreparable loss in the sudden death of Ernst von Wildenbruch, who passed peacefully away last Friday at his Berlin residence. Wildenbruch was only sixty-three, and full of work and energy when struck down by apoplexy. It is not saying too much when Wildenbruch is termed the greatest German dramatist of modern times, as he was one of the most conscientious and hard-working. His historic play *König Heinrich* (which had so unprecedented a run at the Berliner some ten years ago) was one of the most effective works ever produced on any stage. Wildenbruch was often accused of glorifying the Hohenzollern race, but it must be remembered that he himself was a scion of that race, and his ardent patriotism nobody would attempt to deny. His historical play *Die Quitzows* was performed hundreds of times at the Royal Schauspielhaus, always to crowded houses. He enjoyed the favour of the reigning family until an unfortunate incident occurred. At a performance of *König Laurin*, one of Wildenbruch's later plays, the Kaiserin was present with several of her sons. Her Majesty took exception to certain scenes, and left the house in the middle of the performance, accompanied by the Princes, and the author was never restored to his former favour. Never being a time-server, this did not affect Wildenbruch much, but he left Berlin as a permanent residence soon afterwards, and settled at Weimar. He was married to a daughter of Carl Maria von Weber, a most charming and cultured lady, who shared in all her husband's work and triumphs. Wildenbruch was one of the most generous, warm-hearted men that ever existed, and his loss is mourned by thousands. He was interred with unusual honours at Weimar, and expressions of deep sympathy have been received by the widow from the Kaiser, the King of Saxony, the Emperor of Austria, and many more distinguished persons.

"HE AND SHE."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—In your issue of the 16th you stated that Miss Ellis Jefferies was about to appear in a play of mine entitled *He and She*. Will you allow me to correct this statement? The play is by Mr. George Bellamy and myself, and it is now called *No. 2*.—Yours faithfully,
London, W. SYDNEY BLOW.

"LE MALADE IMAGINAIRE."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—If only to clear the reputation of Mr. Mathew, M.A., with whose version of Molière I am not familiar, I feel it my plain duty to plead guilty to any eccentricities of translation that existed in the adaptation played by me and my company at Clifford's Inn Hall on the 13th inst.

Of the eight translations that I found at the British Museum, several were admirable, but none actable. I therefore took the liberty of translating the play myself.

This fact was not stated on the programme from a foolish feeling of modesty that assailed me as to my name figuring too many times upon the same sheet. I am only surprised that my own personal shortcomings did not blind your critic's eyes to the baldness of the text.—Yours faithfully,
15, Clifford's Inn, E.C. KENELM FOSS.
Jan. 22.

MARTIN ROLAND was specially engaged to play Auguste Rose in the farce *Born to be Loved* at the Albert Hall Theatre last Tuesday.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

THE attention of sketch producers and artists generally is drawn to the newest feature of *The Era Annual*, viz., the complete casts of music-hall sketches produced during the period between Dec. 1, 1907, and Nov. 30, 1908, and these are supplemented by an alphabetical index, which we feel sure will often prevent plagiarisms of title.

ANXIOUS to learn the exact truth concerning Mlle. Genée, who was said to have fractured a rib, the directors of the Empire despatched a cable on Tuesday to the popular dancer, who on Wednesday replied in the following terms:—"Am perfectly well. Accident insignificant. Thanks!" The reassuring information will be heartily welcomed.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING, who paid a visit to the Empire Theatre on Monday evening, showed the greatest interest in the ballet *A Day in Paris*, using his opera glasses very freely. His Majesty remained until the end of the performance, so that he might see the Bioscope pictures of the Ruins of Messina, the Italian Cavalry, and the Aldershot Review, and only left when "God save the King" was being played.

MR. SEYMOUR HICKS and Miss Ellaline Terriss finish their joint engagement at the Palace to-day. Mr. Hicks will be seen at the London Coliseum as Scrooge and in other Dickens characters early in March, when he will fulfil a six weeks' season. Mr. Hicks will have the support of an excellent company.

MR. CYRIL CLENSY, who first scored with his mimicry in the production of *My Darling*, and afterwards made a successful appearance at the Tivoli in December, 1907, is to give his impersonations at the Palace next week. It may not be generally known, but Mr. Clensy plays the 'cello exceedingly well.

MISS HILDA ANTONY has been specially engaged by the management of the Empire to take up the part of Kathleen Mahoney in Mr. W. J. Locke's little play *A Blank Cheque*, when Miss Evelyn D'Alroy resigns it to take up her engagement with Mr. Lewis Waller. Miss Antony's early career in London was in connection with the production of *Bluebell in Fairyland*, and she recently played Elizabeth in *The Education of Elizabeth*.

MR. AND MRS. EDWARD H. LUCAS, those clever exponents of characters from Dickens, left Waterloo on Sunday last at 10.35 for Southampton, en route for New York, where they open on Feb. 1. Several friends were present to bid them a brief farewell, and Mrs. Lucas carried with her to their specially reserved carriage two handsome bouquets, one being from the audience at the Hippodrome, Ipswich, where they were appearing last week. The Lucases, it may be mentioned, have taken across the Atlantic over two tons of luggage, including new scenery and the veritable piano and desk owned by Charles Dickens. Their success in the States is assured.

MISS HENRIQUETTE MAUDE, the little New Zealander, who is appearing at the London Pavilion with most gratifying success, will recite next week the verses written on the subject of the jockey boy, who, meeting with an accident, was left dying on the Melbourne racecourse while much concern was shown as to the condition of his mount. The incident excited much comment during Miss Maude's visit to the Australian city.

"TO-MORROW"—always a most beautiful spectacle—has been made very much more interesting and funny than it was on the opening night. Mr. Sydney Blow retells the story in a way that gives it even a touch of pathos, and the introduction of Mr. Fred Walton, the famous impersonator of the toy soldier, in a couple of scenes, is indeed a happy thought. The Brothers Fratellini are also pressed into the service, and keep the kiddies chuckling with laughter by their drollery in well-conceived animal impersonations. Miss Fatmah Diard, too, sings delightfully as the fairy.

MISS SYDNEY FAIRBROTHER, a delightful actress in characters associated with what is technically known as low comedy, and her company will present at the Coliseum, on Monday, a realistic sketch, entitled *Artful*, by Sidney Blow and George Bellamy, the authors of the sketch to be produced on Monday at the Palace Theatre by Miss Ellis Jeffreys and Herbert Sleath. Miss Fairbrother, who recently played Charlotte Siddons, the showwoman, in *The Gay Gordons*, is sure of a hearty welcome.

IN the midst of peace-making and many meetings Will Oliver has discovered what he describes as a little wonder as a boy comic, Cliff Diamond, who is the son of that well-known comedian, Harry Clifford. The youngster is only eleven and a half years, but Will says he reminds him of himself in his boyhood's days. He has been secured right and left, and managers should keep their eyes on the little Diamond.

THE fashionable craze of roller skating has claimed for its latest victim Mr. Auguste Van Biene, the famous 'cellist. The veteran hero of *The Broken Melody* returned this week for a London season, and every afternoon has been taking lessons at the Empress Hall, Earl's Court. Quite a good story is told of his initial efforts to master the gliding pastime. At the outset Mr. Van Biene had one or two bad falls, and, as he assisted the famous musician to rise, one of the rink instructors remarked in what he meant to be a consoling way: "Ah! sir, roller skating is not as easy to learn as fiddle playing, is it?"

MRS. BROWN POTTER made her American vaudeville début at the Lincoln-square Theatre, New York, last week, and drew big crowds. Her opening is unique and to American vaudeville audiences decidedly novel. Mrs. Brown Potter rendered Eugene Field's "Little Boy Blue" and several other pieces most charmingly, and each selection was followed by hearty and prolonged applause. This week her "Poems of Personality and Passion" include Dagonet's "Ostler Joe," which Mrs. Kendal gave with such power and pathos back in the eighties at the Albert Palace, Battersea, nuder the management of "Bill" Holland.

MISS VESTA VICTORIA, who is fond of a joke, has been gravely giving an American journalist an explanation of how certain of her best songs originated, and the account, which was reproduced in the *Daily Chronicle* of the 19th inst., caused much amusement to Fred W. Leigh and Henry E. Pether and to Fred Murray, the well-known London song-writers, who are responsible for the songs mentioned.

SAID the fair artist: "Most of my songs are the result of some chance remark, some haphazard encounters, with a serious idea inverted. 'Waiting at the church' was the result of a wedding I saw in the East-end of London. 'It's all right in the summer time' occurred to me because in my garden at home there are a number of classic statues, nude figures, some of them holding harps or water-jars, and other useless ornaments of the Greek period. Someone said to me 'That lady would be more comfortable if she were dressed,' and I answered offhand, 'Oh, it's all right in the summer time,' and from that the song was evolved. The best types I find among the coster people of London; they are a constant source of material for comic songs."

THE strike at Cork has been settled amicably, and consequently the picketing of the Palace there is discontinued.

MASTER MAX DAREWSKI, the boy conductor and composer, opens at the Palace, Manchester, on Monday.

THE directors of the Hackney and Shepherd's Bush Empires, Ltd., recommend a dividend for the final half year at the rate of twenty per cent. per annum, free of income tax.

THE Empire (Portsmouth) shareholders are to be congratulated on the latest dividend resolved on at the annual meeting on Saturday. It is at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum.

THE annual Liverpool pantomime ball, arranged by the Royal Court and Shakespeare managers, will take place on Thursday evening, Feb. 4. The tickets are limited in number, and discretion is exercised as to their distribution.

UNDER the style of Samson and McNeil, Ltd., a company has been registered, with a nominal capital of £9,000, in £1 shares, to acquire the New Palace Theatre, Northampton. There are reports of other amusement enterprises in the town.

THE directors of the Manchester Hippodrome and Ardwick Empire, Ltd., recommend an interim dividend at the rate of ten per cent. per annum, free of income tax; and the directors of the Leicester Palace Theatre, Ltd., recommend a dividend, for the final half year, at the rate of seven and a half per cent. per annum, free of income tax.

DR. WALFORD BODIE last week, at the Palace, Tottenham, again broke all records. On Saturday night alone over 8,000 paid for admission, many hundreds waiting for the second house before the overture of the first house had hardly commenced. The doctor finished his wonderful performance amidst scenes of unbounded enthusiasm. This week he is again creating a furore at the Palace, Grimsby.

LEONI CLARKE, the world-renowned "cat king," has returned, after an absence of nearly two years, to his old headquarters, The Two Brewers Hotel, Northampton, where he will be pleased to renew his acquaintance with old friends and meet with new ones. He will have the able support of Mrs. Leoni Clarke, well known and respected in the profession as Chrissie Angus, the celebrated burlesque actress, who is looking as well and as handsome as ever.

MR. JOE PRINELLA (of the Prinellas) died very suddenly at Belfast on Monday night. Mr. and Mrs. Prinella arrived in that city on Monday from Aston, Birmingham, viâ Greenore, and not feeling very well, Mr. Prinella was unable to rehearse at the Royal Hippodrome, for which their Farmyard scena was billed. Dr. O'Malley (Belfast) was called in, but, as stated, Mr. Prinella passed away about 7.30 p.m. on Monday, the cause of death being bronchial asthma and heart failure. Mr. Prinella, who was but thirty-one years of age, was interred in the City Cemetery, Belfast, on Tuesday, and much sympathy has been expressed with the widow, left totally unprovided for.

COUNCILLOR E. H. BOSTOCK, of the Zoo-Hippodrome, Glasgow, on Saturday last gave a special matinée in aid of the Italian Disaster Funds. An excellent programme was arranged, including views of Messina before and after the earthquake, while the Hippodrome's variety company was augmented by Mr. W. F. Frame, "the man you know," and other artists. On Friday the Pavilion, Glasgow, followed suit, in aid of the same deserving cause, with an absolutely phenomenal array of talent from all the halls and pantomimes in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

MISS VESTA TILLEY, the wife of the well-known music hall proprietor and agent, Mr. Walter De Freece, has consented to lay the foundation stone of Messrs. Sherwood and Co.'s new Hippodrome in Wakefield. The building which is to be erected will accommodate 2,500 people, and no expense is to be spared in the decorations and furnishing, and it is intended that the new house shall excel in beauty and cosiness the Messrs. Sherwood's other property, the Opera House, Wakefield.

A LEASE of the Palace Theatre, Brighton, has been secured by Messrs. Jay and Mann from Lady Day next. The house has been redecorated and recarpeted, and a very handsome wind and rain shelter has recently been completed down the entire length of the pier at a cost of several thousand pounds. The playgoing public are to be admitted to the Pier free of the 2d. toll they have hitherto paid.

MESSRS. JAY AND MANN will personally manage, and will introduce an entirely new policy, with the intention of making the Palace Theatre the most popular house of entertainment in Brighton. The theatre holds 1,500 people, and over £100 in money at ordinary prices. Every seat in the house commands a perfect view of the stage.

BY the kindness of the directors of the Portsmouth Empire Palace the able-bodied patients of Milton Asylum and inmates of the Portsmouth Workhouse were entertained at a special matinée on Thursday (14th). Practically the whole of the artistes filling the bill at last week's performances very kindly gave their services, and their efforts met with unstinted applause.

THE Mayor of Portsmouth (Councillor J. Baggs), various members of the Board of Guardians, and the Asylum Committee were in attendance, and during an interval in the performance the directors of the Empire kindly distributed gifts of tobacco to the men and oranges and sweets to the women.

OWING to the refusal of certain of the debenture holders of the Birmingham Gaiety to consent to the request of the company to give time for the payment of the interest due on Nov. 30 last, and they now having demanded payment of their debentures, it has been deemed necessary by the trustees for the debenture holders, under the terms of the trust deed, to appoint a receiver and manager of the business, and so as to protect the estate they have appointed Mr. Frederick A. Badman, of 3, Snow-hill, Birmingham, as such receiver and manager.

MR. BADMAN has considerable practical knowledge of the working of the Gaiety, as well as concerns of a similar character, and is so heavily interested as a debenture holder as well as a shareholder that the business will be conducted by him (with the approval of the trustees) in a manner conducive to the good of all concerned. Messrs. Criddle and Criddle, of Collingwood-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, are the solicitors for the trustees.

MR. G. D. BRADBURY and Mr. Fuller, manager and stage-manager respectively of the Palace and Hippodrome, Warrington, were presented on Sunday with purses of gold on their severing their connection with the above place of amusement. Mr. Lathom (chairman), in warmly congratulating Mr. Bradbury on his recovery from his recent illness, expressed his regret that both gentlemen were leaving the district, a regret shared by the recipients, who gracefully voiced their thanks for the honour shown to them.

THE directors of the London Coliseum recommend a final dividend for the second half of the year at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum free of tax.

MISS BESSIE BUTT'S success as Dandini at the Royal County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames, has brought her many offers for next Christmas, but she has not yet definitely settled.

MISS CISSIE CURLETTE has left England for Australia, to fulfil an engagement with Mr. Harry Rickards, made by Mr. Tom Pacey. When she returns she is fully booked till 1912 by the same agency.

MR. MARTIN ADESON, who is playing most successfully the part of Widow Twankey at the Theatre Royal, Leeds, will be going to Australia in the course of the year. He is in want of a good, smart duologue for lady and gentleman, to play about twelve minutes.

MR. CHARLES COLLETTE, who has thoroughly recovered from a severe attack of gout, appears on Monday and during the week at the New Palace, Plymouth, with a budget of new songs, including "Down by the rippling tide."

AT the 592nd meeting of the Executive Committee of the M.H.A.R.A. held on Wednesday afternoon at the offices of the Association, with Mr. George B. Sinclair in the chair, a new agency at the London Hotel, Weymouth, was fixed up. The weekly financial statement showed thirty-two new members and a cash total of £50 14s. 6d.

LIEUTENANT FRANK TRAVIS, the popular ventriloquist, who has been seriously ill, has now taken a turn for the better. For the present all communications intended for him should be addressed care of Mr. W. H. Armstrong, solicitor, 1, Renfrew-road, Lambeth, S.E.

"THE STADIUM" is the name of an up-to-date production that is now in active preparation, and which is to be produced by the John Leopold's company. This combination is one of the very few that is certain of success either on the variety or theatrical stage. Vim and versatility are its chief characteristics.

MRS. MICHAEL NOLAN wishes to thank, through our columns, Mr. and Mrs. George Barclay (Miss Kate Carney) for their great kindness, and brother and sister artists for numerous telegrams during her husband's recent serious illness; also all those friends who kindly called. She wishes to add that her husband is very much better.

MR. GEORGE RANKEN ASKWITH, the author of the Award resulting from the music-hall strike of January, 1907, has been appointed arbitrator to settle the dispute between artists and agents.

[Photo by Elliott and Fry.

MR. GEORGE RANKEN ASKWITH, K.C.

THE new Comptroller of Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks was waited upon on Friday by the representatives of the Federation—Messrs. W. H. Clemart, William Lee, Joe Elvin, and Wal Pink—accompanied by Mr. C. J. Doughty; and the representatives of the Agents' Association—Messrs. Hugh J. Didcott, George Barclay, Emanuel Warner, and Will Oliver—accompanied by Mr. Woodhouse, of the firm of Stanley, Woodhouse, and Hedderwick, solicitors. The arbitration is to take place on Feb. 10, 11, and 12.

"A MAGDALEN MARRIED," an intense dramatic episode written by Paul Barry-Lewers, was produced on Wednesday evening at the Middlesex by Miss Elizabeth Watkins with so much success that Mr. Graydon has booked it for the week commencing Feb. 1. A notice will be found in another column.

WE regret to hear that Miss Topsy Sinden has been suffering from an attack of ptomaine poisoning, which has, however, yielded to treatment, and she is now back at the Prince's, Bristol, where her attractive dancing is winning golden opinions from all lovers of the best traditions of pantomime.

WE regret to state that Miss Hilda Coe, of Hilda and Beatrice, is lying seriously ill at her home in Tunbridge Wells from blood poisoning, following acute influenza contracted last week whilst performing at the Theatre Royal, Oldham. She has been obliged to cancel Harrogate this week and future engagements.

CARL HERTZ had the misfortune of nearly having his motor-car destroyed by fire last week. One of the assistants at his garage overfilled the tank, spilling some of the petrol. A few minutes later the chauffeur, in lighting the front lamps, dropped a piece of the match. This immediately fired the petrol on the ground, and the flame, trailing to the tank, set the car in a blaze. By the quick action of the attendants and the use of fire extinguishers and sand the fire was speedily put out, but not before the car was much damaged. One of the attendants was also seriously burnt. It was marvellous that the car was not entirely consumed. Happily it is insured.

THE secretary of the Music Hall Home (Ben Woodger) on behalf of the committee desires to thank Smith and Johnson for parcel of clothes, the manager of the Canterbury for taking a pence-box, Sidney Lawrence (The Gem, Great Yarmouth) for donation and for also taking a pence-box, Chas. Weldon (Hippodrome, Leeds) for handsome photo and booklet, and Geo. Gulliver for photo. The secretary will gladly send a card to any friend who is willing to try and collect for *The Era* Appeal Fund. The Home is in great need of help. The committee meetings are now held at the Empire, Camberwell, on the first and third Thursdays in the month.

THE great Chung Ling Soo sailed last week for Australia to tour the whole of New South Wales, under Mr. Harry Rickards' management. This engagement was made by Tom Pacey, of Brixton.

MISS GLADYS HUXLEY, who has just returned to England from a highly successful engagement in South Africa, will renew her triumphs at the Oxford on Monday, Feb. 1, with new songs.

A SPECIAL general meeting of the Terriers' Association will be held at the Three Stags' Hotel, Kennington-road, S.E., on Friday, Feb. 5, at 1.30 p.m.

THE following matters will be considered:—(1) The increase of the income of No. 2 account by the transfer of particular funds from No. 1 account, or otherwise; (2) Alteration of Rule 14, by deleting in paragraph one the following words: "if he be more than six months in arrears"; (3) Terrier Millis's Commonwealth Scheme.

TERRIER HARRY BANCROFT sails for Africa on Saturday, and will leave Waterloo station at 11 a.m. Terriers are invited to be present.

ROMA AND ROMANI, the classical musicians, have been compelled through illness to cancel their contracts at Belfast and Dublin. It is hoped they will be able to resume at Liverpool on Feb. 1. These reservedly popular artists are booked well into 1914.

THE Town Clerk (Mr. Hugo Talbot) has presented to the General Purposes Committee of the Brighton Town Council a report on the Bill now pending in Parliament for a Casino and Marine Palace, and the construction of a pier facing West-street.

IT is pointed out that in the Session of 1884 a Bill to authorise the building of a pier at the same place was considered by a committee of the House of Lords, who rejected it without calling upon the opposition to tender evidence.

THE limits of deviation in the present scheme would enable the promoters to acquire a considerable number of valuable properties, including the Corporation's sheltered hall at the bottom of West-street, a building which formed part of the King's-road widening improvements. It is much used by visitors in the summer, and is practically the only free shelter available to the public on the beach in inclement weather.

LETTERS had been received from the owners of property asking what action the authorities intended taking; and it was resolved "That the Town Clerk do take all necessary steps on behalf of the Corporation to oppose the Bill in Parliament, and that he be authorised to retain agents, counsel, and witnesses in that behalf." Since this report has been issued it is understoond that the promoters have written to the committee asking them to "suspend judgment" on the scheme until they have had an opportunity of offering full explanations to the Council.

THE song "Afraid to come home in the dark," which is making such a hit in pantomimes this year, was sung for the first time in England by Miss Maidie Scott at the Argyle, Birkenhead, on March 2, 1908. Miss Scott was asked by the publishers in America to sing it in England, and she has done so continuously since the above date. At the present time she is making a very great success with it in the Marlborough pantomime.

"THE Man from Manchester," Morny Cash, opened at the Oxford on Monday last for a month's stay. In his new number, "A song of a shirt," Mr. Cash has made an undoubted discovery, and his distinctive method and ability should soon sing this song, which is really comic and quite free from vulgarity and indelicacy, to success. His second song deals with a policeman and a lost child, and as the latter is head and shoulders taller than the former, the fun can be imagined.

As a result of the publicity given to the spiritualistic séance of Mr. and Mrs. Tomson, at a private house in Park-square, Regent's Park, and its consequent train of divided opinion as to the genuineness of the mystery, the management of the London Hippodrome has arranged for Mr. and Mrs. Tomson to give demonstrations of their power or skill next week, commencing on Monday. They will appear before a self-appointed committee of the audience, so that the vexed question of spiritualism or trickery may be settled once and for all. Already several well-known people interested in the occult have volunteered their services to act on the committee, but anyone from the audience is welcome.

THE second annual dinner to the staff at the Hippodrome and Grand Theatre, Stalybridge, was held at the Wellington Inn, Caroline-street, on Friday, Jan. 15. Among the guests were Mr. James Fioni and Mr. Louis Ellison (proprietors of the theatre), Mrs. Ellison, Dr. and Mrs. James, Mr. and Mrs. John Harwood, Mr. and Mrs. A. Clark Sutton, Mr. Thomas Revill, Mr. W. A. Jackson (manager) and Mrs. Jackson, Mr. Breakwell (musical director) and Mrs. Breakwell, Mr. Walter and Miss Jackson, and Mr. Harry Horsepool.

DR. JAMES, in proposing the toast "Success to the Hippodrome," wished it "long life" and triumphant days. Mr. Fioni, in a happy manner, responded, and his remarks were adequately endorsed by Mr. Ellison. Mr. W. A. Jackson, the resident-manager, also gave his support to the toast.

FOR the comfort and convenience of patrons part of the Shepherd's Bush Empire has been converted into winter gardens. A large square space adjoining the waiting-rooms has been utilised in a manner that is both ingenious and artistic. With glass dome roof, and walls painted in delicate colours, in keeping with the decorative scheme of the house, the "gardens" are sure to become a feature. Wicker settees, set off by palms, are there in abundance, and during the cold weather the room is heated by electric radiators. From the roof hang uncommon-looking electroliers, with powerful lamps. The cycle room, where the machines are stored free of charge, is next the winter gardens.

ON behalf of the committee of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, 61, New Oxford-street, W.C., Miss Melinda May (Secretary) wishes to gratefully thank the following:—Mrs. Joe Elvin, for her great kindness in collecting £4 0s. 4d.; Mrs. Waller (Keen and Waller), collecting 5s.; Mr. Keen (Keen and Waller), giving and collecting 5s.; Mr. Tom Fancourt, collecting 2s. 6d.; gift of new clothing, Miss Blanche Glave (Mayoress of Holborn), through Miss Lottie Albert; Mrs. Herbert Shelley, for baby's bonnet; Mr. Joe O'Gorman, for second parcel of clothing (through the Sisters Macarte); Mrs. James Horne, parcel of clothing; Sir William Treloar, for kindness and letter, which have helped a little crippled boy into his home at Alton free of any charge; Miss Melinda May, collection, 2s. 6d.; Miss Maude Mortimer, collecting 10s.; Mr. Pony Moore, warm underclothing; Mrs. Bransby Williams, box of clothing; Miss Lottie Albert, fourteen baby's new socks; basket of oranges from Mrs. Ernest Collins. Will all members of the Guild please communicate with Miss May, and send an address that will find them for the next two weeks. All friends of the charity are heartily welcome to tea and receptions held every Wednesday from 4 to 5 o'clock.

THE report that is being circulated that the arena at the London Hippodrome is to be abolished is entirely false and without the slightest foundation.

MISS ELLIS JEFFREYS and Mr. Herbert Sleath will appear on Monday at the Palace in a comedy sketch, which is the joint work of Messrs. Sidney Blow and George Bellamy. It is entitled *No. 2*.

MISS ALICE MAY will appear with Mr. Francis Daniel and company on Monday at the Middlesex in the production of a new sketch, *Fireman Bloggs*.

MISS RAY MASKELL, the charming comedienne and dancer, has a bright and tuneful number in "Under my big umbrella," which is written by Mr. Ted E. Box and Phil Mervyn. She has been scoring with it on her tour, and opens with it at the Palace, Reading, on Monday.

MR. F. WARDEN REED having entirely recovered from his recent illness, is at the Hippodrome, Richmond, this week, with his original duologue *Married or Photographed?* in which he is supported by his wife, Miss Jennie Stevens. He is meeting with his customary success. Next week he returns to the Marina, Lowestoft.

MR. ERNEST DE VERE, the well-known variety and dramatic agent, of 72, Waterloo-road, has been recently much annoyed by someone impersonating him in the provinces. He would be much indebted to anyone who can give him any information concerning this person, who is going about with fraudulent intent, and he desires to warn artists against him.

THE committee responsible for the arrangement of the programme to be given at the evening concert, on behalf of the testimonial fund to Mr. Fred Millis, at the Empire, Camberwell, on Sunday, Feb. 14, report that they have already secured the kindly services of several eminent performers of theatrical and variety fame, and they hope to be able to announce these names next week. All the private boxes have already been sold, and there is a brisk demand for stalls and circle tickets.

WE omitted last week to mention that Mr. Harry Blake is the Hon. Treasurer of the Testimonial Fund and has collected a goodly amount for the same. Mr. Walter De Frece has joined the Grand Committee and sent a donation, while every music hall society has given its patronage and support to this most deserving cause, and the ladies of the M.H.L. Guild have very kindly promised to sell programmes at charity prices.

THE popular Harry Bancroft and his charming wife, Emmie Ames, are leaving for South Africa on Saturday next. An engagement for eight months has been made at the Empire, Johannesburg. Mr. Bancroft is well known in music hall and Masonic circles. There is sure to be a large muster of friends at Waterloo Station on Saturday next at 11 o'clock, to wish the travellers "Bon voyage." The train leaves to convey passengers to the s.s. Armadale now by the Southampton Docks.

DR. WALFORD BODIE, the well-known entertainer, will appear in a new rôle, namely, as a novelist and author, his latest venture being a series of startling, weird, and wonderful hypnotic tales, which will appear for the first time in next month's Pearson's *Novel Magazine*. They will be entitled "Harley the Hypnotist." The first of the series is "The Duke and the Dancer." Pearson's are also arranging with him for another series of occult tales to run in *Pearson's Magazine*.

MR. TOM JONES, the Welsh comedian, who has been so much to the fore recently, is this week adding fresh triumphs to his already long list at the Bedford, where his genial style and very carefully chosen songs are meeting with real solid success. Tom Jones informs us he has received several tempting offers for America, which are under consideration. So far as we know America has not yet heard a Welsh comedian, and we would predict a fine reception for Jones on the other side of "the pond."

THROUGH a bereavement Miss Julia Seale was unable to appear the other evening in *La Petite Bohemienne*, and her part of Manuel was filled, and well filled, at a few hours' notice by Miss Gina Cormani, who has long been a reliable dancer in minor rôles at the Alhambra. Another instance of a recognition of talent by Mr. Alfred Moul is that of Miss Carlotta Mossetti, who eight years ago became an apprentice, and for the last two years has been a pupil of Signor G. Rosi, who has specially prepared her for solo dancing, somewhat after the style of Signori Cecchetti and Vincenti. Miss Mossetti will make her first appearance in the romantic ballet *Paquita* on Monday.

MR. HERBERT DARNLEY, in his recent examination in bankruptcy, ascribed his failure to losses on theatrical speculations, being out of work, and cost of living. Cross-examined as to some songs he had recently written, and which, it was alleged, were being sung now with great success, he stated that he had sold them outright for £2 2s.

THE Queen's Hall, Birmingham, which Messrs. Moore and Kennedy opened on Dec. 26 of last year as a picture palace and vaudeville show, was originally the famous preaching house of George Dawson, who ministered there from August, 1847, until his death in 1876. Previous to his ministry at the Church of the Saviour, for so it was called, he was pastor at Mount Zion Baptist Chapel, Graham-street, where, however, his theology proved too wide for the limits of denominational life, and in a comparatively short time he ceased his connection with the Baptists. Then his friends and followers, for they were legion, banded together, and secured the neighbouring site in Edward-street Parade, the first sod being cut on July 14, 1846.

THE PARADE at that time was the fashionable part, with the open country at hand, not the busy, grimy part it is to-day. For about thirty years then, it continued to be the Mecca of those who could find no adequate spiritual comfort elsewhere, until his death, when its glory departed, for Dawson was a man whom it was impossible to replace, and the congregation scattered. The Rev. George St. Clair took up the pastorate, but in vain; he, nor others who succeeded him, could "draw," and for the last ten years the Primitive Methodists carried it on, and so it lingered, until Messrs. Moore and Kennedy, with that acumen which has distinguished all their ventures and enterprises, secured the place, and are doing very well with it.

IT is worth recording that at the building of the edifice George Dawson had it so fashioned that if it failed as a "tabernacle" it would be easily adapable for manufacturing or other uses, but it paid—till his death. It is a broad, long, and roomy building, which the present holders are making more and more adapted to their uses as a picture and variety show, and that without interfering with their entertainments, which they carry on daily and nightly. It is situate very handy in the midst of a thickly congested neighbourhood, and just a few yards, happily, out of the way of the heavy traffic and shops also, therefore the queues in no wise hinder the shopkeepers. Although a statue is erected to Dawson in Chamberlain-square, his grave, up till thirteen months ago, was marked but by the plainest of flat stones, without even an inscription. But a year ago his remaining followers erected over it a handsome granite obelisk to his memory.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

MR. J. ELMER STYGLASS has at the Alhambra been singing with distinct success those two successful songs of Messrs. Francis and Day, "Some day, when dreams come true" and "I'm afraid to come home in the dark."

THE gaiety of London will be considerably added to on Monday next, when the incomparable Vesta Tilley opens at the Palace Theatre. The "London Idol," as is her wont, will sing several new songs during her stay in town, including the one Messrs. Francis and Day have just issued, entitled "That's the time a fellow wants his ma."

MISS ADA REEVE, at the Shakespeare, Liverpool, has been adding to her laurels by her exquisite singing of Fred W. Leigh's fine song "In Goo-goo Land," a number which Messrs. Francis and Day have published. The well-known house are also issuing the popular lady's song "Find the man."

EDGAR BATEMAN, whose humorous duet "'Do you remember?' 'How can I forget!'" is going great in many pantomimes, as is his "Coster's pony" in the safe hands of Mr. Gus Elen at the Oxford, has just written, in conjunction with Alf. Ellerton, a song for Mr. George Formby, entitled "I didn't 'let on.'"

MESSRS. B. FELDMAN AND CO. are receiving dozens of letters daily from artists all over the country who are anxious to be on the "good things" which they unwisely missed at the start.

"I LIKE YOUR OLD FRENCH BONNET" is a song by Mellor, Lawrence, and Gifford, which is gaining rapidly in popularity, and bids fair to at least equal, if not eclipse, that renowned song, "You shall live in a chalet" by the same trio. Messrs. B. Feldman and Co. have very great faith in this excellent chorus number.

THERE is an enormous demand for copies of "Tiny seed of love" from all over the country, so large that Messrs. B. Feldman and Co. find it difficult to supply the orders fast enough. This sensational song is now in its fifth edition, and Messrs. B. Feldman have probably broken all records by handing their printers an order for 50,000 copies just to be going on with.

MR. TOM JONES has just secured an excellent Welsh song from Mr. Will Hyde, entitled "Tim, from Tonypandy." It has a sparkling refrain, and should prove a welcome addition to the Welsh comedian's already large batch of successful songs.

THE COLISEUM.

Packed houses are the order of the day and night at the popular Coliseum, and it is evident that the crowded appearance of the stalls and dress circle is largely due to the return of Mr. Albert Chevalier, in *Behind the Scenes*, an adaptation of *Le Père de la Débutante*, which he produced in August last at the St. Martin's-lane house. The same title was used by Mr. Felix Morris for his three-act version of the same piece (which inspired H. J. Byron's *Prompter Box*), produced for the first time at Brooklyn, U.S.A., in February, 1895, and reproduced at the Comedy Theatre, in July, 1896. Mr. Chevalier's Achille Talma Dufard shows to advantage the finished art of a great comedian. The anxiety of the old actor for his daughter's appearance, his diplomatic servility, his blatant flattery, and his business acumen, are all points in an impersonation that lifts the comedy of the halls into a higher plane. Such acting is exceptional, but then it is the "exceptional" that managers like Mr. Oswald Stoll are ever seeking. Mr. Chevalier is again well supported by Miss Mabel Garden, a winsome Rosa Dufard; by Miss Daisy Irvine, a duly imperious Celia Fitzjames; and by Mr. Austin G. Melford, who plays exceedingly well as Mr. Flat, manager of the Corinthian Theatre. Mr. Harry Brett and Mr. Arthur Brankstone also lend effective aid as the stage-manager, Mr. Vamp, and the dramatic author, Mr. Parnassus.

Another favourite returns in Madame Alice Esty, who on her previous visits to the house has been associated with the production of scenes from *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Trovatore*. This time, however, she sings operatic excerpts in a drawing-room set, but does not impersonate. As a contrast to her more serious work she is singing "No, sir," "Comin' thro' the Rye," and Arline's well-known air from *The Bohemian Girl*, "I dreamt that I dwelt." Her reception is very enthusiastic. The same adjective may be applied to the greeting given to Miss Marie Dressler, who is putting in a week or two at the Coliseum, previous to taking up management at the Aldwych. We have nothing new to chronicle in connection with her turn, which has all the comicality and drollery first noted by us during the American artist's engagement at the Palace.

A particularly fine musical turn is that of Eli Hudson, Olga, and Elgar. Mr. Hudson is an admirable flautist, and so is the younger lady—a pupil of his presumably. The other lady sings Sir Henry Bishop's songs with considerable facility, her trills and runs being finely rendered. Still another musical turn of surpassing merit is submitted by "Ye Colonial Septette," advertised as "America's greatest musical act." Mr. Charles Edwards is a remarkable cornet player, reminding one of the late Jules Levy by his facile triumphs over the acknowledged difficulties of his instrument. The ensemble in a pot-pourri of operatic airs is admirable, and the tone of the brass beyond reproach. The majestic "Pilgrims' Chorus" from *Tannhäuser* is followed by the "Soldiers' Chorus" from *Faust*, and the rendering is certainly inspiring. The sextet from *Florodora*, "Tell me, pretty maiden," is another popular item, in which the performers play the melody while presenting the famous scena. The company includes Mr. Charles Edwards (cornetist), Mr. William Galpen (basso), Mr. Raymond Evans (trombonist), Miss Nettie Coburn (cornetist), Miss Viola McGibeny (violinist), Miss Lillian Garris, and Mr. Charles Harris. The "act" is called "An Olde Tyme Halloween," and gains much by its setting, though Miss Lillian Garris in her delivery of the prologue is not distinctly heard in the circle. *Hester's Mystery*, Mr. Pinero's earliest comedietta, is being presented by Mr. Horace Pollock and company, which includes Miss Pattie Groves, a downright and amusing Nance Butterworth, and Miss Elizabeth Dundas, a fresh and impulsive Hester. Mr. Horace Pollock is decidedly funny as Mr. Owen Silverdale, and other parts are efficiently handled by Mr. E. P. Kinsella and Mr. Edmund Pollock. Miss Lily Burnand scores with her latest successes, in which she displays her customary charm; the Trentanovi Sisters present a clever transformation gymnastic act; Bert Woodward is responsible for an intrepid cycle act; and Saharet, Australia's greatest dancer, continues her success.

MISS ALMA GALLIMORE, of the Gallimore Trio, was on Saturday last presented with a handsome bouquet of flowers, bearing the following inscription:—"To the dark-eyed beauty of the Gallimore Trio, from many Bradford admirers."

MR. FRANK LYNNE has made a record hit in the part of Binbad in the pantomime of *Sinbad the Sailor* at the King's Theatre, Sunderland. The pantomime is now on its fifth week, and going stronger than ever.

THE sketch noticed last week at the Palace, Battersea, entitled *The Hour of Peril*, was written by Mr. Ivan P. Gore, and not by Mr. F. C. Robson, who, however, produced it.

V.A.F. GENERAL MEETING.

The third annual general meeting of the Variety Artists' Federation was held on Sunday evening at Terry's Theatre, Mr. WILLIAM LEE presiding, supported on the stage by Mr. Joe Elvin, Mr. W. H. Clemart (general secretary), Mr. C. C. Bartram, and other members of the Executive Committee. The CHAIRMAN, in his opening address, made an appeal to the meeting for amicable conduct in the matter of the agents' dispute, and his remarks in this and other respects met with the enthusiastic approval of his hearers.

After the secretary had read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN rose, amid loud applause, to make his address, in the course of which he said: "There are many things I could speak of, but, under existing circumstances, I think it would be wiser to remain silent. The agency dispute has been going on for sixteen or seventeen weeks, and at last we had had the pleasure of meeting the representatives of the Agents' Association. We sat for two days, the first meeting lasting four hours and the second three and a half. We met them on a perfectly friendly footing. The few remarks that were made at the opening conveyed to the agents that we came there with open minds to settle, if possible, the dispute which had been going on for some time. In those seven and a half hours not a harsh word was spoken. I cannot tell you more at present, because to-morrow afternoon at three o'clock we meet the representatives of the Agents' Association again. I trust that you will be satisfied with the remarks I have made, and I hope that you will follow the example I have myself set to-night not to allow anything of a contentious nature to enter into anything that may be said to-night. The Executive Committee intended to carry on to the end the dealings with the agents on a perfectly friendly basis. They go there to-morrow to settle matters, and, if necessary, they would remain there until the following morning. I wondered if, in the days to come, we might not resort to other methods. I wondered if it was possible, if a dispute should arise in the future between a proprietor and the V.A.F., or between an agent and the Federation, to go to their proprietor or agent and say, 'Suppose you meet a deputation representing the V.A.F. and let us see if we cannot get around the table and quietly discuss matters to see if we cannot arrive at a satisfactory conclusion. If we cannot, find a third party to come in to act as a so-called arbitrator, and see if we can stop not only His Majesty's law costs, but the legal gentlemen from getting us to support them in the future.' I will be frank with you on this occasion. You all have weaknesses; you do not think deeply enough upon the various questions that are placed before you. On the stage behind me there is a number of the members of the Executive Committee. These gentlemen have been placed there by you. Now, do be careful, before placing them there, to think first. If I tell these gentlemen what to do they do it for me. In justice to them let me at least stand at their back, and stand by them under any and every circumstance. We are on the eve of a new election, and you will find on your voting paper a number of the names of members of the Executive Committee who are retiring and are going up again, and, in addition to them, you will find a number of new names. Let me impress this upon you: Look carefully down that list. I could prove, if I desired, that you have acted wrongly in the past; let us see in the coming year if we cannot keep perfectly clear from any trouble with agent, proprietor, manager, or anyone else. There are many things that might be done with the Federation in the future. There should be a great many improvements, and if we have the time to devote to those objects, possibly the results in the end might be a lot more satisfactory to us. I regret that the meeting is not a larger one, for I think that all the members of the Federation who are in town should attend on an occasion like this."

The Chairman asked for volunteers to act as scrutineers, and out of several gentlemen who offered their services the following were appointed:—Messrs. Fred Mason, George Fredericks, Curtis Leo, and Will Hurst. Two tellers were also appointed.

Mr. W. H. CLEMART, the general secretary, said:—Mr. Chairman, Brother and Sister Artists,—Before reading my report I should just like to say that if what Mr. Lee has spoken of is going to come off, I can see myself drawing my salary for nothing. I hope you will do it. The year 1908 has undoubtedly been the most arduous and the most critical in the history of the Variety Artists' Federation. On January 1 the rule requiring the consent of the Executive Committee and a donation of 2½ per cent to the Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund for the gratuitous services of members at charity matinées, anniversaries, and managers' benefits came into being. Very many managers have asked for and obtained this consent, and in many cases the 2½ per cent. has been forgone. As is well known, Mr. Oswald Stoll has not seen his way to approach the Executive Committee, but has proceeded to give charity matinées with the assistance of non-members and members of the theatrical profession; in a few cases he has obtained the services of a few of our members, who have been immediately expelled for breach of the rules. The first matinée took place at the Grand Theatre, Birmingham, on Jan. 25, when not one member of the Federation appeared. Moss' Empires, Ltd., gave a donation of £100 to the charity involved, and to show that the object of the rule was not uncharitableness, the Federation also gave £100. On March 27 an attempt was made before Mr. Askwith to come to some arrangement with Mr. Stoll, but unfortunately, although the Federation representatives were agreeable to accept Mr. Askwith's suggested solution, Mr. Stoll remained obdurate, and consequently the position to-day is unchanged. All through the year there has been much rumour and talk about a big combine of music-hall proprietors which Mr. Stoll was forming, with the intention, no doubt, of combating the influence of the V.A.F., but up to now it certainly seems as far off as ever. There has, however, been a combination of the interests of Messrs. Walter Gibbons and Thomas Barrasford, with what success time alone will show. The arbitrator, Mr. G. R. Askwith, has been approached on more than one occasion in reference to certain managers' conduct in treating the award, Messrs. Barrasford, Wilkes, De Frece, Tozer, Richards, Graydon, and Peacock being the managers concerned. On Jan. 1 the entrance fee became £1.1; there is no intention at present of increasing it further. In February Mr. Stoll threatened a "lock-out," but nothing came of it. On March 8 the now defunct Artists' Protection League, under the generalship of Mr. Frank Gerald, held a meeting at the Empire, New Cross, to protest against the V.A.F. policy on the charity matinée question, and on the same evening the cream of the profession assembled at the Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund dinner at the Criterion and subscribed nearly £1,000 to the charity. On May 7 Mr. Askwith, the arbitrator, gave a decision that no salary could be tendered an artist in less multiples than 10s., this being intended to somewhat counteract the managers' attempts at reducing salaries to fit the matinée payment. On July 12 a dinner was given to Messrs. O'Gorman, Pink, and Clemart at the Boulogne Restaurant, at which they were each presented by Mr. Joe Elvin, on behalf of the Federation, with a diamond medallion in recognition of their services at the arbitration. On July 31 Mr. Askwith decided against Mr. Tozer that "turn" contracts must have "turn" bars, and that it was a breach of the Award to bar a "turn" contract for the whole of the county of London. On Aug. 19, after another meeting, at which the managers were against proved to be at fault, Mr. Askwith expressed some displeasure, and intimated that he had no time to keep going over the same ground, and since then the managers have certainly been a little—not much—more careful. On Sept. 10 the Artists' Protection League was expelled from the Trade Union movement. On Sept. 21 the *Marriages of Mayfair* was produced at Drury Lane. The piece contained a scene which was objected to by the Variety Artists' Federation and the Grand Order of Water Rats as being an insult to the music-hall profession. Mr. Arthur Collins, after being approached by these two bodies, had the scene very much modified. In October the V.A.F. and the De Frece circuit nearly came to war owing to the insertion of a clause in the managerial contract empowering the manager to deduct commission. After a lengthy correspondence an ultimatum was issued by the V.A.F., which resulted in the De Frece management on Oct. 29 consenting to delete the clause objected to "under protest." On Nov. 3 Mr. Monte Bayly resigned his position as general secretary of the V.A.F. We now have to thank our affiliated societies. We thank the White Rats of America for the many and great assistances which they have rendered to our members when in America. We also thank the International Artists' Lodge and its President, Mr. Konorah, who made a special journey to be here last Sunday from Berlin to give us his support. We thank our very numerous agents in the provinces who assist us at our meetings and attend to keeping all our papers and stamps together. We thank also our solicitor, Mr. Eugene Judge, who is of great assistance to us. And we also thank our counsel, Mr. Charles Doughty, who so ably fights for us. Last year—I see in the report of the General Secretary—there was a vote of thanks to the General Federation of Trades Unions. I do not think we will pass one to-night. On Jan. 16 a sub-committee to deal with the agency question met for the first time, the members being Messrs. Joe O'Gorman, Wal Pink, Fred Russell, R. A. Roberts, George D'Albert, James Allinson, and W. H. Clemart, but owing to the amount of attention that had been given to the charity matinée question not much was done in this matter. But after many earnest appeals from the members' meetings, an arrangement was made, and on Aug. 27 a meeting was held between the sub-committees on the agency question, and many of the leading agents attended the offices in Wellington-street. This was the first and only meeting between the artists and agents until they met again at the House of Commons during the dispute. On Nov. 20 a deputation waited on the L.C.C. to place before them the agency question, and to pray that regulations should be made whereby all agents should be registered. The deputation was well received and listened to most attentively. The decision of the London County Council has not yet been given, but is not expected to be delayed long. I do not propose to say anything more about the agency question while it is *sub judice;* your Chairman has told you all that there is to be told. I can only say now that I trust the year which we are entering upon will be one of peace—but peace with honour.

In the absence of Mr. Daly, Mr. Clemart also read the balance-sheet, thus:—

SUMMARY OF CASH RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED DEC. 31, 1908.

Dr. *Receipts.*	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Amount brought from last account		1,495 2 4
„ Subscription stamps	3,998 9 6	
„ Death levy stamps	983 4 0	
„ Half-crown levy stamps (1907)	102 6 6	
„ Entrance fees	592 14 6	
„ Donations	11 10 6	
„ Sale of badges	35 5 7	
„ Sundry fines	28 16 0	
„ Death levy nomination papers	4 2 6	
		5,756 9 1
„ *Performer* profit for 1907	168 1 9	
Less balance of preliminary expenses written off	86 18 9	
		81 3 0
„ Interest on Consols		27 3 0
„ Income tax recovered		9 11 10
„ Emergency Fund—		
Donations	659 9 6	
Levy stamps sold	309 7 6	
	968 17 0	
Less paid out	849 18 7	
		118 18 5
		£7,488 7 8

Cr. *Payments.*	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Salaries	1,053 7 5	
„ Postages and telegrams	382 16 5	
„ Printing and stationery	412 3 6	
„ Rent	90 0 0	
„ Glasgow office	48 16 0	
„ Manchester office	63 17 3	
„ Liverpool office	27 0 5	
„ Expenses of meetings	117 15 1	
„ Election expenses	36 2 0	
„ Office and sundry expenses	105 14 6	
„ Telephone	22 3 1	
„ Electric Lighting	10 10 7	
„ Federation of Trades Unions	96 13 4	
„ Insurance	5 12 6	
„ Audit fee	10 10 0	
		2,483 2 1
„ Law charges		724 2 9
„ Birmingham charity		100 0 0
„ Badges purchased		49 7 8
„ Fixtures and fittings		16 17 0
„ Death levy payments to deceased members' next-of-kin		1,045 0 6
„ £2,671 18s. 8d. Consols at cost	2,500 0 0	
„ Cash at bank	324 11 9	
„ Cash outstanding for sundry loans advanced to members	195 5 11	
„ Cash in hand	50 0 0	
		3,069 17 8
		£7,488 7 8

W. H. MCCARTHY, Accountant.
Jan. 12, 1909.

We have compared the foregoing summary of receipts and payments with the books of the Federation, and certify the same to be correctly prepared in accordance therewith. We have duly vouched the payments and verified the cash at bank and in hand. (Signed)

JACKSON, PIXLEY, BROWNING, HUSEY & Co.,
Chartered Accountants.
58, Coleman-street, London, E.C.
Jan. 14, 1909.

W. H. CLEMART, General Secretary.

MR. ALBERT VOYCE proposed, and MR. CURTIS LEO seconded, that the balance-sheet be passed as read. This was unanimously agreed to.

MR. BARTRAM presented the *Performer* balance-sheet for 1908. The total cost of production for printing, paper, office, and sundry expenses for the year of fifty-three weeks was £5,118 0s. 10d. The total income from advertisements, including the reading case and date books, and after carrying forward the substantial sum of £500 against discounts, possible bad debts, &c., is £5,725 8s. 11d., leaving a balance of profit of £607 5s. 1d., an increase over the balance of profit of the preceding balance-sheet (April to December, 1907) of £439 3s. 3½d. The amount is carried to the balance-sheet from a profit and loss account, to law charges, £274 7s., the balance being a net profit carried to the balance-sheet of £382 18s. 1d.

On the proposition of Mr. GEORGE FREDERICKS,

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER'S SONG BOOM.

"I'M AFRAID TO COME HOME IN THE DARK."

"SHE SELLS SEA SHELLS."

"OH! OH! ANTONIO."

"SUE, SUE, SUE."

"MY GIRL'S A YORKSHIRE GIRL"

"SHADOWLAND."

"HANG OUT THE FRONT DOOR KEY."

"COME, BE MY RAINBOW."

"BOMBADIER."

"EVERY FELLOW'S IN LOVE WITH A GIRL."

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER, 142, Charing Cross Rd., London, W.C.

seconded by Mr. HORACE GOLDIN, this was also passed unanimously.

Matters concerning new rules and amendments to existing rules were then placed before the meeting. The agenda paper contained a notice of motion to the effect that "Rule 30 *re* granting of loans, be rescinded." The rule read—"At the discretion of the Executive Committee a loan may be granted to a member in full benefit for the purpose of travelling to an engagement on the presentation of contract for such engagement, a receipt being given as promissory note, &c."

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the reason for rescinding this rule was that it had been abused to a very great extent in the past. The cash outstanding on loans of this description amounted to £195 5s. 11d., and most of it could be written off as a bad debt.

Mr. HARRY MASON spoke against the amendment. It was, he thought, open to the committee to expel any members of the Federation who were so dishonourable as to shuffle out of their liabilities when they were in a position to meet them. On the other hand, the Federation had been able to perform many helpful services by means of this rule

After a brief discussion the CHAIRMAN stated that as the proposer of the amendment was not present, he would not proceed with it, and Rule 30 therefore remained as it was.

Another motion ran: "That Rule 25, paragraph 5, making it necessary to have resolutions which are to be placed on the agenda for general meeting passed at members' meetings, be rescinded."

Mr. SMYTHSON, who proposed the resolution, pointed out that a member could put his ideas before the Executive Committee, who could lay them before the general meeting. On the other hand, and under this rule, a member might go to a big meeting in Manchester, have his proposition thrown out, then submit it to a gathering of two or three at a small place like Wigan, and have it passed.

Mr. BARTRAM said that the rule was originally framed with the object of avoiding a deluge of suggestions which would cause the agenda paper at a general meeting to reach an unnecessarily congested state.

Mr. FRED W. MILLIS seconded the resolution.

Mr. FRED HERBERT also spoke on the subject. He thought that any member should be eligible to put any motion on the agenda paper, the Executive Committee to be vested with the prerogative of refusing to accept it in the event of the motion being ill-considered, unnecessary, or of a flippant character. He heartily supported Mr. Smythson's proposition.

The motion was then put to the meeting and declared carried.

The concluding item on the agenda was a motion —"That on no account shall any blackleg, or member, expelled during the past, present, or any future dispute, be reinstated into the Federation."

Before the motion was formally put to the meeting, Mr. Russell asked that it be allowed to be set aside. He thought that the Executive Committee had ample power to deal with any question arising out of the conduct of a member. It was, on another point, highly desirable to preserve unanimity at the meeting, as the Chairman had requested in his opening remarks.

Mr. FRED HERBERT expressed the opinion that no notice of motion should appear on the agenda paper, unless it was accompanied by the name of the mover.

As the proposer of the resolution was not present, and the feeling of the meeting was opposed to the suggested new rule, the Chairman ruled the matter out of discussion.

Mr. CLEMART proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. J. Forbes-Robertson for the use of his theatre for the meeting, and this was carried with acclamation.

Mr. JOE ELVIN, in submitting a vote of thanks to the Chairman, spoke in terms of high praise of the able manner in which Mr. Lee had presided over the gathering, and the Chairman's acknowledgment brought the proceedings to a close.

V.A.F. AND AGENTS.

A meeting took place at 29, Leicester-square, on Monday, between the representatives of the Variety Agents' Association, viz., Messrs. Hugh J. Didcott, George Barclay, Emanuel Warner, and Will Oliver, and the representatives of the Variety Artists' Federation, viz., Joe Elvin, William Lee, Wal Pink, and W. H. Clemart.

After some discussion, the following agreement was signed by all parties present. The joint application to the Board of Trade has already been despatched:—

Agreement entered into on behalf of the Variety Artists' Federation and the Variety Agents' Association by their accredited representatives.

1. The undersigned, having plenary powers, undertake on behalf of their respective associations to give full and honourable effect to the terms herein stated and to the award of the arbitrator.

2. The Variety Artists' Federation agree that all moneys due to the members of the Variety Agents' Association from artists, whether retained by proprietors or otherwise, shall be paid over to the agents who are members of the Variety Agents' Association at once.

3. The appeal against the decision of Mr. Justice Darling, as to the assignment of commission, to be by consent withdrawn, the Variety Artists' Federation to pay the costs.

4. The Variety Artists' Federation shall announce in manner provided in Clause 2 hereof that artists are now at liberty to sign all outstanding contracts with any member of the Variety Agents' Association which have been arranged during the dispute or that may be arranged pending the arbitrator's award.

5. It is hereby agreed that both parties hereto shall join in an application to the Board of Trade to appoint an arbitrator pursuant to Section 2 (*d*) of the Conciliation Act, 1898.

The following matters are referred to the arbitrator:—

(*a*) The maximum amount of commission an agent shall be entitled to charge an artist for engagements made.

(*b*) Whether agents' commission notes may contain a provision that the artist authorises the proprietor or manager to deduct the agent's commission from their salary weekly and pay it to the agent.

(*c*) Whether agents may stipulate with artists that they shall pay commission on re-engagements, and, if so, to define the time limits thereof, if any.

(*d*) No artist shall act as an agent directly or indirectly, and no agent shall also act as an artist.

Dated, this 18th day of January, 1909.

W. H. CLEMART.	HUGH J. DIDCOTT.
WILLIAM LEE.	GEORGE BARCLAY.
JOE ELVIN.	EMANUEL WARNER.
WAL PINK.	WILL OLIVER.

Business may now be immediately resumed on the following conditions:—(1) Commission which is owing must now be paid over to any member of the Variety Agents' Association. (2) No commission must be paid to any agent who is not a member of the Variety Agents' Association, or who is not a Variety Artists' Federation Agent, until he has signified in writing to the Executive Committee his willingness to do business "subject to the Arbitrator's Award," yet to be arrived at.

SIGNING CONTRACTS.

Members can now sign contracts with any agent who is a member of the Variety Agents' Association, or who is a Variety Artists' Federation Agent, but only on the condition that the "Office Copy" is endorsed:—"Subject to the Arbitrator's Award."

NEW YEAR'S COLLECTION FOR THE MUSIC HALL HOME.

In again directing the attention of our readers to *The Era* New Year's Shilling Fund on behalf of the Music Hall Home we are in the happy position of being able to associate with the appeal thus being made the name of the foremost music hall comedienne—Miss Marie Lloyd. It seems scarcely necessary to remind our readers of the deep interest Miss Lloyd has ever taken in matters affecting the welfare of her brothers and sisters of the variety profession. It is her desire that her "year" will be marked by a considerable increase in the subscriptions of previous years, and she therefore, through *The Era*, commends the Music Hall Home to the charitably-minded. Mr. Thomas Barrasford, the President of the Fund, is again this year exerting himself in its behalf, and this fact is sufficient indication that he is satisfied as to the way in which the institution is being conducted, and that he considers it worthy of support.

Mr. Ben Woodger, the secretary of the Music Hall Home, tells us that in 1907 the inmates averaged ten, but that in 1908 there have been as many as twelve. The address of the Home is 31, Wilson-road, Camberwell, and there the matron (Mrs. Fruin) busies herself for the comfort and convenience of her "family." At present there are eleven of these, and the desire is to increase the number, which can only be done when sufficient funds for the purpose are collected. During the past twelve months three or four of the inmates have recovered their health and strength sufficiently to enable them to look for engagements. These secured, they left the Home, and the vacancies thereby created were immediately filled up. Now, this Home requires keeping up, and it cannot be kept up on air. There is no need for us to refer to all the good work which has been performed by the institution in the past, as that must for the most part be within the recollection of our readers. The ages of the inmates range from fifty to seventy-six. In all probability these men will be maintained in the Home until the day of their death, and their funeral expenses paid for out of the funds of the Home.

The Era New Year's Shilling Fund is the main source of income to the Home, and this means of sustenance is added to by the donations of artists, either given directly, or through the collecting boxes through which many managers of variety theatres collect pennies from "dead-heads" and from artists who desire free admission.

Anyone can be supplied with a collecting-card by sending a postcard to Mr. Woodger.

Briefly, we may once more repeat that the objects of the Music Hall Home Fund are to provide shelter for deserving members of the variety profession who have been stricken with poverty or illness in their declining years, or who have in other ways fallen on evil times. Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, the hon. treasurer, will be pleased to receive filled-up collecting cards addressed to him at *The Era*, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C., and to acknowledge them in these columns.

[*Photo by Sarony.*

MISS MARIE LLOYD,
The Fair Worker for the Home.

FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	Shillings.
Joe Elvin, per Marie Lloyd	105
Marie Lloyd	63
Bert Williams	30
Jack Woolf	30
Leoni Clarke	21
Gus Elen	21
Chas. Weldon	21
Mr. Hymack	20
O. M. Dayton	10
Alf Chester	10
E.	6
Slippere	5

Collected by the Hartley Wonders, 2s.

Hartley Wonders	1	Maggie Walsh	1

Collected by Horace Wheatley, £2 10s.

Horace Wheatley	40	Grandma	1
T. Wheatley, jun.	1	Auntie	1
Kathleen Wheatley	1	Mack W. (the dog)	1
Norah Wheatley	1	Ernest Powell	1
Eileen Wheatley	1	Will Vay	1
T. Wheatley, jun.	1		

Collected by The Maples, 10s.

Fred Maple	1	Dusty Rhodes	1
Amy Maple	1	Joe Tennyson	1
Edward Lauri	1	Bates Maddison	1
May Beatty	1	W. H. Wallis	1
Cissie Lauri	1	Ben Brown	1

Collected by Dave Carter, £1 10s.

Dave Carter	1	Al. Johnston	1
He of the Topnote	1	W. Ellwanger	1
He of the Topnote	1	J. J. Harvey	1
He of the Topnote	1	Dan Conroy	1
He of the Topnote	1	Bowker Andrews	1
James Shewart	1	J. W. Wilson	1
James Mooney	1	W. H. McCarthy	1
Percy Haley	1	Young Dave Garrick	1
Master May	1	Lancelot B. Andrews	1
Fred Morley	1	Geo. Hughes	1
Alf. Ripon	1	Doc. Robertson	1
Sammy Shields	1	Baby Robertson	1
W. F. Heeley	1	D. J. Pigott	1
B. C. Meely	1	Will Oliver	1
Rose Elliott	1	Morny Cash	1

Collected by Sisters Ford, 33s.

Cissie Ford	1	Jack Hayworth	1
Emmie Ford	1	Walter Williams	1
John Simms	1	Frand Leidam	1
George Rapley	1	W. Richardson	1
Colibris Midgets	1	Joe Athos	1
Colibris Midgets	1	John Trowel	1
P. E. Edmond	1	Hectors	1
Arthur Woodville	1	Thorpe and Co.	1
Horace Pollock	1	Rastus and Banks	1
M. Simms	1	Mrs. Haley	1
Hughie Rostron	1	Milner and Storey	1
Little Innocence	1	Jimmy and Fanny	1
Earl of Dudley	1	Raven Wood	1
Cecile Eldred	1	Vivienne Bell	1
Sam J. Downing	1	W. M., Friend	1

Collected by Three Sisters Lee, £2 0s. 6d.

E. F. Murray	2½	E. Pender Cudlip	1
Fred Ginnett	2	J. Morgan	1
Reg. Beauchamp	2	George Narow	1
M. Arnold	1	Herbert Mack	1
A.	1	Jas. E. Donegan	1
W. Murray	1	Jim Dunedin	1
Thomas Lee	1	George French	1
Mina Lee	1	Gent Lotto	1
Jeanette Lee	1	Syd Pete	1
Leonie Dixon	1	T. C. Downie	1
Marie Empress	1	Schus	1
Sue Lewis	1	Ned	1
Jas. W. Dixon	1	Three Orleans	1
R. A. Johnson	1	Reg Bolton	1
Ernie Warsaw	1	H. Finden	1
R. H. Douglas	1	Hanvarr	1
Mrs. Dent	1	Hanvarr, jun.	1
W. W. Walton	1	Anna Lee	1
Harry Curry	1		

Collected by Jimmy Shields, £1 15s.

Johnson and Bert	2	Monty Walker	1
Billy Williams	1	J. E. Wilkes	1
Jimmy Shields	1	Floradoras	1
Edward Rowland	1	Mr. J. Burslam	1
George Shields	1	Arthur Royce	1
Sam Thomson	1	Margaret Drew	1
Harrison Brookbank	1	Beatie and Babs	1
Dolly Ross	1	Frank Coyle	1
Ernest Krake	1	Friend	1
Fred J. Hudson	1	Pal	1
George Edney	1	S. F.	1
Mr. and Mrs. Will Pettitt	1	Tom Joy	1
Ernest Dillon	1	Henry Herne	1
Percy Farrimond	1	Leonard Fisher	1
Evelyn and Norrie	1	Will S.	1
George Cooper	1	Sam B	1
J. W. Hall	1	Devonshire, Barnsley	1

Collected by Kloof and Ramsay, £1 12s. 6d.

George Lashwood	2	J. E. Nightingale	1
Verona Quartette	2	A. C. Williams, stage representative, Pontypridd	1
Per Messrs. Benet and Kloof, Crusoe panto. company:—		Miss Nellie Dyson	1
Mr. Harry Benet	2	Miss Gertie Miliar	1
Sisters Rowe	2	J. H. Wakefield	1
Billy Kloof	1	Rand and O'Ryan	1
Mrs. Kloof	1	Will and Roze	1
Little Jack Metz	1	Sam Saxo	1
U. C. Ugo	1	Ernest P. Grahame	1
Mrs. A. F. Bedford, V.A.F. Agency, Barnsley	1	Trixie Bascombe	1
Sandy McNab	1	Alf. Heath	1
Bert Weston	1	David Phillips	1
Syd Pete	1	Miss Eva Bentley	1
Arthur Maxey	1	William W. Fish	1
		Lonzo Brown	1
		Miss Holland	1

Collected by Seener and Fridkins, £2 5s.

Seener and Fridkins	5	Bertha Northam	1
John A. Leopold	5	Augustus Dale	1
Zeymand Andrews	5	William Ward	1
Mr. Edwardes	2	Herbert La Martine	1
Geo. Auger	2	Horace O'Malley	1
Ernest Rommel	2	Marie Loftus	1
E. Ch. Gittins	2	A. Dome	1
Dick Bell Rio	2	C. Coborn	1
Fredk. Wilson	1	Ae-Bo-Kou	1
X X X	1	D. H. C.	1
Boccaccio	1	Will Murray	1
A. H.	1	Joe Sylvana	1
Bertie Ralland	1	Tom Collins	1
Bertha Winder	1	W. H. C.	1

Collected by Regan and Ryan, £1 12s. 6d.

Fanny Fields	5	Room No. 4, M.T.	1
Violet Lloyd	5	Doris Dean	1
Malcolm Scott	5	Florence Hersee	1
Harry Tate	5	Harry Claff	1
Regan and Ryan	5	Horace Lane	1
Patty Yole	2½		

Collected by Livesey and Rosebery, £1 8s.

Leo and Roland	1	W. H. Carnis	1
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilde	1	Montaldos	1
Mr. Sam Williams	1	Joe Hay	1
Gladys Mavius	1	Leonie Dixon	1
Miss Adah Payne	1	Jim Dixon	1
G. Barclay, jun.	1	The Heroine	1
Tom Shaw	1	The Villain	1
Billy Stevens	1	The Hero	1
A. Earl Hunt	1	Lilian Rosebery	1
W. Higgins	1	Carter Livesey	1
Dr. Caine	1	Little Willie	1
Harry Randall	1	Gannimede	1
C. W. Whittle	1	Signorita	1
Gordon and Grace	1	The Skipper	1

Collected by Herbert Shelley, £2 3s.

Albert Chevalier	20	Arthur Burne	1
Herbert Shelley	10	Huntley Wright	1
J. W. Macdonald	2	Harry Nicholls	1
Lionel Rignold	1	Mrs. Herbert Sheiley	1
J. Cook Beresford	1	Alma Shelley	1
L. Race Dunrobin	1	Florence Huntley	1
Graham and Harrington	1	May Fairclough	1

Collected by J. W. Hall, 30s.

J. W. Hall	1	Gent. Lotto	1
Pat Rafferty	1	Tom Wilson	1
Walter Wade	1	Harry Barrett	1
Harold Hughman	1	J. W. Hall	1
George P. Smith	1	J. W. Hall	1
F. A. Gotch	1	J W. Hall	1
T. Mercer	1	Mrs. Hall	1
Alf Fontai	1	Mrs. Hall	1
Harry Shirley	1	Mrs. Hall	1
Cambbell	1	Mrs. Ella Hall	1
R. Galland	1	Mrs. Ella Hall	1
W. H. Barber	1	Mrs. Ella Hall	1
Lucy Crichton	1	Master Harry Hall	1
Mr. Clark	1	Master Harry Hall	1
A. Lotto	1	Master Harry Hall	1

Collected by Frank Coyle, 20s.

W. E. Gillin	1	Gladys Godwin	1
Ramsey Trio	1	The Ellimans	1
J. Smith	1	Lilian Graham	1
Frank Coyle	1	Fioretti and Elly	1
Violet Coyle	1	Percy Mannings	1
Mrs. Frank Coyle	1	Walter Mannings	1
Miss Fanny Coyle	1	F. B. Bedford	1
Jimmy Shields	1	John Huxley	1
Will Godwin	1	Denby and Dent	1
Mrs. Godwin	1	Geo. Hall	1

Collected by Barney Armstrong, 24s.

Joe Elvin	2	George Kirby	1
Gala and Norris	2	Harry Lappo	1
Miss Winifred Hare	2	Lena Brunton	1
Barney Armstrong	2	Leo Behan	1
Mr. J. Lucy	1	Martha Cowper	1
Mr. H. C. Arnold	1	Chas. Coborn	1
Frank Benson	1	E. A. Matthews	1
Baddow	1	Leighton Rooke	1
Ulrick	1	Gladys White	1
J. J. Dallas	1	Jimmy Steel	1

Collected by Mlle. De Rose, £2 1s.

Our Boys	4	Edie May	1
Mlle. De Rose	2½	Dick Thomas	1
J. H. Hawtrey	2½	Hettie Gale	1
Reginald Grant	2½	Leslie Hawkins	1
W. W. Kelly	2½	Joe Huda	1
Hilda Claremont	1	Our Willie Hall	1
Alf Leonard	1	J. Gar Kiddie	1
Stanley Fairless	1	Sisters Raymond	1
W. G. Wesley	1	E. Adeler	1
James Lowe	1	H. O. Callaghan	1
Nellie Barrett	1	Herbert Bates	1
Ada Tyrell	1	Mrs. Egerton	1
George Burton	1	Harry Mayville	1
W. H. Lisando	1	Edgar Stebbings	1
Bob Lisando	1	Mark Stuart	1
Harry Bliss	1	Joe Oliver	1

Collected by the Musical Johnstons, 6s.

Dorothy Drew Johnston	1	J. A. Johnston	1
A. E. Johnston	1	Dave Carter	1
F. Johnston	1	Fred Ralph	1

Now Ready. Theatrical Accounts for Business Managers. How the Affairs of a Theatre can be Most Efficiently Controlled by the Adoption of Systems of Internal Check. By Cuthbert E. Smedley, A.C.A. Price 3s. 6d., post free 3s. 9d. Published by *The Era*, Ltd., 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

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ARTISTS WHO ARE SINGING FELDMAN'S SONGS IN PANTOMIME.

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MISS KITTY CLINTON.
MISS ENA CORELLI.
MISS ROSE COSTA.
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MISS KITTY DOUGLAS.
MISS MAUD ESMOND.
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MISS RITA EVERARD.
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ARTHUR REYNOLDS.
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MISS FLORRIE FORDE.
CHARLES NORTON.
MISS VERA VERE.
MISS WINIFRED WYNDHAM.

BRISTOL.
MISS VIOLET GILLIS.
MISS OUIDA MACDERMOTT.
MISS DEBORAH VOLAR.

CARDIFF.
MISS MARIE BURDELL.
MISS NELLIE LUNELLE.
MISS MOYA MANNERING.
MISS IDA STATHAMS.

HAL FORD.
MISS MAUDIE FRANCIS.
FERGUSON AND MACK.
MISS FIFI GORDON.
MISS DOROTHY GRASSDORFF.
MISS NANCY HEARNE.
BABY HUTT.
MISS CONSTANCE HYEM.
MISS EDITH JEFFERIES.
MISS QUEENIE LEIGHTON.
MISS ADDIE LENNARD.
EDWARD LEWIS.
MISS DOROTHY MILLER.
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SISTERS MORGAN.

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WILL EVANS.
MISS JANE EYRE.
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EXETER.
MISS VIOLET HOLLEM.
MISS EDITH HOUSLEY.

GLASGOW.
MISS DECIMA BROOKE.
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WHIT CUNLIFFE.
HARRY DENT.
MISS IRIS HOEY.
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SAM MORRIS.
MISS ELLA RETFORD.
GEORGE ROBEY.
FRED RUSSELL.

HANLEY.
DOUGLAS CAMPBELL.
MISS LOLA PATEY.
MISS MARGARET RUBY.

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MISS LILLIE SOUTTER.

MISS MADOLINE REES.
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MISS KITTY TIMS.
MISS LULU VALLI.
MISS LENA VERDI.
MISS ETHEL WARD.
MISS WINIFRED WARD.
E. HARVEY WHITE.
MISS MARIE WILSON.

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LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

LONDON PAVILION.

Mr. Frank Glenister is rightly proud of having introduced many prominent performers of all nationalities to West-end audiences at the Pavilion in Piccadilly, and, if we may judge by her receptions during the week, it is certain that the latest newcomer to that house, Miss Henriquette Maude, who started an exclusive engagement on Monday, is a turn of exceptional interest, and has secured more than an ephemeral popularity. A world's tour of 55,000 miles is, as Dominie Sampson would say, "Prodigious!" and one scarcely associates a wee woman with such a feat. But Miss Maude, if she is decidedly *petite*, possesses grit and determination in no ordinary degree, and the belief in herself that induced her to set out alone some five years ago on a self-imposed task of travelling through the hemispheres has been completely justified. She tells simply and naturally a plain, unvarnished tale of her travels and adventures—of her advocacy of the case of a jockey boy, who was left dying on the Melbourne racecourse; of her meeting, after traversing miles of desert, with Texan cowboys and Indians, with just a hint of the chivalry and kindness of both; of her voyage to the South Sea Islands; of her work as a foreign correspondent at Chicago; and of many other events. The lecture, which is interesting not only because of its matter, but also on account of the "little travelling girl's" clear elocution and excellent English, is admirably illustrated with lantern slides. A more dramatic test of her power comes with her recitation of Frank Desprez's fine poem "Lasca," which holds the house completely—a rare thing, indeed, with a mere recitation. Mr. Glenister has added considerably to the interest of this love-story of the prairie by his special stage-setting, which accentuates the romantic nature of the poem and the picturesque appearance of the reciter, who wears the regulation mocassins and "jumper" given to her by the kind-hearted Texan boys. If we are not much mistaken, our little New Zealand cousin is going to be very popular in London.

A number of old favourites contribute to the general programme, and many of them are fulfilling return engagements. Messrs. W. T. Ellwanger and company are once more amusing the Pavilion audiences with the comedy sketch *The Peacemaker*; admirers of Mr. Arthur Roberts revel in the fun of the sketch *Till Sunday*, which gives him all the needed opportunity for impersonations; Mr. Chris Richards is a wonderful eccentric dancer; and King and Benson have an excellent show in "Around the Town," the gentleman singing with fervent expression "With all her faults I love her still," and the lady archly advising the spindle side of the audience on "how to become popular." Mr. Harry Ford's present répertoire is hardly likely to maintain his reputation as a comedian; Mr. Fred Hastings, Mr. Ambrose Thorne, and Mr. Edwin Boyde find plenty of admirers; Tom and Marie Moframo are as popular as ever in their entertainment; Mr. Alfred Long, a newcomer, has a pure alto, which is very pleasant to listen to; Mr. Gilbert Girard's animal mimicry is effective; Ilanvarr and Lee sponsor a pretty club-juggling show, which bears the title of "The Golfer and the Maid"; Mr. Jock Whiteford repeats his success as a Scotch comedian; Miss Daisy Jerome wins popularity for her song "The little pat of butter on the floor"; and Francis and Alfred, the Three Laurels, and Marcel and Boris are other turns in a fine bill.

The work of the orchestra here under Mr. Bond Sayers is most artistic.

SADLER'S WELLS.

Master Day seems to have set the pace for all time in the matter of diabolo manipulation, judging by his exceedingly clever performances this week at Sadler's Wells. His demonstration affords remarkable evidence of skilfulness in the handling of the toy and of a knowledge of the art of balancing. His spinning of the diabolo on the straight string, and again with one hand turning round, as well as the remarkable series of circles which he causes, are an achievement upon which he may be congratulated. The Singing Jockeys, a troupe consisting of eight boys and their trainer, appear in an amusing vocal act, in which we get some entertaining patter and some capital vocalism. The songs, "We'll be partners for the day," "Red Wing," and "It's love, love, love," are most pleasingly rendered. Mr. Dan Merritt, "the champion drummer," distinguishes himself by his performance of Scottish and other selections; and Miss Amy Saville, a dainty comedienne, wins the highest appreciation for a delightful turn. Miss Queenie Dell, a young lady with a most attractive appearance, showed that she possesses a sweet voice by her interpretation of "I'm full of music and it must come out," which has a most enchanting coon melody. Her second number is "My pretty little Kick-a-Poo, I do love you," and she concludes her turn with a smartly-executed step-dance. This artist should certainly be heard of in the future in a prominent way. Mr. Harry Ford makes his appearance on the stage as an elderly dame, who indulges in some bitter comment concerning "her" husband and his requirements, for this extravagant man wants butter instead of the lard with which his faithful spouse had adorned his crusts of bread. Then the inconsiderate brute desires to be permitted to have a pipe, and to these and sundry other yearnings the wife replies, "What do you want them for I'd like to know." Mr. Ford's succeeding item—during the recital of which he appears dressed as a comical dude—concerns the amusing experiences of a man with a lady who wishes to get married. The title of the song is, "What a find!" and Mr. Ford's whimsical manner whilst delivering it is in itself a source of merriment. The Sivronis submit an exceedingly entertaining burlesque act, and Lorne and Vallance, the well-known musical comedians and dancers, are also worthy of commendation. Mr. J. C. Manley, a descriptive vocalist with a tuneful voice, touches the hearts of his hearers with his sentimental ditties, "My darling mamma" and "My gal Sal," and the Two Lillies are seen and admired in speciality dances, their skipping-rope dance being particularly effective. Raymond's Bio-tableaux include a series entitled The Spanish Lover.

"A MAGDALEN MARRIED."

A Dramatic Episode, by Paul Barry-Lewers, produced at the Middlesex, on Wednesday, Jan. 20.

Capt. Lord Frank Tremarten MR. GUY ADDISON
Vance Vallam ..... MR. LIONEL GADSDEN
Lady Marie Tremarten MISS ELIZABETH WATKINS

We cannot imagine a more unmitigated blackguard than Vance Vallam, brother of Lady Marie Tremarten. He had in the past lived upon the proceeds of his sister's shame, but for some few years, during which Marie was married to a nobleman unknown to Vance, the sister had managed to elude her brother. Now, however, he turns up at her husband's residence, taunts her with having been once known as "Merry Marie," of Piccadilly, and demands that she shall get for him money from her husband. Realising what this may lead to, and fearing that in the event of her refusal to do anything for him, he will, as he has threatened, give certain information to her husband, Lady Marie determines, for the sake of the happiness of her child and her husband, to put an end to her life. She mixes some poison with her wine, but before drinking it, goes to kiss her little son for the last time. In her absence from the room her brother enters, and seeing a full wineglass on the table, puts it to his lips and quaffs the liquid. On Marie's return, he repeats his demand for money; she declines again, and he is about to go in search of her husband in order to reveal to him the scandal of his sister's past, when the poison begins to take effect, and he expires without having made a full confession. Miss Elizabeth Watkins displays an appropriate expression of tragedy as Marie, and Mr. Lionel Gadsden as her brother, and Mr. Guy Addison as her husband, submit suitable representations.

MISS GLADYS HUXLEY.

Miss Gladys Huxley, the charming vaudeville artist, arrived in England last Saturday, having concluded her South African engagements at Johannesburg with Messrs. Hyman on Christmas Day. Miss Huxley, who, by the way, is a niece of the late Professor Huxley, commenced her professional career in musical comedy. She was eventually induced to try her luck on the vaudeville stage, and made an instantaneous hit. After a tour in the provinces, she re-opened at the Oxford, London, with a song called "Won't you go with me to Gogo?" and her rendition of the song pronounced her to be an artist of unqualified ability. Having deputised at the Tivoli, she was immediately engaged for a long period. During Miss Huxley's stay in Johannesburg she made a host of friends, with the result that on the closing night of the engagement she received numerous valuable presents. On the voyage home she made a short stay at Madeira, and an incident there suggested the subject for a song, of which she composed the chorus, and on her arrival here she commissioned Mr. J. F. Lambe to write the song for her, the music being completed by J. Chas. Moore. It is called "Won't you come to Madeira with me?" It was at once secured for publication by the National Publishing Co., 132, Charing Cross-road, and will be introduced by Miss Huxley at the Oxford when she opens there on Feb. 1. The chief hobby of the young lady (exclusive of her professional business) is motoring. During her stay in South Africa she visited Pretoria and various other places sight-seeing. Miss Huxley is well booked up, and bids fair to be one of the leading lights of the vaudeville stage.

A YOUNG man named James Emms had to answer at the Thames Police-court on Tuesday a charge before Mr. Chester Jones, of assaulting Charles Chappell, assistant-manager at the Queen's, Poplar. The prosecutor stated that while leaving the hall with the stage-manager on Monday night the prisoner, who was a pest to the hall, came up and insisted on fighting him. The witness told Emms to go away, when he dealt him a blow in the right eye and also kicked him. Police-constable 811 K stated that he saw the prisoner being detained in the pit of the music hall and his coat was off. The prosecutor's right eye was nearly closed, and he also complained of having been kicked. The prisoner, who had been previously convicted for assault, refused to give his name and address. Mr. Chester Jones fined the prisoner 20s. or ten days.

MUSIC-HALL CELEBRITIES.

MISS FRANCES LETTY.

The title of "Chorus Queen" has been assumed by Miss Fraces Letty, who hails from America and has won an enviable reputation on this side of the Atlantic as a singer of chorus and coon songs, and as a wooden shoe dancer. Miss Letty, with her sister, came over here when only seven years old, under a contract to dance at Covent Garden and Her Majesty's Theatres. Leaving the theatres to join her sisters on the variety halls, she played seven years with them in variety and pantomime. Her success as principal boy induced her to start in her single act, and by dint of ability, energy, and perseverance, she has steadily risen to the position she now holds. Miss Letty has been an outstanding feature on every programme, and this success has led her from chorus songs to the production of scenas, all of which have been very successful. Her latest song scena, entitled *Quit this House, Mr. Nigger, and Go*, written by Leslie Race,

[*Photo by Bustin.*

MISS FRANCES LETTY.

composed by A. D. McFarlane, and staged by John G. Barton, introducing the original novelties, the silent coon and the dancing chickens, has caught on immensely. Miss Letty was the originator of the first sequel to *Moving Day*, which she played with great success on the Moss' tour and principal halls. She has played all the principal theatres and variety halls in Great Britain, including Moss, Barrasford, Macnaghten, Bostock, and United County Theatres tours, and is presently playing at the Hippodrome, Peckham, under contract to Mr. Walter Gibbons. She has played in pantomime at Sunderland, Manchester, Leicester, Glasgow, and Surrey and Stratford, London. She possesses a large number of chorus songs, including such successes as "Does anyone want a girl?" "I'll wait for you," "Pack up your trunk and go," "Have your ears been burning, Mr. Jackson?" and "Back, back to Pimlico." Miss Letty recalls with pleasure an occasion when at the Hippodrome, Brighton, she was requested by Mrs. Barrasford, by desire of the Duke and Duchess of Fife, to sing a song she had featured on a previous visit, namely, "I wouldn't leave my little wooden hut for you," and being cordially thanked for so doing. Miss Letty is booked a long way ahead, and starts on March 1 another tour of Moss' Empires, returning to London in October. Her business is being attended to by that well-known agent, Mr. Tom Claxton.

ROYAL STANDARD.

Mr. John Henderson and company are here this week at the Royal Standard in an extremely interesting sketch dealing with Canadian life. It is the story of a post-house tragedy in the Rockies, and the scene is placed in Alberta. We dealt fully with the playlet on its production some time ago, and we then took occasion to commend the piece to the notice of our readers. Mr. John Henderson, who, by the way, is the author, still appears in his original part of Packman-Carrier Sandy McFarlane, and a fine, sturdy Scottish character he makes of it. Mr. Frank C. Mason appears in the rôle of the desperado, Racehorse Charley, and acts up to the vigorous and daring pretensions of the individual he is representing. Miss Mary Stafford-Smith furnishes an interesting impersonation as Postmistress Lizzie Sinclair; and Mr. Leonard Lorraine suitably enacts the rôle of a troop sergeant-major of the North-West Mounted Police. The sketch is appropriately mounted. Miss Amy Saville, a chic comedienne, has a most entertaining ditty in "Will you go to Sligo?" which she delivers with much spirit; Campbell and Burns are uproariously funny with their patter; the Seymons show themselves to be astonishingly clever in a novel equilibristic act, which is mainly composed of smart feats of hand-balancing and juggling; Clare and Pastor offer many attractive little items in their comedy, vocal, acrobatic, and instrumental scena, and the versatility of the troupe is a matter of general eulogistic comment among the audience; Miss Gladys Witton, the girl contralto interests the house with her vocalism as applied to such songs as "Could not you love a girl like me?" and "A long time gone." Her voice is expressive and tuneful, and she has a most pleasing appearance. Mr. Kyburn-Dellar presents a sketch entitled *The Flaming Hussy*, in which Miss Edith Blande portrays the character of a somewhat adventurous woman, Mr. Kyburn-Dellar appearing as the once-upon-a-time lover. The playlet is excellently acted. Miss Ina Lorimer, the Scottish comedienne and dancer, sings in refreshing style a couple of numbers, one of which bears the name "I'm lost in London." Her exhibition in the direction of the terpsichorean art is also praiseworthy. The Toreadors are submitting their exceedingly laughable burlesque, *A Spanish Bull Fight*, the humorous qualities of which seem to gain on acquaintance. Mr. Laffan B. Jolly—surely a play upon words if ever there were one—creates a veritable infection of hilarity with the aid of his laughing songs. Is it because he is in nature as well as in name a laugh-and-be-jolly gentleman, or because he has extraordinary control of his risible faculties that Mr. Laffan B. Jolly indulges in such uncontrollable fits of merriment? Mr. Jack M. Tucker and company give an able singing and dancing performance in their scena *The Page*, and Mr. Walter King is extremely funny in his remarks on the subject of a henpecked husband, and his bit of burlesque as a woman singing and dancing is most enjoyable. Mr. John Lloyd and Miss Helen Bourne, tenor duettists, render a good account of themselves with such songs as "Alice, where art thou?" "The white squall," and "Anchored." The Edisonograph projects several up-to-date films. Mr. Maurice Volny, the assistant-manager, and Mr. Frederick Allwood, the musical-director, do good work in their respective spheres.

PRICE & REYNOLDS'

SIX PANTOMIME "HITS."

"MAIDIE and HER LITTLE TEDDY BEAR."
"RUN AWAY FROM OLD MAN GOBLIN."
"THE PIXY AND THE IRIS."
"MR. GOLLYWOG, GOOD NIGHT."
"IF THE WORLD WERE MINE TO GIVE."
"FUNNIOSITIES."

PRICE & REYNOLDS, 41, BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W.

THE BEDFORD.

A very strong programme is to be found at this cosy hall this week, and packed audiences are the rule. There is a good all-round programme, which comprises a great variety of turns. Mr. Ben Nathan is making a welcome reappearance in an amusing play, *The False Prophet*, described as a fantasical comedy. Mr. Nathan appears as the old Jew Abram Levy, who believes the end of the world is at hand, and gives a very amusing delineation of the character, which causes endless laughter. Miss Fanny Robina, who makes a very gratifying appearance, has a cordial reception for her two songs, which are given with all her accustomed verve, and it is pleasant to hear this popular artist again. Cling and Clang provide a very bright turn with a deal of mirth-provoking patter and finish off with some smart dancing, which earns much applause. Harry Harris is clever as a mimic, and his imitations of Sam Mayo, Gus Elen, and others meet with much success. Florrie Cooper is a very charming singer, and her song about the stars was beautifully rendered, and met with hearty approbation. The Sages are a very entertaining couple, who interest and amuse with song and dance.

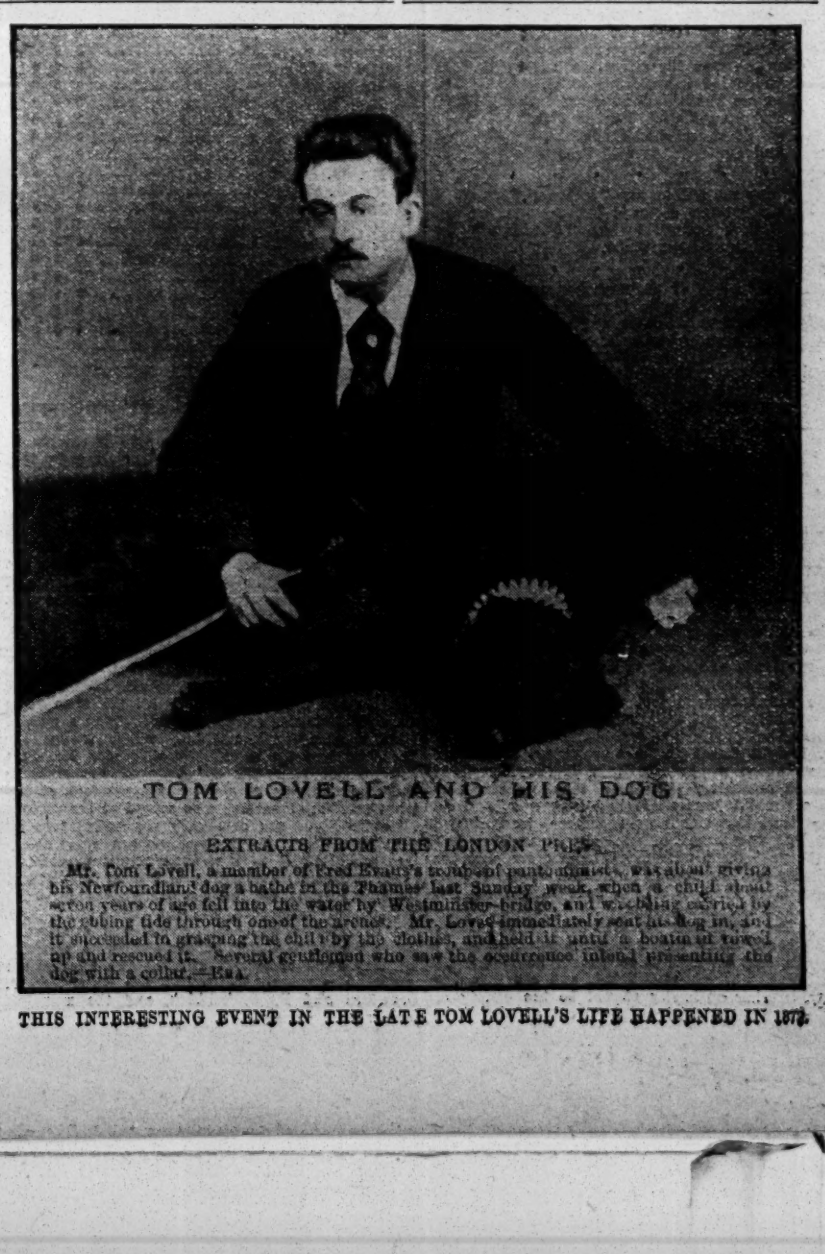
Miss Dorothy Grimston and company are presenting Mr. E. Phillips Oppenheim's dramatic sketch, *The Money Spider*, which tells of an incident in the career of a millionaire trust magnate who so nearly meets his death at the hand of a man who is being ruined by his trust manipulations. Miss Grimston plays the part of the millionaire's wife in dramatic fashion, and she is ably supported by the members of her company. The sketch scored a great success, which was well merited, for it is strongly written and most powerful. A very fresh turn is that provided by Mr. Tom Jones, the Welsh comedian, who is rapidly coming to the front, and he has a style of his own, and causes endless laughter as Clara Ap-Morgan, who chatters away on all topics in a thoroughly Welsh fashion. Frevoli and Deep give a clever acrobatic act. The lady partner is a very clever and graceful performer, and does several marvellous feats with amazing dexterity. Mr. Sivroni, described as an entertainer, gives several imitations, his most successful being that of Chirgwin, which was remarkably true to life. Those popular favourites the Four Burnells are always welcome here, and they are giving their diverting scena *On the Links*, which is screamingly funny, and keeps the audience in a roar of laughter.

A very novel scena, entitled *After the Play*, is being staged here by Mr. Jules Garrison. It is a little story of life behind the scenes. It is Christmas Eve, and the theatre deserted. Only the manager is left on the stage at the theatre, and he is visited by a crowd of newsboys, to whom he gives a little entertainment. Mr. Garrison plays the part of the Manager, and he is assisted by a crowd of local newsboys, two of whom deserve special mention, for they displayed much talent. This sketch is distinctly original and capitally played, and its success was most emphatic. Mr. Ken Jones, a comedian of much originality, appeared as an extra turn, and scored with his song "I don't think." Jack Roland, baritone vocalist, and the Bioscope complete the bill. Mr. Donald Brown is as courteous as ever, and indefatigable in looking after the welfare of all his patrons.

EALING HIPPODROME.

Mrs. Lewis Waller with *The Admiral's Lady* is winning the hearts of all comedy lovers this week with her inimitable presentation of the, if sometimes impulsive, always lovable Lady Rumblow. Mrs. Waller has here a rôle in which she simply revels, and there is all the breezy air of the quarter-deck about this altogether irresistible "lady admiral." She is, by turn, *câline* and seductive in her passages with the Duke of Villaflors, resolute and, in the end, triumphant with his Duchess, and in her temporary defeats she enlists the sympathy of her audiences, who always hope for and glory in her ultimate victory. Such sterling work is only too rare upon the variety stage.

"I don't care if there's a girl there" sings Mr. C. R. Whittle when, on his road to prison, he learns that Suffragettes will bear him company, and the rousing style with which his audience takes in hand the chorus of this phenomenal success of the Star Music Company shows why it has "caught on" from Land's End to John o' Groat's. Next he carols off, "I want you to see my girl," and again gallery and pit join in with a heartiness that makes even Mr. Whittle glow. Grey and Walford have an uproarious fun producer in their boxing-bout, and that humorous duet of patter and song, "Uncle died and left us all his pills," fairly convulses the house. Miss Rosie Archer, mimic at the piano, gives "Impressions," her excerpts being Miss Vesta Tilley, "When the right girl comes along," and Miss Victoria Monks, "I wish I had a pal." Both presentations are well received. Miss Violet Ashcroft sings sweetly of "Tell me, sweetheart" and "Two lads were speaking," and with a handsome costume makes an enchanting stage picture. Mr. Arthur Rose produces *The Actor's Last Call*, a pathetic episode ending with the death of the old player in his effort to represent his favourite character of Shylock. The vocal scena of Verno and Voyce, *Rosebud Wins*, well serves its purpose in showing that one good turn deserves another. This "200 to 1" chance proves most acceptable, and both comedians are loudly applauded. The methods of Mr. Ted Cowan are somewhat like those of a certain "immobile one," but his two numbers, "Pushing" and "Anything is better than nothing," do not suffer from the association. The Imperial Bioscope exhibits some startling films of the Messina earthquake.



TOM LOVELL AND HIS DOG.

EXTRACTS FROM THE LONDON PRESS.

Mr. Tom Lovell, a member of Fred Evans's troupe of pantomimists, was about giving his Newfoundland dog a bathe in the Thames last Sunday week, when a child about seven years of age fell into the water by Westminster-bridge, and was being carried by the rushing tide through one of the arches. Mr. Lovell immediately sent his dog in, and it succeeded in grasping the child by the clothes, and held it until a boat put out and rescued it. Several gentlemen who saw the occurrence intend presenting the dog with a collar.—*Era.*

THIS INTERESTING EVENT IN THE LATE TOM LOVELL'S LIFE HAPPENED IN 1873.

SHOWMEN'S GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Showmen's Guild, which was exceedingly well attended, took place on Wednesday afternoon at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, the chair being occupied by Mr. Patrick Collins, the president, who was supported by the Rev. Thomas Horne, chaplain to the Guild, Mr. Strong, hon. solicitor, Mr. Watson Wright, Parliamentary solicitor, and Mr. T. Hurst, hon. secretary; while others present were Councillor E. H. Bostock (Glasgow), Messrs. J. W. Bostock (London), J. Dooner (Wales), S. Hancock (Plymouth), Marshall Hill (Conley, Glos.), James Manders (London), Wm. Murphy (Newcastle), T. E. Read (London), Jacob Studt (Gloucester), Wm. Taylor (London), D. Turnbull (Belfast), F. Turner (London), H. J. Wallis (Liverpool), B. Howden (Boston), Geoghegan Bros. (Manchester), Forrest Bros. (London), R. Holdsworth (Leeds), J. Westray (Manchester), Chas. Abbot (London), J. Crighton (Norwich), Anderton and Rowland (Sheffield), Wm. Le Neve (London), Harrington Bros. (Manchester), Andrew Purchase (London), E. Holland (Manchester), Mellor Bros. (Oldham), Fred White (Manchester), Alf Ball (London), E. Ball (London), Prince Samonda (Manchester), Messrs. M. Thompson (Leeds), G. Marshall (Bradford), H. Kemp (Leicester), R. H. Williams (Preston), Councillor G. T. Tuby (Doncaster), Messrs. M. Brannan (Doncaster), Dunwell Johnson (Leeds), John Collins (Liverpool), Plinston Bros. (London and Warrington), R. Shippobottom (London and Manchester), H. Hughes (Birmingham), H. Street (Sheffield), H. Powell (Newcastle), E. Hussey (London), G. Saunders (London), W. Slatter (London), M. Sanders (Norwich), Tom Taylor (London), J. Chadwick, A. Chamberlain, Mr Whatham (agent for W. Foster and Co.), Mr. C. Burrell, jun., for Messrs. C. Burrell and Son, Mr. L. A. Hackett (agent for Baxendales), Mr. Ballam (agent for R. Garrett and Sons), Mr. Affleck (agent for Savage Bros., Ltd.), Mr. Wentworth (agent for Marenghe et Cie, Paris), Wm. Kemp (agent for the L. and N.-W. R.), Mr. T. Smith (agent for the G.C.R.), Mr. Brimmell (for Brimmell's, Stroud), and many others.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said: Ladies and Gentlemen,—In taking the presidency, I know that I am undertaking a big work. To follow the Empire's greatest showman is a task beyond my power. But knowing as I do that I shall receive every assistance from the committee and the great workers in our cause, the chaplain, Mr. Hurst, the hon. secretary, and a hundred others whose names I could mention—with these good men and true behind me I have no hesitation in bidding you go forward. You may rely upon me to do all in my power to forward the great work in hand. I have to propose a vote of thanks to the retiring president, Lord George Sanger. He takes with him our love and best wishes, that he may be spared many years to enjoy his well-earned peace and retirement. The chaplain will second the resolution.

The Rev. T. HORNE, who was loudly cheered on rising to speak, said: The resolution before us now reads thus:—"This meeting of delegates of the Showmen's Guild, assembled at the World's Fair, London, for its eighteenth annual meeting, tenders to Lord George Sanger, the retiring president, heartfelt thanks for his services to the whole body of vandwellers, showmen, and amusement caterers. They place on record with profound respect and admiration their sense of his untiring zeal, great influence, and unstinted liberality in their interests and in the life of the humblest member of the fairground community. They wish him, in the eventide of life, all peace and abundant blessings." In seconding the resolution I wish from the bottom of my heart to convey it to a friend with whom I have worked for well-nigh twenty years in the interests of all in Showland with the greatest amity. With the profoundest admiration for his great ability, liberality, and keen interest in all that concerns the people who follow the fair. George Sanger has built up for himself an imperishable name. When the great men of the Victorian Era are put in their proper positions and the historian of the future marks the really great leaders of men, account will have to be taken of George Sanger. Cradled on the road from the earliest days of his life, passing through the vicissitudes that build up character and make personality, George Sanger has stood for all that is truest and noblest in Showland. As a loving son, as a faithful husband, as a staunch and untiring friend, as a leader of his fellows, as a benefactor to his people, George Sanger will remain for ever the Empire's greatest showman. He thought of those whose interests were as great as his own, and he thought of those who were unable to give but would give if they could. I addressed the following lines to him on his resignation:—

I *cannot*, nay, I *cannot* bring
My tongue to say "Farewell,"
Nor would I have the bells of life
Ring out so sad a knell.
I would not break the fellowship
So strong through many years,
How we won the children's bread
And dried the widow's tears,
How we buckled armour on,
And fought with foemen dire,
How we vanquished ignorance,
And quenched fanatic fire.
. . . . . .
So ask me not to say "Farewell,"
My veteran comrade brave;
'Tis time enough to say "Good-bye"
Beside an open grave.
. . . . . .
In the glory of life's setting sun,
My brother, take thy rest;
Well hast thou fought, and well hast won
Thy guerdon with life's best.

I welcome you in the chair, sir. You are not too young to be labelled and marked, and I label and mark you here to-day, sir, as the monarch of British showmen. If ever a man has earned by means of hard work, tremendous ability, readiness to see and to grasp the meaning of every emergency, the right to a crown of triumph, then that man is Patrick Collins.

Mr. T. WATSON-WRIGHT, the Parliamentary solicitor, moved the following resolution:—"That this meeting of showmen delegates of the Showmen's Guild of Great Britain in public meeting assembled at the World's Fair, Islington, protests against the Movable Dwellings Bill. We claim as lawful traders to be under and obedient to the ordinary laws of the realm; we deny that special inquisitorial and liberty-destroying legislation is needed for our trade and mode of life. If the promoters of the measure want to penalise gipsy life, let them make their object clear by calling it a Gipsy Encampment Bill, or by an exemption clause stating that gipsies and not showmen are meant." Mr. Wright stated that the promoters of the Bill were making a grave mistake if they imagined that in attacking the show they were removing a great injustice. It had long ago been decided that showmen were legitimate traders, and this Bill was mere faddist legislation. They had in the past dealt with many legal cases, and the majority of the results were in their favour. These cases could not have been fought without the aid of the Association.

The Rev. T. HORNE seconded the resolution. He pointed out that the Bill proposed that every movable tent or habitation should be registered, numbered, marked, and listed, and the licensing or registering authority should be the county or borough council. The Guild would not fight the Bill if it were merely a legislative or licensing Bill. The objectionable point about the Bill was that it was an invasion of their rights as citizens of the greatest empire the world had ever seen. Every van at present was under the Health Acts, with all their amending Acts. There was not a single Act of Parliament which applied to houses of stone that did not equally apply to the caravans of the travelling showman.

Mr. A. A. STRONG, LL.B., the hon. solicitor, also spoke in support. He thought that the showmen should not be negligent over this matter.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and declared carried unanimously.

Mr. FRANK TURNER proposed a resolution as follows:—"This meeting thanks Vice-President T. E. Read, lessee and director of the World's Fair, for his kindness in permitting us to hold our meetings and giving us the assistance he does."

Mr. THOMAS HURST seconded, and the resolution was carried.

The Rev. T. HORNE announced that Mr. Patrick Collins had marked the first year of his presidentship by contributing £50 to the funds of the Society. The chaplain then referred to the report already published in *The Era*. They had serious financial engagements to meet, and they would not be able to meet them without doubling their last year's income, which amounted to over £500. When it was considered that one corporation alone, having behind it the money of the ratepayers, would lavish from £1,000 to £2,000 on a case, it was a remarkable thing that the Showmen's Society, with its extremely limited income, could successfully oppose great corporations. He appealed for funds, and trusted that his hearers would respond generously. Mr. Horne then stated that a copy of the following resolution would be sent to the Oldham Corporation:—"That this annual meeting of delegates of the Showmen's Guild, drawn from all parts of the United Kingdom, protests against the Oldham Corporation Bill asking for a monopoly of fairs in the borough boundary."

At the close of the meeting the following members were enrolled:—

	£	s.	d.
Mr. P. Collins (President)	50	0	0
Proceeds of Bolton Ball	13	6	9
Messrs. R. Garrett and Sons	5	5	0
Messrs. W. C. and S. Hancock	5	5	0
Messrs. Anderton and Rowland	5	5	0
Mr. John Studt	5	5	0
Councillor E. H. Bostock	5	5	0
Messrs. Burrell and Sons	5	0	0
Messrs. Toft and Turnbull	3	3	0
Mr. J. Wentworth	3	3	0
Mr. Marshall Hill	2	2	0
Mr. W. Hastings	2	2	0
Messrs. W. Foster and Co.	2	2	0
Baxendales	2	2	0
Mr. W. Taylor	2	2	0
Messrs. J. Dooner and Son	2	2	0
Messrs. Forrest Bros.	2	2	0
Mr. T. Clarke	2	2	0
Mr. John Procter	2	2	0
Mr. Frank Turner	2	2	0
Mr. J. Manders	2	2	0
Mr. T. Hurst	2	2	0
Messrs. Wm. Wilson and Co.	2	2	0
Mr. Andrew Purchase	1	1	0
Messrs. R. H. Mellor and Sons	1	1	0
Messrs. J. Butlin and Sons	1	1	0
Mrs. J. Pettigrove	1	1	0
Mr. T. Smith, G.C.R.	1	1	0
Mr. J. Wingate	1	1	0
Mr. A. Ball	1	1	0
Mr. Creber	1	1	0
Mr. W. Kinder	1	1	0
Mr. T. E. Read	1	1	0
Prince Samonda	1	1	0
Mr. R. H. Hayne	1	1	0
Messrs. F. A. Glover and Co.	1	1	0
Mr. E. Hanneford	1	1	0
Mr. W. Mackesy	1	1	0
Mr. R. Clasper	1	1	0
Mr. T. Searle	1	1	0
Mr. F. Plinston	1	1	0
Mr. W. Beach	1	1	0
Mr. T. E. Read	1	1	0
Mr. C. Smith	1	1	0
Mr. Frank Turner	1	1	0
Mr. J. Crighton	1	1	0
Mr. F. Gray	1	0	0
Mr. T. H. H. Robinson	0	10	6
Mr. P. Shippobottom	0	10	6
Mr. J. Manley	0	10	6
Mr. H. W. Benham	0	10	6
Mr. C. Presland	0	10	6
Mr. C. Simpson	0	10	6
Mr. C. Andrews	0	10	6
Mr. F. Wilson	0	10	6
Mr. R. Chipperfield	0	10	6
Mr. W. Le Neve	0	10	6
Mr. J. Ravenscroft	0	10	6
Mrs. Thornley	0	10	6
Mr. Holcroft	0	10	6
Mr. Sydney Milles	0	10	6
Mr. J. Caddick, jun.	0	10	0
Mr. T. Butlin	0	10	0
Mr. H. Hughes	0	10	0
Mr. C. Hyatt	0	10	0
Minerva Automatic Co.	0	10	0
Mr. W. Fisher	0	7	6
Mr. G. Harvey	0	5	0
Mrs. E. Andrews	0	5	0
Mr. E. Andrews	0	5	0
Mr. T. Haworth	0	5	0
"Pharos"	0	5	0
Mr. W. Hyatt	0	5	0
Mr. W. Slatter	0	5	0
Mr. R. Edney	0	5	0
Mr. C. Bibby	0	5	0
Mr. S. Brimmell	0	5	0
Mr. H. Read	0	5	0
Mr. J. Westray	0	5	0
Mr. A. E. Pickard	0	5	0
Mr. H. Birch	0	5	0
Mr. T. Irish	0	5	0

AMERICAN RINK, DUNDEE.

This magnificent rink was auspiciously opened on Friday evening, the 15th inst. The rink, which is situated in Melrose-terrace, is the second largest in the world, being only surpassed by that at the Olympia, in London. The interior of the establishment is most striking. An area of 25,000 square feet is the space allotted for the skaters, and the surface is as smooth as glass. The rink proper is a costly undertaking. Maple, of which the surface is entirely composed, was imported direct from America, and the strips, if laid end to end, would encircle the entire city. The flooring is carried on joists running cross-ways. On top of this is laid a special pine floor, which is superimposed by the maple. This is laid in a peculiar manner, so that the skaters have the lengthwise of the grain in the same direction in which they skate all the time. The maple floring was afterwards treated by a special electric sand-paper machine, which makes the floor equal to the smoothness of glass. Mr. Bert Crump, the courteous manager of the rink, is most painstaking in seeking the comfort of the large number of patrons who attend at the various sessions. Some are extremely shy to venture on the "ice," but the instructors are very attentive and patient, so that their pupils soon make rapid progress. Everything is got up on a grand scale. There is seating accommodation for over a thousand spectators, and for the skaters there are cloakrooms with attendants, and even most polite youths to fasten on the skates. A splendid military band discourses stirring and appropriate music. The managing-directors are Messrs. C. P. Crawford and F. A. Wilkins, and the manager is Mr. Bert Crump.

PRESS APPRECIATION OF THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD.

We have recently examined some extremely interesting note-books and Press cuttings of the year 1890, dealing with the opinions of the general public and the Press with regard to the then extremely novel enterprise of showmen banding themselves together in a trade union.

Two special articles in the *Manchester Guardian* of Thursday, Jan. 14, the day after the Guild's meeting in that city, very fully embody our own opinion of the enormous strides in the show and fairground industry during the past twenty years. The writer, with keen insight into human affairs, thus expresses the tremendous change in Showland:—

"The showman as seen walking with lordly stride in the splendour of his gilded palace on the fairground, to the hissing of naphtha flares, the banging of drums, and the blaring of brass, and the showman as seen in his quieter private life are two people far apart. One looked in vain at the annual meeting of the Showmen's Guild in the Memorial Hall, Manchester, yesterday afternoon for the familiar frock coat, for the shining hat with the rakish tilt over the eye, for the expanse of linen and watch chain, and for the splendour of breast stud and finger ring. These things all go, apparently, with the extinguishing of the flares and the 'last' repetition of the National Anthem, and in plain daylight the showman becomes quite a homely man. A hard hat, or even a cap, and an inconspicuous overcoat, is splendour enough for him then. Even more than that. He becomes positively a shy, retiring man—one needing coaxing at a public meeting to induce him to take any seat other than one right at the back, one needing calling twice or thrice by name before he will consent to undergo the publicity of a seat on a platform; one who, though able perhaps to shout 'Walk up, walk up' or 'Three shots a penny' with ear-splitting facility, will hesitate, and perhaps even blush, at the sound of his own half-whispered, 'I beg to second the motion.'

"But whether retiring or not in private life, the showman has a keen idea of men and things in so far as they affect, or threaten to affect, his calling, and, his shyness once overcome, he seems well able to put clearly and to the point his view of questions in which he is concerned. The function of the Showmen's Guild is to protect the interests of showmen and van-dwellers, and on measures of this sort several effective little speeches were made yesterday. First of all, however, came the business of bidding good-bye to a president of the Guild who has done perhaps more than anyone else to put the body in the strong position it now holds among showmen. This is Mr. Lord George Sanger. He is now eighty-two years of age, and is retiring from the presidency of the Guild after many years' great service. The speakers seemed to take it for granted that everyone knew all that he had done for the Guild, but one was able to gather that, both by personal work and by liberal money gifts, he had virtually kept the society afloat in its earliest days. The showman's feeling towards him is evidently most cordial, for his name was appalauded at every mention."

Lord George Sanger's Leadership.

The same paper has a leading article, commenting on the strong personality of the late president of the Guild—George Sanger. Again we notice the kindly endeavour of the writer to get inside real show life, and to express a well-founded opinion. Speaking of the bad old times when the octogenarian Sanger was a youth, he tells of the hard life of the nomadic entertainer of the people in the early forties of the nineteenth century. It is all so very good that we reproduce it:—

"'Lord' George Sanger has ceased to be president of the Showmen's Guild, and some affectionate good-byes were said to him at the annual meeting in Manchester yesterday. For eighteen years Mr. Sanger has been the Guild. He made it and brought it successfully through a very delicate infancy, and he leaves it at the beginning of a crisis, it is true, but quite able to take care of itself. A year ago at the Agricultural Hall in Islington Mr. Sanger described with gusto the vast improvement that had taken place in the character and standing of the trade since he began it, seventy years ago. The lively little book of reminiscences that he has written is full of stories of insult from village hooligans, who assaulted their vans and smashed the mantelpiece ornaments, which are sacred, but not infrequently got a warmer reception than they bargained for. In those days every showman had to be something of a general, or at the least a leader of guerilla; Mr. Sanger has himself described how his father stood for two hours with a blunderbuss in his hand while a Chartist procession filed past him near Newport, fully prepared to take the risk of firing it should these enemies of property attack his particular vested interest. The days of outlawry are over, and the Guild is discovering that even extreme respectability gives no sort of security against the solicitude of legislators and the regulations of local governing bodies."

The Movable Dwellings Bill.

Speaking of Lord Clifford of Chudleigh's Bill and the opposition of the showmen thereto, the leader-writer remarks:—"We think there is something in their objection to police inspection of their vans, which they regard as an indignity and a violation of the principle that an Englishman's house is his castle. The fact that his house is on wheels should not make any difference to common law rights. If the showmen will make it quite clear that they have no objection to their vans being visited by sanitary or school attendance officers, they will have a good chance of defeating the clause in the Movable Dwellings Bill providing for police inspection, which has caused them such annoyance."

The *Daily Telegraph* has this interesting comment on what it conceives to be the present case of the showman:—

"Rapidly though the old English fairs are disappearing, yet still more rapidly are others, of a more modern character, being started, and it is estimated that throughout the country between 20 and 30 per cent. more fairs are held now than in the beginning of the last century. The change that has taken place is far-reaching, and in the eyes of his patrons the showman is no longer the hero that he was once considered. It is with but little anticipation that his coming is awaited, and the event is soon forgotten. The fact is, enterprising music-hall managers have created a taste that is not easily satisfied. Nearly every country district is within comparatively easy reach of a music-hall, and it is quite the thing nowadays after attending the market to spend the evening at one of these houses of entertainment. Then there are the peep-shows and innumerable cinematograph displays, all of which encroach upon what the showman formerly regarded as his legitimate preserve. With this opposition he cheerfully contends, for he regards it as he regards all competition.

"But for several years he has been threatened in another way. There have been brought before Parliament many Movable Dwellings Bills, and the latest is that of Lord Clifford of Chudleigh, which was introduced last session. This Bill provides for the registration of all tents, vans, and the like used for habitation, and also for the registration of the age and sex of persons allowed to use them. The measure further provides that the inspecting officer shall be the police constable or school attendance officer. It is to the policeman in the capacity of inspector that the showmen object, and at the annual meeting of the Showmen's Guild, held yesterday (Jan. 20) at the World's Fair, resolutions of protest were passed with unanimity. In the speeches it was made quite clear that these men have no objection whatsoever to registration; the only point to which they offer opposition is that the power of inspection should be in the hands of a police constable. At the present time, it was explained, a van is subject, in regard to inspection, to precisely the same regulations as a dwelling-house. The medical officer for health, the sanitary inspector, and the school attendance officer had all the right of entry. It was now proposed that these duties should be taken out of the hands of competent men and thrown upon the police constable. These were the chief objections put forward by the showmen.

"In conversation with a representative of this paper, the Rev. T. Horne, chaplain to the Guild, said that as regards education there was little difficulty. The vast majority of showmen had fixed homes, and very few children of an age to attend school accompanied the vans. It had been proved to the satisfaction of the Board of Education that fewer children of this class than of any other evaded the regulations. Where there happened to be a number of children gathered together for any length of time, as, for instance, at the World's Fair, a school was at once started."

The *Morning Post*, in a brief but interesting report of the annual meeting of the Guild at the World's Fair, deals with the proposed class legislation of Lord Clifford of Chudleigh in very clear terms. We quote the report in full, that our readers may have in their possession the evidence of the prominence that is now given in the public Press to the gatherings of the Showmen's Guild:—

"The eighteenth annual London meeting of the Showmen and Van-dwellers' Protection Association, or Showmen's Guild, was held yesterday (Jan. 20) at the World's Fair in the Islington Agricultural Hall, with Mr. Patrick Collins, of Walsall, who has succeeded Mr. Lord George Sanger as president of the Association, in the chair. Mr. Watson Wright, of Leicester, solicitor to the Guild, moved a resolution condemning the Movable Dwellings Bill introduced in the House of Lords by Lord Clifford of Chudleigh on behalf of the County Councils Association, as a serious menace to the means of livelihood of showmen, an uncalled-for aspersion on their character, an unwarrantable invasion of their family life, and an unmerited attack on their liberties. While van-dwellers and showmen as lawful traders were prepared to acknowledge obedience to the ordinary law of the land, they denied that special inquisitorial and liberty-destroying legislation was needed for their trade and mode of life. If the promoters of the Bill desired to destroy gipsy life, why not revive the old feudal law, which made it a crime to have no settled abode, and introduce a bill to abolish all gipsy encampments and to compel gipsies and other nomads to settle in towns and villages? With the death of that professional philanthropist George Smith, of Coalville, they hoped that they had got rid of the interfering persons who desired that the home life of van-dwellers—just as respectable citizens as those who lived in houses of bricks and mortar—should be liable to invasion by policemen or inspectors at any hour of the day or night. Unfortunately, this had not been the case; and they were still frequently called on to defend their rights and liberties. During recent years the Association had presented twenty-five petitions to Parliament against Bills of local authorities containing proposals objectionable to van-dwellers, and in fourteen cases in which the petitions had been heard the objectionable clauses had been eliminated. During the coming session they would have to oppose four other Bills promoted by the Corporations of Oldham, Bury, Folkestone, and Greenock, giving to those local authorities the power of registering, licensing, and inspecting all movable dwelling vans or tents used for habitation. In view of the fact that they were already amenable equally with dwellers in houses to the provisions of the general law in these matters, van-dwellers were not prepared tamely to submit to any such provisions. The Rev. T. Horne, Guild chaplain, in seconding, remarked that while van-dwellers had no objection in principle to registration, licensing, or the visits of the medical officer of health, the sanitary officer, and the school attendance officer, they did most strongly object to the executive functions of these persons being transferred to flat-footed Giles, the man in blue, often ignorant and always officious, who was taken from the plough-tail and turned into a policeman. The resolution having been adopted by acclamation, a hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Lord George Sanger, past president of the Guild, for his services to the whole body of van-dwellers, showmen, and amusement caterers, as well as for his untiring zeal and unstinted liberality in the interests of the fairground community.

The Triumph of Organisation.

NEVER since the origination of the Vandwellers' Society (the valuable suggestion of Mr. F. H. Pedgrift in 1888) has there been greater enthusiasm and interest in its beneficent work manifested than that seen at both the Manchester and the London annual meetings. The delegates in attendance were from all parts of Showland—from Ireland, Messrs. Turnbull, Toft, and Piper; from Scotland, a representation too large for particular enumeration; from Wales came John and Jacob Studt, R. Dooner, the Bullins, the Dantes, and the Freemans; from the West of England, Miss Hancock, Messrs. Anderton, Marshall, Hill, and others; from the North Round, Wm. Murphy, G. T. Tuby, R. Holdsworth, H. Powell, M. Brannan, C. C. Campbell, and a crowd of others; from the Midlands, a big contingent to do honour to the new president, Mr. Patrick Collins, of Walsall, these including P. Ross Collins, H. Hughes, D. Johnson, H. Street, and others; from the Yorkshire Round, the Marshalls, Powells, Harringtons, Howdens, and many others; from the Liverpool and Cheshire Round, Messrs. J. Collins, H. J. Wallis, E. Holnd, and others; and from the Manchester Circuit, Messrs. Hurst, Geoghegan Bros., Whiting, Plenston Bros., Mellor Bros., R. Shippobottom, R. H. Williams, H. Kemp, and others—a real parliament of Showland.

The Fellowship of Showmen.

IT will be remembered that an attack was made upon some showpeople at the thriving village of Coed-poeth, near Wrexham. The showmen (it is said in self-protection) fired upon the mob, and wounded several persons. The showmen were arrested for firing upon the people, and the trial is about to take place. In order that competent legal assistance may be rendered these showmen—Cook by name—a subscription list has been going the round of the winter fairs. Up to date the result is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
A whip round at the meeting of British Roundabout Proprietors and Showmen's Union	4	10	0
Collected at the Iona-street Carnival, Edinburgh, by Messrs. T. Day and H. Strand, sen.	4	2	0
Collected at the World's Fair, Agricultural Hall, Islington, by Messrs. W. Wilson and L. Read	14	2	6
Collected at Simon Square, Edinburgh, per Mr. J. Evans	3	4	6

Other subscriptions bring the total amount received up to the end of last week to over £60. Mr. Frank Mellor, of Oldham, is the treasurer to the fund.

KINEMATOGRAPH REGULATIONS respecting the use of the Kinematograph in Theatres and Halls, also the Regulations respecting the use of Limelight, can be had, price 1d. (by post 1½d.), from *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C. All those who handle the Cinematograph or Limelight should possess a copy of these Regulations.

CINEMATOGRAPH PLAYS.

THE COPYRIGHT QUESTION.

In the Court of Appeal, on Thursday, Lords Justices Vaughan Williams, Farwell, and Kennedy heard the case of "Karno *v.* Pathé Frères, Ltd.," which was an appeal by the plaintiff from a decision of Mr. Justice Jelf, who tried the case without a jury.

The question was, shortly, whether the plaintiff had a copyright in a pantomime sketch, which was performed chiefly in dumb show, but with a certain amount of "gag," of which there was no book of the words or stage directions, and which was not capable of being printed as a literary piece, and whether it was or was not a "dramatic piece" within the protection of the Copyright Act, 1833. Mr. Justice Jelf held that it was not, and therefore that the defendants had not infringed the plaintiff's alleged copyright by selling and offering to sell a cinematograph film which produced on a screen all the incidents of the sketch.

Mr. Scrutton, K.C., said that he appeared with Mr. Mackinnon in support of the appeal. His client, Mr. Fred Karno, was the proprietor in Great Britain and Ireland of the sole right of representing or performing a farce or pantomimical sketch, entitled the *Mumming Birds; or, Twice Nightly*. The defendants, in whose favour judgmen had gone in the Court below, carried on business as makers of and dealers in cinematographs and films and accessories, and they had made and sold a cinematograph film which, when worked on a screen, substantially produced a representation of the incidents on which the *Mumming Birds* was founded as to be an infringement of the plaintiff's copyright in that piece, if the piece was capable of being the subject of copyright. Whatever might be the legal position of the piece, it certainly was a very paying property.

The defendants, it seemed, said Mr. Scrutton, had seen the plaintiff's troupe act this piece, and they got together a similar troupe in France, and after many rehearsals took a cinematograph, films 330 feet long, of a performance. This film they included in their catalogue, drawing the special attention of public entertainers to it as being one of their most amusing productions. This announcement proved to be correct, and it was sought after by many music-hall managers and produced all over the country at various places of public amusement. This fact greatly diminished the value of the piece to the plaintiff, because either by accident or design the films had often been exhibited the week or so before at the halls at which the plaintiff desired to give his sketch, and he was told that his sketch would not draw because there had been a cinematograph production of it quite recently, and people did not care to pay to see the same thing twice.

Lord Justice Farwell asked if the defendants called their piece by the same name as the plaintiff advertised his under.

Mr. Scrutton replied that the defendants catalogued it under the name of At the Music-hall. The defendants by their defence raised three points, each of which their lordships would have to decide. First they said that the depicting by means of a cinematograph of the gestures of actors on a screen was not a "representation" of a dramatic piece within the meaning of the Copyright Act, 1833. The learned judge found that point in favour of the plaintiff. He attended at the Oxford Music-hall a special private performance. The plaintiff first presented his piece, and then the cinematograph "representation" was given, and the judge, to make quite sure that the film representation really represented what the plaintiff's company had acted, encored it.

The second point was this, assuming this to be an infringing representation, the defendants said they had not made the representation or caused it to be made, and that the plaintiff's right, if any, was against the "showman." At first his lordship was inclined to decide against the defendants, but finally, following a decision of this Court, he held that the defendants would be liable for the acts of the showman as being their agent. That was important, because the plaintiff could hardly rush all over the country, taking proceedings against this man and that, and obviously he should be entitled to stop the original offender.

Thirdly, the defendants said: "Assume we are wrong on both the first and the second defences, nevertheless you cannot restrain us from continuing to exhibit these films, because the representation by cinematograph cannot be a 'dramatic piece' within the meaning of Section 1 of the Act of 1833, since the term 'dramatic piece' means a composition which is capable of being printed and published. It cannot consist of scenic effects and dramatic situations without words. And that is all that this representation is."

That, continued counsel, was the decision in "Tate *v.* Fulbrook," which was decided in 1908 by this Court, consisting of Lord Justices Vaughan Williams, Farwell, and Kennedy. "If that case is held by your lordships as governing this case," added counsel, "argument from me is useless, and the matter must go before a higher tribunal. My submission is that Mr. Justice Jelf misunderstood your lordships' decision, and carried it further than your lordships intended. It is to get a ruling on that point that I so gladly came before this Court of Appeal, as I thought it would be better to get your interpretation of the judgment than that of the other division of the Appeal Court on it."

Lord Justice Vaughan Williams: That was a decision on the facts of a particular case. You say this is the best possible Court to come to for an interpretation of the judgment. I think it is the worst Court you could have come to. (Laughter.)

Mr. Scrutton replied that he would reserve his opinion until their lordships had given judgment.

The learned counsel then deal with the law of copyright, and mentioned that the question was of great importance, because there was an invention which had nearly been perfected by which a gramophone would be worked with the cinematograph, and therefore "words" would be added to the gestures depicted on the screen.

Mr. Mackinnon followed on the same side.

At the close of the appellant's case,

Lord Justice Vaughan Williams said they would not require to hear Sir Robert Finlay, K.C., and Mr. E. A. Bennett for the respondents.

His lordship then gave judgment. He said that he agreed with Mr. Justice Jelf that the action could not be maintained. It was not necessary to go into the case at any length, for it was clear to his mind that the defendant had not "represented or caused to be represented" the alleged piratical performances, and had not, therefore, been guilty of that offence under the Copyright Act. That disposed of the question as it came before that Court.

The lords justices concurred, and the appeal was accordingly dismissed with costs.

THE popularity of the American Roller Rink at Olympia continues unabated, and it has become quite the fashionable resort in London. Each afternoon a large number of well-known theatrical people are amongst the keenest of the skaters, one of the latest converts being Mr. George Greaves. On Tuesday night there was a skating "Cinderella," which was in every way a complete success, and the next special feature will be a "Barnyard Carnival" on Feb. 2, when all skaters will appear in rustic costume.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT, 1906. Effect on Theatres and Music Halls. By Albert A. Strong, LL.B., solicitor. Price 6d. Published at *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Pathé Frères.

AT THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, LONDON.—This subject has a very strong appeal in view of its educational interest. It is unnecessary to describe it at length, but we may say that the photographic quality is perfect. The different scenes show arctic bears playing water polo, zebras, giraffes, hippopotami, eagles, brown bears, monkeys, reindeer, bison, rhinoceros, pelicans, flamingoes, beavers, secretary vulture, black hornbill, capybara, hyenas, the walrus pond, and the den of lions.

VERCINGETORIX (GAUL'S HERO).—It was the custom in Gaul for the daughters of the chiefs to choose their future husbands. The first picture shows the table which has been laid for the betrothal, and the guests seated round it. The bride appears, holding in her hand, according to custom, a cup, which she offers to Vercingetorix. His rival cannot restrain his wrath, and he challenges the happy young man. They fight. Vercingetorix unarms his opponent, but he grants him his life in order not to blacken the day of his betrothal with a crime. The traitor swears to avenge himself on the young chief, and for so doing he offers his services to Cæsar, promising to lead the Roman army to the Gauls' camp. The Romans, led by the traitor, arrive before Alesia, and, after a great battle, they take the town. Woe to the vanquished! The Gauls are defeated and taken prisoners. They have to come before Cæsar and give up their arms to him. Vercingetorix rides on his spirited horse to Cæsar's camp, and throws his javelin, helmet, sword, and shield at the conqueror's feet. Roman soldiers tie up the hero's hands and take him away, amidst the hootings of the crowd. Vercingetorix is imprisoned, pending his being put to death. His wife enters, and throws herself into his arms. There takes place a scene during which love and despair struggle for the upper hand. While his poor weeping wife is still with him the executioners enter, and, performing their duty, they strangle the hero in his prison.

A CHILD'S LOVE.—Mr. Skittish has a charming and loving wife, and a pretty little daughter who loves him tenderly, but this does not prevent him from making love to a dancer, who makes him very jealous on account of her fickleless. Such things will happen sometimes. Poor Mrs. Skittish has a vague idea that her husband is carrying on this flirtation, and she does her best to make him abide by her side. The frequency of the quarrels that ensue at home causes the little girl to puzzle her young brains over her mother's sadness. She at last guesses that someone has bereaved her of her dad's affection—that dad of her's, who was so happy and nice before but is now so sullen and indifferent. She devises a plan. She manages to take to the dancer the bouquet her father is sending to her, and showing to the woman a photograph representing her father and mother tenderly united, she causes the kind-hearted and sprightly girl to write immediately to Mr. Skittish a letter, which she entrusts to the little one. In it she says that she will go away, and Mr. Skittish understands at last that his happiness lies at home between his wife and child.

A PUZZLING ENIGMA.—Mr. Gregory, a hale and hearty old man, wishes to marry, and he inserts an advertisement in the paper. The very same day he finds on his desk the following letter:—"Why should I not be the partner that you are wishing for? I am told that I am pretty; moreover, I have some money. My heart is full of a love that does not dare to disclose itself. Look about you, beckon me, and I am yours.—A Bashful Girl." Mr. Gregory now speculates as to who that nice little woman can be who has thought of him as her possible husband in spite of his fifty years, but he does not notice that his woman servant looks at him lovingly while serving him at breakfast. Mr. Gregory goes out, for he thinks that he will be fortunate enough to meet and recognise the sender of the message. Passing on the stairs one of his charming neighbours he thinks that she is his anonymous friend, and, showing her the letter he supposes her to have written, he makes ardent love to her. The lady cries for help, and a forcible kick from someone behind sends him down the steps. This time he sees his laundress in the street, and he begins pouring his story into her ears. At this sudden proposal the laundress pushes him into a bucket full of water, and this cools him down a little. Mr. Gregory looks very piteous and dejected, but as he is walking along there comes down just in front of him a rope ladder, which unfolds its coils most temptingly. This is poetry indeed! Now he is sure to find his future wife up there, at the other end of the ladder, and, like Romeo of old, he carefully ascends to where he feels sure to find his Juliet. He is greeted by two housebreakers, however, and the ruffians deal him such heavy blows that they leave him unconscious on the floor while they make good their escape from the policemen, who, finding Mr. Gregory alone in the room, arrest him. But he is soon released, and he mutters softly to himself on his way home, "Such a puzzling enigma! I dare not hope to ever solve it now!" He understands everything at last when his servant presents him with two big bags full of gold, asking him to take her heart upon the bargain. Mr. Gregory is dumbfounded at first; then he smiles at the money, makes a face at the woman, and, after due consideration, accepts both.

A GOOD MAN.—Peter is a steady workman and a good man. He loves with all his heart pretty Louise, who, being a flirt, does not mind having a chat with a young townsman on a holiday in the village. Louise is now the mother of a little child, whose father does not care to acknowledge it as his. She is always sad, and Abbé Gerlis, the priest of the village, is very sorry for her, and tries to help her to carry the heavy burden thrust on her young shoulders with kind words and gentle advice. Peter, who has always looked upon the Abbé as a faithful friend, unfolds to him the whole story of his scorned love. The Abbé, in his turn, tells him of the crushed hopes of h's old sweetheart; and as Peter has never ceased for a moment to love her, he forgives everything and opens his arms to her. She accepts with gratitude and humility the shelter which is thus afforded her.

CHAUFFEUR AND CABWOMAN.—A chauffeur, having had a bust up, is seen in the street by a cabwoman, who immediately falls in love with him, and he with her, and she helps him out of his difficulty by taking his machine in tow. They are married shortly afterwards, but after a time they quarrel, and emphasise their arguments with the whip and petroleum cans. To escape the present state of affairs the chauffeur boards his motor-car and runs away; but she climbs up to her box and follows, and at new accident to the motor-car delivers the poor husband into the hands of his infuriated wife.

KATE'S BIRTHDAY.—It is Kate's birthday, and Robert, her sweetheart, is so hard up that he cannot offer her the least keepsake. Kate calls upon him with an eager face, but Robert turns his pockets inside out in a very expressive manner, and in order to make her dry her pretty eyes he promises to go to his old aunt and ask her for a cheque. The old lady is so wrapped up in her little dog Jack that her heart and safe are closed against the entreaties of her nephew, who leaves her in a state of great excitement. But at the door he sees the dog, which a servant is leading, and he has a brilliant idea. He cuts the lead, and, without remorse, kidnaps Jack. The old lady is so upset at the loss of her dog that she causes the following notice to be circulated:—"Lost, a black and white dog, answering to the name of Jack. Whoever brings same to 7, Faith-street, will receive £4 reward." Thanks to this little trick, Robert is enabled to give Kate the coveted bracelet.

Gaumont Films.

THE POTTER'S DREAM.—The potter has bad luck. He has no money to buy fuel for his fire, so has to use the furniture. Falling asleep he sees various representations of old china, on which the figures, in the dress of the nationality and period shown, come to life. On waking he rushes to the furnace, and discovers the fire out, but on searching he finds a beautiful plaque in Japanese art. The scene closes with the Goddess of Plenty smiling on the potter and his friends.

LITTLE TICK THE 'TEC.—Tick engages rooms at an hotel. He stands his boots outside the door to be cleaned. During the night burglars visit the premises, and all the boots are stolen, with the exception of Tick's. While arguing over his boots, and struggling for possession, the soles stretch. Morning—the boots searches for boots, but finds there are none with the exception of Tick's. These he cleans. When Tick requires his boots he is astonished to find they have grown, but making the best of a bad job he goes to search for the burglars. Catching one, he flattens him with his long boot against the wall, and finally catches the other in a restaurant, where some great fun occurs, and, handing the burglar over to the police, makes a bow to the audience.

LILY'S COUGH MIXTURE.—Lily has a bad cough, and the doctor orders medicine. Lily declines to take it unless everyone in the house, including the doctor, tries it first. Even then she is not satisfied, so her mother asks policemen, painters, &c., to prove to Lily that the medicine is not nasty. Everyone that has tasted it is shown later in terrible pain. Lily has the laugh of the situation, and with a smile of satisfaction throws away the medicine.

DANCING FURNITURE.—Mr. Johnson brings home a gramophone and tries various records—the waltz, the cake walk, the Dead March. During the various renderings, the furniture dances to time around the room, and pictures on the wall assume various expressions. The servant entering, finds the room upside down, and, guessing the cause, hurls the machine from the window on to the head of a passer-by.

Edison Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

THE LOST NEW YEAR'S DINNER.—Jack and Alice are newly wed, so pa and ma invite them to dinner on New Year's Day. Being a trifle late, they instruct the chauffeur to make up the lost time. Unfortunately for them, when putting on a spurt he runs into a suburban police "trap," and they are taken before a pompous and self-important local Justice. In the meantime pa is having some trouble with the turkey. Sometimes pa scores, sometimes the bird, so that ma's well-meant advice is anything but pleasing to the old man. However, matters cool down, and the preparations for the reception are completed. So pa and ma tidy up a bit and await the arrival of the newly-wedded pair. Returning to our young friends, we find them the centre of an interested group in the Police Court. When their case is called hubby discovers that he has come out without his purse, and, being unable to pay the fine, they dine on bread and coffee, making a resolution never to be late again, spurt, or forget their money.

A PERSISTENT SUITOR.—The tender passion rules the same the world over. Whatever the clime, or race, or colour, the course of true love seldom runs smooth. A pair of dusky lovers have many trials owing to the opposition of father. Jim is a fearless coloured dandy, determined to win Gladys, the Deacon's daughter. The Deacon, somehow, does not care for Jim, so a state of war exists. Jim keeps the old man bordering on a frenzy all the time, so that when pa catches him in the parlour Jim just gets round to the kitchen to meet Gladys and continue the game. After many hairbreadth escapes, the Deacon decides to make up as a ghost. Waylaying Jim in the woods, Jim just saunters along, and, instead of being scared, he gives the Deacon the best run he had ever had in his life. The failure of this idea worries the Deacon, and, running dry of ideas, Jim becomes more determined. Gladys' love grows stronger, and the grand finale comes when the Deacon falls from the roof of the meeting-house, where he had gone to escape Jim. Upon recovering consciousness, he decides to bestow his blessing on the couple, and Jim and Gladys are happy.

CINEMATOGRAPHING EXECUTIONS IN FRANCE.—"If the guillotine," wrote M. Claretie in the *Temps* a few days ago, "continues to operate, it will have to do so behind closed doors, and this will not be over easy in an age of snapshots and cinematographs. I do not despair," he added, ironically, "of seeing a cinematograph execution, just as we see the cinematograph life-saving at Messina and the destruction of the walls of Reggio." The Minister of the Interior has issued a circular pointing out that special precautions were taken to prevent the cinematographing of the quadruple execution at Béthune but that it was reported that, either by subterfuge or by surprise, clichés had, notwithstanding, been taken. Even if this were not the case, faked films might possibly be exhibited. The circular points out that the mayors has full powers to prevent these representations, and they are instructed to act in the interests of public order.

CINEMATOGRAPHY IN BARCELONA.—Our Barcelona correspondent writes—"After Paris and London, Barcelona must surely come next in the order of importance with regard to cinematograph matters. There must be at least thirty halls here catering solely for this class of entertainment. Some of these are magnificently decorated, and the price of admission is very low, viz., one real (about 2½d.) for a show lasting from forty to fifty minutes. All the largest manufacturers of films, recognising the importance of this town, have offices here. The most notable films that have been showing here during the past fortnight are The Assassination of the Duke of Guise, performed by the leading artists from the Comédie-Française, Paris. This is without doubt the finest film yet produced, and the interest is increased by the proprietors giving to each person entering the hall a five-page booklet describing the history of the tragic event. There is also showing a film that is undoubtedly simply invaluable for exhibition in hospitals or to doctors or medical students. It is a film depicting the operations of Doctor Doyen; but no self-respecting English proprietor would ever dream of showing it to his audiences."

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A newly-married couple arrange to spend New Year's Day with pa and ma. The chauffeur, exceeding speed limit, runs into a "trap." Whilst pa and ma wait dinner the newly-weds wait their turn at the police-court, hubby having forgotten his purse and so is unable to pay fine.

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A PERSISTENT SUITOR.

The course of true love never did run smooth, not even to darky lovers. Jim and the Deacon—the father of the girl Gladys—go through some hairbreadth escapes before pa will consent to allow the wedding bells to ring out.

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THE SHOWMEN'S ANNUAL SUPPER AND BALL AT THE WORLD'S FAIR.

No event in the calendar of Showland is more surely marked with red letters and set out in bold big headlines than the supper and ball at the World's Fair. Some sixteen years ago it occurred to the London showfolk that the best method of showing hospitality to their provincial confrères would be that which "delighteth the heart of the Briton wherever he may be"—"a festival dinner." Linked with this was the kindred good idea of a ball, so that all sorts and conditions of show men and show women might gather (at least once a year) and share in the amenities of social life.

As it was impossible to break the fixed order of the daily business at the World's Fair by a dinner at the usual hour for high meats and flowing eloquence, it was decided to fix the dinner for midnight, and to call it a supper, and that the supper (dinner) should be followed by a ball, where young men and maidens—yea, and even children of older growth—might disport themselves, as all children love to do, to the sound of sweet music, and in the rhythmic measure trip the light fantastic toe, euphemistically termed the terpsichorean art.

The Rapid Evolution of Social Ideals.

Sixteen years ago, when these gatherings commenced, it might have been possible for the uninitiated to observe the outward and visible signs and to hear the audible attestation of the fact that it was a festival gathering of showpeople. To-day we make bold to assert that if the same people could be transferred by the magic of the genii of the ring to the Savoy Ballroom, and the uninitiated could be kept in ignorance of the class of people who were enjoying themselves, they would not be able to tell that the crowd of "Fair women and Brave men" before them had been gathered from the four ends of showland to meet upon the common ground of the banqueting hall and the ballroom.

The Advance Preparations for the Supper and Ball.

As soon as the World's Fair had got into its accustomed stride, and the huge aggregation under the dome of the immense hall at Islington had settled squarely into business, then it was that the working committee for the supper and ball was constituted, and the business of providing in advance for the entertainment of their coming guests was commenced with that enterprise and experience for which the lessee of the World's Fair, Mr. Read, is famous.

It is a hard-working committee, and has only got one drone in the hive of busy bees, and that is its President, the Rev. Thomas Horne, who, like a wise parish priest, leaves to the laity everything that can be better done by the layman. The chairman is Mr. Read, treasurer Mr. W. Metcalf, secretary Mr. C. Day, and the other members of the committee are representative of all that is best and brightest in the social world of Showland—to wit, Messrs. H. Read, Frank Turner, W. Le Neve, T. Knighton, C. Hyatt, J. Hastings, W. Taylor, E. Hussey, W. Wilson, Fred Bibby (Manchester), W. Hussey, H. Taylor, J. Tronson, W. Slatter, A. Ball, J. Wentworth, A. Dashwood, T. Hurst (Manchester), J. Thomas, and S. Mellor (Oldham). With such a gallant crew under good Captain Read, the good ship "Hospitality," favoured by good breezes, was bound to sail gallantly into the haven of supreme success.

The Guests Assemble for Supper.

At a quarter before midnight the guests assembled. At the high table were the President, the Rev. T. Horne (the Guild Chaplain), on the left of the chairman Mr. T. E. Read, on his right was the chief guest of the evening, Councillor E. H. Bostock, Esq., of the Glasgow Zoo and of Wombwell menagerie fame, Mrs. T. E. Read, Mr. and Mrs. Hanneford, Mr. Greenwood, Mr. C. Fowler, Mr. Frank Mellor, and other guests.

Other distinguished guests present were: Mr. P. Collins, President of the Showmen's Guild; Mr. J. W. Bostock, New York; Councillor G. T. Tuby, Doncaster; Mr. John Whiting, Manchester; Mr. T. Hurst, Hon. Sec., Showmen's Guild, Manchester; and the following gentlemen on the Guild Executive Council:—Messrs. E. Farrar and Mrs. Farrar, J. Crichton, E. Geoghegan, J. H. Geoghegan, J. B. Butlin and Mrs. Butlin, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Ross Collins, Messrs. Frank Turner (Hon. Guild Treasurer), H. J. Wallis (Liverpool), J. Hastings, W. Le Neve and Mrs. Le Neve, Mr. and Mrs. W. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Hussey, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. and the Misses W. Taylor, Mrs. Powell, Mrs. Panton, Messrs. A. Dashwood, Thompson, Slatter, Cooper, and over two hundred other guests, consisting in the main of the aristocracy of Showland, and forming an assembly comparable with any gathering of English men and women in the land.

The Loyal Toasts and Speeches.

In admirable time, with his controlling hand upon the safety valve of possible over-exuberance, and himself a martinet in brevity, the CHAIRMAN proposed the loyal toasts, which were duly honoured. Mr. READ then proposed the toast of the evening, "Success to the Van-dwellers' Society," and in doing so he remarked that he felt it an occasion of great pleasure and no little honour that he should be able to welcome them again as he had done upon previous occasions, and as his revered father had done before him. He welcomed them with all his heart. (Cheers.) He was glad to be able to announce that the World's Fair this year had broken all previous records, both as to numbers passing the turnstiles and as to business done by the vast army of showman tenants. (Applause.) Further, he was proud to announce that he had secured a lease extending over several years of the building for the World's Fair, and as he had catered with whole-hearted endeavour for the public and the showmen using the Fair in the past, so they might rest assured that nothing would be lacking on his part to assure the prosperity of the Fair in the years to come. (Great enthusiasm.) He proposed success to the Van-dwellers' Society, and coupled the toast with the name of the Guild Chaplain, Mr. Horne. (Great cheering.)

The Guild Chaplain Responds.

The GUILD CHAPLAIN, in acknowledging the compliment paid him, referred briefly to the early days and struggles of the Showmen's Guild. He paid a warm tribute of admiration to Mr. James Bostock, whom he was proud to meet again. (Cheering again and again renewed.) Mr. James Bostock was amongst that little hardworking band of earnest-minded showmen who were the founders of the Van-dwellers' Society. (Applause.) During the twenty years since the formation of the Guild things had progressed rapidly, rightly, and mightily in Showland. The showman of to-day was not regarded with dubious eye as in the bad days of the past. An honoured guest at their table was Councillor Edward Bostock, of Glasgow, another honoured guest was Councillor G. T. Tuby, of Doncaster, and last, but certainly not least—the well-worn tag came glibly to his tongue—another honoured guest was Mr. Patrick Collins, of Walsall, the monarch of modern showmen, and the President of the Guild. (Great cheering, again and again renewed.)

He begged them to remember that not only was the Van-dwellers' Society entering upon its twentieth year in the sturdy strength of manhood, but, to use another simile, the Showmen's Guild was the mother of all trade organisations in Showland. These societies banded together to secure sectional interests were, he was happy to think, doing good work, each in its own place and order. (Applause.)

Let them never forget the pioneer society, the Guild, that all efforts of combinations in Showland had their fount and origin in the old Van-dwellers' Association. He, therefore, with all his heart and soul responded for the dear old Society, of which he was proud to be its very insignificant Chaplain. (Loud cries of protest and applause.)

Let them remember that the very fact that eminent showmen were sharing in the responsible work of local government, and undertaking the full burdens of citizenship, was the pledge and bond of the upward trend of all that was best, of all that stood for God, and for good in Showland. (Tremendous applause, during which the reverend gentleman resumed his seat.)

COUNCILLOR BOSTOCK, in response to an appeal from the Chaplain, delivered an admirably worded speech, in the course of which he referred to the fact that the honour he now enjoyed of being a councillor for the second city in the Empire was conferred upon him without any seeking or effort on his own part. He had been selected and elected without a contest. (Applause.) He freely confessed that being now utterly absorbed in the large undertaking of his permanent Hippodrome and Zoo at Glasgow and other music hall and hippodrome ventures throughout Scotland, that he no longer travelled with the show. None the less, he was proud of the distinction of being a showman. (Cheers.)

He could go back to the days when he took his part in the hard work (day by day) of the menagerie, and there were many there who remembered how arduous and absorbing that work was. (Hear, hear.) This was his first visit to their festival supper and ball. It was a great pleasure to him to be amongst them, a pleasure that he hoped to be able to enjoy upon many future occasions.

He thanked them heartily for the kind reception they had accorded him, and assured them that no effort on his part would be lacking to help in the good work of making Showland a better land than he and many others had found it. (Great applause.)

Rousing Speech from James W. Bostock of America.

In response to the call of the Chairman, Mr. J. W. BOSTOCK, England's greatest showman in America, came forward, and received a warm ovation of admiring cheers from many friends. He began an admirable speech by disclaiming any fame or credit as a founder of the Vandwellers' Society, for several years prior to the introduction of the first Movable Dwellings Bill in 1880, and again in 1890, he had been on the Continent with his show. On his return he found that his fellow-showmen were engaged in a life-and-death struggle for their rights and liberties as citizens and for the security and sanctity of their home life. There was a man who could honestly claim to be a founder of the society, and that was the man who met him on landing in England from the Continent and told him the whole miserable story of George Smith's aspersions upon the life of showpeople. That man was—Joe Caddick. (Great applause.)

Inspired by Mr. Caddick, he had done at the moment all that lay within his power to defend his brethren of the road from the calumnies heaped upon them by fanatics and faddists of the stricter sort. (Cheers.)

Since then, for fifteen years, he had been a wanderer, but he could assure them never a deserter—(applause)—for although his work was in America, his heart and sympathies were fast bound with his friends in the Motherland. (Great applause.)

President P. Collins Responds.

In response to numerous calls, the new President of the Guild, in a bright little speech, emphasised the pregnant points of his presidential address delivered in the Hall the previous day. He observed that there was no doubt that the Press and public of this country had vitally changed their views and opinions with regard to the life of the travelling showman. He was old enough to remember the time when they were regarded as rogues and vagabonds, and that the good people of a good many towns they visited kept careful watch and guard of their portable goods, under the mistaken terror and misapprehension that the travelling showman might help himself without purchase to the good things close to his hand. (Applause and laughter.) He devoutly thanked God that those days were passed and gone, and that now, instead of being regarded with alarming suspicion, they were welcomed in every town and village through the length and breadth of the land. (Great applause.) It was the work of the Showmen's Guild, uplifted and guided by the personality of their revered and reverend champion—the chaplain—that had brought about this tremendous change. (Great applause.)

He bade them go forward fearlessly, for they had the people of show-loving England behind them. He was firmly convinced that great and enduring as their success had been in the past, that there was still greater enterprises before them. (Great cheering.)

The Ball Commences.

True to its appointed time the Ball began. The scene as we witnessed it from the top step of the wide entrance hall to the ballroom was one of great attractiveness. Beautiful women, gallant men, sweetest strains of music. Your faithful chronicler, although satiated with the mental banquet, the flow of soul, and the ebullition of wit and eloquence, was man enough to desire that, Faustus-like, he might regain his youth and tread the mazy measures of the "Merry Widow" waltz.

The passing of your chronicler was indeed a parable of the restraining hand of Father Time.

The Yuletide Fair at the Crystal Palace.

CHARLES HYATT'S enterprise at the Palace, Sydenham, is still going strong. On Saturday last his up-to-date riding machines, galloping horses, racing birds, home-training bikes, the flying trapeze, or, the slide for life. Other taking novelties include the haunted house, the Suffragette chase, juvenile motor-cars and swings, and fine range of park swings.

THE minor novelties provided by Mr. Charles Hyatt and on exhibition in the Novelty Court include dart and roll-up boards, pulley board, racing motors, American ring board, shooting range, air-guns, and the latest craze, the Hoop La frames, footballers' delight, the Penny Kick.

A BIG feature of interest is the colossal picture by Alfred Smith (the celebrated painter) of the Brooklands Motor Track. It is 72ft. long and 12ft. high. It contains thousands of figures viewing the motor races, and is altogether a work of art far in advance of the usual mural decorations at fairs in quarters for the winter season.

Boswell's Circus at Chesterham.

BOSWELL'S Stage Circus, from the London Hippodrome and Coliseum, opened at the Victoria Rooms on Monday last, and packed houses, both at the afternoon and evening performances, have been the rule. The performance is just the kind to please young folks, and their elders might do worse than renew their youth again by the delights of the circus. The animals are well trained and perform their tricks in a wonderfully sagacious manner. The antics of the clowns provoke hearty laughter, and the fun caused by the revolving table and the circus riding school is hilarious. The programme is seasoned with several good variety turns, notably Mons. Morrow, juggler and conjurer, and Kame Yasuda, the wonderful Jap. The latter performs the daring feat of walking up a rope blindfold with his head enveloped in a sack to the roof of the building and then sliding backwards. Two comic ponies, Billy and Bobby, who sit down at tables and eat their food like human beings, and a clever little dog who runs on the spinning table at top speed and jumps over hurdles kangaroo fashion, are other acceptable items in a mammoth programme.

ATTACK ON BOLTON FAIR.

SOME STRICTURES AND A REPLY.

The good people of Bolton, who regard their New Year fair with very special favour, must have been surprised to find their local weekly newspaper, the *Journal and Guardian*, indulging in some animadversions upon their famous local festival.

The writer, in a recent article, "Round the Fair," says: "They're here again! Usual flitting for us again. Confound the fair; it's nowt but a loss to us who stond here week after week when fair times come round. Flitting about always upsets business.' There is no doubt that the shopkeepers and Wholesale Market tenants look upon the fair with dissatisfaction. Indeed, tradesmen on Victoria-square are annoyed and injured to an extent the Markets Committee do not realize. It is doubtful whether any county borough in England of importance would permit its most magnificent square to be the theatre of the intolerable noise of steam-organs and vocal sensational displays, creating a veritable pandemonium. The whole exhibition is behind the age, and the paltry sum realised out of it by the Markets Committee is no justification for the wrong done to shopkeepers concerned, nor to the detcrioration of Bolton's finest square, and the insult to our magnificent Town Hall. It is not possible to imagine that the Manchester City Council would devote Albert-square for a day—still less a week or more—to such a purpose, and why should Bolton continue a custom unworthy of the period in which we live? But for this year we must take the fair as we find it, with all its failings and folly."

Again: "A few days before the fair really starts the market and square begin to lose their well-ordered looks. Curious-shaped timbers of booths and other erections rise from one end to another. Men whose accents sound queer to our ears uplift the glaring and gaudy canvases, and wooden and canvas roofs and walls everywhere abound. At various hours of the day and night caravans arrive of all sorts and all sizes. Some are bright and clean as a new pin, others wear that neglected, happy-go-lucky sort of look as if they were in keeping with their owner's status and desires. The old-time one and two-horse travelling-van is largely giving way to the monster erection drawn about from place to place by the fine road-engines employed for this purpose, and when stationary for the generation of electricity for lighting and other purposes, and so reduces the demand on the local gas mains very considerably."

"These strolling entertainers, here to-day, to-morrow scores of miles away, keep themselves usually very much to themselves. In fact, they seem rarely to leave their places of abode except for the necessities of life. They do certainly bring some little business into the town, even if it is not directed into the pockets of those who have to remove their wares for their convenience. Their presence in these places is a source of revenue to the town which the Markets Committee will not readily dispense with. Whether they could be more suitably accommodated in another place is still a matter for debate, but certainly their present stand is bad enough in wet weather for pedestrians; what it would be under other conditions, where a more faulty flooring prevailed, one trembles to think."

"The 'Original Pea Saloons' and the usual well-advertised delicacy for tickling the palates of the young people, 'ice cream,' are, as usual, to the fore, and the number of booths erected for games of chance of various kinds, from the elusive cigarette to the canary and cage, are greater than ever. The itinerant vendors of toys and small wares, and the usual fortune-telling birds, weighing-machines, toffee-makers, and cheapjacks, phrenologists, and all the usual hangers-on of a fair are again a feature. The indispensable photographers with their vans are, of course, in evidence. The shooting-galleries present very little in the way of change; they are, however, quite as gay and beautiful as ever. The old "hobby horses" have been replaced by weird-headed nondescript birds and motor-cars; the swings are more luxurious than ever, and quite as attractive. All the fun of the fair and the usual crowding and pushing, together with the sloppy market—all alike are as uncomfortable as usual to the general looker-on."

"ROUND THE FAIR."

A Reply to Some Strictures.

To the Editor, *Bolton Journal and Guardian*.

SIR,—A number of showpeople who are residents of Bolton have drawn my attention to some remarks (humorous and otherwise) in an article under the title "Round the Fair." The humour is, without a doubt, witty and original. The imaginary conversation between the writer and an aggrieved regular tenant of the market hits off doubtless what the ordinary man, who is selfishly concerned for his own interests, and takes no broad or liberal view of life, would express. The old, old grievance of the market tenants and the wholesale traders, when examined in the dry atmosphere of actual truth and commercial values, amounts to this—that the market tenant, whether wholesale or retail, takes his standing or stall with the knowledge, either explicit or tacit, that when the pleasure fair comes round he has to stand on one side, and let the showmen carry on his trade, and the people who want to buy pleasure and amusement obtain it, just as they would obtain *potatoes* in the open market.

There would certainly be a grievance if the market tenants were charged for the time that they have to clear out and let the showpeople in. But as there is no such exaction on the part of the Market's Committee, Mr. Potato Merchant's grievance is very much like that of the farmer who supplies him with tubers; it is a healthy sign (of a sort) of the innate tendency of the average man to tilt a lance against anything that appears to interfere with his rights and privileges.

The Argument as to What Manchester Does.

The writer of the article implies that Bolton is quite half a century behind Manchester, and that Manchester has an enlightened and progressive policy with regard to the people's popular fairs that Bolton (still somewhat in the dark ages) does not possess. A little investigation of the history of the case would show to the writer that Manchester, nearly forty years ago, influenced by a wave of economic and puritanical false doctrine, obtained powers in a so-called Improvement Act to prevent the holding of a fair inside a one-mile radius of the present city hall.

The Showmen's Guild came into being twenty years ago, about twenty years after Manchester obtained its extraordinary powers. The poor nomadic showman of those bad old times had no champion to speak up for him and no organisation to defend his rights. If any city or borough to-day asked Parliament to sanction a ring-fence within its boundary, inside of which no fair or exhibition of a temporary character could be carried on, such Corporation would speedily find that the showman is neither without voice or remedy in Parliament.

British Fairs Not Dying Out, but Increasing.

A careful computation has been made of the number of fairs in existence to-day and the number that obtained fifty years ago. This investigation was carried through by the writer of this letter. The result was to demonstrate that in the great industrial belt of England, stretching from Leicester to Newcastle-on-Tyne, fairs have increased and multiplied over 30 per cent. In some of the Southern Counties, where the people have been driven from the land in the search for bread to the great industrial centres of the North and the Midlands, a certain number of old historic fairs, for lack of people to attend them, have fallen into desuetude.

The writer who, perchance, may have formed his opinion of British Fairs from some of these out-of-the-world pleasure fairs of the people, would do well to correct those impressions by visiting some of the great town Fairs of England. I commend to his careful mind Nottingham Goose Fair, Hull Fair, Gloucester Fair, Birmingham Fair, and Holbeck Feast (Leeds). Perhaps Oldham Wakes, Rochdale Rushbearing, Blackburn Fair, Burnley Fair, and at Easter time the four great suburban Fairs of Manchester, held just outside the one-mile radius, but for all practical purposes as much in Manchester as though they were held in St. Anne's-square, would open his eyes to the importance of such Fairs.

The Argument as to the Quality and Variety of the Shows.

The writer seems to object because the good old ghost show has gone, and that various delights that marked his callow youth are no longer travelling our Fairs. We are all built that way, and cast a wonderful halo of glory around the things of the past. The truth is, that if we could by any possibility be cast back into the glorious times dead and gone, we should be the very first to realise their insufficiency.

It cannot be too often insisted upon that Bolton in its policy of endeavouring to provide by its pleasure Fairs for the open-air amusements of the people, is acting in line with the London County Council and progressive Corporations like Leeds, Birmingham, Liverpool, Bradford, Nottingham, Leicester, King's Lynn, Gloucester, Norwich, York, Hereford, Hull, and a hundred more that could be quoted.

The Sum and End of the Matter.

The fact is that the travelling showmen caters for a real want of the community—popular and cheap open-air amusements. It is no argument to say we have the theatre and the music-hall and the picture palace ever with us. The exact student of men and things will soon discover the essential differences between fairs, feasts, and wakes, and theatres, variety and cinematograph palaces. Our people do not want at all times to be under the compulsion of sitting still and waiting to be amused. The young men and maidens, aye, and even the staid matron and the greybeard, at times want to take their own part and share in the common amusement. They want to rub shoulders with their neighbours bent on the same enterprise; they want to taste the delightful excitement of being whirled through the air on the saddle of fabulous animals; nay, they even like the weird medley of sounds that the Fair brings, and they would not have it otherwise. They are just out to enjoy themselves, and they do it, and my advice to the aggrieved market tenant is, "go thou and do likewise."

The Showmen's Guild of Great Britain represents an industry that directly employs seventy thousand persons, and is closely linked with a dozen other industries, employing even a larger number, the people who make and sell to the showmen their working plant and the articles used in their business.

I therefore confidently put the case for the showmen before the broad-minded and large-hearted Boltonians, and I have every confidence that your contributor of the article "Round the Fair," will next year not sadden his New Year's greetings with strictures and reflections upon an honourable craft and enterprise that existed even before the enterprising journalist came into being.

It takes many things to make up a world, but the greatest thing of all things is "Charity."—Yours ever, for God and for good.

T. HORNE,
Honorary Chaplain, the Showmen's Guild.
5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.
Jan. 21, 1909.

MR. KIRALFY'S SHARES.

On Tuesday the affairs of Shepherd's Bush Improvements, Limited, came before Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady in the Chancery Division on the petition of Edward Roehrich, stockbroker, for the compulsory winding-up of the company.

Mr. Younger, K.C., for the petitioner, said Mr. Roehrich was a shareholder of the company to the extent of 130 shares out of a total of 4,130, and the only other shareholder was Mr. Imre Kiralfy. The petition was based on the allegation that the substratum of the company had gone.

Mr. Kiralfy had made himself responsible to the company for considerable sums of money, but it was quite impossible for the petitioner, who held such a small holding, to recover by reason of the overwhelming majority of the votes held by Mr. Kiralfy, and it was necessary, in the interest of the petitioner, that a winding-up order should be made, so that these matters might be inquired into. The main allegation against Mr. Kiralfy depended upon his interest in Exhibitions, Limited. Shepherd's Bush Improvements, Limited acquired the land on which the Franco-British Exhibition was built. The land was acquired for a ninety-nine years' lease from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and a lease was granted to the Franco-British Exhibition for the term of the exhibition.

The allegation in the petition was that Mr. Kiralfy informed persons interested in this company that it was impossible for them to have any interest in the side shows which were to be brought out, and that it was impossible for him to have any interest in them, by reason of the position he occupied as administrator-general of the exhibition. Ultimately a company, called Exhibitions, Limited, in which Mr. Kiralfy and his family held the whole or the preponderating interest, had the benefit of a number of side shows, at which a great profit was obtained.

Mr. Buckmaster, K.C., in opposing the petition, said the allegations therein were not sufficient to support a winding-up.

His Lordship said it was alleged in the petition that the object for which the company was formed had now been accomplished, that the substratum of the company had gone, and that under the circumstances the company ought to be wound up. The company was formed to acquire, and did acquire, land at Shepherd's Bush on a lease for ninety-nine years from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and still held that lease. There was an option, now vested in Mr. Kiralfy, the time for exercising which had not yet elapsed, under which he might, if he pleased, acquire a lease of the land for five years at a very substantial rent—it might be £10,000 or thereabouts. How could it be said that the substratum was gone? It might be that other exhibitions would be promoted and held on the land.

In his Lordship's opinion there was no foundation for saying that the substratum of the company was gone. Then it was alleged that Mr. Kiralfy had made a large profit—a secret profit—which he might be compelled to account to the company for, and the petitioner said that as 4,000 out of 4,130 of the shares of the company were held or controlled by Mr. Kiralfy, it was no use asking for a meeting to be summoned, because the result of the meeting would be a foregone conclusion. It seemed to his Lordship that the petitioner was in a dilemma with regard to that. In any case, the winding-up order was not the proper way of enforcing a claim of this kind. The petition therefore failed.

The Social Evening at the World's Fair.

THE Guild Chaplain's At Home is a big and most gratifying success. The great congregation on Sunday last listened to the Chaplain's short sermon with rapt attention. The singing was most hearty and congregational. It will be necessary next year to requisition a much larger room for the Guild service and the social gathering.

STORIES OF SHOWMAN LIFE.

By the Rev. T. HORNE,
Chaplain the Showmen's Guild.
"UNTO THE THIRD AND FOURTH GENERATION."
[Copyright.]

I am contented to modify my theories and to adjust so-called scientific principles by the known and correlated facts of everyday life.

For example, only a few years ago we were slaves to the awful bondage of a theory of heredity—a theory, as then expounded, which left us without hope of escape. You were fettered and held in the horrid tentacles of a law of human life (with all its mutation of the physical and the psychical) that postulated—

"As you were born so must you be
All through the ages of eternity."

My story of showlife, true in all its essential elements, is, like most things when we get down to their real abiding factors, both a refutation and a striking proof of the fallacy on one side and the truth on the other of heredity. Here I bid you notice with me another vital principle of human life—the amazing complexity of being. We are never really elemental, never really simple. The more we know of the providence of events the truer and fuller is the revelation to our mind:—"That there's a divinity that shapes our ends, rough hew them as we may." To point the above moral we tell you this story.

When the Great Exhibition of 1851 was being held in Hyde Park the showmen of England tried to run a pleasure fair within easy access of the Park. This venture turned out an utter failure. Amongst the showmen nearly ruined by the enterprise was the famous conjurer Adolphus Delpho, Master of Magic and Eastern Pyschometry. He was Delpho the first. There are Delphos still in showland "unto the third and fourth generation."

In a real sense Delpho the First was a master of mysteries; in very fact himself a mystery. He came in the brotherhood of the showground unheralded and unknown. He had no sponsor, he sought neither friendship nor fellowship, a silent man as far as his neighbours in showland were concerned. Men sought to know him, but beyond the barest demands of business convention he remained the same unknown inscrutable man that people first found him.

His wife, professionally known as Mme. Orakla, was quite as great a puzzle to showland as her clever husband. That wise showman and student of character, Nelson Lee, named them the "Double Sphinx," and the name stuck.

There is one great mystery of life that often reveals things hidden, and that revealer is Death. It was so with the Delphos.

* * * * * *

Charterhouse School in the year 1852 had for its most brilliant scholar a youth called Philip Fawster. He had just won the most valuable prize of the last term of his time at Charterhouse—a scholarship at Oriel College, Oxford. All the world was bright and full of glorious promise for the clever Carthusian when the crisis came—a crisis of revelation.

Philip was told by the Master of Charterhouse to prepare himself for most serious news.

"Nay, nay, my boy, you will need a man's courage now. Your poor mother is waiting to tell you the news herself. God help you to bear it."

Rushing away to the guest-room, he there, with one glance at the dear sorrow-stricken face of the mother he loved with all the fond ardour of his young life, saw and knew all there was to tell. His father was dead—the loving, tender, lion-hearted father was dead. He knew it. What need, then, for words?

He gathered that frail, delicate woman into his young strong arms. He kissed her white face and her tear-laden eyes.

What need for words. Here was a veritable sacrament of human life. The outward sign and symbol of the inward and spiritual grace of things.

"My son, my son, how can I tell you?"

"I know, I know," he whispered. "Poor little mother."

Then a great sob burst its bounds in the brave lad's breast, and the tears—thank God for tears—mingled together.

* * * * * *

Yes, the revelation had to come. The brilliant Charterhouse scholar, Philip Fawster, was just and only the showman Prof. Delpho's son. The mystery was now seen and known of all men. The showman and his wife had toiled for years to give their only child a better chance (so they expressed it) than ever had been their luck to have. Oh, the apparent irony of events! Death, indeed, seemed to be the leveller. Philip Fawster had been brought up in total ignorance of what his father and his mother were.

Their little cottage at Hampton, where Philip was born, had always been the sanctuary of his life. His grandparents were always at home when father and mother were away.

"My son," said the devoted father, "shall never know, if I can help it, the toil and struggle that has marked our life. One thing I am quite determined about, he shall never be a showman. At least I will save him from that."

Father and mother, and the old people at home, all were in the plot to keep the lad in total ignorance. So it was when the Eternal Reaper Death put in his sickle, and the reaping in that sorrow-stricken home at Hampton was with tears.

Philip was made of the right stuff. He had a heart of gold.

"Say no more about it, mother dear; to regret it is a reproach on the blessed dead; there will be no Oxford for me; my place is now by your side."

Here he kissed his mother's wan face.

"You dear little mother, I shall take the dear, dear father's place. I will learn to follow in his footsteps. I pray God that I may be a worthy son of so good and noble a sire."

"My boy, my boy," was the heart-cry of the mother.

"Why weep for me, mother? I feel that I am only doing my duty, yet beyond duty is love—love, my sweet mother. You toiled, he toiled, for me; it is now my turn. I gladly follow in his footsteps, and by your side.

So it came to pass that Philip Fawster, the brilliant Carthusian and the scholar-elect of Oriel College, Oxford, without any apprenticeship save and only (and was not that enough?) what his mother taught him, became Delpho the Second.

Old showmen remember him well. Never before his time nor since has showland had his equal. Heart and soul he put into his work, and brilliant work it was. Is not the story of Delpho the Younger written in the chronicles of the kings of Showland? and are there not Delphos "even unto the third and the fourth generation" in our midst to-day?

COWELL'S Phœnix Theatre at the Carmarthen Pleasure Fairground continues to attract large audiences. On Monday evening *London's Worst Woman* was presented; Tuesday evening, *The Face in the Moonlight;* Wednesday evening, *The Corsican Brothers,* followed by the laughable farce *The Lily of Carmarthen;* Thursday evening, *The Maid of the Mill;* and on Friday evening *St. Patrick's Eve.* For Saturday afternoon a children's pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood,* was announced, and for Saturday evening *The Unknown.* The various plays are very creditably staged, and the company possess histrionic ability of a high order, several fresh engagements having been made during this week.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

INVENTIONS.

[The particulars furnished below of recent applications for patents are taken from the official records. Correspondence is invited with our readers on all matters relating to new ideas and inventions, with a view to affording them advice and assistance. Letters should be addressed to the Manager, Inventions Department, "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London.]

Inventors and others who have no business representative are invited to communicate with the Manager of the Inventions Dept. as above.

APPLICATIONS.

39.—Norman Russell Booth and Joseph Hamer, of Halifax. System, more particularly applicable to stage electric lighting, for maintaining the electric circuit of incandescent lamps burning in series, on failure of one or more such lamps, and which system allows the lamps thus burning in series to be dimmed without interruption of the circuit.

50.—Francis Martin Duncan, of London. Improvement in the preparation of plates and films for the production of coloured pictures by means of photography.

147.—Percy Sheard, of Droitwitch. Prevention of damage by fire or heat to objects projected by any form of optical or magic lantern.

171.—Walter Stephen Shephard, of London. Improvements in or relating to musical instruments.

187.—Francis Henry Harrison, James Weir Black Ross, and Henry Bebbington, of London. New or improved attachment for sporting rifles and the like.

233.—George William Strong, of London. Handrest and tone-improver for mandolines and stringed instruments of a like nature.

326.—William Mountsteven Gillard, of London. Improvements in and relating to the production of illuminated photographs for advertisements and the like.

367.—John Leach, of Manchester. Device for practising "putting" as played in golf; applicable also as a game.

376.—Walter Cottrell Parkin and Alfred Williams, of Sheffield. Improvements in the manufacture of non-flammable celluloid.

453.—Rotary Photographic Co., Ltd., and Ferdinand Von Madaler, of London. Improvements in and connected with moving picture taking, viewing, or projecting apparatus, and in the production of reduced image picture thereof.

454.—Emile André Gautier, of London. Improved means for training horses and the like.

516.—Fred Thomas Harris and Lionel Pearce, of London. New form of construction for amusement purposes.

561.—Thomas Richard Atherton, of Bolton. Fastenings for slide-doors to be used as emergency exits.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS ACCEPTED.

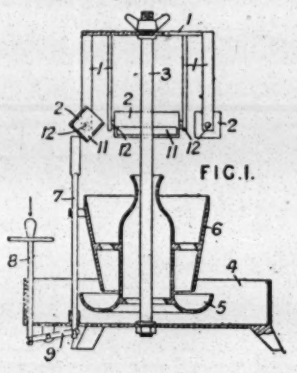
658.—Amalgamated Radio-Telegraph Co. and Maskelyne. Reproduction of pictures, drawings, and the like at a distance.

13,848.—Feiler. Aerial flight chutes.

ABRIDGMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

18,903.—Games. Dorwald, R., of Schaumburg-Lippe, Germany.

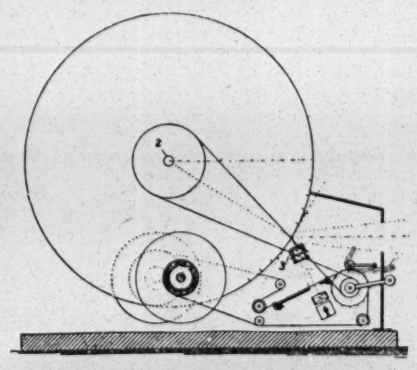
A frame (1) carries a number of receptacles (2), each of which turns on a horizontal axis (12). The frame rotates on a vertical rod (3) mounted on a receptacle (4). Connected with the rod (3/ are a receptacle (5) and a conical tube (6) which carries a guide for a bar (7), adapted to be raised by means of a push-bar (8) and a lever (9). In



playing, objects are placed in the receptacles (2), the frame is rotated, and the bar (8) depressed, thus causing the rod (7) to strike one or more of the receptacles (2), so that the objects fall through the slot (11) into the receptacles (5 or 4).

18,945.—Kinematographs. Musger, A., of Steiermark, Austria.

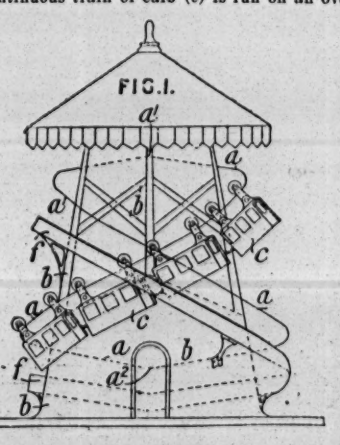
In apparatus in which the picture projected from a constantly-moving film is rendered optically stationary by the movement of a series of rotating mirrors forming a prism (1), the axis (2)



of this prism is perpendicular to the plane of incidence of the light and in a straight line with the axis of the objective (3).

19,037.—Amusement devices. Foulds, J., of Oldham.

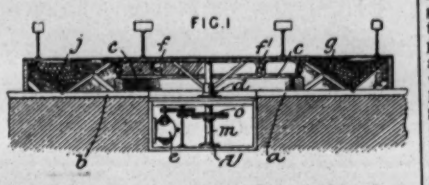
A continuous train of cars (*c*) is run on an over-



head rail (*a*) arranged helically about a tower (*b*). A car in passing from *a*1, through *a*2, back to *a*1, goes twice round the tower. The vehicles may be driven electrically or by motor. A platform (*f*) is provided at any suitable point.

19,276.—Roundabouts. Barker, R. W., of London —(Amusement Co. of America, New York, U.S.A.)

A circular platform (*f*) of highly-polished hard wood is mounted at the top of a vertical shaft (*m*), which turns in bearings (*d*, *d*1). Brackets fixed to the platform carry flanged rollers (*f*1) which are



adapted to run on a rail (*c*). The platform is rotated from a motor (*e*) by a rope (*o*), which, by its slipping, causes the starting to be gradual. Encircling and enclosing the track (*b*) is an inclined slide (*g*) extending from the flooring (*a*) to a point beneath the edge of the platform. Persons sit or lie on the platform, and the motor is started. As the velocity of rotation increases centrifugal force causes the occupants of the platform to be projected on to the slide (*g*). A net (*j*) prevents injury to the person due to contact with the hard ground at the bottom of the incline.

FINANCIAL.

SAMSON AND MCNEILL.—Dec. 28, £9,000 (£1) (3,000 preference). To acquire the freehold theatre or music hall at Northampton known as the New Palace Theatre. Agreement with M. O. H. Imeson. Private. New Palace Theatre, Northampton.

TO STAGE MACHINISTS AND ELECTRICIANS. — The Manager will be pleased to receive particulars of any new stage appliances or ideas for same for illustration in this column.

Can You Invent?—Do you wish to know of prizes offered to inventors valued at £10,000, £5,300, £5,000, £4,000, £1,000, £400, £300, £200, £100, and £50? If so, then get a copy of *Patents and Designs*, a newspaper called into existence by Mr. Lloyd George's Patents and Designs Act, 1907, which lately came into operation. *Patents and Designs*, price 2d., can be had at all bookstalls, newsagents', and at the Publishing Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

THE PARAGON.

Mr. Joe Elvin in his ever-welcome sporting sketch *Over the Sticks* is occupying premier place at this admirably-conducted establishment in the East End of London. The vast stage affords him excellent opportunity for producing the skit in a most realistic manner, and of this fact Mr. Elvin has taken every advantage, attention being paid to the smallest details. The Weighing Room at Kempton Park is very realistic, while the Racecourse, wheron a contest takes place with real hurdle-racers, is wonderful. Mr. Elvin's well-known humour is fully appreciated, and in the chief rôle he is certainly seen at his best. He is ably supported by a clever company, who work well together. Many a hearty laugh will be obtained from the novel and exceedingly humorous race-card relating to the above, issued by the popular manager Mr. Mark and his genial assistant Mr. Pierre Cohen.

The Romps, a bright set of talented young ladies, supply an interesting item which is greatly enjoyed, for it consists of good singing and acting, while much genuine humour is displayed in the rendering of their finale—an opera in five minutes. Mr. Alfred Lester in his burlesque skit, *A Restaurant Episode*, causes shrieks of laughter; there is not a dull moment the whole time he occupies the stage, every move and sentence causing a laugh. Miss Gwen Howard as the customer acts perfectly. The Athlones, athletes, perform many difficult feats, the strength of the taller partner being extraordinary His posing and display of muscles, which is not overdone, is very artistic, and obtains for him a good reception. The Three Sisters Thurban provide an enjoyable turn with their singing, dancing, instrumental selections, and a rattling display on the kettle-drums. These young ladies are quite at home in all departments of their entertainment, which is greatly varied and very popular.

Miss Rose Hamilton, looking quite herself again after her recent illness, scores an instantaneous success with "If we all had what we wanted in the world," and her skit on acting showed Miss Hamilton to advantage as a genuine comedienne. Mr. Harry Pleon relates many stories, new and old, concluding with a smart parody on popular ballads, which is greatly enjoyed; Tennis and Laune (Edie and Gertie) have excellent voices, and render in good style "Miriam" and "Sunny Ceylon," finishing with a neat little dance; Miss Georgette Thierry's company, including Mr. Bernard Liell in the dramatic sketch *The Daughter of the Revolution*, a story of the year 1793, is well received; Miss Flo Cecil has a piquant song in "We don't know what to think about Matilda," and "I do like to be where the money is," and her dancing is a feature of her contribution. Mr. A. G. Uno amuses with "That's mine" and "I know a thing or two"; the Three Stewards are clever acrobats, and Ruffell's Bioscope presents many interesting films, the Messina Earthquake scenes being extremely good. The new musical director, Mr. Kennedy Russell, wields the bâton in masterly manner.

Scott's Circus, Wednesbury.

THE Circus still continues to draw packed and enthusiastic houses nightly. The variety programme, which is an excellent one, includes the Bros. Athalie in their refined Herculean athletic performance, the triple jockey act by the Bros. Scott, and an interesting arenic drama of the historical Dick Turpin's ride to York also proves an immense attraction. The Emperor statue by the great white horse stallion also proves a big hit.

MRS. LILIAN CHARLESWORTH, who was professionally known as Miss Lily Landon, wife of C. B. Charlesworth, of De Montfort, Streatham, and Conyngham Hall, Knaresborough, Yorkshire, wishes it known she is in no way connected with the Charlesworths, of the Charlesworth mystery.

THE latest quotations for music hall shares are as follow:—Alhambra, 1 9-16; Canterbury, ½; Empire (15s. paid), 1½; Empire (10s. paid), 1⅝; London Pavilion Ord., 4⅛; London Pavilion Pref., 5; Metropolitan, 14s.; Moss Empire, 5; Moss Empire 5 per cent. Pref., 4¼; Oxford, 6⅜; Palace, 15-16; Tivoli, 5⅜; United Varieties, 1; Varieties Consolidated Theatres, 11s. 6d.

AT the Exeter Police Court on the 17th application was made by the proprietors of the Exeter Hippodrome for permission for Christine Miriam Green, aged twelve, of Rochdale, to take part in a sketch. Mr. Fredk. Sandy, manager, gave his word that the child should be out of the hall by 9.30 at night, and he said the father was there to vouch for her education and good health. She took part in *Christmas Eve*, a sketch of less than half an hour. The father stated that the money earned was banked for the girl's exclusive use, and the Bench granted the application.

THE patronage bestowed on the Fun City at Olympia still continues on a large scale, and this is accounted for by the new features which are added each week to the programme. Next week the bill of the free vaudeville entertainment will contain Fieretti and Elly, speciality barrel jumpers, and Cole and Rags, American humourists. The International Ladies' Wrestling Tournament will enter its third week, and on Friday next there will be a market porters' basket carrying race for experts from Covent Garden.

SHAKESPEARE AND MILTON.

"The more I study the matter," writes Mr. George Hookham in an article on "The Shakespearean Problem" in the *National Review*, "the more has one thing been borne in on me, and grown with ever-increasing strength—the conviction that, on the literary side—for us the all-important side—Shakespeare was not merely not fully and generally appreciated in his own day, but was universally and hopelessly unappreciated; high authorities to the contrary notwithstanding. So sane a critic as Professor Walker, of Lampeteir, for instance, tells us that, like Vergil and Goethe, Shakespeare was known 'to his own age as a giant overtopping all his fellows.' I cannot conceive on what facts such a statement is founded. Believing that I am aware of all the evidence quoted as bearing on the point, I go so far as to say that the author of the plays must have died a bitterly disappointed man, perhaps even with his own faith in his work shaken; which, indeed, might account for some things that puzzle us. I say boldly that he was reckoned a bad second to Ben Jonson—the proofs are overwhelming—by the most cultivated men of the day. Compare merely the commendatory verses on the two dramatists as contributed by contemporary poets and scholars. In the First Folio list, barring Jonson himself, they are practically anonymous. But among those who praise Ben Jonson we have Chapman, Donne, Beaumont, Fletcher, Field, Selden, Waller, Herrick ('arch-poet Jonson'), Henry King, Habington, Shirley, Cartwright, Ford, and scholars, to me unknown, who write overflowingly in Greek and Latin verse. One of these in the course of a long poem in fluent and idiomatic, if not strictly Augustan, hexameters informs us that, just as the uncultured strain of Lucretius and the formless numbers of Ennius led up to the perfect Vergil, so and not otherwise did the toys of Chaucer and his rude followers and the 'twin bards' (apparently Beaumont and Fletcher, though the dates seem awkward) and *Shakespeare* lead up to the divine Jonson. He addresses them as 'divi,' Johnson as 'Deus'—'Sed, parcite, divi, Si majora vocant, si pagina sanctior urget'—meaning Jonson's. A number of them specifically compare the two dramatists, and invariably to the disadvantage of Shakespeare. If we turn to Dr. Ingleby's 'Century of Praise,' we find ourselves in the region of farce. Much of that artless collection is not praise at all, but something very different; and whatever contemporary praise there is, that is at all superlative, is bestowed not on the plays but on the poems. And what of Jonson himself and his verses on Shakespeare? Is it to be supposed for a moment that Ben Jonson, of all men, when everybody else was placing him first, placed himself second? As to the First Folio verses, is it not obvious to suspect that they are purely official? We know pretty well what the Elizabethans could do in the way of panegyric, when they gave their minds to it. Jonson all but idolised the author, and he would give his plays a good send-off. But what he really thought he imparts elsewhere in a sort of confidence: as, that Shakespeare 'wanted art'; 'often fell into those things could not escape laughter'; but that, after all, 'he redeemed his vices with his virtues. There was ever more in him to be praised than to be pardoned'—not too reverent a way to speak of a giant universally recognised as overtopping all his fellows. It really will not hold water. The opinion of all was his opinion—that Jonson had all that Shakespeare lacked. No doubt he was the man, and art would die with him. That was what Ben Jonson thought, and, in effect, probably said.

"Incidentally, but most significantly, it is to be noticed—so far as I know it has not been noticed before—that one star, and that one a star that 'had no fellow in the firmament,' is conspicuous for its absence from this galaxy of praising poets—the 'consummate orb' of Milton: and why? 'Jonsonus Virbius' was many months in preparation; every literary man must have known what was in the wind. Why did not Milton contribute? Clearly because he could not subscribe. He for one could not place Jonson first, and must stand severely aloof. Seven years before—he was now in his thirtieth year—he had written his poem (not a sonnet, by the bye, as De Quincey and others call it) on Shakespeare—the very first adequate appreciation in literature of the greatest of the immortals. This was prefixed to, and possibly written for, the Second (1632) Folio. Tribute of 'wonder the astonishment' is paid to the overpowering force of the great poet, but the tenderness of universal genius has its due appreciation also; 'sweetest Shakespeare' he elsewhere calls him, and 'my Shakespeare' in this poem, as though the sole devotee claimed a sort of proprietorship in the divinity he had discovered. It would be a singular and interesting thing in the history of English poetry if Milton should prove to be the first to discover Shakespeare; and it certainly looks very much like it."

MISS MERCEDES BLASCO, the polygot singer, will be heard at the Coliseum on Monday, in no fewer than four languages—Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, and French.

MISS ALICE HUGHES will start on a tour for several weeks with her screaming comedietta, *Star of the Bazaar*, afterwards opening at all the principal London halls.

GLEN ALVA, versatile comedian, finishes a five weeks' run at the Theatre Royal, Paisley, on Saturday, and opens at the Theatre Royal, Perth, for two weeks with Govan, Londonderry, &c., to follow.

"A SCOTTISH EXILE'S DREAM," as produced by John Donald, has proved a wonderful success. All round Macnaghten circuit, in Wales as well as Scotland, his fine voice and novel turn fairly took them by storm.

MISS VICTORIA CROSS, who is termed the Scottish Louie Freear, as the Scotch slavey in *Red Riding Hood* at the Prince's Theatre, Bradford, sings "Ma Heilan Mary," written and composed by herself, which is undoubtedly one of the hits of the pantomime.

MR. JOHN LAWSON is presenting the evergreen *Humanity* to overflowing houses at the Canterbury and Poplar Hippodrome this week. At the latter hall a new set was used for the first time, every article being in white and gold—a scene to be remembered. At the former house there was also a new set, the design being green and gold, with oak balcony, staircase, &c.

MR. FRED ODELL, the well-known versatile entertainer, has executed a very fine painting in oils of the late Tom Lovell—"Our Tom." He wishes to sell this for 30s.; a portion of this amount would go to the benefit of the Lovell family. Mr. Odell was a student at the Kensington Art Schools, and gained certificates there; he was also a life student at the National Gallery.

MR. THEO. BOUWMEESTER, the Dutch protean actor, has just returned from Madrid, where he played at the Teatro Español, in the Spanish language, and where he had the pleasure to be invited by Royal Command to play at the Royal Palace. Mr. Bouwmeester is becoming rapidly a polyglot actor, as he speaks and writes excellent English.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT, 1906. Effect on Theatres and Music Halls. By Albert A. Strong, LL.B., solicitor. Price 6d. Published at *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

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WANTED, First-Class Companies, for THEATRE ROYAL, BRIGHTON.
March 8, 15, 29, May 10, 17, 24, 31, on.
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.
April 5, May 17, 24, 31, June 7, 14, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING.
March 8, April 5, 12, 19, May 10, 17, 24, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER.
April 5, 12, May 10, 17, 24, 31, Aug. 2, 9, 16, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER.
May 10, 17, 24, Sept. 13, 20, Nov. 1, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON.
April 12, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Aug. 2, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD.
Feb. 15, March 1, May 17, 24, 31, June 7, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON.
March 29, April 5, Sept. 20, 27, Oct. 4, 11, 25, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER.
April 12, May 3, 17, 24, 31, June 7, 14, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
Feb. 18 (3 nights), March 1, 8, 15, 29, on.
Wanted, First-class Pantomime Productions, for Opera House, Leicester, next Xmas, six weeks certain;
also Pantomimes for other Theatres.
Please say where can be seen.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD.
Feb. 15, March 8, 15, 22, 29, April 12, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON,
Feb. 8, April 5, 12, 19, 26, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.
First Vacant Date, March 15.
Address, E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

THREE PROGRESSIVE THEATRES.
WANTED, High-class Companies, DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE,
March 22, April 5, 12, May 3.
Easter Vacant for Big Musical Attraction or London Star.
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS.
May 10, 17, June 7, on.
PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE.
March 1, 22, April 26, May 10 (?), June 7, on.
Apply for all above,
H. W. ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

WANTED (vacant through transferring to oblige), Feb. 15, at Theatre Royal, Nottingham, and March 29, at Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-st., S.W.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for March 1, 15, 22, April 5, 19, and 26.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-st., S.W.

BRIXTON THEATRE, S.W.
WANTED, First-class Companies, April 5, May 10, 24.
FREDK. MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

WANTED, Known, Managers requiring Sound Attractions communicate with HERBERT GREVILLE, Direct Theatrical Exchange, 63, High Holborn, W.C.; or 'Phone, 4869 Holborn.

ROYAL PALACE THEATRE, RAMSGATE.
Under New Management.
Sole Proprietor, LORD GEORGE SANGER.
Lessee, ERNEST MANSELL.
Business Representative, BERT ATKINSON.

WANTED, Dates, in July, August, and September, for Good Musical Attractions only.
All coms. re dates,
BERT ATKINSON,
Royal Palace Theatre, Ramsgate.

PALACE THEATRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
WANTED, Powerful Attraction, March 1, to oblige a manager.
Apply, T. W. ROWE.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, First-class Pantomime, for three weeks, next Christmas. State where to be seen. Also Front Rank Attractions, May 3, 10, 17, and 24. Now Booking Autumn.
T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

OPERA HOUSE, SOUTHPORT.
WANTED, Good Companies, Feb. 15, 16, and 17 (3 nights only), Feb. 22, and onwards.
Apply, MANAGER.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. LANGDON LEE.
WANTED, Companies, Aug. 9, 16, Sept. 6, 20, and onwards. High-class Musical Attractions Wanted.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, Sound Attraction, for Feb. 22,
Musical Attraction preferred;
also Vacant, March 22, April 5,
and onwards with exceptions.
Address, THOS. SWINTON.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
The only Theatre in the Town.
WANTED, good Attractions, April 12,
July, Aug., and Sept.
Address, CHAS. M. JULIAN, General-Manager.

WANTED, First-class Companies, Feb. 15, March 1, 8, and on, till June.
ALBERT JONES, Queen's Theatre, Manchester.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, PEMBROKE DOCK.
WANTED, Musical Attractions,
Musical Attractions.
March 1, various, on.
Address, NORMAN H. BARGER.

OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER.
WANTED, Companies; holds £100; Vacant March 22, 29, and Easter, onwards.
Bookings: Merry Widow," "Dairymaids." "Prince of Pilsen," "Prodigal Son," "The Christian," &c. J. P. MOORE, King's Hall, Birmingham.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Salford, First-class Companies for Feb. 8, 15, March 1, 29, and onwards. Address, E. B. GOULDEN.

OPERA HOUSE, WAKEFIELD.
WANTED, Sound Attractions, March 8, 15, 29. April SHERWOOD AND CO.

WANTED, Companies, Grand, Llandudno, Whit, July, September. Address,
HALDANE CRICHTON, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

WANTED, First-class Dramatic Attraction, Feb. 8 unexpectedly vacant. Address, E. A. SMITH, Marina Theatre, Lowestoft.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies,

ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH.
Vacant March 8 (?), 22, 29, April 5, onward with exceptions.

All communications re dates,
ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant April 5, May 17 (?), June 28, onward with exceptions.

EMPIRE, WORCESTER.
See Music Hall Artists Wanted Column.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY, S. WALES.
Vacant April 12, May 24, 31, June 7, onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME, BARRY DOCK.
Vacant June 7, Aug. 2, Dec. 13, onward, with exceptions.

The Three Great Pantomime Successes,
"ALADDIN," Feb. 8, 1909, onward.
"CINDERELLA," Feb. 8, 1909, onward.
"PUSS IN BOOTS," Feb. 8, 1909, onward.

Can also arrange Production Dates for next season for the above.

All communications,
ARTHUR CARLTON,
Theatre Royal, Worcester.

Telegrams: "Carlton, Worcester."

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
The Chief Theatre of the Town and District.
The only Theatre in the Town lighted by Electricity.
WANTED, Companies, March 1, 15, 29, April 26, onwards.

Our Season's Bookings, which Managers are requested to compare with elsewhere, include:—Miss Lena Ashwell's Co., "Diana of Dobson's," (return), Mr. Geo. Alexander's Co., "The Thief," F. R. Benson's Co., "The Dairymaids," Mr. Percy Hutchison's Cos., "Mrs. Dot," "Brewster's Millions," "Lady Frederick," "Leah Kleschna," "With Edged Tools," "The Christian" (new version), "A White Man," "Sergeant Brue," "You Never Can Tell," "The Flag Lieutenant," "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," "The Beloved Vagabond," Mr. Geo. Alexander's Co., "The Builder of Bridges," Mr. George D. Day's Co., "The Prodigal Son," Miss Lena Ashwell's Co. in "Grit," Mr. Lionel Rignold in "The Early Worm."

All communications,
CALVERT ROUTLEDGE, H. M. T., Barrow.
London Representative,
HERBERT GREVILLE, 63, High Holborn, W.C.

DUMFRIES and HAWICK.
WANTED, Circle and Stall Attractions, Feb. 15 and 22, to follow a run of Dramas.

LONDONDERRY.
Wanted, Good Dramas, Répertoire preferred, to play twice nightly, March and April.
State lowest certainty.

LINCOLN.
March 15, 22, and April 19.

LOUGHBOROUGH.
April 26 (last three nights).

WORKSOP.
Feb. 22 (last three nights only), March 8 and 22.

WHITBY.
Aug. 9, 25 (three nights).

W. PAYNE SEDDON,
Theatre Royal, Loughborough.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLYTH-BY-SEA.
Lessee and Manager, A. C. MOODY.
This week (Jan. 25), "MOTHER GOOSE."
WANTED, Attractions, March 22.
Professional Houses of Call:—
Adelphi Hotel, opposite Stage Door, Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Waterloo Hotel, facing Tyne Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Proprietors, Messrs. Evans, Beadling, and Moody.

JERSEY AND GUERNSEY THEATRES.
WANTED First-class Dramatic and Musical Attractions, Feb. 22, onwards; can arrange three weeks or month's Stock in May with sound Manager.
EDWARD MARRIS, Douglas House, Maida Hill, W.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

KING'S THEATRE, KILMARNOCK.
Lessee and Manager, J. CUMMINGS.
WANTED, First-class Musical Comedy and Pantomime Attractions,
March and April.

WEYMOUTH.—NEW PAVILION THEATRE.
Erected by the Corporation at a cost of nearly £20,000. Seating, Decorating, and Furnishing by Messrs. Dean and Sons. Dimensions, stage to flies 21ft., stage to grid 43ft. 6in. Weymouth being the headquarters of the Channel Fleet, good Business can always be relied upon.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Spring and Autumn, 1909. All communications,
WALTER R. WALLIS, Municipal Offices, Weymouth.

EMPIRE THEATRE, SWINDON.
WANTED, First-class Musical Comedy and Dramatic Attractions; also Big Variety Combinations. Managers with First-class Companies only apply direct to ALFRED MANNERS. Wanted, First-class Musical Play or Pantomime for March 8.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, Musical Comedies and Pantomimes preferred, Feb. 8, March 22, April 5, on.
three or six nights.
W. E. POTTS.

PIER THEATRE, EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, March 1, 15, and various dates onwards; also one or two Season dates.
Apply, G. HAVEE, Pier, Eastbourne.

COLISEUM, ABERYSTWYTH.
WANTED, Companies, Feb. 1, 2, 3, March 1, 2, 3; also few Season dates. Apply, PHILLIPS.

PARDOE'S THEATRE, MIDDLETON, LANCS.
Full staff, band, and electric light. Playing this week to Full Houses with F. Melville's "Ugliest Woman."
WANTED, to oblige Manager through change of route, Panto. (first in), Feb. 15. Big Bus. certain. Pantos. and Dramas with drawing power. March 1, 15, and Easter. Wire 15th. SIDNEY DENCH, Manager for the Pardoes.

WANTED, Musical Attractions, March 1, 15, Autumn, Grand, Chorley; also March 22, April 12, Radcliffe, also Autumn. SANTE, Radcliffe.

THEATRE ROYAL, NORTH SHIELDS.
WANTED, First-class Companies, May 24, June 7, 14; GRAND THEATRE, LANCASTER, Feb. 11 (3 nights), March 11 (3 nights), March 22 April 26, May 17, 24, 31.
STANLEY ROGERS, Theatre Royal, North Shields.

NEW PALACE THEATRE, WATFORD.
The Only Place of Amusement in the town.
Lighted by electricity. Holding capacity £75.
WANTED, Strong Dramatic and Musical Companies, First-class only, Feb. 15, April 5, 26. SYLVESTER, 217, Piccadilly, W

GRAND THEATRE, RAWTENSTALL.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions, Feb. 15, 22, March 1.
Address, FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's T., Liverpool.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, good Company, Feb. 22, also vacant March 29. Address, GERALD HARDING.

COMPANIES WANTED.

Booked by
MOSS' EMPIRES, LIMITED,

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE,
GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM,
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS,
and
GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Vacant Dates, May 3, 10, 24, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Aug. 9, 16, Sept. 20, Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Dec. 6, 13.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE.
Vacant Dates, May 10, June 14, 28, July 5, 12, 19, 26, Aug. 2, 16, 30, Nov. 8, 22, 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Vacant March 29, April 19, May 3, 10, June 7, 21, 28, Aug. 2, 9, 23, 30, Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 15, 22, Dec. 6, 13, 20.

GRAND, GLASGOW.
Vacant April 5, 19, May 10, 17, 24, 31, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Sept. 6, 13, 20, Oct. 4, 11, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22.
Address,
with full particulars, terms, &c.,
where can be seen, to
Moss' EMPIRES, LIMITED,
Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street,
London, W.C.
Envelopes marked "Theatres."

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. HUGH ROBERTSON.
The Premier Theatre in the Furness District, with a holding capacity of £90 at ordinary prices.
WANTED, really First-class London Successes, for Feb. 15, March 8 and 22, on, with exceptions.
Season's Bookings include among others: J. W. Turner's Grand Opera Company (return) Mr. Wentworth Croke's "The Bondman," "Amasis," Mr. Charles Frohman's "Raffles," Mr. George Dance's Company in "Miss Hook of Holland," Mr. Wilfred Cotton's Company in "Butterflies," Mr. Seymour Hicks' Company in "The Gay Gordons," and Mr. George Edwardes's Company in "The Merry Widow," Paumier and Howard's "The Prince and the Beggar Maid," and "The Midnight Wedding," "The Flag Lieutenant."
All applications for dates to
HUGH ROBERTSON,
Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE,
MIDDLESBROUGH.
Seating capacity, 3,500.
Acknowledged to be one of the largest, most handsome, and best equipped theatres in the Provinces.
The Premier and Central Theatre of the District.
WANTED, First-class Attractions only, March 22, 29, April 19, May 17, 31 (Whit),
also Big Star Attractions for August Bank Holiday, and Aug. 16 (Race Week).
All communications,
JNO. ED. JOWSEY,
Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough.
Telephones, 413, 426, 500. Telegrams, "Magnet."

EMPIRE THEATRE, BLAINA, MON.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Dramatic, Musical, or Pantomime, Feb. 8, 22, onwards, with exceptions. THE MANAGER.

KIRKCALDY.
The only Theatre in the Town; holds 3,000 People.
WANTED, First-class Attractions only, from March onwards, Music preferred. Apply A. E. ABRAHAMS, 26, Great Eastern-rd., Stratford, E.

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE BEGGAR GIRL'S WEDDING."
WALTER MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION.
WANTED, March 22, April 5.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Feb. 15, March 29, April 12.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, April 5, Sept. 6.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 15, March 8.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
WANTED, Theatre, Feb. 15.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 16, Sept. 20, 27.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
WANTED, Aug. 2, 16, 23.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

FREDERICK MELVILLE'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, Theatres, March 29, April 5.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres,
Feb. 8, April 12, Aug. 2, 16.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Feb. 1, March 1,
April 5, Aug. 2. DOUGLAS BRUCE,
Grand Theatre, Rawtenstall.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."
WANTED, Feb. 1.
ANDREW MELVILLE, Met. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."
WANTED, March 1.
ANDREW EMM, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
for this Phenomenal Success,
weeks of Feb. 15 and March 1.
Wire or write to
W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
WANTED, Weeks of
March 1 and 8,
March 1 and 8,
for this Remarkable Success,
which in a fortnight at Dublin played to £1,400, and at Belfast turned hundreds away nightly.
Wire or write to W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, March 22, April 12.
CHARLES HARRINGTON,
Gaiety Theatre, Ayr.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, April 12, 19, 26.
May 17, 24, 31.
All communications, J. W. CORDINER,
Jan. 25. Theatre Royal, Edmonton, N.

MR. BRANDON THOMAS'S
"CHARLEY'S AUNT" COMPANIES.
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
Vacant Feb. 22 and 29,
March 29 (North),
May 17, 24, 31.
Wire or write, Cecil BARTH, Aldwych T., London.

WANTED, Known, Managers requiring Dates for Sound Attractions write HERBERT GREVILLE, Direct Theatrical Exchange, 53, High Holborn, W.C., or 'Phone 4869 Holborn.

THEATRES WANTED.

MISS HILDA BEVERLEY
in
"A DESTROYER OF MEN."
WANTED, Theatres, for
a Few Vacant Dates in 1909.
Now Booking 1910.
Miss HILDA BEVERLEY,
"A Girl's Cross Roads" Co.,
Manchester.

"THE SORROWS OF SATAN"
and
"NANA, THE RAGE OF PARIS."
WANTED, Feb. 1, follow O. H., Blackpool, and precede Devonport.
Third visit to Blackpool in twenty months.
Various onward dates.
Both plays mounted and dressed in West End style.
Business regularly excellent.
Refer T. R., Margate; refer Hippo., Sheerness.
Wire to-day,
LOIE ESMOND, Hippodrome, Sheerness.
Jan. 25, Opera House, Blackpool.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."
EUGENE C. STAFFORD'S No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Feb. 8, 15, 22,
March 29 (?), April 5 (?), 19; also Oct. 11, 18, 25, Nov. 8, onwards. Letters or telegrams to Bishopsdale, Biddenden, Kent.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Mr. LEWIS WALLER'S CO.,
"ROBIN HOOD."
Feb. 22, March 1,
Feb. 22, March 1,
Feb. 22, March 1,
Address, F. CLIVE ROSS, Theatre Royal, Cardiff.

Mr. NORMAN V. NORMAN'S TOURS.
WANTED, Good Theatres,
Feb. 18 (3 nights), Feb. 22,
April 12 (Easter Week), and April 19.
One of the finest performances I have ever seen out of London.—The Daily Telegraph.
Address,
The Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, W.C.

MONTAGUE BEAUDYN'S SUCCESSES.
"SEND HIM VICTORIOUS."
A Perfect Show in every Detail.
One of the Strongest Casts Touring.
WANTED, through Transfer, March 1,
"THE POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN."
A Big Financial and Artistic Success.
A Powerful Company in a Powerful Play.
Refer S. Fredericks, T. R., Stratford.
Vacant Feb. 22, Feb. 22, Feb. 22; also March 15, 29.
"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND." Vacant July 26.
"A TRAITOR PRINCE." Elaborate Revival.
Vacant March 1, 15, April 5.
Wire or write, T. R., Stratford.

MR. E. H. KNIGHT'S No. 1 CO.
"THE LIGHTHOUSE ROBBERY."
The finest Spectacular Drama Touring. A solid and substantial success. Fast booking Summer and Autumn. Thanks to many Managers for Contracts.
WANTED, Feb. 15 (Midlands), March 4 (three nights), March 15, 22, 29, Easter, Whit, and on with exceptions. E. H. KNIGHT, 7, The Crescent, Barnes, S.W.

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Nov. 1, 8, Dec. 6, 13, and 27.
FRANK M. THORNE, T. R., Consett.

"THE IDOL OF PARIS."
"THE IDOL OF PARIS,"
by Charles Darrell,
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
Feb. 8,
Feb. 8,
also Vacant March 15 and 22.
No better Money-making Attraction Touring.
Miss Annie Bell as Flare-Flare.
Supported by a Star Company.
Wire for Feb. 8. Wire.
JAMES BELL, T. R., Darlington.

SIDNEY RENNEF and G. M. COPPING'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, for "Love Rules the World," Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22. Refer any theatre visited. Splendid cast. Best of printing. Good Production. Refer Charles Barnard, Esq., John Hart, Esq., Harris Fineberg, Esq., Messrs. Broadhead, M. Montgommery, R. C. Buchanan, Esq., who have all rebooked the show. "How Women Ruin Men," Several Spring and Summer Dates. G. M. COPPING, Grand, Walsall; next, P. O. W. T., Salford.

"THE GIRL I LOVE."
Herbert Leonard's Latest Success.
WANTED, Dates, Easter, onwards.
P. HOWARD STURGESS,
17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

E. HILL-MITCHELSON'S COMPANIES.
"WHO IS SHE?"
"WHO IS SHE?"
WANTED, for above Magnificent Production, Feb. 22.
E. HILL-MITCHELSON,
Royal Hippodrome, Salford.

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANY.
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
A Powerful Domestic Drama, in four Acts.
By Walter Howe.
WANTED, March 1, 29,
April 26, May 3, 17.
Splendid plant of Pictorials by
David Allens and Moody Bros.
Jan. 25,
Pardoe's Theatre, Middleton, Lancs.

WANTED, Wanted, for
MRS. FRANK BATEMAN and
GEO. CONQUEST'S CO.
"THE CRIMES OF PARIS."
Aug. 9, Sept. 6, 27, Oct. 4, 11,
Nov. 1, 22, 29.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

WANTED, Feb. 8, for "The Cingalee."
Wire,
HALDANE CRICHTON, T., Runcorn; next, Stafford.

CHARLES ROGERS and W. E. WILSON'S TOUR.
"LADDER OF LIFE."
"LADDER OF LIFE."
This is the Greatest Military Sensational Drama ever written, and includes the Gigantic Steam-Hammer Scene, "The Heights of Dargai." Correct Military Costumes, and a Flood of Printing.
WANTED, Feb. 8, 15, and on, with exceptions.
Apply, CHARLES ROGERS,
Borough Theatre, Stratford, E.

MR. HERBERT RALLAND'S CO.
"HIS HOUSE IN ORDER."
WANTED, First-class Theatres, through obliging, Feb. 15 and 22, to follow Lyceum, Sheffield. HERBERT RALLAND, 23, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C.

M. RUSSELL ROSSE'S TOUR.
WANTED, for "A Pair of Spectacles," or Comedy Répertoire, Feb. 1, 8, and onward. Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, W.C.

LINGFORD CARSON'S No. 1 CO.,
"THE GREAT WHITE CHIEF."
WANTED, Known, Managers should not miss this sure moneymaker. Star Cast, Good Musical Numbers. Vacant Feb. 1, 8, 15, March 8, 15. All coms., HUGH BRADY, C. T., Spennymoor.

"A MESSAGE FROM MARS."
WANTED, North or Midlands,
March 22,
and few Autumn Dates.
Apply,
F. MOUILLOT, 1, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

EDWARD MARRIS'S
"DICK WHITTINGTON" PANTO.
WANTED, Feb. 1, for above, including The Waldrons. Wire,
1, Douglas-house, Maida Hill, W.

MR. AND MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"ROLLICKING RORY."
Romantic Irish Musical Fairy Play.
Everything carried.
WANTED, Theatres, only vacant dates in 1909, Feb. 5 and 12 (?).
Jan. 25, Queen's Opera House, Workington.

"SWISS EXPRESS."
WANTED, for this Unique Attraction, good Theatre, for Easter Week.
Address, C. and F. RENAD, Care of "The Era."

THEATRES WANTED.

Mr. CHARLES M. BESTIC'S
LONDON COMPANY
in the Successful Musical Comedy,
"THE FLOWER GIRL,"
by W. T. Gliddon,
including
John T. MacCallum, Henry Adnes,
Miss Lilian Drake, Miss Georgie De Lara,
supported by a
Powerful Company.
WANTED, Feb. 15 and 22, March 22, April 19.
Re dates to
JAMES LESLIE, General-Manager,
Lyceum Theatre, Newport,
and all other communications to
CHARLES M. BESTIC,
1, Sidney-road, Stockwell, London, S.W.
The Daily Telegraph says:—
The composer has penned a sufficient number of lively tunes, and it may be added quite truthfully we never heard a better chorus.
The Daily Chronicle says:—
A bright musical comedy, with many pleasing musical numbers.
The Morning Leader says:—
"The Flower Girl" is well played by Mr. Charles M. Bestic's company.
The Star says:—
"The Flower Girl" is admirably presented by Mr. Charles M. Bestic's company.
The Referee says:—
The fun is both fast and furious, and provoked uproarious laughter.

"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
(Under the Sole Direction of the Author).
WANTED, Wanted, Dates.
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
Wanted, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, March 1 (only vacancies till Whit). Wire.
"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
Wanted, Feb. 8 (between Newcastle and Birmingham), Feb. 22, 23, 24 (Wales), March 15, 29.
Re both Plays, GEO. A. DE GRAY,
Wire to-day, T. R., Crook;
next, Miners' T., Ashington.

GEORGE A. DE GRAY
presents his latest new Play,
"THE ANGEL OF HIS DREAMS."
Many thanks to the Enterprising Managers of the following Theatres for their confidence in Booking: Palace, Newcastle, South Shields, West Stanley, Preston, Oldham, Mexboro', Castleford, West Bromwich, Barnsley, Longton, Salford, Consett, Jarrow, Spennymoor, Barry, Aberdare, Pontypridd, Ton-y-Pandy Burnley, Accrington.
Production, April 26, Theatre Royal, Castleford.

WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 2, 9, Sept. 20, Nov. 1, 15, Dec. 13. All coms., GEO. A. DE GRAY,
Jan. 25, Miners' Theatre, Ashington.

WANTED, Spring Dates,
for
"WHEN A LASS LOVES."
an Entirely New and, in every acceptation of the word, Original Drama, in Four Acts,
written by Tom Craven.
The London Era says:—
This is undoubtedly one of Mr. Craven's best efforts. He sustains the interest of the audience from the rise to the fall of the curtain. The plot is replete with sensational incidents and dramatic situations, and the humorous element agreeably relieves the heavier portions of the play.
Bookings include:—London, Dalston; New Theatre, Oxford; New Theatre, Cambridge; &c., &c.
Special Magnificent Scenery.
Special original posters by David Allen.
Vacant March 1 and onwards for dates.
Write, H. C. BERYL, Pier Hotel, Brighton.

"I DEFY THE WORLD."
By Arthur Shirley and E. Hill-Mitchelson.
WANTED, Good Theatres,
March 22, April 12, 19, and on.
Address, C. M. JULIAN, R. T., Morecambe.

"THE 10,30 DOWN EXPRESS"
and "GUILTY GOLD."
WANTED, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 8.
HORACE STANLEY,
404, Mill-street, Openshaw, Manchester.

WANTED, Theatre, March 8, between Brighton and London, for "A Country Girl in London." Vacant through obliging Mr. Robert Arthur. Only vacancy this year. Mr. W. V. GARROD, P. O. W., Nuneaton.

Messrs. ARMADALE and WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 15, May 17, 24, Whit Week, August Bank Holiday, Aug. 16, Sept. 6, onwards.
Address, ARMADALE and WARREN,
Theatre Royal, Bilston.

HARDIE and VON LEER'S COYS.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres.
"TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS,"
Vacant March 8.

"TWO LANCASHIRE LASSES IN LONDON,"
Vacant Feb. 15, May 3.

"THE SAILOR'S WEDDING."
Vacant March 1, 8, May 3, 24.
E. P. CLIFT, 110, St. Martin's-lane, W.C.
Wires, "Vagancy, London." Tel. No. 7504 Gerrard

WANTED, Dates, Big Popular Theatres, WILLIAM HOLLES, and NANNIE GOLDMAN,
in Arthur Shirley's Great Drama,
"THE STEPMOTHER."
Rouses the audience to a pitch of enthusiasm seldom witnessed in a theatre. Third Year of Successful Tour. Having decided to start Spring Tour at once, the following Dates are at present Vacant:—Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, March 1, 8, 22, 29, April 5, and Easter week. Bookings include:—T. R., Sheffield; Alexandra, Hull (return); Princess's, Glasgow; Lyceum, Govan (return); Palace, Newcastle (return); &c., &c.
Great Star Company of Guaranteed Ability.
WILLIAM HOLLES, 16, Great Newport-street, W.C.

EDWARD MARRIS'S
"DICK WHITTINGTON" PANTO.
WANTED, Feb. 1, for above, including The Waldrons. Wire,
1, Douglas-house, Maida Hill, W.

WANTED, Feb. 15, 22, "Under Two Flags," "At Cripple Creek." MARK BLOW,
11, St. Edmunds-terrace, Regent's Park.

LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH, PANTOMIME.
"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD,"
By Victor Stevens.
One of the Suburban Successes.
WANTED, Feb. 8, on. Kittie Rayburn and Star Company. Booked by Fred Karno, Esq., for Feb. 1, at Palace Theatre, Maidstone. To Local Managers.—The great success of this version is now placed beyond the slightest doubt, sandwiched as it was between the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, Pantomime Star Cast, and the well-known "Cinderella" at Fulham, of Messrs. Buchanan and Stevens, to say nothing of other powerful attractions close at hand—Marie Lloyd at the Palace, and other constellations, Skating at Olympia, &c., &c Can arrange Christmas, 1909-10. Wire, BRYDON PHILLIPS, "Puss in Boots" Company, Opera House, Coventry, till Sunday; after, T. R., Peterborough.

WANTED, Theatres.—Mr. John Bartlett wishes Managers to Know that by Special Agreement with Messrs. Moule and Nichols, he has taken over the Entire Rights, together with scenery, all newly painted, of the Great Sensational Comedy-Drama, "THE GRIP OF THE LAW." Splendid plant of printing by Messrs. David Allen and Sons. A specially selected Company of well-known Artists. Everything will be done to make the above a Success. All coms. re dates, &c., to JOHN BARTLETT, 29, Grove-street, Edinburgh.

ROSE MONCRIEFF'S CO.,
in the Successful Military Comedy-Drama,
"THE BELLS OF OLD YORK."
WANTED, Theatres, March 15, April 12, Aug. 16 (to follow Met., Birmingham), and Christmas. Bookings include Belfast, Swansea, Stratford, &c. Address, Brixton Theatre, S.W.

WANTED, Theatres for Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hinton, Travis Green, and Ruth Zillwood's "Her Fatal Marriage" Co. This is the play to pack your Theatres. Vacant Feb. 22, March 8 and 22, April 26. ARTHUR HINTON, T. R., Woolwich.

EDWARD MARRIS'S
"DICK WHITTINGTON" PANTO.
WANTED, Feb. 1, for above, including The Waldrons. Wire,
1, Douglas-house, Maida Hill, W.

THEATRES WANTED.

FRED GRANVILLE'S PRODUCTIONS, LTD.
PANTOMIMES.
"BABES IN THE WOOD."
A Phenomenal Success.
Playing to Packed Business Nightly.
WANTED, March 1, onwards;
also
Good Theatre, for Production, 1909.
Can be seen Jan. 25, Grand Theatre, Blackpool, twice nightly.

"ALADDIN,"
Playing to Crowded Houses,
Vacant Feb. 22, March 1, and later;
also
Wanted, Good Theatre, for Production,
Xmas, 1909.
Can be seen Jan. 25, Grand Theatre, Stalybridge, twice nightly.

"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST."
Enormous Success at King's Theatre, Edinburgh (two weeks). Played to holding capacity nightly.
Wanted, First-class Theatre, for Production
Xmas, 1909.
Can be seen Jan. 25, Gaiety Theatre, Leith.

Managers Note.
These Pantomimes are First-class in every way. Beautifully Mounted and Dressed. All Star Casts. Grand Specialities and Full Chorus.

PLAYS.
"THE BETTER LAND."
The Greatest Domestic Play of the Day.
A "Winner" every time.
First Vacant Date Aug. 9; also Wanted, Aug. 23, 30, Sept. 13, 27, and later.
Can be seen Jan. 25, Alex. Theatre, Widnes.

"FOR BETTER OR WORSE,"
No Vacant Dates.
"DEFENDING HIS HONOUR,"
No Vacant Dates.
"ANOTHER MAN'S WIFE,"
Production Feb. 8.
Re dates for
FRED GRANVILLE'S PRODUCTIONS, LTD.,
Address, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

MISS MARY NEIL,
in her Great Successes,
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS,"
by Charles Darrell,
and
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
by Charles Darrell,
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres,
Vacant for either Play,
Wire for Feb. 1,
Wire for Feb. 1,
also Feb. 8, April 5, May 10 and 24,
June 7 and 14.
Miss Neil begs to inform Managers that she is now rapidly booking 1910 for her next new production.
Coms. to GEO. KIRK,
This, Theatre Royal, Birkenhead;
next, Opera House, Hammersmith.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
The Drama that Booms itself.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Cast of Recognised Artists. Each Member with not less than 10 years' experience.
Magnificent printing. Beautifully mounted.
WANTED, Feb. 1, 8, 15, Easter,
FRED BULMER
Wires, Q., Liverpool; Letters, R., Leigh.

WANTED, Theatres and Halls, Grand Pantomime "Cinderella," Feb. 4, 5, and 6 (3 nights), also Feb. 8 (week), and Feb. 15 (week), for this lovely Production. The Best Pantomime Touring. Address, FARREN, Theatre, Scunthorpe, Lincs.

WANTED, for Harry Joseph's Panto. Successes, Feb. 15, also April 5, and Easter.
"ROBINSON CRUSOE," and "ALADDIN."
March 8, on, and Easter. Everything carried. Full-size scenery. Everything new. Everything a Success. Wire to-day, St. James' T., Long Eaton. Next week, A. T., Stourbridge.

WANTED, Theatres, Large Halls, Piers, &c. (the Bigger the Better), for the Walturdaw Animated Picture Co. Write, WOOD, People's Palace, Tottenham.

WANTED, Theatres, Halls, Pictures, Salary or Share, for Harry Liston and Party, 25th, on, exceptions. Jubilee Hall, Malpas, 23rd, 24th.

To Proprietors and Managers.
WANTED, Wanted, Known,
THE BRITISH ADVERTISING CO.
are Specialists in Advertising Curtains and Programmes. Why Sell to Contractors? We can Let them direct for you on Commission Only. No Orders, No Pay. Advice Free. Send full particulars to "Wansfell," Clifton-road, Llandudno.

ARTISTS WANTED.

"THE GREAT AWAKENING."
WANTED, to Open Feb. 15,
Young and Pretty Juvenile Lady,
Tall, Gentlemanly Heavy, must dress well;
Robust Character Actor, to Double and A.S.M. (tall);
also reliable Carpenter, to combine Baggage and play very small part.
References, photos. (essential), and full particulars, to MAUD HILDYARD, 11, West-square, Scarborough.

WANTED, Known, Managers requiring Experienced Artists 'Phone 4869 Holborn, or write HERBERT GREVILLE, Direct Theatrical Exchange, 63, High Holborn, W.C.

WANTED, for Australia, sailing early 1910, recognised Musical Comedy Artists all Lines; only absolutely first-class Artists entertained. Apply, C. ST. JOHN DENTON, 34, Maiden-lane, Strand.

"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS."
WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, to complete Cast of above drama. Immediate tour. Photos., full particulars, and appointments for interviews to GEORGE KIRK, Lyric, Hammersmith.

WANTED, Known, Manager with Company on Tour at Good Provincial Theatre to give a Trial Performance of Copyrighted Modern Play, highly recommended by Press and others.
Good Character Part for Juvenile Lady.
Proportionate salaries and cost of bills would be paid. Address, Box 5,356, "The Era."

N.S.A.
WANTED.—Talented Young Members of the Profession wanting an opportunity, opening for two Ladies (Heavy and Comedy), one Gentleman (take up Heavy Juvenile). Applicants must be talented, under 30, and of fair height. Write, Mr. CHAS. E. PRICE, 180, Drayton-park, N.

MR. BULMER'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, for Autumn, Star, Heavy Lady. Photo., &c., FRED BULMER, Theatre Royal, Leigh, Lancs.

"THE GENTLEMAN JOCKEY."
WANTED, Smart, Tall Light Comedian, for Title-rôle (Louis Bradfield part) in above; must sing; also Tall, Slender Heavy Man, and Smart, Petite Soubrette, for Boy part; must dance well; long tour. Photos., references, &c., to EDWARD MARRIS, 46, Lisle-street, Leicester-sq., W.

MISS INEZ HOWARD'S CO.
WANTED, Tall, Heavy Man, military appearance, good voice, for Captain Scarsbruck, "Midnight Wedding." Rehearse Feb. 5; open Feb. 10. Terms, height, photos., references, with addresses for same. HENRY CHATTELL, Theatrical Stores, Dartford.

WANTED, for Florence Glossop-Harris's Répertoire Co., Sound Actor, to Stage-Manage. Photo., terms, &c., to MAX JEROME, Opera House, Londonderry.

WANTED, for "The Assassin," two Comedians, for Peter and Frenchman; rehearse Jan. 28, Dunfermline, open Feb. 4. AUGUSTINE KNIGHT, 19, Dunalley-parade, Cheltenham.

WANTED, Gentleman to play Character Comedy parts for a few weeks; also a Lady and Gentleman to play small parts. NORMAN, Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, W.C.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Boy and Girl, or two Girls, experienced, must be very small and over 11; might arrange joint with mother. Apply, C. ST. JOHN DENTON, 34, Maiden-lane, Strand.

WANTED, for Al Fresco, 18 weeks' season, High-class Baritone, also Soprano Soubrette; both must be young and good-looking, with Musical Comedy experience preferred. State lowest terms and full particulars to GILBERT CHILDS, 136, Holloway-road, London, N. N.B.—Interviews next week.

WANTED, Baritone, Tenor, Soprano, Light Comedian, Lady Solo Dancer, and Tenor and Bass Choristers, experience. Terms, &c., Concert Party, Halls, Box 5,379, "The Era."

WANTED, good Child Dancer, must be small and over 14, and have had some stage experience. Apply by letter, stating height,
Box 5,364, "The Era."

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
THE GRENFELL CLUB,
FOR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
23, Bedford-street, Strand.
Cosy Tea Rooms, Luncheons, Dinners, &c.
Open on Sundays.
No entrance Fee.
Residential Terms, Ladies only,
from 18s. 6d. inclusive.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by well-known Baritone, to join established Quartette (Straight or Comedy), or would establish new one with First-class Alto, Tenor, and Basso. Long Engagement guaranteed. Full particulars to BARITONE,
Clark's, 49, Great Portland-street, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Contralto, experienced; very large Répertoire;
can play piano.
Reply, Box 5,372, "The Era."

WANTED, by Clever Amateur Young Gent., Engagement for Coming Season with Good Concert Party; Touring or South Coast preferred. Could invest small amount if required. Address full particulars to Box 5,360, "The Era."

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

FRED J. LITTLE'S
MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC AGENCY.
4, Arthur-street, New Oxford-street, London.
WANTED, Pantomime Artists in all Lines, for next year. Please send full particulars, where can be seen working, parts played, and absolute lowest terms.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Scenic Artists, Theatre Managers, &c., to write for Leete's Catalogue of colours, varnishes, painting brushes, and every requisite for scene painting and theatre decoration. The fullest range of colours in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, First-class Scenic Artist at a good shop. Apply, H. WHITING, Paint-room, St. Saviour's, Norwich, Norfolk.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions, Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, Contracts, for Painting Scenery. First-class Work guaranteed. CECIL E. HICKS, Painting Room, Princess's Theatre, Oxford-street, London, W.

WANTED, Contracts for High-class Effective Scenery, very lowest prices; Scenery repainted or adapted. W. B. ROBINSON, 170, King's-road, S.W.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery, Pantomime, Productions, Sketches, or Stock; good effective work, cheap. JACKS, Scenic Artist, 46, Holloway-road, London.

WANTED, Known, for Scenery and Props of all kinds, C. Roberts, Scenic Studio, Blucher-street, Liverpool-street, Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
W. BERNASCONI, Scenic Artist,
53, St James's-place, Liverpool.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Reliable Acting-Manager, for the Prince's Theatre, Bradford. State age, salary expected, and full particulars, and send copies only of references. Applicants who receive no replies must please conclude that the vacancy is filled. Address, FRANCIS LAIDLER, Prince's T., Bradford.

WANTED, for Important Provincial Music Hall, Acting-Manager, used to twice nightly; young, active, energetic, experienced, Firm disciplinarian.
State age, experience, last two engagements, and salary required, to Box 5,373, "The Era."

THE ROYAL CARL ROSA OPERA COMPANY.
WANTED, a Smart Advance Agent. Apply by letter to Mr. WALTER VAN NOORDEN, Grand Theatre, Derby.

WANTED, an experienced practical Electrician, must understand Gas Engine. Age, terms, and references to A. M. LOADER, Court Theatre, Warrington.

WANTED, good Practical Carpenter, one able to take charge of Staff; a man who can invent, and who is thoroughly competent and quick (the latter qualification is essential). Write, V. NEWMAN, 49, Binfield-road, Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, Baggage Man, to make himself useful. Apply, GALLIMORE TRIO, Palace, West Hartlepool. Jan. 25, Palace, Halifax. Send lowest terms.

WANTED, two Smart, Useful Men Billers; must be workers, capable hand-billing house to house, and experienced fly posters, total abstainers; to suitable persons a permanency. Apply personally to MANAGER, Amherst Hall, Kingsland High-st., N.E., from 11 to 12 o'clock, Monday and Tuesday morning next.

WANTED, Advertisement Canvasser; must be able to obtain orders for Advertising Curtains and Programmes.
Apply by letter to A. E. ABRAHAMS, LTD.,
26, Great Eastern-road, Stratford, E.

WANTED, for the Baths, Pitfield-street, Hoxton, smart Doorsman and Checker, Saturdays only. Apply, WOOD, Manager.

WANTED, by Young Gentleman of smart appearance, age 25, height 5ft. 10in., a position as Resident Acting-Manager; has had little experience; willing to pay small security. Coms., V. C., 166, Upper Richmond-road, Putney, S.W.

WANTED, Re-engagement, Manager, Theatre or Varieties, excellent general knowledge, Liberty Feb. 1, termination of Variety season. HARRY HUNTER, Grand Theatre, Blackpool

WANTED, by Tom Ross, Assistant-Manager, Stage-Manager, Lecturer, or Effects, vacant Feb. 1, Varieties or Pictures. Write, Tivoli, South Shields.

WANTED, Known, W. Vallance, Disengaged. Good Biller and Effect Worker; total abstainer. Can open at once. W. VALLANCE, 56, Hartington-road, Walthamstow, Essex.

WANTED, Known, Agent at Liberty for Tenting Season; late with Meers, Caban, Lloyd, &c. Letters only. No wires or p.c.'s. V. ROURKE, The Gables, Kenyon, near Manchester.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Orchestral Solo Violinist, as Conductor on White Star Mediterranean Service. Commence Jan. 26. Audition in London or Liverpool necessary before engagement.

Applicants state age and give two references as to character, &c., to
CHARLES WM. BLACK, 14, Castle-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, at once, good experienced Musical Comedy Leader (Violin); able to conduct, also play piano. State terms, &c. Apply, VIOLIN, Theatre Royal, Preston.

WANTED, good experienced Leader, also Viola, to open Monday, Jan. 25. Wire lowest terms. Only good firm solid players need apply. W. BENSON, Hippodrome, Leigh, Lancs.

WANTED, next week, Swindon, eight performances, First Violin, Double Bass, Cornet, and Trombone. Lowest terms and references,
HENRY BOWMAN, County Hall, St. Albans.

WANTED, for Short Season, July 24 to Sept. 12, Violin, Viola, 'Cello, Flute, Horn, Trombone, Double Drums. Terms, Box 5368, "The Era."

WANTED, Strong First Cornet, Baritone Saxhorn.
Apply, BANDMASTER,
Skating Rink, Dundee.

WANTED, for Joseph Poole's Myriorama, Good Double Bass Player, commence Feb. 8; must assist with fittings when travelling. State age, references, and all particulars, to F. MAYER, Manager, Colston Hall, Bristol.

WANTED, First Call, Double Bass, open at once.
RALPH PRINGLE, Picture Palace, Glasgow.

WANTED, good Trombone, for one month, commence Feb. 8; used to Variety.
Address, TROMBONE, Hippodrome, Wigan.

WANTED, Good Violoncellist, combined with Wind Instrument, age 18 to 25, to Enlist in Staff Band.

Apply, N. N.,
C/o Hawkes and Son,
Denman-street, Piccadilly Circus, W.

WANTED, Good Orchestral 'Cellist, for Leeds Winter Garden. Permanency. Beginning February. Write at once, stating lowest salary and particulars, to CONDUCTOR, 43, Harehills-avenue, Leeds.

WANTED, to open Feb. 1, good 'Cello, permanency. Apply, with age, terms, refs., to CHAS. ELPHINSTONE, Theatre Royal, Hanley.

WANTED, Brilliant Flautist, Orchestral Drummer, three good Tympani, Effects, Xylophone Soloist preferred; 20 weeks or longer. Terms, Box 5367, "The Era."

WANTED, Smart Young Pianist, for Burn and Clark's Star Variety Company; must be used to Business; open 30th. Write at once, stating absolutely lowest terms. Money sure, travelling expenses paid. Write, BURN, 69, Lincoln-st., Bow.

WANTED, Pianist, must be thoroughly experienced in Variety Business. Open Monday. Wire, MANAGER, Empire, Ashton-under-Lyne.

WANTED, good Pianist, for Pictures, one who can play American Organ preferred. Lowest terms, last two references, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Pianist, to travel with Auction Mart; good sight-reader, and be useful during day. Good wages.
EDWARDS and PAGE, Glynneath.

WANTED, First-class Tympanist, Double Drums, all Effects, four weeks' Tour, in Feb, also long Summer Season. State lowest terms, age, and references. Box 5,374, "The Era."

COUNTY BOROUGH OF GREAT YARMOUTH.

WANTED, by the Great Yarmouth Town Council, Tenders for the supply of a First-class Military Band, consisting of seventeen performers (including Conductor), to play in the Winter Gardens from May 20 to Oct. 2, 5½ hours per day, to be augmented by eight musicians from June 21 to Sept. 12, to be further augmented by ten musicians and sub-conductor from July 19 to Sept. 12. The sub-conductor will be required to take charge of seven instrumentalists for Variety Entertainments in the Pavilion for evening performances.

The Conductor must provide uniforms, and up-to-date library. Copy of proposed music must accompany his application. If able to do so, tenderers are asked to state when and where a band performance can be heard. Further particulars may be obtained from the General Manager of the Wellington Pier and Winter Garden (Mr. Arthur A. Cash).

Tenders endorsed "Military Band," together with copies of three recent testimonials, and containing list of the instruments to be played by each member of the band, should reach the undersigned not later than Friday, Feb. 5, 1909.

The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

W. EDGAR STEPHENS,
Town Clerk.

Town Hall,
Great Yarmouth,
Jan. 19, 1909.

TO BANDMASTERS.
TO BANDMASTERS.
TO BANDMASTERS.

WANTED, Band, for Duncon Castle Gardens and Pavilion Concerts, &c., for Season 1909 (June 19 to 18 Sept. inclusive), cost not to exceed £43 per week inclusive.

Offerers to state number and composition of Band to be supplied, and offers to be lodged with the Town Clerk, Dunoon, not later than Feb. 2, 1909.

WANTED, Ladies' Band, small, six performers, for middle of February; month's engagement. State terms and particulars to Box 5366, "The Era."

WANTED, Boy Musicians, Violins, Clarionet, and Drums; must have own instruments; immediately. Address, FRED WHITE, 8, Machan-place, Cardiff.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept.,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.
Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement, 'WANTED, DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical Director (Violin), Dramas, &c., composed arranged, composer music "Silver King," "Lights o' London," &c. Victoria Theatre, Ramsgate.

WANTED, Engagement, thoroughly experienced Musical-Director, London Theatre or No. 1 Touring Company; highest credentials. MUSICA, 45, Lansdowne-road, Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, Known, First-class Musical-Director, at Liberty to accept Engagement in Music Hall, London and Suburbs; only good offers entertained. Box 5369, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, Musical Director, 35, Violin, Viola, London Theatres and Halls; good library; excellent references. F. W. MANSER, 89, Palmerston-road, Wimbledon, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Chas. Croft, Musical-Director or First Violin; six years one Theatre; good references. Palace, Belfast.

WANTED, Lib., Feb. 13, Ernest Longstaffe, Musical Director, Composer, Pianist, and Baritone; and Enid Hamilton, Dainty Comedienne; large Reps.; suitable for Mus.-Com. or Picture. This, O. H., Crewe; next, T. R., Barnsley.

WANTED, Engagement, by Charles Weldon, Conductor (Violinist); wife, Pianist (Vocalist). Dis. Feb. 19. Address, 7, Chapel-st., Carlisle.

WANTED, Engagement, by Ladies, experienced and reliable Leader, also 'Cellist; Cafés, Hotels, &c.; Disengaged now. Apply, LEADER, 37, Tavistock-road, Westbourne Park, London.

WANTED, immediate Re-engagement as Leader or First Violin, Theatres, Restaurants, London, Suburbs. OSCAR CREMER, 10, Caithness-road, Mitcham, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by First Violin, Soloist; steady and reliable; good refs Apply, Violin, 28, Edwin-street, Heaton, Newcastle on-Tyne.

WANTED, by Second Violin, Engagement; only moderate wage desired.
Box 5,368, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement by Second Violinist, Theatre closing; good references.
Apply, GORDON, Stoke Newington Palace, N.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Violinist and Pianist Accompanist; memorise, transpose; abstainer. F. NICHOLS, 37, St. Mary's-road, Peckham.

WANTED, Known, First-class Violinist seeks Change, London only; thoroughly experienced; young and steady. VIOLINIST, 39, Marian-square, Hackney, N.E.

WANTED, Engagement, by good Violinist (Leader), Variety preferred; experienced and reliable. Address, J. F. C., 17, Yorkshire-street, Blackpool.

WANTED, by Violin Player, Engagement.
Apply,
24, Old Hall-drive, Gorton, Manchester.

WANTED, Engagement, First Violin, Variety, experienced, refs., strictly sober, can open Monday. VIOLIN, 1, Gathorne-rd., Wood Green.

WANTED, by First-class Solo Cornet, Engagement, thoroughly experienced, brilliant repertory, just free. Box 5,362, "The Era."

WANTED, at Liberty, by Cornet, Permanent Engagement, any Business. Best refs.; 10 years' experience. 6, Llantrissant-street, Cardiff.

WANTED.—Clarionettist seeks Engagement in or near London; Music Hall or Theatre; thoroughly experienced; good refs. CLAR., Box 5,335, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Solo Clarionettist, thoroughly experienced in First-class Theatres and Varieties; steady, reliable. PROFESSIONAL, 17, Cyril-avenue, Bobbersmill, Nottingham.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, F. Chapman, Clarionet; Messrs. E. A. and W. Chapman, Horns; Messrs. A. W. and G. F. Chapman, Trombones. Address, Municipal Orchestra, Town Hall, Cheltenham.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by Clarionettist, who is a first-class Pianist and Accompanist; Orchestra or Military. MUSICUS, 35, Waverley-terrace, Motherwell, N.B.

WANTED, Engagement, London, by Young Lady, Double Bass or Viola. Miss NELLIE STEVENS, 40, Hilldrop-road, Camden-road, N.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Bass, 10 years' experience, all Lines; good refs. FRANK ROBINSON, c/o 10, Dale-street, Brighouse, Yorks.

WANTED, Good Summer Engagement, by First-class Solo Trombone; fine Soloist; excellent refs. Apply, A. J. BIDMEAD, 211, Edmund road, Sheffield.

WANTED, by Trombone, combine Euphonium, Soloist; permanent Engagement; fully experienced; good references. GEORGE GRUBER, Cold Waltham, Pulborough, Sussex.

WANTED, Engagement, by 'Cello, good reference; any business. Address, R. SORTIN, 54, Torren's-buildings, City-road, E.C.

WANTED, Known, 'Cellist, thoroughly experienced Disengaged through reduction of Orchestra, Theatre, and Music Hall; highest refs. HARVEY, 40, Hamilton-street, Belfast.

WANTED, by Violoncellist, very musical, Situation; would like to go on Variety Stage. Write, VARIETY, c/o Gould's, 54 New Oxford-street, W.C.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Oboist, total abstainer, highest references. WM. R. MORTON, 6, Ashmere-grove, Acre-lane, Brixton, London.

WANTED, Known, Flautist, at Liberty, about Feb. 8, any Business; thoroughly steady and competent. Address, R. S. BALLANTINE, Hengler's, Glasgow.

WANTED, by Flute and Piccolo, Re-engagement. First-class references. Address, FLAUTIST, 30, Cromwell-street, Millfield, Sunderland.

WANTED, by Lady Vocalist, Pianist, Organist, Double Bass, permanent Engagement; or would travel. Testimonials. "Rosemont," c/o W. Brunt, St. Augustine's, Bristol.

WANTED, Engagement, by Pianist, Miss Emily Lloyd, Orchestra, Accompanist, Soloist, capable any business; excellent references; young, and smart appearance. Hampton Villa, Twickenham.

WANTED, Engagement, by Lady Pianist, good sight reader and accompanist, or Ladies' Orchestra; well recommended. M. SCULLEY, 12, Stockwell Park-road.

WANTED, Engagement, by Young Man Pianist; small salary to gain experience. Pictures, Variety, &c. "G.," 71, Wilton-road, Victoria, London.

WANTED, Tour, by Piano and Violin Virtuosos, to complete First-rate Concert Party. Write, wire, G., 29, Addison-gardens, W.

WANTED, by Lady Pianist, Re-engagement; good experience, Orch., Dances, &c.; would deputise; good sight-reader. G., 26, Birdhurst-rd., Wandsworth, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Drums and Effects, experienced Timps, any business; excellent refs. Address, DRUMS, 31, Beaconsfield-road, Lower Edmonton, London.

WANTED, by Amy Vetta, Engagement as Double Drums, Ladies' Orchestra. Salary £1 10s. weekly. Box 5,367, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Rabottini's Italian Band (Conductor F. P. Rabottini) can be engaged for Exhibitions, Concerts, Dances, Summer Engagements, in National Uniforms. Signor Rabottini, as Composer and Conductor, holds letters from His Majesty the late King of Italy, Earl Roberts, Lord Kitchener, Lord Cromer, Col. Dick Conyngham, H. B. Irving, Esq., and eminent musicians. Rabbottini's Band great success at Royal Albert Hall, L.C.C., Palace Pier, Brighton, Provinces, &c. For terms, Press Notices, &c., CONDUCTOR, 160, Goldhawk-road, Shepherd's Bush. 'Phone 111 Hammersmith.

WANTED, by Queenie Howard's Celebrated Quartettes, Orchestras, playing Nottingham Exhibition, Eastbourne and London, Engagement after 30th. Elegant costumes; enormous repertoire. Highest testimonials. 2, St. Dunstan's-villas, East Acton, W.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Offers for Miss Winnie Watson's Poppy Orchetra, Soloists and Singers, from Franco-British and Principal Exhibitions. Now Fun City, Olympia, and Bath. Scarlet Costume. 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton. Tel., 5,100 Nat.

WANTED, Known, the Imperial Ladies' Orchestras, for Exhibitions, Pavilions, Hotels, &c., also Vocalists. Mme. NELLIE BAKER, 114, Woodlands-rd., Ilford.

WANTED, offers, Summer Season, by Signorina de Polo's Ladies' Orchestra, from Franco-British Exhibition, and others; silk costume. 12, West Hill-road, Wandsworth.

WANTED, Known, Efficient Foreign Band, in smart Uniform, can be Engaged for Concerts, Exhibitions, Seaside Resorts, &c. Apply, Box 5,274, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, for small Orchestra (First-class Musicians), good up-to-date Répertoire, for Hotel, Café, Pier, Exhibitions, &c. Just finishing 18 months' Contract; can open Feb. 1 or beginning of Summer. Apply, CONDUCTOR, c/o The Bear Hotel, Hotwells-road, Bristol.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Immediately, a Good Agouste, Knockabout Clown, to Introduce Kicking Mule in Cliffe Berzac's Pony Act.

Long Engagement to Suitable Man.
Can open immediately at Antwerp.
Man able to Speak French a little preferred.
Fare paid to Antwerp.
Wire lowest salary.
Tom Hall apply.

Address,
CLIFFE BERZAC,
Scala Theatre,
Antwerp, Belgium.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, that the THREE ROYAL OHMYS, Favourite Riders to the Crown Prince of Denmark, and only Acrobatic Three-horse Riders in the World, have made the Greatest Success ever known at Gilbert's Hippodrome, Yarmouth, and now the talk of the district of Spennymoor, will open at Grand Circus, Hull, Feb. 8. Second engagement in twelve months. Note.—Will be at Liberty Feb. 22, for a few weeks, with six First-class Acts, with three or five horses. For particulars, address, THE ROYAL OHMYS, Hippodrome, Spennymoor.

WANTED, Known, The Stephenson Family, All-round Circus Performers, with a number of good Acts, will be at Liberty shortly. Acts include Animal Act, Juggling Act, Single and Double Clowns, Bareback Riding Acts (male and female), &c Now Big Success. JOHN HENRY COOK'S Circus, Edinburgh.

WANTED, by Bishop and Winkles, finish tonight, Connor's Circus, Crystal Palace, at Liberty. Address, 138, Anerley-road, Anerley.

WANTED, Engagements for Airship Flights, Balloon Ascents, Captive Balloons, Balloon Races, Parachute Descents, gas or hot-air balloons, by Lady or Gentlemen Aeronauts.
SPENCER BROS., LTD.,
45B, Aberdeen-park, Highbury, London, N.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.
WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, Twice Nightly; also WORCESTER EMPIRE, Twice Nightly. Wanted, Artists doing Double Turns, used to Picture Shows. No wires, please. ARTHUR CARLTON, Palace, Worcester.

CLYDEBANK NEW GAIETY THEATRE.
WANTED, Variety Artists, First-class Acts of all Kinds, Star Comedians, Comediennes, Specialities, Sketches, Doubles, Singles, &c.
For immediate and future dates.
A. E. PICKARD, Sole Proprietor and Manager.

BRITANNIA THEATRE, GLASGOW.
WANTED, Feb. 1, and onward, Variety Artists, in all Lines, Specialities, Comedians, Comediennes, Sisters, Doubles doing Singles.
Please state lowest in first letter.
A. E. PICKARD,
Sole Proprietor and Manager,
Britannia, Glasgow.

WANTED, Monday, Feb. 1, and onwards, Variety Artists, all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, KITCHINGMAN, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, Specialities, Comediennes, &c., Feb. 1, on, Hall small. LOUDEN, Hippodrome, Airdrie, N.B.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists of every Description, for Yarmouth and Lowestoft Hippodromes, immediate dates and dates onward. Can stage any Number.

Also suitable Numbers for Sunday Concerts.

Quote lowest terms,
GEO. ZALVA'S Agency,
Hippodrome, Yarmouth.

OPERA HOUSE, WORKINGTON.
WANTED, from Feb. 1, onwards, Variety Artists all Lines; must be new to Workington. Apply, FALCONER JACKES.

VERNO'S AGENCY.
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.
WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, for Feb. 1, onwards.
Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone 2076 Royal.

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

VICTORIA T., STANLEY, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Star Artists for immediate and future dates. T. C. RAWES, Proprietor.

SKIVINGTON'S AGENCY,
SKIVINGTON'S AGENCY,
48, Brisbane-street, Greenock.
WANTED, for Principal Towns in Scotland, Star Artists in all Lines, and Full List of Bookings. Artists Vacant Monday next wire, contracts, Greenock.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, with immediate Vacancies, to send stamped addressed envelope for particulars of our Emergency List. You are put in direct communication with every Proprietor. No commission charged.
CAVILL'S Agency,
108, Strand, London, W.C.

WANTED, Artists, for Dundee, Feb. 1, onward, two weeks if suitable; Doubles doing Singles preferred. Apply, HARRY VARDON, Palace, Derby.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now onwards.
Apply Mr. JNO. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artists, for Galas. Terms, Lithos. &c., to M. DUCAREL, The North of England Gala Caterer, 40, Roseville-terrace, Leeds.

WANTED, Artists, for Galas, also Balloon and Parachutists. Speciality with lithos. preferred. WILL TEMPLE, Willford-grove, Nottingham.

BARNARD'S AGENCY,
Shaw-street, Liverpool.
WANTED, Artists, of all Descriptions, immediate and future dates; also Strong Attractions. Please send vacancies and bookings. 'Phone 2349 Royal.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, especially Tops and Bottoms. (N.B.—Convenient break in journey, North or South.) Quote absolute lowest terms and list of bookings. MANAGER, Palace, Northampton.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED,	Artists	of	Note.
Wanted,	Wanted,	Wanted,	
DALTON'S AGENCY.			
DALTON'S AGENCY.			
DALTON'S AGENCY.			
DALTON'S AGENCY.			
DALTON'S AGENCY.	I can book you.		
DALTON'S AGENCY.	Immediate Dates,		
DALTON'S AGENCY.	and		
DALTON'S AGENCY.	Dates onward.		
DALTON'S AGENCY.	No Guessing.		
DALTON'S AGENCY.			
DALTON'S AGENCY.			
DALTON'S AGENCY.			
DALTON'S AGENCY.			
DALTON'S AGENCY.	Send full list		
DALTON'S AGENCY.	and very lowest		
DALTON'S AGENCY.	(this essential),		
DALTON'S AGENCY.	and permanent addresses,		
DALTON'S AGENCY.	also		
DALTON'S AGENCY.	weekly apartments		
DALTON'S AGENCY.	address.		
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DALTON'S AGENCY.			
DALTON'S AGENCY.	29, Mauldeth-road West,		
DALTON'S AGENCY.	Withington,		
DALTON'S AGENCY.	Manchester.		
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N.B.—State where never played.
Viviana and Co. wire address. Urgent.

DR. WALFORD BODIE'S HIPPODROMES,
FERNDALE AND PONTYCYMMER.
WANTED, First-class Artists, big Stars with own Companies, for the above, March, onwards; nothing too big. All letters address to TOM N. MILLS,
General-Manager
for Bodie's Welsh Halls and Tours,
Bodie's Hippodrome, Ferndale.

NEW PAVILION, KIRKCALDY.
WANTED, Artists all Lines, big Sensational Novelties, Jan. 25, onwards; nothing too big. Artists playing Scotland, and having time out communicate at once with absolute lowest terms. No Contracts or prices arranged by Williams and Walker will be recognised, so please save stamps and also my valuable time. Silence in all cases please accept as a polite negative pro tem.
All letters, &c., address to
Sole Director and Proprietor,
Dr. Walford Bodie, M.D.,
Palace, Tottenham;
or Head Office, 163, Blackfriars-road, London.
Telegrams, "Bodieism, London."

WANTED, Music Hall Artists, all Lines, Comedians, Serios, Speciality Acts, Nothing too big, nothing too small, But must be Performers, Feb. 1, onwards.

Gigantic Attractions and Sensational Acts, for Fêtes and Galas, May 31, on.
Acrobats, Gymnasts, Cyclists, Novelties.
Lowest terms, lithos., &c., first letter,
EDGAR STEBBINGS AND CO.,
23, Egerton-street, Manchester.
'Phone 9261. Tels., "Stebbing, Manchester."

WANTED, Artists, all Lines; must be first-class.
CLIQUOT'S UNIVERSAL VARIETY AGENCY,
90, Rusholme-road, Manchester.

CLIQUOT'S AGENCY	Wanted, Big Attractions,
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY	for Jan., Feb., March.
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY	Nothing too big.
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY	Notice.
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY	is a Bonâ-fide Agency.
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY	Knows Value of an Act.
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY	Please note above Address.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists, suitable for Picture Shows.
Address
TILLER and BACON,
143, Charing Cross-road, London, W.C.

GRAHAM'S VARIETY AGENCY, 15A, Electric-avenue, Brixton, S.W. Telephone 513 Brixton.
Office hours, 11 to 9.30.
WANTED, Artists Known to me to send lowest terms and vacant dates (Midlands); vacancies for beginners.

PALACE, WATFORD.
WANTED, First-class Artists, all Lines, Feb. 8, 22, March 1, 8, April 12. Full particulars, CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

BEANLAND and EMERSON'S AGENCY.
ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
WANTED, Artists of every Description, for immediate Dates and on, for Halls in Lancashire and Yorkshire. Send full list of bookings, lithos., and lowest terms.

FRED DURHAM'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Jan. 25, on. 1A, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W. Telephone 15 Brixton. Telegrams, "Durham'like, London."

WANTED, Artists all Lines, for Trial Matinée at Empire, Shoreditch, Feb. 1, 1909. Apply to SAM HART, 7, Lancaster-house, Rushcroft-road, Brixton.

WANTED, all Clients to Send full Bookings. Important. FRANK LYNNE'S Agency, 77, Angell-road, Brixton, S.W. 'Phone 1,303, Brixton.

WANTED, for Feb. 1, and onwards, Stars in all Lines.
Stars in all Lines.
Full up for smaller items.
CADLE'S Agency, 105-6, Strand, W.C.

ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, CASTLEFORD.
WANTED, the Greatest Stars in the Business, Nothing too Big. Share or salary. Artists of every Description. Particulars, BEANLAND and EMERSON, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

SMYTHSON'S AGENCY.
WANTED, First-class Novel Acts. The Pick of the Entertainment World.
Good Acts Known to me send full list of bookings.
New Acts state where can be seen.
Quote actual lowest London and Provinces.
Rate of commission subject to Arbitrator's Award yet to be arrived at.
All communications to SMYTHSON,
c/o Brassington, 102, Rusholme-road, C.-on-M., Manchester. No callers except by appointment.

DAN NOBLE'S AGENCY.
272, LIVERPOOL-STREET, SALFORD.
WANTED, Acts, all Descriptions, for immediate Dates. Contracts await A1 and Lal, Lambert and Hands, The Eldons, Gascoignes, Halma, De Lilo and Metz, and Maude Beaumont. Note.—Have accepted V.A.F. terms as per "Performer."

WANTED, for Empire, Greenock, twice nightly, Star Acts. Nothing too Big. Salary or sharing terms; also Pantomimes and Combinations.

WANTED, First-class Acts for Gala, week May 31, good Flying Act, Comedy Bar, Knockabouts, High Rope Act (Poncherry write), Clowns. Full particulars, CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Gala Acts, all Lines,
JAMES FIONI'S Agency,
21, Norton-street,
Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool."
Telephone, 1686 Royal.

CHAPPELL'S OPEN-AIR CONCERTS, GREAT YARMOUTH. Three Performances Daily, 11.0, 3.0, and 7.0. Season '09, June to September.
WANTED, Speciality Acts (not Aerial), Comedy Teams, commencing June 14, on, one or two weeks' engagement; also Refined Soubrettes and Dancers, Soprano, and Baritone, for Season, dress well; must take part in good-class concerteds. Full particulars, salary, age, height, photo. (stamp for return), and perm. address. All coms. to MANAGER, 6, Harley-road, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, for Galas, Easter, Whitsun, June 14, and later dates, big Animal Acts, Acrobats, Cycle Acts, Gymnasts, Bar Performers, Comedians, Novelties. Terms, Bookings, Lithos., Bills, Permanent address. Ara, Zebra, and Vora write. WOOD, Caterer, Easton, Bristol.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, the inimitable Mlle. Lumière's Original Electrical Fairy Grotto Dances, Premier Serpentine and Fire Danseuse, the "Human Butterfly" (reg. 22301). Everything carried to ensure success; nothing but a clear stage required. Always something new. This week, far superseding all her predecessors, and packing nightly the Queen's Theatre, Castleford. Refer W. Emmerson, Esq., above. Vacant Feb. 1 and 8. To avoid disappointment wire or write to the inventor, D. J. Birteno, Share or Certainty. Wanted, Theatres and Halls of every description with big holding capacity, to communicate with above, Lease, Rental, or Share.

WANTED, Known, Sisters Gillard, Refined Duettists and Speciality Dancers, Dis. Feb. 8, on. Feb. 1, Crystal Palace. All coms., 28, Kensington-place, Kensington, W.

WANTED, by Will Owen, Inimitable Dame, Comedian, and Comedy Dutch Vocalist, Monday next, Jan. 25, and Feb. 1. This, T. R., Shrewsbury; next, 60, Denmark-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday next also Feb. 1, by Leslie Clemente, Chocolate Coloured Banjo Songster. Wire or write, 32, Beach-lane, Musselburgh.

WANTED, Monday next, George Battle, Actor-Vocalist. Sure Success. Victoria, Stanley, Durham; after Sunday, 2, King John-street, Spennymoor.

WANTED, Monday next, also Feb. 1, 8, 15, by Fred Dornan, Vocal Comedian. This, Grand, Croydon; next, 3, Blucher-st., Walworth, S.E.

WANTED, Monday next, also Feb. 1, Harry Tullett, the Youthful Eccentric Comedian and Dancer. Wire offers. This week, Hippodrome, Stalybridge.

WANTED, Feb. 1, 8, 15, Henry Villier, Great Character Impressionist, just returned from South Africa. The man with the voice. Enormous success this, Emp., Leicester; next, Hippo., Crouch End.

WANTED, Managers and Agents to Note, Gordon Clark, Comedian, Vacant 25th and Feb. 1. This, Pavilion, Northwich; next, 50, Lodge-st., Queen's-rd., Manchester.

WANTED, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, by Syd Herman, the Original Hebrew Comedian. A Sure Hit. 34, Warburton-street Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, J. H. Rean, Refined Comedian and Expert Dancer, wants Feb. 1, 8, and 15. Sure success. 25, Tulketh-st., Southport.

WANTED, in Wales, by Albert Hope, the Singing Collier Lad with the Wonderful Voice. Ask about him. Wanted, Feb. 1, to follow Hippo., Tredegar. All coms., KITCHEN, 9, Maude-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, Monday next, Barney Noble, American Monologue Artist, with a beautiful Irish brogue. Wire, Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Feb. 1, onwards, exceptions, Dan Ashton, Lancashire's Popular Collier Comedian, original songs, scenas, stories. Principal Agents, or 26, Wood-st., Openshaw.

WANTED, next week and Feb. 15, Bu-Val, Happy Dutchman (Concertina). 11, Church-square, Tredegar, Mon.

WANTED, Known, Paul Cavalli, in a refined Athletic Acrobatic Musical Act (two people), vacant Feb. 1, 8, any distance. Six-sheet and D.C. Lithos., Scenery, Costume, Apparatus splendid. Last week, King's Gateshead; this, Topping, New Empire, Shildon; next, Top Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, by Teddy Bear, Light Character Comedian and Sketch Artist; Picture Show, or Part in Sketch; young and experienced. Write, 60, Robson-road, West Norwood, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Prince Ishmael has changed his name to Rajah on account of New Act. Notice.—My present Magical Complete Act is for Sale, same Act Top of the Bill this week at Theatre Royal, Shrewsbury. Apply for full particulars, PRINCE ISHMAEL, Theatre Shrewsbury.

WANTED, Feb. 1, on, the Great Kroston (the Original Kyoto), Japanese Contortionist, Burlesque Conjurer, Juggler, and Dog Oto, O. H., Dowlais; Monday, Hippodrome, Wakefield. Also Miss May Geraldine, a Refined Comedienne and Dancer. Wire (Vacant Feb. 1, onward), Hippodrome, Wakefield.

WANTED, by Llewellyn, Famous Trick Violinist and Expert Instrumentalist; also Lulu, young Musical and Vocal Marvel, immediate and future Dates. Wire for Big Musical Turns. LLEWELLYN, L.C.M., 6, Albion-place, Grantham.

WANTED, Known, Ugo and Leletta, Magical Scena, "Mirthful Mysteries." Elaborate electric fit-up. Vacant Feb. 1, through misunderstanding. Reply, Hippo., Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, Monday, on, The Mannikins (Harry and Maud), Living Marionettes, Electric Miniature Theatre; also Double Comedy Singing Turn. Hippodrome, New Brompton.

WANTED, Jan. 25, on, by Fern and Fawn, in Shriekingly Funny Episode, "The Conqueror." Singles, Comedian, Soubrette. 16, Glen-street, Blackpool.

WANTED, by the Spadonis (Madge and Sylvia), Duettists and Dancers, Feb. 22, onwards. Address, 50, Lloyd-st., Greenheys, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday next, also Feb. 1, by the Two Le Bruns, in their Unique Vocal and Juggling Speciality. Wire, Palace, New Brighton.

WANTED, Monday, also Feb. 1, by Will Saunders, Great Eccentric Comedian; also May Vincent, American Songstress. Wire, Palace, Worcester.

WANTED, by Wright and Elton, Novel Comedy Duo, Jan. 25, Feb. 1 and 8. Wire, Tivoli, Pentre; after Sat., 83, Lenthall-rd., Dalston, London.

WANTED, Monday, 25th, and Feb. 1, Colvil and Tate, Comedy Artists and Dancers. Starring this week, Empire, Blaina, Mon. All coms. direct, or GANNON'S Agency. Perm. add., C/o Murray, 62, Waddell-street, Glasgow. Distance no object.

WANTED, Known, the Lashmars finish to-night Empire, Belfast. Monday, Palace, Cork; vacant Feb. 1 and 8. Address, Palace, Cork.

WANTED, by Goodall and Knox, Acrobatic and Patter Comedians, Monday next, wire or write. All coms., Britannia, Glasgow.

WANTED, by France and Francis, Acrobatic Comedians, Monday, Jan. 25, also Feb. 8. Wire, 7, Edward-street, Aldershot.

WANTED, Feb. 1, by Will and Roze, Comedy Acrobatic Conjurers. Big Success, T., Aberdare. 25th, Royalty Theatre, Llanelly.

WANTED, wire, Feb. 1st, 8th, 15th, two distinct turns, the Magnet Trio, Comedy Sketch and Double Dutch Turn, "Dutch and Ditcher." A big success. Wire, this week, Castle Theatre, Neath.

WANTED, Known, Ringling Trio, Comedy Speciality Artists, vacant Monday next, also Feb. 15 and 22. Wires or letters, 407, Oldham-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Les Zanonis, Boy and Girl Jugglers and unrivalled Club-throwers. Vacant Feb. 1. Queen's, Castleford; next, Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Known, Ted Moxon Trio, Acrobatic Eccentrics, vacant Feb. 8 and 15, through misunderstanding. Now playing with tremendous success, Speciality, in Milton Bode's Pantomime, "Aladdin." Next, Theatre, Northampton. Sole representative, F. Bosco, Poole and Bosco, Ltd., the Pioneer Amusement Caterers of Ireland. Perm. address, 101, Woodland-road, Clifton, Bristol.

WANTED, April 19, onward, by Herman and Evelyn, smart up-to-date and refined Wire Act; also Cosselly, in his great Acrobatic Table Act. For one or both Acts, sure success; write next, Empire Theatre, Cradley Heath.

WANTED, by Mlle. Sylvesto, Novel Contortionist, and her Knockabout Comedian, Feb. 1, 8, 15. Next week, King's Theatre, Gateshead-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Feb. 15, and on, by La Dor Troupe, seven in number, male and female Acrobats, in three distinct Acts. Pleasure Gardens Theatre, Folkestone.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Monday next, Feb. 1, "The Three Flying Orenius's (Lady and Gentlemen Gymnasts), in their Marvellous Stage Aerial Act, the Only One of its Kind Ever Attempted and Performed Without Net or Trampolin. The Sensation of the Age. Managers and Agents desirous of booking a Smart and Novel Turn should Secure this Act. 93, Cook's-road, Kennington, S.E. Note the Address.

WANTED, Jan. 25, and other dates, The Peps, most Talented Trampolin Performance before the public. Success with any audience. A performance for Pantomimes, Theatres, Picture Shows, Circus, and Galas; wonderful dog Prince. Big draw, and talk of the town. Always something new and original in hand. 64, Upper Sutton-street, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, Feb. 1 and 8, and several dates onwards, Almo Trio, including the marvellous Lady Three-bar Expert, Bros. Almo, the greatest of all Knockabout Gymnasts (adults). Address, 13, Westfield-terrace, Sheffield.

WANTED, Known, Petro and Leon, Sensational and Comedy Gymnasts, Liberty Jan. 25, Feb. 1. Wire, 27, Smith-street, Preston.

WANTED, by Professor Golding, Ventriloquist, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, &c., with Picture Show or other. Perm., 32, Courtenay-road, Walthamstow, London.

WANTED, Monday next, by Gulliver, Ventriloquist. Wire, 46, Derngate, Northampton.

WANTED, Feb. 1, 8, 15, by Hulbert (Ventriloquist) and De Lil (Illucionist); two smart Acts. Offers invited. Public Hall, Worcester.

WANTED, by Harry Keeble (Ventriloquist) and Mdme. Turner (the great Contralto), May 3 on. Mon., Hippo., Stalybridge.

WANTED, Agents and Managers to Know our only vacant dates for "THE CRAZY COOK" "THE CRAZY COOK" are Feb. 15, 22. Other dates advertised. Booked with Mr. Butt for the Palace, London, to open March 15. PICITT AND LIZETTE. PICITT AND LIZETTE. Illusionists and Pantomimists, in their great Magical Extravaganza, "THE CRAZY COOK." "THE CRAZY COOK." The most Realistic Kitchen Set ever Staged. 50 Birds and Animals, 50. Everything carried, including Scenery. Good Lithos.

Wire for the only Vacancies, Feb. 15, 22. Palace, Oldham. Clean Comedy. Original Illusions.

A GREAT VARIETY PROGRAMME.

Top of Bill: Frank Stanmore's Company, in the Successful Tabloid Musical Comedy Production, in half an hour, entitled "Gay Dogs." Six principals and full chorus. Screamingly funny, catchy songs, pretty girls magnificently gowned. Entire production as produced at the Palace, Stoke Newington, in November. Scene, The Franco-British Exhibition. Bottom of Bill: Special engagement of the latest and most delightful version of "David Garrick." Compact, well dressed, and well acted. No doubling, each act separate. Together with Speciality Turns, Comedians, Serios, Comedy Duettists, &c. The most expensive combination ever seen on tour. Wanted, Hippodromes, Variety Theatres, &c., on sharing terms.

WANTED, March 1, 8, 22, April 12, &c. STANMORE, 4, Duke-street, Adelphi.

WANTED, Feb. 1, 8, 15, onward, for Sidney Rennet and Co., in "Minding Baby," three people, one long laugh. Monday, P. of Wales Theatre, Salford.

WANTED, for "The Battle of Belles," Jan. 25, Feb. 15, Comedy Sketch, six people, scenery. MOULE, 15, Clyde-street, Stoke.

WANTED, Known, Williams' Dogs, in their Sensational Act, "The Deserter"; also Amusing Act, "Not Guilty." A Sure Draw. At Liberty Jan. 25, onward. Perm. add., South View Cottage, Rothwell, Haigh, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, the Tessmanns, Animal Act, Novel Electric Revolving Table, Competitions, talk of Blackpool. Monday, Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh. Vacant Feb. 1.

WANTED, Known, Hal Berte, Champion Roller Skater, undoubtedly the most accomplished Roller Skater in England, has a few vacant dates, Rinks or Halls. Address, PROF. HAL BERTE, The Rinkeries, Aldwych, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Known, Pauletti, Eccentric Cyclist; Les Caros, Gymnasts on the Silver Frame. Two Acts for Galas. Next, T. R., Wednesbury.

WANTED, Known, Cyclinis Trio, Comedy Cyclists, Bicycle Football Match. Vac. 25th, Feb. 1, 8, also Fêtes, Galas. Perm. add, see Cards.

WANTED, Known, Miss Rodgers (late Ara Zebra, and Vora) is at Liberty to join Troupe or Sketch. 46, Clapham-road.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Efficient Lecturer and Guide, with or without Novel Speciality; highest credentials. Address, LOWTHER, 166, New Kent-road, London.

WANTED, Known, First-class Hand Jumper, Hand Balancer, Staircase, Chairs, Bar, &c., Hand to Hand, Straight or Comedy, wishes to join good Act. Just finished after two years as Comedy Page with Maximilian Trio. WHITE, 32, Wharf-road, London, W.

WANTED, Young Man, very loose Posturer, is open to join Sketch or Troupe. Apply, POSTURER, 14, Union-street, Blackburn.

WANTED, Known, Prof. Lenton's Bioscope Entertainments; Change of Pictures Nightly or Weekly; Machines, Films, and Accessories Bought, Sold, or Hired Out to any amount 2, Capener's-yard, Knightsbridge, S.W.

WANTED, by thoroughly experienced Operator (alt. or direct), highest refs., perm. or travelling; competent man, distance no object. H. STANFORD, 91, Bridge-end, Belfast.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known, .22 Cartridges, "R," "H," "D," "P" brands, Winchester repeaters, Globes, Targets, Water Balls. GREENE, 74, Falmouth-road, London, S.E.

CAKE WALK. Regd. Trade Mark. CAKE WALK. WANTED, Known, TAYLOR, PLINSTON, BROS., and Co., Sole Makers and Patentees of the Only Cake-Walk Riding Machine in the World. Royal Letters Patent, No. 17402, Jy. 30, 1907. No. 25150, Nov. 13, 1907, and No. 2649, Feb. 6, 1908. In the Chancery Court, Jy. 3, 1908, Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady Granted an Injunction against defendants for infringemet of our Patent No. 17402. This Machine is a Triumph of Engineering Skill for Simplicity, Lightness, and Durability.

It is a Record Money-maker.

Write or call on the Sole Makers and Patentees. Farncombe-street, and 94-98, Bermondsey-wall, London, S.E.

Side Shows.

WANTED, Known, splendid opportunity for placing several First-class Original and Up-to-date Attractions at Continental Exhibition during coming season. Replies, with full particulars, to Box 5,365, "The Era."

WANTED, an Up-to-date Side Show, must be good. Write, MANAGER, Automatic Vaudeville, 50, Gold-street, Northampton.

WANTED, good Living Novelties, Freaks, or Prodigies, suitable for Exhibition in Waxworks. Lowest terms. F. STEWART, Waxworks, High-street, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Quick-showing Novelties, for two Shops, with good Flash. Good Fat write. MARWOOD, 82, Brighton-st., Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, Novelties, Attractions, for Side Shows, to produce, on Share; nothing too large, but must be new and a money-taker; also Freaks, &c. Apply, J. WOOLF, Wonderland, Whitechapel.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, First-class Handseller, who can play piano preferred. Wages £2 weekly; permanent situation. GREENWOOD, Everton-road, Longsight, Manchester.

WANTED, Smart Man, to Sell Monograms in Syndicate Exhibition, immediately. Would Jack Menoff write? Apply, Stamp Stall, Worple Hall, Wimbledon.

WANTED, to join at once, good Auctioneer, for Auction Mart; must be money-taker. State wages, experience. Box 5,371, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Milton's Marionetes are at Liberty for Tour, Exhibitions, Picture Shows, &c. Address, 77, Virginia-st., Southport.

WANTED, by Abyssinian Native Warriors, in their Fantastic Costume, a Summer Seaside Place, or elsewhere. ST. ORDE, 38, Onger-road, Fulham, London.

WANTED, Known, Shortly at Liberty, Fanning's Royal Court Mannikins. Norman and Nicholas send address. HENRY LOUIE FANNING, Stewart's Waxworks, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Known, Tom Thumb, the Smallest Man in the World, 23in. in height, 24lb. in weight, and twenty-two years of age, is now open for engagements. Apply to J. S. BEELEY, 83, Market-street, Westhoughton, Lancs.

WANTED, Midget Lady, height about 3ft., age over 14. £5 given for information leading to Engagement of Suitable Lady. Honest offer. Mrs. REEVES, 18, Jenkins-street, Burslem, Staffs.

WANTED, Known, Palmistry, Mme. de Para invites offers, rent or shares, London preferred. Terminates own successful season Feb. 6, World's Fair, Islington.

WANTED, smart young Man, to work Illusion Show in Exhibitions, must be good door man, to work as Egyptian. ARTLEY, 25, West-st. Newbury.

WANTED, Known, experienced Young Lady Palmist, at present in Trades Exhibition, Disengaged Feb. 2, Local Exhibitions, Bazaars, &c. Box 5,359, "The Era."

WANTED, Wanted, Known, PLEASURE BEACH, BLACKPOOL. Greatest Combination of Open-air Attractions in the Country. For concessions for Real Novelties for Summer Season, 1909, address, PROPRIETORS, Pleasure Beach, Blackpool.

WANTED, to Let, Three Shops, South Wales, good towns, best positions, Auctioneers, Exhibitions, Bazaars, Medicine Men. MICHAEL, 10, The Circle, Tredegar, Mon.

WANTED, Spaces in Pleasure Resorts, ensuing Summer Season, erect Electric Circle Flying Machine, Working Coal Mine, other good Attractions, with responsible Management; rent or sharing terms; new to England. G. LINGARD, 213, High-street, Camden Town.

WANTED, Spaces, Trades Exhibition or Carnival, for Jewellery; also a refined Game. Thanks for offers. LOVELUCK, 6, Frodsham-street, Chester.

WANTED, Auctioneers and Market-workers to send for my new list with over 2,000 illustrations of Jewellery, Watches, Clocks, Field Glasses, Bazaar and Fancy Goods. Every line right for price. SIMONS, 100, 101, 102A, Houndsditch, London.

WANTED, Known, for immediate Sale under exceptional circumstances, Shop, House, and Premises, in the most crowded thoroughfare in Brighton, the lease, just fitted, seated, and lighted with gas, and electric inside and out, for a continuous Bioscope Show, having separate exits, &c. The only place of its kind in town, and a sure little gold mine. Rent 5s. weekly, remainder let off. Everything ready to open. Price £40 Take part down, or accept working partner to manage same, with £20; or let for six or twelve months at £6 rental monthly. This is genuine. Every investigation courted and reason explained. Particulars at personal interview only by appointment. PICTURES, 28, Gardiner-street, Brighton.

WANTED, to Sell, Wallis's 10 h.p. patent expansion single cylinder Traction Engine, fitted with cab, brass columns, tanks compensation gear, &c., suit showman, &c.; first-class order, cheap for cash, or purchase-hire, or would let on hire only. WHITE BROS., Eng. and Machy. Co., Ltd., Stratford, London, E.

WANTED, to Sell, nearly new Shuttered Booth, 18 by 24, built for special purpose, regardless of expense, built up quickly, no nuts or bolts (Tilt by Brimmall), is an exceptionally good Booth, only built up eight times. Price £10; cost £23. Also two Street Piano Organs, on Trucks, by Chiappia, play ten tunes each, one perfect, one requires slight repairs. £5 the two. Trucks worth the money. Wanted to purchase for cash, a First-class Juvenile Roundabout. Apply, OXFORD, 21, Edward-street, Brighton.

WANTED, to Sell, or Hire, Cinématograph Show, two loads, by road or rail; everything complete. Full particulars, WHITE, Auction Mart, Newbury.

WANTED, to Sell, a Clever, Up-to-date Miniature Production, electrically equipped, and a money earner, suitable for Summer or Winter Business. Cheap. May be seen at The Fun City, Olympia (Annexe), in operation. Title, "Mont Pelée." Enquire, 53, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, to Sell, Gold-mounted Photos., Husbands, Wives, Babies, X-rays, latest sensation, marvellous value, your profits doubled. MEURICE, Argyle-square.

WANTED, to Sell, Love Letters, Palmistry, Fair and Dark, Comic Cards, Eyes, Marriage, Liars', Lunatics' Licences. MEURICE, 39, Argyle-square.

WANTED to Sell, Automatic Machines, New and Secondhand, Card Delivery, Mother Shiptons, marvellous money-takers, enormous profits. MEURICE, Argyle-square.

WANTED, to Sell, Slot Machines of every description, Walling Guessing Scale a Speciality. WORMALD, 123, Blythe-road, West Kensington, London.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machine, Nelson Tableau in Wax, lot Wax Heads, &c. 21, Chapel-road, Londonderry.

WANTED, Known, the Seventy Thousand Showmen who use the Columns of "The Era" and are moving about should know that they can make "The Era" Offices their Permanent London Address. Letters received will be held till called for, or immediately re-addressd according to instructions. Address all communications respecting the Letter Department to the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, every Showman who uses the railway to send to "The Era" for a copy of the article on the new Railway Rates. This will be sent on application, free of charge, to any Showman in the United Kingdom.

WANTED, Showmen who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any Railway Bookstall to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED TO SELL.

WANTED to Sell, a Successful Theatre in Northern Town. Recently tried as a Twice-nightly Music Hall with Phenomenal Success. Private reasons for selling. Part Purchase-money can remain on Mortgage. Apply, Box 5,378, "The Era."

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WANTED, to Sell, Flying Lady Apparatus, Proscenium and gas fittings if required. Reason for selling, going on the Continent. Reply, Hippodrome, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED TO SELL.

Important Notice. WANTED, to Sell, by Private Treaty, by order of the Trustees of C. Tyler, Esq., the Public Hall Theatre, Coalville, Leicestershire. Full Dramatic Licence; thickly populated district; nearest theatre Loughboro' (10 miles). Chance of a lifetime. Particulars from F. TYLER, Engineers' Arms Hotel, Coalville, Leicestershire.

WANTED, Wanted, Known, Large Secondhand Skating-rink Building, size 63ft. by 120ft. inside; erected complete, exclusive of floor, £500. We will build new Rinks and take part payment in shares in concerns. THOS. J. HAWKINS and Co., 109, Victoria-street, S.W.

WANTED, to Sell, Grand Production of "CINDERELLA" at the T.R. Nottingham; and "DICK WHITTINGTON," at the Coronet T., London, W., immediately after the run. Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 244, Regent-street, S.W.

WANTED, to Sell, Several Pantomime Productions, as I am doing some different Subjects next year. ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, to Sell, a Magnificent Production of "Aladdin" and "Dick Whittington." Address, ERNEST DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

WANTED, to Sell, 10,000ft. of all the latest Films, 18ft. Sheet, case of Lenses, Motor to drive Bioscope, Beard's Regulators and Gauges, also large quantity of Conjuring Apparatus, Illusions, Tables &c., red plush Tableau Curtains, Fit-up Scenery, Chinese Costumes, Liveries, Stock Billing, and Roll Tickets; Travelling Hampers, and several other useful articles too numerous to mention. Dirt cheap for cash. Send for list to E. RYLANDS, Effingham-street, Rotherham.

WANTED, to Sell, Films, cheap, and Films for Hire, up-to-date. THE BENDON TRADING CO., 75, Jamaica-st., Glasgow.

WANTED, to Sell, 20,000ft. Films, ½d. foot; Our Navy, 500ft., 1d.; Blue Beard, 750ft., 2½d.; Red Riding Hood, 340ft., 2d. List free. 5, Denning-road, Hampstead.

WANTED, to Sell, Novelty Musical Instruments for Stage Purposes, Electric and otherwise; 4-octaves Handbells for sale, secondhand. Please note, on and after 22nd inst. my new address, H. LISLE, 209, Camberwell New-road, S.E.

WANTED, to Sell, Frock Frills, leno plain with ruche, 3s. 11d. per doz.; accordion pleated, 5s. 6d. Samples free. KING, 2, Dysart-road, Grantham.

WANTED, to Sell, very large Old English Bobtail Sheepdog, 18 months old, clever performer. Price £6; cheap at £20. CHARD, Pringle's Palace, Glasgow.

WANTED, to Sell, quantity of Scenery, Flats, Set Pieces, &c. Apply, J. WOOLF, Wonderland, Whitechapel, E.

WANTED, to Sell, Typed Stock Dramas, Comedy and Dramatic Sketches, Duos, Film Plots; Comedy written up. HAL COLLIER, G.P.O., Sheffield.

The Publisher, "The Era." 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London, W.C. "Dear Sir,—I ordered the following advertisement to appear in your paper for two insertions:—

"'WANTED, to Sell, Self-acting Pianoforte two barrels, twenty tunes, perfect condition. Cost £44; what offers? MEURICE, 39, Argyle-square, W.C.'

"Kindly do not insert my advertisement again, as the self-acting piano which I had to sell has been sold to Mr. Jack Woolf, of Wonderland fame, Whitechapel-road, E. I had also ten other applicants through my advertisement in 'The Era.' Yours faithfully, J. H. MEURICE. "39, Argyle-square, W.C. Oct. 9, 1906."

WANTED TO BUY.

WANTED, to Buy, two or three male Lions, about 12 or 18 months old, suitable for training; must be tame, healthy, perfect in every way, and not in-bred. Offers with lowest price to L. JENSEN, 38, Albert-road, Long Eaton.

WANTED, Good Musical Novelty Instruments, suitable for Musical Act. State full particulars and lowest price. Address, Box 5365 "The Era."

WANTED, for cash, Gaumont's Chrono, must be in perfect condition. OPERATOR, Carlton House, Consett, Durham.

WANTED, to Buy, Acrobatic Felt Mattress. State length, width. No fancy prices. Address, FELT, 18, New-road, Southampton.

WANTED, good Gymnastic Frame, about 14ft. high; cheap; must be strong. PAULETTI, Theatre Royal, Wednesbury.

WANTED, Light Revolving Table, for Collie Dog. LIEUT. CHARD, Pringle's Picture Palace, Glasgow.

WANTED, to Buy, 25 Tip-up, 50 Ordinary, and seating for 200 Backed Forms. Lowest price. REX, Pavilion, Northwich.

WANTED, Authors to submit Miniature Musical Comedies (thirty minutes, five speaking parts, small chorus, and troupe of dancers). Top price paid for the right article. No expense spared for dressing and mounting; or a good Comedy Sketch would do. Full particulars, SYD BAZLEY, Hippo., Stoke; next, Hippo., Burton.

WANTED, Brilliantly-written Sketch, with three characters, of which the principal should be a young gentleman instrumental virtuoso. Write, Box 5,361, "The Era."

WANTED, by Neville Delmar, really good Light Comedy Song; good price for goods; must be class, funny, and refined. No rubbish. Martin Byam write. Opera House, Northampton.

WANTED TO LET OR HIRE.

WANTED, to Let, Clapham Assembly Rooms. Vacant Feb., after two years' Pictures. What offers 1909? Seats 300. Facing Clapham-rd. Station.

WANTED, to Let, Holloway Institute, Stroud, Glos., two convenient Concert Halls, with four ante-rooms, &c.; convenient situation, close to the railways. Terms very moderate. C. BENNETT, Secretary.

WANTED, to Let, Victoria Rooms, Cheltenham, seat 1,000, Vacant Easter week.

WANTED, to Let, Dates in Jan. and onwards, Byculiah Athenæum, Enfield, any kind entertainment, Scenery, Electric Lighting. MANAGER.

PERCY HALL. WANTED, to Let, Rooms for Rehearsals. Established 24 years. Particulars, apply MRS. ADAMS, Percy Hall, W.

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WANTED, Provincial Hall, Theatre, cheap, for Stock Business; must be cheap rental. Address, Box 5,380, "The Era."

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WANTED, Known, Contracts taken for Running and Supplying Launches (Steam, Electric, or Motor), and Boats of Every Description, on Lakes or Artificial Water. Lakes and Artificial Water rented for working Electric Launches and Boats of all Descriptions at cheap fares. Builders and Workers of Electric Launches at Earl's Court, Crystal Palace, Glasgow, and Bradford and Cork Exhibitions, and at Earl's Court and The White City, 1908. TOM TAYLOR and SONS, Launch and Boat-builders, Staines, Middlesex.

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WANTED, Known, C. Kinch, Gymnastic Apparatus Maker, Theatrical and General Blacksmith. 17, St. Mary-square, Kennington-road London, S.E. Large Hall for Practice.

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WANTED, Known, Cottle's Bureau, 229, Camberwell-road, S.E. Band Parts, 3s. 6d.; Composing, &c.; Band Books, 4s. 7d. Lists. Rehearsal rooms, 1s. hour.

WANTED, Known, Band Parts, all Effects, Striking Melodies. Chas. Wareham (late Conductor, Collins's), 143, Bennerley-road, Clapham Junction; or Orchestra, Chelsea Palace.

WANTED, Known, Typewriting, Manuscripts Neatly Copied in French or English, 9d. per thousand translations. E. STOKOE, 86, Rossiter-road, Balham.

WANTED, Known, maker of Electrical Stage Effects and Inventor of new ideas, consult TRINDER, 22, Penton-street, Loader, N.

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WILL MISS ADA COLLEY kindly send her Permanent Address to G. RHODES PARRY, Palace Theatre, Grimsby.

ATTENTION, SHOWMEN! The Only Original English "WHITE CITY" Amusement Park is at MANCHESTER.

JOHN CALVIN BROWN ..... Proprietor. "WHITE CITY" will begin the Third Regular Summer Season on Saturday, May 15, and continue for 20 weeks until Saturday, Oct. 2, 1909.

THERE is ample space in this successful Park to be let to High-class Shows, Amusements, Riding Devices, or other Park Attractions on most favourable terms.

In each of the two seasons the "White City" has been opened the attendance has exceeded THREE-QUARTERS OF A MILLION!! 100 ATTRACTIONS NOW IN PLACE!!! TWO BRASS BANDS PLAYING ALL DAY!!!

Up-to-date Showmen address quick. JAMES E. MADDOCK, Manager. SPECIAL!—Locations can now be secured for EASTER WEEK.

MR. LAWRENCE BARCLAY, "Dame," Red Riding Hood, GRAND THEATRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Variety Artists who Are interested in Fair Play.

L.B. wishes it to be known that he has not automatically ceased to be a member of the Variety Artists' Federation through breach of any rules of the aforesaid Society. He ceases to be a member because he sent in his resignation, consequently the statement in the "Performer" is incorrect.

NEW PIECES PRODUCED AT THE PROVINCIAL THEATRES. See THE ERA ANNUAL 1909.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL CALENDAR. See THE ERA ANNUAL, 1909.

THEATRES AND MUSIC HALLS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. See THE ERA ANNUAL, 1909.

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THE PALLADIUM, LONDON

(late Hengler's Circus), will be open August Bank Holiday, 1909.

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Simms and Simms, Harry and Paul, Speedwell, Bernardi, Bros. Bradshaw, Anileda and Auguste, Prof. Norton, Hovyns, Shang Hai.

HIPPODROME, BIRMINGHAM.
Zona Vevey, Maxey and Pete, La Belle Greta, Sig. Barbalonga, Five Juanitos, Hall Godfrey, Lena Wyllie, Pictures, Mooney and Holbein.

HIPPODROME, BRIGHTON.
Woodward's Seals, Three Kraggs, The "Extra Turn," Tony Black, Three Cariens, Herbert Clifton, The Courtiers. Mr. and Mrs. Gordon-Wilde, La Freya, Pictures, J. C. Piddock.

HIPPODROME, SHEFFIELD.
Sam Mayo, Russell Carr, Ongars, The Woodwards, Colombia Trio, E. Jose and Co., Hersleb Bros., Mayme Cannon, Pictures, Wild, Willie, and West.

HIPPODROME, LEEDS.
Forsyths, Dunn and Reno, Cecile Francois and Co., Bostock's Baboons, W. Reynolds' Co., Dorothy L. Clark, Broadway Girls, Pictures, Harry Brown.

PAVILION, NEWCASTLE.
H. Roxbury and Co., A. E. Clifford, Ada Parker, Honors and Le Prince, Emerson and Baldwin, Rappo and Ella, Jack Hayworth, Pictures, Leslie Bros., Croisit Trio.

HIPPODROME, ST. HELENS.
Three Stewarts, Alex. Kennedy, Ingram and Irvin, Soho Trio, Bartel, Smith and Johnson, Stewart and Morgan, Weisker Bioscope.

HIPPODROME, EALING.
Pictures, Joe Collins's Pantomime, "Puss in Boots."

EMPRESS, BRIXTON.
Dusty Rhodes, Millie Howell, King and Benson, Three Braggs, Billy McClain and Co., M. D. Waxman and Co., G. Benson, Dutch Daly Joe Humphreys, Millie Howell, Anna Kenwick, Haley's Garden of Girls, Barclay's Jockeys, Kelly and Agnes, F. Ginnett, in "Horse Dealer" Sketch.

PALACE, HAMMERSMITH.
Anna Kenwick, Pictures, Talbert and Pierce, Wilson Hallett, Monte Walker, Dalvere and Gordon, Arthur Lennard, Jeannie Deans, Billie Burford, Chanti, Wilman, Valazzi, Manning and Gommersal, Alan Holt and Co., in "Society Woman," Camping Act.

OLYMPIA, SHOREDITCH.
Herbert Shelley, Cyril Dane, Ella Lane, Daisy Hurdle, Pictures, Joe Elvin and Co., Leo Tell, M. Parker and Co., Howe and Ardie, Oakes Duo, Stanley Waller, Garry Lynch.

THE WEEK'S CALLS

THE EMPIRE, HOLBORN.
Harry Taft, Emma Don, Lilian Dundas and Co., Pictures, Lafayette, Jose Collins, Four Aces, Geo. Gilbey, Billy McClain, Carlisle, and Baker, Lowenwirth and Cohan, Nora Stockelle.

HIPPODROME, WILLESDEN.
Harry Webber, Arthur Reece, Wilson Hallett, Amy Sullivan, Rosie Archer, Annie Braddan, Pictures, Kate Carney and Co., Joe Reichen's Dogs, Ritter and Foster, Fielding and Hull, Harry Champion, Irma Lorraine.

EMPIRE, CROYDON.
Pictures, Dan Thomas' Pantomime, "Dick Whittington."

ISLINGTON EMPIRE.
Dusty Rhodes, Edwin Boyde, Buglar Carr, Chas. Pastor, Arabella Allen, Pictures, Chas. Austin and Co., Eugene Stratton, Jennie Reeve, Madie Burker, Les Rubens.

HIPPODROME, BALHAM.
Chas. Whittle, Dora Lyric, Pictures, Charlie, John Lawson and Co., Lowenwirth and Cohan, Fred Clements, Dorothy Clyde, Grey and Welford, O'Gorman Bros.

HIPPODROME, PUTNEY.
Ted Cowan, Will Driscoll, Victoria Monks, Pictures, Bowden and Stol, Celeste, Fyne and Hurley, The Findens, Jack Rae.

HIPPODROME, POPLAR.
Ambrose Thorne, L. B. Athol, 'Varsity Girls, Dorothy Gould, Pictures, Athas and Collins, Haines Borthwick and Co., Recco, Bros. Horne, Chas. Ashdown, Ernest Ball and Co., in the "Night Alarm," Geo. Blakeney.

HIPPODROME, ROTHERHITHE.
Chas. Stevens, Wallau, La Belle Nello, Dolly Golden, Pictures, Austin and Cowan, Selby and Myers, Joe Elvin and Co., Harry Trevor.

PALACE, CAMBERWELL.
Tom Edwards, Dora Daly, Three Cape Girls, Pictures, Chas. Austin and Co., Geo. Gilbey, Jack Charman, Morny Cash, Minnie Mace, Belle Harcourt, Zaid Trio, Mrs. Lewis Waller and Co.

HIPPODROME, NOTTINGHAM.
Archie Goodall, Musical Silvo, Milner and Storey, Paul Vandy, Havannas Troupe, Alexandra Operatic Co., C. Cardow, St. Ruth and Conyers, Pictures, Hayman and Franklin.

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will be open at the end of November, 1909.

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HIPPODROME, LIVERPOOL.
C. Cardow, Pantomime, Juanitos Troupe, H. Brown, Pictures.

HIPPODROME, RICHMOND.
Tom Joy, Queenie May, Pictures, Bros. Wills, A. Roberts and Co., Joe Archer, Mabel Mignon, Amy Clevere, Fredo and Preston, The Menzies.

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HIPPODROME, WOOLWICH.
Willie Gardner, Carl Hertz, Phil Bransby, Raie Walters, Stella Dell, Pictures, Athas and Collins, Phil and Nettie Peters, Prof. Thornbury, Souplessi.

GRAND, CLAPHAM JUNCTION.
Ed. E. Ford, Kisbey, Adey Spencer, Pictures, Royal Tokio Troupe The Leonards, Lowenwirth and Cohan, Chirgwin, Jessie Ward, Lulu Evans, Three Laurels, Col. Gaston Bordeverry.

HIPPODROME, PECKHAM.
Daisy James, Pictures, Marsumas, Frank Wood, Witty Wattie Walton. Pat Lynch, Nellie Ganthony, Ada Cerito, F. Maxwell and Co., Seven Wulfrunas, Belles of the Kitchen.

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Drama. Twice Nightly.

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CONTENTS.

Map (19in. by 10in.), showing the distance betwixt the various Music Halls at a glance. Will tell if one Hall is within the barring radius of the other, thus saving fears, worry, and anxiety.
All About Artists' Luggage.
Lists of Clubs.
Information about stamping Contracts.
Foreign Money Tables.
London Music Halls and Theatres.
Their Telephone Numbers
List of Brougham Proprietors.
List and Address of Photographers.
Size of Theatrical Printing Paper.
Names and Addresses of Theatrical
Railway Managers, &c., &c.

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BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

ROYAL VICTORIA PAVILION

THE TOWN COUNCIL
INVITE TENDERS

for a lease of the following parts of the above premises, for three years from March 25, 1909:—

A. The Great Hall (130ft. by 65ft.), with Stage, Dressing-rooms, &c., well adapted for Theatrical, Musical, and Variety Entertainments, licensed for Music and Dancing, &c., together with the Upper Promenade (revenue from charges of admission) and Inside Lavatories.

B. The spacious, beautifully-decorated Restaurant and Buffet (two Bars, one for the use of persons attending performances in the Great Hall), with extensive cellarage, &c., fully licensed.

C. The Colonnade Tea and Refreshment Rooms.

D. A Lock-up Shop, now communicating and used in connection with Part C, but can be let separately for a business satisfactory to the Council.

Rates, Taxes, and other outgoings will be paid by the Tenant or Tenants.

Applications must be enclosed in a sealed envelope, marked "Hire of Pavilion," addressed to the Chairman, General Purposes Committee, Albion House, Ramsgate, and delivered on or before Saturday, Jan. 30, 1909.

Plan and further particulars may be obtained from the undersigned, at whose office a draft of the proposed Lease may be seen.

The Council do not bind themselves to accept the highest or any Tender or Tenders.

A. BLASDALE CLARKE,
Town Clerk.

Albion House,
Ramsgate.
Jan. 14, 1909.

BOROUGH OF SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.

OPEN-AIR ENTERTAINMENTS.

THE CORPORATION
INVITE OFFERS

for the privilege of GIVING ENTERTAINMENTS in the HAPPY VALLEY BANDSTAND on the Cliff Slopes for one or three years from Saturday, 15th May, to Saturday, 2nd October (Sundays excluded).

Extensive alterations to the site are now being made, and the area available for seating accommodation will be increased to 1,500 square yards, thus giving 2½ times the accommodation formerly available. The Bandstand on the Cliffs hitherto used by the Military Band will be removed to the Happy Valley, and will give more convenience and accommodation to the Artists. Plans of the proposed alterations may be inspected at my Office during Office Hours.

The successful tenderer will be allowed to make collections and to place chairs round the Bandstand and to charge for the use thereof, and will be held responsible for the payment of the rates apportioned on the premises.

Full particulars of nature of entertainments must be given, and sealed offers, endorsed "Happy Valley," must be sent to my Office not later than Wednesday, the 10th day of February, 1909.

By Order,
H. J. WORWOOD,
Town Clerk (pro tem.).

Town Clerk's Office,
Southend-on-Sea,
21st January, 1909.

BOROUGH OF PORTSMOUTH.

THE
SOUTH PARADE PIER COMMITTEE

INVITE APPLICATIONS

for the appointment of

MANAGER of the SOUTH PARADE PIER, SOUTHSEA.

Candidates must be not under 30 years of age, have had experience in the management of Public Entertainments, and be capable organisers.

The salary will be at the rate of £300 per annum.

Applications, stating age, present and past employment, together with copies of Testimonials, must be forwarded to me in an envelope marked "Pier Manager," and must reach me not later than 10 a.m. on Friday, January 29th, 1909.

Canvassing, either personally or by letter, will be a disqualification.

ALEXANDER HELLARD,
Town Clerk.

Town Hall, Portsmouth,
January 14th, 1909.

BIRMINGHAM GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.

ALL ARTISTES HOLDING CONTRACTS with the above Company will please note that the Trustees for the Debenture Holders have appointed Mr. Frederick Alfred Badman, of 3, Snow Hill, Birmingham, Receiver and Manager.

CRIDDLE & CRIDDLE,
Solicitors to the Trustees.

2, Collingwood Street,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
20th January, 1909.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1909.

"The Era" Annual for 1909 is, as usual, an excellent book of reference for all connected with the stage. Its lighter side consists of stories by actors and managers who are in the forefront of their profession. Mr. George Alexander is responsible for the following delightful story:—"I shall be sorry to see the last of the London cabman, but I suppose the day is not far distant. Will the taxicab driver develop a humour of his own? I hope so, or the gaiety of nations will suffer. Being in a hurry to get home from the theatre a few days ago, I walked to the corner of King-street. An old cabman with his hansom was the first on the rank, but I shook my head at him, and called a taxicab. As I approached it the hansom cabby said: 'So, Mr. G. A., you've no use for 'osses now; but you'll 'ave to 'ave one to take you on the day you're buried.' I went home in that hansom after all."—Express, Jan. 13, 1909.

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HARRY E. BENNETT, Original Humour. 105, Cavendish-road, Higham's Park, Essex.

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Bolossy Kiralfy's "To-Morrow," Maud Rocher's Monkeys, Lukushimas, Cruikshank, Joseph Hart's "Rain Dears," Cerradini's Zebras, Dunedin Troupe, El Tampicos, The Two Anartos, The Fratellinis, Pathégraph, Mr. and Mrs. Tomson.

EMPIRE PALACE, EDINBURGH.

Rehearsal at 1.30 for :—

Reano's Band, Bessie Slaughter, Stella Stahl, Pat Rafferty, Rhoda Paul, Lydia Yeamans, Miles Stavordale Quintette, George S. Melvin, Vetter Bros., Bioscope, Jack Lorimer.

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—

Tom Costello, Four Figaros, Tom Child, Frederic Villiers, Duncan and Godfrey, Jean Macduff, Victor Newman, Bioscope, "Moto Girl." Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday—Toynbee Choir. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday—Park Thistle Male Choir."

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—

Selkirk's "Gathering of the Clans," Walter Aubrey, Melia and Mozarabar, Fred Eustace and Co., in "The Amber Light," Bertha Stuart, Frank Cass, Burnetti, Arthur Astill, Bioscope, Karl Reinsch.

GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—

Stevens and Buchanan's Grand Pantomime, "Cinderella."

ARDWICK THEATRE, MANCHESTER.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Fred Lindsay, Fred Karno's "Casuals," "No. 99," Florence and Lillian, Millie Payne, Clement Trio, Tony Spring, Sisters Grosvenor, Bioscope, "Johnstown Flood."

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—

Saharet, Horace Goldin and Jeanne Fransioli, Fred Keeton, Fred Elton, Smythson's Comedy Company, Amelia de L'Enclos, Cornalla and Eddie, Harry Bedford, Bertha Winder, Bioscope, La Pia.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

"Brigands of Tarragona," Hartley Wonders, Mabel Bright, Carina Sisters, Maggie Walsh, Theo Bouwmeester, Bioscope, Ethel Newman, Arthur Albert, Four Holloways.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Miss Carrie De Mar, Nellie Hughes, Clark and Hayden, Harry Herbert, Harry Tate's No. 1 Company, in "Motoring," Ted E. Box, Willie Zimmermann, Alice Maydue, Bioscope, Fred Storey and Co.

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's Company, in "The Prince and the Beggar Maid."

GRAND, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Karno's "Yap Yaps," Geo. Ridgewell, Jackley Trio, Joe O'Gorman, Tom Bryce and Miss Price, The Brennans, Edie Endon, Bioscope, De Gracia's Elephants.

PALACE, LEICESTER.

Rehearsal at 2.30 for :—

Fred Edwards and Co., in "Kleptomaniacs," J. P. Ling, Lee and Bentley, May Edouin, Jackson Family, Martineks, Chronomegaphone, Phil Parsons, Bioscope, Oswald Williams.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

George Leyton and Co., in "The Last Muster," Tom Moore, Three Welsh Girls, Helen Trix, McCann's Dogs, Nellie Coleman, Maizie Hibbs, Bioscope, Casey's Court, E. Dagnall and Co., in "Slippery Jim."

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Neil Kenyon, La Tortajada, Mabel Mavis, Nance Elder, Strolling Players, Jack Smiles, Harry Simms, Minnie Paget, Bioscope, Great Olympians.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Joseph Hart's "Polly Pickle's Pets in Petland," Harry Clifford, Les Voces, Iceland Wrestlers, Dumond Trio, Annie Purcell, New York Nippers, Enzer, Bioscope, "Rogues of the Turf."

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Karno's "Football Match," Walter Curtis, Sisters Jerome, Tambo and Tambo, The Dandies, Bert Woodward, Jack Lane, Cliff Diamond, Bioscope, Lydia and Amelys.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Auguste Van Biene and Co., Alf Holt, Lyric Mummers, Amy Anderson and Co., Gaudschmidts, Albert Whelan, Allan Hanbury, Edith Brown, Bioscope, Gertie Gitana.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Fred Karno's Co., in "The Bailiff," Beatrice Bonnie, Stylo, Lickson's Dogs, Chas. Fisher's Opera Company, Van Allen, Billy French, Kathleen Cogan, Bioscope, Barton and Ashley.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Moss' Empires' Grand Pantomime, "Humpty Dumpty."

THE LONDON COLISEUM

Rehearsal at 10 a.m. for :—

Albert Chevalier and Co., Mystic Hussars, Spry and Monti, The Rawsons, The Alaskas, Campbell and Barber, Howard Bros., Mercedes Blasco, Miss Sydney Fairbrother and Co., Tiller's "Dainty Dutch," Lyons Trio, Alf Ripon, Bioscope, Mdame Alice Esty.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Morris Cronin Troupe, Daley Cooper and Mabel Lait and Co., in "Scotch Mixed," George Young, Cline and Clarke, Austin Rudd, Arthur Aldridge, Sylveter's Mechanical Head, Three Lloyds, Bob Hamilton, Bioscope.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

George Gray and Co., in "Fighting Parson," Victor Travers, Brix and Annie, Chas. Vincent, Colored Meisters, The Mayvilles, Bright and Claire Trio, Bioscope, Nellie Wallace.

EMPIRE, SWANSEA.

Rehearsal at 3 for :—

Fred Karno's Co., including Fred Kitchen, in "G. P. O.," Harry Lawson, Takio, Hayes and Wynne, Maude A. Edwards, Barrington, Bioscope, Howell and Scott.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.

Rehearsal at 3 for :—

Zeynardt's Lilliputians, Trentanovi Sisters, Larry Lewis, Laurie's Kindergarten, Walter Bellonini, Virto and Venita, Violet Stockelle, Bioscope, John Warren and Co., in "The Magic Carpet."

PHILHARMONIC HALL, CARDIFF.

Rehearsal at 3 for :—

Company as booked.

EMPIRE, NEWPORT

Rehearsal at 3 for :—

"Yellow Fang," Percy Hannan, Jimmy Shields, Three Prestons, Gladys Mavius, Olive Armadale, Bioscope, Harry Grey, Alburtus and Millah.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Le Roy, Talma and Bosco, Kroney Bros., Randolph King, Cassie Walmer, Lionette Roberty, Bert Williams, Baker and Balfe, Frank F. Street, Bioscope, Geo. Auger and Co.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

L'Incognita, Alf Chester, Ross and Lewis, Delevines, Hermann Melot, Henry Carlton and Co., W. J. Ashcroft, Nellie Le Breton, Bioscope, Woodward's Sea Lions.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Miss Marquis' Ponies, Maud and Sydney Wood, Lily Esplin, Dennis Drew and Boys, W. J. Churchill, Percy Honri, Arthur Gill, Theresa Da Silva, Bioscope, Goodwin's Piccaninnies.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Fred Ginnett's "Dick Turpin," Billy Hobbs, Kent and Keith, J. H. Scotland, Achmed Ibrahim Troupe, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Meymott, Jennie Hartley, Mary Ambrose, Bioscope, Ye Colonial Septette.

The following are booked in conjunction with the above:

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUBLIN.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Ramesis, E. J. Sheldon, Madge Bryce, Elton Black, The Eight of Hearts, Harry Laybourn, Terry and Bentley, Pictures, The Canworths.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Gittins Opera Co., Master Clifford, Florence Gardner, Cliff Ryland, Marjutti, Jack Crawley, Pictures, Tenessee Guards.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—

Alexandra Dagmar, Tom Collins, The Three Gartis, Sisters Urma, Bros. Ashley, Beattie Kent, Bioscope, Selbinis.

IMPERIAL HALL, WALSALL.

Company as booked.

THEATRE ROYAL, CROYDON.

Animated Pictures and Illustrated Songs.

EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Fred Earle, Frank Sylvo, Dacey and Lewis, "That Brute Simmons," Ten Zerbinis, Odeynne Spark, Jeannie Mackay, Bioscope, The Gems.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Chas Coborn, Stein Eretto Troupe, Josie Mooney, Lil O'Gorman, St. Clair Bros., Sybil St. Elmo, Fayre and Manning, Pictures, Walter Munroe.

IMPORTANT NOTICES.

RE APPLICATIONS FOR ENGAGEMENTS.

All applications by either Artists or their Agents must be made to the Head Office. Lowest terms must be stated, and distinction made between salaries required for larger and smaller towns. Vacant dates should be stated. If a list of existing bookings be sent, it will render selection easier.

Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not rebooked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follow :—

EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, NEWCASTLE, AND DISTRICT.
MR. S. GETHING, Empire Theatre, Glasgow.

BIRMINGHAM, NOTTINGHAM, LEICESTER, AND DISTRICT.
MR. HATTON WHARTON, Empire Theatre, Nottingham.

SOUTH WALES DISTRICT.
MR. ALBERT MITCHELL, Empire Theatre, Cardiff.

LEEDS, SHEFFIELD, HULL, BRADFORD, AND DISTRICT.
MR. T. GERALD MORTON, Empire Palace, Leeds.

LIVERPOOL, MANCHESTER, AND DISTRICT.
MR. ALBERT BULMER, The Empire, Liverpool.

LONDON DISTRICT.
MR. J. CHRISTIE, Empire Theatre, Shepherd's Bush, W.

N.B.—Mr. OSWALD STOLL or Mr. FRANK ALLEN can be seen by appointment on all matters arising out of the above, and for the discussion of entirely new Numbers.

All Artists or Agents who communicate with our District Representatives must have made definite applications, in accordance with above directions, to the Head Office, at the same time, or just previously.

Artists and Agents are requested to note that the Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington, Standard Theatre, Shoreditch, and the Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, come within the areas absolutely barred by us. Artists and Agents are also requested to note that the Hippodrome, Aston, Birmingham, comes within the area absolutely barred by the Grand Theatre and Empire Palace, Birmingham.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have at least Fourteen Band Parts for English Orchestrations, and Seventeen Band Parts for Foreign Orchestrations. Matter of Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to Co-operative Offices, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced. Artists' Scenery, Properties, &c., MUST be fireproofed in accordance with the regulations of the Licensing Authorities.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

No order or contract for goods or services must be accepted for any of the foregoing theatres except upon receipt of an Official Form, issued from the Co-operative Offices, London, and signed by either Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. Frank Allen, or the Chief Accountant, otherwise the Company concerned will not be responsible for same, and will refuse payment. In special cases, where goods are required at once, suppliers must look to the individual placing the order, who will be personally liable, unless an official confirmatory order, signed as above, is received within forty-eight hours. Invoices must be sent to the Theatre, but monthly statements should be sent to the Co-operative Offices. The individual Company on whose behalf orders are signed is solely responsible for payment. The Management will not hold themselves responsible in the event of loss of or damage to any MSS., Songs, &c., submitted for consideration.

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Artists engaged will please note that rehearsals at ALL Halls take place at 12 o'clock noon each Monday.

No excuses whatever for non-attendance will be entertained.

All billing matter and notification of appearance, accompanied by samples of pictorial printing, must be sent to the London Offices, Oakley House, Bloomsbury-street, W.C., fourteen clear days prior to opening, or contract may be cancelled at the option of the Management.

All Scene and Property Plots of Sketches, Scenas, &c., must be sent to Foresters' fourteen clear days before opening.

All Artists carrying scenery must have same fire-proofed, in accordance with L.C.C. regulations, otherwise it will not be allowed in the Halls.

Artists please note that when stage staff are required on Sunday, according to the "award," their time must be reckoned from that given in "call."

In cases of emergency after office hours, Mr. Baugh may be consulted at the Foresters' Theatre, Cambridge-road, E.

Telephone 6964 Avenue.
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CALLS

FOR WEEK COMMENCING.

MONDAY, JAN. 25, 1909.

PALACE, BRADFORD.
"Happy Holland," Godfrey James, Kenneth and Kane, the Stannings, Norah Desmond, Amos Howard, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Three Orleans.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.
Gwennie Llewellyn, Holland and Co., the Betsons, Carl Lynn, the Sovereigns, Rose and Wold, the Fitzroys, Belle Davis and Chicks, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, HALIFAX.
Donaldson Bros. and Co., Sisters Brooke, Gallimore Trio, Three Transfields, the Fordyces, Lisbon and Barker, Pyck, Tholl, and Taylor, Shenton's Chicks, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
Yokohama Japs, Sergt. Brennan, Rosie Reval, Three Temples, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard, J. H. Greener, the Donatos, Babusio Bros., Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
Lew Lake and Co., Marion Armitage, A. Ba-Be, Cestria, Two Lillies, Morning Leader picture, John Donald, Edie Veno, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
Raymond, Clarice Clarke, Sisters Desmond, "Dusk Till Dawn," Stebro Bros., Tom Crawley, Ted Lowery, Dolly Dewar.

THEATRE ROYAL, ROTHERHAM.
"Her Road to Ruin."

THEATRE ROYAL, CHESTERFIELD.
"The Midnight Wedding."

THEATRE ROYAL, LEEDS.
"Aladdin."

THEATRE ROYAL, ATTERCLIFFE.
Picture Entertainment.

KING'S, NOTTINGHAM.
Picture Entertainment.

PALACE THEATRE, BATH.
Sammy Shields, Milton Trio, Walker and May, Harry Luck, Maudie Forde, the Waltons, Alice Hughes and Co., Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE THEATRE, LINCOLN.
Carney and Armstrong, Elroy, Deans and Wilton, Les Elgonas, Sable Fern, Elfie Vincent, Cosgrove and Burns, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, CARDIFF.
"Claude Duval," Cherry Lass, Capt. Devereux, Venturini, Dolly, Agnes, and Maud, Edith Courtney, Ted Karno and Co., Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, WARRINGTON.
Madge Grey, "Mlle. Pom-Pom," Goggin and Davis, Archie Pitt, Jamie Piper, Leslie's Cadets, Clack and Clack, Powell's Marionettes, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, BURNLEY.
Warsaw Bros., Eileen Douglas, Mack Ollive, Hyde and Cody Trio, Adah Payne, Brulf and Hemsley, Olms and Carbeth, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, &c.

PIER PAVILION, SOUTHPORT.
Matinée Monday.
Beau-Ideal Juveniles, Tina Frank, Colin Mail, Ethel Sheffer, Jim E. James, Two Wiltons, Chas. Lewis, Harry Pleon and Co., Poole and Maguire, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PIER PAVILION, WEYMOUTH.
Douglas and Co., Hicks and Hunter, Josephine Crooke, Cissie Lupino, George Porter, Mezetto, Bros. Rees, the Arntes, Carlotta Levey, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, BOW.
Matinée Every Monday.
Hanvarr and Lee, Raymond, J. C. Manley, Lorne and Vallance, Master Day, Percival, "Last Halt," Mamie Morris, Frank Jester, Marie Nestle, Madge Berresford.

FORESTERS'.
Matinées, Monday and Thursday.
Tom Yorke, Raymond, Starr and Jerome, Ida Ross, Edward Mortimer, Metz and Metz, Three Connerfords, Four Burnells, A. Cert, Queenie Dell, Edie Grey, "A Fight for Life."

SADLER'S WELLS.
Matinée Every Monday.
Fred Poplar, Kitty Wager, Raymond, Gladys Witton, Geo. Marriott and Co., Gordon Stretton, the Moncktons, Clara Pledger, Wrestling, Bessie Neilson.

PALACE, BATTERSEA.
Matinée Monday, at 2.30 o'clock.
Merritt, Tanee, Raymond, Amy Saville, Mark Milton, the Lannons, Willie Allan, "After Balaclava," Miss Mumt, Will Mason, "The Cat's Eye," Gus Harris.

SURREY THEATRE.
All Artists engaged for Surrey Theatre must bring 14 Band Parts.
Matinée Every Monday.
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A wealthy young lady plans an abduction with her lover, a young factory owner of the neighbourhood, whom her guardian will not accept as the girl's suitor, for this would deprive him of a considerable profit. Surprising them in the garden, he loads his revolver, and kills his ward. The servants, attracted by the noise, find the young man weeping over the body. Appearances are against him, and he is arrested. In the examining magistrate's office, however, the guardian has a vision. He sees the dead girl reproaching him with his crime, and demanding him to take the law into his own hands. Finally, he blows out his brains with the very same weapon which has served to kill her.

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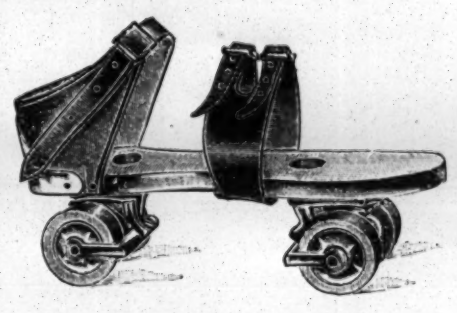

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EFFECT ON THEATRES AND MUSIC HALLS.

BY

ALBERT A. STRONG, LL.B.

SOLICITOR.

PRICE SIXPENCE.

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ACHMED IBRAHIM'S GREAT Troupe of Ten Bedouin Arabs. The genuine Success. Jan. 25, Empire, Shepherd's Bush.

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BARTLETT, ROSIE, "Robinson Crusoe" Panto., Lyceum Theatre, Govan, Glasgow; next, Theatre R., Huddersfield.

BATTLE, GEORGE, Actor-Vocalist. Lib Monday next, Victoria Theatre, Stanley, Durham. Next, 2, King John-street, Spennymoor.

BAYNE and HOPE, In "An Emperor's Divorce." Vacant Jan. 25. Wire, Empire, Rochdale (bottom of bill).

BEANLAND, QUERY, thanks Managers for Wires last week. Next, Victoria, West Stanley. Vacant Feb. 1 and 8, also March 1.

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MR. NORMAN YATES,
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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERAMAN.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. A. Jackson Withers.—Mr. A. Clifton Alderson's company is here this week in *The Coal King*. Mr. Ulick Burke gives a powerful rendering of the title-rôle; Mr. A. Clifton Alderson plays Tom Roberts in an impressive manner; Mr. Escott Robson shows to advantage as Walter Hartford; Miss Winifred Love gives a praiseworthy rendering of Grace Shirley; and Miss Joan Wellman as Mad Ann submits a touching portrayal. Mr. Sam Roberts as Jim Williams is successful; and Mr. Frank Dalton makes the most of the part of Dick Shirley.

ABERDARE.—NEW THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Aberdare Public Hall Theatre and Billposting Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting-Manager, Mr. B. Richards.—Mr. Reginald Dance is paying a return visit to this town with his company in *Raffles*. Mr. Dance scores a tremendous success in the title-rôle; Mr. P. Alexander is a dignified Lord Amersteth; Mr. Edward Irwin presents an effective impersonation of Mr. Curtis Bedford, a detective; Mr. Oswald Griffiths gave a very clever character sketch of Crawshay, a burglar; and Mr. A. P. Bell is good as Harry Manners. Miss Frances Titheradge submits a capital impersonation of Gwendoline Conran; Miss Molly Tremaine is seen to great advantage as Mrs. Vidal; Miss Marguerite Urett is very pleasing as Lady Ethel; whilst Miss Kitty Lofting is a stately Lady Melrose. As Marie Miss Doris Digby made a good impression.

HAGGAR'S BIOSCOPE Co. have taken possession of the Market Hall for some weeks. They have the latest up-to-date pictures in their répertoire, and include the Cinephone in their programme. As a result of a special concert last Sunday, twenty guineas were handed to the fund for the Messina survivors. Actual pictures of the earthquake disaster were shown. The adjoining villages are also being visited by members of the enterprising Haggar family.

ABERDEEN. — H. M. THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—Mr. William Mollison's company is fulfilling a fortnight's engagement with *Rob Roy*. Mr. Mollison's Willie was a faultless piece of character portraiture, and Mr. Calvert plays with conspicuous power as Rob Roy. Miss Evelyn McNay was an admirable Helen; Mr. Whitford Keane was a successful villain as Rashleigh, and Mr. Drysdal gave a highly amusing representation of the Dugal "cratur"; Miss Retta Macallister acted with spirit and sang tunefully as Diana; and the part of Francis Osbaldestone was taken by the great tenor Mr. Ben Davies. Mr. Davies was in rare voice, and, needless to say, all his songs were rapturously encored. Mr. Mollison devotes next week to Shakespearean representations.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessees, The United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—Messrs. Albert and Edmund's talented company appear with the utmost success in a capital musical farce *Neighbours*; the Marvellous Steens give a startling exhibition of various occult arts; the Esdale Brothers, comedians, are very popular; Sira excels as a one-legged dancer; Major Arnold shows both originality and versatility as a magician; Mr. Mike Gray contributes a very droll juggling turn; Mr. George James is a resourceful comedian; and Little Rosé Pink dances gracefully and sings some delightful coon songs.

ALHAMBRA MUSIC HALL.—Manager, Mr. James Montague.—This popular and long-established house was opened on Monday under the management of Mr. Montague, of the Empire. Owing to the public interest aroused by the change, and the excellence of the programme announced, crowds had to be turned away from the doors. Mr. Calder and Mr. Montague are to work the Alhambra in conjunction with their other house, the Empire. Their combination of artists has been considerably augmented, the most notable of the new-comers being Miss Minnie Osborne and Mr. Jack Belton. The entertainments at both places on Monday were greatly successful.

ABERTILLERY.—THEATRE METROPOLE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. J. Seaborn.—*The Nihilist* is being presented here. Mr. Walter Bentley gives a skilful impersonation of Ivan Nowasky; Miss Edna Clare portrays the part of Alexina in impressive style; Princess Olga is capably delineated by Miss Florrie Kelsey; Mr. O. Silverthone handles the villainous character of Prince Alexander in capital style; Mr. J. Brunelle Harvey does justice to Gourko, the exiled priest; Little May Ediss gives a natural rendition of Little Alexina; and comedy is well supplied by Mr. Henry Wright as Bobbie Smart.

THE PAVILION.—Lessees, E. and H. Tilney; Manager, Mr. E. Pryce.—Mr. J. Rice Cassidy presents here this week to good houses the interesting play *In Holy Russia*. Mr. Cassidy never fails to amuse as Mickey Nolan; Renée Rubinoff receives full justice from Mrs. J. Rice Cassidy, who is highly appreciated for her skilful impersonation; Mr. Henry Compton makes a capital Colonel Forrest, and Sir Harry Beresford finds a clever exponent in Mr. Frank Copeland; Baron von Pleve is dramatically portrayed by Mr. Carl Beechey; Mr. George Frere is good as Michael Natolski; Mr. George Doyle shows great skill as Laurice Steragoff; Count Gregori Petrolski is excellently rendered by Mr. Rolf Leslie; and Catski Lavoiski is effectively played by Miss Amy McNeill. The mounting of the piece is good.

ACCRINGTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—Pantomime has been inaugurated here this week by Mr. Edward Marris's company in *Dick Whittington*. The excellence of the entertainment is being recognised and appreciated by crowded and delighted audiences at every performance. Everything is bright and attractive, the music tuneful, the setting rich, and the dresses superb. Miss Etty Waldron's admirable rendering of the title-rôle has been received with every manifestation of approval; Miss Doris Gilbert sustains the part of Alice Fitzwarren with brightness and spirit; the Sisters Clifton as Lieut. Jackbuoy and Lieut. Bellbuoy are favourably received in their respective parts. Mr. Joe Waldron has made a palpable hit as Idle Jack, and his antics evoke loud shouts of laughter; Mr. Herbert Pearce excels in the part of Alderman Fitzwarren, and Mr. Billy Watson scores as Captain Kettle; Mr. Will Vestor is exceedingly droll and clever as Julie, the cook, and Mr. Arthur Lawrence sings and acts well as the Emperor of Morocco; Tinkabell, his daughter, is capitally portrayed by Miss Nora Doone; Mr. Dick Nash is very good in his business as the Cat, and the Belasco Trio render several songs in a tuneful and harmonious manner. Mr. E. H. Bertram is the general-manager, and we were pleased to notice an old favourite in Mr. George Fox as the advance representative.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Accrington Hippodrome Co.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—Haley's Juveniles, in their magnificent Carnival scena, are the leading feature here this week, and occasion highly-favourable comment; Kartelli, in his novelty wire act, is received with well-deserved applause; the Zenary Bros. perform smart acrobatic feats; Lennard and Verriker are pleasing with their illustrated songs; and Chas. Johnson is a capital vocalist and dancer. Miss Flo Warner proves herself a charming comedienne; the Schavonys, society acrobats, are undoubtedly one of the best turns in the bill, and are repeatedly recalled; Walter Wade, comedian, achieves success; and the Bioscope completes the bill.

ALDERSHOT.—ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounee; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Gladwin.—For the last week of the present dramatic season another pantomime is being presented, Mr. J. D. Hunter's *Robinson Crusoe* proving acceptable in its way. Besides many features in the ordinary run, several specialities are introduced by the Lupinos, the Melroses, Dennis and Morris, and Miss Judith Espinoss. The best attraction of the whole performance is the Mahomed Ben Mahomed troupe of Suasa Arabs, whose marvellous acrobatic business causes vociferous applause and re-demands. Miss Cynthia Lupino is capital as Crusoe, and Miss Lellah Melrose as Polly is chic and sings one or two catchy songs. Mr. Matt Melrose helps in the fun-providing as Mrs. Crusoe, and Messrs. Dennis and Morris as Jack and Jimmy also add to the amusement with their gags and comedy business. Mr. G. Lupino makes an excellent Friday, and Mr. A. Leoville as Will Atkins does well. The choruses are well rendered, and the dressing and staging are all that could be wished for.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill, jun.—Hardie and Von Leer's company is here with *The Sailor's Wedding*. As Lieut. Gordon Drake Mr. C. W. Standing gives an excellent interpretation; Mr. Cecil Klein finds scope for his talent as Sir Victor Lascelles; Mr. Hodgson Taylor as the villain Giovanni Ferici is capably callous; and Mr. F. Finch Smiles as Giacomo, of the evil eye, is made dramatically repulsive and nerve-trying. Miss Mary Pemberton as Mary plays the part of a self-sacrificing woman with great tenderness; Miss Winifred Pearson as Lenore, an adventuress, gives a finished impersonation of feminine cunning. Minor rôles are successfully interpreted by Misses Laura Hansen, Cicely Wade, and M. Sadie, and by Messrs. Cole Aspinall, G. Ford, H. Reynolds, Emsdale, and Childs.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr W. Leech; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Jesse Burslem.—Mr. John Tiller's *Red Riding Hood* is a very amusing pantomime, full of fun and frolic, some good singing, dancing, and spectacular effects being also supplied. Little Red Riding Hood is represented by Miss Decima Brooke, who sings sweetly and dances neatly; Miss Emmie Franks is a commanding Lieut. Tommy Tucker; Miss Louie Davies is a piquant Marjory Daw; Little Miss Muffit, Boy Blue, Polly Dimple, and Jack Spratt are characters forming the Poppy Quartette of Dancers. Miss Maisie is a charming Prince Charming. The Baron as played by Mr. Fred Russell is made a very diverting personage, and Mr. Howard Ward is a masculine female as Dame Crump; Will Lytton and Walter Watson, a couple of funny fellows as Johnny Stout and Johnny Green; Miss Florry Page as Goodwill makes an attractive fairy; David Laird as Redfangs is a prowling wolf of a vicious nature. The Excelsior Troupe of Children is an extra attraction.

NEW PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech; Assistant-Manager, Mr. T. Edwd. Owen.—The week's pictures contain many of a novel character. Rifle Bill is an exciting film, and great fun is caused by the pursuit of the Goose in the Streets of Paris. At Home Day is also a comical subject. Pictures of a striking character are Stage Romance, The White Chief, Inn of Death, &c. The vaudeville turns are Jack Hartley, the Yorkshire comedian, in song and patter, and the Sisters Terry, dainty duettists, who sing and dance admirably.

THE PICTUREDROME. — Lessees, Messrs. Weisker Bros; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Marks.—A further series of scenes from Messina are the main attraction, conspicuous among them being the rescue of a Catholic Bishop, who, while helping at rescue, was himself entombed and liberated after twelve days. China of To-day is a set of stirring scenes, showing ancient and modern means of locomotion in striking contrast; Face to Face is a pathetic circus story, introducing a capital fire scene; and in A Good Tip an exciting steeplechase is represented. Comic pictures include Rover's Christmas, The Sexton's Sleepwalk, Drinkers' Fancies, The Servant in the Acrobatic Family, and The Volcanic Chimney. Variety interludes are also given.

ATTERCLIFFE.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manageress, Miss Ethel J. Hope.—This week sees a return to pictures. A goodly selection includes Christmas Eve Dream, An American Sees London in Ten Minutes, A Genuine Old Time Harlequin, The Earthquake Disaster in Italy, Sherlock Holmes, and a most interesting travel series, Around Brussels. Chorus songs are given by Mr. Bert Rainor.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Bert Dent; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harry Sanders. — This week's programme is worthily headed by Mr. James Willard and company, in a thrilling and sensational playlet, *The Ace of Hearts*, the parts being presented with full dramatic force by Mr. James Willard as John Fairburn, Mr. Jackson Wilcox as Dick Royston, and Miss Muriel Palmer as Lola Vane. Other turns are provided by Burke, Andrus, and Frisco, in a laughable absurdity, *Trafalgar Square, London*; Lona, a pleasing juvenile instrumentalist; Mr. William Arthur, popular bass vocalist; Macintosh and Royal, expert dancers; Miss Lily Ray, vocalist and dancer; Hugo and Smit, comedy acrobats and bar performers; Mr. Charles Rose, comedian and dancer; and the Attergraph pictures. This week, Mr. Dent, the enterprising manager, has introduced a "burlesque wrestling contest," for cash prizes, which provokes hearty laughter.

BACUP.—NEW COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood.—Mr. Walter Melville's company with *The Girl Who Took the Wrong Turning* forms a strong attraction here this week. Mr. F. Ronald Adair gives a vigorous rendering of Willie Mason, and is ably supported in some trying scenes by Miss Jessie Belmore as Sophie Coventry; Miss Nannie Meade submits a forcible delineation of Vesta le Clere; Mr. Sidney Sarl makes an effective Bill Slater; Mr. F. R. Robertson does full justice to the character of Jack Fenton; Johnny Walker finds a capable exponent in Mr. Fred Ingram; Mr. Raymond Wood ably depicts the villain; and Miss Zoe Davis is successful as Lucy Coventry.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. Wm. MacLaren's company in *Claudian* is here. Mr. MacLaren is exceptionally good in the title-rôle, and Mr. George Roberts declaims finely as the Holy Clement; Miss Amy Hardcastle is a capable Serena, and the Belos of Mr. Chal. T. Chaloner and the Edessa of Miss Ruth Trafford are humorously done; Mr. Bernard Elliott is a capital Tetrarch, and Mr. Douglas Earle a typical Agazil. Miss Lucy C. Bandmann plays with grace and power as Almida.

HIS MAJESTY'S.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Mr. Charles Constant's pantomime *Blue Beard* is here. Miss Daisy Lake makes a winsome Selim, and Miss Mary Duncan an engaging Fatima; Mr. Johnny Clegg is an amusing Sister Ann, and the Bamboozulum of Mr. Jack Parker is good comedy. Specialities are contributed by Messrs. Harlin and Hanlon, the Florodorians, Russell and Gage, the Sando Girls, and Walter B. Frear and Dolly Ward.

TIVOLI.—Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edgar G. Laban.—The Four Athos are the premier turn here this week. They are capital acrobats, and their ball manipulation is exceedingly clever. Bi-Bo-Bi supplies a musical treat of the mirthful type; Flo Connelly is very pleasing in her songs and dances; Adkin causes amusement with his ventriloquial turn; Sam Williams, comedian, is much enjoyed; Vernon's Bioscope has some very interesting pictures; and Lozelle gives a clean and clever athletic turn.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Owners and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Pictures of a very interesting character are here this week, the programme being interspersed with items by Miss Lena Allen and Messrs. Brown and Duff.

BARRY DOCK.—NEW THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brogden.—Mr. Roland Yorke presented *The Old Home* to a well-filled house on Monday. Mr. Charles Franmore acted the rôle of Daddy Dean to perfection, and Miss Gertrude Bonser scored a well-deserved success as Hazel Dean; the Rev. Eric Armstrong, in the hands of Mr. Horace Denton, left nothing to be desired, and as Lord Avondale Mr. Roland Yorke gave an artistic study. The comedy parts were well sustained by Miss Mattie Crawford and Mr. Fred Connynghame. Miss Sophie Shenton as Bridget was very amusing; Mr. Roland Bridge made a typical Dr. Warburton. The staging is thoroughly adequate.

BATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—Miss Lena Ashwell's *Diana of Dobson's* company on a return visit proves as entertaining as ever. Miss Emilie Polini now undertakes Diana, of whom she gives a fine rendering, being particularly good in the scene in the third act with Captain Bretherton, a character recently taken up by Mr. Leslie Rea with no little success; Miss Elspeth Dudgeon as the match-making and inquisitive Mrs. Cantelupe is commendable; Miss G. de Serville invests her impersonation of Mrs. White-Fraser with ladylike ease; Mr. W. Kingsford Pearce enacts Sir Jabez Grinlay with the extravagant hauteur characteristic of the self-made man; Miss Dorothy Bell as Kitty Brant clearly shows she has histrionic ability; and the other assistants at Dobson's are portrayed by Miss Violet Gould, Miss Nannie Griffin (who also doubled as an old woman in the last act), and Miss Eva Leonard Boyne; Miss Daisy England essaying the small part of Miss Pringle; P.C. Fellowes was invested with the necessary importance by Mr. J. Benedick Butler. *The Bishop's Candlesticks* is again the curtain-raiser.

PALACE THEATRE. — Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—Brightness characterises this week's bill, including as it does Alice Hughes and company in a well-written musical comedietta, *Star of the Bazaar*, in which Miss Hughes shines to conspicuous advantage; the Three Floradora Girls, in song and dance, retain their popularity; the Waltons in their eccentric Chinese acrobatic act work with the greatest ease and effect; Walker and May, with new and goey numbers, gain loud plaudits; better dancing than that of the Milton Trio has not been seen on the local boards for many a day; Harry Luck as a comedian makes a success with some funny ditties; Maudie Fordé shines as a sand dancer. Raymond's bio-tableaux are a fixed attraction.

BEDFORD.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—Mr. William Greet's chief company has this week been presenting Wilson Barrett's famous play *The Sign of the Cross*. Mr. Cyril Austin-Lee was an admirable Marcus, Mr. C. Yorke's rendering of Nero was very impressive, and Mr. Frank Wood gave an amusing study of Glabrio. Mr. Charles Aldred cleverly depicted the sinister traits of Tigellinus; Mr. H. Thurston Harris was sufficiently repulsive as the spy Servilius; and Mr. Walter Fleet was dignified as Favius. Miss Beryl Hamilton played the part of Poppœa in queenly fashion; Miss Lily Ward portrayed the beautiful patrician Berenice with fine emotion; Miss Cissy Carlton was bright and dainty as Dacia; Stephanus was well represented by Miss Edith Drayson; and Miss Constance Little acted earnestly and sympathetically as Mercia. The scenery was well painted and effective.

BELFAST.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Mr. E. Oswald Brooks's company opened her on Monday with *The New Housemaid*. In the rôle of Peter Pinkerton, J.P., Mr. Edward Mervyn was most successful; while Dulcie was charmingly portrayed by Miss Babs Stuart; Mr. Reginald Hargreaves as Frank Pinkerton was all that could be desired; and Mr. Howard L. Tracey furnished a clever impersonation of the Hon. Bertie Rashleigh, his make-up as the "new housemaid" being remarkably good. Mr. P. Ramsey Forman made the most of his opportunities as Marmsbury Doom, the detective; and Mr. Herbert Colley was capital as the amorous butler Roseberry; Miss Dot Sellby filled the rôle of Caroline with much acceptance; and other parts were sustained by Miss Renee de L'Estrade, Miss J. Middleton, Miss Ruby Wyndham, and Messrs. A. Selwyn and A. White. *Brokers Ahead*, by E. Oswald Brooks, formed an acceptable curtain-raiser, the various rôles being well sustained by Miss J. Middleton, Miss Renee de L'Estrade, and Messrs. Edward Mervyn, Reginald Hargreaves, and H. Colley.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fred Willmott and Will Sley; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—Houdini, the handcuff king, is here this week, and his extraordinary feats have created quite a sensation; the equilibristic feats of the Three Stewarts are exceedingly smart; and the charming Della Sisters, "the ladies in black," have been accorded a good reception; the Eiduns, comedy duettists, appear with much success in their speciality, *The Garden*; while the sweet tenor vocalism of Master Richard May has been applauded to the echo; also here are Les Ados, hand-balancers; Mr. E. S. Kempton, the silent comedian and dancer; Mr. Harold Heath, coon impersonator and dancer; Mr. Syd Herman, vocalist; and the Hipposcope, with some up-to-date pictures.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—The chief feature of the bill here is the military sketch, *The Daughter of the Regiment*, presented with much éclat, by Mr. Ernest Charles Gittens. The various characters have been ably presented, Mlle. Adele Prescott appearing in the title-rôle with much success; the Tennessee Guards appear in their skilful manœuvres, wall scaling, &c., and their reception at every performance has been terrific; Mr. Cliff Ryland returns to this city, and his patter is funnier than ever; and Mr. Jack Crawley deserves much praise for his clever little song scena, *Lights Out*; also here are Miss Florence Gardner, comedienne; Mr. Ernest Clifford, comedian; Marjutti, a graceful contortionist, in her original creation *From Demon and Fairyland*; and the Bioscope.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Will White.—In addition to a number of excellent pictures, Hearne and Palmer, *The Hebrew and the Barmaid*; and Mr. J. H. Crewe, a very smart comedian, appear with much success.

ST. GEORGE'S HALL.—General-Manager, Mr. Robert Wilson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—Some capital and up-to-date pictures are exhibited here. Also appearing are Mr. Jack Holness in *The Commercial's Club-room*; and Mr. Isaac Lee, comedian.

CLIFTONVILLE HALL.—General-Manager, Colonel Fred T. Cummins.—The delights of roller skating continue to draw great crowds daily here. The mile championship takes place on 8th, 9th, and 10th prox.

BILSTON.—NEW ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. John M. Dawson; Business Manager, Mr. S. Hadskiss Dawson.—This week we have the ever-popular drama, *The Face at the Window*, presented by Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company.

DRILL HALL.—The Anglo-American animated picture company, which has occupied this hall during the past two weeks, is meeting with capital support, and for this, its third week, has a considerable variety of pictures, humorous and sentimental.

BIRKENHEAD.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—The annual week of grand opera by the Moody-Manners Opera Company is being celebrated with the customary *eclat*. On Monday a fine performance of Gounod's *Faust* was given before a crowded and fashionable attendance, with Mr. Charles Carter as Faust, Mr. William Anderson as Mephistopheles, and Miss Raymond Amy as Marguerite. On Tuesday *Tannhauser* was produced, with Mr. Paul Weiss in the title-rôle, Miss Enriqueta Crichton as Elizabeth; and on Wednesday *Carmen* was the opera selected, with Miss Rosina Benyon in the chief character. The week's productions have also included *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Pagliacci*, *Bohemian Girl*, *Madame Butterfly*, and *Maritana*. All the operas have, without exception, been artistically rendered and effectively staged. The chorus is numerous and efficient, and the augmented orchestra is under the direction of Mr. Cuthbert Hawley.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Callahan and St. George, in their Irish character sketch *The Old Neighbourhood*, are a turn new to this town, and have made a decided hit; Mr. Dave Carter, a tenor vocalist of exceptional merit, is high in favour; and Harry Thorpe and Zoe Coe, in their comedietta *My Burglar*, are renewing previous successes. Jackson's Eight Lancashire Lads, accomplished vocalists and dancers, are a leading feature, and an excellent company also includes Miss Edie Gray and her coons, in a pleasing entertainment; Mr. Frank Harwood, a versatile comedian; Jack Weil, Scotch comedian; Henry and Francis, instrumentalists and vocalists; Arthur Harris, descriptive vocalist; and Brown's Royal Bioscope.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Ball.—Mr. Charles T. Aldrich, a versatile entertainer, is a prominent attraction, and Slippere, the blind musician, gives an artistic entertainment. Other interesting turns are contributed by Avon and Crest, amusing comedians; Minnie Leslie and Edgar Stevens, in their sketch *Love Levels All*; Julian Ross, comedian; Dex, comedian; King Luis and partner in a risley act; and the Hippodrome pictures.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*Dick Whittington* is increasing its returns every week, and should run till not far short of Easter.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*Boy Blue* is the biggest success the "Wales" has produced for years, and its run should far exceed the span usually allotted.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. T. Guest.—*Little Red Riding Hood* is filling this theatre more and more every week, and it is the more expensive parts of the house that are the more crowded, thus comes "success to enterprise."

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*The Beggar Girl's Wedding* is appearing here for the "first time out of London," with Mr. Walter Melville's company. Miss Vashti Wynne imparts intense feeling to the titular rôle, holding the house fascinated to the end; Mr. Otto Minister gives the character of Jack Cunningham a fine air of gobility, making the rôle extremely popular; Mr. Frank McClellan makes capital use of his opportunities as Dr. Millbank; Mr. Herbert Lloyd proves an indescribably comic Dicky Storm, and Miss Daisy Meynard is also very humorous as Tina Torkington; Mr. Herbert Morgan reveals the villainous character of the false friend Gilbert Lindsay with many vivid strokes; Mr. Ernest G. Batley makes a thoroughly acceptable Norman Marsh. Miss Doris Whyte being a charming character as Elsie Cunningham; and Miss Olive Warne as Maud Villiers is very effective.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*The Outcast of the Family* is presented here successfully by Mrs. F. Wybert Clive's company. Mr. Cecil A. Olgar ably sustains the rôle of the despitefully-used hero Harry Thorne; Mr. Miles Platting plays the part of the Baronet, Sir Henry, with care and dignity; Mr. C. Hicolen fully realises the treacherous character of the nephew, Richard Martin; Miss Florence M. Daly gives a true touch of pathos to the rôle of the sorely-tried wife, Ruth; Miss Ethel Tooney supplies a clever infusion of love and hate as the jealous rival, Grace Redburn; and the humours of Joe Bushell and Nancy Bray are carried out to the letter by Mr. J. Laurie Clifton and Miss Vera Neville.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. J. Robertson.—Miss Edith St. Clare is giving patrons here a pleasant course of pantomime, *Aladdin* to wit, and which is heartily received. Miss St. Clare's personification of the hero is, despite her recent bout with pneumonia, very bright and animated; Mr. Ernie Myers gives a highly farcical impersonation of the magician, Abanazar; Miss Lily Lonsdale is pretty and gifted as the Princess; Mr. Fred W. Graham is a lively and droll Widow; Mr. Frank A. Wood makes a fine Emperor; Mr. Geo. Parry makes a mirthful part of Wot-iz-it; the Bros. Brooks are another source of merriment as Hu-go and Hi-li; and the Sisters Brand as the second lovers show ability and grace. The scenery and dresses are good, and the Krakes and the Canton Girls excel among the specialities.

PALACE THEATRE, BORDESLEY.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—This now very successful home of drama is playing *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*, with Messrs. Paumier and Howard's company. Miss Annie Saker displays both charm and power in her acting of the Princess Monica; the author, Mr. Walter Howard, acts as Prince Olaf in an heroic and romantic style, evoking volumes of cheers; Mr. Ivan Cleveland looks and acts the evil rôle of Prince Hildred with perfect similitude; Mr. Graeme Campbell deals with the difficult part of Prince Michael in a signally successful style; Miss Ivy Millais acts with tender expression as Camiola; Mr. Reginald Payne and Miss Elsie Walton afford excellent humorous relief as the lovers, Karl and Viola; and Messrs. Francis Hawley, Kendall Chalmers, and Reginald Stephens assist most appreciably in the success.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — EDEN THEATRE. — Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. Huntley.—Messrs. Fred J. Little and Fred Darcy's pantomime *Dick Whittington* opened to a large house on Monday. Mr. J. Templar Ellis delighted the audience with his drollery as Alderman Fitzwarren; Mr. James Kurry brought out the fun of Idle Jack effectively; and as Sarah Mr. Syd Crossley scored a success; Messrs. Herbert and Rennie (Toby Fore) and (Bob Alt) were good their dancing deserving much praise; Mr. Jas Stratton worked hard as the Cat; Miss Beatrice Yarley was a worthy exponent of the title rôle and Miss Ida Brophy won admiration as Alice Miss Vera Dudley was a fascinating Captain Ralph Mainbrace, and the Princess Zorilda of Miss Beatrice Moore was charming, her singing gaining much approval. The Enrico Martialo Trio presented a clever performance, and the chorus was strong.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Miss Lole Esmond's company has possession here this week. The *pièce de résistance* submitted in the early part of the week was a version of *The Sorrows of Satan*, with Mr. Edward Neville as Prince Lucio, and Miss Rosie Neville playing with considerable skill the part of Lady Sybil Elton. During the latter part of the week *Nana* was the principal attraction. The curtain-raiser each night has been *The Green-Eyed Monster*.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Sergenson; Responsible Tenant and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Hunter.—Mr. Fred Granville's company is playing *The Babes in the Wood* twice nightly here this week and the fun runs fast and furious. Specialities are introduced by Miss Cissie Paris, a capital vocalist; Miss Marie Elsie, a quaint comedienne; the Kimberley Boys, comedians and knockabouts; Boden and Wilson, clever juveniles; Mr. Alf Brookes "ye funny dame"; Baby Boden, a clever child actress; and the Six Emerald Gems.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Geo. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Walker.—An unusually good programme is provided here this week. Albert Bellman and Lottie Moone meet with the most cordial reception in their sketch *A Bit of Vaudeville*, and the Daunton Shaw troupe of cyclists are also much appreciated; Walter King the doleful humorist, delights everyone; Fred Shepherd is a clever comedy vocalist; the Florias excel as wire equilibrists; Les Currys are most pleasing musical entertainers; David Poole is a novel ventriloquist; Belle Braham sings with pictures obbligato; whilst Horace and Olga provide a turn with their performing dogs and cats.

BOLTON. — THEATRE ROYAL, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr John Moncur.—A crowded house on Monday extended a hearty welcome to Miss Ada Reeve's company on its first visit to Bolton with *Butterflies*. The doings in the Palace of Puck form an enjoyable entertainment, and to Miss Georgie Corlass as Rhodanthe, the Witch, much of the success of the play is due, her singing, acting, and dancing being charming. The Christopher Podmore of Mr. Blake Adams is a performance of undeniable merit; Mr. W. Louis Bradfield's light comedy is well suited to the part of Widgery Blake (Puck); Mr. Richard Green, as Max Riadore, has a good acting part and several fine songs; and Mr. Arthur Hyde, a pleasant tenor vocalist, plays the young lover, Gilbert. The romantic Mrs. Nora Podmore is played with much humour by Miss Stella St. Audrie, and her daughter, Elsie Podmore, is charmingly acted by Miss Constance Clive. Mr William Spray as Yarker, the chauffeur, is most amusing; Miss Alice Sands makes an attractive Lalage; and Miss Elsie Aston as Myra is fascinating. The parts of Peter (Mr. Roy Sydney), "the young man without a penny," Salome (Miss Cissy Gilbert), and Paul (Mr. Alfred Selby) are also well filled. The play is beautifully staged and costumed. In Act 3 the classical dance entitled "La Naissance du Papillon" is charmingly executed by Miss Phyllis Monkman. The orchestra is under the direction of Mr. J. A. Robertson, the composer.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—A good variety company here is headed by Miss Helen Roberts, who appears in the Salome dance and Mendelssohn's "Spring Song" dances. Hardie Palm, comedian; Janette Hall, lady baritone vocalist; Tom Gott, Yorkshire comedian; Wills and Mackenzie, operatic vocalists; the Gladenbacks, in their acrobatic speciality act; Arthur Ferris and Ethel May, in the musical comedy sketch *Two's Company—Three's——?* Tony Iveson, comedian at the piano; Ted Waite, the spasmodic comedian; the Colonials, in their novel musical scena *Unexpected Guests*; and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope are included in the programme.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. R. Harrison.—The St. Joseph's Amateur Operatic Society are giving a week's performance of the operas *Maritana* and *The Bohemian Girl* in aid of local charities.

BOURNEMOUTH. — THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, David Allen and Sons; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Hubert Dunbar.—Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Benson and their company are drawing crowded houses as is usual with them when visiting this town. During the week the following plays were given:—*The Taming of the Shrew*, *Henry the Fifth*, *Macbeth*, *The School for Scandal*, *Julius Cæsar*, and *Richard the Second*.

BRADFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—*Jack and Jill* continues to attract big audiences, and going with a swing the pantomime guarantees substantial support for a long time. The lovely scenery and dainty costumes elicit frequent marks of admiration, and the efforts of the principals of the clever company are productive of continuous applause and laughter.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Councillor Francis Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—*Red Riding Hood's* career here is a bright and merry one, and large audiences nightly applaud the feast of brilliancy and colour in the stage effects and roar with laughter at the efforts of the comedians, who are unfailing fun-producers.

THE EMPIRE.—Moss Empires, Limited; Resident Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—George Gray and his big company are here this week on a return visit with the popular sketch *The Fighting Parson*. Mr. Gray is, as usual, capitally supported in his telling impersonation of the muscular Christian, and the incidents in the animated sketch are depicted with rare spirit. Nellie Wallace, the rare exponent of good and genuine broad comedy, is also here again, eliciting much laughter; Victor Travers submits good eccentric comedy successfully, and another comedian of parts is Charles Vincent. The coloured Meisters are a male quartet of much excellence vocally; the Mayvilles are very diverting with their clever illusion of Lilliputian actors; *Married All of a Sudden* is a very merry comedy-sketch submitted by the lively Bright and Claire Trio; and in another sketch, viz., *Fun in a Barber's Shop*, Brix and Annie are unique and very entertaining. There are some striking and most interesting pictures of the terrible Messina Earthquake shown by the Bioscope.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Harrison.—Jake Friedman and his big company reappeared here on Monday in the bright and diverting Dutch operetta *Happy Holland*. As Jakey Oodl

capital turn; Helen Charles, entertainer at the piano, provides a pleasing and much appreciated society turn; Fregoli and Deep score as contortionists, &c.; Beale and Broadway are successful in harmony singing and dancing; Nellie Navette, comedienne, sings and dances in excellent style; Zarmo, comic juggler, amuses with his eccentricities; Nellie Hewitt and Elsie May do a good musical and Indian club act; Ida Lorimer is a pleasing Scotch comedienne and dancer; the Knick-Knacks do well as versatile entertainers and eccentric dancers; Will Brockton, vocal comedian, is successful; and Ken Jones, comedian, obtains applause. Interesting animated pictures conclude the entertainment.

COLSTON HALL.—The "Joseph" Poole myriorama is still here, and doing good business. The variety show is strong this week, including the Four Eugenes, in their aerial act; the Brooklyn Comedy Four; and many other artists of note.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—Matthew H. Glenville and Fred Osmond's funny pantomime *Aladdin* was enthusiastically received on Monday by a packed house. The cast is well balanced, and several comical quartettes were much enjoyed. Miss Hettie Zillwood is a smart hero as Aladdin, and she gets much applause for her fine singing of "I don't care if there's a girl there," "Have you seen my Johnny in his uniform?" and "Afraid to come home in the dark." Miss Maggie Hobart as the Princess also pleasingly sings "Little silver moonbeam" and "Some day when dreams come true." Widow Twankey is well presented by Mr. Arthur E. Behan; Mr. Freddie Edwards is a good Wishee Washee; Mr. Mathew H. Glenville (Emperor) and Mr. Fred Osmond (Vizier) are comical; Abanazar is well presented by Mr. Fowler Thatcher; the Brothers Lavelle as Pee-Lah and Kopp-Ah are amusing; Pekoe and Chee-Kee are well presented by Misses Cissy and Kittie Behan; Miss Lou Charlesworth sings well as Electral. In adition to the charming singing of Miss Hettie Zillwood and Miss Maggie Hobart, the Ella Willmer Troupe of dancers give a smart performance; the Brothers Lavelle's speciality shows some very clever acrobatic work; the Three Behans in their quick-change comedy act were much aplauded; the Gando (Male) Sextette sing well. The music, composed by, and under the baton of, Mr. E. Graham Dunstan, is catchy and very pleasing. The dresses and scenery are beautiful. The choruses are well done.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—The pantomime *Aladdin* is here this week, presented by Chas. Constant's company. Mr. Victor Stevens is the producer. Miss Lilly Blythe is the Aladdin, and pleases with her charming acting, and Miss Dorothy Dempsey is good as the Princess. Miss Louie Danby makes an excellent Pekoe, and Maggie Bowman as Chee Kee is pleasing. Much humour is shown by Mr. Tom J. Morton as Abanazar, and Mr. Martin D. Pitts sings splendidly as the Emperor. Mr. V. Stevens is distinctly funny as Widow Twankey, and Mr. Alf. Summers is a most lively Cat. The excellent specialities are supplied by Bowman and Morton, Stuart and Stuart, the Three Brendas, the Panama Sextette, and Miss Maude Murray in her beautiful electrical aerial dances, which meet with warm approbation. The mounting is excellent.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—Warm applause is accorded here to Frank L. Gregory's troupe of seven hoop-rollers and jugglers for their novelty and smartness, and Wright and Lawson provide a clever contortionist knockabout turn. Bert Terrell, Dutch comedian, wins appreciation, and Colonel Smith and Miss Julie Wesson are clever exponents of marksmanship without dangerous tricks. Fred Bamford, newsboy whistler, is good, and Devon and Earl are smart simultaneous dancers. Miss Ghita Corri, dramatic soprano, in "Character Types," is most cordially received; and a Little Toy—a glorious dream—is given by the Empire Theatrescope.

PALACE THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—Minerva, handcuff queen, is mystifying the audiences here with her sensational water-barrel escape, which is an exceedingly clever trick, and her release from a strait-jacket in a very short time. The Warsaw Brothers figure in an excellent musical burlesque on Gounod's *Faust*; and the Hyde and Cody Trio are a funny turn, with clever acrobatic feats. Olena and Carbeth contribute several excellent juggling tricks; and Mack Olfive, assisted by Miss Daisy Baldry, is much applauded for a whistling scene. Adah Payne proves herself an accomplished vocalist, and Eileen Douglas is a dainty musical comedy girl. Sable Fern, comedienne, is greatly appreciated for "Between the Lines," and Nick Carter and the Jewel Robbery are shown by Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

BURSLEM.—HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. R. Colin; Manager, Mr. Matt Hall.—The capital picturee here this week are much enjoyed. The artists appearing are Charles Howarth, a clever quick-change scena artist; Roland Oliver, who is successful in song and mimicry; and Ali Vera, an Arabian illusionist and balancer, assisted by Mlle. Jeanetta.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett and Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. de Hague Body.—The attraction here this week is Mr. Arthur Carlton's pantomime *Puss in Boots*. Mlle. Lucretia, who is a local favourite, again achieves success as Colin, and sings some popular songs in good style; Miss Evelyn Dess, who dances well, is a pleasing Princess Iris; and Miss Louie Love sings delightfully as Felina, the fairy; Miss Nancy Renshaw is successful as Pompey, and Miss Josephine does well as Phyllis; Mr. E. D. Nicholls keeps the audience highly amused by his impersonation of the Baron; Mr. Fred Lyndo as the King, and Mr. Michael Madden as the Queen cause no end of fun; Carl and Carr as Rufus and Uriah, and Mr. Jack Osmond as the donkey, are also responsible for a great deal of laughter; Mr. Byden Currie is extremely good as the Cat, and also introduces a clever performing dog; Mr. Sam Lockridge acts and sings well as the Ogre.

BURY (Lancs).—ROYAL.—Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—The first week of pantomime here is proving decidedly popular, and *Dick Whittington*, as presented by Messrs. Dottridge and Longden, meets with well-merited approval. Miss Florrie Gallimore, an old favourite with local audiences, plays the title-rôle with her usual skill and finish. Her rendering of "My Gal's a Yorkshire Girl," brings the house down. Another performance which stands out prominently is that of Miss Josie Delaine, who makes a delightful Alice, her dancing being worthy of special mention; Miss Rose Tilley and Miss Dolly Victor lend valuable aid as Viscount Piccadilly and Molly respectively; Miss Rose Alderman gives evidence of vocal ability; Mr. H. O. Wills appears to excellent advantage as Idle Jack, his quaint humour keeping the audience in continuous laughter; Mr. Jack McKenzie is a typical Dame as Sarah the Cook; Mr. Jimmy Wood as Fitzwarren, Mr. Alf. Clegg (the Cat), and Mr. Leo King as King Rat are all successful. The specialities of the Herald Comedy Four are a pleasing diversion. The pantomime is elaborately staged.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; General Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—The Five Whiteleys, versatile and clever people, head the bill, and meet with a flattering reception; a display of juggling is submitted by the Wallye; Florence Kay is successful as a contralto vocalist; a Scotch scena by Lambeth and Robertson is an enjoyable turn; Harry Taylor, Lancashire comedian; Maxwell and Francis, comedy couple; the Great Vincent, tumbler; and Arthur Holland, character vocalist, contribute enjoyable items.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Wilson.—Billy Williams, billed as the star, is unable to appear, owing to indisposition, and La Vails, expert gymnasts, &c., are acceptable substitutes, giving a clever and original performance. A skilful turn is that of Dalton and Euston, black and white comedians and dancers; Dorien and Daritz present an auto-mechanical novelty act, entitled *The Erratic Hotel*, which is well received. Other good turns include Burn and Burnard, vocalists; the Wyffs, comedy duo; Ben Silvo, gymnast; Victoria Troupe of vocalists and musicians; and J. F. Franklin, comedian. The Earthquake and Ruins of Messina is an interesting film.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—General-Manager, Mr. Auguste A. Peuleve.—Mr. Arthur Carlton's pantomime *Cinderella* has been a great success here. Mr. Keane Harker (Pimple), Mr. H. A. Griffiths (the Baron), and Messrs. Harley and Melton as the Broker's Men sustain the fun ably; Mr. Frank Lennard (Malignant) displays a good basso; Cinderella's sisters are humorously played by Miss Anna Beaumont and Miss Fanny Wallace; Miss Ella Willmer makes a winsome heroine, her dancing being truly artistic; Miss Victoria Carmen sings and acts well as Prince Charming; a smart Dandini is found in Miss Ida Dorrie; and the Fairy Godmother is successfully represented by Miss Ray Fairfax.

CAMBRIDGE.—NEW THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—Miss May Palfrey as Mrs. Dot made a delightful impression here on Monday, and played the part charmingly; Gerald Halstane gave Mr. Hugh C. Buckler many openings, of which he took full advantage; Freddie Perkins was capitally played by Mr. Basil Hallam, who made a hit in the part; Miss Evelyn Kerry (Nellie Sellenger) rendered the part in an easy and natural manner; Mr. F. Kinsey Peile made an amusing character of James Blenkinsop; Lady Sellinger was well portrayed by Miss Emily Patterson. Mr. McIntyre Wicksteed, Mr. R. Toussaint, Mr. A. E. Ackerman, Mr. T. Richards, and Mr. C. Morgan also filled minor rôles with every satisfaction.

CARDIFF.—NEW THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Robert Redford.—Next week will see the final performance of the successful *Cinderella* pantomime.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—At the head of a strong bill this week are Zeynard's wonderful lilliputians in equestrian and speciality acts. These little people certainly contribute an interesting and entertaining performance and enact some amazing feats for their size. An exceptionally clever illusionist is John Warren, whose mystifying scena *The Magic Carpet* astounds everyone, while his miscellaneous tricks are equally as bewildering; quite welcome in a return visit is Carrie Laurie's "Kindergarten"; Walter Bellonini, the renowned juggler, is well known to Cardiff audiences for his remarkable skill; Larry Lewis is another favourite; Virto and Venita present a talented and refined musical act; and the Trentanovi Sisters gained loud applause for their transformation gymnastic act. Violet Stockville comedienne; and the Bioscope are also on the programme.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Under the management of Mr. Rollo Balmain.—A welcome return visit is made this week of the romantic play *Robin Hood*, presented by Mr. Lewis Waller's principal company. Mr. Ethelbert Edwards fills the title-rôle with much vigour, and makes a commanding impersonation; Miss Cahill as Lady Marion de Vaux presents a charming and thoroughly convincing delineation; the hearty Little John is enacted with much skill by Mr. F. Clive Ross, while clever representations are most correctly filled by Mr. Bruce Winston (Friar Tuck), Mr. J. N. Briant (King Richard), Mr. H. Elliott Ball (Prince John), Mr. Ernest Gray (Fitz Alwynne), and Mr. Frank Litchfield (Hugo de Longespee). As Adela Miss Laurie Flockton is both captivating and vivacious; Miss Roberta Pulleyse acts Queen Eleanor with considerable power. Mention should also be made of Mr. Laurence Tressier's Will Scarlet.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton.—*Claud Duval*, a sketch presented by Fred Ginnett and Wal Pink's company, is the chief attraction at the Palace this week. The title-rôle is admirably filled by Mr. Arthur Max. Miss Ray Haydon has a prominent part, and Mr. Harry Calver is well to the fore. Among other popular turns there is Venturini, a clever illusionist; Ted Karno and company appear in a funny knockabout sketch, entitled *Dinner-hour*; Captain Devereux proves a great draw with his cleverly-trained dogs; and Edith Courtney, vocalist; Dolly, Agnes, and Maud, the factory nightingales; and Cherry Lass, comedienne and dancer, are also in the bill.

CARLISLE.—H. M. THEATRE.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart McKim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—Mr. Milton Bode's comic pantomime *The Forty Thieves*, under the direction of Messrs. Fred J. Little and Fred D'Arcy, is a big attraction this week. The company is strong in comedians, the scenery and dresses bright and attractive, and the whole performance goes with a merry swing from start to finish. That excellent Scotch comedian Mr. Wal Croft is the Ali Baba, and with funny patter, quaint songs, and comic business he keeps the house in roars of laughter; a capital Dame is Mr. Reg Ewen, full of vivacity and always handy; Mr. Ted Wootten sings some excellent songs with fine effect; and Messrs. Sandy and Carl are responsible for a lot of clever and laughable business in knockabout parts; the donkey Bossi is well done by Mr. Harry Alvey, who works hard and with much success; Miss Mary Poulton makes a dashing principal boy, singing and dancing to the evident satisfaction of her audience; as principal girl Mlle. Carita is a strong favourite, her principal number, "A tiny seed of love," being enthusiastically encored; Miss Isa Bell as the Captain of the Forty Thieves makes the very most of her opportunities; in the Palace scene the Five X-Rays, described as the mad athletes, score an undoubted hit; the Gavallotti Bros. contribute a clever musical act; and the Esmeralda Girls give a nice display of dancing. Mr. George D. Fox conducted the orchestra with spirited effect, and had a large chorus well in hand. Mr. Charles Boult is the courteous general-manager of the company.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Morgan.—A programme full of interesting variety is drawing big houses this week. Dave Samuels, the Hebrew comedian, occupies pride of place, and creates enthusiasm over his funny patter and parodies; Palles and Cussick, who bottom the bill, also give a most popular performance, their sketch, *The Funny Side of Life*, being brimful of humour; Howard and Collinson in *The Porter and the Parcel* repeat their big success; the Crown Trio sing good-class music with dramatic effect; Ellis and Ellis as song and dance artists again give proof of their ability; and the Brothers Idento's smart juggling act meets with warm approval; Miss Sybil Montague is a charming vocalist with a voice and style which commanded instant recognition; and some fine pictures by the Pepiscope complete an enjoyable entertainment.

CASTLEFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Cr. Hy. Masterman, J.P.—A great attraction is afforded the local playgoers here this week in a first visit of Mr. Allan Wilkie and company, who opened to a large and appreciative audience on Monday with the Shakespearean play *Richard III.* Mr. Wilkie as Richard gives a finely vigorous and martial performance, and the simulation of disturbed sleep in the ghost scene is excellently done; Miss Hunter Watts plays with much effect as the distraught Elizabeth, and Miss Haidée Gunn gives a most pleasing performance of Lady Ann, her tones being full of feeling. We must also favourably comment on the well contrasted delineations of the Princes, played by Miss E. Wood and Miss Ethel Smith; Mr. Alexander Marsh does some careful work as Clarence; Mr. John Paley gives a finished performance of Buckingham; and the Richmond of Mr. Frank Royde has some excellent qualities. The capital portrayals of Messrs. Sinclair Neil and Edwin Beverley, and Miss Agnes Gagan as Stanley, Catesby, and the Duchess of York respectively, stand out conspicuously among a cast of much efficiency. The company is also presenting *Hamlet*, *The Sleigh Bells*, *David Garrick*, *The Merchant of Venice*, and *The Two Orphans of Paris*.

QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Chas. Beauland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will H. Emerson.—Topping the bill here is John Grun Marx, who gives a fine exhibition of physical strength; Harry Tomlin, a smart singing vocalist, is a great favourite; Morander and Darius are smart gymnasts and clever violinists; Phillips and Terry in a comedy duologue, *Taming the Lion*, are heartily applauded; the Maddison Bros., burlesque boxers, cause much laughter; Biff Hall, as the melancholy Hebrew, is fully appreciated; Chas. Kaye, described as tall, typical, and topical, is responsible for a couple of interesting songs; and Marie Rae displays energy as a vocalist. Some interesting up-to-date films are contributed by the Loyal Dominion Co.

CHATHAM.—BARNARD'S PALACE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—Here we have the Six Brothers Luck's company in the melodramatic absurdity *The Hermit*, which runs as briskly as ever; Arthur Pier scores in *Dreams*; Leo Carle is freely applauded for his smartly-worked one-man drama *The Betrayed Professor*; the Langfords are a trio who dance together with much precision; Arthur Woodville pleases with "My home's wherever you are," and dances neatly; Lacey's Erascope has a screaming film, It is the House Decorator; while Pattie Bella, comedienne, and Mario, juggler and equilibrist, complete the company.

CHELTENHAM.—OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—The first performance out of London of *Idols* was given here on Monday, and provincial playgoers are again indebted to the Hutchison management for a most artistic replica of a famous London production. The mounting and stage-management are excellent, particularly in the great scene in the Assize Court. In this scene Miss Edith Goodall as Irene Merriam does her most effective work, her acting being finely impassioned. Mr. A. B. Imeson gives a clever realisation of the part of Gerald Merriam; Mr. Herbert Ford in the rôle of Hugh Coleman performs a difficult task in praiseworthy manner; the rôle of the Jewess, Minna Hart, is effectively sustained by Miss Moyra Creegan; Mr. Frank Powell's study of Jacob Hart, the Jew financier, is artistic and convincing; Mr. Alfred Ibberson's portrayal of the drunken Saunders is excellent; Mr. A. E. Grahame cleverly impersonates the counsel for the defence, the opposing counsel being ably represented by Mr. Harvey Braban; Mr. F. Harrison as the doctor and Mr. George Child as the policeman are natural; and Mr. George Conroy is capital as the learned judge. Miss Adelaine Lester as Anna Josephs and Miss Kathleen Maude and Mr. Gilbert Clark as the Harroways do well.

VICTORIA ROOMS.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. B. Shenton.—Mr. Ernest Sheldon's Britannia Animated Pictures are being shown here this week, supported by the Sisters Milton (vocalists) and Claude Ludo (coster comedian and effleur).

CHESTER.—ROYALTY THEATRE.—On Monday the ever-successful *Davy Garrick* was preceded, for the first time in Chester, by an excellent one-act comedy, entitled *Proteus in Petticoats*, from the pen of Frank Ernest Potter. This piece was noteworthy for the fact that the leading rôle was taken by Miss Viola Compton, who as the Mlle. Diane de Dio (of the Theatre at St. Cloud) of this charming playlet, proved herself possessed of that grace, power, and versatility which the impersonation of several distinct parts necessitates, and the portrayal of which was a test Miss Compton successfully passed. The scene is laid in the garden of the Chateau de Foisseul, at St. Cloud, near Paris, and the period that of Louis XV. A song composed by Miss Nathalie Davenport, and a dance arranged by Miss Christine Churte, provided an opportunity for Miss Compton to display her abilities in this respect, for which she was accorded the well-merited applause of the audience. Miss Compton undoubtedly inherits, in no small degree, that histrionic power for which the Compton family, past and present, is famous. Miss Compton was well supported by Miss Marie Hassell as the Duchesse de Foisseul, and Miss Jess Morton as the maid, Marie. Messrs. Wallace Johnston and Philip Gordon, in their respective characters of the Duc de Foisseul and Monsieur Marigny (director of the Comédie Française) were capital.

CHORLEY (Lancs).—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Santé.—*For Love and the King* is being presented by Mr. C. Watson Mill's company. Magnificent costumes and scenery considerably enhance the production, which is interpreted by a strong cast, including Mr. C. Watson Mill, in an admirable impersonation of Jarval, an English soldier of fortune. Mr. Villiers Stanley is decidedly good as Prince Uros Dragomir; Mr. Frank Lyndon depicts King Kara Dragomir with effect; Mr. Geoffrey Chate as Duke Fernand Dragomir and Mr. John Burton as Michael Obernovic are also good. Mr. Jim K. Woods rendering Carl Oppenheim in competent style. Miss Rosaline Tate wins entire approbation as the Princess of Athene, Miss Joan Ellis convincingly undertaking Natila; Edith Meredith is in the capable hands of Miss Frances Tierney; while Miss Laura Munro and Miss Lily Winter are well suited as Princess Milania and Grazia Obernovic respectively.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Chas. Macdona; Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—Farcical comedy is the order here this week, viz., Mr. Eugene C. Stafford's company in *The Private Secretary*. Mr. W. Hargreaves in that most unique of characters Mr. Cattermole gave a droll impersonation of the Anglo-Indian. Mr. Donald Price-Evans contributed a humorous portrayal of the Rev. Robt. Spalding; Mr. Herbert Garthorne and Mr. Alex Begbie performed the parts of Douglas Cattermole and Harry Marsland in praiseworthy fashion; and Edith and Eva were charmingly presented by Miss Nan Macrae and Miss Janet Warden respectively. *The Wild Man from Borneo* preceded.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Colchester Hippodrome Company; Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—Pictures form the great bulk of this week's bill. The programme is supported by James Basnett, a singer of happily-chosen songs, and Violet Fernie, comedienne.

CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Mr. Frank M. Thorne's company, with *The Woman Who Pays*, had a excellent reception here on Monday. Mr. Phil Harper was a highly creditable Sid Armstrong; and as Roger Marchant Mr. J. Davidson was very good. Mr. Beresford Innes was successful as Cyrus Treadgold; and as Luke Morland Mr. Dunlop Stewart gave entire satisfaction. Miss Maud Russell submitted an excellent impersonation of the part of Madge Armstrong; Miss Kate Blair was pleasing as Nell Moriand; and Miss Florence Thorne made an able Tibatha. The comedy element was well sustained by Mr. Frank M. Thorne as Micky Maloney, and Miss Anena Walton as Polly Stokes. The remaining characters were well filled.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. R. J. Bell.—Moody-Manners' company opened a fortnight's engagement here on Monday in *The Meistersingers*. It was the first time this opera was performed here, and the house was filled to overflowing. The opera was very much enjoyed and the principals were recalled at the close of each act. Mr. Philip Brozel as Walter von Stolzing was extremely successful. The trial song and prize song were admirably delivered, and throughout the opera his voice retained its sweetness and strength. No less worthy was the Beckmesser of Mr. William Dever, who showed a nice sense of humour and sang in cultivated style. Mr. Lewys James as Hans Sachs acquitted himself creditably, his voice being quite equal to all demands made upon it; Yeit Pogner was effectively undertaken by Mr. Charles Magrath, whose rich voice and dramatic acting were equally admired; Mr. F. Davis filled the part of David with conscientious care. Miss Kate Anderson as Eva sang with purity of tone and much expression. She was a most capable exponent of the part. The same remark applies to Miss Yoni Seiter, who supplied a spirited and attractive performance of Magdalene. The minor parts were well filled. The chorus did its work extremely well; the staging was effective and striking. The orchestra, under the baton of Herr Richard Eckhold, achieved great things. *La Traviata*, *Faust*, *Eugene Onegin*, *Il Trovatore*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, and *Pagliacci* are in the répertoire.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Thos. F. O'Brien.—The Great Roland, illusionist, gives a very clever performance; the Lashmars give diverting burlesques of melodrama and grand opera; Miss Agnese and Arthur Lynch, in American picture songs, are very entertaining; Nellie Chandos is a dainty comedienne, whose songs and dances please; the Three Orros give a clever act on silver chains; the Three Comedy Chanters, in humorous and harmonious interludes, contribute an enjoyable musical turn; Eldra and his trained dog Prince give a clever equilibristic turn; Blake and Amber, frivolity artists, are at home in an acrobatic act; and the Palascope presents some excellent pictures.

COVENTRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—Good houses nightly are always guaranteed when Mr. J. W. Turner's opera company pay a visit. *Martha* was given on Monday, Mr. Turner making a decided hit of Lionel; Mr. Tom Griffiths successfully renders Plunkett; and Mr. George Ridding suits the part of Sir Tristram admirably. Miss Sarah Williams undertakes the character of Lady Harriett admirably; Miss Jessie Dennis being responsible for Nancy. During the week the following pieces were played:—*Faust*, Tuesday; *Daughter of the Regiment*, Wednesday; *Lily of Killarney*, *Il Trovatore*, and *Maritana*, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday respectively.

HIPPODROME THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. S. T. Newsome; Resident-Director, Mr. J. E. Wright.—Miss Dolly Elsworthy and her company head the bill this week with *Sweet Mistress Dorothy*. Taking the title-rôle herself, Miss Elsworthy is ably assisted by Messrs. L. Mannering, E. Percy, C. Zarnes, and A. Wills; and Miss M. Grace. The piece is admirably staged and obtains great applause. Lily Burnand, a favourite with Coventry audiences, appears in her latest successes, viz., "The Honeymooning Widow," "Cheek," and "The Flying Machine"; roars of laughter greet Leslie, Lyn, and Willie, three funny fellows, who give a very good musical entertainment; the Great Albas perform some wonderful feats on the wire; the Bros. Lawrence are popular vocalists and dancers; the Tossing Austins are exceedingly clever dancers and jugglers; and Percy Farrimond and Ernie Garner add to the success of the entertainment.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. K. Draco.—The chief turn this week is a musical scena, entitled *A Japanese Love Story*, presented by Marie Santoi and company, who give a pleasing performance; Jack and Evelyn appear in a skit *Come into the Office*, their singing, dancing, and jokes being very smart; Culpitt is a skilful conjurer and facial artist; Harry Maxam and Harry Hayton are clever comedians; Molly O'Connor is a charming comedienne; the Raglans give a pleasing comedy ball-manipulating act; and the Bioscope pictures conclude.

CRADLEY HEATH.—EMPIRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jno. H. Morton.—Lena Stanton and Harry Joseph's company is presenting the pantomime *Aladdin* for a week. Miss Kitty Avey makes a charming Princess Badroulbadour; Miss Janet Lawton in the title-rôle is a capital principal boy; Mr. Will Terry as Abanazar gives a first-class show; Mr. Geo. Melville is entrusted with the part of the Emperor, and right well does he acquit himself; Mr. Harry Harcourt is certainly a "merry" widow; Mr. W. Shepherd and Mr. F. Shepherd as What O and What Hi are comedians of the first rank; Mr. Fred Southwell as the Vizier fully justifies his selection for the part; Miss Rene Willoughby and Miss Nellie Nava are realistic Fairies; and Miss Minnie Millwarde deserves mention for her Slavee Slo. The other characters are equally well sustained.

CREWE.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alfred Cuthbert.—Mr. C. Watson Mill's company, in *A Warning to Women*, is here. Miss Blanche St. Albans plays the difficult rôle of Moira Kennion cleverly; Miss Ellen Beverley is successful as Molly O'Moore; Miss Edith Rutland is an effective Myles O'Moore; and Miss Winifred Rutland a capable Sheila Kennion. Mr. Harry C. Robinson as Dr. Marcus Dread makes a strong impression; Mr. William Vane admirably sustains the character of Shaun, a wandering minstrel; Mr. Henry Rutland is a masterful Squire Kennion; Mr. Chas. O'Connor a good Fergus M'Naughton; Mr. Leicester Jackson a highly amusing Lord Eversleigh; and Mr. W. Palliser Acock as the Frenchman, Ferdinand de Joulee, is excellent.

CROYDON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Roland Daniel; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Ernest Archer.—The D'Oyly Carte Opera Company is here this week in *The Gondoliers*, *Patience*, *Mikado*, *Iolanthe*, *Yeomen of the Guard*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, and *After All*. In the first-named on Monday Mr. Charles R. Walenn was very successful in the rôle of the Duke of Plaza-Toro; Mr. Sydney Granville was seen and heard to advantage as Luiz; Mr. Fred Billington was exhilarating as Don Alhambra de Bolero; Mr. Strafford Moss made a favourable impression as Marco Palmieri; Mr. Leicester Tunks was in excellent voice as Giuseppe Palmieri; Mr. Fred Drawater made a first-rate Antonio; and Messrs. Hugh Blackmore, Allen Morris, and H. Blake Johnston rendered useful service as Francesco, Giorgio, and Annibale. Miss Ethel Morrison made an aristocratic Duchess of Plaza-Toro; Miss Mabel Graham was a charming Casilda; Miss Clara Dow sang sweetly and did full justice to the rôle of Gianetta; Miss Beatrice Meredith made a pleasing appearance as Teesa, and her songs were redemanded; Miss Godwynn Loraine was a fascinating Vittoria; Miss Bertha Lewis gave her lines with expression as Inez; and Misses Lillias Engholm and Tessa Sneison looked pretty as Giulia and Flametta. The chorus and dresses are satisfactory.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—Large numbers are attending here this week to see the American Bioscope pictures. The Cinephone is introduced, and is a novel and welcome feature. The illustrated songs are also enjoyable, the vocalists being Miss Minnie Newman and Mr. James Hope.

EMPIRE PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Walter Gibbons and Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Eustace Jay.—Mr. Dan Thomas is presenting his pantomime *Dick Whittington* here this week. Miss Daisy Yates makes a fascinating Dick; Miss Constance Moire is a great favourite as Alice; Miss Lily Parker is a lively Dolly Dimple; Miss Ethel Robertson is a cheery Hon. Bertie; Miss Gracie Woodleigh is admirable as the Princess; and Mlle. Lelaine is well placed as the Fairy. Mr. Dan Thomas is a host in himself, and never fails to amuse as Betsy; Mr. H. D. Lyndon makes a whimsical Alderman Fitzwarren; Mr. J. Harris is droll as Idle Jack; Mr. M. H. Maddison scores as Captain Kettle; Mr. R. Morris makes capital out of the rôle of Bill Blower; Mr. Arthur Wade deserves a word as the Emperor of Morocco; Mr. Pete Almonte's Cat would be hard to improve upon; Master W. Franklin is commendable as King Rat; and Mr. Harry Carter is adequate as Chopper.

HORNIMAN'S HALL.—Mr. Wyllie McCoy, the talented elocutionist, gave a series of humorous, dramatic, and pathetic recitals here on Tuesday. Frank Desprez's exquisite Texas story, "Lasca," was very finely rendered; Tennyson's "The Revenge," Longfellow's "Robert of Sicily," and Bungay's "Creeds of the Bells" were given with all the skill and tact of an accomplished artist. Mr. McCoy's renderings of "The Lovers' Quarrel," "The Vagabonds," "Jackdaw of Rheims," "Bogies," and "Dogberry's Instructions to the Watch" brought his excellent histrionic abilities into full play.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Bell; Mr. J. F. Elliston's pantomime *Humpty Dumpty* is playing to full houses. It is beautifully staged, and the company are excellent. Mr. J. Lonnen Meadows as dame and Miss Barbara Babington as principal boy both make decided hits; Mr. Willie Black as King Solemn is very droll; Mr. George Danvers is good as Humpty Dumpty; Mr. Rex Kempton causes roars of laughter with his songs and funny sayings; the Lecardo Brothers are clever acrobats; Miss Dolly Ross is a great favourite as Prince Spritely; the Quality Quartette are capital glee singers; Miss Rosa Sims as Fays dances in very pleasing style; and Miss Nell Carmichael as Cherry is charming. With a full chorus and orchestra under the direction of Mr. Carlile Vernon the pantomime is sure of a good week.

NEW HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Hersee.—Park's Eton Boys and Girton Girls occupy the premier position on the programme, and their efforts as singers are a success; Seener and Fridkins, Imperial Russian singers and dancers, give a really fine performance; Sibb and Sibb, trapeze artists, gain applause; the Five Vernons, xylophone players, appear to advantage; James Shingleton, the singing collier, is particularly good; and additions to the evening's entertainment are made by Harry Morris, comedian, the Two Errolls, in their comedy tumbling and leaping act, and the Pepiscope pictures.

DARWEN.—PICTURE PALACE AND THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, The Animated Pictorial Enterprises, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. A. Whitehouse.—Miss Moya Garrick receives rounds of applause for her capital rendering of scenes from classical plays; Roy Beavis, magician, mystifies with his clever conjuring; Rene is a smart lady juggler; and Fred Dunstone a most amusing comedian. Excellent pictures are shown.

PUBLIC HALL AND PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Lessees, Messrs. Thomson, Leivers, and Bennett; Manager, Mr. J. B. Thomson; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Kerrigan.—Chiko, equilibrist, is applauded for his clever foot and hand balancing; Bella Leabura is pleasing in her chorus songs; Harry McMerry causes laughter with his comical singing; and James Fish is well received in his concertina playing. The latest singing pictures are introduced.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—The house was crowded on Monday night, when the Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company opened their annual visit with a fine production of *Carmen*. Miss Doris Woodhall gave a finished interpretation of the name-part, and completely charmed her audience; Mr. Edward Davies, who played José, is possessed of a voice of remarkable purity and sweetness; the Escamillo of Mr. Hebden Foster was another feature of the performance, and the famous Toreador song was deservedly applauded; Mr. Frederick Clendon gave an excellent performance of Dancairo; and Mr. William O'Connor extracted all the possible fun from the character of Remendado; while Mr. Alexander Richard was sufficiently manly as Captain Zuniga, whose songs he rendered exceedingly well; Miss Elizabeth Burgess was a captivating Micaela; Miss Annie Walker and Miss Christine Ritz were in every way successful as Frasquita and Mercedes; and the parts of Morales and Lillas Pastia were in the capable hands of Mr. William Rousell and Mr. Albert Felton. The chorus acquitted themselves admirably, and, with the orchestra, reflected the highest credit on Mr. Walter van Noorden. On Tuesday night *Faust* was the attraction. Madame Ina Hill's Marguerite was submitted in faultless fashion, and fairly enslaved the audience; the Faust of Mr. Walter Wheatley was a perfect performance, and did him infinite credit; Mr. Arthur Winckworth as Mephistopheles repeated his acknowledged success in this rôle; Mr. Hebden Foster did remarkably well as Valentine; Miss Christine Ritz was in every way efficient as Siebel; Miss Douglas Wilson was capital as Martha; and Mr. Alex Richard made a satisfactory Wagner. *Il Trovatore* was given on Wednesday, *Tannhäuser* on Thursday, and last night (Friday) was to witness the production of *Lohengrin*, with the first appearance of Signor Tamini. *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Pagliacci* were to be produced at to-day's matinée, and *The Bohemian Girl* at the evening performance.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes.—Occupying first place is Mephisto, who, assisted by Miss Winifred Attondue, presents a series of weird illusions in a manner which stamps him a first-class artist; another capital turn is that of Ajax and George, gymnastic wonders, whose clever and business-like performance leaves nothing to be desired; the Two Clares appear to distinct advantage in a song scena, "The Troubles of a Motor-car"; Harry Vardon causes much amusement with an excellent ventriloquial sketch; Ruby Emmerson, comedienne, maintains a high local reputation; Fred Erick is a quaint comedian, who is soon on the best of terms with his audience; Argo as a farmyard mimic gives a good all-round entertainment. The Bioscope pictures of the Ruins of Messina convey a vivid impression of that terrible incident.

DEVONPORT.—THEATRE METROPOLE.—Manager, Mr. G. S. King.—*Robinson Crusoe* has now entered on his fifth and last week's run, and its popularity has quite equalled any

DOVER.—ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; District-Manager, Mr. George Egbert; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. W. Holford.—Mlle. Oceana, queen of mystery, releases herself from a strait-jacket with remarkable ease, and also introduces her barrel illusion, which excites much interest; a pretty song with a goey chorus, "Keep on rocking me, Charlie," is piquantly rendered by Florence Schuberth; another vocalist who is clever and entertaining is Lizzie Kirk, who sings a couple of good songs; the Lewis Family present a charming marionette show; Harry Harris's imitations are lifelike, and his characterisation of a Hebrew-American amusing; and an excellent balancing act is given by Paul Corrix, assisted by his juggling boy. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and Baby and Diamond Thieves are the films shown on the Bioscope.

DUBLIN.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland.—Crowds have been drawn here this week to witness the second edition of the successful pantomime *Robinson Crusoe*, and the new songs, dances, and local allusions have caught on immensely. Miss Winifred Hare, Miss Elsie Molloy, Miss Kathleen Gray, Miss Gladys White, Mr. J. J. Dallas, Mr. Barney Armstrong, Mr. Walter Barrett, Mr. Harry Lappo, and Mr. Fred Gala, all of whom are popular favourites, are to be highly commended on the genuine success obtained.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—The production of *Jack and Jill* here has been looked forward to with much interest. The pantomime, which has been previously produced in Belfast, is written by Mr. J. Hickory Wood, and the locals by Mr. P. Byrne are quite up to date. The music is bright, tuneful, and catchy, and the scenery and dresses are beautiful in the extreme. Miss Dorothy Ward, a dashing principal boy, and Miss Edith Fink a charming and impressive Jill, her singing being particularly worthy of notice; Messrs. J. A. Warden and George Miller work hard as Baron Bounce and the Widow Cobble, and cause no end of laughter; Miss Stella de Marney is conspicuous in the rôle of Margery. The part of Jack Straw could scarcely be in better hands than those of Mr. Fred Conquest, who is both clever and funny; Mr. George Lashwood gives a fine representation of Prince Opulent, rendering his songs in excellent fashion; Miss May Rawlinson is highly competent as the Fairy Princess; Zoe and the First Witch are played by Misses Kitty Baughton and Gwendoline Francis, who are to be congratulated on their success; and the rôles of the Demon Glum and Mr. Chatter, the Baron's solicitor, are well sustained by Messrs. Harry Trevanion and J. G. McMahon. Tiller's Superba Quartette are a smart lot of dancers, and the chorus and orchestra under the direction of Mr. John Moody render valuable assistance.

EMPIRE — General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—An attractive programme here this week is headed by Rameses, "the Egyptian wonder-worker," whose marvellous performance quite mystifies the audience; as instrumentalists and vocalists the Canworths are both clever and entertaining; Madge Bryce proves herself a comedienne of high order; the Eight of Hearts, American song and dance artists, meet with a flattering reception; Terry and Bentley, refined comedy artists, score a distinct success; Elton Black, humorous Scotch comedian, makes a decided hit; E. J. Sheldon gains appreciative notice; Harry Leybourn, female impersonator, is the recipient of loud applause; and the Empire pictures are the concluding item in an interesting programme.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—At the top of this week's bill is Carrie Wilbur, who, assisted by a capable company, presents an American comedy act, entitled *61, Prospect-street*, which provokes hearty laughter; the Three Fidardys, acrobatic comedians, are awarded a big reception; and Ada Gatley is an accomplished wire-walker and juggler. The vocal comedy contributions of Chant and Chant are much enjoyed, and Amy Russell, soprano, and Harry Meegan, eccentric comedian, achieve success; Denaro Brothers, juvenile equilibrists, earn the hearty plaudits of the audience, and Rose Gower's catchy chorus songs are well appreciated; Leonard Gale is a smart vocal comedian, and the Bioscope depicting Baby's Chum completes an excellent programme.

ROUND ROOM ROTUNDA. — The Irish Animated Picture Company is being patronised by large audiences daily. The company have again provided films of an instructive and entertaining character, which are keenly appreciated. The vocal items rendered by Mr. Patrick O'Shea (tenor), Mr. Ralph Goggin (baritone), and the selections by the Granpierre Orchestra add much to the success of the programme.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The programme here this week includes Harry Whitby, eccentric comedian and dancer; the Stanleys, comedy entertainers; Miss Nell Glynn, coon vocalist and dancer; Harry Desborough, character vocalist; Gunn Cooke, tenor; Miss Queenie Swifte, comedienne and dancer; Glynn and Glynn, duologue artists; and the Cinematograph.

DUDLEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and Mr. J. E. Cardwell, after a brief interval, have another juvenile pantomime here this week, *The Babes in the Wood*. Heading the cast as the Babes are the two little Misses Peggy McDonnell and Cissie Wyse, who are quite juvenile prodigies. Miss Daisy Wood makes a bold and sprightly Robin Hood; Mr. J. Watson as Lucinda Lovejoy displays clever humour; Mr. J. E. Aitken as Sandy Simple causes continuous merriment; Messrs. Graham and Barron as the Ruffians are clever and grotesque knockabouts. A special word of praise must be given to Miss Jennie Hughes, who as Fairy Dewdrop proved herself a singer above the common order; Miss Dolly Dodds as Marion gains further popularity at each visit. The pantomime is remarkable for its spectacular ballets.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, The Midland Entertainment Corporation; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. H. Waters.—An episode of Parisian life, entitled *A Daughter of Pleasure*, is proving a powerful attraction here this week, the characters of Jack Redfern and Elsie de Berthville are in the hands of Mr. J. G. Grahame, jun., and Miss Zerlina Harrington respectively, who act together excellently. Mr. H. Naverny is good as Alphonse. Remarkable feats of strength are easily performed by the Indian Hercules; a clever couple are the Dalgarnos, in their sketch *Caught Napping*; Miss Edie King is a sprightly and attractive comedienne and dancer; Bert Delmar is a smart and original humorist and mimic; songs and dances of a pleasing order are given by Mabelle May, dainty vocalist; and Chas. Cardle completes a capital company of artists.

DUNDEE.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe.—Mr. Frederick Mouillot's principal company in *A Message from Mars* is proving a big attraction here this week. The mounting of the piece is excellent, the cleverly-worked scenic effects adding much to the enjoyment of the play. Mr. Wallace Widdicombe gives an admirable rendering of the difficult part of Horace Parker; Mr. William H. Brougham as the Messenger is very effective; Mr. Norman Clark is responsible for a fine character study of the Tramp; Miss Rose Helene is a delightfully sweet and sympathetic Minnie Templar; Miss Winifred Knightly plays with convincing effect as Miss Parker; Mr. Alfred Drayton is exceptionally good as the Policeman; and other parts were capably enacted by Mr. Robert Grey as Arthur Dicey, Mr. Guy O'Neil as Dr. Chapman, Miss Mary Glanbrane as Mrs. Clarence, and Miss Ethel St. Barbe as Bella.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessees, The United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. S. McIntosh.—Master Edward Garrett (a most precocious youngster) appears with huge success in a racing playlet entitled *An Outside Chance*; an artistic and novel turn is given by Mlle. Eldee, "the girl in the golden frame"; Sterling and Cashen engage successfully in a smart comedy act, their dancing being an outstanding feature; Reszki and Raszki introduce some very funny business in their clever gymnastic act; George Lawrence, an actor-vocalist of unusual ability, takes well; Robert Brown, "Scotland's midget Hercules," performs some remarkable feats of strength; Sharon, the musical tramp, is very entertaining; Nellie Walton, the Lancashire singing mill girl, finds unbounded admiration for her songs; and Professor Glennie's Mannikins in *The Babes in the Wood* provide enjoyable entertainment. The Palascope shows some very fine scenes of the recent earthquake at Messina.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee, Mrs. Lillie Williams; Licensee and Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts; Business Manager, Mr. Frank Percival; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Edwards Evans.—Miss Winifred Chalmers' company is appearing here this week in the stirring drama *A Woman's Revenge*. Miss V. St. Lawrence gives a very fine representation of the part of Mabel Wentworth, Miss Lilian Burns as the heroine plays with dignity and grace, and Mr. Henry L. Osmond as Frank Drummond, the hero, acts with great force and discrimination. An excellent cast includes Miss Mabel Tremere, Mr. Cuthbert Taylor, Mr. B. C. Hacking, Mr. J. C. Carlyle, Mr. Harry Cooke, Mr. Charles Tolcher, Mr. J. C. Lyle, and Mr. Charles O'Connor.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. Lillie Williams; Business-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—Newman's British Empire Picture Co. is drawing large crowds to this comfortable hall this week, an interesting variety of films being exhibited. The Kinders, illustrated songsters, are great favourites; Charles Lestree, comedy juggler, causes much merriment by his witty patter; and Hugh Rogers and Doris are duettists of more than usual merit.

NEWMAN'S PICTURE PALACE.—Mr. Fred Newman's series of films this week forms a capital selection. Additional interest is given to the entertainment by a cake-walk competition.

GILFILLAN HALL.—The famous Bessies o' th' Barn Band is drawing big houses, giving two concerts daily, and creating quite a furore.

AMERICAN RINK.—Managing-Directors, Mr. C. P. Crawford and Mr. F. A. Wilkins; Manager, Mr. Bert Crump.—This spacious rink is proving a very popular haunt of Dundonians. Under the capable direction of Mr. Arthur Grimshaw, the courteous floor-manager, everything goes along smoothly, and skaters are enabled to enjoy themselves to their heart's content. This week Professor Monahan gives a marvellous display of his prowess on the rollers, his feat of leaping over nine chairs without losing his balance being very thrilling.

EASTBOURNE.—DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray King and Clark.—Under most favourable circumstances Messrs. King and Clark's company commenced their visit here in *Toddles*. Mr. Murray King in his own humorous manner delights the large audiences as Toddles, and keeps the laughter ringing until the curtain falls to a storm of applause at the end of Act III. Mr. Ardene Linden contributes a particularly clever and successful performance as Joblyn; Mr. Mattie Cheshire does capable work as Boolby, the society entertainer; Mr. J. V. Bryant is a refined and pleasing Doctor Baird; Mr. Alec Chumley is an amusing Freddy Gunner; Mr. C. Douglas Cox gives excellent help as Haslit; and Mr. Alexander Lee is a smart and capable Valet. Miss Doris Langdon plays prettily and gracefully as Constance Joblyn, and her songs and pleasing dance in the second act call for special praise; Miss Evelyn Shelley's fine work as Mrs. Joblyn counts very materially in the general success achieved; Miss Naomi Nelson is delightfully natural as Lady Dover; Miss Ada Champion gives a skilful rendering of the part of Countess de Chambry; and Miss Mabel Ormonde is a bright and entertaining Mrs. Bowler.

THE ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; District-Manager, Mr. George Egbert; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—At the head of the bill this week are the Seventeen Gordon Highlanders, and their brilliantly smart work and evolutions arouse much enthusiasm; Wilson's Miniature Circus pleases the audience; Mr. Mark Tedwell is a clever comedian with a pleasing style; the Armins are very successful in a musical scena, in which the lady plays a cornet ably and the gentleman sings well; Pueblo and Cropp are finished and happy sand-dancers; Miss Beatrice Rene sings and dances very daintily; Miss Rose Cambray is an effective singer and dancer; and new attractive films are shown on the Bioscope.

THE PIER PAVILION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company is appearing here in *Cripple Creek* and *From Slave to Princess*. In the latter, as Vera, the slave, Miss Dorothy Lart holds the interest and sympathy of the audience; Miss Agnes Verity is a distinct and dignified Princess Claudia; and Miss Daisy Carlton as Amelia never allows a dull moment to creep into her comedy work. Mr. Austin Milroy is a fine, manly and earnest Prince Julian; Mr. Roy Jackson is a keen, impressive Michael Bardoni; Mr. H. Harley-West gives able and consistent help as Lieut. Alexis; Mr. Fred Clifford acts forcefully as Peter; Mr. Fred Hilliard's work as Otto deserves praise; and Mr. Will Hook as Patrick O'Brien adds to the comedy in able fashion.

ECCLES. — CROWN THEATRE — Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert Rogers.—Mr. Harry Burns is presenting a pantomime entitled *Robinson Crusoe*, which is excellently staged and dressed. In the title-rôle Madame Du Roche is a decided success; as Polly Perkins Miss Marie Belle fits the part like a glove; Miss Nina May, who impersonates Fairy Pearl well, renders several good numbers; Mr. Henry Curwen creates a lot of fun as Dame Crusoe; Mr. Billy Hubbard as Man Friday is clever; as the Pirates Messrs. Geo. Hastings and Geo. Harkaway deserve credit. The Yankee Doodle Girls prove themselves a troupe of well-trained dancers.

EDINBURGH.—ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—Mr. Geo. Edwardes's company is having a great success here with *A Waltz Dream*. The houses are crowded, and the audiences enthusiastic. Mr. Robert Evett's performance of Lieutenant Niki is admirable in every respect; and Miss Ethel Cadman, a graceful actress and expressive singer, is an attractive Princess. Miss De Sousa's acting as leader of the ladies' orchestra, is piquant, and has a note of pathos, while she sings with great vivacity and charm; Miss May Morton's clever impersonation of Fifi is distinctly amusing; and Miss Amy Augarde shows to much advantage as Frederika. The fun of the piece is prominent by the grotesque drolleries of Mr. Eric Thome, and the excellent humour of Mr. Leslie Holland, who also dances with conspicuous neatness. Mr. Hamish McCunn proves himself a first-rate conductor, alike of the choral and orchestral work of the play. On Monday evening last, at the close of the piece, the members of the company, led by Mr. Evett, sang "Auld Lang Syne," in which the audience, upstanding, joined lustily.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Whitehead.—Large audiences, in good holiday humour, continue to enjoy the *Dick Whittington* pantomime, wherein some half-dozen comedians find scope for jests and business, of which their hearers never seen to tire. Mr. Phil Ray and Mr. Will Evans have most of the plums, in their respective rôles of Alderman Fitzwarren and Idle Jack; and they are duly supported by Mr. William Downes as Captain Jack, Mr. Ernest J. Langford as Rupert Ruffles, Mr. Harry Bickley in a Dame part, and most actively by Mr. Albert Felino as the Cat. Miss Jane Eyre is a pleasing principal boy, and with Miss Ethel Erskine as Alice, Miss Mena Brae as Zoe, and Miss Molly Maguire as the Fairy Bluebell, divides the honours as far as songs and dances go; the Tintos Troupe supply a good acrobatic turn; George Kirby's flying ballet give a characteristic exhibition; and the Scala Girls are prominent in several displays of terpsichorean gymnastics.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—Miss Lydia Yeamans, assisted by Mr. Frederick J. Titus, at the piano, gives an outstanding turn, which is made delightful by the lady's artistic rendering of her various songs and impersonations; Reano and his famous band excite considerable enthusiasm by the extremely energetic methods of the conductor and the intrumentalists in the performance of varied orchestral selections, which secure an exceedingly demonstrative reception; the Miles Stavordale Quintette provide another pleasing entertainment with their skilful combination of the harp and banjo, producing some wonderful imitations of the human voice; a graceful gymnastic display, introducing novel features, is presented by the Vetter Brothers; Mr. Pat Rafferty contributes a genial turn as an Irish comedian; Mr. G. S. Melvin is a promising young Scotch comedian and dancer; Miss Bessie Slaughter makes a notable success as a phenomenal contralto vocalist; Miss Rhoda Paul appears in several smart male impersonations; Miss Stella Stahl creates a favourable impression as a comedienne and dancer; Mr. Jack Lorimer keeps the audience in a roar by his versatility as a Scotch entertainer; and the Bioscope pictures are of special interest.

KING'S THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard.—The variety programmes are resumed here this week with a strong company, in which Miss Esther Palliser, a vocalist of taste and power, charms the audiences with her rendering of several popular airs; Mr. Leo Dryden gives in his dramatic manner extracts from his répertoire of song playlets; and the Sisters Macarte, in a pleasant sketch, *The Land of the Lotus*, provide an interesting and delightful performance. There are many other admirable turns, including Ryde and Beeman, grotesque eccentrics; Valentine Lister, a clever juvenile dancer; the Mars Trio, three dashing gymnasts, in their military speciality; Miss Dorothy Sephton, "the white girl"; Mr. J. H. Blaine, comedian and mimic; and up-to-date views by the Bioscope.

COOKE'S CIRCUS.—Proprietor, Mr. John Henry Cooke; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. C. Burns.—The pantomime *King Gold; or, the Lucky Little Lassie*, which has been so successful here, will be withdrawn on Saturday next, to make way for a revival, on an elaborate scale, of *Dick Turpin's Ride to York*. The pantomime is still a great attraction, and the fun of Talberto and Douglas, the excellent grouping of the children representing fairy tale heroes and heroines, combine excellent humour and spectacular effect. The general programme is changed again this week, the scenes in the arena comprising clever animal performers, introduced by the Tessimans; and admirable juggling by the Zanonis, smart children, who provide a capital entertainment. The clowning is noteworthy, and a laughable sketch, *Courtship Under Difficulties*, adds to the hilarity of the audiences.

EXETER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—Mr. Mouillot's pantomime entered upon the concluding week of its stay here on Monday, but abundant evidence is afforded by the crowded houses at every performance that *Cinderella* has endeared herself to local playgoers. Mr. Kennedy Allen is as mirth-provoking as ever as Baron Blighter, and in the laughter-raising business he is well seconded by Messrs. Frank Weir and Frederick Park as the Ugly Sisters. Mr. Willie Atom is a particularly smart Buttons, a part which suits him to a nicety; Miss Violet Hollom continues her success in the name part in company with Miss Edith Housley, who has been aptly cast for the rôle of Prince Charming. Dandini is attractively portrayed by Miss Minnie Love, and Miss Ethel Monks has won popular favour as the Lord Chamberlain. Miss Kitty Allen, in the rôle of Martha, is a smart little actress; and well-merited successes are scored by Miss Kathleen Flynn as the Baroness Blighter and Miss Elsie James as Fairy Crystal. Excellent interludes are provided by the Berlin Belles, dancing troupe, and the Three Martinettes; and for this week a special attraction has been provided by the engagement of Les Avalos in their pleasing and novel acrobatic business.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frederick Sandy.—Dutch Daly, who tops the bill here this week, delights his audiences with his clever concertina selections and funny stories; Frank Leon meets with a deservedly popular reception for his exceedingly smart dancing; and an original and much-appreciated turn is that of the Barton and Franklin Trio of musical entertainers. A wonderful example of canine intelligence and training is provided by Stelling and his amusing little dog Kiswaski; and other clever items were contributed by George Phillips, swell comedian and dancer; Hughes and Elliott, in their refined singing and dancing act; and the Westbrooks, in their smart little scena *Two Little Maids from School*. The success of the programme is aided by the realistic Hippodrome pictures.

FALKIRK.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. W Ebbutt.—Mr. Seymour Hicks's company in *The Gay Gordons* has been greeted by large and delighted audiences this week. The smart and popular musical comedy is equipped with splendid scenery and appointments and costly wardrobe. It commanded the utmost appreciation. Miss Marie West, a charming Peggy Quainton, captivated the audience with her fine acting and singing, and in conjunction with Mr. Charles Childerstone as Angus Graeme assured the success of the piece. The low comedy work of Edward Carlton as Nervy Nat, Mr. Robert Rivers as Edmund Siddons, and Miss Louie Emery as Charlotte Siddons was very fine. Others prominent in a very strong and capable cast were Harry W. Johnston as Andrew Quainton and Miss Florence Somers as Victoria Siddons.

FOLKESTONE. — THE PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—The attraction for this week was Mr. E. Graham-Falcon's pantomime *Aladdin*. Miss Amy Bellwood was a bright and dashing Aladdin, fully equal to the requirements of the part; as the Princess Miss Daisy Kersey was dainty, and sang with sweetness; Miss Georgie Mansell made a charming Slave of the Ring; as Pekoe Miss Edith Maynard sang a couple of tuneful songs with a charm particularly her own. In Mr. J. G. Forde (the Magician), Mr. Albert Lawrence (Widow Twankey), Mr. Will Burton (the Emperor), and Mr. Percy Galino (the Vizier) the management had secured the services of comedians of the highest merit, their drolleries and humorous ditties being keenly appreciated. The extempore verses of Mr. J. G. Forde proved a pleasing novelty. The speciality entertainment included the brilliant La Dor troupe of acrobats, the Yokels, and the Warners, a clever dancing trio. The entertaining harlequinade by the La Dor troupe contributed in no small measure to the success of the paitomime, which was bright, laughable, and thoroughly up to date.

GAINSBOROUGH.—KING'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Gainsborough Theatre Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Leighton.—Mr. Chas. March and company appeared here on Monday and Tuesday in *The Gamester of Metz*. Mr. March gave his usual excellent rendering of Paul Badlot, introducing some clever changes of character, and he was well supported by Mr. Wm. Bradford as the Captain. George Bohee, the well-known minstrel, introduced some pleasing songs and selections on the banjo. The rest of the week is given over to a variety company.

GATESHEAD. — KING'S THEATRE. — Lessees, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager and Licensee, Mr. Harold Arnold.—Les Piccolinos are a trio of midget performers whose work warrants praise; Miss Teddy Edmonds and company give the sporting farce *The Lady Jockey*, which goes with delightful freedom; George Acre, character vocalist, is highly popular; Paul Edwards and Louie Dacre, in *What a Life*, renew acquaintance with the audience; Miss Sylvestor, contortionist, shows something out of the ordinary; and "Pop" Dearly, coon impersonator, and Tiny Arnold, comedienne, also attract much attention.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; General-Manager, Mr. Robert G. Elder; Acting Manager, Mr. Ernest Dixon.—A splendid company, sent out by Mr. J. A. Campbell, is playing *The Old Folks at Home* here this week. Mr. Frank Liston is a natural Lord Howard; Andrew Ross is most ably treated by Mr. H. E. Herberte; a capital character-study is submitted by Mr. Eugene Santley; a lady fitted in every way to embody Dorothy Robin is Miss Maud Warburton; Miss Clara Santley's Martha Robin is a sound study; and Miss Kate Froud ably fills the rôle of Patricia Bathurst.

GILLINGHAM (Kent).—PUBLIC HALL.—The Rustics Comedy Concert Party, who scored such a success in the Park last season, paid a highly successful visit to the above hall last week. The party consisted of Miss Kate Willey (soprano), Miss Blanche Myles (contralto and comedienne), Mr. James Flynne (baritone), Mr. Bert Peachall (humorist), and Mr. Alfrod Donaldson (humorist and accompanist).

GLASGOW.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—*Cinderella* continues its successful career here, and is drawing good houses. On Monday the performance was varied by the presentation on the stage of the prizes won in Mr. George Robey's Marathon race and charity football match. Being the anniversary of the birth of Scotland's favourite poet, Robert Burns, several special items were introduced, Miss Edith Kirkwood (Fairy Queen) making a hit with her singing of "The bonnie lass o' Ballochmyle" and "The bluebells of Scotland." The fun worked up by Messrs. George Robey and Harry Dent is intensely amusing, and Mr. Willie Garvey as the Baroness, and the Bros. Obo as the Ugly Sisters, are also well to the fore; Miss Violet Lorraine, the dashing Prince, is unfortunately, severely handicapped by a bad cold at present; Miss Iris Hoey as Cinderella has gained many admirers, and lively little Miss Meg Hamylton always takes well, and was the recipient of a distinctly novel present on Monday.

GRAND.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. B. G. Maclachlan; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. Christie Grant.—*Cinderella* is still going briskly and drawing good houses. The principals as individuals, and as a combination, are good, and keep the auditorium in a continual roar of laughter. Special mention must be made of Mr. George French as the Baron. His performance is decidedly funny, particularly in his song, "Maggie frae Dundee," and a burlesque wrestling bout; the latter is simply side-splitting. Mr. Tom Conway as Tiny is delightful; Mr. Barry Lupino is also very clever and funny; while the popular comedian, Mr. Whit Cunliffe makes a most artistic yet amusing Dandini, and delights everybody with quite a budget of good catchy, topical songs. The lady principals, Miss Violet Halls as the Prince and Miss Queenie Finnis as Cinderella, give most satisfactory performances, and bear a big share in the general success; Miss Kate Walbran and Miss Nelly Cozens as the daughters of the Baroness, parts usually assigned to male members, make quite a good impression; while the various scenes are staged in a manner that commands unanimous admiration. It must be admitted that good wholesome fun is really the outstanding feature of the pantomime. Further variety is lent to the show by the introduction of nimble dancing turns by the Lottie Stone Troupe.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—The pantomime *Diccory Dok* still goes swimmingly along before full houses. Miss Ella Retford as Winsome Winnie is still as piquant as ever, and Miss Flora Cromer as Dick makes quite a manly young principal boy. Then there is a perfect galaxy of beautiful boys and girls, all of the sex desirable in pantomime nowadays. Miss Maggie Fraser and Miss Edith Haley are a lovely pair, and so are the Misses Violet and Daisy Bartholomew; then we have in Miss May Beatrice, a handsome Demon Discord, who makes a pleasing change from the basso-profundo demon, whose eyes usually glare in the red light; then such an array of comedians as Mr. Peter Bermingham, with his Scotch humour, his Glasgow accent, and his lively antics, all provocative of hearty laughter; also Mr. Syd Walker, whose every gesture and every inflection of voice is full of humour, with Mr. Cliff Lake, who ably assists him; we have also Mr. Harry A. Gribben as the Squire of Eagle-sham—Glasgow people call it Eagles-ham—who adds a lot to the fun; though last, not least, we have from Fairyland Miss Ivy Proudfoot as Sweet Briar, whose charming voice lingers long in the memory. Altogether this brilliant pantomime is likely to have a long and successful run.

METROPOLE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—Mr. Frederick Melville's company are paying a return visit here with *Her Forbidden Marriage* which was excellently presented by a fine company. George Madison was ably sustained by Mr. Henry Lonsdale with power and dramatic zeal; Mr. Louis Hector displays sound ability as Charles Devereux; Miss Isla Garnet Vayne is pathetic and telling in the part of Lucy; and Miss Grace Lester does splendid work as the Mather Superior; a strong portrait of Lady Lancaster is presented by Miss Florence Hunt; and Mr. W. Mansfield is an impressive Sir George Lancaster; Geoffrey Broughton is powerfully played by Mr. C. Davidson; as also was the Rev. Mr. Dean of Mr. Conrad Stratford. The comedy side of the play, which was of a very high standard, was in the able hands of Mr. Fred De Vere as Timothy Tuttutt and Miss Grace Emery as Patty Lovejoy. Other parts are in safe hands, and the drama has the advantage of being very well mounted.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—The attraction here this week is the stirring romantic drama *Her Love Against the World*, which is presented by Messrs. W. H. Hallatt and Walter Howard's company. The play is well staged, and the various parts are in excellent hands. Mr. Fred Emery acts with distinction as Eric, Earl of Strathmere, and a clever performance is that of Miss Rossie St. John as Lionel; Miss Grace Heywood gives a strong performance as Princess Iris; Mr. Lewis Gilbert as Ulric plays his part well; and Mr. W. H. Hallatt is excellent as Prince Othmar; the Prince Maurice of Mr. Victor Rowland is another good performance; Miss Blanche Steele as the Countess of Rasselyn imparts an air of distinction to the character; and Miss Julie de Esco is well suited as Corona, the Austrian dancer.

EMPIRE.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Manners.—The management is offering special attractions this week in commemoration of the third jubilee of the poet Burns. These include a Scottish overture by Mr. W. B. Moore's splendid orchestra; arrangements of Burn's songs, expressively sung by the Toynbee Choir, and in the latter half of the week by the Park Thistle Choir; also, appropriate to the occasion, Mr. Tom Costello appears in his highly artistic scena *For Auld Lang Syne*; and finally Mr. Tom Child sings several Burns' lyrics with his usual taste and feeling. Mr. Frederick Melville's Moto Girl is a wonderfully clever bit of simulation; the famous correspondent, Frederick Villiers, proves most interesting in his *Fifteen Minutes on the Warpath*; Victor Newman's impersonations are as intense as ever; Duncan and Godfrey's coster sketch is still popular; the Four Figaros' international songs and dances are pleasing; as is also the Scotch comedy business o Jean Macduff.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Councillor E. H. Bostock; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock.—Still another pantomime is added to the list here, the latest being a very bright and lively version of *Aladdin*, played by Mr. Wilmot Edson's company. Miss Minnie Olive makes a handsome Aladdin, and sings with her wonted vivacity a the latest tuneful ditties; Miss Alice Digby is a graceful and charming Princess and a neat dancer; the Widow Twankey of Mr. Charles Adeson is a wonderfully good performance, full of quaint and original touches of humour; another clever comedian is Mr. Bert Danson as Abanazar, a part which he fairly revels in, and his quiet but taking style of fun caught on immensely; Mr. Jack Barrington Weeks also adds much to the hilarity of the evening by his performance of the Grand Vizier; Mr. Bob Owen makes a cheery and jovial Emperor, and sings well; Miss Gwen Clifford is most amusing as Scrubbee-Tubbee, and her speciality at the piano was much enjoyed; Miss Josephine Ellis as Pekoe and Miss Dickers Harris as Mi Pet make an attractive second boy and girl; Miss Edith Jenner is a striking figure as the Herald; Mr. John Reed proves an amusing Wishee Washee; and as the Slave of the Ring Miss Daphne Gelstone is notable for her singing. The fun waxes fast and furious, more especially in the Bath Scene, and a noteworthy feature is the originality of the songs sung by all the comedians.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Evan Good.—Tom Hearn tops the bill here, and "the lazy juggler" is, if possible, funnier than ever in all the business of his turn; Arden and Abel's company in *Three of a Kind* again cause roars of laughter by their comic acting in this smart and racy sketch; the Four Black Diamonds give a smart turn, with clever dancing and well-sung quartettes in coon, Tyrolese, and other styles; Mysticus gives an ingenious turn of the chameleon changing order, with many smart transformations; Dolly Harmer again gains hearty applause for her comedy songs; the Lombards give a really artistic and astonishing display of hand-balancing; Yolande Noble sings some smart new ditties, and she is well received; and B. Troba, juggler with heavy cannon balls and shells, completes a wonderful turn with balancing a sentry-box and sentry on his chin—a daring feat.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—The chief attraction this week is the Original Ten Loonies, and once again the house is convulsed with the antics of the mad musicians; Rose Elliott is one of the most popular singers that come to this hall; Nat Watkins' originality and humour ensure a very cordial reception; the piano sketch of Victor Courtney is exceedingly funny; the swell coon, Mark Leslie, sings and dances with much finish; the musical sketch *A Winning Double*, by Carr and Rose is cleverly performed; Hamilton Hill's fine baritone voice is heard to advantage in several songs; an attractive comedienne is seen in Lena Leslie; and Charlie Carr looks picturesque in his cowboy garb.

COLISEUM.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—Special engagements have this week been made to commemorate the Burns' anniversary, the chief being a Scottish juvenile spectacle, entitled *The Gathering of the Clans*. Mr. W. Selkirk is responsible for its production, and the piece is well carried through by one hundred local children. No one proves more popular than Bertha Stuart, and this dainty artist fully merits the grand reception she receives. Her voice is good, and her singing of "Caller Herrin'" is quite a feature of the evening's entertainment. Fred Eustace and company are responsible for a little comedy sketch, *The Amber Light*, which is capitally played and thoroughly enjoyed; Walter Aubrey in coon songs is well received, while his buck-dancing at once goes to make him a favourite; Melia and Mozarabar provide a capital little turn with their skilfully-trained ravens and pigeons; while Karl Reinsch, with his mare, Miss Lucie, also show to what degree patience and careful training of animals has reached; Arthur Astill, in his various whistling mimicries, does well; Burneti in his impersonations of Chirgwin, Van Biene, Dutch Daly, &c., makes a very successful appearance; and Frank Cass' turn of numerous Scotch songs proves an appropriate item on a good programme. The Bioscope films are interesting and terminate a pleasant evening.

GAIETY.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—Sill and Sillcott, the silent comedians, are the principal attraction, and their acrobatic skit *Lively Luggage* was thoroughly amusing; Ray and Delmore contribute a farcical absurdity, *In a Fiz*, which was also specially favoured; and the Sisters Henderson are a capable pair of speciality artists. Other entertaining turns include Grace Darling, ballad songstress; Bouverie Pleydell, comedienne and dancer; George Milbay, negro comedian; and the Bioscope with a fine set of pictures. The popular manager, Mr. Bowerman, takes his benefit this week, for which a special programme has been arranged. Whit Cunliffe, Rose Elliott, Dolly Harmer, Frank Cass, Tom Costello, and others have promised their assistance.

PANOPTICON.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—Flo Leoville, queen of mysteries, contributes a smart conjuring entertainment, and the audience on the opening night were very appreciative; Melvin and Mac, speciality artists, are a clever pair, and do exceedingly well; Vesta Rae is a pleasing comedienne; and Allen and Aldis, Scotch comedians, created great laughter with their quaint patter. The Bioscope pictures are full of interest, and were closely followed by the audience.

GLOSSOP.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—Miss Winifred Maude and her company are presenting (Monday, Tuesday, and Friday) *The Stowaway*. Mr. Victor Du Cane in the rôle of Dicky Dials is highly successful; Mr. Gordon Ingram provides an impressive portrayal of Tom Inglis; Mr. Leonard S. Harrison as Charlie Etherington is responsible for a praiseworthy effort; as Paul Inglis Mr. Maurice Jones is to be highly commended; Mr. Rupert Talbot ably depicts Percy Ewart, and Mr. W. E. Simpson is a typical loafer as Sanay Prouse; as Althea Dale Miss Winifred Maude affords evidence of histrionic talent of a high order; Miss Jenny Hatchett achieves success as Chucky, a London newsboy, and Miss Wingold Lawrence as Florence Etherington submits a convincing study. For Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday *The Convict* is billed.

GLOUCESTER. — PALACE.—Managing-Director, C. W. Poole, Esq.; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. T. Rea.—Muir and Bartlett's laughable farce *The Collar Stud* is repeating the success of its former visit; Les Frasettis are expert xylophone players, and with harp and violin give a nice musical show; Miss Ada Fawn proves a versatile artist, and the Delawares, with *Fun in a Billiard Saloon*, go through some clever dancing; Sam Dalton sings two good comic songs

heart, An American's Visit to London, &c. The vocal and instrumental selections contributed by Mr. Frank Stanart are greatly appreciated.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—Mr. J. Gar Kiddie is presenting his version of *The Babes in the Wood*. Mr. Dawson Dewick as Sammy is the most prominent of an excellent contingent of comedians, and introduces a generous fund of humour; Mr. T. D. Tandy amusingly burlesques the villainy of the wicked uncle, Sir Brokah de Pawn; Mr. Mark Stuart realises the humorous possibilities of the Dame to the full; Messrs. Conan and Doyle extract endless fun from the parts of the Robbers; Miss Marion Scott as Robin Hood makes a capital principal boy, and has some good songs; Miss Margaret Cathcart acts with equal charm as Maid Marion; the Babes are cleverly played by the Twin Sisters Mawdsley, who sing and dance very prettily; Miss Emmie Hands as Sylvania and Mr. Edwin Lambert as Infernalito are respectively the good and evil spirits of the pantomime; and specialities are introduced by the Lohrenz quartette of dancers and Messrs. Taylor and Elliott.

THE PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—Jack Sheppard is giving an interesting display of his skill in escaping from handcuffs and other forms of manacles, and also introduces a puzzling trunk mystery; the dramatic episode *Blackmail* is full of remarkable situations, and is well played by Henry Hearne and company; Les Montaldos' educated cockatoos are wonderfully clever birds, and perform a variety of novel feats; Coverdale and Huxley's juveniles give a pretty musical scena; W. G. Webber is a talented bass vocalist; George Bernard is a popular actor-vocalist; and George Griffan is an entertaining Scotch comedian.

HALIFAX.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Dottridge and Longden's pantomime *Aladdin* is here this week. Miss Ray Wallace is a vivacious and successful Aladdin. Her impersonations of popular variety stars are cleverly done, and received hearty applause. Bert Harrow keeps the fun rolling as Abanazar. He has a lot of new gags and patter, and is a first-class comedian. Mr. Avery took up the part of Widow Twankey on Monday after the curtain had gone up (at a moment's notice), in consequence of the indisposition of Mr. Robins, and acquitted himself very well indeed, especially in the later scenes. Miss Gibson also playing very well as the Princess, in place of Miss Bryan, indisposed. Wishee-Washee finds a clever exponent in Mr. Hugh Cedar; the Pekin Police, Messrs. Maxford and O'Neil, and the Emperor of China, Mr. Leonard Russell, are also good. The music of *Aladdin* is a marked feature, and reflects credit on the composer and conductor, Mr. Walter Scott. Beautiful scenery and dresses and the splendid singing of the Cestrian Quartette add to the success of the pantomime.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—*The Eyes of the World* is doing good business at the Grand this week. The treatment of the play is away from the beaten track of popular drama. Miss Ethel Van Praagh finds a part well suited to her talents in Helene de L'Orme, and shines conspicuously; Mr. J. E. Whitty plays well as Achille; Mr. George D. Daiper's Hector de L'Orme is a good performance; Mr. Will Casey gives a good rendering as Carnac; Mr. Charles Stirling is admirable as Octave; Mr. Charles Sewell's Paul Roqueville is a fine performance; Miss Irene Stanhope is fascinating as Avice; Miss Beatrice Fitzhugh plays with force and spirit as Esme De Carnac; and Miss Nellie Garside is successful as Susanne.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Foster.—The Palace management present a very entertaining programme this week, which includes the Gallimore Trio, successful comedy artists and dancers; the Fordyces, two clever youthful dancers—the young male will make his mark as a comedian; Three Transfields, clever and pretty lady musicians; Lisbon and Barker, comedians; Shenton and Chicks, in *The Children's Birthday Party*; Pyck, Tholl, and Taylor, in a clever dancing absurdity, *The Dancing Master*; the Donaldson Bros., in the side-splitting *Sports in a Jungle*; and the pictures.

HANLEY. — ROYAL. — Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—*Mother Goose* finishes this week a highly successful season. Mr. J. F. Elliston has for the third successive season produced the pantomime.

GRAND.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand.—A fine programme is headed by the Boisset Troupe, with *The Dock Strike*; C. Torbay, comedy silhouettist, is successful; the Sisters Gilby, in a musical act, win applause; and Alec Kendal, comedian, also appears; Fred Land is also a good comedian; Aida Martine is a decidedly good dancer; Raymond's Bio-tableaux shows two excellent films; and Brinn, in a most sensational act, which is thoroughly enjoyed, completes a splendid bill of fare.

KING'S.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy; Manager, Mr. Hy. Kennedy.—The pictures shown this week are proving a powerful lodestone, packed houses witnessing the show. Mr. Edward Ind, eccentric comedian and vocalist, is received with much favour.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eric Fielding Smith.—Ernest Shand is the predominant star of the week's variety entertainment; Leolin with his juggling is dexterous; Les Wambas are wonderful gymnasts; and the Three Cascaellas, the Bon-Bons, melodists, Evelyn and Norrie, in a sketch, Leslie and Player, and Will Gordon complete the bill.

HARTLEPOOL.—EMPRESS.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Albert Matham.—Another week of pictures, provided by Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope Co., is being enjoyed. The list, which is extensive, includes a film of Jack Johnson, the Champion of the World.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—A week's visit opened here on Monday by Mr. Geo. Brydon-Phillips's company in the pantomime *Little Red Riding Hood*, which proved to be a most successful production, and delighted a crowded house. The scenic effects are excellent, and the picturesque raiment worn in every scene culminates in the last in one of gorgeous and artistic splendour. Miss Kittie Rayburn came here with a glowing record, which she fully maintained as Prince Amoroso, her songs evoking enthusiasm, in particular, "Come to me in Canada"; Miss Ena Corelli is a sweet Little Red Riding Hood, and won all hearts by her charming dancing; the Fairy Gossamer has a very dainty exponent in Miss Edith Jefferies, who rendered her song, with picture effects, very sweetly, the lantern being cleverly manipulated by Mr. A. Miles; Miss Maisie Mildare, who played as Jill, executed a clever *pas seul*. The comedians are a constant source of mirth; Bishop and Vale, associated as Simple Simon and Johnny Stout, exercise a risible influence that is irresistible, and are clever knockabouts; Will and Alice Vokes are associated as the Squire and Marjory Daw, and are very humorous and dance cleverly; Harry and James Ewins are associated as the Wolf and the Poodle, and their comic antics evoked much merriment; Mr. Tom Carrick is quaintly humorous as the Dame; Mr. Henry de Solla as Lawyer Slyfox is entertaining in his nefarious designs upon the heroine. The chorus acquit themselves well, and Mr. Ernest Hurman, who conducted, is responsible for the tuneful music. At the matinées a children's harlequinade is arranged by Mr. Harry Ewins as Clown, assisted by Messrs. James Ewins, H. Gates, and Miss Maisie Mildare.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Vivian-Fisher; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—An interesting programme is opened by Marie Tilley, a sprightly comedienne and dancer; some beautiful pictures of a Royal Court in the olden time are shown by the Alhambra Bioscope; Phern and Phern are skilful musicians on a great variety of instruments; the noises of animals in a country farmyard are wonderfully imitated by Harry Carsdale; Miss Dot Stevens, an accomplished vocalist, gives impressions of popular artists, and represents a pathetic story of street life as a flower girl; Dave Wallace is a truly eccentric comedian; and some clever and remarkable specimens of lasso throwing and lariat manipulation by the Four Mexicans is shown and described.

PIER PAVILION.—General-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—The exciting novel "Moths" allows of most effective dramatising, which is taken advantage of by Mr. A. B. Tapping and his specially-selected company, who are producing the drama with great success. The play is staged with commendable completeness. The character of the villain, Prince Zouroff, although repellent, is admirably conceived by Mr. Tapping, who gives it a polished interpretation; the Duke of Mull is effectively embodied by Mr. Edward Harrison; Lords Jura and Ivan are both taken by Mr. W. Maule Cole; Mr. Frederick Moyes gives a sturdy and convincing rendering of the operatic tenor Raphael de Correze. A most worldly and unfeeling mother is most ably personified by Miss Eugenie Vernie in the part of Lady Dolly Vanderdecken; Fuchsia Leach, the American heiress, is taken by Miss Clarissa Selwyne with much talent and conviction. The very reprehensible character of the Duchesse de Yonnaz is splendidly taken by Miss Ella Dixon. Nothing could be more captivating or charming than Miss Alice Farleigh as Lady Dolly's daughter, Vere, whose comedy is excellent throughout.

HORWICH.—PRINCE'S.—Lessees, The Horwich Theatre Co.; Manager, Mr. R. H. White.—Mr. Louis Elgar's *Jack and the Beanstalk* company opened on Monday to a crowded house, and had a very enthusiastic reception. The musical numbers are very bright and catchy, under the able conduct of Mr. Rowland Hill, and the scenery and dresses very handsome. Miss Isa Bernard is a dashing principal boy, and her songs are highly applauded; Miss Rena Rees is a very winsome Phyllis, whose vocal efforts are also very successful; Miss Lizzie Palmer gives a capital rendering of Dick Tempest, Jack's friend; Miss Isa Davis as Daisy Dimple scores immediately, her impersonation of the leading variety stars ranging from Miss Vesta Tilley to Harry Lauder, creating rounds of applause; the Godfrey Girls (Misses Carrie, Florrie, and Trixie) sing and dance themselves into the affections of the audience, and work very hard; the Misses Annie Sims, Alice Spicer, Myra Sutcliffe, Lily Tailford, Emily Jones, and Madge White keep the ball rolling in good style; Dame Trot is very safely trusted to Mr. Harry May, described as "the personification of beauty and grace," who renders a very good account of himself; Mr. Harry Hoyland plays the Baron in good style; Mr. Bert Allen as Simple Simon is responsible for more laughter than is good for the average individual, his ballad vocalisation is of a very high order, and his grotesque business is genuinely funny; Mr. Louis Elgar and Mr. Will Belasco as Flippit and Floppit work very hard, and are responsible for some thoroughly good comedy; and Mr. Belasco's dulcimer selections are very enjoyable. Mr. Syd Deene plays the Giant, Mr. Chris. Sylvene the widow's cow Oxo, and Mr. Joe Wallace the noisy town-crier, and are very good; Mr. Chas. Presto gives a fine exposition of card manipulation and hoop illusion; and Bernard and May, in song, dance, and story, help to make a very enjoyable evening's entertainment.

HUDDERSFIELD.—HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—Mr. James Kiddie's *Dick Whittington* is being presented here twice nightly. As Dick, Miss Lena Page gives a bright and refined impersonation, singing and acting with easy grace; she is ably supported by Miss Nellie Merton as Alice, Miss Florence Hilton as de Mash, Mr. Dennis McCarthy as Fitzwarren, Mr. George Ryden as Idle Jack, Mr. Fred Spencer as the Cook, and the Hannaway Brothers as Peter and Larry, knockabouts. Miss Dorothy Dryden appears as principal dancer. Many of the season's favourite songs are given during the evening.

HULL.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Mortons, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. W. F. Morton.—*The Fair One With Golden Locks* has entered upon its last stage, and the management have reaped full advantage in catering so well for the juveniles. Plenty of fun has been provided, and the credit lies with the comedians, at whose head stands Mr. J. Chippendale, one of the best of pantomime Dames. Another striking feature of the pantomime has been the songs, which have appealed to the public taste.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Manager, Mr. Tom Bogue.—Pinero's play *His House in Order* has secured a success here this week. Miss Elsie Rogers is a very acceptable Nina; praise should be accorded Mr. Herbert Beaumont for the manner in which he fills the rôle of Hillary; the part of Derek falls to Miss Peggy Rae, who fills it with conspicuous success; Mr. Randolph Reade does well as Manrewarde.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Mortons, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—*The Love of a Princess* has caught the taste of the patrons of this house. The love episodes are finely brought out by Miss Maisie Hanbury, who, with Mr. Wilson Coleman, has gained a place in the affections of the audience. Miss Hanbury is a possessor of talents of a high order. Miss Olive Lloyd furnishes a good picture as Lady Irene; the Queen of Miss Nellie Taylor is far above the ordinary in its conception; and Mr. Ernest Imeson is a capital Danilo. The play is one full of strong interests.

THE HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Harry Dunford.—Appearing here are J. Clempert, who goes through a smart performance; Henry and Tyler, clever trick cyclists; Leah Arden, a nice vocalist; Mlle. Pollo, Bert Bowden, Mr. and Mrs. Shelley, and the Vanderbilts.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Slingsby.—The Five Bombays are a clever top turn; Alice Maude a good mimic; R. C. Note an excellent chorus vocalist; and Cliffe and Vanston and Jules Kiaro, complete.

THE CIRCUS.—Manager, Mr. E. Emerson.—Animated pictures still running.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—Captain Clayton's company is here in the pantomime *Cinderella*. Miss Amy Allnutt is seen to advantage as Prince Charming; Miss Nita Dunville meets with approval as Cinderella; and Mr. Fred Dunville as Buttons and Mr. C. Turner as Nervous Joe are successful. The Zola Troupe of acrobats have a good reception, and the Dunvilles, musicians, are clever. P. J. Durney (globe walker), La Belle Mascot (wire performer), and other specialities also appear.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Messrs. Austin and Dixon occupy the theatre for the week with their company in the pantomime of *Mother Goose*. Miss Mabel Austin as Lubin, principal boy, acts gracefully and sings well, and Miss Winifred Murray as Daisy, the village belle, is an actress and vocalist of considerable ability; Miss Cissie Astbury and Miss Gertrude Bond are successful in their respective parts; Mr. Sidney James in the part of Mother Goose is a versatile comedian, who commands laughter and approbation in all his efforts; Mr. Eric Dean is a good Squire Close; Mr. Ted Lockstone as Billy, Mr. Jack Harrington as Parchment, Will Raglon and Tom Read as two policemen, are good, and the Goose as played by Fred Fox is very mirth provoking. The spectacular effects, staging, and costumes are attractive.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—Messrs. Conway and Leland, under the title of the Merry Monopedes, are extremely clever acrobats who have certainly turned their misfortunes to good account; Ike and Will, in a naval and military sketch, are very funny and mirth provoking; the New York Comedy Four are paying a return visit, and had a hearty welcome back; Mlle. Renee is a clever instrumentalist on the saxophone, post horn, piano, cornet, and ocarina; Gwennie Haste sings well and is an agile dancer; Arthur Slater whistles like life and imitates various birds and animals most amusingly; Ryan and Hall are burlesque wrestlers and acrobats; and Walter Emmerson is an old favourite here and sings as well as ever. The Bioscope concludes.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Locke.—A first visit is being paid here by Mr. E. Hill Mitchelson's company with *The King and the Unknown Woman*. Mr. James Stillwell gives an admirable reading of Prince Loris; Mr. Stephen E. Scanlan plays with force and skill the part of Prince Menski; Mr. W. R. Winning is well placed as General Platz; Mr. Cyril Harrison does remarkably well as Captain Gara; and some excellent comedy is provided by Mr. William E. Passmore, ably assisted by Miss Cissie Podmore; Miss F. Conyers Radcliffe proves herself a talented actress; Miss Muriel Inglis is equally successful in the part of Countess Melveitch; and some excellent work is done by Miss Norma Dumayne as Else and Miss Elsie Clark as Cascar.

JERSEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Edward Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—Mr. John A. Thomson is presenting the second edition of his pantomime *The Babes in the Wood* this week, and is meeting with phenomenal success. Miss Pattie McCarthy, the handsome and shapely Robin Hood, has made herself a great favourite; Mr. Frank Halpin's fine bass voice is much appreciated, and his duet with Miss Norah Prendergrast gains a big encore at every performance; Miss Cissie Williams is a particularly good-looking boy Babe and gives a smart sand dance; whilst La Belle Sylvia is a pretty and taking girl Babe, whose acrobatic dancing brings down the house. The first robber, Mr. Lovell Rowlands, is responsible for most of the low comedy, and the star turn is the daring gymnastic exhibition given by Les Millicent Frères. Messrs. John A. Thomson and Henry Eglinton, the joint authors, may be congratulated on having produced a thoroughly healthy, clean, and delightful evening's amusement.

KETTERING.—AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Payne.—Mr. Harry Tilbury and company are here with *His Dishonoured Wife*. Mr. Victor Ray is an admirable Frank Lindon, and Miss Belle Tilbury appears to advantage as Florence Lindon; Mr. Harry Tilbury contributes some capital fun as Micky Doolan, and is ably supported by Miss Ettie Spalding as Araminta.

KIDDERMINSTER.—NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon.—Messrs. Fred Little and Fred Darcy's *Sinbad the Sailor* pantomime has been produced here this week, and the result does them every credit. Miss Marie Reeve, pleasing, attractive, and bright, takes the part of Sinbad, and her singing is very successful; Miss Gertie Webster is smart as Selim, and Miss Molly Hackett makes a dainty Zoreida, and her work is most acceptable; Miss Marian Ellis as Lustre, the Good Fairy, is stately and sings well; Mr. Walter Adams as Tinbad works well, and his share in keeping the fun going is a large one; Mr. Willie Barrett is a highly amusing Mrs. Sinbad; Messrs. Newco and Sullo as Baccah and Stoppah are expert dancers, and add materially to the general success; Mr. Fred Taylor as Captain Cook is effective. Special turns are given by the Acme Quartette of Clever Dancers, Mons. and Mlle. Van Lachterop, operatic vocalists, the Westwoods, whose expert trick cycle riding is remarkably clever, and Halma, the great Scotch juggler. The piece is well staged.

KIRKCALDY.—NEW PAVILION.—Lessee, Dr. Walford Bodie.—Capital pictures continue to be provided this week, and very good turns are given by Cooper and Knox, patter comedians and acrobats; Miss Helen Duncanson, illustrated song singer; Master Hendry, juvenile comedian and dancer; and Mr. George Westland, Scotch comedian.

LANCASTER.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. C. Howitt.—Messrs. R. C. Buchanan and Mr. Ernest Stevens' company is presenting *Jack the Giant Killer*. To Miss Madge Allen is allotted the part of Jack, and right well does she play it, her songs being up-to-date and catchy. As Margery Daw Miss Lilian Errol does good work; Miss Madge O'Neill wins favour as Mephisto, and Mlle. Telka is acceptable as the Spirit of Love. The Dame could not be in better hands than those of Mr. Harry Farrow, and Johnny M'Elroy is capital as Simple Simon.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Porter and Fergusson.—Another first rate programme is arranged this week, the premier place being occupied by J. W. Wilson and Nellie Waring, in a comedy act, *A Bit of Nonsense*; Polo and Florence supply a pleasing equilibrist turn; Tom McAskell, comical conjurer, wins hearty applause; Will Walton, Suffragette, is recalled each house; and Violet George has some good songs. The McAleaveys, barrel jumpers, are excellent, and George Rae, Scotch comedian, does very well. The Hippograph completes the bill.

LEAMINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. George G. Ridley. —During the earlier part of the week Mr. Harry Benet's company appeared here in the musical comedy *Sergeant Brue*. Mr. Denis Lyndon gave a capital representation of the Sergeant, whilst the character of that drollest of criminals, Crookie Scrubbs, was in the capable hands of Mr. H. Quiningborough, who provided intense amusement in the part. Miss Ray Anderson was a charming Lady Bickenall, and Miss Daisy Dale excellent as Aurora. Mr. Tom G. Warren was a quaint Mr. Crank, and as Daisy Miss Kittie Clayton was a distinct success. Mr. Lister Morrah was commendable as Michael Brue, and sang with good effect. The other characters were ably sustained, and an augmented orchestra and chorus, under the direction of Mr. Ernest Wolfe, added much to the success of the piece. For the remainder of the week Mr. George Dance's company is announced in *Havana*.

LEICESTER.—PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. S. Buccleuch.—At the head of a most attractive programme here is Fred Edwards and company, including Miss Bertha Northam, in *Kleptomaniacs*; Oswald Williams, who is supported by Winifred La Barte and company, is a remarkably smart illusionist; May Edouin, the well-known musical comedy artist, is making a hit with a turn brimful of versatility; the Jackson Family of refined instrumentalists score their usual success with a thoroughly enjoyable turn; an unusual "show" is submitted by the Martineks in their novelty *The Rag Doll*; J. P. Ling is a smart mimic; Lee and Bentley, comedy duologue artists, create plenty of merriment; Phil Parsons, a native of Leicester, sings a couple of songs; and the Chronomegaphone (Gaumont's patent) gives selections of Victoria Monks and George Robey.

PAVILION THEATRE. — Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joe Lawrence.—Mr. Bernard Mervyn and company are here in the petite drama *'Twixt Dusk and Dawn*; the Stebro Brothers are amusing and clever in their vaulting speciality; the Sisters Desmond are attractive duettists; and other artists include Clack and Clack, lady acrobatic barrel jumpers; Tom Crawley, comedian and dancer; Ted Lawrey, comedian; and Dolly Dewar, soubrette. Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope is a special attraction.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Company; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles R. Craig. —At this home of animated pictures and varieties there is again this week a really fine assortment of films, including Calabria (a wonderfully clever picture), An Indian's Honour, Rescued from the Eagle's Nest, and others. A most successful first appearance is being made here by Shawlene, a remarkably clever silfleur.

THEATRE ROYAL.—The attraction here this week is a return visit of Mr. John Gerant's well-known company in the interesting military drama *At Duty's Call*, in which Mr. John Gerant plays with his usual success the part of Harold Alison, excellent assistance coming from Miss Beatrice Western as Dora Desmond, Mr. Ernest St. John as General Gordon, Miss Ada Roscoe as Salema, and other members of a capable cast.

OPERA HOUSE.—The pantomime of *Jack the Giant Killer*, which has served its purpose as an entertainment since Boxing Day, enters on its last week on Monday next. Several of the artists engaged have already achieved success in pantomime in Leicester, notably Miss Gracie Grahame, who scored in the principal part in the palmy days of the Royal as a flourishing pantomime house, and Mr. Rolando Martin, a comedian of much cleverness, who appeared under the banner of Colonel Winstanley at the Opera House. The various parts have been taken by the following, who are all to be heartily complimented on the manner in which they have worked for its success:—Jack, Miss Gracie Grahame, a vivacious and popular principal boy, who makes a well-deserved hit with her songs, especially "Oh, oh, Antonio"; Martha, Miss Veronica Brady, who plays the part in a typical and smart manner, her dancing earning high praise; Simple Simon, Mr. Rolando Martin, a really funny performance; Trim and Trott, Messrs. Cribb and Cribb, a pair of mirth-provoking comedians; Dame Durdan, Mr. Julian Mack, a dame of great merit; Blunderbore (the Giant), Mr. Harry Courtin, deserving of much praise; King Marvel, Mr. Clifford Morgan, who plays well, and uses a good voice to excellent advantage; Princess Pansy, Miss Lily Eyton, who sings and acts delightfully; Prince Rupert, Miss Nora Guy, who is capital; and Flora, Miss Cecilia Leslie, who deserves special commendation. Others in the cast are Miss Marion Harris (Dolly Varden), Miss Ettie Beaumont (Mirette), Miss Doris Cooke (Florette), Miss Nellie Cassidy (Pretty Polly), Miss Norah Cooke (Sir Roger), and Miss Flo Vernon (Sir Oliver). The Eight See-Saw Girls introduce some entertaining dances. Mr. D. Ross is the successful producer of the "show."

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. W. Heath. —*The Girl Who Went Astray* is being presented here by Mr. F. Bulmer's company. Captain Frank Julian is admirably portrayed by Mr. J. B. Shinton; Mr. Fred Lloyd makes a good Rupert Murdock; Miss G. Warren an excellent Madge Harvey; Miss Ada M. Ryder a charming Violet Harvey; and Miss Sybil Haughton a successful Eleanor Merton. Mr. E. F. Melrose is well placed as Sergeant John Harvey; Mr. Evan Roland admirably sustains the rôle of Adolphus Boomer; Miss Mary Dalby is a pleasing Molly Smart; and Mr. Todd Squire causes much laughter as James Yellowsocks.

GRAND THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Leigh Grand Theatre and Hippodrome, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Benson; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Woolstencroft.—An excellent programme is headed by Ando's Happy Little Japs, who supply a wonderful exhibition of acrobatic skill. Miss Ida Kessanly's fox-terriers are accorded a hearty welcome; Mr. Jack Truman's tenor voice is heard to advantage; Miss Agnes Molteno, in her scena *A Dolly and a Coach*, has proved a huge success; Mr. Barney Stuart, actor-vocalist, is well received; and Hans and Lux, comedy duo, are very amusing. Other turns are Miss Kitty Lascelles, comedienne; Mlle. Le Breton, gymnast; and the Bioscope.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Licensee and Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—The pantomime of *Beauty and the Beast*, produced by Mr. Fred Granville, has succeeded *Dick Whittington*, and an excellent all-round company provides very pleasant entertainment. The Three Sisters Sprightly are prominent in leading rôles, which they carry through with much charm and spirit; Miss Hilda de Grey, the Misses Norah and Eddie Kebble, and Mlle. Benita are conspicuous by their vocal abilities; while diverting variety specialities are contributed by Kennedy's Kiddies, Messrs. Deno and Drew, Mr. Leslie Austin, Barry and Wood, and a troupe of Ju-jitsu dancers. The comedians, Mr. Sidney Milton, Mr. Sam Foster, and Mr. Juan Wood provoke much merriment; and almost unlimited recalls indicate the success of the many bright and amusing numbers with which the piece abounds.

LICHFIELD.—ST. JAMES'S HALL.—Miss Inez Howard's company appeared here on Monday in *The Soldier's Wedding*. The play was excellently staged, and the company did ample justice to its interesting plot. Miss Doris Kelvey as Peggy in the leading part, Miss Jean Wigney as the juvenile lead, and Miss Helene Forest as Julie de Beauvrais were effective in their respective rôles. Mr. Charles A. Baker as the hero, Mr. Cecil H. Raymond, the low comedian of the company, Mr. Frank V. Fenn as Charles Courtney, and Mr. Lanceley as Colonel James Graham contributed to the forcible presentation of the exciting incidents of the play.

LIVERPOOL.—ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—On Monday Mr. J. F. Ellis-ton's pantomime *Puss in Boots* commenced a fortnight's visit at this popular house. The production was a particularly fine one, the comedians keeping the ball rolling in excellent fashion, while the scenery and dresses left little to be desired. Included among the principal fun-makers were Messrs. Harry Edlin (the Baron), and Harry Rogerson (the King), both of whom caused shouts of laughter; Miss Ethel Ra-Leslie proved a most vivacious principal boy, possessing a pleasing and musical voice; Mr. Fred Lincoln amused greatly with his Dame; Miss Zona Joy, as the Dutch servant Gretchen, sang and danced in a manner that earned for that able little artist loud applause; as Silly Muggles, the miller's eldest son, Mr. Augustine Symonds provided a fair share of the fun; Miss Gladys Christoe looked well and acted daintily as the Princess; and other satisfactory parts were Sly Boots (Mr. Hal Bert), Prince Rudolph (Miss Bessie Herbert), Phyllis (Miss Gladys Hicks), and the Fairy (Miss Issa Steel). Among the specialities were the juggling by the waiter Fritz (Zelina), and the march of the silver Amazons, headed by the King's trumpeters (the Three Lorimers). Matinées were announced for Wednesday and Saturday.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—Here this week the patrons of the favourite Star have been treated to a capital presentation of *The Luck of Roaring Camp*, Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company interpreting the story of American camp life in an able manner. Miss Olive Wilton in the name-part acted with a charm that soon gained for her the affections of her audience; as the adventuress Jovita Miss Florence Melrose-Millett played with high histrionic ability; Mr. Robert Purdie gave a fine reading of the part of Will Gordon; Mr. Charles E. Johnson, as the rascally Tom Barnes, lent a deal of strength to the play; and among the efficient cast deserving of mention were Messrs. George Porteous (Gonzales), Hyland O'Shea (a most humorous Paddy McGinty), G. Cuthbertson (Old Pard), and Miss Jenny Clare (Mrs. O'Flynn). The scenic effects were especially good. A matinée was given on Thursday.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—Neil Kenyon has had a rousing reception here this week, among his songs being "The postman," and "Is that a fact?" La Tortajada, the famous Spanish dancer and vocalist, presented a pleasing operetta in three acts, entitled *The début of Dolores*, in which she undertook five distinct characters; the Seven Olympians gave an exhibition of ju-jitsu; Jack Smiles kept his audience in capital humour; the Strolling Players had a clever musical pot-pourri; cordial approval was extended to Mabel Mavis for her accomplished work on the piano and other musical instruments; Minnie Paget pleased everyone with her concertina playing; and contributions also came from Nance Elder, comedienne; and Harry Simms, comedian.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.—For notice of a new drama produced here on Monday last, see another column.

LYRIC.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold. —Pantomime has during the week been in possession of this resort, the work entitled *Babes in the Wood* being presented by a good all-round combination controlled by Messrs. Cullen and Carthy. The pantomime was brimful of fun, and afforded the utmost satisfaction to packed audiences. It would be difficult to find a more amusing couple of robbers than those impersonated by the able comedians mentioned, who kept the house in roars of laughter. Their efforts were immensely strengthened by their music-hall companion, Little Cluley, who made a lively Bantam, the Baron's secretary. Mr. Tom Drew was a diverting Dame; Mr. Arthur Stratton as the Baron was particularly well-suited; Miss Bessie Cohen proved a winsome Robin Hood; the rôle of Maid Marion was neatly presented by Miss Ruby Royd; Mr. Fred Melville sang tastefully in the character of Hearne, the Hunter; and enjoyable specialities were introduced by Les Belles Americaines, Dolly and Elsie (the babes), the Melbahs, and Cullen and Carthy, and Little Cluley. On Thursday a matinée was given.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan. —Great success has attended Holland and Wood's pantomime, *The Forty Thieves*, so much so that it has remained another week. Mr. Bob Selvidge (Ali Baba) proved the mainstay of the work, and his efforts in the direction of creating fun were most ably assisted by Mr. Robb Wilton (the Dame). The latter comedian, who for years was connected with the Theatre Royal, Liverpool, where a stock dramatic company is stationed, has recently taken to the variety stage, and, judging from the tumultuous applause which has greeted his work in this pantomime, the change appears to be a wise step. Mr. Wilton had a quiet style of humour all his own, and his patter and songs were greeted with much enthusiasm. In addition to the pantomime turns were given by the Primrose Quartet, harmonising male vocalists; Webb and Branston, operatic duettists; and the Three Garganis, comic acrobats.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole. —*A Heart's Desire* was during the week presented by the stock company, included among the cast being Messrs. Sydney Grant (Lord St. Ives), David G. Noble (Eric May), R. Seath Innes (David McCulloch), Tom H. Solly (Coombes), Miss Florence Palmer (Elsie Beresford), and Miss Lilian Radbourne (Oiya). Mr. Anthony Brown's Bioscope showed the latest films.

WESTMINSTER.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—In addition to an enjoyable series of animated pictures given here, the following appeared during the week:—King and Stench, American sketch artists; Lily Vane, comedienne; and T. W. Barrett, comedian.

OLYMPIA.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton.—Heading the programme here this week we have had *Polly Pickles Pets in Petland*, a pretty little turn, presented by Joseph Hart, which found general favour; the always welcome John F. Preston gave his stirring racing sketch *Rogues of the Turf*, which was followed with close interest; *Parisian Street Singers* was the title of a musical mélange given by the Dumond Trio of accomplished instrumentalists; the Viking Wrestlers had a novel exhibition of Icelandic wrestling; Annie Purcell was granted a most cordial reception for her latest songs; Enzer, the soldier juggler, assisted by Miss Clarice, the lady ju-jitsu expert, went through a smart performance; a novel vocal and dancing act was submitted by the New York Nippers; and also in the list were Les Voces, operatic duettists; and Harry Clifford, comedian.

PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—Deane Tribune and company have pleased immensely with their laughable sketch *The Cheerful Idiot*; Sidney Dooley's *Queen of the Adriatic*, comic opera, was particularly enjoyed, among the principal artists being Messrs. Bert Atherton, Bob Barbour, Sidney Dooley, Fred. Danvers, and the Misses Edith Watkins, and Vera Vizard; the Wartana Trio of lady jugglers introduced a smart novel act; Harry Blake had some funny songs; as acrobats the Maxwells and their trained dogs, were pleasing and capable artists; Lew Peterman, Hebrew comedian, was diverting; Captain Roberts and two lady assistants gave a neat exhibition of acrobatic work, &c.; and Jim Cunliffe, comedian, was well received.

GRAND TIVOLI.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jasper Redfern.—The Bioscope pictures shown here continue to attract. In addition during the week the following artists provided variety turns:—The Northcotes, vocalists; Oliver Conroy, comedian; Alpho, ventriloquist; Garden's Royal Five, international dancers; Czinski, musician; Clare Sisters, duettists; and Sydney and Partner, comedy cyclists, with the sensation, "The Devil's Drum."

PARK PALACE.—Lessee, Mr. Jasper Redfern.—Among the series of cinematograph pictures given

This Little Lady

has a nice muff
to keep her pretty
hands warm.

How, do you think,
she keeps them
WHITE,
SOFT,
and
SMOOTH?

Why!
She uses

Vinolia Cream

as grown-up ladies do.

Of all Chemists, 1/1½.

here during the week was one dealing with the adventures of the mysterious motoring lady. Variety turns also came from the Six Australian Bush Boys, vocalists and dancers; J. P. Carroll, tambourine player; Angus and Arthur, comedians; Ena Compton, chorus comedienne; Boultbee, ventriloquist; and the Deer Family in *Indians of the Past*.

NEW CENTURY PICTURE HALL.—Proprietors, The New Century Animated Picture Company, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter W. Hook.—Business continues good here, the Bioscope pictures shown attracting large audiences. During the week the subjects included Christmas from B.C. to the Twentieth Century; The Road of Life; Nick Carter, Detective; and The Eagles's Nest; besides comical ones, and illustrated songs.

LLANELLY.—ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Resident-Manageress, Miss Alice Rocheforte.—Mr. Harry Benet's pantomime company is here this week with *Robinson Crusoe*. Miss Nellie Dyson gives a dashing representation of the hero; Miss Stella Millar is a most charming Polly, both she and Miss Dyson sing and dance well; Mr. Harry Benet as Billy Crusoe is excruciatingly funny; Mr. Ramsey also adds much to the amusement of the audience by his clever acting; as Friday Mr. Lonzo Brown scores; Mr. Sam Saxo is a good King Kop-em; whilst Miss Bertha Collins does well as the Princess Peerless; as Willie Atkins Mr. J. H. Wakefield is very good. The Verona Troupe of dancers add much to the pleasure of the piece.

LOWESTOFT.—MARINA.—Manager, Mr. E. A. Smith.—Varieties are again in evidence here, Rosie Lloyd heading the bill for the current week in several of her latest successes. Others include Boyd and Gilfani; Reed and Stevens, La Danseuse, Jimson's Pets in *The Burglar's Surprise*, Vera Barton, and Will E. Stopit.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—The Biograph projects a wonderful film this week dealing with the recent earthquake at Messina. Lieut. A. Martine, of the U.S. Navy, who was on the scene and secured the pictures, gives some graphic details, appearing on the stage with his arm in a sling. The variety bill includes yet another "singing collier" in Tom Taylor, who gives a fine rendering of "The Toilers"; Ben Abel and E. V. Barr (a local comedian) contribute some humorous numbers; and Martine and son appear in illustrated songs.

MACCLESFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—Mr. T. Morton Powell's company is here in *Greed of Gold* and *Honour Thy Father*. As Tom Welstead in *Greed of Gold*, given on Monday, Mr. James Jarrett was excellent; Mr. Alf. Stretton played the part of Arthur Erroll with distinction; Harry Hood was faithfully drawn by Mr. Henry Parr; Mr. Arthur Beaufort was most successful as Cully Snug; Mr. C. Eldred Wood was a popular Conn Cremner; and as Mr. Brightstone, K.C., Mr. Vic. C. Rolfe was capable; Dora found an excellent representative in Miss Maud M. Powell; Miss Beatrice M. Hughes displayed ability as Cecil; Miss Jennie Douglas Hicks was appreciated as Mrs. Maxwell; and Miss Florrie Hayes made a satisfactory Patty Mayfield.

MAIDENHEAD.—THE PAVILION.—Proprietor, Mr. George Gude.—The attendance here increases to a gratifying extent. The pictures are well selected and carefully shown. Those finding most favour on the current programme are Behind the Scenes of a Marionette Show, Archie Goes Shopping and Tomato Preserving. Ern Gray sings well, and the patter of J. Hurren (comedian) is particularly entertaining.

TOWN HALL.—Secretary, the Town Clerk.—Mr. George Robertson's company had a good house on Monday, when *A Message from Mars* was played. As Horace Parker Mr. Gordon Starkey acted intelligently, being equally convincing in the three contrasted episodes in which he appeared; the rôle of a tramp was treated quite artistically by Mr. Percy Tyler; and both in voice and figure Mr. Lionel Yaldwyn was a capital messenger; Miss Nora Kingsley well filled the part of Miss Parker; Minnie Templer was charmingly represented by Miss Edith King; and the rest of the characters were well sustained. *Married to the Wrong Man* was billed for Thursday.

MANCHESTER.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietors, Miss A. E. F. Horniman; Manager, Mr. B. Iden Payne; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edwin T. Heys.—The matinées of *Alice in Wonderland*, now drawing to a close, are still remarkably well attended, and might go on successfully much longer if arrangements permitted. The piece is so well done, from every point of view, that not only the multitudes of children who see it are delighted, but it is a fresh and novel pleasure to their elders. Along with *The Knight of the Burning Pestle*, which is also nearing a close in the evening bill, it is likely to be long and sympathetically remembered by the patrons of this enterprising house.

ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Mason.—A return visit of *A Girl's Cross Roads*, played by Mr. Walter Melville's company, is the attraction here. Miss Hilda Beverley repeats with great skill her realistic delineation of Barbara Wade; Mr. Norman B. Cannon as Jack Livingstone is a powerful contributor; Mr. Edward Valentine plays Dr. Weston in capable style; and an excellent piece of work is the rendering of John Meadows, an old farmer, by Mr. Harry Cane. The villainies of the play are well brought out by Messrs. W. J. Butler and Fred Withers, and among other notable characters, that of Constance Connell is pleasingly filled by Miss Muriel Dean. Mr. Fred Hodson and Miss Jeannie Thomas ably provide the humour as Toby Turvy and Tilly Vane.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Dry.—Joe Peterman's operatic burlesque, *The Singing Servants*, heads the bill here this week, and is very well received; James and Jenny Lee perform some really clever feats on the tight-wire; Diana Hope's society episode *Her Good Name* is of an exciting and entertaining character; Mint and Mart are expert paper manipulators; and other good turns are Harry Zetter, comedian and eccentric dancer; Bradley, the cycling Jew; Morrisey, in a novel musical act; the Rose Trio, acrobatic waiters; Edwin Austin, concertinist; Horace Sade, characteristic dancer; and Sydney Brandon, the boy character impersonator.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Hewitt.—Mr. Walter Melville's successful drama *The Soldier's Wedding*, is staged here this week. It is a fine play and very well acted throughout. Mr. Wingold Laurence as Jack Brown and Miss Dorothy Richardson as Nancy Lee have excellent opportunities in the heroic rôles, while the sinister element is capitally exploited by Mr. Gerald Jordan as Charles Courtney and Miss Marie AcAulay as Julie de Beauvrais. Mr. Beresford Whitcombe plays well as Colonel Graham, and Miss Mabel Lowe has a good part as Peggy Munroe; while acceptable humour is added by Little Albert and Miss Matty Everett.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—The principal places on the bill here this week are occupied by Fred Lindsay, the Australian stock-whip wonder, who does some remarkable things with the lash; Fred Karno's pantomimists, in a most amusing burlesque, *The Casuals*; and *The Johnstown Flood*, a realistic representation in two scenes of the terrible catastrophe of twenty years ago. Excellent turns are added by the Clement Trio, in their comedy flying-trapeze act; Frank Lister and company, in a well-played dramatic sketch, *No. 99*; Florence and Lillian, refined instrumentalists; Millie Payne, low comedienne; Tony Spring, champion barrel-jumper; and the Sisters Grosvenor, popular vocalists. The pictures are unusually sensational.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—Horace Goldin, the well-known and wonderfully smart illusionist, is to the front with a bewildering show; La Pia, in a marvellous weird dancing speciality, with pretty and effective lighting effects, meets with a big reception; Saharet, the Australian dancer, is excellent in Spanish and acrobatic dances; and Amelia De L'Endos sings well, her top notes being nothing short of flutelike. Notwithstanding these fine turns, the hit of the programme was undoubtedly made by Cornalla and Radie, burlesque juggling acrobats, whose business was decidedly original, and cause roars of laughter. Other entertaining items are contributed by Fred Elton at the piano; Harry Bedford, comedian; the Smythson Comedy Company, in a neat sketch *Cupid's Frolic*; Bertha Winder, smart dancer; and Fred Keeton, comedian.

PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Manager, Mr. A. J. Carter.—Clever Max Darewski is starring here this week, and his reception is very flattering; the Smart Set, including Miss Georgie Martin, sing and dance well; Fred Ginnett's latest, *The Hunting Morn*, is a capital sketch, and is well presented by a capable company; D'Arc's Marionettes are lifelike, and take well; the Sisters Lavender sing and dance nicely; Alf Gibson is quaint, as usual; De Lilo and Metz are neat speciality artists; Jessie Lee is a pleasing dancer; and Diamond and Hart have some smart talk. Pictures complete.

KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. James R. Trippett.—A capital programme here this week is headed by Sandy McNab and company in that highly-amusing sketch *The Egyptian Mummy*; and starring also is Maud Courtney, the talkative American, who tells some smart stories. Will Sullivan, comedian, sings three songs with success; Mr. C. sings and talks well; and other enjoyable items are offered by Tom Morris, whistler; Les Zelovas, acrobatic equilibrists; Tod Lowen, comedian; Fame and Fortune, speciality comedians; Braund and Davies, comedians; and Corman's Juveniles, in refined vocal scena, *The Waif*. The Bioscope shows some amusing pictures.

TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—The well-known Parisian eccentric comedienne, Eugenie Fougere, is here this week, and is more amusing than ever; the Garricks, in a pot-pourri of songs and dances, are very entertaining; May Fairclough is particularly good in selections from Shakespearean and other plays; and Yvonne Lamor, a charming comedienne, is somewhat original, and is well received; Ruth Molloy, mimic of music hall stars, is highly successful; La Cigale, Anglo-French comedienne, has a pleasing style; and others who provide enjoyable items are Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Hayes, in capital comedy duologue, *The Other Mrs. Brown*; the Seymours, in clever and original equilibristic juggling act; and Mark Cowan, comedian. Ruffell's pictures are also shown.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—John Tiller's delightful and amusing pantomime *Jack and Jill* occupies the boards here this week, and is presented in fine style by a very capable company, including Messrs. Harry Cotton, Horace Jones F. and H. Le Cren, Bruce Green, and the Misses Harriet Fawn, Adah le Cren, Jean Gaynor, and Cissy Iris. The dresses and scenery are all that can be desired, and Mr. S. Oscar Karno is to be complimented for his excellent stage-management.

HULME HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thomas Baker.—Coram, in his excellent ventriloquial entertainment, is the top star here this week, and is accorded a deserved big reception; the Wakeman Quintette sing in good style; the Sisters Belmont are first-rate dancers; Rosa Loader as the Slavey at the Piano takes well; Alman Correze, assisted by Keith, the droll, is capital in a juggling act; the Rizarellis are clever in a sensational trapeze act; and other good turns are those of Britain's Heroes, an artistic statue show; the Recar Trio, lady acrobats; Farrell and Dunn, in comedy act; Herma, in strength act; and the Bioscope pictures.

MARGATE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. E. Michael; General-Manager, Mr. W. W. Keene.—Miss Emma Hutchison's clever company presented *Mrs. Dot* here on Monday and the two following nights, and the mirth-provoking qualities of the play were heartily enjoyed and keenly appreciated. Miss Emma Hutchison gave a good depiction of the part of Lady Sellenger, her rendering being all that could be desired of the fashionable mother who is so much concerned in her daughter's matrimonial welfare. As Mrs. Worthley (Mrs. Dot), Miss Nancy Beresford succeeded to the utmost, the vivacious manner in which she undertook the rôle of the scheming and lively little widow being particularly fascinating. James Blenkinsop, the cynic, was a clever character study in the hands of Mr. Frank Lacy, whose easy and natural manner made the rendering of the part most realistic; Miss Ethel Grahame made a delightful Nellie Sellenger; Miss Sybil Brooke as Eliza Macgregor proved a valuable addition to the cast; Mr. Hugh Kennedy stood out prominently in the rôle of Gerald Halstone; Mr. Charles A. Staite was amusing as Frederic Perkins; Mr. William Midgley was a capable Charles; and other parts were successfully undertaken by Mr. H. A. Samson, Mr. K. Brandon, Mr. Frank Leach, and Mr. F. Abbot.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fred. Mouillot and Walter De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—With the exception of Miss Florence Conolly and Tom Lee, vocalists, the programme here this week is made up of animated pictures. These include scenes at Messina after the earthquake; the other films depict various subjects of a humorous, pathetic, or instructive character.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees, The South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Albert Jackson.—*Tom Jones*, presented by Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company, is here. Mr. Harry Welchman in the title-rôle is praiseworthy; Miss Florence Smithson as the Squire's daughter acts and sings with dainty charm and piquancy; Miss Joan Ritz is delightful as Honour; Miss Alice Oppetz is most effective as the designing Lady Bellaston; Mr. Ambrose Manning is artistic as Squire Western; Mr. John Morley is prominent as Mr. Allworthy; and Mr. George Elton causes hearty laughter by his spontaneous humour as Benjamin Partridge.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—The top turn here this week is provided by La Belle Duchesse, with her cleverly-trained horses, ponies, and dogs; Ruhart, assisted by La Belle Rosalind presents a most enjoyable turn; Maria Racko is a smart acrobat; and other entertaining items are supplied by Beattie Bloom, comedienne; Morimuret, Japanese illusionist; May B. Brilliant, vocalist and dancer; Wisper, comedy juggler; the Johnsons, in a comedy acrobatic dancing act; and animated pictures.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Mr. James Bell's company is this week presenting *The Idol of Paris*. Miss Annie Bell plays with rare dramatic power and personal charm as Flare-Flare; a fine character study of Mrs. Sancterre is given by Miss Frances Bruce; Mr. Wilson Howard capably depicts the vacillating, unscrupulous Phillipe D'Esterre; Mr. Sidney Arnold is a dignified Victor Cashelle; Prince Zoresky has an able exponent in Mr. Gordon Robey; as Gustave Langloise Mr. Alfred Grenville is a typical family lawyer; Mr. Frank Dale (Tatave), and Miss Annie Megson (Ann Sancterre) work well; Mr. Chris Roberts, Miss Grace Noble, and others complete a capital cast.

NEW PICTURE HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. Will Hunter; Manager, Mr. E. H. Jones.—A capital programme here this week includes Legend of a Ghost (a beautifully coloured film), Duel with Dynamite, The Little Savoyard, Washing Day, Snatched from a Terrible Death, &c.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Ed. Jowsey; Manager Mr. W. Ker Chatto.—Mr. Herbert Sleath's company is producing for the first time in Middlesbrough *The White Man*. The principal part is taken by Mr. Frank E. Petley, who makes a brave and impressive Jim Causton; Mr. A. Brandon gives a flawless portrayal of Big Bill; and Mr. Cecil Yapp is excellent as Shorty. The other "boys" Andy and Crouchey, are well impersonated by Mr. Martin Henry and Mr. H. Mayo. Mr. Gerald Earle is a sinister villain, and Mr. Eric Hudson is exceedingly good as the Indian Chief. As Diana Miss Eleanor May is delightful, and Miss Margaret Fairleigh is very pleasing in the rôle of Nat-u-ritch. The play is admirably staged.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson.—Mr. James Welch's company is here again in *When Knights Were Bold*. Mr. Henry J. Ford gives an admirable impersonation of Sir Guy; Miss Agnesse de Lisna is responsible for a charming portrayal of the part of the Lady Rowena; and Miss Mabel Young creates a pleasing impression as the Hon. Mrs. Waldegrave. Mr. Cecil Clayton as the Hon. Chas. Widdicombe is very successful; and a word of commendation is due to Mr. Guy Lane as the Rev. Peter Pottleberry. Miss Ethel St. John figures effectively as Sarah Isaacson. Clever ladies are Miss M. O'Hea as Lady Millicent Eggington and Miss Ruth Bower as Lady Marjorie. Mr. Vernon Sansbury as Isaac Isaacson, Mr. H. Agar Lyons as Sir Brian Ballymote, Mr. Talbot Homewood as Whittle, and Mr. Reginald Hunter as Barker also do full justice to their respective rôles. The play is preceded by a comedy entitled *The Wrong Side of the Road*.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Chas. G. Rembges.—The premier position on the bill here this week is occupied by the Musical Courtiers in a *mélange* on the opera *The Bohemian Girl*. They provide a delightful turn. Phil Rees and his "stable lads" in a new production, *Not a Crook*, are very good, and Harry Reynolds's Minstrels are excellent singers. Herbert and Lindon are clever dancers, and a humorous sketch, *Poor Master*, is given by Ed. Cranston and company. Cyrus Dare is a pleasing child mimic; Conn and Conrad do well; and Phillips and Merritt, society entertainers, also contribute to the programme.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Manager, Mr. C. E. Nichols.—Joseph Hunt's American racing playlet *Futurity Winner*, which is being presented here this week, is a most exciting and interesting production. The Cumberlands provide some extraordinary tricks on bicycles; and Dare Austin and Robert Harcourt, in a comedy duologue, *His Wedding Morn*, are very humorous. The Four Jumels are splendid musicians; the Sisters Dixon, vocalists and dancers, are pleasing; and Ruby Bijou, barefoot dancer, and Yetta, wire-walker, also add to the programme.

NEW BRIGHTON.—WINTER GARDENS.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. H. E. Jones and A. Douglas.—Enormous business is being done here, and a fine reception awaited Mr. Laurence Irving and Miss Mabel Hackney and company, who produced their clever and artistic sketch, *Peg Woffington*. Splendidly staged and delightfully acted, the sketch was followed with breathless interest, and both Mr. Irving and Miss Hackney were called again and again. Another sketch, but of a different nature, has also made a great success. *Our Mary Jane*, as presented by Miss Florence Smithers and company, is among the funniest productions ever seen here, and thanks to the really good acting of each of the four artists, the one-act comedy went with roars of laughter. The Wedburns are a couple of original comedians, and scored immensely; Miss Nellie Nora gives a very refined and pretty instrumental interlude; Mr. Barry Lindon, bass vocalist, rouses enthusiasm; and Miss Gene Manon sings an original song. The pictures are first rate.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—Though *Aladdin* has been running for upwards of four weeks, it seems to increase in popularity. All the artists are most assiduous in their efforts to please. Mr. Malcolm Scott is as amusing as ever in the part of Widow Twankey, and his fund of humour seems unlimited; that versatile comedian Harry Tate, in his screamingly funny sketches, never fails to bring down the house; and Regan and Ryan, Horace Lane, and Harry Claff all add to the gaiety of the show. Amongst the ladies Happy Fanny Fields, Violet Lloyd, Florence Hersee, and Doris Dean still continue to delight the audience; and the Mimosa Troupe of dancers, in gracefulness and ability, prove a charming feature of the pantomime.

TYNE THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—*Humpty Dumpty* still continues to draw crowded houses. Mr. Arthur Prince as Bric-à-Brac maintains his popularity, his ventriloquial entertainment and other specialities being especially welcome. The singing and dancing of Miss Ida Rene could scarcely be more effective; whilst Miss Lily Iris as Rudolph, Rhoda Gordon, and Evelyn Hope all retain their well-merited popularity. Mr. Shaun Glenville has made quite a success of the part of King Sollumm, and his numerous appearances are greeted with roars of laughter. J. E. Nightingale, the humorous old lady, Carlton as Bison Bob, and Jock Walker all add to the amusement.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—Hardie and Von Leer's company is the attraction here this week, in the successful drama *Two Little Vagabonds*. The part of George Thornton is in the capable hands of Mr. George Denham, who acts it to perfection; Mr. Norman Yates creates a good impression as Captain Darville; the villainy of Bill Mullins is effectively portrayed by Mr. James Shea, who is well supported by Mr. Leo St. Clair and Mr. Fred Archer as his confederates; Mr. Joseph Brandon makes a capable John Scarth; Miss Leonora Castello wins all hearts with her pleasing study of Marion Thornton; Miss Florence Radcliffe is interesting as Barbara Scarth; and Miss Marie Prichard makes an amusing Biddy Mullins. As the two vagabonds Miss May Hart and Miss Josie Beltram are eminently successful.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; Manager, Mr. H. G. Elliott.—All pantomime records at this theatre have been surpassed by *Little Red Riding Hood*, which is now in its fourth week, and is attracting packed houses nightly. Miss May Merry, Miss Jessie Templeton, Mr. Laurie Barclay, and Mr. W. K. Martinette have all scored big successes.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. Parham Wells.—Mr. George Leyton, in his military scena, *The Last Muster*, is the special attraction here this week, and in this production fourteen Newcastle Crimean and Mutiny veterans are paraded on the stage. The scene is proving exceedingly popular, as is always the case with Mr. Leyton's visits to Tyneside. A delightful new and refreshing turn is that contributed by Miss Helen Trix, an irresistible American, with a fund of clever songs and business; capital fun is developed in *Casey's Court*, in which a number of smart youngsters appear, with Will Murray as Mrs. Casey; Tom Moore proves popular as a character comedian; a sentimental illustrated number is charmingly introduced by the Three Welsh Girls; and other specialities of interest are contributed by McCann's Dogs, a sketch, *Slippery Jim*, by E. Dagnall and company, Nellie Coleman (comedienne), and Mazie Hibbs, the Bioscope completing.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—Chief place is this week taken by Harry Roxbury and company, in the *Cowboy Millionaire*; and other artists on the excellent bill are Leslie Bros., Emerson and Baldwin, Honors and Le Prince, Jack Hayworth, Rappo and Ella, Ada Parker, Three Croisits, and A. E. Clifford.

SKATING RINK, EXHIBITION BUILDINGS.—Manager, Mr. Fred B. Crowe.—The popularity of rinking steadily increases, and at each session the scene is at once bright and alluring as the crowds of enthusiastic skaters gracefully swing round to the strains of the fine military band. Thursday is usually set aside as the theatrical afternoon, and many leading artists may be seen enjoying the pleasures of "rinking."

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—*The Flower Girl* is a very pretty musical comedy, presented by Mr. Chas. Bestic's company. As Lily, the central figure, Miss Beatrice Nelson is pretty, graceful, and natural; she has a sweet voice and sings with expression. Mr. Jno. T. MacCallum is humorous as Joe Wheeler, and he is ably supported by Mr. Jno. Latham as Johnny Wheeler. Mr. Robt. Cranny makes a good Hon. Billy Greenhill; Mr. Lewis du Cane's Reginald Racket is natural as a dude character; and Mr. Hy. Adnes is exceptionally clever as the Frenchman, Alphonse de Racquette; while Miss Lilian Drake makes a fascinating Lizette de Racquette. Miss Georgie de Lara as Miss Greenhill, a suffragette, is amusing; and other minor parts are well filled.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—Olive Armidale, a dainty soubrette, is pleasing; Jimmy Shields is a smart one-legged comedian and dancer; Percy Hanna is a young American tenor with a rich voice; the Three Prestons, in a funny sketch, *The Liftman's Rise*, show talent of a high order; Henry Grey causes roars of laughter; and Alburtus, the eccentric American, and Jessie Millar, the lady cornetiste, present *A Scene at the Fairground*, that is entertaining; whilst Gladys Mavius fully deserved the warm applause accorded her. *The Yellow Fang, the Story of an Opium Den*, is capitally played by Miss Mary Mayfern as Judith Beck and Messrs. Mark Paton, Geo. Pritchett, Francis Annesley, and Cecil Kingsley.

NEWRY.—TOWN HALL.—Proprietors, Newry Urban Council.—Messrs. Lena and Preston's company presented *The Queen of the Night* to a large and appreciative audience on Monday. The title-rôle, in the capable hands of Miss Lottie Sanders, was exceptionally well played; Mr. Roberio Lena gave an excellent representation of Frank Featherstone, and scored a big success; and Mr. Hugh O'Neil as Philip Stoneleigh (alias Wilton) made a perfect villain; Mr. Alfred Sanders as Old Briskett caused much amusement, as did also Miss Lizzie Sanders as Mrs. Briskett; Miss Laura Marguerite as Mary Pentreath was good, and Miss Marie Corri made a bright and interesting Kitty White; Miss Fannie Harvie as Maud Sylvester was seen to advantage. The cast also included Mr. Percy Speakman, Mr. Percival, Mr. P. Hayes, Mr. Walter, Mr. Wallie Page, Mr. Pentreath (an old miser), and Mr. George Harvie, the last deserving special mention. The drama was well staged.

NORTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—Mr. Frederick Melville's company is appearing here this week with *The Ugliest Woman on Earth*, which has had a hearty reception. In the title-rôle Miss Beatrice Homer acts with much dramatic force; Miss Violet Macaree is good as Morita; Miss Nellie Jackson makes a smart Aggie Brown; and Miss Gertrude Harrison is much appreciated as Rose Courtenay. As Jack Merryman Mr. Philip Darien presents a masterly performance for which he gains well-merited applause; Mr. Leyton Cancellor is clever as Hubert Gold; Mr. Leonard Thackeray proves a capable Antonio Luchesi; Mr. William De Brigord scores as Tom Redvers; and Mr. Freddie Bentley as Tubby Herrick causes hearty laughter.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—Munroe's Comedy Team top the bill here, and make a great hit; Cavalli, in his feats of strength is smart; Little Dot Moss, comedienne, has had a hearty reception; Mr. S. H. Carney, the man of many characters, is clever; the Millwards, in their comedy bar act, are loudly applauded; and the Mouldoscope displays some up-to-date pictures.

NORTHWICH.—CENTRAL THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden; Secretary, Miss E. Golden.—After a long absence Mr. Harry Starr is paying a return visit to this town with *Otto the Outcast* and *Carl the Clockmaker*. In the title-rôle, Otto, Mr. Starr is very clever, and his songs and impersonations are very well received; Miss Katie Norris plays Lara, a flower-girl, in a charming and meritorious manner; and as Corinne Jarbeau Miss Madge Blundell gives an able representation. Mr. Will Hee distinguishes himself as Roderique D'Estalier; while Mr. Alvin Sawyer scores as Daddy Brunead. Mr. Edwin Firth is a dignified Marquis Marcella de Laporte. The remainder of the parts are in excellent hands, while the piece is well staged.

THE PAVILION.—Proprietress, Mrs. Fletcher.—Miss Marguerite Le Dell sings nicely; Miss Annie Lorraine met with a hearty reception for her songs and dances; Miss Lot Lonsdale became so popular last week that she is re-engaged this; Miss Lily Davis has a fine voice, and was vociferously encored; Mr. Neil Neilson is a good Scotch comedian; and the famous Hispanas present a very clever instrumental musical turn.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Manager, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Messrs. Lyn Harding and Sidney Cooper's excellent company is here this week in *The Flag Lieutenant*, which is very much appreciated. Mr. George Mallett acts well as Vice-Admiral the Right Hon. Sir Berkeley Wynne; Mr. Lionel Atwell is exceedingly good as Lieutenant Richard Lascelles; and Mr. H. Montague is much in favour as Major Thesiger. Mr. Edward S. Pelley as Crutchley, Mr. Edward Wakefield as Hood, Mr. Frederick Leister as Colonel McLeod, and Mr. John Wheatman as the Irish telegraph official, admirably perform their respective parts. Miss Florence Jackson is excellent as Mrs. Cameron; Miss Viva Birkett is a charming Lady Hermione Wynne; and the other characters are ably filled. The dresses and scenery deserve unstinted commendation.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—Mr. Fred Karno's *London Suburbia* is one of the chief attractions here this week, and is received with much applause. J. H. McCann displays dexterity on the roller-skates; the Leotard Brothers are clever hand-balancers and hat-throwers; Jennie Alexander gives some pleasing as well as striking impersonations with much success; Tom Lloyd is a favourite vocalist; Parker and Parr are entertaining as Welsh vocalists; and Allsopp and Beckwith and Jolly Jimmy Walker give excellent turns.

NOTTINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—The penultimate week of *Cinderella* shows no diminution in the crowded houses that have welcomed the production, and all the artists work with unflagging zeal. As the Prince, Miss Cressie Leonard gives of her best, both in singing and dancing, and goes from success to success; in Miss Madge Vincent is seen a charming Cinderella, who looks and acts the part with delightful simplicity; Miss Alice Treymane makes a winsome fairy, and her vocalism is an outstanding feature of the performance; Miss Marie Empress plays with all the necessary freedom and dash in the part of Dandini; and Miss May Lilian Lovey knows exactly how far to go in helping along the fun. Messrs. Alexandre and Hughes have more than fulfilled exceptations in their efforts to amuse, and not the least enjoyable part is the harmony they contribute by concertina and guitar duets, while their patter keeps the house in a high state of hilarity. Mr. Johnnie Schofield never fails to score, and his many eccentric costumes are a great source of laughter; Mr. Harry Brayne seems to have an inexhaustible store of up-to-date gags that add a zest to the constant flow of merriment; and the ballets call for a special mead of praise.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Harry Upton.—*Aladdin* runs merrily along, and appreciation of its merits is shown in no uncertain way. Miss Mabel Carr enacts Aladdin with a vivacity and grace that earn their own reward, and her songs are well rendered; the daintiness of Miss Molly Wynne is well shown in her rôle of the Princess; and Miss Edie Graham lives up to the part of a chatterbox; Miss Maud Rayne and Miss Gertrude Lytton make a bright and animated pair; and the presence of Mr. Fred Leglare is felt as the Spirit of the Lamp. The comedians show excellent work. Mr. Tom Kelso portrays the Widow to the accompaniment of the heartiest laughter; and mirth runs riot when those amusing policemen Messrs. Burley and Burley are on the stage. Mr. George Fearnley does full justice to his song as the Vizier; and Mr. William Fulbrook is ever alert as the Magician. Praise is also due to the Walmsley Sextette for their sprightly dancing.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—Le Roy (conjurer), Talma (queen of coins), and Bosco (funmaker) are an excellent trio, and their mystifying feats are none the less enjoyable by the large element of fun introduced. George Auger, a giant of a man, and his liliputian troupe provide an entertainment in *Jack the Giant Killer* made all the more unique and amusing by the contrast in size of the artists; Ernest Rommel (Jack) is a clever little actor, and a tremendous reception is given them all. Bert Williams makes a capital ventriloquist; and Baker and Balfe add to the pleasure by xylophone duets. Dancing, as expounded by Lionette Roberty and her assistants, becomes a fine art; and Frank Street creates a sensation in his faithful imitation of R. G. Knowles. Randolph King gains hearty appreciation; and items are given by Cassie Walmer, comedienne, and the Kroney Bros., comedians.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Lockwood; Treasurer, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—Lovers of the sensational are capitally served this week by Archie Goodall, whose marvellous act "Walking the Hoop," is sufficiently clever and exciting to suit the most exacting; Hayman and Franklin have an amusing episode, entitled *A Matrimonial Agency*, in which Hebrew characteristics play a prominent part; the Alexandra Operatic Trio give an excellent performance from the Prison Scene in *Faust*, and are vociferously applauded; laughter follows the antics of the Havannas Troupe of comedy acrobats; music from glasses forms a pleasant item by Silvo; while St. Ruth and Conyers prove themselves able vocalists. The juggling of Paul Vandy is smart; and other turns are provided by Milner and Story, Charles Cardow, and the Barrascope.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietors, Theatre and Entertainments Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joseph Coyle.—Mr. Alfred Northway and Mr. W. V. Garrod's company is this week presenting *A Country Girl in London*. Mr. W. V. Garrod gives a forcible representation of Frank Gordon; the rôle of Marjorie Hamilton is capably played by Miss Bertha Kingston; Mr. Leonard Booker sustains the part of Godfrey Clinton with characteristic unscrupulousness, he being ably assisted by Mr. Clifford Marle as Joe Smithers, and Mr. John Belton as Heinrich Oppenheim; Miss Josephine Colona as Gwendoline Gordon is distinctly good; Mr. John S. Sheridan makes a capital Squire Hamilton; and the humorous side of the play is cleverly handled by Mr. Seymour Perry as Wilberforce Puddyphat and Miss Ethel Whitley as his wife Adelaide.

OLDBURY.—PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. Jas. Tyrer.—An excellent bill is provided here this week. Messrs. East and West, comedy duo, a capital turn, give a good show; Tom Cook, comedian, provides merriment with his patter; J. W. Richards, baritone, wins favour; Millicent Margot, contralto, scores with two selected songs; and the pictures shown are much appreciated.

OLDHAM.—NEW GRAND THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Mayall.—This week the successful comedy *Lady Frederick* is staged here, and Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company give a most clever and entertaining interpretation. Miss Eleanor Delaporte as Lady Frederick is delightful; Mr. Robert Minster as Mr. Paradine Fouldes makes that character highly interesting; Miss Celia Gordon makes a dignified Lady Mereston; and Miss Lynn Fontaine a charming Rose. Mr. A. Barnett Parker acts cleverly as Sir Gerald; Mr. E. F. Meade as Lord Mereston is smart; and Mr. Edward Bonfield is excellent as Captain Montgomery. Captain Gerald Gambier as the choleric Admiral is a capital study; Miss Rita Ward as Angélique and Miss Phyllis Manners as Mme. Claude are equally successful; and Mr. John Orme as Thompson and Mr. Harry Winton as Pierre also do well. *The Peacemaker* precedes.

COLOSSEUM THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Wm. Eastwood.—Mr. and Mrs. Levy and Mr. J. Cardwell's pantomime *Red Riding Hood* is on a visit here. Miss Iris Vivienne is a dainty heroine; Miss Fanny Adamson a most vivacious Boy Blue; Miss May Gibson as Miss Muffett sings "The Gainsborough Girl" and "Won't you be my bridegroom?" earning much applause; Miss Helen Dunscombe as Will Scarlet and Miss Daisy Clifford as Marjorie Daw sing and dance cleverly; Mr. V. Wakeman as Dame Trott causes much laughter, and Mr. J. J. Mannix as Baron Hardup does excellent work. Mr. Billy Melia as Sunny Jim is also very good, and Denby and Dent in the characters of Doleful Dan and Whimsical William introduce some smart comedy. Miss Ena Baxter as Silvia sings very well, and Mr. Will Gibson as the Wolf is well suited.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—*Mother Goose* is being played twice nightly here by Harry Roxbury and company. Mr. Roxbury plays the part of Mother Goose in his well-known inimitable style; able assistance is given by George Castrey and

last week Ted and May Hopkins and company appeared in the pantomime *The Babes in the Wood*. Miss May Hopkins as Robin Hood is all that could be desired; Miss Ethel Ruinsforth plays Maid Marion prettily, and is the possessor of a good voice; the Brothers Ted and Dick Hopkins, popular Welsh comedians, keep the house in roars of laughter from start to finish, in the rôles of the Wicked Robbers. Speciality songs, dances, &c., are introduced by Messrs. Grant and Kelly, Miss Enid Lane, and Miss Gastella. On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of this week the musical comedy *Lucky 'Liza* is announced to be presented by Mr. Dickie Clare's company.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Paying their annual visit, Messrs. H. and F. Poole are here for this week with their colossal myriorama and variety entertainment. The turns include Mr. Richard Karsby's giant myriophone, an interesting musical novelty of 2000 revolving strings; Mr. Bert Gates, a capable guide and ventriloquist; Harry Dowsett proves a popular comedian; some clever track-cycling is performed by the Geo. French troupe; Learto entertains well with selections on numerous musical instruments, assisted by his clever dog Babe; the Snow Family present a clever skating act, infusing plenty of fun; Miss Phyllis St. Clare sings well; the animated pictures are up to date; and the dioramic effects excellent.

PENTRE.—TIVOLI PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Poole's, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Resident-Manager, Mr. James Gunn.—Topping the bill we have J. W. Rowley, the clever vocal comedian, whose quaint songs are up to date and appeal to the popular favour; Abel and Welsh, in their droll eccentricities, are cordially received; Harry Coates, the singing navvy, has a rich resonant voice, which he utilises to advantage; the Bros. Ford are graceful artists with their singing and dancing numbers; Reg Bolton is responsible for a pretty vein of humour in his comedy scena *The Editor's Imp;* Gladys and Alber, in their pot-pourri act, introducing singing, dancing, and comedy tumbling, are deservedly applauded; Henry and Blanche, in their speciality act *Continental Experiences*, are much appreciated; Tate and Tate continue the mirth in *The Barmaid and Eccentric Customer*. The Tivoliscope shows a series of new and up-to-date films.

WORKMEN'S HALL.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles Charlton.—The Excelsior animated pictures are being largely patronised, some fine films being exhibited. In a series of illustrated songs Mr. Charlton, the manager, shows that he possesses a voice.

PERTH.—PERTH THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—Mr. Savile produces his ninth Perth pantomime, *Puss in Boots*, at the theatre this week. The pantomime has just finished a most successful run at Paisley, and compares very favourably with its excellent predecessors. The scenery and dresses are gorgeous, and the songs are good and well chosen. Miss Dalsie Morell makes an excellent Colin, and receives repeated encores for her songs; Miss Katie Yates is a charming and unaffected Princess Ivy; Miss Florence Lewis makes an attractive and dashing Prince Rudolph; Miss Moyna Hill as Phyllis is dainty; the Misses Mabel Earle and Jessie Jukes are a clever pair, their dancing being excellent; and Miss Topsy Johnson could not be improved upon as Felina, the Fairy Queen. Mr. Walter Kooney, an old favourite here, as King Grabbus is deservedly popular, his humour being excellent; Mr. Harry Karr, also an old favourite, as Dame Shortly causes endless amusement; Mr. Fred C. Fields as Baron Rumphiz works hard and gives a creditable performance; Mr. J. K. Macfarlane is extra good as Sandy Macmuggles, his humour being very pawky; Mr. Glen Alva is to be commended for his Slyboots, King of Cats; and Mr. Arnold Harley gives every satisfaction as Digestus. Misses Edna Evelyn, Becca Stirling, and Lily Bell La Belle Trio deserve much praise for their clever dancing. The pantomime is to run for two weeks.

PETERBOROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. E. Winter; Manager, Mr. H. Watson.—This week we have Mr. George Bryden-Phillips' company in the pantomime *Puss in Boots*. The company is a very able one, and the story is told with attractive dash and swing. Kitty Vivian makes a dashing Prince Ferdinand, her singing in particular being the feature of the performance; Mavis Hope is a charming Princess; Tom Ashby is a thoroughly amusing Dame; Jack Grist loses nothing in the able hands of Ethel Dunbar; and much merriment is caused by the business of Bernand and Weston as Bill and Sid. Leslie Digby is well placed as King Koko, and Richard Lomas makes a capital Puss in Boots; George Asto does well as Mephisto, and Jeannie Langlois is a charming Fairy. Specialities are given by the Sisters Milburn and Cane, Eugene and Willie, and Richard Lomas.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards; Manager, Mr. Frank Gallagher.—A good bill is headed by Howard and St. Clair, in their screamingly-funny comedy sketch *Do You Want to Buy Any Coke?* the Dainty Annie O'Connor is well received in her latest successes; the Great Northern Troupe of International dancers are great favourites; Frank Elliston and company present a comedy episode, entitled *My Lady Betty;* Captain Kettle is a mysterious comedy Coin King; Dover and Deane are original dancers and vocalists; and Rex Fox introduces his wonderful ventriloquial and musical act on the wire. The Hippodrome pictures are good.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—*Cinderella* has now entered on its last weeks here. The pantomime has proved so great a draw that the executive have found it necessary to put on an additional matinée, making three for the week. We have already commented on the artists who have made the pantomime a success, and may add that the hope is universally expressed that the various principals will be re-engaged next season.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—Happy Tom Parker is particularly well described, his quaint sayings and original witticisms quickly putting the audience on thoroughly good terms with themselves; Machnow, the Russian giant, furnishes a "great" turn in more ways than one, his enormous proportions astounding the onlookers; Marco, a young conjurer, does some very smart tricks; and Charles Collette, a thoroughly popular local favourite, renews old triumphs. Alice Hollander supplies some accomplished vocal contributions, in which material assistance is furnished by Kurkkamp, the singing conductor, and the Palascope concludes an excellent entertainment.

PONTEFRACT.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Tom Diacoff.—Bert Wickham, an imposing figure, performs prodigious feats of strength. F. V. St. Clair sings songs of his own composition, and his choruses are taken up with vigour; some of his verses appear to be impromptu. Wilson Blackmore is a clever mimic; Howard and Wallace present a clever sketch, *Taming a Wife;* Violet Blanch sings daintily; W. R. Vowles and Edith Bryan sing of various topics in an exceedingly pretty garden setting; Matt. Wilkinson's Laughter Makers fully justify their description; and G. de Relwyskow, a lightweight wrestler, throws out challenges. The pictures are again a strong feature.

PORTH.—PALACE.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole; Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—Topping the bill here we have Heeley and Meely, eccentric comedians, who evoke roars of laughter; Czar's Royal Troupe of Dancers are exceedingly smart; the Five Musical Tritons give an admirable performance; as a juggler Harry Friskey scores a success; the Four Dorians on trapeze and rings give a pleasing turn; Horace White delights with his excellent ventriloquial entertainment; Harry Wenburn, comedian, makes a hit; and the Palascope concludes.

PORTSMOUTH.—ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell. *The Girls of Gottenberg* is here. Mr. Bertie Wright as Max Moddelkopf is the principal fun-maker, and the centre of many laughable complications; Prince Otto is well played by Mr. Tom Thelford, his song "Jericho" being perhaps most successful. In Miss Simeta Marsden Mitzi has a fascinating representative, and Elsa has a pleasing exponent in Miss Maisie North. Miss May Marshall's work as Clementina was very good, and both the Sergeant and Colonel were capitally impersonated by Messrs. Chas. Berkeley and David Miller.

PRINCE'S.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Agate.—*The Girl with the Angel Face* is being presented here by Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and James Willard's company. Mr. Fred G. Evison displayed dramatic power as Jasper Death, Mollie Maitland receiving a sympathetic portrayal from Miss Mildred Carr. Angel Leigh was capably embodied by Miss Florrie Green, the dual character of Sir John and Thomas Wentworth being ably undertaken by Mr. H. Naylor Grimson.

KING'S.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Claude Marner; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Thos. Barrasford.—The McBanns show marvellous adroitness in their manipulation of various clubs; Jack Merlin displays dexterity with cards; the Stowe Brothers are smart equilibrists; a very bright turn is that of the Lumars; music has an exponent in Surrie Lindon's entertainers in *Monks at Play;* a laughter-provoking comedian is Reginald Beauchamp; George Hall whistles powerfully; and a bright little act, entitled *The Experiment*, is produced by Mrs. Albert Bradshaw's company.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Capt. E. H. Warren-Wright; Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—The Bouncing Dillons invite members of the audience to imitate their feat, the efforts of those essaying convulsing the audience; Henry Coutts, Dot Kemp, and company interest those present in a spectacular production, *Outflanked;* the entertainment is further supported by Cummin and Seaham, the Toreadors, Jas. Stewart, Russell Brandow, and Willard's Mannikins. Mr. A. W. White, J.P., who has been Chairman of the Directors for many years, passed away on Tuesday.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris; Assistant-Manager, Colonel F. W. Roberts.—Sam Mayo's quaint vocalisation fascinates his auditors here; a cleverly enacted sketch, *The Usurer*, is presented by Mr. Sydney Mason, supported by Mr. H. Russell, Miss Theresa Moore, and others; the Seven Perezoffs do a very showy turn; the Sussex yokel is admirably portrayed by Mr. George Grogie; some high kicking is performed by Mr. James Eadie in his musical comedy with Miss Cissie Ramsden; Miss Zena Pana is humorous and musical; and the Earthquake at Messina is vividly reflected by the Bioscope to appropriate music, selected by Mr. J. Howard Shackleton, the talented conductor.

PRESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, the Executors of the late W. Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—The new musical play *Butterflies*, under the direction of Mr. Wilfred Cotton, is drawing large houses here this week, and enthusiastic audiences are extending a hearty welcome. The company is undoubtedly a good one all round, and the play is most exquisitely mounted. Miss Louie Brett is most successful as Salome (a model), and Mr. Arthur Edwards is capital as Paul (an art student). Mr. Allan Mudie is also very good as Peter. Mr. James F. Henry as Gilbert (a poet) is clever; as are also Miss Alice Roche and Miss Gladys Dare as Lalaye and Myria respectively. Mr. Edwin Wynne is delightfully funny as Christopher Podmore (a Colonial broker), and, together with Mr. Johnnie Wilkinson as Yarker, a chauffeur (whose song, "He'd never been upon a farm before," brought down the house), keep the house in a roar with their excellent comedy; Miss Lilian Wesson as Elsie Podmore and Miss Ada Davidson as Nora Podmore are also to be congratulated; Mr. Harrison Brockbank, who enacts the part of Widgery Blake ("Puck"), is good, and, of course, renders the songs allotted to him with his usual good style and effect, which, needless to say, meets with much appreciation; Mr. Cyril Bidduiph is a successful Max Riadore; Miss Annie Hcenan as Rhodante ("the Witch") is very much to the front throughout, and scores heavily, both her singing and acting coming in for a full share of well-merited applause; in Act III. Miss Millie Gordon is loudly encored for her very graceful classical dance (of the "Salome" order), "La Naissance du Papillon." The chorus, which is exceptionally strong, adds much to the success of the performance, which goes with a swing, with never a dull moment from rise to fall of the curtain. The excellent augmented orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Pierre de Reeder, deserves special mention.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—A most excellent bill of fare is provided here this week. At the top is Miss Marie Jones, who, in her duologue *The Way to Win a Bet*, assisted by Mr. Ernest Munro, proves herself to be a most versatile quick-change artist, presenting six distinct characters in a remarkably short space of time; her act meets with much applause. The Godfreys (Didie and Kate) have a capital and original comedy-sketch, *The Slavey and the Coon*, and prove themselves accomplished performers on several musical instruments; Jim Cheetham is a decidedly clever boy whistler and bird mimic; Carl and Mary Ohm, with their animal circus, are an excellent turn, and the manner in which their ponies, dogs, monkeys, and bears go through their performance reflects much credit on their trainers; Burns and Bentley, American vaudeville artists, are a duo of clever dancers; Ben Harris and his famous Nippers, in their refined comedy boxing speciality *A Promising Pupil*, provide much amusement, which is considerably enhanced by a competition for local youths, each of whom is placed in a barrel a yard apart, the competitor knocking his opponent over the most times in three rounds being adjudged the winner. This turn creates roars of laughter. Another excellent turn is provided by Leonard Charburn's troupe of "young stars," twelve most accomplished children, some of whom possess really phenomenal voices, and are heard to great advantage in a pretty scena, "A Picnic up the River." Yorkshire Tom gives a clever imitation of various animals in the farmyard and various instruments and machinery; a very clever lightning artist is Valvere, who concludes with a clever marine sketch, entitled "A Naval Bombardment," with some most novel effects. A Mother's Fault, on the bioscope, concludes a programme which should suit the most fastidious.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Mrs. F. Bateman and George Conquest's company, in the well-known drama *The Crimes of Paris*, is here this week. Mr. H. J. Walton is good as Pierre Telfort; Mr. Mayor Cooke displays most refined villainy as Viscount de Vismes; and is most ably supported by Mr. G. Conquest, jun., Mr. Geo. Harvey, and Mr. J. E. Abbot, who, as the three thieves, the Dummy, the Dandy, and the Player, are excellent. Mr. Kendrew Milson is most efficient as Jules Martel, and proves himself an actor of no mean order; Miss Vera Clavering Craig as Jacques Martel, his child, is clever; and Miss Enid Edoni as Angela Martel (his wife) meets with much success. Pepin Cardel is portrayed in a most clever manner by Mr. Clavering Craig, who is most versatile in his many rôles; Mr. Roy Hylton displays much humour in his character of the Cockney clerk. Joshua Johnson, and is well supported by Miss Carrie Jones, who, as Charlotte (his wife), is excellent and fully deserves the applause she receives. Miss Flora Hastings as La Belle Helene deserves commendation; as do also Miss Christine Bickerstaffe as Lizette and Miss H. Dudley Davis as the widow Nicole. Mr. Harry Foster as the newspaper seller, Mr. J. J. Sims as De Savigny, and Mr. H. Lyons as Hercule are each most capable. The piece is capitally mounted, and appears much to the taste of the audiences of this theatre.

RADCLIFFE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Boothman.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's company is paying a return visit with *A Broken Heart*. Mrs. Harry Foxwell takes the part of Mary Barnard with much feeling; Miss Emma Rainbow scores as Mrs. Barnard; Miss Nancy Mitchell is an acceptable Sally; Miss Mabel Kelland is quite satisfactory as Miss Grace Fanshawe; Mr. J. Moreton Williams makes a gentlemanly Stephen Raylton; and Mr. Jerrold Kennedy is good as John Barnard. Mr. Edward Rawlinson deserves a word as Gash Gills, and Mr. Vivian Charles is seen to advantage as the Rev. Mr. Staunton. Mr. T. Armitage as Tony Tibbets causes hilarity.

RAMSGATE.—ROYAL PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; Lessee, Mr. Ernest Mansell; Business Representative (for Mr. Mansell), Mr. Bert Atkinson.—Alfred West's animated picture entertainment, Life in Our Navy and Army, has attracted large and enthusiastic crowds. Up-to-date programmes have been provided, practically every phase in the life and work of the offensive and defensive services afloat and ashore being depicted. In addition there have been unique views of the great earthquake in Italy, specially photographed for West's production. On Sunday evening last a fine sacred concert was given at the Royal Palace. Selections were rendered by the full string band of the 21st (Empress of India's) Lancers, and there were also series of animated pictures.

RAWTENSTALL.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; General-Business-Manager, Mr. A. R. Feather.—A powerful attraction is provided this week in Mr. Douglas Bruce's excellent company in *The Girl Who Lost Her Character*, which was received here with enthusiastic applause by a good house on Monday. As Molly Vernon Miss Doris Brookes gave a convincing impersonation delightful to witness, whilst Miss Cherry Veheyne was a sweet and dainty Rose Seymour, acting with grace and artistic skill; Miss Lydia Mannington made an excellent Marian Franklyn, and Miss Mamie Thorpe a capital Isabella Jones, her portrayal being full of life and humour; as Jack England Mr. Harold Macartney gave a fine portraiture; Mr. George Mitchell was capitally placed as James Sutton; and as the Rev. Robert Everton Mr. Edward McLean gave a thoroughly sympathetic and clever delineation. Mr. George H. Asquin was most successful as Dick Punch, his rendering arousing continuous laughter; Mr. Richard Ferris was exceedingly good as Captain Geoffrey Caversham, and Mr. Augustus Bowerman was also seen to advantage as Detective Weathersby. The remaining characters were ably sustained, and the staging was elaborate.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Benton.—*The Fatal Wedding* is being played here this week. Miss Ethel Kay gives an excellent impersonation of the character of the heroine, Mabel Wilson; Mr. Cecil A. Melton takes the part of Howard Wilson in a refined and artistic manner; Miss Elaine Vanbrugh acts very powerfully as the heartless adventuress Cora Williams, and her accomplice Robert Curtis is well represented by Mr. Percy Ballard. Miss Lulu Wohlmann is highly successful in the part of the Little Mother; Mr. Harry M. Vernon as the French Butler and Miss Ethel Serjeant as an Irish cook are both very diverting; Mr. Frank Ashby and Mr. Cyril Melton also give good impersonations. The scene in which a party of children appear is exceedingly well received, and the clever performances of the juvenile artists are much appreciated.

THE PALACE.—Managing Director, Mr. G. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. E. Draco.—This week Gravetta and Parr introduce a novel turn in the shape of clay-modelling and sand-pictures, which are very artistically produced; Miss Ethel Walker's songs at the piano, *à la* Margaret Cooper) are well appreciated; the Athlones give a good gymnastic display, their feats of strength being performed with great ease and skill; Fred Herbert is a clever up-to-date vocalist; Max Gruber's elephant, horse, and pony are exceedingly well trained, and go through an effective performance, Herr Gruber being assisted by Miss Adelina; Nina St. Elmo is a pleasing comedienne; the Seven Merry Marvels, vocalists and eccentric instrumentalists, give a good musical turn; George Antill is a weird and eccentric comedian; the Breton Troupe of Pantomimists appear in a sketch entitled *The Tramps' Picnic*, in which they introduce some amusing knockabout business; and some good pictures are shown on the Bioscope.

ROCHDALE.—PUBLIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. T. B. Field.—Mr. Walter Melville's new play, *The Soldier's Wedding*, was produced here on the 22nd and 23rd by Miss Inez Howard's company, under the direction of Mr. Henry Chattell. The drama was well played throughout, the various artists being especially well up in their respective parts. Mr. Charles A. Baker as Jack Brown, Mr. H. C. Lanceley as Colonel James Graham, Miss May Rosine as Lizzie Walker, are specially worthy of notice. The whole of the company work exceedingly well, consequently the production is a big success.

ROCHDALE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, the Northern Theatres Co., Limited; Managing Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Burton.—The pantomime *Cinderella* is the attraction here. It is prettily staged, and some capital singing and dancing are presented. Miss Madge Daly makes a dashing Prince Charming; Miss Jessica Brooke is a winsome Cinderella; the Sisters Florence score with their dancing; Miss Ida Scott makes a capital Fairy Godmother; roars of laughter are created by Mr. Harry C. Momber as Sprightly; Mr. Eric Farr, Mr. Wm. Doust, and Mr. Erne Chester, composing the Tally Ho Trio, contribute some excellent and humorous vocalism; and specialities are introduced by Miss May Maddison, the Rag Time Girl; and the Four Lancashire Roses, lady dancers.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—Lennie and Hast top the bill here with a vocal scena, *The Sea Nymph;* Menotti submits a clever performance on a flying wire; the De Breans contribute a capital Japanese entertainment; Dan Feely, comedian; Frank Whiteley, comedian and dancer; Primavesi, juggler; Ellis and Watts, comedians and dancers; and the Empire Bioscope complete the programme. Thora, ventriloquist, was unable through illness to appear.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Jackson Family; Business-Manager, Mr. Jno. Jackson; Resident-Manager, Mr. James Jackson, sen.—The Gothams, humorous vocalists; the Kurios, clever pantomimists; Sara Roseburg, heartily appreciated in *Eaur Folks Party;* Falco and Edie, in a Japanese Ju-Jitsu dancing act; Lester and Moure, eccentric comedy act; the Three Sisters Lee, acrobats, vocalists, and dancers; Irve Hayman and company, in *Christmas Eve;* Little May Loftus, trick dancer; and the Hippodrome pictures are the attractions here.

ROTHERHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Mr. Frederick Melville's company is here, for the first time, with *Her Road to Ruin*. Mr. Henry Wolston is a manly Frank Temple; Mr. Duncan Jarrow is seen to advantage as Tom Wells; Mr. Alex Bradley gives a clever portrayal of Philip Hardy; and Mr. William Lynton scores as Mr. Derwent. Mr. C. H. Brooke is deserving of mention as Dicky Gerald, and Inspector Homewood is in the capable hands of Mr. William Arnold; Mr. Dane Clarke does well as the Bishop, and Mr. V. R. C. Moore is effective as Charles Cholmondeley. Miss Alice Bowes plays capably as May Willoughby; Miss Marie Wright is smart as Jennie Crackling; Miss Nellie Bonser essays the triple rôles of Mary Dawson, Marie de Vanne, and 'Orrible Mary, in each of which she is highly effective; and Miss Beatrice Edwards is pleasing and sympathetic in the part of Jess Willoughby.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. Edgar Fox; Resident-Manager, Mr. Claude Shayler.—Corbin's dogs head the bill, and are quite deserving the pride of place; the Three Calbas give a fine acrobatic turn; the Society Quartette are responsible for a clever song and dance turn; and the Two Kays give a pleasing scena, *The Cuckoo*. "Estrella" is responsible for some brilliant International and barefoot dances. Maude Ellison and company present an amusing farce, *Dobson's Day Out;* Miss Becky Elliston is sprightly as Fanny, and Miss Dorothy Elliston is very smart as Rosa. Ara, Zebra, and Voira present an interesting turn, illustrating Indian pastimes; and the Hipposcope is brought into use for the production of some excellent films.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—*Love Rules the World*, the domestic drama by T. G. Bailey, drew a good house on Monday, when Mr. Sidney Rennef gave an excellent portrayal of Jim Dixey. As the unfortunate mother Maud Carruthers Miss Lillian Herries did excellent work; Harold Kingston was well played by Mr. Richard Vane; Mr. Stephen Langton as Stephen Blight and Miss Grace Jones as Flo Morton, satisfactorily sustained those villainous characters; much fun was contributed, too, by Mr. Fred Elvin as Billy Binks and Miss Kitty Russell as Kitty Snowdrop.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and Mr. J. E. Cardwell presented to a full house their comic pantomime *The House that Jack Built*. Miss Florrie Taylor is a lively Jack; and a charming representative of Jill is found in Miss Evelyn Major. Old Aunt Purdy is a comical character in the hands of Mr. H. Hillerby; Wee Gladys Wyse is very clever as Wee McGregor; Mr. W. MacNorton as Squire Bounce, Doyle and Gibson as the Broker's Men, Paddy Sloan as Harold, and Stanley Jefferson as Percy, also keep the fun to the fore. Miss H. Jones (Colin), Miss J. Marsden (Gretchen), Miss P. Blanchard (Tommy Tucker), Miss Olive Woodbridge (Dolly Dimple), Miss W. Adamson (Bella Blot), Miss Annie Brumby (Maid Marian), Miss Molly Johnson (Polly Pickle), Miss G. Whalley, Miss E. Whalley, and the other members do well. There are charming dances and pretty costumes. The scenery by Phil V. Davis and F. Le Maistre is very pretty. Specialities by Doyle and Gibson, the "Forget-me-not" Quartette of dancers, Horace Hillerby, Florrie Edwards, and Wee Gladys Wyse were much applauded.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Slatter.—The romantic play *Who is She?* was presented on Monday to a good house by Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson's company. As the hero Prince Vladimir Mr. Graham Woods is excellent; the cowardly Prince Bora is boldly presented by Mr. Horace Booth; Miss Violet Carlyle carefully plays the title-rôle with skill; Mr. Alfred Grenville well portrays Sergeant Metroff; much fun is caused by Mr. Edward Swinton as Chang-Tee, Mr. Geo. Scully as Paul, and Miss Mary Collier as Saretta; the little King is charmingly played by Miss Mabel Ronald; Miss Alice Barber gives a good representation of Countess Ladori; good work is done by Miss Marie Robson as Keta; and Mr. Sinclair Holden cleverly portrays Captain Arthur Gower.

OPERA HOUSE AND ASSEMBLY ROOMS, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; General-Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Manager, Mr. E. Shepherd.—Mr. Tom Sherlock again scores with his singing the illustrated song, "I'd sacrifice all for you." This week's films include New Century Thieves, Custom House Officer's Fiancée, Four Sweethearts, A Fright in a Village, Voice from the Dead, A Trip in Rhodesia, An Improvised Consultation, Bad Pinch of Snuff, Unlucky Jim, Love on a Farm, &c.

NEW CENTRAL HALL (Blackfriars-road).—Proprietors, Messrs. Whiteley and Weiker; Manager, Mr. Fred Sharp.—Twice nightly to good houses the following, among other animated pictures, appear to be much appreciated: Rifle Bill, A Champion House Dog, The Aspirator, Back from the Grave, Benvenuto Cellini, &c.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. C. Harrison.—*Cinderella* is being presented here by Messrs. Pardoe and Miss Lottie Holland's combination. Miss Lottie Holland appears as Prince Charming, a rôle which she fills most effectively. Her singing is a feature of the production. The part of Cinderella is presented by Miss Nellie Rose in charming style; as Princess Rosala Miss Beattie Howard wins praise; and a pleasing Dandini is contributed by Miss Roand Dora. Miss Cissy Loveday as the Fairy acquits herself with credit, and is a vocalist of repute. Comedy is a strong element, foremost in the number being Mr. George Hyam as Scoot, who keeps the house in continual good humour. The sisters, Eva and Maud, find acceptance as played by Messrs. N. and J. Dench; Mr. G. Dorma is a very successful Baron; Blobbs and Blabbs, as embodied by Alf. Grady and Mike Hastings, are a humorous pair and smart dancers; Father Time is played with skill by Mr. Tom Griffitt, a capital vocalist. The marvellous Pardoes submit clever specialities in the form of trapeze and acrobatic display; Miss Holland scored a success with the scena "Ayesha"; the Edingale Trio are popular dancers. The scenery is admirable and the dresses beautiful, whilst the chorus is capable.

SHEFFIELD.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—Mr. Martin Harvey and his company are appearing in a round of romantic dramas this week. There was a crowded house, at raised prices, on Monday, when the favourite actor received an enthusiastic greeting on his first entrance in the picturesque seventeenth-century play *The Breed of the Treshams*. Mr. Harvey was recalled again and again, and at the finish he was compelled to respond to the continued cries of "Speech." Miss de Silva, Miss Madge Fabian, Mr. Charles Cameron, Mr. A. E. Raynor, Mr. Charles Glenny, Mr. Hewland, Mr. Muir, Mr. Craske, and that trusty and respected veteran Mr. Frederick Wright, all did sound work. *The Corsican Brothers*, with Mr. Harvey in the dual rôle of Louis and Fabian de Franchi, thrilled a big audience on Wednesday, and the performance of the famous play was as near perfection as possible. For Friday and Saturday *The Only Way* was billed. Mr. Martin Harvey has again met with a most generous and affectionate reception from the Sheffield public.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. Henfrey-Aldred.—The beautiful spectacle *Goody-Two-Shoes* continues to draw large and delighted audiences, and the lovely ballets and comic business are much applauded.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. William D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—The brilliantly staged annual *Robinson Crusoe* is still doing Boxing-night business, though the run here soon comes to an end on account of Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's previously-made arrangements.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—The Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—L'Incognita, the masked vocalist, is the star this week, and on Monday she sang three songs, which were received with enthusiastic applause; Hermann Melot is a great favourite, and his smart and amusing conjuring tricks are as popular as on his former visits here. The programme also includes known artists: Mr. W. J. Ashcroft, the original "Muldoon"; the Delevines, burlesque artists and grotesque dancers; Rossi and Lewis, a diverting pair of American entertainers; Mr. Henry Carlton's company in a comic sketch; Miss Nelly Le Breton in illustrated songs and Dutch business; Captain Woodward's well-trained sealions; and the Bioscope, with pictures of Italian cavalry practice.

THE HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. D. Elbourne.—A good all-round company is here, the performers being the talented Sandow Girls; Mr. Russell Carr, ventriloquist; Mr. Jose, a clever protean comedian; the Ongars, extraordinary Continental dancers; Mr. Mayme Cannon; the Hersleb Brothers, Wild, Willie, and West, in the screaming pantomimic and knockabout act *The Bouncing Nawvies;* and the Columbia Trio, in a mélange of songs, concerted pieces, and burlesque business. The Barrascope, with artistic films, concludes.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. A. W. Turpin.—A selection of pictures by the Raymond Bio-Tableaux Co. and illustrated songs are pleasing the patrons of this cosy theatre.

MONTGOMERY HALL.—Manager, Mr. Motters Law.—The Sheffield Photo Co.'s fine animated pictures are still giving delight to large audiences.

CENTRAL THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Jasper Redfern and Co., Ltd.—Vaudeville and photography continue to share the honours nightly.

PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. Peech.—Sheffield's latest picture theatre continues to do excellent business.

SURREY PALACE.—Manager, Mr. Frank Howson.—The old-time music-hall entertainment given here is very popular.

SHREWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Director, Mr. W. Yates Gregory; General-Manager, Mr. Thos. Baugh.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's talented company were here the first three nights of this week with Hall Caine's exciting drama *The Prodigal Son*, splendidly mounted and finely enacted throughout. Mr. Herbert Franklyn performed in an exceedingly capable manner the part of Stephen Magnussun; Miss Ethel Lodge as Anna, his wife, played her part admirably; Mr. George Edwin Clive acted with power and conspicuous success in the rôle of Oscar Stephensson; Mr. T. W. Dunscombe as the taciturn Magnus Stephensson merited high encomiums; Mr. Arthur E. Holland acted in a most creditable fashion the part of Oscar Neilson; Miss Chrissie Dunbar may be deservedly complimented upon her spirited and capable acting as Helga Neilson; Miss Dora Gregory made an attractive and pleasing Elin; Miss Marie Tennant was an accomplished Margaret Neilson; Mr. Geo. Aldwin in the character part of Eric Arnusson was deserving of high praise; and numerous minor characters were excellently depicted.

SMETHWICK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. Barnard; Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson.—Well-filled houses are witnessing the presentation of the Lyceum version of Hall Caine's play *The Christian* by Mr. Wentworth Croke's company, of which intelligent performances are being given. Miss Daisy Scudamore makes an admirable Glory; a capable representative of John Storm is found in Mr. Roy Redgrave; Mr. Wilfred Voy does good work as Horatio Drake; Lord Robert Ure is in the able hands of Mr. Herbert Hewetson; Father Lamplugh and Archdeacon Wealthy are well represented by Mr. Thomas Barry and Mr. John J. Hooker; Miss Cora Deane ably portrays Polly Love; Miss Molly Marsden gives a meritorious performance as Mrs. Callandor; Miss Muriel Marsden acts capitally as Black Meg; and Miss Kitty Symons makes the most of her small part as Lady Robert Ure.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing Directors, Messrs. Geo. Conquest and Richard H. Nerney; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—Mr. Edward Graham-Falcon's company is here in *Cinderella*. Miss Norah Neville plays the title-rôle with both charm and naturalness; Miss Frankie Manners as Prince Elegant also wins popularity; Miss Dot Carey is well suited as Dandini; Mr. Wentworth Fane makes an effective character of Baron Stoney; and the Baron's daughters have droll and capable exponents in Messrs. Albert Evremond and Claude Merton. Mr. George Whillis adds to the good fun as Billy Buttons; Messrs. Ben Walters and Fred Wallace as the Baron's retainers and Mr. Will Telford as the Cat give every satisfaction; and the immortals are well represented by Miss Ethel Tremaine, Miss May Baskerville, and Mr. Fred. Parsons as the Demon. Speciality dances by the Sisters Bentley, Miss Minnie Dorina, and Miss Olivia Rae demand well-earned repetitions.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE WINTER GARDENS.—Proprietors, The Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens Co., Ltd.; Secretary and General-Manager, Mr. R. Singleton.—Mr. Percy Hutchison's company opened here on Monday in *Brewster's Millions*. The play was exceptionally well staged and enacted, the realistic rolling yacht scene being especially commended. Mr. Percy Hutchison was highly successful in the rôle of Monty Brewster, which he depicted in a natural and convincing manner, that left nothing to be desired; the part of Margaret Grey was charmingly and piquantly portrayed by Miss Cicely Stuckey; Miss Lilias Earle was very attractive and artistic as Mrs. Dan de Mille; Mr. Aubrey Mather enacted the character of the irrascible Scottish servant Joseph McLeod very cleverly; Miss Frances Davie was very amusing and commendable as Janice Armstrong. Other praiseworthy character sketches were supplied by Mr. Cyril Rawdon as Charlie Harrison, Mr. A. Andrews (Col. Drew), Mr. Henry Hampson (Archie Golding), Mr. Douglas Greet, Miss Eva Stuart, and Miss Sybil Walsh.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—*The Bondman* is being played to good houses by Mr. Wentworth Croke's No. 1 company. Mr. R. Scrope Quentin interprets Jason in manly and breezy style; Michael Sunlocks is feelingly and impressively delineated by Mr. W. Henry Hargreaves; Miss Georgina Wynter displays great emotion and dramatic instinct as Greeba; Miss Madge Lanerton gives a good portrayal of Mrs. Fairbrother; Mr. W. H. Rotherham delights the audience as the Grandfather in the first and second act and as Father Ferrati in the third and fourth act. The scenery

crowded houses. Mr. Fred Terriss, Mr. Ernest Wingfield, and Miss Lilian Beaumont ably sustain the leading parts. Payne's Bio-photoscope concludes with up-to-date films.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Miller; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. Moroney.—*The House of Terror*, a sketch of the thrilling and dramatic order, is presented by Miss Beaumont Collins and company. All the characters are exceptionally well played. Of quite an opposite order is the laughable skit *A Bit Too Clever*, submitted by Miss Renée Glendower and company. It is very reminiscent of a well-known statue play, and most amusing situations are depicted in the few minutes it holds sway. Lazern presents some smart sleight-of-hand tricks; the Rangers are clever cyclists; the Paolias appear in a graceful athletic act; and others contributing are Connie Mascot, Albert St. Clair, and Chas. Banks and his dog.

SUNDERLAND.—KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. S. F. Davidson; General-Manager, Mr. Alexander Telford; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Sydney Reach.—*Sinbad the Sailor* has entered upon the last week of its run here, having enjoyed unqualified success. From start to finish the performance goes with a swing, and the principals without exception do their work in a manner that earns almost continuous rounds of applause. As the principal boy, Miss Jessie Wilton adds to her reputation each evening, while the principal girl, Miss Christine Roy, is a great favourite, her charming style and sweet voice gaining admiration. Miss Sissie Brand, the second boy, never fails to please with her dashing manner and cleverly-rendered songs; Miss Madeline Rossiter as Princess Zorilda has retained her popularity all through the run for her vocal abilities, and clever and graceful dancing; Miss Roberta Evensden is a capital Fairy Queen, and is well applauded for her singing. The humorists also continue to hold their own, Mr. Will Johnson contributing in no small measure to the fun as the Dame. Mr. Frank Lynne also helps greatly to keep things alive in the humorous character of Binbad, and Messrs. Walton and Lester create roars of laughter with their absurd illusions in the nursery scene. Mr. Fred Beck is a capable Captain Bowline, and Mr. J. A. Howitt portrays the Old Man of the Sea in capital style. Miss Hope Trevelyan continues to receive unbounded applause for her charming singing, as also does Little Nellie Denver for her speciality singing and dancing.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. R. Thornton; Manager, Mr. Harry Esden; Assistant-Manager, Mr. George Dunn.—The management have this week decided to give their patrons a change from the usual fare to the lighter form of amusement in the pantomime *Robinson Crusoe*, and, judging from the thronged houses, it is a very acceptable change. The company is Mr. Chas. Elderton's, and the principals all act their parts with great vigour. Miss Rosie Re-vell takes the title-rôle, and by reason of her personal charm and vocal ability makes herself a warm favourite. Polly Perkins, Robinson Crusoe's sweetheart, has a delightful exponent in Miss Gertie Gavagan. The singing of these two ladies is worthy of special note. The bright and vivacious style of Miss Lena Lewis (Captain Kettle) and Miss Bartenelli (Dolly Dimple) is greatly admired. Miss Dolly Cusdin makes a good impression as Fairy Sunbeam, as also does Mr. Elam Poward as King Neptune. Miss Nellie Stuart does well as Princess Popsy Prettything; Mr. James Grant makes an excellent Dame, and Mr. Fred Boulton (Captain Atkins) plays the bold, bad buccaneer very well; Mr. Teddy Worth is a capable juvenile with a laugh entirely his own; Messrs. Will and Fred Elton, a humorous pair, do some clever horizontal bar and statuary work; and Miss Olive Sara is very entertaining in a musical mélange.

EMPIRE THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—Heading an excellent bill this week is Fred Earle, comedian, whose humorous songs win him great favour; the Gems, under the direction of Mr. Wallace Kennedy, provide an original and lively mélange of singing and dancing; the production of the Ten Zerbinis is musical and spectacular, one of the most popular items being a step-dance on a sheet of polished steel, the performer being shod with ice skates; *That Brute Simmons* is a good comedietta, presented by Mr. F. W. Purcell's company; Frank Sylvio is an accomplished juggler, who introduces humorous touches; Jeannie Mackay shows much talent as a soprano singer; Dacey and Lewis appear in a capital comedy act; and Odeyne Spark, comedienne and dancer, and Little Vio Lette, juvenile male impersonator, both gave excellent turns.

PALACE THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Henry N. Phillips; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fred J. Reece.—A fine programme of pictures is unfolded before large and appreciative audiences. The Story of Psyche, which heads the bill, is a lavishly-coloured film, and depicts a love-story which is greatly admired. Beauty Spots of Devon and The Land of the Midnight Sun display some beautiful scenery. There were many other capital films.

AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden; Assistant-Manager, Mr. R. F. Edwards.—This theatre is being re-opened this week as a picture hall, with a capital collection of films, most noticeable being The Adventures of Monte Cristo and Towards the North Pole. A diversion is created by the chronophonic interpretation of "I Fear no Foe" song. Miss Nellie Ross sings "Down the Vale" in excellent style.

SWANSEA.—THE GRAND.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Page.—Mr. Arthur Bourchier and company produced here on Monday *Samson*, by Henry Bernstein. A full report appears on another page.

THE STAR.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company is warmly received at the Star, where they are playing *The Conscience of a Judge*. Mr. Stanley Bedwell as the Judge enacts a difficult rôle cleverly, and Miss Eva Moss as Jessica is excellent throughout. Horation Winters, a really funny character, is finely played by Mr. Frank Eden. Frank Eaglewood is a realistic villain as Sir Edward Merdin.

EMPIRES, LTD.—Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—Fred Karno's troupe in *The G.P.O.* head a good bill, and with Fred Kitchen appearing as Perkins the fun is fast and furious. Hebrew comedy is Howell and Scott's forte, and with clever patter and dancing they provide good entertainment. Maude A. Edwards is an accomplished ventriloquist; Eddie Hayes and Mona Wynne are responsible for good singing and really extraordinary dancing; and Barrington does effective trick piano-playing. Takio, a Japanese mimic, is first class, and Harry Lawson's eccentricities are always amusing. The Bioscope pictures are excellent.

THE PALACE.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell. Among an excellent series of pictures this week the chief is A Cowboy's Baby. Miss Nora Nail and Mr. Tom Thomas, both of whom are in excellent voice, provided the vocal items.

SWINDON.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wiltshire Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Manners.—Mr. J. W. Broughton's *Cinderella* is proving a great attraction here this week. Miss Maude Mortimer makes a capital principal boy, and her songs are loudly applauded. Cinderella could not be in better hands than those of Miss Connie Leon, whose daintiness and charm pleases all. Baron Harduppe is successfully portrayed by Mr. Stanley Vandyke, and Mr. W. T. Thompson causes no end of fun as Buttons; Miss Edith Barwell as Ripples and Miss Annie Cohen as Dimples, the ugly sisters, are irresistible; Dandini is smartly taken by Miss Minnie Miriam, whilst Mlle. de Velin makes an imposing Fairy Progress; Father Time is ably handled by Mr. George Belrose, who possesses a fine voice; Messrs. Victor and Lewis as the Broker's Men and the Sisters Edwards as Colin and Rose, together with the many smaller characters, all add to the completeness of the performance. The chorus and dancers are particularly good, and the staging and dresses deserve mention.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTION.—Secretary, Mr. H. J. Southwell.—The pantomime *Sinbad the Sailor* is being presented at the above this week by Mr. John A. Thomson's company.

CORN EXCHANGE.—Secretary, Mr. W. H. Shepherd.—Mr. Ernest Bodkin's company, in *The Thief*, is billed here for Tuesday and Wednesday.

TORQUAY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company is playing *The Prodigal Son* here this week. Mr. Hugh Montgomery as Magnus Stephenson gives a powerful delineation; an equally successful impersonation of Oscar is given by Mr. Gordon Macintosh; Miss Valerie Cresspin makes a pathetic Thora; Miss Mildred Cottell is a fascinating Helga; Mr. Charles A. Maynard also does well as Neils Filsen. In the rôles of Stephen Magnusun and Anna his wife respectively Mr. Bellenden Clarke and Miss Barbara Gott are both seen to advantage; and Mr. Philip Renouf is a typical Oscar Neilson. Mr. Geo. W. Hewetson is very good as the Pastor.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Welton Dale; Manager, Mr. C. Hoskins.—Mr. Mouillot's pantomime *Robinson Crusoe* is having a successful week's season here. Miss Mina Green, who is the possessor of an excellent voice, scores a great success in the title-rôle, as does Miss Daisy May as Polly; Mr. Oliver Round is most amusing as the Dame; and Mr. Chas. Resti as Friday; while some capital comedy is forthcoming from Mr. Walter Rousby as Billy Crusoe; Mr. Ernest Sefton as Bill Atkins, Mr. F. Bowes as Bumper, and Mr. Macliver as the Cannibal King. Miss Mary Hope as the Princess Moonshine, Miss Elsie Victor as Picalilli, and Miss Nellie Rousby as Jenny all deserve special mention; while the specialities include the Feodora Quartette of dancers and Viviania and company in *The Toy-shop*; while Mr. Chas. Resti furnishes some comical conjuring.

TYLDESLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. W. Brierley.—Mr. T. Edward Ward's company is being well received here in *Second to None*. Mr. Leonard Williams gives a manly and interesting impersonation of Harry Wilding; the unprincipled Captain Philip Mannering has an able exponent in Mr. Frederick F. Lloyd; Mr. Charles Halling makes a courageous and upright Frank Wilding; and Mr. C. W. Spencer appears to advantage as Sir Reginald Greystone. Sergeant Jack Horseman is cleverly portrayed by Mr. J. G. Maine; Mr. F. R. Gwyn-Richardson plays Archie Ballater well; Nell Greystone receives a sweet and sympathetic rendering at the hands of Miss Ward; Miss Grace Harlington is a commendable Mary Greystone. The comedy of the piece is well sustained by Mr. Geo. Davies (Joe Raggles), Mr. H. Macauley (Private Flutter), and Miss Carrie Yandell (Norah).

WAKEFIELD.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company is making a first appearance here in *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*. The piece is admirably staged, and is played by a strong and highly efficient company. The parts of the three princes, Hildred, Michael, and Olaf, are ably filled by Mr. Alfred Brandon, Mr. Melville Bickford, and Mr. Ernest Cox, their fine efforts winning much praise. Mr. H. Burton is excellent as the dumb man Nathan; Mr. Kenneth Black does full justice as the Bishop of Illyria; Mr. Robert Noble is seen to advantage as Captain Hector; and Mr. J. H. Vyvyan is successful as Lieut. Karl Stromberg. Miss Ethel Bracewell acts charmingly as the Princess of Illyria; Miss Jessica Black is winsome and vivacious as Viola; and Miss Gertrude Branscombe displays great charm and wins sympathy in her clever delineation as Camiola.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—Mr. Harry Tate's No. 1 company in the amusing sketch *Fishing* is the principal attraction, and this alone means hearty merriment; the Itrams are clever in a pot-pourri act; Alfred Kroston, conjurer, provides a smart turn; Miss May Summer, comedienne, does well; Renson and Waite, comedy couple, prove popular; Palette, and his dog, acheive a success in his sketch *A Busy Time in the Studio*; and Miss Edie Coolville, vocalist, delights.

WALSALL.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—Mr. Arthur Carlton's pantomime company, in *Aladdin*, commenced here on Monday. Mr. Fred Cary as Abanazar adds greatly to the success of the pantomime; as Aladdin Miss Lallah Davis proves very successful; Miss Hedda Harlemann as Badroulbadour is charming and clever; the Bros. Harrison as Sloppa and Koppa create much amusement; the Sisters Hampell as Pekoe and Nicee are attractive; Mr. Tony Freedman as Washee is well suited to the part.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—At this hall Miss Alexandra Dagmar tops the bill, and, putting it modestly, she deserves her position. She is best described as "a real artist," and very versatile. The Brothers Ashley, in a boxing sketch, go very well; and the Sisters Urma are good gymnasts. Tom Collins, as a light comedian, does well; and Beattie Kent is a smart dancer. At the bottom of the bill are the Selbinis, in a clever cycle and pot-pourri act. The Three Gartes and the American Bioscope are also included in an excellent programme.

WARRINGTON.—ROYAL COURT.—Proprietor, Mr. J. Beecham; General-Manager, Mr. A. M. Loader; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. Smiley.—Messrs. Hardie and Von Leer's company is here this week in the successful drama *Two Lancashire Lasses in London*. Mr. Harold Cotter as John Edmunds, the inventor, acts well and makes a manly hero; in the popular part of Sam Hablett Mr. Chris. Mason is well placed, and he is certainly a humorist possessed of rare versatile powers; Mr. J. Edward Fletcher is a typical cleric; and Mr. Arthur Elwyn makes the most of Jonas Deane; Mr. Hubert Sidney scores as Edward Langley; and as the two crackemen, Jim Price and Grabbit, Messrs. Jack Miller and W. Walmsley submit smart character sketches; Miss Rosslyn Vayne as Constance displays histrionic abilities of a high order, and much pathos is introduced into the character of Nellie by Miss Alice Defoe; Miss Stanley Burt is a graceful Bessie Edmunds; and Miss Evelyn Shaw as Jane Adelaide Bloomfield scores well as the good-hearted restaurant-keeper; a clever juvenile is Miss Marie Corri, who faithfully enacts the part of Lucy. The staging is good.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. H. C. Hardcastle.—Madge Grey is paying a welcome return visit here this week, and her delightful impersonation of juveniles has established her a bigger favourite than ever; H. C. Lovell and company are a big success in the musical sketch *Mam'selle Pom-Pom*. The Leslie Comedy Cadets are good vocalists, and their military scena *Lights Out* is much enjoyed; Archie Pitt is a quaint comedian; Jamie Pipin is a clever instrumentalist; Paul Powell's electrical marionettes supply an elaborate turn; and Coggin and Davis are seen to advantage in an acrobatic turn. The pictures are good, and a similar remark applies to the selections played by the orchestra under Mr. Widdop's direction.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, The Franco-British Animated Picture Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Jack Waters.—Charlie Ulrick supplies a really clever turn with a series of barrels; Andrew Atkinson's illustrated songs are again a source of pleasure; the Two Countees are delightful vocalists; and Ivy Aberdare is a chic comedienne. The pictures are good.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. R. Nightingale.—Pantomime reigns at this place of amusement again, and large audiences have welcomed Messrs. E. C. Jazon and R. Nightingale's company, which is appearing in a very smartly-written pantomime by E. C. Jazon round the ever-delightful story of "Aladdin." Miss Edna Latonne is very charming as Aladdin; Miss Luna Lisle as Princess Badroulbadour is also good, and the Sisters Benton are clever as Pekoe and Caramel; Mr. Walter Bishop creates roars of laughter as Abanazar; Mr. Clifton Hall is good as the Emperor of China; Mr. Percy Curry as Widow Twankey is smart, while Mr. Frank Vant as Gin Sling has some good songs, which he sings admirably. The pantomime is well staged, and is altogether a first-class production.

NEW HIPPODROME.—The stage at this place of amusement is this week occupied by the members of the West Bromwich Amateur Operatic Society, who are giving a very creditable performance of *The Gondoliers*.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—GRAND.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. Herbert E. Feather.—Mr. Wentworth Croke this week presents the new version of *The Christian*. Mr. Henry Renoult is the Hon. John Storm, and his acting is excellent; Miss Doris Gilham is responsible for the rôle of Glory Quayle, and her portrayal of the part is full of subtle touches; Mr. Oswald Marshall does well as Horatio Drake; Mr. Geo. R. Montford is effective as Lord Robert Ure; Mr. Edward Ling makes a dignified Father Lamplugh; Mr. C. T. Turpin is satisfactory as Archdeacon Wealthy; and Miss Sinna St. Clair as Mrs. Callender and Miss Margaret Brodie as Polly Love add much to the interest of the play.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. E. Dobney.—Undoubtedly the most attractive turn on this week's excellent programme is that provided by Mr. and Mrs. George Leonard, in *Coming Home*, which causes roars of laughter; Sergt. Brennan's manipulation of Diabolo is nothing short of marvellous; the Yokohama Troupe of Japanese balancers and jugglers never fail to please; bright and sparkling is petite Rosie Reval; the Donatos, one-legged clowns, are old favourites; the Three Temples, including Louie Gilbert, are excellent operatic vocalists; the Babuso Bros. do some clever head-to-head balancing; and J. H. Greener, the singing pit lad, and some pictures shown by Raymond's Bioscope are other attractions.

WEST STANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Stanley Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Kelly.—Mr. Louis Calvert presents Miss Janet Lind and talented company in the successful play *Sunday*. Colonel Brinckthorpe is excellently portrayed by Mr. William Gifford, and the part of Arthur Brinckthorpe is in the hands of Mr. Boyce Williams; Mr. Richard Symons, Mr. Richard Trieve, Mr. Cotton Holmes, Mr. James Hussey are responsible for the "Boys"; Miss Janet Lind as Sunday is very good.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. T. C. Rawes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. George W. Montrose.—Majilton's company of comedians heads a fine bill here with *Round the Clock*, which causes endless amusement; Richardson Taylor is a smart ventriloquist; Will Beanland, comedian, is capital; Arthur Bright, vocalist and dancer, and the Vicoscope concludes a fine programme.

WHITBY.—THE SPA THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Payne Seddon.—Mr. Herbert Ralland's company appeared on the 21st inst. in the successful comedy, *His House in Order*, before a fairly large and appreciative audience. Mr. J. Herbert Beaumont made a distinct success in the rôle of Hilary Jesson, his efforts being rewarded by frequent applause; as Filmer Jesson, M.P., Mr. J. Patrick Robertson proved clever; and Mr. Langford Brown provided a fine portrayal of Sir Daniel Ridgeley; Mr. Dudley Stuart as Pryce Ridgeley, and Mr. Randolph Reade as Major Manrewarde were excellent; Miss Elsie Roberts enacted the rôle of Nina in a highly successful manner; and Miss Avis Grahame as Lady Ridgeley successfully sustained the part; Miss Victoria Wray as Geraldine Ridgeway, Miss Katie Neville as Mlle. Thorne, and Miss Peggy Rae as Derek Jesson acted with distinction.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Company.—Miss May Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds's company in *Woman and Wine* is here this week. The character of Marcel Ragadout is in the capable hands of Miss C. St. Elmo; Miss Violet Sims is a captivating Mary Andrews; Miss Ethel Vinroy is a vivacious Janet Marlow; while Miss Octavia de Noel is an eminent success as La Colombe. Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds is intensely dramatic in the part of Dick Seymour; and Mr. R. Foulis as Hugh Seymour is also deserving of much merit.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Company.—Messrs. Jazon and Nightingale's company are responsible for the pleasing production of *Cinderella* here. Miss Molly Doon is a captivating exponent of the title-rôle; and Miss Vera Mayne as Prince Brilliant and Miss Beattie Foster as Dandini are also exceptionally good. Mr. Leo Fields is the life of the piece as Buttons; while Messrs. Wallace Whitney and Harry Plowden are deserving of special mention as the Ugly Sisters. The Carpos Bros. also contribute a neat acrobatic turn which proves highly diverting.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Company; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Woon.—Foremost among this week's interesting films are The Tale the Autumn Leaves Told, Retribution, The Text-Book of a Perfect Gentleman, The Boxing Mania, Onions, and The Great Bargain Sale. A very hearty reception is given to Ri. Hyde, who causes quite an ovation as a character comedian.

WORCESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. F. Le Wards.—Liberal patronage has been bestowed this week on Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company in the delightful play *Peter's Mother*. Miss Violet Ley as Lady Mary Crewys gains the sympathy of her audience by her delightful conception of the part; Mr. Vivian Gilbert makes a strong impression of her somewhat priggish son, Peter; and Mr. Townsend Whitling is responsible for an extremely clever study of the part of Sir Timothy. As the Baronet's austere sisters Miss Mary Griffiths and Miss Josephine Rae provide a good deal of humour, and Mr. Walter Russell as Canon Birch contributed in the same direction; Mr. Drew Mackintosh is well suited as John Crewys, and Miss Hilda Sims as Sarah, Mr. Edward Jephson as Dr. Blundell, Miss Annie Stalman, Mr. P. Wright, and Mr. S. Smith are effective exponents of small parts. A curtain-raiser, *The Turtledoves*, is excellently presented.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles Barnard; Resident-Manager, Mr. Gerald Spencer.—The attraction here this week is Mr. Walter Melville's company in *The Girl Who Wrecked His Home*. Mr. Fred. W. Goddard as Jack Marshall is particularly good; Mr. Walner Gregory as Leonard Kenyon is a polished villain, and he is ably seconded by Miss Winifred Whyte as Val Raymond; Mr. Alfred Richards gives a capital reading of William Stevenson; Mr. George P. Lester is well placed as Joss Crockett; and Mr. Edwin Charles makes a smart Detective. Miss Louise Hampton, in the title-part, is all that can be desired, and Miss Lulu Bowes makes a bright and capable Winifred Marshall. Much amusement is caused by Mr. Francis Hope as Tommy Biffin, and Miss Nellie Burdette as Lottie Primrose.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frank Weston.—Mr. F. C. Bostock's chimpanzee Consul is creating a big sensation here. On Sunday quite a crowd assembled to witness his arrival, and on Monday he held a reception in the foyer of the hall, which was attended by several members of the medical profession. His performance, whether it is due to the animal's extraordinary intelligence, or those responsible for his training, is really wonderful. Grahame's Juveniles, who have well-trained voices, present a charming little vocal scena in *A Concert on the Lawn*; Oliver Martyn, comedian, sandwiches his songs with some smart patter; little Jack Marks is one of the smartest youngsters seen here for some time; the Gilberts present a very interesting wire act; Bains and Reed cause plenty of laughter with their eccentric tumbling act; and Irene Melden, comedienne and dancer, completes a thoroughly good all-round bill.

WORKINGTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Falconer Jackes.—This week Mr. Chalmers Mackey's *Rollicking Rory* company fills the bill, and delighted audiences have had an opportunity of seeing some really good fun and hearing some of the old Irish melodies rendered in a fine old style by such an artist as Miss Constance Bellamy, who filled the rôle of Peggy O'More. Mr. C. Mackey himself fills the title-rôle, and he is ably supported all through by a really strong cast, incuding Edward Warden as Stephen D'Arcy, Richard Hutton as Captain Ashleigh, Mr. St. John Stuart as Shaun Brady, Henry Sainsbury as Sergeant Callagan, Laurence Sullivan as Drummer Dobbs, and Joseph Healy as Larry Riley. The part of Rosie Callagan was entrusted to Miss Nana Flensburg, who responded every time to the humour of her husband and brought roars of laughter from the audience by her naive and charming poses. Miss Adele Liddon made up a splendid widow, while Mrs. C. Mackey played excellently as the Captain's wife.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. McKenzie Morgan.—The pictures were of a very high class, educational, instructive, and amusing as ever. The old favourites, James and Alexander, paid a welcome return visit, and again convulsed the houses. A very fine set also appeared called the Cameron Quartette Party, with voices rich and rare, and a quaint rendering of such old songs as "Rocked in the cradle of the deep," which delighted all hearers.

YORK.—ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—A return visit is being paid by Mr. Leonard Boyne's company in *Raffles*, with Mr. Eille Norwood in the title-rôle. Mr. Norwood's rendering gives evidence of careful study, and a complete success must be recorded. Miss May Brooke gives a polished performance as Mrs. Vidal; and Miss Dorothy Gordon could hardly be surpassed as Marie, a part exactly suited to her charming style. As Curtis Bedford Mr. E. W. Thomas gives a racy and convincing rendition of a popular rôle; and Mr. Arthur Willoughby's Lord Amerstoth is a clever character sketch. The piece is effectively mounted. *A Lesson in Shakespeare* is the curtain-raiser.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brooke.—Siends is a wonderful card and coin manipulator; the Vasilescu company are clever on the bars; Miss Lillie Langtry eclipses her former successes; T. C. Edwards is a melodious baritone; Friend and Downing introduce amusing patter; Shrillo is an expert whistler; and the Rowland Bros. are smart equilibrists. Edwin Rutland and the Bioscope complete the list.

THE DRAMA AND THE FOLK-SPIRIT.

(Continued from Jan. 16.)

What followed in the dramatic history of England does not afford any comfort to the student who is anxious to find in the *zeitgeist* some indication that the people were dramatically represented. But the stage play had become an object of *vertu* —appealing solely to a playgoing set. Anyone who doubts this has only to gorge himself on a book like Dr. Doran's Annals, or any other reputable work that purports to give an account of eighteenth and nineteenth century acting. To the outsider, it is a tiresome repetition of the performances of this or that star mime, in Bowdlerised Shakespeare, high falutin' heroics, or incipient farce. The fact is that the drama of that period was such an artificial product that only the brilliant acting of the players made it bearable. The writing of Hazlitt and Leigh Hunt bear testimony to this.

The drama was bound in chains. To the Press was forbidden the discussion of political affairs—to the drama was applied the strictures of that most notoriously arrogant of all Dogberries, the Censor. Free development of social or national psychology was impossible under such conditions. The great licensed houses, too, were jealous of their prerogatives. Without encouragement from the State the drama of any country must naturally become a hole-and-corner business.

How far removed these plays were from real life, and for that matter, the plays of early Victorian days, can be realised if you insist upon a modern playgoer undergoing a performance of, say, Lytton's *Lady of Lyons*. The art of the early Victorian era was reflected in the stodginess of the early Victorian mind—one has only to read again the sentimental tea-cup and saucer comedy and compare it with the maudlin sentimentality of the novel of that period.

Tested by the fundamental criterion of utility as a social factor for race-elevation, the eighteenth and nineteenth century drama fails to justify its existence. Not even upon the count that a play by arousing the altruistic feelings enables us to cultivate racial sympathy can a word be said in its favour. The only feeling it aroused was the sympathy of the snob for his small-souled brethren.

Thus dismissing two centuries of plays, what can be said on behalf of modern drama? Anything that can be urged will necessarily be born of an optimistic mood, and that is why, when we have overlooked the blighting effect of the Censor's strictures upon the free discussion of the serious problems of life, the signs are not entirely hopeless.

No attempt will be made to discuss musical comedy—that is a hybrid commodity, purely the product of the craze for light pleasure and after dinner, or before supper, exercitation. The law that specialisation is a preparation for destruction finds an easy application in this case, and proof is not wanting that the musical comedy will soon change into another form.

But how explain the existence of melodrama? The same law of specialisation applies to that. It exists with the people as a lower method of indulging the æsthetic feelings. It is a cruder form, because the constant desire to satisfy physical needs, the demand for food and clothes, is too much present, and not until the urgency of these physical wants is removed can we expect an inclination for a higher mode of dramatic representation dealing with the real problems of life. The position of the melodrama-monger is that of the primitive man who is entirely conservative. You may recollect Livingstone's story of the native's use of the spoon—he took the food out of the pot with it, and then with his fingers carefully selected the morsels out of the spoon, and so transferred them to his mouth. So with the primitive playgoer. He does not possess the faculty for digesting new ideas. He must be taught the use of the spoon! Just as psychologically progress is made from less intelligent to more intelligent by increasing ability in the selection of food, so the dramatic auditor will proceed from the less-intellectual play to the more intellectual. The primitive playgoer does not possess the thought required by the advanced drama. The zealous fanatics who abuse the primitive playgoer for not liking their advanced drama are really taking the wrong way with the poor man. All his trouble is, want of training in continued thought. The law of progress is from the less intelligent to the more intelligent. The primitive playgoer must be taught Isben's dictum, that the purpose of advanced drama is to depict human beings, human emotions, and human destinies upon a ground-work of certain of the social conditions and principles of the present day.

The fact is that dramatic art has been so far alienated from its purpose as a reflection of the folk-spirit that one does not regard it seriously. Yet here it is, a potential art-form ready to be moulded in the alembic of men's minds. In all recent discussions of the psychology of the crowd it has been maintained that the faculty of intellectual attention is low in the mob—that you can only appeal to its primary instincts and passions —that its intellectuality is diminished and its emotionality increased. To that, the only answer can be, train your crowd! Those playwrights who believed the intellectuality of the crowd was too low for the success of their play have gone so far as to choose their own crowd.

It is a very futile argument that the Puritan provides when he says that the ratio of performances of absolutely innocuous plays is as five to ninety-five. Why does he not do his best to make up the other ninety per cent. by coming out and patronising the five per cent.? I am afraid that when he does patronise a play, his religious tyranny leaves him a prey to his emotions rather than to his sense of reasonable morality.

One remedy backed up by the pedagogues is the founding of a National Theatre. On that suggestion one looks askance. What does it really mean? If precedent be any guide, it is not a satisfactory one.

Amongst the instances which have been evoked is that of ancient Greece. But the conditions are in no wise similar. The Greek theatre became a civic one, not because the people desired to preserve any standard of drama, but because the very root principle of their drama commenced in the celebration of a public ceremonial, the Bacchic rites. In this direction, one is reminded of the Spencerian dictum, that the feeling that we must do something is the origin of much mischief, both individual and social. Even this paper has limitations, and there is no space to prove that whenever any art has come under the domination of the State the result has been fatal. The Comédie Française is a case in point. Beyond the fact that it stands for the preservation of the classics in French—a doubtful virtue—its office is entirely pedagogic, and when the public are told they really must like a given piece of drama, in the language of the schoolboy, "it won't do so." The fact remains that municipal and corporate bodies are thoroughly incompetent to judge. The French Academy condemned the "Cid" of Corneille, one of the glories of French literature: they also excluded romantic drama, calling Shakespeare an intoxicated barbarian. Even in our own case of public authorities dealing with pictorial art, the contretemps at the National Gallery is too recent to assure us of perfect judgment, and red-tapeism is entirely fatal to the subtler arts. There is, too, the question of the acting genius which refuses to be held down to specified terms and plays. If you had a well-balanced social self-consciousness—a quite ideal state—it might then be possible to promulgate the idea of a National Theatre, because then perhaps you would have your audience of philosophers capable of appreciating the classics. The functions of any governing committee, even elected by the people for the conduct of a National Theatre, would be entirely academic. A psychological examination of the audience at a play entirely discredits the testimony of National Theatre enthusiasts. For your ordinary theatrical audience does not present a segregation of units with separate minds—it really forms the mob-mind, an entirely separate entity, in which intellectuality is nil and emotionality all, and emotion takes no account of morality. It exists for the satisfaction of its own prejudices. As an advocate of advanced drama, I have no illusions beyond the fact that I believe drama can be used as a concrete art-form to place before the people many of the problems of life—problems which, in other elusive shapes, might not come within their limited purview. The scholastic profession might do much by adding to their curriculum a course of study in modern plays instead of Elizabethan drama. It might even be worked into the University Extension scheme of lectures.

There are advocates of the theatre who have turned round upon the Puritan and blamed him for the present low state of drama. I hold no brief for the Puritan, but let us not forget that in its initial shape Puritanism was the first political system which guaranteed the liberty of the people, and on that account it has a superabundant claim to merit, apart from its entire excesses of zeal. An example of the latter occurs in a penny tract issued some years ago by the R.T.S., in which the writer objected to the presentation of the marriage service on the stage at Drury Lane. Such a matter must be left to the clergy themselves to settle. There seems to be sufficient divergence of opinion. In one folk-drama, or pageant, recently seen by me, the local clergy assisted at a public performance of the re-enactment of certain sacred historical functions.

To attempt to abuse any art which has a root principle in human nature is a very old-fashioned method, but it is not very convincing. It seems a pity that the Puritans do not attempt to formulate their own drama. That is rather too much to expect of a race whose chief attention is devoted to destructive criticism. If theologians find solace in whatever shows human imperfection, then logically they ought to rejoice in the existence of plays which exhibit these qualities in action. There are two ways by which public acts can be judged—the test of supposed divine approbation and the test of conduciveness to human happiness. The fatal thing in a religious body attempting to judge drama is this same theological bias. In France the basis of a play is built upon entirely scientific facts of life. In England it pre-supposes the religious conception. Until this bias has been removed and the clergy learn to look upon the subject-matter as a simple presentation of scientific facts it will be little use their discussing the question.

Meantime, one can suggest things, and the outstanding fact is that the only real remedy for the preservation and renaissance of British drama is to cultivate in the people the proper taste. That method seems to have the additional virtue of safeguarding the morals of the people, and an impartial observer might justly ask why the Puritans should not undertake the task. Failing them, we must fall back on the dramatic author, and to encourage him let a National Eistedfodd be instituted, when various dramas might be exhibited before a vast audience, the people having previously elected a Select Committee to adjudicate the dramas which should be presented. The idea is a Grecian one, and dramatists might be restricted for subject-matter to events in modern life—not necessarily problem plays, but plays in which some phase of life was presented. Throughout the country, in little hole-and-corner places, drama of this kind is being presented to sparse audiences. The thousands of people who do not go do not deliberately abstain from attending, but simply because they do not know of the existence of such plays. It may well be argued that the class of play enacted by such sectional members of the playgoing public as the Stage Society and the Irish Literary Society would never pay. There is an intellectual public who deliberately stay away from the theatre because they say there is nothing worth seeing. It is the old case of giving a dog a bad name. Such individuals have not attempted to find out the drama they want. There is a class of drama being enacted which would meet their views, not a large class certainly, but still large enough to prove that it does exist. Should any doubt be maintained the Vedrenne-Barker seasons are outstanding proofs of the truth of my contention.

To those who will say that for a writer to open up a paper by stating that he proposes to ask himself whether the drama meets a real psychological need in the lives of the English people and end by begging the question as regards latter-day drama is to lack in conclusiveness, I answer if I appear to have done so it is because I still have faith in drama taking up its old place in the lives of the people. The recent growth of pageantry seems to point out that the people are beginning to find that after all drama can be made an educational force. And if one were anxious to go on proving things, he might say that the same quality of feeling and patience as we experience in waiting upon the consummation of some theatrical situation helps to improve our own faculty of acting correctly in difficult situations, and increases our ability to adapt ourselves to new circumstances.

There are some who regard the theatre as a spiritual necessity. The assumption is based on the fact that there is a life of the soul which is the counterpart of real life, and that the conflict of these two should form the subject of drama. That claim is a high one—to some it would seem an ideal one. For my part I trust I have at least made it clear the drama is a mental necessity in the life of a progressive people.

AT the Alexandra Theatre, Widnes, this week, Mr. Fred Granville's capital company hold the boards with *The Better Land*. Mr. Leonard Aardale is a manly hero; Mr. Stanley Radcliffe plays the heavy part of Hubert Radcliffe very ably; Mr. Leonard Marshall paints a good portrait of George Grant; Mr. Herbert Fuller is a funny Tom Tadpole; Mr. Robert Archer plays with ability as William White; Mr. J. F. Hughes is good as Bill Bones; Master Harold Collinson plays very intelligently as Harry Radcliffe; Miss Agnes Collier plays very forcibly as Mercedes; Miss Bella Moody is very much at home in the part of Polly Perkins; Miss Violet Nevian creates much amusement as A

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"LA DETTE."

Play, in Three Acts, by M. Gabriel Trarieux, produced at Antoine's on Jan. 21.

Edith Forster ..... MLLE. ANDRÉE MERY
Dolorès ..... MLLE. RENÉE CORCIADE
Mary ..... MLLE. YVONNE TALBEYS
La Gitane ..... MLLE. ZERKA
Le docteur Barthe ..... M. GEMIER
Daniel D'Orcagne ..... M. SAILLARD
Doyambchère ..... M. CLASIS

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, Jan. 28.—We have had a record week in the way of novelties. Our theatrical managers apparently wanted to see how many premières and revivals they could conveniently cram into seven nights; and they ought to be satisfied with the result, inasmuch as they have attained the maximum. *La Dette*, at Antoine's, met with a good reception; but the plot makes us think of the troubles of Hamlet. Dr. Barthe, a medical celebrity, is married to the beautiful Dolorès, a perverse, heartless woman, whose husband committed suicide under circumstances that were never fully explained; and the mystery hovering about this death weighs on the mind of Daniel, Dolorès' son, who has taken an instinctive dislike to his stepfather. Daniel has lost his heart to Edith Forster, a charming young Irish widow, one of Dr. Barthe's patients. He proposes to her, and is rejected. With his father's suicide constantly before his mind, in the belief that there is madness in his family, he confides his trouble to an old friend who knew him from a boy, and learns from him that his father never was insane, but had put an end to his life in a fit of despair. What has occurred? Daniel feels certain that Dr. Barthe has played the villain's part in that dark affair; and a few words he has overheard of a conversation between the doctor and Edith having confirmed his suspicions, he rushes at his stepfather revolver in hand, but is promptly disarmed. The veil that enshrouds the family drama is slowly lifting. The doctor informs his wife that Daniel knows something of the reasons that led to his father's death; and the woman silently obeys him when he orders her to leave the house. The doctor finally unbosoms himself to Edith, who, guessing that he, too, wants to quit this life, tells him her own little secret—that she loves him. At last we hear the truth. The doctor relates to Edith how, when he stayed at the house of Philippe, Dolorès' first husband, she one night suddenly rushed at him, and, having kissed him on the lips suddenly ran away. Philippe, however, had witnessed the scene, and in reply to his question the doctor swore that no relation existed, or had existed, between him and Dolorès. An hour later the doctor left the house, and the next day he heard of Philippe's suicide. Nobody ever knew what had occurred between husband and wife, but Dr. Barthe was weak enough to marry the widow. He cruelly expiated his folly. As matters stand now he does not want poor Daniel to suffer; and he implores Edith to make the boy happy by marrying him. It is his only chance of paying his debt to his stepson. The work was splendidly acted.

M. TRISTAN BERNARD'S amusing comedy *Les Jumeaux de Brighton*, founded on Plautus, was also produced; but a description of the work has appeared already in these columns when it was given at the Théâtre Fémina.

"UNE GRESSE AFFAIRE,"

Farce, in Three Acts, by MM. Maurice Hennequin and Pierre Véber, produced at the Nouveautés on Jan. 21.

Mme. Leroy ..... MME. MAUREL
Mme. La Chambotte ..... MME. CAUMONT
Mme. Macette ..... MME. PATRY
Suzanne ..... MLLE. SANDRY
Etienette ..... MLLE. CLAIRVILLE
Leroy ..... M. GERMAIN
Simon Chabory ..... H. LEVESQUE
Gaston ..... M. MARCEL SIMON
La Chambotte ..... M. BARON FILS
Le Camut ..... M. HARDOUX

MM. Hennequin and Pierre Véber's new farce belongs to the "rough-and-tumble" order that always appeals to an easily-amused audience. It is a queer, complicated, highly-spiced story, difficult to tell. Leroy, a police magistrate, has married his daughter to Simon Chabory. Mme. Leroy is delighted with the match, because her son-in-law, as she thinks, is so pure that he is as much entitled to a wreath of orange blossom as his charming bride. And the sentimental old lady, therefore, insists on the young couple spending their wedding night in the same hotel where she and M. Leroy celebrated the first day of their union. In truth Simon is anything but "pure." He has had a liaison with Mme. La Chambotte, a Corsican lady with a fiery temperament. He, of course, has broken off that liaison, but Mme. La Chambotte still clings to him, and even follows him to the hotel in Saint-Germain. Mme. Leroy, having accidentally heard that her son-in-law is not a pattern of virtue, also goes to Saint-Germain to box the young scoundrel's ears. La Chambotte, the Corsican lady's husband, suspecting his wife, follows in the wake; so that in the second act we find all the personages assembled in the hotel kept by the eccentric Mme. Macette. When they reach the place they find it in a state of confusion. The King of Carinthia, come to Paris to contract a loan and to amuse himself, is expected there every moment, and in order to ensure that monarch's safety all the waiters have been replaced by detectives, who show their zeal by pummelling the visitors, whom they suspect of evil designs on the king's life. The king does not put in an appearance, but Leroy is mistaken for him, and the old magistrate has a rollicking time with the ladies from the Opéra corps de ballet, specially retained for his Majesty's entertainment. After a series of extraordinary scenes things are more or less put right. Simon, the young bridegroom, is thrown over by his wife, who swears she will at once start divorce proceedings. Mme. La Chambotte's matrimonial career will likewise end in the divorce court. But Mme. Leroy forgives her husband's escapade. He has been mistaken for a king; and this, she reckons, is a great honour. The Nouveautés company did full justice to the farce.

"HERNANI,"

Opera, in Five Acts, by M. Gustave Rivet, music by M. Henri Hirchmann, produced at the Gaité on Jan. 25.

Dona Sol ..... MLLE. YVONNE DUBEL
Yago ..... MLLE. COELHO
Josefa ..... MLLE. BERAT
Don Carlos ..... M. AFFRE
Hernani ..... M. BOULOGNE
Don Ruy Gomez ..... M. PATY
Don Garcia ..... M. REVALDI
Don Mathias ..... M. CHACON

The Théâtre de la Gaité, subsidised by the Paris Municipality, is an admirably-managed establishment, which confers a great boon on Parisians and strangers by giving them opportunities of hearing first-class music at popular prices. As a rule, only works of the Opéra and Opéra-Comique répertoire are produced there. This time, however, they launched a novelty—*Hernani*, libretto by M. Rivet, music by M. Hirchmann. Everybody is familiar with Verdi's *Ernani*; and it is a matter of surprise that the talented composer should have selected the same theme and have thrust upon his collaborator the unenviable task of taking liberties with Victor Hugo's immortal poem. The melancholy story of the luckless Dona Sol and of her lover Hernani is known to most readers. It is an absurd plot; but Victor Hugo's verse is so sublime that the work will always rank among the great French master's best productions. As regards the music M. Hirchmann has dealt with the score in a classical vein. His aim apparently was to remain in keeping with the romantic spirit that pervades Victor Hugo's drama. He therefore sacrificed whatever modern ideas he possessed, which, in a measure, handicapped him, preventing him from giving free scope to his imagination. Despite these drawbacks, it is a meritorious work, skilfully orchestrated, and in parts vivid in colouring. The overture is characteristic, because M. Hirchmann has taken, so to say, snapshots of the principal personages, and has introduced them in the form of short themes—a new departure, open to question. The numbers that appealed most to the public were the love passages between Dona Sol and Hernani, and the impressive scene in the fourth act in Charlemagne's sepulchre at Aix-de-la-Chapelle. The final tableau, too, illustrating the deaths of Dona Sol and Hernani, is very telling. The interpretation was praiseworthy; and the Comédie-Française very courteously had placed their scenery of *Hernani* at the disposal of the Gaité management, which added special interest to the performance.

"LES GRANDS,"

Comedy, in Four Acts, by MM. Pierre Véber and Serge Basset, produced at the Odéon on Jan. 26.

Pierre Navaille ..... MLLE. LUTZIR
Hélène Lorimer ..... MLLE. JEANNE LION
Mme. Brassier ..... MLLE. GRUMBACH
Mélie ..... MLLE. BARSANGE
M. Lormier ..... M. DESJARDINS
Chamboulin ..... M. DESFONTAINES
Jean Brassier ..... M. MAUPRE
Brassier père ..... M. CHAMBREUIL
Surot ..... M. RENIOR
Bron ..... M. FABRE

The action of MM. Pierre Véber and Serge Basset's four-act play takes place at the Chambrun College, and "Les Grands" is the name given in French schools to boys in the higher classes. M. Lormier, the principal of the college, is an upright man, deeply interested in the welfare of his young charges. Jean Brassier, a youth of about eighteen, is the best pupil, and a special favourite with Hélène, the principal's wife. In the course of years a friendly intimacy has sprung up between Hélène and Jean; but Jean, having so far forgotten himself as to declare his love to that lady, she resolves to stay with her married sister until Jean will have finished his studies. Unfortunately, Surot, a spiteful boy, jealous of Jean, has overheard the latter's conversation with Hélène, and he waits for an opportunity to injure his enemy. This opportunity soon presents itself. The principal, compelled to leave hurriedly for Paris, gives Jean 500 francs in banknotes—a donation for a statue in the college—with the request to lock up that sum in the drawer of his (the principal's) desk. That same night Jean happens to meet Hélène in her husband's study, and, whilst bidding her good-bye, renews his protestations of love. Suddenly they hear a noise, and promptly turn out the lights. But in the faint glimmer they see Surot steal into the room, force the lock of the drawer, take out the banknotes, and leave Jean's pocket-knife on the desk. Hélène and Jean dare not call out to stop the thief; and Hélène decides to leave the next morning early and borrow the money from her sister, in the hope of reaching the college before her husband's return. She, however, arrives too late. The principal has left Paris earlier than he expected. The theft has been discovered, and suspicion at once falls upon Jean. To save Hélène's reputation Jean admits having committed the robbery, informing Hélène that he will kill himself if she gives the true version of the affair. Jean is to be expelled; but the conscience-stricken Surot proclaims Jean's innocence. The little love intrigue is never discovered, and everything else ends happily. The play, needlessly spun out into four acts, met with a first-class interpretation.

"LA FILLE DES RABENSTEIN."

Play, in Four Acts and Five Tableaux, by E. de Wildenbruch, translated by M. Rémon and Mme. Valentin; produced at the Sarah-Bernhardt on Jan. 26.

Bersabe ..... MLLE. VENTURA
Ursule Melber ..... MLLE. DESROCHES
Dame Welser ..... MME. ZORELLI
Welser Père ..... M. CHAMEROY
Le Seigneur de Rabenstein ..... M. DECOEUR
Barthélemy Welser fils ..... M. JEAN WORMS
Antony Welser ..... M. DUARD
Le faiseur de nonnes ..... M. SIDNEY
Georges de Freyberg ..... M. LAURENT

Ernst von Wildenbruch died a couple of weeks ago; and for this reason I am heartily sorry not to be able to chronicle a success for his play, *La Fille des Rabenstein*, brought out at Sarah-Bernhardt's. The cause of this failure is not far to seek. The work is essentially German, very sentimental, swarming with patriotic allusions to the Emperor and to the rôle Germany is to play in the affairs of the world. All this may be very gratifying to the good people in the Fatherland and to their Emperor; but we fail to interest ourselves in Rabenstein, the robber-knight, killed in an encounter with the merchant princes, the Welsers. When Barthélemy Welser, the eldest son, wounded in the affray, is carried to the old brigand chief's castle and is nursed there by Bersabe, the brigand's daughter, we know that these two will fall in love with one another and marry in the end, which they do. These patriotic effusions, to which a strong dose of sentimentalism is added, do not prove to our taste. Mlle. Ventura's graceful acting imparted a little light to the sombre story. The charming actress was very much applauded, but the other rôles were only indifferently rendered.

THE Chatelet has given us *Les Aventures de Gavroche*, a spectacular play in four acts and twenty-two tableaux, by MM. Victor Darlay and Gaston Marot. It is the story of a young girl in search of her father, supposed to have been shipwrecked; and she starts on a tour round the world to hunt him up. Her servant, the faithful and smart little Gavroche, helps her in her task; but she has two enemies—Davis, her cousin, who wants to rob her of her fortune, and Captain Burke, her rejected lover. Geneviève's adventures, of course, are thrilling. Icebergs, Red Indians, wild beasts, &c., conspire against her. She blows up the ship of the wicked Captain Burke, and escapes in an aeroplane. Lost in a fog at sea, she is saved by a huge vessel, the Amazone. But little Gavroche is always there to help her out of the difficulty. Fairly well staged, the work met with a good reception.

MME. ZULMA BOUFFAR has just died in the actors' home at Pont-aux-Dames. Many years ago she was one of our best operette singers. Despite her numerous successes, luck always seemed to desert her. Some fifteen years ago she took over the Ambigu, but she lost her money over the venture. Only two people attended the funeral of the actress who at one time had all Paris at her feet.

MESSRS. LUSH AND COOK received the following amusing message from Mr. Wentworth Croke, Shakespeare, Liverpool:—"I want you to kindly have Dirty Lizzie and Breezy Bill cleaned and returned here by Wednesday night." The reply from the firm at 29, Charing Cross-road, read:—"Dirty Lizzie and Breezy Bill shall be transformed by our chemical cleaning process into Clean Lizzie and Smiling Bill." The "spotless pair" arrived in Liverpool on the morning of the 27th inst.

"THE LAW OF COPYRIGHT," for actor and composer, by Albert A. Strong, LL.B. (Lond.). Price 3s. 6d., post free 3s. 10d. Published at *The Era* Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MISS BESSIE BUTT.

Born in London within sound of Bow Bells, Miss Bessie Butt commenced her stage career at a very early age by playing the child part in *My Sweetheart*. While still in her early teens she toured through many European countries in company with her brothers—the Reed Family—and made quite a big reputation as a transformation dancer, being billed as "Baby Butt." An unfortunate illness kept her from the stage for a long period, and her next appearance was under the management of Mr. John Tiller, who looked upon her as one of the most promising of his young recruits.

Having ambitions, Miss Butt decided on doing a single turn on the halls, and at once sprang into popularity wherever she appeared. The late Walter Summers saw her, and recommended her so highly to Mr. Robert Arthur that she was engaged by him as second girl for the Kennington Theatre pantomime of *Red Riding Hood*, and there she made her first great success in "Ma blushing Rosie." The late Clement Scott was so taken with this number that he went several times to hear it. Miss Butt's next appearance was under the management of Mr. George Edwardes as Susan in *The Toreador*, and this was followed by Sophie in *A Country Girl* and Thisbe in *The Orchid*. After this she was for twelve months at the London Coliseum, where she created several parts, notably the Black Pearl in Mr. Leslie Stuart's song specially written for Mr. Eugene Stratton, and produced at the Coliseum in 1905. She also appeared as a wonderfully life-like doll in Mr. Will Bishop's *My Gollywog*. This was in 1906.

A pantomime engagement as Cinderella at Cheltenham was followed by a return to the halls under the managements of Mr. Oswald Stoll, the late Mr. G. A. Payne, and others; and then Miss Butt was seen and secured by Mr. Lester Collingwood to play the title-rôle in his pantomime of *CindereNa* at the Alexandra, Birmingham, in 1907. The success was phenomenal, as the run of the pantomime was a record for the country. On that occasion also Miss Butt won the "Owl" cake and a diamond ring in a local beauty competition. This year Miss Butt has discarded skirts and gone in for principal boy, and as Dandini at the Royal County Theatre, Kingston, she is undoubtedly the hit of a most successful pantomime. During her short career she has introduced many popular songs, of which probably the most successful have been "Scarecrow," "Amelia Snow," "Cherries are blooming," "Peggy, the pride of the mill," and "Sunshine Soo," her latest effusion, which is likely to eclipse in popularity all the others.

Gifted with youth, beauty, a sweetly clear and

[Photo by Charles and Russell.

MISS BESSIE BUTT.

distinct voice, a genius for dancing, and unlimited vivacity, there is no knowing to what heights this clever little lady may aspire.

AMUSEMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

DURBAN, DEC. 28.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Ferguson Brown.—The only pantomime in Natal, viz., *Robinson Crusoe*, was produced on Boxing night. The scenery was painted by Mr. Chris Hall at the Durban Scenic Studio, and was of a lavish character, his transformation scene being a handsome piece of work. In the title-rôle Miss Lily Bateman showed herself to be a graceful and handsome artist and the possessor of a pretty voice. As the Widow Mr. Teddy Andrews caused hearty and continuous laughter. Another highly amusing impersonation was the Dinny Norloo of Mr. Chas. Gordon. Mr. George Burt, an old and well known pantomime artist, added largely to the success as Friday; a clever animal impersonation was the Cat of Mr. Will Lessing. Miss Daisy Tucker is a delightful exponent of the terpsichorean art; and a bewitching Polly was found in Miss Phyllis Wynne. Mr. Jack Harper as the Demon was at his best, using his fine voice effectively. The production is obtaining every encouragement.

THE Treni Opera Company is at the Opera House, Pretoria, in a repértoire of Gilbert and Sullivan operas.

JOHANNESBURG.—STANDARD THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Leonard Rayne; Manager, Mr. Grant Fallowes. —*Old Heidelburg* was this week staged at the above house. As Katie, the innkeeper's daughter, Miss Freda Godfrey was charming both in the serious and the lighter phases of the rôle. As Karl Henreich Mr. Chas. Howitt gained yet another success; Mr. Carter as Doctor Juttner submitted a fine study. The company acquitted itself in a manner that can always be expected from those under the banner of Mr. Leonard Rayne.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees, B. and F. Wheeler, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. W. F. Woodman.—*The Girl Behind the Counter* holds the boards here, and is meeting with satisfactory houses. *The New Aladdin* is billed for next week.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Empire Theatres, Ltd., South Africa; Manager, Mr. Syd Hyman.—Artists still here are Mlle. Amylla (classical dancer), Blake and Granby, Miss Arnoldi, Ruby Norton, and Syd Sylvester.

WHEELER'S.—New Juvenile Opera and Musical Comedy Company opened at the Opera House, Capetown, on Boxing night in *Bluebell in Fairyland*, and gained an instantaneous success. The production was under the direction of Mr. Frank Wheeler, assisted by Mr. W. Clarke. The costumes were by Clarkson, and the scenery specially painted by Mr. Howard Glover.

"THE GUTTA-PERCHA GIRL," a musical farcical comedy, is the attraction at the Tivoli, Capetown.

ROYAL OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.

Madame Butterfly was performed at Covent Garden on Thursday evening, Jan. 21. Although this was the first time *Madame Butterfly* has been performed in English at Covent Garden, the Moody-Manners Opera Company have given excellent representations of Puccini's opera in English with gain rather than loss to the general effect. On Thursday two new singers, Miss Florence Easton and Mr. F. Maclennan, appeared in the parts of Cio-Cio San (Madame Butterfly) and F. B. Pinkerton. Miss Easton has a pure soprano voice of good compass and considerable power; a slight tendency to hardness in the quality of tone may be put down to nervousness caused by a first appearance. In the delineation of the unhappy Japanese girl, so cruelly deceived, Miss Easton proved herself an accomplished actress, particularly in the tragic death scene, while her singing in the fine duet in the first act was excellent. Mr. Maclennan, who plays the American lieutenant, who loves wisely and not too well, has a fine robust tenor voice which he uses artistically, and his acting is manly and refined. Something of the Italian warmth of expression to which we are accustomed in this opera is lacking in the two new vocalists, but all the same they are welcome additions to the list of English artists at Covent Garden. Miss Edith Clegg as Suzuki, the faithful attendant on the heroine, admirably acted and sang; and Mr. Frederic Austin appeared with considerable success in the part of Sharpless, the kind-hearted Ambassador. The marriage broker Goro was cleverly played by Mr. Byndon-Ayres, and Mr. Albert Garcia did all that was possible in the little part of Prince Yamadori. Other parts were successfully undertaken by Messrs. Charles Knowles and Charles Harford, Miss Vito and Miss G. Trevitt. The chorus sang with great animation.

On Friday, Jan. 22, *Gotterdammerung; or, The Twilight of the Gods*, in the English version, was given at Covent Garden, and proved a worthy performance of the final section of the *Ring*.

In the performance of *The Meistersingers* on Monday evening at Covent Garden there were many excellent features, though the expectations of many who thought by the opera being given in English they could closely follow the story received some disappointment. Many of our artists are excellent as vocalists, but sadly deficient in the matter of clear enunciation, and at times it is really difficult to tell in what language the opera is sung. Mr. Walter Hyde sang the music of Walther von Stolzing ably, being particularly successful in the prize song; but the Hans Sachs of Mr. Nessen was not entirely satisfactory, compared with the fine artists we have heard in this part. Mrs. Frease-Green, who appeared for the first time as Eva, sang sympathetically, but her voice is somewhat small for so large a stage as Covent Garden. Her interpretation of the part, however, had much charm, while her acting was graceful and refined. Cleverly acted and sung also was Mme. Edna Thornton's Magdalene; and Mr. Robert Radford used his fine voice with excellent effect in the music of Veit Pogner. The character of David was most ably undertaken by Mr. Maurice D'Oisly; while Mr. Thomas Meux deserved praise for his performance of Sextus Beckmesser. The parts of Kunz Vogelgesang, Fritz Kothnes, Konrad Nachtigall, Balthasar Zorn, Ulrich Eisslinger, Agustus Moser, Hermann Ortet, and Hans Schwarz were well filled by Messrs. W. Maxwell, C. Knowles, C. Flemming, A. Royd, J. Roberts, Byndon-Ayres, A. Garcia, and P. Dawson, while Mr. Francis Harford successfully doubled the parts of Hans Foltz and Ein Nachtwächter. The apprentices were acted in a lively and effective manner, and the street scene given with great spirit. At the commencement of the third act Dr. Richter had a most enthusiastic reception from the audience.

Dr. E. W. Naylor's new opera entitled *The Angelus*, in a prologue and four acts, which won Messrs. Ricordi's prize of £500, was produced for the first time at Covent Garden on Wednesday evening before a very large audience. The libretto, for which Mr. Wilfrid Thornely is responsible, is constructed on broad and effective lines, and relates in the prologue of the opera how the Abbot Tunstall discovered the herb of the elixir of life, only to be found in the sacred grove of the Temple of the Fates. A vision of departed spirits, however, appear to the Abbot, and invite him to join them; he refuses, when the Angel of Death comes to warn him of the folly of interfering with the course of Nature. Tunstall, who regards the vision as a sign of death and is anxious his life labour should not be lost, entrusts Francis, a novice, with the task of seeking the herb, and gives him the parchment which contains instructions for making the elixir. Francis leaves, and as the Abbot turns to join the monks he is intercepted by Death. Act. I. shows a village green, on which a country dance is proceeding. Beatrice is queen of the revels. Being asked to name her consort, she chooses Francis, who is passing on his journey. In Act II., Francis, who has fallen in love with Beatrice, comes to bid her farewell, as he has to fulfil his promise to the Abbot; he tells Beatrice he will return with the elixir of life. The third act takes place in the Sacred Grove of the Temple of the Fates, where Francis comes to obtain the herb necessary for the elixir. He is met by the Queen of the Wood-nymphs. Regarding Francis as a divine being, she shows him the sacred herb. When he plucks it she discovers her mistake and curses him. In the last act Beatrice is weary of waiting, and ill and unhappy at Francis's absence, when he suddenly enters with the herb and promises immortality to them both. While he is making the potion the Angel of Death comes and claims Beatrice; Francis turns with the elixir, but too late to save her. Drawing his dagger, he attempts to kill himself, but this Death forbids, and for punishment compels him to drink the elixir of life.

Dr. Naylor's *Angelus*, although melodious and graceful in style, cannot be termed grand opera, nor is the stern moral underlying the work—that we must not tamper with Fate—carried out in dramatic music; while many of the situations that ought to be strong are entirely unconvincing. The strange incident, also, that Death should make the hero drink to his own immortality does not make an effective conclusion to *The Angelus*. Dr. Naylor's talents are evidently more adapted to light opera. In the second act there is a charming duet for the lovers; there is some bright, lively music in the village revels of the first act, and there are also some clever passages for the Angel of Death. As Francis Mr. Maclennan sang and acted with distinction, and the fine voice of Mr. Robert Radford was heard to advantage in the part of the Abbot Tunstall. Mme. Edna Thornton sang the music of Death admirably; and Miss Edith Clegg did all that was possible in the little part of Catherine, while the character of the heroine, Beatrice, was cleverly undertaken by Miss Florence Easton. The not very effective music of Sylvia was, however, cleverly sung by Mme. Gleeson-White; and the parts of Lutteral, a Nymph, 1st and 2nd Monks, and 1st Villager were ably filled by Mr. Claude Flemming, Miss Alice Prowse, Mr. Charles Knowles, Mr. Albert Garcia, and Mr. Campbell-Carr. The chorus was excellent, and Mr. Percy Pitt conducted with great spirit. The new opera was handsomely mounted, and delightful scenes were given of the Village Green and of the Sacred Grove of the Temple of the Fates in the third act. Much enthusiasm was shown by the audience, and the calls were frequent during the evening.

PROVINCIAL PANTOMIMES.

"RED RIDING HOOD" AT BIRMINGHAM.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

The second impression of *Little Red Riding Hood* is really better than was the first. For the constituents of this, Mr. Lester Collingwood's sixth annual Birmingham pantomime, are such as stand the test of, and improve upon, acquaintance. Everything marks an advance on previous Alexandra successes, dresses, scenery, chorus, comedians and fair comediennes, all testify to the truth of this. Perhaps the two best scenes are the first and the last, The Village of Sweedledale and The Great Reception Hall; the first a beautiful rural painting warm with the glow of summer, and the second a palatial edifice fit for Royalty itself. But all are excellent, and keep the audience delighted. The dresses have certainly never been equalled here, and it will be but meet and right for Mr. Collingwood to reap the benefit of such enterprise, which it seems he is most certain to do, judging by the crowded state of the house every day. The artists are all making fine reputations for themselves, and some potential stars may be discerned among them. The heroine, around whose fortunes the story is faithfully woven, is a tender little maid of eleven summers, named Maudie Olmar, whose wonderfully clever rendering of her part and the accompanying songs, "Captain Baby Bunting" and "Good-bye, Mr. Teddy Bear," point to a very successful career. And she is already an accomplished little dancer. The hero, Colin, is interpreted in a refreshingly bright and dashing manner by Miss Ellaline Thorne, whose amiability and expressive good looks form a handsome complement to her sweet fresh voice. Naturally, with all these attractions she has become a great favourite. Her most popular songs are "Have you got another girl at home like Mary?" "A tiny seed of love," "Don't put your umbrella up till it rains," and, in conjunction with Miss Dolly Denton, "The Merry Widow Waltz." Miss Denton is the principal girl, Miss Muffit, and she is dainty and winsome, and piquant withal, displaying every charm and much singing and dancing ability, especially in "Waiting" and "The lovelight." Miss Ivey Roze is the second boy, and her vivacious way and handsome presence make an ideal Prince Roseleaf, for such is the part, while her singing and dancing is most prized here. Her songs, "Every fellow's in love with a girl," "I was lonely," and, with Miss Joyce Stevens, "If your hair was not so curly," go with a fine swing. Miss Stevens's rôle is Margery Daw, which she enacts with a charm that takes everybody's attention, while in her singing and dancing she shows the most finished style. Miss Winifred Norman as the now indispensable Dutch maid, known here as Greeba, keeps the audience "on the go" with her amusing and irrepressible idiosyncrasies. Her popular number is "Mr. Schmidt." Miss Daisy Clements as the Fairy Brightstar sings "Master Cupid" very nicely, and the Three Tivoli Girls give an additional charm to the various groupings with their exceptionally graceful and certainly unique dances. The bad, bold, and spurious Baron, who in the story it appears "came in with the real Baron's pass-out check," is impersonated by Mr. Frank Blythe on very light and also popular lines. He sings "The Old French Bonnet," which he has given quite a vogue here, "Put me on an island where there are no girls," and also in several duets. Messrs. Stephens and Rennior as the "bad boys" of the piece, Jimmy Green and Peter Piper, appear in splendid contrast to each other. The one lean and cunning, who has won the sobriquet of "Sacco," inspires mirth with his mere presence, and when he opens his mouth to speak the house roars. The other is more rotund and husky, with a very quick and sharp wit which never fails to score. They have several duets, their big success being "He said, 'All right; I'll do it.'" Mr. George Penn as their comical ally, Simple Simon, is another proved comedian, who brings his clever musical imitations to add still further to his success. Mr. Albert Schafer's Dame Durden is full of comicality and life to the end, when, in the Reception scene, he enters with all the dignity of a dowager duchess. His "Sequah" burlesque is very funny, and he is also successful as a vocal comedian. Mr. Frank Bolger as Lupas the Wher-Wolf shows good acting qualities, whilst his vocalisation is of great merit and avails much. The Musical Schafers are down for their clever speciality, and the Molasso Troupe bring down thunders of applause with their famous and terrific gyrations. The book is by Mr. Frank Ayrton, and tells the story succinctly; Mr. Edward Hall's scenery is commended above; and the music, by Mr. Edward Barnes, is highly creditable. The principals are continually introducing new songs and business.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SYDNEY, DEC. 22.—Miss Margaret Anglin concluded her season here on the 18th, and an enormous house cheered the great actress until she made a sweet and neat speech of thanks and farewell. Next day Miss Anglin and her sister, Miss Eileen Anglin, left by the Mongolier on holiday-making bound in Egypt. On the 19th Mr. J. C. Williamson's dramatic company returned to the Theatre Royal and revived *The Sign of the Cross*. The chief feature was the appearance of Miss Beatrice Day for the first time as Mercia. Hers was a more human reading of the part than we have ever had, tending to show that a Christian is not of necessity an icicle. Mr. Julius Knight gave a sound rendering of Marcus Superbus. Mr. Eardley Turner, fresh back from England, gave us an unctuous Glabrio; Mr. Harry Plimmer's Tigellinus lacked nothing; Mr. Herbert Leigh was a somewhat younger Nero than usual, and his performance was distinctly good; and Mr. George Chalmers had the rôle of Favius, and he made him dignified.

MISS MAGGIE MOORE has drawn crowded houses with her old Dutch idyll, *Struck Oil*, at the Palace, and is as light-hearted and is singing as well as ever. The perennial favourite touches all hearts, and her husband, Mr. H. R. Roberts, is a capital John Stopel, although the careless old Dutchman is far away from his metier. The old-time Deacon Skinner (Mr. J. P. West) stands well in the picture, and all the rest of Mr. Allan Hamilton's company are loyal supporters of the stars, who finish on Christmas Eve.

"THE MERRY WIDOW," with enormous booking, will run at the Palace until New Year's Day, and next night Mr. Williamson will stage *The Duchess of Dantzic* with much splendour.

THE Criterion will be occupied by Mr. William Anderson and his company, headed by Miss Eugénie Duggan, in *The Gayest of the Gay*.

THE Tivoli has Frank and Jen Latona, J. W. Rickaby, Guest and Newlyn, the Sisters Beno, Goodfellow and Gregson, and the Marconis as the chief attractions in Mr. Harry Rickards's bill.

ON the retirement of Miss Margaret Anglin from the Williamson company, Miss Ola Humphrey was engaged, and with Messrs. Titheradge and Kolker and the rest left for New Zealand on the 19th.

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LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, Jan. 25, the Musical Play entitled "THE MERRY WIDOW."

In returning to the regular routine after four weeks of pantomime Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett has made an excellent start this week with Mr. George Edwardes's No. 1 Company in the musical play *The Merry Widow*. With such an attraction it was not surprising to find the seating capacity of the Shakespeare taxed to its utmost. From the very start of the play success was assured, and the beautiful music and witty dialogue kept the audience in a state of delight and enthusiasm. The company, without exception, were untiring in their efforts to amuse, and fully merited the applause which was liberally accorded. Upon Miss Nora Barry, as Sonia, devolved the responsibility of playing the leading part, and the whole-hearted manner in which she enacted the rôle of the fascinating and coquettish widow had a material effect on the success of the play. Miss Barry is also the possessor of a sweet voice, and her songs were rendered with arch expression and point. Mr. Leonard Mackay, who has a fine presence, was conspicuously successful in the part of Prince Danilo. He acted throughout with delightful naturalness, and his half-hearted and futile efforts to withstand the subtle and fascinating influence of his former fiancée were in the best light comedy style. Miss Octavia Barry was an attractive Natalie, and sang the music allotted to her in a manner which stamped her a vocalist of considerable ability. Her duets with Mr. Haigh Jackson, who contributed a polished impersonation of her lover, Vicomte de Jolidon, were among the features of the play, and received hearty acknowledgment. Miss Beryl Vaudrey was amusing as Olga Novikovitch and Miss Kathleen Courtney as Sylvanie, and Miss Pollie Edwards as Prascovia were satisfactory in their respective parts. A dainty Frou-Frou is found in Miss Dora Langham, who scored a hit with a new dance, which was chiefly remarkable for its daring evolutions. She was ably assisted by Mr. Alfred H. Majilton as Franz Fall, himself a dancer of no mean ability. The Maxim Girls were pleasingly played by the Misses Elsie Spencer, D. Pennington, Olive Sherry, Phyllis Allen, and Heather Featherstone. Mr. Lionel Victor gave a quaintly comical portrayal of Baron Popoff, whose diplomatic exertions in match making lead to so much hilarity. His droll appearance and witty lines kept the audience in a state of uproarious laughter. Mr. Tom Redmond as Niech is amusing throughout, and makes the most of his many opportunities. Mr. Grafton Williams did well as General Novikovitch, and valuable assistance was rendered by Mr. Somers Bellamy as Marquis de Cascady, Mr. Norman Greene as M. de St. Brioche, Mr. J. S. Durant as M. Khadja, and Mr. Ernest Spalding as a waiter. The piece was staged with Mr. George Edwardes's usual care, and the dresses were superb.

"ALADDIN" AT STRATFORD.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

The continued success of Mr. Fred Fredericks's latest Christmas production is well merited, for it has settled into a bright and merry entertainment, is embellished with much beautiful and artistic scenery, and is treated in the way of dresses with that wealth of colour and picturesqueness to which an Oriental subject like *Aladdin* so readily lends itself. The dresses could not be seen to better advantage than as displayed by the numberless comely and shapely ladies who shine vocally in such beautiful examples of stage illustration as the "Gold and Silver Mines in the Mountains of the Sun" and "Aladdin's Ivory Palace." Apart from its spectacular effects *Aladdin* will be long remembered for its mirth-provoking propensities, the well-balanced company working together to this end with the happiest results. Mr. Ernie Mayne's performance as Washee Washee is nothing if not original, and is in high favour. His portly figure in frequently changed nondescript garb in the rôle of an English nobleman travelling in China is so excessively absurd as to at once compel laughter, and his parody songs go wonderfully well, while, though his appearance as Cupid undoubtedly upsets all preconceived juvenile ideas of "The Winged Messenger of Love," it is so ludicrously funny that it is generally voted to be one of the tit-bits of the pantomime. Mr. Arthur Stigant as the Widow Twankey is exceedingly well suited, and simply revels in the part, his unctuous style and ready resource making him an ideal Dame. His "Merry Widow" song, in which some clever business is introduced, is in capital comedy vein, and "A to Z" is another number which makes a decided hit. Mr. Hal Forde as Abanazar, the villain of the piece, who looms so largely in the story, is responsible for a capital performance, having a thorough grasp of the exigencies of the part, and being heard to great advantage in his songs, of which, perhaps, "That's the girl, girl, girlie for you" is in most favour. Miss Ethel Ward, in the title-rôle, is a spirited, refined and handsome Aladdin, whose adventurous career is of entrancing interest to the younger members of the audience, and she wins plenty of applause for her songs, "Hallo, little boy, hallo!" and "Have you got another girl at home like Mary?" Miss Lena Verdi makes a captivating and sparkling Princess Badroulbadour, and if her song "I want to be amongst the boys" is rather rompish for a Princess, it yet is most cordially received; while her flirtation song, "Wouldn't you like to be the bridegroom," and her speciality number introducing impressions of popular vaudeville artists, evoke the warmest approval. Miss Florence Dudley's appropriate acting and distinct delivery are of incalculable value as Pekoe, who is portrayed with a dashing air and genial swagger, while vocally she scores heavily. The Brothers Redmond as the free-and-easy, ubiquitous policemen Bobee and Copee are prime favourites with their knockabout business and merry quips and gags, and their clever speciality act has become quite a prominent feature. Miss Ethel Ashton plays very appropriately as Sau See, and her solo dances are characterised by grace and ease. Mr. Frank Couch portrays the Grand Vizier with a keen sense of humour. Mr. C. Ballard Brown invests the Emperor with the necessary dignity, and is capital in the part; and Mr. J. M. Jones is highly praiseworthy in the pantomimic rôle of the Slave of the Lamp. Of the concerted numbers, special mention must be made of the topical duet, "Ice cream! Baked chestnuts!" which easily finds favour; Aladdin and the Princess's pretty duet, "A tiny seed of love"; and the discourse on "Fishing," between Widow Twankey and Washee, which is uproariously funny.

Mr. Ben Barrow, the chef d'orchestre, does excellently in this important phase of musical exertion, and Mr. A. L. Pitman must be complimented upon his stage-management of what is justly entitled to rank as one of the most successful pantomimes produced at Stratford, and adds another leaf to the laurels of the producer, Mr. Fred Fredericks.

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"HER FATAL MARRIAGE."

Drama, in Four Acts, by Clarence Burnette and A. Hinton, produced, for the first time in London, at the Theatre Royal, Woolwich, on Monday, Jan. 25.

Zaco Maletto	MR. ARTHUR HINTON
Wilfred Grey	MR. HARRY TRACEY
Colonel Crichton	MR. GEORGE CHILDS
Jim Rogers	MR. FRED HEWITSON
Paul	MR. GERALD BYRNE
Detective Smart	MR. PERCY MORTON WRIGHT
Peter Pimple	MR. FRANK BRUNNELL
Sergeant Wiggins	MR. LAURENCE GROVE
P.C. Jenkins	MR. WILLIAM BAILEY
Lily	MISS LYDIA AUDREY
Dolly Dimple	MISS LAURA WRIGHT
Myra Maletto	MISS RUTH ZILLWOOD

Introduced before a fairly large gathering on Monday last, the new drama entitled *Her Fatal Marriage* met with a hearty welcome. The authors, Messrs. Clarence Burnette and Arthur Hinton, have evidently a keen perception of the popular taste in this class of play, and have spared no pains in endeavouring to meet the demands made upon them. They have succeeded in producing a thrilling drama filled to the brim with weird scenes, soul-stirring episodes, and interesting situations, interspersed with refreshing interludes of a mirth-provoking and diverting quality. The audience took every opportunity of showing their appreciation of any virtuous act and their unqualified disapproval of every piece of stage villainy. The mounting of the play is all that can be desired, several of the scenes being very effective.

At the opening of the first act we find Captain Vigo, who afterwards changes his name to Zaco Maletto, examining the jewels the result of the previous night's robbery and the murder of the watchman. He is shortly joined by his confederate, who demands an equal share of the plunder. During the squabble which ensues we are made aware of the past life of Captain Vigo. Ten years ago he had allured from school a girl of tender years, by name Myra, and married her for the sake of her fortune. Having obtained his desire, he brutally ill-treats his wife, and eventually deserts her. Captain Vigo, desiring the whole of the proceeds of the robbery for himself, and considering that his confederate, Jim Rogers, knows too much for his own personal safety, shoots him and makes good his escape. Detective Smart then makes a forcible entry, and finds the dying Jim Rogers, from whom he obtains a statement of the Captain's guilt. In the second act we find Myra Maletto, who believes her husband to be dead, the proprietress of the Crichton Hotel, having been assisted by a lady friend. We then discover that Lily, known as the "white angel," who is a protégée of Myra, is to be married that day to the newly-appointed curate of the parish, who, although unknown to himself, is none other than the son of Myra and Zaco Maletto. Colonel Crichton, who is to be best man at the wedding, offers his heart and hand to Myra, who, believing Zaco Maletto to be dead, accepts him. Zaco here makes his appearance, and, finding how things stand, shoots the Colonel and fastens the blame on the curate, who is arrested for the murder. Zaco Maletto also endeavours to wreak vengeance on Lily by inveigling her to the haunted Blue Room in the Crichton Hotel, but is saved by the strong, though half-witted Paul. A pathetic scene is enacted in the corridor of Truro Jail, when Wilfred Grey is made aware by Myra that he is her son. In the last act the numerous villainies of Zaco Maletto are exposed by documentary evidence, and he is eventually strangled by the half-witted Paul.

Mr. Arthur Hinton essays the rôle of the murderous scoundrel Zaco Maletto, alias Captain Vigo, in a dramatic and effective manner, and sustains the unsympathetic character with much power; Myra Maletto is very ably undertaken by Miss Ruth Zillwood, who gives a painstaking and clever impersonation of the much ill-used wife; Mr. Harry Tracey offers a quiet rendering of the part of Wilfred Grey, and makes a favourable impression; Mr. George Childs is suitably placed as Colonel Crichton, and makes the most of his opportunities; and the same may be said for Mr. Fred Hewitson as Jim Rogers. Mr. Gerald Byrne as the half-witted Paul submits a good delineation, and becomes very popular; Mr. Percy Morton Wright makes a capable Detective Smart; Peter Pimple is amusingly portrayed by Mr. Frank Brunnell, who provides a large amount of comedy business and is well received; Mr. Laurence Grove scores well as Sergeant Wiggins; Mr. William Bailey makes a suitable Jenkins; Miss Laura Wright is extremely diverting as Dolly Dimple; and Miss Lydia Audrey makes her mark and looks charming as Lily, the white angel.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Jan. 25, the pantomime entitled "BLUEBEARD."

Pantomime is ruling supreme at the Dalston Theatre this week, the entertainment being provided by Mr. C. St. John Denton and Mr. Peter Davey's company. The libretto is founded on the well-known story of *Bluebeard*, and is supplied by Mr. Hugh Mytton, who is also responsible for the lyrics. The entire production has been devised and arranged by Mr. Peter Davey, and produced by Mr. H. Buckstone Clair. Certain scenes, for which Mr. Julian Hicks is responsible, are worthy of special mention, notably the Summer Palace of Bazouka, View from the Look-out Tower on the Ramparts, and the Fête of the Roses. The performance is an extremely amusing one; in fact, the audience is kept in an almost continuous roar of laughter. Mr. Ben Albert is a centre of attraction as Bluebeard, Bashaw of Bazouka, and his songs, "Why" and "They'll play for hours," go remarkably well. A mock love scene between him and Sister Ann (Mr. Ernest Rees) is a good specimen of broad comedy. Mr. Rees is decidedly funny all through the pantomime, and his cool, undisturbed manner adds considerably to the mirth. His description of a tramcar ride starts people rolling about in their seats. Another side-splitting turn is when he appears as a prima donna and Mr. Ben Albert assumes the rôle of musical director. Mr. Ben Albert, at another stage of the performance, appears as a bookmaker on a racecourse, and together with Messrs. Ferguson and Mack (two disappointed gamblers) helps to produce many aching sides. Ferguson and Mack are the boatswain and mate of the P. and O. steamer Merrie England, and their various adventures throughout the performance add to the general hilarity. Mr. Harold Carson is quaint as Mustapha, a manufacturer of spurious whisky. Much praise is due to Miss Addie Lennard for the decidedly vivacious way in which she impersonates the character of Selim. Her singing is pleasing, and her dancing neat, although sprightly. Miss Violet Vaughan looks smart in uniform as Lieut. Persey Pryde, of the Merrie England, and the rendering of the song "A White Man" is much applauded. Miss Ellen Cunningham is also a success as Shacabac; and Miss Lydia Flopp is evidently a favourite as Fatima, playing the part with considerable grace. Miss Lottie Sargent as Wilhelmina from Zuyder Zee renders the popular ditty "I couldn't come home in the dark." Mr. Harold Clemence impersonates Esau, a tame baboon, and contributes a fair share to the general hilarity of the evening.

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"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS."

Drama, in Four Acts, by Charles Darrell, originally produced on Monday, Nov. 25, 1907, at the Theatre Royal, Bilston. First London production on Monday, Jan. 25, at the Lyric, Hammersmith.

Duke of St. Baynum	MR. DOUGLAS CECIL
Lord St. Orbotrude	MR. DOUGLAS TREMAYNE
Sir Morris Maitland	MR. T. LIONEL ELLIS
Gilbert Spate	MR. FRANK S. STRICKLAND
Tommy Tinkler	MR. HENRY GERALD
M. Scalameux	MR. F. HENLEY
Corbet	MR. ROY WHARTON
Mason	MR. E. S. NUTTALL
Isabel, Dowager Duchess of St. Baynum	MISS AMY B. ELLIS
Lady Cinderella Portcullis	MISS FLORRIE GROVES
Lady Celeste Delamere	MISS BEATRICE HUDSON
Tilly Dobson	MISS GEORGIE HAWKINS
Gertrude Haynes	MISS QUEENIE LAMONT
Fifine	MISS DORA WOODBERRY
Sylvia Grey, the Shop Girl	MISS MARY NEIL

Miss Mary Neil and Mr. George Kirk's company in this drama is proving a particularly strong attraction at Bilston this week, and the reason is apparent: a well-written play, appealing strongly to the sympathy of the audience, cleverly acted all round.

Gilbert Spate, the draper, an unprincipled blackguard, having betrayed and got tired of one assistant, Gertrude Haynes, seeks to encompass the downfall of Sylvia Grey, who, however, scorns his overtures. Gertrude tells her life's story to Sylvia, and hands her a document proving that her father was a peer, when Spate interrupts, and, sending Gertrude on an errand, charges Sylvia with theft. Spate's scheme to ruin Sylvia is rendered abortive by the arrival of the Duke and Dowager Duchess seeking for their lost relative, Gertrude, who has just been killed in a street accident. Sylvia at once claims to be the lost relation, and proves her claim by the aforementioned document.

In the second act we find Sylvia living with the Dowager Duchess in her town house, loved by and in love with the young Duke, and hated by Lady Celeste, who hoped, until her arrival, to become the Duchess. The doctor, Sir Morris Maitland, suspects that Sylvia is not the lost relative, and, taxing her with her fraud, confirms his suspicions. Finding, however, that she is no ordinary impostor, he counsels her to go on as she is. The Duke declares his love, and when Sylvia says that first of all she has a confession to make, he refuses to listen, demanding only her love, which she gives him. A visit she receives from two of her old shop friends proves an awful shock to her high-bred friends, who object to meeting such people. Sylvia and the Duke are married, and whilst the ceremony is being performed Spate meets Lady Celeste, who is longing for revenge. He has discovered other papers in Gertrude Haynes's box proving Sylvia's deception, and so together they go to Charing Cross Station, and, meeting the bride and bridegroom in a reserved waiting-room, denounce Sylvia's fraud, with the result that the Duke casts her off, and goes on alone. The train meets with an accident, and the shock therefrom causes him to go blind.

Sylvia gets an engagement as flower-stall attendant at the hotel in Marienbad, which her husband and his family afterwards visit. The doctor operates on his eyes and bandages them, saying that with no excitement and if the bandages are left on for some time he will be all right again. Lady Celeste gets Spate (in disguise) the post of attendant to the Duke, who has again declined her love, and although he contemplates getting his marriage annulled, says he will never re-marry. In order to be revenged Lady Celeste, who has recognised the flower-seller, arranges with Spate to take off the bandage when Sylvia is selling her husband a buttonhole, with the result that the excitement of seeing her, whom he still loves, makes him dangerously ill again. Tommy Tinkler and Tilly Dobson, two of Spate's old assistants, have married meantime, and with the money given them by Sylvia on her wedding eve purchased Spate's old premises on his bankruptcy, and to them Sylvia returns, awaiting her husband's recovery, when she looks forward to him reclaiming her. He comes to the shop as soon as he is well, but Spate also turns up, this time to denounce Sylvia as his former mistress. But his triumph is short-lived, as Tilly proves this impossible. Spate is handed over to the police, but Sylvia spurns the Duke's love as worthless, as it does not contain any trust. She is quickly brought back again to his side, however, by his pretence of going blind again, and so a happy ending is secured.

As Sylvia Miss Mary Neil excels herself. Remembering her fine work in *Her Luck in London*, one expected a good performance, and good it is throughout. Miss Neil's pathetic performance causes more tears to be shed by the audience than we have seen for many a day. She held the house enthralled right through the play, receiving several individual curtains at the end of every act. It is difficult to recall a more perfect performance in melodrama. As Arnold, Duke of St. Baynum, Mr. Douglas Cecil gives an excellent study, and meets with much approval. Mr. T. Lionel Ellis is distinctly good as Sir Morris Maitland. Mr. Frank S. Strickland makes Gilbert Spate a most detestable person. That clever and lively little lady, Miss Florrie Groves, is well suited as Lady Cinderella, to whom Lord St. Orbotrude is an excellent foil for her sharp remarks, the latter character being capitally played by Mr. Douglas Tremayne. Miss Beatrice Hudson does well as the scheming Lady Celeste Delamere; Miss Amy B. Ellis is a satisfactory Dowager Duchess of St. Baynum; Miss Queenie Lamont is good as Gertrude Haynes; Mr. Henry Gerald as Tommy Tinkler and Miss Georgie Hawkins as Tilly Dobson cause plenty of amusement in their respective parts. The play is well staged, and the whole production reflects great credit upon Miss Mary Neil and Mr. George Kirk. Mr. Douglas Tremayne also acts as their general-manager. Mr. Wentworth Croke is making some further alterations to his already particularly cosy house, which will add still further to the comfort of his dress-circle patrons.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Jan. 25, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Hubert Scardon, entitled "SEND HIM VICTORIOUS."

For his second week at the Stratford Theatre Royal Mr. Montague Beaudyn is presenting *Send Him Victorious*, with a different company to that which was here last week, and on the opening night the piece (which had its initial London performance here in May last) had a very cordial reception from a packed house. The piece is exceedingly well mounted, and the handsome uniforms and dresses elicit much admiration. Mr. Oliver Birrell as the gallant Captain Frank Allison plays with buoyancy and fluency, and Mr. G. M. Montanini as the scheming Colonel Kaufmann acts with much power and discretion. Mr. Frank Holyoake portrays the King of Ravonia very appropriately; Mr. James Archer does well as the Prison Governor; Mr. John Baxter makes an admirable Major Carl Strauss; Sergeant Max is portrayed on sound lines by Mr. Edward Lowrie; and Mr. Bert Woodin is an active and amusing Johnnie Walker. Miss Katherine Herbert portrays the Countess Kara von Mechlinberg with much expression and latent strength; Miss Isabelle Hunt is a graceful and sympathetic Ethel Harding; and Miss Madge Palmer is a bright and entertaining Gretchen Holtz. Minor parts are in quite capable hands.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

Minutes of the Council meeting held at 353, Strand, on Tuesday, Jan. 26. Present: Mr. Robson Paige (in the chair), Messrs. C. Walker, Richard Green, C. Derwent, F. J. Arlton, C. F. Collings, Cecil Raleigh, F. Morland, J. Poole Kirkwood, Miss Rose Mathews, Miss Marion Lind, and Mr. Herbert Blount, secretary. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. A letter was read from Messrs. Boots, Ltd., regretting their inability to exempt members of the A.A. from the extra fee of travelling exchange. A letter was also read from Dr. Allan Bennett thanking the Council for appointing him hon. medical officer at Torquay.

Letters were read from Miss Lena Ashwell, Mr. Fred Terry, and Mr. Martin Harvey enclosing their membership tickets, as the writers did not consider themselves members owing to the decision arrived at with regard to managers belonging to the A.A. The secretary received instructions to return the subscriptions paid through the bank, at the same time expressing regret at losing them as members, and pointing out that they were still eligible.

The hon. solicitor's report enclosed an account of charges for the year ending Dec. 31 last amounting to £7. This included hearing fee and issuing fee in an action, and the stamp on tenancy agreement, together amounting to £2. The £5, the usual fee charged for cabs, 'buses, telegrams, stamps, &c., during the past six months, they proposed to remit. The report added that advice had been given and letters written on behalf of members.

The Finance Committee's report was read by Mr. Arlton, and adopted. The secretary received instructions to write to a member informing him that several complaints had been made with regard to his conduct, and that any repetition of these complaints would be met by the enforcement of Clause 6 of the Articles of Association.

A vote of condolence with Mrs. Hamilton Bell (Miss Georgina Hamilton) on the death of her son was unanimously passed.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Morland for his speech at the meeting on the 17th inst.

ACTORS' UNION.

At the usual committee meeting of the Actors' Union, held on the 22nd inst., at 49, Bedford-street, Strand, the following members were present:—Messrs. F. Rawson Buckley (chairman), Walter L Rignold, W. H. Bulbeck, Robert M. Taylor, Langford Reed, Henry Bedford, Cecil G. Calvert, Leslie Arthur, James English, E. Howard Templeton, Frank Gerald, Clifford Rean, Paul Lovett, and Kenneth Blackmore (secretary). Communications were received from the following members of the committee:—Messrs. Bruce Lindley, J. Hastings Batson, Jerrold Heather, Arthur Bawtree, Geo P. Lester, D. Lewin-Mannering, and Edward Chester. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The time for the payment of the annual subscription in advance was extended to Feb. 1, to meet the convenience of members.

A proposal that the interim report from the Club Board be accepted by the committee was carried.

The secretary was instructed to inform a member that no reply had yet been received from a manager who owed her two weeks' salary. He was also directed to request the hon. solicitor to write the manager again upon the subject. The secretary was also instructed to inform another member that on the advice of the solicitor her case could not be taken up, and to point out to her Rule 29, Clause D. Another member was informed that as he himself had given a fortnight's notice, he could not claim the railway fare back to London.

ACTORS' INSURANCE.

The following letter has been addressed by Mr. Charles H. E. Brookfield to the principal West End actors and managers:—"Dear Sir,—Some time ago I devised a system of life assurance to suit the peculiar requirements of actors and others whose income is so variable and intermittent that it is difficult or impossible to continue the payment of fixed premiums at regular intervals. My idea is that premiums, small or large, shall be paid at any times and intervals convenient to the policyholder (*e.g.*, in the case of an actor during the time he is in engagement), and that every such payment shall secure to him a certain definite amount of assurance, no part of which is lost if further premiums are not paid regularly, or even if no further premiums at all are paid. Thus, if an actor in receipt of £5 a week during an engagement of twenty weeks chooses to invest £1 per fortnight in life assurance he has at the end of his twenty weeks insured himself by the payment of premiums amounting to £10 for a certain sum at death, even though he should never pay another shilling.

"This scheme of mine has now been put into practicable form by a first-class office—the Commercial Union Assurance Co., Ltd., 24, 25, and 26, Cornhill, E.C., who will issue these life assurance policies by optional premiums. They offer a further convenience, viz., should anyone desiring to take out a policy be disinclined to undergo a medical examination, such examination will be waived subject to the condition that the assurance secured by any premium shall not vest until three years from the date of the payment of the premium; the premium, with compound interest, being paid to those legally entitled to it, however, in the event of death during those three years. The system is applicable not only to whole-life policies, but also to endowment assurance maturing at a certain age.

"Should you be favourably impressed with this scheme and desire to avail yourself of its advantages, or, in any case, to have further particulars of it, I shall be glad if you will communicate with me at the Rectory House, 3, Devonshire-square, Bishopsgate-street, E.C."

THE works of Clark and Co., dyers and cleaners, Retford, are fitted with the latest machinery and appliances for cleaning, dyeing, and finishing every kind of article of professional wear. They are lighted by electricity generated by their own plant, and many of the machines are electrically driven. Newly built and situated in the country, every attention has been paid to sanitation, and all the work is carried out in well-ventilated and lighted buildings under the most comfortable conditions for the workers. Clark and Co. are specialists in dry-cleaning, and have brought the process nearly to perfection. No unpicking whatever is now required, and articles cleaned by them have no disagreeable odour, nor is there any risk of alteration in shape or colour or of shrinkage. The dyeing department, which is in touch with the best English and Continental practice, has all the latest colours, and long experience and perfect equipment in this branch enable this firm to obtain the best results possible.

"THE ERA ANNUAL." The Most Complete Dramatic Dictionary of Dates and Theatrical Treasury of Knowledge ever brought before the Public. It will also be found to be the most interesting Annual of the Year, containing as it does Many Stories told by Members of the Dramatic and Musical Professions. Illustrated by Photographs and Autographs. Price, 1s.; by post, twelve stamps. Address, the Publisher, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London, W.C.

PRODUCTION OF "PIPPA PASSES."

The English Drama Society, which has been responsible for so many interesting productions, has found quarters at the Fortune Playhouse, a bijou hall in Brewer-street, off Regent-street, which is reputed to be the oldest concert-room in the metropolis. It was built, with the house adjoining, in 1737 for Mr. John Hickford, a famous dancing master of that period, and the first concert took place in it a year later. From that date till about 1770 it was one of London's fashionable resorts, but during the last hundred years it has been overlooked as a place of public entertainment. On Monday afternoon last the Fortune was the scene of the presentation of *Pippa Passes*, Browning's dramatic poem, which has formerly been represented chiefly by excerpts at recitals, and has not been given in its entirety for many years. The piece, which was given without entr'actes, is actually a series of dramatic duologues, with a sort of chorus as a connecting link. Browning's glowing verse is usually sufficient of itself to stimulate the imagination of the reader, and when the difficulties of his lines and the indistinctness which often accompanies their delivery are taken into account, it would seem that little is gained by its transference to the footlights.

"Pippa Passes" was first published by Browning in 1841. The idea came to him while walking in a wood near Dulwich, and it was written more to please the poet himself than from any other motive. Students of Browning will remember that the story deals with the Sicilian silk-worker Pippa, who is about to enjoy her one holiday out of the whole year, and in an ecstacy of delight at the prospect soliloquises as to how she will dispose of her day. First she will be in imagination the young and wealthy Ottima, then the renowned sculptor Jules, then the gallant Luigi; and, lastly, the pious Monsignor. After all comes the thought that each is equal in the sight of God, and she goes on her way rejoicing. Her song reaches the ears in turn of the individuals named, and exercises an immediate influence. A lover who has murdered his guilty partner's husband is moved to remorse, to hatred of his mistress, and to the poison cup; a sculptor who determines upon the death of a group of students in order to revenge a practical joke is turned from his purpose; a revolutionary meditating the assassination of a tyrant is strengthened in his resolve to sacrifice himself for his country; and a monsignor, deep in a mercenary compact with an unscrupulous scoundrel, is induced to render swift justice. Browning's antagonism to the Church of Rome, which is repeatedly displayed in his works, finds expression in the last-named character, and to parade before the public such a misrepresentation of a dignitary of the Church at a time when a nation is recovering from a terrible calamity seems at the least unkind.

The limitations of room were evident on Monday afternoon, Pippa's passage being made by way of the narrow space which separated the audience from the platform, while the students hatched their grim plot in the same restricted area. The performance, nevertheless, aroused keen interest and no little enthusiasm in an audience naturally small. The title-rôle was rendered with painstaking care by Miss Isabel Roland, who moved through her part with agreeable buoyancy. She spoke the long soliloquy of the opening with well-judged emphasis, though her lines were not always distinctly uttered. Miss Lucy Wilson was the Ottima, and gave an artistically coloured performance, sounding the depths of emotion in the tragic episode with her lover Sebald. For that character the services of Mr. Gordon Bailey, who is appearing as Macbeth at a neighbouring theatre, were secured, and the part had a rendition of great dramatic excellence, admirably varied in treatment and elocutionally effective. The presentation of the scene between the guilty pair, indeed, came as near to the electrifying acting of the native performers who astonished London theatregoers a couple of years ago as anything we have witnessed, and the clever couple were recalled a number of times. Mr. Gordon Bailey acquitted himself with equal credit in the rôle of the befooled sculptor, and the mock bride Phene, who has learnt to love the man she has conspired against, was prettily played by Miss Muriel Carmel. Earnestness and care marked the portrayal of Luigi by Mr. Guy Fletcher; and the mother, though a little too youthful in appearance, was impressively acted by Miss Lola Duncan. A skilful embodiment, which erred, however, on the side of extravagance, was submitted by Mr. Max Montesole as the Archbishop, whose cunning was made a little too sharp and his senility too pronounced. Mr. Cecil A. Collins added to the engrossing effect of the scene by his finished study of the intendant. Mr. Roderick Macleod supplied a neat sketch of a young Englishman, and the subordinate parts were fairly well played, though distinctness of enunciation was not always the first consideration. The performance was under the direction of Mr. Nugent Monck, and was repeated on three subsequent afternoons.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

The first concert of the present term, given on Wednesday evening, commenced with a well-played solo, Bach's Fugue in B minor, by Mr. Kenneth A. Brown. Miss Daisy Scott, who sang the "Slave Song" (Riego), should avoid forcing her voice, as she has ample power, and otherwise gave a pleasing rendering of the air. Miss Constance Wrigley also deserved praise for her carefully-executed violin solo, "Romance," from Second Concerto, Wieniawski. In the song of Nevin's, "The Rosary," Miss Mary Newbery received hearty applause; and Mr. Arthur O. Duley gave an excellent account of Schumann's pianoforte solo, "Romance," Nos. 1 and 2, Op. 28. Mr. William Doe, who has a fine voice, gave a remarkably good interpretation of Gounod's famous aria "Lend me your aid" (*Irene*), and his clear enunciation was very commendable. A violin solo, Vieuxtemps' charming Aria and Gavotte, from Suite in D, was admirably played by Miss Kitty Loveland; and Miss Dorothy Killik had a most hearty recall after her singing of "Mountain Lovers." The dense fog on Wednesday night no doubt accounted for the absence in the programme of two clever students, Miss Hicks, pianist, and Miss Gipsy Turner, pupil of Madame H. Armstrong, who was set down for Clarke's song "Heart's Delight." Mr. Stanley F. Hosier's organ solo, Fantasia in C minor (Hesse), was well received by the audience; and Mr. A. N. Allnutt displayed intelligence in Purcell's song "Arise, ye subterranean winds." The concert concluded with a recitation, "At the Opera" (Owen Meredith), charmingly given by Miss Peri Pawson, a clever pupil of Miss Kate Rorke. Miss Jenny Hyman was the accompanist.

"WHAT LOVE CAN DO."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—The humour of your correspondent's, Mr. Basil Young, remark respecting his exclusion from birthday honours is too recondite for my penetration; he has my assurance, however, that so far as I am concerned, he remains in undisputed possession of the title.

I should be thankful if you would allow me to add that my play—a melodrama—was written for, and accepted by, Mr. Fred J. Little, who announced it for early production in his advertisements in your columns during June and July, 1907; hence, to say the least of it, Mr. Young's protest is somewhat belated.—Faithfully yours,

RICHARD A. GREENE.

Actors' Association, 353, Strand, W.C., Jan. 26.

ACTORS' BENEVOLENT FUND.

Mr. George Alexander (in the absence of Sir Charles Wyndham, on the Continent) presided at the annual general meeting of the Actors' Benevolent Fund, held on the stage of the Criterion Theatre on Thursday afternoon. He was supported by Sir Squire Bancroft, Mr. Edward Terry, Mr. Cyril Maude, Mr. R. Morand, Mr. Harry Nicholls, Mr. Charles Cruickshanks, and amongst others present were the Rev. Arthur Brinckman, Mr. Henry Evill, Miss Mary Moore, Miss Lilian Braithwaite, Miss Clara Jecks, Miss Edith Blande, Mr. P. de Pinto, Mr. P. Blunt, Mr. Algernon Syms, Mr. Frank Weathersby, Mrs. Charles Gay, Mr. E. Clarke, and Mr. C. I. Coltson (secretary).

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said: Before beginning the work of the day I think we actors and actresses would feel glad to express some tribute to the memory of the great actor who has just passed away—M. Coquelin. In the absence of your president, I should like to tell you that it was his happiness and his good fortune, if I may say so, to be with M. Coquelin during the later stages of his illness. Only a few days ago I received a letter from Sir Charles Wyndham, in which he prophesied that the end would not be very far off, and he told me that he had been in constant attendance upon Coquelin, and that upon one particular night he stayed with him for many hours. On that occasion Sir Charles had been able, as he thought, by utilising his knowledge as a doctor, to save the great comedian some pain by administering massage to his poor fading body. I think it is a very wonderful thing that the two greatest actors of our time, and perhaps of any time, should have had the privilege of dying in so romantic and touching an atmosphere. Our great past president, Sir Henry Irving, could not have wished a nobler death than to have spoken the great words of Tennyson just before the fatal hour, and I am sure we who take an interest in, and have sympathy for, the Actors' Benevolent Fund, could wish for ourselves no sweeter parting than that which has fallen to the lot of Coquelin, because not long before his end he expressed a wish to go to the Actors' Rest, a place which he himself had built, and I cannot but think that he was perfectly conscious the end was very near, and that he felt the most fitting place in which to pass his last hours would be amongst those of his own profession who had not had the fortune he himself had in it. I do not know whether his great friend, Sir Squire Bancroft, would wish to add a word to this tribute, but if so, we should be very glad to hear him.

Sir SQUIRE BANCROFT associated himself with the Chairman's expression of regret at the death of M. Coquelin, saying: Everything that can be said as to the great lass which has just happened to our calling has been said so eloquently and touchingly by Mr. George Alexander that I would only add a very small postscript. I have known Coquelin for very many years, and had the privilege some years ago of seeing a great deal of him in his own simple, joyous domestic life in his beloved Paris, and that which touched me so much was the beautiful illustration in himself of that feeling which seems enshrined as it were in the hearts of all good Frenchmen—the sweetest, most beautiful, and most tender love for his old mother. It left a great impression upon my mind, and I cordially endorse all that Mr. Alexander has said. We have all lost not only a great artist, but a very fine fellow. Sir Squire concluded by proposing a vote of condolence with the family of M. Coquelin.

Mr. EDWARD TERRY seconded, and the motion was carried sub silentio.

The SECRETARY then read the report and balance-sheet, which were as follow:—

In submitting to the members the accounts for the past year, the committee regret to have to report a considerable reduction in the number of subscribers and in the amount of their subscriptions, the total sum subscribed being but £745 16s., and the number of subscribers being only 579. Notwithstanding this falling-off the committee have assisted 1,985 cases and voted in relief the sum of £4,067 9s. 7d.

An analysis of the work of the Fund for the past six years will be found in the abstract of report and statement of accounts.

The committee's cordial and grateful thanks are tendered to Mr. Cyril Maude for presiding at the Fund's Annual Dinner on Sunday, the 13th of last December, when through his eloquent appeal a sum of over £1,100 was given and promised in support of the Fund.

Many of our leading actors and actresses have devoted to the Fund the money they have obtained in exchange for their autographs, and the committee have gratefully to report that the sum from this source benefited the Fund to the extent of £71 15s. 3d.

The committee gratefully acknowledge the receipt of £21 from Mr. Aubrey Smith on account of the cricket matches organised for the benefit of theatrical charities, and most cordially thank the organisers of the matches, and also the players, who so readily gave their services in the cause of the Fund. It is to be regretted that the weather was somewhat unfavourable.

The committee earnestly hope that those who are kindly collecting at the theatres for the Fund will use their best endeavours to make the Actors' Saturday Collection for 1909 a record sum.

The committee appeal to every actor and actress to contribute to the collection which is now being made throughout the United Kingdom for the benefit of those in the dramatic profession who have "fallen by the way" and are in need of assistance. The sum of £4,057 9s. 7d. has been granted in relief during the past year. A subscription of ten shillings carries with it not only a first claim upon the Fund for pecuniary help, but it also gives the power to recommend deserving applicants.

It is requested that contributions be handed to the gentlemen who are kindly collecting at the theatres. By order,

C. I. COLTSON, Secretary.

Offices, 8, Adam-street Adelphi, W.C.

ABSTRACT OF REPORT.

The following is a comparative analysis of the work of 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, and 1908:—

	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908
Ordinary Cases	815	1052	1154	1055	1298	1438
Emergency Cases	295	359	320	437	459	547
	1110	1411	1474	1492	1757	1985

	1903	1904	1905
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ordinary Gifts	2320 18 9	2443 19 6	2516 16 0
Emergency Gifts	114 14 6	126 8 8	129 4 9
Ordinary Loans	522 5 0	651 18 0	675 7 0
Emergency Loans	100 2 0	128 11 6	165 14 6
	3058 0 3	3350 17 8	3487 2 3

	1906	1907	1908
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ordinary Gifts	2448 5 9	2737 0 2	2686 7 0
Emergency Gifts	151 13 0	161 4 6	163 8 3
Ordinary Loans	651 12 6	726 8 7	937 17 6
Emergency Loans	148 5 0	175 6 0	267 3 6
	3399 16 3	3799 19 3	4504 16 3

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.
From Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1908.
RECEIPTS.

Dr.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Balance on hand, Jan. 1, 1908		1794 0 5
,, Balance on hand "Betty" Fund for Poor Actors and Actresses		30 11 8
,, Subscriptions and Donations, including the Box Collections at Theatres		745 16 0
,, Bequests:		
Miss H. F. Sadler	50 0 0	
E. S. S. Richards	1364 12 6	
A. Waddington	47 5 0	
Miss Chapman (residue)	7 0 0	
		1468 17 6
,, Proceeds of Benefits, &c.:		
G. Edwardes (from *San Toy* by Stock Exchange Amateurs)	50 0 0	
On Account of Cricket Matches, per Mr. Aubrey Smith	21 0 6	
Société des Auteurs et Compositeurs Dramatiques of France, per Mr. H. B. Tree	12 3 7	
Hull Floral Matinée	10 0 0	
Sale of Rayne's Date Book	9 16 2	
Food and Betterment Association, Liverpool	5 0 0	
Sunderland Charity Carnival	3 5 0	
Sale of Poems, per Mr. Horace Mills	2 4 0	
Sundries	6 13 2	
		120 1 11
,, Covent Garden Theatre Fund		1166 15 11
,, The "Betty" Fund		205 9 1
,, Autographs of Actors and Actresses		71 15 3
,, Interest on Investments:		
Helen Faucit Endowment	60 8 0	
Sir Charles Wyndham's Gift	70 14 8	
Other Investments	791 1 10	
		922 4 6
,, Net Proceeds to date of 18th Annual Dinner, Cyril Maude, Esq., in the Chair	791 12 3	
,, Arrears on past Dinner	28 3 6	
		819 15 9

NOTE.

Investments held:

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
2½ per cent. Consols	1490 0 0	
3 per cent. India Stock	3201 2 11	
3½ per cent. do. A Account	20,418 4 11	
3½ per cent. do. B Account	1725 19 2	
	£26,835 7 0	£7345 8 0

PAYMENTS.

Cr.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Grants and Allowances		2638 10 3
Ditto, ditto, "Betty" Fund for Poor Actors and Actresses		211 5 0
,, Loans	1205 1 0	
Less repaid	122 8 6	
		1082 12 6
,, Medicine		2 13 4
,, Investment to Capital (Bequests)		1414 12 6
,, National Telephone Company		8 0 0
,, District Messenger Call		1 1 0
,, Legal Expenses		1 1 0
,, Salaries		462 9 0
,, Advertising		40 6 6
,, Printing and Stationery		39 14 6
,, Rent of Offices		90 0 0
,, Miscellaneous Expenses		45 17 0
,, Insurance (Fire and Burglary)		0 14 6
,, Housekeeper's Expenses (including coals, &c.)		25 11 4
,, At Bankers on Deposit	500 0 0	
,, At Bankers on Current Account	733 4 1	
,, At Bankers on "Betty" Fund	24 15 9	
,, In hands of Secretary	22 19 9	
		1280 19 7
		£7,345 8 0

C. I. COLTSON, Secretary.

8, Adam-street, Adelphi, W.C.

Audited and found correct,

WESTCOTT, MASKALL and CO.,
Chartered Accountants,
29 and 30, Broad-street-avenue, E.C.

London, Jan. 15, 1909.

The CHAIRMAN, in proposing the adoption of the balance-sheet, said that the most satisfactory phase of the report was that they had been able to give more than £6,000 to distressed actors and actresses. The members of the theatrical profession were said to number between 6,000 and 7,000, and in view of this it was rather surprising that they did not get a larger number of small subscriptions. Their income during the past year from subscriptions was a little over £700, and the greater part of that sum had been subscribed by the men and women in the profession who had been for many years the mainstay of the Fund. He thought it was a pity that a greater number of actors and actresses denied themselves the pleasure of sending trifling sums to the Actors' Benevolent Fund. If only all of the six or seven thousand in the profession would make up their minds to send a shilling each, the receipts would be more than doubled. They had been very much indebted to Mr. Cyril Maude for his work at the annual dinner. He (the chairman) thought that it was a very good idea to hold the dinner on a Sunday evening, and he was sure that it was the opinion of everyone present that the dinner was a very great success financially and that the dignity of the profession had been worthily upheld by Mr. Cyril Maude, who delivered a most eloquent and beautiful speech. He now proposed that the balance-sheet be accepted.

Mr. CYRIL MAUDE seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

The Rev. ARTHUR BRINCKMAN, in proposing a vote of thanks to the committee, stated that those gentlemen worked on the excellent principle of keeping themselves in touch with all matters connected with the fund. No fewer than two thousand actors and actresses had been assisted, and that involved a vast amount of work.

Mr. SPENCER TREVOR seconded, and the vote was carried.

Mr. EDWARD TERRY, replying on behalf of the committee, said that all they did was a labour of love. They had always found it a most painful thing to have to say "No" to an applicant. They tried to deal out their charity in the kindest possible way, and sometimes they were not always open-eyed to the failings of their brother actors. Over £4,000 had been given away in the course of the past year. But that was not all. They assisted in other ways by sending poor actors to convalescent homes, and by providing surgical aid. He agreed with the chairman that there should be a larger number of small subscriptions.

Mr. M. R. MORAND proposed, and Mr. SYDNEY PAXTON seconded, a vote of thanks to, and the re-election of the hon. standing counsel, Mr. J. Safford; the hon. solicitors, Messrs. J. Mote and Son; the hon. auditors, Messrs. W. Westcott, Maskall, and Co.; and the hon. physicians and dentists, Drs. G. Stoker, F. Horton Villanueva, C. Atkin Swan, R. P. Middlemist, Mr. Hubert J. Wooldridge, and Mr. P. de Pinto. These votes were carried.

At this stage three scrutineers were appointed, the gentlemen selected being Mr. Aubrey Smith, Mr. Henry Evill, and Mr. P. de Pinto.

Sir SQUIRE BANCROFT proposed the re-election of Sir Charles Wyndham as President of the Fund. He (Sir Squire) felt that he could say no more than that there was no one in the profession who had not only opened his heart to the Fund, but as liberally and as largely opened his purse.

Mr. HARRY NICHOLLS seconded, and the proposal was carried with acclamation.

Mr. CYRIL MAUDE asked to allowed to make a suggestion. He stated that he could not help thinking, after some conversation he had had lately with people who were interested in Actors' Day, that it would be an excellent thing for the Actors' Benevolent Fund if, week after week, some publicity were given—not by any mention of the names of the recipients of the charity—to the circumstances of the actual cases cared for by the Fund through the medium of the two theatrical organs. He had found that Mr. Edward Terry held the same opinion. He stated that on behalf of the Actors' Orphanage penny collections were being made in every theatre in the United Kingdom. Could they not organise a subscription throughout the country of at least a shilling a year from actors and actresses on behalf of the Actors' Benevolent Fund?

Mr. TERRY thought that the idea enunciated by Mr. Maude was an admirable one, and the committee would take into consideration the question of a shilling subscription. He concluded by proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. George Alexander for taking the chair on that occasion. This was duly seconded and carried.

The CHAIRMAN, in acknowledging the vote of thanks, assured his hearers that some of the suggestions that had been made would receive favourable consideration at the hands of the committee. He thought that the dignity of their profession was preserved by their not having benefits for the Actors' Benevolent Fund, and he was also of the opinion that the profession did a great deal more than its share for the outside charities of London. During the last twelve months no less than £12,000 had been obtained in this way from thirteen of the London theatres. There had arisen in charitable works in London, especially in regard to performances at theatres, a certain kind of entrepreneur who was, perhaps, more liberal to himself than to the object for which the entertainment was being given. In his (Mr. Alexander's) own theatre he had lately been very careful—so had Mr. Cyril Maude, Mr. Beerbohm Tree, and others—to see that the expenses of these performances were kept within their proper limits. He knew of one performance that was given at the St. James's Theatre, where the receipts were considerably over £400, and where the charity only received a little over £90, the gentleman who managed the performance receiving about £50. These were matters that should be looked into by managers who lent their theatres for such purposes.

A vote of thanks to Miss Mary Moore and Sir Charles Wyndham for the use of the Criterion Theatre—Miss MOORE replying in a few well-chosen words—brought the the meeting to a close.

MR. ALEXANDER AND MERCY.

Mr. and Mrs. George Alexander were "at home" on Thursday afternoon at the St. James's Theatre to the members of the newly-established South St. Pancras District of the League of Mercy. It had been hoped that Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein would be present, but her Royal Highness was unable to leave Windsor owing to the fog, which, of course, affected the attendance.

Mr. GEORGE ALEXANDER, who presided at the meeting, expressed regret that up to the present little had been done in South St. Pancras for the League of Mercy, though the district had helped many of its own charities. The League had done marvellous work, thanks to personal service, and it was with a view to adding to that service that he made an appeal. The League and, he hoped, that branch would soon prove themselves able to assist in a work which his Majesty and the Royal Family had so much at heart. He hoped that South St. Pancras would put its shoulder to the wheel, and create a district for the League of Mercy, as the other divisions of the borough had done. The free and other hospitals owed much to the energy of the Lord Mayor and other Mayors. Over £116,000 had been collected by the League since its incorporation by Royal charter ten years ago, for the London hospitals, and over £3,496 for hospitals outside the radius. It had all been done by personal service, and many of the poor were eager to add their mites. He hoped that the South St. Pancras Branch would prove of real value to the League.

Sir W. J. COLLINS, M.P., said Mr. Alexander had won the affections of the playgoing public, then the suffrages of the South St. Pancras voters, and now, like his famous predecessor, sighed for new worlds to conquer. The speaker paid eloquent tribute to the way in which the drama, of which Mr. Alexander was so honoured a representative, had often co-operated in the great work of charity.

Mrs. RODWELL, a lady Vice-President of the Fulham district, then addressed the meeting, and Mr. Alexander announced that Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Irving had accepted the positions of Vice-Presidents.

Mr. H. B. IRVING said he had learnt for the first time that he lived in South St. Pancras, though he had paid rates and taxes there for some years. He accepted the responsibility of obtaining £1 from wealthy subscribers, with the wholesome feeling at the back that if he did not get it from them he would have to make up the amount himself. He noted that the South St. Pancras branch of the League would, as they said at Oxford, get a first class, or, at any rate, something more than a pass degree.

Councillor EDWARD T. HERON, J.P. and Mayor of St. Pancras, having supported a vote of thanks to the speakers, which had been moved by the Rev. E. L. METCALFE, Vicar of St. Pancras, it was carried.

Captain H. M. JESSEL moved and Alderman DONALD MCGREGOR seconded a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. George Alexander, the latter alluding to that lady's activity in the borough. Addressing Mr. Alexander, Mr. McGregor said: "We know what your work has been, and wish you further fields of usefulness, honour, and credit."

The vote was carried unanimously.

Mr. ALEXANDER, in reply, explained to the meeting the method of appointing Vice-Presidents, and hoped he would have sufficient volunteers to make up the thirty which were required. He and Mrs. Alexander were glad to feel that they had made some friends in South St. Pancras. He hoped next year to thank them all for much good service.

After the meeting, Mrs. Alexander entertained those on the stage to tea, amongst them being the Countess of Kinnoul, Miss Bateman, and Miss Lilian Braithwaite.

"HOW GIRLS ARE BROUGHT TO RUIN."

A Drama, in Four Acts, by Mrs. Morton Powell, produced at the Queen's Theatre, Liverpool, on Jan. 25.

Jessie Burton	MISS RONA MERRICK
Harry Hailing	MR. WALTER STEELE
Philip Edge } Philip Dare }	MR. WALLACE CLARK
Solomon Sleep	MR. ALRIC BURTON
Jack Josse	MR. SIDNEY BRYANT
Mr. Sterling	MR. WALLER HILTON
Mr. Smethurst	MR. R. L. HARDING
Clerk of Assize Court	MR. GEO. CUTHBERT
Sidney Sparkle	MR. W. E. BLUNT
Police-Sergt. Pride	MR. JAMES TURNER
Police-constable Dooley	MR. ALLAN HARVEY
Lucy Lawton	MISS JEANNIE RISLEY
Mrs. Anna Burton	MISS CONSTANCE MEDWYN
Anna Rake	MISS BERTHA LAKE
Maggie Rake	MISS MIMA ASHTON
Sally Slop	MISS FLORENCE BUTT
Pansy Blossom	MISS MARY STEPHANIE
Rosa Pink	MISS ALICE LLOYD
Lilly White	MISS CORA ANDERSON
Myrtle Green	MISS LESLIE FROUDE
Toy Leaf	MISS AGNES CUTHBERT
Mrs. Slutt	MISS ADDIE ADAIR
Miss Winnie Waters	MRS. MORTON POWELL

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Although this work follows familiar lines, its appealing powers to all who favour strong melodrama are particularly great, and the enthusiasm of those who witnessed it on Monday night would indicate that its acceptance, wherever presented, is assured. Mr. Morton Powell, husband of the authoress, has gathered about him an able company, who interpret the play very effectively, while the scenery and dresses are most appropriate. Comedy of a very diverting type is in plentiful supply, and this was richly enjoyed—in fact, on Monday evening the audience at times laughed as heartily as if they were being treated to a pantomime. The more serious parts of the play are "gripping," and the adventures of the persecuted girl who forms the central figure in the story hold the attention to the end.

The narrative sets forth that Jessie Burton, a laundry girl, is in love with Harry Hailing, a naval seaman away on foreign service. Her beauty attracts Philip Edge, otherwise Dare, a barrister aspiring to a judgeship, whose moral character is not of the best. He endeavours to entice the girl away from home by means of a bribe to her stepmother, Mrs. Burton, and on Jessie resisting both, she is turned out of the house. Dare's assistant, Solomon Sleep, takes compassion on the girl wandering about the streets, and offers her shelter for the night at "the bower of bliss"—a house kept by Edge. The sailor, Hailing, discovers the whereabouts of his sweetheart, and arrives to rescue her, but is badly assaulted, the girl being taken away to another resort. Twelve months afterwards Edge, having by promises induced Jessie to live with him, tires of her; but his former mistress, Winnie Waters, befriends the girl, and knowing that Edge is Dare, whose appointment to a judgship is at this time announced, threatens to expose him unless he does the right thing by Jessie. The villain engages Sleep to get rid of the child, and turns the girl away. She endeavours to obtain work, and wanders back to her old home; but here the presence of her child and the story of how she left with a strange man tell against her, and all her associates cast her off. Meanwhile, Edge has offered a large sum of money for the removal of the child, whereupon the stepmother finds out the lodgings of the girl and strangles it, Jessie being arrested for the crime. When being sentenced to death she recognises the judge as Edge, who had been her ruin, and denounces him in Court. Subsequently Sleep, who had witnessed the murder, fixes the crime on the right shoulders, and Jessie is released. Edge, after expressing sorrow for his misdeeds, poisons himself, and the sailor and the girl are united.

Miss Rona Merrick acted the part of Jessie with a pathetic sweetness that found the utmost favour, and frequently the audience watched her with breathless interest. Mrs. Morton Powell as the repentent Winnie Waters lent admirable support; Mr. Walter Steele made a robust and convincing sailor lover; as Edge, Mr. Wallace Clark showed much dramatic strength, his delivery being particularly good; Mr. Alric Burton handled the part of Solomon Sleep in a most satisfactory fashion, his hypocritical manners being capitally expressed; endless laughter followed the work of Mr. Sidney Bryant, the coster, and Miss Jeannie Risley, a humorous workgirl; particularly fine was the character sketch of the vulgar lodging-house keeper Mrs. Slutt, given by Miss Addie Adair; and Miss Constance Medwyn made the most of the stepmother, Mrs. Burton. All the minor parts were in good hands.

STAGE-MANAGER OR STAGE-HAND?

In the Court of Appeal on Monday, before the Master of the Rolls, the President of the Probate, Divorce, and Admiralty Division, and Mr. Justice Buckley, the Grimsby Palace Theatre and Buffet, Ltd., appealed from a judgment of the Divisional Court reversing a judgment in their favour delivered in the County Court in an action for damages brought by the mother of Frank Rushbrook, under the Employers' Liability Act, 1880.

The deceased man was employed by the apellants under an agreement which described him as "stage-manager"; but it was stated in evidence that he did a certain amount of manual labour, including the moving of scenery, as well as having control of the electric lighting and attending to the "billing."

The accident which resulted in his death was occasioned by the falling upon his head of the weights on a heavy drop curtain. The County Court jury found in favour of the plaintiff, and awarded £150 damages, but the County Court Judge held that there was no liability, and entered judgment for the defendants.

This was appealed against in the Divisional Court, and, holding that the deceased man was a workman, although described as stage-manager, that tribunal reversed the decision, and gave judgment for the plaintiff. From that decision the defendants now appealed, on the ground that there was no proved defect in the curtain apparatus, and that the deceased man was not a workman within the meaning of the Act.

The appeal was dismissed.

"WHEN His Majesty's Theatre was being built," says the *Sporting Times*, "Sir Squire Bancroft came along and met Mr. Tree near the site. 'Not making as much headway as you thought, eh?' suggested Sir Squire, joining in the survey with his rimmed eyeglass. 'They're not—no, they're not,' acquiesced Mr. Tree, the great truth seeming suddenly to dawn upon him. 'And—and I don't know why, either. Let us step across the road and see.' He led the way to the vestibule and addressed himself to the boss of the box-sheet plan. 'No masons are working to-day, Mr. Turner; pray, why is that?' 'Because they went on strike last Monday, Mr. Tree; they demanded another halfpenny.' 'Dear! dear! dear! Oh, why didn't you give it to them, Mr. Turner? But let us do so now. Bancroft, have you got a halfpenny about you—I gave my last coppers to a crossing-sweeper?' Sir Squire had nothing less than a penny, which he placed on the box-office ledge. 'There, there!' said Mr. Tree, pushing the coin forward, 'give them this, please—double what they asked—and tell them to resume at once!'"

"THE BARBER OF NEW ORLEANS."

Drama, in Four Acts, by Edward Childs Carpenter.
(FROM OUR NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT.)

Mr. William Faversham produced this romantic play at Daly's Theatre on the 15th inst., and made a decided success in the title-rôle. When he undertook the management of Daly's, Mr. Faversham promised to build up a répertoire for his new company, and in pursuance of this intention he withdrew *The World and His Wife* long before its drawing powers had been exhausted, in order to test and try the play under notice. The new piece is full of romance, and while there is no tragedy, there is plenty of sword-play, so the action frequently becomes exciting. The full strength of the excellent company which Mr. Faversham has engaged for his season at Daly's is required for the new production, about twenty characters being represented, and the company is chiefly composed of English artists. Under the title of *The Order of the Rose*, the play was selected as the prize-winner in a newspaper contest that took place over a year ago, the author being the financial editor of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

The scenes of the play are laid in New Orleans, "the little Paris in the Wilderness," in 1804, a period of political disturbance, Louisiana having been recently purchased by the United States, when adventurous soldiers of fortune, French and Spanish, inspired by contempt for the Yankees, were constantly plotting against those whom they regarded as barbarians and interlopers. The central character is one Victor Jallot, a French refugee who was brought to America in his infancy. He was apprenticed to a barber, and on the death of his master he inherited the business. He is now revealed in the heyday of his popularity as a sort of Figaro, combining the tonsorial art with the agreeable qualities of a vivacious retailer of gossip. Jallot gives lessons in dancing and fencing, and to his popular establishment come the young blades and belles to learn the latest step, to hear the newest story, and to train the wrist for the deft parry. Jallot's companion on the voyage from France was a child named Antoinette, whose fortunes in the New World were worse than his own, for she was stolen by a Spanish miscreant and placed on his plantation as a slave. She was subsequently rescued from this condition, however, by the overseer of the plantation, a German, who adopted the beautiful child and brought her up as his own. Antoinette and Jallot meet and fall in love with each other, only to be estranged by a scurrilous newspaper story. But the author of the libel presently finds himself in the barber's chair with a razor at his throat, and Antoinette, hidden behind a screen, hears the confession that the barber extorts from him. This is the best scene in the play. In the meantime, Luiz Delicado, the Spanish adventurer who owns the plantation, has returned to New Orleans and demanded an account of the German overseer, Ludwig Froebel. Casting his eyes on Antoinette, Delicado forces Froebel to admit that she is one of the slave girls left in his charge, and claims her as his property. He offers her for sale to the highest bidder among his friends, and the gallants of the town strive for possession of her; but Jallot, staking his all on a bid, is the successful buyer. Not until Jallot becomes involved in a quarrel with the conspirators who are seeking to free Louisiana from American rule does Antoinette discover that her condition is that of a slave, and that Jallot has purchased her. The barber's assistant displays an American flag on July 4, and Jallot is accused of being a traitor to the cause to which he is supposed to be friendly. But the barber addresses the mob that bursts into his shop, and holds them spellbound whilst he tells them what a fine thing it is to belong to the United States. His counsel prevails, and the man who confessed to the slanderous story and incited the mob in order to further his own ends is foiled again. Antoinette is enraged when she learns that Jallot has bought her as a slave, misunderstanding his motives, and believing that he has desired to humiliate her because she has rejected his love. But Jallot restores her freedom, and declares himself not her master, but her humble wooer. Then the barber, prompted by vague recollections of his childhood, sets his wits to work, and discovers that Antoinette is of pure white ancestry, and of noble birth as well. These facts being established, Jallot confesses that he, too, was a French aristocrat, and he not only wins Antoinette's forgiveness, but her hand in marriage.

The play is handsomely staged and splendidly acted, not only by Mr. Faversham as Jallot and Miss Julie Opp as Antoinette, but by Mr. Charles Harbury as Froebel, Mr. H. Cooper Cliffe as Delicado, Miss Olive Oliver as Ottilie Trudeau, Mr. Lionel Belmore as Gazonac, Mr. Morton Selten as Allard, Mr. France Bendtsen as Poupet, Mr. Percy C Waram as Lemaitre, Mr. Harry Redding as Villebois, Mr. Berton Churchill as Osbourne, Miss Alice Belmore as Caresse, and Miss Gertrude Augarde as Tonton.

DRAMATIC COINCIDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—A Liverpool notice of my friend Mr. Morton Powell's new and successful production makes it evident that two authors have both struck the same root-idea in one of the important acts of each of their plays.

As my drama *The Mother of His Child*, although completed and copyrighted, is not likely to be toured for some months, I should like to take the earliest opportunity of stating that it is dated 1908, and in doing this I desire neither to assert nor even remotely insinuate any charge of plagiarism, but merely to record the fact as it stands.—Yours faithfully,

ARTHUR SHIRLEY,

Green Room Club, W.C., Jan. 28.

A RETURN visit to the Exchange Hall, Wellingborough, has been made this week by Mr. and Mrs. J. Walters' company, with *The Babes in the Wood*. Chief honours are carried off by Ally M. Benson with a diverting version of Dame Flossie; another excellent contribution is the Tommy of Mr. Tom Hulme; Fairy Goodheart has a particularly pleasing exponent in Miss Kitty Rafferty; and Maid Marian is in the safe hands of Miss Lillie Miller. The two Babes—Miss Kitty Chester and Miss Florrie Parkinson—are distinctly good; Mr. Tom Lewis figures as the Baron; and the two ruffians are Mr. Martin Haly and Mr. Dan Rayner.

THE boards of the Gaiety, Worksop, were occupied last week-end by *The Woman That Pays*, one of Mr. Frank M. Thorne's many successful plays. The scenery was picturesque, and the interesting story was interpreted by a clever company. Sid Armstrong, a young fisherman of manly bearing, was capitally portrayed by Mr. Phil Harper, and Mr. John Davidson as the rascally Steward furnished a clever piece of acting; Miss Katie Blair as Nell Moreland gave a convincing interpretation of the character; Miss Maud Russell was sympathetic as Madge; and Mr. Frank M. Thorne, Miss A. Walton, and Miss Florence Thorne were responsible for a great deal of the comedy, and thoroughly amused the audience with their drolleries.

THE beautiful Jewel scene in Mr. J. F. Elliston's successful pantomime *Aladdin*, now running at the Theatre Royal, Nottingham, was mounted and arranged by Mme. Alice Phasey, formerly ballet mistress to the Royal Italian Opera under the direction of the late Sir Augustus Harris.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

SIR CHARLES WYNDHAM touched an eloquent note of pathos at the Actors' Benevolent Fund meeting on Thursday, when he referred to the way in which he had lightened the pain of Coquelin's last hours by massaging the poor, shrunken frame of the great French actor. It may be recalled that Sir Charles was a medical student at King's College, and his experiences as a surgeon were gained during the Civil War in America. He went to New York in 1862, where he obtained an appointment as army medical officer with the Federal forces, and went through many stirring scenes in the campaign.

THE most recent funeral held at Pont-aux-Dames, where Coquelin will be buried to-day, took place only a few days ago—that of Mme. Zuima Bouffar, a once-famous burlesque actress and singer, who had been for some years an inmate of Coquelin's home. Coquelin will be buried by her side. He left instructions that no flowers or wreaths should be sent, and that his funeral should be as simple as possible. In accordance with his wish, no photographs have been allowed to be taken of him on his death-bed.

THE mourners to-day will certainly be counted by thousands. The President of the Republic and the Prime Minister have sent special messages of condolence, and among the many speeches will be one by the Minister of Public Instruction or his representative. The entire company of the Comédie Française will go to the funeral, and it was proposed to close the theatre to-day, but that was found to be impossible, as, by the rules of the house of Molière, the latter can shut its doors as a sign of mourning only in the case of the death of a member of the company. At the Théâtre Français and at the "Second Théâtre Français," where M. Antoine was a great friend of Coquelin, and on every Parisian stage, on Wednesday evening the rôle was one of mourning. Actors, critics, and audience all felt the loss of the great actor.

MR. BEERBOHM TREE, who may be expected back immediately from Egypt, will revive *The Dancing Girl* at His Majesty's after the run of *Pinkie and the Fairies*, which ends on Saturday, Feb. 13, to reappear again next Christmas. Mr. H. A. Jones's play, with a revised third act, will be staged on Tuesday, Feb. 16. Originally produced during Mr. Tree's tenancy of the Haymarket, on Jan. 15, 1891, it ran for nearly a year, and obtained for Mr. Tree, in the character of the spendthrift Duke of Guisebury, one of the most decided triumphs of his career. For the rôle of Drusilla Ives, originally played by Miss Julia Neilson, Miss Alice Crawford will return to His Majesty's; Miss Marie Lohr will have the part of the little cripple girl Sybil Crake, formerly played by Miss Rose Norreys; and Mr. Fred Kerr, Mr. Louis Calvert, Mr. Vane Tempest, and Miss Rosina Filippi will be among the principals.

MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER has decided upon Thursday, Feb. 18, as the date of his revival of *The Prisoner of Zenda*, the career of *The Builder of Bridges* coming to a close at the St. James's on the Friday evening previous. Mr. Alexander will again figure in the field of romantic character as Rudolf Rassendyll, and Miss Stella Patrick Campbell will play the Princess Flavia, created by Miss Evelyn Millard. Two distinguished members of the original cast have unhappily passed away, and the late Miss Lily Hanbury will be followed in the rôle of Antoinette by Miss Frances Dillon; Mr. Alfred Brydone taking up the part of Colonel Sapt formerly sustained by the late Mr. W. H. Vernon. Mr. Frank Cooper will succeed Mr. Herbert Waring as Duke Michael; Mr. Ben Webster will be the new Fritz von Tarlenheim; and Mr. Vernon Steel and Mr. Reginald Owen will also be included in the cast.

MR. H. B. IRVING has made an alteration in his plans for his present season at the Shaftesbury. As Mr. Robert Courtneidge has a prior claim upon the theatre, Mr. Irving's London season must terminate at the end of February. As the time at his disposal is thus so short, Mr. Irving has decided, in justice to the author, to postpone the production of Mr. Justin Huntly M'Carthy's *Cæsar Borgia* until the autumn, and will accordingly devote the last three weeks of his season, beginning on Monday, Feb. 8, to *Hamlet*, *Charles I.*, and *Louis XI.*, each play being acted in that order for five nights and at the Wednesday and Saturday matinées. The run of *The Lyons Mail* will terminate with the 125th consecutive performance next Saturday, but this popular play will be given on each Saturday evening until Feb. 27, the last night of the season.

MR. LIONEL BROUGH denies the published reports of his serious illness with reassuring certainty. The popular actor certainly has been suffering from a somewhat protracted indisposition, but is now all right and out and about as usual.

MRS. D'OYLY CARTE will close her répertoire season at the Savoy Theatre on Saturday, Feb. 27. Owing, however, to many requests for a revival of *The Yeomen of the Guard*, she has arranged, before finally dispersing her present company, to give from March 1 twenty-four evening and four morning performances of that tuneful opera.

MR. ARTHUR BOURCHIER will introduce to London on Wednesday M. Henry Bernstein's powerful play *Samson*, the successful production of which at Swansea on Monday is recorded in another column. Mr. Bourchier, for whom a hearty welcome is assured on his return to the Garrick, has a plentiful supply of interesting productions and revivals in store for a future date. Mr. Alfred Sutro, for example, has in hand a new play which he is writing specially for Mr. Bourchier; and *The Outsider*, by Leslie Lindsay and Captain Robert Marshall, which was tried recently in the provinces, will be seen in due course. A comedy adapted by Mrs. de la Pasture from her novel "Deborah of Tod's," and revivals of *Macbeth*, *The Arm of the Law*, and *The Bishop's Move* may also be looked for.

"THE TRUANTS," the new play by Wilfred T. Coleby, which Miss Lena Ashwell has selected to follow *Diana of Dobson's* at the Kingsway, is chiefly concerned with the rash adventures of two young persons of opposite sex, who defy the conventions. They are, however, happily brought to a sense of their folly in the nick of time by the intervention of a distinguished authoress and lady traveller, a rôle Miss Ashwell will herself create. As the girl truant Miss Athene Seyler, a graduate of the School of Dramatic Art, will be a new recruit to the Kingsway company; while as her male partner in truancy Mr. Dennis Eadie will have a part well worthy of his brilliant powers. Mr. C. M. Hallard, Miss Frances Ivor, Miss Gertrude Scott, and Mr. Norman McKinnel will also have places in the cast.

MISS EVELYN MILLARD will on Monday transfer *The Adventure of Lady Ursula* from the Garrick Theatre to the Criterion, of which she has secured a tenancy till the end of July. Miss Millard hopes to produce Mr. Robert Hichen's new play, *The Real Woman*, on Tuesday, Feb. 23. The chief character is that of a young society lady, who, as the result of a visit to the East-end and a sight of its poverty and distress, is converted from a "fashionable butterfly" into a "real woman." Mr. Hichen, it may be added, has been commissioned by Miss Millard to dramatise for her his novel, "The Garden of Allah."

"LADY FREDERICK'S" reception so far this spring has been eminently flattering to its promoters. Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's No. 1 London Company, including Miss Eleanor Delaporte and Mr. Robert Minster, commenced the fourth week of the tour at the New Grand Theatre, Oldham, on Monday last, Mr. Somerset Maugham's great play receiving an appreciative welcome at the hands of big audiences throughout the week. The Hutchison management are also doing enormous business with *Brewster's Millions*, Mr. Percy Hutchison continuing to score all along the line as Monty Brewster.

THE thirty-ninth play presented by the Hutchison management was produced on Monday at Cheltenham, when *Idols* entered on its provincial career. The production was a success in every way, and the fact that the advance booking on Tuesday was trebled speaks for itself. Next week the company visits Bournemouth, where it will be followed by Mr. Hutchison and company in *Brewster's Millions* paying a return visit. Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison have now arranged with Miss Evelyn Millard and Mr. Tom B. Davis for the entire provincial rights of *Idols*, and many of the large cities are to be visited this spring.

COLONEL MAPLESON, V.D., has just been gazetted to the colonelcy of the 1st North Midland Brigade Royal Field Artillery. The celebrated impresario, who has been the recipient of numerous medals, orders, and decorations, was recently created Chevalier of the Legion of Honour by the French Government.

MR. MARTIN HARVEY to-night at the Sheffield Lyceum concludes the first week of his tour in the Northern counties. Some time has elapsed since the popular actor and his company were last in the cutlery capital, and the general desire to see the favourite plays in the répertoire has resulted in packed houses.

MR. HARVEY, Miss de Silva, and the company opent at the Hull Grand on Monday with *The Last Heir*, which will then be given for the first time during the present tour. *The Breed of the Treshams* will be played once, *The Corsican Brothers* and *The Conspiracy* once, and *The Only Way* twice during the Hull fixture. On Monday week the company are due at the Leicester Opera House.

CONSIDERABLE interest has arisen consequent upon the announcement that Mr. Martin Harvey has secured the English rights of *Le Bon Roi Dagobert*, by M. André Rivoire, who is better known as a writer of charming verse than as a playwright both in his native land and on this side of the Channel. M. Rivoire is a romancist of high qualification, and his work is characterised by fine feeling and nobility of sentiment. In introducing an author so highly equipped as is M. Rivoire to the English theatrical public Mr. Harvey will give further proof of his desire for the exaltation of the Drama.

THE Moody-Manners Opera Company finished a highly successful month at the Theatre Royal, Dublin, on Saturday. On the last night, in response to repeated calls for a speech, Mr. Charles Manners came before the curtain, and said he thought they would all admit that the company had given better performances this year than they did last At any rate, the gross receipts had been ever so much more, and with the kind help and patronage of their friends they hoped to do even better in every respect next year. Referring to the concert on the previous day in aid of the disaster at Messina, he stated that a cheque for £349 had been forwarded to the Italian Ambassador in the name of the Dublin people.

MR. MANNERS added that there was one matter that he had to complain about. During their visit almost every night £5 or £6 had been lost by the action of persons engaging seats by telephone and then failing to turn up at the theatre. These seats, having been booked, were kept for them, and, in the meantime, money was refused at the door on the ground that there was no room within the theatre. This sort of thing only happened to him for three or four weeks in the year, but it happened to that theatre all the year round, and he trusted that in future those who booked seats by telephone would remember the point.

THE support they had extended to him, Mr. Manners went on to say, deserved and received his utmost gratitude. If they could always obtain the receipts that they got in Dublin, Edinburgh, and Glasgow they could very soon establish a thing he longed for, and that was a National Opera, which would benefit the provinces as well as London. He looked upon London as a huge place for advertising purposes. Many people came there at a loss for the advertisement, and then went to the provinces to make their money. They could make more in five months in a place like Dublin than they could in a whole year in London. Therefore, in trying to establish a National Opera he had the provinces in his mind.

MRS. CLEMENT SCOTT, though she offered through *The Era* some three weeks ago a sum of £100 for a powerful, sensational, and sympathetic little drama, to play fifteen minutes, suitable for the music halls, and has found a large number of would-be dramatists ready to respond to her appeal, finds that not one of the plays that have been sent to her are at all suitable.

"BABES IN THE WOOD," at the Shakespeare, Clapham Junction, was witnessed with delight on Saturday afternoon by some 600 boys and girls who formed the second contingent of poor children living in the Borough of Wandsworth invited by the mayor (Councillor Archibald Dawney) to see the pantomime. The stalls and balcony and the dress circle were invaded by the youngsters, who showed their appreciation by vociferous applause.

"HAJJI BABA; OR, THE STAR OF THE EAST," a Persian musical play, written by George Gamble, and composed by William Robins, was played at the St. James's Theatre for copyright purposes on the 22nd inst.

THE legality of theatre queues is shortly to be tested in Manchester. In that city on the 22nd inst. representatives of the newly-formed Theatre Reform League were granted summonses against Mr. John Hart, lessee of the Prince's Theatre, Manchester, charging him with obstructing the public footway and with permitting or causing a public nuisance. It was stated that the crowd was lined up under the manager's direction or with the aid of his servants, not merely outside his premises, but along the footway in front of other premises. Keeping the crowd there until such time as he chose to open the door was, it was submitted, causing an obstruction.

THE English and American rights of *L'Oiseau Blessé*, by Alfred Capus, which is now running at the Renaissance with M. Guitry in the leading rôle, have been purchased by Mr. Clement Hobson.

MR. WILFRED E. PAYNE and his wife, Miss Marie Housley, have been engaged by Mr. Maurice Bandmann to play lead in India. They went overland last Thursday week to join the P. and O. s.s. Egypt at Marseilles. Only a few days for hurried packing were allowed, as cabled instructions were immediate.

THE special matinée of *Dorothy* given at the Waldorf on Tuesday should substantially increase the Mansion House Fund in aid of the sufferers by the recent earthquake in Italy. The Lord and Lady Mayoress attended in State, and among those present were the Russian Ambassador (Count Benckendorff), the Countess of Ravensworth, the Countess of Craven, the Countess of Crawford, Victoria Lady Milbanke, Lady Paget Cooke, and the Hon. Hubert Beaumont, M.P. Mr. C. Hayden Coffin and Mr. Arthur Williams, in their original parts, Miss Constance Drever as Dorothy, Miss Coralie Blythe, Miss Louie Pounds, Miss Emily Spiller, Miss Betty Hardress, and Messrs. H. Strathmore, F. J. Vigay, J. Bardsley, and L. Pringle all gave their services, as did also the members of the chorus.

AFTER *Dorothy*, business with which remains pleasantly firm, Messrs. Maundy-Gregory are contemplating a revival of *La Cigale*, and after that two comedy operas of equal popularity. Several interesting engagements for the principal parts are pending. *La Cigale* was produced at the Lyric in the autumn of 1890, when the cast included Miss Geraldine Ulmar as Marton, Miss Effie Clements as Charlotte, Mr. Lionel Brough as Vanderkoopen, and the Chevalier Scovel as the hero. Miss Ellis Jeffreys also played a small part, and Miss Mabel Love was one of the dancers.

AMONG the numerous dresses which delight the eye in *Our Miss Gibbs* at the Gaiety, one of the most remarkable is that worn by a mannequin. It is in Directoire style, and is of vieux rose satin meteor. The bodice part in front is slightly folded, and is richly embroidered with a rose design, with Chinese blue roses. Down one side is a border of embroidery and lacings across of silk. The train begins in Empire style high up at the back, and is elaborately and deeply embroidered round the hem, a narrower embroidery running down one side and across the flat pleat of the shoulders. This is arranged as a tunic, falling irregularly over an underskirt of gold beads, with designs of roses in blue beads.

MISS GERTIE MILLAR makes her first appearance in a simple grey frock, the high waist fastened by a soft sash loosely tied at one side. The second act finds Miss Millar in a dress of soft white satin, embroidered on the skirt with a design of roses bordered by the Greek key pattern, and with a wreath of pink roses worked in relief. Over this is worn a tunic reaching to the knees in front, but rather longer behind, and carried out in pale blue tulle edged with embroidery, worked in silver bugles and repeating the key design.

MISS JEAN AYLWIN as Mme. Jeanne wears a striking costume of a new satin crêpe. The gown, which falls in long, graceful lines, is all black, with touches of gold. There is a bolero effect of beaten gold embroidery round the bodice like a deep berthe. From it is slung a porte-monnaie of gold cloth embroidered with black, cleverly arranged to draw the skirt into an artistic drapery at one side. A very large black hat is trimmed with remarkably fine black ospreys, and one big rosette of gold adorns the front.

A DRESS of sulphur hue worn by Miss Maisie Gay is veiled partially with a classical tunic of ninon of the same shade. It is deeply bordered with satin charmeuse, and the magnificent embroidery on bodice and skirt is in a design of peacocks' feathers in natural colours. There are long sleeves and a yoke and high neckband of similar material to the deep hem of the gown, and embroidered to correspond. A sunshade is carried with a high Directoire crook handle. Another dress worn by Miss Gay is of solid gold tissue, veiled with silver net, inserted with graceful lines of platinum and écru embroidery, touched here and there to accentuate them with black velvet. A feature of the dress is a cameo catching the bodice drapery. It is embossed on trimming in colour-harmony with the dress.

MISS GLADYS HOMFREY attires the Duchess of Minster in a flame-coloured dress in Greek style. It is veiled with a long tunic of chestnut-brown net, which is embroidered in dead gold, with touches of Oriental colours. A second dress of Miss Homfrey's is of slate-blue satin charmeuse arranged in panels, alternating with panels of net, both embroidered with silver platinum and black.

THE pale blue cloth coat and skirt worn by Miss Denise Orme is very striking. The coat is very long, and in front it is strapped across a quaint white lingerie frill. The neck is finished by a turned-down collar, and the sleeves with turned-back cuffs of linen to match the frill. The strappings are carried out in blue ribbon velvet, and they are repeated at the back of the coat, arranged in horizontal lines on each side of the skirt. Miss Orme's dress in the second act is of rich white satin, beautifully embroidered.

A COMPLIMENTARY supper will be given by the staff of the Elephant and Castle Theatre to Messrs. Chas., Dan, and Sydney Barnard on Tuesday, in the theatre. The chair will be taken at 12 midnight by Mr. Jack de Frece.

THE Theatre Royal, Belfast, will close to-night (Saturday) for one week to allow of several alterations, including new pit seats, &c., and will reopen on Feb. 8 as a melodramatic theatre at popular prices.

THE annual general meeting of the Theatrical Managers' Association will be held on Tuesday at 3.30 at the Tavistock Hotel, Covent Garden.

THE last night of *Jack and Jill* at the Palace Theatre, Belfast, and of its career under that name was reached on Saturday. Benefits were the rule during the last week, but Saturday night ought to be described as "Jim's benefit"—the name affectionately given to Dorothy Ward, the pretty little five-year-old girl who has helped to popularise Mr. George Lashwood's song "She's my best girl." The dainty little dot was the delighted recipient of several toys and dolls, while boxes of chocolates were literally showered upon her from stalls and circle until the stage was quite covered with them.

IN response to repeated calls, Mr. F. W. Warden came forward and thanked the public for their very kind and liberal support. He wished also to thank all in connection with the theatre who had assisted in the success of the pantomime. He had been asked to perform a very pleasing task that night, and on behalf of some of the gentlemen in front who had subscribed most liberally, he had now great pleasure in presenting to the little mite commonly known amongst the members of the company by the pet name of "Jim" a beautiful bracelet. The little lady received the present with great glee, and kissed her hand to the audience. Mr. Warden, in conclusion, announced, amid more applause, that next year's pantomime would be *Aladdin*. The principals, in accordance with custom, briefly expressed their thanks for the reception accorded them, and the proceedings concluded with the singing of "Auld lang syne." The theatre has been closed during the week for renovations, and will reopen on Monday under its old name of the Grand Opera House with *Butterflies*.

MR. PHILIP LESLIE, who has recently been scoring heavily as Freddie Perkins in *Mrs. Dot* to the delightful Mrs. Dot of Miss Decima Moore, has been engaged to play Captain Lovell in Mrs. B. M. Croker's forthcoming production of her play *Terence*.

THE F. R. Benson (North) company had the distinction of breaking all previous business records for Shakespeare's plays at Barrow-in-Furness. This gratifying result was obtained at His Majesty's Theatre, which is under the control of Mr. Calvert Routledge. For this visit special trains were run from Ulverston, Millom, and other places, and the country people flocked in to see the performances. The special matinée of *Henry the Fifth* on Saturday drew a packed house, and the great enthusiasm which it aroused speaks well for the growing popularity of Shakespeare and for the sterling abilities of the company which has done so much to promote interest in his works.

MR. TEMPLAR POWELL, who finished on Jan. 15 as Mr. Frank Thornton's leading juvenile, has achieved such success in Australia that he has been retained by Mr. Geo. Musgrove to support Miss Nellie Stewart in *Sweet Kitty Bellairs* and *Sweet Nell of Old Drury*.

THE death has occurred in Vienna of Professor Robert Hausmann, the famous violoncellist, who had paid many visits to England, and was shortly to have fulfilled engagements in London. Born on Aug. 13, 1852, at Rottleberode, in the Harz, he commenced the study of the 'cello when only eight years of age under the tuition of Theodor Müller. In 1869 Hausmann became a pupil of the Berlin Hochschule, his studies being under the superintendence of Dr. Joachim. When entering upon his professional career, Hausmann obtained the post of 'cellist in the quartette of Graf Hochberg, which he held for four years, at the end of which period he was appointed second professor of the violoncello at the Hochschule. Upon the retirement of Müller, he succeeded to the post of principal teacher. In 1879 Hausmann joined the famous organisation known as the Joachim Quartette, which had been founded in Berlin ten years earlier.

MR. JAMES M. MCCANN has been appointed acting-manager of the Grand Opera House, Belfast. For some years Mr. McCann has held a similar position at Belfast Theatre Royal, and his courtesy has always gained him the esteem of local playgoers.

MISS LILIAN MASON has been engaged by Mr. Tom Watts for the part of Cornelia in the spring tour of *East Lynne*.

A BARCELONA correspondent writes: "*Els Hipocrites* is still playing to crowded houses at the Teatro Principal, Barcelona. The translation of this comedy-drama is very good indeed, and of the same high character as the original work. English plays are appealing more and more to the Spanish taste, and I have seen expressed the opinion that if the average quality of plays is of the same standard as *Els Hipocrites*, then more English productions could be produced here with advantage."

MR. E. W. SILVERTHORNE, manager for Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's *Lady Frederick* company last autumn, is looking after this management's interests in the same capacity during the spring tour of the play, which has commenced with such conspicuous success.

MISS LOUISA PEACH has been engaged by Mr. Ernest E. Norris to appear with him in *The Education of Elizabeth* on the West Pier, Brighton, next week.

FOR the dramatic reading of *King Lear*, to be given by the British Empire Shakespeare Society on Tuesday afternoon at the Bijou Theatre, Archer-street, the cast has now been completed. It will include Messrs. Lyn Harding, Bassett Roe, Acton Bond, Fewlass Llewellyn, Shakespeare Stewart, Arthur Burne, A. Harding Steerman, J. Henry Twyford, Howard Rose, Lane Crauford, and Cecil du Gue; and Misses Adeline Bourne, Evelyn Weeden, Violet Hunter, and Dorothy Thomas.

"DOLLY REFORMING HERSELF" reaches its 100th performance at the Haymarket this evening, when a souvenir of the play, which is being prepared by Mr. Harrison and Mr. Henry Arthur Jones, will be presented to each member of the audience. Miss Ethel Irving, who has been absent from the cast for the past few days from indisposition, will to-night make her reappearance.

MR. ARTHUR LAW RAYNOR, who is on tour as business manager for Mr. J. A. Campbell's *The Little Breadwinner* company, has been compelled, owing to previous engagements, to refuse a tempting offer from his old manager, Mr. Bert Coote, to direct his music hall specialities during his absence in America.

MR. J. H. OAKDEN, resident-manager for Mr. Rich Waldon at the Lyceum, Govan, organised a special benefit matinée there on Thursday in aid of the Govan Distress Fund. There are many claims on the sympathies of the profession at this season, but the scarcity of work in the shipbuilding burgh on the Clyde has made the distress very acute there, and Mr. Oakden's appeal met with a ready response from all the best known performers in theatres and variety halls in and around Glasgow.

MR. AMBROSE GAUNTLETT, now studying his 'cello under Chevalier De Munck at the Guildhall School of Music, has been presented by the Goldsmiths Company with a scholarship. Mr. Gauntlett is a younger brother of Basil Gauntlett, the English pianist who lately won the silver medal at the Paris Conservatoire.

MISS GERALDINE SOMERSET finished her most successful speciality dance at the Camden Theatre on Saturday. On Monday she joins *The Cingalee* company, having been specially engaged by Mr. Haldane Crichton.

MR. CLIVE CURRIE will revive *The Octoroon* on Monday at the West London Theatre, with himself as Salem Scudder. The cast will further comprise Messrs. Cecil A. Collins, Gerald Mirrielees, Douglas Phillips, William Barber, Charles King, Charles Wemyss, Archibald McLean, and Gordon Phillott, and Misses Maud Kirwan, Adah Barton, Gertrude De Burgh, Iné Cameron, Sybil Ruskin, May Saker, and Muriel Dale.

NEGOTIATIONS are nearly completed for the transfer of the Theatre Royal, Limerick, to a company, and the erection of a new structure. The prospectus will be issued in a few weeks, and it is expected that building operations will be started in March. Mr. George V. Fogerty, the enterprising proprietor of the Royal, will continue the management of the new theatre.

"THE SUPPLANTER," a play in three acts, by Lucy Dale and Arthur Holmes-Gore, was produced for copyright purposes at the Playhouse on Tuesday.

THE dramatic season at the Crystal Palace Theatre will begin on Monday with *Sergeant Brue*, the musical comedy which has enjoyed such extended success. Mr. Harry Benet's company is a very capable one, and has visited every large theatre in the United Kingdom. It includes Miss Ray Anderson, who has appeared with success in Mr. Geo. Edwardes's productions at the Gaiety and Daly's Theatres. The title-rôle will be sustained by Mr. Denis Lyndon, and Mr. Harry Quinningborough will play the droll Crookie Scrubbs. The company also includes Mr. Lester Morrah and Mr. T. G. Warren.

MR. LIONEL RIGNOLD starts his first tour of *The Early Worm* at the Opera House, Torquay, on Monday, and already the booking at the box-office has proved that our country cousins are anxious to see Mr. Rignold in a new character. The piece will be mounted in a first-class manner, and among other effects will be included the original ship scene. In addition to *The Early Worm* Mr. Rignold will produce a one-act play entitled *The Wedding Morn*, by Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds, of which report speaks most highly. The principal part is an excellent one, containing pathos and comedy, and was originally written for Mr. Rignold. After being a few weeks in the provinces, the company will visit the London suburbs.

A LEASE of the Palace Theatre, Brighton, has been secured by Messrs. Jay and Mann from Lady Day next. The house has been redecorated and recarpeted, and a very handsome wind and rain shelter has recently been completed down the entire length of the pier at a cost of several thousand pounds. The playgoing public are to be admitted to the pier free of the 2d. toll they have hitherto paid.

MESSRS. JAY AND MANN will personally manage, and will introduce an entirely new policy, with the intention of making the Palace Theatre the most popular house of entertainment in Brighton. The theatre holds 1,500 people, and over £100 in money at ordinary prices. Every seat in the house commands a perfect view of the stage.

"TODDLES" continues its wonderfully successful tour, and at the Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne, is doing enormous business. Mr. Murray King met with an extraordinary reception on his appearance before a crowded house on Monday night, and on his final appearance was presented with a comic laurel wreath from a member of an audience that had been laughing immoderately the whole evening.

MISS MAUDE MAY MURRAY, who has been appearing with success in the Bolton pantomime, made her first appearance at the Opera House, Burnley, on Monday last, when her beautiful electrical aerial dances created quite a sensation.

MR. DORE DAVIDSON has purchased from Mr. John Cort his English rights in *The Man on the Box*, and he will tour it through the English provinces. He sails for London for this purpose at the close of his engagement under Messrs. Wagenhall and Kemper.

MR. ST. JOHN DENTON'S *Sinbad*, which is voted the best pantomime seen in Sunderland for some years, attracted a full house on Thursday to the Rev. E. J. Leake's benefit matinée in aid of the poor children of St. John's Parish, the *Sinbad* principals giving their services. The three great successes were the songs and dances of Misses Rossiter and Denver, and the stirring new song "His care for the little ones," which, faultlessly rendered by Miss Hope Trevelyan, evoked a storm of applause.

MR. GEO. H. HEILBUTH, C.C., has been elected chairman of the Music Committee of the Corporation of London, which controls the Guildhall School of Music. Mr. Heilbuth was chairman of the committee in 1904, and at the end of his year of office he was presented with a life-size portrait in oils, which was exhibited in the Royal Academy.

MR. ALLAN WILKIE will shortly add to his already fine scenic production of *The Merchant of Venice* an elaborately-constructed set representing a street in Venice complete in every detail. Mr. Wilkie is now on the eve of producing a new version of *The Corsican Brothers*, which will see the light in a few weeks' time.

MR. WALTER BEAUMONT, now recovered from his severe operation of six months ago, is convalescing at his country residence, West Byfleet; and is hard at work in collaboration with Mr. Claude Askew (the well-known novelist and author of *The Schulamite*) on an original three-act play for a West End proprietor.

MR. FRANK ROTHSAY, who has been acting-manager of the Stratford Borough Theatre since its opening in 1896, is to be accorded a complimentary benefit at a special matinée on Thursday. In addition to the pantomime *Aladdin*, the popular beneficiaire will have the assistance of many professional friends now in London.

"THE BELLE OF BRITTANY" will celebrate its hundredth performance at the Queen's Theatre, Shaftesbury-avenue, on Tuesday evening next.

MR. TOM B. DAVIS has secured a remarkable array of talent for the Duchess of Rutland's matinée in aid of the Royal Ear Hospital, which is to take place at the Queen's Theatre on Feb. 18 The theatrical profession will be represented by Miss Evelyn Millard, Miss Mary Moore, Miss Winifred Emery, Miss Ruth Vincent, Miss Maudi Darrell, Miss Evelyn D'Alroy, Miss Margaret Cooper, Miss Vivien Tallcur, Miss Marie Tempest, Mr. Lewis Waller, Mr. Walter Passmore, Mr. Dawson Milward, Mr. Henry Ainley, Mr. A. E. Matthews, Mr. Graham Browne, Mr. Cyril Clensy, and Mr. George Graves. The concert platform supplies Miss Margel Gluck (violinist), Mr. Vernon Warner (pianist); while some talented amateurs will include Lady Alington, the Hon. Mrs. Edward Stoner, and the Earl of Shaftesbury.

THE noble Earl has a beautiful tenor voice, and is credited with having received an offer of a thousand pounds per week for an extended concert tour through the United States. Great progress has been made with the sale of seats, at doubled prices, and on the strength of the assured success of the occasion, the beds at the hospital, which were closed for some months, have been reopened.

MISS GRACE CHALMERS (Mrs. Wentworth Croke), while on a visit to Edinburgh six weeks ago, was taken very ill with a severe attack of bronchitis. We are glad to hear that her medical adviser now pronounces her convalescent.

MR. E. W. MAULE COLE has begun the new year well, and evidently believes in versatility and hard work. By next Monday night he will have played six parts since the 11th inst., namely: the Dean in *Dandy Dick* and Sir George Sylvester in *The Adventure of Lady Ursula* at Tenby, and Dr. Candy in *The New Boy*, Lord Jura and Ivan Khorvitch in *Moths*, and Gruff Tackleton in *The Cricket on the Hearth* at Hastings.

MISS MARIE DRESSLER commences her season at the Marie Dressler Aldwych Theatre on Saturday evening, Feb. 27. The famous American comedienne's first essay will be a musical piece called *Little Mena*. She has secured the services of a Parisian opera singer named Mlle. Morichini, who has achieved an enviable reputation in New York, and will be heard here as a young French girl who speaks in broken English. The company will otherwise be made up chiefly of English artists, and will include Mr. Sydney Barraclough and Mr. Stanley Cooke.

IN the settlement of the action for libel brought by Mr. George Gray against the V.A.F., it was agreed to pay that gentleman £100 as damages, to be handed over to some professional charity. The V.A.F. have sent a cheque for the amount to Mr. Gray, who has handed it over to the Actors' Orphanage Fund.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The Influence of the Drama.

IN our recent article on the above subject we asked any of our readers who had met with instances to write to us. A correspondent says accordingly:—"I recall a striking illustration of the influence of the drama. The incident occurred to a City friend of mine, who was a wholesale draper. One night he saw *The Ticket-of-Leave Man* at the Olympic. The "Who knows, lads, pr'aps he's repented" of Hawkshaw, as Ginger in the Bridgwater Arms scene, in the fourth act, so affected him that when, a few days later, a man who had been convicted of theft applied to him for a job, he at once engaged him. The influence of the drama was obvious.

"I REGRET to have to add that the ought-to-have-been-reformed criminal robbed my friend of twenty pounds' worth of goods in the second week of his engagement."

Clarkson and Coquelin.

"ONE of the last English visitors to Coquelin," says the *Daily Chronicle*, "was Mr. W. Clarkson, who was in Paris last week arranging for the costumes and head-dresses for M. Rostand's *Chanticleer*, in which the deceased actor was to have sustained the title-rôle. 'Coquelin had been most enthusiastic about the part for several years past,' says Mr. Clarkson, 'and he was delighted with the fantastic attire which I had made for him. On his head was the head of a cock with brilliant plumage, and his dress consisted of thousands of bright feathers, carefully sewn together, so as to look realistic. Indeed, this dress took two years to make, and I had four assistants working on it all that time. So I may safely say it was the most expensive costume ever made for an actor.

"'I CAN recall his visit to Wardour-street, when Sarah Bernhardt laid the foundation-stone of the premises I now occupy. The tent under which we were all standing was crowded, and the door-keepers failed to recognise the distinguished visitor. Taking a back seat, M. Coquelin quietly worked his way round to the refreshment saloon, and proceeded to make a good meal while the ceremony was in progress. Later I found him, and expressed my regret that he was not in the front row of seats. "My dear Clarkson," he said, 'I have done better than anyone here. I saw the foundation-stone being laid while I was eating a sandwich, and I drank to your success while someone was making a speech. A few seconds later the crowd came in, but happily I had enjoyed your hospitality in a quiet and sensible manner."

Coquelin and Cabs.

SIR SQUIRE BANCROFT possesses a letter from Coquelin eulogising him after he had witnessed a performance of *School* at the Haymarket. Coquelin paid a tribute of respect to the cabmen in the following humorous note. "Why is it they drive one so fast? At first I could not understand, but eventually I discovered the reason—the drivers are sitting behind, and consequently can push the cab!"

Expensive Opera.

MR. OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN declares that grand opera to-day means that the producer must be prepared to meet losses. "Profits," he says, "are out of the question. Opera-goers are paying the same price to-day as they paid when artists were receiving one-quarter the salaries that are now paid to them. With the increase in salaries the cost of production has kept pace. You can readily see how tremendous this is if you consider the amount of scenery now used, the modern mechanical devices, the electrical effects, and the additional force of expert men employed in their handling, also the greatly enlarged chorus and orchestra, and man other details that have been added since the time referred to. The only solution I can see for the difficulty is to increase the price of seats.

"WE cannot build bigger houses and seat more people for the reason that the human voice cannot carry more than 150ft. without losing its quality. This is well demonstrated in my new opera house in Philadelphia, where I can build only one balcony, though there is room for two more, and this would mean an additional 1,000 seating capacity. An idea of the tremendous expense we are under can be formed when I tell you that one item in the singers' contracts—transportation to and from America—means $25,000 a season. Couple with this the fact that more than $150,000 must be given to the singers as advance money before they set foot on the stage, and you have but scratched the surface. Then, too, there are the heavy royalties, running from $250 to $1,000 a performance, the latter being the price for some of the new works."

Frohman and His Friends.

MR. CHARLES FROHMAN recently explained to an interviewer in New York how he had managed to establish a sympathetic understanding with so many authors of different nationalities, all holding differing views of life, and endowed with differing senses of humour. It is not a difficult problem, according to Mr. Frohman. He said:—"You have close to you, we will say, twenty intimate friends, each differing from the other in nationality, social standing, and disposition. How do you keep them bound to you? Simple enough. By finding out, maintaining, and enlarging that little strip of common ground upon which you found yourselves cast, when first you met, by fate or circumstances. The bond between myself and Bernstein, Barrie, Maugham, Caillavet, De Flers, Marshall, Ade, Gavault, Thomas, Fitch, Morton, and all the rest, is not made of paper, but of something stronger, perhaps because seemingly intangible—personal sympathy, understanding, and deep regard."

A Champion Critic.

"THE boxers in Mr. Bernard Shaw's prize-fighting play *The Admirable Bashville*," says the *Daily Mirror*, "are too 'mild' to suit Mr. Bob Fitzsimmons, the famous champion of the ring. 'They ought to slam each other a bit more,' he says. 'They would bring the house down if they did.' Of Mr. Ben Webster and Mr. Sass as the pugilists, the champion says: 'Their performance is nothing but the purest burlesque, and it is remarkably well acted. I think, however, they could improve upon it if they pretended to give each other a few hard smacks with the open hand. There would be a resounding noise through the theatre, and everybody would say, "My! He got one in then!" People would laugh twice as much and the actors would not be a bit the worse. It's so easy to make a harmless smack with the flat of the hand sound like a fearful blow.

The Cut Incorrect.

"'ONE thing amused me very much. Mr. Webster, I think it is, says: "Now then, I will give you the upper cut." Forthwith he swings his right hand across and gives—well, a very different thing from the upper cut. That did make me laugh. But I thoroughly enjoyed the whole performance because, mind you, although it is burlesque, I can thoroughly appreciate the beauty and seriousness of some of the lines Mr. Shaw gives his characters. The invective against modern civilisation and the Zulu king's denunciation of English methods, so far as prize-fighting is concerned, ring true—and that's where "the rub comes in."'"

"THE ADMIRABLE BASHVILLE;
or, CONSTANCY UNREWARDED."

The Play, in One Act, by Bernard Shaw, revived at His Majesty's Theatre on Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 26.

Lydia ..... MISS MARIE LÖHR
Cashel ..... MR. BEN WEBSTER
Mellish ..... MR. LENNOX PAWLE
Lucian ..... MR. CHARLES QUARTERMAINE
Bashville ..... MR. HENRY AINLEY
Policeman ..... MR. HALLIWELL HOBBES
Lord Worthington ..... MR. COURTENAY FOOTE
Cetewayo ..... MR. JAMES HEARN
Paradise ..... MR. EDWARD SASS
Adelaide ..... MISS ROSINA FILIPPI
Beefeaters ..... MR. HUGH B. TABERRER, MR. WALTER CREIGHTON

An altogether enjoyable and extremely amusing piece is *The Admirable Bashville*, which was produced, with little renown, at the Imperial Theatre on June 8, 1903. The impression produced by its revival at the Afternoon Theatre on Tuesday was warmly favourable. Bursts of laughter again and again interrupted the performance; and so hilarious did the house become that it received some very strong and serious attacks on Civilisation with smiles of tolerant indifference. The idea of taking a modern plot, telling it in blank verse, and mounting it in the primitive style attributed to Shakespearean times, gave opportunity for some funny business, such as that of a supposed corpse scuttling away, showing its feet under a screen formed by two beefeaters holding up an immense Union Jack. The burlesque blank verse was so good that much of it was taken quite seriously; and Mr. Shaw's serio-comic sketch went in first-rate style from beginning to end, and was an obvious success.

The scene is laid in a park in Wiltshire, the owner of which, a Miss Lydia, is soliloquising about trees and birds before a couple of tapestry curtains which are supposed to represent the entrance to her castle. To her enters Cashel Byron, a refined and intellectual prize-fighter, who takes her for a country lass, and opens an acquaintance which promises well. When he discovers her rank, he withdraws, is soon found by his trainer Mellish, a fat and repulsive person who reproaches him with neglecting his duty to his backers, and with philandering with a woman. Byron bitterly abuses Mellish; and when the trainer proposes to accompany him that evening in his stroll beneath Lydia's window, Cashel kills him with a single blow on the "bread basket." The curtains then separate, and disclose an aristocratic apartment in London, with Lydia seated in conversation with her cousin Lucian, a private secretary, to whom she is betrothed. Her footman, Bashville, at her request, reads aloud an account of a recent prize-fight in which Byron was the victor; and he, irreproachably attired, knocks at the outer door, and endeavours to gain admittance to see Lydia. Bashville, who is a fine wrestler, trips him up, and goes to tell his mistress, who in the end sends Lucian away, and tells Bashville to show Byron in. He proposes to her, and she implores him to give up his profession and become a gentleman. He scorns both the class and the notion, and goes off to take part in a glove-fight before Cetewayo and his suite at the Agricultural Hall—the date of the play is 1882. Bashville, who, it now appears, loves Lydia, relieves his feelings in a mock heroic soliloquy. The whole of the stage is now supposed to represent the Agricultural Hall with the Zulu monarch in a chair of state. He draws a contemptuous comparison between his muscular and healthy Zulus and the "anæmic" Londoners, asserts that the invention of modern weapons of war was the result of cowardice, and delivers a scathing attack on English greed and degeneration. Paradise, a vulgar prize-fighter, is easily vanquished by Byron, when a warlike frenzy takes possession of Cetewayo, and he leads his suite into a combat with the Londoners. Byron rushes to the rescue, and is beheld by Lydia knocking over the Zulus like nine-pins. When he has completed his triumph, she rushes to him and throws her arms round his neck, while he tenderly declares that all he has done has been "for her."

The piece had the advantage of excellent acting, though no better than the strong, telling blank-verse, the cleverly-turned sentences and the apt phrases deserved. Mr. Ben Webster did exactly what was required with the rôle of Cashel, looking the character capitally, and delivering his lines with the complete seriousness and elaborate earnestness required. It was a fine bit of elocution, and showed the value of Mr. Webster's long and sound training. Mr. Lennox Pawle's appearance as the vulgar, bloated, and subservient trainer, Mellish, was irresistibly droll, and he acted with a solemn self-importance that made every line tell, and caused the murder of Mellish to be universally regretted. Mr. Charles Quartermaine gave a firm and polished performance as Lucian, every detail being carefully attended to; and Mr. Henry Ainley, in the rather excrescent rôle of Bashville, made all possible use of his few opportunities. A realistic representation of Cetewayo was supplied by Mr. James Hearn, whose treatment of the dusky monarch's denunciation of Progress was very forcible and intense; and Mr. Edward Sass hit off neatly the brusque vanity of Paradise. Miss Marie Löhr made the prettiest and most feminine of Lydias, and did not spoil the effect of her speeches by self-consciousness or by over-emphasing points. The remaining rôles had excellent exponents. *The Admirable Bashville* delighted the audience at the Afternoon Theatre immensely, and is one of the drollest things that Mr. Shaw has done. It was followed by the play, in one act, by George Paston, which was produced at the Court Theatre by the Play-actors last November, entitled

"'TILDA'S NEW HAT."

Mrs. Fishwick ..... MISS AGNES THOMAS
'Tilda (her daughter) .... MISS FLORENCE LLOYD
Walter Emerson ..... R. NORMAN PAGE
Daisy Meadows ..... MISS SYDNEY FAIRBROTHER

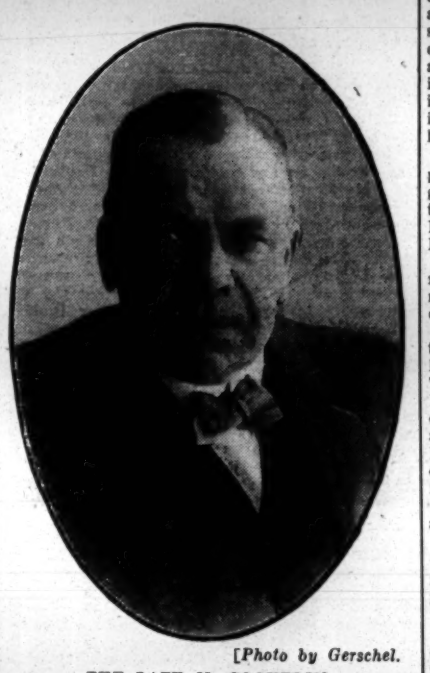
George Paston's piece is a bit of low life, amusing and slightly pathetic. As our readers may remember, Tilda Fishwick, a factory girl, has made for herself a bright blue blouse and a new hat with superb black ostrich feathers; and so attractive is she with these decorations that a little clerk named Walter Emerson, an apostle of popular culture, has deserted his sweetheart, Daisy Meadows, and has turned his attention to 'Tilda. Daisy comes to 'Tilda to complain; and the good-natured girl gives her the cherished hat, lends her the blue blouse to use as a pattern, and thus leads Emerson to return to his allegiance. He goes out with Daisy, and 'Tilda cannot restrain her tears as from her window she watches them walk away. Miss Agnes Thomas was exquisitely natural and original as 'Tilda's mother, a querulous and quarrelsome old woman. Miss Florence Lloyd was so handsome and dashing a 'Tilda that Emerson's *volte-face* seemed hardly accounted for, even by the transference of the finery. She acted with boldness, freedom, and much quiet appreciation Mr. Norman Page presented a clever and convincing character-sketch of a quaint, conceited little prig; and Miss Sydney Fairbrother gave a simple and natural exposition of the rôle of Daisy Meadows, singing a sentimental ditty with delicate observance of mispronunciation. Both plays were mounted and dressed irreproachably; and Mr. Adolf Schmid, who conducted the orchestra, had arranged the incidental music with skill and humour. The stage-management of Mr. Cecil King and Mr. Stanley Bell had a great deal to do with the success of the matinée.

DEATH OF M. COQUELIN.

The death of M. Coquelin *aîné* at Paris on Wednesday, at the Convalescent Home for actors which he had helped to found, was unexpected. He was rehearsing his part in *Chantecler* in his study at Pont-aux-Dames before breakfast, when he suddenly collapsed. Death was caused by an embolism. France has lost a great artist.

Coquelin played a game of billiards with his old manservant, Gillet, before going to bed on Tuesday evening. About two in the morning he felt ill, and summoned Gillet, who painted Coquelin's chest with iodine. "I'm all right now," he said, "you can go to bed." At five o'clock Gillet heard him coughing, and went into his room. "Old chap, I shall never play Chantecler," said Coquelin. The valet left the room and did not return till seven, when he helped his master to dress. He went out again a little after eight to fetch a doctor, heard a noise, hurried back, and found Coquelin lying dead on the floor.

Benoit Constant Coquelin, who was born at Boulogne-sur-Mer on Jan. 23, 1841, was the son of a baker. Showing special aptitude for the stage he proceeded to Paris, where in May, 1859, he was admitted to the Conservatoire, becoming a member of M. Régnier's class. He obtained the second prize for comedy, and made his début at the Théâtre Français on Dec. 7, 1860, in the character of Gros-René in *The Dépit Amoureux*. He subsequently played with success in *Les Fourberies de Scapin*, *Le Mariage de Figaro*, *Don Juan*,



[*Photo by Gerschel.*
THE LATE M. COQUELIN.

and other classical pieces; Lupin in *La Mère Confidente*, the Marquis in *Le Joueur*, and Annabal in *L'Aventurière*. He created the rôles of Anatole in *Une Loge d'Opéra*, John in *Trop Curieux*, Gagneux in *Jean Baudry*, Vincent in *L'Œillet Blanc*, Aristide in *Le Lion Amoureux*, Gringoire in the play of that name, Beaubourg in *Paul Forestier*, and Eucrate in *Le Coq de Mycille*. At the Comédie-Française Coquelin was a Sociétaire from 1864 to 1886, and in that time created more than forty parts. After travelling in America and elsewhere with a dramatic company of his own formation he re-entered the Comédie-Française in December, 1889, and played Mascarille, Diafoirus, and Argente. In January, 1891, he created the part of Labussière in *Thermidor*, which after three representations was interdicted by the French Government. In the following year he left the Comédie-Française and toured in Europe and America, appearing in *Thermidor* and *La Mégère Apprivoisée* (*The Taming of the Shrew*) in London in the summer of 1892. His next appearance in Paris was in 1895 at the Théâtre Porte St. Martin, where in 1897 he enacted the hero in Edmond Rostand's *Cyrano de Bergerac*, and in July of the same year he was seen in the play at the Lyceum Theatre, London. His first visit to this country was in 1878, and his last in the summer of 1908, when he had a three weeks' season at His Majesty's, appearing in Sardou's historical play *L'Affaire des Poisons*. He made a grand tour of America with Mme. Bernhardt in 1900, and reappeared with her in *L'Aiglon* at the Théâtre Sarah Bernhardt in 1901.

Coquelin was eighteen years old when he won a prize at the Conservatoire. When he presented himself Mlle. Augustine Brohan, who was on the board of examiners, remarked: "Oh, no! That boy is too ugly to succeed. Why, his nose is like a trumpet." "True," replied Aube, "but he knows how to use it as though it were a real trumpet." And Régnier observed, "He is not so ugly. He has the turned-up nose, the well-slit mouth, and the quick eye of the valet. Leave him to me. I will take him into my class, and I will make something of him."

In an interview in *M.A.P.*, Coquelin said:—"I determined that my body was an instrument I should be master of, that body and mind should always stand calmly ready to do the thing required. I achieved this end, and ever since that time I have been able to read criticism with impunity, to give an invariably even performance of any of my rôles, no matter what the circumstances, and to go through any first night without a tremor. The late Dumas *fils* on a first night was always trembling and ashy pale. 'My dear Coquelin,' he once said to me, 'how can you manage so to conceal your feelings? It is so terrible, this suspense. And to-night, you know, everything depends on you.' 'But I have no feelings,' I answered. 'You dissemble them, you mean,' was his reply. 'Feel my pulse,' said I. He put his cold, damp fingers on my warm wrist, and stood amazed to find my pulse as strong and as steady as possible."

Coquelin, speaking of the actor's art, said: "Poets use words; sculptors, marble or bronze; musicians, sounds; the actor uses—himself. In order to illustrate a thought, an image, a portrait—he works on himself. He is his own keyboard, he plays on his own strings, he moulds himself as the potter the clay, he sculptures and paints himself."

"An actor," he would say, "must be capable of expressing sentiments which he does not feel—which he will never feel, perhaps! His nerves are strings with which he plays, which he pulls at will. An actor needs no more to be moved than a pianist needs to be in despair to play Chopin's or Beethoven's Funeral March."

When Coquelin was connected with the Théâtre Français, M. Perrin, the *administrateur*, having heard that, without his permission, the actor had arranged to appear on the following Sunday at Havre, decided that the *Précieuses Ridicules* should be given on that day, at the end of the matinée performance. Coquelin rushed on the stage, hurried the dialogue and his comrades, jumped down the staircase four steps at a time, sprang into a carriage, caught a train, changed his clothes in the carriage, and reached Havre in time to "act as he had never acted before."

In a conversation reported in the *Express* in 1906 he said:—

"Every visit that I make confirms my liking for England and my intense appreciation of the great and intelligent love that the English people have for the theatre.

"In my opinion, there is an infinitely greater love of drama in London than there is in Paris; the audience follows the play with eager interest and appreciates every point, and even the actor who is playing in a foreign language, which some of his hearers may have difficulty in following, feels the sympathy that binds the player and the audience together, and which is of itself an inspiration and an encouragement."

The story of the relations between Henry Irving and Coquelin is thus told by Mr. Bram Stoker in his "Personal Reminiscences of Henry Irving": "Previous to this meeting there had been a certain amount of friction between the two men. Coquelin had written an article in *Harper's Magazine* for May, 1887, on 'Acting and Actors.' In this article he made certain comments on Irving which were not impertinent, but were most decidedly wanting in delicacy of feeling towards a fellow artist. Irving replied to the article in an 'Actor's Note' in the *Nineteenth Century* for June of the same year. When some two years later Coquelin republished his article he left out entirely the part relating to Irving. When the two men met at Mayer's they at once became friends. The very fact of having crossed swords brought to each a measure of respect for the other. In the course of years Irving and Coquelin met often, and the oftener they met the more their friendship ripened. For a good many years Irving took quite an affectionate interest in him and his affairs; after he had made his enormous success in Paris with *Cyrano*, and was anxious to produce it in London, Irving made arrangements for playing himself for some weeks in the suburbs, so that he might give up the Lyceum to his friend.

"Irving had purchased the English rights of the play, intending to play Cyrano himself, but on going carefully into it he came to the conclusion that the part was one hardly suitable for him. It was after their last meeting that Coquelin sent Irving his picture in character as Cyrano."

Eloquent tributes to the eminent actor's memory were made by several speakers at the meeting of the Actors' Benevolent Fund on Thursday, a report of which appears elsewhere.

The funeral of Coquelin will take place to-day at Pont-aux-Dames, and the body will be laid in the vault of the "Home of Comedians." The President of the French Republic and the Prime Minister have sent special messages of condolence, and among the many speeches delivered at the grave will be one by the Minister of Public Instruction or his representatives. The entire company of the Comédie-Française will attend the funeral.

Our Paris correspondent sends us the following appreciation of the great French actor:—

Régnier has often referred to his first interview with Coquelin. "I want to make a name for myself," said the boy in a proud tone, "and if you do not think I can become a great actor I will return to Boulogne and bake bread."

When admitted to M. Régnier's class at the Conservatoire, Coquelin had many difficulties to overcome. He spoke through his nose, and the timbre of his voice was that of a tin rattle. He worked night and day, and cured these defects.

In 1895 Coquelin joined Sarah Bernhardt in the management of the Renaissance—a queer partnership! Sarah is very dictatorial. So was our friend Coquelin. Sarah wanted everything her own way. So did Coquelin. These two independent spirits could admire each other, but were never intended to be harnessed together. They separated, heaved a sigh of relief, and remained staunch friends.

In 1896 Coquelin took over the management of the Théâtre de la Porte-Saint-Martin—the crowning point of his career. It was there he brought out *Cyrano*. It was a memorable night, for in the course of my career I have never seen a Paris audience grow so enthusiastic. The people were mad with excitement, and after the performance Coquelin hugged all those who came to congratulate him on his success. He gave four hundred performances of the work in Paris, and afterwards appeared in that rôle in nearly every big city throughout the universe.

Always restless, he returned to his friend Sarah, and with her created *L'Aiglon*, which took on better in America than in Paris. Lastly, he went back to the Porte-Saint-Martin, and entered into partnership with M. Hertz and his son Jean Coquelin, to bring out *Chantecler*. *Chantecler!* He dreamt of the work, and never grew tired of speaking about it to his friends. It became his hobby, and M. Rostand's illness was a big blow to him. A few weeks ago M. Rostand was sufficiently restored to health to superintend the rehearsals of his new play. Coquelin was beaming with joy, and, as I stated before, he was studying his rôle when death knocked at his door.

Coquelin was far from perfect. He had many weaknesses, and within the last years his relations with many of his brother actors were rather strained; but he had a big heart, as those can testify who in the dark hours of trouble applied to him for assistance. There is one in England who, I know, will mourn him. A few years ago I accidentally heard that a young English actress was dying from want in Paris. I called on the lady. It was a distressing case. Betrayed and forsaken, she had come here friendless and penniless, and at first was unwilling to give me her real name, which, for obvious reasons, I must not disclose. Having rendered her whatever assistance I could I called on Coquelin, and begged him to come to the rescue. He behaved splendidly. He took the affair in hand, and, thanks to his powerful influence, the girl's troubles soon came to an end. I could mention many similar acts of kindness on his part.

Coquelin's ambition off the stage was to look dignified. He never succeeded. With his funny nose, laughing eyes, penetrating voice, he looked more like a schoolboy than a great actor. On the stage, however, he became transformed, and his ungainess melted into a charm that held his audience spellbound.

Coquelin's name will go down to posterity.

Do We Want "Deadheads"?

MR. BRAM STOKER, in his lecture on "Deadheads" to the members of the Playgoers' Club at the Hotel Cecil on Sunday, said that they were a little ignorant or a little doubtful as to the real meaning of the word "deadhead." He took it from one of the dictionaries that the word meant "a person who did not pay." That was the truth, but not all the truth. Mr. Stoker dealt with the classification of persons who did not pay and yet could not be considered "deadheads." There were persons who were presumably paid to be present, and who were thought to be useful for the management. The "clapper" might be useful or he might be harmful. Of course these "clappers" could possibly take a private tip to hiss somebody else. So the game went merrily on. The real "deadhead" was a mean person, who wanted to get everything without paying for it. The only point the theatre manager had to consider was whether he wanted "deadheads" in his theatre or not. Mr. H. B. Irving, who presided, said he had read that the definition of a "deadhead" was "a person who was born into the world a 'deadheader,' and with his hands in his pockets had stared at the show ever since."

MR. WILFORD BAILEY has been re-engaged by Messrs. Garside and Knowles for his original part of Eben Chubb in *Her Marriage Vow*.

"AN ENGLISHMAN'S HOME."

Play, in Three Acts, by "A Patriot," produced at Wyndham's Theatre on Wednesday, Jan. 27.

Mr. Brown ..... MR. CHARLES ROCK
Reggie Brown ..... MR. GEORGE BEALBY
Syd Brown ..... MASTER JACK HOBBS
Geoffrey Smith ..... MR. LAWRENCE GROSSMITH
Paul Robinson ..... MR. ARTHUR WONTNER
Maggie Brown ..... MISS ELAINE INESCORT
Amy Brown ..... MISS MONA HARRISON
Ada Jones ..... MISS CHRISTINE SILVER
Captain Finch ..... MR. B. W. GARDEN
Captain Lindsay ..... MR. RUDGE HARDING
Lieut. Jackson ..... MR. MAX LEEDS
Colour-Sergeant Harris .... MR. CHARLES WEIR
Prince Yoland ..... MR. EDMUND MAURICE
Lieut. Rian Hobart ..... MR. H. STEPHENSON
Sergeant Thol ..... MR. PHILIP KNOX
Sergeant Garth ..... MR. FORBES DAWSON
Doctor ..... MR. CHARLES ALLAN
An Officer ..... MR. HOWARD STURGE
Telephone Orderly ..... MR. B. EGERTON

One of the boldest satires on the British public that has ever been put on the stage was presented on Wednesday when *An Englishman's Home*, announced as being written by "A Patriot," was presented by Mr. Frank Curzon to his patrons at Wyndham's Theatre. It is a complete resumé of all the criticisms on our Army organisation that have been spoken and written in the last ten years; and, of course, the author's attacks are all the more drastic for being presented in the shape of an "object lesson." The scene is the small house in Essex of a certain Mr. Brown, a bumptious Briton with a craze for diabolo. His young friend, Geoffrey Smith, is a typical, self-indulgent, slangy, "cheeky" young clerk, an enthusiastic spectator of football matches. Geoffrey's taste is shared by his sisters, Maggie and Amy; and Paul Robinson, a volunteer who is in love with the former, is in a minority of one in the little circle, being laughed at both by the lads and the lassess. A thick fog and a strike have cut off all communications, and Myrtle Villa is practically isolated. The first intimation of the landing of the troops of the "Empress of the North," who have landed on the Eastern Coast is the entry of Prince Yoland and his lieutenant, Rian Hobart, who put Mr. Brown and Reggie under arrest, and billet themselves on the premises. Then we are shown on the stage what would be the result of a raid in our bemuddled and unprepared state. Robinson dashes down to Brentwood on his bicycle, but finds the population in the greatest confusion, singing patriotic songs in the streets. He returns, utterly exhausted, to take part in the defence of the villa, which is organised by a company of the 6th Volunteer Battalion Blinkshire Regiment, commanded by Captain Finch, a fussy and overbearing officer, very irritable and ignorant of the art of war. The only member of the company who appears to know what to do is the colour-sergeant, and under his direction the place is put into a condition of defence. It is shelled by the enemy from a distance, a bit of shrapnel striking the blatant Reggie as he stands on a table. He falls dead at the end of the second act. In the third the tragic side of war is strongly shown. Some of the volunteers are seriously wounded, and as there are no medical appliances in connection with the corps, the doctor who arrives can do little. The shelling of the villa continues, holes being blown in the walls and roof. The obstinate conceit of Mr. Brown and his silly son cannot, however, be quelled. The former abuses everybody, and the latter finds fault with the regulars, who are now beginning to get into touch with the enemy. The villa becoming untenable, the volunteers are ordered to retire; but Mr. Brown refuses to leave, and after some blundering attempts manages to load a rifle and kill a couple of the enemy's infantry, which is advancing to occupy the position. Prince Yoland, on arriving, treats Mr. Brown as a *franc-tireur* and sends him out to be shot; and the old fellow goes to his death stubbornly, his daughter rushing in and shrieking with horror at her father's fate. The arrival of the English regulars, who have been hurried up from London on motor 'buses, saves the situation, and on this comforting conclusion the curtain falls.

The piece was well acted, and was mounted with admirable attention to detail. Mr. Lawrence Grossmith as Geoffrey Smith gave a finely realistic portrait of an impudent, narrow-minded, selfish cad, and delivered his droll rejoinders with the greatest possible effect. Nothing could have been better than the loud impertinence and irrepressible self-satisfaction of Geoffrey as depicted by Mr. Grossmith, who died with praiseworthy reality. Mr. Edmund Maurice was very happily cast as Prince Yoland, being able to endow the personage with all the necessary military bluntness and good-tempered self-control, besides an appropriate hint of regal dignity. Mr. George Bealby gave a capital comedy sketch as the ridiculous Reggie Brown, wrapt in the concoction of Limerick lines, his make-up and general demeanour being admirable. Mr. Charles Rock hit off exactly the pig-headed pluck and blind, stupid energy of Mr. Brown; and Mr. Arthur Wontner played Paul Robinson, a rather critical character, with a praiseworthy mixture of discretion and impassioned activity. Mr. Rudge Harding's quiet, cheerful, and business-like Adjutant was a neat and smart performance, very natural and effective; and Mr. Max Leeds was quite realistic as a rather silly, but fairly courageous Volunteer Lieutenant. Mr. H. Stephenson did useful and careful work as Lieut. Rian Hobart; and Mr. Philip Knox and Mr. Forbes Dawson were good as the two sergeants, Thol and Garth. That excellent actor Mr. Charles Allan had little to do as the Doctor, but did it unimpeachably; and the foolish Brown girls were amusingly embodied by Miss Elaine Inescort and Miss Mona Harrison, the former taking full advantage of her brief opportunities for tragedy. Miss Christine Silver was commendable as an inane young girl who was always boasting of her brother's achievements; and Mr. E. W. Garden gave a quaint and droll rendering of the rôle of Captain Finch, Mr. Charles Weir being sufficiently stiff and stern as the Colour-sergeant, and Mr. Howard Sturge and Mr. B. Egerton being quite competent as an Officer and an Orderly. Special praise is deserved by the wonderful way in which Mr. Bruce Smith, the scenic artist, and Mr. Gerald du Maurier, who produced the play for Mr. Curzon, co-operated in the scenic effects. The realistic way in which the ceiling and the walls were damaged by the supposed shell-fire carried conviction, and did striking credit to these two gentlemen, to whom the author is much indebted for details which had a great deal to do with the success of the play, which was never in doubt. The applause after each act and at the conclusion was long and loud, the audience waiting in hopes of seeing the author, who, however, did not appear.

PRESENTATION.—On Saturday afternoon the genial manager of the Prince's, Portsmouth, Mr. J. E. Agate, was the recipient of a handsome dressing bag from Mr. Ernest Greene on behalf of the staff.

THE seventh annual pantomime supper of the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, W., will be discussed on Monday by the *Babes in the Wood* company in conjunction with the permanent resident staff.

THE L.C.C. AND AMUSEMENTS.

The London County Council resumed its weekly meetings after the Christmas recess on Tuesday afternoon, Mr. R. A. Robinson (chairman) presiding.

THE LORD CHAMBERLAIN'S LICENCE.

The Theatres and Music Halls Committee reported that the Camden Theatre and the Palace, Islington, were opened on Dec. 26 last for the performance of stage plays under licences granted by the Lord Chamberlain.

EXPLOSIVES.

The Committee reported that during the quarter ended Dec. 31, 1908, explosives and dangerous substances were found to be in use in licensed premises on seventy-nine occasions. The arrangements were not, in any case, found to be unsatisfactory.

INSPECTION.

The expenditure incurred during the quarter ended Dec. 31, 1908, in connection with visits to unlicensed premises to ascertain whether public music or dancing was given thereat, and in connection with reports upon the character of the performances at licensed premises, amounted to £11 3s. 9d.

SHAFTESBURY THEATRE.

The Committee reported that they had considered drawings, submitted by Mr. F. A. Tugwell, showing proposals to execute certain alterations at the Shaftesbury Theatre, Shaftesbury-avenue. The alterations include the substitution of steel columns for the cast iron columns to each tier, the provision of new fibrous fronts to the boxes, an improvement of the approach to the dress circle from the main entrance, alterations to the refreshment bars in the stalls and upper circle, and the installation of a hot-water system and a new system of electric lighting.

The Committee recommended that no objection be taken to the proposed alterations, provided that certain specified requirements be carried out.

Agreed to.

DANCING IN A LION'S DEN.

The Committee reported that during the recess attention having been drawn to statements in the Press respecting an exhibition of dancing in a lion's den at the Fun City at the London Exhibitions, Earl's Court, the licensee was communicated with, and as a result he gave instructions for the performance to be immediately discontinued.

THE FASTENED DOOR.

The Committee reported that in consequence of one of the exit doors at the Pavilion Theatre, Whitechapel, having been found to be fastened during a performance on Dec. 26, 1908, by a piece of board being nailed across the leaves, instructions were given for a sealed notice, under Section 45 of the Metropolitan Board of Works (Various Powers) Act, 1882, to be served on the person responsible for keeping the premises open to the public.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The following proposals were on the recommendation of the Theatres Committee agreed to:—A proposal to rearrange the seating in the stalls, and to form a new exit therefrom, at the New Grand Theatre of Varieties, St. John's-hill, Clapham Junction; a proposal to enlarge the heating chamber at the New Theatre, St. Martin's-lane; and a proposal to alter the stage-door at the Savoy Theatre.

CINEMATOGRAPH FIRES.

Mr. Walter Reynolds called the attention of the Chairman of the Theatres Committee to the fact that two cinematograph fires had occurred during the past month, at both of which a considerable number of persons were seriously injured. He asked whether the Committee would consider as to recommending the Council to send another deputation to the Home Secretary to point out again to him the responsibility resting on his department of allowing the existing state of things to continue, and to urge the necessity for introducing without any further delay legislation empowering local authorities to exercise proper control over all premises in which cinematograph exhibitions were given.

Mr. H. J. Greenwood (Chairman of the Committee), in reply, said that the Theatres Committee would have before them on Feb. 3 a letter from the Middlesex County Council stating that they understood that the Council was about to send a deputation to the Home Secretary on the subject of cinematograph entertainments, and they would be glad for members to attend with the deputation and support the representations proposed to be made with a view to the controlling of cinematograph and similar exhibitions. As the Council were aware, a deputation, consisting of members of the Theatres and Music Halls Committee, attended on the Home Secretary on Feb. 28, 1908, and was informed by Mr. Gladstone that he was well aware of the matter, and would consider whether it could be possibly dealt with in the then current session of Parliament. The Committee had not considered as to sending another deputation to the Home Secretary; but in view of the terms of the letter from the Middlesex County Council he could assure Mr. Reynolds that the matter would now receive the attention of the Committee.

The Buildings Sub-committee of the Education Committee, in view of the danger attending cinematograph displays, have come to the conclusion that a clause should be inserted in the regulations for the letting of schools to the effect that the schools of the Council are not available for such entertainments, and they intend to recommend the Council accordingly.

ALFRED WILLIAM MAY was charged before Mr. Curtis Bennett at Bow-street Police Court on Saturday with theft. On Friday afternoon John Higson, an assistant stage carpenter at the Coliseum, saw May in the green room. He came to the conclusion that he was one of the artists, and took particular notice of him as he was breaking the rules by smoking a cigar. Shortly afterwards Higson missed his overcoat from the carpenters' room, and as he detected the smell of cigar smoke there he associated May with his loss. He spoke to Mr. Crocker, the stage manager, and went with him to the green room, where they found May. He was questioned as to what he was doing there and was found to be wearing two overcoats—one belonging to Higson and another owned by Ernest Gibbons, one of the electricians employed at the Coliseum.

On finding that he was detected, May took from the pockets of one of the overcoats a pair of boots belonging to Higson. When he was searched by Detective-Sergeant Davis he was found to be in possession of £1 2s. in money, some cheap jewellery, and pawntickets relating to a coat and jewellery. Mr. R. M. Dix, who prosecuted, said the defendant had no connection with the Coliseum. The defendant was remanded for inquiries.

At the Cirque d'Hiver, a popular show-place in Paris, the musicians had been given notice to quit in a body, because they belonged to a syndicate, and were replaced by others. They decided on aggressive action, and went in a body to the hall with stale eggs and inkbottles. When the house was in darkness for a cinematograph scene, they threw their inkbottles and eggs at the screen. But their shots, falling short, struck the musicians who had replaced them. The pianist got a bottle full of ink in the neck, and Mme. Lise Maprel, a singer, had her corsage badly stained with ink. The police eventually landed fourteen of the aggressors at the nearest police-station.

THE LATE MR. JOHN SMITH.

On Thursday afternoon, at Willesden New Cemetery, the funeral took place of the late John Smith, for upwards of twenty-eight years in the service of Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter, and for quite a number of years manager of the celebrated firm, a position which he held to the end. During the whole of the above long period he enjoyed the unbounded confidence of his principals, and was a leading spirit in fostering the growth of cheap music, in which he evinced the keenest interest, and, indeed, thereby earned for himself the sobriquet of "Sixpenny Pops Smith."

The deceased had been ailing for some time, but pluckily kept to his post till a fortnight before the end, which came on the 22nd inst., the cause of death being long-standing internal disease. He was in his forty-third year, and leaves a widow and two daughters.

Despite the dense fog, quite a large number of people assembled at the cemetery, and had the weather been more propitious a much larger number would have gathered to pay the last tribute of respect to one who was deservedly and universally liked. Among the mourners who followed the deceased from the residence in Riffell-road, Willesden, besides the relatives, were Messrs.

[*Photo by Hana.*

THE LATE MR. JOHN SMITH.

David Day, Lester Barrett, Charles Wilmott, and William Eyke. Illness prevented Mr. Warwick Williams's attendance.

At the graveside, among very many others, were Messrs. Felix McGlennon, B. J. Draghi, L. Fraser, John Wood, J. Sherlock, Fred Holland and Albert Trott (the well-known cricketers), Radford (F. Gant and Co., printers), E. Frewin, L. Zink, Sherlock, Parsons (Strong and Hanbury), J. H. Bird. L. Fraser, C. R. Conway, Geo. Scott (representing Mr. Philip J. Rutland), and Baxter.

Other members of the staff present included Henry E. Pether, Hermann E. Darewski, Leonard Bellamy, Charles Rooker, John Abbott, H. Harris, G. Morley, Frank Abbott, R. Berridge, jun., B. Lucas, C. Griffiths, J. Bewell, W. Ward, Dan Alger, T. Templar, W. Lewis, E. Bateman, Mrs. R. Berridge, Mrs. Gordon, and others. Bronchitis and the impenetrable fog alone kept that sturdy veteran, R. Berridge, sen., from attending.

A large number of beautiful floral designs were sent, comprising, among others, an anchor, from Mr. and Mrs. David Day and family; a cushion, from the staff; a harp with a broken string, from Lester Barrett, C. Wilmott, and H. E. Darewski; laurel wreath, from Charles Day; wreath from Mrs. W. Francis and family (from Hastings); cross, from J. H. Bird; wreath, from Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Conway, wreath from the Master Warden and brethren of the Era Masonic Lodge, wreath from B. J. Draghi, harp from Warwick Williams, wreath from Mr. and Mrs. L. Bellamy, wreath from G. Udloff, wreath from Lauriston Fraser, wreath from W. Allen and Mrs. Moncrieff (of the "Royal George," Charing Cross-road), and many others. The funeral arrangements were efficiently carried out by Messrs. Crookes and Co., of Kilburn.

TRAGIC DEATH OF GEORGE SCOTT.

At the moment of going to press we are shocked to hear of the tragic death of Mr. George Scott, who shot himself in bed at the Tavistock Hotel at 10 o'clock on Friday morning with a double-barrelled sporting gun. Death was practically instantaneous.

Mr. George Scott was born at Plymouth in the fifties, and, as was the fashion in those days, satiated his ambition to become an actor by joining the stock company at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth, under the management of Mr. J. R. Newcombe. He afterwards pursued his career at Bristol and Exeter, where he acquired much useful experience prior to his advent in London. Later he found a position in front of the house at the Court with the late Mr. John Clayton, and afterwards filled a managerial position at the Comedy, Manchester. He became the first manager of the Palace, Manchester, and was associated in the struggle of that hall for a licence, which was granted on March 24, 1891. He was associated with Barnum and Bailey's Circus, and made a gallant effort to place the Kursaal, Southend on a paying basis. He was appointed manager of the Alhambra, Leicester-square, at the death of Mr. Douglas Cox early in 1894, and left that position in the autumn of 1908. The deceased gentleman was the father of Mr. Harry Scott, actor, who made his first appearance as a child at the Theatre Royal, Exeter, in the company of which his parent was a prominent member. The deceased gentleman was at the Alhambra on Thursday afternoon watching the wrestling competitions, and spoke to several friends.

THE LATE MR. GEORGE SCOTT.

WHERE HONOUR IS DUE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I was greatly surprised to read in your "Variety Gossip" last week the statement that the song "Afraid to come home in the dark," which is making such a hit in pantomimes this year, was sung for the first time in England by Miss Maidie Scott at the Argyle, Birkenhead, on March 2, 1908; also that Miss Scott was asked by the publishers in America to sing it in England.

I shall be pleased if you will allow me space in *The Era* to give more explicit details, which will show conclusively that the lady who has made the song in England and who has the sole written rights for singing the number is Miss Hetty King.

Miss King has explained to Miss Scott that the song has been assigned solely to her (Miss King), and has respectfully requested her to withdraw it from her répertoire. Miss Scott has declined, so I must make the true facts of the matter known, and members of the profession and the public will see who is in the right and who is in the wrong. The argument is not a legal one, but purely a matter of professional etiquette.

Messrs. Jerome, Remick, and Co., of New York, approached Miss King while she was in America, and asked her to sing several of their songs, including "Afraid to go home in the dark," which she did, and as compensation the New York publishers agreed to give Miss King the sole singing rights for England. This they did in writing, and at the same time informed Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter to this effect, asking them to give Miss King the English assignment. On Miss King's arrival here Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter handed her the said assignment, which gave her the sole singing rights. Thousands of copies of the song have been printed bearing Miss King's name and photograph on the frontispiece.

In your paragraph of last week you say that Miss Scott first sang the number at the Argyle, Birkenhead, on March 2, 1908. By a singular coincidence, Miss King recommenced her English engagements on the same date at the Ardwick Empire, Manchester, and there introduced "Afraid to go home in the dark," the song she has since popularised all over the country. A short time elapsed before Miss King heard that Miss Scott was singing the same song, and on her behalf I wrote giving Miss Scott a full explanation, and respectfully requesting her to withdraw it, as she was encroaching on Miss King's rights, but Miss Scott continued to sing "Afraid to go home in the dark." Further comment is needless. Honour to whom honour is due. Thanking you in anticipation for the publication of this letter,—Yours faithfully,

ERNEST LUCK.

Prince of Wales' Theatre, Birmingham, Jan. 27.

MISS VIOLET CHARLESWORTH, the lady of the alleged cliff mystery, has accepted an engagement to appear at the Canterbury on Monday at a large salary. She will present a drawing-room entertainment, in which she will sing at the piano several songs which she has written and composed herself.

DEATH OF JOE LAWRENCE.

Widespread regret will be felt among the older members of the profession at the news of the death of Mr. Joe Lawrence, who passed away on Sunday at the age of sixty. The present generation of music-hall frequenters knew but little of the performer, who, in the seventies and eighties earned celebrity with a very remarkable performance. In an inverted position the deceased comedian used to act as a boxer. In the clogs he was one of the experts of his day, and when his gifted daughter Miss Vesta Victoria made her first appearance as a tiny child on the stage at Collins's on an anniversary night in 1884, her dancing showed that she had been admirably trained. Mr. Lawrence Barclay, his son, also derived considerable benefit from his father's tuition. The deceased comedian was an enthusiastic advocate for combination among the profession, and held the card No. 1 of the Terriers, a professional association that his enthusiasm did much to establish. It was based on the principles of charity and mutual help, and as a friendly society and as a coterie for fostering the spirit of amity, it has done excellent work.

A personal friend of the deceased gentleman sends us the following particulars of his career:—

Mr. Lawrence—or "Joe," which he very much preferred—was a native of Leeds, and was apprenticed as a boy to a large engineering firm, where, according to his own words, the late Colonel North was foreman. Like many others, Joe went to music halls, and also learnt step-dancing, and after his appearance at a benefit at the Princess's, Leeds, in the late Joseph Hobson's time, when Jim Ellis was manager, he was given a date. He likewise appeared at Mrs. Bink's, in Briggate, Leeds, and at other small halls in Yorkshire. It was the late Ambrose Maynard who booked him his first town engagement, at the South London Palace, with the late John J. Poole, who announced him as the "double-headed nondescript," which title Joe retained, as he was presumably the first to do this business, which consisted of standing on his head on a pedestal or table, and boxing with his feet. Nearly thirty years ago he took a circus at Gloucester, and ran a variety show, but variety business was not quite so popular at that time, and Gloucester being a cathedral city did not lend itself altogether to that class of entertainment.

[*Photo by Simmons.*

THE LATE JOE LAWRENCE.

Later he took the old Mechanics' Hall (afterwards the Empire), Leeds, in conjunction with Chas. Morritt. There they handicapped themselves with large salaries and one house a night. The place could not possibly hold the money. They engaged such artists as the late Jenny Hill, and others of that order. Joe then became manager of the Alhambra, Hull, under Mr. Sam Barnard, and afterwards took the Pavilion (now the Empire), Cardiff, opening on one Easter Monday, but the venture was unsuccessful.

In his earlier years Joe was a black circus clown, and once fulfilled, during this period, an engagement at Yarmouth. He had to appear on horseback, and his mount, an old trick steed, made a bolt for the sea, and Joe ended his first and last experience as a circus rider by slipping off behind and going home.

Some twenty-five years ago he was a prominent member of the Country Agents' Society, which afterwards became the Music Hall Protection Association. This Mr. Lawrence really founded. He was a member of the late Music Hall Benevolent Fund Committee, and one of the founders of the Terriers' Association.

THE FUNERAL.

The funeral took place on Thursday. The cortège left Park Lodge, Stockwell Park-road, at 2.15, for the cemetery at Tooting. The principal mourners were three sons of the deceased—George, Ernest, and Archie—and these were supported by a large contingent of the members of the Terriers' Association. Mr. Sidney Lawrence was unable to attend the funeral owing to illness. The following members of the Association acted as pall bearers: Mr. Jesse Sparrow, Mr. G. P. R. Burgess, Mr. Leon Bassett, Mr. H. Cory Woodrow, Mr. S. N. Salter, Mr. W. H. Atlas, Mr. J. E. Dunedin, Mr. E. D'Almaine, Mr. George Cooper (of the Three Coopers), and Mr. Arthur Were, secretary.

Other Terriers present were Messrs. Douglas White, J. Alexander, T. C. Callaghan, Horace Wheatley, Harry Gage, M. H. McDowall, F. W. Millis, P. Madden, Ben Woodger, B. Almon, and the deceased's late manager, Vin. Monkley. Mr. Pat Carey joined the procession at the cemetery. Mr. Douglas Stuart was also in attendance as the representative of the M.H.A.R.A., and Messrs. C. Jerome and J. Gilmore represented the V.A.F.

Some beautiful wreaths and floral tributes were received from Mrs. Lawrence, Vesta Victoria, George and Ada Lawrence, Sidney Lawrence, Ernest Lawrence, W. H. Atlas and Vulcana, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Elvin, Mr. and Mrs. Lowrey, the staff of the Gem Palace, Yarmouth, *Red Riding Hood* company, Grand Theatre, Byker, Mr. Jesse Sparrow, the M.H.A.R.A., and the Terriers' Association.

MISS CONSTANCE HYEM, the Dick Whittington of the Coronet Theatre, claims the family name of Whittington. In this connection she wears in the final scene of the pantomime a valuable family heirloom (if such an expression can be used in regard to an old English non-titled family) in the shape of a diamond garter, presented to her great grandfather, one of the City Fathers of his day, who it is supposed was a descendant of the ancient Whittington family. A little book by Miss Constance Hyem will shortly be published, entitled "Ten Years on the Stage," in which she will principally deal with her interesting two years' experience under Miss Ellaline Terriss and Mr. Seymour Hicks at the Vaudeville Theatre.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

ON THE ROAD, FEB. 1.

ALADDIN (GLENVILLE AND CO.).—T. R., Woolwich.
ALADDIN (KIDDIE).—T. R., Leigh.
ALADDIN.—P. O. W., Nuneaton.
BATEMAN AND LOMATH.—Grand T., Mansfield.
BENSON, F. R. (N.).—Grand T., West Hartlepool.
BENSON, F. R. (S.).—Maesteg and Treherbert.
BENSON, MR. AND MRS. F. R.—G. T., Southampton.
BONDMAN, THE (CROKE).—Metropole T., Gateshead.
BREWSTER'S MILLIONS.—Grand T., Derby.
CASSIDY, MR. J. RICE.—T. R., Aston.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE), M.—T. R., Kidderminster.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE), N.—T. R., Middlesbrough.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE), S.—T. R., Preston.
CINDERELLA (KIDDIE).—Queen's T., Keighley.
CINGALEE, THE.—Grand T., Swansea.
CLAUDIAN.—Eden T., Bishop Auckland.
COMPTON COMEDY CO.—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
CONSCIENCE OF A JUDGE.—Palace T., Bordesley.
COUNTRY GIRL IN LONDON.—T. R., Ilkeston.
DAIRYMAIDS, THE (COURTNEIDGE).—O. H., Cheltenham.
DAIRYMAIDS, THE (MACDONALD).—H. M. T., Barrow.
DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY.—Pier Pavilion, Eastbourne.
DIANA OF DOBSON'S.—T. R., Chatham.
DICK WHITTINGTON (KIDDIE).—Palace T., Derby.
D'OYLY CARTE.—T. R., Portsmouth.
EARLY WORM.—O. H., Torquay.
EAST LYNNE.—Empire T., Swindon.
EVE OF HER WEDDING.—Colosseum, Oldham.
EYES OF THE WORLD.—T. R. Batley.
FAIR ONE WITH THE GOLDEN LOCKS.—O. H., Buxton.
FATAL WEDDING.—Theatre Royal, Colchester.
FLAG LIEUTENANT.—Theatre Royal, Hanley.
FLOWER GIRL, THE.—Theatre Royal, Cardiff.
FOR LOVE AND THE KING.—Queen's T., Longton.
GAY GORDONS, THE (N.).—Paisley, T., Paisley.
GEOFFREY LANGDON'S WIFE.—T. R., Tyldesley.
GIRL'S CROSS ROADS.—Junction T., Manchester.
GIRLS OF GOTTENBERG (DANCE).—T. R., Plymouth.
GIRL WITH THE ANGEL FACE.—Jersey and Guernsey.
GLOSSOP-HARRIS.—Grand T., Lancaster.
HARVEY, MR. MARTIN.—Grand T., Hull.
HAVANA.—King's T., Glasgow.
HER FATAL MARRIAGE.—T. R., Stratford.
HER LOVE AGAINST THE WORLD.—Palace T., Newcastle.
HIS HOUSE IN ORDER.—Harrogate and York.
HIS SISTER'S HONOUR.—T. R., Margate.
IDOLS (HUTCHISON).—Bournemouth.
JACK THE GIANT KILLER.—O. H., Leicester.
KING AND THE UNKNOWN WOMAN.—T. R., Darlington
LA COMEDIE ANGLAISE.—Bulith Wells and Stroud.
LADY FREDERICK.—T. R., Worcester.
LEAH KLESCHNA.—Marina T., Lowestoft.
LITTLE BREADWINNER.—Colosseum T., Oldham.
LOVE OF THE PRINCESS.—New T., Hyde.
LUCK OF ROARING CAMP.—Alexandra T., Sheffield.
LUCKY 'LIZA.—Royalty T., Llanelly.
MAN AND WIFE.—T. R., Wolverhampton.
MESSAGE FROM MARS.—Royalty T., Glasgow.
MISS HOOK OF HOLLAND (DANCE). — Royalty T., Barrow.
MOLLISON, WILLIAM.—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
MOODY-MANNERS (A.).—O. H., Cork.
MOODY-MANNERS (B.).—Malvern.
MRS. DOT.—Grand T., Wolverhampton.
MY MIMOSA MAID.—T. R., Bolton.
OLD FOLKS AT HOME.—T. R., Seaham Harbour.
OLD HOME, THE.—Treherbert and Maesteg.
PETER'S MOTHER.—T. R., Warrington.
POWER OF THE KING.—Palace, Ebbw Vale.
PRIVATE SECRETARY.—Lyceum T., Ipswich.
PRODIGAL SON (CROKE).—T. R., Exeter.
PRODIGAL SON (DAY).—T. R., Coatbridge.
RAFFLES.—Devonshire Park T., Eastbourne.
ROLLICKING RORY.—Standard T., Hetton.
ROYAL DIVORCE.—Metropole T., Devonport.
SAILOR'S WEDDING, THE.—Shakespeare, Clapham.
SEND HIM VICTORIOUS.—T. R., Edmonton.
SERGEANT BRUE.—Crystal Palace, S.E.
SIGN OF THE CROSS.—New T., Cambridge.
SILVER KING (POLINI).—Metropole T., Glasgow.
SOLDIER'S HONOUR.—Hippodrome, West Bromwich.
THIEF, THE.—Frome and Shepton Mallett.
TODDLES.—Gaiety T., Hastings.
TOM JONES.—Grand T., Oldham.
TWO LANCASHIRE LASSES IN LONDON.—Widnes.
TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS.—T. R., Glossop.
VICTIM OF VILLAINY.—T. R., Colne.
VILLAGE BLACKSMITH.—T. R., Barnsley.
WALTZ DREAM.—Prince's T., Manchester.
WAY OF THE WORLD.—Carlton T., Saltley.
WHAT A WOMAN DID.—Bulford Camp.
WHEN KNIGHTS WERE BOLD.—P.O.W., Grimsby.
WHEN OTHER LIPS.—Grand T., Blackpool.
WHO IS SHE?—Grand T., Rawtenstall.
WILKIE, ALLAN, AND CO.—Grand T., Doncaster.
WOMAN AND WINE.—T. R., Rochdale.
WOMAN PAYS.—Cambridge T., Spennymoor.

SUBSCRIPTIONS on behalf of Mrs. Prinella collected by Messrs. Downs (Hippodrome, Belfast), V. L. Granville, and Leslie Race:—The Belfast Hippodrome Co., £2 2s.; Miss Harriett Vernon, £1 1s.; Mr. Downs (manager, Hippodrome), £1 1s.; Mr. Leslie Race, £1 1s.; Mr. V. L. Granville, £1 1s.; Mr. Walker (manager, Empire), £1; Mr. Macknow, £1; collected by Mrs. Ashcroft, £1 12s.; Belfast Skating Rink, £1 3s. 1d.; Messrs Charles and Russell, £1 1s.; Friends of Mr. Downs, £1; David Allen and Sons, £1 5s.; St. George's Hall staff, £1; Hippodrome band, 15s.; Hippodrome stage hands, 11s.; the Musical Howards, 10s.; Mr. Willard, 10s.; Mr. Marsh (Empire, Dublin), 10s.; Mr. Chas. M. Daly, 10s.; Mr. Conquest, 10s.; Miss Minnie Cunningham, 10s.; Mr. and Mrs. Lynch, 5s.; Mr. White (manager, Alhambra), 5s.; Mr. Tom Stuart, 5s.; Mr. Haynes, 5s.; the Wedburns, 5s.; Mr. Salmond (manager, Palace), 5s.; Mr. George Lashwood, 5s.; Mr. Robinson, 5s.; Mr. Kettle, 5s.; Mr. Nickleson, 5s.; Mr. George Stamford, 5s.; Mr. Harry Laybourne, 5s; Mr. Falstead, 5s.; Miss Crissie Cross, 5s.; Mr. Bolinger, 2s. 6d.; Mr. E. J. Sheldon, 2s. 6d.; Mr. Minken, 2s. 6d.; Mr. Richards, 2s. 6d.; Mr. Randerwick, 2s. 6d.; Mr. Shaw, 2s.; Mr. D. H. Johnson, 2s.; Mr. P. H. Boyle, 1s.; operator (Hippodrome), 1s.; H. V., 1s.; Mr. O'Flartey, 1s.; Mr. Stokes, 1s.; a friend of Mr. Stuart, 1s.; the Bros. Ford 2s.; Mr. Rose, 2s.; Mr. Ross, 6d.; and a friend, 11d. Total, £24 11s.

GARRICK, repeating the following passage to his supposed mistress in a new play:—

"Alas!
I fear I seem *too little* in your eyes,"

a man in the upper gallery cried out, "Why to be sure you do; it would be very odd if you did not." On this the house was in a roar; and Garrick took the hint, and never repeated the line afterwards.

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

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"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

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All communications intended for publication should be sent to "THE EDITOR," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

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Advertisements should reach the Office early in the week, and not later than Thursday, 7 p.m. Remittances, payable to "THE ERA," LTD., and crossed Lloyd's Bank.

Communications.

Business Communications should be addressed to The MANAGER,
"THE ERA" BUILDINGS,
5, TAVISTOCK-STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.
(two doors off Wellington-street).
Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephones, 4747 and 1433, Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We cannot undertake to answer the inquiries of correspondents by post. In all letters names and addresses must be given as a guarantee of good faith. Initials only or pseudonyms will be used in the replies if so desired.]

A. H. KING.—The Dollar Princess *was produced on Dec. 24, 1908, at the Prince's, Manchester; but we have no mention of it in our "On the Road" column. You might learn more about the piece by writing to Mr. J. E. Malone, Daly's Theatre.*

RHONA (Edinburgh).—*Write to French's, Southampton-street, Strand. They publish works of the kind, and should be able to advise you.*

H. BARRON (Ealing).—The Dancing Girl *was produced at the Haymarket, and ran from Jan. 13, 1891, to Jan. 15, 1892, with a short break in the summer. It was one of Mr. H. A. Jones's most conspicuous successes. It is understood that the author has rewritten the play, which will be produced in February at His Majesty's by Mr. Tree, who will play his original part. Miss Alice Crawford, who was the Charmian in Mr. Tree's revival of* Antony and Cleopatra, *will appear in the part originally played by Miss Julia Neilson.*

SKIBOO.—*Your request involves too much search and too much questioning. As it is a personal matter, why not write direct to the manager and organiser of the company you mention. We cannot waste our time on such trivialities as the discovery as to whether an actor belongs to the same place as yourself.*

PLAYGOER.—*There is no copyright in an incident, but there is in dialogue, and you might be sued for infringement if you copy the latter. If you let us know the name of the play, and where produced, we may be able to tell you the whereabouts of the author.*

W. HALL.—*The People's Music Hall, Manchester, in 1874, was known under that name, the proprietor being Mr. T. B. Burton, and that name was still associated with it in 1896. A Manchester paper might give you further information.*

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—SIR HENRY IRVING.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

AT the meeting of the Hammersmith Borough Council on Wednesday evening the Law and Parliamentary Committee reported that they had considered the question as to whether the premises in which cinematograph and similar entertainments are held should be licensed, and were of opinion that in order to secure the safety of the public it was most important that no premises should be allowed to be used for such purposes unless they were licensed under the same conditions as premises used for performance of stage plays and for music and dancing.

IT was recommended: (a) That representations to this effect be made to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with a request that he would promote the necessary legislation to require the licensing of all premises and places used for cinematograph shows and other like forms of public entertainment; and (b) that the London County Council and the Metropolitan City and Borough Councils be requested to communicate with the Secretary of State in support of the proposal.

THE Stepney Borough Council on Wednesday passed a resolution asking the London County Council to give the question of cinematograph entertainments their careful consideration with a view to obtaining statutory powers of control. The Works Committee reported that many shops which could not be said to be adapted for the purpose were used for these entertainments. It had been represented to them that the narrow passage through which the public attending such places had to pass would constitute a very serious danger in case of fire, especially seeing that a large number of children attended them.

THE London and Provincial Ornithological Society's Jubilee Show of British and foreign birds will be held at the Crystal Palace from Feb. 5 to 9. Extra classes and extra prize-money have been provided on this occasion, and every effort is being made to make the show one of the most successful ever held. There are 146 classes—Norwich 8, Crest 7, Yorks 12, Greens 8, Cinnamon 4, Lancs 4, Lizards 4, Borders 8, Scotch 4, Belgraves 4, Frills 1, London Fancy 1, A.O.V. Canary 1, classes for novices 18, price-limit classes 7, Roller canaries 3, hybrids 11, British birds 25, foreign 11, stock Class 1 (cages 3).

OLD Usher, one of the veterans of the Haymarket Theatre, praising very much a loin of veal that was on Foote's table, asked him who was his butcher. "I think his name's Addison," said Foote. "Addison!" cried Usher; "I wonder, is he any relation to the great Addison?" "Why, that I don't exactly know; and yet I think he must, as he is seldom without his *steel* (*Steele*) by his side."

MR. FRED SOLO concluded his pantomime engagement last Saturday at the Grand Theatre, Croydon, where he played Captain Taffrail in *Dick Whittington*, and made a hit in his burlesque pirate scena and eccentric dancing.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a **Birth**, a **Marriage**, or a **Death**, of an "**In Memoriam**" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is **One Shilling and Sixpence.**

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

BAINBRIDGE.—On Jan. 25, at Whitby, Edith, wife of Julian Bainbridge, lessee and manager Waterloo Theatre, Whitby, of a daughter; both well.

CLARKE.—On Jan. 17, at 99, Vassall-road, Brixton, the wife of Mr. C. Clarke (Alethea Fitzroy), of a son. Both doing well.

SAUL-ETTENA.—On Jan. 27, at Ettena Dene, Cambridge-road, Blackpool, the wife of Edward Saul (the Ettenas), of a daughter; both doing well.

SPRAKE.—Jan. 16, at Park View, London-road, Great Missenden, Bucks, the wife of Herbert A. Sprake, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

CROMO—HAMILTON.—Jack Cromo to Meg Hamilton, married (special licence) Jan. 26, 1909, Glasgow. Witnesses, Elizabeth Crome, Jack Stevens.

MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY.

AUSTIN—LANGLEY.—Feb. 1, 1908, All Saints', Manchester, Dare Austin to Lou Langley. Monday next our first anniversary. Next week, Palace, Reading. P.A., 182, Morat-st., Brixton, S.W.

DEATHS.

AUDREY.—On the 26th inst., at 17, Borough-road, Birkenhead, Miss May Audrey, passed away after short illness of pneumonia. In deepest sympathy from her true pal, MARIE REEVE.

COQUELIN.—Jan. 26, Benoît-Constant Coquelin the Elder, French actor, aged 68.

LAWRENCE.—Jan. 24, Joe Lawrence, known as the "upside-down" comedian, aged 60.

LAWRENCE.—On Sunday, Jan. 24, Joe Lawrence. Gone, but not forgotten by his friends, WILL MURRAY, BOCK PYLADES, WILL MACKEY.

PRINELLA.—Jan. 18, at Belfast, of bronchial asthma and heart failure, Joe Prinella (of the Prinellas), aged 31.

SCOTT.—Jan. 29, George Scott, formerly manager of the Alhambra.

SMITH.—Jan. 25, John Smith, manager to Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter.

TENCH.—On Jan. 12, Matthew Parker Tench, of 57, Hyde-road (late of Salisbury Hotel), Manchester, in his 65th year.

FOR SYMPATHY.

MRS. JOE LAWRENCE wishes to publicly thank The Terriers and friends for their kindly sympathy and for the numerous floral tributes sent in memory of her departed husband.

MRS. MOWBRAY ROBINSON, professionally known as Maude Vena, takes this opportunity of thanking friends for sympathy and condolences in the loss she has sustained by the death of her husband, professionally known as Charles Mowbray. 76, Brook-street, S.E.

IN MEMORIAM.

CHAPPELL.—In ever-loving memory of my dear husband, who passed away Jan. 30, 1907, at Dossett House, Great Yarmouth.—EMMA CHAPPELL.

CHAPPELL.—In loving memory of dear father, who passed away Jan. 30, 1907. His loving daughter, SARA LAWTON, and Family.

HAMILTON.—In fond memory of darling Willie, dearly-beloved son of the late lamented William Hamilton (Hamilton's Excursions), who died at Dundee Jan. 25, 1894. Never forgotten by his loving mother.

KLOHT.—In everlasting memory of Leah, the dearly-beloved wife of Wm. B. Bostock (of Manchester), who passed away suddenly Jan. 29, 1907.

NELSON.—In tender memory of Harry G. Nelson, dearly-loved husband of Jeannie Thomas and devoted father of Dick Evans, who fell asleep Jan. 30, 1908. Until eternity.

PATEMAN.—In ever-loving memory of my darling wife, Bella Pateman, who passed away Jan. 30, '08. Never forgotten by her ever-sorrowing husband and daughter. "To live in our hearts is not to die."

TAYLOR.—In ever-loving memory of Will Taylor, who passed away Jan. 29, 1901. Never forgotten by his wife and family.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following Ladies and Gentlemen:—

Seymour Hicks—Saturday Jan. 30.
Ethel Earle—Saturday, Jan. 30.
Mme. Ghita Corri—Saturday, Jan. 30.
Mme. Kate Flinn—Sunday, Jan. 31.
Vera Beringer—Monday, Feb. 1.
Madame Clara Butt—Monday, Feb. 1.
Norman A. Overton—Tuesday, Feb. 2.
Dolores Drummond—Wednesday, Feb. 3.
Martin Adeson—Wednesday, Feb. 3.
Zena Dare—Thursday, Feb. 4.

EARLY DELIVERY.

SPECIAL NEWSPAPER EXPRESS SERVICES now running on the London and North-Western, Great Northern, Midland, and Great Central Railways, carry *The Era* to the following important cities and towns at the times named. Newsvendors and subscribers obtain their papers at a much earlier hour than was previously possible:—

	a.m.
RUGBY	4.30
COVENTRY	4.54
BIRMINGHAM	5.20
CREWE	6. 5
MANCHESTER	6.50
LIVERPOOL	7. 0
CHESTER	9. 3
DONCASTER	6.10
YORK	7. 0
HULL	8.20
DARLINGTON	8.58
SCARBOROUGH	10. 5
NEWCASTLE	10.10
LEEDS (Central)	6.58
HUDDERSFIELD	7.37
BRADFORD (Exchange)	7.47
HARROGATE	7.50
HALIFAX	8.17
BURNLEY	9.28
LEICESTER	4.36
NOTTINGHAM	5.10
DERBY	5.35

MISS MAUD ESMOND is proving a sensational success at the Brixton Theatre, where she is playing Dick Whittington. Her refined and dashing manner, coupled with a sweet and powerful voice, has brought her many tempting offers for next Christmas.

IN the April of 1772 between the play and the farce at Drury Lane Theatre, a disturbance arose which continued for a full hour. Mr. Weston, it appeared, was in debt to the managers, on which account they had impounded all the cash received on his benefit night; this, the comedian did not like, and therefore sent word yesterday that he could not play, as he was arrested, and detained in a sponging-house, but desired that no apology should be made of his being suddenly taken ill (the usual stage plea), as it would be an egregious falsehood. After the play, Mr. Vernon came forward, and announced that Mr. Weston was "suddenly taken ill," and could not perform. Weston immediately started up in front of the gallery, and informed the house that he was not ill, but in the custody of an officer, and if the audience would have patience, he would acquaint them with the whole affair. A long altercation ensued; the managers sent on Mr. Vernon repeatedly, and after much *pro and con* matter, Weston went down, and played his part of Jerry Sneak. The managers promised the town a publication of the whole affair.

NOW READY. Theatrical Accounts for Business Managers. How the Affairs of a Theatre can be Most Efficiently Controlled by the Adoption of Systems of Internal Check. By Cuthbert E. Smedley, A.C.A. Price 3s. 6d., post free 3s. 9d. Published by *The Era*, Ltd., 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.

No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this list.

Albert, Mr. Arthur
Alexander, Mr. Louis
Algar, Clown G.
Almasio, Mr. Joe
Anderson, Miss Nellie
Antony, Miss Hilda
Ashby, Mr. Edward
Athol, Mr. Harry
Bale, Mr. J.
Barker, Mr. John
Barrow, Mr. Tracey
Barry, Mr. J. L.
Bassett, Mr. T.
Beaumont, Mr. Alfred
Beaute, Mons.
Behans, The Three
Belmont, Miss Belle
Beresford, Miss Nancy
Biddall, Brothers
Bishop, Mr. Alf.
Blaie, Mr. Wilfred
Boielle, Mr. Arthur R.
Brandon-Gower, Miss G
Brett, Mrs.
Burgess-Barreth, Mr. W
Campbell, Mrs. P.
Carey, Mr. Lester
Carlisle, Mr. F.
Carter, Mr. Leslie
Cartlidge, Mr.
Cavendish, Miss K.
Chapman, Miss Hetty
Chetwyn, Miss Beatrice
Chippendale, Mr. Arthur
Chipperfield, Mr. J. W.
Clark, Mr. Gerald
Clavering, Miss Nita
Cohen, Mr. Louis
Collins, Mrs. P.
Connelly, Miss F.
Correze, Mr. Almar
Cranston, Mr. Otley
Cronow, Mr. J.
Cross, Miss Victoria
Crystal, Miss Nita
Cullenford, Mr.
Cumberland, Mr. E. G.
Dawson, Mr. John
Deane, Miss Nellie
De Courtray, Mr. G. O
De Verdi, Mlle. C.
Dreadnoughts, The
Duffy's Circus
Dunlo, Miss Linda
Dungee, Mr. Basil
Durham, Mr. Wm.
Durland, Mr. T.
Earle, Mr. R. H.
Edmond, Mr. Leon
Elgar, Mr.
Ellis, Mr. F. A.
Elton, Mrs. Fred
Eltons, The Two
Epsilon
Eugene, Miss Cora
Evans, Mr. W. E.
Ewen, Mr. R.
Ford and Barras
Forde, Miss Enid
Fortajada, Mons. R.
Francois, Sisters
Fuller, Mr. Herbert
Fuller, Mrs. Walter
Genée, Mlle. A.
Gennette, Mr. Claud
Gittens, Mr. E. Chas.
Glynn, Mr. Harry
Green, Mr. J. T.
Grey, Miss Madge
Grey, Miss Marion
Halmere, Mr. J.
Haywood, Miss
Helmer, Mr. Tom
Hildyard, Miss M.
Hollister, Mr. H.
Hron, Mr. E. T.
Hutchings, Mr. Fred
Johnson, Mr. Kid
Johnston, Miss Jenny
King, Miss Edith
King, Mr. Harry
Kirk, Mr. G.
Kirwan, Miss Kitty
Lashmars, The
Lazello, Mr. Bob
Le Neve, Mr. W.
Law Brailsford, Mr. H.
Lawten, Mr. T.
Leland, Mr. W. B.
Louis, King
Lewis, Mr. Edward
Loraine, Mr. Basil
Lowen, Mr. Tod
Luxmore, Miss Mabel
Lydamore, Mr. E.
Lyons, Mrs. Edward
Lytton, Mr. A. G.
Mackenzie, Prof. Eric
Manger, Mr.
Mann, Mr. Charlton
Mannix, Mr. J. J.
Marlow and Manton
Matthews, Mr. E. H.
Matthews, Mr. Percy
Mayer, Mr. Gaston
McKenna, Miss E.
McNaughton, Mr. Chas.
Melia, Mr. and Mrs. M.
Merlin, Mr. Jack
Mersano, Mr.
Middleton, Mr. Frank
Middleton, Mr. Howard
Miller, Mr. E. G.
Moore, Mr. Augustus
Morgan, Miss Mabel
Mudie, Mr. George
Murray, Mr. Percy
Mystic
Neiman, Mr. V.
Nelson, Mr. Jim
North, Mr. Benson
Norton, Mr. Charles
Novaro, Mme. Mary A.
O'Brien, Mr. P. J.
Onetti, Sisters
Parker, Mr. A. H.
Pattison, Mr. J.
Paulton, Mr. Ed. A.
Pearce, Mr. George
Perman, Miss
Plimmer, Mr. W. J.
Potter, Mrs. Brown
Preston, Mr. J. F.
Ray, Miss Belle
Raymond, Miss Marie
Reynolds, Mr. Arthur
Richardson, Mr. Harry
Rivers, Miss Edie
Robinson, Mr. Chas.
Rose, Mr. Arthur
Ross, Miss Maude
Sampson, Mrs.
Saville, Mr. Frank
Scott, Messrs. W.
Sealby, Mr. Herbert
Shrapnell, Mr. L.
Somers, Mr. Harry
Sproul, Mr. James
Studt, Mr. J.
Terry, Miss Bella
Terry, Mr. J. S.
Tindell, Mr. Harry
Tortajada, Mons.
Turnbull, Mr. A.
Turner, Mr. J. W.
Vanbrook, Miss A.
Vasco, Mr.
Walonell, Mr. Jack
Wheelers, The Juggling
Wilson, Miss
Woodward, Mr. Chas.
Wragg, Mr. E.

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Matinée, Sat., Feb. 13.
CHARLES THE FIRST, Mon., Feb. 15, and Four Following Nights.
Matinées, Wed., Feb. 17, Sat., Feb. 20.
LOUIS XI. (Last Week), Mon., Feb. 22, and Four Following Nights.
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TIVOLI
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Open 7.30; Saturday Matinées, 2.15.

MIDDLESEX.
Feb. 1.—A. C. Lilly and Co. in "Drummed Out," Rex Fox, Soho Trio, Reg Bolton, Wilson Hallett, Dot Hardy, Jessie Ward, Mabelle Clovelly, Henshall and Foster, Deans and Wilton, Fred Herbert, Martinett and Wallace, E. Watkins and Co., Hunter and Williams, King and Sheppard, and New Bioscope. All Artists to attend Band Rehearsal, Monday, 2 o'clock.

METROPOLITAN.
At 6.40
and 9.10.
JOE ELVIN AND CO., in "OBEDIENT BILLY,"
Cris Van Bien, Dora Lyric,
Dusty Rhodes, Alice Hollander,
VALAZZI, The Three Panamas,
Radie Furman, TOM EDWARDS,
Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope.

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Twice Nightly at 6.30 and 9.10.
George Formby, a Lancashire Lad,
Clare Alexander, The Romps,
Kelly and Agnes, Dusty Rhodes Emma Don,
The Dardinis, Cissie Thompson,
Ruffell's Bioscope,
Herbert E. Terry and Co., in "Wanted."

EMPIRE, Camberwell Green.
Managing-Director, JESSE SPARROW.
Manager, PERCY FORD.
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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1909.
AN ENTERTAINING DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL ANNUAL.
"The Era" Dramatic and Musical Annual for 1909 is an invaluable book to all those interested in matters theatrical and operatic. Professionals and those whose lot it is to write of dramatic matters will be specially concerned with such desirable information as that contained in the lists of (1) new plays and important revivals produced at the London and suburban theatres, (2) new plays and important revivals produced in the provinces, (3) casts of new plays and important revivals (a new feature, we think), (4) plays produced in New York, (5) new pieces produced at the principal Paris theatres, and (6) new plays and important revivals presented at the principal Berlin theatres. These lists, and also alphabetical lists of (a) plays produced in London and the provinces and (b) the principal sketches produced at London and provincial variety houses, cover the period from Dec. 1, 1907, to Nov. 30, 1908. The casts of new sketches, a theatrical, musical, and equestrian obituary, and lists of theatres and music-halls in the United Kingdom are also given. To the general reader the most attractive feature will be, however, a series of stories told by well-known people, each story being illustrated by the photograph and autograph of the author. The annual is both useful and entertaining, and has enhanced its already high reputation. (London: 5, Tavistock-street, Strand.)—Dundee Courier, Jan. 27, 1909.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1909.
"The Era" Dramatic and Musical Annual for 1909 is attractive, and, in some respects, unique. It is, of course, primarily a souvenir of interest to members of the kindred professions, but it has features that commend it to the host of playgoers—notably the contributions by leading actors and actresses and music-hall stars. Those professional reminiscences are models of magazine compression—pithy, piquant, and diversified. Other features of interest and value include the records of British and foreign productions during the past year. The tributes to the memory of popular favourites who passed away last year will be sympathetically noted.—Financier (Daily), Jan. 16, 1909.

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 1909.

THE QUESTION OF THE QUEUE.

The theatrical manager's lot is decidedly not always a "happy one," and yet how happy he might be if people would only let him alone! His marvellous versatility in itself makes for enjoyment; and we believe, if outsiders were only aware of the extraordinary amount of work and worry which an actor-manager—and most of our London *entrepreneurs* are actor-managers—has to endure, they would refrain, from very pity, from further persecution. The actor-manager is the be-all and end-all of a theatre. Upon him depends its failure or its success. However he may assist himself with secretaries and solicitors, the motive power—the "fundamental brainwork"—must come from himself. In the old days it was considered enough for a leading actor to conceive characters and represent them on the stage by the light of genius; and what was the consequence? The overflowing energy of the artistic temperament was always getting actors and managers into trouble. SHERIDAN tried to overcome it by adding political oratory to his responsibilities; but he, according to his contemporaries, drank too much and died young. EDMUND KEAN got into trouble with a married lady in the City, and thereby destroyed his popularity; and he, too, looked on the wine when it was red. The modern actor-manager never rests. When he is not actually acting or rehearsing, he is getting ready the production of a new play, engaging artists, giving out commissions for designs of dresses and scenery, reading plays or causing them to be read, engaging artists, and ordering incidental music. But there are yet other demands made upon his time and strength. Socially he is much sought after; and he has both to give and accept hospitality. Frequently he takes part in civic government; usually he is interested in philanthropy; and occasionally he takes up some trifling side-scheme, such as the establishment of a National Theatre. His only rest is obtained in the train in which he goes over to Paris to see the latest novelties with a view to purchasing the English rights.

The exuberant activity of the actor-manager and his passionate affection for work are ingredients of happiness; and he would be happy were it not for the constant irritating interferences with him while he is carrying on his business. He has long been an object of offence to the "superior" critics, who have denied to him even the right of existence. "Exterminate the actor-manager" was for a long time the war-cry of a certain section of theatrical essayists. Like the Hebrew scapegoat, he bore the blame of all the shortcomings of the English drama. He was the "enemy," the origin of all evil. He was always, and is always, being told what he ought to do in order to make his fortune and preserve his popularity. When an actor-manager produced IBSEN in the evenings the public stayed away, and the "superior" critics put it down to the actor-manager's imperfect performance of the principal part.

The latest thorn in the managers' side is a threatened interference with his right to form queues. When the crowd used to gather around the doors of our theatres unmarshalled, preparing for the terrific struggle which followed the opening of the doors, objection was made to the disorder. When the late Mr. D'OYLY CARTE introduced the queue system at the Savoy everyone admired the improvement; and soon other managers followed his example, the result being a most orderly and excellent arrangement, testifying to the good sense of the British public and the tact of the police. The latest annoyance comes from Manchester, where, as the result of the formation of a local "Theatre Reform League" with the object of the abolition of queues, an application has been made before the City Stipendiary to grant a summons against Mr. JOHN HART, the well-known and popular manager of the Prince's Theatre, Manchester, for creating an "obstruction" by causing a crowd to assemble outside his theatre.

This application is an instance of the trouble that may be caused by the busybodies who are always wanting to reform the theatre. We could understand one of the tradesmen before whose premises the queue is formed complaining that the access of customers to his shop was obstructed; but strange to say, though the queue system has been in use for years in London, there has been no objection made to it either by tenants or owners of property. The action of the "Theatre Reform League" appears to be prompted by the love of meddling with other people's affairs which is so strong in this age of plentiful self-advertisement and little common-sense. Not long ago there was a movement in favour of booking all the seats at theatres. That has fallen to the ground, though Mr. CYRIL MAUDE has given the idea excellent advertisement and a fine chance at his beautiful Playhouse on the Embankment. If the summons of the Manchester "Theatre Reform League" results in Mr. HART being forbidden to continue his queues, it will put him to the heavy expense of arranging a troublesome and utterly unnecessary system of booking seats for the pit and gallery; a system which the manager does not want and the public do not want—which, indeed, nobody wants except the Manchester "Theatre Reform League." We trust that Mr. HART will resist this ridiculous interference with all the resources of cash and counsel; and that no London "League" will be foolishly formed to apply for similar summonses against our London managers. If they do, we may rely on our magistrates, with their sturdy wisdom, to nip the absurd "movement" in the bud by refusing to grant any such summons.

MR. BARRINGTON AND ENCORES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Will you of your courtesy allow me to reply to an article in your issue of Jan. 23 headed "An Attack on the Orchestra," containing comments on my lecture to the O.P. Club and an interview with Mr. Cellier, of the Savoy.

In the first place the "heading" of your column accuses me of an offence which I have never committed, my grievance being against musical directors, and not the hard-working and amiable members of the different orchestras who have so ably seconded (?) my vocal efforts.

Individual members of many orchestras have told me that owing to the proximity of other instrumentalists it is an impossibility for any musician to judge exactly the force of the tone he is producing, and that the necessity for raising or subduing the same can only be conveyed to him by a signal from the musical director.

This statement, which has every appearance of being the truth, fixes the responsibility where I endeavoured, or at least intended, to place it, namely, on the conductor.

I was careful not to particularise in my remarks, and feel some curiosity to know the motive which prompted the *Westminster Gazette* to immediately interview my old friend François Cellier, who, it grieves me to find, was not astute enough to lay claim to being the "notable exception" to whom I referred in my lecture, instead of remarking that whoever I was aiming at, it was certainly not himself, as "Sir Arthur Sullivan was a perfect master of the situation"—a fact equally as patent as the fact that Sir Arthur does not conduct the Savoy orchestra.

I perfectly well remember the phrase from *Patience* to which Mr. Cellier alludes in his interview, and which I honestly believe I never once sang in tune; but I might remind him that although Sir Arthur "put in a strenuous note for the sole purpose of saving me from falling overboard" during this trying chromatic passage, Sir Arthur confessed that the passage was purposely introduced as a practical joke on me.

Since Mr. Cellier has in a way taken up the bâton in defence of my so-called "attack" (and no one knows better that himself what an "attack" should be), I would refer him, in all courtesy and good feeling, to one of the critiques of the latest revival of *Iolanthe*, where it was stated that "what with the brass on the stage and the brass in the orchestra it was impossible to hear a word that was sung, and the noise was deafening"; though this may possibly be taken by him as additional proof of his argument that "Sir Arthur was master of the situation."

I cannot help feeling that should you see fit to open your columns to a public discussion on the matter we should find many people who have the courage of their opinions supporting my argument, which is that, as a rule, the orchestral accompaniments in most theatres might, with advantage to artist and public, be somewhat modified in power.

It is a great personal satisfaction to me to know that Mr. Cellier, who, by the way, "personally conducted" me in *Pinafore* on my birthdays in January, 1879, and 1909, feels no sort of animosity to me for my "attack," and still remains my "lifebuoy of support" in Savoy opera.—Yours faithfully, RUTLAND BARRINGTON.

Savoy Theatre, Jan. 25.

"OUR MISS GIBBS."

Musical Play by "Cryptos," constructed by James T. Tanner; Lyrics by Adrian Ross and Percy Greenbank; Music by Ivan Caryll and Lionel Monckton; produced at the Gaiety Theatre on Saturday, Jan. 23.

Honourable Hughie Pierrepoint ..... MR. GEORGE GROSSMITH, JUN.
The Earl of St. Ives ..... MR. O. B. CLARENCE
Slithers ..... MR. ROBERT HALE
Mr. Toplady ..... MR. ARTHUR HATHERTON
Lord Eynsford ..... MR. J. EDWARD FRASER
Mr. Beavis ..... MR. J. A. EVELYN
A Taxi Cabby ..... MR. F. PAYNE
Mr. Amalfy ..... MR. H. B. BURCHER
Timothy Gibbs ..... MR. EDMUND PAYNE
Lady Elizabeth Thanet ..... MISS DENISE ORME
Mme. Jeanne ..... MISS JEAN AYLWIN
The Duchess of Minster ..... MISS GLADYS HOMFREY
Mrs. Farquhar ..... MISS MAISIE GAY
Clarita ..... MISS KITTY MASON
Nora ..... MISS OLIVE MAY
Sheilah ..... MISS ADELINE BALFE
Kathleen ..... MISS ROSIE BEGARNIE
Lady Connie ..... MISS GLADYS COOPER
Lady Sybil ..... MISS JULIA JAMES
Lady Trixie ..... MISS ENID LESLIE
Lady Angela ..... MISS CRISSY BELL
Lady Muriel ..... MISS SUZANNE SELBOURNE
Lady Gwen ..... MISS GERTIE THORNTON
Mary Gibbs ..... MISS GERTIE MILLAR

The reception of *Our Miss Gibbs* at the Gaiety left no room for any doubt of the success of the piece, and a long run for it is absolutely assured. The result has been secured by Mr. George Edwardes's genius for the production of musical plays. How he has managed, for these many years past, to keep the lamp of entertainment burning at the Gaiety is astonishing; but the fact remains, and another leaf was added to the laurels of the great Provider last Saturday. Whoever "Cryptos" may be, he is certainly inventive. The plot of *Our Miss Gibbs* is not only amusing; it is never entirely abandoned. When Mr. Edwardes has a weak scenario he knows—none better than he—how to bolster it up with accessories and embellishments; but he is wise enough to let a good story alone. The fun of the libretto of *Our Miss Gibbs* is obtained from the adventures of a countryman in London. Timothy Gibbs, a Yorkshire rustic, comes up to town to play in the brass band contest with a local band at the Crystal Palace. He is the cousin of Mary Gibbs, a very pretty and popular young lady, who presides over the flower department at "Garrod's" Stores. At this colossal establishment he meets with the Hon. Hughie Pierrepoint, an "amateur criminal," who is instructed by a professional "crook" called Slithers, a smart and plausible person of good appearance and address. Pierrepoint has stolen the Ascot Gold Cup, which has been won by the Earl of St. Ives, and is carrying the trophy about with him in an ordinary leather bag. This happens to be of the same size and pattern as Timothy's, and the bags are accidentally exchanged. When Timothy opens Pierrepoint's bag and finds the cup, the "crook" takes it away from him, and places it in the safe deposit of the establishment. Mary is not without her anxieties. She has been courted by and has fallen in love with a young man who has represented himself to be a bank clerk, but is really the Earl of St. Ives's son, Lord Eynsford. The Duchess of Minster wants to marry him to her daughter Lady Elizabeth Thanet, and comes to "Garrod's" with the Earl's solicitor, Mr. Beavis, to try and buy Mary off. As she thinks she knows nothing of Lord Eynsford Miss Gibbs is highly indignant, and the first act ends with her discovery of her lover's identity, her rejection of his pleadings and excuses, and her departure, with the rest of the leading characters, for the White City, under the wing of an impecunious lady of fashion whom she has helped to obtain some new frocks.

In the second act, at the White City, Timothy's troubles increase. He is implicated in the theft of the cup, and trembles when he reads in the papers that the thief is in London "disguised as a countryman," and that the Earl's bloodhounds have been sent to assist the police. So he dresses as a competitor for the Marathon race, and rushes wildly from the pursuit of imaginary dogs. In the end the Earl gets back his cup, and is so charmed with Miss Gibbs that he consents to the marriage; and Timothy, after so many troubles, returns to Yorkshire and peace.

A very important share in the success of last Saturday was taken by Miss Gertie Millar, who played Mary Gibbs with a gaiety and brightness that were delightful, and danced, sang, and acted with an animation and activity which kept things going when she was on the stage. The part is a pleasant one, and Miss Millar played it in just the right style, the clearness and distinctness of her delivery, and the artistic finish with which she made every point deserving very warm praise. She extracted every ounce of meaning out of the words of her songs, and her business with Mr. Payne, some of which in clumsy hands might easily have been made ugly or vulgar, was always pretty and feminine. She has seldom been seen to more advantage, and her success as Mary Gibbs certainly had a great deal to do with that of the play. Mr. Edmund Payne took full advantage of one of the funniest parts he has ever had written for him to be funnier than ever. The rôle of Timothy Gibbs fitted him like a glove; and we need say no more to infer that he was excruciatingly amusing. Mr. George Grossmith, always unimpeachable, reliable, and popular, again scored highly as the ridiculous "amateur criminal"; and Mr. Robert Hale gave a really polished light comedy sketch as the professional "crook." The engagement of Mr. O. B. Clarence, who excels in the embodiment of elderly aristocrats, gave plausibility to the part of the Earl of St. Ives, and a certain reality to the *dénouement;* and the rôle of the Stores manager was quietly but cleverly played by Mr. Arthur Hatherton. Mr. J. Edward Fraser as the serious and sentimental Lord Eynsford acted with earnestness and sang most expressively; and Mr. J. A. Evelyn gave a sound and careful performance as the family solicitor; Mr. H. B. Burcher doing good work as Mr. Amalfy and Mr. F. Payne being efficient as the taxi cabby. Miss Denise Orme was sweet, simple, and quaint as Lady Elizabeth Thanet, and sang and danced prettily; and Miss Jean Alwyn as the Scotch-French modiste, Mme. Jeanne, gave a piquant and artistic rendering of a well-conceived little character. Miss Gladys Homfrey as the Duchess of Minster was appropriately spacious, severe, and commanding; and Miss Maisie Gay contributed an agreeable impersonation of an impecunious "society lady."

The mounting was not only sumptuous, but extremely artistic. The Directoire dress and big hat crazes have been used as *motifs* upon which Signor Comelli, the designer of the costumes, has contrived a number of variations, all in exquisite taste, the colour-harmonies being full of skill and charm. Mr. Joseph Harker has been most successful with the Garrod's Stores interior of the first act, a marvellous piece of building up and stage realism. Mr. Ivan Caryll and Mr. Lionel Monckton have supplied a score full of gaiety, animation, and merry music; and Mr. James Tanner's work in constructing the play must not be overlooked. The lyrics by Messrs. Adrian Ross and Percy Greenbank are especially effective—neat, crisp, and pleasantly pointed. Miss Millar's Yorkshire song, for instance, is capital, and her duet, with business, with Mr. Payne is equally good. Miss Alwyn's "Hats" ditty is smart; and the sextette, "Don't forget you are a gentleman," is decidedly humorous. One of the most "haunting" melodies in the score is that sung by a chorus of ladies and gentlemen, who wheel each other about in the invalid chairs so familiar to frequenters of the White City; and Miss Denise Orme has a pretty song, "Arms and the Man," in which she is assisted by the chorus. The entertainment teems with telling "musical numbers"; and one of the brightest is a trio sung by Miss Olive May, Miss Rosie Begarnie, and Miss Adeline Balfe, who are full of vivacity and archness as three Irish colleens. The enthusiasm at the close of the performance was great; and vociferous calls testified to the triumph of the new musical play, which was unanimous and undeniable.

"SAMSON."

Drama, in Four Acts, by Henry Bernstein, played for the first time in Great Britain at the Grand Theatre, Swansea, on Monday, Jan. 25.

Jacques Brachard ..... MR. BOURCHIER
Jerome Le Govain ..... MR. CHARLES BRYANT
Marquis d'Andeline ..... MR. ARTHUR WHITBY
Maximilien ..... MR. KENNETH DOUGLAS
Flach ..... MR. LEON QUARTERMAINE
Marcel de Fontenay ..... MR. BERTRAM FORSYTH
Jean ..... MR. WILLIAM BURCHILL
Josef ..... MR. CHARLES VERNON
Zambo ..... MR. ALFRED BRISTOWE
Waiters ..... MR. DOUGLAS IMBERT, MR. NEWTON DUNNE
Marquise d'Andeline ..... MISS MARY WEIGALL
Elise Vernette ..... MISS EDYTH LATIMER
Suzanne Delgarde ..... MISS MARGARET VIVIAN
Clotilde ..... MISS PAMELA GAYTHORNE
Anne-Marie Brachard ..... MISS VIOLET VANBRUGH

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

That *Samson* will take London by storm, as it did Paris and New York, is the unanimous opinion of Swansea people after seeing Mr. Arthur Bourchier's production at the Grand Theatre, Swansea, this week. For Mr. Bourchier has given us a play which must be classed among the greatest of modern dramas. The story is this. Jacques Brachard, once a dockman, now a millionaire, eager to get into that inner circle of society where even his money cannot place him, marries Anne-Marie, a daughter of the Marquis and Marquise d'Andeline, one of the oldest of French families. Notwithstanding his wealth and regard for his wife, he cannot gain her affection. Discovering the identity of her lover, he determines to kill him—not mortally, but financially. This he does, but in so doing not only ruins his enemy, but is himself involved in the catastrophe. Hence the title *Samson*, which recalls the blind rage of the Biblical hero who pulled down the temple upon himself and his enemies, but with this difference, that Brachard, though a ruined man, gains the love which he had done so much to obtain, and which more than solaces him for his shattered fortune. The first act introduces the Marquis d'Andeline and his wife, who sold their daughter to Jacques Brachard; and Jerome Le Govain, the man who, having enriched himself through the hero, tries to steal his wife. Govain tempts Mme. Brachard to spend the night with him. Brachard is advised not to go to London, but to stay and keep watch on his wife. In the next act Brachard discovers his wife's duplicity. Finding that subterfuge is useless, and disgusted with the behaviour of Govain, who shows himself a libertine of the lowest class, she tells her husband the truth, that she had been sold to him, and that she did not, and could not, love him. Act III. is remarkable for the brutal frankness with which Elise Vernette tells Brachard of the vile orgy to which Govain had taken his wife (and from which she escaped). It is here that Brachard makes his grim resolve to ruin Govain. The latter, who is conscious of his ruin, and Brachard, gloating upon his revenge, abuse each other. Govain's cries of "Dockman," "Cur," drowned by the triumphant tones of Brachard's "You are a pauper," end a great act, at the close of which tumultuous applause was showered on the artists. The final act shows Brachard ruined, but secure now of his wife's love, "Samson" being more than satisfied with his fearful revenge.

Mr. Bourchier realised absolutely the Jacques Brachard that M. Bernstein conceived, and with the art that conceals art gave a wonderfully lifelike impersonation of the self-made millionaire, rising to wonderful heights of dramatic effect in the third act. Miss Violet Vanbrugh had not many opportunities as Anne-Marie Brachard, but in her love scene with Govain, in the first act, and again with her husband in the second, she achieved a triumph that must enhance her high reputation. Another outstanding character was that of Jerome Le Govain, which was played by Mr. Charles Bryant, who realised to the utmost the author's conception. Miss Edyth Latimer had no easy task in portraying the part of Elise Vernette; but she played with telling effect, and her reading of the rôle was always excellent. What comedy there was was supplied by Mr. Kenneth Douglas as Maximilien d'Andeline in excellent style. As the Marquis and Marquise d'Andeline Mr. Arthur Whitby and Miss Mary Weigall played together finely, the latter part being especially good. All the minor characters were in excellent hands, and the staging, dressing, &c., were up to the standard of the acting, and a performance finished in every detail was given. M. Bernstein is to be congratulated on his work, as is also Mr. Bourchier upon its production.

A VERY successful performance of the evergreen *Doctor Bill* was given at King's Hall, Covent Garden, on Saturday evening by Mrs. Edward Sondheim and friends in aid of the Mansion House Messina Earthquake Fund. An excellent concert preceded the performance, to which several well-known artists kindly contributed. A special feature of the programme was the artistic rendering of the "Melodie Caprice" by the celebrated composer Signor Tito Mattei, which elicited vociferous applause from the large audience.

IN the farce which followed some very commendable performances were given, Mrs. Sondheim acting capably as the irrepressible Mrs. Horton, the charming costumes and gowns worn by this lady arousing great admiration. Miss Vera Bull as Jennie Firman played with a simple girlish grace and naïveté which won all hearts; and Miss Ida Sondheim as Louisa Brown won great praise in a difficult rôle. Miss Essie Hucks is to be congratulated on her clever rendering of Ellen, the servant, and Miss Dollie Linde as Miss Fauntleroy, the actress, was capital. Apparently the youngest of the sketch, Miss Linde was perfectly self-possessed, and the natural way in which she played her part made one regret that she had not more to do. General excellence was displayed by the gentlemen taking part in the piece, which was capably produced and stage-managed under the direction of Mr. G. W. Hodgson, assisted by Mr. W. H. Page. During the evening selections were played by the Blue Hungarian Band, and each of the lady artists was presented by Mr. Sondheim with a magnificent bouquet. As a result of the concert the Mansion House Fund will benefit to the extent of over £200, a result upon which Mr. and Mrs. Sondheim are to be heartily congratulated.

"THE FLAG LIEUTENANT" reaches its 250th performance at the Playhouse on Tuesday.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"REVOLUTIONS-HOCHZEIT,"

Play, in Three Acts, by Sophus Michaelis, produced at the Hebbel Theatre, Jan. 21.

Alaine ..... FRAULEIN ROLAND
Ernest ..... HERR OTTO
Di Bartas ..... HERR LUTTJOHANN
Abbé Copin ..... HERR KARSTEN
Léontine ..... FRAULEIN BERGER
Jérome ..... HERR VON WOLZOGEN
Prosper ..... HERR WLACH
Montapoup ..... HERR NISSEN
Davout ..... HERR PRAGER
Marc-Arron ..... HERR KAYSSLER
Lasque ..... HERR HERZFELD

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, Jan. 28.—The action of this tragic play, which is translated from the Danish, passes in France at the time of the Revolution. The young châtelaine of Trionville Castle, near Condé, the beautiful Alaine, has just been married to Ernest, her betrothed since their childhood days. Suddenly the castle is surrounded by Jacobins, and Ernest is condemned to execution within a few minutes. The Commander, Marc-Arron, however, consents to let him pass the wedding night with his bride, deferring the execution till the morrow. The unhappy man passes the hours in lamentations, and Alaine's feelings are wrought upon to such an extent that she implores Marc-Arron to let him escape. The Commander is at first inexorable, but finally falls a victim to Alaine's beauty, and agrees to her proposal to allow him to take the bridegroom's place. The cowardly Ernest gets away, and now the unexpected happens: Alaine falls as passionately in love with the Jacobin captain as he with her, and although both know that the hours of the latter are numbered, they are happy in the short time left them. Next morning Marc-Arron takes time by the forelock, and gives his soldiers orders to fire upon him for having allowed the Royalist to escape, and upon her lover's dead body Alaine falls in a faint that we may conclude will prove fatal. The piece, despite its numerous faults, has some effective scenes, and was very cordially received. Acting and mounting were excellent.

SIGNORA DUSE commenced a short season last week at the Chamber Playhouse of the Deutsches, appearing as Ella in Ibsen's *John Gabriel Borkman*. It is a matter of regret to all German admirers of the famous actress that she insists on playing Ibsen so often, the Northern characters—according to the opinion of the Press and public—being entirely unsuited to her marked Southern individuality. The opening night was not a success from any point of view. The house, small though it is, was nothing like full, and the star herself was most inadequately supported. In *Die Frau vom Meere* on Saturday night Mme. Duse was more successful, and there was a far better audience, as also in *Gioconda*.

"DIE FREMDE FRAU" (la femme X——), Alexandre Bisson's dramatic play, was received with unbounded enthusiasm at the Neues on Friday last. The author, who had come from Paris for the occasion, was called more times than I can remember before the curtain and applauded to the echo. The piece no doubt being known to your readers, a detailed account will be superfluous. It was magnificently acted in the title-rôle by Frau Rosa Bertens, and that eminent artist was satisfactorily supported all round.

AT the Schiller Theatre, Charlottenburg, *Charley's Tante* is being given three nights a week to crowded houses. It is admirably acted, and the immortal comedy delights the audience as much as it did in the first days of its production at the Thalia.

THE production of *Elektra* at the Royal Opera, Dresden, was, as was only to be expected, a great and well-deserved triumph for the composer, who was called times innumerable, and enthusiastically cheered. The music is reported overpowering in parts, bizarre to grotesqueness, but most fascinating and imposing—in a word, a genuine Strauss. In a few days we shall be able to judge for ourselves, the Berlin performance being fixed for Feb. 8. The Dresden house was crowded to the ceiling, a most distinguished and representative audience being present, with musical critics from all parts of the world. Dr. Strauss did not conduct, but the Royal Opera Kapellmeister Schuch was a splendid substitute, and fully deserved the ovation that fell to his lot. The composer embraced him on the stage in sight of the audience, who cheered themselves hoarse. As to the vocal and orchestral interpretation, both appear to have been above all praise. Frau Krull in the name-part, Frau Schumann-Heinck in the rôle of Klytemnestra, and Herr Perron were called almost as many times as the composer.

"THE DRAMATIST AT HOME."

Comedy, in One Act, by Keble Howard, produced at the Vaudeville Theatre on Saturday afternoon, Jan. 23.

Ralph ..... MR. LESLIE FABER
Margery ..... MRS. LESLIE FABER

Hitherto, like Mr. A. W. Pinero and Mr. Henry Arthur Jones in their early years as dramatists, Mr. Keble Howard has been content to give us one-act pieces; and we have been invariably interested by his modest work for the stage—so interested, indeed, that when he decides to "spread" himself, as it were, we think the author of "The Smiths of Surbiton" should be able to write an excellent three-act comedy. Our opinion is prompted by the enjoyment we derived from the neat dialogue and refined and delicate humour of *The Dramatist at Home*, which was produced at the Vaudeville Theatre on the afternoon of Saturday last in front of Rudolf Besier's powerful piece, *Olive Latimer's Husband*. Ralph, who has been responsible for successful plays, has reached a thorny situation in the piece that he is writing. A husband tells his wife that their marriage is a mistake: that they are not a bit suited to each other. How should the wife treat this declaration? He is resolved to try the situation on Margery, who comes to his study. When he blurts out the unwelcome confession of the imaginary husband of the play, Margery neither treats him to a burst of indignation nor a flood of tears. She is cool, level-headed, even bantering. It is Ralph that shows temper and want of dignity. Bouncing out of the room for the purpose of looking at the bedroom fire, he gives Margery the opportunity for reading his manuscript. She soon finds a solution to the situation in the play which she thinks will add to its humour, and writing it down hurriedly, pins the sheet of copy to the lamp-shade. Switching off the lights, she reclines on the sofa, hides her face behind a cushion, and pretends to sleep. Ralph returns and reads the additions to his MS. He then understands what a real help to him is Margery, who immediately takes him in her arms when he asks for forgiveness for his stupidity. Possibly Margery will in future collaborate with him.

The *petite* comedy was beautifully played. The young wife had a gracious and pretty representative in Mrs. Leslie Faber, whom we hope to see more often on the London stage. She is endowed with a charming voice, and the playfulness of her rendering was delightful. Mr. Leslie Faber played, too, with all the necessary irritability, and the piece was very heartily received by a good house. *The Dramatist at Home* is a decided acquisition to the limited number of amusing curtain-raisers.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

MR. FRANK ALLEN, the popular assisting-director and chief of the staff of the Moss, Stoll, Thornton, and Allen Theatres Amalgamated, was the recipient of letters of congratulation from his hosts of friends and members of his staff on the occasion of his birthday on Thursday.

IN the settlement of the action for libel brought by Mr. George Gray against the V.A.F., it was agreed to pay that gentleman £100 as damages, to be handed over to some professional charity. The V.A.F. have sent a cheque for the amount to Mr. Gray, who has handed it over to the Actors' Orphanage Fund.

MISS DECIMA MOORE, who recently made her *début* on the variety stage at the Tivoli, Manchester, was re-engaged there after the second night, and was booked also for Glasgow and Belfast. We have had distinguished Savoyards on the variety stage in Messrs. Rutland Barrington, George Grossmith, and Henry Lytton, but Miss Moore is the first lady of that succession of brilliant artists, and also the first member of a distinguished family, to try vaudeville. Her sisters include Misses Eva, Jessie, and Mme. Bertha Moore. When are we to see "Miss Decima" at the West End halls?

MISS MAUD ALLAN has now sufficiently recovered from the result of the recent serious accident to her ankle to enable her to make her reappearance at the Palace Theatre. Mr. Alfred Butt has arranged for her reappearance at a special matinée on Friday next. On Monday, Feb. 8, she commences a short engagement of four weeks, during which she may present some new dances.

MR. AND MRS. JOHN E. NASH (Lil Hawthorne) sailed for America on the s.s. Majestic, White Star Line, from Southampton on Wednesday. Miss Hawthorne received many wires and some beautiful flowers from her friends, including Mrs. Eugene Stratton, Mrs. Fred Ginnett, Miss Belle Elmore, and Miss Melinda May, who was there to see her off and wish her bon voyage.

MR. GEORGE ROBEY organised a grand charity football match on Monday at Ibrox Park, ground of the Rangers F.C. The competing teams were Manchester United and a selected eleven of Glasgow footballers from the Rangers, Celtic, Clyde, &c. The proceedings commenced with a "Marathon" race from the Theatre Royal to the football field, about forty competitors taking part. The match ended in a draw, no goals each, Mr. Robey putting in some good work for Manchester United.

THE attendance was good, about 12,000 spectators being present, and a sum of £330 will be available for charity, 10 per cent. of which, by request of Mr. Robey, is allotted to the Salvation Army, as the organisation most likely to reach those on the lowest stratum of distress. In the evening the prizes were presented on the stage at the Royal, amid great enthusiasm, all the best players, English and Scotch, being heartily applauded. Mrs. George Robey (Miss Ethel Haydon) was an interested spectator of the proceedings.

"THE QUEEN OF THE FAIRIES" is the name of the sketch in which Miss Elise Craven, the wonderful child dancer in *Pinkie and the Fairies* at His Majesty's, will make her début at the Coliseum. The piece is by Mr. Sidney Blow.

AFTER providing for debenture interest, directors' fees, and commission, the Alhambra directorate state that the net profit for the year 1908 amounts to £7,531 16s. 11d., and with £6,213 2s. 4d., the amount brought forward, the net balance to the credit of revenue is £13,744 19s. 3d. The directors of the Alhambra Theatre recommend that an amount of £3,000 be appropriated to the Alterations, Additions, and Improvements Account, that a dividend of 10 per cent. (free of Income Tax) for the year ending Dec. 31, 1908, being £6,000, be now paid, and that the balance, £4,744 19s. 3d., be carried forward to the next account. The director retiring by rotation is Mr. R. S. Bathe, who, being eligible, offers himself for re-election.

AT the Alhambra Theatre on Monday Schichtl's Wonderful Marionettes, a veritable mannikin theatre, one of the most successful shows in Paris and Berlin, will be seen for the first time in England; and Frank Lawton, the eccentric whistler and bone soloist, will also make his first appearance at the house on the same evening, which will be identified with the return of L'Incognita, the popular vocalist, with an entirely fresh répertoire.

IT behoves artists who have to leave their houses unprotected to entrust their valuables to a burglar-proof safe, or, better still, to the custody of their bankers. Miss Muir and Mr. Bartlett have realised the wisdom of this course a little late in the day. On Friday evening last (Mr. Bartlett being in the provinces), Miss Muir having left for business at the Palace, Walthamstow, their house in Ham Park-road, West Ham, was raided by burglars, who ransacked the place from roof to cellar, and got away with a goodly sum in cash and a number of valuables.

AT a recent meeting of the Finsbury Borough Council Mr. Bassett explained that the inscription had become illegible on the tombstone of Joseph Grimaldi, the celebrated clown, whose grave is situated in the recreation ground adjoining the church of St. James, Pentonville-hill, and he asked whether the renovation of the same could be paid for out of the borough funds. Mr. G. W. Preston, the Town Clerk, said that the question should receive his attention. The recreation ground, which now includes Grimaldi's grave, was originally a portion of the actual churchyard of St. James.

A NOVEL roller skating performance, secured by the directors of the Empire Theatre, is to be carried out on an unusually large scale. The scene is to be in Holland in the winter, and the Dutch men and girls skating in national costume should give a picturesque and charming effect. Amongst those appearing in the performance is the world-renowned champion skater Video. This gentleman created the greatest interest when practising the other day at one of the biggest London rinks.

MR. ALFRED MOUL, the managing-director of the Alhambra, is the author of *La Petite Bohemienne*, in which La Belle Leonora is scoring so unmistakably at that house. In his time Mr. Moul has filled the position of musical critic, and years ago won fame as a composer. Several of his works have achieved considerable popularity, but *La Petite Bohemienne* is his first attempt at inventing the scenario of a "pantomime."

A MAMMOTH benefit is being organised by the directors of the Empress Roller Skating Rink, Earl's Court, for the benefit of the widow of Police-constable Tyler, who lost his life in the Tottenham shooting affray last Saturday. The function, in which the entire police force of the metropolis is taking the keenest interest, is fixed for Friday evening next, Feb. 5, at 7 o'clock. Admission will be as on ordinary nights, but it is hoped that the number of skaters who will flock to Earl's Court for this deserving object will be of such magnitude that a substantial sum will be handed over to Sir Edward Henry, under whose patronage and approval it will be held.

THE Pavilion on Clacton Pier has been leased for the ensuing summer season by the well-known entertainment syndicate of which Mr. Paul Mill is a director.

THE directors of the Harrogate Grand Opera House Company, at the company's annual meeting last week, presented a gratifying state of affairs, and recommended a dividend of 7½ per cent. and a 2½ per cent. bonus. The recommendation was unanimously adopted.

THE Corporation of Southend invite offers for entertainments in the East Parade Bandstand, on the sea front, for one or three years from Easter Saturday, April 10 to Oct. 2 (Sundays excluded). Full particulars of nature of entertainment must be given, and sealed offers, endorsed "East Parade Bandstand," must be sent to Mr. H. J. Worwood (Town Clerk pro tem.), Southend-on-Sea, not later than Wednesday, Feb. 10.

THE Urban District Council of Llandudno invite tenders for a three years' lease of the ground used for minstrel performances, adjoining the Happy Valley, Llandudno, commencing Easter, 1910. Printed particulars may be obtained from Mr. A. Conolly, Clerk to the Council, Town Hall, Llandudno. Tenders, endorsed "Happy Valley," must be sent not later than Wednesday, Feb. 24.

MESSRS. MILTON BODE AND EDWARD COMPTON, proprietors of the Royalty Theatre, Chester, have this week purchased a large site situated in City-road, Chester, on which they are going to build a Hippodrome to hold 3,000, to be run on first-class variety lines on the twice-nightly system. Plans are being prepared by Mr. William Lockwood, architect, Chester, and as soon as they are passed building operations will commence.

MR. J. H. WHITTAKER, musical conductor at the Grand Theatre, Birmingham, celebrated his birthday last Wednesday by giving a supper to the members of his orchestra. The function took place after the second show at the Market Hotel, a well-known professional staying place, where the host, Mr. James Rowlands, pleased everybody with his fine catering.

AFTER supper the chairman, Mr. Edward Foster, resident-manager of the Grand, "spoke a line," and the utmost harmony marked the proceedings. Mr. Harry Lucas (Grand), Mr. A. W. Matcham (Empire), and a few more intimate friends were present, each testifying to the esteem in which Mr. Whittaker is held, and the members of the orchestra added their tribute. Mr. Whittaker has now been in Birmingham nearly eleven years, during which he has developed into one of its leading musicians and citizens.

THE proprietors of the People's Palace, Bristol, are always ready to lend that hall for charity, and it was packed on Wednesday afternoon, when a special matinée was given on behalf of the sufferers by the earthquake in Southern Italy. Practically every seat was occupied, and amongst those present were the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Bristol, the Sheriff and Mrs. Stanley Badock, and Sir George and Lady White. The Lady Mayoress was presented by Mrs. Horace Livermore with a bouquet of choice flowers, whilst bouquets were also presented to Mrs. Stanley Badock and Lady White.

THE programme was, as usual, supported by leading artists in the two pantomimes, Miss Ouida MacDermott and Mr. Bransby Williams, from the Prince's, and Miss Ethel Hall (principal boy), Miss Marie Free (principal girl), Mr. Frank Hemming, and Mr. Frank Victor, from the Theatre Royal, being all greeted with loud applause, the three ladies receiving bouquets.

CHARCOT was specially engaged at Brighton last week by Mr. Barrasford, and topped the bill. His success was so great that Mr. Barrasford immediately offered him all his halls at a great increase in salary, and also engaged him to star this week at the Hippodrome, Leeds, where he is again meeting with triumphant success.

MR. REG. WISHART has again taken the lease of the Ryde Pier Pavilion, and made arrangements with the company to admit patrons to the Pavilion not only toll free, but also to convey them to and from the Pavilion on the electric cars free of charge.

MR. S. GARRATT terminates to-day a five years' lease of the Pavilion, Ilkley. During the last three years the Pavilion has been open continuously, and has been a popular attraction for residents and visitors alike. The Royal Magnets conclude a thirteen weeks' engagement to-night, and have been very successful with their up-to-date performances. Mr. Garratt to-night has a grand farewell night. The new lessee (Mr. Frank Barrow) takes possession on Monday next.

ALTERATIONS and improvements on a lavish scale are contemplated at the Tynemouth Palace, which will be transformed into a fine theatre and concert hall, capable of seating 2,000, with standing room for another 1,000 persons. To the present flat concert hall floor will be given a "rake" to enable all to see the stage, and the orchestra and pit stalls will be handsome velvet tip-up chairs. The old side galleries will be cleared out, and a new curved gallery erected, on steel cantilevers, capable of seating 800.

THE charity matinée at the Glasgow Pavilion on Friday, the 22nd inst., in aid of the Italian Disaster Fund, proved a great success, and over £150 was realised. Under the able direction of ex-Bailie Connell and Mr. Samuel Lloyd, general-manager of the Pavilion, a magnificent programme of over thirty turns was arranged, and a bumper house included the Lord Provost of Glasgow and his lady, supported by many members of the Town Council.

THE artists who gave their services, in addition to the entire company on this week's bill, included George Robey, Harry Dent, Violet Lorraine, Iris Hoey, Meg Hamylton, and Willie Garvie from the Theatre Royal; Whit Cunliffe, George French, and Barry Lupino from the Grand; Ella Retford, Flo Cromer, Fraser and Haley, Walker and Lake, and Peter Bermingham, from the Princess's; Gertrude Lester, Ethel Wilson, W. H. Rawlins, and George Gregory from *Havana* at the King's; Maie Ash, Marie Selma, Stanley Brett, and G. Dewey Gibson from the *Gay Gordons*, at the Royalty; and the cream of the talent from the variety theatres.

A SPECIAL matinée was given at the Victoria Hall, York, on Wednesday, in aid of the Lord Mayor's Distress Fund. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress (Alderman and Mrs. Birch) arrived at the hall just before the commencement of the entertainment, and on being received by Councillor Sidney Bacon, director of the Hall, and Mr. Bert Rutter, the manager, took their seats along with Councillor Lambert amidst loud applause from the audience. First-class animated pictures were shown, and many local artists contributed to the programme. During the afternoon Councillor Lambert, on behalf of Mr. Bacon, handed to the Lord Mayor the proceeds of the afternoon's performance, and the Lord Mayor thanked Mr. Bacon and Mr. Rutter for their kindness, and assured them that both the Lady Mayoress and himself had thoroughly enjoyed the performance.

MR. HARRY DACRE has forwarded a cheque for £2 for the Primrose Fund.

ARRANGEMENTS have now been completed for the tenth grand Bohemian smoking concert at the Vaudeville Club to-morrow (Sunday), at 9.30 p.m. King Rat Fred Ginnett will preside.

MR. VICTOR WOMACK, the brother of Mr. George Womack, stage manager of the Oxford, passed away on Wednesday at the age of twenty, from consumption. The funeral takes place on Monday from 29, Ballater-road, Acre-lane, Brixton.

MR. MOWBRAY ROBINSON, professionally known as Charles Mowbray, the husband of Maude Vena, has just passed away after a painful illness of seven years. Miss Vena desires to thank her friends for the numerous messages of condolence that she has received.

MISS KITTER RAYBURN has been so successful as the principal boy in Mr. Brydon Phillips's production of *Red Riding Hood* at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, that she has been re-engaged to play a similar part next Christmas.

THE Tivoli team have been deposed from their pride of place in the Music Hall and Theatrical Football League competition, the first position being now filled by Holborn Empire, who have played ten matches, Stoke Newington being, for the present, the runners-up.

MISS MADGE MARTIN, who is responsible for the successful ballets at the Coronet and Kennington Theatres, and also for those at the Court, Liverpool, the Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, is exploiting a number of dancing troupes, whose work is noted for grace, aplomb, and versatility.

VASCO, the mad musician, who returned from America last week, has filled in all his open time with Mr. Thomas Barrasford. He will start at Nottingham on Monday, and returns to the Empire, where he scored such a pronounced success last year, in May.

WILLIAM LE BRUN, of Drury Lane fame, having dissolved partnership with George Queen, is busy preparing his new act, in conjunction with Miss Mabelle Morgan, of J. C. Williamson's comic opera and pantomime companies. The act is written by Bert Gilbert and composed by George Hall, and is considered one of the most novel and original ever produced in a variety theatre.

MISS MEG HAMILTON and Mr. Jack Cromo were happily married at Glasgow on Monday. The bride is at present giving a charming impersonation of Dandini at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, while the bridegroom is playing Dame in Mr. John Hart's pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Bradford. Thus on the stage their identities are reversed, the girl being the "boy" and the boy the "girl." Hearty congratulations!

THE song "Under my big umbrella," which has become so popular, and sung by Miss Ray Maskell, was written by that well-known comedian Ted E. Box and Phil Mervyn. The big firm, Francis, Day, and Hunter, secured it at once for publishing. Miss Ray Maskell is well booked up, and is rapidly negotiating for 1910-11.

MR. EDWARD COMPTON paid a visit to Northampton three weeks ago, with the result that it is announced that Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton will build a music hall in Northampton as soon as a suitable and central freehold site can be obtained.

MR. SAM POLUSKI, of the Poluski Brothers, who are the leading comedians in the Kennington pantomime of *Red Riding Hood*, still retains possession of the little girl who was left in the care of an attendant at the theatre by a young woman a fortnight since. Mr. Poluski has received several offers to adopt the child from people of considerable means whose sympathies have been aroused by the story, but he has no intention of parting with the foundling except to the mother. Unless the latter proves her claim Mr. Poluski intends bringing the baby up with his own children, with whom she has already made herself quite at home.

MISS BERTHA STUART, the favourite character vocalist, who is paying her fifth visit to Glasgow within two years, is again meeting with wonderful success. Besides working the Coliseum she is deputising nightly at the Empire for the top of the bill, and is recalled again and again.

SOME of the incidents in connection with Miss Violet Charlesworth's adventures should be capable of a humorous interpretation, and we may expect a smart little burlesque from the pen of the versatile author Mr. Cayley Calvert which will make its appeal to a West End variety audience on Monday week.

THE case of Miss Flora Lington is a very sad one. The poor sufferer is in consumption, her husband is blind, having suffered from that terrible affliction for the past five years, and there are two children to keep. By the goodness of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, Miss Lington is at the National Sanatorium, Bournemouth. It is necessary to keep her there a month longer, and the cost is £5. If any member of the profession who knew Miss Lington as a performer would like to contribute this sum it will be gladly received and acknowledged by Mr. F. H. Pedgrift at *The Era* office.

THE Six Albyns, in their comedy singing act, *The Squire's Hunting Party*, which is magnificently staged, make up a combination of first-class vocalists and comedians. They have been making a success on the road, and next week appear at the Empire, Wolverhampton. They return to London on March 1 for the Gibbons halls.

LA MILO returns to the Hackney Empire next week in an entirely new répertoire, including some of the most renowned subjects from the famous Continental galleries. La Milo has won the approval of over sixty "Watch Committees," in many instances being cheered and commended by the magistrates, who came as critics but departed as converts; and she has strengthened her position by a continuous record of houses packed to the doors.

THE greatest difficulty of an aspirant to the vaudeville stage is to get a fair start. Therefore it was not surprising to find that something like 160 entries were received for the Music Hall Aspirants' Competition, which was held at Fun City on Friday evening last week. A large percentage of those who had entered duly turned up to give their turn, and the competition was carried on in the keenest manner for over two hours, the judging being in the hands of well-known London agents.

MANY of the competitors suffered from stage-fright, and owing to nervousness could not do themselves justice, but many excellent turns were seen, and it was only after some deliberation that Mr. Jack de Frece and his fellow judges awarded the first prize to George Shirley, a comedian of the old school, and the second prize to Bert Edwards, an uncommonly clever whistler. George Shirley consequently secured an engagement on the De Frece tour, and Edwards is this week contributing to the variety entertainment at Fun City.

THE sympathies of our readers will go out to Mr. Pony Moore, the veteran minstrel, who to-day deplores the loss of his beloved wife, helpmeet, and companion of many years. Mrs. Moore passed away on Tuesday at Camberwell House, where she had been a patient for some six weeks. Deceased was removed to Moore House, Finchley-road, on Wednesday.

THE funeral took place yesterday at Brompton, the cortege leaving Moore House, Finchley, at noon, and arriving at the cemetery about a quarter to one o'clock, where the service at the graveside was conducted by the Rev. G. W. Mackie. The principal maurners were Mr. G. W. (Pony) Moore, Mr. and Miss Newman, Mrs. C. Mitchell (all of whom occupied the first carriage); Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Stratton and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Elvin in the second carriage; the Misses D. and E. Mitchell, Mr. C. Mitchell, and Mrs. Newman, third carriage; Mr. and Mrs. Paul Martinetti and Mr. and Mrs. Boyer, fourth carriage; Miss D. Freear, Mr. and Mrs. Baker and Lizzie, a maid, in the fifth carriage. In addition to these, Mr. Alfred Martinetti was also at the graveside.

THE husband's floral tribute consisted of a square block of white flowers, across which the words "At Rest" were pricked in violets. A card attached bore the message, "From dear old Poppa to his loving Loo." Other wreaths came from Mr. and Mrs. Joe Elvin, Mr. and Mrs. Newman, Miss L. Newman, "Vic, Elsie, and Doris," Mr. and Mrs. Beyer, Dr. and Mrs. Cripper, Dr. McEvoy, Mr. and Mrs. Martinetti, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ginnett, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Stratton, Mr. and Mrs. Mote, and Mr. Geo. Fuller. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Messrs. E. B. Ashton & Co., of 235, Fulham-road.

MR. HENRY HERNE and Miss Ida Millais are meeting with much success on tour with their water-sensation episode *Blackmail*, and reopen in London after a lengthy absence on March 8.

MILITARY pictures on the bioscope always create interest with the British public, and those nightly to be seen at the Empire Theatre, showing the review at Aldershot, with the English troops marching to the air of "The Grenadier Guard," the Welsh to "The Men of Harlech," and the Scotchmen to "The Cock of the North" are arousing great enthusiasm.

THE Palace Theatre, Belfast, which has been run for some time as a variety theatre, will reopen on Monday as a first-class theatre under its original title, the Grand Opera House. Miss Ada Reeve's company in *Butterflies* will be the opening attraction.

THE first meeting of the shareholders in the Coliseum Syndicate, Ltd., will be held on Wednesday next, when the report for 1908 will be presented. This shows that the profit from the theatre is £26,644, to which has to be added the interest on deposits and investments, transfer fees and rents, amounting to £937.

THE Brighton Casino and Marine Palace Bill passed the Examiner for Standing Order Proofs at the House of Commons on Wednesday, and will be heard in the usual way when the House meets. There are fifty-eight clauses in the Bill. The preamble states that the making and maintaining of the pier and approach pier, with a marine palace, pavilion, casino, or winter gardens thereon, would be of benefit to the inhabitants of Brighton, and the general public visiting the town and neighbourhood.

IT is proposed to construct a pier or approach commencing nearly opposite West-street, and extending southwards for a distance of about eight chains, and from the end of that a pier or staging extending about eight chains seawards in a southerly direction. At the end will be a platform on which it is proposed to erect a marine palace, pavilion, casino, and winter garden, with assembly, concert, refreshment, bath, and other rooms. The capital of the company is put at £250,000 in £1 shares, and the borrowing powers of the company on mortgage are limited to £62,000.

THE Brighton Town Council has already instructed its Parliamentary agents to enter an opposition, and the committee of townsmen acting under Lord Rendel and Sir Henry Kimber is preparing to organise a vigorous defence of public rights in the foreshore and an uninterrupted view of the sea. Further opposition is threatened by the boating interests, and it is certain the West Pier Company will at once take steps to contest the Bill.

THE 593rd meeting of the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association was held on Wednesday, with Mr. George B. Sinclair in the chair. Others in attendance were W. H. Atlas, H. Cee Mee, Bernard Stavordale, T. C. Callaghan, John Alexander, Chas. Preston, and C. Douglas Stuart (secretary). The Secretary was instructed to express the condolence of the committee to the relatives of the late Joe Lawrence, and to send a wreath on behalf of the M.H.A.R.A. The weekly statement showed an increase of 40 new members, and receipts of £59 16s. 6d.

THE directors of the Canterbury and Paragon Music Halls on Tuesday informed Mrs. Carrie Nation through her agent that they could not permit her to appear at their theatres, as serious disturbances were feared. Information had been received that some roughs might even have resorted to bottle throwing. Mrs. Nation said she understood the directors' position, but would stand firm for her cause.

PERCY HONRI'S forthcoming production of *Concordia* at the Oxford on Feb. 15 promises to create a record as the best-dressed production ever set before a music hall audience. Over 600 dresses are carried. Mr. W. T. Hemsley has painted a novel setting for Mr. Honri's "Moon Song," in which will be introduced an extraordinary moon dance by six ladies wearing scintillating costumes and "chuff-chuff" bonnets. Each dress is composed of over 30,000 sequins and a wonderful arrangement of electric lighting.

LAST Saturday afternoon, during the performance of *Dick Whittington* at the Coronet Theatre, a pretty little incident occurred. Miss Constance Hyem, as Dick, had just reached the part where the hero finds himself alone, friendless and homeless. Miss Hyem had just exclaimed, "Even my pussy has deserted me," when a bright little boy jumped up, and holding up a Teddy bear he had been nursing, shouted out at the top of his voice, "Never mind your pussy—have my bear." Miss Hyem rose to the occasion, and accepted the gift, "gagging" to the finish with it. After the performance she returned the bear to the little fellow with her best thanks and a keepsake.

MISS MAY AUDREY, who came to the variety stage from musical comedy, passed away on Tuesday morning, to the deep regret of a large circle of friends. She was only twenty-eight. She was appearing at the Theatre Royal, Oldham, where she contracted a chill, but in spite of this she insisted on making the journey to Birkenhead, where she was taken seriously ill on her arrival. She succumbed to double pneumonia. About eighteen months since she made her first appearance before a music hall audience with Harry Lauder in "Ma Scotch Bluebell," and had fulfilled a most successful engagement in South Africa with the Hyman management. She was due to open at the Oxford next month.

MISS CECILIA LOFTUS, having recovered from a severe attack of bronchitis, has left for the Riviera under medical advice to recuperate.

THE first annual general meeting of the Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund will be held next Wednesday at 1 o'clock, at the Bedford Head, Maiden-lane, with Joe Elvin in the chair. The meeting will consider the committee's report for the past year and the balance-sheet, proceeding to the election of officers for the ensuing year. All members of the profession are cordially invited. Mr. G. H. Chirgwin has accepted the position of honorary President for the coming year. The popular White-eyed Kaffir has collected the sum of £4 15s. 6d. for the Fund.

ON behalf of the committee of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, 61, New Oxford-street, W.C., Miss Melinda May (secretary) wishes to gratefully thank the following:—Mme. Haydee, collecting 5s.; Mrs. Vernon Cowper, collecting 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Alfred Terris, collecting 2s. 6d.; Miss Irene Rose, 4s 6d. for sale of bonnet made by Mrs. Herbert Shelley; Miss George Smythson, parcel of clothing; Miss Lottie Albert, gift of a dozen collars.

MISS MAY wishes especially to thank all the following who have contributed towards Miss Flora Lington's Fund, and they will be pleased to know that she is now at the Royal National Sanatorium, Bournemouth, and will be grateful for books or papers posted direct. Her thanks are due to:—Rev. Arthur Brinckman, Mrs. H. Maud Gamble, Miss Millie Payne, Mrs. James Horne, Mrs. Bradgate, Miss Vane Oulton, Miss Lil Hawthorne, Miss Maud Dunedin, Miss Nellie Wallace, Miss Louie Davis, Mrs. Henry Muff, Misses McNeill, Miss Maggie Bowman, the V.A.B.F., Rev. Donaldson Leicester, Mr. Henry George Hibbert, and Mr. Edward Luke for another 1s. 6d.

WILL all members please communicate with Miss May, and send an address that will find them for the next two weeks. All friends of the charity are heartily welcome to tea and receptions held every Wednesday from four to five o'clock.

CONTRARY to an impression that seems to prevail, the next production at the Alhambra will be the very reverse of classical. A merry divertisement, with its locale in Herald-square, New York, is in active preparation. The music is being culled from the most exhilarating of well-known American compositions, and is now in the deft hands of Mr. G. W. Byng, the musical director of the house. Mlle. Britta, Miss Elise Clerc, Miss Julia Seale, Signor Rosi, and Mr. Frank Lawton (who for years has been whistling as Blinky Bill in the candy store scene in *The Belle of New York*) will all have rôles allotted to them.

THE will has been proved of Mrs. Geraldini, better known as Mme. Katti Lanner, who was from 1875 to 1877 directress of the ballet and première danseuse at Drury Lane, and who afterwards devoted herself to the training of pupils and the arrangement of the ballets at the Empire.

THE value of the estate is returned for probate at £6,227. The testatrix left numerous bequests to relatives, and her residence at Clapham Common and residuary estate upon trust to Cora de Mere for life on condition that she takes the name of Lanner and takes care of the testatrix's pets and the graves of her late husband, her parents, and herself. Mme. Lanner bequeathed £25 to her coachman and the ultimate residue of her estate to her daughters, her grandson, and grand-daughter.

AS a sequel to the conditions of the will the following formal advertisement in Wednesday's *Times* is interesting: "Change of Name.—I, the undersigned, Cora Lanner (formerly called Cora de Mere) of 40, North-side, Clapham Common, in the County of London, hereby give notice to all whom it may concern, that I have assumed, and intend henceforth to sign and use, the surname of 'Lanner' only, in accordance with the terms of a Deed Poll this day executed by me, and enrolled in the Central Office of the Supreme Court of Judicature. Dated this 26th day of January, 1909. Cora Lanner. Witness, Jocelyn Brandon, 5, Suffolk-place, Pall-mall, S.W., Solicitor."

MLLE. CORA LANNER appeared as a child dancer on the stage at Drury Lane pantomime with Mme. Lanner's troupe, and lately she has won some distinction as an actress in tragic parts.

BARCELONA has been called the "City of Terror," but happily a great improvement has taken place of recent months, and this beautiful city shows promise of being one of the most orderly and industrious on the Continent. But the public still have a lurking fear of "bombs" (a fear, by the way, that is a cause of great inconvenience to foreigners taking up a permanent residence), and an artist appearing at the Palacio de Ilusion had an experience the other day which, though he can now look back upon it with amusement, nevertheless was far from being pleasant at the time.

SOME few weeks ago Rapoli, the cannon-ball juggler, played a month with great success at the Soriano, and the artist to whom we refer, fired with enthusiasm at the applause meted out to Rapoli, determined to also juggle with a cannon-ball. He accordingly borrowed one, and was walking up the Rambla, which is the main street, with the formidable shot under his arm, when he noticed that he was surrounded by policemen. He was immediately seized and tied up with the long chain handcuffs used here, and conducted to the police-station surrounded by an enormous crowd, whilst the bomb (?) was taken in fear and trembling to be examined by an expert.

IT was only after an exhaustive explanation had been given by the manager of the Palacio de Ilusion that the artist was set at liberty, and for some few days afterwards it was dangerous to mention the word "bomb" in his hearing.

GLOUCESTER is the latest town to fall in with the fashionable craze of roller skating. Mr. C. W. Poole, managing-director of Poole's Theatres, Ltd., has decided to utilise the King's Hall as a skating-rink, where at present the animated picture show is so successful. In this history repeats itself, for the King's Hall, formerly known as the Albert Hall, was a successful skating-rink over thirty years ago, under the management of Mr. Maslin.

THE floor is still in excellent condition, and with the present stage and proscenium removed there will be a rink of 100ft. by 50ft. Very little preparation is necessary except the removal of the upper floor and stage. Mr. Poole has no intention of dropping the animated picture show, which has been so successful, and has already arranged another building for it.

MISS MARY MAYREN and company will appear at the Hackney Empire in the dramatic sketch *The Yellow Fang*, an episode of an opium den in China Town, San Francisco. It is founded on an actual crime committed in the Chinese quarter of San Francisco in the summer of 1902. The Chief Superintendent of Police, Mr. John H. Corbin, in giving evidence, made use of the following words: "This terrible drug (opium) is a 'yellow fang' fastening upon the throats of the inhabitants of this great city, and through its agency and under its influence crimes are committed here that could not be possible in any other city in the civilised world."

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

MESSRS. WITMARK'S song, "Everybody knows it's there," has been going strong in the hands of that experienced artist, Mr. Harry Freeman, who has just added to the number the following strong verse:—

Brave Tommy Atkins' pluck we cheer,
And everybody knows it's there;
With gun and blade, when danger's near,
Everybody knows he's there;
And what about our gallant police, who have no gun or blade,
Yet face the deadly bullets of the Anarchist brigade?

CHORUS.

I ask of you: How long this alien crew
Shall make a target of our police and shoot at children too?
A law should clear them right away, and if you ask me, where?
Well, throw such rubbish in the sea, then everybody knows it's there!

MISS VESTA TILLEY on Monday evening sang at the Palace Theatre no fewer than three songs new to London, and scored triumphantly in each. They were: "That's the time a fellow wants his ma," by Edgar Bateman and Archie Mills, music by Maurice Scott; "The tube attendant," a clever number, said to be by Eustace Baynes and Kenneth Lyle; and "Sidney's holidays are in September," by F. Murray, C. Hilbury, and K. Lyle. The popular artist was not allowed to retire till she had given her striking song, "Jolly good luck to the girl who loves a soldier." The first, third, and fourth are published by Messrs. Francis and Day.

THAT delightful cantatrice, Miss Ada Colley, has been charming North London audiences throughout the week with Messrs. Francis and Day's exquisite song, "Some day when dreams come true," written and composed by Phil Staats.

A CONNOISSEUR of dance music, lately writing in terms of praise anent Messrs. Francis and Day's waltz "Cecilia," by H. E. Pether, which is enjoying a great vogue, concluded by playfully saying: "France is only the journey of a Day, but one might Hunt a whole week on the Continent and not find so pretty a waltz!"

MR. J. ELMER SPYGLASS, who lately created so favourable an impression at the Alhambra, opens on Monday at the Palace, Cork, where he will sing, among other songs, Messrs. Francis and Day's "When the berry's on the holly," written and composed by J. F. Lambe. Mr. Spyglass has in study a comedy number entitled "What a change!" written specially for him by H. F. Greenfield.

F. V. ST. CLAIR has just fitted Freddie French with a new Dame song and Jack Lorrimer with a new song scena. He also has commissions in hand from Louis Bradfield, Geo. Leyton, and others. Mr. J. W. Rickaby has scored "Down under" with a funny railway song by the same author-composer.

MR. GORDON STRETTON, the new coon singer, is making a hit this week at the Sadler's Wells. His songs are "Somebody's sweetheart" and "My Indiana Queen." Mr. Stretton's songs are from the pens of Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford.

MESSRS. B. FELDMAN AND CO. have been fortunate in securing Miss Fanny Field's latest success, entitled "Send me a picture post card." The melody of this song is likely to be heard about the streets in a short space of time.

EVERY day further applications for singing rights reach Messrs. B. Feldman and Co. for their Irish song entitled "Connemara." This song is from the skilled pens of Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford.

A SONG gaining rapidly in popularity, published by B. Feldman and Co., is "Good-bye, Mr. Teddy Bear," a light comedy number with a haunting refrain. It is written by Gifford and Terry, and would add to any singer's popularity.

MISS GLADYS HOOLEY
AT SWANSEA AND NEWPORT.

In the midst of an especially interesting programme at the Empire, Newport, this week (which includes Mr. Hubert Carter as *David Garrick*, the wonderful Japanese family, the Lukushimas; and that handsome and clever comedienne Alexandra Dagmar) there is one item which had to many of the audience a touch of real romance. It was the scena *Fiddle and I*, in which Miss Gladys Hooley played with such perfection of taste and beauty of tone. The whole scena was an artistic harmony—the pictured heath, the gipsy caravan, the rising moon, the camp fire, and the sweet little figure, making the violin speak the language of the soul:

Playing all my heart remembers—
Old, old songs from far away
Golden Junes and bleak Decembers
Rise around me as I play.

Miss Gladys Hooley is a player of real capacity, with a gift of genuine sentiment, and such performances as hers, while they appeal to the audience, help to raise the standard of music-hall entertainment since they appeal to the best in human nature.—South Wales Argus, Jan. 22, 1909.

Gladys Hooley, a violin soloist, in *Fiddle and I*, pleased the audience greatly with two well-played solos, and, as a finale, gave a sweet rendering of "Home, sweet home."—Monmouthshire Evening Post, Jan. 19, 1909.

Miss Gladys Hooley in a most attractive scena, *Fiddle and I*, displays much skill on the violin, and is an instance of the progressive refinement of the halls.—South Wales Daily Post, Jan. 19, 1909.

Gladys Hooley in an original scena, *Fiddle and I*, quite captivated the audience.—South Wales Argus, Jan. 22, 1909.

STRANGE TURNS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—It really seems to be high time that the police or the V.A.F. stepped in and stopped some of the extraordinary "talent" (?) which is being exploited on the music hall stage at present. They are billed as music hall turns, and, I presume, will call themselves music hall artists. I refer to the Mrs. Carrie Nation and Violet Charlesworth craze, &c. The former, presumably emboldened by her Monday night's success (?) at the Canterbury, is, according to the *Express*, going to appear in a sketch in which she illustrates more saloon smashing. The latter will illustrate, for the modest salary of £300 weekly, how foolish the public are to pay for admission at the halls where she is working, and how clever she is to obtain such an easy living as a music hall artist (?) without any previous experience.

Surely these two clever music hall performers (?) will teach the profession, proprietors, and public a never-to-be-forgotten lesson, namely, that experience and talent are no longer necessary to become a music hall "star." All you require is to be a notoriety of some kind or a crank—and you will then achieve that success which is often denied to hard-working pros.—Yours faithfully,

F. WARDEN REED (Reed and Stevens).

THEATRES AND MUSIC HALLS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. See *The Era Annual*, 1909.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE PALACE.

The vogue for one-act plays seems to be regarded as a new thing by some of the dailies; but the fashion for such productions existed more than a quarter of a century since when Joe Elvin and his father, Joe Keegan, used to present a version of Poole's famous farce *The Steeplechase*. It is true the *entourage* of the one-act piece was at that time very humble; but then it had no fostering influence to raise its dignity. The ancient statute—called by the late John Hollingshead the Moll Flanders act—was against it; and therefore its fortunes were of a haphazard kind. Mr. Graydon, a present director of the Palace Theatre, has probably produced more one-act plays during the last thirty years at the Middlesex than any theatre manager in London or provinces in the same period, and may therefore be said to be entirely in sympathy with Mr. Alfred Butt, the popular young manager-director of the Palace, whose production of absolutely original sketches at that house has resulted in the advent to its stage of many distinguished theatre people. Miss Ellis Jeffreys is the latest to shed the lustre of the best traditions of English comedy on the variety boards, and her many triumphs in the legitimate houses made her welcome at the Palace on Monday a very hearty one. She was supported by her husband, Mr. Herbert Sleath, in a sketch presented for the first time, entitled

"No. TWO."

He .....MR. HERBERT SLEATH
She .....MISS ELLIS JEFFREYS
It .....MISS ENID SASS

"Number one" has joined the majority, and his widow in very becoming weeds takes refuge from a storm of rain in a Bond-street tea-shop. She has been preceded there by a widower and the two quite naturally get into conversation. Both are the victims of extraordinary wills, which severely restrict the pleasures of each, and impose an unusually long period of mourning. Both confess to a "rotten" time with "number one"; and some excitement is caused when "she" hears that her husband is after all alive; but 'phoning to her solicitors she learns that it is a gentleman of the same name as the deceased husband, but slightly different initials. When the storm subsides, the two depart, after having arranged to have tea together at her flat. This is but a bare outline of the trifling plot of Messrs. Sidney Blow and George Bellamy's play. It is in the dialogue and the delightful acting that its chief strength lies. Of course, Miss Jeffreys is absolutely irresistible as the widow, and Mr. Herbert Sleath's mercurial style is just the very thing for the part of the widower. Miss Enid Sass plays the waitress cleverly. The house was quite enthusiastic in their welcome of the latest variety turn.

Miss Vesta Tilley, who has completely recovered from her illness, made her reappearance on Monday at the Palace. The hoisting of her number was the signal for a demonstration on the part of the large audience that must have been immensely gratifying to this incomparable artist. She looked the trimmest and neatest of "boys" when she came on the stage to sing one of her latest successes, "That's when a fellow wants his ma," a song that leaves much room for extensive additions. "Naughty boy" is, however, the song in which Miss Tilley has an opportunity for her best work. It is a scathing satire on the clerk who on a small salary poses as one of the "gilded youth." Though the subject is not new, Miss Tilley lifts it into the regions of pure art by her admirable treatment of it. She is decidedly humorous, and so pleased were the audience on Monday that they insisted on an encore, and Miss Tilley, who was endowed with two magnificent baskets of flowers, gave them "Here's jolly good luck to the girl who loves a soldier." Miss Florrie Cecil and Miss Lillian Hoerlein, an American singer with nothing markedly distinctive in her style, and McMahon and Chappelle, in their American success, *Why Hubby Missed the Train*, are other newcomers in Mr. Alfred Butt's programme. During the evening some remarkable Urbanora pictures of the calamity at Messina are shown.

THE HIPPODROME.

That enchanting spectacle *To-morrow*, produced by Mr. Bolossy Kiralfy at the Hippodrome, has been considerably improved in its story, and some agreeable comedy relief has been introduced. Willie, who peeps into Toyland in his dreams, learns a lesson of unselfishness from the spirit of goodwill—Santa Claus, and is ready to do without his presents for the sake of the poorer kiddies. He is accompanied in his travels by a white poodle, named Fido, and meets a wonderful toy soldier in the person of Mr. Fred Walton, who makes the boys roar with laughter by his comic business in the snow scene. There are a wonderfully comic donkey and a philosophic bear, in addition to Willie's canine companion, and here we must praise the excellent work of the Fratellinis, excellent pantomimists and clowns all of them, who raise many a laugh. Miss Fatmah Diard as the fairy Happy Ever After, and also as Britannia, makes an impressive figure and sings well. The magnificent final tableau, with its allegorical figures, its crowds of tastefully-dressed dancers, and its myriads of electric lights, is the most remarkable spectacle that we have ever seen in an arena, and adds lustre to the traditions of a house that has created a record by its productions.

The latest sensation for the grown-ups at the Hippodrome is the so-called spiritualistic séance of Mr. and Mrs. Tomson, who, as the result of divided opinion as to the genuineness of the mystery expressed at a test performance arranged by Sir William Crookes, in the presence of Lady Warbeck, Sir Alfred Taylor, Dr. Wallace, Mr. W. T. Stead, and General Sir Alfred Turner, were secured by Mr. Trussell to give demonstrations on the stage. A cabinet composed of thin panels is built up on the stage by the employées of the house, and Mrs. Tomson retires to disrobe, with a committee of ladies in attendance. Presently Mrs. Tomson emerges from her apartment dressed in black gauze, and enters the cabinet. She immediately produces a dove, and is found to be robed in white. Later some real flowers are discovered on a chair, and these are distributed among the audience by a little girl dressed in white. Towards the end of the séance the mystery deepens by the appearance of a shadowy form draped in heliotrope with waving arms. Several members of the Press on Monday examined the stage and the cabinet, and the ladies attending Mrs. Tomson declared that she had nothing whatever concealed about her person. The mystery is certainly a baffling one, even to the initiated, and when experts disagree we should be sorry to attempt an explanation.

The Dunedin Troupe of cyclists are still pursuing their triumphant career at the Hippodrome, their versatile act giving unqualified delight at every performance. The Corradinis, with two zebras, an elephant, a horse, two large boarhounds, and a diminutive terrier, are responsible for a most interesting show. The great pachyderm is an amiable creature, who grasps with his trunk the rein of one of the zebras, and leads him out of the ring; and the youngsters are delighted when the terrier perches himself on the elephant's head. El Tampico Trio play guitars and mandolines, and one of them gives Chopin's famous Nocturne, which has been arranged for the violin, both by Wilhelmj and Sarasate. The tone is good, and the technique excellent. "Funiculi, Funicula" is another favoured selection. Cruikshank, "the fool of the family," revels in parodies and patter, and sustains the best traditions of the ring jester. The Lukushimas present an attractive balancing, risley, and pedal performance; the Raindears continue a popular engagement; Maude Rochez's monkeys, in their music hall scene, show remarkable intelligence; and the Anartos and Fratellinis add to the fun of the programme by clever and diverting entertainments.

THE SURREY.

The stars were eclipsed by the fog on Wednesday evening, and at the first house at the Surrey the manager had to come forward to explain that Mr. Harry Ford, who is topping this week's bill, had wired to say that he was unable to reach the theatre on account of a mishap to his motor-car, and Mr. George Newburn, the mimic, had also failed to put in an appearance from causes with which the weather had no doubt something to do. The speaker added that he made the announcement in order that the audience might not look at the bills outside and come to the conclusion that they had been got in under false pretences. An extra picture would be given, and if the artists alluded to had not by then arrived, the performance would be concluded. The artists did not put in an appearance by the time named, and the audience filed out cheerfully enough, evidently well satisfied with the entertainment that had been presented.

The current bill is varied and interesting, and smartly worked. Two sketches are included in the scheme, the first being *The Kidnapped King*, in which the intrepid Sexton Blake figures as the restorer of the fortunes of a threatened dynasty. Mr. C. Douglas Carlile acquits himself admirably in the part of the renowned Blake, his appearances at the psychological moment always securing an outburst of cheers. Miss Carlotta de Yonson, who runs the company, gives a strongly emotional rendition of a princess; and for the title-rôle a youthful actor has been secured in Master Geoffrey Lewes. Mr. Lee Gilbert is comically effective in the rôle of Tinker, and as a hunchback Mr. Chas. A. Carlile supplies a sound and skilful study. Mr. James Duncan and Mr. J. Langford also take their parts creditably. The piece is elaborately mounted, the military costumes being very picturesque. The second sketch is the drama in miniature entitled *The Hour of Peril*, which we noticed on its production at another of the Macnaghten halls a week or two ago. Mr. Frank Robson retains the part of the gallant young naval officer, but the rôle of the Russian spy is now taken by Mr. J. A. Bentham, who revels in its rascality. Miss Violet Campbell as La Sylphe submits an embodiment of much dramatic worth; and Miss L. Stone enacts the lieutenant's sweetheart with gentleness and grace.

An exhilarating performance is given by the Union Jack Boys, who in chorus and song strive to justify the claim to the description of "nautical nightingales." There are some sweet voices among the company of juvenile bluejackets, who number about a dozen, but they are occasionally overpowered, especially when they harmonise in "Excelsior." Hornpipes and clog dances figure in their performance, which is loudly applauded. Miss Maud Vera is a dainty comedienne, who makes a truly swaggering "Major," and the dance which she adds to her quaint song of a coon is of excellent quality. Echoes of *The Bloomsbury Burglars* are furnished by the Ralston Boys, who impersonate a couple of window-cleaners, the burden of whose chorus is "There they go again" in allusion to the cry "Stick it, Jerry!" with which they are constantly greeted. The connection is maintained in their following effusion, in which the pair are found in gaol "doing time" for Jerry and his devoted "pal." The songs have a decided quaintness, and are rendered with amusing effect. A Brewery on the Bioscope reveals the inner mysteries of the beer industry; and later Raymond's Bio-Tableaux gives a particularly interesting picture of Baby's Chum, of which the extraordinary sagacity of a bulldog is the chief feature. Dewar and Dunville are aptly referred to as "dandy dancing distillers"; and in the programme are also to be found Miss Victoria Glenn in the scena *My Friend the Doll*; and Miss Marguerite Radcliffe in illustrated song.

GRAND, CLAPHAM.

All forms of variety are contained in the current bill at the Grand, which is making satisfactory progress under the go-ahead Gibbons régime. The familiar entertainment of G. H. Chirgwin figures as the chief feature of the bill, and his merry jests are taken in exactly the right spirit by the audience, "The Dictionary Up to Date" dealing with topics of the moment in his usual happy way. "The Blind Boy" runs "My Fiddle is My Sweetheart" very closely in popular favour, and on the evening of our visit the latter won by a neck. Mr. Chirgwin has added a grotesque instrument to his collection in the shape of a fiddle built up with a bladder, strings, and cymbals, which he utilises with mirthful effect in combination with the orchestra. A marvellous performance is offered by Colonel Gaston Bordeverry, who claims to be the "world's greatest rifle and pistol shot." The gallant Colonel has an elaborate fit-up, and his latest novelty is that of playing operatic selections with his repeating rifle on a couple of dozen musical chimes with resonators. Colonel Bordeverry contends that everything in his act is genuine, and offers to forfeit his salary to a charitable institution if the contrary can be proved. His show is very popular at Clapham.

The fashions of the face are exploited in a remarkable way by Mr. Ed. E. Ford, who presents the Australian "sundowner" in his habit as he lives. Mr. Ford has a marvellous facility for contorting his countenance, and is able to laugh and cry at one and the same time. Striking "features," if one may say so, of his performance are the sketches of a man in the agonies of toothache, the drawing operation, and the expression of the face after the offending molar has been removed. Mr. Ford makes a genuine hit, and his performance is so unique that his rendering of "Harrigan," well sung as it is, seems rather to discount the effect of his former act. The Royal Tokio Troupe do wonders in balancing, top-spinning, and ladder work. One smart youth climbs to the top of three ladders, arranged in zigzag fashion, and resting on the soles of another performer. At this precarious height the lad goes through some graceful performances, which are, however, excelled when he ascends a slanting rope reaching to the gallery, and slides backward to the stage, the more timid among the audience being reassured by the sight of a hoop which encircles both the artist and the rope, and thus ensures his safety and theirs.

Favourites of long standing are seen in the Leonards, who reproduce their policeman duet with much acceptance. Mr. Leonard is the cause of continuous mirth as the "Bobby," who sings "Keep your eye on the force," and Mrs. Leonard as a "church worker," a French belle, and a nursemaid gives effective aid. The dancing of the clever couple is as finished in style as ever, and is awarded a hearty recall. Miss Jessie Ward is a soprano hardly yet in her teens, and her rendering of "The song that reached my heart" gains loud cheers. Lowenwirth and Cohan are listed as "murderers of the King's English," and their grim duties are carried out effectively in some capital sidewalk talk as a couple of Hebrew tailors. The Imperial Bioscope is on view with new subjects; Miss Lulu Evans sings the praises of the "Boys" blithely; and the well-arranged programme also includes the Three Laurels, in their intrepid acrobatic act; Adey Spencer, comedienne; and Kisbey, the call-boy. Mr. Harry N. Wentworth ably fulfils the duties of manager.

AT the invitation of the Hippodrome management on Wednesday, Lord Charles Conyngham and Mr. John Sweeney, the well-known ex-chief of Scotland Yard, attended the evening performance and witnessed the mystery "turn" provided by Mr. and Mrs. Tomson. In her little cabinet Mrs. Tomson produced, apparently from empty air, live birds, flowers, and lastly a very eerie ghost. A gentleman in the audience offered to give £5 to the unemployed if the performance was repeated in the arena, and this was done.

THE entertainers in the variety show this week in the Concert Room of the Crystal Palace are Miss Dora Clare, descriptive vocalist; Clown Garford and his trained dogs; Li Chang Hi, the Chinese magician, assisted by Miss Tai Mao; the Lizotto Trio, lady acrobats; and Molly Augarde, vocalist. Next week the "turns" include Ronnie and Roy Boavis, magicians; Sam Voss, street quack doctor and juggler; and Harry Garsdale, whose imitations of the various animals are extremely clever.

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER'S
SONG BOOM.

"I'M AFRAID TO COME HOME IN THE DARK."

"SHE SELLS SEA SHELLS."

"OH! OH! ANTONIO."

"SUE, SUE, SUE."

"MY GIRL'S A YORKSHIRE GIRL"

"SHADOWLAND."

"HANG OUT THE FRONT DOOR KEY."

"COME, BE MY RAINBOW."

"BOMBADIER."

"EVERY FELLOW'S IN LOVE WITH A GIRL."

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER, 142, Charing Cross Rd., London, W.C.

DR. BODIE AS AN AUTHOR.

Dr. Walford Bodie, in his introduction to his story "Harley the Hypnotist," in the *Novel Magazine*, of which we give some particulars below, writes:—"The editor kindly allows me to write a few words in introduction of this series of stories. I wish to do so because I am aware that a large section of the public knows very little about hypnotism and the wonderful effects that can be produced by its means.

"Hypnotism has been defined as a condition in which the mind of one individual—the hypnotist—exercises control over the mind of another individual—the subject. It is that; but it is much more than that. As I said in a book on the science which I published some years ago, hypnotism is a term which embraces a number of processes under one head just as the word soul is used to convey broadly everything in the human being above and beyond the body and the everyday mental functions. It is a science which is a matter of well-established grades of consciousness which begin in simple sleep and end in the as yet undiscovered realms of thought and vision.

"The hypnotic power is not the rare thing many people imagine. Instances of it are to be seen every day.

"We all number among our friends and acquaintances some who exercise a marked influence over us, whether for good or for bad. To the extent of that influence—to the extent that their minds control and direct ours—they hypnotise us. And so with a great orator and his audience. How does he manage to sway their minds this way and that? How does he secure his final triumph when his will and beliefs become theirs? Partly by his words; but partly by the strong persuasion of his personality. And that persuasion—his personal magnetism—is an instance of hypnotism.

"In this series of stories I assume as my central character a man who has this personal magnetism in a phenomenal degree, and who has made a profound study of hypnotism. Who can say what is or what is not possible to such a man in real life? I, for one, cannot. If he is a good man, he may work for the progress and welfare of the human race in a hundred different ways. If he is a bad man, he may become the greatest of criminals.

"There are various manifestations of the hypnotic power, as, for instance, mental suggestion, hypnotic telepathy, and clairvoyance. It is not possible for me to give an explanation of them all in this brief introduction. Indeed, some of them are almost unexplainable. They occur, and we marvel at, but cannot account for, them.

"The story in this series which will appear in next month's issue is based on such a manifestation—clairvoyance. This is the mysterious gift which is perhaps more commonly known as second sight. That there is such a thing is indisputable. The seers of old possessed it; dreams that come true are its results. In the clairvoyant state the mind acts independently of the body. Time and space are no longer obstacles—there seems to be a 'third eye' which has universal vision.

"I have thought it well to say this much as to the scientific side of this 'Harley the Hypnotist' series. As to the other side—the story one—I would simply add that my aim throughout has been to be original and interesting. The editor is good enough to tell me that in his opinion I have succeeded. I am hoping that this will also be the opinion of the hundreds of thousands who read the *Novel Magazine*."

The new tale, which is appearing in the February issue of the *Novel Magazine*, is indeed a thrilling one. Harley, the author tells us, was a distant kinsman of the Duke of Wessex. The Duke had succeeded to the title in early life, and had felt the need of somebody who could fittingly combine the offices of mentor and friend. He found this in Harley, who, although in actual age only half-a-dozen years older than himself, seemed centuries older in that knowledge of the world which includes knowledge of men and women. The Duke had escaped most of the pitfalls which await the youth born to rank and fortune. And he owed this to the wisdom of Harley, and was always ready to acknowledge the fact and to express his gratitude.

A strange-looking man, Harley. The English blood of his father and the Spanish blood of his mother were both evident in him. His tall, lithe, aristocratic figure was in strict accordance with the Harley traditions. So were the bold, handsome features. But the long, jet-black hair, and the eyes—the deep, dark, challenging eyes—were those of Seville. And his dress—that, too, was never quite English. In it there was always colour—ornament—individuality. So much so that it is on record that a certain crusty old peer once observed of him:—"That man's a gentleman, but he has the infernally bad taste to pose as a fiddler."

But it was no pose—it was the natural man. He could no more help the velvet jacket, the diamond-mounted cane, and the heavy gold bangle than he could help his delicately-shaped hands and his rich, musical voice. They were all parts of the whole.

Nobody knew quite what to expect from him. At an age when most men of his class were still at school or college he published a volume of poems. They met with immediate success. "The voice of true passion," one prominent reviewer declared. "Words that plead for a musical setting," said another. In reply to the latter criticism, Harley stated that they already had that setting—that the poems were, in fact, but word pictures of certain musical compositions of his. Soon these compositions were presented to the world by José's orchestra. They proved to be, like the poems, passionate—wild—even eerie. To this day they are sometimes played by José's and other famous orchestras.

Next the spiritualists claimed him. For a while he was the protagonist of the "Borderland" people. His lectures and his essays converted many to a belief in a world that touches our world at every point, and yet is not of it. Then suddenly he gave this up. "Spiritualism," he stated, in a farewell address, "is an unknown quantity which purports to explain other unknown quantities. That way madness lies. Let us not run after angels lest we overtake devils."

But nowadays Harley was not spoken of as Harley the Poet, or Harley the Musician, or Harley the Spiritualist. To those who knew him, or even knew of him, he was Harley the Hypnotist. He had turned from the unknown to the known quantity. Of all the votaries of the science of hypnotism he was the most devout.

"There are only two forces," he would sometimes say, "one's own mind—and the mind of the other man. They meet in hypnotic battle. To which the victory? That is the whole question."

Such being the character of Harley, the possibilities of its use in fiction are obvious. For Dr. Bodie's narrative we must refer our readers to the magazine.

A LABOURER employed on the new variety theatre at Kilburn fell from the scaffolding to the ground on Monday. His life is despaired of.

IT is reported in Northampton that a syndicate is being formed to start a roller-skating rink on the newest principles. The newly-formed Northampton Roller-skating Club had a trial practice on Monday in the Jubilee Hall, Franklin's Gardens. More than thirty years since a roller-skating rink was started in Bridge-street; it was afterwards converted into a music hall, but the site is now occupied by Messrs. Mulliner and Co.'s motor-carriage works.

"THE LAST HALT."

Episode, by W. H. Benson, produced at the Pow Palace on Monday, Jan. 25.

Prince Paul Lerkoff ..MR. WILFRED H. BENSON
Captain Marakoff .....MR. HARRY GILBEY
Lieut. Kosky .....MR. M. MADDONI
Sergeant Ivanoff .....MR. DAN C. WILLIAMS
Captain Savosky .....MR. L. LEVENSTEIN
Rebecca Marstein .....MISS MABEL WYNN

The Last Halt, played by Mr. Wilfred H. Benson's company, is a worthy top-liner on the bill this week. The piece possesses a plot whose originality enlists the keenest attention. There is a succession of pathetic incidents wherein an exiled Jewish woman juggles with the seductive luxury of the Captain of her escort and the supposed sacrifice of her honour. The Jewess woman is not young, and has no personal charms, and his fellow-officers taunt the young Captain and bid him cast his eyes towards one of the other and more attractive young maidens in the Siberian pilgrimage. But the Captain is somewhat magnetised by the queenly dignity of the woman of his choice—there is a sort of underlying consciousness that she has come into his life before. During the conflict that ensues the inscription on the young Captain's sword, which she has succeeded in possessing herself of, reveals the link—the Captain is the woman's son, lost sight of for many years. Reconciliation at this point is hardly congenial to the proud young Captain, the feared gibes of his fellow-officers at the degradation wound his spirit, and he seeks delivery at the sword point, only to be won back by the motherly entreaty, and afterwards the yielding up of her earthly sufferings. The effect of such a production upon the sentiments of an audience with a strong partiality to sensationalism blended with the deeply pathetic can be well imagined, and throughout its entire course not a sound could be heard. The acting was of a finished character, and one of the most powerful dramatic sketches on the halls at the present time finished its course amidst great applause.

Diabolo-spinning still occupies a place in popularity, as Master Day's fine exhibition with the cone and its reception by the audience denoted. Madge Beresford scored greatly with a couple of songs, specially delighting the audience; Lorne and Vallance were entertaining; Hanvarr and Lee (the Golfer and the Maid) won well merited applause, their turn being both original and smart; Percival was entertaining at the piano; and Mamie Morris scored with a particularly catchy number. J. C. Manley and Marie Nestle, and Frank Jester also figured on the programme, which was further strengthened by a couple of capital cinematograph films.

MISS GLADYS HOOLEY is making a gratifying success in the provinces with her new scena *Fiddle and I*, which will shortly be seen at the principal London halls.

"TWO IN A FLAT."

A Comedy Sketch, produced for the first time in London at Sadler's Wells, on Monday, Jan. 25.

Jack Hoo .....MR. FRED MONCKTON
Minnie Vinolia .....MISS LILLIE MONCKTON

The Moncktons—a couple of artists who are appreciated in whatever they appear—have an exceedingly entertaining trifle in their latest sketch, entitled *Two in a Flat*, produced in the provinces some weeks ago and in London at Sadler's Wells on Monday evening. The story may be briefly dealt with again. Jack Hoo has just taken a flat which has been empty for some time, and as he enters it for the first time as a tenant he orders tea and muffins to be sent to him. During his temporary absence from the sitting-room—he goes to the bedroom to have a change and a wash up—a lady enters the flat. She notices a portmanteau and concludes that it must belong to the late tenant, for it appears that she, too, had arranged to rent this self-same flat. She helps herself to the tea and muffins which have been left for Jack Hoo, and she naturally expresses her opinion as to the thoughtfulness of the servants in thus providing for the "inner woman." While she is so agreeably partaking of the joys prepared for others, Mr. Hoo returns to the room, attired in a sheet—he having undressed for a bath—and he demands to know on what grounds he is honoured by a visit from the lady. She tells him that the flat is hers, and refuses to go at his bidding, and many amusing scenes occur until they both learn that each has paid a month's rent in advance for the same flat. They also find that they have really become attached to each other during the dispute, and the conclusion will be obvious. Mr. Fred Monckton as the Man and Miss Lillie Monckton as the woman contrive to be exceedingly amusing, and the piece has been well received.

MISS KITTEE RAYBURN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—The announcement which appeared in last week's issue of *The Era* to the effect that Mr. Wentworth Croke had arranged with Miss Kittee Rayburn for next Christmas pantomime at the Lyric Opera House, Hammersmith, is somewhat premature, as I hold an option on this lady's services, and up to the time of writing nothing has been settled.—Yours faithfully,

G. BRYDON-PHILLIPS.

Theatre Royal, Peterborough, Jan. 28.

THE following are the latest quotations of music hall shares:—Alhambra, 1 7-16; Canterbury, ¼; Empire, 15s. paid, 1⅛; ditto, 10s. paid, 1½; London Pavilion Ordinary, 3⅜; ditto Preference, 4⅜; Metropolitan, 12s.; Moss Empire, 4⅜; ditto 5 per cent. Preference, 3⅜; Oxford, 6¼; Palace, 13-16; Tivoli, 5½; United Varieties, ⅜; Var. Cons. Theatres, 10s. 6d.

CHARITY AT HOLLOWAY EMPIRE.

A concert in aid of the Mayor of Islington's Fund for the Wives and Children of the Unemployed was given at the Holloway Empire on Sunday evening. Messrs. Chas. Beresford and Bertie Ralland were the hon. managers. Amongst the lady vocalists who gave their services was Miss Bertha Bird, the Australian soprano, who sang Bishop's "I hear the gentle lark," with flute obbligato by Mr. E. J. Spink. Mr. Robert Anthony gave an admirable rendering of "My old shako"; Mr. Leo Dryden recited in telling style the poem "Unemployed—and Why?"; and Mr. Chas. Gellett scored with Will Carleton's "First Settler's Story." Little Miss Frances Feldman delighted the audience by the clever way in which she gave the Quarrel scene from *The School for Scandal*. Other contributors to the long and varied programme were the Misses Maggie Snow, Dorothy Higbed, Violet Essex, Edith Eatherley, Ethel Elmes, Hessie Reeve (a sister of Ada Reeve), and Messrs. Max Kahn (violinist), W. Kingsley, Bennett Griffin, F. E. Pepper, A. Fowler, and F. Goodwins in Dickens sketches. The Empire orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Fred Camp, performed the following selections in excellent style:—*Tannhäuser* March, overture *Bohemian Girl*, and a selection from *Faust*. Before the last item on the programme, the American Bioscope pictures, was reached, Councillor John Essex came forward to say a few words of appreciation of the organisers of the concert. Mr. Bertie Ralland, the genial manager of the theatre, applied to Messrs. Moss and Stoll—the Empire builders, he thought he might say—for permission to give a concert on behalf of the unemployed. Consent was at once given, and there the responsibility of Messrs. Moss and Stoll ended, and Mr. Ralland and Mr. Charles Beresford, his able coadjutor and assistant-manager, found their responsibilities commence. They worked hard, and the result had been shown that night in the splendid concert which had been given. These two gentlemen had given up their own day of rest for this entertainment. Special mention must also be made of the staff and Mr. Fred Camp and his splendid orchestra, who all gave their services gratuitously, also the regular staff of the theatre, who had rallied round their popular managers for a good cause, and the honorary programme sellers. The money raised by this effort would all be spent in relieving the destitute unemployed, who unfortunately were many.

Mr. Ralland returned thanks for himself and Mr. Beresford. He took the opportunity of thanking the concert committee for their work, especially Mr. James Budden, the hon. secretary.

Councillor Essex said that mention ought also to be made of Mr. Max Kahn, who had stage-managed the performance, assisted by Messrs. F. Wilson and F. Bourne.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL CALENDAR. See *The Era Annual*, 1909.

FELDMAN'S

ARTISTS WHO ARE SINGING FELDMAN'S SONGS IN PANTOMIME.

LONDON DISTRICT.

MISS HANID ALEXANDER.
MISS PRUDENCE AYRTON.
MISS FLORENCE BRAY.
MISS LENA BRICKWELL.
MISS BESSIE BUTT.
MISS LALLIE CAMPBELL
MISS VENIE CLEMENTS.
MISS KITTY CLINTON.
MISS ENA CORELLI.
MISS ROSE COSTA.
MISS MARIE DAINTON.
MISS KITTY DOUGLAS.
MISS MAUD ESMOND.
MISS QUEENIE ESSEX.
MISS DOROTHY FIRMIN.
MISS LYDIA FLOPP.

BELFAST.
MISS DECIMA BROOKE.
MISS EDITH FINK.
GEORGE LASHWOOD.
GEORGE MILLER.
MISS DOROTHY WARD.

BIRMINGHAM.
MISS SYBIL ARUNDALE.
FRANK BLYTHE.
G. H. ELLIOTT.
MISS RITA EVERARD.
MISS HETTIE KING.
MISS ETHEL NEGRETTI.
MISS CLARA REID.
ARTHUR REYNOLDS.
MISS IVEY ROSE.
MISS JOYCE STEVENS.
MISS ELLALINE THORNE.

BRIGHTON.
EDWIN GARTH.
MISS GERTRUDE GILLIAM.
MISS BLANCHE MARION.
MISS AIMEE ROBERTS.

BRADFORD.
MISS BELMORE.
MISS ISABELLE DILLON.
MISS FLORRIE FORDE.
CHARLES NORTON.
MISS VERA VERE.
MISS WINIFRED WYNDHAM.

BRISTOL.
MISS VIOLET GILLIS.
MISS OUIDA MACDERMOTT.
MISS DEBORAH VOLAR.

CARDIFF.
MISS MARIE BURDELL.
MISS NELLIE LUNELLE.
MISS MOYA MANNERING.
MISS IDA STATHAMS.

HAL FORD.
MISS MAUDIE FRANCIS.
FERGUSON AND MACK.
MISS FIFI GORDON.
MISS DOROTHY GRASSDORFF.
MISS NANCY HEARNE.
BABY HUTT.
MISS CONSTANCE HYEM.
MISS EDITH JEFFERIES.
MISS QUEENIE LEIGHTON.
MISS ADDIE LENNARD.
EDWARD LEWIS.
MISS DOROTHY MILLER.
MISS CARRIE MOORE.
MISS EDNA MORGAN.
SISTERS MORGAN.

CROYDON.
MISS GEORGINA DELMAR.
MISS GLADYS WARREN.

DUBLIN.
BARNEY ARMSTRONG.
J. J. DALLAS.
MISS KATHLEEN GRAY.

DUNDEE.
MISS ROSIE BARTLETT.
MISS MAY CARTER.
MISS HETTIE LIND.
MISS AMY RANDOLPH.

EDINBURGH.
MISS MENA BRAE.
WILL EVANS.
MISS JANE EYRE.
MISS MINNIE OLIVE.

EXETER.
MISS VIOLET HOLLEM.
MISS EDITH HOUSLEY.

GLASGOW.
MISS DECIMA BROOKE.
MISS FLORA CROMER.
WHIT CUNLIFFE.
HARRY DENT.
MISS IRIS HOEY.
MISS VIOLET LORAINE.
SAM MORRIS.
MISS ELLA RETFORD.
GEORGE ROBEY.
FRED RUSSELL.

HANLEY.
DOUGLAS CAMPBELL.
MISS LOLA PATEY.
MISS MARGARET RUBY.

LEEDS.
MARTIN ADESON.
MISS NELL EMERALD.
MISS LULU RUSSELL.
MISS LILLIE SOUTTER.

MISS MADOLINE REES.
MISS LILLIAN ROSE.
MISS DOROTHY RUNDELL.
SYDNEY RUSSELL.
MISS LOTTIE SARGENT.
MISS TRULY SHATTUCK.
ARTHUR STIGENT.
MISS AGNES TANDY.
MISS KITTY TIMS.
MISS LULU VALLI.
MISS LENA VERDI.
MISS ETHEL WARD.
MISS WINIFRED WARD.
E. HARVEY WHITE.
MISS MARIE WILSON.

LIVERPOOL.
BOBBIE ALLANDALE.
MISS MABEL GREEN.
MISS FLORENCE IMESON.
MISS LILY MORRIS.
ARTHUR RIGBY.

MANCHESTER.
MISS MAY BEATTIE.
MISS IVY GALLARD.
MISS PEGGY McDONNELL.
MISS LIZZIE PAYNE.
GEORGE WOOD.

NEWCASTLE.
HAPPY FANNY FIELDS.
MISS LILY IRIS.
MISS VIOLET LLOYD.

NOTTINGHAM.
MISS MABEL CARR.
MISS CRESSIE LEONARD.
MR. LEWIS LESLIE.
JAMES LESLIE.
MISS MADGE VINCENT.
MISS MOLLY WYNNE.

PAISLEY.
MISS MOYNA HILL.
MISS DAISY MORRELL.
MISS KATE YATES.

PLYMOUTH.
MISS LUCIE CAINE.
MISS MAISIE ELLINGER.
ALF. E. PASSMORE.

PORTSMOUTH.
MISS CONNIE LEON.
MISS MAUDE MORTIMER.

SHEFFIELD.
MISS MAY MARS.
MISS NANCY THORNTON.

OTHER PROVINCIAL TOWNS.

MISS OLIVE ASTOR.
MISS BARBARA BABINGTON.
FRED BARNES.
MISS LILLIE BLYTHE.
MISS MADGE BROWNE.
MISS DOT CAREY.
MISS CARLISLE.
ARTHUR CARLTON.
MISS NINA CARLTON.
MISS GLADYS CHRISTIE.
SID CROSSLEY.
MISS MINNIE D'AUBYN.
MISS MAY DE LA GRANGE.
MISS MAY DESMOND.
MISS EDITH DEVERELL.
MISS VERA DUDLEY.
MISS ETHEL DURNFORD.
HARRY EDLIN.
MISS LILY EYTON.

MISS RAY FORD.
MISS MARIE JERRARD.
MISS IVY GALLARD.
MISS MINA GREEN.
MISS NORA GUY.
MISS MOLLIE HACKETT.
BOBBIE HALL.
MISS MAUD HERSEE.
MISS FLORENCE HILTON.
MISS HEDDA HIRLEMANN.
MISS MARY HOPE.
MISS ZONA JOY.
LITTLE KEENO.
MISS GERTIE LENO.
ARTHUR LENVILLE.
MISS LOUIE LOVE.
MISS CYNTHIA LUPINO.
MISS JENNY LYNWOOD.
MISS LALLAH MELROSE.

MISS NELLIE MERTON.
MISS BEATRICE MOORE.
MISS IVY MOORE.
MISS MADGE O'NEILL.
GEORGE PARRY.
MISS LOLA PATEY.
MISS MAUD PRENTON.
MISS ETHEL RA LESLIE.
MISS RENA REES.
MISS MARIE REEVE.
MISS NORA RITERIO.
MISS MABEL ROBERTS.
MISS CHRISTINE ROY.
MISS LILLIE STORRIE.
MISS LENA STANTON.
MISS BEATRICE VARLEY.
MISS KITTY WEBB.
MISS JESSIE WILTON.
MISS FLORENCE WIX.

B. FELDMAN & CO.,

2 & 3 ARTHUR STREET, W.C.

Telegrams, "Humfriv, London." Telephone, No. 4567 Gerrard.

MASKELYNE AND DEVANT'S.

Wonders never cease at the emporium of mystery now established at St. George's Hall, and ere one novelty has lost its freshness another is brought to the front. The latest is a further example of Mr. David Devant's ingenuity, and is called *Beau Brocade*. A young lady attired in the picturesque costume of the bold highwayman, having been mesmerised by Mr. Devant, is rolled up in a silken carpet. A wooden chest is then built up on a table, lined with plate glass, and secured with locks and bolts. Mr. Devant shakes the carpet in which the highwayman is snugly packed, which falls empty at his feet, and the box being opened, forth comes the smiling Brocade. The illusion is performed close to the footlights under the strongest light, and seems to be more baffling than any of its predecessors. The clever comedian-conjurer has many other new tricks all most delightfully mystifying. His Educated Goldfish, who produce from the bottom of their aquarium the proper letters to spell a word which four of the audience have conspired to furnish, is much marvelled at; and the collapsible beer, in which glasses of stout held by an attendant are made gradually to diminish to nothing, to spring up simultaneously on a tray held some distance away, provides further food—or should we say drink?—for enjoyment. For one of Mr. Devant's most diverting feats the services of the smallest boy and the youngest girl in the audience are requisitioned, the former having to pile up in his arms a quantity of eggs handed to him by the little girl after being produced from the conjurer's hat. Mr. Devant accompanies his tricks with his customary cheery humour, keeping his hearers in the happiest mood.

A new importation in the programme is that of Mr. Ernest Hastings, the well-known entertainer, who has a neat musical sketch designed for the purposes of laughter. His imitation of a child's first lesson on the pianoforte is particularly diverting, and musicianly skill marks his burlesque improvisation of the old air "The Vicar of Bray" in the styles of Bach, Handel, Mendelssohn, and Sousa. Mr. Hastings was heartily recalled, and again amused his hearers with a sketch at the piano drolly descriptive of the making of musical comedy in which the piano is of invaluable use. New also to the bill is the celestial conjuring by Houston, who, with the traditional smile, childlike and bland, of the heathen Chinee executes a number of astounding tricks of palming, procuring coins from many sources in quite novel ways. Pigeons are produced from the folds of flags of many nations, and Houston's final feat is to pour water into an empty pan, from which a number of geese clamber cackling in various stages of bewilderment. Mr. Houston has many methods of provoking laughter, not the least effective of which is his manner of picking up a table or a chair and reducing it to a portmanteau. Mr. Harry May Hemsley, who illustrates a collection of rhymes by means of artistic sketches, also contrives to sing a parody of "Sally in our alley" and other ballads while portraying the incidents on the easel. He causes much merriment, which is added to by his imitations of children.

The Philosopher's Diamond still occupies a prominent place in the bill, and the comedy of marvels is effectively presented by Mr. Nevil Maskelyne, the author, as the demented baronet; by Mr. E. Morehen, who arouses constant laughter as the rag and bone man; by Mr. Arnold Mussett, who causes similar manifestations of mirth as Bottles; and by Miss Helen McCulloch as the curious Lady Catherine; the "astral forms" being cleverly depicted by Mr. E. S. Elton, Mr. Charles Glenrose, and Miss Cassie Bruce as the fascinating Monsheen. *The Witches of Macbeth* still appeals powerfully to the artistic eye and ear, Mr. Gordon Bailey repeating his finished performance of Macbeth; and Miss Cassie Bruce both acting and singing dramatically as Hecate. Mr. J. N. Maskelyne is again seen in his striking performance as the First Witch; and is adequately supported by Mr. Chas. Glenrose and Mr. E. Morehen; Mr. E. S. Elton being a capable Lennox. The spectres, produced on a new plan, are as ghostly as can well be, and the effects of storm and lightning, together with the chorus of invisible spirits, combine to form an entertainment which no one who delights in the mystic art should omit to see.

HOLLOWAY EMPIRE.

A very attractive programme is being presented at this popular hall this week, and business is correspondingly good. Auguste Van Biene, the well-known actor-musician, fills the place of honour at the top in his playlet *The Master Musician*. This has undergone some modification since its initial production, and now concludes with the death of the musician. It serves to introduce Mr. Van Biene's accomplishments as a skilled 'cello player, and he is nightly delighting the audience with his solos. Very efficient support is forthcoming from Miss Mary Mannering as Jenny, and Mr. Percival Goffin, who is Mr. Van Biene's musical-director, himself renders valuable aid with the piano accompaniments. The reception at the conclusion is particularly cordial.

Allan Hanbury, a bright and amusing comedian, makes himself popular in a catchy song. Edith Brown, the musical slavey, is a good entertainer at the piano, and gives a couple of songs, the first on servants' compensation and the second on the Suffragist question, to the evident appreciation of the house. Albert is a clever and versatile artist. His turn, which comprises whistling, imitations of popular artists, instrumental solos, and a capital rendering of "The preacher and the bear," was sustained at the same high level throughout, everything being exceedingly neat and smart and meeting with well-deserved plaudits at the close. The original Gaudsmits are a couple of clever acrobats, the novelty in their act being secured with two dogs, one of which is particularly well trained. Amy Anderson and company in a new act, entitled *On and Off the Stage*, do very well, the show consisting of songs, dances, and some smart acrobatic work, having plenty of go. The Lyric Mummers, a lady and gentleman, display good voices in a vocal act.

Alf. Holt is a good whistler and mimic, and though suffering from a cold gave a pleasant and clever show, his bird imitations being very faithful reproductions of the originals. Gertie Gitana, who is at the bottom of the bill, scored a most decided success, singing four songs and dancing in a style that proved her to be a gifted young lady. Mr. Camp's orchestra is a feature of the evening, and Mr. Bertie Ralland is very attentive in the front of the house.

AT the Boscombe Hippodrome Evie Greene, the Queen of Musical Comedy, is the great attraction this week, and in selections from her répertoire gains tremendous applause from an appreciative audience. Mark Brand, eccentric comedian, keeps the house in roars; Vincent Kelway and company present their romantic French episode, *The Poet of the People*, and are well received. Morrin and Cardiff, comedians and dancers, execute their turn in a pleasing manner, and come in for a good round of applause. Le Strad, in his original impersonations of celebrated musicians, is appreciated; Victoria Dagmar and Clown, as eccentric gymnasts, are very good, as also is Ethel Arundel, vocal comedienne. The Hippo Pictures, showing latest subjects, conclude the bill.

DATAS has been springing his wonderful memory feats upon hard-headed Sheffield audiences at the local Empire, where he is deputising with no little success.

INVENTIONS.

[The particulars furnished below of recent applications for patents are taken from the official records. Correspondence is invited with our readers on all matters relating to new ideas and inventions, with a view to affording them advice and assistance. Letters should be addressed to the Manager, Inventions Department, "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London.]

Inventors and others who have no business representative are invited to communicate with the Manager of the Inventions Dept. as above.

APPLICATIONS.

632.—Edwin Samson, of London. Ear-screen for singers and speakers.

649.—Charles Burton Winzer, of London. New or improved target game.

685.—Charles Hicks Sapper, of London. Improvements in jumping-rope handles.

809.—Mitsue Ando, of Manchester. Spiral frame globe act.

900.—John Hayton Greenhill, of Southampton. Improvements in roller skates.

1,133.—James Richard Whiting, of London. Improvements in or relating to roller skating rinks.

1,140.—Donald Stevenson, of London. Improvements in and relating to cinematograph and similar projecting apparatus.

1,166.—Zotos, Ltd., and Albert Henry Franks Perl, of London.—Improvements in and relating to mirrors or screens for use in connection with entertaining, advertising, or like purposes.

1,191.—John Marius Proctor, of London. Improved target for rapid firing.

1,225.—John Mancini, of London. Improvements in apparatus for playing games of skill.

1,249.—John William Mackenzie, of London. Amusement device (Otis Fenner Wood, United States).

1,257.—Arthur Emett, of London. Improvements in trade circulars and programmes for theatres and other places of entertainment.

1,290.—Frederick Bolton, of Manchester. Improvements in recreative apparatus.

1,298.—William Johnstone Smith, of Glasgow. Improvements in and connected with covers of wicker hampers and baskets, for travellers, professionals, and the like.

1,354.—Timothy Raymond Barrett, of London. Device for home training of athletes, and to provide for scenic effects on the theatre stage.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS ACCEPTED.

453.—Davidson. Cinematography in natural colours.

825.—Richard. Apparatus for the successive examination or projection of stereoscopic or other pictures.

1,227.—Mitchell. Target-practice apparatus.

1,697.—Baggally. Device for producing an optical illusion

6,353.—Brown and Stephens. Bullet trap and target holder.

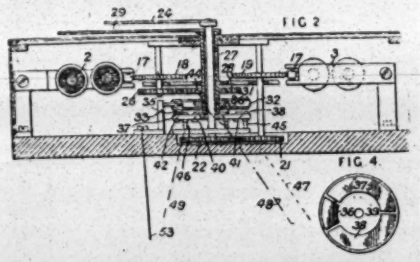
7,526.—Sefton-Jones (Thorn). Apparatus for use in theatrical productions.

21,814.—Stewart. Announcement boards, for advertising and other like purposes.

ABRIDGMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

19,713.—Phonographs, cinematographs. Grünbaum, J., of Berlin.

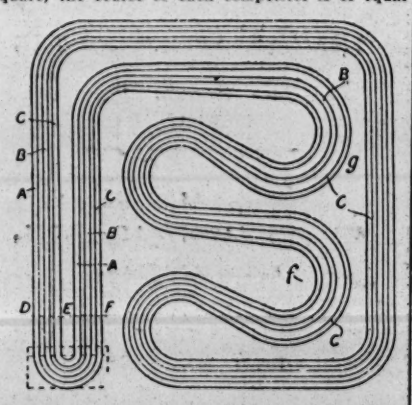
The synchronous running of a cinematograph with a talking machine is indicated by the motion of pointers, or by the lighting of lamps. The cinematograph shaft and the shaft of the talking machine each make electric contacts momentarily, energising separate electro-magnets, from the armatures of which, by suitable mechanism, motion is independently transmitted to two pointers, which, when the running is synchronous, move together by jerks round a dial. Contacts may be fitted to the shafts of these pointers, so that when one lags or leads a red or a blue lamp may shine instead of a white one. In the vertical section shown in Fig. 2 the electro-magnets (2, 3) are energised intermittently by the cinematograph and talking machine respectively.



Pawls (17) attached to the armature of each actuate ratchet-wheels (18, 19), which by cog-wheels (26, 28, and 21, 22) rotate the tubular and solid shafts carrying the pointers (29, 24). Attached to the tubular shaft (27) is an insulating disc (31) having a conducting-rim (32), which brushes against a spring-contact (33), and is also connected with another spring-contact (35) on the under side of the disc (31). During synchronous running the piece (35) remains in contact with a segment (36) (see also Fig. 4) on the upper side of a disc (39) attached to the solid shaft. The piece (36) is electrically connected to a ring (40) on the under side, in continual contact with which is a contact-spring (44), leads (53, 48) completing the circuit for the white lamp. Should the cinematograph pointer (29) advance or lag relatively to the pointer (24), the spring-piece (35) comes in contact with one of the segments (37, 38). The former segment is connected to a ring (42), which rubs the contact-spring (45), the circuit of the red lamp being completed by the leads (47, 53), while the segment (38) completes the circuit of the blue lamp by a middle ring (41), contact-spring (46), and leads (49, 53).

19,847.—Racing tracks, &c. Martyne, H. H., of Manchester.

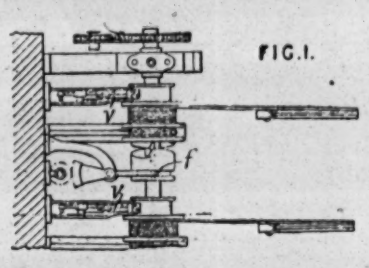
Tracks for racing purposes, with or without railway lines, are so arranged that although the track curves so as to come within an approximate square, the course of each competitor is of equal



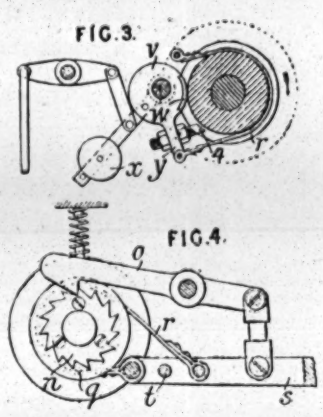
length, without the tracks crossing one another. The tracks (A, B, C) start at D, E, and end at E, F. At *f* and *g* the tracks diverge somewhat in order to make up by the curve at those points any distance lost at the curves at the other points. The idea may be applied to toy tracks.

20,084.—Theatrical appliances. Hart, J., of Bradford.

Each scene, curtain, or the like is independently raised by power and falls by gravity. The ropes supporting the scenes are wound on drums, riding loose upon a driving-shaft, and thrown into engagement with the shaft by suitably-operated clutch mechanism (*f*, Fig. 1). At the top of each scene is a steel bar to which three ropes are attached, the ropes either being taken to a ring or being left separate. In the former case the rope on the winding-drum is secured to the ring; in the latter case the three ropes are each taken to the drum. The intermediate guide-pulleys have the requisite number of grooves. To check the motion of the sheet, a ratchet-wheel (*n*, Fig. 4)



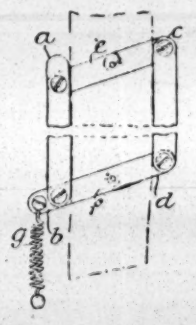
attached to the drum engages with a spring-pressed pawl (*o*) pivotally mounted to a fixed part of the apparatus. The pawl is operated by a hand-lever (*s*), which is pivoted at *t* and secures the ends of a brake-strap (*r*) working on a brake-drum (*q*) attached to the winding-drum. Instantaneous or gradual stoppage of the descent of the screen can thus be obtained by bringing the pawl brake-strap respectively into operation. Another and more silent method consists of a brake-strap (*r*) combined with a hand-operated eccentric (*v*, Fig. 3) mounted on a shaft parallel to the



shaft of the brake-drum and provided with a gripping-surface (*w*) to engage the brake-drum as the eccentric is oscillated. A weight (*x*) urges the eccentric into the gripping position, and a stop (4) attached to an arm (*y*) on the eccentric limits the movement of the eccentric. A stop, attached to a rope wound on a drum attached to the winding-drum, engages a fixed plate when the scene reaches its lowest position, a spring attached to the stop serving to cushion the blow when the stop engages with the plate.

19,892.—Cinematographs. James, R. N., of London (Compagnie Générale de Phonographes, Cinématographes, et Appareils de Précision, of Paris).

A centring device suitable for films varying in width consists of a jointed parallelogram (*a*, *b*, *c*,



d) with the centres (*e*, *f*) of the shorter sides fixed to the instrument, and a spring (*g*) to keep the longer sides constantly pressing in.

CINEMATOGRAPH PRECAUTIONS.

In view of the danger attending cinematograph entertainments, the L.C.C. Education Committee has unanimously decided to ask the L.C.C. to add a clause forbidding cinematograph entertainments to the regulations governing the letting of L.C.C. schools.

FINANCIAL.

HACKNEY AND SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMPIRE PALACES.—The statement of accounts for the year to Dec. 31 last shows that the net profit, including the balance brought forward, and after allowing for debenture interest, depreciation, and all other charges against revenue, including the managing-director's salary for 1907, amounts to £15,106. From this there fall to be deducted the dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. on the preference shares for the year, and the interim dividend upon the ordinary shares paid in July last, which amount in the aggregate to £5,200. The balance of £9,906 thus remains to be dealt with at this time. The directors recommend that this amount should be applied as follows: That a dividend be declared and paid upon the ordinary shares for the half-year to Dec. 31 last at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, amounting to £5,000, and that the balance of £4,906 be carried forward, subject to the managing-director's remuneration for 1908. The directors attribute the decrease in profits as compared with former years partly to the very fine weather of the past summer, which had naturally a prejudicial effect upon indoor amusements, and partly to the popularity of the Franco-British Exhibition, the site of which was adjacent to one of the company's properties. The directors have acquired an interest in the Stoke Newington Theatre.

LUNA PARK, PARIS.—Jan. 13. £30,000 (£1). Builders, purchasers, and operators of amusement parks and other public amusements and entertainments, &c. Agreement with J. H. Iles, G. Akoun, Frank C. Bostock, and the L. A. Thompson Scenic Railways Continental, Ltd. Private. 210, Strand, W.C. (101,103.)

JURY'S IMPERIAL PICTURES.—Jan. 20. £20,000 (£1). To take over the business of a dealer in cinematograph machinery, appliances, films, and materials, &c., carried on by W. F. Jury, of 142, Long-acre, W.C. Private. 142, Long-acre, W.C. (101,187.)

TO STAGE MACHINISTS AND ELECTRICIANS. — The Manager will be pleased to receive particulars of any new stage appliances or ideas for same for illustration in this column.

Can You Invent?—Do you wish to know of prizes offered to inventors valued at £10,000, £5,300, £5,000, £4,000, £1,000, £400, £300, £200, £100, and £50? If so, then get a copy of *Patents and Designs*, a newspaper called into existence by Mr. Lloyd George's Patents and Designs Act, 1907. *Patents and Designs*, price 2d., can be had at all bookstalls, newsagents, and at the Publishing Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

NEW YEAR'S COLLECTION FOR THE MUSIC HALL HOME.

In again directing the attention of our readers to *The Era* New Year's Shilling Fund on behalf of the Music Hall Home we are in the happy position of being able to associate with the appeal thus being made the name of the foremost music hall comedienne—Miss Marie Lloyd. It seems scarcely necessary to remind our readers of the deep interest Miss Lloyd has ever taken in matters affecting the welfare of her brothers and sisters of the variety profession. It is her desire that her "year" will be marked by a considerable increase in the subscriptions of previous years, and she therefore, through *The Era*, commends the Music Hall Home to the charitably-minded. Mr. Thomas Barrasford, the President of the Fund, is again this year exerting himself in its behalf, and this fact is sufficient indication that he is satisfied as to the way in which the institution is being conducted, and that he considers it worthy of support.

Mr. Ben Woodger, the secretary of the Music Hall Home, tells us that in 1907 the inmates averaged ten, but that in 1908 there have been as many as twelve. The address of the Home is 31, Wilson-road, Camberwell, and there the matron (Mrs. Fruin) busies herself for the comfort and convenience of her "family." At present there are eleven of these, and the desire is to increase the number, which can only be done when sufficient funds for the purpose are collected. During the past twelve months three or four of the inmates have recovered their health and strength sufficiently to enable them to look for engagements. These secured, they left the Home, and the vacancies thereby created were immediately filled up. Now, this Home requires keeping up, and it cannot be kept up on air. There is no need for us to refer to all the good work which has been performed by the institution in the past, as that must for the most part be within the recollection of our readers. The ages of the inmates range from fifty to seventy-six. In all probability these men will be maintained in the Home until the day of their death, and their funeral expenses paid for out of the funds of the Home.

The Era New Year's Shilling Fund is the main source of income to the Home, and this means of sustenance is added to by the donations of artists, either given directly, or through the collecting boxes through which many managers of variety theatres collect pennies from "dead-heads" and from artists who desire free admission.

[Photo by Sarony.

MISS MARIE LLOYD,
The Fair Worker for the Home.

Anyone can be supplied with a collecting-card by sending a postcard to Mr. Woodger.

Briefly, we may once more repeat that the objects of the Music Hall Home Fund are to provide shelter for deserving members of the variety profession who have been stricken with poverty or illness in their declining years, or who have in other ways fallen on evil times. Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, the hon. treasurer, will be pleased to receive filled-up collecting cards addressed to him at *The Era*, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C., and to acknowledge them in these columns.

FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	Shillings.
Joe Elvin, per Marie Lloyd	105
Marie Lloyd	63
Bert Williams	30
Jack Woolf	30
Leoni Clarke	21
Gus Elen	21
Chas. Weldon	21
Mr. Hymack	20
O. M. Dayton	10
Alf Chester	10
E.	6
Slippere	5

Collected by the Hartley Wonders, 2s.

Hartley Wonders	1	Maggie Walsh	1

Collected by Horace Wheatley, £2 10s.

Horace Wheatley	40	Grandma	1
T. Wheatley, jun.	1	Auntie	1
Kathleen Wheatley	1	Mack W. (the dog)	1
Norah Wheatley	1	Ernest Poweel	1
Eileen Wheatley	1	Will Vay	1
H. Wheatley, jun.	1		

Collected by The Maples, 10s.

Fred Maple	1	Dusty Rhodes	1
Amy Maple	1	Joe Tennyson	1
Edward Lauri	1	Bates Maddison	1
May Beatty	1	W. H. Wallis	1
Cissie Lauri	1	Ben Brown	1

Collected by Dave Carter, £1 10s.

Dave Carter	1	Al. Johnston	1
He of the Topnote	1	W. Ellwanger	1
He of the Topnote	1	J. J. Harvey	1
He of the Topnote	1	Dan Conroy	1
He of the Topnote	1	Bowker Andrews	1
James Shewart	1	J. W. Wilson	1
James Mooney	1	W. H. McCarthy	1
Percy Haley	1	Young Dave Garrick	1
Master May	1	Lancelot B. Andrews	1
Fred Morley	1	Geo. Hughes	1
Alf. Ripon	1	Doc. Robertson	1
Sammy Shields	1	Baby Robertson	1
W. F. Heeley	1	D. J. Pigott	1
B. C. Meely	1	Will Oliver	1
Rose Elliott	1	Morny Cash	1

Collected by the Musical Johnstons, 5s.

Dorothy Drew Johnston	1	J. A. Johnston	1
A. E. Johnston	1	Dave Carter	1
F. Johnston	1	Fred Ralph	1

Collected by Sisters Ford, 30s.

Cissie Ford	1	Jack Hayworth	1
Emmie Ford	1	Walter Williams	1
John Simms	1	Frand Leidam	1
George Rapley	1	W. Richardson	1
Colibris Midgets	1	Joe Athos	1
Colibris Midgets	1	John Trowel	1
P. E. Edmond	1	Hectors	1
Arthur Woodville	1	Thorpe and Co.	1
Horace Pollock	1	Rastus and Banks	1
M. Simms	1	Mrs. Haley	1
Hughie Rostron	1	Milner and Storey	1
Little Innocence	1	Jimmy and Fanny	1
Earl of Dudley	1	Raven Wood	1
Cecile Eldred	1	Vivienne Bell	1
Sam J. Downing	1	W. M., Friend	1

Collected by Three Sisters Lee, £2 0s. 6d.

E. F. Murray	2½	E. Pender Cudlip	1
Fred Ginnett	2	J. Morgan	1
Reg. Beauchamp	2	George Narow	1
M. Arnold	1	Herbert Mack	1
A.	1	Jas. E. Donegan	1
W. Murray	1	Jim Dunedin	1
Thomas Lee	1	George French	1
Mina Lee	1	Gent Lotto	1
Jeanette Lee	1	Syd Pete	1
Leonie Dixon	1	T. C. Downie	1
Marie Empress	1	Schus	1
Sue Lewis	1	Ned	1
Jas. W. Dixon	1	Three Orleans	1
R. A. Johnson	1	Reg Bolton	1
Ernie Warsaw	1	H. Finden	1
R. H. Douglas	1	Hanvarr	1
Mrs. Dent	1	Hanvarr, jun.	1
W. W. Walton	1	Anna Lee	1
Harry Curry	1		

Collected by Jimmy Shields, £1 15s.

Johnson and Bert	2	Monty Walker	1
Billy Williams	1	J. E. Wilkes	1
Jimmy Shields	1	Floradoras	1
Edward Rowland	1	Mr. J. Burslam	1
George Shields	1	Arthur Royce	1
Sam Thomson	1	Margaret Drew	1
Harrison Brookbank	1	Beatie and Babs	1
Dolly Rosa	1	Frank Coyle	1
Ernest Krake	1	Friend	1
Fred J. Hudson	1	Pal	1
George Edney	1	S. F.	1
Mr. and Mrs. Will Pettitt	1	Tom Joy	1
Ernest Dillon	1	Henry Herne	1
Percy Farrimond	1	Leonard Fisher	1
Evelyn and Norrie	1	Will S.	1
George Cooper	1	Sam B	1
J. W. Hall	1	Devonshire, Barnsley	1

Collected by Kloof and Ramsay, £1 12s. 6d.

George Lashwood	2	J. E. Nightingale	1
Verona Quartette	2	A. C. Williams, stage representative, Pontypridd	1
Per Messrs. Benet and Kloof, Crusoe panto. company:—		Miss Nellie Dyson	1
Mr. Harry Benet	2	Miss Gertie Millar	1
Sisters Rowe	2	J. H. Wakefield	1
Billy Kloof	1	Rand and O'Ryan	1
Mrs. Kloof	1	Will and Roze	1
Little Jack Metz	1	Sam Saxo	1
U. C. Ugo	1	Ernest P. Grahame	1
Mrs. A. F. Bedford, V.A.F. Agency, Barnsley	1	Trixie Bascombe	1
Sandy McNab	1	Alf. Heath	1
Bert Weston	1	David Phillips	1
Syd Pete	1	Miss Eva Bentley	1
Arthur Maxey	1	William W. Fish	1
		Lonzo Brown	1
		Miss Holland	½

Collected by Seener and Fridkins, £2 5s.

Seener and Fridkins	5	Bertha Northam	1
John A. Leopold	5	Augustus Dale	1
Zeymand Andrews	5	William Ward	1
Mr. Edwardes	2	Herbert La Martine	1
Geo. Auger	2	Horace O'Malley	1
Ernest Rommel	2	Marie Loftus	1
E. Ch. Gittins	2	A. Dome	1
Dick Bell Rio	2	C. Coborn	1
Fredk. Wilson	1	Ae-Bo-Kou	1
X X X	1	D. H. C.	1
Boccaccio	1	Will Murray	1
A. H.	1	Joe Sylvana	1
Bertie Ralland	1	Tom Collins	1
Bertha Winder	1	W. H. C.	1

Collected by Regan and Ryan, £1 12s. 6d.

Fanny Fields	5	Room No. 4, M.T.	1
Violet Lloyd	5	Doris Dean	1
Malcolm Scott	5	Florence Hersee	1
Harry Tate	5	Harry Claff	1
Regan and Ryan	5	Horace Lane	1
Patty Yole	2½		

Collected by Livesey and Rosebery, £1 8s.

Leo and Roland	1	W. H. Carnis	1
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilde	1	Montaldos	1
Mr. Sam Williams	1	Joe Hay	1
Gladys Mavius	1	Leonie Dixon	1
Miss Adah Payne	1	Jim Dixon	1
G. Barclay, jun.	1	The Heroine	1
Tom Shaw	1	The Villain	1
Billy Stevens	1	The Hero	1
A. Earl Hunt	1	Lilian Rosebery	1
W. Higgins	1	Carter Livesey	1
Dr. Caine	1	Little Willie	1
Harry Randall	1	Gannimede	1
C. W. Whittle	1	Signorita	1
Gordon and Grace	1	The Skipper	1

Collected by Herbert Shelley, £2 3s.

Albert Chevalier	20	Arthur Burne	1
Herbert Shelley	10	Huntley Wright	1
J. W. Macdonald	2	Harry Nicholls	1
Lionel Rignold	1	Mrs. Herbert Shelley	1
J. Cook Beresford	1	Alma Shelley	1
L. Race Dunrobin	1	Florence Huntley	1
Graham and Harrington	1	May Fairclough	1

Collected by J. W. Hall, 30s.

J. W. Hall	1	Gent. Lotto	1
Pat Rafferty	1	Tom Wilson	1
Walter Wade	1	Harry Barrett	1
Harold Hughman	1	J. W. Hall	1
George P. Smith	1	J. W. Hall	1
F. A. Gotch	1	J W. Hall	1
T. Mercer	1	Mrs. Hall	1
Alf Sontai	1	Mrs. Hall	1
Harry Shirley	1	Mrs. Hall	1
Campbell	1	Mrs. Ella Hall	1
R. Galland	1	Mrs. Ella Hall	1
W. H. Barber	1	Mrs. Ella Hall	1
Lucy Crichton	1	Master Harry Hall	1
Mr. Clark	1	Master Harry Hall	1
A. Lotto	1	Master Harry Hall	1

Collected by Frank Coyle, 20s.

W. E. Gillin	1	Gladys Godwin	1
Ramsey Trio	1	The Ellimans	1
J. Smith	1	Lilian Graham	1
Frank Coyle	1	Fioretti and Elly	1
Violet Coyle	1	Percy Mannings	1
Mrs. Frank Coyle	1	Walter Mannings	1
Miss Fanny Coyle	1	F. B. Bedford	1
Jimmy Shields	1	John Huxley	1
Will Godwin	1	Denby and Dent	1
Mrs. Godwin	1	Geo. Hall	1

Collected by Mlle. De Rose, £2 1s.

Our Boys	4	Edie May	1
Mlle. De Rose	2½	Dick Thomas	1
J. H. Hawtrey	2½	Hettie Gale	1
Reginald Grant	2½	Leslie Hawkins	1
W. W. Kelly	2½	Joe Huda	1
Hilda Claremont	1	Our Willie Hall	1
Alf Leonard	1	J. Gar Kiddie	1
Stanley Fairless	1	Sisters Raymond	1
W. G. Wesley	1	E. Adeler	1
James Lowe	1	H. O. Callaghan	1
Nellie Barrett	1	Herbert Bates	1
Ada Tyrell	1	Mrs. Egerton	1
George Burton	1	Harry Mayville	1
W. H. Lisando	1	Edgar Stebbings	1
Bob Lisando	1	Mark Stuart	1
Harry Bliss	1	Joe Oliver	1

Collected by Barney Armstrong, 24s.

Joe Elvin	2	George Kirby	1
Gaia and Norris	2	Harry Lappo	1
Miss Winifred Hare	2	Lena Brunton	1
Barney Armstrong	2	Leo Behan	1
Mr. J. Lucy	1	Martha Cowper	1
Mr. H. C. Arnold	1	Chas. Coborn	1
Frank Benson	1	E. A. Matthews	1
Baddow	1	Leighton Rooke	1
Ulrick	1	Gladys White	1
J. J. Dallas	1	Jimmy Steel	1

Collected by the Three Bros. Huxter, 11s.

Lambeth and Robertson	2	R. Taylor	1
Edward Huxter	1	A. Rudd	1
Bros. Milford	1	G. G.	1
Jeannie Johns	1	Corradini	1
Elsie Steadman	1	A. Saxon	1

Collected by Conway and Leland, 10s.

W. B. Leland	1	Maringo	1
Crissie Cross	1	Bert Wilson	1
M. B. Conway	1	George Gilbey	1
Mrs. M. B. Conway	1	Billy Seeley	1
Mr. De Breau	1	A Friend	1

Collected by Ted and May Hopkins, £3 1s. 6d.

Courtice and Louie Pounds	20	H. P. Milner	1
Ted and May Hopkins	5	N. Bowman	1
A Wellwisher	3	Charles Stuart	1
Bransby Williams	3	Marie Clissold	1
Mabel Bardine	3	Sybil St. Elmo	1
William Jackson	2½	Lottie Lennox	1
Sisters Geretti	1	Chas. Santoi	1
Fred Horsfall	1	Colonna Frances	1
Nat Gilbert	1	J. Humphries	1
Ida Kathrena	1	Madge Osmond	1
Edward Foster	1	Pearl Keats	1
Arthur Schofield	1	E. S. Jackson	1
John Macauley	1	Ernest Wighton	2
Master May	1	Morris Harvey	1
		Will Poluski, jun.	1
		Harry Weldon	1

Collected by Fred Kitchen, £1 2s.

Fred Kitchen	5	Geo. Craig	1
Harry Kitchen	2	Geo. Messer	1
Mrs. F. Kitchen	2	Grimani	1
Fred Kitchen, jun.	1	T. Scott Bell	1
Kitty Horan	1	Harry Howe	1
Frank Rickards	1	Jimmy Russell	1
Bert Landeck	1	Fred Karno	1
James Beresford	1	Billy Morgan	1

Collected by Carl and Carr, 31s.

J. N. Smith	5	Evelyn Desa	1
Carl and Carr	3	Tom Lawson	1
A Friend	1	Nancy Renshaw	1
Tom Costello	1	Louie Love	1
Billie Costello	1	Queenie King	1
Frank Freeland	1	Ernie Davey	1
James Rallis	1	Jack Osmond	1
L. Hoffman	1	M. Austin	1
E. D. Nicholls	1	Marie St. Hilary	1
A Friend	1	Arthur Carlton	1
Michael Madden	1	A. W. Lethbridge	1
Charles Leverton	1	Bertha Priddy	1
Mlle. Lucretia	1		

Collected by Dick Tubb, £1 15s.

Eight Imperial Girls	4	Dudley Powell	1
Dick Tubb and Jessie Buckle	2	P. C. Armstrong	1
W. Groome	1	Bert H. Delmar	1
F. Brown	1	Grimshaw and Esmond	1
H. J. Corner	1	Maidie Scott	1
Fred Douglas	1	Winifred Ward	1
Mrs. Engel	1	Harold Wellesley	1
Tom Child	1	James Fletch	1
J. H. Farr	1	W. Morgan	1
Bart Farland	1	Sam Poluski, jun.	1
J. Murray	1	Kittie Douglas	1
F. Emney	1	Little Rosie Lee	1
M. Rees	1	P. Brett	1
Nellie Howard	1	Little Maudie Francis	1
Gwladys Soman	1	A. T.	1
May Davis	1		

"ARTFUL."

Play, in One Act, by Sydney Blow, produced at the Coliseum on Monday, Jan. 25.

Harry Binfield ..... MR. CYRIL VERNON.
Winnie Binfield ..... MISS ETHEL BEALE.
Beatrice May ..... MISS SYDNEY FAIRBROTHER.
A Burglar ..... Y. KNOTT.

The advent of so distinguished a character actress as Miss Sydney Fairbrother on the variety stage is an occurrence of considerable interest, and her appearance at the Coliseum during the week is another proof that Mr. Stoll is determined to give every possible opportunity to artists of the legitimate stage to appear at the Coliseum, at which we have had so many excellent theatrical attractions. The vehicle arranged for Miss Fairbrother's début at the fine house in St. Martin's-lane is a playlet by Sydney Blow, part author of *No. 2*, which was successfully launched at the Palace on Monday by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Sleath. It is entitled *Artful*—by no means a cleverly-conceived title—and in it Miss Fairbrother embodies two characters—those of an actress and a burglar. Beatrice May's performance in a new play has been unfavourably noticed by a lady critic, Mrs. Winnie Binfield, who is living in the flat below the actress. On the curtain rising a burglar is discovered annexing various articles in the Binfield's flat. When disturbed by the return of the occupants, the cracksman's plaint of poverty and his story of hungry little ones completely wins over Harry Binfield, who permits the apparent criminal to depart. The discovery afterwards of a rope hanging from the flat above leads to inquiries being made as to whether the "burglar" had attempted another robbery. But Miss Beatrice May, who is sent for, knows of no untoward occurrence of the kind. Presently, however, the "burglar" returns with some property that has been purloined from the Binfields, and, doffing disguise, the identity of the actress with the amateur criminal is revealed. After all, Miss Beatrice May has shown that she can act. Miss Fairbrother presents an excellent study of the burglar; and the other parts are agreeably played by Mr. Cyril Vernon and Miss Ethel Beale.

THE V.A.F. AND ITS CRITICS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I trust you will give me space to reply very briefly to the remarks made by Mr. F. V. St. Clair about myself in his letter to you recently. Mr. St. Clair says I am "guilty of engineering" the strike—it is a strange coincidence that I should be writing this letter on an anniversary of that event—but that is the misleading and inaccurate statement which has been circulated by certain individuals, and which has kept me from obtaining even one week's work in the past two years.

I am no more responsible for the causing of the strike than Mr. St. Clair himself. The minute books will show that I was duly authorised to do all I did. I was a paid official, and carried out my instructions without fear or favour on behalf of those whom I represented. On the other hand, I am responsible for the way the battle was fought, and I have not yet been accused, even by my worst enemy, of fighting it in a half-hearted fashion.

Further, I am not responsible for the breaking of faith with the musicians and stage employees, nor had I anything to do with the arbitration proceedings, which cost the Federation hundreds of pounds.—Yours faithfully,

FRANK GERALD.

4, Mitre-court Chambers, Temple, Jan. 21.

CHILDREN ON THE STAGE. The Act affecting the Employment of Children on the Stage came into force on Saturday, Oct. 1, 1904. Managers, Agents, Entrepreneurs, and Performers wishing to possess a copy of the Complete Act in a concise form can do so by forwarding three stamps to the Publisher, *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

The Guild and the Oldham Corporation.

THE London meeting led to a conference between the President of the Guild and the Executive officials. It was determined that all possible means of arriving at a working agreement with the Oldham Corporation should be exhausted before proceeding to the extremely costly process of petition against their Bill. With this end in view, the Rev. T. Horne has addressed the following official letter to the Town Clerk to lay before the Mayor and Corporation :—

"The Guild Offices,
"5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

"GENTLEMEN,—The Committee of the Guild have had before them and have fully considered the additional powers clauses in your new Bill. They respectfully point out :

"(1)That in recent years the Private Bills Committee have invariably thrown out such clauses on our petition.

"That in the Halifax Corporation Bill similar powers to those you are seeking were thrown out; also that in the Rotherham Corporation Bill the Corporation upon a representation from us withdrew like clauses.

"We do not desire to enter upon opposition to your Bill by petition and counsel until we have exhausted all possible means of conciliation.

"(2) We ask you to receive a small deputation, consisting of our president, Mr. P. Collins (a tenant of your Fair on Tommyfield), Mr. T. Hurst, hon. secretary (also a tenant of your fairground), and myself, the official organiser and chaplain of the Guild.

"Fix a date, say Feb. 9 or 10, or suggest another date more suitable to you, and we will meet you and explain our position.

"(3) I have to forward you the following resolutions passed at our annual gatherings in Manchester and in London :—

"Resolution I. : 'That this meeting of showmen protests against the proposed monopoly of Fairs clauses in the Private Bill of the Oldham Corporation, and it pledges itself to take all possible means to defeat the reactionary proposals of the Corporation, manifestly aimed at the principle of free trade in fairs.'—Passed at the Memorial Hall, Albert-square, Manchester, Jan. 13, 1909.

"Resolution II. : 'That this annual meeting of delegates of the Showmen's Guild, drawn from all parts of the United Kingdom, protests against the Oldham Corporation Bill asking for a monopoly of fairs in the borough boundary.'—Passed at the World's Fair, Islington, Jan. 20, 1909.

"Awaiting a reply, yours faithfully,
"T. HORNE.

"To the Mayor and Corporation of Oldham."

"OLDHAM CORPORATION BILL. MARKETS AND FAIRS.
"Jan. 27, 1909.

"DEAR SIR.—I have to acknowedge the receipt of your letter dated the 23rd instant (but only received here yesterday) upon the above subject.

"I am seeing the Chairman of our Markets Committee thereon, and will write you further in due course.—Yours faithfully,
"J. H. HALLSWORTH, Town Clerk.

"Rev. T. Horne, Organiser to the Showmen's Guild, care of *The Era*, 5, Tavistock-street. Strand, London, W.C."

GUILD SUBSCRIPTIONS, 1909.—Mr. S. Plinston, £1 1s.; Mr. J. W. Bostock, £1 1s.; Messrs. J. Bibby and Co., £1 1s.

Mr. Calvin Brown to the Front..

THE International Exposition at Nancy, France, opens a six months' season on May 1, and the French Government has, through the Colonial Department, taken hold of it in conjunction with the city of Nancy and the Chamber of Commerce of that city. To the Anglo-American Park Manager J. Calvin Brown, proprietor of the White City of Manchester, has been entrusted all the amusements and shows that will be placed in the Exposition grounds. Mr. Brown passed through London on Tuesday in company with his French representative, Mons. G. A. Brunnarius, and several of the parties to whom he has awarded concessions. Work on the building of the amusement portion of the Exposition will begin next Monday, as most of the construction contracts have been awarded, and workmen are on the ground ready for the signal to begin to be sounded. Nearly all the space available for amusements has been let. The Exposition proper will close every night at six o'clock, at least the buildings will, but the gardens, all the shows, the restaurants, and the bands will go on without ceasing until midnight. This is the first time any exhibition ever made such concessions to the builders of amusement devices, and seems to assure a good return for concessionaires. Mr. Brown's White City in Manchester will have a preliminary season during Easter week, but the third regular season will not begin until Saturday, May 15, and will continue for twenty weeks.

News from Holland.

HENRY'S Hungarian Circus has pitched its tent in Rotterdam, Holland, and is meeting with undoubted success. The performances are given daily, and two matinées weekly. The circus is got up on an extensive scale, with numbers of well-trained animals. The Hungarian horses exhibited by Manager Henry in person are handsome specimens, and attract much attention. There is some good riding done by Mlle. Tenzi and Mr. Alberto, and a couple of amusing numbers by the clowns, &c. The Staigs company perform some of their sensational velo and motor feats; and the Three Tiger Graces are seen in their acrobatic groups, which are no less sensational and unique.

Carmarthen.

ON Monday evening *Alone in the Desert* was capitally presented at the Phœnix Theatre, at the Carmarthen Pleasure Fairground, and was followed with the screamingly funny comedietta *The Lady with the Cork Leg*. On Tuesday evening *East Lynne* was given with much success; on Wednesday evening a dramatic interpretation was given to *The Beggar's Petition*; on Thursday *Married Life* was realistically portrayed; and on Friday evening *The Murder in the Lime Tree Walk* was splendidly performed. For Saturday afternoon a special performance for children, the pantomime *Jack the Giant Killer*, was billed, and for Saturday evening the nautical play, *Ben the Bo'sun*. The proprietor-manager, Mr. Harry Cowell, has recently strengthened the company, with the result that the various plays are presented with much power, and consequently meet with cordial and enthusiastic receptions.

Burslem Winter Carnival.

MAINTAINING the fair were P. Collins' No. 2 racing motors and No. 1 Laughterland Exhibition of animated pictures, depicting nightly the Messina earthquake to fairish houses; P. Collins, jun.'s, twin yachts; A. Birch's cocoanut saloon and gingerbread stalls; and E. A. and A. Hart, of minor shows, novelties, and attractions too numerous to mention.

SHOWMEN'S YEAR BOOK, 1908. Edited by the Rev. T. Horne. Entirely rearranged, corrected, and enlarged. 100 pages. Price 1s., post free. Issued at *The Era* Publishing Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C. Telephones : 4,747 and 1,433 Central. Telegraphic Address, "The Era, London."

THE DISPUTE BETWEEN SHOWMEN AND THE PENZANCE CORPORATION.

SUCCESSFUL MEDIATION OF THE GUILD.

The serious dispute over tolls with the Corporation of Penzance carried on by the organised West of England showmen reached a most happy ending on Thursday last, Jan. 28, when all the points at issue were considered and determined by a Round Table conference of the representatives of the showmen and the Corporation, held at the Council Chambers, Penzance. The serious consequences that the Round Table averted may be seen in the statement of claim of the Corporation in their action for damages and costs against the showmen and the tenant of Col. Bolitho, who let the showmen have a field at Heamoor, just outside the town.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
(Chancery Division).
MR. JUSTICE JOYCE.

Writ issued the 19th day of October, 1908.

Between the Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Penzance (plaintiffs) and Otho Glyn Bolitho (against whom proceedings have been discontinued) John Kemp White Albert Anderton and Arthur Rowland (trading as Anderton and Rowland) William Hancock Charles Hancock and Sophia Hancock (trading as W. C. and S. Hancock) and Joseph Brewer (defendants).

STATEMENT OF CLAIM.

1. The Plaintiffs are by prescription and by divers Letters Patent and in particular by the Letters Patent hereinafter in this paragraph mentioned entitled to and possessed of a Fair or Mart holden in the Borough of Penzance on the Eve and Day of Corpus Christi and the two days following—By Letters Patent dated the 9th day of May in the twelfth year of the reign of His Majesty James I. being the Letters Patent hereinbefore particularly referred to his said Majesty granted to the Mayor Aldermen and Commonalty of the Vill of Penzance and to their successors (*inter alia*) that they and their successors hereafter for ever have hold and keep and shall be able to have hold and keep within the aforesaid Vill of Penzance and within the liberties and precincts of the same yearly and every year for ever seven Fairs or Marts therein particularly mentioned the first of the same Fairs or Marts to be holden continue and last on the Eve and Feast or Day commonly called the Body of Christ's Day together with Courts of *Pie Powdre* there to be holden at the time of the said Fairs or Marts from time to time for ever with all liberties and free customs tolls stallages piccages fines amerciaments and all other profits commodities advantages and emoluments whatsoever to such Fairs or Marts and Courts of *Pie Powdre* appertaining arising happening accruing or in any manner belonging and further his said Majesty did grant and confirm to the aforesaid Mayor and Commonalty of the Vill of Penzance aforesaid and their successors all and all manner of liberties franchises immunities privileges profits easements pre-eminences commodities advantages customs rights jurisdictions emoluments and exemption whatsoever which the inhabitants of the vill aforesaid then had held used and enjoyed or ought to have had held used or enjoyed by reason or pretext of any gift grant or confirmation theretofore had made or granted by his said Majesty or by either of his progenitors or ancestors late Kings or Queens of England or by reason or pretext of any prescription use title right or custom theretofore had used or enjoyed or holden.

2. The Plaintiffs have always held the said Fair or Mart on Corpus Christi Eve and day and the two days following. The said Fair or Mart was formerly held in the streets of the Borough of Penzance but of recent years in a field within the boundaries thereof known as the Recreation Ground which had been assigned or appropriated by the Plaintiffs for the purpose thereof. Upon such Fairs being held persons resorting thereto for profit have erected stalls or booths or have taken from the Plaintiffs pieces of land or standings for the purpose of trading thereon and for the purposes of holding shows and performances and giving facilities for pleasure or pastime.

3. The Plaintiffs have always as of right levied from and charged upon and have been paid by the persons so erecting stalls or booths or taking pieces of land or standings reasonable sums of money as and by way of customs tolls stallages piccages fines and other lawful dues or emoluments to the profit of the Plaintiffs.

4. On or about the 20th March 1908 the Defendants Albert Anderton and Arthur Rowland wrote a letter to the Plaintiffs and enclosed therewith a communication in writing signed by the said Albert Anderton and Arthur Rowland who thereby purported to act on behalf of themselves and other showmen who usually resort to the said Mart or Fair. The said communication suggested the arrangement by the Plaintiffs for the purposes of the Mart or Fair of the Plaintiffs fair ground according to a plan set out upon the said communication and the maximum rents to be charged to such showmen for the ground and threatened that if the Plaintiffs were unable to comply with their suggestion they would carry on the Fair on ground not controlled by the Plaintiffs. The Plaintiffs by letter dated the 8th April 1908 refused to accept the terms offered by the said Defendants.

5. On or about the 15th June 1908 being two days prior to the Eve of Corpus Christi Day the Defendants other than the Defendant John Kemp White or some of them entered into an agreement with the said John Kemp White who was the tenant of land known as Poltaire Heamoor at a distance of one mile or thereabouts from the said Borough that he the said John Kemp White should let a part of the said piece of land to them the said Defendants so agreeing for four days beginning on the Eve of Corpus Christi Day for the purpose of holding a Mart or Fair on such piece of land. The consideration for such letting which was paid by the Defendants or some of them to the said John Kemp White was the sum of £70. The Plaintiffs have no particulars of the said agreement other than those which are stated in this paragraph.

6. The Defendants largely advertised in the public papers by means of placards or posters affixed in the said Borough and the vicinity thereof that a Mart or Fair would be open at one p.m. the 18th June Corpus Christi Feast Day and would be continued the two following days and that a charge of one penny per head would be made for admission to the ground.

7. The Defendants proceeded to hold and did hold a Mart or Fair on the land at Poltaire aforesaid on the said 18th June and the two succeeding days by letting the said grounds taken by them from the said Defendant John Kemp White to stall booth and stand holders and to showmen and by charging for admission to the said piece of ground. The Defendants other than the said John Kemp White further set up and held during the said three days stalls booths and stands. Large crowds of people resorted to Poltaire aforesaid who would if no such Mart or Fair had been held have resorted to the Plaintiffs Mart or Fair whereby the Plaintiffs lost the dues emoluments and profits thereof which they would otherwise have had and did not enjoy the said Mart or Fair and the dues emoluments and profits thereof in so ample and beneficial a manner as they of right ought to have done.

The Plaintiffs claim :

(*a*) A Declaration that they are by prescription and by virtue of Letters Patent dated the 9th day of May in the twelfth year of His Majesty King James the First entitled to and possessed of a Mart or Fair to be holden continue and last on the Eve and Feast or Day commonly called the Body of Christ's Day and the succeeding two days in the Borough of Penzance in every year.

(*b*) An injunction to perpetually restrain the Defendants their servants agents and workmen from establishing any Fair or Mart upon any portion of the land known as Poltaire Heamoor or elsewhere within seven miles of the said Borough and from using or permitting to be used any portion of the said land or property or any other land or property within the limit aforesaid so as to interfere with or disturb or prejudicially affect the rights of the Plaintiff Corporation in the said Fair or Mart as hereinbefore declared.

(*c*) An enquiry what damages have been caused to the Plaintiffs by reason of the said letting of ground at Poltaire Heamoor by the Defendant John Kemp White to the other Defendants and payment of the amount found to be due by the said John Kemp White.

(*d*) An enquiry what damages the Plaintiffs have sustained by reason of the Defendants other than the said John Kemp White having held the said Mart or Fair at Poltaire Heamoor in disturbance of the Plaintiffs Mart or Fair and payment of the amount found to be due by the Defendants other than the said John Kemp White.

(*e*) Costs.

S. H. LEONARD.

Delivered this 21st day of January 1909 by Dangerfield and Blythe of 26 Craven Street Charing Cross London W.C. Agents for T. H. and J. B. Cornish of Penzance Plaintiffs Solicitors.

The Cause of the Quarrel.

The matters in dispute have arisen during the past two years, and the fault is partly owing to the competition of rival showmen tendering higher rates than the usual tolls. Taking advantage of this rivalry amongst the showpeople, the Corporation increased the tolls, especially for the big shows and roundabouts to that extent that in 1907 a petition was drawn up at the fair and given to Messrs. Rowland and Anderton to get additional signatures and then to present it to the Corporation. This was done, but met with no material response from the Corporation. Following upon this a meeting of the showmen tenants was held at Redruth Fair on Whitsun Day, a week before the Fair at Penzance was due. Messrs. Anderton and Hancock went down to Penzance, and failing to get their terms from the Corporation, took the land in dispute at Heamoor from the farmer, Mr. J. K. White, and opened there as a carnival, charging gate-money, in the hope that the Corporation might not regard their enterprise in any severer light than a trade strike against exorbitant tolls.

The Intervention of the Guild Chaplain.

The West of England showmen in their trouble sought the good offices of the Guild Chaplain, the Rev. T. Horne. The Chaplain went down to Penzance, and in the interests of peace opened up negotiations with the Mayor and the Town Clerk.

A Suggested Schedule of Tolls.

Amongst other good things done by the Chaplain was the drafting (at a meeting of amusement caterers of all grades at Heamoor) of a reasonable scale of tolls. This was sent to the Corporation on July 3, 1908, following the carnival, and was duly acknowledged. The fairness of this scale is evidenced by the fact that it was ultimately taken as the basis of agreement between the showmen and the Corporation, and the schedule that forms part of the corcordat of peace, and which we are privileged to give below, is, with very slight differences, identical with it.

Local Reasons for Seeking an Injunction.

We need not go into the matter too closely, for the case for the showmen never presented insurmountable difficulties to the conciliators. The Corporation, in order to prevent attacks upon their other market and fair rights under the charter (a most valuable monopoly), determined to seek an injunction—more against the letting of land than against their showmen tenants.

The Story of the Negotiations.

The following letters (out of many) will show how strenuously the Guild has laboured to bring about a peaceful settlement and to get the abandonment of the High Court action. After the writs had been served on the defendant showmen the Rev. T. Horne sent the following letter to the Corporation, under date Nov. 19, 1908 :—

"To the Mayor and Corporation of Penzance.

"GENTLEMEN,—I have been acting as mediator in the regrettable dispute between your Markets and Fairs Committee and the organised showmen. I have been in correspondence with the showmen, who have received writs, in the action entered by you in the High Court for an injunction.

"In their name, and with a view to effecting a peaceful settlement, I suggest—(1) That all the defendants recognise the rights claimed by you under your Charter. (2) That you, on your part, withdraw the action from the High Court, each side to pay its own costs. (3) That the Markets and Fairs Committee accept my previous letter as a basis for agreement on the vexed question of tolls, and that other points with reference to conditions as to entrance upon and departure from the Fairground, be considered on their merits. I am particularly anxious that the Corporation should understand that the policy of our Guild is to conserve the rights of the people for their annual holidays and fairs, as secured to them by Charter and ancient custom. The unfortunate strike, which led to the enterprise of a carnival at Heamoor, was a regrettable incident in the struggle of the local showmen for rights which they considered to be in danger. I am in a position to assure you that, if this matter can be brought to a peaceful conclusion, and without recourse to expensive and, in all probability, unsatisfactory litigation, that you will find the showmen all the better tenants for having got to the bottom of their troubles, and also having obtained wise and magnanimous treatment from the Corporation.—I am, Gentlemen, yours ever for God and for good,
"T. HORNE."

The Reply of the Corporation.

"MAYOR AND OTHERS *v.* BOLITHO AND OTHERS.
"Penzance, Nov. 23, 1908.

"DEAR SIR,—We thank you for yours of the 19th inst., enclosing suggestions on behalf of the showmen defendants, for settlement of this action.

"Will you kindly inform us if you have the full authority and sanction of the solicitors acting for Messrs. Hancock, Brewer, and Anderton and Rowland, to submit the proposals?

"The Council cannot accept the conditions laid down in your letter, but will shortly, if all is in order, submit alternative terms.

"We assure you that the Corporation have no wish to carry this matter into the Courts if a just and equitable settlement can be arrived at.

"They feel, however, that they would be neglecting their public duties if they did not obtain a judgment for the claim set out in the writ, and they certainly cannot forgo damages. Without prejudice,—Yours faithfully,
"T. H. AND J. B. CORNISH.

"The Rev. T. Horne, c/o *The Era*,
"5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C."

"Nov. 26, 1908.

"THE MAYOR AND OTHERS *re* BOLITHO AND OTHERS.

"GENTLEMEN,—I thank you for your communication of the 23rd instant. I have full authority from the showmen concerned to effect any reasonable and friendly settlement of the matter in question. During my visit to Penzance, when I interviewed both the Mayor and the Town Clerk, as the fully accredited conciliator for the showmen, I also interviewed Colonel Bolitho and Mr. White, and since then I have been in communication with both these gentlemen, Colonel Bolitho, through his solicitor, and Mr. White directly. I am in a position to say, therefore, that I have authority from all parties concerned to attempt a satisfactory issue of the matter by conciliation from the parties concerned.

"I am sorry to find that the Council cannot accept my proposals in their entirety, but, on the other hand, I am glad that alternative terms are to be submitted. I note with extreme gratification, and, in fact, I have never doubted, that the Corporation have no wish to carry the matter into the Court if a just and equitable settlement can be attained.

"With regard to the definition of the full powers of your Charter, is it not possible to obtain this in a friendly suit involving, of course, but little legal costs?

"I am extremely sorry to hear that the Council will not forego their claim for damages. Their insistence upon that point seriously increases the difficulties of my work as conciliator, and as I shall have to open up communications with all the defendants, I should like to have some definite statement as to the amount of money the Corporation claims by way of damages.

"I am, of course, writing to all the showmen defendants, and also to Colonel Bolitho's solicitor, and to Mr. White.—Yours faithfully,
"T. HORNE."

The Growing Anxiety for Peace.

The Chaplain's peaceful overtures were met in the same spirit by the Corporation, as the following letters indicate :—

"Penzance, Dec. 19, 1908.

"MAYOR AND OTHERS v. BOLITHO AND OTHERS.

"DEAR SIR,—We are obliged by yours of the 17th inst. We are glad to note that, to a very large extent, the difference between us in this matter is not so very great. We think that we can assure you that the Corporation has no wish to fight a long and costly lawsuit over this matter unless they are compelled to, but matters having gone so far as they have, it becomes imperative that they should vindicate their right to hold a Fair, and in order to do so effectually they must endeavour to obtain a judgment as per the particulars endorsed on the writ.

"When this has been satisfactorily settled, we feel sure that the Corporation will be quite prepared to confer with you, as representing the showmen usually attending the Fair, as to the future working of the Fair. As it is to our mutual interest that the Fair should continue, we feel sure that the Corporation will be prepared to consider any reasonable proposal that the showmen may have to make as to the future.

"It seems that the chief difference between us is that you want to discuss these matters before we obtain judgment, and we want to obtain judgment before we discuss these matters.—Yours truly,
"T. H. & J. B. CORNISH.

"To the Rev. T. Horne."

"Penzance, Jan. 1, 1909.

"THE MAYOR OF PENZANCE AND OTHERS v. BOLITHO AND OTHERS.

"DEAR SIR,—We beg to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 21st ulto., which we have been unable to reply to ere this.

"You can assure the showmen that the Corporation will deal with whatever grievances they have in a fair and reasonable way.

"With regard to the suggested conference, we have now heard from Messrs. Bond and Pearce, acting for Messrs. Hancock and Brewer, in the same strain as you write, and we will see our clients thereon at an early date and let you hear from us again.—Yours truly,
"T. H. & J. B. CORNISH.

"To the Rev. T. Horne."

"Penzance, Jan. 5, 1909.

PENZANCE CORPORATION v. BOLITHO AND OTHERS.

"DEAR SIR,—In reply to yours of the 21st ulto., we have now had an opportunity of consulting with our clients, and they are prepared to meet the defendants at a round-table conference to discuss all matters in dispute connected with this action.

"They offer Saturday, the 16th instant, at the Council Chamber, Penzance, at 11 a.m., as the time and place for the conference.

"We shall be glad if you will let us hear from you hereon, together with any terms that the defendants may wish to submit for the consideration of the Corporation. A copy of this letter has been sent to Messrs. Bond and Pearce, acting on behalf of the Messrs. Hancock and Brewer, and to Messrs. Borlase and Venning, Penzance, acting on behalf of Colonel Bolitho and Mr. J. K. White.

"This letter is, of course, written 'without prejudice.'—Yours truly,
"T. H. & J. B. CORNISH.

"The Rev. T. Horne."

The Conference Held, and a Peaceful Settlement Obtained.

The following are the official minutes of the conference and terms that will be submitted to the High Court for complete settlement and withdrawal of the action. It is a most gratifying fact that the Rev. T. Horne was most warmly thanked at the end of the conference, the Mayor, the Chairman of the Markets and Fairs Committee, and Alderman Vivian Thomas (a former Mayor of the borough) joining in the encomiums :

Minutes of the Conference held on Jan. 28, 1909, at the Council Chamber, Public Buildings, Penzance.

Present :— The Mayor (Coun. A. K. Barnett), Mr. B. C. Matthews, Mr. J. Vivian Thomas, the Town Clerk (Mr. T. H. Cornish), and Mr. B. J. Trewavas, representing the Corporation; the Rev. T. Horne, representing the Showmen's Guild; Mr. J. Jewill Hill, representing the Messrs. Hancocks and Brewer; Mr. W. H. Borlase, representing Mr. J. K. White; and Miss S. Hancock, Mr. Brewer, and Mr. Anderton in person; and Mr. G. Norton, agent of Showmen's Guild, West Penwith.

Agreed : All proceedings "without prejudice."

The Mayor welcomed the members of the conference. The Rev. T. Horne raised the question of tolls in previous years, considered by the Guild to be excessive.

The following scale was agreed to :—

Galloping horses, not exceeding 50ft. diameter, No. 1 £13, No. 2 £12, No. 3 £11; No. 4 £10, according to position in field.

Switchbacks, not exceeding 50ft. diameter, £13, whatever position.

Shows, not exceeding 63ft. by 80ft. diameter, £10, two principal (each).

Show, not exceeding 40ft. by 70ft. diameter, £6, third.

Side shows, 2s. per foot run.

Shooting ranges, 2s. per foot run.

All throwing shows, 1s. per foot.

Dolly frames, 1s. per foot.

Swingboats, 5s. per boat.

Juvenile roundabouts, 1s. 3d. per foot (diameter).

Striking machines, 5s. each.

Positions for galloping horses and switchbacks to be drawn for by lot in the presence of a Corporation official.

The question as to hire of entrance on ground previous to opening the fair and of leaving ground on Sunday was raised, and the Mayor undertook that the same should receive the most favourable consideration of the Corporation.

The Rev. T. Horne and Mr. J. Jewell Hill suggested the Corporation taking judgment under clauses A and B in the Statement of Claim and abandoning C, D, and E.

Mr. W. H. Borlase assented to the proposition.

The Town Clerk submitted offer to settle action as per Statement of Claim. Damages £100, in payment of half-taxed costs.

The Rev. T. Horne, on behalf of all defendants, offered £80 inclusive.

The Town Clerk made further offer of damages £100, and £5 5s. on account of costs, and said that this was the final and irreducible offer and amount the Corporation would take.

The Rev. T. Horne, on behalf of all the defendants, accepted this final offer.

Judgment to be taken against all the defendants as per Statement of Claim and admission as to damages.

Signed on behalf of all defendants, in the presence of Mr. C. Batten (articled clerk), T. HORNE.

Signed on behalf of the plaintiffs, in the presence of Mr. C. Batten (articled clerk), H. CORNISH.

DEATH OF CELEBRATED GLASGOW SHOWMAN.

An old link with the old circuses, the old theatres, and the old music halls of Glasgow has been broken by the recent passing away of Mr. James French. He was a Cheshire man, but passed his early life in Manchester. He began his connection with show life in 1869, when he travelled with Manders' great menagerie. Prior to this he spent a few years in the Royal Marines. Leaving the menagerie, Mr. French joined the tenting circus of the Brothers Sanger (John and George), and was "the Prince of Wales" in the gorgeous circus procession which startled and delighted the inhabitants of the towns and villages through which they passed. Settling permanently in Glasgow over thirty years ago, Mr. French found employment first with Mr. Rossborough, of the old Britannia Music Hall. He was later on employed with Mrs. Baylis, of the old Scotia Music Hall, now the Metropole Theatre. Of the theatres and music halls with which Mr. French had been connected may be mentioned the Prince of Wales's (now the Grand), Theatre Royal, the Princess's, the Gaiety (now Empire Palace), the Metropole, the Folly, and the Coliseum; of the old circuses and circus proprietors, Charles Hengler, Jamie Newsome, Fred Ginnett, Myers, John Swallow, &c. Mr. French had also many recollections, and was thoroughly of opinion that the entertainments of the old days were better than those of to-day, dominated as they are so largely by the music-hall element. Mr. French was an expert conjurer, illusionist, and Punch and Judy man.

On Dec. 4, 1908, James French passed away at the age of sixty-five, and was buried in Sandymount Cemetery. He leaves a widow to mourn his loss.

PRESENTATION IN THE ARENA.

A pleasant little incident took place at Connor's Circus, Crystal Palace, on Saturday night last, when Mr. Fred Connor, the proprietor, his little daughter, Mona, and Whimsical Walker were the recipients of handsome presents in the shape of a dressing-case, silver-mounted handbag, and silver-mounted cigar-case, the donor being Mr. Chas. Hyatt, the amusement caterer of the Crystal Palace and Agricultural Hall. During little Mona Connor's riding turn, Mr. Herbert E. Godfrey, the popular musical-director, came into the arena and made the presentations. In the course of a pleasing speech he referred in terms of high praise to Mr. Connor's abilities as a circus proprietor and to his daughter's skill as an equestrienne, and alluded to Whimsical Walker as the prince of clowns and jesters. Mr. Connor, who was loudly cheered, on behalf of his daughter and himself, made a neat and appropriate speech, in which he thanked Mr. Hyatt and Mr. Godfrey. He also thanked the directors, the staff, and the audience, the latter for the generous applause bestowed on his artists. Whimsical Walker, the Royal clown, then had a few words to say, in which he thanked Mr. C. Hyatt, Mr. Godfrey, and his band. At the conclusion of the entertainment the band played "Auld lang syne."

EARLY DELIVERY.

Special newspaper express services now running on the London and North-Western, Great Northern, Midland, and Great Central Railways, carry *The Era* to the following important cities and towns at the times named. Newsvendors and subscribers obtain their papers at a much earlier hour than was previously possible :—Rugby, 4.30 a.m.; Coventry, 4.54 a.m.; Birmingham, 5.20 a.m.; Crewe, 6.5 a.m.; Manchester, 6.50 a.m.; Liverpool, 7 a.m.; Chester, 9.3 a.m.; Doncaster, 6.10 a.m.; York, 7 a.m.; Hull, 8.20 a.m.; Darlington, 8.58 a.m.; Scarborough, 10.5 a.m.; Newcastle, 10.10 a.m.; Leeds (Central), 6.58 a.m.; Huddersfield, 7.37 a.m.; Bradford (Exchange), 7.47 a.m.; Harrogate, 7.50 a.m.; Halifax, 8.17 a.m.; Burnley, 9.28 a.m.; Leicester, 4.36 a.m.; Nottingham, 5.10 a.m.; Derby, 5.35 a.m.

DR. ORMONDE'S Viennese Ladies' Orchestra Sunflower Company and animated pictures opened to a big house at Birr, King's Co., Ireland, on Monday. The pictures included the Johnson and Burns film.

KINEMATOGRAPH COPYRIGHT.

THE LAW AFFECTING THE SAME.

BY
WILLIAM JAGO, F.I.C., F.C.S.,
BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

Price SIXPENCE.

Address, THE PUBLISHER,
"THE ERA" OFFICES,
5, TAVISTOCK-ST., LONDON, W.C.
Telephones : Nos. 4747 and 1433 Central.
Telegraphic Address, "The Era, London."

FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Pathé Frères.

WILBUR WRIGHT, THE BIRD-MAN.—This exceedingly interesting film shows various phases of a two-hour flight, the aeroplane rising about 360ft. from the ground. We are shown the aeroplane being brought to the starting place, the getting ready, its flying 100ft. high, and running along the ground. On Nov. 13, 1908, Wilbur Wright flew over a line of small balloons placed at a height of 165ft. and won the Sarthe Aero Club prize. Afterwards he took the Michelin Cup, doing 65 miles in the air in two hours. On Dec. 18, 1908, Wright went up about 360ft. from the ground, passing over a balloon standing 300ft. high. The pictures in this series depict these different performances.

BOB THE SCULLION.—Bob is a pastrycook's apprentice, but he prefers playing marbles to looking after the things that are cooking. He likes trifling time away in the street, and on watching him one recollects delightful pictures by Chocarne Moreau of many a white-capped young pastrycook or telegraph boy up to some mischief again. While a kind gentleman is helping Bob to put back into his basket the cakes which have just been tilted over, the naughty boy is busy filling the gentleman's top-hat with flour. Further on, Bob and a handful of scapegraces manage to get hold of a watering-hose, and they play it skilfully on every passer-by. In the end Bob's numerous victims come to his master and complain bitterly. Bob is chased, but he takes to his heels and disappears behind a high wall, then into a large fowl crate, and his pursuers follow suit. But as the crate has a side issue, Bob struggles himself free, and then sets fire to the four corners of the fowl-house, where his victims are entrapped.

THE PRESTIGE OF THE UNIFORM.—Two people, armed with a skeleton key, sneak into a policeman's house, and, thanks to the vacillating light of their lantern, which throws on the walls all sorts of weird shadows, they can lay their hands on a brand new uniform. In a den on the outskirts of the large city one of them dons the uniform, through which they will be able to make dupes. They succeed in gathering together a lot of valuables and money—until the moment when they are arrested by a genuine policeman.

VILLAGERS' QUARREL.—These scenes are acted in a marvellous landscape, with as a background the sombre outlines of the Pyrenees. They represent in the first part of the film picturesque tableaux of love in the country. But on account of one man's cow eating the neighbour's cabbages a quarrel arises between the families of the two sweethearts. When he sees his son so sad, after surprising him near the river looking straight into the deep water with an eager look, the old farmer, fearing a fatal ending to this state of affairs, decides to make it up with his enemy. The old quarrel is forgotten in the joy of the betrothal.

HAWKING.—As everybody knows, the hawk is a bird of prey, possessed of a short, hooked beak. It was used in past centuries for hawking, but before the bird could be of any use it had to be trained to come back to the sportsman's right fist when recalled. For this special sport a ferret drives the rabbit out of its hole. As soon as the prey is eighted the hawker alternately lifts and lowers his fist, the hawk takes its flight, first keeping close to the ground, then circling up gradually until it sees it quarry, which it then harasses with its beak and talons, and only lets go when it falls to the ground utterly exhausted. The dogs then secure the wounded animal, and the hawk returns to the sportsman's fist. The scenes in this picture are descriptive of the famous sport.

HIS OWN WEAPON.—Thus is the story told:—Mr. Easyled is jostled in the street by Mr. 'Arry Fly, known in his set as Knight Fly, afraid of nothing. Mr. Easyled reproaches Mr. Fly with his rudeness, slaps and blows are exchanged, also visiting cards. On reading Mr. Easyled's address Mr. Fly lets a smile hover about his thin lips. Mr. Easyled is so feverish that he must go home and have a little practice with his sword and pistol, the result of which is that he damages his furniture. While Mr. Easyled goes out in search of his seconds Mr. Fly breaks into his house, and, with the aid of some accomplices, he removes everything. In order to show Mr. Easyled that he has not forgotten the duel Mr. Fly leaves this note behind:—"Thanks for having given me your address. Having the right to choose the weapons, I decide on the skeleton key. My honour as a housebreaker is satisfied.—'Arry Fly."

THE COMMANDER'S ARMOUR.—A burglar breaks into a house at night, and as he is on the point of being found out he hides inside a commander's armour. The master of the house comes in, and, finding his wife at home, he tries to tease her; but she is in no mood for it, and consequently leaves the room. The housebreaker is feeling quite stiff in his armour, and he begins moving his arms and legs. The husband is so scared that he falls into a swoon. The ruffian avails himself of the opportunity to dress the other man up as a commander, and then he hides himself behind a large piece of furniture. A servant seeing this retires hurriedly, shouting the while that there is a ghost in the house. The other servants arm themselves with shovels and brooms, and, entering the haunted room, they send the frightened ghost away, who sees everybody running away from him; not even the policemen have the courage to arrest him. After several incidents the poor husband takes refuge under the arches, and there making the acquaintance of a hooligan, he can at last return to his home in the company of his new friend.

Gaumont Films.

THE AGED PARALYTIC.—A wealthy family are going for a yachting cruise, and on leaving say good-bye to the grandfather, who is paralysed. Instructions are given to the valet to take the old man down to the sea-front. After the family have gone the valet's behaviour changes towards the old man. From being gentle, he pushes him about roughly, and strikes him sharply across the face with his hand. The scene changes to the waterside. The child of the family feels cold, and returns home for her coat. Something in the manner of the valet arouses her suspicion, and she decides to stay behind. On the old man arriving at the sea-front the valet whistles, and two men appear. He produces the keys of the house, and a plot is arranged to enter and secure what money may have been left on the premises. The child hears this plot from behind a tree. After the thieves have divided the notes with the valet, to throw off suspicion before leaving they bind and gag him. The little girl steps out and raises an alarm. The family, returning, hear her, and are told what has happened. The stolen notes found on the man confirm her story, and he is handed over to the police.

JACKO THE ARTIST.—This attractive film gives a demonstration of the talents of an educated and clever monkey. Jacko is able to paint as well with his hind legs and tail as with his hands. He models in clay, plays the violin, mouth-organ, and accordion, and is a marvel at building with toy bricks.

MORE MILK FOR BABY.—Mr. and Mrs. White, who own a milk shop, decide to go out, and the baby is left with nurse. The child does nothing but cry, and the nurse, getting tired of it, takes the opportunity of going out with a friend who happens to call. The child is left with the man in charge of the shop with instructions that if the child cries to give it some milk. After it has disposed of the contents of several bottles and still cries the man thinks of a brilliant idea. He produces some rubber tubing, and fixing one end to the tap of a large glass urn he gives the baby the other end. A customer comes in, and after having attended to her wishes, he is surprised to find the milk has all vanished, the child crying again. He again fills the glass urn up, and the milk disappears as if by magic. Mr. and Mrs. White return, and go to take up their son, when they find that he has developed to a regular young giant, turning the scale at 18 stone.

PEGGY'S FIRST FRANCE.—The orderly is grooming down the horse of the Colonel, who arrives with his wife. After reprimanding the orderly for being slow, the wife's maid, Peggy, comes on the scene with her mistress's parasol, which had been left behind. The soldier makes love to Peggy, and suggests she shall have a ride. After assisting her on, the horse starts off, dragging the orderly with it. It gallop through a greenhouse, breaking the flowerpots right and left. After knocking over tables, &c., the orderly at last manages to get on the horse also. The animal finds its way eventually into the Colonel's garden, who, with his wife, rushes out, only to find the male and the female servant in a state of collapse on the grass.

THE RECENT EARTHQUAKE.—The Gaumont Company has now received from their operators in Sicily and Calabria a further film showing the destruction wrought by the earthquake. The picture is most realistic, and of excellent quality throughout. The series opens with a scene showing a priest celebrating mass in the open air. The Milan Red Cross ambulance is then seen at work, the wounds of some of the survivors being very carefully tended. The saddest scene in the picture is the discovery of a victim buried beneath the ruins, and a close view of some of his belongings is shown. His watch is seen to have stopped at a quarter to six, the time that the earthquake took place. Following this, there is a view of the refugees being fed, then a panoramic view of some devasted villages, and the ruins of a cathedral, in which a statue of the Virgin, uninjured, is clearly seen. The picture concludes with a view of an open-air encampment of survivors.

GAUMONT SYNCHRONISER.—We are informed that the Gaumont Co., Ltd., will shortly place on the market a new universal synchroniser, by means of which it will be possible to run any of their very large stock of singing pictures on any projector and talking-machine joined by this device. The cost of this new invention will be nominal only, and it appears that the hire fees per week for singing pictures will range from 5s. to 12s. 6d. for ordinary subjects. This appears to us to be a most important step, as Gaumont's singing pictures, which have so far remained practically the monopoly of very large exhibitors, will now be brought within the reach of those showmen who conduct their business on more modest lines.

Edison Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

UNDER NORTHERN SKIES.—All the world's a stage. The play is ever on; no curtain lowers between the acts—the scenes are simply shifted. The players come and go and play their different parts. To some it is a tragic tale, while others see but comedy. The scenes may change and costumes vary, but the company is that good old "stock"—humanity. Away in the Northern woods, where the lumberman's axe makes the echoes ring, where Jack Frost holds sway, and winter is long and earnest, even there love finds his way and melts a path to human hearts, and sometimes sees happiness crown his work and sometimes havoc. Two comrades in the same lumber camp—breathing the air that makes men sturdy, happy until Love knocks for admittance—find a change come over the spirit of their dreams when the heroine, the lumber king's winsome daughter, comes. Then fate begins to toss the shuttle, and the comrades are caught in the grind. The hero finds the paymaster unconscious, revives him, and learns that his loved comrade has turned thief. To shield him and the woman he thinks he has lost (and his comrade won), he takes the guilt on himself, and even lies in Court to shield those he loves. But his well-meant effort is fruitless, for the guilty man, unable to bear the sacrifice, breaks down, confesses all, and gives the girl up to the man whom she misjudged, but always loved.

THE WORM WILL TURN.—The master-poet gave us a "Taming of the Shrew" that stands unequalled; but Mr. Pepper, who, unlike his name, was a very mild man (until Mrs. Pepper began to grind him), started a comedy going when he finally rebelled at petticoat tyranny that would make the immortal one "turn green with envy." Weary of the perpetual nagging, he holds a council of war with himself behind the woodshed, and determines on a plan of action. Recalling an old Army comrade who closely resembles Mrs Pepper's first husband—with whom she is always comparing poor Pepper to his eternal disadvantage and mortification—he arranges with him to come on a visit and impersonate the sainted No. 1, who was supposed to have been lost at sea fifteen years before our story opens; but the wise ones hinted at a different reason for his absence. Well, our hero arrives and catches Mrs. Pepper wielding a frying-pan over Pepper, who is crouched in a corner. Talk about transformations! She imagines No. 1's ghost confronts her. When she learns that he is really flesh and blood come to claim her she becomes meek as a cow, and the two old cronies nearly die with laughter—but not until they are smoking a pipe behind the aforesaid woodshed. When the conspirators ate through with their work Mrs. Pepper returns, a chastened and wiser woman, and the dove of peace nestles cosily in the chimney corner ever after.

CINEMATOGRAPH FIRES.—The following question was put by Mr. Walter Reynolds to the chairman of the Theatres and Music Halls Committee at the meeting of the Council on Jan. 26, 1909:—As two cinematograph fires have occurred during the last month, at both of which a considerable number of persons were seriously injured, and in view of the continually increasing number of premises used for dangerous cinematograph entertainments, whether this committee will consider as to recommending the Council to send another deputation to the Home Secretary again to point out to him the grave danger in these exhibitions and the responsibility resting on his department of allowing the existing state of things to continue, and to urge the necessity for introducing without further delay legislation empowering local authorities to exercise proper control over all premises in which cinematograph exhibitions are given.

THE answer of the committee was as follows:—The Theatres Committee will have before them on Feb. 3, 1909, a letter from the Middlesex County Council stating that they understand the Council is about to send a deputation to the Home Secretary on the subject of cinematograph entertainments, and that they will be glad to send members to attend with the deputation and support the representations proposed to be made with a view to the controlling of cinematograph and similar exhibitions. As the Council is aware, a deputation consisting of members of the Theatres and Music Halls Committee attended on the Home Secretary on Feb. 28, 1908, and was informed by Mr. Gladstone that he was well aware of the importance of the matter, and would consider whether it could possibly be dealt with in the then current session of Parliament. The committee have not considered as to sending another deputation to the Home Secretary, but in view of the terms of the letter from the Middlesex County Council, I can assure Mr. Reynolds that the matter will now receive the consideration of the committee.

DEARTH OF FILMS IN AMERICA.—An American correspondent asks:—"Are you aware that not a foot of new film can be purchased in the United States? We understand that the market in Europe is glutted with film; if such is the case, there is a good outlet here. There are 5,000 small showmen in the United States who have little theatres where moving pictures are shown. At present they are floundering around without any means of continuing their business, as a trust has bought up and contracted for the output of films from the principal makers of this country. The small places I refer to cannot afford to pay the price asked by the trust for the service, so will have to close up, at a great loss to themselves."

THE DRAMA AND THE CINEMATOGRAPH. By C. P. Ivatts. Illustrated by Photograph and Autograph. See *The Era Annual*, 1909.

KINEMATOGRAPH REGULATIONS

RESPECTING THE USE OF THE

KINEMATOGRAPH

IN

THEATRES & HALLS,

ALSO THE

REGULATIONS

RESPECTING THE USE OF . .

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CAN BE HAD,

Price ONE PENNY (by post 1½d.)

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"THE ERA" OFFICES,
5, TAVISTOOK-STREET, W.C.

Telephones No. 4747 and 1433 Central.
Telegraphic Address, "The Era, London."

All those who handle the Cinematograph or Limelight should possess a copy of these Regulations.

A GOOD FILM RENTAL CONCERN SHOULD COMBINE THE FOLLOWING POINTS.

1. ***IT SHOULD BUY THE BEST.***
2. ,, buy for Customers not for itself.
3. ,, have perfect system of control.
4. ,, never offer same film twice to one Customer.
5. ,, not disappoint Customers.
6. ,, deliver films promptly.
7. ,, always be open.
8. ,, have experienced staff.
9. ,, maintain a high standard programme.
10. ,, not keep any film more than sixteen weeks in use.

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HIRE FILMS FROM THE

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Tel.: Bioscope, Glasgow. Glasgow Office—142, TRONGATE. 'Phone: 787 Tron.

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PARIS, BERLIN, BARCELONA, BRUSSELS, MILAN, MOSCOW, & NEW YORK.

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COMMENCING WITH THE

NEW YEAR

WE REDUCED THE PRICE

OF ALL FILMS TO

4D. PER FOOT NET.

NOW READY FOR SHIPMENT FROM THE FACTORY, ORANGE, N.J., U.S.A.

UNDER NORTHERN SKIES.

All the world's a stage—the play is ever on; the scenes are simply shifted. To some it is a tragic tale—while others see but the comedy. Away in the Northern Woods we watch the various changes in the love affairs of two comrades, which end in happiness for the misjudged lover.

No. 6401. Code, "Venezolano." Length, 970ft.

THE WORM WILL TURN.

Shakespeare gave us a "Taming of the Shrew" that stands unequalled. In our picture-story Mr. Pepper—a mild man—fixes up a successful scheme for the transformation of his wife, and peace reigns ever after.

No. 6411. Code, "Vengadoras." Approximate Length, 900ft.

Write for Descriptive Circulars.

EDISON MANUFACTURING CO., Ltd.,

Edison Works, 200, Victoria Rd., Willesden, London, N.W.

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ARTISTS WANTING ENGAGEMENTS, MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTS.

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"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.
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TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE AND EDWARD COMPTON'S THEATRES.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, for THEATRE ROYAL, BRIGHTON.
March 8, 15, 29, May 10, 17, 24, 31, on.
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.
April 5, May 17, 31, June 7, 14, Aug. 2, 9, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING.
March 8, April 5, 12, 19, May 17, 24, 31, Aug. 2, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER,
May 10, 17, 24, 31, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
May 10, 17, 24, Sept. 13, 20, Nov. 1, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON,
April 12, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Aug. 2, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD,
May 17, 24, 31, June 7, Aug. 2, 16, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON,
April 5, Sept. 20, 27, Oct. 4, 11, 25, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER,
April 12, May 3, 17, 24, 31, June 7, 14, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON,
Feb. 18 (3 nights), March 1, 8, 29, April 12, on.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD.
Feb. 15, March 8, 15, 22, 29, April 12, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON,
Feb. 8, April 5, 12, 19, 26, May 3, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.
First vacant date, March 15.
Address, E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-class Attraction, Feb. 8.
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

THREE PROGRESSIVE THEATRES.
WANTED, High-class Companies, DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE,
March 8, 22, April 5, 12, May 3, 10, 17.
Easter Vacant for Big Musical Attraction or London Star.
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS.
April 26, May 10, June 7, on.
PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE.
March 1, 22, April 26, May, June 7, on.
Apply for all above,
H. W. ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for the following dates:
Feb. 15,
March 1,
March 15,
March 22,
April 5,
April 26,
May 3.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-st., S.W.

THE GRANVILLE THEATRES, LTD.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
Vacant March 8, 22, and 29, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, RAWTENSTALL.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions, Feb. 15, 22, March 1 and 8, onwards, with exceptions.
GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
Wanted, Powerful Musical Attractions, Feb. 22.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, BLYTH-BY-SEA.
WANTED, Attractions, with Strong Musical or Dramatic Drawing powers, for March 22 April 5, 19, 26, May 10, 24, and 31.
Professional Houses of Call.
Adelphi Hotel, opposite Stage Door, Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Waterloo Hotel, facing Tyne Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Lessee and Manager, A. C. MOODY.

ROYAL PALACE THEATRE, RAMSGATE.
Proprietor, LORD GEORGE SANGER.
Lessee, ERNEST MANSELL.
Business-Representative, BERT ATKINSON.
All communications re dates from July 5 to Oct. 2, must be addressed to
JAY and MANN, 10-11, Jermyn-st., Piccadilly, W.
All dates from Oct. 2, onwards,
Apply, BERT ATKINSON, Royal Palace, Ramsgate.
WANTED, Good Panto., Xmas Week.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.
WANTED, First-class Dramatic Attraction, for April 5. Address.
CHARLES REVILL, Theatre Royal, Stockport.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE, GRIMSBY.
WANTED, Company, for April 19, through transfer. Copy of Bill, terms, and all particulars to J. H. CURRY, as above.

OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER.
WANTED, Companies; holds £100; Vacant March 22, 29, and Easter onwards.
Bookings: Merry Widow," "Dairymaids," "Prince of Pilsen," "Prodigal Son," "The Christian," &c. J. P. MOORE, King's Hall, Birmingham.

PIER THEATRE, EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, March 1, 15 (?), 22, and various dates onwards.
Apply, G. HAYES, Manager.

PALACE THEATRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
WANTED, Strong Dramatic Attractions, April 19, June 7 and 28, July 5.
Apply, T. W. ROWE.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. LANGDON LEE.
WANTED, Aug. 9, 16, Sept. 6, 20, and onwards.
High-class Musical Attractions.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, First-class Pantomime, for next Christmas. State where can be seen. Also Front Rank Attractions, May 10, 17, 24. Now Booking Autumn. Address, T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Musical Comedy or Drama, No. 1 Companies only, March 8 and 15. E. H. PAGE.

WANTED, First-class Attraction, for March 29, Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne, vacant through transferring to oblige. Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-street, S.W.

COLISEUM, ABERYSTWYTH.
WANTED, Companies, March 1, 2, 3, onwards. Apply for Spring and Season Dates. PHILLIPS.

THEATRE ROYAL, HANLEY.
WANTED, First-class Musical Comedy, for April 12 (Easter), also April 26, May 10. Apply, CHAS. ELPHINSTONE.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies
ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH
Vacant March 8, April 5, 12, onward with exceptions.

All communications re dates,
ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant April 5, July 5, 12, 19, onward with exceptions.

EMPIRE, WORCESTER.
See Music Hall Artists Wanted Column.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY, S. WALES.
Vacant April 12, May 24, 31, June 7, onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME, BARRY DOCK.
Vacant Aug. 2, Dec. 20, onward, with exceptions.

The Three Great Pantomime Successes,
"ALADDIN," Feb. 8, 1909, onward.
"CINDERELLA," Feb. 8, 1909, onward.
"PUSS IN BOOTS," Feb. 8, 1909, onward.

Can also arrange Production Dates for next season for the above.

All communications,
ARTHUR CARLTON,
Theatre Royal, Worcester.

Telegrams: "Carlton, Worcester."

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
The Chief Theatre of the Town and District.
The only Theatre in the Town lighted by Electricity.
WANTED, Companies, March 1, 15, 29, April 26, onwards.

Our Season's Bookings, which Managers are requested to compare with elsewhere, include:—Miss Lena Ashwell's Co., "Diana of Dobson's," (return), Mr. Geo. Alexander's Co., "The Thief," F. R. Benson's Co., "The Dairymaids," Mr. Percy Hutchison's Cos., "Mrs. Dot," "Brewster's Millions," "Lady Frederick," "Leah Kleschna," "With Edged Tools," "The Christian" (new version), "A White Man," "Sergeant Brue," "You Never Can Tell," "The Flag Lieutenant," "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," "The Beloved Vagabond," Mr. Geo. Alexander's Co., "The Builder of Bridges," Mr. George D. Day's Co., "The Prodigal Son," Miss Lena Ashwell's Co. in "Grit," Mr. Lionel Rignold in "The Early Worm."

All communications,
CALVERT ROUTLEDGE, H. M. T., Barrow.
London Representative,
HERBERT GREVILLE, 65, High Holborn, W.C.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
Seating capacity, 3,500.
Acknowledged to be one of the largest, most handsome, and best equipped theatres in the Provinces.
The Premier and Central Theatre of the District.
WANTED, First-class Attractions only, March 22, 29, April 19, May 17, 31 (Whit),
also Big Star Attractions for August Bank Holiday, and Aug. 16 (Race Week).
All communications,
JNO. ED. JOWSEY,
Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough.
Telephones, 413, 426, 500. Telegrams, "Magnet."

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
The Only Theatre in the Town.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Whit Week, July, and on.
Bookings include Mr. George Edwardes's "Merry Widow," "The Christian" (new version), "The Prodigal Son," "The Cingalee," "Sunday," &c. Address, CHAS. M. JULIAN, General-Manager, Feb. 1, T. R., King's Lynn. Feb. 4, T. R., Loughborough.

EMPIRE THEATRE, SWINDON.
WANTED, First-class Musical Comedy and Dramatic Attractions; also Big Variety Combinations. Managers with First-class Companies only apply direct to ALFRED MANNERS. Wanted, First-class Musical Play or Pantomime for March 8.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, Musical Comedies and Pantomimes preferred, Feb. 8, March 22, April 5, on, three or six nights.
W. E. POTTS.

WANTED, Known, Managers requiring Dates for Sound Attractions write HERBERT GREVILLE, Direct Theatrical Exchange, 63, High Holborn, W.C., or 'Phone 4869 Holborn.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for Grand, Llandudno, Whit, July, Aug., Sept.
HALDANE CRICHTON, Grand Theatre, Swansea.

WANTED, good Attraction, Dramatic or otherwise, for Feb. 11, three nights, for Grand Theatre, Lancaster. STANLEY ROGERS, Theatre Royal, North Shields.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME, KING'S LYNN.
WANTED, First-class Company or good Combination, three nights, commencing March 22. Reply to B. PARKINSON, Esq., King's Lynn, or to ERNEST CH. GITTINS, Empire, Sheffield.

WANTED, Musical Attractions, March 15, 22, Grand, Chorley; also March 22, April 12, Radcliffe. SANTE, Theatre, Radcliffe.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, Company, three nights, March 18, 19, and 20, also Vacant, March 29.
Address, GERALD HARDING.

WANTED, for T. R., Wednesbury, First-class Companies, March 1, April 5, 12, 19, onwards, with exceptions. Good terms to good companies.

HIPPODROME AND PALACE THEATRE, SPENNYMOOR, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, First-class Dramas, Pantos., and Musical Comedies, for Feb. 8 and on, anything to follow Mr. Gar Kiddie's Panto. "Bo-Peep" (now playing to packed houses; hundreds turned away nightly). The Largest Stage in Spennymoor. Address, C. ALGIE.

WEYMOUTH.—NEW PAVILION THEATRE.
WANTED, Known, this building is now complete and admitted by the General Public to be one of the finest and most complete Theatres in the Provinces, being decorated and furnished by Messrs. A. R. Dean and Sons, of Birmingham, and the whole of the Stage fittings carried out under the direction of Experts. Capable of taking £130 at ordinary prices. First-class Companies only entertained, the following dates being at present vacant: Feb. 11, 12, 13, 22, 23, and 24, also March, April, and May, onwards. All communications WALTER R. WALLIS.

KIRKCALDY.
The only Theatre in the Town; holds 3,000 People.
WANTED, First-class Attractions only, from March onwards, Music preferred. Apply A. E. ABRAHAMS, 26, Great Eastern-rd., Stratford, E.

WANTED, Big Attraction, March 1 and 15.
WILL SHEPHERSON, Empire, Barnsley.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, Musical or Pantomime preferred, for March 8 April 5, and all May. R. DEWHIRST, Manager, The New Hippodrome, Todmorden.

WANTED, good Fit-up Panto. or Picture Show, or any Novelty, two nights, Feb. 12, 13 (Fri. and Sat.), splendid Hall, Stock Scenery; big business certain with right show. Wire or write, FREEMAN, Theatre, Cradley Heath.

COMPANIES WANTED.

Booked by
MOSS' EMPIRES, LIMITED.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE,
GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM,
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS,
and
GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Vacant Dates, May 3, 10, 24, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Aug. 9, 16, Sept. 20, Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Dec. 6, 13.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE.
Vacant Dates, May 10, June 14, 28, July 5, 12, 19, 26, Aug. 2, 16, 30, Nov. 8, 22, 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Vacant March 29, April 19, May 3, 10, June 7, 21, 28, Aug. 2, 9, 23, 30, Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 15, 22, Dec. 6, 13, 20.

GRAND, GLASGOW.
Vacant April 5, 19, May 10, 17, 24, 31, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Sept. 6, 13, 20, Oct. 4, 11, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22.
Address,
with full particulars, terms, &c., where can be seen, to
Moss' EMPIRES, LIMITED,
Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street, London, W.C.
Envelopes marked "Theatres."

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. HUGH ROBERTSON.
The Premier Theatre in the Furness District, with a holding capacity of £90 at ordinary prices.
WANTED, really First-class London Successes for March 8 and 22, on, with exceptions.
Season's Bookings include among others: J. W. Turner's Grand Opera Company (return) Mr. Wentworth Croke's "The Bondman," "Amasis," Mr. Charles Frohman's "Raffles," Mr. George Dance's Company in "Miss Hook of Holland," Mr. Wilfred Cotton's Company in "Butterflies," Mr. Seymour Hicks' Company in "The Gay Gordons," and Mr. George Edwardes's Company in "The Merry Widow," Paumier and Howard's "The Prince and the Beggar Maid," and "The Midnight Wedding," "The Flag Lieutenant."
All applications for dates to
HUGH ROBERTSON,
Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, Sound Attraction, for Feb. 22,
Musical Attraction preferred; also Vacant, March 22, April 5, and onwards with exceptions.
Address, THOS. SWINTON.

NEW PALACE THEATRE, WATFORD.
The only place of amusement in the town. Lighted by electricity. Holding capacity £75.
WANTED, Strong Dramatic and Musical Companies, First-class only, Feb. 15, April 5, 26.

SYLVESTER, 217, Piccadilly, W.

EMPIRE THEATRE, SOUTHEND.
WANTED, vacant March 8, 15, April 26, May 10 and 24, and all June and July, for First-class Companies only. Apply, G. CONQUEST.

OPERETTA HOUSE, CLACTON-ON-SEA.
WANTED, Known, Vacant Date for Pantomime, also several Season Dates; First-class Entertainments only entertained. Apply, JURY'S IMPERIAL PICTURES, LTD., 142, Long-acre, London.

WANTED, Companies, Feb. 8 (3 nights), 15, March 1, and on. Now booking Autumn. JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, PEMBROKE DOCK.
WANTED, Musical Attractions, Musical Attractions. March 1, various, on.
Address, NORMAN H. BARGER.

PIER PAVILION, RYDE.
Lessee and Manager,
Mr. REG. WISHART.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, High-class Concert Parties, from Whit Monday and onwards.

Please Note.
Mr. Wishart has made arrangement not only to admit patrons Pier-toll Free, but also to convey them to and from the Pavilion on the electric cars Free.
Full particulars, c/o "Era."

NEW HIPPODROME, SCARBOROUGH.
Managing-Director, WILLIAM PEACOCK.
One of the most luxurious Theatres in the North.
Now running one house nightly at 8.
Holding capacity 2000.
Popular prices, 3d. to 1s. 6d.
WANTED, Star Variety Combinations and Pantomime Companies, on sharing terms, Feb. 22, onwards.
Only First-class Attractions.
Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK, Opera House, Harrogate.
Silence a polite negative.

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE BEGGAR GIRL'S WEDDING."
WALTER MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION.
WANTED, March 22, April 5.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Feb. 15, March 29, April 12.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, April 5, Sept. 6.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 15, March 8.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
WANTED, Theatre, Feb. 15.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 16, Sept. 20, 27.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
WANTED, Aug. 2, 16, 23.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

FREDERICK MELVILLE'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, Theatres, March 29, April 5.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Feb 8, April 12, Aug. 2, 16.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, March 1, April 5, Aug. 2.
DOUGLAS BRUCE,
Grand Theatre, Rawtenstall.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."
WANTED, Feb. 1.
ANDREW MELVILLE, Met. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."
WANTED, March 1.
ANDREW EMM, Metropole T., Birmingham.

MR. NORMAN V. NORMAN'S TOURS.
MR. NORMAN V. NORMAN
and
MISS BEATRICE WILSON.
WANTED, Theatres, for following dates: Feb. 15 (3 nights), Mar. 8 and 29, April 12 (Easter).
Address,
Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, W.C.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates, Wanted, Dates, Wanted, Dates,
"HOW GIRLS ARE BROUGHT TO RUIN."
"HOW GIRLS ARE BROUGHT TO RUIN."
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"HOW GIRLS ARE BROUGHT TO RUIN."
"HOW GIRLS ARE BROUGHT TO RUIN."
A Real Drama.
Never a dull moment.
Received with Cheers.
Refer. Refer.
Fred Granville, Esq.
Vacant Feb. 15, 22, 29.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, Dates, March 1, 11, 12, 13.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
"GREED OF GOLD."
WANTED, Dates, Feb. 8, March 22, 29, April 5.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

MISS HILDA BEVERLEY
in
"A DESTROYER OF MEN."
WANTED, Theatres, for a Few Vacant Dates in 1909.
Now Booking 1910.
Miss HILDA BEVERLEY,
"A Girl's Cross Roads" Co.,
Junction Theatre, Manchester.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, for this Phenomenal Success, weeks of March 22 and 29.
Wire or write to
W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
WANTED, Weeks of March 1 and 8, March 1 and 8, March 1 and 8, for this Remarkable Success, which in a fortnight at Dublin played to £1,400, and at Belfast turned hundreds away nightly.
Wire or write to W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, March 22, April 12, onwards.
Letters, CHARLES HARRINGTON, 105, College-place, London, N.W.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, April 12, 19, 26 May 17, 24, 31.
All communications, J. W. CORDINER, Feb. 1, The Pier, Eastbourne.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."
EUGENE C. STAFFORD'S No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Feb. 8, 15, 22, March 29 (?), April 5 (?), 19; also Oct. 11, 18, 25, Nov. 8, onwards. Letters or telegrams to Bishopsdale, Biddenden, Kent.

Mr. BRANDON THOMAS'S
"CHARLEY'S AUNT" COMPANIES.
WANTED, First-class Theatres, Feb. 15 (Suburban or South), March 29 (North), May 17 and 31 (West or Midlands).
Wire or write, CECIL BARTH,
The Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, London.

M. RUSSELL ROSSE'S TOUR.
WANTED, for "A Pair of Spectacles," or Comedy Répertoire, Feb. 8, 15, 22, and onward. Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, W.C.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
SHAKESPEAREAN REPERTOIRE, also "VIRGINIUS," "THE THREE MUSKETEERS," "IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO MEND," "JEANNIE DEANS," &c., &c.
WANTED, Feb. 8 and 15. Wire, Wheatsheaf Hotel, Longridge, Lancs.

LINGFORD CARSON'S No. 1 CO.,
"THE GREAT WHITE CHIEF."
WANTED, Known, Managers should not miss this sure moneymaker. Star Cast, Good Musical Numbers. Vacant Feb. 8, March 8 and 15, and Whit, May 31. All coms., HUGH BRADY, T. R., Waterhouses, Durham.

MR. HERBERT RALLAND'S CO.
"HIS HOUSE IN ORDER."
WANTED, First-class Theatres, through obliging, Feb. 15 and 22, to follow Lyceum, Sheffield. HERBERT RALLAND, 23, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C.

"SILVER KING" CO.
WANTED, the following Dates:—March 8, Sept. 20, 27, Nov. 1, 8, also Spring 1910.
G. M. POLINI, 93, Penge-road, Anerley, London.

S. RENNEF and G. M. COPPING'S PRODUCTIONS.
"LOVE RULES THE WORLD" CO.
WANTED, Feb. 15, 22, March 1 (Wales or Midlands), March 15 (Lancs.), 22, April 5 (Lancs.), onward, with exceptions.
"HOW WOMEN RUIN MEN."
Several Spring and Summer Dates. Splendid Productions. Special Printing. G. M. COPPING, P. O. W. T., Salford; next, Pavilion, Abertillery.

"THE IDOL OF PARIS."
"THE IDOL OF PARIS."
"THE IDOL OF PARIS,"
by Charles Darrell.
WANTED, First-class Theatres, Feb. 8, Feb. 8, March 15, 22, March 15, 22.
Wire, JAMES BELL, T. R., Darlington.

CHARLES ROGERS and W. E. WILSON'S CO.
"LADDER OF LIFE."
"LADDER OF LIFE."
WANTED, Feb. 15 and 22, Wanted, Feb. 15 and 22, Wanted, Feb. 15 and 22, North or Midlands preferred.
ROGERS and WILSON,
Borough Theatre, Stratford.

"TODDLES."
MURRAY KING AND CO. in "TODDLES."
WANTED, March 1, 8, 15 (between Bath and Bristol), March 29 (between Bristol and Cardiff), April 10 (one night, near Cardiff) and 29.
KING, Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne.

"HER FATAL MARRIAGE."
"HER FATAL MARRIAGE."
Instantaneous Success.
WANTED, Big Theatres, for Feb. 22, March 8 and 22, April 26.
Wire, A. HINTON, T. R., Woolwich.
Next, T. R., Stratford.

WANTED, good Autumn Dates, for "The Cingalee."
HALDANE CRICHTON, Grand Theatre, Swansea.

WANTED, Known, Managers requiring Sound Attractions communicate with HERBERT GREVILLE, Direct Theatrical Exchange, 63, High Holborn, W.C.; or 'Phone, 4869 Holborn.

"THE MASTER CRIMINAL."
WANTED, Good Theatre, Feb. 15 and 22, April 12, for this great Success. HENRY L. ORMOND; wires, Gaiety, Dundee; Letters, G. T., Methil.

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE SORROWS OF SATAN"
and
"NANA, THE RAGE OF PARIS."
WANTED, Feb. 15 (between Devonport and London), various onward dates, including July 12, to follow Scarborough.

Autumn nearly full.
Mr. Waldon's Theatres (third time),
All Mr. Buchanan's Theatres (third round),
Mr. Savile's Theatres (second visits),
and many other important houses.

Another Glorious Success in Blackpool. Splendid Opening. Receipts increasing nightly. Third visit. Business better than ever.

Blackpool has many admirers of Marie Corelli, and they will be vastly interested in this week's visit of her much-discussed "Sorrows of Satan" at the Opera House, particularly when it is given by such talented players as Mr. Edward Neville and Miss Rosie Neville. A large audience assembled last night, and enthusiastic receptions were accorded the clever artists of the company. . . . A considerable amount of discrimination and dramatic sense has been displayed by the adapters, and the handling is remarkably fine. Mr. Neville invests the character of Prince Lucio Rimanez with remarkable fascination, and Miss Rosie Neville is a delightful, if worldly, Lady Sybil Elton. She infuses into the rôle true dramatic art throughout, and her charm of manner is most effective. The scenery and mounting is most effective.—Herald, Jan. 26.

Above is but a sample. More next week.

Wire or write,
LOIE ESMOND, Opera House, Blackpool.

E. OSWALD BROOKS presents
THE IAN MACLAREN REPERTOIRE CO.
THE "NEW HOUSEMAID" COMPANY.
WANTED, First-class Theatres, for above Attractions, as follow:
"NEW HOUSEMAID," March 1, 8 (between Gaiety, Dublin, and O. H., Blackpool), March 29, 30, 31 (between Leamington and Lincoln), April 5, 6, 7, 8 (precede Llandudno) and on, with exceptions.
IAN MACLAREN REPERTOIRE CO., Feb. 15, 22, March 1, 22, April 5, 12, 19, &c.

All coms.,
E. OSWALD BROOKS, Lessee, G. T., Swansea.
Tel. add., "Determined, Swansea."

MISS MARY NEIL,
in her Great Successes,
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS,"
by Charles Darrell,
and
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
by Charles Darrell.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Vacant for either Play,
Wire for Feb. 8,
Wire for Feb. 8
April 5, May 10 and 24,
June 7 and 14.

Miss Neil begs to inform Managers that she is now rapidly booking 1910 for her next new production.

Coms. to GEO. KIRK,
to-day, Lyric T., Hammersmith;
next, Clarence T., Pontypridd.

MONTAGUE BEAUDYN'S SUCCESSES.
"SEND HIM VICTORIOUS."
A Perfect Show in every detail.
One of the Strongest Casts Touring.
Kindly refer Sam Fredericks, Esq.
WANTED, through Transfer, March 1; also Vacant Aug. 2, 9.
"THE POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN."
A Revelation in Modern Drama.
A Show that Pleases all Classes.
Powerful Company in a Powerful Play.
Vacant March 15, 29, Aug. 23.
"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
Gorgeous Revival on an Elaborate Scale.
New Scenery, Dresses, Uniforms.
Vacant March 1, 15, April 5, 19.
"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND," Vacant Aug. 2.
Wire, T. R., Stratford; write, T. R., Edmonton.

WANTED, for New Comedy, "Terence," by Mr. B. M. Croker, Authoress "Beyond the Pale," "Diana Barrington," "The Cat's Paw," &c., March 15, between Belfast and Edinburgh. Murray Carson as Terence. First-class London Company. Apply, C. ST. JOHN DENTON, 34, Maiden-lane, Strand.

Mr. and Mrs. ARTHUR TRAVIS and RUTH HINTON GREEN ZILLWOOD'S No. 1 CO. in
"HER FATAL MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Big Theatres, for Feb. 22, March 8, 22, April 26.
Re dates, A. HINTON,
to-day, T. R., Woolwich;
next, T. R., Stratford.

"JEANIE DEANS."
Scotland's Recognised Leading Actor,
JOHN CLYDE, and POWERFUL CO., in a Grand Production of this Favourite Scottish Drama.
WANTED, Good Theatres, for Feb. 15, and various onwards. Write or wire, 43, Gt. Western-road, Glasgow.

"THE 10.30 DOWN EXPRESS"
and "GUILTY GOLD."
WANTED, Feb. 8, Lancs. or Yorks preferred, May 3, 10.
HORACE STANLEY, 404, Mill-st., Openshaw, M'chester.

STEPHEN PRITT'S REPERTOIRE COMPANY, presenting Beautiful Modern Dramas of English life.
WANTED, Good Theatre for Feb. 15. Address,
STEPHEN PRITT, T. R., Preston.

"DANDY FIFTH."
WANTED, First-class Theatres, March 1 and 15. CORRI, Pleasure Gardens T., Folkestone.

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Nov. 1, 8, Dec. 6, 13, and 27.
FRANK M. THORNE, C. T., Spennymoor.

KIMBERLEY, GREEN, AND HINTON'S
"WAS SHE TO BLAME?"
By Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.
WANTED, Known, Production Easter, Junction, Manchester. No vacant dates this year; fast booking next. Write as above, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

E. H. BERTRAM'S CO. IN "SOMEBODY'S SWEETHEART," by Edward Marris.
WANTED, March 15, 22, April 12, May 17, June 7, and several summer and autumn dates.
Address, Hippodrome, Birkenhead.

"THE GIRL I LOVE."
Herbert Leonard's Latest Success.
WANTED, Dates, Easter, onwards, exceptions.
P. HOWARD STURGESS, 17, Shaftesbury-av., W.

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANY.
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
A Powerful Domestic Drama, in four Acts.
By Walter Howe.
WANTED, March 1, 29, April 26, May 3, 17.
Splendid plant of Pictorials by David Allens and Moody Bros.
Feb. 1, T. R., Colne.

WANTED, for the great Drury Lane Drama, "HUMAN NATURE,"
Good Theatres, for Feb. 15, 22, and March 8, through transferring; First-class Production.
BEATON, 52, Warbeck-road, Shepherd's Bush, W.

ROSE MONCRIEFF'S CO.
"THE BELLS OF OLD YORK."
WANTED, March 15 and Easter, and a few in Autumn.
Address, Feb. 1, Metropole Theatre, Abertillery.

"THE GRIP OF THE LAW," by Special Arrangement with Messrs. Moule and Nichols. Mr. JOHN BARTLETT has taken over the entire rights, and will Tour the above. Splendid scenery; printing by Messrs. David Allen and Sons. Specially selected Company of Actors and Actresses.
WANTED, Theatres. A few Autumn dates vacant.

THEATRES WANTED.

FRED GRANVILLE'S PRODUCTIONS, LTD.
FRED GRANVILLE'S PRODUCTIONS, LTD.
FRED GRANVILLE'S PRODUCTIONS, LTD.

PANTOMIMES.

"BABES IN THE WOOD."
A Phenomenal Success.
Playing to Packed Houses nightly.
WANTED, March 1, 8, 15, onwards, also Good Theatre for Production 1909.
Can be seen Feb. 1 Park Palace, Liverpool.
"ALADDIN."
Playing to Crowded Houses.
Bookings Complete.
Wanted, Good Theatre for Production Xmas, 1909.
Can be seen Feb. 1, Theatre Royal, Chesterfield.
"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST."
Has broken all Records
Has broken all Records
Has broken all Records
at the
King's Theatre, Edinburgh
King's Theatre, Edinburgh
King's Theatre, Edinburgh
(two weeks).
Refer A. Maecard, Esq.
Can be seen Feb. 1, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.
Note.—Owing to the enormous success of this Pantomime, the Tour will be extended until Easter.
Vacant Feb. 15, March 1, 8, and onwards.
Xmas Production, 1909, settled.
Managers note.
These Pantomimes are First-class in every way. Beautifully Mounted and Dressed. All Star Casts. Grand Specialities and Full Chorus.

PLAYS.
"THE BETTER LAND."
The greatest Domestic Play of the day. A "winner" every time. First vacant date Aug. 9; also Wanted, Aug. 23, 30, Sept. 13, 27, and later.
"FOR BETTER OR WORSE."
No Vacant Dates.
"DEFENDING HIS HONOUR."
No Vacant Dates.
"ANOTHER MAN'S WIFE."
Production Feb. 8, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.
Re dates for Fred Granville's Productions, Ltd., Address, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

Mr. CHARLES M. BESTIC'S
LONDON COMPANY,
in the Successful Musical Comedy,
"THE FLOWER GIRL,"
by W. T. Gliddon,
including
John T. MacCallum, Henry Adnes,
Miss Lilian Drake, Miss Georgie De Lara,
supported by a
Powerful Company.
WANTED, Feb. 22, March 22, April 19.
Re dates to
JAMES LESLIE, General-Manager,
Theatre Royal, Cardiff.
and all other communications to
CHARLES M. BESTIC,
1, Sidney-road, Stockwell, London, S.W.
The Daily Telegraph says:—
The composer has penned a sufficient number of lively tunes, and it may be added quite truthfully we never heard a better chorus.
The Daily Chronicle says:—
A bright musical comedy, with many pleasing musical numbers.
The Morning Leader says:—
"The Flower Girl" is well played by Mr. Charles M. Bestic's company.
The Star says:—
"The Flower Girl" is admirably presented by Mr. Charles M. Bestic's company.
The Referee says:—
The fun is both fast and furious, and provoked uproarious laughter.

WILLIAM MOLLISON.
WILLIAM MOLLISON.
WILLIAM MOLLISON.
WILLIAM MOLLISON.
WILLIAM MOLLISON.
WILLIAM MOLLISON.
WILLIAM MOLLISON.

WANTED, Feb. 15
March 1 and 29,
for
WILLIAM MOLLISON.
and
His Company,
in
Shakespearean Répertoire.

Apply,
this week and next,
WILLIAM MOLLISON,
H. M. Theatre, Aberdeen;
or,
SIDNEY COOPER,
Lyceum Theatre, Newport, Mon.

MR. AND MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S CO'S.
"BOUND TO WIN."
WANTED, Feb. 22, March 1, April 12, for this Great Success. Racehorses Toured, New Scenery.
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR."
The Success of this season. Vacant March 15, 29, April 26, only vacant dates.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS,"
Vacant March 8, 22, April 5, only vacant dates until autumn. Wire for all plays to
KIMBERLEY, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
The Drama that Booms itself.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Cast of Recognised Artists. Each Member with not less than 10 years' experience.
Magnificent printing. Beautifully mounted.
WANTED, Aug. 15, 30, Nov. 1, 8.
FRED. BULMER,
Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, Strand, W.C.

HARDIE and VON LEER'S COYS.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres.
"TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS,"
Vacant March 8.

"TWO LANCASHIRE LASSES IN LONDON,"
Vacant Feb. 15, May 3.

"THE SAILOR'S WEDDING."
Vacant Feb. 22, March 1, May 3, 24.
E. P. CLIFT, 110, St. Martin's-lane, W.C.
Wires, "Vagancy, London." Tel. No. 7504 Gerrard

"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
By Geo. A. De Gray.
(Under the Sole Direction of the Author.)
WANTED, Dates, "The Power of the Cross," Feb. 22, 23, 24 (3 nights, Wales or near), March 15.
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE,"
March 1 (Lanc. and Yorks.), only Vacant Date till Whit. Re both plays, GEO. A. DE GRAY, to-day, T., Ashington; next, New T., Consett.

MR. AND MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"ROLLICKING RORY"
Romantic Irish Musical Fairy Play.
Everything carried.
WANTED, Theatres, only vacant dates in 1909, Feb. 5 and 12 (?).
Feb. 1, New Standard Theatre, Hetton.

HUTCHISON NO. 1 COMPANIES.
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
"PETER'S MOTHER," March 8, 22, 29, April 12.
"LADY FREDERICK," Feb. 11 (3 nights), Feb. 22 (3 nights), April 15 (3 nights), May 17, 24.
"MRS. DOT," March 8, April 12, May 3, 10.
"IDOLS," March 18 (3 nights), 29, May 3, 10, 31.
PERCY HUTCHISON, "Brewster's Millions" Co., en route.

"HER MARRIAGE VOW."
WANTED, March 8, April 12 and 19. GARSIDE and KNOWLES, 64, Watson-street, Aberdeen.

WANTED, for "Second to None," by Walter Howard. Good Theatres, April 5, Aug. 30, Sept. 6, and Dec. 6. '09. Address, T. E. WARD, T. R., Ashton-u.-Lyne.

WANTED, Theatres or Halls with large holding capacity, for Mlle. Lumiere's Original Electrical Fairy Grotto and Strong Vaudeville Company, including D. J. Birteno's Imperial Bioscope, with very latest Films; electric installation not essential, as we carry own portable plant; free Feb. 8, 15, and 22. Wire, &c., LUMIERE, Hippodrome, Colchester.

THEATRES WANTED.

"MOTHER GOOSE"
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WANTED, good Theatre,
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Wanted, good Theatre,
Wanted, good Theatre,
Wanted, good Theatre,
Wanted, good Theatre,
for the above Money-maker,
Feb. 15
(three or six nights),
owing to transfer,
South preferred.
Company of Fifty guaranteed,
Company of Fifty guaranteed,
Company of Fifty guaranteed,
including
Sydney James,
of
Strolling Players fame.

Ballet of Thirty.
Ballet of Thirty.
Ballet of Thirty.

This Pantomime played to £1,000 first two weeks of Tour, and is breaking records all along the line. These figures can be verified to any bona-fide Manager.

Also Vacant, March 1,
Also Vacant, March 1,
and for Production next Season,
for two, three, or four weeks,
South only.

AUSSIN,
Lyceum Theatre, Ipswich;
Next week, Theatre Royal, Norwich.

GEORGE A. DE GRAY
presents his latest new Play,
"THE ANGEL OF HIS DREAMS."
Many thanks to the Enterprising Managers of the following Theatres for their confidence in Booking: Palace, Newcastle, South Shields, West Stanley, Preston, Oldham, Mexboro', Castleford, West Bromwich, Barnsley, Longton, Salford, Consett, Jarrow, Spennymoor, Barry, Aberdare, Pontypridd, Ton-y-Pandy, Burnley, Accrington.
Production, April 26, Theatre Royal, Castleford.

WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 2, 9, Sept. 20, Nov. 1, 15, Dec. 13. All coms., GEO. A. DE GRAY, Jan. 25, Miners' Theatre, Ashington.

WANTED, First-class Theatres, Halls, &c., for Refined Vaudeville Co., including the great De Wynne Bros., direct from London Coliseum, Hippodrome, and principal Variety Theatres of the World. Nevill Graham and Co., in "The Man in the Street," by Louis N. Parker, as played by him at principal London and Provincial Halls, and Refined Vaudeville Company of Star Acts.
Vacant April 12, various on.
G. DE WYNNE, Coliseum, London.

WANTED, Feb. 8, March 8, 15, weeks, for Louie Freear and the Equestrian Lion and Company. Terms, sharing or certainty. MANAGER, 104, Lloyd-street, Ducie-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Theatres, Large Halls, Piers, &c. (the Bigger the Better), for the Walturdaw Animated Picture Co. Write, WOOD, People's Palace, Tottenham.

WANTED, Theatres, Piers, &c., April 19, on, for Mme. Turner's Picture and Vaudeville Party. KEEBLE'S Agency, 281, King-st., Hammersmith.

To Proprietors and Managers.
WANTED, Wanted, Known,
THE BRITISH ADVERTISING CO.
are Specialists in Advertising Curtains and Programmes. Why Sell to Contractors? We can Let them direct for you on Commission Only. No Orders, No Pay. Advice Free. Send full particulars to "Wansfell," Clifton-road, Llandudno.

ARTISTS WANTED.

Miss MARY NEIL and Mr. GEORGE KIRK'S DRAMAS.
WANTED, thoroughly experienced Heavy Leading Man, also Powerful Juv. Lady, capable of Light Comedy. Photos. and full particulars to DOUGLAS TREMAYNE, Clarence T., Pontypridd. Interviews to-day between 1 and 2, at Lyric T., Hammersmith.

MESSRS. KIMBERLEY, GREEN, AND HINTON'S CO., "THE POWER OF THE KING."
WANTED, to rehearse Feb. 8, Leading Actor for part of King, experienced, tall and imposing (all costumes found); also Petite Actress for Heavy Lead, pretty and fair, powerful delivery. State full particulars to TRAVIS GREEN, Ivy Cottage, 41, Alexandra-street, Ebbw Vale.

GEORGE GRAY AND CO.
WANTED, Full Company, with few exceptions, for "Parson Gray, V.C.," open Feb. 15, including Aristocratic Dean, Character Actor, with knowledge of Boxing, Stage Carpenter. Address, with references, photos., and experience, to Mr. GRAY, Empire Theatre, Cardiff.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, First-class Leading Lady, for Stock Season. Lowest terms, photos., references, MATTHEW MONTGOMERY, Rotunda Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, Special Week, Feb. 8, rehearse Feb. 1, Juvenile Lady, two good Responsible Men. GRASWELL, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, First-class Leading Juvenile Gentleman; rehearse Feb. 2. Height, age, photo., to DOUGLAS BRUCE, Grand T., Rawtenstall.

WANTED, for Golden Ladder, experienced Actor for Peranza (broken English), rehearse Feb. 8. Lowest terms, refs., and photo (stamped envelope), F. C. LEIGHTON, 119, Upper Parliament-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Tall, Heavy Man, for Strong Hindoo Part, capable of intensity. Good coloured gent. may write. Full particulars, photo., and height essential. Interview by appointment only. MONTAGUE BEAUDYN, Theatre Royal, Edmonton.

WANTED, Gentleman, to play a John Lawson part, open Feb. 15.
Write, with photos.,
V. NEWMAN, 49, Binfield-road, Clapham.

WANTED, Gentleman, to play Juvenile and Character Parts for few weeks, must be tall and a refined but powerful Actor; also Lady and Gentleman, for small parts. NORMAN V. NORMAN, Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions. Letters only.

WANTED, Tall Young Gentleman, for Small Parts, rehearse Tuesday. Photo., height, HARRY FOXWELL, Opera House, Wakefield.

WANTED, Gentleman, Tall, Stout, Weighing about 16st. or 17st., Good Engagement, open at once. Apply, 221, Brixton-hill.

WANTED, Amateurs.—An opportunity occurs for Amateur Gentleman to play small but important part in First-class Dramatic Sketch, fully booked; small premium required, returned in salary. Letters to Box 5,399, "The Era."

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
THE GRENFELL CLUB,
FOR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
23, Bedford-street, Strand.
Cosy Tea Rooms, Luncheons, Dinners, &c.
Open on Sundays.
No entrance Fee.
Residential Terms, Ladies only, from 18s. 6d. inclusive.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, a Young Man, age 17 to 20, with experience, to combine small part Page with Props. Lowest terms, letter only, W. L. B., Delancey House, Gloucester Gate, N.W.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by First-class Baritone, experienced Singer and Actor, Engagement in Opera, Sketch, High-class Concert Party or Quartette. VOCALIST, 18, Oberstein-road, New Wandsworth, S.W.

WANTED, by Clever Amateur Young Gent., Engagement for Coming Season with Good Concert Party; Touring or South Coast preferred. Could invest small amount if required. Address full particulars to Box 5,360, "The Era."

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

FRED GRANVILLE'S PRODUCTIONS, LTD.
"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST."
"ALADDIN."
"BABES."
"RED RIDING HOOD."
"DICK WHITTINGTON."

WANTED, First-class Principal Boy and Girl, Comedian for Dame, Second Boy and Girl, Troupe of Dancers Ladies for Chorus, to rehearse Feb. 8 or 16. Long extended tour. Apply, with photo. and stamped addressed envelope for reply, or no notice taken. Also Wanted, Pantomime Artists, all Lines, for next season.
Coms. to
H. G. GRIFFIN, T. R., Hyde, near Manchester.

WANTED, Comedians, next Season's Pantomimes. Names and addresses last two references, address where performing next three week, age, photos., lowest terms, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, for Pantomime next Xmas, "Cinderella" and "Mother Goose," Artists in all Lines; good Chorus Ladies write at once, also Specialities for Feb. 8 and on. Lowest terms and references to GEORGE and LEO BLISS, Theatre Royal, Jarrow.

WANTED, Dame, also Lady, for important part (must sing and dance), to open Feb. 8, "Sinbad the Sailor," fit-up tour. Address absolute lowest terms and refs., HENRY BOWMAN, Mechanics' Theatre, Swindon, to-day; Town Hall, Bridgwater, Monday.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions, Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, Contracts, for Painting Scenery, First-class Work guaranteed. CECIL E. HICKS, Painting Room, Princess's Theatre, Oxford-street, London, W.

WANTED, Known, for Scenery and Props of all kinds, C. Roberts, Scenic Studio, Blucher-street, Liverpool-street, Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery, Pantomime, Productions, Sketches, or Stock; good effective work, cheap. JACKS, Scenic Artist, 46, Holloway-road, London.

WANTED, Contracts for High-class Effective Scenery, very lowest prices; Scenery repainted or adapted. W. B. ROBINSON, 170, King's-road, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Scenery for Drama, Sketch, or Act, good work, fair prices; large studio, workshop. T. O. DALY, 31, Hinckley-st., Bradford, Manchester.

WANTED, by Philip Small, Scenic Artist, Engagement or Contract, Town or Provinces. Refs., address, 26, Elgin-terr., Maida Vale, London.

WANTED, Known, A. W. Moore, Scenic Artist, First-class, at Liberty shortly. Address, pro tem., 2, St. George's-terrace, York.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
W. BERNASCONI, Scenic Artist,
53, St. James's-place, Liverpool.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE EDINBURGH MARINE GARDENS, LTD.
WANTED, Known, the Directors invite applications for the Managership of their Amusement Park at Portobello, the appointment to be yearly or otherwise as arranged. The Park extending to 27 acres, will be opened towards the end of May, and will have a Concert Hall, Winter Garden, Skating Rink, Restaurants, Tea Room, and Buffets, &c., Ornamental Gardens, Bandstand, and Amusement Court. Applications, which will be treated as confidential, stating age, experience, qualifications, and salary required, together with copies of testimonials, must be forwarded to the SECRETARY, 13, George-street, Edinburgh, in an envelope marked "Manager," to reach him not later than 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 9, 1909.

WANTED, for Important Provincial Music Hall, Acting-Manager, used to twice nightly; young, active, energetic, experienced, Firm disciplinarian.
State age, experience, last two engagements, and salary required, to Box 5,373, "The Era."

WANTED, Gentleman as Acting-Manager, for few weeks; also Advance Agent, for few weeks. NORMAN, Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, W.C.

WANTED, Stage-Manager for "Merry Wives of Windsor." Names and addresses last two references, salary (four or five weeks' engagement), age, &c., to ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Resident Acting-Manager, for Dramatic Theatre. Salary £3 per week. Address letters, stating qualifications and references, to Box 5,396, "The Era."

WANTED, a Smart Young Man, by Old-established Firm of Musical and Theatrical Managers for their London Offices. Must be expert Shorthand-Typist, quick at Accounts, and familiar with the Concert and Variety Agency Business. State previous experience and salary required to Box 5,407, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, I have a Vacancy for a Clerk, accustomed to Music Hall Show Business. Full particulars and salary required must accompany application. A. E. PICKARD, Britannia, Glasgow.

LORD JOHN SANGER and SONS, LTD.,
ROYAL CIRCUS, HIPPODROME, and
MENAGERIE. Tenting Season, 1909.
WANTED, an experienced Advertising Inspector; must be a practical Billposter, able to control and instruct window-billing staff and be generally useful.
Apply, Mr. ARTHUR MARTIN,
56, Handsworth-road, Tottenham, London, N.

WANTED, First-class Effect Worker, for permanent picture show, willing to assist with billing and be generally useful, open Feb. 22. Address, stating age, experience, and terms, to CORELLI, Ellesmere, Vicar's Cross, Chester.

WANTED, good Picture Effect Worker, to combine Billing. Age, salary, refs., open Feb. 8; steadiness essential. Box 5,395, "The Era."

WANTED, good Effect Worker and Window-biller, open immediately. Lowest permanent terms, refs., &c., ALBANY WARD, Jubilee Hall, Weymouth. Silence polite negative. Claude Wood send address; mislaid same.

WANTED, Appointment, as Acting-Manager, Music Hall, by experienced man, fully licenced or otherwise. Apply, T., Crown Hotel, Ryde, I. of W.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Re-engagement, Manager, Theatre or Varieties, excellent general knowledge, Liberty Feb. 1, termination of Variety season. HARRY HUNTER, Grand, Blackpool. Wire offers.

WANTED, by Young Gentleman, Re-engagement as Assistant-Manager or Box Office, Typewriting, &c.; used twice nightly; good refs.; mod. salary. D., 30, Northway-road, Camberwell.

WANTED, by Gentleman (26), Position of Trust, abstainer, not afraid of work, previous engagements, five years Government, clerk in Post Office (excellent testimonial), and two years athletic secretary, 'Varsity, Ontario. Box 5,403, "The Era."

WANTED, by Carpenter and Advance Agent, Situation; able to take small part; abstainer. Box 5,389, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, Resident Master Carpenter, Bench Hand; can paint and touch up. Highest references. Box 5,381, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, smart young man, 25, would like berth as valet, &c., with good Actor or Turn. Excellent refs. J. A. HUGHES, 3, Halford-road, Clapham Junction.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, for the Queen's, Keighley, Musical Conductor, must be well up in Varieties, also Stage-Manager and Bill Inspector. State lowest terms and full particulars to CHAS. ELPHINSTONE, Grand Theatre, Hanley.

WANTED, Musical-Director, First-class Perfect Pianist, Double Violin (Leader), Composer, and Arranger. CONDUCTOR, 14, Chatsworth-street, Leicester.

WANTED, for Tenting Season (Circus), good Leader (Solo Cornet), Bombardons, Euphoniums, Trombones, Horns, Cornets, and Drums; all strictly sober and reliable, and used to the business. Write, lowest terms, BANDMASTER, 7, Wickens-terrace, Livingstone-st., Nottingham.

WANTED, good Leader, also Flute and Piccolo, to commence Feb. 8; must be thoroughly experienced in Variety. Apply terms, age, and references, to EDWARD WILLIAMS, Musical-Director, Palace, Carlisle.

WANTED, to open at once, good Leader and Solo Cornet, permanency. Terms, age, and references, CHAS. ELPHINSTONE, Grand Theatre, Hanley.

WANTED, First Violin, Viola, Oboe, Bassoon, and Second Trombone, and possibly other instruments for Grand Opera Season. Full particulars and lowest terms to W. R. KING, The Dalston Theatre, N.E.

WANTED, Lady Violinist or Pianist, with Music, for Quartette; Cornet. Lowest terms for tour, MANAGER, Exhibition, Town Hall, Wellington, Somerset.

WANTED, Violinist, Booth Line, sail Feb. 8.
BLACK, 14, Castle-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Experienced First Violin (Lady), for high-class café, permanency.
Write, Box 5,404, "The Era."

WANTED, good First Violin and Cornet.
SMITHSON, Empire, Barnsley.

WANTED, good Cornet for Exhibition Orchestra which travels fortnightly throughout the year, from Monday, Feb. 8, at Brighton. Apply with references, WM. SCHOTTLER, Musical-Director, Bath.

C. W. POOLE'S MYRIORAMA.
WANTED, Clarionet, to open Monday, Feb. 8, to wear evening dress and assist with fittings when travelling. Apply, A. S. MORRELL, Mus.-Dir., P. O. W. T., Mexborough.

WANTED, First and Second Horns, for Short Grand Opera Season; open Feb. 8.
Terms and references to
R. C. BUCHANAN, 102, Bath-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Harpist, immediately, Gentleman; must be young, for Music Hall, Touring; long engagement to suitable person. Write, BONCI, 41 Crompton-street, Derby.

WANTED, to Open Feb. 22, Powerful and Brilliant Pianist, for permanent picture and variety show; good terms to an intelligent musician who can play appropriate selections. Terms and references to CORELLI, Ellesmere, Vicar's Cross, Chester.

WANTED, for Mrs. W. Hancock's Coliseum, Good Pianist, one capable of playing to Pictures and Turns; one used to Show Business, single preferred. Good Variety Turns write in, to open Monday. Address,
Mrs. W. HANCOCK, Rhymney, Monmouthshire.

WANTED, Pianist (Lady or Gentleman), also First-class Bioscope Operator, for "World in Motion" Co. Apply, Head Office, 6, Queen-st., Leigh, Lanc.

WANTED, Pianist, to Travel with Auction Mart; must be a good sight-reader, MSS., and accompanist, and be useful during the day. Good wages to a man who can adapt himself to the business, and not afraid of work. EDWARDS and PAGE, Glyn Neath.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
good Side Drummer,
to Enlist in crack Rifle Corps.

Apply by letter
to P. S.,
C/o Hawkes and Son,
Denman-street, Piccadilly-circus, W.

WANTED, good reliable Drummer, used to Variety; none other need apply.
MANAGER, Crown Theatre, Eccles.

SPANISH CITY, WHITLEY BAY.
CHAS. ELDERTON'S TOREADORS.
WANTED, First-class Musicians for Orchestra. State age, experience, and lowest terms.
SECRETARY, Whitley Amusements, Ltd., 143, High-street, Gateshead-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Good E-flat Clarionet, Bassoon, and Cornet, for Tour with Military Band, permanent engagement. Only thoroughly experienced, reliable, and gentlemanly men need apply, with full refs. and lowest terms, to
REANO, Theatre Royal, Oldham.

Season 1909.

WINTER GARDENS, BLACKPOOL.

WANTED, First-class Musicians, all instruments, for Pavilion, Ballroom, and Opera House Orchestras, for Easter (April 8 to 17), and from May 29 to Oct. 3, for the Season. Only steady and competent instrumentalists need apply.
Applications, stating experience, with references and salary required for one or two performances daily, to be sent to Mr. JNO. R. HUDDLESTONE, General-Manager, Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

LONDON EXHIBITION MILITARY BAND.
WANTED, Thirty First-class Musicians (London Men), mornings or afternoons, to play in London three hours daily. Send lowest salary per performance, with references, to Box 5,402, "The Era."

WANTED, for the Great Lafayette Show, Snare Drama Tympanis, Musical-Conductor that can play either Cornet, Euphonium, or Trombone; must be sober and reliable. Call Holborn Empire, to-day (Saturday), between 5 and 6.

WANTED, First-class Lady Instrumentalist; must be extra good on Cornet. State what other instruments can play; must be young, good appearance, long engagement. Box 5,411, "The Era."

SOMERSET AND BATH ASYLUM,
COTFORD, near TAUNTON.
WANTED, Male Attendant, unmarried; wages commencing at £26 per annum, rising to £45,
with board, lodging, washing, and uniform; extra pay to Bandsman,
Cornet Player preferred.
Apply, MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

WANTED, Clever Musician, resident in London preferable, to Compose Music for Lyrics, &c., in Musical Comedy, must be keen at his work and able to give his time to it. Apply in first instance to Box 5,412, "The Era."

MUSICIANS WANTED.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF GREAT YARMOUTH.

WANTED, by the Great Yarmouth Town Council, Tenders for the supply of a First-class Military Band, consisting of seventeen performers (including Conductor), to play in the Winter Gardens from May 20 to Oct. 2, 5½ hours per day, to be augmented by eight musicians from June 21 to Sept. 12, to be further augmented by ten musicians and sub-conductor from July 19 to Sept. 12. The sub-conductor will be required to take charge of seven instrumentalists for Variety Entertainments in the Pavilion for evening performances.

The Conductor must provide uniforms, and up-to-date library. Copy of proposed music must accompany his application. If able to do so, tenderers are asked to state when and where a band performance can be heard. Further particulars may be obtained from the General Manager of the Wellington Pier and Winter Garden (Mr. Arthur A. Cash).

Tenders endorsed "Military Band," together with copies of three recent testimonials, and containing list of the instruments to be played by each member of the band, should reach the undersigned not later than Friday, Feb. 5, 1909.

The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.
W. EDGAR STEPHENS,
Town Clerk.
Town Hall,
Great Yarmouth,
Jan. 19, 1909.

TO BANDMASTERS.
TO BANDMASTERS.
TO BANDMASTERS.

WANTED, Band, for Dunoon Castle Gardens and Pavilion Concerts, &c., for Season 1909 (June 19 to 18 Sept. inclusive), cost not to exceed £43 per week inclusive.

Offerers to state number and composition of Band to be supplied, and offers to be lodged with the Town Clerk, Dunoon, not later than Feb. 2, 1909.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept.,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.
Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement, 'WANTED, DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical Director (Violin), Dramas, &c., composed, arranged. Composer music "Silver King," "Lights o' London," &c. Victoria Theatre, Ramsgate.

WANTED, by Musical-Director (Violin), through closing, young, abstainer, large library; thoroughly experienced in all Lines. G. W., Grand Theatre, Blackpool.

WANTED, Engagement, Musical-Director, 35; Violin, Viola; Theatre or Hall; excellent London references. F. W. MANSER, 89, Palmerston-road, Wimbledon, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Charles Weldon, Musical-Director; experienced; library and references; Disengaged termination of Panto. 7, Chapel-street, Carlisle.

WANTED, Known, W. T. Gliddon, Musical Director, Dis., Good Theatre or Music Hall, town or good provincial, excellent refs. Address, &c., see Card.

WANTED, by experienced Military Bandmaster, position with School, Brewery, or other Band. J. KNIGHT, Bandmaster, Worcester Regt., Norton Barracks, Worcester.

WANTED, immediate Re-engagement as Leader or First Violin, Theatres, Restaurants, London, Suburbs. OSCAR CREMER, 10, Caithness-road, Mitcham, S.W.

WANTED, Known, reliable Leader, at Liberty; good Violinist; experienced in Variety, &c.; can open on Monday. Wire, VIOLINIST, 11, Gilpin-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Leader, or First Violin, at Liberty Jan. 30, Variety or Dramatic, excellent refs. G. HARRIS, Theatre Royal, Coatbridge.

WANTED, Engagement, as Second Violin or Viola, any Business, at Liberty Feb. 8. BROWN, c/o Campbell, View Bank, Wellside-place, Falkirk, Scotland.

WANTED, Engagement, by Chas. Croft, good Violinist; 6 years H. M. T., Carlisle. Ad., Belfast; after Sat., 15, Grasmere-street, Carlisle.

WANTED, Engagement, by Smart, Experienced Violinist and Pianist (Accompanist), memorise, transpose, reliable, abstainer. F. NICHOLS, 37, St. Mary's-road, Peckham.

WANTED, Engagements, Lady Vocalist and Violinist, powerful mezzo, young, Continental experience, open for any engagement, always successful. Box 5,401, "The Era."

WANTED, by Lady, First Violinist (19), good appearance, experienced, Re-engagement in Orchestra, Variety or otherwise. LOWE, 57, Killyon-road, Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, Orchestral Engagement, by Cornet or Second Violin, reliable; £5 bonus offered for permanency. HAYDOCK, 10, Stamford-buildings, South Lambeth-road, London.

WANTED.—Clarionettist seeks Engagement in or near London; Music Hall or Theatre; thoroughly experienced; good refs. CLAR., Box 5,335, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, by Clarionet Player, permanent Engagement; Orchestral, Theatre, or Music Hall. First-class testimonials; total abstainer. BOAK, 88, Loughboro'-road, Nottingham.

WANTED, by Clarionet and String Bass, Engagement, any business; both thoroughly experienced men. Address, 43, Murgatroyd-st., off Parkside-road, Bradford.

WANTED, by Clarionet, Engagement, Theatre or Music Hall; thoroughly experienced; good refs. Address, FRED CHAPLIN, 15, Sidmouth-street, Newland-avenue, Hull.

WANTED, Engagement, by fully experienced Clarionet, can open at once.
Wire or write, 49, Peter-street, Blackpool.

WANTED, Engagement, through Hall closing, at Liberty Feb. 8, any business. A. HANSON, Clarionet; J. D. COUTTS, Bass; Hippo., Oldham.

WANTED, Engagement, for the Summer, as Clarionettist, Pianist, Accompanist. First-class; best refs.; Military or Orchestra. MUSICUS, 35, Waverley-terrace, Motherwell, N.B.

WANTED, Known, Good Bassoonist, Open for Immediate or Season's Engagement; high pitch. State terms, W. BATES, Ashworth-terrace, Dewsbury.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Double Bass, any distance. References, GEORGE, 5, College-st., Beverley-rd., Hull, Yorks.

WANTED, by Trombone, combine Euphonium, Soloist; permanent Engagement; fully experienced; good references. GEORGE GAUDER, Cold Waltham, Pulborough, Sussex.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, as solo Trombone; can join at once. Address, J. THOMAS, Viaduct Temperance Hotel, Workington.

WANTED, by French Horn (Second), Engagement in First-class Orchestra or Military Band, for the coming Summer season or perm.; thoroughly experienced; excellent testimonials. MUSICIAN, 70, Beanley-road, Manor Park.

WANTED, Engagement, by good Oboeist; also reliable Clarionet Player; London preferred. 89, Overbury-street, Edgehill, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement by Nellie Flood-Porter, Flute and Piccolo, Disengaged May 3. Address, 17, Formosa-st., Maida Vale, London, W.

WANTED, Known, First-class Flute and Piccolo, at Liberty for Concerts, Dances, Phonograph, Pupils, &c. Address, 23, Clapham-road, Kennington, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Flute and Piccolo. Terms low for permanency; refs.; steady and reliable; age 40. SMYTH, 15, Treherne-road, Brixton, London.

WANTED, Known, Flautist, at Liberty Feb. 8, any Business; thoroughly steady and competent. Address, R. S. BALLANTINE, Hengler's, Glasgow.

WANTED, Engagement, by Lady Pianist (Actress-Vocalist), refined; husband Violin, Cornet Speciality; Dis. termination Panto. CARITA, 7, Chapel-street, Carlisle.

WANTED, Engagement by smart Pianist, Conductor, Theatre, Varieties, Panto., Pictures, &c.; excellent references and library. GRAHAME CAVENDISH, Hotel, Bolsover, Derby.

WANTED, Engagement, by Pianist, Miss Emily Lloyd, Orchestra, Accompanist, Soloist, any business; excellent references; young and smart. Hampton Villa, Twickenham.

WANTED, Re-engagement, by Drums and Effects, experienced Timps, any Business; excellent refs.; open at once. Address, DRUMS, 31, Beaconfield-road, L. Edmonton, London.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Drums and Effects; experienced and reliable; any business; at Liberty now. DRUMS, 221, Boaler-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Rabottini's Italian Band (Conductor, F. P. Rabottini), and Anglo-French Band, String or Military, can be engaged for Exhibitions, Concerts, Dances, Summer Engagements, in National Uniforms. Signor Rabottini, as Composer and Conductor, holds letters from His Majesty the late King of Italy, Earl Roberts, Lord Kitchener, Lord Cromer, Col. Dick Conyngham, H. B. Irving, Esq., and eminent musicians. Rabbottini's Band met with great success at Royal Albert Hall, L.C.C., Palace Pier, Brighton, Provinces, &c. For terms, Press Notices, &c., CONDUCTOR, 150, Goldhawk-road, Shepherd's Bush. 'Phone 111 Hammersmith.

WANTED, Offers for Miss Winnie Watson's Poppy Orchetra, Soloists and Singers, from Franco-British and Principal Exhibitions. Now Fun City, Olympia, and Bath. Scarlet Costume. 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton. Tel., 5,100 Nat.

WANTED, Known, the Imperial Ladies' Orchestra, for Exhibitions, Hotels, Piers, &c., experienced, tubular bells, Vacant. Mme. NELLIE BAKER, 114, Woodlands-rd., Ilford.

WANTED, offers, Summer Season, by Signorina de Polo's Ladies' Orchestra, from Franco-British Exhibition, and others; silk costume. 12, West Hill-road, Wandsworth.

WANTED, Known, Efficient Foreign Band, in smart Uniform, can be Engaged for Concerts, Exhibitions, Seaside Resorts, &c. Apply, Box 5,274, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, for short Summer Season, with Orchestra of Bath Musicians, under Conductorship of Mr. Johan Duys, the well-known Violinist, Musical Conductor of the Victoria Pier, Blackpool, 1896, late Leader and Deputy Conductor Mons. Speelman's North Pier Orchestra, Blackpool. De Jong's Orchestra, also of Dr. Abram's Hastings Pier Concerts, &c.
Communications to be addressed to
Mr. JOHAN DUYS, 34, Green-park, Bath.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, for Hanneford's Canadian Circus and Menagerie, Tenting Season 1909,
Circus Artists in all Lines,
Specialities, Animal Acts, Acrobates,
and anything New, Novel, and Sensational;
Sisters, Serios, Irish Comedians, also a Band of twelve Performers (brass),
to commence Easter Monday.

All letters, &c., address to
Sir EDWARD HANNEFORD, Director,
Circus, World's Fair,
Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, London,
until Feb. 6; after
27, Third-avenue, Consbrook-avenue,
Strandtown, Belfast.

WANTED, for a Small Railroad Circus, commencing in April, a useful Family of Equestrians, with a number of Good Acts; also Useful People in all Branches of the Business. Address, E. H. BOSTOCK, Zoo, Glasgow.
N.B.—Silence a polite negative.

COMEDY BAR WORK and POSTURING.

WANTED, a Young Man.
Write, stating what you can do.
C/o H. W. Wieland,
16, St. Martin's-street, London, W.C.

WANTED, immediately, two young Tumblers, to take part in Equestrian Spectacle; long and comfortable Tour. Lowest terms and full particulars in first instance, Box 5,406. "The Era."

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, that the Three Royal Ohmys, Favourite Riders to the Crown Prince of Denmark, and Greatest Acrobatic Bareback Equestrians, on one, two, three, and four trained horses, have just concluded engagements at Circus, Paris; Circus, Gothenburg; Circus Aarhus, Denmark; Circus, Yarmouth; Hippodrome, Spennymoor. Open at Grand Circus, Hull, second engagement in twelve months. Will be at Liberty end of February with Six Great Acts, with three or four horses. For particulars, address, THE ROYAL OHMYS, Grand Circus, Hull.

WANTED, Known, The Stephenson Family, with Barebacked Riding Acts, Double and Single Clowns, Animal Act, good Juggling Act, Performing Pony, &c., at Liberty shortly. Address, Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Known, Bros. Austin, Talking Tumbling Clowns, with good Entrées, and Foot Equilibrists, just concluded comfortable engagement Connor's Grand Circus, Crystal Palace. Thanks to Mr. Connor for offer of coming Douglas Season. Return, Monday next, Boswell's Stage Circus.

WANTED, by Little Bishop and Winkles, Clown and Agouste, just finished comfortable season with great success, Connor's Circus, Crystal Palace; Liberty few weeks. Address, 138, Anerley-road, Anerley.

WANTED, Known, Don Pedro the Great, Unparalleled and most Daring High-wire Performer, open for Fêtes and Galas. Terms, 99, Rhyddings Park-road, Swansea.

WANTED, Known, Bearer and Catcher, at Liberty to join good Troupe of Acrobats. W. SKELLY, 23, Camden Hill-rd., Upper Norwood, London.

WANTED, to Exhibit Large Improved Wright Aeroplane, near London, equal shares; Flights later. Mr. EDGAR WILSON, 67, Sutherland-street, Pimlico, London.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.
WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, Twice Nightly; also WORCESTER EMPIRE, Twice Nightly. Wanted, Artists doing Double Turns, used to Picture Shows. No wires, please. ARTHUR CARLTON, Palace, Worcester.

CLYDEBANK—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.
WANTED, Variety Artists,
First-class Acts of all Kinds.
Star Comedians, Comediennes, Comedy Duos, Novelties, &c., for immediate and future dates.
A. E. PICKARD, Sole Proprietor and Manager.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, Doubles doing Singles, Specialities; suitable for Picture Entertainment. MACQUEEN, Picture Palace, Cowden Beath, N.B.

WANTED, Monday, Feb. 8, and onwards, Variety Artists, all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, KITCHINGMAN, Aquarium Scarborough.

W. HAMILTON'S EXCURSIONS.
WANTED, to commence Feb. 22, Variety Artists in all Lines. Lowest terms. St. Margaret's Hall, Dunfermline, Scotland.

VERNO'S AGENCY.
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.
WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, for Feb. 8, on.
Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone 2076 Royal.

BODIE'S HIPPODROMES.
FERNDALE AND PONTYCYMMER.
WANTED, Artists all Lines, big Stars with own Companies, April onwards. Nothing too big.
All letters address to
TOM N. MILLS,
General-Manager,
for Dr. Bodie's Welsh Halls,
Bodie's Hippodrome,
Ferndale.

NEW PAVILION,
KIRKCALDY.
Proprietor, Dr. WALFORD BODIE,
WANTED, Artists all Lines, Big Sensational Novelties; those with dates out in Scotland write in at once; Feb. 8, 15, onwards.
Final Notice.
No Contracts or terms given by Williams and Walker will be entertained. Please don't waste my valuable time.
Lowest terms, address
Dr. WALFORD BODIE,
King's Theatre, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

VICTORIA T., STANLEY, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Star Artists for immediate and future dates. T. C. RAWES, Proprietor.

SKIVINGTON'S AGENCY,
SKIVINGTON'S AGENCY,
48, Brisbane-street, Greenock.
WANTED, for Principal Towns in Scotland, Star Artists in all Lines, and Full List of Bookings. Artists Vacant Monday next wire, contracts, Greenock.

WANTED, Artists, Single Turns doing Doubles or Sketches, two weeks, Feb. 1, 8, 15. CHARLES A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

SPANISH CITY, WHITLEY BAY.
CHAS. ELDERTON'S TOREADORS.
WANTED, First-class Al Fresco Artists, all Lines,
must be Versatile, and have large Répertoire, absolute refinement; take part in Sketches and Concerteds. Season Easter to Sept.
Weekly Specialities Wanted.
Lowest terms, photos, and where can be seen working. SECRETARY, Whitley Amusements, Ltd., 143, High-street, Gateshead-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Artists of all Descriptions, for Tour. Sisters write lowest terms, Monday first, LILA, 10, Mornington-road, Regent's Park, London, N.W.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines. Send bookings, perm. add., and full particulars, KEEBLE'S Agency, 281, King-street, Hammersmith, W. Devereux please write.

WANTED, Artists for Galas, Whitsuntide, onwards, Cyclists, Acrobats, Comic Skaters, and Novelties. Send memos., terms, BARRETT, 566, Queen's-road, Sheffield.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists, all Lines, Comedians, Serios, Big Specialities, &c., Feb. 8, onwards. Terms, bookings, &c., Artists for Seaside and Gala Season.
Write at once, with bookings, terms, and lithos.,
EDGAR STEBBINGS and Co.,
23, Egerton-street, Manchester.
'Phone 9261. Tels., "Stebbing, Manchester."

HIPPODROME, LEEK, STAFFS.
WANTED, Artists, Feb. 8, onwards.
Apply, TOWYN THOMAS, Lessee.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, including Experienced Comedian; also Lady, Young, about 5ft. 10in. Photos., &c. (letters only). MANAGER, 187, Shirland-road, London, W.

BEANLAND and EMERSON'S AGENCY.
ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
WANTED, Artists of every Description, for immediate Dates and on, for Halls in Lancashire and Yorkshire. Send full list of bookings, lithos., and lowest terms.

PALACE, WATFORD.
WANTED, First-class Artists, all Lines, Feb. 8, 22, March 1, 8, April 12. Full particulars, CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, for Fred Durham's Agency, Artists all Lines, Feb. 1, on. 1A, Loughborough-rd., Brixton, S.W. Tele., 15 Brixton. Telegraphic add., "Durhamlike, London."

WANTED, Artists of all Descriptions,
Write or call, with full particulars,
J. W. JOHNSTON,
Variety and Pantomime Agent,
64, Waterloo-road, S.E.

WANTED, all Clients to Send full Bookings. Important. FRANK LYNNE'S Agency, 77, Angell-road, Brixton, S.W. 'Phone 1,303, Brixton.

WANTED, for Feb. 8, and onwards,
Stars in all Lines.
Stars in all Lines.
Full up for Smaller Items.
CADLE'S Agency, 105-6, Strand, W.C.

ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, CASTLEFORD.
WANTED, the Greatest Stars in the Business, Nothing too Big. Share or salary. Artists of every Description. Particulars, BEANLAND and EMERSON, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

WANTED, Big Variety and Speciality Stars willing to share, Feb. 15 and future dates. JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

WANTED, Big Stars. Full bookings, lowest. I have sole bookings of Two Halls.
I go on Tour shortly again. GEO. AYTOUN, 103, Kennington Park-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Feb. 15, and on, several Good Turns, including Comedy, Conjurers, Illusionist, &c. MANAGER, 104, Lloyd-st., Ducie-st., M'chester.

WANTED, Monday next, for Empire, Riddings, few useful, cheap turns, doubles doing singles, &c. Wire lowest possible, GUSTAVE, Theatre, Goole.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.
WANTED, Talent all Lines,
Feb. 22, March 8, 15, later.
JAMES FIONI'S Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Talent of Every Description, with lowest terms, for England and Continent, Good Riders, &c.; also Lady Orchestra. Will Miss Zette Handel write? Can place good Side-shows. LETTA, 11, Addison Park-mansions, Kensington, London, W.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY, 170, SALTMARKET, GLASGOW. Nat. 'Phone 234Y5 Tron.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
the Very Best of Talent now and later on.
Nothing under 10%, that's all.

WANTED, Variety Combinations (complete in themselves), Dramas, Pantos., and Musical Comedy, all twice nightly, for immediate date. Apply, DIRECTOR OF VARIETIES, Grand T., Blackpool.

WANTED, Combination Companies, with good Star, for Hall in the North. Apply, Signor PEPI, Hippodrome, Middlesbrough. Mark letters "Star."

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Artists of Note.
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY. I can book you.
DALTON'S AGENCY. Immediate Dates,
DALTON'S AGENCY. and
DALTON'S AGENCY. Dates onward.
DALTON'S AGENCY. No Guessing.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY. Send full list
DALTON'S AGENCY. and very lowest
DALTON'S AGENCY. (this essential),
DALTON'S AGENCY. and permanent addresses,
DALTON'S AGENCY. also
DALTON'S AGENCY. weekly apartments
DALTON'S AGENCY. address.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY. 29, Mauldeth-road West,
DALTON'S AGENCY. Withington,
DALTON'S AGENCY. Manchester.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
I said "Agency."

N.B.—State where never played.
Viviana and Co. wire address. Urgent.

SMYTHSON'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Big Star Acts, the Pick of the Entertainment World.
Good Acts known to me send
full list of bookings.
New Acts state where can be seen.
Quote actual lowest, London and Provinces.
Rate of Commission subject to Arbitrator's Award, yet to be arrived at.
All communications to SMYTHSON,
Fourness House, 54, Rumford-street, C.-on-M., Manchester.
No callers except by appointment.

CHAPPELL'S CONCERTS (three shows daily), GREAT YARMOUTH.
WANTED, Speciality Acts (not Aerial), for one or two weeks, from June 14 to end of Sept.; also Smart Comedienne and Dancer, Baritone, Soprano; must have good voices, and willing to take part in Concerted Pieces, &c.; smart, young, and reliable, for 14 or 15 weeks' engagement. Age, height, photo. (stamped envelope for return), previous experience, lowest terms, to HARRY BARKER, 6, Harley-road, Great Yarmouth.

HIPPODROME AND PICTURE PALACE, ELLESMERE PORT.
WANTED, Feb. 22, onwards, Comedy Acts and Artists in all Lines. Willing to accept moderate salary for small town (1s. fare from Liverpool). Immediate dates only. Lowest terms to CORELLI, "Ellesmere," Vicar's Cross, Chester.

WANTED, Clever, Refined, Novel Variety Acts, for Halifax, March 1, and Bury, March 8. Absolute lowest to REANO, Theatre Royal, Oldham.

WANTED, Acts, of All Descriptions, Feb. 8 and various dates. Full list bookings, terms, &c., ALFRED SELWYN, New Laithes, Horsforth.

WANTED, First-class Acts for Gala, week May 31, good Flying Act, Comedy Bar, Knockabouts, High-rope Act, Clowns. Full particulars, CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Feb. 8, onwards, Variety and Speciality Acts for Halls and Galas. Full bookings imperative, GANNON'S Agency, West Grove, Bristol.

WANTED, Acts of all Kinds, for S. Wales and District; also North of England. Gala Sensations, &c., nothing too big. MARTINO'S Agency, 125, Barcroft-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, Startling Attractions,
Meritorious Novelties,
in fact, the Solid Cream of the Business, for Seasides,
Galas, and
every Town of Note

JAMES FIONI'S Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool."
Telephone, 1686 Royal.

CLIQUOT'S UNIVERSAL THEATRICAL AGENCY, 90, Rusholme-road, Manchester.
WANTED, Star Attractions, all Lines.
Nothing too Big.
Please consider silence a polite negative.
All communications as above.

WANTED, Big Attractions always; for Feb. 8, First-class Comedian for Lancashire towns; for immediate dates, big Cycle Troupe, Triple Bars, Comedy Act, or any other big Comedy Act, the bigger the better; money no object. Full particulars, lithos., photos., &c., lowest terms to DEETRICH Agency, 31, Islington, Liverpool. 'Phone 1269 Royal.

WANTED, for South Wales,
Big Tops of Bill,
April 5, 12, 26 May 10, 24, 31,
Bottom of Bill,
March 29, April 19, May 17;
also Smaller Acts in all Lines,
April 12, 19, 26, and all May.
Full particulars,
CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, for Palace Theatre, Reading, Tops and Bottoms of Bills, Several Dates, this and next year. Letters only. STANHOPE and Co., LTD., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Big Top of Bill for Feb. 15, Mar. 8, 15, and on, salary £40 to £300, for Leading Northern Hall. Open to hear from other Good Acts. Terms and bookings, FREDERICK YATES, Hippodrome, Greenock.

WANTED, a First-class Salome Dancer, also Talent in all Lines, from Feb. 15, on. Immediate Dates and Dates onward, Numbers that can work Sunday Concert.
Wanted, Big Specialities known to me for Summer Dates. Kindly note, impossible to answer all. Stamped envelopes and wires not required.

GEO. ZALVA'S Agency,
The Hippodrome, Yarmouth.

PENZANCE AL-FESCO ENTERTAINMENTS.
WANTED, Known, the Penzance Chamber of Commerce are desirous of receiving applications for the Sole Right of Providing Al-fresco Entertainments in Penzance during the ensuing Season. A Site in the Alexandra Grounds opposite the Promenade on the Sea Front, together with stage and 150 chairs, will be provided. Applications (with specimen programme), giving full particulars, and stating rent offered for season, should be sent to
SECRETARY, Chamber of Commerce, Penzance.

WANTED, for Sketch (London), two or three tall Chorus Ladies, must be (all and possess good strong Chorus Voices. Apply, Monday, 12 noon, SKETCH, 16, Mortimer-street, Oxfrd-street, W.

WANTED, two really good Vocalists, Soprano and Contralto, Instrumentalists given preference, for Picture Company. Salary, &c., Box 5,394, "The Era."

WANTED, Girls over 16, good Singers and Dancers, for Musical Comedy Sketch. Write for appointment, ALWOOD, Standard Music Hall, Pimlico.

WANTED, for First-class Troupe,
Two Smart Lady Dancers,
Step and Acrobatic;
must be pretty and clever,
not over 5ft. 3in.
Rehearse at once. Open next week.
Apply at once (practice dress),
Miss ADELE, 118, Kennington-road, S.E.

PERCY HONRI, in "CONCORDIA."
WANTED, Ladies, Sing and Dance. Rehearse London, Feb. 8; open Oxford Music Hall, Feb. 15. Long Engagement to really First-class Performers. Age, height, and photo., PERCY HONRI, Empire Theatre, Leeds.

WANTED, two Young Ladies, good figures essential, for Models in "Sally in Our Alley." Write, with photo., V. NEWMAN, 49, Binfield-road, Clapham, S.W.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted,
Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted,
Wanted,
Big Specialities, Animal Acts, and anything New, Novel, and Sensational,
for
Blackpool,
Blackpool,
Blackpool,
Morecambe,
Morecambe,
Morecambe,
and other Seaside Towns; also for
London, Liverpool,
Birmingham, Leeds, Newcastle,
Glasgow, Belfast,
Dublin, Manchester, Bolton,
Wolverhampton, Oldham,
Hartlepool, Shields, Barrow,
Carlisle, Darlington,
Hull, Middlesbrough, Stockport,
Brighton, Boscombe, Margate,
Portsmouth, Southampton,
Bath, Lincoln, Leicester, Bradford,
Halifax, Sheffield, Blackburn,
Lancaster, Stockport, Burnley, Derby,
Attercliffe, Stoke, Grimsby,
St. Helens, Accrington, Warrington,
Bury, Hanley, Stockton, &c., &c.

Send full list of bookings, lithos, and lowest terms, to
WILL SLEY,
180, Oxford-road, Manchester.

Telegrams, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone 09144.

WANTED, First-class Knockabout Comedians, for England and Continent. Letters only, T. REED PINAUD, 16, Offley-road, Brixton. Silence polite negative.

WANTED, Smart, Refined Comedian, tall, open Feb. 22, rehearse 15th, for High-class Scena. Age, height, experience, terms by letter only. SAVILE, 29, Bishop's-mansions, Fulham.

WANTED, Boy, Small, 14 to 15, Clever Clog Dancer and Patterer; also Boy, Juvenile, 12 to 14, Clever Ballad Vocalist. Address, with particulars, ALBANO, 164, Islington, Liverpool.

WANTED, to open Feb. 22, long engagement, Smart Tumbler; no mounting or bearing. Full particulars address Box 5,392, "The Era."

WANTED, a Boy or Girl as Apprentice for Juggling, one with experience preferred; good home. Address, Box 5,384, "The Era."

WANTED, good reliable Operator, Lime, open Sat., Jan. 30, Provinces; permanent. Full particulars, P. C. M. Co., Ltd., 63, Queen Victoria-street, E.C.

WANTED, competent Operator, Feb. 8, with Machine, Box, Resistance. Particulars, salary, refs., make of Machine, Box 5,393, "The Era."

WANTED, Bioscope Operator, with own Machine and Films, must be First-class; Shares or Salaries. Particulars, FRED FLEMING, G.P.O., Dublin.

WANTED, Bioscope Operator, Own Machine, Latest Films, for Tour. Lowest terms for Monday first, LILA, 10, Mornington-road, Regent's Park, London, N.W.

270 Replies.
WANTED, Wanted, Known,
Sir,—
I inserted an advertisement, asking for Music Hall Artists in the last week's issue of "The Era." May I say that I am absolutely astounded at the number of replies I received to my small advertisement, no less than 270 Artists favouring me with applications. May I by this means thank the many artists who sent in their terms, as it is impossible for me to reply to each individual. I thank all for their very kind promptitude in responding to my advertisement.
I remain, yours faithfully,
ALFRED BALL.
New Lyceum, Tilbury Docks, Essex.
3/12/'08.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Miss Alice Oakley, Comedienne, Monday, Feb. 1, also 8th, 15th. Wire, 46, Crasswell-street, Landport, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Known, Lillie Howard, Soprano Vocalist, is at Liberty, March and onwards, for Variety Theatres. Address, Theatre Royal, Sheffield.

WANTED, March 8, onwards, Jean Macduff, Lady Scotch Comedian, Stoll Halls. Success, Emp., Glasgow; next, Grand, Birmingham. Add., MELVILLE, Rathbone, Portobello.

WANTED, by the Spadonis (Madge and Sylvia), Duettists and Dancers, Feb. 22, onwards. All coms., 50, Lloyd-st., Greenheys, Manchester.

WANTED, by Two Beatrices, Duettists and Expert Dancers, Feb. 8, 15. Wire, People's Theatre, Taunton, Somerset. Terrific success, this, Palace, Morley.

WANTED, Monday, by Dresden Girls (Amy, Ada), Vocalists and Patterers.
Wire, 34, Warburton-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Sisters Fraser (Rhoda and Elsie), Comediennes, want Mon. next, also 8th. This, New Gaiety, Clydebank; perm., 12, South Grove-mans., Bow-rd., E.

WANTED, by Sisters Selwyn, Refined Vocalists and Dancers, Feb. 8, between Greenock and Middlesbrough. This, King's, Kilmarnock; next, Hippo., Greenock.

WANTED, by Sinclair's Four Parisian Girls, Feb. 22, 29, and March 1. Managers in want of a Smart Troupe of Smart and Clever Ladies who can both Sing and Dance, should secure this Smart Quartette. Costumes of the very best. Over 127,000 sequins. All coms., SINCLAIR'S Agency, 118, Kennington-road, S.E.

WANTED, Monday next, on, or good Tour, by George Ritter, Speciality Musical Clown; am good picture-pianist. Wire for Monday, Providence Cottage, Prince's-road, Buckhurst Hill, Essex.

WANTED, Feb. 1, 8, onwards, exceptions, Dan Ashton, Lancashire's Popular Collier Comedian; Original Songs, Scenas, Pattering Conversationalist. 25, Wood-street, Openshaw.

WANTED, Monday next, by Tom Crawley, Eccentric Comedian and Dancer. Wire quick, Pavilion, Leicester.

WANTED, Feb. 15, Jack Hartley, Quaint Comedian, thanks H. O. Wills for Bolton, Rochdale. This, Pavilion, Ashton; Monday, Hip., Hulme.

WANTED, Feb. 15 and 22, by Harry Morris, Comedian. This week, Hippo., Darlington; next week, Palace, Bristol.

WANTED, Feb. 8, by Leslie Clements, the Chocolate-coloured Banjo Songster, precede Londonderry. Wire, Gaiety Theatre, Musselburgh.

WANTED, by Will Owen, The Original, Dame Comedian and Comedy Dutch Vocalist, Feb. 8, 15, and 22. This week, Tivoli, Manchester; next week, Opera House, Workington.

WANTED, Known, Yorkshire Tom, the Great Mimic, at Liberty Monday next. Wire, Hippo., or 14, Cross-st., Preston. Thank ZALVA for contracts.

WANTED, Monday next, by Beanland Query, the revelation in the art of female impersonation. Wire, Victoria Theatre, West Stanley; Vacant also March 1 and 8.

WANTED, Feb. 1, onward, Max Merlin, Crocodile, own scenery and platform. Perm., 65, Caledonian-street, Leeds.

WANTED, by The Mizuahs, Feb. 8 and 15, Continental Illusionists. Next week, Top of Bill, Gaiety, Glasgow. Great Sensational Novelty.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Feb. 1 and 8, by Li Chang Hi and Assistant, Chinese Conjurers par excellence. This, Crystal Palace. Perm. add., 2, Brook street, S.E.

WANTED, by Morimura, Marvellous Japanese Illusionist, Feb. 8 and 15, for his Original Oriental Magic Act. Concludes to-night, Temperance Hall, Merthyr; next week, Regent T., Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday, Feb. 1 and 8, Herr Schuler, world's Greatest Saxophonist, in his Instrumental Comedy Sketch, "From Street to Palace." Wire, 49, Peter-street, Blackpool.

WANTED, Feb. 1, onward. Wire, Hippodrome, Wakefield. The Great Kroston, Burlesque Japanese Entertainer, own Jap scene, introducing Contortion, Juggling, Conjuring, and Performing Pug Dog Oto. A Sensation. Also Miss May Sumner, a Refined Comedienne and Dancer. Wire, one or both. After Sat., 16, Repton-st., Manchester.

WANTED, March 1, 8, Fred and Lillie Monckton, presenting their latest screamer, "Two in a Flat." Emphatic success. This, Sadler's Wells, London; next, Foresters' Music Hall, London.

WANTED, Monday next, Alice Townend, Vocal Treat; Fred Burnard, Actor Vocalist. Duologue if required, for one or both. Wire, 1, Laburnum-ter., Hirst, Ashington.

WANTED, Monday next, by the Two Le Bruns, Unique Vocal and Juggling Speciality.
Wire, Palace, New Brighton.

WANTED, by Mike and Lena, Comedy Dutch Duo, "The Dutch Lovers." Feb. 8, 15, 22, Sing, Dance, Dialect. Monday next, Empire, Southport.

WANTED, Monday next and on, Savaro and Lillian (Mimic and Agouste), Speciality Artists. Wire offers, Oddfellows' Hall, Dowlais, South Wales.

WANTED, Feb. 8, by Gravetta and Parr, Clay and Sand Pictures, Double Impersonators of Celebrities, &c. This, P., Reading; next, Hip., Hastings.

WANTED, Monday next, Feb. 8, 15, and 22, by Colvil and Tate, Comedy Artists and Dancers, the Laughter-makers. Sure success anywhere. Coms., Queen's Park Hippodrome. Wires, C/o Mrs. Taylor, 36, Turkey-lane, Queen's Park, Manchester. Distance no object.

WANTED, Known, Lavelle and Scrogge, Acrobatic Balancing Speciality, Refined Comedy. Splendid fit-up. Free Monday. Wire, Gaiety, Clydebank. Perm., Swan Laundry, West Bromwich.

WANTED, Feb. 8, by Taylor and Bridge, Singing Lancashire Mill Lads.
Wire or Write, Feb. 1, Queen's, Leeds.

WANTED, Monday next, by Les Rallis, the Artist and his Monkey.
Wire, 25, Horsedge-street, Oldham.

WANTED, Feb. 8, The Carlsens, Comedy Speciality on the Bouncing Table. Splendid two-sheet lithos. Everywhere Big Laughing Hit. Hip., Stalybridge.

WANTED, by Wright and Elton (Novel Comedy Duo), Feb. 8, 22. Feb. 1, Hippo., Lowestoft, where wire or write. Wire or write.

WANTED, Known, Ted Moxon Trio, Acrobatic Eccentrics, vacant Feb. 15, to follow Stanley. Now playing with tremendous success Speciality, in Milton Bode's Pantomime "Aladdin." Sole representative, F. Bosco, Poole and Bosco, Ltd., Pioneer Amusement Caterers of Ireland; next, Theatre, Chester; perm. address, 101, Woodland-road, Clifton, Bristol.

WANTED, Feb. 1, by The Georgia Trio, in Harmony and Comedy; concluding Milton Bode's Panto. at Robert Arthur's Theatres, Aberdeen, Dundee, and Glasgow. Wire, T. R., Huddersfield. Perm., 32, Loraine-road, Holloway, N.

WANTED, Known, Munroe's Comedy Team is Vacant Feb. 1, '09.
Wire,
Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Piers, Halls, for Fred Solo's Drolls and Demures, First-class Artists, Printing, &c., Whitsun (with exceptions), Share or Certainty, for Season and Tour. 63, Melrose-road, Southfields, S.W.

Premier Juveniles
WANTED, Feb. 15, between Birmingham and Devonport. Write, GRAHAM, Hip., Hull; or BENTLEY'S Agency.

WANTED, by Mlle. Sylvesto, Novel Contortionist, and her Knockabout Comedian Rumbo, Feb. 8 (between Blyth and Dundee), March 1. Wire, Empire, Blyth, Cumberland.

WANTED, Feb. 1, 8, and 15, for Halls or Panto., by the Original Three Escaladers, Hand Balancers and Champions of all Double Ladder Performers. Wire, 18, Lower Maudlin-street, St. James's, Bristol.

WANTED, Monday next, Feb. 8, The Three Flying Orenius's (Lady and Gentlemen Gymnasts), in their Marvellous Stage Aerial Act, the Only One of its Kind Ever Attempted and Performed Without Net or Trampolin. The Sensation of the Age. Managers and Agents desirous of booking a Smart and Novel Turn should Secure this Act.
93, Cook's-road, Kennington, S.E.
Note the Address.

WANTED, Feb. 8, March 8, on, by The Woolhafs, in their great Comedy Act; good stuff, well dressed. Feb. 1, Gaiety, Chatham.

WANTED, Monday next, The Smalleys, Comedy Triple Bar Act; also Nellie Duval, Comedienne. Two Acts. Wire, Gaiety, Clydebank.

WANTED, Feb. 15, and on, by La Dor Troupe, seven in number, male and female Acrobats, in three distinct Acts. Theatre, Luton.

WANTED, Feb. 8, onward, The Peps, Original, Comedy. Talented Star Novelty. Book this Act, and we will give the Public what they want. Something they do not see every week. New, laughable, and enjoyable. Original tricks performed by Dog Prince. 64, Upper Sutton-street, Aston, Birmingham; or, Messrs. TOM SHAW and Co.

WANTED, Trillo, Royal Ventriloquist, Vacant Monday, two splendid acts, for picture shows, assist piano. Wire, Pembroke Villa, Hallmote-rd., Aldershot. Absolutely the best.

WANTED, Feb. 15, 22, March 1, 8, 15, by Gulliver, Ventriloquist.
Address, Hippo., Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, Monday, by Adkin, Ventriloquist, the Man and the Doll. First vacant date since last June. Wire, Tivoli, Barrow.

WANTED, April 19, by Harry Keeble, Ventriloquist, and Mme. Turner, the Great Contralto. This, Hippo., Stalybridge; next, Chesterfield.

WANTED, Feb. 1, 8, and 15, King Leo, Singing Ventriloquist, and Jessie Star, Scotland's Only Lady Comedian. Terrific Success Everywhere. Wire quick for Monday, Alexandra Theatre, Pontefract.

WANTED, March 22, 29, by Hulbert (Ventriloquist) and De Lil (Illusionist); two smart Acts. Offers invited. The Alhambra.

WANTED, Feb. 15, 22, onward, for Sidney Rennet and Co., in "Minding Baby."
One Long Laugh. Three people.
RENNET, Salford; next, Pavilion, Abertillery.

WANTED, Known, "The Galley Slave." Magnificent Dramatic Sketch. Splendid scenery, costumes, and effects. All coms. re dates to FRED DURHAM, Sole Agent.

WANTED, Monday, by Billy Ross and Co., greatest Boxing Act before the Public, combined with genuine Comedy. Wire, Empress, Brixton, London.

WANTED, by Miss Ella's Lion Show, March 29, onwards.
Com.,
38, Albert-road, Long Eaton.

WANTED, by Wilson's Miniature Circus, Troupe of Clever Dogs and Midget Pony. This, Hippo., Eastbourne; next, Bedford Music Hall, London; vacant Feb. 8, 22.

WANTED, Known, Williams' Dogs, in their new and novel Acts, a masterpiece of dog training; nothing better seen anywhere. Vacant Feb. 1 and 8. Perm. add., South View Cottage, Rothwell, Haigh, Leeds.

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THE PALLADIUM, LONDON

(late Hengler's Circus), will be open August Bank Holiday, 1909.

THE ALHAMBRA, PARIS.
"Futurity Winner," Maud and Gill, Bertisch, Ariel and Astarte, Hectors, Nitta Jo, Lafaille Troupe, Galetti and Kokin, Prof. Canova, Balsamos, Marion and Lona, Ongars, Perezoff Troupe.

HIPPODROME, BIRMINGHAM.
Woodwards, Philip Devard, C. Cardow, Faludy Troupe, Webb and Branston, Harry Brown, Dun and Reno, Pictures, Colombia Trio.

HIPPODROME, BRIGHTON.
Klein Family, St. Ruth and Conyers, Cummin and Seaham, Bijou Juveniles, E. José and Co., Alexandra Operatic Co., Havannas, Camplins, Pictures, My Fancy, Juno Salmo.

HIPPODROME, SHEFFIELD.
Pantomime, "The Forty Thieves."

HIPPODROME, LEEDS.
Madam Albani, Zakovsky, Rappo and Ella, Mayne Cannon, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilde, Three Croisits, Friend and Downing, Johnson and Devere, Pictures, Garganis, Gladys and Albert.

PAVILION, NEWCASTLE.
McBanns, Mark Leslie, Annie Heath, Three Spoons, Primrose Quartette, Broadway Girls, W. Reynolds' Co., Stowe Bros., Pictures, Hayman and Franklin.

HIPPODROME, ST. HELENS.

HIPPODROME, EALING.
Morny Cash, Chas. Stevens, La Belle Nello, Eileen Douglas, Madie Burker, Pictures, Fielding and Hull, Athas and Collins, Howe and Ardie, Carl Hertz.

EMPRESS, BRIXTON.
Arthur Woodville, Herbert Rule, Little Tich, Kisbey, Harry Marte, Mamie Fenton, Adey Spencer, Rosie Archer, Jordan and Harvey, H. Clayton and Girls, Anderson and Dallas, Pictures, Vivianas, Phœbe Mercer and Co., Newcombe and Delph Co.

PALACE, HAMMERSMITH.
Rob Roy, Marian Armitage, Pictures, Phil and Nettie Peters, Bob Fitzsimmons, Hanvarr and Lee, The Romps, Ambrose Thorne, Steve McCarthy, Claude Gardner, Dorothy Gould, Marie Kendal, Walton and Lester, Haines, Borthwick and Co.

OLYMPIA, SHOREDITCH.
Harry Zetter, Charlton, Chas. Craston, Irma Lorraine, Maggie Rimmer, Amy Clevere, Pictures, Bros. Bright, Kent and Keith, Howard and St. Clair, The Hiatts, Kate Carney and Co.

THE WEEK'S CALLS

THE EMPIRE, HOLBORN.
Arthur Woodville, Helen Charles, Alice Hollander, Pictures, Boissetts, Three Laurels, Chanti, The Garricks, Les Valencias, Arthur Roberts and Co., Ben Albert, Leoni Dixon, Five Saxonias, Johnson and Bert, Hunt and Thomas, Harry Nelson.

HIPPODROME, WILLESDEN.
Ed. E. Ford, Willie Gardiner, Nora Stockelle, Pictures, Verno and Voyce, Lafayette.

EMPIRE, CROYDON.
Arabella Allen, Pictures, Dan Fraser, Fred Hallam, Jeannie Deans, Mrs. Lewis Waller and Co., Colonel Gaston Bordeverry, Manning and Gommersal, Honores and Le Prince, The Bensons.

ISLINGTON EMPIRE.
Chas. Whittle, Wilson Hallett, Will Driscoll, Dora Lyric, Stella Dell, Pictures, Graham and Harrington, Royal Tokio Troupe, Frank Maura, John Lawson and Co., Geo. Gilbey, Little Victoria, Williams and Warden.

HIPPODROME, BALHAM.
Harry Taft, Tom Edwards, Minnie Mace, Ethel Walker, Pictures, Thorpe and Coe, Ritter and Foster, Chirgwin, John Clempert, Marie Santoi and Co.

HIPPODROME, PUTNEY.
Dan Thomas's Pantomime. "Dick Whittington," Pictures.

HIPPODROME, POPLAR.
Frank Leon, Harry Webber, Sisters Caselli, Dolly Golden, Pictures, Joe Elvin and Co., Phil and Nettie Peters, Austin and Cowan, Fasola, Sid. Cotterill and Co., Zaid Trio, Arthur Royce.

HIPPODROME, ROTHERHITHE.
Jack Marks, Ada Cerito, Pictures, Recco, Shelleys, Lowenwirth and Cohan, Carlotta De Yonsen and Co., Geo. Ridgwell, Harry Hayton, Max Martine.

PALACE, CAMBERWELL.
T. E. Dunville, Pictures, Grey and Welford, Eugene Stratton, Harry Champion, Arthur Reece, Jessie Beresford, Nellie Lunelle, Sisters Julian, Lowenwirth and Cohan, The Garricks, King's College Boys.

HIPPODROME, NOTTINGHAM.
La Belle Greta, Russell Carr, Hersleb Bros., Eight 'Varsity Girls, W. Stanley, H. Roxbury and Co., Alexandre and Bertie, Society Four, Pictures, Vasco.

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F. Karno's Co. in "London Suburbia," Maxey and Pete, Forsyths, Bros. Wills, Schiavonis, Lena Wyllie, Elmo and Rego, Pictures, Emmerson and Baldwin.

HIPPODROME, RICHMOND.
Dora Daly, Pictures, Alec Hurley and Co., Cyril Dane, Violet Ashcroft, Tots Davis, Walker and May, Wilman, Mersano, Kenway and Emery.

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Musical Comedy and Dramatic Season.
Bill matter for this hall to be sent direct to Mr. Manners, Empire, Swindon.

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Captain Woodward's Seals, Harry and Paul, Paul Vandy, D. L. Clark, Hal Godfrey, Payne, Pictures, Barton and Ashley.

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L. B. Athol, David Poole, Ida Clare, Kate Gourlay, Pictures, Vidardy Trio, Chas. Austin and Co., Marsumas, Lily Lassah, Joe Archer.

GRAND, CLAPHAM JUNCTION.
Ted Cowan, Herbert Shelley, Pictures, Charlie, Selby and Myers, Joe Reichen's Dogs, Arthur Lennard, Marie Lloyd, Ella Lane, O'Gorman Bros.

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Greatest Combination of Open-air Attractions in the Country. For concessions for Real Novelties for Summer Season, 1909, address, PROPRIETORS, Pleasure Beach, Blackpool.

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Excellent Spaces
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Those Managers wanting one
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For Continuation of "Wanted" Advertisements, see Page 36.

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CALLS FOR MONDAY, FEB. 1, 1909.

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THE LONDON HIPPODROME

Bolossy Kiralfy's "To-morrow," Cruikshank, Lukushimas, Kaufmann's Cycling Beauties, Joseph Hart's "Rain Dears," The El Tampicos, Creo Bros., Fratellinis, Pathégraph, Eli Hudson and Olgar and Elgar, Mr. and Mrs. Thomson.

EMPIRE PALACE, EDINBURGH.

Rehearsal at 1.30 for:—

Ye Colonial Septette, Lil O'Gorman, Fayre and Manning, Walter Munroe, Viking Wrestlers, Guyer and Valli, Bioscope, Bros. St. Clair, Nellie Coleman, Oswald Williams.

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for:—

Les Fleury Duo, Harry Clifford, Fred Elton, Rhoda Paul, Renee Glendower and Co., Miles Stavordale Quintette, Jock Mills, The Brennans, Bioscope, E. Dagnall and Co. in "Slippery Jim."

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for:—

Four Holloways, Alf Holt, Bessie Slaughter, Horace Pollock and Co., Chas. Coborn, Dacey and Lewis, Vetter Bros., Bioscope, The Ten Zerbanis, Pat Rafferty.

GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for:—

Stevens and Buchanan's Grand Pantomime, "Cinderella."

ARDWICK THEATRE, MANCHESTER.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

J. F. Preston and Co. in "Rogues of the Turf," Frank Cass, Nance Elder, Baker and Balfe, Jackson Family, Frederic Villiers, Strolling Players, Burke, Andrus, and Frisco, Harry Lawson, Bioscope, The Olympians.

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.

Rehearsal at 12 for:—

Victoria Monks, Enzer, Tom Child, Tom Bryce and Miss Price, Dumond Trio, Paul Barnes, Selbinis, Lee and Kingston, Edie Endon, Bioscope, Alice Pierce.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

La Scala Opera Co., Fred Earle, Doroswami, Percy Honri, Goodwin's Piccs, Gems, Arthur Gill, Maud and Sydney Wood, Bioscope, Miss Marquis's Ponies.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Laurence Irving, Mabel Hackney and Co., in "The King and the Vagabond," Percy Hannan, Mlle. Pollo, Ethel Newman, F. W. Purcell's Co. in "What Women Do for Men," Ernie Garner, Tony Spring, Crisps, Bioscope, Tom Costello.

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Sam Duckworth's Co. in "The Conscience of a Judge."

GRAND, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Gus Elen, Mary Ambrose, Jean Macduff, Walter Bellonini, Harry Freeman, Brix and Annie, Les Voces, Bioscope, Cornalla and Eddie, Howard Bros.

PALACE, LEICESTER.

Rehearsal at 2.30 for:—

Fred Karno's Co., including Fred Kitchen, in "G. P. O." Bertha Winder, Bert Williams, Dennis Drew and Boys, Watson's Dogs, Tom Moore, Grosvenor Sisters, Bioscope, "Motogirl."

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Master Max Darewski, Tom Collins, Fred. Eustace and Co., in "The Amber Light," Joe O'Gorman, W. F. Frame, Lionette Roberty, Chas. Santon, Beattie Kent, Bioscope, Tom Hearn.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Camille Ober, Arthur Astill, Harry Leybourn, Miller Bros., Les Martineks, Selkirk's "Gathering of the Clans," H. J. Crane and Co., Jimmy Curwell, Bioscope, Musical Courtiers.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

"Sands of Dee," E. J. Sheldon, Fred Keeton, Albert and Edmunds Troupe, Eight of Hearts, Roma and Romani, Almas, Bioscope, Terry and Lambert.

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

La Milo and Cruickshank, Spry and Monti, Orpheus, Adams and Ward, Mike Nono, Dot Stephens, Frank Hartley, Nellie Le Breton, Randolph King, Bioscope, "Yellow Fang."

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Fred Karno's "Football Match," Walter Curtis, Three Sisters Jerome, Bertha Stuart, Tambo and Tambo, Nina Wood, Bert Woodward, Bioscope, The Dandies.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Auguste Van Biene, Lyric Mummers, Stella Stahl, Amy Anderson and Co., The Gaudschmidts, Allan Hanbury, Jackley Trio, Bioscope, Jack Lorimer, Gertie Gitana.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Moss' Empires' Grand Pantomime, "Humpty Dumpty."

THE LONDON COLISEUM

Rehearsal at 10 a.m. for:—

Albert Chevalier and Co., La Tortajada, Creo Bros., Hayes and Wynne, De Wynne Bros., Chas. T. Aldrich, Sadie Jerome, Two Anartos, Haig and Novell, Haley's "Garden of Girls," Bioscope, Mme. Alice Esty.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Fred Karno's "Bailiffs," Beatrice Bonnie, Stylo, Lickson's Dogs, Jules Garrison and Co., Van Allen, Billy French, Kathleen Cogan, Bioscope, Chas. Fisher's Opera Co.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Karl Reinsch, Lily Esplin, Bennie Barrow, Ross and Lewis, Delevines, Henry Carlton and Co., Naughton and Gold, Alf Chester, Bioscope, Hermann Melot.

EMPIRE, SWANSEA.

Rehearsal at 3 for:—

Zeynardt's Lilliputians, Bob Hamilton, The Two Kays, Trentanovi Sisters, Laurie's Kindergarten, Virto and Venita, Nellie Hughes, Bioscope, John Warren and Co. in "The Magic Carpet."

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.

Rehearsal at 3 for:—

George Gray and Co. in "The Fighting Parson," Billy Hobbs, Minnie Harbor and Brittany Boys, J. H. Scotland, Rapoli, Jennie Hartley, Jimmy Shields, Bioscope, Achmed Ibrahim Troupe.

PHILHARMONIC HALL, CARDIFF.

Rehearsal at 3 for:—

Company as booked.

EMPIRE, NEWPORT

Rehearsal at 3 for:—

Joseph Hart's "Polly Pickles' Pets in Petland," Barrington, Takio, Madge Temple, McConnell Trio, Maud A. Edwards, Eily Adair, Bioscope, Howell and Scott.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Neil Kenyon, Mabel Bright, Three Prestons, J. P. Ling, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Meymott, Maggie Walsh, Ted E. Box, Hartley Wonders, Bioscope, De Gracia's Elephants.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Horace Goldin and Jeanne Fransioli, "Daughter of the Regiment," Millie Payne, Larry Lewis, Florence and Lillian, Thora, Harry Bedford, Violet Stockelle, Bioscope, "No. 99."

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Nellie Wallace, Fred Edwards and Co. in "Kleptomaniacs," Victor Travers, Wittie Wattie Walton, May Edouin, Colored Meisters, Chas. Vincent, The Mayvilles, Bioscope, Campbell and Barber.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Miss Evie Greene, Chernatsky Trio, Cline and Clark, Austin Rudd, Arthur Aldridge, Lydia and Amelys, Three Lloyds, George Young, Bioscope, Daley Cooper, Mabel Lait and Co. in "Scotch Mixed."

The following are booked in conjunction with the above:

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUBLIN.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Fred Storey and Co., Ernest Clifford, Florence Gardner, Marjutti, Cliff Ryland, Jack Crawley, Mabel Mignon, Pictures, Lily Burnand.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Rameses, Four Figaros, Ethel Bourne, Duncan and Godfrey, Victor Newman, Elton Black, Pictures, Mona Garrick.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL.

Rehearsal at 12 for:—

Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco, Phil Parsons, Harry Herbert, Kroney Bros., Katie Moss, Ida Kathrena, Bioscope, Alburtus and Millar.

IMPERIAL HALL, WALSALL.

Company as booked.

THEATRE ROYAL, CROYDON.

Animated Pictures and Illustrated Songs.

EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

La Pia, Walter Aubrey, Grant and Grant, Carina Sisters, Mlle. Haydee, Arthur Albert, Sybil St. Elmo, Bioscope, Stein Eretto Troupe.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Herbert Darnley's "Brigands of Tarragona," Maizie Hibbs, Fred Pollard, McCann's Irish Terriers, Nellie Taylor, Frank Sylvo, Pictures, Theo. Bouwmeester.

IMPORTANT NOTICES.

RE APPLICATIONS FOR ENGAGEMENTS.

All applications by either Artists or their Agents must be made to the Head Office. Lowest terms must be stated, and distinction made between salaries required for larger and smaller towns. Vacant dates should be stated. If a list of existing bookings be sent, it will render selection easier.

Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not rebooked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follow:—

EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, NEWCASTLE, AND DISTRICT.
MR. B. GETHING, Empire Theatre, Glasgow.

BIRMINGHAM, NOTTINGHAM, LEICESTER, AND DISTRICT.
MR. HATTON WHARTON, Empire Theatre, Nottingham.

SOUTH WALES DISTRICT.
MR. ALBERT MITCHELL, Empire Theatre, Cardiff.

LEEDS, SHEFFIELD, HULL, BRADFORD, AND DISTRICT.
MR. T. GERALD MORTON, Empire Palace, Leeds.

LIVERPOOL, MANCHESTER, AND DISTRICT.
MR. ALBERT BULMER, The Empire, Liverpool.

LONDON DISTRICT.
MR. J. CHRISTIE, Empire Theatre, Shepherd's Bush, W.

N.B.—Mr. OSWALD STOLL or Mr. FRANK ALLEN can be seen by appointment on all matters arising out of the above, and for the discussion of entirely new Numbers.

All Artists or Agents who communicate with our District Representatives must have made definite applications, in accordance with above directions, to the Head Office, at the same time, or just previously.

Artists and Agents are requested to note that the Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington, Standard Theatre, Shoreditch, and the Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, come within the areas absolutely barredby us. Artists and Agents are also requested to n ote that the Hippodrome, Aston, Birmingham, comes within the area absolutely barred by the Grand Theatre and Empire Palace, Birmingham.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have at least Fourteen Band Parts for English Orchestrations, and Seventeen Band Parts for Foreign Orchestrations. Matter of Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to Co-operative Offices, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced. Artists' Scenery, Properties, &c., MUST be fireproofed in accordance with the regulations of the Licensing Authorities.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

No order or contract for goods or services must be accepted for any of the foregoing theatres except upon receipt of an Official Form, issued from the Co-operative Offices, London, and signed by either Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. Frank Allen, or the Chief Accountant, otherwise the Company concerned will not be responsible for same, and will refuse payment. In special cases, where goods are required at once, suppliers must look to the individual placing the order, who will be personally liable, unless an official confirmatory order, signed as above, is received within forty-eight hours. Invoices must be sent to the Theatre, but monthly statements should be sent to the Co-operative Offices. The individual Company on whose behalf orders are signed is solely responsible for payment. The Management will not hold themselves responsible in the event of loss of or damage to any MSS., Songs, &c., submitted for consideration.

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*AYESHA. ANYWHERE WILL DO.
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No excuses whatever for non-attendance will be entertained.

All billing matter and notification of appearance, accompanied by samples of pictorial printing, must be sent to the London Offices, Oakley House, Bloomsbury-street, W.C., fourteen clear days prior to opening, or contract may be cancelled at the option of the Management.

All Scene and Property Plots of Sketches, Scenas, &c., must be sent to Foresters' fourteen clear days before opening.

All Artists carrying scenery must have same fireproofed, in accordance with L.C.C. regulations, otherwise it will not be allowed in the Halls.

Artists please note that when stage staff are required on Sunday, according to the "award," their time must be reckoned from that given in "call."

In cases of emergency after office hours, Mr. Baugh may be consulted at the Foresters' Theatre, Cambridge-road, E.

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CALLS

FOR WEEK COMMENCING.

MONDAY, FEB. 1, 1909.

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"Dandy Millionaire," Cosgrove and Burns, Norah Desmond, Musical Sirvos, Russell Brandow, Beau-ideal Troupe, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, &c.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.
J. W. Rowley, Gallimore Trio, Olms and Carbeth, Master Garratt and Co., Ted Waite, Leslie and Stevens, J. Holland and Co., The Fordyces, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, HALIFAX.
"Happy Holland," Brull and Hemsley, Rosie Reval, Yettmah, Godfrey James, The Fitzroys, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
Carney and Armstrong, Sable Fern, Mack Ollive, Amos Howard, Ethel Sheffer, Elroy, Lisbon and Barker, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
Rochez's Monkeys, The Walfons, San Remo Girls, Russell and Howsley, Harry Luck, Frank Vallance, Carlotta Levey, Helen Roberts, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
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THEATRE ROYAL, LEEDS.
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May Henderson, A Ba-Be, Cherry Lass, Capt. Devereux, Bouncing Dillons, The Evalos, Mr. E., Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Les Elgonas.

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PALACE AND HIPPODROME, WARRINGTON.
Mysticus, Adah Payne, Kirk and Saraski, Ellis and Son, Sergt. Brennan, Wilton Heriot and Co., Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Lew Lake and Co.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, BURNLEY.
Joe Peterman and Co., Archie Pitt, Three Transfields, Clack and Clack, Belle Davis and Chicks, Powell's Marionettes, Mysterious Howards, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, The Betsons.

PIER PAVILION, SOUTHPORT.
Matinée Monday.
Sammy Shields, Ted Lowry, Clarice Clarke, Leslie's Cadets, Bonetti and Corri, The Stannings, East and West, Luna Lyndon, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PIER PAVILION, WEYMOUTH.

PALACE, BOW.
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George Marriott and Co., Raymond, Norah Noble, Edward Mortimer, Ralston Boys, Fred Wright, Maud Garland, Robson and Co., Margt. Radcliffe, Mark Milton.

FORESTERS'.
Matinées, Monday and Thursday.
Three Royal Temples, Raymond, Sisters Melba, "The Last Halt," The Monckton, Attie Lanta, George Newburn, Cash and Clare, Miss Muffitt, Margt. Ismay, Venturini.

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Matinée Every Monday.
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PALACE, BATTERSEA.
Matinée Monday, at 2.30 o'clock.
Gladys Witton, Raymond, Lorne and Vallance, Master Day, Fred Poplar, Kitty Wager, Barclay's Jockeys, Jas. Crooke, Brewery Picture, "Fight for Life," T. C. Jaques, Rose Cass.

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All Artists engaged for Surrey Theatre must bring 14 Band Parts.
Matinée Every Monday.
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MISS RACHEL LOWE sings:—
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Code Word, "GIGOGNE."

Titles of pictures:—The aeroplane is brought to the starting-place—Getting ready—Flying 100ft. high—Running along the ground—On November 13th, 1908, Wilbur Wright flies over a line of small balloons placed at a height of 165ft., and wins the Sarthe Aero-Club prize—The Michelin Cup, 65 miles in the air in two hours—On December 18th, 1908, Wright goes up about 360ft. from the ground, passing over a balloon standing 300ft. high.

660ft. SECOND EDITION NOW READY. The Subject, **£11 0s. 0d.**

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428ft. The Subject, **£7 2s. 8d.** Toning, **£1**

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Code Word, "FUTAINE."

This film conjures up the period when ladies wore "Panier" dresses, when Marquises were powdered, and slow minuets were in fashion, for on the fan are displayed in a very charming manner such small figures gracefully dancing.

230ft. The Subject, **£3 16s. 8d.** Colouring, **£2 7s. 0d.**

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1023ft. The Subject, **£17 1s. 0d.** Colouring and Toning, **£6 10s. 0d.**

HIS OWN WEAPON.

Code Word, "FUSION."

'Arry Fly jostles in the street Mr. Easyled, with whom he exchanges cards. 'Arry is a professional house-breaker, and as he repairs to the house of his victim he rehearses in his mind the note he will ultimately leave in Mr. Easyled's house after stripping it of its valuables; and these lines, hastily scribbled, cannot leave the least doubt as to 'Arry's true character. They run thus:—"Thanks for having given me your address. Having the right to choose the weapons, I decide on the skeleton key. My honour as a house-breaker is satisfied.—'Arry Fly."

314ft. The Subject, **£5 4s. 8d.**

HAWKING.

Code Word, "GAGE."

The hawk is a bird of prey, which has been used for centuries for rabbit-catching. Before the bird can be of any use it must be trained to come back to the sportman's fist when recalled. After the sport the bird is rewarded with the lure.

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The workman puts together pieces of wood and cardboard, scoops out the holes into which he eventually will place the cymbals, fixes the parchment onto the frame, varnishes the tambourines, and trims them with ribbons. The pretty and dainty instruments are now ready, which will eventually accompany the Tarantella dance on the terrace at Palermo in front of the blue Mediterranean.

264ft. The Subject, **£4 8s. 0d.** Toning, **13s.**

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Code Word, "FURIE."

A burglar having broken into a house at night is surprised by the tenant coming in unexpectedly. He just has time to hide inside a commander's armour, but as the newcomer does not seem to think of leaving, the burglar cannot stand his cramped position any longer. He moves his limbs, whereupon the witness of this unusual deed falls down in a dead swoon. Mr. Thief avails himself of the opportunity thus afforded him for dressing the other up in the armour. A servant entering the room, withdraws hurriedly, shouting that he has seen a ghost. People come in with brooms and saucepans and expel the wretched ghost, who sees everybody run away from him in the street. As no policeman is to be found who will protect him, Mr. Fright makes the acquaintance of a kindly hooligan, who condescends to see him home safely.

560ft. The Subject, **£9 6s. 8d.** Toning **£1**

THE STEPMOTHER.

Code Word, "FUSAIN."

A faithful servant has been taking care of the children of her dead mistress for a long time, and the widower, fearing lest she should leave them, asks her to marry him in order to ensure for them her untiring devotion. Yet a scoundrel who has behaved shabbily towards the poor woman attempts blackmailing when he hears that she is married. Her little child having cost her her last savings, she cannot comply with the man's wishes, and in her despair she goes and meets him, with a weapon in her hand in case she should want to defend herself. Her husband, who has found the letter, follows her, and seeing how matters stand he forgives the past and adopts her baby as his own.

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Code Word, "FLEGME."

428ft. The Subject, **£7 2s. 8d.**

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Code Word, "FUTAIE."

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528ft. The Subject, **£8 16s. 0d.** Colouring and Toning, **£4 15s. 0d.**

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Code Word, "FRETIN."

On the top floor several starving Bohemians are boring a hole through the floor into the room underneath. This enables them to partake of a hearty meal, which costs them nothing. On discovering the theft the neighbours go and arm themselves with brooms, but when they come back they only find an army of rats, against which they fight with the energy of despair. The rain, coming in through the tileless roof, causes the Bohemians to swim about the premises. Presently the gendarmes end the fun by marching off all these excited people.

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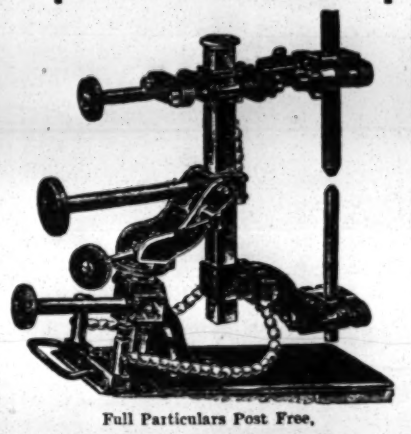

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31.

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for a THREE YEARS' LEASE of the ground used for

MINSTREL PERFORMANCES

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Printed particulars may be obtained from the undersigned, to whom Tenders, endorsed "Happy Valley," must be sent not later than Wednesday, the 27th of February, 1909.

The Council do not bind themselves to accept the highest or any tender.

(Signed) A. CONOLLY, Clerk to the Council.

Town Hall, Llandudno, 22nd January, 1909.

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By Order, H. J. WORWOOD, Town Clerk pro tem.

Southend-on-Sea. Jan. 25, 1909.

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BRUCE PENNY, Town Clerk.

Town Hall, Luton. Jan. 25, 1909.

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January, 1909.

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Yours faithfully, H. GOLDSMITH-WHITTON,

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Poddle, in "Butterflies,"
Opera House, Southport.

MR. DUNCAN YARROW.
Theatre Royal,
Sunderland.

MR. NORMAN YATES,
Capt. Darville, "Two Little Vagabonds."
Feb. 8, Shakespeare, Clapham; 15th, E., Swindon.

MR. CECIL MORTON YORK,
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By GEORGE ALEXANDER.
Illustrated by Photograph and Autograph.
See THE ERA ANNUAL, 1909.

EARLY MEMORIES.
By MARTIN HARVEY.
Illustrated by Photograph and Autograph.
See THE ERA ANNUAL, 1909.

THE MYSTERY OF MY "DOUBLE."
By H. B. IRVING.
Illustrated by Photograph and Autograph.
See THE ERA ANNUAL, 1909.

TWO ANECDOTES.
By ALFRED LESTER.
Illustrated by Photograph and Autograph.
See THE ERA ANNUAL, 1909.

THE KINGDOM OF MAKE-BELIEVE.
by ERIC MAYNE.
Illustrated by Photograph and Autograph.
See THE ERA ANNUAL, 1909.

THE DRAMA AND THE CINEMATOGRAPH.
By C. P. IVATTS.
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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERAMAN.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. A. Jackson Withers.—Miss Harriet Greet and Mr. G. W. Bowe's company is here in *The Sign of the Cross*. Mr. Leonard Yorke delights the audience with his impersonation of Marcus; Mr. Edward Clowes's rendering of Nero is very impressive, and Mr. Donald McAdam gives an amusing study of Glabrio. Mr. Frank J. Fox is good as Servilius, Mr. G. Osmond Tearle submits a finished piece of acting as Tigellinus, Mr. Rupert Carlton gives a powerful rendering of Licinius, and Mr. C. Edwards is a dignified Favius. Miss Hazel Dent is earnest and sympathetic as Mercia, Miss Lilian Ward is prominent in the part of Poppœa, Miss Florence Maber portrays the beautiful patrician Berenice with fine effect, Miss Effie Dane as Stephanus gives a touching and skilful representation, and Mrs. Nora Goulden is successful as Ancaria.

ABERDARE.—NEW THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Aberdare Public Hall Theatre and Billposting Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting-Manager, Mr. B. Richards.—Mr. Tom Owen and his Royal Welsh Pierrots are as popular as ever here in the sketch *Checkers*. Excellent support is given by Mme. Spencer, who delights the audience with her singing; Mr. Ber Crosbie, rag-time dancer; Miss Esaline Thorne, comedienne; Mr. Cecil Bradly, tenor; Miss Mollie Gwynne, contralto; Mr. Alfred Bale, tenor; Miss Ethel Vere, a dainty soubrette; and Mr. Harry Vernon, descriptive vocalist.

ABERDEEN. — H. M. THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—Mr. William Mollison opened his Shakespearean week on Monday with *Macbeth*, and the house was filled in every part. Mr. Mollison gave a very striking portraiture of Macbeth, showing with rare fidelity both the ruggedness and weakness of the man; Miss Evelyn McKay made a most impressive Lady Macbeth, her appearance in the sleep-walking scene in particular being most effective; Mr. William Calvert was an heroic Macduff; and Duncan and Malcolm were very capably impersonated by Mr. W. A. Mackersy and Mr. Henry Deas. Miss Gladys Brandon-Gower was the principal of the Weird Sisters, and her lines were delivered with telling and gruesome effect. All the other members of the company showed skill in their parts. On Tuesday *The Merchant of Venice* was presented, with Mr. Mollison as Shylock and Miss McKay as Portia.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessees, The United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—The Piccolinos are enthusiastically applauded for their daring and dexterous effects in cycling, wire-walking, and dancing; the celebrated Pickel troupe of acrobats are no less successful; Mr. W. J. Churchill (Uncle Willie) is undoubtedly one of the breeziest and most resourceful comedians on the stage; the sporting farce *The Lady Jockey* is played by Miss Teddy Edmunds and her company, which includes Mr. Jimmy Rouse, with exuberant vivacity; the comedy duologue *What Is Life?* by Mr. Paul Edwards and Miss Louie Dacre, is also heartily appreciated; little Miss Tiny Arnold pleases the audience greatly; and Mr. Carl Colyer shows much promise as a comedian.

EMPIRE MUSIC HALL. — Managers, Messrs. R. Calder and J. Montague.—Both the Empire and the Alhambra are packed nightly. Among the principal artists appearing at both houses are Miss Dolly McCarthy, a clever comedienne; the Sisters Du Barrie, capital vocalists and dancers; Sandy Mac, an entertaining comedian; Mr. Jack Marson, the popular vocalist and raconteur; and Mr. Archie Murray and Miss Marie Rose, who are repeatedly encored for their duets and humorous interludes.

ABERTILLERY.—THEATRE METROPOLE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. J. Seaborn.—The pantomime *Aladdin* is being played here. The title-rôle is very daintily portrayed by Miss Marie Wall, who receives appreciation for her songs and dances; Mr. George Helm is particularly smart as Abanazar and never fails to create merriment; Miss Emmie Cozens makes an ideal Princess; whilst the Fairy is very naturally performed by Little Babs Lloyd. The part of Widow Twankey is very amusingly produced by Mr. Bob Stephenson, and Mr. Hayes Watson is a capital policeman. The scenery and dresses are gorgeous, the jokes and songs and choruses are new and up to date, and the production is receiving good patronage.

PAVILION.—Lessees, Messrs. E. and H. Tilney; Manager, Mr. E. Pryce. — The domestic drama *Love Rules the World* is excellently presented here this week by a powerful company. Mr. Richard Vane gives a very clever rendition of his part as Harold Kingston, while Stephen Blight receives full justice from the able hands of Mr. Stephen Langdon. Miss Grace Jones gives a very effective impersonation of Flo Morton, whilst Maud Carruthers is very dramatically portrayed by Miss Lilian Herrick. Miss Annie Brunette makes a capital Mother Grimble, whilst Mr. Fred Elvin is a distinct success in the comedy character Billy Binks, and creates plenty of fun. Mr. Alex Wynne is a good Paul Carruthers. The scenery and effects are good, the music bright, and the mounting of the piece is exceedingly good.

ACCRINGTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—This week Mr. Percy Norman's company is here with *A Woman Worth Winning*. Mr. Gilbert Standing does everything possible to make the rôle of Amos Pauloff popular; Mr. Sydney Barton invests the character of Czar Nicholas with due dignity; Mr. A. B. Mackay ably brings out the villainy of General Borinski; Mr. B. Crosby is successful as Fergus Lovinsky; and Mr. Wilfred E. Clarke wins general admiration by a powerful portrayal of Ivan Bardoff. Welcome comedy relief is afforded by Mr. Ernest Kendrick as Peter Popples; Mr. Louis Newman as Bertie Scribbles; and Miss Ida Mackay as Katerina; Miss Cissie Bellamy plays with feeling as Roma; and Miss Trixie Leighton achieves success as Lola.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Accrington Hippodrome Co.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—An attractive programme this week is headed by the Daunton Shaw Troupe of trick cyclists, and their reception at every performance is of the most cordial description; Ike and Will Scott, versatile comedians, are much appreciated; Les Marbras wins loud applause with their smart acrobatic dancing; J. G. Lewis gives a ventriloquial turn which is distinctly clever; the Dancing Gilberts contribute a most attractive turn; and Master May sings with much expression; Irve Hayman and Miss Miriam Vernon appear in a midnight episode, entitled *Christmas-Eve*; Spry and Austin, comedy duo, are exceedingly popular; and the Bioscope pictures are interesting.

ALDERSHOT. — EMPIRE AND HIPPODROME. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Gladwin. — An excellent programme is presented for the first week of the variety season, which restarted on Monday at the above house of amusement. The Bob Hanlon troupe, who top the capital bill, and are admittedly the star turn, go through a marvellous aerial gymnastic act; numbering four, they give a clever exhibition of trapeze work. Matt Wilkinson's Laughter-makers in a sketch, *On the Flip-Flap*, cause a deal of fun; Ess and Hoey are a pair of nimble skate-dancers, and are encored for their duet in song and dance; Carta and Mirtziana display wonderful strength and teeth-power in their gymnastic creation with bicycles, tables, and chairs; Charles Clifford played several airs on his harps, and when encored gave a few more selections on his Irish harp; Nash and Noel, with patter, duets, and dance, again please; and the Sisters Bronson, duettists and dancers, and Violet Beatrice, in songs, also do well.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill, jun.—A new military drama, *Second to None*, a story of the Scots Greys, by the popular playwright Mr. Walter Howard, is here for the week. Mr. Leonard Williams as Harry Wilding finds abundance of scope for manly and courageous conduct in depicting the character; Mr. F. F. Lloyd plays the scoundrel with a callousness which calls forth the groans of the audience; as Captain Philip Mannering the worst features of the military officer's character are depicted with emphasis; in Mr. C. W. Spencer, as Sir Reginald Greystone, colonel of the Scots Greys, we get something of the military gentleman; Sergt. Jack Horseman as embodied by Mr. J. G. Maine commends itself as a well-studied impersonation; and Mr. Frank R. Gwyn-Richardson as Lieut. Ballater is also soldierly. Miss Ward as Nell Geystone is sympathetic and tender; Miss Grace Harlington finds in the character of Mary Greystone traits to interpret which win favour; and Miss Clarrie Yandell as Norah, a housemaid, is quite *au fait* as the maid. The humour of Mr. Geo. Davis as Joe Ruggles and Mr. H. Macaulay as Private Flutter is an effective foil to the more serious "business" of the piece.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr W. Leech; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Jesse Bursiem.—Heading the list of artists here are Lester and Moure, from the New York halls. Something Yankee is introduced in song and patter by these clever artists. Les Zelovas, as equilibrists and acrobats, are expert as well as daring performers. Leonard Chatburn's troupe of Young Stars appear to great advantage in song and graceful dance in a pretty scene, *A Pic-nic Up the River*. Diana Hope presents an entertaining society episode, *Her Good Name*, assisted by Monte Bayley. Lallie Brooke as the "Old-fashioned Girl" wins applause in the scena *The Old Sundial*; and Fred Maitland gives an amusing comedy skit, *The Suffragette*. Burns and Bentley are interesting cross-talkers and vocalists; and the Godfreys, Didie and Kate, give a diverting musical sketch, *The Slavey and the Coon*. Carl and Mary Ohm's Animal Circus and the Bioscope complete the bill.

NEW PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech; Assistant-Manager, Mr. T. Edward Owen.—The pictures of Pathé Frère's and Gaumont and others exhibited at this popular pleasure resort are of the best and most entertaining character; this kind of animated living exhibition is growing in favour with the public. This week's "show" of films includes some startling episodes of Negro life. The White Negro is a stirring incident. London East life is seen in the vagaries of 'Arry and 'Arriett; A Plucky Little Girl is full of interest to the spectator; and High Game is another impressive series of scenes. Of pictures illustrating events which are stirring the world of to-day the funeral procession of the hero Constable Tyler and the boy Jocelyn, victims of the recent Anarchist raid at Tottenham, London, is the most important. Jim Cunliffe (vocalist) and Herma (weight-lifter) are also in the bill.

THE PICTUREDROME. — Lessees, Messrs. Weisker Brothers; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Marks.—A new feature here for the week is a series of photographs of topical subjects. We have the scene of the Anarchist tragedy at Tottenham and the funeral procession of the victims; General Gordon's Statue; Binns, the Marconi Operator; the Liner Republic; Scenes in Berlin; and Oxford and Cambridge Boat Crews at Practice. Leonard and Vereker present a fine series of song illustrations.

ATTERCLIFFE.—PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES. —Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Bert Dent.—The premier position of this week's programme here is held by Mr. Fred Moule and a capable company in a mirth-provoking sketch *The Battle of the Belles*, which is well staged and full of fun. The various parts are capably undertaken by Messrs. Fred Moule, Robb Gresham, C. W. Proctor, Misses Amy Rudd, Jessie Elvin, and Annie Thomas. A clever gymnastic act is given by Ajax and George under the title of *Britannia's Levee*; Miss Adelina, assisted by Mr. Hal Collier, gives a number of interesting impersonations of celebrities, past and present; Mr. Harry Simms is a good light comedian; Phillips and Merritt are popular in their musical and dancing scena; Miss Ethel Yorke is a pleasing descriptive vocalist; Mr. Will Harris (comedian) meets with much favour; and Mr. Clayton's Attergraph pictures are up to the usual standard.

AYR.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—Messrs. Fred J. Little and Fred Darcy produced their grand comic pantomime here on Monday for a week's run. *The Forty Thieves* lends itself well to endless variety, and full advantage is taken of it by a capable company. Mr. Wal Croft was grotesquely funny as Ali Baba, and his humorous songs did not fail to please the large audience; Mr. Ted Wootten was admirable as Cassim; Mr. Reg. Ewen made a lot of the part of Cogia; Mr. Harry Alvey was as fine a comic donkey as we have seen; Miss Mary Poulton as Ali's son was dashing and pretty; and Morgiana was well acted by Mlle. Carita. The latter sang beautifully, and made an agreeable impression with her song "The tiny seed of love." A great nit of the pantomime was the droll performance of the Five Ex-Rays in the gymnasium of Ali Baba. An interlude was also given by the Gavalotti Brothers, all-round instrumentalists of more than ordinary merit; and the dancing of the Esmeralda Girls was another feature of the production, which is well staged.

BACUP.—NEW COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood.—Mr. Ernest Adrien's pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, forms the attraction here this week. Mr. Ernest Adrien's Idle Jack is an unqualified success; Miss Violet Oram possesses all the attributes of a successful Dick, and her singing won the highest admiration; Miss Madge Carew is a neat and trim Alice, and sings sweetly; Miss Mary Alxenader as Fairy Bow-bell merits commendation for vocal talent; Mr. Mark Mooney is a quaint and masculine Caroline; Alderman Fitzwarren has a good representative in Mr. Will Daniels; Mr. Bert Warner does good feline imitations as the cat; Messrs. Frew and Frew as Bill Buttercup and Captain Cowslip are highly amusing; Mr. George Gordon makes a formidable Demon Rat. The specialities include the Paulasto troupe of eccentric acrobats; the Tina trio of acrobatic dancers; Frew and Frew, eccentric comedians; and Bert Warner, contortionist. The minor parts are well filled, and the dresses and scenery pretty and effective.

BARNSLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, A. C. MITCHELL.—A return visit of *The Village Blacksmith*, under the management of Mr. Sam Livesey, is drawing packed houses. Mr. Livesey enacts the part of John Strong with great success, his fine physique standing him in good stead in his rendition. Miss Maggie Edwards as Kate Strong does full justice to a difficult part. The interest of the piece is well maintained by Mr. Albert Sinclair as Capt. Leo, Mr. Edwin Mayhew as Lucas Marler, Mr. Thomas E. Marshall as Jeremiah Parkins, Mrs. T. C. Livesey as Sal Parkins, and Miss Cassie Le Grande as Ruth Parkins. A special word should be given to Little Miss Lilly Leicester as the child Harry Strong.

PUBLIC HALL.—Proprietors, Mayor, Aldermen and Corporation of Barnsley; Manager Mr. E. Cheesman.—Mr. Jasper Redfearn's vaudeville company opened here Tuesday night with an excellent bill.

EMPIRE PALACE, LTD.—Managing-Director, W. Smithson; Assistant-Manager, J. J. Tennant.—Marstro and Mlle. Oretta top the bill and give an excellent performance, some of their tricks being astounding; Anieda and Eccentric cause roars of laughter; Vere and Royal give a pleasing duologue, entitled *On the Road*; the Twin Sisters Anderson contribute a fine dancing act, their skipping rope dancing being exceptionally clever; Fred Vallance is amusing as a ventriloquist; the Wedburns bring down the house with their comicalities, their patter being new and funny; Joe Conway, the pocket comedian, and Nellie Walton, the original singing mill girl, make up a capital programme.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone. —Mr. George Dance's company in *Miss Hook of Holland* is here. Mr. Alfred Wellesley is an entertaining Mr. Hook, and Miss Gertrude Melville in the title-rôle is pre-eminently attractive. Mr. W. Balfour displays a capital voice as Captain Adrian Pasp, and Mr. F. Crimp is pleasing as Bandmaster Van Voyt. Mr. George Mudie, jun., is a capable Ludwig Schnapps, and Mina has a winning exponent in Miss Cissie Sephton. Mr. Fred Lyne is an amusing Simon Slinks.

HIS MAJESTY'S.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Mr. Robert MacDonald's company in *The Dairymaids* is paying a return visit here. The company does as brilliantly as heretofore, and Miss Isa Bowman is a bright and musical Peggy; Mr. Richard Telford a capital Sammy, and Mr. Dan Agar an amusing Joe Mivens. Mr. F. Barclay does well as Dr. Byrne, Miss Babs Christopher is good as Lady Brudenell, and Mr. G. Scott Melville is a pleasing Lieutenant Frank Meredith.

TIVOLI.—Lessee and Manager, Signor R. Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edgar G. Laban.—A capital programme is presented here this week with Hamilton Hill, the Australian baritone, in the premier position; he has an excellent voice, and he renders his several numbers in artistic manner. A Japanese duologue by Talbot and Pearce is highly successful, the singing being good, and the stage effects capital; Spencer and Marks are smart patterers and dancers; Henry Halton, magician, has several exceptionally good tricks; the Sisters Condor are admirable in a banjo song and dance turn; Edie Colville is very pleasing in her vocal and dance turn; and Vernon's Bioscope conclude with some interesting pictures.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Owners and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ralph D. Fenton.—A capital programme of animated pictures is shown here this week.

BARRY DOCK.—NEW THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brogden.—Mr. John A. Thompson presented *The Babes in the Wood* to a crowded house here on Monday. Miss Pattie McCarthy (Robin Hood) and Miss Nina Carlton (Maid Marian) by their capital singing and dancing scored well; Miss N. Pendergast (Fairy Queen) and Mr. F. Halpin (Spirit of Evil) both made a good impression; as Allan Dale and Doris the Sisters Hypatia were successful; the same remark applies to Miss Jennie Thornton (Peggy) and Miss Jean McDonald (Will Scarlett). Mr. Gus Walker (Pansy Blossom) kept the house convulsed by his droll style; Messrs. Lovell Rowlands and Herbert Walton, Ross Warren, and Fred Ward all contributed to the success, and as the Baron Mr. R. R. Worsley left nothing to be desired. One of the successes of the evening was the acrobatic act given by Les Milicent Frères. Miss C. Williams and La Belle Sylvia (the Babes) are applauded. The various dances by the Butterfly troupe are very interesting. Mr. Percy Sheldrake conducts efficiently an augmented orchestra.

BATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—*The Catch of the Season* is proving a capital draw here this week, and Messrs. Dudley Bennett and T. C. Wray's company give a bright and animated performance of this merry, modern, musical "Cinderella" story. The chief rôles of St. Jermyns and Angela are capitally enacted by Mr. William Greene and Miss Dorothea Clarke, the former being a light comedian that gets every ounce out of the part, while the little lady never spares herself in her endeavours to please. The vocal honours are won by Miss Barry Eldon as Honoria, her "Cigarette" song securing an unmistakable encore; the other sister, Sophia, is hit off with due iciness by Miss Kate Robertson; Lady Crystal is portrayed by Miss Edna Eden with lady-like hauteur; Miss Grace Hampton plays with joyousness the fairy godmother, Lady Caterham; Mr Joseph Bruce as the stammering Dundreary is responsible for a great deal of the laughter heard throughout the piece; and a large and augmented orchestra perform their work with untiring energy under Mr. H. A. Dyer.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth. — The Bouncing Dillons, comedy gymnasts, are exciting much interest here. In a more sensational way Les Elgonas provoke enthusiasm; the Evalos, too, are quite successful; May Henderson, the dusky comedy queen, and Cherry Lass, comedienne and dancer, are both cordially welcomed; Captain Devereux once again introduces his clever dogs, and a welcome return engagement is filled by A Ba-Be's, picture postcard album. Mr. E. patters away to the accompaniment of merriment, and Raymond's Bio-tableaux retain all their popularity.

BEDFORD.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—*The Crimes of Paris* is being presented by Mrs. Frank Bateman and George Conquest's company. Mr. Mayor-Cooke gives a clever impersonation of Viscount de Vismes; the part of Pierre Telport is well rendered by Mr. Herbert J. Walton; Mr. Kendrew Milson is good as the hero; as Pepin Cardel Mr. Clavering Craig has a part that suits him to perfection; Miss Enid Edoni is a graceful Angele Martel; and Miss Vera Clavering Craig is an excellent Jacques Martel.

BELFAST.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—This beautiful theatre, which for the past four years has been run as a variety house, reopened its doors on Monday, reverting to its former position as the home of dramatic fare, with every prospect of support. The renovated theatre presented a handsome appearance. The piece presented was the musical play *Butterflies*, produced by a particularly fine company under the direction of Mr. Wilfred Cotton. The rôle of Max Riadore was well played by Mr. Richard W. Green, his vocalism affording much pleasure. and a delightful impersonation of Rodanthe was submitted by Miss Georgie Corlass. Mr. W. Louis Bradfield achieved a great success as Puck, his fine voice being heard to the utmost advantage, and he easily achieved the honours of the piece. Mr. Blake Adams was capital as Christopher Podmore; and his daughter Elsie was cleverly sustained by Miss Constance Clive. Congratulations are due to Miss Stella St. Audrie upon her exceedingly capable interpretation of Mrs. Podmore; and much humour was imported into the rôle of Yarker, the chauffeur, by Mr. William Spray. The lovers Peter and Gilbert were excellently sustained by Messrs. Roy Sydney and Arthur Hyde; and Lelage and Myra could hardly be in better hands than those of Miss Alice Sande and Miss Elsie Aston. Other rôles were sustained by Miss Cissy Gilbert and Mr. Alfred Selby. The various dances were most successful, especially the classical La Naissance du Papillon, cleverly performed by Miss Phyllis Monkman. The efficient augmented orchestra was under the skilful direction of the composer Mr. J. A. Robertson.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Will Sley and Fred Willmott; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—Mr. Joe Peterman and company present here with much success *The Belle of the Orient*, in which Mr. George Ricketts is quite inimitable as Ike Novinskie. The feats of Siems, described as the King of Mystery, are certainly wonderful; and Slippere (assisted by Miss Ramsay) affords much pleasure with his entertainment at the piano. Miss Amy Russell's fine voice has been heard to advantage in several songs; and the amazing gymnastic performance of the Bordellas arouses much enthusiasm. The Six Æolians appear in their refined and vocal dancing act; and also here are Hyde and Cody (eccentrics), Smith and Johnson (coloured vocalists), Tiny and Mite (child vocalists), and the Hipposcope.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—The leading item here is provided by Rameses, who appears to great advantage in his Egyptian Temple of Mystery, his feats being really remarkable. Miss Mona Garrick's impersonations of the various characters in sundry plays reflect much credit on her ability; and the Four Figaros, international vocalists and dancers, are accorded a good reception. Duncan and Godfrey return with their famous Cockney sketch *Me and 'Er*, which takes well, and deservedly so; and Mr. Victor Neuman's impersonations of Dickens's characters are wonderfully realistic. Also here are Miss Ethel Bourne (vocal and instrumental entertainer), Mr. Elton Black (Scotch comedian), and the Bioscope.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Will White.—Among the films exhibited here are Sicilian Family Honour, Saved by His Dog, and The Unseizable Pickpocket. The Bros. Sydmore, comedians and dancers, appear with success; and Sharon, the street musician, contributes to the programme.

ST. GEORGE'S HALL.—General-Manager, Mr. Robert Wilson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—This hall continues to be extensively patronised. A fine series of pictures have been shown, including Romeo and Juliet, Music Teacher, Rent Collector, and Fairy of the Torrent. Symbo (clown and jester) and Mr. Sam Corry (a clever conjurer) are also here.

CLIFTONVILLE HALL.—General-Manager, Mr. O. E. Laumann.—Immense crowds are daily patronising the rink, and roller skating is undoubtedly the rage. The great international mile roller race takes place on the evenings of the 8th, 9th, and 10th inst. Already many entries have been received by the management, and the winner will compete in the final at Olympia, London, on February 25.

BILSTON.—NEW ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. John M. Dawson; Business Manager, Mr. S. Hadskiss Dawson.—The boards here are occupied by Boswell's Royal Circus. In addition to the educated ponies, &c., there are interesting and amusing items by Kame Kasuda (on the slanting rope), Albert Morrow (conjurer), Crusoe (feet equilibrist), the Brothers Austin, and Comical Walker. *The Riggs of Mr. Briggs* and *The Sentinel and the Bear*, two amusing sketches, are also presented.

DRILL HALL.—For the fourth week of their stay the Anglo-American Animated Picture company is providing a new series of pictures, including The Fighting Parson and The Messina Earthquake Disaster.

BIRKENHEAD.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—Mr. Herbert Sleath's *A White Man* company opened to a crowded house on Monday. In the course of an excellent performance Mr. Frank E. Petley wins premier honours by a fine and effective rendering of Captain James Wynnegate, V.C., afterwards known as Jim Carston, in which he is ably supported by Miss Eleanor May, who as Diana Countess of Kerhill proves herself to be a talented and graceful artist. The thankless rôle of the Earl of Kerhill is successfully assumed by Mr. Harold T. Richardson; Big Bill is well played by Mr. R. A. Brandon; Mr. Eric Hudson is a picturesque Indian chief; Mr. Henry Hare is efficient as the Sheriff; and Mr. Gerald Earle as Cash Hawkins and Mr. F. Thornton as Boco White accord valuable assistance. Miss Margaret Fairleigh is a realistic Nat-u-ritch; and a really capable cast also includes Mesdames Gertrude Price, Margaret Duncan, Kathleen Mervyne, and Messrs. William Dempsey, Louis Ashmeade, Martin Henry, and Robert Hamilton. The production is well equipped, and both company and piece have been enthusiastically received here.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke. — Carter Livesey, Lilian Rosebery, and company, in their amusing skit *The Would-Be Actors*, are fulfilling a most successful return visit; as also are Billy Howard and Katheryn Harris in their well-sustained sketch *Adventures of a Happy Tramp*. Mr. Gus Garrick, an exceptionally smart mimic and dancer, has made a hit; and Shirley and Ransome in their act *'Arf a Quid* are cordially received. A liberal programme is also supported by Ara, Zebra, and Vora, exponents of Indian pastimes; Mr. Arthur Royce, in a musical monologue; Miss Marie Jones, a veritable protean actress; Mr. Hardie Salus, comedian; the Four Sisters Gilbey, instrumentalists and dancers; Miss Aggie Nolan, comedienne; and Brown's Royal Bioscope. Mr. Ernest Denney is musical director.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Ball. — Two performances nightly by Mr. Edward Marris's company of the pantomime *Dick Whittington* constitute the attraction here. Miss Etty Waldron is a sprightly Dick; Mr. Joe Waldron is a capital Idle Jack; Alice Fitzwarren is admirably played by Miss Dora Gilbert; and the fine voice of Mr. Arthur Lawrence is heard to advantage in the part of the Emperor. The scenic effects are elaborate.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—A second notice of *Dick Whittington* appears in another column.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE. — Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston. — A second notice of *Boy Blue* appears in another column.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. F. Guest.—*Little Red Riding Hood* is now in its seventh week, and is more popular than ever.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—There has been a great run here on *The Beggar Girl's Wedding* these last two weeks, the play being pronounced "one of Mr. Walter Melville's best." The company, as mentioned in our last issue, is a very capable one, and has met with much favour with Metropole critics. Mr. Otto Minister, Mr. Herbert Morgan, Miss Olive Warne, and Miss Vashti Wynne may be instanced among the principals.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—Miss Sidney Crowe is playing here in *The Way of the World* and *Leah*, with Messrs. Herbert Skardon and H. Sherwood Martin's company. In the former play, Miss Crowe's acting as Lady Adela Hardy made a deep impression by its intensity and passion; Mr. Herbert Skardon, who, with Mr. H. Sherwood Martin, is presenting the play, proves an interesting and highly popular Cecil Hardy; Mr. Victor Gordon is good in the heavy part, Captain Fred Slade; Miss Effie D. Crawford is a winsome heroine as Kate Montague; and others prominent are Mr. Clarence Temple, Miss Violette Vivienne, and Mr. D'Arcy Kelway.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. J. Robertson.—Mr. J. Rice Cassidy's company was made welcome here in that still popular drama, *In Holy (?) Russia*. Mr. Cassidy's comic and withal sturdy acting in rescuing woman in distress meets with rounds of applause; Mrs. J. Rice Cassidy as the virtuous and adventurous heroine, Renee Rubinoff, wins cheer upon cheer; Miss Amy McNeil displays her fine abilities in the rôle of the police spy, Catska Lavotski; Mr. St. George Frere shows to advantage as Michael Natolski; Mr. Frank Copeland plays with the proper manly spirit as Sir Harry Beresford; and Mr. Henry Compton scores as Colonel Forrest.

PALACE THEATRE, BORDESLEY.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company is meeting with pleasant receptions here in *The Conscience of a Judge*. Mr. Stanley Bedwell comes out of the trying titular one with complete success; Miss Eva Moss as Jessica gives a clever portrayal; Mr. Frank Eaglesfield contributes an able study of Sir Edward Mervin; Mr. Cecil Renton makes an acceptable Geoffrey Granstone; Mr. Martin Pedler does well as Cecil Bentley; Mr. Frank Eden, the general-manager of the company, proves a highly comical Horatio Winters; and Miss Mabel Coleman shows many charming traits in the character of Ethel Vaughan.

GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—Gus Elen is the big attraction here, his clever coster impersonations being loudly encored. The Howard Brothers are expert jugglers, they play six banjos at one time; Walter Bellonini is also a smart juggler; Brix and Annie are amusing in their barber's shop skit; Jean Macduff, Harry Freeman (who is always popular), and Cornalla and Eddie brighten up the programme with their turns.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—Mr. Laurence Irving and Miss Mabel Hackney are very successful here, their sketch *The King and the Vagabond* is artistically played; Tom Costello is loudly encored for his song "Homeland, good-bye"; Ethel Newman presents a monologue, *Her Wedding Day*; and J. W. Pursell and company have a miniature drama, *What Women do for Men*. Mlle. Pollo is a clever gymnast; Percy Hannan, Ernie Garner, Tony Spring, and the Crisps complete the company.

HIPPODROME. — Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Lyons.—Yukio Tani, the ju-jitsu champion, gives a clever exhibition here; the Columbia Comedy Trio deserve the loud applause that greets them. The long programme includes the names of Harry Brown, Webb and Branston, the Woodwards, Dun and Reano, Philip Levard, Charles Cardow, and Will Douglass's Merry Bakers.

GAIETY THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—The Ten-Ji troupe of Japanese magicians' feats are most skilful; Seever and Fridkin's troupe of Russian vocalists and dancers win loud applause; Walter Emerson is always funny; Maxwell and Francis have a good comedy sketch; the Cheers give a scena in which some performing cats are introduced; and Mi Narom sings charmingly.

ASTON HIPPODROME.—Resident-Manager, Mr. T. Middleton.—Haley's Juveniles have a bright entertainment here—their songs and dances win admiration; the Harvey Boys in their act *That Was Me* are highly amusing; Zeta Grey and company have a comedy sketch, *A Lancashire Lass*, which is very successful; Queenie May, Albert McKelvin, and Harold Heath add to the mirth of the audience.

KING'S HALL.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy.—The picture entertainment here is attracting large and appreciative audiences. Bert and Fay are comedy duettists of a high order, and F. Ind is a most eccentric comedian.

QUEEN'S HALL.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy.—The pictures here are taking on well, A Village Marathon Race being most interesting. H. O. Winkler and C. Comet provide the variety.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — EDEN THEATRE. — Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. Huntley. — Mr. William Maclaren's company (including Miss Lily C. Bandmann) opened on Monday in *Claudian*. Mr. Maclaren, in the title-rôle, played in his accustomed clever manner; as Almida Miss Bandmann again presented the part delightfully; Mr. Douglas Earle did well as Agazil; Mr. Geo. Roberts gave satisfaction as the Holy Clement; Mr. G. Edward Dunstan as Theorus earned distinction; Mr. Bernard Elliott's Tetrarch was effective; Mr. Charles T. Chaloner was an amusing Belos; Miss Amy Hardcastle a charming Serena; and Miss Ruth Trafford a charming Edessa.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Mr. J. F. Elliston's *Aladdin* company is reaping a rich and well-deserved harvest here. The title-rôle is in the hands of Miss Mabel Carr, whose efforts are most warmly appreciated, whilst a success second to none is won by Miss Elsie Roby, who appears as Picie; the Widow Twankey finds an excellent exponent in Mr. Tom Kelso; and Mr. William Fulbrook as Abanazar also finds great favour with the audience. Specialities are supplied by Burley and Burley, comedians; the Walmsley Sextette of dancers; and the Jewel Ballet is also a distinct triumph in stage art.

GRAND.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson. —Mr. T. Arthur Jones and company are appearing here twice nightly in *Life's Sweetest Sins* and *When Other Lips*. Miss Marie Daventry is seen to advantage in both plays.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Geo. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—A well-varied programme of excellent turns is provided here this week. Willie Zimmerman carries all before him by his wonderful impersonations; Green and Wood create quite a sensation in their acrobatic act; Correze and Keith are clever jugglers; Gladys Mavius is a pleasing comedienne; Jack Hayworth shines as a Scotch comedian; Ruby Bijou dances well; King Luis and partner excel as equilibrists; and the great Coram may be aptly described as a ventriloquist extraordinary.

BLYTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur C. Moody.—Mr. and Mrs. Levy's juvenile pantomime company, in *The House That Jack Built*, is meeting with success here. Specialities have been successfully introduced by Doyle and Gibson, the Forget-Me-Not Quartette of dancers, Horace Hilterby, Florrie Edwards, and Wee Gladys Wyse.

NEW EMPIRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur C. Moody.—An attractive bill of fare has been provided here, including Mr. and Mrs. David Donaldson in *The Veteran's Birthday*, which has proved exceedingly attractive; Fräulein von Tromp introduces several graceful dances; Austin's Comical Nippers fully justify their title; Jennie Mackey, described as the Lavender Girl, has an attractive style; Jack Martin is a strong attraction as a baritone; Mlle. Sylvesto, assisted by Rumbo, finds much fav

C. Bostock's Consul, the Almost Man, in his exemplification of the Darwinian theory; Sidney Mason and Theresa Moore present the dramatic episode entitled *The Usurer*, and are highly successful; Pasquali Brothers, as acrobatic equilibrists, give a sensational performance; Ryder Sloan, vocal character comedian, is much appreciated; Bromley and Fontein are entertaining in musical comedy tit-bits; Natalia and Diana are a clever pair of light aerial gymnasts, and receive deserved applause; George Collins, quaint comedian, and Edie Anderson, comedienne and dancer, also deserve mention. As usual, the Hippodrome pictures show the latest subjects.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, David Allen and Sons; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Hubert Dunbar. — Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company opened here on Monday in *Idols*. Miss Edyth Goodall as Irene Merriam deserves special praise for her rendering of the part, her scenes with her husband, played by Mr. A. B. Imeson, being very well done. Miss Moira Creegan, in the difficult part of Ninna Hart, scored a success, and the character of Hugh Coleman was effectively sustained by Mr. Herbert Ford. Mr. Frank Ibberson gave a capital study of a bibulous butler, while as Jacob Hart Mr. Frank Powell did well. The Court scene was really excellent, in which Mr. Harvey Braban, Mr. A. E. Graham, and Mr. George Conroy shone conspicuously.

BRADFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson. — Mr. Hart's charmingly-staged pantomime *Jack and Jill* continues to delight and entertain large and appreciative audiences, who roar with laughter at the eccentricities of the clever company of comedians, and applaud heartily the brilliant spectacular effects and the lovely scenery and dresses. The gorgeous display and general charm of the production have rarely been equalled in any of the many previous pantomimes presented by the enterprising management.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Coun. F. Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—*Red Riding Hood* is beating all records here in the way of pantomime, and the packed audiences and hearty laughter and applause testify to the all-round excellence of the production, which is brimful of good, broad fun, and a veritable feast of colour and brightness. The principals in the energetic company are very popular.

THE EMPIRE.—Moss Empires, Limited; Resident Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—We have a splendid tribute to skill in animal training here this week in the wonderful equestrian act presented by Karl Reinsch and Miss Lucie; Hermann Melot, the smart conjurer, on a return visit is again perplexing the audience with his tricks; Alf Chester, the comedian, as the broken-down "Lord of the Lord Knows Where," is diverting. In a comedy sketch, *The Window-Cleaner*, Henry Carlton is very amusing, and well supported in his part of Billy Shine; Bennie Barrow is a promising young baritone, and his songs are nicely illustrated; the clever acrobatic comedians, the Delevines, entertain highly with their bustling sketch *Flipp and Flopp* and their remarkable "Scarecrow Dance"; the Yankee Doodle Duo, Jack Ross and Sue Lewis, are very humorous entertainers and dancers; Naughton and Gold introduce some funny patter and dance well; Lily Esplin as a juvenile character comedienne is amusing; and there are some entertaining pictures shown by the Bioscope.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Harrison.—Edward Marris's big company, in *The Dandy Millionaire*, provide a very bright and sparkling musical episode, which is very finely staged and brimful of humour; in their capital sketch, *The Singing Academy*, Cosgrove and Burns are highly diverting; Russell Brandow, a coloured comedian, is a very expert dancer who wins much applause; Musical Silvo submits a fine performance on the musical glasses; Norah Desmond, the song-illustrator, sings with expression; in a prettily-arranged garden scene Feldman's troupe of juveniles sing and dance very effectively; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are an interesting feature of the bright evening's entertainment.

BRIGHTON. — GRAND THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. Ernest Gates; Acting-Manager, Mr Ben Court.—*Aladdin* entered upon the last week of its run here on Monday. Miss Aimée Roberts (Aladdin) and Miss Blanche Marion (Princess) have proved themselves great favourites; the comedy element has been admirably sustained by Mr. Edwin Garth (Widow Twankey), Messrs. Bennett (Tip Pit), and Martell (Wot Toe), Mr. Frank Dunlop (Abanazar), and Mr. Leo Sterling (Emperor). The last-named and Miss Addie Love (Slave of the Lamp) have scored heavily with their instrumental and vocal scenas; and the Lottie Stone Quartet have contributed much-appreciated dances. On Tuesday evening Mr. Frank Dunlop and Mr. Edwin Garth had a complimentary benefit; while yesterday (Friday) evening was set apart for a similar tribute to Mr. Ben Court, the popular general-manager, under whose personal supervision the pantomime was produced. Special attractions were provided for each occasion.

ALHAMBRA.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Alfred Smith.—James Willard and company achieve distinct success in the dramatic episode *The Ace of Hearts*; the Lizzette Trio are graceful lady acrobats and pleasing singers and dancers; Phern and Phern submit an excellent musical entertainment; De Lil, illusionist, completely mystifies the audience; Jennie Reeves is a dainty comedienne; Hughes and Elliott are capable vocalists and dancers; Sydney Burns, comedian, is well received; Hulbert is a good ventriloquist; Mollie Augarde sings in charming style; the Venola Brothers contribute an amusing comedy gymnastic turn; and the Alhambra Picturegraph comprises some interesting and amusing films.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr B. J. Brown.—Edouard José evokes great enthusiasm in the dramatic episode *The Strike*, his portrayal of the old blacksmith being thoroughly artistic; the Alexander Operatic Trio are highly successful in the prison scene from *Faust*; My Fancy, the queen of sand dancers, wins unstinted applause; Juno Salmo, the "Devil Dandy," is a wonderful contortionist; the Klein Family are very clever trick cyclists; the Bijou Juvenile Troupe appear in *Pansy's Birthday*, and display most graceful dancing; the Camplins, comedy duo, are diverting; the Havannas Troupe submit a capital comedy act; St. Ruth and Conyers are artistic operatic duettists; and Cummin and Seaham are good comedy acrobats.

WEST PIER.—Secretary, Mr. A. W. Scholey.—Mr. Ernest E. Norris and company opened here on Monday with *The Education of Elizabeth*. Miss Florence Tresilian gave an artistic impersonation of Elizabeth; Miss Louisa Peach made a very diverting Blanche Macyntyre; Mr. Ernest E. Norris was drolly entertaining as Reggie Hankey; Mr. Bert Morley was excellent as the infatuated Harry Fairfax; Miss Nona Hoffe acquitted herself admirably as Lucy Middleton; and able support was rendered by Mr. Fred Castleman (Mr. Whitby) and Miss May Norris (Lily Kerr).

PALACE PIER THEATRE.—King's Royal Bioscope is still a great attraction here. A Greek Slave is a charming love story; A Journey Over the Stubenthal Railway, by moonlight, and John Bull's Breadbasket are highly picturesque; and other films include The Financial Scare, Leap Year Proposals, Antiquary Burglars, The Queen's Love, The Mesmerist, and Uncle's Fortune.

COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. M. Barrasford. The animated pictures here continue to attract crowded houses. The film depicting the manœuvres of the Italian artillery is highly interesting; The Royalist's Wife conveys a drama of adventure in the days of Cromwell; A Mother's Love and Rip's Inheritance are touching stories; and Animated Portraits is a cleverly-executed picture. The song, "Ring Down the Curtain," is submitted by the Cinephone; and the Barrasford Sable Operatic Minstrels appear with great success in a plantation scene.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—The popularity of *Aladdin* continues unabated, which must be very gratifying to all concerned; indeed, the general opinion is that it is in all respects the best pantomime ever produced here. The scenery is exceptionally fine, the costumes rich and tasteful, the artists are all clever in their respective parts, and the entertainment, while most refined, is sufficiently humorous, thus satisfying the varied tastes of the supporters of the Prince's. Miss Ouida Macdermott makes an ideal Aladdin, acting remarkably well, singing pleasingly, and looking the part to perfection; Miss Deborah Volar is happily placed as the Princess, she also acting admirably and displaying much ability as a cultured vocalist; Miss Daisy Lloyd Wood is sufficiently vivacious as Our Mary Ann (from London), her songs and dances obtaining much applause; Miss Topsy Sinden acts prettily as Yu-Bu-Tee, and scores heavily with her graceful and expert dances; Mr. Branesby Williams makes a good part of Abanazar, his various impersonations, which are all successful, giving strong evidence of the versatility of this clever artist; Mr. W. H. Powell contributes much to the success of the pantomime by his amusing impersonation of the Widow Twankey; Mr. Alfred Clark's broad comedy performance of the Emperor is popular; and Mr. Arthur Sutcliffe acts well as Pekoe, his various songs being all well rendered.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Alty.—*Little Red Riding Hood* continues to attract full houses. The pantomime goes merrily from start to finish, it is staged with much taste and liberality, the company is a competent and hard-working one, and the comic business is quite up to the standard expected at the Royal. New business has been introduced, and the topical and local allusions are up to date. On Monday evening Miss Gertie Hall and Mr. Ivor Harvey distinguished themselves in the parts of Margery Daw and Baron Baddelot, in consequence of the unavoidable absence of Miss Marie Free and Mr. Frank Hemming. Several of the principal artists have new songs, the dances of the Sylvan Quartette obtain much appreciation, and the Misses Lee and Clifton score with their speciality dances.

PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Harry Tate's company of comedians amuse with their funny sktch *Fishing*; Mendel, blind pianist, is much applauded for his selections and improvisation upon themes; Charles Collette and Ivan Derry have a diverting little sketch entitled *Pyjamas*; Bert Maddison, Welsh comedian, is appreciated; Florence Hyde and company amuse with their coster sketch *Ups and Downs*; Tom E. Hughes, comedian, obtains applause; Cestria is a smart comedy juggler, &c; Harry Morris, character comedian, is successful; and the performance concludes with animated pictures.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—Maurice Farkoa, of musical comedy fame, heads the programme, his refined style of singing pretty songs obtaining due appreciation from all parts of the house; the Five Whiteleys present a clever turn of acrobatics, wire-walking, and musical potpourri; Mlle. Ottino does an excellent and attractive conjuring act; the Sarony Sisters sing well and dance admirably; May Brilliant is a pleasing comedienne and dancer; Kesman does some good conjuring, &c.; Lizzie Kirk, comedienne, has some good songs; Tommy Dor, comedian, obtains applause; Cling and Clancy amuse as patterers and dancers; and the Corrix Brothers are smart balancers, &c. Interesting animated pictures conclude the entertainment.

COLSTON HALL. — This is the last week of the "Joseph" Poole Myriorama. The season here has been a very successful one, and on Friday evening Mr. Fred Mayer, the courteous manager, takes his benefit, special attractions being provided.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson. — Frederick Melville's play *The Ugliest Woman on Earth*, under the general management of Mr. Leyton Cancellor, was well received by a full house on Monday, when it commenced here. Miss Beatrice Horner played the title-rôle with much force and charm; Jack Merryman was well played by Mr. Philip Darien; Mr. Leyton Cancellor ably sustained the part of Hubert Gould; Mr. Leonard Thackeray did well as Antonio Luchesi; Miss Gertrude Harrison made a hit as Rose Courtenay; comedy was well presented by Mr. Freddy Bentley (Tubby Harrick) and Miss Nellie Jackson (Aggie Brown); and good work was done by Miss Violet Macaree as Morita and the other members of the cast.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—Mr. Charles Constant's pantomime *Aladdin* entered on its concluding week's visit here. Miss Daisy Lake, on her first appearance in the title-rôle, made a good impression with her singing and acting; Miss Dolly Moore, the Pocket Vesta Tilley, achieved success with her "Football" song; Mr. M. D. Pitts as the Emperor was warmly applauded for his singing of "Thora"; Miss Dorothy Dempster was cordially received for her "Moonflower" song; and Miss Maud Murray's electrical dances are very pretty.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—An excellent programme is provided here. The New York Comedy Four are received with enthusiasm for their comedy medleys; old acquaintances are the Gladenbecks, loudly applauded for their smart hand-balancing; Will Willis (comedian) earns encores; and the Two Erolls supply funny knockabout acrobatics. The Ormesby Quartette greatly please; Ruby Emerson has pretty songs; and Carl Lynn is accorded an enthusiastic welcome for his clever animal mimicry.

PALACE THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—A most pleasant programme is given here. Joe Peterman's Singing Servants give a two-act operetta full of tuneful songs and choruses; Paul Powell's Electrical Marionettes strike a novel line; Belle Davis, singer of coon songs, is accompanied by real coons, who are most vivacious dancers; and the Brothers Howard give a remarkable exposition of mental telepathy. The Betsons, comedy cyclists, perform clever tricks; and Clack and Clack are good in barrel jumping. The Three Transfields, lady instrumentalists, are pleasing; and Archie Pitt, comedian, has a good song. Raymond's Biotableaux include A Persistent Follower and Clumsy Jim.

BURSLEM.—HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. R. Colin; Manager, Mr. Matt Hall.—Good audiences assemble here nightly, and thoroughly enjoy the up-to-date picture show. This week the following artists appear with success: Little Cliffie, a boy vocalist; Miss Hilda Reynolds, comedienne; and Vale and Derr in a laughable farce.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett and Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. de Hague Body.—Mr. C. Watson Mill and Miss Blanche St. Albans' company is here this week with *A Warning to Women*. The chief interest centres in Miss St. Albans, who contributes a carefully played impersonation of Moira Kennion; Miss Ellen Beverley undertakes the part of Molly O'Moore in a praiseworthy manner; Sheila has a charming and capable representative in Miss Gertrude Vickers; and Miss Edith Rutland is especially good as the crippled boy, Myles O'Moore. Mr. Harry C. Robinson endows the character of Dr. Marcus Dread with the necessary villainous attributes. Mr. Henry Rutland gives a fine performance as Squire Kennion; Mr. William Vane is a thoroughly earnest Shaun; and Mr. Charles O'Connor does well as Fergus M'Naughton. The comic relief is in the safe hands of Mr. W. Palliser Acock as Ferdinand de Joules, Mr. Leicester Jackson as Lord Eversleigh, and Mr. Oscar Power as Mike McQuade, who all give satisfaction to the audience. Mr. Alex Finlayson as the Rev. Emmanuel Wallace and Miss Marie Ramuz as Hildred also deserve mention.

BURY (Lancs).—ROYAL.—Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—This week Messrs. F. J. Little and Fred Darcy's pantomime *Sinbad the Sailor* forms the attraction. Miss Marie Reeve plays in dashing style as Sinbad, and her songs are well rendered. A charming Zorilda is seen in Miss Mollie Hackett; and the comic element is in the capable hands of Mr. Willie Barrett as Mrs. Sinbad and Mr. Walter Adams as Tinbad. The specialities are particularly attractive, embracing the Acme Quartette of dancers; M. and Mlle. Van Lachterop, operatic vocalists; and Newco and Sullo, "The Boys in Red," dancers. Others who work hard and well are Miss Marion Ellis, Miss Gertie Webster, Mr. Fred Taylor, and Mr. D. Howell.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; General Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—Richard Finberg, an old favourite, tops the bill here, and his impersonations of well-known characters are as good as ever. Texas Hattie gives a clever exhibition of tight-rope walking; the Tiger Lily is a coloured artist of distinct ability; and illustrated songs are well rendered by the Scena Vocas. Others adding to the evening's enjoyment are W. E. Hilton, ventriloquist; Irene and Morton, in comedy act; Ryde and Beeman, eccentric acrobats; and Dolly Harmer, comedienne. The usual Ottograph pictures conclude.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Wilson.—Abato and Hurst, in a comedy act, *The Sport and the Bootblack*, are first favourites in a good bill. A clever demonstration of telepathy is given by the Days. The remaining turns are all good, and include Victor Courtney, "Boots at the Piano"; the Maxwells and their dogs; Princess Pauline, comedienne; Britain's Heroes, Irving golden statues presented by L. and R. Edmond; Sistere Barnes, duettists; Valvero, in his Naval Bombardment; the Frohmans, particularly good in a musical melange; and the Brothers Milford, comedians.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS. — THEATRE ROYAL. — General-Manager, Mr. Auguste A. Peuleve.—Miss Emma Hutchison and company are appearing here in *Mrs. Dot*. The comedy is beautifully staged and presented by a first-rate cast. Mr. Frank Lacy is responsible for a brilliant performance as James Blenkinsop; Mr. Hugh Kennedy makes an excellent Gerald Halstane; Freddie Perkins is remarkably well played by Mr. Charles Stalte; and Mr. William Midgley is good as Charles. Mrs. Dot is charming in the clever hands of Miss Nancy Beresford; Miss Ethel Grahame is a pretty and unaffected Nellie; Miss Emma Hutchison exactly suits the rôle of Lady Sellenger; and Miss Sybil Brooke is well placed as Miss Macgregor.

CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—After a considerable interval of time Mr. Wm. Greet's company appeared here on Monday night with *The Sign of the Cross*. The play was extremely well-mounted, and was much enjoyed by a good audience. My Cyril Austen-Lee gave a powerful rendering of Marcus; while Miss Constance Little was very convincing as Mercia; Mr. C. Yorke gave a capital account of the infamous Nero; Miss Beryl Hamilton rendered good service as Poppæa; Mr. Charles Aldred was telling in Tigellinus, as were Mr. J. Weatherhall (Licinius), Mr. Frank Wood (Glabrio), Mr. Harry Jones (Philodemus), Mr. H. Thurston Harris (Servilius), and Mr. Ernest Duggan (Strabo). Miss Lily Ward was good as Berenice, as was Miss Cissy Charlton as Dacia. Mr. R. Chapman was very interesting as Melos, Miss Edith Drayson was a pathetic figure as Stephanus, Mr. Walter Fleet (Favius) and Mr. G. Blunden (Titus) made excellent characters of the parts.

CARDIFF.—NEW THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—The successful pantomime *Cinderella* finishes this week, and it is universally admitted that Messrs. Milton Bode and Robert Redford's production has achieved a success. The charming Miss Moya Mannering has filled the title-rôle with an exquisite grace and vivacious manner which have endeared her to every section of the large audiences which nightly filled the theatre. Equally as praiseworthy has been Miss Ida Stratham as the principal boy, a part which her prepossessing appearance and fine dashing spirit particularly fitted her. The comedians have gained great popularity since their first appearance, and have been responsible in no small measure for the phenomenal success of the pantomime. Mr. T. W. Volt (Baroness), Mr. Chas. Hanbury (Dandini), Mr. George Brooks (Whiffles), and Mr. Tom Fancourt (Baron) have all done well in their respective parts; while Miss Nelly Lauraine and Miss Jennie Rubie as the Sisters and Miss Felicia Firmin and Miss Victoria Sievers as second girl and boy have also made much of their opportunities. As the Fairy Godmother Miss Lucie Lever has exceptional vocal abilities.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—Mr. George Gray, in *The Fighting Parson*, has proved a big draw. Mr. Gray's convincing and dashing style, combined with his clear delivery, combine to finish a clever piece of work. The great Rapoli has created a sensation with his artistic and heavy class juggling, his feats of strength and manipulation being unequalled; the Achmed Ibrahim Troupe of Arab acrobats perform some marvellous tricks, their pyramid tableaux being both startling and effective; J. H. Scotland, a basso of no mean fame, renders a couple of songs in a fine voice; Billy Hobbs's patter is exceptionally funny and interesting, and his dancing is clever; Jimmy Shields, the one-legged comedian and dancer, receives a good ovation, his "Collier's Story" going down remarkably well; Jennie Hartley is an entertaining and dainty soubrette; and Winnie Harbor provides a clever and novel turn with her Brittany Boys. Up-to-date pictures on the bioscope complete.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Under the management of Mr. Rollo Balmain.—The attractive musical comedy, *The Flower Girl*, is played here with exceptional success by Mr. Chas. M. Bestic's company. Miss Eva Nelson as Lily, the flower girl, is a pretty and captivating lady, who sings and acts with irresistible charm; Mr. John T. MacCallum makes huge fun as Joe Wheeler, and is the life and soul of the comedy; Mr. Robert Cranny as the Hon. Billy fills the rôle with evident care; and Miss Georgie de Lara as his sister is the right artist for a difficult character. Mr. John Latham as Johnny Wheeler and Mr. Louis du Cane as Reginald Rockit create a good portion of the merry-making; while Miss Lilian Drake and Mr. Henry Adnes as Madame and Monsieur Racquet are two lively and sprightly exponents of their parts. The chorus is good and the music catchy.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton.—The sketch this week is one by Mr. Bernard Mervyn, supported by a first-class company, and is entitled *'Twixt Dusk and Dawn*. Mr. Mervyn as Baron Murtoni and Miss B. Doyle as Countess Delia Redaire enact the principal rôles with realistic effect, and cause breathless excitement amongst the large audiences who nightly witness this excellent petite drama. Miss Madge Grey is a charming and popular comedienne, her baby mimicry being lifelike, while her stories are entertaining; Hicks and Hunter gain applause for their clever ice skate dancing; and the Royal Czar troupe of dancers are a talented company. George Porter, comedian and Tyrolean vocalist, is exceptionally smart; Maudie Ford is a good comedienne and sand dancer; and Toff Noel, a new comedian, causes much laughter with his humorous sayings. Raymond's Bio-tableaux concludes.

ANDREW'S HALL.—This spacious building is filled this week by large crowds attracted by the Royal Italian Circus. The numerous clever turns and amusing items performed by the highly-trained animals are keenly appreciated.

CARLISLE.—H. M. THEATRE.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart McKim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—Mr. Charles Elderdon's *Robinson Crusoe*, an excellent production, is played by a clever company. Mr. T. Worth, the author, as Billy Crusoe is certainly not the least entertaining of the many capital comedians engaged; Miss Rosa Revella in the title-rôle makes a hit, her dashing style and attractive personality fitting the part exactly; as the principal girl Miss Gertie Garagan is particularly bright and lively, singing and dancing with delightful freedom and skill; Mr. James Grant makes a good Dame; and Mr. Fred Bolton as Will Atkins is distinctly funny. Miss Dolly Cusdin gains enthusiastic encores for her impressive singing, and Mr. Lawrence McAnelly as the villain is conspicuously successful. Specialities are a big feature of the performance. Carson Hicks, coon delineator and dancer; the Boultons, comedy entertainers; the Marblesque Trio in living pictures; Baby Queenie, dancer; Miss Bartinelli, contortionist; Miss Olive Sara, in a musical and Indian-club act; the Three Eltons, comedy bar artists; Stuart and Worth, comedians; and Rowe and Holden, American dancers and cake-walkers, contribute clever and popular turns.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Morgan.—Park's Eton Boys and Girton Girls head the programme; Lily Langtry sings and dances with remarkable vigour and rapidity; Sam Williams is a capital vocal comedian; the Four Jumels display versatility and cleverness; Freedo and Preston as comedians and dancers gain approval; Rosie Pink is a dainty little vocalist and dancer; and Lozelle, who is also on a return visit, is as graceful and daring as ever. The Pepiscope shows some fine pictures.

CASTLEFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Hy. Masterman, J.P.—Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company is here in the attractive drama, *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*, which is effectively mounted, and was much appreciated by a large audience on Monday. Miss Ethel Bracewell is a pretty and attractive Princess Monica, and she plays the part with much earnestness; Mr. Ernest Cox is forcible and convincing as Prince Olaff; the hunchback, Prince Michael, is played by Mr. Melville Bickford in an artistic and carefully thought out manner; as the unscrupulous Prince Hildred Mr. Alfred Brandon acts with much energy and effect; Captain Hector is in the able hands of Mr. Robert Noble, who gives a faithful and intelligent reading of the part; Mr. J. H. Vyvyan gives a diverting performance as Lieut. Karl, and he is well supported in his efforts to amuse by Miss Jessica Black, as Viola, a part in which she is well-suited; Miss Gertrude Branscombe supplies a capital study of Camiola; and Mr. Kenneth Black makes a dignified Bishop of Illyria.

QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Proprietors, Messrs. Chas. Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will H. Emerson.—An excellent bill is headed by the Four Eugenes, who retain popular favour by a series of well-presented and daring feats as aerial gymnasts; the Adras, in a refined and artistic acrobatic act, meet with a good reception; Kyd and Kyd are a well-matched pair, and their cross-talk and singing win loud applause; Ethel Stephenson is a smart vocalist, and her songs are contributed in an effective style; Hearne and Palmer, in a laughable act, *The Hebrew and the Barman*, appear to excellent advantage; Bert Lytton sings a couple of amusing songs; Hurman is a smart juggler, and he also excels as a hoop manipulator; and Little Tichborne is a droll comedian and a capital big boot dancer; a good selection of laughter-provoking pictures by the Loyal Dominion Co. concludes.

CHATHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard. — *Diana of Dobson's* is here presented by Miss Lena Ashwell's company. In the title-rôle Miss Emilie Polini is popular; Mr. Leslie Rea gives an admirable rendering of Captain the Hon. Victor Bretherton; as Mrs. Canteloupe Miss Elspeth Dudgeon is effective; Mr. W. Kingsford Pearce does excellent work as Sir Jabez; and other parts are ably filled. The comedy is preceded each evening by *The Bishop's Candlesticks*.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—The Six Brothers Luck remain from last week, and score throughout in their farcical absurdity *Hôtel Grande*. Clive Watts's dancing is much admired; Nellie Denver is a promising little comedienne and dancer; the Tossing Austins are a smart couple; Lacey's Erascope has a cleverly-manipulated film, The Wonderful Eggs; the Four Delawares, in *Biliards*; Ivey Aberdare, serio and dancer; and Charles Harvey, comedian, also appear.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Captain H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr. G. Humphries.—Lizette Kitchen's company top the bill here with the Irish sketch *Back to Donnybrook*, in which a number of local children appear. The Melody Four prove very entertaining in their novel choir ventriloquial act; the finished dancing of the Lannons is deservedly re-demanded; May Fairclough displays ability in her selections from Shakespeare. St. Kilda, its People and Birds, proves a very entertaining and instructive film as projected by the Edisonograph. Vera Barton, comedienne; the Woelhafs, vaudeville artists; and Fritz Karnau, whistler, complete the bill.

CHELTENHAM. — OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford. — A revised and up-to-date version of *The Dairymaids* is being played here this week by one of Mr. Robert Courtneidge's companies. Miss Empsie Bowman as Peggy and Miss Vera Crichton as Winifred sing, dance, and act delightfully; Mr. Nelson Keys as Lieut. Brudenell has the lion's share of the light-comedy business, in which he excels, fairly capturing the house in "The Sea Serpent"; Mr. Johnny Osborne is indefatigable as Joe Mivins; and Miss Gladys Silvani, a gifted comedienne, as Eliza ably assists him in sustaining the broader fun. Mr. Percy Marshall is natural as Dr. O'Byrne, R.N.; and the dignified Society parts are well sustained by Miss Carrie Lacey (Lady Brudenell) and Miss Hazel Saqui (Helen). Miss Lucy Edwin is amusingly got up and acts realistically as Miss Penelope Pyechase; and the Little Strangers are represented by a clever trio in Misses Dora Hodgson, Ethel Clare, and Beatrice Evenden. The production is well mounted in all departments, and Mr. Albert Bartlett conducts a full chorus and augmented orchestra.

CHESTER. — ROYALTY THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—The special attraction for this week only is Milton Bode's fairy pantomime *Aladdin*, produced under the skilled direction of Mr. Trueman Towers. Mr. John E. Conan as Widow Twankey makes a smart and funny dame; and the Abanazar of Mr. Harry Morgan deserves much praise. Mr. Morgan is a smart dancer and excellent comedian. The Fimans, as Chew Chew and Chop Chop delight with their antics and smart patter; and Mr. Neville Delmar as Grand Vizier is good. The Emperor of Mr. Stanley Fields and the Lip Tun Tee of Mr. Will Cane are praiseworthy performances; Miss Blanche Astley as the principal boy plays her part with dash and skill; and the Princess Yo-san of Miss Elsie Skillings is charming. Miss Bob De Loriere makes a hit with her "Directoire dress" song, and as Pekoe is all that can be desired; Miss Eva Chadwick as Niese deserves mention. Of the immortals, Miss Madge White as the Slave of the Lamp, and Miss Cissie Locke as the Geni of the Ring, perform their allotted tasks with the necessary spirit and grace. The Moxon Trio provide a skilful display of acrobatics; and the Collins Troupe of juvenile dancers give an exceedingly smart and graceful exhibition.

COATBRIDGE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Coatbridge Theatre Company, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Commins. — Mr. George D. Day's company is appearing here with *The Prodigal Son*. Mr. Albert Ward in the title-rôle shows ability; Mr. Alfred Goddard capably enacts Magnus Shephensson; the Pastor, as played by Mr. A. J. Williams, is all that can be desired; Miss Dorrie Roberts in the dual rôle of Thora and Elin is interesting; Miss Maud Locke is successful as Margaret Neilson; and Helga Neilson is forcibly portrayed by Miss Pearla Gardner.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Chas. Macdona; Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—Mr. Percy Williams's company (by arrangement with Bert Coote) is this week presenting *The Fatal Wedding*. The special feature of the show is the really good varity entertainment in the third act, by the juvenile troupe. Mr. Cecil Melton worthily depicted the hero, Howard Wilson; Miss Ethel Kay ably presented the part of the wronged wife; and the heavy parts were in the hands of Mr. Percy Ballard and Miss Elaine Vanburgh; Miss Ethel Sargeant and Mr. Harry M. Vernon introduced touches of comedy.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Colchester Hippodrome Company; Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—A capital all-round bill is headed by B. A. Rolfe, whose Ten Dark Knights contribute instrumental music and coon harmony; Mlle. Flora Lumiere presents something quite uncommon and highly popular with all parts; Cissie Lupino is a versatile dancer; Earle and Godfrey, comedy duo, are well liked; Queenie Dell, comedienne and dancer, is much approved; W. F. Moss is awarded applause; and the Gaumont films provide comedy on the screen.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. R. J. Bell.—The Moody-Manners Opera Company opened its second week's engagement here on Monday in *Aida*. This opera, which was revived here last season by Mr. Manners' company, was on Monday night received with great enthusiasm. Madame de Vere-Sapio sang the title part with great charm and skill; the rôle of Radames was filled by Mr. Brozel, who excelled himself in the part; Mr. Manners as Ramphis, the high priest, achieved a noteworthy success, his acting being dignified and impressive, and his singing captivating; Mr. Charles Magrath as the King sang delightfully; and Miss Toni Leiter as Amneris invested the part with grace, her singing being very good; Mr. Lewys James was a most acceptable Amonasro, lyrically as well as dramatically; Mr. Charles Moppett took the part of Messenger well; and Miss V. Brown was a good Priestess.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Thomas F. O'Brien.—The programme here includes the Dunedin Troupe, who occupy the premier position. The troupe consists of two ladies and two gentlemen, who give a wonderful exhibition of trick cycle riding, and create a sensation. Las Serenadas, the Royal quartette of Italian opera singers, contribute beautifully rendered solos and choruses; J. Elmer Spyglass, a baritone, contributes well rendered songs; Elliot and Warne, comedy artists, sing some catchy ditties with success; Sid Stanfo, musical comedian, plays on a couple of instruments, and pleases; the Della Sisters are very capable vocalists, and their contributions are excellent; the Lynches give some pretty illustrated songs; and the Palascope shows some new pictures.

COVENTRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—Another successful week of pantomime is assured in a visit of *Aladdin*, written by Mr. James J. Hewson, and produced by Mr. Fred Graham under the direction of Mr. Ernest Dottridge. Miss Edith St. Clare gives a charming impersonation of the title-rôle; Miss Lily Lonsdale being successfully responsible for the character of the Princess; Mr. Ernie Myers is funny as Abanazar, the magician; Mr. Fred W. Graham scores as Widow Twankey; Mr. Frank A. Wood displays his possession of a good voice as the Emperor; and the Sisters Brand and the Canton Girls supply pleasing specialities.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. S. T. Newsome; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. E. Wright.—Sid May is here again with his inimitable impersonations, supplemented by his wrestling burlesque; Frank L. Gregory's Troupe juggle with hoops in the most marvellous manner; a thrilling episode is that entitled *The Spy*, given by Percy Ford and Edward C. Webb's company; an artistic instrumental performance is furnished by Mlle. Renee, the lady being an adept on the saxophone, horn, piano, cornet, &c. Other artists who add very considerably to the programme are Teresa d'Silvia, vocalist and burlesque artist; the Three Pirmans, in a novel pantomime gymnastic creation; Herbert La Martine, vocalist and eccentric dancer; and Baker and Desales, America's comedy artists and comedy dancers; two sets of Bioscope pictures finish a good evening's entertainment.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. K. Draco.—Heading the bill is a laughable sketch, entitled *Three of a Kind*, ably presented by Ethel Arden and George Abel, who have just returned from an American tour; Herbert Clifton is a remarkable boy imitator; Lister and Cook appear in a well-rendered musical act; Miss Edie Gray is a capable comedienne; and Tony Black and R. Beauchamp, as comedians, contribute capably. An excellent set of animated pictures brings the programme to a close.

CRADLEY HEATH.—EMPIRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jno. H. Morton. — Messrs. Chas. Freeman and Geo. Derricke's company is giving *Current Cash*, *East Lynne*, and *A White Demon* here this week. In *Current Cash*, Mr. Wilfred Blair as Major Challis acted in a first-class manner, and won constant recognition; Mr. Geo. Derricke was a humorous Lincoln Green, causing roars of laughter; Mr. Claude Gravelly as Harry Chafferton showed great histrionic ability; Mr. Frank Coston as Ned Booles had a lot to do, and did it well; Mr. Arthur Armstrong made a capital Warder; Mr. Tom Arkinstall was a dignified Magistrate; Mr. Fred T. Carroll as Governor of the Prison made the most of his part; Miss Ivy Derry as Delia Challis had a charm of manner that carried the audience with her; Miss Winnie Webster deserved special mention for her able presentment of Sybil Milton; Miss Florence Tench as Grace Milton acted with much taste and feeling; and Mr. Chas. Freeman played Capt

to the rôle of Prince Danilo. The dresses are a wealth of splendour; the chorus is quite satisfactory; and the scenery is excellent. Mr. Harrison Frewin skilfully leads the efficient orchestra.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—An entertaining programme here includes the American Bioscope Co.'s living pictures and picture songs, also a novel feature in the cinephone.

Empire Palace of Varieties.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Walter Gibbons and Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Eustace Jay.—Mr. Lewis Waller in the title-rôle of *The Admiral's Lady* secures great applause. Able support is given by Messrs. E. Waller, G. Heathcote, H. Coveney, F. Beer, and Misses Dorothy Ripley and K. Vyse. The Bensons create a furore in their unflagging efforts to amuse in *The Page and the Maid*; Honors and Le Prince give an exceedingly smart and humorous acrobatic act; Colonel Gaston Bordeverry's rifle and pistol exhibition is very clever; Fred Hallam is a grotesque comedian; Jeannie Deans, Scotch comedienne, sings and dances nicely; Arabella Allen's impersonations of Shylock and Pete are well studied; Dan Fraser is an interesting Scotch comedian; Manning and Gomersal, comedy duo, are amusing; and enjoyable pictures are shown on the Imperial Bioscope.

DARLINGTON.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Bell.—Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson's company is here with his new drama, *King and the Unknown Woman*. The part of Prince Loris is cleverly portrayed by Mr. James Stillwell; Mr. Stephen E. Scanlan gives a finished reading of the part of Prince Menski; Mr. W. R. Winning as General Platz is always dignified; Miss Muriel Inglis proves herself an actress of emotional power; Miss Norma Dumayne as Else plays in queenly fashion; Miss Cissie Podmore as Schnappe is clever; Miss Elsie Clark takes a boy's part capitally; Mr. W. E. Passmore's comedy as Stack is good; and Miss F. Conyers Radcliffe is picturesque and effective as Zora. The scenery is well painted.

New Hippodrome, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Hersee.—Mr. Harry Roxbury and company are here with the pantomime *Mother Goose*, playing twice nightly. Crowded houses on Monday night gave evidence of their appreciation of the company's excellent performance. Mr. Harry Roxbury as Mother Goose is excellent; J. W. Gallager as Jack is well received; Miss Maud Prenton is a sweet Colin; and other parts are in the hands of Miss Lilly Palmer (Jill), Miss Marjorie Prenton, and Miss Ada Beechey. The Four Sidney Girls are clever; the Miltons give a fine skating show; and the Royal Welsh Entertainers supply an agreeable performance.

DARWEN.—Picture Palace and Theatre Royal.—Lessees, The Animated Pictorial Enterprises, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. A. Whitehouse.—The Claymore Trio of dancers, jugglers, and singers give a clever turn; Jack Binns, an eccentric comedian, causes laughter; Lira, the one-legged gymnast creates applause; and Hampton and Bauman are both smart and amusing in their character comedy duo. Excellent pictures on the Bioscope conclude a good bill.

Public Hall and Palace of Varieties.—Lessees, Messrs. Thomson, Leivers, and Bennett; Manager, Mr. J. E. Thomson; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Kerrigan.—Interspersed with the latest pictures and the cinephone are R. C. Note, an excellent chorus comedian; Ethel D'Ancy, a charming contralto vocalist; and Frank Whiteley, who receives an ovation for his solos on the bones.

DERBY.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—The boards this week are occupied by Mr. Percy Hutchison's company in *Brewster's Millions*. Mr. Hutchison, in the title-rôle, submits a highly finished assumption and scores a complete success; Miss Cicely Stuckey as Margaret (Peggy) plays with great grace and charm; Miss Eva Stewart gives a clever study of Barbara Drew; Miss Francis Davie does admirably as Janice Armstrong; Miss Sybil Walsh is praiseworthy as Mrs. Dan de Mille; and Miss Mary Scott does well as Trickey Clayton; Mr. Aubrey Mather (Joseph McLeod), Mr. Henry Hampson (Archie Golding), and Mr. Cyril Rawdon (Charlie Harrison) are admirably suited in their respective parts; Mr. Robert Forsyth as Mr. Grant, the solicitor, and Mr. A. Andrews as Colonel Drew are excellent; and Mr. Frank Hill as Rawles, the butler, is also deserving of praise. Other characters are in the capable hands of Messrs. Charles Esdale, Otho Hazlewood, Douglas Greet, U. S. Haye, Geo. Salver, A. P. Kaye, and Miss May Seton. The yacht scene in the third act is probably the most wonderful example of stage mechanism ever witnessed locally.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes.—Mr. James Kiddie's pantomime *Dick Whittington* is a strong attraction here, and is meeting with a hearty reception. The title-rôle is capably sustained by Miss Lena Page, whose charming presence and tuneful voice make her an assured favourite; the Alice of Miss Nellie Merton is a depiction at once pleasing and clever, and she is to be congratulated upon a thoroughly successful presentment; Miss Florence Hilton as Sir Algernon de Mash is a vivacious little comedienne, whose efforts are greatly appreciated; Mr. Dennis McCarthy submits a droll impersonation of Fitzwarren; and Mr. Fred Spencer as the Cook is in every way entertaining, and does much to secure the success of the pantomime. A first-class set of comedians include the Hannaway Bros. as the Apprentices, Mr. Geo. Ryden as Idle Jack, and Mr. Archie J. Milne as Rodento, and their business keeps the house in a continuous roar. Other excellent characterisations are submitted by Miss Lillie Storrie, Miss Gipsy Ray, Miss Gertie Newhall, and Miss Edie Goodwin. Miss Dorothy Dryden is a graceful speciality dancer, and meets with great acceptation. Possessed of a well-trained chorus and gorgeous scenery, the show goes with an enjoyable swing throughout. Mr. Cyril Dundas is a courteous stage and general manager, and the results of his untiring zeal are such as to redound very greatly to his credit.

DEVONPORT.—Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. H. Taylor.—*The Capture of Venus*, by J. C. Piddock and company, is the principal attraction, and proves exceedingly popular. Humour is judiciously interwoven with some cultured singing, Miss Florence Lee being chief contributor in the latter department; whilst Mr. G. Oxley is very amusing as the thirsty Jolliboy. Happy Tom Parker's songs and patter are listened to with great relish; Hillman and Russell supply an amusing duologue entitled *The Somnambulist*; Allsopp and Beckwith, popular local favourites, are again heartily welcomed; Les Aribos furnish a finished contribution; Wright and Lawson, Tom Saunders, and Frank Weir complete an enjoyable programme.

Theatre Metropole.—Manager, Mr. Geo. S. King.—Mr. Kelly's company, in the ever-popular *Royal Divorce*, is playing to large houses. Mr. Keith Fraser supplies a rendering of the great Emperor which produces a marked effect; Miss Winnie Tempest is delightfully sympathetic as the unfortunate Josephine; Miss Leah Marlborough is excellent as the bitter and satirical Marie Louise; and Miss Ethel Love does well as the youthful King of Rome. Miss Maude Lacey is an amusing and hard-working Stephanie; Mr. Percy Anson is a capable Talleyrand; and Mr. E. Plumpton is particularly good as General Angereau.

DONCASTER.—New Grand Theatre and Opera House, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—Mr. Allan Wilkie and company made a successful appearance in *The Merchant of Venice* on Monday. Mr. Wilkie's conception of Shylock was realistic, and no less effective was the Bassanio of Mr. Alexander Marsh. Miss Haidee Gunn in the rôle of Portia created a fine impression, and Miss Maud Gill was a dainty Stephano, and was warmly applauded. Others in the cast were Messrs. J. Paley, H. Meharry, Frank Royde, Mark Turner, Harold Greaves, and Misses Alice Miller, Agnes Gagan, and Hunter Watt. On Tuesday evening the combination was even more successful in *Hamlet*.

DOVER.—Royal Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. S. W. Winter; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. W. Holford.—Joe Belmont, known as the "Human Bird," is a great success here in his imitations; F. A. Martell dances on his finger-tips and balances himself on one finger; good songs are given by Will Musgrave; Lucy Gillet is a neat juvenile lady juggler; "On the balcony" and "March away" are two catchy chorus songs introduced by Rose Cambey; the patter of Pueblo and Cropp, comedy artists, is decidedly good, as is also their expert sand-dancing; Frivola and Deep appear in an eccentric acrobatic act; and pictures are shown on the Bioscope.

DUBLIN.—Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland. — *Robinson Crusoe*, which entered on its last two weeks' stay here on Monday, continues to provide immense enjoyment for crowded houses. The smart dialogue and new songs introduced by the principal artists in the second edition has added greatly to its continued success. On Tuesday night Miss Winifred Hare, who has worked so hard during the run of the pantomime, was accorded a well-deserved benefit, when several of the artists from the different theatres, as well as some local turns, appeared, and met with a hearty reception from a well-filled house. Thursday night was set apart for the benefit of Mr. J. J. Dallas (Mrs. Crusoe).

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—The charming pantomime *Jack and Jill* has entered on its second week here, and continues to be patronised by large audiences nightly. The piece is now running smoothly along, the applause throughout being frequent. Miss Dorothy Ward retains her popularity in the rôle of Jack, and Miss Edith Fink is as attractive as ever as Jill. Mr. George Miller as the Widow Cobble and Mr. J. A. Warden as Baron Bounce contrive to keep the fun going. Mr. George Lashwood continues his success as Prince Opulent. Miss Stella de Marney as Margery and Miss May Rawlinson as the Fairy Princess also score in their respective parts, and the Tiller Superba Quartette execute some clever dances which merit warm approval.

Empire — General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—The attractions at this house are many this week, chief among them being Fred Storey and capable company in their clever sketch *Rip Van Winkle*, which meets with a most gratifying reception. A delightful turn is rendered by the popular favourite Miss Lily Burnand, whose latest successes "Cheek" and "Sally" are loudly applauded; Cliff Ryland causes a constant ripple of merriment with his clever patter and songs; Mabel Mignon, comedienne and dancer, scores a distinct success; in a charming novel scena, *Lights Out*, Jack Crawley earns a large share of applause; Miss Florence Gardner, American comedienne, keeps the audience highly amused by her quaint mannerisms; Marjutti, in an original creation, From Demon to Fairyland, proves a great attraction; Mr. Ernest Clifford is a capital comedian and dancer; and the Empire pictures For the Motherland and A Game of Cards complete a good all-round entertainment.

Tivoli.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—The top of the bill here is occupied by Minerva, the American queen of mystery, whose remarkable performance secures much applause. Newell and Niblo are another capital turn, and have a good reception; Arthur Harris, actor-vocalist, is much appreciated; the Brothers Corcoran are excellent in their musical and quick-change act; Renee Graham creates a favourable impression as a vocalist; the Three Orros in a clever gymnastic act score a success; Woolmer Young, vocal comedian, sings a couple of songs in smart style; Hinton and Wooton in a football match on bicycles create much excitement; and J. F. Franklin, an acceptable comedian, and the Bioscope depicting The Galway Bog Slide concludes.

Round Room Rotunda. — The Irish Animated Picture Company is still here, and continues to draw large audiences daily. The list this week includes A Moonlight Trip on the Nile, Views of Italian Cascades, Famous Waterfalls, &c., and a number of humorous pictures which create much laughter. The vocal numbers of Mr. Patrick O'Shea, tenor, Mr. Ralph Goggin, baritone, and Mr. W. M. Grant, cicerone, and the Granpierre orchestra are also well appreciated.

World's Fair and Music Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The programme here includes:—The Melvas, champion clog dancers; Jim Meadows, comedian; Miss Nancy Lil, descriptive vocalist; Prof. T. Mowbray, ventriloquist and conjurer; Martin Melia, champion clog dancer; Rhodes and Lanes, comedy patterers and duettists; and the Cinematograph.

DUDLEY.—Opera House.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—*The Heathen and The Christian* is presented here this week by Mr. Frank Adair and company, and is powerfully played. As Li, the Avenger, Mr. Adair fills a strong character in perfect manner, and Mr. Hugh Mewburn is successful in the somewhat difficult rôle of Lung Hi; Mr. Herbert Robinson is thoroughly earnest as Lord Allendale; and Mr. Gerald Turner gives a polished representation of Admiral Freebold; Mr. Dudley Wynton is perfectly at home in the part of George Berresford, a missionary; Miss Adeline Raby acts the villainous Mira Sampson with perfect abandon, and seems to revel in the part; Miss Eva Reed as Becky Fibbins, a lovesick slavey, causes endless hilarity; and Miss Fay Garnet Vayne takes the trying part of May Berresford in a perfectly easy and winning manner. The piece is elaborately staged, and deserves a successful run.

Empire.—Proprietors, The Midland Entertainment Corporation; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. H. Waters.—Topping the bill this week we have Ebrahim's Four Indian Fakirs, who completely baffle the audiences with their clever and mysterious tricks; a very enjoyable performance is given by Victor Widdicombe and company in a comedy episode, entitled *Her Devonshire Dad*, the characters being most ably portrayed by Mr. Widdicombe, Miss Clara Russell, and Mr. D. T. Roe, Nellie Lawrence is a gifted singer, and her song, "Croon, Croon," and neatly executed dance gain applause. Another popular turn is that of Stave, musical comedy artist; Joe Cookson is a smart and original ventriloquist; Charles Gardiner, comedian, with good songs, is extremely amusing; and Winnie Stanhope is a chic comedienne.

DUNDEE.—Her Majesty's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe.—A cordial greeting was given to Mr. Fred. Melville's company in *Her Forbidden Marriage* on Monday. Mr. Henry Lonsdale sustained the rôle of George Madison with dignity and power; Mr. Louis Hector made a duly repulsive Charles Devereux; Mr. Wilfred Mansfield's Sir George was excellent; Mr. Conrad Stratford gave a commendable rendering of the Rev. Mr. Dean; Mr. Fred de Vere as Timothy Tuttut proved himself a first-rate comedian; Miss Isla Garnett-Vayne made a sympathetic Lucy; Miss Florence Hunt a vivid Lady Lucretia; Miss Grace Lester a picturesque and impressive Mother Superior; and Miss Grace Emery a particularly good Patty. Mr. C. Davidson was seen to advantage as Geoffrey Broughton; and Mr. Vincent Loraine caused much amusement as the deaf old rustic.

Palace Theatre.—Lessees, The United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. S. McIntosh.—At the head of affairs here is that merry sketch, *Casey's Court*, which provides boisterous fun, Mr. Will Murray as Mrs. Casey being very diverting. Mahatma, assisted by Professor Charles R. Steen, gives a remarkably clever second-sight demonstration; Jack Hylton and Walter King, comedians, come in for warm receptions; Boden and Bell are smart juvenile vocalists and dancers; Little Dot Moss, the toy comedienne, is very pleasing; Major Arnold's magical scena is decidedly novel; the Robertys shine in a brilliant balancing act, and the Palascope, with up-to-date films, completes the programme.

Gaiety Theatre.—Lessee, Mrs. Lillie Williams; Licensee, Mr. W. E. Potts; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Evans.—A varied and attractive programme is submitted at this popular house this week, top-liners being Bellman and Moore, a Yankee duo; another deservedly popular turn is W. D. MacKenzie's company in their artistic scena, *Moments with the Masters*, introducing a chorus of fifteen voices; Burnetti, besides proving an excellent quick-change artist, gives life-like impersonations of several leading lights in the music-hall world; Thomas and Taylor make a hit with *Fun on the Midland*, which depicts in laughable fashion the worries of a railway guard; Irene Meldon is a dainty vocalist, with good songs; Jack Smiles, a comedian with a quaint individuality, scores a huge hit with his witty ditties; Les Frasettis, violin, harp, and xylophone soloists, are particularly pleasing, and the Lombards show strength and agility in their equilibristic act.

Empire Theatre.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. Lillie Williams; Business-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alfred Ross.—Newman's British Empire Picture Company are showing a remarkably fine selecton of films this week, the most popular of which are: The Ingrate, The Time of the Normans, Percy's Moustache, and The Vulcanic Chimney. Capital variety turns are contributed by Zenora, who gives a very clever hand-jumping exhibition; and Bandoni, a splendid instrumentalist.

Newman's Picture Palace.—Mr. Fred Newman submits a capital programme of films at his popular house this week. The pictures are all of the most up-to-date character, and many are beautifully coloured. An excellent variety programme includes a Cake Walk Competition, which is proving very popular.

Gilfillan Hall.—Britain's Best Animated Pictures opened here on Monday under the auspices of the Dundee City Concerts and Entertainments Company, Ltd.—A large house thoroughly enjoyed the entertainment.

American Roller Rink.—Managing-Directors, Mr. C. P. Crawford and Mr. F. A. Wilkins; Manager, Mr. Bert Crump.—Roller skating has undoubtedly caught on here, as the large crowds of patrons who daily flock to this spacious and well-appointed rink testify.

EASTBOURNE.—Devonshire Park Theatre.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray King and Clark.—Mr. Leonard Boyne's capital company is on a return visit with *Raffles*. As A. J. Raffles Mr. Bille Norwood is a worthy exponent of the part, which he endows with much attractive interest; Mr. Arthur Willoughby is a dignified and polished Earl of Amersteth; Mr. Cecil Brymer plays the part of Viscount Crowley very cleverly, with all the amusing assurance necessary; Mr. E. W. Thomas again displays all the directness and buoyancy which make his work as Curtis Bedford so successful; it is difficult to speak too highly in praise of the excellent efforts of Mr. Haroid West as Bunny Maunders; Mr. Dalziel Heron, forceful and striking, is well placed as Crawshay; and Mr. Sydney Edwards and Mr. Arthur Fitzgerald give excellent help as Goldby and Barraclough. Miss Agnes Knight as Lady Melrose is an able and aristocratic exponent of the part; Miss Elizabeth Fitzgerald is a delightfully animated and girlish Lady Ethel; Miss Lucie Milner gives quiet effect to her performance as Gwendoline; Miss May Brooke is an earnest and commendable Mrs. Vidal; and Miss Dorothy Gordon satisfactorily completes the cast as Marie.

The Royal Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; District-Manager, Mr. George Egbert; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—Heading the bill here this week is Mlle. Oceana, who smartly escapes from a strait-waistcoat, and then mystifies the audience by emerging from an enclosed barrel filled up with water; Mr. Charles Bignell delights the gallery with his song, "Are we downhearted?"; Belford and Mars are an amusing comedy couple; Gibbon and Belle have a turn of exceptional merit, the gentleman's contortion work being clever and finished; Miss Nina St. Elmo is a very dainty and pleasing comedienne, with effective songs; Milton and Mora are smart, expert, and funny bar performers; Miss Flo Inman sings admirably; and new pictures are shown.

The Pier Pavilion Theatre.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. Henry Swinerd's company is appearing here in *Dare-Devil Dorothy*. Miss Nellie Valentine is quite a success in the title-rôle, singing and acting in a capable manner; Miss Ethel Griffies is a handsome and artistic Ruth; Miss Nellie Harcourt does bright work as Judith, and she is a smart dancer; Miss Florence Corri as Rosy Ann, and Miss Daisy Holbrook as Polly, introduce some very clever step and acrobatic dancing. Mr. Walter Ashley as Captain Fielding acts well, and uses a good voice to advantage; Mr. Walter Nugent plays with force and depth as Captain Dudley; as Silas Crump Mr. Will Brereton keeps the house in constant merriment, being a very clever dancer, singer, and all-round comedian; Mr. Edward Aldworth is a subtle and distinct Hawkins; Mr. Dean Cliffe is an amusing Haugh; and the remaining characters are satisfactory played.

EDINBURGH.—Royal Lyceum Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—It is very seldom that a play makes such an immediate success as *The Dollar Princess*, produced by Mr. George Edwardes's company, did here on Monday evening last. The house was crowded from floor to ceiling, and the audience was lavish in applause. The enthusiasm was well deserved. The musical play was delightfully acted, the singing was admirable, and the mounting was sumptuous even for Mr. George Edwardes, whose name is a synonym for beauty of mise-en-scène. Miss Hilda Moody was in splendid form, and once more proved herself one of the most charming of operatic actresses and singers; Mr. Robert Michaelis is a handsome young actor, who knows how to use his cultured voice with power and expression—his solos were splendidly rendered, and into the duets "Inspection" and "Typewriting" both players infused much humour. Miss Kitty Gordon's handsome figure and majestic style completely realised the part of Olga, a lion queen, and she sang with effect; Miss Alice Moffat was bright and clever in the character of Daisy, and her fresh, sweet voice was heard to great advantage in the music allotted to her; Mr. Fred Winn was effective in a quiet way as Phineas Q. Conder; and as his aristocratic servants, Mr. Robert St. George, Mr. Willie Warde, and Mr. Philip Simmons were excellent. The other parts were capitally filled, and Mr. Carl Kiefert was an able and energetic conductor. The actors were recalled at the close of each act, and had to appear before the curtain at the end of the play.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Whitehead.—The pantomime *Dick Whittington* continues its successful and popular career at the Royal. The actors are as good, as hearty in their endeavours to amuse, as they were in the opening nights of the piece. Miss Jane Eyre, graceful actress and most delightful vocalist, has won hosts of admirers by her charming impersonation of the title part; while dainty Miss Ethel Erskine, by her vivacity as Alice, has helped greatly to brighten up the scenes in which she appears; Mr. Will Evans, an amusing comedian, whose energy never flags, is very droll as Idle Jack; and Mr. Ernest J. Langford as Rupert Raffles, Mr. William Downes as Captain Jack, Mr. Harry Bickley as Eliza, and Mr. Albert Felino in his clever work as Mouser, the cat, assist heartily in the general production of merriment. Miss Molly Maguire's singing as Bluebell is sweet and expressive; and the Ahmed of Miss Florence Ward and the Zoe of Miss Mena Brae are marked by much dash and ability.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—An interesting programme includes among its most attractive items an exhibition of Icelandic wrestling by Joh Josefsson and several of his countrymen, who, in addition to displaying their own peculiar methods, are prepared to meet any middle-weight wrestlers in the Græco-Roman or other styles. Local celebrities have added considerably to the interest of the bouts on the stage during the week. Mr. B. A. Rolfe's Colonial Septette of instrumentalists render a varied selection very delightfully; and Mr. Oswald Williams presents a bewildering succession of clever illusions; Miss Nellie Coleman easily scores as the ong and only female comedian, her eccentric impersonations being exceedingly amusing; Mr. Walter Munroe also has a look-in as an Irish character comedian and dancer; and Miss Lil O'Gorman gives a successful turn. Among the dual performances the Brothers St. Clair are prominent with their exciting football match on bicycles; Fayre and Manning show skill as comedians and dancers; and Guyer and Valli introduce a nondescript American sketch entitled *Wait for the Finish*. The Bioscope pictures illustrate the methods of training adopted by Johnson and Burns prior to their prize fight.

King's Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard.—Dr. Walford Bodie heads the bill at this house this week, giving his remarkable electrical experiments, including the novel and hazardous feat entitled *The Cage of Death*, in which the performer displays his extraordinary power of permitting a high current to pass through his body. Dr. Bodie also shows his familiarity with mesmerism, and arouses the enthusiasm of his audiences in various cures of paralysed children. The programme contains many other admirable turns, including The Brooklyn Comedy Four, a company of very amusing comedians; Primavesi, a juggler who contributes a fresh act; Pete and Minnie Lee, two clever performers, whose sketch *The Scotsman's Visit to London* is smart and entertaining; Mr. E. S. Kempton, comedian and dancer; Yetta, an intrepid performer on the slack wire; Miss Bella Skene, burlesque actress and vocalist; and Little Dolly Robson, a pleasant singer.

Cooke's Royal Circus.—Proprietor, Mr. John Henry Cooke.—The closing weeks of the season are indicated by the announcements of benefit nights for individual performers, and a bumper house the other evening marked the appreciation of Talberto and Douglas by their Edinburgh friends and admirers. An excellent variety bill comprised ludicrous interludes and absurdities by the popular beneficiaries; Shakespearean characters very capably portrayed on horseback by Leicester Alfred Cooke; and a unique exhibition of animal training by Miss Edina Marion Cooke. An equestrian serpentine dance was effectively given by Miss Florence Transfield; the Misses Lolo and May proved themselves expert gymnasts and dancers; Horton and Linder were diverting in their comedy horizontal bar performance; Harry Stephenson appeared in a smart jockey act; Herr Guttenberg's violin playing on horseback was marked by skilful execution; and the eccentricities of the droll Shadow and Comical Walker, with an admirable display of bioscope films, all served as a good prelude to the spectacular pantomime of *King Gold*, which has had a phenomenally successful run.

EXETER.—Theatre Royal.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford. — Mr. Wentworth Croke's company in *The Prodigal Son* is proving a great attraction here this week. Mr. Hugh Montgomery as Magnus Stephenson plays with a force and vigour that were both convincing and attractive. In the title part Mr. Gordon Macintosh is seen to advantage, his portrayal of a difficult rôle being commendably natural and unstained; Miss Valerie Crespin as Thora, and later Thora's daughter Elin, is received with entire approbation; and Mildred Cottell as Helga is excellent. Anna is pleasingly enacted by Miss Barbara Gott; Margaret Neilson is depicted by Miss Marie Harcourt in an entirely successful manner; and the Governor, the Factor, Dr. Olsen, and Neils Finsen are carefully and capably delineated by Messrs. Bellenden Clarke, Philip Renouf, Bruce Lindley, and Charles A. Maynard respectively.

New Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frederick Sandy.—Jan Rudenyi, supported by Miss Dora de Winton and Mr. John D. Saunders, in *The Power of Music*, provides a rich musical treat; Berzac's comedy animal act is well received; and George D'Albert also proved a popular turn. Celest is a remarkably clever and original gymnast; and Eadie and Ramsden also achieve success; Miss Violet Hollom, who has been playing Cinderella at the Theatre Royal, had an excellent reception, and was deservedly encored; Helen Martin is a pleasing vocalist; and Kurkamp, the singing conductor, is much appreciated.

FALKIRK.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—Another delightful musical comedy in *The Merry Widow* is being staged this week, and even in a successive round of capital pieces this is voted one of the most bewitching. The company is that of Mr. George Edwardes, and Miss Mysie Devine appears in the title rôle, while Mr. Frank Greene plays the Prince. Both are excellent. Mr. Ripley Evans as the Vicomte has many opportunities of declaring a rare tenor voice; Natalie is taken by Miss Ada Thomas, who proclaims herself a charming actress; the part of Baron Popoff is well spiced with drollery and quaint repartee, of which Mr. Edward D'Arcy makes the most; and not far behind him is Mr. Fred Fowler as Nisch.

GAINSBOROUGH.—King's Theatre.—Lessees, Gainsborough Theatre Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Leighton.—Mr. Chas. Constant's *Blue Beard* pantomime company opened here on Monday for three nights. Miss Marie Duncan made a charming Fatima; Miss Daisy Lake a dashing Selim; Sister Ann was well played by Mr. Johnny Clegg, who was well supported by Mr. Walter B. Frear and Mr. Jack Parker. Some clever specialities were introduced by Messrs. Harlin and Hanlon, Russel and Gage, and the Florodorians. Miss Laura Wickenden sang well as the Fairy Queen.

GATESHEAD.—King's Theatre.—Lessees, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager and Licensee, Mr. Harold Arnold.—Yangar's illusions here are out of the ordinary; Ferguson and Mack are exceedingly funny acrobats; the Cumberlands, with a cycling show, are very popular; Johnny Dwyer, a comedian of more than average ability, makes many friends; the Crown Trio of vocalists are entertaining; the Musical Keiths render popular melodies on a number of instruments; and Harry Bent, mimic, Carlotta Lunn, comedienne, and the Kingscope also provide suitable entertainment.

Metropole Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; General-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Dixon.—The management here are to be congratulated on the engagement of Mr. Wentworth Croke's company in *The Bondman*. Chief honours go to Mr. R. Scrope Quentin, whose Jason is a very fine performance; next comes Miss Georgina Wynter, who makes a beautiful Greeba, being powerful and pathetic; Mr. W. H. Hargreaves is a picturesque and dignified Michael; a pleasing Adam Fairbrother is Mr. Oswald Lingard; Mr. W. H. Rotheram in the dual rôle of Father Ferrati and Grandfather reveals histrionic ability; Miss Madge Lanerton ably undertakes the part of Mrs. Fairbrother; other members of the cast perform admirably; and the effects are excellent.

GLASGOW.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—The pantomime here is still attracting large audiences, and it is to be regretted that its early withdrawal has been announced. Mr. George Robey as Buttons is still adding to his popularity, and the applause which greets him nightly is fully justified. The work of the other artists is excellent. Miss Violet Loraine as the Prince and Miss Iris Hoey as Cinderella are particularly attractive, and Mr. Harry Dent (the Baron) keeps the audience in the best of humour with his grotesque impersonations. Mr. Willie Garvey, the Brothers Obo, Miss Edith Kirkwood, and Mr. Paul Sundberg have a big share in the success of the production. The singing is of a high order, and the scenery and dresses throughout are pretty and effective.

Royalty, Ltd. — Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Carpenter.—Mr. Fredk. Mouillot's company is giving a fortnight's revival here of Richard Ganthony's play *A Message from Mars*. As the selfish Horace Parker Mr. Wallace Widdicombe acts extremely well; Mr. Wm. H. Brougham in figure and voice is exactly suited to the part of the impressive Messenger; Mr. Norman Clark infuses much pathos into his portrayal of the Tramp; Miss Winifred Knightley is very good as the aunt, Miss Parker; and Minnie Templar is played with quiet effect by Miss Rose Helene. A clever touch of character is introduced by Miss Katherine Camp as a poor woman. Other parts are ably played by Mr. Robert Grey as Arthur Dicey, Miss Mary Glenbrane as Mrs. Clarence, Mr. Alfred Drayton as a policeman, and Mr. Guy O'Neil as Dr. Chapman. The weird effects in the first scene are well managed.

Grand.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. B. G. Maclachlan; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. Christie Grant.—*Cinderella* still holds the field here, and crowds are flocking to see it. Mr. George French as the Baron provokes lots of laughter in his humorous Scotch song, with its still more humorous orchestral accompaniment; Mr. Whit Cunliffe as Dandini in his various songs keeps the hilarity going; a prominent figure is that of the overbearing Baroness (Mr. Tom Conway), who knows how to rule a husband properly; her two comically-forward daughters are well portrayed by Misses Kate Walbran and Nellie Cozens; Mr. Barry Lupino as Capers supplies a fair share of the fun; Miss Queenie Finnis in the title-rôle is simply charming; Miss Violet Halls as the Prince heads the long list of delightful "boys" and "girls" who move so pleasantly through their parts in song or dance. From the opening scene, in which the children are put to bed by the Fairy Godmother (Miss Olive Tempest), till the curtain falls on the spring scene and the wedding of Cinderella there is not a dull moment.

Royal Princess's.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—*Diccory Dok* is still attracting crowded and enthusiastic audiences. All the members work well together, keeping the ball of fun merrily rolling. Miss Flora Cromer as Dick is a great favourite, all her songs being encored; and Miss Ella Retford's personation of Winnie is a fine performance, characterised by all the go which is peculiar to this highly-popular artist. Miss Edith Haley as Ronnie and Miss Maggie Fraser as Pansy contribute several fine songs. Mr. Syd Walker's Professor Pillbox is an artistic bit of comedy, and Squills in the hands of Cliff Lake is most amusing. Mr. Peter Bermingham as Wee Hughie makes an exceedingly mirthful Scotchman, who is responsible for some genuinely funny business. Talented performers also are Mr. Harry A. Gribbon, a genuine droll, as Squire of Eaglesham, Mr. Walter Dale (as Sparkle), Miss Daisy Bartholomew (to be commended for her Matt), Miss Violet Bartholomew (admirable as Jennie), and Miss Ivy Proudfoot (of good service as Sweetbriar), and Miss May Beatrice (as Discord).

Metropole, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—The attraction this week at the Metropole is that evergreen drama *The Silver King*. The house this week has proved incapable of holding the vast crowds nightly waiting for admittance. The company is that of Messrs. G. M. Polini and Austin Melford. Mr. Fred Daviss gives a capital representation of Wilfred Denver; Mr. Edward George appears in his accustomed part of Jaikes and is extremely popular; as Nellie Denver Miss Madge Morley is capital, and her representation of the part lacks nothing. The staging of the play is as good as ever.

Lyceum.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—The patrons of this house have a treat this week in the appearance of Fred Karno's company in *His Majesty's Guests*. The funniosities of Mr. George Hestor as Sergeant Lightning were greatly enjoyed, and he was ably supported by Mr. Rupert Stutfield as Lord Easem, Mr. Chas. Usher as Mr. Miffin, and Mr. C. Griffiths as Harry, who all figure prominently in the humorous burglarious complications that ensue. Variety is lent to the play by the acrobatics of Mr. C. Richardson as the Flunkey and Mr. Tom Manardo as Selina, while Miss Edith Ager efficiently assists Mr. Stutfield with the lyrics. Miss Brunton gives an amusing caricature of the New Woman, and Miss Aggie Morris catches the audience with a successful performance as the charming shoplifter (Lady Maud Easem).

Empire.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Manners.—Les Fleury, in their revuette *Paris Types*, give a most interesting sketch, in which the lively portrayal of about sixteen different characters goes to make an exceptionally good star turn; Mr. E. Dagnall and company present a smart and well-acted play in *Slippery Jim*; Renee Glendower and company give another playlet of an amusing type, *A Bit Too Clever*; the Brennans show wonderful dexterity and neatness in their clog-dancing; the Miles-Stavordale Quintette again give their wonderful imitations of the human voice on instruments; Jock Mills is amusing in his Scotch songs; the Three Welsh Girls deputise agreeably for an absent turn; Fred Elton scores in his scena at the piano; Rhoda Paul sings well; and the Bioscope shows Johnson and Burns training for their great fight.

Zoo-Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Councillor E. H. Bostock; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock.—An all-round excellent company is provided this week and good houses are the outcome. The Royal Delomes present a little dancing speciality in which they introduce the phantom clogs, and their show is thoroughly enjoyed; Rose Elliott is extremely popular, and her choruses are taken up with zest; and Sinclair and Whiteford are ever welcome, and their humorous sketch *Getting Even* provokes the same hearty mirth as formerly. Another amusing item is supplied by Walter Ellis and company in an original little sketch entitled *The Sleepwalker*, which is responsible for much laughter. Gold and Sterling, in their musical comedy *The Maid and the Artist*, get through their work effectively; the Three Stewarts provide a capital equilibristic turn; Will McIvor is a vocalist above the average; a new military sketch, *The Kilties' Camp on the Frontier*, is productive of some good singing and dancing; Pop Dearly, coon comedian, is responsible for a couple of smart turns; and the Bioscope terminates the programme.

Pavilion, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mrs. Evan Good.—An excellent turn has been secured here this week in the Eight Welsh Miners, who, in a special and realistic scene representing

ser and company appear in a sketch, *The Prima Donna*, in which various songs are given, including the Jewel Song from *Faust* and the waltz from *Romeo et Juliette*; a clever and picturesquely set turn is that of the Sisters Macarte in their vocal, instrumental, and wire-walking items; Dora Barrington, assisted by Netta Grey, also gives an interesting vocal scena, introducing operatic and other ballads; the Richards Trio submit a clever acrobatic and balancing display; the Three Sisters Wynne sing and dance well; Charles Ulrick again shows his dexterity at barrel juggling; and Biff Hall is amusing as a melancholy Hebrew.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie. — Crowded houses are the rule here this week, a strong company being headed by Houdini, of handcuff fame, who introduces his latest sensation, that of escaping from an iron can filled with water and locked with six padlocks; the Four Royal Scots make an excellent impression with their vocal and instrumental sketch *The Waif*; a vocal scena by Corman's juveniles pleases the house immensely; Tom E. Conover scores heavily with song and gag; and a smart comedienne is seen in Kitty Beresford. An amusing pantomime act is contributed by the Arthur Bedini Trio; and the vocalist and mimic Fred Horsfall gives a refined show. The Palacescope is a popular feature.

COLISEUM.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—The Four Holloways are starring here and earning unstinted applause for their smart acrobatic work and astonishing cycling feats on the tight wire; the Ten Zerbinis submit a very pleasing act, *The Enchanted Glen*, in which scenic beauty, instrumental talent, and humour are nicely blended; Horace Pollock is again seen in his amusing impersonation of the Curate in *Hester's Mystery*, being ably assisted by Messrs. Harry Collier and Edmund Pollock and Misses Pattie Groves and Pearl Keats; that accomplished character comedian Charles Coborn is also on the programme; the eccentric comedy act of Will Dacey and Nellie Lewis proves diverting; for her principal song Bessie Slaughter sings "The Better Land" with fine effect; the clever American mimic Alf Holt, *The Page's Recreation*, by Vetter Bros., and Mr. Pat Rafferty are also in the programme.

GAIETY, LTD. — General-Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—Tweed Andrews, a Scotch comedian of more than ordinary ability, met with much acceptance; Ingram and Irving, in a little sketch entitled *The New Office Boy*, are highly entertaining; Amy Bathurst, who appeared in place of Miss Madge Pollard, in coon song and dance, was well received; Gus Hindell, who sings sensible songs, makes a fine impression in a scena entitled *Boys Will Be Boys*; T. W. Barrett, whose name must carry old music-hall frequenters' thoughts back to the old Scotia days, sings a couple of ditties in his own particularly eccentric style; Miznah gives a smart conjuring show, concluding with a mysterious tank trick; and animated pictures are also given.

PANOPTICON.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—J. H. Harris, always a strong favourite here, sings two parody songs in fine style; the Newingtons give a clever acrobatic display; Caryll and Dean are vocalists of ability; Queenie Swift is a charming comedienne; and Tom Duncan, vocalist, is also worthy of note. The Bioscope has a series of interesting pictures.

GLOSSOP.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—Messrs. Hardie and Von Leer's company, in *Two Little Vagabonds*, is proving an excellent attraction here this week. Mr. George Denham as George Thornton is responsible for a clever portrayal; an equally successful representation of Captain Darville is given by Mr. Norman Yates; John Scarth is in the capable hands of Mr. Joseph Brandon; Mr. James Skea as Bill Mullins, Mr. Leo St. Clare as Dido Bounce, and Mr. Fred Archer as the Coughdrop make a typical trio of unprincipled scamps; Miss Leonora Castelle displays dramatic instinct in the rôle of Marion Thornton; Miss Florence Radcliffe gives an impressive rendering of Barbara Scarth; Miss Ida Drayton makes a sympathetic nurse as Sister Randle; Miss Josie Beltram depicts in an extremely pathetic manner the character of Wally; and as his supposed brother Dick Miss Lizzie Hall (Mrs. Sydney Spenser) well earns the unstinted applause which is bestowed upon her.

GLOUCESTER. — PALACE.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole.—The Eight Lancashire Lads head a good all-round bill here, and earn a good reception with their clever dancing; Bert Weston pays a welcome return visit; an act apart from the usual run is presented by the Four Dorians, athletes on the trapeze and rings; a smart turn is provided by the Zenary Brothers with hand-balancing and acrobatic feats; Probyn and Bates as *The Dude and Soubrette* are good in mock drama, the gentleman's legmania dancing being very fine; Lillie Luraine has a popular musical speciality; and Paul Pelham adds to the humour with his comedy; Dorothy Dundas goes well in chorus songs; and Kinnard (magician) and a good film on the Palacescope complete the programme.

KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres, Ltd.—The pictures are going as well as ever, and this week's selection of films are good. Miss Gertie Nicholas contributes illustrated songs, and in addition are shown the Cinephone talking and singing pictures.

GREAT YARMOUTH. — ROYAL AQUARIUM.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Nightingale.—The first pantomime of the season is being presented here by Mr. Fred J. Little and Mr. Fred Darcy's company in *Red Riding Hood*. In the title-rôle little Prudence Ayrton is greatly admired for her clever singing and dancing; Miss Florrie Bray, an excellent principal boy, wins great applause; Miss Kitty Marion is a first-rate Prince Charming, her fine presence, coupled with a dashing style, making her a big favourite; Mlle. Tessie D'Alberti's excellent voice is heard to advantage as the Fairy Queen; Messrs. Kerr and Koe as Johnny Green and John Stout create roars of laughter; Mr. George Rapley as the Dame makes a lot of fun; Mr. Sydney T. Russell as the Page is humorous, his song, "Put me on an island," getting many encores; the Baron is well played by Tom Melbourne, whose character songs are much appreciated; Miss Nellie Moore is a dainty Miss Muffit; and Miss Madge Seymour a humorous Maud. Mr. Richard Hamilton gives a clever impersonation of the Wolf. The pantomime is beautifully staged, the scenery and dresses being excellent.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. George Gilbert.—Excellent films are being shown here. The film illustrating the Tottenham Outrage is of special interest; many humorous subjects are presented, and the one entitled High Game is worthy of special mention. Sabino gives a clever musical turn; Baby Vi Davis is a clever singer and dancer; Horace Minto a first-rate dancer and club-swinger; and the Four Jimsons appear in an exceptionally amusing sketch.

THE GEM.—Lessees, The Yarmouth Amusement Centre, Ltd.; Resident-Director, Mr. C. B. Cochran; Manager, Mr. Sidney Lawrance.—Fine films are being exhibited here this week. The principal one is entitled A Bargee's Daughter. The illustrated songs are still very popular.

GREENOCK.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—*Sherlock Holmes* is here this week, with Mr. Joseph Millane in the title-rôle, and audiences have enjoyed as much as formerly the adventures of the famous detective. Mr. Arthur Shelton is seen to great advantage as Dr. Watson; Professor Moriarty has an ideal exponent in Mr. Robert Gilbert; as Billy Master Thomas Russell creates a favourable impression; and Mr. Mark D. Draper lends powerful aid as James Larrabee. Miss Elsie Goulding proved herself an accomplished actress as Alice Faulkner; Miss Edith Vogue gave a capital interpretation of the rôle of Madge Larrabee; and Miss Gwenllyn Cattell as Mrs. Faulkner is all that can be desired.

EMPIRE.—Lessees, the Greenock Empire Syndicate; Responsible-Manager, Mr. Edward McCormick; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. J. Colquhoun.—An excellent programme is headed this week by the Ten Loonies in their humorous musical production *Dotty*, which has been richly enjoyed. Ernesto performs some remarkable equilibristic feats and juggling novelties; Harry Wright gains great applause for his extempore songs; Fred Dunstone scores as a comedian; the vocal contributions of Grace Darling are pleasingly rendered; Nellie Gannon, contralto vocalist, is popular; and the Bioscope pictures are greatly appreciated.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry L. Skivington.—The pantomime *Robinson Crusoe*, presented twice nightly, is the attraction here this week. In the title-rôle is Miss Amy Randolph, whose spirited acting, combined with a handsome presence, makes her a most attractive principal boy; Fairy Pearl has a pretty and winsome exponent in Miss Dora Lindsay, who renders her songs most agreeably; and Miss Elsa Arnell is a captivating Polly Perkins. Mr. J. Telly Dillsen gives a highly-amusing impersonation of Mrs. Crusoe; as Will Aitken Mr. Fred Davies is particularly good; and Mr. Berte Harte causes roars of laughter as Kernoodlum. The specialities are exceptionally fine, including the Ten Dixie Girls, the Sisters Selwyn, May Carter, Lindsay and Harte the Sisters Poole-Pelham, and Justin and Mantell. The staging and dresses form a wealth of beauty.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—*When Knights Were Bold* is greatly enjoyed by good audiences. Mr. James Welch has sent an excellent company, with Mr. Henry J. Ford as Sir Guy de Vere. Mr. Ford extracts the maximum of humour from the part, and creates almost constant laughter; Miss Agnesse de Llana is admirably fitted to the character of the romantic Lady Rowena; Mr. H. Agar Lyons capitally portrays Sir Brian Ballymote; Mr. Vernon Sansbury is responsible for good character acting as Isaac Isaacson; Mr. Guy Lane is completely successful as the Rev. Peter Pottleberry; Mr. Talbot Homewood and Mr. Reginald Hunter cleverly realise the retainers Wittie and Barker, and others taking prominent parts are Mr. Cecil Clayton as the Hon. Charles Widdicombe, Miss Ethel St. John as Sarah Isaacson, Miss Mary O'Hea as Lady Millicent, Miss Ruth Bower as Lady Marjorie, Miss Marion Ryder as Kate Pottleberry, Miss Mabel Younge as the Hon. Mrs. Waldegrave, and Miss Bessie Walters as Alice Barker.

THE PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—Jock Whiteford retains his former popularity to the full, and his new songs and business are being enthusiastically received, whilst his burlesque of the football spectator is nightly asked for; a pretty spectacle is presented by Lennie and Hast in their speciality *The Sea Nymph*, which also includes excellent comedy and vocal work; Percival is a comedy pianist with original ideas, and provides a very entertaining turn; the Paul Hesse Trio of acrobats display exceptional skill and daring; Cassie Walmer is a favourite coon vocalist, with pleasing songs; Margaret Huntley and company appear in an interesting sketch, *That Girl, Carrots*; Julian Ross, comedian, gives a capital item, and an extra turn has been given by Mildred Kersh, a juvenile impersonator of popular artists.

GUERNSEY.—THEATRE ST. JULIANS.—Lessee, Mr. Ed. Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—Owing to the success that attended *The Babes in the Wood* a fortnight ago, Mr. John A. Thomson arranged for a return prior to the company's departure for Weymouth. Miss Pattie McCarthy, the handsome Robin, is high in favour; Miss Nina Carlton pleases immensely as Marian; La Belle Sylvia, a clever petite artist, and Miss Cissie Williams, score with their clever dancing; Mr. Frank Halpin and Miss Nora Prendergast's musical efforts are highly appreciated; Les Millicent Frères repeat their sensational turn; Mr. Lovell Rowlands comes in for the bulk of the comedy, receiving able support from Messrs. H. Walton, G. Walker, and R. Digby Ross. Miss Winnie Hypatia and Miss E. Hypatia foot it with much grace. On Thursday the boards were held by the Guernsey Musical and Dramatic Society with *Dorothy*.

HALIFAX.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's successful pantomime *Robinson Crusoe* is playing to big business here. Miss May Mars, full of resource and vivacity, makes an ideal Robinson Crusoe; Miss Nancy Thornton, a pretty singer and a graceful dancer, with a winning stage presence, has made Polly Perkins a decided success; Miss Kitty Brewster, the Princess, is a vivacious young lady, with a charm of manner her own; Mr. Arnold Richardson as Billy Crusoe is the life and soul of the show—he is very amusing, and when his comedy is combined with that of Mr. Flockton Foster (Captain Cutter) laughter reigns supreme. Mr. Foster is also author, producer, and stage-manager. Bill Starboard and Tom Mainbrace (Elton and Elma) are two very good parts; these artists also introduce a clever comedy triple-bar act. Mr. C. D. North is an impressive Cannibal King, and uses his fine voice to good effect. Mr. Ivan Berlyn (Will Atkins), Mr. Jack Lennol (Dame Crusoe), the Sisters Cora (Jack and Sally), Mr. Oswald Battye (Friday), Miss Jennie Weston (Dick), and Miss Marie Longden (Daisy) are all good. The dresses and scenery are splendid.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—*The Lancashire Lad* is at the Grand. Mr. C. Stafford plays with feeling as David Elmore; Mr. E. Vaughan (Max Carlton), Mr. H. Wallace (Jem Wincott), Mr. W. Kenion (John Willie Wardle), Miss Phyllis Elton (Jessie Wincott), Miss Nell Oliver (Lorna Wincott), and Miss E. Roselle (Kitty de Vere) are all good; Mother Wardle and Jane Alice Clitheroe are two Lancashire dialect parts well played by Miss Molly Monoghan and Miss L. Pearce, both ladies sticking well to the correct vernacular; and the Misses Gertie and Daisy Gaye, two pretty, refined-looking girls, contribute several clever dances and duets.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Foster.—Yettmah is a smart and clever conjurer, with an easy, confident manner; Brull and Hemsley introduce some clever eccentric dancing in *Fun in a Music Shop*; Jake Friedman and company appear in a successful tabloid opera, *Happy Holland*; the Fitzroys are capable gymnasts; Mr. and Mrs. George Leonard make a welcome return visit in *Coming Home*; Godfrey James renews his popularity as the singing collier; and Rosie Reval, comedienne and dancer, and the Bio-Tableaux complete.

HANLEY. — ROYAL. — Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone. — Messrs. Lyn Harding and Sidney Cooper's company is here in *The Flag Lieutenant*. Mr. Lionel Atwill plays Lascelles in a manly style; Mr. George Mallett is an estimable Admiral; Mr. H. Montague Love is a truly artistic Thesiger; Miss Viva Birkett's Lady Hermione is winsome and tender; Miss Florence Jackson as Mrs. Cameron is fascinating; Mr. W. J. Yeldham is well suited; and Miss Stella Leigh is very good.

GRAND.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand.—Sam Mayo is making a hit here; Mr. Fred Lindsay, with his 25ft. stock whip, astounds all by his almost miraculous manipulation; Evelyn Taylor again scores heavily; the Bros. Bradshaw are received with favour; Jack Neil, comedian, is good; Celesta's Quartette are successful; Ossi Souplessi is clever; and Merill and Ward are well received.

KING'S.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy; Manager, Mr. H. Kennedy.—A really grand display of animated pictures is again attracting packed houses. Mr. Walter Brookes, vocalist, is popular.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eric Fielding-Smith.—For the first three nights of this week Mr. Herbert Ralland's company appeared in A. W. Pinero's comedy, *His House in Order*. Mr. J. Herbert Beaumont was excellent as Hilary Jesson, and Mr. Patrick Robertson as Filmer Jesson made an able foil. Mr. Langford Browne as Sir Daniel and Miss Avis Grahame as Lady Ridgeley were both well-placed, and in their smug respectability they were ably seconded by their odious children, Geraldine and Pryce, both capably played by Miss Wray and Mr. Dudley Stuart. Miss Elsie Roberts as Nina was all that could be desired, and played the part to the life. The small parts were in safe hands. The play was well mounted and beautifully dressed. For the remainder of the week Mr. Hamilton Stewart in *Secret Service* was announced.

HARTLEPOOL.—EMPRESS.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Albert Matham.—There are capital houses here nightly, and all thoroughly enjoy the series of films shown by Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope. The Drama in a Stone Quarry is intensely vivid, as also is that depicting An Old Cashier's Loyalty. Considerable amusement is caused by Two Pigtails and The Ragpicker's Wedding. Films that are watched with considerable interest are the Visit to Couillet Steel Rail Works, Different Aeroplanes, and Two Old College Chums. Gramophone competitions are held nightly, and are a good draw.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—*Toddles* was presented on Monday to an eagerly expectant house by Mr. Murray King and company. As Lord Meadows Mr. Murray King was hugely entertaining, and was admirably supported by his company generally, notably by Miss Naomi Neilson as Lady Dover, Mr. Ardene Linden and Miss Evelyn Shelly as Mr. and Mrs. Joblyn, Miss Ada Champion as la Comtesse de Chambry, and Miss Doris Langdon as Constance Joblyn. A clever musical sketch by Mr. Mattie Cheshire formed an agreeable diversion, and secured him unlimited applause, which was deservedly shared in by Miss Evelyn Shelley and Miss Doris Langdon. The piece is well-staged under the management of Mr. C. Douglas Cox.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Vivian-Fisher; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—An interesting programme is started by Miss Belle Harcourt, an attractive vocal comedienne; some effective pictures are shown on the Bioscope; La Danseuse is a juvenile dancer whose versatility is much applauded; the Cedrics offer a very laughable and original act, *Chish and Fips*; Gravetta and Parr very cleverly represent a number of celebrities in their pleasing pot-pourri act; the drolleries and patter of Mark Henton are highly amusing; a diverting operetta, in which Boyd and Gilfain prove themselves to be excellent vocalists, is much appreciated; and Vela presents a turn at once clever and entertaining, entitled *The Tramp on the Clothes-line*.

PIER PAVILION.—General-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—The delicate pathos and quiet humour of Dickens' "Cricket on the Hearth" is exemplified in a dramatic version introduced by Mr. Frederick Moyes and his talented company. The interpretation by these artists is in every way adequate. A finished and intelligent study of John Perrybingle is given by Mr. Frederick Moyes; the unfeeling character of Gruff Tackleton is satisfactorily taken by Mr. W. Maule Cole, and Mr. Edward Harrison makes an excellent Caleb Plummer, the toy-maker; the dual part of the Stranger and the young bridegroom is well taken by Mr. Maxwell Fraser; Miss Ella Dixon as Dot Perrybingle is exceptionally gentle and sympathetic; a tender and womanly touch is given to the part of May Fielding by Miss Kate Lamont, and her mother is cleverly depicted by Miss Eva Bayley; Caleb's blind daughter Bertha is delicately represented by Miss Clarissa Selwynne, and Miss Blanche Bayley is comically emphatic as Tilly Slowboy.

HEREFORD.—GARRICK THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Barnsley.—*The Gay Goddess*, played by Mr. J. Graham's company, was cordially received on Monday. Mr. Arthur Staples is excessively funny as Twinkle; Mr. Richard Te asdale makes the character of Sherlock Blake particularly enjoyable by his singing and excellent dancing; Miss Graham Beck is indefatigable as Juno; Miss Leah Howard makes a charming Priscilla; and Miss Cissy Williams is well placed as Lottie Stimson.

HORWICH.—PRINCE'S.—Lessees, The Horwich Theatre Co.—Messrs. Battersby and Forbes' company, in *The Empty Cradle*, kept the audience quite absorbed on Monday. The company is an excellent one, dresses and scenery being handsome. Mr. St. Clair Forbes makes Kenneth Bloodworth a fine, manly specimen of muscular Christianity; Mr. Claude H. Seaton paints Carnaby Bloodworth, an unmitigated scoundrel, in very lurid colours; Mr. D. Urquhart plays Sir Carnaby Bloodworth in good style, his repentance appealing powerfully to the audience; Mr. Fred Wells as James Boswell gives a fine representation of the old Romany; Mr. Kenneth Scott scores heavily in the rôle of that erratic impecunious youth the Hon. St. Clair Selby; Mr. Wallace Black as Little Misery, a cripple, has a very heavy task, and deserves the unstinted applause bestowed on his efforts; Mary Barton, Carnaby's accomplice in villainy, is capitally portrayed by Miss L. Marte; Miss Connie Meadows is a very comic slavey, her eccentricities creating roars of laughter; Martha is very carefully rendered by Mrs. Tom Wilson; Miss Nancey Battersby's Ida Boswell is a most artistic and pathetic performance; and the minor characters are in good hands.

HUDDERSFIELD. — HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—This week's bill is filled by the Original Leopolds and their company. The various turns are *The Houseboat*, a bustling sketch, full of good fun and clever acrobatics; Chiko, equilibristic contortionist; Miss Maude Clifton, comedienne; the Stadium Boys, in their smart athletic performance; Francis O'Flynn, banjoist; Tennis and Launе, vocal duettists; Tom Drum and Katie Major, in an amusing comedy duologue; and a series of particularly interesting pictures on the Bioscope.

HULL.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Morton's, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. W. F. Morton.—On Monday Mr. Martin Harvey and his company opened in Mr. Stephen Phillips' play *The Lost Heir*. As a piece of dramatic construction it is somewhat lacking, though the characterisation is cleverly suggested, Mr. Harvey filling his rôle with conspicuous success. Miss N. De Silva, who figures as Lucy Ashton, is essentially pathetic in the part, and she makes it riveting and powerful; Miss Mary Rorke gives a delightful reading of the mother rôle; Mr. Chas. Glenney plays the part of Captain Craigengelt with a fine touch; and Mr. A. E. Rayner is a pleasing Sir William. *The Lost Heir* is superbly staged. *The Corsican Brothers*, *The Only Way*, and *The Breed of the Treshams* have been in the bill. That veteran artist Mr. Fred Wright is in the company.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Manager, Mr. Tom Bogue.—Once again *Sunday* is occupying the boards at this house. On this occasion we have made the acquaintance of a new representative of the name-part in the person of Miss Janet Lind. She has many attributes, which help her to give a very faithful realisation of the rôle. The rest of the company are capable.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Morton's, Ltd.—Mr. Geo. Morton, Manager.—Pantomime holds the sway at this theatre. *Aladdin*, which is submitted by the Dottridge and Longden company, is exceedingly well mounted; it has many pleasing melodies, and is played by a company which includes such well-known people as Miss Ray Wallace, who has established herself a great favourite already; Miss Mildred Bryan, whose voice is heard to good advantage; Mr. Leonard Russell, a great favourite in Hull; and others. Amongst the specialities are Robins and Collier, and Mlle. Pauline Rivers' Quartette. The pantomime remains here for a season of three weeks.

THE HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Harry Dunford.—*The Grip of Iron* provides an acceptable principal turn; Mooney and Holbein appear in a laughable comedy: and other artists include Morander and Darius Stacey and Williams, Jan V. Vaubert, Cavalli, and Bert Brantford.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Slingsby.—Bert Wickham gives a novel exhibition of feats of strength; the other turns are of good standard merit.

THE CIRCUS.—Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Emerson.—Animated pictures are drawing to a close for a period to make room for a circus.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—*A Country Girl in London* is the attraction this week, the players being the company of Messrs. Alfred Northway and W. V. Garrod. Mr. Garrod himself as Frank Gordon gives a capital performance; and Miss Bertha Kingston as Marjorie Hamilton plays feelingly. Miss Josephine Colona is a clever exponent of Gwendoline Gordon; Mr. John Belton is a quaint Heinrich Oppenheim; and Mr. Seymour Perry (Wilberforce Puddyphat) and Miss Ethel Whiteley (Adelaide) also provide amusement. Mr. John S. Sheridan as John Hamilton is successful. The darker side of the play is ably represented by Mr. Leonard Booker as Godfrey Clinton and Mr. Clifford Marle as Job Smithers. The scenery and electrical effects are admired.

ILKLEY.—KING'S HALL. — Proprietors, Ilkley Urban District Council; Lessee, Mr. Frank Hall.—On Tuesday night Miss Inez Howard's company, under the management of Mr. Henry Chattell, gave a performance of the drama, *The Soldier's Wedding*, by Walter Melville. The part of Jack Brown was effectively played by Mr. Chas. Baker, and Miss Jean Wigney was charming as his sweetheart, Nancy Lee. The arduous rôle of Julie de Beauvais was rendered with great dramatic effect by the powerful actress, Miss Helen Forest, a lady who used to delight the visitors at Craiglands, Ilkley. Mr. Henry Lancey made a dignified Colonel Graham, and Mr. Frank Fenn furnished a strong characterisation as Charles Courtney. Mr. Willis Collins gave a clever character sketch as the old farmer, Nat Lee.

BRIDGE PAVILION.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Barron; Manager, Mr. George Asaf.—The Coronets opened on Monday evening, under the management of Mr. George Asaf, late manager and founder of the late Royal Magnets. In their new costumes the artists, seven in number, look pretty. The company consists of Miss Phyllis Beryl (contralto), Miss Barbara Merle (soprano), Miss Leila Byron (soubrette), Mr. W. Edwardes-Towle (bass), Mr. Godfrey Pariss (comedian), and Mr. George Asaf (comedian). Mr. Reuben Stamford is an excellent pianist and accompanist. In every way the entertainment is the best of its kind ever given in Ilkley.

INVERNESS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Cameron Burgess.—Mr. Robert Macdonald's company opened on Monday here with *The Dairymaids*. Mr. Edwin Dodds was the life and soul of the piece as Joe Mivens; Mr. Bernard Vaughan was a capital Doctor; and Messrs. J. Horace Manger and J. H. Bernard, as the two Lieutenants, were responsible for a great amount of fun. The part of Peggie was well played by Miss Janet Reeve; and Miss Dorothy Fife was a pleasing Winnie. As the maid-of-all-work Miss Maud Lucy made things go merrily; and Miss Dorothy Belmore as Lady Brudenell and Miss Julie St. George as Miss Pyechase acted well.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Mr. Eugene C. Stafford's company occupies the house this week with *The Private Secretary*. The company is excellent all-round, not a point being missed throughout where a laugh can be raised, and the fall of the curtain brings rounds of appreciative applause. Mr. Donald Price Evans as the Rev. Robert Spalding, Mr. W. Hargreaves as Mr. Cattermole, and Mr. Frederick Tyrrell as Stanley Gibson act their parts to the life. Mr. Frank Stanley is Mr. Marsh, and Mr. Alex. Begbie is the Nephew, and Mr. Herbert Garshom plays Douglas Cattermole. Mr. Chas. Wallace and Mr John Macready are respectively John and Knox. Miss Nan Macrea as Edith Marsland and Miss Janet Warden as Eva Webster share the honours of the heroines. Mrs. Alfred Davis played Miss Ashford, and Miss Marie Scharning the Landlady, Mrs. Stead.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—Fred Karno's *London Suburbia* heads the bill, and produces great fun; Miss Jennie Alexander, a child comedienne, gives promise of great ability, her mimicry of Marie Lloyd, Vesta Tilley, and others being really excellent; the Leotard Brothers give some clever balancing feats, and have some amusing business; Mr. J. H. McCann demonstrates cleverly and skilfully the possibilities of roller skating; Parker and Parr are duettists; Jolly Jimmy Walker sings and dances well; and Tom Lloyd is well-known to an Ipswich audience. The Bioscope concludes.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Locke.—A visit is being paid by Messrs. Bliss and Bliss's pantomime company with *Mother Goose*. Mr. Leo Bliss is funny as Widow McGooseley and Mr. Ernest Percival is a droll Jack; Miss Ray Ford is a winning Jill, and Mr. Lewis Kerno is well placed as King Geezer, and Miss Ethel Dunford is a captivating Prince Lothario; the Two Rubies give some excellent specialities; Mr. Frank Probin sings well as the Demon of Folly, and as the Fairy Wisdom Miss Damaris Du Pore is well placed; Messrs. Pete and Juno are excellent sand dancers and receive numerous encores. The chorus is effective.

KETTERING.—AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Payne.—Mr. Harry Josephs' company are here with *Robinson Crusoe*. Miss Lena Stanton is a dashing and vivacious Crusoe, and has established herself a prime favourite; Miss Gertie Lovedale is a bewitching Polly Perkins; and Mr. Sidney Dean is most amusing as Mrs. Crusoe. Mr. Melville Page is highly successful as Will Atkins; and Little Keeno creates quite a furore by his comicalities as Sunny Jim Crusoe. The Leglerc troupe of acrobats contribute a very clever performance; and the Alhambra Girls are deserving of the highest praise.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Managers, Messrs. Alf. Bailey and Co.—The attraction here is Mr. J. Bannister Howard's pantomime of *The Forty Thieves*. Mr. A. G. Spry is a host in himself as Ali Baba; and Mr. Paddy Dupres is very funny as Mrs. Ali Baba. Messrs. Woodhouse and Wells, an excellent pair of comedians, impersonate Hassarac and Bassarac, and their efforts keep the house in roars of laughter; Miss Olive Astor is a fine Abdallah; Miss Nellie Barnwell a charming and graceful Morgiana; and Miss Rosina Effingham an attractive Fairy Queen.

KIDDERMINSTER.—NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon.—For the first three nights this week Mr. Wentworth Croke presented the new version of *The Christian*. Mr. P. Gedge Twyman was an excellent John Storm; Miss Margery Fane made an admirable Glory Quayle; Mr. Edward Ouston did well as Horatio Drake, and Mr. G. Montague Lane as Lord Robert Ure was satisfactory. Father Lamplugh was played in a dignified manner by Mr. John Hastings Batson; Mr. William Mallalieu as Archdeacon Wealthy was effective. Polly Love was nicely enacted by Miss Gladys Vernon, and Mrs. Callender was in the capable hands of Miss Alice Maude. For Thursday, Friday, and Saturday *A Woman from Russia* was billed.

KING'S LYNN.—NEW ROYAL THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. B. Pareezer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Pareezer.—For the first three nights this week Mr. Julian Malvern's company presented Mr. Arthur Shirley's sensational drama, *I Defy the World*. Mr. F. B. Woulie did well as Leon Darville; Mr. Max Coutts was effective as Count de Beaulieu; and Miss E. Loraine was an interesting Pauline Delaporte; the humorous interludes were admirably presented by Mr. C. M. Julian and Miss Maud Lilian as Samuel and Maria Wozzle.

KIRKCALDY.—NEW PAVILION.—Lessee, Dr. Walford Bodie; General-Manager, Mr. G. W. Walker.—Howard and Thorne, sketch artists, form the leading attraction this week, and prove to be worthy of the "top" position; Henrietta and Selina are really remarkable musicians; a pretty Japanese conjuring act is presented by the Balzeus; and Master Hendry appears again this week owing to success. The pictures are specially good.

LANCASTER.—GRAND THEATRE—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. C. Howitt.—This week Miss Florence Glossop-Harris is here in a round of plays, presenting *The Taming of the Shrew* to a good house on Monday. Mr. Frank Cellier appeared to special advantage as Petruchio, rendering his lines with remarkable clearness; Mr. E. Stuart Vinden was excellent as Grumio; and the parts of Lucentio and Tranio were remarkably well played by Mr. Murray Kinnell and Mr. A. D. Layland respectively. Miss Florence Glossop-Harris's Katherine was a fine performance. On Tuesday *Romeo and Juliet* was presented. *As You Like It*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Hamlet*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Othello* are also in the repertory.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. John Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—Mr. Chas. Coverdale meets with much applause here; a powerful dramatic sketch, *Paying a Debt*, is presented by Mr. Harold B. Lewis; and Alpho is a capital ventriloquist. Daisy Reed sings well; the Falcons are clever comedy acrobats; and Ray Maskell both sings and dances admirably. The programme is completed by Gena Manon, vocalist, and the Hippograph.

LEAMINGTON. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. George G. Ridley.—*Are You a Mason?* is being performed here by Mr. Charles Macdona's principal company to appreciative audiences. Mr. E. H. Paterson gives an excellent representation of Amos Bloodgood, and Mr. H. Langdon Bruce is equally successful as George Fisher. Mr. Stanley Gronne appears as Frank Perry, Bloodgood's son-in-law, and Mr. R. Wilton is seen to distinct advantage as Ernest Morrison. The other parts are sustained in an admirable manner by Mr. G. P. Polson, Mr. Erskholme E. Clive, Mr. R. Wiseman, Miss Adelaide Grace, Miss Rita Narcelli, Miss Rita Johnson, Miss Dulcie Verney, Miss Viola Garland, Miss Mary Kilpak, and Miss Pheongains. *Old Maid's Corner*, in which the characters are well taken, precedes.

LEICESTER.—PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. S. Buccleuch.—Heading the programme here is Fred Karno's company in the uproariously mirth-provoking sketch *G.P.O.*, in which Mr. Fred Kitchen as Perkins is conspicuously successful. At the other end is the "Moto Girl," presented by Mr. Frederic Melville. The whole performance is gone through in a bewildering and successful manner. A hit is being made by Dennis Drew and his boys in a thoroughly enjoyable musical scena, entitled *Back to Barracks*; Watson's Royal Fox Terriers, presented by Miss Ida Kessanley, show the perfection of canine training; Bert Williams is a funny and clever ventriloquist; Tom Moore a first-class character comedian; Bertha Winder scores her usual success as a dancer; the Sisters Grosvenor are excellent singers of popular melodies in harmony; and the American Bioscope is also attractive.

PAVILION THEATRE. — Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joe Lawrence.—The lead is taken here by Ted Karno and company in the pantomime absurdity entitled *Dinner Hour*. Poole and Maguire are aptly described as the immaculate vocal and comedy duo; Sybil Montague is an excellent soprano vocalist; J. H. Grenner, the singing pit lad, is making a hit; and other entertaining turns are submitted by Tom Garland, a good ventriloquist; the Delgarnos, in *Caught Napping*; Professor Anderson, conjurer; and Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Company; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles R. Craig.—A liberal and diversified assortment of moving pictures is shown here, including Tale of the Autumn Leaves Told, The Great Bargain Sale, Retribution, The Boxing Mania, The Text-Book of a Perfect Gentleman, My Neighbours are Giving a Dance, Onions, and Worries of King Slap-on-the-Head, which are interspersed with excellent entertainment by R. Hyde, society comedian.

THEATRE ROYAL.—A return visit is being paid here by Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company in *The Face at the Window*. Mr. E. Hoggan-Armadale is a conspicuous success as Lucio Delgardo, the same remark also applying to Mr. Scott Leighton as Paul Gouffet. Miss Lizzie Chambers plays with ability as Babette; and Mr. Bert Ellis is also funny as Peter Pottlebury. Miss Elsie Marriott-Watson is deserving of high eulogium as Marie de Brisson.

OPERA HOU

the Player King; Ophelia was commendably acted by Miss Katherine Harrington, and Miss Gertrude Littlewood played Gertrude with good effect. An excellent equipment of scenery and dresses contributed to the success of the production. The week's bill has also included very creditable presentations of *The Merchant of Venice, Romeo and Juliet, Othello,* and *Macbeth,* with a version of *David Garrick.* In his renderings of the leading rôles throughout this series Mr. Maclaren has shown himself an earnest student and careful interpreter of Shakespearean characters.

LINCOLN.—Royal.—Lessees, Messrs. Seddon and Pope; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ernest Pope.—*Miss Hook of Holland* proved an excellent attraction on the first three evenings of the week, and was capitally done by Messrs. Dudley Bennett and T. C. Wray's company, with Mr. Charles B. McLagan as Hook, Mr. Fred Dark as Slinks, Miss Ethel James as Sally, and Miss Muff Carew as Mina. The show is very effective throughout. *A Life for a Life* is billed, by Mr. Chas. H. Lester's company, for the rest of the week.

Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Arthur Miller.—An entertaining comedy act by the Warsaw Brothers catches on; and Pyck, Tholl, and Taylor's amusing sketch *The Dancing Master* deserves special mention. Dolly Dewar, W. H. Downs, Willie and Johnny, Jim E. James, and the *Morning Leader* pictures make up the bill.

LIVERPOOL.—Rotunda Theatre.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—Mr. J. F. Elliston's *Puss in Boots* pantomime has played to crowded houses here during its second and final week.

Star Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—*The Girl Who Took the Wrong Turning* was the attraction here this week, and despite the fact that many pantomimes were in the city, this popular melodramatic house got a large share of public support. Mr. Walter Melville's company included Mr. F. Ronald Adair, who gave a fine rendering of the part of Willie Mason; Miss Jessie Belmore, a most careful and painstaking Sophie; Miss Zoe Davis, who pleased greatly with her Lucy Coventry; Mr. Sidney Sarl, a powerfully dramatic Bill Slater; Mr. Frank Denis, who acted the rôle of Richard Fenton in most creditable style; Miss Marie Kildare, a very humorous Poppy Slater; and Miss Nannie Meade (Vesta).

Empire.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—Top of the bill here this week has been Mlle. Camille Ober, whose remarkable vocal powers (she is declared to have a voice range of four octaves) created some astonishment, besides affording much pleasure; W. Selkirk's Scottish juvenile spectacle, *The Gathering of the Clans,* was received with every satisfaction; a refined musical turn came from the Courtiers, who included Mlle. Louise Van Dalle, Mr. George Hilton St. Just, and Mr. T. H. Wood; Jimmy Curwell, an ex-newspaper boy in Liverpool, made his first appearance as a pianist, and showed a large amount of skill; as gymnastic comedians and burlesque wrestlers the Miller Brothers proved exceedingly diverting; Harry J. Crane and company were received with considerable favour for their pathetic musical episode *Truth in Absence;* Harry Leybourn, as the nervous lady was particularly amusing, and contributions also came from the Martineks, with the novelty *The Rag Doll,* and Arthur Astill, whistling mimic.

Queen's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.—Mr. Granville's pantomime *Beauty and the Beast* occupied the boards here this week, and met with general approval. It is of a character to attract good business, being pretty, funny, and lively. Miss Hilda de Grey was a dashing Prince; Miss Maude Sprightly proved exceedingly popular as Beauty, singing several numbers with a deal of charm; a capital Wilhelmena was presented by Miss Florence Sprightly, who earned much applause; and the fun was provided by Messrs. Daleno and Stream (the Ruffians), Leslie Austin (the Beast), Juan Wood (Sir Mackintosh Winkles), and Sidney Milton (Witch Spitfire). Specialities were introduced by Kennedy's Kiddies, Barry and Wood, Three Sisters Sprightly, Mlle. Benita, the Sisters Kebble, and a troupe of ju-jitsu dancers.

Lyric.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—Cullen and Carthy's pantomime *Babes in the Wood* did big business last week, and remained a further six nights.

Royal Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—Heading the programme here this week was Karno's laughter-maker *London Suburbia,* which afforded the utmost pleasure to big audiences; Emerson and Baldwin, comedians, made a first visit to Liverpool and caused roars of laughter, while their juggling was very expert; Dave Carter, possessed of a rich tenor voice, pleased with his singing; the Brothers Wills were a most diverting pair of eccentrics; Maxey and Pete gave a smart exhibition of trick and comedy cycling; much amusement was aroused by the sketch *The Tramps in the Nursery,* given by the Forsyths; and the list also contained the names of Lena Wylie, soprano, and Elmo and Rego, comedy acrobats.

Royal Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—Good business continues to be done here by the stock company, who this week gave *The Village Forge.* Included in the principal characters were George Rylands (Mr. Sydney Grant), Harry Greyling (Mr. David G. Noble), Jim Greyling (Mr. R. Seath Innes), Joe Cose (Mr. Tom H. Solly), Grace Glynde (Miss Florence Palmer), and Agnes Payne (Miss Lilian Radbourne). Mr. Anthony Brown's Bioscope showed the latest pictures.

Westminster.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—In addition to a fine series of cinematograph pictures shown here, the following artists appeared during the week:—Beatie and Babs, a clever little couple, whose *Pavement Rehearsal* gained for them warm approval; Charles Lestree, comedy juggler; Esaw and Jacob, Hebrew comedians; and F. S. Hulme, vocal comedian.

Olympia.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton.—A tremendous attraction during the week has been the new water spectacle, *The Sands of Dee,* in which J. H. Barnes (Rube Stephens), Norman Trevor, Rodney Stewart, Ella Gillette, Lawson Butt, and Ruth Maitland took part; Terry and Lambert were as richly enjoyable as ever; the Albert and Edmunds comedy troupe pleased greatly with their pantomimical absurdity *Neighbours;* Roma and Romani gave a delightful musical act; capital songs and dances came from the Eight of Hearts Troupe; Fred Keeton had some funny songs and patter; and likewise in the list were E. J. Shelton and the Almas, gymnasts.

Pavilion.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—This house during the week has been packed from floor to ceiling, there being space to accommodate something like 3,000 persons on each occasion. The draw was Tiller's admirable pantomime *Red Riding Hood,* which was received with the utmost delight. Miss Eve Coulton assumed the title-rôle with credit; a most amusing Baron was submitted by Mr. Fred Russell; Howard Ward helped with the fun in the part of the Dame; Nancy Hearne was a charming Prince; Emmie Franks afforded every satisfaction as Lieutenant Tommy Tucker; and Louie Davies pleased with her Margery Daw. Some capital specialities were introduced by the Sixteen White Guards, from the Olympia, Paris; the Poppy Quartet, and the Excelsior troupe of children. Matinées were given on Monday and Saturday.

Grand Tivoli.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jasper Redfern.—The Bioscope pictures shown here continue to please. During the week variety turns were, in addition, provided by the following artists:—Rose and Wold, with a comedy wire act; Frank Coyle, comedian; Barney Vox, ventriloquist; Luigi Salvan, boy musician; Leolin, club juggler; Boy Daly, vocalist; and Carriden and Rosslyn, with the sketch *Woman's the Master.*

Park Palace.—Lessee, Mr. Jasper Redfern.—This week the usual cinematograph show, along with varieties, was dispensed with, and a pantomime, *Babes in the Wood,* from the pen of Joseph L. Barry, given instead. The production earned a deal of popularity, the following artists affording every satisfaction:—Messrs. Norman Hall (Baron), Alfred Brooks (Dame), Will Donnett (the Page), the Kimberley Boys (Ruffians), Violet Wilson and Baby Boden (Babes), Cissie Paris (Robin Hood), and Marie Elsie (Maid Marian). Specialities were provided by the Six Emerald Gems, the Kimberley Boys, and Boden and Wilson.

New Century Picture Hall.—Proprietors, The New Century Animated Picture Company, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter W. Hook.—The pictures given here continue to afford satisfaction both for their steadiness and variety. During the week the following subjects were in the list:—Mary Queen of Scots, Count of Monte Cristo, Favourite Doll and the Golliwog, the Worthless Husband, and a number of humorous ones.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—Theatre Royal and Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Resident Business-Manager, Mr. W. Payne Seddon.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's excellent company has been drawing good houses in the new version of *The Christian.* Mr. P. Gedge Tywman as John Storm plays the part in a manly and artistic manner; Mr. Edward Ouston makes a highly commendable Horatio Drake; Mr. G. Montagu Lane enacts Lord Robert Ure in a masterly manner; Mr. John Hastings Batson acts the part of Father Lamplugh cleverly; and Mr. William Mallalieu is an admirable Archdeacon Wealthy. Miss Margery Fane as Glory Quayle captures the sympathy as well as the admiration of the house by her finished acting; Miss Alice Maud as Mrs. Callender, Miss Gladys Vernon as Polly Love, together with the rest of the large cast, give great assistance to the principals. The play is splendidly staged.

MACCLESFIELD.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—Miss Lena Stanton and Mr. Harry Joseph's pantomime *Aladdin* is here. Miss Janet Lawton in the title-rôle plays with ability; Miss Kitty Avey, with a pleasant voice, gives an excellent representation of the Princess; Miss Minnie Millwarde as Slavee Sho sings and dances admirably; and Miss Ella Rose makes a pleasing Pekoe. Mr. Will Terry affords much amusement as Abanazar; Mr. H. Harcourt is an entertaining Widow Twankey; and Mr. Geo. Guss as What O and Mr. F. Anderton as What Hi evoke the heartiest of laughter.

MAESTEG.—Town Hall Theatre.—Lessees, Poole's Theatres Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. C. F. Knowles.—Mr. F. R. Benson's South company opened here on Monday before a crowded and appreciative audience with *The Merry Wives of Windsor.* Mr. Ross Shore, who le't an indelible impression on local theatregoers on the occasion of his last visit, fully sustained his reputation in his clever impersonation of Sir John Falstaff, his acting bringing forth round after round of applause. Messrs. Chas. Warburton and John Cairns as Ford and Page won the evident appreciation of the audience; Mr. Victor Hardy, who impersonated Slender, was exceedingly good; and others whose acting secured for them a fair share of the plaudits were Miss Mary Webb as Mrs. Ford and Miss Constance Bromley as Mrs. Page. Other plays in the répertoire were *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Othello.*

MAIDENHEAD.—Town Hall.—Secretary, the Town Clerk.—There was a house crowded in every part to witness *Married to the Wrong Man,* played by Miss Inez Howard's company, under the direction of Mr. Henry Chattell, on the 28th ult. In the part of Ruth Miss Margaret Savill did well; Miss Mabel Scudamore was good as Rose O'Connor; Miss Nancy Tripp was well placed as Nurse Manners; Miss May Day was a vivacious Dolly; and Miss Clara Stanforth was true to life as the drunken hag, Mother Snaggs. An equally clever character sketch was the Jasper Skinner of Mr. H. C. Gilpin; Mr. H. C Cooper capably filled the repulsive rôle of Captain Deering; Mr. Clem Horlock did well as Sergt. Manners; Mr. Walter Hicks was an amusing Timothy, and Mr. C. Quinton Fulford won applause as Jack Gladwin.

MAIDSTONE.—Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Baskerville.—Mr. Brydon-Phillips' pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood,* is a great attraction here this week. It is well mounted, the dresses are pretty and quaint, and the entertainment goes with a pleasant swing. Miss Kittee Rayburn as Prince Amoroso is making a great hit with her songs, the choruses of which are taken up vigorously by the audience; Miss Ena Corelli as Little Red Riding Hood dances and sings to the delight of all; Miss Euphan Maclaren is charming as Cupid; Miss Kitty Wells and Miss Maisie Mildare as Jack and Jill are good; Miss Alice Vokes appears as Margery Daw; Mr. Harry Ewins as the Wolf and Mr. James Ewins as the Poodle are very funny; and Bishop and Vale as Simple Simon and Johnny Stout keep the audience in laughter by their antics; Miss Edith Jefferies as Fairy Gossamer is charming, and Mr. Henry de Solla as Lawyer Slyfox does well. A capital harlequinade has Mr. Harry Ewins as clown.

MANCHESTER.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edmondstone Shirra.—Success still attends the performances of *Goody Two Shoes* at this theatre. The brilliance and splendour of the staging, which made so good an impression on the first night, are of course a fixed element of the production; but the humour, which was at the outset busy and sparkling enough to satisfy the most exacting theatre-goer, has been developed to an even higher pitch of excellence. In the principal story-parts, Miss May Beatty as the Prince and Miss Hylda Dugdale as Goody Two Shoes, do a great deal in a picturesque and vocal way to keep things moving, and they are admirably assisted by other lady members of the cast; while Mr. Mark Sheridan as the Baron, Mr. Harry Conlin as the Widow, and the Brothers Egbert as two gentlemen of leisure, are constantly adding to their many opportunities for fun by impromptu eccentricities and allusions. Many popular songs are introduced, and a pretty feature of the show is the work of the children in the ballets and song-scenas.

Prince's Theatre.—Proprietors, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—The first production in Manchester of *A Waltz Dream* here on Monday drew an extraordinarily large attendance, many being unable to obtain admission. The cast approaches the very best that could be got together, Mr. Robert Evett being at the head in his original rôle of Niki. Mr. Evett's rendering of the "Waltz" song was enthusiastically received, and his work throughout was spirited and accomplished to a high degree; a very clever and engaging performance of Franzi was given by Miss May de Sousa, who contributed much to the success; and Miss Ethel Cadman was applauded for her excellent singing and her nice impersonation of the Princess Helene; while as Friedrike, Miss Amy Augarde gave a popular and finished impersonation. Mr. Eric Thorne, a big favourite, was continually funny as Joachim XIII.; and Mr. Leslie Holland as Count Lothar gave a distinctly humorous performance. Very good work was done also by Mr. John Hamilton, Mr. Langford Kirby, Mr. Albert Cavanagh, Mr. Willie Warde, jun., and Miss May Morton (the "Big Drum"). The chorus and augmented orchestra were under the direction of Mr. Hamish MacCunn. The piece remains for three weeks.

Gaiety.—Proprietress, Miss A. E. F. Horniman; Manager, Mr. B. Iden Payne; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edwin T. Heys.—A truly notable production—that of John Galsworthy's *The Silver Box*—took place here on Monday. The tragi-humorous realism of the play, its splendid characterisation, and dramatic suggestiveness, are something for the ordinary playgoer to remember, and not the most exacting could have wished for a better interpretation. The play was given by Miss Horniman's company. Mr. Jules Shaw as Jones, the misplaced delinquent, gave a fine performance; and Miss Ada King was excellent as his wife, the drudge. Mr. Basil Dean as Jack Barthwick provided a capital study of the idle, mischievous, but not bad-hearted son of the M.P.; while his parents were capitally impersonated by Mr. Michael Sherbrooke and Miss Sybil Thorndike. Many other clean-cut, natural characters are in the play, and such clever people as Mr. Charles Bibby, Mr. Edward Landor, and Miss Hilda Bruce Potter made the most of them, the total result being a strong and memorable performance. The play was preceded by Basil Dean's one-act episode, *Marriages are Made in Heaven.*

Royal Osborne Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Mason.—*A Soldier's Wedding,* played successfully last week at the Grand Junction Theatre, is the attraction here.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Dry.—Harry Burns's pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe,* seen the other week at a local house, is attracting good audiences twice nightly.

Grand Junction Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Hewitt.—This week we have here *A Girl's Cross Roads,* which was played successfully last week at the Royal Osborne Theatre.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—John F. Preston and company, in *Rogues of the Turf,* and the Olympians, exponents of ju-jitsu, are the two leading turns here this week, both being very well received. Very good items are added by Frank Cass, vocal comedian; Nance Elder, refined comedienne; Baker and Balfe, xylophone experts; the Strolling Players, in their musical pot-pourri; Burke, Andrus, and Frisco, in their *Trafalgar-square* absurdity; Harry Lawson, eccentric comedian; the Jackson Family, accomplished instrumentalists; and Frederick Villiers, the famous war correspondent, in a highly interesting "Fifteen Minutes on the Warpath," illustrated on the screen.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—The places of honour here are occupied by Victoria Monks, the popular comedienne, who scores a big success; and Alice Pierce, the famous impressionist actress, whose impersonations of well-known players are finely done. Enzer, assisted by Miss Clarice, gives an exhibition of juggling and ju-jitsu; Tom Bryce, assisted by Miss Price, is seen to advantage in a comedy sketch; Tom Child the Yorkshire tenor, is well received; some remarkable cycling is done by the Selbinis; and other capital turns are the Dumond Trio of refined instrumentalists, in a Parisian street act; Paul Barnes, song-writer and monologist; Haidee Lee and Wallace Kingston, in *A Resourceful Lover,* a clever lyrical sketch; and Edie Endon, a smart comedienne and acrobatic dancer.

Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Freece; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. J. Carter.—Prominent here this week are Zona Vevey, assisted by Herr Max Erard, in *My Lady's Bower,* an especially good thing; James Callahan and Jenny St. George, in their Irish comedy musical sketch; and Caryl Wilbur and company, in his comedy episode, *61, Prospect-street.* Enjoyable turns are added by Oliver Martyn, patter comedian; the Gilberts, in a smart wire act; the Three Orleans, vocal and dancing experts; Fred Terry, comedian; Florence Kay, an accomplished vocalist; and the Haydas Troupe of comedy acrobats and tumblers.

King's Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. James R. Trippett.—Mr. John Tiller's capital pantomime, *Jack and Jill,* is playing to full houses here this week, after a highly-successful visit to the Queen's Park Hippodrome.

Tivoli.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Mlle. Lydia, assisted by Mons. Mastel, is the top star here this week, in a very pleasing artistic act. To the front also is Frederick Victor, a fine actor, in a first-rate sketch, *Meredith's Masterpiece,* in which he is well supported; Nelson's Boys and Girls in a smart vocal scena are good; whilst other enjoyable items are those of Edith Harmer, comedienne; Victoria Glen, in a neat speciality; Les Currys, in a pleasing musical act; Les Froliques, entertainers; Harry Desmond, quaint comedian; and Alice Danby, comedienne. Ruffell's Pictures complete.

Queen's Park Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—Captain Roberts is to the front here this week in a smart athletic and balancing display, whilst playing different instruments, and is ably assisted; Marie Blythe, a pleasing comedienne, takes well; Jack Truman, tenor vocalist, is well received; the Sisters Belmont are clever and graceful dancers; Jim Cheetham is an exceedingly smart whistler and bird mimic; George Lawrence, light vocal comedian, makes a hit; Bradley, the cycling Jew, is decidedly smart; Mint and Mart are wonderful paper manipulators; Farrell and Dunn, comedians and patterers, are entertaining; and Charters and Clare cause amusement in a mock drama scena. The Earthquake and Ruins of Messina are shown on the Bioscope.

Hulme Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thomas Baker.—Dolly Elsworthy, supported by a capable company, tops the bill here this week in *Sweet Mistress Dorothy,* and scores a big success in the title-rôle; Wild, Willie, and West, the bounding navvies, in a decidedly clever turn, cause roars of laughter; Harry Blake as "an observer of the times" is highly amusing; Joan Dearing plays capitally on the violin; Edwin Austin, concertinist, takes well; Jack Hartley makes a hit in song and patter; and Edwards and Ward are popular entertainers. A Tale of the Revolution is told on the Bioscope.

MANSFIELD.—Victoria Hall.—Lessee, Mr. A. Fox.—The Victoria pictures continue to draw large audiences. The singing pictures commencing this week gained loud applause.

MARGATE.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. E. Michael; General-Manager, Mr. W. W. Keene.—Mr. Evelyn A'Dell's company has been playing this week in *His Sister's Honour.* Mr. Evelyn A'Dell as the hero, Frank Stanley, is conspicuously successful. Mr. Walter Wilson is effective as the villainous Sir Richard Redvers; Miss Flora Leslie makes a good impression as Dora Stanley; and Miss Edith Ashleigh is excellent as Ivy Merton. Mr. H. Macdonald is capital as Dr. Godfrey; Mr. J. Braithwaite makes a humorous Timothy Timid; and Miss Maudie Vincent as Maria is deserving of praise. Mr. S. Verrier adds to the success as P.C. Worthie.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fred. Mouillot and Walter De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—Again this week, with the exception of two vocal turns, Iris Banfield, comedienne, and George Norton, comedian, the programme is made up of pictures.

Hall-by-the-Sea.—Sole Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General-Manager, Mr. C. Evans.—Alfred West's pictures of Life in Our Army and Our Navy are here this week.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessees, The South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Albert Jackson.—*The Coal King,* presented by Mr. A. Clifton Anderson, is here. Sir Reginald Hartford is satisfactorily assumed by Mr. Ulick Burke; Walter Hartford is creditably impersonated by Mr. Escott Robson; Mr. Clifton Anderson is an excellent Tom Roberts; and Mr. Frank Dalton a praiseworthy Dick Shirley. Miss Winifred Love ably fills the part of Grace Shirley; and Miss Joan Wellman is good as Mad Ann.

Temperance Hall.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—Jack and Evelyn are well received; the Paul Kramer troupe of head-balancers perform some wonderful feats; the Musical Tritons are very entertaining; and the Mars Trio, military gymnasts; George Yorke, in song and dance; Harry Friskey, comedy juggler; Indiana, the flexible lady; Mueller and Coyne, vaudeville artists; and the Biograph make up the bill.

METHIL.—Gaiety Theatre.—Proprietors, the Methil Theatre Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. J. Burnett.—Miss Winifred Chalmers' company is this week presenting *Dearer than Life* and *The Master Criminal.* In the former Mr. Henry L. Osmond as Harry Royce deserves the highest praise; Mr. J. C. Carlyle is good as Armaud Dubois; Mr. Harry Cooke distinguishes himself as Tommy Dale; Mr. George Wilson is seen to advantage as Henri Dubois; Miss V. St. Lawrence is specially good as Katalie Latour; Miss Lilian Burns as Mona Brayton also displays ability; and Miss Mabel Tremere scores a success as Estelle.

MEXBOROUGH.—Prince of Wales' Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Mr. Chas. W. Poole's Myriorama is here this week. The pictures, exceedingly well painted and thoroughly up to date, comprise a complete world tour. Some excellent films include one depicting the effects of the recent earthquake. The variety turns are a capital selection, and include the Royal Banzais, Japanese acrobats; Sydney Bach, the Welshman at the piano; Willie Dean, comedian; Eileen Russell, vocalist; the Seven Bramusas, in a brass band extravaganza entitled *Music Afloat;* and Harry Raymond, coon singer and dancer, he being supported in the latter department by his little daughter Ivy. Mr. J. R. Poole makes a capable guide and Mr. A. S. Morrell an efficient chef de orchestre.

New Picture Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. Will Hunter; Manager, Mr. E. H. Jones.—Amongst others in an excellent programme here this week are In Time of Rebellion, Pleasant Surprise, The Vestal, Sold by His Parents, A Broken Heart, &c.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Ed. Jowsey; Manager and Licensee, Mr. W. Ker Chatto.—Mr. Seymour Hicks' production of *The Gay Gordons* gave pleasure to a very large audience here on Monday, and the succession of pretty songs, catchy choruses, and rippling fun never allowed the audience a dull moment. Mr. Stanley Brett as Angus Graeme is the life and soul of the play, and his witty sayings and generally amusing actions keep the audience in a continual roar of laughter. He was supported in a most able manner by Miss Maie Ash as Peggy Quainton; both sing and dance admirably, and are unquestionably the success of the production. Mr. Ernest Torrence is exceedingly good as Andrew Quainton, and Mr. Fred Ralph and Mr. Paul Plunket as Nervy Nat and John Smith respectively are admirably suited to the parts. Mr. George Carroll, Mr. George Paulton, Mr. Edmund Leith, Mr. Dewey Gibson, Mr. W. Norman, Mr. Frank Adair, Mr. Sims Woolley, and Miss Nellie Dade, Miss Lily Maxwell, Miss Ida Mann, Miss C. St. Clare, and Miss Morea Selma also fulfil their respective parts in a pleasing manner. Scenery and dresses are elaborate.

Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Charles Imeson.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company is this week presenting the new version of *The Christian.* Mr. Henry Renouf gives a powerful and masterly performance in the rôle of John Storm, and Miss Doris Gilham a pleasing portrayal of Glory Quayle. Mr. Oswald Marshall is excellent as Horatio Drake, and Mr. George R. Montford is excellent in the rôle of Lord Mac. Mr. Arthur E. Maskell gives a fine portrayal of Parson Quayle, and the other rôles are undertaken by clever artists.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Charles G. Rembges.—The Gothams provide a smart turn of excellent singing and comedy; Mme. Clementine Dolcini gives a wonderful exhibition of shooting; Bert Terrell is responsible for some sweet singing; and Les Riscos give an eccentric cycling and comedy act. Ida Barr is a favourite vocalist, the Musical Jees are good in their sketch, and Argo gives some clever farmyard mimicry.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Manager, Mr. C. E. Nicholls.—Clever ball manipulating is executed here this week by the Four Athos, who also perform novel acrobatic feats; Miss Beaumont Collins is exceedingly good in the playlet *The House of Terror;* and the Five Vernons play popular tunes on their xylophone. Sibb and Sibb are smart in their trapeze act, and Lottie Lennox sings some catchy songs. Howard and Collinson and the Sisters Lyton also add to the programme.

MOTHERWELL.—New Century Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hales.—Mr. Frederick Melville's company is here, in *Married to the Wrong Man.* Mr. Oswald Gray acts with commendable restraint in the rôle of the soldier-lover; and Miss Gertrude Boswell is to be congratulated on her representation of Ruth. Mr. H. Lane Bayliff acts the villainous Captain Deering to the life; and special mention should be made of Mr. Charles Vivian in the rôle of Jasper Skinner; Mr. Arthur T. Lennard is bluff and burly as Sergeant Manners; Mr. Henry Eustace does well as Dr. Brandon; Archie Bird is excellently played by Mr. Paige Lawrence; Miss Dorothy Haigh is responsible for a capital Rose O'Connor; and Miss May Davis does well as Dolly Fritters. Miss Rosalie Notrelle is quiet and convincing as Nurse Harmsworth; and Miss Violet Vincent is effective as Mother Snaggs.

NELSON.—Grand Theatre.—Proprietress, Mrs. T. Greenwood Croft; Business-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Mudd.—*The Idol of Paris* has been presented here during the week by Mr. James Bell's company. Miss Annie Bell in the title-rôle performs a difficult task in a refined and purposeful manner; Mme. Sancterre is cleverly played by Miss Frances Bruce; whilst Miss Annie Megson makes a thoroughly capable Ann. Prince Sergius Zoresky receives careful treatment of Mr. Gordon Robey; and in the respective characters of Philip D'Esterre and Victor Cashelle, both Mr. Wilson Howard and Mr. Sydney Arnold display power.

NEW BRIGHTON.—Winter Gardens.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. H. E. Jones and A. Douglass.—Miss Florence Smithers and company, retained for another week owing to her great success, again scores in a very humorous sketch, entitled *Hard Lines.* As a vocalist Mr. Harry Drew is excellent, and his reception is most enthusiastic; the McAleaveys prove themselves marvellous barrel jumpers; Messrs. Duncan and Brasque are really admirable artists, and their domestic playlet, *My Lancashire Wife,* is clever and entertaining; Miss Mina Denvil is a young vocalist of promise; and Herr Karoly Czynski plays upon several instruments remarkably well. Messrs. Clive and Vera and Miss Mary Danby also appear. The animated pictures give every satisfaction.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—Mr. Arthur's brilliant pantomime *Aladdin* continues its successful run, and as yet shows no sign of decreasing popularity. The company in every respect is one of all-round excellence, and with such principals as Happy Fanny Fields, Violet Lloyd, Harry Tate, Malcolm Scott, Miss Doris Dean, Miss Maud Thorne, Mr. Harry Claff, and Regan and Ryan there is every prospect of crowded houses during the remainder of the run.

Tyne Theatre and Opera House.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—*Humpty-Dumpty* continues its merry run, and seems, if anything, to increase in public estimation. Mr. Arthur Prince has established himself a firm favourite, his singing, dancing, and speciality business being of the most attractive kind. Miss Ida Rene, the charming Princess, becomes more popular every week, and Miss Lily Iris, the principal boy, adds to the gaiety of the show. Amongst the comedians the biggest hit has been made by Shaun Glenville as the Emperor; his inimitable fooling fairly brings down the house. He is admirably suported by Carlton, J. E. Nightingall, and Jock Walker. One of the new features of the pantomime is the duet by Miss Ida Rene and Jock Walker, which goes with a rare swing, the Scottish reel with which it finishes being encored night after night.

Palace Theatre.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—Messrs. Hallat and Howard's company is here this week in *Her Love Against the World,* the romantic drama by Mr. Walter Howard. The production is admirable from every point of view. The chief parts are taken by Miss Grace Heywood and Mr. Fred Emery, who are ably supported by other talented members of the company.

Grand Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; Manager, Mr. H. G. Elliott.—Mr. John Tiller's company in the pantomime *Red Riding Hood* is playing to full houses nightly. As Prince Valiant, Miss Jessie Templeton is extremely popular, her singing being much appreciated; Miss May Merry is greatly appreciated for her clever dancing and charming singing as the Fairy Truelove; Miss Ivy Moore is a pronounced favourite, her popular songs being well applauded; and the Dame of Mr. Lawrence Barclay proves a huge success; his numerous appearances are cordially received. The villain of the pantomime is cleverly portrayed by Mr. Benson Kleve (the Wicked Wolf). Much of the fun is also due to Mr. C. K. Martinetti, jun., as Trotters, and Mr. Fred Lawrence as Dr. Dignum, whose amusing antics keep the house in continuous laughter. Specialities are introduced by the Lotus Troupe of Dancers.

Empire Theatre.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—The place of honour on an interesting programme is this week accorded to Max Darewski, the celebrated boy musician, composer, and conductor, whose marvellous pianoforte playing and masterly direction of the orchestra are greatly admired. Tom Hearn, the laziest juggler on earth, provides, as usual, a most diverting turn; the witty remarks of Joe O'Gorman are highly relished; and W. F. Frame, Lionette Roberty and her transformation dancers, Fred Eustace and company in the sketch *The Amber Light,* Charles Santon, the double-voiced vocalist, Tom Collins, comedian, and Beattie Kent, comedienne and dancer, all contribute meritorious turns, the Bioscope completing.

Pavilion Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. W. H. Boardman.—At the head of a good bill this week are those clever club jugglers the McBanns, and other artists appearing are Fred Land, Arthur Prince's Royal Mascots, Primrose Quartette, Mark Leslie, Broadway Girls, Three Spoons, Stowe Brothers, and Walter Reynolds and Co.

Roller Skating Rink, Exhibition Buildings.—Manager, Fred B. Crowe.—Afternoon and evening exhibitions of skating are still the rage, and the pastime is rapidly increasing in public favour.

NEWPORT.—Lyceum.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company is presenting *With Edged Tools here.* Mr. Wm. F. Grant plays Jack Meredith with a quiet force and subdued humour; Mr. J. A. Rosier as Sir John Meredith is stately; and Mr. Chas. Hartopp displays vigour as Guy Oscard. Mr. J. Pockett does well as Maurice Gordon; Miss Marie Leonard is an attractive Jocelyn Gordon, Miss Alice Esther Belmore a graceful Millicent Cheyne, Miss Marion Fawcett a dignified Lady Canbourne, Miss Violet Thorold a capital Marie, and Miss Florence Dallhunty and others do well in the small parts allotted them.

Empire.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—Top place is given here to a novel turn *Polly Pickles' Pets in Petland,* a delightful musical fantasy; Miss Maude A. Edwards is successful in her ventriloquial turn; Barrington, a trick pianist, is unique in his impersonation of "Paderewski"; and Takio, the Japanese mimic, is accorded a warm reception. The McConnell Trio are responsible for a lot of fun with their musical comedietta, *The Airship;* Howell and Scott introduce some lively patter; and Eily Adair sings and dances cleverly. The Bioscope shows some novel pictures. Miss Madge Temple was unable to appear on Monday evening through indisposition.

NORTH SHIELDS.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—The boards here are occupied by Mr. T. Morton Powell's company with *The Greed of Gold.* As Tom Wolstead, Mr. James Jarrett creates an excellent impression; Mr. Henry Parr plays with skill the part of Harry Hood; Mr. Alfred Stretton proves a capable Arthur Erroll; Mr. Vic. C. Rolfe gives a capital rendering of Mr. Brightstone, K.C.; Mr. Charles E. Wood acquits himself well as Conn Creamer; and Mr. Arthur Beaufort is highly successful as Cull Snig. Miss Maud M. Powell makes a success in the rôle of Dora; Miss Jennie Douglas Hicks gives an able representation of Mrs. Maxwell; Miss Florrie Hayes is a clever Patty Marfield; and Miss Beatrice M. Hughes a pleasing Cecil.

Central Palace.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—The principal place on the bill here is occupied by the Andos Japanese troupe, who introduce a marvellous act; Mr. Dave Richardson's troupe of local lads prove themselves to be capital clog dancers; Mr. Fred Dice, comedian and dancer, goes well; Master Will Punch, comedy juggler, is smart; Mr. Dan Kennedy, Irish comedian, has made a hit; and Mr. Will Munroe's Comedy Team is re-engaged, and meets with its usual hearty reception. The pictures are, as usual, excellent.

NORTHWICH.—Central Theatre.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden.—Mr. Louis Elgar's pantomime company, in *Jack and the Beanstalk,* are doing good business here this week. Miss Isa Bernard, in the name-part, is a success, both histrionically and vocally; Miss Rena Rees as Phyllis is charming, singing in admirable style; Miss L. Palmer as Dick Tempest had a gratifying reception; Miss Ira Davis appears with credit as Daisy Dimple, and is distinctly clever in her impersonations; as Dame Trot Mr. Harry May proves exceedingly diverting; and Baron Snatchall has an admirable exponent in Mr. Harry Hoyland. Flippit and Floppit, in the hands of Messrs. Louis Elgar and Will Belasco respectively, create unbounded hilarity; and Bert Allen as Simple Simon proves a mighty atom of comicality. The specialities include Will Belasco, dulcimer soloist; Louis Elgar,

scoring particularly with her singing. Mlle. Le Mair proves a clever danseuse; Mr. Sydney James works hard as Mother Goose, and with his versatility amuses the audience; Mr. Ted Lockstone is humorous as Billy; while Mr. Jack Harrington as Parchment, Will Raglan and Tom Wright as Village Policemen; Mr. Macklin Williams as Avarice, and Master Fred Cox as Amelia Jane are successful in their respective rôles. The mounting and scenery deserve mention, and the dresses are effective.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—The Kurios, in their pantomime art and mystery, fully deserve the hearty reception they get for their funny turn; Miss Dinah Morris and company present a light opera, entitled *A Village in Dahomey*, with Sam Morris as Colonel Martin Muggs; Miss Alice Hughes and company appear in a comedietta, *The Star of the Bazaar*; and Harry Marlow and May Manton in a sketch, *Winning a Wife*. The other turns are Stewart and Morgan; Gladys Godwynne, juvenile vocalist and dancer; Will Goodwin, a popular comedian; and the Beautiful Lillian, trick cyclist. The Hippo. Bioscope scenes are interesting.

AGRICULTURAL HALL.—This is now opened as a roller-skating rink, and is heartily supported. The first fancy-dress carnival was held on Monday evening, and prizes were given for the best character costumes. There were two racing competitions, which excited keen interest. The hall was gaily decorated for the occasion.

AGRICULTURAL HALL ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—The New Era pictures continue to do well here.

BANK PLAIN ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—The animated pictures still prove attractive.

NOTTINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—*Cinderella* rings down tonight, much to the regret of many patrons, who have thoroughly enjoyed this excellent pantomime. Misses Cressie Leonard, Madge Vincent, Alice Tremayne, Marie Empress, and May Lilian Levey have endeared themselves to all by their spirited work; and the comedians, Messrs. Harry Brayne, Alexandre and Hughes, Johnnie Schofield, and Walter Uridge will long be remembered for the large element of fun and jollity they have produced.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Harry Upton.—*The Prince and the Beggar Maid* pays its first visit, and is receiving a hearty reception. Mr. Walter Howard submits a characteristically spirited rendering of Prince Olaf, keen and resolute, yet showing a delicacy of touch when necessary; Mr. Ivan Cleveland imparts boldness and dramatic force to the part of the villainous Hildred; and the hunchback, Michael, is capitally played by Mr. Graeme Campbell. Miss Annie Saker makes a capital exponent of the Princess Monica, every phase of feeling and passion being depicted with unerring effect; Miss Elsie Walton offers a dainty performance as Viola; and Miss Ivy Millais makes a picturesque figure of Camiola. Mr. R. H. Stephens puts a heartiness into the part of Hector that wins admiration; and Mr. Reginald Payne submits a comical reading of Lieutenant Stromberg. Mr. Francis Hawley as the Bishop and Mr. Kendal Chalmers as Nathan supply natural impersonations.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—The appearance of Neil Kenyon is the signal for smiles, laughter, and jollity, which increase each moment while the clever comedian reels off his quaint quips and cranks. As an instance of untiring patience in teaching, De Gracia would be hard to beat, his wonderful elephants showing clever training as well as natural sagacity; Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Meynott supply an amusing comedietta entitled *Semi-detached*; Ted E. Box contrives to keep the mirth flowing by his whistling and comical sayings; jumping by the Hartleys is both interesting and smart; and J. P. Ling proves an acceptable mimic.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Lockwood; Treasurer, Mr. A.V. Carnell.—*The Cowboy Millionaire* sketch introduces Tubby Edlin, whose comical methods are mirth-provoking to a degree. It is an excellent miniature comic opera, and the artists all acquit themselves with distinction. Vasco has many admirers, in Nottingham, and his eccentric methods are as laughable as his manipulation of numerous instruments is clever. The dancing of La Belle Greta gives unqualified pleasure, and the ventriloquism of Russell Carr is well recognised. The Eight 'Varsity Girls enliven the proceedings by their musical items, and the Society Quartette of Singers and Dancers add to the harmony. A speciality by Alexandra and Bertie, the Heroleb Brothers in a sketch, Walter Stanley, comedian, and the Barrascope are all deserving of praise.

OLDHAM.—GRAND THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Mayall.—*Tom Jones* has been drawing good houses during the week. Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company is excellent in every respect, and every artist has a good reception; Mr. Harry Welchman again appears as Tom Jones, and his work is highly appreciated; Miss Florence Smithson as Sophia sings and acts in a delightful manner; Miss J. Ritz as Honour is clever and sings well; Miss A. Oppitz makes a most dignified Lady Bellaston, acting cleverly; Miss Mary Southwell is capital as Mrs. Western; Mr. Ambrose Manning again appears as Squire Western, and acts capitally as the jovial country gentleman; Mr. G. Elton as Partridge fairly revels in his work; Mr. John Morley as Mr. Allworthy is well suited, and sings with his usual success; Mr. D. Percival is smart as Blifil; Mr. J. T. Macmillan as Gregory is very amusing; and is ably supported by Mr. Cyril Lane as Grizzle and Mr. L. Braham as Dobbin; Miss Cicilia Wilman is very good as the Hostess; and a strong chorus and an augmented orchestra are ably directed by Mr. E. Thornton.

COLOSSEUM THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Wm. Eastwood.—*The Little Breadwinner* is enjoying good business here, Mr. J. A. Campbell's capital company doing full justice to the requirements of the drama. Little Irene as Meg acts in a manner which quickly makes her a favourite; Miss Josephine Richards impersonates Margaret Daventry in sympathetic style; Miss Lissa Young is very smart as Bobby Trott; and Miss Kitty Melville does well as Ruth Cherry. Miss Clara Hunt is a motherly Bridget O'Flanagan; Mr. Reginald Brown is excellent as Richard Lawrence; Mr. J. Monkhouse gives a protrayal of Lord Dorrington which is much enjoyed; Mr. Alfred Maurice as Joseph Prior makes a fine study of a hypocrite; Miss Millie Ford is capable as his ally, Kate Cherry; and Mr. Sidney Lee as Charles Prior is very good.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—Reano and his famous band are delighting patrons with well-played selections; Miss Ella Shields had a most hearty reception for her capital rendering of coon songs; Billy Merson is very smart in his comedy; Ada Parker sings and dances daintily; and Bostock's Baboons perform some smart acrobatic feats, showing careful training. Otto and Olga are capital comedy musical experts; the Eight College Girls provide a dainty and pleasing turn; A. E. Clifford is a clever comedian; and the Bioscope depicts Wilbur Wright and his aeroplane. Mr. Fred Eplett, fully recovered from his recent illness, has returned to his post as musical-director.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Kilrow.—George Leyton presents his military scena *Lucknow* with success, a number of local veterans lending effect to the production; Max Gruber and Miss Adelina give a pleasing turn with their cleverly trained elephant, horse, and pony; Barry Lindon is a capital bass vocalist; the Four Elwyns sing in excellent style in their scena, *Down in the Mine*; Winnie Derson sings some tuneful songs; and Harry Anderson is a successful vocal comedian. The Rangers perform daring feats on the cycle; and Chas. Coll, comedian, and the Dottoscope conclude.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Nuttall. — Luis Hardt tops the bill in his marvellous feats of strength, for which he receives hearty applause; the Tennessee Guards are excellent in their manœuvres, and furnish good singing; Martin Henderson, blind musician, is a capital concertina soloist; Leah Arden sings in a most cultivated manner; the Westbrooks are clever in a dancing scena; Nellie Ridgway has a refined novelty act; and Harry Leaton is a good comedian. The Dottoscope concludes.

THE PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. Thorne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. Sharrocks.—Fred Karno's company, in *The Yap Yaps*, cause endless amusement; Leslie Bros., in their musical speciality, are very smart; Hilda Dare sings and dances in capital style; Horace and Olga's dogs and cats perform cleverly, showing perfect training; the Sisters Lavender are capital duettists and dancers; Wyotti is very good in his juggling act; and the Palace pictures are again prominent.

OXFORD.—NEW THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. C. C. Dorrill; Assistant-Manager, Mr. G. T. Lucas.—The latter half of last week Miss May Palfrey appeared here with great success in *Mrs. Dot*, supported by a good company. This week Mr. Seymour Hicks's company is drawing crowded and highly-pleased houses with *The Gay Gordons*. Mr. Frank Lincoln makes a most natural and convincing Angus Graeme; Mr. Tom Graves gives us a feast of fun as Nervy Nat; Mr. Edward Nainby is very droll and quaint as Edmund Siddons; Mr. Ernest Ruston is admirably suited as Andrew Quainton; and Corporal Smith, Dalesbury, Belstairs, Elmington, Merstham, and Alister Macdonald find most excellent exponents in Messrs. N. Forest, M. Dene, M. Florence, J. C. Neville, J. A. Green, and W. Terriss. Miss Gladys Archbutt has won all hearts here with her delightful and fascinating performance of Peggy Quainton; Miss Mabel Dent is a bright and attractive Victoria Siddons; and Miss Ida Laurie an amusing Charlotte Siddons. The scenery and dresses are most beautiful, and a strong and tuneful chorus add much to the enjoyment of the play.

EAST OXFORD THEATRE. — Lessees, East Oxford Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Stuart.—Mr. Andrew Emm's company is this week presenting *The Diver's Luck*. Mr. Harry Cullenford enacts Martin Faber, the diver, with considerable verve and ability, while Mr. Chas. Osborne does well as Maurice Wyngate, and Mr. William J. Miller is powerful as Tom Hall. Mr. Fred A. Marston proves a general favourite with his brusque rendering of Barney Bawn, and Mr. Joe Rowland is a success as Snowball. Mr. Lyons Johnson makes an effective Captain Halton; Miss Dora Pass plays with due restraint and is graceful as Helen Wyngate; Miss Pearl Noyle is natural as Peggy Mahoney; and Miss Holly Haslewood easily wins sympathy with his clever portrayal of Winnie Hall.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—*The Gay Gordons* is proving a delightful attraction here this week, the musical comedy having ample justice done it by an excellent all-round company. Mr. Charles Childerstone gives a very finished portraiture of Angus Græme, while the Peggy Quainton of Miss Marie West is a charming embodiment. Miss Florence Somers distinguishes herself by an exquisite presentment of Victoria Siddons; as Janet McLeod Miss Ada Mellon is to be complimented on an admirable assumption; Miss Kathleen Dighton acts effectively in the rôle of Mary McLeod; a clever and amusing portrayal of Charlotte Siddons is furnished by Miss Louie Emery; and Miss Rosa Wynford makes a stately Lady Millicent; Mr. Harry W. Johnson as Andrew Quainton plays with marked ability; the Nervy Nat of Mr. Edward Carlton is decidedly clever and humorous; Mr. Robert Rivers as Edmund Siddons is capital; Archibald Speedy is well delineated by Mr. Arthur Wooley; and Mr. R. H. Vallis is funny and entertaining as Jack MacPhrisky.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Stead.—Mr. Jack Haddon's pantomime, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, is being performed here twice nightly. Miss Alma Obrey makes a dashing Jack, and Dora is sweetly played by Miss Bessie Knight. Mr. Dave O'Toole as Dam Trotter, and Mr. Bob Baxter as Silly Billy provided plenty of fun; Mr. Hal Forde, sen., is capital as Squire Musty; and Messrs. O'Malley and Brown as Dip and Dap are humorous and entertaining; Miss Dulsie Lloyd as Nancy and Miss Kitty Chandos as Charley Bright make an engaging couple; Miss Marie Rayner as Discordia is praiseworthy; Harmonia is cleverly enacted by Miss Nellie O'Mara; Mr. Tom Packer as Grumbles is excellent; and Mr. Blanchard as Betty does creditably. The singing and dancing of the Lovebirds, a quartette of ladies, is a particular feature of the pantomime.

PERTH.—PERTH THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—Mr. Savile's pantomime *Puss in Boots* entered upon its second and concluding week here. The pantomime has been an undoubted success, the scenery, dresses, singing, and humour being of a high standard. Large audiences have attended nightly, special attractions being provided this week.

PETERBOROUGH.—NEW HIPPODROME, LTD.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards; Manager, Mr. Frank Gallagher.—The chief item of the entertainment here is provided by Seeley and Rhodesia, the American Novelty Entertainers; Chas. Russell is a character vocalist in up-to-date songs; the Three Gartis introduce vocalism and dancing; the Seymons give a smart juggling turn; and the programme also includes Estrella, international bare-foot sand dancer, Nellie Neil, comedienne and dancer, and Boden and Ford's company, including Pat Waddock, in a new and original farcical episode, *The Cert*. Hippodrome pictures complete the bill.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—The Royal on Monday opened the second half of the winter season with *The Girls of Gottenberg*, which drew a fine house, the tuneful music, clever dialogue, and smart sayings being as popular as ever. Mr. Bertie Wright as Max Moddelkopf was the chief means of fun, his antics never failing to elicit roars of laughter; Mr. Tom Shelford as Otto was also a clever humorist in a quiet way, whilst his topical song, "Jericho," proved very popular; Mr. Morgan Rickards was an admirable portly burgomaster; Mr. Chas. Berkeley as the sergeant proved a clever step-dancer; and Mr. Hugh Henson skilfully interpreted the dandified Albrech. As Mitzi Miss Simeta Marsden admirably filled a most exacting part, her singing being of a high order of merit; Miss Maisie North was fascinating as the General's daughter, her dancing being characterised by grace and precision; and Miss May Marshall as Clementine did capital work.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—Nat Clifford is a great attraction, his singing and dancing being fully appreciated; the Donaldson Bros. and company in the sketch, *Sports in a Jungle*, supply plenty of burlesque comedy; Jack Lane, a Yorkshire rustic, made a hit as a comedian, and should do well; Miss Lidy Mirvanah, mounted on a splendid white steed, is the central figure in some pretty tableaux; and Alf Gibson is a comedian of the quaint type; Miss Nellie Sheffield, fresh from her successes at the Plymouth pantomime, earns further laurels; the Armiens are heard to advantage in some high-class instrumental selections; and Evelyn Jones and company and Miss Nora Emerald give the finishing touches to the programme.

PONTEFRACT.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Tom Diacoff. — The Four Sisters Netherland introduce their smart vocal and dancing act; the Attilas do some wonderful feats in the way of balancing on the trapeze; James Lowry has a capital baritone voice, and knows how to use it; and Miss Vesta Rae also warbles very sweetly. Prince Ishmael dispenses weird magic, and Alice Maud does some capital imitations of popular artists. Kendrick and Laura provide a smart pot-pourri act, and Willis and Warlock are agile dancers and quaint comedians. The pictures continue interesting and novel.

PORTH.—PALACE.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole; Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—The chief turn this week is Menotti, the Stockholm wonder, with his original creation, The Twentieth Century Cycle Track; he is accorded a very hearty reception. Frazer and French, America's premier hurricane wooden shoe dancers, fairly bring the house down with their smart stepping and dancing, and they receive rounds of applause; the Three Delanes, in their speciality act *The Demon of the Grotto*, are exceedingly smart; Sam Dalton extracts much merriment as the eccentric comedian; Albert St. Clair, double-voiced vocalist, sings excelently and makes a big hit—he is undoubtedly a favourite; the Three Calbas delight the audience with their acrobatic funniosities in a billiard room; Lilian Travelli, American soubrette and ballad vocalist, is all that can be desired; the Palascope with its latest pictures is greatly appreciated; and Charles Rowen makes a hit as comedian.

PORTSMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL. — Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—This week the patrons of this house are enjoying a welcome visit from the D'Oyly Carte principal répertoire opera company. On Monday that ever-green favourite *The Mikado* was presented, and scored heavily, as usual. Mr. Charles R. Walenn fills the rôle of Ko-Ko capitally, and the fun never flags while he is on the stage; Mr. Fred Billington is a host in himself as Pooh-Bah; while Mr. Stafford Moss as Nanki-Poo, Mr. Leicester Tunks as the Mikado, and Miss Clara Dow as Yum-Yum are also excellent; Katisha is played with distinction by Miss Ethel Morrison, and Mr. Sydney Granville, Miss Beatrice Meredith, and Miss Mabel Graham fill other parts well. On Tuesday *Iolanthe* was presented, and *The Pirates of Penzance*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *The Gondoliers*, and *The Yeomen of the Guard* have been given during the week. On Wednesday and Friday evenings *After All* was played as a curtain-raiser.

PRINCE'S.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Agate.—*At Cripple Creek* is being presented here this week by Miss Ida Molesworth's and Mr. Mark Blow's company. Mr. Austen Milroy capably plays the rôle of Joe Mayfield, and Miss Agnes Verity as Dynamite Ann is remarkably good. The part of Little Tatto is filled successfully by Baby Betty, "the child soprano." The play is well staged and the minor parts are filled effectively.

KING'S.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Claude Marner; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Thos. Barrasford.—The performing seals of Captain Fred Woodward are a great attraction here. They are trained in a remarkably skilful manner and win enthusiastic applause; Barton and Ashley are a clever comedy duo, and their act *Canal-Boat Sal* is very funny and smart; the Five Juanitas, Spanish acrobats, present a pleasing turn; Hal Godfrey and Co. appear in an amusing item entitled *A Very Bad Boy*, which is well received; Payen leaves no doubt as to his abilities as an impersonator, and other striking turns in an excellent programme include Mr. and Mrs. Royston Deane in *My Lady's Chamber*; Dorothy L. Clark, comedienne; Paul Vandy, juggler; and Harry and Paul, eccentrics.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Capt. E. H. Warren-Wright; Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—The sketch entitled *The Little Captain* is proving a great attraction here this week. It depicts an episode in the career of that popular hero Captain Kettle, and is presented by Leonard Mortimer and his No. 1 company. The story between the scenes is cleverly filled in by means of the Bioscope. Davis and Gledhill provide a smart and attractive turn in their cycle racing act on the patent track, and the clever juggling of Chas. Hera receives the appreciation it deserves; J. W. Hall is a comedian with considerable originality in his method, and the items presented by Dale and Vale, variety entertainers, Leo and Roland, novelty equilibrists, and Payne's Bio-photoscope are also deserving of notice.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris; Assistant-Manager, Colonel F. W. Roberts.—An extremely popular turn heads the bill at this house this week in the shape of Clark and Hamilton. The clever acting, singing, dancing, and music provided by the couple are above the average, and get a great reception. The Lyons Trio of pantomimists and dancers are amusing, and the well-trained horses in the sketch *The Horse-Dealer* are specially notable. A good turn is provided by Brown and Robinson, the singing bricklayers, and Carla Magda is a clever gymnast; Arthur Kenney's sensational cycling is well received; and other popular turns include Charles Sloman, comedian, Rita and Mack, and the Hippodrome pictures with the latest "animated news."

PRESTON. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, the Executors of the late W. Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company is here with the Lyceum version of *The Christian*. Mr. Roy Redgrave as the Hon. John Storm gives a clever portrayal; Mr. Wilfred Noy is again seen here as Horatio Drake, a character he portrays in a natural manner; Mr. Herbert Hewetson is an excellent Lord Robert Ure; Father Lamplugh is capitally enacted by Mr. Thos. Barry; Mr. John J. Hooker is at home as the Archdeacon; Mr. Alan Jeayes makes a capable Paul; Miss Molly Hayden is extremely natural as Mrs. Callander; Miss Cora Deane gives a clever presentation of Polly Love; Miss Muriel Marsden and Mrs. Campbell are also very good in the small parts of Black Meg and Mother Kent; Miss Kitty Symons as Lady Robert Ure gives a sympathetic rendering; and Miss Daisy Scudamore as Glory Quayle gives a most realistic portrayal, and acts with much earnestness throughout.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—Sandy McNab, in the funny Scotch sketch *The Egyptian Mummy*, tops the bill this week and causes roars of laughter; Maud Courtney, the talkative American girl, is an excellent turn, and she fully merits the hearty applause she receives; Mr. C., who sings and talks, is an excellent raconteur, and also meets with a very hearty reception; the Rose Trio, acrobatic waiters, present a very smart acrobatic turn; Mona Vivian, juvenile comedienne (the original Wee Mona), is exceedingly clever, and her various impersonations meet with much applause; Arthur Slater, the man in white, in his whistling scena A Day in a Garden, proves himself to be an expert siffleur, his various imitations of birds being most natural; Tod Lowen is a comedian with a decided style of his own; Hector and Dale create roars of laughter with their boxing act; W. Raskello has a sensational athletic scena, Arizona, and introduces Jose Mitchell, America's daring distance leaper. Troubles of Childhood on the Bioscope concludes a capital all-round bill.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Messrs. Jagon and Nightingale are presenting their pantomime *Cinderella* this week, and it is meeting with an enthusiastic reception. It is well dressed, the book sparkles with fun, and the chorus is good. Mr. Fred Lake is very funny as the Baron; Wallace Whitney and Harry Plowden, as Arabella and Isabella, the ugly sisters, cause much laughter with their drolleries; the Danbys are a clever pair of knockabouts, and are well suited in the parts of Kuff and Kollar, court bailiffs; Leo Fields, as Buttons, the page, is brimming over with fun; Miss Vera Mayne is an ideal Prince Brilliant, and Beattie Foster as Dandini sings and dances well; Flo Burnett as the Fairy Godmother possesses a very fine voice and presence, and her rendering of "Come back to Erin" brings down the house; Miss Cissie Gordon is an imposing Marquis of Taxes, and Lily Hales as Dorothy is very winsome. An effective chorus adds much to the success of the pantomime, which goes with a swing from start to finish.

RADCLIFFE. — GRAND OPERA HOUSE. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Boothman. — Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and J. E. Cardwell's company, with the pantomime *Little Red Riding Hood*, is here for the week. Miss Fannie Adamson makes a dashing Boy Blue; Miss May Gibson as Miss Muffet deserves the warm applause accorded her; Miss Helen Dunscombe does good work as Will Scarlet; and Little Iris Vivienne distinguishes herself both in her singing and dancing. Mr. V. Wakeman is a success as Dame Trot; Messrs. Denby and Dent as Doleful Dan and Whimsical William introduce many comicalities; and the Flower Ballet and the Snow Ballet are pretty spectacular effects.

RAMSGATE.—ROYAL PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; Lessee, Mr. Ernest Mansell.—On Wednesday evening the Ramsgate Operatic and Dramatic Society commenced a four nights' production of *The Gondoliers*. The show was brightly and creditably carried through, attracting large audiences.

RAWTENSTALL.—GRAND THEATRE. — Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; General-Business-Manager, Mr. A. R. Feather.—Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson's combination in *Who Is She?* is proving a capital attraction. As Prince Vladimir Mr. Graham Woods is most acceptable, and Prince Bora is ably presented by Mr. Horace Booth. Mr. Sinclair Holden is an admirable Arthur Gower, and Mr. Alfred Grenville makes an excellent Sergeant Metroff, whilst Mr. Edward Swinton and Mr. George Cully are excellent as Chang-Fee and Paul respectively. Miss Alice Barber is very good as Countess Ladori, and Miss Marie Robson is an excellent Keta Noveitch. As the little King Miss Mabel Ronald gives a charming impersonation, and Miss Violet Carlyle exhibits great talent in the title-rôle. The remaining characters are all well sustained and the piece is liberally staged.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Benton.—Mr. J. W. Boughton's pantomime of *Cinderella* has migrated from Portsmouth, and is delighting large audiences this week. The pantomime is splendidly mounted, the Vision of Cinderella, which closes the first part, the Ball-room Scene, and the grand finale at the Palace being specially worthy of notice. The costumes are very rich and tasteful, and the production throughout is of exceptional merit. The title-rôle is sustained in charming style by Miss Connie Leon; as the principal boy, Prince Florizel, Miss Maude Mortimer makes a great hit, and her excellent singing is highly appreciated; Mlle. De Velin as the Fairy Godmother has a good voice, which she uses to the best advantage; Mr. George Belrose, as Father Time, is also a vocalist of great ability; Miss Minnie Miriam is an attractive Dandini; the two ugly sisters are very humorously impersonated by Miss Edith Barwell and Miss Annie Cohen; Mr. Stanley Vandyke, Mr. W. T. Thomson, and Messrs. Victor and Lewis contribute to the comic element most successfully. The specialities include the Monte Carlo Girls, who figure well as vocalists and dancers, and the Harvard Sextette of male voices.

THE PALACE. — Managing Director, Mr. G. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. E. Draco.—Alexandra Dagmar contributes a popular turn, in which she sings and recites, with orchestral accompaniment, very effectively; Marco gives an expert magical performance; Dare Austin and Robert Harcourt appear in an amusing comedy duologue, *His Wedding Morning*; Ethel Dove is an amusing comedienne; F. V. St. Clair, the up-to-date singing comedian, is well received; Effie White's kaleidoscopic dance is very effective and pretty; Fox and Melville, American song illustrators, introduce some good topical allusions in their songs, which are much applauded; and last, but not least, the Norman and Leonard Trio appear most successfully in a very clever musical item, *Ye Squire's Dance*, in which they play on the harp, violin, and mandoline, and also dance very artistically.

SMALL TOWN HALL.—Mr. Walter Jeffs has opened here for a season with his New Century Pictures, which include a superb operatic reproduction of *Faust* and many other popular and attractive subjects.

ROCHDALE.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Man.-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Burton.—*Woman and Wine* occupies the boards here this week. The play is well staged, and full justice is done to its thrilling situations. Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds is prominent with a powerful impersonation of Dick Seymour; Mr. R. Foulis cleverly interprets the character of Alphonso Beaudet, a bully; Mr. J. Milne Taylor submits an acceptable portrayal of Hugh Seymour; and Mr. W. Manning as Professor Souter and Mr. Harry Harrop as Charlie Souter create much amusement. Miss C. St. Elmo skilfully enacts the part of Marcel Ragadout; sympathy is enlisted by Miss Violet Sims as Mary Andrews; Miss Ethel Vinroy is popular with a well-acted Janet Marlow; and Miss Octavia de Noel is all that could be desired as La Colombe.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—The Lavails submit a marvellous performance of strength and skill on horizontal bars of ingenious mechanism; Will English creates roars of laughter with his burlesque on "walks"; Thiessen presents a very acceptable turn with his acrobatic dogs, Lilly and Tiffi; Aidee Mellor sings sweetly, and is heartily appreciated; Arthur Schofield, comedian; Vincent, table expert and tumbler; Raie Walters, comedienne; and the Empire Bioscope complete the bill of fare.

ROTHERHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—The management here are giving variety a turn this week, the Six Brothers Luck heading the bill with some smart and amusing sketches, including *Lift'ems, Ltd.* Messrs. Jackson and Marte, patter comedians, are deservedly applauded, and the Brothers Missouri are responsible for skilful tumbling and comedy in *Fun in a Canteen*. Arthur Pearl is a clever comedian, and Miss Sara Rosebury is a pleasing vocalist. Miss Lilian Rigby and Mr. Wal Dorne also provided successful turns.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. Edgar Fox; Resident-Manager, Mr. Claude Shayler.—Bruin gives an extraordinary performance of Pastimes on a Battleship; another great turn is the sketch *Blackmail*, by Mr. Henry Herne and company, including Miss Ida Millais, who is very sympathetic as Ada, the Parson's wife; a river of water across the stage is highly effective. Messrs. Abel and Welsh give a highly diverting, eccentric, acrobatic turn; the Brothers Young are clever athletes; and Mr. Guy Ryder gives a fine representation of mimicry and whistling. Messrs. Blanche and Powell are excellent society entertainers, and the Sisters Ford, comedy duettists, are well received. Miss Cissie Sinclair is also deserving of mention.

RUNCORN.—PUBLIC HALL THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Public Hall Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. E. S. Lea.—We have W. Graham Arthurs and Miss Mabel Liston's company here this week, in *Mockery of Marriage*. Mr. W. Graham Arthurs gives a strenuous picture of Sir Montague; Mr. W. Graham has the necessary qualifications as Jack Stanley; Seth Pearse is a clever impersonation by Mr. Ralph A. Armfield; Mr. Frank Masters is a quaint Toby Wright; Mr. H. Geoffrey does well as Joseph Verham; Miss Mabel Liston undertakes the onerous rôle of Alma Kenyon with much aptitude; Rose Verham is effectively presented by Miss C. Middleton; Miss H. Neilson is lively and entertaining as Mary Ann; and Miss Priscilla Barnard is a capital Nellie Kenyon.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's company had a good reception on Monday, when he gave a clever performance of the domestic drama, *A Broken Heart*, by Charles E. Clarke. Mr. Gerald Kennedy ably sustained the part of the blacksmith, John Barnard; the erring wife was played by Miss Lillian Herries with much histrionic ability; Miss Emma Rainbow made an excellent old Mrs. Barnard. Villainy was well shown by Mr. J. Moreton Williams as Stephen Raylton, and Mr. Edward Rawlinson as Cash Gills. Mr. Tom Armitage as Tony Tibbets, Mr. George Addison as Skrimp, and Miss Nancy Mitchell as Sally Trayner made good use of their chances in the comedy element. Little May was cleverly presented by little Daisy Rocheford, and Miss Mabel Kelland was a charming Grace Fanshawe. Mr. Vivian Charles (Rev. Mr. Stanton), Miss Ethel Grey (Mrs. Kellett), and the other members do very well in their various characters. The scenery was very pretty.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—Daisy Mayer gives some clever coon stories and smart dancing; *The Battle of Life* is a sketch by J. Wright Aitken and company, which makes a good impression; Minnie Wren's songs are well received; Starr and Leslie cause much applause and laughter in their speciality act; Fred Curran's parodies catch on; Alberto Troupe (three ladies and one gentleman), equilibrists, are much appreciated; Bains and Reed, comical and clever acrobats; Blanko White, coloured comedian and buck dancer; Bert Powell, military illusionist; and Dick Graham, descriptive vocalist, also give acceptable turns.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Slatter. — *The Queen of the Adriatic*, a pretty sketch, heads an excellent programme this week; James and Jenny Joe give a very clever dancing, jumping, somersaulting, and cycle act; Ruhart, assisted by La Belle Rosalind, gives a smart buriesque; Razellis, in their novel trapeze act, do some daring and very clever work. Other acceptable turns include Marie Kay, juvenile comedienne and expert dancer; A. H. Drinkwater, light comedian; Recar Trio of charming lady acrobats; Lily Hayes, chic comedienne and dancer; and Lew Peterman, Hebrew comedian.

OPERA HOUSE AND ASSEMBLY ROOMS, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; General-Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Shepherd.—The animated pictures shown here this week include good films of The Old Favourite and The Golliwog, A Good Tip, The Kaleidescope, A Cycling Maniac, Martyrdom of Louis XVII., Rum Kiln Ashore, Bother in a Bootery, When the Man in the Moon Seeks a Wife, and A Man in Pieces. "Something seems to tell me you'll forget me" is well illustrated and sung by Mr. Tom Sherlock.

SALISBURY.—COUNTY HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. Arthur Whitehead; Business-Manager, Mr. T. Brinsmead.—Mr. George Edwardes' companies are always welcome here, and not a vacant seat has been found at any of the performances of *The Merry Widow* this week. Miss Daphne Glenne as Sonia acted in a bright and lively way, and had an excellent partner in Mr. Alec Worcester, who delighted everyone, and had constantly to reappear and acknowledge the ovations of the audience; as Natalie Miss Violet Hobson looked charming, and sang well; as did Miss Eileen Clauford as Olga; Mr. Sinclair Cotter as Baron Popoff was a host in himself; and was well backed up by Mr. H. Emeric, whose antics and dancing as Nisch, fairly brought down the house; Mr. Cecil Warwick was clever as General Novakovitch. The entire cast worked in a faultless manner, the dresses and mounting were much above the average, and the orchestra was a strong feature of the performance.

SCARBOROUGH.—THE AQUARIUM.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman.—Cecile François and company score well in the scena *In an Artist's Studio*, in which are included some smart balancing feats and clever dances. J. Stanley, the singing collier, is well received; Floria is a particularly smart equilibrist; Shenton and Chicks provide a turn which delights all; and Cliffe Owen and J. H. Crew, comedians, are amusing. Arthur Ferriss is a favourite, and Tee and Tee are responsible for a humorous musical turn.

THE NEW HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock.—Kartelle, in his daring wire act, is exceptionally clever; St. George Sylvester is a remarkably smart illusionist, and Harry Taylor causes considerable amusement. Evelyn and Norrie in the sketch *Set a Thief*—— are highly successful; and the same may be said of Leslie and Player, comedy duettists. Tommy Nelldon and Vena Palma are pleasing musical entertainers; and Wood, Wells, and Welkins, in their comedy harmony sketch, are very fine. Pictures are shown on the Kinematograph.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. C. Harrison.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's company is here this week with *The Old Folks at Home*. Lord Howard Kenilworth is skilfully enacted by Mr. Frank Liston; a powerful study of Andrew Ross is submitted by Mr. H. E. Herbert; Christopher Robin is finely rendered by Mr. Eugene Santley; a rollicking Ben Jolly is contributed by Mr. Frank Caffrey; Mr. Leslie Crowther as Joe Chaff is popular; and as Jock Mr. Arthur Dudley does well. Miss Maud Warburton is an artistic Dorothy Robin; Miss Clara Santley merits praise as Martha; Patricia Bathurst is smartly depicted by Miss Kate Froud; as Bonita Durham Miss Amy Rale gives satisfaction; Susan is vivaciously drawn by Miss Maudie Grayson, and as Dinah Miss Lillian Francis gives capable help. The Excelsior Quartette are especially pleasing.

SHEERNESS.

Mr. Hart has fully maintained the glorious traditions of the old Theatre Royal, and *Goody Two-Shoes* is a fitting successor to the spectacular triumph associated with the names of Joseph Eldred, Richard Younge, E. Romaine Callender, and other noted lessees of the historic house.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. William D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—*Robinson Crusoe* having departed for Halifax under the guidance of its lucky and successful proprietors, Messrs. Dottridge and Longden, melodrama again holds the boards. Mr. Mark Blow and Miss Ida Molesworth's company opened on Monday in *The Luck of Roaring Camp*, an adaptation of Bret Harte's famous story. Miss Olive Wilton appeared successfully as Neli Curtis, and all the other characters were cleverly played. The drama was effectively staged.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—The Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—There was a crowded and evidently delighted audience on Monday, when the celebrated illusionist, Mr. Horace Goldin, assisted by the graceful and piquant Mlle. Franciala, mystified all present with his clever tricks; Mr. Frank Lister and company, in the pathetic and convincing dramatic sketch, *No. 99*, were received with loud and thoroughly deserved applause; the acting was distinctly above the average, and every sentence told. Miss Millie Payne, a diverting serio-comic vocalist, caused great merriment in her burlesque of the "Directoire Girl"; Thora, a talented ventriloquist and impersonator, was cordially cheered; Mr. Ernest Gitten's opera troupe were very successful in a condensed version of Donezetta's delightful and melodious *Daughter of the Regiment*, which was excellently sung and carefully staged; the Sisters Florence and Lillian, refined instrumentalists; Mr. Harry Bedford, comic vocalist; Mr. Larry Lewis, vocal comedian; and Miss Violet Stockelie were well received; and the performance finished with a pathetic and artistically-produced animated picture, Lily's Christmas Day.

THE HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. D. Elbourne.—The splendidly-staged pantomime, *The Forty Thieves*, written and produced under the direction of Mr. William Holland, is being played here to crowded and well-pleased houses. The principal scenes are the Market Place, an elaborate built-up set, with an artistic background of characteristic Eastern scenery, painted by the talented T. C. Ryan. Mr. Dunn's Mountain Gorge is a boldly-treated and picturesque scene. The Bazaar, by Mr. S. Shuter, is full of local colour and careful drawing, and the Robbers' Cave, a big set glowing with gorgeous and scintillating magnificence, is one of Mr. Dunn's best achievements. Mr. H. McLennan's Mustapha's Shop is worthy of this notable scenic artist's brush, and Mr. T. C. Ryan's Courtyard is one of those powerfully-conceived and vigorously-painted Oriental pictures for which the great Alhambra artist is famous. The pantomime finishes in the Grand Reception Hall, a conventional but beautiful set, by Mr. E. Egerton. The principal characters are played in a vivacious manner by Miss Cecilia Gold, a pretty and graceful Morgiana; Miss Bertha Clifton, the graceful representative of Ganem; the Three Sisters Tree (Dolly, Biddy, and Portia), who appear with great success as Captains Abdallah, Ahmed, and Ackbar respectively, and receive hearty applause for their songs and dances; Mr. Bob Selvidge, the comical Ali Baba; Mr. Walter Grosvenor (Mustapha); Mr. Chris Le Brun as Percy, the Mokeiana; Mr. Jack Waller as Hasserac; Mr. Robb Wilton as Cogia Baba; and Mr. Wallace Bosco as Cassim. There is a large chorus and ballet, the principal dancers being the Misses Sadie Cassell, P. Wardroper, Mabel Hope, and Fancy Free, who introduce a delightful "Pas de Fascination" in the Cave scene. The ballets have been arranged by Miss Maggie Donald, and Mr. Caffyn Baxter makes an efficient conductor.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. A. W. Turpin.—Some fine pictures are scheduled on the programme this week, including Scenes on the Continent, The Suffragette Boys, The Generous Bootblack, The Chelsea Pensioners, The Electric Hotel, and the fine bioscope drama, The Hunchback's Revenge.

ALBERT HALL.—Manager, Mr. J. Peace.—The Imperial Animated Picture Co., with scenes from the Ober-Ammergau Passion Play and a fine series of romantic, dramatic, and humorous films, opened to a large audience on Monday.

The CENTRAL, the PAVILION, and the SURREY, with pictures and variety turns, continue to do excellent business.

SHREWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Director, Mr. W. Yates Gregory; General-Manager, Mr. Thos. Baugh.—Mr. J. P. Moore's pantomime, prettily staged and running with swing and finish, is a strong attraction here this week, the variety turns introduced being exceptionally good. Of the immortals, Miss Garibaldi as Fairy Queen merits praise, and her singing is sweet and tuneful; Mr. H. Willatts works hard and successfully as King Rat; Miss C. Hamilton as Attendant Rat is deserving of credit; Miss Simonette as Fairy Goodwill is effective; and Miss Dolly Vince as Fairy Hyacinth acquits herself satisfactorily. Of the mortals, Miss Madge Lock as principal boy is bright, smart, and capably plays throughout, her songs and dances going well; Mr. Percy Victor makes a capital Alderman Fitzwarren; Mr. Willie Oswald is a capable comedian as Idle Jack; Mr. F. Street is energetic and amusing as Captain Bunting; Mr. Ernie Victor is droll and smart as Bullock, the mate; Mr. Fred May creates merriment as Betsy Ann; Mr. E. Ellmore, who has a fine stage presence, acts capably and commendably as Emperor of Morocco; Mr. Chas. Nicholl as a bathing attendant is deserving of a meed of praise; Messrs. Doyle and Massey are a droll and agile pair as Shuffle and Slink; Mons. Paulett is really artistic as Tibby the cat; Miss Vesta Nixon makes a capital Algy; Miss Eva Street looks well and acts with success as Polly; Miss May Berry makes a very pleasing Princess Charming; Miss Lilias Gray is all that could be desired as Viscount Piccadilly; Miss Lily Vince as Sir Rowland takes her part in a praiseworthy manner; Miss Alma Round is an effective and efficient Maid Marion; Miss Ada May sings, acts, and dances in a talented fashion as Alice Fitzwarren; and the Palace Troupe of lady attendants are deserving of encomiums; Victor's musical dogs give a remarkable exhibition of canine intelligence and admirable training, the turn being novel and entertaining; the Victor Bros. are accomplished and refined acrobats; Serpentino is a lithe contortionist; and other smart turns are those of Street and Round, Doyle and Massey, Oswald and Locke, and the wonderful Pauletti.

SMETHWICK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. Barnard; Manager, Mr E. Hewitson.—*The Girl Who Wrecked His Home* is paying its first visit to Smethweck this week, and is presented by a capable company. Miss Louise Hampton, a charming actress, sustains the title-rôle with real feeling; Mr. Fred W. Goddard is a capable representative of Jack Marshall; Mr. Walner Gregory does good work as Leonard Kenyon, a gay deceiver, and receives able assistance in his schemes from Mr. George P. Lester as Joss Crockett; William Stevenson is in the able hands of Mr. Alfred Richards; Henry Stevenson is well represented by Mr. Herbert Goddard; Miss Winifred White gives a powerful and meritorious performance as Val Raymond, an evil-doer; and Miss Lulu Bowes makes the most of her part as Winifred Marshall. The comedy is well sustained by Mr. Francis Hope as Tommy Biffin and Miss Nellie Burdette as Lottie Primrose. The scenery is deserving of special mention.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing Directors, Messrs. Geo. Conquest and Richard H. Nerney; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—The representation of *Raffles, the Amateur Cracksman*, marks the return visit of Mr. Reginald Dance and company. Mr. Reginald Dance submits a remarkable impersonation of the title-rôle; Mr. Edward Irwin works cleverly and successfully as the detective, Mr. Curtis Bedford; Mr. A. P. Bell is capital as Harry Manders; and Mr. Oswald Griffiths is well suited as Crawshay. Miss Frances Titheradge gives dignified characterisation of Gwendoline Conran; Miss Mollie Tremaine shows both force and skill as Mrs. Vidal; and Miss Doris Digby as Marie is good.

KING'S HALL.—*The Will o' the Wisp* provides the entertainment here this week. Miss Sara Vrubell's singing has much charm; Miss Beatrice Read scores a success in My Moon; Miss Doris Lind carries off dancing honours; Mr. Ronald Bagnall is amusing at the piano; and Messrs. Fred Lytton, Bryan O'Sullivan, and Tom Sutton all gain favour.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE WINTER GARDENS.—Proprietors, The Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens Co., Ltd.; Secretary and General-Manager, Mr. R. Singleton.—The second pantomime of the season, *Mother Goose*, was presented at this theatre on Monday evening by Mr. J. F. Elliston's company. The production, which was admirably enacted and staged throughout, comes here with a good reputation, which was fully justified and endorsed by the hearty appreciation accorded to it by a large audience. The rôle of the principal boy Colin was depicted by Miss Margaret Ruby with charming vivacity and artistic touch, both histrionically and vocally; Miss Millie Doris essayed the part of Jill in a fascinating and dainty manner which left nothing to be desired; one of the best and most prominent impersonations was that of Miss Lola Patey as Gretchen, the Dutch servant, in which she was eminently successful, both in acting and singing; Miss Beatrice Felsted is fascinating and clever as the fairy Heartsease; Mr. Harry Rich was capital in every way in the character of Mother Goose, and created no end of hilarity by his display of whimsical humour, in which he is very ably seconded by Mr. Charles Rich as Mother Goose's son Jack; Lord Pudsey had a highly commendable exponent in Mr. Fred Barnes; and the same remark applies to Mr. Leonard Maitland as the dude Wibsey Slack. Mr. Charles Homer did full justice to the part of the demon Malignum; Mr. J. C. Scatter is seen to advantage as the Mayor of Tapham; the Goose, the Donkey, and the Horse have each capable exponents in Mr. Douglas Campbell and the Brothers Smarte respectively; whilst Miss Edith Cornish and Miss Marie Clifton are efficient representatives of Lord Eric and Lady Ida.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—*Her Road to Ruin* is being played to good houses by Mr. Fredk. Melville's company. Jess Willoughby is strongly and sympathetically delineated by Miss Beatrice Edwards; Mr. Alex Bradley brings out the sinister features of Philip Hardy in bold relief; the heroic part of Frank Temple is vigorously portrayed by Mr. Henry Wolston; Miss Nellie Bonser as the lass from Lancashire does good work; and the same may be said of Miss Alice Bowes as May Willoughby. The play is full of stirring incidents, and very well mounted.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—The chief item on the programme is Herbert Darnley's Comedy company in *The Brigands of Tarragona*. Mr. Chas. H. Bell is funny as Pepo; Mr. Cecil Morton York and Mrs. Herbert Darnley sustain the parts of Col. Montano and the Brigand Queen in good style; Theo Bouwmeester and company appear effectually in their protean sketch, *Who is Guilty?*; McCann's Irish terriers display wonderful training; Frank Sylvo, comedy juggler, creates amusement; and the remaining good items are Fred Pollard, Hebrew comedian; Maizie Hibbs, speciality dancer; Nellie Taylor, juvenile male impersonator; and the bioscope.

TIVOLI, LAYGATE CIRCUS.—This popular house of entertainment is now devoted to Black's living pictures, many excellent films being shown.

SPENNYMOOR.—CAMBRIDGE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; General-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance; Resident-Manager, Mr. David Collins.—The attraction at the above house this week is Mr. Frank M. Thorne's company in *The Woman Pays*. Mr. Phil Harper is a dashing Sid Armstrong; and as Roger Marchant Mr. John Davidson gives an excellent performance. Mr. Frank Thorne is most amusing as Micky Maloney; as is Miss Anena Walton as Polly Stokes. As Madge Armstrong Miss Maud Russell shows to advantage; and the Nell Morland of Miss Kate Blair is worthy of mention. The rest of the company are good, and the piece is well staged.

HIPPODROME AND PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. C. Algie; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. Sleep.—Miss Grace Warner and company occupy the boards here with *The Scarlet Clue* and *The Little Widow*.

STALYBRIDGE.—HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Fioni; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. A. Jackson.—The excellent programme presented this week combines a company of much variety. John Grun Marx is well to the front as a maipulator of heavy weights, and his various feats create astonishment; the Carlsens, in their trampolin act, are amusingly clever; the Birkenhead Family of juvenile songsters have previously paid a flying visit to the town, and have now returned to enjoy the full blaze of popularity; Mlle. Zelda is an instrumentalist who always succeeds; the Two Countees, lady duettists, are appropriately described as belles of harmony; George Bernard, an actor-vocalist of much power, has made his mark. The Le Vards, comedy sketch artists, and Wal Owen, eccentric comedian, are also in the bill.

ST. HELENS.—THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. A. McLeod Loader; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. E. Johnson.—The coming of the Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company is always looked forward to most eagerly, and a crowded house welcomed the production of *Il Trovatore* on Monday. On Tuesday the curtain rose on *Carmen*, before a large and brilliant audience. Much disappointment was felt that Signor Tamini, owing to indisposition, was unable to appear. In his absence Mr. Walter Wheatley fills the rôle of José with telling effect, especially in the last act, when his exposition of rage and despair was very fine. Too great praise cannot be accorded to Miss Doris Woodall for her rendition of the part of Carmen, her realistic acting and admirable vocalisation making the passionate love and hate of the fascinating but hapless gipsy girl very realistic; Mr. Charles Victor took the difficult rôle of Escamillo with entire success; Madame Ina Hill appeared as Micaela, and won unbounded applause; Miss Annie Walker as Frasquita, and Miss Christina Ritz as Mercedes, were merry and bright, and gave a welcome lightness to Bizet's tragic work; and Mr. William O'Connor makes the most of his opportunity for fun as Remendado. The other characters were in the able hands of Mr. Alexander Richard (Quniga), Mr. William Rousell (Morales), Mr. Albert Felton (Lilias Pasha), and Mr. Fred Clendon (Dancairo). The chorus is strong and well-trained and adds greatly to the success of the production, and the dances, introduced by a troupe of ladies led by Miss Annie Elliott, were exceedingly graceful and pretty. Mr. Walter Van Noorden conducted with his accustomed skill. *Lohengrin, Maritana, Tannhäuser, Faust*, and *The Bohemian Girl* are also in the week's bill.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Leo Weisker.—The bill this week is headed by the Schiavonis, whose feats in tumbling are marvellous; Graham's Juveniles sing well; Don and Mabel Keir give some Scotch songs very pleasingly; the Brothers Lawrence are capital dancers; and other turns are given by Syd Myra and his dog; Walter Wade, comedian; Charles Johnson; and Nat Watkins.

STOCKPORT.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—Pantomime is again the attraction here, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and Mr. J. E. Cardwell's juvenile company appearing in *The Babes in the Wood* with distinct success. Many pretty scenes and delightful ballets, numerous up-to-date-songs, and an abundance of fun combine to make an enjoyable entertainment. Peggy McDonnell and Cissie Wyse as the Babes are exceedingly clever juveniles; Robin Hood has a captivating representative in Miss Daisy Wood, who makes a pleasing hit with her "Bombadier" song; and Miss Dolly Dodds acts charmingly and sings sweetly as Marion. Of the comedians Mr. J. G. Aitken as Sandy Simple is funny; Messrs. Graham and Baron are a pair of mirth-provoking ruffians as Willing and Weary; and Mr. Jimmie Watson is a very acceptable Nurse Lucinda.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—Greater London, shown in panorama, forms a very pleasing feature here this week; and among other excellent attractions are the Brontes, in a laughable sketch, *Stone Broke*; Raiko and Partner, marvellously clever gymnasts; Will Sullivan, comedian and amusing patterer; Will Mitcham, an entertaining vocalist and musician; the Netta Janowski Trio, who perform many smart acrobatic and equilibristic feats; Violet Ray, a pleasing soprano vocalist and 'cello soloist; and Rosie White, a capable comedienne.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—CASTLE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Charles Imeson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cecil Imeson.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's pantomime *Dick Whittington* is here this week. Miss Florrie Gallimore in the title rôle makes a charming and delightful boy, her songs being loudly applauded, especially "My girl's a Yorkshire girl." Miss Josie Delaine is very dainty as Alice, her singing and dancing being warmly received. Miss Rose Tilley as Viscount Piccadilly does well; Miss Dolly Victor is popular as Molly; Miss Rose Alderman as the Fairy Queen is responsible for good singing; Mr. H. O. Wills as Idle Jack is a clever comedian, his quaint style and songs having made him very popular; Mr. Jack Mackenzie as Sarah keeps the house in a constant uproar; Mr. Jimmy Wood as Alderman Fitzwarren takes well; Mr. Alf Clegg is very good as the Cat, and is responsible for some clever dancing; Mr. Leo King sings and acts well as the King Rat; the Herald Comedy Four sing well and are very entertaining; Harwood's Juveniles are loudly applauded for some clever dancing.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stainton.—George Auger (the giant actor and author) and company present *Jack, the Giant Killer*; it is a very clever performance, and received loud applause. Conway and Leland, the merry monopedes, are very daring, and take well; F. S. Gilbert has a fine tenor voice; the St. Johns, musical comedians and dancers, win much applause; Harry Russell and company in a comedy sketch *Milk Oh!* are successful; Harry Walker, comedian, wins favour with his patter; the Cleveland Harmony Four are much liked; and the bioscope concludes.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—Mr. M. Montgomery's stock company presents here this week *Convict 99*. Mr. Fred Terriss in the title rôle, and Miss Lilian Beaumont in the dual rôle of Lucy La Touche and Nanita, play with real dramatic skill. Payne's Bio-photoscope is still very popular.

SUNDERLAND.—KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager Mr. S. F. Davidson; General-Manager, Mr. Alexander Telford; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Sydney Reach.—To conclude the pantomime season, the management have brought Mr. J. F. Elliston's company here with *Humpty-Dumpty*. Particular mention must be made of the principal boy, Miss Florence Wix, who, by her vivacious acting and charming appearance has made herself a great favourite here as Rudolph. All her songs are rendered with a beauty that completely charms her audiences. "The White Man" especially being sung with much verve and finish. The rôle of Princess Aurora is filled in a delightful manner by Miss Barbara Babington; Mr. Willie Black has much scope for his talent in the rôle of King Solemn, and creates great amusement; the rôle of Humpty-Dumpty is very ably handled by Mr. George Danvers; the Lecardo Bros. acrobats, do much to keep things alive; and the Quality Quartette contribute some part-songs in capital style; Mr. Rex Kempton is good as Bison Bob; and Mr. J. Lonnen Meadows, the energetic stage-manager, takes a prominent part in the piece. The Walmsley Quartette contribute some pretty dances.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. R. Thornton; Manager, Mr. Harry Esden; Assistant-Manager, Mr. George Dunn.—Mr. Stephen Pritt's drama répertoire company, on Monday evening played *A Woman's Passion*. Miss Emmie Barton gave a satisfactory impersonation of Winifred; Lord Hubert Vale was capably handled by Mr. Edmund Grogan; Mr. David McFarlane did well as Sir Randall; the villainy was effectively shared by Miss Rosa Mervyn and Mr. Archie Helsby. There is a good deal of rollicking fun, and Miss Gertrude Purnell (Barbara) and Mr. A. B. Douglas (Vicary), and Little Poulton were very successful. The company is also playing *His Wife No Longer*.

EMPIRE THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—Heading a good bill this week is La Pia, whose gracefully executed dances are considerably enhanced by gorgeous coloured lighting effects; the Stein-Erretio Troupe give a wonderful display as hand-jumping acrobats; Mr. Andrew McManus, a well-known local artist, sings a rollicking Irish song in excellent style; Sybil St. Elmo is a sweet-toned soprano; Arthur Albert, comedian, possesses a rich baritone voice; Walter Aubrey contributes clever buck-dancing; the Carina Sisters, in a refined musical mélange, show considerable talent; and Mlle. Haydee's miniature vaudeville is entertaining.

AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. R. Foulke Edwards.—Another capital collection of pictures is on view here. This week's films include many humorous and dramatic items. Wal Zerbria, coon vocalist and wooden shoe dancer, contributes a good turn.

SWANSEA.—THE GRAND.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Page.—Mr. Haldon Crichton's company gives a delightful performance of *The Cingalee* at the Grand this week. Chambhuddy Ram is played by Mr. Jack Crichton in a manner that is irresistibly funny, and with Miss Alice Nixon, who is really excellent as Peggy Sabine, divide the honours of the evening. Miss Pauline Hague as Lady Patricia Vane plays with finish and ease, and Miss Molly Wolstenhulme as Nanoya sings and acts remarkably well. As the young Englishmen Mr. Harold Wardropper (Vereker) and Mr. Scott Cullen (Bobby Warren) make a capital pair, and Mr. W. F. Ford as Sir Peter proves cleverly "There is no fool like an old fool."

THE STAR.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—Mr. and Mrs. Kimberley's No. 1 company stage with effect this week the military drama *Two Little Drummer Boys*. As General Kingsley Mr. Edward Baker endows the part with dignity and stateliness, and no less successful is Mr. Harry Scott as Captain Carsdale; Mr. Oswald Douglas as the villian, Captain Darrell, is always good; funny, indeed, is the humour served up by Messrs. Will Percy and Dick Seddon as Privates O'Quick and Trimmer. Miss Mary Ainsley as Alma Kingsley commands admiration for her playing of the part, and Miss Violet Ingram's impersonation of Margaret Rivers, later Drunken Meg, could not be excelled.

EMPIRES, LTD.—Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—Leynard's Wonderful Lilliputians occupy pride of place here this week, and a more versatile and skilful exhibition than that given by the midgets would be hard to beat; John Warren calls himself the man of mystery, and certainly no more mystifying exhibition has been seen locally. Carrie Laurie's Kindergarten is always popular, and this week they maintain their excellence; a gymnastic act of the sensational order is given by the Trentanovi Sisters, and as a Scotch comedian Bob Hamilton does very well; the Two Kays in their scena *The Cuckoos* prove themselves thoroughly accomplished, and Nellie Hughes, vocalist, is an acquisition to the programme; Verto and Venita are responsible for an enjoyable musical act, and excellent Bioscope pictures conclude.

THE PALACE.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—This popular house has an excellent series of Bioscope pictures this week, including Leah the Forsaken, Rover's Rattle, &c., whilst the contributions of Miss Nellie Collier, Mr. Ben Dowall, and Larry Warner are deservedly applauded.

SWINDON.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wiltshire Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Manners.—Mr. Tom Watts' company appeared here on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday this week in the ever-green *East Lynne*. Archbald Carlyle was skilfully impersonated by Mr. Edmund Kennedy, and Mr. Frank G. Bayley was seen to full advantage as Francis Levison. Mr. Spencer Goodwin was very good as Lord Mountsevern, and Messrs C. C. Gratton, E. Rayson Cousens, and Cyril Hayward as Justice Hare, Richard Hare, and Lawyer Dill respectively played with distinct credit. Mr. Joe Rowland provided a capital portrayal of P.C. Bullock; Lady Isabel was powerfully taken by Miss Julie Kennard, and Barbara Hare was in the able hands of Miss Ida Heron. Miss Lilian Mason as Cornelia and Miss Ellen Lowther as Lady Mountsevern were excelent. Little Willie and little Isabel were expressively enacted by Miss Alice Moseley and Miss Ethel Ray, and the other parts were well taken. Mr. Seymour Hicks' company in *The Gay Gordons* were billed for the latter end of the week.

TON-Y-PANDY.—ROYAL. — General-Manager, Mr. S. Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ridgewood Barrie.—Miss Marie Dagmar and company, in *The Tyrant*, are attracting good business. Mr. Roy Fortescue fills the title rôle most creditably; Homodei is capably played by Mr. Norman A. Overton; and Mr. Edw. E. Louis is highly successful as Rudolph, Prince de Roma; Mr. T. Ashmore is well suited as Pan; and the Victor of Mr. F. Etheridge is an able assumption. Miss Marie Dagmar is par excellence as Tisbe; Miss Marg Frame merits praise as Lady Katherine; and as Eulie Miss Lallah Shelton is well placed.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. Will Stone.—Little Hackenschmidt pays a welcome return visit; the Five M.P.'s are exceptionally well received; Wisper is a comedy juggler; Beattie Bloom, Daisy Almer, and H. Connorton win applause for their respective songs. The principal pictures are a tale of the Revolution and a kind-hearted shoeblack.

TORQUAY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—Mr. Lionel Rignold's company is appearing to large audiences here this week in *The Early Worm*. Mr. Rignold, in the title-rôle of Allan Marchmount, is a tremendous success, and fairly convulses the house by his clever antics and facial expression; Mr. T. Warburton Gamble makes a typical Duke of Tadcaster, and does exceedingly well; and Mr. Frank Graham is equally successful as Lord Steyne; as Sir William Martyn, Mr. Raymond Dudley is seen to considerable advantage, and Mr. Eric H. Albury provokes much merriment as Tom; the rôle of Sybil Annesley is admirably sustained by Miss Fyfe Alexander; and Miss Marie Dalbra makes a characteristic Lady Steyne. The setting of the piece is much admired. The performance is preceded nightly by *The Wedding Morn*.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Welton Dale; Business-Manager, Mr. C. V. Hoskins.—Hippodrome season, Mouillot and De Frece circuit.—On Saturday Mr. Mouillot's pantomime of *Robinson Crusoe* concluded a most successful season with great enthusiasm and presentations of bouquets and boxes of chocolate to the principal boy and girl. On Monday the Hippodrome programme was resumed, the principal turn being Capt. Taylor's marvellously intelligent baboons. Massona gives a smart juggling act; Geo. Ross and Ella Grayson a musical comedy sketch, including piano-playing extraordinary, while the songs of Tom Lee, Rose Hamilton, and Jas. Barnett proved very popular.

WAKEFIELD.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Mr. J. Gar Kiddie's pantomime *The Babes in the Wood*, is here this week. Miss Marion Scott makes a dashing Robin Hood; Miss Margaret Cathcart charms the audience with her vivacious acting as Maid Marion; Miss Emmie Hands is a graceful fairy as Sylvania; Mr. T. D. Dandy makes a clever Baron; Mr. Dawson Dewick is seen to excellent advantage as Sammy, his quaint humour keeping the house in continuous laughter; the villains of the piece are ably depicted by Messrs. Conan and Doyle, who cause endless amusement with their comicalities; the Twin Sisters Mawdsley as the Babes earn much applause for their clever acting and spirited dancing; Mr. Edwin Lambert is good as Infernalio. Special mention is due to Mr. Mark Stuart for his clever portrayal as Dame. Specialities are contributed by the Lobrenz troupe of dancers and Messrs. Taylor and Elliott.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—The programme comprises Gerard, herculean juggler, whose feats merit hearty appreciation; Alix Lukos, a clever actor-vocalist; Neddy Vokes, musical comedian; the Five Bombays, vocalists and dancers, in smart turns; Stan Aubrey, who dances well; the Two Sages, comedy duo, in an admirable turn; and Tom Got, an agreeable American comedian.

WALSALL.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood. — The *Aladdin* pantomime by Mr. Arthur Carlton's company is fulfilling a second week's engagement here with the greatest success. Capital new songs are introduced.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—A capital entertainment is given by Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco. Le Roy proves a very smart conjurer, Talma, queen of coins, thoroughly mystifies the audience, and Bosco creates capital fun. Harry Herbert is a popular comedian. Other enjoyable turns are those of Kroney Bros. in their character sketch, *London's Merry Coalmen*; Katie Moss, entertainer at the piano and as a violin soloist; Phil Parsons, light comedian; Ida Kathrena, the dolly girl; the American Eccentric Alburtus; and Jessie Millar, presenting *A Scene at the Fair Grounds*. The American Bioscope completes the bill.

WARRINGTON.—ROYAL COURT.—Proprietor, Mr. J. Beecham; General-Manager, Mr. A. M. Loader; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. Smiley.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is here this week with *Peter's Mother*, and the delightful comedy has charmed large houses. The play is well produced and staged effectively. Miss Violet Ley as Lady Mary plays with much success, and in the passages requiring pathos she displays rare ability. Mr. Townsend as the stern Sir Timothy is exceptionally good; Mr. Vivian Gilbert submits a clever delineation of Peter; Mr. Drew Macintosh acts intelligently the part of John Crewys; a capital study of Lady Belstone is that of Miss May Griffiths, and Miss Josephine Rae scores as the impetuous Miss G. Crewys. Mr. Walter Russell is a typical specimen of the old-fashioned cleric; Mr. Edward Jephson is good as Dr. Blundell; and a charming Sarah is Miss Hilda Sims. A pretty curtain-raiser is supplied in *Turtle Doves*.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. H. C. Hardcastle.—Lew Lake and company are here again with *My Pal Jerry*, and the doings of the Bloomsbury Burglars have been responsible for much laughter. Mysticus astonishes all with his entertainment; Adah Payne charms with her vocalisation, her rich soprano voice sounding well in "Dear heart"; Sergt. Brennan is seen to advantage in a diabolo act; Wilton Heriot and company display smartness in the sketch *An Anglo-American Alliance*, in which Mr. Heriot scores as a German, an Italian, an American, a Dutchman and an Englishman; Kirk and Saraski are amusing aquatic acrobats; Captain Ellis and son are rare musical entertainers; and the pictures depicting the vagaries of Spring-heeled Jack are very amusing.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, The Franco-British Animated Picture Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. Turner; Manager, Mr. J. Waters.—Good business is again being done here this week. Mlle. Ada Gathy scores repeatedly in a pot-pourri act; May de Rouse is a delightful vocalist, and her songs are all well rendered; Joe S. Atkins has established himself a big favourite; the Trippelos are talented musical entertainers; and Andrew Atkinson's illustrated songs continue to be a source of much pleasure. The pictures are good.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. R. Nightingale.—There is a strong list of attractions at this place of amusement this week and variety enough to satisfy the tastes of all classes of theatre-goers, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Draycott's company appearing in some old favourites. On Monday night it was *A Stolen Birthright*, in which Mr. Draycott appeared with great success as Stefano and Mrs. Draycott as Princess Miranda. Then followed *The Shaughraun, The Octoroon, The Colleen Bawn*, and *East Lynne*, in all of which the company has appeared with much distinction. All the plays, too, are well staged and mounted.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Tom Kuner.—Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Kimberley's company has met with a great reception at this popular house this week, where they are appearing in a military drama of much interest, the work of Mrs. Kimberley, and entitled *A Soldier's Honour*. Miss Mabel Mannering is very successful as Cora Lee; Miss Edie Macklin is also good as Jemima Eliza; and Miss Violet Langley is a charming Doreen Illingworth; while Miss Edie Trapnell as Queenie Deane proves herself a very clever child. Mr. Millar Anderson makes an ideal hero, and he is admirably supported by Mr. T. Arthur Ellis, Mr. Andrew Money, Mr. C. H. Gallier, Mr. Harry Lyndon, and Mr. Sydney Fiennes.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—GRAND.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. Herbert E. Feather.—The visit of the F. R. Benson Shakespearean company is an event that is always eagerly looked forward to in West Hartlepool, and local admirers of Shakespeare are this week thoroughly enjoying the excellent fare provided. The répertoire includes *The Taming of the Shrew, Merry Wives of Windsor, The Merchant of Venice, Romeo and Juliet, School for Scandal, Hamlet*, and a matinée Saturday of *Julius Cæsar*. Throughout the week the leading rôles are allotted to Mr. Henry Herbert and Miss G. Vandersee. On Monday the ball was set rolling with *The Taming of the Shrew*, in which Mr. Henry Herbert was brilliant as Petruchio, his masterly acting eliciting at times considerable applause. A splendid effort was that of Miss Vandersee, in the rôle of Katherine; Grumio had a capital exponent in Mr. Arthur Fayne; effective work was done by Mr. James Berry as Babista; and Mr. Robt. Atkins was satisfactory as Lucentio.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. E. Dobney.—The entertaining pair, Carney and Armstrong, give a performance which gains for them unbounded applause and is the cause of uncontrollable laughter; Mack Ollive, who is gracefully assisted by Daisy Baldry, is once more well received in his whistling scena; Elroy, the armless one, does wonders with his feet; Ethel Sheffer sings in taking style prettily illustrated songs; Sable Fern renders her numbers with agreeable distinctness; Lisbon and Barker take well; and Mark Merry is amusing. Excellent pictures by Raymond's Bioscope are an entertainment in themselves.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE. — KNIGHTSTONE PAVILION AND OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. W. Payne.—Mr. Lewis Waller's *Robin Hood* company is paying its first visit here, and is exceedingly well patronised. Mr. Ethelbert Edwards, in the title-rôle, gives an interpretation replete with artistic touches; Mr. J. N. Briant as Richard makes the character stand out prominently; a fine piece of acting is given by Mr. H. Elliot Ball as Prince John; Mr. F. Clive Ross is thoroughly artistic as John Little; Mr. Bruce Winstone is most praiseworthy as Friar Tuck; and Mr. Lawrence Tessier is equally successful as Will Scarlet; Mr. Ernest Gray is deserving of eulogy for his impersonation of Fitz Alwynne; Mr. Jack Litchfield is extremely good as Hugo de Longespee; so too is Mr. V. Smart Gotlop as Sir Aymer de Botelier; Mr. Lambert Plummer is entitled to encomiums as the Abbot of Jervaux; and Mr. Ralph Leon's Tracy is most commendable; Mr. Stenson Liddiard as Allen a-Dale (with songs) exceedingly handsome and shows great histrionic ability as Lady Marion de Vaux; Miss Laurie Flockton is delightfully natural as Adela; Miss Gladys Devereux acts with distinction as Alison; Miss Roberta Pulleyne is conspicuous as Eleanor of Acquitaine; and Miss Jennie Muzzi is all that could be desired as Elspeth.

WEXFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, E. P. Ronan.—Dr. Ormonde's Viennese Ladies' Orchestra, Sunflower Company, and animated pictures opened here on Tuesday to a crowded house.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Company.—The breezy and entertaining pantomime *Jack the Giant Killer* is here. Mr. Harry Farrow is particularly effective as Dame

PROVINCIAL PANTOMIMES.

"BOY BLUE" AT BIRMINGHAM.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

Boy Blue, Mr. J. F. Graham's eleventh Birmingham "annual," has taken the town, and will continue to do so for weeks. The mounting, like the cast, is a perfect blend, from The Village of Whare, by R. C. Oldham, down to The Carnival and Bal Masque, by H. Emden, at the finish; while nothing has ever exceeded Roseland in beauty. This transpires at the end of Part I., and, when fully unfolded, transfigures the stage with its exquisite tones, the back design being one of a most entrancing nature. The dresses by Alias and Harrison, from designs by Comelli, have won warm praise, being very choice and charming; and in the ballets, &c., which are arranged by that accomplished ballet mistress, Miss Rose Tyrell, show up well. Mr. William Southworth has composed some fine incidental music, and to that he has not composed he has added fresh harmonic beauties. Among notable scenes are The Solicitor's Office, wherein the Baron (Mr. Tom Murray) and Martha (Mr. Horace Mills) meet to arrange their matrimonial differences; The Diving-Bell, wherein later the twain are ensconced to evade their creditors; and the Billiard Skit.

The artists have never left room for doubt as to their respective positions with the public. Miss Hettie King makes a very blithe and bonny Boy Blue. She looks nice, bright, and fresh, with her (apparently) close-cropped hair, while she is vivacious and sparkling, without being objectionably pushful, and, with her songs, makes indeed an excellent "boy." She works in some capital "business" in "Afraid to go home in the dark," and her pathos rings true in "Good-bye to dear old London town." She has several others, and scores in all. Miss Gladys Ivery as the wandering Princess Gloria, who falls in love with Boy Blue, shows all the empressement of her rank, acting as if to that position born, while her vocalisation and terpsichorean accomplishments are of a very high order. "The Taxi-cab" and "Antonio" enjoy a vogue here much to this lady's credit. Miss Rita Everard's fine willowy figure, plus her fine voice and prepossessing features, make the part of Prince Opulent one close approaching perfection. She sings "A tiny seed of love" with a touching strain of pathos, and her singing with Margery (Miss Connie Emerald) has its own distinctive quality. Miss Emerald has all the chic and high spirits necessary to the rôle of Margery, the Baron's daughter, singing with much charm and dancing with due abandon; and Roselaf, the fairy, is represented with all her beneficent qualities by Miss Olive Adair.

Mr. Tom Murray's Baron is quite a study in its way. The merry, unctuous, and utterly conscienceless style in which he forms a "mésalliance" with his discharged cook, Martha, in order to appropriate her fortune, his braggadocio, and his artful way of dodging his creditors, make the people roar. Mr. Horace Mills as Martha is his very antithesis, and the effect is excellent. Alert and waspish, but very humorous withal, and full of the importance of being "rich," Mr. Mills's Martha keeps the audience merry all the time. His "Salome" travesty is never offensive, but truly humorous, and his "Old cracked basin," with his remarkable gyrations which accompany it, send the audience wild with delight. Mr. Jay Laurier's full-flavoured bucolic humour as Jiggory, dropping betimes into the vernacular, is another mighty incentive to mirth, and his songs, "I don't care if there's a girl there" and "They always do" (with Miss King), meet with full applause. Mr. G. H. Elliott as Chocolate has a personality and distinction which no "colour" can efface. From the crown of his head and the curls thereof, down to the soles of his nimble feet, he is the "coon" *par excellence*, with a style and grace that is all his own. His songs could not be excelled in their mode of delivery; while his dancing marks him as being imbued with the spirit of Terpsichore. "My pal Bill," "Sue, Sue, Sue," and "I want you to see my girl," with their respective juvenile "dressings," create a furore. Mr. John Alexander, the "Wales" stage-manager, plays well in the rôle of the Baron's Solicitor, who receives grievous snubbings; and Mr. K. F. Graham acts wonderfully near to the manners of an obstreperous and evil-disposed bull and bear. The "book" is by J. Hickory Wood, and is written in that writer's well-known lucid style. The Eight Stella Girls charm and fascinate in the full sense of the words in their highly-attractive swing scena and dances, and the Lyric Quartette discourse after their wont.

"DICK WHITTINGTON" AT BIRMINGHAM.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

The more the public sees of *Dick Whittington*, the more it seems to like it, judging from the repeat bookings and generally crowded state of the Theatre Royal. The story is recounted in a fluent and coherent form by the present authors, Messrs. Philip Rodway and Douglas Buchanan, and the special music composed by Mr. Guy Jones creates an atmosphere proper to the period. The overture, with Bow Bells pealing in concert now and anon, is an instance of this, and so it continues to the end. As a production, and this on mature consideration, it has probably never been equalled here. The scenery affords a succession of pleasant surprises, and first, "Fitzwarren's Universal Stores" excites wonder and admiration with its rich and varied "stock-in(g)-trade." The artist here is Mr. W. R. Young; and Mr. R. C. McCleery's "Highgate Hill" scene is another hit, with its miles of hedgerows and charming landscape. "The Palace Gardens of the Emperor of Morocco" and "The Guildhall," by Mr. Young, both seem to have gained in beauty since Boxing Day. The dresses by Wilhelm and Crafter, and which are executed by Landolf and Co., Obronski and Co., and Elkan and Co., have shed none of the sheen of their newness and rich beauty by wear or familiarity, the effect of the chorus and ballets in "The Stores," "Highgate Hill" (with its dazzling flower ballet) and "The Guildhall" (with its gorgeous processions), being rich beyond compare. Miss Sybil Arundale as the hero, not only charms, but she animates the company as well as (indubitably) the audience with enthusiasm. She still sings with remarkable range and pathos "More than all the world to you," and has introduced several other successes. Miss Aimee Grey as Alice is quite the creamy and rosy English girl the imagination would conjure for the story, and her various songs, as well as duets with the hero, bespeak the finished artist. "The moon he loves a coon," "See-saw," and "Have you got another girl at home like Mary?" are specially featured by Miss Grey, whose dancing is also of an attractive nature. Miss Ada Whittaker puts in a lot of graceful work as Tommy Tapes, and Miss Clara Reid is a great force of attraction as Marjory Daw. Not only is she vivacious, comely, and mellifluous, but she is an exceedingly clever dancer. Miss Ethel Negretti is the fair Princess Rosydawn, the Emperor's daughter, and has only to be seen to be admired. "A tiny seed of love" works wonders from this fine artist, whose comedy powers in a *coup de tête* with Idle Jack keep the audience in a flutter of delight. Miss Violet Baynton as the Spirit of the Chimes is all that that good fairy should be. Mr. Tom Foy's Idle Jack might have been the original of the story, so true to the character and the period of the play is it. His big songs are "When I've a hundred pounds" and "Put me on an island where there are no girls." Mr. John Power is an energetic and bustling Fitzwarren; Mr. Arthur Reynolds as the cook puts much vim into his songs, which still include "The cookery book" and "Good-bye, Mr. Teddy Bear"; Mr. Eric Campbell is a very fine and large Emperor of Morocco, and his vocalisation helps to make the character most successful; Messrs. Drew and Alders play the Captain and his Mate, and their appearances throughout are a bright and wholesome feature of the show; and Mr. Harry Lupino does all that is needful for the rôle of King Rat. Master Lupino Lane's contributions of songs and dances as Bottles, the office boy, stamp him as an artist of rare ability already. Wee Wallace Lupino as the tiny fan-bearer, Kazrac, is also a wonder with his extraordinarily clever dancing. Mr. Fred Whittaker's impersonation of the cat is a special delight to the children, whom the pantomime is drawing in throngs; and Messrs. Ted Foy, John Foy, and E. Delfosse succeed in minor rôles. The company is completed by Mr. W. E. Gulson's Bow Bells Quartette and the Bert Coote Marigny Troupe of lady dancers, the latter of whom swell the attractions of the ballets appreciably. The dances have been arranged by Mme. Rosa, and the pantomime is produced by Mr. Herbert Cottesmore.

"BRITAIN'S AWAKENING."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I should like to point out to you that the first and original production of a modern invasion play was produced by me at the Royal West London Theatre, Saturday evening, Feb. 8, 1908. This play, of which I am the author, was entitled *Britain's Awakening*. My principal character in this play was Lieutenant Dillon Roberts, and the principal aide to the foreign invaders landing in the fog was Orresa Nicolini, a foreign military spy in league with Scuttler Lee, the owner of the cottage on the coast within which all the action of my play transpires. This play was written by me in December, 1907, copyrighted and passed by the Lord Chamberlain on Feb. 4, 1908. Shortly after the production of this play I sent a copy to Lord Roberts.—Yours faithfully,

NORMAN WRIGHTON.

Vaudeville Theatre, W.C.,
Feb. 4, 1909.

"THE INVASION OF ENGLAND."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—In the dark days of December, 1900, when reverse after reverse was being experienced by our troops in South Africa, it occurred to me that a play dealing with an invasion of these shores at such a juncture, when every soldier who could be spared had been sent out of the country, leaving us helpless indeed but for our—may I, in view of Lord Roberts's praise on their practical achievements—say gallant Volunteers, and illustrating what they would undoubtedly do their level best to achieve in the unhappy event of such a hostile landing, would provide an object lesson which, if taken seriously could not fail to help forward the Volunteering spirit in no inconsiderable degree.

To illustrate but one fractional part of the terrible happenings which would most surely follow such a catastrophe was doubtless a large order, but the period seemed to me so opportune that, with the assistance of my friend Mr. Stevens, the then proprietor of the Grand Theatre, Glasgow, I produced such a play for the Easter fortnight, and afterwards toured it through the principal towns of the country until the close of the year.

A combination of foreign warships destroying our commerce, with out fleets scattered in pursuit, runs on banks, a general dislocation of business, and bread at half a crown a loaf, with 3,000,000 out of London's 5,000,000 of inhabitants tearing through its streets mad with hunger and clamouring for peace, were some of the means whereby the evil genius of the play relied on securing the humiliation of England without a blow having been struck. Then we had a foreign battleship in the Thames, with a threatened bombardment of the City unless certain demands, including a limitation of naval armaments and the payment of a huge money indemnity were acceded to.

The City is shelled from the river, and a landing of guns attempted, the landing being successfully repulsed by the Volunteers; while incidents forming part of the whole included scenes underground, where the railways were being used as hospitals and affording shelter from the bursting shells.

Then the return of the British Fleet, after its successful pursuit of the enemy's ships, and the sinking of the hostile battleship by a British submarine, with the shooting of foreign spies in Hyde Park, with a distribution, amid scenes of rejoicing, of the honours of love and war. My hero was a captain in a Volunteer regiment.—Yours faithfully, WILLIAM BOURNE.

Brighton, Feb. 3, 1909.

AN address on "Some Reflections on the Queue" will be delivered by Mr. Mostyn T. Pigott to the members of the O.P. Club at the Criterion tomorrow (Sunday). The President, Mr. Max Pemberton, will occupy the chair.

IN response to a request from Miss Daisy Halling, Mr. Edmondstone Shirra has kindly consented to admit to the gallery of the Theatre Royal, Manchester, free of charge, 150 children from the slum districts of Manchester on Friday next, to see the pantomime *Goody Two Shoes*.

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MISS KATHLEEN CLYFFORD.

Miss Kathleen Clyfford's first appearance on the stage was at the age of five years, when she played Miss Muffett with an amateur company at the Imperial Rooms, Cheltenham. She was a tiny dot amongst the others performing, and the newspapers gave her some very good notices, one saying she was a born actress. The little lady's first introduction to the stage must have been a happy one, for during that week she was presented with no end of things, including dolls, chocolates, flowers, and a gold locket and chain from members of the company. Two years afterwards she played Red Riding Hood for the amateurs at the Victoria Rooms, Cheltenham, and again made a big success. After this she was kept at school until she was twelve years old, when she toured with her parents, singing illustrated songs. Then she played the White Queen in *Alice in Wonderland* for a short while.

On one occasion at one of the theatres her father was managing, *The Silver King* was opening. During the afternoon of the Monday the manager of the company told her father the little girl who was playing Cissie was too ill to go on that night, and she being the only child they travelled, he was in a bit of a fix. Miss Clyfford was suggested.

[*Photo by Oakley and Sidebottom.*

MISS KATHLEEN CLYFFORD.

The part was given her at five o'clock, and she was word perfect at the rehearsal at seven. She went through the part without a hitch, and played it every night during that week, achieving such a success that the manager of the company wanted her parents to let her go on with them. Some little time after this she read a part at the Haymarket Theatre for Mr. de Cordova for a sketch to go on the Stoll Tour. She was selected for the part out of six other girls, but when Mr. Cordova knew her age he could not engage her, owing to the trouble of getting a licence in each town.

Then she joined Mr. Edmund Tearle and played many parts during her stay with him, including Mary Drummond in *Woman's Revenge*, Little Willie in *East Lynne*, Little Mary Warner in *Mary Warner*, Lilly Black Boy in *It's Never Too Late to Mend*, and Duke of York in *Richard III.*, the last-mentioned being her favourite part.

Mr. and Mrs. Tearle were always most kind to her, and to them she expresses herself greatly indebted for valuable tuition. Recently she was engaged by Mr. Rivington, Gaston Mayer's manager, for *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch*, after hearing her read the part of Australia.

MR. HYLTON WARDE, having accomplished a thirty-four months' tour of South Africa, returned to England per the ss. Gaeka on Wednesday. Mr. Warde went out in 1906, having been engaged by Messrs. B. and F. Wheeler to play Augustus in *Beauty and the Barge* and other parts in their London Comedy Company. He met with much success, and, after a comfortable tour of ten months, he was engaged by Messrs. Woods and Williamson as principal comedian and stage-manager for their répertoire. That position he relinquished after a tour of twenty-one months, and was then engaged by Messrs. Crofton and Salisbury for similar work in musical comedies, remaining with that firm three months. Thus concluded a tour of incessant hard work, Mr. Warde having played from first to last no less than thirty-one parts.

THE ABOVE PICTURE SHOWS THE PRINCIPALS IN THE GRAND PANTOMIME AT GLASGOW. IT WAS PAINTED BY ONE OF THE ARTISTS.

Mr. Tom Conway, who is at present playing the Baroness in *Cinderella* at the Grand, Glasgow, has presented the management with a clever water-colour sketch, about 30in. by 20in., showing the principals in the pantomime. We give a photo of the picture. Reading from left to right, the names are—Mr. Barry Lupino as Capers, Miss Nellie Cozens as Elvira, Mr. Whit Cunliffe as Dandini, Mr. Tom Conway as the Baroness gazing through a magnifying glass at the diminutive Baron, Mr. George French. Then come Miss Violet Halls as the Prince, Miss Queenie Finnis as Cinderella, Miss Kate Walbran as Araminta, Miss Nellie Wigley as the Duke of Whistbridge, and Miss Olive Tempest as the Fairy. The boxes on the prompt side are occupied by Mr. Frank Withers (acting-manager for the pantomime) and Mr. Stanley Rogers, the author; while opposite there is Mr. Gordon E. Craig, assistant-manager, and in the corner of the stalls is seen Mr. Christie Grant, resident-manager at the Grand. Mr. Harry Henderson occupies the conductor's desk, and a glimpse is got of the stage-manager and assistant ditto peeping out from the wings.

DEATH OF MISS JULIA SEAMAN.

Another old actress has passed away in the person of Miss Julia Seaman, who died on Friday, Jan. 30, at her residence at Catford, S.E., from acute bronchitis, at the age of 72. The remains of the deceased lady were interred in Nunhead Cemetery on Wednesday. She was the daughter of William Seaman, actor and playwright, and Frederica Sara Seaman, who at the time of her death on Nov. 23, 1906, was the oldest actress, being 94.

The late Miss Julia Seaman was born in Dublin on Oct. 23, 1837, and made her first appearance at the age of four. Like her father and mother, the deceased lady learnt the gamut of her art by joining stock companies, whose services in the mid-Victorian era were mostly utilised in the support of London stars. She played the part of Jack Sheppard at the Garrick Theatre, Leman-street, Whitechapel, the boards of which were graced at a later period by a young actor named Tree, who made his first professional appearance there in a whimsical character. A favourite rôle with the deceased lady was Helen Macgregor in *Rob Roy*. Even in greater favour with her was the part of Hamlet, of which she made a particular study. Like Charlotte Cushman and Miss Marriott, she was highly successful in the character, in which she won the approval of Manchester audiences, with whom she was a warm favourite, having been connected with the stage in that town during her earlier years on the stage. She often impersonated Hamlet at the Victoria Theatre, where she was known as the "Queen of the Vic." She played in *The Black Crook* on its production at the Alhambra on Dec. 23, 1872, with the beautiful and shapely Cornélie D'Anka—for whom Arthur Sullivan wrote the song "Once Again"—in the title-part. Miss Seaman was the Princess Aika and Harry Paulton the Dandelion. *The Black Crook* was an adaptation of *La Biche au Bois*, produced in Paris in 1865. In this production Sarah Bernhardt made her first appearance on the stage. Miss Seaman played again in *The Black Crook* at the Alhambra on its revival in 1881.

She toured in the United States in *The Deluge*, playing the part of Satan, and supported Barry Sullivan. She commenced an autumn tour on Aug. 25, 1873, at the Theatre Royal, Swansea, in her favourite part of Hamlet, the first gravedigger being Mr. Andrew Melville, who appeared under the *nom de guerre* of "A. Emm." During this itinerary she committed herself to the production of four pieces, viz., *Spotless; or, A Woman's Hate*, written expressly for her by Paul Merritt and Henry Pettitt; *Rebecca* (a version of Scott's "Ivanhoe"), by W. Lowe; *Dolores; or, An Actress's Love*, translated from the French of Victor Hugo by Fred E. Weathersley; and *Black Gang Chine*, a drama written by her father, William Seaman. She starred at the Prince of Wales's, Wolverhampton, in March, 1874, as Leah, and at the Theatre Royal, Bath, presented herself in May of the same year as Rufliga (*The Woman in Red*) and as Lady Isabel (*East Lynne*). Her last appearances were associated with Irving at the Lyceum in *Hamlet*. She retired from the stage some fifteen years since.

AMUSEMENTS IN ROTTERDAM.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ROTTERDAM, JAN. 25.—A decidedly interesting production in Dutch of Bernard Shaw's play *Widowers' Houses* has just been put on at the Grand Theatre by Manager Van Eysden. The work was quite unknown here, and the impression created on the public was not unconditionally favourable, despite the very satisfactory interpretation by the members of the Grand company. Methinks that this may be attributed to the undeniable weakness of the third and last act of the play. After reaching the fine climax, due to the clever and well-developed second act, which is indeed a capital literary effort, the incidents and undercurrents of the action in the third become forced and improbable. Added to this, there is besides the counter argument that the tone of the play is sustained in such a bitter key, without a single note of sweetness or benevolence, that it produces quite a depressing effect, and makes life seem even harder than it is for many. Manager Van Eysden deserves unstinted praise for the mounting. The cast was, as I have said, capital, special excellence characterising the impersonations of Messrs. Van der Lugt Melsert, De Jong, and Poolman as Dr. Trench, Sartorius, and Lickcheese respectively. Mr. Van der Lugt Melsert bids fair to become the leading young man of the Dutch stage.

THE North Dutch Opera Company of Amsterdam has given a fine performance of Eugen d'Albert's opera *Tiefland* on one of the "off-nights" at the Grand. This organisation is under the artistic leadership of Miss Cateau Esser, the head of a school for vocal culture and elocution here, whilst the business interests of the enterprise are capably managed by Mr. de Haan. The extra performance of *Tiefland* was a noteworthy one, the favourite Dutch tenor Jac. Urlus having been specially engaged for the rôle of Pedro. Urlus was in the very best form, and deserves the warmest eulogies for his singing and acting. Mrs. Judels was an impassioned Marta, and Mr. Maal most efficient as Sebastiano. D'Albert's glorious music was done full justice to by the excellent orchestra of the Opera Company, under the leadership of François Rasse.

THE original Wiener operetten, *Ensemble*, is still in our midst, and a number of bright and merry performances have been given on "off-nights" at the Grand, under the management of Mr. de Haan's Bureau. *Ein Walzertraum* has been repeated, and with unvarying success, this tuneful comic opera having been followed by *Die Dollar-Prinzessin*, which caught the public fancy at once. Grete Meyer was a bewitching Alice, acting in turn with dash, humour, and pathos; Wini Grabitz captivated her audience as Daisy Gray, and Messrs. Liska, Adler, and Grüner came in for a generous share in the praise bestowed. All the numbers were, of course, encored, the crowded house ringing with applause and laughter.

MME. TERESA CARRENO, the famous pianist, has given a series of concerts throughout the country, her last one having been in this city at the Nut Hall. The concert was a musical treat of the highest order.

MESSRS. DEBENHAM AND STORR announce for sale the famous gold art-needlework frieze which ran along the bottom of the curtain at the Imperial Theatre, including the famous gold embroidered dragons with the jewelled eyes.

THE Crystal Palace Orchestral Society and Crystal Palace Choir will perform Sir Edward Elgar's *King Olaf* on Saturday evening next in the concert room of the Palace. The concert will commence with the overture to "A Midsummer Night's Dream," to commemorate the centenary of its composer Mendelssohn. The soloists will be Miss Ethel Wood, Mr. Gwilym Richards, and Mr. Julien Henry. Mr. Fred W. Holloway will be the organist and Mr. Walter W. Hedgcock will conduct.

THE first set of playlets in a series of performances which have been arranged to illustrate the "Wars of the Roses," was given in the Bijou Theatre, Bayswater, on Thursday, under the management of Miss Catherine Lewis. The chief incidents portrayed were the death of Henry V., the crowning of his son as King of France, the downfall and death of Gloucester, and York's recall from France. The company included Mr. Gerald Venning, Mr. Holliday Attley, and Miss Pax Robertson.

DEATH OF JOHN F. SHERIDAN.

Our Sydney correspondent sends us the sad news of the death of Mr. John F. Sheridan. He writes: "Mr. John F. Sheridan, the well-known comedian, died suddenly on Christmas night. He was to open in Newcastle (New South Wales) on Boxing night, and went up by train on Christmas Day. In the evening he complained, and died of heart failure just before midnight. His company arrived at daybreak the next morning, only to find that their beloved chief had passed away. He was buried on the 27th in Waverley Cemetery. Representatives from all the theatres and thousands of the public whom he had amused so many years paid a last tribute to 'Johnny's' memory."

Mr. John F. Sheridan was born of Irish parents in Providence, Rhode Island, and, in common with so many of his contemporaries, made his first appearance on the stage as a boy clog-dancer and minstrel on April 12, 1864. Like Mr. Eugene Stratton he gravitated later to the variety stage, and became associated with James W. Mack, the firm of Sheridan and Mack becoming celebrated throughout America as the original couple to introduce white-faced songs and dances on the variety stage. Mr. Mack and Mr. Sheridan had been shopmates when the deceased comedian was working in a rifle factory. For fourteen years the happily-associated pair worked together. Circumstances parted them, and the deceased comedian was engaged to play an insignificant part in a lurid play called *Ruth; or, The Curse of Rum*, by George Fawcett Rowe. Through the failure of one of the ladies of the company Mr. Sheridan was asked to take up a petticoat part, and his immediate success in it formed the turning-point in his career. Rowe declared that one day he would write a play in which Sheridan should distinguish himself. The germ of *Fun on the Bristol* originated with Mr. Sheridan himself, but Rowe constructed the piece, which caught on immediately. The character of Widow O'Brien, as played by Sheridan, was much admired by the late Henry Pettitt, who, at the time, was on a visit to America.

In 1882 Sheridan toured the provinces with *Fun on the Bristol*, the piece being produced at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, on May 15 of that year. *Bridget O'Brien, Esq.*, a sequel to *Fun on the Bristol*, followed that piece at the Opera Comique on Oct. 29, 1887; but previous to the production of "Bridget" Mr. Sheridan had essayed the rôle of Pierre Cagnard in *As in a Glass*, taken from the French, and in this character wore, for the first and last time on the stage, a monkey disguise. Both piece and performance were failures, though the late Mr. Charles Lauri won a great triumph as Chadi, a monkey.

Mr. Sheridan was a great globe-trotter, and had acted in India, Burmah, Java, China, the Straits Settlements, where for the American plays were substituted Gilbert and Sullivan and light opera. In the course of his travels he played the Lord Chancellor in *Iolanthe*, Ko-Ko in *The Mikado*, Robin in *Ruddigore*, King Laurent in *The Mascotte*, the Duke in *Olivette*, Lurcher in *Dorothy*, Cadeau in *Erminie*, Gaspard in *Les Cloches de Corneville*, Corrigan in *The Lily of Killarney*, John Wellington Wells in *The Sorcerer*, the Judge in *Trial by Jury*, Blueskin in *Jack Sheppard*, and Captain Crosstree in *Blue-Eyed Susan*. Of course, in Australia he played Widow O'Brien, and must have appeared in that part at least 5,000 times during the course of his career. He played it on and off for seventeen years. It was suggested to him by the late Mr. George Coppin, at that time the doyen of Australian managers, that he might do something else besides the "widow" before he left, and *The Shaughraun* was produced, with a song and dance for Conn, and Mr. Sheridan made a big hit.

On Aug. 5, 1893, *A Trip to Chicago* was produced at the Vaudeville with Sheridan as Johanna Murphey, in which part he was very successful. Though not in the original cast of *Little Christopher Columbus*, by George R. Sims and Ivan Caryll, produced by Mr. Horace Sedger at the Lyric on Oct. 10, 1893, it was a happy inspiration on the part of that manager to introduce Mr. Sheridan into the piece later as the Hibernian lady, Mrs. Block. The character did much to establish him as a London favourite.

Mr. Sheridan, although fate was responsible for making him what is termed a one-part man, was extremely versatile, and though the comedy variety show which he sponsored at the Vaudeville caused remarks on the decadence of drama, there is no doubt that he was responsible for a deal of honest laughter.

BRITISH EMPIRE SHAKESPEARE.

The first attempt at *King Lear* by the British Empire Shakespeare Society was made on Tuesday at the Bijou Hall, Bayswater, and a very enjoyable afternoon was the result. The reading, as is usual, was under the direction of Mr. Acton Bond, and several well-known artists combined with a number of rising young actors to give a rendering of Shakespeare's tragedy which proved particularly engrossing. The title-rôle was in the hands of Mr. Lyn Harding, who rose superior to the limitations of modern attire, and seemed to make the venerable monarch live again. The passionate portions of the dialogue were delivered with stirring grandeur, and the modulations of voice were made with artistic effect, the old king's latter sentences being uttered in tones that throbbed with feeling. Mr. Acton Bond was the Edgar, and displayed a versatility that could not but be admired. He gave effective expression to the demented speeches of "Poor Tom," and lent distinction to the noble verse which falls to him. Edmund was invested with due cunning and sinister effect by Mr. Bassett Roe, who gave throughout a consistent rendering; and Mr. Fewlass Llewellyn spoke the lines of the faithful Kent with vigour and well-studied emphasis. Cordelia was rendered with refinement and infinite tenderness by Miss Dorothy Thomas, who added to a prepossessing appearance graces of elocution and style. The waspish attributes of the sister Goneril were skilfully brought out by Miss Adeline Bourne, and Miss Evelyn Weeden was no less intense in her portrayal of the spite and malevolence of Regan. Mr. Shakespeare Stewart distinguished himself as the Fool, being equally praiseworthy in song and speech, both of which he invested with varied intonation.

Influenza, as Mr. Bond explained, had been at work, and Mr. A. Harding Steerman was unable to read the rôle of Gloster, which was rendered in finished style by Mr. J. Henry Twyford, who doubled with it that of the Duke of Albany. Through the same cause Miss Violet Hunter was unable to discharge the duty of reading the stage directions, which were read with admirable clearness by Miss Gear. Mr. Howard Rose was as gallant as need be as King of France, and did useful work as a messenger, an officer, and other personages of minor importance. Admirable work was also done by Mr. Lane Crauford, a picturesque and vivacious Oswald; by Mr. Arthur Burne as Cornwall; by Mr. Cecil Du Gue as Burgundy; and by Mr. George Owen, a recruit from the Academy of Dramatic Art as the Physician.

Mr. Sheridan's last production in England was *When the Lamps are Lighted*, in which he played the part of the Irish showman, Dan Rafferty. It was originally produced at Salford, on Oct. 11, 1897. He intended returning to London this summer, after an absence of ten years. Some five years since he took his Australian company across to Africa, and toured there for six months, in conjunction with Messrs. Baird and Wheeler. The deceased gentleman was a life abstainer, and a non-smoker, and took much interest in sport of every kind.

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

"CINDERELLA" AT THE ADELPHI.

(Second Notice.)

On its production on Christmas Eve we pronounced the Adelphi *Cinderella*—engineered so cleverly by Mr. Robert Courtneidge—to be a pretty spectacle completely captivating in its treatment of a delightful story, and answering all the natural expectations of juvenile Londoners, whose eyes have opened wide in wonderment and delight at the entrancing scene of Cinderella's toilet when the Fairy Godmother announces the glad news that the heroine of the grate is to go to the ball. And the ball itself! What a triumphant realisation of luxurious fancy! The fun, too, never slackens; and Mr. Dan Rolyat and Mr. John Humphries have increased their high reputations as comedians in the parts of the Baron and Baroness. Unfortunately, illness prevented them appearing on the night of our second visit to this most admirable pantomime. Excellent substitutes were, however, found in Mr. Vincent Erne and Mr. George Parti. The latter is a most eligible "parti" for such a rôle as the Baroness, whose malapropisms never fail to create hearty laughter. Mr. Vincent Erne, who took up Mr. Rolyat's part, naturally founds his rendering of the character of the Baron on that comedian's, and in following so good an example he is entirely right. His success is never for a moment in doubt, his resources as a dancer and his antics being always vivified by the nimble spirit of mirth. Mr. Erne's only song on Monday, "Poor Uncle John," was certainly one of the chief successes of the pantomime. Another was Miss Mabel Russell's "I don't want to come home in the dark," which was followed by a delightful dance. As Mopsa—one of the sisters—Miss Russell is a welcome contrast to the red-nosed comedian. So is Miss Marie Rignold as Arethusa, her high-falutin' being a capital foil to the prosaic utterances of the rest of the family Miss Phyllis Dare's freshness and charm and her engaging youthfulness may all be taken for granted, and she certainly is an ideal heroine, imparting, with Miss Carrie Moore as principal boy, an idyllic charm and a touch of romance to the first scene in the wood. Her dancing, too, is enchanting, and in this connection we may mention Mr. Fred Leslie, who shares her triumph in a specially fascinating number. If we have any fault to find with Miss Dare it is with her elocution, which at times is careless. It is especially so in the final tag. Mr. Stephen Adeson as Choddles has more opportunity for creating fun, and makes the most of his chances, especially in the ball-room scene. Miss Dorothy Laine is an attractive Roxana, Miss Maudie Thornton a capital equerry; and smart, capable, and good-looking representatives of the Prince's entourage are found in Miss Marjory Manners, Miss Violet Graham, Miss Belle Ross, Miss Muriel Varna, Miss Ethel Denny, Miss Rhoda Clighton, Miss Maisie Sinclair, and Miss Lily Nanton. The Fairy Godmother is effectively presented by Miss Gertrude Sinclair; and other immortals are adequately presented by Miss Louie Lochner and Miss Margaret Keane. Miss Elise Clerc is responsible for the ballets, and her direction ensures excellence in this important department of pantomime spectacle. Mr. Herbert Ralland, business-manager, brings along the best traditions of theatrical management, and is ably asisted by Mr. A. W. Ashdowne.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 1, the Play, entitled
"PETE."

Messrs. Smith and Carpenter's Lyceum production *Pete* is at the Dalston Theatre this week, and local playgoers are putting the seating accommodation of the house to a severe test, even standing room being difficult to secure. So far as details of acting are concerned, the production is beyond criticism. Mr. Matheson Lang's representation of the character of Pete is a finished piece of work, and altogether his performance is quite a study. Miss Hutin Briton as Kate Cregeen succeeds in securing the wrapt attention of the audience from first to last; while fully sustaining a trying part, in no sense does she over-act any of the scenes. Mr. Eric Mayne's Philip Christian fully illustrates the various phases of the part, his conception of the character being excellent. Mr. Pennington Gush as Ross Christian affords effective relief in a lighter part; the puritanical Cæsar Cregeen has a strong representative in Mr. Frederick Ross; Mr. H. K. Ayliff's Postman Kelly is a life-like sketch of a rural character; and all the minor rôles are remarkably well sustained. Miss Blanche Stanley as Grannie and Mr. Ernest Crestfan as Adam Quirk are particularly noticeable, while Miss Rita Thompkins as Nancy, Miss Dora Clements as Mary, and Miss Alys Eden as Janet are also most capable. The scene "The Keep of Castle Rushen" is an effective specimen of stage carpentry and painting.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 1,
"SERGEANT BRUE."

Mr. Harry Benet's company most successfully re-introduced Owen Hall's musical comedy to this theatre, to re-open Mr. J. Bannister Howard's regular dramatic season, on the withdrawal of his record pantomime at the end of January; and the entire production went with a very pleasing freshness and swing.

Mr. Denis Lyndon embodied the Sergeant with ease and naturalness, his clear voice and incisive style being well suited to the character. Mr. Lister Morrah as Michael Brue is happy in the possession of a fine tenor voice of excellent quality, and his duet, "A Night in Venice," with Miss Mabel Davis, who enacted the part of Mabel Widget, and his song in the second act were among the successes of the evening. Aurora Brue was delicately played by Miss Daisy Dale, who was vociferously encored in her coon song "Under a Panama." Miss Kitty Clayton as Daisy, the servant, is a clever little comedienne, with a genuine vein of original humour, and made her mark in singing "I want to be an actress" in the first act. The stately Lady Bickenhall was most charmingly impersonated by Miss Ray Anderson, and her handsome dresses and good singing were both fully recognised and appreciated. Mr. Tom G. Warren as Mr. Crank, the Magistrate, was most amusing in appearance and manner, and Mr. H. Quiningborough as Crookie Scrubbs put a great deal of good work into his part and played it for all it was worth. Mr. Langdon Guy as the Police Inspector was good, and Mr. Phil Phillips as the Rev. Lamb and Mr. J. Spencer as Captain Bay made the most of their respective parts. There was a full chorus of ladies and gentlemen under the direction of Mr. Ernest Wolfe and the company carries a full set of special scenery painted by Mr. Julian Hicks, giving a completeness and finish to a most satisfactory production.

THEATRE ROYAL, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Feb. 1, the Pantomime entitled
"ALADDIN."

Although arriving somewhat late in the season, as far as pantomimes are concerned, the borough is not, after all, to be entirely deprived of its annual frolicsome production, as Mr. Sam Barnard has booked for the current week Messrs. Glenville and Osmond's pantomime *Aladdin*, which was presented before a large and very appreciative audience on Monday last by a capable and well-selected company, who offered an extremely facile and amusing interpretation of the well-known fairy tale, which goes with a swing from beginning to end. The play is adequately mounted and well dressed, and the numerous scenes are effective and well executed. Miss Hetty Zillwood in the title-rôle makes a capital principal boy, and sustains the character with bright vivacity, and in the songs "I don't care if there is a girl there," "Johnnie in his uniform," and "I'm afraid to come home in the dark" is quite successful, and evokes considerable applause. Miss M. Hobart deserves praise for her delineation of the part of Princess Badroulbadour, and scores well in the ballad "Silver moonbeam"; the Emperor of China is made the most of in the hands of Mr. H. Glenville; Mr. Fred Osborne as the Vizier Wassit provides an amusing portrayal, and Mr. Fowler Thatcher is equally good; Mr. Arthur E. Behan imbues the character of Mrs. Twankey with irresistible drollery, and in the songs "Calligan" and "The Directoire Girl" fetches the audience and provokes much laughter; the Bros. Lavelle as Pee-Lah and Kopp-Ah prove themselves clever and amusing acrobats; Mr. Freddie Edwards makes a capable Wishee-Washee; Diabolo is ably represented by Mr. J. Sutton Pateman; Miss Lou Charlesworth as Electra is a charming Fairy Queen, and her rendering of the song "As long as the world rolls on" has a good reception; Miss Cissie Behan and Miss Kitty Behan as Pekoe and Ch-r-ke respectively do ample justice to their parts both in song and dance; and Mr. Frank Wilson (Chin-Soo), Miss Sara Wheatman (Bu-tee), and Miss Kitty Collinson (Sau-See) lend efficient aid. Favourable mention must also be made of the Gando Sextette of male vocalists, who supply some very popular contributions, and the dancing of the Ella Willmer Troupe merits commendation

ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Feb. 1, the Musical Comedy, entitled
"GAY BOHEMIA."

Produced under the direction of Mr. Geo. Capel, the new musical comedy entitled *Gay Bohemia* is being presented this week by Mr. Arthur Crichton's company. The book is written by the well-known librettist Mr. J. Hickory Wood and the music is by the popular composer, Mr. John Crook. Miss Rose Hersee, who is the mainstay of the play, undertakes the character of Molly Ogilvie, a professional model, with much ability, and displays a lively sense of her responsibility. Her dancing is spirited and graceful, and her vocal contributions are daintily rendered and well received. Mr. Tim Riley as the Hon. Bertie Eames, an art patron, essays the rôle in a diverting manner; Valentine Fanshawe is portrayed by Mr. Lester Carey in a humorous style; the part of Dick Merton is undertaken by Mr. Ernest Stanley; Miss Florence Nairn as Miss Minns is the source of some merriment; Lucy Arbuthnot is in the hands of Miss Maud Marshall; Miss Ellice Rayne gives a capable characterisation of Mamie Ship, a lady journalist; and as artists' models Miss Kitty Carlisle, Miss L. Stanford, and Miss M. Hart lend suitable assistance. The orchestra is under the able direction of Mr. Arthur Roby.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, Feb. 1, the Drama entitled
"THE SAILOR'S WEDDING."

The Sailor's Wedding, a romantic drama from the pen of Mr. H. Brinsley Hill, fills the bill here this week, and is meeting with great success. The play is a story of love and intrigue, and there is a series of thrilling incidents and powerful situations which rivet the attention of the audience throughout. The interpretation of the piece is in the hands of Hardie and Von Leer's company, and their excellent performance met with due recognition. The central figure in the story is a naval lieutenant, Gordon Drake, played by Mr. C. W. Standing in an earnest and vigorous manner. Well suited to the rôle and with a commanding presence, Mr. Standing soon established himself a warm favourite, and his stirring lines frequently evoked great applause. Mr. Cecil Klein as Sir Victor Lascelles successfully assumed the mannerisms of a society man, and gave an effective rendering of the part; Mr. Cole Aspinall was seen to advantage as Count Bellina; and Mr. Hodgson Taylor invested the scheming Giovanni Ferici with an air of brutality well suited to the character. Mr. F. Finch Smiles gave an admirable delineation of Giacomo; and Mr. Walter Pemberton as Jack Hawkins was untiring in his efforts to amuse, his love adventures with Polly Clarke, capably enacted by Miss M. Sadie, causing much laughter. Miss Laura Hansen was successful in her impersonation of Countess Bellina; and Miss Mary Pemberton made a pleasing appearance as Mary Bellina, her charm and grace of manner proving a delightful foil to the character of the abandoned adventuress, Lenore de Gresac, an arduous rôle that was played with marked ability by Miss Winifred Pearson. The other characters were in safe hands, and the scenery and general effects were admirable. The play is produced by Miss Sara Von Leer, and Mr. Cecil Klein is manager for Hardie and Von Leer.

GREENWICH THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 1, the Drama, in Five Acts, entitled
"DRIVEN FROM HOME."

Mr. Andrew Melville's capital company is creating an excellent impression here this week with a good performance of the popular drama entitled *Driven from Home*, presented in five acts and twenty tableaux. Anthony Raybrook has a clever representative in Mr. Felix Pitt, who gives a fine rendering of the part; Mr. George Beresford is a manly and convincing Walter Hatherleigh; Mr. Howard Thornley is an excellent George Clissold; Mr. C. Burdon acts well as Geoffrey Waring; Mr. George Lawrence is very good as Peter Pinder; Mr. Arnold Winter is well suited to the part of Tom Mordake; Mr. Percy Dawson is very good as Willie, as is Mr. Herbert Vere as David Wilson; Mr. Edward Finlay gives a fine character sketch as Dick Saunders; and other male parts are well acted by Messrs S. G. Hardy, F. Bates, Fred Imbert, H. Bartley, G. Dyson, Harry Cornwallis, W. Fortescue, Master Wilkins, Mr. F. Livingstone, Mr. H. Coade, Mr. G. Pike, and Mr. G. Thomas. Barbara Ashdown has an excellent representative in Miss Lizzie Inglis; Miss Susine Bevan is a clever Margaret Bailey; Miss Violet Ennis Lawson is a charming and attractive Laura; and other parts are well acted by Mesdames Kate Walfred, A. Williams, Florence Wilson, and Madge Muriel.

BRITANNIA THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 1, the Romantic Drama, by Adrian O'Connell and Eugene McCarthy, entitled,
"A ROYAL REVENGE."

A most attractive programme is submitted to the patrons of this popular house with a presentation of *A Royal Revenge*, a play that allows ample scope for picturesque costumes and elaborate mounting. We must certainly congratulate the resident scenic artist for two extremely fine specimens of scenic art in two sets entitled The Village of Santa Cecilia and The Convent Chapel. The drama is performed in a very capable manner by the stock company engaged. Mr. H. Ryeland Leigh gives an admirable impersonation of the amorous King of Spain. Mr. Harry Gresham is an excellent exponent of Pedro de Castro, Prime Minister. Mr. Herbert Young as Manuel Mondega gives a good interpretation. Mr. Conrad E. Clarke is eminently successful as Friar Dominic. A realistic impersonation of the hunchback, Count Ulrick Uzeda is submitted by Mr. C. Alan Hineson. Much amusement is caused by Mr. H. G. Brandon as Michael Sancha. A very charming and dainty Cosa Casilde is presented by Miss Lalla Stanhope, an artist who is well adapted to characters of this description, and should make a great success as an exponent of sympathetic parts. Miss Florence Barnes as Paquita Marcelia adds considerably to the success of the drama; Miss Edna Lester creditably undertakes the rôle of Mother Maria Teresa; Miss Ethyle Gordon Murray makes the most of her opportunities as Angela. The performance was brought to a close by two good pictures, shown by the Barrascope, one of which was a burlesque of Carrie Nation, and caused endless amusement. The orchestra, under Mr. F. W. Hatley, rendered some tuneful entr'actes during the evening. Mr. Fred A. Fowler is Mr. Barrasford's able and courteous manager.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, Feb. 1, the Drama, in Four Acts, entitled
"THE OCTOROON."

This play was well staged and ably acted by the members of Mr. Clive Currie's company. Mr. Cecil A. Collins put in some good work as the scheming Jacob M'Closky; Mr. Gerald Merrielees enacted George Peyton in frank and easy fashion; Mr. Charles King was satisfactory as Mr. Sunnyside; Mr. Charles Wemyss imparted plenty of point and distinction to the character of the auctioneer slave salesman, Col. Pointdexter; Mr. Gordon Phillott did well as Captain Ratts, and Mr. Archibald McLean was a typical Judge Jackson. Quite the hit of the piece was Mr. William Barber's realistic impersonation of the old negro servant Pete; never for one single instance overdrawing the character, but keeping it well balanced throughout, this clever actor scored all along the line. Mr. Douglas Phillips, excellently made up, deserves every praise for his Indian chief Wah-no-Tee; whilst Mr. Clive Currie played with his usual ease and distinction as Salem Scudder. Miss Sybil Ruskin brightly portrayed the yellow boy Paul; Miss Adah Barton was a sympathetic Mrs. Peyton; Miss Maud Kirwan made many friends as Dora Sunnyside; Miss May Saker was well placed as Jules Thibodeaux; and Miss Muriel Dole sustained the rôle of the Octoroon Zoe in an impressive yet withal natural way.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, Feb. 1, the Musical Play entitled
"HAVANA."

After a successful run of pantomime the above popular piece was performed at the Royal County Theatre, Kingston, on Monday night, and received a most cordial reception from a full house. The company, which is under the direction of Mr. George Dance, is a thoroughly capable one in all grades. Mr. Reginald Smitz appears as the bo'sun of the Wasp, and succeeds in extracting great fun from the part. Mr. Tom Seymour appears as the yacht's boy Brown, and adds considerably to the hilarity of the audience. Mr. Cyril W. Parke as Jackson Villiers and Mr. Bay Russell as Frank Charteris make most creditable appearances; and an impressive impersonation of Diego is given by Mr. Frank. Mr. George Storey is good as Theodore Adolpho; and Mr. A. Gordon Begg acquits himself well as Bombito del Campo. Chief honours amongst the ladies of the company are won by Miss Hebe Bliss as Consuelo, Miss Gladys Guy as Anita, and Miss Helen Langton as Isabelita; whilst valuable services are also rendered by Miss Rosa Sullivan, Beryl Gordon, Kathleen Haddon, José Sullivan, Maude Leonard, Elsie Deighton, and Maud Seymour in less prominent parts.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Feb. 1, the Drama entitled
"HER FATAL MARRIAGE."

New to Stratford, this piece, which is touring under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hinton, Mr. Travis Green, and Miss Ruth Zillwood, was received with much favour on the opening night of the week at the Stratford Theatre Royal. Popular audiences will find *Her Fatal Marriage* just to their liking, for it is well staged, is teeming with thrilling situations—the Apparition scene in the Blue Room being especially effective—very creepy and very clever, and there is an unlimited supply of capital comedy business. Mr. Arthur Hinton portrays the arch-fiend Zaco Malletto with a quiet restraint and subtle force which adds realism to his performance and makes the rascally Zaco an object of particular aversion. Miss Ruth Zillwood as the unhappy wife Myra Malletto plays with much latent strength and intensity, her fine stage presence lending point to every word and gesture. Mr. Norman Tracey is an earnest and outspoken Wilfrid Grey; Mr. George H. Childs fulfils all requirements as Colonel Crichton; and Mr. William Bailey does well as Jim Rogers. Mr. Gerald Bryne has a fine part as the half-witted Paul, always on the spot to thwart villainy, and he extracts the utmost from it, his short, ejaculatory style of speech being very effective. Mr. Frank Brunell is a droll and entertaining Peter Pimple, and he is ably assisted in the fun-making by Miss Laura Wright, very amusing as Dolly Dimple. Miss Lydia Audre looks pretty and dainty as Lily, the White Angel, and acts very appropriately. Mr. Percy Morton-Wright plays convincingly as Detective Smart; Mr. P. Laurence is excellent as Sergeant Wiggins; and P.-C. Jenkins is well played by Mr. William George.

MR. FRANK ROTHSAY'S BENEFIT.

The Stratford Borough Theatre was filled from floor to ceiling on Thursday afternoon last, the occasion being a complimentary benefit to Mr. Frank Rothsay, who has been acting-manager of this commodious suburban playhouse since its opening in 1896. A splendid programme had been arranged, as, in addition to this year's highly-successful pantomime *Aladdin*, the beneficiare was assured of the assistance of many professional friends now in London. During an interval Mr. Rothsay appeared on the stage, and thanked those in front for their attendance, and also proffered thanks to Mrs. Ellis Fredericks for the use of the theatre, to the pantomime and other artists, to the orchestra, and to the staffs at the back and front of the house for their services, his speech being the prelude to a happy incident which then followed. As the beneficiare was retiring from the stage, the front curtain was raised, and disclosed a merry group of the principals of the pantomime, and calling Mr. Rothsay forward, their spokesman, Aladdin, in the blithesome person of Miss Ethel Ward, said: "On behalf of the principals of the pantomime I want to ask you to accept this tea and coffee service as a small token of our appreciation of your courtesy and kindness to us on all occasions, and at the same time to convey our sincere wishes for the long life and prosperity of your charming wife and yourself." Speaking with some emotion, Mr. Rothsay, who was quite unprepared, heartily returned thanks for the charming and valuable gift, and the curtain descended on the company singing "He's a jolly good fellow."

The lengthy programme was contributed to by the following: Miss Ethel Ward (Aladdin), Miss Lena Verdi (Princess), Miss Florence Dudley (Pekoe), Miss Ethel Ashton (Sau See), Mr. Arthur Stigant (Widow Twankey), Mr. Hal Forde (Abanazar), who sang a "Territorial" song specially for the occasion, and which went vociferously, Mr. Ernie Mayne (Washee-Washee, "the English nobleman"), the Brothers Redmond (the Policemen), Mr. Frank Couch (Vizier), Mr. C. Ballard Brown (Emperor), Mr. Kelson Trueman, Mr. Storey Gofton, Mr. Fred Lay, Miss Claire Vivien, Mr. Maxwell Stewart and Miss Dulcie Garland, the Clyde Quartette, Miss Edie Harvey, Miss Nita Clavering, Miss Kathleen Cogan, and Mr. Murray Carson. Mr Arthur Linforth stage-managed in exemplary style; Messrs. Sam Fredericks, Bert Ashton, Percy Briggs, N. E. Howell. C. and B. Webb, S. P. Silver, E. Fielder, A. E. Barnes, E. J. Macdermott, and F. C. Cockerill were the acting-managers for the occasion, and Mr. S. N. Finlay was secretary and treasurer.

"A Sister's Revenge," a dramatic duologue by C. Martin, was produced for copyright purposes at the Rehearsal Theatre, Malden-lane, on Jan. 29.

"THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL."

Drama, in Four Acts, by Lesser Columbus, produced at the Pavilion Theatre on Monday, Feb. 1.

Mrs. Janet Brophy ..... Miss Eva Trevenna
Nurse ..... Miss J. Burrowes
Nicholas Brophy ..... Mr. Ernest R. Abbott
Rupert Dyke ..... Mr. Charles Carte
Mrs. Jenkins ..... Miss Marjorie Tennant
Mr. Richard Johnson ..... Mr. Edwin Keene
Captain Robert Mandate, R.N. Mr. H. Bonhote Wilson
Beatrice Cuthbert ..... Miss Florence North
Sir Hubert Mandate, Bart., J.P. Mr. Charles B. Bedells
Mrs. Caroline Stanger ..... Miss Mary Douglas
P.C. Thomas ..... Mr. H. Clayton
Solomon Isaacs ..... Mr. Weedon Ross
Gertrude Grant ..... Miss Ada Abbott
Billy Brunton ..... Mr. P. Layton
A Widow ..... Miss Nellie Ivinson
Keeper at Zoo ..... Mr. W. H. Davis-Brown
George Grigg ..... Mr. D. Pentland
Inspector Topliss ..... Mr. F. Thorpe
The Magistrate ..... Mr. Francis Trevor
Magistrate's Clerk ..... Mr. H. Roberts
Silvia Trevor ..... Miss Ethel Tinsley
Warder ..... Mr. D. Peyton

The villain of the piece has taken many varied rôles in the pursuit of melodramatic evil-doing, but never before, we think, has he elected to be counsel for the defence in the trial of a man accused of a murder committed by himself. The incident is worked effectively in the new piece above named, which was first produced at the Pavilion, Mile End, on Monday. The other incidents in the play, if more familiar, are equally sensational, though that dealing with the abduction and ruin of a young girl is not particularly edifying. The central idea of the piece is developed from the beginning, when Janet Brophy, with her dying breath, confesses to her son Nicholas, a barrister, that he is illegitimate. Further, she informs him that his father, Sir Hubert Mandate, having a son by his lawful wife about the same time as Nicholas was born, had expressed the wish that the infants should be changed in order that the child of the woman he loved—namely, Janet—should come into the title and estates. The mother, however, unwilling to part with her offspring, had failed to carry out the scheme. Nicholas is furious at having lost the place and position which might have been his, and, despite the warning of his mother, resolves to put his information to his own profit, utterly oblivious to the fact that the interview has been overheard by his clerk, Rupert Dyke, whose hand protruding from behind the curtains reveals his presence to the audience. Armed with the papers containing Sir Hubert's instructions Nicholas repairs to the baronet's house, and meeting Robert Mandate, Sir Hubert's son and a captain in the Navy, claims to take his place. The young officer swallows the story without demur, and goes out in despair, having first arranged to meet his step-brother subsequently at an old mill in the neighbourhood. Sir Hubert himself is equally susceptible to Nicholas's statement and nothing remains for the latter but to dispose of a Nurse Stanger, who had been entrusted with the task of changing the children, and could testify that the substitution had not been effected. Accordingly, Nicholas, who had become possessed of Robert's handkerchief, strangles the nurse with it, and when Sir Hubert arrives to seek refutation of the villain's claim, he comes to the conclusion that his beloved son has committed the crime, and, being a magistrate, signs a warrant for his arrest.

There is yet another person of whom Nicholas is afraid, and that is Nurse Stanger's daughter, Gertrude Grant, who, under another name, is employed as a barmaid at a public house in the East End. Dyke is a frequenter of the house and Nicholas commissions him to lure the girl to his flat in order to accomplish her ruin. The project is effected, the manner in which it is accomplished being elaborately detailed. In due course Robert keeps his appointment at the old mill where, at Nicholas's instigation, Dyke and a confederate are waiting to take his life. Robert's betrothed, Beatrice Cuthbert, has overheard the plot, and gains admittance to the room overlooking the mill-stream whether Robert is shortly conducted, with the result that both are locked in. The only means of escape is by the window, and when the ruffians arrive to do their work Beatrice clambers out of the window and is carried down the mill-wheel to safety, closely followed by Robert, who has felled his assailants to the ground.

Robert has escaped one danger only to encounter another, for, returning to his father's house, he is arrested for the murder of Nurse Stanger, Nicholas's offer to appear in his defence being accepted. Meanwhile, Richard Dyke has learnt that the murdered woman was his wife and the outraged girl his daughter; so that when the trial comes on Dyke, instead of waiting to be called to testify to Hubert's guilt under Nicholas's examination, makes a dramatic appearance and denounces his master. The result is that Nicholas takes the prisoner's place in the dock and Hubert is restored to his rights.

Some of the scenes were unduly protracted, and the performance lasted till midnight. Mr. Ernest R. Abbott produced the piece and played the part of the rascally lawyer, bringing out with vivid realism the evil traits of the character. He delivered his lines with much effect, though in expression he is over deliberate. Upon the part of Rupert Dyke Mr. Charles Carte brought his long experience to bear invaluably. He gave a vivid display of the drink-sodden wretch, whose nerves are all but destroyed, and his anguished burst of rage when he learns of his daughter's fate was very impressive. It was probably due to a lapse of memory, no doubt by this time rectified, that his denunciation of his employer in the court-house was not quite clearly expressed. Miss Ada Abbott made a smart barmaid of Gertrude Grant, and though she struck a rather morbid note in the later scenes she overcame its obvious difficulties with great credit. The efforts of Mr. H. Bonhote Wilson were all in the direction of making Captain Robert Mandate a hero, and in voice and appearance he quite succeeded, leaving only a few peculiarities of expression to be toned down in future performances. Miss Florence North played the heroine with refinement, and did her share of the mill scene admirably; Mr. Charles B. Bedells acted with all the requisite dignity and resource as Sir Hubert; and an impressive rendering of the dying woman, Janet Brophy, was given by Miss Eva Trevenna, who succeeded in creating a ghastly effect when the supposed corpse sits up in bed and admonishes her erring son. Good work was also done by Miss Mary Douglas in the part of Nurse Stanger. The comedy relief rested almost wholly in the hands of an elderly butler and of an amorous widow, who pesters him with hints at a marriage. The first-named part employed the ripe drollery of Mr. Edwin Keene, and the latter the low comedy gifts of Miss Marjorie Tennant. The fun provided was at times very broad, and was highly relished by the audience. The humour of the court-house scene was added to by Miss Ethel Tinsley, who appeared as a Suffragette, and by Mr. Weedon Ross, a kind-hearted Hebrew coster, who were both cordially received. Minor parts, well enacted, were those of the Keeper at the Zoo by Mr. W. H. Davis-Brown, the Miller by Mr. D. Pentland, and the Magistrate by Mr. Francis Trevor. It should be added that the whole of the proceeds of Monday's performance were to be handed over to the Victoria Hospital for Diseases of the Chest.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

Minutes of the Council meeting, held on Tuesday, Feb. 2. Present: Mr. J. Poole Kirkwood (in the chair), Mr. H. W. Mote (honorary solicitor), Messrs. Clive Currie, Robson Paige, Cecil Brooking, Clarence Derwent, F. J. Ariton, Cecil Raleigh, Frederick Annerley, C. F. Collings, and F. Morland; and Misses Lucy Sibley, Marion Lind, Rose Mathews, and Mr. Herbert Blount (secretary). The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. Francis Saffery, honorary auditor, attended the meeting and went through the balance-sheet with the Council, a few minor alterations being made therein.

The honorary solicitor reported that he had written to a member and asked for instructions as to writing a letter to another member.

The Finance Committee's report was read and adopted.

The Council drew up the agenda for the general meeting.

In granting the secretary a week's holiday, from Feb. 22, on which day he is getting married, the Council passed a unanimous vote of congratulation to Mr. Blount.

Harry Cabe and Edmund Vassell Vaughan were nominated for membership, and Gladys Ivery and Esme Hubbard were elected.

The chairman read a letter from Mr. Brookfield with regard to a system of life assurance, and the secretary received instructions to write to Mr. Brookfield, asking whether it was a special scheme.

The Council passed a unanimous vote of congratulation to Mr. Granville Barker on his recovery from his recent severe illness.

The Council also passed a unanimous vote of condolence with the relatives of the late M. Coquelin.

ACTORS' UNION.

The usual committee meeting of the Actors' Union took place at 49, Bedford Street, Strand, on the 29th ult., when there were present Messrs. Frank Gerald, Walter L. Rignold, D. Lewin-Mannering, Henry Bedford, Cecil G. Calvert, Robert M. Taylor, Langford Reed, E. Howard Templeman, James English, J. W. Braithwaite, H. Tripp Edgar, and Kenneth Blackmore (secretary). Communications were received from Messrs. Barnett, Paul Lovett, Geo. P. Lester, Jerrold Heather, Oswald Marshall, Royce Milton, Clifford Rean, and F. Rawson Buckley.

The Secretary was instructed to inform a member that he is not eligible to sit on the committee owing to the fact that he is at present occupying the position of manager.

The club board reported that they were of opinion that the subscription for non-members of the Union should be one guinea, payable in advance, and the entrance fee one guinea, payable on election, but that the payment of the entrance fee by the first hundred members be waived unless demanded by the Board during the first year of membership. The Board also reported that the Secretary be instructed to ask members of the committee to forward him the names and addresses of probable non-union members of the Club that they would introduce.

The following having informed the committee that they were willing to act as hon. medical officers to the Union, were duly elected: Edinburgh: Dr. James Burnet, 6, Glengyle-terrace; Torquay: Dr. Alan Bennett, Five Ways; Ilfracombe: Dr. Percy H. Gardner.

Fourteen new members were elected and three resignations were accepted.

ACTORS' CHURCH UNION.

At a meeting of the committee, held on Jan. 8 at Bishop's House, Kennington Park, with the Lord Bishop of Southwark in the chair, a cordial vote of thanks was given to Mr. Cyril Maude for his kindness in lending the Playhouse for the recent matinée in aid of the funds of the A.C.U. Votes of thanks were also passed to the performers and organisers and all others who had combined to make the matinée a success.

The annual conference of the A.C.U. has been fixed for Thursday, June 24, at 2.30 p.m., and, by the kindness of Mr. Robert Arthur, will be held in the Coronet Theatre, Notting Hill. The conference will be followed by a garden party at Kensington Vicarage, on the invitation of Rev. Prebendary Pennefather.

The annual service will take place at St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, and the preacher will be the Lord Bishop of Southwark, President of the Union. The date will be announced later.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

There was no lack of variety in the concert given by the students of the Guildhall School on Wednesday evening, although the first item in the programme, Liszt's 12th Rhapsodie, neatly played by Miss Elva Barnes, is somewhat too often heard at students' recitals. Miss Florence Dickinson sang "O Flower of all the World (Woodforde-Finden) with excellent tone and expression; and Mr. John Game's violin solos, "Romance" (Johannes Wolff) and a difficult but extremely unmelodious Valse by Tschaikowski, were most ably executed. A duet, "In Spring Time," sung by Miss Helena Spicer and Miss Mary Wynne-Hulm, proved very attractive, and was much applauded. The Paraphrase de Concert on Tschaikowski's "Eugene Onegin" (Pabst) is not a very attractive piano solo, although cleverly played by Miss Ruby Wastell. The School tenor prizewinner 1908, Mr. Reginald Crawford, who has a very pleasing voice, sang "A spray of lilac" and "My garden of roses" most artistically, and had a hearty reception from the large audience. Miss Gladys Platt, in her piano solo, Grieg's Prelude, displayed a refined and facile touch; and Miss Nellie Watson's fine voice was heard in Sir E. Elgar's songs "Queen Mary's Song" and "A Poet's Life." Miss Emmie Hitchcock gave a fairly correct but very mild version of the brilliant waltz air from Gounod's *Romeo and Juliet*; while Mr. Eldon Dacre employed his excellent baritone voice with good effect in a clever rendering of recitative ("Alzati") and aria ("Eri tu") from Verdi's "Un Ballo in Maschera." Mrs. T. D. Simmins, pupil of Mr. L. Cairns James, gave a lively recitation of Tom Gallon's sketch "Miss Peat's Extra Turn." Miss Jenny Hyman was the accompanist.

A new novel, entitled "The Fault," by C. T. Podmore, will shortly be published by Mr. John Long. The story is said to be of a highly dramatic character.

Mr. Editor.—Sir,—May I, on behalf of Mrs. Edward Sondheim, call your attention to an error which occurred in your report of the performance of *Dr. Bill*, given by her on behalf of the Messina Earthquake Fund? The amount realised was £110, and not over £200 as stated. May I also add that most of the expenses were defrayed by Mr. Edward Sondheim?—Yours faithfully, Geo. W. Hodgson, Manager, Welford House, Hampstead, N.W.

Makes the Skin as Soft as Velvet.—Beetham's "La-rola" Preserves the Skin from the effects of frost, cold winds, and hard water. Entirely removes and prevents all roughness, redness, irritation, chaps, &c., and Keeps the Skin Soft, Smooth, and White at All Seasons. Invaluable for the Complexion, Delightfully Soothing and Refreshing after golfing, cycling, motoring, dancing, &c. Gentlemen will find it wonderfully soothing if applied after shaving. Bottles, 1s., 1s. 9d., and 2s. 6d. each, of all Chemists and Stores. M. Beetham and Son, Cheltenham.—[Advt.]

"MERRY WIDOW" DINNER.

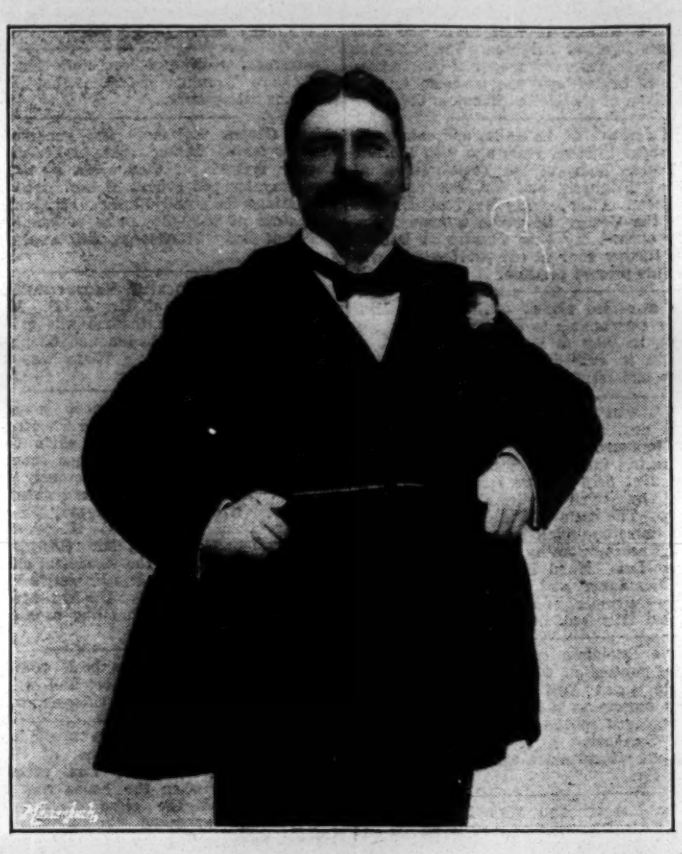
The O.P. Club, founded in 1900, by Mr. Carl Hentschel, has been responsible for many interesting functions. The most noticeable that may be mentioned are the Welcome Home Dinner to Sir Henry Irving and Miss Ellen Terry, the Congratulatory Dinner to Sir Charles Wyndham, the Welcome Home Supper to Mr. Charles Hawtrey and Mr. Lionel Brough, and Congratulatory Dinner to Sir John Hare and Sir Charles Santley, and recently the celebrated Savoyard Dinner. Last Sunday's function, *The Merry Widow* Dinner, held at the Hotel Cecil, eclipsed all others in point of numbers and interest. It was the first time that any body of playgoers 550 strong had assembled to celebrate the success of any particular play. The O.P. Club were honouring not only Mr. George Edwardes, who is, indeed, rarely seen at public dinners, but also they were welcoming the artists who have taken part in this world-famed opera. The President, Mr. Max Pemberton, proposed the toast of "The Hit of the Century," to which Mr. George Edwardes replied, and Mr. Mostyn T. Piggott proposed *The Merry Widow*, to which Miss Lily Elsie and Mr. Joseph Coyne responded. As a memento of this dinner, Mr. Mostyn T. Pigott, on behalf of the O.P. Club, presented to Miss Lily Elsie a neat silver jewel casket, tortoiseshell top, inlaid with silver, bearing the inscription: "The O.P. Club 'Merry Widow' Dinner, Jan. 31, 1909." A pretty and exceedingly artistic souvenir menu, which had been specially prepared for this dinner, and designed and produced by Mr. Carl Hentschel, was in the hands of every guest.

Amongst those present were Mr. L. A. Atherley-Jones, K.C., M.P., Mr. Frank Boor, Miss Phyllis Broughton, Miss Alexandra Carlisle, Major Campbell Coffin, Mrs. Campbell Coffin, Mr. Algernon L. Collins, Mrs. Algernon L. Collins, Mr. Joseph Coyne, Mr. Harding Cox, Miss Evelyn D'Alroy, Miss Marie Dainton, Mr. Frank Desprez, Miss Desprez, Miss Irene Desmond, Miss Constance Drever, Mr. G. Spencer Edwards, Mr. George Edwardes, Miss Lily Elsie, Miss Clara Evelyn, Mr. Robert Evett, Mr. Thomas Fraser, Mr. Fred Farren, Mr. Albert Garcia, Mr. George Grossmith, jun., Miss Evie Greene, Mr. Carl Hentschel, Mrs. Carl Hentschel, Miss Hentschel, Miss Elsie Irving, Mr. Herman Jacoby, Miss Nora Kerin, Mr. Maurice Levy, Miss Phyllis Legrand, Col. Henry Mapleson, Miss Greville Moore, Mr. Ernest Mayer, Miss Gertie Millar, Mr. J. F. McArdle, Mr. G. E. Minor, Mr. Edmund Payne, Mrs. Edmund Payne, Mr. Max Pemberton, Mrs. Max Pemberton, Mme. Petite, Miss Jessie Rose, Mr. Harry Randall, Mr. George Rollit, Miss Gabrielle Ray, Mr. T. McDonald Rendle, Mr. Frank Richardson, Miss Vera Thornton, Miss Gertrude Thornton, Sir J. Somers Vine, and Miss Kate Welch.

After the toast of "The King" had been heartily honoured,

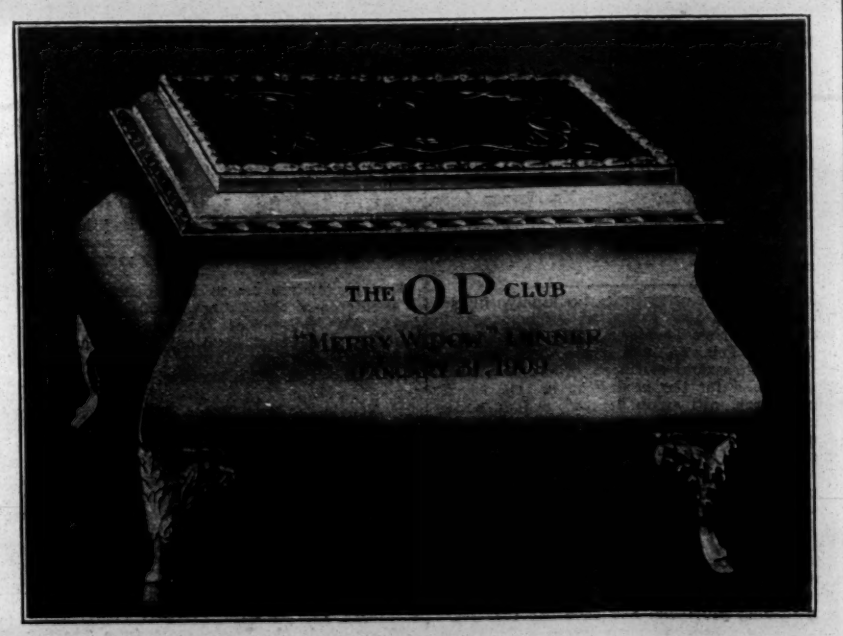
The CHAIRMAN, proposing "The Hit of the Century," said, in the course of his remarks: I cannot say that Mr. George Edwardes has satisfied me. He has not told me how to make the hit of the century. His secret, ghastly or otherwise, remains in his own possession, and so I am left to answer for him, and to tell you that the secret of his life is success, and that we are here to celebrate that success with all the goodwill we can command. We are here, indeed, to recognise the fact that he has spent more than twenty-five years in a continuous endeavour to amuse the people. I need hardly say that such a task provokes criticism, that it makes enemies—but best of all that it makes friends. If you amuse the people you are criticised by those who do not amuse the people. These go about crying as the Ephesians of old, "Great are Shaw and the Shavians," but you will discover them none the less where widows are merry, and you will not be surprised that Superman, who has known them, drowns the memory in a lingering waltz. I repeat they do not amuse the people. Now, it would be impossible to celebrate Mr. George Edwardes' many triumphs and to ignore the particular form of entertainment by which they have been won. I might speak of musical comedy in many phases. I might speak of its educational side as a well-ordered system for the secondary training of peers, a system embracing a considerable knowledge of geography and topography, with some sidelights upon the manners and customs of alien people. I might ask how many schoolboys—public school boys—knew much of Dantzig or Gottenberg, or the French Riviera before Mr. George Edwardes personally conducted them to those interesting localities. One might even venture the question: How far was the economic status of the shop-girl understood before the production of *The Girl from Kay's*? These I will avoid, preferring to regard musical comedy as the oldest fashion of all mere emotional display. Is it not, after all, but just singing and dancing, and is not that as all as the world? May we not believe that the children of Israel had their musical comedies in the desert, and that Moses took a stage box, while the show was generally presented by Moses? More than this, am I not permitted by the theologians to tell you that, whatever be the fate of mere comedy and drama in the world to come, singing and dancing will be the permanent recreations of the blessed. If this implies that the problem play must be performed in a somewhat heated atmosphere, the fault is not mine. I claim elemental virtues for this form of art or recreation or whatsoever you choose to call it, and I say that there is no nonsense about it. When the young art student said to Whistler, "I paint what I see," he retorted, "Ah, but the tragedy will come when you see what you paint." The man who produces a successful musical comedy must see what his artists paint all the time, and there must be no tragedy about it. For twenty-five years and more has Mr. George Edwardes done this—lavishly, fearlessly with honest purpose, great courage, and splendid achievement. He himself is the true story of musical comedy. It was in the year 1885 that he presented to us his first study of the criminal law, *Little Jack Sheppard*. With one exception our guest is thus the doyen of London managers. I hold in my hand a list of his children; is it not an instructive document? Seven bouncing girls to begin with, a few boys to keep the house lively—children of many lands and many colours—Greeks, Spaniards, Germans, aristocratic collaterals, and indispensable poor relations. As we read it the names of many delightful players recur to us. Some of these children have left the old home for the splendour of palaces and the realisation of unlimited bank balance—some, perhaps, have found the balances not what they expected—I pass over that; but out of it all the supreme fact emerges that though girls may come and girls may go, all London will re-echo the wish that Mr. George Edwardes—the very father of our gaiety—may go on for ever. Such is the sentiment I venture to commend to you. We are here—the ladies will permit me for the moment to address the mere males—we are here, most of us, married men, to celebrate the joyousness of widows. To this has our simple human nature been led by the thunderbolt which Mr. George Edwardes has fired among us, the hit which still leaves our ears singing. By him we have learned that when, gentlemen, we are dead and gone, are seeking new melodies from unfamiliar instruments, then our widows will be spending the twenty millions we intend to leave them in vulgar flirtations in a beer garden. This needs much courage to contemplate, but where courage is concerned, Mr. Edwardes is our friend. By him consolation shall come; by him the wind shall be tempered to the shorn lamb; with him we will forget for a little while that brief life is here our portion, and that the funds are falling one by one. He, indeed, is our true friend, and caring little about hits and little about misses, I ask you to drink his health with gratitude and with enthusiasm.

MR. GEORGE EDWARDES, who, in rising, was received with tumultuous applause, said, in reply to the toast:—Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,—It is with some diffidence that I rise to return thanks for the toast that my friend Mr. Pemberton has so brightly proposed. The delivery of speeches from the stage and elsewhere is not a department of managerial duty in which I profess to be proficient. It does not matter so much on a first night, because some kind friends are cheering and other kind friends are booing, and nobody hears a word. If I could confine my speeches to these rare occasions—they could not be too rare—



MR GEORGE EDWARDES. [*Photo by Hana.*

I might acquire a reputation as an orator. But in the presence of an audience of orators I will be brief and not more tedious than I can help. It is good of you to allude to the piece with which I am connected as the "Hit of the Century," I hope it will not be the only hit of the century, for there are ninety-one more years to run, and I cannot afford to run Daly's Theatre for ninety-one years on the surplus profits of *The Merry Widow*. Certainly *The Merry Widow* has had a wider success than any musical piece since *The Mikado*. I feel somewhat shy in returning thanks for *The Merry Widow* and those concerned in presenting her to London. I have had long experience in dealing with girls—Gaiety girls who never went to the Gaiety, and all sorts of other girls who did, but this is my first widow. Well, I won the widow by methods of wooing unnecessary to mention here, and having won her I had to introduce her to the British public. To begin with, I had to teach her to speak English, and then I had to find her an English-speaking lover and a circle of friends.



THE CASKET.

It was not so easy to settle on the people to play the widow or her lover. Prima donnas for light opera have never been plentiful in England, and those who had already attained fame in that position were mostly engaged. I had to choose some lady, not so much for what the public had seen her do as for what I hoped they would see her do. The lady I need not name. The authors and the composer said, "Who is this lady? We have not heard of her." I replied "Come and see her!" They came, and there was no more trouble. But with the part of Danilo there was more difficulty. Danilo is, as those of you who have been in Germany will know, a singing part, and it is also an acting part. Now when one author and the composer came over, they said, "Who is your tenor? Who is going to sing as Danilo?" Then I had to explain that my tenor, though an admirable vocalist, was somewhat out of voice—that he was nervous. When they insisted on hearing Mr. Joseph Coyne, I used to turn on Mr. Adrian Ross to talk German to them. Well, by hook or crook, and by exhausting all the resources of managerial mendacity, I delayed the evil day, but at last Mr. Leon and Mr. Lehar heard my tenor, and they said, or at least Mr. Leon, who speaks English, said, "Why, your tenor does not sing at all—he talks!" "Yes," I answered, "but did you ever hear a man talk a song better?" They were indignant—they wanted to start for Vienna at once. I had to put Mr. Ross on to tell them the next train in German, and by the time he had finished the train had gone. Eventually, being very nice people, they quieted down. They did want to tell me what they thought of my conduct, but it was agreed that Mr. Lehar should express it in Hungarian or Czech. I don't speak Czech, though I write it well. They stayed to the first night—and I will say no more. To show you the difficulties with which managers have to contend, I was once negotiating with a lady to go to India as prima donna, and I thought I would approach the question artfully. We were nearly agreed—the difference between us was a paltry £100 a week—I offered her £100, the same salary as I had paid to Miss Farren, and she asked me £200 a week. I began to tell her of the rest for her voice. I spoke of the lovely voyage, the quiet Bay of Biscay, the blue Mediterranean, her arrival at Calcutta, the glories of India, how the lady would win the hearts of all the princes, of Jams and Rams and Dams, Nawabs and Nabobs, Rajahs and Maharajahs. I said, "They'll send you ropes of pearls to tie up your dresses, elephants with trunks full of emeralds, and diamonds enough for a skirt—and skirts *were* skirts in those days." I said, "What is a miserable hundred a week by the side of that?" Well, I thought I had impressed the lady. She promised to think it over. She did. Next day I got a note:—

"Dear Mr. Edwardes,

"Give me my terms and you can keep the presents."

If I am not boring you I would like to tell you a little story of the last night of the old Gaiety. Well, I was very anxious to get Sir Henry Irving to come and say a few farewell words for us on the stage at the end of the performance, but I was rather afraid that he would not turn up, so on the night before I called up at Drury Lane Theatre, where he was then playing Dante, and I went to his room to see him. I told him that there was intense excitement about the last night, I reminded him that he was an old Gaiety actor, and that the public were very anxious to see him at the Gaiety. "Great excitement to see me, is there?" he said. "The greatest," I replied. "Inquiries if I'm coming all day at the box-office, eh?" "The telephones have not ceased ringing," was my answer. "Telegrams and letters all day, too!" "All day!" "Edwardes, what a d——d liar you are!" And now, before I sit down, let me say how much I value the kindly welcome that we of *The Merry Widow* have had here to-night. It is a great honour to be entertained by the O.P. Club. There were once O.P. riots at the theatre. I am sure none of the members of the club would do anything of that sort. There is another sense in which O.P. is used on the stage—it means opposite to prompt. That also is not the meaning of this club. In their zeal for the best interests of the drama, in their friendly welcome to excellence, native or foreign, they are prompt—not the opposite. But whenever I go on the stage to rehearse before a production, or to be booed after it, I shall look across to the O.P. side, and remember to-night. For we managers, even managers of musical plays, have our artistic ambitions, even if we have to think of business considerations. We try to give the best we can get; we do not intentionally bore the critics and the public, as some people seem to think. We do not instruct the librettists to put in an especially stupid line in order to annoy the fastidious people in the stalls. Perhaps we didn't know the line was stupid—or perhaps we didn't put it in at all. We try our best—if we fail, we generally know it better than others, but, after all, it is not criminal; if we succeed, we value better than the money rewards of success the kindly recognition and welcome of those who know—our friends and hosts of the O.P. Club.

MR. MOSTYN T. PIGOTT, in submitting the toast of *The Merry Widow* said; "You have learnt how the Merry Widow has cast her spell over the major portion of the civilised world; how Germany, Austria, and the United States have formed a Triple Alliance to do her honour; how the Antipodes have bowed beneath her sway; and how even the illimitable veldt has yielded to her blandishments. France alone has so far kept clear of the entanglement, but there can be no doubt that before very long that beauty-loving and laughter-loving land will echo to the cries of "Vive la Veuve!" But there are certain illuminating facts to which your attention has so far not been directed. From certain unimpeachable authorities I have from time to time gleaned many items of interest and value. For instance, I find that since *The Merry Widow* was first produced, the various interpreters of the title-rôle have received between them no less than 19,066 proposals of marriage; that the various impresarios have comfortably banked the cool sum of £19,000,002 as their profits; and that there is a not inconsiderable section of the House of Lords which believes that the best method of reforming that much-abused institution would be to co-opt Mr. Joseph Coyne. With regard to the last-named item, I may say that I think personally that it would be a graceful act to make a peer of the realm of one who, though by the mere accident of birth an American, has been adopted by this country as a Coyne of the realm, and a sound, sterling, and true-ringing Coyne at that. And what of Miss Lily Elsie? Zounds, oddsbodikins, and gadzooks! as Mr. Max Pemberton's heroes have a habit of remarking, to say that she has brought a whole nation to her feet would be to put the matter but mildly. In these days, when, unfortunately, only too many of our leading actors and actresses appear to get bored with a part after a run of 100 nights, it is deliciously refreshing to see Miss Elsie, as I saw her only yesterday afternoon, playing her part with the same charming freshness, the same sincerity, and the same absence of exaggeration as she displayed twenty months ago. It is constantly being hurled at us as a reproach nowadays that we are as a nation wallowing in an abyss of apathy, that we are deaf to the call of duty, and blind to the imminence of danger. But I make bold to say that, were there danger impending, Miss Lily Elsie has only to don the uniform of the Territorial Army and sound her bugle, and there would not be a male inhabitant of these islands who would not cheerfully enrol himself under her banner, and who would not march to death or glory with a smiling face to the accompaniment of that haunting melody to which we have luncheoned, dined, supped, aye, and even taken our morning tubs for so long. Under the lithe and lissome leadership of our Marsovial Joan of Arc we should literally waltz round our unfortunate and foredoomed foe. But we must not let this evening pass without some words of recognition to others to whom honour is due. There are other ladies present who have charmingly represented The Merry Widow, and there are other ladies and gentlemen present amongst us who, by their sweet singing, their graceful dancing, and their genial and unforced humour, have largely contributed to the unprecedented success of this wonderful piece as members of one of the most thoroughly gifted casts ever seen in London. We are not here to-night to say "Farewell" to *The Merry Widow*. She is in her zenith, and it may be years and years before that sad word must be said. So it is not only with hearts full of thanks for the past but also with hearts full of hope for the future that we will drink to the toast of "The Merry Widow." But before that toast is formally put to you for your enthusiastic reception I have a pleasing duty to perform. I am deputed by the committee of the O.P. Club to ask Miss Lily Elsie to accept this little jewel casket, and to express the hope that she will live for many many years to look upon it with kindly eyes as a souvenir of a celebration which has been to her, we trust, delightful, and which has been, we know, well won.

MISS LILY ELSIE, who received a most enthusiastic ovation, responded in the following words: Mr. Ladies, Mrs. President, and Gentlemen,—Oh! there, I've mixed it up. I'm so sorry, but I am so nervous. I don't think I was worse on my own first night. I tried to learn a speech; I couldn't. All yesterday I was thinking. I was thinking where I could hide these few notes; they are not my salary. Mr. Edwardes has that, I hope. First I thought of putting it in my hat, but it wasn't large enough—my hat, I mean. I thought of putting it under these gloves, but they faded. So here are my thanks in writing—my own. It's awful writing; I can hardly read it, however. Oh! I've put down something funny I thought of. I think it is most appropriate I should address you, because you are merry. I don't mean too merry—is that good?—and although you are not widows, you are smoking my weeds. Mr. Coyne will say that to-morrow night. That's half my speech. Would you like any more? Very well. I want to say how much I owe my dear manager, Mr. Edwardes, for I fully realise that it is the part that makes the artist, not the artist who makes the part. I thought you would have said "No, no!" And another thing, it has been a pleasure to act with Mr. Joseph Coyne. Ladies, gentlemen, and others, I want to sit down, as I am so nervous; but before I do, will you allow me very gratefully to thank you—to thank you from my heart for the way in which you have been indulgent enough to endorse Mr. Edwardes's choice of the obscure little girl I was, and am still? I thank you; indeed I do.

MR. JOSEPH COYNE, replying to the same toast, said in the course of his remarks: I have not only the O.P. Club to thank for your kind invitation to this delightful gathering, but also Mr. Edwardes, who made it possible for me to be a member of *The Merry Widow* company, because, as everyone knows by this time, the part of Danilo in *The Merry Widow* is a singing part absolutely, and, as everyone knows now—or at least they knew before the first night was over—I was not a singer. When Mr. Edwardes offered me the part of Danilo I knew there was a lot of music to be sung, and told him that I knew and felt I could not sing it. But he insisted. He told me that what I could not sing or did not sing I could recite, and after much persuasion he finally got me to consent to accept the part on condition that I could recite what I did not sing. Well, rehearsals started, and of course while Mr. Edwardes was directing them everything went all right as far as I was concerned. Finally, the week before the production Mr. Edwards had Mr. Lehar, the composer, and Mr. Leon, the author, over to attend the final rehearsals. Everything went swimmingly until my entrance as Prince to sing the Maxim song, and as soon as I opened my mouth and started to sing Mr. Lehar's smiles turned to frowns, he fidgeted in his chair, and did not strike the keys at all. In fact, he looked from one to another, first at Mr. Edwardes, then at Mr. Leon and Mr. Slavinsky, as much as to say, "What the devil is this? What is this you are springing on me?" The song was finished. Mr. Lehar immediately left the piano, and got his hat and coat, and called to Mr. Leon and Mr. Slavinsky, and all three of them left the theatre abruptly. Immediately they went to their hotel and packed their belongings, paid their bill, and sent to Mr. Edwardes that they were going to return to Vienna at once. Mr. Edwardes went to the hotel to find out what the trouble was, and through Slavinsky he learned that Mr. Lehar objected to me—he objected to my playing the part of Danilo, and went off in his German, "Mein Gott, this man Coyne—he cannot sing—he will ruin my opera—Danilo! he can't sing my music"—and said that he would not consent to the production of the piece unless they got a man in my place who could sing. Of course, time was getting short, and Mr. Edwardes, through Mr. Slavinsky, said, "Well, my goodness! we must have this man. There is no other man available. Besides, this man, Coyne—I know he can't sing, but he can dance and he can act, and we must have him—he is a funny man. Tell him he's a really funny man—a very funny man," and Mr. Lehar's reply was, "Well, you tell Mr. Edwardes I haven't written any funny music!" So, as I said before, through Mr. Edwardes's loyalty to me and your kindness, here I am!

Mr. W. H. BERRY proposed "The Chairman," and Mr. Max Pemberton's reply brought the speech-making to an end

The musical arrangements during the evening were directed by Messrs. Bernard Dickson and Stanley Greig, and the orchestra played many delightful selections from Mr. George Edwardes's productions. Among the artists who assisted to make the function still more attractive by vocal and other contributions were: Miss Constance Drever, Miss Evie Greene, Mr. Robert Evett, Mr. Charles Copland, Mr. Morris Harvey, Mr. Walter Churcher, Miss Clara Evelyn, Miss Blanche Gaston-Murray, Mr. George Grossmith, jun., Mr. Albert Garcia, Mr. Spencer Thomas, and the "Daly" Glee.

The arrangements of the dinner were in the hands of Mr. Carl Hentschel, Mr. T. McDonald Rendle, and the hon. secretaries, Messrs. J. Davis and Stanley Greig.

PLOTS AND PLAGIARISMS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—In your issue of Jan. 23 you published in parallel columns what purports to be scenarios of my comic opera *The Son of the Sun* and of *Amasis*. These were sent to you by an anonymous correspondent in order that your readers might be able to compare them to the detriment of the judgment in my recent action against Amasis, Ltd., and Mr. Frederick Fenn. Kindly allow me the opportunity of drawing attention to the fact that neither of the scenarios given is a fair epitome of its respective opera.

The Son of the Sun contains two themes or plots which, although overlapping, are quite distinct, and might easily be used separately. One is the cat theme, which deals with the hero being condemned to death for slaying a sacred cat; the other is the abduction of the Princess by brigands. It was in respect of the former, an entirely original and novel theme, that my action was brought and decided. Whilst your correspondent gives in considerable detail the abduction theme, he subdues—I hesitate to think intentionally—to almost nothing the cat theme, which dominates the entire opera. He is also misleading when he states: "Muimui (proper Miumiu, who is the hero) is granted seven days to find the Princess, as anyone finding her can claim her for his bride." This implies that if the hero should recover the Princess he would be thereby enabled to marry her; whereas, having confessed that he slew a sacred cat, a capital crime, nothing whatever can save him, a situation identical with that at the end of Act I. of *Amasis*.

Turning to the scenario given as that of *Amasis*, I find in the last third thereof characters bearing the names Cleophar, Bosibus, Plasterpom, and Phizz, *none of which appear in the libretto of Amasis*. As a matter of fact, those characters and the incidents there set forth belong to an extravaganza, entitled *The Mystic Cat*, the author of which collaborated with Mr. Faraday, composer of *Amasis*. Subsequently he brought an action for plagiarism against Mr. Fenn and Mr. Faraday, who settled the matter shortly before trial by paying £100 and £150 respectively, all of which appeared in the reports of my action. Now it is on material such as this that your nameless correspondent invites your readers to rejudge my own case. Were it not so serious I should feel disposed to regard the whole thing as an amusing hoax.

Your also reprint a criticism of the case and the judgment written by Mr. Adrian Ross, who attacks both. He seems to argue that the evidence of plagiarism would have been stronger had the differences between the point of similarity been greater; but as he observes later: "Of course, an unskilful plagiarist simply steals the whole—merits, defects, and all," there is no need for me to deal with his arguments.

I must, however protest against what he makes it appear were the grounds on which my action was based. He says: "Anybody thinking of the consequences of killing a sacred animal would select the cat for treatment in ancient Egypt as naturally as the cow in India." The right to use the killing of a cat as the theme for an Egyptian comic opera formed no part of my claim. It is common property. I could myself invent a dozen entirely different plots based on that theme, and no doubt a hundred could be constructed; it is when two of the plots are practically identical that there is infringement. Similarly, the use of the "adage about the nine lives" of a cat, made much of by Mr. Ross, cannot be claimed exclusively by me or by anybody; a novel and quaint variant of it, employed in a special connection, may, however, form a link in a long chain of similarities.

It is perfectly obvious to me that Mr. Ross neither heard the whole (if any) of the trial, nor made the acquaintance of the twenty-nine counts of the particulars of claim, which covered over fifty points of similarity. He is, therefore, not in a position to pass judgment on the result.

As your article reflects adversely on my work and on my action, I trust that you will, in common fairness, give equal prominence to my letter.—Yours faithfully, W. GUNN GWENNET.

196, The Grove, Hammersmith, W.

DRAMATIC COINCIDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I have read my friend Mr. Arthur Shirley's letter, which appeared under the above heading in your issue of the 30th ult., in which he draws attention to the fact that a situation in a new play just completed by him bears a striking resemblance to an incident in Mrs. Morton Powell's drama, *How Girls are Brought to Ruin*, produced by me in Liverpool a week ago.

This particular situation I may say was discussed by Mrs. Morton Powell with many of her friends and dramatic associates many months ago. The drama itself was advertised by me in the columns of your paper so far back as September last.

Of Mr. Shirley's play both Mrs. Powell and myself were entirely ignorant until I received a charming and kindly letter from Mr. Shirley, in which he discussed the matter, on Friday last.

There cannot, therefore, be any suggestion of plagiarism on the part of Mrs. Powell or myself, and I am equally convinced there is none on the part of Mr. Shirley. It is evident, as Mr. Shirley says: "Two authors have struck the same root idea," for a situation in one act of each of their plays.—Yours faithfully, MORTON POWELL.

Queen's Theatre, Farnworth.

Jan. 30, 1909.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree returned to town yesterday in excellent health after his excursion to Egypt, and is now able to give rehearsals of *The Dancing Girl* the benefit of his personal supervision. Most of the principals of the revival of Mr. Henry Arthur Jones's clever play at His Majesty's on the 16th inst. have already been mentioned in this column, but we can now state that Mr. Tree's full support will consist of Messrs. A. Vane-Tempest, Louis Calvert, G. W. Anson, Charles Quartermaine, Basil Gill, Walter R. Creighton, Hugh B. Tabberer, Norman Page, and Henry Morrell, and Misses Alice Crawford Marie Löhr, Rosina Filippi, Juliet Hardinge, Gabrielle de Wilden, Muriel Alexander, Mrs. E. H. Brooke, and Miss Valentine.

Sir Squire and Lady Bancroft's wedding present to Captain Wilfred G. Lucas and Mlle. Catherine Béchet de Ballan, who were married last week at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Cadogan-street, took the form of a set of silver teaspoons of a quaint Norwegian pattern. Sir Squire also attended the reception at Hans Crescent Hotel, and Mr. George Grossmith, jun., Mrs. George Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Bram Stoker, Miss Genevieve Ward, and Mrs. Kendal were likewise present.

Miss Lena Ashwell has decided to produce her new comedy at the Kingsway on Thursday next, and the present run of *Diana of Dobson's* will accordingly terminate this evening. *The Truants* is by Wilfred T. Coleby, and is in three acts, which are covered by the space of twenty-four hours. In addition to Miss Ashwell, the full cast will consist of Mr. C. M. Hallard, Miss Margaret Murray, Mr. W. Lemmon Warde, Mr. Norman McKinnell, Mr. Dennis Eadie, Miss Gertrude Scott, Miss Frances Ivor, Miss Athene Seyler, Mr. Ernest Young, Miss Olivia, and Mr. W. Fazan. The production is under the supervision of Mr. Norman McKinnel.

Mr. H. B. Irving will present his own version of *Hamlet* for the first time in London at the Shaftesbury on Monday, when Miss Dorothea Baird will appear for the first time in the West End as Ophelia. Mr. Frank Tyars will be the King, and included in the cast will also be Mr. Tom Reynolds, Mr. Eric Maxon, Mr. Stanley Howlett, Mr. Charles Dodsworth, Miss Eily Malyon, and Miss E. Frances Davis.

The Irving memorial was mentioned in the Liverpool Police-court on Saturday, when a man, who gave the name of Walter Wright, and described as an artist, was charged with having obtained by means of a trick sums of money from various persons, including the Duchess of Sutherland, Sir Frederick Pollock, Sir Charles Santley, Mr. J. M. Barrie, and Mr. Martin Harvey. The accused is alleged to have advertised his intention of inaugurating "The Irving Memorial Club" to perpetuate the memory of the late Sir Henry Irving. The subscription for life members would be ten guineas, while annual subscriptions would be £1 1s. Wright, on being charged, said, "I did not look upon it as stealing. I have spent the money." He was remanded for seven days.

Mr. Arthur Bourchier had a distinguished audience for the première of *Samson* at the Garrick on Wednesday. Among the titled people were Baron Alfred de Rothschild, the Earl of Kinnoull, Earl Howe, Viscount and Viscountess Churchill, Lord Kilmarnock, Lady Sarah Wilson, Lord and Lady Abingdon, and Muriel Countess de la Warr. The stage was represented by Sir William Gilbert, Mr. Henry Arthur Jones, Mr. Alfred Sutro, and Mr. Otho Stuart, and the law by Mr. Rufus Isaacs, K.C., Mr. C. F. Gill, K.C., and Mr. Marshall Hall, K.C.

The New Frances Club, which was started by Miss Frances, the sister of Miss Lena Ashwell, just over a year ago, for the benefit of ladies connected with the theatrical profession and journalism, is increasing rapidly in popularity. On Sunday evening a most successful concert was given at the club premises, 425, Strand, and was well attended. The artists contributing to the programme were Miss Maryon Manville, who is understudying Miss Louie Pounds in *Dorothy*, and proved herself a capable vocalist and elocutionist; Miss Louise Lund, Miss Lily Roberts, Miss Jackson, Mr. Isador Newmark, Mr. Ron Emanuel, Mr. E. A. Lamb, Mr. Ernest Grey, and Mr. Mark Hyam. The new Frances Club has many prominent actresses included in the list of membership.

Miss Ellaline Terriss will emerge as the star of her own company on Monday, when *The Dashing Little Duke* will have its first representation at the Theatre Royal, Nottingham. The book is by Mr. Seymour Hicks, and music has been supplied by Mr. Frank E. Tours and lyrics by Mr. Adrian Ross. Mr. Charles Frohman will present the play on Wednesday, Feb. 17, at the Hicks Theatre, London, with the same company as at Nottingham.

The original adaptation of *The Dashing Little Duke*, from the French of MM. Bayard and Dumanoir, was made by Osmond Shillingford and Aubrey Boucicault. In the present production Miss Terriss will be supported by Messrs. C. Hayden Coffin, Sam Walsh, Frank Wilson, Henry Franckiss, Lawrence Caird, Frederick Vigay, M. Protti, Hughes Croise, Charles le Galley, Roland Chester, and Courtice Pounds; and Misses Louie Pounds, Maud Milton, Elizabeth Firth, Coralie Blythe, and Florence Wood.

Mr. Martin Harvey's visit to the Grand Theatre, Hull, this week, has been splendidly successful. Remarkable enthusiasm has greeted the various plays, and both the popular actor and Miss de Silva won great success. On Monday the company appear at the New Theatre, Cardiff, and at the Opera House, Leicester, the following week.

A bride has again been sought and found by a wealthy suitor among the ranks of the Gaiety company, and on Saturday at Holborn Registry Office Miss Adelina Balfe, who is playing Sheila in *Our Miss Gibbs*, was wedded to Lieut. Gerard Randal Klombies, of the 2nd Dragoon Guards (Queen's Bays), who is a rich man in his own right. In the register the bride was described as an actress, daughter of Herbert Davies, deceased, musician. The bridegroom was entered as "bachelor, second lieutenant Queen's Bays, Cavalry Barracks, Hounslow." His father was described as a merchant. Immediately after the ceremony Mrs. Klombies repaired to the Gaiety, where she took her part in *Our Miss Gibbs*.

The author of *An Englishman's Home*, the production of which at Wyndham's has so stirred the patriotic pulse, is Major Guy Louis Busson Du Maurier, D.S.O., son of the late George Du Maurier, the author of *Trilby*, and brother of the popular actor Mr. Gerald Du Maurier. The new author commanded the 20th Mounted Infantry Regiment in South Africa in 1901 and 1902, being mentioned in dispatches. He became a lieutenant in the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) in 1885, and is still in the same regiment serving at the present moment with the 3rd Battalion at Pietermaritzburg, Natal.

Miss Evelyn Millard has secured a cast of considerable strength for Mr. Robert Hichens' new play, *The Real Woman*, which will follow *The Adventure of Lady Ursula* in due course at the Criterion Theatre. In addition to the popular manageress, Miss Annie Hughes, Miss Kate Cutler, Mr. Henry Ainley, Mr. Herbert Waring, and Mr. Alan Aynesworth will appear.

Mr. Bannister Howard has secured *The Sign of the Cross* company for the Crystal Palace Theatre next week, with a matinée on Wednesday. There will also be variety shows twice daily in the concert room.

Miss Edith Craig, daughter of Miss Ellen Terry, presided at a Woman's Suffrage meeting convened by the Women's Freedom League, in conjunction with the Actresses' Franchise League, yesterday afternoon at Clifford's Inn Hall. There were about 200 ladies present, and when the Chairwoman asked those who were actresses to signify as such in the ordinary way only four hands were to be seen! Miss Craig's contention in support of votes for actresses seemed to be that they got as well paid as the men of their calling, and that some of them were householders.

The Haymarket Theatre is shortly to revert to that form of entertainment with which the traditions of the house are so agreeably associated, and old English comedy is again to grace its boards. The first revival is to be *She Stoops to Conquer*, which will be staged on Saturday, Feb. 20. Miss Ethel Irving, whose comedy gifts have secured such wide recognition, will remain at the Haymarket to play Miss Hardcastle in Sheridan's brilliant play, and her assumption of a rôle that has engaged the talents of so many famous players will be awaited with the keenest interest. Mr. Robert Loraine will be the Young Marlow, and opportunity will be given to renew acquaintance with the Tony Lumpkin of Mr. George Giddens.

"Pete" is enjoying on tour the overwhelming business which marked its run throughout the autumn season at the Lyceum, and has had the satisfaction this week of beating all records at the Dalston Theatre. By Tuesday evening every bookable seat was disposed of for the week, and thousands were turned away. The production is identical with that of the original, and includes in the cast Mr. Matheson Lang, Miss Hutin Britton, and Mr. Eric Mayne.

It is the intention of Messrs. Smith and Ernest Carpenter to supply the provinces with Lyceum productions, and a number of tried successes will be sent in turn to provincial managers. The reputation of Mr. Ernest Carpenter as a successful producer has long been fully established, and the provincial manager booking one of the Lyceum productions may have the assurance that the piece is equipped, rehearsed, and prepared in a manner equal throughout to a London success.

The annual general meeting of the Theatrical Managers' Association took place on Tuesday at the Tavistock Hotel, Covent Garden. In the absence of the president, Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree, who was abroad, Mr. Edward Terry took the chair, and was supported by the other vice-presidents, Mr. J. Macready Chute and Mr. J. B. Mulholland. The meeting was largely attended, and the officers were re-elected for the ensuing year. Many matters of importance to theatrical managers were discussed, and there is every prospect of the Association being most successful in the future owing to the new rules which came into force last month.

A picturesque wedding took place at St. John's Church, Weymouth, on Wednesday, when Miss Violet Courtenay Blake, only daughter of Colonel C. J. Blake, late R.A., was married to the Rev. Alexander Hugh Gage, chaplain of H.M.S. Drake, son of the late General Ezekiel Gage, of Ballycastle, county Antrim, and Rathlin Island. Miss Blake was formerly a member of Mr. George Edwardes's principal company in *The Duchess of Dantzic*, and has lately shown great talent on the concert stage. Her mother, Mrs. Blake, is known in the musical world as Evangeline Claudette, the composer of many pleasing ballads.

The bride was given away by her father, and Surgeon F. C. Robinson acted as best man. The bridesmaids were three in number, and included Miss Dorothy Dobree, Miss Margaret Blake, and Miss Nimmo. A brilliant effect was created in the church by the handsome dresses of the ladies and the uniforms of the bridegroom's brother officers. At the reception, held after the service at the bride's house, Mr. Hugh Leslie Dobree represented the theatrical profession. The happy pair left for Monte Carlo later in the afternoon. After the honeymoon Mrs. Gage intends to resume her work on the concert stage.

A rather unpleasant experience was that of Miss Vesta Brownie, the leading lady of *Lucky 'Liza* company, last week at Wexford. The scenery and baskets got mixed with Mr. Benson's and taken to England. They were returned the next day with the exception of Miss Brownie's baskets, and consequently she had to play that night without any of her *Lucky 'Liza* dresses. Borrowing some clothes from the other ladies of the company, however, she went on and made a most satisfactory success, though she did not look a bit like 'Liza.

"The Adventure of Lady Ursula" was transferred to the Criterion on Monday, the Garrick being required by Mr. Bourchier for *Samson*. Miss Evelyn Millard acts the impetuous young lady with all her wonted charm, and admirable support is furnished by Mr. Herbert Waring as Sir George, Mr. Charles Fulton as Mr. Dent, Miss Dora Barton as Dorothy, and the other members of the capital company.

We record with regret the death of Mr. William N. Ramsdale, lately treasurer for the Robert Arthur Theatres, Ltd., at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle. Mr. Ramsdale, who was under medical treatment ten days ago, was removed to a private hospital, where he underwent an operation for appendicitis on the 25th ult. There appeared to be every prospect of a recovery, but a change for the worse set in last Monday, and Mr. Ramsdale died during the night. The deceased, who was about thirty-five years of age, joined Mr. Arthur's forces at Wolverhampton, his native town, when a boy. On the acquisition of the Theatre Royal, Newcastle, in 1895, by the manager named, Mr. Ramsdale was transferred to Newcastle as treasurer, and was associated with the house for fourteen years. Mr. Ramsdale married a Newcastle lady some five or six years ago, and leaves a widow and two young children. His untimely loss is greatly deplored.

At the conclusion of the pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth, on Saturday last Mr. Stanley White, on behalf of Mr. Bannister Howard, thanked a crowded house for the magnificent reception accorded *Cinderella*, which, he remarked, had secured a pantomime record for Plymouth, between 60,000 and 70,000 persons having visited the theatre during the five weeks' run. Messrs. Wingate and Blythe, of the orchestra, were presented with boxes of cigars as marks of appreciation by their confrères, whilst the principal ladies received large baskets and posies of flowers from admirers in front. Mr. Langdon Lee, the resident-manager, also thanked the patrons for their support, and announced the prospective bookings.

The present week will see the close of the bright little pantomime *Cinderella* at Fulham. On Monday next the regular season will open with a visit from Mr. Seymour Hicks's company in *The Gay Gordons*, one of the most successful musical comedies of late years. There will be a capital lot of artists, full chorus, and good scenery, and there is no doubt the piece will prove as powerful a draw as it did upon a former occasion.

Mr. Sydney Barraclough, who makes his reappearance on the stage in Miss Marie Dressler's new musical production at the Aldwych Theatre on Feb. 27, is to be congratulated on the astonishing cure which he has effected. Mr. Barraclough, who was last seen in London in *Florodora*, was told at the beginning of 1906 that his was a case of advanced consumption, and after several months' stay at a sanatorium, he was informed that an ultimate cure was out of the question. With admirable courage, Mr. Barraclough determined to attempt his own cure, and to that end he took a little workman's cottage, where, but for the companionship of two dogs, he lived alone and unattended for months.

His treatment consisted of a new application of hydropathy with a scientifically correct diet, no drugs or medicines, plenty of milk, and as much fresh air as possible. The effect was marvellous. He can now sing for hours in any atmosphere, and his voice is stronger than ever. "I have ridden as much as seventy-four miles on my cycle during a day," says Mr. Barraclough. "The great specialist who has watched my case for two years, and who is absolutely amazed at my recovery, has given me a certificate in which he gives it as his opinion that I am completely cured."

The wedding took place at St. Ann's Church, Manchester, recently of Mr. George Lee, manager of the Prince's Theatre in that town, and Miss Florence Agnes Dyer, of Brighton. The bride was given away by Mr. Shirra, manager of the Theatre Royal, and the bridegroom was attended by Mr. George Collinson, of the United Theatres Co.

Mr. Lee is a native of Australia, and came over to England about thirteen years ago with the late Mr. J. L. Toole. Many of Mr. Toole's last days were spent at Brighton, and Mr. Lee regularly visited him there. After leaving Mr. Toole Mr. Lee toured with the George Edwardes company, and subsequently opened the New Theatre at Ealing. Following a further tour of the provinces he was appointed to his present position.

Owing to a severe attack of bronchitis Miss Ethel Dunbar was unable to play Jack Grist, the principal boy, in *Puss in Boots* the last week of the pantomime in Peterborough, her place being taken by her understudy.

Mr. Clive Currie's rehearsal company (section A), which is now called The Revival Company, will present to-morrow (Sunday) evening, at the Rehearsal Theatre, the Forest Scenes from *As You Like It*, Act 2 of *Still Waters Run Deep*, and a one-act play, by Cyril Hallward, entitled *The Guinea Stamp*. The casts will include Misses Ella Erskine, Iné Cameron, Adah Barton, Gertrude De Burgh, Sybil Ruskin, Dorothy Heal, Frances Wolviston, Muriel Dole, Maud Kirwan, Clarissa Selwynne, and May Saker, and Messrs. Walter Ringham, William Pringle, Charles King, Gordon Philiott, Gerald Mirrilees, and Clive Currie.

Mr. Johnnie Schofield concludes to-night his first provincial pantomime with Mr. Robert Arthur at the Theatre Royal, Nottingham, where he has made a great success as the Baroness, in *Cinderella*, his appearance in the kitchen scene as the "Ballet Girl" arousing a scream of laughter. The business done has beaten the records for the past eleven years.

Mr. Charles Hartley and Miss Ethel Gordon Paull opened their European tour at Montreux on Saturday last before a large and fashionable audience. During the past week they have also given performances at Geneva, Lausanne, and Genoa. To-night they appear at Nice, and afterwards visit the following towns in the order named—Cannes, Monte Carlo, Beaulieu, Mentone, Bordighera, San Remo, Alassio, Portofino, Rapallo, Santa Margheretta, Nervi, Florence, Rome, St. Raphael, and Paris.

Miss Leila Zillwood (Mrs. Arthur Hinton) has been compelled to relinquish her part in *The Power of the King* by the doctor's orders, and will undergo an operation on Tuesday next at Aberdare. We join with the young actress's friends in wishing her a speedy recovery.

The extraordinary popularity of the cat "Mouser" in the Drury Lane pantomime *Dick Whittington* induced a well-known firm of mechanical toy-makers to obtain from Mr. Arthur Collins permission to manufacture "Mouser" toys, exact copies on a smaller scale of the original. They were sold out as soon as offered at the theatre, and the demand so exceeds the supply that it looks as if "Mouser" would prove a serious rival to "Teddy Bear" with the children.

Mr. Horton Cooper, after appearing in a series of successful productions at the Comedy Theatre, principally under the management of Mr. Charles Frohman and Mr. Arthur Chudleigh, extending from Aug. 21, 1905, to Dec. 19, 1908, has been engaged by Miss Evelyn Millard for a part in her forthcoming new play at the Criterion.

The Vedrenne-Barker production of Bernard Shaw's comedy *You Never Can Tell* starts its third year of tour on the 23rd inst. Mr. E. Taylor Platt is general-manager, and Mr. Trevor Lowe has charge of the stage. The towns to be visited include Torquay, Wolverhampton, Oxford, Bristol, Leeds, Hull, and many other important dramatic centres.

The Oxford University Dramatic Society will give performances of *The Frogs* of Aristophanes in Greek, at the New Theatre, Oxford, beginning on Wednesday, Feb. 17, and ending on Tuesday, Feb. 23, with several matinées. The music, specially composed for the production in 1892 by Sir Hubert Parry, will again be used, and an acting edition of the play has been published, with a translation, by Mr. Gilbert Murray, the Regius Professor of Greek at Oxford.

Mr. Tom Craven's latest and best melodrama, *When a Lass Loves*, will shortly be produced for the first time in London at the Dalston Theatre. The production will be elaborate, with special scenery by Jules Camus. Mr. H. Cecil Beryl, who is at the Pier Hotel, Brighton, is booking the tours, and dates have already been secured at many leading provincial and suburban theatres.

Mr. Norman V. Norman, who has been far from well lately, is taking a longer rest than usual, but will run a short tour in the spring, visiting, among other towns, Oxford, Cambridge, Cheltenham, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Belfast, and Dublin. Mr. Norman's leading lady will again be that clever actress Miss Beatrice Wilson.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie is giving three lectures, with musical illustrations, at the Royal Institution this and two following Saturday afternoons. Mendelssohn will form the subject of the first address, and on the second and third occasions "Chamber Music" will be discussed.

Messrs. Jay and Mann have now undertaken the London representation (with bookings) for the Royal Palace Theatre, Ramsgate. They already act in a similar capacity for many important theatres, including the Opera House, Middlesbrough, New Pavilion Theatre, Weymouth, and the Memorial Theatre, Chesterfield. All these can be booked in conjunction with their own Palace Theatre, Brighton. Most of the principal attractions touring have been secured for the above theatres.

Mr. Peter Davey has arranged for Miss Glossop-Harris to appear in no fewer than eight Shakespearean plays at the County Theatre, Kingston, next week. Such a formidable undertaking goes far to prove that Miss Glossop-Harris is endowed with the great energy and ability of her father, the late Sir Augustus Harris.

A theatrical experiment of a novel and enterprising character is about to be inaugurated in the forthcoming tour of Mr. Henry Arthur Jones's comedy *Dolly Reforming Herself*, which has just passed its hundredth performance at the Haymarket. In place of the ordinary provincial method, by which a stay of a week is made in each town, a flying tour will be undertaken, the company travelling from town to town in specially-designed motor-cars, thus avoiding the dreary process of long cross-country Sunday journeys. Only one performance will be given in any town.

Scenery specially adapted for transport by motor is being built, and rehearsals are in active progress. The strong company includes Miss Aimée de Burgh as Dolly and Mr. Clayton Greene as Harry. The flying tour will start on Feb. 22, and it is certain that Dolly will "sweedle" her way into the hearts of the country as happily as she has done at the Haymarket. The tour is under the direction of Messrs. Jerrard Grant Allen and Geoffrey Besant, and a comprehensive itinerary has already been mapped out.

A general meeting of the Actors' Association will be held on Tuesday, at 2.30, at the Victoria Hall, Criterion Restaurant.

Mr. George Edwardes has generously waived his fees for the acting rights of *Veronique* for the charity matinée of that opera at the Court on Thursday for the benefit of the Fresh Air Fund. The Misses Iris and Daphne FitzGeorge, granddaughters of the late Duke of Cambridge, and nieces of Lady FitzGeorge, will appear as flower girls.

At the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, on Monday a performance of Mr. J. B. Mulholland's seventh Christmas pantomime was given for the benefit of the West London and Shepherd's Bush Philanthropic Societies. There was a crowded audience.

The Annual Hospital Matinée given by Mr. George Dance at the Richmond Theatre, will take place on Thursday next, for which occasion an exceptionally fine programme has been arranged. The following artists have generously given their services:—Mr. Edward Terry and members of his company, Mr. Rutland Barrington, Mr. Lyn Harding, Mr. Basil Gill, Mr. C. H. Workman, Mr. E. Dagnall and company, Miss Georgina Delmar, Miss Grete Hahn, and the wonderful child dancer, Miss Elsie Craven, from His Majesty's Theatre. It is satisfactory to learn that the last three matinées have been the means of handing over £350 to the Richmond Hospital.

Miss Helena Millais has been re-engaged by Messrs. Smith and Carpenter, and will open at Derby on the 15th as Kate Cregeen, in *Pete*.

After a most successful run *Cinderella*, the twelfth Christmas pantomime at the Royal County Theatre, Kingston, was withdrawn on Saturday night, when the house was packed in every part. At the close Mr. Davey, who designed and arranged the show, and Mrs. Davey, were called on to the stage, and Miss Bessie Butt (Dandini) presented to the popular managing-director and his wife a silver soup tureen, and Miss Dolly Grassdorff presented to Mrs. Davey a beautiful silver slipper, both suitably inscribed, as souvenirs of the *Cinderella* season.

"God Save the King; or, The Two Lieutenants," an original military sketch, especially written for Mr. John D. Saunders and Miss Dora de Winton, is to be produced very shortly, and would have been done almost immediately but for the fact that parts of the MSS. mysteriously disappeared from Mr. and Mrs. Saunders's dressing-room on the 3rd inst., together with a pass-book, copy books, and private domestic notes. This will necessarily cause a few days' delay in preparation. Details as to plot and effects have been sent to influential managers, and we trust that Mr. and Mrs. Saunders may quickly trace the missing property.

Mr. Fred Fredericks's brilliant Stratford pantomime *Aladdin* finishes to-night with flying colours, and thus snaps its fingers at superstition. For in addition to being the thirteenth pantomime at the Borough Theatre, there are thirteen principals, the part of one of the comedians who has made a striking success is contained in thirteen pages, the chief topical duet is the thirteenth item, and in this, as if to complete the coincidence, the hired vehicle used happens to bear the number thirteen.

A special matinée was given at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, on Tuesday in aid of the local Jewish charities. The principals in the pantomimes at the Royal, Grand, and Princess's all gave their services, and, in addition, a contingent, including Messrs. Will Evans, Phil Ray, Misses Ethel Erkskine, Jane Eyre, and Florence Warde, specially travelled from Edinburgh. Miss Ethel Haydon and the principals from the *Havana* company were also included in the lengthy programme.

The pantomime season is on the wane. *Dick Whittington* at the Coronet, *Cinderella* at the Fulham, *The House that Jack Built* at the Marlborough, *Aladdin* at Stratford, and *The Babes in the Wood* at the King's, Hammersmith, will give their last performances to-night. Among the "survivors" are *Red Riding Hood* at the Kennington and *Babes in the Wood* at the Elephant and Castle, the run of the latter being expected to last some weeks longer.

For the Duchess of Rutland's matinée, organised by Lady Constance Hatch, in aid of the Royal Ear Hospital at the Queen's Theatre on Thursday, Feb. 18, a number of leading artists have promised their services, included in the long list being Miss Evelyn Millard, Miss Mary Moore, Miss Ruth Vincent, Miss Margaret Cooper, Miss Marie Tempest, Mr. Lewis Waller, Mr. Walter Passmore, and Mr. George Graves. Lady Alington will appear in the Screen scene from *The School for Scandal*, with Mr. William Farren, Mr. Gerald Laurence, and Mr. Henry Ainley, and the Hon. Mrs. Edward Stonor will make her first appearance on the stage in *The Impertinence of the Creature* with Mr. A. E. Matthews. A souvenir of the occasion, consisting of a handsome book, to which prominent artists and writers have contributed, is being prepared.

A most enjoyable function was the seventh annual pantomime supper of the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, which took place on Monday night at the local Constitutional Hall. Over 100 guests were present, and with Mr. George Mozart as chairman, and Mr. Norman Walters, the acting-manager of the theatre, for vice-chairman, the proceedings passed off very satisfactorily. The toasts were commendably brief and productive of much hilarity. Afterwards dancing was indulged in, and it was well on to Tuesday morning before the gathering broke up. Among the ladies and gentlemen also present were Mr. Alexander Leighton, Miss Winnie Browne, Miss Olive West, Mr. J. A. Watts, Mr. A. Bradshaw, and Mr. F. S. Jenninga, manager of the Lyric, Hammersmith. Mr. J. B. Mulholland was unavoidably absent.

Mr. Felix Pitt's present contract with Mr. Andrew Melville expires at Easter, thus ending a fourth successive year with him, and he has just received another contract from that gentleman for the autumn season. Mr. Pitt's many friends will rejoice to learn that his little girl, Winnie Pitt, has successfully passed her College of Preceptors' Examination, gaining three prizes, and making the tenth out of eleven to score for the High School, Twickenham.

Mr. Clive Currie will revive *The Ticket-of-Leave Man* at the West London Theatre on Monday, with himself as Hawkshaw and Miss Muriel Dole as May Edwards, supported by a strong cast.

Mr. Herbert Blount, secretary of the Actors' Association, is to be married on the 22nd inst. to Miss Rita Everard, who is at present playing in the pantomime at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham.

At the annual meeting of the proprietors of the Theatre Royal, Dublin, on the 27th ult. Mr. D. Telford, chairman of the company, who presided, in moving the adoption of the directors' report and statement of accounts, said it was his pleasant duty to announce that the profits for the year 1908 had substantially exceeded those of any previous year since the theatre was opened eleven years ago. After payment of the usual dividend, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, their reserve funds and undisturbed profits would amount to over £18,000, partially invested in Consols and in the company's own Debentures, and partially in the Winter Gardens. Within the past few months they had erected and opened the new Winter Gardens adjoining the Theatre Royal, and had entered into a contract to purchase the Gaiety Theatre, of which they would take possession on May 1 next. He added that the Gaiety would be devoted very largely to the lighter form of entertainment.

Mr. F. Mouillot, the managing-director, in seconding the resolution, expressed himself highly pleased at the continued prosperity of the company. He gave a series of important bookings, including many leading London actors, which he had secured, and announced for the Hippodrome season a list of foremost variety stars. Some of the attractions he had mentioned would be presented at the Theatre Royal and others at the Gaiety. They had decided to run one theatre or the other as a Hippodrome all the year round, except during the Christmas season, when they would produce pantomime at one theatre and opera at the other, as in past years. The retiring director and auditors were re-elected.

In the Court of Chancery on Tuesday an interim receiver of the Crystal Palace Company was appointed. The application was made on behalf of Sir Douglas Fox (acting for the First Debenture holders), and counsel said he also represented other members of the Fox family, who held the Second and Third Debentures. Sir Douglas Fox, it was stated, had a sort of hereditary interest in the Crystal Palace, his father having been one of the engineers who constructed it. Counsel asked for the appointment of Mr. Keen, a chartered accountant and a director of the company.

On behalf of the company, it was said that in view of the very important financial interests involved, the directors hoped to be able to formulate a scheme of reorganisation unless pourparlers now going on for the Palace to be taken over for the use of the public were effective, in which case the debenture stock holders would be paid in full. His lordship appointed Mr. Keen interim receiver until yesterday, when, on application by the counsel, the appointment was extended for a week, the motions to come up again.

Dresses of exquisite design are displayed in *The Chief of Staff* at the Lyric. In the first act Miss Evelyn D'Alroy appears in a lovely gown of soft white muslin over white satin, with a broad border hand-painted with pink roses in their natural colours. Over this she wears an overdress of pale blue tulle, opening in front in the tunic style, and edged all round with a hem of pale blue silk. The sleeves are of transparent blue, and a huge pink rose worn at the waist completes this charming summer costume.

The evening gown worn by Miss D'Alroy in the second act on the Loggia is composed of very soft satin charmeuse, in a very delicate shade of yellow. The skirt, with its long sweeping train, is but slightly high-waisted, and opens at one side over an underskirt of the same material veiled with net embroidered with silver sequins. The bodice is composed of swathed satin arranged over the shoulders in the style of bretelles, with a deep-pointed chemisette back and front of embroidered net. This is also used to compose the short, full sleeves which are finished with heavy silver ornaments.

Miss Auriol Lee wears in the first act a Princess robe of fine white muslin, richly ornamented down the front with bands of lace insertion. Her costume in the second act shows to perfection the beauty of the new shawl type of drapery for tall and graceful women. The shawl, which is fine black crêpe de chine, with a heavy black fringe, is swathed over the dress so that it completely compasses the bodice, droops slightly over one arm, and forms the whole train of the skirt. Beneath the drooping fringe in front appears the skirt itself of black charmeuse, heavily embroidered with gold, and the short sleeves of the gown, one of which is virtually veiled by the falling fringe of the shawl, are also made of the same rich material. A wide fillet of gold net, which Miss Lee wore in her dark hair, gave a beautiful finish to her toilette.

Although only thirty-one years of age, M. Henri Bernstein, the French dramatist, whose latest play, *Samson* was presented by Mr. Arthur Bourchier at the Garrick on Wednesday, has had eleven plays produced in Paris, eight of them successes. M. Bernstein speaks English fluently, with only the slightest foreign accent.

The Board of Trinity College of Music, London, announce the awards of sixty-two local exhibitions at centres through the British Empire. These exhibitions have been awarded on the results of the examinations held in 1908, and provide for the further education of the winners for twelve months in the subjects in which they have already been successfully examined. The exhibitions represent a disbursement by the College of over four hundred pounds.

"The Green-Room Book; or, Who's Who on the Stage," for 1909, will make its appearance early this month. It is still increasing in bulk, and will include some 900 pages of letterpress. The biographical section of the work alone approaches 550 pages, and embraces nearly 2,000 biographies, all of which have been brought up to date. An addition of some 300 names, including the leading dramatists and artists of the Continental stages, has been made. The numerous appendices include reviews of the drama in London and New York, contributed respectively by Mr. Sidney Dark and Mr. Stephen Fiske, the veteran American critic. The volume will also include a synopsis of playbills and a full list of productions in London, the provinces, New York, Paris, and Berlin, the Dramatic Directory, seating plans, and dimensions of all the London theatres, and an interesting contribution to theatrical data, covering a period of 350 years, compiled by the Editor, Mr. John Parker.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Irving's Alleged Indistinctness.

A WRITER in the *Pall Mall Gazette* has objected, for reasons which he gives, to the suggestion that the late Henry Irving's occasional, almost complete, indistinctness of utterance was due to an overtaxed voice. "That may, I think," says Mr. Pollock in the *Evening Standard*, "be ruled out on the grounds adduced by this writer, to whose instances I may add one more, that never was Irving more fatigued in voice, mind, and body than in *Dante*, and never was he more clear and distinct in articulation. I think myself that the indistinctness may have been due indirectly to what was directly and assuredly the cause of the long pauses between words, sometimes even between syllables, that were counted among his 'eccentricities.' Years ago, after he had become his own manager, he told me during an intimate supper-party of three that in his early youth he had stammered terribly, and had been cured of this affliction by being made to pause carefully before every utterance.

"Obviously this was the reason of the 'Macready pauses,' and I think very likely it had a good deal to do with the indistinctness. Then, the writer in the *Edinburgh* speaks for a particular and too ingenious purpose of Irving's want of music in his voice. Hardly can he have heard Irving's diction at its best; and surely he cannot have heard the great actor employ a small but distinctly musical singing voice when, as Mephistopheles, he delivered a mere scrap of a serenade in perfect time, tune, and taste. As for the passages that rang music in *Hamlet*, *Becket*, and many another part, who shall number them? Again, the *Edinburgh* writer tells us of a 'complete absence of native peculiarity' in Garrick; whereas, if anything is certain about Garrick it is that he was chock-full of native peculiarity and of mannerisms. Other matters I would like to contest with 'blunts' should I meet the writer. With the pen's point I leave them alone, for his is 'an honest method,' and as such not to be flouted."

"An Englishman's Home."

"MAJOR DU MAURIER'S play," writes Mr. Austin Harrison in the *Mail*, "has achieved what the critical hammer and the theatrical anvil of Mr. Bernard Shaw, and all his sparks and fire and all those of his satellites, and all power of criticism have not hitherto succeeded in accomplishing during all these years—namely, to tear away the mask which has so long palsied our stage, the mask of unreality and stage-puppet convention. At last we have a melodrama of real people. At last we have a play pointing and enforcing a great lesson. At last we have our stage used as an informative, an educative, an ennobling platform, a thing of reality, a power which is really a power. Why so many of our plays fail is because the characters are drawn as puppets rather than as people. Major du Maurier has cleaned and reformed our stage. He has swept away the tarraddidle of convention and the fee-faw-fum of jejune, false melodramatics. What even the Boer war failed to drive home *An Englishman's Home* may yet accomplish. That is a notable, a dramatic achievement. Now we need one or two more such revolutionary Beaumarchais to restore our stage to its own again."

Only a Mistake.

SIR CHARLES SANTLEY, in his "Reminiscences," which have just been published by Sir Isaac Pitman and Son, Ltd., says:—"A good funny story, of which I was the hero, appeared some years ago in a provincial comic paper. Two young fellows were on the road to their places of business; a short distance in front of them walked an individual, solacing himself with some florid vocal passages. One of the two said to his companion, 'I'll bet you a sovereign that I kick that fellow in front of us, and he won't retaliate.' 'You'd better be careful,' said the other, 'or you'll get yourself into trouble.' 'Not a bit of it,' said the first; 'not the slightest danger! Will you take the bet?' 'Very well, I will,' said the other, 'but mind, I'm not going to help you out of the mess if he shows fight.' 'Oh, he won't do that,' said number one, and, starting off at a rapid pace, overtook the vocalist, on whom he bestowed a sounding kick. The victim turned furiously upon his assailant, prepared to administer condign punishment; the aggressor started back, as though intensely surprised. 'God bless me!' said he, 'I have made a dreadful mistake, I beg your pardon, I mistook you for my friend Santley; I am really very sorry.' 'Don't mention it,' replied the victim, taking off his hat and making a graceful bow; 'but pray be more careful another time.'"

Pachmann in America.

"Returning from Philadelphia to New York, after one of my concerts, I met Pachmann on board the ferry-boat, crossing the Hudson River; we had the following dialogue:—'Ah! my dear Santley, how do you do?' 'Very well, my dear Pachmann, and how are you?' 'Oh, vat a horrible country!' 'Hush! the people about will hear you, and may retaliate!' 'I don't care, it is horrible; nossing to eat, nossing to drink, except very dear vine. I cannot sleep, I get no rest; oh, it is horrible!' 'Well, have patience, you are going to leave it soon.' 'Thank God! I suffer with my liver, oh! I cannot tell you, awful! Ah! you remember ven I vas in London I vas nice pink and vite, and now I am green; oh, it is horrible; I never come no more!'"

Macready and the Dagger.

"ALFRED MELLON told me an anecdote of Macready, apropos of his irritability when engaged in a performance. He was playing Macbeth one night at the Theatre Royal, Liverpool, during a starring engagement. When the bell rang for the second act, the call-boy, who was an Irish lad, gifted with the ready wit of his countrymen, entered the great actor's room to tell him the curtain was about to rise, and placed on the table the dagger used in the first scene. Macready called out in a gruff voice as the boy was disappearing, 'What is that, sir?' 'That's the dagger, sir,' the boy replied. 'Take it away, sir, and bring me another,' said Macready. 'Very sorry,' said the boy, 'but we have no other.' 'Take it away!' shouted the actor, 'I must have a better.' 'But we haven't got a better, sir,' replied the young joker. 'That's a very good dagger, sir; it's the one Mr. Kean used, and—with a snigger—he wasn't a bad actor, sir!'"

National Theatres and Defence.

MR. WILLIAM POEL, in his lecture at the London Institution on Thursday, on "Shakespeare and a National Theatre," gave as an illustration of how the value of a play could be destroyed by concessions, *The Englishman's Home*, which had been written in order to make young men good citizens by becoming good soldiers. That was a controversial subject, and the author should have been careful to show all sides of the argument. That he had not done. He had based the whole play on an event that might be an impossible incident, for a raid of the kind described in the play was altogether contrary to the usages of warfare. A most serious blemish was the omission of the conscientious objector, who would say that a man could defend his home in two ways—by his fists and by his brains—and insisted that Governments should settle their differences by other methods than brute force.

"THE CHIEF OF STAFF."

Play, in Four Acts, by Ronald MacDonald, produced at the Lyric Theatre, on Tuesday, Feb. 2.

General Sebastian de Solatierra — MR. WILLIAM HAVILAND
Colonel Stephen Cavendish — MR. LEWIS WALLER
Major Dennis O'Driscoll — MR. A. E. GEORGE
Guillermo Herrero — MR. SHIEL BARRY
Sergeant Baltazar — MR. CRONIN WILSON
Pedro Costanza — MR. S. J. WARMINGTON
Jaime — MR. REGINALD DANE
Marcos — MR. CATON WOODVILLE
Frasquito — MR. GEORGE COURTNEY
A Despatch Rider — MR. PATRICK DIGAN
Engracia de Solatierra — MISS AURIOL LEE
Iduna de Solatierra — MISS EVELYN D'ALROY
Lola — MISS MADGE TITHERADGE

The Chief of Staff is an excellent example of the drama of incident, excitement, and interest, containing many ingenious and novel inventions, and with a sentimental interest running parallel to the sensational. It is partly a comedy of the affections, and partly a thrilling melodrama, and, as a whole, it is genuinely effective. And not least of the attractions of the play is the author's choice of a suitable background and surroundings. The South American Republics have the great advantage of giving a free hand to the romancer, as so few of his hearers can say for certain whether he is romancing or not. Anthony Hope has cynically burlesqued the petty but pugnacious politics of one of these States in a clever novel; and Mr. Ronald MacDonald has shown the dramatic, not to say melodramatic, possibilities of these Commonwealths with their eruptive patriotism, their murderous expediency, and their feverish combativeness. It is much easier to believe in "alarums and excursions" when they take place in countries which are practically uninvestigated. And Mr. MacDonald has not failed to note the odd contrast between the native character and the imported Englishman, between the wild and beautiful tropical scenery and the majesty of Nature unspoilt, and the modernity of the telephone and the tramcar. All this adds interest to the play, especially as it has the advantage of being more than usually well acted, thanks to Mr. Waller's excellent judgment in the selection of artists.

The scene is laid in an inland Republican State of South America, the President of which, General Sebastian de Solatierra, has for right-hand man and trusted comrade an English adventurer called Stephen Cavendish. Cavendish has been wounded in a recent engagement, and the President's wife, in nursing him, has fallen in love with her patient. Cavendish never lets women "count for anything"; but the Signora Engracia makes love to him so warmly that he does not entirely repel her advances. The situation is becoming dangerous when the President's step-daughter Iduna interposes to save the Signora, to whom she is deeply attached, from ruin. She has an interview with Cavendish, in which she tells him frankly that she detests her cold-blooded, merciless character, and will do all she can to prevent the affair with Signora Engracia from going any further. Her opportunity for interference soon comes. The General sees his wife and Cavendish together, and starts with loaded revolver to defend his honour; but when he surprises the Colonel with a veiled lady in his arms, it turns out to be Iduna, who has taken this means of saving her step-mother's life. "After what you have seen, General," says Cavendish, "I have only to ask you for the hand of your daughter!"

In the second act there is much plot and counter-plot. The villains of the piece are Guillermo Herrero, a repulsive anarchist, who is secretly in love with Iduna; Pedro Costanza, a rascal whose life the too-generous General has spared; and Lola, a native girl of very fertile invention, who, with Herrero's help, concocts a most complicated scheme. The General leaves the Presidencia to suppress a revolt outside the city, and the villains having cut one of the telephones, and drawn the cartridges from Cavendish's revolver, come upon him with Iduna. The Colonel, however, has discovered that his weapon has been unloaded, and has hidden another in the sling in which he sustains his recently-injured arm. The ruffian's cover him with their weapons, disarm him as they think, and order him to sign an order to release the rebel prisoners from the gaol. He pretends to consent, and when they drop their revolvers, draws his reserve "gun" and shoots them down one after the other. Herrero, dying, confides to Iduna the details of a plot by which Cavendish is to be decoyed to a log cabin on the "Condor's Ridge," to which Engracia, her escort drugged, will be conveyed, the General then being informed that his wife is unfaithful to him, and induced to start for the spot and shoot the despoiler. In order to substantiate the statement, the artful Lola has secured two of Engracia's letters, and placed an affectionate epistle from her to her husband, beginning "my darling," in the envelope directed to Cavendish.

The last act takes place at the hut in the hills. Cavendish arrives, realises the situation, and prepares for the worst. Iduna, who has, by this time, fallen in love with Cavendish, follows, and is placed in a side apartment with Engracia. The general makes his appearance as expected, and endeavours to force a duel upon the Colonel, who at last, by circumstantial evidence, manages to convince her friend of the tricks that have been played. Iduna confesses her love for Cavendish, Costanza is executed, and Engracia, who has returned heart and soul to her marital allegiance, is entirely reconciled to her husband.

The rôle of Colonel Stephen Cavendish suits Mr. Lewis Waller exactly, and he plays it in his very best style. He looks the part admirably, and his sharp, clear, resolute delivery is very appropriate, the admirable inflexion of his love pleading being, however, equally effective. Mr. A. E. George is capital as the hearty, straightforward Major Dennis O'Driscoll, handling the remonstrances of the subordinate in the first act with great tact and judgment. Mr. Shiel Barry's Guillermo Herrero is a graphic piece of character acting, the pale, servile, treacherous rascal being depicted in the most picturesque and striking style. Mr. Cronin Wilson is bluff and soldierly as Sergeant Baltazar; and Mr. S. J. Warmington gives a bold, broad, and vigorous rendering of the rôle of Pedro Costanza. Miss Auriol Lee's pale dark beauty and feminine method are well suited to the embodiment of the fickle and feeble Engracia de Solatierra, and she makes the alterations of affection in the General's spouse as probable as possible, and her deviation from the path of virtue as childlike and as pardonable. Miss Evelyn D'Alroy's success as Iduna de Solatierra is complete, and she merits warm praise for the intelligence and tact with which she comprehends and treats the character. The gradual growth of love in the breast of the earnest and upright maiden is sketched with great skill and delicacy, and the *nuances* of the dialogue are excellently understood and revealed. Miss D'Alroy, with her tall figure and spiritual grace is exactly the actress for the part, and she sustains it with thorough credit. Miss Madge Titheradge, who plays Lola, is occasionally too impulsive to be entirely distinct, a fact which may be excused by the anxiety of a first-night performance. Her rendering is vivid, animated, energetic, and intense, and makes a marked impression by its spirit and strength. Minor personages have conscientious representatives in Messrs. Reginald Dane, Caton Woodville, George Courtney, and Patrick Digan. Mr. McCleery's clever stage pictures take one away to the Tropics entirely, the mountain scenes being very beautifully painted.

"SAMSON."

Play in Four Acts, from the French of Henry Bernstein, produced at the Garrick Theatre on Wednesday, Feb. 3.

Jacques Brachard — MR. BOURCHIER
Jerôme de Govain — MR. CHARLES BRYANT
Marquis d'Andeline — MR. ARTHUR WHITBY
Maximilien — MR. KENNETH DOUGLAS
Flack — MR. LEON QUARTERMAINE
Marcel de Fontenay — MR. BERTRAM FORSYTH
Jean — MR. WILLIAM BURCHILL
Josef — MR. CHARLES VERNON
Zambo — MR. ALFRED BRISTOWE
Waiters — MR. DOUGLAS IMBERT, MR. NEWTON DUNNE
Anne-Marie Brachard — MISS VIOLET VANBRUGH
Marquise d'Andeline — MISS MARIE ILLINGTON
Elise Vernette — MISS EDYTH LATIMER
Suzanne Delgarde — MISS MARGARET VIVIAN
Clotilde — MISS PAMELA GAYTHORNE

The success of the English version of Mr Henry Bernstein's *Samson* at the Garrick Theatre on Wednesday was fully and confidently expected. The main idea of the piece is so strong that it would have prevailed even with less excellent treatment, literary and dramatic, than that given to it by the anonymous translator and by Mr. Arthur Bourchier and his company. There can be little doubt that *Samson* is destined to fill the Garrick Theatre for many months to come.

The hero, Jacques Brachard, is an immensely rich Paris financier, who began life in a Marseilles slum, and by wit, perseverance, and lucky speculations has made himself one of the monarchs of the Bourse. He has fallen in love with Anne-Marie Brachard, the daughter of the Marquis and Marquise d'Andeline, and has been allowed to marry her on the clear understanding that she does not love him and never can. Brachard's connection with the family has caused the friends of the Andelines to give them the cold shoulder, but has led to the enrichment of the family by his advice as to their speculations. Brachard has also made the fortune of a scamp of good family named Jerôme le Govain, who, when in reduced circumstances, was engaged to a wealthy widow, Elise Vernette, whom he deserted when he became rich, though he had borrowed largely from her in his poverty. Having got rid of her brutally, Le Govain is making love to Anne-Marie, who repels his attacks feebly, and eventually assents to his proposal that, while Brachard is absent for a couple of days in London, she shall come with him to a supper-party at the Café de Paris. Elise, who has frequented such gatherings for the sake of being near Le Govain, with whom she is still infatuated, and who is under deep obligations to Brachard, who has helped her when she was in trouble, gives the financier a hint of what is going to take place, and advises him, while letting it be thought that he has gone to England, to remain in Paris and knock at his wife's bedroom door at midnight.

The next act takes place at the Brachards' house, where the Marquis and Marquise, summoned by a watchful maid-servant, have hurried to learn that Brachard, getting no reply to his knocking, has broken down the door of his wife's bedroom. Brachard enters; and soon after Anne-Marie returns from her supper party. After dismissing the parents, the financier has an explanation with his wife, and, after angry resistance on her part, extracts from her the name of the man who took her to the Café, and an account of her adventures there. It appears that the behaviour of the party was so outrageous that Anne-Marie fled from the place in horror. Brachard locks his wife in her room, and then telephones to his man of business to meet him early on the following morning for extensive operations on the Bourse.

The scene of the third act—the strong one of the play—is laid in a room at the Hotel Ritz, Paris. Here Brachard has a serious conversation with his agent Flack, who is reluctant to carry out Brachard's instructions, but is sternly ordered to do so by the financier, who has determined to ruin de Govain by causing Egyptian copper shares, in which the treacherous scoundrel has invested all his money, to go down to a low level. Flack represents that, in order to accomplish this it will be necessary to jeopardise Brachard's whole fortune; but the agent is told to go on selling Egyptians to the bitter end. Having made his enemy's downfall certain, Brachard asks him to breakfast, and having told him what his punishment is to be, prevents him from leaving the room to interfere with the manœuvres on the Bourse. Le Govain, furious, tries to stab Brachard with a sword stick; but the ex-dock-hand is too strong for him, and deprives him of his weapon, contemptuously refusing to give the practised duellist "satisfaction." When the panic is assured, and the paper-boys are crying the news of it in the streets, Brachard releases his prisoner, and has a grotesque paroxysm of triumph.

In the last act Brachard is ruined, and has been requested by the Minister to leave Paris. Anne-Marie's parents want her to obtain a divorce; but she refuses to desert her husband now that he is in trouble, and the play ends with every prospect of his winning his wife's love.

Mr. Bourchier gave a very powerful performance as Jacques Brachard. The sturdy stature and plain exterior of the self-made man were graphically depicted; and the vigour and vitality of the embodiment were admirable. Mr. Bourchier made his great effect, of course, in the scene of the third act, when Brachard's muscular strength was well shown by the actor, whose fine physique stood him in good stead there. Mr. Charles Bryant did justice to the cruel and faithless character of Jerôme Le Govain, making love in the first act with fervency, and expressing the bitter resentment of the detected rascal with keen intensity in the grand scene of the third. Mr. Arthur Whitby as the Marquis d'Andeline contributed a quaint and reposeful study of utter vacuity, and was very well made up. Mr. Kenneth Douglas gave a bold and British version of the rôle of the jaunty youth Maximilien; and Mr. Leon Quartermaine put realistic earnestness and sincerity into his rendering of the honest and sagacious Flack. Mr. Bertram Fortsyth supplied a smooth and easy representation of Marcel de Fontenay; Mr. William Burchill and Mr. Charles Vernon were neat and efficient as Jean and Joseph, and Mr. Alfred Bristowe spoke his lines well as the negro Zambo. Mr. Douglas Imbert and Mr. Newton Dunne were excellent as the waiters. As Anne-Marie Brachard Miss Violet Vanbrugh played with all the necessary fire and spirit in the scenes with Brachard, and the angry opposition of the wife and her helplessness in the struggle with the stronger nature were shown with pure and practised art. In the second act—the only one in which the representative of Anne-Marie has much opportunity—Miss Vanbrugh acted with admirable skill, tact, and energy; and throughout she realised the aristocratic and self-willed woman effectively, her touches of sentiment in the last act having much charm and delicacy. That practised artist, Miss Marie Illington, as the Marquise d'Andeline, added another to her well filled gallery of conventional overbearing, "stylish" wives; and a performance meriting marked notice and warm praise was Miss Edyth Latimer's Elise Vernette. Miss Latimer expressed hopeless passion with skill and power, and delivered a long and unpleasant description of a Parisian orgie with clear distinctness and excellent inflection. Miss Margaret Vivian was satisfactory as Suzanne Delgarde; and Miss Pamela Gaythorne played the artful and officious maid Clotilde very smartly and crisply.

The piece was mounted and dressed with all the liberality and care to which Mr. Bourchier has accustomed us at the Garrick, and its reception was heartily enthusiastic.

"THE EASIEST WAY."

Drama, in Four Acts, by Eugene Walter, produced at the Stuyvesant Theatre, New York, Jan. 19.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The author of this play has certainly "arrived." A year ago he was practically unknown. A month later he was acclaimed as the author of one of the most successful plays of the season, namely, *Paid in Full*, which ran for many months in New York, and was also produced in London. And now the critics all agree that he has turned out a dramatic masterpiece. *The Easiest Way* is a forceful and vivid representation of a certain phase of life in the American metropolis, and the success it has scored is nothing short of sensational. In telling his story the author of this play is direct, logical, and consistent. Neither in the dialogue nor the situations does he gloss over the truth, and the heroine, a lady of easy virtue who tries to be good and makes a sad mess of it, is not "happily married." Her life story was evidently suggested by the adventures of a young person who was very much in the public eye a few months ago, and the "moral lesson" that all plays dealing with such a subject must perforce contain may in this instance be summed up in Murger's words, "Ce n'est point gai tous les jours la Bohême." The first act has a situation to which exception must be taken. But as the Americans are more direct and unreserved than the rest of us it is just possible that in this part of the world the situation might be handled in the manner described.

Laura Murdock has been living under the protection of Willard Brockton, a Wall-street broker. She has been in the "show business," while he has backed plays in which his favourites were allowed to "star." Laura is twenty-five and a widow, her husband having committed suicide. During a summer engagement in Denver she has met John Madison, a newspaper reporter, and they have fallen in love with each other. He is a much younger man than Brockton, who is forty-six. Madison knows all about Laura, but he has been a profligate himself, and is disposed to be tolerant, his idea being that their marriage will work a complete reformation in both of them. Brockton crosses the continent to Denver, intending to escort the girl back to New York, where he has provided a luxurious home for her. He means to form a theatrical company in which she is to hold first place if she continues to live with him. But Laura bluntly informs him that during her stay in Denver she has met a "real man," who has promised to marry her. Even as she speaks, she is expecting him to call on her. Now Brockton is a cynical man of the world, who makes no pretence of virtue, but believes in "honour among men" and chivalrous consideration for all women, although he never takes them seriously. What Laura tells him he receives quite calmly, and leaves it to her to make her choice. Madison calls, and the matter is discussed in a business-like way. Thus the opening scene becomes a sort of contest between two men for a woman who has coolly asked her protector to efface himself whilst she finds happiness with a new lover, and although the characters of the two men are cleverly drawn the situation strikes one as being decidedly unnatural and the impression it creates is far from agreeable. When the two men are left alone together the hot-tempered Madison expresses his that there is almost a duel; but the older man that there is almost a shooting; but the older man controls himself and compels his rival to listen while he places his intimate knowledge of the girl's character at the disposal of her new lover. The girl is fearfully extravagant the latter is told, and the possession of her affections will cost him a lot of money. The young man replies that he means to acquire the necessary funds, although at the moment he has nothing better in view than his present position at a moderate salary. Then the two men make an extraordinary agreement. Laura is to return to New York alone and support herself by acting, while Madison pursues his calling in Colorado until he is in a position to marry. Whilst she is in New York, if she should ever return to Brockton he will compel her to write to Madison informing him of the fact.

Laura returns to New York, and in the second act she is living in a cheap theatrical boarding-house. She has failed to obtain an engagement, has had to pawn her jewels, and is about to be turned out for not paying her rent. Nothing is omitted that will enforce the contrast between her present surroundings and those to which she had been accustomed. Mr. David Belasco staged this play, and once again his master hand has put in the little realistic touches that count for so much and compel the admiration of the close observer. The daily letter from the lover whose portrait hangs over her bed is the one thing that sustains the girl in her struggle for decency and genuine affection. He knows nothing of her plight, for she has written him that she is prospering in her profession. The seriousness of the situation is not unrelieved by passages of humour, thanks to the entrance of Jim Weston, an "advance agent," who lives in the same house and is also out of employment. He visits the "second floor back," and compares notes with Laura, telling how his wife wanted to return to the stage to do her old acrobatic act, but had grown too fat, and how his chances of employment had been spoiled by the managers engaging college men. One manager had actually asked him what he knew of the Greek drama. "I told him," says Weston, "that I didn't know the Greeks had a theatre in New York."

Then Laura is visited by one of her old friends, Miss Elfie St. Clair, who has prospered because she is not too particular. Elfie is an "actress," but she admits that she has not worked for a year, and she tells the distracted Laura that she is a fool to go on living for a man whose letters contain no money. This outspoken lady is being taken care of by a well-to-do man about town named Jerry, and, as she puts it, "If Jerry's cheque wasn't in the mail every Saturday night you can bet there'd be a new lock on the door on Sunday morning." When she advises Laura to communicate with Brockton it comes out that he has sent her and is waiting in his motor-car below. It is also made clear that with his influence withdrawn it will be practically impossible for Laura to secure an engagement. Angry at first, she shows Miss St. Clair the door and tells her not to return, and the lady is going out in a huff when Laura weakens and tells her friend that Brockton may come up. He is ready to take her back, and the temptation is too great to be resisted. She chooses the easiest way. Brockton comes in, tells her how he has missed her, and that "everything will be the same as before." He lays some bank-notes on the table and plans for Laura to go to a first-class hotel. Then he tells her that he must keep his promise to Madison, and much against her will she writes the letter that he dictates, bidding her lover farewell, and telling him that she has returned to Brockton. That is the hardest thing of all for the girl to do, but the letter is not sent, for when Brockton leaves she burns it.

Laura Murdock's apartments in an expensive hotel are the scene of the third act. It is the morning after a debauch. Brockton is surly, and Laura is sick of the sight of him. In the morning paper he comes across an item of news that startles him. John Madison has made a fortune in the gold mines and is on his way to New York. A few moments later Laura receives a telegram, the contents of which she tries to conceal from Brockton, but she inquires about the trains from the West and is so anxious for him to go out that he finally accuses her of lying and forces the telegram from her. Madison is coming to New York to marry her, which means, of course, that he has never been informed of her infidelity. A quarrel occurs, but the girl pleads so pitifully for one chance of happiness that Brockton consents to go before the Westerner arrives, on her promising to tell him everything. In comes Elfie St. Clair, however, with the philosophy of life she has acquired in the "Tenderloin." The men lie to us, says Elfie, and the only thing to do is to lie to them. Tell Madison nothing. Hurry out to the minister's and get married, then everything will be all right. A man will listen to anything about his girl, but he will believe nothing about his wife. That's Elfie's argument, and it prevails. It is the easiest way.

Madison arrives, full of enthusiasm and love, and there is a moving scene of tenderness between the lovers. Laura has indeed prospered in her profession to be able to live in such luxurious surroundings That is what he thinks, and she does not undeceive him. She can get ready to leave the hotel in an hour, so Madison goes forth to arrange for the marriage whilst she packs up. In the midst of her preparations Brockton returns and accuses her of not having told Madison. This time Laura is hysterical in her fury, and pouring out her hatred the while, tries to force Brockton from the room. He seems determined to stay where he is, but she is so persistent that the futility of "fussing with a woman" finally prompts him to retire.

In the fourth act the trunks are packed and Laura is ready to go, but Madison has not returned. She is in a terrible state of anxiety. Happiness is within her reach; will it be snatched away? At last her lover comes, but his face is clouded. He has heard certain things about Laura and Brockton, and he asks if there is any truth in them. Of course not, she tells him, she has not seen Brockton, and he feels so sure of her that he believes her readily. A moment later, as thy are about to depart, a key is turned in the door and in walks Brockton. Without a word or sign of recognition he walks across the room with the air of a man entering his own home, takes off his coat, and sits down. A tense situation this—a swift plunge from happiness to despair, and all that it means to Laura is reflected in her face. As for Madison, he stands as one paralysed, but in a trice he whips out his revolver and points it at Brockton. "Don't shoot!" cries Laura, and he drops the weapon. He advises Brockton to clear out, but before he goes the latter tells how the girl came to him of her own free will. How he kept his promise to inform Madison, and how she tricked both of them by not posting the letter. Laura makes a despairing effort to win the forgiveness of the man who was willing to marry her but a few moments ago, but he turns a deaf ear, and in forceful words sums up the character of the unfortunate girl. Then she produces a pistol and threatens to kill herself, but Madison derides her by calling the negro servant to witness the shooting, and when the pistol slips from her grasp, as he knew it would, he retires. Laura collapses for a moment, but quickly revives, and then the courtesan is herself again. Flinging the pistol into a drawer, she poses before the mirror and orders the servant to bring her best hat and gown. She is off to a popular restaurant "to make a hit." The rôle of Laura Murdock is splendidly acted by Miss Frances Starr. Mr. Joseph Kilgour admirably realises the character of Willard Brockton, and Mr. Edward H. Robins plays John Madison in a sincere and manly fashion. Miss Laura Nelson Hall is excellent as Elfie St. Clair, and Miss Emma Dunn and Mr. William Sampson are good in minor rôles.

"DOLLY'S" 100th PERFORMANCE.

Two excellent motives for a visit to the Haymarket were provided on Saturday evening by the return of Miss Ethel Irving to the cast of *Dolly Reforming Herself* and by the presentation of a souvenir to mark the hundredth night of Mr. Henry Arthur Jones's successful play. The occasion added fresh laurels to the credit of the young actress who has been so heartily welcomed to the very foremost rank of the profession and for the distinguished dramatist who has given so many artistic creations to the stage. The process of Dolly's reformation and of her efforts to regulate the conduct of her friends and relations was carried out to the delight of a large audience, whose enthusiasm was displayed in the repeated recalls of the principals. Miss Ethel Irving was the object of a cordial demonstration on her appearance, and her acting showed no sign of the indisposition which had for a few days kept her out of the cast. Dolly's distress at her frequent lapses into debt was as prettily acute as ever, and her determination not to allow her cousin to pass the bounds of propriety was equally keen. The debt-discussing scene, an inspiration on the part of the author and a triumph for the players, held the house again in thrall. Mr. Robert Loraine repeated his fine embodiment of the adoring young husband and his share in the stormy scene of settlement of accounts was sustained with the artistic skill of which he has given many evidences. The rich sense of humour possessed by Mr. C. M. Lowne was invaluable in the rôle of Dolly's father, to whose credit some of the merriest moments of the performance are due, and by a clever variety of expression the witty lines of the part were rendered still more effective. Miss Margaret Halstan again attained to superbly regal heights as that "queen of tragedy," Mrs. Sturgess, whose influence in promoting the laughter of the evening was invaluable. The scientific Sturgess once more proved highly diverting at the hands of Mr. E. Lyall Swete, who completely loses his identity in the rôle of the eccentric professor; and Mr. Charles R. Maude made his customary success as the amorous young officer. Mr. Herbert Bunston carried out in its entirety the description of the author, and was as bright, brisk, buoyant, and breezy a parson as need be. A well appreciated piece of low comedy was submitted by Mr. Gilbert Porteous as the butler, who is so far influenced by the New Year's Day sermon as to forego his betting propensities. Miss Ada Webster completed the cast as the pretty and refined Peters.

The souvenir took the very acceptable shape of a copy of Mr. Jones's play, admirably printed, and containing numerous photographs of scenes in the piece, which was presented to each member of the audience.

The Odder the Better.

SIR F. BRIDGE, in the lecture hall of the City of London School on Thursday evening, referring to the career of Paganini, said that master's reputation had been somewhat dimmed by the number of remarkable violinists we had heard of late years. There seemed no end to the marvellous performers on that beautiful instrument. It was astonishing what perfection was attained on the violin by children of tender years, and that was certainly a consolation for the fearful infliction on amiable relatives by budding violinists, according to the usually received descriptions. These little geniuses did not persecute their families like the fiddle players of the ordinary type. "Oddity in music goes a long way," added the Westminster Abbey organist; "the more odd you look the better you are thought to be."

PRINCESS LOUISE DUCHESS OF ARGYLL witnessed *An Englishman's Home* at Wyndham's Theatre on Thursday night.

THE Queen, with the Hon. Lady Hardinge, the Hon. Violet Vivian, the Hon. Sylvia Edwardes, Earl Howe, and Sir Charles Frederick in attendance, was present at the performance of *Rhinegold* at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, on Thursday night.

INVENTIONS.

[The particulars furnished below of recent applications for patents are taken from the official records. Correspondence is invited with our readers on all matters relating to new ideas and inventions, with a view to affording them advice and assistance. Letters should be addressed to the Manager, Inventions Department, "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London.]

Inventors and others who have no business representative are invited to communicate with the Manager of the Inventions Dept. as above.

APPLICATIONS.

1,364.—Arthur Harold Taylor, of Peterborough. Spiral switchback railway.

1,413.—James Hamilton Beattie, of London. Improved hat, coat, and umbrella retaining device, suitable for use in cloakrooms and the like.

1,520.—Tadeus Siewicz and Johann Gensler, of London. Improved device for automatically unchaining horses, cattle, or the like.

1,534.—Charles Vincent Fournier, of London. Improvements in and relating to swings.

1,584.—George Townsend, Reginald Townsend, and Charles Ralph Townsend, of Birmingham. Improvements in roller skates.

1,609.—Llewelyn Morgan, of London. Improvements in apparatus for physical exercise.

1,692.—Frederick William Dart-Kelly, of London. Method of and means for operating roller blinds, theatre curtains, or the like.

1,713.—Alexander Crutchley Beech and William Henry Halstead, of London. Improvements in or relating to roundabouts of the Hiram Maxim flying machine type.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS ACCEPTED.

1,129.—Walker and Walker. Roundabouts.

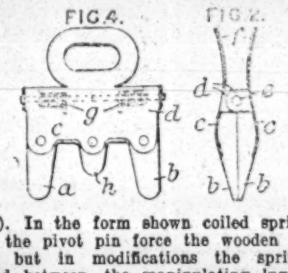
17,915.—Mills. Spring friction, non-slipping adjustment for violin and violoncello pegs.

21,787.—Apparatus for imparting a positive intermittent travelling motion to cinematograph films.

ABRIDGMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

20,522.—Violins and like musical instruments. Wertheim, S. L., and Hern, M. B., both of London.

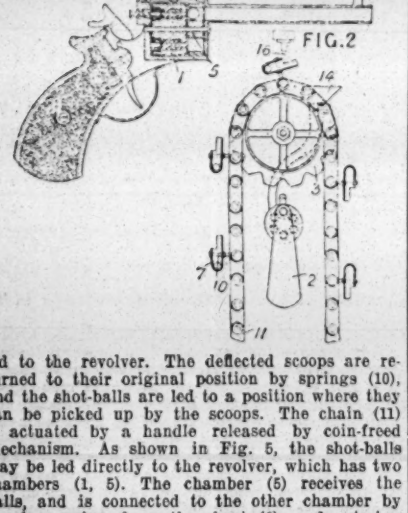
In a mute for use with violins, violas, violoncellos, and like instruments, the legs which come in contact with the bridge are formed of wood, and some pairs of legs may be made shorter than others. As shown in Fig. 4, the middle pair of legs (*h*) is made shorter than the other pairs (*a*, *b*), so that the mute can be fixed in such a manner that either two or three pairs grip the bridge of the instrument. The wooden legs (*a*, *b*) are connected to metal plates (*c*) by riveting, the plates having side lugs (*d*), through which a pivot pin (*e*) is passed, and also manipulating



lugs (*f*). In the form shown coiled springs (*g*) around the pivot pin force the wooden legs together; but in modifications the springs are arranged between the manipulating lugs (*f*), a blade-spring being used in some cases. Other material than metal and wood may be used for making the mute.

20,569.—Coin-freed shooting apparatus. Gruner, W., of Cologne a/Rhine.

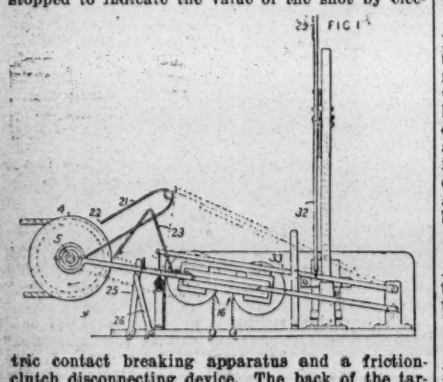
A revolver (2) (Fig. 2) is automatically loaded by a chain (11) passing over a wheel (3) and bearing scoops (7). Each scoop carries a ball, and at its highest point is deflected by a pin (16) to shoot the ball into a funnel (14), from which it is



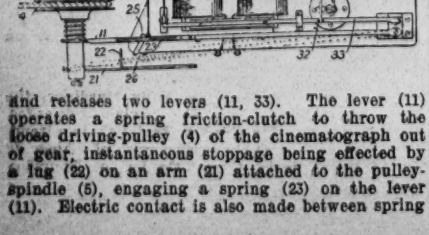
led to the revolver. The deflected scoops are returned to their original position by springs (10), and the shot-balls are led to a position where they can be picked up by the scoops. The chain (11) is actuated by a handle released by coin-freed mechanism. As shown in Fig. 5, the shot-balls may be led directly to the revolver, which has two chambers (1, 5). The chamber (5) receives the balls, and is connected to the other chamber by a coin passing down the shoot (6), and entering a slot in each chamber.

20,586.—Targets. Sutherland, I., of Victoria, Australia.

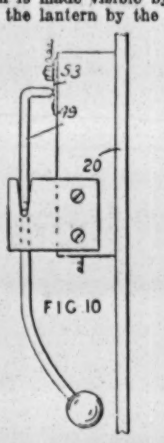
A cinematograph throws pictures on a screen placed in front of a target (20) or on the target itself, the film being momentarily stopped to indicate the value of the shot by elec-



tric contact breaking apparatus and a friction-clutch disconnecting device. The back of the target is provided with electric contacts, consisting of overbalanced levers bearing against insulated contact-pieces (53). The impact of a bullet breaks an electric circuit through an electro magnet (16),



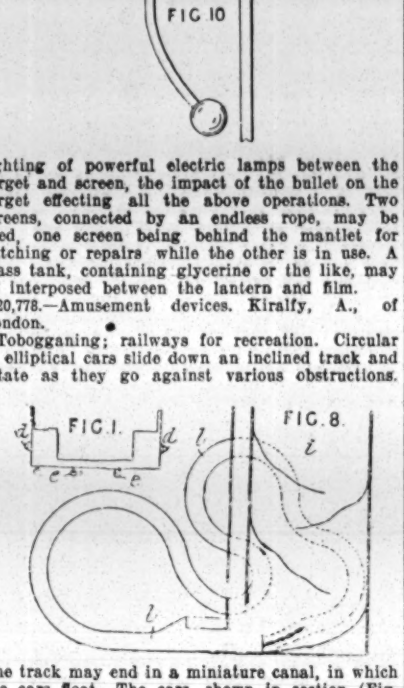
and releases two levers (11, 33). The lever (11) operates a spring friction-clutch to throw the loose driving-pulley (4) of the cinematograph out of gear, instantaneous stoppage being effected by a lug (22) on an arm (21) attached to the pulley-spindle (5), engaging a spring (23) on the lever (11). Electric contact is also made between spring pieces (25, 26) by the lever (11), causing a lamp in front of the target to light. The lever (33), acting through levers (32, 30), causes an opaque disc (29) to fall between the lantern and the target, the motion of the disc being regulated by means of a pin and slotted link, and a piston and cylinder dash-pot arrangement (39). If a screen is used in front of the target, the bullet-hole in the screen is made visible by the momentary dimming of the lantern by the disc, and the



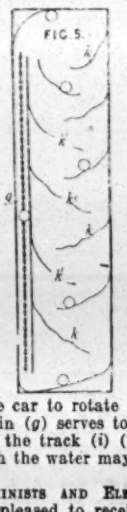
lighting of powerful electric lamps between the target and screen, the impact of the bullet on the target effecting all the above operations. Two screens, connected by an endless rope, may be used, one screen being behind the mantlet for patching or repairs while the other is in use. A glass tank, containing glycerine or the like, may be interposed between the lantern and film.

20,778.—Amusement devices. Kiralfy, A., of London.

Tobogganing; railways for recreation. Circular or elliptical cars slide down an inclined track and rotate as they go against various obstructions.



The track may end in a miniature canal, in which the cars float. The cars, shown in section (Fig. 1), are mounted on castors (*e*), and may be provided with rubber buffers (*d*) or friction-wheels. The track (Fig. 5) is inclined, and may be plain or undulating. Obstructions (*k*, *k*1) are placed



so as to cause the car to rotate as it slides down the track. A chain (*g*) serves to return the cars. In a modification the track (*i*) (Fig. 8) ends in a canal (*l*), in which the water may be made to flow in one direction.

To Stage Machinists and Electricians. — The Manager will be pleased to receive particulars of any new stage appliances or ideas for same for illustration in this column.

Can You Invent?—Do you wish to know of prizes offered to inventors valued at £10,000, £5,300, £5,000, £4,000, £1,000, £400, £300, £200, £100, and £50? If so, then get a copy of *Patents and Designs*, a newspaper called into existence by Mr. Lloyd George's Patents and Designs Act, 1907, *Patents and Designs*, price 2d., can be had at all bookstalls, newsagents, and at the Publishing Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

FINANCIAL.

MOSS' EMPIRES.

The directors have resolved, out of the profits of the year to Dec. 31 last, to write off the entire expenses, including discount and underwriting commission, in connection with the recent issue of debentures, amounting to £16,264, to carry the sum of £6,825 to a reserve fund for the redemption of the six per cent. debentures, and to recommend payment of a dividend on the ordinary shares for the half-year to December 31 last at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, absorbing £28,000, and leaving a balance of £11,288 to be carried forward.

ALHAMBRA.

The directors, in their report for the year ended Dec. 31 last, state that, after providing for debenture interest, directors' fees, and commission, the net profit for the year amounts to £7,531, and with £6,213, the amount brought forward, the net balance to the credit of revenue is £13,744. The directors recommend that an amount of £3,000 be appropriated to the alterations, additions, and improvements account, that a dividend of 10 per cent., free of income-tax, for the year, being £6,000, be now paid, and that the balance, £4,744, be carried forward to the next account.

Mr. Editor.—Sir,—In your notice for the Palace, Aberdeen, in last Saturday's *Era*, you mentioned the Marvellous Steens. It should have been yours truly, Mahatma, assisted by Prof. C. N. Steen. P.S.—The marvellous Steens no longer exist.

Sacco, the fasting man, who is the talk of the Potteries, is daily visited by vast crowds at the King Edward Hall, Hanley, where he is appearing under the management of Messrs. Moore and Kennedy, of the King's Theatre.

In our account of the Holloway Empire Sunday concert, given in aid of the workless of Islington, the credit of reciting "Unemployed—and Why?" was given to Mr. Leo Dryden. It was Mr. Leo Stormont who declaimed the piece.

Mr. Editor.—Sir,—In your obituary notice last week of the late Joe Lawrence, the writer's memory has played him false in one respect. Mr. Lawrence never had anything to do with the Empire (Moss and Thornton), *Leeds*. What he did was to take over, in partnership with Professor Morritt, the old Mechanics' Music Hall, Grimston-street, *Hull*, afterwards renamed the Empire, by the late Leotard Bosco. The place (originally Enderby Jackson's waxworks) was always a financial frost till Bosco tackled it with success.—Theo. Arthur.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

HOLBORN EMPIRE.

There is an exceedingly entertaining duologue to be heard at the Holborn Empire this week bearing the title of *The Wire and the Liar*, played, or rather spoken, by Hunt and Thomas. It is one of the best written and most cleverly conceived little trifles that we have had the pleasure of listening to for a long time. The story of it is told through the means of the telephone, and the scene shows sections of two houses which are some distance from each other, the communication being conducted by "wire." A young lady is first seen at a telephone, and we learn that she is trying to "get on" the telephone with the gentleman to whom she is engaged to be married. We learn too, from her own sweet lips, that her fiancé has given up all his old wild ways, and has become a teetotaler and non-smoker, all through his love for her. While she is waiting for the telephone connection to be made, she sings in quite agreeable style a few verses, "Your love is new." A few minutes later we see the male lover entering his room or office, and he complains that he has had a rather bad night, and is still suffering from the effects of the previous evening's debauch, which, apparently, he intends to resume, judging by the free manner in which he makes use of a bottle of whisky. Entering into telephonic conversation with his sweetheart, the latter, hearing the sounds made by the drawing of a soda water syphon, asks him whether he is sneezing, and he leads her to believe that he is suffering from a cold. He continues sipping the whisky, and it becomes obvious to the auricular susceptibilities of the lady at the other end that he is drinking something. She takes the view that it must be his medicine, and he is pleased to confirm that view. She expresses the hope that he is taking his medicine regularly, and that he will empty the bottle, and he promises her that he will carry out her injunction most faithfully! She inquires as to who is the doctor who has prescribed for him, and he replies that he is a gentleman named Dewar, who has a great reputation in Scotland. Finally she gets suspicious as she hears the frequent drawing of a cork, and her feminine shrewdness assists her in arriving at a correct conclusion as to the nature of the medicine and the "malady" he is suffering from. Angrily she tells him that he has been deceiving her, and that he must consider the engagement at an end. Hunt and Thomas cleverly enact the little piece, which has been hugely enjoyed by the audience.

As to the rest of the programme, one wonders how it can be got through in the short space of time limited by the exigencies of the two-houses a night system. Mr. Arthur Roberts and his company appear in the highly diverting farcical sketch, *Till Sunday*, in which Mr. Roberts assumes in his well-known quaint manner the three different characters of an English and German detective, and a nurse. He is ably assisted by the other members of the cast, namely, Miss Ruby Celeste, Miss May Hallatt, and Messrs. William Rokeby, Harry J. Worth, and Harry Huddleston. Johnson and Brett, the talented comedy duo, submit a laughable little entertainment, and Mr. Arthur Woodville wins golden opinions as a light comedian. The Four Garricks present a delightful "society" act, while Mr. Harry Nelson's efforts in his particular comedy line are much appreciated. Les Valencias, a couple of young ladies who look most attractive in scarlet frocks, give a smart dancing performance, and the Five Saxonias are responsible for a most agreeable musical turn of the "speciality" order. Miss Helen Charles, "the girl at the piano," interests her hearers with her vocal imitations of a whistling coster and of two little girls singing to her own pianoforte accompaniment. Miss Alice Hollander, the Australian contralto, renders in cultured fashion a song which savours of the Scriptures, and Miss Leoni Dixon distinguishes herself as a comedienne. Mr. Ben Albert has a diverting vocal number on the subject of "work," which he renders with much expression, and Chanti, the "modern Proteus," is seen and admired in a cleverly-arranged quick-change act. The Boisset Troupe present their screamingly funny comedy acrobatic act, *The Evening Party*, and the Three Laurels cause merriment with their very lively and well-known act. The Bioscope shows a laughable film entitled The Two Pigtails.

THE PALACE, TOTTENHAM.

Variety in abundance, and of an interesting character, is to be found in the present programme at this well-known establishment, and business is well up to its usual standard. Cissie Lawson (Mrs. John Lawson) occupies the position of honour in the bill, and is assisted by a very capable company in *The Woman and the Apple*. Sensational were but a mild epithet to employ in connection with this original "pocket drama," which has been received with loud and prolonged plaudits throughout the week. Kit Keen's song and dance is given in a quaint and humorous vein, and makes a decided hit. Miss Maud Wilton is another big success, being very entertaining in her imitation of a negress singing "Will the congregation please stand up?"

Miss Georgette Thierry's company, which includes Mr. Bernard Lieli, an accomplished actor, give an intensely dramatic sketch, entitled *A Daughter of the Revolution*. Miss Thierry plays the part of Marcelle with much feeling and grace; and Mr. Lieli makes a romantic and artistic Maurice Senlis, being very ably assisted in minor parts by Messrs. A. Thompson and T. Avery. The sketch is smartly and forcibly played by all concerned, and met with much success. Cliff Diamond, a juvenile comedian, makes one of the hits of the bill. His turn is very bright and entertaining, and includes a couple of songs, "Oh! those girls" and "Carolina Brown," supplemented by a smartly-executed dance. The original Lancashire singing collier, Percy Farrimond, provides a selection from *Faust* and "Dreamland." His voice is rich and well modulated, and he renders his selections in cultivated style.

Wyndham and Wyatt contribute a most laughable sketch, *The Professor and His Pupil*, and are accorded a hearty welcome. Lambert and Glover are also very amusing in their farcical duologue, *My Birthday*. That excellent low-comedy artist, May Moore Duprez, appears as a jolly Dutch girl, and sends the house into convulsions by her eccentric and original manner. Ruffell's Bioscope, with some excellent films, concludes a capital entertainment; and a word of praise is due to the work done by the admirable orchestra under the direction of Mr. W. Burgess, their execution of the opening overture, "Across the Desert," being well worth listening to. Mr. Nuttall is in front of the house, and is "the right man in the right place."

THE EMPRESS.

Crowded houses are nightly testifying their appreciation of the delectable fare provided at this cosy South London hall this week. A prominent place in the evening's entertainment is being taken by the great Little Tich, the appearance of whose number is the signal for a storm of applause. He is fairly surpassing himself this week, and is giving three of his latest successes, "Julius Cæsar," "The Keeper at the Zoo," and "Police Sergeant Rose," in the fun of which the audience fairly revels. His quaint and original dancing is also most amusing, and on concluding he has many times to appear before the curtain. Miss Eileen Douglas, a dainty and refined comedienne, has a voice of penetrating quality, and reaches the hearts of the audience in her songs, "Someone rat-tat-tatting at the door" and "The Musical Comedy Girl," sung with captivating charm; Miss Douglas also dances expertly, and the house is very loth to let her go. Kisbey, the Call Boy, meets with a cordial reception, his patter being both original and clever, although at times somewhat daring. His song, "Much obliged to you," is funny.

Miss Phœbe Mercer and company present an amusing little duologue entitled *Mistakes Will Happen*. The scene is the office of a matrimonial agent, where a lady has been led to believe that she can purchase a dog. The matrimonial agent thinks she wants a husband, and the cross-talk which ensues causes great laughter. One of the best items of the bill is that presented by Viviana and company. The scene is the interior of a toy shop where a number of mechanical dolls are made to dance. The shop assistant is a versatile comedian, and is the cause of roars of laughter. The Oaks Duo supply a very acceptable number, the lady's singing and dancing being of the best. They also introduce some very clever patter. Adey Spencer proves herself a capable dancer, and receives cordial approval for her work. Herbert Rule is singing a couple of absurdities, "Welcoming him in" and "It's easy to pick up the chorus." The choruses literally consist of nothing, but in the hands of this capable comedian they prove very effective. In the latter number he is assisted by a friend in one of the boxes, who enters into a long and comical discussion with the comedian, to the great amusement of the audience. Rosie Archer, at the piano, is giving some capital impersonations of several of our leading comediennes, including Marie Lloyd, Vesta Victoria, Kate Carney, and Victoria Monks, all of whom she hits off capitally. Those popular Jewish comedians Jordan and Harvey are scoring another success here, the chorus of their song "S-O-L-O-M-O-N" being taken up with much fervour. Their patter is the cause of many a hearty laugh. Arthur Woodville sings and dances in a manner that calls for nothing but praise; and others in the bill are Mamie Fenton, a Scottish comedienne, Anderson and Dallas, and Newcome and Delph's company in *The Footstep*, of which a notice appears elsewhere. A pleasant evening is brought to a conclusion with some excellent pictures on the Bioscope. Mr. Francis L. Winchcombe, Mr. Nelson Francis's able lieutenant, does everything possible at the front of the house for the comfort of patrons.

THE MIDDLESEX.

There are some good vocalism as well as amusing incidents in the original scena, entitled *Singing 'em to Death*, presented by Messrs. King and Shepperd at the Middlesex this week. The scene opens in a forest glade, and two disreputable characters, carrying guns, come before our gaze. It is not long before we are made aware as to the nature of their vocation, which is poaching. And now we learn they are going to try a new method of killing rabbits and hares, and that is by singing to them! They sing snatches of popular songs, such as "Excelsior" and "Kathleen Mavourneen," which, with others, form a medley on which is bestowed the general title of "In the Woods." While the merry poachers are busily engaged upon their vocal efforts, rabbits and hares come from all parts and fall dead at their feet—so effective is the death-dealing influence of their singing! The little scena is quite clever of its kind, and laughable, and it has the further merit of bringing to our notice a couple of artists who possess voices which surely would be heard to advantage in more serious work.

Jessie Ward, comedienne and dancer, with a delightful item in "Sweetheart May," sings with expression and tunefulness, and Henshall and Foster prove a most entertaining couple in the scena *Cabby Knows His Fare*. Hunter and Williams appear in their speciality act, the coster and donah portion of which is particularly well done, and not less so the Apache dance performed by the two people. Miss Mabel Clovelly distinguishes herself by her enchanting interpretation of a couple of descriptive songs, and Miss Elizabeth Watkins and her company appear with success in the dramatic episode *A Magdalen Married*, to which we referred in terms of commendation last week. Miss Watkins has able support from Messrs. F. Beaumont and D. Lewin Mannering.

Hind and Bromley have a diverting comedy act, the absurd garb and exaggerated burlesque work of the male partner causing roars of laughter. Topical allusions are made, including a very happy one to a case now occupying the attention of the Scottish Divorce Courts, and a song, "I still love you," is effectively sung. Mr. Reg. Bolton, "the editor's imp," makes for merriment with his funny references to newspaper advertisements; Mr. Fred Herbert is once more welcomed as a favourite comedian; and Martinett and Wallace, the coloured musical entertainers, submit a most attractive little programme. Miss Dot Hardy has a humorous ditty in "When father gets his old-age pension," in which she predicts lively doings, and her second number, in which she appears as a somewhat flighty slavey, also excites the risible faculties of her audience.

Mr. A. C. Lilly and company are presenting the now familiar and still very popular military episode *Drummed Out*, and Mr. Rex Fox furnishes an exceedingly interesting ventriloquial and musical act on the high wire. Deans and Wilton, the talented comedy acrobats, perform an astonishing variety of difficult turns and somersaults, and their mock wrestling is hugely relished. The Soho Trio submit a refined musical and dancing act, the songs "Nelly dear" and "If I plant a tiny seed of love in the garden of your heart," as well as clog-dances, securing unbounded approval. The Soho Trio should certainly be seen and heard at all the prominent theatres of variety. Mr. Wilson Hallett, whose reputation as a comedian and mimic is now so firmly established, has won high favour with his latest impersonation, "A Husband of a Suffragette," and the New Bioscope is showing Jack Johnson, the world's champion boxer, training for his great fight with Burns.

ISLINGTON HIPPODROME.

A very extensively advertised attraction at this hall for the week has been Miss Violet Gordon-Charlesworth, whose name has figured so prominently in the Press lately. The lady was expected to make her appearance in a sketch entitled *A Clever Woman* and to sing two songs. These anticipations, however, were not realised. On the evening of our visit, when Miss Gordon-Charlesworth's number went up her manager came forward and made a speech dealing with some reports concerning the lady which are claimed to be inaccurate. He further stated that, owing to the lady's loss of voice, anything in the shape of a performance by her was out of the question. Miss Gordon-Charlesworth then advanced to the footlights, bearing every sign of being greatly agitated, and, in response to an invitation by her manager, thanked the audience for their reception of herself, the curtain then falling.

The remainder of the bill follows more usual lines The Two Clares do well in a song-scena, and were well received; the Donnas Trio perform some very smart work on a trapeze, and gain a well-deserved "curtain" at the end; Reg Bolton in a comedy scena proves himself to be an entertaining comedian; Gillin submits a good ventriloquial act that is well received; the Four Blackbirds, coloured comedy artists, are very good both in song and dance.

Alec C. Lauder and company in a sketch, *The Christening*, make a hit. It is very humorous and very faithful in its delineation of a typical Scotch episode. Mr. Lauder himself is capital, and he receives excellent support from Miss Alvina Mining and Mr. George Adair. Miss Addie Dorina in an original protean sketch, *Dr. Spot's Patients*, proves herself to be a very clever quick-change artist and, in addition, a very capable character impersonator, her acting obtaining a very cordial reception; the Sisters Desmond in two items made themselves popular; and the Bioscope was good. The orchestra gave great assistance during the evening under the direction of Mr. J. J. Starck.

MASONS AT WORK.

The January meeting of the members of the Lodge of Asaph, held at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, on Monday last, was, in a measure, saddened by the memories of the passing away of one of the old Past Masters, Mr. Edward Swanborough, who, as long ago as 1879, occupied the exalted position of Master of the Lodge. The brethren appeared in full Masonic mourning, and during one of the most important ceremonies a fitting tribute was paid to the memory of the departed chief.

Mr. Ernest H. Paterson, the reigning Master, admitted Messrs. F. Lyndhurst Schmitz and Phil Howden into the order, and then, having to journey to Leamington to take up his professional duties, handed over his authority to Mr. Herbert Chenery, who, in a masterly manner, did what was necessary to complete the ceremonies connected with the admission of Messrs. Frank Desprez and Chas. A. Doran to the full privileges of Masonry, the latter gentleman being sent from the Green Room Lodge for that purpose by Mr. E. H. Bull, whose good fortune it is to preside over that community.

Messrs. J. E. Donegan (Chelsea Lodge) and Leslie Carter (also of the Green Room Lodge) were candidates to be admitted to the benefits of one of the stages in their novitiation; but both were unable to attend owing to professional engagements.

Mr. Tom Clare gave notice of motion, seconded by Mr. Chris Hilton, concerning the altering of the day of meeting, and the question will be fully discussed at the next convocation.

Besides the gentlemen already named there were present Past Masters J. D. Beveridge, L.R., J. E. Hambleton, W. J. Holloway, C. B. Powell, James W. Mathews, Algernon Syms, Herbert Leonard, Edward W. Whitmore, and Messrs. A. B. Tapping, Rev. W. P. Besley, W. Edwyn Holloway, Wesley Woolhouse, F. W. Crellin, Ed. Humphrey, Chas. J. Taylor, C. H. Phillips, Geo. Henderson, Oscar Grimaldi, Edmund Woolhouse, H. Burrell Saunders, and Jesse Birch; and also Messrs. Wolfe Lyon and Hambleton, and Dr. Sam Lloyd, of Deal, as visitors. Messrs. E. H. Bull, Frank Lister, and Ernest R. Abbott sent letters of apology for non-attendance. Mr. John Gilbert acted as Tyler. The Grand Lodge of England was represented by Messrs. James Weaver, P.G.Std.B., and Charles Cruikshanks, P.A.G.Std.B.

The business of the day being ended, the brethren and their guests journeyed to Simpson's, in the Strand, and there, after indulging in the good cheer of the establishment, adjourned to the sanctum of the "Knights of the Round Table" and revelled in the delights of speech-making on every conceivable point connected, more or less, with Freemasonry, while the proceedings were further enlivened by some excellent original contributions in the way of songs by Messrs. Tom Clare and Charles J. Taylor, whose efforts were highly appreciated.

Mr. A. B. Tapping, the Senior Warden of the Lodge, having announced that he had "made up his mind to sail away" to Australia in order to take up a professional engagement, the brethren present accorded him a hearty send-off, and expressed a wish for his prosperity abroad and safe return to his native country.

THE PRIMROSES.

To the Editor of The Era.

Sir,—Would you kindly permit me to appeal through *The Era* columns to my ever good-hearted brother and sister artists to subscribe just as much as they can afford towards the most distressing case of the Primroses, otherwise known as the Sisters Worth? The details of the recent lawsuit will be fresh in the minds of your readers. Edith Worth will probably never be able to walk again—certainly she will never be able to perform on the stage—while her sister is recovering from an attack of brain fever. To be given £700 one day, and have it taken away a couple of days later—think what that means! Boys and girls, when I have asked you before to aid me in helping those in need and in suffering, right royally have you rallied round and handed over cheques, gold, and silver. I feel justified in asking you now for a case so thoroughly deserving of your sympathy and your subscriptions. I herewith enclose a donation. Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,
JOE ELVIN.

[Subscriptions sent to Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, Hon. Treasurer, at *The Era* Offices, will be duly acknowledged in these columns.]

Subscriptions Received.

	£	s.	d.
Frank Macnaghten and his Directors	100	0	0
Gus Elen	5	5	0
T. G. Hales	5	0	0
Joe Elvin	2	2	0
Harry Dacre	2	0	0
Hymack	1	0	0
Percy Maye	0	2	6

Mr. Frank Macnaghten and his directors, recognising the hardship of the above case, have very kindly promised to head the appeal with a generous donation of £100. They also promise a benefit at the Surrey, which should yield another hundred pounds. It is intended that the amount collected for the appeal shall be doled out weekly for the sole benefit of Edith Worth.

The wisdom of sketch artists having a répertoire always ready was forcibly exemplified last week at the Hippodrome, Putney. The fog having prevented Miss Victoria Monks from appearing on Wednesday and Thursday, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden, who were also on the bill, came to the rescue, and played two different sketches in each house. They were warmly thanked by the management and vociferously applauded by the audience.

This week the capital contributions of Miss Mabel Thorne, an old favourite at the Hippodrome, Stoke-on-Trent, are very highly appreciated; the Three Cunards conclude with a well-executed sand dance; Bayne and Hope present, in a finished manner, the well-known episode *An Emperor's Divorce*; the Hodginis appear in a novel aerial act; and the vocal efforts of the Brothers Carney are much liked. Also to be noted are Olive Gill and her Farmyard, Fred Errick, the Ring-Ling Trio, and the Bioscope.

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ON THE ROAD, FEB. 8.

ALADDIN (DOTTRIDGE).—Alexandra T., Hull.
ALADDIN (CONSTANT).—T. R., Rotherham.
ALADDIN (KIDDIE).—O. H., Doncaster.
ASCHE, OSCAR.—T. R., Portsmouth.
AT DUTY'S CALL.—Grand T., Aberavon.
BATEMAN AND LOMATH.—Empire T., Southend.
BENSON, F. R. (N.).—H. M. T., Carlisle.
BENSON, F. R. (S.).—T. R., Barry.
BENSON, MR. AND MRS. F. R.—Coronet Theatre, W.
BONDMAN, THE (CROKE).—T. R., Middlesbrough.
BREWSTER'S MILLIONS.—T. R., Bournemouth.
BUTTERFLIES.—O. H., Southport.
CARL ROSA OPERA CO.—Alexandra T., Greenock.
CASSIDY, MR. J. RICE.—T. R., Ashton.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE), N.—Castle T., Stockton.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE), M.—Shrewsbury and Wrexham.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE), S.—T. R., Rochdale.
CINDERELLA (KIDDIE).—West Bromwich.
CINGALEE, THE.—Brixton Theatre, S.W.
CLAUDIAN.—Theatre Royal, Huddersfield.
COMPTON COMEDY CO.—Grand T., Hull.
CONSCIENCE OF A JUDGE.—T. R., Batley.
COUNTRY GIRL IN LONDON.—T. R., West Bromwich.
DAIRYMAIDS, THE (COURTNEIDGE).—T. R. Bolton.
DAIRYMAIDS, THE (MACDONALD).—T. R., Birkenhead.
DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY.—New T., Todmorden.
DIANA OF DOBSON'S.—T. R., Brighton.
DICK WHITTINGTON (DOTTRIDGE).—T. R., Darlington.
DICK WHITTINGTON (KIDDIE).—P. O. W., Grimsby.
DICK WHITTINGTON (LITTLE).—T. R., Blyth.
D'OYLY CARTE.—Grand T., Southampton.
DRIVEN FROM HOME.—Lyric T., Hammersmith.
EARLY WORM.—Lyceum T., Ipswich.
EAST LYNNE.—O. H., Burton-on-Trent.
EVE OF HER WEDDING.—Colosseum, Oldham.
EYES OF THE WORLD.—P. O. W., Mexborough.
FAIR ONE WITH THE GOLDEN LOCKS.—North Shields.
FATAL WEDDING.—O. H., Northampton.
FIGHT FOR A THRONE.—Miners' T., Ashington.
FLAG LIEUTENANT.—Grand T., Derby.
FLOWER GIRL, THE.—T. R., Merthyr Tydvil.
FOR LOVE AND THE KING.—Star T., Liverpool.
FORTY THIEVES, THE (LITTLE).—Gaiety T., Methil.
GAY GORDONS, THE (N.).—Theatre Royal, York.
GEOFFREY LANGDON'S WIFE.—T. R., Hebburn.
GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME.—Chatham.
GIRL'S CROSS ROADS.—Alexandra T., Sheffield.
GIRLS OF GOTTENBERG (DANCE).—Broadway T., Deptford.
GLOSSOP-HARRIS.—County T., Kingston.
GREAT AWAKENING.—Grand T., Brighton.
HARVEY, MR. MARTIN.—New T., Cardiff.
HAVANA.—Marlborough Theatre, N.
HER FATAL MARRIAGE.—New Hall, Bargoed.
HER LOVE AGAINST THE WORLD.—T. R., South Shields.
HIS HOUSE IN ORDER.—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
HIS SISTER'S HONOUR.—Greenwich Theatre, S.E.
I DEFY THE WORLD.—P. O. W., Nuneaton.
IDOLS (HUTCHISON).—Oxford and Cambridge.
KING AND THE UNKNOWN WOMAN.—Junction Theatre, Manchester.
LA COMEDIE ANGLAISE.—Calne and Midsomer Norton.
LADY FREDERICK.—Maidstone.
LIGHTHOUSE ROBBERY.—Prince's T., Horwich.
LITTLE BREADWINNER.—T. R., Leigh.
LOVE OF THE PRINCESS.—T. R. Castleford.
LUCKY 'LIZA.—New Theatre, Aberdare.
MAN AND WIFE.—T. R., Smethwick.
MISS HOOK OF HOLLAND (DANCE).—P. T., Accrington
MOODY-MANNERS (A).—Edinburgh.
MOODY-MANNERS (B).—T. R., Swansea.
MRS. DOT.—T. R., Halifax.
MY MIMOSA MAID.—Opera House, Cork.
NORMAN V. NORMAN.—New T., Oxford.
OLD FOLKS AT HOME.—T. R., Jarrow.
OLD HOME, THE.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
PETER'S MOTHER.—Empire T., Oldham.
POWER OF THE KING.—Hippo., Abertillery.
PRODIGAL SON (CROKE).—O. H., Coventry.
PRODIGAL SON (CROKE), M.—Long Eaton & Stafford.
PRODIGAL SON (DAY).—Grand T., Falkirk.
RED RIDING HOOD (LITTLE).—Great Yarmouth.
ROBIN HOOD.—T. R., Bath.
ROBINSON CRUSOE (DOTTRIDGE).—P. T., Bordesley.
ROYAL DIVORCE.—T. R., Norwich.
SAILOR'S WEDDING, THE.—Grand T., Brighton.
SECOND TO NONE.—P. T., Blackburn.
SEND HIM VICTORIOUS.—T. R., Edmonton.
SIGN OF THE CROSS.—Crystal Palace Theatre, S.E.
SILVER KING (POLINI).—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
SINBAD THE SAILOR (LITTLE).—T. R., Leicester.
STILL ALARM.—T. R., Woolwich.
SUTTON AND RAYNOR.—O. H., Belfast.
THIEF, THE.—Taunton and Burnham.
TODDLES.—Cambridge and Oxford.
TOM JONES.—Theatre Royal, Hanley.
TWO LANCASHIRE LASSES IN LONDON.—T. R., Aston.
TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS.—Shakespeare T., Clapham.
UNDER TWO FLAGS.—T. R., Worthing.
VICTIM OF VILLAINY.—T. R., Tyldesley.
VILLAGE BLACKSMITH.—Court T., Wigan.
WALTZ DREAM.—Prince's T., Manchester.
WAY OF THE WORLD.—T. R., Stratford.
WHAT A WOMAN DID.—T. R., Aldershot.
WHEN KNIGHTS WERE BOLD.—Peterborough and Grantham.
WHEN OTHER LIPS.—P. O. W., Salford.
WHO IS SHE?—Metropole T., Glasgow.
WILKIE, ALLAN, AND CO.—Palace T., Newcastle.
WITH EDGED TOOLS.—Gaiety T., Burnley.
WOMAN AND WINE.—T. R., Bury.
WOMAN PAYS.—T. R., Crook.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

On Monday afternoon the students of the Royal Academy of Music gave an organ and vocal recital of considerable interest. Mr. C. H. Stuart Duncan played Introduction and Passacaglia in D minor (organ), Max Reger, with much ability. Two effective songs of Mr. Garnet Wolseley Cox, "Night" and "Morning sun," greatly pleased the audience, and were admirably sung by Miss Lily Fairney; while Miss Kathleen Robinson's well-executed organ solos of the slow movement from Sir E. Elgar's "Sonata in G" and Bach's "Fugue in D" received hearty applause. Two flute solos, "Romance" and Edward German's characteristic and difficult "Saltarello" were beautifully played by Miss Edith Penville; and Mr. Barry Coney's rich and sonorous voice was heard to advantage in Sullivan's song, "Thou'rt passing hence, my brother," the organ accompaniment being skilfully played by Mr. H. G. Dutton. In the not particularly interesting Introduction and Variations for Organ (Battison Haynes) Mr. Arthur B. Wilkinson, a Sir John Goss scholar, displayed talent, and the first movement from Spohr's "Duet in D minor," for two violins, was capitally played by Miss Irene Richardson Le Brun and Miss Beatrix Cashman. Dvorák's "Bagatellen," for organ and strings, was cleverly performed by Mr. Henry Gilleece Dutton (organ), Miss Elsa Owen (first violin), Mr. Raymond Jeremy (second violin), and Mr. John Mundy (violoncello). Miss Olive Turner was a little faulty in her enunciation in her singing of Goring Thomas's "Voices of spring," "A love lullaby," and "A song of sunshine"; and Miss Nellie Fulcher was better in her execution than intonation in the first movement from Vieuxtemps' violin "Concerto in D minor." The recital concluded with Guilmant's "Grand Chœur" (organ), played by Miss Florence Rolfe-Fisher.

MISS MILLIE WOLFGANG deputised on the 28th ult. at Putney Hippodrome, for Miss Victoria Monks, with great success.

PRESENTATION.—At the termination of the run of *The Fair One with the Golden Locks* pantomime, at the Grand Theatre, Hull, last Saturday, Mr. Wallace Stranack, the stage-manager, was presented by the members of the company with an elegant gold fob and seal; also, by Mr. Eric Green, of Green and Wood, with a handsome walking-stick. Both presents were highly appreciated by the recipient.

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

Notice to Contributors.

All communications intended for publication should be sent to "THE EDITOR," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

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"The Era" is sold by all Newsagents in all the leading English, Irish, and Scotch towns, every Saturday Morning. Price Sixpence.

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Notice to Advertisers.

Advertisements should reach the Office early in the week, and not later than Thursday, 7 p.m. Remittances, payable to "THE ERA," LTD., and crossed Lloyd's Bank.

Communications.

Business Communications should be addressed to The MANAGER,
"THE ERA" BUILDINGS,
5, TAVISTOCK-STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.
(two doors off Wellington-street).
Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephones, 4747 and 1433, Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We cannot undertake to answer the inquiries of correspondents by post. In all letters names and addresses must be given as a guarantee of good faith. Initials only or pseudonyms will be used in the replies if so desired.]

H. A. B.—*The Coliseum was opened by Mr. Oswald Stoll on Dec. 24, 1904.*

R. GIBBS.—*We know nothing of the deceased gentleman but what appears in the obituary column of our issue of Dec. 19 last, which will be forwarded from the office on application to the Publisher, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C., with a remittance of six stamps.*

T. C.—*Write to the managers of the several halls named.*

H. CLEMENT.—*Your question involves too much search. Why not write to Mr. Harvey himself enclosing stamped envelope? His address can be found on our front page.*

H. M. LEWIS (Willesden). — *There are several courses open to you. You might write and give full particulars to such managers as Miss Lena Ashwell or Mr. George Alexander, in order to negotiate a purchase; you could take your piece to a music hall manager for production as a music hall sketch—try Mr. Joseph Wilson, Tivoli, Strand; you could organise a small company yourself and negotiate engagements through a music hall agent; or you could apply to French's, Southampton-street, Strand, or Mrs. Douglas Cox's Agency, Tavistock-street, Strand, who with more expert knowledge might advise you as to the placing of the piece.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a **Birth**, a **Marriage**, or a **Death**, or an "**In Memoriam**" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is **One Shilling and Sixpence.**

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

EVERARD.—Jan. 30, at Birmingham, the wife of Francis Everard (Miss Edith Leslie), of a son.

SEEBOLD.—On Jan. 29, 1909, at Walton Lodge, Worthing, the wife of C. Adolf Seebold, of the Theatre Royal, Worthing, of a daughter; both doing well.

MARRIAGES.

JOHNS—WITHERS.—Dec. 19, by special licence, at West Bromwich, Samuel Alfred Johns to Millicent Emily Olivia Withers, both of Birmingham (on tour).

KLOMBIES—DAVIES.—Jan. 30, Lieut. Gerard Randal Klombies, of the 2nd Dragoon Guards (Queen's Bays), to Adelina (Miss Adelina Balfe), daughter of the late Herbert Davies.

LEE—DYER.—On the 2nd inst., at St. Ann's, Manchester, by the Rev. David Dorrity, George Lee, Manager of Prince's Theatre, Manchester, to Florence Agnes Dyer.

DEATHS.

BAKER.—Jan. 21, at 26, Canwick-road, Lincoln, after a short illness, Frank Baker, property master, Royal Theatre, Lincoln, aged 23.

BROOKE.—Jan. 29, at his residence, 55, Ridley-road, Dalston, of congestion of the lungs, Frederick G. Brooke, actor and sketch producer.

DAVEY.—Jan. 28, at East Sheen, George Henry Davey, M.A. Camb., aged 71, the father of St. John Stuart.

MONTAGUE-COURT.—On Jan. 30, Julia Seaman Montague-Court, in her 72nd year. Interred at Nunhead, Wednesday, Feb. 3.

RAMSDALE.—Feb. 1, at Newcastle, after an operation for appendicitis, William N. Ramsdale, formerly treasurer at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle.

SCOTT.—Jan. 29, George Scott, formerly manager of the Alhambra. Deeply mourned by his wife and only son.

IN MEMORIAM.

CLEMMENTS.—In ever-loving memory of my dear husband, George Clemments (late musical-director Hengler's Circus), who died in Dublin, Feb. 10, 1907.

COLVERD.—In loving memory of my dear husband, J. J. Colverd, who passed away Feb. 7, 1903. Never forgotten by his loving wife and family.

FOOTE.—In loving memory of J. Foote, professionally known as J. Conway, "musical director." In the midst of life we are in death.—Widow and Children.

REEENE.—In affectionate remembrance of my dear wife (Miss Polly Cusick), who died Jan. 31, 1903. May her soul rest in peace.—CHARLEY.

FOR SYMPATHY.

MRS. FRED G. BROOKE thanks friends for loving sympathy. 55, Ridley-road, Dalston, N.E.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Alice Capel—Saturday, Feb. 6.
Harry Bristow—Saturday, Feb. 6.
Dora Dench—Saturday, Feb. 6.
Marguerite Broadfoote—Saturday, Feb. 6.
Alfred Bishop—Sunday, Feb. 7.
J. W. Rowley—Sunday, Feb. 7.
Charcot—Sunday, Feb. 7.
Frederick Fant Michael Abbott—Sunday, Feb. 7.
Millie Hylton—Monday, Feb. 8.
Alma Gallimore—Monday, Feb. 8.
Mrs. Patrick Campbell—Tuesday, Feb. 9.
Eva Moore—Tuesday, Feb. 9.
Miss Fortescue—Tuesday, Feb. 9.
Lottie Addison—Tuesday, Feb. 9.
Anthony Hope—Tuesday, Feb. 9.
William Felton—Tuesday, Feb. 9.
Sybil Carlisle—Wednesday, Feb. 10.
Ivan Berlyn—Wednesday, Feb. 10.
(Miss) Sidney Crowe—Thursday, Feb. 11.
E. W. Mackney—Thursday, Feb. 11.
Marie Lloyd—Friday, Feb. 12.

MR. BEN WOODGER, the secretary of the Music Hall Home, appeals for left-off wearing apparel for the use of the inmates of the Music Hall Home.

MR. E. H. MACDERMOTT, manager of the Stratford Empire, has once more demonstrated his willingness to assist the West Ham Hospital, by getting together a good side to oppose the Forest Gate Thursday Football Club on the 11th inst. The "gate" is to be given to the hospital.

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.

No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this list.

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Algar, Clown G.
Almasio, Mr. Joe
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Athol, Mr. Harry
Barrett, Mr. W. B.
Barry, Mr. J. L.
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Beresford, Miss Nancy
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Blaie, Mr. Wilfred
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Chorley and Connor
Chippendale, Mr. Arthur
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De Fontonay, Miss R.
De Verdi, Mlle. C.
Dreadnoughts, The
Duffy's Circus
Dungee, Mr. Basil
Durham, Mr. Wm.
Durland, Mr. T.
Earle, Mr. R. H.
Edmond, Mr. Leon
Elton, Mrs. Fred
Eltons, The Two
Evans, Mr. Wash.
Ewen, Mr. R.
Forde, Miss Enid
Francis, Mr. Hugo
Francois, Sisters
Fraser, Miss Winifred
Fuller, Mrs. Walter
Gates, Mr. Bob
Genée, Mlle. A.
Gennette, Mr. Claud
Glynn, Mr. Harry
Green, Mr. J. T.
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Halmore, Mr. J.
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Healy, Mr. R.
Heathcote, Mr. Robert
Helmer, Mr. Tom
Henderson, Miss M.
Hollister, Mr. H.
Hylton, Mr. A. M.
Ingram, Mr. T. Woods
Jay and Mann, Messrs.
Johnson, Mr. Kid
Johnston, Miss Jenny
King, Mr. Harry
Kirk, Mr. G.
Kirk, Mrs. F.
Kirwan, Miss Kitty
Lacy, Mr. Frank
La Martine, Mr. John
Langtry, Mrs.
Lashmars, The
Lawton, Mr. T.
Leland, Mr. W. B.
Leonzie, Mr. Albert
Le Roy, Mr. H. C.
Loftus, Mr. A.
Loraine, Mr. Basil
Lowen, Mr. Tod
Luxmore, Miss Mabel
Lytton, Mr. A. G.
Manger, Mr.
Mann, Mr. Charlton
Marlow and Manton
Massey, Miss Grace
Matthews, Mr. Percy
Mayer, Mr. Gaston
McLean, Mr. A.
McNaughton, Mr. Chas.
Melia, Mr. and Mrs. M.
Menva, Mr.
Mersano, Mr.
Middleton, Mr. Frank
Miller, Mr. E. G.
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Mystic
Naveeda, Mlle.
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Parker, Mr. Tom
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Plimmer, Mr. W. J.
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Preston, Mr. J. F.
Raymond, Miss Marie
Reynolds, Mr. Arthur
Rivers, Miss Edie
Robinson, Mr. Chas.
Roe, Mr. Norman
Sampson, Mrs.
Saville, Mr. Frank
Scott, Messrs. W.
Sealby, Mr. Herbert
Shrapnell, Mr. L.
Slack, Mr. Hayden
Sleath, Mr. Herbert
Snazelle, Mr. G. H.
Somers, Mr. Harry
Souplessi, Mr. Ossi
Sproul, Mr. James
Stakey, Mr. Gordon
Stansfield, Miss Myra
Stern, Mr. Kail
Street, Mr. Fred
Tindell, Mr. Harry
Towers, Mr. T.
Turnbull, Mr. A.
Turner, Mr. J. W.
Vanbrook, Miss A.
Vandy, Mr. Paul
Wagenhall and Kemper
Wells, Mr. Herbert G.
Wellesley, Mr.
Whyte, Mr. Harold
Wilkinson, Mr. Sam
Wilson, Miss
Wilson, Miss Ada
Woodward, Mr. Chas.
Wragg, Mr. E.
Yorke, Mr. Gilbert

THE King and Queen visited the Comedy Theatre on Wednesday night and witnessed the performance of *Penelope*.

THE "La Scala" Operatic Company is to appear on Monday at the Hippodrome, Mrs. Arthur Rousbey taking the leading part. Mrs. Rousbey, who with her late husband toured the English provinces with great success, has won favour in some of the most important rôles.

PATRONS of the Alhambra Theatre, Stourbridge, are having a return visit from Mr. Edmund Tearle and company. *The Three Musketeers* was staged for Monday night, and the representation given was of a high standard. The most prominent artist was Mr. Tearle, and his acting all through won high favour. As Miladi Miss Kate Clinton received a warm reception; and the dignified impersonation by Miss Mary Campbell of Anne of Austria impressed the audience. Another character that is worthy of mention is the Cardinal by Mr. Russel Davis.

AT the Theatre Royal, Tyldesley, Mr. Fred C. Somerfield's company in *Geoffrey Langdon's Wife* forms this week's attraction. Mr. Paul Beckett gives a powerful and convincing portrayal of Felix Beverley; Mr. Edward E. Ashby sustains the character of Jack Stirling with much ability; Geoffrey Langdon is suitably acted by Mr. Wilson Summers; Mr. Cyril Grier makes a good impression as Colonel Mills; and Mr. Arthur Lowry is an efficient Arthur Bellairs; Miss Mary Lovett plays the part of Mary with appropriate feeling; Mrs. Sands has a capable representative in Miss Kathleen Magee; Miss Katie Lever is a sprightly Nancy; and Mr. Percy Brown (Thomas) and Mr. Victor Raymond (Charles) are highly diverting.

AT the Treherbert Opera House Mr. Ronald Yorke's talented company opened on Monday last in *The Old Home*. Mr. Charles Franmore made an excellent Daddy Dean; Mr. Horace Denton gave a fine representation of the part of the Rev. Eric Armstrong; Mr. Roland Yorke appeared to advantage as Lord Avondale; Mr. Fred L. Connynghame was extremely humourous as Sammy Adams; Miss Gertrude Bonser was loudly applauded for her exquisite rendering of Hazel Dean; Mrs. J. W. Braithwaite was very amusing as Bridget Donoghan. For the last three nights of the week F. R. Benson's company is announced.

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To receive a Report of Accounts and Expenditure and Receipts and Liabilities and Assets.
To elect twenty-five members of the Council and to transact any further Business of the Association brought before the Meeting by the Council or by any Members who shall have given to the Secretary seven days' written notice thereof.
Dated this 19th day of January, 1909.
By order of the Council,
HUBERT BLOUNT,
Secretary.
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The chair will be taken by Mr. CECIL RALEIGH.
All Members are entitled to attend, and every Member whose subscription for the current year is paid is entitled to vote. As many as possible are asked to attend.

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1909.

AN INFLUENTIAL PLAY.

Mr. B. W. FINDON, in replying in the *Morning Advertiser* to our leader of last week, takes a rather pessimistic view of the influence of the drama on the public. He is evidently incredulous as to the story of GEORGE BARNWELL which we told in the article, and says that if the incident had been reported in our days we should probably have congratulated the management on the efficiency of its Press agent. He never, he says, met a person who was permanently influenced for good or evil by a play. "Immediately the strong temptation comes to man or woman," says Mr. FINDON, "it needs something more than the recollection of some emotional drama to conquer the baser impulse."

This latter statement is probably exact; but the influence of the drama is no less great for all that. What are the influences which prevent a man from doing a bad action? In the highest and most enlightened, it is the social instinct and the sense that if everyone were to act wrongly society would be impossible. If no one could be trusted not to rob and cheat, there could be no trade; if everyone was a libertine, family life would be a failure; and if murder were considered one of the fine arts, we should carry our lives in our hands and steady labour would be difficult. The sense of these truths acts indirectly on every member of a civilised community. To be a good citizen is the ideal to be cultivated, and the bad citizen is shunned, despised, and reproached. Every individual is more or less affected by the opinion of him which is held by his fellow-creatures; even the arch-egoist NAPOLEON wept when he was execrated by the populace on his way to Elba. Fraternity, as Mr. JORROCKS said of fox-hunting, is like the air we breathe; if we have it not we die.

We have no proof that even the primitive cave-dwellers were hermits; and probably the series of "Prehistoric Peeps" which appeared in *Punch* represents roughly the state of things in the Stone Age. But the elementary animal, the ape and tiger strain, still remains in man, and comes out strongly at times. It is quite true, as Mr. FINDON says, that when we are most tempted to murder, rape, and robbery, it is not the recollection of a moral melodrama that will save us. The only efficient "break" that can then be applied to the wheels is a general habit of feeling and thinking rightly; and perhaps a conviction that crime in the last analysis is folly.

This habit of feeling and thinking can be cultivated like any other habit; and two powerful agents of its culture are the drama and literature. The influence of these is undoubtedly great, and the drama is powerful because it affects the youngest and the most impressionable of the people. Upon those whose characters and opinions are formed, literature and the drama may have little effect. It is from sixteen to twenty-five, when the moral man is growing—with the usual accompaniment of "pains"—that the purity of the atmosphere is most important.

The drama, then, acts as an influence, and not as an immediate and particular antidote to an evil impulse. On the diet depends the health of the individual; and on the tendency of the plays seen and books read depends the individual character. But there is another important function performed by the drama—that of awakening and revealing. For this it is fitted by its actuality and by the immediate strength of its appeal. A description, however able, gives nothing like the effect of a representation. The average man has not imagination enough to build a scene upon a scaffolding of words. We read vaguely of invasion without in the least realising what war means. But when, in *An Englishman's Home* at Wyndham's, we hear the humming of the shells, and see the gaping wounds on the walls and ceilings of the little villa; when the blatant "bounder" falls from the table dead, with a jeer upon his lips; when a poor fellow is dimly seen dying of a ghastly shrapnel wound, and fire and slaughter are put before us with all the fidelity which modern scene-painting and stage-management can employ, the "object-lesson" is irresistible. The fact is undeniable; Major DU MAURIER'S piece has created a sensation unequalled for some time in the annals of play-production. Yet, for years, the same sermon has been preached to the English nation in vain. From the time of "The Battle of Dorking" we have had stories with a purpose describing our unpreparedness to resist invasion; but the man in the street has regarded them with indifference. The play, however, has taken hold of the public completely. We confess we are delighted by its reception at Wyndham's. People are inclined to resent any satire that is aimed at themselves; and as most of those present had neither made the smallest sacrifice in the way of military service, or had supported Lord ROBERTS'S views either by attendance at public meetings or by pressure on their parliamentary candidates—the last election turned on the question whether Chinamen or Kaffirs should be employed in some gold-mines in a distant continent—it is obvious that the author, had he appeared, might have remarked to almost each applauder *De te fabula narratur*. We should have expected *An Englishman's Home* to be "booed" off the stage, or at least received in offended silence. But the British public has swallowed its sermon *sans rancune*. The influence of the drama has been again most clearly and convincingly proved.

COMPLIMENTARY SUPPER TO MANAGERS.

A large company was present on Tuesday evening last at the Elephant and Castle Theatre, on the occasion of a complimentary supper given by the theatre staff and personal friends to Messrs. Charles, Dan, and Sydney Barnard. The stage had been artistically decorated, and the tables were arranged thereon. In the absence of Mr. Jack de Frece, who was to have taken the chair, Mr. Lester Collingwood was prevailed upon to preside. At the conclusion of the supper a handsome illuminated address was presented to the Messrs. Barnard by Mr. George Osborn on behalf of the staff of the theatre. Mr. Osborn asked the Messrs. Barnard to accept the address as a slight though tangible token of the united good wishes of the staff for the future prosperous career of the Elephant and Castle Theatre. Since the Messrs. Barnard had acquired the house, less than a year ago, great changes had taken place. He wished to thank those gentlemen for the kind consideration they had always shown to the staff.

Mr. Charles Barnard, in responding, said he had had a good many gifts at various times, but the one he had just received on this unique occasion would be most dear to him. He was pleased to say he had, during his short time here, been most successful, but he attributed the secret of his success to a very loyal staff.

Mr. Lester Collingwood, the popular producer of the current successful pantomime, who had journeyed from Birmingham in order to be present, in a very well-chosen speech said in his capacity of travelling manager he had never had dealings with any firm by whom he had been better received than the Messrs. Barnard. They were always willing to help him, and placed no obstruction in his way. Mr. Fred Bernado (acting-manager for Mr. Collingwood) said, in his eight weeks' connection with the Messrs. Barnard he had had the most comfortable time of his life. It was a pleasure to work with such gentlemen.

Mr. Knowles paid a very pretty compliment to the orchestra and stage staff. The stage staff were the best lot of boys he had had to deal with. A willing stage staff was of great assistance to the artist; on the other hand, an unwilling stage staff could do a good deal towards spoiling a show. As one of the artists in the pantomime, he wished also to thank the orchestra on behalf of himself and colleagues for the hard work they had put in during the present run. The orchestra, from the public point of view, was perhaps passed over as quite a secondary consideration; but he and his fellow artists recognised the fact that without a capable and willing orchestra their efforts might have met with little success. Mr. W. Stephenson (conductor) replied on behalf of the orchestra. He and his assistants thanked the artists for their good feeling expressed through Mr. Knowles. It was sufficient recompense to them to know that their efforts had been appreciated by the artists.

Messrs. Fred and Walter Melville both contributed speeches, in which they expressed their appreciation of the treatment they had received at the hands of the Messrs. Barnard in their business relations.

Mr. Collingwood proposed the health of the ladies. Miss Kitty Clinton responded on their behalf.

An excellent musical programme was provided, and a very merry party broke up with the dawn of Wednesday morning. Nearly the whole of the pantomime principals were present, and a good many friends, among whom were Miss Kitty Clinton, the Sisters Morgan, Miss Alice Maple, Messrs. Barrett and Knowles, Mr. Will Lorenzi, and Mr. Arnold Bell.

PREMATURE PLOT-TELLING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—On the instructions of the committee of the Society of Authors, I am requested to draw your attention to a grievance under which dramatic writers and those concerned in the production of a theatrical work have suffered for some time past.

There is an increasing tendency to publish in the Press information relative to a forthcoming stage production. Some of this information is unauthorised and misleading. It can be of little or no value to the reader and is a frequent cause of annoyance and trouble to those of whom it speaks.

But the most damaging element of the evil, and that to which I am asked to invite your very serious consideration, is the premature disclosure of what is alleged to be the "plot" of a forthcoming play. This is, more often than not, a distorted version which has been obtained from irresponsible sources, and sometimes by methods much to be deprecated. It needs no argument to show that this state of things is damaging in the extreme. Not only is "the wind taken out of the sails" of an author, and the valuable criticism of the representative of the Press discounted, but the garbled material is placed before the public in such a way that the play may be practically prejudiced.

It must not, however, be supposed that an accurate disclosure would be less objectionable than a garbled one. On the contrary, such a disclosure is a breach of copyright and an invasion of the author's property. Either way, the practice of disclosing the contents of unpublished copyright matter is an indefensible one.—Yours faithfully,

G. HERBERT THRING.

Feb. 3.

A FEW days since, at Bedford, a company of eminent French actors honoured the town with their first performance in this country, playing *Le Voyage de Monsieur Perrichon* to a crowded house at the Bedford Grammar School.

A DRAMA SOCIETY FOR OXFORD.

A circular was issued in Oxford last November proposing the establishment of a drama society, in order to secure the performance of good modern plays at Oxford. A meeting was held on Jan. 29, at Balliol College, for the purpose of constituting the society, and electing officers. There was a large attendance. Professor GILBERT MURRAY moved, and Mr. CYRIL BAILEY, Fellow of Balliol, seconded, that the Master of University College (Dr. R. W. Macan) be elected president of the society, and the motion was carried unanimously. Dr. MACAN said he thought they might take it for granted that all those who were present were in favour of doing something to encourage the representation of sound and interesting dramas at Oxford. That was the main purpose for which their society had been formed. They wished to welcome the best dramatic poets and actors into their midst, and that society, if it went forward, might do something towards achieving that object.

Professor Murray was unanimously elected vice-president, and a committee was formed, consisting of Mr. Hadow, Fellow of Worcester College; Mr. Cyril Bailey, Professor Walter Raleigh, the President of the Oxford University Dramatic Society (Mr. J. H. M. Greenly, Trinity College), Mr. E. S. Corbett, University College; Mr. B. H. Blackwell, Mrs. Gotch, the Principal of Somerville College (Miss Penrose), and Mrs. Ball, with Mrs. H. D. Leigh as secretary.

Professor MURRAY said that as far as they could judge 460 persons had signified their intention of joining the society, and he thought that would place them in a strong financial position. They had to consider whether they would enter into relations with some particular company and if so what company. Practically at this moment there was only one effective répertoire theatre in England, and that was Miss Horniman's company. By a répertoire company he meant the opposite of a long-run company theatre. If they were going to have a répertoire theatre in certain respects they must lower their expectations. They could not get "star" actors; they would get intelligent young actors who had not made their name yet, and that was what they must look out for. The alternative to having a répertoire theatre was to get in touch with some agency or other which would try to appeal to various touring companies to bring them plays that would interest them. He had had a great deal of experience in reading plays, partly because people sent them to him and partly because he was for some years on the Reading Committee of the Stage Society; so that in the last two years he had read 250 original, or so-called original, modern plays. In that great mass of work he thought there was a good deal of intellect and interest and something of suggestive promise, but of the whole he did not think that there were twelve which he would recommend to the society with any confidence. The members of the society should keep their eyes open for good plays, whether English or foreign, when they happened to hear or read them. By that means they would have a reasonable chance of getting a good number to select from.

Mr. W. H. HADOW (Worcester) spoke hopefully of the future of the society. They were not in competition with any existing dramatic pleasures offered to them in Oxford. They did not want to keep people away from those musical comedies which delighted the eyes of all who attended them, but they believed that there was a large amount of drama which appealed to a different kind of audience and which they had only a sporadic chance of hearing. He thought that they had a better chance now of bringing that project to a successful issue than they had ever had before.

DRESSES AT THE PLAY.

The gowns in the new production of *Samson* at the Garrick are chiefly Empire with gorgeous embroideries. Miss Violet Vanbrugh's first frock has a tight-fitting underskirt of the palest lemon-coloured soft satin, over which comes an Empire tunic of cream net heavily embroidered at the foot with silver thread, bugles, and cut beads, and finished with a deep fringe of silver tassels. The tunic is cut up at each side and caught together by heavy "bell-rope" tassels of silver. More of the beautiful embroidery appears at the top of the tunic, above which are soft draperies of hydrangea coloured chiffon. Under each arm is a rouleau of hydrangea silk arranged in bows and loops. Over this gown is worn a beautiful cloak of purple satin trimmed with purple braid and lined with a dull shade of cerise.

Miss Vanbrugh later in the play is arrayed in a wonderful arrangement of copper and silver thread lace over an underskirt of pale pink satin. The lace, which has a border studded with amethysts, reaches just below the knees in front and curves off into a train at the back. A long scarf of white chiffon crosses the shoulders and is fastened front and back with big gold buttons set with amethysts, the long tasselled ends reaching nearly to the ground. There are a deep rounded yoke of cream tucked chiffon and tight-fitting undersleeves of chiffon. The crowning touch to this beautiful frock is given by a lovely amethyst necklace and amethyst earrings.

Miss Marie Illington wears in the first act a dinner dress of black tulle embroidered with silver and worn over silver tissue. Some lovely Venetian lace and silver and bugle embroidery cross the shoulders and are caught at each side of the bodice by diamond buttons. The only ornament worn with this dress is a rather wide neck-band of black velvet, with a diamond butterfly in front. For her second gown Miss Illington dons one of a beautiful shade of tulip pink, of the new ribbed silk, with a long cutaway coat ornamented with black buttons. The collar and cuffs are of sable, and a huge sable muff is also worn. An effective touch is given by a big bunch of faded mauve roses, which is fastened in the coat. A novel black jet hat that fits well over the head has a group of ostrich tips arranged cascade fashion all round the crown.

Miss Edyth Latimer has on a beautiful robe of rhododendron mauve satin charmeuse with a tunic of burnished gold net, bordered with pale blue and dull gold embroidery studded with amethysts. The elbow sleeves are made of folded net, caught here and there beneath tiny ornaments, and the modestie is of cream tulle threaded with mauve ribbon. A feature of the costume is the girdle, composed of bands of padded satin charmeuse ending in long plain ends with knotted terminals. Long turquoise earrings and a long chain of uncut turquoise add their note of blue to a very fine harmony of lovely shades.

Miss Latimer's dress in the third act is a robe of mouse chiffon velours, with a hint of green in it—a loose sack-like garment without shape, but of a very smart appearance. Long sheath sleeves are given to it, as well as turned-back revers of Ottoman silk and a guimpe of tucked net. The whole is trimmed with grey braid in bands and loops. A black hat of the Empire character composed of astrachan straw and velvet is worn with the redingote, trimmed with one huge stiff ostrich plume caught beneath a jet ornament, and a stole and huge muff of grey marabout complete the picture.

MR. JACK HADDON'S pantomime company, *The Babes in the Wood*, is at the Muncaster Theatre, Bootle. Messrs. August and September create fun as the two Robbers; Mr. Charles May plays the Baron capitally; and Miss Millie Engler makes a dashing Robin Hood; Miss Dorma Morgan a pleasing Maid Marion, and Mr. Harry Elliston is excellent as the Dame. Miss Winnie Usher is a capital Little John; and the Misses Dolly and Madge M'Calla enact the Babes sweetly.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"4 FOIS 7—28."

Comedy, in Three Acts, by M. Romain Coolus, produced at the Bouffes-Parisiens on Jan 29.

Daspre	M. COQUET
Paul Lorbey	M. HASTI
Langlin	M. MILO
Sorbier	M. CAZALIS
Benjol	M. BERTIC
Gandard	M. ARNAUDY
Mme. Ciriette	MME. AUGUSTINE LERICHE
Juliette	MLLE. CLARENS
Manette	MLLE. MARCELLE PRINCE
Suzanne	MLLE. ANDREE MARLY
La Jolie	MLLE. BLANCHE GUY

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, Feb. 4.—M. Romain Coolus' new comedy brought out at the Bouffes-Parisiens bears the strange title *4 fois 7—28*, the explanation of which is given in the final act. Paul Lorbey and Juliette are husband and wife. Paul loves Juliette, but he worships his mother-in-law, Mme. Ciriette, who really can lay claim to no ordinary amount of admiration. The young couple, dissimilar in temperament, have frequent squabbles, which, but for Mme. Ciriette's exquisite tact, would soon degenerate into a catastrophe. One day, however, Mme. Ciriette being unfortunately absent, Paul and Juliette have a desperate quarrel, and all the mother-in-law's attempts to bring about a reconciliation prove fruitless. Juliette leaves with her mother for Cabourg, whilst her husband remains in Paris. In Cabourg Juliette, pretty and fascinating, is very much courted; and, being of a flighty disposition, she indulges in several flirtations, one of which is likely to compromise her. Paul, hearing of his wife's pranks, at once leaves for the seaside to fight the gentleman whose name he has heard mentioned in connection with his wife. Juliette is frightened, for she never expected that the affair would take such a serious turn. For all that, her pride prevents her from acknowledging to her mother that she still loves her husband, whereupon the irate Mme. Ciriette brings her giddy daughter to her senses by boxing her ears. Juliette being vanquished, Mme. Ciriette takes Paul in hand, and explains to him that, according to a great physiologist, the human body undergoes a change every seven years. "My daughter," says the lady, "being now twenty-two, has only had three transformations; and at the fourth she will be as perfect as I am now. And I may add that at her age I was just as intractable." Paul is only too happy to accept this theory, and, clasping his wife in his arms, promises to wait patiently for the final metamorphosis. The charming comedy met with an excellent reception. Mlle. Clarens was a sprightly, lovable Juliette; Mme. Leriche was shriekingly funny as the model mother-in-law; and the greatest praise must be bestowed on the remainder of the cast.

REFERRING to the above play, I may mention that "Clarens" is the pseudonym of Mlle. Dietz-Monnin, a young society woman who has just joined the profession. She is bright, clever, and will, I am sure, do very well on the stage. It, therefore, was a great pity that a certain clique among the "professionals" tried to raise a cabal against the new-comer, whom they would persist in dubbing an amateur. The public, however, did not join in the conspiracy, and awarded Mlle. Clarens a reception that must have been gratifying to that young artist.

MM. MESSAGER AND BROUSSAN, the managers of our Opéra, are still being violently attacked by a certain section of the Paris Press. There can be no doubt that these gentlemen have been going rather foolishly to work, and have spent large sums without any apparent necessity. I say "apparent" because I happen to know that at the time of their appointment pressure was brought to bear upon them from certain quarters which virtually tied their hands. The matter is of too delicate a nature to be explained here in all its details; but those who remember the time when M. Gailhard was appointed manager will not have forgotten the onslaughts to which he was subjected during the first few years of his tenure of office. And when I add that much of the dirt that is flung about emanates from people anxious to take MM. Messager and Broussan's places, you will understand that too much credence must not be placed on all that is said and written against the present luckless management. To-day a meeting will be held of the sleeping partners, *i.e.*, the gentlemen who helped MM. Messager and Broussan to obtain the necessary capital to work the Opéra. From this meeting will depend whether the present management will be left in peace, or whether—— But, *qui vivra verra!*

THE Théâtre de l'Œuvre produced two new works, one of which, *La Chaîne*, is a "drame intime" by MM. Maurice Level and J. Monnier. The plot is as follows:—Mme. Jardy's husband has just died. She does not regret him, for she can now marry Chalandret, with whom she has a liaison, of which she thinks her husband was not aware. When, however, in Chalandret's presence she breaks the seal of the envelope that contains her husband's will, she discovers, to her dismay, that she has been disinherited. Chalandret, up to his ears in debt, and furious that old Jardy's money, on which he speculated, is lost to him, at once shows his despicable character by turning on the woman he pretended to love, and declaring that everything is now finished between them. Before Mme. Jardy has recovered from her astonishment her husband's notary enters and hands her the deceased gentleman's last will, wherein he bequeaths her his whole fortune provided she marries Chalandret. A clause is added that unless she gives notice within three days that she accepts this condition all the money will go to charitable institutions. And, to crown it all, the notary gives her a letter the husband left, with instructions to have it opened three days after his death. In that document M. Jardy informs his wife that the first will was only a bluff, and that he played that trick upon her because he foresaw that Chalandret would at once prove himself the blackguard he had always been. "And," adds the husband, "I have now forged the chain that will rivet you to this fellow, for, being penniless, you and he will marry to have the money. It is my posthumous revenge!"

THE second work produced was *Perce-Neige*, by Mlle. Jeanne Dortzal, founded on one of Grimm's well-known fairy tales, four harmless acts that will not set the Seine on fire, even with the mild incidental music with which M. Massenet has ornamented it.

PARIS has gone hysterical over Coquelin's death. When Pasteur, the great public benefactor, died hardly more fuss was made. And "All Paris" went to Pont-aux-Dames to the funeral because it was the proper thing to be seen there; as "All Paris" stayed at home a week ago when poor Zulma Buffar, who had once been a shining light on the operatic stage, was laid to rest in that very same Pont-aux-Dames. But those terrible creatures who constitute "All Paris" only worship the great, even when they are dead. And stones are thrown—in a figurative sense, of course—at Suzanne Desprès because, when the irrepressible reporter interviewed the leading actors and actresses about their grief at Coquelin's death, she answered: "It did not affect me in the least!" It certainly sounded very bad. But I happen to know Mme. Suzanne Desprès very well, and I also know that she is outspoken and straightforward. She and the departed actor were not on friendly terms, and Suzanne Desprès did not care to show a grief she did not feel. But whether it was wise is another question.

AND who is to play the leading part in *Chantecler?*

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"DIE LEHRERIN,"

Rustic Comedy, in Three Acts, by Alexander Brody, produced at the Deutsches Theatre, Jan. 29.

Suza Horvath	FRAULEIN HOFLICH
Hegedus	HERR SCHILDKRAUT
Frau Hegedus	FRAULEIN SANDROCK
Stefan	HERR BERGOI
Pfarrer	HERR PAGAY
Lehrer	HERR BIENSFELDT
Kaplan	HERR ABEL
Kantor	HERR TIEDTKE
Stuhlrichter	HERR HARTAU
Arzt	HERR DUMONT
Apotheker	HERR BENDOW
Ida	FRAULEIN SCHIFF
Käthe	FRAULEIN WANGEL
Etelka	FRAULEIN BENDORFF

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, Feb. 4.—The author is a Hungarian—of note, I believe, in his own country, although hitherto unknown here. The name of the translator does not transpire, but he has evidently done his work in very creditable manner, and the piece met with a most cordial reception. If, however, the plot may be taken as representative of morals in Hungary, they are in urgent need of reform. Suza Horvath is a young and pretty teacher who comes to the village to take charge of the girls' school. What she has to suffer at the hands of the rustic Don Juans is almost inconceivable—from the wealthy farmer's son, Stefan Hegedus, to the lowest rustic lout—and perhaps the worst of all are the village magistrate and the young priest—the Kaplan—who persecute the lonely girl in the most shameless manner. She repudiates all their advances in disgust, and her persecutors determine to revenge themselves upon her. They hold a conclave, and decide Suza must give up her situation and leave the village, on account of the danger to public morals caused by her presence. In a very drastic scene the poor girl is summoned before her rustic inquisitors and condemned. Suddenly her patience gives way, and the floods of indignation burst forth. Suza, in a dramatic tirade, denounces the villains who would fain have caused her downfall, and tears the written verdict in two before their faces. Only a solitary friend—a young schoolmaster—ventures to take her part, and the girl prepares to leave the neighbourhood. Now, however, Stefan comes forward, and asks her to marry him; but although she loves him she refuses on account of the opposition shown by her lover's parents. The elder Hegedus insults her by asking Suza to name her price to let his son go, and is so much impressed by the spirit she displays that he bids his son run after her and bring her back as his honoured sweetheart. Thus all ends merrily to the distant sound of wedding bells. There are so many good scenes and so much humour interspersed that the author was called repeatedly, and warmly applauded. The piece was, I am told, given repeatedly in Budapest before crowded houses last winter.

THE Lessing is giving one of its famous Ibsen cycles. *Nora* met with a tremendous reception, and the author's early play, *Der Bund der Jugend*, was scarcely less well received. Perhaps the *clou* of the whole was reached by the performance of *Gespenster* (Ghosts) on Monday night. It created a profound impression on the large audience, who followed every word spellbound. The part of Frau Alwing was given in a masterly manner by Fräulein Lehmann, and the unhappy Oswald found an excellent impersonator in Herr Bassermann. The Engstrand of Herr Reicher is well known as a perfect piece of acting, and Fräulein Wuest and Herr Sauer gave satisfactory renderings of the rôles of Regina and Pastor Manders.

HERR KAINZ continues to fill the New Schauspielhaus at every performance, and the enthusiasm of the audience is always the same, whether the great artist portrays Hamlet or Leon, the cook-boy, in Grillparzer's ever-popular comedy *Weh dem der lügt*.

SIR CHARLES WYNDHAM has been paying Berlin a visit, studying the Berliners and their city, and uttering good-humoured criticisms on both. The eminent actor has been much fêted, and has thoroughly enjoyed his visit.

THE Berlin *première* of *Elektra* takes place on Saturday, all tickets having long been disposed of. Talking of this opera, I must not omit to give a witticism for which Herr Heinrich Grünfeld, the Court 'cellist, is responsible. Herr Grünfeld was one of the small, select group who went over to Dresden for the production. Coming out of the Opera House, he was heard to say, with deep pathos, to a friend: "If it must be Richard, why not Wagner; and if it must be Strauss, why, oh, why not Johann?" And yet the famous composer and the 'cellist are capital friends in private life!

THE LATE J. A. LILLY.

Mr. John Arthur Lilly, who died on Thursday, Jan. 28, at 11, Westwick-gardens, West Kensington Park, at the age of fifty-five, had a chequered career. After starting in London as a reciter, he paid a visit to America, where he became associated with the late Edwin Booth, who thought so highly of the English actor that he entrusted him with important parts. After work in England Lilly tried another tour in the States, which proved disastrous. He caught cold, and a severe illness followed. At last he came to rely on alms, and stood at Piccadilly Circus, tall, picturesque, in threadbare coat, and with long hair and artistic soft hat, his calm, classic face and his complete detachment from all surroundings attracting notice. A gentleman who knew his career got up a benefit for Lilly. Before a crowded and paying audience he recited Shakespeare admirably. But a few weeks after he was standing again in Piccadilly. His poverty increased, till one who had known him in happiest days befriended him, and a humble couple offered a friendly shelter to the unfortunate actor. In December last he became so ill that he had to remain in bed, and the people of the house did all they could for the lone man. He persistently objected to a doctor, and it was only on Wednesday evening, Jan. 27, that Dr. Crowley, of Shepherd's Bush, was called in, and soon saw that the patient was *in extremis*, and the doctor, who was a Cambridge man, learned that Lilly had been to that University. Lilly left not a penny, and at *The Era's* suggestion an appeal to the Actors' Benevolent Fund was made, and £5 was granted to save the actor from a pauper's grave, so that Lilly's obsequies were decently performed in Hammersmith Cemetery. A cross of violets and lilies of the valley was laid on the coffin with the inscription:—

ARTHUR LILLY,
Actor.
Died Jan. 28, 1909.
A Tribute to a Broken Life,

and a poetical tribute to the deceased.

Amongst those present at the funeral were Mr. and Mrs. Higgins, who helped the dead actor for twelve years; Mrs. Sullivan, and Mr. Edwin Drew, an old friend.

THE Prince and Princess of Wales visited Terry's Theatre on Thursday evening, and witnessed Mr. Forbes-Robertson's production of *The Passing of the Third Floor Back*.

AT a meeting of the shareholders of the Paris Opera House on Thursday, it was shown that out of a capital of £60,000 only £16,000 of working capital was left. It was decided that the resources should be increased. MM. Messager and Broussan will remain managers.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

Miss Vesta Tilley's forthcoming engagement in America is not, as has been stated, a lengthy tour. As a matter of fact, Miss Tilley plays only six weeks in New York, and returns direct to the Palace Theatre, where she is at present meeting with her usual great success.

Mr. Fred Farren and Miss Beatrice Collier now have the unusual opportunity of being able to witness their own performance in "La Danse des Apaches," as a picture of this dance is presented at the Empire on the Cinephone, a remarkable invention which gives a perfect combination of bioscope and gramophone.

Mr. Harry Rickards gave a special matinée performance at the Tivoli Theatre, Sydney, on December 14 last, for the purpose of providing funds for 1,000 dinners in the Town Hall, Sydney, on Christmas Day. Mr. Rickards once more appeared on the stage, and delighted the large audience by singing three songs. His old patrons had evidently not forgotten him. There was a record house.

In moving on Wednesday the adoption of the annual report of the London Coliseum, Mr. Oswald Stoll said that from the statements made at company meetings this year concerning the great depression in trade in 1908 as compared with 1907, it was clear that they had reason to be satisfied with the results so far obtained, especially as the circumstances in which they commenced business were not generally regarded as hopeful from other points of view.

The Coliseum was now more than justifying its existence, and he trusted that those who had stood by it were to be well rewarded. That nothing succeeds like success was true of many businesses, but of none more true than of such a business as theirs, so that the success disclosed by their report might be relied upon to maintain itself and produce a degree even greater.

Their financial position was a strong one, for they had a property immensely more valuable than their total capital, a prosperous business, and plenty of cash in the bank, whilst the redemption of the debentures was equivalent to the establishment of a reserve fund year by year. The report, which provides for the redemption of £2,500 debenture stock, and the writing off a portion of preliminary expenses amounting to £1,598, recommended a dividend amounting to 15 per cent. for the year. The report was adopted amid applause.

"The Queen of the Fairies," which is to be "musicked" by Mr. Edward Jones, will be given at the Coliseum, for the first time, on Monday, Feb. 15. Miss Elise Craven, the pretty little dancer in *Pinkie and the Fairies* at His Majesty's, will play the title-rôle in the sketch, which is from the pen of Mr. Sydney Blow, whose name as author is now continually cropping up at West-End variety houses. There will be six speaking parts.

Mr. Jack Stavordale, of the Miles-Stavordale Quintette, has sent the sum of £6 for the Music Hall Home, being part result of a concert on board ship on the homeward journey from Australia. He says there were very few passengers on board, or the result would have been greater. The Miles-Stavordale Quintette and Mr. Tod Lowen were the only variety artists on the ship, and both contributed several items.

As befitting the times, a flying bicycle on the aeroplane system will be ridden on and above the Coliseum stage next week by Mons. Romain Noisset, a Parisian inventor. The bicycle is an ordinary one of the motor type, and has affixed to it several pairs of wings. The cycle is placed on a platform provided with traps. After Noisset has mounted and started the motor, the traps are opened. In consequence, so strong a draught is caused that the cycle rises, and is held suspended in the air until the fall of the curtain. The act is the first of its kind, and has never been seen on any stage.

Mr. Alfred Butt, of the Palace Theatre, returned recently from a trip to Tunis which he found to be thoroughly enjoyable. Thence he proceeded to Biskara on the edge of the desert, witnessing many strange things in the course of his wanderings. He stayed on his way out in Paris, where he witnessed the performance of une belle Américaine, a diseuse who should make her mark at the Palace Theatre, where she is to appear before long. He will present also shortly a couple of clever Spanish dancers—Maria and Pepita Florida—who hail from Seville.

A monkey almost human was found some two years ago and trained. He was brought to London at the beginning of this week and examined by Dr. Forbes Winslow, the brain specialist. Dr. Winslow noted the manner in which the animal's big toes shot right away from the other extremities, and pronounced him a monkey, but a very fine specimen. "The finest I have seen," added the doctor. Consul, as the animal has been named, was at once "commandeered" by the management of the London Hippodrome and will appear there next week.

Miss Maud Allan during her stay at the Palace Theatre is going to interpret the famous Peer Gynt suite, and has entered upon her task very seriously. The piece which has most fascinated her in it is, as might be imagined, "Morning." There was some thought of engaging the London Symphony Orchestra to play the suite; but the directors of that corporation of star instrumentalists did not take kindly to the idea. They probably thought they would be taking the position of mere accompanists. Of course, they would be the interpreters in one sense, and Miss Allan in another. One day they may be able to realise the true artistic sympathy that exists between musical and terpsichorean interpretations of great composers' masterpieces.

"An Englishman's Home" at Wyndham's has given the cue for a patriotic outburst at the halls, and we understand that Miss Dora de Winton and her husband, Mr. John D. Saunders, who have been recently supporting a virtuoso in a musical sketch, will shortly produce, on an unusually elaborate scale, an original military sketch, especially written for them, entitled *God Save the King; or, The Two Lieutenants*. Patriotic items became a drug in the market during the Boer War, and at its conclusion it was thought that the less said on the halls about the glory of the British arms the better.

Miss Dora de Winton is much concerned at the mysterious disappearance of manuscript concerning important portions of the new sketch referred to above. It appears that as late as Tuesday last the note-books and memoranda now missing were in the possession of Miss Dora de Winton in her dressing-room at the Exeter Hippodrome, but that on Wednesday evening these had vanished. Whether or not the loss is due to carelessness, practical joke, or other means cannot be said. The matter is being most carefully investigated, and every means taken to find and obtain the return of the missing documents. We give a short statement of the facts in the hope of helping Miss Dora de Winton. Anyone who can throw light on the matter should communicate at once direct to Mr. W. Rackwood Cocks, solicitor, Exeter Bank Chambers, Exeter.

At the Aldershot Theatre Royal Empire and Hippodrome Mr. Clarence Saunes started a variety season on Monday with a capital company of entertainers.

The Zoo Hippodrome, Glasgow, where Mr. Bostock intends to make extensive alterations, will be closed after April 24 to allow of the work being carried out.

We regret to hear that Mr. Fred Evans, the well-known clown, now living at Granby House, 6, Lower Church-lane, St. Michael's, Bristol, is very ill with cancer in the throat.

At a meeting of the directors of the Sunderland Empire Palace, Ltd., held at the registered offices of the company, 40, Westgate-road, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on Tuesday, it was resolved to declare an interim dividend for the half-year ended Dec. 31, 1908, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

The Empire Theatre, Deansgate, Bolton, which was opened in August last by Mr. Thomas Hargreaves, sen., of Rochdale, has been acquired by Mr. Walter de Frece, of the Manchester Palace Theatre of Varieties, and Mr. Will Sley, of Oxford-street, Manchester. The theatre will open under their management on Monday, the 15th.

Councillor E. H. Bostock, of the Zoo-Hippodrome, Glasgow, has now decided on the closing date of that establishment, and is announcing it for April 24. He has not finally settled the details of the new building to be erected in place of the Zoo, but in all probability a large skating-rink will be included.

The alterations that have been proceeding at the Grand, Bolton, for the past three months are fast approaching completion, and the house will be one of the finest in the kingdom. It can be converted into a vast circus in twenty-four hours, and we are given to understand that it is likely to be so converted, and at an early date.

The spacious auditorium of the beautiful Empire Theatre, Sheffield, was crowded on Saturday last, when a grand matinée took place for the benefit of the Royal Infirmary extension fund. The programme consisted of high-class selections by the splendid band, under the direction of the popular chef d'orchestre, Mr. H. Renton Gardner, and the comedy by Captain Robert Marshall, *The Second in Command*, cleverly acted by Captain Jeffcock and other distinguished amateurs.

The performance was under the patronage of the Lord and Lady Mayoress, the nobility of the district, the local M.P.'s, the principal dignitaries of the city, &c. The noble house presented a brilliant spectacle. London West-End prices were charged for all parts, so the proceeds should be worthy of the object.

Negotiations have been completed by Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton for the erection in the ancient city of Chester of an up-to-date Hippodrome. These popular proprietors of the Royalty Theatre have made arrangements for the purchase of a large space of ground with a capital frontage to City-road, and there will be three entrances—from this thoroughfare, Boughton and Russell-street. The promoters have also purchased the commodious empty house, No. 161, Boughton-street.

It is intended to erect a first-class Hippodrome to hold about 3,000 people. Plans have already been prepared by Mr. W. T. Lockwood, F.R.I.B.A., of Foregate-street, Chester, and as soon as these have been sanctioned by the City Corporation building operations will be commenced. The building will be of handsome design, and the interior arrangements will be on a scale of luxurious elegance.

It is hoped to give the usual vaudeville entertainments at the Hippodrome twice nightly all the year round, and at the Royalty Theatre the usual comedies, dramas, and grand operas will be introduced. There is every probability that the resident manager's duties for both houses will be in the capable hands of Mr. C. B. Fountaine.

The Royal Hippodrome, Blackburn, the latest addition to the De Frece Circuit, opens on Monday. There will be a special reception to view the beautiful new building to-day. The Hippodrome has been erected on the site of the old Theatre Royal, in the very heart of the town, from designs by Mr. Bertie Crewe. The builders are Messrs. Parkinson, of Blackburn, and the furniture and draperies are by A. R. Dean and Sons. Mr. Harry Yorke is retained as resident director, and the managing-director is Mr. Walter de Frece.

Dr. Walford Bodie is again in the capital of his native country, and performing this week to large and fashionable audiences. The King's Theatre, Edinburgh, is packed to the doors nightly, the advance booking being phenomenal. Dr. Bodie has been inundated with letters and wires of congratulation on the great success of the first of his series of hynotic tales, entitled "Harley, the Hypnotist," which appear for the first time in this month's *Novel Magazine*. Several of the leading papers describe it as a serious rival to "Sherlock Holmes" and "Captain Kettle."

The death took place on Saturday morning of Mr. Jas. Edward Culeen, of the Cattle Market Hotel, Burnley, after only a few days' illness, death being due to pneumonia. He was only twenty-nine years of age, and was the youngest son of the late Mr. Thos. Culeen, the founder and proprietor of the Gaiety Theatre, Burnley. In the old days when Mr. Culeen ran it as a circus, young Culeen was trained in the ring, and occasionally took part with his elder brother in equestrian feats.

At one time he was a trooper in the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry, and volunteered for the South African War, where he took part in the battle of Faber's Spruit, in Griqualand. For his services he was the recipient of the Queen's medal, and also of one of the gold medallions presented by the Burnley Corporation.

Of a daring and fearless character, Mr. Culeen entered the den of the large lions on the occasion of the visit to Burnley in September last of Bostock and Wombwell's menagerie, this being in fulfilment of a wager of £10. The cage was the one occupied by "Cecil," said to be the handsomest and most perfect forest-bred lion in captivity, and which was purchased from the late Mr. Cecil Rhodes. He had kept the Cattle Market Hotel for about three years, and leaves a widow and three children.

It has been decided to organise a testimonial benefit for Billy Richardson, who has been for so long a favourite entertainer. His name as a stump orator, with the late Sam Hague's famous minstrels, is not only a household word in Liverpool, but held in happy memory universally. It is the desire of the committee to place him during his declining years in a position that is free from anxiety. The benefit is fixed for Tuesday afternoon next, at 2.30, at the Star Theatre, Liverpool, which has been kindly given for the occasion by Mr. Harris Fineberg. The secretary is William Harris, Victoria Hotel, St. John's-lane, Liverpool, to whom all subscriptions from old admirers of Billy should be sent.

The next committee meeting of the Music Hall Home will be held at the Empire, Camberwell, on Thursday, Feb. 18, at 12 noon. The thanks of the committee are due to Mr. E. C. Webb, the Metropole, Denmark-hill, for a box collection of 14s.

Miss Katie Lawrence has reappeared at the Camberwell Palace, where her popular songs and her clever comedy have been highly appreciated.

The Grand Order of Water Rats' Annual Ball will be held on March 4, at the Trocadero. Dancing commences at 11.30.

Miss Maud Allan will deliver a lecture on the subject of classical dances, under the auspices of the O.P. Club, at the Criterion on Sunday, Feb. 21.

Cull Pitt, a new artist found by Tom Pacey for Mr. Harry Rickards, left London yesterday for Australia. He returns in October, and is fully booked by the same agency.

Mr. Carl Hertz, the well-known illusionist, opens at the Holborn Empire on Monday next. Mr. Hertz, who is a great traveller, and has performed his business in almost every corner of the globe, is invariably assisted at his entertainments by his clever and fascinating wife, Mlle. D'Alton, who has accompanied him on all his travels.

Peggy Pryde is at home at the Sussex Hotel, East-street, Brighton, and she is also very much at home at the Empire, Edmonton, where she is delighting large audiences this week. Peggy loves to entertain the British public, and they love her inimitable low comedy.

Miss Melinda May, secretary of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, begs to gratefully acknowledge the cheque for £5, received from T. G. Hales, Esq., in response to the appeal which appeared in last week's *Era* on behalf of Miss Flora Lington and family. Any further contributions to the same good cause may be sent to the Guild, 61, New Oxford-street, W.C.

Mr. John L. Shine, who commences the Stoll tour on Monday next at the Hackney Empire with his enormously succesful sketch *An Actor's Art*, has materially strengthened his company by the inclusion of his brother, Mr. Wilfred E. Shine, who will play the fine part of Gerald Guinness, the unlucky Irish barrister.

We have always recognised that *An Actor's Art*, although giving the fullest scope to the marvellous changes of Mr. Shine from one character to another, even to the duplication of two of the actors while they are actually on the stage, still presents a perfectly constructed and well dramatised humorous story, which is unusual in the majority of protean entertainments.

Mrs. Vernon Cowper, supported by a company of picked London artists, will shortly present her entirely new and original fantastic farcelette entitled *Ladies Only*, written by that well-known and successful author Mr. Charles Darrell. The story is entirely new. She is also having elaborate costumes made and scenery painted.

"The Experiment," originally given at the end of November last year at the Battersea Palace, goes to the Middlesex on Monday. The cast includes Ruth Wallace in her wonderfully successful comedy creation of "Melierann Honeydew," Miss Evelyn Vaudray, and Mr. Claude Haviland. Mrs. Albert Bradshaw is the authoress.

Miss Frances Letty has been fortunate in securing three great numbers from the pen of Percy Edgar, who has supplied her with most of her recent successes; these are entitled "Because I loved your mother," "I don't want to go to Canada," and "I ain't going to wait till to-morrow, Mr. Borrow." These she will produce on her return to London on April 5 at Stoll's Empires.

This week she is playing at the Paragon, and next week makes her first appearance at the Holborn. She has been offered the Syndicate halls for immediate and later dates, but her bookings debar her from accepting these until 1910. Tom Claxton is acting exclusively for Miss Letty.

The musical comedietta *The Suffragettes* will be presented by Miss Ada Francis and company at the Middlesex on Monday. The clever and experienced comedian Mr. George Thorne will appear as an "arm of the law." A famous bulldog will also make his appearance. The music is by E. Bogetti and Carlile Vernon.

"Tuppence a Minute," an up-to-date sketch, was produced with success at the Tivoli, on Saturday. In the part of John Petrol, a chauffeur, Mr. E. W. Colman proved himself once more a capital comedian, and he had excellent support from Miss F. Walton as Cynthia Beverley and Mr. Ralph Lynn as Percy Fitzroy.

There will be produced at the Canterbury on Monday for the first time two entirely new sketches. One, of the musical-comedy order, is from the pen of H. Maurice Vernon, and is entitled *The 10 o'clock Squad*. The plot is laid at Liberty-street Police Station.

The other sketch is powerfully dramatic, being founded on an episode in Sir Walter Scott's "Ivanhoe." *A Daughter of Israel*, as it is called, is being produced by Mr. Charles Garry, who was recently leading man with Mrs. Patrick Campbell. Mr. Garry will take the part of Isaac of York. The sketch is in two scenes, and special scenery has been painted by Mr. W. T. Hemsley. This will be the first time that Sir Walter Scott's work has been adapted for the variety stage.

Miss Gracie Grahame has purchased a big novelty number from the musical director of *Jack the Giant Killer* at the Opera House, Leicester, where Miss Grahame has made a big success as Jack. Mr. Damant, the author and composer of the song, has absolutely struck an original idea, and great things are expected from "There's a good time coming for the girls." *Jack the Giant Killer* concludes a record run to-night.

Mrs. Ryder Slone, the wife of the well-known comedian, who had to undergo such a severe operation four weeks ago, is still in the private nursing home at 118, High-street, Chorlton-on-Medlock, Manchester, but anticipates being able during the next fortnight to take a journey south, attended by one of her nurses. Mrs. Slone's room has been a miniature garden of flowers and fruit sent in by her many friends, and she wishes to tender her grateful thanks to her many well-wishers for their numerous attentions and inquiries.

Miss Helen Charles will have very pleasant memories of her visit to Bristol last week, her engagement there being through the courtesy of Mr. Walter Gibbons, who kindly released her. She met with one of the greatest receptions ever accorded to any lady entertainer in the town, and the management secured her immediately for a return engagement. The critic of the *Bristol Daily Press* remarked that "Miss Helen Charles, who takes Miss Cooper's place on the programme, is a charming entertainer, and gives one of those refined items which are so delightful to listen to, and which are doing so much to surround the music halls with a purer atmosphere."

The usual monthly meeting of the committee of the Music Hall Sick Fund will be held at the Crown Hotel, Charing Cross-road, on Wednesday next at 4 p.m.

Miss Ruth St. Denis will appear shortly at the London Coliseum. The recent persistent rumours that she will be seen at other West End houses is, therefore, incorrect.

The charming Della Sisters have been greatly complimented on their first appearance in Ireland, where they have been singing six songs nightly at their various engagements. These types of English beauty should be immediately secured for the West End.

The Brighton Hippodrome was crowded at the matinée performance on Wednesday, given on behalf of the local police-aided scheme for clothing destitute children. The programme was sustained by artists of the Theatre Royal and Grand Theatre pantomimes, in addition to those appearing this week at the Alhambra and the Hippodrome.

Further support was given by popular Peggy Pryde, whose very amusing turn evoked hearty laughter and enthusiastic applause. The duties of conducting the orchestra were shared by Mr. W. Sommerlad, Signor G. D. La Camera, Mr. C. W. Johnson, and Mr. A. W. Leggett.

On behalf of his committee the Chief Constable cordially thanked Mr. and Mrs. Barrasford for kindly lending the Hippodrome Theatre free of cost; Mr. B. J. Brown, the manager, and the staff; Mr. Clark, the stage-manager; all the artists, who had given their services gratuitously; and the directors and managers of the other places of amusement in the town for their hearty support. Mr. Gentle also gave interesting particulars of the admirable work effected by the police-aided scheme, which will benefit by the sum of £200, raised by the matinée.

The remains of the late Mr. George Scott, music hall manager, whose death occurred under tragic circumstances on the 29th ult., were interred in Kensal Green Cemetery on Wednesday. Wreaths were sent by the directors of the Alhambra, Mr. Tom Scott (National Sporting Club), the New Olympia Company, Mr. P. C. Sheridan (Tavistock Hotel), the outside staff of the Alhambra, the Eccentric Club, Our Club, the Palace Theatre (Plymouth), and others.

Among those at the graveside were Mr. Harry Wieland, Mr. Richard Northcott, Mr. Arthur Binstead, Dr. Byrd Page, Mr. Murray Griffith, Mr. Harry Woodford (secretary of the Alhambra, Limited), Mr. T. J. Noble (box office), Mr. Roberts, Mr. J. Hunt, Mr. Mitchell, and others.

It was impossible for Mr. Harry Scott to attend his father's (George Scott) inquest and funeral, as he was playing in Wales when the news came to him as a terrible shock. He was represented at both the inquest and funeral by his uncle, Mr. W. J. Goodchild. We are asked to state that the late gentleman's wife was not born in Lancashire, but Plymouth.

The whole of the Crimea and Indian Mutiny veterans (including three from the Gateshead Association) of the Northumberland Veterans' Association assembled at the Central Station, Newcastle, on Sunday, to say good-bye to Mr. George Leyton, the celebrated actor-vocalist and Crimean soldiers' friend, who has been appearing at the Empire Theatre, and who is this week at Oldham in his military scena, *The Last Muster*.

Present also on the platform were Mr. C. E. Mowatt, the vice-chairman, and Mr. W. G. Finlay, the secretary of the association. The veterans were "formed up" in line, all wearing their medals. Just as the special was leaving the station, at the invitationof Mr. Finlay, the veterans gave three lusty cheers for Mr. Leyton. Prior to leaving, Mr. Leyton warmly shook hands with each of the veterans.

Through inadvertence the name of Mr. George Bellamy was omitted in our notice last week of the sketch *Artful* at the Coliseum. He should have been bracketed with Mr. Sydney Blow as part author.

The Liverpool Pavilion was honoured on Wednesday evening by the presence of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, who appeared to thoroughly enjoy Tiller's excellent pantomime, *Red Riding Hood*. This is the first time that Messrs. Broadhead's place has been visited by the Chief Magistrate. During the week seats have been at a premium.

At the Empire on Thursday was given the first performance of a new skating scena. Mr. Fred Farren, whose artistic work is so often displayed at the same house, is responsible for the production, which includes a large number of skaters of both sexes. At their head is the world-renowned Video, whose performance is a revelation to those interested in this now popular pastime. Besides the scientific side of skating, there is also plenty of comedy, and, indeed, some of the "falls" which take place require the very greatest skill. The entertainment is very attractive and exciting, and its popularity should be great.

The scena is entitled *Winter in Holland*, and windmills, a landscape intersected by frozen canals, and a setting sun form a picturesque background, some pretty winter sports are played, and as a climax M. Video and his family cut some effective figures.

The Dunedin troupe of cyclists, after their triumphs at the Coliseum and London Hippodrome, opened at the Palace, Cork, on Monday with extraordinary success. They will embark at Queenstown on Thursday next, Feb. 11, on the s.s. Teutonic for New York, where they open with Percy Williams at the Colonial Theatre on March 1. The ladies of the troupe are twin sisters, and are the grandchildren of Mr. James E. Donegan. They are very clever roller skaters, and were offered an engagement at the Empire, Leicester-square, but an American contract prevented them.

At the 594th meeting of the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association, on Wednesday, Mr. Jeff Vendome occupied the chair, pending the arrival of Mr. Fred Herbert. There were also present: Messrs. Albert Voyce, Lieutenant Albini, W. H. Atlas, H. Cee Mee, John Alexander, T. C. Callaghan, and C. Douglas Stuart (secretary). Mr. George Bourne, of the Horseshoe Hotel, Dudley, was appointed agent, and two complaints from railway companies regarding the conduct of certain members of the Association were considered. The weekly financial statement, showing fifty-seven new members and a total of £71 2s. 6d., was passed.

Mr. George Gulliver, ventriloquist, had a narrow escape from drowning last Saturday at Northampton. He was just coming off the lake at Abington Park, where he had been skating, when the ice broke and precipitated him into the water. Fortunately, it was only about 4ft. deep at that spot, but he had great difficulty in getting out, as the ice broke all round him when he tried to raise himself. Eventually he managed to roll over full length on to his back, and so, by distributing the weight, was able to gain firmer ice and eventually the shore. He has suffered no ill-effects from the immersion.

Mr. Mark Melford strangely disappeared on Jan. 17 last and, save for a disquieting letter received by Mrs. Melford, he has not since been heard of. Messrs. Stringer and Stringer, of Kilburn, the solicitors to Mrs. Melford, will be glad of any information which may tend to a solution of the mystery.

Mr. Chris Van Bern will have reason to remember his first appearance at the Metropolitan on Monday, for on driving from the Edgware-road house, after his first turn, the horse attached to his brougham took fright from some unknown cause, and bolted. The vehicle was overturned, but the occupant was only temporarily "upset." He was unable to appear at the Tivoli, but entertained the second house at the Met., but he was minus one or two of his tricks.

That well-known entertainer Harry Gold (Pat J. Ricks) had the misfortune a day or two since to lose his father, who died at a ripe age.

Mr. Ross Gilmore made his first appearance in America at Hathaway's, New Bedford, Mass., on Jan. 18, and scored an immediate success in his comic parody of a London policeman. The make-up and business immensely tickled the audience.

The large sum of £80 was taken at the Theatre Royal, Worthing, last week, that amount representing the proceeds of a concert held in aid of the Lord Mayor's Fund for the sufferers in Messina. A new playlet, entitled *Joan's Kiss*, presented on the occasion, created a very favourable impression.

Mr. D. J. Clarke, proprietor of the Argyle Theatre of Varieties, Birkenhead, gave his annual entertainment to the inmates of the workhouse on Tuesday afternoon in last week. The show took place at that institution, both artists and band cheerfully attending for the purpose, and an excellent programme was received with unbounded delight and satisfaction.

At the final performance of *Robinson Crusoe*, at the Crystal Palace last Saturday, the principal ladies of the company were almost hidden by the baskets of flowers and bouquets presented by their numerous admirers. Miss Lillie Lassah (Robinson Crusoe) very kindly forwarded her floral tokens to the Croydon General Hospital, and received a charming letter from the matron on behalf of the patients for her thoughtful act.

At the annual general meeting of Hackney and Shepherd's Bush Empire Palaces, Ltd., held at the registered offices, Cranbourn-mansions, on Feb. 3, Mr. Oswald Stoll, the managing-director, declared a dividend of 20 per cent., free of income-tax, for the past half-year.

Miss Florence Smithers has been meeting with unqualified success with her new sketch *Our Mary Jane* on the Moss and Stoll tour, and, owing to the great reception accorded her at the Winter Gardens, New Brighton, is retained another week at the top of the bill. The continued advance booking and crowded houses nightly testify to her popularity at this charming hall, the management of which has specially complimented her on the entire performance and the excellence of the company supporting her.

On behalf of the committee of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, 61, New Oxford-street, W.C., Miss Melinda May (secretary) wishes to gratefully thank the following:—Mrs. H. Maud Gamble, for gift of one guinea; the Rev. Arthur Brinckman, for letter admitting a patient to Brompton Hospital; Miss E. G. Clarke, A.C.U., parcel of clothing; parcel of clothing anonymous from Hamilton; Miss Ray Hayden, collecting 2s. 6d.; Mlle. Roza (although thousands of miles away from us) has been kind enough to give and collect 17s., and sends from Kroonstad, Orange River, South Africa; Mr. Tom Fancourt, 1s., for Miss Flora Lington who is now in the Royal National Sanitorium, Bournemouth, leaving a husband behind who is blind, and who has been so for five years; there are two children. Anyone who is willing to help this poor man will they kindly post direct to Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, *The Era* Office.

Will all members please communicate with Miss May and send an address that will find them for the next two weeks? All friends of the charity are heartily welcome to tea and receptions held every Wednesday, four to five o'clock. Every kind of clothing is urgently needed.

Captain Tupper, formerly of the Salvation Army, who is professionally known as Harry Vaux, will produce his scena, *The Night Policeman*, at the South London on Monday. There will be a realistic struggle and arrest, and the piece will conclude with a eulogy on the late Police-constable Tyler. The piece will also be produced at the Palace, Tottenham, which is not a great distance from the scene of the recent outrage. The producer will give his salary to the fund being raised for the widow of the brave constable.

Much regret will be felt by many of our readers on hearing of the death of Mr. Fred G. Brooke, who passed away on Friday, the 29th ult., after a short illness from congestion of the lungs at his residence, 55, Ridley-road, Dalston. The deceased actor, who was brother to Leonard Mortimer, was only thirty-nine, and had been no fewer than twenty-one years in the dramatic sketch business, seven years of that time having been in partnership with his brother as the Brooke and Mortimer combination. The funeral took place on Friday at Tooting Cemetery. Mrs. Brooke, the widow, will carry on the company under the title of Mrs. F. G. Brooke and Co.

La Tortajada, the beautiful Spanish dancer, made her rentrée to London on Monday at the Coliseum, where she introduced *The Début of Dolores*, an operetta in three acts, words and music by Señor Ramon Tortajada. In this the artist undertakes five distinct characters, and the novelty serves as an excellent vehicle for the display of her art. Dolores, the wife of a toreador, who discovers her husband's faithlessness, attempts to engage in a duel with daggers with her rival, who she is just about to kill when some unaccountable desire to become a music hall "star" takes hold of her. La Tortajada, who originally made her début at the Aquarium, has a fascinating personality, and her dancing and singing are as attractive as ever.

The Barnyard Carnival, held in the roller-skating rink at Olympia on Tuesday evening, proved a highly successful and most enjoyable function. The centre of the floor was made up to represent a barnyard, and there were real goats, hens, &c., and a real milkmaid, dealing out real milk at one penny per glass. On the floor every character representing village life was to be seen—the village squire with his dame, the parson in clerical garb, the sturdy yeomen and farm labourers, policemen, tennis men, shock-haired yokels (some of whose complexions did not give evidence of very recent acquaintance with country); and, of course, there were the humbler servants of the village, an old broken-down dobbin, whose efforts nearly disconnected his fore- and hind-quarters; several dogs, cats, and a caterpillar the size of a man, whose skating attitude was one not often met with in the real article.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

"BRAVO, TERRITORIALS; OR, THE GALLANT TEDDY BOYS," is the highly original title of an up-to-date song from the practised and graceful pen of Charles Wilmott, the verses of what will undoubtedly be a strikingly successful number being set to inspiring music by Hermann E. Darewski. It is in active rehearsal, and will be sung by Miss Carrie Moore in the pantomime of *Cinderella* at the Adelphi on Monday. "Teddy boys" is a highly original term for the young men who are willing to train and ready to fight for King Edward. The song has been prompted by the successful production of *An Englishman's Home* at Wyndham's, and marks the commencement of a new wave of patriotism at the halls.

THE latest additions to Messrs. Francis and Day's series of "Sixpenny Pops" include "La Gitana Waltz" (new dance), "On Parade" (military two-step), Fred W. Leigh's "Goo-goo Land," a song sung with splendid effect by Miss Ada Reeve in pantomime, and Miss Kitty Colyer's chorus number, "Good-bye, Jenny," by T. F. Robson This last is No. 527 of the Sixpenny Series issued by the well-known firm.

QUITE an inundation of requests have reached Mr. Leonard Bellamy (of Messrs. Francis and Day's Orchestral Department) for band-parts of Archibald Joyce's fine waltz, "Visions of Salome," the applications coming from conductors of the principal theatres, palaces of variety, restaurants, &c. Each and every one of them will be supplied during next week.

MESSRS. KING AND BENSON'S smart and tuneful new act, entitled "Round the town," has caught on capitally. It is by Arthurs and Lonsdale, and the song, "If you want to be popular, girls," so archly rendered by Miss Benson, is quite in the style of George Arthur's famous "If the world were ruled by girls." Mr. T. W. Thurban, of "Brooklyn cake walk" fame, and for many years leader of the Oxford orchestra, has composed and arranged the incidental music, and conducts for the popular duo at the various halls.

MR. HENRY F. GREENFIELD has just completed a strong comic song, entitled "Just because she's been to see the great invasion play," in which the warlike preparations of the valiant wife of a timorous Cockney are set forth with much humorous detail. The lyric is by Edgar Bateman, and Mr. Harry Randall has the first refusal of the music hall rights.

MESSRS. B. FELDMAN AND CO. have a chorus song written on the subject of *An Englishman's Home*, and entitled "There's a foe at the gates of England." Messrs. Ralph Roberts and Philip Braham are responsible for the words and music, and Messrs. Feldman and Co. predict that audiences all over the country will very soon be raised to a high state of excitement when listening to this great chorus number.

MR. BERT FELDMAN is returning to town in the course of a few days, after his very successful annual pantomime tour. He is greatly delighted at the reception he has had everywhere, and his firm's songs are nightly received all over the country as well as he has been personally—and that is saying a great deal.

WILL HYDE has again joined hands with Harry Heath in song-writing, after a somewhat extended lapse of time. Mr. Heath's entertainers have added considerably to the gaiety of Dovercourt for more than one season.

MR. ANGELO ASHER'S characteristic piece for orchestra, entitled "Hindoo Revels," now being played nightly as overture at the fine new Empire at Edmonton, has concentrated the attention and won the applause of large audiences at each performance, the weird singing effects being particularly striking.

MR. F. V. ST. CLAIR, who some fifteen years ago sang a song "An Englishman's Home," has rewritten the same and produced it with enormous success. It is written in the style of "Jap Horner" and other of this author-vocalist's patriotic successes, the moral being that Britons, if united, can yet "keep the brokers out."

"THE FOOTSTEP."

Dramatic Episode, in One Scene, by C. Lillford Delph, produced at the Empress, Brixton, on Monday, Feb. 1.

M. Viet .....MR. G. TEMPLETON
Mme. Viet .....MISS JESSIE NEWCOMBE
Jeanette .....MISS DOROTHY REES WEBB
Scaramel .....MR. C. LILLFORD DELPH
Louis .....MR. HAROLD MAXWELL

The housebreaker figured again in the above sketch, which was produced by the author at the Empress on Monday, when its progress caused no little sensation. The remote cause of the excitement was a footstep heard at midnight by the young wife of a French advocate, who imagines it is her husband returned from a journey. It proves instead to be that of a notorious criminal who wishes to secure some important papers. The lady, having sent her maid home, is alone in the house, and in a frenzy of terror searches a cabinet for a revolver which she knows her husband keeps. She is unable to discover the weapon, and hides behind the curtains of the bed as the burglar enters. She is soon discovered by the intruder, who flourishes a formidable knife and bids her remain quiet while he carries on his search. The courageous lady only screams the louder, until her assailant endeavours to bind and gag her; but he finds he has a tough opponent, and it is only after a long struggle that he at length succeeds in rendering her insensible. Going to the dressing-table the ruffian picks up a portrait which he recognises as that of his wife, whom he had deserted many years before after inflicting upon her a wound with a knife. He recalls the fact that her child was born bearing the mark of the knife, and, returning to the girl, he finds a livid weal showing up prominently on her arm. The thought flashes upon him that he has killed his own child, whom he had been seeking for many years. His anguish is great, but it is relieved when the lady shows signs of returning consciousness. She has almost fully recovered when her husband returns, and her father, now thoroughly repentant, obtains forgiveness. The piece is a little crude, and some of the pathetic scenes were not received in the spirit intended, but the desperate struggle, in which the combatants roll over and over round the room, was watched with much zest. The exacting rôle of the intrepid young wife was taken by Miss Jessie Newcombe, who did not spare herself in its portrayal, the distress of the hapless lady being very effectively assumed. Mr. C. Lillford Delph gave a performance of considerable power as the burglar, and delivered his lines with praiseworthy distinctness. The sketch was elaborately mounted, and at the close the two principals were warmly recalled.

JACK BINNS, the Marconi operator, who did such splendid work on board the sinking liner the Republic, has refused half a dozen offers from music halls to do a nightly turn on the stage. Several of the offers were for £200 a week, while one enterprising manager in a last effort raised his offer to £250 a week for a ten weeks' engagement. In refusing the offer Binns said, "I am a wireless operator, I can't act, and I don't want to be made a tin god." Sensible chap, Jack!

OPEN LETTER TO W. H. CLEMART.

MY DEAR SIR,—Dexterous and able as you are, it is surprising that your reference to the "usual length of my letter" (which occupied two-thirds of a column in the daily Press) does not restrain you from taking five columns in the *Performer* of Jan. 21 to reply to "one statement therein," and yet return to the charge in the same paper of the 28th of the same month.

You state, "We ourselves placed some figures before Mr. Gros the last time we had the pleasure of addressing him. We asked him to prove that something like £1,560 per annum was requisite to spend on office expenses caused by the kindly act of deducting commission at six halls. Mr. Gros has not replied. Both ourselves and the *Referee* are displaying great anxiety on this point."

My reply is (*a*) that I never stated £1,560 was requisite in office expenses, nor did I name *any* sum.

(*b*) I did not state it was a kindly act; but my statement was that it in no wise injured the artist. My evidence on the point was particularly plain before the Arbitrator. It has since been published, and it answers you.

These figures, given in the *Performer* for the second time, as well as those quoted by you as spokesman of a deputation before the Committee of the L.C.C., are the product of your imagination. If you can prove that I collect the sum of £1,560, or anything approaching this amount for seven halls (not six as you state), I will forfeit a respectable amount to the music-hall charities, the proof to be extracted by the auditors of the V.A.F. from the auditors of the seven halls where I hold the position of managing-director. It is easy to make statements, but figures refute these by their simple logic, especially when vouched for on behalf of shareholders by responsible accountants and auditors.

Your memory, too, my dear sir, seems a little defective, or else you presume on the forgetfulness of your readers, or else why trot out the contract from Chelsea, &c., with the exclusive "bar," on which, if you will turn to the file of the *Performer* of Oct. 1, 1908, you will find my reply. You seem to complain that Mr. Askwith, in his letter of Nov. 20, 1908, accepted the statement that "inadvertently" I was a delinquent by printing the 10 per cent. in my contracts. Strange as it may seem to you, I was ill in 1907 from July 16 till November—too ill to attend to anything. While other contracts were altered mine were overlooked, and when my attention was called to it (not over long ago), I at once withdrew them in obedience to the arrangement.

Finally, you instance exceptions of managers who did not abide by the Award. The executive of our Association have advised all the members to abide by the Award, and I think in each instance our solicitor acted on this principle; but our Association, unlike the V.A.F., cannot coerce or command its members. You have quoted seven cases, two of which are members of the Association. I claim, notwithstanding this, the managers have loyally, on the whole, abided by the Award, while I reiterate the statement made repeatedly in print that artists have broken it and break it daily.

You challenge me to go before the Arbitrator. If the "commission clause" as to collection is to be discussed, our solicitor will claim to be heard on it. Your lengthy censures of my statements I find no fault with. You are young, dear Mr. Clemart; but it is a complaint that "time will cure." If you intend to apply your talent to promote peace and goodwill, as you suggest, and if the era of threats, discourtesy, and random statements is to cease, and the olive branch is to replace the bludgeon (all too frequently used), then none will be more pleased to assist and promote that "desideratum" to the best of his power than—Yours faithfully,

HENRI GROS.

Feb. 1, 1909.

ANOTHER volume from the same pen bears the title "Hercat's Chapeaugraphy, Shadowgraphy, and Paper-Folding," the excellent photographic reproductions in which are a most useful explanatory aid to the text. Hercat tells us that the three arts dealt with in this booklet are easily acquired, and amateur entertainers who are from necessity compelled to make frequent changes in their programmes will find chapeaugraphy, shadowgraphy, and paper-manipulation a pleasant substitute for conjuring or ventriloquism. (Dean and Son, Ltd., 1s.)

MR. VASCO, the "mad musician," denies the stupid report that he had a disagreement with Mr. Harry Lauder during his recent visit to America. He is on the best of terms with that comedian. A chance offered of going home before his time, and he gladly took it, as he was fairly run down after the strenuous work of one-night stands. Once he appeared at a matinée at Milwaukee, and at night at Chicago, a distance of ninety-seven miles. Old England after all for comfortable music-hall engagements.

"HERCAT'S VENTRILOQUIST AND VENTRILOQUIAL DIALOGUES" (new and revised edition) has just been published by Messrs. Dean and Son, Ltd., 160, Fleet-street, at one shilling. In this little volume the well-known society entertainer makes his instructions as to how to acquire the art of ventriloquism as plain and as simple as possible, and at the same time he has contrived to render the book entertaining. He also furnishes some dialogues which he wrote for his own use, and he has added others to suit various combinations of figures and for entertainments in which mouth-moving automata are dispensed with. The book has several illustrations.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE ALHAMBRA.

Mr. Alfred Moul has added greatly to the interest of the variety at the Alhambra during the current week both by the newcomers he has engaged and by the return of one who completely won over Alhambra audiences last year by her brilliant singing. We refer to L'Incognita, who we should guess is an Anglo-Saxon, though she hides part of her face behind a mask. For her first selection the "unknown" chose on Monday Bishop's florid air "Lo! here the gentle lark," and conquered its difficulties with all the ease of a highly gifted and well-trained singer. L'Incognita repeated her triumphs in the Polonaise from Ambroise Thomas's *Mignon*, and, conceding an encore, sang, much to the delight of pit and gallery, Balfe's "Killarney." Of the new comers, the earliest to appear is Victor Ferreros, who has an amiable French poodle named "Virt," and more important still a charming lady partner who plays the fiddle, and wins favour by her rendering on that instrument of "Love me and the world is mine." Mr. Ferreros, somewhat ungallantly, we think, omits the name of this lady from the announcement of his turn in the bill. The poodle is a treasure. Of course, he is of Gallic origin, and when, with no uncertain note, he plays "God Save the King" on the bells, he may be said to be doing his best to sustain the *entente cordiale*. Music with "paws" is evidently considered by him a very joyous sort of *désœuvrement;* for he utters a series of short barks while performing. His versatile master directs a remarkable series of instruments, trumpet-mouthed, which have an effect similar to the immense modern musical apparata that are now part and parcel of the up-to-date English fair. Ferreros is certainly entertaining, and his doings create both amusement and enthusiasm.

Schichtl's marionettes, which supply the second novelty of the programme, are making their first appearance in England, and do not belie their reputation, which is crystallised in the word "wonderful." The mise-en-scène of the miniature stage is exceedingly rich, and the lighting capital. The fun, too, appeals to everybody, the clowning of the little figures having quite the English flavour. In the course of the variety entertainment, several of the dolls manage an instant change in sight of the audience. Two diminutive artists increase rapidly in height, though as far as our observations went they did not suffer from swollen head—a complaint so common to their human prototypes. A comic-looking frog with a winking eye becomes a comedienne, and more laughter is caused when the ostrich lays an egg which hatches out a remarkable-looking serpent. This disappears into the "flies" with a clown on its back. Much ingenuity and cleverness mark Herr Schichtl's show, and he is the recipient of warm compliments at its conclusion. Bobker's Royal Moorish Arabs, a troupe of energetic, agile, and skilful acrobats, are making their first appearance in England. Their doings are marked by much enthusiasm and animation, and they work together *con amore*, their various tricks being accomplished with an ease, a grace, and a celerity that make them distinguished and intrepid exponents of the higher cult of the acrobat. Their bewildering exhibition meets with very great favour.

Since our last visit it has leaked out that Mr. Alfred Moul is the author of *La Petite Bohémienne*, an ingenious and well-acted gesture story that gives employment to the gifted and beautiful Leonora, whose pantomimic art is always so eloquent and inspiring. Miss Julia Seale is a highly dramatic minstrel, and M. Volbert and Mlle. Salandri complete a cast that does full justice to an admirably presented trifle. Miss Carlotta Mossetto, who now dances a couple of solos in the beautiful ballet *Paquita*, completely justifies Mr. Moul's confidence in her abilities by her success. Mlle. Britta has become a firm favourite, the charm and eloquence of her style being more manifest at each succeeding performance. Mr. Frank Lawton is making his first appearance at the Alhambra in a whistling entertainment that has been for a number of years one of the chief attractions of the representations of *The Belle of New York;* and Charlene and Charlene are repeating their success in a versatile entertainment. Jury's pictures are an attractive feature of the entertainment, and no one willingly misses the selection given by the fine band under the direction of Mr. G. W. Byng.

THE METROPOLITAN.

The magnificent "Met." in the Edgware-road, with its luxurious seating, its spacious, admirably designed, and artistically decorated auditorium, and its low prices of admission, is always in touch with the masses, and Mr. Henri Gros, who has been associated with the fortunes of the house for a long period, is to be felicitated on the enterprise which has marked his latest developments at a house of popular traditions. He has at his elbow a manager in Mr. Jack Edgar who knows the "business" from A to Z, and the programmes compiled by this astute gentleman are exactly to the taste of the people of Paddington. There is nothing that the gallery gallants at the Met. admire so much as a good chorus, and with lusty voices they "vociferise" at every possible opportunity. They find just exactly the kind of ditty they adore in the répertoire of Miss Dora Lyric, a lady whose artistic qualifications and gracious personality have won for her considerable favour at all points of the compass. There is comedy of a domestic kind in her opening number, "Winkles and watercresses," and the invitation to come round on Sunday to tea is responded to with a will by gods and pit. Her second selection, "I'm leaving Monte Carlo," leaves one in no doubt as to the singer's immense popularity.

A turn of considerable originality and cleverness is submitted by Mr. Chris Van Bern, who incidentally is a magician, but who contrives also to be a banjoist with comic ideas. He elects to be serious, however, for a few minutes, when he sings the famous bass German drinking song, known in English as "In cellar cool." An innocent-looking portmanteau becomes a wizard's table, and the "surprises" include the changing of the colour of a pocket-handkerchief and of water, a self-rising cane, and the immediate acquisition of a "button-hole." Mr. Van Bern is an entertainer whose versatility will make him go far in the halls. There is an entire absence of the sense of effort, and every minute of his turn is enjoyable. The chief comedian of the programme is Mr. Joe Elvin, who is here with his favourite cockney character, *Obedient Billy*, the title of a farce that gives him all the necessary chance of forcing the laughter of his kinds friends in front. As a "handy" boy he obeys his orders to the letter, and hence the fun.

Valazzi, a remarkable juggler, still "pedals" a small cannon up a narrow platform, a feat of balancing that is certainly unique. With a lamp nicely adjusted on his head he empties a glass of wine down his throttle, and manipulates eight balls with much cleverness. His assistant adds to the fun of an interesting show by his well-simulated alarm and active interference to prevent *contretemps* that are never likely to happen. Mr. Tom Edwards, the huntsman ventriloquist, parodies a well-known hypnotic healer, and his whole entertainment provokes mirth. Miss Alice Hollander, the Australian contralto, sings with considerable culture and effect; and other turns in a capital bill are Dusty Rhodes, comedian; Miss Radie Furman, and the Three Panamas. Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope shows the latest and best of animated pictures, adding much to the variety of the bill.

SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMPIRE.

There is always a fine programme at this popular hall, but the one this week is of particular excellence. Miss Evie Greene, by arrangement with Mr. George Edwardes, is singing four or five songs from her répertoire, including "The Queen of the Philippine Islands," the ever-popular "Molly married a Marquis," and a number which we had not heard her sing before, called apparently "I'm a Corsican maid." Miss Greene looked extremely beautiful, and was in fine voice, her singing being listened to with great admiration. Her contribution to the programme was brought to a conclusion by a dialect recitation, just the kind of thing in which this fine and versatile artist excels. An altogether charming turn. The Chernatsky Trio of juvenile musicians (John, violinist; Sophie, pianist; and Bessie, 'cellist), quickly find favour with the audience, and Cline and Clarke, "the original black and white comedy artists and speciality dancers," provide an item full of humour and merit. Austin Rudd, always popular, has a couple of good songs in "I don't want to be a policeman any more" and "Come out, come out!" and has no difficulty in causing much laughter. Lydia and Amelys, the celebrated dancers, appear in their latest French creations, introducing a version of the now famous "Apache Dance." That excellent tenor Mr. Arthur Aldridge sings a couple of songs, including his latest success, "In manus tuus, Domine." Mr. Aldridge always "goes well." The Three Lloyds provide good entertainment with a turn billed as "the only double bounding cable act in the world," and George Young, the blind musician and concertina soloist, is the recipient of much applause.

One of the finest sketches that we have seen for some time is *Scotch Mixed*, a little musical comedy by Frank Price. In this appears an excellent company, headed by the well-known comedian Mr. Daley Cooper and Miss Mabel Lait. *Scotch Mixed* is beautifully and elaborately mounted—the scene represents the great hall in Lauchlie Castle, in Scotland—the music is bright and tuneful, the comic business orginal and extremely funny, and it is well played. Mr. Daley Cooper, who is always cleverly comic (as those who saw him years ago as Tweedlepunch in *Florodora*, and more recently as Coquenard in *Veronique* well know), was suffering from a severe attack of laryngitis on Monday evening, but in spite of this he achieved a great personal success, all his efforts, whether in dancing, gagging, or singing, being instinct with humour. Miss Mabel Lait is very charming, looking as pretty as a picture, and singing and acting delightfully. Praise, indeed, must be bestowed on the whole company, which includes, amongst others, Miss Violet Clare, Mr. Clifton Yates, Mr. Napier Barri, and Mr. Reginald Crompton.

The programme terminates, as usual, with the American Bioscope, which this week shows pictures illustrating the devastation of Messina. Mr. E. P. Morgan remains the acting-manager, with Mr. Herbert Mack as his courteous assistant.

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER'S
SONG BOOM.

THE NATION'S CRY.

"BRAVO, TERRITORIALS"

(GALLANT "TEDDY BOYS").

This Stirring Patriotic Song will be introduced by Miss Carrie Moore in Robert Courtneidge, Esq.'s Production at the Adelphi Theatre on Monday Next. Copies Now Ready. Secure this at once!

"I'M AFRAID TO COME HOME IN THE DARK."
"SHE SELLS SEA SHELLS."
"OH! OH! ANTONIO."
"SUE, SUE, SUE."
"MY GIRL'S A YORKSHIRE GIRL."
"SHADOWLAND."
"HANG OUT THE FRONT DOOR KEY."
"COME, BE MY RAINBOW."
"BOMBADIER."
"EVERY FELLOW'S IN LOVE WITH A GIRL."

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER, 142, Charing Cross Rd., London, W.C.

VARIETY ARTISTS' BENEVOLENCE.

Mr. Joe Elvin presided at the first annual general meeting of the Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund, held on Wednesday afternoon at the Bedford Head Hotel. There was a very small attendance, which was regarded as a compliment to the committee and a pleasing comment on the satisfactory condition of the Fund. Amongst others present were Mr. G. H. Chirgwin, Mr. Fred Herbert, Mr. Geo. Jackley, Mr. H. Cee Mee, Mr. Johnny Alexander, Mr. Eddie Comet, Mr. G. B. Sinclair, Mr. J. H. Milburn, Mr. T. B. Brydge, Mr. T. C. Callaghan, Miss E. G. Clarke (secretary Actors' Church Union), Mr. Jeff Vendome, Mr. C. C. Cornish, and Mr. C. Douglas Stuart (secretary).

The chairman, in opening the proceedings, said: I am somewhat sorry to see that we have such a poor matinée, but it shows me that our profession places every confidence in our committee. I am very pleased at that. I shall now call upon our secretary, Mr. C. Douglas Stuart, to read the report.

The secretary (Mr. C. D. Stuart) then read the report as follows:—

The Executive Committee has great pleasure in presenting this, their first annual report of the newly-formed Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund, and in so doing desires to call special attention to certain of the epitomised items in the accompanying balance-sheet.

It will be seen that no less a sum than £1,632 10s. 7d. has been received altogether since the middle of December, 1907, and £689 6s. 7d. has been granted to performers in poverty and in need of financial aid, while £314 9s. 2d. has been lent to applicants. With regard to both of these items the committee would particularly state that no money is either given or lent until after proper and careful investigation by one of the committee, or their representatives, whether in London or in the provinces, and a number of cases have been refused assistance when it has been proved either that they were not bonâ fide artists or were undeserving of help, thus enabling the committee to donate the money that would have been squandered to those starving and in real need.

With regard to the loans, it will be seen that scarcely a sixth of the amount granted has been repaid, but it may be mentioned that a considerable sum has been received during this pantomime season, and that others have, through obtaining no engagements since the amount was lent them, been unable, though willing, to return the money. Certain others are repaying slowly, but surely, a little every week. The funeral expenses of four well-known artists, whose deaths the committee regret to record, were met by the Fund, and also in two other cases a portion of the burial expenses was granted. The expenses of management and administration have been kept down to the very lowest figure compatible with efficiency, being just 15 per cent. on the amounts paid out, and the committee promises that in the future the same strict economy will be exercised.

Regarding the amount of donations and other receipts, the principal item included under donations was the result of the dinner and dance given by the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association in aid of the Fund in March last, Mr. W. H. Clemart being in the chair. Over £200 was received on that occasion, special thanks being due to the Grand Order of Water Rats for their most handsome subscription, which amounted to not less than £400. Through the Variety Artists' Federation the Fund has received over £200, being 2½ per cent. on the profits derived at various charitable and other concerts at which members of the profession kindly gave their services. For this also the committee desire to express their gratitude, as also to the artists who have so kindly "gone round with the hat"—or rather collection-boxes, and obtained silver and copper, aye, and gold, from the public. The subscription lists sent out at the beginning of last year brought in a considerable total, but it was decided not to issue any this January, but rather to wait until the forthcoming dinner (which it is sincerely to be hoped will prove as great a success as that of last spring) before calling on the friends of the Fund for renewed support.

A word as to the first Athletic Sports held under the auspices of the new committee. In spite of particularly heavy expenses, and the fact that the promoters were working on new ground, the result was gratifying, as there was a profit of over £60. Of this total there is a large amount yet to be received, most of which the committee considers to be "good debts," and will be included in next year's account. It is also deemed to be almost certain that having had experience, and being able to curtail the expenses considerably, the sports of this year, which will be held on July 21, are likely to realise a much larger amount.

It would be invidious to mention many names where the profession in general have been so liberal, but the committee feels it impossible not to specially refer to three gentlemen who have contributed very largely to the year's success. The first is, of course, the most worthy president of the Fund, Mr. Joe Elvin, who, throughout his year of office, has repeatedly handed over large donations from himself and his friends, and in many other ways shown his deep interest in the welfare of the Fund. The second is Mr Joe O'Gorman, who by his excellent suggestion to add one shilling on the subscription cards of the M.H.A.R.A. has obtained a weekly revenue for the Fund of nearly £6 a week, or £300 a year. And the third is Mr. Edwin Adeler, who kindly made a collection on the Saturday before August Bank Holiday at the various seaside towns at which he was giving out-of-door performances, and which amounted to over £30, in addition to which he has promised an annual subscription of £5 5s.

The committee desire to emphasise the fact that nearly the entire amount of donations, certainly three-fourths of the amount, has been subscribed by the profession, so that no one in the future can say that variety performers are not looking after their own needy and starving.

In giving this account of their stewardship of the monies placed in their hands the committee wishes to tell the subscribers something of what has been accomplished, how the sums granted have been spent, and in what ways. By subscribing to the Hospital Saturday Fund numerous letters to hospitals and sanatoria have been obtained, thereby restoring the weak and ailing back to health and strength to renew life's work, surgical instruments and the like having been secured free of charge for others, through Mr. Fred Herbert, the delegate for the committee on the Hospital Saturday Fund. In several cases the brokers' men have been paid out and the little home saved; others, alone and uncared for in London, have been sent to their friends to be nursed and looked after. A performer who had nearly lost his eyesight was sent abroad to a specialist, and his rent during his stay paid. He is now cured and well. Sewing-machines and tools of trade have been purchased or redeemed, enabling those who depended on them for sustenance to continue to earn their livelihood. Instruments, stage clothes, and properties have been taken out of pawn, and fares paid to enable artists out of work to fulfil their engagements.

This is but a tithe of the good work done with the money donated. In many cases the rent of artists with large families who have fallen out of work, and remained out of work through the stress of demand and supply, has been paid each week, and by arrangement with that excellent Sister society, the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, food and coal have also been provided. Nearly £8 a week has been the average of small amounts paid out in this way to the aged and infirm old men and old women, the stars and favourites of a bygone era of musichalldom, and though this sum has been lessened by those over seventy having obtained the Old Age Pension, yet a considerable total is still being given, and the committee believe that more real good is being effected by this method than by any other. In certain cases only a small sum can be given, there being so many to be assisted, all of whom are in want and deserving of aid. For the past three months Mr. T. C. Callaghan, a member of the committee, has generously placed his services at its disposal as special investigator of cases, doing this without any fee or remuneration, and a warm expression of thanks is due to him for his valuable assistance.

The committee desires to publicly state, to avoid misapprehension and misunderstanding, that the Benevolent Fund is a totally distinct society from the Federation. It has different offices, different officials, and is administered by a different committee. Charity should have no creed, and so, whilst deeply grateful for the unvarying support and aid received from the Variety Artists' Federation, collectively and individually, the committee feel bound to remove the erroneous impression that has been circulated, and repeat that the two societies are in every way distinct and separate.

Mr. Elvin, at his own desire, relinquishes the position of president, and the committee have persuaded Mr. G. H. Chirgwin, who has been an ardent worker for the Fund, to occupy the position for the ensuing year. Mr. Harry Blake, the hon. treasurer, who has kept a watchful eye upon the incomings and outgoings of the exchequer, is willing to continue his good work. The committee desire to record its high appreciation of the valuable services of the secretary to the Fund, Mr. C. Douglas Stuart, who has carried out his duties to the entire satisfaction of everyone.

Let those in the profession who, by their talents given them by Providence, are starring on the big circuits, remember their sisters and brothers who have not been so favoured, and who, in the mighty competition around us, have had to fall by the way and give place to others; it may be on account of illness, of advancing age, or inability to please the public. Be it what it may, surely they deserve help. It does no good to give rashly to those begging at the stage door; rather subscribe to the Fund and send applicants where their cases will be duly considered and, if worthy, relieved without delay. The committee would like to stop all stage-door hangers-on, but this cannot be done unless the profession refuse such help.

In conclusion, the committee "feels good" by doing good, and desires no praise for its work; but if the profession are satisfied with what has been done, they can reward the labours of their executive by not forgetting that there is £15 and more to be met every week if the most urgent cases are to be sufficiently relieved, and by continuing to subscribe liberally and often, certain that their good deeds will be rewarded a hundredfold.

Mr. George Jackley proposed, and Mr. Eddie Comet seconded, the adoption of the report.

The chairman then delivered an address to the meeting, and in the course of his remarks he said: I do not think there is very much for me to say, but there is one question I would like to ask first: Are there any complaints? (No answer.) There are none. I am pleased, as I said before, that there are not many here, and I regard it as a great compliment to our committee, and it shows that the members of the profession know that the money is in good hands, and is being properly distributed among the poor and starving in our profession. There are several little items in the report concerning which I cannot go into details. There have been relieved during the past twelve months over 1,200 cases, and the money has been given to the poor and deserving. The people who come along and would impose upon the Fund we leave out with the washing. It is a pleasure to me to have to thank the committee, who give their time every week to this work. I have, too, to thank the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association for the start it gave to this benevolent fund by its splendid donation. We have had over £1,000 since then. To Mr. Joe O'Gorman our thanks are due for his suggestion of putting a shilling on the railway tickets. If the members only knew the amount of good that the shilling did for the poor of our profession they would not be content with giving less than five. The charity matinée question has cost us a great deal of trouble with the proprietors, but it realised for us over £200. I am retiring from the chair as president, but you could not have a better president than Mr. George Chirgwin—a man who has been in our profession for two or three months, and who knows the game to half an ounce. Later on, when the dinner comes round I am going to put before the profession a scheme which may meet with approval. I am going to appeal to the profession, with the assistance of the committee and our new president, to lay before you my plans. The idea was suggested by a friend of Mr. Fred Herbert, but I cannot disclose its nature now. I want to see the Music Hall Home and the Ladies' Guild combined with the Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund, so that there may be one great charity which will make one united appeal instead of three as at the present time. I would like to see the Music Hall Home as an institution similar to that of the Licensed Victuallers or the Commercial Travellers. But I will place my ideas before the profession at the dinner. I once more thank the committee and Mr. C. Douglas Stuart, the secretary, for their exertions in the past.

The report was then put to the meeting, and declared carried unanimously.

Mr. Fred Herbert, the chairman of the committee, read the balance-sheet and proposed its adoption. He believed that in the future the matinée percentage trouble would come to an end. The balance-sheet was as follows:—

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
From Dec. 14, 1907, to Dec. 31, 1908.

Receipts.

	£ s. d.
To Donations	977 15 3
,, Percentage on Matinées per V.A.F.	203 15 4
,, M.H.A.R.A. Membership Cards	191 17 2
,, Subscription Lists	131 11 0
,, Collecting Boxes	78 15 3
,, Sports Account	22 14 8
,, Dinner Account	26 1 11
	£1,632 10 7

PAYMENTS.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Granted for Relief		689 6 7
,, Funeral Expenses		20 15 0
,, Hospital Saturday Fund		10 10 0
,, Loans Advanced	314 9 2	
,, Less Repaid	49 15 8	
		264 13 6
		985 5 1
,, Salaries	102 0 0	
,, Printing and Stationery	15 10 3	
,, Postages	19 13 10	
,, Sundry Expenses	15 18 4	
		153 2 5
,, Balance—		
Cash at Bank	449 5 1	
In hand	44 18 0	
		494 3 1
		£1,632 10 7

We have compared the above summary of receipts and payments with the books and vouchers relating to the Fund, and certify same to be correct. We have accepted a certificate given by Messrs. Charles Preston and T. C. Callaghan as to the receipts and payments in connection with the dinner and the sports. Some of the applicants having omitted to return the official receipts for relief granted to them out of the Fund, we are unable completely to vouch the payments. A member of the committee certifies that in such cases the allowances have been properly charged and made with their approval.

JACKSON, PIXLEY, BROWNING, HUSEY, AND CO.,
Chartered Accountants, Auditors.
58, Coleman-street, E.C., Feb. 2, 1909.

HARRY BLAKE, Hon. Treasurer.
C. DOUGLAS STUART, Secretary.
W. H. MCCARTHY, Accountant.

Mr. Arthur Were seconded, and the motion was carried.

The chairman, in proposing the election of Mr. George Chirgwin as president, said he thought that "dear old George" was the right man in the right place.

Mr. Fred Herbert, in seconding, expressed the gratitude of the committee to the retiring president, Mr. Elvin, who had been something more than an ornamental figurehead. Mr. Elvin had frequently taken into his employment old and distressed artists for his sketches.

Mr. George Chirgwin, the new president, who on taking the chair was greeted with loud applause, thanked the meeting for the honour it had conferred upon him in electing him to that office, and he would work as hard as he could for the Fund.

Mr. George Sinclair proposed, and Mr. Atlas seconded, the election of Messrs. Wal Pink and Edwin Adeler as vice-presidents. This was carried.

Mr. Fred Herbert proposed, and Mr. Ben Woodger seconded, the election of Mr. Joe Elvin as a trustee, the other trustees being Messrs. Harry Lauder and J. W. Cragg.

It was proposed by Mr. Vendome, and seconded by Mr. Sinclair, that Mr. Harry Blake continue as treasurer. This also was carried, as was also a motion of Mr. Sinclair, seconded by Mr. J. H. Milburn, that Mr. C. Douglas Stuart be retained as secretary, a high tribute being paid to Mr. Stuart's services.

Mr. Stuart acknowledged the compliment in a few words, and thanked the meeting for his re-election.

During the meeting Miss Clarke, one of the secretaries of the Actors' Church Union, expressed her gratitude to the committee and to Mr. Stuart for many little courtesies rendered on behalf of sick and distressed music hall artists. She asked permission to place Mr. Elvin's name before the Bishop of Southwark as a Vice-President of the A.C.U., and to this proposal Mr. Elvin assented.

VAUDEVILLE CLUB.

Under the genial chairmanship of King Rat, Mr. Fred Ginnett, the members of the Vaudeville Club assembled in goodly force at the rooms in Charing Cross-road on Sunday evening. This was the Club's first concert in the New Year, and, in spite of other attractions going on elsewhere and the bad weather, the function proved eminently successful and enjoyable. It may be of interest, while dealing with this tenth concert of the series, to state that the Vaudeville Club was founded in 1901 for the association and convenience of members of the Grand Order of Water Rats, but is also open to gentlemen connected directly or indirectly with the vaudeville profession and with music, art, the drama, and sport.

The programme on Sunday evening was as delightful as it was varied and comprehensive in character. It opened with an exceedingly well-played pianoforte selection by Mr. Penyston Miles. Then Mr. "Dusty" Rhodes created a huge diversion by his singing of some verses on the subject of "Eggs and bacon"; and Mr. Burt Sheppard delivered in his quaintest style a parody on "Daddy"—this time with a cabby as the central character—and as an encore an amusing little item entitled "Potted plays." Mr. Carl Hertz was in his most mysterious mood, and he treated the audience to a number of magical tricks which were so smartly executed as to arouse a feeling of astonishment. His manipulation of playing-cards and his demonstration of thought-transmission, as well as a laughable little hoax, in which he was helped by Mr. Arthur Reece, all combined to form a most attractive "turn." Mr. Harrison Latimer's magnificent voice was heard to good effect in the Prologue to *Pagliacci*, and, along with Mr. Penyston Miles, he gave a duet from *The Lily of Killarney*, "The moon hath raised her lamp above." Mr. Story Gofton showed himself in capital form, and exhibited fine dramatic talent in "Christmas Guests," his succeeding item being descriptive of how a village choir vociferously rendered "The Old Hundredth" after the manner of "The Charge of the Light Brigade." Mr. Morny Cash created great hilarity with his song "Shirts," and Mr. Fred Grey enchanted his hearers with his performances on the violin of the solos "La Légende" and "Humoreske." Mr. Alfred Hurley was highly successful in a laughable Irish song, "Mariar"; and Mr. Percy Yorke submitted a stirring interpretation of "The Trumpeter," which evoked enthusiastic applause. An artist possessing a well-trained baritone voice came forward in the person of Mr. Robert Dennant, who made a powerful appeal to the hearts of the audience with his admirable rendering of "The Recruiting Sergeant of the Line," giving as an encore "Willie, won't you wait a little longer?" This was Mr. Dennant's début at a Vaudeville Club concert, and it may be taken for granted that he will be much in request at functions of the kind in the future.

The Scotsmen present were profoundly interested in Mr. Alfred Leonard's violin imitation of the bagpipes, Mr. Leonard's playing affording ample proof that he had complete mastery of the art and technique of the handling of his instrument. Mr. V. L. Granville submitted a realistic impersonation of Mr. Tree as Svengali; and Mr. Wingrove Grant delivered in most agreeable style the verses on the subject of "My Dreams." The well-known tramp pianist, Mr. James Stewart, contributed a humorous recitation which bore the comprehensive title "Lightning, the defunct cab-horse; or, How to get to the Bank from Charing Cross in three and three-quarter hours"; and not less diverting were the chorus songs of Mr. C. R. Whittle, "I want you to see my girl" and "There's nothing like this in America or France." Mr. W. B. Raby brought the risible faculties of "the house" into play with his rendering of "Whiskers," burlesqued to suit the tune of "The Men of Harlech"; and Mr. Hal Forde was accorded a flattering ovation for his rendering of "Every fellow's in love with a girl." Mr. Andie Caine once more aroused merriment with his ditties, "Houseboats" and "Sparrows"—the last a particularly spicy and well-relished tit-bit—and Mr. Julian Rose was excruciatingly funny with his Yiddish stories and his songs. Mr. George Formby was responsible for three pleasing vocal items, including "A sailor's knot" and "John Willie, come on"; and Mr. Charles Austin gained favour with his quaint recital of "The Absent-Minded Beggar," imitated in Mr. Joe Elvin's style, his second impersonation dealing amusingly with an anecdote concerning Mr. Walter King and an insurance agent. Some truly enchanting flute and piccolo solos were excellently played by Mr. Eli Hudson, to whose musical efforts we have had the pleasure on many occasions of referring in eulogistic terms. Mr. Penyston Miles performed yeoman service at the pianoforte, and largely assisted in the success of the evening's entertainment. A word of congratulation should be passed to Mr. Case, the manager, for his exertions in arranging the concert. The proceedings were brought to an end by a vote of thanks (proposed by Mr. V. L. Granville) to Mr. Fred Ginnett, the chairman, who, in replying, expressed the gratitude of all to the artists for their able performances, and to the members of the Club for their attendance.

MR. ERIC WILLIAMS, so widely and favourably known in connection with his elocutionary efforts on behalf of Field-Marshal Earl Roberts's Veterans' Relief Fund, has been engaged for his costume recitals by the managing-director of the Canterbury and Paragon halls, to appear for a run commencing on Feb. 8, with Mr. Geo. R. Sims's "Lifeboat."

FELDMAN'S

ARTISTS WHO ARE SINGING FELDMAN'S SONGS IN PANTOMIME.

LONDON DISTRICT.

MISS HANID ALEXANDER.
MISS PRUDENCE AYRTON.
MISS FLORENCE BRAY.
MISS LENA BRICKWELL.
MISS BESSIE BUTT.
MISS LALLIE CAMPBELL
MISS VENIE CLEMENTS.
MISS KITTY CLINTON.
MISS ENA CORELLI.
MISS ROSE COSTA.
MISS MARIE DAINTON.
MISS KITTY DOUGLAS.
MISS MAUD ESMOND.
MISS QUEENIE ESSEX.
MISS DOROTHY FIRMIN.
MISS LYDIA FLOPP.
HAL FORD.
MISS MAUDIE FRANCIS.
FERGUSON AND MACK.
MISS FIFI GORDON.
MISS DOROTHY GRASSDORFF.
MISS NANCY HEARNE.
BABY HUTT.
MISS CONSTANCE HYEM.
MISS EDITH JEFFERIES.
MISS QUEENIE LEIGHTON.
MISS ADDIE LENNARD.
EDWARD LEWIS.
MISS DOROTHY MILLER.
MISS CARRIE MOORE.
MISS EDNA MORGAN
SISTERS MORGAN.
MISS MADOLINE REES.
MISS LILLIAN ROSE.
MISS DOROTHY RUNDELL.
SYDNEY RUSSELL.
MISS LOTTIE SARGENT.
MISS TRULY SHATTUCK.
ARTHUR STIGENT.
MISS AGNES TANDY.
MISS KITTY TIMS.
MISS LULU VALLI.
MISS LENA VERDI.
MISS ETHEL WARD.
MISS WINIFRED WARD.
E. HARVEY WHITE.
MISS MARIE WILSON.

BELFAST.
MISS DECIMA BROOKE.
MISS EDITH FINK.
GEORGE LASHWOOD.
GEORGE MILLER.
MISS DOROTHY WARD.

BIRMINGHAM.
MISS SYBIL ARUNDALE.
FRANK BLYTHE.
G. H. ELLIOTT.
MISS RITA EVERARD.
MISS HETTIE KING.
MISS ETHEL NEGRETTI.
MISS CLARA REID.
ARTHUR REYNOLDS.
MISS IVEY ROSE.
MISS JOYCE STEVENS.
MISS ELLALINE THORNE.

BRIGHTON.
EDWIN GARTH.
MISS GERTRUDE GILLIAM.
MISS BLANCHE MARION.
MISS AIMEE ROBERTS.

BRADFORD.
MISS BELMORE.
MISS ISABELLE DILLON.
MISS FLORRIE FORDE.
CHARLES NORTON.
MISS VERA VERE.
MISS WINIFRED WYNDHAM.

BRISTOL.
MISS VIOLET GILLIS.
MISS OUIDA MACDERMOTT.
MISS DEBORAH VOLAR.

CARDIFF.
MISS MARIE BURDELL.
MISS NELLIE LUNELLE.
MISS MOYA MANNERING.
MISS IDA STATHAMS.

CROYDON.
MISS GEORGINA DELMAR.
MISS GLADYS WARREN.

DUBLIN.
BARNEY ARMSTRONG.
J. J. DALLAS.
MISS KATHLEEN GRAY.

DUNDEE.
MISS ROSIE BARTLETT.
MISS MAY CARTER.
MISS HETTIE LIND.
MISS AMY RANDOLPH.

EDINBURGH.
MISS MENA BRAE.
WILL EVANS.
MISS JANE EYRE.
MISS MINNIE OLIVE.

EXETER.
MISS VIOLET HOLLEM.
MISS EDITH HOUSLEY.

GLASGOW.
MISS DECIMA BROOKE.
MISS FLORA CROMER.
WHIT CUNLIFFE.
HARRY DENT.
MISS IRIS HOEY.
MISS VIOLET LORAINE.
SAM MORRIS.
MISS ELLA RETFORD.
GEORGE ROBEY.
FRED RUSSELL.

HANLEY.
DOUGLAS CAMPBELL.
MISS LOLA PATEY.
MISS MARGARET RUBY.

LEEDS.
MARTIN ADESON.
MISS NELL EMERALD.
MISS LULU RUSSELL.
MISS LILLIE SOUTTER.

LIVERPOOL.
BOBBIE ALLANDALE.
MISS MABEL GREEN.
MISS FLORENCE IMESON.
MISS LILY MORRIS.
ARTHUR RIGBY.

MANCHESTER.
MISS MAY BEATTIE.
MISS IVY GALLARD.
MISS PEGGY MCDONNELL.
MISS LIZZIE PAYNE.
GEORGE WOOD.

NEWCASTLE.
HAPPY FANNY FIELDS.
MISS LILY IRIS.
MISS VIOLET LLOYD.

NOTTINGHAM.
MISS MABEL CARR.
MISS CRESSIE LEONARD.
MR. LEWIS LESLIE.
JAMES LESLIE.
MISS MADGE VINCENT.
MISS MOLLY WYNNE.

PAISLEY.
MISS MOYNA HILL.
MISS DAISY MORRELL.
MISS KATE YATES.

PLYMOUTH.
MISS LUCIE CAINE.
MISS MAISIE ELLINGER.
ALF. E. PASSMORE.

PORTSMOUTH.
MISS CONNIE LEON.
MISS MAUDE MORTIMER.

SHEFFIELD.
MISS MAY MARS.
MISS NANCY THORNTON.

OTHER PROVINCIAL TOWNS.

MISS OLIVE ASTOR.
MISS BARBARA BABINGTON.
FRED BARNES.
MISS LILLIE BLYTHE.
MISS MADGE BROWNE.
MISS DOT CAREY.
MISS CARLISLE.
ARTHUR CARLTON.
MISS NINA CARLTON.
MISS GLADYS CHRISTIE.
SID CROSSLEY.
MISS MINNIE D'AUBYN.
MISS MAY DE LA GRANGE.
MISS MAY DESMOND.
MISS EDITH DEVERELL.
MISS VERA DUDLEY.
MISS ETHEL DURNFORD.
HARRY EDLIN.
MISS LILY EYTON.
MISS RAY FORD.
MISS MARIE JERRARD.
MISS IVY GALLARD.
MISS MINA GREEN.
MISS NORA GUY.
MISS MOLLIE HACKETT.
BOBBIE HALL.
MISS MAUD HERSEE.
MISS FLORENCE HILTON.
MISS HEDDA HIRLEMANN.
MISS MARY HOPE.
MISS ZONA JOY.
LITTLE KEENO.
MISS GERTIE LENO.
ARTHUR LENVILLE.
MISS LOUIE LOVE.
MISS CYNTHIA LUPINO.
MISS JENNY LYNWOOD.
MISS LALLAH MELROSE.
MISS NELLIE MERTON.
MISS BEATRICE MOORE.
MISS IVY MOORE.
MISS MADGE O'NEILL.
GEORGE PARRY.
MISS LOLA PATEY.
MISS MAUD PRENTON.
MISS ETHEL RA LESLIE.
MISS RENA REES.
MISS MARIE REEVE.
MISS NORA RITERIO.
MISS MABEL ROBERTS.
MISS CHRISTINE ROY.
MISS LILLIE STORRIE.
MISS LENA STANTON.
MISS BEATRICE VARLEY.
MISS KITTY WEBB.
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NEW YEAR'S COLLECTION FOR THE MUSIC HALL HOME.

1,608 SHILLINGS.

In again directing the attention of our readers to *The Era* New Year's Shilling Fund on behalf of the Music Hall Home we are in the happy position of being able to associate with the appeal thus being made the name of the foremost music hall comedienne—Miss Marie Lloyd. It seems scarcely necessary to remind our readers of the deep interest Miss Lloyd has ever taken in matters affecting the welfare of her brothers and sisters of the variety profession. It is her desire that her "year" will be marked by a considerable increase in the subscriptions of previous years, and she therefore, through *The Era*, commends the Music Hall Home to the charitably-minded. Mr. Thomas Barrasford, the President of the Fund, is again this year exerting himself in its behalf, and this fact is sufficient indication that he is satisfied as to the way in which the institution is being conducted, and that he considers it worthy of support.

Mr. Ben Woodger, the secretary of the Music Hall Home, tells us that in 1907 the inmates averaged ten, but that in 1908 there have been as many as twelve. The address of the Home is 31, Wilson-road, Camberwell, and there the matron (Mrs. Fruin) busies herself for the comfort and convenience of her "family." At present there are eleven of these, and the desire is to increase the number, which can only be done when sufficient funds for the purpose are collected. During the past twelve months three or four of the inmates have recovered their health and strength sufficiently to enable them to look for engagements. These secured, they left the Home, and the vacancies thereby created were immediately filled up. Now, this Home requires keeping up, and it cannot be kept up on air. There is no need for us to refer to all the good work which has been performed by the institution in the past, as that must for the most part be within the recollection of our readers. The ages of the inmates range from fifty to seventy-six. In all probability these men will be maintained in the Home until the day of their death, and their funeral expenses paid for out of the funds of the Home.

The Era New Year's Shilling Fund is the main source of income to the Home, and this means of sustenance is added to by the donations of artists, either given directly, or through the collecting boxes through which many managers of variety theatres collect pennies from "dead-heads" and from artists who desire free admission.

Anyone can be supplied with a collecting-card by sending a postcard to Mr. Woodger.

Briefly, we may once more repeat that the objects of the Music Hall Home Fund are to provide shelter for deserving members of the variety profession who have been stricken with poverty or illness in their declining years, or who have in other ways fallen on evil times. Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, the hon. treasurer, will be pleased to receive filled-up collecting cards addressed to him at *The Era*, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C., and to acknowledge them in these columns.

FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	Shillings.
Joe Elvin, per Marie Lloyd	105
Marie Lloyd	63
Jack Miles Stavordale	120
Bert Williams	30
Jack Woolf	30
Leoni Clarke	21
Gus Elen	21
Chas. Weldon	21
John Lawson	21
Mr. Hymack	20
O. M. Dayton	10
Alf Chester	10
Ben Brown	10
E.	6
Slippere	5
Frank Folloy	1

Collected by the Hartley Wonders, 2s.

Hartley Wonders	1	Maggie Walsh	1

Collected by Horace Wheatley, £2 10s.

Horace Wheatley	40	Grandma	1
T. Wheatley, jun.	1	Auntie	1
Kathleen Wheatley	1	Mack W. (the dog)	1
Norah Wheatley	1	Ernest Poweel	1
Eileen Wheatley	1	Will Vay	1
H. Wheatley, jun.	1		

Collected by The Maples, 10s.

Fred Maple	1	Dusty Rhodes	1
Amy Maple	1	Joe Tennyson	1
Edward Lauri	1	Bates Maddison	1
May Beatty	1	W. H. Wallis	1
Cissie Lauri	1	Ben Brown	1

Collected by Dave Carter, £1 10s.

Dave Carter	1	Al. Johnston	1
He of the Topnote	1	W. Ellwanger	1
He of the Topnote	1	J. J. Harvey	1
He of the Topnote	1	Dan Conroy	1
He of the Topnote	1	Bowker Andrews	1
James Shewart	1	J. W. Wilson	1
James Mooney	1	W. H. McCarthy	1
Percy Haley	1	Young Dave Garrick	1
Master May	1	Lancelot B. Andrews	1
Fred Morley	1	Geo. Hughes	1
Alf. Ripon	1	Doc. Robertson	1
Sammy Shields	1	Baby Robertson	1
W. F. Heeley	1	D. J. Pigott	1
B. C. Meely	1	Will Oliver	1
Rose Elliott	1	Morny Cash	1

Collected by the Musical Johnstons, 6s.

Dorothy Drew Johnston	1	J. A. Johnston	1
A. E. Johnston	1	Dave Carter	1
F. Johnston	1	Fred Ralph	1

Collected by Sisters Ford, 30s.

Cissie Ford	1	Jack Hayworth	1
Emmie Ford	1	Walter Williams	1
John Simms	1	Frand Leidam	1
George Rapley	1	W. Richardson	1
Colibris Midgets	1	Joe Athos	1
Colibris Midgets	1	John Trowel	1
P. E. Edmond	1	Hectors	1
Arthur Woodville	1	Thorpe and Co.	1
Horace Pollock	1	Rastus and Banks	1
M. Simms	1	Mrs. Haley	1
Hughie Rostron	1	Milner and Storey	1
Little Innocence	1	Jimmy and Fanny	1
Earl of Dudley	1	Raven Wood	1
Cecile Eldred	1	Vivienne Bell	1
Sam J. Downing	1	W. M., Friend	1

Collected by Seener and Fridkins, £2 5s.

Seener and Fridkins	5	Bertha Northam	1
John A. Leopold	5	Augustus Dale	1
Zeymand Andrews	5	William Ward	1
Mr. Edwardes	2	Herbert La Martine	1
Geo. Auger	2	Horace O'Malley	1
Ernest Rommel	2	Marie Loftus	1
E. Ch. Gittins	2	A. Dome	1
Dick Bell Rio	2	C. Coborn	1
Fredk. Wilson	1	Ae-Bo-Kou	1
X X X	1	D. H. C.	1
Boccaccio	1	Will Murray	1
A. H.	1	Joe Sylvana	1
Bertie Ralland	1	Tom Collins	1
Bertha Winder	1	W. H. C.	1

Collected by Fred Kitchen, £1 2s.

Fred Kitchen	5	Geo. Craig	1
Harry Kitchen	2	Geo. Messer	1
Mrs. F. Kitchen	2	Grimani	1
Fred Kitchen, jun.	1	T. Scott Bell	1
Kitty Horan	1	Harry Howe	1
Frank Rickards	1	Jimmy Russell	1
Bert Landeck	1	Fred Karno	1
James Beresford	1	Billy Morgan	1

Collected by Jimmy Shields, £1 15s.

Johnson and Bert	2	Monty Walker	1
Billy Williams	1	J. E. Wilkes	1
Jimmy Shields	1	Floradoras	1
Edward Rowland	1	Mr. J. Burslam	1
George Shields	1	Arthur Royce	1
Sam Thomson	1	Margaret Drew	1
Harrison Brookbank	1	Beatie and Babs	1
Dolly Ross	1	Frank Coyle	1
Ernest Krake	1	Friend	1
Fred J. Hudson	1	Pal	1
George Edney	1	S. F.	1
Mr. and Mrs. Will Pettitt	1	Tom Joy	1
Ernest Dillon	1	Henry Herne	1
Percy Farrimond	1	Leonard Fisher	1
Evelyn and Norrie	1	Will S.	1
George Cooper	1	Sam B	1
J. W. Hall	1	Devonshire, Barnsley	1

Collected by Kloof and Ramsay, £1 12s. 6d.

George Lashwood	2	J. E. Nightingale	1
Verona Quartette	2	A. C. Williams, stage representative, Pontypridd	1
Per Messrs. Benet and Kloof, Crusoe panto. company:—		Miss Nellie Dyson	1
Mr. Harry Benet	2	Miss Gertie Millar	1
Sisters Rowe	2	J. H. Wakefield	1
Billy Kloof	1	Rand and O'Ryan	1
Mrs. Kloof	1	Will and Roze	1
Little Jack Metz	1	Sam Saxo	1
U. C. Ugo	1	Ernest P. Grahame	1
Mrs. A. F. Bedford, V.A.F. Agency, Barnsley	1	Trixie Bascombe	1
Sandy McNab	1	Alf. Heath	1
Bert Weston	1	David Phillips	1
Syd Pete	1	Miss Eva Bentley	1
Arthur Maxey	1	William W. Fish	1
		Lonzo Brown	1
		Miss Holland	½

Collected by Regan and Ryan, £1 12s. 6d.

Fanny Fields	5	Room No. 4, M.T.	1
Violet Lloyd	5	Doris Dean	1
Malcolm Scott	5	Florence Herseé	1
Harry Tate	5	Harry Claff	1
Regan and Ryan	5	Horace Lane	1
Patty Yole	2½		

Collected by Livesey and Rosebery, £1 8s.

Leo and Roland	1	W. H. Carnis	1
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilde	1	Montaldos	1
Mr. Sam Williams	1	Joe Hay	1
Gladys Mavius	1	Leonie Dixon	1
Miss Adah Payne	1	Jim Dixon	1
G. Barclay, jun.	1	The Heroine	1
Tom Shaw	1	The Villain	1
Billy Stevens	1	The Hero	1
A. Earl Hunt	1	Lilian Rosebery	1
W. Higgins	1	Carter Livesey	1
Dr. Caine	1	Little Willie	1
Harry Randall	1	Gannimede	1
C. W. Whittle	1	Signorita	1
Gordon and Grace	1	The Skipper	1

Collected by Herbert Shelley, £2 3s.

Albert Chevalier	20	Arthur Burne	1
Herbert Shelley	10	Huntley Wright	1
J. W. Macdonald	2	Harry Nicholls	1
Lionel Rignold	1	Mrs. Herbert Shelley	1
J. Cook Beresford	1	Alma Shelley	1
L. Race Dunrobin	1	Florence Huntley	1
Graham and Harrington	1	May Fairclough	1

Collected by J. W. Hall, 30s.

J. W. Hall	1	Gent. Lotto	1
Pat Rafferty	1	Tom Wilson	1
Walter Wade	1	Harry Barrett	1
Harold Hughman	1	J. W. Hall	1
George P. Smith	1	J. W. Hall	1
F. A. Gotch	1	J. W. Hall	1
T. Mercer	1	Mrs. Hall	1
Alf Sontai	1	Mrs. Hall	1
Harry Shirley	1	Mrs. Hall	1
Campbell	1	Mrs. Ella Hall	1
R. Galland	1	Mrs. Ella Hall	1
W. H. Barber	1	Mrs. Ella Hall	1
Lucy Crichton	1	Master Harry Hall	1
Mr. Clark	1	Master Harry Hall	1
A. Lotto	1	Master Harry Hall	1

Collected by Frank Coyle, 20s.

W. E. Gillin	1	Gladys Godwin	1
Ramsey Trio	1	The Ellimans	1
J. Smith	1	Lilian Graham	1
Frank Coyle	1	Fioretti and Elly	1
Violet Coyle	1	Percy Mannings	1
Mrs. Frank Coyle	1	Walter Mannings	1
Miss Fanny Coyle	1	F. B. Bedford	1
Jimmy Shields	1	John Huxley	1
Will Godwin	1	Denby and Dent	1
Mrs. Godwin	1	Geo. Hall	1

Collected by the Three Bros. Huxter, 11s.

Lambeth and Robertson	2	R. Taylor	1
Edward Huxter	1	A. Rudd	1
Bros. Milford	1	G. G.	1
Jeannie Johns	1	Corradini	1
Elsie Steadman	1	A. Saxon	1

Collected by Three Sisters Lee, £2 0s. 6d.

E. F. Murray	2½	E. Pender Cudlip	1
Fred Ginnett	2	J. Morgan	1
Reg. Beauchamp	2	George Narow	1
M. Arnold	1	Herbert Mack	1
A.	1	Jas. E. Donegan	1
W. Murray	1	Jim Dunedin	1
Thomas Lee	1	George French	1
Mina Lee	1	Gent Lotto	1
Jeanette Lee	1	Syd Pete	1
Leonie Dixon	1	T. C. Downie	1
Marie Empress	1	Schus	1
Sue Lewis	1	Ned	1
Jas. W. Dixon	1	Three Orleans	1
R. A. Johnson	1	Reg Bolton	1
Ernie Warsaw	1	H. Finden	1
R. H. Douglas	1	Hanvarr	1
Mrs. Dent	1	Hanvarr, jun.	1
W. W. Walton	1	Anna Lee	1
Harry Curry	1		

Collected by Mlle. De Rose, £2 1s.

Our Boys	4	Edie May	1
Mlle. De Rose	2½	Dick Thomas	1
J. H. Hawtrey	2½	Hettie Gale	1
Reginald Grant	2½	Leslie Hawkins	1
W. W. Kelly	2½	Joe Huda	1
Hilda Claremont	1	Our Willie Hall	1
Alf Leonard	1	J. Gar Kiddie	1
Stanley Fairless	1	Sisters Raymond	1
W. G. Wesley	1	E. Adeler	1
James Lowe	1	H. O. Callaghan	1
Nellie Barrett	1	Herbert Bates	1
Ada Tyrell	1	Mrs. Egerton	1
George Burton	1	Harry Mayville	1
W. H. Lisando	1	Edgar Stebbings	1
Bob Lisando	1	Mark Stuart	1
Harry Bliss	1	Joe Oliver	1

Collected by Barney Armstrong, 24s.

Joe Elvin	2	George Kirby	1
Gala and Norris	2	Harry Lappo	1
Miss Winifred Hare	2	Lena Brunton	1
Barney Armstrong	2	Leo Behan	1
Mr. J. Lucy	1	Martha Cowper	1
Mr. H. C. Arnold	1	Chas. Coborn	1
Frank Benson	1	E. A. Matthews	1
Baddow	1	Leighton Rooke	1
Ulrick	1	Gladys White	1
J. J. Dallas	1	Jimmy Steel	1

Collected by Ben Brown (fourth card), 23s.

Robbie	2	J. Mitchell Langley	1
Daisy James	2	W. W. B.	1
Manning's Entertainers	1	W. A.	1
F. Toomey	1	F. G.	1
M. A. Pettitt	1	Pill Wank	1
Count Landeryou	1	Bothey	1
Fred Reeves	1	R. T.	1
Alf. Lotto	1	G. Young	1
Jan Lyell	1	F. Leon	1
Miss Winifred Earle	1	Col. Clough	1
		S. Girling	1

Collected by Miss Ray Maskell, 41s.

Ray Maskell	5	U. G. O. Nap	1
Ted E. Box	2	G. Fletcher	1
G. Baner	2	Walter Lee	1
Jas. Fortune	2	Auntie Hart	1
S. Wheeler	1	F. B. J.	1
O. Botwright	1	E. B. Dwyer	1
Mr. Chard	1	Raven Wood	1
Coverdale	1	Fred McLean	1
Billy Farrell	1	C. T. Aldrich	1
H. E. Fairbanke	1	Chris Horn	1
Rosie Gaston	1	Fred Rinnell	1
Bob Duce	1	Brinn	1
Pete	1	Geo. Abel	1
B. C. Packham	1	Sid Cotterell	1
Nemo	1	Bert Wilson	1
Bob White	1	H. H. Garner	1
W. McIvor	1	G. E. R.	1

Collected by Carl and Carr, 31s.

J. N. Smith	5	Evelyn Desa	1
Carl and Carr	3	Tom Lawson	1
A Friend	1	Nancy Renshaw	1
Tom Costello	1	Louie Love	1
Billie Costello	1	Queenie King	1
Frank Freeland	1	Ernie Davey	1
James Rallis	1	Jack Osmond	1
L. Hoffman	1	M. Austin	1
E. D. Nicholls	1	Marie St. Hilary	1
A Friend	1	Arthur Carlton	1
Michael Madden	1	A. W. Lethbridge	1
Charles Leverton	1	Bertha Priddy	1
Mlle. Lucretia	1		

Collected by Dick Tubb, £1 15s.

Eight Imperial Girls	4	Dudley Powell	1
Dick Tubb and Jessie Buckle	2	P. C. Armstrong	1
W. Groome	1	Bert H. Delmar	1
F. Brown	1	Grimshaw and Esmond	1
H. J. Corner	1	Maidie Scott	1
Fred Douglas	1	Winifred Ward	1
Mrs. Engel	1	Harold Wellesley	1
Tom Child	1	James Fletch	1
J. H. Farr	1	W. Morgan	1
Bart Farland	1	Sam Poluski, jun.	1
J. Murray	1	Kittie Douglas	1
F. Emney	1	Little Rosie Lee	1
M. Rees	1	F. Brett	1
Nellie Howard	1	Little Maudie Francis	1
Gwladys Soman	1	A. T.	1
May Davis	1		

[*Photo by Sarony.*

MISS MARIE LLOYD,

The Fair Worker for the Home.

Collected by Ben Brown (first card), 42s.

Geo. Le Clerq	5	Fred Maple	1
Ben Brown	5	F. W. Wood	1
G. B.	5	Munro	1
C. Matthews, Sheffield	2	Sympathy	1
Pot	2	Coly	1
Same	2	W. Childs	1
Mr S. E. Humberston	1	Tom Craven	1
B. A. Rolfe	1	H. Martin	1
Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Edwards	1	Friend	1
Will Cutler	1	Nat	1
Three Horse Shoes, Sheffield	1	Harrison	1
V. L. Granville	1	Butts	1
		Topsy	1
		W. R.	1
		C. F. Brown	1

Collected by Ben Brown (second card), 38s.

W. H.	5	F. Gill	1
D. V. Goldberg	2½	S. D.	1
G. C. N. P.	2	H. Webster	1
Gaskin	2	E. Davidson	1
L. S.	2	Levene	1
David Levy	2	Hean	1
Mamney	2	L. Z.	1
H. Heathan	2	C B.	1
P. Samuels	2	Elsie Pratt	1
Sutters	2	Charlie Pratt, jun.	1
H. D.	1	Mrs. Frith	1
Cast	1	H.	½
Samuels	1		

Collected by Ben Brown (third card), 28s.

Young Dave Garrick	1	H. Darnley	1
P. M.	1	W. Collins	1
H. Barrett	1	Jas. E. Donegan	1
H. S. Kitching	1	George B.	1
W. B. Abbey	1	J. Welch	1
W. J.	1	Deane Trulove	1
B. C.	1	Penyston Mills	1
J. J.	1	Terrey Erynon	1
W. Morgan	1	Dan Ricardo	1
G. H.	1	R. Trebor	1
S. S.	1	"Apollo"	1
G. R.	1	Traynor, Dublin	1
F. J. F.	1	Miss Gussie Allright	1
F. W. E.	1	W. Saxby	1

Collected by The Bohemians, 14s.

W. Bohemian	1	Newco and Sullo	1
M. Bohemian	1	Dan Hendy	1
Geo. Gulliver	1	Ernest Caxaellas	1
T. W. Paul	1	Percy Caxaellas	1
M. Etta	1	Edwin Caxaellas	1
D. W. Watson	1	Hull Newsboy Trio	1
Bob Swift Duo	1	Sam Vincent	1

Collected by Fred Herbert, 32s.

Joe Elvin	3	The Itrams	1
O. Maus Dayton	2	C. Douglas Stuart	1
Fred Herbert	1	Bert Byrne	1
Mrs. G. Gunnup	1	John Donald	1
Mrs. Walsh	1	Arthur Gallimore	1
George Gunnup	1	Bob Venola	1
J. Walsh	1	Joe Venola	1
Jack Walsh	1	Flo Chevalier	1
J. Harding	1	Arthur Breton	1
J. Jones	1	J. C. Morris	1
Sam Myrans	1	Gus Dallon	1
Chas. J. Johnson	1	T. C. Callaghan	1
Jack Lorrimer	1	Lieut. Albini	1
Stella Stahl	1	George Jackley	1
Paul Kramer	1		

Collected by Abel and Welsh, 35s.

J. W. Rowley	5	Hady Mohamed	1
Mohamed's Arabs	2	A. Gulimlip	1
S. Dix	2	Charles Chard	1
Robert Abel	1	H. Meredith	1
William Welsh	1	Bros. Ford	1
Mimi Abel	1	Gladys and Alber	1
Charles Serra	1	Tate and Tate	1
Martino	1	Wm. Thomas	1
Israel Price	1	Chas. Triton	1
Edward Crosland	1	John B. Roberts	1
Dorians	1	Harry Czar	1
Kyoto	1	Dave Czar	1
Val Gerald	1	Harry Friskey	1
J. Bertram Brennan	1	Blanche Albert	1
Felix Powell	1		

Collected by Ted E. Box, 71s.

Ted E. Box	10	Dora Lyric	1
Emerson and Baldwin	10	J. M. Green	1
Ray Maskell	5	Dirty Doughty	1
Servia Le Roy	5	Victoria Monks	1
Hanvarr and Lee	4	Carrie Laurie	1
Lafaille	4	W. P.	1
Willy	3	Albert Christian	1
Mr. Pete Dover	2	Maude Edwards	1
Percy Hayden	2	Virto	1
P. Anger	2	May Ambrose	1
Leon Bosco	2	A "Pro.'s" Friend	1
Tom Bryce	2	C. W. Luker	1
Fred Story	2	Tom Bryce	1
De Marce	1	John E. Somers	1
J. A. Carter	1	Jack Stephens	1
Tossing Austins	1		

Collected by Conway and Leland, 10s.

W. B. Leland	1	Maringo	1
Crissie Cross	1	Bert Wilson	1
M. B. Conway	1	George Gilbey	1
Mrs. M. B. Conway	1	Billy Seeley	1
Mr. De Breau	1	A Friend	1

Collected by A. N. Hennessey, 40s.

Stanley J. R. Cohen	5	Mrs. Regan	1
A. N. Hennessey	5	G. F.	1
Kittee Rayburn	5	A. Bowman	1
Fred Boustead	1	Glen Alva	1
A. Juniper	1	C. S.	1
C. F. Wright	1	H. C.	1
Tom Lyle	1	E. M. Cohen	1
C. W. Douglass	1	Will Thompson	1
Walter Gibbs	1	Mrs. Thompson	1
Ted Whiteman	1	W. Ransted	1
Tom Malvern	1	Johnny Alexander	1
Harry Anderson	1	Mr. Reeve	1
G. Dyke	1	J. Garlish	1
J. J. Regan	1	T. Callaghan	1

Collected by Harry Conlin, £3 10s.

Leigh House	5½	H. Rogerson	1
Harry Conlin	5½	Alex. Kendall	1
Hilda Dugdale	5	Chas. Norton	1
Rosie Coleman	5	Russell Brandow	1
One of the Ba-hoys	5	W. Stanley Parker	1
Amy Singleton	5	S. W.	1
G. Gilbride	4	Seth Egbert	1
Marie Ashton	4	Emmie Egbert	1
Mabel Hirst	3	Violet Egbert	1
Albert Egbert	2½	Gus Le Clerq	1
Daisy Dormer	2½	E. Wright	1
Hal	2	The Witch	1
J. Hoffman	2	May Beatty	1
F. Self	2	Harry Clifford	1
Gus Le Clerq	1	Mr. Blackhurst	1
Tommie Pender	1		

Collected by Elsie Robey, 10s

Elsie Robey	1	Molly Wynne	1
Laurence Irving	1	Lewis Leslie	1
Mabel Hackney-Irving	1	Mrs. Lewis Leslie	1
William Fullbrook	1	Sale of Post-cards	1
Mabel Carr	1	William Spencer	1

A Gold Medal, suitably inscribed, will be Presented by "The Era" to the Collector whose efforts on behalf of the Music Hall Home Fund yield the largest amount.

THE LATE TOM LOVELL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Reading the notice in your issue of Jan. 16 of the death of my late old and esteemed confrère, relating a portion of his professional career, I beg respectfully to add some few particulars that may be of interest to his friends. Tom (our Tom) was for some years with myself and pantomimic troupe. He played Pantalcon to my Clown as far back as Christmas, 1870, at the Crystal Palace in the successful pantomime of *Dick Whittington*. The late Miss Caroline Parkes was Dick. Tom afterwards toured with my company, performing in the principal provincial towns as well as in Belgium, Germany, and Holland. He was with me when exclusively engaged for twelve months to perform at the Alhambra and the Canterbury by Mr. Fred Strange.

It was during this joint engagement that I produced at the Alhambra the pantomime trick ballet *Quicksilver Dick*, the title being given by the late Mr. John Hollingshead, at that time the Alhambra manager. Our Tom played the Village Blacksmith (an ideal one). In such old bluff characters he excelled. When my troupe was engaged at Drury Lane, the late pantomime author, Mr. E. L. Planchard, was deputed to write an original pantomimical musical farce, which that gentleman named *Nobody in London*. In this piece, which was produced on Sept. 20, 1873, I sustained the part of Hal Fresco (a double character) and Tom was cast for the Eccentric Policeman. The combination playing the piece, which was produced in front of *Antony and Cleopatra*, consisted of the following noted artists: Mr. Brittain Wright, Mr. Fred Morland, Miss Harriet Coveney, Miss Clara Jecks, and Miss Amy Rosalind. The theatre was then under the management of the late Mr. F. B. Chatterton. After this our Tom had a wish to play Clown (he certainly had the "go" in him). He said, "Will you start me, Pa?" which he usually called me. I wrote his comic scenes and made models for his first engagement as Clown at the Prince's Theatre, Manchester. He afterwards voyaged to America to try his luck, and I believe was successful.—I am, yours faithfully,

FRED EVANS
(Late Clown in the 'Seventies at Drury Lane Theatre).

Bristol, Feb. 3.

WINTER GARDENS, NEW BRIGHTON.

Mr. Laurence Irving, Miss Mabel Hackney (Mrs. Irving), and company finished their week's engagement at the Winter Gardens, New Brighton, on Saturday last, amidst a scene of great enthusiasm, the house being crowded. After the curtain had been raised several times, and in answer to loud calls for a speech, Mr. Irving thanked the audience on behalf of his wife, his company, and himself for the enthusiastic reception which had been accorded them during the week. He had had several conversations with the other members of that week's company, and all agreed that they had never had a more comfortable engagement or played before a more appreciative or intelligent an audience. He felt sure that any star, no matter how big he or she might be, would always be glad to come to the Winter Gardens, New Brighton, for their profit and pleasure. In conclusion, Mr. Irving said he was pleased to say that his company and himself would be paying a return visit in September next.

MUCH regret has been expressed at Belfast at the departure from that city of Colonel Fred T. Cummins, manager of the new skating rink, which has been such a success since its opening some few months ago. Colonel Cummins has been placed in charge of the Share Department in London of the American Roller Rink Co., of which Messrs. Crawford and Wilkins are directors. Mr. O. E. Laumann has been appointed to succeed Colonel Cummins at Belfast.

INQUEST ON MR. G. SCOTT.

Mr. John Troutbeck held an inquest at Westminster Coroner's Court on Monday on the body of Mr. George Mitchell, professionally known as George Scott, who was until quite recently manager of the Alhambra Theatre of Varieties, and who was found shot in his bedroom at the Tavistock Hotel, Covent Garden, on Friday. The deceased, who was born at Plymouth, fulfilled important positions in music-hall circles at Manchester and also in connection with Barnum and Bailey's circus and the Southend Kursaal. A number of the deceased gentleman's friends were present in court.

Mr. John Goodchild, of Donovan-avenue, Muswell Hill, said that he did not come with the idea of giving evidence, but as the deceased's son was not present he would tell all he knew about the matter.

P.S. Overton, the coroner's officer, said the son was with a travelling company in Wales and had written to say it was impossible for him to get away.

The Coroner: I believe there has been considerable difficulty in communicating with any relatives?—The Coroner's Officer: That is so.

Mr. Goodchild said he was not a relative of the deceased, but had known him for some years. His name was George Scott, and he was fifty-two or fifty-three years of age.

The Coroner: It is reported to me that his name was Mitchell?—The other is his professional name.

Has he ever taken steps to change his name?—No, not that I am aware of. The witness added that the deceased was formerly engaged in the wholesale drapery trade. That was some years ago. The witness last saw him alive in September. His last professional engagement terminated in the middle of the summer.

The Coroner: Was he at all depressed about it? Oh, no, quite the contrary.

Had he a wife alive?—I believe so.

They did not live together?—No. The witness, continuing, said that so far as he knew the deceased was of sober habits, and he never knew him to have had any financial embarrassment.

Leonard Fisher, valet at the Tavistock Hotel, said he had attended upon the deceased and had noticed no change in him recently. At eight o'clock on Friday morning last the witness took the registered letter produced to his bdroom.

The Coroner: It contains a reference to a bankruptcy notice. It is from a firm of process-servers, giving him an appointment for ten o'clock to-day to serve a bankruptcy notice upon him.

The witness, continuing, said that after taking the deceased his breakfast at ten o'clock he saw nothing of him. He was then at the end of the corridor when he heard several shots fired. There were four shots altogether.

What did you do?—I went to try to find out where they came from. I entered the deceased's room—the door of which was not locked—and saw him lying in bed, with the electric light full on his face. There was a double-barrelled gun between his legs. His left hand was on the barrel, and in his right hand was a cane, one end of which was on the trigger. He was in his night clothes.

Was it his gun?—Yes, he had had it some time.

Did you notice any damage in the room?—Yes, the mirror on the dressing-table was smashed, and two books on the floor were damaged. A picture beside the door was smashed also.

Mr. Charles Collier Sheridan, manager of the Tavistock Hotel, said he had known the deceased for the last six years. During the last few months he had been very nervous, and had complained of sleeplessness. The witness knew nothing of his financial affairs.

Was he able to pay his way at the hotel?—No.

That was different from formerly?—Yes.

The Coroner remarked that a pawnticket relating to an Albert chain pledged for £8 on Jan. 16, and a judgment summons for £16, returnable on the 23rd of this month, had been found.

The witness said he knew nothing about these.

The Coroner: Do you know anything about an action in the High Court?—Yes; he told me he won it in the lower court, and was surprised to find the verdict went against him in the higher court. He said the case was being taken up by other people interested, and that it would not cost him anything.

Police-inspector Monk said that he found an empty cartridge on each side of the bed, and one in the right barrel of the gun. There was nothing to suggest that the injuries could have been done other than by the deceased's own hand. He must have shot at the picture and looking-glass to test the gun. The witness thought that only three shots were fired altogether. The damaged books must have fallen off the bed. The box of cartridges was very dusty, and appearerd as if it had been kept in one place for a long time.

Dr. Michael Joseph Ryan, of Drury-lane, said that the whole of the upper part of the deceased's face, his left eye, the skull bone, and the scalp was shattered. The injuries, in his opinion were self-inflicted.

At this stage a young lady, who had only just arrived at the court, was called as a witness. She gave her name as Lily Scott and said she was the wife of the deceased's only son. The deceased's full name was George Richard Mitchell, and his age was fifty-six. He never changed his name to Scott by deed-poll, but took it when he became connected with the stage. She had not seen him for some time, and expressed the opinion that he would not have taken his own life unless he had been worried very much, because he was a very cheerful man.

The Coroner said it was evident that the deceased had been much worried over financial matters, and there appeared to be no doubt that this resulted in him taking his own life.

The jury returned a

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

Attack upon Showmen in County Durham.

Messrs. Monte Brothers forwarded the following paragraph from the *Durham Advertiser* of Jan. 21 to the Executive Council of the Showmen's Guild :—

"Protest Against Travelling Caravans.—At the Hexham Rural District Council meeting on Tuesday, Mr. J. Scott presiding, a lengthy petition was submitted from the inhabitants of Corbridge, praying that travelling caravans and their accompanying shows might be prevented from taking up a position in the Market Place at Corbridge. The petitioners objected to the obstruction as caused in closing the way to vehicular traffic in many parts of the Market Place, to the continuous and unvaried noise, and to the insanitary conditions introduced by the caravans, which resulted in the outbreak of infectious disease after the caravans had been in occupation.—It was reported that the Parish Council were in communication with the Duke of Northumberland's agents on this matter.—The Council decided to await the result of this correspondence before taking any action."

The Rev. T. Horne, the Guild Chaplain, was requested to answer the aspersions upon show life, and has sent to the Hexham Rural District Council the following letter, forwarding at the same time a copy of the protest to the editor of the *Durham Advertiser*, with a request that he would be good enough to give the answer of the showmen as wide a notice as the *Durham Advertiser* had given to the aspersions upon show life :—

"To the Members of the Hexham Rural District Council.

"Gentlemen,—The attention of this society has been called to a petition sent to your Council by certain inhabitants of Corbridge, asking you to take steps to prevent show caravans taking up positions in the Market Place at Corbridge.

"Judging from the brief report of the wording of that petition given in the *Durham Advertiser* under date Jan. 21, most serious and damaging charges were made against the sanitary and health fitness of show caravans. The committee of the Showmen's Guild object most strongly to sweeping charges of an extremely damaging and libellous nature brought against the movable dwellings of showpeople.

"It must be well known to you as a public authority that the health and sanitary laws of the realm apply with equal rigour to movable dwellings as to fixed and permanent ones.

"Travelling showpeople (with just indignation) deny the truth of the charges made without any specific evidence against the health conditions of their domestic life.

"On the contrary, showpeople are a clean-living class, a long-lived and healthy class, spending the greater portion of their time of necessity in the open air.

"It is an insult of the most gross and gratuitous character to imply that showpeople are not as eager as other people to avoid conditions of life that would be a menace to their neighbours.

"Your Medical Officer of Health and your Sanitary Officer have exactly the same powers and the same duties to perform in the interests of public health as they have with any other class of people or individual in the community.

"To stigmatise showpeople as being in this sense outlaws is to do them a grievous injury. With regard to the other objections in the petition, alleged 'obstruction of traffic' and 'continuous and unvaried noise,' it is quite sufficient to answer that the King's law is just as applicable to a travelling showman as to a resident shopkeeper or inhabitant.

"Any attempt to promote class legislation will be opposed by this trade organisation, and we have to point out that it is impossible for Corporations to obtain from Parliament legislation affecting show life that is avowedly in excess of the ordinary law.

"Although showmen follow an extraordinary business, they are in all other respects ordinary citizens of the commonwealth, industrious workers in an honourable craft, and loyal subjects of our King.

"The Showmen's Guild is a trade organisation, it also works for the uplifting and the betterment of the popular open-air amusements of the people.

"It is concerned with an honourable and ancient calling in life. Fairs, feasts, and wakes have grown with the growth of the nation.

"It is an industry that employs directly seventy thousand people, and in addition to that it provides work for many other trades and industries.

"It will be readily seen that any undue interference with the business on the part of local authorities would be a serious matter and of far more than local importance.

"With the approval of the Bishops of the Church and the active assistance of the clergy, I have carried on a religious and educational work for the past twenty years amongst showpeople.

"I claim to know them and their life from the inside, and it is because I know them to be industrious and God-fearing citizens that I venture to champion their cause whenever they are unjustly attacked.

"Trusting that this matter in the light of this communication will be put in its proper perspective, and that exaggerated local prejudice may not prevail against the greater claims of tolerance and charity.—I am, gentlemen, yours ever, for God and for good, "T. Horne."

The Earl of Onslow and Nomad Life.

We quote from the *Daily Telegraph* of a recent date the following paragraph :—

"'GIPSY' NUISANCE.

"Earl of Onslow's Offer.

"The Earl of Onslow has written a letter to the *Surrey Advertiser* relative to the nomad vandwellers, whose conduct has been a matter of considerable complaint in Surrey. Lord Onslow points out that the lord of the manor is the only person who has a right to warn these people—'who retain none of the picturesqueness or interest of the old Romany'—off the roadsides and common land on which they camp, and as he has little or no enclosed property adjoining the wastes of which he is lord of the manor it is not worth his while to pay anyone to 'move them on.' He has delegated his powers to the Guildford Rural District Council, but the officials are fully occupied with other duties.

"'It would seem,' his lordship continues, 'that the proper officers to discharge these duties in the interests of the security of property and of good order are the police, but we know that in Surrey their hands are exceptionally full, and I am informed that they have declined to undertake any duties which the law has not expressly put upon them, nor to act unless accompanied by the representative of the lord of the manor.

"My object in addressing you is to say that I am quite willing to invest with the necessary authority some person or persons resident near each of my commons who has a material stake in the neighbourhood, and who, suffering from the nuisance, is willing to undertake the duty.

"Parliament last session recognised in the Children's Act the necessity of taking drastic measures to see that the children of these nomads are no longer brought up, as heretofore, without any education, while to the adjoining county of Middlesex have been given special and extraordinary powers to deal with them. I have ascertained that other lords of manors in the county, including the Lord Lieutenant, the Earl of Lovelace, Lord Farrer, J. Evelyn, Esq., and H. C. Lee Steere, Esq., are willing to adopt a similar course If any interested in this matter is willing to assist, perhaps he would kindly communicate with Viscount Cranley, Clandon Park, Guildford."

The Showmen's Guild on the Question.

The Rev. T. Horne, apprehending that there would be the usual confusion of thought with regard to gipsy life and showmen vandwellers, has written the following letter to the London Press :—

"The Committee of the Showmen's Guild have considered the letter written to the *Surrey Advertiser* by Lord Onslow with regard to the alleged nuisance of gipsy encampments.

"During the past twenty years the organised showmen have been engaged in an extremely important work, a work that evidently is not yet finished, to enlighten the governing classes, and, indeed, in a large measure, the general public, on the question of van-dwellers who are legitimate entertainers and traders, and van-dwellers and tent-dwellers who are Romany or gipsy.

"The Bill promoted by Lord Clifford of Chudleigh, and now awaiting Committee in the House of Lords, is a striking example of the lack of accurate knowledge on the part of legislators dealing with show and van life.

"On behalf of the organised showmen of Great Britain I state again for the 10,000th time that a *showman is not a gipsy*—that there is not even a strain of gipsy life in showland.

"With regard to nomad children, the Executive Council of the Showmen's Guild, when the Children's Bill was before Parliament, made it clear to the Government that showmen as a class heartily approved of the educational clauses of that Bill as it affected child life.

"To return to Lord Onslow's communication to the *Surrey Advertiser*, I venture to remind his lordship that there is an exhaustive report (a departmental report) of the Home Office dealing with gipsy life. I think that Lord Onslow and others who wish for more drastic legislation to penalise gipsies would do well to study that report.

"Whilst I am not at all concerned with the problem of gipsy life (running counter, as it does, to all our later developments of local government) I think it is well for legislators to get to the bottom facts and to reject all romancist or fanciful tales of gipsy life, and to know the gipsy *as he is*.

"It is a remarkable commentary on the promoters of such legislation as the Movable Dwellings Bill that the promoters definitely refused to embody an exemption clause removing the stigma and disgrace of the legislation from the legitimate traders and show people, who do not squat down on either the waste lands or the commons of the country, but regularly travel from place to place (from fair to fair) in pursuit of an ancient and honourable craft that has grown with the growth of the nation.

"As the spokesman for the showmen I am ready to prove that they are itinerant traders and amusement caterers, and not squatters on common lands. I am also ready to prove that the children of show people are educated, and that, in almost every case, until they have passed the required standard, they do not travel with the show, but remain at the permanent home of their parents. I am also prepared to prove that the domestic and the moral life and character of the showmen are as good as that of any other class in the community.

"It is not true that the showman is an *outlaw*. It is *true* that the Public Health Acts and Notification of Infectious Disease Act, the sanitary laws of the land, apply with equal vigour and rigour to the movable home of the showman as to the fixed home of the town dweller.—Yours for God and for good, "Thomas Horne.

"Showmen's Guild,
5, Tavistock-street, W.C."

Why Not Deal Fairly with Showmen?

We again approach the promoters of the Movable Dwellings Bill and ask them to consider the just claims of travelling showmen. It is no fanciful objection, but a real dread, that animates the showman when he opposes class legislation having reference to van life. Upon a recent occasion we stood upon the roadway watching the erection of the various shows, roundabouts, and other concerns at Barnet Fair. Our neighbour also engrossed in observing the showmen at work was a sergeant of the county police. Without any leading on our part, the sergeant of police opened up a conversation, with this remarkable and staggering statement: "What a lot of gipsies, to be sure!" We replied, "Do you know, officer, that if you searched from end to end of the whole line of shows, roundabouts, and stalls that you would not find a single gipsy?"

We speak that we do know from inside knowledge of show life, and we must express our astonishment that an officer of police holding the rank that you do should not know the difference between gipsy vans and show vans, gipsy tents and show booths.

What would be the result if the Movable Dwellings Bill became law?

We did not choose the particular officer, and we take it that he was just the average sergeant of police.

Lord Clifford of Chudleigh proposes that its entire administration should be handed over to the police. It may well be imagined that the police vested with these extraordinary powers would confuse vans of all kinds, and in order to be on the safe side would feel it their duty to be as officious and inquisitorial with the showman van-dweller as with the undoubted gipsy.

The Triumph of Peace at Penzance.

In the great haste of getting the extremely important news of the peaceful settlement at Penzance to our readers in our last issue, we were not able to deal with the matter as fully as its importance deserved. Far and away the most important points are those that do not appear on the surface of the official report. There is just a brief allusion to the exceedingly valuable concessions which the Corporation have very readily (on the suggestion of the Guild) given to the showmen.

It has been the custom not to allow the showpeople to draw on the ground until late in the evening of the day before the fair.

Instead of being permitted to draw upon their appointed places on arrival in the town they have had to find lodgment for several hours in yards or in side streets until such time as it pleased the Corporation to allow them to draw on to the fairground. Besides the annoyance and humiliation of this there was the importance of the loss of business on the opening day of the fair.

First-class shows and roundabouts of to-day cannot be built up in a few hours, and the result has been (as far as the big concerns are concerned) only a few hours' business was possible on the opening night.

Under the new agreement all the concerns will be permitted to draw on the ground and to build up (undertaking, of course, not to open until the legal fair day) on the eve of Corpus Christi. The concerns, big and little, will be now able to build in comfort on the Tuesday and open on the Wednesday in the early afternoon, and thus practically the business facilities will be extended and all irritating elements of friction eliminated.

The Second Important Concession.

Hardly less valuable than the first is the new rule with regard to pulling down and drawing off the fairground. There appears to have been strong objections to the shows leaving the town on Sunday in the middle of the day. We understand that the rule was to lock the gates of the fairground at ten o'clock, so that no concern could leave the ground after that time.

This was an exceedingly irksome restriction, and involved all night labour to the employées of the larger concerns. It meant that everybody about the show or roundabout, at the end of an exhausting Saturday's hard work, without any time to snatch an hour's rest, had to set to work and pull down and pack up to get clear of the gates before locking-up time on the Sunday morning. The next fair on the circuit commences on Tuesday, and it happens to be Falmouth, some twenty-five miles away, and the journey is over a hard and toilsome road for both animals and men.

It will be seen how hard and irksome were the restrictions as to leaving the ground. The agreement arrived at was—that the showmen undertook not to give offence by parading their caravans through the streets of Penzance when the good people were going to either church or chapel, but to leave the town (those who could before church time and those who could not between morning and evening church time), so as to disturb the Sabbath as little as possible.

It was the discussion of these matters and the mutual desire on both sides to arrive at an amicable understanding that brought both the Corporation and the organised showmen into closer touch and understanding. Indeed, the importance of this understanding is so great that the money paid by way of damages is the best-spent money possible, because it has led to a concordat of enduring peace.

The local paper the *Cornishman* has the following interesting note on the question under the heading :—

PENZANCE POINTS.

"Hearty congratulations both to the showmen and our sagacious Town Council on settling their Corpus Christi Fair dispute happily and without recourse to law. This is a triumph of diplomacy and common sense, and will be hailed with satisfaction by the burgesses and the juveniles, to whom the annual and ancient three days' fair means so much. It will be remembered that the point in dispute was whether the showmen or any private individual had the legal right to hold a fair in opposition to, or as a substitute for, the fair or fairs granted to the Corporation of Penzance under their charter. Last year, owing to the unwillingness or inability of the showmen to pay the revised rates demanded for the use of the Recreation Ground, the showmen went on strike, and took a field at Heamoor, where they held what was nominally a fête or carnival, but which was actually as much of the time-honoured fair as they could transplant to the field owned by Col. Bolitho, and of which Mr. White is the tenant. The Corporation felt that they must have their charter rights not only defined, but defended, and that failing the payment of compensation for the infringement of such rights, they must carry the case into Court. Happily, they acted in the spirit of Mr. Stead's motto, 'Arbitrate before you go to war'; only instead of arbitrating they held a powwow in their wigwam and came to an amicable arrangement with regard to their past trouble and future programme. So all's well that ends well.

"The showmen acted wisely in sending as their deputation the Rev. T. Horne, chaplain of the Showmen's Guild, Miss Hancock, Mr. Geoffrey Norton, the showpeople's friend, and Messrs. Rowland and Brewer, two of the leading showmen. Not the least efficient of the deputation was Miss Hancock, but whether she 'fixed them with her glittering eye,' or persuaded them with her eloquent tongue, I cannot say, for the conference was strictly private, if not confidential. There can be no harm in announcing the terms in due course, but, after all, these do not matter so much as the cessation of the quarrel and the restoration of the most popular showmen's fair in Cornwall."

Many points of deep interest to showmen in general have some out in the course of the negotiations for peace at Penzance. Amongst these is the better treatment by Corporations of showmen when asking for information as to the extent of the powers claimed by the local authority. We hold strongly (and we press the point home to other Corporations) that the powers they possess should be plainly shown (at least on request) by the proper officials. When in the earlier stages of the dispute the Guild officials asked to see the Charter—a most simple and obvious request—they were met by merely technical and vexatious difficulties. They were told to apply by formal letter to the Corporation through the Town Clerk, and that in due course their request would receive consideration. The matter is now at an end, and there is no mystery about the Charter, for its material clauses are set out in the statement of claim—and we printed them in full last week. Our query is: Why should Corporations possessing such powers hide away the sources of their strength from the very people whom it most concerns.

The Showmen Sinned in Ignorance.

We are quite sure that had the West of England showmen known the strength and power of the Penzance Charter they would not have taken the precipitate action they did. We are also sure that Mr. White would not have risked the letting of his field at Heamoor had he known the extent of the Charter powers.

We are supposing the case in the light of fuller knowledge (knowledge that every burgess has a right to obtain freely). Would any of the defendants have acted in the way they did had they been in possession of the jealously-guarded secrets of the Charter? Certainly one could ultimately get at them; but the showman is a man of rapid travel, and he cannot wait for formalities to be got through, and certainly property owners ought to have immediate and full knowledge of their possible risks.

The Claim of the Corporation.

It is, as we have already admitted, a big monopoly that the Corporation "by prescription and by divers Letters Patent and in particular by the Letters Patent hereinafter in this paragraph mentioned entitled to and possessed of a Fair or Mart holden in the Borough of Penzance on the Eve of the Day of Corpus Christi and the two days following—By Letters Patent dated the 9th day of May in the twelfth year of the reign of His Majesty James I. being the Letters Patent hereinbefore particularly referred to his said Majesty granted to the Mayor Aldermen and Commonalty of the Vill of Penzance and to their successors (*inter alia*) that they and their successors hereafter for ever have hold and keep and shall be able to have hold and keep within the aforesaid Vill of Penzance and within the liberties and precincts of the same yearly and every year for ever seven Fairs or Marts therein particularly mentioned the first of the same Fairs or Marts to be holden continue and last on the Eve and Feast or Day commonly called the Body of Christ's Day together with Courts of *Pie Powdre* there to be holden at the time of the said Fairs or Marts from time to time for ever with all liberties and free customs tolls stallages piccages fines amerciaments and all other profits commodities advantages and emoluments whatsoever to such Fairs or Marts and Courts of *Pie Powdre* appertaining arising happening accruing or in any manner belonging and further his said Majesty did grant and confirm to the aforesaid Mayor and Commonalty of the Vill of Penzance aforesaid and their successors all and all manner of liberties franchises immunities privileges profits easements pre-eminences commodities advantages customs rights jurisdictions emoluments and exemption whatsoever which the inhabitants of the vill aforesaid then had held used and enjoyed or ought to have had held used or enjoyed by reason or pretext of any gift grant or confirmation theretofore had made or granted by his said Majesty or by either of his progenitors or ancestors late Kings or Queens of England or by reason or pretext of any prescription use title right or custom theretofore had used or enjoyed or holden."

"Within the liberties and precincts of the same"—

We interpret this to mean the seven miles radius so much talked about during the dispute. How, it may be asked, is the seven miles' limit read into the wording of the Charter? The great authority is Blackstone, and he says :—

"Fairs and Markets, with the tolls belonging to them, can only be set up by virtue of the Royal grant, or by long and immemorial usage and prescription, which presupposes such a grant. The limitation of such public resorts to such times and such places as may be most convenient for the neighbourhood forms a part of economics or domestic policy which, considering the kingdom as a large family and the Sovereign as the master of it, he clearly has a right to dispose and order as he pleases."

"Again, a man may have a right to hold a Fair or Market either by Royal grant or prescription from which a Royal grant may be presumed to have been at some time conferred."

"The right to take toll is usually (though not necessarily) a part of the privilege; and the tolls of a Fair or Market are due either in respect of goods sold there (that is from the seller, not the buyer), or for stallage, or pickage, or the like, in respect of stalls or polls fixed in the soil."

"If I am entitled to hold a fair or market, and another person sets up a fair or market so near mine that he does me a prejudice, it is a nuisance to the freehold which I have in my market or fair. But in order to make this out to be a nuisance it is necessary (1) that my market or fair be the elder, otherwise the nuisance lies at my own door; (2) that the market be erected within the third part of twenty miles from mine. Sir M. Hale confirms the *dieta* or reasonable day's journey mentioned by Bracton to be twenty miles; as, indeed, it is usually understood, not only in our own law, but also in the civil law, from which we probably borrowed it. So that if the new Fair or Market be not within seven miles of the old one it is no nuisance, for it held reasonable that every man should have a market within one-third of a day's journey from his own home: that the day, being divided into three parts, he may spend one part in going, another in returning, and the third in transacting his necessary business there. If such Market or Fair be on the same day as mine, it is *prima facie* a nuisance to mine, and there needs no proof of it, but the law will intend it to be so; but if any other day it may be a nuisance, but of this there must be proof."

OLDHAM CORPORATION AND THE GUILD.

The following correspondence has taken place between the Guild Chaplain (the Rev. T. Horne), acting as official organiser for the Showmen's Trade Protection Society, and the Town Clerk of Oldham (Mr. J. H. Hallsworth). The first letter was a request that the Corporation should receive a deputation.

"The Guild Offices,
"5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

"Gentlemen,—The Committee of the Guild have had before them and have fully considered the additional powers clauses in your new Bill. They respectfully point out :

"(1) That in recent years the Private Bills Committee have invariably thrown out such clauses on our petition.

"That in the Halifax Corporation Bill similar powers to those you are seeking were thrown out; also that in the Rotherham Corporation Bill the Corporation upon a representation from us withdrew like clauses.

"We do not desire to enter upon opposition to your Bill by petition and counsel until we have exhausted all possible means of conciliation.

"(2) We ask you to receive a small deputation, consisting of our president, Mr. P. Collins (a tenant of your Fair on Tommyfield), Mr. T. Hurst, hon. secretary (also a tenant of your fairground), and myself, the official organiser and chaplain of the Guild.

"Fix a date, say, Feb. 9 or 10, or suggest another date more suitable to you, and we will meet you and explain our position.

"(3) I have to forward you the following resolutions passed at our annual gatherings in Manchester and in London :—

"Resolution I. : 'That this meeting of showmen protests against the proposed monopoly of Fairs clauses in the Private Bill of the Oldham Corporation, and it pledges itself to take all possible means to defeat the reactionary proposals of the Corporation, manifestly aimed at the principle of free trade in fairs.'—Passed at the Memorial Hall, Albert-square, Manchester, Jan. 13, 1909.

"Resolution II. : 'That this annual meeting of delegates of the Showmen's Guild, drawn from all parts of the United Kingdom, protests against the Oldham Corporation Bill asking for a monopoly of fairs in the borough boundary.'—Passed at the World's Fair, Islington, Jan. 20, 1909.

"Awaiting a reply, yours faithfully,
"T. Horne.

"To the Mayor and Corporation of Oldham."

"OLDHAM CORPORATION BILL. MARKETS AND FAIRS.

"Jan. 27, 1909.

"Dear Sir,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 23rd instant (but only received here yesterday) upon the above subject.

"I am seeing the Chairman of our Markets Committee thereon, and will write you further in due course.—Yours faithfully,
"J. H. Hallsworth, Town Clerk.

"Rev. T. Horne, Organiser to the Showmen's Guild, care of *The Era*, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London, W.C."

The Guild Mediation Accepted.

"OLDHAM CORPORATION BILL. MARKETS AND FAIRS.

"Town Hall, Oldham, Jan. 30, 1909.

"Dear Sir,—Adverting to your letter of the 23rd inst., I have now consulted the Chairman of our Markets Committee, and wired you this morning that the Committee would receive a deputation from the Showmen's Guild on Thursday next, the 4th prox. at 4 p.m.

"I shall be glad to hear from you as early as possible whether your deputation can make it convenient to attend at the time fixed.—Yours faithfully,

"J. H. Hallsworth, Town Clerk.

"Rev. T. Horne, Organiser to the Showmen's Guild, care of *The Era*, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London, W.C."

The Guild Chaplain replied, thanking the Town Clerk for his good offices in the matter, and intimating that the deputation as indicated in his first letter—P. Collins, President; T. Hurst, Secretary; and himself, as the Organiser—would wait upon the Markets and Fairs Committee at the place and time indicated.

Free Trade in Fairs Threatened.

When in the bad old times of the last two centuries several of the great towns of England gave up their old Charter Fairs, one of the things they lost was the Monopoly Rights secured under the Royal Grant or Charter. The case at Penzance is an example in point. Penzance never having broken their charter or abolished their fair still hold a valuable monopoly—the right to prevent a fair or mart on private land within seven miles of the centre of Penzance.

The Value of Ancient Charters.

Exactly what the Corporation of Oldham wants to obtain by a special Act of Parliament Penzance enjoys by Royal Grant. Parliament has for years past steadily refused to grant monopoly rights that are obviously in restraint of trade and that patently invade the rights of private property. There is another reason that does not appear on the surface of things. Such trade monopoly by charter or Royal grant is a prerogative of the Crown, and Parliament is extremely cautious in dealing with matters that can only be dealt with properly by the Sovereign acting in accordance with the advice of his Ministers for the time being.

Halifax Failed to Obtain a Monopoly of Fair Rights.

Section 72, part XI., 2 Edward VII., Sess. 1902, sought to obtain a monopoly of fair rights within the largely extended boundaries of the Borough of Halifax in these words :—

"If any person shall, without the licence in writing of the Corporation, on any land belonging or reputed to belong to or occupied by him in any part of the Borough hold or permit to be held any fair he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty pounds, and to a daily penalty not exceeding five pounds."

The Clause Struck Out.

In the amended Bill as passed by Parliament this and other restrictive clauses affecting the show business were, on the petition and opposition of the Showmen's Guild, thrown out, and the Halifax Corporation Act, 2 Edward VII., Session 1902, as it now stands on the Statute Book, is without such powers.

Rotherham Corporation Sought the Same Monopoly Powers.

Section 164 of the Rotherham Corporation Bill, 4 Edward VII., Session 1904, asked for powers "to *prescribe the places* within the borough and the hours within which during any fair or at any other time any show booth, caravan, circus, or exhibition may be held and kept open, and for preserving order therein." It was extremely gratifying to the Guild executive officers to find, as they did, that upon a proper representation the Rotherham Corporation dropped this section out of their Bill

The amenability of the Corporation to listen to the showmen was due in a large measure to the fact that Rotherham, like Hull, Gloucester, King's Lynn, and a score of other towns, has recognised that public opinion is behind the claim of the showman for fair play and justice.

What Oldham is Asking For.

Section 109 of the Oldham Bill seeks to obtain a full monopoly within the borough of both market and fair rights. The wording of the section is explicit and to the purpose :

"If any person shall without the licence of the Corporation on any land belonging to or reputed to belong to or occupied by him in any part of the borough hold or permit to be held any market or fair he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding fifty pounds and to a daily penalty not exceeding ten pounds."

Monopoly With a Vengeance.

The all-devouring maw of local authorities never received a more apt illustration. The twenty pounds penalty of the Halifax demand is increased to fifty pounds and the daily penalty from five pounds to ten pounds.

The Work of the Guild Deputation.

To endeavour to show the Markets and Fairs Committee of the Oldham Corporation (1) the reactionary and restrictive nature of their demands; (2) Failing to obtain the dropping of the section from the Bill (at least, so far as affects fairs, with a definition clause safeguarding existing suburban wakes held within the extended borough boundaries) to make it quite clear that the organised showmen will use all constitutional means to defeat the measure, by petition and by counsel and witnesses against it.

Our Hope and Expectation.

Considering the past decisions of the Private Bills Committees, we confidently expect that wise counsels will prevail, and that the triumph of peace at Penzance last week will be followed by an equally satisfactory termination of the showmen's dispute with the Corporation of Oldham.

Carmarthen.

At Cowell's Phœnix Theatre, at the Carmarthen Pleasure Fairground this week, an attractive programme has been presented. On Monday evening *Sherlock Holmes* was played; Tuesday, *The Maniac's Knife*; Wednesday, *The Face*; Thursday, *Engaged*; and Friday evening, *Under the British Flag*. For Saturday afternoon a special pantomime performance for children was announced, and for Saturday evening *The Slave Hunt*. Large audiences have patronised the theatre each evening.

The Bolton Press on the Guild Chaplain's Book.

"We have before us a copy of 'Humorous and Tragic Stories of Showman Life,' the author of which is the Rev. Thomas Horne, chaplain to the Showmen's Guild, a well-organised association formed in the general interests of that most extensive body of itinerating public entertainers who have been largely represented at the Bolton Fairs one might almost say from time immemorial. That there is a good deal of mystery and romance among these nomadic people who come periodically to bring a transient enlivenment into the cities and towns of the country is undoubtedly true, and this has been Mr. Horne's opportunity to compile within the compass of a sixpenny publication a series of storyettes based on occurrences both humorous, pathetic, and tragic in the lives of these people. It is as it were a glimpse behind the scenes in Showland wherein one obtains pictures of life, little character studies, and reminiscences of the famous shows of bygone days, such as Wombwell's, Pablo Fanque's, Mander's, Williams', &c., which Mr. Horne has picked up in his intimate and useful association with the showpeople as their chaplain, and, indeed, one might say their 'guide, philosopher, and friend,' for he has had an eye to their welfare in many respects. In this book he has exercised the gentle art of the storyteller to very interesting effect in thirty sketches of life and adventure. The book is issued from *The Era* Publishing Offices, London."

Showman and President.

A showman named Atlas, of Bridgeport, Connecticut, the winter quarters of Buffalo Bill, Pawnee Bill, and Barnum and Bailey, has written to President Roosevelt offering him an engagement for thirty weeks at £2,000 weekly, to head a Wild West show to be named "Atlas's Amazing Aggregation of Roosevelt Roughriders." There is no limit to the resourcefulness, enterprise, and ambition of American showmen, and I do not share the view that Atlas has written merely for the sake of an advertisement. Atlas recollects that Mr. Roosevelt has signed an agreement to act as associate editor of an American magazine, and he thoughtfully adds in his letter to the President: "I will gladly fit up several special cars so that you can pursue your literary activities en route." Once Atlas had the privilege of wrestling with President Roosevelt, when the latter was Police Commissioner in New York, and he believes that the President may consider his offer.

Salisbury.

The Old Gaol Ground.—Haines's grand variety of amusements and galloping-horses, which have been open nightly from the beginning of December, still provide plenty of amusement. A special feature is the illumination of electric light every evening. This ground which, for so many years, has been closed to showmen, is now a central and spacious walled-in space.

FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Pathé Frères.

A WONDERFUL OUTPUT.—More than the diameter of the earth is the length of film which represents the yearly output of Pathé Frères. Eighty miles per diem has been their actual output, representing in 313 working days 25,040 miles. This is not enough to meet their customers' demands, so the daily output is to be 100 miles, or 31,300 miles per annum, enough film to reach through the earth to the Antipodes.

PORTRAIT OF THE KING AND QUEEN.—Messrs. Pathé Frères have just issued a really beautiful photograph of King Edward and Queen Alexandra in film length which should be in great request at music hall and showmen's entertainments. The price of it is 15s.

THE WITCH'S DONKEY.—A faithful little donkey has been stolen by highwaymen, and its mistress, an old witch, has been bound to a tree with ropes. In spite of the donkey's reluctance to follow them, which it shows in the kicks it deals to right and left, the highwaymen drag it to their den and tie it to an iron ring in the wall. The witch appears in a flame, and in order to mystify the robbers she drops a note containing these lines, "In one of the hind hoofs of the donkey is the key to a large treasure." The men by turn try to possess themselves of the key, but the brave little donkey kicks furiously and shows its teeth. It is impossible for any one of them to come near it. Suddenly the pads find themselves locked in an iron cage. One of their accomplices who has just come to their rescue is bound up with ropes, whilst the donkey avails itself of the ensuing confusion to snap its chain and return to its mistress, who welcomes it warmly.

MISS TROTT THE MILLINER.—Young and charming Miss Trott, a milliner, is on her way to a customer, to whom she has a hat to deliver. In the street she is surrounded by a crowd of mashers, but Miss Trott, like a sprightly fairy, disappears into her huge hat-box, to the astonishment of her admirers. The box rolls along, and changes into a quantity of smaller ones. The men chase them as fast as they can, and at last they succeed in securing the large one, which has swallowed up the others. They open it and find—a hat inside. They throw it down with rage, and in its place Miss Trott appears, laughing at them while she runs away.

THE MISER.—This is an exceedingly interesting dramatic series. At St. Jean-Pied-de-Port, while taking a walk in the mountains or along the river Nive, in the south of France, two young peasants pledge their faith and become engaged to each other. Their designs are thwarted by the boy's father, who, being a miser, refuses him the necessary money for buying himself a farm. There follow scenes of thrilling realism, where the avaricious father defends his gold with a wild energy, and eventually hides it in a hole dug at the bottom of the calvary. His wife, having surprised his secret, and unable to stand her son's grief, steals the gold. The miser, finding out the theft, is so angry that he tries to strangle his wife. Their son, attracted by the noise, hastens to the spot, and restores the gold to the old man, who clutches it with frenzy. Suddenly his eyes become fixed, and he dies in a fit of madness.

OLIVER CROMWELL.—Here we get a story based on events connected with the Civil War. There is a gathering at Whitehall. Alarming news has just been received that the Roundheads are gaining in strength every hour against the Cavaliers. It is urgent that the Royal Family should leave London. Queen Henrietta is preparing to sail for Holland, while Charles I. takes command of the Cavaliers. In Cromwell's camp the Parliamentarian leader's daughter entreats her father to abandon the struggle against their King, but he will not renounce his cause, and he orders his daughter to leave the camp. Elizabeth goes away. On her way she finds the body of a Cavalier killed during the battle. She hesitates at first, then she exchanges her dress for the dead man's garments, and going to the King she offers him her services. The King is pleased with the young Cavalier's appearance, and gives him a horse. The Cavaliers are vanquished at the Battle of Naseby. On the point of being overtaken by the Roundheads, about a dozen Cavaliers stop and offer up their lives in order that their King may escape. Danger is still very near in spite of the gallant soldiers' sacrifice. The unknown Cavalier entreats the King to let him exchange his own garment for that of the King, who refuses. At last, being pressed by all, he resigns his royal cloak and hat to the boy, who, having put them on, takes his horse by the bridle and waits for the enemy, while the King and his followers run away. Cromwell's partisans arrive, and the seeming King makes a show to try and flee; he is overtaken, however, and Cromwell recognises with amazement his own daughter Elizabeth in this guise. While he hesitates between his love for her and his duty one of the soldiers rushes towards the girl with his dagger in his lifted hand. Cromwell comes forward, and smashes the man's wrist, while another man searches the King's cloak, and finds in it papers which will be the cause of his downfall and death a few years later. After this the Scots, having offered Charles hospitality, the King goes to Newcastle, but eventually the Scots deliver the King up into the hands of his enemies. "I would rather," says the King, "be in the power of those who have bought me for a roundly sum than in the hands of those who have so cowardly sold me." The King is sentenced to death. After reading his judgment, a girl throws herself at his feet, weeping. The King recognises in her the gallant Cavalier of Naseby. He draws her to him, and kisses her with great emotion. On Jan. 30, 1649, the King is beheaded outside Whitehall.

DUST IN HIS EYES.—A young man is walking along, with his hands deep in his pockets, when a house-porter sends a cloud of dust into his eyes in beating his carpet. This prevents the young fellow from seeing things in front of him clearly, and he becomes the laughing-stock of everybody in the street. He collides with a bricklayer, and receives the contents of a hod on his back. Then he upsets a house decorator's ladder, pulls down some scaffolding, &c., until a scavenger gives him a free douche which takes all the dust from his eyes.

Gaumont Company.

A MEDITERRANEAN TRAGEDY.—A little boy on his way to school finds an infant abandoned on the steps of a house. He takes the child home to his mother and she decides to adopt it. Twenty years pass, and the young man has fallen in love with the girl, and the two set off travelling with a tambourine and accordion to earn a living. They fall in with a band of gipsies, and after performing before them one of the girls makes violent love to the young traveller. He explains he is already engaged to his young companion, at which the gipsy becomes jealous and makes up her mind to remove her rival. She tells one of the men to take two packets of cigarettes out of her own bundle and place them inside the girl's. This having been done the travellers depart. At the frontier they are questioned by the police as to whether they have anything to declare, and answer "No." On searching the valise the cigarettes are found, and the girl is locked up. The man goes home alone and explains things to his mother. While smoking outside his home the gipsy passes and recognises him. Again he refuses to listen to her, and she stabs him. He is assisted home and the gipsy throws the knife into the sea. The crime is brought home to her. When she sees the other girl being led between two policemen, and after explaining the plot, confessing the murder, she is led away, the girl being released.

SCENES IN NORTHERN ITALY.—In this picture we are introduced to some of the lovely views for which North Italy is famous. At the frontier we see the police examining everything which passes for contrabrand, the mail-coach included. The series concludes with a view of the Paris-Rome Express crossing one of the gorges.

RICH AND POOR.—A party of beggars are slowly toiling along the dusty road when a lady and a gentleman drive past. The request for a copper is unheeded, and a young man of the party turns and follows the carriage. Shortly afterwards the lady returns alone and, seeing the wretched party, takes pity on them. Making them enter the carriage, they proceed to her house, where good food and clothes are provided. Meanwhile the gentleman has been followed by the beggar, and on entering his garden is struck down from behind. The rest of the party hear the cry for help and rush down. After the struggle has been stopped the young man is ashamed to find that he has attempted to rob the husband of the woman who has taken compassion on his family.

Edison Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

"WHERE IS MY WANDERING BOY TO-NIGHT?"—This is a question often asked in the quiet evening hour by loving mothers the world over. "Happy he with such a mother! Faith in womankind beats with his blood, and trust in all things high comes easy to him; and though he trip and fall, he shall not bind his soul with clay." This is the kind of mother our young hero is blessed with and leaves behind when he goes to start on his business career in the great city far away. Wishing him every success, his boyhood's sweetheart turns to his mother for consolation. Arrived in the great city the loneliness is appalling, and although he sees new faces and makes new friends he has no mother to counsel or warn him. Inexperienced and light-hearted, he is overcome by temptation, but a mother's prayer saves him from a felon's cell. For the youth from the simple country fireside the city is like a huge machine, knowing neither pity nor remorse, and life is an unequal fight. We find our hero indulging in a supper with boon companions, and in the midst of the revelry a telegram for him arrives. One of his jealous lady friends snatches this away, he laughingly pursues her, but all gaiety ceases when he reads of the death of his mother. His companions are now dumb. Going back to his old home he finds friends tried and true, and he gets sympathy in his sweetheart's presence when the "Wanderer" returns.

DRAWING THE COLOUR-LINE.—Mr. Jack being in a happy condition, before going home journeys to his club to enjoy a nap. Being found by some gay members they decide, for a joke, to blacken his face. Awakening, he starts for home, making sundry calls on the way. He is surprised when requested to make himself "scarce," but more so when he is thrown out. A driver refuses to accept him as a fare, friends do not return his well-meant salutes, and when he attempts to speak to some lady friends their male escort sweeps the road with Mr. Jack. When he arrives home and his own child refuses to recognise or have any dealings with him he thinks his evil star pursues him still. He is no wiser when the cook, taking him for a kidnapper, sets about him with the broom. At sight of him his wife faints, and poor Jack looks in a fair way to land in a lunatic asylum when he espies himself in a mirror carried by a furniture remover. The mystery solved, he is able to remove all traces of the "colour-line," and peace and happiness reign upon his return to his own fireside.

CINEMATOGRAPH IN THE LIGHT.—A new form of cinematograph (says the *Morning Leader*), invented by a Frenchman, which enables the performance to be given in a fully-lighted hall, should have the effect of revolutionising moving-picture entertainments. The first exhibition of this machine in England was given at the Electric Palace, Marble-arch, on Thursday. In spite of the fact that the hall was brilliant with light, the pictures were as bright and clear as could be desired. The machine works automatically, and the light is thrown from behind the screen instead of from the front, as is the case with the ordinary cinematograph.

MESSRS. FULLER, of the New Zealand theatres, write:—"We buy our films from England from the descriptions which appear each week in the 'Film Gossip.'"

ATTACHMENT AND JUDGMENT.

The case of the London Music Hall v. Kitts and Windrum, London Coliseum garnishee, which was before Deputy Judge Bevan in the Westminster County Court on Monday, was a dispute in reference to the right to salary earned by defendants at the London Coliseum, the London Music Hall having obtained judgment against Kitts and Windrum for £10 damages for breach of agreement in October last. That was not satisfied, and they sought to garnishee their salary at the London Coliseum.

The evidence of a witness from the Coliseum was taken to the effect that Kitts and Windrum performed at the Coliseum for one week, starting Nov. 30 last. The money would be due after the twelfth performance.

Mr. Victor Vowler, clerk to Mr. Henry Wills, solicitor to the judgment debtors, Kitts and Windrum, gave evidence that the notice was served as to the garnishee on the Thursday before the week's performance concluded, and satisfied the judge that the garnishees were not then before him. They had told him that they were going to appear and dispute the attachment.

The Judge remarked: "How can I make an order in the absence of the garnishees, as I am only concerned with the garnishees and the judgment creditors?" The witness pointed out to the judge that it was the garnishees' intention to appear and support the judgment debtors in their contention. In the result the judge decided to proceed.

Mr. Martin O'Connor, counsel for the judgment debtors, cited several cases in support of his contention that the evidence before the Court proved his case, that the judgment debtors were entitled to their salary, the notice having been served on the Thursday, which was a date at which the salary had not been earned. Salary could not be garnisheed before it was due.

Having heard Mr. Chisman, counsel for the judgment creditors, the deputy judge found in favour of the judgment debtors, with costs.

AT the recent Covent Garden ball Mr. W. Clarkson was successful in taking first prize for a costume called "She sells sea-shells."

WE HAVE GIVEN

AN EXAMPLE OF THE POINTS AN UP-TO-DATE

FILM HIRING CLUB

SHOULD CONSIST OF, AND HAVE ALSO SHOWN THAT

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COMBINE THOSE POINTS.

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THE GAUMONT COMPANY, LTD.,

The Cinematograph Specialists,

CHRONO HOUSE, 5 & 6, SHERWOOD STREET, and 18, DENMAN STREET, PICCADILLY CIRCUS, LONDON, W.

Telegrams—Chronophone, London. Telephone—2430 Gerrard.

Tel.: Bioscope, Glasgow. Glasgow Office—142, TRONGATE. 'Phone: 787 Tron.

AND AT

PARIS, BERLIN, BARCELONA, BRUSSELS, MILAN, MOSCOW, & NEW YORK.

THE L.C.C. AND AMUSEMENTS.

The usual weekly meeting of the London County Council was held yesterday at the County Hall, Spring Gardens.

CINEMATOGRAPH SHOWS.

The Education Committee brought up a report stating that they had considered a memorandum from the Theatres and Music Halls Committee respecting the use of schools for cinematograph displays in connection with an application for the hire of a school for this purpose. In view of the danger attending displays of this nature, the Education Committee were of opinion that a clause should be inserted in the regulations for the letting of schools to the effect that the schools of the Council were not available for cinematograph entertainments, and they recommended accordingly.

Mr. Walter Reynolds moved an amendment to refer the matter back to the Committee in order that they might consider whether cinematograph shows could be held in schools under proper regulations such as the Council required for premises which held the Council's music hall or theatre licences. He said he should be very sorry if the public were deprived of the educational advantages which could be derived from cinematograph exhibitions. He hoped to live long enough to see every school and college in the country in possession of a cinematograph. He did not think the Council properly realised the possibilities of the cinematograph; its teaching possibilities were boundless. Bible stories could be illustrated and also history, which could by this means be made as attractive and entertaining to children as a play, making an impression on their memories that would never be effaced. He therefore asked the chairman of the committee whether he could not modify the recommendation so as to allow cinematograph exhibitions to be given in schoolrooms provided the Council's regulations were carefully observed. The danger from fire could be met by the cinematograph house being placed outside the room in which the exhibition was given, or by the compulsory adoption of a film which for all practicable purposes was non-inflammable. This would make the risk from fire infinitesimal.

Dr. Forman seconded the amendment.

Mr. Cyril Jackson said that they wanted to adopt a working rule until it was found that cinematograph pictures could be shown free from danger from fire. Then there would be no difficulty in bringing up another recommendation with regard to cinematograph exhibitions in schools.

The amendment was lost, and the recommendation adopted.

THE boom in roller-skating is very active in Birmingham. There, in Monument-road, a large and fine building, yclept the American Roller Skating Rink, has been erected, and is thronged night and day with sightseers as well as participators in this healthy form of recreation. The promoters, Messrs. Crawford and Wilkins, have in Mr. H. E. Weaver a resident-manager who is very much alive to the possibilities of the "boom," and he has some attractive entries for the great International Mile Roller Race for the Championship of the World on Feb. 10, 11, and 12. The recent carnival here was a great success. A band is engaged always, and adds, of course, to the pleasure of the exercise.

KINEMATOGRAPH COPYRIGHT. The Law Affecting the Same. By William Jago, F.I.C., F.C.S., Barrister-at-Law. Price 6d. Address, the Publisher *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, London, W.C.

HUMOROUS AND TRAGIC STORIES OF SHOWMAN LIFE, told by the Rev. Thomas Horne, Chaplain to the Showmen's Guild. Now ready, price 6d., post free 7½d. Issued at *The Era* Publishing Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

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THE EDISON IDEA

in FILM MAKING is to produce Subjects that hold the attention by reason of their cleverness.

THEY ARE HIGH-CLASS & THEY PLEASE

They are never coarse or suggestive. Some thrill, others amuse. All are of the kind that appeal on the strength of high quality.

EXHIBITORS WHO SHOW THEM

draw big crowds, and are satisfied.

New Subjects made each week.

NOW READY FOR SHIPMENT FROM THE FACTORY, ORANGE, N.J., U.S.A.

WHERE IS MY WANDERING BOY TO-NIGHT?

A dramatic film subject concerning the perils and temptations of a boy leaving his home to commence a business career in a great city. And of his return home.

No. 6412. Code, "Venganzas." Length, 955ft.

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A practical joke played upon Mr. Jack by some "gay" members of his club causes some peculiar situations and exciting times. He is thrown out of places, cut by his friends, but, unkindest cut of all, by his wife, child, and servant. But it all ends happily.

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"Wire," "The Era, London."
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COMPANIES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE AND EDWARD COMPTON'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for
THEATRE ROYAL, BRIGHTON.
March 8, 15, 29, May 10, 17, 24, 31, on.
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.
April 5, May 17, 31, June 7, 14, Aug. 2, 9, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING.
April 5, 12, 19, May 17, 24, 31, Aug. 2, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER,
May 10 17, 24, 31, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
April 5, May 10, 17, Aug. 30, Sept. 13, 20, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON,
April 12, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Aug. 2, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD,
May 17, 24, 31, June 7, Aug. 2, 16, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON,
April 5, May 10, 17, 24, 31, Aug. 2, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER,
April 12, May 3, 17, 24, 31, June 7, 14, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
Feb. 18 (3 nights), March 1, 8, 29, April 12, on.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for
COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD.
March 8, 15, 22, 29, April 12, 19, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON,
April 5, 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.
First vacant date, March 15.
Address, E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

THREE PROGRESSIVE THEATRES.
WANTED, High-class Companies,
DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE,
March 8, April 5, 12, May 3, 10, 17.
Easter Vacant for Big Musical Attraction or London Star.
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS.
April 26, May 10, June 7, on.
PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE.
March 1, 22; April 26, June 7, on.
Apply for all above,
H. W. ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

THE GRANVILLE THEATRES, LIMITED.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
Vacant March 8, 22, 29, and onwards.

GRAND THEATRE, RAWTENSTALL.
WANTED, Powerful Attraction,
Feb. 15. Wire.
Also Vacant Feb. 22, March 1,
and onwards, with exceptions.

GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
Wanted, Powerful Musical Attraction, Feb. 22.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for the following Dates:—March 1, 22, 29, April 5, 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17, and 24. Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-street, S.W.

ROYAL PALACE THEATRE,
RAMSGATE.
Proprietor, LORD GEORGE SANGER.
Lessee, ERNEST MANSELL.
Business-Representative, BERT ATKINSON.
All communications re dates from
July 5 to Oct. 2,
must be addressed to
JAY and MANN, 10-11, Jermyn-st., Piccadilly, W.
All dates from Oct. 2, onwards.
Apply, BERT ATKINSON, Royal Palace, Ramsgate.
WANTED, Good Panto.,
Xmas Week.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, Sound Attraction, for
Feb. 22,
Musical Attraction preferred;
also Vacant, March 22, April 5,
and onwards with exceptions.
Address, THOS. SWINTON.

WANTED, First-class Companies,
THEATRE ROYAL, NORTH SHIELDS.
April 5, May 10, 24, June 7, 14, 21.
GRAND THEATRE, LANCASTER,
March 11 (3 nights), March 22, April 12,
May 17, 24, 31.
STANLEY ROGERS, Theatre Royal, North Shields.

WANTED, First-class No. 1 Companies, for Whit. July 26, Sept. 20, 27, Grand, Llandudno. HALDANE CRICHTON, Brixton Theatre, S.W.

HARROGATE GRAND OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, First-class Companies,
three nights.
Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
WANTED, First-class Attractions,
April 26,
May 17, 24, 31,
June and July.
Address, JAMES BELL.

WANTED, First-class Company (Drama),
for April 5.
Address,
J. F. ELLISTON, Theatre Royal, Bolton.

VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE, BURNLEY.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, for April 19.
Apply to W. C. HORNER, Opera House, Burnley; or WENTWORTH CROKE, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, First-class Attractions,
May 10, 17, 24.
Now Booking Autumn.
Address, T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER.
WANTED, Companies; holds £100; Vacant March 22, 29, and Easter onwards.
Bookings; Merry Widow," "Dairymaids," "Prince of Pilsen," "Prodigal Son," "The Christian," &c. J. P. MOORE, King's Hall, Birmingham.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. LANGDON LEE.
WANTED, Aug. 9, 16, Sept. 6, 20, and onwards.
High-class Musical Attractions.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, PEMBROKE DOCK.
WANTED, Musical Attractions,
April 5, 19, onwards.
Splendid business for pieces with plenty of "go" and Comedy. Refer Dickie Clare, Esq.
Address, NORMAN H. BARGER.

LYCEUM THEATRE, GOVAN, GLASGOW.
WANTED, good Attractions, Musical or Dramatic, for March 1 and 15.
Address, J. H. OAKDEN, as above.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies,
ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH
Vacant March 8 (?), 29, April 5, 12,
onward with exceptions.

All communications re dates,
ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant April 5, Aug. 9, July 5, 12,
onward with exceptions.

EMPIRE, WORCESTER.
See Music Hall Artists Wanted Column.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY, S. WALES.
Vacant April 12, May 24, 31, June 7,
onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME,
BARRY DOCK.
Vacant Aug. 2, Dec. 20, 27, Jan. 3,
onward, with exceptions.

The Three Great Pantomime Successes,
"ALADDIN."
"CINDERELLA."
"PUSS IN BOOTS."

Can arrange Production dates for next season for the above.

All communications,
ARTHUR CARLTON,
Theatre Royal, Worcester.

Telegrams: "Carlton, Worcester."

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
The Chief Theatre of the Town and District.
The only Theatre in the Town lighted by Electricity.
WANTED, Companies, March 1, 15, 29,
April 26, onwards.

Our Season's Bookings, which Managers are requested to compare with elsewhere, include:—Miss Lena Ashwell's Co., "Diana of Dobson's," (return), Mr. Geo. Alexander's Co., "The Thief," F. R. Benson's Co., "The Dairymaids," Mr. Percy Hutchison's Cos., "Mrs. Dot," "Brewster's Millions," "Lady Frederick," "Leah Kleschna," "With Edged Tools," "The Christian" (new version), "A White Man," "Sergeant Brue," "You Never Can Tell," "The Flag Lieutenant," "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," "The Beloved Vagabond," Mr. Geo. Alexander's Co., "The Builder of Bridges," Mr. George D. Day's Co., "The Prodigal Son," Miss Lena Ashwell's Co. in "Grit," Mr. Lionel Rignold in "The Early Worm."

All communications,
CALVERT ROUTLEDGE, H. M. T., Barrow.
London Representative,
HERBERT GREVILLE, 63, High Holborn, W.C.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE,
MIDDLESBROUGH.
Seating capacity, 3,500.
Acknowledged to be one of the largest, most handsome, and best equipped theatres in the Provinces.

The Premier and Central Theatre of the District.

WANTED, First-class Attractions only,
March 22, 29, April 19, May 17, 31 (Whit),

also Big Star Attractions for August Bank Holiday, and Aug. 16 (Race Week).

All communications,
JNO. ED. JOWSEY,
Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough.

Telephones, 413, 426, 500. Telegrams, "Magnet."

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, BLYTH-BY-SEA.
WANTED, Attractions, with Strong Musical or Dramatic Drawing powers, for
March 22, April 5, 19, 26, May 10 and 31.
Feb. 8, "Dick Whittington."
Lessee and Manager, A. C. MOODY.

WANTED, for Ipswich Lyceum, First-class Attractions; only vacant dates till Autumn, March 15, April 12 (Easter), May 3. Apply, Miss PARKIN.

WORTHING THEATRE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Feb. 18, 22, 25, March 1, onwards. Only Sound Companies need apply to SEEBOLD, as above.

WANTED, good Panto., April 5,
twice nightly.
T. C. RAWES, Victoria Theatre, Stanley, Durham.

WANTED, through misunderstanding,
Brilliant Attraction, March 15.
H. MASTERMAN, Theatre Royal, Castleford.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LONGTON.
The only Dramatic Theatre in the Potteries, and, misleading statements notwithstanding, the largest stage. Past and present bookings include J. W. Turner (11 visits), Paumier and Howard (5 visits), E. Hill Mitchelson (7 visits), Lester Collingwood (7 visits), T. Morton Powell (14 visits), J. A. Campbell (9 visits), Fred C. Somerfield (6 visits), C. Watson Mill (4 visits), Dr. Walford Bodie (4 visits), J. F. Elliston (9 visits), Carl Rosa Opera Co. (3 visits), &c., &c.
WANTED, Companies, for First Vacant Dates,
April 12, Easter, and Whit.
April 12, Easter, and Whit.
The Popular Theatre, Popular Prices, and Popular Management. Address, H. SHERRIFF HOWARD, General-Manager.

COLISEUM, ABERYSTWYTH.
WANTED, Companies, March 1, 2, 3, 23 24, 25, 26, 29, 30, 31; also few Season Dates. Wire, PHILLIPS.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLCHESTER.
WANTED, good Companies, Musical preferred, April 19, May 10, 17, June 21 (Pageant week), Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Sept. 27, Oct. 11, 18, 25. MACDONA.

WANTED, Companies, Feb. 18, three nights, March 1, and on, good Drama or Musical.
JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

WANTED, First-class Attractions (Musical preferred), for Important Theatres, March 1, 15, April 12, May 31, onwards. Full particulars to H. GREVILLE, 63, High Holborn, W.C.; or 'Phone, Holborn 4869.

NEW PALACE THEATRE, WATFORD.
The Only Place of Amusement in the Town.
Lighted by electricity. Holding capacity £75.
WANTED, Strong Dramatic and Musical Companies, First-class only, April 5, 26,
March 8, 29.
SYLVESTER, 217, Piccadilly, W.

WANTED, Fit-up Drama, Musical Comedy or Panto., for Hippo., Tredegar, Mon. Best Money-taking Town in Wales; holds 1,200. "Midnight Wedding" and "Warning to Women" just played to Big Business. Following Dates open: March 8, 9, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25; April, on.
Address, MANAGER, Hippodrome, Tredegar, Mon.

OPERA HOUSE, WAKEFIELD.
WANTED, Sound Attractions, March 8, 15,
Apply, SHERWOOD and Co.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, Musical Comedies and Pantomimes preferred,
March 22, April 5, on.
three or six nights.
W. E. POTTS.

EMPIRE THEATRE, SWINDON.
WANTED, First-class Musical Comedy and Dramatic Attractions; also Big Variety Combinations. Managers with First-class Companies only apply direct to ALFRED MANNERS. Wanted, strong Attraction for Whit-Week.

COMPANIES WANTED.

Booked by
MOSS' EMPIRES, LIMITED.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE,
GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM,
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS,
and
GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.
WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Vacant Dates, May 10, 17, 24, 31, Aug. 9, 16, Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 15, 29, Dec. 13.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE.
Vacant Dates, May 10, 24, June 14, 28, July 5, 12, 19, 26, Aug. 16, Dec. 6, 13.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Vacant, March 29, April 19, May 3, 10, June 21, 28, Aug. 2, 9, Nov. 22, Dec. 13.

GRAND, GLASGOW.
Vacant, April 5, 19, 26, May 17, 24, 31, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Sept. 6, 13, 20 Oct. 4, Nov. 1, 15, 22.
ALEXANDRA THEATRE, STOKE NEWINGTON.
Reopened Shortly.
First-class Attractions Required
for Immediate Dates.
Address,
with full particulars, terms, &c.,
where can be seen, to
Moss' EMPIRES, LIMITED,
Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street,
London, W.C.
Envelopes marked "Theatres."

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. HUGH ROBERTSON.
The Premier Theatre in the Furness District, with a holding capacity of £90 at ordinary prices.
WANTED, really First-class London Successes, for March 8 and 22, on, with exceptions.
Season's Bookings include among others: J. W. Turner's Grand Opera Company (return) Mr. Wentworth Croke's "The Bondman," "Amasis," Mr. Charles Frohman's "Raffles," Mr. George Dance's Company in "Miss Hook of Holland," Mr. Wilfred Cotton's Company in "Butterflies," Mr. Seymour Hicks' Company in "The Gay Gordons," and Mr. George Edwardes's Company in "The Merry Widow," Paumier and Howard's "The Prince and the Beggar Maid," and "The Midnight Wedding," "The Flag Lieutenant."
All applications for dates to
HUGH ROBERTSON,
Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

THEATRE ROYAL, LOUGHBOROUGH.
WANTED, Good Company, Feb. 22
(last three days).

THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.
Vacant March 15, April 19, and 26 (last three).

NEW GAIETY, WORKSOP.
Vacant March 18, 22, and 29 (last three days only booked).

DUMFRIES AND HAWICK,
Vacant Feb. 22.

W. PAYNE SEDDON, Loughborough.

WEYMOUTH.—NEW PAVILION THEATRE.
WANTED, Known, this building is now complete and admitted by the General Public to be one of the finest and most complete Theatres in the Provinces, being decorated and furnished by Messrs. A. R. Dean and Sons, of Birmingham, and the whole of the Stage fittings carried out under the direction of Experts. Capable of taking £130 at ordinary prices. First-class Companies only entertained, the following dates being at present vacant: Feb. 11, 12, 13, 22, 23, and 24, also March, April, and May, onwards. All communications WALTER R. WALLIS.

WEST END PIER, MORECAMBE.
WANTED, Opera, Musical Comedy, and Dramatic Companies, Easter, Whitsuntide, and Summer Season. Address, JOHN BASTOW, Secretary.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE,
LEIGH, LANCS.
WANTED, First-class Dramatic Attractions, April 5, May 24. W. H. CHIPPENDALE, Man.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, Easter, May 17 and 24, Yeomanry Encampment, two weeks. E. A. SMITH, Marina Theatre, Lowestoft.

PIER THEATRE, EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, March 1, 15 (?), 22, and various dates onward.
Apply, G. HAYES, Manager.

BATLEY THEATRE, BATLEY.
WANTED, Companies, March 1 and 29.
J. EDWARD WHITTY, Theatre, Batley.

WANTED, No. 1 Dramatic Companies, April 5 and 19, on.
BARNARD, Chislett-road, West Hampstead.

NEW HIPPODROME, SCARBOROUGH.
Managing-Director, WILLIAM PEACOCK.
One of the most luxurious Theatres in the North.
Now running one house nightly at 8.
Holding capacity 2000.
Popular prices, 3d. to 1s. 6d.
WANTED, Star Variety Combinations and Pantomime Companies, on sharing terms,
Feb. 22, onwards.
Only First-class Attractions.
Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK, Opera House, Harrogate.
Silence a polite negative.

WANTED, Good Combinations, Pantomimes, Dramas, &c., Feb. 15, onwards. Wire, wire, ERNEST CASS, Palace, Boston.

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE BEGGAR GIRL'S WEDDING."
WALTER MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION.
WANTED, March 22, April 5.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, March 29, April 12.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, April 5, Sept. 6.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, March 8.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 16, Sept. 20, 27.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
WANTED, Aug. 2, 16, 23.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

FREDERICK MELVILLE'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, Theatres, March 29, April 5.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres,
Feb 8, April 12, Aug. 2, 16.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, March 1, April 5,
Aug. 2. DOUGLAS BRUCE,
7, Wentworth-road, Harborne, Birmingham.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."
WANTED, April 5, 12, Aug. 2, 9,
ANDREW MELVILLE, Met. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."
WANTED, April 5, 12, Aug. 9, 16.
ANDREW EMM, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"SILVER KING" CO.
WANTED, the following Dates:—March 8, Sept. 20, 27, Nov. 1, 8, also Spring 1910.
G. M. POLINI, 93, Penge-road, Anerley, London.

MR. HERBERT RALLAND'S CO.
"HIS HOUSE IN ORDER."
WANTED, First-class Theatres, through obliging, Feb. 15 and 22, to follow Lyceum, Sheffield. HERBERT RALLAND, 23, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C.

THEATRES WANTED.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
for this Phenomenal Success,
weeks of March 29 and April 5.
Wire or write to
W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
WANTED, Weeks of
March 8 and 15,
March 8 and 15,
for this Remarkable Success,
which in a fortnight at Dublin played to £1,400, and at Belfast turned hundreds away nightly.
Wire or write to W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatre, March 22, April 12, on.
CHARLES HARRINGTON,
Opera House, Londonderry.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, April 12, 19, 26.
May 17, 24, 31.
All communications, J. W. CORDINER,
Feb. 8, Hippodrome, Todmorden.

Mr. CHARLES M. BESTIC'S
LONDON COMPANY,
in the Successful Musical Comedy,
"THE FLOWER GIRL,"
by W. T. Gliddon,
including
John T. MacCallum, Henry Adnes,
Miss Lilian Drake, Miss Georgie De Lara,
supported by a
Powerful Company.
WANTED, Feb. 22, March 22, April 19.
Re dates to
JAMES LESLIE, General-Manager,
Theatre Royal, Merthyr Tydvil,
and all other communications to
CHARLES M. BESTIC,
1, Sidney-road, Stockwell, London, S.W.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."
EUGENE C. STAFFORD'S No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Feb. 15, 22, March 29 (?), April 5 (?), 19; also Oct. 11, 18, 25, Nov. 8, onwards.
Letters or telegrams to
Bishopsdale, Biddenden, Kent.

MR. LEWIS WALLER'S CO.,
"ROBIN HOOD."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres,
March 1, April 5, April 12.
March 1, April 5, April 12.
March 1, April 5, April 12.
Address, F. CLIVE ROSS, Theatre Royal, Bath.

WANTED, First-class Theatre, for
"A MESSAGE FROM MARS,"
March 22,
North or Midlands.
Also a few Autumn Dates.
Apply,
F. MOUILLOT, 1, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

"HER FATAL MARRIAGE."
"HER FATAL MARRIAGE."
Instantaneous Success.
WANTED, Big Theatres, for Feb. 22,
March 8 and 22, April 26.
Wire to-day, ARTHUR HINTON, T. R., Stratford; next, New Theatre, Bargoed, S. Wales.

CHARLES ROGERS and W. E. WILSON'S CO.
"LADDER OF LIFE."
"LADDER OF LIFE."
WANTED, Feb. 15, and March 22,
Wanted, Feb. 15 and March 22,
North or Midlands preferred.
ROGERS and WILSON,
Borough Theatre, Stratford.

"HUMAN NATURE."
WANTED, good Theatres, Feb. 22, March 8, weeks, for above great Drury Lane success. Managers invited to witness Production at West London Theatre on Feb. 15.
R. A. BEATON,
52, Warbeck-road, Shepherd's Bush, W.

"THE 10.30 DOWN EXPRESS"
and "GUILTY GOLD."
WANTED, May 3, 10 (Midlands)
HORACE STANLEY,
404, Mill-street,
Openshaw, Manchester.

WANTED, Good Dates, for
"The Cingalee."
HALDANE CRICHTON, Brixton Theatre, S.W.

"LUCKY 'LIZA."
WANTED, Feb. 15 and April 12 (South) for this genuine success. DICKIE CLARE, New T., Aberdare.

WANTED, March 1, 29, "Under Two Flags," "At Cripple Creek," MARK BLOW, 11, St. Edmund's-terrace, Regent's Park.

"HIS SISTER'S HONOUR."
WANTED, May 3, 10, 17, and few later, third year of consecutive tour, sumptuously staged, beautifully dressed, and played by a sound all-round cast.
Wire, E. A'DELL, Greenwich T., London, S.E.

S. RENNEF and G. M. COPPING'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, "Love Rules the World," Feb. 22, March 1 (Wales), 8, 15 (Midlands), April 5 (to precede Warrington, return).
Splendid Cast, Production, Special Printing.
"HOW WOMEN RUIN MEN."
Several Summer and Autumn Dates.
G. M. COPPING,
Pavilion, Abertillery; next, Treherbert.

WANTED, immediate Dates, for Various First-class Comedies and Dramas. H. GREVILLE, 63, High Holborn, W.C. 'Phone 4869 Holborn.

ROSE MONCRIEFF'S CO.
"THE BELLS OF OLD YORK."
"THE BELLS OF OLD YORK."
WANTED, March 15, April 12, Aug. 16, Sept. 6.
Address, Metropole Theatre, Abertillery.

WANTED, for "Second to None," by Walter Howard, No. 1 Theatres, for April 5, 19, Aug. 30, Sept. 6, Dec. 6, '09. Address, T. E. WARD, Prince's T., Blackburn.

ALFRED PAUMIER and WALTER HOWARD'S COMPANIES.
"THE PRINCE AND THE BEGGAR MAID."
WANTED, First-class Theatre,
March 15, North.
WALTER HOWARD,
11 and 12, Bishop's-mansions, Fulham, London.

"THE GRIP OF THE LAW," by Special Arrangement with Messrs. Moule and Nichols. Mr. JOHN BARTLETT has taken over the entire rights, and will Tour the above. Splendid scenery; printing by Messrs. David Allen and Sons. Specially selected Company of Actors and Actresses.
WANTED, Theatres.—A few Autumn dates vacant.
Now Booking 1910.
All coms., JOHN BARTLETT, 29, Grove-st., Edinburgh.

"ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE."
WANTED, April 12, Aug. 2, 9, including Andrew Emm and Gardner Gun, &c.
EMM, Metropole Theatre, Birmingham.

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Nov. 1, 8, Dec. 6, 13, and 27.
FRANK M. THORNE, Theatre Royal, Crook.

GEORGE A. DE GRAY
presents his latest new Play,
"THE ANGEL OF HIS DREAMS"
Production, April 26, Theatre Royal, Castleford.
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 2 9, Sept. 20, Nov. 1, 15, Dec. 13, Jan. 3, 10, 31. All coms., GEO. A. DE GRAY, New Theatre, Consett.

"HER MARRIAGE VOW."
WANTED, March 8, April 12 and 19. GARSIDE and KNOWLES, 64, Watson-street, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Dates, for Fred Moule and E. W. Avery's 1909-10 Pantomime Production, "Cinderella." Refined, Operatic, and Funny. Address, Feb. 8, Royal Palace, Oldham.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.
MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.
MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,

"HOW GIRLS ARE BROUGHT TO RUIN."
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"HOW GIRLS ARE BROUGHT TO RUIN."

Magnificent Reception in Liverpool.
Splendid Business, closing on Saturday night to a house packed from floor to ceiling.
Pantomime Business.
Refer Fred Granville, Esq.

Enthusiastic Reception in Farnworth.
Receipts going up nightly.

The most Brilliant Success of twenty years' Management.

Every Scene a Picture.
Every Artist First-class.
Magnificently Advertised.
A
Triumph.
Triumph.
Triumph.

Managers
Managers
Cordially Invited
to witness the Production.

The Play
will cause a Sensation
in every Town
as it has
already done in Liverpool,
as it is doing in Farnworth.

Vacant,
Feb. 22, March 8, 15, April 12, 19.
MORTON POWELL, Theatre Royal, Belfast.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
March 1, March 10, 11, 12, 15, 22.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"GREED OF GOLD."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
March 1, 22, 29, April 5, 12.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

MISS MARY NEIL,
in her Great Successes,
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS,"
by Charles Darrell,
and
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
by Charles Darrell,
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres,
Vacant for either Play,
April 5, May 10 and 24,
June 7 and 14.

Miss Neil begs to inform Managers that she is now rapidly booking 1910 for her next new production.

Coms. to GEO. KIRK,
Empire T., Blaina (Mon.).

MISS HILDA BEVERLEY
in
"A DESTROYER OF MEN."
WANTED, Theatres, for
a Few Vacant Dates in 1909.
Now Booking 1910.
Miss HILDA BEVERLEY,
"A Girl's Cross Roads" Co.,
Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield.

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANY.
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
A Powerful Domestic Drama, in four Acts.
By Walter Howe.
WANTED, March 1, 29,
April 26, May 3, 17.
Splendid plant of Pictorials by
David Allens and Moody Bros.
Feb. 8, T. R., Tyldesley.

MR. AND MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COS.
"BOUND TO WIN."
WANTED, March 1, April 12, March 1, April 12.
Racehorses Toured, Special Scenery.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
Vacant March 8, March 8, March 8.
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR."
Wanted, March 15, 29. Special Cast and Uniforms.
Wire for dates to
KIMBERLEY, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

Mr. and Mrs. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"ROLLICKING RORY."
A Musical Irish Fairy Play.
Everything carried.
Only Vacant Dates this year,
April 5 and 12.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres.
Feb. 8, Theatre Royal, Seaham Harbour.

"THE IDOL OF PARIS."
"THE IDOL OF PARIS."
By Chas. Darrell.
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
March 15, 22,
April 12.
Miss Annie Bell
as Flare-Flare.
Address, JAMES BELL, T. R., Darlington.

WANTED, First-class Theatre, for Production next Xmas, of Bliss and Bliss's Grand Pantomime, "MOTHER GOOSE."
Beautiful Scenery and Dresses, and a bunch of good Comedians.
All coms. to GEORGE and LEO BLISS,
Feb. 8, Grand Theatre, West Hartlepool.
Feb. 15. Theatre Royal, York.
P.S.—The talk of every town.
Managers come and see for yourselves.

THOMPSON CARRUTHERS' CO.
in
"HER SECRET LOVER."
By Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.
WANTED, Known, Managers are Cordially Invited to Witness
this Magnificent Production
at the
Theatre Royal, Wolverhampton,
on Monday, Feb. 8,
and during the week.

WANTED, First-class Theatres and Halls, for
BERT WICKHAM,
The World's Champion All-round Athlete and First-class Variety Combination.
Breaking records wherever he appears.
He is engaged for America at £300 a week.
Vacant Feb. 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22,
in consequence of cancelling Continental Tour.
Magnificent printing. Three motor-cars.
All communications to
ALFRED SELWYN, Hippodrome, Scarborough.

BOSWELL'S STAGE CIRCUS.
WANTED, Good Theatres and Halls, Feb. 15 and 22. Splendid Stud of Ponies, Donkeys, Dogs, and Powerful Company, great novelty for theatres, attracting all parts of the house, rental or share. Wire, BOSWELL, Theatre Royal, Bilston. Monday next, Public Hall, Oswestry.

WANTED, Theatres, Large Halls, Piers, &c. (the Bigger the Better), for the Walturdaw Animated Picture Co. Write, WOOD, People's Palace, Tottenham.

WANTED, Theatres, Halls, Piers, &c., April 19, on, for Turner's Picture and Vaudeville Combine. Coms., KEEBLE'S Agency, 281, King-st., Hammersmith, W.

THEATRES WANTED.

FRED GRANVILLE'S PRODUCTIONS, LTD.

PANTOMIMES.
"BABES IN THE WOOD."
A Phenomenal Success.
Can be seen at Park Palace, Liverpool, this week (twice nightly). Fourth visit to Liverpool in two years, and again playing to holding capacity every performance.
Vacant March 1, 8, 15, onwards.

WANTED, First-class Theatre, for Production, 1909-10.
"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST."
The Success of the Year.
Has broken all records at King's Theatre, Edinburgh (two weeks).
Refer A. Mascard, Esq.
Last week played to packed business at Gaiety Theatre, Leith.
Thousands turned away on the Saturday night. Can be seen this week at Queen's Theatre, Liverpool, where it is again playing to holding capacity.
Vacant Feb. 15, 22, March 1, 8, 15.
Also Wanted, Good Theatres, Jan. 3, 1910, onwards.
Christmas Production Settled.
"ALADDIN."
Another Record Success.
Can be seen this week at Theatre Royal, Chesterfield.
Wanted, Good Theatre, for Production 1909-10.
Managers Note.
These Pantomimes are First-class in every way, Beautifully Mounted and Dressed, all Star Casts, Grand Specialities, and Full Chorus.

PLAYS.
"THE BETTER LAND."
A High-class Powerful Domestic Drama.
A "Winner."
First Vacant Date Aug. 9.
Also Wanted, Aug. 23, 30, September 13, 27, and later.
"FOR BETTER OR WORSE."
No Vacant Dates.
"DEFENDING HIS HONOUR."
No Vacant Dates.
"ANOTHER MAN'S WIFE."
Production, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool, Feb. 8.
Vacant March 1, and onwards.
Re dates for Fred Granville's Productions, Ltd., Address, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

MONTAGUE BEAUDYN'S SUCCESSES.
"SEND HIM VICTORIOUS."
A Perfect Show in Every Detail.
One of the Strongest Casts Touring.
WANTED, March 1, March 1, also Vacant Aug. 2, 9.
"THE POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN,"
A Revelation in Modern Drama.
"THE POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN."
A Show that Pleases Everyone.
Powerful Company in a Powerful Play.
Vacant March 15, 29, Aug. 23.
"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
Gorgeous Revival on an Elaborate Scale.
New Scenery, Dresses, Uniforms.
Vacant 3 nights, Feb. 18, March 1, 15, April 5, 19.
"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND."
Vacant July 26, Aug. 2.
Wires, T. R., Edmonton.
Letters, T. R., Macclesfield.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
The Drama that Booms itself.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Cast of Recognised Artists. Each Member with not less than 10 years' experience.
Magnificent printing. Beautifully mounted.
WANTED, Aug. 16, 30, Nov. 1, 8.
FRED. BULMER,
Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, Strand, W.C.

"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
By Geo. A. De Gray.
(Under the Sole Direction of the Author).
WANTED, Dates, "The Power of the Cross," Feb. 22, 23, 24 (Wales or near), March 15.
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
Booked solid till Whit.
Re both plays, GEO. A. DE GRAY, New T., Consett.

WANTED, Theatre or Large Public Halls, for recognised Picture Show of To-day, commencing Easter Monday and onwards. Long run. Box 5,434, "The Era."

WANTED, Theatres, Halls, Piers, for Harry Liston's and Miss Lumley's Party; Salary or Share. Address, 13, Bland-street, Moss Side, Manchester.

WANTED, by the I. D. K. Minstrels, Piers or Seaside Halls, Easter, May 31, Aug. 9, 16, large or small Troupe, Sunday Concerts; moderate Cert. or Share. Apply, Manager, PERCY NEWPORT, 26, Kingsway, Mortlake, S.W.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, to Open Scarborough Feb. 15, York Feb. 22, tall, Thin Comedian, Character Comedy Part; Small Comedian, Stout, Character Comedy Part; long tour to follow, if suitable. Address,
ARTHUR MILTON,
54, Hilldrop-road, London, N.

"THE LANCASHIRE LAD" CO.
WANTED, to Rehearse Feb. 22, First-class Leading Gentleman, tall and powerful; Juvenile Lady, young, pretty; Low Comedian (Lancashire Dialect), sing or dance; Smart Soubrette, sing or dance. Send recent photos., age, height, terms, and references, G. CARLETON WALLACE, 107, Esmond-road, Bedford Park, W.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, for Drama. Full particulars and lowest terms, SYDNEY, 24, Woodfield-road, Altrincham.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, including Experienced Comedian; also Lady, Young, about 5ft. 10in. Photos., &c. (letters only). MANAGER, 187, Shirland-road, London, W.

WANTED, Leading Lady and Gentleman for Good Parts in Répertoire Company; touring continuously with West-End Comedies, who will invest £150 for quarter share. Terms, height, and experience, to Box 5,449, "The Era."

WANTED, refined Character Actress, for very Smart Part, in Special Production; also several Little Girls (over fourteen). Those in neighbourhood preferred. Apply by letter only, LEIGH LOVEL, Gaiety Theatre, Manchester.

WANTED, Young Lady, for small part in Farcical Comedy (London Success). Long Tour. Invest £25. Box 5,423, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, two Gents, to play Small Light Comedy Parts; must have good appearances and good singing voices indispensable. Youth, 15 to 17; must also have a strong, telling voice (no lines). Gent for Irish Comedy part; must have good, useful voice, and be a smart dancer. Rob Robson write. Rehearsals at once. Sketch sure to be booked. Illness prevented answering last applicants. B., 17, Bushey Hill-road, Peckham-road, S.E. Interviews.

WANTED, Gentlemen, for several small parts in Farcical Comedy (London Success). Long Tour. Invest £25. Box 5,424, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, good Responsible Actor, Open at Once. Wire terms, Mrs. BERT BREAMER, Theatre, Aberaychan.

WANTED, Amateur Gentleman, to play small but important part in First-class Sketch Co. Open immediately. Small Premium required. Salary. Letters, Box 5,442, "The Era."

WANTED, Gentleman, to play small Broken French Part in Sketch, open Monday, 15th inst., rehearse Wednesday. Letters only to J. G. GRAHAME, 40, Fairmead-road, Holloway.

WANTED, Young Actress, pretty, fair singing voice, and Accompanist, to join Gentleman Instrumentalist for First-class Musical Duologue for Music Halls. Please state age, height, experience, &c., to Box 5,430, "The Era."

WANTED, for South Coast, good Soprano or Contralto, to join Tenor, Al-fresco, pitching. Shares. Address, Box 5,433, "The Era."

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, for Season's Al Fresco, opening Whit, Soprano Vocalist (Pianist). Applicants near Manchester can be seen by appointment. Address, JIMMY LAW, 52, Booth-street, East, Manchester.

WANTED, Dancers, Society, Classical, Toe Ballet, Salomé, Tambo, Singles, Trios, Coloured Girls also. Write (no callers), SPECTRA, 11, Trelawn-road, Brixton.

WANTED, Known, The New Frances Club, 425, Strand, W.C., for Ladies. Members have use of Cosy Sitting and Dining-room, Piano, and Circulating Library. Exceptional Tariff. Terms, 1 guinea yearly; may be paid quarterly, monthly, or weekly (6d.). No entrance fee.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Wanted, Known, a Remarkable Male Soprano is desirous of joining a First-class Vocal Combination on the Music Hall or Concert Stage.
A male soprano of extraordinary compass and sweetness.—Ipswich Anglican Times, England, Nov. 27, 1900.
Address, Box 5,420, "The Era."

WANTED, by Young Dramatic Soprano, Tour with Concert Party during part of Summer Season.
Box 5,421, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Miss Violet Hollom, just finished playing Cinderella at T. R., Exeter. Specially engaged to appear at the Hippo., Exeter, for this week. On Feb. 15 resumes her former part in "Peter Pan."

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Comedians, next Season's Pantomimes. Names and addresses last two references, address where performing next three week, age, photos., lowest terms, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists all Lines. Age, height, photo., lowest salary required, names and addresses last two references, full particulars, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester. Mark envelopes "Pantomime."

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Scenic Artists, Theatre Managers, &c., to write for Leete's Catalogue of colours, varnishes, painting brushes, and every requisite for scene painting and theatre decoration. The fullest range of colours in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions, Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, Contracts, for Painting Scenery, First-class Work guaranteed. CECIL E. HICKS, Painting Room, Princess's Theatre, Oxford-street, London, W.

WANTED, Contracts for High-class Effective Scenery, very lowest prices; Scenery repainted or adapted. W. B. ROBINSON, 170, King's-road, S.W.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery. Compare my prices and Sketches. Cloths from 20s.; Chamber Sets from £3. COOKE, Udimore, Rye.

WANTED, Wanted, Known, W. BERNASCONI, Scenic Artist, 53, St James's-place, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, A. W. Moore, Scenic Artist, First-class, at Liberty shortly; good offers invited, Engagement or Contract. Address, 2, St George's-terrace, York.

WANTED, Engagement or Contract, by Scenic Artist, first-class credentials; Liberty March 1. Address, ARTIST, 31, Oxford-st., Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Known, for Scenery and Props of all kinds, C. Roberts, Blucher-street, Liverpool-st., Salford, Manchester. Scenic Artist to R. A. Roberts, Esq.

WANTED, Known, Will Edward Clark, Scenic Artist, last year at Gaiety, Glasgow, communicate with SYD BAZLEY, Palace, Longridge, Lancs?

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Acting-Manager, for Long Tour of Farcical Comedy (London Success). Must invest £50-£100. Box 5,422, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, a Treasurer, who thoroughly understands Book-keeping, for a Provincial Theatre. State lowest terms and full particulars to Box 5,419, "The Era."

WANTED, Manager, for Egyptian Mysteries, under the Direction of W. A. Bowron, late of Maskelyne and Cooke's. 20, Kenton-road, S. Hackney.

WANTED, a Hustler, for Advance, Big Variety Company, open Blackpool at once. Salary and references, ALFRED SELWYN, Hippo., Scarboro'.

WANTED, Stage Carpenter, capable controlling Staff, understands Stage thoroughly, own tools, able to make, hang Cloths, &c., for Music Halls. Age, experience, refs., BARKER, Hippodrome, Southampton.

WANTED, Engagement, London, Provinces, permanently in Theatre or on Tour, with Dramatic Co., Sketch or Music Hall Act, England or Abroad, anything from Manager to Baggageman, capable Stage-management, Carpentering, age 24, height 5ft. 10in., appearance good, well educated, experienced, play any parts really well, Irish Comedy, Character, Speciality; open immediately. Wire or write, Box 5,441, "The Era."

WANTED, by Young Man, 28, Re-engagement as Acting-Manager, in Music Hall or Theatre, experienced; thoroughly honest, energetic, and steady; excellent references. Particulars, KEYFORD, 190, York-road, Bath Bridge, Bristol.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

PALACE THEATRE, PORTH, S. WALES.
WANTED, Musical-Director, to open Mon., Feb. 22; must be well up in Variety. State age, references, and terms, W. BYNORTH, Palace Theatre, Porth.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Colchester, good Leader, Violin. Lowest terms and references. MACDONA.

WANTED, to open at once, good Leader, used to Variety. Terms, age, and references, CHAS. ELPHINSTONE, Grand Theatre, Hanley, Staffs.

WANTED, for Hippodrome, Bury, thoroughly Competent Leader, used to Twice-nightly Varieties. Open Monday next. Wire, MANAGER.

WANTED, Leader, London Music Hall. Particulars, CONDUCTOR, 24, Linden-grove, Nunhead, London, S.E.

WANTED, Lady Violinist, to Lead in Restaurant Band. Wire, lowest terms, CONDUCTOR, 177, Malcolm-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

ILFRACOMBE TOWN BAND.
WANTED, Second Violin for the above; permanency to suitable man. Apply, W. J. WHITE, Mus.-Dir.

WANTED, good First Violin, to Open next week. Terms, age, refs., to J. H. SAVILE, Theatre, Perth.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, at Once, Second Violin; must be used to Variety. Terms and last two references, JOHN A. WALKER, Empire, Belfast.

WANTED, Good Second Cornet; must be thoroughly up in varieties and standard selections. References, &c., HARRY HINCHCLIFFE, Mus. Dir., Hippodrome, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, good Trombone, to open Monday next, Feb. 8 must be steady and thoroughly experienced in Variety. Permanent if suitable. Wire, GEO. CLOUGH, Conductor, Hippodrome, Coventry.

MILTON BODE AND EDWARD COMPTON'S THEATRES.
WANTED, Experienced Trombone, open Feb. 8. Lowest terms, refs., BARNETT, Opera House, Northampton.

ROYAL HIPPODROME, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, First and Second Horns, experienced in Variety. Terms, age, and refs. to FRANK STOKES, Musical-Director.

WANTED, by Percy Honri, in "Concordia," Orchestral Harpist, Open at the Oxford Music Hall, W., Feb. 15. PERCY HONRI, 357, Holloway-road, N.

WANTED, for New Productions in Variety Theatres, First-class 'Cello Players, male and female, having good stage presence, and who thoroughly understand their instruments. Also Clever Lady Harpist, one who sings preferred. Wanted, also to hear from Professional Musicians with good experience of Cornet (male and female); must have good stage presence. Wanted, also, good Lady Flautist; good appearance absolutely necessary. Apply in first instance by letter to SCHULTZE'S Agency, 38, Cranbourn-street, W.C.

WANTED, Flautist; must be well up in Variety Business. Age and refs. to FREDERIC BRAHAM, Regent Theatre, Salford.

WANTED, immediately, Lady Pianist, for High-class Orchestra, which has Toured Continent for three years; must be young, refined, well-behaved, good Sight-reader; able to play Operatic and First-class Music. Long Engagement for Good Artist. Write fully, age, references, recent photograph, stating when free, HUNT, Restaurant Continental, Göteborg, Sweden.

WANTED, First-rate Pianist, experienced playing with Small Orchestra, Concert Business; must be good Accompanist; six months' engagement; Seaside Pavilion; Double some Orchestral Instrument preferred, but not essential. Particulars, experience, references, to Box 5,427, "The Era."

WANTED, Pianist, Vocalist; good shop for a good man.
Auction Mart, Clown, Derbyshire.

WANTED, to Open Feb. 22, 1909, for First-class Music Hall, Tyneside, three First Violins, two Seconds, one Viola, one 'Cello, one Bass, Flute, Clwarionet, Oboe, Bassoon, two Horns, First and Second Cornet, Trombone, and Drums. None but First-class Players need apply; must be used to variety Business. Apply by letter, with recent references, stating lowest terms for permanent engagement, to Box 5,444, "The Era."

WANTED, one month certain, probably three months, Ladies' Trio, Violin, Cornet, Piano, play for Skating. Terms must be low, or useless applying. Full particulars, ROBERT FORSYTH, Pier, Folkestone.

SOMERSET AND BATH ASYLUM, COTFORD, near TAUNTON.
WANTED, Male Attendant, unmarried; wages commencing at £26 per annum, rising to £45, with board, lodging, washing, and uniform; extra pay to Bandsman, Cornet Player preferred.
Apply, MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

WANTED, Leaders, Solo Violinists, Pianists, 'Cellists, and Bass Players, for White Star and Cunard Mediterranean Services, commencing Feb. and March. For terms and conditions, apply C. W. BLACK, 14, Castle-street, Liverpool.

Season 1909.
WINTER GARDENS, BLACKPOOL.
WANTED, First-class Musicians, all instruments, for Pavilion, Ballroom, and Opera House Orchestras, for Easter (April 8 to 17), and from May 29 to Oct. 3, for the Season. Only steady and competent instrumentalists need apply.
Applications, stating experience, with references and salary required for one or two performances daily, to be sent to Mr. JNO. R. HUDDLESTONE, General-Manager, Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

WANTED, First-class Musicians to increase Military Band, from New York; young, single men, with Military experience preferred; Band opens about May 1, twenty weeks in London. State lowest salary, and if possible enclose photo., which will be returned.
Testimonials to JOHN FOWLER, Manager, 12th Regiment Band, 63, West 106th-street, New York, U.S.A.

BURNHAM, SOMERSET.
WANTED, a Military Band and Party of Entertainers, for a period of not less than ten weeks from July 19 next. The Committee will be pleased to receive Tenders on or before Feb. 13 for the Sole Right of performing and making collections on the sea front, Bandstand, also in the Public Gardens and Town Hall on occasions, subject to supervision of Committee. For full particulars apply to Messrs. S. PILL and R. P. DAWBIN.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept., "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.
Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement, 'WANTED, DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster, "Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Professional Musicians, every instrument, to know this, viz., that every Semi-Amateur holding a Permanent Engagement is causing a Professional to be Out of Work. Join the National Federation of Professional Musicians (Trade Union), and help to remedy the grievance. Write at once for Propaganda, F. BALL, Hon. Sec., 19, Grange-street, Rusholme, Manchester.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical Director (Violin), Dramas, &c., composed, arranged. Composer music "Silver King," "Lights o' London," &c. Victoria Theatre, Ramsgate.

WANTED, Engagement as Conductor, for Summer or otherwise, by late Leader and Sub-Conductor of the late Duke of Devonshire's Private Orchestra, now disengaged. Box 5,415, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Frank Seddon, Musical-Director, at Liberty Feb. 22, Theatre, Music Hall, or Tour. Address, Theatre R., Preston.

WANTED, Engagement, by Conductor, First-class, perfect Pianist, double First Violin (Leader), Composer and Arranger, First-class Theatre or Music Hall or No. 1 Touring Co. Add., CONDUCTOR, 14, Chatsworth-street, Leicester.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, Charles Weldon, Conductor; experienced all branches; library and references; termination panto. Address, 2, Bath-place, Ayr, N.B.

WANTED, Known, Miss Lita Jarratt, experienced Leader and Pianist, Disengaged for next few weeks, for London only. 35, The Grove, Hammersmith, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by good Violinist (Leader), Variety preferred; experienced and reliable; can open Monday. Address, VIOLINIST, 11, Gilpin-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement, First-class Lady Violinist, thoroughly experienced, good Leader, Disengaged Feb. 19, any business; good refs. STONER, Lincoln-street, Longsight, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Harry Simeon, Violinist, open for 8th, any business, Band Parts arranged quickly, effectively; good references. Grand Theatre, Falkirk.

WANTED, Engagement, Second Violin, or Viola. S. N. MELLOR, 17, Church-street, Clown, near Chesterfield.

WANTED, Known, Violinist, good all-round, Disengaged. Write, W. S. R. S., 259, Holmesdale-road, South Norwood.

WANTED, Engagement, by Smart Violinist, in Orchestra; seaside preferred; only Conductors of good Orchestras apply. SQUIRE, Cleveland House, Pershore, Worcestershire.

WANTED, Engagement, First-class Violinist, any business, steady and reliable, open immediately. State terms. Address, VIOLINIST, 45, Camberwell-grove, S.E.

WANTED, Orchestral Engagement, by Cornet or Second Violin, reliable; £5 bonus offered for permanency. HAYDOCK, 10, Stamford-buildings, South Lambeth-road, London.

WANTED, by Cornet, Engagement as First or Second; at Liberty 18th. Write, CORNET, 29, Endless-street, Salisbury.

WANTED, Engagement, by good reliable Cornet (Military or Orchestral); good refs. C. GILDERSLEEVE, 92, Springfield-rd., Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk.

WANTED, Engagement, First-class Cornet; late Solo Crystal Palace; excellent refs.; smart appearance. Mr. HERBERT, 10, Elgin-road, Wallington, Surrey.

WANTED, Engagement, by Solo Clarionettist, experienced in all business, including Grand Opera, just home from abroad. Address, 201, Lordship-lane, East Dulwich.

WANTED, Season Engagement as B Flat or E Flat Clarionet, E Flat preferred.
F. W. ATHERTON,
1, Rosemont, Market-street, Torquay.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by Clarionettist, Pianist, Accompanist; first-class, best refs.; Military or Orchestra. Address, 35, Waverley-terrace, Parkhead-street, Motherwell, N.B.

WANTED, Engagement, Clarionet, Military or Orchestra, Disengaged; long experience; abstainer. W. M., 32, Town-road, Lower Edmonton, Middlesex.

WANTED, by Double Bass, Engagement, any Business or Distance; thoroughly experienced, and reliable. GEORGE, 5, College-street, Beverley-road, Hull.

WANTED, Known, Liberty, First-class Double Bass or Violin, late of Hippodrome, Salford, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth. Apply, WILSON, Ballamoda, Malew, Man.

WANTED, by Trombone, combine Euphonium, Soloist; permanent Engagement; fully experienced; good references. GEORGE GRUBER, Cold Waltham, Pulborough, Sussex.

WANTED, by French Horn (Second), Engagement in First-class Orchestra or Military Band, for the coming Summer Season or perm.; thoroughly experienced; excellent testimonials. MUSICIAN, 70, Meanley-road, Manor Park.

WANTED, by Army Reservist, Situation, any capacity, French Horn player, second; very good reference; life abstainer.
ATKINSON, 44, King Edward's-road, Barking, Essex.

WANTED, Engagement, as First Horn; thoroughly experienced in First-class Theatres; steady, reliable professional. E. CUCCHI, 28, St. Paul's-road, Kennington, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, French Horn, any Business.
W. P., 23, Hartismere-road, Fulham, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement or as Deputy, by 'Cello, any business; age 30; good references. Perm. add., R. SORTEN, 54, Torren's-buildings, City-road, E.C.

WANTED, Known, Miss Lilian Sexton, Violoncellist, at Liberty Feb. 10 for Engagement or Deputising; experienced. 10, Connaught-st., W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Lady Flautist, experienced, any Business; good refs. Disengaged through closing Sat., Feb. 20. Box 5,416, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, Flute or Violin, thoroughly experienced, town and country refs. Deputising. F. C. BROOK, 27, Howson-road, Brockley, London.

WANTED, by a young Flute and Piccolo-player, position in Band or Orchestra. Apply, D. A., 91, Taybridge-road, Clapham Common.

WANTED, Engagement, by Flute and Piccolo, at Liberty Feb. 22, owing to the closing of T. R., Hull. VIC CANDLER, Theatre Royal, Hull.

WANTED, Known, Flautist, at Liberty, any business, First-class Reference; steady at all times. Address, FLAUTIST, 30, Cromwell-street, Millfield, Sunderland.

WANTED, Engagement, Lady Pianist, Vocalist, husband Violin and Cornet; joint preferred. CARITA, 2, Bath-place, Ayr, N.B.

WANTED, by Lady, Educated, good Accompanist, and Singer, position in Agent's Office. Apply, W., 25 Osnaburgh-street, N.W.

WANTED, by Pianist (Orchestral or otherwise), Engagement, good Soloist and Sight Reader. Apply, D. jun., 12, Camden-street, Islington, London.

WANTED, Resident Position by Pianist of smart appearance, accustomed to Variety Bus. Write, GEORGE A. DONALD, 26, Urquhart-road, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Re-engagement, by Drums and Effects, experienced Timps, any business; excellent refs.; open at once. Address, DRUMS, 31, Beaconsfield-road, Lower Edmonton, London.

WANTED, Engagement by First-class Double Drummer, Varieties only; thoroughly experienced; Provinces preferred. DRUMS, 107, Graham-road, Dalston, London, N.E.

WANTED, by Double Drummer, Music Hall, experienced.
A. TYTE, 74, Colebrooke-row, Islington, N.

WANTED, Engagement, by thoroughly Experienced Double Drummer, with effects, sober and reliable. Liberty for Monday. Wire, DRUMS, 9, Byron-st., Buxton.

WANTED, Known, Imperial Ladies' Orchestra, for Piers, Hotels, Exhibitions, &c.; experienced Musicians and Vocalists; large répertoire; tubular bells. Madame NELLIE BAKER, 114, Woodlands-road, Ilford.

WANTED, Known, The Grosvenor Ladies' Orchestra; from 3 to 30 experienced performers. Write or wire, Madam WILTON DAVIS, 42, Linton-street, Islington, N.

WANTED, offers, Summer Season, by Signorina de Polo's Ladies' Orchestra, from Franco-British Exhibition, and others; silk costume. 12, West Hill-road, Wandsworth.

WANTED, Known, Rabottini's Italian and Anglo-French Bands, for Exhibitions, Seaside Resorts, &c; efficient musicians; smart uniform. Conductor, Signor RABOTTINI, 150, Goldhawk-rd, Shepherd's Bush. 'Phone 111 Hammersmith.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Offers for Miss Winnie Watson's Ladies' Poppy Orchestra, Soloists and Singers, from Franco-British and Principal Exhibitions, now Olympia, Southport Pier following, Smart Scarlet Costumes. Telephone, 5,100 Nat. 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton.

WANTED, Known, the Shikissimma Band, Ladies' Japanese Orchestra, invite offers for Summer Season, Piers, Hotels, &c., any number; all Soloists, up-to-date Répertoire; most striking Costume; highest references. Winshill, Howard-road, Newbury.

The Rage of the Continent.
HEER MAURITS VAN YZER'S ZUIDER ZEE GIRLS.
The only and original Dutch Ladies' Orchestra, in their unique Dutch Peasant Costume.
WANTED, Known, at Liberty for Seaside, Piers, Hotels, &c. For terms, &c., apply, SECRETARY, 17, Prebend-mansions, High-road, Chiswick, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by a well-known Hungarian Band, including the Czimbalom; may be engaged for Exhibitions, Flower-shows, Bazaar, or Season at Seaside. On application will forward permanent address, photos., Press notices, testimonials, &c., Box 5,438, "The Era."

WANTED, by First-class Quadrille Band, Summer Engagement, Pier or Ball Room; any number of performers; splendid programme of music, excellent references. Terms apply, A. W. SEED, 11, Montgomery-street, Skipton, Yorks.

WANTED, by Military Band, Engagements, town or seaside; smart uniform; good répertoire. B. M., 56, Chipstead-st., Parsons Green, S.W.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

CONNOR'S GRAND CIRCUS.
WANTED, for the Spring, Summer, and Autumn Seasons, Circus Artists, every branch. Apply, FRED CONNOR, Vaudeville Club, Charing Cross-road, London

WANTED, for three months' Circus Season, real First-class Talent in all Lines, nothing too big, to open May, June, July. Please allow two weeks for replies; letters have to be remitted to the Continent. No interviews unless by appointment. Address, J. F. ELLISTON, Grand Cirque, Bolton.

WANTED for two days' Gala, Whit Monday and Tuesday, Sheffield. Startling Aerial and Ground Acts, Continental Novelties, Acrobatic Cycle, Spectacular, and Gala Acts. Send lithos., memos., terms, bookings, to GEORGE BURTON (of Sheffield), Hippo., West Bromwich.

WANTED, a Young Man, must be good, strong bearer, for hand-to-hand balancing, used to comedy, join advertiser, mounter, straight man. Box 5,436, "The Era."

WANTED, a smart Single Trapeze Performer, to join well-known Troupe at once. State age and weight. Box 5,448, "The Era."

WANTED, Troupe of Swimmers (four or five in number), for Summer Season, from Whit Week to end of Sept., all Ladies preferred, or four Ladies and one Gentleman; must be thoroughly competent to teach. Full particulars, with photos. and terms, to KITCHINGMAN, Aquarium, Scarboro'.

WANTED, a Young Lady Tank Performer. Full particulars, salary required, Box 5,418, "The Era."

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, to Circus Proprietors, Hippodrome Managers, Agents, &c., that THE THREE ROYAL OHMYS, favourite riders to the Crown Prince of Denmark, greatest Acrobatic Equestrians, on one, two, three, and four horses, can be seen nightly at the Grand Circus, Hull, second engagement in twelve months, will be at liberty for a few weeks in March, with six great Acts, previous to their leaving for their second engagement in Denmark, where they played "Hamlet" last season. Address, THE ROYAL OHMYS, Grand Circus, Hull.

WANTED, Known, The Stephenson Equestrian Family, with Horses, &c., and Ten Acts. At Liberty Feb. 22. Address, COOKE'S Circus, Edinburgh.

ROYAL CIRCUS COMPANY.
WANTED, Halls or Buildings that can be converted for Circus Purposes, Vacant Feb. 22. A full Circus Company, including a Stud of Performing Horses, Ponies, Donkeys, Monkeys, &c.; also the Best of Riders, Gymnasts, Acrobats, and Clowns, with change of programme weekly, share or certainty. Address, MANAGER, c/o Mrs. Douglas, 137, Lothian-rd., Edinburgh.

WANTED, Known, Comical Walker, Talking Clown, with good Entrées, vacant Feb. 22. Address, COOKE'S Circus, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Feb. 22, March 1, 8, and few Summer dates, Miss Myria Lo-La and Clown, the Clever Lady Three-Bar Performer; can follow any Lady Gymnast in the business. Address, JAKE ALMO, Curzon Hall, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, The Aeroplanes (Etherdo, Pugh, and Olrac), just terminated five weeks Yarmouth and Lowestoft. Address, Circus, Hull, till March.

WANTED, Known, Don Pedro the Great, Unparalleled and most Daring High-wire Performer, open for Fêtes and Galas. Terms, 99, Rhyddings Park-road, Swansea.

WANTED, Mlle. Leoville, Tight-Wire; and Æolia, Trapeze; two Acts, Liberty Feb. 8 and 15. Wire, 12, Barbel-street, Westminster, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, the Altons, Contortionists, also as Telka and Gardelle, Gymnasts, at Liberty for Tenting. 6, Victoria Park-rd., London.

WANTED, Known, Young Lady Contortionist, good forward and back bender, wishes to join troupe about March. Miss T. HART, 42, Bailey-street, West Hartlepool.

WANTED, Engagements, for Airship Flights, Balloon Ascents, Captive Balloons, Balloon Races, Parachute Descents, gas or hot-air balloons, by Lady or Gentlemen Aeronauts.
SPENCER BROS., LTD.,
45B, Aberdeen-park, Highbury, London, N.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.
WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, Twice Nightly; also WORCESTER EMPIRE, Twice Nightly. Wanted, Artists doing Double Turns, used to Picture Shows. No wires, please. ARTHUR CARLTON, Palace, Worcester.

CLYDEBANK NEW GAIETY THEATRE.
WANTED, Variety Artists, First-class Acts of all kinds, good Comedy Acts, Star Comedians and Comediennes, Specialities, &c., &c., for immediate and future dates. A. E. PICKARD, Sole Proprietor and Manager.

VERNO'S AGENCY,
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.
WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Feb. 15, onwards.
Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone 2076 Royal.

FETE AND GALA SEASON, 1909.
WANTED, Variety Artists, Big Specialities, Novel Acts, all Kinds of Acrobats, Flying Shows, Aerial Sensations, &c., for May 31, June 28, July 3, 12, and Aug. 2, onward. Send full particulars and sample lithos. to WILDER, Agents, 29, Great Francis-street, Birmingham.
N.B.—Messrs. Wilder thank all Artists for replying to their former advt., and request them to kindly send in again.

YARMOUTH and LOWESTOFT HIPPODROMES.
Winter Variety Season.
WANTED, Variety Artists, in all Lines, Feb. 15, onwards, Good Patter Comedians, Comedy Sketches, Acts that can work Sunday Concerts, Chorus Comedians and Comediennes, Good Double Turns. Can stage any number. Particulars, &c.,
GEO. ZALVA'S Agency,
Hippodrome, Yarmouth.
Kindly accept silence as polite negative at present.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Artists of Note.
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY. I can book you.
DALTON'S AGENCY. Immediate Dates,
DALTON'S AGENCY. and
DALTON'S AGENCY. Dates onward.
DALTON'S AGENCY. No Guessing.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
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DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY. Send full list
DALTON'S AGENCY. and very lowest
DALTON'S AGENCY. (this essential),
DALTON'S AGENCY. and permanent addresses,
DALTON'S AGENCY. also
DALTON'S AGENCY. weekly apartments
DALTON'S AGENCY. address.
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DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY. 29, Mauldeth-road West,
DALTON'S AGENCY. Withington,
DALTON'S AGENCY. Manchester.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
I said "Agency."

N.B.—State where never played.
Viviana and Co. wire address. Urgent.

WANTED, Monday, Feb. 15, and onwards, Variety Artists, all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, Kitchington, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Variety Artists, in all Lines.
MacQueen, Picture Palace, Cowdenbeath, N.B.

BRITANNIA, GLASGOW.
WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Feb. 15 and onwards with exceptions. Apply, A. E. Pickard, Sole Proprietor and Manager.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, Good Comedy Couples, Sisters, and Coloured Performers—Smith and Johnson write; also Franz Craig (The Coffee Cooler)—week commencing Feb. 15; also for 7 nights, commencing Saturday, Feb. 27. State lowest terms inclusive first letter, Manager, Hippo., Tredegar, Mon.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for
Every Part of the World.
Tom Pacey,
186, Brixton-road,
London.
Telegrams, "Pacey's, London."
'Phone 87 Brixton.
Pacey's Agency,
Manager, F. C. Francis.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists, all Lines, Comedians, Serios, Big Specialities, &c., Feb. 15, onwards. Terms, bookings, &c., Artists for Seaside and Gala Season. Write at once, with bookings, terms, and lithos., Edgar Stebbings and Co.,
23, Egerton-street, Manchester.
'Phone 9261. Tels., "Stebbing, Manchester."

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
William Mould, Central Palace, North Shields.

VICTORIA T., STANLEY, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Star Artists for immediate and future dates. T. C. Rawes, Proprietor.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, from now onwards. Apply, Mr. J. J. Scott,
Empire, Wrexham.

B. H. DELMAR'S AGENCY.
WANTED, for Pier Pavilions only, 1909 season, First-class Artists and complete Parties. Fullest particulars, 41, Berners-st., London, W.

WANTED, for Fred Durham's Agency, Artists, all Lines, Feb. 8, on.
1a, Loughboro'-rd., Brixton, S.W. Tele., 15 Brixton. Telegraphic add., "Durhamlike, London."

PALACE, WATFORD.
WANTED, First-class Artists, all Lines, Feb. 22, March 1, 8, April 12. Full particulars, Cadle's Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, especially Tops and Bottoms. (N.B.—Convenient break in journey, North or South.) Quote absolute lowest terms and list of bookings. Manager, Palace, Northampton.

WANTED, several First-class Minstrel Artists (Comedians and Vocalists), for well-known Troupe. McLean write. Terms, &c., Box 5,451, "The Era."

WANTED, the biggest Stars and Novelties, for immediate and future dates,
VENTOR'S AGENCY. for good towns
VENTOR'S AGENCY. near Manchester.
VENTOR'S AGENCY. Nothing too big. London
VENTOR'S AGENCY. Stars communicate.
VENTOR'S AGENCY. Anything up to £150.
VENTOR'S AGENCY. Lowest terms, please.
VENTOR'S AGENCY. Ventor's Variety Agency,
VENTOR'S AGENCY. 24, Devonshire-st.,
VENTOR'S AGENCY. All Saints, Manchester.
'Phone 7873. Telegrams, "Executive."

WANTED, for Feb. 15, and onwards, Stars in all Lines.
Stars in all Lines.
Full up for smaller items.
Cadle's Agency, 105-6, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Big Stars. Full bookings, lowest. I have sole bookings of Two Halls.
I go on Tour shortly again. Geo. Aytoun, 103, Kennington Park-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, for immediate and future Dates, Stars and Big Attractions, Share or Certainty. Send full particulars, Manager, Empire, Greenock, Scotland.

WANTED, Speciality Turns, for
three nights,
Feb. 11, 12, and 13.

Write or wire immediately,
W. Yates Gregory,
Theatre Royal,
Shrewsbury.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY, 179, SALTMARKET, GLASGOW. Nat. 'Phone 234Y6 Tron.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
the Very Best of Talent, now and later on.
Nothing under 10%, that's all.

WANTED, Talent of Every Description, with lowest terms, for England and Continent. Good Riders, &c.; also Lady Orchestra. Will Miss Zette Handel write? Can place good Side-shows. Letta, 11, Addison Park-mansions, Kensington, London, W.

WANTED, Talent, in all Lines, Immediate and Future Dates. Full list of bookings, terms, lithos., Alfred Selwyn, Variety Agent, Hippodrome, Scarborough.

WANTED, First-class Talent, both big and small, for Scotland. All turns North vacant "Monday next," keep me posted. Ventom Swift's Agency, 1, West Tollcross, Edinburgh.

O. MAUS DAYTON'S ANGLO-CONTINENTAL AGENCY.
WANTED, big Sensational Acts, for France, Spain, Holland, and Belgium; really big Attractions and big Novelties only wanted; nothing too big, nothing too expensive if suitable. Communication, with lithos., post-cards, or memos., showing the Act, to
O. Maus Dayton,
The Dayton Family, Aquarium Theatre,
Great Yarmouth (two weeks).
P.S.—By mutual arrangement Mr. Will B. Crabtree is no longer representative for my Troupe or Agency.

WANTED, for two days' Gala, Sheffield, Whit Monday and Tuesday, Startling Aerial and Ground Acts, Continental Novelties, Acrobatic, Cycle, Skating, Ladder Acts, and useful Gala Acts. Send Lithos., Memos., Terms, Bookings, Permanent Addresses, to George Burton (of Sheffield), Hippodrome, West Bromwich.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted,
Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted,
Wanted,
Big Specialities, Animal Acts, and anything New, Novel, and Sensational,
for
Blackpool,
Blackpool,
Blackpool,
Morecambe,
Morecambe,
Morecambe,
and other Seaside Towns; also for
London, Liverpool,
Birmingham, Leeds, Newcastle,
Glasgow, Belfast,
Dublin, Manchester, Bolton,
Wolverhampton, Oldham,
Hartlepool, Shields, Barrow,
Carlisle, Darlington,
Hull, Middlesbrough, Stockport,
Brighton, Boscombe, Margate,
Portsmouth, Southampton,
Bath, Lincoln, Leicester, Bradford,
Halifax, Sheffield, Blackburn,
Lancaster, Stockport, Burnley, Derby,
Attercliffe, Stoke, Grimsby,
St. Helens, Accrington, Warrington,
Bury, Hanley, Stockton, &c., &c.

Send full list of bookings, lithos, and lowest terms, to
Will Sley,
180, Oxford-road, Manchester.

Telegrams, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone 09144.

SMYTHSON'S AGENCY.
WANTED, big Star Acts, the pick of the Entertainment World.
Good Acts known to me send full list of Bookings.
New Acts state where can be seen.
Quote actual lowest London and Provinces.
Rate of Commission subject to Arbitrator's Award yet to be arrived at.

All communications to Smythson,
C/o Duree, 28, West Derby-road, Liverpool.
No callers except by appointment.

TEMPERANCE HALL, MERTHYR.
Manager, Mr. Israel Price.
WANTED, Acts in all Lines, Feb. 18, 19, 20. Artists working South Wales write in. State absolute lowest, three nights.

WANTED, Acts of all Kinds, for S. Wales and District; also Gala Acts, forward bookings, and lowest terms to Martino's Agency, 125, Barcroft-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, good Acts, various towns, latest bookings and offers include Leoni Clarke, J. W. Hall, Maxford and O'Neil, Chas. Coverdale, Edna West, Stanley Main, Milford Bros., Hess and Lisbon. Address, McAskell's Agency, Palace, New Brighton.

WANTED, Feb. 8, onwards, Variety and Speciality Acts, for Halls and Galas. Full bookings imperative. Gannon's Agency, West Grove, Bristol.

WANTED, First-class Refined Speciality Acts, for Pier Pavilions, June to Sept. Acts known to me write. Lowest terms, "Staffo," Theatre Royal, Cardiff.

WANTED, First-class Acts for Gala, week May 31. Good Flying Act, Comedy Bar, Knockabout, High-rope Act, Clowns. Full particulars, Cadle's Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Specialities, Comediennes, &c., Feb. 15, onwards; Hall small, so no fancy prices. Terms, particulars, Louden, Hippo., Airdrie, N.B.

JOHN H. TOMKINSON'S ROYAL GIPSY CO.
WANTED, good Speciality (Dumb Show), two weeks, Feb. 22 and March 1. Lowest terms, &c., John H. Tomkinson, Theatre Royal, Lincoln.

WANTED, Variety Combinations (complete in themselves), Dramas, Pantos., and Musical Comedy, all twice nightly, for immediate date. Apply, Director of Varieties, Grand T., Blackpool.

WANTED, for Hippodrome, Wakefield, and Empire, Hull, First-class Combinations; must have Big Star Top, June 7, and on. Full particulars, Alfred Selwyn, Hippodrome, Scarborough.

HENRY KEMBLE'S AGENCY,
St. Kilda, Lorn-road, Brixton.
WANTED, Feb. 15 and 22,
Big Top of Bill;
must have good printing.

First-class
Musical Act
required Monday.
Wire, "Kembagen, London."

WANTED, for South Wales,
Big Tops of Bill,
April 5, 12, 26, May 10, 24, 31.
Bottom of Bill,
March 29, April 19, May 17.
Also Smaller Acts in all Lines,
April 12, 19, 26, and all May.
Full particulars,
Cadle's Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

PALACE THEATRE, READING.
WANTED, Tops and Bottoms of Bills, several dates this and next year. Letters only, Stanhope and Co., Ltd., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.

DEETRICH VAUDEVILLE AGENCY,
31, ISLINGTON, LIVERPOOL. 'Phone 1269 Royal.
WANTED, for Feb. 15, on, First-class Eccentric Comedians and Star Artists, also Big Comedy Acts. List of bookings and permanent address; also for Ramsgate, April 5, on, Refined Acts. Artists known to us can have date while in the district. W. Lund, Gen-Man. Contracts waiting for Dan Filmer, Tony Black, George Prince, Jack Smiles.

WANTED, Trick Cyclists, Aerial Acts, Jugglers, Wire-walkers, Specialities, and Novelties, for Galas, Whit Monday onwards. Bradley (cyclist) write. Send lowest terms per day (no fancy prices, please), sample lithos., and full particulars to Reliable Entertainment Bureau, 75, Church-road, Homerton, London.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
the Directors of the
Minehead Pier Company, Ltd.,
are willing to
consider terms with a good Concert Party,
for giving Performances on the Pier
during the coming Season.

Applications to be addressed to
The Secretary of the Company,
18, The Avenue, Minehead, Somerset.

PIER PAVILION, TEIGNMOUTH, S. DEVON.
WANTED, the very best of Concert Parties, for few remaining dates, share terms, real live energetic management, and one of the cosiest Pavilions round the Coast. Full particulars, E. A'Dell, Greenwich Theatre, London, S.E.

THE ORIENT LIFE MOTION PICTURE CO., COOKE'S CIRCUS (the Original), PICTURE PALACE, EDINBURGH (Second Season).
WANTED, to open Saturday, Feb. 27, also for later dates, Singers of Illustrated Songs, with own Slides and Répertoire of latest Songs, having good Chorus slides, and able to render same efficiently in large building. Useless writing unless with lowest terms. W. C. Burns, Manager, 79, Gilmore-place, Edinburgh.

CHAPPELL'S OPEN-AIR CONCERTS, GREAT YARMOUTH.
WANTED, for Season, June, Sept., Soubrette and Dancer, Soprano, Baritone, Versatile. Full particulars, photo., Harry Barker, 6, Harley-road, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, all-round Lady Dancers,
Buck and High-kicking.
Smart and of nice appearance.
Immediate Engagements.
Sinclair, 118, Kennington-road, S.E.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Immediately,
the Cream of the Profession,
the Cream of the Profession,
the Cream of the Profession,

Tops, Bottoms, Middles, &c.
Tops, Bottoms, Middles, &c.
Tops, Bottoms, Middles, &c.
Tops, Bottoms, Middles, &c.

Artists of Repute
can have a Guarantee
of
Forty Weeks out of every Fifty-two.
Forty Weeks out of every Fifty-two.
Forty Weeks out of every Fifty-two.
Forty Weeks out of every Fifty-two.

Communicate at once to
Head Office,
with full list of Bookings, and absolute lowest in first instance to save useless correspondence,
Harry Burns, Sole Proprietor,
Burns's Agency, Welburn House, Hartlepool.

Telephones 231 and 231a.

Telegrams, "Chosen, Hartlepool."

Bookings include every Hall of note throughout England.

YARMOUTH HIPPODROME.
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YARMOUTH HIPPODROME.

SUMMER SEASON, 1909.
SUMMER SEASON, 1909.
June, July, Aug., and Sept.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Big Novelties of Every Description,
Good Troupe of Swimmers and Divers,
Up-to-date Riding Act,
Performing Animals,
or anything that can be performed in a Ring.
Nothing is too big.
Say where can be seen the next few weeks, also quote lowest terms and fullest particulars in first letter.

Geo. Zalva's Agency.
Hippodrome, Yarmouth.

WANTED, all-round Lady Dancers, Acrobatic and Buck.
Immediate Engagements.
Sinclair, 118, Kennington-road, S.E.

WANTED, Lady Vocalist, to Sing to Pictures, &c.; also Smart Lady Gymnast, to Work with another Lady. Address, J. Almo, Curzon Hall, Birmingham.

WANTED, Baritone Vocalist, and Lecturer, for Pictures, also First-class Top Window-billers. Address, Hatton, Business-Manager, Oddfellows' Hall, Stalybridge.

WANTED, at once, smart and pretty young Girls, who are able to Skate well on rollers; those with knowledge of Singing and Dancing preferred. Apply by letter in first instance to
Schultze's Agency,
38, Cranbourn-street, W.C.

WANTED, Young Gentleman, for known Comedy Act; also Young Lady, Singer; long engagement. Photo., particulars, Tony, Post Office, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Straight Man, Comedian and Clever Dancer, able to Patter, for Musical and Comedy Act. Amateurs save stamps. Particulars, Box 5,417, "The Era."

WANTED, Boys, age 14, small for Touring Music Halls. Good voices absolutely necessary, or good Dancers. Apply, Stanley's Urchins, 18, Ackers-street, Manchester.

WANTED, a smart Comedy Buttons, able to do two good Tricks. Good salary.
Address, Box 5437, "Era."

WANTED, a good Tumbler, young and single, good Shop; fares and dresses.
Manager, 54, Bath-row, Birmingham.

WANTED, reliable Cinematograph Operator, used to gas and electric, abstainer; one preferred who has knowledge of working of Illuminated Fountain. Write, stating experience, age, and salary required, Box 5,432, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Cinematograph Operator, with own Machine and Films, for long Tour. Morris, Liverpool, write. Address, Vaughan, 2, Jubilee-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, Bioscope Operator, own Machine, Blackpool, Feb. 15, one week, probably others to follow. Terms, refs., Alfred Selwyn, Hippodrome, Scarborough.

WANTED, Ventriloquists, to buy Hercat's "Ventriloquist," New Edition, containing 66 pages of Original Dialogues. By post 1s. 2d. 30, Racton-road, Fulham, S.W.

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270 Replies.
WANTED, Wanted, Known,
Sir,—
I inserted an advertisement, asking for Music Hall Artists in the last week's issue of "The Era." May I say that I am absolutely astounded at the number of replies I received to my small advertisement, no less than 270 Artists favouring me with applications. May I by this means thank the many artists who sent in their terms, as it is impossible for me to reply to each individual. I thank all for their very kind promptitude in responding to my advertisement.
I remain, yours faithfully,
Alfred Ball.
New Lyceum, Tilbury Docks, Essex.
3/12/'08.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Sara Sinclair (of Moss-Stoll Empires), Vacant Feb. 8, 15, 22, Soprano Vocalist, Songs Piano, Illustrated Songs. Offers. 1a, Heath-terrace, Wandsworth-road, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Ethel Yorke, Speciality Comedienne, Lib. Mon. (through misunderstanding). Wire, Pal., Attercliffe, Sheffield.

WANTED, March 8, on, Jean Macduff, Lady Scotch Comedian, Stoll Halls; Peggy Lyndon's Dainty Musical Act. Wire, Melville, Rathbone-gardens, Portobello.

WANTED, by Rosaline Thorne, Descriptive Vocalist, also Illustrated Songs, dates in Feb. Add., 32, North-side, Clapham Common, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Rubie and Elsie Redfern, in new Drawing-room Act, with Piano, Banjoes, Dancing, Singing, &c., &c.; Vacant Feb. 8, March 1 and 15. 60, Denmark-road, Manchester.

WANTED, by The Spadonis (Madge and Sylvia), Duettists and Dancers, March 1, onwards. Offers invited. 50, Lloyd-st., Greenheys, Manchester.

WANTED, Feb. 22, on, to follow Sandgate, by George Ritter, Musical Clown. Next, Palace, Dover. Thanks Morrit (Tredegar) for Offer.

WANTED, Monday next, also Feb. 15, by Leslie Clements, Chocolate-coloured Banjo Songster. Wire or write, Gaiety Theatre, Musselburgh.

WANTED, by Billy Melia, Quaint Comedian, Raconteur, and Wooden Shoe Dancer, March 22 and 29. Success "Earl of Anywhere" and "Brother of Mine." A few Vacancies. All coms., 23, Dale-street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

WANTED, immediate Engagements, Dan Ashton, Lancashire's Popular Collier Comedian, Original Songs, &c. Extraordinary Topical and Parliamentary Conversationalist. Per. add., Dan Ashton, Openshaw.

WANTED, Monday next and on, George Battle, Actor-Vocalist, new Song Scena, still making a terrific hit. Wire, Empire, Shildon, Co. Durham.

WANTED, Monday, by Tom Gott, in Yorkshire Dialect, Songs, and Stories, a 12 minutes' Front Cloth Scream. Wire, H., Wakefield; or 14, Dudley-street, Shipley.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Monday next, by J. H. Crew, Versatile Comedian and Dancer, Hippo., Peterboro', to follow. Wire, Aquarium Palace, Scarboro'.

WANTED, Feb. 15 and 22, by Perci Vale, Comedian and Raconteur. Thanks R. Nightingale, Esq., for Contracts, also C. Edwards, Esq., for most comfortable week here. Who went Billsticking? Ask Len Carlton. Wire for above, this week, Corn Exchange, Stratford-on-Avon; next week, Empire, Dudley.

WANTED, Known, Pat O'Connor, Humorist and World's Champion All-round Dancer. I bar none. Nightly, Palace T., New Brighton; Lib. Feb. 8. Offers invited. Wire.

WANTED, Known, Harry Jennings, Eccentric Comedian and King of Dancers, Vacant Monday, also later. Wire, 18, Victor-street, Mountain Ash.

WANTED, Known, Max Merlin, the Crocodile, with own scenery and platforms, Lib. Mon., onward. Perm., 55 Caledonian-street, Leeds.

WANTED, Feb. 8 and 15, by the Great Li-Chang-Hi, the Premier Chinese Conjurer and Illusionist. Wire or write, perm., 2, Brook-street, London, S.E.

WANTED, by Morimura, Marvellous Japanese Illusionist, Monday next, also 15th and 22nd, for his Original Oriental Magic Act. Address, 13, Windsor-terrace, Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Bert Powell, the Famous Military Illusionist, has some immediate vacancies for his Original Military Magic Act, introducing his great Oriental Travesty. Enormous success nightly. Communications, Bert Powell, Regent Theatre, Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, by Magicians, Illusionists, Feb. 22, March 8, 15, just to fill in, £3 10s.; two Acts. Illusionist, next, Public Hall, Ynysher, S. Wales.

WANTED, Known, Little Hackenschmidt, Greatest Wrestling Success ever known in Wales. Unexpectedly Vacant, Feb. 15, 22. Wire, O. F. H., Dowlais, Wales.

WANTED, Monday, Feb. 8, by Henshall and Forster, Sketch, "Cabby Knows His Fare," Good Single Serio. This, Middlesex. Wires, 12, Tenison-street, S.E.

WANTED, Feb. 8, onward, wire, 16, Repton-st., C.-on-M., Manchester, Great Kroston (Kyoto) and May Sumner; two distinct and successful Acts; Japanese Novelty Act and Comedienne and Dancer.

WANTED, Feb. 8, onward, Clever Kroston (Kyoto), Japanese Contortionist, Comedy Juggler, Conjurer, Educated Dog; May Sumner, Refined Comedienne, Dancer; two distinct acts. Wire, 16, Repton-street, C.-on-M., Manchester.

WANTED, March 1, on, by Herman and Evelyn, Smart Wire Act; also Casselly, Table Act. Next week, Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

WANTED, March 1, 8, Fred and Lillie Monckton, presenting Original Farcical Playlets, "Two-in-a-Flat," "A Woman's Curiosity." This, Foresters', London, E. (return); next, Palace, Dover (return).

WANTED, Monday next, 22nd, and March 1, by Colvil and Tate, Comedy Artists and Dancers. Sure success everywhere; the hit of every Programme. Wire, C/o Murray, 62, Waddell-street, S.S., Glasgow.

WANTED, Feb. 22, by Davis and Dean, the Comedians and Shadow Dancers. Last week, Hippo., Scarboro'; this, Hippo., Dewsbury; next, Tivoli, Manchester. Wire or write.

WANTED, by Tom and Neil, in their Smart Novelty Boxing and Wrestling Act; good Comedy. Vacant March, April. Write, Theatre Royal, Cardiff.

WANTED, by Les Rallis, the Artist and his Monkey, Feb. 15.
Wire, 25, Horsedge-street, Oldham.

WANTED, Known, Edwards and Ward require Feb. 8 and 15 for their Refined Comedy Act. Hippo., Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Feb. 15 and 22, by King and Manley, Mirth Manufacturers, in their Screaming Boxing Act. A Mixture of Laugh-lifting Comedy and Scientific Boxing. Good Tour invited. Terms moderate. 22, Albany-street, Newport, Mon.

WANTED, Piers, Halls, Al-fresco Pavilions, by Fred Solo's Drolls and Demures; Season and Tour; certainty or rental. Add., 63, Melrose-road, Southfields, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Walker's Would-be Acrobats; Globella, Juggling Speciality; vacant Feb. 22. Address, Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Known, Four Cecilians, what a draw! Smartest all-round Act on Variety Stage, Vacant Feb. 8, 22. 120, Victoria-dwellings, Clerkenwell, London.

WANTED, by Attilla Bros., Grecian Gladiators; also Attillas, in Novel Acrobatic Strength Display. For big draw, Feb. 8, wire, Palace, Northampton.

WANTED, Known, Les Zanonis, Boy and Girl Jugglers and Lightning Club Throwers, vacant Monday, also 15th. Wire, 46, Elizabeth-st., Blackpool.

WANTED, Monday next, Feb. 15,
THE THREE FLYING ORÉNIUSES
(Lady and Gentlemen Gymnasts), in their Marvellous Stage Aerial Act, the Only One of its Kind ever Attempted and Performed without Net or Trampolin.
The Sensation of the Age.
Managers and Agents desirous of Booking a Smart and Novel Turn should secure this Act.
93, Cook's-road, Kennington, S.E.
Wire for Monday.

WANTED, Feb. 15, The Peps, Original Gymnastic Pantomime. We give the Public what they require, something they do not see every week. Agents, Messrs. Tom Shaw and Co., 64, Upper Sutton-street, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, Feb. 15, and on, by La Dor Troupe, male and female Acrobats, in three distinct Acts; also Comedy Burlesque Bull Fight. Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, Feb. 15, 22, and few dates onwards, Bros. Almo, First-class Comedy Three-Bar Act. This and next week, Curzon Hall, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Lavello and Scroggs, Acrobatic Balancing Speciality, Refined Comedy; splendid Fit-up Vacant Feb. 8, 15. Perm. add., Swan Laundry, High-street, West Bromwich.

WANTED, Monday next, also Feb. 15, Les Kestrals (two in number), Original Society Acrobats, Equilibristic Masterpieces. Wire, Tivoli, Brierley Hill, Staffs.

WANTED, Known, Clement Trio, Flying Trapeze Comedians, free Monday and few immediate Dates. Wire, Clement, Brooklyn, Hall Green, Birmingham.

WANTED, 15th and 22nd, by Atlas and Vulcana Troupe, World's Premier Athletic Act.
17, Waterford-road, Fulham.

WANTED, Known, George Gulliver, Ventrilo quist, has Feb. 15, 22 vacant; fast booking 1910. Another huge success this week, Hippodrome, Aston. See what the Press says:
Geo. Gulliver was responsible for a clever exhibition of ventriloquism, proving himself at the same time the possessor of a store of genuine humour.—Birmingham Post, Feb. 2.
Geo. Gulliver, Anglo-Indian ventriloquist, is very original, and meets with a favourable reception.—Birmingham Gazette, Feb. 2.
Don't forget, Vacant Feb. 15, 22.
Managers who want a strong Comedy Number that gets talked about after the show should Wire,
Address, Monday, Hippo., Wakefield.

WANTED, Tom Garland, Vent. and Conjurer, Vacant Feb. 15 and 22, to follow Empire, Burnley. This week, going great, Pavilion, Leicester.

WANTED, April 19, on, by Harry Keeble, the Novelty Ventriloquist. Always a winner This, T. R., Chesterfield; next, Tivoli, Liverpool.

WANTED, March 29, April 5, by Hulbert (Ventriloquist) and De Lil (Illusionist); two smart Acts. Offers invited. Tivoli, Brierley Hill.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Piers, Pavilions, &c., April 12 next
and onwards; Shares or Certainties.
THE VARSITY MEN AND MAIDS.
The Cream of all Society Entertainers.
Duets, Trios, Quartettes, Burlesques and Vaudevilles. Music, Song, Dance, Harmony, and Refinement. Witty, Bright, Artistic.
Address, Jay Kay, 14, Upper St. Martin's-lane, W.C.
Telegrams, "Asotel, London."

WANTED, Feb. 22, April 5, for Sidney Rennef and Co., in "Minding Baby," three people, special 6-sheet. S. Rennef, this, Pavilion, Abertillery; next, Treherbert.

WANTED, March 1 and 22, by Tom Kelso and Co., fifteen minutes' continual laughter, "The Silly Servant," also at Liberty for Panto. Managers invited to see Tom Kelso as the new Dame, Widow Twankey. Usual success, one week longer, Opera House, Blackpool. Thanks to Will Dalton, Esq., for Contracts.

WANTED, Feb. 15, 22,
for "Battle of Belles."
30 minutes' laughter.
Six Artists. Scenery.
Fred Moule,
Feb. 8, Royal, Oldham.

WANTED, Known, Pauletti, Acrobatic Trick Cyclist; Les Caros, Gentlemen Gymnasts on the Silver Frame. Big Success, T. R., Shrewsbury; next, T. R., Cradley Heath.

WANTED, Known, Cyclinis Trio, Comedy Acrobatic Cyclists, Comedy Bicycle Polo, immed. dates. Perm., 120, Gaythorpe-st., Moss Side, Manchester.

WANTED, by Miss Ella's
Lion Show,
April 5, onwards.

Com., 38, Albert-road, Long Eaton.

WANTED, Feb. 22, March 1, 8, The Spangelettis, Great Animal Act, Dogs, Pony, and Baboon; also Platter, Funniest Comedy Juggling Act in England. Address, Spangeletti, Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Known, Williams' Dogs, New and Novel Acts, fine Speciality for Pictures or Circus; a masterpiece of Dog Training; Vacant Feb. 8 and 15. Perm. add., South View Cottage, Rothwell Haigh, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, C. Tessman, in his Original Sketch, "Fun on a Farm," introducing Goats, Donkey, Bantams, also Revolving Table, is vacant Mon. next, and onward. 1, Butler-street, Blackpool.

WANTED, Known, Smart Youth requires Engagement as Assistant to Illusionist or Small Part in a Sketch. A. Green, 26, Albert-road, Richmond, S.W.

WANTED, by Young Man, 20, Situation with either Straight or Comedy Boxing Sketch. Denny Orme, 36, Fielden-st., Oldham-rd., Manchester.

WANTED, Engagement by young Cyclist, 19, at present with a well-known Cycle Act, Straight or Comedy. Box 5,414, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Prof. Lenton's Bioscope Entertainments; Change of Pictures Nightly or Weekly; Machines, Films, and Accessories Bought, Sold, or Hired Out to any amount. 2, Capener's-yard, Knightsbridge, S.W.

WANTED, Engagements, Bioscope (Gaumont), Lime or Electric, every requisite; latest Films; any length. Address, Operator, 24, Askew-crescent, Shepherd's Bush.

WANTED, Public Halls,
Pier Pavilions,
for First-class Picture and Concert Co.
Manager, 8, Oseney-crescent, N.W.

WANTED, Known, complete Bioscopes, including Operator, supplied on Hire shortest notice; gas, electric. Manager, People's Palace, South Bank, S.O.

WANTED, Known, Bioscope Operator (Lime and Electric) seeks permanency; would assist Manager; expert photographer, and knowledge of carpentry; Birmingham preferred. Apply, Box 5,425, "The Era."

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known. .22 Cartridges, "R," "H," "D," "P" brands, Winchester repeaters, Globes, Targets, Water Balls. Greene, 74, Falmouth-road, London, S.E.

Side Shows.
WANTED, Known, splendid opportunity for placing several First-class Original and Up-to-date Attractions at Continental Exhibition during coming season. Replies, with full particulars, to Box 5,365, "The Era."

WANTED, Up-to-date Side-shows; must be real good. Apply, Manager, Fun Palace, 46, Bull-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, good Novelties, with Paintings, Shares, large Shop; Lucy Moore, Bunce Herculine, and Madame Howard write. Linda, 100, Llewellyn-street, Pentre, Rhondda. Spaces to Let for Tattooist, Wire-worker, &c.

WANTED, six xmonths, commencing May, absolutely Novel Show for Exhibition Building, 80ft. by 25ft.; also Helter Skelter, Haunted House, or Similar Shows. Rent, share, or purchase. Particulars, Box 5,450, "The Era."

WANTED, two Descriptive Vocalists and Planksmen, experienced, smart, good workers. Wage 30s. Boozers save stamps. Greenwood, Everton-road, Longsight, Manchester.

WANTED, Tattoist and Lady Palmist, Rent or Sharing. Terms, Automatic Exhibition, 1, St. Mary's-street, Southampton.

WANTED, Known, Milton's Marionettes, at Liberty for Tour, Exhibitions, Picture Shows, &c. Address, 77, Virginia-st., Southport.

WANTED, Known, Rollo, King of the Air, Sensational Trapeze and Slack Rope Performer, also Parader; and Miss Annie Aseiky, all-round Dancer, at Liberty shortly. Hippo., Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Mme. de Para, well-known Palmist; can book immediately, shares or rental; Exhibitions, Rooms, &c. 1, Oakley-cres., City-road, London.

WANTED, to Lend, the Body, Brains, and Working Parts of E. Phillips. Other Showmen have used same and found it pays. Late Manager Front, Johnstown Flood, White City. Manage, Lecture, Door, Construct. 18, Allestree-road, Fulham Cross, S.W.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
PLEASURE BEACH, BLACKPOOL.
Greatest Combination of Open-air Attractions in the Country. For concessions for
Real Novelties for Summer Season, 1909,
address, Proprietors, Pleasure Beach, Blackpool.

WANTED, to Let, Paved Ground and Paved Entrance; suitable for Showman or Storage. Apply, H., 5, Essex-road, London, N.

WANTED, to Let, Temporary Good Shop, in best and busiest street of Doncaster; splendid position; rent £4 per week. Alfred Stubbs, Askern.

WANTED, to Let, a Deep Shop in Busy Road, London; Fixed Now as Cinematograph. Rent £35. A bargain. Apply, 63, Whitechapel-road, E.

WANTED, to Let,
THE SHOW GROUNDS,
THE SHOW GROUNDS,
THE SHOW GROUNDS,
94, Falcon-road, Battersea.
Over 6,000 square feet, asphalted.

Last tenant retired after twenty years' occupation.

Write, E. J. S.,
2, Hazelbourne-road, Balham Hill, S.W.

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THE PALLADIUM, LONDON

(late Hengler's Circus), will be open August Bank Holiday, 1909.

THE ALHAMBRA, PARIS.

J. Hart's Co., Maud and Gill, Bertisch, Ariel and Astarte, Hectors, Nitta Jo., Lafaille Troupe, Galetti and Kokin, Prof. Canova, Les Balsamos, Marion and Iona, Pictures, Ongars.

HIPPODROME, BIRMINGHAM.

Rappo and Ella, F. Karno's Co., in "London Suburbia," Bros. Ashley, Pictures, A. Stacey, Friend and Downing, Anileda and Auguste, Vasco, Alexandre and Bertie, D. Gould.

HIPPODROME, BRIGHTON.

Barbalonga, Arthur Reece, Fred Poplar, Kitty Wager, Colombia Trio, Blanche and Powell, Ellwanger and Co., Hersleb Bros., Pictures, C. Greta, Mme. Albani.

HIPPODROME, SHEFFIELD.

Pantomime, Holland and Wood's Co., "Forty Thieves," Dave Carter.

HIPPODROME, LEEDS.

Primrose Four, Mark Leslie, Caryl Wilbur, Three Spoons, A. Heath, F. L. Gregory Troupe, Elmo and Rego, Pictures, Juanitos, Lena Wylie.

PAVILION, NEWCASTLE.

Terry and Bentley, Garganis, T. Iveson, J. Whiteford, 'Varsity Girls, Sinclair and Whiteford, Johnson and Devere, Three Krakes, Pictures, Bob Fitzsimmons.

HIPPODROME, ST. HELENS.

Haley's Juveniles, Miss Eldee, Boy Glenn, Bros. Ford, Ryder Sloan, Rosslyn and Carruthers, Francis Gerard, Weisker, Bioscope.

HIPPODROME, EALING.

Harry Champion, Ed. E. Ford, Willie Gardiner, Geo. Gilbey, Helen Charles, Pictures, Athas and Collins, Leo Tell, Selby and Myers, Courtiers.

EMPRESS, BRIXTON.

L. B. Athol, Phil Bransby, Marie Lloyd, Maud Esmond, Bogannys, Walker and May, Four Burnells, Pictures, Selbo, Edwards Trio, Bosanquet, Harry Hayton, Billie Burford, Reed and Stevens.

PALACE, HAMMERSMITH.

Ted Saunders, Jack Smiles, Fred Hastings, Sisters Julian, Alice Maydue, Ella Lane, Olive West, Les Rubens, Pictures, F. Karno and Co., in "Mumming Birds," The Howards, Hayman and Franklyn, Yangar.

OLYMPIA, SHOREDITCH.

Chas. Cardow, Dan Daly, Bertha Winder, Little Vi Davis, Pictures, Fielding and Hull, Fidardy Trio, Dan Thomas's Pantomime, "Dick Whittington," Gray and Welford, Brent and Brand.

THE WEEK'S CALLS

THE EMPIRE, HOLBORN.

Harry Levaine, Buglar Carr, Dolly Golden, Mme. Lotty, La Belle Nilla, Two Clares, Pictures, Kelly and Agnes, Elton and Edwin, Herman Bush Troupe, Baines and Reed, The Adras, Francis Letty, Albert Chevalier and Co., Bellman and Moore.

HIPPODROME, WILLESDEN.

Rudge Whitworth, Tom E. Hughes, Violet Ashcroft, Marie Santoi and Co., Belles of the Kitchen, Honors and Le Prince, Pictures, Charlie, Haines and Borthwick, Howe and Ardie, A. C. Lilly and Co., Valazzi, Anartos, Marie Lloyd.

EMPIRE, CROYDON.

Harry Taft, Martin Conway, Phil Bransby, Eugene Stratton, Dora Lyric, Stella Dell, Pictures, Joe Reichen's Dogs, Mendel, Carlotta De Yonson and Co., in "Sexton Blake."

ISLINGTON EMPIRE.

Chas. Stevens, Tom Costello, Sam Mayo, Chas. Sloman, Tom Edwards, La Belle Nello, Mabel Hind, Pictures, Wilman, Thorpe and Coe, Kate Carney and Co., Manning and Gomersal.

HIPPODROME, BALHAM.

Ambrose Thorne, Morny Cash, Arabella Allen, Ida Clare, Pictures, King's College Boys, Barlee and Smith, Royal Tokio Troupe, Mrs. Lewis Waller and Co., Jack Marks.

HIPPODROME, PUTNEY.

Fred Curran, Harry Nation, Eileen Douglas, Jenny Alexander, Pictures, Wilson and Waring, Phil and Nettie Peters, Joe Elvin and Co., O'Gorman Bros., Seven Wulfrunas.

HIPPODROME, POPLAR.

David Poole, Geo. Ridgwell, Clive Watts, Cyril Dane, Kate Gourlay, Lulu Evans, Lily Lassah, Pictures, Jordan and Harvey, Counsel and Mills, Lyons and Cullum, Alec Hurley and Co.

HIPPODROME, ROTHERHITHE.

Harry Zetter, Ted Cowan, Master Clarke, Minnie Mace, Pictures, Bros. Bright, Sid Cotterill and Co., Carl Hertz.

PALACE, CAMBERWELL.

Chas. Carr, Albert Mackelvin, Arthur Lennard, Sam Mayo, Ada Cerito, Marie Neilson, Pictures, Chanti, John Lawson and Co., Eadie and Ramsden, Jack and Evelyn, Jordan and Harvey.

HIPPODROME, NOTTINGHAM.

E. Jose and Co., Woodwards, Fasola, F. Elliston and Co., Geo. Lawrence, C. Barker Payen, Dorothy Clark, Bros. Wills, Mooney and Holbein, Pictures.

THE LONDON CASINO

will be open at the end of November, 1909.

THE ALHAMBRA, BRUSSELS.

Kragg's Trio, La Freya, Four Canadians, Frances Marty, Hovyns, Speedwell, Ruth St. Dennis, Imperial Troupe, Menotti, Gordon Highlanders, Noblett, Henriette Le Blond, Perezoffs.

HIPPODROME, LIVERPOOL.

Klein Family, Dunn and Reno, Broadway Girls, A. Roberts and Co., P. Vandy, Pictures, Herbert Clifton, Camplins, Three Chanters, H. Brown.

HIPPODROME, RICHMOND.

Jack Smiles, Geo. Gilbey, Stone and Tracey, Madge Beresford, Nellie Lunelle, Pictures, Heeley and Meeley, John Lawson and Co., Hayman and Franklyn, Madie Burker.

EMPIRE, SWINDON.

Musical Comedy and Dramatic Season.
Bill matter for this hall to be sent direct to Mr. Manners, Empire, Swindon.

KING'S THEATRE, SOUTHSEA.

J. Collins' Co., Lordy's Dogs, Juno Salmo.

HIPPODROME, WOOLWICH.

Harry Webber, Wallau, Chas. Pastor, Jack and Evelyn, Daisy Hurdle, Irma Lorraine, Pictures, Howard and St. Clair, Kent and Keith, Sergt. Mumford.

GRAND, CLAPHAM JUNCTION.

Chas Whittle, Nora Stockelle, Pictures, Verno and Voyce, The Kirbys, The Great Lafayette.

HIPPODROME, PECKHAM.

Mersano, Dora Daly, Amy Clevere, Pictures, Walton and Lester, Mrs. John Lawson and Co., Gordon Highlanders, Farley, Rennie, and Farley, Olive and Owen, Geo. Campbell.

BRITANNIA, HOXTON.

Drama, Twice Nightly.

KILBURN EMPIRE

(IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION).

ILFORD HIPPODROME

(IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION).

All communications, bill matter, &c., for London Halls to be sent to Mr. Walter Gibbons at above address. Those for Continental and Provincial Halls to Mr. T. Barrasford at above address.

INTERVIEWS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

BAND PARTS ARE REQUIRED FOR AT LEAST 14 DIFFERENT INSTRUMENTS.

OFFICE HOURS: 10 to 5 p.m.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Wanted, Known, that I have Ground to Let at LONGTON SHROVETIDE FAIR, commencing Friday, Feb. 12, until Wednesday, Feb. 24; also at OSWESTRY MARCH FAIR, held on the CORPORATION FAIR GROUND; and my well-known MARCH ROUND to follow. Reasonable terms to good tenants. Good Opening for Respectable Shows, and all sorts of Clean Stalls. Apply, P. COLLINS, Gondola Works, Walsall. 'Phone No. 80. Telegrams, "Gondola, Walsall."

WANTED, Spaces at Seaside Pleasure Resorts, ensuing Summer Season, for Electric Flying Machine, Working Coal Mine, other good Attractions, with responsible Management; rent or sharing terms. G. LINGARD, 213, High-street, Camden Town.

WANTED, Space in Trades Exhibition, Large Distorting Mirrors, Automatic Machines. Large mirrors sale or hire. MIRRORS, 77, Virginia-st., Southport.

WANTED, Known, Simons is now Selling new Job Watches at unheard of low prices. Absolutely the cheapest warehouse for cheap Jewellery, Clocks, and Fancy Goods. I buy for cash and sell for cash. Address, 100-101, 102a, Houndsditch.

WANTED, to Sell, Road Locomotive (Showman's), by Burrell, Thetford, new 1907, double crank, compound, 3 speeds, double geared, spring mounted, weight under 14 tons, to comply with Act of Parliament, splendid engine, done very little work; also 8 h.p. electric lighting, in truck, by Greene, Leeds, nearly equal new. W REYNOLDS, Engineer, Bedford.

WANTED, to Sell, Road Waggon, nearly new, first-class fittings, cheap for cash; and Bottle Waggon, ready for opening, with three new repeaters. Northumberland-yard, Old Isleworth.

WANTED, to Sell, Living Wagon, new, 17 by 7, separate rooms, beds, pans, seen Conall's Warehouse, Portland-st., Ashton-under-Lyne. Particulars, 62, Market-street, Stalybridge.

WANTED, to Sell, Two Haunted Houses or Castles, on two or three loads, Motors complete, Can both be seen working. The only Money-taker. F. GINNETT, 143, Kennington-road, London.

WANTED, to Sell, two Automatic Bazaars, at Valuation of Machines and Fittings. Owner retiring. C/o Jessey, 55 and 56 Chancery-lane, E.C.

WANTED, to Sell, Gold-mounted Photos., Husbands, Wives, Babies, X-rays, latest sensation, marvellous value, your profits doubled. MEURICE, Argyle-square.

WANTED, to Sell, Love Letters, Palmistry, Fair and Dark, Comic Cards, Eyes, Marriage, Liars', Lunatics' Licences. MEURICE, 39, Argyle-square.

WANTED to Sell, Automatic Machines, New and Secondhand, Card Delivery, Mother Shiptons, marvellous money-takers, enormous profits. MEURICE, Argyle-square.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, to Sell, Slot Machines of every description, Watling Guessing Scale a Speciality. WORMALD, 123, Blythe-road, West Kensington, London.

WANTED, to Sell, expiration of lease, a bargain: 50 Mills and Edison Automatic, Picture, Phonograph and Athletic 1d. Slot Machines, assorted, working, complete order. If you're a buyer, save time. See MANAGER, Fun Fair, 213, High-street, Camden Town, London.

WANTED, to Sell, Entire Stock, Automatic Arcade at Gorleston. Send for List to BARRON BROS., Fun City, Olympia, London. (Lessees, Sea View Exhibition, Great Yarmouth.)

WANTED, to Sell, to Showmen and others, a Three-legged Calf; healthy. Apply, HENRY HODGE, Talbot House Farm, Worthington, near Wigan.

WANTED, to Sell, two First-class Exhibition Stands, 12ft. by 6ft. by 8ft., with Shelves and Sliding Doors under Counter, including Draperies, Gas Fittings, and Pendants, in travelling cases, with iron strappings, suit Trade Exhibitions. Offers invited. R. STONE, 36, Werter-road, Putney, London.

WANTED, to Sell, Five Carved and Gilded Figures, Two Gladiators, Two Angels. One representing Australia. A genuine bargain; will take £2 each. Address, W. C. and S. HANCOCK, Castle Hotel Yard, Rhymney, Monmouthshire.

WANTED, to Buy, Pullman Rail Living Waggon, not less than 18ft. long; door side or back. JOHN COLLINS, 24, Overton-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, light, roomy Trolley or Van, carry 15cwt., Liverpool district, cheap for cash, must be sound. SIMPSON, Morestead, Winchester.

WANTED, Floss Candy Machine, hand power. W., 75, Adelaide-road, London, W.

WANTED, Known, Purchase's Menagerie and Bioscope is giving Great Satisfaction with the Performance with Lions, Wolves, Hyenas, Leopards, &c. On Thursday night, at 9, Ern Walsh entered the Lion's Den.

WANTED, good Quick Writer, Brush and Paper Letter, for Trades Exhibition Touring, and to make himself generally useful; must be smart, handy man, and able to do rough carpentering. Abstainer. Write fully experience, age, references, and salary required, Box 5,431, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Mr. W. Brooks, Swingball Worker, of Fulham, London, sails from Tilbury, Feb. 17, per s.s. Marathon, for three years' Tour in Australasia. Kind regards to all friends, North and South. Address, G.P.O., Brisbane, Queensland, till Aug. 1; then, Melbourne.

WANTED, Known, the Seventy Thousand Showmen who use the Columns of "The Era" and are moving about should know that they can make "The Era" Offices their Permanent London Address. Letters received will be held till called for, or immediately re-addressd according to instructions. Address all communications respecting the Letter Department to the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, every Showman who uses the railway to send to "The Era" for a copy of the article on the new Railway Rates. This will be sent on application, free of charge, to any Showman in the United Kingdom.

WANTED, Showmen who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any Railway Bookstall to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED TO SELL.

DUMFRIES THEATRE FOR SALE.

WANTED, Known, to be Sold, by Public Roup, within the Writing Office of Messrs. Symons and Macdonald, Writers, Dumfries, on Thursday, Feb. 25, 1909, at 12 o'clock noon, unless previously disposed of by private bargain.

The Theatre Royal, Dumfries, established in 1790, and enlarged and reconstructed in 1876, situated partly in Shakespeare-street and partly in Queen-street, and presently tenanted by Mr. W. Payne Seddon, rental £100 per annum; upset price £1,500. For further particulars applications may be made to Messrs. SYMONS and MACDONALD, who have the title deeds and articles of roup.

WANTED, to Sell, Capital Music Hall, Theatre or Hippodrome, seating 1,500, room for 2,000, with large fully licensed Refreshment-rooms, Ballrooms, &c. Good Provincial Town. Population about 15,000 normal, and over 60,000 in season (four months). Splendid opportunity for man undertaking business, in full going order. Great bargain. Good mortgage offered. Might Let to good tenant. Address, 734, Sell's, Fleet-street, London.

WANTED, to Sell, a Successful Theatre in Northern Town; recently tried as a twice-nightly Music Hall with phenomenal success. Private reasons for selling. Part Purchase-money can remain on mortgage. Apply Box 5,452, "The Era."

WANTED, to Sell, Theatre, in Lancashire. Splendid opening. Apply, Box 5,453, "The Era."

WANTED, Wanted, Known, Large Secondhand Skating-rink Building, size 63ft. by 120ft. inside; erected complete, exclusive of floor, £500. We will build new Rinks and take part payment in shares in concerns. THOS. J. HAWKINS and Co., 109, Victoria-street, S.W.

WANTED, to Sell, or Let on Lease, Central and Minor Halls, seating 500 and 250 respectively. Good letting connection. Improving investment. Apply by letter, PROPRIETOR, Central Hall, Nottingham.

WANTED, to Sell, Motor Landaulette, very handsome, quite new, comfortable, and roomy, upholstered French grey, 12 h.p. Aster engine, suitable for town or touring. Full particulars, COOPER, 93, Hatton-garden. Will sell at £100 less than cost.

WANTED, to Sell, a Magnificent Production of "ALADDIN." Worthy of any West End London Theatre. Those Managers wanting one will not waste time in seeing it at Alexandra Theatre, Hull. All communications, E. DOTTRIDGE, Emp., Oldham.

WANTED, to Sell, a Magnificent Production of "Aladdin" and "Dick Whittington." Address, ERNEST DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

WANTED, to Sell, Grand Production of "CINDERELLA" at the T.R. Nottingham; and "DICK WHITTINGTON," at the Coronet T., London, W., immediately after the run. Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24a, Regent-street, S.W.

WANTED, to Sell, the Gorgeous Pantomime, "Goody Two-Shoes." Now Playing to Crowded Houses at the Theatre Royal, Sheffield. Twelve beautiful scenes, painted by Henry Emden, E. Ryan, R. C. Oldham, and D. G. Hall. Magnificent new dresses and elaborate properties. Electric Butterfly 21ft. by 12ft., and Magnificent Candelabra, &c. Managers should not miss this offer. Apply, BEAUMONT, Theatre Royal, Sheffield.

WANTED TO SELL.

WANTED, to Sell, Several Pantomime Productions, as I am doing some different Subjects next year. ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, to Sell, New Bioscope, latest improvements. Cost £40; take £20 cash, quick purchaser. Can be seen working nightly. Particulars, JOHN CODMAN, Guildhall, Brecon.

WANTED, to Sell, Good Cinematograph and Lantern, complete, limelight, iron house, films, and slides; cheap, together or separate. HARTLEY, 249, Astley-street, Dukinfield.

WANTED, to Sell, Cinématograph, suitable for Music Hall or Side Show, 3in. and 4in. Lenses, by Darlot, high power jet, £10. Box 5,445, "The Era."

WANTED, to Sell, MESSINA EARTHQUAKE. About a dozen copies of the above for Sale, condition as new. Price 2d. per foot. RUFFELL'S, LTD., 12, Little Newport-street, W.C.

WANTED, to Sell, Films, cheap, and Films for Hire, up-to-date. THE BENDON TRADING CO., 75, Jamaica-st., Glasgow.

WANTED, to Sell, Secondhand Films, 500,000ft., from 1d. per foot; no rubbish. Send for lists. RAYMOND'S BIO-TABLEAUX CO., 56, Great Queen-street, W.C.

WANTED, to Sell, Bioscope Arc Lamps and two Resistances. W., 75, Adelaide-road, London, W.

WANTED, to Sell, all Kinds Musical Novelties, for Stage Purposes, electric and otherwise. LISLE, 209, Camberwell New-road, S.E.

WANTED, Known, H. Lisle, Musical Novelty Manufacturer, has removed to more convenient premises at 209, Camberwell New-road, S.E.

WANTED, to Sell, Frock Frills, leno plain with ruche, 3s. 11d. per doz.; Accordion pleated, 5s. 6d. Samples free. KING, 2, Dysart-road, Grantham.

WANTED, to Sell, Circus Tent, 78ft., round top, red and white striped wallings; also Horse Tent, same; both almost new. A bargain. FRED CONNOR, Vaudeville Club, Charing Cross-road, London.

WANTED, to Sell, New Illusion (fancy new), "Violet"; portable, no special lights, no big glasses. Lady vanishes whilst in full view. Remember "Dronza." Appointment, PHILLIPS, maker, 18, Allestree-road, Fulham Cross, S.W.

WANTED, to Sell, Great Water Churn Escape, cheap, no restrictions; also several New Stage Illusions. 131, Knollys-road, London, S.W.

WANTED, to Sell, Typed Stock Dramas, Comedy and Dramatic Sketches, Duos, Film Plots; Comedy written up. HAL COLLIER, Palace, Attercliffe, Sheffield.

WANTED, Purchaser for Twenty Consecutive Years' "Era" Annuals, commencing 1889. All in good order. Box 5,428, "The Era."

The Publisher, "The Era." 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London, W.C.

"Dear Sir,—I ordered the following advertisement to appear in your paper for two insertions:—

"'WANTED, to Sell, Self-acting Pianoforte two barrels, twenty tunes, perfect condition. Cost £44; what offers? MEURICE, 39, Argyle-square, W.C.'

"Kindly do not insert my advertisement again, as the self-acting piano which I had to sell has been sold to Mr. Jack Woolf, of Wonderland fame, Whitechapel-road, E. I had also ten other applicants through my advertisement in 'The Era.' Yours faithfully, J. H. MEURICE.

"39, Argyle-square, W.C. Oct. 9, 1906."

WANTED TO BUY.

WANTED, Directoire Dresses, complete, Hats, Shoes, Tights, &c. Address, M. C., New Frances Club, 425, Strand. Quote lowest price.

WANTED, really good Portable Scenery, &c. No ragshops. Full particulars and lowest spot cash, PALMER DEANE, Flint Mount, Flint.

WANTED, Scenery, cheap, good condition, Flats, 16ft. 6in. or 18ft. by 6ft. J. JACKS, 46, Holloway-road, N.

WANTED, Seascape Horizon, 30 by 18, Aprons to Match, Ground Rows, Rock-piece, Stage-cloth. State absolute lowest terms (for cash) and where to be seen to M. C., New Frances Club, 425, Strand.

WANTED, to Buy, for cash, good Jockey Horse; no fancy price. Address, Herr GUTTENBERG, Cooke's Royal Circus, Edinburgh.

WANTED, to Buy, a Circus Tent, secondhand, but in prime condition, 92ft. in diameter. Cash. GUISE, 25, Bonham-road, Brixton Hill.

WANTED, to Purchase, about sixty Chairs and Backed Forms, to seat 200 (Aubrey write), wanted for Lancashire. Lowest price. REX, Pavilion, Northwich.

WANTED, to Buy, two Gas Cylinders, 60ft. and 80ft.; also up-to-date Cinématograph; nothing but First-class stuff entertained. Apply, Auction Mart, Cefn, near Ruabon, North Wales.

WANTED TO LET OR HIRE.

WANTED, to Let on Lease, or for Sale, the Avenue Theatre, Kettering, seats 1,000; electric light, gas, plenty of good Stock Scenery. Full particulars, FRANK PAYNE, Avenue Theatre.

WANTED, to Let, Victoria Rooms, Cheltenham, seat 1,000; vacant Feb. 15, onwards, through change of date. Wire.

WANTED, to Let, Dates in Feb. and onwards, Byculiah Athenæum, Enfield, any kind entertainment, Scenery, Electric Lighting. MANAGER.

PERCY HALL.

WANTED, to Let, Rooms for Rehearsals. Established 24 years. Particulars, apply Mrs. ADAMS, Percy Hall, W.

WANTED, to Let, Large Rooms, rehearsals, with piano, 1s. hour. Clapham Assembly Rooms, Cranmer-court, facing Clapham Road (electric) station.

WANTED, to Let on Hire, or Sell, big portable Circus Ring. Apply, CAZMAN, 138, Denmark-hill, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Films for Hire, 15s. per 1,000ft. per week. Send for new lists. Films for sale, from ½d. foot. CROSS, Gloucester House, Grays, Essex.

WANTED, to Let, outside of Summer Gardens, Bridlington, Four Hoardings, measuring 12ft. high by over 100ft. in length, for painted or enamelled advertisements (no posting); finest position in Bridlington, right on sea front, splendid opportunity for good advertising firms. Apply, BRANLAND, BATH, and DANTON, 15, Haslemere-avenue, Bridlington, Yorks.

WANTED, to Let, certain Provincial Rights in "The Old Country," or "What Invasion Means," by C. A. Clarke (Author of "A Broken Heart," &c.), Drama on the question of the day. Address, C/o Crown Agency, 16, Gt. Newport-st., W.C.

WANTED, to Let, new Domestic Drama, full of incident, pathos, and comedy; small cast, expenses low. Box 5,439, "The Era."

WANTED, to Let, Smart Sketches, by experienced Writer, suit Variety Halls. List free. Write, W. DANE, 10, Ebner-st., York-rd., S.W.

WANTED, to Rent, Paint Room or Frame, City or Islington district. Particulars to J. JACKS, Scenic Artist, 46, Holloway-road, N.

FOR CONTINUATION OF "WANTED" ADVERTISEMENTS SEE PAGE 36.

MOSS' EMPIRES, LTD & STOLL COMPANIES SUBSEQUENT

(Moss, Stoll, Thornton & Allen Theatres, Amalgamated)

Chairman: SIR EDWARD MOSS

WORKING IN CONJUNCTION

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INTERVIEWS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

CALLS FOR MONDAY, FEB. 8, 1909.

Telephone: 1050 & 1051 GERRARD. Wires: "TWIGSOME, LONDON."

THE LONDON HIPPODROME

Bolossy Kiralfy's "To-morrow," El Tampico Trio, Cruikshank, Lukushimas, La Scala Opera Co., Kaufmann's Cycling Beauties, Corradinis, Tomson Mystery, Fratellinis, Pathégraph, Consul.

EMPIRE PALACE, EDINBURGH.

Rehearsal at 1.30 for :—
Karno's "Dandy Thieves," Frank Sylvo, Three Welsh Girls, Lily Flexmore, Theo. Bouwmeester, Joe O'Gorman, Ten Zerbinis, Maizie Hibbs, Bioscope, "Hunting Morn."

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—
Ye Colonial Septette, Albert Letine, Nellie Coleman, Park's Eton Boys and Girls, Brothers St. Clair, Paul Barnes, Stein Eretto Troupe, Helen Guest, Bioscope, Hubert Carter and Co. in "David Garrick."

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—
Six Brothers Luck in "Lift Em's, Ltd.," Lil O'Gorman, Schenk Bros., Walter Munroe, McCann's Dogs, W. J. Churchill, Arthur Albert, Sybil St. Elmo, Bioscope, Oswald Williams

GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—
Stevens and Buchanan's Grand Pantomime, "Cinderella."

ARDWICK THEATRE, MANCHESTER.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Morris Cronin Troupe, Mabel Mignon, Austin Rudd, Roma and Romani, La Tamara, Eight of Hearts, The Brennans, E. J. Sheldon, Bioscope, Terry and Lambert.

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—
Laurence Irving, Mabel Hackney and Co. in "The King and the Vagabond," The Crisps, Harry Leybourne, Nina Wood, J. W. Hall, Tate's No. 1 Co. in "Motoring," Musical Courtiers, Maestro and Mdlle. Oretta, Ida Kathrena, Bioscope, Howard Bros., Camille Ober.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
La Pia, Brix and Anni, Three Dixons, Chas. Vincent, Coloured Meisters, Victor Travers, The Mayvilles, Lily Esplin, Bioscope, J. F. Preston and Co. in "Rogues of the Turf."

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Jos. Hart's "Rain Dears," Harry Clifford, Katie Moss, Randolph King, Martineks, Watson's Dogs, The Two Kays, Jeannie Mackay, Bioscope, Fred Eustace and Co. in "The Amber Light."

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's Pantomime "Robinson Crusoe."

GRAND, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Miss Margaret Cooper, Frank Cass, Sisters Caselli, Doraswami, Alburtus and Jessie Millar, Matthews and Cowper, Takio, Olive Lenton, Bioscope, Staig's Cycling Steeplejacks.

PALACE, LEICESTER.

Rehearsal at 2.30 for :—
Henri de Vries, Hartley Wonders, Three Prestons, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Meymott, Howell and Scott, Maggie Walsh, Percy Honri, Gilbert Rogers, Bioscope, The Gems.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Fred Karno's Company, including Fred Kitchen, in "G. P. O.," Walter Aubrey, Nellie Taylor, Ted E. Box, Goodwin's Piccs., Tom Child, Grosvenor Sisters, Bioscope, Lydia and Amelys.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Miss Carrie De Mar, Ernest Clifford, Tom Bryce and Miss Price, Pat Rafferty, Willie Zimmermann, Alexandra Dagmar, Three Laurels, Phil Parsons, Bioscope, E. Dagnall and Co. in "Slippery Jim."

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"Sands of Dee," Cliff Ryland, The Falcons, Miles Stavordale Quintette, Jock Mills, Vetter Bros., Smythsons, Fred Elton, Bioscope, Miss Marquis's Ponies.

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Miss Evie Greene, Will Cornish, Nellie Hughes, J. L. Shine and Co., Keen and Waller, Soho Trio, Mabel Bright, Hal Hughman, Bioscope, "Motogirl."

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Maidie Scott, Spry and Monti, Orpheus, Adams and Ward, Mike Nono, Dot Stephens, Frank Hartley, Nellie Le Breton, Bioscope, "Yellow Fang."

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Fred Karno's "Football Match," Bert Woodward, Walter Curtis, Bertha Stuart, Tambo and Tambo, Edna Morgan, Three Sisters Jerome, Bioscope, Albert Whelan, The Dandies.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
George Dance's company in "The Girls of Gottenberg."

THE LONDON COLISEUM

Rehearsal at 10 a.m. for :—
La Tortajada, O Hana San and Co., The Bensons, Amelie de L'Enclos, Carrie Laurie's Kindergarten, Noiset, Fred Lindsay, Jackson Family, Burns and Danvers, Minnie Mace, Bioscope, Madame Alice Esty.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Auguste Van Biene, Lyric Mummers, Naughton and Gold, Amy Anderson and Co., The Gaudschmidts, Allan Hanbury, Bioscope, Jackley Trio, Ernie Mayne, Gertie Gitana.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Master Edward Garrett and Co., Florence and Lilian, Millie Payne, Larry Lewis, "No. 99," The Rawsons, Harry Bedford, Violet Stockelle, Bioscope, Campbell and Barber.

EMPIRE, SWANSEA.

Rehearsal at 3 for :—
George Gray and Co. in "Fighting Parson," Billy Hobbs, Jennie Hartley, J. H. Scotland, Florence Smithers and Co., Rapoli, Jimmy Shields, Bioscope, Achmed Ibrahim Troupe.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.

Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Joseph Hart's "Polly Pickle's Pets," Tom Moore, Stella Stahl, McConnell Trio, Haley's Garden of Girls, Arthur Aldridge, Cline and Clark, Eily Adair, Bioscope, Jack Lorimer.

PHILHARMONIC HALL, CARDIFF.

Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Company as booked.

EMPIRE, NEWPORT

Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Zeynardt's Lilliputians, Bob Hamilton, Winnie Harbor and Brittany Boys, Trentanovi Sisters, Jimmy Curwell, Virto and Venita, Bioscope, Walter Bellonini.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
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EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Elliott Savonas, Tom Stuart, Nance Elder, Enzer, "That Brute Simmons," Hilda Jacobsen, Edie Endon, Harry Lawson, Bioscope, Albert and Edmunds Troupe.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
De Gracia's Elephants, Henry Carlton and Co., Ross and Lewis, Delevines, W. F. Frame, Harry Herbert, Thora, Alf Chester, Bioscope, Hermann Melot.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
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EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
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HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL.

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EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Joe Peterman's Co. in "The Butler's Party," Tom Collins, Beattie Kent, Ferris and May, Charles Santon, Baker and Baife, Pictures, "Truth in Absence."

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RE APPLICATIONS FOR ENGAGEMENTS.

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Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

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All Artists or Agents who communicate with our District Representatives must have made definite applications, in accordance with above directions, to the Head Office, at the same time, or just previously.

Artists and Agents are requested to note that the Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington, Standard Theatre, Shoreditch, and the Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, come within the areas absolutely barred by us. Artists and Agents are also requested to note that the Hippodrome, Aston, Birmingham, comes within the area absolutely barred by the Grand Theatre and Empire Palace, Birmingham.

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Artists must have at least Fourteen Band Parts for English Orchestrations, and Seventeen Band Parts for Foreign Orchestrations. Matter of Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to Co-operative Offices, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced. Artists' Scenery, Properties, &c., MUST be fireproofed in accordance with the regulations of the Licensing Authorities.

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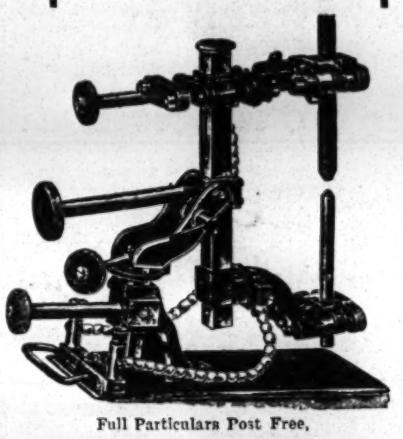

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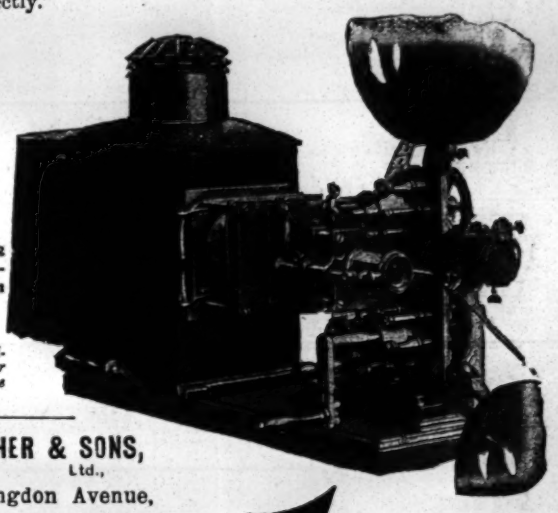

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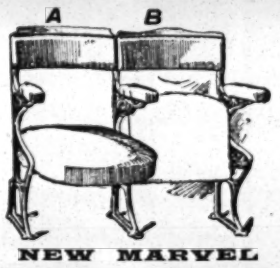

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERAMAN.—Grand Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. A. Jackson Withers; Resident-Manager, Mr. Archie Ainsleigh. — Mr. John Gerant's company opened here on Monday night in *At Duty's Call*. Mr. John Gerant gives an excellent rendering of Harold Alison; Mr. Charles Calvert submits a powerful performance of Captain George Alison; as General Gordon Mr. Ernest St. John does some good work; Mr. Harry Ives is humorous as Terry O'Hallaron; Miss Beatrice Western makes an ideal Dora Drummond; Miss Ada Roscoe is to be congratulated on her performance as Salema; whilst Mary is admirably played by Miss Eva Belle. The play is well staged.

ABERDARE.—New Theatre.—Proprietors, The Aberdare Public Hall Theatre and Billposting Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting-Manager, Mr. B. Richards.—Mr. Dickie Clarke's company is here this week in *Lucky 'Liza*. Mr. Dickie Clarke plays the part of Silas Slim in capital style; Mr. T. W. Benson as Peter Pettitoe is a distinct success; Mr. J. W. Forrest is very humorous as William Biffins; Mr. H. Norman H. Lee is extremely amusing as Paul Pettitoe; and Mr. Harry George is seen to advantage as Barnaby Bladderwick. Sadie Potts is most vivaciously impersonated by Miss Evelyn Wood; Miss Vesta Browne made a decided hit as Eliza Bird; Miss Helen Douglas was good as Marie Pettitoe; and Miss Kitty Clark is equally successful as Virginia Blatherwick.

ABERDEEN. — H. M. Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—*The Silver King* is played this week to large houses. Mr. Edward J. George portrays Daniel Jaikes with wonderful freshness and fervour; Mr. Fred D. Daviss shows power and sympathy as Wilfred Denver; Miss Madge Morley is conspicuously successful in the more pathetic scene; Miss Flossie Daviss makes a hit as Cissie; and Mr. E. Stanton-Sharp is a suitably efficient and polished villain.

Palace Theatre.—Lessees, The United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—The favourite farcical sketch, *Casey's Court*, is delightfully played, with Mr. Will Murray as Mrs. Casey; the Four Royal Scots are thoroughly appreciated as vocalists and instrumentalists, in a pleasing sketch, *When the Cat's Away*; and the company also includes Miss Carlotta Lunn, a charming American vocalist; Boden and Bell, clever juvenile vocalists and dancers; Mr. Walter King, an exceptionally amusing comedian; Little Dott Moss, a dainty comedienne; Dacey and Lewis, in a bright comedy sketch; the Robertys, whose wonderful balancing feats are keenly relished; and Mr. Harry Bent, a really excellent "star" mimic.

Alhambra Music Hall.—Managers, Messrs. R. Calder and J. Montague.—Miss Florrie Du Barrie is an exceedingly piquant male impersonator and singer; and Little Miss Dolly McCarthy excels as an imitator of Mr. Harry Lauder. Mr. Archie Murray shows all his accustomed vivacity as a coon comedian; Miss Marie Rose is repeatedly encored for her singing and dancing; and Mr. Jack Marson delights the house with splendidly rendered songs and quaint stories. The same artists also appeared at the Empire. An excellent cinematograph display is given at both houses.

ABERTILLERY. — The Pavilion.—Lessees, E. and H. Tilney; Manager, Mr. E. Pryce.—*The Power of the King* is being presented here. Mr. Travis Green shows skill in the impersonation of Prince Oscar; Rupert Landgrave is played with force by Mr. Gerald Blake; Miss Marguerite Trevosper is an impressive Lady Anastasia; Lady Florina is effectively portrayed by Miss Georgina V. France; and little Hilda Yorke makes a natural Phillipe. Mr. Charles Whitlock does justice to the part of King of Vallambrosa, Mr. Charles Clifford is a capital General Stenovic, Alberta, the avenger, finds a clever exponent in Mr. Victor Millard, and Mr. Wilton Drury is smart in the comedy character Fritz Talheim.

ACCRINGTON.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—Mr. George Dance's company is here in *Miss Hook of Holland*. As Mr. Hook Mr. Alfred Wellesley makes a success, his every saying and movement being provocative of hearty laughter; Mr. Walter Balfour acts and sings ably as Captain Paap; Mr. Frank Crimp as the bandmaster Van Voyt is decidedly smart; and Mr. George Mudie, jun., as Schnapps plays with ability. Mr. Fred Lyne as Simon Slinks is excruciatingly funny, his quaint style and natural gift of comedy showing to the greatest advantage and enabling him to keep his audience in the best of humour whenever he is visible; Miss Daisy Manning in the title-rôle plays with spirit and grace; Miss Tattie Leonard gives every satisfaction as Gretchen. As Mina Miss Cissie Sephton is delightful; ever merry and gay, she infuses an undoubted charm into the character which is heartily appreciated. The dressing and mounting of the piece is on a lavish scale, and the chorus, under the conductorship of Mr. Evelyn Baker, is effective.

New Hippodrome.—Proprietors, The Accrington Hippodrome Co.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—Mr. Jack Haddon's pantomime *The Babes in the Wood* is here on the twice-nightly system. The production is of all-round excellence, and is being well received. Miss Millie Engler as Robin Hood makes a dashing principal boy; Miss Dorma Morgan as Maid Marion is very successful. The Babes, Eric and Rost, have capital representatives in the Sisters M'Calla; and Miss Carrie Parry as Innocence, the good fairy, is stately and sings well. The comedians are all very good. Mr. Charles May as the Baron, Mr. Harry Elliston as the Dame, and Messrs. August and September as the Knockabouts' cause endless amusement. A feature in the performance is the speciality turn introduced by the Seener and Fridkins troupe of Russian vocalists and dancers, who contribute an exceedingly smart act and receive a most flattering reception. J. W. Rowley, the popular comedian, also appears, and wins favour.

ALDERSHOT.—Royal and Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Gladwin.—Messrs. F. Marriott-Watson and Saunderson Moffat's company, in *What a Woman Did*, are here on a return visit. Miss Florence E. Florence gives an effective portrayal of the leading rôle of Elise; whilst Miss Phyllis Hamilton appears with success as the temptress, La Papillon. Mr. F. Marriott-Watson as the villainous Marquis is decidedly good; and Mr. Saunderson Moffat as the much-wronged Conrad plays with capital effect. Specialities of songs and dances, humorous situations, &c., are contributed by Messrs. Elton Morgan (Fritz), Reginald Kloof (Pitou), Owen Edwin (Pippin), Misses Norah Waylett (Nanette), Flo Norman (Fanchon), the Clancy Girls, and others.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas Revill, jun.—Mr. J. Rice Cassidy's company is here this week with *In Holy Russia*. The play gives Mr. Cassidy opportunities, as a sturdy hibernian, of making his personality prominent, and his humour is diverting. Mrs. Rice Cassidy finds in Renée Rubinoff a character suited to her gifts. Miss Amy McNeil's dramatic skill makes the rôle of Catska Lovatski an impressive one; Colonel Richard Forrest is soldierly in the hands of Mr. Henry Compton; Mr. Geo. H. Doyle gives effective interpretation to Laurice E. Steragoff; Mr. Rolf Leslie scores as Count Gregoris Petroiski; and Madame Natolski is safe in the hands of Miss Alice Holland.

Empire Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr W. Leech; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Jesse Burslem.—Mr. John Tiller's comic pantomime *Jack and Jill* is drawing well here. At both houses each evening delighted audiences testify to the pleasure received in its performance. The Scotch ballet, *The Gathering of the Clans*, receives ovations nightly. As Jack and Jill, the children of the well, Cissie Iris and Nellie Grimshaw are popular favourites; Jessie Vernon as Truth, the fairy, wins admiration; and Carl is well depicted by Mr. S. Oscar Karno. Mr. Harry Cotton as Baron Joliiboy indulges in pantomimic absurdity of laughter-provoking kind; and Mr. Bruce Green makes Dame Durden an exceedingly comical old lady. A capital duo of performers are Horace Jones as Ginger and Jean Gaynor as Trim; equally funny are the impersonations of Biff and Baff by Messrs. H. and F. Le Cren; and Miss Adah Le Cren as Fantine, the maid to the Princess, is remarkably agile and attractive.

New Pavilion.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech; Assistant-Manager, Mr. T. Edward Owen.—The animated picture entertainment, with vaudeville interlude, is attracting interested audiences twice nightly to the Pavilion.

The Picturedrome. — Lessees, Messrs. Welsker Bros.; Manager, Mr. J. Marks.—The old Church-street theatre, cosy and comfortable as a picture drome, is filled nightly with interested sightseers The pictures are up to date, and the quality of the entertainment is evidenced by its power to attract. The most striking of the pictures this week is a long series of panoramic views of Mount Bellew and district, depicting scenes before and after the recent disastrous bog-slide in Ireland.

ATTERCLIFFE.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manageress, Miss Ethel J. Hope.—The principal pictures of this week's interesting series are The False Coiners, Braving Death to Save a Child's Life, Oh! Red Tapism, Venice in a Gondola, Tale of a Harem, Vulture Hunting, The Cabman's Wife, and Sherlock Holmes. Talking, living pictures by the realistic Cinephone is a special feature, and Miss Ethel Sheffer is responsible for several illustrated songs.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Bert Dent.—Topping the bill here this week is Mr. Archie Goodall, the one-time international football captain, in his sensational and novel act, Walking the Hoop; a clever performance is given by the Three Sisters Lee, acrobats, vocalists, and dancers; a welcome return visit is paid by Vena Velma, the "Musical Comedy Maid," who, prettily costumed, introduces songs and dainty dances; the programme is also contributed to by Wright and Elton, comedy duo; Miss Marie Altina, vocalist; the Two Wiltons, vocalists and dancers; Mr. Fred Errick, comedian; and a pleasing series of "Attergraph" pictures is also an attraction.

AYR.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—On Monday night the theatre was well filled in every part to welcome Mr. Ian Maclaren and his Shakespearean company, who are here for the week. In the representation of *Hamlet*, the opening piece of the engagement, Mr. Maclaren took the part of the Prince himself, and presented an intellectual study of the exacting part. Miss Ruby Maclaren as Ophelia spoke her lines well and was graceful; Mr. Matthew Boulton drew a powerful portrait of the King; and the Queen was well portrayed by Miss Gertrude Littlewood. The other pieces down for production are *The Merchant of Venice*, *Macbeth*, and *Romeo and Juliet*.

BACUP.—New Court Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood.—Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company is here with *The Lancashire Lad*. Mr. Charles Stafford gives a powerful rendering of the title-rôle; Mr. Hugh Wallace as Jem Wincote is responsible for some fine acting; Mr. Ernest Waughan's performance as the callous villain Max Carlton is sufficiently repulsive, and he has a powerful accomplice in Miss Mell Oliver as Lorna Wincote. Mr. Walter Kenion as John Willie Wardle is highly amusing, and Miss L. Pearce as Jane Ann Clitheroe is accountable for a good deal of humour. Jessie Wincote is pathetically presented by Miss Phyllis Elton; Miss Molly Monaghan gives a fine study of Mother Wardle; Miss Gertie Gaye and Miss Daisy Gaye as Flossie Mayfair and Trixie Golightly are responsible for some excellent singing and dancing; Mr. H. N. Wilkinson as Professor Napoleon Boulanger is worthy of special mention.

BARNSTAPLE.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, The Bridge Trustees; Manager, Mr. Harry Ashton.—Two performances of *The Thief* were given here by Mr. Ernest Bodkin's talented company, the skilful acting being followed throughout by critical, but highly appreciative, audiences. Chief interest was of course centred in the title-rôle, undertaken by Miss Kathryn Stocks, whose intense and vivid delineation of a victim of the modern "dress" craze received well-merited approval. Miss Mary Forrester displayed deep feeling in her conception of Isabel Leyton; Mr. Frank Darch was eminently successful in his vigorous portrayal of Richard Chelford, the final reconciliation with the "Thief" being extremely realistic; Mr. Ernest Bodkin as Raymond Leyton showed a capable and sincere interpretation of an arduous part; Mr. C. W. Lindsey revealed rare ability as Harry Leyton; and a praiseworthy study of the detective came from Mr. T. Taylor-Vinson.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—Royalty Theatre and Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Messrs. Paumier and Howard's company, in *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*, is here this week. Mr. Lionel Gadsen is exceedingly clever in the rôle of Michael, a difficult part, well handled; Mr. W. E. Cox is very admirable as Olaf; Mr. A. Brandon makes a strong character of Hildred; Mr. R. Nobel makes a capital Captain Hector; Miss Ethel Bracewell displays undoubted ability as Princess Monica; Miss Gertrude Branscombe is delightfully charming as the beggar maid, Camiola; Mr. J. H. Vyvyan as Karl and Miss Jessica Black as Viola are very amusing in their love-making scenes.

His Majesty's.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge. — Mr. Herbert Sleath's company in *A White Man* is here this week. Mr. F. Tennant make a big hit as Jim Carson, and Mr. Harold T. Richardson a dignified Earl of Kerhill. Mr. A. Brandon and Mr. Martin Henry are typical cowpunchers; and Mr. Eric Hudson plays the difficult Tab-y-wana with effect. Miss Eleanor May is a superb Diana; and Miss Bertha Hanbury as Little Hal and Miss Margaret Fairleigh as Nat-u-rich both do well.

Tivoli.—Lessee and Manager, Signor R. Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edgar G. Laban.—The Cumberlands are the top of a capital bill here this week. They are trick cyclists of a very high order, and had a tremendous ovation. Webb and Branston, operatic duettists, were deservedly applauded for some excellently rendered duets; the Four Jumels provide a capital musical turn; the Claymore Trio are very clever, and their songs and patter much enjoyed; Rose Pink is a charming little serio and dancer; Jack Binns is a quaint comedian; and Vernon's Bioscope contributes considerably to the programme with some good pictures.

New Hippodrome.—Owners and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—A series of very interesting pictures is being presented here this week.

BARRY DOCK.—New Theatre and Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brogden.—This week Mr. F. R. Benson is presenting the following plays:—*The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Othello*, *The Merchant of Venice*, and *Julius Cæsar*. On Monday night a fashionable audience witnessed *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, which was highly appreciated. Mr. Ross Shore played to a nicety the character of Sir John Falstaff; as Mrs. Ford Miss Mary Webb was pre-eminent, and was ably assisted by Miss Constance Bromley (Mrs. Page); Mr. Burgess-Barrett faithfully portrayed Dr. Caius; Mr. H. Lester did well as Sir Hugh Evans; Messrs. C. Warburton and John Cairns enacted the rôles of Ford and Page effectively; and Mr. Victor Hardy (Slender) delighted the audience with his quiet humour.

BATH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—A revival of the romantic comedy *Robin Hood* appeared to be much to the liking of the audience on Monday evening. On this occasion the company is under the direction of Mr. F. Clive Ross, who himself enacts Little John, with amusing results. In the title-rôle Mr. Ethelbert Edwards scores a legitimate success, looking the character, and fully deserving the high reputation he has attained in the part on tour. Miss Cahill is well endowed to undertake Lady Marian, and is particularly good in the later scenes; Mr. H. Elliot Bull throws vigour into his acting as the repulsive Prince John; as does Mr. Frank Litchfield as Hugo de Longespée. The Prince's other retainers are well portrayed by Mr. Ernest Gray, Mr. V. Smart Gotlop, Mr. Lambert Plummer, and Mr. Ralph Leon. Mr. J. N. Briant makes most of his chances as King Richard; Will Scarlet and Allan a'Dale are successfully impersonated by Mr. Laurence Tessler and Mr. Stenson Liddard, both gentlemen displaying vocal talent of no mean order in the ballads that they have to sing. Miss Laurie Flockton makes a winsome Adela, and Miss Madge Devereux likewise assists with pleasing skill as Alison. The small character of the Queen Dowager is becomingly filled by Miss Roberta Pulleyne.

Assembly Rooms.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Howes.—After a few weeks' absence, the Columbia Animated Picture company are again presenting an admirable kinomatograph entertainment, which appeals ot a large section of the public.

Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—H. C. Lovell and company, in the musical comedietta *Mademoiselle Pom-Pom*, fulfil their evident mission of causing laughter; Carlotta Levey sings a trio of chorus songs which go with a swing; the Royal Czar troupe of dancers put great energy into their national dances; as do the well-known San Remo Girls, who are always well received. Hicks and Hunter are the first to introduce dancing locally upon ice-skates, and their clever performance is loudly applauded; Frank Vallance proves himself an adept in a number of conjuring tricks; George Bendon, the white coon (with new songs), is always welcome; Rose Cass, comedienne, opens the programme, which, as usual, is closed by an exhibition of Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

BEDFORD.—Royal County Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—Mr. E. Graham Falcon's pantomime *Aladdin* is being presented this week. Mr. J. G. Forde as the Magician proves a clever extempore vocalist; Miss Amy Bellwood is the dashing hero, and her songs, especially "Have you got another girl at home like Mary?" are all well sung; Miss Daisy Kersey, a captivating Princess, acts with much grace, and the humour is well sustained by Mr. Albert Laurence, Mr. Will Burton, and Mr. Percy Galino. Miss Gipsy Hodgson is a charming tea-house girl, and Miss Gladys Warner is good as Souchong. The speciality entertainment in the second half is contributed to by Miss Amy Bellwood, Miss Edith Maynard, Miss Daisy Kersey, Miss Gipsy Hodgson, Miss Georgie Mansell, the Warners, the La Dor Troupe, and the Yokels.

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Metropole Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*Cinderella*, tastefully presented by Messrs. Jazon and Nightingale, is making a pleasant stay here. A most entrancing presentment of the heroine is furnished by Miss Mollie Doone, who shows talent as well as beauty; the Ugly Sisters are rendered truly comical by Messrs. Wallace Whitney and Harry Plowden; the Danbys score in the rôles of Cuff and Kollar; and Fred Lake plays the Baron with hearty good humour; Mr. Leo Fields keeps the audience laughing and applauding as Buttons; Miss Vera Mayne makes a fine-looking Prince, and sings and acts, &c., with the utmost skill; and Miss Beattie Foster is very clever as Dandini. The Misses Cissie Gordon, Lily Hales, and Flo Burnett are prominent also, and an excellent chorus supports.

Carlton Theatre, Saltley.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*The Face at the Window* is being presented here, with Mr. E. Hoggan-Armadale in the titular rôle, that of Lucio Delgado, otherwise "the Wolf." The fearsome qualities of the part

adventuress, Leonore de Gresac, was ably represented by Miss Winifred Pearson; Mr. Harold Weston and Miss Laura Hansen were admirably suited as the Count and Countess Bellini respectively; Mr. Cecil Klein was amusing as Sir Victor Lascelles; and much fun was afforded by Mr. Walter Pemberton as Jack Hawkins and Miss M. Sadie as Polly Clarke. The remaining characters were satisfactorily sustained. The performances have attracted crowded audiences.

ALHAMBRA.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Alfred Smith.—There is an excellent company here this week. Picitt and Lizette are distinctly successful in their clever pantomimic act of illusion, *The Crazy Cook;* Burke, Andrews, and Frisco are very amusing in their spectacular absurdity, *Trafalgar-square, London, 4 a.m.;* C. Tamamoto, the Japanese perpendicular rope performer, is warmly applauded; the Paolias appear in a graceful athletic act; Cissie Esvaile, serio and dancer, is well received; Harry Villiers' character impersonations merit praise; Mostol submits a pleasing musical entertainment; George Payne is an eccentric comedian; Lena Leslie is a dainty comedienne; Johnny Cecil, light comedian, finds much favour; and the Alhambra Picturegraph comprises films interesting and amusing.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. B. J. Brown.—A very attractive programme is sustained here this week. The popular prima donna, Madame Albani, who is enthusiastically received, delights the audience with finely-rendered arias from Italian operas and well-known songs and ballads. She is accompanied on the pianoforte by Mr. Victor Marmont, and violin obbligatos to some of her selections are given by Herr Zakovsky. Other turns are warmly appreciated. La Bella Greta is a pleasing singer and danseuse; the Werds are clever eccentrics; Signor Barbalonga, Italian baritone, is well received; W. T. Ellwanger is highly entertaining in the comedy sketch *The Peacemaker;* the Hesleb Brothers are diverting comedy artists; Herr Zakovsky wins hearty applause for his violin solos; the Eight 'Varsity Girls appear in *A Vocal Evening* with conspicuous success; Dorothy Gould is a dainty vocalist; the Columbia Comedy Trio score heavily in a delightful operatic and humorous absurdity; and effective turns are submitted by Fred Poplar, comedian, and Arthur Reece, light comedian.

WEST PIER.—Secretary, Mr. A. W. Scholey.—Mr. Ernest E. Norris and company are here this week with *The Beloved Vagabond.* Mr. Norris displays finished acting in his impersonation of Gaston de Nerac; Miss Florence Tresilian as the strolling singer Blanquette achieves distinct success; Miss Nona Hoffe makes a charming Joanna Rushworth; Mr. Bert Morley gives a capital portrayal of Astiçot; and other characters are satisfactorily sustained by Mr. Theodore Kelly (the Curé), Mr. Fred Castlemain (Lord Rushworth), Mr. Edmund Sydney (the Comte de Verneuil), Mr. Guy O'Neil (Père Ciboulet), and Miss Caroline Fenton (an innkeeper).

COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. M. Barrasford.—The animated pictures exhibited thrice daily here prove highly attractive. The Auto Heroine is a film of thrilling interest. A Duel in the Days of Richelieu is replete with stirring incidents, and very amusing are The Cabman's Wife and The Cumbersome Game. The Great Apache Dance is submitted by the Cinephone. The comedy sketch *Black Justice* is admirably performed by Barrasford's Sable Operatic Minstrel Troupe, whose efforts evoke the heartiest of laughter. Mr. Arthur W. Briggs' descriptive pianoforte accompaniments to the pictures merit warm commendation.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—Up to the present time *Aladdin* appears to be breaking the record in the way of attendance. The pantomime is very popular with all classes, to which its varied features appeal. The scenery is very fine, the dresses are rich and tasteful, the artists are all clever in their respective parts, the songs obtain full appreciation, the vein of humour is well sustained, and the numerous dances introduced are attractive.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Alty.—*Little Red Riding Hood* continues to attract full houses, the pantomime evidently suiting the taste of the patrons of the "old theatre." There is plenty of comic business, the songs are good and up-to-date, the scenery is very pretty, the dresses are all that can be wished for, and the company is an effective and hard-working one.

PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Arthur Watson, Flo Stanley, and company amuse with their musical comedy sketch, *The Cruise of H.M.S. Victory.* There are about twenty performers, and some good dancing is introduced by the Vera Troupe. Barton and Ashley entertain with their new farcical sketch, *Adam the Second;* Jack Lane does an exceptionally clever turn at the piano; Sam Williams, character vocal comedian, is appreciated; Yolande Noble, burlesque actress, presents a pleasing turn; Les Aribos do some very clever hand-balancing, somersaults, and equilibristic work; Tom Joy, comedian, obtains applause for his quaint songs; and the performance concludes with amusing animated pictures.

EMPIRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—Donaldson Brothers have a splendidly staged comic interlude, entitled *Sports in a Jungle,* the various animals, birds, and reptiles being cleverly made up and impersonated; Fanny Robina, character vocalist, has some fine songs, her turn being exceptionally attractive; the Harvey Boys amuse with burlesque boxing, &c.; Mamie Fenton interests with Scotch songs and talk at the piano; Wright and Lawson do some good work as tumblers, contortionists, and dancers; Frank Boyce, comedian, is appreciated; Rezene and Rezene entertain with patter, &c., on the trapeze; Florrie Cooper is a pleasing descriptive vocalist; and Cole and Wood have a good comedy duologue. Interesting animated pictures conclude the entertainment.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson. — *The Soldier's Wedding* was presented by the author, Mr. Walter Melville, to a good house on Monday, when Mr. Wingold Lawrence made a fine hero of Jack Brown, and the heroine, Nancy Lee, was well represented by Miss Dorothy Richardson. Comedy is well sustained by Mr. Johnny Chippendale as Tommy Spratt, Little Albert as Teddy Munroe, and Miss Mattie Everett as Lizzie Walker. Villany has excellent exponents in Mr. Gerald Jordan as Charles Courtenay and Miss Marie McAulay as Julie de Beauvrais. Good work is also done by the other members, and especially by Mr. Beresford Whitecomb (Colonel James Graham), Mr. Fredk. Biron (David Munro), Mr. Fred Yarnold (Nathaniel Lee), Miss Mabel Lowe (Peggy Munroe), and Miss Alice Campbell (Mrs. Hatherton).

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's capital company is delighting good houses in the thriling play, *With Edged Tools.* Mr. J. A. Rosier is an imposing Sir John Meredith; and Mr. Chas. Hartopp gives a manly performance as Guy Oscard. William F. Grant is praiseworthy for his representation of Jack Meredith; and Mr. Campbell Goldsmid gives a fine study of the repulsive Durnovo; Mr. Graham Pockett is good as Maurice Gordon; pretty and womanly is Miss Marie Leonhard as Jocelyn Gordon; and Miss Alice Esther Belmore is fascinating as Millicent Chyne; whilst Miss Florence Dunhulty as Lady Herries is convincing.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—Captain Maximilian Gruber and Miss Adelina's horse, pony, and wonderfully-trained elephant, present a clever and pleasing performance; Francis Gerard, Herculean juggler, with his comedy assistant, performs smart feats, and is warmly applauded; Miss Ruby Bijou contributes neat barefoot dancing; and Jan B. Vaubert, illusionist and smoke painter, provides a clever turn. Mark Cowan, burlesque comedian, appears with success as "The Merry Widow"; and Miss May Loftus is an excellent exponent of clog dancing; Mr. Tom Garland, ventriloquist, causes much laughter with his drolleries; and The Life of a Chick is capitally illustrated by the Empire Theatrescope.

PALACE THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten.—A return visit is paid by Lew Lake and company of comedians, in *My Pal Jerry,* and is productive of endless fun; Edie Veno is a vivacious comedienne, with an excellent style and good songs; whilst Mysticus provides a turn of illusions which are neatly and cleverly performed. Lisbon and Barker cause screams of laughter with their part-singing; and equally mirth-provoking are the Gallimore Trio, in their absurdity. Miss Nora Desmond has two capital illustrated songs; and Poole and Maguire are an excellent comedy duo. Rosie Reval, in comedy dancing, is appreciated; and the picture by Raymond's Bio-tableaux, The Mysterious Thief, is very funny.

BURY (LANCS.).—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, the Northern Theatre Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—*Woman and Wine,* as enacted by Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmond's company, is proving popular fare here. Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds makes a powerful Dick Seymour; Miss C. St. Elmo as Marcel Rigadout and Miss Octavia De Noel as La Colombe, are forcible exponents of those sinister characters; an intelligent rendering of Mary Andrews is furnished by Miss Violet Sims; Mr. Harry Harrop is a versatile and amusing Charles Sauter; and a clever character study of Caliban is presented by Mr. Edwin T. Kisby.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, the Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; General Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—A distinctly original and clever exhibition of trick cycling by the Daunton-Shaw Troupe meets with well deserved applause; Arthur Croxon is a refined comedian and mimic; Harry Drew possesses a fine bass voice; Stelling and his dog are popular; contralto songs are well rendered by Rose Gower; Rowlands and Ford are an enjoyable turn; and Henri Bekker, in his display of mystery, is popular.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Edward Owen.—Genuine humour is crowded into Sandy McNab's Scotch sketch, entitled *The Egyptian Mummy,* and the turn, which excites the heartiest laughter, has a most flattering reception; Lallie Brooke is interesting in a song scena, "The Old Sundial"; Tod Lowen is an entertaining comedian; and other good turns include Jack Hartley, comedian; Jackson and Marte, eccentrics; the Cameo Troupe, clever acrobats; Mona Vivian, juvenile comedienne; and The 10.40 Express, shown on the Bioscope.

CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—A highly-amusing piece was presented here on Monday night, when *Toddles,* with Mr. Murray King in the name-part, was received with delight. Mr. King is always good, and was screamingly funny in the part; Mr. Ardene Linden was entertaining as Jobiyn; Miss Evelyn Shelley as Mrs. Jobiyn made an excellent character of the part, and rendered Mr. King most valuable assistance; Mr. Alick Chumley was good as Freddy Gunner, as was Mr. G. Douglas Cox as Hasiitt; Mr. I. V. Bryant (Dr. Baird), Mr. Mattie Cheshire (Boolby), and Mr. Alexander Lee were all diverting. Miss Naomi Neilson made the most of Lady Dover; Miss Ada Champion was all that could be wished as Comtesse de Chambry; Miss Mabel Ormonde (Mrs. Bower), Miss Doris Langdon (Constance Jobiyn), and Miss Iris Hamilton (Pussy) all acted the parts most charmingly.

CARDIFF.—NEW THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—Mr. Redford opens this week, after his pantomime triumphs, with a visit from the eminent actor Mr. Martin Harvey, who is exceptionally popular in this district. On Monday *The Lost Heir* was presented to a large audience, and exceptional enthusiasm and appreciation were aroused by the performance. Mr. Martin Harvey submitted his remarkable interpretation of Edgar Ravenswood, and achieved a triumph; Miss N. de Silva as Lucy Ashton is pathetic and powerful; Miss Mary Rorke's Lady Ashton is a convincing impersonation; Mr. Philip Hewland fills the rôle of Bucklaw with much ability; Mr. Charles Glenney's Captain Craigengeit is particularly praiseworthy; Sir William Ashton receives a faithful delineation from the skilled hands of Mr. Albert E. Raynor; and Mr. Percy Foster's Caleb Balderstone is a fine exposition. Mr. Alfred Mansfield gives a weird representation of Ailsie.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—Joseph Hart's company is here in a novel fantasy entitled *Polly Pickle's Pets in Petland.* Nothing prettier could be imagined than Haley's company of vocalists and dancers in *The Garden of Girls;* Jack Lorimer, versatile Scotch comedian, is distinctly humorous; a smart and original comedietta, entitled *The Airship,* is presented by the McConnel Trio; Tom Moore, character comedian, is a first-rate entertainer; Cline and Clark are expert dancers; and Elly Adair (Irish comedienne and dancer), Stella Stahl (comedienne and dancer), Arthur Aldridge, and the Bioscope complete.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Under the management of Mr. Rollo Balmain.—*Aladdin* opened here on Monday. Miss Marie Wall, in the title-rôle, is vivacious and irresistible; Miss Emmie Cozens as the Princess is captivating; Miss Cissie Conran (Pekoe) and Miss Ruby Hayes (So-Shi) do exceptionally well; Mr. Harry Rose (Emperor Ski-Hi) and Mr. George Helm (Abanazar) cause much laughter; and Mr. Bob Stephenson's Widow Twankey abounds in witty sayings. The glees by the Welsh Sextette, the smart juggling turn by Staffo (So-long), and the speciality dances by Snip and Snap help the success.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton.—The Bouncing Dillons occupy the premier position here, and their bouncing competition at each performance is a source of delight; Deans and Wilton, comedy acrobats, gain hearty applause; Les Elgonas are sensational gymnasts; the Garricks, in a song-scena, "go down" well; and others who contribute to the bill of fare are the Sisters Clare (duettists and dancers), Nellie Moore (character actress), the Garden Quintette of International dancers; and A-Ba-Be's "Picture Postcard Album."

CARLISLE.—H. M. THEATRE.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart McKim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—Mr. F. R. Benson's Company (North) commenced their third annual engagement here on Monday night. *The Taming of the Shrew* was the piece chosen for the opening performance, and a splendid house gave a warm welcome to the well-chosen company of artists engaged in a production of all-round excellence. Mr. Henry Herbert again appeared as Petruchio, and was, if possible more successful than ever; Mr. James Berry's Baptista was well conceived and well played; Mr. Robert Atkins as Lucentio made an excellent lover of Bianca, who was impersonated with lively vivacity and fine judgment by Miss Violet Farebrother; Messrs. Victor Wiltshire and Cyril Sworder made the humorous characters Gremio and Hortensio stand out prominently; Katherine was an unmistakable shrew in the hands of Miss Gladys Vanderzee, her assumption of rage and fearful shrieks in the early scenes contrasting most forcibly with her air of subjection in the later ones. Her finished performance met with unqualified approval. Mr. Charles Sparrow as Vincentio, Mr. Edward Vanderlip as Tranio, Mr. Arthur Fayne as Grumio did good work, and the numerous minor characters were done full justice to. *Twelfth Night, Othello, The Merry Wives of Windsor, The School for Scandal, The Merchant of Venice,* and *Henry the Fifth* are billed for presentation during the week.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Morgan.—Berzac's comedy animal act is the special attraction this week. The undriveable mule Maud proves a stumbling block to aspiring jockeys; three beautiful little ponies are admired for their clever tricks, and the revolving table is the source of infinite amusement; Thomas and Taylor in a novel quick-change act, and Edie Coolville, a charming vocalist and dainty dancer, are popular turns; Hamilton Hill, the Australian baritone, is heard to great advantage, his capital chorus song "She was a grand old lady," meeting with an enthusiastic reception; Spencer and Marks are wonderfully agile dancers; the Westbrooks contribute a clever and graceful dancing scena entitled *Two Little Maids from School,* which is smartly and effectively worked. The pictures by the Pepiscope, which are unusually interesting this week, gain in popularity.

CARMARTHEN. — ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—Proprietors, Public Rooms Co.; Secretary, Mr. Edward Baldwin.—This week Mr. D. V. Crossley has presented *The Babes in the Wood.* Miss May Hopkins as Robin Hood was an unqualified success, and Mr. Ted Hopkins was inimitable as Lewis Bach; Mr. Dick Hopkins as Evan Bach was a thorough success; the little sisters Effie and Dunnie Sinclair shone as the Baron's wards; Miss Jean Beresford made a charming Phyllis; Mr. George Grant was an amusing Belinda; Miss Ethel Rainsforth an effective Marion; Mr. George Kelly excellently impersonated Baron Hardup; Polini and Marjorie were in the capable hands of Miss Enid Lane and Miss Ada Lawrence respectively; Friar Tuck found a worthy exponent in Miss B. Robson; Miss Edith Rainsforth was delightful as Glory de Digon, Miss Ella Chester as Allan-a-Dale, and Miss Ione Turner as Maybud. Miss Ellanene Gastella was a decided success as Fairy Sunshine. The costumes and scenic effects were of a high order.

CASTLEFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Hy. Masterman, J.P.—This week Mr. T. Edward Ward's company is paying a first visit here with *For Love of the Princess.* Care and taste are displayed in the various settings, and the large audience on Monday thoroughly appreciated the play. Mr. Wilson Coleman's impersonation of Prince Conrad is perfect in every detail, and is characterised by an easy and natural bearing that adds considerably to the effect; Miss Maisie Hanbury's Princess Idalia is acted with grace, dignity, and refinement; Mr. Graham Winsford bears himself in right regal fashion as the Prince Regent; Mr. E. Imeson emphasises the villainous character of Count Danillo with much skill, while Lieut. Zaroff is played with marked ability by Mr. Douglas B. Watson. The debased and debauched King Josef has a capital representative in Mr. E. H. Dobell; Mr. Beckett Bould has formed a highly interesting conception of Lieut. Orlans; Messrs. Francis Serle and Edgar Morgan keep the house highly amused in the respective parts of Duke Scarfe and Boris; Miss Olive Lloyd gives a delightful study of Lady Irene, and Miss Nellie Graham makes a good Sister of Mercy.

QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Proprietors, Messrs. Chas. Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. W. H. Emerson.—Topping the bill are Woods, Wells, and Wilkins in a sketch *The Pianoforte Tuner.* They possess rich and well-trained voices, and their part songs are interspersed with some really excellent and delightful fooling. Martin Conway's quaint business and funny songs win an enthusiastic reception; The Irtams in their great pot-pourri act are in popular favour; Fred Ellis is a great favourite with a couple of songs, sung with dash and spirit; the Della Sisters sing in a most enjoyable manner, and are encored; La Bella Marco gives a pleasing and graceful performance on the trapeze, and is applauded; Mart and Pep are a youthful pair who give a splendid display of muscular feats and exhibitions of strength; and Chas. Denton's songs are good and he is a smart dancer. The Loyal Dominion Co.'s animated pictures are particularly good.

CHATHAM.—BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—The Lyons Trio are creating merriment in their Farmyard Absurdity; Chas. Geoffrey and company are deservedly applauded for their sketch entitled *His Father's Teacher;* Fraser and French are nimble dancers; Fred Herbert has some up-to-date songs; Adelaide Waldorf's chorus songs go well; and Maddison and Webb (the Idiot and the Soubrette) and Julia Gilbert also appear.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Captain H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr. G. Humphries.—John Clempert tops the bill here, and thoroughly mystifies his audience by his escape from a galvanised iron tank filled with water, a feat which creates a sensation. Frank Seeley is a prime favourite with all; the Menzies have an amusing duologue, *The Suffragette;* and others in the bill are Campkin, the tramp cyclist; Bessie Lind, comedienne; Austin and Coward, a pair of vocal entertainers; and Lillian French, comedienne and dancer.

CHELTENHAM. — OPERA HOUSE.—General Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—Mr. Norman V. Norman fulfils a welcome annual engagement this week, assisted by Miss Beatrice Wilson and selected company, for the first part of the week presenting *The Adventure of Lady Ursula* and for the second half *Under the Red Robe.* Mr. Norman is again seen to advantage in the dignified and manly rôle of Sir George Silvester; and Miss Wilson is a gallant, youthful Lady Ursula Barrington; Mr. Reginald O. Lamb is capital as the quarrelsome Mr. Dent; Mr. Norman Leslie acts gracefully as the pleasant Mr. Castleton; and Messrs. G. W. Robinson, F. A. Flower, and J. Ashford do well as Mr. Devereux, Mr. Ward, and Sir R. Clifford; Mr. F. Lock plays with sufficient spirit the part of the Earl of Hassenden; Mr. Herbert Russell is excellently placed as the Rev. Mr. Blimboe; Miss Hilda Forbes Phillips plays with effect as Dorothy Fenton; and Miss Ethel Coleridge is good as Mrs. Fenton; Mr. A. E. Mayne does well as Quilton, and Messrs. Cyril Percy and H. Prett figure in the cast as servants.

CHESTER. — ROYALTY THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—An excellent variety company opens this week with the Marvellous Jees topping the bill; Cynthia Brooke is a comedienne of merit, and as a humorist and mimic Revill Hall is smart and entertaining; the Victoria Troupe excel as instrumentalists, vocalists, and dancers; Harry Meegan is an eccentric comedian of merit; and Renee Grahame deserves praise for her finished vocalism. Henry and Tyler amused and amazed the house with their exhibition of smart comedy cycle tricks. An interesting show of pictures by the Premier Imperial Biograph completes the bill.

CHORLEY (LANCS).—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Santé.—Mr. Frederick Melville's capital company, under the management of Mr. Harry A. Dooley, is here this week with *Her Forbidden Marriage.* Mr. Harry Lonsdale makes an exceptionally fine George Madison; Mr. Louis Hector is decidedly good as Charles Devereux; Mr. Wilfred Mansfield undertakes Sir George Lancaster with conspicuous success; Mr. Conrad Shalford wins approbation as the Rev. Mr. Dean; Timothy Tuttut is humorously portrayed by Mr. Fred De Vere; Lucy is well undertaken by Miss Isla Garnet-Vayne; Miss Florence Hunt is responsible for an exceptional impersonation of Lady Lucretia; Miss Grace Lester well sustains the character of the Mother Superior; Patty Lovejoy being vivaciously rendered by Miss Grace Emery.

COATBRIDGE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Coatbridge Theatre Company, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident Manager, Mr. John Commins.—Mr. Frederick Melville's company occupies the boards here this week with *Married to the Wrong Man.* Mr. Oswald Cray delighted the audience with his impersonation of Jack Gladwin; Mr. H. Lane Bayliff made the most of Captain Deering; Mr. Charles Vivian proved a typical Jasper Skinner; and the comedy element was cleverly looked after by Mr. Sid Claydon as Timothy Clinker. Miss Gertrude Boswell in the difficult part of Ruth was thoroughly enjoyed, and deserved the applause accorded; Miss Violet Vincent was well cast as Mother Snaggs, and Miss Dorothy Haigh gave an admirable rendering of Rose O'Connor.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Chas. Macdona; Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—Messrs. Austin and Dixon's *Mother Goose* pantomime opened a week's engagement here on Monday. In the title-rôle Mr. Sydney James proves himself a comedian, siffleur, and ventriloquist; Mdlle. Le Mair is a charming Queen of the Ballet; as Fairy Miss Gertrude Bond sings delightfully; Miss Mabel Austin looks nice as Lubin; and Miss Winnie Murray and Miss Cissie Astbury prove popular. Ragian and Firth provoke mirth as knockabouts, and Ted Lockstone and Jack Harrington also introduce humour. Mr. Nicklin Williams sings capital songs

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Colchester Hippodrome Company; Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—The leading item here is Edward Cranston and company in the racing sketch *Jerry,* dramatically delineated by Mr. Cranston, Miss Ethel Kingston, and Mr. W. Lindon. Madame Dalmere's forty animals present a special phase in the training of such; Tom Lee wins encomiums with his light comedy songs; and Iris Yohe's songs are well received. Pictures are given with a free hand, and those bearing the mark of Pathé and the name of Chas. Urban predominate.

CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—The attraction here is Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and Mr. J. E. Cardwell's pantomime *The House that Jack Built,* performed on Monday before a large audience, who expressed their highly-favourable opinion of it by their hearty laughter and applause. Some good topical hits, songs, &c., are introduced with capital effect. Mrs. H. B. Levy must be complimented on the taste and skill displayed in the dresses. The company, numerous and capable, embraces Miss Florrie Taylor (Jack), Mr. H. Hellerby (Aunt Purdy), Miss Gladys Wyse (Wee McGregor), Mr. W. McNaughton (Squire Bounce), Miss P. Blanchard (Tommy Tucker), Miss Olive Woodbridge (Dollie Dimple), Miss G. Whalley (Little Jack Horner), Miss Evelyn Major (Jill). The specialities are by Doyle and Gibson, who keep the house in roars, Wee Gladys Wyse, Horace Hellerby, and Florrie Edwards, capital dancers. There is little doubt that the excellent company will draw good audiences for the rest of the week.

DALY'S NEW HALL.—Lessee Mr. John Cottrells; General-Manager, Mr. Arthur Campbell.—A capital programme is being presented here this week. The pictures shown include the following:—Richard III., The Puritan Maid, The Workman's Revenge, The Fire, Wonderful Mirrors, and Dowry Hunting.

COVENTRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—*The Prodigal Son* is on a return visit this week, being presented by Mr. Wentworth Croke's company. Mr. Hugh Montgomery is again seen to advantage in the part of Magnus Stephenson; Mr. Gordon Macintosh upholds the part of Oscar to perfection; and Miss Valerie Crespin gives skilful renderings of Thora and Elin.

HIPPODROME THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. S. T. Newsome; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. E. Wright.—The principal turn this week is provided by the engagement of Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco, who combine a very clever illusionist performance with some smart comedy. They keep the audience in roars of laughter. Lady Mansel's juveniles, in their act *A Concert Rehearsal,* give some pretty dancing and good inging; the Fauldy troupe of Hungarian acrobats do remarkable feats; George Rae, Scottish comedian, exhibits an original style of dancing; and other artists who contribute to the evening's enjoyment are the Haverleys, American songsters, Willard's Merry Manikins, and Lettie and Florence, dancers and duettists. The Bioscope films are particularly good.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. K. Draco—The programme presented this week is being received by large audiences. Philip Levard heads the bill as an illusionist who performs mystifying and amusing tricks; Woodhouse and Wells proye very entertaining as comedians and patterers; a smart turn is given by Emerson and Baldwin as comedy jugglers and club manipulators; Lanos and Montes are a couple of clever gymnasts; Marjorie Cannon is an entertaining comedienne; George Collins as the Gibson Girl is well received; Billy McLain and company present their latest creation, *The Coloured Aristocrats;* and Messrs. H. Rigwell and company appear successfully in an amusing sketch, *The Lady Chauffeur.* The Bioscope pictures conclude.

CRADLEY HEATH.—EMPIRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jno. H. Morton.—Mr. J. P. Moore's comic pantomime *Dick Whittington* is playing to crowded houses this week. Miss Madge Lock as Dick plays in a fascinating and vivacious manner; Mr. Percy Victor as Alderman Fitzwarren keeps the fun going in an able manner; Mr. Willie Oswald as Idle Jack is also responsible for much of the humour; and Mr. Fred May as the Cook ably assists. Mons. Pauletti is an interesting Cat; and Mr. E. Ellmore as the Emperor. Mr. H. Willatts as the Demon Rat, Mr. F. Street as Captain Bunting, and Miss Lilas Grey as Viscount Piccadilly deserve special mention.

CREWE.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alfred Cuthbert.—Mr. Douglas Bruce's company in *The Girl Who Lost Her Character* attracted a capital house on Monday. Miss Doris Brookes as Molly Vernon proved herself an actress of ability; Miss Cherry Veheyne gave a clever study of Rose Seymour; Miss Lydia Mannington was a successful Marian Franklyn; and Miss Maime Thorpe enlivened the play in the comedy part of Isabella Jones. Mr. Richard Ferris played Captain Geoffrey Caversham perfectly; Mr. Geo. Mitchell submitted a careful reading of James Sutton; Mr. Edward McLean capably portrayed the Rev. Robt. Everton; Mr. C. W. Standing filled the dual rôles of Jack England and Private Johnson excellently; Mr. Geo. H. Asquin was an amusing Dick Punch; and Mr. Augustus Bowerman an effective Detective Weathersby.

CROYDON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Manager, Mr. Roland Daniel; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Ernest Archer.—Mr. F. W. Bolam is presenting *The Sins of Society* here. Miss Mabel Murray is quite at her ease as the Hon. Mrs. Murgatroyd; Miss Beatrice Hodson makes a lovable Lady Gwendolen Ashley; Miss Vita Spencer is full of life and spirit as Lady Goldbury; Miss Janet Hodson is an aristocratic Duchess of Danebury; Miss Grace E. Leslie acts with effect in the rôle of Lady Marion Beaumont; and Miss Sepha Julians deserves a word as a milliner. Mr. C. F. Collins accurately interprets the part of Noel Ferrers; Mr. E. Vassall Vaughan makes a manly Sir Dorian March; Mr. Arthur Ransom is commendable as Mr. Thesiger; Mr. Edward Lewis is always amusing as James Hogg; Mr. Frederick Annerley acts with precision in the character of Mr. Morris; Mr. Edwin Palmer submits a capital character sketch of Parker; and praise is also due to Messrs. William Fenton (Captain Carruthers), James Miles (Police Inspector), and Ernest Stanley (Captain Thorp).

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. Anthony.—The American Bioscope pictures are still the attraction here. The programme includes Mr. Bert Williams, elocutionist; Miss Beatrice Vere, contralto; and Mr. Ernest Tilley, tenor.

EMPIRE PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Walter Gibbons and Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Eustace Jay.—Eugene Stratton, the inimitable coloured comedian, is causing a great sensation here; Dora Lyric is a first-rate comedienne with a fine voice; Mendel gives a clever performance at the piano; Joe Reichen's dog show is an exceptionally good turn; Phil Bransby is a smart coster comedian; Stella Dell, comedienne, is neat; Harry Taft is a creditable whistling comedian; the Bioscope pictures are interesting; and Carlotta de Yonson acts splendidly as Leah Coercell in the detective dramette *Sexton Blake.* C. Douglas Carlile is great in the title-rôle; Lee Gilbert does well as Tinker; and C. A. Carlile makes the most of his opportunities as the Master Criminal.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Bell.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's *Dick Whittington* is here this week. Miss Florrie Gallimore, a delightful Dick, works hard, and her numbers are enthusiastically encored; Miss Josie Delaine as Alice is very graceful, her dancing and singing being excellent; Miss Rose Tilly looks the part of Viscount Piccadilly to perfection; Miss Rose Alderman sings charmingly as the Fairy; Mr. H. O. Wills as Idle Jack is full of humour; Mr. Jack Mackenzie as the Dame is funny; King Rat is finely played by Mr. Leo King; Mr. J. Wood and Mr. T. E. Fields do good work as Alderman Fitzwarren and Officer Tarpaulin; and Mr. Alf Clegg is a good Cat. There are specialities by the Herald Comedy Four, who are well received for their comedy glee singing; also the Harwood Juveniles.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Theatre, Limited; Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Hersee.—The chief turn is provided by Mr. Dave Samuels, the American Hebrew comedian, who is highly appreciated; Miss Lily Langtry's well-rendered songs win applause; Freedo and Preston are expert dancers; Lozelle is a clever gymnast; and the Athos Troupe, ball manipulators and acrobats; Talbot and Pearce, in their Japanese duologue *Yo-San;* Bi-Bo-Bi, eccentric musician; and the Pepiscope are other items in a strong bill.

DARWEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, The Animated Pictorial Enterprises, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. A. Whitehouse.—Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and Mr. J. E. Cardwell's juvenile company is here in *The Babes in the Wood.* Leslie and Marjorie (the Babes) are in the hands of Peggy McDonnell and Cissie Wyse, two clever juveniles; Miss Daisy Wood plays Robin Hood in good style; and Miss Jennie Hughes makes a charming Fairy Dewdrop, her singing being much appreciated. Miss Dolly Dodds is a great favourite as Maid Marion. Fun is supplied by Mr. J. G. Aitken as Sandy Simple, Messrs. Graham and Barron as the Ruffians, Mr. Jimmie Watson as Nurse Lucinda, and Mr. Neil Hardy as the Baron. Charming dances are introduced, the Statue Ballet and the Birds' Ballet deserving special mention.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—Messrs. Lyn Harding and Sidney Cooper's company are here this week with *The Flag Lieutenant.* Mr. Lionel Atwill as Richard Lascelles gives a delightful performance; Major Thesiger has a manly exponent in Mr. H. Montague Love; as Sir Berkeley Wynne Mr. Geo. Mallett plays to perfection; and Mr. Edward S. Petley is in every way successful as Surgeon Crutchley. Mr. John Wheatman as Michael Pallister submits a clever character sketch; and Mr. Hugh Wakefield and Mr. Lionel Watts as the two midshipmen deserve praise. General Gough-Bogle is well played by Mr. W. J. Yeidman; while Miss Stella Leigh makes a praiseworthy Mrs. Gough-Bogle. It would be impossible to speak in terms too commendatory of Miss Florence Jackson as Mrs. Cameron; while as Lady Hermione Wynne Miss Vera Birkett is responsible for a charming assumption. Miss Marjorie Dove as Viola Hood and Miss Winifred Valiant as Lady Dugdale are well suited in their parts.

PALACE.—Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes.—The principal turn here this week is given by the Maningos, Continental equilibrists; the Three Canards in their dancing act are also successful. Renee Glendower and company cause much merriment in the sketch entitled *A Bit Too Clever;* Nellie Walton, a singing mill girl, is to be congratulated upon her reception; the Ringling Trio, in their knockabout absurdity *The Manager's Lunch* are as amusing as ever; Brothers Carney in their vocal scena are praiseworthy; and Arthur Hickman is an agreeable vocalist. The Bioscope concludes a good programme with a dramatic film.

DEVONPORT.—HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor. A shortened version of *David Garrick* proves highly popular, Mr. Frank Fenton undertaking the chief part with pronounced success; the Jen-Ji troupe of Japanese magicians give a wonderful display of juggling and conjuring, some of the turns completely mystifying the audience, who are loud in their demonstrations of approval; Reg. Bolton as the office boy of the Daily Rag supplies an amusing journalist skit, whilst his vocal efforts are an additional attraction; Kenrick and Laura furnish some popular melodies, which receive due measure of appreciation; Ellis and Ellis are picturesque international dancers, and the Arntes coon songs and dances are very pop

point of numbers which has ever been sent out of London, and the largely augmented orchestra, were under the skilful direction of Mr. Andrew Maccunn.

Palace Theatre.—Lessees, The United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. S. McIntosh.—Heading a fine bill here are the miniature marvels Les Piccolinos, who go through a really wonderful performance; a warm welcome is extended to Teddy Edmonds and company in a sporting farce entitled *The Lady Jockey*; Tiny Arnold sings and dances herself into favour; the Sisters Wynne, gorgeously attired, sing catchy ditties with joyousness; the Millwards come in for hearty applause; Fred Vallance infuses much humour into his ventriloquial act; Edwards and Dacre are successful in a clever comedy duologue; Marie Raymond pleases as a ballad vocalist; and Carl Colyer is distinctly funny in his songs and patter. The Palascope, with some fine pictures, completes.

Gaiety Theatre.—Lessee, Mrs. Lillie Williams; Licensee, Mr. W. E. Potts; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Evans.—A strong attraction here is Mr. Augustine Knight's company in *The Assassin*. Miss Ella Vane as the Countess Wanda (the Assassin) gives a powerful rendering; Mr. Augustine Knight as Prince Demetri proves himself an actor of resource; Mr. John Worth is an excellent Ivan; Mr. Murray Hathorne a comical Baron Alphonse; and humour is supplied also by Mr. Harry Liddle as Peter and Miss Katie Lever as Katrina.

Empire Theatre.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. Lillie Williams; Business-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alfred Ross.—In addition to a fine picture programme, the Lombards in a clever equilibristic act and Joe Dale, a humorous comedian, are meeting with acceptance.

Newman's Picture Palace.—Crowded houses are the rule at Mr. Fred Newman's house, where a large selection of dramatic and humorous pictures are on view this week. An excellent variety turn is given by Zenora, hand jumper, and amusement is caused by a novel barrel boxing competition.

Gilfillan Hall.—Some very fine films are exhibited here by the Dundee City Concerts and Entertainments Company, Ltd. Amongst the most popular are:—Retribution, A Gentleman's Son, Brave Children, The Two Brothers, and a laughable film entitled The Roller Skating Craze. An enjoyable turn is provided by Bill Walters, ventriloquist; Ernest D. Jones is a smart accompanist.

Roller Skating Rink.—Managing-Directors, Mr. C. P. Crawford and Mr. F. A. Wilkins; Manager, Mr. Bert Crump.—Rinking is all the rage in Dundee at present, and vast crowds are to be seen disporting themselves daily at this spacious and well-appointed rink. A grand charity night was held on Wednesday for the benefit of the Dundee Unemployed Fund, under the patronage and presence of Lord Provost Urquhart, magistrates, and Town Council.

DUNFERMLINE.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.—Mr. Stephen Pritt's company appeared here on Monday in *His Wife No Longer*. Mr. Archie Helsby was a very powerful Anthony Merivale; Mr. E. Paul Neville a good Harold Medworth; Mr. Edmund Grogan a creditable Rev. Frank Willacy; Mr. A. B. Douglas a capable Daniel Trench; Mr. David McFarlane put in good work as Tommy Oglethorpe; Miss Rosa Mervyn proved herself a capable actress as Mrs. Merivale; Miss Emmie Barton made a sweet Marion Jefferies; and Miss Nellie Lawson left nothing to be desired as Lucy Hooper. *A Woman's Passion* has also been played.

EASTBOURNE.—Devonshire Park Theatre.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray King and Clark.—Messrs. Ernest Stevens and R. C. Buchanan's company is appearing here in a bright, attractive, and wholesome pantomime, *Cinderella*. As a couple of effective comedians Mr. Freddie French and Mr. Ted Young would be difficult to improve upon; the former as the diminutive Baron Hercules helps largely to provide much hearty laughter, and the latter as the expansive Tiny creates endless fun; Mr. Arthur White is a smart Capers, whose speciality act is one of the hits of the evening; Mr. Leslie W. Harris is a smiling, cheery, and buoyantly happy Dandini, whose songs are rendered in pleasing effective style, and Mr. Harry Carlisle is a satisfactory Joseph. In the part of Cinderella Miss Nora Wadelry appears very successfully and her quiet, graceful manner is very pleasing; Miss Agnes Tandy has a fine figure and voice, and as Prince Casimir she does all her work with delightful swing and animation; Miss Alice Inman does excellent work in characteristic style as Araminta; Miss Emily Stevens, whose singing and acting are full of brightness, is a most efficient Elvira; Miss Mabel Rose's efforts are very commendable as Fairy Godmother; Miss Dollie Hook, dainty and sprightly, does capitally as Duke of Whistbridge; Miss May Edbrook is a handsome Snow Queen; and many other shapely ladies ably complete the cast.

Royal Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; District-Manager, Mr. G. Egbert; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—Mr. Joe Belmont, heading the bill, treats the audience to some wonderful whistling and imitations of birds, and he is deservedly popular; Mr. Martell is an astonishingly clever equilibrist; Cling and Clancy are a talkative comedy couple, who provide many laughs; Mr. Will Musgrave renders his songs in quaint original fashion; Miss Lizzie Kirk sings with much point and effect; Miss Lucy Gillet juggles and balances smartly, and new films of the disasters in Messina are shown. Mr. Gordon Brown, a pleasing Scottish baritone, renders his songs very tastefully.

The Pier Pavilion Theatre.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. Clarence C. Corri's company is appearing here in *The Dandy Fifth*, and a particularly able company work brightly to produce a most effective performance. Mr. Arthur Radcliff is a handsome Dick Darville, singing in really excellent manner; Mr. Charles Sims supplies capital fun as Sergeant Milligan; Mr. Coningsby Brierly is a smart and animated Trooper Brown; Mr. Percy Baverstock is a spirited and peppery Colonel; Mr. Jack Leyland sings remarkably well as Sir Victor; Miss Una Palmer is a delightful and unusually good Kate Lorimer; Miss Maud Nichols deserves full praise for her work as Mrs. Von Blitzen; Miss Nora Morra gives able, efficient help as Polly, and Miss Dorothy Clarke is an eminetly satisfactory Antoinette. Mr. Clarence C. Corri is the musical director.

ECCLES.—Crown Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manger, Mr. Albert Rogers.—Captain Ben Harris's novel boxing competition creates an immense amount of fun; Slippere, the blind entertainer, meets with marked approval; Willie, Wild, and West, the bounding navvies, are popular; Leonard Charburn's troupe of children are a credit; the Roxbys (Phil and Kitty) prove taking; Evelyn and Norrie in sketch *Set a Thief* put in some good work; Jim Cunliffe renders several catchy ditties; Monty Walker is responsible for much mirth; Frank E. Ford gives a clever exhibition of clog dancing; and the earthquake and ruins of Messina are depicted on the Bioscope.

EDINBURGH.—Royal Lyceum Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—The Moody-Manners Opera Company entered on a fortnight's engagement here with a performance of Wagner's *Lohengrin*. Mr. Philip Brozel, in the name part, sang with considerable robustness and power, although a little more suavity in the softer passages, particularly in the Farewell to the Swan song, would have been an improvement. Mme. de Vere Sapio rendered the beautiful music of Elsa with taste and dramatic power, and in the Balcony scene she sang with simplicity and charm. Miss Marie Louise Rogers appeared as Ortrud. She possesses a powerful mellow voice and a good dramatic method; but her enunciation is not quite perfect. Mr. William Dever, vocally and dramatically, made an excellent Frederick of Talramund; Mr. Charles Magrath was dignified as the King, and his sonorous voice was heard to advantage, and Mr. R. Cliffe made an effective Herald. The chorus, augmented by the Edinburgh Grand Opera Society, rendered the difficult music with precision of attack, sweetness, and tonal power, "The Swan Chorus" being an especially fine effort. The orchestra played splendidly under the able direction of Herr Richard Eckhold. On Tuesday Tschaikowsky's *Eugene Onegin* was given with a strong cast. The chief honours of the evening fell to Mme. Fanny Moody, who, as Tatriana, was in grand voice. By her beautiful vocalisation, clear articulation, and dramatic style she invested the part with distinction and charm. Mr. Charles Manners as Prince Gremin had not much to do, but what he did was on thoroughly sound lines. His superb rendering of the song "At every step sweet love is master," in the last act, was an education in vocal expression, and the audience insisted on an encore. Mr. Lewys James did every justice, by his vocal and dramatic ability, to the part of Eugene Onegin, and as Lenski Mr. Seth Hughes sang with great effect. Mr. M. Cassini made a decided hit as Triquet, his song in praise of Tatriana being so artistically sung as to evoke persistent demands for an encore. Miss Roma Weir as Olga, Miss Arnold as Philippona, Miss Penville as Larnia, and Mr. Moppet as Saretski were all admirable. The opera was beautifully staged, the chorus sang well, the dances were graceful, and the orchestra, led by Signor Sapio, played brilliantly. *Tannhäuser* was given on Wednesday, Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana* and Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci* on Thursday, *Madame Butterfly* on Friday, on Saturday, matinée *The Meistersingers* will be played, and *Faust* will be performed in the evening.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Whitehead.—The pantomime *Dick Whittington* is nearing the close of its very successful run, but crowded audiences still testify by their presence and enthusiasm to the delight which the spectacle has afforded the playgoers of Edinburgh. Miss Jane Eyre's acting in the title rôle has lost none of its freshness and charm, and on Monday she was loudly encored for her vivacious singing of a new number, "I want you to see my girl," in which she had the assistance of Miss Vera Burnley, a talented child, who is a daughter of the popular musical conductor at this house. Mr. Will Evans remains a tower of strength as Idle Jack, his whimsical style and undoubted humour keeping every scene alive with fun. Mr. Phil Ray, Mr. Wm. Downes, Mr. Bickley, and Mr. Albert Felino, as the exceedingly agile and entertaining cat, are actors who make the most of their respective parts, while the pleasing work of the Tiller Troupe, and the graceful grouping of the auxiliaries, combined with a wealth of pretty scenery, contain much that appeals to audiences of varied tastes.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook. Phe pièce de résistance here this week is Mr. Fred Karno's company in the musical extravaganza *The Dandy Thieves*. The piece is admirably mounted and played with point and vigour by the actors, notably humorous work being done by Mr. George Hestor as Sergeant Lightning, a comedian of resource. Mr. Frank Ginnett's company, too, in *Hunting Morn*, a sketch full of capital songs and brisk business, aided by views shown by the Bioscope, give a telling performance, and are loudly applauded. Mr. Theo Bouwmeester in a dramatic scene entitled *Who is Guilty?* shows undoubted ability in his impersonations of seven distinct characters. Mr. Joe O'Gorman's racy style carries the audience with him, and stamps him as an excellent comedian; Mr. Frank Sylvo proves himself a dexterous juggler; the Three Welsh Girls sing with marked sweetness in several harmonised numbers; Miss Lily Flexmore makes a hit as "The Flexible Girl," an apt title; Mr. Willie Walker, a local Scotch comedian, appears with success; the Ten Zerbinis submit a very pleasing musical entertainment; and the Bioscope displays an amusing series of films.

King's Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard.—A programme of unusual interest has well sustained the popularity of this handsome house. On the week's bill first honours may be divided between Ethel Arden, George Abel, and company for their very entertaining sketch, *Three of a Kind* and Charles Daly's company of comedians for their bright little farce *I Must Have It*. Harry Freeman is responsible for uncontrollable mirth, and his songs secure the heartiest encores. A new comedian appears in Biff Hall, whose "melancholy Hebrew" turn is loudly applauded; the juggling M'Banns give an excellent display of their art; the Richards Trio introduce novelty into a clever acrobatic sketch; Miss Irene Meldon sings with much taste and dances daintily; Miss Lily Arthur is a pleasing comedienne; and the King's Bioscope is quite up to date with a good selection of films.

Cooke's Royal Circus.—Proprietor, Mr. John Henry Cooke.—This week's programme has been very liberal as well as most enjoyable. In the evergreen equestrian drama *Dick Turpin's Ride to York*, with Talberto as the dashing highwayman, assisted by Leicester Alfred Cooke as Tom King, Leon Douglas as Sammy, and Miss Edina Marion Cooke as Dolly Gudgeon, and the leading members of the company in various rôles, a very entertaining representation was given of the many interesting episodes, humorous, pathetic, and exciting, with which the piece abounds. The variety part of the bill was exceptionally strong, including a goodly number of circus turns wherein Miss E. M. Cooke, Mlle. Marietta, Herr Guttenberg, and others greatly distinguished themselves. Horton and Linder created much amusement as horizontal bar eccentrics; Comical Walker and Shadow and Jester H. Dale afforded plenty of genuine fun; Henderson, the blind musician, quite enraptured his hearers; Pongerila, as the human monkey, and Mme. Spangeletti, with her trained dogs, furnished capital turns; and a very graceful act was performed by Mlle. Zaida on the electric wire, concluding with a pretty flight of pigeons. On Thursday evening, set apart for the benefit of Mr. Leicester Alfred Cooke, a dog parade was added to the attractions of the bill.

EXETER.—Theatre Royal.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—The boards are occupied this week by the Exeter Amateur Operatic Society in *The Gondoliers*.

New Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frederick Sandy.—Topping this week's bill is Maurice Farkoa, who is making his first appearance in Exeter. On Monday he had an excellent reception. Another much-appreciated feature of the programme is the fine singing and piccolo solos of Olga and Elga; much merriment is caused by Little Zola, a comedian who is really funny; and Addie Dorina presents her new production, *Dr. Spot's Patients*, in which she receives able support from Frank Wheatcroft. Aline O'Connor renders a couple of songs in charming style; marvellous acrobatic and wire-walking performances are contributed by the Five Whiteleys; and Charles Russell is responsible for some up-to-date songs. The Hippodrome pictures are also enjoyable.

FALKIRK.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—This week the bill is filled with *The Prodigal Son*, the story of which is presented by Mr. George D. Day's company. Mr. Albert Ward appears in the title-rôle, and his acting, particularly in the Casino scene and the homecoming of the prodigal, is very ably done. The part of Helga lends itself to skilful treatment, and this it receives from Miss Pearla Gardner; Miss Dorrie Roberts takes the dual characters of Thora and Elin very well indeed, her fresh and buoyant acting as the latter being quite delightful; Mr. Alfred Goddard as Magnus plays the stay-at-home son with much effect. The other parts are all well filled.

FOLKESTONE. — The Pleasure Gardens Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Messrs. Dudley Bennett and T. C. Wray's company on Monday commenced a welcome return visit for three nights in *The Catch of the Season*. Mr. William Greene made an ideal Duke of St. Jermyns; Miss Dorothea Clarke a dainty Angela; Lord Dundreary was impersonated by Mr. Joseph L. Bruce in a manner which quickly made him a favourite; Mr. Franklin Miles was the henpecked Sir John Crystal; and Lady Crystal and daughters were meritoriously acted by Miss Edna Eden, Miss Barry Eldon, and Miss Kate Robertson. Lady Caterham had a sympathetic exponent in Miss Grace Hampton; as the Duchess of St. Jermyns Miss Claire de Vere was a charming hostess. Last, but not least, was the skilful study of Bucket, the page boy, by Master Ernest Crate. *Raffles* came on Thursday.

GATESHEAD.—King's Theatre.—Proprietors, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager and Licensee, Mr. Harold Arnold.—A lady illusionist and protean actress, Vonetta, has drawn large audiences here; Mike Cray, a comedy juggler with some novelties and a well-trained dog, is welcomed; Edith Chantler, a wonderful juvenile soprano, has a flattering reception; Bert Terrell, a Dutch comedian, of ability, is praised; the Pichel Troupe of risley acrobats are entertaining; Shrillo, an operatic whistler, Sira, one-legged acrobat, and the Kingscope provide other enjoyable turns.

Metropole Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; General-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Dixon.—Mr. J. F. Elliston's capital company is here, in the pantomime, *Humpty Dumpty*. Miss Barbara Babington graces the rôle of the Princess; and Miss Florence Wix is a pleasing Rudolph. Miss Dolly Ross charmingly sustains the rôle of the Prince; whilst Miss Nell Carmichael is a painstaking Cherry. Prominent among the comedians is Mr. Willie Black, who fills the part of King Solumn; Mr. Rex Kempton is a quaint Bison Bob; and Mr. J. Lonnen Meadows is a witty Dame. The Quality Quartette render pleasing part songs; and the Lecardo Bros. give best attention to the knockabout business. Miss Rosa Sims dances prettily; and not the least attractive feature in the production is the excellent scenery.

GLASGOW.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—*Cinderella* at the Royal is now in its final week, and so much has previously been written concerning its good qualities that perhaps it would be idle to further offer it praise in detail. During its run the pantomime has been excellently received, and the artists one and all are worthy of the highest mention. It is safe to say that no brighter or sprightlier Cinderella has been seen in the city than Miss Iris Hoey. From the opening night she has been a pronounced favourite, and her singing has delighted all. Miss Violet Lorraine has proved herself well worthy of the part of the Prince in every department. Her singing is likewise good and the rendering of her songs capital. Another bright little artist is Miss Meg Hamylton, who as Dandini fulfils the highest expectations. Messrs. George Robey and Harry Dent are here, there, and everywhere in the panto, and with two such talented comedians the parts of Buttons and the Baron are worked to their utmost. Seldom have two comedians been so popular in the city in pantomime. Messrs. Willie Garvie and the Brothers Obo as the Baroness and Sisters respectively are simply untiring in their efforts to please, and many are the comicalities of this trio. A novel introduction is that of Mr. Paul Sundberg as Saltarrello. His dancing is quite a feature. The other artists, as already stated, are capital. The stage-management is excellent, and altogether it is with regret that one sees the end of the pantomime season at the Royal. Friday was set apart for the benefit of Mr. George Robey, when a plethora of talent was given in addition to the pantomime.

King's, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—The latest musical play, *The Dollar Princess*, is paying a week's visit here before opening in London, and Mr. George Edwardes's company were accorded a very hearty welcome on Monday. In the leading rôle as Alice, daughter of an Amercican millionaire, Miss Hilda Moody acts with excellent effect, and sings splendidly, every one of her songs being received with acclamation. Mr. Robert Michaelis is well suited as the English lover, Freddie Fairfax, and makes a decided hit with his clever performance, alike as regards acting and singing. Miss Kitty Gordon is seen in the part of Olga, the lion queen, who poses in America as a widowed Russian Countess, and gives a dashing performance, her love scenes with the American millionaire being specially good. In the latter rôle Mr. Fred Winn is most amusing, his impersonation of the Oil King, whose hobby it is to have young aristocrats from Britain occupying positions in his house as servants, being exceedngly clever. His songs are given with crisp effect, and he is a neat dancer. Miss Alice Moffatt as Daisy and Mr. Vernon Davideon as her groom, John, Earl of Quorn, make an attractive pair of young lovers and have several catchy numbers allotted to them. Mr. Willie Warde, in a quaint make-up, is very funny as Sir James McGregor, footman to the millionaire. Mr. Howard Cridland as Dick and Mr. Harry Parker as Tom, nephew and brother respectively to the oil king, ably help the fun along. Miss Kathleen Owen acts with spirit as Dulcie, a Californian girl, and other parts are ably filled by Misses Mabel Duncan and Doris Dewar and Messrs. Robert St. George and Philip Simmons. The play is staged most picturesquely and the ladies' dresses are designed with excellent taste.

Grand.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. R. G. Maclachlan; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. Christie Grant.—*Cinderella* continues to meet with undiminished popularity. Miss Violet Halls as Prince Casimir and Miss Queenie Finnis as Cinderella have made many friends; their songs are very well rendered and loudly applauded; Miss Nellie Wigley repeats her success as Duke of Whistbridge. Miss Nellie Cozens as Elvira and Miss Kate Walbran as Araminta are strong favourites; they work well together. Mr. George French as the Baron causes continual laughter by his perpetual drollery, and is ably assisted by Mr. Tom Conway as Tiny; they are always in the thick of the fun. Mr. Whit Cunliffe is responsible for much hilarity in the busy part of Dandini; Mr. Barry Lupino does much interesting and amusing business as Capers; Miss Olive Tempest as Fairy Godmother performs her part in first-class style.

Royal Princess's.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—*Diccory Dok* still runs its succesful course at the popular South-side house, and as far as can be judged from the enthusiastic audiences it would seem as if a new record was about to be made. The pleasantries and amusing situations with which it abounds are of a most mirth-provoking order. Several of the artists have decidedly established themselves as firm favourites and consequently encores are common and readily responded to. In the character of Winnie Miss Ella Retford gets full scope for her versatile abilities, her singing and dancing being quite a treat; Miss Flora Cromer as the principal boy scores with her catchy songs and choruses. The duets by Miss Maggie Fraser and Miss Edith Haley are pleasingly rendered, while the songs and dances by the clever Sisters Bartholomew demonstrate them as artists of more than ordinary ability. In the comic department Messrs. Harry Gribben, Mr. Ainslie Burton, Mr. Syd Walker, and Mr. Cliff Lake combine well, but in a class by himself must be reckoned Mr. Peter Bermingham as Wee Hughie, whose local vernacular and pawky humour evoke roars of laughter. The panto is not without its artistic features in dress and scenery, the earthquake in the eighth scene calling for special mention as a wonderful piece of stagecraft.

Metropole, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—Mr. E. Hill Mitchelson's stirring drama of political and military life, called *Who Is She?* is being presented here to overflowing houses, this being its first visit to Glasgow. The mysterious lady of the title is finely acted by Miss Violet Carlyle; Miss Alice Barber gives a good rendering of Countess Ladori; and the part of Keta Noveitch is powerfully interpreted by Miss Madge Robson. Prince Vladimir, by Mr. Graham Woods, and Prince Bora, by Mr. Horace Booth, are both well-drawn characters; and Captain Arthur Gower, by Mr. Sinclair Holden, is also good; Chang Tee, a Chinaman, is a prominent character, who speaks pidgin English, and is well played by Mr. Edward Swinton; Miss May Collier makes a lively Surette; and the boy part of the Little King is excellently declaimed by Miss Mabel Ronald. A military execution in which Sergeant Metroff (Mr. Albert Grenville) is shot has a thrilling effect. The play is perfectly staged.

Lyceum.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—This week the boards are occupied by Mr. J. H. Savile's highly-successful Paisley pantomime, *Puss In Boots*. Miss Daisy Morell as Colin makes an excellent principal boy, singing coon songs in the genuine American style; her partner, Miss Katie Yates, is sweet and winsome as the Princess Ivy. The company possesses four reliable comedians in Mr. Walter Kooney (King), Mr. Fred C. Fields (Baron), Mr. J. K. Macfarlane (Sandy), and Mr. Harry Karr (Dame). Miss Florence Lewis acts and sings well as Prince Rudolph; the miller's daughter, Phyllis, is attractively played by Miss Moyna Hill; the parts of Jack and Jill are filled by Misses Mabel Carle and Jessie Jukes, whose duets and dances are very well received. As the cat Mr. Glen Alva is capital, and in the rôle of Fairy, Miss T. Johnson sings charmingly; while in the dancing line smart work is done by the La Belle Trio.

Empire.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Manners.—B. A. Rolfe's Colonial Septette present an *Olden Time Hallowe'en*, in which is introduced high-class selections, both vocal and instrumental; Nellie Coleman is very popular in Glasgow, and meets with a grand reception. Her impersonation of W. J. Ashcroft is most realistic. Mr. Paul Barnes, of New York, is a monologuist who keeps his audiences in a titter from start to finish, and sings several good songs. In a sketch by Louis Cohen, Hubert Carter appears as David Garrick, and his acting is thoroughly appreciated. He is supported by a talented company, who get through their work in a business-like fashion. Park's Eton Boys and Girton Girls are responsible for a juvenile singing act in which each member of the company appears to advantage. A wonderful hand jumping and acrobatic act is given by the Stein-Eretto Troupe, and the Brothers St. Clair as Knockabout Cyclists are most amusing, their football match being exceedingly clever as well as humorous. Helen Guest has a good voice, and takes well in her illustrated songs. In some female characterisations Albert Letine is seen to advantage, and meets with a good reception. The salmon netting pictures on the Bioscope prove of interest, and terminate a good all-round evening's entertainment.

Zoo-Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Councillor E. H. Bostock; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock.—The attractions here this week are Harry Roxbury and his company in the pantomime of *Mother Goose*, in which Mr. Roxbury gives a comical impersonation of the old lady of the title; while her son Jack (Mr. J. W. Gallagher) adds his full quota to the fun. Miss Maud Prenton's voice is heard to great advantage in the rôle of Colin, while Miss Marjorie Prenton is pleasing as Phyllis; Jill is charmingly impersonated by Miss Lily Palmer; Mr. George Castrey as Eric and Mr. Fred Hutchings as Muggles keep the merriment going briskly; the Miltons are extremely funny as policemen, and there are four Suffragettes, rampageously rendered by Misses Nellie Tomlinson, Nellie Belphor, Eva Beechey, and Ada Beechey. The Royal Welsh Entertainers give some good concerted music, and the Four Sydney Girls some elegant dances; while the Miltons perform pleasing evolutions on roller skates. Miss Lois Caris as the Fairy sings with a sweet voice, and acts charmingly, while Mr. Brian Henry makes a good Demon. The Bioscope winds up a satisfactory entertainment.

Pavilion, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Evan Good.—Miss Decima Moore is making an early appearance here in vaudeville, and her dainty songs, recitations, and whistling combine to make an attractive turn. Carney and Armstrong are a very smart and original couple, and were accorded an enthusiastic recall after their clever show; The Mezettis give a first-rate triple-bar turn, combining daring feats with amusing comedy; Newell and Niblo, in their musical turn, prove themselves clever instrumentalists, and their fun is most enjoyable; the Mohamed Arabs give a clever turn, combining feats of strength in pyramids and a lot of energetic tumbling; Primavesi is a dexterous juggler, with a picturesque setting to his act; Dan Robans sings well in both foreign and English songs; and J. Elmer Spyglass, a coloured vocalist, makes a hit with the Toreador song from *Carmen* (in French) and a Scotch song, very well rendered. The Vernon Ladies' Quartette also gives some most artistic vocal items.

Palace.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Rich. Waldon; General-Manager, Mr. Harry M'Kelvie.—A splendid programme is provided here this week, and is additionally interesting with the appearance of Houdini, the original handcuff king and jail breaker. His latest performance—escaping from an airtight can, filled with water, and padlocked—is mysterious, and thoroughly baffled a committee chosen from the audience. Gus Garrick, comedian, holds a strong position on the programme, his impersonations being exceedingly funny. Another excellent turn is that by Don and Mabel Keir in their vocal scena, *Sandy's Return*; and Frances Drew, comedienne, sang several songs in taking style. An amusing sketch, *Coming Home*, is contributed by Mr. and Mrs. George Leonard; George Reeves, comedian, is funny as Prof. Phrenolo; Iris Banfield delineates chorus ditties; and the Three Stewarts give a capital acrobatic display. The performance concludes with some interesting Bioscope pictures.

Colisеum.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—The principal turn here this week is the Six Brothers Luck in a new sketch, *Lift-ems, Ltd.*, which is lively, and causes hearty laughter all through. Oswald Williams gives his conjuring entertainment, which is cleverly worked and very mystifying; Walter Munroe gets the enthusiastic welcome that is reserved specially for old favourites, and deserves it all; Sybil St. Elmo takes well in the waltz song from *Pirates of Penzance*; Schonk Brothers give a clever and novel display of head and hand balancing; W. J. Churchill has several smart songs, well interspersed with clever patter, and goes strong; Arthur Albert's picturesque songs are well received; McCann's dogs show careful training in their various tricks; and Lil O'Gorman, comedienne, completes a varied and attractive bill.

Gaiety, Ltd. — Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—The Sauteron Wonders, champion jumpers, are wonderfully clever and are loudly applauded; Herbert St. Clair and company are most amusing in their sketch *Our Sons' Wives*; Renot, a clever mimic; Joe Wesley, comedian and expert dancer; Buchanan and Farren, cross talkers of exceptional merit; Harry Wright, vocalist; and Nellie Hawthorne, comedienne and dancer, are capital items. The Bioscope, showing the Burns-Johnson fight, concludes an excellent programme.

Panopticon.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. E Pickard.—The principal turn is provided by Empress the handcuff queen, who, on the opening night, displayed wonderful dexterity in freeing herself from regulation manacles. The other turns are specially interesting. Emmie Florence is a taking comedienne and dancer, the Two Cliffs give a novel acrobatic and balancing act, and Tom Colton contributes several humorous songs. In addition there is the usual Bioscope display, and the pictures are thoroughly up to date, the Funeral of Constable Tyler, the Tottenham hero, being the latest. There is also a series of both amusing and instructive films.

GLOSSOP.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—Mr. T. Morton Powell's company, in *Greed of Gold*, provides the attraction this week. Arthur Errol is in the capable hands of Alf Stretton; Mr. Vic C. Rolfe creates a good impression as Mr. Brightstone; the unscrupulous villainy of Harry Hood is effectively portrayed by Mr. Henry Parr; Mr. James Jarrett enacts Tom Wolstead in convincing style; and as Conn Creamer Mr. Chas. E. Wood is popular. The representation of Dora by Miss Maude M. Powell is excellent; Miss Jennie Douglas Hicks gives a faithful portrayal of Mrs. Maxwell; and Miss Beatrice M. Hughes presents Cecil in sympathetic style

GLOUCESTER. — Palace. — Owners, Messrs. Poole's Theatre, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole.—The Three Sisters Sprightly are an entertaining turn, and go well; Menotti, with the twentieth-century cycle track, submits a clever show; Miss Florence Yaymen is voted an excellent caricaturist; Henry Cazman keeps the audience thoroughly amused; the Sisters Terry are good as baby mimics; Ellis and Watts dance well; and Mr. Arthur Holland, character vocalist, and Charles Lilburn amuse. The Palascope is the last turn.

GOOLE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Fred Greaves.—On Monday night Mr. Ernest J. Fare and company presented *The Shaughraun* to a crowded house. Mr. Ernest J. Fare gives a fine breezy portrayal of Conn; Mr. Edward Keith portrays Father Dolan with telling effect; Mr. George Wallace is deservedly popular as Captain Molineux; Mr. Stanley Douglas gives a powerful portrayal of Corry Kinchela; Mr. James Mailey plays the rôle of Harvey Duff in a thoroughly capable manner; Miss Ada Hender submits an impressive portrayal of Arte O'Neal; Miss Mabel Fare is a decided success as Claire Ffolliott; and Miss Mabel Courtney is a charming and vivacious Moya.

GRAVESEND.—Grand Theatre of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Wright.—This week there is a starring engagement of the Six Brothers Luck, Ltd., who present their screamingly funny melodramatic absurdity, *The Demon of the Cellar*, with the very best results; Phil Burt, a talkative comedian, does well; Rosa Loader, the Slavey at the Piano, is no stranger to Gravesend audiences, where she is always appreciated; Fynn and Fayne, in their comedy act *The Author and the Critic*, are decidedly clever with their patter; Violet Inglefield, the burlesque artist, sings with much gusto; Laffan Jolly, laughing comedian and character vocalist, causes much merriment; and Vendome and Chase, in different styles of dancing, are a good combination.

GREAT YARMOUTH. — Royal Aquarium.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Nightingale.—Messrs. Little and Darcy's company in *Red Riding Hood* is here for a second week.

Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. George Gilbert.—Fine pictures are being shown here, the film illustrating Wilbur Wright's ascent in his flying machine being very interesting.

The Gem.—Lessees, The Yarmouth Amusement Centre, Ltd.; Resident-Director, Mr. C. B. Cochran; Manager, Mr. Sidney Lawrence.—Among the excellent films exhibited here this week, that illustrating the Zambesi River is both instructive and picturesque. "Bombadier" has made a big hit as an illustrated song.

GREENOCK.—Alexandra Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—The annual visit of the Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company is looked forward to here with the greatest pleasure. The week opened with *Lohengrin*. Mr. Walter Wheatley gave a capital impersonation of the title-rôle; Miss Beatrice Miranda gained distinction in the difficult rôle of Elsa; Miss Doris Woodall sustained her reputation by her talented rendering of Ortrud; and into the part of Telramund Mr. Dillon Shallard infused a large amount of skilful acting, his fine voice being heard to advantage. Mr. Arthur Winckworth did full justice to the rôle of the King, and Mr. Frederick Clendon was very good as the Herald. Mr. Eugene Goossens handled the chorus and orchestra throughout in his usual masterly manner. The week's répertoire includes *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Maritana*, *Rigoletto*, *Carmen*, *Tannhäuser*, and *Faust*.

Empire.—Lessees, the Greenock Empire Syndicate; Responsible-Manager, Mr. Edward McCormick; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. J. Colquhoun.—The principal item here this week is Joe Peterman's company in the musical burlesque, *The Singing Servants*; Andrew and Thompson, operatic vocalists, meet with a warm reception; the Sisters Aindow contribute a pleasing instrumental turn; and others entertaining are J. H. Harris, Scotch comedian; the Calcotts, in a wayside episode, *Rags and Tatters*; Little Agnes, a wonderful child mimic and impersonater; and Fred Horsfall, comedian. The Bioscope pictures are good.

Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry L. Skivington.—Crowded houses are to be seen here nightly, the programme being quite to the popular taste. *Fun in the Dark*, a highly amusing comedy sketch, tops the bill, and meets with an enthusiastic reception; G. A. Hope, baritone vocalist, renders two songs in impressive and taking style; Victor Courtney has, as usual, some clever items to submit, and stands high in popular favour; Dora Barrington, soprano vocalist, is heard to advantage in an artistic vocal scena, *Sentiment and Jest*, in which she is ably assisted by Miss Netta Grey. The Dromoscope pictures complete.

GRIMSBY.—Prince of Wales Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—The second pantomime of the season in here this week, Mr. James Kiddie's company appearing in *Dick Whittington*. Miss Lena Page is the principal boy, and has achieved considerable popularity by her singing of several favourite pantomime songs; Miss Nellie Merton appears as Alice Fitzwarren, and also contributes good business, her dancing being very pleasing; Mr. George Rydon is responsible for much humour as Idle Jack, and is well supported by the Hannaway Brothers as Silly Peter and Lazy Larry; Mr. Fred Spencer's eccentricities as the Dame are very amusing; and Mr. Dennis McCarthy also contributes to the fun as Alderman Fitzwarren, Miss Florence Hilton is a capital male impersonator, and is well suited to the part of Sir Algernon. Other prominent parts are taken by Miss Edna Francis as the Emperor's daughter, Miss Lillie Storrie as Concordia, and Mr. Archie J. Milne as the Emperor, whilst Miss Dorothy Dryden dances the Salome dance.

The Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—Tom Costello's versatile entertaining powers are being warmly appreciated. His humorous stories are told with excellent effect, but his best item is his pathetic scena, *The Poor Old Clown*. Billy Merson submits some capital burlesque, and has a good song upon Old Age Pensions; Ernest Montefiore's company appear in an interesting sketch, *The Little Colonel*, which is well acted; Tom Colquitt

horizontal bar is wonderful; Phinas and Aida present their novelty on the revolving pedestal; and Maston the mimic and Jack Ramsay complete the bill.

HARTLEPOOL.—EMPRESS.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Albert Mathams.—Remarkably clear and steady films are again shown by the Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope. The Smuggler's Daughter is particularly interesting.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—*Raffles* (the amateur cracksman) was played here the first half of the week by Mr. Leonard Boyne's company, preceded by *A Lesson in Shakespeare*. Raffles found in Mr. Ellie Norwood an earnest and vigorous representative; Mr. Harold West gave an effective rendering of "Bunny" Manders; Mr. E. W. Thomas successfully assumed the detective; Miss Lucy Milner made a pleasing Gwendoline; and Mrs. Vidal was played with marked ability by Miss May Brooke. For the second half of the week Messrs. Dudley Bennett and T. C. Wray's company, in *The Catch of the Season*, was billed.

HIPPODROME.—Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—Mr. Jim E. James proves himself a skilful banjoist and player on the bones; Le Strad very cleverly impersonates celebrated musicians; Allis and Cassati introduce amusing comedy; the conjuring of Ebrahim's Four Indian Fakirs is quite astounding; Miss Florence Leonard possesses a sweet and cultivated voice; and the diverting antics of Chas. F. Best gain great applause.

PIER PAVILION.—General-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—Mr. Alfred West's popular exhibition of animated pictures is occupying the boards here. The illustrations are very realistic, and the whole series, which is entitled Life in Our Navy and Army, is very interesting, as well as instructive.

HEREFORD.—GARRICK THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Barnsley.—A great attraction is provided by Mr. George Edwardes's company with *The Merry Widow*. Miss Eileen Blanford owing to the illness of Miss Daphne Glenne had to take the part of Sonia at short notice. Her excellent voice was heard to conspicuous advantage. In the rôle of Baron Popoff Mr. H. S. Cotter submits a clever bit of light comedy; Mr. Arthur Geary is seen to advantage as Vicomte Jolidan; Mr. Harry Emerie as Niche plays with energy and humour; excellent is Mr. Alec Worcester as Prince Danilo.

HORWICH.—PRINCE'S.—Lessees, The Horwich Theatre Co.—Mr. E. H. Knight's company in *The Lighthouse Robbery* provides the attraction here this week.—The part of Tom Manly, the hero, is capitally rendered by Mr. Fredk. Garratt, whose efforts received unstinted applause; Mr. Wm. Annesley plays the old Squire Hammond, alias Wm. Farren, in good style, and is very ably assisted by Mr. Percy Beresford, Farren's son and supposed heir to the estate; Mr. Charles Liddon's Uncle Davie, the real squire, Rose's father, is a very fine part, and full justice is done to it. Mr. Jees Boxer as Sam Kidder, a stage-struck rustic, creates roars of laughter, his quaint sayings and antics taking immediately. Mrs. Lelia Drummond gives a very fine interpretation of Mrs. Manly, Tom's mother; Miss Lilian Bates plays Ruth, Tom's sister and Sam's sweetheart, in capital style, her comedy business being excellent; Little Ethel Lovatt makes a very charming Little Nellie, an ocean waif; Miss Hilda Baynton's impersonation of Rose Prescott, Hammond's ward, is a most artistic one, the audience following every exciting episode with marked attention. The Lighthouse and the Church scenes are very artistic, and the peal of bells are greatly admired.

HUDDERSFIELD.—HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—The head of a good bill is filled by that prince of comedians Ernest Shand, who has a great reception from his old admirers. Other turns are Delafiore, xylophone expert; Gilbert's performing dogs and cats; Miss Agnes Molteno and company, in her beautiful scena, entitled "A Dolly and a Coach"; Julian Ross, character vocalist; Ford and Hanson, musical comedians; Miss Mabelle May, soubrette and dancer; Mlle. Haydee, with her clever marionette show; and an amusing film on the Bioscope.

HULL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Manager, Mr. Tom Bogue.—This week the boards have been held by Mr. Harold V. Neilson's company in two Ibsen plays, *A Doll's House* and *Romersholm*. Both have attracted good houses, and both been equally well represented. Miss Amy Sangster has in all her work caught the true spirit of Ibsen; her reading of the rôle of Norah was a fine piece of acting. She plays with striking effect on the gamut of the emotions, and the whole of her acting is an artistic realisation of the Northern writer's thoughts. She was to the front throughout, and the impression she has created is one that will not readily be effaced. The Nils Krogstad of Mr. Harold Neilson was correctly cut; he caught with much distinction and skill the Ibsen atmosphere, and depicted the character with fine effect. The Mrs. Linden of Miss Vera Leslie was pleasantly portrayed; and the Helmer of Mr. Doughty was an acceptable performance. On Wednesday night Miss Sangster was cast as Miss West, Mr. Neilson playing Rosmer.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Morton's, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's pantomime is doing phenomenal business at the Alexandra, and even on Saturday afternoons, when there are countless outdoor attractions, the matinées have been signalised by the display of the "house full" boards. The company, as one wrote last week, is a very good one, and includes such well-known names as Miss Ray Wallace, Miss Mildred Bryan, and Mr. Leonard Russel. Mr. Joe Robbin fills the part of the Widow and Mr. Bert Harrow contrives to give a good account of himself as Abanazar. The songs, as already said, are tuneful, and the dances effective.

THE HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Harry Dunford.—The Three Gartos top the bill in a singing entertainment; De Lilo and Metz appear in a clever act; and Fame and Fortune, Kitty Cameron, the Barclays, Alpho, Johnny Gleeson, and Mark Beecham complete a good company.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Slingsby.—Appearing here are Alix Lukos, Parker and Parr, Kiota and Esa, Vela, the Cedrics, Alma Curzon, and Jack Talbot.

THE CIRCUS.—Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Emerson.—The Grand Continental Circus company are drawing packed houses; the Three Royal Ohmys are hosts in themselves; Mlle. Leily has a well-trained horse; and Mrs. Dudley Smith is also here. The entertainment concludes with an equestrian spectacle, *The Despatch Bearer*, in which pathos and humour are effectively combined.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—Mr. Ernest Adrim and company are appearing here in the pantomime *Dick Whittington*. Miss Madge Carew wins golden opinions as Alice; and Miss Violet Oram as Dick is well received; whilst the Cat is very ably taken by Mr. Bert Warner. Mr. Mark Mooney is seen as Caroline, the cook, and Mr. Ernest Adrim is a capable Idle Jack. Messrs. Frew and Frew as Will Buttercup and Captain Cowslip work well. The honours of the evening fall to the Paulasto troupe of eccentric acrobats, who are cheered to the echo for their smart and clever performance. The remaining specialities are: The Tina Trio, acrobatic dancers; Bert Warner, contortionist; Mark Mooney, "the Directoire Girl"; and Frew and Frew, eccentric comedians and dancers.

ILKLEY.—BRIDGE PAVILION.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Barron; Manager, Mr. George Asaf.—The Coronets still keep their reputation, and with a constantly changing programme their success is assured. Mr. Asaf spares no trouble to cater for his patrons in the best possible way. Mr. W. Edwardes-Towle (late of the Meister Glee Singers), in addition to his vocal efforts is reciting "The Groom's Story" this week in a very able manner, and also joining Miss Beryl in a duet, "Cuckoo," and the Two G's, duettists, keep the audience well amused. No fewer than twenty-three selections appear on the programme.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Mr. Lionel Rignold and company in *The Early Worm* are playing to good and enthusiastic houses. Mr. Lionel Rignold in the part of Allan Marchmount gives one of his characteristic comedy studies. He is admirably supported by Mr. T. Warburton Gamble as the Duke of Tadcaster, Mr. Frank Graham as Lord Steyn, Mr. Raymond Dudley as Sir William Mayton, and Mr. H. Peirpoint as Captain Baxter. Tom is played by Mr. Eric H. Albury and the Boatman and Sailor by Mr. Donald Dowson and Robert Melrose respectively. Miss Fyfe Alexander is a charming Sybil Annesley; and the part of Lady Steyne is excellently portrayed by Miss Marie Daltra. The staging of the play is thoroughly good, the yachting scene eliciting much appreciation from large audiences.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—This week's bill, a popular one, is headed by Miss Dinah Morris and company in the musical comedy entitled *A Village in Dahomey*. Miss Morris in the part of Dinah is very charming; the Four Kurios in a novel entertainment are assisted by some ingenious mechanical contrivances; Miss Alice Hughes and company in *The Star of the Bazaar* have a sketch which provides a deal of fun; the Beautiful Lilian, cyclist, is brilliantly clever on the wheel; Stewart and Morgan, the harmonious Irishmen, are old favourites in Ipswich; Miss Gladys Godwynne sings "Call round any old time"; Will Godwin is a character artist; and Harry Marlow and May Manton have an amusing sketch entitled *Winning a Wife*.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Lionel Locke.—This week Mr. J. A. Campbell's company is here with *The Old Folks at Home*. Miss Maud Warburton gives a natural performance of Dorothy Robin, and Mr. H. E. Herbert is a manly Andrew Rose; Mr. F. Liston is a powerful Lord Howard, being ably supported by Miss Kate Froud as Patricia Bathurst; Christopher and Martha Robin are well impersonated by Mr. Eugene Santley and Miss Clare Santley; and Mr. T. G. Vane is admired for his handling of the part of Hugh Lovell. Mr. Arthur Dudley does full justice to the part of Jock. The comedy parts are ably looked after by Miss Maudie Grayson as Susan and Mr. Frank Caffrey as Ben Jolly. The Excelsior Glee Singers give excellent selections.

JERSEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Edward Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—Mr. John A. Thomson's pantomime *Robinson Crusoe* is here this week. Miss Florence Carlile possesses a voice much above the average, and her impersonation of the name-part is enhanced by her handsome figure; Alice Mayflower is prettily presented by Miss Gertrude Blanche, whose duet with Crusoe is a big success; the delightfully piquant little sisters Geronde appear as Billee Taylor and Dolly Dimple, who soon dance themselves into favour; whilst the Fairy Queen is played by Miss Fay Desmond, who has a brilliant soprano voice. Mr. Fred Anderson has a screamingly funny make-up as Tommy Tickle; Mr. Will Sherlock and Little Billy Bracy do some good comedian work as Will Atkins and Captain Mainbrace; Mr. Arthur Leybourne appears as King Ping Pong Poo and Mr. Albert Lyon as Friday, whilst Mr. Henry Eglington is altogether excellent as Mrs. Crusoe. Mr. Monty Miller is an exceedingly good animal impersonator. Much dainty dancing is introduced by the Violetta troupe, who have been perfectly trained by their *première danseuse*, Miss Rita Frederika. Altogether, the pantomime reflects much credit on Mr Henry Eglington, the clever producer.

KIDDERMINSTER.—NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon.—Mr. Geo. Edwardes's company in *The Merry Widow* has been here. Mr. Alec Wochester does every justice to the rôle of Prince Danilo; Miss Daphne Glenne in the rôle of Sonia is bright and attractive, and sings sweetly; Miss Violet Hobson is a charming Natalie; and Miss Gileen Chanford a pleasing Olga. Mr. H. Sinclair Cotter makes a quaint Baron Popoff; and Nisch is in the capable hands of Mr. Harry Emeric, who plays drolly. Mr. Cecil Warwick ably portrays Genral Novikovitch. The dresses and mounting are excellent

KING'S LYNN.—NEW ROYAL THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. B. Pareezer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Pareezer.—Miss Lena Stanton and Mr. Harry Joseph's company has been here this week with *Robinson Crusoe*. Miss Lena Stanton as Crusoe makes a striking character, and was warmly applauded; Miss Gertie Dovedale as Polly Perkins was most captivating; Mr. Sidney Dean was particularly funny as Mrs. Crusoe; and Mr. Melville Page as Will Atkins was a great success; as Sunny Jim Crusoe Little Keeno kept the house in roars of laughter; the Legieres in their acrobatic turn received rounds of applause; and the vivacious Alhambra Girls added to the gaiety of the production.

KIRKCALDY.—NEW PAVILION.—Lessee, Dr. Walford Bodie.—Heading a good bill this week are W. D. Mackenzie and company, in a fine musical scena, *Moments with the Masters*, beautifully staged. It includes the wonderful Human Ocarina. Cliff and Kean are clever comedians and dancers; and the Sisters Danby, smart vocalists and dancers. Major Arnold presents a unique conjuring act; and Mr. Patrick Playfair is a wonderful paper manipulator. Some good pictures are shown on the Bodiegraph.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—Miss Lillie Williams is presenting her *Dick Whittington* pantomime this week. First honours are due to Mr. Sam Thomson as Idle Jack—most untiring in his efforts to amuse; in the part of Rhodenta we have a capital singer in Mr. Michael Kemble; Miss Gertie Douglas makes a dashing Dick; Miss Hetty Lind sings sweetly as Alice. Specialities are given by the Ten San Tan Girls and the Imperial Glee Singers, the latter having a warm reception.

LANCASTER.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. C. Howitt.—Miss Lena Ashwell's company in *Diana of Dobson's* occupied the boards for the first three nights of this week. Miss O'Glynn did full justice to the part of Diana; all the girls at Dobson's were carefully characterised, Miss Kate Reine being especially good as Miss Smithers; Miss Hilda Francks played Miss Pringle with much humour; Miss Pamela Hope, exquisitely attired, made a capital Mrs. White Fraser and as Mrs. Cantelupe Miss Mary Wisden left little to be desired. Mr. Chas. Francis gave an excellent rendering of the part of Captain Bretherton; Mr. Stephen Stephens humorously played the police constable; and the part of Sir Jabez was in the safe hands of Mr. William Stanley. The play was preceded each night with *A Fire of Straw*. Mr. Lingford Carson was billed for Thursday in *The Great White Chief*.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. John Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—The head of the bill this week is Bostock's Baboons, with some remarkable performances under the guidance of Captain Graham; the Brothers Milford are smart dancers; Ruby Emerson sings well, as also does Miss May Knight, comedienne; Barry Lindon has a capital reception; and the Kirbys in a comedy act cause roars of laughter; Morrisey supplies a pleasing musical act, and is an equilibrist of no mean order. The Hippograph depicts some amusing pictures.

LEAMINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. George G. Ridley.—The attraction here this week is *The Hypocrites*, which is being played to fairly large audiences by Mr. Charles Frohman's company. Mr. Lawrence L. Leyton gives a strong portrayal of the Rev. Edgar Linnell; whilst Mr. F. Morland is extremely successful as Mr. Wilmore. Mr. S. Dennys' Lennard is an easy and natural performance; and Miss Grace Murielee's Mrs. Wilmore as excellent study of a mother's love. Miss Violet Harley gives a judicious treatment of the difficult rôle of Rachel Nove; whilst other characters are ably sustained by Mr. F. C. Thurstans, Mr. C. Tyrel, Mr. C. Harley, Miss Muriel Mason, Miss M. Severne, Miss Millie Emden, and Mr. Fred Lake.

LEICESTER.—PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. S. Buccleuch.—The head liner this week is Mr. Henry de Vries, the clever protean actor, who is assisted by Miss Dorothy Drake and M. Gordon, in *Trapped by Telephone*, a sketch which allows Mr. de Vries full scope for some particularly smart impersonations in eight different characters. Both Miss Drake as Marion Fairfax and Miss Gordon as Ruth Briggs are also very good. At the other end are the Gems (under the direction of Wallace Kennedy) in a delightful musical mélange, "Song, play, and mirth." Mr. and Mrs. Meymott create endless merriment with their well-acted vaudeville comedietta, *Semi-Detached*; Maggie Walsh, the singing mill girl, receives her usual hearty welcome; Percy Honri, a most brilliant performer on the concertina, scores a well-deserved success; Howell and Scott, Hebrew entertainers, make good with an excellent turn; the Hartley Wonders are responsible for many remarkable feats of jumping, the lady partner being full of comedy and vivaciousness; Gilbert Rogers, a refined vocal comedian, gives a very entertaining turn, with some good stories; the Three Prestons create laughter in their absurdity, *The Liftman's Rise*. The Bioscope clearly depicts the thrilling picture, Rifle Bill.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joe Lawrence.—Quite a sensation is being created here by Minerva, the original woman gaol-breaker and handcuff performer, who introduces her latest item in escaping out of a 47-gallon barrel filled with water, and securely fastened down. Her performance is altogether a remarkably smart one, and she receives a splendid reception. Bayne and Hope display high histrionic talent in their dramatic sketch, *An Emperor's Divorce*. Victoria Glenn renders a couple of songs in good style; East and West are excellent comedy entertainers; and other capital turns are submitted by J. T. Jaques, versatile comedian; Luna Lyndon, vocalist and dancer; and Dan Merritt, drummer. Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope is an attractive feature with The Royalist's Wife and Moth Hunter, Baby's Chum.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Company; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles R. Craig.—Big houses testify in a marked manner their delight with the splendid assortment of moving pictures shown here, included in which are Nero and the Burning of Rome, or the Christians to the Lion, A Drama in a Stone Quarry, Salome, The Quick Change Mesmerist, A Visit to Compeigne, Ayah's Revenge, A Quiet Day at a Café, and My Wife's Dog. In addition a very special attraction is Almon, the remarkably clever upside-down artist, who is cordially received, and in connection with whose engagement an amateur hand-walking competition is being successfully held.

THEATRE ROYAL.—This place of amusement, which under other managements was renowned for its very successful pantomime seasons, has this week deviated from the usual drama to a week of pantomime, Messrs. Fred J. Little and Fred D'Arcy's company being responsible for a capital evening's entertainment in *Sinbad the Sailor*. Miss Marie Reeve makes a vivacious principal boy, and sings her songs in a successful style; Miss Molly Hackett as Zorilda is to be accorded high praise; and Mr. Willie Barrett as Mrs. Sinbad and Mr. Walter Adams as Tinbad keep the ball of merriment going at a good pace. The other members of the company are well to the fore in aiding and abetting in the success of the "show." The pantomime is rich in entertaining specialities, including the Acme Quartette of dancers; M. and Mlle Van Lachterop, operatic vocalists; Newco and Sullo, "the boys in red," dancers; the Hobbarts, trick cyclists; and Halma, Scottish society juggler.

OPERA HOUSE.—The gorgeous musical play, *Butterflies*, which is being toured under the direction of Mr. Wilfred Cotton, is the attraction this week. It is beautifully dressed and staged, and also has the merit of being interpreted by a very good company. Mr. W. Louis Bradfield well maintains his great popularity with a fine performance as Puck; and Mr. Blake Adams as Christopher Podmore is another pronounced success; Mr. Richard Green both sings and acts in good style as Max Riadore; Mr. William Spray is all that can be desired as Yorker. Among the ladies Miss Georgie Corlass, a favourite with Opera House audiences, is making a conspicuous success with a delightful portrayal as Rodanthe; Miss Stella St. Audrie is very good as Nora Podmore; Miss Constance Clive makes an excellent impression as Elsie; and others in the cast who are deserving of special eulogium are Mr. Roy Sydney as Peter, Mr. Arthur Hyde as Gilbert, Miss Alice Sands as Lalage, and Miss Elsie Aston as Myra. In the third act Miss Phyllis Monkman gives, with great success, her new classical dance, "La Naissance du Papillon," and the Parisian Corps de Ballet show their agility in various dances.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. H. Chippendale.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's company is here with *The Little Bread-winner*. Mr. J. Monkhouse submits an excellent interpretation of Lord William Dorrington; Mr. Alfred Maurice gives a capable delineation of Joseph Prior; Mr. Reginald Brown makes a manly Richard Lawrence; the part of Charles Prior is well handled by Mr. Sydney Lynn; little Irene as Meg deserves commendation; Miss Milly Ford does justice to the rôle of Kate Cherry; much fun is caused by Miss Clara Hunt as Bridget O'Flanagan; and Miss Josephine Richards makes a charming and sympathetic Margaret Daventry.

GRAND THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Leigh Grand Theatre and Hippodrome, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Benson; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Woolstencroft.—Miss Nellie Wallace, comedy artist, is proving a success here; Messrs. Coverdale and Huxley's Juveniles are responsible for some good vocalism; Messrs. Groggin and Davis are smart acrobats; Mephisto is responsible for some clever illusions; the Three Hodginis, aerial gymnasts, well deserve the applause accorded to them. Excellent films are shown by the Bioscope.

ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—Lessees, Mr. and Mrs. J. Frank Walker; Manager, Mr. J. Frank Walker.—Pictures of excellent character are being shown here this week to capital houses, and Mr. Alf Deane, comedian, adds considerably to the success of the evening.

LILITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Licensee, and Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—The popular drama, *Jeanie Deans*, produced by Mr. John Clyde and his company, has found considerable favour here this past week. Mr. Clyde fills with fine effect the rôles of Geordie Robertson and the Counsel for the Defence; Mr. Wm. George Robb and Mr. George Hunter do yeoman service in their respective parts of the Laird of Dumbiedykes and David Deans; while Mr. A. Young Ritchie, Mr. Devid Blair, and Mr. David Bain give acceptable characterisations of the Duke of Argyle, Reuben Bulter, and Jamie Ratcliffe; and the minor male rôles are suitably portrayed. Miss Mary Allan makes her one scene quite success as Queen Caroline; Margery Murdockson and Madge Wildfire are interpreted with all requisite weirdness by Miss Fanny Wright and Miss Belle Cecil; and the two sisters of St. Leonard's, Effie and Jeanie, are sympathetically represented by Miss Ella Sennett and Miss Lena Levenston.

LIVERPOOL.—ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—Messrs. Paumier and Howard's company have been here this week with the stirring drama, *The Midnight Wedding*, which has done as big business as formerly. Mr. Paumier appeared in his original part of Paul Valmer, and had a most cordial reception; Miss Yvonne Orchardson shared the honours for her admirable conception of the part of the Princess Astrea; a capital Prince Leopold came from Mr. John Nesbitt; some most amusing comedy was provided by Messrs. James E. Page, Vernon H. Vayne, and Algie Spalding, the three merry soldiers; and other well-held parts were Lieut. Strelsburg (Mr. A. E. Winnington Barnes), Captain Scarsbruck (Mr. F. Booth Conway), Father Gerard (Mr. Forbes Harrison), Rozel (Miss Nesta Sandford), and Kathie (Miss Gwladys Faunce). There was a matinée on Wednesday.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—The attraction here during the week was *For Love and the King*. Mr. C. Watson Mill's good all-round company included Miss Rosalind Tate, who made a charming Princess Athene. As Natila Miss Joan Ellis played the rôle of the beggar girl with much pathos; Mr. Mill was received with great favour for his Jarval; a good character sketch was that of Michael Obrenovic, presented by Mr. John Burton; Miss Frances Tierney made a sweet Edith Meredith; and other good rôles were Vladimir (Mr. Henry Earlsmere) and Prince Dragemir (Mr. Villiers Stanley). The Thursday matinées here are now well patronised.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—Heading the bill here this week was Carrie De Mar, who delighted everybody with her merry songs, which included "Lonesome Flossie" and "Sweetheart Jo." The accomplished artist had a most hearty reception. *Slippery Jim* was a capital sketch presented by Mr. E. Dagnall and company; Willie Zimmerman gave some excellent imitations of great musicians; Tom Bryce and Miss Price appeared to much advantage in the sketch, *The Dude's Wooing*; the Three Laurels had a neat speciality act; Alexandra Dagmar was much appreciated for her latest, *A Marriage of Mayfair*, and the list also contained the names of Phil Parsons, comedian; Pat Rafferty, comedian; and Ernest Clifford, comedian.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.—For notice of new production here, see another column.

LYRIC.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—Tarro Myaki, the champion ju-jitsu wrestler, was top of the bill here this week, and issued a number of challenges to local men; Kitty Colyer showed herself to be a delightful comedienne and dancer; a pathetic little sketch, *Christmas Eve*, was admirably given by Irve Hayman and company; Charles Johnson, "the black diamond," was as funny as ever; some capital singing and dancing were provided by the Bros. Lawrence; Walter Wade, the odd-boot comedian, pleased; and others who contributed were Les Mabras, with a speciality act; the Sisters Lavender, duettists and dancers; and C. G. Lewis, novelty ventriloquist.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—Good business has been done during the week at this popular resort, where an appreciated programme, headed by the always-welcome Arthur Roberts, was presented. His well-selected company gave him every support in the merry sketch, *Till Sunday*, which caused roars of laughter. The wonderful cycling of the Klein Family earned rounds of applause, and deservedly so; the Three Comedy Chanters submitted a funny and melodious pot-pourri; a smart and humorous turn was that entitled *The Gibson Girl and the Crinoline*, given by the Broadway Girls; Paul Vandy had some really clever conjuring and juggling tricks; the Camplins went through a neat musical comedy turn; and others who appeared were Dunn and Reano, parody gymnasts; Herbert Clifton, vocalist; and Harry Brown, coloured comedian.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—*The Dangers of London* was the drama presented here during the week by the stock company. The principal parts were in the good keeping of Messrs. Sydney Grant (Percy Weir), Cecil Ravenswood (Mr. Forrest), David G. Noble (Frank Forrest), R. Seath Innes (Stanhope), Miss Lilian Radbourne (Gertrude Weir), Miss Turner Elliott (Mary), and Miss Evelyn Kington (Margaret Cloud). Mr. Anthony Brown's Bioscope showed the latest films.

WESTMINSTER.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—In addition to a fine selection of cinematograph pictures, the following artists appeared during the week: Queenie May, comedienne; Sid Myra and his dog; and Harold Heath, character vocalist.

OLYMPIA.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton.—The fine water spectacle *The Sands of Dee* has proved a very big attraction here, and is kept in the bill for another week; Miss Marquis put her stud of trained cobs through a smart performance; the Miles-Stavordale quintet of vocalists had a hearty reception for their harmonised songs; Jock Mills brought a number of swinging Scotch songs, including "The trousers that ma father used to wear"; Cliff Ryland proved a droll comedian; a most acceptable sketch, *Cupid's Frolic*, was provided by the Smythsons; the Vetter Bros. pleased greatly with their unique gymnastic display, in the trifle, *The Page's Recreation*; Fred Elton, at the piano, gave his popular scena, "On Board an Ocean Liner"; and the Falcons, comedy acrobats, found much favour.

PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—Principal here this week were Dolly Elsworthy and company, with the charming sketch *Sweet Mistress Dorothy*, which delighted big audiences. Miss Elsworthy, in the title-rôle, was supported by Messrs. C. Middleton (Sir John Manners), J. Stanner (Sir Rupert Vernon), C. Zarnes (Sir Jasper Woodleigh), S. Sheen, and Miss Eva Moss. Vanando gave an uncommon ventriloquial turn, entitled "The Park Pest"; the Rose Trio of acrobatic waiters were very diverting; Hector and Dale were particularly funny acrobatic eccentrics; some clever whistling was given by Jim Cheetham, a boy mimic; Major Moss pleased with his revival of old songs; and also in the programme were Will Walton, comedian; the Sisters Belmont, dancers; and Ethel Loftus, comedienne.

GRAND TIVOLI.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jasper Redfern.—The usual variety show given here has this week been displaced by a pretty pantomime, *Aladdin*, written by Joseph L. Barry. A capable company presented the work, which earned much public patronage. Miss Minnie D'Aubyn made a vivacious Aladdin, and sang several up-to-date songs in good style; a charming Princess was presented by Miss Belle Brocade, whose vocal talents earned for her loud applause; Mr. Harry Kirk as Abanazar, helped greatly towards a successful representation; Mr. Happy Attwood kept the ball rolling merrily with his Widow Twankey; Harley and Hardon were a delightful couple of knockabouts; and others prominent were Miss Gladys Wells (Radia, with the magic lamp), Miss Ethel Dunville (the Prince), Miss Rose le Lar (Lumino, maid of honour), and Mr. Herbert Lewis (Emperor of China).

PARK PALACE.—Lessee, Mr. Jasper Redfern.—A fine series of Bioscope pictures have been submitted here during the week, and, in addition, the following variety artists appeared:—the Earle Girls, entertainers; Oliver Conroy, vocal eccentric; Czynski, musical specialist; Arthur Harris, with his dramatic song, "Judge not"; Ford Williams, bass-baritone vocalist; and the Attilas, gymnasts and jumpers.

NEW CENTURY PICTURE HALL.—Proprietors, The New Century Animated Picture Company, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter W. Hook.—This new resort continues to be well patronised. During the week the following were the picture subjects shown:—The Auto-heroine, the latest from America, A Drama on Sea, Peeps into Nature's Realm, and Her Newsboy Friend, along with many humorous ones and illustrated songs.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Resident Business-Manager, Mr. W. Payne Seddon.—Capt. Clayton's pantomime, *Cinderella*, is occupying the boards here. Miss Nita Dunville as Cinderella plays and sings charmingly; Mrs. Cecil Clayton as the Fairy Godmother possesses a fine voice, and acquits herself well; Miss Amy Allnut as Prince Charming, plays in dashing style; Miss Lottie Mellor as Dandini acts and sings with success; Mr. Gus. Granville as Blustering Jim and Mr. C. Turner as Nervous Joe keep the house in a state of hilarity; the Zolo Troupe of acrobats perform wonderful feats; and La Belle Mascot on the telephone wire, Mons Rollo, an expert roller skater, and Mr. P. J. Durney, on the rolling globe, also submit specialities that are highly appreciated.

LOWESTOFT.—MARINA.—Manager, Mr. E. A. Smith.—*The Prince and the Beggar Maid* is paying an initial visit, Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company being responsible for a clever production. Miss Annie Saker scores heavily as Monica; and other parts are skilfully treated.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—Excellent business continues here, the variety programme being quite to the popular taste. The bill includes the Leotard Bros., comedy artists; James Brady, comedian; Chas. Leighton, tramp pianist; Yorkshire Tom, mimic; and Penley and English in a musical comedy sketch. The biograph includes some fine pictures, A Trip to Switzerland being most instructive.

MACCLESFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—Mr. Montague Beaudyn is here with his company in *The Power of a Wicked Woman*. The arduous part of Philip Carey is efficiently played by Mr. Beaudyn; Mr. Tom Robertson is a popular Horace Winter; and Guy Oliphant is ably depicted by Mr. Arthur Cresswell; Mr. Arthur A. Tomlin as Bransby and Mr. James Burt as Lord Dumley also give entire satisfaction. Miss Winifred Rutland is a charming Denise; Miss Irene Munro a capital Helen; Miss C. Crawford is well suited as Nellie; and Miss Phyllis Rae does good work as Marie.

MAESTEG.—TOWN HALL THEATRE.—Lessees, Poole's Theatres Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. C. F. Knowles.—Mr. Stanley Carlton's company in *The Secret Wedding* is the attraction here this week. Edgar Hartingdon is admirably portrayed by Mr. Stanley Carlton; Miss Ruby Maud is seen to advantage as Grace E. Edmondson; other characters are well sustained by capable artists.

MANCHESTER.—ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Mason.—Mr. Harry Burns's pantomime *Robinson Crusoe*, seen locally last week, is the attraction here.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Dry.—Mr. Edward Marris's pantomime *Dick Whittington* is drawing good houses here. The company includes the Waldrons (Etty and Joe), who do very well indeed as Dick and Idle Joe respectively. Miss Doris Gilbert as Alice is neat and charming; Mr. Dick Nash makes an excellent Cat; and considerable fun is added by Mr. Herbert Pearce as

Free Suggestions and Decorative Material for FANCY DRESS BALLS.

Much of the enjoyment one gets out of a Fancy Dress Ball or Party depends upon the success of one's impersonation, and, with the view of helping to overcome any difficulty in this direction, the suggestions here depicted are offered. They possess the advantage of being unhackneyed, while the designs and material, besides being in themselves most attractive, afford the fullest opportunities for animated movement and graceful pose. The figures are of many nationalities, and are so diversified that it will be easy to make suitable selections; and each one is both distinctive and pretty. There is this further merit about these designs: they suggest the most pleasant and refreshing associations, Odol, the liquid dentifric and mouthwash, being the most universally popular as well as the most beneficial of toilet luxuries. Every figure makes a delightful character, and there is an abundance of charm, fun, and novelty to be got out the handling of the flasks and other material. The fabric best adapted for working up any of the designs is a dead-white taffeta, which costs but a trifle. This forms a delicate groundwork somewhat resembling the opaque glass of which Odol flasks are made; and with regard to the general decorative material, as here shown, most of the various articles, also some pretty coloured designs printed on post-cards, will be supplied free on application to the Manager of the Odol Chemical Works, 61, Park Street, London, S.E.

Fitzwarren, Mr. Billy Watson as the Captain, Mr. Will Naylor as the Mate, and Mr. Will Vestor as the Cook. Many other parts are well placed, and the singing of the Belasco Trio is enjoyable; while the scenery, dresses, dancing, and other features are pretty and attractive.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Hewitt.—Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson's romantic play *King and the Unknown Woman* is seen here this week. The piece is strongly dramatic and emotional, and a capital interpretation is given. Mr. James Stillwell as Prince Loris, the hero, is very fine, and he has a worthy vis-à-vis in Miss F. Conyers Radcliffe as Zora. Mr. Stephen E. Scanlan once more proves his remarkable aptitude for sinister characterisation as Prince Menskie, and he has the very able assistance of Miss Muriel Inglis as Countess Melvsitch. Good parts are also in the hands of Mr. W. R. Winning, Mr. Cyril Harrison, and Miss Norma Dumayne; while good fun is provided by Mr. William E. Passmore as Corporal Stalk and Miss Cissie Podmore as Schnappe. The play is well staged and entirely effective.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—The big turns here this week are Morris Kronin and his troupe of jugglers, who give a wonderful show, and Terry and Lambert, who are very well received in their comedy act English Types through American Eyes; Roma and Romaine add a brilliant and entertaining musical act; Mabel Mignon gives a neat turn in comedy, vocalism, and dancing; the Eight of Hearts are accomplished dancers, who present also some very artistic poses; and other capital turns are Austin Rudd, a popular eccentric comedian; La Tamara, and her dancer, Ojeda, in graceful and picturesque evolutions; the Brennans, expert dancers; and E. J. Sheldon, the black-and-white comedian. The Bioscope shows impressive pictures of the ruins of Messina.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—Mr. Lawrence Irving and Miss Mabel Hackney, assisted by a capable company, are here this week in an excellent version of De Banville's *Gringoire*, entitled *The King and the Vagabond*, in which they score a big success. Camille Ober, the celebrated Parisian star artist, has a wonderful vocal range, her top-notes being flute-like; the Musical Courtiers are excellent in their high-class operatic mélange; and the Howard Brothers give a wonderfully clever banjo performance; Harry Tate's company in *Motoring* are highly successful; Marstro and Mlle. Oretta are equilibriste extraordinary; J. W. Hall has an amusing tram-conductor song; Nina Wood is pleasing at the piano; Harry Leybourn scores as "the nervous lady"; and Ida Kathrena, the "Dolly Girl" is good. Pictures complete.

PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Manager, Mr. A. J. Caster.—That charming Queen of the Wheel, Lallah Selbini, is the top star here this week, and, assisted by the quaintest of quaint assistants, scores a big success. The Friere Troupe are also highly successful in their Risley performance; and Horace Wheatley, the ever-genial Irishman, sings and dances well, and meets with a deserved big reception. Harriett Vernon is delightful in her song "Sunshine and Shadow"; the De Breans are exceedingly clever; John Henderson, well supported, holds attention in a romantic episode *Under the Maple Leaf*; whilst others who offer enjoyable turns are Steve Bartlie, concertinist; Leslie Rae, light comedian; and Ethel Walker at the piano. The Palace Pictures, as usual, are good.

KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. James R. Trippett.—Lester and Moure, from the New York music halls, top the bill here this week, and do some smart sand dancing. Billy Williams, the man in the velvet suit, makes a hit, as usual; Burns and Bentley dance well; the Five Musical Tritons are excellent in a vocal and instrumental scena; Mint and Mart are clever in paper manipulations; Bradley, the cycling Jew, does some clever tricks; Lew Peterman is a capital Hebrew comedian; the Rizardis appear in a novel sensational trapeze act; the Recar Trio are charming lady acrobats; and last, but not least, Cyril Jephson, a pleasing light comedian, makes a hit with his song "My Gallery Girl." The Bioscope pictures are excellent.

TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes. Liane D'Eve, the famous Parisian comedienne, is a star of the first magnitude; her voice is wonderfully clear, and her turn throughout artistic in the extreme. Her reception here this week is nothing short of great. Otto and Olga are highly amusing in their mock opera, and their concertina selection is excellent; Teresa Da Silva, a capital singer of catchy songs, is well received; Les Valencia, lady acrobats and toe dancers, give a very clever and unique turn; Crissie Cross sings and dances nicely; Maud Elliston and company make a hit in that vastly funny sketch *Dobson's Day Off*; Nellie Neske, a refined comedienne, sings pleasingly; Davis and Deane are smart simultaneous dancers; and Frank Jester is a lively comedian. Ruffell's excellent pictures complete.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—Carl and Mary Ohm's animal circus of well-trained ponies, bears, dogs, and monkeys is highly entertaining, especially to the youngsters. Lennard and Vereker are pleasing song illustrators; the Wastana Trio are lady jugglers of ability; Evelyn Taylor has a good style, and scores with her song "Mr. Poverty"; the Three Cascaellas tumble about in marvellous fashion; John Dearing sings well, and plays on the violin in masterly manner; and Fred Maitland, very ably assisted, is capital in his skit *Talked Out*. Sullivan and Edwards have some smart patter, and are good clog dancers; Edwin Austin plays the concertina well; and Ben Silvo is an accomplished gymnast. Monte Carlo in a Motor-car is a good film.

HULME HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thomas Baker.—Sidney Dooley, supported by a first-rate company, is to the front here this week in that delightful pocket comic opera *The Queen of the Adriatic*. Mr. C. sings and talks in an amusing way; Marie Blythe is successful in several taking songs; and Maude Courtney has many good stories, and is well received. Walter Ellis is very funny in his novel scena *Captain Duncan and His Airship*; the Lovelaces, in illustrated songs, are popular; and other capital turns are contributed by the Maxwells, acrobats; Captain Roberts, musician, athlete, and balancer; and the Five Bombays, vocalists and clog dancers.

MARGATE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. E. Michael; General-Manager, Mr. W. W. Kenne.—Mr J. D. Hunter's pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*, has been the attraction here this week, and has proved acceptable. Besides the many features in the ordinary run of the production, several specialities are introduced by the Lupinos, the Melroses, Miss Judith Espinosa, and Messrs. Dennis and Morris. Miss Cynthia Lupino makes a dashing Crusoe; and Miss Lallah Melrose is a captivating Polly, singing one or two catchy songs capitally. Mr. Mat Melrose assists greatly in the fun-producing by his impersonation of Mrs. Crusoe; and Messrs. Dennis and Morris also add to the amusement as Jack and Jimmy with their comedy business. Mr. George Lupino makes an excellent Friday; and Mr. Arthur Lenville does well as Will Atkins. The choruses are well rendered, the dressing is all that can be desired, and the dances pretty, Miss Judith Espinosa's solo dancing being especially admired.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. F. Mouliot and W. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—This week the Margate Amateur Operatic Company is playing *Amasis*.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees, The South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Albert Jackson.—*The Flower Girl* is being presented by Mr. Charles M. Bestic's company. In the title-rôle Miss Eva Nelson makes a decided success; her singing and dancing are received with applause; Mr. John MacCallum as Joe Wheeler is exceedingly droll, and his songs are enthusiastically encored; clever character studies are those of Alphonse and Lizzie de Racquet by Mr. Henry Adnes and Miss Lilian Drake; Mr. Louis Du Cane does well as Reginald Racket. Other characters are capably represented by Mr. John Latham as Johnny Wheeler, Mr. Robert Cranny as Billy Greenhill, and Miss Georgie de Lara as Miss Greenhill, a Suffragette. The chorus and orchestra render excellent service under the direction of Mr. Louis Beaufort.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—Topping the bill is John Warren with his magic carpet, a musical military illusion, in which he is assisted by Miss Mollie Wynter, Messrs. F. G. Penn, Frank Morton, H. J. Collis, and company. Others prominent in an excellent programme are Miss Diana Hope, in a society episode, entitled *Her Good Name*, the Lavails, the Paul Hesse Trio, Dan Feeley, the Betsons, and the Denaro Brothers.

METHIL.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Methil Theatre Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Burnett.—Messrs. J. Little and Fred Darcy are here this week with their pantomime, *The Forty Thieves*. As Ali Baba Mr. Wal Croft is a success; and Mr. Reg Ewen as Cogia Baba (his wife) is also good. The part of Morgiana was well acted by Mlle. Carita, whose singing was much appreciated; Miss Mary Poulton makes a sprightly Ganem; and Miss Isa Bell as Abdallah, Captain of the Forty Thieves, also shares in the success of the piece. An exceedingly clever acrobatic turn is introduced by the Five X-Rays, who well merit the applause with which they are received; the Cavallotti Brothers give a very fine musical entertainment on a great variety of instruments. The scenic effects are very good, and the dresses tasteful and pretty.

MELXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton. — Miss Ethel Van Praagh and Mr. J. Edward Whitty's company is this week presenting the drama *The Eyes of the World*. Miss Ethel Van Praagh gives a cultured and impressive rendering of the wronged wife, Helene De l'Orme; Miss Elsie Capell plays sympathetically as Avice; Miss Beatrice Fitzhugh makes the most of the part of Esme de Carnac; and Miss Nellie Garside is an interesting Mlle. Pomfleure. Mr. Geo. D. Dapier ably portrays the worthless character of Hector De l'Orme; M. Gaston de Carnac is well played by Mr. Will Casey; a dignified rendering of Octave is submitted by Mr. Chas. Stirling; Mr. Chas. Sewell is an excellent M. Paul Roqueville; Mr. J. Edward Whitty imparts humour to the character of Achille.

NEW PICTURE HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. Will Hunter; Manager, Mr. E. H. Jones.—Among the leading films being shown here this week are: The Train Robbers, The Night Alarm, The Traitor, Mrs. Bonny's Suitors, and How Simpkins Discovered the Pole.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Ed. Jowsey; Manager, and Licensee, Mr. W. Ker Chatto.—Mr. Wm. Gillette's thrilling American military play, *Secret Service*, is being presented for the first time in Middlesbrough by Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart and his company. Mr Stewart, famous for his Mr. Smith and Sherlock Holmes, gives a capable interpretation of the rôle of Captain Thorn; and Mr. Aidan Lovett made a formidable opponent in the part of Mr. Arrelsford. Miss A. Bruce Joy gives a pleasing impersonation of Edith Varney; and Miss Evelyn Ward is well suited to the part of Mrs. Varney. Mr. Fred Charles as Henry Dumont, Mr. Chauncy Morris as General Randolph, Mr. Arthur Shelton as Lieut. Maxwell, Mr. P. Robinson as Lieut. Foray, Mr. Johnson Waites as Lieut. Allison, Miss Mona Hungerford as Caroline Mitford, and Miss Ivy Ross as Miss Kitbridge ably sustain their parts.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson.—*The Bondman* is being presented here this week by Mr. Wentworth Croke's company. Mr. R. Scrope Quentin as Jason is the outstanding figure. He presents a forceful picture of the strong and passionate man. Mr. Oswald Lingard gives an excellent portrayal of the part of Adam Fairbrother, as does also Mr. W. Henry Hargreaves as Michael Sunlocks. Mr. W. H. Rotherham in the rôles of Father Ferrati and Grandfather is exceedingly good; and Mr. Wilfred Beckwith does well as Governor Testa. Miss Madge Lanerton is charming as Mrs. Fairbrother; and Miss Georgina Wynter is very pleasing as Grecko. Miss Hilda Gray is responsible for a fine impersonation as Nattalina, and also Miss Bessie West as Maria. Miss Emilie Mayhew as Christian Ann and Miss Gertrude Helene as Mona also do well. The piece is admirably staged.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Chas. G. Rembges. — Mr. Charles Austin and company create roars of laughter here this week in the production, *P.C. Parker*; while Doody and Wright also have a great reception. The dancing of the male partner is particularly smart. Baddow gives a fine ventriloquial exhibition; and Surrie Lindon's *Monks at Play* is a pleasing musical comedy. Dalvere and Gordon cause much laughter with their patter; and Johnny Dwyer is a clever comedian. The Sisters Gordon sing well; and Will Newton, vocalist, and the Cromvells, in a juggling act, also add to a capital programme.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Manager, Mr. C. E. Nicholls.—The premier position on the bill here this week is occupied by Staley's transformation act. It is a wonderful piece of stagecraft and altogether entertaining show. Palles and Cussick are exceedingly funny; and the Nicholas give a mystifying exhibition ascribed to mental telepathy.

NELSON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. T. Greenwood Croft; Business-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Mudd.—*Cinderella*, the third pantomime of the season, has proved an enormous attraction here. The speciality artists include the Tally-Ho Trio in mirth and harmony; Diamond and Beatrice, harp and saxophone artists; and the Four Lancashire Roses, dancers of more than ordinary ability. Miss Madge Daly makes a dashing Prince Charming, whilst the title-rôle is charmingly sustained by Miss Jessica Brooké; Miss Ida Scott is a pleasing fairy; the Ugly Sisters are admirably presented by Newham and Latimer; the Prince's attendants being capably portrayed by Miss Violet Harris and Miss May Cameron. Miss May Maddison's rag-time dancing is greatly appreciated, as is also the dancing of the Sisters Florence.

NEW BRIGHTON.—WINTER GARDENS.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. H. E. Jones and A. Douglass.—The programme here this week is headed by the Five M.P.'s (Musical Palmers), who give a refined performance, playing several instruments with skill; Mr. Frank Lauri as an entertainer at the piano is very clever and original, and scores heavily; Wisper is a good comedy juggler; whilst Wilhelm makes a decided success in his speciality act, *The Pictorial Pedlar*. Mr. Truman as a tenor vocalist finds favour, and Miss Violet Ray is graceful and pleasing with violoncello solos and vocalism. Mr. J. H. Rean completes the list of artists, and an outstanding feature is the most beautiful and artistic selection of films shown.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—TYNE THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Manager, Mr. F. Sutcliffe.—*Humpty-Dumpty* continues to draw crowded houses.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—Mr. Allan Wilkie and company make a welcome return visit here this week in a Shakespearean répertoire. *Othello* was played on the opening night in the presence of a large audience. Mr. Wilkie was powerful and convincing as Othello; Mr. Alexander March made Iago an intellectual and subtle villain; Miss Haidee Gunn represented Desdemona with charm and pathos; and Frank Royde as Cassio was also very good.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; Manager, Mr. H. G. Elliott.—The pantomime *Little Red Riding Hood*, which has had almost phenomenal success, is to be withdrawn this week at the height of its success, to make way for another engagement. All the principals have become firm favourites, and Miss May Merry, Miss Jessie Templeton, and Mr. Laurie Barclay all leave with enhanced reputations.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—Broad farce is the leading line here this week. Fred Karno's companies, always prolific in mirth-making, never fail to make a draw, and the company appearing here in a new farce, *The G.P.O.*, is no exception. It includes Mr. Fred Kitchen, the inimitable comedian, whose antics when left in charge of the post office are screamingly funny, and the sketch proceeds in a succession of absurdities which keep the house in constant laughter. An attractive turn is provided by Lydia and Amelys, Parisians, who introduce the latest sensation, "The Apache Dance," with much success. Bonnie Goodwin's Apollo Picks contribute both mirth and melody, whilst the Grosvenors sing popular ditties with much taste. Tom Child, the famous Yorkshire tenor, sings in pleasing style, and Nellie Taylor, the juvenile male impersonator, shows great promise. An almost inexhaustible fund of humorous patter is possessed by Ted Box, whose songs and patter are amongst the most popular on the programme, and Walter Aubrey contributes some taking songs and dances, the Bioscope completing.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. W. H. Boardman.—The world-famous pugilist Mr. Bob Fitzsimmons and his talented wife are appearing here this week, and other artists on an excellent bill are Jock Whiteford, Sinclair and Whiteford, Blanche and Powell, the Three Krakes, the Garganis, Terry and Bentley, Tony Iveson, and Johnson and Devere.

SKATING RINK, EXHIBITION BUILDINGS.—Manager, Mr. Fred B. Crowe.—Professor H. A. Simmons, the world's most graceful figure skater, is this week delighting patrons of this popular recreation, and every session sees the splendid rink crowded with skaters and lined with interested onlookers.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company appear in *The Luck of Roaring Camp* here this week. Miss Olive Wilton as Nell Curtis proves a pleasing and vivacious actress; Mr. Robert Purdie's presentment of his part is a fine piece of acting; and Baby Audrey displayed capabilities that promise a bright future. Mr. Clarence Ibbotson as Ebenezer supplies the humorous part, and other characters are in good hands.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. O. Stoll.—Heading the bill here, Zeynard's wonderful Lilliputians provide a clever turn that is warmly recognised; Walter Bellonini sustains his reputation as a juggler; Jimmy Curwell furnishes a rare musical treat; and Winnie Harbor and the Brittany Boys are bright entertainers in singing and dancing. The Trentanovi Sisters perform some clever gymnastic feats, Virto and Venita are responsible for a pretty musical act, and Bob Hamilton sings two lively songs, supplemented by topical patter. The Bioscope, showing some pretty pictures, completes the programme.

NORTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—Messrs. Ernest Stevens and R. C. Buchanan's pantomime, *The Fair One with the Golden Locks*, written and produced by Mr. Stanley Rogers, has proved a great attraction here this week. In the title-rôle Miss Madge Brownie is exceedingly popular, rendering her various songs in capital style; Miss Mimi Fisher as Avenant is a pronounced favourite; and Miss Maud Howell Hersee is much appreciated as Count Von Nickel. As the Queen of Fabulosa Mr. James Chippendale creates much merriment; Mr. Will Letters makes a mirthful Prince Pippin; Mr. Charles Calvert is a good General Slopoff; Mr. Charley Harvey an amusing Admiral Bunker; and Mr. Gilbert Payne pleases immensely as Fanciboy. The speciality dances introduced by the Monte Carlo Girls are also worthy of special mention, and the well-trained chorus is effective; whilst the excellent scenery and dresses have been greatly admired.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—The place of honour here is held by Zarmo, comedy juggler, who has been received with every satisfaction; Mr. and Mrs. David Donaldson, in *The Veteran's Birthday*, have been accorded a hearty reception; Messrs. Irene and Morton, in *The Hobo and the Maid*, win much applause; Miss Rose D'Aulby, vocalist, finds much favour; Mr. Reg. Garland shines as an actor-vocalist; the Karrones, in their speciality act, are well received; and the Mouldoscope shows some fine pictures.

NORTHWICH.—CENTRAL THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden; Secretary, Miss E. Golden.—Poole's Myriorama is packing this house nightly. The Banzai Family of Japanese jugglers and equilibrists give a marvellous performance; the Seven Bramusas have a skilful musical act; Mr. Harry Raymond, a dancer of artistic merit, in conjunction with Little Ivy Raymond, a tiny tot, receives a well-deserved encore; Mr. Sydney Bach is clever at the piano; and Mr. Willie Dean is an excellent comedian. The pictures, both panoramic and living, are of a high order.

PAVILION. — Proprietress, Mrs. T. E. Fletcher; Manager, Mr. Phil Royston.—The artists engaged this week are Mr. Jack E. Roscoe, a good comedian; Miss Jennie Lindoe, singer and dancer; Mr. Harry Windsor; Messrs. Blair and Allen, two smart dancers; Miss Eva Melrose, a clever skipping-rope dancer; and Messrs. Chester and Lees, with their world-famed marionettes; also the Bioscope, with new pictures.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Manager, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. W. W. Kelly's company in *A Royal Divorce* opened on Monday. Mr. Keith Fraser with his wonted ability gave an excellent rendering of the part of Napoleon, whilst Miss Winnie Tempest with much tenderness enacted the character of Josephine. Miss Leah Marlborough was successful as Marie Louise, Mr. Geo. Hudson did well as Grimaud, Mr. Stanley Harrison was good as the Marquis de Beaumont, and Mr. Percy H. Vernon ably appeared as Talleyrand. Miss Ethel Love appeared as the little King of Rome. The tableaux are much appreciated. Friday night is set aside for the benefit of Miss Tempest.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—Among the artists here this week are the Leslie Brothers, nicknamed Frederick the Great and William the Conqueror, in their musical speciality Music Mad, and their humorous antics create great laughter. Miss Ethel Pender and Mr. Claude Anderson are much appreciated in their selections from *Il Trovatore*; Kurkamp is good as the singing conductor; Fritz Kornan is a clever siffleur; and the other artists are Leah Arden, comedienne; Julian Mack, the chatterbox; Lilian Travellie, ballad vocalist; Sam Dalton, eccentric; and the Zampas, duettists, dancers, and baton manipulators.

AGRICULTURAL HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. J. Beckett; Floor-Manager, Mr. W. Blanning.—The roller skating here continues very popular. It is open all day, and in the afternoon and evening a brass band supplies the music.

AGRICULTURAL HALL ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—The New Era pictures continue successful.

BANK PLAIN ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—The animated pictures here are also dancing of the Sisters Florence.

NOTTINGHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—*The Dashing Little Duke* was produced here on Monday. A detailed notice will be found in another column.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Harry Upton.—Messrs. Bateman and Conquest's company present *The Crimes of Paris*, and attract large and appreciative audiences. Mr. Mayor-Cooke makes a despicable villain and Mr. Herbert J. Walton renders a good account of himself as Pierre, whilst Mr. Clavering Craig gives a very capable character study as Pepin, the detective. Miss Enid Edoni, a capable actress, makes the most of the part of Angèle, and Miss Flora Hastings loses none of her opportunities as La Belle Hélène. Miss Christine Bickerstaffe and Miss Helen Dudley Davies are both good, and the remaining female parts are capably represented by Miss Carrie Jones and Mrs. Harry Foster, who as an old woman is excellent. Mr. Kendrew Milson deserves special mention for his efforts, and the remaining characters are in the hands of clever artists.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—Horace Goldin, assisted by Jeanne Fransioli and company, are here this week, and Les Fleury in Paris types provide entertainment at once amusing and refined. Percy Hapman uses a fine baritone voice with great effect, and a wonderful female ventriloquist is found in Maude A. Hayward are delightful. Carter Livesey and Lilian Rosebery are successful in a clever sketch, and the Selbinis introduce some real novelties into their trick cycle act. Madge Temple meets with a deserved meed of applause, and Barrington at the piano causes wonder at his skill and amusement by his funny and unique methods. The usual Bioscope pictures conclude an interesting programme.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Lockwood.—The Oriental illusionist Gustave Fasola heads the bill, and mystifies everybody by his inexplicable cleverness, while Mooney and Holbein at the other end of the programme cause screams of laughter by their mirth-provoking sketch. Edouard José in a French sketch exhibits great dramatic power, and the Woodwards are exceedingly clever trick cyclists, whilst *My Lady Betty*, a sketch presented by Frank Elliston and company, is deservedly popular. The Brothers Wills cause great laughter, as also do the comedy animal tricks introduced by Clown Barker. Dorothy L. Clark, a comedienne with a delightfully ingenuous style, is successful in well-known songs, and Payen is an impersonator of no mean ability. Pictures by the Barrascope provide the usual conclusion.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietors, Theatre and Entertainments Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joseph Coyle.—*I Defy the World* is being presented here by Mr. Julian Malvern's company. Mr. F. B. Woulfe plays the part of Leon Darville with success; Mr. Max Coutts as Count de Beaulieu makes a typical villain; Mr. Alfred Denning a good General Delaporte; and the blackmailer Laroche is ably depicted by Mr. Chas. Conway. Miss E. Loraine scores well as Pauline; the pathetic character of Blanche Darville is ably portrayed by Miss Florence Delmor; and humorous relief is cleverly provided by Mr. Chas. M. Julien and Miss Maud Lilian as Samuel and Maria Wozzle.

OLDBURY.—PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. Jas. Tyrer.—The Four Hewsons, expert dancers, who head a fine, all-round bill, are exceedingly clever; Kuoto, contortionist, is here again with some fresh tricks; Joe Hastings, boy comedian, is an absolute wonder and imitates with success; A. Jeffries sings well; Miss Claire Hastings is applauded for her chorus songs; and The Sleeping Beauty on the Bioscope is well shown.

OLDHAM.—GRAND THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Mayall.—Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company occupies the boards here with *Peter's Mother*. Miss Violet Ley as Lady Mary acts in a delightful manner; Mr. Vivian Gilbert as Peter is well placed; Mr. D. Macintosh is a convincing John Crewys; Mr. Townsend Whitling is an excellent Sir Timothy; and Mr. W. Russell as Canon Birch makes a typical churchman. Miss Hilda Sims as the outspoken Sarah and Miss M. Griffiths as Lady Belstone are both interesting; Miss J. Rae as Miss Crewys plays cleverly; Miss Annie Stalman makes an excellent Mrs. Hewell; and Mr. Edward Jephson is very good as Dr. Blundell.

COLOSSEUM THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Wm. Eastwood.—Mr. Wilson Benge and company in *The Eve of Her Wedding* are here on a return visit. Miss Sadie Smith again appears in a fine portrayal of Mavis Leverton; Mr. W. Benge acts in a manly style as George Tremain; Mr. Arthur Keand is a capital Squire Leverton; Mr. Henry Danson is a satisfactory Dick; Mr. N. Carter Slaughter is a forcible Rudolph Earle; and Mr. Frank Kelland an excellent Giovanni. Miss Florence Zillwood as Renée is forcible; Miss Edith Edwards and Miss Mary Mallalieu are effective as Edith Trevanion and Gwendoline Younger; Mr. Herbert Hastings acts cleverly as Jack Hearn; and Mr. Fred Lloyd is a villainous Dean Clifton.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—George Auger and company present a smart playlet, *Jack the Giant Killer*; Irma Orbasany introduces trained cockatoos; the Four Rio Bros. are clever gymnasts; Joe Almasio is a smart juggler; and the Four Sisters Gilby provide a charming musical act. The Brooklyn Comedy Four, in harmony and comedy; Dot Hardy, a capital comedienne; Carl Lynn, a very good mimic; E. S. Kempton, comedian and dancer; and Aggie Nolan, a smart comedian and clog dancer, are also in the bill.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. Thorne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. Sharrocks.—Harry Roxbury's company, including Tubby Edlin, in *The Cowboy Millionaire* are capital in mirth and melody; the Gotham Quartette introduce comedy; the Barton and Franklin Trio play several instruments brilliantly and also dance well; Witty Wattie Walton is well applauded; the Creo Bros. (the Gipsies) are smart in comedy acrobatics; Lottie Leighton sings and dances well; and Dex appears as a comedy necromancer. The Palace Pictures complete the bill.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Kilrow.—*Sweet Innisfail*, the bright petite drama, is capitally acted by a good company; *The Battle of the Belles*, by Fred Moule and company, causes hearty laughter; De Ganty's Water Grotto is very beautiful, Mdlle. De Silva appearing with success in the spectacle; Richard Finberg is heartily applauded for character impersonations; Ted Waite has funny songs; Drum and Major are good in their comedy act; and Hugo and Smit excellent in acrobatic bar act. Tom Bassett and the Bros. Kroney also do well.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lester King.—The fare provided here consists of life-motion pictures of a very interesting nature.

OSWESTRY.—PUBLIC HALL THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. R. Andrews.—Miss Lena Ashwell's northern combination filled the boards here on Thursday week, and presented that romantic comedy *Diana of Dobson's*. Miss Violet Vorley is rapidly making a name in the title-rôle; Mr. Charles Francis as Captain the Hon. Victor Bretherton was eminently successful; excellent work was done by Miss Hilda Francks (Mrs. Cantelupe), Mr. Philip Sanders (Sir Jabez Grinlay), and Miss Margery Bland (the old woman).

OXFORD.—NEW THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. C. C. Dorrill; Assistant-Manager, Mr. G. T. Lucas.—The latter half of last week Mr. Norman V. Norman and Miss B. Wilson, supported by a capable company, gave very delightful performance here of *The Adventure of Lady Ursula*. This week Mr. Percy Hutchison's company, under the able management of Mr. John E. Watson, is giving most admirable performances of the powerful play *Idols*, which has been most cordially received here. Miss Edith Goodall gives a wonderfully interesting and powerful performance of Irene Merriam—she is very real indeed in the part; Miss Moira Creegan also shows herself a powerful and finished actress as Minna Hart; and Miss Kathleen Mande and Miss Adelaine Lester are both good as Mrs. Harroway and Anna Josephs. Mr. Herbert Ford's powerful and realistic performance of Hugh Coleman met with instant appreciation; Mr. A. B. Imeson was wonderfully good as Gerrard Merriam; Mr. Alfred Ibberson's clever character sketch of the drunken servant Saunders was heartily applauded; Mr. Frank Gowell made the very best of the part of Jacob Hart; and the two barristers found clever exponents in Messrs. Harvey Braban and A. E. Grahame. *Idols* was capitally staged and mounted.

EAST OXFORD THEATRE. — Lessees, East Oxford Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Stuart.—Mr. E. Oswald Brooks's company is here with the farcical comedy *The New Housemaid*. Mr. Howard L. Tracy, as Hon. Bertie Rashleigh, in the title-rôle gives an exceedingly clever performance, while he is ably supported by Mr. Reginald Hargreaves as Frank Pinkerton. Mr. Edward Mervyn is capital as Peter Pinkerton; Mr. Archie Selywyn is a genuine success as the Rev. Stephen Striyles; and Mr. F. Ramsey Forman sustains Marmsbury Doon very satisfactorily. Mr. Herbert Colley is very natural as Rosebery; Miss Dot Seilby interprets the arduous rôle of Caroline with distinction; Miss Josephine Middleton makes an attractive Nellie Haddock; and Miss Ruby Wyndham is imposing as Lettice. Considerable freshness and vigour is infused into the part of Dulcie by Miss Babs Stuart, while Miss Renee De L'Estrade is a graceful Lucie Merton.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—Mr. George Edwardes's company, capably managed by Mr. Gifford Stacey, is presenting *The Merry Widow*. Miss Mysie Devine delights all by her artistic portrayal of Sonia, the audience submitting themselves wholly to the spell of her fascinating acting; whilst Mr. Frank Greene's assumption of Prince Danilo reflects the exact attributes of the character. Miss Ada Thomas as Natalie portrays the varying phases of the part with much tact and skill, contributing an artistic rendering of this onerous rôle; briskness and vivacity is the keynote of Miss Katie May's performance of Frou-Frou; and praise is due to Miss Florence Midgley as Lo-Lo, Miss Adeline Burgon as Do-Do, Miss Monica Baird as Jou-Jou, Miss Amy Bingham as Clo-Clo, Miss Ida Wild as Margot, Miss Winnie Bailey as Olga, Miss Marjorie Villis as Sylvanie, and Miss Lucie Donati as Prascovia. Mr. Edward D'Arcy as Baron Popoff keeps the house in continual laughter by his funny ways, his effective by-play proving most entertaining, and in this respect he is admirably supported by Mr. Clifford Seyler, who is excellent as General Novakovitch. The Vicomte Camille de Jolidon is enacted in a dignified and natural manner by Mr. Ripley Evans, who is an effective singer; the part of Nisch loses nothing of its quaintness and eccentricity in the hands of Mr. Fred Fowler; Mr. William Allison ably represents the Marquis de Cascada; and capable exponents are found for M. de St. Brioche in Mr. F. Pedgrift, M. Khadja in Mr. Robert Needham, and the Waiter at Maxim's in Mr. Adrian Beaumont. A powerful and efficient chorus embellishes the piece, and Mr. Ernest Vousden conducts with admirable skill.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Stead.—There is a good show here this week, at the head of which are the Ten Loonies, musicians, who arouse great laughter with their hysterically hilarious sketch *Dotty*: Walter Ellis and company, in a playlet, entitled *The Sleepwalker*, evoke much merriment; that fine vocalist Will McIvor gets the usual demonstrative reception; the Delomes are capital dancers; Arthur Slater, in a whistling scena, scores with an entertaining turn; Pop Dearly, the dandy coon, earns the appreciation of the audience by his singing; Gold and Sterling, in a musical comedy scena, are conspicuously successful; Ben Tully introduces his boxing kangaroo, the animal showing wonderful training; and the Hippodrome Bioscope throws some good films on the screen.

PEMBROKE DOCK.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Tom Barger; Business-Manager, Mr. Norman Barger.—Miss Emma Litchfield's company gives a splendid performance of *A London Actress* here this week. Mr. Stewart Cleveland submits a manly portrayal of Sergeant-Major Clive Crawford; Ned Kingston, R.N., is well represented by Mr. Edward Hobart; as Moses Mendoza, Mr. Frank Litchfield does some good work, and becomes a favourite; Mr. Sam Wilford has the Irish brogue to perfection, and serves up plenty of fun in the rôle of Pat Maloney; Capt. Mannering, R.N.R., is ably sustained by Mr. Fred Wicksteed; whilst Mr. W. Watkins makes a typical good-hearted policeman. Miss Hilary Burleigh as Phyllis Crawford, a London actress, comes out strongly; Miss Harriette Loydall makes a successful Biddy Maloney; Mrs. E. Clarke is good as Mrs. Skinner; Miss Emma Litchfield shows plenty of skill as Hilda Langley; and Miss Cissie Clark makes a smart callboy and a pretty housemaid. *The Guiding Star* and *A Clever Impostor* are also billed.

PENTRE.—TIVOLI PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Poole's, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Resident-Manager, Mr. James Gunn.—Topping an amusing and interesting programme here this week are the Seven Merry Marvels, with vocal and instrumental numbers; the Three Firmans on the horizontal bars performs extraordinary feats; Miss May Fairclough contributes a refined and edifying turn; a clever exponent of the banjo is Edmund Casselli; Abex, the college boy athlete, creates a sensation by his feats; Mlle. Florence is a graceful artist in her globe and bottle walking turn; some pretty deceptive tricks are given by the Great Y

latter for his very eccentric style; mention must be made of the excellent work done by Douglas Campbell as the Goose and the Bros. Smartie as the Donkey, all of whom are most grotesque, and cause much amusement. Of the ladies it is almost impossible to individualise, as they are all good in their respective parts. Miss Margaret Ruby makes a splendid Colin, and looks and plays well; Miss Millie Doris is a fascinating Jill; Miss Lola Patey as Gretchen captivates with her singing, yodling, and dancing; Mr. Charles Homer is an impressive Malignum (a demon); and Miss Clara Thackuray is Heartsease, the good fairy. The bubble fountain is very effectively introduced in Scene 8, and special mention must be made of the very excellent chorus and orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Frank Seddon, which aids materially in making the pantomime the success it undoubtedly is. Mr. R. Frank Parker is the acting-manager for Mr. J. P. Elliston.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Mr. Frank Lindo's play *Love the Conqueror*, which is appearing in Preston for the first time, is meeting with a gratifying reception, which it well deserves. The play, which is reminiscent of the times of William III., has some stirring situations, which are taken full advantage of. Mr. Frank Lindo gives a splendid presentation of Brian Norval, an outlaw, and is most ably supported by Miss Marion Wakeford, who, as Beatrice Mortimer, proves herself to be a most accomplished actress, and the audience were not slow in showing their appreciation of this clever duo. Mr. Leo R. Neilson gives a first-rate impersonation of William of Orange; and no less successful are Messrs. Norton Shields and D. Laurence Doyle, who act well in their respective rôles of Sir John Mortimer and Count Leon Lascelles. Mr. Tom E. Lewis is a most commendable Captain Rupert Armadale, acting with much spirit; Mr. Harry Belford makes a capital Mine Host of the Blue Posts Inn; Mr. Richard Walsh is a good Peter; and Nancy "By Herself" is beyond praise. Miss Nellie Benson is to be congratulated on her clever portrayal of Dame Norval; as Susan Shortly Miss Helene Thompson is capital; and Mr. W. Gregory as Nicholas and Mr. Gerald Rogers as the Gaoler, who are both good, complete the cast, which is a most competent one throughout. The play is staged in a very realistic manner, and Mr Reginald Dene, the acting-manager for Mr. Frank Lindo, is to be congratulated.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—At the top of the bill the Five Vernons, the great xylophone specialists, give a most popular turn, and prove themselves masters of this instrument; Herma, the gladiator and heavy-weight lifter, performs some remarkably clever feats in weight-lifting; the Wyffs (George and Mary) give a capital sketch, entitled *St. Valentine's Day*, which is well received; Dalton and Euston, black and white comedians, prove themselves to be a clever pair of simultaneous dancers; Will Sullivan is a smart comedian and patterer, who is appreciated; Les Zelovas, Continental acrobatic equilibrists, give a most finished performance, some of their feats being distinctly novel; Farrell and Dunn, the Caledonian duo, please with their song, dance, and patter; Will Willis, comedian, sings some good songs, which go down well; the Bros. Redmond are a capital duo of comedians, with a style of their own, who cause much merriment; and Marie Kay is a juvenile comedienne and dancer of much promise, who not only possesses a very pretty voice, but is also a clever dancer (a combination not always found). The Spider on the Bioscope concludes another capital all-round programme.

RADCLIFFE. — GRAND OPERA HOUSE. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Boothman.—Mr. Frederick Melville's company is here with *The Ugliest Woman on Earth*. Miss Beatrice Homer in the title-rôle is a huge success; Miss Nellie Jackson creates a favourable impression as Aggie Brown; Miss Gertrude Harrison does well as Rose Courtenay; and Miss Violet Macaree deserves a word as Morits; Mr. Freddie Bentley does everything possible to make Tubby Harrick popular; Mr. Philip Darien as the hero Jack Merryman is fine; and Mr. Leyton Cancellor is a highly-finished Hubert Gold; Mr. Leonard Thackeray does well as Antonio; and Mr. William de Brigord is praiseworthy as Tom Redvers.

RAMSGATE.—ROYAL PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; Lessee, Mr. Ernest Mansell.—Marked success has this week attended the performances of the brightly-written pantomime *Cinderella*, given by Mr. E. Graham-Falcon's clever company at the Royal Palace Theatre during the past week. Miss Norah Neville is a dainty Cinderella; and Miss Frankie Manners is a big favourite in the part of Prince Elegant. The company includes a number of first-rate comedians. Mr. George Whillis finds full play for his humorous mannerisms in the congenial rôle of Billie Buttons; Mr. Claude Morton (Girlie) and Mr. Alfred Evremond (Sweetie) are distinctly droll as the Ugly Sisters; the part of Dandini is impersonated smartly by Miss Dot Carey.

RAWTENSTALL.—GRAND THEATRE. — Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; General-Business-Manager, Mr. A. R. Feather.—Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and Mr. J. G. Cardwell's clever combination is here in *Little Red Riding Hood*. Miss Fannie Adamson makes a dashing Boy Blue; Miss Helen Dunscombe shows to advantage as Will Scarlett; and Miss Daisy Clifford is a charming Marjory Daw; as Dame Trot Mr. V. Wakeman proves as good as ever; and as Sunny Jim Mr. Billie Melia is mirth-provoking; Miss May Gibson is a winsome Miss Muffet; as Little Red Riding Hood Iris Vivienne sings and dances well; Mr. J. J. Mannix as the Baron Hardup is excellent; and Denby and Dent are full of lively and clever gag; Miss Edna Baxter makes an excellent Sylvia; and Mr. Will Gibson takes the part of the Wolf very well.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Benton.—The Moody-Manners Opera Company is providing a rich musical treat this week. The repertoire for the week comprises *Maritana* on Monday, *Madama Butterfly* on Tuesday, *Faust* on Wednesday, *Carmen* on Thursday, *Lohengrin* on Friday, *The Bohemian Girl* on Saturday, and *Il Trovatore* at a special matinée on Wednesday. The company numbers eighty, and there is a powerful chorus, and augmented orchestra of thirty-five performers and full corps de ballet. Mr. Cuthbert Hamley is a most efficient musical director. In *Maritana*, Miss Rosa O'Farrell gave a finished rendering of the title-rôle; Mr. F. J. Hargrave was an excellent Don Cæsar de Bazan; Mr. Marshall Vincent did full justice to the part of Don José; Mr. William Anderson was an efficient King of Spain; and Miss Rosina Beynon was exceedingly good as Lazarillo. Miss Enriqueta Chrichton was an accomplished primâ donna as Mme. Butterfly on Tuesday, being most ably supported by Mr. Chas. Carter as Lieut. Pinkerton and Mr. Marshall Vincent as Sharples. This opera was presented for the first time in Reading, and met with an enthusiastic reception. The remaining operas have all been produced in first-class style and excellently staged, and have been attended by large and very appreciative audiences.

THE PALACE. — Managing Director, Mr. G. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. E. Draco. —Ailsa Douglas displays much ability as a vocalist and comedienne; Carta and Mirtziana appear with success in a novel gymnastic act; the Anio Trio present an Algerian novelty act, in which they juggle with guns very expertly; Claude Gardiner is a diverting light comedian; John Donald appears in a vocal scena, entitled "A Scottish Exile's Dream," in which the songs of Burns and Scott are effectively illustrated; Will Harris is a funny comedian; the Four Delawares produce a diverting farcical sketch, *Billiards*; Messrs. J. G. Graham and Horn Conyers' company appear very successfully in a highly sensational dramatic episode of the late engineering strike, entitled *Ring Up 735 East*; and some good pictures on the Bioscope complete an excellent programme.

SMALL TOWN HALL.—Mr. Walter Jeff's select pictures are still drawing crowded houses here. The scenes include a realistic reproduction of the Ruins of Messina after the Earthquake, an excellent series of views on Crossing the Atlantic on an Ocean Greyhound, and other up-to-date pictures.

BOSTOCK AND WOMBWELL'S MENAGERIE paid a two days' visit here on Wednesday and Thursday, and was extensively patronised.

ROCHDALE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Burton.—Mr. Wentworth Croke presents the Lyceum Theatre version of *The Christian* to the patrons here this week. The stage effects are exceptionally fine. Mr. Roy Redgrave submits an impassioned portrayal of John Storm, and Miss Daisy Scudamore enacts with earnestness and reality the part of Glory Quayle. Mr. Wilfred Noy is effective as Horatio Drake; whilst Lord Robert Ure is very cleverly sustained by Mr. Herbert Hewetson. Mr. Thomas Barry scored heavily as Father Lamplugh; and Mr. Jno. Hooker presented an acceptable embodiment of Archdeacon Wealthy. The aristocratic Lord Storm is portrayed to the life by Mr. Royce Milton; and Mr. John Blake is all that could be desired as Parson Quayle. Miss Molly Hayden makes a motherly Mrs. Callender; and Miss Cora Deane acts with feeling the part of Polly Love.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—A capital array of talent is here this week. Miss Rosie Lloyd, daintily attired, captivates the audience with charming songs; Gillin, ventriloquist, being unable to appear through sudden illness, his place was taken by Mme. Rasko and partner, with a clever equilibristic act; the Wakeman Quintette were highly successful in a refined musical comedy sketch; Harry Wenburn, comedian; Rio Banks, vaudeville artist; Roy Beavis, magician; Rene, the girl juggler; Cyrus Dare, child mimic; and the Empire Bioscope, complete a most attractive bill of fare.

NEW HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, The Jackson Family; Business-Manager, Mr. Jno. Jackson; Resident-Manager, Mr. James Jackson, sen.—Reano and his band top the bill here; Coram, ventriloquist; Frank Weaver, comedian and expert dancer; the Three Orleans, vocalists and dancers; Alf. Gibson, quaint comedian; Florrie Conelly, descriptive vocalist; Vere and Royal, in a comedy act, *On the Road*; the Resans, jugglers; and the Hippodrome Pictures, are also among the attractions.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Mr. Percy Norman's No. 1 company, under the direction of Mr. A. B. Mackey, presented to a good house on Monday the domestic and military drama, *A Woman Worth Winning*, and gave much satisfaction. The Czar was well represented by Mr. Sydney Barton; Mr. Gilbert Standing was a manly hero as Amos Pauloff; and Roma Pauloff was charmingly played by Miss Cissie Bellamy. The author, Mr. A. B. Mackey, caused much laughter with his Ivan Bardoff; another amusing character was Bertie Scribbles, by Mr. Louis Newman; Miss Ida Mackey did good work in the same direction as Katrina Kless; Miss Trixie Leighton made an impression as Lola Kalnovsky; Mr. B. Crosby forcibly played Fergus Lovinsky; Mr. Jerold Ord (General Borinsky), Mr. Jack Corlass (Colonel Mashemoff), and Mr. Wynne Davies (Fedor Petronovitch) also gave finished studies of their several characters.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—An excelent variety programme is headed by an episode of the American War, *The Spy*, well played by Percy Ford and Edward C. Webb's company; Harry Reynolds' Minstrels get much applause; *Taking the Census* is a comical sketch by the Bros. Curran; Jack Hayworth, Scotch comedian, has a good voice, which is much appreciated; "The Birthday Party" is a pleasing monologue by Jack Barker; Horace and Olga's Dogs and Cats are cleverly trained Among the other turns are Gicardo, smart juggler; Stowe Bros., novelty equilibrists; Mark Merry, comedian; and Lily Butler, comedy artist.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Slatten.—J. Gar Kiddie's comic pantomime, *Little Bo-Peep*, written by George Burton, with pretty scenery by J. Greenhalgh, appeared to be thoroughly enjoyed by the full house on Monday. There are many pretty dances in most of the scenes. Miss Lizzie Payne is a dainty Bo-Peep, singing and dancing charmingly; Miss Ivy Gallard makes a dashing Boy Blue; Miss Elsie Peach makes a good Fairy Moonbeam; and the Demon Wolf is well sustained by Mr. W. H. Gatty. Mr. J. W. Groves does some very amusing clever business as Granny Brown; Grapho and Jackson, as Johnny Stout and Jimmy Green, work hard and well to amuse; Mr. Harry Royde (Baron Hardup), Mr. W. Harris (Tommy Long), Mr. Albert Kail Stern (Rastus Brown), Miss Millie Maxwell (Demon Deaf Mute), Miss Bertha Cousins (Lord de Rhino), and Miss Marie Harding (Margery Daw), all contribute to the success of the pantomime twice nightly.

OPERA HOUSE AND ASSEMBLY ROOMS, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; General-Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Shepherd.—The Regent New Animated Pictures twice nightly draw good houses. They include Cabin Boy's Sister, James Goose, Burns and Johnson Training, Spoof and the Monkey, His Work or His Wife, The Auto Heroine, The House Decorator, &c. Mr. Tom Sherlock, with his illustrated song, also scores.

SCARBOROUGH.—THE AQUARIUM.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman.—Ben Hur is the chief attraction here, in his gladiatorial spectacle, *Pompeii*, and weight-lifting; the Reays are smart gymnasts; and Marie Winsome is very successful as a male impersonator; Zaleski is a clever contortionist; and Frank Solbrey is rightly described as the "misery shifter," his mimics of a child being exceedingly funny; Edgar Hayes and his performing pony are responsible for a very interesting turn; and Arthur Sharp is greatly appreciated.

THE NEW HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock.—A good programme is again the order here, and includes the following artists, with Bert Wickham, the world's champion all-round athlete, occupying premier position:—The Ettenas, globe performers; Nellie Nora, instrumentalist; W. R. Vowles and Edith Bryan in scena, *Song and Story in a Garden*; G. de Relwyskow, champion light-weight wrestler; Jessie Star, Scotch comedienne; Charles Woodward, vocal comedian; and Leo, ventriloquist.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL. —Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. Wallace Childs.—*Rollicking Rory* is again being presented here, through the medium of Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Mackey's company. In the part of Rory Mr. Mackey gains in popularity; a manly Desmond Fitzgerald is supplied by Mr. J. P. McBride; Mr. Frederick Harker is a skilful Stephen D'Arcy; Shaun Brady is capably drawn by Mr. St. John Stuart; as General Ashleigh Mr. Richard Hutton does well; Mrs. Chalmers Mackey gives an artistic portrayal of Rosaleen Ashleigh; Miss Nana Flensburg is a delightful Rosie; Widow Callaghan is well played by Miss Adele Liddon; and as the Fairy Queen Madame Constance Bellamy contributes pleasing songs.

SHEERNESS.—HIPPODROME.—Mr. Dudley Bennett and Mr. T. C. Wray's company presented *Miss Hook of Holland* here on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of this week. Miss Ethel James ably played the title-rôle; Miss Muff Carew admirably portrayed the part of Mina; Mr. Charles McLagan as Mr. Hook and Mr. George Roberts as Van Eyck were responsible for the major portion of the mirth-provoking element; and Messrs. J. B. Fox and Edward Lloyd as Captain Adrian Paap and Bandmaster Van Vuyt respectively played their parts in good style. On Thursday Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company presented *Her Nameless Child*.

SHEFFIELD. — LYCEUM THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—*His House in Order* is again being acted here by Mr. Herbert Ralland's excellent company. Mr. J. H. Beaumont gives a finished representation of the character of Hilary Jesson; Mr. Langford Browne gives distinction to the part of Sir Daniel Cartaret; Miss Elsie Roberts as Nina wins the cordial sympathy of all who hate the unchristian and miserable pettiness of the "respectable" section of society, lifelike types of which were presented by Mr. Patrick Robertson as Filmer Jesson, Miss Avis Grahame as Lady Ridgeley, and Miss Wray as Geraldine. The comedy was mounted with the usual Lyceum completeness.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. Hemfrey-Aldred.—The beautiful and humorous annual, *Goody Two Shoes*, continues to be played nightly to large audiences, and the Royal habitués appear to have no desire for heavier fare at present.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. William D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—Mr. Walter Melville's company opened to a crowded house on Monday in the thrilling domestic drama, *A Girl's Cross Roads*. Miss Hilda Beverley repeated her powerful impersonation of Barbara, and all the other parts were carefully acted.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—The Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—The talented Elliott-Savonas are this week appearing in the magnificently staged musical spectacle, *The Palace of Orpheus*; a smart military performance and ju-jitsu act, by Enger and Clarice, is loudly applauded; Mr. F. W. Purcell's company pays a welcome return visit in the laughable farce *That Brute Simmons*; those old-established local favourites, the famous Albert and Edmunds comic ballet troupe, again cause hearty laughter in the screaming pantomimical absurdity, *Neighbours*; Miss Edie Endon is a clever Parisian dancer; and others engaged are Miss Hilda Jacobson, a favourite at the Empire; Mr. Tom Stuart, Mr. Harry Lawson, and Miss Nance Elder. Excellent Bioscope Pictures conclude a generous programme.

THE HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. D. Eibourne.—Mr. William Holland's spectacular and comic pantomime, *The Forty Thieves*, has been a big success, and finishes its run in Sheffield this week. The splendid scenery, by Ryan, McLellan, Dunn, and Egerton conduces greatly to the artistic completeness of the production, and all the artists, including the Three Sisters Tree (Dolly, Bibby, and Portia), Miss Cecilia Gold, Miss Bertha Clifton, Mr. Bob Selvidge, Mr. Walter Grosvenor, Mr. Jack Waller, Mr. Rob Wilton, Mr. Wallace Bosco, and Mr. Chris Le Brunn, the laughter-provoking representative of Percy, Ali Baba's moke, keep the "pot a-boiling" to the merry strains of Mr. Hahn's splendid orchestra. The graceful dancing of the charming quartette, Sadie Cassell, P. Wardroper, Mabel Hope, and Fancy Free, wins deserved applause; and Miss M. Donald's ballets are cleverly invented, and are done justice to by the ladies of the corps de terpsichore.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. A. W. Turpin.—A good programme of moving photographs, by the Raymond Bio-tableaux Co., together with illustrated songs, continue to please large and well-pleased houses at this old-established and popular resort.

SHREWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Director, Mr. W. Yates Gregory; General-Manager, Mr. Thos. Baugh.—The new version of Hall Caine's highly-popular play, *The Christian*, was put on here on the first three nights of this week, its striking scenes and powerful representation ensuring popular appreciation. As the Hon. John Storm Mr. P. Gedge Twyman worked with wholehearted fervour throughout, and his passages with Glory were marked with passionate feeling; Mr. Edward Ouston may be deservedly complimented upon his talented acting as Horatio Drake; Mr. G. Montague Lake gave a faithful and praiseworthy rendering of the part of Lord Robert Ure; Mr. John Hastings Batson made a sympathetic and capable Father Lampugh; Mr. Wm. Mallalieu as Archdeacon Wealthy made a typical high ecclesiast; Mr. W. Ellis as Lord Storm merited encomiums; and other male parts were creditably taken. Miss Margery Fane's interpretation of the all-important rôle of Glory Quayle had the merit of originality, and although in the most impressive passages with John Storm she erred in respect of being too impassioned, her acting was meritorious; Miss Alice Maude as Mrs. Callender was faithful and commendable; Miss Gladys Vernon as Polly Love won the sympathy of her audience; Miss Grace Baring took the part of Black Meg in a most satisfactory manner; Miss Sissie Murdock in the repulsive character part of Mother Kent was deserving of a meed of praise; and other ladies' parts were well filled. There was an entire change in the bill of fare for the succeeding nights of the week, animated pictures of an interesting and up-to-date character being the leading features; but the programme was agreeably varied by Colin and Irene's expositions of second sight and mental telegraphy, and Edgar Crooks' amusing magical extravaganza.

SOUTHAMPTON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr Fredk. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Weston. — The D'Oyly Carte Opera Company are this week presenting a series of their comic operas. The ball was set rolling on Monday with *The Gondoliers*, and the usual big success was scored. On Tuesday *The Mikado* proved a big favourite. Mr. Charles R. Walenn kept the house rocking with laughter as Ko-Ko; Mr. Fred Billington was excellent as Pooh-Bah; and capable support was given by Mr. Leicester Tunks as the Mikado and Mr. Stafford Moss (Nanki-Poo). Miss Clara Dow sang beautifully as Yum-Yum; and Miss Ethel Morrison scored as Katisha. Other favourites in the company are Messrs. Sydney Granville, Allen Morris, Hugh Blackmore, and Fred W. Pattrick, and the Misses Beatrice Meredith, Mabel Graham, and Bertha Lewis. Other operas presented during the week include *The Yeomen of the Guard*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, and *Iolanthe*.

PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wm. Trussell.—Mr. Bernard Mervyn and company are appearing in a dramatic sketch, entitled *'Twixt Dusk and Dawn*; Madge Grey excels as a comedian and mimic; and May Henderson, the dusky comedy queen, is also popular. Captain Devereux and his troupe of dogs; Leslie and Stevens, in their successful act, *Love Levels All*; the Milton Trio, Jamie Piper, and Cherry Lass also contribute. The Sunday concerts are going very strong here. The A.M.U. band and orchestra, conducted by Mr. J. Warwick Moore, supply the music, and the pick of the picture world is shown on Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

HIPPODROME.—Joint Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and W. de Frece; Manager, Mr. H. Yardley.—The Johnstown Flood, which represents the last word in stage illusions, is proving a great attraction; F. V. St. Clair rattles off verses on every conceivable topic, and scores a huge hit; the dramatic sketch, *The Usurer*, is exceedingly well played by Sydney Mason and Theresa Moore, who are capably supported; Dion Wade is a quaint comedian; and other successes are scored by Marie Glenn, Lieut. Travis, Mark Brand, and the equestrian sketch, *The Horse Dealer*.

EMPIRE THEATRE. — Proprietors, The Walturdaw Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Auguste Denton.—Twice nightly this cosy theatre is packed, and the management well deserve their success, for all that is latest in the animated picture world is shown, to the accompaniment of loud applause. The Sunday picture concerts are quite a feature, and the hall is absolutely packed every Sunday evening.

PHILHARMONIC HALL.—Capital and up-to-date pictures, presented by Messrs. A. and H. Andrews, are attracting good houses nightly. The programme is changed twice weekly, and Miss May McPherson, accompanied by an excellent orchestra, renders a number of beautifully illustrated songs.

PIER PAVILION.—Morning, afternoon, and evening exhibitions of roller skating are still the rage, and the pastime is rapidly increasing in public favour. A fancy dress skating carnival will take place next Wednesday evening.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing Directors, Messrs. Geo. Conquest and Richard H. Nerney; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power. — A dramatised version of *Sapho* was presented here on Monday, with Mrs. Frank Bateman and Mr. Stuart Lomath in the chief parts. Mrs. Frank Bateman makes an ardent personality of the title-rôle; Mr. Stuart Lomath, who is responsible for the revision and adaptation of the play, makes a vigorous Jean Gaussin; Mr. H. Aynsleigh is popular with a clever exposition of Famant; Mr. M. Curtis as Henri Dechelette; and Mr. Geo. Herbert as Jules Delbret also give satisfaction; Miss Mabel Durham portrays Alice with success; Miss Ellen Owen giving a good impersonation of Cleopatra. Comedy is well represented by Mr. Percy Shaw as Uncle Cesaire; Mr. Kenneth Black, jun., as Hettema; and Miss Nellie Wilson as Madam Hettema.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE WINTER GARDENS. —Proprietors, The Southport Opera and Winter Gardens Co., Ltd.; Secretary and General-Manager, Mr. R. Singleton.—An entertainment of great attractiveness is provided during the current week by Mr. Cotton's excellent company in the successful musical play, *Butterflies*, which was presented here for the first time on Monday evening to a large audience. The magnificent spectacular displays and brilliant ensemble, together with the classical dance, entitled "La Naissance du Papillon," which was gracefully and cleverly executed by Miss Millie Gordon, were a revelation to the local playgoers, who thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated them. Miss Annie Heenan was highly successful, alike in a dramatic and vocal sense, in the rôle of Rhodanthe, the witch, which she depicted with irresistible vivacity and abandon; Mr. Harrison Brockbank caused much amusement by his humorous impersonations of Widgery Blake (Puck), and both in acting and singing was highly commendable; Mr. Edwin H. Wynne was admirable in every way in the part of Christopher Podmore, which was exceedingly well-played; Mr. Johnny Wilkinson presented an exceedingly droll portraiture as Yarker, the chauffeur, and created much merriment; Elsie Podmore had a very capable and pleasing exponent in Miss Lilian Wesson; Peter and Gilbert had very capable representatives in Mr. Alan Mudie and Mr. Francis Rayne respectively; Miss Ada Davidson enacted the character of Nora Podmore with emphasis and as Archdeacon Wealthy, Mr. E. R. Holloway does well as Lord Storm; Miss Doris Gilham gives an excellent portrayal of Glory Quayle; and Miss Margaret Brodie as Polly Love and Miss Sinna St. Clair as Miss Callender do well in their respective parts.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stainton.—Mr. Fred Granville's pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*, is drawing good houses her this week. Miss Cissie Paris makes a charming Robin Hood, and is laudly applauded for her vocal efforts; Miss Marie Elsie as Maid Marion does well; Miss Violet Wilson and Baby Boden are very popular as the Babes; Mr. Alf. Brooks is a clever comedian; Mr. Will Donnett is responsible for some very clever dancing; the Kimberley Boys, eccentric comedians and dancers, have become great favourites; the Six Emerald Gems are a clever troupe of dancers; Mr. Norman Hall does well as the Wicked Uncle.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—Mr. M. Montgomery's stock company presents here the successful drama, *A Heart's Desire*. Mr. Ernest Wingfield plays the part of Eric May in excellent manner; Mr. F. S. Strickland does well as Lord St. Ives; Miss Lilian Beaumont gave a charming portrayal of Hon. Elsie Beresford; and Miss Lina Nazeby also does well as Oiya. Payne's Bio-Photoscope concludes with The Chambermaid and the Dwarf.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Miller; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. Moroney. —Mr. Gus Elen is most successful in various numbers from his extensive répertoire; his scena, *The Wrong 'Un's Bedroom*, is most amusing, creating roars of laughter; Ajax and George are seen in a novel and unique gymnastic act; the Sisters Draycott harmonise in a charming manner; Macintosh and Royal give a smart exhibition of clog dancing; and also to be noted are Kirk and Saraski; Lily Ray, a clever little dancer; Harry Vardon; Sidney Burns; and the Bioscope.

STOURBRIDGE. — ALHAMBRA THEATRE. — General-Manager, Mr. Douglas C. Phelps; Manageress, Miss Maude Lynton.—Miss Winifred Maude's company has presented here *The Stowaway* and *The Convict*. In the latter piece Miss Winifred Maude plays the part of Dora Renshawe in a touching manner; Mr. L. S. Harrison, in the part of Captain Hurley, is sinister and truculent; Mr. Rupert Talbot as Harry Seaforth plays a difficult part with success; Miss Jennie Hackett deserves special mention for her ability as Jennie Perkins; Mrs. Wingold Lawrence as Olga Brandon is responsible for a smart interpretation; Mr. Geo. Byrne as Chas. Renshawe acquits himself well; and Mr. Victor Du Cane as Freddy Freckles and Alphonso Godin deserves special mention. *The Merry Widow* came on Thursday.

SUNDERLAND.—KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. S. F. Davidson; General-Manager, Mr. Alexander Telford.—Mr. Seymour Hicks' principal company is playing a return visit here, with *The Gay Gordons*. Miss Maie Ash as Peggy Quainton is having most enthusiastic receptions. She gives a bright, vivacious, and piquant representation, and sings in a pleasing and dainty manner. Mr. Stanley Brett again fills the rôle of the Gay Gordon, and is simply irresistible; Mr. Ernest Torrence gives a capital portrayal of Andrew Quainton; and George Carrol is droll as Edmund Siddons; Victoria Siddons being well interpreted by Miss Lily Maxwell.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. R. Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden; Assistant-Manager, Mr. George Dunn.—Mr. Frederick Melville's *Her Road to Ruin* is meeting with a warm reception here. Miss Alice Bowes made a decided hit as May Willoughby; the Rev. Frank Temple was excellently played by Mr. Henry Volston; Mr. Dane Clark as the Bishop was equal to all the demands; Philip Hardy, the villain, gave Mr. Alex. Bradley full scope for his ability; Jess Willoughby could scarcely have had a better exponent than Miss Beatrice Edwards; Miss Nellie Bonsor was seen to advantage as the wronged Lancashire girl; Messrs. Duncan Yarrow and V. R. C. Moor were all that could be desired as Tom Wells and Charles Cholmondeley; and Mr. Henry Hague was a capable Sir John Lewis. Miss Marie Wright was the essence of drollery as Jennie Crackler; and Mr. Henry Talbot as Billy Boots was well placed.

EMPIRE THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—The chief feature of this week's programme is the equestrian act of Karl Reinsch and Miss Lucie. Helen Trix, American comedienne and siffleuse, is particularly pleasing with her smart songs and her whistling solos; Jessie Wilton repeats the success she won at the "King's" pantomime as principal boy; the dancing of Leonette Roberty and company is very fascinating; Frank Bertram and company present an amusing sketch, entitled *The Chaperon*; Dennis Drew, in a patriotic military musical scena, *Back to Barracks*, presents an effective act; Arthur Astill is a versatile whistling mimic; and George Westland, a smart Scotch comedian. Bert Williams gives a popular ventriloquial act.

AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. R. Foulkes Edwards.—The animated pictures at this theatre are now in full swing, under the capable management of Mr. Edwards, and large audiences are being drawn nightly. This week the chief item on the programme is a film of the well-known aeronaut, Mr. Wilbur Wright, in a trial flight.

PALACE THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Henry N. Phillips; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fred J. Reece.—An excellent programme of animated pictures is submitted here.

SWINDON.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wiltshire Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Manners.—This week a variety programme is being given here. Arthur Kenny creates a sensation with his cycling feats; Anandos is a clever facial mimic; Odeyne Spark, comedienne and dancer, is well received; Rosina is an instrumentalist of ability; Carlo and Mane, comedy wire acrobats, are good; Jack Hamilton, comedian, goes down well; George Antill is rightly termed "The Evening Shadow"; and Brown and Robinson sing nicely; Robert Williams imperson-

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ates Lord Charles Beresford; Rubic and Elsie Redfern gain favour in their refined drawing-room act; and Olive Astor, vocal comedienne; and Professor Bem and his performing donkey complete.

TODMORDEN.—The Hippodrome.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Richard Dewhurst.—Mr. Henry Swinerd's company, in *Dare Devil Dorothy*, is proving an excellent attraction here. Miss Nellie Valentine in the title-rôle is successful, her song, "Tiny seed of love," bringing down the house; Miss Nellie Harcourt makes a bright and engaging Judith, her step-dancing being smart; the part of Ruth Montrose is admirably portrayed by Miss Ethel Griffies; Miss Florence Corri as Rosy Ann, and Miss Daisy Holbrook as Polly are acceptable step and acrobatic dancers; Mr. Walter Ashley makes a handsome and dashing Captain Fielding; and Mr. Walter Nugent as Captain Dudley acts with force and vim. Mr. Will Brereton's (Silas Crump) humour and songs keep the audience in mirthful mood; Mr. Edward Aldworth as Hawkins plays with force; and as Featherstonehaugh Mr. Deane Cliffe is amusing.

TON-Y-PANDY.—Theatre Royal.—General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ridgewood Barrie.—A pleasing variation is afforded by the engagement of Mr. Harry Benet's pantomime company, in *Robinson Crusoe*. Miss Nellie Dyson is exceptionally smart in the title-rôle; Pollie Perkins is well played by Miss Stella Millar; Mr. H. Benet scores as Billy Crusoe; Miss Cissie Ramsay, a charming Britannia, receives loud applause for her "Tiny seed of love" song; Rand and O'Ryan introduce a smart boxing comedy act as Flip and Flap (pirates); and Mr. D. Phillips' Welsh ways, as Mrs. Pankhurst Crusoe, are highly appreciated.

Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Will Stone.—A strong programme is headed by Muir and Bartlett's company in *The Collar Stud*. The Paul Kramer Troupe of gymnasts provide the finest act of its kind seen here. Dan Filmer is popular; Indiana, the rubber lady, and Miss Ivy Adelaide win rounds of applause; and the chief picture is The Auto-heroine.

TORQUAY.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—Mr. Reginald Dance and his company are paying a welcome return visit this week, in *Raffles*. Mr. Reginald Dance in the title-rôle fully captivates the audience, and he is recalled again and again after each act; Miss Frances Titheradge makes a winsome Gwendoline; whilst as Lady Ethel Miss Marguerite Unett is all that can be desired. The part of Mr. Curtis Bedford, the detective, is admirably sustained by Mr. Edward Irwin, who makes it quite a character study; and Mr. A. P. Bell also does exceedingly well as Harry Manders. A typical Crawshay is found in Mr. Oswald Griffiths; and Mr. P. Alexander is quite at home as Lord Amersteth; the part of Lady Melrose being in the capable hands of Miss Kitty Lofting. Mr. F. C. Pool is decidedly amusing as Lord Crowley; whilst Miss Doris Digby is certainly a characteristic Marie. The rôle of Mrs. Vidal is left to Miss Molly Tremaine, who is a great success, her representation of that charming, though vindictive, lady being of the highest order.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—The Opera House.—Hippodrome Season; Mouillot and De Frece Circuit.—Lessee, Mr. Wilton Dale; Manager, Mr. C. V. Hoskins.—A strong programme is being presented this week, including Mlle. Flora Lumière, in her Fairy Grotto and fire dances, with special lighting effect; Johnny Fuller gives his unique speciality, the Cat on the Wire; and Rohana entertains at the piano with versatile mimicry. The Victas, barrel jumpers, perform some clever feats; and Daisy Hicks is well received in her songs. Alfred Nardi, the blind musical genius, charms the house with his clever violin solos. The booking was very heavy for the flying matinée of *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch* on Wednesday, and the visit proved a great success.

TYLDESLEY.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. W. Brierley.—Mr. Frank J. Pitt and company are presenting here *A Victim of Villainy*. Mr. H. Creagh Hunt capably sustains the character of Stephen Kavanagh; Mr. F. J. Pitt deserves praise for his impersonation of Frank Manton; Walter Lennox is satisfactorily presented by Mr. J. Campling; and Dick Carson has a good exponent in Mr. Wilson Roberts. Miss Kathryne Eckart gives a skilful rendering of Mary Manton; Miss Florence Hatton shows ability as Alice Cavanagh; Miss Dollie Lester makes a suitable Eric; Miss Alice Clarke a vivacious Norah Maloney; and excellent comedy is supplied by Mr. Fred Carroll as Tom Leckie, and Mr. Frank Dallas as Patrick Maloney.

WAKEFIELD.—Opera House.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—The production of the domestic drama *Mother* at this house is noticed in another coloumn.

Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—Tom Lloyd, comedian, scores a hit with his humorous songs; Maxey and Pete are clever trick cyclists; Rozel, speciality gymnast, provides a sensational turn; George Gulliver, ventriloquist, is smart; Emma Don, male impersonator, gives a good turn; Miss Ethel Stephenson, ballad vocalist, sings well; and the Munroe Comedy Team delight with their clever business.

WARRINGTON.—Royal Court.—Proprietor, Mr. J. Beecham; General-Manager, Mr. A. M. Loader; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. Smiley.—This week the boards of this house are occupied by the vocal amateur dramatic society, in *The Lady of Ostend*.

Palace and Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. H. C. Hardcastle.—A pleasing little Dutch operetta, *Happy Holiday*, in which Jake Friedman, the well-known Dutch comedian, is the central figure, is the chief feature in the bill; Miss Belle Davis, with pick chic actress, sings and dances with gusto; Miss Sable Fern's topical songs are very taking; Frank H. Fox sings some rare songs; and Mack Ollive, assisted by Miss Daisy Baldry, whistles delightfully. Clarice Clarke sings in fine style; and the pictures are good.

Royal Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, The Franco-British Animated Picture Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Jack Waters.—The Six Bush Boys are delighting large houses with their singing and dancing, and the song scena, typical of camp life in the bush, is very realistic; Mamie Morris is a charming comedienne, and her songs are all encored; J. H. Ellis always creates a laugh; Andrew Atkinson's illustraied songs are still a source of amusement; and the pictures form a choice collection.

WEDNESBURY.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Battersby.—Mr. Frank Adair, with a specially selected company, in *The Heathen and the Christian*, is attracting crowded audiences. Li, the Avenger, is characteristically played by Mr. Frank Adair; the rôle of Chang Lu is admirably portrayed by Leonard Clapham; Mr. Herbert Robinson scores a success as Lord Allendale; Mr. Gerald Turner does excellent work as Admiral Freebold; Joshua Sampson is ably depicted by Mr. Fred Waring; and as George Berresford Mr. Dudley Wynton meets with approval. Mr. Bruce Williams is responsible for comedy in the part of Bah Lamb Gentle; an artistic impersonation of May Berresford is presented by Miss Fay Garnet Vayne; Miss Eva Reed's songs and dances as Becky Fibbins are warmly appreciated; and as Mira Sampson Miss Adeline Ruby scores a success.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—Grand.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. Herbert E. Feather.—Messrs. Bliss and Bliss are this week presenting their up-to-date pantomime *Mother Goose*. Mr. Leo Bliss as Widow McGooseley and Mr. Geo. Bliss as King Geezer are responsible for much of the fun; Mr. Leo Kerno is successful as Septimus Snatchall; Jill has a pretty representative in Miss Ray Ford, whose song "Antonio" and dainty dancing are very successful; and Miss Ethel Dunford makes a gay and dashing Prince. Specialities are successfully introduced by Pete and Juno, the Sylvia troupe of dancers, Louie Kerno, Bliss and Bliss, the Two Rubies, and Miss Ray Ford.

Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. E. Dobney.—The Warsaw Brothers, in their musical comedy act, delight all; much praise is due to the Fitzroys for their smart gymnastic display; Ohms and Carbeth are funny in comedy juggling; *Fun in a Music Shop*, by Bruil and Hemsley, is very amusing; the Stannings troupe are clever in their pedestal and simultaneous dancing; Vera Violet's songs go well; and Charles Coll does well.

WEST STANLEY.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, The Stanley Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Kelly.—Poole's Myriorama is proving a tremendous draw here. The variety programme consists of Harland and Rollinson, musical marvels; the Four Craigs, gymnasts; Roy, Miles, and Roy, in a clever juggling act; and the Bioscope.

Victoria Theatre.—Prourietor, Mr. T. C. Rawes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. George W. Montrose.—The Four Netherlands in their singing and barefoot dancing act are a big success here; the Keppels, operatic vocalists, are good; the Howard Family in their throught-reading are as mysterious as ever; the Boscos submit an acrobatic scene, with some good comedy introduced; and Cade Burnett, actor-vocalist; Lytton and Bland in their speciality *A Lesson in Love*; and the Vicoscope complete.

WEYMOUTH.—Pavilion Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. R. Wallis.—Mr. Morton Powell's company are here this week with the powerful play *When It Was Dark*. Mr. Cecil Mannering plays Constantine Schwabe with great effect; Mr. W. Lyndon as the Rev. Basil Gortre is a carefully-studied impersonation; Mr. Wm. Burgess is very good as Sir Robert Llewellyn; and Mr. Collingham as Harold Spence fulfils a difficult part. Miss Valerie Russell is very charming as Helena Byars, and Miss Alice O'Dea powerfully played the part of Gertrude Hunt. The other members of the company are all good in their several parts.

WIDNES.—Alexandra Theatre.—Lena Stanton and Harry Joseph's company, in *Aladdin*, occupies the boards this week. Miss Janet Lawton, in the title-part, plays well; Miss Kitty Avey, a winning Princess, sings sweetly; Miss Ella Rose is a smart Pekoe; Mr. Harry Harcourt a funny Mrs. Twanky, and Messrs. W. and F. Shephard cause many a hearty laugh.

WIGAN.—Royal Court Theatre.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Company.—A return visit of *The Village Blacksmith* is being welcomed here. Mr. Sam Livesey still continues to represent the title-rôle in an effective and picturesque manner; while he is well seconded by Mr. Albert Sinclair as Captain Leo; and Mr. Ned Haming is as humorous as ever as Billy Twigg. Miss Maggie Edwards is still excellent in her accustomed part of Kate Strong; and Miss Cassie Le Grande is a capital Ruth Parkins.

The Hippodrome.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Company.—John Leopold's company of acrobatic comedians in *The Houseboat* and *Those Terrible Boys* create roars of laughter for their efforts; John Marx, the strong man, gives an interesting performance which is somewhat out of the ordinary; the Stadium Boys prove themselves to be clever tumblers; Carr and Rose are wen received for their vocal selections; Olive Myrtle dances herself into favour; Castancia also gives an enjoyable turn; George Young is a blind musician deserving of much merit; Marie Jones is very amusing in the episode *The Way to Win a Bet*; the Great Mitzi gives a pleasing entertainment; and Blanche Leslie causes quite an ovation with her illustrated songs.

The Empire.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Company; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Woon.—Both instruction and amusement are to be obtained from the pictures at this popular place of amusement. A Tale of Two Cities is the chief attraction, while an episode in the life of Nick Carter proves to be of absorbing interest. Amongst others are The Man in the Overalls, Through Holland, The Viking's Daughter, and The Aspirator. The usual diverting turn is supplied by Dan Doyle, who proves himself to be a most amusing comedian.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles Barnard; Resident-Manager, Mr. Gerald Spencer.—Production of *Her Secret Lover*.

Empire Palace.—Managing Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frank Weston. Joe Peterman and company in *The Pawnbroker* are the premier attraction. It is a curious combination of knockabout business, melodrama, and comedy, but delights the audience. Rita and Mack are responsible for an entertaining tumbling and dancing act; Ida Barr, who is the lucky possessor of a fine stage presence, immediately caught on in chorus songs; Clarke and Glenny in *The Haunted House* provide plenty of merriment; Harry Carsdale gives some really clever imitations of the noises peculiar to a farmyard; Vincent performs sensational acrobatic table tricks; and Cara Magda is a smart gymnast. The Empire pictures are of special interest this week, portraying as they do the recent earthquake disaster at Messina. The enterprising manager here has established a series of cinematinées every Saturday, which from the attendance at the initial performance are likely to prove a big success.

WORCESTER.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. L. Le Warde.—The management has this week reverted to variety entertainment, and an excellent programme includes the Four Elwyns, in their vocal scena, "Down in the Mine"; the Vasilescu Acrobatic Troupe; Lingi Salvino, on selected wind instruments; Da Reilma, a capable vocalist; Chas. Lestree, a clever ball manipulator; Harry Blake, comedian; Gibbon and Bell in a humorous turn, entitled *Wanted, a Partner*; the Rinders' vocal contributions; and some excellent pictures.

WORKINGTON.—Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Falconer Jackes.—This week the Queen's superb life-motion pictures have been augmented by a strong variety talent. Les Montaldos, with their wonderful birds, introducing equilibristic feats with parrots, cockatoos, and macaws on the slack wire, have simply enraptured the audiences and secured recalls nightly. Then the Great Day, postman, conjurer, and illusionist, with his staff, have given us an up-to-date performance. Altogether a very good show.

Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. McKenzie Morgan.—A very fine set of pictures indeed is here, including The Volcanic Chimney, a regular laugh extractor. Cavalli, the strong man, lifts a piano and lady and does marvels with springs; Sylvesto and Rumbo are a pair of very clever and amusing eccentrics, and the last named does some funny work with three local boys; Mr. Greaves is a tenor of quality, and sings a naval song in approved fashion. Always a popular and well-filled house.

WORTHING.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company is here for the week. On Monday a fine performance of *Under Two Flags* was given. Although Mr. Mark Blow's familiar presence was missed in the character of Bertie Cecil Royellieu, great satisfaction was given by Mr. Austen Milroy, who soon became a favourite; Mr. R. Harley-West does well as Berklie Cecil Royellieu; as does Mr. Charles Brooke as Lord Royellieu; Mr. Reginald Huntworth makes an imposing Marshal of France; Mr. Roy Jackson excelently enacts the part of Colonel Chanteroy; Mr. Fred Hilliard is convincing as Abe-el-Keu; Miss Dorothy Lart is good as Princess Venetia Corona; Miss Joan Stern typically enacts the part of Countess Olga; and Miss Agnes Verity is a very taking Cigarette. On Thursday *At Cripple Creek* was presented.

WREXHAM.—Empire.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Jno. J. Scott.—Owing to her great success Miss Ella Dean, the popular comedienne, was retained here for another week, and has been singing new songs, for which she has been loudly applauded. The Bros. Harrison are clever comedians and patterers; while Miss Florence Carlow is a pleasing serio and descriptive vocalist. The pictures are still one of the most popular features of the entertainment.

YORK.—Royal.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—Mr. Seymour Hicks' company has done excellent business this week with *The Gay Gordons*. Mr. Charles Childerstone is to be heartily congratulated on his fine rendering of Angus Graeme—from start to finish it is a capital performance; Miss Marie West invests the rôle of Peggy Quainton with much natural charm, and never fails to secure unstinted applause for her successful efforts; Miss Florence Somers makes a picturesque Victoria Siddons, singing with taste; there is much broad humour in Mr. Edwd. Carlton's assumption of the rôle of Nervy Nat, which proves most acceptable; and he is ably played up to by Louie Emery, who creates much fun as Charlotte Siddons, and Robert Rivers as Edmund. Special praise is due to Kathleen Dighton for her natural acting as Mary McLeod.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brooke.—John Tiller's *Red Riding Hood* pantomime is a lively production, bristling with fun throughout, and it has been well patronised. In the title-rôle Eva Colton appears to great advantage—her impersonation is a charming one; Miss Nancy Hearne is handsome as the Prince; as the Fairy Miss Florrie Page sings in first-rate style; Howard Ward invests the part of the Dame with much amusing detail; Fred Russell works hard and is successful as the Baron; Will Lytton and Walter Watson as Johnny Stout and Johnny Green introduce much amusing business which takes well; and the mounting of the pantomime is lavish, the scenery being especially rich.

"MOTHER."

A Domestic Drama, in Four Acts, written by Miss Shelia, produced at the Opera House, Wakefield, on Monday, Feb. 8.

Duncan Fairweather	Mr. Harry Foxwell
Frank Rodney	Mr. Alex. Alexander
Stephen Carrington	Mr. Sydney Luton
Jasper Raudon	Mr. Fred Rivers
Old Crump	Mr. Roy Gordon
Biggs	Mr. Jas. Swinbanks
Rev. John Strong	Mr. Harrison James
Tommy Noblets	Mr. Teddy Miles
Martha	Miss Blumenthel
Polly Crumpet	Miss Nancy Mitchell
Vesta L'Estrange	Miss Zara Leigh
Hon. Mrs. Billy	Miss Dora Kelland
Mrs. Bagot	Miss Kathleen Hunt
Nellie Fairweather	Miss Sheila Walsh

(From our own correspondent.)

The first act is laid in Cornwall at the home of Duncan Fairweather, an old fisherman, whose daughter Nellie is carrying on a clandestine courtship with Stephen Carrington, a wealthy and dissolute man. Her father had promised her hand to a young sailor, Frank Rodney, who loves her, and is away on a voyage. Carrington and his associate, Jasper Raudon, arrive, and after some words with old Fairweather, the latter orders them to leave. It transpires that Carrington and Raudon had been the means of getting Rodney imprisoned on a false charge of robbery, but the latter had escaped from gaol. Carrington endeavours to persuade Raudon to carry off Miss Fairweather for him, but he sternly refuses. Nellie returns home from a walk, and shortly after her lover, Frank Rodney, returned from his long voyage, joins her, and declares his love. She admits that she loves Carrington, who arranges for her to elope with him that night. Duncan Fairweather, realising her affection for Carrington, casts her off, and bids her leave his house for ever. At this moment the Rev. John Strong endeavours to act as peacemaker, and beseeches the father to take her back, and the curtain falls.

The second act opens in the interior of Duncan Fairweather's cottage, where we find Frank Rodney and Nellie married, and residing with her parents. Nellie is fretting and pining for her old love Carrington, who is corresponding with her. On paying her a secret visit he threatens to denounce Frank as a thief and escaped convict unless she leaves him and becomes his mistress. In order to save her husband, she leaves her home unknown to her family. Carrington then procures Rodney's arrest as a runaway prisoner, and takes his wife to his home. The scene of the third act is Carrington's mansion, where he is living in luxury and dissipation surrounded by gamblers. Carrington, becoming tired of Nellie, and losing his money in gambling, wishes to be rid of her, and is about to turn her away when her father steps in, and there is a fracas between the two men. Duncan refuses to take his daughter back, and Carrington then attempts to shoot Nellie, but she avoids him, and succeeds in obtaining the revolver from him, and then, by means of threats to kill him, she forces him to sign a confession declaring her husband's innocence. Carrington is then brought to justice. Nellie returns to her home, where she is forgiven by her father and restored to her husband.

Chief honours are due to Mr. Harry Foxwell for his excellent rendering of the part of Duncan Fairweather, his performance being natural and realistic; Mr. Sydney Luton is good as the villain Stephen Carrington, well supported by Mr. Fred Rivers as Jasper Raudon; Miss Sheila Walsh fills with great charm the character of the erring Nellie; Miss Blumenthel does full justice to Mrs. Fairweather; Miss Zara Leigh is admirable as Vera L'Estrange; and the humour is well provided by Miss Nancy Mitchell as Polly Crumpet and Mr. Teddy Miles as Tommy Noblets. The other parts are well sustained. The scenery and mounting of the piece are excellent.

"ALADDIN" AT NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

(Second Notice.)

The second impression of *Aladdin* is undoubtedly better than the first, for the constituent parts of Mr. Robert Arthur's twelfth Newcastle pantomime are such as stand the test of, and, in fact, improve on, further acquaintance. Everything shows a marked advance on any previous Arthurian successes, and artists, chorus, dresses, and scenery all testify to the truth of this. Perhaps the two most beautiful scenes are the fourth scenes in each act—the Home of Jewels and Aladdin's Palace—both of which are masterpieces in stage pictures. The dresses have seldom, if ever, been equalled here, and it will be but meet and right for Mr. Arthur to reap the benefit of such enterprise, which it seems almost certain he will do judging by the crowded houses each evening. The artists, many of whom are well known stars, are still further enhancing their previous reputations. Two very dainty players are Miss Violet Lloyd and Miss Maud Thorne, the principal boy and birl. Miss Lloyd who, unusually for a principal boy, is dainty and petite, plays with such unfailing vivacity that it is impossible not to approve entirely of her conception of the bold Aladdin in whose hands the magic lamp is made to achieve such wonderful results. Her rendering of the various tuneful numbers allotted to her, including "The tiny seed of love," is in every way delightful. Miss Thorne makes, as the Princess, an entrancing figure, and sings and dances with equal attractiveness. Amongst the many merrymakers in the cast it is necessary to express admiration of Miss Fanny Fields, who as Gretchen seems absolutely bubbling over with contagious mirth, her broken English and quaint humorous patter keeping everyone in a continual state of hilarity; and, again, her versatility shows prominently in the charmingly-rendered "Postcard song," in which she appears as a dainty maiden, quite different to her impersonation of the Dutch girl. The Widow Twankey—the one character common to all pantomimes—is portrayed by Mr. Malcolm Scott, and that strong-minded lady could hardly have a more entertaining exponent. Mr. Scott sings the "Geography" and "Directoire" songs, but they are only excuses for his discourses upon men, women, and things in general, which are vastly amusing as well as clever dissertations. The wicked magician Abanazar is Mr. Harry Tate, who contributes, amongst other hilarious items, his golfing and motoring sketches, both of which in themselves are well worth a visit. The burden of work, however does not fall entirely on these shoulders, and it is a real pleasure to acknowledge the excellence of the work of Miss Florence Hersee as Pekoe; Miss Doris Dean, Chee-Ki, who has scored a great hit with her solo dances; Mr. Harry Claff, who as the Emperor sings a capital song about Monte Carlo, the refrain of which is now to be heard in all quarters; Mr. Horace Lane, whose sketch of a Vizier is quietly effective; and the efforts of Messrs. Regan and Ryan, a pair of burlesque policemen, who do nothing that is not funny; whilst the Eight Mimosa Girls contribute some capital dancing. The incidental music of Mr. Julien H. Wilson and Mr. J. Shepherd cannot be too highly complimented.

FOOTBALL.

Barry Albion *v.* Thompson's "Babes in the Wood" Co.—A match was played last week as above before a large crowd of spectators. The local team proved victorious by 6 goals to 3. The scorers for the company were H. Walton (2), Ross Warren (1). For the company "Stiffy" played a great game and was loudly applauded.

PANTOMIME COMMEMORATION BALL AT STRATFORD.

Friday, the 5th, was a gala night at the Borough Theatre, the occasion being a supper and dance to celebrate the pantomime *Aladdin*. Directly after the performance, the stage was quickly transformed into a veritable palace scene, brilliantly lighted and decorated with numberless palms and cut flowers. Covers were laid for over a hundred, and when Mrs. Ellis Fredericks, who presided, took her seat, she was presented with a beautiful bouquet by the Ball Committee, which consisted of Messrs. Frank Rothsay, Hal Forde, Ernie Mayne, Arthur Stigant, and S. Horncastle, with Mr. A. Linforth Pitman as secretary and treasurer. During the repast some fine selections on the gramophone were given, which afforded much pleasure.

Mrs. Ellis Fredericks, in a short speech of welcome, gave the loyal toast. Mr. Ernie Mayne, in a humorous speech, proposed "Mrs. Ellis Fredericks and Mr. Fred Fredericks," saying what a comfortable engagement all in the pantomime had had, and the toast was most cordially drunk. Mr. Fred Fredericks, who was enthusiastically received, thanked those present, and the applause was renewed when he stated that *Aladdin* had been very near to their financial record for pantomime, and he attributed not a little of its success to the *bon accord* which had existed among the pantomime company. Mr. Frank Rothsay, in a characteristically genial speech, proposed "The Ladies"; and Mr. Hal Forde, who was in fine speech-making form, gave "The Visitors." Mr. Sam Fredericks (Theatre Royal) proposed "The Press" in telling style, to which Mr. W. L. South (*Stratford Express*) and Mr. Bert Ashton (*The Era*) responded.

During the evening, Miss Lena Verdi, in a charming little speech, presented Mr. A. Linforth Pitman, the stage-manager, with a silver tea and coffee service, on behalf of the pantomime principals, for the courteous and able manner in which he had performed his duties; and Miss Ethel Ward, in felicitous terms, presented Mr. Ben Barron, the musical-director, with a handsome Dresden tea service and cake-basket, also on behalf of the company, as some recognition of his valuable assistance.

Afterwards a long programme of dances was spiritedly gone through, the music being supplied by the theatre orchestra, Messrs. Bert Ashton, A. Linforth Pitman, and Arthur Stigant acting as M.C.'s.

Those present included Mrs. C. Ellis Fredericks, Mr. Fred Fredericks, Mr. and Mrs. Abrahams, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Fredericks, Mr. and Mrs. Holden, Mr. and Mrs. Freeman, Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon, Mr. Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Horncastle, Mr. and Mrs. F. Rothsay, Miss Rothsay, Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Mayne, Mr. and Mrs. Hal Forde, Mr. Arthur Stigant, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Barrow, Miss Ethel Warde, Miss Lena Verdi, Miss Ethel Ashton, Miss Florence Dudley, Miss Daisy Webb, Mr. Marris, Mr. A. Linforth Pitman, Mr. E. J. Macdermott, Mr. W. L. South, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Redmond, Mr. Pat Redmond, Mr. Bert Ashton, Mr. Maxwell Stewart, Miss Dulcie Garland, Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Magnus, Mr. J. Christie, Mr. Walter H. Fielder, Mr. F. C. Cockerill, Mr. J. H. Douglas, Mr. C. H. Douglas, Mr. A. E. Barnes, Mr. N. E. Howell, Mrs. Davis and the Misses Davis, Mr. Hammerton, Miss Addie Wilts, Miss Dollie West, Miss Marie Clair, Miss Marie Hurst, Mr. Nat Feather, Mr. William Ravenscroft, Mr. C. Clyde, Mr. C. Preston, Mr. Edward Frith, Mr. John Keep, Mr. E. J. Ward, Mr. Clover, Miss Lydia Audrie, Mr. and Mrs. Hinton, Miss Ruth Zillwood, Miss Queenie Bland, &c.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

On Thursday afternoon, Feb. 4, Mr. George Aitken gave a pianoforte recital which was well attended. Mr. Aitken was first heard in Prelude and Fugue in C, Book 1, No. 1, from Bach's Forty-eight Preludes and Fugues. Following this came Beethoven's Sonata Quasi Una Fantasia, op. 27 ("The Moonlight"), ably performed by the professor, who was particularly happy in his playing of the spirited finale, Presto agitato. In a group of Chopin's pieces, which included the Etude in A flat, op. 25, the beautiful Nocturne in F sharp, and the clever Etude in G flat on the black keys, Mr. Aitken was much applauded; while after a performance of the Berceuse and Eighth Polonaise in A flat, which was taken at a great pace, the talented professor had a most enthusiastic reception, and was recalled several times. A pleasing Fileuse and Sérénade à une Bien Aimée of his own composition were well received by the audience. Théodore Leschetitzky's Napoli (Souvenirs d'Italie, op. 39, No. 5) was also included in the programme. Mr. George Aitken was assisted by Miss Helen Atkinson, who sang "Mon cœur s'ouvre à ta voix" (Saint-Saëns), Donizetti's "La Zingara," C. Böhm's "Still wie die nacht," and two songs of Mr. Aitken's, "Sunshine" and "Just her way." Miss Jenny Hyman accompanied.

Following up its successes at Edinburgh and Glasgow, Mr. George Edwardes's company in *Havana* has completely taken Dundee by storm. It is playing to record houses at Mr. Robert Arthur's beautiful playhouse, Her Majesty's Theatre. The energetic and courteous manager of this house, Mr. Louis Karpe, is being hard pressed to find room for all his patrons this week.

At the farewell dinner given in honour of Mme. Sembrich on Sunday night the speech of praise made by Mr. Paderewski, who spoke of the distinguished prima donna as a fellow-artist, a friend, and a countrywoman, for whose work the world was all the better, was a great success. He was humorous and pathetic by turns, and his quaint English rather improved the effect. He began by asking the distinguished company to pity the sorrows of a poor piano-playing immigrant, compelled to speak in a language unknown to him. Mme. Sembrich embraced Mr. Paderewski and kissed him on both cheeks, while Mrs. Paderewski equalised matters by conferring a similar tribute on Mr. Sembrich.

Prince and Princess Alexander of Teck will attend the Shakespeare Commemoration Service at Southwark Cathedral on April 23, and the Princess has consented to present the prizes at the concluding concert of the People's Palace Musical Festival to be held at the People's Palace on Saturday, May 15. Sir Walter Parratt has promised to conduct the concert.

Amateur performances of *Veronique* in aid of the Fresh Air Fund were given at the Court on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings, and the afternoon of Friday. The Princess of Wales and Princess Louise Duchess of Argyll were among the distinguished patrons.

An attendant in the Théâtre Molière, Paris, where *Le Courrier de Lyon* (*The Lyons Mail*) was being played on Sunday night, died suddenly during the performance of over-excitement. During the great scene ending with the arrest of Lesurques, the woman, who was seeing the play for the first time, sprang to her feet and shrieked aloud, "He is not guilty; it was another man who looked like him!" and fell dead.

The Queen, attended by the Hon. Lady Hardinge, the Hon. Violet Vivian, the Hon. Sylvia Edwardes, and Sir Charles Frederick, was present at the performance of the *Valkyrie* at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, on Saturday night.

NEW PLAYS OF THE MONTH.

London.

Jan 3. *The Test*, play, in three acts, by T. W. Eastwood (Dramatic Productions Club)—Court.
„ 3. *The General's Past*, comedietta, by Clotilde Graves (Dramatic Productions Club)—Court.
„ 7. *Henry of Navarre*, romantic play, in four acts, by William Devereux—New.
„ 9. *Penelope*, comedy, in three acts, by W. Somerset Maugham—Comedy.
„ 10. *John Malone's Love Story*, play, in four acts, by Rachel Penn (The Play Actors)—Court.
„ 11. *The Eyes of the World*, play in three acts, by Charles Darrell (originally produced on Dec. 21, 1908, at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Grimsby)—Theatre Royal, Woolwich.
„ 14. *Man and Woman*, folk play, by Mrs. James Ward—Brondesbury Hall.
„ 19. *Olive Latimer's Husband*, play, in three acts, by Rudolf Besier—Vaudeville.
„ 19. *Born to be Loved*, farce, in three acts, by Miss Jessica Solomon—Royal Albert Hall.
„ 23. *Our Miss Gibbs*, musical play, by "Cryptos," constructed by James T. Tanner, lyrics by Adrian Ross and Percy Greenbank, music by Ivan Caryll and Lionel Monckton—Gaiety.
„ 23. *The Dramatist at Home*, comedietta, by Keble Howard—Vaudeville.
„ 25. *Her Fatal Marriage*, drama, in four acts, by Clarence Burnette and A. Hinton—Theatre Royal, Woolwich.
„ 25. *From Shop Girl to Duchess*, drama, in four acts, by Charles Darrell (originally produced on Nov. 25, 1907, at Theatre Royal, Bilston)—Lyric, Hammersmith.
„ 25. *Pippa Passes*, by Robert Browning (English Drama Society)—Fortune Playhouse, Brewer-street, Regent-street.
„ 25. *The Heathen and the Christian*, drama, in four acts, by Fred Maxwell—Greenwich Theatre.
„ 27. *An Englishman's Home*, play, in three acts, by "A Patriot" (Major Guy Louis Busson Du Maurier)—Wyndham's.
„ 27. *Angelus*, English opera, in a prologue and four acts, composed by Dr. E. W. Naylor (this opera was the winner of Messrs. Ricordi's prize of £500), libretto by Wilfrid Thornely (English season)—Covent Garden.

Revivals.

Jan. 5. *The Adventure of Lady Ursula*, play, in four acts, by Anthony Hope (originally produced at the Duke of York's Theatre, Oct. 11, 1898)—Garrick.
„ 6. *Mrs. Gorringe's Necklace*, play in four acts, by Hubert Henry Davies (originally produced at Wyndham's Theatre on May 12, 1903)—Criterion.
„ 18. *The Gondoliers*, comic opera, in two acts, by W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan (originally produced at the Savoy Theatre on Dec. 7, 1889)—Savoy.
„ 26. *The Admirable Bashville; or, Constancy Unrewarded*, play, in one act, by Bernard Shaw (originally produced on June 8, 1903, at the Imperial Theatre)—Afternoon Theatre—His Majesty's.
„ 26. *Tilda's New Hat*, by "George Paston" (originally produced at the Court Theatre on Nov. 8, 1908)—Afternoon Theatre—His Majesty's.

Provinces.

Jan. 14. *How Women are Slandered*, drama, in four acts, by T. G. Bailey—Victoria Theatre, Broughton.
„ 15. *Mother*, drama, in four acts, by Sheila Walsh—Opera House, Coventry.
„ 25. *How Girls are Brought to Ruin*, drama, in four acts, by Mrs. Morton Powell—Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.
„ 25. *Samson*, play, in four acts, by Henry Bernstein (originally produced at the Paris Renaissance, Nov. 6, 1907)—Grand Theatre, Swansea.
„ 25. *Joan's Kiss*, play, in one act, by Mrs. Frances Gostling (produced by amateurs)—Theatre Royal, Worthing.

Paris.

Jan. 7. *La Tragédie Royale*, play, in three acts, by Saint-Georges de Bouhélier—Odéon.
„ 7. *La Mort de Pan*, two-act play, in verse, by A. Arnoux—Odéon.
„ 9. *La Tour du Silence*, play, in three acts, by M. Collyn—Théâtre des Arts.
„ 9. *Les Lettres Brulées*, one-act comedy, by Gnieditch—Théâtre des Arts.
„ 13. *Monna Vanna*, lyric drama, by Maeterlinck, music by H. Février—Opéra.
„ 15. *Madame Malbrough*, operette, in three acts, by L. Métivet, music by A. Lachaume—Folies-Dramatiques.
„ 15. *La 23-Z*, one act, by Leval and Van Ysen—Théâtre des Capucines.
„ 15. *Le Médecin de Cœur*, comedy, in one act, by M. Provins—Théâtre des Capucines.
„ 15. *O gué! l'An neuf!* revue, by Rip—Théâtre des Capucines.
„ 20. *Le Reprouvé*, drama, in two acts, by M. L. Aurenche—Théâtre Mévisto.
„ 20. *Quand l'amour s'amuse*, one-act comedy, by Eddy Levis and d'Angennes—Théâtre des Capucines.
„ 20. *La Saison des Poires*, one act, by Léo Marches—Théâtre des Capucines.
„ 21. *La Dette*, play, in three acts, by Gabriel Trarieux—Antoine.
„ 21. *Les Jumeaux de Brighton*, three-act comedy, by Tristan Bernard—Antoine.
„ 21. *Une Grosse Affaire*, farce, in three acts, by M. Hennequin and P. Véber—Nouveautés.
„ 25. *Hernani*, opera, in five acts, by Gustave Rivet, music by H. Hirchman—Gaité.
„ 26. *Les Grands*, comedy, in four acts, by Pierre Véber and Serge Basset—Odéon.
„ 26. *La Fille des Rabenstein*, play, in four acts and five tableaux, by E. Von Wildenbruch, adapted by M. Rémon and Mme. N. Valentin—Sarah-Bernhardt.
„ 27. *Les Aventures de Gavroche*, spectacular play, in four acts and twenty-three tableaux, by Victor Darlay and Gaston Marot, music by Marius Baggers—Châtelet.

Berlin.

Jan. 2. *Der fliegende Berliner*, burlesquein five acts, by MM. Duchow and Mai—Luisen.
„ 8 *Der letzte Streich der Königin*, four act play, by J. Raff—Lessing.
„ 12. *König Christian*, drama, in five acts, by Adolf

DOLLING MEMORIAL MATINEE.

In aid of the funds of the Dolling Memorial Home of Rest, Worthing, a matinée was given at the Playhouse on Tuesday by the kind permission of Mr. Cyril Maude, under the direction of Miss Bateman (Mrs. Crowe). There was a large and fashionable audience, and several charming actresses, among whom was Miss Lilian Braithwaite, sold programmes at enhanced prices. The chief attraction of the afternoon was an adaptation by Mr. Archer Woodhouse, in three acts, of Jean Richepin's *Le Flibustier*, a Comédie-Française success, that was produced at the House of Molière on June 28, 1888. The piece, originally played in Paris by Got as the old sailor, M. Laroche as Pierre, M. Worms as Jacquemin, and Mme. Pauline Granger as the mother, had a great vogue in *la ville lumière*, and the original production of Mr. Woodhouse's adaptation at Terry's on May 15, 1889, served to add much to the fame of Mr. George Alexander, then a young actor of growing reputation. The English version is entitled

"THE GRANDSIRE."

François Legoëz .....MR. EDMUND GWENN
Jacquemin .....MR. E. HARCOURT WILLIAMS
Pierre .....MR. HENRY HARBEN
Janik .....MISS LEAH BATEMAN HUNTER
Marie-Anne .....MISS BATEMAN

The piece is a sentimental little drama, with a story that completely holds the attention. The action is laid at St. Malo in the seventeenth century. An old skipper named Legoëz, whose four sons have all been lost at sea, still fosters the hope that his only boy, Pierre, who had left on board a pirate ship fifteen years previously will one day return. Eight years have elapsed since news of the lad last reached his home, but the old sailor continues unremittingly to scan the horizon with his glass, expecting every vessel that enters the port to bring back the absentee. With the rising of the sun he joyfully exclaims, "Perhaps he will come to-day," and away he totters to the quay, only to return sad and downcast. One fine day, however, there comes to the house a handsome young sailor, who announces himself in the old man's absence as Pierre's dearest friend. He has expected to find him, but what he hears convinces him that Pierre must be dead. Jacquemin—for this is the stranger's name—brings things the boy had taken with him on leaving home, and which, in the hour of danger, had been entrusted to the faithful friend's keeping. They had to fight with fierce Spaniards, and Pierre must have either fallen in the fray or have been captured and doomed to death. The story is told to Marie-Anne, the old woman, but not to Janik, who, seeing a stranger, runs off with the glad news that Pierre has returned. Legoëz is so overjoyed that he takes Jacquemin in his arms. It is thought best by Marie-Anne not to reveal the identity of the stranger, and she decides to humour the old man's mistake.

In the second act he has become one of the family, and the situation is complicated by the mutual affection that has sprung up between him and Janik—the betrothed of the real Pierre. When alone with the Breton maid Jacquemin makes a clean breast of the deception that has been practised on her and poor old Legoëz. He cannot heal her heart, however, and the trusting little girl utterly breaks down in her grief. At this crisis Pierre appears in the flesh. He had escaped the Spaniards, and has come home a wealthy man, disgusted with the sea, which his grandfather worships, to claim his bride. Old Legoëz indignantly turns Jacquemin out of the house, but Pierre soon discovers that Janik's love can never be his, and becoming convinced that his friend has been the victim of circumstances, he yields the delighted Janik to her sailor lover, the curtain falling on a scene of happiness. When *The Grandsire* was originally produced at Terry's it was presented by Mr. George Alexander, with himself in the part of Jacquemin, the late John Maclean as Legoëz, Mr. Fred Terry as Pierre, Miss Eleanor Calhoun as Janik, and Mrs. Billington as Marie-Anne.

The last-mentioned character was sustained at Tuesday's matinée by Miss Bateman (Mrs. Crowe), whose experience and ability were brought to bear with the best results. Miss Bateman had a hearty reception on being "discovered" in the Breton cottage, which served as a setting of the three acts. Jacquemin, whose treason for humanity's sake is the *clou* of the interesting play, was earnestly, and at times, passionately, played by Mr. E. Harcourt Williams, who suggested the impulsive honesty and warm heart of the Breton sailor with much skill. Miss Leah Bateman Hunter, who is only sixteen, played the sweet-natured Janik with rare charm, and in the scene where the little girl breaks down at the thought of her lover's departure, the pathos rang true. Miss Bateman Hunter, indeed, has gifts that should speedily secure her a position as an actress of ingénue parts. Her voice, both speaking and singing, is of beautiful quality, and her acting was always vivified not only by high intelligence, but by a complete loss of her identity in the part. Mr. Edmund Gwenn's impersonations cannot fail to be interesting, and his Legoëz adds one more to his excellent gallery of characters. The play was produced by Mr. Harcourt Williams.

The opening item of the matinée was a new play, in one act, by Ashton Pearse, entitled

"HER PROPER MATE."

Wilfred .....MR. E. HARCOURT WILLIAMS
Albert .....MR. WILFRID FORSTER
Rebecca .....MISS JEAN STERLING MACKINLAY

Wilfred is reading up for an examination at a Somersetshire farm, where he has been sent by his people to avoid the distraction of town and of a little love affair. He is anxiously expecting a letter from the fair one, and mixes his mathematics with just a little erotic poetry. He excites tenderness in the bucolic heart of Rebecca, the servant at the farm who waits upon him. Unlike Viola, she does not let concealment like a worm i' the bud feed on her damask cheek, but confesses her passion. Wilfred laughs at her, and eventually, with a little needed assistance on his part, she is made to see that Albert, a villager, who has been taking her out, and who pleads his suit, is a much more proper mate than Wilfred, who receives a long-looked-for letter from his fiancée, and announces his intention of returning home. Miss Jean Sterling Mackinlay gave a delightful rustic study as Becky, the Somersetshire girl; Mr. Wilfred Forster, too, was decidedly droll as Albert; and Mr. Harcourt Williams made a breezy Wilfred. The stage-manager of the afternoon was Mr. Alexander Casey.

An Interesting Heirloom.

"DICK WHITTINGTON," says Miss Constance Hyem, "is the part I like playing the best. I am descended in a direct line from the famous Lord Mayor of London, and since quite a little girl I longed to go upon the stage and play the part, though I am afraid not in the realistic way my great ancestor was compelled to do. I have been a stage Dick Whittington three times now, and always wear the diamond garter that has been in our family for so many generations."

WE regret to announce the death on the 27th ult., from heart and kidney disease, of George Julian Yarwood, a well-known musical director, who went to America some years ago, was with Mr. Martin Comstock when he managed Poole's Myriorama, and had been with that firm for thirty years. He was also connected with Strange and Wilson's Ghost Show and Poole and Young's Diorama, &c. He was a native of Manchester.

"ANOTHER MAN'S WIFE."

A Drama, in Four Acts, by Miles Wallerton, Produced at the Queen's Theatre, Liverpool, on Monday, Feb. 8.

Carlos De Vergas .....MR. LEONARD AARDALE
Paul Bernstaff .....MR. STANLEY RADCLIFFE
Gilbert Eardsley .....MR. EDGAR J. COYNE
Sam Smiles .....MR. HERBERT FULLER
Andy Bremmer .....MR. LEONARD MARSHALL
Count Pelikoff .....MR. WILLIAM ASHBY
Col. Matterson .....MR. GUY P. ELLIS
Captain Spruttle .....MR. J. SUMMERSIDES
Servant .....MR. W. H. WHITTY
Little Lucy .....MISS EMIE ENTWISTLE
Maisie Matterson .....MISS MADGE BERRESFORD
Tibby .....MISS BELLA MOODY
Inez De Cartro .....MISS AGNES COLLIN
Lucia De Vergas .....MISS N. BLAKE ADAMS

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The author of this work is not unknown in the dramatic world, and his latest effort entitles him to considerable congratulation. It is so well written, and the component parts so evenly balanced, that it affords excellent opportunities for several strong characters. The comedy is refreshing and new, the old hackneyed lines being pretty carefully avoided. In fact, the exhilarating humour that pervades the drama comes as a welcome relief from the sadness of the story told, and on Monday night an interested audience revelled in the large volume of fun that was provided by several able artists. Mr. Wallerton certainly writes dialogue of a particularly sound and attractive kind. He steers clear of claptrap, and endeavours, not unsuccessfully, to make his characters speak rationally. Then, again, the "curtains" are telling, and when knitted together a little, *Another Man's Wife* has every promise of success.

The narrative opens on the Californian ranch of Carlos de Vergas, a Spanish settler, who afterwards becomes the Duke of Valagas. Here he is happy, with his devoted wife Lucia and child, until an adventurer named Paul Bernstaff, an anarchical exile from Russia, arrives, and is treated with every kindness and courtesy. Soon he influences the young wife, who, being seen with him in somewhat compromising circumstances, is upbraided by her hot-blooded husband. His language forces her to abandon him, and go with Bernstaff to England, under promise of marriage. The husband endeavours to prevent her departure, whereupon he is seriously wounded by the Russian. We next find Lucia starving in London, she having been thrown over by Bernstaff, who is now making overtures of marriage to a rich American woman under the pretence that he is a wealthy titled Russian. Meanwhile Carlos has recovered from his wounds, and, feeling remorse for the offensive expressions he used towards his young wife, who, at the time, had protested her innocence, seeks her throughout the Continent of Europe, eventually reaching London. Here his motor-car knocks down in the street a child, whom he afterwards discovers to be his lost daughter, and the accident enables him to trace his missing and repentant wife. Shortly afterwards the scheme of Bernstaff to secure the hand of the rich American is frustrated by the efforts of Lucia, and Carlos, being intent upon revenge, challenges him to a duel, in which, however, Inez, the discarded paramour of Bernstaff, interferes, and shoots the Russian. A reunion is then brought about between the erring wife and her husband, who has now become entitled to his brother's dukedom.

The trying part of Lucia was undertaken by Miss Nina Blake Adams, an accomplished young actress who is rapidly coming to the front by reason of her talented work. She was particularly impressive in the interview with her injured husband, and also acted strongly when denouncing the scoundrel Bernstaff. This ungrateful rôle found in Mr. Stanley Radcliffe an artist who thoroughly understood his business, and he certainly bore the heaviest share of the work in most commendable style. His voice, manner, and appearance were all in keeping with the character. Another prominent and well-defined figure was that of Carlos, to which Mr. Leonard Aardale did every justice. Miss Agnes Collin deserves special mention for her Inez, which, though of somewhat minor importance, was made the most of by that capable actress; and Mr. Edgar J. Coyne looked the part of the young English doctor Eardsley, speaking his lines in a pleasing and manly manner. Miss Entwistle was an intelligent child; Miss Berresford suited the rôle of the millionaire's daughter; and, as her father, Mr. Guy P. Ellis gave satisfaction. Mention has already been made of the excellent comedy provided, and responsible for this were Mr. Fuller, described as a globe-trotter; Mr. Marshall, whose make-up as a car driver was exceedingly ludicrous; and Miss Moody, the latter's lively and buxom wife. These three artists worked very harmoniously, and won loud applause for their really humorous efforts.

IN a recent notice of *Pyjamas* at the People's Palace, Bristol, Ivan Derry should have read Joan Derry.

THE funeral service for M. Coquelin, *cadet*, took place at the church of Suresnes on Thursday morning. The ceremony was attended by many theatrical, literary, and artistic notabilities.

MR. AND MRS. FRANK BERESFORD (Miss Dorothy Milne) start their second starring engagement as Lawrence Gray and Geraldine Lucas, in *Convict 99*, at the Grand Theatre, Fulham, on Feb. 15.

BY general request the last seven nights of the English opera season at Covent Garden will include an extra performance of *The Mastersingers* to-night and *Valkyrie* on Tuesday.

OWING to the indisposition of Miss Nellie Valentine at Eastbourne on Wednesday of last week, the part of Dare Devil Dorothy was taken up at a few hours notice by Miss Ethel Griffies, who continued to play till Saturday. Miss Valentine has now happily recovered, and is once more in the cast, Miss Griffies returning to the part of Ruth.

THE following announcements of football matches have been forwarded to us:—Fulham *v.* Bolton, Feb. 13, at Fulham, kick-off 3.15. Team: Fryer, Charlton, Sharp, Collins, Suarto, Goldie, Harrison, Dalrymple, Freeman, Millington, Brown, Lipsham. Monday, Feb. 15, at Fulham, 3.15, Fulham *v.* Southampton, first teams.

TO-MORROW (Sunday) will be a great night at Her Majesty's Theatre, Dundee, where a grand sacred concert is to be given to raise funds for the relief of distress. The Countess of Airlie is to preside, supported by Lord Provost Urquhart. An excellent programme includes, in addition to several local artists of repute, Miss Jessie Broughton, of the *Havana* company (by kind permission of Mr. George Edwardes); Mr. Louis Karpe, manager of Her Majesty's; and the fine orchestra of the establishment under Mr. H. E. Loseby.

MR. JOHN HART on Saturday last generously invited the inmates of the Workhouse to witness the pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Bradford. Refreshment was provided for the old people, who were also presented with packets containing money. On Wednesday Mr. Hart again gave the free use of the theatre for a matinée for the Cinderella Club, and with equal generosity the artists engaged in the pantomime, together with those from the Prince's Theatre, the Grand Theatre, Leeds, and the Empire Theatre and Palace Theatre, Bradford, gave their services for the benefit of the poor little children.

"HER SECRET LOVER."

Drama, in Four Acts, by Mrs. F. G. Kimberley, produced at the Theatre Royal, Wolverhampton, on Monday, Feb. 8.

Gilbert Seymour .....MR. CECIL GRAY
Captain Darrel Rose .....MR. ARTHUR PRESTON
John Strange .....MR. MILLAR ANDERSON
Mr. Murfield .....MR. MILNER NOBLE
Bill Burley .....MR. CECIL DE LEE
Jim Jones .....MR. FRED GEORGE
Inspector Wilson .....MR. FELIX LAWSON
Sergeant Smith .....MR. HUGHIE CAZELY
Warder Phillips .....MR. JACK WALKER
Rev. Arthur Holmes .....MR. ALFRED JAMES
Vernon Cooper .....MR. FRED EVANS
Jane Maria Wilkes .....MISS BEATRICE REYNOLDS
Alicia Royale .....MISS AMY ELLAM
Ivy Seymour .....MISS MABEL MANNERING

Much interest was taken in this production, owing to the authoress being a local lady. Although a prolific writer of drama, it is doubtful whether in any of her previous works are to be found so many exciting incidents.

The drama opens with the home-coming of Gilbert Seymour and his young wife, Ivy. Ivy's father, Mr. Murfield, is deeply embittered against his daughter, owing to the fact that he believes her dead mother had deceived him, and he is equally hostile towards her husband through the latter's father having married the woman he loved. He calls and demands an interview alone with his daughter. This the husband reluctantly grants. He then taunts Ivy that she, like her mother, has a secret lover—to wit, John Strange, whom he has brought to the house in order to upset her happy conjugal relations. John Strange threatens to show to her husband certain letters that Ivy has written in years gone by, unless she will allow him to again become her secret lover. This proposition she indignantly refuses. Strange then offers her father £100 if he will assist him in getting Ivy into his power. They then concoct a plot by which one of the most incriminating letters shall fall into Gilbert Seymour's hands. In this plan they are assisted by Alicia Royale, a lady of doubtful character in love with Seymour. Gilbert Seymour falls into the trap, and confronts his wife with the letter, and, despite her pleadings, refuses to live with her any longer. Ivy leaves her new home, with her servant, Jane, for London. On finding his wife gone, the husband is seized with a sudden fit of remorse, and, believing he has been tricked, determines to find her, and in this quest he is accompanied by his friend, Captain Darrel Rose.

One year is supposed to elapse between the first and second acts. Gilbert Seymour, under the impression that his wife is dead, has become thoroughly dissipated. Alicia Royale and John Strange decide to drug him and to place him in such a position in Alicia Royale's bedroom that in honour bound he would be compelled to marry her. Darrel Rose, however, drags Seymour from the bedroom, and he, brought to his senses, swears that his past shall be dead. He decides to enlist under the name of Elmore. His servant, Bill Burley, follows his master's example. Ivy, found singing in the street, is blind through fever which followed her immersion, caused by a villainous attempt to drown her. She is about to be carried off by John Strange when Darrel Rose and Bill Burley come to the rescue.

Five years later, Ivy, with her eyesight restored and reconciled to her father, is living with him at his country house. She is wooed and won by Darrel Rose, both believing Seymour to have been killed in the war. The husband returns, to find his wife engaged to his old friend, and decides to go away, but is persuaded by his servant to see his wife, and as a result a happy reunion takes place. All troubles would now appear to be at an end, but Alicia Royale is still endeavouring to obtain Ivy for John Strange. She, however, lies to that worthy, and her life pays the penalty. John Strange accuses Gilbert of the murder, but Ivy, in order to save her husband, confesses to the crime and is arrested.

Ivy is sentenced to death, and a painful interview between husband and wife is made the more so by each believing the other guilty. It is only on the appearance of the hangman and Ivy being pinioned, to the accompaniment of the solemn tolling of the prison bell, that John Strange, in a perfect frenzy, declares that she is innocent and he the guilty one. He eventually takes poison.

The play was received with acclamation by a crowded house, and at its conclusion repeated calls were made for the authoress, who was the recipient of several handsome bouquets.

Mr. Thompson Carruthers' company was responsible for the production, which went without a hitch. Miss Mabel Mannering as Ivy Seymour proves herself an emotional actress of exceptional ability; Mr. Cecil Gray gave a well-studied rendering of the part of Gilbert Seymour; Mr. Arthur Preston's portrayal of Captain Darrel Rose was chivalrous and interesting; Mr. Millar Anderson as John Strange and Miss Amy Ellam as Alicia Royale made two excellent representatives of intriguing villainy; and Mr. Milner Noble was good as Mr. Murfield. Bill Burley and Jane Wilkes were well sustained by Mr. Cecil De Lee and Miss Beatrice Reynolds; and Mr. Fred George made the most of his opportunities as Jim Jones. The scenery was excellent.

THE LATE MISS JULIA SEAMAN.

A most memorable appearance by this versatile actress was with the tragedian Gustavus Vaughan Brooke, when he made his last appearance at the Queen's Theatre, Manchester, on July 8, 1865, in the character of Shakespeare's Richard the Third The house was crowded to overflowing in every part, but several times in the course of the evening he appeared in a fog with regard to the text, and at last when the combat with Richmond was reached it was a series of "double misses." According to Brooke's confirmed admirer Mr. Dinsmore, who was behind the scenes, two of the tragedian's oldest friends went to Brooke's dressing-room to shake hands and have a chat. "How are you, Gussy?" said one. "Ah!" he replied, "bad, bad," working his fingers nervously about his throat, and continuing in a hoarse voice—"the taste for the legitimate drama has fallen very low in England; but I am going to Australia, where I shall close my hands on ten thousand pounds." He uttered the words with considerable force, accompanied by a vigorous clenching of the right hand. Residing in the house of his old dresser, Healey, during his stay in Manchester, Brooke appeared nervous and fretful, and looked upon several petty accidents as ill-omens. The very last night he slept there he created great consternation among the inmates by shouting dreadfully in his sleep. His friends at once rushed to the bedroom, only to learn from the tragedian of a dream wherein he found himself struggling in the water, fighting for sheer life, with the danger so vivid that in his agony he screamed and awoke. This he took as a presage of coming ill, and down to the hour of his embarking for Melbourne remained apprehensive of some disaster on the voyage.

A few months later (Jan. 10, 1866) he went down in the ill-fated London in the Bay of Biscay on his voyage to Australia, where he hoped to re-establish himself. During this period at Manchester Miss Seaman played in one of her father's pieces entitled *A Night Attack*, in which she had a telling character. She also appeared as Parthenia and Lady Macbeth, a character that she played at the Britannia Theatre, Hoxton, at the opening of a fortnight's season at that house on Dec. 4, 1871. In the autumn of 1872 she played in *The Woman in Red*, *Hamlet*, *East Lynne*, *Leah*, and *Medea* on tour. In the character of the wife of Jason she was supported by Mr. J. H. Clyndes, who was so popular a leading man at the Grecian, Britannia, and Pavilion Theatres.

"CUPID AND THE STYX."

A Comedy, in Three Acts, by J. Sackville Martin, presented for the first time on any stage at the Gaiety Theatre, Manchester, on Monday, Feb. 8.

Dr. Hope .....MR. LEWIS CASSON
Sir Peregrine Prendergast ..MR. CHARLES BIBBY
Porter .....MR. LEONARD MUDIE
Nurse Price .....MISS SYBIL THORNDIKE
Dr. Garside .....MR. BASIL DEAN
Philip Barton .....MR. MICHAEL SHERBROOK
Mrs. Barton .....MISS HILDA BRUCE POTTER

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

If comedy is to be recognised as a laughable arrangement of characters and events in quite truthful relationship to life, there is little or no fault to be found with Dr. Sackville Martin's description of his three-act piece, *Cupid and the Styx*, which was very tolerantly received by a lighthearted audience on Monday at the Gaiety Theatre, Manchester, the occasion of its first production on any stage. It seems pretty certain, however, that the title, which is as curiously suggestive of two distinct subjects as the action is separately indicative of them, was chosen by the author as a kind of apologetic acknowledgment of the structural defects of the play, which, as a whole, it must be confessed, is thin, perplexing, and incoherent, though amusing in its way. For example, the "Cupid" theme might easily be condensed into a one-act playlet, and gain immensely by it, while the "Styx" element, which moves in quite another vein, has a detachable value as a comic study of the literary temperament in one of its soulful phases. Forced to work together for so long, the action is attenuated, and gives rise to abrupt intrusions of one theme upon the other, while one's wonder as to which of them really is the author's subject is never satisfied, but simply baffled by the disarming impartiality of the title. It will be understood from this that the cast contains two sets of characters, whose interests are held together by the slenderest of dramatic threads. Five of the seven persons are on the side of Cupid, and this embraces practically the whole of the more obvious fun, but one scene is used for all, and throughout a certain air of novelty is created by the fact that the action takes place in the house-surgeon's room in a provincial hospital, while the principal characters belong to the medical profession. Dr. Hope, the youthful senior, and Dr. Garside, the still more youthful assistant, have secretly proposed marriage to Nurse Price. Jealousy and a sense of authority provoke the former to constant bickerings with his fellow-worker, who is flatly—not to say humorously—averse from obedience in any form. The nurse herself has an eye for the best chance that may turn up, and plays her cards so cleverly that only by accident does young Garside learn that her position in regard to Hope exactly corresponds with that he secretly established for himself. Meanwhile Sir Peregrine Prendergast, the consulting physician, well on in years, but a bachelor, has looked upon Nurse Price, and at a moment preceding the revelations of her duplicity is foolish enough to write her a proposal of marriage. This is at once her consolation and defence when Hope and Garside have her in to thresh out the question of which of them she belongs to. She is not an admirable character, and it seems a pity that Sir Peregrine, though by his own want of discretion, should prove the final victim. Incidentally, a ghastly sort of porter, with an amiable grin, unfolds to Sir Peregrine his ambition to become the common hangman, by means of a testimonial which shall embody his fondness for work and his acquaintance with dead bodies. This personage, by the way, was very cleverly and successfully presented by Mr. Leonard Mudie. Other characters are Philip Barton and his wife. Barton, an unsuccessful dramatist, laughed at by a wife who perceives that his aptitudes are misdirected, is possessed by a frenzy for suicide, in the endeavour to make the lady and his friends believe that he has a soul above the ordinary. His attempt at suicide, however, is a mere sham; he is a sort of heroic humbug. At the finish some pretence of rational sentiment brings about the reconciliation of husband and wife; but in the meantime the character of Barton, in relation to his precaution that he shall not take too much laudanum, for example, and to a provision that the jury shall not say he was insane, has furnished some admirably comic dialogue and some amusingly shrewd ecstasies of declamation. Mr. Michael Sherbrook's impersonation of the rôle was masterly, and may fairly be considered the best thing of the evening. Miss Hilda Bruce Potter as the wife had scarcely the same comedy chances, but she is always charming and clever, and naturally made the best of what she had to do. The crisp style of Mr. Lewis Casson was well suited to the part of Dr. Hope, and as Dr. Garside Mr. Basil Dean found himself very happily cast. Clever, too, was the Nurse Price of Miss Sybil Thorndike, who looked and acted well enough for every purpose of deception; and Mr. Charles Bibby as Sir Peregrine Prendergast added to the long list of enjoyable comedy impersonations already standing to his credit.

The piece was preceded by Mr. Stanley Houghton's *The Dear Departed*, and for two matinées this week—Monday and Tuesday—flying visits of M. Roubaud and company are to be recorded. The plays presented were *L'Avare*, preceded by *L'Anglais tel qu'on le parle*, *Le Voyage de M. Perrichon*, and *Mademoiselle de la Seiglière*. Extremely good acting in all was appreciated by interested audiences.

THEATRE GANGWAYS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—It is satisfactory to find that the London County Council, at their meeting on Tuesday last, adopted the middle and reasonable course with reference to standing in the gangways of theatres and places of public amusement. That an audience should, having sufficient space for movement, be permitted to do this is well for both managers and public. It was always my opinion when Surveyor of Theatres, first to the Metropolitan Board of Works and afterwards to the London County Council, for a period of some fourteen years, that to such a rule there could be no objection, "sufficient room for passing easily to and fro being maintained in the gangways." Those members of the audience so placed, being thus in the position of "advance guard" to those seated, would at once be able to move, leaving the others to follow in natural order. The Council, however, will be well advised in seeing that a strict limit of one-third or one-quarter the utmost capacity is not overstepped in regard to this new regulation, and that to enforce such the words "standing room for ——" should be attached to the licence with regard to the parts of every house where standing is allowed. The evils of standing some years ago were so serious that, in visiting the various places in my official capacity during performances, I often found it next to impossible to move along the gangway at the back of a gallery or pit, and had, with the help of the fireman, to virtually cut my way through the densely-packed crowds. Such experiences led me at length to suggest that the barriers at the back of the seating to the pit and gallery of a theatre should be so raised as to render all view from such impossible. This proposal was adopted by the Theatres Committee, but on strong representations from managers and others as to the loss such would bring to their exchequers, it was at once rescinded.

Permit me, Sir, in anticipation to thank you for the insertion of this letter, and to congratulate those interested on the concession obtained.—I am yours faithfully,

ROBERT F. HODGES, A.R.I.B.A.
18, John-street, Bedford-row, W.C.

MASONS AT WORK.

The Drury Lane Lodge held its annual installation meeting at the Hotel Cecil last Tuesday, when Mr. James Powell, the outgoing Master, inducted his successor, the Right Hon. the Lord Athlumney, into the high office to which he had been elected by the members as Master for the ensuing year, the ceremony throughout being performed in a most masterly and scholarly manner; while Messrs. James Fernandez, Harry Nicholls, and Albert G. Neville (a talented son of the veteran Henry Neville) rendered valuable services as S.W., J.W., and D.C. respectively. The new Master immediately proceeded to the investiture of his officers as follows:—Messrs. Bedford McNeill, S.W.; A. Blomfield Jackson, J.W.; James Powell, I.P.M.; Thomas Catling, Treasurer; I. Percy Fitzgerald, Secretary; Col. H. Walker, Senr. D.; Blake Adams, Jun. D.; Bruce Smith, I.G.; Ven. Archdeacon W. Sinclair (Archdeacon of London), Chaplain; Albert G. Neville, D.C.; F. Braine, Organist; and Messrs. J. Ryley, Dr. W. Wilson, E. T. Pryor, J. C. Harker, R. Frost, and George Highland, Stewards. The last-named gentleman was fortunate in securing a handsome donation from the Lodge funds as a contribution to the list which he has expressed his intention of carrying up to the forthcoming annual festival of one of the Masonic charities.

During the past year the Lodge selected from its Past Masters one upon whom, in their opinion, London Rank should be conferred. Their choice fell upon Mr. Luigi Lablache, and, His Royal Highness the Grand Master having been pleased to raise that worthy gentleman to the position, the Lodge begged Mr. Lablache's acceptance of the insignia of his office, which was duly presented to him in open Lodge, and the receipt of which he gracefully acknowledged in a touching and dignified manner, thanking the brethren for their generous gift.

At the conclusion of the ceremonies those in attendance adjourned to the dinner table. There were many illustrious Masons present to grace the proceedings, Grand Lodge being represented by Sir Edward Letchworth, Grand Sec.; J. Percy Fitzgerald, P.G.Std.Br.; Robt. D. Cummings, P.G.Std.Br.; Ven. Archdeacon Sinclair, P.G.C.; Walter Lawrence, P.A.G.S. of W.; Charles Cruikshanks, P.A.G.Std.Br.; Mostyn Pigott, P.A.G.Reg.; John Strachan, Grand Registrar; B. Marr Johnson, D.G.D.C.; J. Stephens, P.Dep.D.C.; Jas. Hughes, A.G.C.; R. Clay Sudlow, P.A.G.D.C.; Henry Neville, A.G.D.C.; Henry Times, P.D.G.D.C.; Rev. H. C. de Lafontaine, P.G.D.; T. P. Dorman, P.A.G.D.C.; Edmund A. Smith, President of the Board of Benevolence; Rev. C. E. Roberts, P.G.C.; Sir Francis G. Moon, P.G.D.; R. Davis, P.A.G.D.C.; R. Newton Crane, G.D.; R. Percy F. W. Simpson, P.D.G.D.C.; James E. Terry, P.A.G.D.C.; Thomas Fraser, P.G. Treas.; Albert G Neville, P.D.G.D.C.; Harry Nicholls, P.G.Std.Br.; James Fernandez, P.A.G.D.C.; Henry Neville, A.G.D.C.; Alfred Thomas, P.A.G.D.C.; Col. W. H. Drage, P.G.Swd.Br.; Thomas Catling, P.A.G.D.C.; Chevalier Wilhelm Ganz, P.G.O.; and the President, Lord Athlumney, Past Grand Junior Warden of England.

Lord Athlumney was admitted to the Order twenty-one years ago by the then reigning Master of the Lodge. His lordship was ordered abroad in the service of his Sovereign, and remained away from this country for many years, winning distinction and renown in the battles of Firket, Atbara, Hafir, and Khartoum. On his return to England he resumed his duties at the Drury Lane Lodge, and served the minor offices with credit to the community and himself, and in due course, having risen by merit step by step, the brethren unanimously elected him to serve in the capacity of Master.

A very interesting feature at the conclusion of the banquet was the presentation of a handsome Past Master's jewel to Mr. James Powell as a mark of esteem from the brotherhood and to commemorate his very successful year of office, during which he had gained the approval of all.

There were many members present with their guests, including Messrs. Will Sparks, James W. Mathews, Herbert Chenery, Willie Clarkson, Gerald Maxwell, Tom Clare, Rev. W. Cree, Dr. Holten George, Messrs. Clarence Coggin, W. J. Keen, G. A. Keen, Randulph Corbet, and Sir William Lancaster, the Grand Treasurer-elect.

The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured, the speeches being commendably brief and to the point. Messrs. James Fernandez, Percy F. W. Simpson, James Powell, Sir William Lancaster, Messrs. Alfred Ellis E. G. Salmon, Bedford McNeill, A. Blomfield Jackson, Thomas Catling, J. Percy Fitzgerald, and Lord Athlumney replied to the toasts with which their names were associated.

A bright and sparkling entertainment was provided by Mr. Tom Clare, in which he was assisted by Miss Glover, Miss Annie Bartle, Messrs. Harry Dearth and Walter Churcher, and Dr. Byrd Page.

Mr. Henry Neville, the veteran actor, a distinguished Past Master of the Lodge, contributed a recitation, rendered in a masterly manner, winning universal admiration and approval.

DRAMATIC MARK LODGE.

This highly successful Lodge held its first meeting in the present year at the Mark Masons' Hall, Great Queen-street, on Thursday last, when the present Master, Mr. G. A. Keen, advanced to the honourable degree of a Mark Master Mason Messrs. Francis William Rawlinson and Albert Henry Hunt, the ceremony throughout being performed in a very perfect manner.

Messrs. Frank Henry Callingham and W. H. Marler, and Lieut.-Col. W. H. Drage, D.S.O., were elected as joining members; and notice was given that at the next meeting Messrs. E. Vivian Reynolds, C. H. Phillips, and Sydney Lawrence would be balloted for as candidates to be advanced to the degree.

Those present included Messrs. W. J. Keen, S.W.; W. H. George, S.O.; Chris Hilton, J.O.; Charles Cruikshanks, Treasurer; Will Sparks, Secretary; J. H. Ryley, R.M.; Tom Clare, Organist; Harry Nicholls, P.G.Std.B.; Clarence Coggin, P.M., acting M.O.; H. Danby, P.M.; Thos. Fraser, P.G.Treas.; Alfred Ellis, J.D.; W. E Holloway, acting as J.W.; R. J. Corbet, acting as S.D.; W. H. Roberts; William Lawrence, J. Powell, acting as I.G.; Col. W. H. Drage, acting as J.D.; Rev. W. Cree, Major G. S. Beeching, W. S. Lyon, C. Wyndham-Quin, Ed. Humphrey, F. Callingham, W. H. White, and W. Singleton Hooper.

After the business was concluded, the brethren proceeded to the Hotel Cecil to dinner, and a pleasant evening was spent.

ON the conclusion of the run of Mr. G. Brydon-Phillips's pantomime company *Little Red Riding Hood*, Mr. Alfred Reynolds, business-manager for the company, was presented by Miss Kittee Rayburn with a very handsome cigarette case.

THE twelfth annual pantomime supper of the Fulham Theatre staff took place at the Helvetia Restaurant on the 4th inst. Mr. Charles Road-Night, the stage-manager of the pantomime company, was chairman, thirty-nine sitting down to a capital supper. The chairman having made a few remarks about the staff working so well with him, and making the show a success, Mr Alf Cooper, Mr. Jack Robinson, Mr. Bert Rush, Mr. Harry Body, Messrs. Stallwood and Cooper, Messrs. Benson and Son, Mr. Pat Lavender, Mr. Road-Night, Mr. George Davey, Mr. William Naylor, Mr. Rush, Mr. E. Dare, and Mr. Robinson contributed to the entertainment which followed. Votes of thanks were accorded to Messrs. George Caplin and Jack Robinson for their services as secretaries and stewards. Mr. Joe Young was the accompanist.

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Feb. 8, the play, entitled "MRS. WIGGS OF THE CABBAGE PATCH."

The most successful of King's pantomimes having terminated its run on Saturday evening last, the spring season opened on Monday with the above play, when an enthusiastic audience assembled to welcome back that dear, delightful, homely personage, Mrs. Wiggs, who, to quote one of the characters, has not a mean drop of blood in her body. The audience in turn laughed and cried with her at the amusing and pathetic situations in which she finds herself involved, and the happy ending to the piece pleases everybody. It is a picture of rural life of the American type which is truly fascinating. Mrs. Wiggs is now played by Miss Gertrude Irving, who succeeds in giving a very finished and satisfactory impersonation of the homely soul, who tries to do good all round. Miss Rita Carlyle is at hand to repeat her quaint and successful portrayal of Miss Hazy, and Miss Maud Townshend is a comical Mrs. Eichorn. Miss A. Fanchette as the massive Mrs. Schultz is irresistible, while Miss Beatrice Bramah plays Miss Lucy with much delicacy. Lovey Mary, with her pretty face and guileless manner, finds a delightful representative in Miss Margaret Shelley, who shows much feeling in the part. The children, Asia, Europena, Australia, and Tommy are cleverly rendered by Misses Catton, Shiells, Clifford, and Connell. A character which is bound to excite mirth by its ridiculously solemn stolidity is Mr. Stubbins, and it is perfectly played by Mr. Frederick Forrest, who keeps the audience in shrieks of laughter all the time. Mr. Wiggs is well enacted by Mr. Francis Chamier. Mr. Ernest Graham is good as Mr. Bob, and Mr. Forester Harvey is a hustling Hunkerdunkas Jones. The Sheriff is capably performed by Mr. Alfred Fisher, and Mr. Robin Shiells acts with merit as Deacon Bagsby. Mr. Gerald Valentine is a clever and manly Billy Wiggs, and Mr. Sidney Carlyle deserves commendation for his Chris. Hazy. Excellent scenery is provided.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, Feb. 8, the Musical Play, entitled "HAVANA."

Havana is already known as one of the essentially smart musical pieces of recent times. Possessing a coherent plot, with music particularly brilliant, the piece goes with swing and briskness. The company Mr. George Dance has brought to the Marlborough this week is well qualified to do justice to the work. At very short notice, owing to the indisposition of Miss Hebe Bliss, Miss J. Sullivan undertook the part of Consuelo on Monday, and scored a success. She sings and acts with much spirit, but a little more care is required with her enunciation. Mr. W. Cecil W. Parke gives an exceedingly good portrayal of Jackson Villiers, his voice being heard to advantage in all his musical numbers. Mr. Bay Russell, in addition to his excellent stage-management, makes a bright and natural Hon. Frank Charteris, his smart dancing being much appreciated. Mr. A. Gordon Begg is a capital representative of Bombito, and Mr. Frank Sealey plays the part of the scheming Diego most effectively. Mr. George Storey's whimsicalities and humorous by-play as Don Adolpho highly amuse the house; we get some fine low comedy from Mr. Reginald Switz as Samuel Nix, the melancholy Bo'sun of the Wasp, and another successful comedian is Mr. Tom Seymour as Reginald Brown. Able support is forthcoming from Miss Gladys Guy, a charming and dainty Onita, who makes one of the hits of the performance in her duet and "Apache" dance with the melancholy Bo'sun; Miss Helen Langton's Isabelita is incapable of improvement, and Miss Maud Seymour acquits herself with success as Teresa

DALSTON THEATRE.

Freed for the time being from pantomime or drama, the stage of the Dalston Theatre is for some few weeks to come to be devoted to the representation of opera. Mr. J. W. Turner's English opera company opened a brief season there on Monday evening with Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*, and the performance was heartily appreciated. The cast included, in addition to Mr. Turner, Mr. Tom Griffiths, Mr. P. Newton, Mr. V. Brodo, Mr. Sidney Clifford, Miss Jessie Dennis, and Miss Jeanne Jeune. Mr. Turner's name figures during the week in the cast of two other operas, *Il Trovatore* and *Maritana*, and he is ably supported by most efficient artists. Mr. Frank Clarke, Mr. Tom Griffiths, Mr. Sidney Clifford, Mr. B. Cummings, Mr. Arthur Fisher, Mr. Hubert Bland, Miss Fanny Emmerson, Miss Louise Henschell, Miss Sarah Williams, Miss Jessie Dennis, Miss Maud Esdale, and Miss Kitty Brownless appear in the operas last named, and are all the recipients of well-earned applause, and their acting throughout is on a par in the matter of excellence with their vocalisation. Other operas presented during the week include *Martha*, *The Bohemian Girl*, and *Faust*, and the artists appearing, in addition to those already named, are Mr. Charles Le Sueur, who, as usual, represents prominent characters, Mr. George Ridding, and Miss Lizzie Stock. An efficient orchestra, under the direction of Mr. T. Lawton, adds to the general enjoyment of the performances, and, altogether, the present visit of Turner's opera company to this part of London bids fair to rival in success even previous well-remembered seasons.

GREENWICH THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 8, the Drama, in Four Acts, entitled "HIS SISTER'S HONOUR."

Mr. Evelyn A'Dell and company are here this week in the above stirring and well-written play. Mr. A'Dell appears to great advantage as Frank Stanley, playing with energy and excellent effect; Miss Flora Leslie is an attractive and clever representative of Dora Stanley; Miss Ethel Ashleigh plays sympathetically and well as Ivy Merton; and Miss M. Conway is a bright and pleasing Maria. Mr. Walter Wilson acts well as Sir Richard Redvers, and makes an excellent impression; Mr. P. Braithwaite is most amusing as Timothy Timid; Dr. Godfrey is well played by Mr. Edwin Clarke; Mr. S. Verner gives a good account of Police-constable Worthie; Mr. John Leyland is a characteristic Big Buggins; Mr. Harry Mitchelson scores as Johnny Bennett; Mr. Henry Slater is good as Sergt. Pedro Ramon; as is Mr. Fred Carston as Juan Lopez; and Robert is well impersonated by Mr. E. Stone. The first scene is laid in St. John's Wood, the second at Folkestone, the third is the Asylum, and the fourth in Brazil. The scenery and dresses are good and appropriate.

ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Feb. 8, the Pantomime, entitled "JACK AND THE BEANSTALK."

Mr. A. E. Smith, who has got together a capital company, is presenting for the current week the pantomime of *Jack and the Beanstalk*, which runs a merry course in an amusing and very lively fashion, and is highly appreciated, more especially by the gentlemen in khaki who, situated in the gallery, and being well versed in all the songs of the day, join in the choruses with exhilarating heartiness and encore everybody. Although the book follows, more or less, on the customary lines of the story, nevertheless there are several excellent turns interspersed at convenient moments, which prove to be popular features of the evening. Miss Kathleen Garnon, in the title-rôle, maintains her hold throughout, and affords much pleasure, taking advantage of her opportunities in the songs "I don't care if there's a girl there," "Have you got another girl like Mary?" and "Bombadier," the last-named being flatteringly received. Miss Frankie Barton makes a dainty Jill, and renders the song "Poverty-street" in good style; Margery Daw and Tommy Tucker are undertaken by the Sisters Holman, and score well in "A little wooden house in Norway"; the fairy, Queen of Light, is represented by Miss Gertie Leno, who displays a good voice in the ballads Sweetheart Days" and "Roses bloom again," the latter being composed by the musical director, Mr. Charles Pearson; Miss Ellie Verrier as Miss Muffett achieves distinction as a dancer of no mean ability; Messrs. Foley and Francis as Simple Simon and Johnny Horner respectively are very diverting comedians, and keep the house in roars of laughter, and in this pleasant task they are ably assisted by Mr. Billy Taylor as Dame Durden and Mr. Bert Boothroyd as Squire Scarperletty, the latter being happily suited in the song "My girl's a Yorkshire girl"; Mr. A. Lund essays the part of Bovril, the cow, with amusing results; and Mr. Arthur Tring as the Wicked Giant is suitably placed. The Bendenes, contortionists and balancers, offer popular contributions.

BRIXTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 8, the Musical Comedy, entitled "THE CINGALEE."

After a highly-successful run, the pantomime was withdrawn here on Saturday last, and the regular dramatic season inaugurated on Monday with a revival of this famous musical play. Needless to say, Mr. Frederick Melville's patrons were present in large numbers, and expressed approbation at the capital performance given by Mr. Haldane Crichton's company. The play had evidently been carefully rehearsed; and the chorus and orchestra gave every satisfaction. As Harry Vereker Mr. Alan Turner sang the tuneful music allotted him capitally, and with Miss Mollie Wolstenhulme, a charming Nanoya, received many encores. Mr. Jack Crichton was irresistibly funny as Chambhuddy Ram; throughout the evening he kept the house in a roar. Mr. F. W. Ford did excellent work as the irascible Sir Peter, and Mr. Scott Cullen was pleasantly boyish as Bobby Warren. Mr. Douglas Munro was, of course, duly impressive as Boobhamba, and his topical songs were all well received. Mr. Harry Ed. Ray did excellent work as Myamgah; Peggy Sabine found a dainty representative in Miss Alice Nixon; Miss Pauline Hague was a delightful Lady Patricia; Miss Margaret Pitts, pretty and engaging as Angy Loftus. The Misses Gabrielle Devere and Geraldine Somerset danced delightfully. Special praise must be awarded the charming tea girls and the pupils of Vereker's plantation for their excellent singing. Mr. Herbert Ivey conducted the augmented orchestra in a skilful manner. *The Cingalee* is very tastefully mounted and dressed. Mr. Will T. Taylor is, as always, to the fore as the courteous manager for Mr. Fred. Melville.

THE FULHAM.

On Monday, Feb. 8, the Musical Comedy, by Seymour Hicks and Guy Jones, entitled "THE GAY GORDONS."

The run of *Cinderella* having terminated on Feb. 6, the ordinary season at the Fulham Theatre recommenced with a return visit of *The Gay Gordons*, which proved such a success in October of 1908. The part of Angus Græme is now taken by Mr. Frank Lincoln, who puts into his impersonation all the energy and briskness that we associate with the part. Mr. Tom Graves has all the old tricks and turns of the old-time histrion in the rôle of Nervy Natt; and Mr. Edward Nainby is an excellent foil as the lumpish Edmund. Mr. Edward Ruston does well as the millionaire Quainton; and Mr Norman Forrest was very quaint as the awkward Corporal John Smith. Mr. Buchanan Wake repeats his good performance as Archibald Speedy; and Mr. Charles Tyers fairly electrifies the audience with his dancing. Miss Emily Mellon showed the true note of maternal tenderness as Janet McLeod; Miss Mabel Dent played brightly and cleverly as Victoria Siddons; and Miss Ida Larrie did well as Charlotte Siddons. Miss Gladys Waring was a capable representative of Mary McLeod; and Miss Norah Guiness was satisfactory as Lady Millicent. As Peggy Quainton, Miss Gladys Archbutt proved a great success, and carried through her part with excellent vigour and charm. Mr. A. Spittle presided over the orchestra, Mr. Mervyn Dene stage-managed, and Mr. W. A. Seymour has the general direction of the tour. The company were all well up to their work, and leave a pleasing impression of capability.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, Feb. 8, the Play, in Three Acts, by Geo. R. Sims and Arthur Shirley, entitled "TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS."

Two Little Vagabonds attracted a crowded house to the Clapham Theatre on Monday, when the play was excellently interpreted by members of Hardie and Von Leer's company. Miss Leonora Caltelle gave a natural representation of the sorely-tried Marion Thornton, and the intensity of her acting held the audience throughout. Miss Florence Radcliffe in the rôle of Barbara was thoroughly efficient; and Miss Ida Drayton was pleasing as Nurse Randall. Some welcome touches of humour were contributed by Miss Marie Pritchard in the part of Biddy Mullins; the consumptive boy Wally was enacted by Miss Josie Beltram in a manner that appealed strongly to the sympathy of the audience; and Dick was played with conspicuous success by Miss May Hart. Mr. Geo. Denham gave a praiseworthy performance of George Thornton; Captain Darville was capably enacted by Mr. Norman Yates; and Mr. Joseph Brandon was satisfactory as John Scarth. Mr. John Humber rendered good service as Leeson; and Mr Bertram Dubosc made the most of the part of Joe Gargoyle. An excellent character study of Bill Mullins, alias The Gaffer, was given by Mr. James Skea, and the same remark applies to Mr. Leo St. Clair as Dido Bunce and Mr. Fred Archer as the Coughdrop.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

Anxious to cater for the tastes of all classes of patrons of the Royal County Theatre, Mr. Davey, the thoughtful managing-director, some time ago ascertained that a week of Shakespearean plays would be a welcome change in the bill of fare, and so gave playgoers an opportunity of selecting by vote the plays of Shakespeare they would like to see. The result is seen this week at the cosy little playhouse, where Miss Florence Glossop-Harris, the talented daughter of the late Sir Augustus Harris, is appearing with her company of clever artists in eight of Shakespeare's plays—*The Taming of the Shrew*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *As You Like It*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Hamlet*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Othello*. The presentation of the plays has been received with unmistakable appreciation by numerous audiences. Chief amongst those who are assisting Miss Glossop-Harris are Mr. Frank Collier, Mr. Murray Kinnell, Mr. A. D. Layland, Mr. Arthur Keane, Mr. E. Stuart Vinden, Mr. F. Roberts, Mr. J. Mason, Mr. A. Seaton, Mr. W. Carr, Mr. A. Sims, Mr. Ian Titherage, Mr. A. Newman, Mr. E. Wellesley, Mr. M. Ingram, Mr. J. Andrew, Mr. D. Claydon, and Miss Gertrude Tate, Miss Mary Goulden, and Miss Gertrude Gilbert. The plays have been admirably staged.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, Feb. 8, the Drama, in Four Acts, entitled "THE TICKET-OF-LEAVE MAN."

This old drama of Tom Taylor's was very capably acted by Mr. Clive Currie's company at Marylebone this week. Mr. William Barber was quite at his ease as the Lancashire lad, Bob Brierley; Mr. Charles Wemyss did well as Jem Dalton; Mr. J. P. Dryden portrayed Melton Moss in typical fashion; Mr. Douglas Phillips cut an amusing figure as Green Jones; and Mr. Clive Currie enacted Jack Hawkshaw in a cool, painstaking, and eloquent way. As Sam Willoughby Miss Helena Parsons was full of life and go, and her conception of the character calls for the warmest praise; Miss F. Wolviston was well placed as Mrs. Willoughby; Miss Maud Kirwan was effective as Emily St. Evremond; whilst Miss Muriel Dole sustained the trying rôle of May Edwards with fortitude and distinction.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 8, "THE SIGN OF THE CROSS."

Mr. William Greet's chief company has been here with this play. The dresses and scenery are above the average. Mr. Ernest Duggan as Strabo, the spy, together with Mr. H. Thurston Harris as Servilius, another of the same tribe, unfold the opening in no uncertain manner. Mr. Cyril Austen-Lee makes the proud Prefect, Marcus Superbus, a fine and engaging character, and carries his audience with him all the time. Mr. C. Yorke as Nero makes the Cæsar of old Rome live again, with all the suggestions of tyrannical cruelty which have made his name a byword through the centuries. Tigellinus, the crafty councillor, was well played by Mr. Charles Aldred, whose manner and appearance well suited the part. His associate, Licinius, the Ædile, was sternly portrayed by Mr. J. Weatherall, and the relentless persecutor of the Christians was a notable figure in the piece in his hands. The festive Glabrio supplied the comic relief in a most efficient manner, and Mr. Frank Wood caused much amusement by his drunken humour, which was never out of the picture. His friend in debauchery, the effeminate Philodemus, was cleverly played by Mr. Harry Jones. Mr. G. W. Ruff was a soldierly Captain of the Guard, Virturius, and Mr. J. Newman was quite equal to the small part of Dardanus.

The small band of Christians stood well out by reason of their consistent and appropriate acting, the Favius of Mr. Walter Fleet and the Titus of Mr. G. Blunden having great dignity of bearing and distinctness of delivery; whilst the part of Stephanus, the boy, as played by Miss Edith Drayson, appealed to all by its force and naturalness. The fair martyr, Mercia, was most sympathetically played by Miss Constance Little, her very attractive appearance adding interest to an already interesting part, and her acting being characterised by skill and restraint. Miss Beryl Hamilton made a short appearance and good impression as Poppœa, the Roman Empress, and Miss Lily Ward had an excellent opportunity of showing her art as Berenice, the love-sick patrician lady, whose infatuation for Marcus is so strong a lever in the piece. Miss Cissy Carlton as Dacia, a Roman lady, played with a pleasing lightness, and the part of the wild Bacchanalian, Ancaria, was fully entered into by Miss Mary Newcombe. Throughout the piece the orchestra hardly leave their places, and the incidental music was done full justice to by Mr. J. Bannister Howard's orchestra, the songs and concerted numbers also being well rendered by an efficient body of vocalists on the stage.

BROADWAY THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 8, "THE GIRLS OF GOTTENBERG"

commenced a week's visit and met with a very cordial reception, and deservedly so, for the production is complete and enjoyable in every detail. Mr. Bertie Wright as Max Moddelkopf makes a big hit with his diverting performance; Mr. Tom Shelford plays Otto with much dash and spirit and his songs and dances are received with much applause; Mr. Hugh Henson is admirably suited to the character of Captain Albrecht; Mr. Charles Berkley is responsible for a very amusing portrait of Brittl-Bottl; Mr. David Miller is very good as the General. Other male characters are well filled by Messrs. Courtney Comber, C. F. Hewitt, Percy Russell, Fred Sims, Sidney Farrow, Morgan Rickards, Edwin Stanley, Tom Squire, James Cook and George Vaughan.

Miss Maisie North is a charming Elsa—dainty and refined, and whose dancing is greatly admired; Miss May Marshall is very successful as Clementine, and works well with Max, their duet "Two little birds," being warmly received. Miss Simeta Marsden scores heavily as Mitzi. This clever lady renders her numbers delightfully, especially "Only a common little girl." Mr. Shelford also sings capitally "Girls all call me Otto" and "Go to Jericho." There are many charming Gottenberg Girls, including Miss Ruby Carter, Miss Violet Romaine, Miss M. Allem, Miss Nelly Taylor, Miss E. Gorden, and Miss Susie Reardon.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Feb. 8, the Drama, entitled "PETE."

Saturday night saw the finish of the pantomime *Aladdin* with a rare flourish, and on Monday night the dramatic year proper was ushered in with the Lyceum production *Pete*. A very large audience witnessed the performance, and the revised version of Hall Caine's renowned *Manxman* was most cordially received. Mr. Matheson Lang as the rugged, open-hearted Pete is a general favourite, his fine appearance, manly and buoyant style suiting the part splendidly. Miss Hutin Britton comes in for a big share of the honours as Kate Cregeen, handling the rôle with sympathy, tact, feeling, and charm. Mr. Eric Mayne submits a polished, suave, easy portraiture of Philip Christian, acting throughout with admirable restraint and fluency. Mr. Frederick Ross brings much histrionic ability to bear upon the part of Cæsar Gregeen, and Mr. Pennington Bush plays in just the right vein as the caddish Ross Christian. Mr. Ellis J. Preston (who stage manages) makes the utmost of his opportunities as Black Tom; Mr. Charles L. Ludlow is capital as Jonaique Jelly; and Mr. H. K. Ayliff fulfils all requirements as Postman Kelly. Miss Rita Tomkins makes a brisk and interesting Nancy; Miss Blanche Stanley is a natural Grannie; Miss Alys Eden plays Janet appropriately; and Meg loses nothing in the experienced hands of Miss Amy Venimore. Other parts all receive careful treatment, and the staging of the piece must be very highly commended.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

The chamber concert given by the pupils of the College on Thursday evening, Feb. 4, commenced with Schumann's Quartette for Strings, in A minor, No. 1, op. 41. The executants were Miss E. Muriel Pickup, Mr. Leonard Carrodus, Mr. Frank Bridge, and Mr. Cedric Sharpe, the young performers being very successful in the graceful Adagio. Mr. Henry Thompson was heard in "Two Gipsy Songs" by Dvorák, the second of which proved the most attractive; while the brilliant piano solos of Miss Ellen Edwards, Berceuse, Ronde des Sylphes, from Liapounow's Twelve Studies, and Schumann's Toccata, op. 7, were received with great enthusiasm by the large audience. Miss Evelyn Jennings, who has a full rich voice of great purity and considerable power, sang recitative and air "Vogl'io morir" (E. d'Astorga) most expressively, and received two hearty recalls. In Beethoven's Sonata for Piano and Violin, in G major, Mr. Thomas Peatfield and Miss Ellen Tuckfield displayed ability, but gave a somewhat tame rendering of the great master's work. Two duets of Brahms', "Die Meere" and "Weg der Liebe," were pleasingly sung by Miss Marguerite Owen and Miss Gladys Hislop. The concert concluded with an organ solo "Dithyramb" (B. Harwood), played by Mr. Reginald Thatcher. Miss Constance Stockbridge and Miss Ellen Tuckfield were the accompanists.

MR. F. R. BENSON'S SEASON.

Mr. F. R. Benson, who has been responsible for the making of many sound Shakespearean actors, opened his season at the Coronet on Monday with *Richard the Third*, which heralds revivals of other historical plays—such as *Richard the Second*, *Henry the Fifth*, the second part of *Henry the Fourth*, &c.—and productions of *Coriolanus* and *Macbeth*, and one representation only of *Hamlet*, which will be given this evening.

A critic of the eighteenth century, in speaking of *Richard the Third*, wrote: "Of all the various subjects which have engaged the tragic muse, none are of equal force and dignity to historical ones. From a multiplicity of great and interesting events they rouse and command more passions than any other. Of this Shakespeare was a most competent judge, and happily availed himself. I say happily, because he not only thereby gained a wide, fruitful field for the exertion of his amazing talents, but in a political sense did honour to his country by delivering faithfully many memorable events in a much more striking way than any historian could possibly do. *Richard the Third*, as acted, though essentially Shakespeare's, is much indebted for its variety, compactness, and spirit to the late Colley Cibber, whose thorough acquaintance with the stage well qualified him for regulating a plot and arranging of scenes."

This heresy was an article of faith with Garrick, the Kembles, and the elder Kean; but Mr. Benson, like Phelps and Irving, a lover as well as an interpreter of Shakespeare, in his compact and well-reasoned arrangement of scenes, sticks to the text of the Bard, and the cumulative force of the tragedy is well emphasised during the four acts. Envy and hatred naturally enter into the disposition of the scion of a royal race so cruelly handicapped as Gloucester, and Mr. Benson in the early scene of the cajolery of Anne enables us to see the brainy side of Richard. It is no common hypocrite, no mere dissembler, addressing the bereaved widow, but a courtly diplomatist, in deep contrast to the ferocious sleuth-hound who in the brief prologue took his first step on the thorny path leading to the kingship by his dagger-thrusts into the poor body of the weak King Henry the Sixth. Richard's attitude in the scene with the Mayor and the citizens formed an admirable lesson in kingly hypocrisy, and the king's impatience at Buckingham's coldness, his indifference to that nobleman's demands, and his condemnation of my Lord Stanley are episodes in which the actor displays the results of profound and earnest study, and in the final act we have presented to us a warlike Richard, temporarily unmanned by the visions of his victims, but ready as a fatalist and a warrior to meet the just doom that is to overtake him at the hands of Richmond. Mr. Benson was supported in the part of the widowed and childless Margaret by Miss Genevieve Ward, an actress who brings the best traditions of Shakespearean acting to a part that she has made entirely her own. She played both her scenes with a power that enchained the house, and the curses of the vengeful, sorrowful woman rang with tragic force. Miss Ward and Mrs. Benson, who played the Lady Ann with much delicacy and subtlety, were honoured with special calls and bouquets.

Of the numerous other parts we may single out as specially worthy of mention the Lord Stanley of Mr. J. P. Wilson, the Henry VI. of Mr. Guy Rathbone, who also played Sir Richard Ratcliff, Mr. Hannam Clark and Mr. Alfred Wilde as the first and second murderers The young princes were intelligently presented by Miss A. P. Nicholson and Miss Leah Hannam, and sound performances of Elizabeth and the Duchess of York were given by Miss Helen Haye and Miss Elinor Aickin.

THE GOLLIWOG DRAMATIC CLUB.

When a dramatic club bears so quaint a name as "The Golliwog" one expects something funny, and those who journeyed to the Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell New-road, on Friday evening, Feb. 5, were not disappointed, and had many a hearty laugh over *The Strange Adventures of Miss Brown*, the popular farcical comedy of Mr. R. Buchanan, which was admirably played by the Golliwog Club. Mr. L. M. Musgrove, the hon. stage-manager, played the hero, Captain Courtenay, the cavalry officer who marries the ward in Chancery, Angela Brightwell, with great spirit, and his make-up as the supposed Miss Brown was extremely funny, his comic business in the second ct, the Honeymoon, where the disguised officer comes as a parlour boarder to Cicero House Academy, kept the audience in a roar of laughter. The dashing Major O'Gallagher was also capitally impersonated by Mr. Arnold E. Wilson; and Miss Mary Thorn was excellent as the good-hearted Mrs. O'Gallagher. Mr. Jack Gallot appeared as the solicitor, Mr. Hibbertson; and Mr. L. E. Everitt was extremely good as Sergeant Tanner, of Scotland Yard, the sapient detective who in the second act is so simple as to allow himself to be handcuffed just to show the young ladies how it is done. Miss Lily Drew made a charming and vivacious Angela Brightwell, the ward in Chancery, who runs away from school to marry the Captain; and she was well supported by Miss Ella Woods and Miss J. Glen as Euphemia Schwartz and the sentimental Matilda Jones. Miss Maud Drew played the prim and stately Miss Romney of Cicero House Academy in a most lifelike manner; and Mr. Fred Winding made all that was possible out of the comic part of Herr Von Moser, the music master, who is so horrified when his rebellious pupil Angela says she "hates Schumann, and prefers Mendelssohn and marriage." Mr. Winding also successfully doubled the part of Michael Doucherty, the Major's servant, with that of Herr Moser. The school girls in the Academy scene were very lively and effective, and the more prominent parts of Millicent and Clara Loveridge ably acted by Miss Winnie Gallier and Miss Jessie Toles. Mr. C. H. Fox was responsible for the wigs and costumes, and the scenery of Messrs. J. T. Bull and Son and the stage management of Mr. L. M. Musgrove may be highly commended. During the evening Mr. A. M. Skinner's orchestra performed selections from many well-known composers. *Miss Brown* was produced under the direction of Mr. J. Edwards, and the Golliwogs certainly did credit to Mr. Buchanan's clever and amusing comedy.

AMUSEMENTS IN BARCELONA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BARCELONA, Feb. 1.—The attraction at the Teatro Principal is the comedy-drama, by Maurice Leblanc, *Arseni Lupin*, with all the scenery and effects as at the Théâtre d'Athénée de Paris. It has proved a big success, and is playing to crowded houses nightly.

At the Circo Barcelones, Everhart, with his hoops, has quickly made himself popular, and has introduced some new tricks that should cause a sensation on his reappearance in England. Two midgets only 24in. high appear with Minola Hurst (Mrs. Everhart). They are both more than nineteen years old, and although they sing in English and the audience do not understand a word, they nevertheless are accorded a hearty reception. The voice and manner of Minola Hurst greatly add to the success of the turn. Toch and Tard continue to amuse with their antics upon the trapeze, and are encored each evening for their burlesque wrestling; Mlle. Louka deserves great credit for her troupe of dogs, which are well trained; and the Sisters Karina upon the trapeze are popular as is also Enrique Adams, pantomimist.

THE TERRITORIAL QUESTION.

Mr. Chas. C. Ommanney has addressed the following letter to the Secretary of State for War, the Duke of Argyll, and Lord Esher:—

"Sir,—I have the honour to address the following letter to you, and to beg your influence on behalf of our plan.

"The scheme originated between Messrs. E. G. Bale, of the Cumberland Troupe of Cyclists, George Carney and Frank Armstrong (of Carney and Armstrong), and myself, the undersigned. When, some few weeks ago, we were all together in Hull we, in the course of conversation, discovered that three of our number had served in the Boer War in South Africa and one of us had carried arms throughout one of the South American revolutions, and a remark was then made that it was a pity we had not some military organisation purely for theatrical and music hall performers; and, after considerable discussion, the matter was left in my hands to draft a letter to the Secretary of State for War, the Duke of Argyll, Viscount Esher, and certain newspapers, detailing our scheme and asking members of our profession to write to me stating whether they would be prepared to join if the scheme can be carried through.

"There are a large number of men in our profession who have served in H.M. regular forces; there are also a large number who are crack shots, and a large number who excel in horsemanship, and men whose physique exceeds the average. These are the men we are aiming at enrolling.

"The following is our proposal for membership:—

"A man to become a member must be—

1. A British subject.
2. A *bond fide* member of the theatrical or music hall profession.
3. The making of a good shot.
4. The making of a good horseman.
5. A man of sound physique.
6. He must agree to serve under the rules framed under a committee to be elected, and the laws governing the Territorial Army.

"The question arises here that in our profession we are travelling round the country, and that a large portion of the year is spent in the provinces. How can we attend drills? You cannot expect a man to come from Ireland, Scotland, or elsewhere to London, abandoning his work, to attend a drill. We are aware of the fact that a certain number of drills per annum have to be put in. We therefore propose meeting the difficulty by approaching the executive of the Territorial Forces throughout Great Britain, and arranging that our members shall drill with their battalions, showing their cards of membership, which will be filled in, stating that they attended a recruit or company drill as the case may be. A certain number of drills per annum, battalion and otherwise, must be put in each year with their own battalion.

"The annual training under canvas will be arranged for, say, the end of June and the beginning of July, these being the slack weeks in our profession.

"Our officers will all rise from the ranks. For the first year an arrangement will be made that we are properly officered; after that, promotion will be made by merit.

"It is proposed, at first, forming one company of mounted infantry, and being attached unbroken to some battalion already in existence. Later on, when numbers increase, we will endeavour to form a battalion of our own with our own headquarters.

"It is proposed, after we have a working arrangement, to approach the leading managers of our profession and ask them to become hon. captains at first, and later on hon. colonels.

"It is proposed, as opportunity offers, to build our own headquarters, with school of arms, &c., where members will receive instruction in such things as the bayonet, sabre, foils, boxing, and other manly exercises, this building acting as a club for all. In connection with this we will arrange a sick fund and a loan fund.

"Each man will be proposed and seconded by members.

"It is proposed to arrange a day in each week for members to meet in the different cities and towns, when members can arrange such things as target practice between themselves and discuss matters of interest to members generally.

"We should try to arrange honorary membership of the different Territorial headquarters throughout the country. In fact, we should try to advance the social side of our scheme as much as possible.

"We should be very grateful for any advice, assistance, or influence you could give us on the foregoing.

"On behalf of my co-partners and myself, I have the honour to remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

"Chas. C. Ommanney, Lieut.,
"Temp. Hon. Secretary.

"55, Talgarth-road, West Kensington, London.
Feb. 10, 1909."

Approved:—
1. Edwin George Bale (Cumberland Troupe).
2. Carney and Armstrong.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—The recent successful production of *An Englishman's Home* has inspired us with patriotism—not only those who are responding to the noble call of the *Daily Mail*, but those who have written plays dealing with the same subject. Having read one or two letters in last week's *Era re* previous productions, I should like, with your kind permission, to add my own claim to having done something in the same field. Possibly I was the first to write and tour a drama dealing with the Volunteer interest. *Our Volunteers* was written and produced by me at the Eden Theatre, Brighton, on July 19, 1897. This I toured for some considerable time. It is also a fact that I am the first at the present time to write and produce a dramatic episode dealing with our Territorials. This I did some weeks previous to the production of *An Englishman's Home*, and I am proud to say that my sketch *Territorials* is one of the most successful in my present répertoire, and I cannot help feeling that we are doing our share towards the great and glorious cause.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully, FRED MAXWELL.

THE IRVING MEMORIAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—The subscribers to the Irving Memorial will, I am sure, be gratified to learn that Mr. Thomas Brock, R.A., has now practically finished the plaster model for the statue of Sir Henry Irving; and all that now remains, therefore, is the casting of the figure in bronze, which is of necessity a matter of time.

There is every reason to hope that the statue will be erected on the site arranged for it at the back of the National Portrait Gallery in Charing Cross-road during the autumn of the present year, which is within the time promised by Mr. Brock for its completion when he undertook the commission.—Yours faithfully,

JOHN HARE,
President of the Irving Memorial Committee.
75, Upper Berkeley-street, Portman-square, W.
Feb. 5.

The next competition for the Macfarren Scholarship at the Royal Academy of Music will take place on or about Friday, April 30, 1909.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING.

Mr. CECIL RALEIGH presided at the eighteenth annual general meeting of the Actors' Association, held in the Victoria Hall of the Criterion Restaurant (kindly lent by Messrs. Spiers and Pond) on Tuesday afternoon. Amongst others present were Miss Bessie Armytage, Mr. F. J. Arlton, Mr. Adam Alexander, Mr. Fred Annerley, Mr. H. K. Ayliff, Mr. Dennis Cleugh, Miss B. Chester, Mr. Arthur Curtis, Mr. C. T. Chapman, Mr. W. Cross, Mr. C. F. Collings, Mr. C. Cattley, Miss May Conrade, Mr. S. Compton, Mr. C. A. Collins, Mr. Clive Currie, Miss V. Cecil, Miss L. Cassilis, Mr. Percy Crawford, Miss P. Cecil, Mr. Cecil Brooking, Mr. Inez Bensusan, Miss D. Black, Mr. J. J. Bartlett, Miss Adah Barton, Mr. A. G. Brown, Mr. Edwin Barwick, Miss A. Bourne, Miss E. Dixon, Miss Joan Dills, Mr. Gilbert Esmond, Mr. A. A. Edwards, Miss B. Fenn, Miss H. Farrington, Miss B. Francis, Miss D. Gelstone, Miss Vere Gerald, Mr. Fred Grove, Miss Daisy Gwynne, Miss L. Gourlay, Mr. James Gelderd, Mr. Hampton Gordon, Mr. A. S. Homewood, Mr. Forrester Harvey, Miss Agnes Imlay, Mr. Sydney Keith, Mrs. L'Estrange, Miss Dora Levis, Miss Rose Mathews, Miss Margaret March, Mr. Edward Morgan, Miss I. Moncrieff, Mr. H. W. Mote (hon. solicitor), Miss Florence Nelson, Mr. E. Ouston, Miss K. Parry, Miss Ethel Royale, Miss Ethel Russell, Miss G. D. Russell, Mr. Langford Reed, Mr. A. M. Seaton, Mr. Adnam Sprange, Miss Helen Tyler, Miss L. Tweed, Miss P. Vaughan, Mr. L. Warner, Mr. Chris Walker, Miss R. Mayne Young, Miss Eleanor Gilbart, Miss Bessie Harrison, Mr. John F. Hudson, Miss Clara Jecks, Miss B. Kemble, Miss E. A. Laing, Miss H. McCosley, Miss B. Mervyn, Miss Norah Mahone, Miss Clara Nicholls, Miss Theresa Osborn, Mr. Robson Paige, Miss Sydney K. Phelps, Miss Ida Reid, Miss I. Rozant, Mr. Francis Saffery (hon. auditor), Miss Lucy Sibley, Miss Emma Stockley, Mr. J. S. Smith, Miss G. Scaife, Mr. J. H. Twyford, Miss A. Ingreville, Miss May Warley, Miss Davies Webster, Mr. E. Watson, and Mr. H. Blount (secretary).

After the SECRETARY (Mr. Hubert Blount) had read the notice convening the meeting, the minutes of last year's meeting were carried.

The report and balance-sheet were as follows:—

The Council, in presenting the eighteenth annual report of the Actor's Association, would remind the members that the apparent uneventfulness of the past year has been mainly due to the following causes:—

(1) The Council has been obliged to devote its energies to secure a gradual recovery from the crippling financial difficulties of 1907. By strict economy it has been able to bring the Association to the end of the year practically free from debt. (This statement does not, of course, refer to the Debentures.)

(2) The work of the Council has been considerably hampered by:

(a) An enforced change of premises, the Queensland Government having acquired 409, Strand, from Messrs. Gatti. This, however, afforded an opportunity to the Council of effecting an economy in expenditure on rent. In the present premises members may miss an equivalent of the large saloon at 409, Strand, but the existing accommodation for office work (which is of paramount importance to the A.A.) is far more satisfactory. It has been proved by experience that club premises cannot be provided at a subscription of 15s. a year. The utmost members can expect is a "rendezvous" where they can meet their friends, see the most important papers, and write business letters.

(b) Change of secretary. The Council have every confidence in Mr. H. Blount, and would remind members that a reasonable time must be allowed for a newly-appointed secretary to become entirely conversant with the complicated requirements of the Association's work.

In addition to the routine work, the Council would draw attention to the following subjects that have occupied its attention during the past year.

THE QUESTION OF A STANDARD CONTRACT BETWEEN ACTOR AND MANAGER.

This matter has been considered both independently and in conjunction with the Actors' Union, and both the West End Managers' Association and the Touring Managers' Association were approached. These negotiations were followed by no practical result, but they have convinced the Council that, until the conditions of our calling are placed on an improved basis, it is inadvisable that the sanction should be given to a contract which must of necessity be unsatisfactory.

It is the opinion of the Council that the standard contract should be based on:

(1) A week of six performances
(2) Engagements to be for tour, season, or run.
(3) The right of the artist to be paid for all time devoted to the service of a manager.
(4) The right of the artist to a living wage.

The Council is glad to report that it has been able to take definite action in the interest of actors and actresses in the matter of the licensing of agents. At the invitation of the London County Council, a deputation from your Council waited upon the Committee of Public Control, insisted on the importance of all agents being licensed, and pointed out that mere registration was ineffective against the inrush of raw labour upon the stage. It was accorded an attentive hearing.

In accordance with the tradition of the Actors' Association as the representative body of working actors, the Council has approached the Lord Chamberlain to obtain definite information about the new regulations governing the use of theatres on Sundays. It was particularly interested in this question, owing to the fact that one of the most flourishing societies giving Sunday performances (the Play Actors) is composed entirely of members of the Actors' Association.

The Council views with great pleasure the progress made by the Play Actors during the three seasons that they have been in existence. It is a matter for congratulation that members of the Actors' Association should have formed so successful a society. Undoubtedly the position won by the Play Actors for themselves has resulted in great advantage to the Actors' Association as a whole, and the Council wishes to convey its sincere thanks to the Play Actors and its best wishes for the future.

The Council has had under consideration the question of approaching the Actors' Union with a view to amalgamation. Nothing practical has seemed possible, but the Council looks forward to the time when one consolidated society shall be formed to represent the whole body of working actors.

The Council has to report that the good fellowship of the medical profession towards the Actors' Association has been further manifested by the addition of twenty-two names to the roll of honorary medical officers who so generously place their services at the disposal of our members. The total number on the medical staff is now 484.

A large number of members have availed themselves of the services of the honorary solicitor. The honorary solicitor has been a constant attendant at Council meetings, and the Council desires to tender its hearty thanks for the valuable assistance he has given.

Two entertainments were given in the course of the year for the benefit of the Association.

(a) On June 24 a matinée was organised by Miss Rose Mathews, at the Scala Theatre, with the object of helping to pay off the Debentures. As a result, a fund has been started for this purpose, which is in the hands of trustees.

(b) on Nov. 24 a dance was organised by Miss Marion Lind, at 353, Strand, which, besides being a great social success, resulted in an addition of £7 to the funds of the Association.

The Council is obliged to report the deplorable indifference of members with regard to the election last March. When the time came for the nominations to be received, practically no candidates had been nominated, and it devolved upon the previous Council to nominate its successors. Your Council would strongly impress upon members that if the Association is to be completely represented, the initiative for election must come from outside. It is useless for members to quarrel with the policy of a Council in the election of which they have shown no interest. The one time in the year when members have the opportunity of expressing their opinion of what has been done in the past, and their wishes for the future, is the annual election of the Council, and it is the obvious duty of members of the Association to nominate those—whether present members of the Council or not—in whom they can place their confidence.

It is no small satisfaction to the present Council in laying down their office, to feel that they have passed with some success through considerable financial and other difficulties. They believe that there is a great future in store for the Actors' Association, but ultimate success will depend on the general interest and activity of the members as a whole, who must now do their part, and either endorse what has already been done, or declare how, in the future, they wish their affairs to be carried on.

Receipts and Payments Account for the Year ending Dec. 31, 1908.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
To Balance brought forward:—			
Cash at Dec. 31, 1907.			
At Bankers £96 16 1			
In Hand 0 19 0			
	97	15	1
,, Members' Subscriptions	760	5	6
,, Entrance Fees	40	10	0
,, Reinstatement Fees	1	11	0
,, Emergency Fund	14	0	0
,, Legacy, Mr. Granville Baker	5	0	0
,, Agency Commission	25	0	2
,, Sundry Receipts in connection with Social Meetings	10	16	7
,, Members' Telephone Calls	5	9	4
,, Insurance Commission	1	1	5
,, Sale of Furniture	6	1	9
,, Receipts in respect of Year Book, 1909	13	19	8
,, Donations—			
Lucy, Mr. Arnold £0 5 0			
Stratton, Capt. Geo. 0 10 6			
Webster, Miss M. D. 10 10 0			
Kingston, Miss Gertrude.. 0 5 0			
	11	10	6
	£994	1	0

PAYMENTS.	£	s.	d.
By Rent	191	10	0
,, Rates and Taxes (10, King-street) ..	5	12	6
,, Lighting, Firing, and Cleaning	42	4	10
,, Salaries	335	6	9
,, Telegraph, Telephone, and Messenger Call Expenses	22	17	8
,, Printing and Stationery	74	15	3
,, Postages	48	16	10
,, Newspapers for use of Members	9	7	10
,, Bank Charges	0	9	7
,, Insurance	4	17	3
,, Advertising	66	14	6
,, Repairs	1	13	0
,, Removals, &c., Expenses and Storage	33	13	3
,, Christmas Boxes	1	10	0
,, Excess of Payments over Receipts in respect of Year Book, 1908	15	18	8
,, Additions to Furniture	7	15	6
,, Typewriter	5	0	0
,, Payments in respect of legal expenses	13	11	0
,, Accountants' Charges	18	13	10
,, Debenture Interest	17	12	6
,, Debentures paid off	25	0	0
,, Sundry Expenses	10	9	2
	953	9	11
,, Balance carried forward:—			
Cash at Dec. 31, 1908.			
At Bankers £33 4 10			
In Hand 7 6 3			
	40	11	1
	£994	1	0

Balance Sheet, Dec. 31, 1908.

LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Debentures.						
Payable March 12, 1910.						
Per Balance Sheet Dec. 31, 1907	365	0	0			
,, Deduct.						
Debentures paid off during the year	25	0	0			
				340	0	0
,, Creditors.						
On Open Accounts	44	0	1			
For Debenture Interest	4	5	0			
				48	5	1
,, Subscriptions, 1909.						
Paid in Advance				26	18	6
,, Entrance Fees, 1909.						
Paid in Advance				1	5	0
,, Sundry Amounts.						
Received in respect of Year Book, 1909				13	19	8
				£430	8	3

ASSETS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Cash.						
At the London & County Banking Co., Ltd., 34, Henrietta-street, Covent Garden, W.C.	33	4	10			
In Hand	7	6	3			
				40	11	1
,, Furniture, Prints, Books, &c.						
Per Balance Sheet Dec. 31, 1907	275	16	8			
Additions during 1908	12	15	6			
	288	12	2			
Less Sales	6	1	9			
				253	13	5
Less 10% Depreciation						
,, *Excess of Liabilities over Assets*				136	3	9
				£430	8	3

I have examined the above balance-sheet and the receipts and payments account with the books and Vouchers of the Association, and certify their correctness therewith.

FRANCIS J. SAFFERY, F.C.A.,
Honorary Auditor.

14, Old Jewry Chambers, London, E.C.
Jan. 30, 1909.

The CHAIRMAN, rising amid cheers to propose that the annual report and accounts be taken as read, adopted, and entered on the minutes, referred first to the balance-sheet, and, in the course of his remarks, said: I think that what will interest you most is the condition of our finances. You know we have been through all sorts of difficulties, and the year through which we have passed has been a year of some bad luck. We got new premises, which seemed to please a great many people, but unluckily we had to move, and the removal and storing cost us £33 13s. 3d. I think you may congratulate yourselves that at length you have cut your cloth in accordance with the length of your coat. Last year's payments were £1,390. We have now cut that down to £953 odd. If you take from that the £33 for the removal thrust upon us, you will find that it comes down to £920. We have had to economise in small matters, and to consider every penny. Our previous secretary and ourselves did not quite agree on this matter, with the result that a little more was spent at the beginning of last year than was perhaps necessary. On the incoming of the new secretary we had a double audit, and this meant more expense. Many members of the council have worked indefatigably, and I hope you all appreciate that. The most satisfactory thing about the receipts is that last year 1,012 members paid their subscriptions, and this, including the thirty-two life members, totals 1,044. The entrance fees last year amounted to £40, and the reinstatement to £1 11s. It is pleasant, too, to note that several old members have come back. Mr. Granville Baker, by means of the Henry Chichester gift, has been good enough to give us £5. Then there were the telephone calls, which came to £5 9s. 4d. Captain Stratton gave us 10s. 6d., and Miss M. D. Webster £10 10s., as a contribution from a matinée, for which our warmest thanks are due. The members' subscriptions were £760 5s. 6d. And here let me impress upon you that membership is the handle that turns the wheel. It is in membership alone that any hope for the future rests. When you double your membership you will be solvent. We have received money and got money wherever we could. If you look at the balance-sheet you will see that we have kept our expenses within our income. The debenture debt is due next year, and it will have to be found somehow. We owe £340, and our assets amount to ourselves as a going concern, to the possible profit of the society, and to what we have—our pictures, photographs, furniture, and so forth. A slight increase in the membership would enable us to pay off the debentures. We ought to raise the amount in one afternoon. We owe £340, and if we were sold up we should probably have only £120 towards it. I strongly recommend to you to pass your balance-sheet in the way it is put before you.

A member asked whether, in view of the fact that nearly £26 were obtained by agency commission, and there was such a good membership, it was not possible to secure more money in this way.

The CHAIRMAN replied that the Theatrical Managers' Association would not agree to book through the agency. He certainly agreed that all agency work should be done through the Association, but they were not strong enough to enforce such a condition at present. The council would welcome any suggestion that would help the agency.

A lady member expressed the opinion that it would be a good idea to invite the managers to come back as members.

The CHAIRMAN replied that if anyone wanted the managers back again, a resolution on the subject could be brought forward, and if supported by a sufficient number of members the council would call a meeting to decide the point. Personally, he (the CHAIRMAN) would not serve for two minutes on the council with any manager in London.

The CHAIRMAN, in his address on the report, said: The work done by the council during the past year has been very often tedious and tiresome. We have discussed the contract between managers and actors. We approached the Theatrical Managers' Association with the object of discussing the standard contract, and they replied that they did not think they were in a position to discuss it with us. It is not our fault that we have failed, for we have tried. The council are now going forward with the skeleton of a standard contract before them, and they propose shortly to have that contract printed and to submit it to every member of the Association, and at last to have a contract for our bedrock. The standard contract is to carry a week of six performances, engagements being for tour, season, or run, the artist to be paid for all time devoted to the service of a manager and the right of the artist to a living wage. During the past year we met the representatives of the Variety Artists' Federation. They were men who knew what they wanted, and they wanted to know what we were going to say. I think we might do worse than take example from the enthusiasm of the V.A.F. We went with them to the County Council, and after they had interviewed that body, we had a long interview on the subject of the licensing of agents. A person named Norman—we know him as Norman Craig—was run in yesterday for alleged fraud in connection with agency business. The other day I cut out forty-three stage advertisements from the daily papers, and all said "Experience unnecessary." I will ask the ladies to assist the council by replying to these advertisements and interviewing the agents. In regard to Sunday performances, there rests upon our Association great blame for not having taken stronger action in the matter. And here I might say that the Play Actors will be a great help to us in the getting of money. Possibly they will give at least one matinée this year to help pay off the debentures. There was a time when an amalgamation between the Actors' Union and the Actors' Association was discussed. We are not divided by anything very terrible, and they have a certain number of members who might come over to us. I think that we could hold out the hand of friendship so as to bring them to us, and there may be a possibility of doing something more towards this. The council have now got the Association out of its financial difficulties. I have to ask you to adopt the report and balance-sheet for the past year.

Mr. C. F. COLLINGS, who seconded, said that they would get the £2 minimum wage and the standard contract when they went about the business in a proper way. In the matter of the agency, there had been too much jealousy amongst the members. He thought that the managers would prefer to deal through the Association, and many engagements had been already made through the Play Actors. He understood that the Play Actors were perfectly willing to give a matinée to assist the funds of the Association.

The motion was then put to the vote, and declared carried unanimously.

The SECRETARY read the names of those nominated for the twenty-five vacant seats on the council, as well as the names of their proposers and seconders. The names of the candidates are as follow:—Miss Marion Lind, Miss Agnes Imlay, Miss Rose Mathews, Miss Italia Conti, Miss Helen Haye, Mr. Fred Annerley, Mr. A. Applin, Mr. F. J. Arlton, Mr. C. Brooking, Mr. Cyril Cattley, Mr. Lewis Casson, Mr. C. F. Collings, Mr. Clive Currie, Mr. C. Derwent, Mr. C. Hayden Coffin, Mr. Gilbert Esmond, Mr. Richard Greene, Mr. J. Poole Kirkwood, Mr. Fowlass Llewellyn, Mr. Fred Morland, Mr. Robson Paige, Mr. Cecil Raleigh, Mr. Langford Reed, Mr. Sebastian Smith, and Mr. Jackson Wilcox.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the rule in regard to the election of the requisite number being carried out, he must declare that the persons whose names had been read out were elected.

The CHAIRMAN proposed a resolution as follows:—"That the Council be instructed to exert during the ensuing year their best endeavours to obtain for all members of our calling a payment where engagement of not less than £2 per week, a payment for rehearsals, and payment for all matinées." He did not think they need discuss the matter at length, as the subject had been spoken about so often. If they could not get the minimum wage by legislation, they would try to get it by pressure of numbers.

Miss LUCY SIBLEY (in the absence of Mr. Clarence Derwent), in seconding, remarked that she did not think anyone should belong to the Association who accepted a lower salary than £2 a week.

The motion, on being put to the meeting, was declared carried, with three dissentients.

Another resolution, proposed by the Chairman, was:—"That the council be instructed to exert during the ensuing year their best endeavours to support the Bill dealing with the licensing of theatres, &c., which has been brought before Parliament by Mr. Harcourt." The CHAIRMAN reminded the meeting of a case won by a manager who dodged his liability in a contract by pleading the illegality of sketches. If more freedom were allowed in regard to the playing of sketches, he believed that half of the music halls in the country would give dramatic entertainments, and that would be a means of inducing people to go more frequently to the theatres. He was of the opinion that theatres and music halls should be licensed as places where any kind of entertainment could be given. If the meeting supported the resolution, the council would be prepared to go before a Parliamentary Committee and speak in favour of the Bill.

Miss ROSE MATHEWS seconded, and the resolution was carried.

Miss LUCY SIBLEY proposed—"That in view of the fact that the debentures fall due in 1910, the council be instructed to take steps to pay off the debentures this year (1909) if possible." Miss SIBLEY stated that she felt very keenly on the matter. In the first place, they had to pay 5 per cent. interest, and in that way they had already paid upwards of £200. Last year they had to pay off one debenture (£25) out of their working capital. She did not think they would have the power of renewing the debentures, and they might have to pay any one of them at any given moment. Miss Marion Lind had suggested that they should have 340 collecting cards, and ask members to collect £1 each in small sums by, say, June, July, or August. The council would like to have the names of ladies who would undertake this work. Miss Lind herself had agreed to collect £2. Miss SIBLEY concluded by saying that she regretted she would not be able to sit on the council next year, as she would be away, but she would be very glad to take up office in the following year.

Mr. FRED. J. ARLTON, in seconding, appealed for a subscription of five shillings from each member, and, on a show of hands, forty members agreed to this suggestion. Mr. Arlton stated that the council would be glad to receive suggestions from the members as to how the money should be raised.

Miss MATHEWS thought that if the same energetic spirit were shown by the members of the Association as had been exhibited by the Play Actors, they would soon be clear of everything in the way of debt. Until they had got rid of their liabilities, they could not have a reserve fund, without which any body of actors was useless. The managers were powerful because they had money behind them.

Miss MAY WARLEY, of the Actors' Orphanage Fund, said that she would be very pleased to assist in organising an entertainment to raise the necessary cash to pay the debentures.

Mr. CECIL BROOKING also spoke on the subject, pointing out that the funds of the Association could not be used to promote such an entertainment, but that fresh funds must be supplied for the purpose.

The resolution was then carried.

Mr. ROBSON PAIGE proposed, and Mr. CECIL BROOKING seconded a vote of thanks to and the re-election of Messrs. J. H. Mote and Son, the honorary solicitors.

Mr. ARLTON proposed and Mr. FRED GROVE seconded a vote of thanks and the re-election of the staff of physicians, surgeons, and doctors, Dr. A. E. Harris (the honorary medical officer of health), Mr. Ernest A. E. Woodrow, J. P. (honorary consulting architect), and Mr. Francis J. Saffery (the honorary auditor).

A vote of thanks to Messrs. Spiers and Pond for the use of the Victoria Hall was proposed by Mr. CECIL BROOKING and seconded by Mr. C. F. COLLINGS.

The CHAIRMAN put all these votes to the meeting, and they were carried with enthusiasm.

On the proposition of Mr. H. W. MOTE, the Chairman was accorded a hearty vote of thanks, and Mr. RALEIGH, in replying, made a most spirited and stirring appeal to the meeting to procure new members.

At the conclusion of the meeting a total sum of £13 15s. was promised towards the Debenture Fund, the subscribers being Mr. Cecil Raleigh, Miss Agnes Imlay, Miss R. Mayne Young, Mr. Fred Grove, Miss Rose Mathews, Mr. Cecil Brooking, Mr. E. Morgan, Mr. Gilbert Esmond, Mr. Adnam Sprange, Miss Adeline Bourne, Mr. J. J. Bartlett, Miss Eugenie Kemble, Mr. Anton Laing, Mr. Arthur Curtis, Miss Margaret Murch, Mr. Edwin Barwick, Miss Ella Dixon, Miss Adah Barton, Mr. Cyril Cattley, Mr. Percy Crawford, Mr. Percy Gelderd, Mr. Dennis Cleugh, Miss May Warley, Mr. Sidney Keith, Miss Beatrice Mervyn, Mr. Sydney Phelps, Miss Ina Rozant, Miss Bertha Francis, Mr. E. A. Edwards, Mr. Forrester Harvey, Miss D. Gelstone, Miss Joan Dills, Mr. Clive Currie, Miss G. Scaife, Mrs. Osborn, Mr. Sydney Compton, Miss Ethel Russell Mr. Reeve Denbigh, Miss Lillian Tweed, Mr. C. T. Chapman, Miss B. Chester, Miss Vere Gerald, Mr. F. J. Arlton, Miss E. Gilbart, Mr. Edwin Watson, and Mr. Robson Paige.

A committee meeting on Monday, Feb. 8, was held, to deal with matters in connection with the general meeting, and instructions were given to the secretary to call a meeting of the council on Wednesday, Feb. 10, at 2.30 p.m.

ACTORS' UNION.

The usual committee meeting of the above Union took place on Friday last at the offices at 49, Bedford-street, Strand, and the following were present:—Messrs. George H. Child (in the chair), Robert M. Taylor, Henry Bedford, Frank Gerald, Walter L. Rignold, Cecil G. Calvert, John W. Braithwaite, Langford Reed, James English, D. Lewis-Mannering, H. Tripp-Edgar, and Kenneth Blackmore (secretary).

Communications were received from Messrs. Fred F. Loyd, Jerrold Heather, Paul Lovett, J. Hastings Batson, and Edward Chester.

Mr. Calvert proposed and Mr. R. M. Taylor seconded that the annual general meeting shall be held in the second week of July, in accordance with Rule 9 in the book of rules.

The secretary was instructed to send the details of a case of a member to the hon. solicitor for his advice.

Three new members were elected.

The secretary was instructed to write to the sanitary authorities in regard to the insanitary condition of a theatre.

Mr. H. Tripp-Edgar gave notice that he will, at the annual general meeting, move a resolution raising the entrance fee of the Union from 2s. 6d. to 5s.

At the Vaudeville Theatre on Monday, Feb. 8, 1909, a one-act play, entitled *The Chaperone* by Wallett Waller and Charles Trodde, was produced for copyright purposes.

"THE DASHING LITTLE DUKE."

A Play, with Music, in Three Acts, by Seymour Hicks, Music by Frank E. Tours, Lyrics by Adrian Ross, Produced at the Theatre Royal, Nottingham, on Monday, Feb. 8.

Chevalier de Matignon ..	MR. C. HAYDEN COFFIN
Baron de Bellechasse	MR. SAM WALSH
Lieut. Armand Soliveau	MR. FRANK WILSON
Officer of Dragoons	MR. HENRY FRANKISS
Dubois	MR. LAWRENCE CAIRD
Merlac	MR. FREDERICK VIGAY
Lepas	MR. M. PROTTI
Moulinet	MR. HUGHES CROISE
Fleury	MR. CHARLES LE GALLEY
Caniffe	MR. ROLAND CHESTER
Abbé de la Touche	MR. COURTICE POUNDS
Duchess de Burgoyne	MISS LOUIE POUNDS
Duchess de Noailles	MISS MAUD MILTON
Diane de Noailles	MISS ELIZABETH FIRTH
Cesarine de Noce	MISS CORALIE BLYTHE
Baronne de Bellechasse ..	MISS FLORENCE WOOD
Geneviève Fauvepré	MISS MAY KENNEDY
Juliet Lanbriet	MISS DORIS STOCKER
Antoinette de Preselles	MISS RENA GOLDIE
Marie d'Alençon	MISS MARIE BRENDA
Célestine Gallifet	MISS CARINA CLIFF
Claire Viennez	MISS MABEL WATSON
Madeleine de Mangars	MISS ROSIE CHESNEY
Violette des Vaux	MISS DENNIE GRAHAM
Cecile Grand Vivier	MISS NELLIE PRYOR
Elsie Gautier	MISS MILLICENT FIELD
Hélène de Laundal ..	MISS GWENDOLINE D'ARCY
Thérèse Ballairs	MISS EILEEN CHISHOLM
Duc de Richelieu	MISS ELLALINE TERRISS

The Dashing Little Duke was presented on Monday last amid the greatest enthusiasm ever accorded a play here, and the curtain descended on a scene of the wildest excitement, in which the radiantly happy hero, Miss Ellaline Terriss, was almost hidden by flowers. Mr. Seymour Hicks was compelled to express his thanks for the splendid send-off given to his play, and hoped that his friends in London would next week be as delighted and as generous in their tributes of praise. Scenically the production is magnificent. The final act, showing the garden of Richelieu's house at St. Cloud, has a glorious wealth of colouring, and its picturesque beauty is enhanced by the dainty costumes of the period. The music of Mr. Frank E. Tours (who is conducting in person this week) is both bright and tuneful, several of the numbers being of conspicuous merit, notably Diane's song, "Sundial," "Nobody cares for me" by the Duc, "Lisette" by the Abbé, and "Women, what wonders you are" by the Chevalier, and the dramatic scena in the first act for Diane. Mr. Tours deserves all praise for his artistic work. The story of love, jealousy, and pride, and the final reconciliation of the Duc and Diane—prolonged through the intrigues of the would-be lover, the Chevalier—is capitally told, and sparkles with *bon mots* in Mr. Hicks' own style. One sees at first a certain resemblance to *Le Petit Duc* of Meilhac and Halevy and Lecocq, produced in Paris in 1873, inasmuch as the Duc in each case is supposed to leave his bride directly after the marriage ceremony; both are officers of Dragoons, and in each there is a fencing ballet. But whatever may be the similarity existing, Mr. Hicks is to be heartily congratulated on the originality of his treatment of so admirable a theme. The Duc de Richelieu, a warm-hearted, but foolishly presumptuous boy of nineteen, marries Diane de Noailles in the first act. Clause 5 in the marriage contract stipulates that at the end of the ceremony the Duc shall immediately leave for Brittany, there to study for a year with his tutor, the Abbé de la Touche. This condemnation to banishment has escaped the notice of the too-confiding youth, who thoughtlessly boasts of having compromised the Duchess de Burgoyne, for which act of folly his mother-in-law insists on Clause 5 being carried out. The high-spirited Duc declines to fall in with the arrangement. The passage of arms between the two is amusingly written, but the scene is suddenly turned into one of pathos when the Duc is callously told that his wife despises him as a foolish, self-sufficient boy. His troubles are further complicated by the entry of the Duchess de Burgoyne, who publicly ridicules him, amidst the jeers of the crowd, by presenting a wedding gift of sugar-plums, instead of, as expected, a captaincy of Dragoons. The Duc, now a pitiful little figure of dejection and crushed hopes, has his cup of bitterness filled to the brim when Diane, in a fine vocal scena, denounces his folly, and bids him return to his toys and sugar-plums. Stung to the quick, he easily falls a victim to the schemes of the Chevalier, who, being himself enamoured of Diane, seeks to compromise the Duc in her eyes. To this end he urges the Duc to treat disdain with disdain, and suggests that "there is more than one woman in the world." Such a suggestion fits in exactly with the present mood of the Duc, and in a capitally-written duet, teeming with *jeu de mots*, he issues invitations to a number of the fair sex to visit him.

When the second act opens he is a prisoner in his own house, through the influence of his incensed mother-in-law, and becomes involved in an imbroglio through a visit from the Baronne de Bellechasse and Césarine, the *fiancée* of the Chevalier, who are followed by the Baron and the Chevalier. High words follow, and arrangements are made for a couple of duels. These take place at St. Cloud during the third act. A fine display of fencing between the Duc and Matignon naturally ends in the discomfiture of Matignon, who then swears eternal friendship. The encounter with the Baron lends itself to a piece of buffoonery, which is provocative of hearty laughter. Diane now discovers that she really loves her husband, and the curtain falls, leaving the happy pair to commence their honeymoon in peace.

In the character of the Duc de Richelieu, Miss Ellaline Terriss was perfectly irresistible. Looking like a delicate bit of Dresden china in her handsome dresses, she moved through the piece with charming archness and naïvete, and sent the audience into transports of delight by her versatile and vivacious performance. In her passionate scene with the Duchess, and later with Diane, Miss Terriss gave a glimpse of dramatic intensity that calls for unqualified praise. The letter-writing duet with Matignon was amusingly rendered, and the song "Nobody cares for me" was made doubly attractive by white doves circling round the stage and perching on her shoulders. Mr. C. Hayden Coffin sang with taste, and acted the part of the Chevalier de Matignon with his wonted ease and refinement. As the Abbé de la Touche Mr. Courtice Pounds used his sweet and well cultured voice with excellent effect in a song that will quickly become a universal favourite, entitled "Lisette," and the laughing duet with Mr. Coffin brought down the house. In the rôle of Diane de Noailles Miss Elizabeth Firth earned distinct favour. She has a brilliant soprano voice, and her dramatic rendering of a trying scena caused a spontaneous demonstration of appreciation. She was no less successful in the winning little song "Sundial." As the Duchess de Burgoyne Miss Louie Pounds moved through her part with regal distinction and sang acceptably. Miss Maud Milton was admirably tyrannical as the Duchess de Noailles; Miss Coralie Blythe gave a pleasing impersonation of Césarine, and Miss Florence Wood was legitimately humorous as the Baronne de Bellechasse. Mr. Henry Frankiss supplied a vigorous rendering of the Dragoon's song; Mr. Sam Walsh made a droll Baron de Bellechasse; and Mr. Frank Wilson achieved success as Soliveau. Mention should be made of the "Fencing Song," given with excellent care by Mr. Courtice Pounds, during which twelve charmingly attired young "bloods" made feints and passes in quite the approved style.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

MR. TREE, on his recent visit to Egypt with Mr. L. N. Parker, in search of local colour for his new play, inspected the Great Pyramid, the Sphinx, and the ruins of Luxor, and also rode on a camel. He describes the movement as resembling that of a ship at sea. The new play will deal with life in modern Egypt. Mr. Tree will sustain an original part at one of the performances at the Afternoon Theatre, which has been so successful at His Majesty's under the management of Mr. Whelan and Mr. Dana, and at which Mr. Forbes Robertson will be seen on the 18th inst. Mr. Robertson will appear as Captain Clement Yule in Mr. Henry James's comedy *The High Bid*, which has not yet been performed in London; and as Jacques Berner in M. Tiercelin's one-act play *A Soul's Flight*, hitherto known as *The Sacrament of Judas*. Miss Gertrude Elliott, Mr. Ian Robertson, and other well-known artists will support Mr. Forbes Robertson on these occasions.

SIR SQUIRE BANCROFT gave his reading of Dickens's "Christmas Carol" in the new Memorial Hall at Eton on Saturday. The Headmaster of the College, the Rev. the Hon. E. Lyttelton, presided.

MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER'S cast at his revival of *The Prisoner of Zenda*, Mr. Edward Rose's adaptation of Mr. Anthony Hope's popular novel, at the St. James's Theatre on Thursday, will include, besides himself, Mr. Frank Cooper, Mr. Walter Maclean, Mr. Reginald Owen, Mr. E. Vivian Reynolds, Mr. Ashton Pearse, Miss Lydia Bilbrooke, Mr. Alfred Brydone, Mr. Vernon Steel, Mr. Henderson Bland, Mr. Ben Webster, Mr. F. J. Arlton, Mr. Henry Kitts, Mr. Rohan Clensy, Mr. Sidney Hamilton, Mr. F. Sinclair, Miss Stella Patrick Campbell, Miss Frances Dillom, and Miss Beatrix de Burgh.

MR. H. B. IRVING'S very fine performance of Hamlet at the Shaftesbury is drawing such full houses that he will give an extra matinée of Shakespeare's tragedy on Thursday. Mr. Irving will revive *Charles I.* on Monday, with himself as the King, Miss Dorothea Baird as Queen Henrietta Maria, and Mr. Frank Tyars as Oliver Cromwell—a most attractive combination.

MISS ADELINE BOURNE writes to say that more than four members of the Actresses' Franchise League were at the meeting on the 5th inst. Among the members present were Miss Gertrude Elliott, Mrs. Madeline Lucette Ryley, Mrs. R. C. Carton, Mrs. Frederick Mouillot, Miss Janette Steer, Miss Marianne Caldwell, Miss Weeden, Miss Helen Elmar, Miss Nora Hastings, Mrs. George Giddens, Miss Kathleen Herbert, Miss Gillian Scaife, Miss Rose Mathews, Miss Helen Tytler, Miss Decima Moore (who kindly paid for Clifford's Inn Hall), Miss Seruya, Miss Lillah McCarthy (who "received" for the League), and Miss Edith Craig (who took the chair), besides many others. Mrs. Marion Holmes, of the Women's Freedom League, made a brilliant speech.

MR. MARTIN HARVEY, who has just been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, recently delivered his very interesting address, entitled "Character and the Actor," at the Montgomery Hall, Sheffield. There was a large audience, presided over by the Rev. William Morrison, a well-known Sheffield minister. The lecture was given in connection with the British Empire Shakespeare Society, in which Mr. Harvey takes the keenest interest.

MR. BOURCHIER, owing to the success of *Samson* at the Garrick Theatre, has found it necessary to cancel his annual visit to the provinces this autumn.

MR. LEWIS WALLER has decided to end the run of *The Chief of Staff* to-night, and he will (by arrangement with Mr. Tom B. Davis) revive *Monsieur Beaucaire* for a special fortnight, commencing on Monday. This in turn will be followed on or about March 3 by an important revival of *The Three Musketeers*. For the special fortnight of *Monsieur Beaucaire* Mr. Waller has secured the services of Miss Grace Lane, the original representative in England of Lady Mary Carlyle.

MESSRS. SMITH AND CARPENTER'S revival of *Hamlet* at the Lyceum Theatre on the 9th prox. is being looked forward to with keen interest, and the performances of Mr. Matheson Lang as Hamlet, Miss Hutin Britton as Ophelia, Mr. Halliwell Hobbes as Horatio, Mr. Lauderdale Maitland as Laertes, Mr. Edwin FitzGerald as Polonius, Mr. Eric Mayne as the King, and Mr. Frederick Ross as the Ghost are eagerly anticipated. The period selected is the thirteenth century, and the scenery will be characteristic of the age. Mr. H. Sullivan-Brooks is composing the incidental music. The pantomime ends its run on Saturday.

MR. SEYMOUR HICKS'S new musical play *The Dashing Little Duke*, the music of which is by Frank Tours, had a very enthusiastic reception at Nottingham on Monday. Miss Ellaline Terriss's delightful rendering of the leading female rôle sent the audience into ecstasies, and she had twenty-two calls before the curtain. The spell the popular artist weaves is evidently as potent in the provinces as it is in the metropolis.

MISS TERRISS has found new worlds to conquer. Ten "Ellaline Terriss Soup Kitchens" were opened in London on Tuesday, and over a thousand hungry little children had a good dinner. Miss Terriss's kind heart suggested that something should be done for the school children at present left dinnerless, and the honorary manager of the scheme, Mr. Ralph Hall Caine, son of Mr. Hall Caine, utilised existing machinery, and establishes the kitchens at the various depôts of the London City Mission. Mr. Hall Caine's secretary, Mr. Ife, is personally investigating the ten centres, and finds that the movement was really necessary. The supporters of the scheme include the Duke of Westminster, the Duke of Sutherland, Lord Strathcona, Lord Iveagh, Sir Clifton Robinson, the Duke of Norfolk, and Mr. W. A. Horn. Mr. Seymour Hicks is giving a matinée on behalf of the fund.

THE annual general meeting of the Thespids Cricket Club was held at the Green Room Club on the 4th inst., when the hon. treasurer (Mr. Ernest Cameron) was able to announce a very successful season last year, there being now a substantial balance on the right side. The club is growing rapidly in popularity, and numbers amongst its members nearly all the leading theatrical cricketers, many of whom are first-class players. Mr. George Alexander was re-elected president; Mr. Aubrey Smith, captain; Mr. Ernest Cameron, hon. secretary and treasurer combined; and Mr. Nye Chart, hon. match secretary. Fixtures have been arranged for the ensuing season with leading clubs, and the beautiful ground at Malden has again been secured for the Sunday matches.

IT having been suggested that a Lawn Tennis Club should be started in conjunction with the Cricket Club, Mr. Cameron will be glad to receive the names of any members of the profession who would like to support this proposal. His address is 4, Panton-street, Haymarket, S.W.

MR. J. BANNISTER HOWARD'S health has for some time past caused much anxiety to his relations and friends. For the last two months he has been suffering from acute gout in the head and neck, and on the urgent advice of his physicians he left London last Tuesday, accompanied by Mrs. Howard, for a complete rest. All communications during his absence should be addressed to his partner, Mr. G. B. Lambert, at 15, Clifford's Inn, Fleet-street, E.C.

No testimony is needed for the enormous amount of good work which the Actors' Benevolent Fund does during a year. The recent death of an actress brings this fact very forcibly to mind. The actress and her mother had received a weekly allowance from the fund which has totalled up to the large sum of £1,100. The actors' Saturday lists are going round, and we ask, on behalf of the fund, that liberal response may be made so that increasing benefits may be meted out to those who fall by the way.

MISS EVELYN MILLARD'S cast of Mr. Robert Hichens's play *The Real Woman*, which she will produce at the Criterion Theatre on the 23rd inst., will include, besides herself, Miss Annie Hughes, Miss Kate Cutler, Mrs. Harry Cane, Mr. Allan Aynesworth, Mr. Herbert Waring, Mr. Henry Ainley, Mr. C. Leveson-Lane, Mr. Lytton Grey, Mr. Heath Havilland, Mr. Horton Cooper, Mr. Frank H. Danby, Mr. D. H. Keith, and Mr. Geoffrey Douglas.

MR. FREDERICK HARRISON, when he revives *She Stoops to Conquer* at the Haymarket on the 20th inst., will include in the cast of the fine old comedy Mr. H. Bunston, Mr. E. Holman Clark, Mr. Robert Loraine, Mr. Louis Goodrich, Mr. Edward Rigby, Mr. Gilbert Porteous, Mr. John Castle, Mr. H. Gerrish, Mr. J. Cobb, Mr. Reginald Eyre, Mr. Harry Norton, Mr. Charles Fancourt, Mr. George N. Wallace, Mr. Harry Siebert, Master Ivan Vernon, Mrs. A. B. Tapping, Miss Beatrice Ferrar, and Miss W. Beach. With Miss Ethel Irving as Kate Hardcastle and Mr. George Giddens as Tony Lumpkin the performance should be most interesting.

MR. FORBES ROBERTSON will deliver an address on Shakespeare at the celebration of the poet's birthday on April 23 in Southwark Cathedral. There will also be a short introductory service by the Bishop of Southwark, and an extract from Shakespeare's works set to music will be sung, with hymns by Gibbons, Ravenscroft, and others. The floral decorations have been entrusted to Miss Ellen Terry, who will use the spring flowers mentioned in connection with Perdita and Ophelia. The Prince and Princess Alexander of Teck hope to attend, and a space will be reserved for members of the profession. The collection will be devoted to erecting in the cathedral a permanent monument of Shakespeare.

AT St. Peter's Church, St. James's, on Monday the marriage of Mr. Langhorne Burton and Miss Marjorie Chard was celebrated. Although, owing to the fact that arrangements had been altered on account of the bride and bridegroom leaving earlier for Australia than had been anticipated, it had been intended to have the ceremony as quiet as possible, long before the appointed hour crowds of friends and well-wishers of the happy pair had assembled in the church. The service was conducted by the Rev. Golding Bird, vicar of the parish, assisted by the Rev. Alec Lloyd. Both Mr. Burton and Miss Chard had until recently been playing on tour in *The Flag Lieutenant*, Mr. Burton appearing in Mr. Maude's part and Miss Chard in Miss Braithwaite's. A very pretty tribute—amongst the many presents they received—came from the whole of their old company in the shape of a beautiful little travelling clock with an inscription:—"To our dear comrades, Dickie and Marjorie." Mr. Burton, who was under contract to go to Australia as leading man to Miss Nellie Stewart for her next season, left with his wife, who was also under contract, on Thursday morning in order to catch the Asturias at Marseilles on Friday.

MISS MAY HOLFORD BERINGER, daughter of Mrs. Oscar Beringer and elder sister of Esmé and Vera, was married last Saturday, at St. Luke's, Chelsea, to Mr. Leslie Waller, son of the late Edmund Waller, of China. Miss Beringer has been on the stage for some years, her last appearance being at the Garrick Theatre in *Mrs. Bailey's Debts*. The honeymoon is being spent in Cornwall. Miss Beringer, on her marriage is relinquishing the stage.

MR. CHARLES H. E. BROOKFIELD has sent to the West End theatrical managers particulars of a system of life assurance specially adapted to meet the requirements of actors. By this scheme the actor, while in an engagement, permits a small percentage of his salary to be invested on his behalf on the optional premium system in life assurance. At the end of the engagement, even if no further premiums are paid, the actor has insured for a certain sum either for the benefit of his family at his death or of himself in his old age.

MR. HAROLD WAGNER begs to thank Mr. Percy Broadhead for the offer of the resident-management of the Junction Theatre, Manchester.

MR. GERALD LAWRENCE and Miss Fay Davis will commence on April 12 a series of Shakespearean performances at the Court Theatre. *As You Like It* will be the first play presented. Matinées will be given each day and evening performances on Saturdays. Instead of scenery, the stage will be hung with tapestries.

THE Ilkley Urban District Council have completed arrangements for the engagement of some of the more popular touring companies during the forthcoming season. Mr. W. S. Bellerby, musical director to the Council, has been appointed local manager for the letting of the King's Hall on shares.

"BREWSTER'S MILLIONS," as played by Mr. Percy Hutchison and his clever company, still continues to draw crowded houses in every town visited. Although the Hutchison management have toured something like 200 companies, many of which have included stars, the receipts of these companies have been beaten everywhere by this popular success from the Hicks Theatre.

A MEETING of the committee of the Managers' Club was held on the 5th inst. There were present Mr. J. B. Howard (in the chair), Mr. G. B. Lambert, Mr. F. Weathersby, Mr. C. Barth, Mr. M. V. Leveaux, Mr. Muskerry-Tilson (hon. solicitor), and Mr. M. Martin (secretary). The following gentlemen were duly elected members of the club:—Mr. E. Taylor-Platt, Mr. Dudley Causton, Mr. Chas. Baldwin, and Mr. Horace E. J. Nation.

A MEETING of the committee of the Touring Managers' Association, Ltd., was held at the Managers' Club, Savoy Mansions, Strand, on the 5th inst. There were present Mr. J. B. Howard (in the chair), Mr. C. Barth, Mr. M. V. Leveaux, Mr. G. B. Lambert, Mr. F. Weathersby, Mr. Muskerry-Tilson (hon. solicitor), and Mr. M. Martin (secretary). A letter from the Railway Clearing House, intimating that the privilege of travelling at three-quarter fare could not be extended to managers when visiting their companies, was read. A sub-committee was appointed to co-operate with the Theatrical Managers' Association to go into the question of cinematograph performances given in dangerous buildings.

MR. PERCY HUTCHISON will produce on Monday next at Hull, in commemoration of the 200th performance of *Brewster's Millions* by the Hutchison company, a new one-act play, entitled *The Happiest Woman on Earth*, by Rosmary Rees, author of *Her Dearest Friend*. The cast will include Miss Sybil Walsh, Miss May Seton, Mr. Charles Esdale, and Mr. A. P. Kaye.

MR. GEORGE EDWARDES'S company in *The Cingalee* will be at the Crystal Palace Theatre next week. There will be performances each evening at 7.45, and a matinée on Wednesday at 3 p.m. Promenade concerts will be given every evening next week at six at the Crystal Palace except Saturday. The artists will be:—Monday, Miss Winifred Burke and Mr. Ernest Pike; Tuesday, Miss Laura Evans Williams and Mr. Robert Carr; Wednesday, Miss Violet Love and Mr. Lyell Johnstone; Thursday, Miss Etionette Murton and Mr. Tom Clare (musical sketches); and Friday, Miss Lilt Grahame and Mr. Philip Ritte. Mr. Walter W. Hedgcock will be the accompanist, and the Crystal Palace Military Band will play, conducted by Mr. Herbert Godfrey.

THE Prince and Princess of Wales visited the Comedy Theatre on Tuesday and witnessed the performance of *Penelope*.

CAPTAIN KELSEY has opened at 20, Cecil-court, Charing Cross-road—a few yards from Wyndham's Theatre, where *An Englishman's Home* is being produced—a recruiting office for the Territorials. Up to Tuesday night he had recruited twenty-one men, and had received numerous letters and telegrams from men announcing their intention to enrol themselves.

MR. BANNER, representing the Great Western Railway at Cardiff, arranged with Mr. Leslie, manager for Mr. Chas. M. Bestic's *Flower Girl* company, to run a special corridor train from Cardiff to Merthyr last Sunday. This was the first non-stop train (special) run on this route by the Great Western Railway, in the record time of fifty-five minutes, thus avoiding the Taff Vale Railway.

AN echo of Christmas reaches us from across the Atlantic in the announcement of the marriage of Miss Rose Dupré (Countess de Monti) and Mr. Frederick Sargent, which took place in December last at the City Hall, New York. Both were members of the Otis Skinner company, under Mr. Charles Frohman's management, last season, when they renewed an acquaintance begun some years back, with this auspicious sequel. Mr. Sargent, who left England for the States some three seasons ago, is now playing Commander Max Gilet, the juvenile lead, in *The Honour of the Family*, the play in which Mr. Otis Skinner, starring under Mr. Chas. Frohman's direction, has been so enormously successful. Their prospects in America are such that it seems likely that both Mr. and Mr. Sargent will, for the present at all events, remain in the States.

MR. WILLIE SCOTT, who has been re-engaged by Miss Maud Hildyard to play his old part of Bilby in *The Great Awakening*, has had an offer from Mr. Dallas Welford for America.

MISS LULU VALLI, the principal boy in the pantomime at the Kennington Theatre, after singing "A white man" on Wednesday, called upon the audience not to be content to sit and applaud, but to be up and act like men. Colonel Whitehead, of the 21st Battalion (Surrey Rifles), then stepped upon the stage and, surrounded by his officers, made an appeal for recruits. Non-commissioned officers went round the theatre recruiting.

MR. J. L. MOLLOY, the well-known song writer, who died on Monday, was the eldest son of Kedo Molloy, of Cornolore, King's County, Ireland, and was born in 1837. He was educated at the Catholic University of Ireland, where he graduated M.A. He came to England, and in 1864 was called to the English Bar. He became a member of the South-Eastern Circuit and of the Brighton Sessions. He was for some time secretary to the late Sir John Holker, the Attorney-General. His songs are full of melody, and he also wrote a book of Irish ballads and two operettas. "Thady O'Flynn," "Darby and Joan," "Love's old sweet song," and "To-morrow will be Friday" are still popular both in public and private.

"THE CHIEF OF STAFF" having failed to attract at the Lyric, Mr. Lewis Waller and Mr. Tom B. Davis will put on *Monsieur Beaucaire* for a fortnight, commencing on Monday. Mr. Waller will be seen in the title-part, Mr. Franklin Dyall as the Duke of Winterset, Mr. Gayer Mackay as Bantison, Mr. A. E. George as Rakell, Mr. Herbert Jarman as Beau Nash, Mr. S. B. Brereton as Captain Badger, Mr. Shiel Barry as the Marquis de Meripoix, Miss Grace Lane as Lady Mary Carlyle, Miss Madge Titheradge as Lucy Rellerton, and Miss Gwendolyn Floyd as Mrs. Mabsley. The revival will be followed on March 3 by the reproduction of Mr. Henry Hamilton's version of *The Three Musketeers*. In this Mr. Waller will appear as D'Artagnan, Miss Evelyn D'Alroy as the Queen, Miss Auriol Lee as Miladi, and Miss Madge Titheradge as Gabrielle.

MR. ROBERT RIVERS, of *The Gay Gordons* (N.) company, has been taken ill with rheumatic fever and is in the Royal County Hospital, York, where he will have to remain presumably for some time. He will be grateful if any friends coming to York will go and see him. The authorities of the hospital have accorded permission for him to receive visitors any day between 2 and 4 p.m.

RECOVERY of the war episode M.S. and other papers stolen from Mr. and Mrs. John D. Saunders's (Miss Nora de Winton) dressing-room last week seems somewhat doubtful at present. However, Miss de Winton and Mr. Saunders have not lost hope. The sketch was to have been known as *God Save the King; or, The Two Lieutenants*, but the first title having already been claimed, the author is coining a new one.

THE highly successful run of the pantomime at the Broadway Theatre concluded brilliantly last Saturday night, when an enthusiastic audience presented the principals with flowers in abundance. Mr. Bertram Iles, the genial and popular resident-manager, returned thanks in neat and appropriate terms, and announced that the subject of the next pantomime was already decided on.

MR. EDOUARD SILAS, the Dutch composer, pianist, organist, and teacher, who died in London on Monday at the age of eighty-one, was born at Amsterdam on Aug. 22, 1827. He settled in England in 1850, made his first appearance in this country at Liverpool, and afterwards played in London at John Ella's Musical Union. In 1863 his Oratorio, *Joash*, was produced at the Norwich Festival, and in the same year his Symphony in A was brought forward by the Musical Society of London, and repeated in the course of the ensuing season at the Crystal Palace Saturday Concerts, where also his "Fantasie" and "Elégie," for pianoforte and orchestra, were produced, under Sir August Mann's direction, the one in 1865 the other in 1873. Silas wrote an English opera, *Nitocris*, and a musical comedietta, *Love's Dilemma*, and was a teacher of harmony at the Guildhall School of Music and the London Academy of Music. The funeral took place on Friday. Sir Charles Santley was too ill to attend, but had four masses said for Silas's soul. His daughter, Miss Julia Listelle, is a well-known actress.

MR. FRED W. CARPENTER desires to correct the statement made by Mr. Mostyn Pigott in his discourse to the Playgoers' Club on Sunday night that "the largest queues were always found waiting for the poorest plays." Mr. Carpenter's experience at the Lyceum is entirely in the opposite direction, for the largest queues were for *Romeo and Juliet* last spring, and he quite expects that considerable numbers of people will often be seen waiting for the coming production of *Hamlet*.

SCENES of almost frantic enthusiasm witnessed the conclusion of *The House that Jack Built* at the Marlborough Theatre last Saturday night, when after the curtain fell it had to be raised time after time. The ladies were absolutely deluged with flowers and presents. Miss Maidie Scott, Miss Winifred Ward, Miss Madoline Rees, Mr. Fred Emney, Little Zola, and Sam Poluski, jun., made farewell speeches, and vociferous calls compelled the appearance of Mr. Fred Karno, proprietor and producer of the pantomime. Great cheers greeted the successful manager, and in a short speech he expressed his thanks, and then the huge audience joined in singing "For he's a jolly good fellow," followed by "Auld Lang Syne."

A NUMBER of interesting presentations also marked the conclusion of the piece, and gold-mounted walking-sticks, inscribed with the message "As a slight token of regard from the 'boys' and 'girls' of *The House that Jack Built*," were presented to Mr. W. H. Morgan (producer), Mr. H. J. Brett (business-manager), Mr. Dudley Powell (musical director), Mr. J. Fletch (stage manager), and Mr. H. Wellesley (assistant stage manager).

MISS MAIDIE SCOTT presented a handsome walking-stick to Miss Winifred Ward, a gold watch-chain to Mr. Wellesley, and a silver-mounted bâton to Mr. Dudley Powell, and Miss Ward's gift to Miss Scott was a very fine manicure set.

ANOTHER interesting event of the evening was the presentation of an illuminated address to Mr. H. J. Brett by Mr. J. Murray Herriot on behalf of Mr. Brett's numerous friends at Richmond, as a token of their esteem and as a memento of his success while resident manager of the Richmond Hippodrome.

MR. J. MURRAY HERRIOT, resident business manager of the Marlborough Theatre, had a very gratifying moment last Saturday night, when he received a most kindly letter, accompanied by a very handsome present, from Mr. Karno, thanking him for his untiring efforts towards making the pantomime such a success. This makes a pleasing sequence to Mr. Herriot's successive seasons at the Marlborough, as last year Mr. J. B. Mulholland, at the conclusion of *Little Red Riding Hood*, also gave him a splendid testimonial and present, while the preceding year Messrs. Buchanan and Stevens, of *Cinderella* pantomime, paid him a similar compliment.

MR. BASSETT ROE, so long associated with Mr. and Mrs. Kendal, has been engaged to appear in his original part of Athos in Mr. Henry Hamilton's *Three Musketeers*, with Mr. Lewis Waller, at the Lyric Theatre.

MR. FRANK CURZON, in order to meet the great demand for seats for *An Englishman's Home* at Wyndham's Theatre, has decided to give two special Thursday matinées on Feb. 18 and 25. These Thursday matinées will be in addition to the usual Wednesday and Saturday matinées.

THE visit of *The Gay Gordons* to the Shakespeare Theatre next week will give a rare treat to local playgoers. The company has been engaged and rehearsed by Mr. Seymour Hicks personally, and the scenery and dresses are identical with those in the original London production. Mr. Seymour Hicks's company is a very strong one, including such talented artists as Miss Gladys Archbutt and Mr. Frank Lincoln, Mr. Tom Graves, Mr. Mervyn Dene, Mr. Ernest Ruston, Mr. Edward Naimby, Miss Emily Mellon, Miss Mabel Dent, Miss Ida Laurie, and Miss Norah Guiness.

THE final competition for Free Open Scholarships in the Royal College of Music took place on Feb. 11, 1909. The following are the names of the successful candidates:—Pianoforte: Taffs, Joseph A., London; Motto, Josephine, London. Singing: Moon, Nora, Morley; Ryan, Catherine, Kilrush; Macklin, George, Carnarvon; Ireland, Joseph K., Burton Salmon. Organ: Walker, Edward H. S., Sydenham; Midgley, Albert, Perth. Violin: Cullerne, Frank H., Hereford. Violoncello: Snowden, John K., London; Bartlett, Ellen M., Exeter. Clarinet: Draper, Mendelssohn P., Penarth. Hautboy: Murphy, Francis, London. Horn: Probin, Frank P., Birmingham. Composition: Toye, Edward G., London. The Pauer Memorial Exhibition (£7 10s.) for the student of at least one year's standing in the College who attains the highest position among the proxime for the pianoforte was awarded to Moses, Rosaline E., Cape Town.

"PETE" is breaking records all along the line. The extraordinary scenes at Dalston last week have been repeated this week at Stratford, and Mr. Fred Fredericks and Messrs. Smith and Carpenter are shaking hands over the success of the drama.

THE Strand seems to be as dangerous to the pedestrian as it was in the time when the dark arches of the Adelphi harboured footpads and thieves, though skill has taken the place of force in their methods. Miss Isabel Grey was on Wednesday last relieved of her purse in broad daylight while quietly walking along the Strand.

THE new play, founded by Mr. Norman Forbes on the historical mystery of *The Man in the Iron Mask*, has now been definitely christened *The Prisoner of the Bastille*. The piece will be produced at the Lyceum Theatre at the conclusion of the run of *Hamlet*.

MR. H. W. ROWLAND completes to-day (Saturday) the twentieth year of his engagement as manager of the Pleasure Gardens Theatre, Folkestone, and has the additional satisfaction of its being the most successful year of the theatre's existence.

LIVERPOOL, usually ahead of the other big provincial cities, held its annual pantomime ball on Thursday last week at the local Adelphi Hotel, which possesses one of the best ballrooms in the provinces. The ball was a joint one given by the Shakespeare Theatre—whose destinies are so jealously guarded by Mr. Wentworth Croke—and the Royal Court Theatre, of which Mr. Robert Arthur is the ruler. A big contingent arrived at midnight in a special train from Manchester, coming from *The Waltz Dream* company and the Royal pantomime. Amongst the 320 people present I noticed Miss Ada Reeve, Miss Florence Imeson, Miss Mabel Green, Miss Marie Ashton, Mr. Walter de Frece, Mr. Wentworth Croke, Mr. Arthur Lawrence, Mr. Vivian A. Simon, Mr. Charlie Fergusson, Miss Von Leer, Miss Iris Roy, Miss Una Hamilton, Miss Marjorie Firth, Mr. Horace "Empire" Cole, Mr. George Brookes, Mr. and Mrs. Simon Jude, Mr. and Mrs. Jos. West, Miss Nelly Clapton, Mr. Lauri de Frece, Mr. E. T. Steyne, and Mr. Wildred Cotton. Then there were also Mr. Hampshire, Mr. Frank Dix, Mr. T. A. Shale, Miss Lilian Willard, Miss Paula Fernan, Mr. and Mrs. Bobbie Allandale, Dr. and Mrs. Dubourg, Mr. John Gaffney, Miss Mabel Weir, Mr. Sidney Watson, Miss Bijou Dreno, and Mr. Leo Weisker. Dancing was kept up with considerable spirit until 4 a.m.

MR. MILTON BODE applied formally on Thursday at Chester for a licence for the new Hippodrome that he proposes to erect in that ancient city, but the opposition was strong. The licensed victuallers argued on behalf of the trade that such a building would keep people very largely from the public-houses. The matter has been adjourned for further consideration. Many gentlemen, Chief Constables, and temperence advocates in high position have, on various occasions recently, given their opinion that the considerable decrease in the consumption of alcoholic liquors is to be largely attributed to the number of music halls that have recently been erected and provide rational amusement for the masses by giving them wholesome entertainment at low prices, so that persons who used to spend their evenings in tap-rooms now enjoy themselves for a couple of hours at considerably less cost to themselves and then go quietly home. The clerical opposition, however, is much more serious.

THE Princess of Wales visited the Shaftesbury Theatre on Thursday afternoon to witness the performance of *Charles the First*, given by Mr. H. B. Irving and his company in aid of the St. Pancras Home for Mothers.

MR. PATRICK KIRWAN has been engaged by Mr. Beerbohm Tree for the part of Captain Leddra in the forthcoming production of *The Dancing Girl*.

ALL friends and wellwishers of Mr. C. J. McCarthy, so long associated with Mr. W. W. Kelly, will regret to hear of his mother's death, which took place on Wednesday at 3, Howard-road, Leytonstone. As everyone knows, he was most devotedly attached to her, and many will sympathise with him in his irreparable loss.

MR. ROBERT ARTHUR'S successful pantomime of *Cinderella* will give way at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, on Monday to Haddon Chambers's well-known play of *Captain Swift*, and that will in turn be followed by *Jim the Penman*, which has not been seen in Glasgow for many years. The production will be under the direction of Mr. Russell Rosse, and the company will include Mr. Edward Sorley, Mr. Arthur Dennis, Mesdames Ida Phillips, Gertrude Le Sage, Betty Fairfax, and Mrs. Bennett.

ON Friday evening, the 5th inst., at the Grand Theatre, Brighton, Mr. Ben Court, general-manager of the theatre, was accorded a complimentary benefit for his services in the production of the pantomime *Aladdin*. During the evening Mr. Ernest Gates, lessee and managing-director, presented him with a massive gold ring on behalf of the staff, and he was also the recipient of a box of choice cigars from the musical director, Signor G. de la Camera, and a fine oak smoking cabinet, mounted in silver, from "friends in front."

GREAT enthusiasm prevailed in the theatre last Saturday evening, when the pantomime was brought to a successful close. Beautiful bouquets for the lady artists and gifts for the male members of the company were presented during the evening. Mr. Ernest Gates received a case of pipes, a cigar and card case from the staff and some of the artists, and a handsome tantalus with cigar companion from friends in front of the house. Signor G. de la Camera was presented with a silver inkstand, subscribed for by friends in front; and Mr. C. Lake, stage manager, received a Gillette razor with accessories. Miss Blanche Marion (Princess) was the recipient of a case of silver-backed brushes and toilet accessories from her many admirers in front.

MISS EMMA HUTCHISON AND MR. PERCY HUTCHISON'S production of one of the most successful plays of the past year, *Lady Frederick*, is still delighting provincial audiences, and the title-part is played by Miss Eleanor Delaporte with great charm. A special feature of the production is Miss Delaporte's luxurious dresses, the costume in the first act being made in amethyst velvet, the corsage almost entirely composed of oxydised hand-made embroidery, the square yoke being tucked. With this is worn a large hat, which exactly matches the gown, and is finished with long ends, which are tied at the back and hang to the waist.

IN the second act she appears in a beautiful Rose du Barri coloured gown, which is composed of cashmere de sole, and the trimming is deep silk fringe and hand-made silk embroidery to match. In the Make-up scene she wears a lovely Japanese kimono, which she afterwards changes to a charming crêpe de chine, with deep band of gold from corsage to extreme hem of gown, and the sleeves are of gold finely tucked and bands of gold embroidery. The neck is cut square-edged, with gold. The Hutchison management, with their usual good and sound judgment, have secured leading ladies for their companies this spring who have dressed the parts allotted to them with exquisite taste and attractiveness.

BEFORE the Lord Chief Justice and a common jury, in the King's Bench Division, on Thursday, the hearing was concluded of the action brought by Mrs. Mamie Danks, an actress, professionally known as Miss Mamie Stuart, against Messrs. Sherek and Braff, theatrical agents. The plaintiff claimed damages for alleged misrepresentation and negligence in connection with an engagement the defendants secured for her at the Casino, Buenos Ayres. The defendants denied the allegations, and counterclaimed for commission. His lordship entered judgment for the plaintiff for £250 and costs. The question of a stay of execution being granted stood over for argument.

MR. GEORGE GROSSMITH, who is going to retire and rest at Folkestone, has been telling a *Chronicle* man about his early experiences. "There were thousands of people," he says, "who came to hear my father and myself who would have been horror-stricken if anyone had asked them to a theatre. My father, I should explain, was the *Times* reporter at Bow-street Police Court, but he also lectured and gave readings in the country. I had been singing in private for some time when one night John Oxenham, the musical critic of the *Times*, heard me sing at my father's house. He remarked: 'I say, that boy ought to go in for that sort of thing. Send him to see John Parry.' I went several times, and I made up my mind that that was the sort of work I would like.

"I CANNOT say I had ever anything of a struggle. My father allowed me £1 a week for doing his work when he was in the country lecturing, and I lived at home. Then my father began to take me about with him, and, while he gave readings or lectures, I sang and played the piano. We were known familiarly as 'The Two Georges.'

"My first real engagement came in 1870 from Professor Pepper, of 'ghost' illusion fame, who offered me a trial performance at the Polytechnic, in Regent-street. It was after this that I began to go about the country with my father, and then I returned to the Polytechnic. I used also to sing at the end of Hastings Pier, and that, I fancy, was the beginning of pierhead concerts at the seaside. I got two guineas a week at the Polytechnic for playing a little musical sketch written by myself. My highest salary at the Savoy Theatre—although I do not complain—was 38 guineas a week. But alone, with my piano, in the country, in seven working months, I made £10,000, and the same next year, and other years. I kept a good deal of it, but," with a slight grimace, "I spent a good deal of it, and I have had many calls upon me."

"HAMLET" AT THE SHAFTESBURY

Shakespeare's tragedy, revived at the Shaftesbury Theatre on Monday, Feb. 8.

Claudius .....MR. FRANK TYARS
Hamlet .....MR. H. B. IRVING
Polonius .....MR. TOM REYNOLDS
Laertes .....MR. ERIC MAXON
Horatio .....MR. STANLEY HOWLETT
Osric .....MR. H. C. HEWITT
Rosencrantz .....MR. ARTHUR CURTIS
Guildenstern .....MR. J. PATRIC CURWEN
Marcellus .....MR. B. A. PITTAR
Bernardo .....MR. H. HILLIARD
Francisco .....MR. NORMAN MACOWAN
Reynaldo .....MR. W. GRAHAM
First Player .....MR. S. BEAUMONT
Second Player .....MR. W. CASS
Priest .....MR. H. R. COOK
First Gravedigger ....MR. CHARLES DODSWORTH
Second Gravedigger .....MR. GEORGE SILVER
Ghost of Hamlet's Father..MR. FRANK COCHRANE
Gertrude .....MISS EILY MALYON
Ophelia .....MISS DOROTHEA BAIRD
Player Queen .....MISS E. FRANCES DAVIS

Mr. H. B. Irving's Hamlet is so well known to all interested in stage achievements that it is almost superfluous to analyse it at this period. Mr. Irving's performance of the part at the Adelphi in the April of 1905 was a memorable one, and its leading features were indelibly stamped on the recollections of those who saw it. It is probably the best all-round reading of the rôle of the Prince of Denmark that can be at present offered to the public. While by no means unopen to objections, it presents the most vital and imaginative conception of the character that is at present available. Mr. Irving's appearance and temperament lend themselves valuably to the impersonation. The melancholic, super-sensitive nature of the Prince of Denmark is suggested throughout, and his highly-strung nervousness is shown without effort by an actor so happily endowed. The keen intellectuality of Hamlet, which finds vent at intervals in jets of mordant satire, is another point on which Mr. Irving scores; and his picturesque features and refined, thoughtful expression combine to create an impression of mental disturbance which is indispensable to any vivid conception of the character. Coleridge's acute dictum that Hamlet plays the subtle trick of pretending to act only when he is very near really being what he acts is well sustained by the extremely delicate way in which, while nervous overstrain and its sequel melancholia are suggested, the essential sanity of the reasoning power is suggested. In one respect Mr. Irving's Hamlet has improved with age. In our notice of the Adelphi performance we complained that it was a little dry and hard, a little deficient in personal magnetism and human charm and sympathy. It would be impertinent to suggest what influences have been at work in the interval; but certainly Mr. Irving now touches a tenderer and a more affectionate note both in his conversations with Horatio and in his scene of reproach and remonstrance with his mother. Two instances particularly occur to us—the wistful gentleness of his treatment of the little "expansion" in the conversation with Horatio ending "Something too much of this"; and the deep sadness of the conclusion of the interview with Gertrude when Hamlet takes his mother, in hopeless despair and misery, to his arms. The reading retains all its original merits. The version prepared by Mr. Irving is, at any rate, coherent and effective; and the sacrifices made to time of performance are as tolerable as can well be conceived. Mr. Irving's acting in the stronger scenes is as intense and exciting as ever.

A good Claudius is a great thing in any revival of *Hamlet*, and Mr. Frank Tyars is one of the best. Without caricaturing the "lecherous, treacherous villain," Mr. Tyars makes him sufficiently malevolent in appearance, while doing full justice to his unctuous hypocrisy; and the lowering dread and uneasiness of the fratricide are excellently depicted. Mr. Tom Reynolds, a fine elocutionist, makes a remarkably natural and unconsciously comic Polonius. The part of Ophelia suits Miss Dorothea Baird exactly, and she infuses into her reading all the helpless submission to circumstance which makes Ophelia so infinitely pathetic. Miss Baird's beauty is of the type which lends itself to the embodiment, and her grace and delicacy assist her greatly in her success. Mr. Charles Dodsworth is very quaint and dry, though not excessively rustic, as the First Gravedigger; and Mr. George Silver is duly dense and solid as the Second. Mr. Frank Cochrane's sonorous and musical delivery of the Ghost's lines is not only impressive but winning in its sympathetic earnestness; and Mr. Stanley Howlett is an unimpeachable Horatio—sound, firm, and modest. A neat bit of character acting is Mr. H. C. Hewitt's Osric; and Mr. Arthur Curtis and Mr. J. Patric Curwen are agreeably young in spirit and appropriately shallow and superficial as Rosencrantz and Guildenstern; Mr. B. A. Pittar and Mr. H. Hilliard giving careful and creditable renderings of Marcellus and Bernardo respectively. Mr. Eric Maxon is an admirable Laertes, free alike from staginess and tameness. Mr. Norman MacOwan and Mr. W. Graham merit praise for their neat renderings of Francisco and Reynaldo; and Mr. S. Beaumont is excellent as the First Player, his make-up and bearing being intelligently appropriate. Miss Eily Malyon's Gertrude has all the required queenly repose; and her passionate remorse in the chamber scene is expressed with real power and feeling. Miss E. Frances Davis is distinct and careful as the Player Queen. The revival loses nothing of its artistic effect by not being overloaded with scenic embellishments, especially as the essentials, including the management of the Ghost illusion, are well attended to. Mr. Hamilton Clarke's incidental music is used with effect; and the costumes designed by Mr. Tom Heslewood are artistic in their simplicity. The performance was received on Monday with great enthusiasm, which culminated in call after call at the conclusion.

MISS ADRIENNE AUGARDE, it is announced, is engaged to Mr. A. Dingwall, manager of the Broadway Theatre, New York. Miss Augarde's first important appearance was in the leading *ingénue* rôle in *The Duchess of Dantzic*, at the Lyric in 1903. Following this, she created the title-rôle in *Lady Madcap* at the Prince of Wales's Theatre in 1904. Having played the part for two weeks, she sailed for New York, appearing in the United States in *The Duchess of Dantzic* with the original London company. She played in New York for two months, and then returned to London to create one of the Little Michus in the piece of that name at Daly's in 1905. During the closing weeks of this piece she rehearsed for *See-See*, at the Prince of Wales's, and, after playing a leading part in that piece for two months, left to create the part of the Princess in *The New Aladdin* at the Gaiety. During 1907 Miss Augarde appeared at the Lyric Theatre as Lady Betty Noel in *Clancarty*, and at Drury Lane as Lady Gwendoline Ashley in *The Sins of Society*. She was engaged by Mr. Beerbohm Tree to appear at His Majesty's Theatre in January, 1908, as Rosa Bud in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. She recently appeared in *The Marriages of Mayfair* at Drury Lane.

DEATH OF CHARLES WARNER.

The circumstantial details which followed on Friday the announcement of the suicide of Mr. Charles Warner in New York leave little doubt that the actor has taken his life in a fit of temporary insanity. Mr. Warner, says Reuter's telegram, was found dead on Thursday evening. The body was hanging, half-dressed, by a strap, strengthened with twine, from the door-jamb of his room in an hotel. A note which he left suggested strongly that his mind was unhinged. Mr. Henry Warner, the son of the dead actor, who has been playing in New York, viewed the body. Mr. Charles Warner left cheques and cash to pay for his board and lodging and the undertakers' expenses.

Mr. Charles Warner was born at St. Mary Abbott's, Kensington, on Oct. 10, 1846, and educated at Westbury College, Highgate. He was the father of Mr. H. B. Warner and of Miss Grace Warner. He was originally intended for an architect, and first appeared on any stage in 1861 at Windsor Castle before Queen Victoria as a page in *Richelieu* with the late S. Phelps. He joined the stock company at Hanley in 1862, playing Bras Rouge in *The Mysteries of Paris*, and Muley Sahib in *The Castle Spectre*. After a period of hard work in the provinces, including an engagement at Brighton with the late H. Nye Chart, he came to London, and made his first appearance there at the Princess's, April 25, 1864, as Benvolio in *Romeo and Juliet*, with the late Stella Colas. The late Edmund Falconer saw him and offered him a three years' engagement at Drury Lane, 1866; other London engagements followed, the most important being with the late Colonel Bateman at the Lyceum in 1872, succeeding Irving at that theatre in *Pickwick* as Jingle; next followed a long engagement at the Vaudeville under James and Thorne, where he played in *The Road to Ruin* and in the long run of *Our Boys* as Charlie Middlewick. He next went to the Haymarket for over a year under Buckstone, playing in *The Overland Route*. This was followed by an engagement with the late Adelaide Neilson. At the St. James's he played in Lord Newry's version of *Les Danischeffs*, and in comedy with Mrs. John Wood. Miss Litton next offered him an engagement at the Imperial. His most striking part was Coupeau in *Drink*, produced at the Princess's, which he has played over a thousand times in different parts of the world. He was five years at the Adelphi under the Gattis in a long series of melodramas, and accepted a farewell engagement at vaudeville prior to his departure for Australia, 1887, for a sixteen weeks' tour. He remained "down under" for two years, returning in the year 1890, after a phenomenally successful visit, at the end of which the management and himself divided profits amounting to £35,000 (his share for one week alone, during the run of *Hands Across the Sea*, amounting to £637 5s.). In 1890 he returned to Drury Lane, appearing in *A Million of Money*, followed by revivals of *It's Never Too Late to Mend*, *Formosa*, and then resumed his old character in *Drink*, and played in *A Sailor's Knot* which followed. This was succeeded by his appearances at the Princess's in *The Life We Live*; at the Vaudeville, in *Sophia*; the Adelphi, in *The Lost Paradise*, *A Woman's Revenge*, and *The Cotton King*; the Princess's, in *Odette*; and the Metropole, in *Under the Mask of Truth*. He next toured as D'Artagnan in *The Three Musketeers*. He appeared at the Princess's in 1897 in *How London Lives*; in 1898 was at His Majesty's in *Ragged Robin*, and in 1902 appeared under Mrs. Beerbohm Tree's management at Wyndham's in *Heard at the Telephone* and *Cæsar's Wife*. At the Royalty in 1903 he was Ben Kershaw in *A Snug Little Kingdom*, and at the Savoy, in 1904, Canio in *Pagliacci*. He created Kleschna in *Leah Kleschna* at the New in 1905; Leontes in *The Winter's Tale* at His Majesty's in 1906; and subsequently proceeded to America, playing *Heard at the Telephone* and *Devil Montague* in the leading vaudeville theatres. He was an original member of the Green Room Club.

Mr. Warner, as a stage-struck boy of seventeen, ran away from home and obtained his first engagement at Henley. He used to tell how in those far-off days he played thirteen parts in the first week of his appearance upon any stage, having to master two, that of Bras Rouge in *The Mysteries of Paris*, and Muley in *The Castle Spectre*, after twelve o'clock upon the day of his arrival, in order to appear in them the same evening.

That this experience was valuable, however, was at once evident, and Mr. Warner soon became of necessity a "quick study," being absolutely letter perfect before he was twenty in the parts of King John, Hubert, Faulconbridge, Romeo, Othello, Shylock, St. Pierre in *The Wife*, *The Stranger*, William in *Blackeyed Susan*, Iago, William Tell, and Ingomar, as well as fairly coached in dozens of others.

"It was during this first engagement," says Mr. Arthur Goddard in "Players of the Period," "that Mr. Warner was hauled over he coals by his irate manager for not wearing a pair of kid gloves in the Wedding scene in *All That Glitters Is Not Gold*, when, as a matter of fact, he had taxed his meagre salary of eighteen shillings a week to the extent of purchasing a most delicate pair of flesh-coloured gloves, the similarity of which to nature misled old Mr. Rogers, the manager, and was eventually the cause of Mr. Warner's leaving his company and coming to London, as the country manager declined to give the boy-actor an extra two shillings a week. 'Great events from little causes spring,' and to this dispute, arising from a pair of pink kid gloves, the metropolitan stage owed a new recruit, destined ere long to develop into a popular favourite of the first order.

"Mr. Warner, like most actors, had his little slips and *contretemps* in his early days, and one of the most amusing occurred when he was quite a stripling, acting at Drury Lane under the management of Phelps, who was always extremely kind to the young player, who gained an invaluable knowledge of Shakespeare under the Phelps *régime*.

"One evening the great actor called the young beginner into his room at Drury Lane and said, 'Now, my lad, I'm going to make an actor of you, and I think you've got the stuff in you. *Richelieu* will be my next play, and I shall cast you for François. You must take great pains, and I'll assist you in every way that I can.' Charles Warner was naturally in the seventh heaven of delight at this, as he had never yet played so important a part. The first night came. It will be remembered that after Richelieu's great soliloquy François rushes in, and the great Cardinal exclaims, 'The despatch, boy! Life—death—' in breathless excitement. At this supreme moment Phelps gave a tremendously grim and prolonger 'Ha!' which so frightened the latest François that he fell on his knees mute. Phelps repeated the lines; but François was still dumb, choking with nervous excitement. Again Phelps repeated, 'The despatch, boy!' Then, instead of uttering the lengthy and important speech revealing the conspiracy, all he could stammer out was, 'I—I—haven't got it!' Phelps growled out, quite audibly, 'Oh! d—— you! You're ruined!' and the actor got off the stage as best he could. He hid himself in his room, and cried like a child.

"Before the performance on the next night Phelps sent for Charles Warner, who obeyed the summons tremblingly, but to his intense relief the veteran and kindly actor said to him, in a gentle and fatherly fashion, 'Come here, my boy. Why, how nervous you were! You will be all right to-night, eh?'

"'Sir,' said the lad, 'it was that dreadful "Ha!" You didn't do it at rehearsal!' At this the old tragedian laughed outright. The lad *was* all right at night, and afterwards Phelps was Charles Warner's best friend."

[*Photo by Hembry, Belfast.*

CHARLES WARNER.

AT the weekly meeting of the London County Council on Tuesday at the County Hall, Spring Gardens, the Theatres and Music Halls Committee reported that the best way of dealing with the question of the extent to which persons should be allowed to stand in places of entertainment was to fix a maximum time for the exit of the audience. So long as this time was not exceeded the only restrictions that need be placed upon the number of persons admitted were that the intersecting gangways should be kept absolutely clear, and that sufficient room for passing easily to and fro should be maintained in the gangways and passages at the sides and rear of the seating.

THEY considered that three minutes should be regarded as a reasonable time within which an audience must be able to discharge itself from a place of public entertainment. Nos. 5 and 6 of the rules relating to premises licensed by the Council should be rescinded, and the following substituted:—Rule 48—"Persons must not be permitted to stand or sit in any of the intersecting gangways, and, if standing be permitted in the gangways at the sides and rear of the seating, sufficient room must be left for persons to pass easily to and fro." The recommendations of the Committee were adopted.

CHILDREN ON THE STAGE. The Act affecting the Employment of Children on the Stage came into force on Saturday, Oct. 1, 1904. Managers, Agents, Entrepreneurs, and Performers wishing to possess a copy of the Complete Act in a concise form can do so by forwarding three stamps to the Publisher, *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

"THE TRUANTS."

Comedy in Three Acts, by Wilfred T. Coleby, produced at the Kingsway Theatre on Thursday, Feb. 11.

Dick Chetwood .....MR. C. M. HALLARD
Bent .....MISS MARGARET MURRAY
Checkley .....MR. W. LEMMON WARDE
Lord Strelland .....MR. NORMAN MCKINNEL
The Rev. Philip Preston ..MR. ERNEST YOUNG
Mrs. Collins .....MISS GERTRUDE SCOTT
Lady Darnaway .....MISS FRANCES IVOR
Pamela Grey .....MISS ATHENE SEYLER
Bill Chetwood .....MR. DENNIS EADIE
Freda Saville .....MISS LENA ASHWELL
Jack Carstairs .....MISS OLIVIA
Pegler .....MR. W. FAZAN

Description is the best criticism that can be given of Mr. Wilfred T. Coleby's interesting and original comedy, which was presented at the Kingsway Theatre on Thursday evening; but description cannot quite do justice to the sense of reality which is created by the admirable manner in which the details, alike of dialogue, "business," and mounting, are supplied. Only a visit to Miss Lena Ashwell's well-managed and comfortable theatre can convince the playgoer of the excellence of *The Truants* in these particulars. It is really a domestic drama, working up to a sensation scene at the end of the second act. It would have been better, perhaps, had this "point of vantage" been attained in the third, which has to suffer somewhat for the strength of its predecessor. The heroine, Freda Saville, is an "advanced" young woman, who has been betrayed into a false marriage with a man who already had a wife. The result was a boy; but as the father was killed in a frontier war in India and the child was taken care of by some friends, no harm has ensued to Freda, who has come home to England and has fallen in love with Dick Chetwood, a wealthy country gentleman. Dick's brother Bill, a blunt, rough individual, who has returned a rich man from Buenos Ayres, has won the heart of Miss Pamela Grey, a weak and silly girl, who uses the latest slang and wants to appear in a Maud Allan costume at an amateur entertainment. Pamela puts down all her folly to Freda, in earlier days, having preached emancipation to her; but Freda, who has now renounced her unorthodox opinions, implores Pamela not to go out with Bill Chetwood to Buenos Ayres as his mistress, as the flighty young person is preparing to do. Dick has generously offered to hand over part of his estates to Bill; and Freda tells the latter that, if he does not give up his intention of taking Pamela away unwed she—Freda—will use her influence to stop the transfer. In answer, Bill informs Freda that he knows all about the child, and will mention the matter to Dick if Freda does not withdraw her opposition to the gift of the estate. Then Freda takes out a revolver, and threatens to blow Bill's brains out unless he promises not to seduce Pamela. This is the strong point of the play. Freda says she will count five and then fire. At the word "four" Bill snatches at the pistol, but is wounded in the arm, the noise of the shot being accounted for to the aroused household by a visit from an imaginary burglar.

In the last act a rich neighbour, Lord Strelland, who knows Freda's secret, offers to be silent if she will let him adopt the child, now a fine boy. Freda refuses, and confesses all to Dick, who maintains their engagement; and Bill, after some difficulty, is induced to marry Pamela by special licence.

The performance was interesting from the remarkable impression created by Mr. Dennis Eadie in the part of Bill Chetwood. In appearance, style, and speech he was exactly the person indicated; and the resolute emphasis of his acting and his striking suitability for the part made his reading of it a great success. Miss Ashwell's rôle of Freda Saville hardly evokes her strongest and deepest powers; but she was very impressive in the shooting scene, the "nerve" of the heroine being convincingly suggested. Miss Athene Seyler was so exactly fitted to play Pamela Grey and acted with so much bright animation and quick intelligence that she won admiration from the commencement. Her bursts of temper were capitally done; and there was a spontaneousness about her performance which was very winning and attractive. The remaining characters were more or less subordinate. Mr. Norman McKinnel made the most of the harsh and gloomy aristocrat Lord Strelland; Mr. C. M. Hallard was unimpeachably alert, gentlemanlike, and sincere as Dick Chetwood; and a clever and comical representation of an irrepressible gossip was supplied by Miss Gertrude Scott. Miss Frances Ivor was a dignified Lady Darnaway; Mr. Ernest Young was efficient as a clergyman; and Miss Olivia was naïve and amusing as a lively little boy, Miss Margaret Murray deserving praise as a servant. The play, produced by Mr. Norman McKinnel, went very smoothly, and was cordially received.

MR. CARL HENTSCHEL writes:—"In reference to the discussion which took place last Sunday at the O.P. Club, and the agitation which is now going on in Manchester regarding the theatre queue, there appears to be only one remedy, and that is to allow pit and gallery seats to be booked. At the present time the queue in certain busy thoroughfares is becoming as much of a nuisance as the old crowds, and any attempt to do away with it is bound at first to be received with a certain amount of opposition. But if the police were to declare these queues were illegal, managers would have to book all parts of the house, a proceeding that would be appreciated by many playgoers who are now prevented, especially during the inclement weather, from patronising the cheaper parts.

"IT is not everyone who can afford to risk standing for an hour or so at a draughty street corner at this time of the year, and, after all, why should the humbler patrons of the theatre be placed at a disadvantage to those patronising the better parts? Those who frequent pit and gallery are just as much entitled to go in comfort as those who are able to pay for dress circles and stalls. The difference should only be in the point of view and the advantage of the seating arrangement.

"IF the booking of all parts of the house became universal, doubtless there would have to be some rearrangement of the prices charged for certain parts of the house, especially the pit. The use of messenger boys for pit and gallery is also an abuse which it is surprising that playgoers have not resented very strongly, for it hardly seems fair to the pit and gallery patrons that that part of the house should be invaded by those who can well afford to buy more expensive seats."

"THE LOOKING-GLASS" and *Under the Greenwood Tree*, the two pieces written by Major Philip Trevor and acted by his children, which drew a crowded house to the Haymarket on Jan. 12, in aid of a popular charity, will be repeated at a matinée, on Feb. 19, at the St. James's Theatre, kindly lent by Mr. George Alexander. The forthcoming performance is to be in aid of the (Hampstead Branch) Ladies' Guild of the British and Foreign Sailors' Society, and Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales has promised to be present if possible. There is to be a guard of honour, composed of little boys in man-o'-war suits, to receive her Royal Highness.

DEATH OF ERNEST COQUELIN.

(FROM OUR PARIS CORRESPONDENT.)

On Monday afternoon, during the rehearsal of *La Furie*, the news reached the Comédie-Française that Ernest Coquelin had passed away. There were all his old friends: Mme. Bartet, Mme. Segond-Weber, M. Dufias, M. Truffier, M. Grand, M. Albert Lambert, M. and Mme. Silvain, and many others. "Poor Cadet," they exclaimed; and then a long silence followed, for all were impressed by this death following so closely upon that of the elder brother. The sad tidings spread like wildfire all over the city; but those who knew something of the worries under which Coquelin's mind had broken down could not help thinking that death had come as a happy relief to the unfortunate man.

Ernest Coquelin—"Cadet," as he was commonly called—was born in Boulogne-sur-Mer on May 16, 1848. After the elder brother had deserted the paternal roof, their father, the old baker, consoled himself with the thought that Cadet was still there and would soon blossom into a skilful baker. Things, however, turned out differently. Although much younger than *aîné*, the latter had made his little brother his confidant, and had told him all about his theatrical aspirations. The little fellow used to listen spellbound to *aîné's* recitations, which he rarely understood. But, gifted with a marvellous memory, he remembered them, and would repeat them aloud whilst carrying the bread to the customers. When the solemn moment arrived for the boy to be initiated into the mysteries of baking, he struck. "I want to be an actor, like my brother!" he cried; and the good-natured father allowed him to follow his inclinations. Admitted into the Conservatoire, in Regnier's class, he distinguished himself by carrying off the first prize in comedy. This was in 1867, and on Sept. 16 of the same year he made his début at the Odéon in *L'Anglais ou le Fou Raisonnable*. Curiously enough, almost the last new play wherein he created the chief rôle was *L'Anglais tel qu'on le parle*. In fact, nothing pleased Coquelin better than to appear in a work that had an English cachet. Like most people born in Boulogne, he spoke English well, and was always happy when he could visit London, where he had many friends.

Then came 1870, "l'année terrible," and Coquelin did his duty nobly. After a hard day's work, either in the ambulances or on the ramparts of the besieged city, he returned to the House and played there nearly every night. May it be said to the honour of the Comédie-Française that Sociétaires and pensionnaires of both sexes did wonders in those days. They never abandoned hope, their constant aim being to keep up the spirits of the Parisians. Coquelin used to tell a funny anecdote of how, when on Jan. 15, 1871, he impersonated Gros Réné in *Le Dépit Amoureux* and threw away the piece of cheese which Mariette had given him, several spectators in the boxes and stalls involuntarily held out their hands as if to catch it. For cheese was a luxury in the beleaguered city. From 1871 to 1875 Cadet appeared as Hrigani in *Monsieur de Pourceaugnac*, Pasquin in *Le Jeu de l'Amour et du Hasard*, Lepine in *Le Legs*, Crispin in *Le Légataire Universel*, Ergaste in *l'Ecole des Maris*, Annibal in *l'Aventurière*; and he created among other rôles Niçaise in Paul Férier's amusing comedy *Tabarin*. In 1875 Coquelin considered that M. Perrin, the director of the Comédie-Française, had not dealt fairly with him. There was an altercation between them, after which Coquelin left the House in a huff and went to the Variétés. After a year, however, his anger cooled down, and in 1876 he reappeared among his comrades, glad to welcome him back. In 1879 he became Sociétaire; the Cross of the Legion of Honour was bestowed upon him—he had reached the zenith of his career. Then came the crash. A sentimental love-affair gave him sleepless nights, and a few monetary losses—although not of a serious nature—completed the mischief. He turned melancholy, became absorbed in his own thoughts, and one night he had to be taken to a home, absolutely insane. Seized with a fit of trembling at the slightest noise, seeing an enemy in every stranger who approached him, he suffered from the "prosecution mania," which is almost incurable. During his stay in the home he very rarely referred to his former career, but he took a great interest in his moustache, which he allowed to grow. It was his pride, and he loved to admire himself in the glass, stroking and trimming the said moustache.

Although what is commonly called "clever," Cadet never was a great artist. He lacked the sense of proportion, and a constant striving after effect caused him to perform tricks unworthy of a good actor. Unlike *aîné*, who was always subtle and refined, Cadet overacted his rôles, and never could be made to understand that it is possible to be funny without being grotesque. But he was a gentleman at heart, kind-hearted to those in trouble, and he will be regretted by all.

THE SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL.

Under the direction of Mr. F. R. Benson, the annual series of dramatic performances at Stratford-on-Avon, commencing on Monday, April 19, 1909, will be given by Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Benson and their Shakespearean company. Fifteen plays of Shakespeare will be presented, including the histories: *King John*, *Richard the Second*, *Henry the Fourth* (Part 1), *Henry the Fifth*, *Henry the Sixth* (Part 2), *Richard the Third*, and a scene from *Henry the Eighth*. The programme will also include four Chester Mystery Plays, *The Belle's Stratagem* (by Hannah Cowley), *Richelieu* (by Lord Lytton), *A Midnight Bridal* (a play in one act adapted from the story of Halliwell Sutcliffe by Mrs. F. R. Benson and H. O. Nicholson), and *The Passing of the Third Floor Back* (by Jerome K. Jerome).

The following is the programme:—First week: Monday, April 19, *Julius Cæsar*; Tuesday, April 20, *Much Ado About Nothing*; Wednesday afternoon, April 21, *Coriolanus*; evening, *A Midnight Bridal* and *The Belle's Stratagem*; Thursday afternoon, April 22, Chester Mystery Plays; evening, *Hamlet*; Friday, April 23, *Cymbeline*; Saturday afternoon, April 24, *Henry the Fifth*; evening, *Richard the Third*. Second week: Monday afternoon, April 26, *The Merchant of Venice*; evening, *A Midnight Bridal* and *The Belle's Stratagem*; Tuesday, April 27, *Richard the Second*; Wednesday afternoon, April 28, *The Passing of the Third Floor Back* (preceded by Act II. scene 1 of *Henry the Eighth*); evening, *King John*; Thursday afternoon, April 29, *Cymbeline*; evening, Shakespearean costume ball in the Town Hall; Friday, April 30, *The Merchant of Venice*; Saturday afternoon, May 1, *King John*; evening, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

Third week: Monday afternoon, May 3, *Henry the Fourth* (Part I.); evening, *Twelfth Night*; Tuesday afternoon, May 4, *Hamlet*; evening, *Henry the Sixth* (Part II.); Wednesday, May 5, *Cymbeline*; Thursday afternoon, May 6, *Much Ado About Nothing*; evening, *Richelieu*; Friday, May 7, *A Midnight Bridal* and *The Belle's Stratagem*; Saturday afternoon, May 8, *Cymbeline*; evening, *The Taming of the Shrew*.

The following artists have kindly consented to take part in the festival:—Miss Genevieve Ward, who will appear as Volumnia and Queen Margaret; Mr. Matheson Lang, Hamlet; Miss Hutin Britton, Ophelia; Mr. Henry Ainley, Shylock; Miss Constance Collier, Portia; Mr. Forbes-Robertson and Miss Gertrude Elliott, with their company, will play *The Passing of the Third Floor Back*, and this play will be preceded by Act II., scene 1, of *Henry the Eighth*, in which Mr. Forbes-Robertson will give Buckingham's farewell speech; Mr. Lewis Waller will appear as Hotspur; Mr. Robert Loraine as Benedick; and Miss Ethel Irving as Beatrice.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE EMPRESS.

Under the managing-directorship of Mr. W. J. Grimes and the management of Mr. Nelson Francis, the Empress Theatre of Varieties, Brixton, is enjoying an unparalleled patronage, and this in spite of the fact that there are three other places of entertainment within a short distance from its doors. This week the programme consists of eighteen items, all of an attractive nature. Miss Lenora Walker, daughter of Mr. Walker, of the well-known Walker and May duo, makes her first appearance on the music-hall stage, and a very successful first it is. The young coloured lady possesses a pleasing voice, and she renders in most expressive style a couple of songs of the coon order, "Feather your nest" and "Brandy Wine." She also dances in most attractive fashion. The Bogannys, the "lunatic bakers," are amazingly clever tumblers, and furnish an interesting act with the aid of a wrestling dog. Miss Billee Burford, the talented chorus comedienne, has an altogether delightful number in "I was proud of you and you were proud of me," the sentimental verses of which she gives in quite an enchanting style. Not less delightful is the musical turn of the Edwards Trio, who appear in a scena, *Spirits of Past*, in which those accomplished artists creditably acquit themselves with performances on the violin and banjo. Mr. Harry Hayton, attired in naval costume, prove diverting in some comedy verses on the subject of a coastguard; and Selbo is seen and admired in a wonderful club juggling and china-plate throwing demonstration. Mr. Phil Bransby, the eminent coster-comedian, has a comedy convict song and a bricklayer's song, which quite take the fancy of the audience, and win the artist roars of applause. Mr. Fritz Rieseler in his Continental novelty, "Looping the loop on a half-inch wire," provides something in the nature of a sensation in his bicycle circling act, which creates in the minds of the spectators a feeling of uneasiness as to his safety, but when he appears before the footlights in a perfectly sound condition after having executed an exceedingly daring feat, he is vociferously applauded.

Miss Marie Lloyd is the subject of a most warm reception, and this week she is giving her latest successes. Her songs, "Those tell-tale eyes" and "Live in hope if you die in despair" are interpreted with all that characteristic quaintness which has so much helped in bringing fame and fortune to the "one and only" Marie. Mr. L. B. Athol applies his cultured vocalism with good effect upon a sentimental number, "Don't tell your trouble to your pals"; and Mr. Charles Baldwin and company are shriekingly funny in their absurdity *Merry Wives*, in which two of the company impersonate female characters. Miss Maud Esmond, the Brixton pantomime favourite, sings in most winning and engaging fashion a couple of ditties, "Are there any more girls like Mary?" and "If there's a girl there, that's where I'd like to go." Walker and May, described as America's premier coloured singers and dancers, submit three capital coon numbers, "Dixey," "Lady of my own," and "Get your money's worth," and these and their dancing are highly appreciated. According to the programme, Mr. Walker is the only blind comedian in the world. The great Bosanquet appears in his novel and extraordinary musical act, and by the aid of his invention, the Bosanquephone, produces startling musical effects, including the singing violin. It is a wonderfully skilful entertainment. Reed and Stevens present their comedy duologue, *Married or Photographed*. This is mainly an amusing conversation between two young people, a man and a girl, the former of whom is expecting a lady who is being sent by a matrimonial agency, and the latter, who goes in mistake to the young gentleman's rooms, believing it to be a photographer's. The duologue is well carried out. Ruffell's pictures conclude an attractive bill of fare. Mr. Robert Allington ably directs the orchestra, and Mr. Gaston admirably fulfils the office of stage manager.

THE FORESTERS'.

A most interesting programme is submitted to the patrons of this cosy East End establishment, which has been very tastefully redecorated, the premier item being Mr. Geo. Marriott and company, including Miss Edith Finlay, in a romantic military sketch, *Cigarette*, adapted from Ouida's novel "Under Two Flags." Miss Finlay as Cigarette played perfectly throughout, her French song, rendered with an extremely musical voice, being greatly appreciated. The other characters were admirably depicted by a talented company, whose names were not on the programme.

Mr. Gus Harris, the dramatic Hebrew delineator, has a special scena, representing a statue of the late Lord Beaconsfield, Mr. Harris portraying the character in a well-written song, "'Tis Primrose Day." The gentleman has a fine powerful voice, his reciting, too, being a feature. The Singing Jockeys, piloted by Mr. Will Netta, have had an admirable training, their business, combined with excellent singing, proving each youngster an artist. Their many songs are all well rendered, the harmonising being perfect. Mr. Will Mason, billed as a "Study in Black and White," sings tunefully a couple of songs, "Sweden" and "Colombo," concluding with a neat dance. Miss Maud Garland has a stirring number in "Someone is waiting for me," which is well sung. Mr. Nat Clifford, being unfortunately prevented through illness from appearing on the evening of our visit, the popular young manager, Mr. Stuart Macdonald, apologised to the audience in a few well-chosen words, which quite satisfied his hearers. Miss Bessie Neilson, with the aid of illustrated slides on the Biograph, gives a pretty ballad, "Shadowland," her second item, with a good chorus that is well taken up, being "Take me on the Flip-flap." Mr. Fred Wright, comedian, amuses with a number, "Slippery Jack," his final item relating to the "Girls." He excels in a flap-boot dance. Messrs. Betts and Betts, an interesting comedy couple, provide good fun, and Mr. Arthur Royce is a popular entertainer at the piano. Many interesting films are displayed by Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

"HELP THE LITTLE ONES!"

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—First let me thank you for your kindly appreciative notice in the last issue of *The Era* of my new song, and the rendition thereof by my girlie, Miss Hope Trevelyan, of Mr. St. John Denton's *Sinbad* company, last Wednesday, at the King's Theatre, Sunderland, on the occasion of the benefit matinée for the poor children of St. John's parish. Secondly, allow me to say that the song's correct title is *not* "His care for the little ones," as quoted by error, but that given above.—Yours faithfully,

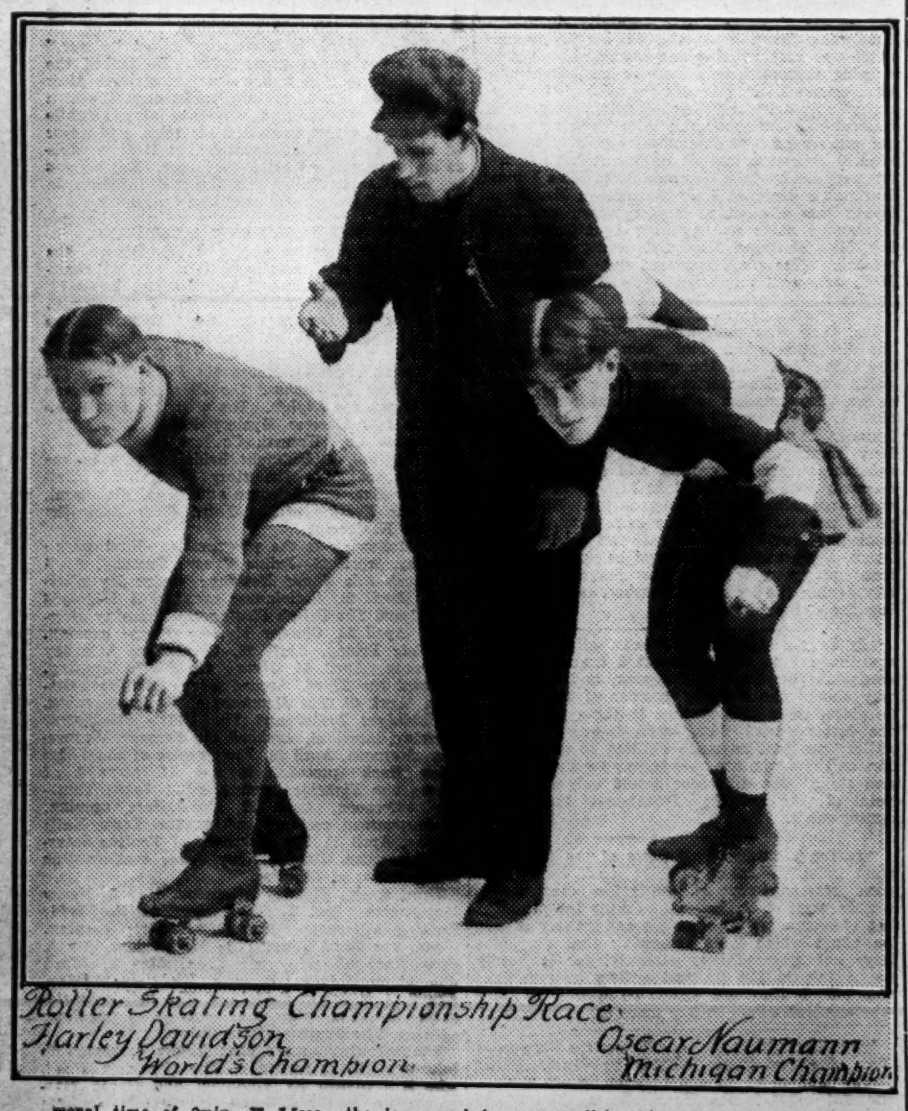
CLAUDE TREVELYAN.

Concert-Direction Trevelyan,
Levette's Music Stores,
Broad-street Station, London, E.C.,
Feb. 3.

To Mr. Arthur Burton, the manager of the Palace, Cardiff, will be given on Wednesday, Feb. 24, a grand complimentary benefit. Mr. Burton has scarcely been two years with Mr. Macnaghten, but during that time he has earned and retained the greatest respect of Mr. Macnaghten, Mr. Baugh (the former gentleman's general-manager), artists, and public.

THE ROLLER-SKATING BOOM.

We are indebted to the *Sheffield Evening Mail* for the accompanying illustration of Mr. Harley Davidson and Mr. Oscar Naumann in the attitude of the roller-skate athlete on the famous Richardson skates. Mr. Davidson has accomplished what no other roller skater has ever done—the feat of beating on rollers the record time for similar distances on ice. On the River View rink, Chicago, in 1907, Mr. Davidson covered a mile in the phenomenal time of 2min. 37 3-5sec., the ice record being 2min. 41sec. For this he won an artistic silver trophy, the Harmon Cup, which is one of Mr. Davidson's most treasured possessions. The cup carried with it a prize of $3,000. Then there is a gold medal for the world's record time of 5min. 25 4-5sec. for two miles. This again is faster than the ice skating record, which is 7sec. longer.



Such wonderful achievements could not, of course, be accomplished on the ordinary rink, the River View track being an oval one, with banked corners. Even so, the times are sufficiently remarkable. Mr. Fred Nall, the courteous manager of the Drill Hall rink, who is acting as the champion's guide and friend in Sheffield, assures us that in these big contests the skaters assume the most extraordinary attitudes to help to increase their speed, and he promises an "eye-opener" when the experts get together in the London tournament.

Not only on "castors" has Mr. Davidson excelled, but he is also an accomplished ice skater, a boxer, a cyclist, and a runner, though he has, of course, principally devoted himself to skating, and is now a representative of the Richardson Ball-bearing Skate Company.

If (says the Sheffield journal) he can beat the pick of Sheffield's castor skaters, he will go to the great international tournament in London as the representative of the cutlery capital.

As the accredited roller skating speed champion of the world, he has come all the way from San Francisco to take part in the tournament.

INVENTIONS.

[The particulars furnished below of recent applications for patents are taken from the official records. Correspondence is invited with our readers on all matters relating to new ideas and inventions, with a view to affording them advice and assistance. Letters should be addressed to the Manager, Inventions Department, "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London.]

Inventors and others who have no business representative are invited to communicate with the Manager of the Inventions Dept. as above.

APPLICATIONS.

1,757.—Frederick Leslie Jeyes and Harry Luttrell Godden, of London. Improved device for stage dancing.

1,875.—Thomas Carlisle Elliott, of London. Improvements in roller skates.

1,877.—Ada Windle Philipot, of London. Improved game apparatus.

1,880.—Richard Price Jones, of London. Improvements relating to roller skates.

1,903.—Angel Bruno, of London. New or improved device for affording amusement.

1,957.—Edmund Seal Donisthorpe, of London. Improvement in roller skates.

1981.—Matthew Baker and Will Dean, of London. Improvements in cinematograph machines.

2,061.—John Turns, of Grays. New game.

2,063.—Frederic William Russell and Thomas Izon, of Birmingham. Improvements in ring quoit games.

2,098.—Charles Henry Blyth, of Liverpool. Improvements in machines for turning over leaves of music.

2,184.—Hyman Stern and Abraham Michaels, of London. Improvements in aquatic walking devices.

2,241.—James Cunningham, of Glasgow. Moving gangway machine for public amusement.

2,275.—William John Rickets, of Charlton, Kent. Improvements in optical projection apparatus, particularly applicable to amusement and advertising purposes.

2,299.—Walter Taylor, of London. Improvements in and relating to apparatus for the amusement of the public.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS ACCEPTED.

2,205.—Otto. Device for turning the leaves of music and the like.

15,469.—Marks (McComb). Illuminated designs and the like for advertising and other purposes.

23,274.—Duskes and Duskes Kinematographen und Film-Fabriken Ges. Means for angularly adjusting the feed-drums of cinematographs with Maltese cross-feed mechanism.

23,276.—Duskes and Duskes Kinematographen und Film-Fabriken Ges. Method of and means for controlling the conjoint action of cinematographic and sound-recording apparatus for the purpose of securing synchronism.

23,811.—Duskes and Duskes Kinematographen und Film-Fabriken Ges. Means for guiding the films in cinematographic apparatus.

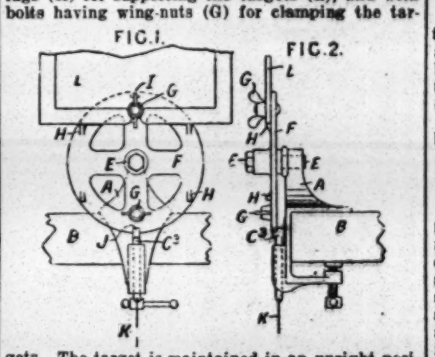
SPECIFICATION OPEN TO INSPECTION.

1,534.—Fournier. Swings.

ABRIDGMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

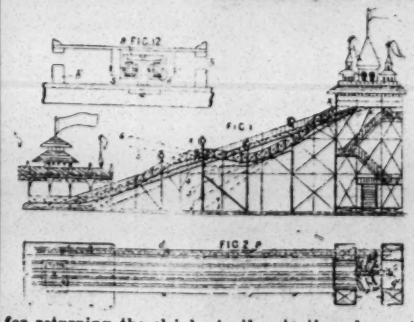
20,629.—Targets. Cole, H. L., of Dronfield, Derbyshire.

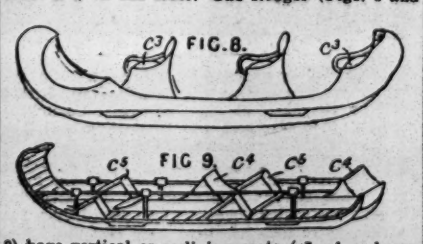
A rotary disc target-carrier (F) mounted on a pivot (E), secured to a bracket or clamp (A) fixed to a timber support (B), and is provided with lugs (H) for supporting the targets (L), and with bolts having wing-nuts (G) for clamping the targets. The target is maintained in an upright position when in use by a spring sliding bolt (C3), or a weighted pivoted catch, engaging with either of the two slots (I, J) in the disc. The bolt or catch is withdrawn by a cord (K), &c. The bottom of the target-frame is slotted to slide over the bolt between the wing-nut and disc.

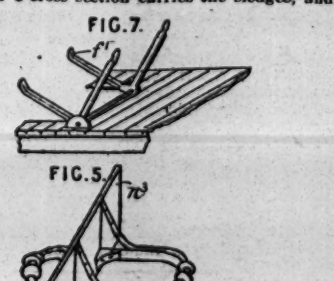


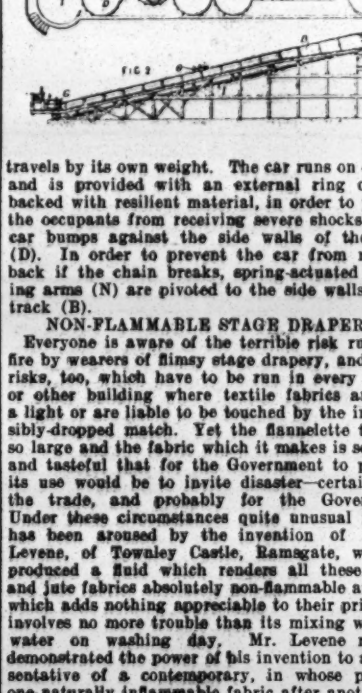
20,657.—Amusements for fairs, &c. Morgan, L., Singer, B., and Draper, H., all of London.

Tobogganing; railways for recreation.—A sledge is mounted to slide and to oscillate sideways upon a mono-rail inclined track, which is first concave, then convex, and so on. There are special means for returning the sleighs to the starting-place. A track (X, Fig. 1) follows the inclines shown by the lines (1-6) in due order. The sledges (Figs. 8 and 9) have vertical or reclining seats (*c*3, *c*4, and may have foot-rests (*c*5) and straps. A guide-rail (B, Fig. 12) of T-cross section carries the sledges, and guides (*b*1) on each side prevent undue oscillation. In addition, rollers (R) mounted in box-like constructions (8) bear when necessary on the underside of the mono-rail. The constructions (8) may be replaced by parallel blocks bearing spindles for rollers. The sledges are returned by an endless chain (D, Fig. 2) mounted flush between slides (*d*), and provided with carriers (*n*3, Fig. 5). If desired, a vertical chain (Fig. 5), with carriers (*n*5) for the sleighs





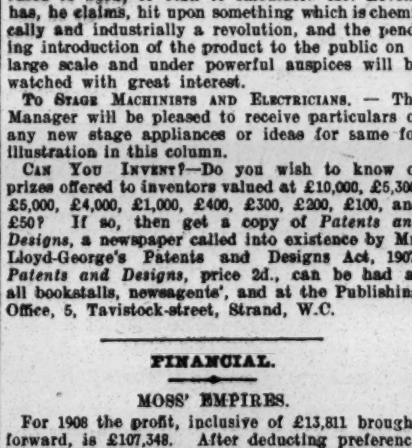




is used. When the sleighs arrive at the top of the staging, they are tilted off the carriers by arms (*f*1, Fig. 7), and are delivered to a kind of turntable gear (G, Fig. 2) which passes them to one or other of the tracks. The turntable consists of a carrier mounted on rails (*w*1) and attached to an arm (G) pivoted at *g*1.

20,667.—Tobogganing. Mangels, W. F., and Brewster, C. N., both of New York, U.S.A.

A circular car (G) is conveyed up an inclined track (B) by means of a continuously-moving endless chain (I) worked from a motor (J6). Lugs attached to the chain engage with recesses formed on the under-sides of the cars. When the car reaches the top of the track (B) it disengages from the chain-lug, and passes along the inclined path (C) to the circuitous track (D), down which it travels by its own weight. The car runs on castors, and is provided with an external ring of iron, backed with resilient material, in order to prevent the occupants from receiving severe shocks as the car bumps against the side walls of the track (D). In order to prevent the car from running back if the chain breaks, spring-actuated retaining arms (N) are pivoted to the side walls of the track (B).



NON-FLAMMABLE STAGE DRAPERY.

Everyone is aware of the terrible risk run from fire by wearers of flimsy stage drapery, and of the risks, too, which have to be run in every theatre or other building where textile fabrics are near a light or are liable to be touched by the irresponsibly-dropped match. Yet the flannelette trade is so large and the fabric which it makes is so cheap and tasteful that for the Government to prohibit its use would be to invite disaster—certainly for the trade, and probably for the Government. Under these circumstances quite unusual interest has been aroused by the invention of Mr. S. Levene, of Townley Castle, Ramsgate, who has produced a fluid which renders all these cotton and jute fabrics absolutely non-flammable at a cost which adds nothing appreciable to their price, and involves no more trouble than its mixing with the water on washing day. Mr. Levene recently demonstrated the power of his invention to a representative of a contemporary, in whose presence one naturally inflammable fabric after another was held in the flame of a candle and obstinately refused to burn, or even to smoulder. Mr. Levene has, he claims, hit upon something which is chemically and industrially a revolution, and the pending introduction of the product to the public on a large scale and under powerful auspices will be watched with great interest.

TO STAGE MACHINISTS AND ELECTRICIANS. — The Manager will be pleased to receive particulars of any new stage appliances or ideas for same for illustration in this column.

CAN YOU INVENT?—Do you wish to know of prizes offered to inventors valued at £10,000, £5,300, £5,000, £4,000, £1,000, £400, £300, £200, £100, and £50? If so, then get a copy of *Patents and Designs*, a newspaper called into existence by Mr. Lloyd-George's Patents and Designs Act, 1907. *Patents and Designs*, price 2d., can be had at all bookstalls, newsagents', and at the Publishing Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

FINANCIAL.

MOSS' EMPIRES.

For 1908 the profit, inclusive of £13,811 brought forward, is £107,348. After deducting preference dividend for 1908, which amounted to £22,655, and interim dividend on the ordinary shares for the half-year to June 30 last, the sum of £62,378 remains to be dealt with. The directors recommend: (1) That the total amount of the expenses in connection with the recent issue of debentures, amounting to £16,264, be written off; (2) that £6,825 be placed to a reserve fund for the redemption of the six per cent. debentures in accordance with the trust deed; and (3) that a dividend be paid on the ordinary shares for the second half-year at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, which will leave £11,288 to be carried forward. The decrease in profit is, in the opinion of the directors, to be accounted for in part by the state of trade and in part by the exceptionally fine summer. The greater part of the decrease took place during the summer months. As the new debentures are repayable by annual drawings over a period of fourteen years the company will at the end of that time be relieved of this debt. The company acquired the Grand Theatre, Glasgow, during the year, and also acquired an interest in the Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington, London.

PLANS have been passed by the Harrogate Corporation for the erection of a large roller skating rink to be erected on the Dragon estate. Two of the directors are well-known local gentlemen. The prospectus of the company was issued on the 6th inst. Another rink is to be erected on the Otley-road, in Harrogate, by the North of England Roller Skating Rink Co. It is hoped to have this rink open by Easter.

ON THE ROAD, FEB. 15.

ALADDIN (CONSTANT).—O. H., Middlesbro'.
ALADDIN (KIDDIE).—Muncaster T., Bootle.
ASCHE, OSCAR.—Grand T., Wolverhampton.
AT DUTY'S CALL.—T. R., Pontypool.
BAYMAN AND LOMATH.—T. R., Stratford.
BENSON, F. R. (N.).—O. H., Perth.
BENSON, F. R. (S.).—Aberavon and Neath.
BENSON, MR. AND MRS. F. R.—Coronet Theatre, W.
BLUEBEARD (CONSTANT'S).—Court Theatre, Bacup.
BONDMAN, THE (CROKE).—Castle T., Stockton.
BREWSTER'S MILLIONS.—Theatre Royal, Hull.
BUILDER OF BRIDGES.—Opera House, Coventry.
BUILDER OF BRIDGES.—T. R., Portsmouth.
BUTTERFLIES.—T. R., Middlesbrough.
CARL ROSA OPERA CO.—Gaiety T., Ayr.
CASSIDY, MR. J. RICE.—T. R., Wolverhampton.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE), M.—Lyceum T., Crewe.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE), N.—King's T., Sunderland.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE), S.—T. R., Dewsbury.
CINDERELLA (KIDDIE).—New T., Bargoed.
CINGALEE, THE.—Crystal Palace Theatre, S.E.
CLAUDIAN.—Grand T., Oldham.
COMPTON COMEDY CO.—King's T., Kilmarnock.
CONSCIENCE OF A JUDGE.—New T., Consett.
COUNTRY GIRL IN LONDON.—Grand T., Walsall.
DAIRYMAIDS, THE (COURTNEIDGE).—T. R., Rochdale.
DAIRYMAIDS, THE (MACDONALD).—O. H., Dudley.
DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY.—King's T., Sutton-in-Ashfield.
DIANA OF DOBSON'S (M.).—Grange and Maryport.
DIANA OF DOBSON'S.—Pleasure Gardens, Folkestone.
DICK WHITTINGTON (DOTTRIDGE).—Newcastle.
DICK WHITTINGTON (KIDDIE).—T. R., Aston.
D'OYLY CARTE.—T. R., Bournemouth.
DRIVEN FROM HOME.—Brixton Theatre, S.W.
EARLY WORM.—T. R., Brighton.
EAST LYNNE.—T. R., Margate.
EVE OF HER WEDDING.—Queen's T., Fleetwood.
EYES OF THE WORLD.—T. R., Smethwick.
FATAL WEDDING.—T. R., Leicester.
FIGHT FOR A THRONE.—T. R., Crook.
FLAG LIEUTENANT.—T. R., Hull.
FLOWER GIRL, THE.—Hippodrome, W. Bromwich.
FOR LOVE AND THE KING.—T. R., Peterborough.
GAY GORDONS, THE (N.).—T. R., Barnsley.
GEOFFREY LANGDON'S WIFE.—T. R., West Stanley.
GIRL'S CROSS ROADS.—T. R., Leigh.
GIRLS OF GOTTENBERG (DANCE).—County T., Kingston.
GLOSSOP-HARRIS.—Artillery T., Woolwich.
GOLDEN LADDER, THE.—Stourbridge and Kidderminster.
GREAT AWAKENING.—Grand T., Brighton.
GRIT.—Grand Theatre, Croydon.
GUILTY GOLD.—Glossop and Loughborough.
HARVEY, MR. MARTIN.—O. H., Leicester.
HAVANA.—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
HER FATAL MARRIAGE.—Queen's T., Liverpool.
HER LOVE AGAINST THE WORLD.—Colosseum, Oldham.
HER MARRIAGE VOW.—Alexandra T., Hull.
HIS HOUSE IN ORDER.—Stafford and Runcorn.
HIS SISTER'S HONOUR.—Globe T., Deal.
HORNIMAN, MISS.—Royalty T., Glasgow.
KING AND THE UNKNOWN WOMAN.—Queen's T., Manchester.
LA COMEDIE ANGLAISE.—Crewkerne and Lyme Regis.
LADY FREDERICK.—D. P. T., Eastbourne.
LITTLE BREADWINNER.—Hippodrome, Todmorden.
LOVE OF THE PRINCESS.—T. R., Sunderland.
MAN AND WIFE.—Cambridge T., Spennymoor.
MISS HOOK OF HOLLAND (DANCE).—Gaiety T., Burnley.
MOODY-MANNERS (A).—Edinburgh.
MOODY-MANNERS (B).—T. R., Preston.
MRS. DOT.—County T., Reading.
MY MIMOSA MAID.—Gaiety T., Dublin.
NEW EAST LYNNE.—T. R., Halifax.
OLD FOLKS AT HOME.—T. R., South Shields.
OLD HOME, THE.—T. R., Castleford.
PETER PAN (FROHMAN).—King's T., Glasgow.
PETER'S MOTHER.—T. R., Huddersfield.
POWER OF THE CROSS.—P. O. W., Nuneaton.
POWER OF THE KING.—Star T., Swansea.
PRODIGAL SON (CROKE).—Palace T., Bordesley.
PRODIGAL SON (CROKE), M.—Kidderminster and Stourbridge.
PRODIGAL SON (DAY).—Gaiety T., Leith.
ROBINSON CRUSOE (DOTTRIDGE).—Nottingham.
ROYAL DIVORCE.—T. R., Nottingham.
SAILOR'S WEDDING, THE.—Bedford.
SEND HIM VICTORIOUS.—Junction T., Manchester.
SIGN OF THE CROSS.—Gaiety T., Hastings.
SILVER KING (POLINI).—H. M. T., Dundee.
STARR, HARRY.—T. R., Tyldesley.
STILL ALARM.—Opera House, Burton.
SOLDIER'S HONOUR.—Grand T., Halifax.
SUTTON AND RAYNOR.—Royalty T., Barrow.
THIEF, THE.—Hereford and Leominster.
THIEF, THE.—T. R., Colchester.
TODDLES.—T. R., Plymouth.
TOM JONES.—Theatre Royal, Bath.
TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS.—Swindon.
VICTIM OF VILLAINY.—Aquarium, Yarmouth.
VILLAGE BLACKSMITH.—Grand T., Lancaster.
WALTZ DREAM.—Prince's T., Manchester.
WHAT A WOMAN DID.—Devonport.
WHEN KNIGHTS WERE BOLD.—T. R., Norwich.
WHEN OTHER LIPS.—T. R., Scarborough.
WHO IS SHE?—Lyceum T., Govan.
WILKIE, ALLAN, AND CO.—T. R., Seaham Harbour.
WITH EDGED TOOLS.—T. R., Hanley.
WOMAN AND WINE.—Alexandra T., Sheffield.
WOMAN PAYS.—Palace T., Newcastle.
10.30 DOWN EXPRESS.—Glossop and Loughborough.

WHERE HONOUR IS DUE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I note in your last issue a letter with the above heading, referring to the singing rights of the song "Afraid to come home in the dark." I am prepared to give a ten pound note to a theatrical charity if Miss Hetty King can prove that Miss Scott did not sing the song before her in England. Miss Scott was requested by Mr. Remick himself (the publisher of the rong) to sing it in England. Miss Scott *is* doing so, and most successfully.—Yours faithfully,

ALFRED WOOD,
Manager for Miss Maidie Scott.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—Sir,—In my postscript to my little paragraph I wrote "The marvellous Steene no longer exist." I made a serious mistake. I should have said: "For the past six years we have been known as Mahatma and Prof. Steen."—Yours truly, MAHATMA.

MR. S. GARRATT had a grand farewell night at the Pavilion, Ilkley, on Saturday night last, on the termination of his lease, and the building was crowded with an enthusiastic and representative audience. Mr. Garratt, in a telling speech, thanked his audience for their kindness during his five years amongst them, and hoped they would support his successor, Mr. Frank Barron, in the same manner.

Sore Throats
Cured in a few hours.
"YOU CANNOT DO BETTER than GARGLE with 'CONDY.'"
SIR MORELL MACKENZIE, M.D.
(The Eminent Throat Specialist)
Condy's Remedial Fluid sold by all Chemists at 1/1½.
CAUTION.—Insist on having "CONDY'S."
Condy's Fluid Co., London

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

Notice to Contributors.

All communications intended for publication should be sent to "THE EDITOR," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

Notice to Subscribers.

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Three Months	0 6 6	Three Months	0 8 0

Cash must accompany order.

Notice to Advertisers.

Advertisements should reach the Office early in the week, and not later than Thursday, 7 p.m. Remittances, payable to "THE ERA," LTD., and crossed Lloyd's Bank.

Communications.

Business Communications should be addressed to THE MANAGER,
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5, TAVISTOCK-STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.
(two doors off Wellington-street).

Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephones, 4747 and 1433, Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We cannot undertake to answer the inquiries of correspondents by post. In all letters names and addresses must be given as a guarantee of good faith. Initials only or pseudonyms will be used in the replies if so desired.]

LUCENTIO.—*G. V. Brooke's last appearance on the stage was on Saturday, Dec. 23, 1865, at the old Theatre Royal, Belfast. Among the company supporting him during his farewell engagement there was Mr. Edward Terry, who played Bob Acres in a performance of* The Rivals.

A. P.—*We have had no advance news at present concerning any revival of* Everyman *this year. Possibly Mr. W. Poel (address care of* THE ERA) *might be able to tell you. It was played on a draped stage, both at St. George's Hall and at the Garrick Theatre (April 9, 1906). The costumes are of the early sixteenth century (1530). The book of the play was published in 1903 by A. H. Bullen, 47, Great Russell-street, London, W.C. Miss Wynne Matthison played the title-rôle, both in England and America, with very great success. The performances of the play at which we have been present were of a semi-religious character, and were given in a darkened house. No programmes were issued, and applause was rigorously tabooed.*

M. BLAND.—*The special interview with Mr. Bert Dent was published in our issue of April 16, 1904. This copy is now out of print.*

H. A. GARVEY (Waterloo).—Humpty Dumpty, *pantomime, by J. Hickory Wood and Arthur Collins, was produced at Drury Lane on Dec. 26, 1903. Dan Leno played Queen Spritely, Herbert Campbell was the King Sollum, and Harry Randall Little Mary. Both Campbell and Leno died the following year, 1904. See notice above.*

F. CHANDLER.—*The hall was demolished in 1891 for the Rosebery-avenue improvement. The exact date is not certain. Captain H. E. Davis, proprietor of the Gaiety Theatre of Varieties, Chatham, could tell you.*

RUBY ROSINI.—*We do not publish a cheap pamphlet on the subject; but you will find all the information you require in Strong's "Dramatic and Musical Law," published at this office. The Lord Chamberlain's fee varies according to length of piece. The first thing the author of a dramatic piece should do is to have it registered at Stationers' Hall by filling up a form given there, and paying a fee of 5s.*

H. J. DACRE.—*Miss Elise Craven's teacher is Miss Elise Clerc, now the "maitresse de ballet" at the Alhambra, where a letter will find her.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a Birth, a Marriage, or a Death, or an "In Memoriam" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is One Shilling and Sixpence.

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

MARRIAGE.

WALLER—BERINGER.—On Feb. 6, at St. Luke's, Chelsea, May Holford Beringer, daughter of Mrs. Oscar Beringer, to Leslie Waller, son of the late Edmund Waller, of China.

DEATHS.

CADWALADR.—Feb. 7, from cancer, Llewelyn Cadwaladr, operatic singer, aged 49.

CASEY.—Feb. 10, at 36, King-street, Barnsley, Annie Casey, the dearly beloved mother of Will and Annie Casey. Deeply lamented by her sorrowing son and daughter.

CRAGG.—On Feb. 10, 1909, at 68, Kennington-road, London, Amanda Cragg, the beloved wife of J. W. Cragg, of The Cragg Family. Deeply lamented by her sorrowing husband and family. "Oh, Lord, Thy will be done."

EDWARDO.—At Hebburn, Jan. 30, 1909, Dorothy Garner, daughter of Otto Ethardo and Dolly Pardoe, age 17 months.

FULLER.—On Feb. 10, 1909, at Manchester, John Fuller, sen. Deeply lamented by his sorrowful son, ALF. ROZELL (Santol).

HARWOOD.—Jan. 27, from heart disease, George Julian Harwood, musical director.

MOLLOY.—Feb. 8, James Lyman Molloy, musical composer and barrister-at-law, aged 71.

MORGAN.—Feb. 9, at South Shields, after six months' illness, Violet Morgan (Mrs. Jack Ford), mimic.

ROSEBURY.—Jan. 18, at Airdrie, W. T. Rushbury, theatrical manager.

IN MEMORIAM.

BYRNE.—In affectionate remembrance of Florence Kate, dearly beloved wife of William Byrne (Bournemouth Municipal Orchestra), who passed away Feb. 13, 1907. Sadly missed.

NELSON.—In loving memory of Harold Broughton Nelson, beloved brother of Harry Adair Nelson, who died Feb. 15, 1901.

WEST.—In ever-loving memory of Florrie West, who left us Feb. 8, 1908. Sadly missed by your brother and sister, PETER and LILLIE CONROY. We shall meet again.

FOR SYMPATHY.

SCOTT.—On behalf of my mother and self, I thank the Eccentric Club, Our Club, The Alhambra, Palace (Plymouth), Mr. T. Scott (N.S.C.), Mr. Sheridan (Tavistock), Laurence Irving, Esq., and friends too numerous to mention for wreaths and kind letters during our great sorrow.—HARRY SCOTT.

MR. EDITOR.—Sir,—In your last week's issue it is stated that the incidental music, &c., of King and Benson's new act was arranged by Mr. T. H. Taarbon. Every note of the orchestration of "Round the town," "Popular girls," &c., was done solely by yours faithfully, J. H. CLEVE, 2, Kingscote-road, Bedford Park, W., Feb. 11.

MR. JACK CRAWLEY was presented with a lovely set of pipes last week at the Empire, Dublin, by Messrs. Peterson, of Dublin. He has christened the big one (which they specially made and gave him, and which he uses in his pretty act *Lights Out*) Big Ben.

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No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this list.

Aldeans, The
Andre, Mr. Victor
Antony, Miss Hilda
Ashby, Mr. Edward
Balehm, Mr. Fred
Barrett, Mr. W. B.
Barrett, Mr. Cecil
Barry, Mr. J. L.
Bassett, Mr. A. Fellows
Pessle, Miss Sarah
Bilsborough, Mr. H. K.
Bishop, Mr. Alf.
Bright, Mr. Arthur
Caban, Mr.
Campbell, Mrs. P.
Carew, Miss K.
Cartlidge, Mr.
Cecilias, The
Cestria
Chapman, Mr. A. H.
Chapman, Miss Hetty
Chorley and Connor
Chippendale, Mr. Arthur
Chung Ling Soo
Clark, Mr. Gerald
Cohen, Mr. Louis
Collins, Mr. Arthur E.
Cranston, Mr. Otley
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Cronin, Mr. M. F.
Cross, Miss Victoria
Crystal, Miss Nita
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Cumberland, Mr. B. G.
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Daly, Mr. Orlando
Davies, Miss Vi
Deane, Miss Nellie
De Courtray, Mr. G. O
Denby and Dent.
De Verdi, Mlle. C.
Dice, Mr. Fred
Donald, Mr. John
Donelly, Mr. Dick
Dreadnoughts, The
Durham, Mr. Wm.
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Elton, Mrs. Fred
Eltons, The Two
Evans, Mr. Wash.
Fishburn, Mr. Frank
Flexmore, Mrs. M.
Forde, Miss Enid
Fossett, Mr. H.
Fossett, Mr. R.
Francis, Mr. Hugo
Fraser, Miss Winifred
Fuller, Mrs. Walter
Genée, Mlle. A.
Glennister, Mr. Lionel
Glynn, Mr. Harry
Godwin, Mr. Will
Grahame, Mr. Ronald
Green, Mr. J. T.
Gregson Trio, The
Grey, Miss Madge
Halmore, Mr. J.
Hartree, Mr. Walter
Hawes, Mr. F. J.
Healy, Mr.
Hely, Mr. Annesley
Hewlett, Miss Cissie
Hill, Mr. Hamilton
Hollister, Mr. Herbert
Howard, Mr. George
Hyde, Miss Florence
Hylton, Mr. A. M.
Ingram, Mr. T. Woods
Jay and Mann, Messrs.
Johnson, Mr. Kid
Kirwan, Miss Kitty
Lamour, Miss Yvonne
Langden, Mr. George
Langtry, Mrs.
Launcelot, Mr. John
Lavelle Brothers
Lawton, Mr. T.
Leland, Mr. W. B.
Le Roy, Mr. H. C.
Loftus, Mr. A.
Loraine, Mr. Basil
Lowen, Mr. Tod
Lowther, Miss Ellen
Luxmore, Miss Mabel
Lytton, Mr. B.
Lytton, Mr. A. G.
Manger, Mr.
Mann, Mr. Charlton
Massey, Miss Grace
Matthews, Mr. Percy
Maxford, Mr. Dan
Mayer, Mr. Gaston
McLean, Mr. A.
McLennan, Mr.
McNaughton, Mr. Chas.
Melia, Mr. and Mrs. M.
Merlin, Mr. Jack
Mersano, Mr.
Millwood, Mr. H. W.
Mimum, Miss G.
Moore, Mr. Augustus
Morgan, Miss Mabel
Naveeda, Mlle.
Nelson, Mr. Jim
Noble, Mr. Dan
Norton, Mr. Charles
O'Brien, Miss Helen
Parke, Miss Beatrice
Parker, Mr. A. H.
Parker, Mr. Tom
Paull, Miss Ethel G.
Payne, Mr. W.
Pembroke, Mr. Clifford
Perrette, Mr. W. H.
Perris, Mr. Robert
Phillips, Miss Kate
Plimmer, Mr. W. J.
Pounds, Mr. Fern
Ray, Miss Belle
Raymond, Miss Marie
Roe, Mr. Norman
Rough Miss Ethel
Sampson, Mrs.
Saville, Mr. Frank
Schaboo, Prince
Scott, Messrs. W.
Sealby, Mr. Herbert
Seffon, Miss Claire
Shine, Mr. W. E.
Shrapnell, Mr. L.
Slack, Mr. Hayden
Sleath, Mr. Herbert
Snazelle, Mr. G. H.
Somers, Mr. Harry
Sproul, Mr. James
Stansfield, Miss Myra
Sterling, Mr. Max
Stewart, Mr. Bert P.
Stormont, Mr. Leo
Street, Mr. Fred
Syers, Mrs. C.
Tindell, Mr. Harry
Towers, Mr. T.
Turnbull, Mr. A.
Turner, Mr. J. W.
Vanbrook, Miss A.
Vandy, Mr. Paul
Volpi, Mr. B.
Wagenhall and Kemper
Webb, Mr. Harold
Wells, Mr. Herbert G.
Wellesley, Mr.
Wilkinson, Mr. Sam
Wilson, Miss Ada
Winte, Mr. Elwood
Wold, Mr. A.
Woodward, Mr. Chas.
Wragg, Mr. E.
Wylie, Mr. L.
Yorke, Mr. Gilbert

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following Ladies and Gentlemen:—

Russell Norrie—Saturday, Feb. 13.
Edgar Bateman—Sunday, Feb. 14.
Nathan Jackley—Sunday, Feb. 14.
Paul Valentine—Sunday, Feb. 14.
Miss Pauline Nanton—Sunday, Feb. 14.
H. J. Hitchins—Monday, Feb. 15.
Ettie Sismondi—Monday, Feb. 15.
Minnie Durham—Monday, Feb. 15.
Miss Irene Meldon—Tuesday, Feb. 16.
Nita Clavering—Tuesday, Feb. 16.
Lalla Stanhope—Tuesday, Feb. 16.
Winnie Stanhope—Tuesday, Feb. 16.
Will Ellerslie—Tuesday, Feb. 16.
Ada Frank—Tuesday, Feb. 16.
Arthur Shirley—Wednesday, Feb. 17.
Mr. and Mrs. Archie Howells—Wed., Feb. 17.
Farren Soutar—Wednesday, Feb. 17.
Henry Marston Clifford—Wednesday, Feb. 17.
David G. Noble—Wednesday, Feb. 17.
Emmie Ames—Thursday, Feb. 18.
Walter Gay—Thursday, Feb. 18.
Charles Rezene—Thursday, Feb. 18.
Adelina Patti—Friday, Feb. 19.

PIRATED MUSIC.

Hugh Harvey, 22, a costermonger, was charged before Mr. Hopkins at Lambeth with offering pirated music for sale at Camberwell Green.

On Saturday night Police-constable Allen, 418P, found the prisoner vending pirated copies of music and arrested him. He replied, "All right. I bought it for a shilling. There are others up the road." He had eleven copies in his possession.

Mr. Herbert Cooper, an agent of the Music Publishers' Association, mentioned that there was a great revival in the traffic in pirated music, and in spite of the efforts of the police, it seemed to be going on all over the country. On Friday there was a seizure of 40,000 copies.

The prisoner said that he bought the music from a man, and did not know it was pirated. He usually sold flowers, but they were too dear on Saturday.

Mr. Hopkins: I know perfectly well that you men go into this business with your eyes wide open. The fine is always £5.

MR. T. EDWARD OWEN, late of Messrs. Broadheads' Pavilion, Ashton-under-Lyne, has been appointed manager at the Bury Hippodrome, and commenced his new duties on Monday last.

IN connection with the renewal of licences at the recent annual meeting of the Kensington Division Licensing Justices, a detective-inspector of police said he had been instructed to bring to the notice of the justices the fact that a Kensington licensee had published an alleged fraudulent advertisement announcing that a young woman dancing in the lion's den at Earl's Court last autumn was his barmaid, and she appeared behind the bar at his house to give colour to the announcement and attract customers. The application for the renewal of the licence was adjourned for a fortnight.

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Artists are notified that they must send their full Bill Matter in two clear weeks before opening. Rehearsal, 1 o'clock Mondays. All must attend. Artists not complying with the above rules are subject to having their Contracts cancelled at option of Management.

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Bill matter must be sent in fourteen days before opening, in accordance with Clause 18, same to be sent to Manager, Queen's. Artists please note rehearsal must be attended Mondays, 1.0 o'clock, according to contract.

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1909.

PLAGIARISMS AND PLAYS.

The history of the drama is full of real and alleged instances of plagiarism. "Conveyances" from foreign novelists and dramatists have long been considered venial offences; but there have been at intervals complaints on the part of authors who have sent in manuscripts to managers, and have, as they think, discovered that their ideas have been used in other plays. This was the case even with the great RICHARD BRINSLEY SHERIDAN; for GALT, in his "Lives of the Players," gives, on the somewhat vague authority of "an aged friend," the following particulars respecting the origin of *The School for Scandal*: "Mr. SHERIDAN was in habits of particular intimacy with the RICHARDSON family. Miss RICHARDSON, a very accomplished young lady, wrote a play, which Mr. SHERIDAN undertook to bring out forthwith at Drury Lane Theatre. A season passed, but, to the great disappointment of the young lady, the play was not produced. When she protested, as she often did, against this delay, he adroitly shifted the subject, strenuously urging her to cultivate a talent in which she excelled, that of painting. Another season drew towards its close, when out came *The School for Scandal*. But a small progress had been made in the representation, when Miss R. fainted, and was taken from the pit of the theatre; so strong was the impression on her mind that her own piece had been pillaged, and the materials worked up for the performance in question. She did not long survive this mortification."

Many cases of alleged plagiarism are so mysterious that it is impossible to come to any satisfactory conclusion regarding them. Mr. A. W. PINERO has been a great sufferer in this way. All will remember the paper war which was waged about the resemblance between his piece *The Squire* to Mr. HARDY'S famous novel "Far From the Madding Crowd," and the late Mr. CLEMENT SCOTT'S statements that *The Second Mrs. Tanqueray* owed its origin to a German piece. The latest claimant to a grievance of this kind is Mr. NORMAN WRIGHTON, who has appealed to the daily Press in a letter in which he says:

I beg to point out to you that my drama, *Britain's Awakening*, a forecast, dealing entirely with the modern invasion of England by one or more foreign Powers, having been duly passed by the Lord Chamberlain, and registered as a stage play, was produced by me at the Royal West London Theatre on February 8th, 1908. A report of this production you will see in *The Era* of Feb. 15, 1908. My play opened in a Coastguard Cottage upon the sea coast, and the enemy landed in the fog and darkness precisely as is described in *An Englishman's Home*. My principal character was also a Lieutenant. Shortly after production I sent this play to Mr. Curzon and received a reply that it was unsuitable to him, or words to that effect. My play was received with great enthusiasm by an audience of 1,500 people, especially in the scene where we got to the burning of gunpowder.

It is pleasant to see the value and utility of our paper once more acknowledged; and it is only fair both to Mr. WRIGHTON and Mr. CURZON to print, side by side, our accounts of the two plays.

BRITAIN'S AWAKENING.	AN ENGLISHMAN'S HOME.
The action takes place inside Scuttler Lee's cottage, on the sea coast, late in the evening. Lee is apparently frequently employed in the wrecking of vessels, and other nefarious business, in which he is assisted by an even baser scoundrel than himself, Orressa Nicolini, also an Anarchist and spy. Staying at the cottage is Lieut. Dillon Roberts, of the 10th Hussars, who has evidently been severely wounded—exactly how, for various reasons, we were not able to gather—and we quickly learn that he is in love with Maysell Lee, the adopted daughter of the smuggler. Nicolini, who sees how the land lies, and who has designs on the girl himself, puts the old man on his guard against Roberts and Maysell, telling him that a love-sick maiden is not to be trusted, but Lee replies that the girl has never betrayed him yet. Lee, however, takes the precaution to warn her that if she discloses any of his secrets there will be a terrible reckoning. The precious pair have even more villainous business than wrecking and smuggling on hand, and are aiding the invasion of a foreign power. When they have departed, Maysell discloses all she knows to young Roberts; but Lee and Nicolini, who have been watching, and overheard all that has been said, return, and the safety of the young couple is threatened. The lieutenant, however, speedily knifes the old smuggler, and Maysell shoots the Anarchist, and the scoundrels having received their quietus, Roberts, in a speech which might be shortened, seeing the seriousness of the situation, announces his intention of warning the authorities and saving England.	The scene is the small house in Essex of a certain Mr. Brown, a bumptious Briton with a craze for diabolo. His young friend, Geoffrey Smith, is a typical, self-indulgent, slangy, "cheeky" young clerk, an enthusiastic spectator of football matches. Geoffrey's taste is shared by his sisters, Maggie and Amy; and Paul Robinson, a volunteer who is in love with the former, is in a minority of one in the little circle, being laughed at both by the lads and the lasses. A thick fog and a strike have cut off all communications and Myrtle Villa is practically isolated. The first intimation of the landing of the troops of the "Empress of the North," who have landed on the Eastern Coast, is the entry of Prince Yoland and his lieutenant, Rian Hobart, who put Mr. Brown and Reggie under arrest, and billet themselves on the premises. The defence of the villa is hurriedly organised by a company of the 6th Volunteer Battalion Blinkshire Regiment, commanded by Captain Finch, a fussy and overbearing officer, very irritable and ignorant of the art of war. Mr. Brown's house is shelled by the enemy from a distance, a bit of shrapnel striking the blatant Reggie, who falls dead at the end of the second act. The villa becoming untenable, the volunteers are ordered to retire; but Mr. Brown refuses to leave, and after some blundering attempts manages to load a rifle and kill a couple of the enemy's infantry, which is advancing to occupy the position. Prince Yoland, on arriving, treats Mr. Brown as a *franc-tireur* and send him out to be shot. The arrival of the English regulars, who have been hurried up from London on motor 'buses, saves the situation, and on this comforting conclusion the curtain falls.

A comparison of the two scenarios shows at once the innocence of Mr. FRANK CURZON and the weakness of Mr. WRIGHTON'S claim. *Briton's Awakening* is essentially a condensed melodrama, the invasion of a foreign power being merely incidental. The whole strength and point of the play is to interest us in the adventures of the characters. The pivot of the piece is the love affair between the lieutenant of Hussars and the smuggler's daughter, and the fact that Dillon announces his intention of "warning the authorities" is obviously subordinate. Major DU MAURIER'S drama, on the other hand, is essentially a satire. The personages are used merely as instruments of the author in his attack on our unpreparedness for national defence. The characters are typical and almost symbolical; and what we gain in topical flavour we lose in personal interest. It is impossible for anyone acquainted with the art of playwriting to imagine *Britain's Awakening* suggesting *An Englishman's Home*. The only wonder was that the writing of such a play as Major DU MAURIER'S should have been so long postponed; and many ambitious playwrights must be reproaching themselves for not having thought of the "notion," which has been used in fiction again and again. The celebrated "Battle of Dorking" pamphlet drew attention to the confusion and want of organisation which would make an invasion of the South Coast feasible; and quite recently a serial story in a morning paper described a similar attack on the East Coast.

In judging of the possibilities of plagiarism, we must not be misled by mere resemblances of detail, which are often accidental, but must attach importance only to essential elements. Even then the onus of proof rests on the accuser. It is quite possible for two plays almost identically the same to be written by authors entirely unconnected. There are a number of ideas floating in the air, and there are some "notions" which inevitably work out in the same way. The invention of wireless telegraphy suggests, indeed, that, in addition to the "unconscious cerebration" which was so often mentioned at the time of dispute about *The Squire*, there exists a sort of mental telepathy between minds ardently fixed on the same object. The average judge and jury are scarcely the best judges of so technical a question as the plagiarism of a play; and it would be better if these cases were submitted to the arbitration of a committee of experts in the profession, whose ruling would be much more satisfactory.

M. CATULLE MENDES, whose body was found on Sunday morning on the railway line near the mouth of the tunnel which opens at the station of Saint Germain, Paris, was a dramatic author as well as a poet and novelist. Among his plays were *Médée*, *Scarron*, and *La Vierge D'Avila*, produced by Mme. Bernhardt at her theatre in 1906. The Théâtre Réjane is at present rehearsing his *Impératrice*, founded on the story of Madame Walewska and Napoleon at Elba. As a librettist he collaborated with Massenet and other composers.

AT the Manchester City Police Court on Thursday, the summonses taken out by Mr. A. E. Wachter, of the recently formed Theatre Reform League, charging Mr. Fred Hart, lessee of the Prince's Theatre, with causing a public nuisance by allowing queues to be formed on the footwalk were heard. The Stipendiary dismissed the case. He held that the mere fact of people occupying the footpath did not prove a public nuisance. It was open, however, to the complainant to present a bill to the grand jury at the City Sessions.

COMMENTS ON THE CHILDREN ACT, 1908.

BY ALBERT A. STRONG, LL.B. (LONDON).

We call our readers' attention to the above Act of Parliament, which comes into operation on April 1, 1909. The sections applying to licensed properly are the following:—

By Section 120. (1) The holder of the licence of any licensed premises shall not allow a child to be at any time in the bar of the licensed premises except during the hours of closing.

(2) If the holder of a licence acts in contravention of this section, or if any person causes or procures, or attempts to cause or procure, any child to go to or to be in the bar of any licensed premises except during the hours of closing, he shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding, in respect of the first offence, forty shillings, and in respect of any subsequent offence, five pounds.

(3) If a child is found in the bar of any licensed premises, except during the hours of closing, the holder of the licence shall be deemed to have committed an offence under this section, unless he shows that he has used due diligence to prevent the child being admitted to the bar or that the child was apparently a person over the age of fourteen.

(4) Nothing in this section shall apply in the case of any child of the licence-holder or in the case of a child who is resident but not employed in the licensed premises, or who is in the bar of licensed premises solely for the purpose of passing through in order to obtain access to, or egress from, some other part of the premises, not being a bar, where there is no other convenient means of access to, or egress from, that part of the premises, or in the case of railway refreshment rooms or other premises constructed, fitted, and intended to be used in good faith for any purpose to which the holding of a licence is merely auxiliary.

(5) In this section the bar of licensed premises means any open drinking bar or any part of the premises exclusively or mainly used for the sale and consumption of intoxicating liquor, and the expressions "licence" and "licensed premises" have the same meaning as in the Licensing Acts, 1828 to 1906.

By Section 121. (1) Where an entertainment for children or any entertainment at which the majority of the persons attending are children is provided, and the number of children who attend the entertainment exceeds one hundred, and access to any part of the building in which children are accommodated is by stairs, it shall be the duty of the person who provides the entertainment to station and keep stationed wherever necessary a sufficient number of adult attendants, properly instructed as to their duties, to prevent more children or other persons being admitted to any such part of the building than that part can properly accommodate, and to control the movement of the children and other persons admitted to any such part whilst entering and leaving, and to take all other reasonable precautions for the safety of the children.

(2) Where the occupier of a building permits, for hire or reward, the building to be used for the purpose of an entertainment, he shall take all reasonable steps to secure the observance of the provisions of this section.

(3) If any person on whom any obligation is imposed by this section fails to fulfil that obligation he shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding, in the case of a first offence, fifty pounds, and in the case of a second or subsequent offence, one hundred pounds; and also, if the building in which the entertainment is given is licensed under any of the enactments relating to the licensing of theatres and of houses and other places for music or dancing, the licence shall be liable to be revoked by the authority by which the licence was granted.

(4) A constable may enter any building in which he has reason to believe that such an entertainment as aforesaid is being, or is about to be, provided with a view to seeing whether the provisions of this section are carried into effect.

(5) It shall be the duty of the Council of the county or county borough in which a building in which any contravention of the provisions of this section is alleged to have taken place to institute proceedings under this section if the building is a building licensed by the Lord Chamberlain, or is licensed by the Council of the county or county borough under the enactments relating to the licensing of theatres or of houses and other places for music or dancing, and in any other case it shall be the duty of the police authority to institute such proceedings.

(6) This section shall not apply to any entertainment given in a private dwelling-house.

The expression "child" means a person under the age of fourteen years.

AFTER the performance on Saturday night at the King's Theatre, Glasgow, the property staff and a few friends presented Mr. John Buick, property-master, with a gold albert and badge as a token of their esteem.

MR. AND MRS. W. HENRY HARGREAVES recently received an offer from Mr. Maurice E. Bandman to return to the East, which, however, they were unable to accept owing to the contract which Mr. Hargreaves holds with that enterprising manager Mr. Wentworth Croke.

A MEETING, with the object of instituting a fund to aid those who have suffered through the bog-slide in the West of Ireland, was held at the Hotel Cecil on the 5th inst., and presided over by Mr. T. P. O'Connor. A London committee was formed, the names of Mr. H. B. Irving, Mr. Seymour Hicks, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., Mr. John O'Connor, M.P., Mr. J. M. Glover, and Father Bernard Vaughan were submitted, and other well-known sympathisers have been asked to co-operate. The hon. secretary is Miss Patricia Hoey, 14, Weymouth-street, Portland-place.

MR. JUSTICE SUTTON and a common jury commenced on Tuesday the hearing, in the King's Bench Division, of an action brought by Mr. John Ferguson Robertson to recover damages from Mr. Frederick William Eustace Gruggen, a solicitor, for alleged fraud by misrepresentations, the plaintiff alleging that he was induced by the defendant to enter into an agreement with Mr. John Wellesley Lynn in regard to the production of an illusive sketch, entitled *Tharsei; or, the Doctor's Experiment*, and that he had lost considerable sums of money. The defendant denied misrepresentation, and pleaded that if he did induce the plaintiff to enter into the agreement he did so *bond-fide*, believing that the statements he made were true. The case had not been concluded when we went to press.

THE Stage Society will produce two new plays at the Kingsway Theatre on the 21st, 22nd, and 23rd inst. The first is *The Rights of the Soul*, a piece in one act, by Giuseppe Giacosa, translated by Miss F. M. Rankin, and produced by William Haviland. In this will appear Mr. E. Harcourt Williams, Miss Margaret Bussé, Mr. A. S. Homewood, and Miss Margaret Halstan. The second is entitled *The Bread of Others*, a translation by J. Nightingale Duddington of a play in two acts by Turgénev. The cast will include Mr. Leon M. Lion, Mr. A. S. Homewood, Mr. F. Grove, Mr. Henry Kitts, Miss Jean Bloomfield, Mr. J. Fisher White, Mr. Ernest Cosham, Mr. Frederick Kings, Miss Helen Boucher, Miss Evelyn Hall, Mr. A. Holmes-Gore, Mr. Leon Quartermaine, and Mr. Stanley Lathbury.

ACTORS AND DICKENS.

Sir John Hare presided at the meeting of the Dickens Fellowship at Essex Hall, Essex-street, W.C., on the ninety-seventh anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens. Sir John was supported by Sir William Treloar, Mrs. H. F. Dickens, and the Misses Olive and Elaine Dickens.

Sir John Hare, who read a telegram, also a letter of regret, from Mr. Whitelaw Reid, American Ambassador, said the object of the society was:

"(1) To knit together in a common bond of friendship lovers of that great master of humour and pathos.

"(2) To spread the love of humanity, which is the keynote of all his work.

"(3) To take such measures as may be expedient to ameliorate existing social evils, and to help the cause of the poor and the oppressed.

"(4) To assist in the preservation and purchase of buildings associated with his name and mentioned in his works."

Could any object, said Sir John, be more worthy, any tribute more noble? He heard the previous night at the Boz Club dinner a eulogy on the modesty of the great writer. He was modest, but his breast would have swelled with honest pride if he could have foreseen that the great purpose of his life and work would have been fulfilled, and that thousands of the poor, the needy, and the oppressed should live to bless his name. They had often heard it said of princes, statesmen, soldiers, who in their life had enjoyed the applause of the people and a dazzling popularity, how dead they were! Great and useful as their work had been, they were soon forgotten, and others rose to fill their places. But the memory of Charles Dickens would never be forgotten. No man would ever fill his vacant throne. And here they were in the sixth year of the establishment of this fellowship, with their enthusiasm unabated, and their numbers increasing. Indeed, year by year the seed sown by this great writer and benefactor must increase and multiply, and the immortal name and memory of Charles Dickens would be for ever held in the hearts of his countrymen in honour and deep affection.

Mr. George Alexander presided at the annual dinner of the Boz Club at Prince's Restaurant on Sunday. Among those present were Lord Lilford, Lord Massereene and Ferrard, Mr. H. F. Dickens, K.C., Sir Anderson and Lady Critchett, Sir Squire Bancroft, Sir Luke Fildes, Sir Charles and Lady Mathews, Sir John and Lady Hare, Sir George Frampton, Sir Walter Lawrence, Sir Malcolm and Lady Morris, Sir Bruce and Lady Seton, Sir E. A. Waterlow, Sir Richard R. Holmes, Sir H. and Lady Bushman, Sir W. and Lady Allchin, Mrs. J. M. Barrie, Miss Lilian Braithwaite, Mr. Percy Fitzgerald, Mr. J. Martin Harvey, Mr. W. W. Jacobs, Mr. Walter Jerrold, Mr. John Lane, Mr. J. MacWhirter, Mr. E. T. Reed, Mr. Pett Ridge, Mr. and Mrs. Briton Riviere, and Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Stone.

The Chairman proposed the toast of "The Immortal Memory of Charles Dickens." He said that every actor must be very grateful to Charles Dickens for what he did for the stage and the drama. Some of his detractors were wont to say that his books and characters were "stagy." God bless him for that, because, in his sympathy for the stage, he had done a great deal to pave the way for the better position of the actor and the dramatist. Dickens was the actor's novelist *par excellence*. There was scarcely an actor of eminence, with perhaps the exception of Sir John Hare and Sir Squire Bancroft, who had not been associated with the great characters of Dickens. Emery, the Keeleys, Toole, Irving, John Clayton, and of our own day Martin Harvey and Beerbohm Tree, had all made great successes in the impersonation of Dickens's characters. Dickens himself was a great friend of the actor. He dedicated "Nicholas Nickleby" to Macready and was in the habit of borrowing his dress waistcoats. His books were the actor's delight, though the adapter found it most difficult to give a satisfactory account of the author. When *Oliver Twist* was first produced at the Surrey Theatre Dickens at the beginning of the first act sat on the floor of the box and remained there until the curtain fell. Dickens was always happy in the company of actors, both in his own life and in his work.

The toast was drunk in silence.

Mr. Percy Fitzgerald gave some interesting reminiscences of the novelist.

Mr. H. F. Dickens endorsed Mr. Alexander's verdict that his father was the actor's friend. He was imbued from top to toe with the instinct of an actor, and very nearly became one. That he was an actor no one could doubt who had heard him recite. They were not there to bolster up Dickens's reputation, but to show the sympathy existing between him and his readers.

The Prince and the Monkey.

"ON Tuesday," says the *Daily Chronicle*, "you will have read about the success of Mr. H. B. Irving's *Hamlet*, and also about the almost human chimpanzee at the Hippodrome. Well, on Aug. 24, 1661, Mr. Pepys went to 'the opera, and there saw *Hamlet, Prince of Denmark*, done with scenes very well, but above all, Betterton did the Prince's part beyond imagination.' And earlier in the day Pepys had been 'to see the strange creature that Captain Holmes hath brought with him from Guinea.' This was a great baboon, so human in intelligence that Pepys did 'believe that it already understands much English, and I am of the mind that it might be taught to speak or make signs.'"

A Dramatist's Diet.

GABRIEL D'ANNUNZIO, the Italian dramatist, has completed a tragedy, *Phedre*, in seventeen days, and is now engaged on a drama, which he hopes to finish in a fortnight. He does all his work at night, and never rises before 5 p.m. At seven he has a substantial meal which does duty for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and at eight o'clock he starts work and goes on till nine next morning, when he has two boiled eggs and retires to rest. Whether they are hard-boiled is not stated.

A Princess Critic.

"THEATRES," says *Cassell's Saturday Journal*, "have a great attraction for the Princess of Wales, and she was once referred to by the King as 'our musical and dramatic critic.' When she is in London, and her other engagements permit, she almost invariably attends a theatre in the evening, either with only a Lady-in-Waiting with her or with one or more of the younger members of the Royal Family, such as Prince Arthur of Connaught or her brother and sister-in-law, Prince and Princess Alexander of Teck. She is an inveterate 'first-nighter,' and theatrical managers in London, when they have a production of more than ordinary importance, have become accustomed to make inquiries at Marlborough House to see whether Her Royal Highness proposes to occupy the Royal box or not. It is largely upon her report that other members of the Royal Family decide whether to visit a certain play or not; and particularly is this the case with the King and Queen.

A PENALTY, with costs, amounting to £5 9s. was imposed at Bow-street on Monday on the management of the Duke of York's Theatre for contravening the Employment of Children Act, 1903. It was stated that on two occasions the children did not leave the theatre until some 50 minutes after the time permitted by the licence. Mr. H. H. Curtis Bennett said the case was the result of a misunderstanding. The children had not been employed after ten o'clock since the matter was brought to the knowledge of the authorities.

"STRANGERS WITHIN THE GATES."

Play, in Three Acts, by H. C. M. Hardinge. Produced for the first time at the Court Theatre on Sunday, Feb. 7.

Aylmer Forsyth .....MR. MALCOLM CHERRY
Kate Dallison ....MISS AMY BRANDON THOMAS
Hon. Margaret Dallison ..MISS MAUDE MILLETT
Hon. and Rev. Ralph Dallison..MR. FRED LEWIS
Sir Desmond Antrobus, K.C.M.G. MR. A. E. ANSON
Horace Fell, M.D. .....MR. O. P. HEGGIE
Mrs. Pritchard .....MISS BLANCHE STANLEY
Mrs. Forsyth .....MISS GRANVILLE
Footman .....MR. DOUGLAS HOMER

The mission of the Dramatic Productions Club is being carried on courageously at the Court, where, on Sunday, their third venture was tried in private and repeated publicly the following afternoon. *Strangers Within the Gates* well justified its production; but its appeal to playgoers at large would, we think, be more effectively made within the limits of one act. The author has shown a considerable facility for invention in the plot, but he seems to have seized upon every opportunity for running off the line and to space out the piece into three acts with dialogue that rarely rises above the commonplace, and tends to weaken rather than strengthen the action. The story begins with the love-making of Aylmer Forsyth and Kate Dallison, the daughter of the Hon. and Rev. Ralph Dallison. Aylmer is the protégé of Sir Desmond Antrobus, a Parliamentary leader, who also cherishes an affection for the Hon. Margaret Dallison, the clergyman's sister; but he cannot offer her marriage, as he already has a wife from whom he has lived apart some twenty-three years, having in his possession ample evidence of her infidelity to obtain a divorce. Aylmer's only relation appears to be his mother, whom he idolises, and it is during his stay at the rectory that she takes the opportunity of paying him a visit. Sir Antrobus is the first to meet her on arrival, and recognises in her the wife from whom he had been so long parted. Mrs. Forsyth, as she calls herself, begs to be allowed to see her son and go, but her husband will not permit it, and insists on letting the son into the knowledge of his mother's shame. The boy, who had been made to understand that his father was dead, and that he had treated his mother with cruelty, will not believe him, and loads him with abuse. He determines to give up his career and go abroad with his mother; but that lady, fearing that sooner or later her son will learn the truth, sends him a letter in which she admits her guilt, and takes advantage of a dilapidated bridge which spans a neighbouring stream to end her life.

Again the representation was in the hands of prominent artists. Of the opportunities afforded, Mr. Malcolm Cherry had perhaps the greatest, and his portrayal of Aylmer Forsyth was artistic in every way. The enthusiasm and buoyancy of youth were affected in delightful fashion, and the bitter scenes towards the close were expressed with unerring skill. Mr. A. E. Anson gave an intellectual study of Sir Desmond Antrobus, grappling cleverly with the difficulties of an exacting character; and Miss Granville utilised her dramatic ability effectively as Mrs. Forsyth, the erring wife, who clings tenaciously to the son's love of which she is threatened to be deprived. The grace and refinement of Miss Maude Millett were employed with the most agreeable results in her representation of the Hon. Margaret Dallison, who for so many years has kept her affection for Sir Antrobus concealed; and Miss Amy Brandon Thomas as Kate Dallison acted with freshness and charm, carrying through her love scene with admirable delicacy. It is usually expected of Mr. Fred Lewis that he shall be funny, and he quite fulfilled requirements as the Hon. and Rev. Ralph Dallison. He was the jolly and contented country parson to the life, and aroused merriment with every remark. The play, the scenes of which are laid in a country village, was mounted to perfection. An audience much larger than at the previous matinées gave the piece a hearty reception, curtain calls being numerous.

MR. COMPTON AT HULL.

At the Grand Theatre and Opera House, Hull, on Monday, in a performance of *Davy Garrick*, Mr. Edward Compton and his company celebrated the twenty-eighth anniversary of the company. Mr. Compton, with the success which always attends his efforts, played the part of the actor, Miss Kathleen Leigh was a pleasant Violet, Mr. Henry Croker read the part of the Alderman with excellent effect, and Selina found an admirable representative in Miss Constance Merton. A curtain raiser, *Proteus in Petticoats*, gave Miss Violet Compton a chance to shine and show that she can dance as well as act.

Mr. Compton, being called before the curtain, said—"Ladies and gentleman, the Compton Comedy Company really commenced its historical career, I may so call it, on Feb. 7, 1881, but as Feb. 7 fell this year on a Sunday—yesterday—I was compelled to mark the event to-night, otherwise I should have had no celebration, and you, ladies, would have had no souvenir. Many sincere thanks for your presence here to-night. It's good to be back in Hull once more, and it's good to be playing *Davy Garrick* once more to such a friendly and enthusiastic audience. And now about to-night's celebration, the completion of twenty-eight years' hard labour with the Compton Comedy Company. How do I feel about it? Well, I must own to a great pleasure and a little natural pride, for such an event is absolutely unique in theatrical annals. When I started out on Feb. 7, 1881, I was told that I was a rash young man; that old comedy, like Shakespeare, 'spelt ruin,' and that I should live to repent my foolhardiness in sackcloth and ashes. And yet here I am, after twenty-eight years, still holding aloft the standard of legitimate comedy; not by any means sitting on any stool of repentance, but standing up before you elated with triumph, flushed with success, and more than ever determined to emulate Tennyson's brook, and 'go on for ever.' (Applause.) During the period I have named I have always taken care to have a first-class all-round company. I have always rehearsed every play thoroughly and often, and I have always costumed and produced them correctly and well. I have revived numbers of old comedies and produced several new ones, and I have always clung to the ideal I started with, namely, to play only such pieces as made for good; and I think my audiences will bear me witness that 'the evening's amusement' has always borne 'the morning's reflection.' But there is one thing I am very sensible of—the constancy and support of the Press and the public all over the country, without which I could have done nothing. Beggar that I am, I am even poor in thanks, but I thank you, and I can never thank you enough. By the way, I must not forget to tell you that to-night marks a double celebration, for my Mr. David Garrick, who first came into being on Feb. 7, 1884, attains his twenty-fifth year to-night. I hope you have found this rising young actor going strong and well, and not looking a day more than his twenty-five years. Again, let me thank you for your attendance and enthusiasm, and permit me to wish you a grateful, warm good-night."

LAST Saturday evening after the performance of *A White Man* company at the Theatre Royal, Birkenhead, Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Petley were presented by the company with a silver mounted travelling clock on their leaving to join the South Company of *Pete*, opening next Monday at the Grand, Derby.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

The Prince of Wales and suite witnessed the performance at the Empire Theatre on Thursday evening, on the occasion of the 100th performance of the ballet, *A Day in Paris*, and the first night of the bioscope pictures of the King in Berlin.

Miss Decima Moore will make her London music-hall début at the Tivoli on Monday, when she will sing, whistle, and indulge in a little story-telling. Miss Moore is exclusively engaged by the Tivoli management.

Miss Maud Allan made her reappearance in a series of new classical dances at the Palace Theatre on Friday afternoon (yesterday). The artist's répertoire is said to be the most ambitious that she has yet attempted, and includes the famous "Peer Gynt" Suite. In deference to the avalanche of correspondence that has come to hand, Miss Allan, however, presented her ever-popular "Spring Song" and "Valse Caprice" dances.

Mr. Alfred Butt, the managing-director of the Palace, in securing the London Symphony Orchestra, under Mr. Landon Ronald, to accompany Miss Allan for Friday afternoon's performance, realises in the best way that a music hall should be a hall where it is possible to hear the best music. This fine combination of instrumentalists gave a number of selections, including Beethoven's Leonora No. 3 and "The Ride of the Valkyrie."

Mr. Fred Trussell, manager of the London Hippodrome, while leaving his home on Thursday morning to go to business, had an unfortunate accident. As he was riding to the station his bicycle side-slipped, with the result that Mr. Trussell sustained a very bad fracture to the right foot. He was seen by two doctors, and, after examining the foot, they reported that two of the principal bones were broken. Mr. Trussell's many friends will be exceedingly sorry to hear of his misfortune, and we join with them in hearty wishes for his speedy recovery.

The Empire Theatre has recently been described as the "Cosmopolitan Club of the World." With every desire to live up to this ideal, and realising that the traveller arriving late in London, or the City man who has been too busy until the evening, is unable to find a barber still open, the management have decided to inaugurate an up-to-date and completely-fitted toilet saloon in the theatre, with every requisite of a West End hair-dressing establishment. It will be available for the use of their patrons throughout the performance.

Miss Elise Craven, the little Queen of the Fairies in *Pinkie and the Fairies* at His Majesty's Theatre, is perturbed about the £100 a week which she is to receive at the Coliseum, and, considering that such a sum is beyond the needs of a person of her few years, she has written to Sir William Treloar inviting twenty-five crippled children to tea at the Coliseum on Tuesday. Sir William has accepted, and the youngsters will have tea on the stage at 5.30.

Miss Marie Nott (daughter of Mr. W. Peacock, of the Scarborough Hippodrome, and granddaughter of the late Miss Cicely Nott (Mrs. Sam Adams) made her début in the profession last week at the Scarborough Hippodrome. She is possessed of a pleasing voice, and is a most able exponent of the art of violin playing. She made a most pleasing impression, and should be heard of again and eventually go far in the profession of which her mother (Miss Addie Blanche) was so bright a star. Miss Addie Blanche, it will be remembered, played Dick Whittington in the children's pantomime at the Avenue 1882-3.

Mr. Bolossy Kiralfy's spectacle *To-morrow* is to be withdrawn from the Hippodrome bill, and on Feb. 22 will be produced by Mr. Frank Parker *The Motor Chase*, a spectacular piece written by Mr. Sydney Blow, part-author of *No. Two*, now being played at the Palace Theatre. The novelty will be in five scenes, the most sensational being a motor dashing over a cliff. Drury Lane has up to now had a monopoly of this sort of sensation, but the resources of arena and stage at the Hippodrome will be quite equal to the special exigencies of the production. Mr. C. Somerset, Miss Maude Cressall, and Mr. Arthur Grenville will be in the cast.

The Empire directors submit the report and balance-sheet for the year ending Dec. 31, 1908. After making provision for depreciation, renewals and repairs, interest on debenture, and premium on redemption policy, amounting in the aggregate to £19,151 2s. 9d., the net profit (including balance of last account) is shown at £19,416 3s. 3d. The sum of £1,000 has also been paid off the debenture.

It is now proposed to pay a dividend in respect of the year 1908 of 3s. on each "15s. paid" share, and of 2s. on each "10s. paid" share respectively, being at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, absorbing £6,250, and carrying forward to next account a balance of £13,166 3s. 3d. This dividend will, if approved by the shareholders, be paid on or before Feb. 27, free of income tax. Mr. G. C. Wentworth-Fitzwilliam, the retiring director, offers himself for re-election. The auditors, Messrs. W. B. Peat and Co., retire, and also offer themselves for re-election. The meeting of the shareholders is at the Empire on Friday next at twelve noon.

Barton and Ashley are paying a return visit to the Hackney Empire on Monday in their sketch *Adam the Second*. John Barton says "Adam the first was born in Eden; I saw the light in Philadelphia. Nothing worth recording happened until one day I boarded a tramcar and sat opposite a lady. Suddenly she jumped up exclaiming 'There's something in my hat!' There was—a tiny mouse. I captured the terrible animal, and saw the lady home. I asked her to have me. She was willing, and I've been had ever since. Everyone has seen the act we have laid aside—*Canal Boat Sal*. My wife was the heroine of that little sketch, and smacked my face twenty times nightly for fourteen years. That means that her dear hand has chastised me 101,800 times. Think it over, married men!"

The London Hippodrome, after a continuous run of upwards of 5,000 performances, closes from May 1 to August Bank Holiday for structural changes costing about £40,000. The plans provide for the covering of part of the arena with stalls, but the ring space can be restored in a few hours if required for special performances, such as water shows. The present elevated orchestra will go to the front of the stage. Hydraulic and electric power will do the mechanical lifting, and when all is complete Mr. Oswald Stoll will have practically a new house, with unique facilities.

Miss Henriquette Maude, looking very smart and neat in khaki as a Colonial trooper, has been scoring most unmistakably at the London Pavilion in her recitation of a powerful appeal for the veterans of the Crimea and the Indian Mutiny, which she has recited with such success during a provincial tour. Miss Maude has been provided with a capital scene by Mr. Frank Glenister, and is accompanied on the stage by a war-worn and bemedalled veteran of eighty-six. She concludes this week a most successful engagement at the Piccadilly-circus house.

The Glasgow Hippodrome will positively close on April 24, 1909, and all contracts for the establishment after that date are cancelled.

The terribly sudden death of Mr. Albert Edward Davis, aged fifty-four, musical conductor, on the stage of the Willesden Hippodrome, was proved at the inquest on Wednesday to be due to syncope.

We regret to announce the death on Wednesday, after a short illness, of Mr. R. A. Nicholson, sole proprietor of the Hippodrome, Stockton-on-Tees. The sad event came with great suddenness. The deceased gentleman was only thirty-six.

Mr. Harry Bowerman, the popular manager of the Gaiety, Glasgow, held his annual benefit on Thursday of last week. The house was crowded. In addition to the ordinary programme, several pantomime artists gave their valuable assistance.

The acting-manager of the Hastings Hippodrome, Mr. Walter Norman, has received a number of telegrams and letters of condolence and sympathy for the widow and family of Mr. Vivian Fisher, the late manager, more especially from the Terriers' Association, of which Mr. Norman is a member.

Mr. Bert Dent, the popular manager of the Palace, Attercliffe, in announcing the other evening the forthcoming visit of Doctor Walford Bodie, was interrupted by the irrepressible would-be wit, generally to be found in an audience, who shouted, "Hey, mister! can Bodie cure me?" Quick as thought came the reply from Mr. Dent, "My dear sir, Doctor Bodie is *not* a brain specialist."

Mr. Billy Richardson, who for many years was a member of Hague's Minstrels, was given a benefit on Tuesday at the Star Theatre, Liverpool, which was lent by Mr. Harris Fineberg. The audience was a packed one, and a thoroughly enjoyable programme provided by many artists contained a minstrel show in which many local theatrical managers took part. It is expected that a substantial sum will be realised.

The South Parade Pier (Portsmouth) Committee held a special meeting on Wednesday for the purpose of appointing a new manager at a commencing salary of £300 per annum. From the numerous applicants for the position six were selected—Messrs. G. Fitz-Gibbon (Crystal Palace), A. F. Lalande (Colwyn Bay), Morley (Portsmouth), Roberts (Blackpool), H. C. Sait (Southampton), and P. W. Watkins. Upon the vote being taken Mr. Lalande was appointed.

Mr. Cecil Holden applied on Feb. 5 at the annual licensing sessions for the borough of Birkenhead, on behalf of the lessee of the Hippodrome, Grange-road, for permission to reduce the charge for the gallery from 3d. to 2d. He stated that when the licence was originally granted, the justices suggested that the charge for the gallery should be 3d., instead of 2d., as proposed. It was now desired to reduce it to 2d. There was not a great deal of money in Birkenhead, and it was difficult to compete with the Liverpool places of amusement.

The Chairman said the reason a charge of 3d. was suggested was that there had been a number of prosecutions of parents of children who had been found begging or selling things in the streets, and the excuse given by the parents had been that the children begged to get money to go to places of amusement. Mr. Holden observed that those would be children under fourteen years of age, and such children would not be admitted to places of amusement without their parents.

In answer to the Bench the Chief Constable said the Hippodrome was well conducted, and he saw no objection to a charge of 2d. for the gallery, so long as a good entertainment was provided. The application was granted.

At the King's Theatre, Edinburgh, last week Dr. Walford Bodie broke all records, the huge building being packed nightly with the élite of the city. The advance booking was phenomenal, and on Saturday night, at both houses, every seat was nearly booked, and hundreds had to be refused admission. So great has been the doctor's success that the management have offered him an early return date.

The Doctor's fame as an author is fast spreading. His latest sensation, entitled "Harley the Hypnotist," now running in the *Novel Magazine*, has been described by a leading London daily paper as a new character in fiction and a serious rival to "Sherlock Holmes" and "Captain Kettle." Next week he is at the Palace, Attercliffe, with his own company.

Among the presents to Miss Kathleen Gray on the night of her benefit at the Gaiety, Dublin, were a toy dog, a live duck, a canary in cage, and a gold clock. Any wag who might express surprise that the joyous Dublin bhoys should give Miss Gray "the bird" may be easily silenced with the remark that "duck" is an affectionate term for the greatest stage favourites and that the word "canary" epitomises vocal sweetness in the recipient.

The Hippodrome, Blackburn, the latest addition to the De Frece Circuit, opened on Monday. The new house, planned by Mr. Bertie Crewe, supplants the old Blackburn Theatre Royal, and is a luxurious house, with well-appointed dressing-rooms, large stage, and everything up to date. At the opening the house was packed to the doors. The Mayor and other people prominent in the town assisted in the send-off, and the programme was excellent. Mr. Harry Yorke is resident director, and the managing-director is Mr. Walter de Frece.

Councillor Sidney Bacon entertained some notable gentlemen from the North of England at the Florence Hotel on Monday, including the Mayor of Gateshead (Ald. Gillies), the Town Clerk (W. Swinburne), the Magistrate's Clerk (Mr. Tom Lambert), and Ald. Costelloe. In the course of the evening the Mayor of Gateshead, in proposing the health of Mr. Bacon, stated how greatly they missed him in Gateshead, and hoped he would be amongst them as often as possible. They then adjourned to the Palace Theatre, where a very enjoyable time was spent.

Plans have been submitted to the West Hartlepool Town Council of a roller-skating rink. The building, which will be of brick, is to be erected in Whitby-steet, on the site opposite the Post Office, and the skating area will be 127ft. by 44ft. The plans are submitted by Messrs. Kirtley and Geipel. It is a number of years since the town possessed a skating rink; but at one time the sport of roller-skating was very popular there, and the old rink, situated in Ouston-street, was well patronised.

Plans for a new Theatre and Hippodrome, in St. Mary's-road, Garston, Liverpool, for Mr. J. B. Lloyd, of Bolton, have been approved by the magistrates. The plans, prepared by Mr. Albert Winstanley, of Manchester and St. Anne's-on-Sea, who has had considerable experience in theatre construction, show seating accommodation for 1,344 persons. The building, of ornamental design and commanding elevation, will form a distinctive and attractive feature, and will be replete with every modern convenience, including waiting-room accommodation, an important desideratum with a twice-nightly house.

A builder's advertising board recently erected outside Gatti's old music hall in Villiers-street, Strand, announces that as soon as the necessary alterations are completed the place will be opened by "Arena, Limited," as the "grandest boxing and wrestling hall in London."

Miss Kittee Rayburn will appear on Monday at the Palace, Hammersmith, where a warm welcome awaits her. Miss Kittee made herself extremely popular in the western suburb during the run of Mr. G. Brydon Phillips's pantomime *The Babes in the Wood* at the Lyric Opera House.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Lucas opened in New York on Feb. 2 at the American Theatre. The success of their act was marked by five calls at the conclusion. The New York papers are enthusiastic in their praise of the act.

Mr. John Lawson is still attracting crowded houses with the evergreen *Humanity*. The new scenery for this popular episode is magnificent, and the addition of a new fire effect makes this thrilling sketch even more thrilling. "House full" is "writ large" both at Richmond and Camberwell this week.

Mr. Frederic Baugh produced at the Surrey, Feb. 1, Brien McCullough's latest episode, *The Midnight London Express*. The scenery, which is of the most elaborate character, is by Francis H. Bull. The sketch met with the greatest possible success, and bookings are as plentiful as the most sanguine could wish.

We regret to learn that the painful mystery of the disappearance of Mr. Mark Melford remains still unsolved. The anxiety of Mrs. Melford and family must be terrible, and it is to be hoped that Messrs. Stringer and Stringer, Bank Chambers, High-road, Kilburn, will receive some clue. Mr. Melford was negotiating for America, but no contract was settled.

This week Miss Florence Creagh pays a return visit to the Middlesex in the powerful dramatic episode, entitled *Daddy's Boy*, which has already gained such great popularity both in London and the provinces. Included in the cast are Messrs. Dick Cruikshanks, Henry W. Hatchman, and Miss Florence Creagh.

An artistic equestrian act will be seen at the Hippodrome next week, when Lina Marrder appears with her golden-hued horse and fine St. Bernard dogs. In statuary acts it has been a common practice for men and women to cover themselves with a golden preparation, but the tinting of a beautiful charger is something new in arena acts.

A new and original satirical sketch, entitled *What's Charles Worth? or, The Maid and the Motor-car*, written by Cayley Calvert, will be interpreted at the Empire, Camberwell, on Monday, by Miss Sylvia Cavalho, supported by Mr. Edmund Gurney, Mr. Clifford Pembroke, Mr. Alf. Donohoe, Mr. Geo. Edwards, Mr. Horace Corbyn, and the Bureau Quartet.

Mr. Yardley, manager of the Southampton Hippodrome, is quite up to date with a verse by F. V. St. Clair, which is thrown on the screen by the Bioscope, the lines being much applauded. The verse runs:—

Did we need conscription in the days of Waterloo?
Shall it be conscription now?—England answers "No!"
Join the Territorials; help to bear the brunt:
Britons, do your duty; Hampshire to the front!

Miss Violet Morgan, the well-known mimic, after a painful illness of six months' duration, passed away on Tuesday morning at the Ingham Infirmary, South Shields. She was the wife of Mr. Jack Ford, who has the sympathy of his brother and sister artists in his bereavement.

Miss Morgan was only twenty-seven, and made her stage début in drama at the tender age of seven, following the legitimate stage successfully for fourteen years. Six years since she went on the halls as a character mimic, and met with considerable favour. Lately she had worked with her husband in a double act. The deceased lady was interred at St. Stephen's, South Shields, on Thursday.

The Chelsea Palace will be brightened on Monday by the appearance of Joe Elvin in the famous *Over the Sticks*, which is to be produced there with 100 auxiliaries. Joe will be "obliging his brother," and laughter in consequence will reign. Mr. J. Norman Berlin, the Chelsea Palace manager, has issued a humorous booklet concerning the Sunbury Hurdle Handicap which would do credit to a member of Tattersall's.

Once more we call attention to the evening concert to be given at the Empire, Camberwell, to-morrow (Sunday) evening in aid of the Fred Millis Testimonial Fund. The movement is under the patronage of Sir Edward Moss, Frank Allen, Arthur Branscombe, Joe Elvin, John Lawson, and Albert Chevalier. It has also the support of the Water Rats, the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association, and the Variety Artists' Federation.

Mr. Percy Honri will present at the Oxford on Monday a new musical phantasy, entitled *Concordia*, described as a dream in eight scenes. It teems with bright music, wildest hilarity, and graceful dancing. Dainty girls, clever musicians, brilliant scenery, beautiful dresses, and novelties in the way of scenic and lighting effects do the rest. Of course, Mr. Honri, with his famous concertina, is the leading spirit of the production.

The host of friends of Mr. J. W. Cragg, the *doyen* of performers, will extend to him their heartiest sympathy on the loss of his wife, who passed away on Wednesday. Mrs. Cragg was a devoted wife and mother, and her death at the early age of forty-two is regretted by a wide circle of friends. The funeral will take place on Monday, the cortège leaving 68, Kennington-road, at 10.30, and arriving at Lambeth Cemetery, Tooting, at 11.45.

George Lashwood, though banished to that part of the theatrical world known as Siberia (otherwise Ireland) for pantomime, has already had the enviable experience of receiving three offers for next year. The most gratifying comes from Mr. Stanley Rogers, asking him to name his own terms to resume his old part of Dandini, next Christmas, in the *Cinderella* production which last season gained record-breaking fame at the Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool, and which this year graces the boards at the Grand, Glasgow. Until a very recent date dandy parts in pantomime were restricted to ladies, but the magnetic personality of Lashwood has changed all that.

A pigeon shooting match, in which members of the profession in the Newcastle pantomimes are keenly interested, is fixed for decision on Monday at the headquarters of the Hotspur Gun Club at Fenham. The contestants are the two popular pantomime principals Arthur Carlton, of the Tyne Theatre, and Harry Tate of the Theatre Royal, for a stake of £10 a-side at twenty-one birds. Mr. J. Roberts has been entrusted with the preliminary arrangements, and he announces a sweepstakes in addition to the match, so that the afternoon's sport promises to be attractive. By the desire of Messrs. Carlton and Tate the proceeds of the gate, after the payment of expenses, will be handed over to the Lord Mayor's Fund for the unemployed.

Two celebrated showman families are to be allied by the marriage of Mr. Fred Ginnett's son, "Gubby," to the third daughter of Lord George Sanger. The ceremony is to take place early in March at Horley.

That popular fun-maker Little Tich makes his return to the London Pavilion on Monday. "Imperial Cæsar," his newest song, though the phrase is from *Hamlet*, will have nothing but comedy to recommend it. It should be an excellent parody.

Mr. Alfred Reynolds, business manager for Mr. Brydon-Phillips's *Red Riding Hood* company, on Saturday at Maidstone was presented by Miss Kittee Rayburn (principal boy) with a handsome cigarette case, inscribed "as a token of esteem."

The staff of Messrs. Francis and Day have organised from among themselves a football club, to be known as "The Arpeggios," and Mr. William Francis is the captain. The club have secured a capital ground at Golder's Green, and will commence operations this (Saturday) afternoon.

Frank Crozier and Tom Rose, the winners of the Middle-weight and Light-weight Wrestling Championship at the Alhambra last week, creating a great sensation in the finals, have placed the whole of their business in the hands of Ashley Beale and Co., Oakley House, Bloomsbury-street, London, W.

The usual monthly meeting of the Music Hall Sick Fund was held on Wednesday at the Crown Hotel, Charing Cross-road. Mr. Fred D. Harris presided, and there were also present Messrs. Pat Carey (hon. treasurer), T. B. Brydge, G. Fredericks, W. Brisco, O. Grimaldi, H. E. High, and R. T. Baines (secretary). Mention was made of the fact that the vice-president (Mr. W. J. Wainratta), who occupied the chair at the last meeting, had arrived at New York.

The secretary reported that he had written a letter to the widow and family of the late Mr. Frank Heath (who was hon. treasurer of the society for several years) expressing the sympathy of the committee and officers of the Fund in the loss they had sustained. Mr. Fred Karno, president of the Fund, wrote expressing his regret at his inability to be present, as he was at Bristol arranging for a matinée in aid of the Messina Earthquake Fund.

In the vestibule of the Palace is now exhibited a large oil-painting of Miss Allan by Baron de Pasztory, the well-known artist, who has executed a remarkable work without receiving one "sitting," relying only on his sketches of Miss Allan taken at many visits to the theatre.

Mr. Joe Elvin will be pleased to hear from members willing to give their services for the matinée to be held at the Surrey Theatre on Thursday, Feb. 25, in aid of the Two Primroses. Offers of help should be sent to Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, the *Era*; or to Mr. Elvin, at 63, Effra-road, Brixton, S.W. Mr. Oswald Stoll and Mr. Henry Tozer have given permission for artists under engagement to them to appear at this matinée.

The 595th meeting of the committee of the M.H.A.R.A. was held on Wednesday. Mr. G. B. Sinclair occupied the chair, and Messrs. Albert Voyce, H. Cee Mee, Wm. Welsh, and W. H. Atlas were also present. At the opening of the meeting a vote of condolence was passed to Mr. J. W. Cragg on the death of his wife. The weekly statement showed an increase of forty-nine new members, and receipts of £59 5s.

Miss Maude May Murray's beautiful electrical aerial dancing is again causing quite a sensation this week at the Theatre Royal, Rotherham, and she is greeted at every performance with the greatest enthusiasm. Next week she will make her first appearance at the Opera House, Middlesbrough, in a new sensational dance with beautiful novel lighting effects.

The next committee meeting of the Music Hall Home will be held at the Empire, Camberwell, on Thursday next, at 12 noon. Will ladies and gentlemen who have collecting cards for the *Era* Appeal Fund kindly send them to Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, hon. treasurer to the fund, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.? Men's cast-off clothes, underclothes, and boots are always useful. The secretary's address is 31, Wilson-road, Camberwell, S.E.

The Terriers' Association held a grand ladies' concert on Sunday last at the Three Stags Hotel, Kennington. Mr. B. Almon occupied the chair, supported by Mr. George Cooper as vice-chairman. The following artists appeared: Miss Ada Norman, Miss May Stuart, Mrs. Traynor, Andie Caine, Charles Stevens, Charles Cornish, W. L. Murray, Bert Marsden, T. Waters, Alfred Norton, Stanley Collins, Chas. Girton, Barney Hyams Eddie Comet, and Gus Harris. Mr. J. Chas. Moore officiated at the piano.

On behalf of the committee of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, 61, New Oxford-street, W.C., Miss Melinda May (secretary) begs most gratefully to thank Mrs. Arthur Roberts, gift of a guinea; Miss Ada Webb, 2s. 6d. (through Miss Flo Banks); Miss Louie Davis (collecting), 8s.; Mrs. James Horne (collecting), 1s. 6d.; Miss E. Guilburt (collecting), 2s. 6d.; parcel of clothing, Miss Graham, Princes Gate; Miss Crowther, clothing; parcel, anonymous; and one from Miss Lottie Albert. The anonymous parcel last week was sent by Madame Haydee.

Mr. T. G. Hales has contributed £5 towards the relief of Miss Flora Lington and family. The husband has been blind for five years, and there are two children. Miss Lington is now at the National Sanatorium, Bournemouth. Any further contributions to the same good cause may be sent direct to the Guild. Miss Lington will be grateful for any books or papers posted direct to her.

Will all members please communicate with Miss May and send an address that will find them for the next two weeks? All friends of the charity are heartily welcome to tea and receptions held every Wednesday, four to five o'clock. Every kind of clothing is urgently needed.

The annual dinner and ball of the Terriers' Association is fixed for March 21. At one time the function was a fixture in which the members appeared in all the bravery of fancy dress, but that was in the days of the Association's youth. The Terriers have just published a handbook giving full particulars of the Association, its benefits, and the social advantages it offers to members. A copy will be sent free of charge to all bonâ-fide variety performers on application to Arthur Were, secretary of the Terriers' Association, 69, Kennington-road, S.E.

Mr. George Adney Payne left estate now sworn for probate as of the gross value of £47,895, of which the net personality is £28,643. A former grant of administration, "pendente lite," was issued in August, 1907, when the property was sworn at £48,285, with net personality, £28,827. His will was lately the subject of the action, Payne and another *v.* Payne, in which Mr. Justice Barnes pronounced for the force and validity of the will. Probate thereof (superseding the grant of administration "pendente lite") has accordingly been granted to his son, Mr. Walter Payne, barrister, of 1, Garden Court, Temple, and his son-in-law, Mr. Walter Gibbons, of Park Cottage, East Sheen. The testator left the whole of his property upon trust, in equal shares, for his children, Walter, Minnie, Amelia, Nellie Isabella, and Ida Maude.

A special extra turn matinée is billed for the 20th at the Queen's, Poplar, and the management offer a week's engagement to selected talent. The announcement has stimulated enthusiasm in the district, and the local "stars" are actively engaged at rehearsal.

A rumour, happily unfounded, that old genial Fred Abrahams was on the sick list gained currency, and on enquiry we were very pleased to hear that the popular veteran is down with nothing more serious than a chill, at Brighton.

Three beds at the Poplar Hospital is the result of the Sunday night concerts at the Queen's. Not a bad reflection upon the house. No wonder it opens to full audiences nightly.

In consequence of the Millis concert at the Empire, Camberwell, on Sunday, the Terriers' usual meeting will not be held on that evening.

Mr. Ben Nathan sailed for America on the Baltic on Friday last in order to complete arrangements for the establishing of Day's Agency in connection with the Edward S. Keller Vaudeville Agency (Inc.).

Miss Helen Trix, the talented young American comedienne at the piano, will arrive at the London Hippodrome next Monday. In her novel style she will render four songs. One of them is named "A little farther." A special setting is being prepared for the arena, where Miss Trix will do her turn.

Mr. Alf. J. Lawrance, of that well-known trinity of writers, Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford, has been specially retained for three years by Mr. G. H. Elliott, the chocolate-coloured coon, to supply him with characteristic ditties.

Mr. Harry Nation has produced a humorous skit on his namesake, Mrs. Carrie Nation, at the Hippodrome, Putney, this week, with very gratifying success.

Miss Madge Temple, who has now quite recovered from her throat trouble, is this week scoring another triumph with her charming rendering of "Esau," "Come, be my rainbow," and "The matinée hat," at the Empire, Nottingham, where she has made these songs an absolute rage.

Master Max Darewski, the famous boy composer, conductor, and pianist, is recovering from the attack of influenza from which he has been suffering during the past week, which compelled his cancelling his engagements. His physician, Dr. Forbes Ross, hopes he will be well enough to resume his engagements Monday next.

Douglas, of Talberto and Douglas, the Comedy Boys, is back in harness after his serious accident whilst playing polo on horseback. He was carefully nursed back to health in Chalmers' Private Hospital, Edinburgh. Mr. Leicester Alfred Cooke, who ably filled his place, was on Saturday night last the recipient of a handsome silver cigar-case.

"The Ten O'clock Squad," which was proclaimed an instantaneous success at the Canterbury on Monday night last, is due at Walthamstow next Monday. The book is by Harry M. Vernon, the lyrics by Charles Wilmott, and the bright and catchy music by Hermann E. Darewski, jun., whose name associated with any musical numbers are always sure to be good.

Messrs. Jay and Mann open their season at the Palace Theatre, Brighton, on March 22 next, with the special starring engagement of Mr. Edward Terry, who has not appeared in Brighton for many years. For Goodwood Week, July 25, Miss Marie Lloyd is the attraction, with her own company. Several very strong star and musical attractions are booked.

Mr. Hermann E. Darewski, jun., has completed a march, "Bravo, Territorials," founded on the new song, "Bravo, Territorials," by Charles Wilmott and Hermann E. Darewski, jun. Within the next fortnight both song and march will be heard, sung, and played all over England. Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter are the publishers.

The Brixton Sports Club held their first concert at the Surrey Masonic Hall on Thursday evening. Among artists who appeared were Sam Mayo, Gilbert Girard, Kenneth and Kane, Harry Taft, Rose Hamilton, Fred Earle, Harry Nation, Lew Loman, Hettie Lee, Dolly Bell, Addie Adell, Dorothy Irving, George Formby, Ada Martine, Bert Errol, Jordan and Harvey, Sivronis, Morny Cash, Dunning and Kahn, and Dora Lyric. Quite twenty other well-known performers were on the spot ready to appear, but time would not permit.

Miss Marie Lloyd, T. E. Dunville, and Kate Carney, who had promised to appear, were prevented by their times at other halls. As chairman of the committee Mr. Sam Mayo thanked both artists and audience for their attendance, and on behalf of the Brixton Sports Club said that he was confident that the profession would support this, the only variety club whose aim was to promote outdoor sports amongst artists. Mr. Sam Aarons presided at the piano.

Little Miss Elise Craven, the tiny fairy queen, who has made such a hit at His Majesty's Theatre, will appear at the London Coliseum on Monday in a play entitled *The Queen of the Fairies*, specially written for her by Mr. Sydney Blow. Elise is engaged at the largest salary ever paid at any time to a dancer of eleven years—namely £100 per week. The play has six speaking parts, and will be presented amidst gorgeous surroundings, the Queen of the Fairies, for instance, arriving on a splendid dragon fly in a blaze of light.

Elise is a quaint little girl, with intelligent blue eyes and long fair curls falling about her face—in short, a natural fairy. And there is nothing vain about her, although her wonderful dancing is enough to turn the head of many a "star." The music of the play is by Mr. Edward Jones.

Negotiations are now pending between Mr. Oswald Stoll and Mr. Norman Wrighton for the immediate production of a sensational invasion sketch, entitled *Wake Up, England*, which Mr. Wrighton has adapted from his play *Britain's Awakening*, produced a year ago. An important feature of this stirring episode will be the singing of the national song "Wake up, England!" by the same author, music by John Bull. This song, which is rapidly becoming popular, has been lately honoured by the acceptance and acknowledgment of his Majesty the King and Earl Roberts. Mr. Lionel Wallace, of Messrs. Blackmore, is negotiating all business for Mr. Wrighton with reference to the above sketch.

La Milo, after playing the provinces under her own management, opened her fourth Stoll tour at Hackney last week, and followed up her successes by crowded houses. Amongst the features of her exhibition are many new creations of breathing marble, chief of which is the Three Graces, which is a lesson in impersonal representation of art. Two of the figures have been modelled by La Milo, who makes up the trio in such a way as to offer a spectacular enigma to her audiences. The representation of Joan of Arc, recently canonised, is not a little pathetic, and quite in keeping with the tableaux of the famous maid of Domrémy. These new features uphold the reputation of La Milo, and her success is a happy augury of a successful tour.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

Two notable items in the programme at the State ball at Berlin given in honour of the visit of King Edward and Queen Alexandra were Leslie Stuart's "Florodora Waltz" and "Gavotte der Kaiserin," by P. Hertel, both of which are Messrs. Francis and Day's publications.

MISS VESTA TILLEY'S new song, "That's the time a fellow wants his ma," has just been issued by Messrs. Francis and Day as a "Sixpenny Pop."

HARRY HEATH and Will Hyde have just disposed of a song to Miss Marie Lloyd, who on Friday celebrated the thirty-ninth anniversary of her birthday. By a slip of the pen in our last issue the authorship of Miss Kitty Colyer's "Goodbye, Jenny," which is (words and music) by Mr. Hyde, was ascribed to T. F. Robson. Mr. Robson has been associated with Mr. Hyde with a number of songs, notably Miss Colyer's "Little snow house."

MISS MAIDIE SCOTT, who has during the week, at the Holloway Empire been topping the bill after her successful pantomime engagement at the Marlborough Theatre, has secured Edgar Bateman and H. F. Greenfield's humorous song entitled "Just because ma went to see the great invasion play." Miss Scott opens at the Tivoli on Monday week.

MESSRS. B. FELDMAN AND CO.'S topical song, "A white man," introduced by Mr. George Lashwood, has been the hit of two hundred pantomimes. It has also done some good for the country. Through its instrumentality no fewer than nine recruits were gained for the Territorials at one show alone at a theatre on Wednesday night.

"THERE'S A FOE AT THE GATES OF ENGLAND," which we mentioned last week, has already caught on, and Messrs. Feldman and Co. inform us that they are prepared to give a few music hall rights for this song, which has already proved its worth to the performer.

ANYBODY on the look-out for a big Irish song to produce after pantomime cannot do better than write to Messrs. B. Feldman and Co. for their great song "Connemara," written and composed by Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford.

MR. WILL GODWIN has just secured for immediate production two chorus numbers, entitled "The girl for me" and "Mary of Dundee Town." Both numbers are written and composed by Harry Marlow, author-composer of several recent successes. He has also supplied Miss Gladys Godwyne with a striking motto chorus song entitled "Don't turn on a pal."

MISS EDNA MORGAN, principal boy at the recently-concluded Broadway (New Cross) pantomime, opened the Stoll tour on Monday at the New Cross Empire, and scored an unmistakable success, the audience quickly joining in the refrain of "I'm going back to-morrow morning." This hit was specially written for Miss Morgan by Percy Ford and Offley Ronyart, and will soon be issued by the Denmark Music Publishing Co.

MISS KITTY CLINTON is creating an unprecedented success with Medley Barrett's "Baden-Powell's Scout" in the Elephant and Castle pantomime, being compelled to repeat the last verse and chorus, after taking three and four calls. She has fifty of the Walworth and Camberwell troops of boy scouts to assist.

ON account of the excellent addition to *The Babes in the Wood* pantomime, the management of the Elephant and Castle have been compelled to run four weeks longer—a record for this South London house. The Denmark Music Publishing Co. are indeed fortunate in finding such a winner.

MISS MAUD ESMOND, the Brixton panto favourite, is this week appearing at the Empress, Brixton, and is nightly adding to her popularity. She has just produced a great winner, namely, "I've been out with Charlie Brown," a fine chorus song by Mills and Scott.

V.A.F. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

As the result of the election for the Executive Committee of the V.A.F., Mr. Wal Pink has come out at the top of the poll. Mr. Fred Russell, the well-known ventriloquist, follows. Both are level-headed and capable advocates of the best interests of the profession. The following have been elected for three years:—Messrs. Wal Pink, Fred Russell, Fred Herbert, George D'Albert, Charles McConell, Peter Bijou, Albert Le Fre, Harry Griff, G. B. Sinclair, Harry Lauder, Harry Tate, Joe McConnell, Ryder Slone, Will Poluski, Horace Wheatley, Steve McCarthy, Max Berol-Konorah, J. Alexander, Bob Leonard, Signor Borelli, Alec Hurley, H. Delevine, V. L. Granville, J. Tennyson, J. Foreman, Bert Byrne, W. Munroe, H. Wright, S. Delevine, M. Edgar, Andie Caine, Bert Williams, J. W. Knowles, Fred McNaughton, Billy Brown, Leoni Clarke, M. Geraldo, H. Barrett, M. Nolan, Chas. Rich, Apollo, and Ben Obo. Messrs. J. Gilmore, Jim Obo, and W. Blake have been elected for one year.

TYNEMOUTH Palace figured in an application brought before the licensing magistrates at North Shields on Tuesday. On behalf of its new owners Mr. A. Whitehorn applied for the renewal of the licence, and for permission to carry out certain structural alterations, such as the raising of the floor; the improvement of the lighting, heating, and the acoustic properties of the place; the providing of increased comfort, and the making of a skating rink in the basement.

IT was thought that there should be also a modification of a clause endorsed on the licence, and that the lowest charge should be threepence instead of sixpence. In the event of the Licensing Committee consenting, 192 seats at that price would be provided, besides standing accommodation for a similar number. The Licensing Committee approved of the proposed structural alterations, and granted the licence, reducing the minimum charge of admission from 6d. to 3d. as requested. Something like £18,000 is to be spent on the place.

THE annual pantomime subscription ball organised by Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe, the popular manager of the Tyne Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne, took place on Tuesday evening at the Grand Assembly Rooms. There was a gay assembly of about 200 dancers, music being provided by the Tyne Theatre orchestra.

AMONGST the many public favourites present were Happy Fanny Fields, Mrs. Deane and Miss Doris Dean, the Misses Maud Thorne, Ida Rene, Lily Iris, Rhoda Gordon, Iris Coley, and Florence Hersee, Messrs. Harry Tate, Malcolm Scott, Horace Lane, Carlton, Nightingale, Arthur Prince, Jock Walker, and many artists from Middlesbrough, Darlington, and Edinburgh. There were also present Mr. Teale Lingham (manager of the Royal Theatre) and Mrs. Teale Lingham, and Mrs. and Miss Sutcliffe. Aiding Mr. Sutcliffe were Mr. W. H. Boardman (manager of the Pavilion), Mr. J. J. Lloyd, Mr. Mark Abrahams, and Mr. Charles Campbell, as M.C.'s.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT, 1906. Effect on Theatres and Music Halls. By Albert A. Strong, LL.B., solicitor Price 6d. Published at *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

A CHAT WITH CHARCOT.

Charcot has been telling his life-story. He says: "I was born in a county where the people are all known for being very strong in the arm and weak in the head. The late Herbert Spencer—the greatest philosopher of modern times—and I hail from the centre of the Midlands—Derby. My father, an Irish surgeon, died when I was seven years old, my mother's spirit fled six years later, and I was left to fight the battle of life alone. It would take a big book to chronicle all my 'ups and downs' since that time. I've known what it is to walk the road, without home or habitation, and have a penny bloater for my dinner. I've also experienced the delights of riding in a

CHARCOT.

carriage, with footmen behind me, and being fêted at some of the most aristocratic houses in Europe.

"Yes, I've seen both sides of the curtain, and I should require more than a Prime Minister's salary to get a 'swelled head' from my present triumphant successes. Mine has, indeed, been a strange career. When I look back over the years that have gone, none marvels more than I at what has been accomplished. It's doggedness that does it. For several years I studied hard against tremendous odds; I burned the candle at both ends. I never knew the word 'failure.' I started with nothing. The fire of literature at eighteen burned within me.

"When the whole country was in a blaze of excitement over Mrs. Maybrick's trial, I wrote a defence for her which earned me the esteem and lasting fellowship of one of the leading lights of the medical profession. This was my first excursion into the world of letters. The line of argument and technicalities with which it abounded dumbfounded and almost paralysed some wise men almost old enough to be my grandfather.

"I followed by contributing articles on every conceivable subject under the sun, winning monetary prizes right and left, till at twenty an idea seized me that I could improve on something else.

"At this time I was dispenser to a Scotch M.D., whose friendship I trust I hold to this day. Deciphering Latin prescriptions had no charm for me, but while doing so I here laid the foundation of a book that eventually brought me in £7,000. Not only that, I entered and lectured, advancing its claims in over 3,000 leading universities and colleges in Great Britain and Ireland. I very much question if there is a man living who has had the honour of addressing more students than I.

"From a Cistercian Monastery, surrounded by its great sanctity and glorious scenery away on the borders of Cappoquin, to the wild and up-to-date methods of the modern 'Varsity is a far cry, yet I have had them both. What a contrast, to see, as I have seen, hundreds of young men in cap and gown rise to their feet at my entrance on the platform, and that of the monks, clad in their spotless white raiment, wishing me God-speed in far-away Roscrea. I am digressing.

"After touring every town and city of note in the British Isles, I yearned for more worlds to conquer. Experience had taught me that the more you interest people, the more you get for it. Anything mysterious always appealed to me. Years ago I watched with bated breath the conjurors of my youth. How I marvelled at the sight of a disappearing handkerchief or coin, but, strange to relate, what has always struck me more forcibly than any other mystery is the fact that I once planted two precisely similar bulbs in the earth, and one came up a beautiful tulip and the other an onion. This, to my mind, beat all the mysteries I ever saw, and I studied another remarkable form of nature which finally made me adopt the line with which I am at present occupied. I am only trotting now, wait till I gallop.

"If my act could be copied to-morrow down to the smallest detail, there is one thing that could not be imitated, and which is the foundation of its triumphant success—my experience and personality."

IN *Killing Time*, a music hall sketch produced at the Empire, Shoreditch, on Saturday, the authors, Farries Moss and Mark Stone, both quite new to the music hall stage, have introduced a number of smart sayings, and play the two parts. The scene is laid in the rooms of a modern-day young man, who has invited a party of three to bridge, and only one turns up. The music is by Herbert Schartau.

DEATH OF H. VIVIAN FISHER.

The death of Mr. Harry Vivian Fisher, manager of the Hastings Hippodrome, and landlord of the Mitre Hotel, Hastings, at eight o'clock on Saturday night, will come as a shock to many of our readers. He had not been well for some time past, and took to his bed on Wednesday with severe heart affection, complicated with an attack of colic. There was a change for the worse on Saturday, and he quietly passed away as stated.

The deceased came of an old Hastings family, his grandfather living at what was then a confectioner's shop with a wine licence. Later on, this

[*Photo by Boyd.*
THE LATE MR. H. VIVIAN FISHER.

was turned into the Mitre Hotel, and the father of the deceased held the licence until his death, about ten years ago, when the business was taken over by the son. Mr. Fisher had made a name for himself as a singer, appearing with great success in *Rip Van Winkle* and *Faust*. He married, six years ago, Miss Bessie Watson, also a well-known singer, and about two years ago he was appointed manager of the Hastings Hippodrome. Deceased's age was forty-five years. He was buried at the Borough Cemetery, Ore, Sussex, on Thursday. The deceased gentleman was one of the Hippodrome Syndicate.

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER'S
SONG BOOM.

THE NATION'S CRY,

"BRAVO, TERRITORIALS"

(GALLANT "TEDDY BOYS").

THE SONG OF THE MOMENT.

COPIES NOW READY. SECURE THIS AT ONCE!

"I'M AFRAID TO COME HOME IN THE DARK."
"SHE SELLS SEA SHELLS."
"OH! OH! ANTONIO."
"SUE, SUE, SUE."
"MY GIRL'S A YORKSHIRE GIRL."
"SHADOWLAND."
"HANG OUT THE FRONT DOOR KEY."
"COME, BE MY RAINBOW."
"BOMBADIER."
"EVERY FELLOW'S IN LOVE WITH A GIRL."

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER, 142, Charing Cross Rd., London, W.C.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE HIPPODROME.

A wonderful simian, almost human—and at first thought to be a specimen of the missing link—was found some two years ago and trained. He was brought to London recently, and examined by Dr. Forbes Winslow, the brain specialist. Dr. Forbes Winslow noted the manner in which the animal's big toes shot right away from the other extremities, and pronounced him a monkey, but a very fine specimen. "Consul," as the animal has been named, was at once "commandeered" by the management of the London Hippodrome, and appeared there on Monday. He had given his trainer considerable uneasiness during his journey from Bournemouth on Sunday, but he is quite the best-conducted of his tribe that we have seen on the stage. The charm about his performance is that he seems to thoroughly enjoy it. Entering on a miniature tricycle, he utters some curious sounds by way of welcome, and dressed as an "exquisite" with top hat takes his place at table for dinner, which he eats while he is introduced. He is a chimpanzee "by birth," and has been in captivity for two years, having attained the age of six. Consul ate his meal on the night of our visit with evident relish, and his behaviour at table was excellent. After his last course he called for a cigarette, which he immediately proceeded to light with a match taken from a silver box presented to him at Bournemouth. After his smoke he scrubs his teeth with a tooth-brush, and undresses for bed. Eventually he rides off triumphantly on his tricycle clapping his hands. He does everything unassisted, and is an intelligent creature whose performance is as puzzling as it is interesting.

A great success is scored by La Scala Opera Company in Mascagni's opera *Cavalleria Rusticana*. The chief episodes of this popular lyric work are given, without chorus; and it would not be easy to find so accomplished a singer and actress as Mrs. Rousbey in the part of Santuzza. Her voice, of excellent quality and volume, fills the vast building, and it is some time since we have heard the numbers allotted to the part so well interpreted as they were on Monday evening. Mr. John Ridding (baritone), Mr. Edward Arthur (tenor), and Miss Alice René (contralto) gave excellent support, and the quartette were rewarded with several recalls. Newcomers to the Hippodrome since our last visit are the Kaufmann troupe of lady cyclists. Twelve pretty and shapely girls, dressed in neat blue and white costumes, are responsible for some beautifully executed evolutions; and one of them is a trick performer of remarkable skill.

QUEEN'S, POPLAR.

The old truism that "the best succeeds in the long run" has ofttimes been borne out at this smart little house, but never perhaps with more weight than this week. Certainly the finest box receipts for a very long time have justified the advantage of a programme of surpassing excellence. The one who easily holds pride of place is Peggy Pryde—"at home" at Brighton, but certainly at home in equally affectionate surroundings at Poplar. The old business of the Suffragette has in a measure lost its hold on the public, but Peggy bursts forth fresh and fragrant with an original and legitimate soliloquy under cover of an enticing scena, entitled "Mister Moon." Peggy has a grievance against the "thing called Man," and Peggy knows how to air it; but it does not stop at the masculine gender, and rambling on in delightful mock repartee with the Moon, she lashes out in mock-heroic strains at those "horrid Suffragits," Carrie Nation, and their ilk, and in confidence lets her audience into the secret that in the Territorial Army of the future those "Suffragits" will wear the trousers. Peggy for the week is Poplar's idol, and if applause counts for worship, she rests upon the very pinnacle of fame.

Rita Rylie has also been well received, and so has Alf. Ripon in ventriloquial items. Another who cannot complain of the warmth of his welcome is a deputy for Nat Clifford, who gave some fine burlesque and facial contortions. Frank Harwood has a particularly catchy number, with a special depth of sentiment, which arouses enthusiasm. Margaret Ismay and her White Coons present a novel and pretty dancing scena; Johnson and Burt, in a comedy duo, and Peter Kelly, with some smart patter, strengthen the programme, in which there are a couple of finely played sketches, *An Old Man's Idol* and *A Dog's Devotion*, replete with dramatic power, and possessing a succession of thrills. The Queen's Pictures are also a feature.

THE CANTERBURY.

There is a new and interesting dramatic sketch in two scenes, adapted from Sir Walter Scott's novel "Ivanhoe," produced by Mr. Charles Garry, to be seen for the first time this week at the Canterbury. The title and cast are as follows:—

"A DAUGHTER OF ISRAEL,"

Isaac of York ..... MR. CHARLES GARRY
Sir Brian de Bois Gilbert .. MR. EDWARD SORLEY
Front de Bœuf ..... MR. EDMUND LEA
Ulrica ..... MISS LE SAGE
Rebecca ..... MISS GRACE ILLINGWORTH
A Saracen ..... MR. C. PHILLIPS

The first scene is a dungeon in Front de Bœuf's castle, and here we see Rebecca, the daughter of Isaac the Jew, who, along with her father, is the prisoner of Front de Bœuf. It is the intention of the last-mentioned to extract money by means of threats of torture from old Isaac, while it has been arranged that Rebecca shall be given to Sir Brian de Bois Gilbert, who visits the dungeon and imparts to the girl the secret as to his designs towards her. She pleads with him at first; and then angrily repels him, vowing that she will commit suicide if he makes the slightest attempt upon her chastity. The knight is so impressed by her earnestness and purity of character that he undertakes not only to protect her but to escort her to her father. The second scene introduces us to the torture chamber of the castle, and here Front de Bœuf is demanding a thousand pounds in silver from the Jew, who undertakes to find the money rather than be submitted to the horrors of the "grille." But when he is told of what is likely to happen to his daughter, he indignantly refuses to hand over a single penny of his wealth, and in a violent altercation he succeeds in gaining possession of a dagger and fatally stabbing de Bœuf, just as Sir Brian enters with Rebecca and restores her to her father. The piece is capably acted, and the scenes are most appropriate. Mr. Charles Garry brings a remarkable degree of passion to bear upon his enactment of the character of the Jew; and Miss Grace Illingworth acts with realistic forcefulness the rôle of the Jewish maiden Rebecca. Mr. Edmund Lea is seen in a convincing bit of portraiture as the exacting Front de Bœuf, and Mr. Edward Sorley makes a commanding figure and speaks well as Sir Brian de Bois Gilbert; while Miss Le Sage as Ulrica and Mr. C. Phillips as a Saracen also submit able impersonations.

Miss Victoria Monks' delightful vocalisation of the songs "I love only you" and "If you want to have a row" wins for her all the enthusiastic applause which invariably greets this talented artist's efforts. Another artist who is proving extremely popular this week at the Canterbury is Miss Hanid Alexander, who commences an interesting "turn" by an enchanting pianoforte rendering of "For all Eternity," and then sings an amusing song, "Hippopotamus," to her own accompaniment, concluding her efforts with an equally pleasing interpretation of "Sweet Rainbow" and a graceful dance. Mr. W. B. Raby has a most entertaining ditty on the subject of sleep, which is given with much expression; and Mr.

Harry Pleon appears once more in his attractive comedy act. Seiko engages in some exceedingly smart club juggling and china plate throwing; and Mr. George Formby is highly diverting with his Lancashire witticisms. Miss Millie Howell, the sweet-voiced character vocalist, delivers her numbers, "Wedding Bells" and a series of verses on a Darby and Joan subject, in quite an engaging style; and Mr. Chris Van Bern, the "curious comedian," offers a good deal of really laughable patter, the humour of which is intensified by the employment of trick properties, as, for instance, when he suddenly produces a flower in his buttonhole in a most unaccountable manner. Mr. Eric Williams appears in what is described as a costume recital, bestowing his admirable elocution upon his delivery of Mr. G. R. Sims' poem "The Life boat," in connection with which, it may be mentioned, a collection is made among the audience during the evening on behalf of the National Lifeboat Institution. The Oakes, the talented comedy duo, are responsible for many humorous passages, and the quick change of the lady from a costume character to a red-nosed comedienne is an effective and rapid bit of work. The Stellings (Bella and George) give an amazingly neat hat-throwing exhibition in a restaurant scene; and Lotto, Lilo, and Otto earn unbounded praise for their expert trick and comedy cycling. Miss Rose Hamilton creates amusement with her song, "If we all had what we wanted in the world," in which she introduces a few apt topical allusions; and Bob and Jennie Leonard furnish a rare treat with their comedy character act.

A second new sketch this week is entitled

"THE 10 O'CLOCK SQUAD; OR, THE PRIDE OF THE FORCE."

A Musical absurdity, in Two Scenes, by Harry M. Vernon, lyrics by Charles Wilmott, music by Herman E. Darewski, jun.

Inspector Busybody .....Mr. Tom E. Conover
Jim Kennedy .....Mr. Beverley Benjamin
Sergt. Rozzer .....Mr. G. Clifton Yates
Sergt. Williams .....Mr. W. Ridgwell
Tom Leonard .....Mr. Maxwell Stuart
Molly .....Miss Ida Morgan

This is a very exhilarating "episode" of police life, and if it is anything in the nature of a reflection of actualities, then we can well believe that the members of "the force" are an extremely frolicsome lot. Thus we have an eccentric inspector, whose antics prove highly amusing to the rest of the squad. A little girl (Molly) is adopted by them, and an engaging and clever child she turns out to be, for she sings to them in most enchanting fashion. Eventually, however, she is identified as the child of rich and aristocratic parents, who claim her. The scenes, consisting of the exterior and the interior of a police station, have been suitably carried out from the point of view of the scenic artist. Miss Ida Morgan is a delightful and winsome little personage as Molly, and she gives a very pretty and tuneful rendering of her vocal numbers, including "Molly" and "Won't you come to tea, boys?" Mr. Tom E. Conover is excruciatingly funny as Inspector Busybody, and his rendering of "Oh, the Police!" is much relished. The other members of the cast furnish able support, assisted by the chorus of housemaids, military maids, constables, and prisoners. Altogether this musical absurdity is refreshingly entertaining. Ruffell's Bioscope projects a few attractive films. It is satisfactory to note that under the new management of Mr. Charles W. Adams the Canterbury is receiving abundant patronage from people of the neighbourhood, and that the house is packed nightly.

PECKHAM HIPPODROME.

Mr. Cecil Paget, who so long has presided over the destinies of the popular Peckham house, is now busily engaged in welcoming his two-houses-a-night audiences, who greatly appreciate the ample feast of fun, music, and dramatic sensation which is put before them. The programme commences with the appearance of Missano, an expert conjurer made up *à la* Captain Kettle, who is worthy of a better place on the bill. This gentleman manipulates coins, cards, and rings in a most amazing manner, obtaining a very hearty reception at the close. Miss Dora Daly is a young lady who, with more experience, should do well. She possesses a pleasing voice, and renders effectively a good chorus song, "Your home, sweet home." A rather novel turn is provided by Olive and Owen, the gentleman appearing as a mender of pots and pans, and the lady looking very attractive in gipsy dress. They sang with much success in harmonised duets, "Come back to Erin" and other favourite melodies.

Walton and Lester, described as "the world's worst wizards," appear most grotesquely made up, and sing "Bathing in the sea." Subsequently they come on again as a red-nosed professor of magic and a stout, red-haired boy in an Eton jacket. Uproarious fun is caused by their burlesque tricks, which culminates with the fat boy being forcibly pushed into a cannon, in spite of his loud protestation. A dummy figure of a boy suddenly pops out of a box on the other side of the stage, and the professor claims that he has fired his young friend there.

Miss Amy Clevere, looking radiantly handsome in a light blue bespangled dress, sings very sweetly "Pretty little Dresden china" and "Ain't you got a black moon up there?" thoroughly pleasing her audience. Farley, Rennie, and Farley provide some very funny knockabout business in their act, *Fun at a Railway Station*. The shorter of the two gentlemen represents a railway porter; he is a very clever acrobat, and can apparently twist himself into knots. The remaining gentleman as Bertie, the dude, and the lady as a would-be passenger at "Drowsy Town," where the next train "starts at six to four," ably aid the fun-making. Mr. George Campbell, a North Country comedian with considerable dry humour, scores well with his song, "I rattled my money-box," and gave some amusing patter. A very favourite turn, and perhaps a good advertisement for the Territorials, are the Gordon Highlanders, twelve in number, who go most excellently through their lightning drill, and in a marvellous manner scale a wall, making strong appeal, to judge by the hearty cheering, to the patriotic sentiments of the audience. Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope is an old favourite, and pleases us with some good films of work done by the Fire Brigade.

The excellent programme concludes with Mrs. John Lawson and company in their well-known sketch, *The Devil's Sunday*, which tells the tale of a man's infatuation and a woman's greed and vice. Mrs. Lawson looks very handsome as Mrs. Faber, delineating with many skilful touches the evil nature of the extravagant and heartless young wife. Two gentlemen whose names are not on the bill act very well as the revengeful young husband, David Faber, and the elderly roué, Lord Harrington. The sketch is well mounted and enthusiastically received. With its former prices greatly reduced, and its interior now reupholstered and recarpeted, the Peckham Hippodrome should prove a permanent attraction to the good folks of South London.

RICHMOND HIPPODROME.

As usual, Mr. George Dance has provided an excellent all-round company here this week; as a result, excellent business is being done, and full houses have been the rule. "Money" is the title of Merry Maidie Barker's contribution, and is quite delightfully rendered by this bright little comedienne. With a reputation of some quality, George Gilbey was soon in form, and the house roared at his witticisms. George got away by poking fun at the Fourth Estate generally; then he waxed confidential, and discussed "little things that make you think." Stone and Tracey, clever artists, sing with considerable charm; they "dress" their songs delightfully. "It is of a simple country maiden" that charming Madge Beresford sings. In quite a naïve way Madge told of the rapid rise of Gertie from the bucolic surroundings of the country. Miss Beresford was enthusiastically received.

There is a rage just now for Hebrew impersonations, and one can find no fault with Hayman and Franklyn, in a screaming scena, entitled *A Matrimonial Agency*; roars of merriment punctuated the efforts of this amusing pair. Miss Nelly Lunelle expressed vocally her admiration for a certain drummer boy who is to be felicitated; but it is as a dancer rather than a vocalist that Nelly won her way right into the hearts of the gallery boys. She did a skipping dance which resulted in a salvo of applause. There is a distinct air of novelty about the act of Heeley and Meeley, a couple of irresponsible wags whose antics are responsible for a lot of merriment; as eccentric acrobats Heeley and Meeley are right away in the first rank.

Jack Smiles, fresh from his Coliseum triumphs, was in fine form, and delighted the audience with his peculiar ditty "For months, and months, and months." Quite an acceptable trifle is this. Jack's dance resulted in a perfect torrent of applause, for he foots it quite as cleverly as he sings. *Humanity*, interpreted by Mr. John Lawson and company, left nothing to be desired; and especial mention may be made of Mr. Lawson, and Mr. J. Powell as Cuthbert. Mr. C. W. Richardson presides over a capable orchestra, and deftly keeps things together, and the front of the house is admirably looked after by Mr. Fred H. Trussell, than whom there is no more courteous manager on the road. All things point to prosperity at Richmond

BENEVOLENT FUND WORK.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—Allow me through your paper to convey my best thanks to the committee of the Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund. Having received information that a performer was lying ill, I visited him, and found him in great need of medical aid and in an almost starving condition. I at once went to the V.A.B. Fund, stated the case, and they, with their usual kindness, immediately donated a sum of money. With one of their committeemen I returned to the poor fellow. Nourishing food was procured, a doctor sent for, and the invalid was made as comfortable as possible, and I am pleased to say he has much improved.

Allow me to again thank the committee on behalf of this poor brother artist, who is very grateful to them. As for myself, the courtesy shown by the V.A.B.F. committee is not likely to be forgotten by yours faithfully,

BENJ. WOODGER,
Secretary Music-hall Home.

31, Wilson-road, Camberwell, S.E.
Feb. 10.

MR. A. E. PICKARD.

THE WELL-KNOWN GLASGOW AMUSEMENT CATERER.

Mr. A. E. Pickard, the well-known Glasgow amusement caterer, is a gentleman of more than ordinary and versatile parts. His business tact and acumen are *en evidence* in the way he runs the Britannia Panopticon, in the Trongate, the American Museum close by, and the Gaiety Theatre, Clydebank, while his own bonhomme, kindliness, and courtesy have made him universally popular. He is a good-hearted, free-handed honest, honourable Englishman, of which we are proud in whatever part of the globe we find him.

[*Photo by Langfier.*

MR. A. E. PICKARD.

Mr. Pickard was born at Horton, near Bradford, in the year 1874, so that he is a genuine Yorkshireman. On leaving school he went to the printing trade, but it was quite unsuited for his taste, so he took to engineering. During a period of extreme trade depression throughout the country, he bade adieu to Yorkshire and became a wandering showman. After a time he made the "little village" his headquarters, where during the winter he ran sideshows at the Royal Aquarium and the Agricultural Hall. Mr. Pickard next turned his abilities to account in Paris (1897 Exposition), Lyons, Marseilles, and Monte Carlo. He returned to London, and opened amusement resorts in the city and suburbs—Oxford-street, Camden Town, Hammersmith, and Borough. In 1904 he arrived in Glasgow, and became proprietor of Fell's American Museum and Waxworks at 101, Trongate, Mr. Fell having sold out and retired from business. In the summer of 1905 the old Britannia Music Hall was taken over by him. A distinct boon has been conferred on lovers of entertainment in Scotland by the enterprise of Mr. Pickard in providing a fancy fair, roof gardens, and a zoological collection, and in catering to variety taste in the most careful and consistent manner. It was a good stroke of business as well as a welcome action to all Glasgow lovers of entertainment when he rescued the old "Brit" from the slough of despond and neglect into which it had fallen. He spent a lot of money on it, and reopened its doors on July, 9, 1906. Last year Mr. Pickard became lessee of the Clydebank Theatre, which, like the "Brit," had fallen on evil days. With bad trade against him, but with his own pluck in his favour, Mr. Pickard made a start, opening his doors on Sept. 14, 1908. It is pleasant to record that he has been successful. He took a wise step in instituting popular prices, and he spares no effort to induce first-class variety artists to visit his theatre in the Clydeside burgh.

"Yes," said Mr. Pickard to an *Era* representative, "the Britannia Panopticon has come to stay. When it was reopened in 1906 the pessimists declared that it would have a short life and not a merry one. These fine prophets based their ideas on the records of previous music hall entertainments, which only failed because they were not run on the proper lines. Yes, the daily variety entertainments at the 'Brit' are four in number—two in the afternoon and two in the evening. It is my greatest pride to know that my entertainment is regarded as an entertainment to which parents can bring their families without fear of offence. There is no doubt that animated photography holds a high place in our variety entertainments to-day. I was the first to introduce the chronophone—singing and talking picture—into Britain. I showed them at the 'Brit' on a Saturday two days before they were shown at the London Hippodrome. I am continually introducing fresh novelties and attractions, no expense being spared to bring everything right bang up to date and ahead of the times. By the by, W. Ashmore Gill broke the world's record in club swinging by three hours at the 'Brit.' He swung the clubs daily for 12½ hours for six days—a wonderful performance.

"Victor Beaute, the Swiss fasting man, was the biggest sensational hit at my American Museum. The way I advertised the performance had a good deal to do with the sensation created. The public were really expecting to see me marched off to prison on a charge of culpable homicide, so convinced were they that Beaute could not succeed in the test that he set himself. Of course it was a wonderful feat of endurance to fast for forty days, but he knew perfectly well before he tried it that he could come through it all right. Then, this was a new business for the people of Glasgow. I don't think there had been a fasting man in the city for something like forty years—since the time of Dr. Tanner. The most interesting personage ever I exhibited was a dwarf called Tom Thumb. He was, to my mind, the smallest human being ever exhibited, being only 23in. high, 12in. shorter than the original General Tom Thumb exhibited by Barnum. To watch the little gentleman grinning at an audience from the inside of an ordinary silk hat was, as an old country lady remarked, 'a sicht for sair een.'

"What do I think of the present roller-skating craze? This popular pastime to-day is as marked a feature of British sport as golf or football. Every day great skating rinks are being opened all over the country. I am not afraid to say that roller-skating has a long life before it. The public taste in the matter of entertainments has undergone great changes in recent years. The public take their pleasure in tabloid doses—many and often. The times are too strenuous for the one show a night variety show of ten and twenty years ago. Britain is rapidly becoming Americanised. A good job, too, or Yankees know how to get more out of life than most other people. What the toiling masses of this country want is more pleasure fairs, carnivals, and White Cities, with their great water-chutes, dragon slides, gravitation railways, mystic rivers, airships, jungle and Bisley rifle ranges, games of skill, and other sideshows. For toil-worn people the fun and hilarity of a pleasure fair was an effective medicine and corrective. In a few years time the open-air carnivals will be as popular with the public as the variety theatres are to-day."

KITTEE RAYBURN.

THE GIRL IN BLACK AND WHITE. ON TOUR.

Pullen's Kent Argus.—To Miss Kittee Rayburn the principal honours must be accorded, and at the Palace Theatre, Ramsgate, she soon became a popular favourite.

Thanet Advertiser.—Miss Kittee Rayburn soon took pride of place, and she speedily ensured the approbation of the house.

Hastings Pictorial.—In Miss Kittee Rayburn we have a vivacious Prince, who acts and sings charmingly. Her songs bring down the house.

Hastings Argus.—The principal attraction is Miss Kittee Rayburn. This popular lady is Prince Amaroso. Her Canadian song at once caught on and will be voted one of the best things in the pantomime.

Hastings and St. Leonards Weekly Mail.—Miss Kittee Rayburn as the Prince cuts a handsome figure. She is full of vitality, and there is no mistaking the almost affectionate reception she has won at the Gaiety.

The Era, Jan. 30.—Miss Kittee Rayburn came to Hastings with a big reputation which she fully maintained.

Kent Messenger (Maidstone).—Mr. Phillips's successful pantomime, "Little Red Riding Hood," is at the Palace Theatre. The Prince Amarosa is in the thoroughly capable hands of Miss Kittee Rayburn, whose acting and singing is a great success.

The Stage, Feb. 4.—First place in the charming pantomime at the Palace Theatre, Maidstone, must be given to Miss Kittee Rayburn, who soon sings herself into favour, and uses her voice to advantage.

G. Brydon Phillips, Esq., writes, Feb. 6:—Must thank you for your most admirable work in my pantomime "Little Red Riding Hood," and, despite your great success, your duties were carried out in a most conscientious manner from first to last, and with distinct fairness to your brother and sister artists.

Wentworth Croke, Esq., writes, Jan. 27:—There is no doubt in the pantomime you made a big personal hit at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith.

Mr. Fred Neiman, having concluded his arrangements with the De Frece Circuit, has transferred his agency to his former address, viz., 108, Strand, W.C., where he will be pleased to see all clients.

The ubiquity of the animated picture photographer has become strongly marked during the past year, but never more so than last week, when but little over thirty hours after the arrival of the King and Queen at Berlin visitors to the Palace Theatre were enabled to witness the event on the Urbanora Bioscope. These were exclusively shown by Mr. Charles Urban, who, on behalf of the Palace Theatre, dispatched a special corps of expert operators to accompany the Royal Party.

The glittering scenes at the station, where the Emperor and Empress received their guests, scenes and incidents en route in Unter den Linden, and finally the arrival within the castle are graphically depicted. The series, taken by special permission of the authorities, is being added to each evening, and thus the public have an opportunity of following all the movements of the Royal party on their historic sojourn in the German capital.

Miss Winifred Hare opens on March 1 at the Empire, Liverpool, for one week, and then returns to London and the Oxford and Mr. Walter Gibbons's halls on March 15, with new songs and dresses. Meanwhile Miss Hare goes to Cork on Monday with the same pantomime in which she has been appearing in Dublin. The stay in Cork will be for a fortnight. Last Tuesday at Dublin Miss Hare was presented by the management with a beautiful floral cushion, the design being in wild flowers with a large white hare jumping over them. The "boys" of the company also gave her a bouquet, and dropped into poetry.

The interesting series of "Talks About Old London," contributed to our contemporary the *Evening News* by old citizens, is about to be enriched by a contribution by Little Thomas, the celebrated corner-man of the Mohawk-Moore and Burgess Minstrels, now in his seventieth year. The veteran, whose voice is as powerful as ever, and who was seen striding towards Carmelite-street on Thursday, with all his faculties unimpaired, for the purpose of being interviewed—he does not even wear glasses—sang on Friday night last at no fewer than four concerts—giving four songs at the Polytechnic, four at the Café Monico, a like number at Barnsbury Hall, and two at Myddleton Hall, Islington; and this week he journeyed to St. Albans to assist at an entertainment organised by Mr. Dunn, the hatter. Mr. Thomas celebrates his golden wedding on March 16 by a grand Bohemian Concert at Stanley Hall, Junction-road, Tufnell Park, which is exactly opposite the tube station of that name, and already offers of assistance and applications for tickets are reaching his residence at 84, Huddlestone-road, N.7 from admirers of the sturdy old man who has always been so willing to give his services for brother and sister artists.

FELDMAN'S

ARTISTS WHO ARE SINGING FELDMAN'S SONGS IN PANTOMIME.

LONDON DISTRICT.

MISS HANID ALEXANDER.
MISS PRUDENCE AYRTON.
MISS FLORENCE BRAY.
MISS LENA BRICKWELL.
MISS BESSIE BUTT.
MISS LALLIE CAMPBELL
MISS VENIE CLEMENTS.
MISS KITTY CLINTON.
MISS ENA CORELLI.
MISS ROSE COSTA.
MISS MARIE DAINTON.
MISS KITTY DOUGLAS.
MISS MAUD ESMOND.
MISS QUEENIE ESSEX.
MISS DOROTHY FIRMIN.
MISS LYDIA FLOPP.
HAL FORD.
MISS MAUDIE FRANCIS.
FERGUSON AND MACK.
MISS FIFI GORDON.
MISS DOROTHY GRASSDORFF.
MISS NANCY HEARNE.
BABY HUTT.
MISS CONSTANCE HYEM.
MISS EDITH JEFFERIES.
MISS QUEENIE LEIGHTON.
MISS ADDIE LENNARD.
EDWARD LEWIS.
MISS DOROTHY MILLER.
MISS CARRIE MOORE.
MISS EDNA MORGAN
SISTERS MORGAN.
MISS MADOLINE REES.
MISS LILLIAN ROSE.
MISS DOROTHY RUNDELL.
SYDNEY RUSSELL.
MISS LOTTIE SARGENT.
MISS TRULY SHATTUCK.
ARTHUR STIGENT.
MISS AGNES TANDY.
MISS KITTY TIMS.
MISS LULU VALLI.
MISS LENA VERDI.
MISS ETHEL WARD.
MISS WINIFRED WARD.
E. HARVEY WHITE.
MISS MARIE WILSON.

BELFAST.
MISS DECIMA BROOKE.
MISS EDITH FINK.
GEORGE LASHWOOD.
GEORGE MILLER.
MISS DOROTHY WARD.

BIRMINGHAM.
MISS SYBIL ARUNDALE.
FRANK BLYTHE.
G. H. ELLIOTT.
MISS RITA EVERARD.
MISS HETTIE KING.
MISS ETHEL NEGRETTI.
MISS CLARA REID.
ARTHUR REYNOLDS.
MISS IVEY ROSE.
MISS JOYCE STEVENS.
MISS ELLALINE THORNE.

BRIGHTON.
EDWIN GARTH.
MISS GERTRUDE GILLIAM.
MISS BLANCHE MARION.
MISS AIMEE ROBERTS.

BRADFORD.
MISS BELMORE.
MISS ISABELLE DILLON.
MISS FLORRIE FORDE.
CHARLES NORTON.
MISS VERA VERE.
MISS WINIFRED WYNDHAM.

BRISTOL.
MISS VIOLET GILLIS.
MISS OUIDA MACDERMOTT.
MISS DEBORAH VOLAR.

CARDIFF.
MISS MARIE BURDELL.
MISS NELLIE LUNELLE.
MISS MOYA MANNERING.
MISS IDA STATHAMS.

CROYDON.
MISS GEORGINA DELMAR.
MISS GLADYS WARREN.

DUBLIN.
BARNEY ARMSTRONG.
J. J. DALLAS.
MISS KATHLEEN GRAY.

DUNDEE.
MISS ROSIE BARTLETT.
MISS MAY CARTER.
MISS HETTIE LIND.
MISS AMY RANDOLPH.

EDINBURGH.
MISS MENA BRAE.
WILL EVANS.
MISS JANE EYRE.
MISS MINNIE OLIVE.

EXETER.
MISS VIOLET HOLLEM.
MISS EDITH HOUSLEY.

GLASGOW.
MISS DECIMA BROOKE.
MISS FLORA CROMER.
WHIT CUNLIFFE.
HARRY DENT.
MISS IRIS HOEY.
MISS VIOLET LORAINE.
SAM MORRIS.
MISS ELLA RETFORD.
GEORGE ROBEY.
FRED RUSSELL.

HANLEY.
DOUGLAS CAMPBELL.
MISS LOLA PATEY.
MISS MARGARET RUBY.

LEEDS.
MARTIN ADESON.
MISS NELL EMERALD.
MISS LULU RUSSELL.
MISS LILLIE SOUTTER.

LIVERPOOL.
BOBBIE ALLANDALE.
MISS MABEL GREEN.
MISS FLORENCE IMESON.
MISS LILY MORRIS.
ARTHUR RIGBY.

MANCHESTER.
MISS MAY BEATTIE.
MISS IVY GALLARD.
MISS PEGGY McDONNELL.
MISS LIZZIE PAYNE.
GEORGE WOOD.

NEWCASTLE.
HAPPY FANNY FIELDS.
MISS LILY IRIS.
MISS VIOLET LLOYD.

NOTTINGHAM.
MISS MABEL CARR.
MISS CRESSIE LEONARD.
MR. LEWIS LESLIE.
JAMES LESLIE.
MISS MADGE VINCENT.
MISS MOLLY WYNNE.

PAISLEY.
MISS MOYNA HILL.
MISS DAISY MORRELL.
MISS KATE YATES.

PLYMOUTH.
MISS LUCIE CAINE.
MISS MAISIE ELLINGER.
ALF. E. PASSMORE.

PORTSMOUTH.
MISS CONNIE LEON.
MISS MAUDE MORTIMER.

SHEFFIELD.
MISS MAY MARS.
MISS NANCY THORNTON.

OTHER PROVINCIAL TOWNS.

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MISS BARBARA BABINGTON.
FRED BARNES.
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MISS MADGE BROWNE.
MISS DOT CAREY.
MISS CARLISLE.
ARTHUR CARLTON.
MISS NINA CARLTON.
MISS GLADYS CHRISTIE.
SID CROSSLEY.
MISS MINNIE D'AUBYN.
MISS MAY DE LA GRANGE.
MISS MAY DESMOND.
MISS EDITH DEVERELL.
MISS VERA DUDLEY.
MISS ETHEL DURNFORD.
HARRY EDLIN.
MISS LILY EYTON.
MISS RAY FORD.
MISS MARIE JERRARD.
MISS IVY GALLARD.
MISS MINA GREEN.
MISS NORA GUY.
MISS MOLLIE HACKETT.
BOBBIE HALL.
MISS MAUD HERSEE.
MISS FLORENCE HILTON.
MISS HEDDA HIRLEMANN.
MISS MARY HOPE.
MISS ZONA JOY.
LITTLE KEENO.
MISS GERTIE LENO.
ARTHUR LENVILLE.
MISS LOUIE LOVE.
MISS CYNTHIA LUPINO.
MISS JENNY LYNWOOD.
MISS LALLAH MELROSE.
MISS NELLIE MERTON.
MISS BEATRICE MOORE.
MISS IVY MOORE.
MISS MADGE O'NEILL.
GEORGE PARRY.
MISS LOLA PATEY.
MISS MAUD PRENTON.
MISS ETHEL RA LESLIE.
MISS RENA REES.
MISS MARIE REEVE.
MISS NORA RITERIO.
MISS MABEL ROBERTS.
MISS CHRISTINE ROY.
MISS LILLIE STORRIE.
MISS LENA STANTON.
MISS BEATRICE VARLEY.
MISS KITTY WEBB.
MISS JESSIE WILTON.
MISS FLORENCE WIX.

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2 & 3 ARTHUR STREET, W.C.

Telegrams, "Humfriv, London." Telephone, No. 4447 Gerrard.

NEW YEAR'S COLLECTION FOR THE MUSIC HALL HOME.

1,878½ SHILLINGS.

In again directing the attention of our readers to *The Era* New Year's Shilling Fund on behalf of the Music Hall Home we are in the happy position of being able to associate with the appeal thus being made the name of the foremost music hall comedienne—Miss Marie Lloyd. It seems scarcely necessary to remind our readers of the deep interest Miss Lloyd has ever taken in matters affecting the welfare of her brothers and sisters of the variety profession. It is her desire that her "year" will be marked by a considerable increase in the subscriptions of previous years, and she therefore, through *The Era*, commends the Music Hall Home to the charitably-minded. Mr. Thomas Barrasford, the President of the Fund, is again this year exerting himself in its behalf, and this fact is sufficient indication that he is satisfied as to the way in which the institution is being conducted, and that he considers it worthy of support.

Mr. Ben Woodger, the secretary of the Music Hall Home, tells us that in 1907 the inmates averaged ten, but that in 1908 there have been as many as twelve. The address of the Home is 31, Wilson-road, Camberwell, and there the matron (Mrs. Fruin) busies herself for the comfort and convenience of her "family." At present there are eleven of these, and the desire is to increase the number, which can only be done when sufficient funds for the purpose are collected. During the past twelve months three or four of the inmates have recovered their health and strength sufficiently to enable them to look for engagements. These secured, they left the Home, and the vacancies thereby created were immediately filled up. Now, this Home requires keeping up, and it cannot be kept up on air. There is no need for us to refer to all the good work which has been performed by the institution in the past, as that must for the most part be within the recollection of our readers. The ages of the inmates range from fifty to seventy-six. In all probability these men will be maintained in the Home until the day of their death, and their funeral expenses paid for out of the funds of the Home.

The Era New Year's Shilling Fund is the main source of income to the Home, and this means of sustenance is added to by the donations of artists, either given directly, or through the collecting boxes through which many managers of variety theatres collect pennies from "dead-heads" and from artists who desire free admission.

Anyone can be supplied with a collecting-card by sending a postcard to Mr. Woodger.

Briefly, we may once more repeat that the objects of the Music Hall Home Fund are to provide shelter for deserving members of the variety profession who have been stricken with poverty or illness in their declining years, or who have in other ways fallen on evil times. Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, the hon. treasurer, will be pleased to receive filled-up collecting cards addressed to him at *The Era*, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C., and to acknowledge them in these columns.

FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	Shillings.
Joe Elvin, per Marie Lloyd	105
Marie Lloyd	63
Jack Miles Stavordale	120
Bert Williams	30
Jack Woolf	30
Leoni Clarke	21
Gus Elen	21
Chas. Weldon	21
John Lawson	21
Mr. Hymack	20
O. M. Dayton	10
Alf Chester	10
Ben Brown	10
E.	6
Slippere	5
Frank Folloy	1

Collected by the Hartley Wonders, 2s.

Hartley Wonders ..	1	Maggie Walsh	1

Collected by Horace Wheatley, £2 10s.

Horace Wheatley ..	40	Grandma	1
T. Wheatley, jun. ..	1	Auntie	1
Kathleen Wheatley..	1	Mack W. (the dog)..	1
Norah Wheatley	1	Ernest Powcel	1
Eileen Wheatley	1	Will Vay	1
H. Wheatley, jun. ..	1		

Collected by The Maples, 10s.

Fred Maple	1	Dusty Rhodes	1
Amy Maple	1	Joe Tennyson	1
Edward Lauri	1	Bates Maddison	1
May Beatty	1	W. H. Wallis	1
Cissie Lauri	1	Ben Brown	1

Collected by Dave Carter, £1 10s.

Dave Carter	1	Al. Johnston	1
He of the Topnote ..	1	W. Ellwanger	1
He of the Topnote ..	1	J. J. Harvey	1
He of the Topnote ..	1	Dan Conroy	1
He of the Topnote ..	1	Bowker Andrews	1
James Shewart	1	J. W. Wilson	1
James Mooney	1	W. H. McCarthy	1
Percy Haley	1	Young Dave Garrick	1
Master May	1	Lancelot B. Andrews	1
Fred Morley	1	Geo. Hughes	1
Alf. Ripon	1	Doc. Robertson	1
Sammy Shields	1	Baby Robertson	1
W. F. Heeley	1	D. J. Pigott	1
B. C. Meely	1	Will Oliver	1
Rose Elliott	1	Morny Cash	1

Collected by the Musical Johnstons, 6s.

Dorothy Drew Johnston	1	J. A. Johnston	1
A. E. Johnston	1	Dave Carter	1
F. Johnston	1	Fred Ralph	1

Collected by Sisters Ford, 30s.

Cissie Ford	1	Jack Hayworth	1
Emmie Ford	1	Walter Williams	1
John Simms	1	Frand Leidam	1
George Rapley	1	W. Richardson	1
Colibris Midgets	1	Joe Athos	1
Colibris Midgets	1	John Trowel	1
P. E. Edmond	1	Hectors	1
Arthur Woodville ..	1	Thorpe and Co.	1
Horace Pollock	1	Rastus and Banks ..	1
M. Simms	1	Mrs. Haley	1
Hughie Rostron	1	Milner and Storey..	1
Little Innocence	1	Jimmy and Fanny ..	1
Earl of Dudley	1	Raven Wood	1
Cecile Eldred	1	Vivienne Bell	1
Sam J. Downing	1	W. M., Friend	1

Collected by Seener and Fridkins, £2 5s.

Seener and Fridkins	5	Bertha Northam	1
John A. Leopold	5	Augustus Dale	1
Zeymand Andrews ..	5	William Ward	1
Mr. Edwardes	2	Herbert La Martine	1
Geo. Auger	2	Horace O'Malley	1
Ernest Rommel	2	Marie Loftus	1
E. Ch. Gittins	2	A. Dome	1
Dick Bell Rio	2	C. Coborn	1
Fredk. Wilson	1	Ae-Bo-Kou	1
X X X	1	D. H. C.	1
Boccaccio	1	Will Murray	1
A. H.	1	Joe Sylvana	1
Bertie Ralland	1	Tom Collins	1
Bertha Winder	1	W. H. C.	1

Collected by Ben Brown (fourth card), 23s.

Robbie	2	J. Mitchell Langley	1
Daisy James	2	W. W. B.	1
Manning's Entertainers	1	W. A.	1
F. Toomey	1	F. G.	1
M. A. Pettitt	1	Pill Wank	1
Count Landeryou	1	Bothey	1
Fred Reeves	1	R. T.	1
Alf. Lotto	1	G. Young	1
Jan Lyell	1	F. Leon	1
Miss Winifred Earle	1	Col. Clough	1
		S. Girling	1

Collected by Jimmy Shields, £1 15s.

Johnson and Bert ..	2	Monty Walker	1
Billy Williams	1	J. E. Wilkes	1
Jimmy Shields	1	Floradoras	1
Edward Rowland ..	1	Mr. J. Bursiam	1
George Shields	1	Arthur Royce	1
Sam Thomson	1	Margaret Drew	1
Harrison Brookbank	1	Beatie and Babs	1
Dolly Ross	1	Frank Coyle	1
Ernest Krake	1	Friend	1
Fred J. Hudson	1	Pal	1
George Edney	1	S. F.	1
Mr. and Mrs. Will Pettitt	1	Tom Joy	1
Ernest Dillon	1	Henry Herne	1
Percy Farrimond ..	1	Leonard Fisher	1
Evelyn and Norrie..	1	Will S.	1
George Cooper	1	Sam B	1
J. W. Hall	1	Devonshire, Barnsley	1

Collected by Kloof and Ramsay, £1 12s. 6d.

George Lashwood	2	J. E. Nightingale ..	1
Verona Quartette ..	2	A. C. Williams, stage representative, Pontypridd	1
Per Messrs. Benet and Kloof, Crusoe panto. company :—		Miss Nellie Dyson ..	1
Mr. Harry Benet..	2	Miss Gertie Millar ..	1
Sisters Rowe	2	J. H. Wakefield	1
Billy Kloof	1	Rand and O'Ryan ..	1
Mrs. Kloof	1	Will and Roze	1
Little Jack Metz	1	Sam Saxo	1
U. C. Ugo	1	Ernest P. Grahame..	1
Mrs. A. F. Bedford, V.A.F. Agency, Barnsley	1	Trixie Bascombe	1
		Alf. Heath	1
		David Phillips	1
Sandy McNab	1	Miss Eva Bentley ..	1
Bert Weston	1	William W. Fish ..	1
Syd Pete	1	Lonzo Brown	1
Arthur Maxey	1	Miss Holland	½

Collected by Regan and Ryan, £1 12s. 6d.

Fanny Fields	5	Room No. 4, M.T. ..	1
Violet Lloyd	5	Doris Dean	1
Malcolm Scott	5	Florence Herseé	1
Harry Tate	5	Harry Claff	1
Regan and Ryan ..	5	Horace Lane	1
Patty Yole	2½		

Collected by Ben Brown (second card), 38s.

W. H.	5	F. Gill	1
D. V. Goldberg	2½	S. D.	1
G. C. N. P.	2	H. Webster	1
Gaskin	2	E. Davidson	1
L. S.	2	Levene	1
David Levy	2	Hean	1
Mamney	2	L. Z.	1
H. Heathan	2	C B.	1
P. Samuels	2	Elsie Pratt	1
Sutters	2	Charlie Pratt, jun.	1
H. D.	1	Mrs. Frith	1
Cast	1	H.	½
Samuels	1		

Collected by Barney Armstrong, 24s.

Joe Elvin	2	George Kirby	1
Gala and Norris	2	Harry Lappo	1
Miss Winifred Hare	2	Lena Brunton	1
Barney Armstrong ..	2	Leo Behan	1
Mr. J. Lucy	1	Martha Cowper	1
Mr. H. C. Arnold	1	Chas. Coborn	1
Frank Benson	1	E. A. Matthews	1
Baddow	1	Leighton Rooke	1
Ulrick	1	Gladys White	1
J. J. Dallas	1	Jimmy Steel	1

Collected by J. W. Hall, 30s.

J. W. Hall	1	Gent. Lotto	1
Pat Rafferty	1	Tom Wilson	1
Walter Wade	1	Harry Barrett	1
Harold Hughman ..	1	J. W. Hall	1
George P. Smith	1	J. W. Hall	1
F. A. Gotch	1	J W. Hall	1
T. Mercer	1	Mrs. Hall	1
Alf Sontai	1	Mrs. Hall	1
Harry Shirley	1	Mrs. Hall	1
Campbell	1	Mrs. Ella Hall	1
R. Galland	1	Mrs. Ella Hall	1
W. H. Barber	1	Mrs. Ella Hall	1
Lucy Crichton	1	Master Harry Hall..	1
Mr. Clark	1	Master Harry Hall..	1
A. Lotto	1	Master Harry Hall..	1

Collected by Mlle. De Rose, £2 1s.

Our Boys	4	Edie May	1
Mlle. De Rose	2½	Dick Thomas	1
J. H. Hawtrey	2½	Hettie Gale	1
Reginald Grant	2½	Leslie Hawkins	1
W. W. Kelly	2½	Joe Huda	1
Hilda Claremont	1	Our Willie Hall	1
Alf Leonard	1	J. Gar Kiddie	1
Stanley Fairless	1	Sisters Raymond	1
W. G. Wesley	1	E. Adeler	1
James Lowe	1	H. O. Callaghan	1
Nellie Barrett	1	Herbert Bates	1
Ada Tyrell	1	Mrs. Egerton	1
George Burton	1	Harry Mayville	1
W. H. Lisando	1	Edgar Stebbings	1
Bob Lisando	1	Mark Stuart	1
Harry Bliss	1	Joe Oliver	1

Collected by Frank Coyle, 20s.

W. E. Gillin	1	Gladys Godwin	1
Ramsey Trio	1	The Ellimans	1
J. Smith	1	Lilian Graham	1
Frank Coyle	1	Fioretti and Elly	1
Violet Coyle	1	Percy Mannings	1
Mrs. Frank Coyle	1	Walter Mannings ..	1
Miss Fanny Coyle ..	1	F. B. Bedford	1
Jimmy Shields	1	John Huxley	1
Will Godwin	1	Denby and Dent	1
Mrs. Godwin	1	Geo. Hall	1

Collected by the Three Bros. Huxter, 11s.

Lambeth and Robertson	2	R. Taylor	1
Edward Huxter	1	A. Rudd	1
Bros. Milford	1	G. G.	1
Jeannie Johns	1	Corradini	1
Elsie Steadman	1	A. Saxon	1

Collected by Fred Kitchen, £1 2s.

Fred Kitchen	5	Geo. Craig	1
Harry Kitchen	2	Geo. Messer	1
Mrs. F. Kitchen	2	Grimani	1
Fred Kitchen, jun.	1	T. Scott Bell	1
Kitty Horan	1	Harry Howe	1
Frank Rickards	1	Jimmy Russell	1
Bert Landeck	1	Fred Karno	1
James Beresford	1	Billy Morgan	1

[*Photo by Sarony.*

MISS MARIE LLOYD,
The Fair Worker for the Home.

Collected by Three Sisters Lee, £2 0s. 6d.

E. F. Murray	2½	E. Pender Cudlip ..	1
Fred Ginnett	2	J. Morgan	1
Reg. Beauchamp ..	2	George Narow	1
M. Arnold	1	Herbert Mack	1
A.	1	Jas. E. Donegan	1
W. Murray	1	Jim Dunedin	1
Thomas Lee	1	George French	1
Mina Lee	1	Gent Lotto	1
Jeanette Lee	1	Syd Pete	1
Leonie Dixon	1	T. C. Downie	1
Marie Empress	1	Schus	1
Sue Lewis	1	Ned	1
Jas. W. Dixon	1	Three Orleans	1
R. A. Johnson	1	Reg Bolton	1
Ernie Warsaw	1	H. Finden	1
R. H. Douglas	1	Hanvarr	1
Mrs. Dent	1	Hanvarr, jun.	1
W. W. Walton	1	Anna Lee	1
Harry Curry	1		

Collected by Charles Cardow, 20s.

Charles Leighton ..	1	Leo Royburn	1
Ena Richards	1	Hayman and Franklin	1
Collected at billiards	1	Dave Laird	1
Russell Carr	1	A. Standing	1
Hal Godfrey	1	S. Sciravitch	1
Mayme Cannon	1	A Commercial	1
John G. Marx	1	Pennies collected :—	
Dan Filmer	1	Lime-street Station	1
Bob Reano	1	Dressing-room	1
Charles Cardow	1	King's Cross Station	1
Henri Doré	1		

Collected by Carl and Carr, 31s.

J. N. Smith	5	Evelyn Desa	1
Carl and Carr	3	Tom Lawson	1
A Friend	1	Nancy Renshaw	1
Tom Costello	1	Louie Love	1
Billie Costello	1	Queenie King	1
Frank Freeland	1	Ernie Davey	1
James Rallis	1	Jack Osmond	1
L. Hoffman	1	M. Austin	1
E. D. Nicholls	1	Marie St. Hilary	1
A Friend	1	Arthur Carlton	1
Michael Madden	1	A. W. Lethbridge	1
Charles Leverton	1	Bertha Priddy	1
Mlle. Lucretia	1		

Collected by Ted and May Hopkins, £3 1s. 6d.

Courtice and Louie Pounds	20	H. P. Milner	1
Ted and May Hopkins	5	N. Bowman	1
A Wellwisher	3	Charles Stuart	1
Bransby Williams ..	3	Marie Clissold	1
Mabel Bardine	3	Sybil St. Elmo	1
William Jackson ..	2½	Lottie Lennox	1
Sisters Geretti	1	Chas. Santoi	1
Fred Horsfall	1	Colonna Frances	1
Nat Gilbert	1	J. Humphries	1
Lia Kathrena	1	Madge Osmond	1
Edward Foster	1	Pearl Keats	1
Arthur Schofield	1	E. S. Jackson	1
John Macauley	1	Ernest Wighton	2
Master May	1	Morris Harvey	1
		Will Poluski, jun. ..	1
		Harry Weldon	1

Collected by Dick Tubb, £1 15s.

Eight Imperial Girls	4	Dudley Powell	1
Dick Tubb and Jessie Buckle	2	P. C. Armstrong	1
W. Groome	1	Bert H. Delmar	1
F. Brown	1	Grimshaw and Esmond	1
H. J. Corner	1	Maidie Scott	1
Fred Douglas	1	Winifred Ward	1
Mrs. Engel	1	Haroid Wellesley	1
Tom Child	1	James Fletch	1
J. H. Farr	1	W. Morgan	1
Bart Farland	1	Sam Poluski, jun.	1
J. Murray	1	Kittie Douglas	1
F. Emney	1	Little Rosie Lee	1
M. Rees	1	F. Brett	1
Nellie Howard	1	Little Maudie Francis	1
Gwladys Soman	1	A. T.	1
May Davis	1		

Collected by Miss Ray Maskell, 41s.

Ray Maskell	5	U. G. O. Nap	1
Ted E. Box	2	G. Fletcher	1
G. Baner	2	Walter Lee	1
Jas. Fortune	2	Auntie Hart	1
S. Wheeler	1	F. B. J.	1
O. Botwright	1	E. B. Dwyer	1
Mr. Chard	1	Raven Wood	1
Coverdale	1	Fred McLean	1
Billy Farrell	1	C. T. Aldrich	1
H. E. Fairbanke	1	Chris Horn	1
Rosie Gaston	1	Fred Rinnell	1
Bob Duce	1	Brinn	1
Pete	1	Geo. Abel	1
B. C. Packham	1	Sid Cotterell	1
Nemo	1	Bert Wilson	1
Bob White	1	H. H. Garner	1
W. McIvor	1	G. E. R.	1

Collected by Ted E. Box, 71s.

Ted E. Box	10	Dora Lyric	1
Emerson and Baldwin	10	J. M. Green	1
Ray Maskell	5	Dirty Doughty	1
Servia Le Roy	5	Victoria Monks	1
Hanvarr and Lee ..	4	Carrie Laurie	1
Lafaille	4	W. P.	1
Willy	3	Albert Christian	1
Mr. Pete Dover	2	Maude Edwards	1
Percy Hayden	2	Virto	1
P. Anger	2	May Ambrose	1
Leon Bosco	2	A "Pro.'s" Friend	1
Tom Bryce	2	C. W. Luker	1
Fred Story	2	Tom Bryce	1
De Marco	1	John E. Somers	1
J. A. Carter	1	Jack Stephens	1
Tossing Austins	1		

Collected by Herbert Shelley, £2 3s.

Albert Chevalier	20	Arthur Burne	1
Herbert Shelley	10	Huntley Wright	1
J. W. Macdonald	2	Harry Nicholls	1
Lionel Rignold	1	Mrs. Herbert Shelley	1
J. Cook Beresford ..	1	Alma Shelley	1
L. Race Dunrobin ..	1	Florence Huntley	1
Graham and Harrington	1	May Fairclough	1

Collected by Ben Brown (third card), 28s.

Young Dave Garrick	1	H. Darnley	1
P. M.	1	W. Collins	1
H. Barrett	1	Jas. E. Donegan	1
H. S. Kitching	1	George B.	1
W. B. Abbey	1	J. Welch	1
W. J.	1	Deane Trulove	1
B. C.	1	Penyston Mills	1
J. J.	1	Terrey Erynon	1
W. Morgan	1	Dan Ricardo	1
G. H.	1	R. Trebor	1
S. S.	1	"Apollo"	1
G. R.	1	Traynor, Dublin	1
F. J. F.	1	Miss Gussie Allright	1
F. W. E.	1	W. Saxby	1

Collected by The Bohemians, 14s

W. Bohemian	1	Newco and Sullo	1
M. Bohemian	1	Dan Hendy	1
Geo. Gulliver	1	Ernest Caxaellas	1
T. W. Paul	1	Percy Caxaellas	1
M. Eita	1	Edwin Caxaellas	1
D. W. Watson	1	Hull Newsboy Trio	1
Bob Swift Duo	1	Sam Vincent	1

Collected by Fred Herbert, 32s.

Joe Elvin	3	The Itrams	1
O. Maus Dayton ..	2	C. Douglas Stuart ..	1
Fred Herbert	1	Bert Byrne	1
Mrs. G. Gunnup	1	John Donald	1
Mrs. Walsh	1	Arthur Gallimore	1
George Gunnup	1	Bob Venola	1
J. Walsh	1	Joe Venola	1
Jack Walsh	1	Flo Chevalier	1
J. Harding	1	Arthur Breton	1
J. Jones	1	J. C. Morris	1
Sam Myrans	1	Gus Dallon	1
Chas. J. Johnson	1	T. C. Callaghan	1
Jack Lorrimer	1	Lieut. Albini	1
Stella Stahl	1	George Jackley	1
Paul Kramer	1		

Collected by Livesey and Rossbery, £1 8s.

Leo and Roland	1	W. H. Carnis	1
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilde	1	Montaldos	1
Mr. Sam Williams ..	1	Joe Hay	1
Gladys Mavius	1	Leonie Dixon	1
Miss Adah Payne ..	1	Jim Dixon	1
G. Barclay, jun. ..	1	The Heroine	1
Tom Shaw	1	The Villain	1
Billy Stevens	1	The Hero	1
A. Earl Hunt	1	Lilian Rosebery	1
W. Higgins	1	Carter Livesey	1
Dr. Caine	1	Little Willie	1
Harry Randall	1	Jim Dixon	1
C. W. Whittle	1	Gannimede	1
Gordon and Grace ..	1	Signorita	1
		The Skipper	1

Collected by Abel and Welsh, 35s

J. W. Rowley	5	Hady Mohamed	1
Mohamed's Arabs ..	2	A. Gullmlip	1
S. Dix	2	Charles Chard	1
Robert Abel	1	H. Meredith	1
William Welsh	1	Bros. Ford	1
Mimi Abel	1	Gladys and Alber	1
Charles Serra	1	Tate and Tate	1
Martino	1	Wm. Thomas	1
Israel Price	1	Chas. Triton	1
Edward Crosland	1	John B. Roberts	1
Dorians	1	Harry Czar	1
Kyoto	1	Dave Czar	1
Val Gerald	1	Harry Friskey	1
J. Bertram Brennan	1	Blanche Albert	1
Felix Powell	1		

Collected by Ben Brown (first card), 42s.

Geo. Le Clerq	5	Fred Maple	1
Ben Brown	5	F. W. Wood	1
G. B.	5	Munro	1
C. Matthews, Sheffield	2	Sympathy	1
Pot	2	Coly	1
Same	2	W. Childs	1
Mr S. E. Humberston	1	Tom Craven	1
B. A. Rolfe	1	H. Martin	1
Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Edwards	1	Friend	1
Will Cutler	1	Nat	1
Three Horse Shoes, Sheffield	1	Harrison	1
V. L. Granville	1	Butts	1
		Topsy	1
		W. R.	1
		C. F. Brown	1

Collected by Conway and Leland, 10s.

W. B. Leland	1	Maringo	1
Crissie Cross	1	Bert Wilson	1
M. B. Conway	1	George Gilbey	1
Mrs. M. B. Conway	1	Billy Seeley	1
Mr. De Breau	1	A Friend	1

Collected by A. N. Hennessey, 40s.

Stanley J. R. Cohen	5	Mrs. Regan	1
A. N. Hennessey	5	G. F.	1
Kittee Rayburn	5	A. Bowman	1
Fred Boustead	1	Glen Alva	1
A. Juniper	1	C. S.	1
C. F. Wright	1	H. C.	1
Tom Lyle	1	E. M. Cohen	1
C. W. Dougless	1	Will Thompson	1
Walter Gibbs	1	Mrs. Thompson	1
Ted Whiteman	1	W. Ransted	1
Tom Malvern	1	Johnny Alexander ..	1
Harry Anderson	1	Mr. Reeve	1
G. Dyke	1	J. Garlish	1
J. J. Regan	1	T. Callaghan	1

Collected by Harry Conlin, £3 10s.

Leigh House	5½	H. Rogerson	1
Harry Conlin	5½	Alex. Kendall	1
Hilda Dugdale	5	Chas. Norton	1
Rosie Coleman	5	Russell Brandow	1
One of the Ba-hoys	5	W. Stanley Parker	1
Amy Singleton	5	S. W.	1
G. Gilbride	4	Seth Egbert	1
Marie Ashton	4	Emmie Egbert	1
Mabel Hirst	3	Violet Egbert	1
Albert Egbert	2½	Gus Le Clerq	1
Daisy Dormer	2½	E. Wright	1
Hal	2	The Witch	1
J. Hoffman	2	May Beatty	1
F. Self	2	Harry Clifford	1
Gus Le Clerq	1	Mr. Blackhurst	1
Tommie Pender	1		

Collected by Elsie Robey, 10s

Elsie Robey	1	Molly Wynne	1
Laurence Irving	1	Lewis Leslie	1
Mabel Hackney-Irving	1	Mrs. Lewis Leslie ..	1
		Sale of Post-cards ..	1
William Fullbrook	1	William Spencer	1
Mabel Carr	1		

Collected by Cedar and Elgar, £1 7s.

Hugh Cedar	2	Robins and Collier	1
Ed. Elgar	2	Mr. Bert Harrow	1
Louis Kerno	1	Miss Marion Walker	1
Dan Maxford	1	Mr. Bert Rolfe	1
Tom O'Neill	1	A. Yorke-Stephens ..	1
Fred Sinclair	1	E. B. Edie	1
Jake Friedman	1	T. J. Dillon	1
Miss Ray Wallace ..	1	Miss Isa Gibson	1
Miss Mildred Bryan	1	Miss Nellie Duval ..	1
Mr. Joe Robins	1	Mr. M., Manchester	1
Mr. Leonard Russell	1	Mr. Charlie Hopkins	1
Miss Phyllis Seymour	1	Mr. E. W. Avery	1
Mr. Herbert King ..	1		

Collected by Harry Wright, 31s.

S. Charlie Pratt	2	Ford	1
Montefiore	1	M. F.	1
Bert Chapman	1	E. E. W.	1
Harry Gage	1	Allan Hanbury	1
Mr. H. McDowall ..	1	Tom Shenton	1
Mrs. F. Kahler	1	Jesse Sparrow	1
G. P. R. Burgess ..	1	Vivins	1
Harry Wright	1	John E. Brandon	1
Nellie Gannon	1	W. E. Stephenson	1
T. W. Wright	1	F. Newman	1
G. Baselgia	1	J. Hewson	1
Bert Chapman	1	A. Knight	1
Leon Bassett	1	Sam Hart	1
G. Pearson	1	S. N. Salter	1
F. Kohler	1	D. White	1

Collected by Eugene and Willie, 11s.

Miss Dunbar	2	Richard Lomas	1
Bernard and Weston	2	Henry Hodgkings	1
Eugene and Willie ..	2	B. Comerford	1
Miss M. Hope	1	J. Comerford	1

Collected by the Sisters Morgan, 14s.

Will Lorenzi	2	Alice Maple	1
Barrett and Knowles	2	Gracie Mortimer	1
Rita and Roma	1	Will Cartwright	1
Elsie Morgan	1	Hester Reeve	1
Annie Morgan	1	Charles Clark	1
Kitty Clinton	1	S. Barnard	1

Collected by Geo. French's Troupe, 22s.

C. Poole, jun.	6	Bert Gates	1
George French	5	Harry Dowsett	1
Richard Karsy's Myriophone	5	Fred Bescoby	1
Learto	2	Miss St. Clare	1

Collected by Nellie Wilson, £2 11s. 6d.

A White Man	10	Fred Eustace	1
Eugene Stratton	5	Mary Eustace	1
Edwin Boyde	5	Rose Bancroft	1
H Thutton	2½	Charles Chapman	1
The Sivonis	2	Wilman	1
Nellie Wilson	2	Ernie Aplin	1
Mrs. Stavodale	2	Phœbe Lyndhurst	1
Little Miss Muffit	1	Charles McConnell	1
Mona Clifford	1	Muir and Bartlett	1
Florence Hyde	1	Margery Maidment	1
Clara Stroud Wilson	1	Flo Penley	1
Beatrice Elio	1	T. Grindall	1
F. Hurst	1	Dusty Rhodes	1
Will Toole	1	Rose Daulby	1
Charles Granthley	1	Mrs. Fred Southern	1

Collected by Ernest D'Almaine, 14s.

Ernest D'Almaine	1	Rose D'Almaine	1
Mrs. E. D'Almaine	1	Charles Dare	1
James D'Almaine	1	Dan O'Connor	1
Charles D'Almaine	1	Gus Daniels	1
Ada D'Almaine	1	George Snow	1
Amy D'Almaine	1	George Richens	1
Lily D'Almaine	1	E. Kay	1

Collected by Miss Ada Reeve, £4.

Ada Reeve	9½	John Wilson	1
A Friend	7	W. Griffin	1
A. C. Hills	5	K. Adeler	1
Mary Hargreaves	5	Marie Vere	1
Flo Marston	5	Fred Griffiths, jun.	1
A. Rowe	5	A. N. Other	1
Arthur Poole	4	R. Abrahams	1
Edorier	4	J. Lonnen	1
L. de Frece	4	Russell Ardell	1
Beauty	2½	Dan Crawley	1
W. A. Short	2½	Bobbie Mendall	1
H. Milburn	2½	Florence

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

Brecon Pleasure Fairs.

For some time past the executive officials of the Showmen's Guild have been in correspondence with the Brecon Corporation concerning their pleasure fairs. The questions at issue arose over a petition of a few residents against the continuance of the fair in the heart of the town. It is never the policy of the Guild to oppose the removal of a street fair to a properly-provided and municipally-controlled fairground; but rather to co-operate with the local authorities to make the fair more successful under modern and improved conditions. An example of this may be seen at Gloucester. The circumstances at Brecon are peculiar. Up to quite recent times the market tolls were in private hands, and the fair being held in the streets on convenient sites was under Corporation control, and brought in a profit to the easement of public burdens. Now the Corporation have purchased the market tolls, and the fairs and markets are public property.

The Extended Days of the Fairs.

During the past fifteen years the fairs have grown in popularity, and the Corporation has wisely recognised the needs of the people for extended opportunities of enjoying the amusements of the fair. It is now a five-days' fair.

The Minority of Residents Against the Fair.

The insistent minority who wish to remove the fair threaten to compel the Corporation to limit the people's fair to its old legal days—the 4th and the 5th days of May and the 17th and the 18th days of November, irrespective of what days in the week these dates may fall upon. The modern custom has been to hold the fair the first week in both May and November. It will be seen at once that the threat to compel the Corporation to reduce the fair days to two only, and to stick to the legal dates only is practically a threat to destroy the business value of the fair. For the show-people the fixture would lose two-thirds its present value, and the people would be deprived of their full opportunities for rational open-air amusement.

The Petition of the Objectors to the Fairs.

The petitioners made the usual vague accusations against the conditions of show-van life, in order to frighten timid people and to strengthen their attack on the Fair Rights of the people. The Guild chaplain, in an able and trenchant letter, dealt with the petition. We published the chaplain's defence of the showpeople in our issue of Oct. 24, 1908.

The Guild Joins Hands with the Corporation.

The Town Clerk of Brecon made it quite clear to the Guild executive council that the Corporation were as anxious as the Guild to preserve the fair on its modern and acceptable lines. This was shown in the following communication:—

"Town Clerk's Office,
"Brecon, Nov. 17, 1908.

"Dear Sir,—I am directed by my Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th ult., with reference to the petition recently received as to the pleasure fairs in Brecon and the showmen's living vans attending same, and am to inform you that the Council have made no accusation against them.

"Do you know of any case in which the Secretary of State has increased the days of holding pleasure fairs in streets on application made under the Fairs Act, 1873? If you do, I shall be very glad if you could let me know before next Thursday week, and also if, in the event of my Council making such an application, would your Guild be prepared to assist them in any way.—Yours truly,

"G. Hyatt Williams, Town Clerk.

"Rev. T. Horne, Hon. Chaplain Showmen's Guild, care of *The Era*, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C."

The Guild at once promised to co-operate with the Corporation, and to join in the petition to the Home Secretary to perpetuate the fairs on modern lines.

As recently as Jan. 14 last the Guild received the following letter from the Town Clerk. It is needless to say that the Guild at once assented, and the executive officers took the necessary steps to support the petition:—

"Town Clerk's Office,
"Brecon, Jan. 14, 1909.

"Dear Sir,—Adverting to your letter of Nov. 18 last with reference to the Brecon May and November pleasure fairs, I have now to inform you that my Council has decided to petition the Secretary of State to extend the days for holding these fairs, and I send you herewith a copy of the petition, which I trust your Guild will support.

"I am writing to-day to the county Member of Parliament, asking him to present the petition, and I will let you know when it is to be presented.—Yours truly, "G. Hyatt Williams, Town Clerk.

"Rev. T. Horne, care of *The Era*,
5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C."

Strong Local Support for the Corporation.

The people of Brecon have rallied to the support of their fairs. The following is the petition of over six hundred ratepayers in favour of continuing the fairs on their present lines:—

"TO THE MAYOR AND CORPORATION OF BRECON.

"May it please you:

"We, being burgesses of the borough, desire respectfully to point out to you that for about fifteen years it has been the practice to continue the May and November fairs during five days in the first weeks of those months.

"This custom has proceeded without interference or protest from any body of ratepayers during the whole of that period, but we now learn that a petition has been sent to you by a small body of the ratepayers, asking you to limit the number of days in each month to two, and, further, that you have been threatened with an injunction at law if you do not accede to their request.

"We would remind you that under the present system large numbers of persons are brought into the town by train and also by road from the neighbouring villages, and that the crowds of people thus attracted to the town much increases the volume of business, and so materially adds to the prosperity of the general trade of the borough, which has no manufactory of any kind upon which to depend for its commercial well-being. We, therefore, consider that any steps taken to diminish the attendance of visitors to the town will considerably affect its financial interest.

"We would also add that during the past few years you have secured at heavy cost the whole of the property and rights of the old Brecon Markets Company, and that you have spent large sums of money to carry out improvements and enlarge the area of these markets. To effect the purchase of these improvements you have charged the tolls of the borough with loans amounting to many thousands of pounds, and to meet the interest upon these loans a considerable sum is annually required.

"The markets and fairs of the borough have, during the past fifteen years, materially increased in importance, and the tolls have advanced from about £300 to £800 annually.

"We greatly fear that if you proceed to interfere with the present arrangements of these fairs you will by this disorganisation so affect the fairs that the tolls will diminish.

"That being so, you will be driven, in order to meet the charges upon your markets account, to resort to a levy upon the rates for that purpose, and such a contingency we contemplate with some alarm, in view of the increased burdens already placed upon us by the poor rate and the rate you now levy.

"We therefore petition you to resist the efforts now being made to compel you to limit the fairs of May and November to two days each respectively, and, if necessary, that you will yourselves petition the Hon. the Home Secretary to grant the borough such powers as will legally enable you to continue to hold the May and November fairs for five days in the first week of each month, as has been the custom during the fifteen years last past.

"And we will ever pray, &c., &c."

Awaiting the Home Secretary's Decision.

When the matter comes before the Home Secretary for his decision, the Guild will strongly support the Corporation's application to legalise the five days' Fair, and will, of course, strongly oppose the petitioners who wish to kill the fair under the pretence of removing it from its present excellent position. The animus of the movement to remove it is fully revealed when we state that the Corporation have no suitable site of business value at their disposal. To provide one would for years burden the town rates. The greatest reason for retaining the fairs on their present position is that the people want them there. "Let the will of the people prevail."

Attack on Bedford Fair.

At the recent meeting of the Bedford Borough Council a discussion arose on the question of the fairs. Although nothing was determined of an adverse character to the continuance of the fairs, Dr. Willmer Phillips, the Medical Officer of Health, made a most alarming speech, conjuring up all possible bogies of evil, to frighten the good people of Bedford. There is nothing so unfair as for a medical man (holding high office in the town) to get up and make a violently partisan speech on a question that contrary opinions may and do prevail. In every town there are a few persons who believe that fairs have outlived their usefulness, and that the sooner they are abolished the better. These men we have always to contend with.

The Guild Chaplain, at the request of the show-people attending the fairs, has taken the matter up, and the following letter has been sent to the Borough Council:

"The Showmen's Guild of Great Britain.
"President.....Mr. P. Collins.
"Hon Secretary.....Mr. T. Hurst.
"Chaplain and Organiser..Rev. T. Horne.
"Guild Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.
"Feb. 9, 1909.

"THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND BEDFORD FAIR.

"To the Mayor and Corporation of Bedford.

"Gentlemen,—The attention of this Society has been drawn to certain statements of your Medical Officer, Dr. Willmer Phillips. If correctly reported in the local Press his remarks were of the most damaging character to the showmen and vandwellers attending your pleasure fairs.

"This Guild exists for the purpose (*inter alia*) of defending showmen whenever attacked unjustly, either with regard to their moral or social fitness, or their business interests.

"The council of this Society are confident that the Corporation (whilst of necessity paying the greatest respect to the opinion of their medical expert) will at the same time deal justly with the showmen.

"The damaging statements to which we call your attention are contained in the following report of his speech:—

"'Speaking as Medical Officer he advocated it (the abolition of the fair) primarily on the grounds of the public health, but as a citizen of this town he could not refrain from expressing his emphatic conviction that there were other, and not less important, grounds on which the change might be advocated. Bedford was now a town of forty thousand inhabitants, and largely dependent for its prosperity—even for its existence—upon its good repute from the health point of view. Twice a year from all parts of the country came a collection into this town of a nomad population. It was impossible for the health authorities of the country to exercise a rigid sanitary control while this van population exposed them to a risk of an epidemic.

"'He had not been able to prove to his own satisfaction that the rise and fall of epidemics of scarlet fever were directly due to the presence of the van population, but he thought that he was well within the mark in saying that there were always a few dropping cases of scarlet fever, and even, perhaps of diphtheria, following the fair. Post hoc was not propter hoc, but he would ask the Council to take that into consideration. There was another disease of which the whole community had a well-grounded terror, and that was small-pox. There was no doubt that it was carried about by the tramp class and a nomad population generally. He asked them whether, in a town dependent for its prosperity on its reputation as a health resort, it was not imperative to abolish that risk of importing that disease. He could not say that it had happened, but it might happen. He had no wish to interfere with the legitimate amusements of the population, but he respectfully submitted that in these days of other amusements and innocent recreations, the social conditions had outgrown the old fairs. Proceeding, Dr. Phillips expressed the opinion that the fair once subserved a useful and necessary function in the life of the community, but that that function had vanished, and the fair now remained a more or less dubious means of amusement which was carried on, perhaps to the profit of the show-people, but at the imminent risk twice a year of importing an epidemic which might cost the town tens of thousands of pounds. It was his intention to recommend in his annual report that the fairs be abolished by proper means.'

"The Executive Council of the Guild ask for some plain facts, that may be subjected to the honest tests of verification that will justify the extremely libellous and alarming statements of your Medical Officer of Health. This Society is prepared to take immediate steps, at all costs, and to spare no trouble to investigate the charges of your Medical Officer. The publicity given to the matter in the public Press makes it imperatively necessary that this should be done.

"It is impossible to imagine statements more damaging and calumnious upon the life and work of show-people that those I have quoted above. Let it be well understood that all the health and sanitary laws of the realm apply with equal rigour and vigour to the movable home of the showman as to the fixed home of the dweller in towns. It is a confession either of ignorance of the law governing his office or of incompetence to grasp the full measure of his duties that your Medical Officer should make such alarming statements.

"The show-people who attend your fair do not come from all parts of the country, but they are practically the same showmen, who, starting at the great Easter fairs controlled by the London County Council, go forth upon circuit, taking one or two fairs every week, stretching in time from Easter until the end of November. This circuit of fairs brings them week by week under the immediate attention of the medical officers and the sanitary authorities of the towns that they serve with their amusements at the statutory and other fairs.

"It is not a promiscuous and uncertain aggregation of human units, but it is a well recognised, well ordered and protected industry, that visits your town at your pleasure fairs. It is my privilege to know the show-people of Great Britain as perhaps no other man has taken the pains and devoted the time to understand them. I hold the authority of the Bishops of the Church to carry on an educational and religious work amongst them, and I protest with all the certitude of inside and expert knowledge of their life, which Dr. Phillips obviously cannot have (as yet) obtained.

"I know them to be honest, industrious, and loyal citizens of the Commonwealth, to be as cleanly in their domestic concerns and as moral and as good in all the concerns of life as any other class in the community. With the greatest possible confidence in the result of an impartial investigation I challenge Dr. Phillips to give proof of his extremely alarming and damaging statements.

"In the name of the organised showmen of Great Britain I deny everyone of his statements reflecting either upon the cleanliness of van life or upon the risks attending their migration from town to town, as a menace to public health.—Yours ever, for God and for good, "T. Horne."

The Seriousness of the Aspersions of Show-life.

The Executive Council of the Showmen's Guild has before it the urgency of the duty of making a stern example of people who make such grave and damaging statements. Of the showmen for hundreds of years past it might truly have been said "that suffrance is the badge of all our tribe." The time has now arrived, owing to the better organisation of the showmen of the empire, to give someone a salutary lesson, and to make them understand that even the showman "worm" will turn at last.

Maesteg.

The annual (February) flannel and pleasure fair was held on Monday and Tuesday. Pleasure seekers were well catered for by Messrs. Wadbrook's cinematograph and palace of varieties, J. Studt's motor-cars, and T. Butlin's zoological roundabouts. Messrs. J. North, J. Scott, and T. Butlin were in attendance with their shooting ranges, cokernut shies, and hoop-la stalls.

The Annual Guild Meeting at King's Lynn.

Next week being Lynn Mart, the annual meeting, always a feature of the Mart, will take place, as usual, in the Town Hall, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon of Wednesday, the 17th. The Mayor of Lynn and other local gentlemen are invited to take part in the proceedings. The speakers will include the President, the Chaplain, the Parliamentary Solicitor, the Hon. Secretary, and others.

Guild Subscriptions, 1909.

John Beach (Dublin), £1; E. Hussey, 5s.; Mrs. Traylen, 5s.; G. Sanders, 5s.; G. Pickard, 5s.; J. Manning, 5s.; J. Mayne, 5s.; W. Hussey, 5s.; H. Street, 5s.; H. Taylor, 5s.; H. West, 5s.

Alteration of Fair Date at Usk.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department gives notice in the *London Gazette* that on Feb. 26 he will consider an application to change the present fair dates, the third Monday in April and October, to aforesaid dates, the 20th of April and the 29th of October; or the following Monday, if these dates fall on Sunday. Will showmen using Usk Fair make sure that the new dates suit their business?

Alteration of Summer Fair Date at Bolton.

An important conference took place a few days ago at Bolton between Mr. R. Pike, acting for the Corporation, and Mr. T. Hurst, acting for the organised showmen. The subject-matter of the conference has been under consideration since the alteration by the local traders of the annual summer holidays from Whitsuntide to the last week in June. It was mutually agreed to drop the old Whitsun Week Fair, and to hold a Holiday Fair instead, beginning on June 25 and lasting a full week.

Is Hoop-la an Illegal Game?

Mr. Biron, one of London's ablest stipendary magistrates, decided, after hearing the evidence in full, that it was a game of skill and not gambling. Another case brought by the police was heard at Hyde, Manchester. In this case Mr. T. Watson Wright was for the defendant, and, in the end, the magistrates dismissed the case. From various parts of the country we hear of the police stopping the game, and of magistrates supporting the action of the police.

A Test Case to be Taken.

Arising out of a conviction against an amusement caterer with the hoop-la game at Rawtenstall, a meeting of hoop-la proprietors was held in Manchester last week. It was resolved to form a Throwing Game Proprietors' Protection Committee in connection (we understand) with the Lancashire and Cheshire Stallholders' Society. Amongst the well-known caterers present, or identifying themselves fully with the meeting and its objects, were Messrs. R. Ingham, T. Forshaw, R. Deeks, J. White, F. Smith, T. Tyas, T. Fitzpatrick, J. Jewell, J. Gill, H. Thomas, J. Ingham, E. Brennan, W. Turner, H. Saunt, J. Joy, A. Thomas, W. Pullan, H. Smith, A. Matthews, J. Herbert, and J. S. Beckett.

Preference to be Given to Guild Members.

Rule 20 of the Guild says: "To promote the interests of the Association it is recommended to all members who may be lessees of ground, or others who may have the letting thereof, to give preference in letting and sub-letting to members of the Association." We are glad to announce that a number of the leading lessees of fairgrounds have arrived at the wise decision to apply the rule in letting ground to applicants. This will mean that in setting out the ground tenants will be asked to produce their books of membership, and those who have them will be served first. Amongst the lessees who have announced their intention to enforce this salutary rule are Messrs. P. and J. Collins, T. Hurst, John and Jacob Studt, and (we understand) George Green, of Glasgow. We shall be glad to add to this list. Will other lessees write in and give us their names?

Notes from Wales.

Mrs. M. C. Sinclair's Victoria Theatre, situated on the Market Ground at Bridgend, South Wales, has been attracting good audiences during the past five or six weeks. Mrs. Sinclair, of principal boy fame in her younger days, occasionally performs and delights her audiences. The staff of artists are above the average found in portable theatres, and a series of excellent dramas are being presented.

Carmarthen.

Mr. Harry Cowell, of the Phœnix Theatre, brought his three months' season at the Carmarthen Pleasure Fairground to a close on Monday evening with the production of *Mulldoon's Picnic*, which was admirably performed. Before the termination of the proceedings, Mr. Harry Cowell thanked the public of Carmarthen for the patronage which they had extended to him during his short stay, and wished them every success in the future.

White City (Old Trafford).

As seen by advertisement on another page, this amusement park opens again on May 15 with many fresh attractions for the third season. The park will previously open on Good Friday and the eight following days, and it is proposed to have concerts on that day and on Sundays. These concerts promise to be exceedingly popular. Meantime, the magnificent ballroom and the fine skating-rink continue to be well patronised.

OPPOSITION TO THE OLDHAM CORPORATION BILL.

On Thursday, Feb. 4, a deputation from the Executive Council of the Showmen's Guild, consisting of the president (Mr. P. Collins), the hon. secretary (Mr. T. Hurst), and the organiser (the Rev. T. Horne), laid the views of the organised showmen against the Oldham Bill before the Markets and Fairs Committee of the Corporation at the Town Hall.

The Rev. T. Horne for the deputation fully and concisely explained the Guild's objections to 109 clause seeking a monopoly of Fair Rights in the Borough. He pointed out how such powers if obtained would cripple the fairground industry within the borough. He quoted from the Halifax Corporation Bill of 1902 how such powers were sought by that borough, and showed how on the petition of the Guild, after an exhaustive argument lasting three days by eminent counsel on both sides, that objectionable clauses were thrown out. He intimated clearly to the committee present that the Guild stood for free trade in fairs, and that the showmen would oppose at every stage the Oldham Bill unless the Markets and Fairs Clause, section 109, in their proposed bill were thrown out, that is so far as affected the right to hold a fair or wakes within the borough.

Statement by the Guild President.

In answer to a question as what did the showmen specifically object to in the clause, Mr. P. Collins informed the committee that inside their borough were two important local wakes—wakes of great local popularity—one of these being Hollinwood. That to deprive the showmen of the right to continue these fairs without the licence of the corporation was an invasion of the trade privileges they had hitherto enjoyed. He endorsed all that Mr. Horne had set out so cleverly, and he emphasised the position of the Guild—that it stood for free trade in fairs, and resented all attempts to restrict their right to promote or to open up new fairs and centres for their business as amusement caterers.

The Chairman of the Markets and Fairs Committee said that they had listened to the statements of the deputation—statements that they would fully consider—and that the Parliamentary Committee would meet that evening and receive the matter upon their report to that body. He thanked the deputation for attending, and intimated that the reply of the Corporation would be sent without delay to the executive officials at the Guild. The business then being ended, the Guild deputation withdrew.

The Reply of the Corporation.

"Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, Oldham.

"Dear Sir,— "Feb. 5, 1909.

"OLDHAM CORPORATION BILL (Markets and Fairs).

"Adverting to the interview between the deputation from the Showmen's Guild to the Markets Committee of this Corporation, which took place yesterday afternoon in reference to Clause 109 of the above Bill, the matter was afterwards considered by the committee, and I was instructed to inform you that they cannot see their way to accede to the wishes of the deputation, as this would mean withdrawing the clause so far as fairs are concerned, and this the committee are not prepared to do.—Yours faithfully,

"J. H. Hallsworth,
"Rev. T. Horne, "Town Clerk.
"C/o *The Era*, Ltd."

Immediate Action of the Guild.

As Feb. 12 was the last day for lodging a petition against the Bill the Executive official lost no time in sending on the necessary petition, as follows:—

In Parliament. House of Commons.—Session 1909.

OLDHAM CORPORATION BILL.

Petition Against the Bill Praying to be Heard by Counsel.

To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

The Humble Petition of the United Kingdom Showmen and Vandwellers' Protection Association.

Sheweth—

1. That a Bill (hereinafter referred to as "the Bill") has been deposited in the Private Bill Office of your Honourable House, intituled "A Bill to authorise the Corporation of Oldham to construct additional Waterworks Tramways and Street Improvements; to confer further powers with respect to the supply of Gas and Electricity; to make further provision for the Health Local Government and Improvements of the Borough; and for other purposes."
2. The promoters of the Bill are the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Oldham (in the Bill and hereinafter called "the Corporation").
3. Your Petitioners are an Association founded in the year 1890 for the protection of the interests of roundabout proprietors, showmen, and stallholders. The Association includes a number of persons who for the purposes of their calling have habitually resorted and still do resort to the Borough of Oldham. The property, rights, and interests of such persons are injuriously affected by the Bill, and your Petitioners object thereto for the reasons hereinafter appearing.
4. Clause 109 of the Bill is as follows:—"If any person shall without the licence of the Corporation on any land belonging or reputed to belong to or occupied by him in any part of the borough hold or permit to be held any market or fair he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding fifty pounds and to a daily penalty not exceeding ten pounds."
5. Your Petitioners humbly submit that to place it within the power of the Corporation to prevent the holding of a pleasure fair on land belonging to and occupied by private persons would not only be a great injustice to the members of your Petitioners' Association, but a serious infringement of the rights of landowners, and would also be likely to produce great inconvenience to the public at large.
6. It has been for some years past the settled policy of Parliament not to allow clauses similar to Clause 109 of the Bill to be included in Private Bills, such clauses having been rejected on several occasions.
7. The Preamble of the Bill in so far as it relates to the matters aforesaid is unfounded and incapable of proof.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray your Honourable House that the Bill may not pass into law as it now stands, and that they may be heard by their Counsel, Agents, and Witnesses against the Preamble and Clauses thereof, and, in the event of the Preamble being proved, then in support of such Clauses and Provisions as may be necessary for their protection and benefit, and that your Honourable House may grant to your Petitioners such further and other relief in the premises as to your Honourable House may seem meet.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

For and on behalf of the United Kingdom Showmen and Vandwellers' Protection Association.

P. Collins, President,
T. Hurst, Secretary,
T. Horne (Rev.), Organiser.

What Stands Before Showmen.

Having defeated Halifax in 1902 after a most costly opposition, the showmen would be neglecting their most important interests if they allowed Oldham to obtain what Halifax failed to get. There are more issues than monopoly rights in fairs at stake.

The industrial development of great centres means great changes, and consequent migration of the workers. Districts that fifty years ago were profitable centres for the show business have ceased to be of any trade value. Owing to the changing condition of trade, the right to open up new fairs, and to follow the people in their necessary migrations in search of work is a prime necessity of the industry of the fairground, without let or hindrance from corporations. The showman, like any other man, claims the right under the protection and sanction of the law of the land to carry on his trade and business.

It is a constant source of amazement to us that corporations like Oldham, where trade unionism is the very breath of industrial life, should refuse to recognise that showmen, like other workers in the Commonwealth, are entitled to combine and to protect their interests.

Anyhow, Oldham, like Halifax, will find that the showmen will fight them at every stage in both House of Parliament.

A VETERAN PIONEER OF TRADE DEFENCE IN SHOWLAND.

An exceedingly valuable and most interesting letter from Mr. Caddick, photographer, now in winter quarters at the Fun City Annexe, Olympia (his third season there), was crowded out of our pages last week.

We gladly give Mr. Caddick's letter the prominence it deserves at the earliest possible moment. The letter (characteristic of the man) tells its own tale. We are sure that the whole body of showmen and fairground caterers and traders will rejoice to hear his words of sound wisdom on a matter in which he is in deed and in truth "a master in Israel." Many men have claimed the distinction of being the founder of the showmen's Trade Society. The fact is that it had several founders.

Like all great movements for God and for good in the world, it was a result of forces that compelled good men in various parts of the country, in face of a common danger, to draw together and to combine forces. It is admitted pretty generally that the germ idea—the originating mind—was in the office of *The Era*, and that the scheme to form a society to protect the trade of the fairground was the suggestion of Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, manager of *The Era*. It was in *The Era* office that Dr. Croft, of the Liberty and Property Defence League of those days, found the means of getting into touch with men like Mr. Caddick, the late Mr. and Mr. Tyler, the late James Dean, the late Randall Williams, Lord George Sanger, the late Frank Bailey, J. W. Bostock, F. T. Salva, A. Chamberlain, R. Dixon, J. Whiting, Collins Bros., and a thousand and one other strenuous champions of showland.

Our view is that no one man, nor yet a dozen men (however eminent), can be allowed the singular honour of founding the Vandwellers' Society, now known as the Showmen's Guild. Many men joined in the enterprise—all gave (at the right time) their best brains, time, and money to the movement. Let all share alike in the honours.

A Veteran Pioneer of the Guild.

That is, without doubt, the distinction due to dear old "Joe" Caddick, as we delight to call him. Long may he live amongst us to encourage us by his wise counsels and to hearten us by the noble example of his most good and useful life.

Again we hail with delight a letter from him. Its very presence takes us back to the early days of strife and struggle against puritanical rancour and narrow-minded bigotry—those had old days that are fast being buried in the limbo of the past.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

"Dear Sir,—I would like to avail myself of your columns to publicly thank Mr. James Bostock for his kindly remarks towards myself at the Showmen's Supper at the Agricultural Hall. It gives me great pleasure to know that at least one of my co-workers in the past has not forgotten the part I took in the agitation against the original Movable Dwellings Bill of the late George Smith, and, whilst admiring his (Mr. Bostock's) unassuming modesty, I cannot refrain from giving him his fair share of whatever honour appertains to a simple duty.

"To carry one's memory back to those strenuous times, one cannot fail to recall the splendid efforts by tongue and pen of James Bostock (our first president), the late James Dean, Mrs. Alice Tyler, Mr. Salva, and Lord George Sanger. These from the ranks of showmen. In addition, the unselfish advocacy in Parliament of Mr. Stephens, M.P. at that time for Hornsey (and the proprietor of Stephens' ink, so, as an act of gratitude, let us use only Stephens' ink), and Sir H. H. Howarth, then M.P. for Salford. Our particular Press friends were Mr. Ledger and Mr. Pedgrift, of *The Era*, and Mr. Labouchere, of *Truth*.

"Particular mention should be made of the sympathy and support of the 'Liberty and Property Defence League,' whose secretary, Dr. Crofts, and his able lieutenant, Mr. F. Millar, were indefatigable in their efforts for our salvation. Last, but not least, our anonymous friend 'W. W.,' of Nottingham, who kept the ball merrily rolling through the Nottingham Press. This gentleman is still living, and takes the keenest interest in all matters pertaining to the showmen.

"If my humble efforts kindled the spark, the continued work of the above fanned that spark into a flame of indignation that spread over the length and breadth of the land.

"It so fired the sympathy of all lovers of liberty and justice that it at once became apparent that all future efforts to curtail our rights and liberties by that or similar iniquitious measures would prove futile.

"This was the group of men who championed our cause, fought our battle, and won our victory.

"The culminating point was reached when brave, enthusiastic Lord George Sanger, at the inaugural meeting of the Vandwellers' Society in the Agricultural Hall, vehemently attacked George Smith, who was present, and whose previous boast to myself was that he would attend and 'soon put the quietus to my gabbling.' The result is well known, how Smith was glad to escape by a back window to avoid the personal chastisement that he saw awaited him. This he did, only to renew at a safe distance his foul libels on the unoffending vandwellers.

"I have purposely omitted the name of our honoured chaplain, the Rev. T. Horne (one of ourselves I am proud to say), as he is amongst us to tell his own tale. His unselfish devotion to us and our welfare deserves better recognition. (If we could only have made him Archbishop of York?) When his life's story comes to be told his many self-sacrifices on our behalf will be appreciated at their true value. Now, if I may claim a favour at the hands of my fellow-travellers, let it be, that all and every man in our ranks give their loyal support to our new President, whom I have known and watched from his boyhood upwards, and we have had sufficient proof that his heart and soul is in our cause.

"Then let us sink all petty differences and unite as one man to fight the Puritanical faddists, whose only pleasure can be measured by the amount of pleasure they can prevent others enjoying.

"Let our support be not only the support of money, but what is of equal (or even more importance), the moral support of numbers. Let it be his (the President's), when the occasion arises, to point with pride and confidence to the roll of members of our Guild and say, 'It is for these I plead, for these I demand the rights of citizenship, and for that justice and equality which is the inborn right of every Englishman who loyally obeys the laws of his country.'—I remain, yours faithfully, "JOE CADDICK.

"Olympia, London, Feb. 4, 1909."

FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Pathé Frères.

THE OUTCAST'S SACRIFICE.—This is an interesting little drama, the story of which may be told in the following words:—Along the high wall which hems in the park of Mr. and Mrs. Conceit a poor man is enjoying his bowl of soup. Mr. Conceit, having seen his friend Pumpkins to the gate, sees the tramp, and thinks, as he retraces his steps, that he must tell the gardener to set a snare near the break of the wall. In the meantime, Pumpkins, having seen his friend disappear inside, scribbles a few words on a sheet of his pocket-book and places the paper behind a loose stone in the wall. Mrs. Conceit arrives in her turn. She finds the paper and reads: "Dear Friend,—I shall wait for you, as usual, at the break in the park wall." The gardener sets the snare. Pumpkins is the first to arrive, and he finds the tramp sleeping at the same place as he was in the afternoon. This makes him impatient, but seeing that the old man is sleeping soundly, he leaps over the wall, and utters a smothered groan. His leg is entrapped in the snare, whose teeth bite deep into his flesh. The tramp, awakened by the noise, arrives at the same time as Mrs. Conceit. Her husband has heard it also, and he leaves the house with a revolver in his hand. This is terrible for the two guilty people, and the only way out of the difficulty is for the tramp to sacrifice himself. "I knew it," says Mr. Conceit, pleased with himself for his foresight, when he sees the victim. He calls in the police, and the humble tramp, who is such a lover of open air and sun and liberty, is marched off, and confined in a dark cell.

MISS FLIRT.—During Miss Flirt's first season her flirtation and beauty play havoc amongst the men. Miss Flirt welcomes all her admirers with the same sweet smile, but she gets mixed up in her appointments, and is obliged to hide her lovers in every corner of the drawing-room. They become angry at last, and Miss Flirt's father, attracted by the noise, takes them all to the police-station. The Commissioner of Police, bewitched by Miss Flirt's charming manners, is very anxious to put matters right, and in order to prevent such a thing occurring again, he offers to marry the pretty girl.

THE MOHAWK'S RING.—Tonga has been taken prisoner by Mexican planters, and being the Chief of the Red-Skin tribe, he is on the point of being made to pay for all the injuries caused to the Pale Faces by his men, when a Mexican clergyman, who is sorry for him, gives him a revolver wherewith the young chief will free himself. Tonga gives him as a keepsake a filigree gold ring and escapes. Some time after these happenings an abduction is committed by the same tribe. Mercedes, the clergyman's daughter, is brutally kidnapped, and her enemies write on a piece of leather, run through with a javalin, the following letter:—"To the owner of this property, 50,000 dollars to-morrow by moonlight at the Green Rock. Come along with the money and your daughter will be given back to you in exchange, else you will not even have her body." As soon as this is known in her home, all the valuables are gathered together, and the Mohawk's ring is thrown in also. On seeing her father, the girl, who is already bound to the stake, breaks her ropes, and runs towards him. In the meantime, Tonga counts the money and articles of jewellery, and does not find the sum sufficient. The Pale Girl is to be attached to the tail of a colt and abandoned to her fate. Tonga now finds the ring he has given to the girl's father, and recognises in him the man who has saved his life. In a few words the young chief instructs his warriors to overtake the wild animal and its victim, and, after an exciting chase through the prairies, the savages return the daughter to her happy father, and peace is signed between the Pale-Faces and the Red-Skins.

PLAYING PATIENCE.—Here we have some exceedingly clever and well-arranged trick scenes. A page-boy shows on the screen the different ways of playing patience, and the pictures become alive and form a series of graceful and comical coloured figures.

A SUFFRAGETTE'S DREAM.—Mrs. Moderny is very charming, but she has funny ideas sometimes. She is a Suffragette, and while her husband goes to business, she troubles her pretty head with all sorts of things. Mr. Moderny has just left, when she receives the following circular note:—"At 2 o'clock. Society for the Future of the Weak Sex. Lecture on Woman's Emancipation." She is so pleased with the idea that she begins dreaming about the brilliant future, and pictures to herself the time when woman will rule over man. In her dream she hears a lecturer developing advanced ideas, and abusing a dummy representing a man, hanging from the lamp-post. The dummy serves as a target to all the excited ladies. Hurrah! Three cheers for women, they have just broken their chains, and are free! Clad in Man's attire, Woman is now a barrister, an officer, a scientist, &c. She goes to the cafés, there to discuss politics and smoke cigars, while the mere man is "the victim," and with flowers and ribbons in his garments he is now the one to look after the baby at home. Well! Every dream is an untruth, for Mrs. Moderny wakes up under the anger of her husband, who chides her for not looking after the house while he is out earning the money, thus showing her that woman is not yet the master of man.

A LARGE FAMILY.—"My Dear Coalman,—We are coming, myself, the wife, and children, for a fortnight. You will be pleased to hear it.—Vagrant." The dear friend communicates the good news to his wife, and both do their best to make the visitors comfortable. In their small town, the Vagrants, laden with numerous parcels containing chestnuts and other eatables, take a third-class compartment by storm, heedless of the angry looks shot at them by their fellow-passengers. In Paris, the whole family climb on the top of a 'bus. At the first jolts of the heavy vehicle, the parcels heaped in a corner, tumble over the railing, and on to the heads of the passers-by. The 'bus stops, angry words are exchanged. At last the Vagrant family arrive at the house of their friends, and after the first greetings, the newcomers, who are very tired, retire to their apartments, in the loft, for there is no other place available. Mattresses have been spread on the floor, where the large family of children sleep pell-mell. The little scamps are wideawake, however, and through the trap-door they empty two sacks of coal on to their parents' bed on the next floor. The noise the latter make on receiving this avalanche in their first sleep causes all the inmates of the loft to come down through the trap-door, and land on the furniture, which is the worse for it. The Coalmans are very sorry, but they have to send their friends away, who flee under the reproaches of their hosts.

Gaumont Company.

THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD.—Charles Dickens' unfinished work has now been completed as a cinematograph drama, and the Gaumont Company may be said to have achieved a masterpiece of stagecraft, in which the real Dickens atmosphere is preserved. The first scene opens showing John Jasper, in opium den, under influence of the drug. In Scene 2 Rosa Bud is seen with her real lover, Neville Landless, although she has been betrothed to Edwin Drood since childhood. In Rosa's Seminary a party is being held. Edwin Drood, Neville Landless, and Rosa are seen seated at the same table. Rosa gives all her attention to Neville, and Edwin becomes enraged. He jumps up, and, striking Neville, informs him that Rosa is his affianced wife. Neville resents this, and a severe struggle ensues. Rosa dashes between them, and implores them to be friends once more. Reconciliation and departure of guests. John Jasper hides in Rosa's room. Rosa returns in high spirits, but is terrified on discovering Jasper there. Jasper avows his love, and tells Rosa that he will force her to marry him. In his study Jasper is seen writing a letter to his nephew, Edwin Drood, telling him to be sure to come and see him before departing to London. He then sends a messenger with the note, and later on we see him preparing for his nephew's arrival. He examines a secret trap-door in the floor, and prepares a drug. Drood drinks the drug. Jasper draws a knife from his pocket, and after a slight struggle succeeds in murdering Drood. Jasper now opens the trap in the floor, removes Drood's cloak and hat, takes his watch and pocket-book, and places the body under the floor of his room. He next fetches a sack of quick-lime and empties it over the body, adding a bucket of water to aid him in hiding the traces of his crime. He now prepares to depart, but is terrified by the ghost of his victim appearing in the doorway.

THE following scene brings us to the river bank. Jasper comes along through the bushes, and throws the cloak and hat which he has taken from his victim's body into the river, so as to make it appear as if Drood had been drowned. The Beadle of the town discovers the hat and cloak, and fishes them out with a branch of a tree. A reward of £200 is being offered for the capture of Edwin Drood's murderer. Datchery, the Bow-street runner, determined to earn the reward, disguises himself for this purpose. Scene 9: Stile by the Roadside. Neville and Rosa are seated on the grass, and Neville's cloak is hanging on the stile. Jasper unexpectedly discovers them there, and is furious on finding a second rival. He thinks of another plot, and places the watch and pocket-book, which he has taken from his dead nephew's body, into the cloak of Neville. Scene 10: Country Lane. Jasper tells the Beadle that he is convinced Neville Landless is Edwin Drood's murderer. Jasper accuses Neville; the Beadle discovers watch and book in Neville's cloak; struggle follows. Neville arrested. Datchery witnesses this, and follows Jasper. Scene 12: Opium Den. Enter Jasper; takes opium, goes to sleep. Datchery follows, and searches Jasper. Jasper revives, and struggles with Datchery, eventually stunning him. He next imagines that his victim's spirit returns to wreak vengeance upon him, and has an imaginary fight with it. Datchery recovers, and fetches the police. Jasper confesses to the murder of Edwin Drood, and then falls dead at the feet of the police. Last scene: Outside Country Church. Happy at last; dangers past. Neville and Rosa are married.

THE ANARCHIST PLOT.—A band of anarchists draw lots as to who shall remove a certain Consul, and the man chosen, meeting his victim, follows him. He asks the Consul for a light to his cigarette, and while doing this stabs him. The anarchist disguises himself as leader of an orchestra which plays on the sea-front. The murdered man's daughter vows vengeance, and, setting out, performs on a mandoline for money. The leader of the orchestra hears her play, and offers an engagement in his band, which is accepted. Meanwhile the two fall in love. She is next taken to the anarchist's haunt, where she overhears a plot to wreck the Paris express. Being caught listening, the plot is explained to her, and she goes with her lover to his dangerous work. While preparing the bomb which is placed on the line running over a high viaduct, he brags about killing the Consul, and shows the girl a photo of her father. She avenges him by stabbing the man, who falls into the gorge. Just as she removes the bomb the express rushes past safely.

THE PHANTOM ORCHESTRA.—The old musician is playing his 'cello when he falls asleep. A fairy appears and bids him follow her. She leads him to a large bar of music, and, on waving her wand, the notes change to figures. The old man asks for the wand, and, on waving it, the figures again change to four comic musicians. He only wakes when the 'cello, which he has placed in a corner, falls on him, and he finds all has been a dream.

THE ELECTRIC POLICEMAN.—A policeman standing in the road is directing a lady to a certain locality, when a cyclist knocks him over and rides off without offering any assistance. He is unable to follow the man, being on foot. While he is on the ground some sandwich-men pass carrying an advertisement for electric boots, which are guaranteed to run of their own accord. The policeman at once goes to the shop, and buys a pair of the wonderful boots. After being shown how to work them, he departs. He walks along until he sees a loafer asleep on a seat, and proceeds to rouse him. The loafer knocks Robert down, then runs off, fearing pursuit, but the policeman does not intend to hurry. He starts the boots going, and easily comes up with his late antagonist, but cannot stop. He is whirled round and round and catches a nursemaid with a pram, whom he upsets. The boots will not stop, and the unfortunate policeman is carried through a brick-wall and a fence, finally landing in the river. Even then they have not finished, but carry him up a standard on to the trolley-wire of an electric tram-line. He is walking along the wire when a tram passes, and an electric explosion occurs. The policeman falls to the ground, and assistance is at once given by passers-by, but on touching the boots they receive a shock. Eventually the policeman gets out of them and walks back to the station barefooted.

JUST as we are going to press we learn that the Gaumont Co., Ltd., have received from their operators in Germany a remarkable film of the State entry of the King and Queen into Berlin. Escorted by a squadron of Dragoons, the King and Kaiser, who are seen in an open carriage, pass within a few feet of the camera, followed by the Queen and Kaiserin and members of their suites. A view is shown of some of the stands and decorations, also a panorama taken in the street, giving some idea of the enormous crowds which lined the route. A further series of pictures will arrive on Saturday morning, showing the King at various functions.

WE understand that Messrs. Gaumont have made special arrangements for securing pictures from special positions of the Opening of Parliament. Weather permitting, they hope to uphold their splendid reputation for topicals, and rival their excellent picture of last year.

Edison Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

PAGAN AND CHRISTIAN.—The world has ever been dominated by two schools of thought—the Epicurean, addicted to pleasure, and the Ascetic, given to severe self-denial and austerity. In this picture we see the two contrasted—the restless, pleasure-loving Pagans vainly seeking happiness, and the austere Christians, who, indifferent to the world's temptations and pleasures, find "A peace that passeth understanding." The influence of the little "God of Love" is felt by both schools. Caius is a Christian hermit, and the dormant passion in him is thought to be subdued. This is aroused, however, by sight of Livia, a pagan Egyptian dancing-girl, who is taking part in a festal procession during a visit to Thebes. Try how he might, by prayer, fasting, or penance, he is unable to banish her from his thoughts, and his soul demands another sight of her. In order to satisfy his conscience, he undertakes her conversion. A friendly pleasure-loving nobleman arranges a meeting. Caius adopts his friend's suggestion, and attires himself in costly raiment by means of which his ascetic perfections are heightened, and Livia's imagination is fired, and the "Little God's" conquest is complete. Livia forsakes the pagan worship of Venus, destroys her idols, dons simple garb, and together they seek the desert. Conscience, however, will not down, so they reluctantly part—she to enter a nunnery, he to seek his hermit cell. He is still pursued by visions of her, and in one of these he sees her dying, and calling for him. Hurrying away, he arrives just in time to hear her breathe her gratitude and love before she expires.

A BURGLAR CUPID.—Artie is very much in love, but too nervous to make any headway with Gladys, the lady of his choice. Calling to escort her to a ball, he upsets her temper when he tries to embrace her, but clumsily steps on to her skirt. During their absence "Mike the Terror" and "Barney the Bike" make arrangements to imprison the fat butler and burgle the house, and proceed to action. After the ball Artie and Gladys have supper at a fashionable café, where further trouble arises through Artie upsetting soup over Gladys' ball dress. Arriving home in the pale moonlight, Artie feels romantic, and prepares to make love, to the disgust of "Mike." Getting tired of the show, "Mike" decides to hasten matters. Stepping forth, he forces Gladys—by sight of his gun—to bestow the long-sought kiss. This so delights Artie that he insists on "Mike" accepting all his money, jewels, and, further, makes a present of his fur coat and gloves to him. "Mike" and "Barney" get safely away, and enjoy their success in love matters very much.

CINEMATOGRAPH LEGISLATION.—The Home Secretary has informed the London County Council that he intends to introduce in the coming Session a short Bill dealing with cinematograph exhibitions. It was in February of last year that the Council first urged upon the Home Secretary the necessity of legislation in this matter. The question of legislation will probably be much modified owing to the recent successes of two firms of film manufacturers who have produced absolutely non-inflammable cinematograph films, so that the dangers of fire could be entirely obviated if their use were enforced. One of these is a specially-prepared gelatine film which has many advantages over the celluloid ordinarily employed, the other being a special form of cellulose film which is equally non-inflammable.

MR. FRED NEWMAN, with his customary enterprise, attended the great football match Dundee *v.* Rangers, at Dundee, last Saturday, and secured a capital film of the proceedings. It is proving a very popular item at his West End Picture Palace, Dundee, this week, and is also being exhibited with much success at the Empire Theatre in the same town.

KINEMATOGRAPH REGULATIONS respecting the use of the Kinematograph in Theatres and Halls, also the Regulations respecting the use of Limelight, can be had, price 1d. (by post 1½d.), from *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C. All those who handle the Cinematograph or Limelight should possess a copy of these Regulations.

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PAGAN AND CHRISTIAN.

The love story of a Pagan Egyptian dancing girl and a Christian hermit is here unfolded. The contrast between the two is forcibly brought out in this picture. We see the pleasure-seeking Pagans vainly seeking happiness, the austere Christians finding "a peace that passeth understanding."

No. 6414. Code, "Vengariais." Length, 1,000ft.

A BURGLAR CUPID.

Artie is too nervous to make headway with his wooing of Gladys. After the ball, however, "Mike, the Terror"—by the aid of his gun—brings matters to a head, and safely gets away with the spoil.

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Edison Works, 200, Victoria Rd., Willesden, London, N.W.

SHOWFOLK IN FICTION.

By CONGREVE HORNE.

The recent publication of Mr. Horne's "Stories of Showman Life" has served to show what vast stores of humour and tragedy are to be found on the fair-ground. But although Mr. Horne is, we believe, the first to draw his inspiration entirely from this source, he is by no means the first to recognise its romantic and dramatic possibilities, and among the great masters of fiction who have given us sketches of showman life, the first we call to mind is, of course, the genial democrat, Charles Dickens.

It would seem that the warm heart of Dickens had an especially warm corner for showfolk, for not only did Little Nell find friends among them, but in another of his books he gives so kindly a sketch of travelling showmen that he may almost be said to hold a brief on their behalf.

There is no doubt that "Hard Times" is a harsh book. Dickens hated Bounderby and all that Bounderby stood for, and the harsh severity which distinguishes "Hard Times" is the result. It is in this creation of cruel caricature that Dickens uses showfolk on the side of the angels; and instead of looking among them for the villain of the piece we find there the fairy godfather. The bulk of what follows is a transcription and a rearrangement.

Mr. Sleary (you will remember) was a stout man, with one fixed eye and one loose eye, a voice (if it can be called so) like the efforts of a broken old pair of bellows, a flabby surface, and a muddled head, which was never drunk and never sober. He suffered from asthma, and his voice came too thick and heavy for the letter "s." "My voithe ith a little huthky, Thquire," he said to Gradgrind on their first meeting, "and not eathy to be heard by them ath don't know me; but if you'd been chilled and heated, heated and chilled, chilled and heated in the ring when you wath young ath often ath I have been *your* voithe wouldn't have lathted out, Thquire, no more than mine."

But, in spite of the constant brandy and water which he gives Mr. Sleary, and the consequent flabby surface and lisping tongue, Dickens makes the riding-master altogether lovable and human—a true Dickens type. "I don't pretend to be of the angel breed myself," he warned Sissy, "and I don't thay but what, when you mith'd your tip you'd find me cut up rough and thwear an oath or two at you. But what I thay, Thquire, ith, that good-tempered or bad-tempered, I never did a horthe a injury yet, no more than thwearing at him went, and that I don't expect I shall begin otherwithe at my time of life with a rider." And we can applaud the picture of him standing in the middle of the room with his company all about him, exactly as he would have stood in the centre of the ring, wanting nothing but his whip, and saying shortly, for he never was much of a cackler: "Thleary. Thath my name, Thquire. Not athamed of it. Known all over England, and alwaythe payth ith way."

Mr. Sleary was the proprietor of Sleary's Horse-riding, a circus to dream about. There were wonderful feats of horsemanship; there were performing elephants and trained dogs; there were jugglers and tumblers; the nursery plays were simply immense, and the comic business was great. "If you wath to thee our *Children in the Wood*," Mr. Sleary confided to Sissy, "with their father and mother both a-dyin' on a horthe—their uncle a retheiving of 'em ath hith wardth, upon a horthe—themthelvth both a-goin' a-blackberryin' on a horthe—and the robinth a comin' in to cover 'em with leavth, upon a horthe—you'd thay it wath the completetht thing ath ever you thet your eyeth on!"

Miss Josephine Sleary inaugurated the entertainments with her graceful equestrian Tyrolean flower act. The clown used to announce it as the cauliflower act.

Among the other pleasing, but always strictly moral, wonders which had to be seen to be believed, Signor Jupe used to "elucidate the diverting accomplishments of his highly-trained performing dog Merrylegs." He used also to exhibit "his astounding feat of throwing seventy-five hundredweight in rapid succession backhanded over his head, thus forming a fountain of solid iron in mid-air, a feat never before attempted in this or any other country, and which, having elicited such rapid plaudits from enthusiastic throngs, it cannot be withdrawn." The same Signor Jupe used to "enliven the varied performance at frequent intervals with his chaste Shakespearean quips and retorts." Lastly, he appeared in his favourite character of Mr. William Button, of Tooley-street, in the "highly novel and laughable hippo-comedietta of *The Tailor's Journey to Brentford*."

Mr. E. B. W. Childers was also of the company, and of him Dickens gives a full description. His face, close-shaven, thin, and sallow, was shaded by a great quantity of dark hair brushed into a roll all round his head, and parted up the centre. His legs were very robust, but shorter than legs of good proportions should have been. His chest and back were as much too broad as his legs were too short. He was dressed in a Newmarket coat and tight-fitting trousers; wore a shawl round his neck; smelt of lamp-oil, straw, orange-peel, horses' provender, and sawdust; and looked a most remarkable sort of centaur, compounded of the stable and the playhouse. Where the one began and the other ended nobody could have told with any precision. He was justly celebrated for his daring vaulting act as the Wild Huntsman of the North American Prairies, in which popular performance a diminutive boy with an old face assisted as his infant son, being carried upside down over his father's shoulder by one foot, and held by the crown of his head, heels upwards, in the palm of his father's hand, according to the violent paternal manner in which wild huntsmen may be observed to fondle their offspring. Made up with curls, wreaths, wings, white bismuth, and carmine, this hopeful young person soared into so pleasing a Cupid as to constitute the chief delight of the maternal part of the spectators; but in private, where his characteristics were a precocious cutaway coat and an extremely gruff voice, he became of the Turf, turfy.

It is in private that we meet the other members of Sleary's company, in the room from which Signor Jupe has just disappeared. Dickens describes them in characteristic vein. There were two or three handsome young women among them, with their two or three husbands, and their two or three mothers, and their eight or nine little children, who did the fairy business when required. The father of one of the families was in the habit of balancing the father of another of the families on the top of a great pole; the father of a third family often made a pyramid of both these fathers, with Master Kidderminster for the apex and himself for the base; all the fathers could dance upon rolling casks, stand upon bottles, catch knives and balls, twirl hand-basins, ride upon anything, jump over everything, and stick at nothing. All the mothers could (and did) dance upon the slack-wire and the tight-rope, and perform rapid acts on bare-backed steeds; none of them were at all particular in respect of showing their legs; and one of them, alone in a Greek chariot, drove six-in-hand into every town they came to. They all assumed to be mighty rakish, and knowing they were not very tidy in their private dresses, they were not at all orderly in their domestic arrangements, and the combined literature of the whole company would have produced but a poor letter on any subject. Yet there was a remarkable gentleness and childishness about these people, a special inaptitude for any kind of sharp practice, and an untiring readiness to help and pity one another, deserving often of as much respect, and always of as much generous construction, as the everyday virtues of any class of people in the world.

Later on, at the end of the story, we meet them all again at the circus, in Mr. Sleary's little private apartment with canvas sides, a grass floor, and a wooden ceiling all aslant. Miss Josephine Sleary has married Mr. E. W. B. Childers, and Mr. Sleary is the proud grandfather of a boy who "though he'th only three yearth old thtickth on to any pony you can bring againth him. He'th named the Little Wonder of Thcholathtic Equitation; and if you don't hear of that boy at Athley'th you'll hear of him at Parith." It is not until after Sissy has kissed all the children (including the Little Wonder of Scholastic Equitation), and hugged all the women and shaken hands all round with all the men, that Sleary orders them to ring in the band for the second part, and we say good-bye to Mr. Sleary's company.

We close the book with the Sleary Philosophy. It sums up all that the Showmen's Guild of today is standing for. "Thquire, thake handth, firthat and latht." It is Sleary's farewell. "Don't be croth with uth poor vagabondth. People muthtn't be amuthed. They can't be alwayth a-learning, nor yet they can't be alwayth a-working, they an't made for it. You *muthtn have uth*, Thquire. Do the withe thing and the kind thing, too, and make the betht of uth; not the wortht!" The words are the words of Dickens, but the voice is the voice of the Showmen's Guild.

PRICES OF FILMS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA

Sir,—We have the pleasure to announce that the reduction in the price of our films to threepence per foot will cease on Feb. 15, as the purpose for which it was made has been accomplished. The object was, as stated at the time, to bring into line those non-associated manufacturers who claimed the right to give special discounts, and this has been effected by the Paris Convention at which the European trade has given its adhesion to the scheme originated last summer by the Kinematograph Manufacturers' Association of Great Britain for the betterment of the industry. This includes:

1. A minimum sale price of fourpence per foot for European films.
2. The withdrawal of used films sixteen weeks from date of issue, in certain countries.
3. The regulation of charges and conditions for hiring films.

For this result we have to thank M. L. Gaumont for his persevering co-operation, M. Chas. Pathé for his fair-minded attitude, and Mr. George Eastman for his active interest and support in coping with a dangerous condition of the trade.

It now only remains for the exhibitors and hiring agents to associate themselves for the purpose of co-operating with our association in "hammering away" at the remaining abuses which chiefly affect them. The cutting of hiring rates and the use of worn-out films having been abolished, the minor difficulties should be easily disposed of. We hope that such an association will be started at the meeting of the trade which it is proposed to hold on Feb. 18.

It will necessarily take a little time to get arrangements into working order, and the liquidation of surplus stocks will continue to be a temporarily disturbing factor, after which we feel assured will follow a period of sound and profitable business for all legitimate kinematograph exhibitors and manufacturers.

With the earnest hope that this may be so—We remain, yours faithfully,

The Gaumont Co. Ltd.
A. Bromhead

For the
Hepworth M'f'g. Co. Ltd.
C. Parsey Secretary

The Warwick Trading Co. Ltd.
W. C. Jupe

Cricks & Martin.
George A. Cricks

Members of the Kinematograph Manufacturers' Association.

Feb. 8, 1909.

The Lynn meeting of the Roundabout Proprietors and Showmen's Union is fixed for Wednesday, Feb. 17. See our advertisement columns. Business of importance will be considered.

Maesteg.

Wadbrook's cinematograph and palace of varieties continues to attract large and enthusiastic crowds. Several new and interesting films are being shown, among which the Earthquake at Messina is the most attractive. The variety part of the entertainment is contributed to by Kent and Earl, comedy artists, whose performance is of a refined and exceedingly enjoyable character

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Fifty pounds a week for a skater! Prodigious! Even in these modern days of the princely salaries of £200 and £300 paid weekly to star comedians and serio-comics it seems almost incredible. Yet that is the modest sum that a professor and his young bride in the present craze for roller skating are drawing weekly at a place of amusement in a rink at one of the most popular seaside resorts in the North of England.

The latest quotations for music hall shares are as follow:—Alhambra, 19-16; Canterbury, ⅛; Empire (15s. pd.), 1⅛; Ditto (10s. pd.), 1⅛; London Pavilion Ord., 3⅜; Ditto Pref., 5; Metropolitan, 14s.; Moss Empire, 5½; Ditto 5 per cent. Pref., 4¼; Oxford, 6½; Palace, ⅞; Tivoli, 5⅝; United Varieties, 1; Variety Consolidated Theatres, 11s. 6d.

Miss Maud Allan, who makes her re-appearance at the Palace Theatre on Monday, will deliver a lecture on "Classical Dancing," to the members of the O.P. Club at the Criterion on Sunday, Feb. 21, at 8 p.m. Mr. T. McDonald Rendle will be in the chair.

Mr. Maurice Fritz, late manager of several well-known agencies, opened offices of his own on Monday. His first week's bookings amount to £2,500. If he should continue to do business at this pace he will soon have to look for larger offices.

M. Harry Vaux, who, by the way, has no connection with the Salvation Army, produced his scena at the South London on Monday with considerable success. It is entitled *The Night Policeman*.

SHOREDITCH OLYMPIA.

Excellent fare is being provided at the above hall this week, and a crowded house at each performance is the result. The principal feature of the entertainment is undoubtedly the appearance of Mr. Dan Thomas in the pantomime *Dick Whittington*. Although a condensed version, the piece is complete in every detail, and runs smoothly from beginning to end. It contains eleven scenes, each set being an excellent example of brushwork. The dialogue is bright and sparkling, and the dresses would do credit to any similar performance on a much larger scale. Mr. Dan Thomas must be complimented on the manner in which the members of his company work together, and also on his own efforts to amuse. His humour as Betsy is highly contagious, and his ability as a dancer is beyond all doubt. His "Merry Widow" song is also a decided hit. Miss Daisy Yates makes an ideal principal boy, and in the title-rôle establishes herself a firm favourite; Miss Constance Moire, a charming Alice Fitzwarren, is the possessor of a fine voice, which she puts to good use whenever the opportunity occurs; Mr. H. D. Lyndon enacts the part of the Alderman with skill; Mr. J. Harris puts his heart and soul into his interpretation of Idle Jack, his burglar scene with Betsy being particularly amusing; Mr. M. H. Maddison is a breezy and characteristic Captain Kettle; the part of Bill Blower receives full justice in the hands of Mr. R. Morris; Mr. Harry Pastor fully realises the mock ferocity of Chopper, headsman to the Emperor; Mr. Pete Almonte as the Cat does much to amuse the youngsters; and Mlle. Lillian is all that could be desired as the Fairy Queen.

Mr. Dan Daly as a Hebrew comedian proves highly successful, and is well received. His song "Isi's wedding" has a catchy chorus, which is quickly taken up by the audience, and his parody on "Asleep in the deep" is capitally rendered He has a fine voice, which he uses to great advantage. Miss Bertha Winder is so well known by this time as a dancer that little need be said beyond that she meets with her usual boisterous reception, her steps being strictly to time and neatly and cleverly executed. The Fidardy Trio perform some really clever acrobatic feats, and display considerable agility in their various exhibitions of skill. Grey and Welford, a couple of comedians who cannot fail to amuse, indulge in cross-talk that is particularly humorous, and their boxing is a mixture of pugilistic skill and fun. Fielding and Hull cause delight with their somewhat different style of entertainment to the ordinary. Their turn is of a musical comedy type, and their bathing scene causes much amusement. Brent and Brand supply a musical treat in the song "Two beggars." Their well-trained voices are beautifully blended, and they thoroughly deserve the applause they obtain. The second contribution, "The moon has raised her lamp above" (from *The Lily of Killarney*), is artistically rendered and well received.

Mr. H. H. Ketteman, the general-manager of the house, is ably assisted in the front by Mr. Albert Victor Adams.

A masked and costume carnival at the Roller Skating Rink, Dundee, is announced for Friday evening, the 19th inst., when all skaters will for the nonce represent historical, topical, or imaginative characters.

A general-manager and secretary is wanted for the Southsea Clarence Esplanade Pier. Good experience in management and a knowledge of secretarial duties are required. The commencing salary is £250 per annum. Particulars will be found in our advertising columns.

The manager of the London Hippodrome has received a £5 note from Mr. Gibson, of New Malden, as a result of a statement he made in that house when he challenged Mr. and Mrs. Tomson to perform their act in the arena instead of on the stage. On that occasion Mr. Gibson said if they could do this he would give £5 to the unemployed. Mr. and Mrs. Tomson at once repeated their weird performance, and the £5 has now been sent to the Lord Mayor's Fund for the Unemployed.

Mr. George Mozart sails for America to-day to fulfil his second engagement in the States. He has booked passages for himself and Mrs. Mozart on that fine liner the Mauretania. Miss Marie Dainton, with whom Mr. Mozart played in pantomime at the King's, Hammersmith, is off to America also, but not on the 13th. "I wouldn't sail on that awful day for the world," she told the writer. George, on the other hand, declares he is not a bit superstitious, or, if he is, certainly regards the number 13 as a lucky one for him. "I was married on the 13th of the month," he laughingly said, "my son and heir was born on the 13th, I made my first appearance on the 13th (and it was a Friday, too), my motor-car number has two 13's in it, and I stormed New York on my last tour on the 13th, and on the 13th of last month I picked up a sixpence with a hole in it—what more can man desire?"

Mr. Frank Glenister has introduced into the bill at the London Pavilion Mr. A. de Bessell, a lightning clay-modeller, whose last appearance at the "Pav." was in the early part of 1901, and who retired from the stage almost immediately after that engagement and settled down at Messina. Mr. de Bessell comes direct from the stricken district, having escaped from the recent earthquake almost miraculously, after having been practically buried alive for three and a half days. His wife also had her legs crushed in the same calamity.

Mr. De Bessell lost everything, and appealed to Mr. Glenister for an engagement, sending on his former contract, in order that there should be no doubt about his identity. Mr. Glenister set Cook's Agency to work, and in a very short time the artist and his wife arrived in London, ready to work, but absolutely without belongings of any kind. Mr. and Mrs. Glenister acted the good Samaritans, found wardrobes for the homeless pair, and Mr. de Bessell recommenced his career as an artist on Monday at the London Pavilion before a sympathetic crowd.

The final in Belfast, in connection with the International Mile Roller Skating Championship, which is to be decided at the Olympia, London, on 23rd, 24th, and 25th insts., took place on Wednesday night last, 10th inst., at the Rink, Cliftonville, Belfast, with the following result: Dan Peterson (Belfast), 1st; R. Martin (Belfast), 2nd. Also competed, J. H. Edwards, Llandudno. Won easily in 4min. 13sec. Peterson secures the £10 prize, and Martin the second prize of £5, and both are eligible to compete in the final at Olympia. The arrangements were faultlessly carried out by Mr. O. E. Laumann, the esteemed resident-manager of the Rink.

Owing to the continued success of the animated pictures at the King's Hall, Gloucester, Mr. C. W. Poole has deemed it advisable not to interfere with the popular entertainment now running there, and coupled with the difficulty of procuring a hall large enough to transfer the pictures to, he has reconsidered his decision to make the King's Hall into a skating rink. He has, however, on behalf of his company purchased the large plot of ground known to showmen as Wildman's Ground, and thereon intends erecting a first-class skating rink, with every modern improvement. Operations are to begin shortly.

REVISED SCALE OF CHARGES FOR
ARTISTS WANTING ENGAGEMENTS, MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

This Scale does not apply to "Trade" Advertisements in these Columns.

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	UNITED KINGDOM.	FOREIGN.
One Quarter	6s. 6d.	8s.
Half Year	13s. 0d.	16s.
One Year	26s. 0d.	32s.

The Offices of "The Era" are
"THE ERA" BUILDINGS,
5, TAVISTOCK-STREET, STRAND, W.C.
For the convenience of Advertisers, Replies to Advertisements are received. They can remain until called for, or be forwarded by Post if postage be arranged.

NO STAMPS.

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The Publisher,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.
"Wire," "The Era, London."
"Ring-up," 4747 or 1433 Central.

In case of the non-delivery of "THE ERA" by the First Post, the Publisher will be greatly obliged if Advertisers will forward their Postal Wrappers with the time of delivery marked upon them.

COMPANIES WANTED.
TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE AND EDWARD COMPTON'S THEATRES.
Wanted, First-class Companies, for
THEATRE ROYAL BRIGHTON.
March 15, 29, May 10, 17, 24, 31, on.
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.
May 17, 31, June 7, 14, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING.
April 5, 12, 19 May 24, 31, June 7, 14, Aug. 2, 16, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER,
May 10 17, 24, 31, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
April 5, May 10, 17, Aug. 30, Sept. 13, 20, Nov. 22. Dec. 6, 13.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON,
April 12, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Aug. 2, 9, 16, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD,
May 17, 24, 31, June 7, Aug. 2, 16, 23, 30, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON,
April 5, May 10, 17, 24, 31, Aug. 2, 9, 16, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER,
April 12, May 17, 24, 31, June 7, 14, Aug. 2, 9, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON,
Feb. 13 (3 nights), March 1, 8, 29, April 12, on.
Address, Milton Bode, Theatre, Reading.

Wanted, First-class Attractions, for
COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD
March 8, 22, 29, April 12, 19, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON,
April 5, 12, 19, 26, May 10, 17, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.
First vacant date, March 15.
Address, E. G. Falcon, County Theatre, Bedford.

THREE PROGRESSIVE THEATRES.
Wanted, High-class Companies,
DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE,
March 8, April 5, 12, May 3, 10, 17.
Easter Vacant for Big Musical Attraction or London Star.
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS.
April 26, May 10, June 7, on.
PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE.
March 22, 29 (?), April 26, June 7, on.
Apply for all above.
H. W. Rowland, Theatre, Folkestone.

Wanted, First-class Attractions, for the following dates:—
March 1,
May 3,
May 10,
May 17,
May 24,
May 31.
Apply, Mr. Robert Arthur, 24a, Regent-st., S.W.

Wanted, First-class Companies,
THEATRE ROYAL, NORTH SHIELDS,
April 5, May 10, 24, June 7, 14, 21.
GRAND THEATRE, LANCASTER,
March 11 (3 nights), March 22, April 12,
May 17, 24, 31.
Stanley Rogers, Theatre Royal, North Shields.

Wanted, First-class Company (Drama), for April 5.
Address,
J. F. Elliston, Theatre Royal, Bolton.

Wanted, First-class Company, at Theatre Royal, Bolton, March 8,
through obliging Mr. Seymour Hicks by transferring his date.
J. F. Elliston, Bolton.

ROYAL PALACE THEATRE,
RAMSGATE.
Proprietor, Lord George Sanger.
Lessee, Ernest Mansell.
Business-Representative, Bert Atkinson.
All communications re dates from July 5 to Oct. 2,
must be addressed to
Jay and Mann, 10-11, Jermyn-st., Piccadilly, W.
All dates from Oct. 2, onwards,
Apply, Bert Atkinson, Royal Palace, Ramsgate.
Wanted, First-class Drama, March 1.
Share or Certainty.

PALACE THEATRE, BRIGHTON.
Wanted, Known, Messrs. Jay and Mann have secured a lease of this theatre from Lady Day next. In addition to a local management alert and vigorous in its methods, visiting companies will have the advantages of—
(1) The freeing of the pier toll to playgoers.
(2) A handsome wind and rain shelter the entire length of the pier.
(3) A redecorated and recarpeted theatre.
Vacant dates, March 29, April 5, 19, May 3, and onward with exceptions.
For vacant dates apply
MESSRS. JAY and MANN,
10 and 11, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly, S.W.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
Wanted, First-class Attractions, May 10, 24.
Now Booking Autumn.
T. Allan Edwardes.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
The Only Theatre in the Town.
Wanted, First-class Attractions,
Whit Week, July, and on.
Bookings include Mr. George Edwardes'
"Merry Widow," "The Prodigal Son," "Sunday," "The Cingalee," "The Christian" (new version), "The Flag Lieutenant," &c., &c.
Address, Chas. M. Julian, General-Manager,
Feb. 15, T. R., Tonypandy.

Wanted, First-class Company, for
March 1 and onwards.
Apply, Manager,
Opera House, Southport.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.
Wanted, Aug. 9, 16, Sept. 6, 20, and onwards.
High-class Musical Attractions.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
Wanted, First-class Companies, for
March 8, 22,
April 5, 19,
and onwards with exceptions.
Address, Thos. Swinton.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.
Lessee, J. Bannister Howard.
Wanted, good Company, for March 22, also several good Autumn Dates.
Address,
G. B. Lambert, 15, Clifford's-in, Fleet-street.

COMPANIES WANTED.

Wanted, First-class Companies,
ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH.
Vacant March 1, 29, April 5, 12, onward with exceptions.

All communications re dates,
Arthur Carlton, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant April 5, July 5, 12, 19, onward with exceptions.

EMPIRE, WORCESTER.
See Music Hall Artists Wanted Column.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY, S. WALES.
Vacant April 12, May 24, 31, June 7, onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME, BARRY DOCK.
Vacant Aug. 2, Dec. 20, 27, Jan. 3, onward, with exceptions.

The Three Great Pantomime Successes,
"ALADDIN," Dec. 27, onward.
"CINDERELLA," April 26, May 3, Dec. 27, on.
"PUSS IN BOOTS," Dec. 27, onward.
"BABES IN THE WOOD," Jan. 17, onward.

Can arrange Production dates for next season for the above.

All communications,
Arthur Carlton,
Theatre Royal, Worcester.

Telegrams: "Carlton, Worcester."

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson.
The Premier Theatre in the Furness District, with a holding capacity of £90 at ordinary prices.
Wanted, really First-class London Successes, for March 8 and 22, on, with exceptions.
Season's Bookings include among others: J. W. Turner's Grand Opera Company (return) Mr. Wentworth Croke's "The Bondman," "Amasis," Mr. Charles Frohman's "Raffles," Mr. George Dance's Company in "Miss Hook of Holland," Mr. Wilfred Cotton's Company in "Butterflies," Mr. Seymour Hicks' Company in "The Gay Gordons," and Mr. George Edwardes's Company in "The Merry Widow," Paumier and Howard's "The Prince and the Beggar Maid," and "The Midnight Wedding," "The Flag Lieutenant."
All applications for dates to
Hugh Robertson, Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
Seating capacity, 3,500.
Acknowledged to be one of the largest, most handsome, and best equipped theatres in the Provinces.
The Premier and Central Theatre of the District.
Wanted, First-class Attractions only, March 22, 29, April 19, May 17, 31 (Whit),
also Big Star Attractions for August Bank Holiday, and Aug. 16 (Race Week).
All communications,
Jno. Ed. Jowsey,
Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough.
Telephones, 413, 426, 500. Telegrams, "Magnet."

THEATRE ROYAL, MARGATE.
Wanted, Good Attraction, for March 1, March 1. Apply to W. W. Keene.

EMPIRE THEATRE, SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.
Wanted, First-class Companies, March 8, April 26, and May 2.
Apply,
G. Conquest, as above.

WORTHING THEATRE.
Wanted, First-class Attractions, Feb. 25, March 4, 8, 11, 18, several dates onwards; Only Good Sound Companies need apply to C. Adolf Seebold, as above.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, BLYTH-BY-SEA.
Wanted, Attractions, with Strong Musical or Dramatic Drawing powers, for March 22, April 5, 19, 26, May 10 and 31. Feb. 15, "Fair One with the Golden Locks."
Lessee and Manager, A. C. Moody.

OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER.
Wanted, Companies; holds £100; Vacant March 22, 29, and Easter, onwards.
Bookings: Merry Widow," "Dairymaids," "Prince of Pilsen," "Prodigal Son," "The Christian," &c. J. P. Moore, King's Hall, Birmingham.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
Wanted, High-class Companies, Musical and Farcical Comedies and Society plays preferred, March 22, April 5, Holiday, 12th, 19th, 26th, on, three or six nights. W. E. Potts.

NEW CENTURY THEATRE, MOTHERWELL.
Wanted, First-class Attraction, for March 22.
Apply, R. C. Buchanan, 102, Bath-street, Glasgow.

THEATRE ROYAL, HANLEY.
Wanted, First-class Musical Comedies, for March 15, April 12 (Easter), May 10. Apply, Chas. Elphinstone.

WEYMOUTH.—NEW PAVILION THEATRE.
Wanted, Known, this building is now complete and admitted by the General Public to be one of the finest and most complete Theatres in the Provinces, being decorated and furnished by Messrs. A. R. Dean and Sons, of Birmingham, and the whole of the Stage fittings carried out under the direction of Experts. Capable of taking £130 at ordinary prices. First-class Companies only entertained.
Vacant March, April, and May, onwards.
All communications Walter R. Wallis.

STANLEY, DURHAM, NEW ROYAL, LTD.
Wanted, Good Attractions, May 3 (through transferring), also May 31, June 7, and on, with exceptions. Apply, Mark H. Lindon.

OPERA HOUSE, WAKEFIELD.
Wanted, Sound Attraction, March 15.
Apply, Sherwood and Co.

COLISEUM, ABERYSTWYTH.
Wanted, Companies, March 1, 2, 3, 29, 30, 31, April 19, 20, 21; also few Spring and Season Dates Vacant. Phillips.

Wanted, Musical or Comedy Company, April 12 (Easter week), Londesborough Theatre, Scarboro'. Apply, Waddington, Stonegate, York.

THEATRE ROYAL, GOOLE.
Wanted, Attractions, Feb. 25 (3 nights) and March 1, 18. Apply, Greaves, Theatre.

KING'S THEATRE, KILMARNOCK.
Lessee and Manager, J. Cummings.
One of the Finest and Most Up-to-date Buildings in the Provinces.
Wanted, First-class Attractions Only.
Vacant Feb. 23 (March 1, 3 nights), March 22, 29,
April 12, onwards,
with exceptions.
for First-class Attractions only.

THEATRE ROYAL, RYDE.
Wanted, good Pantomime (first in), also good sound Attractions (Musical preferred), from now onwards. A few good Season Dates available (July, Aug., Sept.). Apply to C. Constant, as above.

PIER THEATRE, EASTBOURNE.
Wanted, First-class Companies, for March 15, 29, April 5, and various dates onwards, including one or two Season Dates.
Apply, G. Hayes, Pier, Eastbourne.

COMPANIES WANTED.

Booked by
MOSS' EMPIRES, LIMITED.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE,
GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM,
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS,
and
GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Vacant Dates, May 10, 17, 24, 31, Aug. 9, 16, Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 15, 29, Dec. 13.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE.
Vacant Dates, May 10, 24, June 14, 28, July 5, 12, 19, 26, Aug. 16, Dec. 6, 13.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Vacant, March 29, April 19, May 3, 10, June 21, 28, Aug. 2, 9, Nov. 22, Dec. 13.

GRAND, GLASGOW.
Vacant, April 5, 19, 26, May 17, 24, 31, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Sept. 6, 13, 20 Oct. 4, Nov. 1, 15, 22.
ALEXANDRA THEATRE, STOKE NEWINGTON.
Reopened Shortly.
First-class Attractions Required
for Immediate Dates.
Address,
with full particulars, terms, &c.,
where can be seen, to
MOSS' EMPIRES, LIMITED,
Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street,
London, W.C.
Envelopes marked "Theatres."

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
The Chief Theatre of the Town and District.
The only Theatre in the Town lighted by Electricity.
WANTED, Companies, March 15, May 3, various onwards.

Our Season's Bookings, which Managers are requested to compare with elsewhere, include:—Miss Lena Ashwell's Co., "Diana of Dobson's" (return), Mr. Geo. Alexander's Co., "The Thief," F. R. Benson's Co., "The Dairymaids," Mr. Percy Hutchison's Cos., "Mrs. Dot," "Brewster's Millions," "Lady Frederick," "Leah Kleschna," "With Edged Tools," "The Christian" (new version), "A White Man," "You Never Can Tell," "The Flag Lieutenant," "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," "The Beloved Vagabond," Mr. Geo. Alexander's Co., "The Builder of Bridges," Mr. George D. Day's Co., "The Prodigal Son," Miss Lena Ashwell's Co. in "Grit," Mr. Lionel Rignold in "The Early Worm." Mr. Edward Terry and Co.

All communications,
CALVERT ROUTLEDGE, H. M. T., BARROW.
London Representative,
HERBERT GREVILLE, 63, High Holborn, W.C.

THE GRANVILLE THEATRES, LIMITED.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
Vacant March 8, 22, 29, and onwards.

GRAND THEATRE, RAWTENSTALL.
WANTED, Powerful Attraction, Feb. 22, wire.
Also Vacant, March 8, 22,
and onwards, with exceptions.

GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.

Wanted, Powerful Musical Attraction, Feb. 22.
Wire,
Address,
FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

THEATRE ROYAL, LOUGHBOROUGH.
WANTED, Good Company, April 26 (last three days).

THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN,
Vacant March 15, 22 (three nights, Races), April 19 and 26 (last three).

NEW GAIETY, WORKSOP,
Vacant March 18, 22, and 29 (last three days only booked).

DUMFRIES AND HAWICK,
Vacant Feb. 22, March 22 and 29

W. PAYNE SEDDON, Londonderry.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, Big First-class Attractions, Musical Comedy or Drama, March 29, on. E. H. PAGE

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
WANTED, First-class Attractions,
April 26,
May 17, 24, 31,
June and July.
JAMES BELL.

DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, through transfer, First-class Company, March 6, March 8.
Apply, H. W. ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

NEW PALACE THEATRE, WATFORD.
The only place of amusement in the town.
Lighted by electricity. Holding capacity £75.
WANTED, Strong Dramatic and Musical Companies, First-class only, April 5, 26,
May 10, 24.
SYLVESTER, 217, Piccadilly, W.

WANTED, First-class Companies, weeks of April 26th, May 3, and 31, and on, with exceptions. Lessee, Mr. RICHARD FLANAGAN, Queen's Theatre, Manchester.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, PEMBROKE DOCK.

WANTED, First-class Attractions,
Feb. 22, Feb. 22,
Feb. 22, Feb. 22,
Address, NORMAN H. BARGER.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

EMPIRE THEATRE, SWINDON.
WANTED, First-class Musical Comedy and Dramatic Attractions; also Big Variety Combinations. Managers with First-class Companies only apply direct to ALFRED MANNERS. Wanted, strong Attraction for Whit-Week.

WANTED, First-class Company, for Feb. 22, unexpectedly vacant.
Wire, Theatre Royal, Exeter.

WANTED, First-class Companies Only, for Grand, Llandudno, Whit, July 22, 26, Sept. 20, 27. HALDANE CRICHTON, Crystal Palace T., S.E.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for King's Theatre, Kirkcaldy, March 15 and onwards. Bookings include "Sexton Blake," "Hush Money," Louie Freear, &c. John Clyde in "Jeanie Deans," took over £500 in one week a short time ago. Write, A. E. ABRAHAMS, 26, Great Eastern-road, Stratford, E.

WANTED, Musical Attractions, March 15, 22, Grand, Chorley; also March 22, April 12, Radcliffe. SANTE, Theatre, Radcliffe.

WEST END PIER, MORECAMBE.
WANTED, Opera, Musical Comedy, and Dramatic Companies, Easter, Whitsuntide, and Summer Season. Address, JOHN BASTOW, Secretary,

WANTED, for six or seven weeks, from and including Whit, Dramatic Stock Co., with strong Répertoire; rental or share. Box 5,463, "The Era."

BOROUGH THEATRE, HEYWOOD.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 1 and 8. ALBERT JONES, Queen's, Manchester.

WANTED, Pantomime Combination, Dramas, Feb. 22, onwards.
Wire, ERNIE CASS, Manager, Palace, Boston.

NEW HIPPODROME, SCARBOROUGH.
One of the most luxurious Theatres in the North.
Now running One House nightly at 8.
Holding capacity, 2,000.
Popular Prices, 3d. to 1s. 6d.
WANTED, Star Variety Combinations and Dramatic Companies, on Sharing Terms, March 8, onwards.
Only First-class Attractions.
Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK, Theatre, Harrogate.
Silence a polite negative.

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE BEGGAR GIRL'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, April 5, Nov. 1, 22.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME."
By Walter Melville
WANTED, March 29, April 5, 12,
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, April 5, 12.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, March 8, Aug. 2, 9.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
WANTED, Aug. 9, 16.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 16, Sept. 20, 27.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

FREDERICK MELVILLE'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, Theatres, March 29, April 5.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres,
Feb 8, April 12, Aug. 2, 16.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, March 1, April 5,
Aug. 2. DOUGLAS BRUCE,
Grand Theatre, Doncaster.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."

WANTED, April 5, 12, Aug. 2, 9,
ANDREW MELVILLE, Met. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."

WANTED, April 5, 12, Aug. 9, 16.
ANDREW EMM, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
for this Phenomenal Success,
Weeks of April 5 and May 3.

Wire or write to
W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
WANTED, Weeks of
March 15 and 29,
March 15 and 29,
March 15 and 29,
for this Remarkable Success,
which in a fortnight at Dublin played to £1,400, and at Belfast turned hundreds away nightly.
Wire or write to W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatre, March 22, April 19 on.
CHARLES HARRINGTON,
Town Hall, Newry, Dundalk.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."

WANTED, April 12, 19, 26.
May 17, 24, 31.

All communications, J. W. CORDINER,
Feb. 15, King's T., Sutton-in-Ashfield.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."
EUGENE C. STAFFORD'S No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Feb. 22, March 29 (?), April 5 (?), 19; also Oct. 11, 18, 25, Nov. 8, onwards.
Letters or telegrams to
Bishopsdale, Biddenden, Kent.

WANTED, First-class Theatre, for "A MESSAGE FROM MARS,"
March 22,
North or Midlands.
Also a few Autumn Dates.
Apply,
F. MOUILLOT, 1, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

WANTED, Theatres for
HUTCHISON NO. 1 COMPANIES.
"PETER'S MOTHER."
March 22, 29, April 12, May 10 and 17.
"MRS. DOT,"
March 11 (3 nights), April 12, May 3, 10, 17.
"LADY FREDERICK," May 17 and 24.
"IDOLS," March 18 (3 nights), May 3, 10, and 31.

"SILVER KING" CO.
WANTED, the following Dates:—March 8, Sept. 20, 27, Nov. 1, 8, also Spring 1910.
G. M. POLINI, 93, Penge-road, Anerley, London.

MURRAY KING and HIS COMPANY, in
"TODDLES."
"TODDLES."
WANTED, March 22, 29, April 19, 26, May 31, and Autumn Dates. Address, KING New Theatre, Oxford. Next week, T. R., Plymouth.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
SHAKESPEAREAN REPERTOIRE. also "VIRGINIUS," "THE THREE MUSKETEERS," "IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO MEND," "JEANIE DEANS."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 22, March 1.
Wire, 14, Lower High-street, Stourbridge.

"HUMAN NATURE."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Feb. 22, March 8 weeks, for above Great Drury Lane Success. Managers invited to witness production at West London Theatre on Feb. 15.
R. A. BEATON, 52, Warbeck-road, Shepherd's Bush.

MR. HERBERT RALLAND'S No. 1 CO.
"HIS HOUSE IN ORDER."
"HIS HOUSE IN ORDER."
WANTED, March 22 and 29, Midlands.
HERBERT RALLAND, 23, Bedford-st., Strand, W.C.

J. BANNISTER HOWARD'S No. 1
"FLORODORA" CO.
WANTED, Good Theatres, Sept. 27, Oct. 11, 18, 25, Nov. 8 and 15. Address, 15, Clifford's-inn, Fleet-st., E.C.

WANTED, Good Dates for
"The Cingalee."
HALDANE CRICHTON, Crystal Palace Theatre, S.E.

"THE MASTER CRIMINAL."
"THE MASTER CRIMINAL."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Feb. 22, March 8, 15, April 5 and 12, for this Great Success.
Wire, HENRY L. OSMOND, Opera House, Lochgelly.
Letters, New T., Longridge, Lancs.

T. EDWARD WARD'S NO. 1 CO.
"SECOND TO NONE,"
By Walter Howard.
WANTED, Theatres, April 5 (?), 19, 26, Aug. 30, and Sept. 6.
Coms., T. E. WARD, Q. T., Farnworth.

ALFRED PAUMIER and WALTER HOWARD'S COMPANIES.
"THE PRINCE AND THE BEGGAR MAID."
WANTED, First-class Theatre.
March 15, North.
WALTER HOWARD.
11 and 12, Bishop's-mansions, Fulham, London.

M. RUSSELL ROSSE'S TOURS.
WANTED, for Comedy or Dramatic Répertoire, to follow Glasgow, March 8 and 15.
Wire, T. R., Glasgow.

ROSE MONCRIEFF'S CO.
"THE BELLS OF OLD YORK."
"THE BELLS OF OLD YORK."
WANTED, March 15, 29, and April 12 (Wales).
Feb. 15, T. R., Belfast.

"WAS SHE TO BLAME?"
By Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.
WANTED, Known, Grand Production at the Junction T., Manchester. Easter, no vacant dates this year. Write for dates to KIMBERLEY, GREEN, and HINTON, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

A. CLIFTON ALDERSON AND CO.
"THE COAL KING."
WANTED, April 12, Oct. 11, 25, and Nov. 8.
Only vacant dates this year.
T. R., Coatbridge.

"HER MARRIAGE VOW."
WANTED, April 12, 19, May 24, 31, and autumn.
GARSIDE and KNOWLES, Alex. T., Hull (R.).

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.
MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.

WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
for
"HOW GIRLS ARE BROUGHT TO RUIN."
"HOW GIRLS ARE BROUGHT TO RUIN."
"HOW GIRLS ARE BROUGHT TO RUIN."

Enormous success.
Enormous success.

Played at Liverpool to
Big Business.
Refer Fred Granville, Esq.

Brilliant success at Farnworth.
Receipts went up nightly,
Except
Tuesday, which dropped 18s.
Friday, which beat all previous nights, except Thursday, when Dress Circle, Stalls, and Pit were Packed to Overflowing.
Saturday, Packed at Early Doors,
Record House.

Enthusiastic Reception at Belfast.
Monday, Big Opening.
Tuesday, Nearly as Big.
Wednesday, jumped up in all parts, beating both previous nights.

The talk of the City.
Refer,
Fred. W. Warden, Esq.

Read this:
Belfast.
Dear Mr. Powell,—
I had the pleasure of seeing your piece last night, and am glad to be able to tell you that I think you have got a money-maker. . . . It is an excellent production, and judging by the business you are doing here, the public seem to like it. . . .
Yours very truly,
S. C. Allen.

"HOW GIRLS ARE BROUGHT TO RUIN."

Makes the public talk.
Arouses tremendous enthusiasm.
Draws the public to the pay-box.
Possesses that magic something which means enormous financial success.

"HOW GIRLS ARE BROUGHT TO RUIN."
A Star Company
in ability as well as in name.

"HOW GIRLS ARE BROUGHT TO RUIN."
The most beautifully mounted drama touring.

"HOW GIRLS ARE BROUGHT TO RUIN."
Boomed as this firm can boom.

"HOW GIRLS ARE BROUGHT TO RUIN."
A powerful story, pulsating with human passions, true to nature, cleverly written, and, withal, bright, interesting, and natural. The situations . . . grip the audience by reason of their intense realism, yet be it acknowledged they rise naturally out of the development of the story, and are never forced.—Birkenhead Herald, Jan. 30.

"HOW GIRLS ARE BROUGHT TO RUIN"
is a story thrilling with human interest and pathos. . . . Arouses the enthusiasm of the audience, and keeps them on tenterhooks concerning what is to follow. . . . Interest is maintained from start to finish. . . . The right kind of humour—clean, bright, and breezy—in the right place.—Bolton Chronicle, Feb. 3.

Managers
Come and see it.
Come and see it.
You want
Money-making attractions.
Here is one.
Don't accept our word.
Come and see it.

Monday next, CARLTON TH., BIRMINGHAM
Or
Ask your brother managers.

Vacant,
March 8 (?), (Possibly April 12), April 19 (?), May 10 (?), May 17, 24, Aug. 2 (?), Sept. 6.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
March 1, 15, 22.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"GREED OF GOLD."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
March 1, 22, 29, April 5, 12.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

Miss EMMA LITCHFIELD'S PLAYS.
"A LONDON ACTRESS."
"A CLEVER IMPOSTOR."
"THE GUIDING STAR."
WANTED, Feb. 22, March 22, April 5. Excellent shows, excellent Business. Wire,
CLEVELAND, Pembroke Dock. Write, Empire, Blaina.

CHARLES ROGERS and W. E. WILSON'S CO.
"LADDER OF LIFE."
"LADDER OF LIFE."
WANTED, March 15 (?), 22,
Wanted, April 5, 12.
North or Midlands preferred.
ROGERS and WILSON,
Borough Theatre, Stratford.

"THE IDOL OF PARIS."
"THE IDOL OF PARIS."
By Charles Darrell.
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
March 8
March 8.
(to oblige Mr. Carpenter with transfer, T. R., Bristol),
March 15, 22.
March 15, 22.
A Big Moneymaker Everywhere.
Wire, JAMES BELL, T. R., Darlington.

S. RENNEF and G. COPPING'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, "Love Rules the World," Feb. 22 (Wales), March 1 (to precede Chorley), March 15 (precede Yarmouth), April 5 (precede Warrington, return). Special Printing, Good Cast, Big Scenic Production. Refer Charles Barnard, Esq., five contracts; R. C. Buchanan, Esq., five contracts and return; M. Montgomery, Esq., return; Harris Fineberg, Esq., return; John Hart, Esq., return; &c. Several summer and autumn dates for "How Women Ruin Men." G. M. COPPING, Metropole, Aberthllery. Thursday, Maesteg.

"LUCKY 'LIZA."
The Laughing Success.
WANTED, April 12 (South), for this great Holiday Attraction, Whit Week (Midlands).
DICKIE CLARE,
New Theatre, Aberdare.

"I DEFY THE WORLD."
By Arthur Shirley and E. Hill-Mitchelson.
Mr. F. B. Woulfe as Leon Darville.
WANTED, Good Theatres,
March 22 (to follow Devonport),
April 12 (to follow Bordesley),
May 17 (to follow Grand, Glasgow).
Address,
CHAS. M. JULIAN, Feb. 15, T. R., Ton-y-Pandy.

"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
"THE POWER OF THE CROSS." By Geo. A. De Gray. Under the Sole Direction of the Author.
WANTED, Dates, "The Power of the Cross," Feb. 22, 23, 24 (Wales or near), March 15.
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
Booked solid till Whit. Re both plays, GEO. A. DE GRAY, Feb. 15, P. O. W. Theatre, Nuneaton.

"THE MASTER CRIMINAL."
WANTED, Good Theatres Only, Feb. 15, 22, 29, April 12. HENRY L. OSMOND,
Opera House, Lochgelly, Fife.

"THE 10.30 DOWN EXPRESS"
and "GUILTY GOLD."

WANTED, May 3, 10 (Midlands)
HORACE STANLEY,
Address,
T. R., Glossop.

WANTED, Theatres, March 1, 8, for Grand Pantomime, "Cinderella." Splendid company. FARREN, Palace, Boston, Lincs.

THEATRES WANTED.

FRED GRANVILLE'S PRODUCTIONS, LTD.
PANTOMIMES.
"BABES IN THE WOOD."
A Phenomenal Success.
Breaking Records every week.
WANTED, Feb. 22, March 1, 8, onwards.
Wanted, First-class Theatre, for Production, 1909-10.
"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST."
The Success of the Year.
Has broken all records at King's Theatre, Edinburgh (two weeks).
Refer A. Mascard, Esq.
Last week played to packed business at Gaiety Theatre, Leith.
Thousands turned away on the Saturday night.
Vacant Feb. 22, March 1 and 8.
Also Wanted, Good Theatres, Jan. 3, 1910, onwards
Christmas Production Settled.
"ALADDIN."
Another Record Success.
Wanted, Good Theatre, for Production 1909-10.
Managers Note.
These Pantomimes are First-class in every way. Beautifully Mounted and Dressed, all Star Casts, Grand Specialities, and Full Chorus.
PLAYS.
"THE BETTER LAND."
A High-class Powerful Domestic Drama.
A "Winner."
First Vacant Date Aug. 9.
Also Wanted, Aug. 23, 30, Sept. 13, 27, and later.
"FOR BETTER OR WORSE."
No Vacant Dates.
"DEFENDING HIS HONOUR."
No Vacant Dates.
"ANOTHER MAN'S WIFE."
Success! Success! Success!
Produced Queen's Theatre, Liverpool, Monday last.
Vacant March 8, onwards.
Re dates for Fred Granville's Productions, Ltd., Address, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

"THE SORROWS OF SATAN"
and
"NANA, THE RAGE OF PARIS."
WANTED, March 1, 15, various on.
"NANA" at The Metropole, Devonport.
Exceedingly well staged. The scenic effects and dresses are superb. . . . An interesting feature is the introduction of a large pipe organ on the stage. . . . A society play, in which the elements of romance and love play a leading part. . . . The title-rôle is taken by Miss Rosie Neville, a clever and charming actress.—Western Mercury, Feb. 9.

Receipts increasing greatly each night. Refer Mr King. Counter attraction, "The Merry Widow."

March 1 and 15, either or both Plays.

LOIE ESMOND, Metropole Theatre, Devonport.
Feb. 15, Greenwich Theatre (fourth visit).

MR. AND MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COS.
"BOUND TO WIN."
WANTED, March 1, March 1, March 1.
Racehorses Toured. New Scenery.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
March 8, March 8, March 8.
Band in Special Uniforms to parade.
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR."
March 15, March 15, March 15.
Special cast, including Miss L. Wilde, Miss E. Macklin.
Wire for all these great Plays to
KIMBERLEY, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, owing to cancelling Continental Tour, Feb. 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22, for the greatest of all Athletes, Bert Wickham, the one man that imitators cannot copy. Terminating a successful performance with Man v. Motor, a tug-of-war between Bert Wickham and a 10-12 horse-power Motor-car.
Bert Wickham is Breaking Records everywhere.

Last week, Hull Empire, £78 more than theatre ever held before. £10 paid towards damage done to theatre owing to enormous crush on Saturday night. The doors had to be closed to keep the people out, and twelve policemen to clear the street. Wire for above dates. Good-class Theatres or Music Halls, with or without first-class Combination. Salary or Share (latter preferred).
Good Plant of Printing.
Three Motor-cars travelled.
ALFRED SELWYN, Hippodrome, Scarboro';
Feb. 15, Grand Theatre, Blackpool.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
The Drama that Booms itself.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Cast of Recognised Artists. Each Member with not less than 10 years' experience.
Magnificent printing. Beautifully mounted.
WANTED, Aug. 16, 30, Nov. 1, 8.
FRED. BULMER,
Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, Strand, W.C.

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANY.
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
A Powerful Domestic Drama, in four Acts.
By Walter Howe.
WANTED, March 1, 29.
April 26, May 3, 17.
Splendid plant of Pictorials by
David Allens and Moody Bros.
Feb. 15, Royal Aquarium Theatre, Gt. Yarmouth.

MESSRS. KIMBERLEY, GREEN, and HINTON'S CO., "THE POWER OF THE KING."
The brilliantly-mounted, romantic Military Play by Mrs. F. G. Kimberley. The Premier Provincial Production, and the most consistently Successful Dramatic Play of recent years.
WANTED, Theatres, March 15 (between Yarmouth and London), Whit Week, June, and July, August Bank Holiday, and few, on. Wire for March 15. Wire for March 15. TRAVIS GREEN, Star Theatre, Swansea.

Mr. and Mrs. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"ROLLICKING RORY."
Romantic Irish Musical Fairy Play.
Only Two Vacant Dates this Year,
April 5 and 12, Mid or South.
WANTED, First-class Theatres.
Feb. 15, Theatre Royal, Hull.

The New Star.
"THE HEATHEN AND THE CHRISTAIN,"
Needs no "gas," works automatically. Can be seen nightly between 7.30 and 10.30. Rebooked at Opera House, Dudley. Opened at Wednesbury to the best Monday for weeks. Refer Harry Battersby, who says: The best drama I have had in my theatre.
WANTED, April 5, May 31, Aug. 2. Everything carried; only clear Stage required. Printing 200 sheets without repeat. FRANK ADAIR. Feb. 15, T. R., Bilston; Feb. 22, T. R., Sunderland.

GEORGE A. DE GRAY presents his latest new Play, "THE ANGEL OF HIS DREAMS."
Production, April 26, Theatre Royal, Castleford.
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 2 9, Sept. 20, Nov. 1 15, Dec. 13, Jan. 3, 10, 31. All coms., GEO. A. DE GRAY, Feb. 15, P. O. W. Theatre, Nuneaton.

WANTED, Dates, for Fred Moule and E. W. Avery's 1909-10 Pantomime Production,
"CINDERELLA."
Refined, Operatic, and Funny.
Address,
153, Capworth-street, Leyton.

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays." Nov. 1, 8, Dec. 6, 13, and 27.
FRANK M. THORNE, Palace T., Newcastle-on-Tyne.

BOSWELL'S STAGE CIRCUS.

WANTED, Theatres and Halls, March 15 and on, with exceptions. Magnificent programme. Grand Stud of Performing Ponies, Donkeys, Dogs, and a full Company of Varieties. Good Printing. Everything carried.
Rental or share.
BOSWELL'S Farm, Oadby, Leicester.

WANTED, Bookings, Piers, Halls, Theatres for Harry Liston, Miss Lumley (one or both or Co.). Salary or share. Grove's Studio, Buxton.

WANTED, Theatres, Large Halls, Piers &c. (the Bigger the Better), for the Walturdaw Animated Picture Co. Write, WOOD, People's Palace, Tottenham.

THEATRES WANTED.

MISS HILDA BEVERLEY
in
"A DESTROYER OF MEN."
WANTED, Theatres, for
a Few Vacant Dates in 1909.
Now Booking 1910.
Miss HILDA BEVERLEY,
"A Girl's Cross Roads" Co.,
Feb. 15, Theatre Royal, Leigh, Lancs.

Miss MARY NEIL,
in her Great Successes,
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS,"
by Charles Darrell,
and
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
by Charles Darrell.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres,
Vacant for either Play,
April 5, May 10 and 24,
June 7 and 14.

Miss Neil begs to inform Managers that she is now rapidly booking 1910 for her next new production.
Coms. to GEO. KIRK,
King's Head Hotel, Blaina (Mon.);
next, Gaiety T., Burnley.

HARRY BURNS'S No. 1 PANTOMIME,
"ROBINSOE CRUSOE."
A Phenomenal Success.
Can be seen weeks of
Feb. 15, Pavilion Music Hall, Liverpool.
Feb. 22, Hippodrome, Preston.
March 1, Hippodrome, Ashton-under-Lyne.

Mlle. Du Roche, Robinson Crusoe.
Marie Belle, Polly Perkins.
Arthur Aiston, Will Atkins.
Henry Curwen, Dame Crusoe.
Supported by First-class Company of Principals and a No. 1 London Chorus. Dances and Evolutions by Bert Coote's Yankee Doodle Girls.

WANTED, good Theatres and Music Halls, for weeks of March 8, 15, 22, 29.
Communicate at once re dates, Head Office,
HARRY BURNS, Welburn House, Hartlepool.
'Phones 231 and 231A. Wires, "Chosen, Hartlepool."

JOHN TILLER'S PANTOMIMES.

WANTED, Good Theatres or Music Halls, for the phenomenally successful Pantomimes:
"JACK AND JILL,"
Vacant March 1.
Can be seen Feb. 15, Hippodrome, Burnley;
Feb. 22, Palace, Blackburn.

"RED RIDING HOOD,"
Vacant March 1 and 8.
Enormous Success, six weeks, Grand, Newcastle; two weeks, Palace, Manchester.
Can be seen Feb. 15, Metropole, Gateshead;
Feb. 22, Alexandra, Sheffield.

Both Pantomimes are Big, Bright, and exceedingly Funny Shows, and are doing Enormous Business Nightly.

Wire,
JOHN TILLER,
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Telegraphic Address, "Troubadour, Manchester."

Mr. CHARLES M. BESTIC'S
LONDON COMPANY,
in the Successful Musical Comedy,
"THE FLOWER GIRL,"
by W. T. Gliddon,
including
John T. MacCallum, Henry Adnes,
Miss Lilian Drake, Miss Georgie De Lara,
supported by a
Powerful Company.
WANTED, March 22, April 19.
Re dates to
JAMES LESLIE, General-Manager,
Hippodrome, West Bromwich.
and all other communications to
CHARLES M. BESTIC,
1, Sidney-road, Stockwell, London, S.W.

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TO PROPRIETORS AND MANAGERS.
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ARTISTS WANTED.

GLENVILLE AND OSMOND'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, for "For Wife and Kingdom," First-class Chambermaid, young and fair; also Lady for small Intense Weird Part. Apply, with age, height, terms, references, and photos.
"SOLDIER OF FRANCE."
Wanted, First-class Leading Man, for Corporal Jean. State measurements of hat, chest, waist, length of leg, and boots. Also a good strong Baggage Man. Apply, with all particulars, age, height, &c., terms, and references. All rehearse March 1.—GLENVILLE and OSMOND, Opera House, Burton.

WANTED, Artists, for "The Master Criminal" Répertoire Co.; vacancy for Child Actress, must be small, 14 years, and sing well. Particulars, HENRY L. OSMOND, New T., Longridge, Lancs.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for Tour, two pieces. Send photos and full details.
HOWARD, 54, Lord Haddon-road, Ilkeston.

Miss MARY NEIL'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, Powerful Juvenile Lady, capable of Light Comedy. Photos., refs., and full particulars to GEORGE KIRK, Gaiety, Burnley. Rehearse Monday.

"MOTHER."
WANTED, Good Juvenile Lady. Rehearse Tuesday next, Blackburn. Photo., terms, HARRY FOXWELL, Opera House, Wakefield.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, to Rehearse shortly, First-class Juvenile Man, for Frank Wilding, in "Second to None," to look about twenty years, but power and intensity absolutely essential. Age, height, and full particulars to T. E. WARD, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

WANTED, Gentleman, to play Responsible Parts, also Lady and Gentleman for Small Parts. MONTAGUE, New Theatre, Cambridge.

WANTED, First-class Comedian, to support Leading Actress in Sketches; also tall young lady, 5ft. 10in, good figure. Photos., letters only, MANAGER, 137, Biddulph-mans., Maida Vale, W.

WANTED, Ladies used to Musical Comedy, for Concerts, Piers, &c. Photos., particulars, L., 13, Bland-street, Moss Side, Manchester.

WANTED, good Humorous Vocalist, permanent Tour with Pictures. Terms must be low. Could arrange for Soubrette. TOUR, Box 5,468, "The Era."

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, now and onwards, Kathleen Yates, late Gaiety Theatre, Manchester, and Mr. F. R. Benson's Co., small parts, Melodrama or Drama. Write, 1, Challoner-mansions, West Kensington.

WANTED, Known, Stanley Crump, Comedian, at Liberty, Big Success, Cat, Brixton Panto., open to join anything good. Add., 40, Acre-lane, Brixton.

WANTED, Engagement, by Contralto, can play piano. Address, M. IRVINE, c/o Mrs. Lavender, Brent-street, Hendon, N.W.

WANTED, by First-class Baritone, experienced, can act, Summer or immediate Engagement. VOCALIST, 18, Oberstein-road, New Wandsworth.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Comedians, next season's Pantos. Last two references, address where performing next three week, age, photos., lowest terms, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists all Lines. Age, height, photo., salary, last two references. Particulars, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Good Chorus Ladies, next Pantomime Season. Age, height, names, addresses last two references, photo., lowest terms, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Wanted, for "BABES IN THE WOOD." Principal Boy, for Spring Tour. Lowest terms to FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Harry Harcourt, Refined and Versatile Comedian, now scoring Great Success as Widow Twankie, Vacant Feb. 22, Musical Comedy, Concert Party, or Pantomime. This, Alexandra Theatre, Widnes; next, Theatre, Batley.

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WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions, Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, Contracts, for Painting Scenery, First-class Work guaranteed. CECIL E. HICKS, Painting Room, Princess's Theatre, Oxford-street, London, W.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery; Effective Artistic Work, Good Joinery. Moderate Prices. Large Studio and Workshop. CHAS. SAYER, Scenic Artist, 2, Clarendon-road, Croydon.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery, Productions, Sketches, or Stock; good, effective work, cheap. J. JACKS, Scenic Artist, 46, Holloway-road, London, N.

WANTED, Engagement or Contract, by Scenic Artist, first-class credentials; Liberty March 1. Address, ARTIST, 31, Oxford-st., Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Known, for Scenery and Props of all kinds, C. Roberts, Blucher-street, Liverpool-st., Salford, Manchester. Scenic Artist to R. A. Roberts, Esq.

WANTED, Known, good offers invited by A. W. Moore, Scenic Artist, First-class, Engagement or Contract. Address, 2, St. George's-terrace, York.

WANTED, Engagement, by George Miller, Scenic Artist. 11½ years with Peter Davey, Esq., Royal County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames. Special terms for permanency. Address, County Theatre, Kingston.

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WANTED, Roller Skating-Rink Manager, capable of taking entire charge, at Erdington, Birmingham; also Floor-Manager. Apply, with fullest particulars, FOSTER, Ivydale, Wood End-road, Erdington.

WANTED, Electrician (one who can work Bioscope), for Aston Theatre, Birmingham; permanency. Letters to JACK BARNES, Smethwick.

WANTED, Smart Man, for Bioscope Darkroom; must thoroughly understand Developing and Printing. Also Salesman. State full particulars, Box 5,457, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Gentleman, young, with good education, small means, 9 years' experience business, wishes to become Temporary Help to Manager First-class Theatre; tactful, experienced similar capacity. Very small salary. Excellent ad. "copy" writer, &c.; musical, and good appearance. Box 5,472, "The Era."

WANTED, by Gentleman (30) position of trust, not afraid of work; previous engagement, Manager Automatic Arcade; good Mechanic and Electrician; excellent testimonials. Address, Box 5,454, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Clerk, Smart, Refined Concert Artist, knowledge variety and show business, any suitable capacity. A., 202, Byron-avenue, Manor Park.

WANTED, by Master Carpenter and Scenic Artist, Contracts or Resident Engagement, Theatre or Caretaker for Hall. 42, Greenway-road, Neath, South Wales.

WANTED, Known, Billposting Manager at Liberty shortly, thoroughly experienced; good references. Full particulars from Box 5,460, "The Era."

WANTED, by Young Lady, Post as Secretary or Companion Help. Apply, M. Q., 110a, Anlaby-road, Hull.

WANTED, Evening Employment, as Barmaid, Waitress, Cloak-room, Programmes; good references; good appearance and address. A., 18, Trinity-square, Southwark.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Musical Director, Violin, must be well versed in Variety Business, twice nightly, permanent if suitable. Apply, stating age, and with rép., to MANAGER, Hippodrome, Stoke-on-Trent.

WANTED, good Violinist or Flautist, to join Harpist; must be steady, respectable, and reliable. Terms, shares. Address, ALBERT WATERS, Harpist, Church-street, Shrewsbury.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, Good Leader, Open Feb. 22, Canterbury, S.E. Good salary to competent man.

Write, with latest refs., SHELDON, Musical Director.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE, GRIMSBY.

WANTED, good Second Violin, must be used to Grand Opera and thoroughly capable; sobriety indispensable. Permanent position for suitable man. Last references and terms to J. H. CURRY, as above.

WANTED, good Cornet (young), Lady or Gentleman, for Skating Season, play three times daily, for Skating. Terms 30s. weekly, open Monday morning. Wire, MANAGER, Pier, Folkestone. 'Cello also communicate.

WANTED, good First Cornet (to enlist), for Staff Band; good opening for good man. Apply, BANDMASTER, 4th West Yorks, York.

WANTED, a good Cornet and Euphonium, to start at once, long engagement. State age, experience, to CONDUCTOR, 15, Seabank-road, Southport.

WANTED, Cornet, to Open Feb. 15; also Bass, March 1. Union terms. AINSCOUGH, M.-D., Court Theatre, Wigan.

WANTED, a good Clarionet or Cornet Player, as an Attendant in a County Asylum; salary commencing £34, increasing to £48, all found, extra if promoted, single man. Apply, with testimonials, W. GRAINGER, County Asylum, Stafford.

WANTED, for P. Staff, Worcester Regt., Clarionet Player. Testimonials to J. KNIGHT, Bandmaster, Worcester Regt., Norton Bks., Worcester.

W. HAMILTON'S EXCURSIONS.

WANTED, Feb. 22, for one week, at Falkirk, First-class Double Bass. Lowest terms and references. Address, Music Hall, Union-street, Aberdeen.

WANTED, for the Tunbridge Wells Military Band, a good E flat Bombardon. Terms, shares. Apply, SECRETARY, 64, Western-road, Tunbridge Wells.

WANTED, at once, Good Bombardon Player for Pitching. Terms, Shares. BANDMASTER, 77, Carlisle-street, Edgware-road, London.

WANTED, to open Feb. 22, good Oboe and 'Cello, permanency. Age, terms, and refs. to CHAS. ELPHINSTONE, Theatre Royal, Hanley.

WANTED, First-class 'Cello. Refs. and particulars to McMILLAN, Theatre Royal, Oldham.

POOLE'S IMPERIAL PICTURES.

WANTED, Brilliant Pianist, used to Pictures, smartness and resource indispensable. Age, references, terms, J. R. POOLE, Palace Theatre, Gloucester.

WANTED, Pianist (Gentleman), good accompanist, about 25, single; one used to Pierrots' business preferred. Write or call, 23, Sudbourne-road, Brixton Hill.

WANTED, Leaders, Solo Violinists, Pianists, 'Cellists, and Bass Players, for White Star and Cunard Mediterranean Services, commencing Feb. and March. For terms and conditions, apply C. W. BLACK, 14, Castle-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, First-class Musicians to increase Military Band, from New York; young, single men, with Military experience preferred; Band opens about May 1, twenty weeks in London. State lowest salary, and if possible enclose photo., which will be returned. Testimonials to JOHN FOWLER, Manager, 12th Regiment Band, 63, West 106th-street, New York, U.S.A.

WANTED, experienced Instrumentalists, also Pianist, for Orchestra, Double Drummer (must have own Tympani, Bells, &c.), Seaside, Summer three months. Trial central in London. Send fullest particulars, &c., lowest terms, under "Double-handed preferred." Box 5,469, "Era."

WANTED, Musicians, for Full Orchestra, all Instruments, at once. Apply personally to M. GILODI, 28, Lisle-street, Leicester-square, W.C.

WANTED, Band of about eight (Brass), for New Skating Rink, Salford.

Apply, MANAGER, Skating Rink, Church-street, Pendleton, Manchester.

WANTED, Orchestra of Ladies, for eight to twelve weeks, commencing July next. State terms for twelve or fifteen Artists, full particulars of Instruments, Costumes, &c., to KITCHINGMAN, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept., "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.
Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement, 'WANTED, DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster, "Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Professional Musicians, every instrument, to know this, viz., that every Semi-Amateur holding a Permanent Engagement is causing a Professional to be Out of Work. Join the National Federation of Professional Musicians (Trade Union), and help to remedy the grievance. Write at once for Propaganda, F. BALL, Hon. Sec., 19, Grange-street, Rusholme, Manchester.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical Director (Violin), Dramas, &c., composed, arranged. Composer music "Silver King," "Lights o' London," &c. Victoria Theatre, Ramsgate.

WANTED, Known, W. H. Brinkworth, late Musical-Director Palace, Ramsgate, Violin, Piano, Disengaged. Composing, Arranging. 7, Pretoria-mansions, Eldenfield-road, Clapton.

WANTED, Engagement, by J. H. Cleve, Musical-Director; just finished eight years at Palace, Hammersmith. Private address, 2, Kingscote-road, Bedford Park, W.

WANTED, Known, Musical Director (Violin) or Leader desires change; thoroughly experienced, Variety; reliable; refs. Offers, MUSICUS, c/o 8, Hardwick-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Musical-Conductor (any Business), accustomed Classical Concerts, Musical Comedy, &c.; thorough knowledge of orchestra; small salary. MUSICA, c/o Alexander, 50, Sydney-street, Brightlingsea.

WANTED, Known, Musical-Dir. at Liberty; perfect Pianist, double First Violin; Compose and Arrange. Best offers to SYDNEY HAMPTON, 14, Chatsworth-street, Leicester.

WANTED, Known, Frank Seddon, Musical-Director, at Liberty Feb. 22, Theatre, Music Hall, or Tour. Address, Theatre Royal, Bolton.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Conductor, for Opera, Theatre, or Music Hall, Composer and Arranger. Box 5,461, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Variety Conductor, well known; highest references, splendid library. Send offers to CONDUCTOR, 20, Windsor-terrace, Southampton.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement as Conductor, for Summer or otherwise, by late Leader and Sub-Conductor of the late Duke of Devonshire's Private Orchestra, now disengaged. Box 5,459, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, Charles Weldon, Conductor, Violin, long experience all branches, compose and arrange, library and refs. 86, Denbeath, Methil, Fife.

WANTED, Known, Young Conductor, Composer, and Arranger of Repute, age 22 can supply Orchestral Band, composed entirely of Young Gentlemen Experts; any number; April, onwards. Box 5,470, "Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Leader, Good Violinist, at Liberty through closing, Theatre or Variety; experienced and reliable. J. C., 11, Gilpin-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Violinist, as Conductor or otherwise, any business; excellent references. Terms moderate. MUSICUS, 15, Inglis-street, Stoke-on-Trent.

WANTED, Known, Experienced Lady Violinist, Leader, and Soloist, Disengaged; also Experienced Lady 'Cellist, London preferred. Apply, Box 5,466, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Josephine and Violette Haût, Violin and Flute and Piccolo (Solos), Disengaged Feb. 13. Apply, Canal House, Warwick-avenue, London, W.

WANTED, Known, Miss Lizzie Buxton, Violinist, change of permanent address to 25, St. Leonard's-road, East Sheen, Surrey.

WANTED, Summer Engagement as First Violin, could combine with Harp, first-class references. Address, MUSICIAN, 4, Lower Park-row, Bristol.

WANTED, Engagement, by Violinist, First or Second. Address, VIOLINIST, 3, Oxendon-st., Leicester.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by Violinist, Quadrille Band preferred; good refs. L. BIRD, 21, St. Paul's-road, Camp Hill, B'ham.

WANTED, Engagement, Good, Experienced Violinist and Pianist (lady and gentleman), just disengaged, for small restaurants, cafés, tearooms, &c., varied répertoire, latest selections, well dressed. Terms moderate. MUSICUS, Box 5,471, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Harry Simeon, Violinist, Lib., any business; Band Parts arranged quickly, effectively; good refs. C/o T. Walker, Coliseum, Glasgow.

WANTED, Orchestral Engagement, by Cornet or Second Violin; reliable; £5 bonus offered for permanency. HAYDOCK, 10, Stamford-buildings, South Lambeth-road, London.

WANTED, by Cornet Player, Engagement, any Business; thoroughly experienced; first-class reader; references. J. STEAD, 2, Wellcroft-place, Glasgow, S.S.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Solo Cornet, any business, good references. Address, A. ANSTIS, 1, Cwmsaerbren-street, Treherbert, South Wales.

WANTED, Engagement, Clarionet, Military or Orchestra, Disengaged; long experience; abstainer. W. M., 32, Town-road, Lower Edmonton, Middlesex.

WANTED, by Clarionet, Engagements, as Deputy; Military Orchestral Concerts or Dances. REGAN, 208, Rochester-buildings, Westminster.

WANTED, Season Engagement, as B Flat or E Flat Clarionet, E Flat preferred. F. W. ATHERTON, 1, Rosemont, Market-st., Torquay.

WANTED, Summer Engagement by Clarionet, Horn, and Trombone. Apply, CHAPMAN BROTHERS, Municipal Orchestra, Town Hall, Cheltenham.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by Clarionettist, Pianist, Accompanist, first class, best refs., military or orchestra. Address 35, Waverley-terrace, Parkhead-st., Motherwell, N.B.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Bass, thoroughly Experienced and Reliable; any distance. GEORGE, 5, College-street, Beverley-road, Hull.

WANTED, Engagement, by Lady, Double Bass, Drum, and 'Cellist. E. S., 21, Munden-street, West Kensington.

WANTED, by First-class Solo Trombonist, good Summer Engagement, Soloist two seasons Victoria Pier, Blackpool, last season Palace Pier, Brighton. A. J. BIDMEAD, 211, Edmund-road, Sheffield.

WANTED, by Trombone, combine Euphonium, Engagement, any Business; fully experienced, good Soloist; excellent refs. Apply, GEORGE GRUBER, Court Villa, Pulborough, Sussex.

WANTED, by Euphonium Soloist, First-class Artist, Summer Engagement, Military or Brass Band, Military preferred; highest references. MADDOCK, 396, Parliamentary-road, Glasgow.

WANTED, Engagement, as First Horn; thoroughly experienced in First-class Theatres; steady, reliable professional. E. CUCCHI, 28, St. Paul's-road, Kennington, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, in London, by Lady 'Cellist; experienced, Disengaged 15th. Address, MABIAN PULMAN, 19, Dorset-street, Portman-square, London, W.

WANTED, Known, First-class Orch. Cellist and Pianist (ladies), Dis. 20th, together or separate, any Bus.; thoroughly experienced, brilliant players. Address, LITOLFF, 63, Salisbury-road, Wavertree, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Lady Harpist, Bronze and Silver Medallist, and Holder of Certificate of Merit, R.A.M., Engagement in Orchestra, for Town, or Touring, Musical Comedy Co. 14, Williamson-street, Holloway, N.

WANTED, Known, Flautist, at Liberty, any business, first-class refs.; steady at all times. Address, FLAUTIST, 30, Cromwell-st., Millfield, Sunderland.

WANTED, Engagement, Flute or Violin, thoroughly experienced, town and country references; deputising. F. C. BROOK, 27, Hewson-road, Brockley, London.

WANTED, Known, Flautist (A.M.U.), Disengaged Feb. 21, steady, reliable, First-class refs.; nothing under 30s. 12, Bartholomew-street, West Exeter.

WANTED, Engagement, by Lady Flautist, thoroughly experienced, good sight-reader; excellent refs.; any business; Disengaged Sat., Feb. 20. B. PRATT, Chatteris, Cambridge.

WANTED, by Pianist (Orchestral or otherwise), Engagement, good Soloist and Sight Reader. Apply, D. jun., 12, Camden-street, Islington, London.

WANTED, Engagement, Lady Pianist (Vocalist), Husband Violin and Cornet; termination Panto., Principal Girl; joint preferred. CARITA, 86, Denbeath, Methil, Fife.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by First-class Tympanist, three Tympani, Glockenspiel, and Effects; brilliant Xylophone Soloist. WADSWORTH, 11, Montague-street, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Engagement, First-class Drums and Effects; experienced Timps; excellent refs; Open at Once. Write, DRUMS, 51, Victory-st., Bolton.

WANTED, by Double Drummer, Music Hall experience. A. TYTE, 74, Colebrooke-row, Islington, N.

WANTED, Engagement, as Double Drums, good instruments, all effects, ref., music hall or theatres, experienced in every business. Address, Box 5,475, "The Era."

WANTED, Offers for Miss Winnie Watson's Ladies' Poppy Orchestra, Soloists and Singers, from Franco-British and Principal Exhibitions, now Olympia, Southport Pier following, 'Phone, 5,100 Nat. 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton.

WANTED, offers, Summer Season, by Signorina de Polo's Ladies' Orchestra, from Franco-British Exhibition, and others; silk costume. 12, West Hill-road, Wandsworth.

WANTED, Known, Madam Wilton Bevis's Ladies' Orchestra (The Grosvenor), Quartettes and Trios, for Hotels, Piers, &c. 42, Linton-street, Islington, N.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagements for the Acme Ladies' Orchestra. The Quartette of Brass Instruments, viz., two Cornets and two Trombones, are the most accomplished Ladies on Brass Instruments in the world. Address, Box 5,455, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, the Rage of the Continent, Heer Maurits Van Yzer's Zuider Zee Girls. The only and original Dutch Ladies' Orchestra, in their unique Dutch Peasant Costume. At Liberty for Seaside, Piers, Hotels, &c. For terms, &c., apply, SECRETARY, 17, Prebend-mansions, High-road, Chiswick, W.

WANTED, Known, Imperial Ladies' Orchestra, Piers, Hotels, Exhibitions, &c.; experienced Musicians; large répertoire; tubular bells. Madame BAKER, 114, Woodlands-road, Ilford.

WANTED, Known, Rabottini's Italian and Anglo-French Bands, for Exhibitions, Seaside Resorts, &c; efficient musicians; smart uniform. Conductor, Signor RABOTTINI, 150, Goldhawk-rd, Shepherd's Bush. 'Phone 111 Hammersmith.

WANTED, Known, Shikissimma Band, Disengaged for Season, Piers, Hotels, all Soloists, latest Répertoire, including Vocalists, highest refs CONDUCTRESS, Winshill, Howard-road, Newbury.

WANTED, Engagement, by a well-known Hungarian Band, including the Czimbalom; may be engaged for Exhibitions, Flower-shows, Bazaar, or Season at Seaside. On application will forward permanent address, photos., Press notices, testimonials, &c., Box 5,438, "The Era."

WANTED, by First-class Quadrille Band, Summer Engagement, Pier or Ball Room; any number of performers; splendid programme of music, excellent references. Terms apply, A. W. SEED, 11, Montgomery-street, Skipton, Yorks.

WANTED, by Military Band, Engagements, town or seaside; smart uniform; good répertoire. B. M., 56, Chipstead-st., Parsons Green, S.W.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, First-class Ladies' Trio or small Band; brilliant Soloists; Dis. May; good refs. A., 28, Lower Ormonde-street, C.-on-M., Manchester.

WANTED, by Quartette Instrumentalists and Vocalists, Pleasure Boat for coming season; good price for good boat. FORD, Chipping Hill, Witham, Essex.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, a smart young man, for well-known Troupe, Second Mount and good Tumbler. Lowest terms; long engagement to right party. Address, with full particulars, Box 5,473, "The Era."

WANTED, good Funny Contortionist; must be open in London. Apply by letter, G. HEARN, 16, Kenbury-street-mansions, Camberwell.

WANTED, to Open at Once, Youth, from 14 to 20, that can Tumble. Adgress, MANAGER, 54, Bath-row, Birmingham.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Circus Proprietors to Know that THE THREE ROYAL OHMYS, favourite riders to the Crown Prince of Denmark, and greatest Acrobatic Bareback Riders ever seen in a Circus Ring, have made the greatest success ever known at the Grand Circus, Hull. House full at double prices, owing to the engagement of the Three Royal Ohmys, who are the greatest favourites that have ever appeared in the town, and the talk for miles around. Can be seen in this great Act till further notice. Will shortly be at Liberty for a few weeks only. Address, THE ROYAL OHMYS, Grand Circus, Hull.

WANTED, March 1, 8, or 15, the Three Spangelettis, with their great Dog, Pony, and Baboon Act. Big success Cooke's Circus; specially retained another week. Also Platter, Greatest and Funniest Comedy Juggler in the United Kingdom. Wire or write, SPANGELETTI, Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Known, Comical Walker, Talking Clown, with good Entrées, vacant Feb. 22. Address, COOKE'S Circus, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Monday next, by the Four Dorians, Gymnasts, also March 1, onwards. Wire, Palace, Cork.

WANTED, Known, Petro and Leon, Sensational and Comedy Gymnast, smart double trapeze act, Lib. Feb. 15, 22. Wire, 27, Smith-st., Preston.

WANTED, Known, Don Pedro the Great, Unparalleled and most Daring High-wire Performer, open for Fêtes and Galas. Terms, 99, Rhyddings Park-road, Swansea.

WANTED, Engagements, two High-rope Acts, Lady and Gentlemen Performers, Big or Small Galas. CHEVALIER PONCHERY, Bank-street, Cradley Heath.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, Twice Nightly; also WORCESTER EMPIRE, Twice Nightly. Wanted, Artists doing Double Turns, used to Picture Shows. No wires, please. ARTHUR CARLTON, Palace, Worcester.

CLYDEBANK NEW GAIETY THEATRE.

WANTED, Variety Artists, First-class Acts of all kinds, smart Comedy Acts, Star Comedians and Comediennes, good Specialities, &c., for immediate and future dates. A. E. PICKARD, Sole Proprietor and Manager.

BRITANNIA, GLASGOW.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Feb. 22, and onwards, with exceptions. Apply, A. E. PICKARD, Sole Proprietor and Manager.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Branches for Scotland. Address, JAMES ANDERSON, the Old Reliable Scotch Agent, at the Musical Artists' Club, 32, Stockwell Street, Glasgow. Open from 11 till 3 and from 7 till 12 p.m.; on Sundays, from 10 a.m. till 12.0 midnight.

WANTED, Monday, Feb. 22, and onwards, Variety Artists, all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, KITCHINGMAN, Aquarium, Scarborough.

VERNO'S AGENCY.
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.
WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Feb. 22 onwards.
Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone 2076 Royal.

NEW PAVILION, KIRKCALDY.
Sole Proprietor, Dr. WALFORD BODIE.
WANTED, Artists all Lines, big Star Turns with own Companies, Feb. 22, onwards; only First-class Turns need apply. Shall be booking shortly in conjunction with other four big Halls in Scotland.
All letters, with actual lowest terms, to Dr. WALFORD BODIE, M.D., Palace Theatre, Attercliffe.

WANTED, Feb. 22, March 22, 29. Artists in all Lines, Also, for two nights, Feb. 19, 20.

YATES GREGORY, Theatre Royal and Hippodrome, Shrewsbury.

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates. WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

VICTORIA T., STANLEY, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Star Artists for immediate and future dates. T. C. RAWES, Proprietor.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, especially Tops and Bottoms. (N.B.—Convenient break in journey, North or South.) Quote absolute lowest terms and list of bookings. MANAGER, Palace, Northampton.

WANTED, for Palace Varieties, New-street, York, twice nightly, good Artists all Lines. Apply, GEO. W. WELBURN, Manager; office, Half Moon Hotel, Blake-street, York.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED,	Artists	of Note.
DALTON'S AGENCY.	Wanted,	Wanted,
DALTON'S AGENCY.		
DALTON'S AGENCY.		
DALTON'S AGENCY.		
DALTON'S AGENCY.	I can book you.	
DALTON'S AGENCY.	Immediate Dates,	
DALTON'S AGENCY.	and	
DALTON'S AGENCY.	Dates onward.	
DALTON'S AGENCY.	No Guessing.	
DALTON'S AGENCY.		
DALTON'S AGENCY.		
DALTON'S AGENCY.		
DALTON'S AGENCY.		
DALTON'S AGENCY.	Send full list	
DALTON'S AGENCY.	and very lowest	
DALTON'S AGENCY.	(this essential),	
DALTON'S AGENCY.	and permanent addresses,	
DALTON'S AGENCY.	also	
DALTON'S AGENCY.	weekly apartments	
DALTON'S AGENCY.	address.	
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DALTON'S AGENCY.	29, Mauldeth-road West,	
DALTON'S AGENCY.	Withington,	
DALTON'S AGENCY.	Manchester.	
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DALTON'S AGENCY.		

I said "Agency."

N.B.—State where never played.
Wee Mona Vivian and Johnny Fuller, kindly wire addresses. Important.

WANTED, Artists, Single Turns doing Doubles or Sketches, two weeks, Feb. 22, March 1, 8. CHARLES A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, March 11, 12, 13, (three nights), good Speciality Act, Sketch and Bioscope. Lowest terms, AUGUSTE A. PEULEVE, General-Manager, Hippo., Bury St. Edmunds.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists, all Lines, Feb. 22, onward. State lowest first letter. Big Acts for Seaside and Galas. EDGAR STEBBINGS and Co., 23, Egerton-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, from now onwards. Apply, Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

CHAPPELL'S CONCERTS, GREAT YARMOUTH.
WANTED, Artists all Lines, good Comedy Numbers, June to Sept. BARKER, 6, Harley-road, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Feb. 22, on (North). Small Specialities doing two numbers preferred. GEO. AYTOUN, 103, Kennington Park-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Stars, Tops, Bottoms, must draw, March 1, 8, Aug. 2, Sept., Oct. Sole Bookings two Halls. GEO. AYTOUN, 103, Kennington Park-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, for Canada, Star Artists and all Lines, Vocal preferred, good Scotch Comedian, Soubrette, &c. Quote lowest, where to be seen working; start Feb. and March, all fares (first-class) paid to and from Liverpool or London. GEO. AYTOUN, 103, Kennington Park-road, S.E. Letters only, marked "Canada."

WANTED, for Fred Durham's Agency, Artists, all Lines, Feb. 15, on. 1A, Loughboro'-rd., Brixton, S.W. Tele., 15 Brixton. Telegraphic add., "Durhamlike, London."

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, immediately, and on. Send photos. (if any), MAURICE FRITZ, Variety Agent, 100, Newington Green-road, Canonbury, London, N

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, good Comedy Acts, Comedians, Sketches, big Sensational Acts. John F. Preston and Mohamed Ben Mohamed Troupe send addresses; also Captain Bidmead. Wanted, for Gala, near Leeds, Whit Monday and Tuesday, big Sensational Shows, Dumb Acts in all Lines. Send lithos., lowest terms to TOM DIACOFF, Alexandra Theatre, Pontefract.

PALACE, WATFORD.
WANTED, First-class Artists, all Lines, March 1, 29, April 12. Full particulars, letters only. CADLE'S AGENCY, 105, Strand, W.C.

DUDLEY CASTLE FETES,
Whit Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 1909.
WANTED, Known, Aerial Artists, First-class Pantomimic Sketch Production, with trick scenery, &c., large stage, scenery, &c., complete for any show; Musical Act, Troupe of Smart Lady Dancers (four, eight, sixteen in number), Trick Cyclists, or Lady Acrobats, Salome Dancer, Knockabouts, Circus Clowns, Animal Act (not dogs), and any Novelties. Full particulars, with lithos., &c., to SECRETARY, 265, Castle-street, Dudley.

WANTED, Important Music Hall Artist, one night only, Feb. 25 (Benefit performance), one performing in Liverpool that week could arrange. Lowest terms to M. LOADER, Opera House, St. Helens.

DUBLIN.
WANTED, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 May, 1909, Artists and Entertainers, for Dublin Bazaar, on above dates. Inclusive terms to SEALY JEFFARIS, 14, Sallymount-avenue, Ranelagh, Dublin.

VENTOM SWIFT'S AGENCY.
1, West Tollcross, Edinburgh.
WANTED, all Artists in my Book to send complete List of Bookings (important). All Acts North vacant "Monday next" keep me posted.

WANTED, for Feb. 22, and onwards, Stars in all Lines. Stars in all Lines. Full up for smaller items. CADLE'S Agency, 105-6, Strand, W.C.

ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, CASTLEFORD.
WANTD, Greatest Stars in the Business. Nothing too Big. Share or salary. Artists of every Description. Particulars, BEANLAND and EMERSON, Brighouse.

WANTED, for immediate and future Dates, Stars and Big Attractions, Share or Certainty. Send full particulars, MANAGER, Empire, Greenock, Scotland.

WANTED, the Greatest Stars, immediate and future Dates. Big Tops for Feb. 15, March 5. Send full list bookings, terms, FREDERICK YATES, Agent, King's Theatre, Kirkcaldy.

WANTED, Big Stars, for March 1, 15; those with drawing powers and name; other good Acts send lowest terms, bookings, &c. Address, next week, YATES'S Agency, c/o Johnson, 48, Buccleuch-street, Glasgow.

ALHAMBRA, BRIGHTON.
WANTED, Turns in all Lines. Apply by letter only to A. SMITH, Proprietor, 17, Craven-street, Strand, W.C. No callers.

YARMOUTH and LOWESTOFT HIPPODROMES,
Winter Variety Season.
March 1, onward.
WANTED, Talent in all Lines, Good Comedians, Comedy Sketches, Acts that can do a number for Sunday Concert; also Big Numbers commencing Easter, onwards. Lowest terms, &c., GEO. ZALVA'S Agency, Hippodrome, Yarmouth.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.
WANTED, Talent, all Lines, Feb. 22, March 8, 15, later.
JAMES FIONI'S Agency, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

BARNARD'S VARIETY AGENCY,
33, Shaw-street, Liverpool.
WANTED, the finest of Talent in all Lines, for immediate dates, for the best Halls in the Provinces. Send full list of bookings and vacancies. We can book you.

HIPPODROME AND PALACE THEATRE, SPENNYMOOR, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Specialities of every Description, Stage or Ring. Full Circus Company, March 8. Share or certainty. Address, C. ALGIE.

WANTED, Variety Combinations (complete in themselves), Dramas, Pantos., and Musical Comedy, all twice nightly, for immediate date. Apply, DIRECTOR OF VARIETIES, Grand T., Blackpool.

LONDON, PROVINCIAL & CONTINENTAL VAUDEVILLE COMBINATION

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CO-MANAGING DIRECTORS - - - - - - - - WALTER GIBBONS and THOMAS BARRASFORD.

OFFICES: ADELPHI TERRACE HOUSE, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, LONDON.

TELEGRAMS: "Randvoll, London." "Barrasford, London."

THE PALLADIUM, LONDON

(late Hengler's Circus), will be open August Bank Holiday, 1909.

THE ALHAMBRA, PARIS.

Balsamo, J. Hart's Co., C. Aldrich, Four Canadians, La Freya, Marin and Lona, F. Dufor, Denwartz Troupe, Nitta Jo, Jewel St. Leger, Ongars, Pictures, Perezoffs, Prof. Canova.

HIPPODROME, BIRMINGHAM.

Arthur Reece, Klein Family, Ellwanger and Co., Elmo and Rego, Broadway Girls, Campline, Heeley and Meeley, Mlle. Renee, Pictures, F. Fenton and Co., Gerrard.

HIPPODROME, BRIGHTON.

Horace Goldin, Lena Wyllie, D. L. Clark, F. L. Gregory Troupe, Emmerson and Baldwin, Rosie Archer, Wright and Lawson, Russell Carr, Pictures, Lalla Selbini.

HIPPODROME, SHEFFIELD.

A. Roberts' Co., Gicardo, Alexandre and Bertie, Reg Beauchamp, Mark Leslie, Johnson and Devere, Sinclair and Whiteford, Jack Hayworth, Pictures, Vasco.

HIPPODROME, LEEDS.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Fitzsimmons, Tony Iveson, Charles Cardow, Stowe Bros., Terry and Bentley, Three Krakes, Philip Levard, Pictures, Hayman and Franklin, Juno Salmo.

PAVILION, NEWCASTLE.

Dave Carter, Juanitos, Effie White, Paul Vandy, Hall and Macey, Cecilias, Woodwards, A. Lauder, Pictures, Piddock and Co.

HIPPODROME, ST. HELENS.

Fred Land, Boden and Bell, Les Marbas, Leoni Dixon, Johnny Dwyer, The Bugler, Julian Rose, John Marx, Weisker Bioscope.

HIPPODROME, EALING.

Grand Pantomime, "Dick Whittington."

EMPRESS, BRIXTON.

Eugene Stratton, Alf Lester and Co., Jack Smiles, Fred Mozart, Ella Lane, Millie Wolfgang, Carlotta Levey, Valazzi, Pictures, Ritter and Foster, Hans and Lux, The Garricks, The Dreadnoughts.

PALACE, HAMMERSMITH.

Victor Travers, T. E. Dunville, Garry Lynch, Irma Lorraine, Kitty Rayburn, Daisy Hurdle, Helen Charles, Pictures, Vendome and Chase, Margaret Ismay and Coons, John Lawson and Co. in "Humanity," Warsaw Bros., Recco.

OLYMPIA, SHOREDITCH.

L. B. Athol, Bugler Carr, Sisters Marion, Carina Sisters, Sybil Lester, Alice Hollander, Pictures, Courtiers, Prince Kuroki, Guest and Newlyn.

THE WEEK'S CALLS

THE EMPIRE, HOLBORN.

Venie Clements, Lily Lassah, Bradley and Barnes, Pictures, Howard and St. Clair, The Goldinis, Woodhouse and Wells, Fred Karno's Yap Yaps, Royal Tokio Troupe, Jack Smiles, Geo. Benson, Mooney and Holbein, Geo. D'Albert, Fred Hastings, Lena Verdi.

HIPPODROME, WILLESDEN.

Chas. Whittle, Dave Poole, Geo. Gilbey, Maud Esmond, Lulu Evans, Pictures, King's College Boys, Athas and Collins, Phil and Nettie Peters, Boisset Troupe, Chas. Austin and Co., Anartos.

EMPIRE, CROYDON.

Nora Stockelle, Pictures, The Leonards, Hans and Lux, Garricks, The Great Lafayette.

ISLINGTON EMPIRE.

Ed. E. Ford, Harry Taft, Wallau, Chas. Craston, Marie Santoi and Co., Maggie Rimmer, Pictures, Verno and Voyce, Mendel, Haines and Borthwick, Barlee and Smith, Fasola.

HIPPODROME, BALHAM.

Tom Costello, Geo. Gilbey, Olga Dore, 'Varsity Girls, Pictures, Leo Tell, Wilson and Waring, Fidardy Trio, Edie and Ramsden.

HIPPODROME, PUTNEY.

Tom E. Hughes, Dolly Golden, Mamie Iris, Pictures, Walton and Lester, John Lawson and Co. in "Humanity," Harry Hayton, Nellie Farrell, Bennett and Stirling, Lecarcha.

HIPPODROME, POPLAR.

Chas. Stevens, Morny Cash, La Belle Nello, Daisy Hurdle, Pictures, Kent and Keith, The Hiatts, Harry Zetter, Lew Loman, Gladys Earle, Bessie Lind, Carlotta De Yonson and Co., Howe and Ardie, Charley.

HIPPODROME, ROTHERHITHE.

Harry Webber, Willie Gardiner, Tim O'Connor, Bertha Winder, Lilian French, Madie Burker, Pictures, Bros. Horne, John Clempert, Stanley Waller.

PALACE, CAMBERWELL.

Harry Ford, Violet Charlesworth, Dora Lyric, Amy Clevere, Joe Elvin and Co., Gus Harris and Co. in "Primrose Day," Pictures, Chanti, Manning and Gomersal, The Hiatts.

HIPPODROME, NOTTINGHAM.

F. Karno's Co., Geo. Lawrence, Nash and Noel, Roma and Romani, Friend and Downing, Billy Williams, Signor Barbalonga, Dun and Reano, Pictures, Zona Vevey.

THE LONDON CASINO

will be open at the end of November, 1909.

THE ALHAMBRA, BRUSSELS.

Ariel and Astarte, Three Diamonds, Great Troba, Cummin and Seaham, Abelliard, Claymore and Gordon Trio, F. L. Kruager, Three Ausonias, &c.

HIPPODROME, LIVERPOOL.

Motramos, Beattie and Blanche, Bros. Ashley, Rappo and Ella, W. Reynolds' Co., Bostock's Baboons, Anileda and Auguste, Caryl Wilbur and Co., Pictures.

HIPPODROME, RICHMOND.

Pictures, Joe Collins' Pantomime, "Puss in Boots."

EMPIRE, SWINDON.

Musical Comedy and Dramatic Season.
Bill matter for this hall to be sent direct to Mr. Manners, Empire, Swindon.

KING'S THEATRE, SOUTHSEA.

Teddy Edmonds and Co., Ernest Shand, D. Gould, Madame Albani, Chris Richards, Renroff, Les Ados, Pictures, Elmo and Rego.

HIPPODROME, WOOLWICH.

Ted Cowan, Minnie Mace, Pictures, The Findens, Recco, Royal Tokio Troupe, Bros. Horne, Fasolo, O'Gorman Bros., Mrs. Lewis Waller and Co., Arthur Lennard, Clara Beck, Millie Gardiner.

GRAND, CLAPHAM JUNCTION.

Chas. Carr, Harry Champion, Tom Edwards, Violet Charlesworth, Dora Lyric, Ida Clare, Pictures, Thorpe and Coe, Warsaw Bros., Honors and Le Prince, Chas. Austin and Co., Oakes Duo.

HIPPODROME, PECKHAM.

Harry Cooke, Claude Gardiner, Kate Gourley, Arabella Allen, Pictures, Tennesse Guards, Bros. Bright, Bosanquet, Bowden and Stol, Payen, Carl Hertz.

BRITANNIA, HOXTON.

Drama, Twice Nightly.

KILBURN EMPIRE
(IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION).

ILFORD HIPPODROME
(IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION).

All communications, bill matter, &c., for London Halls to be sent to Mr. Walter Gibbons at above address. Those for Mr. T. Barrasford at 11, Leicester Place.

INTERVIEWS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY **BAND PARTS ARE REQUIRED FOR AT LEAST 14 DIFFERENT INSTRUMENTS.** OFFICE HOURS: 10 to 5 p.m.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

O. MAUS DAYTON'S ANGLO-CONTINENTAL VARIETY AGENCY.
Representative, CHARLES MELVIN.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Variety Artists of all descriptions,
Big Animal Shows,
Sensational Aerial Acts,
Gymnastic and Acrobatic Turns.
Comedy Sketches,
Big Musical Shows,
Large Novelties with drawing power,
For the Largest Halls in
England, Paris, Madrid, Barcelona, and all
the Principal Continental Cities and Towns.
NOTICE.

Artists when writing please state if for England or Continent.

Those artists who answered my previous advertisements are politely requested to forward complete list of bookings, lowest terms, and permanent address, and keep me posted en route; also kindly remember that it is impossible to answer all artists who write in, but they can rely upon receiving attention.

All communications,
O. MAUS DAYTON,
The Dayton Family,
Monday, Feb. 15, Hippodrome, Ashton-under-Lyne.
Monday, Feb. 22, Pavilion, Glasgow.

IMPORTANT.

The above Agency has been established on strict business principles and a sound financial basis, and I do not intend therefore to allow either Agents' or Artists' Associations to interfere with my right to carry on a legitimate Variety Agency simply because I am an artist. I am working up a business in the same way as nearly all the present-day agents have done before me. I am a regular payer of Income-tax, and those with whom I have had business dealings will admit my honesty and fairness in all my transactions; therefore I consider that, having commenced this Agency, and received encouragement from a great number of proprietors, managers, and artistes alike, I shall not admit as anyone's right to interfere or dictate as to whether I shall continue my Agency or not; and, whatever may happen, I shall only abide by the laws of the land.
(Signed) O. MAUS DAYTON,
Member 826, The V.A.F. England,
424, The I.A.L. Germany,
5573, The S.S.A.L. France.

VENTOR'S VARIETY AGENCY.

WANTED, Big Sensational Acts, with drawing power.
VENTOR'S VARIETY AGENCY. Good dates waiting for
VENTOR'S VARIETY AGENCY. the right people. Stars
VENTOR'S VARIETY AGENCY. with immediate dates
VENTOR'S VARIETY AGENCY. vacant com. We can fix
VENTOR'S VARIETY AGENCY. you. Lowest terms,
VENTOR'S VARIETY AGENCY. bookings, perm. add.,
VENTOR'S VARIETY AGENCY. ladies send photos., 24,
VENTOR'S VARIETY AGENCY. Devonshire-st., All Saints,
VENTOR'S VARIETY AGENCY. Manchester. 'Phone 7873.
VENTOR'S VARIETY AGENCY. Telegrams, "Executive."

SMYTHSON'S AGENCY.

WANTED, Big Star Acts, the Pick of the Entertainment World.
Good Acts known to me send full list of Bookings.
New Acts state where can be seen.
Quote actual lowest, London and Provinces.
Rate of Commission subject to Arbitrator's Award yet to be arrived at.

All communications to SMYTHSON,
38, Craster-road, Brixton Hill, London.
No callers except by appointment.

W. HAMILTON'S EXCURSIONS.

WANTED, commencing Feb. 22, at Falkirk, First-class Speciality Acts. Address, Music Hall, Union-street, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Acts of all Kinds, South Wales and District, also North of England, Poncherry, Aerian and Ostara, and Don Pedro send addresses. MARTINO'S Agency, 125, Barcroft-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, Feb. 22 onwards, Variety and Speciality Acts, for Halls and Galas. Full bookings imperative. GANNON'S Agency, West Grove, Bristol.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, for March 8, 15, 22, 29, Acts for Pontypridd. Send absolutely lowest and full particulars. DEETRICH'S VAUDEVILLE AGENCY, 31, Islington, Liverpool. 'Phone 1269 Royal.

DEETRICH VAUDEVILLE AGENCY,
31, Islington, Liverpool. 'Phone 1269 Royal.

WANTED, for Feb. 22, Star Acts of All Kinds. Lowest terms, particulars, list of bookings in first instance.

WANTED, the Solid Cream of the World's Attractions,
for
Seasides, Galas,
and
Every Town of Note.
The Zeenas send address.

JAMES FIONI'S Agency, 21, Norton-st., Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool."
Telephone 1686 Royal.

WANTED, Novelties, Specialities, Comediennes, &c., Feb. 15, onwards, Hall small, so no fancy prices. Lowest, particulars, LOUDEN, Hippodrome, Airdrie, N.B.

BEANLAND and EMERSON'S AGENCY,
ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.

WANTED, Tops of Bills, Artists of every Description for Halls in Lancashire and Yorkshire. Send full list of bookings and lowest terms. Mr. Chas. Beanland will be in Manchester and district, and will be pleased to see Artists by appointment.

PALACE THEATRE, READING.

WANTED, Tops and Bottoms of Bills, several dates this and next year. Letters only, STANHOPE and Co., LTD., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.

ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, CASTLEFORD.

WANTED, Big Top of Bill, Feb. 22, nothing too big; also Artists, all Lines. Full particulars, BEANLAND and EMERSON, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

SPANISH CITY, WHITLEY BAY.
CHARLES ELDERTON'S TOREADORS.

WANTED, for Season ending Sept., Comedienne (Danseuse preferred) and really good Comedian. Absolute Refinement; must be Versatile, have extensive Répertoire, and used to Concerteds, Sketches, &c.
Private enclosed ground.

Apply, with full particulars, to
CHARLES ELDERTON, 143, High-street, Gateshead.

WANTED, Young Lady, that can Dance, Sing, and Talk, must have good appearance, to join at once for music-hall sketch. No objection to a smart beginner. Send full particulars at once. Address, BOX 5,477, "The Era."

WANTED, Sisters, good Comedians, Double Turns, and Specialities, big and small, for now and later on, can have Contracts for the North and England; must state lowest, or no use. Write at once. DREW BAYLEY'S Agency, 170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

WANTED, Ladies, Step and Buck Dancers, with strong voices. Call Monday, from 2 to 4. St. George's Palace, Westminster Bridge-road.

WANTED, Lady for Part of Artist's Model, in new original Sketch; must be good figure. Write for interview, enclosing photograph, to LEWIS WILLOUGHBY, Trial Productions Company, 7, York-buildings, Adelphi, W.C.

WANTED, Comedians (Lady and Gent.), for The Dewdrops. Terms, shares.
SECRETARY, 23, Moring-road, Tooting, S.W.

WANTED, Comedian (short) for Comedy Act, must tumble and able to patter. Terms, equal share; good bookings. Fullest particulars in first letter, COMEDY, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, Refined Comedian, for High-class Al Fresco; liberal terms to suitable Artist. State age, experience, &c. Interview in London necessary before engagement. Write ALPHA, Box 4,911, Willing's Advertising Offices, 125, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted,
Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted,
Wanted,
Big Specialities, Animal Acts, and anything New, Novel, and Sensational,
for
Blackpool,
Blackpool,
Blackpool,
Morecambe,
Morecambe,
Morecambe,
and other Seaside Towns; also for
London, Liverpool,
Birmingham, Leeds, Newcastle,
Glasgow, Belfast,
Dublin, Manchester, Bolton,
Wolverhampton, Oldham,
Hartlepool, Shields, Barrow,
Carlisle, Darlington,
Hull, Middlesbrough, Stockport,
Brighton, Boscombe, Margate,
Portsmouth, Southampton,
Bath, Lincoln, Leicester, Bradford,
Halifax, Sheffield, Blackburn,
Lancaster, Stockport, Burnley, Derby,
Attercliffe, Stoke, Grimsby,
St. Helens, Accrington, Warrington,
Bury, Hanley, Stockton, &c., &c.

Send full list of bookings, lithos, and lowest terms, to
WILL SLEY,
180, Oxford-road, Manchester.

Telegrams "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone 09144.

WANTED, Smart All-round Lady Dancers, Step, Buck, and Acrobatic. Apply, SINCLAIR, 118, Kennington-road, S.E.

WANTED, Smart Girls over 14, to look 12, good Dancers; also Boy Comedian, Girl for Toe Solo. Apply, Monday, 2.30, Percy Hall, Tottenham Court-road.

Living Pictures.

WANTED, Handsome, Smart Ladies; must be pretty, and perfect figures.
Apply, 11 to 4 daily,
Mr. SINCLAIR, 118, Kennington-road, S.E.

WANTED, a Gent or Lady at Once who understands Posing, Producing, and Running Living Pictures; must be expert. Apply, Mr. SINCLAIR, 118, Kennington-road, S.E.

WANTED, Smart Knockabout Pantomimist, also Young Lady for Sketch, both to do turn if required if suitable tour to follow. Terms and full Particulars, WYB, 578, Leek-road, Hanley.

WANTED, Young Man (small), for Comedy Troupe, to Tumble, Patter, and Knowledge of Music. COMEDY, 33, West Ham-lane, Stratford, E.

POOLE'S IMPERIAL PICTURES.

WANTED, High-class Lady Vocalists, for Illustrated Songs (provided); good appearance, youth, and big répertoire essential. Terms, references, photos., J. R. POOLE, Palace Theatre, Gloucester.

WANTED, good Tenor Vocalist, to join Vocal Act; now playing Provincial Music Halls. Must be young. Particulars, &c., Box 5,464, "The Era."

WANTED, Single Lady,
Intelligent, young, healthy,
and of
Full Physical Development;
height 5ft. 6in., Bust 38in, hip 42in, waist 28in.
Splendid financial opportunity
for
Lady Swimmers, Show Girls, Lady Athletes, Models, Physical Culture Girls, Society Beauties, &c.
High-class Exhibition, giving Magnificent Scope.

Send full particulars, age, and measurements, to Box 5,462 c/o "Era."
Silence a polite negative.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Good Knockabout and Fancy Skaters. Apply, with full particulars and lowest terms to
FRED KARNO, 28, Vaughan-road, Camberwell, S.E.

WANTED, Artists to Note, have you got an Original Act you cannot get placed? No matter how big or small, write for information to Box 5,479, "The Era."

WANTED, Ventriloquists, to Buy Hercat's "Ventriloquist," New Edition, 115 pages, Illustrated, containing 66 pages of Original Dialogues. By post 1s. 2d. 30, Racton-road, Fulham, S.W.

270 Replies.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
Sir,—
I inserted an advertisement, asking for Music Hall Artists in the last week's issue of "The Era." May I say that I am absolutely astounded at the number of replies I received to my small advertisement, no less than 270 Artists favouring me with applications. May I by this means thank the many artists who sent in their terms, as it is impossible for me to reply to each individual. I thank all for their very kind promptitude in responding to my advertisement.
I remain, yours faithfully,
ALFRED BALL.
New Lyceum, Tilbury Docks, Essex.
3/12/'08.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Managers, Agents, and Proprietors to see Jean Macduff, the Lady Scotch Comedian. This, Her Majesty's, Walsall; Feb. 15, Empire, Liverpool; Feb. 22, Manchester Hippodrome, Oxford-street. Classical audiences delighted everywhere. Vac. June. Write, MELVILLE, Rathbone-gardens, Portobello.

WANTED, Known, Dot Stanley will in future be known as Dora Dena. Perm. address, 10, Creek-street, York-road, Battersea, London.

WANTED, Monday next and Feb. 22, by Florrie Claribell, Tyrolean Vocalist, Balladist, and Top-boot Dancer. Wire, Palace of Varieties, York.

WANTED, Known, Babs Lloyd, Star Artist, Vacant March 1, 8, to follow Palace, Camberwell, T. R., Cardiff, Panto. Address, 96, Bracebridge-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, Monday, Lydia Raie, Banjo Queen, Trick Mandolinist, with own slides. Last week, Hippo., Lowestoft. Wire, 79, Mildenhall-rd., London.

WANTED, Known, Terry Sisters, highly talented Artists, who Sing and Improvise Character Sketches with great clearness. At Lib. March 1. Add., Palace, Porth, Feb. 15.

WANTED, Monday, also 22nd, by Two Beatrices, Duettists and Dancers. Wire, Empire, Chippenham, Wilts. After Sat., 23, St. George's-rd., Southwark, London, S.E.

WANTED by the Spadonis (Madge and Sylvia), Duettists and Dancers, March 1, onwards. Offers invited. 50, Lloyd-st., Greenheys, M'chester.

WANTED.—Percy Maye has Monday next, 15th and 22nd, open. Wire, Wire, for an attraction. 19, Daneville-road, Camberwell, London.

WANTED, Monday next, also Feb. 22, by Leslie Clements. Coloured Coon Singer and Banjoist. Wire or write, 32, Beach-lane, Musselburgh.

WANTED, by George Battle, Actor Vocalist, gigantic success of new Song Scena. A beautiful piece of acting and song.—Vide Press. Vacant Feb. 22, Feb. 22 Vacant. This, E., Shildon, co. Durham (return). Feb. 15, Pal., Maesteg.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Feb. 22, also March 1, by Harry Tullett, the Youthful Eccentric Comedian and Dancer. Feb. 15, Hippodrome, Hyde.

WANTED, Known, The Original Will Owen, Inimitable Dame Comedian and Comedy Dutch Vocalist, Vacant Feb. 15 and 22. This week, Hippodrome, Birkenhead; next week, 60, Denmark-road, Manchester.

From Drury-lane Theatre.

WANTED, by Fred Zarinella, March 8, on, Unique Comedy Act. Coms., G. T., Leeds.

WANTED, Known, Yorkshire Tom, the Mimic of Wonderful Imitations, Lib. Feb. 22. This, Hippo., Lowestoft; next, Hippo., Yarmouth. Take a bit of whacking yet.

WANTED, Feb. 22, by Cambo, the Musical Monkey, two Acts if required. Wire or write this week, Empire, Stockport; next, Empress, Morley, Yorks.

WANTED, Feb. 15 and 22, Bu-Val, Happy Dutchman, Concertina.
Charlton's Hall, Pentre.

WANTED, Known, Liberty Monday next, Frank Coyle, the Renowned Comedian. Wire quick, 160, Woodhouse-st., Leeds. A sure Big Success.

WANTED, Monday next, by Harry Leston, Refined Character Vocalist. Wire, Queen's, Glasgow, or BURNS'S Agency, Hartlepool.

WANTED, Monday next, also 22nd, by Li Chang Hi, Original Chinese Conjurer and Illusionist. D.C. Lithos, Electrical Effects. Address, 2, Brook-street, London, S.E.

WANTED, by Morimura, Marvellous Japanese Illusionist, Monday next, also 22nd, for his Original Spectacular Oriental Magic Act. Wire, 13, Windsor-terrace, Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, by Carl Hershal, Humorous Conjurer immediate Dates. Write now; all answered. All coms., 27, Minto-street, Ashton-u.-Lyne.

WANTED, by Kroston, Burlesque Japanese Juggler, Conjurer, Clever Contortionist; May Summer, Comedienne, Dancer; Vacant Feb 15, on. 16, Repton-st., Manchester.

WANTED, March 8, 15, Fred and Lillie Monckton, presenting their latest Screamer, "Two in a Flat," also "A Woman's Curiosity." This, Palace, Dover (return); next, Alhambra, Sandgate (return).

WANTED, for the Dramatic Episode, "The Veteran's Birthday" (two people), Feb. 22 and March 1; own scene. DONALDSON, Empire, Hull.

WANTED, Feb. 22 and March 1, Miss Myria Lo-La, and Clown. The clever comedy trapeze bar act. 13, Westfield-terrace, Sheffield.

WANTED, Known, Alice Townend, the Popular Ballad and Descriptive Vocalist, and Fred Burnard, the Original Vocal Actor. For one or both, wire, People's Palace, South Bank, near Middlesbrough.

WANTED, by Harry Keeble, Ventriloquist, and Gladys Wells, Comedienne, Feb. 22, on, with exceptions. This, Tivoli; Mon., Park Palace, L'pool.

WANTED, Monday next, The Walons (Renee and Willie), Smart Duettists; Arthur Richards, Eccentric Comedian. Wire, one or both, 53, Barrow hill, Chesterfield.

WANTED, by Mike and Lena, Comedy Dutch Duo, Monday, Feb. 15, also March 1, 15, 22, Sing, Dance, Patter. Wire, 39, King-st., Southport.

WANTED, by the Two Le Bruns (Edgar and Edie), in their unique Vocal and Juggling Novelty. Edie is a Juggling Prodigy and a Clever little Comedienne. Vacant March 8, 15, April 12. Address,
Tivoli Theatre, Liverpool.

FOR CONTINUATION OF "WANTED" ADVERTISEMENTS SEE PAGE 36.

MOSS' EMPIRES, LTD & STOLL COMPANIES SUBSEQUENT

(Moss, Stoll, Thornton & Allen Theatres, Amalgamated) — Chairman: SIR EDWARD MOSS

WORKING IN CONJUNCTION

Capital £2,086,000.

Managing Director: OSWALD STOLL.

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INTERVIEWS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

CALLS FOR MONDAY, FEB. 15, 1909.

Telephone: 1050 & 1051 GERRARD. Wires: "TWIGSOME, LONDON."

THE LONDON HIPPODROME

Consul, Lina Marrder, Cruikshank, Helen Trix, Paxton Trio, Kauffmann's Cycling Beauties, Tomson Mystery, La Scala Opera Co., Piccolinos, Four Jumels, Frattelinis, Pathégraph, Woodward's Seals.

EMPIRE PALACE. EDINBURGH.

Rehearsal at 1.30 for :—

Fred Karno's Co., including Fred Kitchen, in "G. P. O.," Tom Collins, McCann's Dogs, W. J. Churchill, Stein Eretto Troupe, Martineks, Beattie Kent, Bioscope, Nellie Wallace.

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—

George Robey, Andrew McManus, Dan Fraser, Lily Flexmore, Harry Tate's No. 1 Co., in "Motoring," De Canty's Grotto, Seeley and Rhodesia, Tom Stuart, Bioscope, Miss Ada Davies.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—

"Casey's Court," Three Welsh Girls, H. J. Crane and Co., Joe O'Gorman, Tom Bryce and Miss Price, Mabel Mavis, Frank Sylvo, Maizie Hibbs, Bioscope, W. F. Frame.

GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—

Stevens and Buchanan's Grand Pantomime, "Cinderella."

ARDWICK THEATRE, MANCHESTER.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Joseph Hart's "Polly Pickle's Pets," The Falcons, Vetter Bros., Wittie Wattie Walton, Miss Marquis, Pat Rafferty, Nellie Taylor, Ernest Clifford, Bioscope, Selkirk's "Gathering of the Clans."

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—

Les Fleury, Cliff Ryland, Sisters Caselli, Margaret Parker and Co., in "Sunshine," Henri de Vries, Three Laurels, Katie Moss, Takio, Bioscope, Zeynard's Lilliputians.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Gus Elen, Maudie Francis, The Delevines, Ross and Lewis, Henry Carlton and Co., Annette Hayward, Mary Ambrose, Alf Chester, Bioscope, Melot Hermann.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Fisher White's Co., including Master Philip Tonge, in "A Boy's Proposal," Phil Parsons, Maud A. Edwards, Three Prestons, Gladys Mavius, Lickson's Dogs, Albert Letine, Edith Eatherley, Bioscope, Hubert Carter and Co., in "David Garrick."

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Wentworth Croke's Co., in the "Prodigal Son."

GRAND, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Camille Ober, Lottie Leighton, The Green Dandies, Annie Purcell, E. Dagnall and Co., in "Slippery Jim," Trentanovi Sisters, Musical Sylvo, Bert Weston, Bioscope, Bogannys.

PALACE, LEICESTER.

Rehearsal at 2.30 for :—

George Auger and Co., Virto and Venita, Barrington, Madge Temple, Alexandra Dagmar, La Tamara, The Mayvilles, Jimmy Shields, Bioscope, Carter Livesey, Lilian Rosebery and Co.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

"Rogues of the Turf," Bert Williams, Dennis Drew, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Meymott, Selbinis, Baker and Balfe, Watson's Dogs, George Westland, Lily Esplin, Bioscope, King and Benson.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Joseph Hart's "Rain Dears," The Brennans, Staig's Cycling Steeplejacks, Marie Kendal, Frederick Villiers, Victor Newman, Jean Macduff, Steve McCarthy, Bioscope, Paul Barnes.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

"Sands of Dee," Four Figaros, Duncan and Godfrey, Marstro and Oretta, Lil O'Gorman, Arthur Gill, Nellie Coleman, Lily Palmer, Bioscope, Oswald Williams.

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Albert Chevalier and Co., in "Behind the Scenes," St. George Sylvesta, Edna Lyall, Schenk Bros., Alburtus and Millar, Wood, Wells, and Wilkins, Burns and Danvers, Frank Cass, Bioscope, Barton and Ashley.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Walter Howard's Co., in "The Last Hope," Hal Hughman, Bioscope, Nellie Hughes, John L. Shine and Co., Keen and Waller, Will Cornish, Soho Trio, Mabel Bright, "Motogirl."

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

La Milo and Cruikshank, Frank Hartley, Spry and Monti, Orpheus, Adams and Ward, Dot Stephens, Mike Nono, Nellie le Breton, Bioscope, Miss Mary Mayfren and Co., in "Yellow Fang."

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

The Anglo-American Production Co.'s "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch."

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Rehearsal at 10 a.m. for :—

Elise Craven and Co., in "The Queen of the Fairies," La Tortajada, Fred Lindsay, Carney and Armstrong, Elsie Roby, Ike and Will Scott, Corradinis, Lukushimas, "That Brute Simmons," Luis Alvarez, Falco and Eida, Mavis Clare, Bioscope, Alice Pierce.

EMPIRE. STRATFORD.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

George Gray and Co., in "Parson Gray, V.C.," Bert Woodward, Bertha Stuart, Willie Zimmerman, May Edouin, Jack Lane, Walter Curtis, Three Sisters Jerome, Bioscope, Dandies.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Karno's "Football Match," Edie Endon, Enzer, Hilda Jacobson, Gems, Nance Elder, Harry Lawson, Bioscope, Jimmy Curwell.

EMPIRE, SWANSEA.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Daley Cooper, Mabel Lait and Co., in "Passing the Time," Tom Moore, McConnell Trio, Haley's Garden of Girls, Arthur Aldridge, Cline and Clark, Eily Adair, Bioscope, Leipzig.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Karno's Co., in "The Bailiff," John Macauley, Kroney Bros., Van Allen, Florence Yaymen, Austin Rudd, Stylo, Beatrice Bonnie, Bioscope, Tom Fancourt and Jennie Rubie.

PHILHARMONIC HALL, CARDIFF.

Rehearsal at 3 for :—

Company as booked.

EMPIRE, NEWPORT

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Fred Edwards and Co., in "Kleptomaniacs," Frank Lynne, J. H. Scotland, Rapoli, Chas. Fisher's Opera Co., Jennie Hartley, Billy Hobbs, Bioscope, Achmed Ibrahim Troupe.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Ye Colonial Septette, Maud and Sydney Wood, Jeannie Mackay, Harry Herbert, Thora, Carrie Laurie's Kindergarten, Green and Wood, Wieland, Arthur Astill, Bioscope, Herbert Darnley's Co., in "The Mandarin."

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Le Roy, Talma and Bosco, Sisters Dorrell, New Macs, Maud Rochez Monkeys, Stratton Mills and Co., Harry Leybourne, Ida Kathrena, E. J. Sheldon, Bioscope, Terry and Lambert.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

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EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Miss Carrie de Mar, The Gaudschmidts, Lyric Mummers, Harry Levaine, Amy Anderson and Co., Jackley Trio, Gertie Gitana, Albert Whelan, Stuart Alexander, Allan Hanbury, Bioscope, Auguste Van Biene and Co.

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Rehearsal at 1 for :—

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EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Master Garratt and Co., in "An Outside Chance," Neville Delmar, Three Dixons, Leslie, Lynn, and Willie, Doroswami, Tom Child, Bioscope, Lily Burnand.

IMPORTANT NOTICES.

RE APPLICATIONS FOR ENGAGEMENTS.

All applications by either Artists or their Agents must be made to the Head Office. Lowest terms must be stated, and distinction made between salaries required for larger and smaller towns. Vacant dates should be stated. If a list of existing bookings be sent, it will render selection easier.

Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not rebooked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follow :—

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All Artists or Agents who communicate with our District Representatives must have made definite applications, in accordance with above directions, to the Head Office, at the same time, or just previously.

Artists and Agents are requested to note that the Standard Theatre, Shoreditch, and the Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, come within the areas absolutely barred by us. Artists and Agents are also requested to note that the Hippodrome, Aston, Birmingham, comes within the area absolutely barred by the Grand Theatre and Empire Palace, Birmingham.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have at least Fourteen Band Parts for English Orchestrations, and Seventeen Band Parts for Foreign Orchestrations. Matter of Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to Co-operative Offices, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced. Artists' Scenery, Properties, &c., MUST be fireproofed in accordance with the regulations of the Licensing Authorities.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

No order or contract for goods or services must be accepted for any of the foregoing theatres except upon receipt of an Official Form, issued from the Co-operative Offices, London, and signed by either Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. Frank Allen, or the Chief Accountant, otherwise the Company concerned will not be responsible for same, and will refuse payment. In special cases, where goods are required at once, suppliers must look to the individual placing the order, who will be personally liable, unless an official confirmatory order, signed as above, is received within forty-eight hours. Invoices must be sent to the Theatre, but monthly statements should be sent to the Co-operative Offices. The individual Company on whose behalf orders are signed is solely responsible for payment. The Management will not hold themselves responsible in the event of loss of or damage to any MSS., Songs, &c., submitted for consideration.

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THIS WEEK'S NOVELTIES.

THE MOHAWK'S RING.
Code Word, "FRISE."

Tonga, the Red Chief, has been taken prisoner by Mexican planters, but a clergyman gives him a revolver, which enables the Mohawk to escape. As a keepsake, he gives to his benefactor a filigree gold ring before returning to his tribe. Later on, the clergyman's daughter is kidnapped by the savages, who ask 50,000dols. for her ransom, stating at the same time that should the full amount not be forthcoming they would attach the Pale Girl to the tail of a young colt, and abandon her to her fate. On counting the money, Tonga finds the filigree gold ring he has given to the clergyman, and, explaining to his people the story of his own escape, he bids them go and overtake the runaway colt, and restore the daughter to her father. Peace is signed eventually between the Pale Faces and the Red Skins.

495ft. The Subject, **£8 5s. 0d.** Toning, **£1 0s. 0d.**

SUNSET.
Code Word, "GAULE."

The golden sun disappears in the west, reflected in the water upon which large steamers glide swiftly, giving out thick columns of smoke. Distant lands are outlined in the haze; everything seems to dissolve into oblivion, and things familiar take shapes quite fantastic and mysterious, for it is now twilight. These pictures are shown in a series of lights and shades, which remind one of the beautiful pictures by Rembrandt.

280ft. The Subject, **£4 13s. 4d.** Toning, **9s.**

A SUFFRAGETTE'S DREAM.
Code Word, "FUTUR."

Mrs. Moderny is very charming, but she has funny ideas sometimes. She is a suffragette, and whilst her husband is attending to his business she troubles her pretty head about all sorts of things. On receiving a circular letter advising her of a women's meeting for the same day, she is so pleased with the idea that she begins dreaming about the brilliant future, and pictures to herself the glorious time that is in store for woman. In her dream, she sees a lecturer abusing a dummy representing a man, and women shouting, "Hurrah for liberty!" Every dream being an untruth, Mrs. Moderny wakes up under the anger of her husband, who chides her for not looking after the house while he goes out to earn the money.

445ft. The Subject, **£7 8s. 4d.**

MISS FLIRT.
Code Word, "FRONDE."

During Miss Flirt's first season, her flirtations and beauty play havoc amongst the men. She welcomes all her admirers with the same sweet smile, but gets mixed up in her appointments, and is obliged to hide her lovers in every corner of the drawing-room. They become angry at last, and the girl's father, attracted by the noise, takes them all to the police-station. The Commissioner of Police, bewitched by Miss Flirt's charming manners, is very anxious to put matters right, and in order to prevent such a thing occurring again he offers to marry the pretty girl.

396ft. The Subject, **£6 12s. 0d.**

PLAYING PATIENCE.
Code Word, "GANSE."

A page boy shows on the screen the different manners of playing patience. The pictures become alive, and form a series of graceful and comical coloured figures.

230ft. The Subject, **£3 16s. 8d.** Colouring, **£2 8s. 0d.**

THE NURSES' RACE.
Code Word, "GAIN."

A private is out for a walk, and in his wake comes a long string of nurses, which swells every minute with a new recruit. Poor Cracky is made desperate at the sight, as he does not know where to run to escape the crowd, but at last he has to let loose the regiment's dog upon his pursuers.

330ft. The Subject, **£5 10s. 0d.**

DIFFERENT RULERS OF THE WORLD.
Code Word, "GARIQUE."

445ft. The Subject, **£7 8s. 4d.** Colouring, **£4 5s. 0d.**

POMPY'S DREAM.
Code Word, "Gallon."

545ft. The Subject, **£9 1s. 8d.** Colouring and Toning, **£5 0s. 0d.**

A LARGE FAMILY.
Code Word, "GAILLARD."

314ft. The Subject, **£5 4s. 8d.**

A SCHOOL OF LACE-MAKING.
Code Word, "GALOPADE."

198ft. The Subject, **£3 6s. 0d.** Toning, **12s.**

HYPNOTISED.
Code Word, "FRONDEUR."

412ft. The Subject, **£6 17s. 4d.**

THE OUTCAST'S SACRIFICE.
Code Word. "GALENE."

362ft. The Subject, **£6 0s. 8d.** Toning, **16s.**

SERPENT SKIN INDUSTRY AT JAVA.
Code Word, "GALOCHE."

495ft. The Subject, **£8 5s. 0d.**

Pathé's Films

UNEQUALLED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

PATHÉ FRÈRES AHEAD OF ALL OTHER FIRMS.

LAST WEEK'S NOVELTIES.

IN SEARCH OF OBLIVION.
Code Word, "GABIER."

577ft. The Subject, **£9 12s. 4d.** Toning, **£1 10s.**

THE HAND.
Code Word, "FRERE."

873ft. The Subject, **£14 11s. 0d.** Toning, **£2.**

OLIVER CROMWELL.
Code Word, "FUCHSIA."

824ft. The Subject, **£13 14s. 8d.** Colouring and Toning, **£7 10s.**

THERE ARE GHOSTS IN THIS HOUSE.
Code Word, "GABARE."

346ft. The Subject, **£5 15s. 4d.**

A THIEF BESTED.
Code Word, "GIGOT."

428ft. The Subject, **£7 2s. 8d.**

THE MISER.
Code Word, "GACHER."

577ft. The Subject, **£9 12s. 4d.** Toning, **£1 1s.**

AN OBLIGING FRIEND.
Code word, "GRACIEUX."

510ft. The Subject, **£8 10s.** Toning **18s.**

DR. RIGHT'S INVENTION.
Code Word, "GACHAGE."

510ft. The Subject, **£8 10s.**

DUST IN HIS EYES.
Code Word, "FRONTIERE."

165ft. The Subject, **£2 15s.**

THE WITCH'S DONKEY.
Code Word, "GAGNANT."

480ft. The Subject, **£7 13s. 4d.** Colouring and Toning, **£4 10s.**

CUMBERSOME GAME.
Code Word, "FUGITIF."

595ft. The Subject, **£9 18s. 4d.**

MISS TROTT, THE MILLINER.
Code Word, "FROID."

148ft. The Subject, **£2 9s. 4d.**

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WE ARE SURPRISED!

Are you satisfied with an inferior show? You must have a good programme and a good machine. Neither wise men, nor fools, can work without tools. Do not wait until it is too late before you buy a

DREADNOUGHT.

Buy one now, and

SLEEP EASY IN YOUR BEDS.

It is too late to give an order for a battleship when war is declared.

SHOWMEN,

Do not buy a machine because it looks pretty.

Do not purchase a machine which is rock steady when you buy it, and in a week's time is simply useless; buy a

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which will stand the showman's wear and tear, as our motto is

THE BEST IS NOT TOO GOOD FOR YOU.
WE ALWAYS GIVE YOU THE BEST.

Have you ever asked yourself the question why all our customers are successful. It is because we know our business, and are successful ourselves. Our business is built up by

ABILITY AND BRAINS (A.B.)

not by swollen heads. Which is impossible. Get in touch with us immediately. Delays are dangerous. Don't think your business will run itself because you wear a gollywog.

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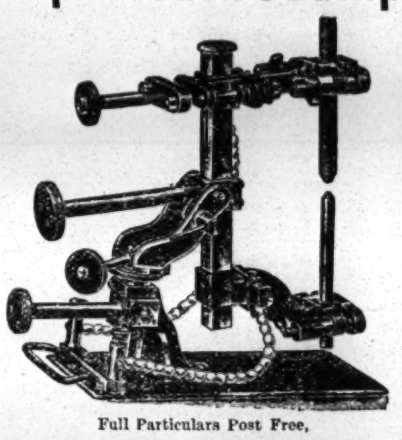

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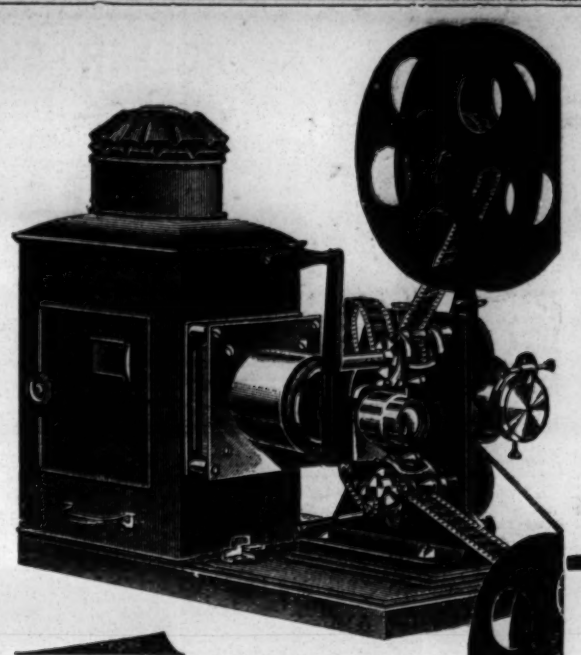

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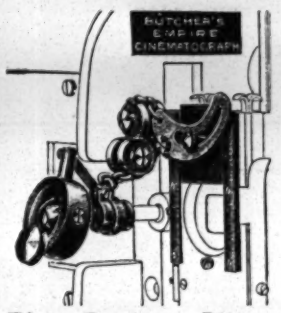
Cinematograph No. 1



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SOLIDLY BUILT. ROCK STEADY. MINIMUM FLICKER.

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Supplied with or without Safety Shutter.

The Empire Film Service is the only service that will give you satisfaction. It is right up to date, the best productions of all the prominent manufacturers being added as soon as published. Your films always arrive on time with no substitutes, in the best of condition. Worn or damaged films are never sent out. Write for terms and specimen programme.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, March 1, on, by Herman and Evelyn, Smart and Refined Wire Act; also Cosselly, in his Great Acrobatic Table Act. For a sure success, write, next, Theatre Royal, Batley.

WANTED, by Newman and Howard, "The Slop and the Slavey," screamingly funny. Wire for Monday, 1, Portland-avenue, Cross-lane, Salford.

WANTED, Feb. 15, on, Kyoto, Japanese, Mirth, Sensational and Mysterious Act; May Geraldine, Comedienne, Dancer. Wire, 16, Repton-st., Manchester.

WANTED, Feb. 22 (North preferred), by Taylor and Bridge, Singing Lancashire Mill Lads. Wire offers to, this, Queen's, Leeds; next, C. P., North Shields.

WANTED, by Wright and Elton, Novel Comedy Duo, Feb. 22, onwards. Wire, P., Attercliffe; after Saturday, Tivoli, Manchester. Feb. 15, T., Manchester. Wire.

WANTED, Monday, by Chant and Chant, the Laughing Comedy Couple, the Yorkshire Tyke and Nottingham Lamb. Wire, Empire, Neath.

WANTED, Known, Bros. Lydamore, Refined Racy Comedians, Patterers, and Dancers, Vacant Monday next. Wire quick, Town Hall, Morley, Yorkshire.

WANTED, Feb. 22, by Dalvere and Gordon, the Popular Vocal and Patter Comedians. Wire for a Good Act. This week, Empire, Middlesbrough; next week, King's, Gateshead.

WANTED, by Doyle and Massey, Comedians, Feb. 22, March 1; fourth year with J. T. Moore's "Dick Whittington." This, Empire, Cradley Heath; next, Theatre Royal, West Bromwich.

WANTED, Monday next, Lavelle and Scroggs, Acrobatic Balancing Speciality, new Act. Great Fit-up. Wire, 30, Hallam-st., W. Bromwich.

WANTED, Known, Phinas and Aida, Revolving Equilibrists, Feb. 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22. Only Vacancies this year. This, Op. H., Harrogate; next, H., Scarborough.

WANTED, Known, Walker's Would-be Acrobats; Globella, Juggling Speciality; vacant Feb. 22. Address, COOKE'S Circus, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
The Famous Kellinos
The Famous Kellinos
have just returned from America, after playing a most successful twenty weeks at all the leading Houses. We have the following weeks vacant before opening at the
London Hippodprome,
London Hippodprome,
viz., Feb. 15, 22, March 1, 8.
We will play Share or Certainty.
Wire, KELLINOS, Vaudeville Club, 98, Charing Cross-road.

WANTED, Monday next, Feb. 22, THE THREE FLYING ORENIUSES (Lady and Gentlemen Gymnasts), in their Marvellous Stage Aerial Act, the Only One of its Kind ever Attempted and Performed without Net or Trampolin.
THE SENSATION OF THE AGE.
Managers and Agents desirous of Booking a Smart and Novel Turn should secure this Act.
93, Cook's-road, Kennington, S.E.
Wire for Monday.

WANTED, Feb. 15, and on, by La Dor Troupe male and female Acrobats, in three distinct Acts; also Comedy Burlesque Bull Fight. 28 Alexandra-road, Bedford.

WANTED, Monday next, by the Four Dorians Gymnasts; also March 1, onwards.
Wire, Palace, Cora.

WANTED, 15th, 22nd, by Atlas and Vulcans Troupe, World's Premier Athletes.
Wire, 17, Waterford-road, Fulham.

WANTED, Monday next, Feb. 15, by
George Gulliver,
Ventriloquist.
Wire, Hippodrome, Wakefield.

WANTED, Known, Tom Garland, Vent. and Conj. Managers wanting a draw, book me Hit of the Bill this week, Empire, Burnley. Wire wire.

WANTED, March 29, April 5, by Hulbert (Ventriloquist) and De Lil (Illusionist), two smart acts. Offers invited. Hippodrome, Burslem

WANTED, Known, Valvo, Ventriloquist, Vacant March 1; smart one-figure act. A Sure Draw anywhere. Feb. 15, Theatre R., Grantham.

WANTED, by Prof. Duncan, the Great Ventriloquist, Feb. 22, March 1, 8. All coms. KEEBLE'S Agency, 281, King-street, Hammersmith

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted
Piers, Pavilions, &c., April 12 next and onwards; Shares or Certainties.
THE VARSITY MEN AND MAIDS.
The Cream of all Society Entertainers.
Duets, Trios, Quartettes,
Burlesques
and Vaudevilles.
Music, Song, Dance,
Harmony, and Refinement.
Witty, Bright, Artistic.
Address, JAY KAY, 14, Upper St. Martin's-lane, W.C. Telegrams, "Asotel, London."

Grand Success of
SNOW and FARRON'S MINSTREL COMEDIANS, at Grand Theatre, Blackpool, giving Entire Performance twice nightly. Complimented by the Management. Splendid opinions of the Press. An Up-to-date Show, different from all others in dress and business.

WANTED, Weeks of Feb. 22, 29. Summer Season Fully Booked with W. J. Churchill, Esq. Address, 29, Grosvenor-terrace, Camberwell, S.E., "to be forwarded."

WANTED, Feb. 22, onward, for Sidney Rennef and Company, in "Minding Baby," special printing, three people. Apply, Opera House, Treherbert; next, Abertilliery and Maesteg.

WANTED, Feb. 15. 22, for "Battle of Belles." 30 minutes' laughter. Six Artists. Scenery. FRED MOULE, 153, Capworth-street, Leyton.

WANTED, Monday, also 22nd, by Billy Ross and Co., greatest Boxing Act before the Public, combined with genuine Comedy. Starring, Palace, Ebbw Vale.

WANTED, Known, Devereux's Dogs, the Wonders of the World. A sure draw everywhere. Liberty May 24; big Act for Pictures. Assembly Rooms, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, Pauletti, the Funny Man on a Bike. Novel Acrobatic Somersaulting Cyclist. A Laughing Success. One or two good Acts for Galas. Pauletti, the Side-slipper. This, T. R., Cradley Heath; next, T. R., West Bromwich.

WANTED, Known, Cyclinis Trio, Comedy Cyclists, Motorists, Bicycle Polo. Next, O. H., Workington; Vac. 22nd, 29th, two acts, for galas. Perm. (see Cards).

WANTED, to produce new and original Acts, Sketches, Single Turns, &c. Write for information, Box 5,478, "The Era."

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, March 22, Wanted, through Camden not opening, by Hinton and Wooton, Originators of Title and Act, "A Football Match on Bicycles." Direct, Hippodrome, Birkenhead; or E. DE VERE.

WANTED, Known, Prof. Lenton's Bioscope Entertainments; Change of Pictures Nightly or Weekly; Machines, Films, and Accessories Bought, Sold, or Hired Out to any amount. 2, Capener's-yard, Knightsbridge, S.W.

WANTED, Feb. 22, March 1, Sanger's Animated Pictures; Alfreda, Serio, Song Illustrator; Max Reynolds, Vocalist and Dancer. Comedy T., East Kirkby, Notts.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

IMPORTANT.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
that the Next Meeting
of the
BRITISH ROUNDABOUT PROPRIEORS' AND SHOWMEN'S UNION
will be held on Tuesday next, Feb. 17, at John Langley's Hotel, at 2.30 p.m.
A Good Muster of Members is requested.
(Signed), THOS. HURST, Secretary.

WANTED, Known, .22 Cartridges, "R," "H," "D," "P" brands, Winchester repeaters, Globes, Targets, Water Balls. GREENE, 74, Falmouth-road, London, S.E.

CAKE WALK. BROOKLYN CAKE WALK.
WANTED, Known, Thousands of Pounds taken and waiting to be taken on these machines. Cake Walk Riding Craze becoming Universal.
No waiting to load up.
11,000 passed over in one night at Hamburg Fair.
All the leading papers write about it.
Write for Press Opinions, terms, and full particulars, Patentees and Sole Makers, TAYLOR, PLINSTON, BROS. and CO., 94, Farncombe-st., and 98, Bermondsey-wall, London, S.E.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
to
Showmen
and
Managers of Amusement Parks.
Katzen Jammer
or
Haunted Castles.
I build and supply same,
with all the Latest Devices
and Improvements.
I take all responsibility as regards Patent Rights
or any other Liability.
Prices from £300 to £1,000, according to size and decorations.
P. COLLINS,
Gondola Works, Walsall.

WANTED, Showmen to Save Money by sending for Leete's Catalogue of Specially-prepared Paints, Colours, Varnishes, Brushes, &c., and every requisite for decorating Caravans, Roundabouts, Swings, &c. Cheapest house in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, Up-to-date Side-shows; must be real good. Apply, MANAGER, Fun Palace, 46, Bull-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, good Quick-showing Novelty, or anything suitable for First-class Ground Booth, used to Fair Business; one that can do own looring preferred; Long Engagement to the Right People. BLAKEY, Living Waggon, Lowecock's Yard (off Great Clowes-st.), Lower Broughton, Salford.

WANTED, Novelties, with Paintings, &c., for immediate and future dates, Spaces to Let, anything good. LINDA, 100, Llewellyn-st., Pentre.

WANTED, good Novelties, must have good Flash. Apply PROPRIETOR, 79, Upper-street, Islington.

WANTED, to open Saturday night, good Quick-showing Novelty, in shop, busy road in London. Apply, CINEMATOGRAPH, 63, Whitechapel-rd., E.

WANTED, Freaks and Novelties, Present and Future Dates, for HUMBER'S Waxwork, George-street, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Midget Lady, height about 3ft., age over 14; if suitable twelve months' engagement; £1 per week, with board, sleeping accommodation, exhibiting dresses, travelling expenses, half post-cards. Mrs. REEVES, 18, Jenkins-street, Burslem, Staffs.

WANTED, Good Palmist, for Season. Write. Will buy Chairs, Seating, Tent Tops, or Canvas, cheap. State full particulars to MELVILLE, Rathbone-gardens, Portobello.

WANTED, an experienced Planksman, also a Class Pianist-Vocalist, must be steady and thoroughly experienced in Auction Mart business. Many thanks to enquiring friends; am much better after severe illness. FRED M. BARBER, Auctioneer, Mansfield.

WANTED, steady, energetic Man, as Working Foreman or Leading Hand, for Cinématograph Show, must thoroughly know the game; can offer good job to the right man; also have Vacancy for smart Doorsman and Picture Describer, who knows how to talk intelligently; also few useful men, must all have been used to Fair Ground Business.
HARRY KEMP,
Cinématograph, Market-place, Mosley, Lancs.

WANTED, Known, Mme. de Para, well-known Palmist; can book immediately, shares or rental; Exhibitions, Rooms, &c. 1, Oakley-cres., City-road, London.

WANTED, Engagement, for Mons. Beauté, World's Fasting Man, only vacant dates this year March, April, May; highest reputation; 28 days fasting experiment, Glasgow University, 1908; First-class Show; local doctor engaged at my expense. Address, Box 5,480, c/o "The Era."

PLEASURE BEACH, BLACKPOOL.
Telegrams, "Popular, Blackpool."
Telephone 158 Blackpool.
The Leading Open-air Amusement Resort in the Country on the Sea Front.
WANTED, Known, opens at Easter for the Season, Scenic Railway, one mile long,
Highest Water Chute in England,
Canadian Toboggan,
Motor Racing Track,
&c., &c., &c., &c.
Address applications for anything really new to PROPRIETORS, Pleasure Beach, Blackpool.

WANTED, to Let, few Spaces, for good Novelty Stalls. Bridport Exhibition, Feb. 15, 21; Yeovil to follow. MANAGER, Exhibition, Drill Hall, Bridport.

WANTED, Known, to Proprietors of Side Shows, Games, Helter-Skelter Lighthouse, Novelty Stalls, &c., &c. Space to Let for Dudley Castle Fêtes, Whit Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 1909. Apply at once to SECRETARY, 265, Castle-street, Dudley.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
that I have
Ground to Let
at
LONGTON, SHROVETIDE FAIR,
from Friday, Feb. 12,
to Wed., Feb. 24.
Also at
OSWESTRY MARCH FAIR.
Held on the Corporation Fair Ground;
and my
Well-known March Round to follow.
Also
THREE GOOD EASTER FAIRS.
WOLVERHAMPTON.
Best Easter in the Midlands.
Ground for One Large Show. Menagerie would do well. Room for a few Good Small Shows, and a Few Positions for Throwing Games.
COVENTRY.
Good Positions for a Few Stalls,
Two Novelty Shows, and
One Large Show.
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WANTED, to Sell, fine Double Humped Camel, cheap.
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HUMBER, Waxwork, George-st., Aberdeen.

WANTED, Operator, with own Bioscope, Films, and all accessories; must be absolutely perfect, to join Showman having good positions; on Shares. SLATTER, 54, St. George's-road, Southwark.

WANTED, Known, Mr. W. Brooks, Swingball Worker, of Fulham, London, sails from Tilbury, Feb. 17, per ss. Marathon, for three years' tour in Australasia. Kind regards to all friends, North and South. Address, G.P.O., Brisbane, Queensland, till Aug. 1; then Melbourne.

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The finest and most successful Pantomime in the Provinces, now playing nightly to record business at the above Theatre. The beautiful Scenery, consisting of six full sets, six half sets, and four front cloths, by R. C. Oldham, D. G. Hall, Harry Emden, and K. J. McLennan.

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Elaborate Properties and Electrical Effects.

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Mr. J. F. GRAHAM, Manager, as above.

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Worthy of any West End London Theatre.
Those Managers wanting one will not waste time in seeing it at Alexandra Theatre, Hull.
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Lead, "The Soldier's Wedding."
At Lib. April 19. O. H., Wakefield.

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Address, 142, Earl's Court-road, S.W.

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Lead, Mr. Charles Frohman's Co., "The Hypocrites." To-day, Swansea; next, D. P., Eastbourne.

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MR. WILLIAM LOCKHART,
Star Theatre,
Liverpool.

MR. J. C. LODGE - PERCY,
Disen. March 1. Invites offers.
Address, London House, Dickson-road, Blackpool.

MR. STUART LOMATH,
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Musical Director. Disen. March 1. Offers invited. Next, Theatre Royal, Merthyr.

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MR. HERBERT MORGAN,
Heavy Lead, "Beggar Girl's Wedding."
100th Performance, Feb. 22, P. T., Portsmouth.

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J. C. Piddock's Company,
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MR. HERBERT PEARSON,
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Feb. 22, Barrow.

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Anthony Raybrook, "Driven from Home."
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MR. GEORGE P. POLSON,
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MR. RULE PYOTT.
Address,
Stanley Lodge, Ravensbourne Park, Catford, S.E.

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Grand Theatre, Leeds.

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Mexborough.

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Musical Director. Disengaged.
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MR. J. W. CORDINER.
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Feb. 22, Theatre Royal, Bolton.

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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1909.

Those who need a record of stage doings have long regarded "The Era" annual as their sole source of reference, and the accuracy with which it is compiled makes it a very useful book. The volume for 1909, just issued, contains the casts of new plays and important revivals, both in London and the provinces, from Dec. 1, 1907, to Nov 30, 1908. A long-familiar feature, "Stories told by Well-Known People," reappears, the "people" including Mr. G. Alexander, Mr. H. B. Irving, and Mr. Martin Harvey.—Globe, Jan. 14, 1909.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1909.

"The Era" Annual for 1909 has doubled its size, from 122 pages in 1908 to 244, the increase being chiefly due to the publication for the first time of the full casts of new productions (including music-hall sketches) and revivals both in London and the provinces. The new feature adds greatly to the value of the annual, which has long been a recognised vade mecum of the theatrical profession. Among the contributors to "Stories Told by Well-Known People" this year are Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Martin Harvey, Mr. H. B. Irving, Mr. Albert Chevalier, Mr. Gus Elen, Mr. Willie Clarkson, and Mr. Alfred Lester.—Sunday Times, Jan. 17, 1909.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1909.

AN ENTERTAINING DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL ANNUAL.

"The Era" Dramatic and Musical Annual for 1909 is an invaluable book to all those interested in matters theatrical and operatic. Professionals and those whose lot it is to write of dramatic matters will be specially concerned with such desirable information as that contained in the lists of (1) new plays and important revivals produced at the London and suburban theatres, (2) new plays and important revivals produced in the provinces, (3) casts of new plays and important revivals (a new feature, we think), (4) plays produced in New York, (5) new pieces produced at the principal Paris theatres, and (6) new plays and important revivals presented at the principal Berlin theatres. These lists, and also alphabetical lists of (a) plays produced in London and the provinces and (b) the principal sketches produced at London and provincial variety houses, cover the period from Dec. 1, 1907, to Nov. 30, 1908. The casts of new sketches, a theatrical, musical, and equestrian obituary, and lists of theatres and music-halls in the United Kingdom are also given. To the general reader the most attractive feature will be, however, a series of stories told by well-known people, each story being illustrated by the photograph and autograph of the author. The annual is both useful and entertaining, and has enhanced its already high reputation. (London: 5, Tavistock-street, Strand.)—Dundee Courier, Jan. 27, 1909.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1909.

Once more "The Era" Annual makes its appearance as a work of reference indispensable to all who have business relations with the stage, and of hardly less value to that vastly greater multitude who love the theatre and follow the fortunes and careers of its rising and risen stars with intelligent interest. The casts of all the important plays and revivals for twelve months are given, and there is a list of music hall sketches produced in the same period in England, and of new pieces in Paris, Berlin, and New York. Among other interesting features is a collection of capital stories by such well-known figures in the theatrical world as Messrs. George Alexander H. B. Irving, Albert Chevalier, Gus Elen, W. Clarkson, and Misses Hilda Trevelyan and Evie Greene.—Daily Telegraph, Jan. 14 1909.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1909.

The dramatic and musical annual published by "The Era" is a handy compendium of theatrical and music hall information about plays and players. It contains useful references to new plays and important revivals, not only in London and the provinces, but also in New York and Berlin. The annual is given a wider interest by a series of stories written by well-known members of the profession, including Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Martin Harvey, Mr. H. B. Irving, Mr. Albert Chevalier, Miss Decima Moore, and Mr. Gus Elen. Their entertaining contributions are illustrated with photographs and autograph signatures.—Edinburgh Evening News, Jan. 23, 1909.

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"Theatrical Accounts" ("The Era," Ltd., 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.), we should say, is a very useful compilation for business managers of our places of amusement. It is practical, exact, and analytical; it should stop leakages, and needs only good houses to keep it fully employed.—*Sportsman*, Feb. 8, 1909.

"Theatrical Accounts." By Cuthbert E. Smedley (*The Era*, Ltd., 3s. 6d.). Shows how the affairs of a theatre can be most efficiently controlled by the adoption of systems of internal check. Specimen pages of the books to be kept are given. Receipts, tours, book-keeping, and accounts, audit—each is allotted a separate chapter. In the appendix is given "a form of agreement with artists for touring engagements."—*Morning Post*, Jan. 27, 1909.

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Skeleton schemes of book-keeping, &c., with explanations, showing how the affairs of a theatre can be efficiently managed by the adoption of systems of internal check in all departments. Contains also a draft agreement as between manager and artist.—*Birmingham Daily Post*, Jan. 27, 1909.

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERAMAN.—Grand Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. A. Jackson Withers; Resident-Manager, Mr. Archie Ainsleigh.—*Aladdin* is being presented here this week. Miss Marie Wall makes a hit in the title-rôle; Abanazar is in the capable hands of Mr. George Helm; Miss Emmie Cozens is a captivating Princess; Mr. Bob Stephenson a humorous Widow Twankey; and Tom and Neil in their wrestling and boxing act, speciality dances by Hayes and Watson, and juggling by Staffo are other attractions.

ABERDARE.—New Theatre.—Proprietors, The Aberdare Public Hall Theatre and Billposting Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting-Manager, Mr. B. Richards.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's No. 1 company is here this week with *Two Little Drummer Boys*. Mr. Edward Bikker essays the rôle of General Kingsley with much effect; Mr. Harry Scott is a successful Captain Frank Carsdale; Mr. Oswald Douglas a powerful Captain George Darrell; Miss Violet Ingram a strongly dramatic Margaret Rivers; and as Alma Kingsley Miss Mary Ainsley acts with grace and dignity. Miss Elsie Dene is a vivacious Molly Meadows, and Miss Maggie English and Miss Maudie Douglas as Eric Carsdale and Jack Smith (two drummer boys) are the recipients of much applause. Mr. Wilson Holmes is good as Tim Barker, and humour is freely supplied by Mr. Will Percy as Quiney O'Quirke and Mr. Dick Seddon as Timothy Trimmer.

ABERDEEN. — H. M. Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—The delightful musical comedy *Havana* draws crowded audiences this week. Miss Gertrude Lester displays remarkable talent as an actress and singer in the part of Consuelo; Miss Jessie Broughton makes a conspicuous success as Lolita; Miss Luna Love is a most attractive Anita; Mr. George Gregory keeps the house continually convulsed as Nix; and Mr. W. H. Rawlins is no less amusing as Reginald Brow. Other parts are admirably portrayed by Misses Florence Phillips, Gladys Fontaine, Constance Clive, Vi Darling, and Ethel Wilson; and Messrs. T. C. Maxwell, Will Hindson, Frank Hector, Edward O'Neill, and Campbell Bishop. The piece is lavishly produced; and the orchestra, which has been specially augmented, with Mr. J. Reynders, jun., as leader, is splendidly conducted by Mr. Andrew Maccunn.

Palace Theatre.—Lessees, The United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—A delightful operatic burlesque, *The Singing Servants*, is presented by Mr. Joe Peterman's company; the Twin Andersons (Lillie and Minnie) give a highly dexterous display of dancing on one rope; Bromby and Fontein are highly successful in their "Man Behind the Music Stand" skit; Mr. Carl Lynn is a brilliant animal mimic; Mr. Fred Vallance contributes a capital humorous ventriloquial act, *The New Orderly*; the Three Sisters Wynne are most vivacious burlesque actresses; Miss Edie Coolville is a capital comedienne and dancer; and Miss Lily Arthur pleases as a comedienne.

Alhambra Music Hall.—Managers, Messrs. R. Calder and J. Montague.—Both the Alhambra and the Empire are again crowded this week. Miss Florrie Du Barrie and Miss Dolly McCarthy are extremely popular as comediennes; Miss Bella Hardy sings and dances vivaciously; Miss Marie Rose and Mr. Archie Murray are enthusiastically encored for their singing, dancing, and playing; and Mr. Jack Marson, in addition to his first-class songs, tells some delightfully quaint stories.

ABERTILLERY.—Theatre Metropole.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. J. Seaborn.—Sydney Rennef and C. M. Copping's talented company are presenting the stirring drama *How Women Ruin Men* for three nights. Mr. Sydney Rennef acts with power and great force, and gives an excellent delineation of his part as Jack Fairclough; Miss Grace Jones gives a very fine rendition of her part as Sylvia Grey, to the delight of her audience; while Miss Lilian Herrick portrays Mercy Grey in a very pleasing manner. Comedy is fully supplied by Mr. Fred Elvin, who excels as Jimmy Chucket. The scenery and effects are good, and the production is highly successful.

Pavilion.—Lessees, Messrs. E. and H. Tilney; Manager, Mr. E. Pryce.—The Eight Lancashire Lads are a smart set of vocalists and dancers, and delight the audience with song and dance; Nellie Ridgway gives a clever trapeze act; while The Wyffs successfully produce the sketch *St. Valentine's Day* to the high appreciation of the house; Ailsa Douglas gives a capital rendering of her songs; while Paul Pelham scores highly as a character vocalist; Great Vincent gives a good tumbling feat; while the Howes mystify the audience in their marvellous mental telegraphy. Splendid films are shown on the canvas, and the music played by the band under the leadership of Mr. F. Drake is bright and cheerful.

ACCRINGTON.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—Messrs. Edwin C. Jazon and Nightingale's company opened an engagement here on Monday before a large and highly-delighted audience, with the pantomime *Cinderella*. The show is handsomely staged and dressed, and contains some good musical numbers. In the title-rôle Miss Molly Doon has made a great impression with her winsome presence and capital singing; Miss Vera Mayne as Prince Brilliant is a general favourite, her songs meeting with unstinted praise; as Dandini Miss Beattie Foster scores heavily; and Miss Flo Burnett as the Fairy Godmother sang with much charm and grace; her song "Sweethearts" brings down the house. Mr. Fred Lake as the Baron is highly amusing; the Danbys worked most assiduously as the court bailiffs, Kuff and Kollor; Mr. Harry Plowden and Mr. Wallace Whitney as the ugly sisters create much laughter; and Mr. Leo Fields' remarkable agility as well as his clever dancing make him specially popular as Buttons; Miss Lily Hales makes the most of the part of Dorothy; and Miss Cissie Gordon looks smart as the Marquis of Taxes. The large and well-dressed chorus worked in most harmonious fashion.

New Hippodrome.—Proprietors, The Accrington Hippodrome Co.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—The La Vails head the bill here this week, and receive rounds of applause for an exceedingly smart gymnastic turn; Miss Kitty Colyer goes down exceptionally well, her dancing being much admired; Miss Zeta Gray and company, in the sketch *The Lancashire Lass*, obtain appreciation; Ryder Sloan, comedian, is popular; and Syd Myra with his performing dog wins favour; Star and Leslie appear in a novelty act, and are responsible for some clever club-throwing feats; F. S. Hulme is a capital vocal comedian; Boy Glen provokes mirth with his smart patter; and Mlle. Eldée poses gracefully in a golden frame. The Bioscope pictures conclude an excellent entertainment.

ALDERSHOT.—Royal and Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Gladwin.—A capital programme is provided again this week. Tarro Miyaki is on a return visit, his performance consisting of an exhibition of the ju-jitsu system of wrestling. He is again offering various sums of money from £1,000 to £1 to anyone defeating him, and several challenges are being competed during the week. Of the variety turns Rene and Rene are two skilful comic knockabout cyclists and equilibrists awheel; the Lutinas (Lulu and Tina) give a marvellous exhibition in a gymnastic mélange, introducing trapeze, wire walking, and finishing up with a graceful Spanish dance; Sirus and Simpkin go through a burlesque legerdemain act which forms a novel change; Gracie Dane sings two numbers with good effect; Jack Heath is a clever comedian, and his contributions are well received. The Bioscope shows several amusing pictures, which are greatly appreciated.

ARBROATH.—New Public Hall.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. Joiner.—Mr. Robert Macdonald's company gave a fine performance here on Saturday evening of *The Dairymaids*. Miss Janet Reeve as Peggy sang her various songs sweetly, and with evident culture; Miss Dorothy Belmore played with dignity the part of Lady Brudenell; Miss Maud Lucy as Eliza, maid of all work, is particularly clever, her dancing, singing, and acting being all that could be desired; Mr. Bernard Vaughan as Dr. O'Bryne gave universal satisfaction by his pleasantries; Mr. Edward Dodds as Joe Mivens was simply irresistable.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill, Jun.—The stage at the Theatre Royal is occupied for the week by the members of the Ashton and District Operatic Society, who are presenting on behalf of the charities Gilbert and Sullivan's comic opera *The Yeomen of the Guard*.

Empire Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr W. Leech; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Jesse Burslem.—A first-class variety company is here for the week. The Dayton Family, twelve in number, in their clever acrobatic novelty, *Le Rendezvous*, head the bill. The dancing ladies, the Sisters Belmont, are talented and graceful in song and motion; Mr. Walter Ellis introduces *Captain Duncan and His Airship*, an original comic scena. The two scenes are the Workshop and In the Clouds. Bob Barbour and Harry Danby are two amusing aeronauts; the Five Bombays are capital harmony singers and clog-dancers; Edwin Austin, as concertinist, is a player of that instrument of wonderful manipulative gifts; in the matter of clever juggling in a comic way the Brothers Idento are really neat and clever; Marie Bythe is a comedienne and vocalist of talent; Herma is a modern gladiator of surprising strength and muscle; the Five Vernons are xylophone specialists. The Bioscope shows the Ruins of Messina.

New Pavilion.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Chas. F. Wilson.—The Pavilion bill for current consumption in the animated picture section is full of living interest. The coloured marvel in wooden shoes, Frank E. Ford; and a clever comedian and patterer, Will Sullivan, are responsible for vaudeville interludes.

The Picturedrome.—Lessees, Messrs. Weisker Bros.; Manager, Mr. Jas. Marks.—The animated section of the entertainment at this popular pleasure resort includes some comical films. Perhaps the most entertaining is that of 'Arry and 'Arriet's Evening Out.

ATTERCLIFFE.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manageress, Miss Ethel J. Hope.—This week's interesting pictures include, amongst others, Anarchy in England, Baby's Chum, The Royalist's Wife, The Moth Hunter, The Curate's Honeymoon, and The Love Story of Thylda. The Cinephone is a big success, and the illustrated songs, ably rendered by Miss Ethel Sheffer, are a pleasant and popular feature.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Bert Dent.—The greater portion of this week's programme here is taken up by Doctor Walford Bodie, whose fame as a "bloodless surgeon" is well known throughout the country. A hearty reception was accorded the Doctor on Monday, and his electrical experiments, including "The Cage of Death," were watched with breathless interest. The vaudeville turns include Miss Bella Skene, burlesque comedienne; Litle Dolly Robson, vocalist; Mr. Harry Varden, ventriloquist; Clarke and Glenney, in comedy sketch, *The Haunted House*; the Bros. Carney, character duettists; and the ever-popular pictures by Mr. Clayton.

AYE.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—A packed house welcomed the Carl Rosa Opera Company here on Monday night. The opening piece was *Carmen*. Miss Doris Woodall in the title-rôle was charming, and her singing was in keeping with her splendid acting of the part; Mdme. Ina Hill made a fine impression with her beautiful soprano voice in the minor rôle of Micaela; Mr. Edward Davis as Don Jose gave an ideal rendering of the part of the luckless dragoon, while in his love-making he was impassioned and grand, and his tenor voice, of great compass, was heard to advantage; Mr. Chas. Victor as the bull-fighter, Escamillo, was equally good, and his toreador song in the tavern scene was magnificently rendered. The other members of the cast gave adequate support; the chorus was powerful and well-balanced, while the orchestra, under the bâton of Mr. Walter Van Noorden, played perfectly. The scenery was most complete. On Tuesday night *Faust* was presented, with Mdme. Hill in the part of Marguerite; and on Wednesday *Lohengrin* and Thursday *Bohemian Girl*.

BACUP.—New Court Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood.—Mr. Charles Constant's pantomime, *Blue Beard*, is here this week. Miss Daisy Lake is a handsome Selim, with lots of dash and go, and as a singer took the fancy of the audience; Miss Marie Duncan as Fatima is a very pleasing figure throughout, and she earned considerable applause for all her songs; the good Fairy Queen Asphodel is very agreeably filled by Miss Laura Wickenden, whose voice delighted the house; also prominent among the ladies are Miss D. D'Armour as Zoolah and Miss Gertie Gordon as Cashim. Among the laughter-makers, Mr. Johnny Clegg as Sister Ann provoked the most amusement and applause; Mr. Jack Parker as Bamboozlum played with much spirit; Shacabac and Abdulla, two busy and humorous characters, are cleverly impersonated by Messrs. W. Harlin and B. Hanlon, and the fun is further augmented by the efforts of Mr. Walter B. Frear as Pimple. The specialities include Miss Dolly Moore, male impersonator; Messrs. Harlin and Hanlon, the Florodorians, Russell and Gage, the Sandow Girls, and Walter B. Frear. The dresses and scenery are beautiful, and the augmented band is under the bâton of Mr. Louis Finch.

BARNSLEY.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. A. C. Mitchell.—Mr. Seymour Hicks's company in *The Gay Gordons* is playing to very good houses. The company is excellent throughout.

Empire Palace.—The Cowboy Millionaire tops the bill this week; and Mr. Tubby Edlin fairly brings down the house with his funnosities. Peggie Lennie and Walter Hast are well received; Vowles and Bryan give a neat turn entitled "Song and Story in a Garden"; Lozelle is a gymnast with a new show; Fred Shepherd is a comedian with funny songs; Albert St. Clair, double-voiced vocalist; Miss Aggie Nolan, a smart clog-dancer; and the Palacescope complete a good all-round bill.

BARNSTAPLE.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, The Long Bridge Trustees; Manager, Mr. Harry Ashton.—On Monday and Tuesday Mr. Reginald Dance's company paid its initial visit here with *Raffles*. Mr. Dance himself in the name part sustained the keen interest of the audience; Mr. A. P. Bell made much of the part of Bunny; Mr. Edward Irwin was a clever exponent of the detective; and Mr. Oswald Griffiths delineated cleverly the revenge of the thwarted burglar, Crawshay. Miss Mollie Tremaine capably presented the disappointed Mrs. Vidal; Miss Frances Titheradge gave an engaging interpretation of Gwendoline; and Miss Doris Digby as the Maid did capable work. Misses Kitty Lofting and Marguerite Unett, and Messrs. P. Alexander, F. C. Pool, and J. W. Brighten added to the general success.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—Royalty Theatre and Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Messrs. Sutton and Raynor's company is here with *Moths*. Mr. Cecil Wynne is an ideal Prince Sergius Louroff, and Mr. Raynor a typical blasé Lord Jura; Miss Henrietta Schriee is a downright but smart Fuchsia Leach, and Miss Cecilia Dare acts cleverly as the Duchess de Souvaz; Miss Lillian Kevill-Davies is sufficiently frivolous and worldly as Lady Dolly, and the Vere Herbert of Miss Dorothy West-Symes stands out in its artistic simplicity; the Duke of Mull is well done by Mr. Leonard Laurence, and the Correze of Mr. Conrad Heywood is most correctly drawn. *Captain Swift* is also billed.

His Majesty's.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Mr. Fred Granville's pantomime *Beauty and the Beast* is here. The Beauty, Miss Dollie Darrie, is captivating, and the Beast, Mr. Leslie Austin, sings uncommonly well; Miss Hilda de Gray is a sprightly Prince, Mr. Sam Foster a funny Sammy, and Daleno and Stream are humorous Bailiffs; Mr. Martin Practice is a capital Wilhelmina, and Dorothy Dane a satisfactory Sir Superior Polish. Specialities are contributed by Miss Flo Warner, who as Silver Buttons does exceedingly well, and also by, among others, Barrie and Ward, Miss Florence Milton, and the Casino Belles.

Tivoli.—Lessee and Manager, Signor R. Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edgar G. Laban.—An excellent programme is presented here this week, the premier position being held by Dewe Samuels. The Westbrooks give a pleasing entertainment, and Palles and Cussack are comedians of the good old style; other good turns are Keri and Kari, Japanese illusionists, and Fred Hallam, comedian.

New Hippodrome.—Owners and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ralph D. Fenton.—A series of capital pictures representing Shakespeare's drama *The Tempest* and other popular subjects, form the attraction here this week.

BARRY DOCK.—New Theatre and Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brogden.—Mr. Harry Benet, with an exceedingly strong company, presented *Robinson Crusoe* to a crowded house on Monday night. Miss Nellie Dyson was a bright and dashing Crusoe, and scored well; and Miss S. Millar was winsome as Polly Perkins. Miss Cissie Ramsey as Britannia sang delightfully the song "A Tiny Seed of Love"; and Miss Bertha Collins (Princess Pearlesa) gave "Poverty Street" in taking style; Miss Trixie Boscombe was admirable as Miss Nicey; Mr. D. Philips as Dame Crusoe hits the Welsh character off to a nicety; in Mr. J. H. Wakefield (Will Atkins) they have a comedian of no mean ability, and he helps the fun along in a happy manner; Mr. H. Benet as Billy Crusoe received a fine reception; Mr. Lonzo Brown was an ideal Friday, his dancing being quite a revelation; as Flip and Flap Messrs. Rand and O'Ryan were very amusing, their comedy act creating much laughter; Mr. Sam Saxo (King Koppem) proved himself a first-class instrumentalist. The speciality turns were a feature of the performance. Will and Rose, comedy conjurers; and Kloof and Ramsey, musical eccentrics, were distinctly successful. Mr. Ernest Grahame conducted efficiently an augmented orchestra.

Romilly Hall.—Proprietors, the Barry Market Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. Cobbledick.—Mr. Harry Rogers's repertory company is playing the famous Welsh drama *The Maid of Cefn Ydfa*. Mr. Cyril Whitney presents a capital study of Will Hopkin, and Mr. Bert Barrie gives a satisfactory portrayal of Morgan the Seer, and Mr. Harry Rogers is good as John Maddox; but the feature of the piece is the humour introduced by Mr. Arthur Griffiths (Lewis Bach) and Miss Ethel Thomas (Gwenny Bach); Mr. Fred Tucker is also very quaint as Anthony Maddox.

BATH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—*Tom Jones* is being played here this week by Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company. Miss Florence Smithson creates a perfect furore by her singing as Sophia; Honour is pertly undertaken by Miss Jean Ritz; Lady Bellaston finds an excellent representative in Miss Alice Oppitz; Mr. Harry Welchman both histrionically and vocally fulfils all requirements as Tom Jones; as Mr. Allworthy Mr. John Morley has small chance to exhibit his fine baritone voice; Blifil is well enacted by Mr. Deane Percival; Mr. Ambrose Manning (in his original part of Squire Western), Mr. George Elton (Partridge), and Mr. J. T. Macmillan (Gregory) work with great success in their respective parts. Two other gentlemen who assist in the merry-making are Mr. Cyril Lane and Mr. Lionel Braham, with their quaintly different physical appearance as Grizzle and Dobbin.

Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—Dean and Wilton, clever and eccentric acrobats; Maude Vera, a dainty comedienne and dancer; Nellie Moore, in studies in character; Russell Brandow, who dances with agility and success; Clark and Hayden, in a bright duologue, *By Appointment*; Poole and Maguire, in a well-arranged vocal act; Madge Grey, with child mimicry; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are among the attractions at this house.

BEDFORD.—Royal County Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—One of the best dramas seen in Bedford for some months past was presented for the first time here on Monday night. *The Sailor's Wedding* is from the pen of H. Brinsley Hill, and is being produced by Messrs. Hardie and Von Leer's excellent company. As the cool and self-possessed hero Lieut. Gordon Drake Mr. Richard A. Greene is a splendid representative; Mr. Cecil Klein as Sir Victor Lascelles is extremely natural and is repeatedly applauded; Giovanni Ferici, the villain of the piece, is cleverly portrayed by Mr. Hodgson Taylor; and Mr. Finch Smiles very skilfully impersonates Giacomo, "the man with the evil eye." Most of the humour is supplied by Mr. Walter Pemberton, who as the jolly Jack Hawkins is inimitable, and Miss M. Sadie, who vivaciously assumes the rôle of Polly. Miss Mary Pemberton acts with grace and refinement the part of Mary Bellini; and Miss Laura Hansen proves herself a capable actress as Countess Bellini; Miss Winifred Pearson as Leonore de Cresac has a difficult part, but submits an excellent rendering. There are other characters, all most ably represented. The scenery is much about the average.

BELFAST.—Grand Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Mr. Herbert Sleath's company opened here on Monday with *A White Man*, which met with unqualified approval. In the rôle of Captain James Wynnegate, V.C., Mr. Frank Tennant achieved much success, his acting being irreproachable; and praise must be accorded Miss Margaret Fairleigh for her impersonation of the faithful Indian Nut-u-Rich. The villainies of Cash Hawkins were clearly depicted by Mr. Gerald Earle; the part of Big Bill was admirably sustained by Mr. R. A. Brandon; Miss Eleanor May did full justice to the rôle of Diana Countess of Kerhill; and Mr. Harold S. Richardson in the rôle of the Earl of Kerhill acquitted himself well. Mr. William Dempsey was the solicitor Malcolm Petrie to the life; and Mr. Eric Hudson was certainly convincing as Tab-y-wana.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. A. Salmond.—This week Miss Rose Moncrieff's company is here in *The Bells of Old York*. Miss Moncrieff herself appears as Trumpeter Romney Kent with much credit, her songs being highly appreciated; Mr. Rass Challis is well suited to the rôle of the Rev. Philip Gordon, his acting being decidedly clever; and Mr. J. O. Stevenson submits a good impersonation of the villainous Captain Romney Kent. Miss Lucy Courtenay in the part of Lady Angela Grantham achieves success; and Miss Nellie De Lacey is excellent as Angel Grantham. Mr. Horace Buckley as Trooper Jigger Popkins is most amusing; and Mr. George Tearle deserves mention for the able manner in which he presents the part of Colonel Kent. Miss Nellie Ingrim admirably interprets the rôle of Kitty Flash.

Royal Hippodrome.—Managing-Directors, Messrs Fred Willmott and Will Sley; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The leading attraction here is provided by Miss Beaumont Collins and company with a dramatic playlet entitled *The House of Terror*. Billy Howard and Kathryn Harris appear with success in *The Adventures of a Happy Tramp*; Haidee Lee and Wallace Kingston gain approval in their latest success; the Eight College Girls speedily make themselves favourites; and the vocal items of Wills and Mackenzie afford much pleasure. Also here are Milner and Storey, comedy couple; Miss Kathleen Cogan, comedienne and dancer; U. C. Ugo, in his magical scena, assisted by Valetta; Three Orleans, in their drawing-room act; Steve Bartle, concertina soloist; and the Hipposcope.

Empire Theatre of Varieties, Limited.—General Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr John A. Walker.—Mr. Fred Ginnett's company tops the bill with the equestrian spectacle, *Dick Turpin's Ride to York*. The evergreen Walter Munroe returns to this hall to the joy of many admirers, and his songs and dances have been cheered to the echo; a clever and novel act is provided by St. Clair Brothers, knockabout cyclists who introduce their original football match on bicycles; Clown Argo, the eccentric farmyard mimic, takes well; and Miss Sybil St. Elmo, operatic vocalist, sings sweetly. Also here are Miss Josie Mooney, comedienne; Mr. Fred Keeton, comedian, and the Bioscope.

New Alhambra Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr Will White.—Notwithstanding many other attractions, this old-established theatre commands a large measure of support. Under the direction of Mr. Gerald Tweedie, many films have been exhibited, including The Old Actor, Phantom Ship, When the Man in the Moon Seeks a Wife, Mother's Fault, Getting Evidence, &c. Also appearing are Joe and Pete Murray, capital negro entertainers; and Mr. Jack W. Hughes, vocalist.

St. George's Hall.—General-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—The great patronage bestowed on this hall is certainly very flattering to the popular manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur. This week the following beautiful pictures have been exhibited: Pyrenees, Young Poacher, White Suit, Athletic Meeting in Switzerland, The Bully and the Recruit; Wreckers, &c. Also here are Mr. Will Montgomery, a smart actor-vocalist, with good songs; and Mr. Wm. Dent, comedian.

Cliftonville Hall.—General-Manager, Mr. O. E. Laumann.—There is no abatement in the patronage bestowed on this hall, rinking being the craze. Mr. Laumann announces a Barnyard Skating Carnival, which is certain to draw immense crowds. Many other novelties will be produced during the season.

BILSTON.—New Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. John M. Dawson; Musical-Director, Mr. J. E. Machin.—On Monday Mr. Frank Adair and his company opened with *The Heathen and the Christian*, a play which is full of stirring interest and excitement. Li the Avenger is depicted in a striking manner by Mr. Frank Adair; and Miss Adeline Raby is eminently successful as Mira Sampson. Mr. Gerald Turner looks and acts well as Admiral Freebold; Miss Eva Reed is extremely amusing as Becky Fibbins, and her singing and dancing are well appreciated. Mr. Bruce Williams is also highly diverting as Bah Lamb Gentle. The scenery and effects are very fine.

BIRKENHEAD.—New Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—The Clifton Operatic Society, a local body of exceptionally clever amateurs, are appearing in a week's season of comic opera in *The Gondoliers*. Excellent business is being done, and a really fine performance does credit to all concerned.

Argyle Theatre of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Miss Victoria Monks, the popular comedienne, heads the bill here, and has a right royal reception at every appearance. Miss Lilian Dundas and her able sketch company are a centre of attraction in *Convict Nance;* and the reappearances include Mr. J. W. Rowley, a capital comedian, and always a favourite here. A first-class combination also comprises Tee and Tee, musical eccentrics; the Crown Trio of vocalists; the Lovelaces, with illustrated songs; Woolmer Young, comedian; Dick Austin, comedian; and Brown's Royal Bioscope. Mr. Ernest Denney is musical-director.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Ball. — Mr. Edwin Boyde, a really funny comedian with a fund of genuine humour, is in great demand; and Hinton and Wooton, in their football on cycles act, are a good turn. A comprehensive programme is also supported by the Godfreys, in a musical sketch; Angelina, lady juggler; the Rizarellis, trapeze artists; Mr. Fred Erick, comedian; Recar Trio of lady acrobats; Miss Frances Hanlon, comedienne; Harry Meegan, comedian; Clive and Vera, variety artists; the Forsyths, in a musical sketch; and the Hippodrome pictures.

BIRMINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*Dick Whittington* is now in its eighth week, and still the public flock to its attractions. Miss Sybil Arundale as Dick, and Mr. Tom Foy as Idle Jack continue to fascinate and divert, according to their respective characters, and the rest of the company are very happy in their parts. Students' night is announced for the 26th.

Prince of Wales's Theatre. — Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*Boy Blue*, also in its eighth week, is turning hundreds away nightly, with its record-smashing company of stars and fine ensemble. Miss Hetty King in the title-rôle, Mr. Tom Murray as leading comedian, and Mr. G. H. Elliott in his "chocolate" confections, may be quoted from among these bright, particular stars.

Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. T. Guest.—*Little Red Riding Hood* is holding its own splendidly, the house being packed at the morning, as well as the evening performances. Messrs. Stephens and Rennior as the comedians have "grown on" the audiences here till there is "nothing like them," and Miss Ellaline Thorne is one of the nicest and best "boys" ever seen here.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*The Midnight Wedding* is drawing crowded houses here, with its fine romantic situations, and clever company, headed by Mr. Alfred Paumier. Mr. Paumier, both in style and appearance, is eminently suited for the rôle of the handsome and daring Paul Valmar; Miss Yvonne Orchardson as the devoted and intrepid Astrea is greatly admired both for her beauty and her acting; Mr. John Nesbit is impressive as the Crown Prince; Mr. A. E. Winnington Barnes cleverly suggests the shallow character of Lieut. Eugene; Mr. F. Booth Conway depicts the ruthless character of Capt. Rudolph in all its villainy; Mr. James E. Page acts in the bluff and good-humoured manner of Sergt. Max admirably; and the saucy Kathie, and her two suitors, Otto and Bebo, are well played by Miss Gladys Faunce and the Messrs. Vernon H. Vayne and Algie Spalding.

Carlton Theatre, Saltley.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*How Girls are Brought to Ruin*, the new success by Mrs. Morton Powell, has been promptly secured here, and, with Mr. Morton Powell's company, has found great favour. Mrs. Morton Powell's acting as the repentant Winnie Waters takes a large share of the admiration; Miss Constance Medwyn is good as Mrs. Burton; Miss Rona Merrick as Jessie Burton acts with touching pathos; Mr. Walter Steele plays the part of the sailor-lover with conviction and vigour; Mr. Wallace Clark enacts the character of the roué, Philip Edger, otherwise Dare, very decisively; Mr. Alrick Burton is cleverly suave and hypocritical as Solomon Sleek; and Mr. Sidney Bryant, Miss Jeannie Risley, and Miss Addie Adair, &c., support very ably.

Theatre Royal, Aston.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. J. Robertson.—*Dick Whittington*, bearing the Hall mark of Mr. James Kiddie's name, has met with a rapturous reception here. Miss Lena Page as the hero who overcomes all obstacles, acts and sings with an appropriate flow of spirits and verve; Miss Nelly Merton is delightfully melodious and becoming as Alice; Mr. George Rydon makes the audience wax exceedingly merry as Idle Jack; while the Cook as personified by Mr. Fred Spencer is the quintessence of humour. Mr. Dennis McCarthy as Fitzwarren, Mr. Bert Hudson as the Cat, the Hannaway Brothers as the Apprentices, Miss Gipsy Ray as the Captain, and Miss Flo Hilton as Algy add to the fun and melody; and Miss Dorothy Dryden's Salome and other dances and numerous clever specialities attract.

Palace Theatre, Bordesley.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—*The Prodigal Son* is gaining the approval of vast audiences here. Mr. Wentworth Croke's present company still retains the services of Mr. Hugh Montgomery, whose impersonation of the nobler brother of the twain, Magnus, is instinct with strength of character and dignity; Mr. Gordon Macintosh invests the rôle of the prodigal, Oscar, with all its superficial graces; Miss Valerie Crespin secures sympathy for Thora and affection for Elin by her well-defined acting; Miss Mildred Cottell gives a fascinating air of abandon to the rôle of Helga; Mr. Bellenden Clarke delivers his reproaches as the Governor impressively; and Mr. Philip Renouf acts vigorously as the Factor; while Miss Marie Harcourt shows a grimness of humour which is quite in keeping with the rôle of Margret. Miss Barbara Gott shows the pathetic nature of the mother, Anna, very ably.

Grand Theatre of Varieties.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—Mdlle. Camille Ober, Parisian chanteuse, although suffering from a severe cold, is delighting crowded houses here; *Slippery Jim*, a dramatic sketch by E. Dagnall, Charles Goodhart, and Violet Lewis, is capitally played; Annie Purcell has become a great favourite; The Green Dandies present a refined entertainment; and Lottie Leighton, Trentanovi Sisters, Bert Weston, Musical Sylvo, and Boganny's Bakers complete the bill.

Empire Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—*A Boy's Proposal* is presented by Mr. Fisher White's company, which gives great scope for Master Philip Tongue, who plays the leading part in a clever manner; Hubert Carter's company appear in *David Garrick*, which is admirably played; the Three Prestons have an absurdity, *The Liftman's Rise*; Maud Edwards is a capital ventriloquist; and Gladys Mavius, Harry Lickson's Trained Dogs, Phil Parsons, and Edith Etherley complete an artistic programme.

Hippodrome. — Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Lyons.—The Klein Family of trick cyclists do some new and difficult feats; the Broadway Girls sing and dance themselves into favour; the Compllins have a smart musical comedy duo; Frank Fenton and company appear in a sketch, *Only an Actor*; and prominent turns are done by Heeley and Meeley, Mdlle. Renée, Arthur Reece, and W. T. Ellwanger and company in *The Peacemaker*, which is successful.

Gaiety Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—Lew Lake and company are here in the comedy-drama *My Pal Jerry*; an attractive and novel item is Orbasany's Performing Cockatoos, whose tricks are entertaining; the Alberto Troupe of lady equilibrists are experts; the Voldam Bros. are comedy acrobats of no mean order; Barton and Franklin have a refined musical entertainment; and Edie Anderson is applauded for her songs, as also are Bert Brantford, comedian, and Dene and Dawson for their comedy act.

Aston Hippodrome. — Resident-Manager, Mr. T. H. Middleton.—Mr. Jack Haddon's company is appearing here in the tabloid pantomime *Jack and the Beanstalk*. The music, dresses, and scenery are all good. Alma O'Brey as Jack, Bessie Knight as the principal girl, and Dave O'Toole as the Dame are excellent; other prominent parts are played by Bob Baxter, O'Malley and Brown, C. Bright, and Hal Forde. There is also a good variety programme, the artists including Kitty Chandos and Marie Rayner.

King's Hall.—Proprietors, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy.—The series of pictures here includes Saved from the Sea, A Mother's Love, and A Dream of Christmas. The vaudeville entertainment provided is well up to the usual standard.

Curzon Hall.—Lessee, Mr. Waller Jeffs.—The New Century Pictures opened here on Monday for a season, and are attracting large audiences. Miss Dulcie Saunderson, soprano vocalist, finds favour; and The Players, a company which includes Dan Hardy, Eric Strange, Louis Holt, and Max Edwards, make their first appearance, and are well received.

Masonic Hall.—Catlin's Royal Pierrots are playing to good houses here. There are several clever artistes in this troupe, and the entertainment is appreciated.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — Eden Theatre. — Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. Huntley.—Mr. Frodk. Melville's company is here this week in *Her Forbidden Marriage*. Mr. Henry Lonsdale is a capable George Maddison; and equal praise is due to Mr. Louis Hector for his presentation of Chas. Devereux. Mr. Wilfred Mansfield is capital as Sir Geo. Lancaster; and Mr. Fred de Vere is a good Timothy Tuttutt. Miss Grace Emery (Patty Lovejoy) and Miss Grace Lester (the Mother Superior) give great satisfaction. Miss Isla Garnet-Vayne is charming as Lucy; and the Lady Lucretia of Miss Florence Hunt is delightful.

BLACKPOOL.—Her Majesty's Opera House.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone. — The Blackpool Amateur Operatic Society is playing *Utopia, Ltd.*, here this week under the direction of Mr. R. Weathersby, late of the D'Oyly Carte companies.

Grand.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson. —Wickham, the strong man, tops the bill here, which this week includes Jessie Star, a very pleasing Scotch comedienne; Leo and Jerry, in a ventriloquial sketch; Harry Maynard, voc

animated picture world, and Mr. Delmar keeps well to the front in giving his patrons a variety of the latest films, including some grand pantomime pictures, as well as dramatic and humorous scenes, all of which are to the liking of the numerous patrons of this popular resort.

BRIGHTON. — GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Gates; General-Manager, Mr. Ben Court.—Miss Maud Hildyard's company opened here on Monday with *The Great Awakening*. Miss Hildyard gave an artistic and thoroughly convincing impersonation of the unscrupulous adventuress Lola Selby, alias Lady Merton; Mr. Bernard Copping doubled the parts of Sir Henry Merton and Jack Merton with complete success; Miss Lilian Deane invested her enactment of Molly Merton with much sympathy; Mr. Willie Scott as Billy Brass and Miss Isa Bellington as Selina Worts were highly amusing; and able support was rendered by Mr. Wallis Clark (James Selby), Mr. Gordon Laws (Guy Rogan), Mr. Charles Ashwell (Captain Harry Lambert), and Mr. Gifforde Reynolds (Richard Wilson). The admirably-staged drama has attracted large audiences.

ALHAMBRA.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Alfred Smith.—May Clifton and company achieve great success in their Japanese extravaganza *Jack in Japan*; the Gregson Comedy Trio are very amusing in the speciality act, *The Dummy*; Wall Owen is a quaint and original comedian; Ruby Lester wins hearty applause for her artistic mimicry; the Three Delaries are acrobats of great merit; Zelda submits an excellent instrumental turn; Dandie Clinton is a good impersonator; Ford and Maxwell are a capital pair of comedians and dancers; Gene Brant is a droll comedian; Ivey Aberdare sings and dances admirably; and the Alhambra Picturegraph affords interest and amusement.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. B. J. Brown.—An excellent programme is sustained here this week. Horace Goldin, illusionist, baffles the audience with his wonderfully clever conjuring tricks; Frank L. Gregory and his troupe of hoop-rollers and jugglers are highly successful; Lalla Selbini is well received in her song-scena, *The Beauty and Her Sports*; Dorothy L. Clark contributes songs in artistic style; Rosie Archer is a capital mimic; Wright and Dawson are amusing knockabout comedians; Emerson and Baldwin's comicalities are entertaining; and Russell Carr is a pleasing ventriloquist.

WEST PIER.—Secretary, Mr. A. W. Scholey.—Mr. Ernest E. Norris and company opened their third week here on Monday with *John Glayde's Honour*. Mr. Ernest E. Norris gave a fine enactment of John Glayde, whose neglected and erring wife had a clever and artistic exponent in Miss Kathleen Russell; Miss Florence Tresilian was a charming Dora Longman; Mr. Bert Morley made a pleasing Howard Collingham; Mr. F. Sutherland's Michael Shurmur and Miss Caroline Fenton's Lady Lerode were good character studies; Miss Nona Hoffe was a graceful Princess de Castagnary; and satisfactory support was given by Mr. J. Wood-Ingram (Trevor Lerode), Mr. Fred Castleman (Christopher Branley), and Miss Evelyn Cecil (Mrs. Rennick).

PALACE PIER THEATRE.—King's Royal Bioscope continues the attraction here. The Tottenham Tragedy, or, Anarchy in England, is a very striking film; Manon Lescaut and Sold by His Parents are interesting pictures, and the series includes several of a comic character.

COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. M. Barrasford.—The animated pictures here continue to prove highly attractive. Coffee Cultivation at Costa Rica is an interesting and instructive film; Ruins of Messina after the Earthquake is very realistic; Flash James and Last Year's Timetable convey strongly dramatic stories, and much amusement is afforded by Too Credulous and Bob the Scullion. The song "I'm afraid to come home after dark" is submitted by the Cinephone; and the Barrasford Sable Minstrels prove highly entertaining in the sketch *Matrimonial Bliss*.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—The last night of the highly successful *Aladdin* pantomime has been announced for Saturday, March 6, but from the packed houses at each performance it would run for a much longer period if circumstances would permit. Several new songs were introduced on Monday evening. Miss Ouida Macdermott has a new patriotic song, "Bravo, Territorials," Miss Deborah Volar has introduced "I was dreaming," Miss Daisy Lloyd Wood sings "I'm afraid to go home in the dark," all the new songs and old ones going remarkably well.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Alty.—Success still attends *Little Red Riding Hood*, full houses being the rule at each performance. New songs and comic business are frequently introduced, and the topical allusions are kept up to date. Popular opinion gives the palm to this pantomime as being the best produced at this theatre for many years. It seems to suit all tastes. The scenery is decidedly good, the dresses are elegant, and the company is a very competent and hard-working one.

PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—The Ten-Ji Troupe of Japanese magicians head the programme with a fine turn, many of their illusions being most remarkable and effective; Brown and Le Clerq amuse with their screaming absurdity, *Black Justice*; Reg Bolton has a funny sketch, *The Editor's Imp*; Florence and Victor Ellis excel in national songs and dances; the Seven Merry Marvels entertain as vocalists and eccentric instrumentalists; Hunter and Williams are smart speciality dancers and vocalists; the Sisters Allen are pleasing duettists and dancers; and the performance concludes with interesting animated pictures.

EMPIRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—Albert Bellman and Lottie Moore head the programme with a smart turn, entitled *A Bit of Vaudeville*; they present several tabloid sketches, character studies, &c., and obtain much appreciation. Hall and Earle, "The Chinaman and the Tramp," entertain with eccentric acrobatic acts, &c.; Charles Bignell, comedian, obtains much appreciation; Alma Campbell, comedienne, presents a pleasing turn; Gibbon and Bell amuse with their balancing, &c., speciality, *Wanted a Partner*; the Norman and Leonard Trio excel in their refined drawing-room musical and dancing act; Ben Albert, comedian, obtains considerable applause; and Blanche Vincent is an accomplished and pleasing vocalist. Excellent animated pictures conclude the entertainment.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson. — Messrs. Pardoes and Miss Lottie Holland's comic pantomime *Cinderella*, written by E. Clementson, is a good draw this week. Miss Nellie Rose is a dainty Cinderella, and an excellent Prince Charming is presented by Miss Lottie Holland; Miss Beattie Howard as Princess Rosala and Miss Dora as Dandini also do well. Much fun is contributed by Mr. S. Dorma as the Baron, Mr. N. Dench and Mr. J. Dench as the sisters, Mr. George Hyam as Scoot, Messrs. Alf Grady and Mike Hastings as Blobbs and Blabbs, and Messrs. Wright and Charles Spencer as the flunkies. Miss Cissie Loveday as Fairy Rose Leaf and Mr. Tom Griffith as Father Time both sing well. There are several specialities, among which are the marvellous Pardoes, Miss Lottie Holland, in "Ayesha, my sweet Egyptian," Alf Grady and Mike Hastings (patterers and dancers), Miss Nellie Rose in speciality dances, Zenieth, animal impersonator, and Edingale Trio of Continental speciality dancers.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—*Miss Hook of Holland*, produced by Mr. George Dance's company, makes her first visit here. Mr. Alfred Wellesley as Mr. Hook is an expert mirth-provoker; and Mr. Fred Lyne is most successful as Simon Slink. Miss Cissie Sefton is an excellent Mina; and a pleasing representative of Miss Hook is Miss Daisy Manning. Mr. Frank Crimp and Mr. Walter Balfour as the Bandmaster and Captain Paap respectively sing with good taste; and the chorus and orchestra, under the baton of Mr. Evelyn Baker are praiseworthy.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—Capital houses are the rule here, and the programme is excellent. Leonard Charburn's troupe of Young Stars appear in a pretty scena, *A Picnic up the River*, and are enthusiastically applauded; James and Jenny Jee, in their daring dancing and jumping on tight wire, are accorded a warm reception; and the Three Hodgkis, in an aerial gymnastic performance, are likewise well received. Siems is particularly smart in palming coins and cards; and the Reduns, comedy duettists, evoke applause for an electric speciality, "The Garden." Hughes and Elliott, in a singing and dancing act; Miss Helen McGregor, contralto vocalist; and the Empire Theatrescope complete a capital programme.

PALACE THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—The pantomime *Jack and Jill*, by Mr. Frank Macnaghten's company, supersedes the usual vaudeville menu here this week, and is receiving excellent attention. The title-rôles are capitally performed by Miss Cissie Iris and Nelly Grimshaw; and Miss Harriet Fawn makes an admirable Principal Boy; Miss Nellie Rodney being a captivating Princess. The Eight Merry Midgets are most pleasing; and the humorous element is in the capable hands of Mr. Bruce Green (Dame) and Mr. Horace Jones (Ginger), who meet with much applause. Other fun-makers are Mr. Harry Cotton as Baron and the Cren Trio. Interesting dances are contributed by the Tiller Quartette, and the chorus are numerous and excellent.

BURSLEM.—HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. R. Colin; Manager, Mr. Matt. Hall.—A fine collection of pictures is shown here, the principal being A Free Pardon and For the Peace of the Family. Appearing with great success are Mr. Frank Weaver, a clever sand dancer, Prof. Hulbert, ventriloquist, and Delil, sleight of hand performer.

BURTON-ON-TRENT. — NEW THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. de Hague Body.—Messrs. Matthew H. Glenville and Fred Osmond's pantomime *Aladdin* is here for the week. In the title-rôle Miss Hettie Zillwood appears with the greatest success, playing and singing in first-class style; Miss Maggie Hobart is dainty and fascinating as the Princess; the Three Behans as Pekoe, Cher-Keen, and Mrs. Twanky respectively, are clever and entertaining; Miss Lou Charlesworth does well as Electral; Mr. M. H. Glenville (Emperor of China) and Mr. Fred Osmond (Vizier) work hard and score right through; Abanazar is cleverly represented by Mr. Fowler Thatcher; the Brothers Lavelle are good comedy acrobats. Other parts are well placed in the hands of Mr. Freddie Edwards (Wishee Washee), Mr. J. Sutton Pateman (Diabolo), Mr. Frank Wilson, Miss Sarah Wheatman, and Miss Kitty Collinson. Special mention should be noted of the Ella Willmer troupe of dancers and the Gando Sextette of male voices. The dressing and mounting is of the best.

BURY (Lancs.).—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, the Northern Theatre Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—*Butterflies*, presented by Mr. Wilfred Cotton's company, is accorded a very hearty welcome. Prominent in the cast is Mr. Harrison Brockbank, whose delightful acting and singing are highly appreciated. Another excellent performance is that of Miss Annie Heenan, a captivating Rhodanthe. Mr. Edwin H. Wynne is a capital Christopher Podmore, and together with Mr. Johnnie Wilkinson as Yarker, is responsible for considerable laughter; Mr. Alan Mudie is a clever Peter, of which part he gives a sparkling representation; Nora Podmore and Elsie have capable exponents in Miss Ada Davidson and Miss Lilian Wesson respectively. Miss Alice Roche as Lalage, Miss Gladys Dare as Myria, and Mr. Francis Rayne as Gilbert all do their work well. Mr. Cyril Biddulph as Max Riadore is heard to advantage in several numbers. The clever dances add considerably to the success.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, the Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; General Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—A well-varied and interesting programme is submitted this week, headed by Howard and Collinson in an original pantomimic farcette *A Piece of Dresden China*. Other good turns include the following:—F. A. Martell, equilibrist; David Fuller, baritone vocalist; Sisters Henderson in musical speciality act; Charles Ulrick, barrel king; Maude Rayne, comedienne and dancer; Little Lucy Gillet, acrobat, and Burley and Burley, acrobatic comedians.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Edward Owen.—Mario, Racko, and Partner in their acrobatic novelties, top the bill here, their tricks are neatly executed; the Brothers Redmond are quickly on good terms with the audience, and laughter is continuous throughout their turn; a clever exhibition of wooden-shoe dancing is given by Phillips and Bristow; Will Willis, comedian; Lillie Le Main, Lilliputian artist; Tom Reed, comedian; Les Zeloras, acrobats; Amiens, musical entertainers; Tiny and Mite, clever child vocalists and dancers; King and Stang, comedy artists, complete the bill.

BUXTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, The Buxton Gardens Company, Limited; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Arthur Willoughby.—For the first three nights of this week we had Mr. Seymour Hicks's principal company in *The Gay Gordons*. The piece went with a merry swing, and soon roused the house to a high pitch of enthusiasm. Mr. Stanley Brett fairly rushed through his part, and made every point, to the audience's great delight, and Miss Maie Ash was a piquant and charming Peggy; Mr. Ernest Torrence made an excellent Andrew Quainton, and Mr. Fred Rolph drew forth roars of laughter as Nervy Nat; Mr. Paul Plunket had no small share in the success of the show as the humorous Corporal Smith, and Mr. George Carroll was very grotesque as Edmund Siddons; Mr. George Paulton was a capable Archibald Speedy, and the Marquis of Dalesbury, Lord Elmington, and Lord Belstairs were very ably represented by Mr. Reginald Adair, Mr. C. Dewey Gibson, and Mr. Wilfred Norman. The latter possesses a remarkably fine baritone voice. Miss Nellie Dade was well cast as Charlotte Siddons, and Miss Lily Maxwell was bright and dainty as Victoria Siddons; Miss Ida Mann played Janet McLeod acceptably. The piece is excellently staged and beautifully dressed, and a good orchestra was under the bâton of Mr. K. Ernest Irving.

CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—A welcome return visit was paid on Monday night by Mr. Norman V. Norman and Miss Beatrice Wilson in *Under the Red Robe*. Mr. Norman gave a very fine portrayal of Gil de Bérault; Miss Beatrice Wilson is particularly suited to such a character as Mlle. de Cocheforêt, her conception of the part being very fine; as the Cardinal Richelieu Mr. Robert Hilton showed great power and restraint; Capt. Larolle and Sir Thomas Brunt were exceptionally well played by Mr. Reginald Lamb and Mr. F. Ambrose Flower; Mr. J. Anthony Snaith played Clon with remarkable skill; Mr. Norman Leslie and Mr. Cyril Percy also showed ability in their parts of Lieut. Manet and M. de Fargis respectively; Henri de Cocheforêt was capitally rendered by Mr. F. Lock; Miss Hilda Forbes Phillips (Madame de Cocheforêt) and Miss Ethel Coleridge (Madame Talon) were most satisfactory.

CARDIFF.—NEW THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robt. Redford.—Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's productions are always most welcome in Cardiff, and on Monday night their company presented for the first time in Cardiff the adaptation of Mr. W. J. Locke's novel, *Idols*. Mr. A. B. Imeson is seen in the rôle of Gerard Merriam, his forcible impersonation being thoroughly enjoyed; Mr. Herbert Ford submits a fine representation of Hugh Coleman, his performance stamping him as a first-class actor; the important part of Irene Merriam receives a clever and capable portrayal from Miss Edyth Goodall; Miss Moira Creegan submits a really interesting representation of Minna Hart; very successful are Mr. Gilbert Clark as Mr. Harroway and Mr. Frank Powell as Jacob Hart; Mr. Alfred Ibberson's rendition of the butler Saunders is a fine piece of work; Miss Kathleen Maude (Mrs. Harroway) and Miss Adelaine Lester (Anna Josephs) present careful studies. Mention should certainly be made of Mr. A. E. Grahame (counsel for the defence) and Mr. Harvey Brabon (counsel for prosecution).

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—Full houses have been drawn this week by an excellent programme. Occupying the premier position is the popular sketch entitled *The Bailiff*, presented by Mr. Fred Karno's company, with Mr. Albert Bruno as the chief comedian; the well-known comedian Austin Rudd delights again with his exceptionally humorous songs; Van Allen is as amusing as he is clever, which is saying a good deal; Tom Fancourt and Jennie Rubie, who are old favourites from the pantomime just concluded here, are given a hearty welcome back to the halls with their smart comedy act, entitled *The Huntsman and the Waiter*; Florence Yaymen goes down exceedingly well; and Stylo, with his wonderful hoops, provides a smart and original number; the Kroney Brothers in a knockabout performance; Beatrice Bonnie, a gifted vocalist; and John Macaulay, character ballad singer, also contribute to the programme, with the bioscope.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton.—Miss Dolly Elsworthy is presenting *Sweet Mistress Dorothy* here; the Cromwells prove a capital duo; the Leotard Bros. create much applause by their acrobatic act and hat-throwing; Marion Armitage brings down the house with a couple of smartly-rendered songs; Frank Vallanos is an entertaining magician; and Rose and Wold, in their comedy bounding wire act; and Rose Cass, a pleasing comedienne, are others who contribute.

CASTLEBAR.—H. M. THEATRE.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart McKim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—The first visit of Mr. George Edwardes's company in *The Merry Widow* has created quite unusual interest here. In the title-rôle Miss Mysie Devine acted with great charm and skill. Evidently suffering from a cold, her vocal efforts were hardly satisfactory, but her delightful vivacity and artistic treatment of the character made ample amends for any unavoidable shortcomings in that respect. Mr. Frank Greene fairly revelled in the character of Prince Danilo, his spirited and effective work soon made him a big favourite with his audience; Mr. Ripley Evans, in the tenor part, was an immediate success, his fine voice being heard to advantage in every number in which he was engaged; Miss Ada Thomas, too, has a capital voice, and as Natalie her singing and acting were alike admired; Miss Katie May, a graceful and clever dancer, gave a particularly clever exhibition of her art. In the "Danse d'Apache" with Mr. Fred Fowler several enthusiastic encores greeted their lively efforts. The chief laughter-maker was Mr. Edward D'Arcy, who, as Baron Popoff, had no difficulty in keeping his audience in the greatest of good humour. A comedian of undoubted ability and experience, he scored his points with delightful ease and freedom. He was well supported by Mr. Fred Fowler, who, as Nisch, showed a rare fund of humour, which he expressed to everyone's amusement. The minor parts were capably filled, the chorus numerous and powerful; while the handsome dresses and elaborate scenery were quite a feature of the performance. An augmented orchestra, conducted by Mr. Ernest Vousden, was a big factor in the success.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Morgan.—"The Strolling Players," a quintette of cultured and clever vocalists, top the bill. They sing some excellent medleys in a most effective and taking style, and the enthusiastic applause which greeted every fresh bit of vocal "business" was thoroughly well deserved. The Cumberland troupe of cyclists are on another visit, with many new and daring tricks and the best of the old ones, and their hold on their audience is stronger than ever. Operatic songs, really well sung, are not too common on the variety stage, and Webb and Branston are to be congratulated on both their fine selection and their artistic rendering of the same; Jack Hilton is creating roars of laughter with his songs and full appreciation of his nimble dancing; Reszki and Reszki are wonderfully clever acrobats, with many original and fascinating feats; another popular acrobatic turn is contributed by the Four Athos, who also excel as ball manipulators. The Pepiscope is well to the fore with some quite excellent pictures.

CASTLEFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Cr. Hy. Masterman, J.P.—Mr. Roland Yorke, supported by a strong company, is delighting audiences here with *The Old Home*. Mr. Charles Franmore presents a pathetic picture of Daddy Dean; Miss Gertrude Bonser throws emotional power into her delineation of Hazel Dean; Mr. John B. Shinton's impersonation of the Rev. Eric Armstrong is relieved with touches of feeling; Lord Avondale could scarcely find a better exponent than Mr. Roland Yorke; Mr. Fred L. Connynghame is quite at home as Sam Adams; Mrs. J. W. Braithwaite scores in the delightful part of Bridget; Miss Mattie Crawford makes a smart and amusing Polly; and Mr. Roland A. Bridge a realistic Dr. Warburton.

ALBERT THEATRE. — Lessees, Messrs. Beanland and Emerson; Manager, Mr. Chas. H. Beanland.—Edward Marris's pantomime opened here on Monday. Miss Etty Waldron as Dick introduces the best and latest songs; Joe Waldron as Idle Jack is the life of the pantomime; the Beliasco Trio sing sweetly; and Mr. Arthur Lawrence is loudly recalled for "Asleep on the deep."

QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Proprietors, Messrs. Chas. Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will H. Emerson.—The leading feature here is Mazeppa, the South African hypnotist and mesmerist; Chard's Dog Circus, including a particularly high jumping dog, is much appreciated; Sill and Silcott, in a railway skit, *Lively Luggage*, are silent comedians, who keep the audience in roars of laughter; the Yokels, in a musical comedy scena, *Ye Village Revels*, are mirth-provoking; Flo Chevalier is well rewarded for her songs; Geo. W. Pugmier sings two characteristic songs; Currie and Beatie, introducing a dog performance, are successful; and good pictures are shown by the Loyal Dominion Company.

CHELTENHAM. — OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—*The Merry Widow* is being played by Mr. George Edwardes's company, and the dressing and mounting are on the usual lavish scale. Miss Dora Barry plays the title-rôle with much charm, singing the melodious "Vulia" number with great success; Mr. Leonard Mackay gives a capital study of the whimsical Prince Danilo; in the famous waltz scene both he and Miss Dora Barry are immense; Natalie Popoff, in the hands of Miss Octavia Barry, is very pleasing; and her lover, Camille de Jolidon, is excellently represented by Mr. Haigh Jackson; their two scenas are beautifully given. Mr. Lionel Victor's Baron Popoff is a delicious bit of pure comedy, individual and original; the doddering General Novikovitch is very cleverly studied by Mr. Grafton Williams; and Mr. Tom Redmond is again inimitable in his study of Nisch, scoring heavily in a new topical song, "What every woman knows." Miss Dora Langham (Frou Frou) and Mr. Alfred H. Majilton (Franz Fall) are remarkable dancers, their *pas de deux* in the second and third acts being extraordinary examples of the modern art of dancing; Mr. Bert Edwards is an extremely droll figure as head waiter at Maxim's; Miss Beryl Vaudrey is good as Olga, as are Miss Kathleen Courtney as Sylvanie and Miss Pollie Edwards as Prascovia. Mr. Somers Bellamy as Marquis de Cascada, Mr. Norman Greene as M. de St. Brioche, and Mr. J. S. Durant as M. Khadja all do well; and the quintette of Maxim Girls are well represented by Mesdames Elsie Spencer, Heather Featherstone, Olive Cherry, Phyllis Allen, and D. Pennington. The largely augmented orchestra is directed by Mr. Harrison Frewin.

CHESTER. — ROYALTY THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—An attractive variety bill is the fare provided this week. The renowned Mohamed Troupe of Nine Genuine Sousa Arabs perform their lightning acrobatic feats with a skill and finish which delight the audience; Sylvia Bond is a charming American soprano vocalist; and Tom Marris an excellent whistler. In the eccentric jugging line Bonnetti and Corrie are smart, novel, and funny; and the Three Bordellas give an elegant and artistic gymnastic performance; Vena Valma, the musical comedy maid, deserves praise for her pretty dancing and singing; while Emil and Ediss excel as banjoists. Some good pictures by the Premier Imperial Biograph complete the bill.

CHORLEY (Lancs).—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Santé.—This week we have Messrs. H. B. Levy and J. E. Cardwell's company, in *Little Red Riding Hood*. Little Iris Vivienne in the title-rôle is exceptionally clever and taking; Miss May Gibson, an old favourite here, undertakes Miss Muffet, her singing being much appreciated; Miss Fannie Adamson capitally presents Boy Blue, Miss Helen Dunscombe vivaciously rendering Will Scarlet. Dame Trot is the chief mirth-provider, and in the hands of Mr. V. Wakeman wins entire approbation; while Messrs. Denby and Dent give humorous readings of Doleful Dan and Whimsical William; Mr. Will Gibson undertakes the Wolf with good effect; and Miss Trixie Whyatt is conspicuous as Silvia. The Pansy troupe of dancers do their work in competent style; and other specialities, all good in their respective efforts, are Mr. J. J. Mannix, Billy Melia, and Denby and Dent. The whole is under the management of Mr. Walter Bellian, and Mr. Leslie Russell controls the augmented orchestra and large chorus in good style.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Chas. Macdona; Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—Mr. George Alexander's talented company presented *The Thief* on Monday night before an audience held spellbound, and it was undoubtedly appreciated to the full. Mr. Rupert Lister as Richard Chelford showed an appreciation of the part which was deserving of all praise, and the encomiums lavished upon him were of a profuse nature; Miss Marie Polini gave a delineation of the character of Marise Chelford with alternate force and pathos, compelling the applause of an audience fully alive to the undoubted merit displayed; Mr. Owen Nares in the difficult rôle of Harry Leyton played it with much naturalness; Mr. Cyril Harcourt dwelt splendidly in the more tense moments as the hard-hit father Raymond Leyton; whilst as his second wife Miss Jean Cadell acted with considerable merit. As a curtain-raiser a one-act play, *The Nursery Governess*, aptly fulfilled its allotted rôle, being admirably depicted by Mr. Luke Foster, Miss Eileen Kerin, and Mr. Charles King.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Colchester Hippodrome Company; Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—Mr. Hagar Stern is this week presenting a condensed version of that powerful play *The Corsican Brothers*, and the cast comprises some very capable exponents of the dramatic art. Wilbert and Lealand, billed as the "flying sailors," live up to their line, executing some remarkable evolutions; they also carry some capital "props." The Rosana Quartette of dancers work assiduously, to the general delight of all; the Victas excel as barrel-jumpers; George Norton displays a fund of quaintness; and Lola Kornero goes nicely as a comedienne. Gaumont and Pathé films vie with each other on the curtain and are much enjoyed.

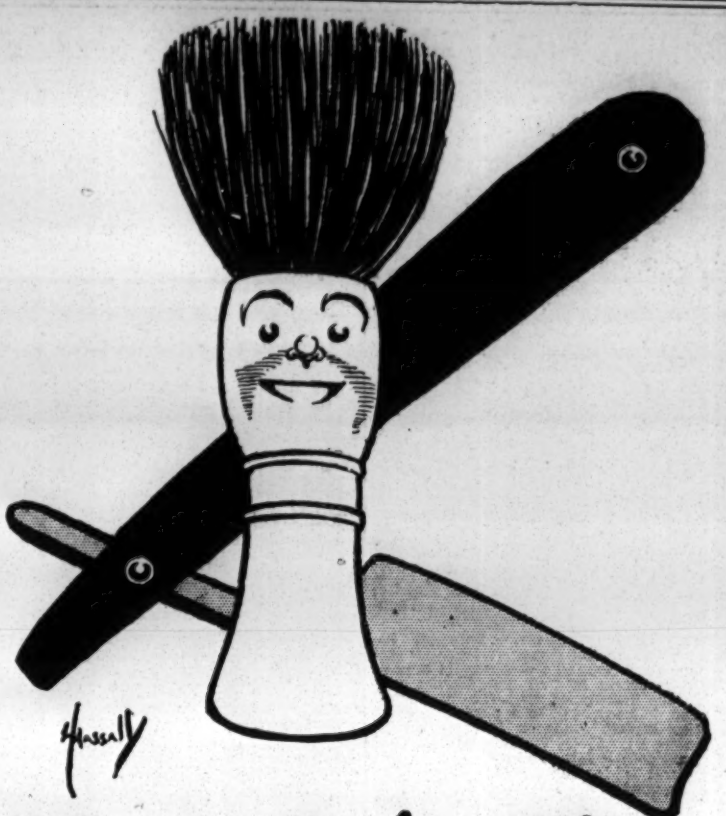
CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—*The Conscience of a Judge* is being successfully produced here this week by Mr. S. Duckworth's company. Mr. Stanley Bedwell in the important part of the Judge acts convincingly; Mr. Martin Pedler ably depicts Cecil Bentley; Miss Eva Moss as Jessica Draycott is sympathetic; a capital representation of Sir Edward Mervin is given by Mr. Frank Eaglesfield; Mr. Cecil Renton is praiseworthy as Geoffrey Granstone; and Miss Mabel Coleman makes a charming Ethel Vaughan. Miss Elsie Isaacs is a bright Kitty. The comedy parts are in the able hands of Mr. Frank Eden and Miss Bessie Frank.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. R. J. Bell.—Mr. Harold Hilliard's company, in the pantomime *Robinson Crusoe*, opened a two weeks' engagement here on Monday night to a crowded house, and the production was received with great favour. The music, arranged by Mr. Sydney Shaw, is most meritorious, and the book and lyrics are acceptable. The arrangement of the ballets is good, and the scenery pretty and effective. Miss Winifred Hare is an engaging and sprightly Robinson Crusoe. She gets through the part with grace and spirit, and she sings well some pretty numbers. Miss Kathleen Gray as Jack Ratlins is also very pleasing, and played with spirit and impressiveness. Her songs were numerous and fetching. Miss Elsie Molloy as Polly Perkins is winsome and pleasing. She possesses an excellent voice. Mr. J. J. Dallas as Mrs. Crusoe kept the audience in a merry mood. His songs are amusing, and his topical allusions are capital. Mr. Barney Armstrong as Will Atkins is inimitable; his mannerisms and witticisms are always laughable. Mr. Harry Lappo as Crusoe, sen., is also splendid; Mr. Jimmy Steel as Little Jimmy is most amusing; Mr. Dan Seymour as Ben Mainstay, Mr. Walter Barrett as King Gollywobble, and Miss Gladys White as the Princess, Miss Marie Jones as the Good Fairy, and Miss Dorothy Raynor as Whistling Winnie, all filled their parts well and pleasingly. The Kirby Aerial Ballet, which introduces a flying act, is graceful and clever. The chorus is well trained, and the harlequinade was enjoyed.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Thomas F. O'Brien.—The Howard Brothers present a unique musical and juggling act, introducing flying banjoes, which they juggle and pick out tunes at same time. They also contribute some classical compositions. Theirs is a turn of undoubted merit. Rubie and Elsie Redfern, in their drawing-room act, are a clever pair of instrumentalists, vocalists, and dancers; the Brothers Werds, eccentric American acrobats, present a very clever turn; Dan Conroy is a comedian of the rollicking type, who pleases; Rose and Chaloner, in a comedy act, entitled *The Porter and the Singer*, provide an acceptable turn as impersonators and vocalists; Maude Courtenay, the talkative American, has a pleasing voice, and her jokes are capital; Mr. "C" is an entertainer of great ability, he sings well, and his patter is enjoyable; Cecile François and company present an American novelty, entitled *An Artist's Studio*, which is entertaining; and the Palascope show some splendid films.

COVENTRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—A special attraction here is *The Builder of Bridges*. Mr. Stephen T. Ewart, an old Coventry favourite, is seen to advantage as Edward Thursfield; Miss Rosalind Ivan is an interesting Dorothy Faringay; Mr. Henry Ludlow a capable Arnold Faringay; Mr. Brisco Owen a successful Gresham; and Mr. W. R. Staveley creditably fills the character of the breezy bachelor, Sir Henry Killick.

HIPPODROME THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. S. T. Newsome; Resident-Director, Mr. G. E. Wright.—The top turn at this place of amusement is given by Miss Ada Colley, the Australian nightingale. She has a rich voice, and her songs are much



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appreciated. A successful turn is that by the Maningos, equilibrists, who do some marvellous tricks; Will and May Lannons, high pedestal dancers, have a most interesting entertainment; Mr. Leo Dryden appears in a selection of song-playlets of his own arranging, suggested by the leading plays of the day, *Royal Divorce, Sherlock Holmes*, and *The Only Way*, &c. Jack Marks, a little Hebrew genius, keeps the audience amused with his comical speech and songs; the Four Sisters Victoria are instrumentalists, vocalists, dancers, banjoists, and trick pianists; Wyndham and Wyatt, comedy vocalists, add some fun to a very interesting programme.

Empire Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. K. Draco.—*The Flag Lieutenant* is attracting large houses this week. The company is a most capable one, pioneered by Messrs. Lyn Harding and Sidney Cooper. Mr. Lionel Attwill makes an admirable Flag Lieutenant, Richard Lascelles; Mr. H. Montague Love makes the most of the dignified Major William Thesiger; Miss Florence Jackson is a vivacious Mrs. Cameron; and Miss Viva Birket a graceful Lady Hermione Wynne. Mr. George Mallet is a typical Admiral.

CRADLEY HEATH.—Empire. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. John H. Morton. — Mr. F. H. Neville's company is here this week with *Napoleon's Divorce*. Mr. F. H. Neville himself takes the part of Napoleon, and shows a careful study; Miss L. Lewis as Josephine acts with much taste and expression; Mr. F. H. Fortescue infuses into his part a fund of wit and humour; Mr. L. Graham Hamlyn as Joseph deserves a meed of praise; Mr. J. Holt as Sergeant Baton is well chosen for the part; Mr. W. Verne as Colonel D'Ardville has a part to his evident liking; Little Ethel Nay as the King of Rome shows much promise; and Mr. C. Phillips as Jules and Miss L. Fountaine as Jeanette win constant recognition.

CROYDON.—Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Roland Daniel; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Ernest Archer.—Miss Lena Ashwell's company is appearing here with success in *Grit* and *Charlotte on Bigamy*. In the first-named Miss Gladys Purnell acts with due delicacy, and is a charming Erith Winter; Miss Elspeth Dudgeon is commendable as Mrs. Winter; Miss Violet Vorley's Mrs. Percival has many good points; Miss Violet Greville is neat as Suzanne; and Misses Elsia Hayden and Kathleen Yorke are good as Nora and Sarah. Mr. T. A. Shannon just touches the right note as Dick Travers; Mr. Philip Sanders is capital as Mr. Winter; Mr. W. H. Everard deserves praise as Mr. Norreys; Mr. Leslie Carter is quite suitable to the rôle of Jim Barr; and Mr. Ralph W. Hutton is well placed as Mr. Percival. The curtain-raiser is admirably rendered by Messrs. Philip Sanders, W. H. Everard, Ralph W. Hutton, and Miss Violet Vorley.

Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. Anthony.—Animated pictures and illustrated songs continue to draw here, and they are much above the average. Praise is due to Miss Beatrice Vere, contralto; Ernest Tilbury, tenor; and Bert Williams, reciter.

Empire Palace of Varieties.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Walter Gibbons and Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Eustace Jay.—Much interest and excitement are being caused in Croydon by the appearance here this week of Lafayette. A tremendous hit is made by the sensational spectacle *The Lion's Bride;* the travesty band of American musicians is a novel and fascinating performance; and the series "A Carnival of Conjuring" gains incessant applause; Lafayette brings the house down at each exhibition; Nora Stockelle is a taking comedienne; Hans and Lux are first-rate speciality artists; the Leonards give a smart turn; the Garricks, comedy four, are invigorating; and the Bioscope pictures are of the best.

DARLINGTON.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Bell.—Mr. Hamilton Stewart and company are here with *Sherlock Holmes*. Mr. Stewart in the title-rôle holds a strong grip on the audience; Mr. Arthur Shelton is a fine Dr. Watson; Mr. Walter A. Chetham as John Forman displays much ability; Mr. Robert Gilbert is much to be admired as Prof. Moriarty; Miss A. Bruce-Joy acts with charm and grace as Alice Faulkner; Miss Edith Vogue as Madge Larrabee gives a clever assumption; Mr. Mark D. Draper shows well as James Larabee; the part of Sidney Prince is ably shown by Mr. Douglas Murray; and the part of the page-boy Billy is made the most of by Master Thomas Russell.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Theatre, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Hersee.—Berzac's animal act, ponies galloping on the revolving table and the unridable mule, cause roars of laughter; Lotto, Lilo, and Otto, comedy cyclists, meet with a good reception; Mr. Hamilton Hill, baritone singer, provides a pleasing item; other acceptable turns are Prof. Norton, conjurer; Tony Black, comedian; Violas, white mahatmas; Ada Cerito, comedienne; and the Pepiscope Pictures.

DARWEN.—Picture Palace and Theatre Royal. Lessees, The Animated Pictorial Enterprises, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. A. Whitehouse.—The Musical Palmers are well received, as also is Daisy Palmer, the latter being a good dancer; Florence Raymond provides a ventriloquial sketch of great merit; and Maddison Brothers create laughter with their burlesque boxing. The pictures are of the best.

Public Hall and Palace of Varieties.—Lessees, Messrs. Thomson, Leivers, and Bennett; Manager, Mr. J. E. Thomson.—In addition to varied pictures on the Bioscope, Pat O'Connor is a good Irish comedian and dancer; Maude Clifton a refined vocalist; and Harry Barclay a versatile comedian.

DERBY.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—This week Messrs. Smith and Carpenter's company is producing *Pete*, a new version of Hall Caine's book, "The Manxman." In the leading rôles Mr. Frank E. Petley and Miss Helena Millais are to be accorded high commendation; possessed of a splendid physique, Mr. Petley is a typical Pete, and Miss Millais shows commendable aptitude in a most exacting part, her expression of sorrow being heart-searching; Mr. Arthur Burne as Philip Christian is another praiseworthy assumption; as Ross Christian Mr. J. Brampton is successful; the Cæsar Cregeen of Mr. Frank Stone is an admirable presentment; and Miss Lucy Murray is a capital Nancy. The remaining characters are capably sustained by Mr. E. H. Clarke (Black Tom), Mr. Chas. Clayton (Jonaique Jelly), Mr. Denis Bryan (Postman Kelly), Messrs. Chas. Lake, Joseph O'Brien, Arthur H. Hill, Henry Brooks, and Miss Eleanor Price, and others. The piece is well mounted, and the company an exceedingly good one.

Palace.—Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes.—The attraction here this week is a sensational American dramatic sketch, entitled *The Girl and the Tough*, which is produced by John G. Brandon and company. The characters are well handled, and the piece secures the interest of the audience all through. The Three Sisters Lee, acrobats, benders, vocalists, and dancers, provide an acceptable turn; Harry Blake, a clever humorist, is eminently successful, and creates much merriment with his jokes and witty patter; Little Dando is as usual immensely droll; Marie Kay, juvenile comedienne and dancer, is well worthy of mention; Jamie Piper is a clever instrumental soloist; and Olive Gill appears to advantage in a pretty scena of country life. The bioscope also submits an interesting film.

DEVONPORT.—Metropole Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Geo. S. King.—A costume musical drama, by name *What a Woman Did*, is the attraction for the week, and Messrs. Watson and Moffatt's company are doing very good business. Mr. Marriott Watson is excellent as the intriguing and unscrupulous Marquis de Viroq; Miss Florence E. Florence is magnificent as the wife of Conrad de l'Orme, having to submit to all manner of indignities to save her child's life; and Mr. Saunderson Moffatt as the husband is very popular. Some very attractive vocal numbers are interpolated in the piece, and a feature is the accomplished dancing of the Clancy Girls.

Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—*The Cruise of H.M.S. Victory*, by Arthur Watson, Flo Stanley, and company, is a very excellent star turn, humorous situations being cleverly intermingled with some skilful balancing; whilst the Vera Troupe of dancers supply an attractive terpsichorean number. The charcoal drawings and lightning sketches by the Four Kurios received much well-merited approbation; Captain Roberts, the Army Staff Trumpeter, assisted by a couple of ladies and some ponies and acrobatic boys, furnishes a number always of interest in a garrison town; the Hersleb Bros. are particularly clever eccentric acrobats, and their burlesque business cannot conceal their undeniable skill; Dion Wade is a first-rate mimic; Archie Pitt, comedian, is genuinely popular; and Little Rose Pink is the remaining item of a first-rate programme.

DONCASTER.—New Grand Theatre and Empire, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—Mr. Douglas Bruce's company made acquaintance with Doncaster on Monday in the drama *The Girl Who Lost Her Character*. The outstanding feature is unquestionably the elegant scenery, more beautiful scenic and stage effects seldom being seen. Mr. Edward McLean is ideal in his sympathetic conception of the Rev. Robert Everton; Mr. C. W. Standing makes a success of Jack England and Private Johnson; humour punctuates the utterances of Dick Punch, assumed by Mr. George S. Asquin; Miss Lydia Mannington is interesting as Marian; Mr. Richard Ferris's nonchalant stage villainy is effective; as James Sutton, alias Charles Fletcher, Mr. George Mitchell is well placed; Miss Laine is acceptable as Lucy Vere; and Miss Cherry Veheyne is popularly acclaimed as Rose Seymour; Miss Doris Brookes is captivating in the title-rôle.

DOVER.—Royal Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. S. W. Winter; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. W. Holford.—Miss Bessie Slaughter, who made her first appearance in this town on Monday, must be gratified at the magnificent reception accorded her; "The Better Land" is a song eminently suited to the low, rich voice of the vocalist, and "Ever and Alway" and "The Lost Chord" were rendered with a dramatic power that aroused the greatest admiration. Tom Jones, the popular Welsh comedian, has a couple of good songs; Rezene and Rezene offer a variety of amusing tricks, their gags and business causing much hilarity; while Klean and Klean's cross-talk and expert dancing is to be commended. The pleasing voice of Reg. Phillips is heard in "Chloe," an exceptionally pretty plantation song, and another number, called "London Town"; Agar and Agar prove themselves clever tumblers; and Ray Sinclair's versatility is well displayed in the contrast between the sentimental and light comedy songs in her répertoire.

DUBLIN.—Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland.—Mr. Frank Curzon's musical production, *My Mimosa Maid*, was presented here on Monday night to a large and appreciative audience, and met with a flattering reception. Miss Marie Studholme is charmingly attractive in the rôle of Paulette, being warmly applauded for her excellent singing and dancing; Mr. Charles McNaughton gives a richly humorous representation of Victor Guilbert; Miss Ruby Gray is highly commendable as Marcella de Pelaine, her vocal numbers being greatly admired; Master Archie McCaig is intensely funny in the part of Bock; Miss Nancy Garstang is seen to advantage as Mme. de Pelaine; the part of Max Guilbert has an able exponent in Mr. Charles E. Paton; Miss Daisy Yule sustains with credit the rôle of Mimi; and M. Emile Gerard has a capable exponent in Mr. Percy Carr. The remaining parts are satisfactorily played, and the chorus and augmented orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Harry Matthews, also merit praise.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—The popular pantomime *Jack and Jill*, which has achieved such a success since the opening night, continues to draw full houses. All the artists work hard in their endeavour to amuse their patrons, and are well rewarded by the unstinted applause bestowed on them nightly. Miss Dorothy Ward as Jack and Miss Edith Fink as Jill are both as attractive as ever; Mr. George Lashwood as Prince Opulent is still going strong; and the comic element is well sustained by Mr. J. A. Warden as Baron Bounce, Mr. George Miller as the Widow Coble, and Mr. Fred Conquest as Jack Straw.

Empire.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—The premier position is occupied here this week by the Four Holloways, whose marvellous acrobatic and trick cycle act on the tight wire elicits loud applause; Rhoda Paul, in his latest success, "It's the Gay Gordons," scores heavily; Fayre and Manning, "the two in green," achieve considerable success; as does also Alf. Holt, American comedian and whistler; Little Ruby, child cornettist, drummer, and vocalist, is deservedly encored; Oakdene, in his amusing ventriloquial entertainment, "Stowaways," provides a capital turn; Hugo and Smit, comedy bar performers, create much merriment; Burnetti is a character musician of exceptional merit; and the Empire Pictures are up to the usual standard.

Tivoli.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. A. Murphy. — Charles Parker's Æolians, in a refined vocal and dancing act, head the bill here, and prove a strong attraction; in a sensational equilibristic act, Kioto and Esa are loudly applauded; Blanche Leslie sings songs (illustrated with pictures), which are warmly received; the Arthur Bedini Trio causes much amusement in their pantomimic comedy act; May Clarke, a pleasing vocalist, is well appreciated; and Harry and Wade, in an amusing comedy act; Celest, in a smart wire performance; Joey Sterling, character comedian; and Queery Stratton, novelty impersonator, are all good turns; and the Bioscope shows a good picture.

Round Room Rotunda.—After a most successful season, the Irish Animated Picture Company entered on their last week here on Monday, when large audiences patronised both the afternoon and evening performances. The programme presented, which was, as usual, instructive and amusing, included some splendid pictures of Belgium, China, From Quebec to Niagara, The Pearl Fisheries, &c., and the capital variety entertainment, contributed to by Miss Evelyn Duffy, an excellent soprano vocalist. Mr. Ralph Goggin, the favourite baritone, and the Sisters Colley, vocalists and dancers, were all keenly appreciated.

World's Fair and Music Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The change of programme here this week includes Rhodes and Lane, patter comedians; Fred Payne, comedian; Prof. Mowbray, ventriloquist and conjurer; Bessie Dinmont, comedienne; Jim Meadows, descriptive vocalist; Fern and Faun, duologue artists, and the Cinematograph.

DUDLEY.—Opera House.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley. — *The Dairymaids* (Mr. Robert Macdonald's company) have taken Dudley by storm this week, and met with a very cordial reception. Mr. Dan Agar combines effective stage-directorship with the highly-diverting part of Joe Mivens, and puts plenty of original humour into the part, and the appearance of him and Miss Edie Martin as Eliza is the signal for unrestrained merriment; Mr. Richard Telford as Lieutenant Sam Brudenell and Mr. G. Scott Melville as Lieutenant Frank Meredith both play with dash and spirit; Mr. Frank Barclay did excellent work as the jovial Dr. Byrne, R.N.; Miss Dorothy Belmore acted with artistic grace as Lady Brudenell; Miss Isa Bowman as Peggy has a charming presence, and captivates everyone by her infectious vivacity; and Miss Kathleen Severn as Winifred (her sister) is the personification of daintiness and charm. Special praise must be given to a bevy of pretty Sandow girls and school girls. All the principals are heartily applauded for their numbers, and there is not a dull moment throughout the piece.

DUNDEE.—Her Majesty's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe.—Messrs. G. N. Polini and Austin Melford's company is appearing here this week in *The Silver King*. Mr. Fred D. Daviss gives a very admirable interpretation of the part of Wilfred Denver; Mr. Edward J. George gives a delightful character study of the faithful old servant, Daniel Jaikes; the Spider is very cleverly enacted by Mr. E. Stanton Sharp; Mr. E. Stidwell depicts the detective Samuel Baxter uncommonly well; Messrs. Leslie Ellis, Arthur Wright, and Fred May are alike excellent as Henry Corket, Elijah Coombe, and Cripps respectively; Miss Madge Morley sympathetically treats the character of Nellie Denver; a very promising young artist, Miss Flossie Hale Daviss, does exceedingly well as Cissie; and Miss Lila Barclay appears to advantage as Olive Skinner. All the other members capably sustain interest in the drama, which is most effectively staged.

Palace Theatre.—Lessees, The United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. S. McIntosh.—Topping an excellent bill here are Parks' Eton Boys and Girton Girls, whose fine singing is much appreciated; a most enthusiastic reception is accorded the Four Royal Scots, whose act is of the most novel and entertaining character; Richards Trio introduce some remarkably clever feats of balancing in their acrobatic sketch, entitled *The Giddy Golfers;* Carlotta Lunn pleases with her delightful vocalisations; the Musical Keiths provide a very enjoyable turn; Walter Aubrey is a coon singer and dancer par excellence; Mlle. Sylvesto gives a contortionist act which is quite out of the ordinary run; Harry Bent gives a popular display of his art as a mimic; and Charles N. Daly's company create no end of merriment in their funny sketch, *I Must Have It*. The Palascope with some up-to-date films completes the list.

Gaiety Theatre.—Lessee, Mrs. Lillie Williams; Licensee, Mr. W. E. Potts; Business-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Evans.—At the head of an exceedingly strong company are the Ten Zerbinis, who present a remarkably fine transformation scene, entitled The Enchanted Glen, with musical effects; their second scena, which depicts the story of Ora Pro Nobis, is another item which meets with much acceptance; Lindsay and Harte (who made a big hit in pantomime here) get a very hearty reception; *Dobson's Day Off*, an amusing skit on the troubles of married couples, proves exhilarating fare in the hands of Maude Elliston and company; Corman's Juveniles in their pretty vocal scena, *The Waif*, are well received; an original scena, *The Love-making Dancing Master*, in which Paul Sundberg is assisted very charmingly by Angela Renee, proves a most artistic and enjoyable item; Dacey and Lewis serve up a most delightful performance; Master Edward Frisby, a remarkable boy soprano, sings well; Chas. Woodward is a capital light comedian; Chas. J. Johnson, "the black diamond," proves very popular; and Gladys Earle an excellent comedienne and dancer, completes.

Empire Theatre.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. Lillie Williams; Business-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alfred Ross.—A bright and varied assortment of films is exhibited this week by Newman's British Empire Picture Company, the most popular pictures being: A Friend in Need, The Face on the Bar Room Floor, Jealous Husband, Rural Elopement, Money Mad, The Potter's Dream, and Jones's Enterprises. In addition enjoyable variety turns are presented by Cavalli, a very clever and amusing ventriloquist; and Lester Brothers, who prove to be dancers of quite unusual ability.

Newman's Picture Palace. — Mr. Fred Newman may well congratulate himself on the great success of his venture here. The programme this week includes some very fine pictures, humorous and serious in turn. A rousing reception is accorded to Charles Voltaire, who gives a really clever roller-skating exhibition, while a barrel-boxing competition for young lads creates great merriment.

Gilfillan Hall.—Britain's Best Animated Pictures are drawing good houses here. Amongst the best films are: Lord Algy's Beauty Show, A Countryman's Day in Town, Jack in the Letterbox, The Professor's Anti-gravitation Fluid, An Auto-heroine, and Face to Face, the latter two being very excellent dramatic pictures. Dave Summerhill, who is styled the comical Scotch joker; and John McErlain, humorist, lend variety to the entertainment.

—Roller Skating Rink. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. C. P. Crawford and F. A. Wilkins; Manager, Mr. Bert Crump.—Day by day this magnificent rink is increasing in popularity as an amusement resort with both sexes, the high class character of the rendezvous being one of its most admirable features. For Friday evening of this week the first grand mask and costume carnival is announced.

EASTBOURNE.—Devonshire Park Theatre.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray King and Clark.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is appearing here in *Lady Frederick*. Miss Eleanor Delaporte merits very high commendation for her excellently successful work as Lady Frederick; Mr. Robert Minster contributes strong and able work as Paradine Fouldes; Mr. W. Barnett Parker is well and happily placed as Sir Gerald; Mr. E. F. Meads is a helpful Lord Mereston; Mr. Edward Bonfield proves a capable Captain Montgomery; Captain Gerald Gambier is a realistic and lively Admiral Carlisle; Miss Celia Gordon displays evident talent as Lady Mereston; Miss Lynn Fontanne is a bright and girlish Rose; Miss Phyllis Manners repeats a skilful performance as Mme. Claude; and Miss Rita Ward is a lively Angelique. *The Peacemaker* precedes the comedy, and is well played.

Royal Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; District-Manager, Mr. G. Egbert; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—Les Xentrix worthily head the bill here this week, and the clever dancing and fine singing given in a pretty scena are very popular; Miss Ida Barr, too, is quite a success as a burlesque actress; Mr. Pau Corrix and his boy juggler give a taking and clever performance in a juggling and Herculean act; Essman, too, is an expert and original as a juggling waiter; Mr. Cyril Dare is a very effective comedian; Omar and Rose are a couple of funny patterers, singers, and dancers; Ken Jones is a quaint comedian; and new pictures complete the bill.

The Pier Pavilion Theatre.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. Alfred West is paying a return visit here this week with his interesting and attractive pictures of *Our Navy and Army*. The general excellence of the pictures is fully maintained, while clear pictures of Wilbur Wright's flying machine, and records of the recent disaster at Messina bring the entertainment right up to date.

ECCLES.—Crown Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert Rogers.—Sandy McNab and his company, in the sketch *The Egyptian Mummy*, prove a great attraction, and cause much amusement; Sidney Brandon gives clever character impersonations in selections from *Oliver Twist* and *Les Cloches de Corneville;* the Rose Trio, acrobatic waiters, perform capably; Ethel Loftus furnishes a most attractive turn; Morrisey, in original equilibristic musical act, is much appreciated; Major Moss delights with old songs; Lew Peterman, Hebrew comedian, presents his various representations effectively; Tod Lowen, comedian, is responsible for much mirth. The Fisherman's Daughter is depicted on the Bioscope.

EDINBURGH.—Royal Lyceum Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—The Moody-Manners Opera company began the second week of its engagement here on Monday last with a fine performance of Gounod's *Faust*. Mme. de Vere-Sapio displayed her vocal and dramatic gifts to advantage in a delightful impersonation of Marguerite, her command of tone and expression, particularly in the famous "Jewel Song," calling forth warm tributes of applause from the crowded house; Mr. Seth Hughes as Faust, although lacking power slightly on the dramatic side, gave an artistic interpretation of the music of the part, and shared with Mme. Sapio in the honours of the evening. Mr. Charles Manners made a striking figure as Mephistopheles, revealing his mastery of the humorous and tragic in his impersonation, and singing with the notable vigour and effect that mark his style. Miss Olive Westwood acted with much charm and pathos as Siebel, gaining great applause for a telling rendering of the beautiful air "When all was young"; and Mr. William Dever was a manly Valentine, and sang well. The chorus, strengthened by the Edinburgh Grand Opera Society, sang with an attention to light and shade and a balance of tone which aroused general admiration, and the massive "Soldiers' Chorus" was applauded to the echo. Signor Romualdo Sapio conducted with his usual ability. *Tannhäuser* was played on Tuesday evening, the feature of the performance being the beautiful interpretation, vocally and dramatically, by Mme. Fanny Moody of the exacting part of Elisabeth; Miss Toni Seiter, an admirable artist always; Mr. Paul Weiss, a tenor with a capital voice; Mr. Lewys James, and Mr. Charles Magrath completed a splendid cast, and the orchestra, under the direction of Herr Richard Eckhold, played with distinction, the rendering of the overture evoking much applause. Verdi's *Aida*, magnificently mounted, was given on Wednesday, *The Bohemian Girl* on Thursday, *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Pagliacci* on Friday. *Lohengrin* will be played at Saturday's matinée, and the visit of the company will conclude in the evening with *Maritana*.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Whitehead.—The run of the pantomime *Dick Whittington* will be brought to a close this (Saturday) evening. The spectacle has been very popular, and matinée and evening performances have been crowded with delighted audiences since the opening night. Miss Jane Eyre by her impersonation of the title-rôle has added much to her reputation. She has never abated the vigour of her acting and the interest in her part during the run of the piece, and has been conspicuously successful both from the dramatic and vocal standpoint. Mr. Will Evans's drollery has been of great service, and Mr. Wm. Dounes, Mr. Phil Ray, Mr. Albert Felmo, and Mr. Bickley have all helped greatly to the brightness of the entertainment. Mr. Ernest J. Langford has scored a hit by his very clever acting as Rupert Raffles, in which the player shows undoubted ability as a comedian, while Miss Ethel Erskine as Alice, Miss Florence Warde as Ahmed, Miss Mena Brae as Zoe, and Miss Molly Maguire—a pleasing singer—as Blue Bell have contributed to the essentials of success.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—The production by Mr. Fred Karno's company of a new sketch entitled *The G.P.O.*, with Mr. Fred Kitchen in a congenial rôle, has caught on most unmistakably, and the turn has helped to draw crowded houses twice nightly throughout the week. Nor does the programme lack other well-varied attractions. McCann's trained Irish terriers, including the champion leaping dog, show wonderful intelligence in their exceedingly interesting performance; while the human Stein-Eretto troupe almost excel their canine rivals in the nimbleness with which they hop over the floor and the furniture. The Martineks contribute an amusing novelty styled *The Rag Doll;* Miss Nellie Wallace makes the most of her grotesque comedy accomplishments; acceptable comedian and comedienne turns are supplied by Mr. Tom Collins, Mr. W. J. Churchill and Miss Beattie Kent; and the Bioscope shows some films depicting incidents of the King's recent visit to Berlin.

King's Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard.—Illustrations of ju-jitsu wrestling by Yukio Tani and his assistants, besides bouts in which local adepts take part, have added considerably to the interest of an otherwise attractive bill; Caicedo's performances on the tight-rope are watched with thrilling excitement, and loudly applauded; the Zeenas give a good display of skill on the triple bars; Talbot and Pearce contribute a very pleasing Japanese musical duologue; and Kennedy's Kiddies appear in a lively Terpsichorean and athletic scena. The characteristic single-handed turns submitted by Jack Alison, negroistic entertainer and expert sand-dancer, and by Mr. Carl Colyer, a New Zealand representative, who intermingles some smart juggling with his vocal efforts, are favourably received; while the songs of Mr. Herbert Clifton, the possessor of an extraordinary falsetto voice, and the dancing of Miss Daisy Taylor add to the merits of a programme which also includes, as usual, a series of excellent Bioscope pictures.

Cooke's Royal Circus.—Proprietor, Mr. John Henry Cooke; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. C. Burns.—For the closing week of the season Mr. Cooke has provided a programme of exceptional excellence. The favourite spectacle *The Brigands of Calabria* has been revived, and the stormy episodes of the piece, enlivened by droll scenes, in which Mr. Leon Douglas Cooke acts with much humour, are received with enthusiastic applause. A thrilling equestrian sketch, *Prairie Life*, affords Mr. Leicester Alfred Cooke the opportunity of displaying his horsemanship and his undoubted dramatic power. Globella, a dexterous performer on the rolling globe, gives a clever juggling and gymnastic act while manipulating the large ball on which he stands apparently as securely as on the ground; the clowning by Shadow, Comical Walker, Talberto, and Douglas is admirably carried through; and Mr. Harry Dale is equally at home as jester, vocalist, and instrumentalist. A very pleasing feature of the programme is contributed by Miss Edina Marion Cooke in the introduction of a pretty pony and a Pomeranian dog which evince the combined results of intelligence and perfect training. The fair equestrienne was recalled on Monday amidst a storm of applause, and was presented with a beautiful basket of flowers. Friday evening will be devoted to the benefit of the popular veteran proprietor, whose smart, upright figure has been so well known in Edinburgh for many years, and on Saturday the present season will be brought to a close. Mr. W. C. Burns, the courteous and energetic acting-manager, deserves the thanks of the public for the untiring efforts he has made for the comfort of the audiences at all times.

EXETER.—Theatre Royal.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—Mr. Lewis Waller's company is presenting the romantic comedy *Robin Hood*. The company, which is under the able direction of Mr. F. Clive Ross, is an exceedingly capable one, and the old-time story loses none of its charm or interest in the telling. As Robin Hood Mr. Ethelbert Edwards has found a part for which he is exceptionally well suited. He is gifted with a fine presence and possesses histrionic ability of the highest order, and on Monday last scored a well-deserved success. Mr. J. N. Briant is a convincing King Richard; while the cruel, crafty John was depicted most skilfully by Mr. H. Elliott Ball; Mr. Ernest Gray makes the best of the part of FitzAlwynne; Mr. Jack Litchfield as Hugo de Longespée submits a thoroughly capable delineation; and Messrs. Lambert Plummer and Ralph Leon portray the Abbot of Jourvaulx and Tracey in satisfactory manner; Mr. F. Clive Ross effectively and humorously characterises the rôle of big Little John; Friar Tuck is jovially presented by Mr. Colin Johnston; Mr. Laurence Tessier is a spirited and manly Will Scarlet; and as Allan A'Dale Mr. Sidney Courtney wins deserved applause for his excellent singing; Miss Cahill as Marion plays with a charm and grace which speedily win unstinted approval; Miss Laurie Flockton proves an attractive and vivacious Adela; Miss Madge Devereux is effectively placed as Alison; and Miss Roberta Pulleyne gets the most possible out of the part of Queen Eleanor.

New Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frederick Sandy.—A prominent feature here this week is the appearance of Mr. Fred Karno's *Mumming Birds* company, who keep the audience in a continuous roar of laughter; Miss Maidie Scott is thoroughly deserving of the applause which attends her vocal efforts; a clever acrobatic performance is presented by the Gladenbecks; and Clara Alexander is to be praised for her representation of *Old Uncle Jake;* Nellie Neil both sings and dances in pleasing manner; Lee and Bentley's sketch, *The King's Counsel*, is received with much merriment; and Lloyd Morgan, light and vocal comedian, proves another effective turn.

FLEETWOOD.—Queen's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. J. Snelson.—*The Eve of Her Wedding* is proving a great draw here this week. The company is a very powerful one, including Mr. Wilson Benge as George Tremain, who proves himself to be a "hero" of especial ability; Mr. Arthur Keand as Squire Leverton; Mr. Frank Kelland as Giovanni, a secret service agent; and Mr. K. Arthur as Jack Herne, a cripple, who gives a powerful rendering of his part. Miss Sadie Smith as Mavis Leverton displays histrionic ability of a high order, and earns the unstinted applause of the audience; Miss Florence Zillwood takes the part of Rene de Telle in a convincing manner; and Miss Mary Maillalieu is clever as "Kinkie."

FOLKESTONE.—The Pleasure Gardens Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Miss Lena Ashwell's principal company, in *Diana of Dobson's*, forms the amusement for the week. In the title rôle Miss Emelie Polini delights the audience with her brilliant acting; Mr. Leslie Rea makes a refined Captain Brotherton; whilst Mr. W. Kingsford Pearce gives a perfect character study of the pompous self-made Sir Jabez Grindlay (of Grindlay's Emporiums); the parts of the match-making Mrs. Cantelupe and Pringle, the martinet housekeeper were again in the safe hands of Miss Ada Palmer and Miss Daisy England. The shop assistants in the amusing opening scene were ably portrayed by Miss Violet Gould. Miss Dorothy Bell, Miss Nannie Griffin, and Miss Eva Leonard Boyne. The play is preceded nightly by the powerful little drama, *The Bishop's Candlesticks*, in which Miss Daisy England, Miss G. de Serville, Mr. Kingsford Pearce, and Mr. J. Benedick Butler are seen to advantage.

GAINSBOROUGH.—King's Theatre.—Lessees, Gainsborough Theatre Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Leighton.—This week we have a variety company on the two-shows-a-night principle. The Corcoran Bros. are the leading turn, and give a clever and interesting musical effect and quick-change turn. The rest of the company includes Luna Lyndon (comedienne), Dan Rodney (comedian), Connie Mascot (comedienne and dancer), Lidden and Hayward (musical sketch), and pictures.

GATESHEAD.—King's Theatre.—Proprietors, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager and Licensee, Mr. Harold Arnold.—Chas. Baldwin's company, in *The Bank Clerks*, give an entertaining absurdity here this week; Archie Royer has the latest in topical gags, and also performs original acrobatic feats; Sibb and Sibb are graceful trapezists; Mona Garrick gives character impersonations from *The Bondman* and *Faust*, and is enthusiastically praised; Henry Hilton presents refreshing magic; and Sam Williams, vocal comedian, and the Kingscope add to the pleasure.

Metropole Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; General-Manager, Mr. Robt. Elder; Acting-Manager Mr. Ernest Dixon.—Mr. John Tiller's pantomime *Red Riding Hood* is presented here this week by Mr. Bolam, after proving a sound attraction at Byker for many weeks. Misses May Merry and Jessie Templeton speedily ingratiate themselves with the audience, and amongst the comedians Messrs. Lawrie Barclay, C. K. Martinetti, jun., and Fred Lawrence put a lot of heart into their work and lend invaluable aid A feature is the mounting, and it can safely be said that we have not witnessed here more tastefully-arranged and acceptable ballets.

GLASGOW.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—Mr. M. Russell Rosse's company is here presenting *Captain Swift*, with Mr. Edward Sorley in a strong impersonation of the ex-bushranger. An excellent portrayal of Mrs. Seabrook is given by Mrs. Bennett; Mr. Maurice Denham represents Gardiner in a vigorous manner; and Mr. Fred Lester is also good as Ryan. The character of Marshall is ably unfolded by Mr. Penn Hammilton; Mr. Arthur Dennis gives a fine rendering of the elderly Mr. Seabrook; and Harry is well delineated by Mr. Ben Barnett. Miss Ida Phillips as Stella and Miss Betty Fairfax as Mabel are pleasingly drawn characters; and Miss Gertrude Le Sage gives a dignified rendering of Lady Staunton. The play is preceded each evening by *My Friend the Major*.

King's, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—Mr. Chas. Frohman's company is here for a couple of weeks with *Peter Pan*. This fairy tale of Mr. Barrie's has always been a good draw, and on the present visit its attractiveness shows no signs of waning. Miss Pauline Chase records her 500th appearance as Peter and the play its 1,000th performance in the British Isles and Paris.

Royalty, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Carpenter.—Miss Horniman's company commenced a two-weeks engagement on Monday with *The Amateur Socialist*. Mr. Henry Austin gave a delightful impersonation of Sir Hubert Pennefeather; Mr. Charles Bibby's acting as Inspector Bott was highly creditable; the characteristics of Sergeant Fell were nicely hit off by Mr. Edward Landor; well-contrasted fashionable types were seen in the Hon. Philip Wykeham of Mr. Lewis Casson and the Spencer Pennefeather of Mr. Basil Dean. Miss Ada King was well suited in the rôle of Lady Pennefeather; and society was represented by Miss Hilda Bruce Potter (Evelyn Rivers), Miss May Saker (Cora Moberley), and Miss Sybil Thorndyke (Lady Mabel). The Moberley of Mr. Jules Shaw was a finished bit of work. The comedy was preceded by the one-act play *Reaping the Wind*.

Grand.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. B. G. Maclachlan; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. Christie Grant.—Fun still reigns at the Grand, and the nightly visit of Cinderella to the ball is thoroughly enjoyed by packed houses. Miss Queenie Finnis as Cinders still delights her audiences with her sweet ways and capital singing; as Prince Casimir Miss Violet Halls is excellent, and has proved herself an exceedingly popular artist; Miss Kate Walbran and Miss Nelly Cozens as the Ugly Sisters are simply untiring in their work, and come through it with credit. Much of the pantomime's fun is produced by the combined efforts of Mr. Geo. French and Mr. Tom Conway as the

most energetic and clever combination. The MAX WESSELY quartette of juggling pantomimists are also smart exponents of their art.

PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Rich. Waldon; General-Manager, Mr. Harry M'Kelvie.—Doody and Wright, Australian comedy duo, make a welcome return visit; Stewart and Morgan are successful with their vocal act *Return to Ireland;* Brinn performs some remarkable juggling in *Pastimes on a Battleship;* and Datas provides another novel turn. The other artists include the Sisters Aindow in a refined musical act; Andy Burns, comedian and dancer; Kitty Lavinge, comedienne and dancer; W. H. Smart, versatile comedian; and Oliver Martyn, comedian and patterer.

COLISEUM.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—Ernest Cadle's *Casey Court* is at the head of affairs here, and with Will Murray in his accustomed place as Mrs. Casey the fun is well maintained. *Truth in Absence,* produced by Harry J. Crane and company, is a pathetic little sketch; Tom Bryce and Miss Price pay a return visit with *The Dude's Wooing;* a talented artist is Miss Mabel Mavis, who is indeed a society entertainer of exceptional ability. Her reception is a cordial one, and thoroughly appreciated is her work. W. F. Frame is as popular as ever; the Three Welsh Girls have excellent voices; Frank Sylvo does many clever things in his juggling show; and Mazie Hibbs in her speciality dancing act takes well. The Bioscope concludes the entertainment, to which Joe O'Gorman also contributes.

GAIETY, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—Prominent in the programme here is an exhibition of animal-training in Harry Rochez's Circus, the chumship existing between ponies and dogs being remarkable. Nellie Hughes makes a good impression in a top-boot dance; Annie Freedman is a rising comedienne; Mr. Harry Sydney sings and dances well; the Nevilles (Bert and Will) entertain with patter and dance; and a farcical sketch by Herbert St. Clair and company, entitled *Half an Hour with Baby,* is capably performed.

PANOPTICON.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—The Westcots are an amusing comedy duo; and J. H. Harris is as quaint as ever. Marie Dey, comedienne and dancer; Tom Donaldson, Dutch comedian; and Fred Emsley, Scotch comedian, are responsible for merriment; and the Bioscope proves popular.

GLOSSOP.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—Mr. Horace Stanley and Co., in *The 10.30 Down Express,* occupied the boards for the first three nights of the week. Mr. T. Arthur Plummer depicted the heroic character of Jack O'Malley cleverly; as the repulsive James Inderwick Mr. Carthage Caldcleugh gave an equally clever portrayal; Mr. Harry Emmerson as Huntly Mason made a typical sleuth-hound; Cuthbert Leigh was soundly enacted by Mr. David Curtis; Mr. Fred Seymour skilfully handled the part of Seth Coombs; Mr. Cliff H. Astley as Bletherley Bagg was effective; Miss Cora Linda added dignity and refinement to the part of Bessie Leigh; Miss Myra Mayne was eminently suited to the exacting part of Olive Coombs; and Miss Ida Fayne effectively played Letitia Leigh. Mr. Horace Stanley as Sam Wagstaff and Miss Kate Kilpack as Peggy Potts were responsible for a good deal of fun.

GLOUCESTER. — PALACE. — Owners, Messrs. Poole's Theatre, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole.—Mr. Henry Coutts presents a clever protean act entitled *Outflanked,* which is well received; the Five X Rays, "mad athletes," are smart and at once find favour; Tom Joy, comedian, sings a couple of good songs; and Miss Minnie Love, serio and dancer, also agreeably contributes to the programme. The Lauri Brothers do a neat performance as society acrobats; and Cliff and Kean are seen to advantage in a vocal comedy and dancing act. Shirley and Ransome, with comedy and pathos, are applauded; and Miss Irene Meldon, vocalist and dancer, appears successfully. Cinematograph films of the Messina disaster and also of the landslip at Pentre are very interesting.

KING'S HALL.—Messrs. Poole's Theatres, Ltd.—Animated pictures are the feature here.

GOOLE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Fred Greaves.—Mr. Arthur Farren's *Cinderella* company opened on Monday to a crowded house. The musical numbers are bright and catchy, under the able conduct of Mr. Fred Hargreaves. In the title-rôle Miss Eva Travis is very winsome, singing and acting with easy grace; Miss Florrie Anderson is a dashing Prince Charming and her songs are loudly applauded. She is ably supported by Miss Alice Westbourne as the Prince's Valet. Mr. Dave Anderson as Phil and Mr. Bert Norman as Garlic do excellent work and keep the house in roars of laughter; Mr. Eugene Maccabe and Mr. Alf Stokes are equally successful as the Ugly Sisters; Mr. Willie Pinn is a capital Baron. In the Palace scene specialities are successfully introduced by Monsieur Le Clair's troupe of performing dogs; Miss Lola Reine, a clever speciality dancer; Messrs. Norman and Anderson, knockabouts; and the Three Sisters Johnson, tambourine dancers.

GREAT YARMOUTH. — ROYAL AQUARIUM Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Nightingale.—Mr. Frank J. Pitt and company are occupying the boards here this week in *A Victim of Villainy.* Mr. H. Creagh Hunt gives a clever rendering of the villain Stephen Cavanagh; Mr. Frank J. Pitt is excellent as Frank Manton; Mr. Frank Dallas creates a lot of fun as Patrick Maloney; Miss Dollie Lester is a charming Eric; Miss Kathryne Eckart sympathetically portrays the character of Mary Manton; Mr. Fred Carroll is very good as Tom Leckie; Miss Jesse Ermonde is a smart Vera Diamond; and Miss Alice Clark a vivacious Norah Maloney.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. George Gilbert.—Very attractive films are being shown here this week, and one of the best is the tragic story, entitled *Tilda and Her Lions;* Jas. Brady, the character comedian, is very successful; Yorkshire Tom is an expert animal mimic; Miss Helen Raye scores with her illustrated songs; Charles Leighton as the tramp pianist is very popular; and Penley and English create a lot of fun with their sketch *Four-a-penny Mackerel.*

THE GEM.—Lessees, The Yarmouth Amusement Centre, Ltd.; Resident-Director, Mr. C. B. Cochran; Manager, Mr. Sidney Lawrence.—A first-rate set of films are being exhibited here this week, the one depicting the King's recent visit to Berlin being worthy of special mention. The illustrated song "Yours is not the only heart that is aching" has caught on.

GREENOCK.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—Mr. John A. Thomson's company is appearing here this week in *The Babes of the Wood.* Miss Pattie McCarthy as the dashing Robin Hood and Miss Nina Carlton as Maid Marion both captivate the audience by their charming style. The Babes are played with great success by Miss Cissie Williams and La Belle Sylvia, a pair of clever juveniles, who sing and dance exceptionally well. Mr. Gus Walker as Pansy Blossom keeps the house in continuous laughter; Weary Willy and Tired Tim are two humorous characters in which Messrs. Lovell Rowlands and Herbert Walton display genuine ability; Mr. Frank Halpin sings remarkably well as the Will-o'-the-Wisp, and Miss Norah Prendergast, whose vocal contributions are good, is most efficient as the Queen of Good Intent. The dances of the Butterfly Troupe are graceful and particularly pleasing; the Sisters Hypatia, duettists and dancers, Les Milicent Freres, gymnasts, and the Sisters Thornton, International dancers, all have specialities which are well received. The scenic effects are good, and the dresses are tasteful and pretty.

EMPIRE.—Lessees, the Greenock Empire Syndicate; Responsible-Manager, Mr. Edward McCormick; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. J. Colquhoun.—John Warren presents his great illusion, *The Magic Carpet,* with success; that very amusing comedian, N. C. Bostock, has had a hearty reception; Billy Walters gives an original and novel ventriloquist performance; the Rowantrees reel off a fusillade of funny songs and jokes; Teresa da Silva proves herself a favourite with her songs; Nellie Ellienne, comedienne, is good; and Harry Marte, comedian and dancer, also appears. The Bioscope shows most interesting pictures.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry L. Skivington.—Gus Garrick, the popular comedian, wins rapturous applause for his songs, whilst Phil Rees' Stable Lads are well received in their new production, entitled *Not a Crook;* the Boxing Kangaroo, introduced by Mr. Ben Tully, provides an entertaining turn; the Tossing Austins are clever comedy jugglers and dancers; Gladys and Alber submit a smart pot-pourri act; F. S. Gilbert does well as an operatic vocalist; and the Dromoscope contributes some pleasing pictures.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—Mr. Walter Howard's latest play, *The Prince and the Beggar Maid,* is here. Miss Annie Saker acts with distinction as the Princess Monica, and is especially good in the emotional scenes; Mr. Wallace Court gives a fine representation of the chivalrous Prince Olaf; Mr. Ivan Cleveland is excellent as Prince Hildred; the part of the unfortunate Prince Michael is played with suitable pathos by Mr. Graeme Campbell; Mr. Reginald H Stephens does well as the loyal Captain Hector; Mr. Richard Lane portrays Lieutenant Stromberg with good effect; Mr. Kendall Chalmers is good as the dumb servant, Nathan; and the parts of Viola and Camiolia are charmingly played by Miss Elsie Walton and Miss Ivy Millais.

THE PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—The pantomimic burlesque, *Sports in the Jungle,* presented by the Donaldson Brothers, is a thoroughly entertaining turn, and is full of surprise effects and quaint business; Tennyson and Wallis, two comedy policemen, have a rich fund of humorous patter, and are very popular; the Three Orros give a skilful acrobatic display on the silver rings; Clack and Clack, lady barrel jumpers, combine comedy with smart feats; Richard Finberg is a clever impersonator, and delineates a variety of famous characters; Mary Glenn is a pleasing singer of popular Scottish songs; and Nell Cotter contributes good chorus songs.

GUERNSEY. — THEATRE ST. JULIANS.— Lessee, Mr. Ed. Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—This week the patrons found diversion in Mr. John A. Thomson's pantomime *Robinson Crusoe.* Miss Florence Carlile is a shapely Robinson, singing her numbers with success; Alice is engagingly played by Miss Gertrude Blanche; Miss Fay Desmond should have had more scope for her well-trained soprano voice than that afforded her as the Queen Coral; the Sisters Geronde are very taking, singing and dancing in an effective style; Mr. Henry Eglington dispenses Dame Crusoe with his customary success; Mr. Fred Anderson's make-up is extremely funny as Tommy Tickle, his appearance is a signal for roars of laughter; Mr. Will Sherlock (Atkins) and Little Billy Bracy (Captain) are both prolific in their comic resources. The Violetta Troupe are responsible for some graceful dancing. The chorus work well together under the bâton of Mr. C. B. Yearsley.

HALIFAX.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Mr. W. W. Kelly's company is here this week with the *New East Lynne.* Mr. Fred Terriss is gentlemanly and natural as Archibald Carlyle; Mr. Leonard Booker makes a good villain as Francis Levison; Mr. Richard Nugent's Murty O'Flynn is an excellent performance; Mr. E. J. Coyne is all that can be desired as Richard Hare; Mr. Byron Pedley makes an ideal Mr. Dill; Miss Sophy Shenton's Cornelia Carlyle stands out as a successful and praiseworthy effort; Barbara Hare is nicely played by Miss Madge Beresford; Miss G. Shilton successfully doubles the parts of the two sisters, Afy and Joyce; Miss Doris Denville is a conspicuous success as Willie Carlyle; and Miss Marion Lind acts with rare force and feeling as Lady Isabel.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks. *A Soldier's Honour* is paying a return visit to the Grand this week. Miss Edie Macklin, by the excellence of her acting, makes the low-comedy part of Jemima Eliza stand out prominently; Miss Lilla Wilde plays well in the rôle of Cora Lee; Mr. T. A. Ellis makes a soldierly hero as Captain Deane; and Captain Gerald Temple is well played by Mr. W. Vane. Henry Thornton is excellently portrayed by Mr. A. Money; Queenie Deane is nicely played by Miss Edie Trapnell; and the pathetic part of Doreen Illingworth receives full justice at the hands of Miss Violet Langley.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Foster.—Sable Fern, with her good songs, clear enunciation, winning manner, and dainty dresses, has met with deserved approval; Hicks and Hunter, dancing on ice skates, are warmly applauded; Norah Desmond, song illustrator, is another successful turn; Harry Tate's No. 1 company, in *Fishing,* keep the house in a continuous roar; the Arntes (Billie and Gracie) are clever coloured dancers; the Six Brothers Luck are again well to the fore as fun-makers in *Lift-Em's, Limited;* the Sisters Hampel, comedy couple, and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux complete an excellent programme.

HAMILTON, N.B.—HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Managing-Director, Mr. René Clayton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Jack Bostock.—The Ten Loonies in their funny musical farcical turn *Dotty* are topping the bill here and proving a big draw; Walter Ellis and company are exceedingly funny in a clever sketch, *The Sleepwalker;* William McIvor is a pleasing vocalist; and the Royal Delomes are capable dancers. Arthur Slater is excellent in his whistling scena; Carl Volta is a clever conjurer and illusionist; Pop Dearly, the dandy coon, sings well; Gold and Sterling, in their musical comedy business, and the Bioscope conclude an excellent programme.

HANLEY. — ROYAL. — Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—Messrs. Leigh and Armitage's company is here in *With Edged Tools.* Mr. Chas. Hartopp is good as Guy Oscard; Mr. C. Goldsmid is brilliant as Durnovo; Mr. J. A. Rosier as Sir John Meredith plays with decided skill; Mr. W. F. Grant as Jack Meredith is well suited and makes a hit; and Mr. Graham Pocket is capable as Gordon. Miss Alice E. Belmore is a charming Millicent; Miss Marie Leonard as Jocelyn Gordon portrays the rôle with great effect; and Miss Florence Dunhulty is excellent as Lady Herries. The staging and effects are good.

GRAND.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand.—Jan Rudenyi, Hungarian actor-violinist, appears here in a sketch called *Music's Power;* Raymond's Bio-tableaux shows Edward VII. in Berlin; Millie Howell is a character vocalist of great promise; Ivy Adelaide is a charming comedienne; Dan Filmer is a comedian of decided merit; D'Arc's Marionettes are truly wonderful; Wee Mona Vivian, vocalist, mimic, and dancer, is a tremendous success; Lilian, a clever lady cyclist, makes a hit; De Wynne Brothers are marvellous athletes; and La Pia's bathing dance is realistic.

KING'S.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy; Manager, Mr. H. Kennedy.—A fine collection of films is shown here, including The Woman Chauffeur, When the Man in the Moon Takes a Wife, Young Sexton Blake, &c. Mr. Geo. Edney, character vocalist, makes a hit.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eric Fielding Smith.—Mr. Gar Kiddie's company occupy the boards here this week with the pantomime *Babes in the Wood.* It is an exceedingly good all-round show. Mr. Dan Tandy as Sir Brokah de Pawn, the Baron, was excellent; and Mr. Mark Stuart was all that could be desired as the Dame Araminta, a hard worker who proved a great favourite with the audience. Mr. Dawson Dewick as Soft Sammy was also to the fore; the Sisters Maudsley were well placed as the two babes Harold and Lucy; and Miss Marion Scott was a handsome and accomplished Robin Hood. Messrs. Conan and Doyle as the two Robbers were productive of laughter, and Messrs. Taylor and Elliott danced themselves into favour. Mr. Edwin Lambert as the Demon King and Miss Dolly Moore as the Fairy Queen were both well placed and sang well. Miss Margaret Cathcart was Maid Marion. The rest of a long cast was in reliable hands. The dresses and scenery were good.

HARTLEPOOL.—EMPRESS.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Albert Mathams.—The building was packed in every available part on Monday, when the films shown by Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope were thoroughly enjoyed. The coloured picture A Trip to the Land of the Midnight Sun is a magnificent piece of work and very interesting, as also are those of Catching Crocodiles and A Trip Through the Pyrenees. There are many dramatic and humorous films shown, and variety is added to the programme by Fred Pollard, the original singing and talking Hebrew, whose songs and patter keep the audience roaring with laughter.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—A week's visit was opened on Monday by Mr. William Greet's cheif company in *The Sign of the Cross.* The popular parts of the house were densely packed by an enthusiastic audience on Monday, who followed the ennobling play with enrapt attention. The virile character of Marcus Superbus was strongly rendered by Mr. Cyril Austin Lee, whose impassioned appeal to Nero was a splendid elocutionary effort; the vanity and ferocity attributed to Nero were finely realised by Mr. C. Yorke; the cunning and treachery of Tigellinus and Licinius' envious hatred of Marcus were finely exemplified by Messrs. Charles Aldred and J. Weatherall respectively; Mr. Frank Wood impersonated the bibulous Glabrio and Mr. Harry Jones played well as the sensuous Philodemus. The licentious period was further exemplified by Miss Mary Newcombe as Ancaria; Miss Cissy Carlton as Dacia; and Miss Lily Ward as Berenice, the latter's passionate love of Marcus being played with dramatic force; Miss Beryl Hamilton's rendering of Poppæa being very effective. Mr. Walter Fleet was powerfully impressive as Favius; Miss Edith Drayson successfully realised the rôle of Stephanus; Miss Constance Little was tense, earnest, and impressive in her delineation as Mercia. The staging, dressing, and scenery were excellent, and in the scene of Marcus's House a fine contrast of revelry and Christianity was afforded. Mr. H. Thurston-Harris stage-managed.

HIPPODROME. — Managing-Directors, Mr. H. Boyd and Mr. F. Higham; General-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman. — Miss Ethel Yorke, an attractive comedienne, opens an interesting programme; the Alhambra films are varied and effective; an accomplished violinist and musician is seen in Warriner; Chas. Field is expert in juggling, and, assisted by Mlle. Mansell, exhibits some wonderfully rapid landscape painting in oil; some versatile dancing is shown by Bob Puelo and Katie Cropp; and an original and laughable monologue is given by Sam Voss as the quack doctor. Well-staged scenes from the opera of *Faust* are admirably given. Miss Lena Shirley renders the part of Marguerite with delightful ease and fluency; Mr. Claude Anderson as Faust sings with great expression; and Mr. Ward Cowdery as Mephistopheles has a telling voice and finished method.

PIER PAVILION.—General Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—*The Ticket-of-Leave Man* is occupying the boards here. Mr. Oliver Rogers as Robert Brierly is admirably clear and natural; Maltby is well taken by Mr. F. Williams; Mr. J. E. Cowell is a convincing James Dalton; Mr. E. Maule Cole makes a capital Hawkshaw; Mr. Edward Harrison faithfully represents Melter Moss; Mr. Frank Growcotte does ample justice to Gibson; Miss Blanche Bayley is particularly vivacious as Mrs. Willoughby; Sam, by Miss Helen Anderson, creates much fun; and Miss Clarissa Selwynne makes a charming May Edwards.

HEREFORD.—GARRICK THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Barnsley.—Mr. Ernest Bodkin's company had a most enthusiastic reception here on Monday when *The Thief* was presented for the first time in Hereford. A better exponent of Raymond Leyton than Mr. Ernest Bodkin could not be found; Mr. C. W. Lindsey (a young actor) gave a strikingly good representation of Harry Leyton, throughout the play holding his audience keenly interested; Mr. Frank Darch submitted a fine portrayal of Richard Chelford, his speech in the third act being admirably delivered; Mr. Taylor Vinson was particularly good as Mr. Protheroe; Miss Kathryn Stocks as Marise Chelford presented an artistic delineation which was enthusiastically appreciated by the audience; and Miss Mary Forrester proved an admirable Isabel Leyton.

HORWICH.—PRINCE'S.—Lessees, The Horwich Theatre Co.—This week Mr. Julian Graham's *Gay Goddess* company is the attraction, and the reception has been of a very hearty description. The piece is admirably staged, the dresses handsome, and the scenery (notably the Bal Masque scene) very appropriate. Miss Kate Graham-Beck is an instantaneous success, her splendid voice and stage appearance both as Juno, the statue, and Black Domino being greatly admired. Miss Amy Wood's impersonation of Mrs. Marie Strong, Priscilla's stepmother, is a fine specimen of a strong-minded, always right sort of lady, full of very good comedy; Miss Leah Howard makes a charming Priscilla Strong, Twinkle's bride, and plays the part to perfection; Miss Louie Gray as Lottie Stimson deserves every credit for her singing and dancing, her duet with Mr. Teasdale (Dutch clog-dancer) being vociferously encored; the Misses Dolly Shaw and May Davis as Priscilla's cousins, Winifred and Alice, help the piece considerably by their dancing and singing. On Mr. Arthur Staples' efforts, as Timothy Twinkle, a solicitor's clerk, largely depend the many embarrassing situations created by the coming to life of Juno, and he richly deserved the unstinted applause accorded him; Mr. Fred Hammond is very amusing as the deaf old gentleman, Samuel Strong, Marie's father-in-law; Mr. Richard Teasdale both as Sherlock Blake, detective, and Mephisto scores heavily, his songs and dances being very effective; the musical burglars (Downey and Leary) are safe in the hands of Messrs. W. Millard and Sam Baylis; Mr. Geo. Watson as Anthony Somers, Twinkle's friend, is good. Les Papillions give a very fine pirouette dance in the Bal Masque act, and receive loud applause. Mr. Harry A. Laycock as musical conductor has a very heavy task, and succeeds in keeping the augmented orchestra up to the mark.

HULL.—GRAND THEATRE.—Mortons, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. W. F. Morton.—Mr. Percy Hutchison's company in the very original and striking comedy *Brewster's Millions* is here this week, and the business done has been very fair. Mr. Percy Hutchison created a very big success in the leading rôle, and his reading of it is a very interesting one indeed. Miss Sybil Walsh replaces Miss Lillias Earle as Mrs. Dan de Mile, a part she plays very naturally; as Peggy Miss Cicely Stuckey has a rôle which fits her like the proverbial glove. The mounting is magnificent. *Brewster's Millions* is preceded by a new one-act play reviewed in another colume of this issue.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Manager, Mr. Tom Bogue.—At the end of this week the Morton management ends at this popular playhouse, and on Saturday night Mr. Morton proposes to say adieu to his patrons. The final engagement is Mr. Chalmers Mackey in an Irish play interspersed with music, entitled *Rollicking Rory.* Mr. and Mrs. Mackay by their work add to the enjoyment of the evening.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Mortons, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. G. Morton.—The pantomime, now in its last week, has been a huge triumph. Every night the circle has had an audience standing three and four deep. *Aladdin* is one of the best productions Dottridge and Longden have brought to this playhouse, and they have reaped a rich reward.

THE HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Harry Dunford.—The Three Calbas, in an acrobatic act, and a boxing act between Bert Hughes and an American darkie, are two of the principal turns here. Other artists include "Venus," W. H. Blackman, the Langley Juveniles, Lynn, Lisbon, and Barker, and Arthur Hickman.

THE CIRCUS.—Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Emerson.—The Continental Circus is doing good business. The Three Royal Ohmys, Mrs. Dudley Smith, Mr. Claude (in a bare-back act), the Three Mattresses, Mlle. Lilly, Mlle. Roseltha (transformation dancer), the Aeroplanes (gymnastic act), and the military sketch *The Despatch Bearer* are all good items.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—*The Idol of Paris* is proving an attraction at the hands of Mr. James Bell's capable company. Miss Annie Bell, who is no stranger to the Ilkeston theatre, makes her usual success in the part of Flare-Flare; whilst the character of Victor Cashelle is cleverly dealt with by Mr. Sydney Arnold. Mr. Frank H. Dale as Tatave is a treat; and Miss Annie Megson is good as Ann Sancterre, the pair providing quite a fund of amusement. Miss Frances Bruce presents a capital study of Mme. Sancterre; Messrs. C. St. John Medley and Gordon Robey as Gustave Langloise and H.R.H. Prince Sergius Zoresky respectively deserve mention. The shady doings of Phillipe D'Esterre are excellently carried out by Mr. Wilson Howard. Scenic effects and dresses leave little or nothing to be desired.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company in *Leah Kleschna* is here for the present week. The company is a strong one, and includes Mr. William Clayton, whose powerful and dramatic acting in the exacting part of old Kleschna is admirable; Mr. Charles Barratt as Paul Sylvane; and Mr. Arthur Leigh as Raoul Berton. Mr. William Heilbron is good as Schram; the parts of General Berton and Valentine Fave are doubled by Mr. Algernon Hicks; Mr. Bert Gunther as Anton Pioff, Mr. Bernard Raie as Johann, Mr. A. Conway as Raichman, and Mr. F. Bannerman as Baptiste are all satisfactory. Miss Bessie Rignold as Leah Kleschna has a part which makes great demands upon the dramatic ability of an actress. The contrasts of passion and emotion are displayed in a manner deserving the highest praise throughout. The parts of Mme. Berton by Miss Ethel Russell, Clare Berton by Miss Emmie Wallace, Sophie Choponnière by Miss Dorrie Turner, Erieda by Miss May Hammond, and Charlotte by Miss Edith Summers, are all in good hands. The entire performance deserved the enthusiastic reception it received. The staging of the play is excellent.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—The Leslie Brothers are back again with their comical sketch called *Music Mad,* and as before were enthusiastically welcomed; Kurkamp, "the singing conductor," has an excellent voice, and was well received; as also was Miss Leah Arden in a couple of catchy songs. Sam Dalton also has some amusing songs; and Julian Mack, "the chatter-box," is irresistibly funny. Miss Lilian Travellie is an American vocalist of talent; the Zampas, duettist and dancers, are clever and extremely popular; Fritz Kooman as a whistler is certainly unique in his cleverness; Queen and Lebrun have a very funny sketch entitled *The Cockney Huntsman,* which keeps the house in roars; and the Bioscope concludes.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Lionel Locke.—The attraction this week is Messrs. Levey and Cardwell's pantomime *The House that Jack Built.* Miss F. Taylor makes an ideal Jack, and soon establishes herself quite a favourite; while Mr. H. Hillerby causes much amusement as Aunt Purdy, and Wee McGregor is most carefully handled by Miss Gladys Wyse. Mr. Macnorton is well placed as Squire Bounce; Messrs. Doyle and Gibson as Scraggs and Scraggies cause much amusement with their various antics; Miss Evelyn Major as Jill is very charming, and her various songs are well received. Some excellent dances are executed and specialities are given by Doyle and Gibson, comedians. The scenery and dresses are excellent.

KETTERING. — AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Payne.—The attraction this week is the O.K. Animated Pictures company with an interesting programme, including Leoni Clarke, the Cat King; George Russell, comedian; and the Levans, with illustrated songs.

KIDDERMINSTER.—NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon.—For the first three nights of this week the boards were occupied by Mr. Wentworth Croke's company with *The Prodigal Son.* Mr. Herbert Franklin ably portrayed the character of Stephen Magnusson; Mr. George Edwin Clive and Mr. T. W. Dunscombe those of Oscar and Magnus Shephenson; Mr. Arthur E. Holland did well as Oscar Neilsen; and Mesdames Chrissie Dunbar and Dora Gregory were good as Helga and Thora Neilsen. Miss Ethel Lodge as Anna, wife of Stephen Magnusson, was well placed. On Thursday Mr. F. C. Leighton's company in *The Golden Ladder* occupied the boards.

KIRKCALDY.—NEW PAVILION.—Lessee, Dr. Walford Bodie.—A good programme is presented this week, headed by Miss Sheila McNeil, a Scotch comedienne with some amusing patter; Miss Amy Bathurst sings well; and Buchanan and Farren, comedians and dancers, and Mr. J. C. Heffron complete the bill. A good series of views is shown on the Bodiegraph.

LANCASTER.—GRAND THEATRE—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. C. Howitt.—The attraction this week is Messrs. Dottridge, Longdon, and Livesey's company in *The Village Blacksmith,* which has attracted large audiences. Mr. Sam Livesey appears with much success as John Strong, the blacksmith, and the wrestling bout with Captain Leo, played by Mr. Albert Sinclair, works up the audience to intense excitement; Miss Kathleen Saunders as Harry Strong is a child actress of marked ability; and the comic element is supplied by Mr. Fred Haming as Billy Twig and Miss Edith Giddens as Martha Mopps. As the blacksmith's wife, Kate Strong, Miss Maggie Edwards is excellent; and the same may be said of Miss Cassie Le Grande as Ruth Parkins. The staging is very good.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. J. Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—At the head of the bill here is the Miles-Stavordale Quintette, whose return visit is much appreciated. Will and Alice Vokes, in a comedy dancing act, cause roars of laughter; Miss Violet Day sings and dances well; and Wat Tyler, character vocalist, has a good reception. Hess and Lisbon, in a roller-skating act, elicit rounds of applause and create much laughter; Primavesi is a smart juggler; and Reli and Butt, comedians, do very well. The Hippograph, with comical pictures, completes.

LEAMINGTON. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. George G. Ridley.—An excellent attraction was provided here during the earlier part of the week, Messrs. Dudley Bennett and T. C. Wray's company appearing to crowded houses in *The Catch of the Season.* Mr. William Greene gave a clever performance of the Duke of St. Jermyns; Miss Dorothea Clarke was a charming Angela; Mr. Joseph Bruce a capital Lord Dundreary; and special mention should be made of Master Ernest Grata's Bucket, a remarkably good character. Miss Clara de Vere was excellent as the Duchess of St. Jermyns. Mr. Norman V. Norman and company appeared in *Lady Ursula* and *Under the Red Robe* during the latter portion of the week.

LEICESTER. — OPERA HOUSE. — There is a change in the business-manager here, the late manager having been transferred to another town. Quite an ovation awaited Mr. Martin Harvey on Monday evening, when he opened a week's engagement with *The Breed of the Treshams,* in which he gave a really fine performance of Reresby the Rat. Miss N. de Silva gave a charming delineation of Batty. *The Last Heir* was played on Thursday and Friday evenings, and to-day (Saturday) *The Corsican Brothers,* preceded by *The Conspiracy,* is underlined.

THEATRE ROYAL. — After many years of service in several capacities, there has also been a change in the business-manager at this theatre. The attraction is provided this week by Mr. Percy Williams's company, which is presenting (by arrangement with Mr. Bert Coote) *The Fatal Wedding.* The most prominent parts are capably sustained by Mr. Cecil A. Melton (Howard Wilson), Miss Ethel Kay (Mabel Wilson), Miss Elaine Vanburgh (Cora Williams), Mr. Percy Ballard (Robert Curtis), Miss Ethel Sarjient (Bridget), and Mr. Harry Vernon (Toto).

PALACE THEATRE, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. S. Buccleuch.—At the head of a "class" programme here is George Auger (the giant actor) and his company of Lilliputians in *Jack the Giant Killer;* Carter Livesey and Lilian Roseberry present, to the accompaniment of great merriment, their skit *The Would-be Actors;* Madge Temple, the delightfully smart musical comedy artist, is a popular favourite; Alexandra Dagmar receives a warm welcome, her stories and songs, especially "A marriage in May-fair," being given in a style worthy of the greatest praise; the Mayvilles (Harry and Elsie), Lilliputian actors; Barrington, with some clever freak performances at the piano; La Tamara and her dancer Ojeda; Jimmy Shields, one-legged dancer and comedian; Virto and Venita, in their refined musical act; and the Bioscope are other attractions.

PAVILION THEATRE. — Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joe Lawrence.—The lead in a good show here is held by the Bouncing Dillons (Hilda and Willie); Shenton and Chicks are well received for their Anglo-American speciality act, *The Children's Birthday Party;* Cestria is a smart tumbler and juggler; Clifford Morgan, fresh from a local pantomime, is especially good as a light comedian; the Sivronis, burlesque artists, exploit a humorous turn Dewar and Dunville are smart dancers; Master Day gives an exhibition as a diabolist that would be hard to beat; and George Acre is an entertaining actor-vocalist.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Company; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles R. Craig.—At this "home" of animated photography there is the usual full list of serious, coloured, and comedy pictures including A Tale of Two Cities, Nick Carter, the King of Detectives, The Man in the Overalls, Through Holland, The Viking's Daughter, and The Aspirator, which are interwoven with very acceptable items by the Two Palmers, musical comedy artists.

CORN EXCHANGE. — Proprietors, The Corporation of Leicester.—The London Animated Picture Company, under the management of Gunner Gooes, is on a return visit here.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. J. W. Chippendale.—Mr. Walter Melville's *A Girl's Cross Roads* company is paying a return visit, and is drawing excelent houses. Barbara Wade, the "woman who didn't care," is cleverly impersonated by Miss Hilda Beverley, the contrast between this character and that of Constance Cornell (Miss Muriel Dean) is particularly striking, the latter actress playing her part with much charm and tenderness. Mr. Norman B. Cannon gives a stirring and manly impersonation of Jack Livingstone; Mr. Edward Valentine is a conspicuous success as Dr. Weston; Mr. W. J. Butler gives a good study of the despicable Cuthbert Lumley; and as his accomplice, Nellie Meadows, Miss Nita Langford achieves success; Mr. Harry Cane submits a finely-conceived characterisation of the old farmer, John Meadows. The comedy side is well looked after by Mr. Fred Hodson as Toby Turvy; and Miss Jeannie Thomas as Tilly Vane and Mr. Fred Withers as Luke Ramsden deserve praise.

GRAND THEATRE AND HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Leigh Grand Theatre and Hippodrome, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Benson; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Woolstencroft.—Lockhart's elephants head the bill, and give a clever and entertaining performance; the four Henry-Hearnes, comedy acrobats, are exceedingly smart and clever; the Ettenas, globe speciality artists, meet with well-deserved appreciation; Mr. Harry Taylor, the Lancashire comedian, scores a big success, as does also Mr. George Prince, who is very amusing. Messrs. Osborne and Gilmore are warmly applauded for their physical display and poses; Les Wambas, gymnasts and comedy musicians, are remarkably clever; Mr. Charles Coll, light comedian, is very refined; and the Bioscope pictures also appear with success.

LEITH. — NEW GAIETY THEATRE. — Licensee and Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—Like the many other successful dramas from Mr. Fred Melville's prolific pen, *Married to the Wrong Man* bids successfully for popular favour; and the opportunities afforded by the piece for sterling and meritorious work are fully developed by the touring company who have this week staged the production at the above theatre. Miss Gertrude Boswell wins high praise by her fine rendering of the part of Ruth; Mr. Oswald Cray is prominent and admirable as Jack Gladwin; and the rôles of Captain Deering and Archie Bird are well cont

Shop; Diana Hope, Monte Bayly, and Charles Levey present a hurricane thriller, entitled *Her Good Name*; A Bé Bé presents her exquisitely pretty interlude, *The Picture Postcard Album*; and the San Remo Girls, Rosie Reval, Mark Merry, and Mack Ollive meet with full appreciation.

LIVERPOOL.—Rotunda Theatre.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—The attraction here this week has been Mr. Fred Melville's company with *Her Road to Ruin*, which did good business. As the curate Mr. Henry Wolston made a most favourable impression, his acting being marked by much sincerity; the exacting rôle of Mary Dawson found an able exponent in Miss Nellie Bonser; as Jess Willoughby Miss Beatrice Edwards maintained her already recognised position; the heavy part of Philip Hardy was capitally undertaken by Mr. Alexander Bradley; Mr. Dane Clarke presented a natural Bishop; Miss Alice Bowes proved a refined and dainty May Willoughby; and other worthily-held rôles were Billy Boots (Mr. Harry Talbot), Jennie Crackling (Miss Marie Wright), Charles Cholmondeley (Mr. V. R. C. Moors), and Tom Wells (Mr. Duncan Yarrow).

Star Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—A return visit of the delightful play *Sunday*, Mr. Louis Calvert's production, has been welcomed here this week. Included in a good all-round cast was Janet Lind, whose assumption of the title part was greeted with every expression of approval. She was ably supported by the "boys," who were represented by Messrs. Richard F. Symonds, A. Cotton Holmes, James Hussey, and George Marriott, jun.; much appreciation was evinced towards the parts of Mrs. Naresby (Miss H. Graham Edwins) and a Nun (Miss Jessie Stone); Mr. William Giffard capably held the character of Colonel Brinthorpe; Mr. Boyce Wellams acquitted himself well as Arthur Brinthorpe; and Mr. Richard Trieve gave an excellent rendering of Tom Oxley. The Thursday matinées here have become very popular.

Empire.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—Heading the programme here this week were Joseph Hart's troupe of "Rain Dears," whose turn, consisting of vocalism and dancing, afforded a deal of pleasure; to Miss Marie Kendall a most flattering reception was given, and her latest songs, including "Well" and "The taximeter car," were received with enthusiasm; Paul Barnes kept his audience in roars of laughter by means of numerous droll stories; an interesting talk by Frederic Villiers, the war correspondent, accompanied by photographs and sketches relating to his campaigns, was listened to with close attention; Staig's steeplejacks cycling the chimney was a sensational turn; Will and May Brennan provided a neat and artistic dancing act; Victor Newman gave some clever impersonations from Shakespeare and Dickens; Jean Macduff, "the new female Scotch comedian," was entertaining; and Steve McCarthy, as a comedian and dancer, was not the least acceptable in the list.

Queen's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.—Here throughout the week *Her Fatal Marriage* was staged, the cast including Miss Ruth Zillwood, Miss Lydia Audre, Miss Laura Wright, and Messrs. G. H. Childs, Norman Tracey, Arthur Hinton, P. Morton-Wright, and Frank Brunell.

Lyric.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—Prominent here this week were Clark and Hamilton, who gave an excellent turn of singing, dancing, and patter; Harry Grey, a capital comedian, proved very popular; the Seencr and Fridkin's troupe of Russian vocalists and dancers earned a deal of applause; France and Stewart presented their smart humorous sketch *A 100 to 1 Chance*, which delighted everybody; the Orchids sang nicely; and also in the list were Montague Biggs, the "male Marie Lloyd"; Olive Armadale, soubrette; and Nat Watkins, comedian.

Royal Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—The programme here was headed by Caryl Wilbur, whose American comedy *61, Prospect Street*, gave general satisfaction; Jock Whiteford, a really admirable Scotch comedian, brought down the house, and had to respond to numerous demands for encores; Tom and Marie Motramo had their merry musical sketch *Do You Reverse?* Rappo and Ella showed great expertness as hand balancers and equilibrists; the sketch *Sweet Innisfail*, presented by Walter Reynolds' Irish company, was an acceptable item; the Bros. Ashley provoked continuous laughter with their comedy boxing sketch, *Next, Please*; Captain Grahame introduced Bostock's performing baboons; Beaty and Blanche were a couple of particularly neat duettists and dancers; and Anileda and August were well received for their eccentricities.

Royal Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—Good business continues to be done here by the stock dramatic company. During the week *The Great Diamond Robbery*, from the pen of W. R. Waldron, was staged, the principal parts being held by Messrs. David G. Noble (John Eaglesfield), Sydney Grant (Paul Dagonet), R. Sleath Innes (Magnus), Tom H. Solly (Pippins), Cecil Ravenswood (Stationmaster), Miss Lilian Radbourne (Estelle), and Miss E. Turner-Elliott (Emilie Eaglesfield). Some capital films were shown by Mr. Anthony Brown's Bioscope.

Westminster.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—The cinematograph pictures are still an attraction here. In addition to them during the week there appeared the Australian Bush Boys, harmonising duettists and dancers; and J. P. Carrol, tambourinist. The cinephone, singing and talking machine, was also shown.

Olympia.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Weighton.—*The Sands of Dee* water spectacle has caught on, and is in its third week; Oswald Williams, assisted by Miss Winifred La Barte and company, proved a clever illusionist, and completely bewildered his audience; Marstro and Oretta, equilibrists, had a refined and novel act; an entertining comedy sketch, *Me and 'Er*, was submitted by Duncan and Godfrey; Nellie Coleman, female comedian, was accorded a hearty greeting; the Four Figaros were international vocalists and dancers of a high order and pleased generally; Lil O'Gorman had some amusing songs, including "It's a terrible complaint to be tall"; and contributions likewise came from Arthur Gill, the man with many voices; and Lily Palmer, vocalist and dancer.

Pavilion.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—Crowded houses have been the rule here this week to witness Harry Burns' pantomime *Robinson Crusoe*. The production was richly enjoyed, being brimful of excellent comedy, and the principal artists showed a deal talent. In the title-rôle Mlle. Du Roche looked well and sang with taste, being possessed of a pleasing voice. Her numbers included "There's going to be a wedding to-day" and "Sweetheart May," there being a frequent demand for encores. Praise should also be bestowed upon Miss Marie Belle for her Polly Perkins, her singing of "Antonio" being greeted with loud applause; Miss Kittie Trewhitt made a vivacious Tommy Bowline, and earned considerable approval for her song "Have you got another girl at home like Mary?" Mr. Henry Curwen, the author of the "book," was a most funny Dame; and strong supporters in the direction of causing laughter were Messrs. Arthur Aiston (Will Atkins), Edwin Ramsey (Captain Cuttle), Harry Ramsey (Captain Mate), and Will Sterne (Billy Crusoe). Harry Wilks as the Monkey and Billy Hubbard the man Friday did their work very capably. The chorus and ballet pleased greatly, especially the evolutions and dances of Bert Coote's Yankee Doodle Girls; and Mr. Sidney R. Howard, the musical-director, kept the orchestra well up to the mark. A speciality, which was unannounced, was suddenly thrust into the pantomime on Monday in the form of two wonderfully expert club and hat manipulators named the Juggling McBans, who arrived from America on Saturday, and were immediately engaged by Mr. Burn. Their work evoked loud applause.

Grand Tivoli.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jasper Redfern.—Topping the bill here this week were the Six Brothers Luck with *The Demon of the Cellar*; J. Wright Aitken and company gave their effective domestic sketch *The Battle of Life*; some neat and clever juggling was done by the "Child Cinquevalli"; Billy Richardson, stump orator, showed he was still a favourite; W. G. Webber, possessed of a rich voice, sang several popular ballads; and there also appeared the Denardo Boys, juvenile acrobats; and Rose Gower, vocalist. Some capital animated pictures completed the programme.

Park Palace.—Lessee, Mr. Jasper Redfern.—The pantomime of *Aladdin*, transferred from the Tivoli, has occupied the boards here this week.

New Century Picture Hall.—Proprietors, The New Century Animated Picture Co., Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter W. Hook.—Public patronage of this excellent picture show continues satisfactory. During the week the following subjects were thrown on the screen.—A Modern Grace Darling, The Eclipse of the Sun, The Soldier's Heroism, The Traitor, and a number of humorous ones.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Resident Business-Manager, Mr. W. Payne Seddon.—Mr. Hubert Woodward's company, in the dramatic play of *Rouget de L'Isle*, and Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta, *Trial by Jury*, is here. Mr. Hubert Woodward's assumption of Rouget de L'Isle was an excellent effort; Mr. Keith Kenneth as Parachole was most lifelike; Miss Betty Rowland's Signora Rosetti was satisfactory; and Mme. Nita Payne Seddon's Angele was effective. In *Trial by Jury* Mr. Maurice Woolley scored by his clever acting as the Judge; Miss Hilda Stocker was a charming Plaintiff, her singing being much enjoyed; Mr. Leonard Faulks as the Defendant was good; Mr. Wilfred Moss was well suited to the part of Counsel for the Plaintiff; and the chorus was well balanced.

LOWESTOFT.—Marina.—Manager, Mr. E. A. Smith.—The Lowestoft Amateur Opera Company are presenting *Erminie* this week in aid of local charities.

Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—The bill this week is drawing splendid houses. Leo Carle, protean artist, submits a clever performance; while Marlow and Manton secure applause for their sketch, *Winning a Wife*. Percy Emery is seen to advantage in "coonology and coster comedy"; while Harry Volran (comedian) and Arthur Bright also appear with success. The Biograph this week depicts the Burns and Johnson fight in addition to a number of other interesting subjects

MACCLESFIELD.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—The theatre is ocupied for the week by Mr. Chas. W. Poole's up-to-date Myriorama, excellent fare being provided. In addition there are capital pictures on the Bioscope. The Banzai Family of Japanese equilibrists and jugglers top the bill with a clever performance; the Seven Bramusas are skilful instrumentalists; Mr. Harry Raymond and his daughter, Little Ivy, are a couple of exceptionally clever dancers; Mr. Sydney Bach is smart at the piano; Mr. Willie Dean is a comedian of merit; and Mr. Couper makes an interesting guide.

MANCHESTER.—Royal Osborne Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Mason.—*King and the Unknown Woman*, last week's attraction at the Grand Junction Theatre, is staged successfully here this week.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Dry.—The principal attractions here are Lester and Moure, comedy duo from the New York music-halls; Valvero, in a dioramic illustration of a naval bombardment; Jack Truman, a very acceptable tenor vocalist; and the Rangers, expert cyclists. Interesting items are added by the Roxbys, speciality artists; Lallie Brooke, in a pleasing scena; M. H. Thiessen, with his acrobatic dogs; Cyril Jephson, a neat comedian; and Jack Crawley, in a novel act, *Lights Out*.

Grand Junction Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Brearley.—Mr. Montague Beaudyn presents here this week a romantic drama, entitled *Send Him Victorious*. It is crowded with stirring incidents, and picturesquely mounted, and Monday's large audience gave it a gratifying reception. Mr. Oliver Birrell has a fine heroic part as Captain Frank Allison, and his acting is admirably matched by Miss Isabelle Hunt as Ethel Harding. On the evil side of affairs, much admirable work is done by Mr. G. M. Montanini as Colonel Haufman, and by Miss Katherine Herbert as Countess Kara; while Mr. Frank Holyoake as the King of Ravonia is effective, and Mr. Edward Lowrie is commendable as Sergeant Max. Good fun, and also some good dancing, is contributed by Mr. Bert Woodin as Geordie Walker and Miss Madge Palmer as Gretchen Holtz.

Gaiety Theatre.—Proprietress, Miss A. E. F. Horniman; Manager, Mr. B. Iden Payne; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edwin T. Heys.—The Irish Players from the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, are here this week in no less than fourteen plays. On Monday night *Dervorgilla*, *In the Shadow of the Glen*, *The Gaol Gate*, and *The Rising of the Moon* were given in characteristic style by an excellent company, including Miss Sara Allgood, Miss Maire Sinclair, Mr. Arthur Sinclair, Mr. J. M. Kerrigan, Mr. Fred O'Donovan, Mr. S. J. Morgan, and Mr. J. A. O'Rourke. On Tuesday the performance of Mr. J. M. Synge's play, *The Well of the Saints*, and Lady Gregory's comedy *The Jackdaw*, was greatly enjoyed, Miss Allgood and Mr. Arthur Sinclair being particularly good. The scenery generally is realistic and effective.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—A very enjoyable programme here is topped by Joseph Hart's company in *Polly Pickle's Pets in Petland*, a dainty musical fantasy; while W. Selkirk's fine juvenile spectacle, *The Gathering of the Clans*, also occupies a position of prominence. The Falcons, comedy acrobats, add an excellent turn; and much laughter accompanies the burlesque humour of Wittie Wattie Walton, the popular comedian. Enjoyable items are provided also by the Vetter Brothers, in *The Page's Recreation*; Miss Marquis and her stud of trained cobs; Pat Rafferty, the genial Irish comedian; Nellie Taylor, juvenile male impersonator; and Ernest Clifford, comedian and dancer.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—Les Fleury in "Paris Types" are at the top of the bill here this week, and their revuette is a smart piece of work. Zeynard's Lilliputians, in their clever equestrian and speciality acts, are novel and greatly enjoyed; Henri De Vries the famous Protean actor, ably assisted by Miss Florence Harcourt and Miss M. Gordon, is clever in *Trapped by Telephone*, each character being perfectly assumed; Margaret Parker and capable company are good in an episode, *Sunshine*; the Sisters Caselli gain great applause for expert dancing; and others who offer smart turns are Katie Moss, a pleasing vocalist, pianist, and violinist; the Three Laurels, in speciality act; Cliff Ryland, the droll one; and Takio, Japanese mimic of sounds. The King's Berlin Visit is shown on the Bioscope.

Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. J. Carter.—Fred Karno's comedians in *The Dandy Thieves* head the bill here this week, George Hestor playing the part of Sergeant Lightning in capital style. Joe Peterman's company in *The Pawnbroker* are also a prominent attraction; while the Croisit Trio give a novel sporting scena, and the Hyde and Cody Trio are seen in a smart eccentric act. Other good turns are Cara Magda, gymnast; Flo Deighton, vocalist; Rose Hamilton, comedienne; and Raie Walters, the fisher-girl.

King's Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. James R. Trippett.—Wild, Willie, and West, the bounding navvies, are highly amusing and clever; Carl and Mary Ohm's animal circus is a fine show; Fred Maitland and assistant are capital in *Talked Out*, an up-to-date skit; Evelyn and Norrie, in comedy sketch, *Set a Thief*, are good; Lily Hayes, chic comedienne, makes a hit with excellent dancing; and other smart turns are contributed by Ben Harris in boxing speciality; the Deuchars, comedy duo; Jim Cunliffe, comedian; Farrell and Dunn, Caledonian duo; and Joan Dearing, vocalist-violinist. Pictures complete.

Tivoli.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Clare Greet, very ably assisted by Dickson Moffatt, is highly successful here this week in an amusing playlet, *The Top-side Dog*. Lillie Langtry trips the stage in surprising style; Viviana, assisted by Constance Viviana, Milly Coles, Archie Drew, and Mark Lupino, makes a big hit in a delightful dancing scena, *The Toy Shop*; Mlle. Martha, in a very graceful trapeze act, scores a success; Ford and Hanson, in musical and burlesque act, are capital; and other entertaining items are given by George Porter, comedian; Kathleen Kennedy, comedienne; Gilbert's performing dogs; Wright and Elton, comedy duo; and Dallas and Varden, in *That Husband of Mine*. Ruffell's Bioscope pictures are interesting.

Queen's Park Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—Mr. J. Gar Kiddie's comic pantomime *Little Bo-Peep* (one of the best on the road) is once more with us. The company is good throughout, and there is plenty of pretty scenery and dresses, smart dances, and good songs. Miss Ivy Gallard as Boy Blue and Miss Lizzie Payne as Bo-Peep are very pleasing; whilst plenty of fun is forthcoming from Mr. J. W. Groves, Mr. Harry Royde, Mr. A. K. Stern, Mr. W. Harris, and Misses Grapho and Jackson. Miss Elsie Peach as the Fairy sings well, as does also Mr. W. H. Gatty as the Demon Wolf. Mention should also be made of the pleasing work of Miss Bertha Cousins and Miss Marie Harding. The whole is stage-managed by Mr. Albert Kall Stern. The grand tableau of living statuary is very effective.

Hulme Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thomas Baker.—The famous Houdini, handcuff king, is to the front here is his usual astounding performance; Evelyn Taylor, comedienne, proves very popular, her song "Mr. Poverty" being highly successful; the Five Musical Tritons are excellent in their gorgeous musical act; and Vanando makes a hit as a ventriloquist. The patter and dancing of Burns and Bentley are greatly enjoyed; the Three Cascaellas are smart comedy tumblers; Hector and Dale, acrobatic eccentrics, are well received; and others who entertain are Wynnie Darrell, a graceful dancer; and Dalton and Euston, comedians and simultaneous dancers of ability.

MARGATE.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. E. Michael; General-Manager, Mr. W. W. Kenne.—Mr. Tom Watt's company, in arrangement with Mr. Pitt-Hardacre, has been playing the Wilson Barrett version of *East Lynne*. The principal members of the company have been Miss Julie Kennard as Lady Isabel and Mme. Vine, Mr. Edmund F. Kennedy as Archibald Carlyle, and Mr. Frank G. Bayley as Capt. Levison. The old drama has been well played and well received.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—With the exception of Violet Fernie, comedienne, and Lester May, vocal character comedian, the programme is again made up of pictures; but included in the latter is a wonderful presentment of the hurry, bustle, and hurricane life of the present newspaper world depicted by pictures of the *Morning Leader's* publication. Other films include most amusing subjects, including comedy, dramatic, and descriptive pictures.

Hall-by-the-Sea.—Sole Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General-Manager, Mr. Charles Evans.—Joshua Dyson's Gipsy Choir opened here on Monday for a week, and the entertainment has each evening been well patronised. The vocalists are individually good, as a choir they sing tunefully, and among the ladies are talented sleigh bell and xylophone soloists; whilst the programme includes humorous songs and duets, sketches, and a series of instructive dioramic pictures, added to which are many amusing cinematograph films. Mr. Dyson personally conducts the picture tours at home and abroad, and the show, as a whole, affords two and a half hours' enjoyable entertainment.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessees, The South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Albert Jackson.—*The Beggar Girl's Wedding*, presented by Mr. Walter Melville's company, is here. Miss Vashti Wynne as Bessie Webster enlists sympathy throughout the play; Mr. Otto Minster ably fills the rôle of Jack Cunningham; Mr. Frank McClellan is good as Dr. Millbank; Mr. Herbert Lloyd is brimful of humour as Dicky Storm; and Miss Daisy Meynard is an amusing Tina. Mr. Herbert Morgan impersonates the villainous Gilbert Lindsay with ability; Mr. Ernest G. Batley is an acceptable Norman Marsh; Miss Doris Whyte a delightful Elsie Cunningham; and Miss Olive Warne a very effective Maud Villiers.

Temperance Hall.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—Engaged here are the Brooklyn Comedy Four; W. L. Murray, the Roman gladiator; the St. Johns, musical comedians; Filma, magician; Lambert and Butler, comedians and dancers; Gordon Welldon, comedian; and Albert Hope, the singing collier. The Biograph concludes.

METHIL.—Gaiety Theatre.—Proprietors, the Methil Theatre Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Burnett.—Mr. T. Morton Powell's company in *Greed of Gold* is proving an excellent attraction here this week. Mr. James Jarrett as Tom Welstead (a dumb man) is responsible for a clever portrayal; Mr. Vic. C. Rolf as Mr. Brightstone, K.C., acted in a first-class manner; Mr. Arthur Beaufort is good as Cully Snug, a Cockney tipster; Mr. Alf. Stretton displays considerable ability as Arthur Errol; Mr. Henry Parr makes the most of the part of the villainous Harry Hood. Comedy relief is afforded by Mr. Charles C. Wood as Conn Creamer, ably assisted by Miss Florrie Hayes as Patty Marfield; Miss Maud M. Powell deserves special mention for a very effective and pathetic impersonation of Dora (the wife of Harry Hood); Miss Jennie Douglas Hicks is a dignified Mrs. Maxwell; and Miss Beatrice M. Hughes achieves success in the child-part of Cecil.

MEXBOROUGH.—Prince of Wales' Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and Mr. J. E. Cardwell's company are this week presenting the pantomime *Babes in the Wood*. Little Peggy McDonnell and Little Cissy Wyse are delightful in the title-rôles, acting with much grace and singing pleasingly; Miss Dolly Dodds scores a big success as Maid Marian, her vocal efforts meeting with high appreciation; Mr. Jimmie Watson imparts a rare fund of humour to the part of Lucinda, the nurse to the babes; and hardly less successful is Mr. J. G. Aitken as Sandy Simple. Miss Daisy Wood is a pleasing Robin Hood; and Miss Jenny Hughes exercises a good voice to advantage as the Fairy. The specialities are a strong feature, and are contributed by J. G. Aitken, Harry Leander, Jimmie Watson, Levy and Cardwell's Troupe of international dancers, the Marguerite Quartette, and Peggy McDonnell.

New Picture Hall.—Lessee, Mr. Will Hunter; Manager, Mr. E. H. Jones.—Included in a capital programme here this week are the following films: Drama in the Tyrol, The Jealous Fiancé, The Unlucky Winner, Dancing Girl, For His Child's Sake, Baby's Disappearance, &c.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Ed. Jowsey; Manager and Licensee, Mr. W. Ker Chatto.—Mr. Charles Constant is this week presenting his pantomime *Aladdin*, which has been produced by Mr. Victor Stevens. Good comedians are absolutely essential to a pantomime, and it is in this department that *Aladdin* can claim to be above the average. Mr. Victor Stevens is a very popular comedian wherever he goes, and in his impersonation of Widow Twankee he keeps the audience in a constant roar of laughter; Mr. Tom J. Morton is exceedingly funny in the part of Abanazar; and the Bros. Hinson, who act as the policemen, are also responsible for much laughter-making. Miss Daisy Lake, of *Florodora* fame, makes a dashing principal boy, and Miss Dorothy Dempster looks sweet and sings sweetly as the Princess; Mr. Martin Pitts as the Emperor uses an excellent voice to advantage. There is a powerful chorus, and the dresses and scenery are exceedingly pretty.

Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson.—Crowded houses are the rule here this week, the attraction being *Butterflies*, which is being staged for the first time in Middlesbrough. The piece is entertaining and amusing. The libretto by W. J. Locke is teeming with wit, and there are several catchy songs. Mr. Blake Adams is well suited to the part of the Colonial broker Yarker, and keeps the house convulsed with laughter; Miss Phyllis Monkman adds in no small measure to the success of the play by her new classical dance, entitled "Danse du Papillon," for which she is loudly applauded; Miss Georgie Corlass is very charming as Rodanthe; and Miss Stella St. Audrie is very vivacious as Nora Podmore. Mr. Richard Green is responsible for a fine performance as Max Riadone, his grand voice being heard to great advantage; Mr. Alfred Selby as Paul, Mr. Ray Sydney as Peter, Miss Constance Clive as Elsie Podmore, and Mr. Louis Bradfield as Widgery Blake also do full justice to their respective rôles.

Empire Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Chas. Rembges.—A great turn is provided here this week by the Elliott-Savonas, whose musical items and beautiful effects in the scene The Palace of Orpheus fairly brings down the house; J. W. Hall is the cause of much laughter, and the Sisters Selwyn prove themselves excellent dancers; Lieut. Albini presents a mystery, and the Four Avocas give a good operatic scena; Bert Lyton sings well, and Spry and Austin are very amusing.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Manager, Mr. C. E. Nicholls.—The premier turn on the bill here this week is given by Fred Ginnett's sketch *Hunting Morn*. Another good turn is provided by Emlyn Jones and company in a screaming absurdity, *Harmonic Cranks*. Texas Hattie gives a good performance on the wire rope; Tiger Lily is a wonderful dancing acrobat; Bi Bo Bi, a clever comedian, and Goggin and Davis are pleasing comedy acrobats. Frank Bertram and company are also very amusing in a comedy sketch, *The Chaperon*.

MOTHERWELL.—New Century Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hales.—Mr. George D. Day's company is this week appearing in *The Prodigal Son*. Mr. Albert Ward gives a finely-conceived and ably-rendered conception of the character of Oscar Stephensson, and Mr. Alfred Goddard is at once strong, manly, and impressive as Magnus; Miss Pearla Gardner is excellent as the unscrupulous Helga; and Miss Dorrie Roberts is warmly applauded for her fine acting as Flora, and later in the play as the girl Elin. The Margret Neilsen of Miss Maud Locke is an excellent bit of character acting; Ana Magnusson finding a suitable exponent in Miss Florence Lovell. Stephen Magnusson is finely played by Mr. Jackson Hayes; Oscar Neilsen having an equally apt exponent in Mr. David Beattie. Doctor Olsen, the Pastor, the Sheriff, and Neils Finsen find excellent exponents in the persons of Messrs. J. E. Savery, A. J. Williams, R. C. Brooksmith, and J. H. Leigh.

NEATH.—Gwyn Hall.—Lessee, Mr. J. W. Robinson.—Miss Harriet Greet's company in *The Sign of the Cross* appeared here Friday to Monday. Mr. Leonard Yorke gave a fine performance of Marcus Superbus; Miss Hazel Dent made an excellent Mercia, Miss Edward Clowes an interesting Nero, Mr. G. Osmond Tearle and Mr. Rupert Carlton gave good portrayals of Tigellinus and Licinius; Mr. Donald McAdam ably acquitted himself as Glabrio; Miss Lilian Ward as Poppæa gave a satisfactory representation; Miss Florence Maber was a successful Berenice, and Miss Effie Dane a graceful and pathetic Stephanus.

NEW BRIGHTON.—Winter Gardens.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. H. E. Jones and A. Douglass.—The Wakeman Quintette give a musical comedy sketch, and by their brightness and charming vocalism make a decided success; Mr. Charles Clifford plays harps of various sizes beautifully; whilst Dorien and Doritz are responsible for a pantomimical absurdity, *The Erratic Hotel*. A tabloid comedy, *That Girl Carrots*, is enacted by Miss Margaret Huntley and company, and causes laughter; the Keppels sing splendidly; and Mr. Frank Solbey's imitations are good. The animated pictures are beyond reproach, the subjects, as is usual here, being chosen with the greatest care.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—The successful pantomime *Aladdin* still continues to draw crowded audiences each evening. In the absence of Miss Lloyd, who is indisposed, the principal boy is being played by Miss Constance Hyem with great success. Happy Fanny Fields, Maud Thorne, Doris Dean, and Florence Hersee still continue to maintain their well-merited popularity, whilst Harry Tate, Malcolm Scott, and Regan and Ryan never fail in their efforts to amuse. The dancing of the Mimosa troupe and the general excellence of the chorus are all factors in this very successful scheme.

Tyne Theatre and Opera House.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—The pantomime *Humpty Dumpty* has now entered on the last week of its run, and has maintained its popularity right to the finish. Undoubtedly the success has been due to the efforts of Messrs. Arthur Prince, Carlton, Shaun Glenville, J. E. Nightingale, Jock Walker, and Misses Ida Rene, Lily Iris, and Rhoda Gordon, who, with the excellent chorus, have fully upheld the traditions of this theatre.

Palace Theatre.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—Mr. Frank M. Thorne and company are here this week in the romantic play *The Woman Pays*. Mr. Phil Harper as Sid Armstrong has a part eminently suited to his style, and gives a most telling and finished performance; Mr. John Davidson is highly effective as the villainous Roger Marchant; Miss Maud Russell imparts power and sympathy to her impersonations of Madge Armstrong; while Miss Kate Blair displays considerable histrionic ability as Nell Morland. The author (Mr. Thorne) has a congenial part in Micky Maloney, being ably aided by Miss Anena Walton as Polly Stokes and Mr. Beresford Innes as Cyrus Treadgold. Mr. Dunlop Stewart as Luke Morland renders valuable assistance in an interesting performance.

Grand Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; Manager, Mr. H. G. Elliott.—Popular interest in pantomime is not waning in the East End, as was shown by the crowded audience which gathered to witness Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's *Dick Whittington*, which opened here on Monday. Miss Florie Gallimore is very smart as Dick and received a hearty reception. The principal comedy parts are in the safe hands of Mr. H. O. Wills as Idle Jack, Mr. Jimmie Wood, and Mr. Jack Mackenzie.

Empire Theatre.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—Among the many clever and interesting turns provided here this week, King and Benson are undoubtedly the chief attraction, and on Monday in a new burlesque *Around the Town* they absolutely took the house by storm, being recalled again and again. Mr. John F. Preston and his company in the racing episode *Rogues of the Turf* also prove an attractive item; whilst a most pleasing as well as skilful performance is contributed by the Selbinis in a cycling and acrobatic act which was accorded a hearty reception. Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Meymott in a farcical sketch *Semi-Detached* prove extremely amusing; and other notable items on the bill are Baker and Balfe, xylophone experts; Bert Williams, ventriloquist; George Westland, Scotch comedian; Lily Esplin, character comedienne; Dennis Drew, military scena; and Watson's Royal Fox-Terriers.

Pavilion Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. W. H. Boardman.—J. C. Piddock and company, in an original musical fantasy, *The Capture of Venus*, head an excellent bill here; and other artists contributing are Alick Lauder, the Cecillias, Paul Vandy, Hall and Macy, Harry and Paul, Effie White, Dave Carter, and the Woodwards.

Skating Rink, Exhibition Buildings.—Manager, Fred B. Crowe.—A graceful skating competition is announced to take place here this week, and is attracting much attention amongst the crowds of enthusiastic rinkers who daily patronise this popular resort.

NEWPORT.—Lyceum.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—Mr. Leonard Boyne's company in *Raffles* commands excellent houses here. Raffles, as played by Mr. Eille Norwood, is delightful; Mr. Arthur Willoughby does well as the Earl of Amersteth; Mr. Cecil Brymer provides a humorous character study of Viscount Crawley; and Mr. E. W. Thomas makes an ideal American detective, Curtis Bedford. Mr. Harold West puts a good deal of feeling into the part of Harry Manders; Mr. Dalziel Heron wins favour as Crawshay; Miss Agnes Knight makes the most of Lady Melrose; Miss Beatrice Fitzgerald is a natural Lady Ethel; Miss Lucie Milner's Gwendoline Corwan is sympathetic; and Miss May Brooke's Mrs. Tidal is particularly attractive. *A Lesson in Shakespeare* precedes.

Empire.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—One of the best farcical sketches seen on any provincial stage is *Kleptomaniacs*, in which the principal parts are taken by Miss Bertha Northam and Mr. Fred Edwards. Frank Lynne, the funny mantograph; Jennie Hartley, a dainty soubrette; and Billy Hobbs, coon impersonator and dancer, contribute excellent turns; and these are followed by J. H. Scotland, the possessor of a fine bass voice; the Ten Bedouin Arabs, the Achmed Ibrahim troupe, in a marvellous turn; Rapoli, with sensational juggling; and Chas. Fisher's Pocket Opera Company in *Il Trovatore*. The Bioscope, showing exceptionally good pictures, completes the bill.

NEWRY.—Town Hall.—Proprietors, the Newry Urban Council.—On Monday night Mr. Charles Harrington's company gave a representation of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Mr. J. Carr, in the important part of Uncle Tom, left nothing to be desired; Mr. Charles Harrington as Phineas Fletcher gave a very creditable account of a typical Quaker; Mr. G. R. Thorne as George Harris was very successful; and Mr. John Gibson, Mr. G. Lubimoff, and Mr. Alfred Lafolle filled well the rôles of Wilson (factory owner), Legree (slave owner), and Dan Haley (slave dealer) respectively. Mr. W. Langford provided much merriment as Marks, a lawyer; and the part of Eliza Harris was in the capable hands of Miss Hero Hathaway. Topsy could scarcely have been better played than by Miss Annie Watson; and Miss Doris Brereton was equally successful as Little Eva.

NORMANTON.—Palace.—Proprietors, Dobito and Buxton.—This hall is now in full swing. Crowded houses assembled on Monday night, and a fine show of pictures was thrown on the screen. Variety items were supplied by Dobito and Buxton, vocalists; the Cedries, in a comedy act; and Oela, tramp on the clothes-line.

NORTH SHIELDS.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—Mr. and Mrs. Charles Draycott's répertoire company occupy the boards here this week, opening with *The Stolen Birthright*, which was warmly greeted by an appreciative audience. As Stefano Mr. Draycott was extremely successful; Mr. George Steel gave a capital denlineation of Prince Apdrea Celsi; and Mr. George Arthur proved a capable Count Marco Tadro. Mr. Wilfred J. Short did justice to the part of Prince Michael Silvan; Mr. Charles H. Herbert was good as Prince Antonio; and Mr. Harry Scatchard was funny as Pedro. Mrs. Draycott gave a fine interpretation of Princess Miranda; Miss Eva Norman made a capital Nita; and Miss Marie Ellis made the most of Fidelia Silvati. *East Lynne*, *The Colleen Bawn*, *The Sorrows of Satan*, and *Shadows of a Great City* have also been produced during the engagement.

Central Palace.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—Heading the bill here is Captain W. V. Simmons-Lynn, in his sleight-of-hand act, which meets with favour; Mr. Tom Lloyd, the favourite comedian, has met with a most cordial reception; and Mr. Martin Henderson, the blind concertina soloist, is as popular as ever. Messrs. Taylor and Bridge, the Lancashire singing mill lads, have made a hit; and Mr. Bert Terrell, Tyrolean vocalist, meets with appreciation. Whizzing the Whirl causes much laughter, and the animated pictures are greatly enjoyed.

NORTHWICH.—Central Theatre.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden.—*Across the Frontier* is this week presented by Mr. John Soden's company. Mr. John Soden as Arizona Joe looks and acts the part of the American scout to the life; Mr. H. P. Kennedy as Harry Ashton distinguishes himself; Mr. Terence Nerrey gives a fine rendering of the Indian chief, Yellowhawk; Miss Kate Randolph is a graceful and powerful Flora Ashton; Miss Nora Temple does well as Silver Star; Miss Ada Stellings is taking as Kate Ferras; and Mr. Fred Rose as Mick McBride keeps the audience in good humour, and is well supported by Mr. Alec Taylor as Bob White.

The Pavilion.—Proprietress, Mrs. Fletcher; Manager, Mr. Phil Royston.—The Camerons appear here with great success; Miss

COLOSSEUM THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Wm. Eastwood.—W. H. Hallett and Walter Howard's company occupies the boards here in *Her Love Against the World*. Mr. Fred Emery in the rôle of Eric makes a manly soldier; Mr. Lewis Gilbert as Prince Ulric acts well as a scheming villain; and the Countess Shula is ably played by Miss Blanche Steele. Miss Gracie Heywood as Princess Iris is most sympathetic; and Miss Rossie St. John as Lionel submits a clever portrayal. Miss Julie de Esco is most capable as Corona; Mr. W. H. Hallett plays the part of Prince Othmar in a clever manner; and Mr. Victor Rowland makes a smart Prince Maurice. Mr. Chas. R. Hann is much appreciated as the plain-spoken General Gessler.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—Neil Kenyon is the attraction here in his latest creation, "The Postman of Dunrobin"; a delightful musical turn is provided by Olga and Elgar; the Wartana Trio are clever and neat in their juggling; the Howards are marvellous in mental telepathy; Nell Farrell is a dainty comedienne and dancer; John Lloyd's gondolier glee singers are excellent; Ruhart is amusing in his vaudeville burlesque; and Charles Vincent is a smart comedian.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. Thorne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. Sharrock.—*Claude Duval*, a new romantic story, in three chapters, which tops the bill here, is played by Fred Ginnett and Wal Pink's company. Mr. A. Max as Claude is excellent. Miss Ray Heyden being most delightful as Lady Doris, and Miss Victoria Douglas is a dainty Polly; Mr. Calver as Lord Leicester makes a dignified nobleman, and Mr. Jack Collinson as Fritz is a clever comedian, Mr. G. Hammond being good as Silas Deadgold. J. G. Grahame, jun., and Zerlina Harrington, in their Parisian episode, *A Daughter of Pleasure*, are much appreciated; the De Breans present a clever turn with shadowgraphy and juggling; Annie Heath sings and dances pleasingly; Tom Leamore sings smart songs well; Walter King is good as a comedian; and Captain Kettle manipulates coins well; Freedo and Preston sing and dance capably; and the Palace pictures are pleasing.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Kilrow.—Miss Agnes Molteno and company again score with their clever scena *An Old-time Story*; Mlle. Haydee's miniature vaudeville theatre is smartly worked; Jock Mills, character comedian, sings good songs; Queenie May is a dainty comedienne; Delafiore plays the xylophone in a masterly manner; and the Brothers Lawrence are capital in their act. *All Scotch*; Bert Castle is good in light comedy; and Charles Lewis is an excellent ventriloquist. Harry Luck, comedian, and an entertaining picture on the Dottoscope conclude.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lester King.—Excellent business is being done this week with a series of pictures.

OXFORD.—NEW THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. C. C. Dorrill; Assistant-Manager, Mr G. T. Lucas.—The latter half of last week Mr. Murray King with his company drew full and highly delighted houses here with *Toddles*, which decidedly "caught on." Mr. Murray King's droll and imperturbable impersonation of Toddles met with the keenest appreciation, and there was not a dull moment while he was on the stage. Mr. Mattie Cheshire as Boolby, the society entertainer, gave a very clever turn, and was encored for every song he gave; Mr. R. Webb was delightfully fussy and natural as the Mayor; while Gunner, Haslitt, Dr. Baird, Joblyn, and the Valet all found most capable exponents in Messrs. A. Chumley, C. Douglas Cox, J. V. Bryant, A. Linden, and A. Lee. Miss Naomi Neilson filled with natural ease the part of Lady Dover; Miss Evelyn Shelley got plenty of fun out of the part of Mrs. Joblyn; Miss Ada Champion was a capital Countess de Chantry; Miss Mabel Ormonde was excellent as the fascinating widow Mrs. Bowler; and Miss Doris Langdon was an interesting Constance Joblyn.

EAST OXFORD THEATRE. — Lessees, East Oxford Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Stuart.—Mr. J. B. Hart is this week presenting Mrs. F. Wybert Clive's company here in *The Branded Woman*. Mr. Cecil A. Olgar gives a very acceptable interpretation of Philip Maurice; Mr. J. W. Boyling is successful as Zarka; and Mr. Clifford Rean does well as Leon. Mr. Frank Hertie infuses plenty of life into the piece as Dick Brown, and is the possessor of a good voice; Mr. Miles Platting is effective as Louis Daroc; Miss Vera Neville is sprightly and entertaining as Jacqueline; Miss F. M. Daly is sympathetic as Marie; and Miss Ethel Tooney gives a powerful rendering of Genevieve Laroche.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—Here this week is Mr. Augustine Knight and company in *The Assassin*. Prince Demetri is admirably interpreted by Mr. Augustine Knight; Mr. John Worth plays well the part of Ivan Ipanoff; Mr. Henry C. Ward as Duke Carl is to be commended; Baron Alphonse is capably enacted by Mr. Murray Hathorn; Mr. Wilson Summers as General Nicol is capital; Captain O'Neil is faithfully embodied by Mr. Edwin Jenner; Mr. Harry Liddle submits a humorous portrayal of Peter; and Mr. W. R. Christmas is good as Evangie. Miss Ella Vane plays with ability the part of Countess Wanda; Miss Maude Steeple as Nita acts charmingly; Miss Rosa Webster makes an interesting Connie Jonathan; an excellent Nardine Farina is found in Miss Ada Douglas; and Miss Katie Lever is meritorious in the rôle of Katrina.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Stead.—Mr. Harry Roxbury's pantomime *Mother Goose* is the attraction here this week, and the show is full of good things in the way of scenery, dresses, and fun. Miss Maud Prenton makes a vivacious Colin and sings delightfully; a winsome Jill is Miss Lily Palmer; Miss Marjorie Prenton makes a most engaging Phyllis; Mr. Harry Roxbury keeps fun fun well sustained as Mother Goose; the Jack of Mr. J. W. Gallaher is full of eccentricities; Miss Lois Caris makes a sweet Fairy Content; the Demon Discontent is capitally played by Mr. Brian Henry; as Eric and Muggies Mr. George Castrey and Mr. Fred Hutchings perform cleverly; the Lemaires are very funny as the Horse, their antics receiving due appreciation; and Mr. Fred Guinness does admirably as the Goose. The specialities introduced afford the greatest enjoyment, these being contributed by the Royal Welsh Singers, the Four Sydney Girls, dancers, and the Miltons, roller-skating comedians.

PEMBROKE DOCK.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Tom Barger; Business-Manager, Mr. Norman Barger.—*A Woman Worth Winning*, as presented by Mr. Percy Norman's company here this week, under the management of Mr. A. B. Mackay, is a play worth seeing, as testified by the splendid houses nightly. Miss Cissie Bellamy as Roma Pauloff, a woman worth winning, gives a capital interpretation; Miss Ida Mackay, as Katerina Kless, is a pleasing and vivacious actress; Miss Trixie Leighton plays the part of Lola Kalnovsky with sympathy; Mr. B. Crosby makes much of his part as Fergus Lovinski; Mr. Gerald Ord comes out strongly as General Borinski; as Ivan Bardoff Mr. A. B. Mackay is exceedingly clever; a store of fun is provided by Mr. Louis Newman as Bertie Scribbles and Mr. Ernest Kendrick as Peter Popples; Mr. Gilbert Standing plays well as Amos Pauloff; and the minor parts are all in capable hands. *Trilby* is also presented, with Miss Cissie Bellamy in the title-rôle, and Mr. A. B. Mackay as Svengali, with much success.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—On Monday Mr. Louis Elgar's company paid a one-night visit with *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Miss Isa Bernard made a capital Jack. Miss Rena Rees ably sustaining the part of Phyllis. The specialities included Will Belasco, expert instrumentalist; Charles Presto, illusionist; the Godfrey Girls, acrobatic dancers; Miss Isa Davis, the petite mimic; and Harry May, Welsh comedian.

PENTRE.—TIVOLI PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Poole's, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Resident-Manager, Mr. James Gunn.—Substituting the Eight Lancashire Lads and topping the bill are the Les Aribos in a clever and sensational gymnastic act; the Brothers Rees come in for a large share of approbation by their distinctly unique act in their manipulation of cannon balls and shells; the Daunton-Shaw cycling turn is a marvel of skill and dexterity; Marlo contributes some smart juggling tricks; Mamie Fenton gives an excellent performance at the piano; Ida Brophy is a charming soubrette. The Tivoliscope concludes a good programme.

PERTH.—PERTH THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—The F. R. Benson Shakespearean (North) company is here this week, and opened on Monday with *The Merchant of Venice*. Mr. Henry Herbert gave an exceptionally good rendering of Shylock; Mr. James Berry made a capital Antonio; Bassanio was well represented by Mr. Everard Vanderlip; Mr. Cyril Sworder as Gratiano, Mr. Victor Wiltshire as Salanio, and Mr. Chas. Sparrow as Salarino were very good; Mr. Robert Atkins made a princely Prince of Morocco; Mr. A. Fayne amusingly impersonated Launcelot Gobbo; Mr. Charles Trail as Duke of Venice, Mr. Lewis as Lorenzo. Mr. Andrew Leigh as Clerk of the Court, Mr. Bisshopp as Tubal, and Mr. Sam Cohen as Old Gobbo were all good. Portia was admirably portrayed by Miss Gladys Vanderzee; Miss Violet Farebrother made a capital Nerissa; and Miss Jean Graeme a delightful Jessica. *Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet, Othello, Taming of the Shrew, Twelfth Night*, and *Richard the Third* are also in the répertoire.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—Mr. Murray King and company in *Toddles* opened a week's engagement on Monday, and created an excellent impression. The success or failure of the piece greatly depends on the presentation of the vacillating Lord Meadows, and in this part Mr. King is superb, his efforts to avoid his forthcoming marriage being indescribably funny, whilst his song "Nobody" proves him a vocalist of no mean ability; Mr. C. Douglas Cox admirably portrays the overdressed moneylender Haslitt, and, in a quiet way, is very amusing; Mr. Ardene Linden as the corpulent, wealthy parvenu Mr. Joblyn supplies a most original part; Mr. Richard Webb as Le Maire makes an excellent, excitable Parisian; and Mr. Alick Chumby is a capable Freddy Gunner. Miss Evelyn Shelly as Mrs. Joblyn reaps loud applause for her realistic representation of a would-be society-monger; Miss Naomi Neilson as Lady Dover is capital; Miss Mabel Ormonde as the widowed Mrs. Bowler is both graceful and fascinating; and Miss Doris Langdon is an attractive Constance Joblyn, her *pas de seul* in the second act being very daintily executed. Particular mention must be made of the attractive drawing-room sketch furnished by Mr. Mattie Cheshire as Boolby, which was encored.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—Fred Earle, the well-known comedian, is starred for the week, and has a bevy of new songs and patter, but his amusing "Seaweed" song still retains premier position in the popular opinion; Rich Taylor's ventriloquial entertainment is far above the average, and deservedly earns much flattering applause; Tate and Tate introduce plenty of acrobatic skill into an amusing turn; John Bennett and Chas. Martell contribute a sketch entitled *Shipwrecked Mariners*; and the Emson Girls are fascinating vocalists and dancers. Miss Yolande Noble, burlesque actress, has an attractive presence and captivating style; the Dardinis are jugglery exponents of commendable ability; and Miss Frances Letty, the chorus queen, contributes the remaining number to a very acceptable programme.

PONTEFRACT.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Tom Diacoff.—The Four Breens combine comedy with jugglery, and at times the stage appears to be a whirl of clubs manipulated with lightning-like rapidity; Bob Hamilton is a capital Scottish comedian; Will Saunders does not belie his description as eccentric comedian; and Mr. E. Who is E? What is E? has a lot of funny patter illustrated by lantern slides. Eva Haddon sings and dances daintily; the Evalos do some quaint juggling, and the lady is decidedly graceful in a ring act; May Vincent is a gifted songstress; whilst Evelyn Geldard sings with taste and humour to her own piano accompaniment. Charles H. Gould's company present a most amusing sketch showing the humours which may attend the career of an insurance canvasser; Morelli and Moore have diversified accomplishments, and quickly got on good terms with the audience. During the week the management are offering prizes in a local wrestling competition, which is sure to command big houses. The pictures are particularly good.

PONTYCYMMER.—BODIE'S HIPPODROME AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor, Dr. Walford Bodie; General-Manager, Mr. Tom N. Mills.—The well-known and popular drama *The Power of Hate* is here this week. Both the tragic and comic element are very well catered for. The drama is well staged throughout. Mr. Tom Raymond as the hero and Miss Edna Clare as the heroine are both distinctly good.

PORTH.—PALACE.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole; Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—The chief place is occupied by the Three Sisters Sprightly, who make a big hit in their skit entitled *Golfing*; the Brothers Ford, in concurrent singing act and dancing, deserve special mention; they are enthusiastically received, and are given rounds of applause. Tom Kelso and company are exceptionally smart in their original comedy absurdity, *The Silly Servant*; a pleasing turn is that given by Boyd and Gilfain in their diverting operetta, *Mixed Drinks*; La Danseuse, in her dancing scena, *Santa Claus*, asquits herself creditably; Arthur Holland is an excellent refined character vocalist, and meets with a warm reception; particular interest was manifested in Corbin's Dogs, who gave a really clever performance: they were undoubtedly well trained; Percy Ford and E. C. Webb's company in the thrilling dramatic episode entitled *The Spy* were accorded an excellent reception for their acting, which undoubtedly pleased all. The Palascope with its fine films concludes.

PRESTON. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, the Executors of the late W. Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—The visit of the Moody-Manners Opera Company is an event which is always looked forward to by the music-loving residents of Preston, and the very large and representative audience which greeted their opening night on Monday must have been gratifying to artists and management alike. Puccini's opera *Madame Butterfly* was presented for the first time to a Preston audience on Monday. One cannot speak too highly of Miss Enriqueta Crichton in the title-rôle, which she filled in a most impressive manner, her singing and dancing being equally delightful. Miss M. Dennis is also to be congratulated on her very skilful rendition of the part of Susuki. In the unenviable part of the faithless husband Lieutenant Pinkerton (U.S. Navy) Mr. Charles Carter notably distinguished himself, and his rich voice was heard to much advantage; Mr. Marshall Vincent was extremely able and natural as the U.S. Consul Sharpless; Miss A. Gill as Kate Pinkerton and Mr. R. Brookes as Goro were also very able in their respective rôles; as were indeed all the cast. While this opera does not give very much work for a chorus, what there was was rendered in the manner for which this company has so long been justly celebrated. The largely-augmented orchestra can only be spoken of in terms of the highest praise. The répertoire includes *Maritana, Faust, Carmen, The Bohemian Girl, The Daughter of the Regiment, Cavalleria Rusticana*, and *Tannhäuser*. The company numbers eighty, with a full orchestra and *corps de ballet*, and in addition was augmented in *Faust* and *Tannhäuser* by a chorus selected from the Preston Grand Opera Society. Needless to say, the various operas presented have been received with the utmost enthusiasm throughout the week, and crowded houses have prevailed.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff. — *The Babes in the Wood* pantomime, as presented here this week by Mr. Fred Granville's company, is warranted to cure the worst fit of the blues, and in addition to the book specialities are given by Miss Cissie Paris, Ida Dore, Baby Boden, the Kimberley Boys, Boden and Wilson, and Alf Brooks; whilst the Six Emerald Gems are a talented troupe of dancers. Mr. Norman Hall as the Wicked Uncle is decidedly funny, and in conjunction with the Kimberley Boys as Burgling Bill and Gentle George, the two villains, keep the pot a-boiling with their eccentricities. Mr. A. Brooke is a funny Dame, Araminta Koffkake; and Bert Donnett succeeds as the Page. The Babes, by Violet Wilson and Baby Boden, are cleverly portrayed, and they prove themselves to be a couple of very versatile juveniles and excellent singers and dancers. Miss Cissie Paris is a most imposing Robin Hood with a fine presence and a good voice, and equally successful is Miss Ida Dorrie as Maid Marian. Mr. Arthur Leslie is a capital Friar Tuck; Miss May Cornish looks well as Little John; and Miss Nellie Boden is a vivacious Merry Mavis. As Will Scarlett, Allen-a-Dale, Walter, and Longbow, the Misses Cora Russell, J. Cliffe, D. Ainsley, and Eva Norman are very capable. Mention must be made of the singing of Mr. H. V. Morgan, who possesses a very fine voice, and adds much to the success in the part of Aconita. The chorus is a good one, and one and all play with a zest which makes the pantomime go with a regular swing from start to finish.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—The pantomime *Cinderella*, as produced by the Tally-Ho Trio and Sidney Cooper, is proving a great success here this week, and included in the cast are such popular speciality turns as Diamond and Beatrice, who give a most finished musical turn, Newham and Latimar, Sisters Florence, the Four Lancashire Roses, and the Tally-Ho Trio. Needless to say, such turns add greatly to the success of the pantomime, which is dressed and staged in first-class style, and leaves nothing to be desired. Miss Madge Daly as Prince Charming is, as her name implies, decidedly charming, and a great success; Miss Jessica Brooke, the talented young Australian actress, is an exceedingly winsome Cinderella; Miss May Maddison, the Ragtime Girl, is admirably suited as Dandini; while the Sisters Florence are admirable in their respective parts of Lord Veriwise and Cherry Blossom. Miss Ida Scott as the Fairy Godmother carries out her fairy duties in a very pleasing manner; Newnham and Latimar cause roars of laughter and are quite in their element as the Ugly Sisters; Mr. Harry C. Momber is also very funny as the Baron's Page; Mr. Gus Drake as Lord Verisoft, and Miss Violet Harris and Miss May Cameron as the Earl of Hulme and Lord Rusholme, are good in their respective parts. The Tally-Ho Trio (Messrs. Eric Farr, Wm. Dourt, Erne Chester) as Baron Doonaught, Graham, and Ceesam are excellent, their trios and harmonising being executed in a manner worthy of all praise, and are a decided innovation in pantomime, while the humour is well sustained. The chorus is most commendable, and the whole production reflects much credit on the producers, who are to be congratulated.

RADCLIFFE. — GRAND OPERA HOUSE. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas Boothman.—Mr. Walter Melville's piece *The Soldier's Wedding* is being played this week. The hero of the story has a competent impersonator in Mr. W. Lawrence, and Miss Dorothy Richardson is an acceptable heroine; Mr. G. Jordon acts very effectively as Charles Courtney, the villain; Miss M. Macauly has a well-drawn character to take in Julie de Beauvrias, and rises to the occasion; Messrs. F. Biron and B. Whitcomb also do well; and humorous parts are capitally taken by Miss Everett and Mr. J. Chippendale.

RAMSGATE.—ROYAL PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; Lessee, Mr. Ernest Mansell.—Twice nightly during the past week attractive programmes have been put on at the Royal Palace Theatre under the superintendence of Mr. Ernest Mansell, the enterprising lessee. The films exhibited in the series of Graphic Life-Motion pictures are thoroughly up to date, many being of a most ingenious character or humorous interest. Variety has been afforded by the clever vocal contributions of Mr. James Avon, the well-known comedian of the Bohemians.

RAWTENSTALL.—GRAND THEATRE. — Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; General Business-Manager, Mr. A. R. Feather.—Mr. John Tiller's excellent pantomime company is here with *Red Riding Hood*. The songs, dances, scenery, and dresses are all charming. Miss Eva Colton is an admirable Red Riding Hood, and Miss Louie Davies is a charming Margery Daw, whilst Miss Florrie Page is excellent as Fairy Goodwill; and Miss Nancy Hearne a delightful and dashing Prince Charming. As Baron Fitz Mr. Fred Russell is most successful, and Mr. Howard Ward makes a thoroughly capable Dame Crump. As Johnny Stout and Johnny Green Messrs. Will Lytton's and Walter Watson's comicalities create much laughter; and Mr. Dave Laird is good as the Wolf Redfangs. There is plenty of fun in the piece and many dances, all enjoyable, especially those by the Poppy Quartette and the Merry Dutch Boys and Girls. A big hit is the turn of the Mystic Hussars, and the Excelsior troupe of children are also most entertaining. The music all through is bright and sparkling.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Benton.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's London company is appearing this week in Mr. W. Somerset Maugham's highly-successful play *Mrs. Dot*. Miss Nancy Beresford makes a most bewitching and vivacious Mrs. Dot; Mr. Hugh Kennedy is a good exponent of the part of Gerald Halstane; Mr. Frank Lacy makes a great success as the cynical millionaire, Jimmy Blenkinsop; Mr. Charles A. Staite is very amusing as the unsophisticated and suceptible Freddie Perkins; Miss Emma Hutchison receives a warm reception, and acts most characteristically as the match-making dowager, Lady Sellenger; Miss Ethel Grahame gives a very natural rendering of the part of Nellie Sellenger; Miss Sybil Brooke is a prim and discreet Maiden Aunt; Mr. W. Midgham is an excellent Valet. The comedy is preceded by *Her Dearest Foe*, in which Mr. Hugh Kennedy, Miss Sybil Brooke, and Miss Ethel Grahame appear to advantage. A special matinée was given on Wednesday.

THE PALACE. — Managing Director, Mr. G. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. E. Draco. —Amy Elvira is successful as a burlesque artist; the Two Missouris create much amusement in a comedy acrobatic act; Fred Villiers, society comedian, is well received; the Haydns, comediennes and dancers, provide an attractive turn; Laffen B. Jolly justifies his nomenclature by his clever laughing and sneezing songs; Mr. and Mrs. Royston-Dene appear in a very smart sketch, entitled *My Lady's Chamber*; Farr and Farland give a very droll and humorous duologue turn, and conclude their show with a brilliant performance of the "Poet and Peasant" overture on two banjoes; R. V. Webb's quick-change scena is highly effective, some very novel and surprising mechanical changes are made in a wonderfully short space of time, the electric effects being very brilliant and pleasing. The four artists also give a clever and varied musical performance. The Bioscope pictures include a representation of the Royal Procession at the Opening of Parliament.

SMALL TOWN HALL.—Mr. Waller Jeff's animated picture entertainment is still doing excellent business here.

ROCHDALE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Burton.—*The Dairymaids* affords a most welcome attraction here this week. Several new songs and new features have been introduced since the play was last here. Mr. Johnny Osborne appears as Joe Mivens, and keeps the audience in roars of laughter with his bright and sparkling humour; Mr. Nelson Keys as Lieut. Sam Brudenell, R.N., is capitally placed, his disguise as the schoolgirl is admirably done, and met with hearty appreciation. Mr. Perce Marshall portrays with success the part of Dr. Byrne; and Mr. J. H. Willis makes the most of Lieut. Frank Meredith, R.N. Miss Carrie Lacey skilfully enacted the dignified, yet susceptible, Lady Brudenell; Miss Vera Crichton as Winifred scored heavily with her songs; Miss Lucy Edwin was admirable as the frigid Miss Pyechase; Miss Gladys Silvani delighted the audience with a clever conception of Eliza; and Miss Emsie Bowman captivated all hearts with a charming embodiment of Peggy.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—The Bensons, in their vocal and musical comedy act, *The Page and the Maid*, contribute both amusing and cleverly-rendered vocal numbers; Kartelli submitted a daring and marvellous balancing act on the slack wire; the Sisters Herbert are pleasing duettists and dancers; Day and Knight were heard to advantage in a musical episode, "What might have been"; and Cliff Rock scored a success as a baritone vocalist. Arthur Stacey, comedian and dancer, Jim Cheetham, whistler and mimic, Forest and King, acrobatic dancers, and the Empire Bioscope Pictures complete an attractive programme.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Jackson Family; Business-Manager, Mr. Jno. Jackson; Resident-Manager, Mr. James Jackson, sen.—The illusions and tricks presented by Roland and Miss Marjorie Russell are a source of great mystery to the audiences here this week; Davis and Gledhill introduce an ingenious machine for bicycle racing, interesting competitions for prizes taking place at each performance; Rex Vox is a clever performer on the wire; Joe Feichen and his dogs give a capital display of animal training; other turns are submitted by Beatrice Allan, comedienne; Alix Lukos, in "The Language of History"; Fred Ellis, comedian; Jennie Alexandra, child comedienne; and the Hippodrome Pictures.

ROTHERHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy. — Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company are this week presenting that realistic military drama *The Prince and the Beggar Maid* to record houses. Mr. Ernest Cox gives a finished portrayal of Prince Olaf; and Mr. Alfred Brandon is seen to advantage as Prince Hildred. Prince Michael is capably enacted by Mr. Lionel Gadsden; and Mr. H. Burton is deserving of mention as Nathan. Mr. R. Noble is a great success as Captain Hector; and Mr. J. H. Vyvyan is very smart as Lieut. Karl Stromberg. Mr. Kenneth Black is seen to advantage as Bishop of Illyria; and Mr. W. S. Hardy scores as Colonel Wellenberg. Miss Jessica Black is clever as Viola; and Miss Gertrude Branscombe gives a pleasing rendition of Camiola, the title-rôle. Miss Ethel Bracewell delights the house in the difficult part of Princess Monica. The mounting and scenery are also deserving of mention.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. Edgar Fox; Resident-Manager, Mr. Claude Shayler.—Pantomime is again filling the bill at this house, Mr. Jack Haddon's company presenting *The Babes in the Wood*. Miss Millie Engler is very smart as Robin Hood, her songs being deservedly applauded; and Miss Winnie Usher is a sprightly Little John. Baron Skeemalot is in the capable hands of Mr. Charles May; and Mr. Harry Elliston is most amusing as Euphemia Gadabout. Messrs. August and September as Noby Tyke and Soppy Sam are old local favourites, and make many new friends by their whimsicalities; Miss Dorma Morgan is very pleasing as Maid Marian; and Miss Carrie Parry as Sweet Innocence sings with effect. The Kentucky Trio, as May, Kate, and Minnie, are a clever troupe of sand-dancers; and Miss Maude St. John is deserving of mention as Margery May. A sensational turn is introduced by Menotti, who skates and cycles on a quickly-moving wire about 8ft. above the stage, the climax being reached when the revolving wheels are electrically illuminated. The groupings are highly effective, and the musical numbers very catchy.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Mr. C. Watson Mill's drama, *A Warning to Women*, is on a return visit to this theatre, and being well received by good audiences. Dr. Marcus Dread is forcibly played by Mr. Harry C. Robinson; Mr. Edward Warden makes a manly Shaun; Mr. C. O'Connor carefully portrays Fergus McNaughton; Lord Eversleigh is well presented by Mr. Leicester Jackson; Moira Kennion is skilfully sustained by Miss Blanche St. Albans; Miss Gertrude Vickers is a charming Sheila; Mr. Oscar Power as Mike McQuade does well; Mr. Henry Rutland as Squire Kennion, Mr. W. Pallister Acock as Ferdinand, Miss Edith Rutland as Myles O'Moore, Miss Ellen Beverley as Molly O'Moore, Miss Marie Ramuz as Hildred, are all equally successful, and the remaining parts are in good hands.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—As usual, an excellent programme is presented this week, and finds full houses twice nightly. Albert Toft's living statuary, entitled "Makers of History," with Mr. C. Lillford Delph as lecturer, makes a great hit; Ross and Grayson, in music, singing, and dancing mélange, get much applause; wonderful acrobatic feats are performed by the Faludy troupe; the Dancing Gilberts are well received. The other turns include George Hull, whistling comedian, the Society Quartette of singers and speciality dancers, W. H. Scott, coon comedian and dancer, and the Sages, comedy artists.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Slatter.—*Her Secret Lover*, by Mrs. F. K. Kimberley (which was produced at Wolverhampton last week), was enthusiastically received here by a full house on Monday. It is well written, and full of amusing and exciting incidents, which keep the audience on tiptoe of expectation right through to the last moment. Mr. Thompson Carruthers' company work very well togehter. Miss Mabel Mannering adds to her reputation by her clever acting of Ivy Seymour; Gilbert Seymour, the sorely-tried husband, is carefully played by Mr. Cecil Grey; Mr. Arthur Preston gives an excellent study of Captain Rose, a noble friend of Seymour; Mr. Millar Anderson as John Strange, a thorough villain, is very successful; Miss Amy Ellam also does well as Alicia Royale, an unscrupulous woman; Mr. Milner Noble as the worldly father, Mr. Murfield, makes the most of his opportunities; Miss Beatrice Reynolds as Jane Maria, Mr. Cecil de Lee as Bill Burley, and Mr. Fred George as Jim Jones, contribute much to the laughter of the audience. The scenery and staging are very good.

OPERA HOUSE AND ASSEMBLY ROOMS, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; General-Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Shepherd.—Full houses appear delighted with the Regent new animated pictures, including The Wise Man's Ring, Follow Me and I'll Pay for a Dinner, The Bridge of Sighs, The Shepherdess, Wild Man from Borneo, Evil Spirit of the Boarding School, Football Match, &c., and the illustrated song, "Somewhere the sun is shining," by Mr. Tom Sherlock.

NEW CENTRAL HALL.—Proprietors, Messrs. Whiteley and Weiker; Manager, Mr. Fred Sharp.—The World in Motion pictures continue to draw full houses, and among the films shown this week are For Daddy's Sake, The Animated Newspaper, Baby's Friend, Over the Sticks, His Wife's Birthday, Spinks and Stoops, The Tramp's £1,000 Note, &c.

SCARBOROUGH.—THE AQUARIUM.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman.—The leading item here is the Pichel Troupe of acrobats, who perform some exceptionally clever feats; Joe Dale, comedian, is well received; and Florrie Conolly is a pleasing Irish songstress. Coverdale and Huxley's juvenile troupe present a most interesting turn, their singing and dancing being excelent; Don and Mabel Keir are very successful in their Scotish vocal scena, *Sandy's Return*; Tiny Arnold is highly appreciated; and Gene Selby is a smart dancer and bone solist.

THE NEW HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock.—Jenny Johns heads the bill here, and is very popular; Harry Nelson is a first-rate comedian; and Renee Grahame appears with success. A fine turn is submitted by Phinias and Aida on the revolving pedestal; Jack Ramsay appears in a Scotch song; and Bert Bowden also appears. The rest of the programme is sustained by Milton Ray's company, in two sketches, *The Puzzled Coroner* and *Hittem*. Some good pictures are shown on the Kinematograph.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL. —Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. Wallace Childs.—Mr. Allan Wilkie and his Shakespearean company are paying a welcome return visit here this week. On Monday *The Merchant of Venice* was staged, and portrayed in a manner worthy of the traditions of this famous combination. Mr. Wilkie's conception of Shylock brought forth the warmest encomiums of the large audience; Mr. Alexander Marsh as Bassanio utilised his admirable voice and histrionic ability with telling effect; Antonio was finely conceived by Mr. John Paley; Mr. Frank Royde as Gratiano pleased immensely, and as the lover, Lorenzo, Mr. Ernest Diggs won hearty approval. Mr. Ian Fleming ably delineated the humour of Lancelot; Miss Haidee Gunn was a captivating Portia, and in the trial scene was heartily applauded; Miss Hunter Watts submitted an artistic portrayal of Jessica; Nerissa was pleasingly played by Miss Agnes Gagan, and as Stephano Miss Alice Meller won praise. The week's répertoire embraced in addition *Othello, Romeo and Juliet, Corsican Brothers, The Sleigh Bells*, and *Davy Garrick*, and *The Two Orphans of Paris*.

SHEFFIELD. — LYCEUM THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—*The Dollar Princess* was presented to an enthusiastic audience here on Monday. The mention of such popular and genuine artists as Miss Hilda Moody, Mr. Robert Michaelis, Mr. W. Warde, Mr. Fred Winn, and Miss Kitty Gordon, who appear respectively as Alice, the oil-king's daughter, Fred Fairfax, McGregor, the millionaire, and Princess Olga, is sufficient to prove what musicianly skill, feminine charm and comedy talent distinguish the interpretation of the leading parts. Recalls and encores were frequent on Monday, and the following performers were also included in the spontaneous ovation which followed the magnificent finale of the second act: Miss Alice Moffatt, Miss Kathleen Owen, Miss Mabel Duncan, Miss Doris Dewar, Mr. Robert St. George, Mr. H. Cridland, and Mr. Harry Parker.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. Henfrey. Aldred.—Mr. John Hart's successful annual finishes its run of eight weeks to-night.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. William D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—*Women and Wine* is again being played here to large audiences, by Miss Mary Austin and Mr. Vivian Edmond's company, which includes Mr. C. St. Elmo, the handsome and bewitching Marcel Rigadout; Miss Violet Lewis, the pretty and naive Mary Andrews; Miss Octavia de Noel, a graceful and fierce La Colombe; Miss Ethel Vinroy, the comely young widow, Janet Marlow; Mr. J. J. Milne-Taylor, the pathetic representative of Hugh Seymour; Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds as Dick Seymour; Mr. Edwin Kisby as Caliban; Mr. Foulis as Alphonse Beaudet; and the agile and graceful ladies of the Lottie Stone ballet troupe, who are cordially applauded in the Bal Masque scene. The piece is splendidly staged.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—The Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—A good company this week is headed by that talented and original trio, Servais Le Roy, Mlle. Talma, "the Queen of Coins," and Bosco, a genial humorist, who are appearing with great success in their marvellous and bewitching entertainment of "mirth, magic, and mystery." Other clever performers who are stamped with the hall-mark of popular approval are the Sisters Dorrell, duettists and dancers; the New Macs, comics; Miss Maud Rochez and her well-trained monkeys, in a unique act, "The Monkey's Variety Theatre"; Mr. Stratton Mills and company, in a humorous trifle; Mr. Harry Leybourne, vocal comedian and lady imitator; Miss Ida Kathrena, a pleasing artist; Mr. E. Sheldon, black and white entertainer; Terry and Lambert, the amusing Transatlantic duettists, who appear in a smart and cleverly conceived characteristic comedy sketch; and the American Bioscope, with artistic new films.

THE HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. D. Elbourne. — Mr. Arthur Roberts, alert, debonair, and full of humour, tops the bill here, in the laughable sketch, *Till Sunday*, in which he is ably supported by Miss Ruby Celeste and other capable artists. Vasco, the "mad musician," plays div

all hearts by her fine performance; Miss Beatrice Hodson is successful as Lady Gwendolen; and Miss Vita Spencer wins golden opinions as Lady Goldbury, the comedy element being safe in her hands and those of Mr. Edward Lewis, who plays James Hogg on mirth-provoking lines. Other who score are Mr. E. Vassall Vaughan (Sir Dorian), Mr. C. F. Collings (Noel Ferrars), and Mr. Frederick Anner ley (Mr. Morris).

Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wm. Trussell.—An old-time favourite here is Leonard Barry and his company, who are appearing in a capital skit, entitled *From Unemployed to Millionaire*, which finds great favour with the audience. H. C. Lovell and company creat hearty laughter with *Mamselle Pom-Pom*, a charming musical comedietta; the Ando Troupe of Japs give a sensational performance; Gordon Stretton, a coloured vocalist, sings and dances remarkably well; and others who entertain are Gladys Witton, contralto; Les Elgonas, acrobats; Royal Czar Troupe of Russian singers and dancers; and the Sisters St. Julian, duettists.

Hippodrome.—Joint Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and W. de Frece; Manager, Mr. H. Yardley.—One of the most popular sketches on the road is *Three of a Kind*, and its presentation this week by Ethel Arden and Geo Abel is as successful as ever; the Pasquali Bros. are wonderful equilibrists; Fred Terry sings some capital new songs; Randolph King submits a well-liked turn; and others who contribute are Natalia and Diana, aerial gymnasts; Ada Fawn, burlesque actress; the Six Albyns, in a comedy sketch, *The Squire's Hunting Party*; and Jas. Basnett, vocal comedian.

SOUTHEND - ON - SEA.—Pier Pavilion.—Lessee, Mr. H. E. Angless; Manager, Mr. Stanley E. Angless.—A musical treat was given on Monday evening to a most representative audience by the famous Hambourg trio, whose special engagement was largely attended and vociferously received, each item giving such evident pleasure to merit the heartiest of encores. The violin solos by Jan Hambourg were rendered with his accustomed cleverness, the 'cello solos by Boris Hambourg created equally favourable comment through his skilful manipulations, and the pianoforte solos by Mark Hambourg were given in a remarkable and admirable style. The programme also had assistance from Miss Sara Silvers, who was heard to great advantage in a series of enjoyable songs, while Miss Daisy Bucktrout was an able accompanist.

SOUTHPORT.—Opera House Winter Gardens.—Proprietors, the Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens Co., Ltd.; Secretary and General-Manager, Mr. R. Singleton.—Mr. H. V. Neilson's capable company, including Miss Amy Sangster, opened a three nights' engagement here on Monday in Ibsen's great play *A Doll's House*, which attracted a large and appreciative audience on the opening night. Miss Amy Sangster showed a thorough grasp of the rôle of Nora Helmer, which she depicted in a clever, artistic manner, and displayed uncommon versatility in the varying emotional and gay phases of the character, which elicited unstinted applause; Mr. Harold V. Neilson's interpretation of Nils Krogstad was an admirable representation, which was enacted with realistic effect, and with a fine appreciation of the Ibsen characteristics; Mrs. Linden had a very able and successful representative in Miss Vera Leslie; Mr. Henry Doughty submits a highly commendable impersonation of Torvald Helmer; whilst Mr. Orlando Barnett acceptably represented Doctor Rank; the minor characters in the play being well cast. On the last three days of the week Mr. Seymour Hicks's principal company, including Miss Maie Ash and Mr. Stanley Brett, presented the musical comedy *The Gay Gordons*.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—Enthusiastic houses welcome J. A. Campbell's company with *The Old Folks at Home*. Mr. Horace E. Herbert stands out prominently as Andrew Ross, acting with admirable discernment; Mr. T. G. Vane characteristically handles Hugh Lovell; and the villainous Lord Kenilworth is well placed in the hands of Mr. Frank Liston. Among the ladies, Miss Kate Froude contributes a powerful portrayal of the adventuress, Patricia; and Miss Maud Warburton shows grace and sympathy as Dorothy Robin.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Proprietors, the South Shields Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—The chief item is Bellew and Stocks' company, in a racing sketch, entitled *An Outside Chance*, in which Master Edward Garratt, the wonderful boy actor, appears with success; Lily Burnand, the favourite comedienne, has a good reception; Leslie, Lyn, and Willie, three funny fellows, cause much merriment, and their singing is good; Doraswami, the Indian Kubelik, created an impression by his violin playing; Tom Child sings his songs sweetly; the Three Dixons are good bâton swingers, banjoists, dancers, &c; Neville Delmar, comedian and whistler, and the Bioscope, completes a good bill.

ST. HELENS.—Theatre and Opera House.—Proprietors, St. Helens Theatre, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. A. McLeod Loader; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harry E. Johnson.—Pantomime is again with us this week here, and Messrs. Jazon and Nightingale's *Aladdin* is drawing good houses. It is a bright production and well staged. Miss Edna Latonne as Aladdin charms everyone with her vivacity, and her singing of the popular songs is greatly appreciated; the part of the Princess is taken by Miss Luna Lisle, who also scores a success; the Sisters Brenton as Poeke and Caramel excel in dancing, for which they gain much applause; Clifton Hall as the Emperor makes his mark with some good songs; and Miss Cecily Darnton as the Geni of the Ring and Miss Gladys Darnton as the Slave of the Lamp sing splendidly together. Plenty of fun is supplied by Walter Bishop (Abanazar), Frank Vant (Gin Sling), Percy Curry (Widow Twankey), and Rex and Ford (the Bailiffs). They work capitally together, and make things go with a satisfactory swing. The chorus is composed of pretty girls with sweet voices, and the ballets arranged by Mrs. E. C. Jazon are a special treat. The dresses are magnificent.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Leo Weisker.—This week sees the return visit of many old favourites. Fred Land is greeted with much laughter and applause, and his efforts to please are quite successful. John Grun Marx shows marvellous strength, lifting tremendous weights; Leoni Dixon is a dainty little lady, and sings and dances well; Irve Hayman and company touch a pathetic chord with their episode, *The Burglar's Christmas Eve*; and Johnny Dwyer again scores. Les Marbas are both wonderfully agile; Julian Rose gives a good song; and Boden and Bell are smart juveniles.

STOCKPORT.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—*Sexton Blake*, with its many exciting incidents, is paying a first visit here this week and attracting large audiences. Mr. Jack Fortescue acts the part of the great detective Sexton Blake with skill and ability; Mr. Stanley Crump displays merit as Tinker; Mr. Russell Barry's acting is realistic and impressive as Roger Blackburn; Mr. R. Heaton Grey makes a capital Randolph Lovell; Miss Pauline Straus charmingly acts the character of Marjorie Lovell; and Euphemia Pattacake has a capable exponent in Miss Lilla Norden.

Empire.—Proprietors, the Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—An interesting playlet, with an exciting water scene, entitled *Blackmail*, forms the chief attraction here, and is capably presented by Henry Hearne and company, which includes Miss Ida Millais. Others adding to a capital entertainment are the Garganis, comic acrobats, who are genuinely clever and amusing; Joe Cookson, in his novel and pleasing ventriloquial entertainment; Kydd and Kydd, mirth-provoking comedians and patterers; the Three Comedy Chanters, harmonising vocalists of merit; Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wildes, entertaining shadowgraphy; Iris Banfield, comedienne; and Drum and Major, a successful comedy couple.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES. — Castle Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Charles Imeson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cecil Imeson.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company, in *The Bondman*, is here this week. Mr. R. Scrope Quentin plays the difficult rôle of Jason with great skill; Mr. W. Henry Hargreaves is excellent as Michael Sunlocks; Mr. W. H. Rotheram supplys a graphic sketch of the clerical outcast, Father Ferrati; Mr. Oswald Lingard does well as Adam Fairbrother; Mr. Wilfrid Beckwith plays the part of Governor Testa in rare style; Mr. Fred J. Waller acts the rôle of the scheming Dr. Boni with great ability; as Greeba Miss Georgina Wynter gave an excellent impersonation; Miss Madge Lanerton is a natural Mrs. Fairbrother; Miss Emilie Mayhew as Christian Ann and Miss Lilian Mayne as the Housekeeper do well. The mounting is good.

Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stainton.—Vonetta, queen of illusionists and lightning Protean actress, is the leading turn here this week, and is warmly received; Abel and Welsh, eccentric comedians, are very clever, and cause much merriment; Thomas and Taylor, in a comedy quick change act, *Fun on the Midland*, are very clever and entertaining; Chas. Santon, double-voiced vocalist, gains loud applause; Garna is a clever gymnast; Florence Carlow, comedienne, pleases; Nellie Howitt and Elsie May, instrumentalists and club manipulators, are much appreciated. The Bioscope concludes with A Fisherman's Hate and Ma-in-Law Beats Record.

Grand Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—Mr. M. Montgomery's stock company presents here this week, *A Royal Revenge*. Mr. F. S. Strickland as the King of Spain acts well; Mr. Ernest Wingfield gives an admirable representation of the part of Pedro de Castro; Mr. H. Hesselgrave does well as Friar Dominic; Miss Lilian Beaumont makes a charming Cosa Casilda; and Miss Lina Nazeby gave a capital portrayal of Angela. Payne's Bio-photoscope is still very popular.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Miller; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. Moroney.—The management are presenting Messrs. Holland and Wood's company in *The Forty Thieves*. The lyrics are written in an up-to-date way by William Holland, and bright and pleasing music has been arranged and composed by Caffyn Baxter, who conducts in an able manner. The scenery is picturesque, and the dresses are artistic and pretty. The Sisters Tree as the Captain and Lieutenants of the thieves play their parts in a dashing and effective style, and their dancing and singing are much applauded. Their costumes are most tastefully thought out. Chris le Brunn is one of the smartest animal impersonators we have seen, and creates roars of laughter by his antics as Ali Baba's donkey. The parts of Cassim and his wife Cogia are ably filled by Walter Bosco and Robb Wilton; Cecilia Gold as Morgiana the slave is most graceful and submissive, and sings and dances in a very charming manner. Bob Salvidge is very funny as Ali Baba. Other rôles are most ably filled by their exponents, but they cannot, of course, do full justice to their parts in the short time available.

STOURBRIDGE. — Alhambra Theatre. — General-Manager, Mr. Douglas C. Phelps; Manageress, Miss Maude Lynton.—Mr. F. C. Leighton's No. 1 company was here for the first three nights this week, with *The Golden Ladder*. Mr. Harry Cullenford, in the part of the Rev. Frank Thornhill, acts with great taste and expression; Miss Violet Ennis-Lawson as Lillian Grant showed histrionic ability; Mr. F. C. Leighton made a first-rate Michael Severn; Mr. E. W. Cudd as Samuel Peckaby threw just the right amount of humour and gusto into the rôle; Miss Dorothy Tullyhole as Victoria Alexandra Peckaby was capital; Miss Lily Fuller as Lily Thornhill played a difficult part with much aplomb; Miss Maud Leslie Cudd was natural as Mrs. Peckaby; Mr. Robert Pittard as Jim Dixon deserved praise; Miss Dora Lewis had a difficult part as Prisoner No. 2, but carried the audience with her; Miss Pamela Hodson played Mrs. Dixon in a very capable and dignified manner; Mr. R. D. Cooper as M. Peranza was a typical foreigner; Mr. E. Payne Megre as Rev. W. Stanley was a thorough parson; and the other characters were equally well filled.

SUNDERLAND.—King's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. S. F. Davidson; General-Manager, Mr. Alexander Telford.—*The Christian* is being presented at this theatre this week by Mr. Wentworth Croke's company. Judging from the crowded houses each night, it is evident that the new version is being appreciated equally as well as the original. As the Hon. John Storm, Mr. Henry Renouf worked with whole-hearted fervour throughout, and his passages with Glory were marked with passionate feeling; Mr. Oswald Martin may be deservedly complimented upon his talented acting as Horatio Drake; Mr. George R. Montford gave a faithful and praiseworthy rendering of the part of Lord Robert Ure; Mr. Edwin Ling made a sympathetic and capable Father Lamplugh; Mr. C. T. Turpin as Archdeacon Wealthy made a typical high ecclesiastic; Mr. E. R. Holloway as Lord Storm merited encomiums; and other male parts were capably portrayed. Miss Doris Gilham's interpretation of the all-important rôle of Glory Quayle had the merit of originality, and in the impressive passages with John Storm her acting was meritorious; Miss Sinna St. Clare as Mrs. Callender was faithful and commendable; Miss Margaret Brodie as Polly Love won the sympathies of her audience; Miss May Dudley took the part of Black Meg in a most satisfactory manner; Miss Mima Renouf in the part of Mother Kent was deserving of a meed of praise. There are many other rôles, all of which are capitally filled. The play is splendidly mounted.

Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. R. Thornton; Manager, Mr. Harry Esden; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Dunn.—Mr. T. Edward Ward's company, in *The Love of a Princess*, are playing here this week to full houses. Miss Masie Hanbury gave a splendid protrayal of Princess Idalia; Miss Olive Lloyd as Lady Irene Ramona was the recipient of warm praise; her brother, Prince Conrad had a capital delineator in Mr. Wilson Coleman, who played the part to perfection; his friend, Lieut. Orlans, was capitally done by Mr. Beckett Bould; Mr. Douglas B. Watson showed much skill in his rendering of Lieut. Zaroff; the villainous characters, Josef, King of Ilarnio, Count Nicholas Danilo, and Duke Scarfe, gave ample scope for the abilities of Messrs. E. H. Dobell, Ernest E. Imeson, and Francis Serle, who acquitted themselves admirably. Miss Nellie Graham (Constantia), and Messrs. Graham Winsford (Prince Regent of Narava) and Edgar Morgan (Boris) are also deserving of special mention.

Empire Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—O Hana San and company are presenting a beautiful Japanese scena, comprising charming dances, magnificent panoramic views, and some wonderful decorative effects; Campbell and Barber gave a clever and amusing acrobatic cycling turn, in which the audience showed keen delight; Lydia and Amelys gave an attractive French dancing act, including the popular Apache dance; the musical turn of George Young, a local blind musician, was much appreciated; Dick Tubb is an exceptionally smart eccentric comedian, and won much applause for "Coke for the fire"; Florence Smithers, supported by Owen Dacroy and company, presented a particularly humorous sketch, entitled *Our Mary Jane*, in capital style; the Grosvenors are a trio of charming singers; Bonnie Goodwin's Apollo piccaninnies gave an attractive turn.

Avenue Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. Foulkes Edwards.—A capital programme of pictures is on view this week. Specially noticeable is Beautiful Algeria, a very fine film. Harry Lauder, in a singing film picture, also had a good reception. Mr. George Young, a blind musician, also gave a popular turn.

Palace Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Henry W. Phillips; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fred Reece.—The programme of pictures submitted here this week is having appreciative audiences. The Suffragette's Dream is a capital film, and created much amusement; Niagara Falls in Winter also gave some pretty effects. Other good pictures were The Chauffeur and the Cab-women, The Festival for an Old Comrade, and The Mohawk's Ring. Mr. McDermot, who was for some time assistant-manager for the King's Theatre, is here this week, for the purpose of taking over the management next week.

SWANSEA.—The Grand.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks; Acting-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. W. Page.—Mr. Charles Frohman's company is here in *The Hypocrites*. The Rev. Edgar Linnell is played in an exceptionally able manner by Mr. Laurence Leyton; Miss Violet Marley wins sympathy and applause for her careful delineation of Rachel; and Miss Muriel Mason as Helen acts with considerable grace. Mr. S. Denny's Leonard Wilmore is another fine study, and the blustering Mr. Wilmore is ably portrayed by Mr. F. Moreland. Miss Grace Murielle as Mrs. Wilmore is at all times good.

The Star.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley, Travis Green, and Arthur Hinton's company give a thrilling performance of *The Power of the King*. Mr. Travis Green has a great conception of his rôle as Oscar, the sailor prince, and Mr. Gerald Blake as Captain Landgrave has a strong part, which he fills well. As Lady Anastasia Miss Zana St. George is seen to advantage; as is also Miss Frances George as Lady Florinda.

The Empire, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon. — Daly Cooper, Mabel Lait, and company, in a musical sketch, *Passing the Time*, are entertaining; Leipzig, the royal conjuror, gives a really astounding exhibition; and Haley's Garden of Girls sings and dance delightfully. *The Airship* gives the McConnell Trio opportunity to supply humour; and Tom Moore, character comedian, distinguishes himself. Clive and Clarke, black and white comedy artists, dance excellently; Elly Adair sings and dances artistically; Mr. Arthur Aldridge's songs are good; and the Bioscope concludes.

The Palace.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—Another excellent gallery of Bioscope is shown here this week, the chief pictures being A Trainer's Vengeance, The Coastguard's Son, and Saved by a Dream. Instrumental and vocal items are excellently given by Miss Lilian Therese, Miss Burt, and Mr. W. Thomas.

SWINDON.—Empire Theatre.—Proprietors, The Wiltshire Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Manners.—Hardie and Von Leer's company, in *Two Little Vagabonds*, is appearing here. All the characters are in capable hands, and the mounting is good.

Mechanics' Institution.—Secretary, Mr. H. J. Southwell.—The Institute Amateur Theatrical Society opened here on Tuesday for five nights in *Patience*.

TON-Y-PANDY. — Theatre Royal. — General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ridgewood Barrie.—Mr. Julian Malvern's company is this week presenting *I Defy the World* in a highly creditable manner. Leon Darville is admirably portrayed by Mr. F. B. Woulfe, while Mr. M. Coutts is a capable exponent of Count de Beaulieu; General Delaporte is safely entrusted to Mr. A. Denning; as Laroche Mr. C. Conway does well; Mr. C. M. Julian is at home as Samuel Wozzle; Blanche Darville is well represented by Miss Florence Delmar; and Miss E. Loraine wins much sympathy as Pauline Delaporte.

Hippodrome.—General-Manager and Lessee, Mr. Will Stone.—The Cinephone forms the biggest feature here; the Betsons do well as comedy cyclists; T. E. Johnstone scores heavily, as does Arthur Leslie; Frank Dunlop is a clever comedian. The chief film depicts the Tottenham Terrorist Tragedy.

TORQUAY.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—The Torquay Amateur Operatic Society is occupying the boards here this week in Gilbert and Cellier's comic opera *The Mountebanks*, which is being produced under the stage-direction of Mr. Edwin Bryan, late of the Savoy Theatre.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—The Opera House.—Lessee, Welton Dale; Manager, C. Hoskins.—*Cinderella*, from the Grand Theatre, Fulham, is having a most successful week's season here, and all the principals are having a great reception. Miss Nora Wadeley in the title-rôle, Miss Agnes Tandy as the Prince, Mr. F. French as the Baron, Mr. Ted Young as the Baroness, Mr. A. White as Capers, the Misses Alice Inman and Emily Stevens as the ugly daughters; Mr. Leslie Harris as Dandini, and Miss Mabel Rose as the Fairy Godmother, together with the Lottie Stone troupe of dancers, are all proving prime favourites.

TYLDESLEY. — Theatre Royal. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. W. Brierley.—Mr. Harry Starr and company in *Otto the Outcast* were well received here on Monday evening. In the title-rôle Mr. Harry Starr gave a skilful and artistic performance; Lara, a flower girl, has a charming representative in Miss Kate Norris; Miss Madge Blundell was convincing as Corinne Jarbeau; and Miss Effie Macintosh a pleasing Sasette. Roderique D'Estalier has a clever exponent in Mr. Will Hee; Mr. Alvin Sawyer in the part of Daddy Bruneau created a good impression; Mr. Edwin Firth was an effective Marquis de Laporte. The minor parts were in good hands. For the last three nights of the week *Carl the Clockmaker* was billed.

WAKEFIELD. — Opera House. — Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Miss Edith St. Clair's pantomime *Aladdin* is here this week. Miss St. Clair makes a sprightly Aladdin; Miss Lily Londale is charming as the Princess, and earns deserved applause with her fine vocalism; Mr. Ernie Myers as Abanazar is very funny, and keeps the house in endless laughter by his quaint portrayal; Mr. Fred W. Graham makes a good Widow Twankey; the Sisters Brand as second boy and girl dance well; Mr. Frank A. Wood is imposing as the Emperor; and Mr. George Parry is admirable as the Vizier. Miss Ethel Lonsdale is pleasing as the Fairy; the Brothers Brooks are very amusing and droll as the Policemen; the Canton Girls win applause with their acrobatic dances. There are several fine scenes, and the dresses are beautiful and effective.

Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—The New York Comedy Four contribute a good vocal entertainment; Arthur Ferris and Ethel May, sketch artists, are a hit; Kirk and Saraski, lady swimmers, give a clever aquatic turn; Parker and Parker as *Taffy and the Toff* sing in good style; the Cattanias Trio, acrobatic gymnasts, are popular; Jack Lester, descriptive vocalist; and Miss Claire Hastings, vocalist, also merit approbation.

WARRINGTON. — Royal Court.—Proprietor, Mr. J. Beecham; General-Manager, Mr. A. M. Loader; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Smiley.—Mr. E. C. Jazon's pantomime company are delighting large houses here this week with *Dick Whittington*. Sparkling with fun, good songs, beautiful scenery, and up-to-date business, all progresses splendidly. There are some clever specialities, and reference should be made of the Vandas, globe and silver wire performers; Pearce and Ward, sketch entertainers; the Willoughbys, acrobatic eccentrics; Sahda and Vone, Creole performers; and King and Snowdon, duettists. Miss Maude Beaumont is a dashing Dick Whittington, and there is always plenty of "go" in her work, whilst her songs are well received; a capital impersonation of the Cat is that effected by Mr. Willie Meda. Mr. Fred Ward as Jack has ample scope to develop his drollery; Mr. Harry Abbey makes much of Sarah, the cook; and the Willoughbys score as the Captain and Mate. Mr. Walham Miller does justice to the character of Fitzwarren, and as the Emperor of Morocco Mr. Jim Vone is well placed; Miss Vera Snowdon is a charming Alice, dancing with sprightliness and singing delightfully; Miss Daisy Dashwood makes the most of the Prince of Morocco; Miss Olive Audrey as the Fairy and Mr. Cecil Terry as King of Ratland are good. The chorus is well balanced, and Mr. Augustus I. MacInnes wields the baton efficiently.

Palace and Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. H. C. Hardcastle.—There are some excellent turns here this week, and first and foremost is Ted Waite, whose droll songs and parodies are responsible for convulsive laughter; the Fordyces are clever juveniles, and Kinnard is an expert magician; Mike Gray, who fills a place consequent upon the indisposition of Gus Garrick, supplies an acceptable conjuring turn; Lillie Luraine plays delightfully on the cornet and concertina; the Gallimores are clever sketch entertainers; Feldman's troupe of juveniles are seen to advantage in a garden scena; and M. Molloy's songs are all encored.

Royal Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, The Franco-British Animated Picture Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Jack Waters.—A capital series of pictures are being shown here this week, and those depicting the fight between Burns and Johnson are much admired, the sporting fraternity mustering up strongly. Excellent turns are also given by the Sisters Draycott, who are capital vocalists. George James is a quaint comedian, and King and Stange clever sketch artists.

WATERFORD.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. John Collins; Acting-Manager, Mr. Maurice Collins.—This week Mr. A. E. Smith's pantomime, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, occupies the boards here. Miss Kathleen Garnon as Jack scores a distinct success, which is shared in no small measure by Miss Frankie Barton as Jill, his sweetheart. The production is admirably staged, and reflects the greatest credit on the enterprise of Mr. Smith in touring such a company with good properties and scenery.

Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. John McGurk.—The Musical Brooks top the bill here, and are ably supported by Mr. Tom Kingsley, refined Irish comedian, and Mr. Phil Mace, in song scena and character comedy. Master Fredericks, the boy violinist, has astonished all; his playing is wonderful. Pictures complete the entertainment.

WEDNESBURY.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Battersby.—Mr. Frank Lindo's company, including Miss Marion Wakeford, in the romantic play *Love the Conqueror* is producing good results here this week. Mr. Frank Lindo, who is the author of the piece, plays with remarkable effect in the rôle of Brian Norval; as William of Orange, afterwards William III. of England, Mr. Leo R. Neilson majestically displays the part; Mr. Norton Shields as Sir John Mortimer makes the most of his opportunities; whilst the rendering of Count Leon Lascelles is effectively portrayed by Mr. D. Lawrence Doyle. Mr. Tom E. Lewis makes up well as Captain Rupert Armadale; a charming and interesting interpretation of Mistress Beatrice Mortimer is admirably presented by Miss Marion Wakeford; as Susan Shortly Miss Hélène Thompson achieves marked success; and as Dame Norval Miss Nellie Benson makes a capital study.

WEST BROMWICH. — Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. R. Nightingale.—Pantomime again reigns at this popular place of amusement, and Mr. J. P. Moore's company, which is responsible for the production, is having a hearty reception, which, by the way, it well deserves. The pantomime *Dick Whittington and His Cat* is from the pen of Mr. James P. Moore himself, who, by his long association with the theatre has made many friends in the town. These are likely to be increased by his latest production, which is a very admirable one, the cast being a very strong one. Miss Madge Locke is a very charming Dick Whittington, and Miss Nellie Berry as Princess Charming is as good as her name; Messrs. Doyle and Massey as Shuffle and Shirk are very clever; and the various turns given by Street and Round, duettists; Victor's Musical Dogs; Oswald and Locke, comedy couple; Victor Brothers, Olympian athletes; Paulette, in a bicycle act, are all very smart, and add much to the attractiveness of the panto.

New Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. Tom Kuner.—Mr. Chas. M. Bestic's company is appearing this week in a new and original musical comedy, *The Flower Girl*. The piece is a new one to West Bromwich audiences, but the reception that has been accorded it indicates that it will always be a welcomed visitor to the town. Miss Eva Nelson takes the part of Lily, the flower girl, with much charm and ability; and a good deal of fun is introduced by Georgie de Lara as a Suffragette.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—Grand.—Lessee, Mr Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. Herbert E. Feather.—Mr. Fredk. Mouillot's company are again appearing in *A Message from Mars*, in which Mr. William H. Brougham once more gives his masterly interpretation of the part of the Messenger. Horace Parker has a capital delineator in Mr. Wallace Widdicombe; and Mr. Norman Clark does exceedingly well as the Tramp. Miss Parker has a capital exponent in Miss Winifred Knightly; and Minnie is well played by Miss Rose Helene.

Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. E. Dobney.—The turns provided by Mr. Macnaghten this week are proving very acceptable. Hanvarr and Anna Lee, who are starring, are delightful in their club juggling, whilst the comedy of the lady is of a most entertaining description; Percival takes the place by storm, not only with his executive powers at the piano, but with his humour, which is irresistible; Leslie's Comedy Cadets keep their audiences well entertained with good musical numbers and clever ventriloquial contribution and excellent comedy. May Henderson, the dusky queen, is bright and vivacious, and her turn pleases mightily; she cracks her gags very neatly. A smart protean comedy sketch is played by Wilton Heriot and Co.; the title is *An Anglo-American Alliance*; both the artists acquit themselves well, and the quick change and the representation of the various characters by Mr. Heriot is worthy of all commendation. Cap. Ellis and Son in a comedy musical act excel as instrumentalists; and Miss Tina Frank, comedienne, sings very nicely. A capital series of Raymond's Bio-tableaux completes the bill.

WEXFORD.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. E. P. Ronan.—Mr. George Mallin's company in a répertoire of pantomime was here on the 8th inst. and five following nights. The company in all respects was an admirable one, and well deserved the crowded houses which greeted them during their stay. On Monday *Cinderella* was presented. Mr. Howard Richard, who took up the rôle of the Baron at short notice owing to the serious illness of Mr. Mallin, did very well; the Ugly Sisters, Jemima and Tootsie, were capitally represented by Messrs. Clifford Spenser and Jack Grimes; Mr. George Grenville as Peter revelled in his part and kept the house thoroughly amused; and Mr. Dick Howard extracted all the fun possible out of the rôle of Syntax. Messrs. Marsden and Scarper as Flipper and Flopper made the most of their opportunities; Miss Dolly Richardson was a charming Dandini; and Miss Maude Harvie as Prince Paragon was all that could be desired. Miss S. Adie was well suited to the part of the Fairy Godmother; Miss Lil Richardson, the Cinderella, acted with great charm, and her songs, of which she had an admirable selection, were thoroughly enjoyed.

WIGAN.—Royal Court Theatre.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Company.—Mr. J. F. Elliston's company in *Puss in Boots* is here. Miss Ethel Ra-Leslie is a dashing principal boy; Miss Gladys Christoe a charming Princess Ivy, Miss Issa Steel leaves nothing to be desired as the Good Fairy, and Miss Zona Joy dances herself into favour as Gretchen. Mr. Fred Lincoln is a humorous Dame; Mr. Harry Rogerson is eminently successful as King Crabbus, the Baron Rumphiz finds an able exponent in Mr. Harry Edlin, and Zelina makes the most of his opportunities as Fritz.

The Hippodrome.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Company.—Captain M. Gruber's elephant, horse, and pony perform some exceptionally clever tricks; Coram is a ventriloquist of merit; Marion Fletcher, juvenile vocalist, sings in a pleasing manner; and Dolly Harmer is eminently successful as a character comedienne. Mr. George M. Marriott and company are loudly applauded for their act, *The Maid of the Alps*; Mephisto mytifies with his conjuring tricks; and Tom Gott causes quite an ovation with his songs. Arthur Harris contributes some vocal selections, and Charles Rowen, comedian, and Zenora conclude.

The Empire.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Company; Manager, Mr. H. C. Woon.—At this place of amusement a splendid film depicting the noble work of the British bluejackets at Messina is shown. The usual diverting turn is supplied by Jack Monks.

WILLENHALL.—Picture Hall (late Assembly Rooms).—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Will Hunter. — On Monday this house was opened by the Anglo-American Animated Picture Co. The place has undergone extensive alterations, and is now well suited to this class of entertainment. The films shown this week include Rescue Work at Messina, The Donkey Skin, Brothers in Arms, Auto Heroine, For Kate's Health, A Disastrous Oversight, and In Time of Rebellion. An amusing and clever ventriloquial entertainment is introduced by Mr. Will Hunter.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles Barnard; Resident-Manager, Mr. Gerald Spencer.—Mr. J. Rice Cassidy's company opened to a capital house on Monday with *In Holy Russia*. The audience by frequent applause evidently showed that they were in sympathy with the company, for their plucky efforts after the trying experience they underwent the previous day, a report of which appears elsewhere. Mr. Henry Compton as Colonel Richard Forrest made a typical Guardsman; whilst in Mickey Nolan, his servant, Mr. J. Rice Cassidy had a part which gave him ample scope for displaying his inimitable Irish wit. Mr. G. H. Doyle gave a very capable representation of Laurice Steragoff; Mr. Frank Copeland was good as Sir Harry Beresford; and Mr. Rolfe Leslie played with force as Count Gregorie Petroleski. As Renée Rubinoff Mrs. J. Rice Cassidy was excellent throughout; Miss Amy McNeil gave a striking portrayal of Catska Lavotski; and Miss Agnes Holland was well placed as Mme. Natolski.

Empire Palace.—Managing Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frank Weston.—Mr. Edward Crossland's Melody Makers in *The Burglar's Dream*, head the bill here this week. It is a strikingly novel musical turn, the singing is excellent, and the audience have the unique experience of hearing four pianos played, and played well, at once. Wilson Hallett's imitations of children are truly described "really wonderful"; Mozetti's juggling with coins is quite out of the ordinary, and much amusement is caused by the quaint tricks of the little page in buttons who assists him; Fraser and French give a good exposition of wooden shoe dancing; Dexter's sleight-of-hand tricks are made all the more interesting by the funny patter which accompanies them; and Lara Leslie, comedienne, and Mark Brand go to complete a good all-round bill.

WORCESTER.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. F. Le Warde.—The most prominent of the acts here this week is De Gracia's Royal Assam Elephants, a remarkably intelligent trio of animals; Rozal's acrobatic feats are of a particularly daring character; Morander, Darius, and Alma form a pleasing vocal, instrumental, and acrobatic combination; Hearne and Palmer combine humour and skill in their acrobatic act entitled *The Hebrew and the Barman*; and Leo Farkoa is a highly-amusing comedian. Some clever impersonations are given by Alice Maud, and Mabel Martin and J. E. James are instrumentalists quite above the average. The Bioscope pictures this week are wonderfully good, and deal with a home industry—hop-growing and curing.

WORKINGTON.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. McKenzie Morgan.—Miss Beattie Bloom is as charming as ever in her merry songs; Wisper, with his old hats, his railway train, and his conjuring, is a very funny turn; Mr. Charles Cassell sings a descriptive song; and Cavalli, the strong man, also does a turn.

Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Falconer Jackes.—At this house large crowds have watched the Queen's Life-Motion pictures, which include A Traitor to the King, a dramatic episode from the life of Bluff King Hal. The Three Cyclines give a splendid exhibition of football on wheels; and Frank Whitely, our old friend of the banjo and the bones, gives us ten minutes of genuine laughter.

WREXHAM.—Empire.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Jno. J. Scott.—Reilly and Templeton, as the Dutch girl and the Dame, give an amusing turn; they are very entertaining patterers and singers. Mint and Mart are very clever as fantastic paper manipulators, and gain quite their full share of applause; Bert and Fay appear in a funny musical duologue, *The Curate and the Slavey*; Fannie James is a popular comedienne; and Bradley, "the cycling Jew," does many clever tricks on a number of cycles. The Bioscope pictures complete a most enjoyable programme.

YORK.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—Messrs. Bliss and Bliss have done good business this week with their funny pantomime *Mother Goose*. Mr. Leo Bliss as the Widow is versatile to a degree, and sings in a quaintly original style; Mr. Ernest Pecival as Jack is responsible for a humorous creation; Ray Ford is an ideal principal girl, being equally at home in song and dance; Ethel Dunford looks handsome as the Prince, singing with taste and giving an enjoyable impersonation; Louis Kerno as the King assists admirably in the fun; Nellie Reilly is a quaint Katerina; and the Two Rubies have parts in which full opportunity is given them to show their merits as neat dancers. Special mention must be made of Pete and Juno, whose sand-dancing has been heartily enjoyed, and the Sylvia troupe of dancers. The scenery and general mounting of the pantomime have aroused much favourable comment.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brook.—Cullen and Carthy's *Babes in the Wood* pantomime is proving a great attraction. The proprietors of the company as the two Robbers have ample opportunity to display their undoubted talents as first-class comedians, and are a huge success. Miss Bessie Coh

GREEK PLAY AT OXFORD.

Last Wednesday night, at the New Theatre, Oxford, after a lapse of seventeen years, the Oxford University Dramatic Society for the second time produced *The Frogs* of Aristophanes in the original Greek. The theatre is never full on the first night of an O.U.D.S. performance, but the reception accorded *The Frogs* was genuinely hearty, and a success quite equal to that so undoubtedly scored by the Society in 1892 can be confidently predicted for the present production. The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Dr. Warren, President of Magdalen College, was present, as were also the Countess of Abingdon, the Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum (Mr. D. G. Hogarth), who so successfully produced *The Frogs* here in 1892, and Mr. Alan Mackinnon, who for so many years rendered such splendid and loyal assistance to the Society which he and Mr. Arthur Bourchier founded. Though once the curtain refused obstinately to go up and caused some amusement, there was really no hitch from start to finish, and the smoothness of the first night's performance reflects the greatest credit on the stage management of Mr. Cyril Bailey, Fellow of Balliol, whose hard work well merited the success so undoubtedly achieved. At the end of the play the applause was prolonged and hearty, and the curtain had to be raised again. The success of the evening was scored by the chorus, which, admirably trained by Dr. H. P. Allen, organist of New College, rendered the choruses and performed their evolutions in a way that drew forth the entire approbation of all present. The coryphæus, Mr. Grisewood, was worthy of the chorus he so ably led. The new scenery, specially designed and painted for the present production by Mr. Ernest R. Jones, was effective, and showed artistic taste of a high order. The weird lake in scenes 2 and 3 of Act 1, and the hall of Pluto's Palace in Act 3—a set that must have satisfied the severest archæological critic—are things that everyone will talk about. The dresses were simple but effective, and Mr. W. Clarkson was responsible for the wigs. An excellent acting edition of *The Frogs*, with Professor Gilbert Murray's witty translation on opposite pages, rendered it easy for those whose knowledge of Greek was limited to follow the action of the comedy. Considerable cuts had been made, the whole performance only taking a couple of hours; but we were glad to welcome again the witty scenes between the maidservant and the tavern keeper, which were omitted in the 1892 performance. The choric odes have been happily rendered into English. The incidental music and choruses, specially composed seventeen years ago by Sir Hubert Parry, were again used, and met with an enthusiastic reception. The overture has been altered and a new entr'acte written. The music was admirably rendered by Dr. Allen's own orchestra, conducted by himself, though Sir Hubert Parry will conduct on certain nights. Dr. Allen's magnetic influence as a conductor was quickly apparent, and the music went perfectly throughout. Sir Hubert Parry wrote the music for the Greek play *The Clouds*, but his music for *The Frogs* is more Aristophanic, and shows our great English composer at his best.

The cast of *The Frogs* was as follows:—

CHARACTERS.

Dionysus ..... MR. G. HOWARD, Christ Church
Xanthias ..... MR. E. A. DE STEIN, Magdalen
Aeschylus MR. G. M. STEVENSON REECE, Balliol
Euripides ..MR. E. H. S. CORBETT, University
Heracles ..... MR. J. D. CASSWELL, Pembroke
Pluto ..... HON. J. N. RIDLEY, Balliol
Charon .... MR. J. N. OLIPHANT, Christ Church
Aeacus ..... HON. G. CHARTERIS, Trinity
A Corpse ..... MR. W. P. WATT, Balliol
Maid to Persephone
MR. M. KNATCHBULL-HUGESSEN, Balliol
A Landlady ..... MR. P. GUEDALLA, Balliol
Plathane, servant to Landlady
MR. G. C. FABER, Christ Church
A Hierophant (Coryphaeus)
MR. F. H. GRISEWOOD, Magdalen

MUTE PERSONS.

Sophocles ..HON. P. A. METHUEN, New College
Persephone ..LORD A. LEVESON-GOWER, Balliol
Minos ..MR. C. E. VON FLEISCHL, New College
Rhadamanthus ....MR. G. S. HERVEY, Trinity
A Donkey .. MR. R. L. BENSON, Balliol / HON. E. C. PERY, New College
Scythians .. MR. L. A. FRYE, Hertford / MR. S. N. CRONJE, Trinity / MR. E. N. L. VENN, University
Mourners .... MR. H. E. SETH-SMITH, B.N.C. / MR. C. H. BURNE, B.N.C / MR. K. H. LEDWARD, University / MR. G. J. ROBIN, University / MR. W. H. BROOKE, University
Slaves ..... MR. H. J. FULLER, New College / MR. I. I. RUBINOWITZ, Queen's / MR. J. H. LECKIE, University

ARGUMENT OF THE PLAY.

The comedy called *The Frogs* was acted at Athens in 405 B.C., at the Lenaea. Produced, as it was, at a gloomy period of Athenian history, its motive is not at all political: to lay stress on politics would have been painful and perhaps dangerous. The first part of the play consists of broadly farcical scenes interspersed with choric passages of great lyric beauty; the second is literary criticism pure and simple.

Owing to the dearth of good poets at Athens, Dionysus (the god in whose honour the Lenaea were celebrated), disguised as Heracles and attended by his slave Xanthias, resolves to descend to Hades in order to fetch back to life the tragic poet Euripides, who had recently died. In Act I. the pair are discovered near the temple of the real Heracles, from whom—as he has been there before—Dionysus inquires the way to the nether world. After vainly trying to engage a corpse to carry his baggage, Dionysus is then rowed across Charon's ferry amid a chorus of croaking frogs (whence the name of the play): Xanthias is sent round by land. On arrival at the lower-world shore of the loke, Dionysus and Xanthias meet the Chorus of Mystae (celebrants of the Iacchus-ritual at Eleusis), who pass singing and dancing across the stage. These, henceforward, form the Chorus of the play.

Act II. is laid in Hades. Guided by the direction of the Chorus, Dionysus goes to the house of Pluto; but it appears that Heracles bears a very bad character in the nether world, and the god is so much frightened by the vengeful threats of Aeachus that he changes dress with his slave. Much comic business follows, Dionysus reassuming and again putting off the Heracles disguise as he expects to be well or ill received. On Aeacus' reappearance Xanthias is wearing the lionskin and Dionysus is the slave. Aeacus cannot discover which is really Heracles, and it is agreed that the power of bearing a beating uncomplainingly is to be the test of godhead. But even this fails, and the pair are brought into the palace of Pluto and Persephone.

The Chorus then, having the stage to themselves, come forward to sing the Parabasis, in which the poet has expressed his views as to current questions in Athens. Aeacus returns with Xanthias, now his bosom friend, and explains to him that Euripides has challenged Aeschylus' right to the throne of tragedy in the lower world, that a trial is about to take place, and Dionysus has been chosen as judge. The act ends with a choral ode of expectation.

Act III. represents the contest of the two rival poets before Dionysus. They dispute first as to the moral teaching of their respective plays, and then, turning to details, examine and parody each other's prologues and choral odes. At last, scales are brought in to test the "weight" of their words: Aeschylus triumphs, and Dionysus, treacherously abandoning Euripides, determines to take Aeschylus back to the upper world. Pluto invites all to a banquet, and the chorus sing a parting ode, wishing Aeschylus prosperity.

The representation of the play left little to be desired, and the Oxford amateurs need fear comparison with none in rendering the beautiful Greek choruses and speaking the lines that charmed the critical audience at its production in Athens 2,500 years ago. The beautiful singing, the animation, and natural gestures of the chorus were a positive treat to all beholders. Mr. Howard scored a genuine success as Dionysus; Mr. de Stein was highly amusing as Xanthias; Mr. Casswell, though he lacked the stature, cheered us with much the Heracles laugh that so pleased everyone in 1892 when the present Archdacon Furse played the part; Mr. Watt did exceedingly well in the small part of the corpse; Mr. Stevenson-Reece was a dignified and imposing Aeschylus; and Mr. Corbett was uncommonly good as Euripides, though he abandoned the æsthetic style that it was played in last time; Aeacus was a great success in the hands of the Hon. G. Charteris; and Messrs. Knatchbull-Hugessen, P. Guedalla, and G. C. Faber were very happy in their impersonations of the maid, the landlady, and the landlady's servant; Charon was well played by Mr. Oliphant. *The Frogs* will be repeated nightly till Tuesday next, with matinées to-day (Saturday) and Monday next. The advance booking is very heavy, and the extra accommodation at the handsome new theatre will be well tested. The O.U.D.S. are to be congratulated on their most recent Greek play

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SYDNEY, DEC. 29.—Mr. J. C. Williamson has no need to change his bill at either Her Majesty's Theatre or the Theatre Royal, for *The Merry Widow* at the former and *The Sign of the Cross* at the latter are doing the treasury immense good.

MR. EDWIN GEACH has two performances at the Palace Theatre, a children's pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*, in the afternoon, and a melodrama, *The Woman Pays*, at night. The pantomime is acted exclusively by Australian children, and was written, composed, directed, and conducted by Mr. F. W. Weierter. The scenery was specially painted by Mr. Ricketts; pretty and most effective it is. Miss Louie Crawshaw is Crusoe, and in this version has many hairbreadth escapes, including one from King Jumbo and his tribe of niggers. Miss Florrie Johnson is Polly, beloved of Robinson, self-possessed and bright. Crusoe's father is presented as a Scotchman, and well acted by Mr. J. Campbell. The Mother, Dame Crusoe, had a moderate impersonator in Jes Hallinan. Vera Huggett, the clever child in the *Prince Chap*, was the fairy queen, and a host of other children filled in minor parts and danced ballets and sang choruses.

"THE WOMAN PAYS" has a strong cast, including Misses Nellie Ferguson, Helen Fergus, Ethel Buckley, and Pattie Gourlay, and Messrs. Kenneth Hunter, Frank M. Thorne, J. P. O'Neill, Harry Norman, and Wilton Power The drama was well acted, and received with enthusiasm by a holiday house.

MR. WILLIAMSON ANDERSON is at the Criterion with *The Gayest of the Gay*, and of course, with his wife, Miss Eugenie Duggan in the leading rôle as Kate Lattice, Bell Bascombe, and Nurse Susan Meredith, all of which were acted with the lady's customary ability. The play is of ordinary literary merit, and contains ludicrously improbable situations, calculated to interest a general audience. Mr. G. P. Carey is the old Irish servitor Barney O'Brien, a clever characterisation. Miss Lena Langridge and Mr. Temple Harrison administer the comedy. Messrs. J. H. Nunn (also stage manager), Percy Walshe, and Max Clifton are guardians of the remaining parts.

THE TIVOLI was suffocatingly packed on Boxing night to enjoy Mr. Harry Rickards' holiday bill of fare. Crestofolo made his first bow to an Australian audience, which loudly applauded his balancing and juggling. Two handsome women, Amalia and Lenora, delighted the onlookers with their clever upside-down performance. It was unique and brilliant throughout. Then we had Mackinnon's Scotch Meisters, and the return of the old favourite, Charlie Fanning, who brings his little daughter Charlotte along to share his popularity.

SYDNEY, JAN. 5.—*The Duchess of Dantzig* was received by Mr. J. C. Williamson's adherents with welcome and enthusiasm. It is so vastly superior in music and book to the meretricious musical comedy that it deserves to be classed as comic opera. This production will be long remembered for the triumphant success achieved by Miss Florence Young as the laundress-Duchess. Beginning as a chorus girl with Mr. Williamson, her superb voice and personal vivacity secured notice, then came the usual "lines" and eight-bar solos, until industry and loyal work brought the fine singer into first rank. But on Saturday night she electrified the vast audience by her very fine acting and speaking of a quasi-serious part. Her scenes with Napoleon were excellent, and at curtain-fall a demonstration was made which should live in the memory of Florence Young all her life. Without any trace of coarseness, she retained the cheery nature of the *blanchisseuse* in the Duchess's robes. Mr. Wybert Stamford was well cast as the irritable bully-cum-hero Napoleon. At first he was weak and indefinite, but as the play progressed so did he, and as Bonaparte and producer he scored well. Miss Betty Ohls, now a great favourite, was Renée de Saint Mezard—dainty, piquant, vocally sweet, and refined all the time. Napoleon's two sisters were capitally cared for by Miss Nellie Wilson and Miss Georgie Musgrove. The Empress Josephine was doubtless pretty, and Miss Jessica Deane resurrected her in all her physical and regal attributes. Mr. Victor Gouriet had all the fun as Papillon, and that meant a treat for his audience. Mr. James Hughes was a manly, rich-voiced Sergeant Lefebvre, singing well and speaking well. Mr. D. B. O'Connor was Captain Regnier and Adhemar, making his mark in the latter character. He is a young actor with heaps of talent. Mr. Reginald Roberts, though in only one act, placed Phillipe, Vicomte de Bethune, in front rank as an aristocrat and a singer. His "Noblesse oblige" appealed to all, though opposed to Australian sentiment. Mr. C. R. Bantock had little to do as Sergeant Flageot, but he made a lot out of it. Miss Minnie Hooper provided sweet ballets, and Mr. Williamson costumed the play-opera deliciously. Mr. Howard Carr conducted, and his finale to the second act was fine, adding to his reputation as a composer.

NEW ZEALAND AMUSEMENTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

WELLINGTON, DEC. 7.—TOWN HALL.—The Kilties (the Canadian Band) and their monster drum-major are in the midst of a visit which seems highly appreciated.

OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, J. C. Williamson.—The mysteries of Messrs. Maskelyne and Devant are being exhibited here nightly, and the privilege of seeing perhaps the best show of its kind is a thing not to be allowed to pass without remark. Large audiences have crowded to see and enjoy the whole of the programme, from the ever-popular cabinet wonder to the unctuous humours of Mr. Barclay Gammon. There are further attractions in the Asiatic Gintaro, who does wonderful balancing, and the legerdemain of Mr. Owen Clark. The company is giving a weekly matinée, and finishing on Saturday fortnight.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fuller.—Miss Florence Baines, with *Miss Lancashire, Ltd.*, is scoring a success, large audiences being attracted.

THEATRICAL PENSIONS.

MR. CHARLES BROOKFIELD'S SCHEME.

"Why do you think it necessary, Mr. Brookfield," we asked the well-known actor and author, "for actors to have a special scheme of insurance?"

"Because their incomes are so variable and intermittent. Life assurance and pension policies are admirable things in their way, if only you can pay the premiums. But the ordinary form of policy, under which a heavy premium has to be paid once a year on a fixed date, independently of whether you are in engagement or not, is quite unsuited to the requirements of the actor. In his bad years the premium becomes a heavy burden, and, as a rule, he could not alter the terms of the policy without serious loss. But under this new scheme you may pay premiums practically in any amounts and whenever you like, and each premium secures once for all a definite amount of insurance."

Mr. Charles Brookfield had kindly agreed to explain the novel scheme of insurance which he devised some time ago, and which has now been put into practical form by a first-class insurance office, and this was how he expressed the leading idea of it:—

"You will see," he continued, "that this special arrangement as to the payment of premiums exactly meets the case of anyone whose income is subject to fluctuation. The scheme is open to all, but I think it specially meets the needs of actors, in which term I include, of course, our friends of the variety stage, who are equally open-handed, and even more subject to the extremes of Fortune."

"Is it being well taken up?"

"I have had letters cordially approving of it from most of our leading London managers, including Mrs. D'Oyly Carte, Miss Lena Ashwell, George Alexander, Arthur Bourchier, Arthur Chudleigh, Harry Irving, Cyril Maude, Forbes Robertson, Fred Terry, and Sir Charles Wyndham. Kendal, too, writes enthusiastically. Sir Squire Bancroft fears that actors, as a body, are unlikely to take up such a scheme methodically, but I am sanguine that they will prove him to be—for once—mistaken. Charles Manners and several others promise to recommend the members of their companies to avail themselves of the advantages which the scheme offers. I have not been able to communicate personally with nearly as many as I could wish, but *all* artists read *The Era*, so I trust that those who have not heard directly from me will kindly 'accept this intimation,' as they say."

"Do I understand that under this scheme an actor loses nothing at all, even if in some years he fails entirely to pay any premiums?"

"Certainly. Each premium buys a certain amount of insurance or of pension, according to the kind of policy that is effected, and that amount of insurance or pension is absolutely secured, even if not a single penny is paid in premiums afterwards."

"And the premiums may be paid whenever one likes and in any amounts which suit one's purse?"

"Practically that is so. For convenience it is stipulated that only even pounds, and not odd shillings and pence, shall be paid, but that is no hardship to anyone. Under the pension policies that is the only limitation, until you have bought the pension you proposed for. If you like the scheme so well that you wish to go on after that you must, of course, effect a new policy. Under the other policies, which combine a provision for old age with life assurance, the matter is a little more complicated, but it only comes to this: that you must keep up a certain average premium per year. Even if you do not keep up the average, the only result is that you are not at liberty to pay in so much in later years as if you had kept it up, but you do not lose any part of the benefit purchased by the premiums you have actually paid."

"So that by taking out a policy under either scheme you do not in any way pledge yourself to pay premiums in the future?"

"Not in the slightest. You can obtain a policy by paying a first premium of £1, and you need never pay a farthing more unless you like. And if you repent and wish you had not paid even that first pound, you can have it back for the asking."

"Not the whole pound, surely! I thought insurance offices only returned about a third of the premiums paid if you wished to drop a policy."

"Not under this scheme. That is part of the beauty of it. Even under the insurance scheme, although the office has been liable to pay much more if you had died in the meantime, they will return the whole of the premiums you have paid. And under the pension scheme you can not only get back the whole of the premiums you have paid, but 3 per cent. compound interest on them into the bargain."

"Put in that way, the pension scheme seems decidedly attractive. Even if you think you will never want a pension, it seems to afford an excellent way of accumulating odd savings at a good rate of interest."

"Yes. Three per cent. compound interest, and both principal and interest absolutely guaranteed and withdrawable at any time on or before the pension age."

"Can you give me some examples, Mr. Brookfield, of the benefits that can be secured?"

In reply, Mr. Brookfield handed me a short printed circular setting out clearly the main points of the scheme and examples of how it worked out.

"I see you take the case of a young actor who begins by paying £25 when he is twenty-five years old. Must that £25 be paid in one sum?"

"Oh, no! It can be paid in twenty-five separate pounds if he likes, at any time during the year when he has the money to spare."

"I see. Then in the next year, when he is twenty-six, he pays altogether £20. Then when he is twenty-seven—surely this is a mistake, Mr. Brookfield; you have got twenty-eight on the next line!"

"No. That is quite right. Our young friend has a bad year when he is twenty-seven, and cannot afford to pay anything at all. The next year is a better one again, and he pays £25 that year, and so on, until by the time he is thirty-three he has paid £114. My example does not go any further, but these premiums alone will secure him an annuity of £24 15s. a year for the rest of his life after he is sixty, or, if he prefers it, a cash payment of about £290 on his sixtieth birthday in lieu of the annuity. If we had been considering an actress paying the same premiums the cash payment would have been the same, but the annuity a little less, because, you know, ladies live longer than we do."

"I see that that is under the Pension Scheme. Does that scheme provide any insurance?"

"Under that scheme, in the event of death before the pension age the company returns all the premiums paid with 3 per cent. compound interest. If more insurance is required, the policy should be effected under the Endowment Assurance Scheme. The £114 which we have assumed to be paid in premiums would secure a little less at age sixty—£259 instead of £290, but, on the other hand, in the event of death, at any time after the £114 had been paid and before age sixty, £259 would be paid."

"These examples, I see, only show the result of a few years' saving. Suppose an actor put aside ten shillings a week from age 25 to age 60. What provision would he secure for his old age?"

"Under the Endowment Assurance scheme a sum of £1,498 payable at age 60, the sum payable at death before that age gradually increasing up to that amount as the premiums were paid. Under the Pension Scheme a sum of £1,617 at age 60, or an annuity of £137 a year for the rest of life in the case of an actor, or £124 a year in the case of an actress."

"But do you think, Mr. Brookfield, that an actor who saw the advantages of the scheme and decided to put by 5 per cent. or 10 per cent. of his salary under it, would have the strength of mind to keep up these payments throughout a long engagement?"

"Frankly, I doubt very much whether the average actor would. His best plan would be to put himself in the hands of his acting-manager and have the premiums deducted from his salary weekly and forwarded direct to the insurance office, Several of the leading London managers have agreed to make arrangements on these lines."

"And how does one set about effecting a policy?"

"Under the Pension Scheme it is only necessary to fill up a very simple proposal form and send it to me or direct to the insurance office (the Commercial Union Assurance Company, Limited, of 24, Cornhill, E.C.), with a cheque for the first premium. Under the Endowment Assurance Scheme in the ordinary way medical examination is required, though this can be dispensed with on certain conditions. I should be glad to send proposal forms and any information which may be desired if anyone who is interested will communicate with me at the Rectory House, 3, Devonshire-square, Bishopsgate-street, E.C."

AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, FEB. 10.—*The Third Degree*, a drama, in four acts, by Charles Klein, has scored a success at the Hudson Theatre. "Hypnotic suggestion" as a means of detecting crime is the central idea of the story, the efforts of the police to justify an arrest by fair means or foul being portrayed in a more or less authentic manner. Howard Jeffries, jun., a youth of weak character, marries a girl of lowly birth, and being disowned by his rich father, takes to drink. He comes to the rooms of his friend Robert Underwood in the hope of borrowing some money, and falls asleep on a sofa. Underwood is a dealer in bogus pictures who is threatened with prosecution for swindling his patrons, and he writes to Mrs. Howard Jeffries, sen., who has jilted him, to marry a much older man for his money, threatening to commit suicide unless she comes to his assistance. She visits his studio, upbraids him for using her name to further his swindling operations, and leaves him. The curtain falls for a moment, and a shot is heard. Underwood has walked into an adjoining room and sent a bullet into his brain. When the curtain rises again seven hours are supposed to have elapsed, and in the interim young Jeffries has been subjected to the ordeal known as the "third degree" at the hands of the police, the object of which is to extort a confession from a person supposed to be guilty of a crime. The young man has been discovered by the police in the act of leaving the studio, and is accused of murdering his friend. Captain Clinton, a brutal police officer, takes from his pocket the pistol with which Underwood shot himself. He holds it near a lamp so that the light shines on the bright metal barrel, and the reflection is supposed to affect the young man's brain to such an extent that he is impelled to make a confession, notwithstanding that he is innocent. He is thrown into a cell, and from this point the story deals with the efforts of his loyal young wife to interest a famous lawyer in his case, the prisoner's father refusing to help him. The ultimate success of the wife, the discovery of the letter written by the suicide, and the final clearing of the suspect are ingeniously worked out. Incidentally there are pointed allusions to the injustice of the "third degree" and the harm wrought by the sensational newspaper reports of murder trials. The play is splendidly acted, the principal honours being carried off by Miss Helen Ware and Mr. Wallace Eddinger. Messrs. Edmund Breese, Ralph Delmore, and Francis Byrne acquit themselves well in prominent rôles, and a minor part is ably played by Mr. Verner Clarges.

MRS. LESLIE CARTER recently made her reappearance in the metropolis after two years' absence, and her return was signalised by the production at the Liberty Theatre of a new five-act drama, by John Luther Long, entitled *Kassa*. The first performance of this play was marked by an extraordinary demonstration, there being no less than twenty curtain calls for Mrs. Carter at the close of the fourth act. The Prima Kassa, or first vestal of the fictitious convent of St. Lauka in Hungary, on the eve of taking the black veil is betrayed into a false marriage by Prince Bela Balvancssi. His rival, Zickros Varsova, Imperial Chancellor of the Austrian Court, holds a warrant for the Prince's death on the charge of having lured Kassa from the convent. Kassa saves the Prince, however, by temporising with Varsova, who is eager to possess her. Ultimately she returns to the convent to end her days in peace. The play is handsomely mounted, and is replete with details and effects that captivate the eye. Mrs. Carter's Kassa is a magnificent portrayal, and Mr. Charles Millward plays the profligate Prince Bela admirably.

"A STUBBORN CINDERELLA," a play in three acts, by Hough and Adams, with music by Joseph E. Howard, has been well received at the Broadway Theatre. Mr. John Barrymore and Miss Sallie Fisher play the principal parts entertainingly, and make themselves very popular. The "plot" is humorous and the music pleasing.

AMUSEMENTS IN BOMBAY.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BANDMANN'S THEATRE.—Grossi, the wonderful telepathist, has been drawing crowded houses here during the Christmas holidays. He has been tested by some of the leading people in this city, and in not a single instance has he failed. His card manipulation has been a revelation to Bombay theatre-goers, one great feature of his show being his work amongst the audience. The mental telepathy has drawn crowded houses from the native section of the city, who regard Grossi as a wonderful being. The show is great, as not a word is spoken between him and his subject Mlle. Renée. The London Bioscope fills in the second half with a fine programme of pictures. The Bandmann Opera Company and Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer in her Shakespearean répertoire are due shortly, and Bombay folk are anxiously awaiting the new companies.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—SIR HENRY IRVING.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly—*Illustrated London News*.

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican*.

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun*

Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News*.

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star*.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"LAZULI,"

Burlesque Opera, in Three Acts, by Emanuel Chabrier, produced at the Komische Oper on Thursday, Feb 4.

Uff I. ..... HERR KREUDER
Princess Laoula ..... FRAULEIN BACHRICH
Wupp de Dudeldu ..... HERR ZADOR
Aloes ..... FRAULEIN WIEGREBE
Tapioca ..... HERR BROSE
Siroco ..... HERR MANTLER
Lazuli ..... FRAULEIN HAGEN
Oasis ..... FRAULEIN BARCKOW
Asphodèle ..... FRAULEIN MEININGER
Zinnia ..... FRAULEIN LORENZ
Koukuli ..... FRAULEIN LENZ
Polezeichef ..... HERR THOMASCHEK

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, Feb. 11.—Herr Gregor has shown his customary perspicacity in the selection of this merry work, which is just the thing for the Carnival time. The opera is not new, but its name has been changed, and it has been modernised. It was first given in Paris in 1877 under the title of *L'Etoile*, and later on was presented to a Berlin audience under the same title. It comes, however, quite as a novelty to the majority of our theatre-goers, and has made a tremendous hit. The music is charming, full of pleasant melodies and excellent orchestration, reminding us—without any suspicion of plagiarism—of that master of comic opera, Offenbach. A brief description of the plot will be sufficient, as it is probably known to your readers. The action passes in the mystical kingdom of Uff the First. It is the custom of the country to provide an execution on the monarch's birthday for the delectation of the people. Uff's natal day is drawing near, but his subjects have behaved themselves so well of late that there is absolutely nobody to execute, so the ruler lays aside his crown and sceptre and mixes (disguised) among the public in the hope of being able to convict someone of *lèse-majesté*. This is accomplished without much difficulty. In a heated argument the young huckster Lazuli gives Uff a couple of boxes on the ears, and there is every prospect that the people's victim is found. The King's astronomer, Siroco, a rascal with a pretty wit, casts His Majesty's horoscope, and declares—to the latter's horror—that he is born under the same star as Lazuli, and if one die, the other must speedily follow. Our young hero, therefore, rises to Uff's highest favour. He is cherished and cared for beyond his wildest dreams, and the end of it all is that Lazuli becomes the lover of the fair Princess Laoula—destined for Uff himself—and is proclaimed Crown Prince. The amusing nonsense caught the fancy of the audience, and artists and manager were called repeatedly. The interpretation was capital, Fräulein Mary Hagen in the name-part being—notwithstanding a long illness from which she has only just recovered—particularly successful. Herr von Recnizek was, as ever, a first-rate conductor, and the mounting (as is always the case under Herr Gregor's superintendence) was a marvel of skill and artistic taste.

"SEINE KLEINE FREUNDIN," the latest farce at the Lustspielhaus, is still doing good business, thanks chiefly to the charming acting of Fräulein Cerigioli in the principal rôle. The authors—Herren Engel and Horst—have every reason to be satisfied with their success.

HERR JOSEF KAINZ is still attracting crowded audiences at the New Schauspielhaus, and there is not a ticket to be had for several days before every performance. In Echegaray's drama *Galeotto* on Saturday the famous actor achieved a remarkable triumph in the rôle of Ernesto, which is in pleasant memory of the Berliners when Herr Kainz was a member of the Deutsches Theatre.

AT the Deutsches Herr Reinhardt is trying a new and interesting experiment, although for the critics a fatiguing one. On three successive nights Goethe's *Faust* is in the bill, each time with a completely different cast. Perhaps the ambitious manager is desirous of showing the strength of his company, which is indisputable. Herr Reinhardt is a great advocate of the no-star system, and his company, while its excellence is proverbial, is so even that it would be impossible to give the palm to any single artist.

I HAVE received the following notice from Mme. Meta Illing:—"The 'English Theatre for Germany,' which is being organised by Mme. Meta Illing, will open its season at the end of May with a series of performances at the Court Theatre, Wiesbaden. The contract has just been signed by the Intendant Herr von Mutzenbecher and Mme. Illing."

AMUSEMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

JOHANNESBURG, JAN. 8.—HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. B. and F. Wheeler, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. W. F. Woodman.—*The New Aladdin*, which on its previous production on the Rand had a record run, was staged at the above house this week. The vocal numbers were all brought up-to-date with many topical allusions, and the admirable chorus and orchestra did ample justice to the sparkling music. Miss Maud Aston's Lally is one of the finest characters she has given us; Miss Dombey as the Princess is capital, and Miss Florence Vie as the Spirit of the Ring scored a success. Mr. Alf. Beers was also well cast. A large amount of the fun of the evening rested on the shoulders of Mr. Foster Courtenay as the lost policeman, and he acquitted himself irreproachably. Mr. F. J. Blackman made a hit as the Geni of the Lamp, and Mr. Roy Cathie as Cadie of Cathy acted excellently. The production is one of the best that the present Gaiety company have given us.

STANDARD THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Leonard Rayne; Manager, Mr Grant Fallowes.—*Old Heidelberg* is still playing to good houses. The last three weeks of the Leonard Rayne company are announced previous to the company going on tour.

JOHANNESBURG.—STANDARD THEATRE.—Lessees, the Tressi Comic Opera Co.—The above company commenced a short season of Gilbert-Sullivan operas here this week. The opening production was *The Yeomen of the Guard*. Miss Harold Vickers made a winning Elsie Maynard, singing delightfully; the fine tenor voice of Mr. Gwilym Evans as Colonel Fairfax was heard to perfection; as Jack Point Mr. Stanley Evans was the life and soul of the piece, sustaining the rôle in a masterly manner; another fine merrymaker was Mr. Conwright as Wilfred Shadbolt. Herr Tressi personally conducted.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. B. and F. Wheeler, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. W. F. Woodman.—Messrs B. and F. Wheeler's latest production, *The New Aladdin*, is still playing to good houses. Miss Maud Aston as Lally is very bewitching; Messrs. Foster, Courtenay, and De Beers cause endless laughter. *The Merry Widow* is to be revived for the fourth time next week.

AT last the Leonard Rayne occupation of the Standard Theatre has come to a close after a successful season, lasting twelve months, and it is with regret the Randites are parting with their favourite actor-manager. As a proof of the excellent feeling that prevails between Mr. Grant Fallowes, the always courteous lieutenant of Mr. Rayne, and the staff in front of the house, on the penultimate night of the tour of the company a pleasant little gathering presented Mr. Grant Fallowes with a gold cigarette-holder, engraved with his initials, as a token of the esteem in which he is held. Mr. Rayne made the presentation.

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Feb. 18, the Play, by Hall Caine and Louis N. Parker, entitled

"PETE."

Considerable interest had been aroused in Hammersmith at the coming production of this Lyceum success, and therefore it followed that a large audience gathered at the King's on Monday evening to witness the new version of Mr. Hall Caine's celebrated novel. The spectators were not disappointed, for the piece appealed to them in no uncertain manner, and caused much enthusiasm. In fact, it was a success all the way through. The play is full of human interest, and, being happily devoid of extraneous sensational incidents, the old story of two men and a woman is extremely well told; and, illustrated as it is by the full strength of the Lyceum company, the authors have no cause to complain of the drama's reception. Mr. Matheson Lang—one of our most promising actors—completely fills the part of the hero, Pete Quilliam. His acting is perfect, and is thoroughly appreciated, resulting in many recalls after each act. As Philip Christian Mr. Eric Mayne excellently portrays the ambitious man who, when about to become Deemster, is not slow in cast off the woman whom he has betrayed, but who afterwards suffers so much remorse at his debasement. Mr. Pennington Gush is good as Ross Christian, and Mr. Charles L. Ludlow makes a capable Jonaique Kelly. Mr. Frederick Ross plays Cæsar Cregeen in sound style. His ripe experience helps in giving a piece of acting which could hardly be equalled, the character itself not showing to much advantage. Mr. Ellis J. Preston renders Black Tom intelligently, and the Postman Kelly of Mr. H. K. Ayliff deserves mention for a most artistic make-up. Mr. Joseph O'Brien and Mr. Sidney Vautier are worthy of praise for their representations of Constable Niplightly and Dr. Mylechreest. The Lord-Lieutenant of Mr. Wilfred Edmunds is dignified, and the Mayor of Douglas by Mr. Henry Brooks is capital. A clever and bright impersonation of Nancy by Miss Rita Tompkins keeps the audience in right good humour, her fresh and natural acting being much approved; and Miss Blanche Stanley is an effective Grannie. Kate Cregeen throughout the play is extremely tearful, but Miss Hutin Britton achieves a distinct and unequivocal success by her sympathetic and earnest acting, which rouses prolonged applause. Amongst a number of well-played smaller parts a baby in arms (name not given) attracts a great deal of attention by its collectedness. The scenery and appointments are most excellent.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 15, Balfe's Opera entitled

"SATANELLA."

Mr. J. W. Turner's English opera company still claims attention at the Dalston Theatre, where scores of folks who do not see the inside of a playhouse except when some special piece of musical production is on are just now taking advantage of this welcome visit of tuneful vocalists and actors. On Monday evening Balfe's opera *Satanella* was presented, and was accorded a most hearty reception. The orchestra, under the direction of Mr. T. Lawton, on this occasion, as during the remainder of the week, rendered efficient service. Mr. Charles Le Sueur was seen and heard to good advantage on Monday as Count Rupert, and Satanella, Lelia, and Stella were effectively represented by Miss Sarah Williams, Miss Doris O'Brien, and Miss Jessie Dennis respectively. Miss Williams was again and again recalled during the performance for the rendering of the extremely pretty songs which fall to the lot of Satanella, and Miss O'Brien and Miss Dennis were equally successful with their numbers. Miss Maud Esdale appeared as Dame Bertha. Mr. Sidney Clifford's fine voice was admired in the part of Arimanes, and an equal measure of success was secured by Mr. George Ridding as Bracachio. Quaint touches of humour were supplied by Mr. Richard Cummings as Hortensius and Mr. P. Newton as Karl. During the week's programme Mr. J. W. Turner's name has been associated with the operas *The Rose of Castile*, *Il Trovatore*, and *Maritana*, the latter ever-popular production being the Thursday evening's attraction. *Il Trovatore* was billed for Thursday's matinée.

THE FULHAM.

On Monday, Feb. 15, the Melodrama, adapted from the Serial Story by Marie Connor Leighton, entitled

"CONVICT 99."

The play now in representation at the Fulham Theatre should be familiar in its outlines to a very large public, since it is a dramatised version of a serial story which appeared in a popular weekly. The play is a melodrama of somewhat ordinary type, and has some good situations, though an impartial critic might easily find some weaknesses. For example, the great trial scene in its abbreviated form conveys no particular sense of reality. Still, the piece will bear comparison with many another successful melodrama of the same type. The principal artists are well chosen and do good work. Mr. Frank Beresford is an excellent representative of the hero, Lawrence Gray, and Mr. Benson North makes an excellent villain of the insinuating kind. Mr. Archie Watts has good opportunities of moving laughter as the office boy, James Stinchcombe, and makes good use of them; Mr. Chas. Bruce gives a good study of the amiable and trusting parent, Christopher Lucas; Mr. Charles Douglas is capital as the hardened sinner, Jim Lacey; Mr. Archer Brown can be praised for his realistic work as Warder Gannaway—a good study of a sinister character. The counsel in the trial scene both fitted well into the picture: Mr. Arthur Ainley defended with spirit and earnestness, while Mr. William Grant was restrained and business-like for the prosecution. Mr. R. Duncan Bell was effective as the prison Doctor, as also was the Governor of the prison; and the part of Warder Hewitt was well filled by Mr. James Knole. Miss Mabel North was amusing as Mrs. Smedley, while Miss Violet Clarke was piquant and humorous as Maggie Mason. Finally, more than a word of praise must be given to Miss Dorothy Milne, who took the part of Geraldine Lucas, for her quiet and natural, but non the less effective, representation of the heroine.

BRITANNIA THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 15, the Drama, by Harold Whyte, entitled

"WOMEN OF LONDON."

Women of London is evidently suited to the taste of the patrons of the Britannia, if we may judge by the applause meted out to the members of the company directed by Mr. Montgomery for their excellent impersonations of the characters entrusted to them. Mr. Harry Tresham again scores heavily as Lieut. Phillip Fancourt, the hero, a part that suits him well. Mr. H. Ryeland Leigh as Captain Dangerfield is, as usual, greeted with groans for the misery he imposes upon the sorely-tried Blanche Bellingham, sweetly and charmingly represented by Miss Lalla Stanhope. Mr. Conrad E. Clarke ably represents Joe Brassy, a shady sportsman. Mr. Herbert Young lends great assistance as Bob Binks. One of the most successful performances is that of Mr. C. Alan Hineson as Roy Raggles, a very fine character study. Mr. H. G. Brandon causes considerable merriment in his amusing impersonation of Rev. Septimus Simpkins. Mr. Ivan P Gore makes an ideal representative of the law. Miss Ethyle Gordon Murray as Stella Stanforth has a character that allows her many opportunities of distinguishing herself, and every advantage is taken of by her to display her histrionic abilities. Miss Edna Lester is very successful in the part of Flo Hernshaw. Miss Florence Barnes gives a very pleasing portrait of Daisy Dashwood, a music hall star. The programme is concluded by an exhibition of pictures by the Barrascope. The orchestra renders some tuneful *entr'actes*, including the overture "L'Elégante," in which the cornet solo is well played by Mr. Geo. Bickerstaff. Mr. Fred A. Fowler is greatly in evidence as Mr. Barrasford's able representative.

BRIXTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 15., the Drama entitled

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."

After the success achieved by this popular drama last year here, it was only proper that a return visit should be made, and on Monday the old favourites of Mr. Andrew Melville's company had a capital reception. Mr. Felix Pitt still enacts in his captal robust fashion the stern and irate father, Anthony Raybrook; Mr. P. George Beresford does good work as Walter Hatherleigh; Mr. Howard Thornley is admirable as George Clissold; Mr. C. Burdon depicts the villainies of Geoffrey Waring splendidly; Mr. Harry Cornwall deserves mention for his study of Jabez Thomas; Mr. Percy Dawsone's clever character sketch of Willie earned loud applause from the house; Mr. Fred C. Imbert cleverly assumes the part of John Anderson; and Mr. Henry Helling is a grave and dignified solicitor.. Miss Ada M. Ryder is to be congratulated on her acting in the difficult rôles of Walter Hatherleigh (the younger) and the sorrow-stricken Laura Raybrook. Her pathetic scenes made an impression on the large audience. Miss Lizzie Ingles was sufficiently haughty and overbearing as Raybrook's housekeeper; Miss A. Williams ably impersonated the good-hearted Irishwoman, Mrs. McCarthy; and Miss Florence Wilson was good as Peggy, the flower-girl. The remaining characters in a large cast all did well. *Driven from Home* is capitally staged, and the realistic London scenes deserve commendation, especially the Foundling Hospital and Saw Mill.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, Feb. 15, the Musical Comedy, in Two Acts, entitled

"THE GAY GORDONS."

This popular and diverting musical comedy is proving a great attraction at the Shakespeare Theatre this week, and Mr. Seymour Hicks' company is being received with great enthusiasm. Owing to a change in the cast, the part of Peggy Quainton was, at the last moment, undertaken by Miss Dorothy Giles, whose attractive manner and personal charm were well suited to the character. Possessed of a sweet voice and acting with delightful freshness, Miss Giles acquitted herself with success, and was well received. Excellent acting characterised the rendering by Miss Emily Mellon of the rôle of Janet McLeod, and the audience were quick to appreciate her sterling work. Another good performance was that of Miss Mabel Dent, who won considerable favour by her vivacious presentation of Victoria Siddons; Miss Ida Laurie was deserving of praise for her capital portraiture of Charlotte Siddons; and Miss Gwynneth Hughes as Mary McLeod, Miss Norah Guinness as Lady Graeme, and Miss Rosa Carlisle as Lady Millicent were also very effective. Mr. Tom Graves was irresistibly funny as Nervy Nat, and his extraordinary antics and clever facial expression kept the audience in uncontrollable laughter. Mr. Frank Lincoln submitted a most effective rendering of Angus Graeme, and his geniality and breezy good-nature, together with his irresponsibility of manner, made his performance most enjoyable. Mr. Edward Nainby was a droll Edmund Siddons, and Mr. Ernest Ruston satisfactorily sustained the part of Andrew Quainton. The piece, which was produced under the direction of Mr. W. A. Seymour, with Mr. Mervyn Dene as stage-manager, was staged with completeness, and the scenery was excellent.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, Feb. 15, the Drama, in Five Acts, entitled

"HUMAN NATURE."

This celebrated Drury Lane play is always sure of a hearty welcome in Marylebone, and this week the West Londoners have warmly expressed their approval of the production. Mr. S. Herbert Humber enacted the rôle of Captain Temple with telling force and striking ability; Mr. J. P. Dryden was full of cunning resource as the rascally solicitor, Matthew Hawker; Mr. Fred Morgan proffered a well-thought-out portrayal of Paul de Vigne; Mr. C. W. Maxwell did well as Stephen Mardyke; Mr. Edwin Fergusson pleasingly sustained the rôle of the Rev. Arthur Lulworth; Mr. Alf. Terris, excellently made up, played with vigorous earnestness as Farmer Lambkin, whilst Mr. E. Harvey White was decidedly alert and amusing as Horatio Spotkins. Miss Beatrice Burdett impersonated Cora Grey with plenty of cool assurance; Miss Esther Carthew played in experienced fashion as Mrs. Lambkin; Miss Maggie Byron was well placed as Mrs. Lulworth; little Lily Leicester was pleasingly intelligent as Frank Temple; Miss M. Armstrong was responsible for a most convincing and acceptable portrayal of the foundling Dick; Miss Nellie Peters was a pert Lucy; and Miss Ada Oakley played with womanly sympathy the trying rôle of Nellie Temple. The play was well staged and mounted, and reflects the utmost credit on the producer, Mr. R. A. Beaton.

THEATRE ROYAL, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Feb. 15, the Drama entitled

"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME."

Produced by Mr. Walter Melville, *The Girl Who Wrecked His Home* continues to find favour with a large number of the theatre-going public, and deservedly so, as it is a well-designed and powerfully written play, and cleverly interpreted by a judiciously selected cast of talented artists. The play was accorded a hearty reception on a visit it paid here about twelve months ago, and on the present occasion it has apparently lost none of its vitality, but still maintains a firm hold. Miss Louise Hampton imparts a good deal of pathos into the character of Bertha Marshall, and is successful in the emotional scene of the outcast and wandering woman, and in the more tranquil moments of the last scene acts with charm and sincerity, and earns the applause so liberally meted out to her. Mr. Fred W. Goddard presents a very capable rendering of the part of Jack Marshall, the sorrowing and deserted husband, and deserves praise for a talented portrayal. Mr. W. Gregory offers a good delineation of the scheming Leonard Kenyon. William Stevenson is capably undertaken by Mr. Alfred Richards; Mr. Herbert Goddard is most suitably placed as Henry Stevenson; Mr. Francis Hope as Tommy Biffin imparts much humour and evokes much laughter; Miss Winifred Whyte essays the rôle of Val Raymond, the evildoer, in an effective manner; Miss Lulu Bowes displays ability as Winifred Marshall; Josh Crockett has an able representative in Mr. George P. Lester; Mr. L. Charles makes a smart Detective Brockland, while Master Dick Evans and Miss Ida Thompson do well in the children's parts.

ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Feb. 15, the Comedy entitled

"ANGELA."

On the last occasion Miss Florence Glossop-Harris and Mr. Frank Cellier paid a visit to this theatre they were greatly appreciated in various characters in their Shakespearean répertoire. They are now seen to equal advantage in the amusing comedy of *Angela*, and the company they bring with them is a well selected one, all the members of which lend excellent assistance in bringing out the mirth-provoking qualities of the play. Miss Florence Glossop-Harris, as the wayward widow Angela, acts with easy grace and gives a good delineation of the part; Mr. Frank Cellier displays much ability and experience in his capable handling of the character of Richard Evesham, and makes his points telling by his quiet manner; Mr. Charles Brown plays Christopher Keswick in a very droll manner; Mr. Arthur D. Layland is diverting as John Evesham; Mr. Arthur Keane makes the most of his opportunities as William Bithers; Mr. Eugene Wellesley as Alphonse makes a capital French waiter; Miss Gertrude Gilbert as Mary Pembridge is entirely successful; Elizabeth is humorously portrayed by Miss Mary Goulden. Other characters in the cast are ably submitted by Messrs. Francis Roberts, Murray Kinnell, James Mason, and Miss Gertrude Tate, &c. The comedy is preceded by a new one-act play by J. Harry Irvine entitled *The Fur Cloak*.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 16,

"THE CINGALEE."

Mr. Haldane Crichton's company, with a large corps of auxiliaries and specially-painted scenery, presented this favourite musical comedy on its first visit to the Crystal Palace, and they can have no reason to complain of any lack of cordiality in the reception accorded to them. Mr. Alan Turner's powerful voice and good acting as the Hon. Harry Vereker secured for him much applause and many encores, and he was fortunate in having the concurrence of Miss Molly Wolstenhulme as Nanoya, the Cingalese maiden, for her voice and clever manner made her performance a very acceptable one. Mr. Jack Crichton as Chambhuddy Ram missed none of the drolleries of the Baboo lawyer, and was a favourite from the first. The Boobhamba of Mr. Douglas Munro was well conceived, and his appearance good. Mr. F. W. Ford as Sir Peter Loftus, the High Commissioner, was excellent, the testy Anglo-Indian official being limned to the life, and Mr. Scott Cullen as the volatile Bobby Warren danced and sang himself into the good graces of the audience very speedily. A word must be given to the careful acting of Mr. Harry Edward Ray in the small part of Myamgah, an Indian servant. Miss Alice Nixon made a very arch and charming Peggy Sabine, and had to respond to several encores, especially in her dolly dance with Mr. Scott Cullen. Miss Pauline Hague, with a good method and pleasing appearance as Lady Patricia Vane, was also singled out for many recalls, and Miss Margaret Pitts as Angy Loftus danced most piquantly in each scene and was a valuable addition to the success of the piece.

Mesdames Ida Ernest, Edie Burton, Maudie Ray, and Dorothy Temple made a most engaging quartette of Tea Girls. Messrs. Darrell Richards, John McDonagh, Claude Hogg, and Kenneth Scott were the four pupils, and they supplied an efficient backing, both in song and dance, to the action of the production. The Sisters Amaranth executed the clever "Parahara" dance in the second act, and Mr. Harry Edward Ray gave character to the "Devil" dance. Mr. Herbert Ivy wielded the bâton over a largely-augmented orchestra, and did full justice to the somewhat exacting music.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Feb. 15, the Musical Play, entitled

"HAVANA."

Musical comedy is always welcome at Stratford, and consequently the Gaiety success *Havana* was very cordially received on Monday night. The members of Mr. George Dance's company all acquit themselves with credit, and adequate justice has been done to this bright, sparkling, and tuneful play in the way of dresses and staging. Mr. Reginald Switz is exceedingly funny and entertaining as Nix; he works unflaggingly, and his quaint sayings and doings are always provocative of mirth. Mr. Tom Seymour is entirely successful as Reginald Brown; Mr. Cecil W. Parke is a manly and pleasing exponent of Jackson Villiers; and Mr. Bay Russell is a buoyant and bustling Frank Charteris. Mr. George Story portrays the beanish Don Adolfo very appropriately, and is heard to advantage in the numbers allotted to him; Mr. A. Gordon Begg does well as Bombito del Campo; and Mr. Herbert Bryan is a very satisfactory Diego. Miss Hebe Bliss acts with considerable charm as Consuelo, and her singing elicits warm applause; Miss Gladys Gay very daintily impersonates Anita; Isabelita is most appropriately played by Miss Helen Langton; Miss Jose Sullivan is a charming Mamie; Miss Maud Seymour plays Teresa very brightly; Zara has an able exponent in Miss Elsie Deighton; and Signora Verriotti is portrayed very successfully by Miss Maud Lennard. Miss Rosa Sullivan, Miss Beryl Gordon, and Miss Kathleen Haddon make attractive cigarette girls; and Bombito's servants are safely entrusted to Mr. Harry Campbell and Mr. Clarence Hart.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Feb. 15, the Drama, by Frank Bateman and John Douglas, entitled

"NO WEDDING BELLS FOR HER."

The return visit of Mrs. Frank Bateman and Mr. Stuart Lomath's company in *No Wedding Bells for Her* is attracting excellent audiences to the Stratford Theatre Royal this week, and the piece is easily repeating its former success. Miss Lizzie Montague carries off chief honours in the rôle of Lola Delaspierre, the wiles and machinations of this attractive adventuress being depicted with graphic yet well restrained power, while the deftly introduced glimpses of caustic humour add much personality and interest to the character. Mr. Stuart Lomath acts with expression, dignity, and earnestness as the Rev. Frank Hatherleigh, and looks the part well. Mr. Percy Shaw as the detective Dick Delver acts very convincingly, and is ever ready to assist in the fun-making as occasion requires. Mr. H. Aynsleigh as the villainous Abney Stone acts with much skill and directness of method, and easily succeeds in making the character thoroughly obnoxious. Mr. Kenneth Black, jun., is an amusing and entertaining Simpkins; Mr. M. Curtis portrays Montague Blair very appropriately; and Mr. George Herbert submits an experienced performance as Horatio Stone. Miss Mabel Durham plays with sympathy and charm as Doris Vane, and Miss Ellen Owen does exceedingly well as Marie Frail. Remaining parts are all in quite capable hands, and the scenic effects and dresses are tasteful and handsome.

Sapho, revised and adapted by Stuart Lomath, was in the bill on Thursday and for the remainder of the week, with Miss Lizzie Montague in the name-part.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

The first item in the programme of the orchestral concert given at the Royal College on Friday evening, Feb. 12, was Smetana's symphonic poem, "Aus Böhmen's Hain und Flur," from "Mein Vaterland, No. 4." The composer of the "Bartered Bride" is never dull, and the spirited performance given by the orchestral students under the guidance of Sir Charles V. Stanford aroused considerable interest in a seldom-heard work of the Bohemian composer. Mr. Jameson Dodds sang Mozart's air "Mentre ti lascio" with marked ability, and was warmly applauded, and Miss Ellen Edwards greatly distinguished herself in a skilful performance of Chopin's Concerto, for piano and orchestra, No. 2, in F minor, op. 21, the orchestral accompaniment being also admirably played. At the close of the concerto Miss Edwards had no fewer than four hearty recalls. In Mendelssohn's scena, "Infelice," Miss Katherine Vincent, although slightly nervous, displayed intelligence in her singing, but more dramatic feeling and greater experience were required for such difficult music. The concert concluded with a painstaking performance of Brahms's Symphony No. 4, in E minor, op. 98.

"THE FUR CLOAK."

A One Act Play, by J. H. Irvine, produced at the Artillery Theatre, Woolwich, on Monday, Feb. 15.

Guy Tabary ..... Mr. Eugene Wellesley
Peter, the Slaughterer .... Mr. Arthur Seaton
Slit-eared Baptist ..... Mr. Stuart Vinden
Petit-Jean ..... Mr. Francis Roberts
François Villon ..... Mr. J. Harry Irvine
Boy ..... Miss Mary Goulden
Louis XI. ..... Mr. Tom Heslewood
Shopkeeper ..... Mr. Murray Kinnell
Apprentice ..... Mr. Charles Brown
Tristan L'Hermite ..... Mr. Arthur Keane

The theme of *The Fur Cloak* is but another episode in the life of that picturesque knave François Villon, about whose personality many tales have been woven. In the present instance we find he has been somewhat down on his luck, having been visiting many towns and spending a good deal of his time in the gaols of most of them. He returns unexpectedly and joins his fellow cut-throats in an attic in the Town Hall, Paris, used at this date as a powder magazine, but he is unrecognised for the moment as he is disguised in a fur cloak which he had removed from the body of a murdered man. One of the thieves having captured and brought in an errand boy carrying victuals in a basket, is admonished by his fellows for letting their hiding-place be made known to a stranger, so their first idea is to kill the boy, but at the intervention of François Villon he is allowed to depart with the caution to keep his mouth shut. Soon after they are disturbed by another unwelcome visitor, and although unknown to them, none other than Louis XI. King of France. Somewhat lengthy conversations here ensue between François Villon and the King, in which the former endeavours to impress his visitor with his flowery language and the self-styled genius of a poet. Eventually the King, complaining of the cold, is given the fur cloak which was taken from the murdered man. Soon after footsteps are heard approaching, and the discovery is made that it is the watch, who, having been informed by the errand boy, are on their way thither, so the King is thereupon seized and bound, and left, trussed up, to the tender mercies of the guard, and the rogues make good their escape through a window. François, before leaving, makes merry over the King's predicament, but the latter informs him that he will soon be able to extricate himself from the scrape, and tells François that if he will watch through the window he will see how he accomplishes his release. The guard enters, and the fur coat that the King is wearing is recognised as that belonging to the murdered man, so Louis is arrested as the murderer, but is immediately set free when he informs his captors that he is the King of France. It is then that François Villon, who has been watching the outcome of events through the window, is made aware of the personality of the visitor he has been entertaining. Mr. J. Harry Irvine offered a good rendering of the character François Villon, and Louis XI. had a very able representative in Mr. Tom Heslewood, who gave good effect to that king's eccentricities. The other members of the cast are suitably placed, but all play, more or less, subordinate parts. The mounting and costumes are appropriate.

THE BENSON SEASON AT THE CORONET.

The programme this week includes not only Shakespeare's *Julius Cæsar*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Macbeth*, and *Richard III.*, but Sheridan's *School for Scandal* and *A Midnight Bridal*, and *The Belle's Stratagem*. *Julius Cæsar* is most noticeable for the very excellent management of the stage crowd and the great scene of Marcus Antonius's funeral oration, whilst the stormy interview between Brutus and Cassius and the murder of Cæsar strike notes of vehemence and tragedy of a high order. Mr. E. A. Warburton has done some very excellent work with the Benson company, and though his enactment of Julius Cæsar cannot compare with his performances in some other plays, such as *Coriolanus*, for instance, he contributes a very notable performance. He is a dreamy, melancholy, and morose figure—a kind of Hamlet in his prepossession and a veritable Macbeth in his bitter remorse and fatalism. Mr. Cyril Keightley very ably depicts the jealousy, envy, and venom of Cains Cassius, and, moreover, subtly suggests, together with the meanness and choler of the man, a nobler quality of natural admiration for the constancy and strength of Brutus's character, who, in his perfervid patriotism, was truly "the noblest Roman of them all." Mr. F. R. Benson as Mark Antony, of course, has his opportunity in Act III., when he addresses the many-headed multitude from the forum in the market place; and very grandly he delivers this mournful elegy on the dead Cæsar, moving the audience as well as the mob by his eloquent pleading. Mr. H. O. Nicholson gives a graphic portraiture of the envious Casca, a performance full of sterling merit; Mr. F. G. Worlock creates a good impression as Octavius Cæsar; and Mr. Worlock is impressive as Artemedorius, a soothsayer. Mr. Murray Carrington acts with dignity and majesty as the hapless Julius Cæsar, though surely he is made up a trifle too much, like a Nero or a Louis XI., in death-like pallor and senility? Mr. Johnston is good as Pindarus, and of the ladies, all do their small parts well, including Mrs. F. R. Benson as Portia, Miss Helen Haye as Calphurnia, and Miss Leah Hanman as the page boy, Lucius.

MR. MANNERS'S OFFER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—You will doubtless remember my offer a month or two ago to give a three weeks' season, possibly at Drury Lane, in May next. I was to provide free the scenery, costumes, band parts, the services of my wife and myself, &c. The company to consist of 100 in the chorus, 100 in the orchestra, not only the principals now with me, but others where necessary, and to produce three new English operas amongst others. A committee to be formed; if there was a surplus it could go to anything that the majority of the National English Opera Union required. I deeply regret to say that as the subscription only amounts to about £230 I cannot afford to risk it. No doubt there would perhaps be a few more applications in the near future; but as there is so much to prepare, so as to have everything in proper order, it is impossible for me to wait any longer. Therefore, there will be no season this time. I have now under consideration another plan, though I very much fear that opera in English, under present conditions in this country, to any great extent is impossible.—Yours faithfully,

CHARLES MANNERS.

Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh. Feb. 13, 1909.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

After a successful week of Shakespeare at the Royal County Theatre, there was a welcome change on Monday, when the first of a week's performance of that bright musical comedy *The Girls of Gottenberg* was given, which was well presented by a most capable company. Chief honours were carried off by Miss Simeta Marsden in the leading rôle, whilst Mr. Bertie Wright, an old Kingston favourite, kept the laughter rippling as Max Moddlekopf what time he was on the stage. Valuable also were the efforts of Miss May Marshall as Clementine, whilst others who deserve particular mention are Miss Maisie North as Elsie, Mr. Tom Shelford as the Prince, and Miss Billie Taylor as the Mitzi.

"A BOY'S PROPOSAL."

Comedy, in One Act, by Arthur Eckersley, produced at the Empire Theatre, Birmingham, on Monday, Feb. 15.

Mr. Sheringham ..... Mr. Hubert Willis
Tom ..... Master Philip Tonge
Lady Pilkington ..... Miss May Chevalier
Dean ..... Mr. Ashton Tonge

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Mr. Fisher White's company is engaged in the production of *A Boy's Proposal*, which proves to be one of the best and brightest things vouchsafed the halls for some time. The plot, which is amusing in its complications and cleverly constructed, ranges round the daring little joke of a bright and by no means offensive little chap named Tom, who has developed the pernicious habit of imitating other people's handwriting, however. It transpires that Mr. Sheringham, the uncle of the "enfant terrible"—as well he might be dubbed on a short acquaintance—has been astounded to receive from his old friend, Lady Pilkington, a refusal of an offer of marriage which he has never really made her, and discovering that it is "a little joke" perpetrated at his expense by his nephew Tom, he has straightway fetched that young gentleman from school to apologise to the lady. Thus we see them ushered into the drawing-room of Lady Pilkington's flat by the old butler, Dean, and Sheringham is soundly rating the delinquent on his escapade. The young rascal is by no means overcome with the enormity of his offence, being more concerned over an "air-gun" which his benevolent uncle had promised to buy him. And when his uncle, in trying to get out of him the contents of the letter, asks him if it was a letter that he himself might have written, the young hopeful answers, "Yes, you might have written it, but you were such a long time that I thought I'd hurry matters up." But the confabulation is interrupted by the sound of Lady Pilkington's hansom, and, the lady herself entering, she stands surprised—and it is evident that the surprise is a pleasant one—to see Sheringham, who, however, in a way, cuts short her welcome, begging five minutes' interview, during which the boy is dismissed to an adjoining room. But soon she makes it evident that his proposal has not only fluttered, but flattered her, and, coyly confessing that she has "only been playing with him," shows plainly that she accepts him; and he, who has never looked upon the young widow in any other light than that of a friend, suddenly finds her very desirable. But his satisfaction is short-lived, for Tom is knocking at his prison door, anxious to get his "apology" over, and, on being permitted to enter, announces, watch in hand, that it is "six minutes and a half." Tom, essaying to speak, is sharply enjoined to "hold his tongue" by the perturbed Sheringham, who would now naturally keep Tom's share in the business a secret. So he hurries to get away with the boy, but the lady makes them stay to tea, playfully telling the boy that she is to be his "new aunt." He, seeing the way events have turned, makes an avid attack on the comestibles, punctuating each mouthful with his ideas on wedding presents, which he says ought to go to the people who *don't* get married, mentioning his "own deserving case"—and an air-gun. He next falls to talking of his school life at Winchelsea, which sets the lady wondering where she has seen the name lately, and she suddenly remembers that the envelope containing Sheringham's offer of marriage bore the Winchelsea post-mark. This causes the most amusing complications, for Sheringham's "explanations" by no means fit in, and finally the boy Tom owns up to his delinquency, whereat the scene becomes tense—so tense that the lady, in her distress and humiliation, notwithstanding that Sheringham proposes *in propria persona* on the spot, bids him go, telling him that his proposal is, of course, no more and no less than he could do under the circumstances. Thus he goes, and the boy remains behind unperceived, when the chivalry of the little rogue peeps out pleasantly; for, nestling up to the inconsolable widow in his frank and engaging manner, he so prepossesses the lady and impresses her with her own lonelessness that she repents of her hastiness, and on the uncle stealing back into the room for his truant nephew, she capitulates gracefully—into Sheringham's arms. The comedy opens to the strains of "Tommy, make room for your uncle," and "Tommy" at this juncture does so, with the parting shot that he is "off to order an air-gun."

The "star" part is that of Tom, the nephew, played with an engaging frankness and a charm of manner that quite endeared Master Philip Tonge to the audience, despite his "tricks." Mr. Hubert Willis showed keenly and cleverly the embarrassment and perplexities of the middle-aged, but still smart, bachelor, Sheringham; Miss May Chevalier acted with true womanly charm and vivacity as the still young and beautiful widow, Lady Pilkington, while her pathos under her disillusionment and her happiness in her "capitulation" bespoke the practical actress; and Mr. Asheton Tonge was meritorious as the faithful servitor, Dean. The comedy was very cordially received, the curtain having to be raised several times in answer to the applause.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

The concert given by the students of the Royal Academy of Music at Queen's Hall on Monday afternoon commenced with the Andante and Finale from Brahms's Pianoforte Quartet in G minor, neatly played by Miss Norah Cordwell, Mr. Stanelli de Groot, Miss Phyllis Mitchell, and Miss Audrey Whitaker. A Sonata, No. 2 (MS.), for violin and pianoforte, by Mr. Morton Stephenson, student, displayed promising intelligence on the part of its young composer, and did great credit to the training he has received at the Royal Academy, although the last movement, Allegro assai, was somewhat diffuse and uncertain. The Lento cleverly written and attractive, was warmly received by the audience. The Sonata was ably interpreted by Miss Elsie Owen and Miss Mary Burgess. Miss Irène le Brun and Miss Beatrix Cashman gave an excellent performance of the First Movement from Spohr's Duet in D minor, for two violins, and Mr. Sydney Rosenbloom was heard in a great and finished rendering of Liszt's Polonaise in E, for pianoforte. Miss May Horton sang "The Loreley" (Liszt) with considerable grace and expression. An interesting feature in the programme was the duet "Lift thine eyes," original version (Mendelssohn's "Elijah"), and the great composer's marked improvement in the terzetto, second version, "Lift thine eyes." The former example was admirably sung by Miss Nina Rose and Miss Laura Bick, and the latter by Miss Laura Bick, Miss Nina Rose, and Miss Lilian Rickard. Sullivan's song "Edward Gray" does not afford much scope for the vocalist, but Mr. Carlton Brough sang with expression and admirably clear enunciation, while Master Vivian Langrish, a very young performer, deserved praise for his piano solo of Chopin's "Ballade in A flat." Miss Dora Gascoigne was much applauded in her singing of "O don fatale" from Verdi's *Don Carlos*, and an able performance of the Adagio, Allegro, Andante con Variazioni from Spohr's Double Quartet in E minor, No. 3, for strings, was given by Mr. Henry O. Parsons, Miss Phyllis Mitchell, Miss Nellie Fulcher, Miss Beatrix Cashman, Miss Audrey Whitaker, Mr. Stanelli de Groot, Mr. Arthur Quaife, and Mr. Benno Pitt. Mr. C. Vincent Waddington was set down for Schubert's song "The Wanderer," and the programme concluded with Liszt's "Rhapsody No. 12" (pianoforte), played by Miss Dorothy A. Chilton Griffin.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

Minutes of the Council meeting held at 353, Strand, on Tuesday, Feb. 16, at 2.30 p.m., and amongst those present were Mr. Cecil Raleigh (in the chair), Mr. W. H. Mote (hon. solicitor), Messrs. Langford Reed, Gilbert Esmond, Clive Currie, Jackson Wilcox, Cecil Brooking, Robson Paige, Misses Rose Mathews, Italia Conti, Agnes Imlay, and Mr. Hubert Blount (secretary).

The secretary read the minutes of the Council meeting held on Feb. 2, and the meeting confirmed and the chairman signed the same.

The chairman read letters from Mr. Arlton, Miss Conti, Miss Imlay, Miss Haye, Mr. Morland, Mr. Cattley, Mr. Brooking, Mr. Wilcox, Miss Lind, and Mr. Applin expressing their willingness to take up their election and serve on the Council, and the secretary received instructions to write to those other members of the Council who had not answered to the effect that the Council would be glad to know whether they are willing to serve, and, owing to the difficulty of obtaining quorums, whether they are likely to be in London.

The secretary read a letter from Miss Ivy Rivers with regard to the conduct of a member of the S.A., and received instructions to write to Miss Rivers and ask her to call on Mr. Mote; also a letter from Mr. George, recommending Drs. Reed and Reed to be hon. medical officers in place of the late Dr. Fell, and received instructions to acknowledge the receipt of the letter and to write to the Drs. Reed asking them if they will be willing to serve on the hon. medical staff.

HON. SOLICITORS' REPORT.

"DEAR SIR,—We have advised a lady member, and have written two letters on her behalf. She does not wish her name mentioned. We have written to Mr. Lace in reply to a letter from him, advising him as to the question of copyrights. With regard to the matter, the secretary received instructions to write to Mr. George Blunt to the effect that the lady had again seen Mr. Mote, and that she is perfectly satisfied with the advice given.—Yours faithfully,

"J. H. MOTE AND SON."

CHEQUES.

Salaries, £11; housekeeper, £1 10s.; J. Bundock, £1; extra clerks, £1 3s.

NOMINATIONS.

Rule Pyott, proposed by Fred Permain, seconded by F. Le Clercq.

Helen Yvonne Child, proposed by Madge Flynn, seconded by David Denard.

J. Boyd Pearson, proposed by Robson Paige, seconded by F. Annerley.

Miss Elsie Goulding came up for nomination, but the secretary was instructed to write and ask her how long she had been playing professionally, and whether she was paid for the parts she played with amateur dramatic clubs. Miss Marjorie Carey came up for election, and the secretary received instructions to write to Miss Carey and ask her for fuller particulars of her professional career.

ELECTIONS OF NEW MEMBERS.

Ada Rainey, Dorothea Black, Ethel Griffies, Edwin Lever, Ethel Royale, Margaret Gill, Cecil Raleigh, C. F. Collings, Hilda Sims, Ida Phillips, F. J. Arlton, Clarence Derwent.

The Council discussed the question of electing "cheque signatories." Mr. Cecil Raleigh and Miss Rose Mathews consented to sign cheques in addition to Mr. Morland, Mr. C. F. Collings, Mr. Robson Pige, Mr. Fewlass Llewellyn, Mr. Arlton, and Mr. Casson, and the secretary received instructions to write to the manager of the bank informing him that these two councillors had been elected "cheque signatories," which was done, and Mr. Raleigh and Miss Mathews attached their signatures to the letter.

The following are elected to the Finance Committee:—Mr. Jackson Wilcox, Mr. F. J. Arlton, Mr. Robson Paige, Mr. Gilbert Esmond, and Miss Agnes Imlay. The question of electing a House Committee was discussed, and adjourned until next meeting, and the secretary received instructions to put this on the agenda for next Tuesday.

The Council discussed the question of drawing up a form of "standard contract," and Mr. Raleigh gave notice of his intention to move at the next meeting, "That the Council should sit to consider a form of standard at an early date, and on a day other than that of the usual Council meeting."

The Council discussed the question of lectures and socials, and Miss Mathews agreed to speak at the next social on her scheme for establishing a school in connection with the A.A., and she also undertook to obtain a chairman and fix a day for the meeting before next Tuesday.

The Council discussed the question of an entertainment for paying off the debentures, and the chairman read several letters from members with suggestions. The secretary received instructions to acknowledge the receipt of these letters, and to say that the Council are much obliged for the suggestions.

The secretary received instructions to insert in the *Stage* and the *Era* a full list of those members who have promised 5s. towards the Debenture Fund, and also a list of those who have paid to date. The Council hope that all members who are able will subscribe to the Debenture Fund. Mr. Raleigh and Miss Mathews were elected trustees of the fund, and the secretary was instructed to hand the money over to them.

Miss Mathews asked the Council for permission for the Actresses' Franchise League to address the lady members of the Association at the premises of the A.A. at a given and arranged date, and this was put to the vote and carried, with only one dissentient.

The following resolution, which was carried unanimously at the last meeting of the Play Actors, was handed to the chairman by Miss Rose Mathews:—"That the Play Actors delegate Miss Mathews to inform the Actors' Association Council, in answer to their courteous message, that the Play Actors' office and rehearsal-room expenses are at present so small as not to be worth the consideration of the A.A. in taking new premises."

DEBENTURE FUND.

The following members have promised 5s. each towards the above fund:—Mr. Cecil Raleigh, Miss Marion Lind, Mr. Stavely, Mr. A. Brydone, Miss Rose Mathews, Miss Agnes Imlay, Mr. Cecil Brooking, Miss R. Mayne Young, Mr. E. Morgan, Mr. Fred Grove, Mr. Gilbert Esmond, Mr. Adnam Sprange, Miss Adeline Bourne, Mr. J. J. Partlett, Miss Eugenie Kemble, Miss Anton Laing, Mr. Arthur Curtis, Miss Margaret Murch, Mr. Edwin Barwick, Miss Ella Dixon, Miss Adah Barton, Mr. Cyril Cattley, Mr. Percy Crawford, Mr. Percy Gelden, Miss May Warley, Miss Sydney Keith, Miss Beatrice Mervyn, Miss Sydney Phelps, Miss Ina Rozant, Miss Bertha Franits, Mr. A. E. Edwards, Mr. Forrester Harvey, Miss D. Gelstone, Miss Joan Dilla, Mr. Clive Currie, Miss G. Scaife, Miss T. Osborne, Mr. Sydney Compton, Miss Ethel Russell, Miss Denbeigh Russell, Miss Lillian Tween, Mr. C. T. Chapman, Miss Beatrice Chester, Miss Vera Gerald, Mr. F. J. Arlton, Miss E. Gilbart, Mr. Edwin Walton, Mr. Robson Paige, Mr. Hampton Gordon, Mr. Dennis Cleugh, Mr. Murri Moncrieff, Mr. H. Lawrence Leyton, Miss Royale, Mr. Frederick Morland, Mr. W. Farren, and Miss Lucy Sibley.

The following members have already paid up to date:—Mr. Cecil Raleigh, Miss Rose Mathews, Miss Agnes Imlay, Miss Marion Lind, Mr. Stavely, Mr. A. Brydone, Miss Adeline Bourne, Mr. Edwin Barwick, Miss Adah Barton Miss Beatrice Mervyn, Mr. A. E. E. Edwards, Mr. C. T. Chapman, Miss Vera Gerald, Mr. F. J. Arlton, Mr. Lawrence Leyton, Mr. Frederick Morland, and Mr. W. Farren.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"TRAIN DE LUXE,"

Comedy, in Four Acts, by M. Abel Hermant, produced at Réjane's on Feb. 15.

L'Infante Elvire .....MME. RÉJANE
La Princesse Mimi ....MME. MARIE MAGNIER
La Princesse Hedwige..MLLE. YVONNE DE BRAY
Dona Hortensia Arequipa.MME. DELPHINE RENOT
Wanda .....MLLE. DERMOZ
Don Luiz Arequipa .....M. SIGNORET
Marquis de la Huerta Valencia..M. TRÉVILLE
Manuel Arequipa .....M. PUYLAGARDE
L'Archiduc Conrad .....M. FEBVRE
Ernesto .....M. BOSMAN
Domingo .....M. RENÉ WORMS

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, Feb. 18.—M. Abel Hermant, in his many interviews in the Paris Press, has defended himself against the possible attacks of the critics on the dramatising of a novel. While acknowledging that *Train de Luxe* appeared two years ago in *La Vie Parisienne*, he asserts that very little of the original dialogue in the novel, and only ten of the characters, have been retained in the play, and that the dénouement has been entirely changed. This said, we have only to consider what the author has made of the exotic colony in Paris in the four-act play produced at the Théâtre Réjane. As a matter of fact there is little motive for a play at all. M. Abel Hermant's dialogue is always graceful and amusing in book form, but when the *dramatis personæ* sit in semi-circle and talk with a foreign accent of foreign things occurring in an imaginary country—as they do in the first act—it becomes a matter of wonder why the author did not leave it to the discretion of the readers to turn the pages. The intrigue is of the simplest order. The Infanta Elvire (Mme. Réjane) is of an amorous disposition. Living in three rooms in a boarding house in the centre of Paris, she delights in unconventional slang and the change from the exigencies of Court life in her own country. She pays a visit to the family Arequipa, and falls in love with Manuel, the son. Here, at Dona Arequipa's—the names show we are not in the Parisian milieu—all the exotic personages congregate: Princesse Mimi, Princesse Hedwige, the Archduke Conrad, Don Luiz Arequipa, and the Marquis de la Huerta Valencia. Princesse Hedwige is also in love with Manuel, and invites him to sup in her apartment. The Infanta, jealous of the girl, manages to enter Hedwige's rooms and to lock the outer door, thinking to prevent the young man's coming. But, in truth, she only prevents his escape. Manuel, obeying the commands of the Infanta, presents himself the next day at the boarding-house, and is announced by Ernesto, the servant, the most comical character in the play. The interview, however, is interrupted by a despatch from Court, and the Infanta carries the youth off in her train. He returns after six weeks and marries Hedwige, a match arranged by the volatile, spasmodic Infanta. The very sketchy plot gives Mme. Réjane some amusing opportunities, which she made the most of with her usual verve; Mme. Marie Magnier as Princesse Mimi was as exuberant as the part requires; and Mlle Yvonne de Bray was charming as the youthful Hedwige. The house was convulsed with laughter at M. Signoret's make-up as an exotic ex-President, with gold eye-glasses and gold stopping in his front teeth—small supposed South-Americanisms that were fully appreciated. M. Bosman as Ernesto raised roars of laughter each time he appeared. Neither he nor the author seems to have much respect for exotics.

"LA FURIE."

Tragedy, in five acts, in verse, by M. Jules Bois, produced at the Comédie-Française on Feb. 17.

Lykos .....M. ALBERT LAMBERT
Heracles .....M. PAUL MOUNET
Alcee .....M. DELAUNAY
L'Hierophante .....M. FENOUX
Theseus .....M. ALEXANDRE
Lyssa (La Furie) .....MME. SEGOND-WEBER
Theone .....MME. LOUISE SILVAIN
Megara .....MLLE. MADELEINE ROCH
Cinthia .....MLLE. BERGE
Hylas .....MLLE. ROBINNE

Influenced by Euripides' "Hercules Furens," M. Jules Bois has given us a curious work, wherein his hero, Heracles, attempts an enterprise more difficult than his fights with the prehistoric beasts—that of vanquishing Death. But his efforts have failed, and he returns from Hades, followed by the lovely Lyssa (the Fury), his evil genius. In the first act Heracles, after a long absence, returns unexpectedly to Thebes, and finds the city in the hands of Lykos, the usurper, who is on the point of putting to death Megara, Heracles's wife, and the three young Heraclidæ. Heracles kills Lykos, whilst the latter's followers are slain by Theseus. Heracles then shows himself in another light. He wants to inaugurate a new religion, a religion of peace and love, without either priests or dogma, whereupon the indignant head priest, with hypnotic power, orders Lyssa to lead the new prophet of Peace to destruction. Lyssa performs her task only too well. She poisons Heracles' mind against his wife, leading him to believe that she was unfaithful to him, and that his children resemble Lykos, whom he slew. Heracles falls a victim to Lyssa's charms. In a fit of rage he murders his wife and children and throws himself off the roof of his palace. He, at one time the pattern of virtue and piety, whose life has been spent for the benefit of mankind, has sunk lower and lower until madness drove him into crime. As regards the acting, praise can be bestowed only on Mme. Segond-Weber, admirable in the rôle of Lyssa, and on Mlle. Madeleine Roch, who impersonated the luckless Megara. M. Lambert overacted his part, and M. Paul Mounet was altogether out of it. The work was well staged, but the costumes came upon us like a surprise. Thus, we saw M. Paul Mounet in a kind of scarlet tunic, braided with gold, like an officer in the Guards. There were also symptoms of crinolines and Scottish kilts—altogether a puzzling exhibition. In fact, in the course of his studies, M. Jules Bois has discovered that 2,500 years before Christ the fair Athenians were quite familiar with many so-called "novelties" in the fashionable world of to-day, such as décolleté dresses, leg-of-mutton sleeves, wigs, curl-papers, complexion dyes, and button-hooks!

MM. PAUL GAVAULT AND MOUËZY-EON may be congratulated on the success they scored with their new vaudeville *Monsieur Zéro*, brought out at the Palais Royal. Lucien, the nephew of the Duc de Chateau-Bouillon, is engaged to Georgette, who divorced her first husband, M. Poisson. Everything is ready for the marriage, when the Duke has a conversation with his medical friend, a crank, who tells him that children of a second husband always have the mentality of their mother's first spouse. The old aristocrat trembles at the idea that his descendants may resemble the plebeian Poisson. He, therefore, stops the marriage so that he may go deeper into the question, whereupon Georgette and Lucien produce a pseudo-Poisson, whose mission is to convince the Duke that he (Poisson) left his wife after three years' marriage "like he found her." The Duke, who only half believes this story, takes the pseudo-Poisson with him into the country, where every kind of temptation is thrown into his way in order to see whether he is really the "Monsieur Zéro" he pretends to be. Things become pretty hot, and a terrible imbroglio ensues, culminating in the real Poisson coming upon the scene. Fortunately, he can prove that, despite his unlovely name, he is of noble descent, so that the blood of the Chateau-Bouillons will not be contaminated if Lucien marries Georgette. And everything ends happily. Capitally staged and brightly played, the new farce seems booked for a long run.

DEATH OF MRS. ISAAC COHEN.

The world of the theatre will hear with considerable regret of the death of Mrs. Isaac Cohen, who passed away at Margate on Monday last. She was the wife of the well-known stage-manager who in the years that are gone "placed" so many fine productions at the Pavilion, Whitechapel, where he came to be known as the Druriolanus of the East. The deceased lady, whom he married in 1857, was known in the profession as Miss Fanny Harrison, and was born in the City of Westminster in 1838. Miss Harrison (Harris) was introduced to her future husband whilst the latter held the position of stage-manager at the Victoria (then the Coburg) Theatre. While she was being educated at boarding schools at Richmond and Gravesend she developed an excellent contralto voice, and on leaving school studied singing under English and Italian masters. Miss Harrison was married at the age of nineteen, appearing soon afterwards in soubrette parts under her husband's stage-management. She toured in standard English operas with Charles Durand and in comic opera with Henry Leslie. She had a fine artistic reputation in the provinces in Offenbach's operas *La Grande Duchesse* and *Geneviève de Brabant*, and in Lecocq's *La Fille de Madame Angot*. In the first-mentioned work she played the title-rôle, and in the music-loving cities of the North scored a success as Drogan—a rôle memorably associated with the fame of Emily Soldene at the Philharmonic, Islington, during the long run of *Geneviève de Brabant* at that house. Her Lange, too, had considerable merit. Miss Harrison ran her own companies in opera and opéra-bouffe until the vogue for Gilbert and Sullivan became well established. She then became associated with what afterwards was

[Photo by Adam and Scanlan.

THE LATE MISS FANNY HARRISON (MRS. ISAAC COHEN) AS LADY JANE IN "PATIENCE."

famous as Savoy Opera in the provinces, and the principal contralto rôles in the chief D'Oyly Carte companies fell to her share—Lady Jane in *Patience*, Queen of the Fairies in *Iolanthe*, Lady Blanche in *Princess Ida*, Katisha in *The Mikado*, Dame Carruthers in *The Yeomen of the Guard*, &c. Miss Fanny Harrison retired from the stage about eighteen years ago. She was the mother of Mrs. Joe Lyons, the popular wife of the famous caterer, and Miss Katie Cohen, a ballad singer on the variety stage, who is married to Mr. Albert Christian, the favourite baritone.

ACTORS' UNION.

The usual committee meeting of the Actors' Union was held on Friday, the 12th inst., at 49, Bedford-street. The following members were present:—Messrs. Walter L. Rignold (chairman), Henry Bedford, James English, Langford Reed, Cecil G. Calvert, E. Howard Templeton, J. W. Braithwaite, Frank Gerald, Edwin J. Collins, and Kenneth Blackmore (secretary).

Communications were received from Messrs. George P. Lester, Paul Lovett, J. Hastings Batson, Fred F. Loyd, Jerrold Heather, and Royce Milton.

Business in connection with the Club scheme occupied the time of the meeting for most of the afternoon.

Two members of the Union were advanced the sum of £1 to enable them to join their companies and for the purchase of properties.

Two new members were elected.

A manager having been reported as bogus, the secretary was instructed to inquire into the matter.

The secretary reported that five engagements had been settled through the Union Agency during the week.

Members of the Union who are on tour are asked to send their tour lists to the secretary in order that letters may be forwarded to them.

A SPECIAL service for members of the theatrical profession, in connection with the Birmingham Diocesan Mission, was held on Tuesday afternoon at St. Jude's Church, Hill-street, Birmingham. There was a fairly large attendance of those for whom the service was specially arranged. Bishop Gore, who was the preacher, referred to the Actors' Church Union as having arranged that service. The Union, he said, was intended to be a sort of bridge between the Church and the actors' profession. There ought to be no bridge needed, for the Church claimed to be Catholic and to include all sorts of persons. He could not see how anyone who knew the life of the actors' profession could fail to see that in many respects they were in very special difficulties, and that the Church should make special efforts to put the services of religion at their disposal.

THERE was a great deal which required to be otherwise in the profession, perhaps, but that could be said of business and of the ecclesiastical profession. He was not going to speak particularly of actors and actresses. He preferred to talk of human life and its temptations. As to one's particular temptations, he had no doubt they would make a rather bad guess if he asked them what were the particular temptations of a Bishop, and he suspected he should make a bad guess if he attempted to say what was the particular temptation of the dramatic profession.

Two little girls, named Marsell Kreutz and Hettie Kenyon, were on Tuesday granted licences by Mr. Denman, at Marlborough-street, to enact pages in *The Prisoner of Zenda* at the St. James's Theatre. No objection was made by Inspector Cooper on behalf of the police.

"THE DAWN OF A TO-MORROW."

Drama, in Three Acts, by Frances Hodgson Burnett, Produced at the Lyceum Theatre, New York, on Jan. 25.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Telepathy was dramatised a short while ago, and as the playrights are dabbling in the occult and the semi-occult just now a "Christian Science drama" is quite in the natural order of things, although it seems hardly correct to apply that description to the play under notice, notwithstanding that it has been characterised as such by the New York newspapers. There are no extreme ideas in this play, nor is there anything that accords with the popular idea of "Christian Science." Take a pound of old-fashioned Christianity and flavour it with a pinch of the so-called "new thought," and you have the formula of Mrs. Burnett's drama. If there is anything "new" in cheerfulness and optimism superinduced by a literal belief in the scriptural injunction "Ask and ye shall receive," then the writer never went to Sunday-school. However, this is a matter of minor importance in view of the fact that *The Dawn of To-morrow* is a drama of surprising strength and interest—surprising because one would hardly imagine a condition of mind to be a sufficiently substantial theme for a three-act play.

The opening scene occurs in the library of Sir Oliver Holt's residence in a fashionable part of London. Three physicians are holding a consultation, and their unanimous decision is that Sir Oliver's mind is hopelessly affected. His brilliant career is practically ended, and there is every indication that he will sink into hopeless idiocy. In the discussion that follows, Dr. Heath, a specialist, gives expression to certain ideas that have taken possession of him—ideas which the pompous Sir Bowling Burford is inclined to pooh-pooh and condemn as sacrilegious. The specialist, while he insists that he is just as much of a materialist as the others, finds it impossible to ignore the considerations that there may be something in the new faith-healing propaganda after all. Sir Oliver overhears the latter part of the discussion, and learns that his present condition is "the beginning of the end." The consultation over, Dr. Heath turns back to say a few words to the sick man. Recovery is possible, but he must first be lifted out of himself and divert his thoughts to the needs of others. Then the specialist lays a small black-covered book on the table, in reading which, he tells Sir Oliver, some of his patients have found new hope. It is the Bible. Sir Oliver abandons all hope, however, and comes to a quick decision. Attired in a suit of working clothes and armed with a pistol he will make his way to the East-end, and there shoot himself. Under such circumstances no one will recognise him. Sir Oliver Holt will simply disappear, and all the horror of the gradual dissolution of a great mind will be averted.

The scene shifts to Apple Blossom Court, a locality the character of which is sufficiently designated by its title. As the alluring descriptiveness of this style of nomenclature is peculiar to London, it takes a Cockney to appreciate the grim humour of it, but even New York has its "Cherry-hill," and—if the old song be true—its "Paradise Alley." It is highly creditable to Messrs. Gates and Morange, the scenic artists, and to Mr. Hugh Ford, who staged the play, that Apple Blossom-court, as disclosed in the second scene of the first act, is so correctly represented that it is not only bound to impress the untravelled American, but to satisfy those who know their London and recognise "the real thing" when they see it. The scene deserved all the applause it received. The yellow gaslight dimly illuminating the "pea-soup" fog; the rowdy voices, with concertina accompaniment, bawling Chevalier's coster songs; and, when the fog lifts, the appearance of the scene as a whole, transport the beholder in effect to the heart of Whitechapel. And here we reach the kernel of the play. "Glad," a child of the streets, springs up from a heap of rags and faces Sir Oliver when he wanders into the noisome slum.

Glad shows him things, and gives him a reason for living of which he has never dreamed. For the first time in his life Sir Oliver discovers the truth of the trite old saying about one half of the world not knowing how the other half lives, and he is so completely taken up with his discovery that he forgets the pistol.

A garret in Apple Blossom-court is the scene of the second act. A young fellow known as Dandy, with whom Glad has been very friendly, is wanted by the police on a charge of murder, and they come to the garret to search for him. Before they arrive Dandy makes his appearance, and a dramatic scene occurs when Glad repels him, accusing him of the murder. Dandy convinces her that he is innocent, however, and promises to "go straight" if he gets out of his present trouble. He was going with his pals, but something seemed to hold him back, and Glad tells him how she prayed for him. She finds a hiding-place for the fugitive, and when the police come he eludes them. In relating what occurred on the night of the murder, Dandy tells the girl there is one man that can save him. This is Mr. Oliver Holt, Sir Oliver's dissolute nephew, who has seen Glad and taken a fancy to her. Dandy met him in Regent-street just about the hour when the crime was committed, and Mr. Oliver spoke to him. In the last act Glad calls at his apartments in The Temple, and pleads with the wealthy rake to give the testimony that will clear Dandy. The nephew will only do so on one condition, however. Glad tells him she would rather set fire to her dress and destroy herself where she stands. While she keeps him at bay she wonders if the faith that has already accomplished so much will help her now. "I wonder if it works with locks the same as other things," is her way of putting it, for the libertine turned the key in the door when she entered. Just as the situation seems most hopeless, the telephone rings, and shows her a way of escape. Seizing the first opportunity she summons the police, and by giving him the alternative of facing an ugly scandal, compels Mr. Oliver to tell what he knows of Dandy's whereabouts on the night of the murder. Sir John arrives at the same moment to surprise the young profligate, who is waiting to celebrate his uncle's demise. The baronet has been regenerated, and Glad is happy, for her faith is confirmed.

Miss Eleanor Robson's Glad is one of the most delightful characterisations to be found in current theatricals. The light-hearted London street waif has quite superseded Merely Mary Ann and Salomy Jane in our affections. By her latest performance Miss Robson has made herself a greater favourite than ever. Sir Oliver Holt is admirably acted by Mr. Fuller Mellish, and the profligate nephew is well represented by Mr. Aubrey Boucicault. The three physicians, Sir Bowling Burford, Dr. Heath, and Dr. Satterley, are played by Messrs. Fred W. Sidney, George Farren, and Wallace Erskine respectively. Mr. Harry Stanford acquits himself well as Dandy; and others who deserve praise for their impersonations are Miss Ada Dwyer, Messrs. Alan Pollock, Roy Fairchild, Claude Brooke, and Arthur Barry.

"A COUNTRY GIRL IN LONDON" is proving the biggest success yet achieved by Messrs. A. Northway and W. V. Garrod. It is playing to capital business everywhere, and is booked with no exceptions into 1910. *Are You the Man?* by Frank Price, will be produced about Easter, with new and elaborate scenery by Egerton, Bradford.

EARLY MEMORIES, by Martin Harvey. Illustrated by Photograph and Autograph. See *The Era Annual*, 1909.

CATULLE MENDÈS.

(FROM OUR PARIS CORRESPONDENT.)

Catulle Mendès, who met his death under the most distressing circumstances, his mutilated body having been discovered, on the morning of the 9th inst., in a tunnel a hundred yards or so from the Saint-Germain railway station, was born in Bordeaux on May 22, 1841. His father was a Jew, his mother a Catholic. Later on, his family having settled in Toulouse, young Catulle went to Paris, where, in 1862, he brought out his first verses, "Philomela." Next came his "Roman d'une Nuit," too "peppery" for the taste of the authorities, who had him hauled up before the police-court. Sentenced to a month's imprisonment and a fine of £20, Catulle Mendès emigrated to Heidelberg. After his return to France, in 1866, he married Mlle. Judith Gautier, daughter of Théophile Gautier, the novelist. During the siege of Paris, whilst he was Inspector of the Ambulances, he produced "Les Odelettes Guerrières," "La Colère d'un Franc-tireur," "Les Contes Epiques" (1872), and "Les 73 Jours de la Commune." His first theatrical ventures were *La Part d'un Roi* and *Les Frères d'Armes*, four acts in prose (Cluny, 1873). Then followed "Hesperus" and "Les Folies Amoureuses," after which he made his début at the Opéra-Comique with *Le Capitaine Fracasse* (1878), and scored a big triumph at the Ambigu with *Les Mères Ennemies*. In 1879 he published "La Vie et la Mort d'un Clown," and in 1881 "Le Roi Vierge," one of his best novels. "La Divine Aventure" and "Les Montres Parisiens" appeared at the same period.

An indefatigable and quick worker, Mendès published from 1882 to 1885, "Le Crime du Vieux Blas," "L'Amour qui Pleure et l'Amour qui Rit," "Les Boudoirs de Verre," "Jeunes Filles," "Jupe Courte," 'La Légende du Parnasse," "Pour Lire au Bain," "Tous les Baisers," "Le Rose et le Noir," "Les Contes du Rouet," "Le Fin du Fin, ou les Conseils à un Jeune Homme qui se destine à l'amour"; in 1886, "Toutes les Amoureuses," "Pour les Belles Personnes," "Zo'har," "Tendrement"; in 1887, "L'Homme Tout Nu" and "La Première Maîtresse"; in 1888, "Le Souper des Pleureuses," "L'Envers des Feuilles," &c. He returned to the theatre with *La Femme de Tabarin* (Théâtre Libre, 1887), *Isoline*, fairy play (Renaissance, 1888), and *Fiammette*, a six-act drama, transferred afterwards to the Opéra-Comique as *La Reine Fiammette*. Then, after "Gog," "Le Chercheur de Tares," "L'Arc-en-ciel," "Les Bêtes Roses," "Les Lieds de France," "La Grève des Vignes," and "Les Baisers du Cendrier," he gave *Gwendoltne*, *Médée* (1898), *Le Cygne* (1899), *La Carmélite*, music by Reynaldo Hahn (1902), *Le Fils de l'Etoile*, music by Erlanger (1904), *Scarron* (1905), *Glatigny* (1906), *La Vierge d'Avila* (1906), and *Ariane*, music by Massenet (1906). And at the present moment his *Impératrice* will soon be put into rehearsal at Réjane's; and his *Bacchus* is awaiting its turn at the Opéra.

A thorough appreciator of music, Mendès was the first to open a campaign in France in favour of Wagner's music; and, an experienced journalist, he held for the last twelve years the important post of dramatic critic of *Le Journal*.

In Catulle Mendès France loses one of her greatest poets.

A TRAVELLING COMPANY'S PLIGHT.

The members of Mr. J. Rice Cassidy's *In Holy Russia* company had a decidedly unpleasant experience on Sunday last. They left Ashton-under-Lyne, en route for Wolverhampton, by the 12.24 p.m. train, which, while standing at the platform in Stockport Station, was run into by another passenger train coming in the same direction from Manchester. The incoming train was travelling at a pretty good rate when the engine struck the rear part of the stationary train, the carriages of which were occupied by Mr. Cassidy's company. The force of the impact was very great, but luckily none of the carriages were derailed, and there is no doubt the accident would have been much more serious were it not for the fact that the brakes of the standing train were off at the time. All the members of the company, with the exception of two gentlemen, were in their respective compartments when the accident occurred, and the utmost confusion prevailed. Everybody sustained a severe shock, whilst some were badly injured by the glass, which flew in all directions, from the broken windows. Fortunately Dr. Christian was conducting an ambulance class in the station at the time, and he was quickly on the scene attending to the injured, his pupils having ample opportunity of giving a practical demonstration of first aid.

Mr. Henry Compton, brother of Mr. Edward Compton, sustained a severe cut over the left eye, necessitating four stitches. Mr. J. Rice Cassidy's left leg was strained. Miss Madge Trevelyan received a severe cut over the left eye and another on the left cheek. The muscles of Mr. Rolfe Leslie's neck were strained, and he also sustained a slight cut in the centre of his forehead and on the bridge of his nose. Miss Violet Parker, a child actress, was struck by a falling bag, but fortunately without any serious result. Another extraordinary escape was that of a little baby, who was thrown to the floor of the carriage, but providentially escaped injury. After treatment the company were enabled to proceed to Wolverhampton, and fulfilled their engagement at the Theatre Royal on Monday.

In an interview Mr. Cassidy expressed not only his own gratitude, but also that of the members of his company for the extreme kindness that was shown to them by Dr. Christian.

THE Opera is in a bad way, financially, in Paris. The new managers, MM. Broussan and Messager, have been forced to appeal for new funds, and, at the present moment, they are engaged in trying to find a sum of £20,000. In eleven months £28,000 has been lost. The Opera House was closed for a month when the new directors took over control; it is true, also, that there was a heavy bill to pay for repairs; but, on the other side of the shield, receipts have never been heavier than during the past year. Whereas, under the "régime" of M. Gailhard, the average takings were £550, they have increased nearly a hundred pounds under the dual control of MM. Broussan and Messager.

"No person of real musical culture," says the *Pall Mall* correspondent, "can sit through a series of performances without realising that there is something lacking in the way in which operas are presented on this sumptuous stage. The artists are often inferior—obviously 'passés,' in some cases. According to certain critics, the 'mise-en-scène' leaves something to be desired, though here, I think, there is exaggeration of depreciation. As to the orchestra, it is excellent; but one is often reminded that superb soloists do not always make a perfect band, any more than a team of Internationals can always be relied upon to give the best exhibition of a game. Individual superiority must be subordinated to the interests of the whole.

"ANOTHER fault of the Opéra musicians is to play too loudly. Parisians remarked with astonishment their ability to hear the singers, when the entire company from the Opera of Milan gave a performance here the other day. Up to that moment the native enthusiast had blamed the acoustics of the Opera House. The receipts have increased—the popular receipts—but Paris society no longer takes its old interest in the Opéra."

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

As might be expected, the theatrical and variety professions are joining heartily in the patriotic movement which has been started by the production of *An Englishman's Home*. On another page we give full particulars of a scheme which has been originated by Mr. Chas. C. Ommanney and others for the enrolment of actors and variety artists in the Territorial Forces. It is both imaginative and practical, and should be carefully studied.

SIR JOHN HARE, who has been suffering from a rather severe affection of the lungs, is, we are glad to hear, on the road to recovery.

MR. H. B. IRVING will revive *Louis XI.* at the Shaftesbury on Monday, with himself as the King, Miss Eily Malyon as the Dauphin, Mr. Eric Maxon as Nemours, Mr. Tom Reynolds as Coitier, Mr. Frank Tyars as Tristan L'Ermite, Mr. Charles Dodsworth as Marcel, and Miss Dorothea Baird as Marie de Comines. An extra matinée of *Charles I.* will be given on the 25th.

MR. MARTIN HARVEY has been at Leicester this week, and has discovered that the local public are very much inclined to enjoy the attack. The roomy Royal Opera House has been crowded at every performance, and seats for this evening's representation of *The Corsican Brothers* and *The Conspiracy* are almost at a premium.

ON MONDAY Mr. Harvey, Miss de Silva, and the company reappear, after a considerable absence, in Bradford. At the first performance, with the object of signalising his return, Mr. Harvey intends to give away a handsome souvenir volume, composed of quarto size plates of the famous posters proper to his many successful productions. Bradford enthusiasts will not readily miss the opportunity of becoming possessed gratis of a book which makes a very attractive memento.

MR. HARVEY will have a split week commencing on March 1, appearing in Rochdale, for the first time, on the earlier evenings, and taking train after the performance of *The Only Way* on Wednesday night for Halifax, where four representations are to be given at the Theatre Royal.

No play in Mr. Martin Harvey's repertory is at present meeting with more success than *The Last Heir*, the adaptation of "The Bride of Lammermoor." Recently the script has been subjected to some reconsideration and condensation, and the result is a decided tightening up of the dramatic action and intensity of the piece. This at once has increased the appeal of the play, which at Hull and Cardiff was received with very genuine enthusiasm.

MISS KATE FLINN, whose success as a voice producer is so well known, has had many successful pupils. Amongst those who have profited by her teaching are Miss Hilda Trevelyan of *Chinese Honeymoon* fame; Miss Constance Drever, whose beautiful voice made such an impression at the Savoy; Miss Sarah Brooke, Miss Annie Hughes, the late Miss Gaynor Rowlands, Miss Mabel Hackman (Mrs. Laurence Grossmith), Miss Joan Penrose, Miss Ada Webster, Miss Gadwys Parry, and Mrs. Clement Scott, who says: "It is impossible to tell the enormous amount of good Kate Flinn has done for me, even in this short time, and I have no hesitation in saying I consider here to be the most wonderful professor of singing I have ever known, as it is so very rarely you find a teacher who can explain the 'placing' of the voice and yet teach her pupils to sing their songs with such inimitable grace and style. Her enthusiasm for her art is positively contagious, and she immediately infects you with it. She is simply electric."

MISS HENRIETTA WATSON has sustained a sad loss by the death of her husband, W. Thornton Radcliffe, who died in Bradford, of double pneumonia, on Tuesday, at the age of thirty-six.

THE revival of *Hamlet* at the Lyceum Theatre is due on Tuesday, March 9, and great preparations are being made in order to render this production a worthy successor to that of *Romeo and Juliet*, which scored such a remarkable success last year, and was the means of reviving an interest in Shakespeare which had, to a great extent, died out amongst the largest class of playgoers in London. The Prince of Denmark will be played by Mr. Matheson Lang, and Ophelia by Miss Hutin Britton. Most of the other parts will be in the hands of well-known members of the Lyceum company, and the whole will be under the direction of Mr. Ernest Carpenter, who has been devoting much thought and hard work thereto for months past.

THE scenery will be most elaborate, and is being painted by Mr. E. C. Nicholls, whose work has been so much admired at the Lyceum. The costumes have been designed by Mr. Karl, of Messrs. L. and H. Nathan, who is one of the greatest authorities we have on the armour and accoutrements of the Middle Ages. Special music has been composed by Mr. H. Sullivan Brooke, the Lyceum musical director, and we hear very fine accounts of the Prelude especially. As last spring, great attention has been paid to the orchestra, which will be specially strengthened for the *Hamlet* production.

THE greatest pains have been taken by Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Lang, who together have prepared the Lyceum acting version, to retain all the spirit and poetry of the author. Nothing will be omitted that is in any way necessary to the action of the play or to the development of the principal character; and no word will be spoken that was not written by Shakespeare.

MR. AND MRS. LAURENCE IRVING and their company sailed on Wednesday for New York on board the Kaiser Wilhelm II. It will be remembered that Mrs. Irving, then Miss Mabel Hackney, was in the original cast of *The Prisoner of Zenda*, Edward Rose's adaptation of Anthony Hope's story, which was revived by Mr. George Alexander on Thursday evening at the St. James's Theatre.

MR. LEWIS WALLER had an enthusiastic reception on Monday evening at the Lyric when he revived *Monsieur Beaucaire*. Mr. Waller was in his best form, and the company supporting him included Miss Grace Lane, Miss Madge Titheradge, and Messrs. A. E. George, Herbert Jarman, Shiel Barry, and Franklin Dyall.

MISS VIOLET VANBRUGH and Miss Marie Löhr will be the guests of the evening at the Ladies' Annual Dinner of the O.P. Club at the Criterion, on Sunday, March 21, when they will speak in response to the proposal of their healths.

MR. CHARLES HAWTREY, by arrangement with Mr. Tom B. Davis, will open his season at the Royalty Theatre on March 20 with a play by Mr. W. Somerset Maugham, entitled *The Noble Spaniard*, which is freely adapted from a French comedietta by M. Grenet Dancourt. Mr. Hawtrey will be the spaniard of the story, the period of which is early Victorian, the scene being laid in Boulogne.

MR. NORMAN V. NORMAN has been asked to become a vice-president of "The Pen and Palette" Club, Brighton. The vice-presidents include several distinguished names, but only one other actor, viz., Sir John Hare.

MISS EMMA HUTCHISON and Mr. Percy Hutchison's No. 1 *Lady Frederick* (London) company, with Miss Eleanor Delaporte, Mr. Robert Minster, and a strong cast, opened to a big house at the Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne, on Monday, the Maugham play having an enthusiastic reception, and eliciting many calls at the fall of the curtain. The Hutchison management are scoring well with all their companies this spring.

THE staff of the Metropole Theatre, Glasgow, met in a social gathering on the 11th inst. in the Ewing Galleries, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. With speeches, toasts, songs, and sentiment the time passed quickly, and dancing was kept up till the early hours of Saturday morning. Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson presided on the occasion owing to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Arthur Jefferson.

MISS ETHEL IRVING will make her first appearance in English comedy in Mr. Frederick Harrison's revival of *She Stoops to Conquer*, at the Haymarket Theatre to-night.

MISS FLORENCE WARDEN will give an "invitation performance" of a new four-act modern comedy, *The Case for the Lady*, at the Kingsway Theatre, on the 28th inst.

WHEN Mr. Henry Hamilton's adaptation of Dumas's famous novel "The Three Musketeers" is presented at the Lyric Theatre on March 3 the cast will include Mr. Gayer MacKay, Mr. A. E. George, Mr. Vincent Clive, Mr. Bassett Roe, Mr. H. Jarman, Mr. Shiel Barry, Mr. Frederick Lloyd, Mr. Lewis Waller, Mr. S. J. Warmington, Mr. Alec F. Thompson, Miss Evelyn D'Alroy, Miss Auriol Lee, Miss Madge Titheradge, Miss Gwendolin Floyd, Miss Dorothy Dix, and Miss May Chenery.

MISS MARIE DRESSLER will commence her season at the Aldwych Theatre next Saturday with Mr. Edgar Smith and Mr. Maurice Levi's operetta *Philopœna*, the cast of which will include Mme. Morichini, Mrs. Lesmoir Gordon, Miss Gipsy Dale, Miss Lucy Kipling, Miss May Romney, Miss D. Dolaro, Miss Julie Dolaro, Mr. Sydney Barraclough, Mr. Stanley Cooke, Mr. Ralph Nairn, Mr. Frank Bernard, Mr. Edward Kipling, Mr. Alfred Leslie, Mr. Roper Lane, Mr. Harry Bertram, Mr. Cyril Keene, Mr. John Bennett, Mr. Herbert North, Mr. Charles Francis, Mr. Reginald Thomas, Mr. Hubert Purser, Mr. E. J. Carlins, and Miss Marie Dressler. The scenes are laid in Switzerland and Paris. Another attraction will be *The Collegettes*, a skit upon the American play *The College Widow*, which was performed at the Adelphi last April.

MR. CHARLES FROHMAN will produce at a matinée at the Duke of York's next month a play by Mr. John Galsworthy, the author of *The Silver Box*, which made such an impression at the Court in the Granville Barker season. His new piece, which is to be played at a series of matinées, is called *Strife*, and deals with the struggle between Capital and Labour.

MR. REGINALD KENNEDY-COX has disposed of the Australian rights of his play, *The Setting of the Queen's Tune*, to Miss E. Fitzroy, who proposes to produce it at the Theatre Royal, Melbourne, on Empire Day.

MR. AND MRS. CHARLES DRAYCOTT, who will conclude this week the forty-second consecutive week of their present tour, are fully booked until next November. They have acquired the entire rights of *A Modern Adventuress* and *The Heart of a Hero* from Messrs. Carson and Kendall, and will include those plays in their repertory. As they made a great impression in these two dramas during the two years for which they were connected with them, they naturally expect great success with them now.

MISS ANNA BEAUMONT, who has just finished her second year as the ugly sister in Mr. Arthur Carlton's *Cinderella* company, has been engaged by Mr. Edward Lloyd for the rôle of Miss Dove in *Man to Man*.

"THE CINGALEE" company, under the direction of Haldane Crichton, is having an extraordinary success on tour. At Brixton Theatre on Saturday hundreds were turned away from every part, and the house was crowded every night after Monday.

"THE FOLLIES" will give their 100th performance of the present programme at the Apollo next week. On Friday an entire change of bill will be made, and a "potted" version of *An Englishman's Home* will be presented, with a revised edition of *Everybody's Benefit*, in which several novel items will be introduced.

MR. FORBES ROBERTSON and Miss Gertrude Elliott will commence a spring tour at the King's, Hammersmith on March 1 with *The Passing of the Third Floor Back* and *A Play in Little*. Many important provincial towns will be visited, and the tour will end at the Marlborough, Holloway, on May 22. In the cast will be Miss Amy Brandon Thomas, who will take Miss Alice Crawford's place, and Mr. Percy Burton has been released by Sir John Hare to become general manager of the company.

MR. A. L. LEVERING, the managing director of the Electrical Shows Company, Ltd., will introduce at the Imperial Exhibition an electrical mechanical representation of the Messina earthquake on a very large scale, the spectator being supposed to be on the deck of a vessel in the harbour. To imitate the tidal wave real water will be used.

MR. ROBERT ARTHUR will open his spring season at the Kennington Theatre on Monday next with Hall Caine's *Pete*, played by Messrs. Smith and Carpenter's actual Lyceum company, including Mr. Matheson Lang as Pete and Miss Hutin Britton as Kate.

ON Thursday, the 11th inst., an interesting charity function took place in Glasgow. This was the annual Cinderella treat to the poor children, which for the last half-dozen years has been carried through by Mrs. Percy Humphrys, wife of the popular manager at the Theatre Royal. Through the kindness of Councillor Bostock, the treat was given in the Zoo and Hippodrome this year, over 500 of Mrs. Humphrys' little guests being regaled with tea and pastry in the central portion of the Zoo, with cages of animals and birds on every side; and then the youngsters were taken into the Hippodrome, and an excellent entertainment provided for them. On leaving, each of the children received presents consisting of apples, oranges, sweets, &c.

A NEW two-tier theatre is at present in course of erection at Wallsend. Situated in a prominent position, the theatre occupies an important point at the corner of High-street. The façade of the handsome structure is of Ruabon bricks with heavy freestone dressings, and is of noble proportions, the architectural features generally being bold and artistic. The theatre will have a seating capacity of close upon 2,000. The plans are those of Mr. C. D. James, the well-known architect, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, and Mr. Fleming Davidson, of Willington Quay. The proprietor, Mr. Duffy, of Wallsend, expects the building to be completed by May. The old Theatre Royal was completely destroyed by fire over two years ago, and the present building will supply a much-felt want.

MR. EDWARD TERRY, at the annual general Court of Governors of the Charing Cross Hospital, in the board-room on Thursday, under the chairmanship of the Earl of Kilmorey, K.P., seconded a motion for the re-election of the retiring members of the council, which had been proposed by Viscount Ridley. The motion was carried.

MR. WALTER REYNOLDS, speaking at the meeting at Spring Gardens on Tuesday to the question of a return of the additional duties and obligations cast upon the County Council since 1904, said he hoped that one of the first things to be reported would be, in view of the terrible catastrophe in Mexico, that full power had been conferred on the Council to control all cinematograph exhibitions in London, and also the buildings in which they were given.

MR. CHARLES THORBURN, who is expected to return from abroad about the end of February, per Port Kingston, has visited America and Jamaica during the past five months, on business combined with pleasure. A scheme, formulated by Mr. Thorburn, is now under consideration by a large American trading company, to build an up-to-date theatre in Kingston, Jamaica. Mr. Thorburn may probably renew his business relations with Mr. Seymour Hicks, for whom he so successfully pioneered Miss Zena Dare in *The Gay Gordons*.

MR. THORBURN writes:—"I have spent a most enjoyable three months on my sister's estate, 'Tryall,' 3,000 acres, filled with cocoanut trees, bananas, sugar canes, oranges, and lemons. There are two miles of sea front, and a river runs through the property. I passed all my spare time riding, driving, shooting, fishing, swimming, and boating in a canoe, or 'dug-out.' I had a trip round the island for ten days, calling at fifteen ports. At Black River I shot an alligator 3ft. 6in. long, for which I hold a certificate signed by the captain and officers of the ship 'Jamaica.' I obtained this in case my friends should be incredulous."

"THE MOTHER OF HIS CHILD," a drama of strong domestic interest, by Arthur Shirley, with a fine emotional part for Mrs. Frank Bateman, will be taken on tour at Christmas, under the management of Messrs. Bateman and Conquest.

MRS. CROWE'S granddaughter, Miss Leah Bateman-Hunter, is evidently destined to follow in the footsteps of her illustrious relative. At the Dolling Memorial Matinée, at the Playhouse, on the 9th inst., she played Miss Eleanor Calhoun's part of Janik in *The Grandsire*, in a way which proved the possession by the young artist of an amount of natural ability that is certain to eventually raise her to a high rank in her profession.

AT the Pavilion Theatre on Monday a season of Yiddish drama opened with a presentation of Goldfaden's operetta *Bar Cochba*. Mr. Sigmund Feinman, the Yiddish actor from New York, had a hearty reception.

MR. W. CLARKSON gained the first prize at the Covent Garden Ball on Friday evening for a lady's costume entitled "The Dawn of Spring."

MR. PERCY LAX, director of the orchestra at the Opera House, Middlesbrough, expired very suddenly on Saturday last at his residence in Willow-road, Linthorpe. The deceased, who was forty-four years of age, went home after the performance, and before he had time to take his hat and coat off, or say even one word, he died in the chair on which he had sat down.

MR. LAX has been conductor at the Opera House since its opening, a number of years ago, and before that he was connected with the Theatre Royal and theatres in various other towns. Heart disease is thought to have been the cause of death. Mr. Lax leaves a wife and family. The interment took place on Wednesday.

MR. J. M. BARRIE'S delightful comedy *What Every Woman Knows* was restored to the Duke of York's on Monday, and the fine performances of Mr. Gerald du Maurier, Miss Hilda Trevelyan, Mr. Henry Vibart, Mr. J. Fisher White, Mr. Edmund Gwenn, Mr. Norman Forbes, Mrs. Tree, and Miss Lillah McCarthy were again heartily admired.

MR. ROBERT ARTHUR has arranged with Mr. Chas. Bell, an American manager, to present in May at the Coronet, Mlle. Mealy, from Les Variétés, Paris, and his French opera bouffe company. Two years ago Mlle. Mealy created the leading part in Robert Planquette's comic opera, *Le Paradis le Mahomet*, which ran for over two hundred performances at Les Variétés. She will be supported at the Coronet by well-known Parisian artists, a chorus of forty, a ballet, and a full orchestra. The engagement at the Coronet begins on Monday, May 17, and is limited to three weeks. The répertoire will be selected from *La Mascotte*, *Madame Angot*, *Boccaccio*, *Orpheus*, and *La Périchole*.

THE first performance out of London of *The Builder of Bridges*, by Alfred Sutro, was given by Mr. George Alexander's South company last Monday at the Theatre Royal, Portsmouth, where the play was enthusiastically received by a large audience. Miss Dorothy Green played Dorothy Faringay and Mr. Leonard Pagden appeared as Mr. Thursfield.

WE regret to learn of the unexpected death of Mr. Walter Harding, of the Theatre Royal, Stratford, on Wednesday last. Mr. Harding suffered a severe bereavement in the death of his wife but a week ago, and he attended her funeral on Saturday last when undoubtedly in anything but a fit state of health. His death is ascribed to pneumonia. The deceased was associated in business with the Fredericks family (owners of the Stratford Theatres) for nearly forty years, and was well known to and popular with the touring dramatic companies which have visited the Theatre Royal. The interment is to take place to-day at West Ham Cemetery.

MR. E. GRAHAM FALCON, the lessee and manager of the Royal County Theatre, Bedford, and Mrs. Falcon were, on the evening of the 11th inst., the recipients of a handsome present from a few of their intimate friends. The gift took the form of a silver table ornament in the shape of a gondola, and a beautiful bouquet for Mrs. Falcon. Mr. R. M. Crompton, the president of the Imperial Society of Dance Teachers, and Vice-President of the International Union of Dance Teachers, said that during the temporary absence of Mr. Falcon a few of his intimate friends had arranged an extra turn for that night only—a transformation scene in which Dr. Waller had a speaking part. Dr. Waller said it was his privilege and pleasure to ask Mr. and Mrs. Graham Falcon's acceptance of a little gift, which was a mark of esteem from a few personal friends, who were prompted by a feeling of good-will and an appreciation of the good nature which distinguished both Mr. and Mrs. Falcon. He hoped that when they looked on the gift they would remember that it symbolised the earnest and heartfelt wishes of their friends that the boat of their lives might ever "sail freely both with wind and stream." Mr. Graham Falcon, in returning thanks, said he had a lot of acquaintances in Bedford, but till that moment scarcely knew how many he really did possess. He had been in the town over ten years, during which time he had done his best to entertain the public of Bedford. Mr. Falcon concluded by quoting Tennyson's words: "True hearts are more than coronets." Mrs. Falcon also thanked them, and hearty cheers were given for the recipients.

MISS EVELYN MILLARD has postponed the production at the Criterion of Mr. Robert Hichens's new play *The Real Woman* from Tuesday next to the following Thursday. Very shortly a one-act play entitled *The Spare Room*, by E. M. Bryant, in which Miss Alice Beet will sustain the principal part, will be put on as a first piece.

MESSRS. DOTTRIDGE AND LONGDEN'S pantomime production *Dick Whittington* was performed at Darlington last week, and on the Thursday evening, owing to illness, Miss Florrie Gallimore was unable to appear. At extremely short notice Miss Rose Tilley stepped into the breach and most creditably performed the part, continuing to do so at the performances on Friday and Saturday evenings, and at Saturday's matinée.

MR. LESTER COLLINGWOOD gave his sixth annual pantomime dinner at Birmingham last Sunday, when the company now playing in his Alexandra success, *Little Red Riding Hood*, were joined by Mr. Jack Knowles (of Barrett and Knowles), the Sisters Morgan, and Rita and Roma, from Mr. Collingwood's Elephant and Castle success, *The Babes in the Wood*. The party was held at Harold Wallis's, the Woolpack Hotel, and the guests, who numbered thirty-two, had a very enjoyable time. The toast of "The Guv'nor" elicited unanimous applause.

A NUMBER of well-known Suffragettes who are studying elocution under Miss Dorothy Milne were present on Monday evening at the Grand Theatre, Fulham, to witness that charming young actress's portrayal of Geraldine Lucas in *Convict 99*.

MR. W. H. CHIPPENDALE has been appointed responsible manager for the Theatre Royal and Opera House, Leigh. He was connected with the management of the Bolton Theatres for upwards of seven years, and for a considerable period was general secretary and London manager for Mr. Fred Karno's various enterprises.

MR. GEORGE NORMAN-BURT, who is staying in Cornwall, has just stage-managed three most successful performances of *The Arabian Nights* in aid of the Truro and Falmouth Hospitals. The first performance was given in the ballroom at "Goonvrea," the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Paull, and the other two at Truro and Falmouth. Each performance was crowded, people motoring and driving distances of twenty and thirty miles, and the audiences included Lady Margaret Boscawen, Sir E. and Lady Durning-Lawrence, Lady Smith, and Capt. the Hon. and Mrs. Hood.

MR. JOHN E. INCE, a veteran comedian, who was born at Wigan in Lancashire, and had played many important parts on the American stage, died in America on the 28th ult., at the age of sixty-eight. He fulfilled an engagement there in 1907, at Proctor's Fifty-eighth-street Theatre, when his wife, who was Mrs. Emma Stead, appeared with him. For the last ten years he had conducted a dramatic school. His wife and three sons survive him.

MISS BILLIE BURKE had the misfortune to scratch her hand so badly in New York a fortnight ago that she was threatened with blood-poisoning. She has had to postpone her Boston engagement and rest for a week or two.

THE members of Mr. Allan Wilkie's company presented him on the 9th inst. with a handsome silver cigarette case suitably inscribed, the occasion being the anniversary of his birthday. The presentation was made at the fall of the curtain by the entire company, and was feelingly responded to by Mr. Wilkie. The proceedings were wound up by everyone singing "For he's a jolly good fellow."

MR. JAMES WELCH will commence a provincial tour at the Borough Theatre, Stratford, on March 1, with *When Knights Were Bold*, in which he will be supported by the original cast from Wyndham's Theatre.

AT the Court Theatre on Sunday evening, March 7, the Dramatic Productions Club will give their fourth production—*Nan Pilgrim*, a play, in four acts, by Mabel Dearmer. The cast will include Mr. Holmes Gore, Mr. Ben Webster, Mr. William Haviland, Mr. Edward Sass, Mr. E. H. Paterson, Miss Lilian Braithwaite, Miss Evelyn Weeden, Miss Ada Webster, Miss Agnes Thomas, Mis Alice Mansfield, Miss Marion McCarthy, Miss Elsie Chester, and Miss Esme Hubbard.

MR. TOM CRAVEN will recommence his tours in March with his highly-successful melodrama, *When a Lass Loves*. The play will be seen at no less than three London theatres between March and the end of April. Mr. Craven, ever with the times, will shortly copyright another new play, which he will call *The Traitor Territorial*. This drama will be distinctly different to any other work on the Territorial question. No military uniforms will be brought into requisition, and it will eulogise England.

MR. F. H. NEVILLE has engaged Miss Lily Lewis, A.C.V., to star as Josephine in his enormously successful play *Napoleon's Divorce*, and has also secured Mr. L. Grahame-Hamlyn for heavy lead. Miss Lewis was the original of the academy picture "A Woodland Symphony," painted by the well-known artist Mr. C. Perigini. The picture was hung on the line and greatly admired.

MR. ALFRED LESTER concludes to-night an eight weeks' most successful season at the Tivoli. He opens at the Hippodrome, Portsmouth, on Monday for a short provincial tour, returning to town at Easter for a lengthy West End engagement.

MR. CLAUDE KING sailed on Thursday via Marseilles for Australia, to fulfil a thirty-two weeks' engagements as leading man with Mr. Geo. Musgrove.

MR. GEORGE GROSSMITH has instructed Messrs. Grant, Taylor, and Atkinson to offer for sale by auction next month, should it not be sold privately in the meantime, the house No. 55, Russell-square, W.C., described as a delightful town residence, on the south side, overlooking the garden, close to tube stations and omnibus routes, and within easy access of the City and West End, containing four reception rooms, ten bed and dressing-rooms, fitted bathroom, and excellent domestic offices, electric light; held for a term of thirty years at the nominal ground rent of £50 per annum only. Possession may be had on completion of purchase.

"KITTY GREY" is playing to good houses at the New Amsterdam Theatre, and Mr. G. P. Huntley, in the comical rôle of the Earl of Dulston is responsible for great laughter. Mr. Huntley paid Holland a visit several years ago, when he played Lord Cheyne ("Daisy") in *Three Little Maids*, and his droll performance was well remembered by many members of the audience that welcomed him on his reappearance in Amsterdam. At the first sight of the popular comedian there was a hearty round of applause. Miss Julia Sanderson appeared in the title-rôle, and won the favour of the audience from the start. Miss Valli Valli, as Lady Binfield, played the part delightfully, and others who distinguished themselves in prominent rôles were Messrs. F. Pope Stamper, Charles Angelo, Percival Knight, and Frank Perfitt. The piece was beautifully staged, and the performance throughout was most enjoyable.

MR. ERNEST CARPENTER, the managing-director of the Lyceum, has made a statement to the effect that in his opinion there is no falling off in the provincial public's love for good drama. "On the contrary," he says, "I believe that there is a vastly increased public for real dramatic entertainment. People have been attracted to the variety houses simply because they have found there good companies, brightness, and cheap prices, and it is of no use to try to compete with them by offering poor companies, dulness, and high prices."

IN the revised version of *The Dancing Girl* at His Majesty's Theatre there are some striking contrasts of costume and some beautiful colour effects. Miss Alice Crawford, as the Drusilla Ives of the first act in her Quaker costume of pale grey, with snow-white cap and apron, is as different a creature as possible, in outward seeming, at all events, from the Diana Valrose as we see her in her house at Richmond, trailing her gorgeous draperies before the enchanted eyes of her sailor-lover. Miss Crawford's gown in the second act is of gold tissue veiled with dove-grey gauze, and caught closely round the figure, with a wide sash of soft satin, lined with palest blue. A wide stole of gold filet net, heavily jewelled, hangs in front of the gown, finished with glittering fringe.

For the great scene of the reception at Guisebury House in the third act, Miss Alice Crawford wears first a beautiful gown of peacock blue and green in glittering tissues, veiled with silken net and having a wide band of silver and diamond embroidery round the hem of the skirt. Draped over this, and held by a jewelled strap over one bare shoulder, there is a long tunic of wine-purple silk net, adorned with a giant Greek key-pattern worked in aluminium thread, and falling in soft folds over the peacock-blue and green underskirt. A huge diamond butterfly shines out among a mass of other jewels on the front of the bodice, and in her hair Miss Crawford wears a Greek bandeau in sapphires and emeralds, and an aigrette formed of peacock feathers.

Later in the act this gown gives place to the beautiful frock in which Miss Crawford gives her Eastern dance to a haunting melody chosen from Mr. Coleridge Taylor's incidental music to *Nero*. The dress, which is half-Oriental and half-classical in its inspiration, and yet wholly beautiful and becoming, is arranged with flowing draperies of pale rose-pink and ivory-white chiffon, caught at the waist in the coils of a diamond snake, and wreathed from one shoulder with a mass of roses. In her dark hair Miss Crawford wears a diamond tiara, with a trellis-work of diamonds, arranged in the form of a Greek fillet at the back, and when she first comes half-crouching down the stairs, she drapes her face and shoulders with a cloudy veil of soft black gauze which, however, she speedily throws aside.

Miss Marie Löhr, as the crippled girl, Sybil Crake, looks charming in each of her frocks, and prettiest of all perhaps in the gown of white crêpe de chine, which she wears at the Guisebury House reception with a simply draped skirt, and a full bodice, the round decolletage outlined with a net tucker through which a pale blue ribbon is threaded. In the second act she appears in a charming dress of pale blue cloth, and a large hat of cream straw, wreathed round the crown with a ruche of green leaves, and tied under the chin with pale blue satin ribbon.

A CAFE chantant in aid of the League of Mercy is to be given on Tuesday next, the 23rd inst., at the Georgian Rooms, Piccadilly Hotel, under the immediate patronage of H.R.H. Princess Alexander of Teck. Amongst others the following are kindly giving their services:—Miss Margaret Halstan, Miss Katherine Starling, the Hon. Mrs. Southwell Fitzgerald, Miss Bertha Scholefield, Miss Irene St. Clair, Miss Ruby Helder, Miss Iris Hawkins, Mr. C. Hayden Coffin, Mr. George Grossmith, jun., Mr Akerman May, Mr. Maurice Farkoa, Signor Manrico Bacci, M. Jacques Pintel, Mr. Nelson Jackson, &c. A feature in the programme is the initial production of a new one-act comedy called *Chips*, and written by Lechmere Worrall. The title-part will be played by Miss Iris Hawkins and the other parts by Miss Gwendolen Logan and Mr. Charles Steuart. The little play is being rehearsed by Mr. Graham Browne.

MISS ELEONORE DRILLER, who has for some time given performances of German plays at the Cripplegate Theatre, is about to place the *Deutsche Volksbühne* on a firmer basis, by a series of six performances at the Court Theatre, commencing on Friday, the 26th inst., with the famous German play by Heinrich von Kleist called *Das Kätchen von Heilbronn*. Miss Driller asks for contributions to her funds from those interested in German art.

OVER 100 persons were burnt to death at the Flores Theatre at Acapulco on Sunday night. The theatre was a wooden structure, and contained a crowded audience. In the course of a cinematograph performance a film caught fire, and the flames spread with great rapidity to the bunting decorations. There were only three narrow exits, and to these the audience rushed in a panic. Many fell and were crushed to death, and the entrance became choked. Owing to the intense heat, it was impossible to render assistance.

ON Wednesday evening, the 17th inst., the students of the Queen's University, Belfast, attended in full force at the Grand Opera House, Belfast, arrayed in all kinds of fantastic costumes, such as Red Indians, cowboys, nurses, Irishmen, negroes, courtiers, ladies of fashion, &c. They took possession of the gallery and stalls, and during the evening provided a capital programme of songs, the programme being in charge of Mr. W. Millar, Chairman of Amusements Committee. The students thoroughly enjoyed the piece presented by Mr. Herbert Sleath's company, *A White Man*, especially the acting of Mr. Frank Tennant as Jim Carston, who was loudly cheered during the evening. At an interval a lovely bouquet of flowers, embellished by the College colours, was lowered from the gallery by wire, and presented to Miss Eleanor May, whose charming performance of Diana won all hearts. The entire proceedings were certainly most enthusiastic.

AT Hammersmith on Monday Mr. C. Luxmoore Drew concluded an inquest with reference to the death of Deborah Bernstein, aged sixty, of Nettlewood-road, Shepherd's Bush, a wardrobe mistress and costumier, who for many years was engaged with Mr. Wilson Barrett, and recently had been at the Prince of Wales's Theatre in a similar capacity. She was found by her adopted daughter, Miss Ellen Millard, on the morning of Jan. 18 in a dying condition, and it was stated that a few days previously she had received notice to terminate her engagement on account of failing sight. Dr. Freyberger said that he had found that the deceased had taken a quantity of morphia, which, although not large, was sufficient to destroy life. It must have been taken from eight to twelve hours before death, and was taken on a full stomach, which would have the effect of delaying the poison. Miss Millard said that she was not aware that the deceased was in the habit of taking drugs, but she knew that she took tabloids of some sort. A verdict of "Suicide whilst temporarily insane" was returned.

"CHARLES THE FIRST" AT THE SHAFTESBURY.

Play, in Four Acts, by W. G. Wills, Revived on Monday, Feb. 15.

Charles the First .....MR. H. B. IRVING
Oliver Cromwell .....MR. FRANK TYARS
Marquis of Huntley .....MR. TOM REYNOLDS
Lord Moray .....MR. ERIC MAXON
Ireton .....MR. B. A. PITTAR
First Cavalier .....MR. STANLEY HOWLETT
Second Cavalier .....MR. H. C. HEWITT
Attendant .....MR. J. PATRIC CURWEN
Queen's Page .....MR. ARTHUR CURTIS
Roundhead Captain .....MR. W. GRAHAM
Prince James.....MISS FLORENCE WAUDBY
Princess Elizabeth .....MISS ELSIE VIDEAU
Lady Eleanor .....MISS EILY MALYON
Queen Henrietta Maria ..MISS DOROTHEA BAIRD

The history of the play of *Charles I.*, which Mr. H. B. Irving revived at the Shaftesbury Theatre on Monday evening, is an interesting one. Mr. Freeman Wills tells us that Colonel Bateman, the manager of the Lyceum in 1872, was diffident of the success of such plays as *Charles I.* and *Hamlet*. Blank verse was still regarded as hazardous, and Mr. Irving's successes had previously been won in melodrama. Many a battle was fought at the Lyceum supper parties, but the actor, with great tenacity of purpose, urged a repetition of the experiment which had been so successful in the case of *Medea*. The play was written at express speed—partly at Wills's Studio, and partly at 37, Sydney-street—and it was produced on Sept. 28, 1872. By this drama the author established himself as an original dramatist of great power, and Mr. Irving, who had previously been spoken of as a "promising young artist," was at once raised to the first rank of his profession.

In this play Mr. Wills certainly gave proof of power, equalled by none of the poetic dramatists that intervened, and if he did not in subsequent work always reach this high level, it must be remembered that it was difficult to get him to apply his powers to dramatic work, and he often wrote against the grain. Consequently, though he wrote many plays, his true talents were sampled by but a few. The wealth of his imagination was only partly brought to the surface. One of his intimates remarks that, in private intercourse, "he was a man full of bright and sweet imaginings, and he would reveal perfect glimpses of a fairyland of a mind full of tender thoughts and delicate [illegible]."

But he was impatient of much of the dramatic work he was commissioned to do, and when this was the case, he did it badly, selling his name and not his talents. It was when writing for worthy interpreters that his genius awakened; and only by the plays written for them ought he to be judged hereafter.

Wills's painting was a hindrance to his playwriting. The curious perversity of his nature asserted itself again and again to his detriment. When there was a pressure or urgent dramatic work, he has been known more than once to jump out of bed and seize his palette and brushes; and to keep him at work with his pen he would have to be watched and goaded on. The critics were provoked by the falling off shown so markedly in some of his plays, and when he did rise to the height of his powers they not all of them forgave him, or did him full justice. *Charles I.*, however, stands as an evidence of what he was capable of doing, and worthily takes its place in the catena of the great history-plays of England. A few words from Miss Ellen Terry, in a letter found after his death among some treasured papers, written when the end was not very far off, must have come like a ray of light in the gathering gloom.

Miss Terry wrote: "I'm just returned from our last rehearsal of *Charles I.*—and coming along in my carriage, have been reading the last act, and I can't help writing to thank you and bless you for having written those *five last pages*. Never, *never* has anything more beautiful been written in English—I know no other language.

"They are perfection—and I—often as I've acted with Henry Irving in the play, *am all melted* at reading it again. An immortality for you for this alone. God bless you.

"Yours, with intense appreciation, E. T."

Charles I. contains some of the best blank verse that W. G. Wills ever wrote. The passage in the second act, in which Charles denounces Cromwell, is famous; and the speech in which the King lashes the faithless Murray, is worth quoting for its excellence.

"I saw a picture once, by a great Master,
It was an old man's head.
Narrow and evil was its wrinkled front—
Eyes close and cunning: a dull vulpine smile.
'Twas called a Judas. Wide that painter erred;
Judas had eyes like thine, of candid blue,
His skin was smooth, his hair of youthful gold;
Upon his brow shone the white stamp of truth,
And lips, like thine, did give the traitor kiss.
The King, my father, loved thine—at his death
He gave me solemn charge to cherish thee,
And I have kept it to my injury.
It is a score of years since then, my lord—
Hast waited all this time to pay me thus?

The effect created by the original production at the Lyceum, was extraordinary. In the last scene, we are told, the sympathetic sobs of the audience mingled with those of the disconsolate wife. Women sobbed openly, and even men showed an emotion which comported ill with the habitual serenity of the stalls. There was scarcely a dry eye in the house during the parting of Charles and his Queen. But seldom has there been beheld such a scene of enthusiasm as followed the fall of the curtain.

The original cast contained Mr. Irving as Charles I., Mr. George Belmore as Oliver Cromwell, Mr. Addison as the Marquis of Huntly, Miss G. Pauncefort as Lady Eleanor, and Miss Isabel Bateman as Queen Henriette Maria. In the revival in 1878 Miss Ellen Terry played the Queen.

Mr. H. B. Irving has many personal resemblances to his illustrious father; but, in all his performances of the characters made famous by his sire, Mr. Irving takes an entirely original view, and only copies the traditional mechanical business of the part. His Charles I. is very picturesque, winning, and various, and the fire and energy which flash out at intervals make the contrasting pathos and melancholy the more effective. He is a handsome picture in his royal robes, and developes every phase of the interesting personage with striking skill and success. Miss Dorothea Baird's Queen Henrietta Maria is a very beautiful and romantic impersonation, sweetly refined and regal, and full of amorous tenderness and affectionate earnestness. Mr. Frank Tyars depicts Cromwell—according to the author's idea of the man—with a force and vigour which leave nothing to be desired; and Mr. Tom Reynolds is a sturdy, bold, and burly representative of the fine old Marquis of Huntley. Mr. Eric Maxon is clear, distinct, and acute as Lord Moray, and supplies a telling rendering of the unthankful rôle; and Mr. B. A. Pittars's Ireton is as stern and forbidding as could be demanded, and marked with excellent decision and emphasis. Miss Eily Malyon is a handsome and spirited Lady Eleanor; and Miss Florence Waudby and Miss Elsie Videau are very charmingly intelligent as the Prince and Princess. Mr. Stanley Howlett and Mr. H. C. Hewitt are quite praiseworthy as the Cavaliers; Mr. J. Patric Curwen is entirely efficient as the Attendant; and the Queen's Page has a graceful and gallant representative in Mr. Arthur Curtis. The dresses and scenery are pretty and pleasing, and the revival has been most enthusiastically received.

"THE DANCING GIRL."

Drama, in Four Acts, by Henry Arthur Jones. Revived at His Majesty's Theatre on Tuesday, Feb. 16.

Duke of Guisebury .....MR. TREE
Hon. Reginald Slingsby ..MR. A. VANE-TEMPEST
David Ives .....MR. LOUIS CALVERT
Mr. Crake .....MR. G. W. ANSON
Mr. Goldspink ....MR. CHARLES QUARTERMAINE
John Christison .....MR. BASIL GILL
Augustus Cheevers ..MR. WALTER R. CREIGHTON
Captain Leddra .....MR. PATRICK KIRWAN
Charles .....MR. NORMAN PAGE
Servant .....MR. HENRY MORRELL
Sybil Crake .....MISS MARIE LOHR
Lady Bawtry .....MISS ROSINA FILIPPI
Lady Brislington .....MISS JULIET HARDINGE
Faith Ives .....MISS VERA COBURN
Mrs. Christison .....MISS MURIEL ALEXANDER
Mrs. Leddra .....MRS. E. H. BROOKE
Sister Beatrice .....MISS VALENTINE
Drusilla Ives .....MISS ALICE CRAWFORD

The Dancing Girl was originally presented at the Haymarket Theatre on Jan. 15, 1891, with Mr. Tree at the Duke of Guisebury, Mr. F. Kerr as the Hon. Reginald Slingsby, Mr. Fernandez as David Ives, Mr. Fred Terry as John Christison, Mr. Allan as Mr. Crake, Mr. Robb Harwood as Mr. Goldspink, Miss Rose Leclercq as Lady Bawtry, Miss Norreys as Sybil Crake, Mrs. E. H. Brooke as Mrs. Leddra, and Miss Julia Neilson as Drusilla Ives. The success of the piece and its frequent performances in the provinces have made the story sufficiently familiar to our readers. As an inventor of stage "notions," Mr. Jones has been astonishingly fertile and remarkably successful. *The Dancing Girl* is, in the best sense of the word, theatrically effective. The spendthrift but amiable aristocrat has been a popular stage figure since the times of Charles Surface, and the heroine, Drusilla Ives, is a strikingly sensational figure. Dramatic sensation is, indeed, the keynote of the play, and, though the progress of public taste has made us exact a deeper analysis and a more logical and less arbitrary treatment of passion and motive, we have not become so over-refined as to be insensible to the elementary effectiveness of high-class melodrama. Like many other plays of action and incident, the author's inventiveness is exhausted before the conclusion; and the last act of *The Dancing Girl* has always been its weak point. The changes which have been made in this part of the play are not of any great importance; indeed, it is not easy to suggest any real way out of the difficulty. A more or less obvious and conventional method of "winding up" the play is still employed, and, if our memory is exact, the act has not been seriously or essentially altered. The great scene of attempted suicide at the end of the third act is as telling as ever, and the many excellences of the dialogue and the minor characterisation again obtain notice and approval.

Much interest attached on Tuesday to the appearance of Miss Alice Crawford in the part of Drusilla Ives. Miss Crawford, one of the late Mr. Wilson Barrett's "discoveries," has done excellent work since her first appearance in London at the Adelphi in 1902, and was the Iris, and afterwards the Miranda of the celebrated *Tempest* revival at His Majesty's in 1904. She returned to that theatre in 1906, to play Charmian in Mr. Tree's revival of *Antony and Cleopatra*, and also appeared as Paulina in *The Winter's Tale*, as Olivia in *Twelfth Night*, and as Calphurnia in *Julius Cæsar*. Her performance as Glory Quayle in *The Christian* at the Lyceum in 1907, may have partly prepared her for her latest achievement. Miss Crawford was well equipped to undertake the rôle of Drusilla Ives, and she made a marked success in it, her reading being admirable, both in conception and execution. The sensuous, heartless nature of the dancing girl was expressed with striking skill, and Miss Crawford's command of stage resource was as obvious as the intellectual ability with which she had approached her task. Mr. Beerbohm Tree's Duke of Guisebury was the same irresistibly winning and subtly-conceived piece of character-acting which charmed the audiences at the Haymarket eighteen years ago. It was the perfection of personal effect and emphasis, and, in his hands, a really artificial part took all the semblance of life and nature. It was a triumph of impersonation, and again evoked enthusiastic sympathy and hearty admiration. A deliciously sweet and simple rendering of the rôle of Sybil Crake was given by Miss Marie Löhr, whose embodiment was one of the most charming and pathetic that could be imagined; and Mr. Basil Gill supplied a very manly, spirited, and picturesque interpretation of John Christison. Mr. Louis Calvert gave a magnificent rendering of David Ives, his splendid delivery of the celebrated curse bringing down the house in a burst of well-deserved applause. His depiction of the rugged honesty and rustic grandeur of the old father was a most impressive and powerful one. The remaining rôles were filled with great care and cleverness. Mr. A. Vane-Tempest hit off, lightly and neatly, the characteristics of the Hon. Reginald Slingsby. Mr. G. W. Anson acted with excellent discretion and practised skill as Mr. Crake; Mr. Patrick Kirwan's Captain Leddra was firm, bold, and natural; and Mr. Charles Quartermaine and Mr. Walter R. Creighton were entirely efficient as Mr. Goldspink and Augustus Cheevers. Miss Rosina Filippi's Lady Bawtry was a brilliant performance, and was worthy of the reputation of that experienced and accomplished artist. Miss Juliet Hardinge supplied a bright and intelligent embodiment of Lady Brislington; and Miss Vere Coburn won real sympathy as Faith Ives; Miss Muriel Alexander being capable and characteristic as Mrs. Christison, and that always excellent artist, Mrs. E. H. Brooke, giving a good example of her ripe ability as Mrs. Leddra. Miss Valentine's Sister Beatrice was as tender, refined, and gentle as the rôle required. The scenery was broadly effective; and, at the conclusion, in response to a tumult of applause, Mr. Tree appeared, and promised to telegraph to the author the result of the revival.

The Dancing Girl was preceded by Mr. George Paston's clever little piece *'Tilda's New Hat*, recently produced at the Afternoon Theatre, in which Miss Agnes Thomas, Miss Florence Lloyd, Mr. Norman Page, and Miss Sydney Fairbrother again appeared to advantage.

AN amusing unrehearsed incident happened at the second performance of *The Dashing Little Duke* at the Hicks Theatre. In the scene where the catchy trio "The Bold Dragoon" is sung Miss Ellaline Terriss, in the title-rôle, takes an active part and makes vigorous use of her sword. Smiting the floor with her weapon, it bent nearly double, to the unrestrained merriment of the audience Miss Terriss herself could not refrain from laughing heartily at the accident, and did her best to straighten her badly damaged weapon of defence.

MISS PHYLLIS CECIL, of the Actors' Association, won a prize of £5 in the *Morning Leader* competition for inventing a name by which the *Leader* pictures—now being shown on the Bioscope at several of the London music halls—should be called.

MR. ALLAN WILKIE will next week complete his first ten years on the stage.

THE TERRITORIAL QUESTION.

A PROFESSIONAL BATTALION.

We printed last week a letter addressed by Mr. Charles C. Ommanney to the Secretary of State for War respecting a scheme originated between Mr. Ommanney and Mr. E. G. Bale of the Cumberland Troupe of Cyclists, and Mr. George Carney and Mr. Frank Armstrong (of Carney and Armstrong), with regard to the formation of a military organisation purely for theatrical and music hall performers. The scheme has already developed most encouragingly, and the prospects are very bright indeed. First as to Mr. Ommanney himself, whose enthusiasm in the cause is very keen. He comes of a military and naval family. His ancestor, the late Sir Erasmus Ommanney, was a midshipman at the battle of Navarino, and headed the expedition in search of Sir John Franklin; and another relative, Sir Montague Ommanney, lately Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, is a Captain in the Royal Engineers. Mr. Ommanney, when the South African war broke out, held a lucrative position as secretary to a limited liability company in London. He threw up this position to go out to South Africa as Second Lieutenant of the Cheshire Imperial Yeomanry. He was severely kicked by a horse, and was invalided home; but he went out again with the 27th Battalion of the Imperial Yeomanry, being signalling officer of his regiment, which was quartered in Cape Colony, then under command of General French.

So the movement starts with a leader whose heart is entirely in it, and who has had all the necessary practical experience.

THE PRACTICAL WORKING.

The plan which it is now settled is to be adopted, is to form companies entirely composed of theatrical or variety artists in connection with the London Irish, whose headquarters are at 2, Duke-street, Adelphi. Colonel Pakenham, who is in command, is one of the smartest officers in the service, and, by his advice, enlisting will be carried on until sufficient numbers have been enrolled to justify an appeal to the War Office for the formation of a special battalion. There is little doubt of such permission being granted.

ATTRACTIONS AND ADVANTAGES.

The attractions of the Territorial Service should appeal strongly to actors and variety artists, and they ought to make excellent soldiers. They are alert, active, resourceful, and accustomed to discipline; and their profession implies a certain amount of "smartness." The actor and the variety artist have a good deal of leisure, forced and unforced. The training would supply a congenial occupation for some of the idle hours which are at present often spent in a less admirable way; and there is a special attraction to the actor and variety artist in the fact that the time for camp, in July, comes at a season of the year when many, out of engagements, would hail with delight a holiday in fresh air, amidst beautiful scenery, and with the stirring interest of military manœuvres, not only without expense, but with positive profit; for all ranks, while in camp, receive pay. The advantages of drill in "setting a man up," and making him neat and quick in movement and manly in bearing are so obvious that we need not enlarge on them. And the high spirit of the profession should respond to the impulse that makes every young man wish to be able, in case of need, to assist in the defence of his native land.

HOW DRILLS WILL BE DONE.

It may seem difficult to understand how the necessary number of drills are to be done, with so many members away in the provinces; but it has been arranged that, by a system of affiliation, artists on tour will be able to do their drills with the local regiment in any town where they may be acting. Each man will be provided with a book of voucher-forms to be signed by the officer in the town where the recruit does a drill; so that efficiency may be obtained without constant residence in London.

THE MORAL BENEFIT.

One of the great benefits that will be conferred by Mr. Ommanney's scheme will be an increase of *camaraderie* amongst the members of the profession. There is no bond like that of the service, and a week or two in camp brings men together in a way that nothing else can. Offers of enlistment are coming in rapidly, and the success of the movement seems to be already assured.

HOW TO ENLIST.

Members of the theatrical and variety professions wishing to join should fill up a form similar to the following:—

INTENDING RECRUITS WILL KINDLY FILL IN FOLLOWING PARTICULARS.

(See Example below.)

Christian and Surname in Full	Name of Act or Professional Name	Age	Permanent Address	Special Qualifications and Remarks
EXAMPLE.				
Arthur Jones	**Jones Family**	**28**	**5, Dupres St., London**	**Signaller; served Boer War; Queen's Medal, 5 Clasps; Rank, Sergeant.**

These forms may be obtained at *The Era* Office, 5, Tavistock-street, and should be forwarded, when filled up, to Mr. Chas. C. Ommanney, 55, Talgarth-road, West Kensington.

Mr. Ernest Mansell, lessee of the Royal Palace Theatre, Ramsgate, is probably the first theatrical manager to come to Mr. Haldane's assistance in attracting Territorial recruits to the ranks. Mr. Mansell has just placed at the disposal of the officers of the various branches of the service in the Isle of Thanet, his beautiful redecorated theatre for a grand Territorial night in the near future. The programme will open with a grand tableaux on the stage, representing all local units, and supported by ambulance and nursing sections, lifeboat service, policemen soldiers, postmen soldiers, &c. The officers will be invited to make speeches, massed bands will play patriotic music, and national songs will be sung, such as "Teddy's boys," "Land of hope and glory," &c. A grand military and Territorial picture show will be given, and the proceeds will be devoted to the local general hospital. Captain H. Inskip, harbour master, has promised his support, and local mayors, boy scouts, Church Lads' Brigade, &c., are invited to assist. All old soldiers and sailors from Thanet presenting their parchment discharge at the doors will be admitted free, as also will all Territorials in uniform. The building will be decorated, and it is proposed to place recruiting parties at the exits.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—May I, through the medium of your excellent paper, address a few lines to the men of the profession generally? I think Mr. Chas. Ommanney and his co-partners are to be congratulated upon their patriotism, as shown by the inauguration of the scheme outlined in your issue of the 13th inst. It rests with the men of our profession to show whether it can be fulfilled or not. We have the right men for the work, and plenty of them. When things are made so convenient that we can "put in" our drills without interfering in any way with our business, and find pleasure in so doing, and also attend camp at a time when most of us are "resting," surely the least we can do is to join.

What the men of London have done and are doing we can do. Don't let us be behind them in showing our love for our country. Theatre and music hall proprietors and a good many of the artists possess property which occupies no infinitesimal part of Old England. Let us learn to defend it. None of us would like to stand idly by and see others defending our property while we could do nothing, unless, like Mr. Brown, we took up arms and suffered for it. Don't let the curtain ring up and find us unprepared; there are no "stage waits" in warfare. For the honour of our profession, rally round the Flag, and let us form a battalion from our own to protect our own. Thanking you in anticipation for the insertion of this letter.—Yours faithfully,

EDMUND VYSON.

Thynne-street, Bolton, Feb. 16.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—My conscience has in the past twenty years always been giving me a gentle pricking with regard to my duty of serving as a volunteer, but I have always been able to soothe my conscience by saying to myself, How can I join any regiment when I am always travelling about? But unfortunately for me—perhaps it may have been after reading of poor Mr. Brown being shot on his own lawn in *An Englishman's Home*—an idea came into my head: Why should not I and members of my profession have a regiment, and yet not a regiment? That is to say, we could have our own particular uniform, and headquarters of some sort in London, but when on tour we could drill with the regiment in any particular town we happened to be at. I would also suggest that we take a name like the motto of the Artillery, but instead of using theirs of "Ubique," should call our Territorial "Ubiques." There must be some thousands of professional men who could easily devote an afternoon to drill; indeed, with musical comedies, comic operas, and plays running regularly throughout a long tour, and with few or no rehearsals, I should think they would be rather glad to have something to do in the way of drill, target practice, &c.

I hope you won't consider this idea of mine the result of terrible enthusiasm at the moment, for it is not so. I do not want to be too conceited about my profession, but I think the country could do worse than have, in case of emergency and theatrical performances stopped, a good regiment of Harry Lauders, Hicks, John Coates, and Bensons to—shall I say scout? If they got into a tight corner I think we could pretty well rely on them not being the worst type of Englishmen to get out of it again. Of course, this is only in the rough, and could be gone into more minutely if necessary.—Yours faithfully,

CHARLES MANNERS.

Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh.

M. OCTAVE MIRBEAU and M. Natonson's play *Le Foyer* is meeting with a hostile reception in several French provincial towns. During its run at the Comédie Française the piece gave rise to stormy scenes which had their sequel in the police-court. At Angers, where it has been played this week, similar incidents have occurred. *Le Foyer* contains allusions which do not encourage respect for priests. The result is that champions of the cloth have taken a violent dislike to the play. In order to defy the authorities, the manager of the Angers Theatre shut himself up in the booking office for two days. He ate and slept there. On the day before the piece was played the office was kept shut. The theatre was guarded by police, and those people who appeared to buy tickets received them through the window.

THE Mayor had forbidden the performance, and the police, on seeing the tickets sold through the window, rushed to their headquarters for further instructions. When they returned they cleared the crowd from the window. But those people who wanted tickets wrapped their money in paper bearing their addresses, and threw it at the manager. Next morning the Mayor's edict was set aside by the Prefect. In the evening a squadron of dragoons, a battalion of infantry, besides mounted gendarmes, were on duty near the theatre. Only sufficient room was allowed for those who had bought tickets to enter the theatre.

WHEN the performance was about to commence the Mayor cut off the gas, and forbade the women attendants and the stage hands to work. The manager had recourse to motor-lamps for lighting the wings and oil lamps for the auditorium. Choristers and ballet-girls acted as attendants and stage hands. When the curtain rose the manager appeared, and in a speech declared that he had promised to produce *Le Foyer*, and would produce it. Actors and actresses helped in the scene-shifting. It was one o'clock before the performance came to an end.

"THE PRISONER OF ZENDA."

Romantic Play in a Prologue and Four Acts, adapted from Anthony Hope's story by Edward Rose, revived at the St. James's Theatre, on Thursday, Feb. 18.

CHARACTERS OF THE PROLOGUE:

Prince Rudolf.....MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER
Duke Wolfgang .....MR. FRANK COOPER
Gilbert, Earl of Rassendyll MR. WALTER MACLEAN
Horace Glyn .....MR. REGINALD OWEN
Jeffreys .....MR. E. VIVIAN REYNOLDS
Giffen .....MR. ASHTON PEARSE
Amelia, Countess of Rassendyll
MISS LYDIA BILBROOKE

CHARACTERS OF THE PLAY:

Rudolf the Fifth .....
Rudolf Rassendyll .. } MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER
Michael, Duke of Strelsau....MR. FRANK COOPER
Colonel Sapt .....MR. ALFRED BRYDONE
Fritz von Tarlenheim .....MR. REGINALD OWEN
Captain Hentzau .....MR. VERNON STEEL
Detchard .....MR. HENDERSON BLAND
Bertram Bertrand .....MR. BEN WEBSTER
Marshal Strakencz .....MR. F. J. ARLTON
Lorenz Teppich .....MR. ASHTON PEARSE
Franz Teppich .....MR. HENRY KITTS
Lord Topham .....MR. E. VIVIAN REYNOLDS
Ludwig .....MR. ROHAN CLENEY
Toni .....MR. SYDNEY HAMILTON
Josef .....MR. F. SINCLAIR
Princess Flavia ..MISS STELLA PATRICK CAMPBELL
Antoinette de Mauban ....MISS FRANCES DILLON
Frau Teppich .....MISS BEATRIX DE BURGH

Mr. Edward Rose's adaptation of Mr. Anthony Hope's story was produced at the St. James's Theatre on Jan 7, 1896, with Mr. George Alexander as Prince Rudolf, Mr. Herbert Waring as Duke Wolfgang, Mr. Charles Glenney as Gilbert, Earl of Rassendyll, Mr. W. H. Vernon as Col. Sapt, Mr. Laurence Cautley as Captain Hentzau, Mr. Allan Aynesworth as Bertram Bertrand, Mr. Henry Loraine as Marshal Strakencz, Mr. George P. Hawtrey as Franz Teppich, Mr. George Bancroft as Lord Topham, Miss Evelyn Millard as Princess Flavia, Miss Lily Hanbury as Antoinette de Mauban, and Miss Olga Brandon as Frau Teppich. The play is so well known, both by the popularity of the novel and by the success of the piece at the St. James's and elsewhere, that no description of its excellences is needed now. It is sufficient to say that time has not staled the adventurous incidents and exciting situations of the drama, and that, with Mr. Alexander in his original rôles, and a capital company supporting him, the piece goes as well as ever. Mr. Alexander is specially adapted for the ebodiment of the handsome, self-contained, resolute Englishman, and the touch of chivalry which he gives to his performance makes it especially attractive. The important character of Colonel Sapt has an excellent representative in Mr. Alfred Brydone; and that strong and sound actor, Mr. Frank Cooper, gives a capital reading of the rôle of Michael, Duke of Strelsau. Mr. Vernon Steel does justice to the dashing devilry of Captain Hentzau, and Mr. Vivian Reynolds's Lord Topham is a neat and refined bit of comedy acting. A striking success is created by Miss Stella Patrick Campbell, who plays Princess Flavia. Besides being remarkably beautiful and possessing a strange sweetness of style and a fascination of manner difficult to define, Miss Campbell shows great ability as an actress, and depicts the delicate emotions of the Princess with most intelligent skill. She promises, in time, to become one of the most popular actresses on the stage. Miss Frances Dillon puts plenty of spirit and vigour into her performance as Antoinette de Mauban; and Miss Beatrix de Burgh is good as Frau Teppich. A special word of praise is due to Mr. Reginald Owen's Fritz von Tarlenheim, a bright and effective impersonation; and Mr. Henderson Bland is characteristic as Detchard; Mr. Ben Webster being, of course, easily efficient as Bertram Bertrand. The minor rôles all had excellent interpreters, and the revival was up to the St. James's standard of liberality and completeness. Mr. W. Hann and Mr. W. Raphael's stage pictures are feasts for the eye.

"THE roller-skating boom," says the *Express*, "has penetrated the innermost circles of society. The grill-room at Olympia is crowded with society folk, and 'Olympian parties' are the rage on Tuesdays and Thursdays. While society disports itself in the mornings in comparative seclusion, it mixes, just as it does at bazaars and restaurants, with the ladies who adorn the musical comedy stage in the afternoons. The twenty-four men instructors who pilot timid dowagers round the rink are reaping a golden harvest in tips."

AMONG the patrons of Olympia have been the Duchess of Bedford, Lady Evelyn Guinness, Lady Claud Hamilton, Mr. Robert and Lady Juliet Duff, Lord and Lady Crichton, Lord Arthur Hay, Lady Donegall and her little boy, the present Marquis, Lady Wharncliffe, Lady Westmorland, the Marquis de Soveral, Miss Alexandra Bertie, Mrs. Ridgely Carter, of the United States Embassy, and Mrs. Alfred Yorke.

THE most persistent skater is the Hon. Mrs. Lyndhurst Bruce (Miss Camille Clifford), who has missed few "sessions." All the fashionable jockeys may be seen there, and among the theatrical skaters who are regular habitués are Miss Lily Elsie, Miss Gertie Millar, Miss Zena Dare, Miss Maudi Darrell, Miss Denise Orme, Mr. George Graves, Mr. George Grossmith, jun., and Mr. Huntley Wright.

"PERHAPS realism and the drama," says the *English Review*, "have at most periods of the world's history been entirely at variance. It is certain that neither Mr. Barrie nor Mr. Shaw comes with any frequency at all near to the life we live to-day. Regarded philosophically each of Mr. Shaw's plays resolves itself into a variety entertainment in which character after character does his brilliant verbal 'turn' and then retires into the background. It would be too extreme to say that this is the sole characteristic of Mr. Barrie, for his chief, his distinguishing note is the tenderness, the justness, of his sentimentality.

"AND sentimentalism is as legitimate a medium as are realism, pessimism, or cynicism. The first business of the author is to interest; his instrument wherewith he interests us is his exaggeration. If that be true to himself, if he be an artist of sufficient attraction, it will convince us of the reality of the story that he tells. Subtlety of speech is impossible upon the stage, for you cannot turn back the leaf to read the speech before the last, and whilst you are reflecting upon the hidden meaning of one speech you will miss the significance of three more. For subtlety Mr. Barrie substitutes quaintness and appeals to the emotions. For subtlety Mr. Shaw substitutes half-truths in startling aspects. How Mr. Shaw would come off if it were considered bad taste to laugh in theatres, so that speech after speech was uttered without the break and the pause for the inevitable Shavian laughter, we hardly dare to speculate, but whereas Mr. Barrie for the time being convinces us, Mr. Shaw hardly ever does this. His speakers overspeak, his actors overact, and we are delighted. But a touch of realism will disturb our delight.

THE KINGDOM OF MAKE-BELIEVE, by Eric Mayne. Illustrated by Photograph and Autograph. See *The Era Anual*, 1909.

"WHAT'S CHARLES WORTH?
OR, THE MAID AND THE MOTOR-CAR."

Burlesque Drama, by Cayley Calvert, Music by W. Snell Robinson, produced at the Empire, Camberwell, on Monday, Feb. 15.

Charles Friendly .....Mr. Clifford Pembroke
Rudolph Bluffem .....Mr. Edmund Gurney
Wattshisname .....Mr. Alfred Donohoe
Coppall .....Mr. Geo. Edwards
Carburetta .....Mr. Horace Corbyn
Verbena Fluffemall .....Miss Alice Drummond
The Four Rapid Merchants
The Bureau Quartette
Daisy Fluffemall .....Miss Sylvia Cavalho

The title quite prepares one for the nature of the plot of this amusing satirical sketch, and the escapades of the young lady whose disappearence created some sensation recently are very drolly burlesqued by Mr. Cayley Calvert, some of the situations and lines being most mirth-provoking. The first scene represents the exterior of Petrol Lodge, one of the seats of Miss Daisy Fluffemall, an alluring damsel with a passion for motoring. The water-rate collector and a provision merchant call for the settlement of their accounts, but Daisy's chauffeur makes a very wily gatekeeper, and they are unsuccessful in their application for money and admittance. Carburetta, a smart representative of the Miranda Motor Company, and Coppall, a Jewish stockbroker, also interview the lady—who, attired in a red motor-coat, has now come on the scene—and angrily request that their accounts shall be attended to, but Daisy, who is to come into a legacy of seventy-five million pounds on the 33rd of the month, persuades them to step inside the house, a hint at liquid refreshment on the drawing-room table working wonders. Charles Friendly, a motoring acquaintance of Daisy's, then makes her an offer of marriage. "What's Charles worth?" she wonders. He is evidently as impecunious as she is, but as he is sincere, and a very decent fellow, she accepts him as a lover, and he it is that hits on the idea of eluding her creditors by a motor ride, and the subsequent "accident." In the next scene, "The Hole in the Wall," we see the quartette—Daisy and Charles are accompanied by the chauffeur and her sister Verbena—in a powerful motor, and the "terrible accident" is shown. The car receives a few gentle taps with a hammer, a small piece of rock is dislodged, Daisy's cap is thrown over the cliffs, and she and Charles take their departure, after instructing the chauffeur to describe the incident and declare that his "poor mistress has been thrown over the cliffs and drowned in two inches of water!" The last scene represents a room in the Hotel Mac Bawbee. Miss Fluffemall—who has been pestered by interviewers and photographers—is too ill to leave her room, but on the arrival of her sister and Charles she puts in an appearance in full Highland costume. Coppall and Carburetta are unwelcome visitors, but the arrival of the "four rapid merchants," a quartette of enterprising music-hall agents, who vocally make her lucrative offers, cheers her up somewhat. They are, however, completely put in the background when Rudolf Bluffem, a variety manager, comes on the scene. The public don't want talent, he says. What they require is sensation, and "Madame is absolutely the limit!" She can't sing or act, but she shall have £1,000 a week, top the bill, have a motor to take her about, and be supported by a company of talented actors. All she will have to do is to appear and take the money. Miss Fluffemall is delighted. She arranges that Coppall and Carburetta shall have a claim on her salary, and as there will still be a bit left for her and Charles to live on, all ends merrily. The amusing trifle was played in exactly the right spirit by the clever company responsible for its representation, Miss Sylvia Cavalho making a handsome and fascinating Daisy, her performance throughout being most praiseworthy. Charles Friendly had a convincing and manly representative in Mr. Clifford Pembroke; Mr. Alfred Donohoe was exceedingly droll as the chauffeur; Mr. George Edwards was funny as the stockbroker Coppall; Mr. Horace Corbyn made an excellent Carburetta; and Mr. Edmund Gurney as the imposing music-hall entrepreneur, Bluffem, was responsible for a clever caricature that was not over-coloured, and was evidently keenly enjoyed by the audience. Miss Alice Drummond and the Bureau Quartette also contributed to the success of the playlet, which created much merriment throughout.

Mr. Jesse Sparrow's programme contains many other items that make for enjoyment, some of the loudest applause heard during the evening being accorded Hayes and Merritt, the world's champion bounding trampolinists. All their feats are clever, but particularly difficult is the twisting double somersault of Jack Merritt, the successful accomplishment of which delighted the audience on the night to which we are alluding. Martinett and Wallace are a couple of entertaining and smart darkey musicians, and employ some novel instruments, from which they extract real harmony; Mr. Herbert Bates, tenor vocalist, pleases greatly with his illustrated songs, which include such old favourites as "I dreamed a dream," "Ever of thee," and "She wore a wreath of roses"; and Mr. Harry Clifford was accorded a flattering reception for his admirable rendering of "Oh, Johnny, there's a locket in your pocket" and another telling number. The Austral Trio have an enjoyable item in "A Musical Evening," the representative of the page being a particularly smart dancer and a droll comedian; Selby and Myers are funny patter comedians and expert dancers; and Master Cliff Diamond, a clever juvenile comedian and dancer, sang with much point an amusing ditty, "Oh, those seaside girls," and another entertaining number, the accompanying walk-round and dance adding considerably to the attractiveness of the turn, which was loudly acclaimed. The Gentrys, Miss Harriett Rose, and Jeapes' Animated Graphic also provide entertainment.

"THE STEAM HAMMER."

A Dramatic Sketch, in Two Scenes, by W. H. Benson, with music by Richard E. Lawson, Produced at Sadler's Wells on Monday, Feb. 15.

Mad George .....Mr. Wilfred H. Benson
Dan Myton .....Mr. Stanley Grosvenor
Inspector Watson .....Mr. E. Hill Cramer
Brooks .....Mr. Dan C. William
Dick .....Miss Kitty Seymour
Mrs. Hugh Drayton .....Miss Mabel Wynn

Mrs. Hugh Drayton is a dare-devil sort of woman, who hesitates at nothing in order to achieve her ends. She has already committed one murder, and is prepared to be responsible for another. She is set down as the owner of some works which really belong to Dick, a foundling, who has been taken care of by a workman, who bears simply the sobriquet of Mad George, who, ten years previous to the opening of the piece, lost his memory, partly owing to a trick played upon him by Mrs. Drayton. The discovery of an old coat, worn by George before he became mentally afflicted, affords a clue to his identity, and he recovers his retentive faculties. Then it is made clear that the boy Dick is entitled to the Drayton property. While the boy is asleep in the works Mrs. Drayton chloroforms him, and places him under a steam hammer, which is set in motion. Dick is, however, rescued, and Mrs. Drayton is placed under arrest. The sketch is suitably enacted, Mr. Wilfred Benson furnishing a pathetic study of Mad George, Miss Mabel Wynn successfully portraying the villainies of Mrs. Drayton, Miss Kitty Seymour winning sympathy for her presentation of Dick, and Mr. Stanley Grosvenor coming in for a fair share of applause in the rôle of a drunken workman, Dan Myton.

MISS MAUD ALLAN'S RETURN.

There was a strong feeling of sympathetic expectation at the Palace Theatre on Friday afternoon, the 12th, which was only allayed by the beautiful rendering of the third movement of Beethoven's well-known "Leonora" Symphony, by the full band of the London Symphony Orchestra, under the masterly direction of Mr. Landon Ronald, and when the curtain rose on the familiar semi-circle of velvet draping and a girlish figure slipped through and began an Arabian dance, to the music of Tschaikowsky's melody from the Casse-Noisette Suite, the applause was unanimous and prolonged. Clad in an almost transparent white garb, suggestive of the East, with head and hips girt with bright colours, Miss Allan was the alma of the poet's fancy to the life. The wonderful arm movements and a suspicion of movement in the hips gave the requisite illusion of the Arabian dancing girl, where the feet and legs do not play so prominent a part in the performance as the upper part of the body, and this quite new dance will assuredly form part of Miss Allan's permanent répertoire. In the "Passe-pied" from Délibes' *Le Roi s'amuse* Miss Allan wore a filmy dress of clinging grey material, and the frequent recalls at the termination of the dance showed the appreciation of the interested spectators—a crowd in which the world of art was conspicuous. Mendelssohn's "Spring Song," one of her most inspired and sprightly creations, was included at the request of many patrons, and, as ever, it was the embodiment of some joyous being finding herself in the meadows, where each bud, each breath, each butterfly calls forth surprised delight and spontaneous gaiety. The orchestra then played "Le Rouet d'Omphale," by Saint-Saëns, with its haunting refrain for the muted strings, strongly suggesting agitated rotary movement, and followed this by a masterly rendering of Wagner's "Ride of the Valkyrie," which was listened to breathlessly and applauded to the echo. Miss Allan's next suite of dances was a quartette illustrative of Edvard Grieg's "Peer Gynt" Suite, beginning with the beautifully cumulative air "Morning," in which she wore a parti-coloured garment. "Ase's Death," the second movement, was a moving interpretation of severe grief. "Anitra's Dance," which Grieg wrote as an Eastern piece, was conceived in a spirit of graceful abandon. The weird "Dance of the Gnomes" gave Miss Allan an opportunity for the display of an almost elfish humour. As the measure quickened she seemed to be dancing with the hundreds of the little people, stooping over them, encouraging them to wilder and faster dancing, finally collapsing as the music ended with its often-repeated almost eldritch chords and banging cymbals.

The *Tannhäuser* Overture has seldom been better played, and the hundred performers of the Symphony Orchestra were welded into one idea and accord by the skilled bâton of their conductor. Another new dance to Rubinstein's "Melody in F" followed, and very sweet and characteristic it proved to be. The established favourite, Rubinstein's "Valse Caprice," was the last item, and this proved as clever and as successful as ever. As the music dies down so does the dancer sink to the ground, almost exhausted with her wild efforts, but when the orchestra again bursts forth the once tired nomad rouses herself once again, and finishes in a whirlwind of movement and grace.

There was no vacant seat in the house, and as many of Miss Allan's old friends and admirers as were in town seemed to be there to assist at her re-entrée, amongst them being the Marquis de Soveral and party, the Earl and Countess of Kinnoul, Viscount Esher, Sir Edward Ward and party, Lady Bective and party, Lady Brassey, Lady Sassoon, Mrs. Ralli, and Mr. Herbert Beerbohm Tree.

STRATFORD EMPIRE.

Parson Gray, V.C., a semi-military sketch, in seven scenes, is the chief attraction in an excellent programme this week. Mr. George Gray and company present the piece, which is particularly appropriate at the present moment by reason of the interest aroused in the Territorials and home defence, the allusions to which elicit spontaneous recognition. The story of the young clergyman Thomas Gray, who, believing dishonour attaches to his birth, leaves home and England to fight for his country in South Africa, and who there, by almost reckless deeds of valour, wins the much-coveted V.C., is dramatically and tactfully unwoven, and the hero's return to his home sees a blissful ending to a story which proves exactly to the liking of the audience. Chief interest naturally centres round Mr. George Gray's performance in the name-part, which fits this sound actor like the proverbial glove. Mr. Gray has earned such renown as "the fighting parson" that obviously a display of fisticuffs is essential, and this is introduced in the Boer farm scene, where, though wounded, the parson floors a whole squad of the "foreign legion"; as also is the parson's fondness for the youngsters in frequent evidence. The sketch is mounted with much realism, and the strong support Mr. Gray receives from his company is entitled to a special word.

The Dandies, presented by Henry J. Corner, provide a light and pleasant interlude, which is in much favour. Their songs and dances go remarkably well, and the applause they receive is eloquent testimony to the popularity of this class of entertainment with vaudeville audiences. Mr. Willie Zimmerman, in his impersonations of noted musicians, is both clever and amusing, and his turn is a decided acquisition to the programme. Miss May Edouin provides some merry moments in her scena wherein she is left in charge of a theatrical costumier's shop. Suiting the action to the occasion, she quickly dons first the dress of a Spanish prima donna, then that of a Chinese maiden, concluding with "trying on" the evening dress of a ballad vocalist, in each costume giving a characteristic performance, and her versatile display is rewarded by very hearty applause, which necessitates her re-appearance before the curtain. Mr. Jack Lane's drily humorous style in portraying a Yorkshire rustic is provocative of much laughter, and in accompanying himself on the piano he also shines.

Miss Bertha Stuart is very cordially received, which is a sign that local audiences have not forgotten her former appearances here. Her fine contralto voice is heard to great advantage when she appears as a comely fisher maiden and renders with much expression "Caller herrin," for which she has a very appropriate stage setting. Her other item, "The star of Robbie Burns," is also in huge favour. Mr. Walter Curtis creates much laughter with his discourse on "Work," by One Who Won't, and he is the recipient of hearty applause. Mr. Bert Woodward performs many daring and clever cycling feats, and his performance is watched with much interest. The Three Sisters Jerome in a novelty entitled *Aunty's Maid* are well received, and their turn adds to the evening's enjoyment. The American Bioscope is always a popular feature by reason of the clearness of the pictures shown, and this week's series, including The Legend on the Forget-Me-Not, readily find favour. Early comers are regaled by the overture "Merry Wives of Windsor," spiritedly rendered by the orchestra under the bâton of Mr. Albert Whipp, Mus.Bac.; while nothing is left undone to conduce to the comfort of those in front by the courteous acting-manager, Mr. E. J. Macdermott.

The full text of Mr. Askwith's award *in re* variety artists and agents, which was published on Monday, Feb. 15, 1909, is to be had post free, 1½d., from *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

FRED MILLIS'S BENEFIT CONCERT

The Sunday concert at the Empire, Camberwell, held on St. Valentine's Day, was, we are pleased to record, a great success. There was an excellent house, especially in the better-priced seats, and a long and varied programme was submitted to a most appreciative audience. The stage managers, Messrs. Dyball, Neiman, and Nutt, started promptly at 7.30, and the entertainment lasted until after 10.30. The following artists appeared:—Maud Lloyd, Fred Temple, Florrie Robina, Ernest D'Almaine, Lena Pinaud, Florence Winston, Bert and Brand, Jennie Hilton, Gilbert Girard, Maud Marshall, Edwin Barwick, Gertie Gitana, John Le Hay, Freda Sharlotte, Bosanquet, Mrs. Albert Bradshaw, the Stavordale Quintette, Ruth Wallace, Mollie Seymour, Gus Harris, Harry Pleon, and Charles Coborn.

The private boxes were occupied by representatives of the different music hall societies, and there was a large number of the profession to be seen in the dress circle and stalls. The directors of the Empire having most kindly given the theatre entirely free of charge, there will be a substantial sum to be added to the testimonial fund. The committee desire to thank the directors, the artists who appeared and those who came but were unable to perform owing to time, the stage managers mentioned above, and Messrs. Leon Bassett, W. S. Bassett, and F. Hurst, the conductors of the grand orchestra, who gave such a musical treat by playing the overtures to *Tannhäuser* and *William Tell*.

During the evening the committee appeared on the stage, and Mr. Jesse Sparrow, the chairman of the executive committee, expressed to the audience, orchestra, and artists his thanks in a neat little speech. Mr. Fred W. Millis also in a few feeling words thanked everyone for their kindness to him.

The thanks of the committee are tendered to the ladies of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild who so kindly sold programmes on behalf of the fund, and by their exertions realised some £11 by the sale of dainty perfumed souvenirs. They were quite irresistible, and wore handsome floral sprays, the gift of Mr. Watson, the well-known florist of Catherine-street. Miss Melinda May, the energetic secretary of the Guild, deserves warm thanks for her hard work in selling tickets and supervising the programme arrangements. Mrs. Fred Ginnett, the president of the Guild, was also most helpful in assisting the good cause.

Mr. Fred Millis asks us to express his heartfelt thanks to the artists who appeared at the concert, to the directors of the Empire, Camberwell, to the committee, and everyone else who has helped to make the testimonial the success it has been. Mr. Millis, although nearly blind, is still able to perform his ventriloquial act as well as ever he did, and is open to accept engagements for his new and novel act.

FRAUD ON THE V.A.F.

James Cameron, a middle-aged man, described as a music hall artist, was taken before Mr. Marsham, at Bow-street, on a charge of fraud.

Mr. Doughty, barrister, prosecuted on behalf of the Variety Artists' Federation. He explained that, in consequence of a dispute between variety artists and agents, the Federation forbade its members to transact any business with certain agents, and a fund was raised for the purpose of making payments to those who lost engagements as a result of the restriction. The prisoner was charged with obtaining, by means of a bogus telegram, two sums of £6 from that fund. He and a lady who performed with him were known as "The Camerons." At the beginning of December, whilst they were performing at the Theatre Royal, Shrewsbury, the accused got a friend in London to send him a telegram purporting to come from one of the barred agents offering £24 for a two weeks' engagement. He then sent in an application for assistance to the committee of the fund, forwarding the telegram, and also a copy of a letter which he represented he had written to the agent in question, saying, "We are members of the Variety Artists' Federation, and cannot accept any work through your agency." He was awarded a sum of £6, and he afterwards made a further application on the ground that he had been unable to obtain any other engagement for the second week, upon which another £6 was forwarded. Subsequently certain information came to the knowledge of the Federation, and a warrant was obtained for Cameron's arrest. It was now understood that he was anxious to plead guilty, in which case there was no desire to press the charge.

Detective-Sergeant Collins gave evidence as to arresting the accused in Manchester. Whilst being brought to London he said:

"I will be honest, and speak the truth. I knew the telegram was bogus. I wrote it out myself, and sent it to London to a friend to send me for a certain purpose. At that time I had no intention of obtaining money from the Federation at all. I was very much pressed for money, and in consequence I sent it to the Federation. I am very sorry for what I have done. This is the first time I have been in any trouble of this sort."

Mr. John Edward Barry, an official of the Variety Artists' Federation, said he believed Cameron had had a "very rough time" lately.

The magistrate passed sentence of two months' imprisonment in the second division.

LONDON PAVILION, LIMITED.

The meeting of the London Pavilion, Ltd., was held last week under the presidency of Mr. Hugh Astley. The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said the directors were sorry to meet the shareholders with an account which was far from satisfactory. The year had been one of anxiety to all concerned in the management. They had been keenly on the alert throughout the year for any novelties that might come into the market, but at the same time they had to bear in mind that it would be injudicious to put on turns or other productions which might have considerably swelled the number of visitors, but the salaries for which would have been so large that they would have left them on the wrong side. There was ever-increasing and exceptional competition in their neighbourhood, where beautiful and up-to-date variety theatres had been built and opened, some of which had succeeded while others had not. The latter had been reopened with what he might call extraordinary prices, so that it was almost impossible for a place of the size of the Pavilion to compete with them.

The times being bad, their class of patron had undoubtedly in many instances availed themselves of places elsewhere, where they might secure their seats by advanced bookings. In a place like the Pavilion it was quite impossible to enable the public to book in advance in the cheaper parts of the house. He might mention that the White City and the grand weather they had had throughout the summer did them no good. As a result of the enormous increases in artists' salaries, and the difficulty of securing the leading ones, who were barred against them right and left, they had arrived at an agreement with the Tivoli, Oxford, and Associated Theatres. They were considering the question of strengthening the board. The gross receipts had amounted to £46,885, and the outgoings to £40,493, leaving a profit of £6,392. They had decided that a portion of the reserve should be used for the purpose of levelling up the dividend.

Replying to some criticisms, the chairman said he could name a dozen artists who were receiving between £5,000 and £10,000 a year.

The report was adopted.

THE L.C.C. AND AMUSEMENTS.

CINEMATOGRAPH EXHIBITIONS.

The Theatres and Music Halls Committee last week submitted the following report with reference to cinematograph exhibitions:

On March 17, 1908, we reported that in accordance with the resolution of Feb. 4, 1908, a deputation consisting of members of the Theatres and Music Halls Committee had waited upon the Secretary of State for the Home Department on Feb. 28, 1908, and urged the necessity for immediate legislation to make it illegal for cinematograph exhibitions to be given in premises not licensed for the purpose. In our report we stated that the Right Hon. Herbert Gladstone had informed the deputation that he was well aware of the importance of the matter, and would consider whether it would be possible to deal with it by a short Bill in the then current session of Parliament. Since the deputation was received by the Home Secretary there has been a continuous increase in the number of places which have been used for cinematograph exhibitions without any supervision or control being exercised over them, and the Council's view that this undesirable state of things should be terminated is now shared by many other authorities. Letters having been received from the Theatres Alliance urging the Council to take steps to obtain the requisite powers of control, and from the Middlesex County Council stating that they understood it was the intention of the Council to send another deputation to the Home Secretary, and that they would like, if possible, to be represented on such a deputation, the clerk of the Council made inquiry at the Home Office whether any action was contemplated by the Home Secretary in the coming session of Parliament. As a result, Mr. Gladstone's secretary has informed the clerk of the Council by letter, dated Jan. 26, 1909, that it is Mr. Gladstone's intention to introduce in the coming session a short Bill dealing with cinematographs. Since the receipt of this intimation communications have been received from the Hackney and Stepney Metropolitan Borough Councils urging the Council to obtain powers to control cinematograph halls and other unlicensed places of public entertainment, and the Hackney Metropolitan Borough Council state that they are communicating with the other metropolitan borough councils on the subject. We think it well that the Home Secretary should be made acquainted with the extent of the demand for legislation on the question of cinematograph exhibitions, and we have therefore caused to be forwarded to him copies of the letters received from the Theatres Alliance, the Middlesex County Council, and the Hackney and Stepney Metropolitan Borough Councils on the subject. We have also caused those authorities to be informed of the action contemplated by the Home Secretary.

The report was received without discussion.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Approval was given to a drawing submitted by Messrs. Wilson and Long, showing a cinematograph chamber proposed to be constructed at the rear of the gallery seating at the Euston Theatre of Varieties; also of drawings submitted by Mr. O. Barrett, showing a movable screen proposed to be constructed to shut off a portion of the dress circle seating at the Hicks Theatre.

PRESENTATIONS TO MR. WILL SMITHSON.

Mr. Will Smithson reached his fiftieth year on Tuesday (Feb. 16), and he was the recipient of many costly and beautiful presents. In honour of the occasion Mr. Smithson gave a dinner at the principal hotel in the town, viz., the Queen's Hotel, to his co-directors and friends of the town and those connected with the music-hall world. Amongst those present were Mr. Poole, Mr. J. Poole, and Mr. Tom Pacey. After an excellent repast Mr. England (director of the Barnsley Empire), on behalf of the directors, in a few well chosen words presented Mr. Smithson with a solid leather travelling case fitted with every requisite in solid silver. Mr. J. J. Tennant, assistant-manager, on behalf of the staff, presented a marble clock with bronze figures. He said it was a spontaneous effort on the part of the staff to give practical expression to their appreciation of their manager, who showed consideration for them at all times. Mr. Walter Hast, on behalf of the "boys and girls" on the bill this week, then asked Mr. Smithson's acceptance of a beautiful case of pipes. Other presents sent by friends were a travelling rug, a leather wallet, and a silver cigarette case.

Mr. Smithson, in reply, said that he felt almost overwhelmed at the kindness shown to him. He had only realised that day what a number of friends he had in Barnsley. He practically came amongst them a stranger two years ago (although he had played in the town years ago), and in reply to his appeal on his forming a limited company to build the Empire Palace, he met with such ready response that the success of the Empire was assured before the foundation stone was laid. He said, as an old performer, having played many parts in his time, he should always feel (although now a manager) that he was one of the "boys." In conclusion, he thanked one and all for their many kindnesses that day.

The toast list was marked by its brevity. The Chairman (Mr. Smithson) proposed "The King."

Mr. Poole proposed the toast of the evening, viz., "Our Host (Mr. Smithson)." He said this honour was deputed to him owing to the fact that he had known Mr. Smithson the longest, they having been close friends for twenty-five years. He spoke very highly of the business abilities of his friend, and said that whatever he undertook he invariably carried through with success.

Thanks to the enterprise of that most go-ahead firm of amusement caterers, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son, Preston can now boast one of the finest skating rinks in the North of England. The Empress Rink, which was opened to the public on the 11th inst., has a skating surface of 205ft. by 75ft. The energy which has been displayed is characteristic of the Broadheads, and within the space of three weeks the rink has been prepared and opened. Some idea may be gained of the magnitude of the work performed when it is mentioned that to prepare the floor alone nearly 3,000 loads of earth were removed. The floor is pronounced to be perfect by the skaters patronising the rink. There are three sessions daily—morning, afternoon, and evening—and a most efficient military band discourses musical selections at each of them. Expert skaters are in attendance to act as instructors, and demonstrations are given by Miss Atkinson, of Boston, U.S.A. A stock of 1,000 pairs of skates has been provided, and every provision made for the comfort of skaters, spectators, and the learners, the last-named being provided with a special space known as "Mugs' Alley," where under skilled tuition they soon become proficient. The place is splendidly lit by electricity, which is operated from a Crossley gas engine and producer plant installed on the premises. Altogether nothing has been spared that money and ingenuity can do to make it a success, and judging from the way it has caught on, the Empress Rink should add one more to the long list of successful ventures now running under the ownership and control of Messrs. Broadhead and Son.

The latest quotations for music hall shares are as follow:—Alhambra, 1 7-16; Canterbury, ½; Empire (15s. pd.), 1½; ditto (10s. pd.), 1½; London Pavilion Ord., 3⅜; ditto Pref., 5; Metropolitan, 11-16; Moss Empires, 5½; ditto, 5 per cent. Pref. 4½; Oxford, 6⅜; Palace, 18s.; Tivoli, 6⅜; United Varieties, 1; Variety Consolidated Theatres, ⅞.

ON THE ROAD, FEB. 22.

Asche, Oscar.—Castle T., Stockton-on-Tees.
Assassin, The.—T. R., Belfast.
At Duty's Call.—New Hall, Bargoed.
Beggar Girl's Wedding.—P. T., Portsmouth.
Benson, F. R. (N.).—O. H., Dunfermline.
Benson, F. R. (S.).—Royalty T., Llanelly.
Benson, Mr. and Mrs. F. R.—Coronet Theatre, W.
Bondman, The (Croke).—T. R., Edinburgh.
Brewster's Millions.—T. R., Portsmouth.
Broken Heart.—Lyric T., Hammersmith, W.
Builder of Bridges.—O. H., Burton-on-Trent.
Builder of Bridges.—T. R., Bournemouth.
Butterflies.—King's T., Sunderland.
Carl Rosa Opera Co.—King's T., Edinburgh.
Cassidy, Mr. J. Rice.—T. R., Barnsley.
Christian, The (Croke), N.—Palace T., Bordesley.
Christian, The (Croke), M.—Grand T., Nelson.
Christian, The (Croke), S.—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
Cingalee, The.—Empire T., Swindon.
Claudian.—Metropole T., Gateshead-on-Tyne.
Coal King.—Century T., Motherwell.
Compton Comedy Co.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
Conscience of a Judge.—Royalty T., Jarrow.
Country Girl in London.—Metropole T., Birmingham.
Dairymaids, The (Courtneidge).—New T., Oldham.
Dairymaids, The (Macdonald).—Queen's T., Longton.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—T. R., Macclesfield.
Diana of Dobson's (M). Morpeth and Hawick.
Diana of Dobson's.—Gaiety T., Hastings.
Diver's Luck.—Grand T., Mansfield.
D'Oyly Carte.—T. R., Plymouth.
Draycott, Chas.—Miners' T., Ashington.
Driven from Home.—T. R., Norwich.
Early Worm.—Grand T., Fulham.
East Lynne.—T. R., Middlesbrough.
Eve of Her Wedding.—P. O. W., Salford.
Eyes of the World.—T. R., Wolverhampton.
Fatal Wedding.—Grand T., Halifax.
Flag Lieutenant.—O. H., Leicester.
Gay Goddess.—New T., Consett.
Gay Gordons, The (N.).—T. R., Darlington.
Gentleman Jockey.—County T., Bedford.
Geoffrey Langdon's Wife.—Cambridge T., Spennymoor.
Girl's Cross Roads.—Theatre Royal, Bury.
Girls of Gottenburg (Dance).—Grand T., Croydon.
Golden Ladder, The.—Grand T., Walsall.
Great Awakening.—P. O. W., Mexborough.
Greed of Gold.—T. R., Inverness.
Grit.—Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton.
Guilty Gold.—Sutton-in-Ashfield.
Harvey, Mr. Martin.—T. R., Bradford.
Havana.—King's T., Hammersmith, W.
Heathen and the Christian.—T. R., Sunderland.
Her Fatal Marriage.—West London Theatre.
Her Life in London.—Hippodrome, Sheerness.
Her Love Against the World.—T. R., Stockport.
Her Marriage Vow.—Alexandra T., Hull.
Her Nameless Child (?).—T. R., Woolwich.
Her Secret Lover.—T. R., Dewsbury.
His Dishonoured Wife.—T. R., Worthing.
His House in Order.—O. H., Cheltenham.
His Sister's Honour.—T. R., Stratford.
Horniman, Miss.—Royalty T., Glasgow.
Hypocrites, The.—D. P. T., Eastbourne.
Idols.—Brighton.
Jim the Penman.—T. R., Glasgow.
King and the Unknown Woman.—T. R., Sheffield.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Beaminster and Brixham.
Lady Frederick.—Pavilion, Weymouth.
Leah Kleschna.—H. M. T., Barrow.
Lighthouse Robbery.—O. H., Dudley.
Little Breadwinner.—H.M. T., Carlisle.
Love of the Princess.—Metropole T., Glasgow.
Lucky Liza.—Queen's T., Pembroke.
Man and Wife.—T. R., Leicester.
Merry Widow.—P. O. W., Nuneaton.
Miss Hook of Holland (Dance).—Court T., Wigan.
Mollison, William.—H. M. T., Dundee
Moody-Manners (A).—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
Moody-Manners (B.).—Opera House, Perth.
Mrs. Dot.—Leamington.
Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch.—Clapham.
My Mimosa Maid.—T. R., Hanley.
New East Lynne.—T. R., Rochdale.
Norman V. Norman.—Tyne T., Newcastle.
Old Folks at Home.—Palace T., Newcastle.
Old Home, The.—Junction T., Manchester.
Pete.—County T., Reading.
Peter Pan (Frohman).—King's T., Glasgow.
Peter's Mother.—Broadway T., Deptford.
Power of the King.—T. R., Ton-y-pandy.
Prodigal Son (Croke) M.—Swindon and Abercarne.
Prodigal Son (Croke).—T. R., Ashton.
Prodigal Son (Day).—Gaiety T., Leith.
Rignold, Lionel.—Grand T., Fulham.
Rollicking Rory.—Hippodrome, Todmorden.
Royal Divorce.—Grand T., Lancaster.
Send Him Victorious.—Osborne T., Manchester.
Sign of the Cross.—P. G. T., Folkestone.
Silver King (Polini).—Alexandra T., Greenock.
Starr, Harry.—Carlton T., Birmingham.
Still Alarm.—Lyceum T., Crewe.
Soldier's Honour.—T. R., West Stanley.
Sutton and Raynor.—O. H., Blackpool.
Thief, The.—T. R., Nottingham.
Thief, The.—Crystal Palace Theatre.
Through the Divorce Court.—Grand T., Brighton.
Toddles.—Theatre Royal, Bath.
Tom Jones.—T. R., Chatham.
Two Little Vagabonds.—T. R., Worcester.
Tyrant, The.—Rotunda T., Liverpool.
Ugliest Woman on Earth.—Lyceum T., Govan.
Uncle Tom's Cabin.—Town Hall, Rhyl.
Victim of Villainy.—Marina T., Lowestoft.
Village Blacksmith.—Court T., Warrington.
Waltz Dream.—New T., Cardiff.
Warner, Grace.—O. H., Lochgelly.
Way of the World.—T. R., Margate.
When It Was Dark.—Bury St. Edmunds and Peterborough.
When Knights Were Bold.—Ipswich and Colchester.
When Other Lips.—T. R., Scarboro'.
White Man, A.—T. R., Bolton.
Who is She?—T. R., Colne.
Woman Pays.—Colosseum, Oldham.
Wilkie, Allan, and Co.—P. O. W., Grimsby.
With Edged Tools.—T. R., Preston.
Woman and Wine.—O. H., Northampton.
You Never Can Tell.—O. H., Torquay.
10.30 Down Express.—Sutton-in-Ashfield.

Mr. Harry Gardner, as Donkey and Clown at the Lyceum, has just concluded a most successful two years' pantomime engagement with Messrs. Smith and Carpenter. The harlequinade in his keeping at that famous house has been a feast of fun for the youngsters.

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5, TAVISTOCK-STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.
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Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephones, 4747 and 1433, Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

PAPILLON.—*The publishers of the music of the different works could tell you. Why not write to Mr. George Edwardes, Gaiety Theatre? For information about American publishers of plays try* New York Dramatic Mirror.

R. S. W.—*Sefton Henry Parry, who built the theatres you name, and was also proprietor of theatres at Hull and Southampton, died on Dec. 18, 1887, at Cricklewood, aged 55.*

STANLEY V. MAKOWER.—Richard Savage, *play by J. M. Barrie and H. Marriott Watson, was produced at the Criterion, April 16, 1891, with Bernard Gould (Partridge) in the title-rôle, Cyril Maude as Sir Richard Steele, Miss Helen Forsyth as Betty Steele, and Miss Phyllis Broughton as Prue.*

E. O. BROOKS.—*He did not appear in any continuous production, but might have done so at a matinée. Mr. Arthur Bourchier would be able to tell you. Write to him at the theatre.*

A. G. JACKSON.—*Sir Henry Irving played in* Becket *at Drury Lane Theatre in April and May, 1905, the year of his death.*

TOM G. CARPENTER.—*The lessee of the Theatre Royal, Bristol, six years ago and for some time previously was Mr. Ernest Carpenter. We cannot trace the gentleman you speak of.*

J. J.—*We haven't time to get out the statistics you are asking for. Why not do the sum yourself? Add up the theatres and halls in our Almanack for 1909, fix up your own idea of an average audience for each, and then fire away at multiplication. Some percentage in addition would have to be allowed for other places of amusement.*

MUSIC HALL CONTRACT.

There was a reference on Thursday to a music hall dispute in an appeal by Mr. John Amery Parkes, plaintiff in the action, Cochran and Amery Parkes v. the London Pavilion (Limited), from a judgment of Mr. Justice Ridley and a special jury. Mr. Rawlinson, K.C., and Mr. Tindale Davis were for the appellant; and Mr. Horridge, K.C., and Mr. Greer for the respondents.

In the original action one of the points raised was whether a contract was made with Mrs. Cochran, the plaintiff, or her husband. The jury found that it was made with the husband, and judgment was given for the defendants.

Mr. Rawlinson said the appeal was intended to raise a question as to the power of an undischarged bankrupt to assign the benefit of a contract which had been entered into with him. In June, 1907, Mr. Cochran, an undischarged bankrupt, entered into a contract with the London Pavilion Company whereby they agreed to pay him £150 a week, and he agreed to produce a certain number of wrestlers at the London Pavilion Music Hall, including Zbysco. Within a few days of that time Mrs. Cochran entered into a contract with Zbysco for his appearance wherever she chose. That contract was renewed, and Zbysco appeared at the London Pavilion. On Oct. 5 a question arose as to whether or not the husband was acting as agent of the wife, and a deed was entered into between them whereby it was recited that he had acted as her agent in this transaction, and assigned the benefit of the contract to her. Matters went on satisfactorily until January, 1908, the wrestling business having become a success. But the Cochrans were in need of money, and they owed a certain sum to their solicitor, Mr. Parkes. On Jan. 3 Mr. and Mrs. Cochran entered into a charge of certain matters, and all the benefits under the contract to which he had referred, to Mr. Parkes. It was upon this charge, counsel explained, that the question turned. Mr. Parkes paid the Cochrans £115; but he did not forthwith give notice of the charge as he ought to have done. On the night of Jan. 3 there was a special wrestling performance at the London Pavilion between Zbysco and Suliman. Upon that occasion a disturbance occurred in the hall. The audience became annoyed, and certain things were broken. The London Pavilion Company declined to permit the contract to continue, and refused to allow Zbysco to go on. The result was that there were about four weeks to run, and the damage sustained was stated by the judge to be £170. The London Pavilion Company informed the official trustee in bankruptcy of Cochran that a claim was likely to be made for damage against them, and, accordingly, on Jan. 9, a notice was put in by the Official Receiver that he was entitled to any money due to the Cochrans under the contract. An action was brought in the name of Mrs. Cochran, suing for the amount of the damages which had been caused by the breach of contract. The matter came before Mr. Justice Ridley, and the defendants contended that Mrs. Cochran was not really the contracting party, and that Mr. Cochran was the principal in the matter. Counsel added that the point was that, despite that there was no notice of the assignment, the trustee in bankruptcy had no right to claim upon Jan. 9.

In the course of argument it was stated that the amount of the mortgage had been paid off.

Lord Justice Moulton said, that being so, it ended the question.

Mr. Rawlinson added that although the £115 had been paid there were certain costs.

The Master of the Rolls said the appeal was hopeless, and without counsel for the respondents being called upon, it was dismissed with costs.

A SUCCESFUL concert was given last Sunday evening in Her Majesty's Theatre, Dundee, kindly lent by Mr. Robert Arthur, to raise funds for relief of distress through unemployment. Amongst other artists who contributed to a very excellent programme was Miss Jessie Broughton, of the *Havana* company, who appeared by kind permission of Mr. George Edwardes. Mr. Louis Karpe, the hard-working manager of Her Majesty's, in addition to filling the duties of honorary manager, gave two recitations in his best style, Reid's stirring story "The Last Shot" being recited with intense dramatic feeling.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a **Birth**, a **Marriage**, or a **Death**, or an "**In Memoriam**" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is **One Shilling and Sixpence.**

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

DUNSFORD.—On Feb. 12, at Penryn, Cornwall, the wife of Percy M. Dunsford, Acting-Manager, Theatre Royal, Exeter, of a daughter.

SHELFORD.—On the 13th Feb., at 35, West Kensington-mansions, (Ella Daincourt), the wife of Tom Shelford, of a son.

DEATHS.

COHEN.—At Margate, in her seventy-first year, Frances (known on the stage as Fanny Harrison), wife of Isaac Cohen, mother of Mrs. Joe Lyons, Kensington, Mrs. Albert Christian, Earl's Court, and Mr. A. Percy Cohen, 9, South-parade, Bedford Park, W.

COQUELIN.—Feb. 8, Ernest Alexandre Henri Coquelin, popularly known as Coquelin Cadet, French comedian, Sociétaire of the Comedie-Française, aged 60.

CROOKE.—Pauline I. J. Sheen, who died Feb. 13, at Wednesbury-road, Walsall (the late Sisters Lorraine, Hettie and Pauline). American papers please copy.

FULLER.—On Feb. 10, 1909, John Fuller, aged 60 years. Interred at Manchester Southern Cemetery on the 15th. Deeply mourned by his sons, JOHNNY and ALF FULLER.

GARLAND.—On Feb. 4, at Nottingham, after a few days' illness, from pneumonia, Florence McKenzie, aged 35, wife of Herbert T. Garland, late of Long Melford, Suffolk, and now of 7, Richmond-place, Brighton. Deeply mourned by her husband and sisters.

GYDE.—Feb. 12, Margaret Shepherd Gyde, Sinclair-road, Kensington, W., very dear and only sister of Edward Fielding (of Edward Fielding and Fanny Johnson).

HARDING.—On Wednesday, Feb. 17, from pneumonia, Walter Harding, of the Theatre Royal, Stratford.

INCE.—On Jan. 23, John E. Ince, comedian, in America, at the age of 68.

LAX.—On Sat., Feb. 13, at Middlesbrough, very suddenly, at the age of 44, Percy Lax, director of the orchestra at the Middlesbrough Opera House.

LAZELLO.—At his residence, 1, Richmond-place, St. Mark's-street, Birmingham, Bob Lazello, flying trapeze artist, of pneumonia. R.I.P. Funeral Sunday, 21st.

MACKENZIE.—Feb. 13, at 8, St. Andrew's-place, Regent's Park, N.W., after a few days' illness, Lady Morell Mackenzie, widow of the late Sir Morell Mackenzie, of 19, Harley-street.

RADCLIFFE.—At Bradford, on Feb. 16, of double pneumonia, Thornton Radcliffe, husband of Miss Henrietta Watson.

RILEY.—On Feb. 17, 1909, at 18, St. Mary's-square, Kennington, Fred Riley, in his 56th year. For many years manager at Chappell's Concerts, Great Yarmouth, the dearly-loved father of Nora Doone and Blanche Marion. Mourned by his wife, family, and relatives. R.I.P. Funeral Saturday morning at Fulham at 1 o'clock.

SILAS—Feb. 8, Edouard Silas, Dutch composer and pianist, professor and teacher of harmony and composition, aged 82.

WARNER.—Feb. 11, in New York, Charles Warner, actor, aged 62.

YARWOOD.—Jan. 27, from heart disease, George Julian Yarwood, musical director.

IN MEMORIAM.

DUBOIS.—In sweet memory of my darling husband, James Dubois, who left up Feb. 20, 1907. "Thy will be done."

DUBOIS.—In ever-loving and unfading memory of my darling brother, Alfonsa (James Dubois), who went peacefully asleep Feb. 20, 1907. "Sleep on, sweet love, until the day dawns."—Jessie.

DUBOIS.—In ever-loving memory of our dearly-loved brother, Jim (James Dubois), who entered in that long rest Feb. 20, 1907. Never forgotten by Sally and Jim.

DUBOIS.—In fondly-cherished memory of dear Jim, who was taken from us Feb. 20, 1907. Missed, but always fondly remembered, by Nan.

DUBOIS.—In loving memory of James Dubois, who died Feb. 20, '07, at Oldham. Never to be forgotten by his loving partner, PHIL RALLIS. R.I.P.

DUBOIS.—In memory of my dear old friend, James Dubois, who died Feb. 20, 1907.—ERNEST DOTTRIDGE.

JONES.—In loving memory of E. H. Jones (late manager Grand Theatre, Manchester), who died Feb. 13, 1906.

LORENZI.—In loving memory of Frank Lorenzi (of Sisters Phillips and Bros. Lorenzi), who died Feb. 19, 1906. Never to be forgotten by his loving wife and children, Marie, Harry, and Frank.

LORENZI.—In memory of my late partner, Frank Lorenzi, of Sisters Phillips and Bros. Lorenzi, who departed this life on Feb. 18, 1906. Gone, but not forgotten by his late partner, Will Lorenzi.

MOORE.—In loving memory of my dear wife, Louisa Jane Moore, born Feb. 17, 1847, died Jan. 26, 1909, aged 62. Sorely missed by her loving husband, G. W. (PONY) MOORE.

VERNO.—In loving memory of Jess, the beloved husband of Lizzie Verno, who passed away Feb. 22, 1908. Death divides, but memory ever clings.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following Ladies and Gentlemen:—

Dot Sealby—Saturday, Feb. 20.
Pascoe Bioletti—Saturday, Feb. 20.
Rose Kilner—Saturday, Feb. 20.
Josie Farrington—Saturday, Feb. 20.
May Fortescue—Sunday, Feb. 21.
Gertie Millar—Sunday, Feb. 21.
William Lowe—Monday, Feb. 22.
Albert E. Pickard—Monday, Feb. 22.
Eleanor Gilbart—Monday, Feb. 22.
George W. (Pony) Moore—Monday, Feb. 22.
Ernest G. Batley—Tuesday, Feb. 23.
Will Oliver—Tuesday, Feb. 23.
Frank Graham—Wednesday, Feb. 24.
James Stillwell—Thursday, Feb. 25.
W. V. Garrod—Thursday, Feb. 25.
Dorothy Marsdin—Thursday, Feb. 25.
Alice Oakley, Friday, Feb. 26.
Walter Roberts—Friday, Feb. 26.
Arthur B. Murray—Friday, Feb. 26.
Edith Leighton—Friday, Feb. 26.
J. H. Barnes—Friday, Feb. 26.
Grace Warner—Friday, Feb. 26.
Victor Selbini—Friday, Feb. 26.
Tom Shaw—Friday, Feb. 26.

THE annual ball, in connection with the Tyne Theatre, Newcastle, was given by Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe last week, and proved to be another "top of the bill." The combined artists from the Tyne and the Royal Theatres attended in great numbers, and amongst others noticed were Miss Lily Iris, Miss Ida René (who brought her husband), Mr. Arthur Prince, Mr. Fred Wyndham, Mr. Vivian "Moët" Simon, Mr. Charles Fergusson, Miss Fanny Fields, Mr. Harry Tate, Mr. Malcolm Scott, Miss Doris Deane, Mr. Wentworth Croke (of the Shakespeare, Liverpool), Mr. F. Teale Lingham, Miss Iris Coley, Mr. Fred Kitchen, Mr. Fred and Miss Sutcliffe, Mr. H. Sutcliffe, Mr. Mark Abrahams, and a host of other artists and local friends.

A CONCERT and café chantant entertainment will be given on Tuesday afternoon, at the Wharncliffe Rooms, Great Central Hotel, in aid of the charities connected with St. Dunstan's and St. Faith's, Stepney. Mr. George Grossmith, Miss Hilda Trevelyan, Miss Haidee Wright, Mr. Fred Wright, jun., Miss Helen Mar, Mr. Maurice Farkoa, Miss Clara Evelyn, Miss Esther D'Argo, Miss Audrey Richardson (violinist), Miss Evelyn D'Alroy, Mr. Charles V. France, Mr. Charles Saunders, Mr. Dalton Baker, Miss Edith Clegg, Miss Palgrave-Turner, and Miss Evelyn Suart have generously given their services, and the Alexandra Ladies' Quartette and the Æolian Ladies' Orchestra will perform at intervals.

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Anderson, Miss Ray
Andre, Mr. Victor
Anthony, Mr.
Antony, Miss Hilda
Balehm, Mr. Fred
Barrett, Mr. W. B.
Barry, Mr. J. L.
Bentley, Mr. Will
Bessle, Miss Sarah
Biddall Brothers
Bill, Buff
Bourne, Mr. Wm.
Burton, Mr. Harry
Carew, Miss K.
Cartlidge, Mr.
Cestria
Chorley and Connor
Chippendale, Mr. Arthur
Chipperfield, Mr. J. W.
Chung Ling Soo
Clark, Mr. Gerald
Cohen, Mr. Louis
Collins, Mr. Arthur E.
Connar, Mr. J.
Cranston, Mr. Otley
Cromwell, Mr. W.
Daly, Mr. Orlando
Davies, Miss Vi
Dawson, Mr. John
De Fontenoy, Miss R.
Donelly, Mr. Dick
Dreadnoughts, The
Dumond, Mr. J.
Durham, Mr. Wm.
Durland, Mr. T.
Earle, Mr. R. H.
Edney, Mr. George
Elliston, Mr. Harry
Elton, Mrs. Fred
Evans, Mr. Wash.
Fernandez, Mr. Jim
Fishburn, Mr. Frank
Flexmore, Mrs. M.
Forde, Miss Enid
Fossett, Mr. R.
Foxwell, Mr. Harry
Francis, Mr. Hugo
Fuller, Mr. Walter
Glennister, Mr. Lionel
Glynn, Mr. Harry
Golden, Mr. Richard
Godwin, Mr. Will
Grahame, Mr. Ronald
Green, Mr. J. T.
Grey, Mr. Harry
Grey, Miss Madge
Hall, Mr. G. Ed.
Halmore, Mr. J.
Hartree, Mr. Walter
Hawes, Mr. F. J.
Hearn, Mr. Tom
Heathcote, Mr. Robert
Hewlett, Miss Cissie
Hill, Mr. Hamilton
Hodson, Miss Janet
Hollister, Mr. Herbert
Hyde, Miss Florence
Hylton, Mr. A. M.
Ingram, Mr. T. Woods
Jackson, Mr. J.
Jay and Mann, Messrs.
Johnson, Mr. Kid
Kirwan, Miss Kitty
Klegin, Mr. R.
Lamour, Miss Yvonne
Langden, Mr. George
Launcelot, Mr. John
Leland, Mr. W. B.
Le Roy, Mr. H. C.
Leslie, Mr. Alfred
Leslie, Mr. Frank
Lessing, Miss M.
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Loftus, Mr. A.
Loraine, Mr. Basil
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Noble, Miss Gertrude
Norton, Mr. Charles
O'Brien, Miss Helen
Parke, Miss Beatrice
Parker, Mr. A. H.
Partridge, Mr. A.
Partridge, Mr. Norman
Paull, Miss Ethel G.
Pembroke, Mr. Clifford
Perris, Mr. Robert
Phillips, Miss Kate
Pounds, Mr. Fern
Ray, Miss Belle
Raynor, Mr. Jack
Roe, Mr. Norman
Rough Miss Ethel
Sampson, Mrs.
Saville, Mr. Frank
Schaboo, Prince
Scott, Messrs. W.
Sealby, Mr. Herbert
Sefton, Miss Claire
Shaw, Mrs. Allan
Shrapnell, Mr. L.
Sidney, Madame F.
Sleath, Mr. Herbert
Smith, Miss Winifred
Snazelle, Mr. G. H.
Somers, Mr. Harry
Spinner, Mr. Wallie
Sproul, Mr. James
Stansfield, Miss Myra
Sterling, Mr. Max
Stewart, Mr. C. Dudley
Stormont, Mr. Leo
Street, Mr. Fred
Syers, Mrs. C.
Terry, Mr. J. S.
Tiller, Mr. A.
Towers, Mr. T.
Turnbull, Mr. A.
Vanbrook, Miss A.
Vandy, Mr. Paul
Vasco, Mr.
Venne, Miss Lottie
Volpi, Mr. B.
Wagenhall and Kemper
Webb, Mr. Harold
Wells, Mr. Herbert G.
Wellesley, Mr.
Weston, Mr. Harry
Wilkinson, Mr. Sam
Wilson, Miss Ada
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Yorke, Mr. Gilbert

THE MYSTERY OF MY "DOUBLE," by H. B. Irving. Illustrated by Photograph and Autograph. See *The Era Annual*, 1909

MISS SABLE FERN has just produced a new song of logic, entitled "Don't hang your trouble on me." The words and music are by Frank Leo, and, according to reports, it will be one of the biggest songs of the year.

MR. TREFELYN DAVID and Miss Marriott are presenting next week at the Hammersmith Palace, for the first time in England, a musical scena entitled *Advice to the Newly-Married*, by Graham Balmore. This sketch made an enormous success last summer in South Africa.

MR. DAN ASHTON has a special number, "The Durham Collier's Lament," which gives in an interesting and pathetic manner some phases of the hazardous life of the pitman. Mr. Ashton is a most popular delineator of the man who, hidden away from daylight, literally carries his life in his hands.

MASTER CLIFF DIAMOND, the eleven-and-a-half-year-old son of Mr. Harry Clifford, is rapidly rising after filling engagements at Hackney, Tottenham, and South London. He has this week added to his triumphs the Empire, Camberwell, and will next week visit the Empire, Portsmouth, returning on March 1 to the Canterbury and Paragon. "Spot" Oliver is very proud of his protégé.

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Allen, Mr. Frank	Feb. 22, 1908
Ames, Miss Emmie	Jan. 4, 1908
Anson, Miss Carlotta	June 13, 1908
Atwill, Mr. Lionel	June 27, 1908
Bailey, Mr. Gordon	May 30, 1908
Bandurria, Late Mr. George	Dec. 14, 1907
Barber, Mr. Alfred S.	Nov. 21, 1908
Barrasford, Mr. Thomas	Feb. 29, 1908
Barwell, Miss Edith	April 11, 1908
Bateman, Miss	March 14, 1908
Beck, Mr. Fred	April 4, 1908
Beckwith, Late Mr. J. W.	Nov. 21, 1908
Beresford, Mr. Frank	July 18, 1908
Berte, Late Mr. Charles	May 30, 1908
Booker, Late Mr. George A.	April 4, 1908
Boulton, Mr. Matthew	April 4, 1908
Brett, Mr. Edwin	Feb. 22, 1908
Brickwell, Miss Maimie	Nov. 21, 1908
Brodie, late Mr. Matthew	Jan. 11, 1908
Brydon-Phillips, Mr. G.	Jan. 4, 1908
Buxton, Mr. Fred	June 27, 1908
Carnegy, Miss Mary	March 7, 1908
Carpenter, Mr. Ernest	Feb. 22, 1908
Chambers, Miss Lizzie	June 6, 1908
Charcot	Feb. 13, 1909
Clinton, Late Mr. Dudley	Oct. 10, 1908
Clyfford, Miss Kathleen	Feb. 6, 1909
Coquelin, Late M.	Jan. 30, 1909
Cole, Mr. E. W. Maule	Feb. 1, 1908
Collins, Mr. George	March 21, 1908
Cookson, Mr. S. A.	April 11, 1908
Corlass, Miss Georgie	Sept. 5, 1908
Cory-Thomas, Late Mr. L.	Nov. 21, 1908
Corri, Mr. William	July 25, 1908
Craven, Late Mrs. H. T.	March 28, 1908
Crewe, Mr. Bertie	March 28, 1908
Croke, Mr. Wentworth	Sept. 5, 1908
Cromwell, Mr. William	Jan. 25, 1908
Crouch, Mr. Herbert	Oct. 31, 1908
Davis, Miss Lallah	March 7, 1908
Dean, Mr. Walter	May 16, 1908
De Banzie, Mr. E. T.	Oct. 3, 1908
Denton, Mr. C. St. John	Jan. 4, 1908
Derry, Miss Joan	Feb. 8, 1908
Dexter, Miss Elizabeth	Feb. 15, 1908
Dickeson, Mr. Herbert	June 13, 1908
Donegan, Mr. James E.	July 11, 1908
Dorgere, Mlle. Arlette	May 30, 1908
Doyle, Mr. C. Milley	Nov. 7, 1908
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Drewry, Miss Maude Stewart	April 4, 1908
Dunville, Mr. T. E.	April 11, 1908
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Edis, Miss Anita	May 9, 1908
Edmonds, Mr. E. Vivian	June 27, 1908
Edouin, Late Mr. Willie	April 18, 1908
Edwards, Late Mr. G. H.	April 11, 1908
Empress, Miss Marie	Feb. 8, 1908
Feldman, Mr. Bert	Dec. 14, 1907
Fenton, Mr. Frank	June 6, 1908
Firmin, Miss Dorothy	Sept. 12, 1908
Fisher, Mr. Charles	Sept. 12, 1908
Fisher, Late Mr. H. Vivian	Feb. 13, 1909
Fitzgibbon, Mr. H. B.	July 25, 1908
Forde, Miss Florrie	March 21, 1908
Francis, Late Mr. William	Jan. 25, 1908
Francks, Mr. Hawley	Nov. 7, 1908
Frank, Miss Ada	July 25, 1908
Gay, Mr. Walter	July 11, 1908
Gibbons, Mr. Arthur	July 4, 1908
Gilbart, Miss Eleanor	Nov. 21, 1908
Gilmore, Mr. Paul	July 18, 1908
Godfrey, Mr. Dan	Aug. 29, 1908
Godfrey, Miss Freda	Jan. 2, 1909
Goldston, Mr. Will	Feb. 22, 1908
Goodall, Miss Edyth	June 13, 1908
Grant, Mr. Christie	Feb. 29, 1908
Gregory, Late Mr. John	Dec. 28, 1907
Gribben, Mr. Harry A.	March 7, 1908
Grimes, Mr. W. J.	May 23, 1908
Hamilton, Miss Rose	April 18, 1908
Hanbury, Late Miss Lily	March 7, 1908
Hansard, Late Mr. J. B.	Feb. 8, 1908
Hardacre, Miss Ethel	July 4, 1908
Harding, Mr. Alfred	May 2, 1908
Harker, Mr. Frederick	Oct. 3, 1908
Harmer, Miss Dolly	Nov. 7, 1908
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Harvey, Miss Rose	July 25, 1908
Harvey, Late Mr. John	Jan. 16, 1909
Haviland, Mr. William	Nov. 14, 1908
Hawthorne, Miss Lil	Feb. 15, 1908
Heath, Late Mr. Frank	Dec. 26, 1908
Holding, Mr. Thomas	Jan. 18, 1908
Holland, Mr. Arthur E.	May 16, 1908
Holmes-Dallimore, Mr. A.	Sept. 12, 1908
Homewood, Mr. A. S.	Nov. 21, 1908
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Howe, Late Mr. J. B.	March 14, 1908
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Hudspeth, Late Mrs. J. H.	March 7, 1908
Hutton, Mr. Ralph	July 25, 1908

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10, York Street, Covent Garden, W.C.
Dec. 31, 1908.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1909.

"The Era" Dramatic and Musical Annual, 1909. Is. 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C. This well-known almanac and annual contains, as usual, much information, including lists and particulars of new plays of interest to members of the dramatic profession. The symposium of stories by well-known people includes some interesting experiences and anecdotes by some of the best known actors and actresses of the day.—The Financial Times, Jan. 18, 1909.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1909.

"The Era" Almanack and Annual for 1909 is just published It contains a useful list of new plays and important revivals produced in the London theatres last year, and similar lists of productions in Paris and Berlin. The leading feature is a number of short stories by well-known people. Mr. George Alexander records a cabby's retort, which is worth repeating. Mr. Alexander, while looking for a taxi-cab, was solicited by an old cabman to enter his hansom, but declined. "So, Mr. G. A.," commented the cabby, "you've no use for 'osses, but you'll 'ave to 'ave one to take you on the day you're buried! '—Morning Advertiser, Jan. 14, 1909

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1909.

I have received a copy of "The Era" year book, which probably contains more "meaty" guidance to the square ounce than any other publication of its kind. Data of all theatrical and music hall subjects are to be found within its covers, as well as a collection of interesting yarns by prominent entertainers. It is cheap at a shilling.—Sunday Chronicle, Manchester, Jan. 24, 1909.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1909.

THE DYNAMIC DRAMA.

Mr. WILLIAM ARCHER delivered last week, at the Royal Institution, the second of two lectures on the New Drama. "The drama," he said, "had been, in the main, strong and vital when it had been a weapon and not a mere plaything or an indifferent mirror of human life. It was pre-eminently, by its very nature, a dynamic art, and when it forgot this it fell short of its fullest development and sacrified the best part of its birthright. It was precisely in drama that the keen, vivid interest in life which had owing to various causes developed within the past thirty or forty years tended to express itself. Let life be conceived as moving rapidly, and the very fact of change or the desire for change conceived as present to every man, and the leisurely methods of narration were seen to be abandoned as the artist seized the sword of the drama. The greatness of the change which had taken place since 1889 might be realised if we imagined, say, DICKENS or THACKERAY seated at a performance of *Man and Superman* or *Getting Married*. They would wonder to what new and mad planet they had been transported. The new movement made itself unmistakably felt in 1891 with the advent of Mr. SHAW, who had learned from IBSEN the possibilities of the drama as an instrument of intellectual warfare, and whose every play was an explosive missile hurled into the camp of convention and conservatism. Other men followed Mr. SHAW, and, though plays of entertainment continued the staple fare of the unthinking crowd, the younger generation of thinking artists was more and more attracted to the dramatic form, and made stronger and stronger efforts to break down the barriers of a bad theatrical system."

It is quite true that DICKENS and THACKERAY, in the circumstances described, would probably draw the conclusions suggested; though we may add that they would have been even more bewildered on reading certain critiques on the plays above-mentioned—in one of them, if we remember rightly, the second part of *Man and Superman* was suggested as suited to be the basis of a new religion. Such criticism would be even more astonishing to DICKENS and THACKERAY than such plays. We expect occasional aberrations from creative genius; but we demand logical sanity from the non-inspired expert analyist. At the present time, with so many idle people wanting to be amused, and so many impressionable people ready, as Mr. SHAW puts it, to be "hypnotised—he has boasted in one of his prefaces of the way in which he has advertised himself and hypnotised the critics—a certain amount of success (success of cash as well as success of notoriety) may easily be obtained by impudent eccentricity coupled with rare ability. Now, Mr. SHAW is undoubtedly a very clever man. He is a highly-gifted humorist and an acute observer. He understands the Cockney dialect thoroughly, and he has a keen and correct eye for character. His little rent-collector in *Widowers' Houses*, his Cockney wastrel in *Captain Brassbound's Conversion*, his *chauffeur* in *Man and Superman*, his doctors in *The Doctor's Dilemma*—all his dramatic work that can be done by direct vision is admirable. Why his plays, with the exception of *Captain Brassbound's Conversion*, *Arms and the Man*, and *The Devil's Disciple*, which are all on commonsense lines, have failed is exactly on account of the "dynamite," that is to say, the "advanced" ideas, with which they are charged. They contain cleverness enough to have made them national favourites; but they only appeal in England to a small minority. The mistake is to take this minority—this noisy, talkative, self-conscious, self-important, but utterly impotent, minority—for the people of England. It is an error into which self-concentrated, over-intellectual, and somewhat solitary persons are only too likely to fall. That Mr. SHAW has not made this mistake is shown by his sense of the necessity of vigorous and active self-advertisement if his work is to obtain even a modicum of popularity. His recent efforts have certainly broken the record—two columns of self-praise in a daily paper as a prelude to a *jeu d'esprit* playing two hours may be called an achievement. It is well known that the recent VEDRENNE-BARKER season was virtually a SHAW season, and that the moderate success it has attained was due to Mr. SHAW's wit and humour, and to the notoriety which he has so industriously cultivated. There is certainly something to be said in favour of extravagance, so long as it will pass the Censorship. There are a great many people who will go and see a morbid, an unclean, or a "revolutionary" drama simply for the sake of experiencing a new sensation.

Anyone, however, who desires to inform himself of how little real impression these "dynamic" explosions make on the average audience should haunt an auditorium between the acts of one of Mr. SHAW's plays, and listen to the conversation in the stalls. The statement "No one takes SHAW seriously" appears to be an axiom in London society. Mr. ARCHER is determined to take Mr. SHAW very seriously indeed; to which the playgoing public, who do not attend Royal Institution lectures, will ungratefully respond by not taking Mr. ARCHER seriously at all. The success of *An Englishman's Home* is an illustration of our arguments. The piece has not one-quarter of the cleverness of one of Mr. SHAW's plays; it succeeds because of its sanity, and because it appeals to the elementary instincts of humanity, against which Mr. SHAW's "explosions" are as the little "poppers" with which mischievous boys are wont to frighten nervous persons in the streets. The "bad," or sane, theatrical system is, it appears, in no immediate danger.

THE dresses worn in *The Prisoner of Zenda* at the St. James's Theatre are very picturesque. Miss Stella Patrick Campbell as the Princess Flavia looks extremely beautiful. Her Coronation gown is made of white lace and net, sparkling with crystals and silver sequins, generously and elegantly bestowed in a butterfly pattern. The Court train, which is long and narrow, is a forecast of the latest mandates of the dressmakers, to be made apparent next week at Buckingham Palace. It, too, scintillates with crystals and silver, and is softly ruffled at the edge with rouleaux and rosettes of chiffon. In her flame-bright hair Princess Flavia wears a silver diadem and white Court plumes.

MISS FRANCES DILLON as Antoinette de Mauban wears a series of elegant toilettes; first of all an apricot cloth gown lavishly ornamented with passementerie lace to match upon the corsage, into which a little green velvet is deftly introduced, and with bands of passementerie extended down the back of the dress.

WITH the gown is worn a most elegant cloak of white cloth, with a broad border of dull gold gauze overlaid with sprays of jet, spirals of which upon the pure background of the white material look exceedingly effective. The coat is lined with emerald green satin, and the cuffs are draped with the same material, while here and there tassels of jet and gold beads are posed to give a final effect of smartness to the whole. A hat of grey straw with a crown of draped grey metallicised net bordered with a wreath of cherries and cherry leaves has a green lining to the brim.

IN the third act, which takes place in the Castle of Tarlenheim, Miss Stella Patrick Campbell looks ethereally graceful in her gown of white cashmere de soie with gold net and passementerie upon the corsage and semi-transparent sleeves of net. Her hat is made of gold tissue plumed with white, and she wears a cloak of white cloth elaborately buttoned and looped at the back and about the draped armholes with gold. Through the sides, which are slashed, one is able to perceive a lacing of tomato-red velvet upon the corsage bolero beneath. Another very pretty item of the same sartorial scheme, is the beading of diamonds that finishes the guimpe, matched by the diamond ornament that is worn upon the corsage.

IN the same act Miss Dillon wears a gown of flamingo drap de soie, most gracefully fitted to the figure, and yet a noticeable exponent of the new delight in draperies taken by the dressmakers of to-day. The fulness of the skirt is drawn down in front beneath an ornament made of cords, and a dalmatic is added to the back of the costume outlined with heavy cord embellishments, all the exact colour of the dress. A white guimpe and sleeves of tucked net, a silver turban with soft ostrich plumage of the palest smoke shade, and an Eastern ornament of diamonds, pearls, and emeralds complete a remarkably smart costume.

AT the meeting of the London County Council on Tuesday, the General Purposes Committee reported that they had had under consideration the provisions of the Children Act, 1908. The Act, which comes into operation on April 1 next, to a large extent consolidates the existing law, besides making fresh provisions with regard to the protection of children and young persons. Section 121 provides for the safety of children at entertainments, and it will be the duty of the Council to take proceedings thereunder in any case where the building in which the entertainment is given is licensed by the Lord Chamberlain or by the Council. The Committee think the Council should delegate to the Theatres Committee its authority under this section, and submit a recommendation accordingly. Summarised shortly, the section provides that where an entertainment is given which is attended by more than 100 children and access to any part of the building in which the children are is by stairs, the person providing the entertainment is to station a sufficient number of adult attendants to prevent more people being admitted than the building can properly accommodate and generally to control the movements of the audience when entering and leaving. The section confers on a constable a right of entry to a building with a view to seeing whether the provisions of the section are being complied with, though, curiously enough, a similar right of entry is not given to any officer of the Council. After some discussion it was agreed that this part of the report should be referred back to the committee.

THE following football announcements have been forwarded to us:—Fulham v. Chelsea, Saturday, Feb. 20, kick-off 3.30, at Chelsea. Fulham team: Skene, Lindsay, Sharp, Collins, Parsonage, Suart, Lee, Dalrymple, Harrison, Brown, Lipsham. The Fulham grand stand ticket holders will be admitted free to the match at Chelsea on presenting their season tickets at the special entrance. South-Eastern League: Fulham Reserves v. Luton Reserves, at Luton.

THE AFTERNOON THEATRE.

Mr. Forbes-Robertson's programme at His Majesty's on Thursday afternoon contained an interesting and extremely well-written three-act comedy by Mr. Henry James, entitled

"THE HIGH BID."

Captain Clement Yule ..MR. FORBES-ROBERTSON
Mr. Prodmore .....MR. EDWARD SASS
Chivers .....MR. IAN ROBERTSON
The Young Man .....MR. ALEX. CASSEY
Mrs. Gracedew .....MISS GERTRUDE ELLIOTT
Cora Prodmore .....MISS ESME HUBBARD

The only complaint one can advance against Mr. Henry James's dramatic effort is that the dialogue in the piece is a little too discursive, particularly in the first act, for stage purposes, although it might read exceedingly well in a novel. The theme and plot of the play are not exactly new; but, for the matter of that, we are frequently told that nothing is new under the sun; and if Mr. James has decided to exploit an old idea, at least it can be said to his credit that his treatment of it is somewhat original, and that, moreover, the treatment is such as one would expect from a literary man of Mr. James's eminence. All the scenes are laid in the central hall of an old English country house, the ancestral seat of Captain Clement Yule. The property, by virtue of mortgages and other encumbrances, really belongs to the wealthy Mr. Prodmore, whose desire it is to hand it back, without price or payment, to Captain Yule. But, as in most transactions, not only in business but in love, there is the question of a *quid pro quo*, and in Mr. Prodmore's case the stipulation is that the Captain shall bestow upon his daughter the name and dignity of an old family. The girl, Cora, is already in love with a youthful nincompoop, and in the first act she is carefully tutored by her father as to the style of manner and behaviour she shall adopt in the presence of the prospective husband who has been chosen for her. "Be charming!" says old Prodmore, and the dutiful daughter undertakes to observe the injunction. When Captain Yule arrives, with, of course, preconceived notions as to what is expected from him, Mr. Prodmore, with business-like acumen and alacrity, speedily plunges into the question of the marriage proposition that has been, of course, previously laid before the gallant Captain. An introduction to Cora follows, and Yule indicates his feelings towards that lady in what may be termed a negative fashion; that is, he pays her the least possible attention that a gentleman could pay to the daughter of his host. Another of Mr. Prodmore's guests is a young and fascinating American widow, Mrs. Gracedew, and as soon as she and Yule meet there is a mutual falling in love. Mrs. Gracedew goes into raptures over everything in the quaint, historic old family seat, and as, during the exchanging of confidences, she learns that the house is about to pass from the Yule family, she urges him to accept Mr. Prodmore's terms, even to rejecting his political beliefs and becoming a Conservative member of Parliament—as suggested by Mr. Prodmore—so as to save to himself and his possible posterity the ancient home of his ancestors. Down in her part of the world, she tells him, men hesitated at nothing that brought them material wealth and happiness. He promises her that he will act upon her advice, and goes off in search of Mr. Prodmore. Meanwhile, Cora comes to Mrs. Gracedew, and frankly and somewhat tearfully admits to that lady that she really has not any affection for Captain Yule—there is someone she likes infinitely better, and she would welcome an opening out of the entanglement her father has woven for her. Mrs. Gracedew is delighted to hear all this, and she extracts an undertaking from Cora that if Captain Yule proposes to her she will refuse him. And Cora runs away to join The Young Man upon whom her heart is truly set. When Mr. Prodmore re-enters the hall, Mrs. Gracedew informs him that his daughter has run away with The Young Man. After Mr. Prodmore's anger has subsided a little, Mrs. Gracedew offers him £50,000 for the manor house. He reminds her of the exalted value she put upon the place and its contents while describing them to a party of tourists, and he will not accept a less sum than £70,000. Mrs. Gracedew agrees to pay this amount, and she makes a present of the property to Captain Yule, and, of course, another wedding is arranged.

Mr. Forbes-Robertson was earnest, gentlemanly, and lover-like as Captain Yule, and he acted throughout with a quiet dignity that was as convincing as it was unassuming. Miss Gertrude Elliott brought all the charms of her engaging personality to bear with excellent results upon her portraiture of Mrs. Gracedew; and Mr. Edward Sass presented a really capital study of the business-like Mr. Prodmore. Mr. Ian Robertson submitted a clever characterisation of an old servant; and Miss Esme Hubbard as Cora and Mr. Alex. Cassey as The Young Man, suitably enacted their individual rôles.

The second and concluding piece was

"A SOUL'S FIGHT."

The Play, in one act, by Louis Tircelin, done into English by Louis N. Parker.

Jacques Bernez .....MR. FORBES-ROBERTSON
Chapire .....MR. IAN ROBERTSON
The Count of Kervern .....MR. BEN WEBSTER
Jean Guillou .....MR. ERNEST HENDRIE
Jeffik Guillou .....MISS GERTRUDE ELLIOTT

This piece originally bore the title *The Sacrament of Judas*, and the poignant tragedy it contained formed a powerful contrast to Mr. James's quiet comedy. The part of the man (Jacques Bernez) who renounces his priestly vows, then gives absolution to his rival in love, and finally makes a sacrifice of his own life in order that his aristocratic enemy may get safely away from the Republican soldiers, was enacted with all the dramatic vigour and intensity of feeling of which we know Mr. Forbes-Robertson to be capable. Miss Gertrude Elliott as Jeffik Guillou struck a deep note of pathos in the scene where Bernez threatens to betray the Count to the Representative of the people, and won much sympathy. Mr. Ben Webster as the Count of Kervern presented a courtly appearance, and furnished an appropriate realisation of the character; while Mr. Ian Robertson as Chapire and Mr. Ernest Hendrie as Jean Guillou submitted admirable interpretations of these rôles.

AT the Court Theatre on March 3 a performance will be given in aid of the Victoria Hospital for Children, when the three winning plays in the A.P.A. one-act play competition held last July will be produced. In one of these, *The End of the Story*, by "Neilson Morris" (Mrs. A. Oldrid Clarke), the authoress will appear. On March 10 and 11 at the Rehearsal Theatre, Maiden-lane, the Curtain Raisers, a society devoted exclusively to the production of original one-act plays, will produce *My Lady's Glove*, a romantic comedy by the same lady. They have also secured another play by her, *The Love that Passes*, which they will produce together with a comedy by Mr. Morley Roberts, at their second series of performances in the spring.

THE Fire Brigade Ball at the City Hall, Glasgow, last week, was attended by most of the local pantomime celebrities. Among those present were Miss Queenie Finnis, who has made so great a success as Cinderella at the Grand Theatre, and Miss Olive Tempest. Management was represented by Mr. Christie Grant, Mr. Gordon E. Craig, and Mr. Wentworth Croke. Amongst others to be seen were Mr. Frank Cohen, Mr. William Waddell, the Fire Master of the Glasgow Fire Brigade, Dr. Halliday, Mr. E. Hymans, Baillie Gardiner, Baillie Paxton, Baillie Hunter, Councillor Stewart, and Mr. and Mrs. George Robey.

"THE DASHING LITTLE DUKE."

A Musical Play, in Three Acts, by Seymour Hicks, music by Frank E. Tours, lyrics by Adrian Ross, produced at the Hicks Theatre on Wednesday, Feb. 18.

Chevalier de Matignon ..MR. C. HAYDEN COFFIN
Baron de Bellechasse .....MR. SAM WALSH
Lieut. Armand de Solieveau..MR. FRANK WILSON
Officer of Dragoons .....MR. HENRY FRANKISS
Dubois .....MR. LAWRENCE CAIRD
Merlac .....MR. FREDERICK VIGAY
Lepas .....MR. M. PROTTI
Moulinet .....MR. HUGHES CROISE
Fleury .....MR. CHARLES LE GALLEY
Caniffe .....MR. ROLAND CHESTER
Abbé de la Touche .....MR. COURTICE POUNDS
Duchesse de Burgoyne ....MISS LOUIE POUNDS
Duchesse de Noailles .....MISS MAUD MILTON
Diane de Noailles .....MISS ELIZABETH FIRTH
Cesarine de Noce .....MISS CORALIE BLYTHE
Baronne de Bellechasse ..MISS FLORENCE WOOD
Mlle. Genivere de Fauvepre..MISS MAY KENNEDY
Mlle. Juliette de Lanbriet..MISS DORIS STOCKER
Mlle. Antoinette de Preselles..MISS RENA GOLDIE
Mlle. Marie de Mortemer ..MISS MARIE BRENDA
Mlle. Celestine de Gallifet ..MISS CARINA CLIFF
Mlle. Claire de Viennez ....MISS MABEL WATSON
Mlle. Madeleine de Maugars MISS ROSIE CHESNEY
Mlle. Violette des Veaux ....MISS DINI GRAHAM
Mlle. Cecile du Grand Vivier.MISS NELLIE PRYOR
Mlle. Elsie de Goutant ..MISS MILLICENT FIELD
Mlle. Hélène de Laundal MISS GWENDOLINE D'ARCY
Mlle. Thérèse de Bellair..MISS EILEEN CHISHOLM
Duc de Richelieu .....MISS ELLALINE TERRISS

The musical play produced at the Hicks Theatre on Wednesday evening deserves to be one of the successes of the season, if only by reason of the fact that it has a really interesting and coherent plot, differing in this respect from a vast number of pieces of a similar kind. Mr. Seymour Hicks, the producer of the play, has not trusted to his own invention for a plot, but has founded his story with a musical setting, upon the adaptation by Messrs. Osmond Shillingford and Aubrey Boucicault of the French play *Les Premières Armes de Richelieu*, by Bayard and Dumanoir. The comedy in its English form was produced at the Court Theatre ten years ago, Mr. Seymour Hicks himself taking part in it.

The Duc de Richelieu is the youthful hero of the story. Still in his teens, he has become the husband of the proud but beautiful Diane de Noailles. There is, however, a clause in the marriage contract according to which the Duke is not to be permitted to see his charming wife for one year, except in the presence of her mother, the Duchesse de Noailles. The Duke naturally rebels at this unreasonable restriction, and makes it pretty plain that he has not the least intention of complying with it. But the relative of the great Cardinal is a dashing but not by any means a discreet young man, and this is evidenced by the fact that he openly boasts of the favour shown him by the Duchesse de Burgoyne, the result being that the offended lady makes him an object of ridicule to the whole of the Court by treating him as a saucy boy, and publicly presenting him with a box of sugar-plums. The Chevalier de Matignon is in love with the Duc's wife, and as she has shown disdain for her husband, the Chevalier suggests that he should have his revenge by flirting with other young women. But by means of a letter addressed by the amorous Chevalier to Diane the Duke learns of his treachery, and resolves to fight him. When the Duchesse, who really loves her husband, hears of his intention she falls to the ground in a dead swoon. The duel takes place in the last act, and of course the Chevalier, expert swordsman though he be, is defeated. And in spite of the objectionable "clause five" in the marriage contract, the Duke and Duchesse resolve that their honeymoon shall no longer be delayed, and this brings the story to a happy ending.

Playgoers are well accustomed to the charm of Miss Ellaline Terriss's acting and singing in musical pieces; but to many it will come as a surprise that she is quite able to touch the deeper feelings, and to put real pathos into her performance. As the "dashing little Duke" she is as bright and charming as she always is in musical plays, but there is another side to the character. When the Ducehsse de Burgoyne punishes the Duc for his youthful indiscretion, Miss Terriss admirably expresses his distress at being held up to the ridicule of the ladies and gentlemen of the Court; but even more dramatic and effective is the farewell scene with his kind old tutor before he fights the duel with the redoubtable Chevalier. Moreover, Miss Terris scores as a vocalist, sharing the honours in a duet with Mr. Hayden Coffin in the first act. In the last scene she wins an encore by her expressive rendering of "Nobody cares for me." Altogether the success of *The Dashing Little Duke* is largely dependent upon Miss Ellaline Terriss, who, it should be added, looks extremely well in the picturesque dress of the period of the "Grand Monarque." Excellent in every respect is the Chevalier de Matignon, Mr. Hayden Coffin bearing himself gallantly, as became the gay courtier who "lives for love." Of course, Mr. Coffin takes a large share in the singing, and quite sustains his deservedly high reputation as a vocalist. In the first act he is successful with a solo entitled "Women"; he also takes part in duets with Miss Elizabeth Firth and Mr. Courtice Pounds; and in the last act he is heard to advantage in the song "I'd die for love." Miss Elizabeth Firth plays the part of Diane with dramatic force, and her singing is exceptionally good, particularly distinguishing herself in a song in the first act. Mr. Courtice Pounds gives a capital portrayal of the Abbé de la Touche, Richelieu's tutor, who has been a soldier in his youth, and has to put a curb on his naturally militant spirit. His song "Lizette," well rendered, is received with much applause. Mr. Frank Wilson is a soldierly Lieut. Armand de Solieveau, and is prominent in a very catchy trio. "The Bold Dragoon," sung in the second act with marked success. Mr. Sam Walsh is a quaintly humorous Baron de Bellechasse, whose vulgar wife, the Baronne, is comically portrayed by Miss Florence Wood. Miss Coralie Blythe is a pretty and pleasing maid of honour, Cesarine de Noce; and Miss Louie Pounds is a stately and exceedingly handsome Duchesse de Burgoyne. Miss Maud Milton lends able assistance as the tyrannical mother-in-law of the little Duke. M. Protti as Lepas, a dancing master, is greatly applauded for the clever dance he introduces in the second act; and Mr. Charles Le Galley as Fleury, a florist; Mr. Hughes Croise as Moulinet, a hairdresser; and Mr. Roland Chester as Caniffe, a manicurist, acquit themselves capably in minor rôles; while Messrs. Lawrence Caird and Frederick Vigay ably embody the Duke's valets.

The music by Mr. Frank Tours is bright and exhilarating, and most of the numbers quite deserved the favourable reception they met with at the first performance. The lyrics by Mr. Adrian Ross are written with characteristic neatness and point. The new piece is sumptuously mounted and dressed; and the stage pictures presented have surely never been excelled for beauty and artistic taste displayed in every detail. Mr. Percy Anderson is responsible for the dress designs, and they do him the utmost credit. Mr. Guy Laking has taken in hand the furniture and elaborate decorations of the Palace scene with the happiest results. The duel and fencing have been carefully arranged by that expert in this department, M. Felix Bertrand. The orchestra is under the able and experienced direction of the composer of the music; and the dances and choral effects are by Mr. Fred Farren.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

Miss Marie Lloyd will make her reappearance on Monday at the Tivoli, and will sing two new songs. On this occasion over fifty members of the Eccentric Club have taken the first rows of stalls, and will be present to give her a hearty welcome. Miss Decima Moore's engagement at the Tivoli has been extended.

Miss Vesta Victoria, who popularised with Americans the domestic comedy song, a thing of which they knew nothing, is on her way back to England, and will appear at the Pavilion, Glasgow, on Monday next.

The Federation executive expresses its sincere thanks to Mr. George Ranken Askwith, K.C., the learned Arbitrator, who, after patiently listening to and weighing up the detailed evidence given by both sides, "has produced an Award which seems to satisfy all parties, and is one on which may rest with safety the future prosperity of the music-hall industry."

Carney and Armstrong have taken up very patriotically the Territorial question, and are greatly interesting themselves in the formation of a corps of music hall artists with the necessary qualifications of physique that will do credit to the profession. They campaigned in South Africa, and they are certain that there are many in the ranks of artists who would be glad to enlist themselves among "England's Home" defenders. Further particulars may be found in another part of the paper.

The training with the Territorials would supply a congenial occupation for some of the idle hours which are at present often spent in a less admirable way; and there is a special attraction to the variety artist in the fact that the time for camp, in July, comes at a season of the year when many out of engagements, would hail with delight a holiday in fresh air, amidst beautiful scenery, and with the stirring interest of military manœuvres.

Mr. Ommanney attended the meeting of the V.A.F. on Friday, and put his scheme before the members. The proposal was heartily received, and Messrs. Bartram and Clemart spoke very warmly on the subject, stating they considered it was every man's duty to make himself an efficient defender of his country. Several members gave their names to Mr. Ommanney for membership, and several others promised to induce their friends to join.

Mr. Frank Parker's birthday on Wednesday was marked by the presentation to that popular stage-manager of several gifts from the Hippodrome staff and his immediate friends, who selected Mr. Otho Twigg, the veteran ring-master, to do the honours. The gifts were a ruby and diamond pin, from the stage, ring, electrical staff, and friends; a set of gold cuff-links from Mr. and Mrs. Twigg; a tray and tea-set from Mme. Alluto and wardrobe staff; and a silver cigar-case from Mr. and Mrs. Percival.

In a felicitous speech Mr. Twigg said, amongst other things:—"Mr. Parker has, since the opening of the Hippodrome, nine years ago, fulfilled the two important positions of stage-manager and equestrian-director, and in their fulfilment he has not been found wanting. Throughout many scenes of stress, excitement, and difficulty, courtesy and dignity were never once absent. He has ever aided the management's aim to bring rational, moral, and instructive entertainment within the reach of the masses." In conclusion, Mr. Twigg expressed sincerest wishes for a continuance of Mr. Parker's good health and strength, so that he may still discharge aright his onerous duties.

Mr. Louis Calvert, the well-known actor, is the latest recruit to the variety stage. Mr. Alfred Butt has acquired his services for the Palace, where he makes his appearance on Monday, March 1. The piece chosen for the event is a one-act play, entitled *The Magic Word*, written by Mr. Arthur Layard and L. Pam. The principal character is a certain Ezra Solomon, a rich Jew, fired with the noble ambition to obtain "toleration" for his countrymen. The scene is laid at St. Petersburg.

Miss Kitter Rayburn has this week scored an enormous success at the Palace, Hammersmith. Undoubtedly her excellent performance in pantomime at the Lyric has made her a great local favourite. On Thursday evening Miss Rayburn was agreeably surprised by receiving a beautiful bouquet at the end of her turn presented by the Lyric manager, Mr. Fred S. Jennings.

"Little Thomas," the septuagenarian Mohawk minstrel, is to commemorate his golden wedding by a concert held at the Stanley Hall, Junction-road, N., on March 16. The occasion will mark a reunion of many of the surviving Mohawk minstrels, of whom the most celebrated is Mr. Johnnie Danvers, now at Drury Lane.

It was only to be expected that the patriotic fervour generated by *The Englishman's Home* should spread to the varieties. It will find scope for expression at the East Ham Palace on Monday, when a new sketch entitled *Our Home Defenders*, by Cayley Calvert, will be produced on an elaborate scale with Messrs. Horace Hunter, Cecil du Gue, Alfred Bennett, Arthur Estcourt, and Misses Olive Palmer and Dennis Dunn in the cast. We understand the recruiting officers of the district and the Territorial officers are already giving support to the scheme and expert advice and assistance in the production.

The performance of *Pagliacci* at the Coliseum next Monday marks another step in the invasion of variety theatres by the "legitimate" stage. *Pagliacci* will suffer nothing by condensation, because the pruning has been slight. The entire story will be given as in the original, with Mr. Lempriere Pringle as Tonio, Mr. Philip Cunningham as Canio, and Miss Margaret Ormerod as Nedda. Mr. H. Lyell-Taylor will conduct. The story, it will be remembered, was presented in a dramatic form at the same house in 1905, with Mr. Gilbert Hare and Mrs. Brown-Potter in the chief parts.

Mr. Hymack, "the Chameleon comedian," is meeting with great success upon his return engagements in America with his new act, *Blenkinsop's Bet*. He has already played a series of engagements in New York, and returns there during the month of March. At Boston he was held over a second week, and Mr. Keith has arranged to play him for two weeks in Philadelphia, instead of one, as arranged. Mr. Hymack has extended his engagement, breaking into his promised holiday.

"For Love and My Country" is the new title chosen by the author of the military episode written for Mr. and Mrs. John D. Saunders (Miss Dora de Winton), the former title having been previously claimed. To save any misunderstanding, and without disclosing any portion of the plot, we can safely say that *For Love and My Country*, though highly patriotic, is not in any sense intended to possess the elements or atmosphere of invasion.

With the greatest regret Miss Helen Trix, acting on doctor's orders, was compelled to cancel her engagement at the London Hippodrome last Monday. On Tuesday Miss Trix underwent an operation for an affection of the throat. She will spend a week at Brighton, after which another operation will be necessary.

The new Hippodrome, Ellesmere Port, near Chester, opens on Monday next.

Mr. C. Young, late assistant-manager of the New Cross Empire, has been appointed manager of the King's Theatre, Dundee. The vacancy has been filled by the promotion of Mr. Parry, late electrician at the New Cross Empire.

Mr. Jack Bostock, son of Mr. E. H. Bostock, the proprietor of the Hamilton (N.B.) Hippodrome, has taken over the acting-management, *vice* Mr. Nimse, who has been appointed acting-manager of the Wishaw Pavilion. Mr. Rene Clayton assumes the general-management of Mr. Bostock's three halls in the district.

If anything was wanted to bear testimony to the popularity of Mr. E. Harrison, the genial manager of the Palace Theatre, Bradford, it was forthcoming in the bumper house he had for his benefit on Friday week, and the way in which the artists in Bradford, Leeds, and Halifax rallied round him and gave their services. We are sorry Mr. Harrison's health has not lately been of the best.

Mr. Walter Norman has been appointed general-manager of the Hippodrome, Hastings, where he has made himself very popular as acting-manager under the late Mr. Vivian Fisher. For some years Mr. Norman was at the Royal Standard, Pimlico, and is a very staunch Terrier. Messrs. Boyd and Fred Higham are now the managing-directors of this successful house.

Newcastle sportsmen have been much interested in the pigeon shooting match between Carlton, conjurer, of the Tyne Theatre pantomime company, and Harry Tate, motorist and comedian, of the Theatre Royal company, which attracted a goodly number of well-known members of the theatrical profession and sportsmen to the enclosure of the Hotspur Gun Club at Fenham, on Monday afternoon.

The match was the best of thirteen birds, from three traps, Carlton shooting from a 23 yards' mark and Tate from 21 yards. Each failed at the first shot, and then Carlton gained a useful lead with three kills in succession before Mr. Tate scored. The Theatre Royal comedian met with only another success against three other kills by Carlton, who thus won by six to two.

The Liverpool Theatrical Football Gala was revived on Tuesday last, and proved a big success. Inaugurated about twenty years ago, this annual was unfortunately allowed to lapse for a period, but now that it has been restarted hopes are entertained that it will repeat its drawing powers on behalf of local and theatrical charities. Since its inception the movement has been the means of distributing £15,000 among worthy objects.

The weather on Tuesday was delightful, with the result that immense crowds were present at the Liverpool Football Grounds to witness one of the merriest, maddest, and most attractive shows imaginable. As usual, all the pantomime and other artists engaged in and near the city attended willingly, and everything proved exceedingly enjoyable, among the prominent citizens being the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, and the Mayor of Birkenhead.

Regarding the competitions, a team from Broadhead's Pavilion carried off the tug of war challenge shield, and the Olympia tableau gained the first prize, the second and third being the Lyric Theatre and the Empire. It is expected that the monetary result of this year's effort will establish a record. Members of the profession who assisted may rest assured that their kind services were appreciated. But for them there would have been no gala.

As a tribute of esteem from the Mayor of Gateshead, Mr. Sidney Bacon, the present lessee of the Victoria Hall, York; the Oxford, Middlesbrough; the Public Hall, Carlisle; and the St. James's Hall, Kingston-on-Thames, received, on Wednesday last, an exquisitely-designed silver cigarette case, bearing the inscription: "A tribute of esteem and high regard to Sidney Bacon, Esq., from Alderman A. Gillies, Mayor of Gateshead."

Mr. Bacon has not alone been identified with theatrical enterprises in the North of England for a number of years, but, as a councillor of Gateshead, has, for some considerable time, taken an active part in the municipal affairs of the town in which his chief business interests have, until quite recently, been centred. No more fitting tribute to the integrity and popularity of Mr. Bacon can be accorded than that embraced in the message of regard he has just received from the Chief Magistrate of Gateshead.

The annual meeting of Moss' Empires, Ltd., was held at Edinburgh on Friday, Feb. 12. Sir Edward Moss presided, and in moving the adoption of the report said that the profit for the year showed a decline, the decrease being attributable to bad trade and to the exceptionally fine weather of last summer. The profits, however, compared favourably with those of any previous year, except 1907. The financial position of the company was never better, having improved by the issues of debentures.

Professionals who visit Yarmouth during the summer will hear with considerable regret of the death of Mr. Frederick Riley, who during a period of twenty years was manager of Chappell's Beach Concerts. The deceased gentleman, who was fifty-six years of age, earned the respect and esteem of visitors, and was popular with the artists. He is to be buried to-day, the hearse leaving the premises of Mr. Theophilus Dunkley, at 88, Westminster Bridge-road, at 11.30 for Fulham Cemetery, where the interment is fixed for 12.45.

Two music hall artists touring in the provinces state that a fortnight ago they travelled with Mr. Melford from Liverpool to Holyhead, and in conversation he said that he was going to America, but that he did not wish his movements to be known. He was travelling to join a ship at Queenstown. Mr. Melford was carrying a rug and an American trunk, and parted from them at Holyhead.

Charcot has created tremendous excitement this week in the North of London, where thousands congregated outside the Islington Empire on Wednesday to see his great blindfold drive. Amidst breathless excitement he made a start, when the police at once seized the horses' heads and threatened Charcot with instant arrest if he proceeded any further. Great sympathy was expressed with Charcot from the vast concourse of people, and he finally drove through the principal thoroughfares, and was cheered by the assembled thousands.

The staff of the Metropole Theatre, Glasgow, and their friends on Wednesday night held their annual supper and dance in the Ewing Galleries, Renfrew-street. A company numbering over seventy sat down to supper, Mr. Gordon Jefferson, the popular manager of the house, occupying the chair. In the course of a short address, Mr. Jefferson referred to the happy conditions which existed between the staff and the management. At an interval during the evening, Mr. M. O'Brien was presented with a silver tea-service, the first prize in connection with the Metropole staff billiard tournament, of which he was the winner. Mr. Gordon Jefferson made the presentation. Mr. J. M. Bell acted as M.C. There was an excellent musical programme.

Mr. J. W. Cragg desires through our columns to thank his numerous friends, professional and otherwise, for their kind inquiries and sympathy.

Mr. Alfred Lester concludes to-night an eight weeks' most successful season at the Tivoli. He opens at the Hippodrome, Portsmouth, on Monday for a short provincial tour, returning to town at Easter for a lengthy West End engagement.

Mr. Harry Bancroft, who writes from Madeira "Up to now splendid voyage," desires through our columns to thank numerous friends who sent to him and his wife wires and letters wishing them *bon voyage*. These travellers to Africa are on board the Armadale Castle.

Mr. W. H. Atlas and Mr. J. Miller Northern were the only two members present on Wednesday, and therefore no meeting of the Executive Committee of the M.H.A.R.A was held. A proposal to hold the meetings of the M.H.A.R.A. and the V.A.B.F. Executives on the same day is now being considered.

Miss Sylvia Cavalho's diverting sketch *What's Charles Worth?*, with Mr. Edmund Gurney's travesty on a well-known manager and the "Four Rapids" in the Agents' Chorus, has caught on well. Record business has resulted at the Empire, Camberwell.

Mr. Ted E. Box, the well-known whistling comedian, has been ordered a week's rest by his doctor, as his system has completely run down through the continuous strain of work without a break for two years. Mr. Box, however, will be in harness again next week at the Empire, South Shields, where he will sing his two big successes, by Phil Mervyn and Ted E. Box, "Flopping about" and "Whistling mad."

The committee of the Fred Millis Testimonial Fund desire to express their regret that several artists who kindly came to the Empire, Camberwell, last Sunday night were unable to appear through lack of time. Especially is this so with regard to the scene from *Hamlet* by Misses Nita Ashby and Rita Spenti and Mr. Eric Snowden, Miss Bertha Barnes, and the March from *Le Prophète*, which was to have been conducted by Mr. Edmund Bosanquet.

We regret to hear of the accident to Mr. John Read, the veteran song-writer, who earned the respect and esteem of the profession while he occupied the chair at Collins's, when the little hall facing the green at Islington was under the rule of the late Herebert Sprake. On Tuesday, while on his way back from Messrs. Charles Sheard, the publishers, Mr. Read was knocked down by a brougham, which went over his foot, his face also being cut. The sufferer is over seventy years of age, and his straitened resources prevent him having the attention he needs. Friends may communicate with him at 442, West Green-road, Wood Green, N. It is a curious coincidence that the song submitted by Mr. Read for his publishers' approval is entitled "You never know your luck."

PONY MOORE—NOT OUT 89!

A BIRTHDAY CARD.

(Feb. 22, 1909.)

Othello lives for ever, yet—
When all is said and done—
The Moor of Venice never scored
The Moore of London's "run."

To give the record would indeed
Old Father Time give "fits"—
To turn up old Moore's almanack
Of dates, and "turns," and "hits."

Tho' burnt cork may have had its day
(That "black art" free from sin),
The Centenarian Stakes, you bet,
Our "Pony" runs to win!

W. E. Imeson.

The celebrated comedian, Mr. John L. Shine, met with a most serious accident on Monday night at the Holloway Empire. Upon making his first breezy entrance in his successful sketch *An Actor's Art*, his right foot caught in an old 3in. batten in the centre opening, which being covered by a rug concealed the danger of the obstruction. Mr. Shine was violently hurled on to his left elbow, but, immediately rising to his feet, endeavoured to get on with the performance. His left arm hung helplessly at his side, and after speaking a few lines of his part, he had to apologise to the audience for his inability to continue. He asked for a doctor and the curtain was lowered.

Mr. Shine was taken to the Great Northern Hospital, where he was examined, but the nature of the accident was not disclosed. After being carefully bandaged for the time being by the house surgeon and Dr. Hair he returned to the theatre, and in the second house pluckily recited Byron Webber's poem "A Letter from England." The house paid a tribute to the courage of the artist by bestowing on him unbounded enthusiasm.

On Tuesday Mr. Shine underwent the X rays at the hospital, when it was discovered that he had torn the greater tuberosity of the humerus from the bone, and would not have the full and proper use of his arm for at least three months. This meant idleness for Mr. Shine and his company, as in his crippled state he could not possibly effect his quick changes in *An Actor's Art*; but he was equal to the occasion. He commissioned his brother Wilfred to put his well-known sketch *Hogmanay* into rehearsal. This was done at once. Mr. Shine was then strapped up by the doctors, and at night appeared at both performances in his favourite part of Sanders Campbell.

The obsequies on Monday of Mrs. Cragg, wife of the popular doyen of acrobatic performers, J. W. Cragg, prompted many demonstrations of respect in the immediate neighbourhood of the residence of the deceased lady and along the route from Kennington-road to the Lambeth Cemetery, Tooting. The funeral cortège, under the direction of Mr. Theophilus Dunkley, who carried out the arrangements with his customary good taste, left the residence, 68, Kennington-road, at 10.45, and arrived at the place of interment at 12 o'clock. The car containing the casket, almost hidden by flowers, was drawn by four horses, and immediately following came five carriages. In the first were seated Mr. Cragg, Mr. and Mrs. Edward, and Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Cragg; the second was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Cobbin, Mr. and Mrs. Jim and Cremorne Cragg; and the third by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Cragg, Emma, Rosie, and Victoria; and the fourth by Mr. and Mrs. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Cheeseman, and Master Arthur. Mr. Douglas Stuart and Mr. Atlas, representing the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association, came in the fifth.

Wreaths were sent by the bereaved husband, artists engaged at the Oxford, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ginnett, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Formby, Mr. and Mrs. J. Howard, Mr. and Mrs. Rousby, the Water Rats, the Variety Artists' Federation, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Martinetti, Mr. and Mrs. Stratton, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Elvin, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Stuart, Music Hall Artists' Railway Association, Mr. and Mrs. Warren, Mrs. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Robertson, management and staff of Theatre Royal, Leigh (Lancs.), Alfred and Florrie, Mabel and Lily, Jim and Lily, Lala and John, Francis, Alfred, and Johnny, Lizzie, Rosie, Mr. and Mrs. Wright, Emily and Edward, Emma and Alex.

All interested in the Music Hall Ladies' Guild will be pleased to know that Mrs. Fred Ginnett has been re-elected president for 1909.

Miss Maud Allan, at the Criterion, on Sunday evening, will deliver a lecture on "Classical Dancing" to the O.P. Club, with Mr. T. McDonald Rendle in the chair.

Miss Emmie Glover's most successful musical scena, *The Wishing Well*, which was produced at the Middlesex on Jan. 16, has been secured by Mr. J. L. Graydon for March 1. The company engaged in its representation are versatile enough to provide an entire variety bill. The sketch is full of melodious songs and catchy numbers.

Mr. Leonard Terl, the Dame Hubbard of the Kennington pantomime, will open at the Euston in his character skit, *The Suffering Dame*, on Monday next.

A football match was last week arranged by Mr. E. Bridgen between Karno's XI. and Deptford Invicta XI., played at Deptford. The result was a £10 profit from the gate, which amount was handed over to the Mayor of Greenwich's fund for boots for bootless children. The scores were: Karno, 3 goals; Deptford, 2 goals.

On Friday, the 12th inst., the Mayor and Mayoress of Holborn visited the Holborn Empire. The Mayor, who was introduced by Mr. E. Leslie Conroy (the manager), addressed the audience on behalf of the Territorial forces, and was accorded a great reception by a packed house. At the conclusion the Mayor warmly congratulated Mr. Walter Gibbons, and thanked him for the kindness and courtesy he had received.

Mr. Benj. Woodger, secretary of the Music Hall Home, desires to thank Mr. Fred W. Warden, Theatre Royal, Belfast, for box collection of £1 8s. 7d., the proprietors of *The Encore* for cheque for 10s. 6d., and Mr. Harry Wright for present of an overcoat. Many thanks are due to Mr. Ted E. Box for his good work on behalf of the Home Fund. The next committee meeting will be held at the Empire, Camberwell, on Thursday, March 4, at 12 noon.

The exclusive right of presenting to London audiences Messrs. Charles Urban and Albert Smith's newly-invented life-motion pictures in the actual hues of Nature has, for the present, been secured, with characteristic enterprise, by Mr. Alfred Butt, and an exhibition of the first results of this delightful system will become a feature of the programme at the Palace Theatre on and after the evening of Monday, March 1.

In simple words, the new art, which is the outcome of seven years of unremitting study and experiment, and has been entitled "Kinemacolor," consists in bioscoping moving objects in natural tints by means of colour filters fitted to the camera, and subsequently reproducing them on the screen by a projector similarly equipped, the actual films (or celluloid ribbons which bear the pictures, each no larger than a postage-stamp) being as devoid of any chromatic tone as the morning newspapers.

The present subjects include scenes of great rustic beauty on an English farm; of marine freshness on the South Coast, showing the ever-changing moods of the sea, from blue to green and green to grey; bright military spectacles of the 16th Lancers and 7th Hussars on church parade; the band of the Gordon Highlanders streaming on to Brighton Pier; French soldiers route-marching at Dieppe; yachting and motor-boat racing, and a variety of other subjects, concluding with a veritable masterpiece, taken only on Sunday last, of the Carnival at Nice in all its prismatic animation.

Mr. Alfred Butt, on Friday next at three o'clock, will give a special invitation matinée for the convenience of the Press, and the many leading lights of Art and Science who are keenly interested in the new invention, and after these have been accommodated, he will allot free to such of the public as apply by letter the whole of the remaining seats. As, however, the number of applications is sure to exceed the holding capacity of the theatre, Mr. Butt would ask those whose letters are received too late to accept his silence as a not discourteous indication of his inability to comply with all requests.

After a successful run in town of over six months, John Lawson will visit the Regent's, Salford, next week with *Pigs in Clover* and the revised *Humanity*. In the former sketch will be shown the great avalanche scene, and in the latter episode the new fire effects will be at work. The London cast accompanies Mr. Lawson. March 1 will see them at the Metropolitan and Tottenham Palace.

Mr. Joe Elvin, the vice-chairman of the committee, was unable to be present at the Millis benefit through an attack of muscular rheumatism, and was much missed. Mr. Albert Christian and Miss Katie Cohen were prevented from appearing by reason of a sad domestic bereavement. A number of telegrams were received, including those from Mr. Harry Blake (hon. treasurer), Vasco, Bert Williams, and Horace Livermore. Mr. Walter Norman came up expressly from Hastings to be present, and among the audience we noticed several other managers and proprietors.

Harry Lauder, the Scotch comedian, at the Lincoln Theatre, New York, on Tuesday night was pelted with bouquets of flowers like a prima donna, and to his dressing-room went committees and representatives of various clubs with speeches and substantial gifts. The Knights of Columbus presented a silver loving-cup, the Scottish Gaelic League an emblem of the intertwined American and Scottish flags, and finally Mr. Lauder's American managers handed him a silver coffee service worth £100. He left on Wednesday on board the Lusitania, and opens at the Tivoli on March 8.

Lieut. Travis, the well-known ventriloquist, has fully recovered from his serious illness, and is once again in harness. The Lieutenant is bringing out an entirely new sketch, quite an original idea in ventriloquism. He will be assisted by Miss Marjorie Dean, a soubrette and extraordinary danseuse. The sketch has been licensed by the Lord Chamberlain, and the title has also been registered, so that it is protected in every shape and form.

On behalf of the Guild, 61, New Oxford-street, W.C., Miss Melinda May (secretary) begs to thank most gratefully Mrs. Smith, 23, Wellington-street, for her gift of a handsome cushion. Mrs. Eugene Stratton possessed the number 308, and everyone concerned will be pleased to know it fetched £5 7s. 6d. Other helpers thanked are Mrs. Fred Ginnett, collecting 10s.; Sisters Macarte, collecting £1 10s.; Mrs. Courtney, collecting 4s.; Equestrian Bar, collecting 6d. (through Mrs. Ginnett); Mrs. Keen, collecting 3s.; Miss Eileen Guilburt, collecting 2s. 6d.; Miss Ray Heyden, collecting 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Lewis Levey, 5s. (through Miss Lottie Albert); Mr. Harry Wentworth, manager Grand Palace, Clapham, 10s. (through Mrs. Herbert Shelley); Mme. Haydee, collecting 5s.; Miss Maggie Bowman, collecting 2s. 6d.; Miss Flora Fox, Teignmouth, for box of clothing; Mrs. Ernest Collins, for clothing; Mrs. Eugene Stratton, for useful parcel of clothing; Mrs. Steve Cooke, giving and collecting 7s. for Miss Lington and family; and Mr. Percy Maye 2s. 6d. for the same purpose.

Entertainments on the sands are invited by the Urban District of Mablethorpe, on the Lincolnshire coast. Applications to be sent to Mr. F. C. Chard, Council House, Louth, Lincolnshire.

The County Borough, Brighton, invite tenders for the hire of a stand on the beach opposite Cannon-place, also for the hire of the Madeira-road bandstand and the Western Esplanade bandstand and one of the lawns adjoining. Applications to Mr. Hugh Talbot, Town Clerk.

The Victoria Park, an attraction of the Three Towns—Plymouth, Stonehouse, and Devonport—has a bandstand on which entertainments are given in the summer. Tenders are invited by the boroughs and urban district council, and are to be sent to Mr. J. E. Ellis, Town Clerk, Plymouth.

The following donations have been received this week for the Primrose Fund:—My Fancy (donation), £1 1s.; Collected by My Fancy, £1 19s. 6d.; Arthur Aldridge, £1; Mr. and Mrs. Jack Lorimer, £1.

Miss Kate Walbran sustained a severe shock while working at the Grand, Glasgow, pantomime, by the receipt on Monday night of a wire announcing the death by drowning of her father, Mr. F. M. Walbran, of Leeds, the celebrated authority on angling.

It appears that, accompanied by a friend, he had gone to Tanfield, on the Ure, for the week-end's fishing, and, despite warnings, he waded in and was caught by the current, and swept to his doom. Strangely enough, in the *Fishing Gazette* the previous week, Mr. Walbran warned anglers to be particularly careful of the "freshets" which occur at this time of the year, never thinking that that of which he wrote would be the manner of his own end.

We sympathise with both the daughters who are left to mourn his loss, and pay tribute to a valued Pressman, for his articles upon angling have been a feature of the *Yorkshire Post*, the *Fishing Gazette*, and other papers for years. Only this month a fine article on "Grayling," from his pen, appeared in *Fry's Magazine*.

Miss Decima Moore, whose brilliant reappearance at the Tivoli on Monday has been so favourably commented on in the Press, has written a book concerning her recent flying trip through Ashanti in her husband's company. It is appropriately called "We Two in West Africa," and will be published very shortly by Messrs. Heinemann. Not since the initial days of the Coliseum has Miss Moore been seen as a variety artist in London, and those who remember her in *All-of-a-Sudden Peggy* and *Mrs. Dot* will have delightful memories revived on paying a visit to the Tivoli.

Mr. Joseph Menchen, of the Joseph Menchen Electric Light Company, is on his way to St. Petersburg to instal in that city that successful spectacle "The Johnstown Flood," which will be well remembered at the Franco-British Exhibition, where it drew 800,000 people in three months. The Joseph Menchen branch office and factory has been established at 341, Walworth-road, S.E.

Mr. J. G. Johnson, the veteran actor and sketch producer, who was with Joe Cave at the Elephant and Castle, is lying seriously ill at 6, Oxford-gardens, Wellesley-road, Gunnersbury, W. The doctors say he has such a complication of diseases that he will never be able to appear before the public again. Mr. Johnson produced in the halls the sketch called *Blind*, a tabloid version of *The Two Orphans*.

Mr. John Hayman, of the head office of the Moss-Stoll-Thornton and Allen combine, on the occasion of his leaving London for Paris as the European representative of the firm, was yesterday (Friday) presented with an 18ct. gold Albert and locket, containing monogram and inscription as follows:—"To Mr. John Hayman, from head office staff, Moss' Empires, Limited, Feb. 20, 1909."; also from the Executive Committee Cranbourn Amateur Athletic Association a solid silver whisky flask, bearing the inscription:—"Cranbourn Amateur Athletic Association.—To Mr. John Hayman, from the Executive Committee, by way of appreciation, Feb. 20, 1909."

Mrs. Hayman also received a cut-glass silver-mounted scent bottle from the staff and Executive Committee of the Cranbourn Amateur Athletic Association. Mr. Hayman was also presented with an 18ct. gold pencil-case, the gift of the district managers of the company. Mr. Frank Allen, the popular assistant-director and chief of staff, made the presentations in a neat and effective speech.

Mr. Joe Elvin will be pleased to hear from artists willing to give their services for the matinée to be held at the Surrey Theatre on Thursday next, Feb. 25, in aid of the Two Primroses. Offers of help should be sent to Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, the *Era*; or to Mr. Elvin, at 63, Effra-road, Brixton, S.W. Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. Henry Tozer, Mr. Henri Gros, and Mr. Walter Gibbons have given permission for artists under engagement to them to appear at this matinée.

The following artists have promised Mr. Joe Elvin to appear:—Eugene Stratton, Victoria Monks, Russell Wallett, The Maples, Sinclair and Parr, T. E. Dunville, Morny Cash, My Fancy, Arthur Woodville, Harry Blake, Fred Russell, The Boy Scouts, Will Godwin, Camilla Feo, Percy Dalton, Violet Lawson, George Formby, Eric Williams, Garden Troupe, Florrie Robina, Lena Pinaud, Florence Worth, one of the Two Primroses, Tray and Rich, Tom E. Conover, Dancing Gilberts, Jimmie Lawrence's juvenile boxing sketch, Fred Rickard's and Co. *A Gaiety Miss*, Gladys Godwynne, Dolly Joyce, F. W. Millis, Stavordale Quintette, Fanny Robina, Florrie Cooper, Jack and Evelyn, Charles Mildare, Dusty Rhodes, Kelly and Agnes, Howard and Sinclair, James Stuart, Frank Cass, Biff Hall, Arthur Dunville, Nellie Dallwood, Harry Galvin, G. H. Chirgwin, Joe Elvin.

Mr. Alfred Moul will present at the Alhambra on Monday an original divertissement, *On the Square*, a romp in one scene. The music, mostly from American sources, has been selected and arranged by Mr. G. W. Byng, the whole being produced by Miss Elise Clerc, under the personal direction of Mr. Alfred Moul. The principal characters in the frolic will be impersonated by Mlle. Britta, who plays a young English girl on a flying visit to New York; Miss Julia Seale, a rich American youth; and Miss Elise Clerc, in a variety of parts drawn from the Bowery. Mr. Frank Lawton will also illustrate Broadway types; Mr. Percy Clifton a self-made man; and Signor G. Rosi will be a Frenchman.

An object lesson in the various capacities demanded of actors and actresses in a modern play is being given at the London Hippodrome, where the coming sensational production *The Motor Chase* is being vigorously rehearsed. In the way of sensation the new play, which will be produced in a few days, bids fair to outrival any of Mr. Parker's former productions in "thrills." Be that as it may, Mr. C. W. Somerset as the villain and Mr. Philip Cunningham at the hero, and other members of the company are rapidly becoming expert motorists. Extremely expert they have to be, for the exigencies of the play, and their own personal safety require it, while Miss Maud Cressall, the heroine, and the other ladies need to be daring horsewomen.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS

AMONG the numerous songs and pieces recently accepted for publication by Messrs. Francis and Day are: "I do make a hit with the ladies!" (sung by Miss Hetty King), by Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford; "Kissing time," by T. F. Robson and H. E. Pether; "The bachelor coon's lament" (Gordon Stretton), by Tom Mellor and Harry Gifford; "Tom took tickets for two" (Miss Florrie Forde), by Sax Rohmer; "Rosie's young man" and "The musical comedy girl" (Miss Eileen Douglas), by F. W. Leigh and H. E. Pether; "Under my big umbrella" (Miss Ray Maskell), by Phil Mervin and Ted E. Box; "I've been looking for you for years and years and years!" by Miss Rosie Noel, Sax Rohmer, and T. W. Thurban; "John Willie, come on," written, composed, and sung by George Formby; "Put your trust in me, little girl" (Miss Sable Fern), by Frank Leo; "Take me on the sands, Joe," by Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford; "I'm looking for Mr. Wright," by R. P. Weston, C. W. Murphy, and H. E. Darewski; "Barney, are you leaving Killarney?" by Paul Pelham, Herbert Rule, and Harry Castling; "There's life in the old dog yet" (C. R. Whittle), by Charles Ridgwell; "Ups and downs; or, the farther you have to fall" (Tom Yorke), by Harry Castling and Charles Collins; "I've got rings on my fingers and bells on my toes," by R. P. Weston, F. J. Barnes, and Maurice Scott; "Money don't make happiness" (Miss Carlotta Levey), by T. W. Connor; "Put a bit of salt on his tail" (Miss Florrie Forde), by T. W. Connor; "It must be me!" (Bert Graham and Will Bentley), by F. Wood; "Where did I put my hat?" (Bernard Russell), by Fred Hastings; "Tommy Dodds; or, laying the odds," by Fred Hastings; "Just where you are" (J. Edward Fraser), by David James; "I'm going back to gay Bohemia," by Percy Edgar, Fred Warwick, and H. E. Darewski; "In the language of your eyes," by Percy Edgar and H. E. Darewski; "A restless night" (two-step), by Cecil Johnson; "She gets more like the white gals every day" (G. H. Elliott), by A. J. Lawrance; "Joe, I do want to go to the football match with you" (Arthur Woodville), by C. W. Murphy and Dan Lipton; "My Lucy Anna from Alabama" (T. E. Finglas), by Paul Pelham and Herbert Rule; "For evermore," by W. A. Loughrey and Walter E. Stevens; "Will you sing this little duet with me?" by F. W. Leigh and H. E. Pether; "The first boat in the morning," by Herbert Rule, Harry Castling, and James McGee; "Never let your braces dangle" (Harry Champion), by R. P. Weston and F. J. Barnes; "Oh, leave me with the ladies!" (Ambrose Thorne), by C. W. Murphy and Dan Lipton; and "When we want a change in the Government" (Ambrose Thorne), by George Arthurs and C. W. Murphy.

MISS VESTA TILLEY sang a rousing number to a fine marching air for the Territorials at the Palace Theatre on Monday night. "Are you one of England's soldiers?" ran the first line. "It's up to every man to do his share! It's your duty, nothing more," is a refrain that should appeal to patriotic young Britishers.

MR. WALTER TILBURY, too, has a song on the Territorial question, and "Wake up, ye Britishers," as sung by him at the Middlesex this week has roused Mr. Graydon's audiences to loud expressions of enthusiasm for a stirring song.

THE sale of Mr. Harry Lauder's songs throughout the United States has been very great, and is likely to remain so for a long time, judging by the orders mailed in shoals daily to T. B. Harms and Francis, Day, and Hunter at their establishment "on Broadway."

MISS VESTA TILLEY has just had accepted for publication by Messrs. Francis and Day another song by Maurice Scott, the composer of her now popular "That's the time a fellow wants his ma," the title of the newer one being "Out in the open air," the words by Edgar Bateman. The firm have also in the press a song of which Miss Tilley holds the sole rights for England and America, and of which she said, "It is the song I have been looking for for years." It was written by Jas. Godden and Owen Way. The music is by H. E. Pether.

YET another song of Miss Tilley's, about to be issued by the same firm, is "I simply made them roar at our bazaar," by Fred Murray, Charles Hilbury, and Kenneth Lyle, who were responsible for the artist's fine number, "Sidney's holidays are in September," also a Francis and Day item.

MR. FRANK LAMBERT, so well and worthily known for his graceful waltzes and melodious ballads, has published with Mr. David Day's firm a number called "Cogy O Gay," the words of which are from "Irish Cradle Songs," a morceau which will yet further enhance his already high reputation

MR. JACK LORIMER, who sailed for New York a day or two since, published just prior to his departure, with Messrs. Francis and Day, a characteristic song, by Worton David and Kenneth Lyle, called "My Highland laddie, oh!"

MR. G. H. ELLIOTT, the chocolate-coloured coon, whose song "Sue, Sue, Sue," has been the rage of so many pantomimes, has secured another from the same pens—to wit, those of Lester Barrett and Hermann E. Darewski—the title of which is "I used to sigh for the silvery moon." It will be published immediately by Messrs. Francis and Day.

MISS WINIFRED HARE—who is most fastidious and hard to please in the matter of songs, only the very best standing a chance of being selected by the popular artist, who is a musician to the tips of her fingers—will shortly be heard in "Lindy Loo," by Charles Wilmott and Hermann E. Darewski. The song has been secured by Messrs. Francis and Day.

MISS MAIDIE SCOTT, who has during the week been helping to nightly throng the New Hippodrome at Exeter, has published with Messrs. Francis and Day her new song, by Edgar Bateman and Henry F. Greenfield, "Just because ma went to see the great invasion play."

MESSRS. HARRY MARLOW AND ANDREW N. ALLEN have just disposed of the sole singing rights of their latest creation, "I've got a pal in Palestine," to Mr. Will Godwin, who has purchased same for his daughter, Miss Gladys Godwyne, who intends making it her strong card for London and provincial audiences. Both writers and singer have strong expectations.

CARL AND CARR, in their comedy act, *A Drawing-Room Interlude*, are making their return to town on Monday to the Empire, Stratford, after their pantomime success.

MISS MABEL MIGNON, the rising star, is being rapidly booked for three years ahead by her exclusive agent, Mr. David Hart, and goes next week to the Empire, Liverpool.

LORD LEIGHTON'S original model, Venus, in her new act, *Egypt; or, the Daughter of Herodias*, written by Mr. L. Austin Millais, appears in costly Salome robes and Egyptian pearls valued at £200, and is assisted by three principals, Court dancers, &c. This week record business is being done at the Hippodrome, Hull, where the act is most gorgeously mounted by Mr. Alfred Graham, who has studied every detail.

VARIETY ARTISTS AND AGENTS.

MR. ASKWITH'S AWARD.

Certain disputes having arisen between variety artists and variety agents, and the Board of Trade having been requested to appoint an arbitrator to decide the disputes, I, the undersigned, George Ranken Askwith, one of His Majesty's Counsel, the duly appointed arbitrator, Award, and declare upon the matters in dispute:—

(*a*) That the maximum amount of commission an agent shall be entitled to charge an artist for engagements made is 10 per cent.

(*b*) That agents' commission notes may contain a provision that the artist authorises the proprietor or manager to deduct the agent's commission from their salary weekly, and pay it to the agent.

(*c*) That clauses in future agency contracts granting to the agent a commission on salaries on re-engagements are abolished except in the following cases: (1) Where the agent procures engagements for artists from abroad; (2) where an artist has received through an agent a first engagement with a management lasting not more than eight weeks, and the artist receives a re-engagement from the same management within a period of three months from the end of such first engagement. In these cases an agent may insert a clause and claim commission on the re-engagement.

(*d*) I make no rule preventing an artist acting as an agent or an agent as an artist.

This award to continue in force till Jan. 1, 1912, and thereafter subject to six months' notice on either side.

Signed and published this 15th day of February, 1909. (Signed) G. R. ASKWITH.

WOODHOUSE AND WELLS return to town after twenty-one weeks' provincial tour, opening at the Holborn Empire, with the Gibbons' tour to follow.

BY an inadvertency our critic at the Foresters' last week omitted to mention the entertainment of Miss Amy Savile, a dainty comedienne, who is this week continuing her success at the Bow Palace.

MLLE. OLGA TREMELLI, the world-renowned prima donna, won an immense triumph at the Empire Theatre on Monday last, when she appeared in a scene from Gounod's opera of *Sapho*, which was superbly staged. Mlle. Tremelli's handsome stage presence, effective acting, and fine voice created the greatest enthusiasm.

MR. HERBERT DICKESON, who is paying return visits to all the Syndicate Halls with his musical comedy act, *A Fair Exchange*, shortly starts on the Moss and Stoll tour, prior to commencing his concert season in Devonshire. At its conclusion Mr. Dickeson is booked for two tours with Mr. Stoll, opening at the Coliseum in October.

MR. WILL OLIVER.

Were we to begin this article by introducing Will Oliver to our readers, we should certainly be guilty of an indiscretion, if not an impertinence, for in music hall land no one is better known or more popular. He is regarded by his legion of friends as "one of the boys," and in spite of his fifty and seven years, he plays the part to admiration. Tuesday next is his birthday, and we should have some difficulty in hazarding a guess at the number of congratulatory messages that will be

sent to Spot Lodge, where, with his amiable spouse and help-meet, he dispenses a genial hospitality. Will has pride in many events of his career. He was one of the earliest members of the Water Rats, now a grand order, and a fraternity of artists whose brains have done so much to establish unity and to form the Variety Artists' Federation. In this connection we may quote as an instance of Will's popularity with his brother Rats that though as an agent he was in direct opposition to most of them in the recent dispute Artists v. Agents, there was no rancour or bitterness on either side, and, now that Mr. Askwith's award is published, it will be a source of great satisfaction to Will Oliver that he was one of the four chosen representatives of the agents. It is many years since we saw him on the variety stage; but in the eighties he used to foot it neatly as a burlesque ballet girl, and raised many a laugh at the South London, and afterwards at the Britannia Theatre, Hoxton, in pantomime, under the régime of the most successful lady actress-proprietress of the nineteenth century—Mrs. Sara Lane, a staunch friend of his. This was Willie's last appearance in pantomime, and Miss Marie Lloyd's first. Britannia pantomimes have been brightened by some of the most gifted of our variety comediennes, among them Ada Reeve. He is a Mason, and a Past Master of the Pimlico Lodge, whose banquets have been cheered by his remarkable song "My father's face."

One of Mr. Oliver's home treasures at Spot Lodge is an illuminated address, signed by 125 prominent music hall managers and artists. This was given to him on his retirement from the stage at the age of thirty-nine. Another is a time-worn portrait of himself in a red jacket, blue trousers, and old-fashioned broad silk hat, which was taken when he was appearing, at the age of fifteen, at Wilton's, Wellclose-square, a hall that has long since passed away.

Of course, Mr. Oliver has his hobbies, and his culture of a large plot of garden ground at the rear of Spot Lodge proves that he would have done well had he "gone back to the land" instead of becoming a lover of Cockneydom in its most picturesque, most alluring, and most Bohemian phases.

MISS MAUDIE FRANCIS, who made a hit as Tommy Tucker in the Marlborough pantomime, was presented by Mr. Fred Karno with a solid silver dressing set, and by Mr. and Mrs. Woolley with a luncheon basket.

JACK BINNS, the hero of the Republic, who is in Nottingham at present, attended the second performance at the Empire on Tuesday, accompanied by a party of friends. Mr. Binns has sent a letter of thanks to Mr. Albert C. Duncan, manager of the Empire, thanking him for, at last, a quiet and thoroughly enjoyable evening's entertainment.

A GROOM named Henry Rulsbosh, no fixed abode, was charged at the Plymouth Police-court last week with stealing an overcoat, containing a cigarette case and pocket handkerchief, and also a chain and silver matchbox, valued £2 10s., the property of Carlo Cestria, from a room at the Palace Theatre. A sentence of ten days' hard labour was passed.

MISS MAUDE MAY MURRAY concludes her engagement at the Opera House, Middlesbrough, to-night. So great has been Miss Murray's success in the pantomime *Aladdin* that she was engaged by Mr. Rembges to appear at the Empire, Middlesbrough for the week commencing March 8, and on Monday next she opens in Scotland.

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER'S SONG BOOM.

THE NATION'S CRY.

"BRAVO, TERRITORIALS"

(GALLANT "TEDDY BOYS").

THE SONG OF THE MOMENT.

COPIES NOW READY. SECURE THIS AT ONCE!

"I'M AFRAID TO COME HOME IN THE DARK."
"SHE SELLS SEA SHELLS."
"OH! OH! ANTONIO."
"SUE, SUE, SUE."
"MY GIRL'S A YORKSHIRE GIRL."
"SHADOWLAND."
"HANG OUT THE FRONT DOOR KEY."
"COME, BE MY RAINBOW."
"BOMBADIER."
"EVERY FELLOW'S IN LOVE WITH A GIRL."

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER, 142, Charing Cross Rd., London, W.C.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE TIVOLI.

Though Miss Decima Moore made her début in what our American cousins call vaudeville at the Coliseum in 1905 in an Irish scena, her engagement at the Tivoli, which commenced on Monday, marks her first appearance on the London variety stage as a single turn. She is daintiness personified in her closely-fitting robe of satin sheen. Her first song is scarcely robust enough for the Tivolians, though she gives to it most tender expression. She finds greater appreciation in the poem "Riding through the broom," recited to the accompaniment of the orchestra with admirable emphasis. Her final item is a song, of which the refrain is most beautifully whistled. We have heard nothing so good at the hall since Mrs. Shaw made her appearance there as a simeuse. Whistling is a musical accomplishment when undertaken by so thoroughly equipped an artist as Decima Moore. During the course of her engagement it is to be hoped that she will give some character impersonations, and show her gifts as a charming comedy actress.

Early in Mr. Joseph Wilson's scheme of amusement we discover a farcical sketch *A Very Bad Boy*, which is surprisingly funny. In its clever representation the strong contrasts between the characters are brought out with the utmost drollery by Hal Godfrey and company, the interpretation of the meek tutor being one of the most whimsical things we have seen on the variety stage for some time. If we mistake not, the credit of this bit of character should go to Mr. Hal Godfrey himself, though the programme gives no information to guide us. The two other members of the company are also excellent. Then we have that side-splitting interlude *A Restaurant Episode*, presented by one of London's most popular comedians, Mr. Alfred Lester, who as the melancholy waiter is responsible for a most finished and clever piece of comedy work. He is well supported by Miss Gwen Howard, a handsome girl who is most attractively gowned.

Immobility of feature is the strong card of Mr. Sam Mayo, whose songs are cleverly written to suit his method. Mr. George Formby, a newer Tivoli favourite, has a capital number in "John Willie, come on!" Mr. Frank Harwood, well endowed vocally, sings a tuneful and effective sailor song, with occasional interpolations of very ancient gags; and Miss Gladys Huxley's capital "Madeira" song is just the sort to have a vogue. Gladys, in her desire to be distinct, is given to over-accentuation, and makes one-syllable words into two. Miss Beatrice Lindley at the piano sings "Bridget" with much archness; Mr. Bert Errol pleasantly asserts his claims to consideration as a male soprano; Chirgwin entertains with his customary success; the Stellings (Bella and George) present a novel entertainment in *Hats;* and Mr. Frank Leon, with a display of champion belts, won in contests, dances in clogs as he only can.

The Dumond Trio long since established a high reputation in London for their musical mélange *Parisian Street Singers*. The vocal endowment, as well as the instrumental ability, of each make their turn specially grateful to music lovers, and their entertainment at the Tivoli is very popular. Other turns in the bill include Mr. Will E. Stopit, comedian; Mr. Ambrose Thorne, comedian; Mlle. Liane D'Eve, Parisian chanteuse; the Three Braggs, novelty acrobats, in "The Living Bridge," a sensation which was so cleverly utilised by Mr. Sutton Vane in his drama, *The Span of Life;* and Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope.

THE OXFORD.

Mr. Blyth Pratt, ever responsive to the eager demand for novelty, has secured for the Oxford Mr. Percy Honri's new musical fantasy *Concordia*. Mr. Honri, the inventor and producer, is young and very naturally ambitious, and his desire for extending a knowledge of his versatility in a production of considerable taste and ingenuity does him infinite credit. The scenery of *Concordia* is really beautiful, and the rapid change from the realities of a street in Hoxton to the Demon Wood is a revelation. Mr. Honri, as far as we could gather from a somewhat incoherent opening scene—an incoherence that might readily be remedied—impersonates a gentleman who is seeking the suffrages of parliamentary electors in a country constituency. After an unimportant conversation with his wife, Percy takes to dreaming. It must be during a period of sub-consciousnees that he plays with much musicianly feeling on his beloved concertina, "O star of eve," from Wagner's *Tannhäuser*. The dream continuing, he puts on the cap and bells, as well as an "antick" disposition in Frivolity Hall, where songs and dances from footmen and others add to the liveliness of the production. Unfortunately, the characters have nothing worth saying. A street in Hoxton forms the natural environment for a coster revel, in which Percy in the "pearlies" gives a coster impersonation, again accompanied by himself on the concertina. This is a decidedly creditable bit of character acting, and will be even better with less self-consciousness. The prosaic surroundings dissolve into the more poetic Demon Wood, where music revels and fairydom reign, but the triumph of the whole production is reached in "The man in the moon" scene. Here scene-painter and costumier are in complete harmony, and the effect, aided by judicious lighting, is excellent. There is a pretty number in this scene, too, to which complete justice is done by artistically dressed ladies, who dance excellently. An important musical selection on the concertina is helped by wood wind instruments, and eventually Percy gets back from the land of dreams to the world of reality. The dialogue might be strengthened with advantage, that in the opening scene especially. Compression here and there would also be an improvement. *Concordia* should enjoy a large measure of favour; for in all important particulars it is both interesting and beautiful.

At the art of dancing on the variety stage no one can hurl the reproach of neglect while we are able to witness the efforts of such a perfect artist as My Fancy, whose step-dancing—we use the phrase in its most comprehensive significance—completely fascinates. It is in a series of scenes delightfully illustrating Winter, Spring, and Summer that My Fancy teaches us something of the intricacy of the art that she practises to such perfection. In a snow-capped mountain scene, becomingly dressed in fur and velvet, the captivating dancer steps it bravely and rhythmically in ice skates; in a scene displaying the flora of Spring she adds to the attraction of her dancing by tearing out a pretty pattern in tissue paper; and finally by the seaside, in an attractive bathing costume, she dances to a crescendo of admiration.

Pantomime has now released Mr. Ernest Rees, who returns to renew his former triumphs by his patter concerning "Stacy." Mr. George Formby has firmly established himself as the Lancashire comedian by his amusing rendering of "One of the boys" and "John Willie, come on." Mr. Dusty Rhodes, who starts by singing quite seriously "Because," is ordered by someone at the wings to be comic, and is so in a cleverly-written song, which we may call "Bacon and eggs," a breakfast relish as enduring as the British constitution. Of course, Mr. Elvin is exceedingly popular in *Obedient Billy*, a sketch specially favoured by Oxfordians; and Mooney and Holbein in wildly practical fun have their meed of applause. Miss Louise Zetland sings artistically; the Glenroy Troupe dance prettily; the Courtiers are popular as society entertainers; and the Carina Sisters in a musical mélange; Sinclair and Parr, comedians and vocalists; James Stewart, the tramp at the piano; and Ritter and Foster entertain early in

the evening. Miss May Moore Duprez, the jolly Dutch girl, and Hackenschmidt are later turns, and Ruffell's Bioscope completes the attractions of a very full and judiciously varied bill.

THE BEDFORD.

There is a capital bill for the current week at this popular resort, where Mr. B. Pearce Lucas always seems to have the happy knack of providing an entertainment which appeals to all comers. Mr. Arnold Bell and company hold the premier position in the programme, and are presenting a very fine sketch, *An Actress's Honour*. It is a story which is reminiscent of David Garrick, and tells of Nance Lambert, engaged to Jack Merfield, who, having gambled, has lost a fortune to a scoundrel, Captain Draughan, once a friend of Nance's. Lady Merfield strongly objects to her son's proposed marriage, and entreats Nance to give him up, and behave in such a manner as to thoroughly disgust Jack. This she undertakes to do as a proof of her devotion to Jack, who, she is led to believe, will ruin his life by marrying against his mother's wishes. Nance carries out her promise, but Jack sees through it all, and when Lady Merfield learns that Nance has paid Jack's gambling debts to save him from disgrace, she relents, and the lovers are united. The sketch, which is founded on Nance Oldfield, is capitally acted, Mr. Arnold Bell giving a forcible portrayal of Captain Draughan. Miss Frances Campbell acts her part splendidly, the drunken scene being especially fine. Mr. Frank Byars is good as Jack; while Miss Amy Parker makes a dignified Lady Merfield. The comic element is provided by Mr. Frank Lilliput as a dude, and is extremely comical. The sketch made a big success, which was well merited.

Mamie Fredericks, a fetching comedienne, is remarkably clever, and her two songs are given with the utmost abandon. Miss Fredericks finishes off with a capital dance, which earned terrific applause. The Georgio Trio are very clever vocalists, and also comedians of no mean talent, and they score heavily with their very melodious turn, which is most pleasing and highly entertaining. Mlle. Pollo, a lady gymnast, gives a very artistic display, and performs many clever feats with wonderful agility. Beale and Broadway are a duo of clever dancers, who soon dance themselves into favour. On Monday evening Cyrus Dare appeared as a deputy, and gave his ever-delightful sketch of children. His imitation of a small girl singing at the piano is very clever, and his turn was highly appreciated. Raglus, the juggling comedian, is presenting his very diverting turn, which causes shrieks of laughter; his spoof game of pyramids is extremely comical. Edie Gray is a very charming vocalist, who sings very sweetly, and she is accompanied by two young people, who are good dancers.

Damerell and Rutland appear in a laughable sketch, *House Full*, in which two babies are the cause of most of the trouble. It is a farce of the most hilarious description, and is played at a furious pace, and keeps its audience in one long and loud laugh. The company engaged all play capitally, and extract all the fun possible. An extra turn was given by a diverting comedian, who caused endless amusement with his song, "Let's sing the chorus." Cole and Wood, comedy sketch duo, also appear early in the evening; and the Bioscope concludes with interesting films. A word is also due for the orchestra, whose efforts are worthy of notice, for they add most materially to the evening's entertainment. Business at this house continues to be as big as usual, and Mr. B. Pearce Lucas and his able manager, Mr. Donald Brown, may well be pleased with the result of their efforts to cater for Camden Town.

BATTERSEA PALACE.

A programme of exceptional brilliancy is submitted this week for the delectation of crowded audiences. The Burnells were billed to appear; but owing to an accident to one of the team they were unable to perform their comedy sketch *Playmates*, but an excellent deputy was found in Harry Pleon, who by his inimitable burlesque of John Lawson in *Humanity* and a skit on a divorce case, in which the counsel and witnesses were supposed to be played by Martin Harvey, Joe Elvin, and other popular artists, kept the audience in continual merriment the time he occupied the stage.

Belle Davis and her Pick-Chick actors gave a fine performance, the wrestling bout between the two blacks causing considerable amusement. Fyne and Hurley, a very popular duo, introduced their well-known act, *The Coster and Dude*, which obtained for them a rousing reception. A comedy act is submitted by Avon and Crest, the male partner presenting some very clever legmania work. The Ringling Trio are to be congratulated on their smart acrobatic comedy on stilts, in which some good tricks are performed. Cash and Clair are remarkably fine vocalists, and deserve great praise for their exhibition of simultaneous dancing. Miss Margaret Radcliffe scores a success for her charming rendering of the two illustrated songs, "Sing me to sleep" and "A tiny seed of love." Miss Amy Lloyd is successful in her singing of "Rosie." Johnny Cecil, a light comedian, and Miss Gertie Yolande, comedienne, add considerably to the success of the evening. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux throws two splendid pictures on the screen, A Criminal Guardian being an extra good specimen. The orchestra, under Mr. J. E. Turner, do yeoman service during the evening.

NEW CROSS EMPIRE.

A large and well pleased audience assembled here on Monday to do full justice to the liberal fare provided for their delectation. There was much enthusiasm bestowed on the graceful performance of La Milo, whose artistic poses always call forth loud applause. Miss Mary Mayfren and company appear with great success in the highly dramatic sketch, entitled *The Yellow Fang*. The parts were all well acted, the cast being Sun-Kee (Mr. George Pickett), Jim Nares (Mr. Francis Annesley), a drunken sport (Mr. Cecil Kingsley), Policeman (Mr. Aubrey Stuart), Judith Beck (Miss Mary Mayfren). The scenery, dressing, and lighting were all capital. Miss Nellie Le Breton made a hit with her illustrated song, "Just for love of me." Adams and Ward contributed an excellent acrobatic and patter turn. Those established favourites Spry and Monti had a warm reception for their really smart doings. Orpheus gave a remarkable musical entertainment, well deserving his title of a master of music, his performance on various instruments, including the oboe, being most enjoyable. Miss Dot Stephens sang delightfully "As much as I love you," and her imitations of Miss Stella Gastelle as La Poupeé, and Miss Edna May as the Belle of New York, were charming. Mike Nono sang capitally "A corner in your heart" and "Maggie Malone." Other good turns were Frank Hartley, the clever boy juggler; and Miss Eily Beadnell, a charming ballad vocalist, who appeared after Wednesday in place of Miss Edna Morgan, who is indisposed. Miss Beadnell makes a decided success. The performance concluded with pictures on the American Bioscope. Mr. Ernest Bridgen, the genial and popular acting-manager, is now assisted by Mr. Parry, who has received well deserved promotion.

Owing to the indisposition of Miss Daisy Morell, on Wednesday of last week, whilst at the Lyceum, Govan, Miss Topsy Johnson (Felina) undertook her part as principal boy (Colin), in Mr. J. H. Savile's *Puss in Boots*, which is having such a successful run. Miss Topsy Johnson, who has a fine stage presence, made an excellent boy, and soon proved herself a warm favourite. She is shortly to appear on the halls. She is the young lady who last year accomplished the feat of swimming across the bay at Aberdeen, and is also a holder of many other long-distance records.

MR. MAURICE DE FRECE.

FIFTY YEARS AN AGENT.

Several mutual friends, well-wishers, and members of the profession, have suggested that a testimonial should be given to Mr. Maurice de Frece, who will shortly enter upon his fiftieth year of the variety agency business. For half of this period Mr. de Frece has been connected with the firm of Richard Warner and Co., with whom he is no longer associated. Mr. de Frece's friends deem this a most fitting opportunity of expressing their esteem and appreciation of his sterling good qualities in business, his straightforward conduct and extreme courtesy to one and all with whom he has come in contact during his career as the oldest established variety agent in the world. An influential committee is being formed, particulars of which will be duly announced. Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, of *The Era*, has kindly consented to act as hon. treasurer, and subscriptions may be forwarded to him at this office.

During the course of a conversation the other day Mr. de Frece furnished many interesting recollections of his professional career. "The first engagement," he said, "that I secured was in 1861 for the Queen's Theatre, Dublin, with Mr. Harry Webb, twin brother to Charles Webb, known as the Dromios. After this I established the Dramatic and Music-hall Agency in Liverpool, booking for the old Star Music Hall. Amongst my clientele were most of the principal performers of the day: Harry Clifton, Harry Sidney, J. G. Forde, Billy Randall, Fred Laroche, Saphrini, Albert Steele, Leybourne (the lion comique), A. G. Vance, Frank Hall, Ted Saunders (brother to Miss Charlotte Saunders, the one-time favourite comedienne of the Strand Theatre), Sir Wm. Don, Ned Hammond, Billy Critchfield, Edward Marshall, George Buckstone, Fox Ray, Jimmy Taylor (the champion comic), Tom Maclagan, Tom Fancourt, J. W. Jester (the man with the talking hand), Bill and Harry Jee, Faust and Hector, Bill and George Leopold, the Flying Farinis (afterwards Lulu), John Lauri Troupe, James Ellis, Harvey and Frenca, the Nerves, Hickin Family, Annie Adams, Georgina Smithson, Lizzie Ramsden, Nelly Power, Mr. and Mrs. George Ware, Sisters Gilbee Gifford, Cobb and Chapman (my first nigger clients; afterwards Cobb and East), Hildebrand and Ormond, Dejean and Pasta, Harry Liston (who first appeared in London working three halls nightly with his tin-pot band), and is still in the land of the living and giving. his mimetic entertainments on tour with his wife Miss Lumley; Jenny Hill (who also made her first appearance in London at three halls nightly), George Fredericks, Carrie Julian, Fred Coyne, Mrs. F. R. Phillips, Harry McCarthy (the comedian who had to escape from America during the war, having a price put on his head through singing secession songs in the Southern Army Camps), the originator of the song "The bonnie blue flag," Jean Bond (one of the finest benders before the public), Chas. Godfrey, Leno Family, John Blanchard (the comic singer who sang against James Taylor for the championship), Bros Chirgwin, the de Castro Family, Finette Raymur Troupe, Jack Hotine (the champion strong man), Sam Bagnall, Tom Bournley (the Lancashire comedian), Julia Wade, Kate Garstone ("Away down Holborn Hill" fame), Mr. and Mrs. Mark Johnson, Paul Devlin, the Lupino Family, Fred Levantine, Vennimore and Doyle, the Vokes Family, W. B. Fair, Herbert Campbell, Hernandez Green Pantomime Troupe, Herr Schalkenbach, Alberto Bremier, Sisters Gunniss (famous

MR. MAURICE DE FRECE.

English dancers), Bros. Forbes (Scotch comedians and pipers), Sisters Tibbets, Sisters Bilton, Kate Chatters, Fred Wallingford, Billy West, George Washington, Orville Pitcher, Persivani, Carl Brenner, Sisters Bonehill, Will Oliver, young Tom Sayers, Gonza and Romah, Marvelle, Harry Vaughan, Onra (the great flying trapeze performer), Esther Austin, Madame Colonna Can-can Troupe, Florence Wrighitt (the lady tenor who created a perfect furore in London on her first appearing at three halls nightly with her song, "'Tis but a little faded flower"), Hyram Travers (the pearly king), Madine, and Bros. Frantz (famous gymnasts), and Jimmy Milburn. In 1867, in conjunction with my brothers, we had the old Theatre Royal, Manchester-street, Liverpool, renamed the Alhambra, and the Theatre Royal Opera House, Williamson-square; also the Adelphi Theatre, Christian-street; in 1869, the Alhambra Concert Hall, Worcester; also the Theatre Royal in that town, which I partly altered and rebuilt. In London we had the Charing Cross Theatre, afterwards occupied by Alexander Henderson, husband of Lydia Thompson, wherein Willie Edouin, in his impersonation of the Heathen Chinee, became famous. The theatre was then taken over by and called Toole's Theatre, and now is part of the Charing Cross Hospital. In 1879 I established an office in New York, being the first agent to introduce the European or English style of vaudeville agency. Later I travelled for three years in South Africa, and introduced an entertainment with Boz. I visited one town—Tarkastad—and inquired for a hall, but there were not any in the town; the only place, if it could be obtained, was the police-court. I saw the presiding magistrate, Mr. Gee, a most charming gentleman. He was on the bench dispensing the law upon a Kaffir in the dock, and invited me up to the Bench, requesting the prisoner to stand down while he spoke to me. I then told him my requirements, and he offered me the court-house in which to give the show. I was not long in having the place put in order. The prisoners were remanded for that day, and at night a packed house resulted. Next day we were preparing to take down our fit-up in order that the court could resume its sitting when Mr. Gee entered and said he was so delighted that he would like us to give another night. Of course I consented, and the prisoners were again remanded for another day. So we did not take down our fit-up, and the following day Mr. Gee requested a stay for the following day, again remanding the prisoners. On the fourth day Mr. Gee desired us to give an entertainment solely for the benefit of the ladies of the town, and after a little moral suasion we, of course, consented. Prisoners again remanded.

"In Colesburg our entertainment caused a perfect riot. We had obtained the auctioneers' rooms in the market square, and the audience, which was very rough, did not approve of the show. When the trouble and hubbub commenced I dismissed the entire audience, and when they had got outside the rooms I and my confrère were positively made prisoners by the mob, who threatened to shoot us through the windows. We were compelled to remain inside until past three o'clock a.m., when we made our escape by climbing over the walls of houses in the rear of the building. It was a most terrible ordeal. After scaling the wall of the first house we were met by a ferocious bulldog, chained up, and the noise of that dog when he saw us on top of the wall baffles description, unpleasant obstacles, too, presented themselves before scaling the last wall, which led into the street at the rear. We had to wait in the yard of the house for some time, as we could hear the voices of the turbulent Afrikander boys. However, after a while we arrived at the hotel. The landlord, Mr. Jones, a grand specimen of a Welsh miner, had not heard of the riot, and insisted upon taking his rifle to protect us the next night, but we were told not to open, as it would be positively murderous work to do so. However, he said, 'Don't be afraid, I shall be there to silence them.' During the day I visited the square and saw several knots of people round about all discussing the events of the past night, and I overheard some of their conversation, which hinted at what they were going to do that night. Well, we opened the rooms, Mr. Jones being there, stationed with his rifle. For over half an hour not a soul sought admission, so we closed up, and next day quitted Colesburg. Our experience at Burghersdorp was very similar, and at Craddock, where we only intended staying one night, we were compelled to put in three days, our oxen having strayed, and we could not travel. I had many more experiences of a similar nature, and things going so bad I made up my mind to get home. I arrived in London and intended returning to my New York office, when I met Mr. Warner, and went into his office, which was one of my old offices in York-road, Lambeth. He afterwards married my niece, and I continued with him—up to within the past few weeks—for twenty-five years."

FELDMAN'S

ARTISTS WHO ARE SINGING FELDMAN'S SONGS IN PANTOMIME.

LONDON DISTRICT.

MISS HANID ALEXANDER.
MISS PRUDENCE AYRTON.
MISS FLORENCE BRAY.
MISS LENA BRICKWELL.
MISS BESSIE BUTT.
MISS LALLIE CAMPBELL
MISS VENIE CLEMENTS.
MISS KITTY CLINTON.
MISS ENA CORELLI.
MISS ROSE COSTA.
MISS MARIE DAINTON.
MISS KITTY DOUGLAS.
MISS MAUD ESMOND.
MISS QUEENIE ESSEX.
MISS DOROTHY FIRMIN.
MISS LYDIA FLOPP.

HAL FORD.
MISS MAUDIE FRANCIS.
FERGUSON AND MACK.
MISS FIFI GORDON.
MISS DOROTHY GRASSDORFF.
MISS NANCY HEARNE.
BABY HUTT.
MISS CONSTANCE HYEM.
MISS EDITH JEFFERIES.
MISS QUEENIE LEIGHTON.
MISS ADDIE LENNARD.
EDWARD LEWIS.
MISS DOROTHY MILLER.
MISS CARRIE MOORE.
MISS EDNA MORGAN
SISTERS MORGAN.

MISS MADOLINE REES.
MISS LILLIAN ROSE.
MISS DOROTHY RUNDELL.
SYDNEY RUSSELL
MISS LOTTIE SARGENT.
MISS TRULY SHATTUCK.
ARTHUR STIGENT.
MISS AGNES TANDY.
MISS KITTY TIMS.
MISS LULU VALLI.
MISS LENA VERDI.
MISS ETHEL WARD.
MISS WINIFRED WARD.
E. HARVEY WHITE.
MISS MARIE WILSON.

BELFAST.
MISS DECIMA BROOKE.
MISS EDITH FINK.
GEORGE LASHWOOD.
GEORGE MILLER.
MISS DOROTHY WARD.

CROYDON.
MISS GEORGINA DELMAR.
MISS GLADYS WARREN.

LIVERPOOL.
BOBBIE ALLANDALE.
MISS MABEL GREEN.
MISS FLORENCE IMESON.
MISS LILY MORRIS.
ARTHUR RIGBY.

BIRMINGHAM.
MISS SYBIL ARUNDALE.
FRANK BLYTHE.
G. H. ELLIOTT.
MISS RITA EVERARD.
MISS HETTIE KING.
MISS ETHEL NEGRETTI.
MISS CLARA REID.
ARTHUR REYNOLDS.
MISS IVEY ROSE.
MISS JOYCE STEVENS.
MISS ELLALINE THORNE.

DUBLIN.
BARNEY ARMSTRONG.
J. J. DALLAS.
MISS KATHLEEN GRAY.

DUNDEE.
MISS ROSIE BARTLETT.
MISS MAY CARTER.
MISS HETTIE LIND.
MISS AMY RANDOLPH.

MANCHESTER.
MISS MAY BEATTIE.
MISS IVY GALLARD.
MISS PEGGY McDONNELL.
MISS LIZZIE PAYNE.
GEORGE WOOD.

EDINBURGH.
MISS MENA BRAE.
WILL EVANS.
MISS JANE EYRE.
MISS MINNIE OLIVE.

NEWCASTLE.
HAPPY FANNY FIELDS.
MISS LILY IRIS.
MISS VIOLET LLOYD.

BRIGHTON.
EDWIN GARTH.
MISS GERTRUDE GILLIAM.
MISS BLANCHE MARION.
MISS AIMEE ROBERTS.

EXETER.
MISS VIOLET HOLLEM.
MISS EDITH HOUSLEY.

NOTTINGHAM.
MISS MABEL CARR.
MISS CRESSIE LEONARD.
MR. LEWIS LESLIE.
JAMES LESLIE.
MISS MADGE VINCENT.
MISS MOLLY WYNNE.

BRADFORD.
MISS BELMORE.
MISS ISABELLE DILLON.
MISS FLORRIE FORDE.
CHARLES NORTON.
MISS VERA VERE.
MISS WINIFRED WYNDHAM.

GLASGOW.
MISS DECIMA BROOKE.
MISS FLORA CROMER.
WHIT CUNLIFFE.
HARRY DENT.
MISS IRIS HOEY.
MISS VIOLET LORAINE.
SAM MORRIS.
MISS ELLA RETFORD.
GEORGE ROBEY.
FRED RUSSELL.

PAISLEY.
MISS MOYNA HILL.
MISS DAISY MORRELL.
MISS KATE YATES.

BRISTOL.
MISS VIOLET GILLIS.
MISS OUIDA MACDERMOTT.
MISS DEBORAH VOLAR.

HANLEY.
DOUGLAS CAMPBELL.
MISS LOLA PATEY.
MISS MARGARET RUBY.

PLYMOUTH.
MISS LUCIE CAINE.
MISS MAISIE ELLINGER.
ALF. E. PASSMORE.

CARDIFF.
MISS MARIE BURDELL.
MISS NELLIE LUNELLE.
MISS MOYA MANNERING.
MISS IDA STATHAMS.

LEEDS.
MARTIN ADESON.
MISS NELL EMERALD.
MISS LULU RUSSELL.
MISS LILLIE SOUTTER.

PORTSMOUTH.
MISS CONNIE LEON.
MISS MAUDE MORTIMER.

SHEFFIELD.
MISS MAY MARS.
MISS NANCY THORNTON.

OTHER PROVINCIAL TOWNS.

MISS OLIVE ASTOR.
MISS BARBARA BABINGTON.
FRED BARNES.
MISS LILLIE BLYTHE.
MISS MADGE BROWNE.
MISS DOT CAREY.
MISS CARLISLE.
ARTHUR CARLTON.
MISS NINA CARLTON.
MISS GLADYS CHRISTIE.
SID CROSSLEY.
MISS MINNIE D'AUBYN.
MISS MAY DE LA GRANGE.
MISS MAY DESMOND.
MISS EDITH DEVERELL.
MISS VERA DUDLEY.
MISS ETHEL DURNFORD.
HARRY EDLIN.
MISS LILY EYTON.

MISS RAY FORD.
MISS MARIE JERRARD.
MISS IVY GALLARD.
MISS MINA GREEN.
MISS NORA GUY.
MISS MOLLIE HACKETT.
BOBBIE HALL.
MISS MAUD HERSEE.
MISS FLORENCE HILTON.
MISS HEDDA HIRLEMANN.
MISS MARY HOPE.
MISS ZONA JOY.
LITTLE KEENO.
MISS GERTIE LENO.
ARTHUR LENVILLE.
MISS LOUIE LOVE.
MISS CYNTHIA LUPINO.
MISS JENNY LYNWOOD.
MISS LALLAH MELROSE.

MISS NELLIE MERTON.
MISS BEATRICE MOORE.
MISS IVY MOORE.
MISS MADGE O'NEILL.
GEORGE PARRY.
MISS LOLA PATEY.
MISS MAUD PRENTON.
MISS ETHEL RA LESLIE.
MISS RENA REES.
MISS MARIE REEVE.
MISS NORA RITERIO.
MISS MABEL ROBERTS.
MISS CHRISTINE ROY.
MISS LILLIE STORRIE.
MISS LENA STANTON.
MISS BEATRICE VARLEY.
MISS KITTY WEBB.
MISS JESSIE WILTON.
MISS FLORENCE WIX.

B. FELDMAN & CO.,

2 & 3 ARTHUR STREET, W.C.

Telegrams, "Humfriy, London." Telephone, No. 4447 Gerrard.

"THE QUEEN OF THE FAIRIES.'

A new "Play of Fairies and Others," in Two Scenes, by Sydney Blow, lyrics by Douglas Hoare, music by Edward Jones, produced at the Coliseum, on Monday, Feb. 15.

MORTALS.
Reginald Wane ..... Mr. Henry Le Grand
Lady Violet Cardew ..... Miss Doris Lytton

FAIRIES.
My Lady Mushroom ..... Miss Lilian Birtles
My Lady Wind ..... Miss Mamie Peto
Lady Violet's Fairy ..... Miss Esme Lee
Reginald Wane's Fairy .. Miss Eileen Howard
Mr. Quilp's Fairy ..... Miss Gertrude Parke
Fairy Grace ..... Miss May Hollom
Two New-born Fairies .... } Miss M. Lawrance, Miss E. Lawrance
Archibald ..... Master James Hollom
Balbus ..... By Himself
The Queen of the Fairies .... Miss Elise Craven

Fresh from the triumphs at His Majesty's in *Pinkie and the Fairies*, that very youthful star Miss Elise Craven came on Monday to the Coliseum to win all hearts by her impersonation of the "Queen of the Fairies," in the playlet of that name written specially for her by Mr. Sidney Blow, with lyrics by Douglas Hoare, and illustrated with music from the accomplished pen of Mr. Edward Jones. Little Elise queens it in a wood, and, like another Titania, is interested in a couple of mortals whose course of true love has been interrupted by a lovers' quarrel. Reginald Wane has a passion for gambling on the Stock Exchange, and notwithstanding Lady Violet Cardew's protestations, he still yields to the fascination of investment in speculative stocks. Both lovers have guardian fairies, and the tiff between them is soon smothed over, the queen departing with them in a motor-car, though she makes her entrance on the back of a huge dragon fly, beautifully "sheened" with the incandescence of electric light. Twenty years elapse, and Reginald is beggared, but he again obtains the forgiveness of Lady Violet by the intervention of the fairies, whose revels foretell the true happiness of an Arcadian "ever after." Little Elise's dancing is as delightful as it can be, and her acting is marked by a pretty imperiousness as she holds her court seated on the summit of a large mushroom. The music is tuneful, and the scene of the wood a proper trysting-place for the fairies, who are daintily and prettily represented by Misses Lilian Birtles, Mamie Peto, Esme Lee, Eileen Howard, Gertrude Parke, May Hallom, M. Lawrance, and E. Lawrance. Master James Hallom is clever as the rabbit Archibald.

That Brute Simmons, a shortened version of Mr. Arthur Morrison and Mr. H. C. Sergeant's play, is being played by Mr. F. W. Purcell's company, whose names are not given on the programme. La Tortajada is continuing her success in *The Début of Dolores*, an operetta in three acts, the words and music being by Señor Ramon Tortajada. The whole of the characters are played by the beautiful Señorita, who is assisted by the cinematograph. Mr. Fred Lindsay, the whip wonder, has some special scenery to illustrate his unique act; Luis Alvarez, the tenor from the Opera House, Madrid, repeats his success in Clay's beautiful song, "I'll sing thee songs of Araby"; Carney and Armstrong are amusing in the patter; Mavis Clare is a wonderful child vocalist; and other turns in the fine bill are Ike and Will Scott, comedians and dancers; Elsie Roby, the slavey at the piano; Falco and Eida in a ju-jitsu dancing act; Corradini's zebras, elephants, horse, and dogs; Alice Pierce, with impressions of famous stars, English and Continental; the Lukushimas, and the Bioscope.

"THE MANDARIN."

A Musical Comedy Chinese sketch, in Three Scenes, written and composed by Herbert Darnley, and produced at the Empire, Nottingham, on Monday, Feb. 15.

For upwards of ten years Mr. Darnley has paid periodical visits to Nottingham as author and producer, and his reputation for conscientious work is enhanced by his latest production *The Mandarin*, which has eclipsed all previous efforts. The staging and dressing are excellent, and the musical numbers light and melodious. The plot is slight. Lady Saville-Cary, wife of an English admiral, whose ship is cruising in Chinese waters, is sight-seeing in a town, escorted by a middy and sailor. They inadvertently trespass in the grounds of a Mandarin, who orders the sailors to be put to death, and the lady to be kept a prisoner. How they escape forms the story of the sketch.

Scene I. shows the Mandarin's palace, a fine setting in Eastern colouring, in which the large entrance pillars, of solid construction, give an imposing and realistic effect. Scene II. is a picturesque corridor in the palace. Scene III. forms the interior and exterior of a tea house, and in the background is seen the English man-of-war, in connection with which some clever stage business is worked. The Mandarin's wife helps the lady and sailors to escape to the quay in safety. The middy signals the ship, and an answering response comes in the shape of a tiny electric light at the mast-head. The little steam pinnace is seen approaching, growing larger as it nears the quay, and the rescue is effected.

Lady Cary is delightfully played by Mrs. Herbert Darnley, who brings a graceful personality and winning method to bear on the part. Her acting is easy and natural, and her enunciation clear. Mr. Charles H. Bell is the life and soul of the play. As nimble as a monkey and with many clever antics, he keeps the fun going, and helps largely to secure success. The Mandarin is an imposing figure in the person of Mr. Cecil Morton York, and all his business is in keeping with the rôle. Mr. B. Snowden makes an amusing sailor, and ably seconds the efforts of Mr. Bell. Messrs. Leslie, Sheridan, and Stanley work well, their struggle with the sailors in the last scene being a fine piece of acrobatic tumbling. Miss Belle Cloce is a dainty impersonator of the Mandarin's wife, and the lady dancers prove admirable exponents of the Terpsichorean art.

SHILLING COLLECTION FOR THE MUSIC HALL HOME.

2,082½ SHILLINGS.

In again directing the attention of our readers to *The Era's* Shilling Fund on behalf of the Music Hall Home we are in the happy position of being able to associate with the appeal thus being made the name of the foremost music hall comedienne—Miss Marie Lloyd. It seems scarcely necessary to remind our readers of the deep interest Miss Lloyd has ever taken in matters affecting the welfare of her brothers and sisters of the variety profession. It is her desire that her "year" will be marked by a considerable increase in the subscriptions of previous years, and she therefore, through *The Era*, commends the Music Hall Home to the charitably-minded. Mr. Thomas Barrasford, the President of the Fund, is again this year exerting himself in its behalf, and this fact is sufficient indication that he is satisfied as to the way in which the institution is being conducted, and that he considers it worthy of support.

Mr. Ben Woodger, the secretary of the Music Hall Home, tells us that in 1907 the inmates averaged ten, but that in 1908 there have been as many as twelve. The address of the Home is 31, Wilson-road, Camberwell, and there the matron (Mrs. Fruin) busies herself for the comfort and convenience of her "family." At present there are eleven of these, and the desire is to increase the number, which can only be done when sufficient funds for the purpose are collected. During the past twelve months three or four of the inmates have recovered their health and strength sufficiently to enable them to look for engagements. These secured, they left the Home, and the vacancies thereby created were immediately filled up. Now, this Home requires keeping up, and it cannot be kept up on air. There is no need for us to refer to all the good work which has been performed by the institution in the past, as that must for the most part be within the recollection of our readers. The ages of the inmates range from fifty to seventy-six. In all probability these men will be maintained in the Home until the day of their death, and their funeral expenses paid for out of the funds of the Home.

The Era's Shilling Fund is the main source of income to the Home, and this means of sustenance is added to by the donations of artists, either given directly, or through the collecting boxes through which many managers of variety theatres collect pennies from "dead-heads" and from artists who desire free admission.

Anyone can be supplied with a collecting-card by sending a postcard to Mr. Woodger.

Briefly, we may once more repeat that the objects of the Music Hall Home Fund are to provide shelter for deserving members of the variety profession who have been stricken with poverty or illness in their declining years, or who have in other ways fallen on evil times. Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, the hon. treasurer, will be pleased to receive filled-up collecting cards addressed to him at *The Era*, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C., and to acknowledge them in these columns.

FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	Shillings.
Jack Miles Stavordale	120
Joe Elvin, per Marie Lloyd	105
Marie Lloyd	63
Bert Williams	30
Jack Woolf	30
Leoni Clarke	21
Gus Elen	21
Chas. Weldon	21
John Lawson	21
Mr. Hymack	20
Harry Alaskas	14
O. M. Dayton	10
Alf Chester	10
Ben Brown	10
E.	6
Slippere	5
Frank Folloy	1

Collected by the Hartley Wonders, 2s.

Hartley Wonders	1	Maggie Walsh	1

Collected by Horace Wheatley, £2 10s.

Horace Wheatley	40	Grandma	1
T. Wheatley, jun.	1	Auntie	1
Kathleen Wheatley	1	Mack W. (the dog)	1
Norah Wheatley	1	Ernest Poweel	1
Eileen Wheatley	1	Will Vay	1
H. Wheatley, jun.	1		

Collected by The Maples, 10s.

Fred Maple	1	Dusty Rhodes	1
Amy Maple	1	Joe Tennyson	1
Edward Lauri	1	Bates Maddison	1
May Beatty	1	W H. Wallis	1
Cissie Lauri	1	Ben Brown	1

Collected by Dave Carter, £1 10s.

Dave Carter	1	Al. Johnston	1
He of the Topnote	1	W. Ellwanger	1
He of the Topnote	1	J. J. Harvey	1
He of the Topnote	1	Dan Conroy	1
He of the Topnote	1	Bowker Andrews	1
James Shewart	1	J. W. Wilson	1
James Mooney	1	W. H. McCarthy	1
Percy Haley	1	Young Dave Garrick	1
Master May	1	Lancelot B. Andrews	1
Fred Morley	1	Geo. Hughes	1
Alf. Ripon	1	Doc. Robertson	1
Sammy Shields	1	Baby Robertson	1
W. F. Heeley	1	D. J. Pigott	1
B. C. Meely	1	Will Oliver	1
Rose Elliott	1	Morny Cash	1

Collected by the Musical Johnstons, 6s.

Dorothy Drew Johnston	1	J. A. Johnston	1
A. E. Johnston	1	Dave Carter	1
F. Johnston	1	Fred Ralph	1

Collected by Sisters Ford, 30s.

Cissie Ford	1	ack Hayworth	1
Emmie Ford	1	Walter Williams	1
John Simms	1	Frand Leidam	1
George Rapley	1	W. Richardson	1
Colibris Midgets	1	Joe Athos	1
Colibris Midgets	1	John Trowel	1
P. E. Edmond	1	Hectors	1
Arthur Woodville	1	Thorpe and Co.	1
Horace Pollock	1	Rastus and Banks	1
M Simms	1	Mrs. Haley	1
Hughie Rostron	1	Milner and Storey	1
Little Innocence	1	Jimmy and Fanny	1
Earl of Dudley	1	Raven Wood	1
Cecile Eldred	1	Vivienne Bell	1
Sam J. Downing	1	W. M., Friend	1

Collected by Seener and Fridkins, £2 5s.

Seener and Fridkins	5	Bertha Northam	1
John A. Leopold	5	Augustus Dale	1
Zeymand Andrews	5	William Ward	1
Mr. Edwardes	2	Herbert La Martine	1
Geo. Auger	2	Horace O'Malley	1
Ernest Rommel	2	Marie Loftus	1
E. Ch. Gittins	2	A. Dome	1
Dick Bell Rio	2	C. Coborn	1
Fredk. Wilson	1	Ae-Bo-Kou	1
X X X	1	D. H. C.	1
Boccaccio	1	Will Murray	1
A. H.	1	Joe Sylvana	1
Bertie Ralland	1	Tom Collins	1
Bertha Winder	1	W. H. C.	1

Collected by Ben Brown (fourth card), 23s.

Robbie	2	J. Mitchell Langley	1
Daisy James	2	W. W. B.	1
Manning's Entertainers	1	W. A.	1
F. Toomey	1	F. G.	1
M. A. Pettitt	1	Pill Wank	1
Count Landeryou	1	Bothey	1
Fred Reeves	1	E. T.	1
Alf. Lotto	1	G. Young	1
Jan Lyell	1	F. Leon	1
Miss Winifred Earle	1	Col. Clough	1
		S. Girling	1

Collected by Jimmy Shields, £1 15s.

Johnson and Bert	2	Monty Walker	1
Billy Williams	1	J. E. Wilkes	1
Jimmy Shields	1	Floradoras	1
Edward Rowland	1	Mr. J. Burslam	1
George Shields	1	Arthur Royce	1
Sam Thomson	1	Margaret Drew	1
Harrison Brookbank	1	Beatie and Babs	1
Dolly Ross	1	Frank Coyle	1
Ernest Krake	1	Friend	1
Fred J. Hudson	1	Pal	1
George Edney	1	S. F.	1
Mr. and Mrs. Will Pettitt	1	Tom Joy	1
Ernest Dillon	1	Henry Herne	1
Percy Farrimond	1	Leonard Fisher	1
Evelyn and Norrie	1	Will S.	1
George Cooper	1	Sam B	1
J. W. Hall	1	Devonshire, Barnsley	1

Collected by Kloof and Ramsay, £1 12s. 6d.

George Lashwood	2	J. E. Nightingale	1
Verona Quartette	2	A. C. Williams, stage representative, Pontypridd	1
Per Messrs. Benet and Kloof, Crusoe panto. company :—		Miss Nellie Dyson	1
Mr. Harry Benet	2	Miss Gertie Millar	1
Sisters Rowe	2	J. H. Wakefield	1
Billy Kloof	1	Rand and O'Ryan	1
Mrs. Kloof	1	Will and Roze	1
Little Jack Metz	1	Sam Saxo	1
U. C. Ugo	1	Ernest P. Grahame	1
Mrs. A. F. Bedford, V.A.F. Agency, Barnsley	1	Trixie Bascombe	1
		Alf. Heath	1
Sandy McNab	1	David Phillips	1
Bert Weston	1	Miss Eva Bentley	1
Syd Pete	1	William W. Fish	1
Arthur Maxey	1	Lonzo Brown	1
		Miss Holland	½

Collected by Regan and Ryan, £1 12s. 6d.

Fanny Fields	5	Room No. 4, M.T.	1
Violet Lloyd	5	Doris Dean	1
Malcolm Scott	5	Florence Herseé	1
Harry Tate	5	Harry Claff	1
Regan and Ryan	5	Horace Lane	1
Patty Yole	2½		

Collected by Ben Brown (second card), 38s.

W. H.	5	F. Gill	1
D. V. Goldberg	2½	S. D.	1
G. C. N. P.	2	H. Webster	1
Gaskin	2	E. Davidson	1
L. S.	2	Levene	1
David Levy	2	Hean	1
Mamney	2	L. Z.	1
H. Heathan	2	C B.	1
P. Samuels	2	Elsie Pratt	1
Sutters	2	Charlie Pratt, jun.	1
H. D.	1	Mrs. Frith	1
Cast	1	H.	½
Samuels	1		

Collected by Barney Armstrong, 24s.

Joe Elvin	2	George Kirby	1
Gala and Norris	2	Harry Lappo	1
Miss Winifred Hare	2	Lena Brunton	1
Barney Armstrong	2	Leo Behan	1
Mr. J. Lucy	1	Martha Cowper	1
Mr. H. C. Arnold	1	Chas. Coborn	1
Frank Benson	1	E. A. Matthews	1
Baddow	1	Leighton Rooke	1
Ulrick	1	Gladys White	1
J. J. Dallas	1	Jimmy Steel	1

Collected by J. W. Hall, 30s.

J. W. Hall	1	Gent. Lotto	1
Pat Rafferty	1	Tom Wilson	1
Walter Wade	1	Harry Barrett	1
Harold Hughman	1	J. W. Hall	1
George P. Smith	1	J. W. Hall	1
F. A. Gotch	1	J W. Hall	1
T. Mercer	1	Mrs. Hall	1
Alf Sontai	1	Mrs. Hall	1
Harry Shirley	1	Mrs. Hall	1
Campbell	1	Mrs. Ella Hall	1
R. Galland	1	Mrs. Ella Hall	1
W. H. Barber	1	Mrs Ella Hall	1
Lucy Crichton	1	Master Harry Hall	1
Mr. Clark	1	Master Harry Hall	1
A. Lotto	1	Master Harry Hall	1

Collected by Mlle. De Rose, £2 1s.

Our Boys	4	Edie May	1
Mlle. De Rose	2½	Dick Thomas	1
J. H. Hawtrey	2½	Hettie Gale	1
Reginald Grant	2½	Leslie Hawkins	1
W. W. Kelly	2½	Joe Huda	1
Hilda Claremont	1	Our Willie Hall	1
Alf Leonard	1	J. Gar Kiddie	1
Stanley Fairless	1	Sisters Raymond	1
W. G. Wesley	1	E. Adeler	1
James Lowe	1	H. O. Callaghan	1
Nellie Barrett	1	Herbert Bates	1
Ada Tyrell	1	Mrs. Egerton	1
George Burton	1	Harry Mayville	1
W. H. Lisando	1	Edgar Stebbings	1
Bob Lisando	1	Mark Stuart	1
Harry Bliss	1	Joe Oliver	1

Collected by Frank Coyle, 20s.

W. E. Gillin	1	Gladys Godwin	1
Ramsey Trio	1	The Ellimans	1
J. Smith	1	Lilian Graham	1
Frank Coyle	1	Fioretti and Elly	1
Violet Coyle	1	Percy Mannings	1
Mrs. Frank Coyle	1	Walter Mannings	1
Miss Fanny Coyle	1	F. B. Bedford	1
Jimmy Shields	1	John Huxley	1
Will Godwin	1	Denby and Dent	1
Mrs. Godwin	1	Geo. Hall	1

Collected by the Three Bros. Huxter, 11s.

Lambeth and Robertson	2	R. Taylor	1
Edward Huxter	1	A. Rudd	1
Bros. Milford	1	G. G.	1
Jeannie Johns	1	Corradini	1
Elsie Steadman	1	A. Saxon	1

Collected by Fred Kitchen, £1 2s.

Fred Kitchen	5	Geo. Craig	1
Harry Kitchen	2	Geo. Messer	1
Mrs. F. Kitchen	2	Grimani	1
Fred Kitchen, jun.	1	T. Scott Bell	1
Kitty Horan	1	Harry Howe	1
Frank Rickards	1	Jimmy Russell	1
Bert Landeck	1	Fred Karno	1
James Beresford	1	Billy Morgan	1

Collected by Three Sisters Lee, £2 0s. 6d.

E. F. Murray	2½	E. Pender Cudlip	1
Fred Ginnett	2	J. Morgan	1
Reg. Beauchamp	2	George Narow	1
M. Arnold	1	Herbert Mack	1
A.	1	Jas. E. Donegan	1
W. Murray	1	Jim Dunedin	1
Thomas Lee	1	George French	1
Mina Lee	1	Gent Lotto	1
Jeanette Lee	1	Syd Pete	1
Leonie Dixon	1	T. C. Downie	1
Marie Empress	1	Schus	1
Sue Lewis	1	Ned	1
Jas. W. Dixon	1	Three Orleans	1
R. A. Johnson	1	Reg Bolton	1
Ernie Warsaw	1	H. Finden	1
R. H. Douglas	1	Hanvarr	1
Mrs. Dent	1	Hanvarr, jun.	1
W. W. Walton	1	Anna Lee	1
Harry Curry	1		

Collected by Ted and May Hopkins, £3 1s. 6d.

Courtice and Louie Pounds	20	H. P. Milner	1
Ted and May Hopkins	5	N. Bowman	1
A Wellwisher	3	Charles Stuart	1
Bransby Williams	3	Marie Clissold	1
Mabel Bardine	3	Sybil St. Elmo	1
William Jackson	2½	Lottie Lennox	1
Sisters Geretti	1	Colonna Frances	1
Fred Horsfall	1	J. Humphries	1
Nat Gilbert	1	Madge Osmond	1
Ida Kathrena	1	Pearl Keats	1
Edward Foster	1	E. S. Jackson	1
Arthur Schofield	1	Ernest Wighton	2
John Macauley	1	Morris Harvey	1
Master May	1	Will Poluski, jun.	1
		Harry Weldon	1

Collected by Charles Cardow, 20s.

Charles Leighton	1	Leo Royburn	1
Ena Richards	1	Hayman and Franklin	1
Collected at billiards	1	Dave Laird	1
Russell Carr	1	A. Standing	1
Hal Godfrey	1	S. Sciravitch	1
Mayme Cannon	1	A Commercial	1
John G. Marx	1	Pennies collected :—	
Dan Filmer	1	Lime-street Station	1
Bob Reano	1	Dressing-room	1
Charles Cardow	1	King's Cross Station	1
Henri Doré	1		

Collected by Carl and Carr, 31s.

J. N. Smith	5	Evelyn Desa	1
Carl and Carr	3	Tom Lawson	1
A Friend	1	Nancy Renshaw	1
Tom Costello	1	Louie Love	1
Billie Costello	1	Queenie King	1
Frank Freeland	1	Ernie Davey	1
James Rallis	1	Jack Osmond	1
L. Hoffman	1	M. Austin	1
E. D. Nicholls	1	Marie St. Hilary	1
A Friend	1	Arthur Carlton	1
Michael Madden	1	A. W. Lethbridge	1
Charles Leverton	1	Bertha Priddy	1
Mlle. Lucretia	1		

Collected by Dick Tubb, £1 15s.

Eight Imperial Girls	4	Dudley Powell	1
Dick Tubb and Jessie Buckle	2	P. C. Armstrong	1
W. Groome	1	Bert H. Delmar	1
F. Brown	1	Grimshaw and Esmond	1
H. J. Corner	1	Maidie Scott	1
Fred Douglas	1	Winifred Ward	1
Mrs. Engel	1	Harold Wellesley	1
Tom Child	1	James Fletch	1
J. H. Farr	1	W. Morgan	1
Bart Farland	1	Sam Poluski, jun.	1
J. Murray	1	Kittie Douglas	1
F. Emney	1	Little Rosie Lee	1
M. Rees	1	F. Brett	1
Nellie Howard	1	Little Maudie Francis	1
Gwladys Soman	1	A. T.	1
May Davis	1		

Collected by Miss Ray Maskell, 41s.

Ray Maskell	5	U. G. O. Nap	1
Ted E. Box	2	G. Fletcher	1
G. Baner	2	Walter Lee	1
Jas. Fortune	2	Auntie Hart	1
S. Wheeler	1	F. B. J.	1
O. Botwright	1	E. B. Dwyer	1
Mr. Chard	1	Raven Wood	1
Coverdale	1	Fred McLean	1
Billy Farrell	1	C. T. Aldrich	1
H. E. Fairbanke	1	Chris Horn	1
Rosie Gaston	1	Fred Rinnell	1
Bob Duce	1	Brinn	1
Pete	1	Geo. Abel	1
B. C. Packham	1	Sid Cotterell	1
Nemo	1	Bert Wilson	1
Bob White	1	H. H. Garner	1
W. McIvor	1	G. E. R.	1

[*Photo by Sarony.*

MISS MARIE LLOYD,
The Fair Worker for the Home.

Collected by Ted E. Box, 71s.

Ted E. Box	10	Dora Lyric	1
Emerson and Baldwin	10	J. M. Green	1
Ray Maskell	5	Dirty Doughty	1
Servia Le Roy	5	Victoria Monks	1
Hanvarr and Lee	4	Carrie Laurie	1
Lafaille	4	W. P.	1
Willy	3	Albert Christian	1
Mr. Pete Dover	2	Maude Edwards	1
Percy Hayden	2	Virto	1
P. Anger	2	May Ambrose	1
Leon Bosco	2	A "Pro.'s" Friend	1
Tom Bryce	2	C. W. Luker	1
Fred Story	2	Tom Bryce	1
De Marce	1	John E. Somers	1
J. A. Carter	1	Jack Stephens	1
Tossing Austins	1		

Collected by Herbert Shelley, £2 3s.

Albert Chevalier	20	Arthur Burne	1
Herbert Shelley	10	Huntley Wright	1
J. W. Macdonald	2	Harry Nicholls	1
Lionel Rignold	1	Mrs. Herbert Shelley	1
J. Cook Beresford	1	Alma Shelley	1
L. Race Dunrobin	1	Florence Huntley	1
Graham and Harrington	1	May Fairclough	1

Collected by Ben Brown (third card), 28s.

Young Dave Garrick	1	H. Darnley	1
P. M.	1	W. Collins	1
H. Barrett	1	Jas. E. Donegan	1
H. S. Kitching	1	George B.	1
W. B. Abbey	1	J. Welch	1
W. J.	1	Deane Trulove	1
B. C.	1	Penyston Mills	1
J. J.	1	Terrey Erynon	1
W. Morgan	1	Dan Ricardo	1
G. H.	1	R. Trebor	1
S. S.	1	"Apollo"	1
G. R.	1	Traynor, Dublin	1
F. J. F.	1	Miss Gussie Allright	1
F. W. E.	1	W. Saxby	1

Collected by The Bohemians, 14s

W. Bohemian	1	Newco and Sullo	1
M. Bohemian	1	Dan Hendy	1
Geo. Gulliver	1	Ernest Caxaellas	1
T. W. Paul	1	Percy Caxaellas	1
M. Etta	1	Edwin Caxaellas	1
D. W. Watson	1	Hull Newsboy Trio	1
Bob Swift Duo	1	Sam Vincent	1

Collected by Fred Herbert, 32s

Joe Elvin	3	The Itrams	1
O. Maus Dayton	2	C. Douglas Stuart	1
Fred Herbert	1	Bert Byrne	1
Mrs. G. Gunnup	1	John Donald	1
Mrs. Walsh	1	Arthur Gallimore	1
George Gunnup	1	Bob Venola	1
J. Walsh	1	Joe Venola	1
Jack Walsh	1	Flo Chevalier	1
J. Harding	1	Arthur Breton	1
J. Jones	1	J. C. Morris	1
Sam Myrans	1	Gus Dallon	1
Chas. J. Johnson	1	T. C. Callaghan	1
Jack Lorrimer	1	Lieut. Albini	1
Stella Stahl	1	George Jackley	1
Paul Kramer	1		

Collected by Conway and Leland, 10s.

W. B. Leland	1	Maringo	1
Crissie Cross	1	Bert Wilson	1
M. B. Conway	1	George Gilbey	1
Mrs. M. B. Conway	1	Billy Seeley	1
Mr. De Breau	1	A Friend	1

Collected by Livesey and Rosebery, £1 8s.

Leo and Roland	1	W. H. Carnis	1
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilde	1	Montaldos	1
Mr. Sam Williams	1	Joe Hay	1
Gladys Mavius	1	Leonie Dixon	1
Miss Adah Payne	1	Jim Dixon	1
G. Barclay, jun.	1	The Heroine	1
Tom Shaw	1	The Villain	1
Billy Stevens	1	The Hero	1
A. Earl Hunt	1	Lilian Rosebery	1
W. Higgins	1	Carter Livesey	1
Dr. Caine	1	Little Willie	1
Harry Randall	1	Gannimede	1
C. W. Whittle	1	Signorita	1
Gordon and Grace	1	The Skipper	1

Collected by Abel and Welsh, 35s

J. W. Rowley	5	Hady Mohamed	1
Mohamed's Arabs	2	A. Gulimlip	1
S. Dix	2	Charles Chard	1
Robert Abel	1	H. Meredith	1
William Welsh	1	Bros. Ford	1
Mimi Abel	1	Gladys and Alber	1
Charles Serra	1	Tate and Tate	1
Martino	1	Wm. Thomas	1
Israel Price	1	Chas. Triton	1
Edward Crosland	1	John B. Roberts	1
Dorians	1	Harry Czar	1
Kyoto	1	Dave Czar	1
Val Gerald	1	Harry Friskey	1
J. Bertram Brennan	1	Blanche Albert	1
Felix Powell	1		

Collected by Ben Brown (first card), 42s.

Geo. Le Clerq	5	Fred Maple	1
Ben Brown	5	F. W. Wood	1
G. B.	5	Munro	1
C. Matthews, Sheffield	2	Sympathy	1
Pot	2	Coly	1
Same	2	W. Childs	1
Mr S. E. Humberston	1	Tom Craven	1
B. A. Rolfe	1	H. Martin	1
Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Edwards	1	Friend	1
Will Cutler	1	Nat	1
Three Horse Shoes, Sheffield	1	Harrison	1
V. L. Granville	1	Butts	1
		Topsy	1
		W. R.	1
		C. F. Brown	1

Collected by A. N. Hennessey, 40s.

Stanley J. R. Cohen	5	Mrs. Regan	1
A. N. Hennessey	5	G. F.	1
Kittee Rayburn	5	A. Bowman	1
Fred Boustead	1	Glen Alva	1
A. Juniper	1	C. S.	1
C. F. Wright	1	H. C.	1
Tom Lyle	1	E. M. Cohen	1
C. W. Douglass	1	Will Thompson	1
Walter Gibbs	1	Mrs. Thompson	1
Ted Whiteman	1	W. Ransted	1
Tom Malvern	1	Johnny Alexander	1
Harry Anderson	1	Mr. Reeve	1
G. Dyke	1	J. Garlish	1
J. J. Regan	1	T. Callaghan	1

Collected by Harry Conlin, £3 10s.

Leigh House	5½	H. Rogerson	1
Harry Conlin	5½	Alex. Kendall	1
Hilda Dugdale	5	Chas. Norton	1
Rosie Coleman	5	Russell Brandow	1
One of the Ba-hoys	5	W. Stanley Parker	1
Amy Singleton	5	S. W.	1
G. Gilbride	4	Seth Egbert	1
Marie Ashton	4	Emmie Egbert	1
Mabel Hirst	3	Violet Egbert	1
Albert Egbert	2½	Gus Le Clerq	1
Daisy Dormer	2½	E. Wright	1
Hal	2	The Witch	1
J. Hoffman	2	May Beatty	1
F. Self	2	Harry Clifford	1
Gus Le Clerq	1	Mr. Blackhurst	1
Tommie Pender	1		

Collected by Elsie Robey, 10s

Elsie Robey	1	Molly Wynne	1
Laurence Irving	1	Lewis Leslie	1
Mabel Hackney-Irving	1	Mrs. Lewis Leslie	1
William Fullbrook	1	Sale of Post-cards	1
Mabel Carr	1	William Spencer	1

Collected by Cedar and Elgar, £1 7s.

Hugh Cedar	2	Robins and Collier	1
Ed. Elgar	2	Mr. Bert Harrow	1
Louis Kerno	1	Miss Marion Walker	1
Dan Maxford	1	Mr. Bert Rolfe	1
Tom O'Neill	1	A. Yorke-Stephens	1
Fred Sinclair	1	E. B. Edie	1
Jake Friedman	1	T. J. Dillon	1
Miss Ray Wallace	1	Miss Isa Gibson	1
Miss Mildred Bryan	1	Miss Nellie Duval	1
Mr. Joe Robins	1	Mr. M.. Manchester	1
Mr. Leonard Russell	1	Mr. Charlie Hopkins	1
Miss Phyllis Seymour	1	Mr. E. W. Avery	1
Mr. Herbert King	1		

Collected by Harry Wright, 31s.

S. Charlie Pratt	2	Ford	1
Montefiore	1	M. F.	1
Bert Chapman	1	E. E. W.	1
Harry Gage	1	Allan Hanbury	1
Mr. H. McDowall	1	Tom Shenton	1
Mrs. F. Kahler	1	Jesse Sparrow	1
G. P. R. Burgess	1	Vivins	1
Harry Wright	1	John E. Brandon	1
Nellie Gannon	1	W. E. Stephenson	1
T. W. Wright	1	F. Newman	1
G. Baselgia	1	J Hewson	1
Bert Chapman	1	A. Knight	1
Leon Bassett	1	Sam Hart	1
G. Pearson	1	S. N. Salter	1
F. Kohler	1	D. White	1

Collected by Eugene and Willie, 11s.

Miss Dunbar	2	Richard Lomas	1
Bernard and Weston	2	Henry Hodgkings	1
Eugene and Willie	2	B. Comerford	1
Miss M. Hope	1	J. Comerford	1

Collected by the Sisters Morgan, 14s.

Will Lorenzi	2	Alice Maple	1
Barrett and Knowles	2	Gracie Mortimer	1
Rita and Roma	1	Will Cartwright	1
Elsie Morgan	1	Hester Reeve	1
Annie Morgan	1	Charles Clark	1
Kitty Clinton	1	S. Barnard	1

Collected by Geo. French's Troupe, 22s.

C. Poole, jun.	6	Bert Gates	1
George French	5	Harry Dowsett	1
Richard Karsy's Myriophone	5	Fred Bescoby	1
Learto	2	Miss St. Clare	1

Collected by Nellie Wilson, £2 11s. 6d.

A White Man	10	Fred Eustace	1
Eugene Stratton	5	Mary Eustace	1
Edwin Boyde	5	Rose Bancroft	1
H Thutton	2½	Charles Chapman	1
The Sivonis	2	Wilman	1
Nellie Wilson	2	Ernie Aplin	1
Mrs. Stavodale	2	Phœbe Lyndhurst	1
Little Miss Muffit	1	Charles McConnell	1
Mona Clifford	1	Muir and Bartlett	1
Florence Hyde	1	Margery Maidment	1
Clara Stroud Wilson	1	Flo Penley	1
Beatrice Elie	1	T. Grindall	1
F. Hurst	1	Dusty Rhodes	1
Will Toole	1	Rose Daulby	1
Charles Granthley	1	Mrs. Fred Southern	1

Collected by Ernest D'Almaine, 14s.

Ernest D'Almaine	1	Rose D'Almaine	1
Mrs. E. D'Almaine	1	Charles Dare	1
James D'Almaine	1	Dan O'Connor	1
Charles D'Almaine	1	Gus Daniels	1
Ada D'Almaine	1	George Snow	1
Amy D'Almaine	1	George Richens	1
Lily D'Almaine	1	E. Kay	1

Collected by Miss Ada Reeve, £4.

Ada Reeve	9½	John Wilson	1
A Friend	7	W. Griffin	1
A. C. Hills	5	K. Adeler	1
Mary Hargreaves	5	Marie Vere	1
Flo Marston	5	Fred Griffiths, jun.	1
A. Rowe	5	A. N. Other	1
Arthur Poole	4	R. Abrahams	1
Edorler	4	J. Lonnen	1
L. de Frece	4	Russell Ardell	1
Beauty	2½	Dan Crawley	1
W. A. Short	2½	Bobbie Mendall	1
H. Milburn	2½	Florence Meeson	1
E. T. Steyne	2½	F. C. Upton	1
P. Ettinger	2½	J. Wilson	1
A Friend	2	G. E. Mills	1
Another	2		

Collected by Leoni Clarke, 21s.

Mr. and Mrs. Body	2

SHOWMEN'S MEETINGS AT LYNN MART.

For the past eighteen years the trade societies of Showland have taken full advantage of the pilgrimage of showmen to Lynn Mart to hold important meetings of both a public and a private character. Matters of the greatest moment to the show business are discussed in committee at Lynn, and the annual public meeting in the Town Hall voices the interests of the trade and business of the fairground, so far as they touch public opinion and appeal for popular support.

The Mayor of Lynn on Show Life.

The Mayor of King's Lynn (Alderman Green), in presiding over the public meeting, made some extremely useful observations. He made it quite clear that, as far as he was concerned, he gladly followed the good example of previous Mayors in taking the chair at a showmen's meeting. Whilst he could not pretend to great intimacy with, and exact knowledge of, show life, like their old friend, Alderman Dunn, yet he had had great pleasure in the past half-hour of getting into touch with the official heads of the Guild executive, the Guild solicitor, the chaplain, and the hon. secretary. He had been impressed by these gentlemen, and he was glad with knowledge to welcome them to the fair of Lynn Mart, and to express a hope that good business might reward their efforts. He warmly congratulated the showmen on the splendid concerns at the fair, and only spoke for the town when he said how pleased he was to be present, and to have the opportunity, and for the town (through him), to wish them all success in their endeavorrs to cater for the people's amusements, and to maintain their righis and liberties as showmen.

Resolution against the Movable Dwellings Bill.

Mr. T. Watson Wright, Parliamentary solicitor to the Guild, proposed, and the Rev. T. Horne seconded, the following resolution:—"That this public meeting protests against the Movable Dwellings Bill, introduced into the House of Lords by Lord Clifford of Chudleigh. Showmen claim as lawful traders to be under and obedient to the ordinary laws of the realm. They deny that special inquisitorial and liberty-destroying legislation is needed for their trade and mode of life. If the promoters of the measure want to deal with and to penalise gipsy life, let them make their object clear in their Bill by exempting showmen and fairground traders from its proposed penalties and restrictions." He pressed home the fact that the Guild was their only protection against such liberty-destroying proposals as those embodied in the Bill of the late George Smith, and now fathered by Lord Clifford of Chudleigh. Such proposals he insisted were *ultra vires*, and subversive of the fundamental principles of the Constitution. He (himself) did not intend to deal with details, or to give chapter and verse, or to quote the exact terms of the new Movable Dwellings Bill. The Guild chaplain, who had had the whole of the negotiations with the promoters of the Bill in hand, would doubtless deal fully with that side of the question. His intention was to show that meeting how the Bill proposed to destroy for showmen the rights and liberties secured to all classes in the community by Magna Charta, by the Act of Habeas Corpus and the "Petition of Rights," the very bed-rock of our hard-won liberty.

Sapping the Foundations of Liberty.

Magna Charta gave to every man the right to carry on a lawful trade without "let or hindrance" throughout the length and breadth of the land. The Habeas Corpus Act secured to subjects of the crown a fair trial by their peers whenever charged with wrong-doing. The Petition of Rights was the right of the individual to plead his own cause in any court of justice, and to claim the protection of the law for life, liberty, and home. This Bill gave the police power to treat showpeople differently to all other classes in the community. It gave a policeman power to take action on *mere suspicion, and without a warrant of the magistrates*, to invade the movable homes of showpeople, and to subject show vans to an invasion that would not be tolerated in the most wretched slums of our towns.

Showmen will Fight the Bill.

He was confident that the work of the Guild would succeed, and that the Bill would either be thrown out, or so amended as to remove the chief objections they had against it. The ordinary health and sanitary laws applied to show vans and to show booths. The full force of local government (whether by statute or by local bye-laws) also applied to show vans and to show life. In this respect they were under just the same laws as other people, and no special legislation was needed. Parliament had already recognised the "exemption clause" that Lord Clifford had refused in the Middlesex County Council Bill. The Council embodied at the request of the Guild that the additional powers they sought against gipsy and other squatters on common or private land should not apply to "any showman, roudabout proprietor, or stallholder." Why (he asked) did Lord Clifford refuse to embody a similar clause in his Bill? There was no answer, except and only that behind the Bill there was a fixed desire to penalise and injure the show business. He concluded a most able and eloquent speech by moving the resolution.

The Rev. T. Horne on the Bill.

He had had, he said, the whole of the correspondence and the interviews with the promoters of the measure left in his hands. Of course, behind him, he reminded them, stood the whole force of the allied trades and industries of the fairground. What did the Bill propose to do? Briefly stated, it was a Bill to make every county and every county borough a registration and a licensing authority, with power to inspect and to license, and fully regulate van life. But that was not the real grievance. The real grievance was that it delivered over the showman and his home to the control of the police. Bound hand and foot for ever more, the showman must be masked and shackled, and bound by the police.

"Invincible Ignorance."

His friend, the Vicar of Lynn, whom they all welcomed at their Guild meeting that day, would remember with him that the schoolmen and the casuists of olden times used a phrase to indicate the lowest depth of wilful mental perversity. This they termed "invincible ignorance." He had thundered forth the truth from a thousand platforms, yet there remained men who refused to open their ears to the truth, men of whom it was impossible to speak without recourse to some such casuistical phrase as being victims of "invincible ignorance." First of all, these men refused to recognise any difference between the ramshackle covered cart on two wheels or a gipsy tent and the hygienically perfect, Pullman car-like caravans of the showmen now at Lynn Mart; who would treat Lord George Sanger in his beautiful living-carriage even as the veriest gipsy or travelling tinker. Another sad phase of "invincible ignorance" was the practical refusal to admit that the health and sanitary laws of the realm applied with all their vigour and rigour to movable dwellings as to houses of brick and stone.

Showmen not Outlaws.

The honourable and ancient craft of Showland is not outcast. It is a lawful trade and business. It is under the sanction and protection of the ordinary law. No more, no less.

With regard to the alleged menace to public health, it had always been an extraordinary thing to him that it should be persistently ignored that showpeople were the most observed and the most regular and orderly class of workers in the kingdom. Take any round or circuit of fairs you might choose (and they are numerous and clearly defined, these circuits of pleasure fairs). There are the London and Home Counties Circuit, the Great Midland Circuit, the Yorkshire Circuit, the Lancashire and Cheshire Circuit, the Durham and Northumberland Circuit, the Welsh Circuit, the West of England Circuit, the East Anglian Circuit, the Scotch and Borderland Circuit, and the Irish Circuit. We find that practically the same people provide the popular amusements of the fairground year after year on any given circuit; the changes are so few as to be a negligible quantity.

The Value of the Circuit System.

It means this—that the same entertainers (they may and must vary their shows and change their programmes) year by year follow the same round of fairs. Different shows and novelties, but the same people, living in the same way, in the same caravans, attend the same fairs year by year until their name and fame become household words, so dear is the showman and the show to the hearts of the people. What excuse can there be for people who wish to legislate for a class of workers whose lives are so regular and so open to the world as showfolk without getting to know the most elemental facts of the economic and social life of the class they want to make new and invidious laws for?

Every week, from Easter to Christmas, these people pass under the Argus-eyed surveillance of sanitary officials, and, what is even of more importance, as a class live their life in the eye of the general public. They are bound to be most careful and circumspect to avoid even the appearance of evil lest they should lose or forfeit the public confidence. A moment's consideration of the real conditions of showlife would demonstrate how utterly groundless are the fears of the critics of the fairgrounds, without regard to the entirely imaginary danger to public health of the itinerant life and movable dwellings of the showfolk.

The Main Objects of the Guild.

Their Guild existed for two great primary objects. The first was to vindicate (whenever and wherever attacked) the life and work of the travelling showman. The second object was the defence and the betterment of the open-air amusements and local holidays of the people. They were there (at Lynn) for the eighteenth year in unbroken succession to advocate the claim of an ancient and honourable craft and industry to full recognition of its true place in the national life—to demand that they should have the same legal sanction and the same protection as any lawful trade or calling in the kingdom. Their claim was just, and he was quite confident that neither Parliament nor the public opinion of Great Britain would allow invidious and liberty-destroying legislation such as endeavoured from time to time to express itself in such crude suggestion as the vexatious and unreasonable attack upon an industry as good as any other in the commonwealth.

In the case of Acton the Guild had obtained their costs against the local authority, and the present instance of Oldham would, he trusted, share the same fate. He maintained that the industry of the fairground was a legitimate and necessary trade, that the same liberty to uphold and extend it was their right, as workers, as that enjoyed by other workers. He felt sure that the Corporation had been ill-advised in their persistence, and one extremely valuable issue must ensue from their pacific efforts to arrange the matter with the corporation, that is that the Parliamenary Committee dealing with the measure will know that it is not the organised showmen who are wasting the valuable time and labour of the House, but the Corporation of Oldham. It will immensely strengthen our claim for costs when we state (as state we shall) that all pacific overtures made by us were rejected. The resolution was unanimously carried.

Letters and Apologies Read by the Secretary.

Mr. Hurst read the following apology from the president, explaining his absence from the gathering, and, following that, the excellent letter from Mr. Caddick:—

"Gondola Works, Walsall,
"Feb. 16, 1909.

"Dear Sir,—Mr. Patrick Collins desires me to write you that he is unavoidably detained here, and will not be able to reach King's Lynn till about one o'clock to-morrow. He desires that all due apologies may be made for his compulsory absence.

"I take this opportunity to enclose my contribution to the funds of wour Association.—Yours faithfully, "Cecil Quennett.

"Rev. T. Horne, c/o the Town Clerk,
"King's Lynn."

"Olympia.

"Dear Mr. Horne—I thank you very much for the book safely to hand, also for your friendly remarks in the *Era*. I would like to supplement my letter in the *Era* by urging our president and yourself to impress upon the travellers at the meeting, with all the force and eloquence you can possibly bring to bear upon them, of their present perilous position, surrounded as they are by attacks from all quarters and in all directions, imperilling not only the sanctity of our homes, but sapping the foundations of our very existence. Oldham to wit, a town once considered almost a traveller's freehold: Now what is the case? That town, above all others, to endeavour to so narrow the privileges of travellers that would render it necessary to give Oldham a wide berth in future, leaving the authorities to run the wakes on their own. The present Movable Dwellings Bill promises also to find sufficient work for the executive to tackle without the worry and anxiety entailed by fighting wealthy corporations.

"I would like to call your attention to a recent prosecution of a van-dweller in Wrexham by the local sanitary authorities. This case in itself should be sufficient to convince the most sceptical advocate of Lord Clifford's obnoxious Bill that ample powers exist to bring the van-dweller into line with his more respectable (?) contemporary, the house-dweller.

"I am sorry to admit there is so much apathy amongst the travellers towards the trend of present legislation, and to trust too much to the watchfulness and intelligence of a limited few in our ranks, but they may rest assured should this Bill become law, and they once feel the pinch of its provisions, they will not only regret their short-sightedness in allowing judgment to go by default, but I feel sure, instead of shillings, they would be only too glad to give pounds to regain their forfeited liberties.

"Tell all the friendly roundabout proprietors and lessees to use all the influence (and pressure, if necessary) to bring the laggards into line with their more up-to-date fellows. Wishing you a good, bumping meeting, a good roll-call, and, as a result, increased membership. Remember me kindly to all old friends, yourself first and foremost.—Yours faithfully,

"Joe Caddick."

The Vicar of Lynn on the Work of the Guild.

The Rev. R. Gordon Roe, hon. local chaplain, in moving a vote of thanks to the chairman and the speakers, paid a tribute of admiration to the Mayor for his unfailing kindness in helping forward by his presence and able advocacy that day the splendid work of the Guild; to Mr. Watson Wright, their legal champion, whose mastery of the subject-matter before the meeting was so obvious; to the clear business ability of the hon. secretary, and to the Guild chaplain.

Every year, he declared, he felt more and more impressed by the eloquent appeals of the organising chaplain, whether listening to him preaching from the pulpit of the Parish Church or at the Guild service in a show on the fairground. He ventured to congratulate the Showmen's Guild on its chief executive officials. To the Mayor, to Mr. Watson Wright, to Mr. Hurst, and to his dear colleague, the Guild chaplain, he asked them to accord a most hearty vote of thanks. He wished, at the same time, as Vicar, to welcome again the showpeople to Lynn, and to place himself and his church at their disposal. He was looking forward to hearing Mr. Horne at St. Margaret's next Sunday and again taking part with him in the showmen's service at the Mart. He wished them, in their daily life and work every blessing and God speed.

Alderman Dunn, the Showmen's Friend.

Despite the strict orders of his doctor to avoid for a time public work, the genial chairman of the Markets and Fairs Committee, Alderman E. Dunn, at the Guild chaplain's urgent request, attended the greater part of the meeting, and received an ovation when he rose to second the Vicar's vote of thanks. He reminded them of the extremely pleasant and friendly relations between the Markets and Fairs Committee and the showmen. He had ever tried to foster and to increase that good feeling. He drew from a rich fund of anecdote and illustration apt proofs of the need for mutual help and forbearance, and trusted that the Guild officials and their Mayor would be all the better for coming together to further the good work of the Guild. He seconded the vote of thanks with all his heart.

The Vicar submitted the vote to the meeting, and it was carried, amidst great applause.

The Guild chaplain suitably acknowledged the vote, and the meeting terminated.

The Enrolment of Members.

The following subscriptions for 1909 were then received:—H. Thurston and Sons, £5; John Wilmot, £5; G. T. Tuby, £2; Lady Dorothy Neville, £1 1s.; Wm. Affleck, £1 1s.; W. Kemp (L. and N.W.R.), £1 1s.; S. W. Redfearn, £1 1s.; C. Quennell, £1 1s.; W. Wilmot, £1; H. Wilmot, £1; S. Bolesworth, 10s. 6d.; M. Sconce, 10s. 6d.; B. Howden, 10s. 6d.; B. Howden, jun., 5s.; R. Suett, 5s.; and J. Brown, 5s.

The Roundabout Proprietors and Showmen's Union.

Mr. P. Collins presided at an important committee meeting of this Union held at the Green Dragon Hotel on Wednesday afternoon. The only business of public importance was a resolution thanking the Guild chaplain for his arduous work as conciliator in the Penzance dispute, and pledging the Union to co-operate with the Guild to maintain the concordat of peace with the corporation.

The Guild chaplain, in thanking the Union members for their recognition of his labours, explained the present position of affairs.

Mr. Joseph Brewer, one of the showmen concerned, fully explained that he was in perfect accord with the good work of the chaplain, and that he had not gone back on the agreement. Neither had he instructed his solicitor to repudiate the concordat. He was, he added, that day withdrawing his retainer from his solicitor, and that he personally was grateful to the chaplain for his good offices in the matter.

Mr. Horne read letters from Messrs. W. C. and S. Hancock and from Messrs. Anderton and Rowland, the other showmen defendants, heartily agreeing with the settlement, and regretting the unfortunate hitch that had since occurred, to which they were not consenting parties.

The Opposition to the Oldham Bill.

An important committee of the Guild met the Parliamentary solicitor on Thursday morning, and fully discussed the procedure to be taken to oppose the Bill. It was resolved to bring the question of Parliamentary defence work more urgently before the trade and the allied industries.

OPENING OF LYNN MART BY THE MAYOR AND CORPORATION, FEB. 15, 1909.

Movable Dwellings Bill. He heartily seconded the resolution.

The Mayor then read the resolution, and submitted it to the meeting. It was passed unanimously, amidst cheers.

The Guild and the Oldham Corporation Bill.

Mr. T. Hurst, Guild secretary, submitted the following resolution:—"That this meeting objects to the Oldham Corporation Bill so far as it is injures and restricts the legitimate business of the fairground."

He told the meeting how the president (Mr. Collins), the organising chaplain (the Rev. T. Horne), and himself had been the Guild deputation on Feb. 4 to the Corporation of Oldham. How they had striven to arrive at a compromise and an agreement that would have obviated costly opposition on their part to the Oldham Bill. They had done their best to obtain a peaceful settlement, but their answer had been that the Corporation refused to grant their reasonable wishes, and they were now obliged to fight the Corporation and to use all legitimate means to defeat the reactionary proposals affecting their business in the proposed measure He declared that the Guild stood for two important principles—(1) free trade in fairs; no monopoly of fair rights; and (2) (growing of necessity out of that principle) the right and liberty to adopt and to extend their business as changing conditions of national life and trade made necessary. Both these vital principles of their industrial life and progress were threatened by the Oldham Bill.

Mr. Hurst then read in full the text of the Guild petition against the Bill, as given in our issue of Feb. 13. He concluded by asking the meeting to vote solid for the resolution.

The Guild Solicitor on the Bill.

Mr. T. Watson Wright, in seconding the motion, adverted to the long line of triumphs that the Guild had won in the Parliamentary arena, how obnoxious clauses and most restrictive proposals had been, by the work of the Guild, thrown out of numerous Bills promoted by public bodies, notably Mansfield, Eccles, Hyde, Halifax, Acton, and a score of other Corporation measures, either after a straight fight in Parliament or by direct negotiation with the local authorities. Halifax and Rotherham both had bills with similar clauses to the Oldham proposals. Halifax, after three arguments by eminent counsel on both sides, lost their case, and the Guild obtained the decision of far reaching consequence, that in private Bill legislation free trade in fairs was the admitted principle to govern future legislation. The significance of that decision was seen in the readiness with which (on our representation) the Borough of Rotherham two sessions later withdrew the objectionable clause.

He felt duty-bound, in their interests, as their Parliamentary solicitor to warn the Corporation of Oldham that if the Bill in its present shape was persevered with the Guild would oppose it at every stage in both Houses of Parliament, and would ask for costs against the Corporation for

Lynn Mart.

The ancient charter fair of King's Lynn (and, bear in mind, it is really King's Lynn, for the King's home is close by at Sandringham) is a great event—a fully rubricated festival in the common life of the people of the good old town and port of Lynn.

The proclamation of the mart and fair is a time-honoured civic ceremony, quaint, and significant of all that is best in the story of Lynn.

Where the Old Cross Stood.

As near to the historic spot as tradition can fix it, where the ancient town emblem of the Faith stood before religious fanaticism cast it down, there the Charter of the Fair Rights and Privileges is read by the Town Crier, and the mart is declared open by the Mayor for the time being.

In a former article, one of the series "Britain's Historic Fairs," we have dealt fully with this interesting civic survival of a great past.

It is enough for the mart of this year of grace to say that it well maintained all its picturesqueness and all its civic ceremonial glory.

The Mayor, the Town Clerk, the Aldermen and Councillors, the other officials and notabilities of Lynn were in attendance as usual.

The Mayor gave his Mayoral blessing and expressed his good wishes; the Town Crier cried the proclamation (and he did it excellently well); the Sword and Mace Bearers (they have a galaxy of them at Lynn) gave dramatic point to the majesty of the law.

All the Fun of the Fair.

As soon as the proclaiming was over the music pealed forth from the orchestrophone of Barker and Thurston's beautifully decorated motor-car switchback, the civic crowd melted into a fun-seeking crowd of eager patrons of the fair, motors ran, gondola cars sailed majestically in Venetian canal-like fashion down silver stream courses, horses galloped, cockerels crowed and raced, "pigs did fly," balloons set out on aerial journeys, and all the wild flights of mechanical ingenuity and weird imagination found delighted merry patrons, and "all the jolly fun" began.

The Shows.

The chief cinematograph shows are the gorgeous palaces of light and illustration of Messrs. Farran, Tyler, and Tuby and Sons. To speak with any sense of discrimination between them is impossible. Where all are so perfect why seek to specialise? We certainly will not. It is such shows as these that are swiftly revolutionising the fairs of our land.

"Houp-la" the King.

The star attraction—the veritable king of the fair—is the new game of Houp-la. Nothing more clearly proves the ready wit and adaptability of the showman than the rapid increase of really beautiful Houp-la concerns. Amongst these Lynn had the distinction of Prince Samuda's charming, unique, and most delightful Houp-la gardens—you cannot call it anything less. It is a delight and a joy. We congratulate the enterprising Prince on his latest novel venture.

The other Houp-la-ists were Messrs. C. Bibby, with two concerns, J. Holmes, with two, and Mrs. Bond, with one concern. The shooting and throwing concerns were those of Messrs. H. and W. Westrop, Gray Bros., Cheeseman, Sheriff, Parkins, Hast, Holmes, Robinson, Pladick, and G. Holmes. The stalls were those of R. Snett, Mrs. Bond, and others.

The Westwood Family.

Master Wilford and Miss Ruby Westwood still remain the giant children of the fair *par excellence*. This exhibition is a special of Lynn mart, as of all towns they visit.

The big machines are those of Messrs. Barker and Thurston, motor-cars and rollicking pigs; H. R. Hibbert's new set, the motor track; Swale Bolesworth's new machine, the Bicycle Circus (two-abreast cycles); Ben Howden and Sons' Venetian Gondolas; T. Brannan's horses and birds; G. T. Tuby and Sons' motors; and G. Holmes' miniature roundabout.

The Guild Chaplain, assisted by the Vicar, clergy, and choir from the Parish Church, will conduct a Guild service in Tuby and Sons' Coliseum, on the fairground next Sunday (to-morrow), in the afternoon, and the Chaplain preaches at St. Margaret's in the evening.

The next meeting of the British Roundabout Proprietors' and Showmen's Union is to be at Bury March fair.

SAVAGE BROS. (Ltd.) ANNUAL DINNER AT KING'S LYNN.

One of the rapidly increasing number of social gatherings in the great world of shows takes place every year at Lynn. It usually finishes up a most busy day for the leading men of Showland, the day of the public meeting of the Guild and the committees of both that society and the Roundabout Proprietors' and Showmen's Union. The dinner is given by the world-famed firm of roundabout makers, Savage Bros., Ltd., whose works are at Lynn.

The chairman was Mr. Wm. Affleck, the manager of the showman branch of the firm's enterprise. The guests at the high table included the Mayor of Lynn, the Rev. T. Horne, Alderman Dunn, Councillor L. Skinner, Councillor G. T. Tuby (Doncaster), the Town Clerk, the Chief Constable, Mr. T. Watson Wright (Guild Solicitor), Mr. P. Collins (President of the Guild), Mr. T. Hurst (Secretary of both societies, in whose honour the banquet was given), Mr. B. W. Langley, Mr. Redfearn, Mr. Webb, Mr. Wilkinson, Mr. H. Barrett, Mr. Payne, and Mr. A. R. King

The showmen guests included Messrs. Henry Studt, John Studt, Jacob Studt, Jacob Studt, jun., G. Studt, B. Howden, Wm. Murphy, John Murphy, W. H. Marshall, Goldthorpe Marshall, W. H. Marshall, jun., Wm. Holmes, H. J. Wallis, Wm. Mitchell, John Green, H. R. Hibbert, Wm. Pedley, H. Wilmot, G. Wilmot, G. T. Tuby, jun., E. Farran, A. C. Tyler, J. Manders, S. Bolesworth, H. Beach, T. Brannan, G. A. Howden, W. Wilson, E. Danter, W. Davies, jun., S. Fields, J. H. Savage, R. D. Snelling, Charles Thurston, and other gentlemen

The dinner was provided by C. Winlove Smith, caterer to H.M. the King, and it was set out in the beautiful Banqueting Chamber of the Lynn Town Hall. The band of the 5th Battalion Norfolk Regiment played during dinner, by permission of Captain Beloe. Songs and instrumental solos enlivened the proceedings at suitable intervals, and everything was a pronounced success.

Menu.

Clear Soup.
Fried Filleted Soles.
Roast Beef. Boiled Beef.
Roast Mutton. Boiled Mutton.
Roast Chickens and Ham.
Potatoes. Carrots. Sprouts.
Venetian Rolls.
Fruit Tarts. Boiled Custards.
Jellies. Creams. Pastry.
Cheese and Celery.
Champagne. Port. Brandy.
Whisky. Mineral Waters.

The Loyal Toasts having been duly honoured, the toast of the Mayor and Corporation, proposed by Mr. Wilkinson in a capital speech, afforded the Mayor an opportunity of saying some extremely nice things about Lynn, its Fair, and the showmen who gathered at it.

Mr. Wm. Affleck proposed the toast of the evening, "Success to the Societies of Showland, the Showmen's Guild and the British Roundabout Proprietors and Showmen's Union." In asking them to honour the toast he expressed his satisfaction at knowing that both societies worked together for the general good of the fairground industry. He coupled with the toast the names of the honoured leaders of both societies, the Rev. T. Horne (Chaplain), Patrick Collins (President), T. Watson Wright (Solicitor), and Thomas Hurst (Secretary). With such leaders the work must needs prosper. The firm he represented identified itself fully with the interests conserved by both organisations. As in the past, so in the future he hoped that prosperity and ever-increasing usefulness would be theirs.

The Response of the Guild Executive Officers.

On rising to respond, the Guild Chaplain met with a great reception. In the course of a characteristic speech he touched upon the great revolution in the status of showmen as the direct result of their work as organised amusement caterers and fairground traders. For several centuries in the bad old days of national amusements the showman was hounded from pillar to post, as outcast, as being a rogue and a vagabond, and even now there are intellectual Pharisees who smile upon them and label them as Bohemians. The Guild had rapidly educated public opinion to a truer and better conception of show life. The speech was punctuated with cheering. The Chaplain was succeeded by the President of the Guild (Mr. P. Collins), who, taking his cue from the Chaplain, gave examples from his own eventful career of the ingrained prejudice against show life by certain puritanical and narrow-minded sections of society. The showman (he declared amidst great cheering) had won his way to social and national recognition by integrity of life, honesty, capacity, and perseverance. A showman of to-day had no need to fear comparison with any other class in the community. He was proud of the honour his fellow showmen had conferred upon him. It was part of the work he had undertaken to promote—peace and good fellowship in showland. He thanked them earnestly and truly for the honour of coupling his name with the toast. (Cheers.)

Mr. T. Watson Wright, in a capital brief speech, reviewed the work of the Guild and the allied societies, and showed how important it was to keep their trade and home life interests protected. Showmen as Englishmen had a right—a precious and inalienable right—to the sanction and liberty of the law of the realm. Like his reverend friend and colleague, the Chaplain, he had given some of the best work of his life to the defence of their interests. He was proud to be still closely identified with them—(cheers)—and thanked them for the honour of associating his name with the toast.

That silent witness and ever active worker, "the power behind the throne," Thomas Hurst, in his response, jumped out of the necessity for speechifying with ready wit. "I thank you," he said. "I begin my speech where the Vicar of Lynn (the Rev. Gordon Roe) left off this morning at our meeting. The Vicar said—and I say—united we stand, divided we fall. (Great cheering.) I shall ever work with this single purpose, to keep the societies in unity of aim and work. I thank you again, gentlemen.

The toast list included "The Markets and Fairs Committee," proposed by Councillor G. T. Tuby and responded to by Councillor L. Skinner; "The Chief Constable and the Staff of the Borough Police," responded to by the Chief Constable; "The Army, Navy, and Auxiliary Forces," responded to by Sergeant-Major Langley; "The Chairman," proposed by Mr. T. Hurst; and the evening terminated with the National Anthem.

Miss Ruby Norton, who has just returned from South Africa after a most successful tour with Messrs. Hyman, is, we understand, engaged to Lieut. J. MacMahon.

Owing to an arrangement with the Society of Motor Manufacturers, Messrs. Crawford and Wilkins have been able to extend their lease of Olympia into March. Under the old arrangements the skating season at Olympia would have come to an end at the end of next week.

Kinematograph Regulations respecting the use of the Kinematograph in Theatres and Halls, also the Regulations respecting the use of Limelight, can be had, price 1d. (by post 1½d.), from *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C. All those who handle the Cinematograph or Limelight should possess a copy of these Regulations.

FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Pathé Frères.

CARTOUCHE, THE KING OF THE THIEVES.—In this Messrs. Pathé give us an interesting little drama. Cartouche is a brigand chief. Disguised as beggars, blind men, or cripples, the members of his new association have established a real "school for theft." There is no mercy for the traitors, anyone betraying his brethren being sentenced to capital punishment. Cartouche, whose newly-acquired fortune allows him to live sumptuously, invites his noble neighbours to the inauguration of his new hotel, the furniture of which has been stolen from the house of the new Lieutenant of the Nightwatchmen by Cartouche and his gang. The Lieutenant arrives in the drawing-room, and his surprise is great in finding there even his family portraits. He imparts his suspicions to the other guests, whose feelings change from surprise to terror when Cartouche unmasks himself, and requests them to hand over to him all their jewels and valuables. Cartouche was also one of Cupid's favourites, and his frequent raids upon other people's property often ended in love affairs for him. One day, having been surprised by the gendarmes, he escaped on to the roof and laughed at his pursuers. After the above-mentioned daring robbery Cartouche is surrounded by soldiers and taken prisoner, but he escapes for the twenty-fifth time, which proves to be the last. Cartouche, on trying to free some men of his gang who are being transferred to the prison under escort, is vanquished after a fight with the police, and sentenced to death.

MR. FEARY DOES NOT LIKE POLICEMEN.—Here we get a clever trick film. Mr. Feary has just taken one glass too many when he leaves the café, and, in order to rest a little, he stretches himself on a bench in the street. A policeman requests him to "move on," and he does so grumblingly. He knocks up against a woman, and for this a claim is put in against him. Mr. Feary always thinks afterwards that a crowd of policemen are after him. His excited brain discovers them in women's attire or in the garments which hang along the wall. Suddenly he himself is changed into one of his tormentors. In order to flee from his nightmare he climbs on to the roof of his house and makes a plunge down, which lands him on a live policeman, who marches him off.

THE FAIRY'S PRESENTS.—Three brothers and their sister are gathered round the death-bed of their father. After the latter has departed, the brothers send their sister Gsell away from home, for they do not like her because of her sweet disposition, which contrasts so much with their selfishness. Poor Gsell goes away with a piece of bread in her hand, which she keeps for her dinner. She is roving aimlessly in the country, when suddenly she comes upon an old woman who asks her for alms. Gsell has nothing in the world that she can call her own but her bread, which she gives to the beggar woman. Yet the fairy, for such she is, gives her a wand, which the girl examines with surprise. Of what use can this be to her? In her helplessness she drops it, and lo! there comes a well-appointed table, which affords the ravenous girl a good meal. Suddenly she thinks of her brothers, who may be destitute, and she runs to their house. On hearing the good news, they take possession of the wand and send their sister away again. Luckily the good fairy is watching over her, and she gives her a new talisman. This time it is a horn, which yields any amount of gold as soon as Gsell blows it. Gsell is not spiteful, and she goes home again in order to share her gold with her brothers, who tear the horn from her as soon as they know its value; but they can only blow flames from it. Gsell calls the fairy, who appears immediately, and changes the hard hearted boys into vicious pigs, whilst Gsell's home becomes a magnificent palace, and Gsell herself is changed into a princess, with one of the fairy's friends for her husband.

HUNTING THE BROWN BEAR IN AMERICA.—In this picture we are shown the trappers at breakfast after having pitched their tents among the bare trees. They start their day's work. After a long time they at last find a track, which they follow to a picturesque site where winter and snow reign supreme. The brown form of a bear is moving on the whiteness of the earth, and one of the hunters having fired, the beast falls down in a heap. The man approaches it cautiously for, in spite of its being severely wounded, it is still very dangerous on account of its cunning and strength. On seeing the man coming, the bear rolls down the slope like a ball. A second bullet kills it, and the trappers then take its fur, which is always in great demand.

BOBBY SPORTSMAN.—Bobby dreams of becoming a chauffeur, but he has no motor-car. This fact does not trouble him much though, for the bath will serve his purpose. To this he adds the wheels from baby's pram, a coffee-grinder for a starter, a thrashing machine for a steering-wheel a pair of bellows full of powder for the steam, a horn, and let go! Bobby starts full speed, and runs over one of the servants. This is part of the business however, and Bobby consoles himself by thinking that such things will happen at times. Two more accidents take place, of which he does not take much notice. One is hurting two drunken men, the other is smashing a cab to pieces. His victims chase him, and a policeman arrests him for having no number. Bobby writes in capitals B-609, and starts afresh. An accident to his machine obliges poor Bobby to have same conveyed to the garage, where he is overtaken by his enemies, who give him a sound thrashing.

A CONVICT'S REVENGE.—Just outside the penitentiary is the house of the overseer, whose children kiss him good-bye every morning before he takes up his duties. As the overseer sees two convicts whispering together he parts them, and on noticing their menacing gestures he points his revolver at them. One of the prisoners outwits him, and escapes. The overseer gives the alarm, and a hot chase takes place. On the shore the convict hesitates a moment, then throws himself into the sea. The incoming tide submerges him, and his pursuers abandon him to his fate. The rascal however, having succeeded in hiding in a crevice, climbs up a cliff, and, profiting by the darkness he comes at nightfall to the house of his enemy and kidnaps his youngest child, who is playing on the sand. The child is missed, and the father guessing that the convict is working out his revenge upon him, runs after the man, who, being driven to the edge of the precipice, screens himself with the feeble body of the baby, thanks to which he escapes the bullets. The mother is so distracted at the sight of the danger into which her child is being taken that she entreats the convict to be human, and he, touched at last by the poor woman's pleadings, restores her treasure to her. Moreover, seeing that he is on the verge of being taken, he prefers to die, and throws himself into the ravine.

Edison Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

A ROMANCE OF OLD MADRID.—The land of Castile has ever breathed of love and romance, of music, song, and dance; of gay and dashing bull-fights, and dreamy-eyed fair senoritas. Our story takes us to the province of Old Madrid, around which has sighed many a tender tale of love. Paquita, the beautiful daughter of poor peasants, much sought after by adoring village swains and the admiration of strolling painters, makes her first visit to the city of her dreams on a great festival day. She attends the bull-fight, and, in a very romantic manner, she meets Carlos, the famous bull-fighter, who pays her undivided attention, and presses his suit with all the warmth and ardour of a Spaniard. Being afraid of the opposition of her brother to her lover, a cloud hangs over her happiness, but, as the Governor is to give a grand ball, she agrees to elope with Carlos. Carlos therefore selects a friend to make arrangements for the success of the elopement. The festival days draw to a close, and the time arrives for the ball. Paquita is acknowledged belle everywhere, and in mask and domino the friends attend the ball. Everyone is happy and the function is at its height when the friend tells Carlos and Paquita that everything is ready. The lovers, upon hearing this, slip away and are married, and, when the obliging friend calls later to congratulate the happy pair, his astonishment is only equalled by his delight at the result of the ruse.

A MODEST YOUNG MAN.—A guileless young man, over modest, determines to start a crusade against all sights that offend his shrinking nature. An admiring friend sends an innocent picture postcard of a pretty chorus girl. This so gets on his nerves that he has a fit right away. We next see him beating a blushing retreat from a window where ladies' corsets are exhibited. His excitability is next roused at the sight of a theatrical poster. Going through the park he sees an undraped statue on a fountain. A near-by policeman is so amazed at the behaviour of our hero—who drapes his coat around the statue—that he promptly runs him in. At the opera he creates a sensation. Seeing a lady in a low-necked dress he goes off into a dead faint. When he visits some friends and sees the baby in its bath he stands not upon the order of going, but goes very abruptly.

Gaumont Company.

THE BURNS-JOHNSON FIGHT.—We are informed that the Gaumont Company has arranged with Mr. Sydney H. Carter, of the New Century Picture Company, to show films of the Burns-Johnson fight in Liverpool, Leeds, Bristol, Bradford, Bolton, Blackburn, Stockport, and Halifax.

THE ANONYMOUS LETTER.—Two old schoolfellows, one a high official, the other an officer in the army, meet, and the former introduces his wife. A short while after the official has cause to reprimand his secretary for carelessness, and he, after seeing his master's wife and the officer together, thinks of an idea by which he can be revenged. He writes an anonymous letter, which his master receives. The latter, being a jealous man, watches events. Meeting at a social function, he refuses to let his wife speak to his old friend, and heated words follow on both sides. The climax is reached by one challenging the other to a duel. The officer asks his General's permission to fight, and the latter decides, if possible, to prevent it. He calls on the jealous man, and, after being shown the letter, happens to notice the same writing on a blotting-pad. The secretary is questioned, and at first denies knowing anything of the letter, but admits the blotter is his. After being shown that the two writings agree, he confesses, and is turned out. Reconciliation between the two friends follows.

GLORIES OF SUNSET.—The scene depicted is of Cape Martin, and as the sun sets the toning gradually becomes deeper, giving a most beautiful effect. The various scenes shown represent the sun just before it disappears, entitled "Last Rays," the sun having set, entitled "First Shadows," and concludes with a striking view of the bay by moonlight with a ship in full sail passing across the silver reflection on the water.

THE MAGIC EGGS.—The chef goes to take some eggs out of the basket, and finds it moves from the table to the mantelshelf. He follows it, and again it moves to a chair, and finally disappears altogether. He is so astonished that he falls over, and a fairy appears. He bemoans his loss, when the basket suddenly turns up. By means of the fairy's wand the eggs perform various tricks, meanwhile changing colours. The film is a fine example of coloured trick work.

A MYTHICAL GRAVITATION RAILWAY.

To those in search of a novel "sensation" in amusement—and in the present age to many it is an engrossing occupation—may confidently be commended the awesome novel recreation railway journey, for the invention of which Mr. Joseph Thewlis, of Queen's-square, Leeds, has secured Letters Patent, numbered 28704 of 1907. The accompanying illustration depicts the structure, which is intended for use at exhibitions, feasts, and fair-grounds. The invention consists in forming, covering, and decorating the framework of the railway in imitation of a dragon or other mythical animal, the jaws of which are opened to admit the passenger on the vehicle used for travelling on the railway, and closed immediately the passenger and vehicle have entered the mouth, whilst the body and tail into which the body merges are formed in a series of twists or sinuous and reversed folds—for example of the shape in

plan of the figure 8, and a partial repetition of the same—the overlapping parts having slight rises, so as to give a switchback effect, the passenger and vehicle emerging at the tail, which may have a suitable rise to bring the vehicle to a standstill. The head and upper part of the body are supported at the requisite height on a framework within which are steps or a staircase, the framework being covered to represent a castle or dungeon-gateway, or entrance to a cave. The vehicle runs on wheels, and may be articuled to permit of it passing round curves of relatively small radius, whilst the hammock or seat of the vehicle is well below the tops of the rails, so as to render the upsetting of the vehicle or passenger an impossibility, and to ensure the safe passage of the passenger or passengers and vehicle through the body of the animal. The interior of the body or tunnel is provided with lights, or openings, or windows made to admit light, and to enable the passenger to see objects made to represent men or animals, natural or mythical, placed about the railway. The lower jaw is hinged, and has a pair of slot holes through it, so that the commencing ends of the rails may be so placed that the vehicle appears resting on the tongue of the animal. The passage of the vehicle behind the hinge of the jaw into the throat of the animal tilts the lower jaw up, the ends of the rails remaining in position and the slot holes passing over them. The weight of the jaw is sufficient to bring it back to the horizontal position. The animal thus appears to gobble up or swallow the passengers as they commence the journey. The lower jaw or the back arms or tilting levers may be connected to the eyes, to move or roll them, and the movement may be arranged to operate switches of electric lights placed behind the eyes or in the nostrils, and to operate a smoke bellows, producing a blast of smoke from the nostrils. The termination of the railway is brought back to the foot of the framework supporting the head, and a hoist or elevator is provided to lift the vehicle to the level of the mouth; or, if the rise is sufficient, the vehicles may be pushed or drawn up a covered incline by hand or by motor-actuated mechanism. It is here a motor is provided in connection with the apparatus. It may be arranged to actuate intermittently a syren or sound-producing apparatus, imitating a roar, bellow, scream, or other desired sound. We understand that the cost of erecting the structure, which would be about 35ft. in height and in area 50 by 60ft., would amount to £800, and that Mr. Thewlis seeks an enterprising showman to co-operate with him that his invention may be the means of considerably enriching them both during the coming season.

JOHNSON-BURNS FIGHT

Chrono House,
5 & 6, Sherwood Street,
Piccadilly Circus, W.

TO THE TRADE.

Gentlemen,--We have pleasure to announce that we have secured the Johnson-Burns Fight film at an immense sacrifice after lively competition.

The main object of our determination to secure this picture at any cost was our desire to assist the Picture Business generally, and ensure that no combination of circumstances should bar it from reaching our most valued customers--The Picture Exhibitors--who are struggling to uphold the future of the business.

The negative has not yet arrived in England, and no prints can therefore be issued for some days. In the meanwhile we announce that there is no intention of selling prints or copies of this film outright, but they will be leased, with certain restrictions, to certain districts, and that we are prepared to receive offers and tenders from all quarters for the exclusive rights to exhibit this film, for the first one or two weeks, in any town or district.

Yours always obediently and at the service of the trade,

THE GAUMONT CO., Ltd.

GAUMONT

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One always associates Spain with love, romance, gay and dashing bull-fighters, and dreamy-eyed señoritas. Our story takes us to the province of old Madrid. Tells of the meeting of a poor but beautiful peasant girl and a famous bull-fighter, their elopement and marriage.

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A series of adventures of an over-modest young man who starts a crusade against all sights that offend his shrinking nature. Picture postcards, posters, even a baby being bathed upsets him, until his friends take him in hand, and cure him of his peevishness.

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Last year alone, **108 THEATRES, HALLS, HOTELS, and Public Buildings** were either completely or partly decorated and furnished by them. This is a record which has not been approached by A. R. DEAN & SONS before.

Fully 9s per cent. of the Contracts going for this class of work last year (1908) was gained by A. R. DEAN & SONS.

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NEW HIPPODROME, ACCRINGTON.
NEW HIPPODROME, EDMONTON.
NEW PALACE OF VARIETIES, KIRKCALDY.
NEW CINEMA. PALACE, RICHMOND
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This Year (1909) A. R. DEAN & SONS intend to beat their past records.

Already, although the year is young, they have in hand for completion the whole of the Re-upholstery and Re-carpeting (including 3,000 yards of the Best Wilton Carpet) of

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The complete Reseating of the NEW HOLLOWAY HALL, Holloway, London. Upwards of 900 Tip-up Chairs.
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The Largest Theatre or Opera House. The Smallest Portable Theatre or Hall or Booth.

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April 5, 12, 19 May 24, 31, June 7, 14, Aug. 2, 16, on
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May 10, 24, 31, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
April 5, May 17, Aug. 30, Nov. 22, Dec. 6, 13.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON.
April 12, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Aug. 2, 9, 16, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD,
May 17, 24, 31, Aug. 2, 16, 23, 30, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON,
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THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER,
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THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON,
March 1, 29, April 12, 19, 26, on.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Company, for Reading April 5, 12, 19; Theatre Royal, Leicester March 22.
Apply, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD
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METROPOLE THEATRE, GLASGOW, LTD.
WANTED, Pay-box Attractions, April 5 and 26 Various, May and July.
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"Ugliest Woman on Earth" (return) opened splendidly Monday, and will sustain the reputation of both its author and the theatre.
Coms., ARTHUR JEFFERSON.
Wires, "Jefferson, Glasgow."

HOWARD AND WYNDHAM, LTD.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 2[illegible] and April 25 (Glasgow), April 12 and 2[illegible] (Edinburgh). Address, Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh.

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QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL,
Vacant March 8, 22, 29, and onwards.
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Wire for Feb. 22, Wire for Feb 22,
Vacant March 22, 29, and onwards.
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WANTED, Powerful Musical Attraction, April 5, also April 19, and on, with exceptions. Address.
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All communications re dates from July 5 to Oct. 2, must be addressed to
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Apply, BERT ATKINSON, Royal Palace, Ramsgate.

WANTED, First-class Drama, March 1.
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The Only Theatre in the Town.
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GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, May 10, 24.
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T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

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STANLEY ROGERS, Theatre Royal, North Shields.

The New Order of Things a Great Success.
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QUEEN'S THEATRE, PEMBROKE DOCK.
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April 4, 19.
Address, NORMAN H. BARGER.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies

ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH
Vacant March 8, 29, April 15, onward with exceptions.

All communications re dates,
ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant April 5, July 5, 12, 19, onward with exceptions.

EMPIRE, WORCESTER.
See Music Hall Artists Wanted Column.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY, S. WALES
Vacant April 12, May 24, 31, June 7, onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME, BARRY DOCK.
Vacant April 5, 12, Aug. 2, onward, with exceptions.

The Three Great Pantomime Successes,
"ALADDIN," Dec. 27, onward.
"CINDERELLA," Dec. 27, onward.
"PUSS IN BOOTS," Dec. 27, onward.
"BABES IN THE WOOD," Jan. 17, onward.

Can also arrange Production dates for next season for the above.

All communications,
ARTHUR CARLTON,
Theatre Royal, Worcester.
Telegrams: "Carlton, Worcester."

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. HUGH ROBERTSON.

The Premier Theatre in the Furness District, with a holding capacity of £90 at ordinary prices
WANTED, really First-class London Successes for March 22, April 5, 12, on, with exceptions.
Season's Bookings include among others: J. W Turner's Grand Opera Company (return) Mr Wentworth Croke's "The Bondman," "Amasis," Mr. Charles Frohman's "Raffles," Mr. George Dance's Company in "Miss Hook of Holland," Mr. Wilfred Cotton's Company in "Butterflies," Mr. Seymour Hicks' Company in "The Gay Gordons," and Mr. George Edwardes's Company in "The Merry Widow," Paumier and Howard's "The Prince and the Beggar Maid," and "The Midnight Wedding," "The Flag Lieutenant."
All applications for dates to
HUGH ROBERTSON, Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne

KING'S THEATRE, KILMARNOCK.
Lessee and Manager, J. CUMMINGS.

One of the Finest and Most Up-to-date Buildings in the Provinces.
WANTED, First-class Attractions Only Vacant March 29, and April, onwards, with exceptions, for First-class Attractions only.

PAVILION THEATRE,
ABERTILLERY.
WANTED, April 26, May 10, 17, 24.
PALACE THEATRE,
EBBW VALE.
Vacant 3 nights, April 22, 23, 24, May 10, 24, 30.
For Strong Attractions only.
Full particulars to
E. TILNEY, Abertillery.

THEATRE ROYAL, HANLEY.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, for March 15, in consequence of Mr. Seymour Hicks cancelling Tour; also May 10. Apply, ELPHINSTONE.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
WANTED, First-class Attractions April 26, May 24, 31, Oct. and Nov.
JAMES BELL.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. LANGDON LEE.
WANTED, Aug. 9, 16, Sept. 6, 20, and onwards. High-class Musical Attractions.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, BLYTH-BY-SEA.
WANTED, Attractions, with Strong Musical or Dramatic Drawing powers, for March 22, April 5, 19, 26, May 10 and 31. Feb. 22, "Robinson Crusoe."
Lessee and Manager, A. C. MOODY.

EMPIRE AND THEATRE ROYAL, HYDE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 15 onwards; pop. 33,000; surrounding district 60,000. Coms., W. TURNER, Regent, Salford.

THEATRE ROYAL, HANLEY.
WANTED, good First-class Attraction, for April 12 (Easter) and May 10.
Apply, ELPHINSTONE.

WEST PIER, BRIGHTON.
WANTED, First-class Comedies for the weeks commencing March 15 and 22; not drama.
Apply, SECRETARY.

GAIETY THEATRE, BURNLEY.
WANTED, Big Dramatic Companies, for April 5 and 12. Apply, Mrs. T. CULEEN.

WANTED, a Sensational Attraction, on sharing terms, for QUEEN'S THEATRE, FLEETWOOD, one week, March 15; also Artists, all Lines (not Sketches). All must be new for Fleetwood. Communication to CLIQUOT'S Agency, 90, Rusholme-road, Manchester.

EMPIRE THEATRE, SWINDON.
WANTED, First-class Musical Comedy and Dramatic Attractions; also Big Variety Combinations. Managers with First-class Companies only apply direct to ALFRED MANNERS. Wanted, strong Attraction for Whit-Week.

PALACE, BOSTON.
WANTED, good Companies, Musical Comedies and Pantomimes preferred, March 1, onwards.
Wire,
ERNEST CASS, Manager.

WANTED, First-class Companies, Easter, Whit, July 26, Sept. 20.
HALDANE CRICHTON, Empire, Swindon.

STANLEY, DURHAM, NEW ROYAL, LTD.
WANTED, Good Attractions, May 3 (through transferring), also May 31, and on, with exceptions. Apply, MARK H. LINDON.

BATLEY THEATRE.
WANTED, Attraction, March 15, owing to Company coming off road.
J. EDWARD WHITTY, Theatre, Batley.

WANTED, Companies, good Drama, with change of Bill, or Musical, March 8 and on.
JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

PIER THEATRE, EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, March 15, 29 and various dates onwards, including one or two Season dates.
Apply, G. HAYES, Pier, Eastbourne.

DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE.
WANTED through transfer, First-class Company, March 8, March 8.
Apply, H. W. ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, Musical and Farcical Comedies and Society plays preferred, March 22, April 5, Holiday, 12th, 19th, 26th, on, three or six nights. W. E. POTTS.

WORTHING THEATRE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 8, 11, 15, several dates onwards; also Easter, Whit, and a few Season Dates. Wire or write to SEEBOLD, as above.

COMPANIES WANTED.

Booked by
MOSS' EMPIRES, LIMITED,

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE,
GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM,
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS,
and
GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Vacant Dates, May 10, 17, 24, 31, Aug. 9, 16, Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 15, 29, Dec. 13.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE.
Vacant Dates, May 10, 24, June 14, 28, July 5, 12, 19, 26, Aug. 16, Dec. 6, 13.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Vacant, March 29, April 19, May 3, 10, June 21, 28, Aug. 2, 9, Nov. 22, Dec. 13.

GRAND, GLASGOW.
Vacant, April 5, 19, 26, May 17, 24, 31, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Sept. 6, 13, 20 Oct. 4, Nov. 1, 15, 22.
ALEXANDRA THEATRE, STOKE NEWINGTON.
Reopened Shortly.
First-class Attractions Required for Immediate Dates.
Address,
with full particulars, terms, &c., where can be seen, to
MOSS' EMPIRES, LIMITED,
Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street, London, W.C.
Envelopes marked "Theatres."

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
Seating capacity, 3,500.
Acknowledged to be one of the largest, most handsome, and best equipped theatres in the Provinces.
The Premier and Central Theatre of the District.
WANTED, First-class Attractions only, March 22, 29, April 19, May 17, 31 (Whit),
also Big Star Attractions for August Bank Holiday, and Aug. 16 (Race Week).
All communications,
JNO. ED. JOWSEY,
Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough.
Telephones, 413, 426, 500. Telegrams, "Magnet."

PALACE THEATRE, BRIGHTON.
WANTED, Known, Messrs. Jay and Mann have secured a lease of this theatre from Lady Day next. In addition to a local management alert and vigorous in its methods, visiting companies will have the advantages of—
(1) The freeing of the pier toll to playgoers.
(2) A handsome wind and rain shelter the entire length of the pier.
(3) A redecorated and recarpeted theatre.
Vacant dates, March 29, April 5, 19, May 3, and onward with exceptions.
For vacant dates apply,
MESSRS. JAY and MANN,
10 and 11, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly, S.W.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, BIRKENHEAD.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, March 22. Wire or write,
W. W. KELLY, New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER.
WANTED, High-class Companies; holds £100; March 29, Easter, and Autumn. Bookings: "Merry Widow," "Dairymaids," "Prince of Pilsen," "Prodigal Son." &c. All coms., J. P. MOORE, King's Hall, Birmingham.

WANTED, Musical Attractions, March 15, 22, Grand, Chorley; also March 15, Grand, Radcliffe. SANTE, Theatre, Radcliffe.

WANTED, Wanted, Pantomimes, for Charles Barnard's Theatres, 1909-1910. Letters to Elephant and Castle Theatre, S.E.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

WANTED, Good Company, April 12, Theatre Royal, Tonypandy, and Hippodrome, Barry Dock. Wire lowest, certainty, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, Good Company, March 1, unexpectedly vacant through termination of a tour, pantomime preferred. Add., GERALD HARDING.

OPERA HOUSE, WAKEFIELD.
WANTED, Sound Attraction, March 15 Apply, SHERWOOD and Co.

COLISEUM, ABERYSTWYTH.
WANTED, Companies, March 1, 2, 3, 23, 24, 25, 29, 30, 31. Few Spring and Summer Dates Vacant. PHILLIPS.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for King's Theatre, Kirkcaldy, March 15 and onwards. Bookings include "Sexton Blake," "Hush Money," Louie Freear, &c. John Clyde in "Jeanie Deans" took over £500 in one week a short time ago. Write, A. E. ABRAHAMS, 26, Great Eastern-road, Stratford, E.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BLAINA, MON.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, March 1 and 8 and 15, onwards, with exceptions. W. R. LEE, Manager.

WANTED, for six or seven weeks, from and including Whit, Dramatic Stock Co., with strong Répertoire; rental or share. Box 5,463, "The Era."

WEST END PIER, MORECAMBE.
WANTED, Opera, Musical Comedy, and Dramatic Companies, Easter, Whitsuntide, and Summer Season. Address, JOHN BASTOW, Secretary.

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE BEGGAR GIRL'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, April 5, Nov. 1, 22.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME."
By Walter Melville
WANTED, March 29, April 5, 12,
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville
WANTED, Theatres, April 5, 12.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS"
By Walter Melville
WANTED, Theatres, March 8, between Liverpool and Glasgow, Aug. 2, 9.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st. W.C.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
WANTED, Aug. 9, 16.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 16, Sept. 20, 27.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

FREDERICK MELVILLE'S COMPANIES
WANTED, Theatres, April 5, Aug. 9, Sept. 13.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, April 12, 19, Aug. 2, 30, Sept. 6, 20.
TOM H. TAYLOR, Brixton Theatre, S.W.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, April 5, Aug. 2, 9, 16.
DOUGLAS BRUCE,
Grand Theatre, Southampton.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."
WANTED, April 5, 12, Aug. 2, 9,
ANDREW MELVILLE, Met. T., Birmingham

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."
WANTED, April 5, 12, Aug. 9, 16.
ANDREW EMM, Metropole T., Birmingham.

WANTED, Theatres for HUTCHISON NO. 1 COMPANIES.
"PETER'S MOTHER." March 22, 29, April 12, May 10 and 17.
"MRS. DOT." May 3, 10, 17.
"LADY FREDERICK," May 17 and 24.
"IDOLS," March 18 (3 nights), May 3, 10, and 31.

THEATRES WANTED.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
for this Phenomenal Success,
weeks of April 5 and May 10 and 17.

Wire or write to
W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."

WANTED, Weeks of
March 29 and April 5,
March 29 and April 5,
for this Remarkable Success,
which in a fortnight at Dublin played to £1,400,
and at Belfast turned hundreds away nightly.
Wire or write to W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN.
"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN.
"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN.

WANTED, Theatres, March 22, April 5, 19, on.
CHARLES HARRINGTON,
Town Hall, Rhyl.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."

WANTED, April 12, 26.
May 17, 24, 31.

All communications, J. W. CORDINER,
Feb. 22, Theatre Royal, Macclesfield.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."
EUGENE C. STAFFORD'S No. 1 CO.
WANTED, March 29 (?), April 5 (?), 19;
also Oct. 11, 18, 25, Nov. 8, onwards.
Letters or telegrams to
Bishopsdale, Biddenden, Kent.

"SILVER KING" CO.
WANTED, the following Dates:—
Sept. 20, 27, Dec. 6, and Dec. 27.
G. M. POLINI, 93, Penge-road, Anerley, London.

MURRAY KING AND HIS COMPANY, IN
"TODDLES."
"TODDLES."

WANTED, March 29, April 19, 26, May 17, Aug. 2, Sept. 6, 13, Oct. 4, 11, onwards. Next week, T. Royal, Bath.

The New Star.
"THE HEATHEN AND THE CHRISTIAN."
Harry Battersby writes: Allow me to compliment you on your excellent company, and the mounting of the play, and congratulate you on having such a money-maker.

WANTED, April 5, May 31, Aug. 2, something quite new, something quite good. Only clear stage required. FRANK ADAIR, Feb. 22, Theatre Royal, Sunderland.

ROSE MONCRIEFF'S CO.
"THE BELLS OF OLD YORK."
"THE BELLS OF OLD YORK."

WANTED, March 15, 29, April 12 (Wales). Great Success at T. R., Belfast. Refer F. Warden, Esq., Feb. 22, Hippodrome, Pontycymmer.

"I DEFY THE WORLD."
By Arthur Shirley and E. Hill-Mitchelson.
Mr. F. B. Woulfe as "Leon Darville."

WANTED, Good Theatres,
March 22, to follow Devonport;
April 12, to follow Bordesley;
May 17, to follow Grand, Glasgow.
Address, CHAS. M. JULIAN,
Feb. 22, T. R., Barry Dock.

Mr. ERNEST BODKIN'S CO.
"THE THIEF."
(By arrangement with Mr. George Alexander.)
WANTED, Easter Week, and on. All communications to A. LIMPUS, Metropole Theatre, Abertillery.

"THE IDOL OF PARIS."
"THE IDOL OF PARIS."
"THE IDOL OF PARIS,"
by Charles Darrell.

WANTED, First-class Theatres,
March 15,
March 15,
April 12,
April 12,
A big Money-maker anywhere.
Wire for March 15, Wire.
JAMES BELL, T. R., Darlington.

WANTED, First-class Drama Theatres, for the latest Pavilion Success,
"THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL,"
by Lesser Columbus. Everything travelled. Any amount of Pictorials.
Address, Pavilion Theatre, London, E.

MONTAGUE BEAUDYN'S SUCCESSES.
"SEND HIM VICTORIOUS."
WANTED, to oblige, March 29,
Also vacant Aug. 2, 9.
"THE POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN."
A revelation in Modern Drama. A Show that pleases all classes. A powerful company in a powerful play. Vacant Mar. 15 (?), 29 (?)
"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
Gorgeous revival on an elaborate scale
Vacant April 5, May 24, 31.
"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND."
The show that never grows old.
Vacant Aug. 2, Midlands. Wire or write,
To-day, Junction Theatre, Manchester;
Next, Osborne Theatre, Manchester.

WANTED, April 12, 19, May 10, 31, for "The Cingalee."
HALDANE CRICHTON, Empire, Swindon.

WANTED, Good Theatres, for "Second to None." Aug. 30, and Sept. 6, '09.
Address, T. E. WARD, T. R., Batley.

"THE 10.30 DOWN EXPRESS"
and "GUILTY GOLD."

WANTED, May 3, 10 (Midlands)
HORACE STANLEY,
Address,
To-day, Loughborough; next, Sutton (return).

"THE EYES OF THE WORLD."
WANTED, for this great Attraction, large Theatres, April 15 and 26, only dates till Xmas; everything carried, Scenery, Furniture, Properties, Carpets, Curtains, Palms, Flowers, Ornaments. J. EDWARD WHITTY, T. R., Wolverhampton.

S. RENNEF and G. M. COPPING'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, "Love Rules the World," March 22 (Midlands), April 5 (precede Warrington return), April 26 (follow Prince's, Preston), onward, till Whit Week (precede T. R., South Shields); refer C. Barnard, Esq. (five Contracts). R. C. Buchanan (five return Contracts), Harris Fineberg, Esq. (return), M. Montgomery (return), John Hart, Esq. (return), F. Watson Broughton (three Contracts). Powerful Cast, splendid Special Printing. "How Women Ruin Men," several Summer and Autumn dates for this splendid Production. G. M. COPPING, Metropole Theatre, Abertillery.

"MAN TO MAN."
EDWARD LLOYD AND CLIFFORD BOWN'S CO.
WANTED, March 22, May 31, Aug. 16, 30.
EDWARD LLOYD, 4, Pulteney-avenue, Bath.

CHARLES ROGERS and W. E. WILSON'S CO.
"LADDER OF LIFE."
"LADDER OF LIFE."

WANTED, First-class Theatres Only, March 15, March 15, 22, 22.
ROGERS and WILSON, Greenwich Theatre, S.E.

"LUCKY 'LIZA."
WANTED, March 4, between Worthing and Sheerness.
DICKIE CLARE, Theatre, Pembroke Dock.

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Nov. 1, 8, Dec. 6, 13, and 27.
FRANK M. THORNE, Colosseum Theatre, Oldham.

"THE POWER OF THE CROSS." "A FIGHT FOR A THRONE." (Under the Sole Direction of the Author.)
WANTED, Wanted, Dates, "The Power of the Cross." March 15 (between Devonport and Manchester). "A Fight for a Throne," Booked Solid till Whit. Re both plays, GEO. A. DE GRAY, P. O. W. T., Nuneaton; next, Public Hall, Mountain Ash.

WANTED, March 22, 29, "At Cripple Creek." "Under Two Flags." MARK BLOW, 11, St. Edmund's-terrace, Regent's Park, London.

WANTED, Theatres, Lord Leighton's "Venus," in New Spectacular Creation, "Salomé" Playlet, with or without own Co. Hip., Hull.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.
MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.

WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
"HOW GIRLS ARE BROUGHT TO RUIN."
"HOW GIRLS ARE BROUGHT TO RUIN."

Sensational Success
Sensational Success
at
Theatre Royal, Belfast.
Receipts went up nightly.
Friday best House of week, except Saturday.
Saturday
A Boxing Night House.
Theatre packed in every part.
Not even standing in private boxes;
and after the
Great Theatre was packed from
floor to ceiling,
Hundreds upon Hundreds
Clamouring for Admission
had to be turned away.
Refer,
Refer,
Fred. W. Warden, Esq.
who will vouch for this.

"HOW GIRLS ARE BROUGHT TO RUIN."
"HOW GIRLS ARE BROUGHT TO RUIN."
A
Sensational Success.
Sensational Success.
Packing the Theatres
nightly everywhere.
Don't take my word,
Refer,
Refer,
or,
Come and see for yourselves.

"HOW GIRLS ARE BROUGHT TO RUIN"
Sensational Success.
The Public are the Judges.
Please the Public and the Public will Pay.
"HOW GIRLS ARE BROUGHT TO RUIN"
"HOW GIRLS ARE BROUGHT TO RUIN"
Pleases the Public.

"HOW GIRLS ARE BROUGHT TO RUIN."
Playing to Pantomime Business.
Vacant,
April 12, 19 (?), May 17, 24.

MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
March 11, 12, 13.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"GREED OF GOLD."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
March 22, 29, April 12.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

MISS MARY NEIL,
in her Great Successes,
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS,"
By Charles Darrell,
and
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
By Charles Darrell,
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres,
Vacant for either Play,
April 5, May 10 and 24,
June 7 and 14.

Miss Neil begs to inform Managers that she is now rapidly booking 1910 for her next new production.
Coms. to GEO. KIRK,
This week and next, playing both Dramas,
Gaiety Theatre, Burnley.

Mr. CHARLES M. BESTIC'S
LONDON COMPANY,
in the Successful Musical Comedy,
"THE FLOWER GIRL,"
by W. T. Gliddon,
including
John T. MacCallum, Henry Adnes,
Miss Lilian Drake, Miss Georgie De Lara,
supported by a
Powerful Company.
WANTED, March 22, April 19.
Re dates to
JAMES LESLIE, General-Manager,
and all other communications to
CHARLES M. BESTIC,
1, Sidney-road, Stockwell, London, S.W.

"THE TYRANT."
"THE TYRANT."
"THE TYRANT."

WANTED, Big Theatres, for
April 5.
April 5.
April 5.
April 5.
One of the Finest Attractions Touring.
Also Nov. 15, 22, 29.
FRED C. SOMERFIELD, Rushall, Walsall.
Or MARIE DAGMAR, Rot., Liverpool.

ALFRED PAUMIER and WALTER HOWARD'S COMPANIES,
"THE PRINCE AND THE BEGGAR MAID."
WANTED, First-class Theatre.
March 15, North,
WALTER HOWARD,
11 and 12, Bishop's-mansions, Fulham, London.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
The Drama that Booms itself.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Cast of Recognised Artists. Each Member with not less than 10 years' experience.
Magnificent printing. Beautifully mounted.
WANTED, Aug. 16, 30, Nov. 1, 8.
FRED. BULMER,
Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, Strand, W.C.

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANY.
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
A Powerful Domestic Drama, in four Acts.
By Walter Howe.
WANTED, March 1 (three or six nights), April 26, May 3, 17.
Splendid plant of Pictorials by
David Allens and Moody Bros.
Feb. 22, Marina Theatre, Lowestoft.

Mr. and Mrs. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"ROLLICKING RORY."
Romantic Irish Musical Fairy Play.
Only Two Vacant Dates this Year.
April 5 and 12 (Mid. or South).
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
Feb. 22, Hippodrome, Todmorden.

GEORGE A. DE GRAY presents his latest new Play, "THE ANGEL OF HIS DREAMS."
Production, April 26, Theatre Royal, Castleford.
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 2, 9, Sept. 20, Nov. 1, 15, Dec. 13, Jan. 3, 10, 31. All coms., GEO. A. DE GRAY, this, P. O. W. T., Nuneaton; next, Mountain Ash.

WANTED, for the great Money-maker, "THE GRIP OF THE LAW,"
April 26 (?), to follow Palace, Newcastle; also May 3 and 10, and one or two later dates open for good Theatres. Thanks to Messrs. Hart, Abrahams, Rowe, Jefferson, Rogers, Davidson, Flannagan, Boughton, and Findon for Offers and Contracts. All coms. to JOHN BARTLETT, 196, Morrison-street, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Dates, for Fred Moule and E. W. Avery's 1909-10 Pantomime Production,
"CINDERELLA."
Refined, Operatic, and Funny.
Address,
153, Capworth-street, Leyton.

STEPHEN PRITT'S REPERTOIRE CO.,
presenting Beautiful Modern Dramas
of English Life.
WANTED, good Theatres, March 1 and 8, only vacant dates this season.
Address, STEPHEN PRITT, Theatre Royal, Preston.

GRAND PANTOMIME. "CINDERELLA."
WANTED, Theatres, March 1, 8, 15, and on, for this First-class Pantomime; Splendid Company, Big Specialities; can play twice nightly. Proprietors invited to see this Beautiful Show.
Address, FARREN, Grand Theatre, Blackpool.

"THE MASTER CRIMINAL."
WANTED, Good Theatres, March 8 and 15, follow T. R., Belfast. HENRY L. OSMOND, Wheatsheaf Hotel, Longridge, Lancs.

THEATRES WANTED.

FRED GRANVILLE'S PRODUCTIONS, LTD.

Pantomimes:
"BABES IN THE WOOD."
A Phenomenal Success.
Vacant March 8.
Vacant March 8.
Also March 22, 29, April 5, and Easter.
Good Theatres Only.
WANTED, First-class Theatre, for Production 1909-10.
"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST."
The Record Breaker.
Vacant March 8.
Vacant March 8.
Also March 22, 29, April 5, and Easter.
Also Wanted, Good Theatres, Jan. 3, 1910, onwards.
Christmas Production Settled.
"ALADDIN."
A "No. 1" Production.
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"ANOTHER MAN'S WIFE."
WANTED, First-class Leading Lady, Powerful Heavy Lady, Heavy Leading Man, Comedian, Light Comedy Lady (American), Responsible Man, Child Actress, and Chambermaid.
Rehearse March 1.
Address, with full particulars, to
FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, for week March 8, Manchester (rehearse week previous), Military, Heavy, and Lady for Short, Sympathetic Part. MOULE, Capworth-street, Leyton.

WANTED, Rehearse March 1, Tall Powerful Heavy Lady, capable of intensity, must dress exceptionally well; long Tour if suitable. Full particulars, photo. (essential), MONTAGUE BEAUDYN, Osborne Theatre, Manchester.

"HOW WOMEN ARE SLANDERED."
WANTED, Smart Juvenile Lady, for the above Drama, to rehearse Manchester, Feb. 22. then following week. ERNEST E. OWENS, Victoria Theatre, Broughton, Manchester.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, for West-End Success, First-class Theatre Circuit, Lady with fine Mezzo voice for Leading Part; salary £5 per week; premium £150. Address, Box 5,482, "The Era."

WANTED, Lady, for Madge Wildfire, 6 nights, March 8, Scotland. Address, EDMUND SEARLE, Lower High-street, Stourbridge.

WANTED, a Lady to play Boy's part, strongly Dramatic. Lowest terms, photos., &c.; open March 1. FRANK HARDIE, Empire, Dover.

WANTED, Gentleman, to play Character Comedy and Responsible parts, must be used to High-class Plays; also Lady and Gentleman, to play small Parts.
NORMAN V. NORMAN,
Tyne Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, first-class thoroughly experienced Heavy Man; must dress really well.
Photos., refs., and full particulars, to
GEORGE KIRK, Gaiety T., Burnley.

WANTED, Walking Gent, Old Man. Vacancies for Good Amateurs. Fee for tuition. Long tour. Lowest terms, photos., references, BOLTON, Theatre Royal, Lincoln; next, Empire, Southend.

WANTED, to Open in New Town, good Leading Man, Responsibles, capable of Lines, Turns preferred. Lowest terms, HUGHES, Portable Theatre, Bedworth, Warwickshire.

WANTED, Light Comedy Gentleman, for Youth's Part; Lady, to look 16, for Sweetheart. CONWAY, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, Gentleman, tall, stout, weighing about 16st. or 17st.; good engagement; open at once. Apply, 221, Brixton-hill.

WANTED, clever Child Actress, sing preferred, small, and 14 years of age; possible vacancy for Heavy Lady. H. L. OSMOND, Wheatsheaf Hotel, Longridge, Lancs.

WANTED, Actress (high-grade), to Produce new Dramatic Sketch, Modern and Thrilling, on the Halls, on Royalty terms; splendid Emotional part for really fine Actress.

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WANTED, Good-looking Baritone or Tenor Vocalist (young), for Concert Party (South Coast), June to Sept.; Juvenile part in Sketch to follow if suitable. Photos. imperative. Lowest terms and references to HERBERT DICKESON, 353, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Gentleman, to assist Comedian in Comedy Act on Music Halls; must waltz well; no salary first month; excellent opportunity to gain experience; rehearse Holloway, Monday, at 1. Apply immediately, TOM CARRICK, 84, Archway-road, Holloway, N.

WANTED, Known, The New Frances Club 425, Strand, W.C., for Ladies. Members have use of Cosy Sitting and Dining-room, Piano, and Circulating Library. Exceptional Tariff. Terms, 1 guinea yearly; may be paid quarterly, monthly, or weekly (6d.). No entrance fee.

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ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Frank Reynolds, Tenor (Pro.), Engaged by Dr. Richter past season Covent Garden, Liberty for Singles or Party; experienced all lines. 127, Queen's-road, Lavender Hill.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Comedians, next season's Pantos. Last two references, address where performing next three week, age, photos., lowest terms, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists all Lines. Age, height, photo., salary, last two references. Particulars, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Good Chorus Ladies, next Pantomime Season. Age, height, names, addresses last two references, photo., lowest terms, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

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WANTED, Scenic Artists, Theatre Managers, &c., to write for Leete's Catalogue of colours, varnishes, painting brushes, and every requisite for scene painting and theatre decoration. The fullest range of colours in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

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WANTED, by Philip Small, Scenic Artist, Engagement or Contract, Town or Provinces. Refs. Address, 26, Elgin-ter., Maida Vale, London.

WANTED, by Scenic Artist, Engagement, 11½ years with Peter Davey, Esq., Royal County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames. Special terms for permanency. GEORGE MILLER, County Theatre, Kingston.

WANTED, Known, A. W. Moore, Scenic Artist, First-class, at Liberty shortly; good offers invited. Address, 2, St. George's-terrace, York.

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WANTED, Acting Manager, for Established Variety and Picture Hall in Provinces, long engagement given, advertiser having long lease; must invest £100 at 10%. Weekly salary £2 10s. Twelve months' contract given. Address, Box 5,506, "The Era."

WANTED, Advance, for Tour. State salary, refs. Horace Mitchell write.
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WANTED, Contractor to supply complete Electric Installation and run same for coming Circus Season, Tenting, week stands. B. VOLPI, Royal Italian Circus, Andrew's Hall, Cardiff.

WANTED, practical Electrician, one that understands Suction Plant, able to work Bioscope, must be abstainer. Apply, with references, terms, &c., to
D. JONES, Grand Theatre, Aberavon.

WANTED, thoroughly reliable and competent Carpenter, own tools, for touring Trades Exhibition; abstainer; single preferred. Apply, letter only, experience, references, and wages required, NUNN, 12, Highbury-place, London, N.

WANTED, Bill Inspector, to use Brush and be useful in front of house. Terms and last two references, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Re-engagement, W. Benjamin, Business-Manager (10 years T. R., Cardiff), Varieties or Pictures; Lecturer and Vocalist. 11, Holland-road, New Brighton.

WANTED, Agents to Note, Performer, 28, business aptitude, desires position with Agency; versatile knowledge Profession; salary when considered worthy. Box 5,494, "The Era."

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Known, Circus Agent, Disengaged for Tenting Season. Address, J. BROCK, The Gables, Kenyon, near Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Billposting Manager at Liberty shortly, thoroughly experienced; good references. Full particulars from Box 5,460, "The Era."

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WANTED, by Young Lady, Post as Secretary or Companion Help.
Apply, M. Q., 110a, Anlaby-road, Hull.

WANTED, by Young Lady, smart, very willing, companionable, Position as Maid to Professional Lady. CARPENTER, 21, Walcot-square, London, S.E.

WANTED, Situation as Useful Maid to Professional Lady; good references; willing, age 25. L. KENWAY, 6, Loughborough-rd., Brixton, London, S.W.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, for Joseph Poole's Myriorama, commence March 8, Musical-Director, Pianist; must be good arranger. Terms and particulars to F. MAYER, Victoria Hall, Exeter.

WANTED, immediately, for Palace, Bow, Conductor (Violinist), must be thoroughly competent. State lowest terms and latest references. Care Hamlin, Foresters' Vaudeville Theatre, Cambridge-road, E.

WINTER GARDENS, BLACKPOOL.
WANTED, Leader and First Violin (only first-class instrumentalists used to Symphony work), April 8th to 17th and May 29th to October 3rd, two performances daily. Applications, stating experience and terms, to JNO. R. HUDDLESTONE, General Manager, Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

WANTED, good Leader. Age, terms, refs. Open March 1; permanency if suitable. Apply, WILLIAMS, M.-D., Palace, Carlisle.

WANTED, First-class Leader, experienced in Variety. Age and references (letters only), CONDUCTOR, Palace, Hammersmith, London, W.

WANTED, for Summer Season, Lady Violinist, 'Cellist, and Double Bass Players; must be thoroughly experienced and of good appearance. Box 5,496, "The Era."

WANTED, a really good First Violinist, for the Castle Theatre, Stockton, to commence next Monday, Feb. 22. Terms and latest references, to J. CHAS. IMESON,
Theatre Royal, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, Good First Violin (must be experienced concert work), for orchestra, seaside, six months. Full particulars, experience, age, references (if possible enclose photo). A Good Bassoon also wanted. Write, Box 5,509, "The Era."

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, CARLISLE.
WANTED, Feb. 29, good Solo Cornet and Drums. Terms and refs. to FRED BURNS, Musical-Director.

WANTED. Solo Cornet, fully conversant with Grand Opera, permanency. Terms, age, and ref. J. R. BINGLEY, 34, Eleanor-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, a Good Solo Cornet, for Nottingham, permanent engagement, none but first-class performers need apply; must be used to variety business. Apply Box 5,499, c/o "The Era."

DISTRICT ASYLUM, MELTON, SUFFOLK.
WANTED, an Attendant, must be a good Clarionet Player, able to read at sight and used to String Orchestra; wages to commence at £32, with board, lodging, washing, and uniform; at the end of one year's service £2 increase, afterwards rising £1 annually up to £42; further increase according to ability as an Attendant. Applications to be sent to the MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT, enclosing copy of one testimonial.

DISTRICT ASYLUM, MELTON, SUFFOLK.
WANTED, an Attendant, must be a good Trombone Player, able to read at sight; wages to commence at £32, with board, lodging, washing, and uniform; at the end of one year's service £2 increase, afterwards rising £1 annually up to £42; further increase according to ability as an Attendant. Applications to be sent to the MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT, enclosing copy of one testimonial.

WANTED, experienced 'Cellist, to Open March 1; 11 weeks' season; Concerts twice daily. References to PARSONS, 2, Beaulieu-terrace, Bournemouth.

WANTED, Experienced Lady 'Cellist, for Ladies' Orchestra, for one month at Easter. Reply, Box 5,486, "The Era."

WANTED, experienced Pianist, for March 1, for Variety, Sheerness, one week. State lowest terms. Write at once, BEN ALBERNO, 36, Ranelagh-road, Sheerness.

WANTED, First-class Solo Pianist, well up in Variety and Drama, open at once.
W. E. POTTS, Opera House, Dunfermline.

WANTED, Tympanist (own Tymps.), Double Drums, Effects; competent, sober, reliable; good refs.; Theatre, Permanency. F. CHARLES, Welcome Lodge, Avondale-road, Eastbourne.

WANTED, Leaders, Solo Violinists, Pianists, 'Cellists, and Bass Players, for White Star and Cunard Mediterranean Services, commencing Feb. and March. For terms and conditions, apply C. W. BLACK, 14, Castle-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Orchestral Instrumentalists, including Double Drums, with own Tympanies, Bells, also Pianist, for about 3 months Summer, East Coast; trial essential in London; only thoroughly experienced need forward particulars, lowest. Double-handed preferred. Address, Box 5,501, "The Era."

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WANTED, Professional Musicians, every instrument, to know this, viz., that every Semi-Amateur holding a Permanent Engagement is causing a Professional to be Out of Work. Join the National Federation of Professional Musicians (Trade Union), and help to remedy the grievance. Write at once for Propaganda. F. BALL, Hon. Sec., 19, Grange-street, Rusholme, Manchester.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Conductor (Violin), Disengaged March 25; valuable library. Thanks Jules Richeux, Esq., for comfortable engagement; 3½ years. Pavilion, Ramsgate.

WANTED, Known, W. H. Brinkworth, late Musical-Director (Violin, Piano), Palace, Ramsgate, Disengaged; Composing, Arranging. 7, Victoria-mansions, Elderfield-road, Clapton.

WANTED, by experienced Musical-Director, Engagement in a Music Hall, London or Suburb; good references. Box ????, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, Musical-Director, 35, Violin, good library, London references, Hall, Theatre, or Pavilion. H. F. Eske, 44, Cargill-road, Wandsworth, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Sydney Hampton, Mus.-Director, Piano, Double First Violin, Composer and Arranger, at Liberty. Address, 14, Chatsworth-street, Leicester.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Conductor, for Opera, Theatre, or Music Hall, Composer and Arranger. Box 5,461, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by well-known London Variety Conductor; good refs.; good library. Moderate salary. Box 5,497, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, as Conductor, Piano, or Double Bass; excellent library. Rowland Clark, 23, Lebanon-road, Croydon. 'Phone 835 P.O.

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WANTED, Engagement, Charles Weldon, Conductor, concluded Panto. Feb. 13, opened special month Feb. 15, at King's Theatre, Kirkcaldy. Best offers only.

WANTED, by experienced Lady Violinist, Re-engagement as First or Second Violin; young and good appearance. Address, Violinist, 400, Wandsworth-road, S.W.

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WANTED, Engagement, immediately, by experienced Violinist (Conductor or otherwise). Terms moderate; any business. Wire, Musicus, 15, Inglis-street, Stoke-on-Trent.

WANTED, Engagement, by Cornet, experienced, sober, good ref. Long, Tunn-street, Fakenham, Norfolk. Will Mr. Sprake, sen., communicate?

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by reliable Cornet, First or Second, Military or Orchestra. W. L., 80, Coventry-st., Bethnal Green, E.

WANTED, by steady reliable Cornet, now at Liberty, Shop, start at once. Apply, Cornet, 29, Endless-street, Salisbury.

WANTED, Engagement, two Clarionets, Piccolo, and Drum (brothers, Army trained), Continental Circus or Menagerie; grand Fife Band for Parades. Best terms to Bowles, Ratcliffe-place, Keswick.

WANTED, Known, Clarionet Player desires Engagement in Orchestra or Military Band; good references; abstainer. H. Moore, Guy's Cliffe-road, Leamington.

WANTED, by Clarionet, Season Engagement, high or flat pitch; also at Liberty for Theatre or Music Hall. Box 5,491, "The Era."

WANTED, Season Engagement, as B flat or E flat Clarionet, E flat preferred. F. W. Atherton, 1 Rosemont Market-street, Torquay.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by Clarionettist, Pianist, Accompanist; first-class; best refs.; Military or Orchestra. Address, 35, Waverley-terrace, Parkhead-street, Motherwell.

WANTED, Known, Miss Mabel Curtis, Contra Bass, Christine Curtis, Clarionet, together preferred; Disengaged April; thoroughly experienced. Address, King's-road, Brentwood, Essex.

WANTED, by an Artist, Double Bass Player, permanent Engagement; life experience, Variety, Dramatic, Opera, &c.; five years present engagement (high-class theatre); highest credentials. Bassist, 26, Crowther-rd., Norwood Junction.

WANTED, by First-class Bassoon, Summer or other Engagement, 12 years' experience in Orchestra and Military Bands; excellent testimonials. Pitt, 262, Cemetery-road, Trealaw, S. Wales.

WANTED, by Trombone, combine Euphonium, Engagement, any Business; fully experienced, good Soloist; excellent refs. Apply, George Gruber, Court Villa, Pulborough, Sussex.

WANTED, Known, Trombonist at Liberty, Theatre or Military Band. T. A., 83, Northcote-avenue, Southall, Middlesex.

WANTED, Engagement, Trombone, experienced, in good Theatre or Music Hall. Address, Griffin, Church-st., Bawtry, Yorks.

WANTED, by Good Euphonium Player, with a long military experience, Engagements. Apply, Box 5,508, "The Era."

WANTED, good Season's Engagement, by experienced Bombardon (late Tuba, Moody Manners Op. Co.). Address, Salisbury, Bombardon Skating Rink, Dundee.

WANTED, by good Bombardon Player, with a long military experience, Engagement. Apply, Box 5,507, "The Era."

WANTED, by French Horn (Second), Engagement in First-class Orchestra or Military Band, for the coming Summer Season or perm.; thoroughly experienced; excellent testimonials. Musician, 70, Meanley-road, Manor Park.

WANTED, Engagement, by French Horn, Orchestra or Military. W. P., 23, Hartismere-road, Fulham, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by 'Cellist, London; used to Music Hall. Disengaged 20th. Box 5,488, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, Viola or Second Violin, any business; steady, reliable; excellent refs. A.M.U. Jack Brown, 16, Tunstall-terrace, Silksworth, Sunderland.

WANTED, by First-class Oboist, Engagement; highest references, &c., &c. Wm. R. Morton, 6, Ashmere-grove, Acre-lane, Brixton, London.

WANTED, Engagement, by Maud Estlin Grundy, Harpist, great success Steinway Hall, 10th (Saint-Saen's lovely Fantasie); Hampstead Conservatoire 26th. 105, New Oxford-st., W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Lady Flautist; thoroughly experienced; good sight reader; excellent references; any business; Disengaged Sat., Feb. 20. B. Pratt, Chatteris, Cambridge.

WANTED, Known, Flute and Piccolo, at Lib., any Bus.; late Palace, Carlisle. Wire or write, Wyatt, 122, Dartmouth-st., Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Engagement, by good Flute and Piccolo, experienced any business. Terms, Union rate. Flautist, 12, Bartholomew-street, West Exeter.

WANTED, Known, Flautist, at Liberty, any Business; first-class refs.; steady at all times. Address, Flautist, 30, Cromwell-st., Millfield, Sunderland.

WANTED, by brilliant Solo Pianist and exceptional Accompanist, Engagement with high-class Orchestra, for Summer Season; three seasons Loading Pier; highest references. A., 117, Wellesley-road, Great Yarmouth (pro tem.).

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WANTED, Offers for Miss Winnie Watson's Ladies' Poppy Orchestra, Soloists and Singers, from Franco-British and Principal Exhibitions, now Folkestone; Southport Pier following. 'Phone, 5,100 Nat. 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton.

WANTED, Known, Miss Winnie Watson thanks C. Cochrane, Esq., for ten weeks' comfortable engagement; Orchestra for Variety, Olympia; also for future engagements.

WANTED, Known, Shikissimma Band, Original Ladies' Japanese Orchestra, all Soloists; latest Répertoire. Conductress, Winshill, Howard-road, Newbury.

WANTED, Known, the Rage of the Continent, Heer Maurits Van Yzer's ZUIDER ZEE GIRLS. The only and original Dutch Ladies' Orchestra, in their unique Dutch Peasant Costume. At Liberty for Seaside, Piers, Hotels, &c. Terms, &c., Secretary, 17, Prebend-mansions, High-road, Chiswick, W.

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WANTED, by First-class Quadrille Band, Summer Engagement, Pier or Ball Room; any number of performers; splendid programme of music, excellent references. Terms apply, A. W. Seed, 11, Montgomery-street, Skipton, Yorks.

WANTED, Known, Young Conductor, Composer, and Arranger of Repute, age 22 can supply Orchestral Band, composed entirely of Young Gentlemen Experts; any number; April, onwards. Box 5,470, "Era."

WANTED, by Military Band, Engagements, town or seaside; smart uniform; good répertoire. B. M., 56, Chipstead-st., Parsons Green, S.W.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, to complete the Company for Hannaford's Grand Canadian Circus, few good Ground Acts, Ring-master, one that can Lecture a little preferred, Musicians, Tent-master, Stud Groom, must be sober and reliable; all to commence Easter Monday, April 12. Address all communications to Sir Edward Hanneford, 27, Third-avenue, Consbrook-avenue, Strandtown, Belfast.

WANTED, for Easter and onwards, Circus Artists, Every Branch, and good Continental Novelties; must be new to Birmingham. Apply, B. Volpi, Royal Italian Circus, Andrew's Hall, Cardiff.

WANTED, for Gilleno's Circus, for Summer Season, Artists in all Lines of the Equestrian Profession. Silence polite negative. Address, H. Gilleno, 8, Caird-street, West Derby-road, Liverpool.

WANTED, for Big First-class Provincial Theatre, in North of England, Complete Stage Circus for Summer Season. Apply, with full particulars, Box 5,500, "The Era."

WANTED, at once, smart young Girl, good Trapeze performer; one who can open at once preferred. Apply, Sims, 93, Cook's-road, Kennington Park.

WANTED, Bar Performer, at once. State tricks, height, salary, everything found. Joe Wilson, General Post Office, Wigan.

WANTED, Young Man, Good Tumbler, Long Engagement, good terms, open soon. Address, Box 5,502, "The Era."

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Success, Success still follows the Original and Only THREE ROYAL OHMYS, Favourite Riders to the Crown Prince of Denmark, greatest of all Acrobatic Barebacked Riders in the World. Now appearing at the Grand Circus, Hull. The Royal Ohmys, the talk of the town and country for miles around. Can be seen at the above Circus till further notice; will be at Liberty for a few weeks before leaving for Denmark. Address, The Royal Ohmys, Grand Circus, Hull.

WANTED, Known, the Stephenson Family of Equestrians finish to-night a most comfortable thirteen weeks' engagement with John Henry Cooke, Esq., and open Monday next, Algie's Circus, Spennymoor; at Liberty March 22. Address, Circus, Spennymoor.

WANTED, Known, Alton Trio, Contortionists; also Tella and Gardelle, Gymnasts; at Lib. Two distinct Acts. 6, Victoria Park-road, London.

WANTED, Known, Don Pedro the Great, Unparalleled and most Daring High-wire Performer, open for Fêtes and Galas. Terms, 99, Rhyddings Park-road, Swansea.

WANTED, Engagements, two High-rope Acts, Lady and Gentlemen Performers, Big or Small Galas. Chevalier Ponchery, Bank-street, Cradley Heath.

WANTED, Known, Ada Webb's Water Wonders, The World's Greatest Aquatic Act. Coms., this, E., Dudley; next, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Engagements, for Airship Flights, Balloon Ascents, Captive Balloons, Balloon Races, Parachute Descents, gas or hot-air balloons, by Lady or Gentlemen Aeronauts. Spencer Bros., Ltd., 45s, Aberdeen-park, Highbury, London, N.

BALLOON ASCENTS and PARACHUTE DESCENTS.

WANTED, Engagements, for Parachute Descents of a Novel and Sensational Kind; certain to Draw Big Crowds in the Grounds; first-class and reliable apparatus used. Secretaries, Managers, and Agents communicate at once for terms and all particulars to Box 5,481, "The Era."

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists. Twice Nightly; also WORCESTER EMPIRE, Twice Nightly. Wanted, Artists doing Double Turns, used to Picture Shows. No wires, please. Arthur Carlton, Palace, Worcester.

CLYDEBANK.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.

WANTED, Variety Artists, First-class Acts of all Kinds, Star Comedians, Comediennes, reliable Specialities, Sketches, &c., for immediate and future dates. A. E. Pickard, Sole Proprietor and Manager.

WANTED, Monday, March 1, and onwards, Variety Artists, all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, Kitchingman, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Variety Artists every description, good Dancing Acts, Monday onwards. Macqueen, Picture Palace, Cowdenbeath, N.B.

BRITANNIA, GLASGOW.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, March 1 and onwards, with exceptions. Apply, A. E. Pickard, Sole Proprietor and Manager.

WANTED, Variety Artists, Novelties, Specialities, &c., Feb. 22, onwards. Terms, particulars, Louden, Hippodrome, Airdrie, N.B.

WANTED, Variety Artists all Lines, March 1, on. Doubles doing Singles; those in vicinity write; Hall small, low terms. Arthur Izon, Empress Palace, Morley.

WANTED, Variety Artists, Doubles, Singles, for Monday next and March 1. Wire lowest, Manager, Hippo., Tredegar, Mon.

VERNO'S AGENCY.

16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, March 1, onwards. Telegrams, "Merriment." 'Phone 2075 Royal.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Artists of Note. Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,

DALTON'S AGENCY. ——
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DALTON'S AGENCY. I can book you.
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DALTON'S AGENCY. Dates onward.
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DALTON'S AGENCY. Send full list
DALTON'S AGENCY. and very lowest
DALTON'S AGENCY. (this essential),
DALTON'S AGENCY. and permanent addresses,
DALTON'S AGENCY. also
DALTON'S AGENCY. weekly apartments
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DALTON'S AGENCY. 29, Maudeth-road West,
DALTON'S AGENCY. Withington,
DALTON'S AGENCY. Manchester.
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I said "Agency."

N.B.—State where never played. Austral Trio and Columbia Comedy Trio please wire addresses. Very urgent.

YARMOUTH AND LOWESTOFT HIPPODROME.

WANTED, March 1, onward, Variety Artists of every description; also Acts that can work at Sunday Concert can have week to precede or follow.

Geo. Zalva's Agency, Hippodrome, Yarmouth.

THE ADVANCED VAUDEVILLE BUREAU (Managing-Representative, E. K. Smith), 7a, Queen's-arcade, Leeds.

WANTED, Artists having Vacant Time, especially North and Midlands, to submit their absolute lowest terms and list of bookings. If this is done, those known to us will receive immediate consideration, and those who are not will be seen on the first possible occasion. Big Acts of Every Description, and especially Good Comedy Numbers, can have immediate bookings. Note. "Monday next" is a special feature of our business, and all Artists having such immediate time out are specially requested to send address for week preceding, and also where a wire will find them Sunday and Monday, as we may be able to place at the last moment.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists, all Lines, Comedians, Serios, Specialities. Nothing too Big, Nothing too Small. Talent only required, March 1, onwards. Send lowest terms, bookings. Big Acts for Seaside and Galas. Edgar Stebbings and Co., 23, Egerton-street, Manchester. 'Phone 9261. Tels., "Stebbing, Manchester."

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates. William Mould, Central Palace, North Shields.

VICTORIA T., STANLEY, CO. DURHAM.

WANTED, Star Artists for immediate and future dates. T. C. Rawes, Proprietor.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, from now onwards. Apply, Mr. J. J. Scott, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, for Carl and Carr's Enterprises, Al-fresco Artists in all Lines; two smart Pianists required. Age, height, last two references, recent photos, addressed envelope for reply, and lowest terms for Plymouth and Devonport. Address next four weeks, Carl and Carr, 46, Cooks-road, Kennington Park-road, S.E.

JAZON'S AGENCY.

WANTED, Artists, of Every Description, for Immediate and Future Dates; must have list of bookings and lowest terms. Wanted, Tops and Bottoms, for weeks of March 1, 8, 22, April 5, on. Panto. Artists vacant next season communicate. Now casting for following subjects:—"Aladdin," "Cinderella," "Whittington," and "Crusoe." All communications, Jazon's Agency, Theatre Royal, West Bromwich. Telegrams, "Stienberg." Telephone, 294.

HIPPODROME, LEEK, STAFFS.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, with Drawing Powers, to follow Mahatma, who returns March 15, March 22, onwards; Hall small, so send lowest terms. Artists wanting the gross receipts save stamps. Sole Proprietress, Mrs. Jane Williams; Manager, Mr. Chas. Williams, Acting-Manager, Mr. Jack Morton. P.S.—Notice—No Contracts acknowledged after March 15 other than signed by Chas. Williams and Mrs. Jane Williams. Treasury, Saturday noon.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, March 8, Stars and Big Sensational Act. W. Goodger, Grand Theatre, Luton.

WANTED, for Fred Durham's Agency, Artists all Lines, Feb. 22, on. 14, Loughboro'-rd., Brixton, S.W. Tele., 15 Brixton. Telegraphic add., "Durhamlike, London."

DUDLEY CASTLE FETES.

Whit Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 1909.

WANTED, Known, Aerial Artists, First-class Pantomimic Sketch Production, with trick scenery, &c., large stage, scenery, &c., complete for any show; Musical Act, Troupe of Smart Lady Dancers (four, eight, sixteen in number), Trick Cyclists, or Lady Acrobats, Salome Dancer, Knockabouts, Circus Clowns, Animal Act (not dogs), and any Novelties.

Full particulars, with lithos., &c., to Secretary, 265, Castle-street, Dudley.

WANTED, for immediate and future Dates, Stars and Big Attractions, Share or Certainty. Send full particulars, Manager, Empire, Greenock, Scotland.

PALACE, NORMANTON.

WANTED, Good Variety Turns, Wanted, good Variety Turns, from March 29, on. No vocalists. Can Stage any Act. Dobito and Buxton, Normanton.

WANTED, Varieties, Specialities, New to Blyth, 6 nights, March 1, Doubles doing Singles. Lowest terms, Charles Blake, Town Hall, Hexham.

SMYTHSON'S AGENCY.

WANTED, the Biggest of Big Acts New Acts state where can be seen. Good Acts known to me send full list of bookings. Quote actual lowest, London and Provinces. Silence polite negative pro tem.

All communications to Smythson, 38, Crasier-rd., Brixton Hill, London, S.W. No callers except by appointment.

WANTED, Acts of all Kinds, now and onward, South Wales and District, also North of England. Terms and bookings, Martino's Agency, 125 Barcroft-street, Grimsby.

W. HAMILTON'S EXCURSIONS.

WANTED, commencing March 22, First-class Variety Acts. Address, Town Hall, Falkirk.

WANTED, Novelty Acts of all kinds. State towns where new, with lithos. and bookings, in first letter. Address, Kelly and Ibrahim, Agents, 26, Devonshire-street, All Saints, Manchester.

WANTED, good Acts who are vacant March 1, to send lowest terms. Will list you all out; impossible to answer all. Address, McAskell's Agency, 126, Roker-avenue, Sunderland.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted

LONDON, PROVINCIAL & CONTINENTAL VAUDEVILLE COMBINATION.

TELEPHONES:
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TELEGRAMS:
"Randvoll, London."
"Barrasford, London."

THE PALLADIUM, LONDON

(late Hengler's Circus), will be open August Bank Holiday, 1909.

THE ALHAMBRA, PARIS.

C. T. Aldrich, Four Canadians, Les Balsamos, Marin and Lona, Francis Marty, La Freya, F. Dufor, J. Hart's "Futurity Winner," Prof. Canova, Denwartz Troupe, Nitta Jo, Jewel St. Leger, Pictures, Ongars, Perezoff Troupe.

HIPPODROME, BIRMINGHAM.

Dave Carter, Mark Leslie, Wright and Lawson, D. Gould, Bostock's Baboons, 'Varsity Girls, Werds, Sinclair and Whiteford, Emerson and Baldwin, Pictures, Hayman and Franklin.

HIPPODROME, BRIGHTON.

Vasco, Alexandra and Bertie, Lennie and Hast, Croisit Trio, Jack Hayworth, Fred Curran, Les Marbas, Pictures, J. Walthur, Cragge.

HIPPODROME, SHEFFIELD.

Six Bros. Luck, Klein Family, Jock Whiteford, W. Douglas and Co., Tony Iveson, Juno Salmo, Five Broadway Girls, Stowe Bros., Cecilias, Rappo and Ella, Pictures.

HIPPODROME, LEEDS.

Effie White, Camplins, Auers, Anileda and Auguste, Henri and Tyler, A. Roberts and Co., Pictures.

PAVILION, NEWCASTLE.

Gillen, E. Jose and Co., Philip Levard, Payen, Three Allison Sisters, Margaret Cooper, Reg. Beauchamp, Pictures, Zona Vevey, Carlton.

HIPPODROME, ST. HELENS.
HIPPODROME, EALING.

Dolly Golden, Nellie Lunelle, Dora Daly, Pictures, Austin and Cowan, Warsaw Bros., Chas. Austin and Co., Chas. Sloman.

EMPRESS, BRIXTON.

W. P. Sheen, "10 o'clock Squad"; Chas. Hera, Violet Beatrice, Dolly Harmer, Four Lovebirds, Cozmar, Two Sovereigns, A. Ward Four McNallys, Pictures, Fred Maxwell and Co., Sinclair and Parr, Harris's Nippers, Hammond and Wyatt.

PALACE, HAMMERSMITH.

Randolph King, Harry Zetter, Minnie Love, Ella Lorraine, Pictures, Sterling and Love, Howard and St. Clair, Kitts and Windrum, Harvey's Boys and Girls, Harry Simms, Two Clares, Mrs. Lewis Waller and Co., Lucy Coventry.

OLYMPIA, SHOREDITCH.

Lloyd Morgan, Albert Mackelvin, Evelyn Taylor, Sisters Silcott, Gus Harris and Co., Pictures, Royal Tokio Troupe, Bessie Lind, Beatrice Macadam, Elsie Bernard, Lorne and Vallance, Hackenschmidt.

THE WEEK'S CALLS

THE EMPIRE, HOLBORN.

Geo. Newburn, Alix Lukos, Sisters Sprightley, Pictures, Stacey and Williams, Wyndham and Wyatt, Raglas and Assistant, Three Amaranths, Tom Parker, Mabel Hind, Sisters St. Julian, Hammond and Wyatt, F. Karno and Co., in "Yap Yaps," The Schinettans, King and Benson.

HIPPODROME, WILLESDEN.

Ted Cowan, Harry Ford, Dora Lyric, Little Vi Davis, Lancashire Lasses, Pictures, Mendel, Warsaw Bros., Wilson and Waring, Carlotta De Yonson and Co., La Milo.

EMPIRE, CROYDON.

Geo. Gilbey, Jack Marks, Ida Clare, Pictures, Herbert Shelley, The Boissets, in "Bricklayers," The Dreadnoughts, Haines and Borthwick, Freda Murray.

ISLINGTON EMPIRE.

May Fairclough, Pictures, Bros. Bright, Phil and Nettie Peters, The Great Lafayette.

HIPPODROME, BALHAM.

Ed. E. Ford, Jack Pleasants, Nora Stockelle, Lena Wylie, Daisy James, Pictures, Mooney and Holbein, Honors and Le Prince, Sid Cotterell and Co., Irma Lorraine.

HIPPODROME, PUTNEY.

Tom Leamore, Bertha Winder, Maud Esmond, Pictures, Leo Tell, Hans and Lux, King's College Boys, Charcot, Willie Gardiner, Eadie and Ramsden.

HIPPODROME, POPLAR.

Russell Brandow, Chas. Pastor, Jack Smiles, Minnie Mace, Kate Carney and Co., Pictures, The Findens, Oakes Duo, O'Gorman Bros., Kuroki, Madge Osmond.

HIPPODROME, ROTHERHITHE.

Harry Champion, L. B. Athol, Fred Earle, Sisters Marion, Marie Empress, Carina Sisters, Pictures, Conway and Garland, Kent and Keith, Fielding and Hull.

PALACE, CAMBERWELL.

Harry Cooke, Cyrus Dare, Chas. Stevens, Charlie, Madie Burker, Marie Lloyd, La Belle Nello, Nellie Farrell, Pictures, David Poole, Carl Hertz, Joe Reichen's Dogs.

HIPPODROME, NOTTINGHAM.

W. Holland and Co.'s Pantomime, "Forty Thieves," Moxon Trio, Lanos and Montes, Captain Roberts.

THE LONDON CASINO

will be open at the end of November, 1909.

THE ALHAMBRA, BRUSSELS.

Ariel and Astarte, Three Diamonds, Great Troba, Cummin and Seaham, Abelliard, Claymore and Gordon Trio, F. L. Kruager, Three Ausonias, &c.

HIPPODROME, LIVERPOOL.

Bob Fitzsimmons, Arthur Reece, Terry and Bentley, Ellwanger and Co., Annie Heath, Three Krakes, Pictures, Harry and Paul, Hall and Macey.

HIPPODROME, RICHMOND.

Dan Thomas's Pantomime, "Dick Whittington," Pictures.

EMPIRE, SWINDON.

Musical Comedy and Dramatic Season.
Bill matter for this hall to be sent direct to Mr. Manners, Empire, Swindon.

KING'S THEATRE, SOUTHSEA.

Lalla Selbini, Carlotta Levey, Showells, Leslie Bros., Bertiech, C. Wilbur and Co., Willie Allan, Dunn and Reano, Pictures, J. Piper.

HIPPODROME, WOOLWICH.

Cyril Dame, Clive Watts, Jack Smiles, Millie Howell, Lulu Evans, Pictures, Manning and Gomersal, Goldinis, Bros. Horne, Joe Elvin and Co.

GRAND, CLAPHAM JUNCTION.

Harry Taft, Johnny Fuller, Geo. Gilbey, Helen Charles, Pictures, King's College Boys, Athas and Collins, Hackenschmidt, Edna Sellow, Daisy Hurdle.

HIPPODROME, PECKHAM.

Gus Dallon, Morny Cash, Arthur Rose, Clara Beck, Bessie Lind, Pictures, J. Willard and Co., J. Beauchamp and Co., Hal Forde.

BRITANNIA, HOXTON.

Drama, Twice Nightly.

KILBURN EMPIRE
(IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION).

ILFORD HIPPODROME
(IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION).

All communications, bill matter, &c., for London Halls to be sent to Mr. Walter Gibbons at above address.
Those for Mr. T. Barrasford at 11, Leicester Place.

INTERVIEWS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

BAND PARTS ARE REQUIRED FOR AT LEAST 14 DIFFERENT INSTRUMENTS.

OFFICE HOURS: 10 to 5 p.m.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

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DAUGHTERS OF BRITAIN COMPANY.
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Harmony, Comedy, Dance, and Song.
Harmony, Comedy, Dance, and Song.
Harmony, Comedy, Dance, and Song.

Grand Costumes.
Grand Costumes.
Grand Costumes.

A Scream from Start to Finish.
A Scream from Start to Finish.
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Vacant March 1, 8, and 15, 1909.
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Vacant March 1, 8, and 15, 1909.

Can also accept a few Summer Dates at Best Pier Pavilions and Seaside Halls, on Sharing Terms or Certainty.

Whole Programmes provided, including Two First-class Sketches, and Animated Pictures if desired.

Seven First-class Performers.
Seven First-class Performers.
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Seven First-class Performers.

Appeared London Pavilion Forty-two Weeks.
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Address,
34, Red Lion-square,
Kingsway, London, W.C.

WANTED, by Merry and Bright, Comedians, Monday next. Wire offers (all answered), Palace, Dover (third return).

WANTED, March 1 and 8, by Jackson and Marte, Unique Patter Comedians. Big Success Everywhere. This, Empire, Hull; next, Pavilion, Northwich. Our Act is Copyright.

WANTED, Monday next and March 1, by Colvil and Tate, Comedy Artists and Dancers, the usual success this week at the Gaiety, Clydebank; the hit of the Programme. Wire, c/o Murray, 62, Waddell-street, Glasgow, S.S.

WANTED, by France and Francis, Acrobatic Comedians, Monday, Feb. 22, March 1. Wire, 3, Edward-street, Aldershot.

WANTED, Feb. 22, 29, by Rhodes and Lanes, Patter Duettists, &c. This week, Central Hall, Bangor, North Wales. Wire.

WANTED, March 1, by Rezene and Rezene, through misunderstanding. This week, starring and terrific success, Hippo., Dover; Monday, Hippo., Eastbourne. Shall I? Yes! The talk of Dover.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Offers for the Three Lynnes, in their Refined Musical Specialty; Youth, Beauty, Voices, Talent. Coms., C. Cochrane, 1, Norfolk House-road, Streatham.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, March 1, by Five Musical Tritons, through Scarboro' Hippo. closing. This week, Hulme Hippo.; next, Ashton Hippo.

WANTED, March 8, between Hastings and the North, by Chas. Lestree, Juggler, and The Rinders, in Illustrated Songs. All Apparatus carried. You can't go wrong at the price.

Monday, Muncaster, Bootle.

WANTED, by Mlle. Sylvesto, most novel Contortionist, and her funny Comedian, March 1, 8, 15, 22. Feb. 22, Palace Theatre, Aberdeen, wire.

WANTED, 22nd and 1st, by Atlas and Vulcana Troupe, World's Premier Athletic and Posing Act. 17, Waterford-road, Fulham.

WANTED, Feb. 22, and on, by La Dor Troupe, male and female Acrobats, in three distinct Acts; also Comedy Burlesque Bull Fight. 28, Alexandra-road, Bedford.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty end of March, Four Zolas, Society Herculean Acrobats and Tumblers; also Bros. Alpine, on their new and novel Trapeze Act, the only Act of its kind; also La Perch; three distinct Acts, for Circus, Galas, Halls. Still on Tour with Captain Clayton's Grand Panto. Next Monday, Theatre, Glossop; after, Alhambra, Stourbridge.

WANTED, Monday next, March 8, 15, Almo Trio, smart Comedy Three-Bar Act, including Miss Lo-La, the clever Lady Three-Bar Expert. 34, Highfield-st., Beeston Hill, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, Florence Raymond, Ventriloquist and Baby Mimic, vacant Monday, onwards. Big draw for Pictures. Wire for Monday, Theatre Royal, Darwen; next, 43, Penny-st., Blackburn.

WANTED, by Harry Keeble, Ventriloquist, and Gladys Wells, Comedienne, March 22, on. This, Park Palace, L'pool; Mon., Hippo., Tredegar, Mon.

WANTED, March 15, between Lowestoft and Burnley, by Gulliver, Ventriloquist par excellence. Address, 46, Derngate, Northampton.

WANTED, March 29, April 26, by Hulbert, Ventriloquist, and De Lil, Illusionist; two Smart Acts. Offers invited. Albert Hall, South Shields.

WANTED, Known, Valvo, Ventriloquist, guarantees a Star Attraction. Vacant March 1. Wire, this, Grantham (Empire); next, St. James's Hall, Harrogate.

WANTED, by Prof. Duncan, the Great Ventriloquist. March 22, 29. All coms., Keeble's Agency, 281, King-street, Hammersmith, W.

WANTED, Monday next, also March 1 and 15, for Dramatic Sketch, "The Veteran's Birthday." This week, Empire, Hull (Bottom). Harry Slingsby, Esq., says: It is the finest dramatic episode for two people I have seen. Donaldson, 14, Bank-street, Brighouse.

WANTED, Feb. 22, for "Battle of Belles," 30 minutes' laughter. Six Artists. Scenery. Fred Moule, 153, Capworth-street, Leyton.

WANTED, Known, only vacant dates Feb. 22, Mar. 1, 8, 15, 29. The Press unanimous. Most interesting Novelty. Birmingham Mail, Feb. 16, '09: The Gaiety.—One of the best entertainments seen at the Gaiety Theatre for some time is provided this week. The audiences at this house are fond of novelty, and they certainly have it in the turn by Orbasany's cockatoos, who have been trained to perform some wonderful tricks, which earned the applause of last night's audiences. &c. All coms., Irma Orbasany, Gaiety T., Birmingham.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, March 1, 15, 22, April 5, 19, Percy Victor's Wonderful Dog Minstrels (The Laughing Hit); Eddie Clay, Comedy Musical Act (ditto). Now Booking Galas; Shrewsbury, Abergavenny, &c., settled. Concluding third year, J. P. Moore's "Whittington." 22nd, Opera House, Kidderminster.

WANTED, March 1 and 22, by The Three Spangelettis, with their Dogs and Baboon Act; also Platter, Great Comedy Juggling Act. Address, Spangeletti, Picture Palace, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Known, Cyclinis Trio, Comedy Acrobatic Cyclists, Football Match on Bicycles, O. H., Workington; vacant 22nd, 1st, 8th. Wire above till Monday; after to perm. (see Cards).

WANTED, Pauletti, Funny and Clever Acrobatic Cyclist; Les Cavos, Novelty Gymnasts on the Silver Frame. Big success this, T. R., West Bromwich; next, O. H., Kidderminster.

WANTED, Monday next, also March 1, by Salmon, Demon Trick and Novelty Cyclist; big outdoor Attraction. Wire, Albany-terrace, Burnley.

WANTED, Engagement, by Expert Lecturer and Manager, Bioscope or Variety; smart Advertiser; can Boom up Business. Address, Allen, 26, Colls-road, Peckham, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, by smart Second Mounter and Tumbler; would join good Troupe, or Double Act. Reply, Box 5,498, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Prof. Lenton's Bioscope Entertainments; Change of Pictures Nightly or Weekly; Machines, Films, and Accessories Bought, Sold, or Hired Out to any amount. 2, Capener's-yard, Knightsbridge, S.W.

WANTED, by Smart Bioscope Operator, Engagement with Good-class Picture Shows Only, London, £2 weekly. Can recommend good Doorman. Box 5,490, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Operator and Practical Electrician; permanent situation preferred in Theatre or Music Hall. Electrician, 19, Walsall-street, West Bromwich.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known, .22 Cartridges, "R," "H," "D," "P" brands. Winchester repeaters. Globes, Targets, Water Balls. Greene, 74, Falmouth-road, London, S.E.

CAKE WALK. BROOKLYN CAKE WALK.
WANTED, Known, Thousands of Pounds taken and waiting to be taken on these machines. Cake Walk Riding Craze becoming Universal. No waiting to load up. 11,000 passed over in one night at Hamburg Fair. All the leading papers write about it. Write for Press Opinions, terms, and full particulars, Patentees and Sole Makers, Taylor, Plinston Bros. and Co., 94, Farncombe-st., and 98, Bermondsey-wall, London, S.E.

WANTED, Showmen, Fair-keepers, &c., to know Stacey and Co.'s new address is 510, Kingsland-road, London. Noted for Swing Ropes, Shooting Saloon Requirements, Flare Lamps, &c.

WANTED, Showmen and others to write for particulars re Fireworks and other Attractions, for forthcoming Season, to Hugo Baruch and Co., 75, Shaftesbury-avenue, London, W.

WANTED, Cinematograph or good Novelties, with Flash, now or future Dates; shares; good position. Apply, Cody, 69, York-st., Belfast.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Midget Lady, height about 3ft., age over 14; if suitable 12 months' engagement; £1 per week, with board, sleeping accommodation, exhibiting dresses, travelling expenses, half post-cards. Mrs. Reeves, 18, Jenkins-street, Burslem, Staffs.

WANTED, Lady Character Delineator. Lowest terms and experience. A. E. Pickard, Waxwork, Trongate, Glasgow.

WANTED, a good Comedian and Planksman, also Descriptive Vocalist, for Auction Mart. Apply, Williams, Auction Mart, Abercynon; after Monday, Blackwood, Mon.

WANTED, Good Tattooist; best possible position; rent or terms. Automatic Exhibition, 1, St. Mary-street, Southampton.

WANTED, immediately, experienced Operator, one used to Fair business, must be intelligent, competent man. Kemp, Cinématograph, Market-place, Great Harwood.

WANTED, Known.—Having disposed of my two Continuous Bioscope Exhibitions at 21, Edward-street, and 28, Gardiner-street, Brighton, to Messrs. Berley and Seymour, I am open to take over Sole and Entire Management of any First-class Concern, either Travelling or Stationary, on salary or commission; or will Hire or Purchase any Large Up-to-date Money-making Concern, or Represent any Large Undertaking connected with the Amusement World. Apply, Tom Norman, Silver King, Auction Dept., "The Era" Office, London.

WANTED, Known, Rollo, King of the Air, Athlete and Gymnast; also Miss Annie Aseiky, Speciality Dancer; Lib. shortly. Add., 5, Devon-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement, for Mons. Beauté, World's Fasting Man, only vacant dates this year March, April, May; highest reputation; 28 days' fasting experiment, Glasgow University, 1908; first-class Show; local doctor engaged at my expense. Address, Box 5,480, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Tom Thumb, the smallest man in the world, age 22 years, 23in. in height, and 24lb. in weight, is now open for Engagements. Permanent address, J. S. Beeley, 83, Market-street, Westhoughton, Lancs.

WANTED, by well-known experienced Auctioneer, Situation with good firm; 14 years' practical experience, Shops, Halls, or Vans; good worker; good references. Liberty on and after the 22nd inst. Smales, Auctioneer, 7, Windsor-street, Caldmore, Walsall.

WANTED, Known, to Showmen, Ground to Let at Chester Races, on the Little Roodee, from Saturday, May 1, to Saturday, May 8, for Large and Small Shows, Sheets, Shooters, Stalls, and other Novelties. Apply, P. Collins, Gondola Works, Walsall. Telegrams, "Gondola, Walsall." 'Phone No. 80, Walsall.

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Address applications for anything really new to Proprietors, Pleasure Beach, Blackpool.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known, to Proprietors of Side Shows, Games, Helter-Skelter Lighthouse, Novelty Stalls, &c., &c. Space to Let for Dudley Castle Fêtes, Whit Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 1909. Apply at once to Secretary, 265, Castle-street, Dudley.

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WANTED, Known, that I have two Splendid Premises in Grand Position of Two Provincial Towns; admirably suited for Continuous Bioscope Exhibitions. I shall be pleased to Let same on Rental or Shares. No opposition in either town. Grand prospects. Apply, Tom Norman, Auction Dept., "The Era" Office, London.

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WANTED, Space in Trades Exhibition, large Distorting Mirrors, Automatic Machines. Large Mirrors for Sale or Hire. Mirrors, 77, Virginia-street, Southport.

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WANTED, to Sell, Grand Pulman Car, rail or road; Shuttered Booth, canvas top; gas generator and fittings. Lot or separate. R. O., 65, Market-street, Manchester.

WANTED, to Sell, First-class Auction Mart or Variety Marquee, Pierrots, or Pictures, patent lights, everything as new. Cost owner £200 eighteen months ago; will take £100 cash. A lot fit to go anywhere. Now open. Apply, Box 5,504, "The Era."

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Rehearsal at 1.30 for :—

Joseph Hart's "Rain Dears," Bert Williams, Dennis Drew, Lionette Roberty, Jimmy Curwell, W. F. Frame, Frank Bertram and Co., Walter Aubrey, Bioscope, "Casey's Court."

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—

Fred Karno's Company, including Fred Kitchen, in "G. P. O.," Tom Collins, Lyric Mummers, Ethel Newman, Marstro and Oretta, Dorothy and Alexander, Percival, Beattie Kent, Bioscope, Lydia and Amelys.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—

Joseph Hart's "Polly Pickle's Pets," Nellie Wallace, Staig's Cycling Steeplejacks, Fred Keeton, Three Laurels, Sisters Caselli, Mary Ambrose, Bioscope, J. F. Preston and Co., in "Rogues of the Turf."

GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—

Stevens and Buchanan's Grand Pantomime, "Cinderella."

ARDWICK THEATRE, MANCHESTER.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Oswald Williams, Walter Howard's Co., in "The Last Hope," Lil O'Gorman, Four Figaros, Fayre and Manning, W. J. Churchill, Duncan and Godfrey, Bellonini, Arthur Astill, Bioscope, The Stockham Grecian Band.

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—

Neil Kenyon, Jean Macduff, Barrington, Tiller's "Dainty Dutch," The Lumars, The Bogannys, Victor Newman, Musical Sylvo, Bioscope, The Mystic Hussars.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Norman Wrighton's Co., in "Wake up, England," Eight of Hearts, Florence and Lilian, Harry Bedford, The Rawsons, "No. 99," Millie Payne, Chronomegaphone, Bioscope, Guyer and Valli.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Henriette De Serris, Maud and Sydney Wood, Three Welsh Girls, Delevines, Ginnett's "Hunting Morn," Ross and Lewis, Virto and Venita, Little Pam, Bioscope, Paul Barnes.

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Wentworth Croke's Co., in "The Christian."

GRAND, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Alice Pierce, Lily Palmer, Billy Hobbs, Margaret Parker and Co., Great Wieland, Roma and Romani, Frank Street, Annette Hayward, Bioscope, Achmed Ibrahim Troupe.

PALACE, LEICESTER.

Rehearsal at 2.30 for :—

Russell Wallett, Laurie's Kindergarten, Alf Chester, Les Voces, Hermann Melot, Annie Purcell, The Brennans, Arthur Gill, Bioscope, Miss Marquis' Ponies.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Howard Bros., De Gracia's Elephants, Three Prestons, Madge Temple, Howell and Scott, Herbert Darnley's Co., in "The Mandarin," Harry Herbert, Maudie Francis, George Young, Bioscope, Barton and Ashley.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Albert Chevalier and Co., in "Behind the Scenes," Percy Hannan, Katie Moss, Joe O'Gorman, Theo. Bouwmeester, Bessie Slaughter, Burnetti, Bioscope, Poluski Bros.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

"Sands of Dee," Alf Holt, Viviana and Co., Mlle. Naveeda and Co., Gray and Brown, Mabel Mignon, Bright and Claire Trio, Bioscope, Fred Eustace and Co., in "The Amber Light."

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Victoria Monks, Tom E. Hughes, Jeannie Mackay, The Mayvilles, Belle Davis and Pics., Albert and Edmunds Troupe, Les Uniques, Kate Traill, Bioscope, Les Fleury.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Tom Leamore, Henri de Vries, St. George Sylvesta, Burns and Danvers, Farr and Farland, Schenk Bros., Florence Yaymen, Frank Cass, Lexie McLac, Bioscope, Musical Courtiers.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

O Hana San and Co., Will Cornish, Bioscope, Hanid Alexander, Carter Livesey and Lilian Rosebery, J. L. Shine and Co., Lydia Yeamans, Burke, Andrus, and Frisco, Soho Trio, Mabel Bright, "Motogirl."

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's Co., in "Peter's Mother."

THE LONDON COLISEUM

Rehearsal at 10 a.m. for :—

Miss Elise Craven and Co., Pagliacci, Arthur Kenny, Winifred Ward, Thora, The Gaudschmidts, Miles Stavordale Quintette, Rousby's "Greater London," Darc's Marionettes, Lindon's Entertainers, Heeley and Meeley, Bioscope, Karl Reinsch, La Tamara.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Fred Lindsay, Frank Hartley, Orpheus, Adams and Ward, Dot Stephens, Spry and Monti, Carl and Carr, Nellie le Breton, Bioscope, Miss Mary Mayfren and Co., in "Yellow Fang."

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco, Sisters Dorrell, New Macs, Maud Rochez Monkeys, Stratton Mills and Co., Harry Leybourne, Ida Kathrena, E. J. Sheldon, Bioscope, Terry and Lambert.

EMPIRE, SWANSEA.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Fred Karno's Co., including Albert Bruno, in "The Bailiff," Kroney Bros., Baby Boden, John Macauley, Van Allen, Stylo, Beatrice Bonnie, Bioscope, Austin Rudd.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Auguste Van Biene and Co., The Three Dixons, Jackley Trio, Chas. Fisher's Opera Co., La Pia, Watson's Dogs, Frank Lynne, Allan Hanbury, Bioscope, Gertie Gitana.

PHILHARMONIC HALL, CARDIFF.

Rehearsal at 3 for :—

Company as booked.

EMPIRE, NEWPORT

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Daley Cooper, Mabel Lait and Co., in "Passing the Time," Tom Moore, Cline and Clark, Arthur Aldridge, Wood, Wells, and Wilkins, Haley's "Garden of Girls," Bioscope, Leipzig.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Ernest Shand, Phil Parsons, Trentanovi Sisters, Amy Anderson and Co., Frederic Villiers, Alexandra Dagmar, Alburtus and Millar, Takio, Bioscope, Zeynard's Lilliputians.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Miss Carrie De Mar, Melia and Mozarabar, Nellie Coleman, Cliff Dixo, Ben Albert, The Gems, May Edouin, Billy French, Bioscope, Fred Edwards and Co., in "Kleptomaniacs."

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Elliott Savonas, Harry Lawson, Enzer, Hilda Jacobsen, Tom Bryce and Miss Price, Naughton and Gold, Nellie Hughes, Edie Endon, Bioscope, "That Brute Simmons."

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

George Gray and Co., in "Parson Gray, V.C.," Bert Woodward, George Bellamy and Winifred Rae, The Dandies, Mike Nono, Jack Lane, Walter Curtis, Bioscope, Gladys Mavius, Bertha Stuart.

The following are booked in conjunction with the above:

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUBLIN.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

La Scala Opera Company, Josie Mooney, Neville Delmar, Sybil St. Elmo, St. Clair Bros., Tee and Tee, Sisters Aindow, Pictures, Walter Munroe.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

The Four Holloways, Frank Sylvo, Ethel Walker, Fred Land, Oakdene, E. H. Charlton, Pictures, Canty's Grotto.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—

George Leyton, in "Lucknow," Eily Adair, McConnell Trio, Lickson's Dogs, Vetter Bros., Jimmy Shields, Bioscope, Coloured Meisters.

IMPERIAL HALL, WALSALL.

Company as booked.

THEATRE ROYAL, CROYDON.

Animated Pictures and Illustrated Songs.

EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

George Auger and Co., Ernest Clifford, McCann's Dogs, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Meymott, Kioto and Esa, Baker and Balfe, Cliff Ryland, Lily Esplin, Bioscope, J. H. Milburn.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Selbinis, Mona Garrick, George Westland, Ethel Bourne, Bonnie Goodwin's Piccs., Ted E. Box, Three Sisters Grosvenor, Pictures, Will and Alice Vokes.

IMPORTANT NOTICES.

RE APPLICATIONS FOR ENGAGEMENTS.

All applications by either Artists or their Agents must be made to the Head Office. Lowest terms must be stated, and distinction made between salaries required for larger and smaller towns. Vacant dates should be stated. If a list of existing bookings be sent, it will render selection easier.

Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not rebooked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follow :—

EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, NEWCASTLE, AND DISTRICT.
MR. S. GETHING, Empire Theatre, Glasgow.

BIRMINGHAM, NOTTINGHAM, LEICESTER, AND DISTRICT.
MR. HATTON WHARTON, Empire Theatre, Nottingham.

SOUTH WALES DISTRICT.
MR. ALBERT MITCHELL, Empire Theatre, Cardiff.

LEEDS, SHEFFIELD, HULL, BRADFORD, AND DISTRICT.
MR. T. GERALD MORTON, Empire Palace, Leeds.

LIVERPOOL, MANCHESTER, AND DISTRICT.
MR. ALBERT BULMER, The Empire, Liverpool.

LONDON DISTRICT.
MR. J. CHRISTIE, Empire Theatre, Shepherd's Bush, W.

N.B.—Mr. OSWALD STOLL or Mr. FRANK ALLEN can be seen by appointment on all matters arising out of the above, and for the discussion of entirely new Numbers.

All Artists or Agents who communicate with our District Representatives must have made definite applications, in accordance with above directions, to the Head Office, at the same time, or just previously.

Artists and Agents are requested to note that the Standard Theatre, Shoreditch, and the Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, come within the areas absolutely barred by us. Artists and Agents are also requested to note that the Hippodrome, Aston, Birmingham, comes within the area absolutely barred by the Grand Theatre and Empire Palace, Birmingham.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have at least Fourteen Band Parts for English Orchestrations, and Seventeen Band Parts for Foreign Orchestrations. Matter of Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to Co-operative Offices, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced. Artists' Scenery, Properties, &c., MUST be fireproofed in accordance with the regulations of the Licensing Authorities.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

No order or contract for goods or services must be accepted for any of the foregoing theatres except upon receipt of an Official Form, issued from the Co-operative Offices, London, and signed by either Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. Frank Allen, or the Chief Accountant, otherwise the Company concerned will not be responsible for same, and will refuse payment. In special cases, where goods are required at once, suppliers must look to the individual placing the order, who will be personally liable, unless an official confirmatory order, signed as above, is received within forty-eight hours. Invoices must be sent to the Theatre, but monthly statements should be sent to the Co-operative Offices. The individual Company on whose behalf orders are signed is solely responsible for payment. The Management will not hold themselves responsible in the event of loss of or damage to any MSS., Songs, &c., submitted for consideration.

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FEBRUARY 15, 1909

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DERBY.—Green Man Hotel, St. Peter's-street; the Professional House; 2 minute theatre; bed and sitting-rooms; moderate terms.

GLASGOW.—Hotel Edinburgh (Mrs Henderson's), 95, Renfield-street. Near theatres, electric light, special charges to profs.

GLASGOW. — Buchanan-street Station Hotel. Recommended. Terms, 35s. Near Empire, Pavilion, Zoo, Royal, Royalty, and Grand.

HULL.—Miss Duncum, 18, Portland place, bedroom, sitting-room, two combined; good cooking and attendance, moderate.

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GRANT, TAYLOR, and ATKINSON, have been favoured with instructions from Mr. George Grossmith, sen., to SELL the above by AUCTION, at the Mart, Tokenhouse Yard, E.C., on Thursday, March 18 next, at 1 o'clock (unless previously disposed of by private treaty).

Particulars may be had at the Mart, E.C.; of Messrs. Sole, Turner, and Knight, solicitors, 69, Aldermanbury, E.C.; and of the Auctioneers, 39, Bloomsbury-square, W.C.
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SPECIAL AND IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Artists engaged will please note that rehearsals at ALL Halls take place at 12 o'clock noon each Monday.

No excuses whatever for non-attendance will be entertained.

All billing matter and notification of appearance, accompanied by samples of pictorial printing, must be sent to the London Offices, Oakley House, Bloomsbury-street, W.C., fourteen clear days prior to opening, or contract may be cancelled at the option of the Management.

All Scene and Property Plots of Sketches, Scenas, &c., must be sent to Foresters' fourteen clear days before opening.

All Artists carrying scenery must have same fire-proofed, in accordance with L.C.C. regulations, otherwise it will not be allowed in the Halls.

Artists please note that when stage staff are required on Sunday, according to the "award," their time must be reckoned from that given in call."

In cases of emergency after office hours, Mr. Vaugh may be consulted at the Foresters' Theatre, Cambridge-road, E.

Telephone 5954 Avenue.

Telegraphic address, "Stageyness, London."

CALLS

FOR WEEK COMMENCING.

MONDAY, FEB. 22, 1909.

PALACE, BRADFORD.
Chas. R. Whittle, Ted Gill, Mr. and Mrs. G. Wilde, Tina Frank, Frank Vallance, T. C. Jaques, J. Holland and Co., Leslie's Cadets, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.
Tiller's "Jack and Jill."

PALACE, HALIFAX.
"Claude Duval," St. Ruth and Conyers, Mabel Thorne, Maudie Forde, Frank H. Fox, Ted Karno and Co., Madge Grey, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
Minerva, Norah Desmond, Master Richard May, A Ba-Be, The Fordyces, The Arntes, Czar Troupe, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
"Bravo, Territorials!" Marie Santoi and Co., Deans and Wilton, Rose Cass, The Betsons, Two Dubies, The Kirbys, The Garricks, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
San Remo Girls, Raymond, Rosie Revel, Alice Hughes and Co., The Granvilles, Harold Lewis and Cissie Cleveland, Sable Fern, Rolando Martin, Cinephone.

THEATRE ROYAL, ROTHERHAM.
"Tomkinson's Choir."

THEATRE ROYAL, CHESTERFIELD.
"The Prince and the Beggar Maid."

THEATRE ROYAL, LEEDS.
"Human Nature."

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Picture Entertainment.

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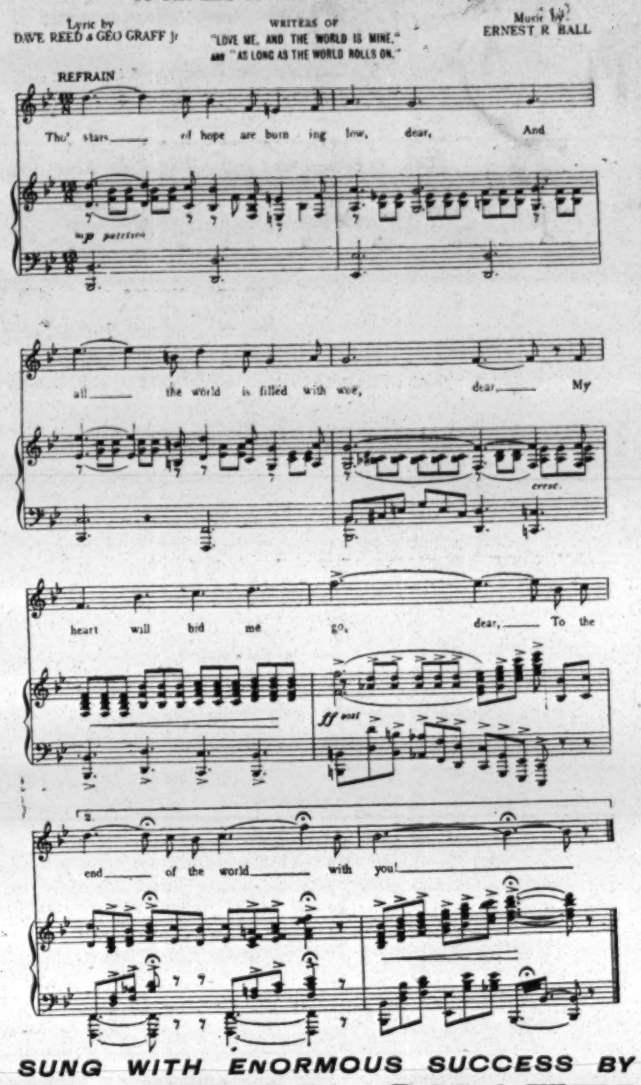

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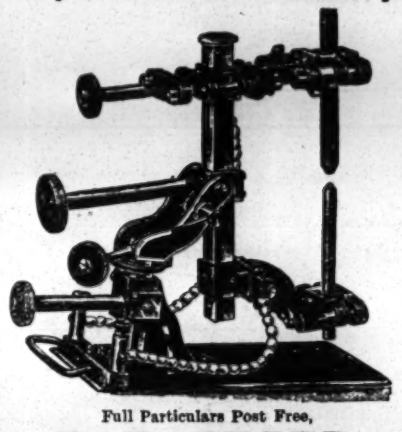

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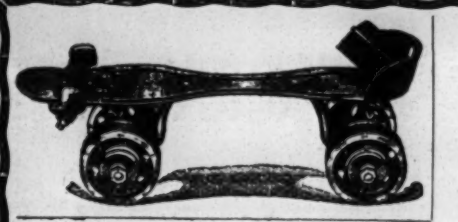

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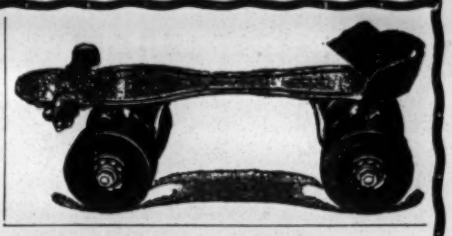

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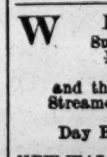

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AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, FEB. 17.—Miss Fannie Ward and Mr. Charles Cartwright are chiefly responsible for the success of *The New Lady Bantock* at Wallach's Theatre. This is the play that was known as *Fanny and the Servant Problem* in England, and the change of title does not appear to have proved detrimental to its success in America, although one would think that the original title would have proved sufficiently attractive considering the perennial perplexity of the "servant problem" in this country. As England is the habitat of the faithful retainer who remains with one family for a lifetime, such a posture of circumstances as is disclosed in the play under notice would rarely be found on this side of the ocean. But for all that the struggle between Lady Bantock and her butler could hardly be uninteresting in this land of autocratic underlings. Martin Bennett, the arrogant and domineering butler, is played to perfection by Mr. Cartwright, and Miss Ward as the music hall artist who marries a title is so natural and unaffected that her performance leaves a most agreeable impression. Mr. John W. Dean as Lord Bantock, Miss Leila Repton and Miss Margaret Grey as the spinster sisters, Mr. T. J. McGrane as Dr. Fremantle, and Mr. Robert McWade, jun., as Newte were excellent in their respective rôles, the other characters being well represented.

"HAVANA," a musical comedy, in three acts, by George Grossmith, jun., and Graham Hill, with music by Leslie Stuart, made an instantaneous hit at the Casino on the 12th inst., and is likely to be a fixture at that house for some months to come. Mr. James T. Powers, a comedian who is really funny and a great favourite in this city, made his reappearance after a prolonged absence from the local stage in the rôle of Samuel Nix, bos'un of the Wasp, and received an enthusiastic welcome. His topical song, "How did the bird know that?" provoked much laughter, and his expansive smile and unfailing good humour proved as mirth-provoking as ever. Mr. Ernest Lambart, who was very amusing as Don Adolfo, attended the bevy of "newspaper beauties," whose rendering of "Hello, people" made the hit of the performance. This tuneful number threatens to be quite as popular as the same composer's "Tell me pretty maiden." "Cupid's telephone," also sung by the aforesaid bevy, was another "fetching" number, Miss Edith Kelly's dancing being warmly applauded. As Anita Miss Clara Palmer sang and danced delightfully. Others who contributed to the success of this exceedingly attractive offering were Messrs. William Pruette, Percy Ames, Joseph and William Phillips, Harold Vizard, and Miss Eva Davenport. The piece is beautifully mounted, and is a most satisfying feast for the eye and the ear. *Havana* will easily uphold the popularity of the Casino as a place of entertainment.

LONDON AND COUNTY CONCERT.

The large King's Hall at the Holborn Restaurant was well filled on Monday night, when the printers of *The Era*, the London and County Printing Works and *Bazaar* Staff Association gave their annual concert in aid of the pension which is being founded in connection with the Printers' Pension Corporation. Mr. E. Mynott (works manager), an admirable chairman, presided, and among those present were Mr. L. Upcott Gill, Mrs. Upcott Gill, Mr. Bernard Gill, Mr. Edward Gill, Messrs. Pedgrift (*The Era*) C. Lowry and J. Burton (*Shoe and Leather Record*), W. Grierson (*T.P.'s Weekly*), and a large number of ladies and gentlemen connected with the London world of "print" and letters.

Miss May Neville opened with a well-executed pianoforte solo; Mr. E. L. Hargrave had the unenviable task of "first turn." Mr. G. J. Blower amused with "I want you to see my girl"; and Mr. W. J. Baker showed promise as a violinist. Mr. Bernard Russell's efforts created great merriment, and then came Mr. Leonard Holmes's vigorous rendering of "Chorus, gentlemen," evidently to the taste of the audience. Mr. Harry Hall increased the diversion by his contributions to the humorous side of the programme; Miss Dorothy Picking delighted with "A Woodland Madrigal"; and the fine tenor of Mr. Chas. Pattle was heard to great advantage in this two items, which were warmly applauded. Mr. Finlay Dunn was (as usual) a success with humorous songs at the piano; and succeeding him came Mr. Leo Crosse, who, accompanied by his brother, showed that great things may be expected of him as a 'cellist. He played with good tone and expression Dunkler's "Rêverie," and was encored.

Two of the best items of the evening were the duets contributed by Miss Emilie Hayes and Mr. Fred Gregory, who were followed in their first item by Miss Lily Nice, whose rendering of "Il Bacio" was very pleasing, and who later sang Ed. German's Waltz Song from *Tom Jones* in finished style. A capital recitation by Mr. Reginald Higgins was followed by Mr. Walter Montague, in exceptionally good humorous musical sketches. Miss Elsie Lisle, in excellent voice, sang well; and Mr. Bishop Gill did full justice to "A Sergeant of the Line." Miss Elsie Steadman's two numbers caused much laughter; and further contributions to the mirth-making came from Messrs. Albert Mackelvin (Scotch comedian) and Mr. Chas. Gerard Tate. From the realms of variety came Gilbert Girard, with his clever imitations of animals, &c.; Jules Charmettes, with renderings in French of popular English songs; Claude Gardner, light comedian; Little Victoria, L. B. Athol, Lulu Evans, Dorothy Vine, and Elsie Bernard, who materially contributed to the success.

Mr. C. E. Johnson made a most efficient chief accompanist, and received valuable assistance from Miss May Neville, Mrs. W. A. Perkins, Miss Cooper, and others. Mr. Mynott was responsible (in conjunction with the energetic hon. sec., Mr. J. A. Lawrence) for procuring the fine array of talent and in making the arrangements for the gathering, and Mr. W. A. Perkins acted as musical director.

Bram Stoker on American Acting.

"IF the number of theatres is any indication of the wishes of a people in that direction," writes Mr. Bram Stoker in a pithy article in *The Fortnightly* on "Americans as Actors," "the United States stands very well for histrionic effort. Mr. Julius Cahn gives in his compendious Theatrical Guide the names of more than 2,600 theatres of varying importance in the United States, which would allow of one theatre for every 24,000 inhabitants. This compares favourably with our British average, for by the lists given in *The Era Almanack* the British theatres and music halls total about 800, which would give an average of just about twice as many persons to each theatre. Were our examination as to the popularity of the theatre the incidence would be altogether on the American side; but as it is relating to the native capacity for acting, it rather tends the opposite way. For even with such an evident demand for actors the indigenous supply is insufficient; there is a ready market in the United States for the services of competent players—provided, of course, that they can speak the language.

THE Readers' Pensions Committee (an organisation which exists for the purpose of securing pensions for infirm and aged correctors of the press and their widows) has secured the Lord Mayor (Sir G. Wyatt Truscott) as chairman of the annual dinner on behalf of its funds. The gathering will be held at the Holborn Restaurant on March 20.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDEEN.—H. M. THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—The Moody-Manners Opera Company are having a most successful week. On Monday *Aida* was presented. Mme. De Vere Sapio in the title-part and Mr. Philip Brozel as Radames roused the house to a high pitch of enthusiasm by their magnificent efforts; Miss Toni Seiter sang and acted with the utmost sympathy as Amneris; Mr. Manners was exceedingly impressive as Ramphis, the High Priest of Isis; Mr. Lewys James threw a striking degree of fervour into his presentation of Amonasro; and Mr. Charles Magrath made a splendid appearance as the King of Egypt. Signor Romnaldo Sapio admirably conducted. *Lohengrin* was staged on Tuesday with Miss Fanny Moody as Elsa; and the repertory for the week includes *Faust*, *The Meistersingers*, *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Pagliacci*, *Tannhäuser*, and *Carmen*.

PALACE THEATRE.—The United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—Park's Eton Boys and Girton Girls give a delightful entertainment, and Mr. Charles Baldwin's company appeared with the utmost success in a highly humorous sketch, *The Bank Clerks*. Mr. Dan Fraser, the celebrated Scots comedian, had a most enthusiastic reception, and there seems to be little doubt that he will speedily take a place in the very front rank of his profession; the Rickards Trio were heartily applauded in their *Giddy Golfers* sketch; Mr. Albert Letine is a good female impersonator; Mlle. Sylvestro goes through a series of marvellous contortions; the Musical Keiths are skilled instrumentalists; and Mr. Bert Terrell contributed an attractive turn as a Dutch comedian and vocalist.

ALHAMBRA AND EMPIRE MUSIC HALLS.—Managers, Messrs. R. Calder and J. Montague.—The company at both houses this week includes Lindsay and Harte, a couple of highly resourceful entertainers; Miss Marguerite Lowe, a fine soprano; Mr. Billy McShane, a quaint comedian; Miss Bella Hardy, a graceful dancer; and the ever-popular members of the Empire company—Miss Marie Rose, Mr. Archie Murray, and Mr. Jack Marson. Miss Marie Rose took her benefit at the Empire last week. The house was crowded to overflowing.

ABERTILLERY.—THEATRE METROPOLE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. J. Seaborn.—The popular and powerful drama *The Thief* was presented at this established theatre by Mr. Ernest Bodkin's company for three nights anly. Mr. Frank Darch distinguished himself by his dramatic handling of Richard Chelford; Raymond Leyton was played forcibly by Mr. Ernest Bodkin; and Harry Leyton was in the capable hands of Mr. C. W. Lindsay. Miss Kathryn Stocks made a realistic Marise Chelford; Isabel Leyton was naturally delineated by Miss Mary Forrester.

THE PAVILION.—Lessees, Messrs. E. and H. Tilney; Manager, Mr. E. Pryce.—Leo Merode performs here his most daring feat of looping the loop on cycle with his usual success; Ada Fawn creates a favourable impression; Mrs. Hugh de Beera and company present a pleasant sketch, *The Lady of the Roses;* the Athlones show strength and agility in their successful pot-pourri act; Arthur Holland is a successful character singer; Aylloe Ottino, lady conjurer, mystifies her audience; Kenrick and Laure are good vocal and dancing entertainers; and interesting films are shown.

ACCRINGTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company, in *A Fight for a Throne*, is the attraction here this week. Mr. John Millward plays Captain Jack Fortescue satisfactorily; Mr. Jerrold Reed is well placed as Nicholai I.; Prince Otto is capably portrayed by Mr. Charles Lincoln; Mr. Patrick Evans supplies an effective rendering of Lieut. Fitzmaurice; Mr. Walter Graham is seen to advantage in the rôle of Paul Rodna; and Mr. Chas. H. Hughes is quite at home as the detective. Miss Madge Clayton is an artistic Sister Agatha; Lady Pat is admirably portrayed by Miss Emmeline B. Lewis; and Miss Margaretta Tueskie fills the rôle of Countess Lorenski with credit. Princess Esmee is in the capable hands of Miss Dora Hammersley.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Accrington Hippodrome Co.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—Berzac's comedy animal act is proving a strong feature here this week. Mlle. Renee presents a delightful musical turn; Milner and Story, comedy duo, are popular; and Nat Watkins is a mirth-provoking comedian. Stewart and Morgan are vociferously applauded; Les Rallis, in a comedy performance, are entertaining; Montague Biggs, female impersonator, is clever; the Sisters Brookland are pleasing duettists; and the Bioscope adds interest to the performance.

ALDERSHOT.—ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Gladwin.—The star turn is undoubtedly the Ten Dixie Girls, in their vocal and dancing speciality, *The Silver Coon*, in which ten dainty little maids give solos and dances and several lively numbers; May Carter sings "In the Land of the Kangaroo" with effect; and Miss Lena Leslie is heard to advantage in two songs; Charles Ashdowne's clever patter, songs, and dances prove him a versatile comedian; the Missouris give a lively acrobatic display and knockabout turn, which is highly appreciated; Franco's Midgets are clever illusionists, their bird cage act being a great hit; Souplessi twists his body into all conceivable shapes, and finishes up with a cartwheel movement hanging from the rings. The Bioscope shows several amusing pictures.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill, jun.—The drama, full of startling incident, entitled *Sexton Blake, Detective*, is being played here. Mr. Jack Fortescue sustains the part of Sexton Blake with power. Mr. Fortescue gives vivid interpretation to a complex character. Mr. Henry Nelson is good as Farmer Blackburn; Mr. Russell Barry finds sufficient in Roger Blackburn to test his skill in delineation; Mr. Stanley Crump is capital as the Tinker; Mr. A. Syms makes a characteristic clergyman; and good character studies are given by Messrs. Stephen Nicholls, R. H. Grey, W. Stephens, H. Ravenscroft, Robert King, E. Boddy, J. C. Lowther, and J. Leslie. Miss Pauline E. Straus is ladylike as Marjorie Lovell; Miss Ruth Woodhouse makes a good Mrs. Clifton; Misses Mary Vincent, Alice Jamieson, and Lilla Norden are useful exponents of female character, and Miss Cecile E. Anson is remarkably effective in the character of Philadelphia Kate.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Jesse Burslem.—The leading artist this week is Houdini, the original handcuff king. The other artists are Farrell and Dunn, the Caledonian Duo, in song and dance; Mary Kay, juvenile comedienne; the twin sisters Tiny and Mite, the wonderful child vocalists and dancers; Jack Crawley in his pretty novel act, *Lights Out*. The Five Musical Tritons are really musical marvels, vocal and instrumental. They introduce a most gorgeous spectacular musical scena by electric coloured lights. A. H. Drinkwater is good as the swell comedian; and Wild, Willie, and West are most amusing as well as clever experts as the Bounding Navvies. The Bioscope shows a Tale of the Revolution.

THE NEW PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech; Assistant-Manager, Mr. C. F. Wilson.—The animated picture show here for the week is remarkably good in the comic section. One or two new films are of thrilling interest, viz., Scene of the French Revolution, The Mohawk's Ring, &c. The vaudeville artists are the Armiens, who give a clever musical scena, *Entertainments in Camp;* the Rose Trio as acrobatic waiters are most skilful, and very amusing. The Durham Disaster has been added to the pictures.

THE PICTUREDROME.—Lessees, Messrs. Weisker Bros; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Marks.—The pictures here are a source of great attraction, and good business is being done with two performances each evening. Musical and humorous sketches are given by vaudeville artists, and a young lady vocalist warbles very prettily.

ATTERCLIFFE.—PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Bert Dent.—The enterprising management of this popular house have secured a big leading turn this week in the engagement of Lockhart's Elephants, under the direction of Captain Taylor, who has complete control over his unwieldy pets, and puts them through an entertaining and interesting performance. The Bohemians (Will and Madge) provide a pleasing entertainment as instrumentalists, and introduce plenty of comedy into their turn; Mr. Percy Maye is a clever and successful female impersonator; a hearty reception is accorded to Dewar and Dunville, vocalists and expert dancers; Mr. E. C. Clayton has an amusing series of pictures, including The Runaway Kids. Others in the programme are Miss Ruby Emmerson, vocalist; Mr. J. H. Carney, quick-change comedian; Karischi, juggler and equilibrist; and Henry Hawtrey, boy basso.

AYR.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—Mr. John A. Thomson's pantomime *The Babes in the Wood* is here on a six nights' visit. As the Babes, Cissie Williams and La Belle Sylvia are winsome; Misses Winnie and Ethel Hypathia as Allan-a-Dale and Doris respectively sing well and dance delightfully; the Robin Hood of Miss Pattie McCarthy is bold and brave; and Nina Carlton makes a charming Maid Marian. Mr. Digby Worsley is well supported in his humour by Mr. Lovell Rowlands as Wearie Willie and Mr. Herbert Walton as Tired Tim; Mr. Ross Warren as Blinker and Mr. Gus Walker as Pansy Blossom, too, are provocative of diversion. Among the immortals, Mr. Frank Halpin as Will o' the Wisp, with his fine bass voice, is a power. Miss Norah Prendergast as Queen of Good Intent also does well.

BACUP.—NEW COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood.—Mr. Charles Carey's company is here this week with the musical comedy entitled *The Madeira Maid*. Miss Madge Lacey gives a delightful embodiment of Maidie, her songs being well rendered and her dancing clever and graceful; Miss Marie Ault's humorous embodiment of Mary Ann Chovey keeps the house convulsed, and her eccentric dancing is particularly good; as "No One in Particular" Mr. Charles Carey acquits himself ably. Other parts are in capable keeping. The music is bright, and the costumes and scenery attractive.

BARNSLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. H. C. Mitchell.—Mr. Rice Cassidy is here with *In Holy Russia*. A capital performance is given.

EMPIRE PALACE.—The company here includes the Sleepwalker, the New York Comedy Four, the Leonards, Ferris and May, Delafiori, the Sisters Pine, Haidee, with Theatre of Art, Maud Marmon, and Palacescope.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS. — ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. George Edwardes's company in *The Merry Widow* is here. In the title-rôle Miss Mysie Devine is very enchanting; and Mr. Frank Greene plays with much polish as Prince Danilo. Mr. Ed. D'Arcy is a humorous Baron Popoli; and amusing representations are given by Mr. Fred Fowler, (Nisch) and Mr. Adrian Beaumont (Waiter at Maxim's). Miss Katie May as Frou-Frou dances well; Miss Ada Thomas is quite a success as Natalie; and Mr. Ripley Evans sings artistically and acts capitally as Vicomte Camille de Jolidon.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh with *Leah Kleschna* are here. In the part of Leah Miss Bessie Rignold gives a very distinguished and interesting performance; and Mr. William Clayton is a very realistic and convincing Kleschna. Mr. Charles Barrett gives a polished representation of Paul Sylvaine; and Mr. Arthur Leigh is a good Raoul Berton. Mr. William Heilbronn does well as Schram; and Mr. Algernon J. Hicks doubles the parts of General Bertram and Valentine Favre with skill.

TIVOLI.—Lessee and Manager, Signor R. Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edgar G. Laban.—Wee Mona, the juvenile comedienne, is in the premier position here this week. She is a very accomplished young artist. The Alberto troupe are clever equilibrists; Dene and Danson are exceedingly funny in a good sketch; George Hall gives a good whistling turn; Athlan gives an expert balancing act; and Vernon's Bioscope exhibits some capital pictures.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Owners and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ralph D. Fenton.—A capital series of military pictures is being shown here this week.

BARRY DOCK.—NEW THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brogden.—Mr. Julian Malvern presented *I Defy the World* to a well-filled house on Monday. As Blanche Marville, Miss Florence Delmar proved herself versatile; Mr. Max Coutts portrayed with telling effect the part of Count de Beaulieu; as Leon Darville Mr. F. B. Woulfe worked hard; and Miss Dorothy Love made a delightful Fanchette.

BATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—Mr. Murray King and company are here in *Toddles*, and this merry farcical comedy is being much enjoyed

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—The bill for this week comprises Mysticus, the human chameleon; Mack Ollive, assisted by Miss Daisy Baldry, in his well-known whistling scena; Mollie and Winnie Brooke, vocalists and dancers; the Leotard Brothers, of acrobatic and hat throwing fame; Gladys Wilton, a young contralto vocalist; Rose Wold, in a comedy wire act; the Cromwells, in their juggling act; and Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

BEDFORD.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—*The Gentleman Jockey* is here this week, the company being that of Mr. Edward Marris, the author of the piece. Miss Ethel Ward is charming as Poppy Grayson; Miss Vera Grafton plays Kitty Granmere exceedingly well; Mr. H. Nelson Hancock is successful in the title-rôle; Mr. T. Weldon Atherstone cleverly portrays Frank Snakeworth; Mr. Leonard Dalrymple's performance as Archie Fitzherbert is decidedly praiseworthy; Mr. Helier Le Maistre is a capital David Grayson; and Mr. George Brentwood as P.-C. Blodgers is responsible for a great deal of the fun.

BELFAST. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. S. Salmond.—Mr. Augustine Knight's company opened here on Monday in the romantic military drama *The Assassin*. Mr. Knight himself appears as Prince Demetri with great success; Miss Elsa Vane shares the honours by her clever impersonation of Countess Wanda; Mr. John Worth furnishes a skilful impersonation of Ivan Ipanoff; and Mr. Henry C. Ward is all that can be desired as Duke Carl. Miss Rosa Webster is a charming Connie; and Miss Maude Steeple a sympathetic Nita. Mr. Wilson Summers appears to advantage as General Nicol; and Mr. Edwin Jenner is a satisfactory Captain O'Neil. The humour of the piece is in the hands of Miss Kate Lever as Katrina and Mr. J. Telly Dillsen as Peter.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fred Willmott and Will Sley; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The leading feature here is Mr. B. A. Rolfe's production of "Ye Colonial Septette," a capital musical act, in which the various performers play a number of musical instruments cleverly, and also add to their success by their delightful vocal items; the Lavalls execute some extraordinary feats, for which they have been enthusiastically greeted; and the Mezzettis return with their gymnastic act, which is certainly very smart. Ted Curtis introduces with great effect his clever troupe of Piccaninnies; Blanche and Powell, society entertainers, are an acquisition to the company; and praise is due to the Scotch act entitled "Yae Hogmany Nicht," submitted by Miss Florence Lambeth and Mr. Robert Robertson. Also here are Miss Queenie May, comedienne; Mephisto, the mysterious, assisted by Miss Winifred Allendire; and the Hipposcope.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—The Four Holloways top the bill, and have created quite a sensation with their marvellous acrobatic and trick cycling on the tight wire; Oakdene is one of the smartest ventriloquists before the public; and De Canty's Water Grotto, introducing Mlle. De Silva, is aptly described as a beautiful spectacle. Carlton is here, and has been most successful with his conjuring; and a very pleasing performance at the piano is submitted by Miss Ethel Walker. Mr. Frank Sylvo returns with his comedy juggling, which never fails to amuse; and Mr. Fred Land, comedian, and the Bioscope, complete a good bill.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Will White.—Under the direction of Mr. Gerald Tweedie, the following films have been exhibited:—A Modern Grace Darling, Mr. Giddy, Sherlock Holmes, Electric Safe, Ragpicker's Daughter, &c. In addition, Lola and May, clever gymnasts, appear; also Mr. R. C. Note, a comedian with a capital style, whose songs have afforded much pleasure.

ST. GEORGE'S HALL.—General-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—Notwithstanding many counter attractions, good houses are the rule here. Some beautiful pictures have been exhibited, under the direction of Mr. Hugh Beckett, including Richard III., Playmates, Master of Mystery, Lady or the Lions, Gnomes, &c. Miss Daisy Davenport, a charming comedienne with good songs, appears with success; also Mr. Jack Foster, vocalist and impersonator.

CLIFTONVILLE HALL.—General-Manager, Mr. O. E. Laumann.—Skating continues to be all the rage. The Barnyard Carnival on Thursday last was an immense success, the rink being thronged with skaters in all kinds of costumes suitable to the occasion, such as milkmaids, farm labourers, and farmers. Mr. Jan Petersen furnished a fine exhibition of fancy skating, his feats being really remarkable. The entire arrangements reflected the utmost credit on the popular manager, Mr. O. E Laumann. It should be added that the members of *The White Man* company, from the Grand Opera House, visited the carnival in their stage costumes, and were enthusiastically welcomed

BILSTON. — NEW THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. John M. Dawson; Musical-Director, Mr. J. E. Machin. — A hearty reception was awarded on Monday to Mr. C. Watson Mill and his company, including Miss Rosalind Tate, in the romantic drama *For Love and the King*. Mr. Villiers Stanley is successful as Prince Uros; and Miss Joan Ellis makes a winning Natila. Mr. C. Watson Mill is forceful as Jarval; Miss Rosalind Tate as Princess Athene appears to advantage; Miss Lily Wynter is amusing as Grazia; and Mr. J. K. Woods clever as Carl Coppenheim.

BIRKENHEAD. — NEW THEATRE ROYAL. — Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—One of Mr. J. F. Elliston's pantomime companies commenced a week's engagement here on Monday in *Puss in Boots*, a downright rollicking production brimful of humour and jollity, staged with a wealth of scenery and costumes. Miss Ethel Ra Leslie is a winsome and vivacious Colin and, with the assistance of fine vocal abilities, speedily establishes herself in favour. Miss Gladys Christoe is a charming Princess Ivy; Miss Bessie Herbert is thoroughly successful as Prince Rudolph; Miss Gladys Hicks is well suited as Phyllis; Miss Zona Joy is a capital Gretchen; and Miss Issa Steel an admirable Fairy Queen. The company is strong in comedians, and it will be readily understood that the fun is fast and furious as furnished by Harry Rogerson, Fred Lincoln, Harry Edlin, Augustin Symonds, and Ben Corday. Mr. Hal Bert is a splendid exponent of the feline race. Specialities are given by the Three Lorimers, trumpeters; Zelina, in a juggling act; and the Albion Quartet of male voices; and the Alexandra Quartet of ladies execute some pretty dances. The chorus is numerous and efficient, and the orchestral arrangements are under the direction of Mr. George Esa.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Lew Lake and his capable company in the comedy drama *My Pal Jerry* are the leading turn here, and are cordially received. The Cavallottis give an entertaining musical show; Miss Kitty Colyer, comedienne, is a universal favourite; and Mr. Walter King, the doleful comedian, is on a welcome return visit. Other prominent appearances include the Martineks, versatile artists; Miss Violet Nunn, an accomplished comedienne; the Waltons, comedians; Mr. Archie Glen, comedian; Mr. Ryder Slone, in a good selection of songs; and Brown's Royal Bioscope.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Ball.—A liberal and comprehensive programme is supported by Marie Rako and partner in an imposing acrobatic performance; Elmo and Rego, speciality artists; Locardo Bros., acrobats; Mozetto, juggler; Will English, coloured comedian; Jim Cheetham, whistler; the Sisters Varley, duettists; Miss Dolly Ross, comedienne; Mr. Chas. Rothwell, comedian; Miss Ena Crompton, comedienne; Mr. J. F. Franklyn, comedian; and the Hippodrome pictures

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*Dick Whittington* continues in favour, scenery, dresses, artists, songs, and dances combining to make this one of the most successful pantomimes ever produced here. The company comprises the Misses Sybil Arundale, Ethel Negretti, Clara Reid, Aimee Grey, Ada Whittaker, Violet Baynton, the Marigny Girls, and Messrs. Tom Foy, Eric Campbell, Fred Whittaker, Arthur Reynold, Harry C. Lupino, Drew and Alders, Wee Wallace Lupino, and Lupino Lane. Mr. Philip Redway's benefit takes place next Monday, Mr. Tom Foy will be similarly honoured next Friday, and on Monday week the pantomime makes way for *An Englishman's Home*—its first time out of London.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*Boy Blue* is still drawing crowded houses, with Miss Hetty (in the title-rôle), Miss Gladys Ivery, Miss Rita Everard, Miss Connie Emerald, the Eight Stella Girls, and Messrs. Tom Murray, Horace Mills, G. H. Elliott, Jay Laurier, and the Lyric Quartette, &c.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. T. Guest.—*Little Red Riding Hood* is now in the hey-day of its success, with the Misses Ellaline Thorne, Dollie Denton, Ivey Roze, Joyce Stevens, Daisie Clements, Maudie Olmar, Winifred Norman, that clever farceur and musician, Mr. George Penn, and Messrs. Stephens and Rennoir, Albert Schafer, Frank Bolger, Frank Blythe, the Three Tivoli Girls, the Molasso Troupe, and the Musical Schafers in favour.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*A Country Girl in London* is meeting with much success here, with Mr. W. V. Garrod and his company. Miss Bertha Kingston plays with clever expression and feeling as Marjorie (the title-rôle); Mr. Garrod as Frank Gordon gives a portrayal full of telling points; Mr. Stewart Quartermayne shows a fine conception of the adventurer's rôle, Godfrey Clinton; and the ne'er-do-well, Joe Smithers, is well played by Mr. Clifford Marle. Mr. John S. Sheridan lends himself thoroughly to the part of John Hamilton; Miss Josephine Caltona gives a particularly clever portrayal of Gwendoline Gordon; and some excruciatingly funny parts are contributed by Messrs. John Belton, Seymour Perry, and Miss Ethel Whiteley.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—Mr. Harry Starr is once more gratifying his admirers here as Otto the Outcast in the play of that name. Mr. Starr's portrayal retains all its salient features, and calls forth loud applause; Mr. Will Hee is decidedly adept in his performance as the French Jonathan Wild, Roderique D'Estalier; Miss Katie Norris enacts the rôle of the flower girl, Lara, with much charm; Mr. A. Sawyer is successful as Daddy Bruneau; Mr. H. Arnold Allen provokes the audience to hearty laughter with his comic acting as Auguste Carotte; and Miss Effie Macintosh and Miss Madge Blundell are good in their parts. *Carl the Clockmaker* is also being performed.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. J. Robertson.—*The Prodigal Son* elicits a warm reception here, with Mr. Wentworth Croke's company. Miss Valerie Crespin enacts the patient and gentle Thora with an infinity of charm and pathos, afterwards appearing as the daughter, Elin, with equal success; Mr. Hugh Montgomery acts with all the fine sincerity and rugged sympathy necessary in his rôle of the noble-hearted Magnus; Mr. Gordon Macintosh figures brilliantly as Oscar; Miss Mildred Cottell gives irresistible fascination to the rôle of the temptress, Helga; and the others show considerable ability, especially Mr. Bellenden Clarke as Stephen, Miss Barbara Gott as Anna, Mr. Philip Renouf as the Factor, and Miss Marie Harcourt as Margaret.

PALACE THEATRE, BORDESLEY.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—*The Christian* is very successful here, with Mr. Wentworth Croke's company. Mr. Henry Renouf as the pure-souled hero, John Storm, commands the reverence of all with his dignified, yet dramatic, portrayal; Mr. Oswald Marshall is successful in his efforts to make the rôle of Horatio Drake effective; Mr. George R. Montford gives a true sketch of the polished, unscrupulous man about town as Lord Robert Ure; Miss Doris Gilham, illumines the character of Glory Quayle with many vivid flashes, and gains admiration all round; and Mr. Edwin Ling, Mr. C. T. Turpin, Miss Linna St. Clair, Miss Margaret Brodie, Miss Katherine Maude, and the others are deserving of every praise.

GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—That talented American actress Alice Pierce is attracting large audiences here with her impersonations, all of which are loudly applauded; the Achmid Ibrahim Troupe of acrobats are certainly experts; an entertainment of an attractive nature is that of Roma and Romani, who are musicians of a high order. Their selection on various instruments are repeatedly encored. Margaret Parker and company have a good dramatic sketch, *Sunshine;* Annette Hayward, Lilly Palmer, Billy Hobbs, Frank Street, and the Great Wieland, in his juggling act, complete an excellent programme.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—Sylvia Cavalho and company in the up-to-date burlesque *What's Charles Worth? or, The Maid and the Motor-car*. The sketch is bright and well-written. *Hunting Morn*, a musical rollicking bit of fun, is presented by Fred Ginnett and company; the Delevines, in their latest act *Flipp and Flopp*, are well received; Virto and Venita have a refined musical entertainment, which is highly appreciated; the Three Welsh Girls, Maud and Sydney Wood, Ross and Lewis, Little Pain, and Paul Barnes (of New York), in his droll American monologues, add to the mirth of the evening.

HIPPODROME. — Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Lyons.—Emerson and Baldwin, comedians, Hayman and Franklin, Hebrew impersonators, are both smart and entertaining, and are applauded. The Eight 'Varsity Girls dance themselves into favour; Dorothy Gould is a charming comedienne; Dave Carter is encored for his Irish ballads. Other popular turns are those of the Werds, Mark Leslie, and Bostock's troupe of baboons.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—Daisy Jerome's clever songs have been well received here; *The Broken Medal*, a smart little sketch, is artistically played by Misses Jessie and Dora Lyons; and Mr. Clinton Baddeley and Henry Herne and company have a good dramatic sketch, *Blackmail*. The Carpos Bros., Violet Stockelle, Barry Lewis, Morander and Darius, and Phern and Phern do good turns.

ASTON HIPPODROME. — Resident-Manager, Mr. T. Middleton.—*The House of Terror*, a one-act playlet, is the star item here. The sketch, presented by Miss Beaumont Collins and company, is well written and well played. The Aeolians are loudly applauded for their songs and dances. Thomas and Taylor are clever quick-change artists, their sketch, *Fun on the Midland*, gives them plenty of scope; John Grun Marx displayed many feats of strength; W. H. Downes and Don and Mabel Kerr in a Scottish scena, *Sandy's Return*, are much appreciated.

KING'S HALL.—A large number of new and amusing pictures are presented to King's Hall audiences. They include A Zulu's Heart, a film showing the love of a black man for a white child, which proved popular; others include The Deserter and The Demon Card Shuffler. Variety is presented by Leoville, aerial gymnast; Aeolia, wire walker; and Mr. Walter Lee, vocalist, who are much appreciated.

CURZON HALL.—The programme presented by Mr. Walter Jeffs is proving very popular. The pictures are thoroughly up to date and include a Trip Through Ireland, which is profusely illustrated. A very interesting film is one entitled Rip's Inheritance, being the illustrated story of the sagacity and faithfulness of a dog. Afraid to Go Home in the Dark is the title of a novelty in the way of pictures. The figures in the picture supply the necessary action, an instrument called the cinephone the song. In addition, Miss Ducie Saunderson contributes some illustrated songs, and The Players, a talented troupe of comedy artists, complete the show.

QUEEN'S HALL.—The most interesting item in the programme submitted here is a film illustrating the work accomplished by Major Richardson's famous bloodhounds. Vaudeville turns are given by Mr. George Ino and Miss Vera Blanchard, soubrette.

BISHOP AUCKLAND.—EDEN THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. Huntley.—Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and J. E. Cardwell's *Little Red Riding Hood* company opened to a good house on Monday. Mr. V. Wakeman is funny as Dame Trot; and Mr. Billy Melia is a remarkably clever Sunny Jim. As Baron Hardup Mr. J. J. Mannie is very good; and Messrs. Denby and Dent (Doleful Dan and Whimsical William) are almost perfect. Little Iris Vivienne is charming in the title-rôle; and as Boy Blue Miss Fanny Adamson is excellent. Miss May Gibson is an ideal exponent of Miss Muffit, as is also Miss Daisy Clifford of Marjorie Daw. Miss Trixie Wyatt is delightful as Silvia. The Sisters Dacier dance well, and several good specialities are introduced. The chorus is strong.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Messrs. Sutton and Raynor's company is courting public favour here this week with *Moths*. Mr. Harold Raynor contributes a finished impersonation of Lord Jura, and Mr. Cecil Wynne plays the part of Prince Zouroff with care and ability; the Duchess de Sonnaz is in the hands of Miss Cecilia Dare, who fully justifies her selection; whilst Fuchsia Leach finds a capable exponent in Miss Henrietta Schrier. *Captain Swift* is in the programme for Friday night.

GRAND THEATRE.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—Mr. Arthur Farren's company is presenting a version of *Cinderella* here twice nightly. The title-rôle is pleasingly played by Miss Gladys May, and Miss Eva Travis is an ideal Prince; Messrs. Norman and Anderson as the two pages supply endless merriment; Mr. William Pimm makes an excellent Baron, and Mr. James Mackenzie is good as Peps; Messrs. Maccabe and Stokes as the Ugly Sisters add materially to the success of the production. The Sisters Johnson are clever tambourine dancers.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Geo. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—Carney and Armstrong are comedians and patterers of the very first order; Les Rubens produce a novel scena entitled *A Gipsy Encampment;* the Lutinas contribute a clever trapeze act; Kathleen Cogan sings and dances well; Pat Lynch is an expert wooden shoe dancer; the Faludy Troupe of Hungarian acrobats give the utmost satisfaction; Larola is a master in the art of juggling; Rose Cabini is a charming comedienne; and Harry Freeman, as usual, delights everyone.

BLYTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur C. Moody.—Pantomime continues to be an attraction. This week we have had Mr. Charles Elderton's company with *Robinson Crusoe*, which has met with a hearty reception. In the title-rôle Miss Rose Revell gave a charming performance, and was supported by an able company. In the specialities Carson Hicks, the Sisters Rynehardt, the Boultons, Miss Bartinelli, Marblesque Trio, Miss Olive Sara, Stuart and Worth, Rowe and Holden, and the Three Eltons have been most successful.

NEW EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. A. C. Moody.—Topping the bill here we have had Stanley, the Scottish singing collier. Maude Clifton, a charming vocalist; Goodhall and Knox, acrobatic comedians; Phil Goldie, Tyrolean vocalist; and a fine display of animated pictures.

BOLTON.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Moncur.—*A White Man*, presented by Mr. Herbert Sleath's company is meeting with a good reception here this week. To Mr. Frank Tennant is entrusted the part of Capt. James Wynnegate, V.C., his acting being of a very high order; Mr. Harold T. Richardson does excellent work in the part of the Earl of Kerhill; Mr. R. A. Brandon as Big Bill creates a profound impression; and Mr. Cecil Yapp as the impetuous Shorty is very amusing, Mr. Eric Hudson's interpretation of the Indian chief, Tab-y-wana, is a piece of good character acting, and Mr. Gerald Earle deserves praise for his rendering of Cash Hawkins. Much credit is due to Miss Margaret Fairleigh for her excellent portrayal of Nat-u-rich, and Miss Leila Russell is graceful and sympathetic as the Countess. The piece is admirably mounted.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—The chief turn on a good programme is Jan Rudenyi in a musical romance entitled *The Power of Music*, assisted by Mr. J. D. Saunders and Miss Dora de Winton. The Neros, in their refined comedy act; the Crown Trio, speciality vocalists; Arthur Croxon, mimetic comedian; Wilton Heriot and company in the protean comedy sketch *An Anglo-American Alliance;* Thompson Carruthers with the sensational card novelty *The Master Card*, including in the cast Dunningarto, Fred H. Constable, Miss Ethel Gray, Miss May Everton, and Miss Ivy Chandos; E. W. Eustace and Dorothy Eyre in an original ventriloquial absurdity entitled *Thompkins, jun.*; Bert Bowden, quaint comedian; Johnson and Bert in a novel act, *A Queer Customer;* the renowned Athos Troupe of original ball manipulators and novelty acrobats; and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope are other attractions.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Bolton Hippodrome Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece.—The programme submitted here comprises the following good turns:—Horace Wheatley, Irish comedian; Miss Gladys Cooper, serio and ballad vocalist; Arthur Stacey, eccentric comedian and dancer; Hewitt and May, in a graceful exhibition of club swinging, &c.; Little Dot Moss, "toy comedienne," banjoist and dancer; the Aribos in a sensational equilibristic act; Forrest and King, acrobatic dancers; Jules Kiaro, equilibrist; the Bensons (Frank and Marguerite) in their musical comedy act *The Page and the Maid;* and the Hippodrome Bioscope.

BOOTLE. — MUNCASTER THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Young.—The bill is headed this week by Miss Nina Vaughton and Mr. Stanley Gordon's company in a dramatic sketch entitled *The Man from Paris*, which is well received. Another strong item on the bill is the Birkenhead Family, who are vocalists of great merit; an old favourite appears in the person of T. W. Barrett, comedian. Lestree, a juggler, the Rinders, song illustrators, and the Deane Tribune company in character studies, complete an excellent programme.

BOSCOMBE.—HIPPODROMES, LTD.—Joint-Managing Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. H. Burdett.—*The Johnstown Flood*, the high-water mark of stage illusions, is keenly watched by an interested audience; the Seven Xentrix, a troupe of clever singers and dancers, receive deserved applause for their Continental speciality *The Garden of Terpsichore;* Brown and

Mr. Lewis Fielder is to be congratulated upon his excellent rendering of Arnold Faringay; and Mrs. Kemmis was delightful as Mrs. Debney. Able support was given by Mr. Arthur Vezin, Mr. Alfred Harris, Mr. Percy D. Owen, and the Misses Beatrice Smith and Ella Collins.

BRADFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—A notice of the last performance of *Jack and Jill*, which was withdrawn on Saturday evening last, appears elsewhere. Mr. Martin Harvey, who is supported by Miss N. de Silva, and a very fine company, opened the regular dramatic season on Monday night with *The Only Way*, appearing in his original part of Sydney Carton. Mr. Harvey had a very cordial welcome, and with his usual striking skill he held the audience enthralled throughout the performance; Miss Maud Rivers was particularly effective in her acting as Lucie Manette; with artistic skill Miss N. de Silva impersonated Mimi; there was the required spice of gallantry in Mr. Leonard Craske's impersonation of the part of Charles Darnay; Mr. Charles Glenney's Ernest Defarge, and Miss Mary Rorke's impersonation of The Vengeance were both very effective; and Mr. A. E. Raynor as the Marquis de St. Evremonde, Mr. E. Comberbach as the Vicomte, Mr. F. Wright, sen., as Dr. Manette, and Mr. A. Mansfield as Jean Defarge, were notable presentments in the play, which was very finely staged. On Wednesday evening *The Corsican Brothers* was presented, with Mr. Harvey in the dual rôle of Fabian dei Franchi and Louis dei Franchi; and Mr. Mansfield as M. de Chateau Renaud. *The Conspiracy*, with Mr. Harvey as King Konrad, preceded the drama, when a large audience again assembled, and great applause greeted the performance. *The Breed of the Treshams* is billed for representation during Mr. Harvey's brief engagement.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Councillor Francis Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—King Pantomime still reigns supreme here, and loud laughter and applause continue to greet *Red Riding Hood*. The season promises a record in the way of attendance, and certainly none of Mr. Laidler's Christmas productions has been more popular.

EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco contribute an entertainment which is remarkable and unique; mystery is the prevailing element, and some wonderful illusions are presented by the trio, who are also humorists of no mean order. Terry and Lambert, on a return visit with their sketch, *English Types through American Eyes*, are again cordially received; E. J. Sheldon whistles well in his "black and white" turn; a very entertaining turn by Harry Leybourn, "The nervous lady," elicits laughter; the New Macs are a smart and very amusing couple of comedians, who keep the audience in a merry mood; in a sketch *Ananias II* Stratton Mills and company are diverting; the Sisters Dorrell are capable duettists and dancers; in a novel turn, "The Dolly Girl," Ida Kathrena impersonates a mechanical doll very well; hearty laughter greets the antics of Maud Rochez's cleverly-trained monkeys in the variety theatre caricature they present; and there are some very fine pictures of the King's Recent Berlin Visit and the Football Cup Tie between Sunderland and Bradford City clubs, shown by the Bioscope.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Harrison.—Charles E. Whittle, the popular and diverting Bradford comedian, in his unique style, is entertaining the audiences here this week. In their farcical sketch *The Boatbuilder* Johnny Holland and company are very successful; T. C. Jaques, the comedian, displays versatility; and Frank Vallance, the magician, is clever. In a striking performance Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilde illustrate the art of shadowgraphy; a very capable turn by Tina Frank comedienne and dancer, and good vocalism by Ted Gill, both find favour. In a military scena *Lights Out* Leslie's Comedy Cadets provide a fund of amusement; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are a feature of the evening's entertainment.

BRIGHOUSE. — ALBERT THEATRE — Lessees, Messrs. Beanland and Emerson; Manager, Mr. Chas. H. Beanland.—Miss Annie Bell and company are here with *The Idol of Paris*. As Flare-Flare Miss Annie Bell is not to be surpassed, her dramatic intensity making an histrionic study that stands alone; Mr. Gordon Roby makes a strong Prince Sergius; and Mr. Wilson Howard a very good Phillipe D'Esterre. Mr. Syd Arnold is striking as Victor Cashelle; Miss Frances Bruce as Mlle. Sancterre scores quite a little triumph on her own; Miss Annie Megson makes a piquant Ann; Mr. C. St. John Medley is very good as Gustave Langloise; and Frank H. Dale is a satisfactory Tatare.

BRIGHTON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Gates; General-Manager, Mr. Ben Court.—Messrs. Henry Chattell and Jack Denton's company opened here on Monday with *Through the Divorce Court*. The drama was finely staged and mounted, the Divorce Court scene being very realistic. Mr. Cecil A. Collins gave a masterly enactment of Lord Robert Penarth; Miss Katherine Carew made a charming Lady Dolores Penarth; Miss Genna Lyndon was winsome and bright as Lady Sybil; Mr. Cyprian H. Matthews acted forcibly as the scheming Mendoza; Mr. Malcolm Strachen was effective as Leon Di Valdiz; Miss Edith Cruikshanks gave a praiseworthy impersonation of Lady Hilda Fitzmaurice; Mr. Jack Denton was entertaining as Algy Fitzmaurice; and much amusement was afforded by Miss Nellie Sheffield as Dinah and Mr. Harry Colbeck as Patsy Rafferty. Others meriting praise include Miss Pattie Groves (Rachel Dobbins), Mr. Horace Hammond (the Judge), Mr. W. Wilson Blake (Sir Edward Sharp, K.C.), and Mr. Edward Belcher (Sir Peter Pettigrew, K.C.).

ALHAMBRA.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Alfred Smith; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. A. Smith.—An attractive programme is sustained here this week. Victor Widdicombe and company are very amusing in the comedy episode, *Her Devonshire Dad*; the Brasques are very successful in the domestic playlet, *My Lancashire Wife*; Venie Clements submits a clever and artistic turn, in which her imitations of children are especially noteworthy; Zasma (assisted by Delonie) gives a smart gymnastic display; Ethel Dove is a charming comedienne; D. W. Watson's cornet and coach-horn solos are warmly appreciated; the Lombards are novel and skilful equilibrists; Florence Carlow is a dainty vocalist and dancer; George Campbell is diverting with songs and patter; Clare and Pastor are well received in a turn comprising song and dance and xylophone selections; and the Alhambrascope Picturegraph is interesting and amusing.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. B. J. Brown.—There is a capital company here this week. Julius Walther (late of the Royal Carl Rose Opera Company) evokes great enthusiasm with his artistic vocalisation; the Cragga' company make a great hit in their acrobatic comedy sketch *Billy*; Vasco, "the mad musician," is as popular as ever; Fred Curran, who sings quaint songs and parodies, wins hearty applause; Renroff's dancing horse provides an interesting turn; Peggie Lennie and Walter Hast are distinctly successful in the poetic fantasy, *The Sea Nymph*; the Marbas are pleasing humorists and clever acrobatic dancers; Jack Hayworth, Scotch comedian, is well received; Alexandra and Bertie are successful in their trapeze novelty *After the Ball*; and the Three Croisits submit a good sporting scena, *From the Time of the Crusaders*.

WEST PIER.—Secretary, Mr. A. W. Scholey.—Mr. Ernest B. Norris and company entered upon the fourth and last week of their engagement here on Monday with *Brother Officers*. Mr. Ernest E. Norris gave an earnest and convincing impersonation of Lieut. John Hinds, V.C.; Miss Kathleen Russell made a charming and sympathetic Baroness Roydon; Mr. Fred Castleman was well suited as the peppery Colonel Stapylton; Mr. Herbert Garthorne acquitted himself admirably as Lieut. Lancelot Pleydell; Mr. Frank Sutherland's Robert Hutton was a capital character-study; Miss Caroline Fenton achieved much success as Lady Margaret Pleydell; and able support was given by Mr. Edmund Sydney (Earl of Hunstanton), Mr. Bert Morley (Dean of Orchester), and Miss Nona Hoffe (Kate Johnson).

PALACE PIER.—King's Bioscope pictures still prove attractive here. A Journey through Fair Andalusia is a fine film, a fire scene is vividly portrayed, and prominent among the comics is one depicting the adventures of an eccentric Bill Poster.

COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. M. Barrasford.—An excellent series of animated pictures is exhibited here this week. The Mohawk's Ring is very realistic; The Fiancé, The Villagers' Quarrel, and The Chauffeur and the Cabman are entertaining, and much laughter is evoked by Women are Flirts, The Man Monkey, and The Curate's Courtship. The Barrasford Sable Operatic Minstrels are very amusing in the farce *The Lady Balmy*. Mr. Arthur W. Briggs merits warm praise for his descriptive pianoforte accompaniments to pictures.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—This is the last week but one of the very successful pantomime *Aladdin*. There is no sign of any decline in popularity, for on several nights this week money has had to be refused for want of room. Miss Ouida Macdermott, by her clever and dramatic acting, stately deportment, graceful movements, and charming singing, has become very popular with all parts of the house in the title-rôle; Miss Deborah Volar is pleasing as the Princess, her vocal efforts being much appreciated; Miss Topsy Sinden acts prettily as Yu-Bu-Tee, her graceful dances always being sure of rapturous applause; and Miss Daisy Lloyd Wood is sufficiently vivacious as Mary Ann (from London). The comedians all work hard. Mr. Bransby Williams is quaint and mysterious as Abanazar, his impersonations and imitations meeting with approval; Mr. W. H. Powell is always amusing as Widow Twankey, keeping his patter well up to date, and Mr. Alfred Clark makes a good comedy part of the Emperor. The scenery is universally admired, the dresses are really magnificent, and, indeed, the staging generally is all that could be wished. It is, in its entirety, a very fine show, reflecting much credit upon all concerned, and in particular upon Mr. Henry Turner, the resident stage-manager, who produced the pantomime.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Alty.—The *Little Red Riding Hood* pantomime closes its successful run on March 20. The house is filled at each performance, and the show is as popular as ever. All the members of the company have become established favourites; they work hard and work well, including Miss Ethel Hall (Boy Blue), Miss Marie Free (Margery Daw), Miss Violet Gillis (Jack Horner), Miss Gertie Hall (Miss Muffit), and Miss Daisy Dennis, the very pleasing exponent of the title-rôle. The comedians—Mr. K. Scott Barrie, Mr. Frank Hemming, and Messrs. Crosby and Walker—are all popular in their respective parts, and Mr. Frank Victor (the wolf) is an excellent vocalist. The pantomime is staged in an exceptionally effective style. The scenery is pretty and appropriate, and the dresses are rich and attractive.

PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Dolly Elsworthy and company are successfully appearing here in the dramatic sketch *The Orange Girl*, the playlet being well staged and capitally acted. Hersleb Brothers entertain as eccentric acrobats and speciality artists; the Melbournes are a smart comedy duo; Rich. Taylor is a clever whistling ventriloquist; Frances Letty, chorus comedian, presents a pleasing turn; Lapham and Wallem score with song, cross-talk, and dance; and the programme concludes with animated pictures. On Wednesday evening the sixteenth anniversary of the opening of the Palace was celebrated. There were extra attractions provided, and the house was packed in all parts.

EMPIRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—May Moore Duprez, "the jolly Dutch girl," heads the programme with a pleasing and attractive turn; Ben Tully introduces a boxing kangaroo with success, the act being most amusing; Flo Inman does a good turn as a descriptive vocalist and dancer; Charles Lilburn, comedian, is appreciated; the Caudles introduce some smart dialogue into their speciality; Madge May sings pretty songs in good style; Clarke and Hayden entertain with their musical comedy duologue *An Appointment*; Little Ganty, comedian, obtains applause; Brothers Ford excel as simultaneous dancers, and interesting animated pictures conclude the entertainment.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—Messrs. R. C. Buchanan and Ernest Stevens's pantomime *Jack the Giant Killer*, written by Stanley Rogers, furnishes endless amusement, and a good house on Monday gave frequent evidences of enjoyment of some good singing, dancing, and comic business. Miss Madge O'Neill was a sprightly Mephisto, and rendered nicely "I want you to see my girl" and other catchy songs; Mlle. Telka as the Spirit of Love also sang well; Miss Madge Allen was a dashing Jack; and Margery Daw was daintily played by Miss Lillian Errol. Mr. Harry Farry made an excellent Dame Gabble; Mr. Johnny McElroy kept the house in roars as Simple Simon; Mr. Charles V. Sanford was a comical King Fad; Mr. Fred Fulton and Mr. Bob Anderson as the Giant's Cooks furnished capital performances; Mr. Stanley Lupino as the Cow and the Dog, Miss Evelyn Robson as Queen Caressa, Miss Lily Holland as Daisy, Mr. W. S. Stevenson as the Giant, Mr. Bert Hildersley as Sammy, and Master Charlie Carr as Suckthumb, also gave good support. Several specialities were much appreciated, especially those of Miss Madge Brownie, Mr. Will Letters, and the Duquesne Trio of acrobatic dancers. The scenery and dresses were very pretty.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—*The Crimes of Paris*, presented here by Mrs. Frank Bateman and Geo. Conquest's company, is accorded a hearty reception. Mr. Herbert J. Walton as Pierre Pelport gives a clever rendering, and Mr. Geo. Conquest creates endless amusement as Joshua Johnson; the Demon is capitally represented by Mr. Mayor Cooke; the clever detective Pepin is well maintained by Mr. Clavering Craig; and Mr. Kindrew Milsom is good as Jules; Miss Marie Barrett is a pleasing Angele; Miss Flora Hastings makes an imposing La Belle Helene, Miss Christine Bickerstaffe is an excellent Lizette, and Charlotte is well performed by Miss Carrie Jones.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—This house is well patronised this week. Miss Lily Burnand, at the top of the bill, is warmly received for her swinging songs, and the Donaldson Brothers in *Sports in a Jungle* introduce a number of clever animal representations and cause much merriment; Zano Brothers perform some clever and amusing tricks on triple bars, and Dot Hardy makes a hit with "When father gets his old age pension"; the Two Anartos, comedians, have some amusing patter and Blair and Allen please with smart dancing. Sam Redfern maintains the laughter with stump speeches, whilst Head Dresses in Brittany are illustrated by the Empire Theatrescope.

PALACE THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Badcoe.—A remarkable instance of juvenile ability is furnished here this week in Master George Wood, who heads the bill, and his performance, including clever impersonations of variety celebrities, is met with warm applause. Ted Waite, the spasmodic comedian, is very successful, and Morton and Elliot are expert paper manipulators; excellent juggling and acrobatics are provided by Hanvarr and Lee; the Seven Wulfrunas in *Fun in a Café* are very good; Pyck, Tholl, and Taylor in a dancing sketch illustrate the poetry of motion, and Feldman's Beau Ideal Troupe of juveniles are heartily applauded. Special interest is attached to the picture by Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, which depicts the cup tie between Burnley and Tottenham Hotspur.

BURTON-ON-TRENT. — OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett and Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. de Hague Body.—Mr. Geo. Alexander's company, with *The Builder of Bridges*, is drawing good houses here. With dramatic intensity, intermingled with delicate touches of pathos and humour, Mr. Stephen T. Ewart delineates the sterling character of Edward Thursfield; as the erring brother, Mr. Henry Ludlow gives an earnest and telling performance; Mr Brisco Owen is eminently successful in the rôle of the discarded lover; the shrewd, cynical Sir Henry Killick is faithfully portrayed by Mr. W. R. Staveley; Peter Holland has a creditable representative in Mr. Eric R. Ward; Miss Rosalind Ivan plays with natural ease and grace; and Miss Claire Paunceforte is an ideal Chaperon. The staging of the play is admirable.

BURY (LANCS.). — ROYAL, LTD. — General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Resident-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—Mr. Walter Melville's combination, headed by Miss Hilda Beverley, is here in *A Girl's Cross Roads*. The stirring incidents are keenly followed by large audiences, and the work of Miss Beverley as Barbara Wade is clever. Others prominent in the cast are Mr. Harry Cane as John Meadows; Mr. Norman B. Cannon, Jack Livingstone; Mr. Fred Hodson, Toby Turvy; Mr. W. J. Butler, Cuthbert Lumley; Mr. Fred Withers, Luke Ramsden; and Mr. Edward Valentine as Doctor Weston; Miss Nita Langton is also to be commended for her portrayal of the part of Nellie Meadows, Miss Jeannie Thomas is a sprightly Tilly Vane, and Miss Muriel Dean is a dainty Constance Connell.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Resident-Manager, Mr. H. H. Poter.—Mr. John Leopold's company, including the original Leopolds, fill the bill this week, and their absurdity *Frivolity* is as entertaining as ever. *The Houseboat* is also an amusing sketch given by this clever combination. The Ottograph Pictures are amusing and instructive.

HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Edward Owen. —*Captain Duncan and His Airship* is a comic scena presented by Walter Ellis, and is responsible for great amusement. The scenic effects, too, are decidedly above the average. Walter Foster and company's dramatic item affords pleasing variety; Flake White is a smart cartoonist; Frewin and Gorman are successful in song and dance; Seener and Fridkins' Troupe of Russian dancers are popular; and the Rangers perform some clever tricks on cycles. George Lawrence, vocal entertainer; Conan Dewson, mimic; Barney Ives, conjurer; and Ken Jones, comedian, make up the bill.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS. — THEATRE ROYAL.—General-Manager, Mr. Auguste A. Peuleve.—Mr. Morton Powell's company played *When It Was Dark* here for the first three nights. Mr. Wilfred Lyndon as the Rev. Basil Gortre was well received; the rôles of Constantine Schwabe and Sir Robert Llewelyn were depicted with sinister force by Mr. Cecil Mannering and Mr. Wm. Burgess; Mr. Wm. Burton (Rev. Mr. Byars) and Mr. Alfred Collingham (Harold Spence) both give meritorious performances; and Mr. Frank Venn was amusing as Charlie Gadfly. Gertrude Hunt was strikingly played by Miss Alice O'Dea; Miss Florrie Lyndon made a pretty Gracie Goldeye; and Miss Valerie Russell appeared as Helena Byars.

CARDIFF.—NEW THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—*A Waltz Dream* has been presented at the New Theatre this week by Messrs. George Edwardes and Charles Frohman's company, and the visit has caused no little excitement. Mr. Robert Evett captures the house by his ideal representation of Lieutenant Niki; Miss May de Sousa is the Franzi Steingraber, and a most bewitching and animated rendition is given by this talented lady; Miss Ethel Cadman as Princess Hélène enacts the part with the charm and grace always associated with her portrayals, while her singing is delightful; Miss Amy Augarde's impersonation of Friedrike is a piquant and captivating performance, her rich voice adding much to the value of her rendition; Mr. Eric Thorne occupies the premier position in funmaking, his portrayal of Joachim XIII. being irresistibly humorous; Mr. Leslie Holland adds to his former triumphs here by his talented exposition of Count Lothar; Mr. Willie Warde, jun., is droll as the waiter, Max Bauer; Miss May Morton, Miss Kathleen Hayes, and Miss Peggy Lorraine as three members of the ladies' band prove excellent in their respective parts; Mr. John Hamilton does well as Lieut. Montschi; and other parts are in the capable hands of Miss Mary Hamilton, Mr. Langford Kirby, and Mr. Albert Kavanagh. The excellent chorus and augmented orchestra are under the able direction of Mr. Hamish MacCunn, while the play is produced by Mr. J. A. E. Malone.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—At the head of a strong programme we have a return visit of the popular actor-musician Auguste Van Biene, who presented his new playlet *The Master Musician*, on Monday night, to a crowded house. Miss Mary Mannering proves a capable assistant in the sketch. Gertie Gitana, a young vivacious artist, sings and dances in her own special style, and is a great favourite; a delightful item is provided by La Pia, who, described as "The Enchantress," presents a series of art dances, her latest creation, "Spirit of the Waves," being distinctly novel; Chas. Fisher's Pocket Opera Company sing an excerpt from *Il Trovatore*, the singing, especially that of Mlle. Zella Lusano, as Leonora, being of a high order; Miss Ida Kessanley introduces a really clever animal turn; Watson's Royal Fox Terriers display proof of long and careful training; the Three Dixons (Nellie, Lily, and May) are a clever trio of banjo soloists and dancers; and Frank Lynne, described as the funny mantograph, is decidedly humorous. The original Jackley Trio, comedy artists; Allan Hanbury, comedian; and the American Bioscope complete the bill.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton.—Lowenwirth and Cohen, Hebrew comedians, are great favourites; a very "taking" turn is that of Brull and Hemsley, the dainty damsel and dancing dude, in *Fun in the Music Shop*; much applause is accorded Gordon Stretton, a coloured vocalist with a capital voice; Rose Pink is an extremely pleasing little maiden in song and dance; the Three Transfields are expert lady instrumentalists; Poole and Maguire (Dora and Fred) are a clever vocal comedy duo. George Acre, comedian; Bernard and Weston, smart comedians; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are also included in the bill. On Wednesday night, Mr. Arthur Burton, the popular manager, was accorded a benefit by permission of Mr. Macnaghten, and the enthusiastic gathering that assembled showed how great a favourite the beneficiaire has become.

CARLISLE.—H. M. THEATRE.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart McKim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's company in *The Little Breadwinner* is the attraction this week. Chief interest centres in a miniature, but distinctly clever, actress, Little Irene, who as Meg held the sympathies of her audience and acted, sang, and danced throughout with wonderful freedom and skill. Miss Lena Young also scored as Bobby Trott, her friend. As the hero, Mr. Reginald Brown played with distinction and ability; and Mr. J. Monkhouse contributed a quiet and refined sketch of the old Quaker. The heavy part was in the safe hands of Mr. Alfred Maurice, who made the very most of his opportunities; Miss Josephine Richards as the heroine filled the part most satisfactorily; and good work was done by Miss Clara Hunt, Miss Millie Ford, and Mr. Sidney Lynn.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting Manager, Mr. C. F. Morgan.—Herbert Clifton and Arthur Lennard, both on return visits, top and bottom the bill this week, the former with a burlesque on *The Merry Widow* and other new business is as popular as ever, while the latter has some excellent new songs, though his "Old Guard" is still the favourite, his dramatic rendering of this never failing to bring down the house. Edgar Budden does some wonderful things on roller skates, and Major Arnold's conjuring is clever and entertaining. Miss Lizzie Fletcher, an excellent comedienne, sings her way into favour; and Millie Denham, a clever vocalist, is no less successful. One of the most popular turns is contributed by Archie Roger, whose act is described as "bumps, thumps, and jumps," and for eccentric and humorous knockabout business and clever acrobatic work he is very hard to beat. Some fine pictures by the Pepiscope complete.

CARMARTHEN.—ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—Proprietors, Public Rooms Co.; Secretary, Mr. Edward Baldwin.—Miss Harriet Greet's capable company occupied the boards here on Tuesday with *The Sign of the Cross*. Mr. Leonard Yorke excellently impersonated the rôle of Marcus; Miss Hazle Dent was an unqualified success as Mercia; Miss Florence Maber capitally impersonated Berenice; Miss Minnie Walsh portrayed Dacia with power and feeling; Miss Effie Dane realistically played the part of Stephanus; Miss Lilian Ward was very good as Poppœa; the parts of Favius, Titus, and Melos were admirably taken by Mr. C. Edwardes, Mr. W. Parkyn, and Mr. Stephen Weyburn respectively; Nero found a capable exponent in Mr. E. Clowes; Tigellinus and Licinius were impersonated with great effect and power by Mr. G. Osmond Tearle and Mr. Rupert Carlton; Glabrio was a thorough success in the hands of Mr. Donald McAdam; Servillius and Strabro were capitally represented by Messrs. Frank J. Fox and Theodore Leslie; and the same may be said of Mr. Francis Leslie as Viturius. The remaining parts were in good hands. The play was well staged, and the dresses are excellent. Mr. G. W. Bowes acts as general-manager.

CASTLEFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Hy. Masterman, J.P.—Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company is paying another visit with *The Midnight Wedding*. Miss Yvonne Orchardson makes the part of Princess Astrea conspicuous by the excellence of her acting; Mr. A. E. Winnington Barnes in the trying part of Paul Valmar makes a fine study of the character, and his efforts are successful; the Crown Prince is portrayed with judgment and earnestness by Mr. John Nesbitt; Mr. Forbes Harrison gives a well-sustained delineation of Lieut. Eugene; Mr. Conway Booth faithfully depicts the utter and unprincipled villainy of Capt. Rudolph; the three comrades in war but rivals in love, Messrs. James E. Page, Vernon H. Payne, and Algie Spalding, are full of humour and create roars of laughter; and Miss Gladys Faunce plays up to them vivaciously as Kathie; Miss Nesta Sandford does convincing work as Satanella, and Mr. Francis Hawley acts consistently as Father Gerard.

QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Proprietors, Messrs. Chas. Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will H. Emerson.—A good programme is invariably presented here. The place of honour in the bill is allotted to the Three Hodginis, who are skilful and accomplished aerial acrobats of exceptional quality; Texas Hattie gets a big reception for a smart and clever act on the tight rope; Stidder and Dunbar in musical comedy is quite a novel turn; Chas. Rowen is a quaint singer; the Tiger Lily has a smart style as an acrobatic dancer; Nellie Walton as a singing mill girl makes a hit; Stuart and Evans sing amusing songs; Kail Stern sings coon ditties well; and amusing and instructive pictures are shown by the Loyal Dominion Company.

CHATHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard.—Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company is here this week in *Tom Jones*. In the leading rôle of Sophia Miss Florence Smithson's undoubted vocal ability is recognised most enthusiastically; Miss Joan Ritz makes an excellent impression as Honour; as Lady Bellaston Miss Alice Oppitz adds to her many admirers; Mr. Harry Welchman makes a talented Tom Jones, his acting and singing being thoroughly appreciated; Mr. Ambrose Manning appears in his original part of Squire Western; Mr. J. T. Macmillan proves a very able Gregory; Mr. Deane Percival makes the most of his opportunities as Blifil; Mr. George Elton gives a quaint and clever impersonation of Benjamin Partridge; and all the other parts are in excellent hands. The staging of the opera is thorough.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—Here we have F. S. Howard in *Funniosities of London Life*, which is well liked. Esta Stella makes quite a hit as the Military Maid; Oliver Conroy's songs and patter just suit Barnard's patrons; the Sisters Geretti are dexterous trapeze artists; the Georgia Trio are very popular both in harmony and comedy; Lacey's Erascope contributes its usual up-to-date pictures; the Sarony Sisters are a couple of nimble dancers; Gicardo, the boy juggler, is paying a welcome return visit; and others appearing are Rich and Radford, comedians, and Herbert Dale, light comedian.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Capt. H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr. G. Humphries.—The Kurios are scoring heavily with their concoction of comicalities; George Ridgwell, vocalist, cornet soloist, and conductor, is a prime favourite; The Volcanic Chimney and Mother-in-law's Picnic are films which create great merriment; Ada Martine pleases with song and dance; Olga and Elgar are correctly billed as "a musical treat"; Ghita Corri is renewing her acquaintance with Gaiety audiences; and the *Morning Leader* Pictures, Wilman, instrumentalist, and Mitchell and Mace, comedians, complete the bill.

CHESTER. — ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—The variety season still continues to draw good houses twice a night. W. Fullbrook and company top the bill with a screaming sketch, entitled *Astronomy*; their business is smart and their acting capable. Rose Gower has a good voice and charming personality; and as versatile speciality comedians Fame and Fortune deserve praise for their acting, tumbling, and patter. Prince Schaboo is a young Hindoo basso of promise; and Nellie Nora, a dainty and clever instrumentalist. The Sisters Brenton sing and dance smartly; and the Edmonds give a most artistic and clever exhibition of living statuary. Excellent pictures by the Premier Imperial Biograph complete the bill.

CHORLEY (LANCS.).—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Santé.—Fred Granville's Productions, Ltd., are presenting this week *The Better Land*. The play is capitally mounted, and is under the capable management of Mr. Stanley Radcliffe. Mr. Leonard Aardale undertakes Philip Radcliffe, and gives a particularly fine exposition; Hubert Radcliffe is rendered by Mr. Stanley Radcliffe in competent style; Mr. Herbert Fuller wins full approbation with a humorous portrayal of Tom Tadpole; and Mr. L. Marshall is good as George Grant. An admirable and charming rendering of Doris, Philip's wife, is given by Miss Nina Blake Adams; Miss Agnes Collier embodies Mercedes with conspicuous effect; Miss Bella Moody well sustains the character of Polly Perkins; and Miss Violet Vevian is decidedly good as Aunt Jemima. Tessa and Harry are carefully undertaken by Miss Emilie Entwistle and Miss G. Moody respectively.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—This house was closed until Thursday, upon which evening *When Knights Were Bold* was presented.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Colchester Hippodrome Co.; Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—Dinah Morris and company are at the top of this week's bill with *A Village in Dahomey*. Amandus, cosmopolitan facial mimic, is a clever and painstaking artist; Fred Ellis shines as a raconteur; Mlle. Rosina gives a pleasing and refined instrumental entertainment; Kenneth and Kane receive much applause as a comedy duo; Amy Lloyd scores as a comedienne, and pictures of an up-to-date nature complete.

CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—*The Gay Goddess* is being presented here by Mr. Julian Graham's company. Mr. Arthur Staples in the rôle of Timothy Twinkle gives a fascinating impersonation; Miss Leah Howard is a charming Priscilla; as Samuel Strong Mr. Fred Hammond is very good; Mr. Richard Teasdale capably fills the part of Sherlock Black; Mr. George Watson is an amusing Anthony; Miss Louie Gray is reponsible for fine dancing; Miss Kate Graham-Beck is an attractive Juno; and Mr. John Yates and Mr. Sam Baylis keep the house in roars.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. R. J. Bell. —The pantomime *Robinson Crusoe* is in its second week here.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Thomas F. O'Brien.—There is an interesting and varied programme presented here. Campbell and Barber are clever comedy trick cyclists; the Four Netty Janowskys, Continental gymnasts, present a novel and high-class turn; Celest gives an extremely smart performance on a slack wire; the Four Sydney Girls sing and dance in acceptable fashion; Frank Eldred's company in a military absurdity, *I'm the General*, causes endless mirth; Miss Blanche Leslie gives much pleasure in her illustrated songs; Jack Hylton, eccentric comedian, is highly successful; and the Palascope is a popular feature of the entertainment.

COVENTRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—Another successful week is assured by a visit of Mr. Seymour Hicks's company in *The Gay Gordons*. Mr. Frank Lincoln makes a dashing young private in the Gordons, Angus Graeme; Miss Dorothy Giles as the millionaire's daughter, Peggy Quainton, gives an impressive impersonation, and is responsible for some charming musical numbers. The host of characters are all in well-chosen hands, and a word of praise is due to the excellent scenery.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. S. T. Newsome; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wright.—Tom Edwards, the "huntsman ventriloquist," is top turn this week, and causes a lot of fun. Tom Edwards's company give an amusing sketch, entitled *Harmony Hall*; the Villion troupe of trick and comedy cyclists do amazing feats; Sandford and Lyons, simultaneous dancers, are a talented pair; Mike Gray is a clever juggler, and with his dog "Dooley" causes plenty of fun; Kurkamp, the singing conductor, has a fine voice, and was vociferously encored; and other artists are Stella Dell.

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a comedienne and J. P. Caroll, the "soldier tambournist." A series of amusing pictures is shown on the Bioscope.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. K. Draco.—The Karno troupe appear in *Mumming Birds*, and a knockabout pantomime absurdity, entitled *Hilarity*, is given by Fred Karno's troupe; the Forsyths are a clever turn, one of the ladies making a success as a "living doll" Dalvere and Gordon are entertaining comedians; George Bendon is cordially received as the "white coon"; Sybil Montague gives some well-rendered solos; Marie Neilson is a capable comedienne and dancer; and the Bioscope pictures conclude a successful programme.

CRADLEY HEATH.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jno. H. Morton.—Mr. Montague Beaudyn's company are playing *The Power of a Wicked Woman* here. Mr. M. Beaudyn sustains the part of Philip in a masterly manner; Miss Irene Munro as the Woman has much to do, and does it well; Miss Winifred Rutland as Denise shows ability; Mr. Arthur T. Cresswell as Guy Oliphant is the life and soul of the play; Mr. Arthur A. Tomlin as Bransby is a capital comedian; Mr. Rupert Talbot's Lord Dumley is a careful study; Mr. Chas. D. Pitt as Horace Winter pleases all; Miss Phyllis Ray as Marie deserves special mention; and Miss C. Crawford as Nelly Montague has a part which suits her admirably.

CROYDON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Manager, Mr. Roland Daniel; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Ernest Archer.—Mr. George Dance's company is winning approval here in *The Girls of Gottenberg*. Mr. Bertie Wright is very droll as Max Moddelkoph; Mr. Tom Shelford is excellent as Otto; Mr. Hugh Henson scores as Albrech; Mr. Charles Berkeley does well as Britti Bottl; Mr. Frank Delane has a commanding appearance as the General; and useful services are rendered by Messrs. David Miller, Morgan Rickards, Edwin Stanley, and Tom Squire. Miss May Marshall is a vivacious Clementine; Miss Masie North is charming as Elsa; Miss Simeta Marsden is full of life and spirit as Mitzi; and minor rôles are in capable hands. The dresses, scenery, and chorus are admirable.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. Anthony.—The America Bioscope Company are giving a capital series of animated pictures and illustrated songs here. Mr. Ernest Tilbury, tenor; Miss Beatrice Vere, contralto; and Mr. Bert Williams, reciter, are well received.

EMPIRE PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Walter Gibbons and Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Eustace Jay.—The Three Royal Dreadnoughts (Miss Lilian, Mme. Vera, and Charles) give a smart shooting act; Haines, Borthwick, and company cause much amusement in sketch *Half a Dollar;* Jack Marks is a clever youngster; George Gilbey, comedian, is quaint; Freda Murray is a taking comedienne; Herbert Shelley, protean artist, is very good; the Boisset Troupe in *The Bricklayers* keep the house in roars of laughter; Ida Clare is a fascinating comedienne; and the appearance of Violet Charlesworth creates excitement, her adventures being shown on the Bioscope.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Bell.—Mr. Seymour Hicks' company is here in *The Gay Gordons*. Miss Marie West, a delightful Peggy Quainton, is most capably supported by Mr Charles Childerstone as Angus Graeme; Mr. Edward Carlton, a comedian in every sense of the word, as Nervy Nat; Aubrey Stowell as Edmund Siddons; and Louie Emery as Charlotte Siddons.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Theatre, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Hersee.—There is another capital programme this week, and the star turn is Tom Rose, with his troupe of wrestlers; Goggin and Davis contribute a clever acrobatic turn; Webb and Branston are talented operatic duettists; a pleasing turn is Datas, the marvellous man of memory; and Rosie Archer, mimic at the piano, Bros. Esdaile, comedians and dancers, Reszki and Raszki, tumblers, and pleasing Pepiscope pictures complete a strong bill.

DARWEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, The Animated Pictorial Enterprises, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. A. Whitehouse.—Mr. Louis Calvert's production of *Sunday* is drawing crowded houses. Miss Janet Lind, as Sunday, plays with a charm which commands great admiration. She is ably supported by "the Boys," as played by Mr. Richard F. Symons (Towzer), Mr. A. Cottam Holmes (Davy), Mr. Geo. Marriott, jun. (Jacky), and Mr. James Hussey (Lively), the latter especially presenting a capital character study. Mr. William Giffard is an excellent Colonel Brinthorpe; Mr. Richard Trieve makes the most of Tom Oxley; and as Arthur Brinthorpe Mr. Boyce Wellams is successful. Miss H. Graham Edwins as Mrs. Naresby and Miss Jessie Stone as the Nun both do well.

PUBLIC HALL AND PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Lessees, Messrs. Thomson, Leivers, and Bennett; Manager, Mr. J. E. Thomson.—Besides some capital living and talking pictures, Lydden, Hayward and Will Elsie present their farcical tragedy *A Quiet Rehearsal*, which receives applause; and Sam Shipley, comedian, gains favour.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—Mr. J. F. Elliston's pantomime company is putting in a week here with *Cinderella*. Miss Maude Mortimer makes a dashing Prince Florizel; in the name-part Miss Connie Leon plays, sings, and dances with grace and charm. A feature of the performance is the Buttons of Mr. W. T. Thompson, and he is to be congratulated upon a clean and clever impersonation. Another excellent comedian is Mr. Stanley Vandyke, who plays Baron Harduppe with general acceptation. Messrs. Victor and Lewis are amusing as Ferdy Fagin and All-of-a-Twist, and the other male parts are in good hands. The two ugly sisters, Ripples and Dimples, are well played by Miss Edith Barwell and Miss Annie Cohen respectively; Miss Minnie Miriam appears to distinct advantage as Dandini, and the Sisters Edwards, wonderfully skilful dancers, also deserve special mention as Colin and Rose. Mr. Geo. Belrose as Father Time, and Mlle. de Velin as Fairy Progress are experienced operatic vocalists, and their duets are faultless. The specialities comprise Mr. J. Collins's Six Monte Carlo Girls, whose exposition of the saltatory art is exceedingly smart and attractive; and the Harvard Sextette of male voices, whose contribution, a pierrot turn, is not the least pleasing feature of an altogether highly-creditable pantomime. In conclusion, a word of praise should be said for the chorus and augmented orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Basil Horsfall, and also of Mr. Fred Mulvey, under whose personal supervision the pantomime is produced, he also acting as stage-manager.

PALACE.—Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes.—The premier turn on the programme here this week is Tarro Miyake, described as the champion ju-jitsu wrestler of the world; Herbert Rule is a favourite comedian; the Three Bordellas submit a highly-creditable gymnastic act; Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Leonard cause much amusement in their comedy sketch *Coming Home;* Marie Stroud is a pleasing vocalist; Cling and Clancy have some smart patter and clever dancing; and Clarke and Glenney create laughter in their absurdity. The Bioscope is also an attraction.

DEVONPORT.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. G. S. King.—*The Face at the Window* is making a welcome return visit. As Paul Gouffet Mr. Scott Leighton gives an admirable character study of a great criminal investigator; Mr. E. Hoggan Armadale as the murderer and hunted Lucio Delgardo is no less successful. The other characters are ably portrayed, and the play exceedingly well staged.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—Chris Richards heads the bill, and is the cause of roars of laughter; Luis Hardt, the "mighty atom," continues to arrest popular attention by his herculean feats; Graham's Juveniles act and sing in most approved fashion; Julian Mack supplies some highly-amusing patter; and the Sisters Desmond are heard to great advantage in two very acceptable duets. Rose and Calvert present an amusing dramatic parody; Alec B. Thorne, Scotch comedian, is in fine fettle; and Rhoda Paul complete an entertaining programme.

DONCASTER.—GRAND THEATRE AND EMPIRE.—Manager, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—A delightfully pleasant evening was spent on Monday, when Messrs. E. C. Jazon and Richard Nightingale presented the pantomime, *Dick Whittington*. The title-rôle was charmingly presented by Miss Maude Beaumont, the Cat being represented with ideal felineness by Mr. Willie Vauda. Miss Vera Snowdon gave an interesting representation of Alice; and Mr. William Miller did well as Fitzwarren. Mr. Fred Ward as the Idle Apprentice won great appreciation; Miss Ada Pearce as Susan gave valuable help; Miss Olive Audrey was *chic* as Fairy Bountiful. A number of specialities were presented, including the Vaudas, on globe and slack wire; the Willoughbys, acrobatic eccentrics; Pearce and Ward, comedy act; Salida and Vone, Creole performers; and Perry and Snowdon, duettists.

DOVER.—ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. S. W. Winter; Resident Manager, Mr. E. W. Holford.—On Monday a most enthusiastic welcome awaited Miss Ida Barr, who looked more beautiful and was more charmingly gowned than ever. Her songs included "Carlo Talliarno," "What is to be will be," and "A beautiful balloon," the choruses of which were heartily taken up by the house. One of the cleverest dancers ever seen in Dover is the male partner of Ellis and Ellis, a French acrobatic waltz, a Russian dance, and an elaborate stepped hornpipe being given with equal skill, the lady introducing each dance by a tuneful song. Will Walton is a comedian with original methods, his Suffragette's stump speech being highly amusing; a humorous skit on a motor honeymoon is contributed by Hemsley and Ambrose; the Connolly Bros. are good in their patter and dancing; Julia Gilbert sings "My nightingale" and "For old times sake" fairly well; and Byon adds to the fun of the evening by his comedy clay-modelling. A word of praise should be given to the highly-interesting film illustrative of H.M. the King's Visit to Berlin, showing the arrival and the inspection of the guard.

DUBLIN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—After a most successful run the pantomime of *Jack and Jill* entered on its final week here on Monday, when the large audience present were loud in their expressions of popular approval, and repeatedly encored all the principal artists appearing. During the week two benefits are announced to take place, Mr. George Lashwood's on Thursday and Miss Dorothy Ward's on Friday evenings, when bumper houses are expected.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing - Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland.—Mr. E. Oswald Brooks's company is appearing here to good houses in the farcical comedy *The New Housemaid*. Mr. Howard L. Tracy as the Hon. Bertie Rashleigh gives an exceedingly clever and humorous representation, and Miss Babs Stuart acts her part of Dulcie in a most effective and vivacious manner; Miss Lucy Evelyn submits a very good portrayal of Aunt Caroline; and Mr. Brember Wills presents a capital study of Peter Pinkerton. Mr. Herbert Colley displays considerable ability as the butler Roseberry; and Mr. P. Ramsey Forman acts splendidly as Detective Brown. As the Rev. Stephen Stingles Mr. Archie Selwyn is most amusing; Miss Ruby Wyndham as Lettice, Miss Josephine Middleton as Nellie Haddock, Miss Renée de L'Estrade as Lucy Merton, and Mr. Reginald Hargreaves as Frank Pinkerton enact their respective parts most capably. A comedy, *Brokers Ahead*, precedes the play, and is well received.

EMPIRE. — General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—The big attraction here this week is the La Scala Opera Company in a selection from *Cavalleria Rusticana*, which is received with enthusiasm. A welcome return visit is being paid by Mr. Walter Munroe, whose songs and dances win loud applause. Tee and Tee, in their musical eccentric act, are both clever and amusing; and Sybil St. Elmo contributes some taking ballads in capital style. The St. Clair Brothers, knockabout cyclists, introducing a football match on bicycles, create much excitement; and Miss Josie Mooney, comedienne, meets with a good reception. The musical selections of the Sisters Aindow are highly appreciated; and Neville Delmar is a comedian of more than ordinary merit. Little Ruby, the talented child cornetist and vocalist, who remains from last week, is still scoring, and the Empire pictures are, as usual, entertaining.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—The Eight College Girls, in a delightful singing and dancing act, head the bill here, and receive a flattering reception. The Mars Trio, speciality gymnasts, give a clever performance; and Donal MacDougal, Scottish comedian, submits a humorous turn. Lestre and Moure are highly amusing in their comedy and dancing act; and Marie Francis, comedienne, sings in good style. Maxwell Brothers, acrobats, and their well trained dogs contribute a capital item; and the vocal numbers of Wills and Mackenzie are well received. Cedar and Elgar in *Ye Dayes of Olde* find great favour; and Joe Dale, an excellent light comedian, and the Bioscope complete the programme.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—A capital company is again appearing here, including the Blydons, duettists and dancers; Edna Ray, ballad and coon vocalist; Dan Leslie, vocalist and dancer; Annie Bamford, comedienne; Torie and Torie, sketch artists; Harry Delmar, musical comedian, and the cinematograph.

DUDLEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—Mr. E. H. Knight presents *The Lighthouse Robbery* this week. Mr. Fred Garratt as Tom Manly proves himself manly in name and character; Mr. W. Annesley combines stage management with the elderly part of Squire Hammond; Mr. Percy Berresford ably fills the part of James Hammond; David Morris is soundly played by Mr. Charles Liddon; Mr. Jesse Boxer is much in evidence as Sam Kidder; Mrs. Lelia Drummond displays earnestness as Mrs. Manly; Miss Lillian Bales is thoroughly jolly as Ruth Manly; and Miss Hilda Baynton plays the pleasing part of Rose Prescott in a pretty manner.

EMPIRE. — Proprietors, Midland Entertainment Corporation, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. W. Waters.—Yettmah, Japanese wonder worker, heads the bill this week with a mystifying turn; Harley and Melton are real laughter-makers; Hughes and Elliott sing well and dance better; the Yokels give an amusing musical turn on all kinds of "instruments"; Georgie Mansell is a good male impersonator; Marie Reeve is a comedienne of no mean merit; Edna Latone, at the foot of the bill, meets with a cordial reception.

DUNDALK.—TOWN HALL THEATRE.—Proprietors, Dundalk Urban Council.—Mr. Charles Harrington's company in *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was accorded a hearty reception from a full house. As Uncle Tom Mr. J. Carr portrays the part powerfully; Miss Doris Brereton as Little Eva sustains her rôle in a manner that arouses the general sympathy of the audience; Mr. Charles Harrington as Phineas Fletcher gives a capital study of the Quaker; the character of Legree is exceptionally well played by Mr. G. Lubinoff; Topsy in the hands of Miss Annie Watson gives evidence of a careful study; as Marks Mr. W. Langford is highly amusing; while Miss Hero Hathway as Eliza Harris is also very good. Mr. John Gibson, Mr. G. R. Thorne, and Mr. Alfred Lafolle in their respective rôles maintain the high standard of the company.

DUNDEE.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe.—Mr. William Mollison is appearing here with his own company. *Julius Cæsar*, uncommonly well staged, was presented on Monday, Mr. Mollison's Mark Antony being a really splendid conception, the great speech in the Forum scene being worth going a long way to hear itself. Mr. William Calvert gave a powerful and telling performance as Brutus; Mr. Harold Neville as Cassius played with great force and passion; Mr. Henry Deas was an excellent Julius Cæsar; Mr. Eric Dane made a handsome and forceful Octavius; and amongst others who gave able support were Messrs. Whitford Kane, W. A. Mackersy, Dermot Fitzgibbon, H. Owen Taylor, and William Kelk. Miss Evelyn McNay played Portia with grace, charm, and power of dramatic expression; Miss Elsa Anderson was a handsome and effective Calphurnia; and Miss Elsie Vron Neville acted cleverly and gracefully as Lucius. Not the least appreciative amongst the audience was a large contingent of school children, who took a very intelligent interest in the play. *The Merchant of Venice, Othello*, and *The Bonnie Brier Bush* have also been presented during the week.

PALACE THEATRE. — Lessees, the United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. S. McIntosh.—Doody and Wright, the Australian comiques, are in great demand; the twin Sisters Anderson submit a decided novelty in their dancing on the rope; Carl Lynn, the clever animal mimic, is greeted with rounds of applause; Harry J. Crane and company are seen to advantage in the pathetic musical episode entitled *Truth in Absence;* Kennedy's Kiddies are very entertaining in a fine vocal terpsichorean and athletic scena; Shrillo, operatic whistler, is accorded a warm welcome; Henry Hilton is a clever magician; Edith Chantler, a fine juvenile soprano, has a flattering reception; Marie Rose scores in several bright and catchy ditties; Edie Coolville sings and dances daintily; Johnny Beveridge, a blind local comedian, in song and story goes well, and the Palascope completes.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee, Mrs. Lillie Williams; Licensee, Mr. W. E. Potts; Business-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—Robeyisms from the inimitable George form the outstanding feature of this week's bill, and Mr. Robey has reason to feel proud of the reception given him. The Ten Loonies present their hysterically hilarious sketch *Dotty* with huge success; Marie Jones, assisted by Ernest Munro, in a quick-change novelty, introducing no less than seven characters, forms an attractive item; the Tossing Austens amuse and amaze the audience with their remarkably clever juggling; Parker and Parr, in a well-worked vocal and comedy act, *Taffy and the Toff*, are vastly amusing; and Gladys and Alber in a delightful potpourri act prove themselves artists of ability.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. Lillie Williams; Business Manager, Mr. Frank Percival; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alfred Ross.—Pictures form the greater portion of the programme here this week. In addition Kennedy, the musical clown and eccentric conductor, and a Cake-walk competition prove attractive.

NEWMAN'S PICTURE PALACE.—The programme at Mr. Fred Newman's interesting place of amusement includes a number of capital films. Variety is supplied by Cavali, a clever ventriloquist possessed of a good fund of humour, and a very laughable contest at "Riding the Horse."

ROLLER SKATING RINK. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. C. P. Crawford and F. A. Wilkins; Manager, Mr. Bert Crump.—Rinking is quite the fashion here at present, and at all sessions large crowds may be seen disporting themselves on the "ice." This magnificent rink is proving decidedly popular with professionals visiting Dundee.

DUNFERMLINE.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.—Mr. F. R. Benson's Shakespearean company (North) on its annual visit here received a good send-off on Monday night, when it commenced a week's engagement with *The Taming of the Shrew*. Mr. James Berry gave a good rendering of Baptista; Mr. Charles Sparrow was well placed as Vincentio; Mr. Robert Atkins made a very good lover as Lucentio; and Mr. Henry Herbert proved himself a most effective Petruchio. The comedy characters of Gremio and Hortensio obtained full justice from Mr. Victor Wiltshire and Mr. Cyril Sworder; Miss G. Vanderzee made an ideal Katherine; Miss Violet Farebrother did ample justice to the part of Bianca; and all the other characters were well placed. The répertoire for the week includes *Othello, The Merry Wives of Windsor, Richard the Third, School for Scandal, Hamlet*, and *Julius Cæsar*.

EASTBOURNE.—DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray King and Clark.—Mr. Charles Frohman's excellent company is appearing here in *The Hypocrites*. Mr. Lawrence Leyton gives an earnest and restrained performance as the Rev. Mr. Linnell; Mr. Charles Harley is conspicuously successful as Mr. Viveash; Mr. F. Morland gives point and character to Mr. Wilmore; Mr. S. Dennys handles the difficult part of Lennard Wilmore with discretion and success; Mr. F. C. Thurstans is a richly humorous Rev. Daubeny; Mr. Charles Tyrel plays with refinement and distinction as Sir John Plugenet; Mr. Fred Lake is a satisfactory Dr. Blaney; and Mr. Douglas Jeffries an excellent Butler. Miss Grace Murielle displays power in the part of Mrs. Wilmore, her efforts in the last act being particularly noteworthy; Miss Muriel Mason is a girlish and attractive Helen Plugenet; Miss Millie L. Emden an amusing Mrs. Blaney; Miss Madge Severne a very capable Mrs. Linnell; and Miss Violet Harley does all her work well as Rachel Neve; and Miss Eva Turnour lends efficient aid as Patty.

THE HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; District-Manager, Mr. G. Egbert; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—Mr. Tom Jones heads the bill here this week, and as a Welsh comedian is highly amusing and well received; Rezene and Rezene have a funny comedy act, *Shall I? Yes*, and this provides much laughter; Barlee and Smith have one of the smartest and brightest turns in the bill; Miss Ena Lorrimer is a Scotch comedienne and dancer of much cleverness; Miss Ray St. Clair sings well and interestingly; Agar and Agar are expert tumblers; Mr. Phil Peters succeeds well as a coon ragtime boy; and new pictures complete the bill.

THE PIER PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Miss Florence Glossop-Harris and company are appearing here in *Angela*. Miss Glossop-Harris, who does much capable and talented work, is an attractive and graceful Angela; Miss Gertrude Gilbert a bright and animated Mary Pembridge; Miss Gertrude Tate, possessed of a sweet, sympathetic voice, makes much of her small part of Clare; Miss May Goulden gets many laughs as Elizabeth; and several other ladies cleverly assist in the minor characters. A restrained, but delightfully clever and effective performance is given by Mr. Frank Cellier as Richard Evesham; Mr. Arthur D. Layland contributes quite a little masterpiece of work as Mr. Bobwych; Mr. Eugene Wellesley is a smart Alphonse; Mr. Francis Roberts a capital James Lesson; Mr. Arthur Keane works capably and well as Mr. Keswick and Smith-Newcombe; and smaller parts are well filled. The balcony scene from *Romeo and Juliet* is very cleverly given by Miss Gertrude Tate and Mr. Eugene Wellesley.

ECCLES.—CROWN THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert Rogers.—Mr Sidney Cooper's pantomime *Cinderella* is the attraction here this week, and crowded houses are the result. Miss Madge Daly capably undertakes the part of Prince Charming; Miss Jessica Brooke is a dainty Cinderella; Miss May Maddison makes a fair Dandini; Miss Ida Scott depicts the Fairy Godmother charmingly; Newham and Latimar as Cordella and Camellia, the Ugly Sisters, create much fun; Messrs. Eric Farr, Wm. Doust, and Erne Chester in the respective characters of Baron Doonaught, Grabem, and Ceesam are a tower of strength. The pantomime is well staged and dressed, and the chorus is ably trained. Diamond and Beatrice, harpist and soprano saxophonist, are repeatedly encored.

EDINBURGH.—ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—Mr. Edward Compton and company began an engagement of six nights here on Monday last. The occasion was a memorable one, for it marked the 1,500th performance by the popular actor of the title-rôle in Muskerry's play *Davy Garrick*. The talented comedian was in rare form, and acted with a vigour, buoyancy, and force which he has never excelled on any previous representation of the part in this city. The audience repeatedly recalled the actor with enthusiasm. He was compelled to bow his acknowledgments after his dramatic exit in the second act, and, at the close of the act, the applause was so hearty and spontaneous that Mr. Compton gave expression to his thanks in a graceful speech. Mr. Henry Crocker acted with excellent point and effect as Alderman Gresham; and Mr. Henry Worrall was good as Tallyhaut, although the impersonation would have been improved by a little more swagger. Miss Kathleen Leigh was a sweet, unaffected Violet, and acted with power in the second act; while the dinner guests in the hands of Mr. Philip Gordon, Mr. W. Johnston, Mr. Ivan Leslie, Miss Marie Hassell, and Miss Constance Merton were acted with the requisite dash of farcical humour. The play was preceded by a pleasant comedietta, *Proteus in Petticoats*, in which Miss Viola Compton played with charm as a versatile French actress, Mlle. Diane de Dio. As a souvenir of the occasion the ladies of the audience who occupied dress circle and stall seats were presented with copies of the Compton Birthday Book. Mr. Compton appeared with his customary success as Bob Acres in *The Rivals* on Tuesday; and the following was the programme for the remainder of the week:—Wednesday, *A Reformed Rake;* Thursday, *She Stoops to Conquer;* Friday, *The Scarlet Coat;* Saturday (matinée), *The School for Scandal*, and in the evening *Davy Garrick* will be repeated.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Whitehead.—*The Bondman* is presented here this week for the first time in Edinburgh by Mr. Wentworth Croke's No. 1 company. In the rôle of Michael Sunlocks Mr. W. Henry Hargreaves is seen to great advantage; while Mr. R. Scrope Quentin gives a powerful and convincing representation of Jason. Mr. W. H. Rotheram, who undertakes the parts of Father Ferrati and Grandfather, is very successful, the study of the reformed priest being especially good. Miss Georgina Wynter makes a charming and sufficiently strong Greeba; two capital character studies are those of Mr. Oswald Lingard and Miss Madge Lanerton as Adam Fairbrother and Mrs. Fairbrother respectively. All the other parts in a large cast are capably done.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—The programme here leans to the side of the playlet. Mr. Dennis Drew and company give a dramatic representation of the military scena *Back to the Barracks*, and Mr. Ernest Cadles's uproarious farce *Casey's Court* finds many admirers. A novel sketch, entitled *Rain Dears*, is presented by Mr. Joseph Hart. In this entertaining piece special rain and electrical effects are introduced, and are loudly applauded. Mr. R. Bertram produces an amusing farce, *The Chaperon*, which produces an abundance of hearty laughter; Miss Lionette Roberty and her company of whirlwind dancers supply an exhilarating turn; Mr. W. F. Frame is as droll as usual in his grotesque studies of Scottish character; Mr. Bert Williams provides an excellent ventriloquial turn; Mr. Walter Aubrey is a capital buck dancer; and Master Jimmy Curwell, until lately a newsboy, displayed real ability in his rendering of several difficult selections on the pianoforte.

KING'S THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard.—The echoes of one popular opera company have hardly died away when Edinburgh is favoured with a visit from another admirable combination, the Carl Rosa Opera Company, which opened here on Monday. The engagement, which is to last for twelve nights, commenced with a really admirable performance of *Lohengrin*, in the presence of a crowded and enthusiastic audience. Miss Beatrice Miranda, a singer with a voice of great sweetness, played Elsa with simplicity and charm, and rendered the numbers of her part with much expression. She was heard to special advantage in Elsa's dream in Act I., and the beautiful air in the following act. Mr. Walter Wheatley, a tenor vocalist who knows how to use his voice with effect, was an admirable Knight of the Holy Grail; and Mr. Arthur Winckworth as Henry sang with power the solo leading into the finale for sextette and chorus in the opening act. Mr. Dillon Shallard, who played Telramund, is not only an actor of versatility, but a singer of merit. His Telramund was a finished piece of acting, and his singing contributed greatly to the success of the production. The duet with Ortrud—notably well acted by Mme. Marie Alexander—was rendered with dramatic expression, and was loudly applauded. Mr. Frederick Clendon made the most of the small part of the Herald. Mr. Eugene Goosens conducted with his customary energy and ability, and the work of the chorus was exceedingly good, the rendering of the fine chorus "Hail Elsa," in Act III., being particularly effective. *Don Giovanni* was given on Tuesday, *Carmen* on Wednesday, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* on Thursday, and *Rigoletto* on Friday.

EXETER. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—This week Mr. Ernest Dare presents the farcical comedy *In the Soup*.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frederick Sandy.—A great attraction here is Miss Ivy Close, the winner of the *Daily Mirror* International Beauty Competition, and her rendering of the three songs caught on immensely. An exceptionally good turn was that of the Eight Welsh Miners, who, with special scenery and effects, were most effective. The Sisters McCarte and F. V. St. Clair are also very attractive features. St. Clair's songs delight the house. Miss Arabella Allen is exceedingly clever in her impersonations. Biff Hall, the American Hebrew dialect comedian, and Captain Kettle are appreciated.

FALKIRK.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. W. Ebbutt.—After a long spell of delightful musical comedy, the theatre this week has a return to melodrama, Fred Melville's *Married to the Wrong Man* entirely filling the bill. It is built on the sensational lines associated with the stories of this prolific author, and it loses nothing in the telling. The part of Jock Gladwin is excellently taken by Mr. Oswald Cray, whose acting in the Trial Scene (as counsel for the defence) pronounces him an elocutionist of marked ability. The tragic side of the picture is realistically presented by Miss Gertrude Boswell, who takes the part of Ruth, the dumb girl. This is a very strong character, and is acted with both power and pathos by Miss Boswell. Mr. H. Lane Bayliff as Captain Deering puts plenty of "devil" into his part, which he fills very effectively; Mr. Arthur T. Lennard as Sergeant Manners also does well; as Dr. Brandon and Dr. Bird, Mr. Henry Eustace and Mr. Paige Lawrence are capable exponents; and Nurse Manners finds a fitting representative is Miss Rosalie Notrelle; while the Rose O'Connor of Miss Dorothy Haigh is prettily taken. The low comedy element is well supplied by Miss May Davis and Mr. Syd Claydon. The abandoned innkeeper is carefully represented by Mr. Charles Vivian.

TOWN HALL.—Town Council.—Hamilton's Excursions are on at the Town Hall this week. This form of entertainment always proves popular, and the audiences are large. In addition to the now well-established Diorama, there is an engaging programme of variety and cinematograph. A very good turn is that by Mr. J. A. Wilson, the well-known entertainer, assisted by his wonderful dog, "Private Towser"; Miss Maude May Munray electrifies the audience with her charming dancing; then there are Ostar and Vestor, in their speciality act; and Jack Henri, Scottish comedian. Mr. Claude Howell, as usual, proves a delightful guide and elocutionist.

FOLKESTONE. — PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Roland.—Mr. Wm. Greet's chief company in *The Sign of the Cross* is proving a great attraction, and full houses are testifying to the worth of the performance. The Marcus Superbus of Mr. Cyril Austen-Lee is, if anything, better than ever, praticularly in Act III., when he rouses the audience to enthusiasm; as Nero Mr. C. Yorke gives a good character sketch, his performance being consistent throughout; Tigellinus and Licinius are played in good style by Mr. Charles Aldred and Mr. J. Weatherell; Mr. Frank Wood as the wine-loving Glabrio proves himself a comedian of the first order, playing his drunken scenes with humour, but without extravagance; Mr. Walter Fleet and Mr. G. Blunden play the leading Christians with great sincerity. Of the ladies, Miss Lily Ward as Berenice gives a talented rendering; as Dacia Miss Cissy Carlton plays brightly and with much humour; and Miss Beryl Hamilton as Poppæa is quite good; Mercia is charmingly rendered by Miss Constance Little; and Stephanus is cleverly portrayed by Miss Alys Hall, who has played the part in place of Miss Edith Drayson, indisposed; the minor parts being all in safe hands.

TOWN HALL.—Mr. Joseph Poole's Myriorama, with a capable company of entertainers, is providing a big attraction, and crowded houses nightly assemble.

GAINSBOROUGH.—KING'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Gainsborough Theatre Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Leighton.—This week an excellent variety company includes the Denaro Brothers in a clever exposition of juvenile acrobatics; the Days, smart thought-readers and card-manipulators; Sid Stanto in a novel musical turn; Wills and Warlock Chart, slab dancers; Kitty Cameron, comedienne and dancer; Joe Atkin, quaint vocal comedian; Little Muriel; and pictures.

GATESHEAD.—KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager and Licensee, Mr. Harold Arnold.—Harry Tate's company in *Fishing* has caused amusement here; Josh Dixon, comedian, has raised many laughs; Spry and Austin, peculiar duettists, are entertaining all; Matthews and Brown, coloured comedians and dancers, show much cleverness; Chas. Woodward, light comedian, finds much favour; and the Sisters Herbert are dainty duettists and dancers. Fred Vallance, ventriloquist; May B. Brilliant, comedienne; and the Kingscope are other attractive items.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; General-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Dixon.—Mr. Wm. MacLaren is presenting *Claudian* here this week with conspicuous success. Mr. MacLaren plays Claudian with great power, and is well supported by Miss Lily C. Bandmann as Almida. Other parts are in the safe keeping of experienced actors, and the production is one of great merit.

GLASGOW.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—Mr. M. Russell Rosse's company devote the second week of their engagement here to an interesting revival of *Jim the Penman*. The character of the forger, James Ralston, is depicted most effectively by Mr. Edward Sorley; and as the disillusioned wife, Mrs. Bennett comes away splendidly in the last act. Mr. Charles Boult gives a frank and manly portrayal of Louis Percival; the Baron Hartfeld of Mr. Arthur Dennis is characteristic; and the suavity of Captain Redwood is duly emphasised by Mr. Maurice Denham. Smart and good-looking young men are seen in the Lord Drelincourt of Mr. Fred Lester and the George Ralston of Mr. Ben Barnett; Miss Gertrude Le Sage gives weight and importance to the rôle of Lady Dunscombe; as Agnes Ralston Miss Betty Fairfax is winsome; the Netherby of Mr. Harry Morpeth and the Pettywise of Mr. Clarence Pelham are careful studies; and as the Maid, Miss Bertha Guest is good.

ROYALTY, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Carpenter.—The fortnight's visit of Miss Horniman's company has considerably enhanced the reputation here of this clever band of players, and of the new plays introduced this season, *The Silver Box* has made a decided impression. On Monday *Cupid and the Styx* was given, and Mr. J. Sackville Martin's new comedy was heartily received. As the young medicos, Mr. Lewis Casson as Dr. Hope and Mr. Basil Dean as Dr. Garside acted with convincing naturalness and excellent effect; and a first-rate portrayal of the dignified physician, Sir Peregrine Prendergast, was contributed by Mr. Charles Bibby. Miss Sybil Thorndike as the worldly Nurse Price was specially good; Mr. B. Iden Payne gave another clever performance as the discontented Philip Barton; and his wife was most sympathetically played by Miss Hilda Bruce Potter. A clever bit of character was the Porter of Mr. Leonard Mudie. *The Dear Departed* was given in front, and in this Misses Ada King and Louise Holbrook were specially noteworthy. Mr. St. John Hankin's comedy, *The Charity that Began at Home*, was given on Tuesday, and repetitions of *Widower's Houses* and *The Silver Box* later in the week.

GRAND.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. B. G. Maclachlan; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. Christie Grant.—The forthcoming visit of the Carl Rosa Opera Company has compelled the management here to announce the last twelve nights of *Cinderella*, which has had a most successful career, and enhanced the popularity here of several clever artists, notably Messrs. Whit Cunliffe, George French, Tom W. Conway, and Barry Lupino; while of the ladies, Misses Queenie Finnis as Cinderella, Nellie Wigley as the Duke of Whistbridge, Kate Walbran and Nellie Cozens as the Ugly Sisters; and Violet Tempest as the Fairy, have been specially worthy of the favours bestowed on them.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—Much has already been written about *Diccory Dok*, and the panto. still

he gets through is complimentary to his abilities; Mr. Cliff Lake as Squills has practically the making of his own part, and comes through it creditably; as Sparkle, Mr. Walter Dale is amusing; Mr. Harry Gribben as the Squire and Mr. Ainslie Burton as Mrs. Tibbs are conjointly responsible for much fun; as Sweetbriar and Discord Miss Ivy Proudfoot and Miss May Beatrice sing well. The stage-management is perfect, and the chorus and ballet all that could be desired.

METROPOLE, LTD. — General-Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—Mr. T. Edward Ward's company is here this week playing *The Love of the Princess*, in which Miss Maisie Hanbury gives a fine impersonation of Princess Idalia; while Prince Conrad is ably enacted by Mr. Wilson Coleman. An exquisite performance of the Lady Irene is given by Miss Olive Lloyd; and a quietly dignified portrayal of Sister Constantia is rendered by Miss Nellie Grahame. The villainy is well expressed by Mr. E. Imeson as Count Nicholas and Mr. E. H. Dobell as the King of Ilarnia; while a spice of comedy and rascality is a combination in the character of Duke Scarfe as rendered by Mr. Francis Serle. Mr. Beckett Bould makes a natural Lieut. Orians; and other well-filled parts are the Prince Regent by Mr. Graham Winsford, Boris by Mr. Edgar Morgan, Stephen by Mr. Eric Wilde, and Carlos by Mr. James Austin. The drama is well staged, and is drawing crowded houses.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—Mr. Frederick Melville's play, *The Ugliest Woman on Earth*, is here on a second visit. The title-rôle, by Miss Beatrice Homer, is portrayed with studied minuteness, her distinct utterance and artistic diction being outstanding features in a fine performance; no less effective is Mr. Philip Darien as Jack Merryman; in the hands of Mr. Leyton Cancellor, the scheming and criminal propensities of Hubert Gould gets full justice; while Mr. Harry Leyton as Raggles submits a clever impersonation of the unpolished London hooligan. Miss Violet Macaree is a decided success as Marita, an Italian girl; Miss Gertrude Harrison as Rose Courtenay displays much ability. Although sombre and tragic at times, the play is profusely interspersed with humorous situations and bright passages, for which Mr. Freddie Bentley as Tubby Herrick and Miss Nelly Jackson as Aggie Brown are jointly responsible.

EMPIRE.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Manners. — Roars of laughter greet Mr. Fred Karno's new sketch, *The G.P.O.*, from the moment of Mr. Fred Kitchen's appearance as Perkins. The popular comedian is in great form, and the fun goes fast and furious. Lydia and Amelys give a novel dancing turn, in which they introduce the Parisian Apache dance; a most enjoyable item is the comedy business at the piano of Percival, who is heartily recalled; Ethel Newman's acting in the monologue, "Her Wedding Day," is exceedingly good, and her reception is most cordial; Dorothy and Alexander are a clever young pair of instrumentalists; good turns are also given by the Lyric Mummers, Beattie Kent and Tom Collins; while some new and interesting films are shown on the Bioscope.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Councillor E. H. Bostock; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock.—Harry Dent and Fanny Harris appear in their mystic musical comedietta, *The Indian Bottle*, the act being clever and amusing; Harry Vardon, the modern ventriloquist, submits a capital item, "On the 'Phone," and the audience thoroughly appreciate the sketch, *Not a Crook*, presented by Phil Rees's Stable Lads. Gus Garrick, comedian, with his famous music-hall tit-bits, also scores well. The other artists contributing to an excellent entertainment include Irve Hayman and company, in a pathetic burgling episode, *Christmas Eve*; Ivey Aberdare, comedienne and dancer; Dave O'Toole, eccentric comedian; Palles and Cussick, knockabout comedians; the Primrose Quartette, in a vocal scena; and a display on the Bioscope of interesting pictures.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Evan Good.—Vesta Victoria is again starring here, and the popular comedienne comes with a budget of new songs, every one of which goes far to enhance her popularity. The Dayton Family give a smart and daring acrobatic and Risley act, cleverly carried through; Bromley and Fontein take well in their comedy turn, *The Man Behind the Music Stand*; Lee and Kingston are another clever duo, whose eccentric business is much enjoyed; Ethel Erskine, principal girl at the Royal, Edinburgh, pantomime, gives an enjoyable turn, a group of catchy songs at the piano; Edie Veno as a vocalist and dancer goes strong, and has some clever patter; the Three Caibas give a novel acrobatic show, which is worthy of the hearty applause it receives; and Albert St. Clair is well received for his double-voiced vocalisation.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—Marie Kendal comes with a splendid budget of catchy songs; Frank L. Gregory's Troupe display wonderful skill in their hoop manipulating; Starr and Leslie combine an amusing speciality act with clever club-juggling; the mimicry performance of the Two Lawsons is highly appreciated; Nan Farren, a dancer of exceptional merit, the Maningos, clever equilibrists, Steve McCarthy, comedian, and the Fitzroys, in their trapeze and rope act, are worthy of note

COLISEUM.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette. — *Polly Pickle's Pets in Petland* appeals to the juvenile members of the audience. The piece is a one-act musical and pantomimic fantasy, presented by Joseph Hart. Miss Grace Arundale is neat and sprightly as Polly; while Mr. Alfred Latell excels in the canine part. John F. Preston pays a return visit with his racing episode, *Rogues of the Turf*. Mr. Preston and Mr. Horace Custins are in their familiar parts, and the sketch still maintains its good position. Nellie Wallace is no stranger in the city, and it is pleasing to note her improvement; she is smart and her work is funny. A good comedian is Fred Keeton, to whom more work would not come amiss; his reception is gratifying. Staig's Steeplejacks, in their cycling business, are worthy of mention; their cycling is daring and clever. In a speciality act, in which is introduced tumbling and balancing, the Three Laurels are seen to great advantage; the Sisters Caselli are favourites, and their singing and dancing is appreciated; their high-kicking, too, is good, and forms the feature of their turn. Mary Ambrose is a comedienne whose efforts are appreciated. The Bioscope, as usual, terminates the evening's entertainment with a capital selection of new and interesting films.

GAIETY, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—The Monte Carlo Girls are a graceful quartette of vocalists and dancers; Howard and Thorne cause plenty of amusement with their absurdity, *Mary Ann*; Herbert St. Clair's company, in their sketch, *The Successful Experiment*, are loudly applauded; Myra Stuart sang two songs in fine style; and Kitty Earl is a soprano vocalist of no mean ability. W. B Kent, Scotch comedian, and the Bioscope, deserve the approval they receive.

PANOPTICON.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—Newman and Howard are a clever pair of musical comedy artists, and the audience thoroughly enjoys their turn; Cissy Norton is a male impersonator of ability; and Smith and Ashcroft, Irish comedy artists and expert dancers, are also well favoured. Joe Sydney, comedian, tells many amusing stories and dances in splendid style; there is, in addition, the popular Bioscope display, which includes the latest and most amusing pictures.

GLOSSOP.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—Captain Clayton's *Cinderella* opened here on Monday. In the title-rôle Miss Nita Dunville was winsome and clever, her singing receiving hearty appreciation; Miss Amy Albert made a dashing Prince Charming; as Dandini Miss Lottie Mellor created a good impression, and Miss Ivy Preston as Fairy Sunshine was responsible for some sweetly-rendered songs. Mr. Jerrold Manville as Baron Hardup was highly amusing, and Mr. Tom Gilbert and Mr. James Slater as the two ugly sisters were great at laughter production. The Lola Troupe, the Gibson Trio, Brothers Alpine, the Dunvilles, Mons. Rollo, and P. J. Durney, globe manipulator, supplied the specialities.

GLOUCESTER.—PALACE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Pooles Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole.—Heading a good all-round bill are the Robertys in a marvellous balancing act; a dramatic episode *The Spy*, presented by Ford, Webb and company, proves entirely to the taste of the audience; and a pleasing turn is given by Caselli, a banjoist of great promise, whose selections were well received. Among others of merit are Tom Kelso and company in a comedy absurdity *The Silly Servant*; Sira, the one-legged acrobat, who can give points to some of the ordinary variety; Addie Adell, a powerful actress-vocalist, and Reg Bolton in comedy scena *The Editor's Imp*. The Palacescope concludes.

KING'S HALL.—Proprietors, Pooles Theatres, Ltd.—The Cinephone, talking animated pictures, gives great satisfaction, and a well-varied selection of films are being shown on the Bioscope. Illustrated songs and solos make up a pleasing programme.

GREAT YARMOUTH. — ROYAL AQUARIUM.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Nightingale.—Miss Winifred Maude and her company are paying a return visit in *The Sins of a City*. Mr. Gordon Ingram displays marked ability as Sandy McDonald; Miss Winifred Maude charmingly portrays Seaweed; Mr. Leonard S. Harrison gives a clever character sketch of Donald McIvor; Mr. Gibson Lyle ably depicts Ralph Blackmater, Q.C.; Mr. Victor Du Cane is very humorous as Isaac Levi; Mr. G. Curzon is very good in the dual rôle of Joe and Jasper Woodleigh; and Miss Louise Carlton is a typical Fisherwoman.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. George Gilbert.—Among the many pictures shown here this week, the most amusing is entitled An American Does London in Five Minutes. Arthur Bright, a clever comedian, gives a smart turn; Miss Bertha Norwood sings some catchy songs; Metz and Metz are smart crosstalkers and expert dancers; the Mannikins give a clever Marionette show; and Surrey and Carlton's company, in the tabloid drama *The Little Nipper*, are well received.

THE GEM.—Lessees, the Yarmouth Amusement Centre, Ltd.; Resident-Director, Mr. C. B. Cochran; Manager, Mr. Sidney Lawrence.—Excellent films are being exhibited here this week; those being worthy of special mention are The Mystery of Edwin Drood, and a very humorous subject, entitled Mother-in-Law Arrives. The illustrated songs continue to be popular.

GREENOCK.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—The attraction here this week is provided by Messrs. Polini and Melford's company, in the ever-popular *Silver King*. Mr. Fred D. Daviss gives a capital representation of Wilfrid Denver; Miss Madge Morley enters sympathetically into the character of Nellie Denver, the patient and suffering wife; and Mr. Edward J. George is again seen in his lifelike portrayal of the faithful Jaikes. The Spider finds a powerful exponent in Mr. E. Stanton-Sharp; and his evil associates, Coombe, Cripps, and Corket, are creditably impersonated by Messrs. Arthur Wright, Fred May, and Leslie Ellis. Miss Lila Barclay is an admirable exponent of Olive Skinner; and Miss Flossie Hale Daviss must be complimented upon her clever performance of Cissie. The play is well staged.

EMPIRE.—Lessees, The Greenock Empire Syndicate; Responsible-Manager, Mr. Edward McCormick; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. J. Colquhoun.—Miss Louie Freear is the star turn here this week, and is accorded a hearty welcome; the equestrian lion, D'Artagnan, introduced by Mons. and Mlle. Gaillard, is distinctly clever; Harry Glynn and company score heavily with their amusing sketch, *Before the Beak*; and the other artists include Dave Summerhill, Scotch comedian; Acme, in a novel musical act; Minnie Glynn, vocalist and dancer; the McKinleys, comedy duettists; and Vivian Foster, comedian.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry L. Skivington.—The Hydas Troupe of Manchurian acrobats go through a remarkably clever performance here this week; the Four Royal Scots, on a return visit, have been accorded a flattering reception; Sam Thomson, comedian, is most successful; Abel and Welsh are particularly clever eccentric acrobats; Gold and Stirling have a pleasing musical scena, "The Maid and the Artist"; Will McIvor, vocalist, renders his songs in fine style; the Two Countees, duettists, are popular; and Ada Parker is a clever little comedienne and dancer.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—Mr. Allan Wilkie is presenting a répertoire of plays, principally tragedies. The week opened with *Macbeth*, and a notable performance was given. Mr. Wilkie's conception of Macbeth was very impressive, and he depicted the remorse and deep emotions of the conscience-stricken regicide with powerful effect; Miss Haidee Gunn achieved complete success as Lady Macbeth, and her acting was marked by true dramatic force; Mr. Alexander Marsh gave a fine performance of Macduff, portraying the noble qualities of the Thane of Fife in vigorous fashion; Mr. John Paley was excellent as Banquo; Mr. Ian Fleming admirably realised King Duncan; Mr. Ernest Digges acted well as Malcolm; Mr. Sinclair Neill was good as Rosse; and the three Witches were effectively played by Mr. Frank Royde, Mr. Houston Meharry, and Miss Agnes Gagan. On Tuesday *Delicate Ground* and *The Sleigh Bells* were staged, and other plays presented during the week were *The Corsican Brothers*, *The Fool's Revenge*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, and *The Two Orphans of Paris*.

THE PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—Max Gruber and Miss Adelina introduce a clever animal act, in which their elephant, horse, and pony give evidence of a high degree of careful training; the Daunton-Shaw Troupe of cyclists make a welcome reappearance, and present a series of new and daring feats; Signor and Mme. Borelli give a refined comedy speciality; Will Benton, the football comedian, has some amusing business, and introduces his novel goal-scoring competition; Walter Emerson is another comedian with a good fund of humour; Bessie Butt is a charming dancer; and Bandoni gives a clever illustration of the one-man band.

GUERNSEY.—THEATRE ST. JULIAN'S.—Lessee, Mr. Edward Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—This week the boards are held by Mr. Morton Powell's company in *When It Was Dark*. Miss Alice O'Dea merits praise for her effective rendering of Gertrude Hunt; Miss Valerie Russell displays ability as Helena Byars; and Miss Florrie Lyndon infuses plenty of life into the part of Gracie Goldeye. Mr. Cecil Mannering's Constantine Schwabe does good work; Mr. Wilfred Lyndon embodies the Rev. Gortre with care and judgment; Mr. William Burgess portrays Sir Robert with telling effect; Mr. Frank Venn is highly successful as Charlie Gayfly; Mr. W. H. Burton is well placed as Mr. Byars; and Mr. Alfred Collingham is a capable exponent of Harold Spence.

HALIFAX.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. William Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—*Butterflies* is the attraction here this week. Mr. Harrison Brockbank is seen to decided advantage as Widgery Blake; his rendering of the part is artistic and natural. He is ably supported by Miss Annie Heenan, who acts charmingly as Rodanthe; Johnnie Wilkinson cleverly portrays the part of Yarker, a chauffeur; as Christopher Podmore, Mr. Edwin H. Wynne is excellent; he keeps the house in a continuous roar; the varying moods of the City man and the man of pleasure are splendidly portrayed. Mr. Alan Mudie does well as Peter, but the part would be considerably improved if Mr. Mudie were a little more natural. Mr. Cyril Biddulph is good as Max Riadore. There is a quintet (four male and four female) of dancers, who give a fine exhibition of the terpeichorean art; and Miss Millie Gordon contributes a graceful classical dance, for which she is deservedly encored.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—*The Fatal Wedding* is paying a return visit to this house. This time the play is presented twice nightly by Mr. Percy Williams's company. The company is an efficient one, and contains several juveniles who are dancers of no mean order.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Foster.—Fred Ginnett and Wal Pink's *Claude Duval* is proving a big attraction. The playlet is exceedingly well acted by Messrs. Arthur Max, Harry Calver, Geo. Hammond, and Jack Collinson, and the Misses Ray Haydon and Catto, splendidly dressed, and finely staged. The horse Roy is a highly-trained animal. Ted Karno and company create hearty laughter in a pantomimical absurdity, *Dinner Hour*; Mabel Thorne soon established herself a favourite, her song, "My Halifax sweetheart," causing considerable amusement; Madge Grey created a good impression, her Lancashire dialect song and witticisms gaining unstinted applause; Frank H. Fox, comedian, Bertha St. Ruth and Cissie Conyers, duettists, Mandie Forde, comedienne and dancer, and Raymond's Bio-tableaux complete a good programme.

HAMILTON, N.B.—HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Managing-Director, Mr. René Clayton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Jack Bostock.—Mr Harry Roxbury's company in *Mother Goose* is proving a big draw here this week. Miss Maud Prenton is a dashing Colin, and renders her musical numbers in fine style; Miss Lily Palmer is sweet and dainty as Jill; her friend Phyllis finding a suitable exponent in Miss Marjorie Prenton. Colin's brothers, Eric and Muggles, are capably played by Messrs. George Castrey and Fred Hutchings; Mr. Harry Roxbury is extremely funny as Mother Goose; and Mr. J. W. Gallagher droll in the extreme as her son Jack. Mr. Fred Guinness does well as the Goose; while the Lemaires do some funny business as the Horse. Specialities are the Miltons, in a clever roller skating turn; the Four Sydney Girls, dancers; and the Royal Welsh Entertainers.

HANLEY. — ROYAL. — Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—*My Mimosa Maid* is paying us its first visit. Miss Marie Studholme is very charming as Paulette; Mr. Chas. McNaughton is strong as Victor Guilbert; Master Archie McCaig is very diverting as Bock; Messrs. Chas. E. Paton (Max Guilbert) and Percy Carr (M. Emile Gerard) are well suited, and Miss Ruby Gray (Marcella), Miss Nancy Garstang (Mme. De Pelaine), and Miss Daisy Yule (Mimi) deserve highest commendation. The augmented orchestra and fine chorus are directed by Mr. Harry Matthews.

GRAND.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand.—Alexandre and Hughes pay a welcome return visit here—their comicalities and musical ability win unstinted applause; the Hadji Mohamed Arab acrobats cause great wonder; Ross and Grayson are a superior comedy couple; Harry Tate's No. 1 company in *Motoring* evokes laughter; the Westwoods are really marvellous on cycles; the Biotableaux shows two fine films; Rex Fox is without a parallel on the wire; the Falcons, acrobats, cause hearty amusement; and Jock Mills, Scotch comedian, wins great favour.

KING'S.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy; Manager, Mr. H. Kennedy.—An exceptionally fine series of films is shown here. Mr. Will Beanland is responsible for the vaudeville items, and his female impersonations are received with favour.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. William Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eric Fielding Smith.—Mr. Seymour Hicks's company is here this week in *The Gay Gordons*. Miss Maie Ash as Peggy Quainton scored a brilliant success; Mr. Stanley Brett infuses a débonnaire virility and forcefulness into his performance of Angus that quite takes the audience by storm; Miss Nellie Dade as Charlotte Siddons play her comedy part with an admirable air of seriousness; the study of the showman afforded by Fred Rolph as Nervy Nat is realistic; Miss Lillie Maxwell as Victoria Siddons is pleasing and picturesque; and little George Carroll as Edmund Siddons is a distinct feature of the show. The minor parts are all efficiently handled, and with tuneful music and merry dialogue the performance proves one of the best and brightest.

HARTLEPOOL. — EMPRESS. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Albert Mathams.—On Monday a packed house expressed their satisfaction of the pictures which are being shown this week by Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope Co. One showing incidents in connection with the West Stanley Disaster excited considerable interest. Prospecting for Gold is also a very interesting film. Charming moonlight effects are produced in The Trip on the Nile; and some splendid colouring is seen in The Story of Psyche. There are several other films of dramatic and humorous character, and the programme is varied by Ricaby and Davis, in an amusing comedy boxing act, and Mark Pyn, an expert at ventriloquism.

TOWN HALL.—The Walturdaw Company have opened a season here with a splendid selection of films, the principal one being that of the West Stanley Disaster. The Witch's Donkey is an amusing trick picture; and the colouring of The Story of Psyche is much admired. A host of other pictures are shown and enjoyed, and a gramophone competition is an attraction.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scott.—A return visit is being paid this week of Miss Lena Ashwell's company in *Diana of Dobson's*. Miss Emelie Polini played as the outspoken Miss Diana Massingbird, and gave her crowded audience on Monday an excellent rendition; Mr. Leslie Rea filled the rôle of Captain Bretherton very effectively; Mr. W. Kingsford Pearce was an amusing Sir Jabez; and Miss Ada Palmer did well as Mrs. Cantelupe. Miss Daisy England was characteristic as Miss Pringle, and the Misses Violet Gould, Dorothy Bell, Nannie Griffin, and Eva Leonard Boyne also did well. *The Bishop's Candlesticks* preceded.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman; Director, Mr. H. Boyd.—An extra turn is given by the Bros. Trant, amusing patterers; Miss Ray Sun is a bright comedienne; the comic effusions of Mark Brue are much enjoyed; a principal feature in the Alhambra Pictures is a trip through picturesque Holland; the Fimans introduce a laughable scena, *The Fire Station*; De Ora is a clever and graceful performer on a lofty trapeze; another well-appreciated turn is Queenie West, a smart comedienne and dancer; Bert Forss, with excellent dramatic effect, illustrates several characters from Dickens' works; an exceedingly funny sketch, entitled *The Tree of Truth*, is presented by Harry Brayne and Bert Lloyd.

PIER PAVILION. — General-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—The drama *The Corsican Brothers* is attracting good audiences. Considering the restricted stage for an elaborate play like the present, with its French scenes of Paris life and forest duel, the piece is remarkably well treated. Mr. Oliver Rogers gives a fine example of the two brothers Franchi; although a despicable character, the part of Chateau-Renard is well assumed by Mr. Joseph Cowell; Miss Eva Bayley is charmingly natural as Mme. Franchi; a graceful rendering of Emelia is furnished by Miss Clarissa Selwynne. The artists filling in the more minor parts go a great way to render the piece successful.

HORWICH. — PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessees, the Horwich Theatre Co.—Arizona Joe's American company, in *Across the Frontier*, is the attraction this week. Mr John Loden's impersonation of Arizona Joe is a very fine performance, and received unstinted applause; Mr. Henry P. Kennedy paints Harry Ashton, chief of the Black Hawks, in very lurid colours; Yellowhawk, an Indian, is capitally represented by Mr. Terence Nerrey; Mr. William Lloyd as Jack Furman, mine owner, plays the part to perfection; Mr. Fred Rose as Mick M'Bride is responsible for the major part of the comedy element, and thoroughly succeeds in keeping the audience in good humour; Mr. Alex. Taylor plays Bob White in good style; Mr. C. Leicester as Fighting Jank, saloon proprietor, furnishes a striking portraiture; the part of Flora Ashton, wife of the chief, is well portrayed by Miss Kate Randolph; Miss Ada Stellings as Kate Ferras scores heavily with her singing and dancing; Miss Dallas Yorke plays Nana Montague, a concert-hall artist, cleverly; Silverstar, the White Lily of Arizona, is most artistically rendered by Miss Nora Temple. The scenery and properties are very handsome.

HUDDERSFIELD.—HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—The top of the bill is filled by Yangar, the West African wonder-worker, in his series of cleverly-executed illusions. Other artists appearing are: The Sisters Allan, vocalists and dancers; Mark Cowan, comedian; Campkin and the Whitworth Cycling Girls, in trick cycling; Bert Weston, comedian and raconteur; Bob Kent and Miss Doris Earle, in a comedy duologue; and Tennyson and Wallis, a pair of rattling good comedians. Interesting films are projected on the Bioscope.

HULL.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Mortons, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. W. F. Morton.—Mr. Geo. Edwardes's production, *The Dollar Princess*, is one that has completely taken the city by storm, and is counted as one of the finest seen here for many a day. An exceptional company have been entrusted with its representation. Miss Hilda Moody's charming voice is heard to the finest advantage in the title-rôle; Mr. Robt. Michaelis is an artist who fills a very prominent place, and his song, "My Queen of Love," is one of the hits of the evening. As the Lion Queen, Miss Kitty Gordon has a rôle which she graces with infinite skill and charm; Miss Alice Pollard likewise with great success fills a prominent part; the Earl of Quorn finds a fitting representative in Mr. Vernon Davidson; Mr. Fred Winn is a capital Phineas Q. Conder. The music and mounting are both exceptionally fine.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Mortons, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—*Her Marriage Vow* is paying a return visit, and is meeting with a great reception. Miss Lillian Herries plays with emotional power the part of the discarded wife; Mr. E. L. Garside continues to make the heavy part a very striking one; Mr. J. F. Knowles is a capital hero; Miss Effie Crawford and Mr. Owen Remonde fill the comedy rôle with credit.

THE HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Harry Dunford.—The Mohamed Ben Troupe of Arabs, Francis Hanlon, Arthur Pier, the Ormesby Quartette, the Cheers, Will Owen, Angeline, and the Donatos appear here.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Slingsby.—Relwyskow, the wrestler, is appearing here. On Monday he met Pullon, a local wrestler, who, after a smart bout, was only defeated after fourteen minutes. The Dunlops perform some clever and amusing cycling tricks; Tom Gott holds his own as a dialect comedian. Jas. Lloyd's Glee Singers, Sam Dalton, Lilian Travelli, Claire Hastings, and Lilian Sivado complete a good programme.

THE CIRCUS.—Manager Mr. E. Emerson.—Animated pictures are commencing another season.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—The company of Miss Adria Hill and Mr. Robert Ayrton played *The Woman from Russia* the first three nights of the week, for the latter end of which Mr. Charles Constant presents his pantomime *Bluebeard*.

INVERNESS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Cameron Burgess.—Mr. T. Morton Powell's company in *Greed of Gold* is drawing well here. Mr. Henry Parr sustains the part of Henry Wood with great success, and Mr. Alf Stretton gives a vigorous rendering of Arthur Errol; Mr. Arthur Beufort is well placed as Cutty Snug; Mr. James Jarrett supplies a faithful study of Tom Welstead; Miss Maud M. Powell is good in the part of Dora; as Mrs. Maxwell Miss Jennie Douglas Hicks plays capitally; Miss B. M. Hughes finds favour as Cecil, and the other parts are all well filled.

IPSWICH. — LYCEUM THEATRE. — Mr. James Welch's company was here for three nights in *When Knights Were Bold*. The house was crowded at each performance, and the audiences were delighted and enthusiastic. Mr. Henry J. Ford plays Sir Guy de Vere in his inimitable way, causing roars of laughter throughout; Isaac Isaacson is in good hands with Mr. Vernon Sansbury, and Mr. Cecil Clayton is Charles Widdicombe; the Rev. Peter Pottlebury, the ponderous D.D., is well played by Mr. Guy Land, and Sir Bryan Ballymore by Mr. Agor Lyons; the exacting part of Lady Rowena is capitally filled by Miss Agnes de Llana; Lady Millicent and Lady Marjorie are well acted by Miss Maev O'Hea and Miss Ruth Bower respectively; Miss Marion Ryder is an attractive Kate Pottlebury; Miss Bessie Walters is Alice Barker, and Miss Mabel Young the Hon. Mrs. Waldegrave. The scenery and staging are excellent.

HIPPODROME. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—One of the most popular turns this week is that of Mr. Ormonde Penstone, whose clever manipulation of billiard balls is justly applauded, while some smoke pictures he produces are real works of art; Mlle. San-Go is an able and ready assistant. Another juggler is Ernesto, whose ladder novelty is sensational; Probyn and Bates have an amusing comedy skit, entitled *The Dude*, and the soubrette, Miss Rosie Lloyd, is a telling singer, and thoroughly maintains her reputation; Miss Rose Elliott uses a powerful voice in some "sensible songs" with good choruses; the Howards, in their exhibition of silent telepathy, greatly mystify the audience; Mr. Gilbert Rogers, comedian, sings well; and the New York Nippers have an amusing scena entitled *Bed Time*. The Bioscope concludes.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Lionel Locke.—This week Mr. Sam Duckworth's company is here with *The Conscience of a Judge*. Mr. Bedwell gives a striking performance of Herbert Cranstone; Cecil Bentley is capably undertaken by Mr. Martin Pedler; and Mr. Frank Eaglesfield plays forcibly the part of Sir Edwin Mervin. Ethel Vaughan is carefully handled by Miss Mabel Coleman; Miss Eva Moss plays Jessie Draycott to perfection; Mr. Cecil Renton is a manly Geoffrey Cranstone; Mr. Dalton Bosher a good John Summers; Mr. Frank Eden causes much amusement as Horatio Winters; and Miss Bessie Frank is a capital Mary Wilson.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. J. A. Lauder; General-Manager, Mr. Edward Ranier.—This place of amusement has reopened on the two-houses-a-night principle. This week's company includes Empress, who does some marvellous feats with the handcuffs; Arthur Rugby, comedian; Master Stobart, boy vocalist; Carr, the ventriloquist; Mabel Lloyd, comedienne and dancer; Lily Anton, speciality dancer; and Douglas and Gordon, the Scotch comedy couple.

JERSEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Edward Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company is here this week with *The Love that Women Desire*. Miss Maude Hastings is a sympathetic Sybil Thornton; Miss Nellie Fletcher plays Madge Abingdon; Miss Vere Rose is clever as Marquinha; and Miss Dorothy Hildebrand as Patti Swift proves a dashing soubrette. Mr. J. O. Stewart makes himself sufficiently distasteful as Squire Abingdon; and as Richard Abingdon Mr. S. Leigh Courtney is a convincing villain. Mr. J. W. Wilkinson appears as P.C. Sowerberry; Mr. John Hignett is an amusing Dennis O'Rourke; Mr. G. Dudeney is good as Arnold Garthorne; and Mr. Sidney Bland is excellent as Philip Carnaby.

KETTERING.—VICTORIA THEATRE.—Managers, Messrs. Alf. Bailey and Co.—The Walturdaw Bioscope Co. provide the attraction this week with an admirable selection of pictures. Le-Wist, ventriloquist; Reno, conjurer; and Miss Nellie Young contribute enjoyable variety turns.

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Skeleton schemes of book-keeping, &c., with explanations, showing how the affairs of a theatre can be efficiently managed by the adoption of systems of internal check in all departments. Contains also a draft agreement as between manager and artist.—*Birmingham Daily Post*, Jan. 27 1909.

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KIDDERMINSTER.—New Opera House.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon.—We have a return visit this week of Mr. J. P. Moore's comic pantomime *Dick Whittington*. In the title-rôle Miss Madge Locke sings and dances well; Miss Maude May is a winning Alice; Alderman Fitzwarren is in the capable hands of Mr. Percy Victor; Mr. Willie Oswald causes no end of fun as Idle Jack; Mr. Fred May is droll as Betsy Mary Anne; and Bullock the Moke is funnily played by Ernie Victor. In the speciality turns Victor's musical dogs, and Pauletti, the trick bicycle rider, are very clever.

LANCASTER.—Grand Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. C. Howitt.—*A Royal Divorce*, presented by Mr. W. Kelly's company, is paying another visit, but it has by no means outlived its popularity. In Mr. Keith Fraser we have a Napoleon of considerable merit; an excellent impersonation of Talleyrand is given by Mr. Percy H. Vernon; and Mr. Stanley Harrison puts in some good acting as Marquis de Beaumont. Mr. Geo. Hudson brings to bear much humour as Grimaud; and the parts of Augereau and Murat are successfully played by Mr. Ernest Plumpton and Mr. Harold S. Standing. Miss Winnie Tempest is an extremely talented Empress; Miss Leah Marlborough as Marie Louise displays skill; and Miss Maude Lucy makes a delightful Stephanie.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. John Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—At the head of affairs this week is Leoni Clarke, with a remarkably clever animal show; Ruby and Laws sing in good voice; Little Arthur is a clever dancer; Bi Bo Bi supplies a pleasing musical turn; and May de Rowse, comedienne, J. H. Rean, vocalist, and the Sisters Darnton, duettists, are all commendable. The Hippograph has amusing pictures.

LEAMINGTON.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. George G. Ridley.—The attraction here this week is Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company in the successful comedy, *Mrs. Dot*, which is being played to good houses. The character of Mrs. Dot is enacted by Miss Nancy Beresford, a clever little actress, whose performance is a charming one; Mr. Frank Lacy plays James Blenkinsop, and gives due point to the many amusing lines; and Mr. Hugh Kennedy as Gerald Halstane gives a satisfactory rendering of the rôle. Mr. Charles A. Staite is very amusing as Mrs. Dot's private secretary; and as Lady Sellinger Miss Emma Hutchison is praiseworthy in every respect. Other characters are ably sustained by Mr. William Midgley, Mr. H. Allistoun Samson, Mr. K. Brandon, Mr. Frank Leach, Mr. F. Abbott, Miss Ethel Grahame, and Miss Sybil Brooke. The play is preceded by an amusing sketch entitled *Her Dearest Friend*.

LEICESTER.—Opera House.—A first visit is being paid here this week by Messrs. Lyn Harding and Sidney Cooper's excellent company in the successful play *The Flag Lieutenant*, the staging of which is extremely well done. Mr. Lionel Atwill plays with ability the title-rôle; Miss Florence Jackson is responsible for a delightful impersonation of Mrs. Cameron; Mr. George Mallett deserves high praise as the Admiral; Mr. H. Montague Love makes a capital Major Thesiger; and Miss Viva Birkett a charming Lady Hermione.

Theatre Royal.—This week's attraction is provided by Messrs. Van Biene and Traynor's company, in the interesting and well-staged drama *Man and Wife*. Mr. John F. Traynor plays with conspicuous success as Paul Revere; Miss Kate Halham is good as Marcelle; Mr. Edward M. Hamilton is most effective as Captain D'Esparre; Mr. Edward Van Biene is excellent as Colonel Latour; Miss Millie Doris is a vivacious Rosette; and Mr. George Overs a typical Jean.

Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. S. Buccleuch.—The top is divided this week between Carrie Laurie and Russell Wallett, the inimitable female impersonator; another clever item is Miss Marquis's stud of highly-trained cobs; Hermann Melot is a conjurer *par excellence*; Annie Purcell is a sparkling and popular comedienne; and Alf. Chester, comedian, Les Voces, in songs and duets, Arthur Gill, a versatile comedian, the Brennans (Will and May), in a neat and artistic dancing display, and the Bioscope are other attractions.

Pavilion Theatre.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joe Lawrence.—Premier position is held here by Alice Hughes and company, in the musical comedietta *Star of the Bazaar*, which is scoring a thorough success; Miss Alice Hughes as Dulcie Darenot, Mr F. Lurin as the Rev. Willie Wood, and Mr. Charles Dillon as James are deserving of much praise. At the other end is Sable Fern, who is scoring a success in her new song by Frank Leo, entitled "Don't hang your trouble on me"; Harold B. Lewis and Cissie Cleveland, in their dramatic episode, *Paying the Debt*, are very good; Rolando Martin keeps the audience in continual merriment; Rose Revell sings Dutch and coon songs; the Granvilles are popular Australian song illustrators; the San Remo Girls are entertaining speciality dancers; and Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope has two good pictures.

Empire.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Company; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles R. Craig.—Large audiences continue to evince the greatest delight at the continuous first-class picture programmes submitted here, the chief of which include The Messina Earthquake, The Vendean, Western Courtship, A Waif's Christmas, Clown's Christmas Eve, *Morning Leader* picture, and Blind. The Two Palmers, comedy artists, owing to last week's successful engagement, are retained over another week; Winnie Travers, comedienne, makes a welcome reappearance, and her song, "A tiny seed of love," is cordially received.

LEIGH.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. W. H. Chippendale.—*Two Lancashire Lasses in London* is being presented here by Hardie and Von Leer's company. Miss Laurie Walker and Miss Alice Defoe as the two lasses are both seen to advantage; Mr. J. Edward Fletcher gives an excellent portrayal of the Rev. Frank Selby; Mr. Geo. Brammell evokes applause as John Edmund; the villainy is cleverly portrayed by Mr. Arthur Elwyn; Mr. Jack Miller depicts the brutal Jim Price in a masterly manner; and a vein of humour is introduced by Mr. Chris Mason as Sam Hallett, who is well seconded by Miss Evelwyn Shaw.

Grand Theatre and Hippodrome, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Benson; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Woolstencroft. — Beatie and Babs, juvenile comediennes and dancers, give an excellent turn; Hess and Lisbon in a roller-skating act are clever; Mr. Arthur Slater in a whistling scena gains much applause; the Zerbinis Troupe, musical speciality artists, are interesting; Happy Attwood, comedian, is deservedly popular; the Three Warners, vocalists and dancers, are good.

LEITH.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Licensee and Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—The production of *The Prodigal Son* by Mr. George D. Day's company well deserves patronage. Mr. Albert Ward gives a successful characterisation in the arduous leading rôle of Oscar Stephensson; and Mr. Alfred Goddard's acting as Magnus is effective throughout, especially in the concluding scenes. Of the two parts, Thora and Elin, played with nice discrimination by Miss Dorrie Roberts, the impersonation of the daughter is pleasingly natural and charming; Miss Pearla Gardner presents a good study of the deceitful Helga; and the two elderly ladies, Anna and Margaret, are well portrayed by Miss Florence Lovell and Miss Maud Locker. Stephen Magnusson, Oscar Neilsen, Dr. Olsen, the Pastor, and the Sheriff all find able representatives in Messrs. Jackson Hayes, David Beattie, J. E. Savery, A. J. Williams, and R. C. Brooksmith; and commendation is due to all who appeared in minor parts, as well as for the completeness of the stage equipment.

LEVEN.—Town Hall. — *The Dairymaids* was presented on Tuesday night by Mr. Robert Macdonald's company, under the direction of Mr. Andrew W. Spens. Peggy was played in bright and sparkling fashion by Miss Janet Reeve, who sang with much point; Eliza had a very able and attractive representative in Miss Maud Lucy; Lady Brudenell was played in dignified fashion by Miss Dorothy Belmore; and Miss Connie Beaugarde was quite successful as Winifred. The irrepressible Joe Mivens was made vastly entertaining by Mr. Edward Dodds, some of his lovemaking with Eliza convulsing the audience; Dr. O'Byrne in the hands of Mr. Bernard Vaughan was the happy-go-lucky Hibernian to the life; Sam Brudenell and Lieut. Meredith, excellently played by Mr. Sam Lysons and Mr. J. Scott Melville, contributed in no small degree to the enjoyment of the evening; and Miss Julia St. George was distinctly good as the immaculate Miss Penelope Pyechase The chorus was excellent, and showed evidence of careful training.

LINCOLN. — Royal.—Sole Lessees, Messrs. Payne Seddon and Ernest Pope; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ernest Pope.—*Under Two Flags* was capitally presented by Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company on Monday, with Miss Agnes Verity a powerful exponent of the Vivandiere; and Mr. Austen Milroy a striking Bertie Cecil. *At Cripple Creek* was billed for Thursday.

Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Miller.—Sergeant Brennan is topping the bill with a novel and highly effective diabolo and gyroscope act. Lizzie Hayes (a great local favourite) and Chris. Baker give extracts from the Leeds Royal pantomime *Aladdin*, and effective contributions come from a strong supporting company.

LIVERPOOL.—Royal Court Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—The delightful pantomime *Humpty Dumpty* will finish at the close of next week.

Shakespeare Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wentworth Croke; Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney.—*Jack and the Beanstalk* will conclude its run to-night (Saturday).

Rotunda Theatre.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—Here during the week we have had *The Tyrant*, presented by a good all-round company, under the guidance of Miss Marie Dagmar. The principal rôle, Angelo, was capitally handled by Mr. Roy Fortescue, who exhibited much dramatic power; Miss Dagmar played Tisbe with her well-known ability; Mr. Norman A. Overton made an excellent Homodei; as Rudolph Mr. Edward E. Louis worked in a most praiseworthy manner; Miss Margaret Frame afforded valuable assistance with her carefully-played Lady Katherine; and the comedy was in the good hands of Mr. Frank Etheridge (Victor), Mr. Tom J. Taylor (Nobbo), and Miss Nellie Freeland (Reginella).

Star Theatre. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—*A Warning to Women* has been the attraction at this popular house during the week. Mr. C. Watson Mill's company includes Miss Blanche St. Albans, whose assumption of the rôle of Moira Kennion gained general approval; Mr. Harry C. Robinson distinguished himself as Marcus Dread; the character of Fergus McNaughton was well-presented by Mr. Charles O'Connor; Mr. Leicester Jackson played Lord Eversleigh with effect; and other well-held rôles were those of Shaun (Mr. E. Warren), Ferdinand (Mr. W. Palliser Acock), Mike McQuade (Mr. Oscar Power), Squire Kennion (Mr. W. Lockhart), Myles (Miss E. Roland), Sheila (Miss Winifred Rutland), and Hildred (Miss Marie Ramez). The cinematograph is a new feature at the Star, some excellent pictures being shown at the close of the drama by Films, Ltd.

Empire.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—Topping the programme here this week is Albert Chevalier, who, with his company, delighted his numerous admirers with *Behind the Scenes;* another much-appreciated turn was that given by Theo Bouwmeester and company, the protean actor's efforts in *Who is Guilty?* earning loud applause; Will and Sam Poluski were unable to appear on Monday evening, but an excellent substitute came forward in Viviana and company, with a clever acrobatic and dancing sketch, *The Toy Shop;* Joe O'Gorman's racy Irish tales provoked great laughter; Katie Moss as a vocalist and violinist merited the cordial reception extended to her; Miss Bessie Slaughter sang several numbers in pleasing style; and contributions also came from James Stewart, the tramp at the piano; Burnetti, character musician; and Percy Hannan, baritone.

Queen's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.—*Convict 99* has been staged here this week, included in the company being Messrs. Frank Beresford, Benson North, Charles Bruce, A. Watts, Miss Dorothy Milne, and Miss V. Clarke.

Lyric. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—The bill here this week is headed by Kartelli, whose wire act is of a particularly daring character; the lively comedienne, Lily Langtry, proved as popular as ever; Witty Watty Walton caused great laughter with his patter; a troupe of dogs, in charge of Lieut. Chard, showed a high degree of training; Harry Marlow and May Manton pleased greatly with the sketch *Winning a Wife;* and also in the list were Julian Ross, comedian; the Victoria Troupe of instrumentalists, vocalists, dancers, and banjoists; and Les Montaldos, with their feathered tribe. The Bioscope showed a special picture of last week's Liverpool Theatrical Gala.

Royal Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan. —Interest has been shown here this week in Mr. and Mrs. Bob Fitzsimmons, who provided an artistic and amusing playlet, *A Man's a Man for a' That*. The champion boxer showed a deal of talent as an entertainer, and his wife, possessed of a rich voice, sang several songs, to the satisfaction of all her hearers. Maude Hall and Carleton Macy and company appeared in an amusing comedy drama, *The Magpie and the Jay;* Tony Iveson, the ragman at the piano, gave a most laughable turn; Arthur Reece maintained his high reputation, and won loud applause; the Three Krakes pleased with their trifle, *The Electric Tram Conductor;* some excellent comedy cycling came from Harry and Paul; Annie Heath sang and danced in acceptable style; and others who appeared included Terry and Bentley, comedy artists, and W. T. Ellwanger, with *The Peacemaker*.

Royal Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole. —*The Defence of the Flag* was given here during the week by the stock company, the principal parts being in the hands of Messrs. Cecil Ravenswood, David G. Noble, Sydney Grant, R. Seth Innes, Tom H. Solly, Leo Montgomery, E. D. Allen, Miss Lilian Radbourne, Miss Gwynne Warren, and Miss Gertrude Entwistle. Some popular pictures were shown by Mr. Anthony Brown's Bioscope.

Westminster.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—In addition to a pleasing series of cinematograph pictures given here this week, the following appear:—Boden and Bell, juvenile artists, and Bessie Willows, ballad vocalist.

Olympia.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton.—*The Sands of Dee* has put in a month's stay, and remains as popular as ever. Fred Eustace and company have delighted audiences with their capital comedy drama, *The Amber Light*, the characters in which were undertaken by Messrs. F. Eustace, Edwin Bennett, Alfred Harding, John Butler, and Miss Mary Eustace; a most acceptable turn was that given by Mlle. Naveeda and company, illusionists; Grey and Brown sustained their high reputation as musical comedians; *Married All of a Sudden; or, Playing the Double*, a smart comedy act, was submitted by the Bright and Claire Trio; as a mimic, whistler, and comedian, Alf J. Holt earned loud applause; Viviana and company presented a neat dancing act, *The Toy Shop;* and Mabel Mignon, dancer and comedienne, pleased greatly.

Pavilion.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—Foremost here this week has been *The Belle of the Orient*, played with great gusto by Joe Peterman's company, which included George Ricketts as Ike Novinski; Ruhart and his assistants caused roars of laughter with their funny burlesques on vaudeville; the Arthur Bedini Trio went through an amusing comedy pantomime act; Bradley showed remarkable ability as a cyclist, working six machines; Clown Barker had a cordial reception for his well-trained animals; exceptional skill as paper-tearers was displayed by Mint and Mart; a refined and clever act, entitled *Gratitude*, was provided by the black and white comedians Dalton and Euston; and other artists who appeared were Les Zelovas, acrobatic equilibrists; Lily Hayes, comedienne and dancer; and the Lyon's Trio of pantomimists and dancers.

Grand Tivoli.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jasper Redfern.—The Six Bros. Luck have headed the bill here this week with their merry pantomime *The Hotel Grande;* as acrobats the Carré Troupe distinguished themselves; and also in the list were Arthur Harris, with song-dramas; Renée Grahame, soubrette; the Four Netherland Girls, in Dutch costume; J. H. McCann, acrobatic comedian and roller-skater; and Mlle. Pollo, with trapeze act. Among the fine pictures shown on the Bioscope was one dealing with the Waterloo Coursing.

Park Palace.—Lessee, Mr. Jasper Redfern.—In addition to the interesting series of cinematograph pictures given here, the following artists appeared during the week:—J. Wright Aitken and company, with an attractive domestic sketch, *The Battle of Life;* Nellie Gannon, soubrette; Blanche and Diacoff, cyclists; Harry Wright, a most amusing comic vocalist; Billy Richardson, stump orator; and the child Cinquevalli, juggler.

New Century Picture Hall.—Proprietors, The New Century Animated Picture Company, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter W. Hook.—Business continues good at this popular resort, where some exceptionally fine pictures are shown, there being a complete change weekly. The latest presented included Leah, the Forsaken Jewess, The Orphan, The Pretty Dairymaid, In the Times of the Normans, In and Around Mexico City, and many humorous ones, and illustrated songs.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—Theatre Royal and Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Resident-Business-Manager, Mr. W. Payne Seddon.—Mr. Horace Stanley's company, in his own drama, *The 10.30 Down Express*, has been doing good business here. The drama is a most sensational one, and introduces some fine mechanical effects. Mr. T. Arthur Plummer as Jack O'Malley was very successful; Mr. Carthege Caldcleugh as James Inderwick made a capital villain; Mr. Horace Stanley played Sam Wagstaff, A.B., in effective style; Miss Cora Linda as Bessie Leigh, Miss Ida Fane as Letitia Leigh, Miss Kittie Johnstone as Olive Coombes; and Miss Kate Kilpack as Peggy Potts, are deserving of praise. The scenery is realistic.

LOWESTOFT.—Marina.—Manager, Mr. E. A. Smith.—Mr. Frank J. Pitt's London company is presenting *A Victim of Villainy*, in which Miss K. Eckart as Mary Manton and Mr. F. J. Pitt are seen to advantage. The piece is well staged and dressed.

Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—The bill this week includes the Adras, equilibrists; Les Trippelos, musical entertainers; Chant and Chant, duettists and dancers; Helen Raye, Sybil Raye, &c. The Biograph has a fine pictorial subject, A Journey to Brazil.

MACCLESFIELD.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—*Dare-Devil Dorothy* is being presented here by Mr. Henry Swinerd's company, under the direction of Mr. J. W. Cordiner. In the title-rôle Miss Nellie Valentine acts charmingly; Miss Gertie Douglas as Ruth Montrose is a great success; Miss Nellie Harcourt sings and dances with decided ability; Mr. Arthur Verne exhibits humour as Silas Crump; Mr. Walter Ashley makes a manly Captain George Fielding; Captain Edward Dudley is capitally enacted by Mr. W. B. Nugent as Hawkins; Mr. Edward Aldworth is effective; and Miss Daisy Holbrook as Polly and Miss Florence Corri as Rosy Ann are clever dancers.

MAIDSTONE.—Palace Theatre.—Manager, Mr. S. Baskerville.—The visit of Mr. Lewis Waller's company in *Robin Hood* is heartily welcomed this week, the interpretation of this romantic comedy being as nearly perfect as possible. Mr. Ethelbert Edwards is Robin Hood, and his performance in this exacting part is of a very high order; Mr. Stenson Liddard sings well as Alan A'Dale; Mr. C. Bruce Winston, besides being stage-manager, is responsible for some clever acting as Friar Tuck; Miss Cahill as Lady Marion and Miss Laurie Flockton as Adela also do good work. The tour is under the direction of Mr. F. Clive Ross.

MANCHESTER. — Gaiety Theatre — Proprietor, Miss A. E. F. Horniman; Manager, Mr. B. Iden Payne; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edwin T. Heys.—A bold venture on the part of Mr. Leigh Lovel was his production here on Monday of Ibsen's *Love's Comedy*, written and produced for the first time in 1862. Ideas have changed since then, and what was considered daring fifty years ago is in these days commonplace, though Ibsen essentially is always in advance of current education. But one must be an Ibsenite to appreciate at once the satire and the beauty of *Love's Comedy*, which embraces poetry and common sense within a mould that is somewhat out of the ordinary playgoer's comprehension, and which is disturbing even to the student's sense of propriety. For, to put it briefly, the play is scarcely actable; and, while it may be tolerated and even enjoyed by the elect, one cannot get away from the fact that the proper place for it is the study. Love is the theme—a contrast of its ideal and practical aspects; and Professor C. H. Hereford's translation is commendably strong and suggestive of the original. Even Mr. Lovel's capital company was unequal to the task of making the play move dramatically, though Mr. Lovel as Falk and Miss Octavia Kenmore as Svenhild acted with great energy. Two flying matinées, including three one-act comedies and Molière's five-act comedy, *Le Misanthrope*, were given on Monday, at 2 and 4.30, by M. Ribaud and company.

Prince's Theatre.—Proprietors, the United Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—A big reception was accorded to *Havana* on its first appearance here on Monday. Like all Mr. George Edwardes's productions, it is on the grand scale, and packed with good things in the way of singing, dancing, and comedy, though the details are more entertaining than the story, which is slight enough. Humour dominates the piece, and the action never flags for a moment while the principal characters are on the stage. These are Mr. George Gregory, who gives a fine depiction of the misanthropic be'sun, Nix; Mr. W. H. Rawlins, the lively yacht's boy, Reginald Brown; Miss Gertrude Lester, who as Consuelo sings charmingly and acts well; Mr. Frank Hector as the dudish Adolfo, a brisk and clever impersonation; Mr. Edward O'Neill as the conspiratorial Diego; and Miss Luna Love as Anita, a smart and attractive cigar-seller. Mr. T. C. Maxwell as Villiers and Mr. Will Hindson as his chum, Chateris, fill important parts effectively; and Miss Gladys Fontaine makes much of her comedy chances as Isabelita. Incidentally, some very spirited and graceful dancing is done by Miss Florence Phillips; and among many good numbers of every kind, special mention must be made of the beautiful "Zara" solo, sung with extraordinary eloquence by Miss Jessie Broughton, who in this made one of the hits of the evening.

Royal Osborne Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Mason.—Mr. Montague Beaudyn's company are here in *Send Him Victorious*, which scored successfully last week at the Grand Junction Theatre.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Dry.—Reano and his famous Band provide a high-class turn here this week, the overtures to "William Tell" and "1812" being brilliantly rendered and enthusiastically received. Vanando in his sketch *The Park Pest*, proves a clever and original ventriloquist; Marie Blythe sings talking songs pleasingly; Jack Hartley has some very funny patter and songs; Lew Peterman tells some quaint Hebrew stories; Evelyn and Norrie in a capital sketch, *Set a Thief*——, are good; the Sisters Belmont are smart dancers; Frank Boyce is a neat vocal comedian; and Herma, in a strength act, is excellent. Amusing pictures complete.

Grand Junction Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Brearley.—An enthralling drama, *The Old Home*, is presented here this week by Mr. Roland Yorke's company. It is capitally rendered by a cast headed by Mr. Charles Franmore, who is excellent as Daddy Dean, and Miss Gertrude Bonser, who plays Hazel Dean, the heroine, in sympathetic and charming style. Mr. John B. Shinton as the heroic parson, the Rev. Eric Armstrong, acts consistently well, and a remarkably effective foil is provided by Mr. Roland Yorke (the author) as the villainous Lord Avondale. Excellent fun is added by Mr. Fred L. Connynghame as Sam Adams and Miss J. W. Braithwaite as Bridget Donoghan; while Miss Mattie Crawford is commendable in the smaller rôle of Polly Popp.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—The places of honour here this week are worthily occupied by Oswald Williams, the famous illusionist; Walter Howard's company in *The Last Hope*, a somewhat improbable incident; and the Stockham Grecian Band of accomplished lady instrumentalists. Notable turns are added by Walter Bellonini, the well-known expert juggler, and W. J. Churchill, the popular comedian; while other interesting items are Lil O'Gorman, the tall comedienne; the Four Figaros, with their feathered assistant, in a comedy dancing act; Duncan and Godfrey, the popular Cockney sketch artists; Fayre and Manning, the two in green; and Arthur Astill, the whistling mimic.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—Neil Kenyon is very much to the front here in quaint Scottish character studies, his Dunrobin "Postie" being particularly fine. The great Lumars go through a clever acrobatic act, and are well received; Barrington scores in a capital act at the piano; Victor Newman is deservedly appreciated for imitations of famous actors, his Tree impersonation being excellent; the Sixteen Mystic Hussars are highly successful in a well-conceived military novelty; some expert dancing is done by John Tiller's Dainty Dutch Girls; the Bogannys, lunatic bakers, are comedy Risleyists of marked ability; Jean Macduff is a pleasing Scotch comedienne; and the Musical Silvo gives a delightful musical turn.

Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. J. Carter.—The peerless Tortajada tops the bill here successfully; and Jordan and Harvey, the well-known Hebrew comedians, are also prominent. A remarkably fine acrobatic turn is given by the Pasquali Brothers; Joe Peterman's company in *The Singing Savants* are enjoyable; and other good turns are Natalia and Diana, aerial gymnasts; Rita and Mack, comedy acrobats; Wilson Hallett, the popular child mimic; Margaret Ismay and her coons in song and dance; and Fraser and French, artists in wooden shoes. The pictures are particularly good this week.

King's, Longsight.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. R. Trippett.—Mr. Edward Marris's pantomime *Dick Whittington* is again entertaining local audiences. The Waldrons are most prominent in the cast. The performance is given twice nightly to good houses.

Tivoli.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—John Le Hay, ably assisted by Nora Le Hay and Charles Cautley, is here this week in his well-known sketch, *Poor Beggar*. Ernest Leigh, Loie Christine, and company are excellent in a romantic episode of the "'45," *Bonnie Prince Charlie;* and Rosie King and her "string of roses" sing and dance nicely in a neat scena. The Four Sisters Gilby give a very clever and charming musical turn; Millicent Healy, at the piano, is capital; whilst other enjoyable items are offered by Molly Moore, vocalist; Percy Bland, comedian; Lister Reekie, comedian; Andalusia Verdi, operatic vocalist; and the Bioscope.

Queen's Park Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—Sandy McNab is responsible for much hearty laughter with his side-splitting sketch *The Egyptian Mummy*. Nat Clifford is as funny as ever, his songs and dances being highly successful; the Roxbys are smart speciality artists; Ethel Loftus, comedienne, aptly termed the "Irresistible," has an original style, and is well received; Tod Lowen is a breezy comedian; Major Moss sings old songs well; Phillips and Bristow are warmly applauded for their dexterity in wooden-shoe dancing; Hector and Dale are funny acrobats; and Will Willis is a neat comedian. A Mother's Fault is shown on the Bioscope.

Hulme Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thos. Baker. —Messrs. Cullen and Carthy's excellent pantomime *The Babes in the Wood* is once more with us. It is a capital show and played by a fine all-round company, including Bessie Cohen as Robin Hood, who sings and looks well; Cullen and Carthy as the Two Robbers; and Dolly Cullen and Elsie Jordison as the Babes. First-rate specialities are given by Les Belles Americaines, the Melbahs, and Little Cluley. Good houses are the rule.

MARGATE.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Edward Michael; General-Manager, Mr. W. W. Keene.—Messrs. Herbert Skardon and H. Sherwood Martin's company has been appearing this week in the sporting drama *The Way of the World*. The appearance of Miss Sydney Crowe as Lady Adela Hardy evokes hearty applause; whilst the portrayal of Cecil Hardy by the capable hands of Mr. Herbert Skardon. Mr. Victor Gordon plays with marked ability the important part of Captain Fred Slade; an interesting character is that of Matthew Maylon, ably rendered by Mr. Clarence Temple; Horatio Bluff, by Mr. Lancelot Usher, is warmly appreciated; whilst as Joe Sparrow (with songs) Mr. D'Arcy Kelway proves highly humorous. Mr. Pat Quinn does some good work as Sir John Hardy; and the part of Kate Montague is ably presented by Miss Crawford. As Pollie Bell Miss Violette Vivienne makes the most of her opportunities in the rôle of Mlle. Bellini, the champion strong woman; Miss Marie Marsh, as little Eric Malyon, proves quite a favourite.

Hippodrome. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—There is a reversion again to the variety programme, the contributors to which include Arayama, a clever wire-walker and equilibrist; Queenie Dell, comedienne and dancer; Russell Carr, the military ventriloquist; the Frohmans, in their musical act; Hardie Palm, comedian; and the Claymore Trio, comedy club manipulators, jugglers, and dancers.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessees, The South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Albert Jackson.—The pantomime *Cinderella* is presented by Mr. James Kiddie's company. Miss Hettie Gale is the Cinderella, and pleases with her charming impersonation; Mlle. de Rose wins admiration as the Prince; and Miss Edie May makes a delightful Dandini. The Sisters Maud and Ethel have amusing representatives in W. G. Wesley and Harry Bliss; and Mr. Joe Huda is a smart Pimples.

Temperance Hall.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—Arthur Watson and Flo Stanley are here this week in their musical and comedy sketch, *The Cruise of H.M.S. Victory*, their singing and dancing being greatly admired. Harry Reynolds's minstrels provide an enjoyable turn. Other interesting items are contributed by Fremel and Fremel, eccentrics; the Sisters Terry, comediennes and dancers; Clevetto, dancing juggler; Vendome and Chase, in a new act, *Different Styles of Dancing;* and T. E. Johnstone, vocalist and mimic.

METHIL.—Gaiety Theatre.—Proprietors, the Methil Theatre Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. John C. Burnett.—On Monday night Mr. Fred J. Webb's company opened a week's engagement with *A Knight in Armour*. Mr. Fred J. Webb makes a sinister Frank Milbourne, his accomplice in wickedness, Olive, being well portrayed by Miss M. Danvers Smith; Miss P. Nanton has a sympathetic rôle in Florrie; Miss Lallah Price is a capital Lady Priscilla; Mr. Clive Hall is highly successful as James Milbourne; Messrs. Louis Nanton and Will Henderson cause much amusement as Bill Newton and Dominic Domino respectively. Songs and dances are plentiful, and are well received. *The Hour of Her Triumph* was billed for the last three nights of the week.

MEXBOROUGH.—Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Miss Maud Hildyard's company is this week presenting *The Great Awakening*. Miss Maud Hildyard plays up to her reputation, and gives a magnificent and forceful study of the adventuress, Lola Selby; Mr. Wallis Clark displays ability as James Selby; the rôles of Sir Henry and Jack Merton are cleverly sustained by Mr. Bernard Copping; the adventurer, Guy Rogan, is capably personified by Mr. Gordon Laws; Captain Lambert has an able exponent in Mr. Chas. Ashwell; Miss Lilian Deane is a sympathetic Molly; and enjoyable comedy is provided by Mr. Willie Scott (Billy Brass) and Miss Isa Bellington (Selina Worts). The play is capitally staged.

New Picture Hall.—Lessee, Mr. Will Hunter; Manager, Mr. E. H. Jones.—The programme this week is up to the usual standard of excellence, and includes the following films amongst others: Antony and Cleopatra, Indian's Honour, Picturesque Holland, Drama of Country Life, Cabin Boy's Sister.

MIDDLESBROUGH. — Opera House. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Ed. Jowsey; Manager and Licensee, Mr. W. Ker Chatto.—Mr. John Tiller's company occupies the boards here this week with *Red Riding Hood*, an enjoyable entertainment. Mr. Will Lytton as Johnny Stout and Mr. Martin Adeson as the Dame are very amusing comedians; Miss Nancy Hearne makes a dashing Prince; and the dainty Manchester Mites are very pleasing. Miss Millie Williams and Mr. Sidney Vincent are successful in their Apache dance; and the Poppy Quartette give some clever dancing.

Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson.—Mr. Tom Watts's company give an admirable representation here this week of *East Lynne*. Mr. Edmund Kennedy is a fine Archibald Carlyle; and Lady Isabel is capably played by Miss Julie Kennard. Mr. Frank G. Bayley gives an admirable performance of Captain Thorn; and Mr. Tom Watt as Lord Mountsevern, Mr. Frederic Jacques as Justice Hare, and Mr. R. Cousens as Richard, are all that can be desired. Miss Lilian Mason is delightful as Cornelia Carlyle, and Miss Ida Heron pleasing as Barbara Hare. A welcome vein of humour is introduced by Mr. Joe Rowland, who gives an amusing impersonation of P.C. Bullock.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson.—Fred Karno's *Early Birds* are again on a visit; Blake and Granby provide a humorous duologue; and the Zenary Brothers exhibit great skill in their hand-balancing act. Martin D. Pitts is an excellent vocalist; and Ernie Mayne is very amusing. The Sages are good; and the Four Breens give a clever juggling act. Adey Spence, Kisbey, and the Sages also add to the programme.

Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Manager, Mr. C. E. Nicholls.—Gwennie Llewellyn, a clever vocalist, tops the bill here; Joe Almasio, the jumping juggler, does some smart feats; and Hamilton Hill, the Australian baritone, in his latest songs, has a great reception. Other turns include Lotto, Lilo, and Otto, Jennie Hartley, the Westbrooks, Ada Cerito, and Talbot and Pearce.

MOTHERWELL.—New Century Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hales.—Mr. A. Clifton Alderson's company is paying a return visit in *The Coal King*. Mr. Alderson gives a strong and convincing rendering of the young mine manager, Tom Robertson; Mr. Escott is excellent in the somewhat unsavoury rôle of Walter Hartford; Mr. Frank Dalton is to be congratulated upon his finished impersonation of the sub-manager, make-up and mannerisms being equally excellent; Grace Shirley has an ideal exponent in Miss Winifred Love; Miss Joan Wellman does some good character work as Mad Ann; Sir Reginald Hartford is convincingly rendered by Mr. Ulick Burke; and there is a strong comedy element, in which Mr. Sam Roberts and Miss Max Hinton are seen and heard to advantage as Jim Williams and Araminta Green respectively.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—Although in the ninth week of its run, *Aladdin* is still going as strong as in the first week of its existence. Owing to continued indisposition Miss Violet Lloyd is still absent from the cast, her part in the meanwhile being filled by Miss Constance Hyem. Miss Hyem's impersonation of Aladdin could scarcely be improved upon, her delightfully charming style and impulsive vivacity immediately winning her a place in the affections of Tyneside, and adding yet another factor to the almost phenomenal success of the pantomime. Happy Fanny Fields as Gretchen, Miss Maud Thorne as the Princess, Miss Florence Hersee as Pekoe, and Miss Doris Dean as Cheeki are all now established favourites, and the humour of Harry Tate, Malcolm Scott, and Regan and Ryan continues bright and breezy.

Tyne Theatre and Opera House.—Lessees, Messrs. How

the intensity of her acting being well marked; Mr. Robert Hilton handles the part of Cardinal Richelieu with tact and considerable effect; Mr. Reginald P. Lamb as Captain Larolle succeeds in a manner beyond doubt in a very difficult rôle; Lieutenant Manet finds a capable exponent in Mr. Norman Leslie; while Mr. F. Ambrose Flower was seen to great advantage as Sir Thomas Brunt. Miss Hilda Forbes Phillips makes the most of Mme. de Cocheforet, and a really clever study of Clon (a dumb servant) is that submitted by Mr. G. N. Smaith. The minor parts are all well sustained. *The Adventure of Lady Ursula* is also being staged during the week.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's No. 1 company is appearing here this week in *The Old Folks at Home*. Mr. H. E. Herberte and Miss Maud Warburton in the principal parts are decidedly good.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; Manager, Mr. H. G. Elliott.—The pantomime *Dick Whittington* concludes a successful run here this week, and among the principals who have enhanced their already great reputations mention must be made of Miss Florrie Gallimore as Dick, Miss Josie Delaine as Alice, and Mr. H. O. Wills as Idle Jack.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—Amongst the many good things here this week, De Gracia's performing elephants provide a remarkable exhibition of animal sagacity and training; the Howard Brothers juggle with banjoes in most intricate fashion, and also play with much taste. Perhaps the funniest item on the bill is *Adam the Second*, a creation for which Barton and Ashley are responsible. Another capital turn is that of Howell and Scott in Hebrew cake-walks and dances; whilst Herbert Darnley's comedy company are seen to great advantage in the Oriental farce *The Mandarin*. Madge Temple, the musical comedy queen, is always pleasing with her delightfully-rendered songs, and the Three Prestons, mirth creators, George Young, the blind musician, Harry Herbert, comedian, and Maudie Francis all contribute to the all-round excellence of the programme.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—Miss Margaret Cooper, vocalist, heads an excellent bill this week, and other artists appearing are "Carlton," Zona Vevey, Edward Jose, Reg Beauchamp, Mons. Payer, the Three Sisters Allison, and W. E. Gillen.

SKATING RINK, EXHIBITION BUILDINGS.—Manager, Mr. Fred B. Crowe.—The enterprising management have arranged to hold a masked and costume carnival, where skaters will represent historical or other characters of interest. Numerous and costly prizes will be given, and are now on view at the Rink. The attendance during the past week has been as numerous as ever.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—*The Sins of Society* is being played here by Mr. F. W. Bolam's company. Miss Vita Spencer as Lady Goldbury captivates the audience from the start; as James Hogg Mr. Edward Lewis wins admiration; and Miss Grace E. Leslie's Lady Marion Beaumont presented a remarkably fine impersonation, depicting almost every phase of human emotion. Other prominent characters are Mr. E. Vassall Vaughan as Sir Dorian March, and Mr. Fredk. Annerley as Mr. Morris, the latter being the most merciless moneylender in life. Mr. Arthur Ransome's Mr. Theseger is a studied interpretation; Miss Beatrice Hodgson's Lady Gwendoline Ashley is a finished piece of acting; and Miss Janet Hudson as Caroline, Duchess of Danesbury, exhibits cynicism and hauteur. The staging is excellent, and it might be added that Mr. Arthur Livingstone's make-up as President Fallières provided a living representation of the head of the French Republic.

EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—A strong programme is presented here this week, in which top place is assigned to a capital musical farce, *Passing the Time*, in which the principal characters are taken by Miss Mabel Lait and Mr. Daley Cooper, and by which a rare feast of fun is provided; Leipzig mystifies the audience with a series of astounding feats; a pretty turn is provided by the Garden of Girls; and Arthur Aldridge made splendid use of a rich tenor voice. Wood, Wells, and Wilkins, in a vocal sketch, *The Piano Tuner*, are entertaining; Richard Crompton, character vocalist, and Tom Moore, comedian, fully deserved the warm applause accorded them; and a dramatic series of pictures, The Count of Monte Christo, shown on the Bioscope complete the bill.

NORTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—The attraction here this week is Mr. Frederick Melville's company, with *Her Forbidden Marriage*, which has drawn good houses. As George Madison Mr. Henry Lonsdale gives an admirable interpretation of the part; Mr. Louis Hector as Charles Devereux has a part to his evident liking; Mr. Wilfred Mansfield as Sir George Lancaster displays ability; Mr. Harry Milton makes the most of John William; and Mr. Fred De Vere gives a clever representation of Timothy Tuttutt. Miss Grace Emery as Patty Lovejoy scores a well-deserved success; Miss Grace Lester proves herself a capable actress as the Mother Superior; Miss Isla Garnet Vayne as Lucy is worthy of much praise; and Miss Florence Hunt is an effective Lady Lucretia.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. William Mould.—The star turn here is provided by the Four Elwyns, in their vocal scena, "Down in the Mine," which has been heartily greeted; Les Wambas, gymnasts and comedy musicians, introduce a smart act; Mr. Jack North, comedian, has made a hit; Carrie and Beatie, speciality artists, introduce their clever dog "Spot"; Raynor and Reece, in their scena, *Early Closing Day*, are clever; and the animated pictures are up to the usual standard.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. Andrew Melville's company is here this week in *Driven from Home*. Mr. Felix Pitt is excellent as Anthony Raybrook; Miss Ada M. Ryder as Laura Raybrook and Walter Hatherleigh acts most charmingly; Mr. C. Burdon is suitable as Geoffrey Waring; and Mr. Percy Dawson is successful as Willie. Miss Susie Bevan and Mr. F. C. Imbert create amusement in their respective parts.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—Mr. J. Collins's excellent pantomime *Puss in Boots* is here this week, and meets with much approbation. Mr. Wyn Weaver is excellent as King Komilfo, while Mr. Bobby Hall creates fun as the Widow Dolores. Mr. Arthur Watts as Sancho and Mr. Algernon Lea as Pancho do well; Mr. Harry Seymour is very good as Grimalkin, the cat; and the same may be said of Messrs. Bert Goodwin and Len Hammond as the Bull. Messrs. Ferris and Farnley appear as Bilbalio and Jobalio with credit; Miss Eva Ellis is a dainty Princess Carita; Miss Elsie Don deserves praise as Lola; Miss May Otto makes an impressionable Perdita, the Fairy; Miss Ethel Beech is a charming Juan, and is well received throughout. Special praise should be given to Collins' Sextette of expert dancers, whose efforts are most pleasing; and the same may be said of the Eight Gems, juveniles. The scenery, dresses, and the songs throughout are admirable.

AGRICULTURAL HALL.—The roller skating continues to be well patronised.

AGRICULTURAL HALL ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—The New Era pictures continue attractive.

BANK PLAIN ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—The animated pictures here are well supported.

NOTTINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—*The Thief* is being presented here this week, and Mr. George Alexander's company play this powerfully-written piece with the highest credit to themselves. Miss May Congdon gives the fullest expression to the violent emotions of the unhappy and harassed Marise, and her work in the second act, when confronted with her guilt by her husband, is a great dramatic effort. As Richard Chelford Mr. Grendon Bentley acts with a degree of earnestness and intensity that grips his audience; Mr. Gerald Ames plays with quiet reserve and seriousness as Raymond Leyton; and Mr. Alfred Sugg achieves success in his portrayal of the somewhat unfledged Harry Leyton. Mr. Cyril Cattley well emphasises the stern and dictatorial Mr. Protheroe; Miss Mary Dibley makes a graceful Isabel Leyton; and Mr. Frank Elton is satisfactory as a servant. The play is preceded by *The Nursery Governess*, delightfully rendered by Miss Elsie Davison, and Messrs. Percy Marmont, Cyril Cattley, and Frank Elton.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Harry Upton.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's pantomime *Robinson Crusoe* has continued to attract large and appreciative audiences. The company is a good one, and Miss May Mars and Miss Nancy Thornton have become great favourites. The creation of laughter and fun are in the capable hands of Mr. Arnold Richardson, Mr. Ivan Berlyn, and Mr. Jack Lennol, who have all been most successful. The comedy acrobatics of Elton and Elma have added no little to the pantomime's success, and the dancing of the Brewster Troupe, led by Miss Kitty Brewster, is all that could be desired.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—Ernest Shand, in new songs and a change of costume, is delighting audiences this week, and his humorous patter adds to the hilarity. Zeynard's Lilliputians are an entertaining and clever set of people, whose feats are watched and vociferously applauded by an enthusiastic house. A turn of exceptional interest is the "talk" of Mr. Frederick Villiers, the war correspondent, on some episodes in his career, added pleasure being given by a number of excellent photographs. Alexander Dagmar scores in "A marriage of Mayfair"; Albertus and Miller gain hearty recognition in an American eccentricity; the gymnastic act of the Trentanovi Sisters is well done; Takio is a smart Japanese mimic; Amy Anderson and company, in a musical comedy act, and Phil Parsons, comedian, are duly rewarded; and the Bioscope presents an excellent set of films.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—Departing from their usual fare, the management this week rely upon only two variety turns and a gorgeous spectacular pantomime. The first of the turns is Capt. Roberts, trumpeter, acrobat, balancer, &c., who, with the aid of ponies, dogs, &c., presents a creditable act; and the other is the comedy acrobatic sketch of Lanos and Montes. The pantomime is *The Forty Thieves*, and with Bob Selvidge as Ali Baba the fun is fast and furious and the laughter loud and prolonged. The Sisters Tree as Captain and Lieutenants look very charming, and enthusiastically work to make the pantomime "go"; Mr. Jack Waller lends valuable assistance as Hasserac; and Miss Poppy Holland achieves success as Zaide. Chris Le Brun is very good as the Donkey, and all the other parts are capably looked after. The programme is brought to a conclusion by the usual Barrascope pictures.

MECHANICS' HALL.—Miss Muriel Pratt, assisted by Miss Barbara Thornley, presented an interesting dramatic recital last week in the Mechanics' Hall, Nottingham, and the large audience gave an enthusiastic welcome to this talented young artist. The items embraced some well-known poems, including Tennyson's "The Lady of Shalott," Edgar Allan Poe's "The Bells," and "The Confessional" of Robert Browning, in all of which Miss Pratt acquitted herself with distinction. A dainty little dance was introduced at the end of Sir Walter Scott's "Young Lochinvar," and Handel's "Harmonious Blacksmith," as a whistling solo, quite brought down the house. Miss Barbara Thornley accompanied with taste, and also rendered pianoforte solos by Beethoven and Chopin.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietors, Theatre and Entertainments Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Brown.—Mr. George Edwardes's company with *The Merry Widow* is providing a rare treat for playgoers here this week. Miss Daphne Glenne in the title-rôle sings and acts with pleasing effect; Mr. Alec Worcester as Prince Danilo is exceedingly good; Mr. H. Sinclair Cotter's study of Baron Popoff is productive of first-rate comedy; Mr. Harry Emeric as Nisch is delightfully droll, and, together with Frou-Frou (Miss Mabel May), a graceful and clever dancer, gives some remarkable examples of the art of dancing; Mr. Cecil Warwick cleverly depicts General Novakovitch; Miss Violet Hobson as Natalie is very pleasing, and her lover, Camilee de Jolidan, is capably presented by Mr. Arthur Geary, whose fine tenor voice is heard to advantage. The play is mounted and staged in first-rate style.

OLDBURY.—PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor Mr. Jas. Tyrer.—The popular Sabina is here this week, and is well received. The Sisters Carlton meet with great success; Miss Nancy Cuthbert adds to the enjoyment of the programme with new numbers; and the pictures are still to the fore.

OLDHAM.—NEW GRAND THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Mayall.—Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company occupy the boards here with *The Dairymaids*. Miss Isa Bowman as Peggy is most delightful, singing and acting with much verve; Miss Vera Crichton as Winifred uses her sweet voice with telling effect; Miss Carrie Lacey is fine in the part of Lady Brudenell; Miss Hazel as Helen is highly successful; Miss Lucy Edwin is very clever as Miss Penelope Pyechase; whilst Miss G. Silvani as Eliza, the maid-of-all-work, was appreciated, her acting being done in a vivacious manner. Mr. D. Agar as Joe Mivens has a part which fits like a glove, and the fun wages fast and furious whilst he occupies the stage. Mr. N. Keys as Lieut. Sam Brudenell also does well, his dancing being much appreciated; Mr. P. Marshall at Dr. O'Byrne is very smart; and Mr. J. H. Willis is capital as Lieut. Meredith. The chorus is an exceptionally strong one, and renders much service under the able directorship of Mr. Albert Bartlett. Mr. G. Gray is the most courteous of acting-managers.

COLOSSEUM THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Wm. Eastwood.—*The Woman Pays*, played by Mr. Frank Thorne's company, opened to good business on Monday evening. Mr. Phil Harper as Sid Armstrong, the fisherman, gives a vigorous impersonation; Mr. John Davidson as the villainous steward, Roger Marchant, acts well, his victim, Nell Morland, being played by Miss Kate Blair in a manner which gains applause. Miss Maud Russell makes a successful Madge Armstrong; Miss Florence Thorne is excellent as Tabitha; Mr. Berresford Innes as Cyrus Treadgold is all that can be desired; Mr. Dunlop Stewart as Luke Morland acts capably; Mrs. Porteous does well as Nurse Agnes; Mr. Frank M. Thorne as Micky introduces some clever comedy, and he is well supported by Miss Amena Walton as Polly. Mr. Chas. Arthur as Doctor Trevor and Mr. A. T. Jones as Captain Holt are excellent; and the remaining parts are well played.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—Colonel Gaston Bordeverry proves his right to the title of world's champion by some marvellous shooting. The famous Eighteen Lancashire Singers provide a rich treat to lovers of music; J. C. Piddock and company in *The Capture of Venus*, a musical fantasy, introduce some good singing and smart comedy; Lillian performs some smart and daring feats on the cycle very neatly; Mollie Seymour sings and plays the violin cleverly; Marguerite Arnold is capital as a vocal comedienne; Fred Elton sings well in his scena; the Dandinis in a new comedy juggling act are very clever; Wat Tyler is a good comedian with a fine voice; and an amusing picture on the Bioscope concludes.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. Thorne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. Sharrocks.—Tschin-Maa and his seven real Chunchusens provide smart Asiatic magic, also clever juggling, with music and equilibristic feats, with success. Frank Ellison and company present *My Lady Betty*, a romantic comedy episode, with good results; the Braggs Trio are capital novelty comedy acrobats; Nash and Noel are very amusing with dancing and smart cross-talk; Johnson and De Vere in a clever cycle act on the wire are excellent; the Three Spoons juggle well; and Oliver Martin is a good comedian. The Palace pictures are again a feature. Marcus Boyle deputises for Billy Williams with great success.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Kilrow.—Cassie Walmer, a popular favourite, is here in her well-known imitations, and is well received. R. Stein-Eretto and company are seen in their wonderful hand-balancing act; the Four Musical Watsons have a really clever musical and comedy turn; Steve Bartle takes well in well-played concertina solos; Howe and Edie are smart comedy acrobats; Hunter and Maris also do well in a refined comedy novelty; Argo is capital in his imitations; and Day and Knight sing well in a musical episode. An amusing picture on the Dottoscope completes the bill.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. L. King.—Excellent business continues to be the rule, crowded houses being attracted nightly, the pictures shown being of the very best obtainable. The World in Motion shows both dramatic and humorous films, including The Stepmother, A Fisherman's Sweetheart, Baby's Chum, Our Cook's "At Home" Day, Calorific Chest Protector, The Anonymous Letter, and others. Lester King is smart with his excellent singing.

OXFORD.—EAST OXFORD THEATRE.—Lessees, East Oxford Theatre, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Stuart.—Mr. Clarence C. Corri's company is here with *The Dandy Fifth*. Mr. Arthur S. Radcliff is conspicuously successful with his delightful impersonation of Dick Darville; Mr. Chas. Sims is capital as the brusque Irish Sergeant-Major Milligan; and Mr. Coningsby Brierly supplies a fund of merriment as Brown. As the Colonel, Mr. Percy Baverstock is very natural; Mr. Jack Leyland is effective as Sir Victor; Miss Maud Nichols does well as Mrs. Von Blitzen; Miss Dorothy Clarke is good as Antoinette; Miss Nora Morra is bright and entertaining as Polly; and Miss Una Palmer sings well and scores an undoubted success as Kate Lorrimer. Miss Sadie Thompson, solo dancer, is encored, and the Sisters English contribute specialities.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—A highly creditable amateur production of *The Duchess of Dantzic* is being submitted here this week by the Paisley Opera Club. All the artists perform excellently, thanks, in great measure, to the able instruction of Mr. Charles Bonnett (late of Mr. George Dance's companies), who also acts as stage-manager.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Stead.—Billy Howard and Kathryn Harris, the American comedy duo, are a capital leading attraction here this week, and J. W. Hall, comedian, is entertaining. Others who contribute to a first-rate programme are Harry Karr and Walter Kooney, comedians; Master Edward Frisby, the boy soprano; Charles J. Johnson, "the black diamond"; the Calcotts, in an episode, entitled *Rags and Tatters*; Leslie, Lynn, and Willie, in a medley of mirth and music; and Maude Elliston and company in the funny, farcical sketch *Dobson's Day Off*. The Hippodrome bioscope concludes.

PEMBROKE DOCK.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Tom Barger; Business-Manager, Mr. Norman Barger.—Mr. Dickie Clare on a return visit with *Lucky 'Liza* is attracting large audiences. Mr. Clare is a host in himself, and performs admirably the triple part of Silas Slim, the Judge, and the French waiter. Peter Pettitoe and Barnaby Bladderwick, barristers, are well sustained by Mr. T. W. Benson and Mr. Harry George; Mr. Bert Collins as Tompkins, the court usher, is very amusing; Mr. J. W. Forrest as William Biffins does well; Mr. Martyn Alwyn as Paul Pettitoe, a promising youth, is very successful; pretty dances are introduced by the Astor Trio, Misses Louie Astor, Lily Bell, and Edna Evelyn; Miss Evelyn Wood portrays Sadie Pots, a cute miss, in a capable manner, as also does Miss Helen Douglass as Marie Pettitoe, described as "a gentle creature"; Miss Violet Hurley ably acquits herself in the part of Verginia Blatherwick; as Lucky 'Liza (Eliza Bird), Miss Vesta Brownie gains unbounded admiration, and the company work well together in the interests of laughter.

PENTRE.—TIVOLI PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Poole's, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Resident-Manager, Mr. James Gunn.—Topping the bill here this week is Henry Coutts in his marvellous quick-change act, entitled *Outflanked*; Miss Joan Deering earns praise as a clever violinist; Nellie Ridgway is her comedy entertainment on the wire is deservedly appreciated; Rek and Ford evoke laughter by their cross-talk; Minnie Love is a charming serio and dancer; France and Steward in their comedy *100 to 1 Chance*; Arnette, the musical expert, and the Four Blackbirds are also in the bill. The Tivoli-scope concludes.

PERTH.—THE PERTH THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—The annual week of grand opera by the Moody-Manners company is being celebrated here this week. On Monday a perfect performance of Gounod's *Faust* was given before a crowded audience, with Mr. F. J. Hargrave as Faust, Mr. William Anderson as Mephistopheles, Mr. Charles Moorhouse as Valentine, Mr. H. Mann as Wagner, Miss Rosina Beynon as Siebel, Miss V. Barry as Martha, and Miss Rosa O'Farrell as Marguerite. The piece was artistically rendered and most effectively staged. The chorus was numerous and well balanced, and the augmented orchestra was under the able direction of Mr. Cuthbert Hawley. The week's productions include *Madame Butterfly*, *Il Trovatore*, *Carmen*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*—Saturday's matinée, *Madame Butterfly*—and *The Bohemian Girl*.

PETERBOROUGH.—NEW HIPPODROME, LTD.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards; Manager, Mr. Percy Hart.—The big attraction here this week is furnished by the Schiavonys, including Miss Ella. Little Zola, the unusual comedian, keeps the audience in continual laughter; Ada Martini, in clever songs and dances, is well received; Belle Braham presents something new in pictorial songs; Harry Carsdale, "farmyard linguist," is a mimic extraordinary; Phil Bransby, coster comedian, gives a good turn; and Clara Alexander, in her lifelike impersonations of old Uncle Jake, the plantation negro, is deserving of praise. The Hippodrome pictures finish a capital programme.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—The D'Oyly Carte Opera Company are drawing enthusiastic houses. On Monday *The Gondoliers* was performed, and the entertainment was in every way excellent, principals of undeniable merit being supported by a hardly less capable chorus. As Gianetta Miss Clara Dow displayed a remarkably sweet voice; Miss Beatrice Meredith has an attractive style and manner as Tessa, and her song "When a merry maiden marries" was loudly encored; Miss Ethel Morrison was an aristocratic Duchess of Plaza Toro; and Miss Mabel Graham as Casilda had a particularly graceful style. Mr. Strafford Moss impersonated Marco Palmieri, and scored heavily with the ever-popular "Take a pair of sparkling eyes," to which his admirable tenor did full justice; Mr. Leicester Tunks, who has a voice of excellent range and power, was particularly good as Guiseppe; Mr. Fred Billington's portly mien is well suited to the Official Inquisitor, and his songs were re-demanded; and Mr. Chas. R. Walenn as the impecunious Duke of Plaza-Toro was genuinely amusing. *Iolanthe*, *Mikado*, *Pinafore*, *Yeomen of the Guard*, and *Patience* are also in the week's bill.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—The Kellinos are starred for the week, and their acrobatic turn is characterised by skill, precision, and daring; the Seven Merry Marvels are a well-balanced combination of musicians and vocalists; *Black Justice*, with Big Ben Brown and Little George Le Clerq as the principal figures, proves still popular; the Woodwards are accomplished equilibrists; and Tom Joy is a quaint comedian. The remaining numbers are furnished by Will Musgrave, Hunter and Williams (with their Apache dance), and Will Mitcham (vocalist).

PONTEFRACT.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Tom Diacoff.—The Paul Kramer Troupe of head-balancers and gymnasts form the principal attraction here this week. Miss Martha Kramer is a prodigy of strength and grace. Martin Henderson, though blind, discourses most excellent music with concertina and piano; Gilbert's dog and cat circus is a smart show; Miss Mamie Morris dances and sings enchantingly, a remark which applies equally to Miss Ivy Dene. The comedy element is in the hands of Jarvis and Julian and Dan Rodney; and, in addition, there are the Gelders, magicians, and Indiana, a very flexible little lady, all of whom gain a due meed of praise. The pictures, if anything, improve.

PONTYCYMMER.—BODIE'S HIPPODROME AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor, Dr. Walford Bodie; General-Manager, Mr. Tom. N. Mills.—Miss Rosa Moncrieff's *Bells of Old York* company occupied the boards here for the early part of the week, *The Curate* being staged the latter half. Miss Moncrieff's songs were very happily rendered, and the duet entitled "Tommy Atkins" earned well-deserved applause. Mr. Rass Challis gave an admirable portrayal of a stalwart clergyman, and the heroine was well played by Miss Nellie de Lacey.

PRESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, the Executors of the late W. Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—A return visit is being paid by Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company in *Edged Tools*. Mr. Campbell Goldsmid is again seen in the character of Victor Durnovo, and is as successful as ever in his portrayal of the cowardly and treacherous half-caste. Sir John Meredith is in the very capable hands of Mr. J. A. Rosier; Mr. William F. Grant is quite as effective as Jack Meredith (his son) as he was in his original part of Sir John; Mr. Chas. Hartopp makes a frank and manly Guy Oscard; Mr. J. Graham Pockett is a capable Maurice Gordon; Miss Marie Leonhard is again seen to great advantage as Jocelyn Gordon, whom she presents in a most natural and winsome manner; Miss Alice Esther Belmore is to be congratulated upon her very clever impersonation of the heartless flirt, Millicent Cheyne; Miss Marion Fawcett is also excellent as Lady Cantourne; while a clever rendition of Marie is given by Miss Violet Thorold. Minor parts are capably enacted by Miss Fanny Evans and Miss Emilee Finch and Messrs. Charles Conway and Wentworth Graeme. The production is well staged, and was much appreciated by the audience.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's company is appearing here in Shiela Walsh's play *Mother*. Miss Walsh sustains the rôle of Nellie Fairweather in a manner which calls for the highest praise; Mr. H. Foxwell makes a cheery skipper Fairweather, and acts with much vigour; Mr. Alexander is a manly Frank Rodney; Mr. Sydney Leighton gives a clever portrayal of the unprincipled Stephen Carrington; Miss Bluementhal makes a lovable Martha; and Miss Nancy Mitchell is a vivacious Polly. Little Miss Marie Holmes as Little May proves herself a clever child actress; Miss Kathleen Hunt is capital as Mrs. Bagot; and Miss Zara Leigh is to be commended for her clever portrayal of Vesta L'Estrange. Mr. Teddy Myles as Tommy Noblets causes much mirth; and Mr. Fred Rivers is decidedly good as Jasper Randon. Mr. Roy Gordon is an excellent Crump; while as Biggs (a waiter) and the Rev. John Strong Mr. Jas. Swinbanks and Mr. Harrison James are equally at home. The play is capitally staged.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—Pantomime again holds sway here, this week's attraction being Harry Burns's *Robinson Crusoe*. In addition to the pantomime, the Yankee-Doodle Girls contribute some speciality dances; and the Juggling McBans give a very successful act. Mlle. du Roche is a sprightly Robinson and Miss Marie Belle an attractive Pollie Perkins; Mr. Henry Curwen is a comical Dame Crusoe; Mr. Arthur Aiston is well suited as Will Atkins; and Messrs. Edwin and Harry Ramsay as Captain Cuttle and Captain's Mate are a clever pair of knockabouts; Mr. Billy Hubbard is good as Man Friday; Miss Kitty Trewhitt as Tommy Bowline and Ruby Aiston as Bessie are both successful; and Messrs. Geo. Hastings and Geo. Harkaway as the Pirates cause much hilarity. The chorus is tuneful, and the scenery pretty, and the pantomime is undoubtedly popular. The excellent orchestra is under the able direction of Mr. F. Dexter.

RAMSGATE.—ROYAL PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; Lessee, Mr. Ernest Mansell.—The Graphic Life Motion pictures exhibited this week at the Royal Palace Theatre have been better than ever, and their popularity has been most marked. Among the films shown has been one depicting last Saturday's cup tie between Ramsgate Town F.C. and Bromley. One of the leading features of the past week's programme has been the successful appearance of Roxborough and Wright, sketch artists of exceptional ability. Mr. Mansell is receiving widespread support in his arrangements for a "Territorial Recruiting Night."

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Benton.—*Pete*, the popular Lyceum adaptation from Hall Caine's "Manxman," is being presented here this week by a very capable company, with Mr. Frank E. Petley in the title-rôle, and Miss Helena Millais as Kate, both of whom act in powerful and artistic style, and are well supported by Mr. Arthur Burne, who gives a clever impersonation of Philip Christian. Miss Lucy Murray, who is a very bright and attractive Nancy, and Mr. Frank Stone, who depicts the character of Cæsar Cregeen very effectively. The remaining parts are also all well filled. A special matinée was given on Wednesday to a good house.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. E. Draco.—Jolly Jimmy Walker is a very droll comedian; the Monctons appear in a clever and humorous comedy episode, *Two in a Flat*; Kitty Wager, comedienne, is well appreciated; Fred Poplar is a "poplar" comedian; the Four Mimosa Girls, vocalists and dancers, provide an attractive turn; Bains and Reed give a very clever tumbling performance; A. C. Lilly and company produce a stirring military episode, entitled *Drummed Out*; and the entertainment concludes with some excellent bioscopic views of the King's recent visit to Berlin.

SMALL TOWN HALL.—Mr. Waller Jeffs is concluding a month's visit here with his popular select pictures. The show has been very extensively patronised and greatly appreciated.

ROCHDALE. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Burton.—*The New East Lynne* is well staged and played by a most capable company here this week. Mr. Richard Nugent is prominent with a capital impersonation of Murty O'Flynn; Mr. Fred Terriss portrays with distinction the part of Archibald Carlyle; and Mr. Leonard Booker cleverly fills the rôle of Francis Levison; Mr. Wm. Lowe is heard to advantage as Justice Hare, and Mr. Edgar J. Coyne acts well as Richard Hare; Mr. Dill is in the safe hands of Mr. Byron Pedley, and Mr. M. Talbot makes the most of Otway Bethel; Miss Sophy Shenton makes a typical Cornelia Carlyle; Mies Madge Beresford acts with womanly feeling as Barbara Hare; and Miss Guinevere Shilton enacts with skill Afy and Joyce Hallijohn; the dual rôle of Lady Isabel and Mme. Vine is represented with telling effect by Miss Marion Lind.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—Haley's Juveniles present a pretty spectacle, some capital songs and dances are given by the children, and a leading feature is a minuet, charmingly enacted in old English costumes, with limelight effects; Les Frasettis render some finely executed music on the violin, harp, and xylophone; the Brothers Idento are amusing and clever jugglers; the Three Pirmans are skilful on the horizontal bars; Whittle and Schofield, vocalists; Chas. Vincent, comedian; J. H. Ellis, comedian; and the Empire Bioscope pictures complete an attractive bill of fare.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Jackson Family; Business-Manager, Mr. Jno. Jackson; Resident-Manager, Mr. James Jackson, sen.—Edward Crossland's Melody Makers in *The Burglar's Dream* submit some really fine vocalism; the Andos troupe of Japanese equilibrists, &c., perform some daring and clever feats; the Four Rio Brothers give a clever and refined exhibition of muscular skill; other turns are presented by Miss Eva Chadwick, soprano vocalist; McAleary Marvels, trick and barrel jumpers; Ralph and Nellie Howard, in a comedy sketch, *Military Mad*; Williams and Warden in *Mr. Dooley*; Gus Ryder, vocalist and whistler; and the Hippo pictures.

ROTHERHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Mr. J. H. Tomkinson's No. 1 Royal Gipsy company is this week paying a return visit. Specialities are introduced by La Vie in tableaux; Miss Elsie Rubina gives a clever turn in equipoise; Wee Winnie is a smart juvenile; and the Four Louberts, pleasing equilibrists, score in the comedy act *Uninvited*.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. Edgar Fox; Resident-Manager, Mr. Claude Shayler.—The management present a strong bill this week. The Violas give a weird and mystifying turn; the Lannons are deservedly applauded; the Three Sisters Wynne give a finished vocal burlesque act; the Three Comedy Chanters bring down the house with humorous and harmonious interludes; Bob Hamilton, Scotch comedian, gives an interesting comedy turn; and Ford Williams is deserving of mention. Spangles and Sawdust in their comedy aerial act, and Messrs. George M. Marriott and company with *The Maid of the Alps*, are other attractions.

RUGBY.—CO-OPERATIVE HALL.—Miss Lena Stanton and Harry Josephs' company is appearing this week with their pantomime *Robinson Crusoe*. Miss Lena Stanton as Robinson Crusoe is greeted with much applause; Miss Gertie Lovedale is a charming Polly; Miss Marie Gerrard an excellent Billy Taylor; Mr. Melville Page as Will Atkins is droll; Mr. F. Forms as Davy Jones does well; Mr. Vic Verney as King Kopem is amusing; Mr. Sidney Dean as Mrs. Crusoe is clever; and Little Keeno is welcomed heartily as Sunny Jim Crusoe.

RUNCORN.—PUBLIC HALL THEATRE, LTD.—Lessee, Mr. D. C. Mackenzie; General-Manager, Mr. E. A. Esmonde.—For the concluding three nights of last week we were favoured with a visit of *His House in Order*, presented by Mr. Herbert Ralland's company with pronounced success. The exacting part of Hilary Jesson fell to Mr. J. Herbert Beaumont, and admirably he interpreted it; Mr. J. Patrick Robertson as Filmer Jesson portrayed the "precise" husband ably; Mr. Langford Browne acted capably as Sir Daniel Ridgeley; Mr. Dudley Stuart gave a thorough rendering of Pryce Ridgeley; Mr. Randolph Reade's Major Maurewarde was an artistic study; the Dr. Dilnott of Mr. Richard Dalton and the Harding of Mr. L. Seth-Wallis were assumptions of no mean order; Miss Peggy Rae as the juvenile Derek Jesson gave evidence of much careful training; Miss Katie Neville was to the manner born as the French governess, Mlle. Thome; a perfect picture of the staid and severe Geraldine was that given by Miss Victoria Wray; Miss Avis Grahame gave an excellent rendition of the prim Lady Ridgeley; and the efficient work submitted by Miss Elsie Roberts as Nina added lustre to a pleasurable performance. This week Mr. Chas. Constant's pantomime *Blue Beard* was here for the first three nights. Miss Daisy Lake as Selim is strikingly effective; Fatima is entrusted to Miss Marie Duncan, a sweet singer of charming personality; Mr. Johnny Clegg as Sister Ann is extremely droll; Messrs. W. Harlin and B. Hanlon, ably seconded by Mr. Jack Palmer as Bamboozlum, Mr. Walter B. Frear as Pimpling, and Mr. Ellis Carlyle as Blue Beard, are also responsible for fun. The Fairy Queen finds a captivating representative in Miss Laura Wickenden.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Mr. Wilson Benge's company had a good reception on Monday, when they gave an excellent performance of Mr. C. Watson Mill's play, *The Eve of Her Wedding*. The part of the hero, George Tremain, is played with ability by Mr. Wilson Benge; while unstinted applause is earned by Miss Sadie Smith for her fine portrayal of Mavis Laverton. A capital Squire Laverton is that of Mr. Arthur Keand; Mr. Henry Danson is successful as Dick Laverton; Miss Florence Zillwood forcibly represents the adventuress, Rene de Telle; and villainy is also well simulated by Mr. Fred Lloyd as Dean Clifton. Some good comedy business is done by Mr. K. Arthur as Bill Grogg

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Slatter.—Valvero heads a very interesting programme, with his naval bombardment; Fred Maitland causes much laughter, with his *Talked Out*; Lillie Le Main, in "The old sundial," is also very good. Five Bombays, singers and speciality clog dancers, are much applauded. The other items include the Lovelaces, in illustrated American songs; Burns and Bentley, vaudeville artists; Mr. H. Thiessen, with his acrobatic dogs; Pueblo and Cropp (Bob and Katie), versatile Creole star artists; Syd Crossley, comedian; and Sullivan and Edwards, comedians and expert clog, &c., dancers.

OPERA HOUSE AND ASSEMBLY ROOMS, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; General-Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Shepherd.—Twice nightly crowds are delighted with the animated pictures as follow:—Pretty Daisy Maid, Police Women, A Tour in Algiers, The Little Fiddler, 'Arry and 'Arriet, A House Full, Attack on the Mail, A Cruel Joke, and Two Pigtails. "Take me back to Old Kentucky" (illustrated) is well sung by Mr. Tom Sherlock.

SALISBURY.—COUNTY HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. Arthur Whitehead; Business-Manager, Mr. T. Brinsmead.—Mr. George Robertson's company is here with *A Message from Mars*. Mr. Gordon Starkey made a faultless Horace Parker; Mr. Lionel Yaldwin, as the Messenger, looked most impressive; Mr. Percy Tyler was an appropriate tramp; and Mr. Burton W. Yaldwin was smart as Arthur Dicey; Miss Edith Ring as Minnie Templer looked very sweet and played her part in a fresh and dainty way; the Mrs. Clarence of Miss Edith Day was splendid; Miss Dorothy Cecil was amusing as Bella; Miss Parker was quite an interesting study in the hands of Miss Nora Kingsley.

SCARBOROUGH.—THE AQUARIUM.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman.—The leading attraction here is Sidney James' Strolling Players, a smart set who meet with conspicuous success; Alec Godfrey keeps the house in the best of humours; James Faure, Australian equilibrist, is exceptionally clever; and Sydney Brandon's dramatic character sketch from *The Bells* shows great skill. Miss Marion Fletcher is a pleasing vocalist; Vasey and Ramsey are clever and eccentric dancers; the Doriams are responsible for a marvellous exhibition of strength; and the Folleyettes are highly entertaining. Some capital pictures are shown on the Bioscope.

THE NEW HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock.—Mr. Hamilton Stewart and company opened here on Monday with *Sherlock Holmes*, a play which is full of excitement throughout. As the detective, Mr. Hamilton Stewart is a splendid representative, his acting being irreproachable, and which the crowded audience was quick to appreciate; Miss Edith Vogue and Mr. Mark Draper did full justice to their parts of the Larabees; and Miss Bruce-Joy is successful as Alice Faulkner. The part of Professor Moriarty was skilfully portrayed by Mr. Robert Gilbert; and Mr. Arthur Shelton's Dr. Watson, Mr. Walter Chetham's Forman, Mr. Seton Bernard's Sidney Prince, Master Thomas Russell's Billy, and Miss Maisie Richardson's Therese were all most ably represented.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. L. Garside; Manager, Mr. F. P. Morgan.—Mr. Arthur Jones presents the emotional drama *When Other Lips*, and appears in the title-rôle, in which he meets with unqualified success; Miss Marie Dorentry deserves credit for her clever acting; and Mr. J. D'Alberti gives a good impersonation of the villain. Miss Lizzie Lennon, Mr. R. Webb, and Mr. O. Seymour contribute greatly to the success of the play.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. Wallace Childs.—*The House that Jack Built* is being presented here this week by Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and Mr. J. E. Cardwell's company. The pantomime is exceedingly pretty and tuneful, and abounds in clever comedy. Miss Florence Taylor as Jack and Miss Evelyn Major as Jill earn great praise. Their singing as well as that of Miss Olive Purcell (the Fairy) is a feature. Doyle and Gibson as Scraggs and Scraggles are immensely funny and clever dancers. Mr. H. Hillerby is a comical Dame Durdy; as Harold and Percy, Mr. Paddy Sloan and Mr. Stanley Jefferson keep the fun going; Miss Gladys Wyse as Wee McGregor contributes to the humour with Scotch delineations. Specialities are given by Doyle and Gibson, the Forget-me-Not Quartette of dancers, Horace Hillerby, Florrie Edwards, and Wee Gladys Wyte.

SHEFFIELD.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—*The Christian* has paid many visits to this theatre, and the Lyceum version of Hall Caine's popular novel presented by Mr. Wentworth Croke's company on Monday was received with the old enthusiasm by a large audience. Mr. Roy Redgrave was admirable as John Storm, and his scenes with Glory, finely represented by Miss Daisy Scudamore, were received with great applause. Other well-played parts were Mr. Wilfred Moy's Horatio Drake, Mr. H. Hewitson's Lord Robert, Mr. T. Barry's Father Lamplugh, Mr. John J. Hooker's Canon Wealthy, Miss Mollie Hayden's Mrs. Callander, and Miss Cora Deane's Polly Love.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. Henfrey Aldred.—Mr. Hart's successful annual, *Goody Two Shoes*, came to a finish here on Saturday amid a scene of great enthusiasm. Miss Olive Crellin, the refined and charming Prince; Miss Sylvia May, the pretty and tuneful Goody Two Shoes; Mr. Jack Pleasants, the quaint and laughable droll; the ladies of the *corps de ballet*; the well-trained and clever children; Mr. Marriott Edgar, the favourite representative of the old woman; Miss Irene Verona, the Baroness; and all the other performers received bouquets and presents from "kind friends in front." The excitement culminated with cheers for Mr. John Hart, Mr. T. F. Doyle, the veteran pantomime producer; Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont, the courteous general-manager of the Hart theatres; Mr. Henfrey Aldred, his active aide-de-camp; Mme. Louie, ballet mistress; and "good old Henry Dean," Sheffield's oldest and thoroughly respected *chef d'orchestre*. "Auld Lang Syne" concluded a glorious night of fun and good feeling. The dramatic season opened successfully on Monday, with Mr. Hill-Mitchelson's specially selected company in a new romantic play, *The King and the Unknown Woman*, with splendid scenery, uniforms, and appointments. Mr. Cyril Harrison supplies acceptable relief to a story of plot and passion by his clever light comedy acting in his original part of Captain Gara, and all the other artists are good.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. William D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—Mr. John Tiller's *Little Red Riding Hood* company is here. Extra interest is added to the ballets by a delightful exposition of the Italian school by Mlle. Kitty Papucci. Miss May Merry makes an ideal little heroine; Miss Jessie Templeton a handsome Prince, who sings tunefully; Miss Ivy Moore is a pretty Fairy, and is responsible for tastefully rendered ballads; Mr. Lawrence Barclay caused roars of laughter as Pretty Pet, and his well-known "Ballet Girl" song and dance again proved irresistibly funny. Mr. Teddy Gibbs as Boniface is a laugh-maker up to every trick of the low comedy trade. Mr. Benson Kleve acts in a powerful and melodramatic way as King Lupus, the Demon Wolf. The fun is kept going by Mr. Sam Mitchello as Oswald, Mr. C. K. Martinette as Trotters, and Mr. Fred Lawrence as Dr. Dignum. Miss Marie Bryan, an old local pantomime favourite, makes a comely Nanette; Miss May Sharples a prepossessing Captain Slasher and Miss Dot Henson as Mother Hood are excellent. Great praise is due to Mr. Herman Finck, conductor of the Palace Theatre, London, who has composed and arranged the ballet music.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—The Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—The American vocalist and monologue artist, Miss Carrie De Mar, is the "top-liner." Mr. Ben Albert is here again, dry, crisply humorous, and philosophical withal. That recognised Sheffield favourite as child and woman, Miss Nellie Coleman, in her eccentric comedy songs, is well received; Miss May Edouin is a dainty and refined comedienne; Mr. Fred Edwards and company cause general hilarity in a comic interlude *The Kleptomaniacs*; and other acceptable turns are the Gems, Melia and Moyarabar, in a novel act; Cliff Dixo, the dandy; Mr. Billy French, and the Bioscope, with the King in Berlin and other topical subjects.

THE HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr Thos. Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. D. Elbourne.—At this spacious "palace of delight" are engaged the Six Brothers Luck, in their screaming comic absurdity *Lift 'Ems, Limited*; Rappo and Ella, in a beautiful and daring classical act of equipoise and graceful posturing; the Five Broadway Girls, in their diverting song and dance scena *The Gibson Girls and the Crinoline Girls*; the Four Jolly Bakers, comic Risley performers; Jock Whiteford, Scotch comic; Juno Salmo, "the demon dandy"; the Cecilias, instrumentalists, &c.; Stowe Brothers, musical artists; and the celebrated Klein Family, in their graceful and intrepid cycling feats. Some artistic pictures conclude the entertainment.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. A. W. Turpin.—The Raymond Bio-Tableaux Company, with new comical, fantastic, romantic, and topical films, continues to minister to the amusement desire of the Grand patrons.

ALBERT HALL.—Manager, Mr. J. Peace.—The London Animated Picture Company, with Samson, the Passion Play, and other long film dramas, continues its successful season.

SHREWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Director, Mr. W. Yates Gregory; General-Manager, Mr. Thos. Baugh.—Light variety fare is the attraction here this week. Miss Margaret Huntley and a company of comedians give a rollicking little comedy-sketch, entitled *That Girl Carrots*; Colquitt, the human kangaroo, astounds with his remarkable jumping feats; the Hulas are pleasing vocalists and expert dancers; W. G. Spry is droll in song and dance; Capner and Steele are capable character duettists; Miss Margaret Ogilvie, Australian soprano and comedienne, sings spiritedly; and the moving pictures are, as usual, of the best description.

SMETHWICK. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. Barnard; Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson.—Another pantomime occupies the boards here, the ever-welcome story of *Dick Whittington* being supplemented by bright catchy songs and music, witty sayings, and clever dancing. The production is in the hands of Mr. James Kiddie's capable company. Miss Lens Page is highly appreciated in the title-rôle for her singing and dancing; Miss Nelly Merton, a delightfully melodious Alice, is a great favourite; Miss Florence Hilton, also popular as Sir Algernon, scores well with her song "I'm afraid to come home in the dark." As the Fairy Queen Miss Nellie Storrie is decidedly good, and her singing of the well-known "Tiny seed of love" song wins much applause; Mr. Archie J. Milne is powerful as the evil genius; Mr. Fred Spencer as Dame Amelia, the Brothers Hannaway, Mr. George Rydon as Idle Jack, and Mr. Dennis McCarthy as the Alderman keep the audience in a state of hilarity. Dancing plays an important part in the production, and Miss Dorothy Dryden's Salome and other dances and numerous clever specialities attract particular attention. Mr. Bert Hudson as the Cat and Miss Gipsy Ray also add to the fun. The scenery is excellent.

SOUTHAMPTON. — GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Weston.—Melodrama again reigns supreme, Mr. Douglas Bruce's company appearing in Walter Melville's success, *The Girl Who Lost Her Character*. The acting is good, and the production well liked.

PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wm. Trussell.—Mr. Hermann E. Darewski, jun., is conducting "Bravo, Territorials!" a spirited march song. The song is sung by a vocalist whose name is not programmed, and the accompaniment is supplied by the A.M.U. military band. The Garricks, a smart and versatile quartette, supply a turn which is highly appreciated; Mario Santoi and her merry Japs are excellent in a delightful musical Japanese novelty; the Kirbys create great merriment; and others who do well are Deans and Wilton, comedy acrobats; the Two Rubies, duettists and dancers; the Betsons, comedy cyclists; and Rose Cass, comedienne.

HIPPODROME.—Joint-Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fred Mouillot and W. de Frece; Manager, Mr. H. Yardley.—Captain Fred. Woodward's sea lions provide the star animal act, and prosper well. The Freire troupe of Risley acrobats, and Ike and Will Scott, comedians and dancers, supply smart turns; and others who appear are: Langslow, in a sharp-shooting act; Harold Heath, coon delineator; Phillips and Merritt, comedy duo; Lilian O'Brien, vocalist; and the Brothers Roland, equilibrists.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Directors, Messrs. Geo. Conquest and Richard H. Nerney; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—The third pantomime of the season was very well received on Monday, when Messrs. Austin and Dixon presented *Mother Goose*. The Belles of Elysium, a pleasing ballet, is ably led by Mlle. Le Mair. Singing honours are deservedly won by Miss Gertrude Bond and Mr. Nicklin Williams. Miss Mabel Austin impersonates Lubin with ability; and Miss Winnie Murray as Daisy is equally successful. Mr. Sydney James is responsible for a clever interpretation of the title-rôle; Miss Cissie Astbury as Annabel, and Mr. Ted Lockstone as Billy, sustain their parts vigorously; and Read and Wright are smart top-boot and pedestal dancers.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE WINTER GARDENS.—Proprietors, The Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens Co., Ltd.; Secretary and General-Manager, Mr. R. Singleton.—*The Babes in the Wood*, which is the third Christmas production seen here this season, was presented to a large audience on Monday evening by Mr. Gar Kiddie's good all-round company. The pantomime is full of "go," and was very well played, the comedian parts and the excellent dancing being prominent features. Mr. Dan Tandy in the rôle of Sir Brokah de Pawn is distinctly successful, and highly humorous; Araminta Koffkake had a vigorous, clever, and amusing representative in Mr. Mark Stuart; Mr. Dawson Dewick did some commendable work in the part of Soft Sammy; Messrs. Conan and Doyle as Burgling Bill and Gentle George were highly diverting, and caused much merriment; the twin Sisters Mawdsley sustained the parts of Harold and Lucy most creditably; Miss Marion Scott presents an admirable and dashing impersonation of Robin Hood; Messrs. Taylor and Elliott as Flip and Flap, the Baron's pages, execute some capital dances; Miss Emmie Hands was well placed in the character of the fairy Sylvania; whilst Mr. Edwin Lambert as the demon Infernalito and Miss Margaret Cathcart as Maid Marion did exceedingly well. The remainder of the numerous cast had each capable representatives.

SOUTH SHIELDS. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—*The Babes in the Wood* is being presented here by Messrs. Levy and Cardwell's company. Miss Daisy Wood is seen to great advantage as Robin Hood, singing with a charm and brightness which enlist hosts of admirers. Admirable support is rendered by Miss Dolly Dodds as Maid Marian. Delightful portrayals of the Babes are given by Little Peggy McDonnell and Little Cissy Wyse; Mr. J. G. Aitken as Sandy Simple evokes shrieks of laughter by his eccentricities; the Lucinda of Mr. Jimmie Watson is a droll performance; and the efforts of Messrs. Graham and Barron (Willing and Weary), Mr. Neil Hardy (Baron), and Mr. Harry Leander (Friar Tuck) are well directed. Miss Jenny Hughes is a graceful Fairy. Specialities are introduced, and the powerful and spirited chorus is assisted by an excellent augmented orchestra, under the experienced bâton of Mr. H. B. Levy.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, the South Shields Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F Thompson.—A good programme here is headed by the Selbinis, who give a wonderful display of trick cycling; Mona Garrick contributes excerpts from various plays; a smart, neat dancing absurdity is contributed by Will and Alice Vokes; George Westland swells the ranks of Scotch comedians with successful songs and dances. Other good items are Sisters Grosvenor, melodious singers; Ethel Bourne, vocalist and violinist; Bonnie Goodwin's Apollo piccaninnies, assisted by Miss Lily Vine; Ted E. Box, comedian and whistler, and the Bioscope.

STAFFORD. — LYCEUM THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Elphinstone.—*The Babes in the Wood* pantomime, as presented here this week by Mr. and Mrs. John Walters' company, is guaranteed to cure the worst fit of the blues, and, in addition to the book, specialities are given by the Sweet Sixteen Ballet Troupe, Hulme and Kedward, Tom Lewes, Alley M. Benson, Emerald Quartette, and the Cattanio Troupe of Italian Athletes. Mr. Tom Lewis as the Wicked Uncle is decidedly funny, and works in conjunction with Mr. Martin Haley and Mr. Dan Rayner, as Blustering Bill and Wavering Wally; Mr. Ally M. Benson is an amusing Dame; and Mr. Tom Hulme a big success as Tommy. The Babes, by Mr. F. Parkinson and Miss Kitty Chester, are cleverly portrayed; and Miss Violet Thorne makes a good Robin Hood; Miss Lilly Miller being successful as Maid Marion.

ST. HELENS.—THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, St. Helens Theatre, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. A. McLeod Loader; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harry E. Johnson.—*His Wife No Longer* was played here for three nights by Mr. Stephen Pritt's drama répertoire company, the other three nights being occupied by the same company in *A Woman's Passion*. In the former play Mr. Archie Helsby takes the principal part, Anthony Merivale, and makes the character a realistic one; Miss Rosa Mervyn appears as Mrs. Merivale, another delineation that is altogether successful; Harold Medworth is in the capable hands of Mr. E. Paul Neville; and Mr. Edmund Grogan is good as the Rev. Frank Willacy. Mr. A. B. Douglass' Daniel Trench shows care and study; Mr. David McFarlane's impersonation of Tommy is refreshing; Mr. L. A. Baines gets good fun out of P.C. Michael Flanagan; Miss Nellie Lawson as Lucy Hooper presents a graceful picture of the American lady; and Miss Emmie Barton does well and looks sweet as Marion Jefferies. On Thursday evening Mr. McLeod Loader took his annual benefit.

HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Leo. Weisker.—A programme in which fun is the special feature is presented this week. The Bouncing Dillons create endless amusement as well as admiration in their gymnastic act; Coram's clever performance as a ventriloquist is received with applause; J. W. Rowley keeps the house in a state of hilarity with his songs and patter; and Howard and Collinson are interesting in their act, *The Porter and the Parcel*. F. S. Hulme, the Orchide, and Harry Mantell complete the evening's entertainment.

STOCKPORT. — THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—Thoroughly interesting have been the representations of *Her Love Against the World*, given here this week by Messrs. W. H. Hallatt and Walter Howard's company. Mr. Fred Emery acts with much power and feeling as Eric; Mr. Lewis Gilbert gives a talented impersonation of Ulric; and Mr. W. H. Hallatt's portrayal of Prince Othmar is a most acceptable one. As Iris, Miss Grace Heywood is charmingly sympathetic; Miss Blanche Steele acts effectively as Shulah; and Miss Rossie St. John admirably presents the youthful Lionel.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, the Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—Ferguson and Mack, comedians, with their funny patter, head the bill here, which also includes that clever comedian Henry Carlton and his company in an amusing sketch *The Pierrot*. Among others appearing are Mlle. Marjutte, a graceful contortionist; Marie Glenn, who sings Scotch ballads delightfully; the Brothers Bradshaw, genuinely amusing acrobats; Tim Morris, whistler of operatic selections; and W. B. Raby, a favourite comedian here.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES. — CASTLE THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Charles Imeson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cecil Imeson.—Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton, with their company, opened on Monday in *The Taming of the Shrew*. Miss Lily Brayton as Katharina acted with wonderful passion; and Bianca was admirably played by Miss Elerida Clement. Miss Caroline Bayley ably enacted the part of the Widow well; the rôle of Petruchio was excellently presented by Mr. Oscar Asche; the character of Baptista was in the safe keeping of Mr. Herbert Grimwood; and those of Vincentio and Lucentio were in the hands of Messrs. J. Fritz Russell and G. Kay Souper respectively. Gremio and Hortensio, suitors to Bianca, were well represented by Mr. Caleb Porter and Mr. R. Ian Penny; Mr. Athol Forde as Grumio was very funny; as was also Mr. Tripp Edgar as Tranio. *Othello* was billed for Friday night.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stainton.—The Pichel Troupe of risley acrobats provide an excellent top of the bill here this week; Harry "Curly" Beaumont's Rochez ponies and dogs are very clever; Dan Whitley, eccentric character comedian, won considerable favour; some capital music is rendered by the Barton and Franklin Trio; Halma, the Scottish Society juggler, is given a flattering reception; Drum and Major appear in their latest success, "Why, why, why"; and other good turns are furnished by Maizie Hibbs, dancer; Crissie Cross, singer and dancer; the Bioscope concluding with A Village Tragedy and The Hands of a Wizard.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—Mr. M. Montgomery's stock company is here, with *The Beautiful Avenger*. The leading characters are represented by Miss Lilian Beaumont, Miss Lina Nazeby, Mr. Ernest Wingfield, Mr. Frank S. Strickland, and Mr. Leslie Nolan. Some capital pictures on Payne's Biophotoscope are exhibited.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Miller; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. Moroney.—Archie Goodall, the old International footballer, performs the novel and wonderful feat of walking the hoop. The endurance required to accomplish this must be little short of marvellous, seeing that Goodall gives a display of his strength lasting nearly ten minutes while he is suspended from the top of the hoop head downwards. The Wedburns are amusing and refined comedy entertainers; the Saletos give a finished exhibition of head and hand balancing; the Three Sisters Lee are graceful acrobats; and also appearing are Edna West, Ronald George, Johnnie Walker, and Syd Herman.

STOURBRIDGE.—ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Douglas C. Phelps; Manageress, Miss Maude Lynton.—Messrs. O. Silverstone and H. Wright's company are playing *The Nihilist* here. Mr. William Armour takes the part of Ivan Nowasky very finely; Mr. Cowell Clarke as Karl Orloff plays realistically; Mr. O. Silverstone has a difficult part in that of Prince Alexander, and handles it admirably; Mr. Henry Wright as Bobbie Smart deserves special mention; Mr. J. Brunelle Harvey plays Father Gourko in a finished style; Miss Florry Kelsey as Princess Olga acts in excellent style; Miss Edna Clarke as Alexina Orloff must be highly spoken of; Miss Jessica Ford as Katrina Zindoff causes much amusement; little Ella Nixon as Little Alexina shows great promise; Mr. C. Newton Buckland as Piertree Petoff is very smart; Mr. Morgan Dale as Sergeant Markoff has a good part, and does justice to it; Mr. S. G. Eugene as Adolphus is well suited; Mr. Edward Dowds as Kopski and Mr. James Hamilton as Seavoritch fill their respective rôles with ability.

SUNDERLAND.—KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. S. F. Davidson; General-Manager, Mr. Alexander Telford.—Mr. Wilfred Cotton's company in *Butterflies*, is drawing crowded houses. Mr. W. Louis Bradfield handles the rôle of Widgery Blake in a commendable manner, and sings the new song "Puck" with such verve and feeling as to touch the heart as well as charm the ear; Mr. Richard Green gives a finished portrayal of Max Riadore; Messrs. Alfred Selby and Roy Sidney are excellent in their respective parts of Paul and Peter; Mr. Blake Adams gives an irresistibly humorous rendering of Christopher Podmore; and Mr. William Spray, alert and irrepressible, is thoroughly in his element as Yarker, the chauffeur, his rich humour being much enjoyed. Miss Georgie Corlass as Rodanthe, "the witch," is clever, graceful, and charming; Misses Stella St. Audrey and Constance Clive as Nora and Elsie Podmore give faithful representations of their parts. The dance of the Parisians in Acts II. and III. is exceedingly pretty and effective. A feature in the play is the classical dance, entitled "La Naissance du Papillon," illustrating the birth of a butterfly, danced by Miss Phyllis Monkman. The dresses and scenery are particularly fine.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Dunn.—Messrs. Frank Adair and company are presenting *The Heathen and the Christian*, and the house is well filled each night. Miss Louis Adair gave an artistic rendering of May Berresford; Lord Allendale was well taken by Mr. Herbert Robinson; Mr. Frank Adair was seen to advantage as Li, the avenger, his performance stamping him an artist of exceptional ability; Mr. Hugh Mewburn was a decided success as the rascally Lung Hi; and Admiral Freebold was well portrayed by Mr. Gerald Turner. Joshua Sampson, a wealthy ignoramus, was skilfully played by Mr. Fred. Waring; the daughter, Mira, received an excellent handling from Miss Adeline Raby; Miss Eva Reed was a very funny Becky Fibbins, her songs and dances meeting with warm applause.

EMPIRE THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—George Auger, described as the tallest actor in the world, and his company, are heading the programme this week in their original and humorous extravaganza, *Jack the Giant Killer*, Jack being played by Ernest Rommel. The playlet made a great hit. Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Meymott presented their vaudeville comedietta, *Semi-Detached*, with great success; N. T. Kioto and C. H. Esa gave a sensational equilibristic act; Cliff Ryland, comedian, contributed a song freely embellished with laughable patter; Ernest Clifford, comedian, also made himself sociable with his audience, and proved himself a skilful dancer; J. H. Milburn's powerful voice was heard in capital songs; M'Cann's troupe of performing dogs; Lily Esplin, comedienne; and George M. Baker and Lilian Balfe, xylophone experts, also gave interesting turns.

AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. Foulkes Edwards.—The pictures and vaudeville entertainment at this house continue to draw crowded audiences. This week a topical film of The Visit of the King and Queen to Berlin is being shown. An important picture is that depicting many thrilling adventures of the French criminal, Cartouche; The Fairy's Present is a coloured film which gives evidence of skilful work; "Put me among the girls" proves a popular singing picture; Will Close gives a capital clog dance, and an orchestra of ladies plays a pretty overture.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Henry N. Phillips; Resident-Manager, Mr. Francis MacDermott.—An excellent programme of pictures is being submitted here this week to full houses. The chief film is that of Viscount Marco, which was fully appreciated. Arabian Pottery proved an engrossing picture; and Pyrenees was of special interest. Miss Madge Clements is a clever and capable pianist. The singing competition is proving a great draw, and the winner of last week's contest contributes a song.

SWANSEA.—THE GRAND.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Oswald Brookes; Acting-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. W. Page.—Mr. Leonard Boyne's company in *Raffles* is here. Mr. Eille Norwood is alert as Raffles, and is responsible for a remarkably fine performance; Mr. E. W. Thomas as the detective makes the most of his part; Harry Manders is played capably by Mr. Harold West; Miss B. Fitzgerald figures to advantage as Lady Ethel, and Miss May Brooke makes a charming Lady Vidal.

THE STAR.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell. — Mr. Walter Melville's company is here with *The Girl Who Wrecked His Home*. Bertha is powerfully played by Miss Louise Hampton; Mr. Frederick Goddar is effective in the rôle of Jack Marshall; Mr. Walter Gregory is a good Lieutenant Kenyon; humour is provided by Miss Ida Thompson and Mr. D. Evans as Winnie Marshall and Billie Stevenson.

THE EMPIRE. — Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—*The Bailiff*, by Fred Karno's company, is one of the best farcical absurdities that has been seen here. Austin Rudd, a local favourite, does well; Van Allen is a versatile musician; wonderful examples of hoop juggling are given by Stylo; and John Macaulay renders several ballads effectively; Baby Boden is an extremely clever child serio; Beatrice Bonnie pleases all, and the Kroney Brothers excel in a comic tumbling act

THE PALACE.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—Excellent pictures are again displayed this week.

SWINDON.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wiltshire Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Manners.—Mr. Haldane Crichton is presenting *The Cingalee* here. The Hon. Harry Vereker is well taken by Mr. Arthur Cartwright, who possesses a powerful voice; Mr. Jack Crichton is a funny Chambhuddy Ram; Mr. Douglas Munro makes an imposing Boobhamba; Sir Peter is in the able hands of Mr. F. W. Ford; and Mr. Harry E. Ray is particularly good as Myamgah. Mr. Scott Cullen gives a spirited impersonation of Bobby Warren; Peggy Sabine is daintily portrayed by Miss Alice Nixon; and Miss Molly Wolstenhulme charmingly represents Nanoya. Miss Pauline Hague is a pleasing Lady Patricia; Angy Loftus is gracefully taken by Miss Margaret Pitts; and a *pas seul* is introduced in Act II. by Miss Geraldine Somerset.

G.W.R. MECHANICS' INSTITUTION.—Secretary, Mr. H. J. Southwell.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company in Hall Caine's great drama *The Prodigal Son* appeared here on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

TORQUAY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—The Vedrenne-Barker Company is here this week, and is playing Mr. Bernard Shaw's successful comedy *You Never Can Tell*. Miss Lena Halliday is seen to great advantage in the rôle of Mrs. Clandon, and portrays the varying moods of that character with conspicuous success. Equally capable is Miss Muriel Dole as Gloria Clandon, her representation being most commendable; Miss Clara Earle has a vivacious and winsome personality, and has plenty of scope as the piquant Dolly Clandon, in which part she does exceedingly well; Mr. Percy Crawford makes a delightfully boyish and light-hearted Philip Crandon; whilst Mr. Leslie Hamer is an attractive Valentine. As Fergus Crampton Mr. J. Edward Pearce performs with much vigour and energy, typifying exactly the character which he represents; and Mr. George Howard is a powerful and forceful Bohun. An excellent impersonation of the good-natured waiter is rendered by Mr. Trevor Lowe, who is decidedly quaint, and at times pathetic; whilst the other parts are well sustained.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Wilton Dale; Manager, Mr. V. Hoskins.—Mouillot and De Freece Hippodrome Season.—The Mahatma is giving a very clever thought-reading act this week; Mildred Parr is much applauded in her musical sketch; the Rosana Quartette are clever dancers; Madley Barrett's songs "fetch" the house; and Ulrick, in his equilibristic feats, is also well received. The Bioscope (including the Royal Visit to Berlin), and that amusing sketch *Rejected Remounts* complete an excellent bill. On Tuesday the Hildenborough Players were well received at a special matinée.

TYLDESLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. W. Brierley.—Messrs. Forbes and Batersby's company is appearing here this week in *The Empty Cradle*. Miss Nancy Battersby fills the rôle of Ida Boswell with conspicuous success; Mr. David Urquhart earns distinction by his manly portrayal of Kenneth Bloodworth; the villainy of Carnaby Bloodworth is forcibly depicted by Mr. St. Clair Forbes; Mr. Fred Wells gives a clever study of Boswell, the gipsy; and Sir Carnaby Bloodworth is ably treated by Mr. W. E. Turner; Mr. Wallace Black does well as Little Misery, the cripple; Miss Florence Trevoir deserves praise for her impersonation of Mary Barton; Mr. Kenneth Scott as the Hon. St. Clair Selby and Miss Marion Mayne as Sarah Puddicomb are exceedingly funny.

WAKEFIELD. — OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Mr. Walter Melville's company is here this week in *The Soldier's Wedding*. Mr. Wingold Lawrence gives a fine representation of Jack Brown; Mr. Beresford Whitcomb plays well the part of Colonel Graham; Mr. J. Jordan does full justice to the part of Charles Courteney; Mr. J. Chippendale gives a capital portrayal of Tommy Spratt; Mr. Fred Yarnold is good as Nathaniel Lee; Mr. F. Biron commendable as David Munroe; Miss Dorothy Richardson fills with ability and charm the rôle of Nancy Lee; Miss Marie McAulay is admirable as Julie de Beauvrais; Miss Marie Everett as Lizzie Walker earns merit; and Miss Mabel Lowe is well suited as Peggy Munroe.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—Mr. J. Alexander and company cause much merriment in a sketch, *Our Lodger*; Sibb and Sibb are clever trapeze artists; Cora Carina, protean artist, gives a popular turn; the Sisters Northcotes earn applause by their excellent vocalism. Other items comprise Leo, ventriloquist; Miss Jessie Starr, Scotch comedienne; and Sam Spira, vocalist, who give acceptable turns.

WALSALL. — HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, the Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—George Leyton gives his military scena, entitled *Lucknow*, and with his powerful chorus is well received. Other turns include the Coloured Meisters, harmonisers and excellent vocalists; Eily Adair, comedienne and dancer; the McConnell Trio, vocal sketch artists; Harry Lickson, who gives a most perfect performance with animal training; the Vetter Brothers; Jimmy Shields, the clever one-legged comedian and dancer. The American Bioscope completes the bill.

GRAND THEATRE. — Proprietors, the Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—Mr. F. C. Leighton's company is here in *The Golden Ladder*. Mr. Harry Cullenford as Rev. Frank Thornhill plays throughout with good effect; Mr. F. C. Leighton as Michael Severn acts in a manly and vigorous fashion; Miss V. Ennis Lawson as Lilian Grant deserves great praise, and other characters are well sustained.

WARRINGTON. — ROYAL COURT.—Proprietor, Mr. Joseph Beecham; General-Manager, Mr. A. M. Loader; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Sumley.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company is here again this week with the popular play *The Village Blacksmith*. Mr. Livesey in the title-rôle and Miss Maggie Edwards as Ruth Strong again winning all hearts with their able delineations.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Eric Longden.—Fred Karno's troupe head the bill here in *The Football Match*; Walker and May are dashing coloured vocalists and dancers; Decima Brooke is a dainty comedienne; and Harvey and Holt score well in a neat sketch; Elton and Edwin are clever banjoists, and Cestria is an expert juggler; Hicks and Hunter score as ice skate-dancers, and the Sisters Hampel are a chic pair of comediennes. The pictures, showing The Rival Detectives, are a source of much amusement.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, the Franco-British Animated Picture Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. J. Waters.—Guy and Welford are scoring a big success here this week with their up-to-date songs and patter; George Clifford is a capable comedian

the other members of the company are very capable, the play being well staged.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Tom Kuner.—A return is made this week to variety, and a very strong programme includes the Gothams, comedians and vocalists of much ability; Helm and Cozens pay a welcome return visit, and their comedy act *Blackey, the Boot Proprietor* is as popular as ever; Hayes and Merritt, the champion bounding trampolinist, provide an excellent turn; Francis O'Flynn gives a fine performance on the banjo; Tom and Neil are smart in a wrestling turn; and Dolly Nelson and the Sisters Fuller are very capable comediennes; the Hippodrome pictures conclude.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—GRAND.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. H. E. Feather.—Mr. Fred Granville's pantomime *Babes in the Wood* commenced a six-nights' visit on Monday, and played to a fairly numerous audience. The scenery is effectively staged, the dresses pretty, and the songs popular. Mr. Alf Brooks as the Dame is responsible for some funny business, and the antics and gags of the Kimberley Boys are thoroughly enjoyed. Two clever, precocious children, Dot Pardy and Violet Wilson, play the parts of the Babes, and very successfully too; Robin Hood is played in dashing style by Miss Mary Poulton, and success is attained by Miss Hettie Lind as Maid Marian.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. E. Dobney.—Minerva, the "original woman gaol-breaker," is astounding all here in a marvellous escape from a locked barrel filled with water, and she cleverly demonstrates in full view of her audience her ability to escape from the strait-jacket. The Royal Czar Troupe of Russian singers and dancers are remarkably clever. Their turn is greeted with considerable applause. Some clever dancing is done by the Fordyces; some beautifully illustrated songs are prettily sung by Miss Norah Desmond; Master Richard May, "the boy tenor," sings some songs in good voice; smart dancing is done by the Arntes, coloured artists, and a remarkably pretty effect is produced by A Ba-be's Picture-Postcard Album. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux complete the list.

WEYMOUTH. — PAVILION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. R. Wallis.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's No. 1 company is presenting *Lady Frederick* here, and has been heartily received. Miss Eleanor Delaporte won quite an ovation by her effectual rendering of the title-rôle; and she was most ably seconded by Mr. Robert Minster as Paradine Fouldes. Mr. W. Barnett Parker played exceedingly well as Sir Gerald; and Mr. E. F. Meads was a very good Lord Mereston. Captain Gerald Gambier gave a capital representation of the breezy Admiral Carlisle; Miss Celia Gordon as Lady Mereston played her difficult part carefully and well; Miss Lynn Fontanne as Rose won golden opinions by her ease and charm of manner; Miss Phyllis Manners was capital as Mme. Claude, and Angelique was capably represented. The piece is staged well, and the dresses are superb.

WIDNES.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Jas. Kiddie; Secretary, Mr. P. Swinton.—*The Flower Girl* holds the boards here; a charming musical comedy, appealing both to the eye and ear, it attracts large audiences. Miss Eva Nelson is capital in the title-rôle; the Lizette de Racquet of Miss Lilian Drake is a chic and pleasing performance; Mr. John McCallum handles the comedy part of Joe Wheeler very ably; Mr. John Latham is an amusing Johnny Wheeler; Miss George de Lacy does well as the Suffragette; Mr. Louis du Cane presents a comical portrait of Reggie Racket; Mr. Henry Adnes plays smartly as Alphonse; Mr. Robert Cranny sings well as Billy Greenbills. The chorus do good work and the staging is excellent.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Company.—A welcome return visit is being paid by Mr. George Dance's principal company in *Miss Hook of Holland*. In the title-rôle Miss Daisy Manning is a dashing Sally; Miss Cissie Sephton is a huge success as Mina; the character of Mr. Hook is in the capable hands of Mr. Alfred Wellesley; and Mr. Fred Lyne is still excellent as Slinks. Mr. Frank Crimp deserves special mention for his impersonation of the bandmaster; Mr. Walter Balfour is an imposing Captain Paap; while Mr. George Mudie leaves nothing to be desired as Schnapps.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Wigan Entertainments Company.—Jennie Johns, the local favourite, sings in a pleasing manner; D'Arc's Marionettes are manipulated very cleverly, their impersonations being excellent; the Brothers Lawrence prove themselves smart dancers; the animal circus presented by Carl and Mary Ohm causes a great amount of amusement; Rapoli is an exceptionally clever juggler; Richard Finberg's character studies are admirable; and Harry Grey causes quite a furore with his songs; Maxwell and Frances give a laughable comedy scena; Olive Armidale sings in fine style; and Harry Drew is loudly applauded for his vocal selections.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Company; Manager, Mr. H. C. Woon.—Some interesting and instructive films are being shown here.

WILLENHALL.—PICTURE HALL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Will Hunter.—The entertainments provided here are being well appreciated. This week's programme contains the following pictures:—The Vestal, Revenge of Manuel, Lake Maggiore, The Last Roll Call, Cinematograph Evidence, Music and Poetry, Living Reflections.

WOLVERHAMPTON. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. Charles Barnard; Resident-Manager, Mr. Gerald Spencer.—It is seldom that the patrons of this popular house have an opportunity of witnessing such excellent dramatic fare as *The Eyes of the World*, which is being presented this week by Miss Ethel Van Praagh and Mr. J. Edward Whitty's company. The passion and pathos displayed by Miss Ethel Van Praagh as Hélène de l'Orme rivets the attention of the audience throughout; whilst Mr. George D. Daiper treats the rather unsavoury part of her husband, Hector de l'Orme, in a very creditable manner. The two young lovers, Avice and Octave, find two capable representatives in Miss Elsie Capell and Mr. Charles Stirling; Mr. Will Casey is impressive as Gaston de Carnac; Mr. J. Edward Whitty hits off to a nicety the young advocate Archibald Fanfarade; Mr. Charles Sewell plays with quiet dignity as Paul Roqueville; Miss Nellie Garside is responsible for some clever comedy as Susanne Pomfleure; and Miss Beatrice Fitzhugh is good as Esme de Carnac. The drama is beautifully staged, each scene being a perfect picture.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frank Weston.—The leading attraction here is Mr. Sydney Mason's company in *The Usurer*. As Herbert Vane Mr. Sydney Mason is intensely dramatic, and the part of the erring wife Irene Vane is skilfully portrayed by Miss Theresa Moore. Able support is rendered by the other members of the company. The De Breans, besides being capital jugglers, contribute a pleasing exhibition of shadowgraphy; Slippere, blind musician, excites the sympathy of the audience; Fyne and Hurley, in *The Coster and the Dude*, take well; Charles Cardow is a smart light comedian with a style of his own; a decidedly novel act is provided by the Hyde and Cody Trio; whilst excellent harmony is the feature of the Three Orleans' performance.

WORCESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. F. le Warde.—*Two Little Vagabonds*, after a lengthy absence, is paying a return visit this week, with no sign of diminishing interest in the popular parts of the house. Presented by Hardie and Von Leer's capable company, and staged and costumed in appropriate style, this well-known work of G. R. Sims and Arthur Shirley is likely to maintain its popularity for a very long time. In the part of the jealous husband Mr. George Denham is seen to advantage, and Miss Leonora Costelle undertakes the part of the wronged wife with unqualified success. Miss Mary Hart and Miss Josie Beltram as the two children provide sympathetic impersonations, and Mr. Norman Yates as Major Darville and Miss Florence Radcliffe as Barbara are admirably suited. A humorous vein is introduced by Mr. James Skea as Bill Mullins and Miss Marie Pritchard as Biddy Mullins, while other parts are as successfully portrayed by Messrs. Leo St. Clair, Fred Archer, Bertram Duboise, and Joseph Brandon.

WORKINGTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Manager, Mr. Falconer Jacks.—A very good set of pictures, interspersed with first-class variety. Fontainbleau's famous dogs and Mr. Georger Ritter form good items.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. McKenzie Morgan. — Splendid pictures, as usual, Pongorella, the man-monkey, Miss M. Winsome, and the beautiful Zaida on the slack wire.

WORTHING.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold.—Mr. Harry Tilbury's company is here with *His Dishonoured Wife*. Mr. Victor Rae gives a manly representation of Frank Lindon; Mr. Fred Owen typically portrays the detective; Mr. Horatio Sinclair well enacts the villainies of Lord Devant; Mr. Edwin Brown does well as Tom Redman, as does Mr. Richard Howard as Geoffrey Harvey; and Mr. Harry Tilbury cleverly takes the part of Micky Doolan. Miss Etta Spalding is effective as Araminta, and Miss Belle Tilbury cleverly fills the exacting part of Florence Lindon. On Thursday *The Blind Foundling* was presented.

WREXHAM.—EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. John J. Scott.—The attractions here are The Lynches, smart American song illustrators; the Three Barringtons, in a pretty novelscena, *The Old Plantation*, introducing harp solos, soon songs, and rag-time dances; Miss Maude Adams, a dainty comedienne; the Deuchars, refined character duettists, patterers, and dancers and Miss Carmen Barrie, a chic comedienne and dancer.

YORK.—ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington. Acting-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—*The Catch of the Season* is on its second visit, and large audiences have been the rule. Miss Dorothea Clarke has charmed all by her spirited and natural assumption of Angela; Mr. William Greene as the Duke of St. Jermyns is also aptly placed, and is a great success throughout; Mr. Geoffrey Berwick makes the small part of Mr. Gibson stand out as a prominent feature in the production, and Master Joseph Grata is very funny as Bucket; Mr Joseph Bruce is deservedly popular as Lord Dundreary, of whom he gives a polished rendering. Miss Grace Hampton makes a popular Lady Caterham, and Miss Barry Eldon and Miss Kate Robertson as the Sisters give clever performances the former being a very sweet singer.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock. Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brook.—The Cumberlands are paying a welcome return visit, and are well received. Much applause greets the Eight Lancashire Lads, who are exceptionally clever. Graham and Harrington produce a thrilling sketch with fine effect; and the eccentricities of Mr. Arthur Milton are enjoyed. Harry Nelson is very funny; and the Sisters Draycott sing sweetly. The Stellings, in their particular line, are hard to beat, and Alpho causes pleasure as a first-class ventriloquist. Mr. Bert Lytton, comique, and the Bioscope complete the list.

ROYAL PALACE THEATRE, RAMSGATE.

On Sunday evening a record audience was present at the above theatre. Mr. Ernest Mansell, the present lessee, has started a new era in the history of the theatre, which is the property of the famous old showman, Lord George Sanger. Mr. Mansell's life-motion pictures took the town by storm, and the Sunday concerts he has inaugurated have proved quite irresistible. The musical programme is on a high plane, and engagements fulfilled and pending embrace many of the finest military bands from Deal, Dover, and Shorncliffe. Vocalists, too, of no mean order are constantly figuring in the programmes, which are well varied and popular. The theatre itself is a handsome and commodious building, beautifully upholstered and carpeted, lit with electricity, and embraces all the most modern improvements. The Sunday evening audiences embrace many of the leading men in the town. All the latest attractions have been booked for the coming season and the following autumn.

STEINWAY HALL.

On Monday evening a vocal recital was given by the pupils of Mr. John Cross at Steinway Hall, a large audience being present. The programme commenced with Mendelssohn's part-song, "Farewell to the Forest," harmoniously sung by the Misses Elsa Hamilton, Mollie Greathead, Ethel Willis, Beatrice Underwood, Edith Knightley, Mabel Tester, Lallie Woodleigh, and Mrs. Francis Carey, also Messrs. Frank Rogers, Max Butlin, George Hamilton, Herbert Stevens, A. C. Austin, and H. J. West. The same students in the second part of the concert were equally successful in a part-song, "Good-night, beloved" (Pinsuti). Several of Mr. Cross's pupils displayed considerable ability, and others would have had far greater success if they had not attempted such ambitious works. One of the most promising of Mr. John Cross's students was Mr. Herbert Stevens, who received much applause for his really able singing of "Si tra i ceppi," from Handel's opera *Berenice;* another clever pupil was Miss Lallie Woodleigh, whose pleasing contralto voice was heard to advantage in "Chè farò," from Glück *Orfeo e Euridice*. An apology being made for Mr. George Hamilton on the score of a cold, he sang "Is she not passing fair?" (E. Elgar) in place of the more exacting "Sound an alarm," from Handel's *Judas Maccabæus*. By request, Mr. Max Butlin sang "O vision entrancing," from *Esmeralda*. Mr Butlin was also associated with Mr. Herbert Stevens in an excellent performance of the duet, "Watchman—what of the night?" (Sarjeant); while Miss Mabel Tester, who sang "Ah Rendimi quel core" (Rossi), in the first portion of the programme, achieved far better results in the simpler song, "Angus Macdonald." Miss Mollie Greathead sang "Jerusalem" (Mendelssohn's *St. Paul*), with a fair amount of success, but was not well advised in attempting such difficult florid music as Bishop's "Lo; here the gentle lark," the flute obbligato of which was cleverly executed by Mr. M. H. Colonieu. Leslie's trio, "Memory," sung by Miss Greathead, Miss Tester, and Mr. John Cross, received hearty applause. Mr. Cross, director of the West Central College of Music, also joined Miss Hamilton and Mr. West in "Terzetto," from Verdi's *Attila*. Miss Elsa Hamilton gave "Ah fors è lui" (*La Traviata*), and Mr. A. C. Austin attempted Loewe's difficult German ballad, "Odin's Meeres—Ritt"; while Mr. Reginald Cohen was more successful in "We Two" (Airlie Dix), than in his song, "A Farewell," earlier in the recital. The accompanists were Miss F. Walpole Gray, G.S.M., Miss Ida Phillipin, and Mr. Frank Vincent Walthew.

CHILDREN ON THE STAGE. The Act affecting the Employment of Children on the Stage came into force on Saturday, Oct. 1, 1904. Managers, Agents, Entrepreneurs, and Performers wishing to possess a copy of the Complete Act in a concise form can do so by forwarding three stamps to the Publisher, *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MR. EDWARD COMPTON IN EDINBURGH.

1500TH PERFORMANCE OF DAVY GARRICK."

As Mr. Edward Compton put it to a crowded Lyceum audience last night on the occasion of his 1500th performance as *Davy Garrick*, he and the play are still "not out." A speech on such an occasion was more than pardonable, and eloquently did the famous actor meet the necessity for a comment. These 1500 performances, said Mr. Compton, were tantamount to a five years' run. "And the best of it is," he continued with pardonable pride, "that the play and the player are not in the least exhausted, but, if I may be allowed to say so, they are both going stronger and better than ever. (Applause.) It would of course, be unbecoming in me to say anything in praise of such an achievement, but at least I may be permitted to leave it to the public to say if I have not cause to be proud and happy at such a result. (Applause.)—When I first produced the play of *Davy Garrick*, I had no thought or hope of such a consummation, although it was one most devoutly to be wished. I was like a batsman going to the wickets, quite prepared to be bowled out at the first over through the difficulties of the pitch, or stumped by the critical dramatic wicketkeeper, or caught out by the unanimous disapproval of the spectators; instead of which I have gone on piling up my centuries one after the other, until they now stand at the respectable total of 1500; and as I appeal to the public at the close of each innings, bat in hand—or, rather, hat in hand—(laughter)—and, as it were, put the anxious question—How's that, umpire? I am delighted to say that they invariably reply in their charming, applausive manner—Well played—not out!" (Applause.)

As regards the comedy itself, it is not difficult to understand its popularity, for it contains all the essential qualities that go to make a good play—a simple story in which love and romance loom large, a sweetly drawn and devoted heroine, a set of well-contrasted characters, humour and pathos nicely blended; and, overlaying all, the sense of duty, the calm and convincing dignity of a noble man upholding a noble profession; and, last but not least, a sweet spirit of self-abnegation, all embodied in a soul of honour, in the person of the hero, David Garrick. Such pure and wholesome plays redound at once to the credit of the authors who conceive them, the performers who give them life and verisimilitude, and the public who welcome them with cheers, tears, laughter, and applause.

Cordially did last night's audience echo Mr. Compton's words, at the close of a superb performance in which he had invaluable assistance from a company which for all-round excellence it would be hard to surpass. In a clever little comedietta, Miss Viola Compton made quite a hit as a "Proteus in Petticoats."—Edinburgh Press.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Feb. 22, the Musical Play,
"THE MERRY WIDOW."

Local playgoers are fortunate in securing such an important attraction in their midst as *The Merry Widow*, the Daly's Theatre phenomenal success, and to show their appreciation they are taxing the holding capacity of the commodious Borough Theatre to such an extent that the management must this week be yearning for the days of the "stretchable" playhouse. The piece is mounted and dressed with all that brilliancy and artistic taste usually associated with productions travelling under the régime of such an experienced entrepreneur as Mr. George Edwardes, and excellent judgment has been shown in the selection of the cast. Miss Emmy Louise in the important rôle of Sonia acts and sings with bewitching charm and coquetry, the "Widow's" fascination extending far beyond the footlights, and she receives quite an ovation at the conclusion of each act. Equally praiseworthy is the Prince Danilo of Mr. Leonard Mackay, who has played here times before, and who now has better scope as an actor, the while being in fine voice and looking the part splendidly. Mr. Haigh Jackson wins much success vocally as the Vicomte de Jolidon; and Mr. Tom Redmond plays with a keen sense of humour as Nisch. Mr. Lionel Victor is extremely interesting and a prime favourite as Baron Popoff, his unobtrusive methods of extracting mirth being always successful. Miss Octavia Barry's splendid vocalism in the rôle of Natalie wins unstinted applause; Miss Dora Langham sings and dances in captivating style as Frou-Frou; and the Maxim Girls have clever representatives in Miss Elsie Spencer, Miss D. Pennington, Miss Olive Cherry, Miss Phyllis Allen, and Miss Heather Featherstone. Mr. Somers Bellamy is exceedingly good as Marquis de Cascada; Mr. Norman Greene does well as M. de St. Brioche; Mr. Grafton Williams portrays General Novikovitch very appropriately; Mr. J. S. Durant is a commendable M. Khadja; Mr. Alfred H. Majilton is excellent as Franz Fall; and the waiter at Maxim's is safely entrusted to Mr. Bert Edwards. The orchestra is this week augmented, and under the bâton of Mr. Harrison Frewin; and Mr. Douglas Millar is the general-manager for the company.

PRESENTATION.—At the conclusion of the third act of *Mother* at the Opera House, Wakefield, on the 6th inst., Mr. H. Foxwell stepped before the curtain and thanked the large audience assembled for the cordial welcome they had accorded his play and his company throughout the week. He also wished to thank Messrs. Sherwood and company for all their efforts which had helped on wards the success of the production, and on behalf of himself and his wife he asked Mr. Sherwood to accept a beautiful gold match-box, inscribed with Mr. Sherwood's initials, as a memento of the production. Mr. Sherwood, in responding, said how much he appreciated the magnificent gift, and thanked Mr. Foxwell on behalf of the proprietors of the theatre for his excellent production.

At the fancy dress carnival held in the Olympia Roller Skating Rink, on Friday, Feb. 19, many ingenious and original ideas were shown in the designs of the habiliments worn by the skaters. Many of our most famous firms seized the occasion as an opportunity to advertise their wares, and pictures which have long stared at us from the hoardings were made more realistic by the aid of living representation. The rule for the evening was that every one of the skaters should indicate by the apparel he or she donned some well-known commodity of commerce.

Mr. Whelen is Careful.

MR. G. HERBERT THRING, the secretary of the Society of Authors, has been complaining that the plots of new plays are told in the Press before their production. Mr. Frederick Whelen, chairman of the Stage Society, and one of the managers of the Afternoon Theatre, fully concurs in the views expressed by Mr. Thring. "We are always most careful at the Stage Society," he says, "not to give away the plot of a play, as one is never certain whether the story will not be altered during the rehearsals. For many other reasons the disclosure of the plot is manifestly unfair, not only to the author, but to the manager, and even the public at large. Apart from the announcement that the play is either drama or comedy, and the publication of the cast, I think it inadvisable (unless, of course, the author himself is agreeable to it) that details of the action and of the scenery should appear in the newspapers before the performance actually takes place."

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SYDNEY, JAN. 12.—HER MAJESTY'S.—The success of *The Duchess of Dantzig* is enormous, the booking being great, and the enthusiasm over Miss Florence Young's clever acting and splendid singing is unabated. Miss Betty Ohls, in her daintiness and piquant methods is a prime favourite; and a new aspirant to leading rôles, Mr. O'Connor, justifies the selection of the young baritone by Mr. J. C. Williamson to replace Mr. Higginson during his sprained ankle vacation. Mr. Reginald Roberts, Mr. Claude Bantock, and Mr. Gouriet are strong supporters of the prestige of the management in always securing a perfect cast.

THEATRE ROYAL.—The revival of *The Sign of the Cross* has enabled country Christmas visitors to see Miss Beatrice Day, a most artistic Mercia, and Mr. Julius Knight in the rôle of Marcus Superbus. On the 16th *The Breed of the Treshams* will be produced for the first time in Australia.

THE CRITERION.—Here Mr. William Anderson is still running *The Gayest of the Gay*, with his wife, Miss Eugenie Duggan, in the lead; but on the 16th William Bourne's drama, *Man to Man*, by arrangement with Mr. George Rignold (still hale and hearty), will be revived here.

THE PALACE.—Mr. Edwin Geach keeps his pantomime *Robinson Crusoe*, played by children, for afternoon audiences, and at night his company plays *East Lynne* with acceptance, owing to the capital acting of Misses Nellie Ferguson, Helen Fergus, Pearl Best, and Messrs. Kenneth Hunter, Jefferson Taite, and J. P. O'Neil. Little Vera Huggett, who was such a success in *The Prince Chap*, is an excellent Little Willie.

THE TIVOLI has just now, as Mr. Harry Rickards' chief draw, Tommy Burns, who lost caste by fighting with Johnson, who defeated him. However, Burns draws large audiences to see his boxing, skipping, and ball-punching. The rest of the evening is "filled in" by competent artists, such as McKinnon's Scottish Meisters, Amalia and Leonora, J. W. Rickaby, Amba Austa, Nellie Maunsell, the Mascottes, Charles Fanning, and a host more.

WEST'S Pictures fill the Glaciarium with a new set of films, showing the action of an entire play, and attractive turns by vaudeville artists and dancers—silent, but convincing.

THE NATIONAL AMPHITHEATRE has as chief vocal attraction Mr. Walter Whyte, a capital tenor, who was with the Williamson Répertoire Company.

SPENCER'S Theatroscope at the Lyceum has a complete change of pictures every week, and all over the city there are picture shows—the Bijou, Victoria Hall, Queen's Hall, Oxford, and others.

MR. GEORGE LAURI, the comedian, who has held front rank here for twenty years, and committed suicide on the 5th inst., was buried at Waverley Cemetery, there being present Messrs. J. C. Williamson, G. Ramaciotti, and George Tallis ("the firm"), Reginald Roberts, Claude Bantock, Lewis Scott, W. S. Percy, A. E. Greenaway, Arthur Hunter, and many Press and private friends.

SYDNEY, JAN. 19.—*The Breed of the Treshams* at the Royal shows Mr. J. C. Williamson's dramatic company at its acting best. Since his arrival in Australia, many years ago, Mr. John Knight has done nothing nearly so good as his Lieutenant Reresby in the new play. Miss E. Guildford Quin makes a handsome, intelligent Margaret Hungerford, her transparent innocence being particularly charming. A dramatic débutante, Miss Ethel Phillips does genuine service as Helena Pierrepont, and gave promise of future value; and Miss Florence Gleeson creates a Batty worthy of the talented coterie with which she is associated. The Viscount Dorsington of Mr. Eardley Turner was a perfect impersonation. The unflinching disciplinarian and the agonised parent were both clearly limned. Sir Clement Hungerford, the traitor, has an efficient representative in Mr. R. Denniston, always in the picture; the bluff, outspoken soldier Sir Henry Curwen shows Mr. George Chalmers at his best; the youthful, impetuous Francis Tresham introduces Mr. A. J. Patrick to us in an important part, in which he justifies his selection; and Miss Katie Powers is Mrs. Bagshaw.

AT the Palace Mr. Edwin Geach has continued his run of personal ill-luck. He lost his manager, Mr. Adam Cowan, and then his partner, Mr. J. F. Sheridan, and, just as the curtain was to rise on *The Broken Home*, his leading actor, Mr. Jefferson Taite, was thrown out of a cab. Mr. W. J. Montgomery read the part, and next night Mr. Harry Diver appeared as the hero, Harry Denton, with much success. Miss Nellie Ferguson was Myrtle Denton and Mr. Hunter was Walter Denton, both well-acted characters; while Mr. T. E. Leonard made capital out of Sir Daniel Wilton's ambition to do detective work. Miss Ethel Buckey is Lady Jane Marie Walton and Mr. J. P. O'Neill a burly Jack Atkins, each at fullest popularity in their respective parts. Mr. Harry Norman's excellent French accent comes in of value in the part of De Grison, and he also stage-manages. A long list of artists appropriate the rest of the cast.

"THE DUCHESS OF DANTZIC" is in full swing on Her Majesty's stage and at the box-office. Miss Florence Young repeats her phenomenal success as Madame Sans Gêne. Miss Betty Ohls, and Messrs. O'Connor, Gouriet, Reginald Roberts, and Bantock, make the opera go for all a Williamsonian production is worth at its very best. No successor is even hinted at.

"MAN TO MAN" is Mr. William Anderson's latest bill at the Criterion, by arrangement with Mr. Geo. Rignold. Miss Eugenie Duggan is Ethel Maythorne, and she puts her best work into the part. Mr. George Cross makes James Gordon manly and natural to an enjoyable degree. Mr. J. H. Nunn (also stage-manager), Miss May Granville, Miss Lily Rochfort, and Miss Eva Hathaway, with Messrs. Percy Walshe, Laurence Dunbar, Temple Harrison, and George Carey (the evergreen), all assist to tell the story.

THE Tivoli welcomed Lawson and Namon in a very lively comedy sketch, and now that the pugilistic couple are no longer on the salary list—I mean white Tommy Burns and black Jack Johnson—Mr. Harry Rickards' company of first-class artists is sufficient to fill the house eight times a week.

THE Play Actors resume operations on Sunday, March 14. The opening programme will consist of a bill of four one-act plays, namely, *Sawney*, by Sybil Noble; *The Apple*, by Inez Bensusan; *Darracott's Wife*, by Affleck Scott and Alan Carmichael; and *A Question of Identity*, by Archie Matthew. All this season's performances will take place at the Court Theatre. Miss Winifred Mayo remains in the position of secretary.

THE twenty-first annual general meeting of the Folkestone Pleasure Gardens Company, Ltd., was held on Tuesday, the Earl of Radnor presiding. The accounts for 1908 showed gross receipts £14,527, and a profit £1,402, against £802 in 1907. The amount paid to theatrical companies was £7,729. Dividends of 7 per cent. on the Preference shares and 1 per cent. on 15,000 Deferred shares were paid, after writing off large amounts from various accounts.

LORD RADNOR compared the present prospects of the company with those of 1889, the first year of the company's trading, when the receipts were only £2,727, and the year's loss £664. He paid a high tribute to the managerial ability of Mr. H. W. Rowland, whose services the directors hoped to retain for many years to come. A formal vote of thanks to the manager was also proposed by one of the largest shareholders.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"ELEKTRA,"

Opera, in One Act, by Richard Strauss, produced at the Royal Opera, Feb. 15.

Klytemnestra	FRAU GOETZE
Elektra	FRAULEIN PLAISCHINGER
Chrysothemis	FRAULEIN ROSE
Aegisth	HERR GRUNING
Orest	HERR BISCHOFF
Pfleger	HERR MODLINGER
Vertraute	FRAULEIN LINDEMANN
Schleppetragerin	FRAULEIN PARBS
Diener	HERR SOMMER
Aufwarterin	FRAU SCHEELE-MULLER
First Maid	FRAULEIN ROTHAUSER
Second Maid	FRAULEIN EKEBLAD
Third Maid	FRAULEIN DIETRICH

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, Feb. 18.—The long-anticipated has happened. We have heard *Elektra;* heard, and, to use the popular expression, been electrified. Words are poor to express the effect produced by this stupendous work, which has been called the creation of a diseased mind. It is impossible to deny the magnificence of the music, which is worthy of a different plot. Query, will Strauss, with his trancendant genius, ever give us an opera which has not hideous sensuality for its theme? Comparisons are odious, but those who heard the original production at Dresden tell me there was a vast falling off in the Berlin performance, which was, nevertheless, remarkably fine. The name-part—which is at times scarcely audible for the tempest of instrumentation that accompanies it—was well rendered; but both that and the rôle of Klytemnestra came short of the grand interpretations of Frau Krull and Mme. Schumann-Heinck. Miss Frances Rose did most ably as the sister of Elektra, and those parts sustained by Herren Grüning, Bischoff, and Sommer were all satisfactory. The smaller rôles were admirably sustained. That the augmented orchestra, under Herr Blech's grand conductorship, excelled themselves is perhaps not necessary to state. Dr. Strauss received enthusiastic ovations, but truth compels the admission that a few hisses mingled themselves with the applause. It was a representative audience, the most famous literary and dramatic stars being present.

THE gala performance at the Royal Opera, in honour of the visit of the King and Queen, consisted of the second and third acts of *Sardanapal*, the Assyrian pantomime of which there has been so much talk. It was, of course, brilliantly staged, and was followed with visible interest by their Majesties. The house was beautifully decorated with natural flowers, and presented the effective appearance customary on these occasions; the stalls filled with officers in brilliant uniforms, the grand tier (exclusive of the Imperial box, which contained eighty persons) occupied by the diplomatic corps and their ladies, the second tier by ladies alone, the third, and even the fourth, filled by a fashionable audience. No tickets were sold, but each conveyed an invitation from the Kaiser, and bore the signature of the Head Court Chamberlain.

THE Ibsen cycle at the Lessing has now reached its conclusion. It has proved eminently satisfactory from every point of view. It would be difficult to say which play was the most appreciated, all being superbly acted. *The Wild Duck* made its customary deep impression, Herr Bassermann, Herr Sauer, Frau Lehmann, and Fräulein Orloff, as Hjalmar, Greger, Gina, and Hedwig respectively, forming a quartette not to be excelled on any stage. Herr Forest, too, as old Ekdal had his audience with him.

THE new burlesque farce at the Thalia rejoices in the title of *Wo Wohnt sie denn?* ("Where does she live?") To detail the plot would be not only a thankless, but well-nigh impossible task, for it is a conglomeration of the most confused nonsense, and but for the bright acting and the introduction of numerous topical couplets, would hardly have caught on at all. As it is, the reception was very cordial, artists and authors—the popular collaborators, MM. Kren and Okonowsky—being called before the curtain and heartily applauded.

AT the Bernhard Rose Theatre a volks-play entitled *Das Warenhaus-Fräulein* has been produced with considerable success. It is the story of the loves of two girls employed in one of Berlin's big shops; in the one case the liaison ends in the imprisonment of the shopwalker and his sweetheart for theft; in the other, in the marriage of the worthy pair, virtue and vice receiving their due reward, according to the traditions of the genuine volks-play. The shop scenes were admirably done and the acting capital.

"DIE BEIDEN BINDELBANDS," the merry farce-burlesque at the Gebrüder-Herrufeld Theatre, has passed its 100th performance, and is still drawing well.

"DAS MADCHEN AUF IRRWEGEN" ("The Girl who Wrecked His Home"), melodrama, by Walter Melville and Siegfried Lutz, is occupying the bill of the Luisen Theatre two and three times in the week. It is considered the most successful piece of the kind ever put on the boards of that theatre.

OUR genial Intendant General of the State Theatres, Herr von Hülsen, has been raised to the rank of Count by his friend and patron the Kaiser, and will take the title of his recently deceased brother, Count von Hülsen Häsler.

AMUSEMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

JOHANNESBURG.—EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Empire Theatres, South Africa, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Syd Hyman.—A fine all-round programme is being presented to the patrons of this house. Amylla, with her classical dances, heads the bill, closely followed by that Protean actor, Mr. R. A. Roberts, in his original sketch, *Dick Turpin*, both artists meeting with vociferous applause for their turns. Another smart turn is Miss Muriel Harding. Others here are Bent and Gerda, the Sisters Wingrove, Marguerite Arnoldi, George Leonard, and the Bioscope.

THE site for the new Alhambra Music Hall has been decided on. It is to be erected in Ressick-street between the Post Office and Park Station. Messrs. Hoskings and Walford are the architects, and the renowned Mr. Bertie Crewe, the consulting architect.

PIETERMARITZBURG.—CARLTON MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. W. J. Isaacs; Manager, Mr. Ralph Brown.—The star turn here is Blanche Sadies, a captivating little singer and dancer. Gus Leighton, ventriloquist, takes well; a charming soubrette is found in Miss Madge Melville; Mr. Williams, the Welsh tenor, uses his fine voice effectively; a word of praise must be given to the smart turn of the Woodbines, duettists; Miss Rosallie's captivating manner evokes hearty applause; and others here are Alf. Peto, descriptive vocalist, and Chisholm, comedian.

DURBAN.—HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. J. Ferguson Brown.—The above popular house of amusement has been reopened again under the old management with a fine combination of artists. Mr. Harry Evans, an old favourite here, was in the best of voice; the Leopolds (male and female) are exceedingly funny in vocal and acrobatic endeavours; Mr. Jack Harper gained quite an ovation with his song, "Cigarette"; a quaint comedian is Will Lessing; and Miss Marie Louro won all hearts, and promises to be quite a favourite. Miss Cissie Frampton, Natal's most popular comedienne, is also here. Willie Walker, Scotch comedian, is also in the bill.

THE Secretary of the Actors' Benevolent Fund asks us to acknowledge with his grateful thanks the receipt of a further parcel of clothing from an anonymous giver.

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Feb. 22, the Musical Play, entitled
"HAVANA."

With music composed by Mr. Leslie Stuart, this Gaiety musical play, written by Mr. George Grossmith, jun., and Mr. Graham Hill, there was every prospect of a pleasant evening's entertainment for the theatre patrons, and therefore the King's was well filled on Monday evening, when Mr. George Dance's company made their appearance in *Havana*. The piece met with a good reception, which augured well for a satisfactory week's visit. The plot is slight, but the music of Mr. Leslie Stuart amply compensates for all other deficiencies. The music is none the less pleasing because on occasion we are reminded of other work by the same composer. As the action of the play takes place in Havana, it can easily be imagined that much opportunity is given for display in scenery and costumes of which every advantage is taken, for the colouring is luxuriant. The company contains no well-known names, but all are excellent, and a rousing performance is the result. Mr. Cecil W. Parke sings and acts breezily as Jackson Villiers of the S.Y. "Wasp," and the Hon. Frank Charteris of Mr. Bay Russell is a very rollicking and cheerful impersonation. Mr. A. Gordon Begg is good as Bombito, and Mr. Herbert Bryan is a sufficiently fierce Diego. A clever rendering of Adolpho is given by Mr. George Story, whose methods are extremely humorous. Mr. Tom Seymour as Reginald Brown, the yacht's boy, is a comedian of much resource, and he keeps the audience hugely amused by his antics. As Nix the Bo'sun, Mr. Reginald Switz causes great laughter by his efforts to escape from the wife whom he married seven years before, and fears to meet again. The audience readily appreciated Mr. Switz's acting, and he was heartily applauded. Consuelo found an exceedingly capable singer and actress in Miss Hebe Bliss, whose efforts were attended with every success. Miss Helen Langton was a massive and forceful Isabelita, queen of the revolutionists. A distinctly favourable impression was made by Miss Gladys Guy, who sang and acted extremely well in the rôle of Anita. Miss Maud Seymour as Teresa and Miss Rosa Sullivan as Tita were vivacious. The chorus was an excellent one, and the orchestra, directed by Mr. Albert Vernon, played the melodious music with due effect.

MARLBOROUGH THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 22, the Comedy, in Three Acts, by Anne Crawford Flexner (based on the book of the same name, by Alice Hegan Rice), entitled
"MRS. WIGGS OF THE CABBAGE PATCH."

Mrs. Wiggs, that genial, good-hearted, self-sacrificing, peace-making woman, who, in her humble surroundings, glides from one place and from one person to another like a ubiquitous ministering angel, has not been less popular with the inhabitants of Holloway this week than she was in the neighbourhood of her cabbage patch in America, and than she has been in London and in the British provinces. It was Mrs. Madge Carr Cook who first gave to Mrs. Wiggs the physical charms and characteristics that have made the Good Samaritan who emerged from the fertile brain of Mrs. Alice Hegan Rice a figure so loved of the novel-reader and of the play-goer. The part, so far as the production under review is concerned, is now in the hands of Miss Gertrude Irving, who indicates in very able fashion all the charming womanliness and agreeable qualities associated with the doings and sayings of that matronly lady. Miss Margaret Shelley brings out with much feeling and tenderness the pathos of the rôle of Lovey Mary; and Miss Beatrice Bramah furnishes a most fascinating portraiture of the engaging Miss Lucy. Mr. Frederick Forrest cuts a ludicrous figure as Mr. Stubbins, and his drunken scene is particularly effective and natural. The lachrymose Miss Hazy is represented with appropriate yet comical despondency by Miss Rita Carlyle; and the gaunt, backbiting Mrs. Eichorn is a capital character-study in the hands of Miss Maude Townsend. Mr. Gordon Phillott is breezy and lively as Billy Wiggs, whose father has a good impersonator in Mr. Walter M. Cameron. Mr. Ernest Graham is seen in a pleasing enactment of Mr. Bob; and Miss Miena Connell furnishes a sweet little picture as Tommy; and Miss Amy Fanchette gives a suitable embodiment of the bully, Mrs. Schultz. All the minor characters are soundly undertaken, and the piece is presented, both as to staging and acting, with all the care as to detail that assisted towards the success of the production at Terry's Theatre nearly two years ago. The company, by the way, is that of Mr. Gaston Mayer. Mr. J. Murray Herriott, the manager of the Marlborough Theatre, attends to the convenience of visitors in his usual courteous fashion.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 22, the Play, entitled
"THE THIEF."

Mr. George Alexander's company scored a conspicuous success with this most interesting and up-to-date play, the evidence of careful selection and rehearsal being very apparent in the exceptional cast and the absolute suitability of each member of the company. Mr. Rupert Lister appears to have completely assimilated each phase and attribute of the part of Richard Chelford, the much-tried and still loving husband of Marise, and in the climax of intensity in the bedroom scene he attained great heights of power and feeling. Miss Marie Polini as the wife has to portray a wide range of emotions, from the vain and must-be-admired society woman to the guilty and unhappy wrong-doer, and not a false note was touched throughout. Mr. Owen Nares acquits himself well in the difficult part of Harry Leyton, the impulsive boy, who, for love of Marise, willingly assumes her guilt; his appearance was quite in keeping with the youthful rôle. Mr. Luke Forster gives to Protheroe, the emissary from Scotland Yard, just the shade of vulgarity necessary, and his scene in the first act is most convincing and satisfactory. Much praise is due to Miss Frances Leighton for the charm and naturalness imparted by her to the character of Isabel Leyton, and Mr. Cyril Harcourt as Reymond Leyton, her husband, contrives to give full expression to his great sorrow at the supposed defalcations of his son, without any loss of dignity or reserve. In addition to this *pièce de résistance*, there is a dainty *hors d'œuvre* in the shape of a one-act play, *The Nursery Governess*, in which Mr. Charles King appeared as a divorced husband who, awaiting the decree to be made absolute, becomes reconciled to his wife (Miss Eileen Kerin) by a trick played on a would-be suitor, well impersonated by Mr. Luke Forsier.

THE BROADWAY, NEW CROSS.

On Monday, Feb. 22, the Play, entitled
"PETER'S MOTHER."

Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's companies are always very welcome here, and this week delighted audiences are warmly applauding the excellent representation of *Peter's Mother*, which is well acted and perfectly staged. Mr. Drew Mackintosh submits a fine portrayal of John Crewys. Mr. Vivian Gilbert is a duly youthful and wilful Peter, and plays the part admirably. Mr. Townsend Whitling is a capital Sir Timothy Crewys, looking and acting the character to the life. Mr. Walter Russell as Canon Birch is worthy of high praise for a natural and clever performance. As the lovable Dr. Blundell Mr. Edward Jephson is all that can be desired, and makes one of the successes of the production. Lady Mary Crewys is a fine part, and one which carries with it the sympathies of the audience. Miss Violet Ley gives a charming rendering, and does it full justice, which is saying much. Miss Mary Griffiths is always conscientious and clever, and her Lady Belstone is remarkably well done. Miss Josephine Rae plays Miss Crewys with a perfect understanding of the author's intention. Miss Annie Stalman is distinctly good as Mrs. Hewitt. Sarah has a bright and pleasing representative in Miss Hilda Sims. Ash is well acted by Mr. P. Wright, and the Footman is invested with dignity and importance by Mr. S. Smith.

The popularity of Mr. Bertram Iles as manager continues to grow, and Mr. Clarke Richardson is a capable musical director.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 22,
"PETE."

Mr. Matheson Lang is at Kennington Theatre this week with Mr. Hall Caine's masterpiece *Pete*, just as it was produced at the Lyceum under the direction of Mr. Ernest Carpenter. The cast, the staging, and the accessories are the same as those which made such a success at the Lyceum, and this success has been repeated at Kennington, where overflowing houses have been attracted. From an artistic point of view *Pete* is, of course, a triumph, and Mr. Matheson Lang has nightly held the attention of the audience enthralled, as he has developed his study of the courageous, faithful, open-hearted lover, generous and forgiving to a fault, which he presents in the part of Pete. It is a rôle eminently suited to an actor of Mr. Lang's rare quality, and it is questionable if he has ever been seen to more advantage. He was ably supported on Monday by Miss Hutin Britton as Kate Cregeen, the confiding, but deserted, girl, whose love for the nobility of Pete's nature makes her endure agonies of shame rather than she should persist in imposing on his good faith. Miss Britton possesses great histrionic gifts, and the sketch she gave of the heroine won her the sympathy of all. Mr. Eric Mayne had a thankless and exceedingly difficult rôle to fill as Philip Christian, but he enacted it magnificently, and deserves the warmest praise. Mr. Pennington Gush was a cynical Ross Christian to the life; while Mr. Frederick Ross splendidly impersonated the part of the Pharisaical Cæsar Cregeen. Miss Rita Tompkins was quite the embodiment of a lively, good-natured servant as Nancy; and Miss Blanche Stanley made an excellent old woman as Grannie. Mr. Joseph O'Brien was well placed as the Constable; and Mr. H. K. Ayliff made a picturesque relic as Postman Kelly. The parts of Mary, Janet, Meg, and Anne were well taken by Misses Dora Clements, Alys Eden, Amy Venimore, and Agnes Thornton respectively; while Mr. E. J. Preston deserves mention for his treatment of the character of Black Tom. Mr. Henry Brooks was an amusing Mayor of Douglas; and Mr. W. Edmunds an imposing Lord Lieutenant. Others who should be noted were Mr. H. Armstrong (Clerk of the Court), Mr. Sydney Vautier (Dr. Mylechreest), and Mr. Sydney Young (William). The setting of the piece was of a high standard, and the Keep of Castle Rushen made a stage picture.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 22, Gounod's Opera,
"FAUST."

The third week of the visit of J. W. Turner's English Opera Company to the Dalston Theatre is proving as successful as those preceding, the house being crowded nightly with delighted audiences. Monday evening witnessed the presentation of Gounod's ever-welcome *Faust*, in which Mr. Robert Curtis appeared as a new exponent of the title-rôle. He came through the ordeal satisfactorily, and furnished some exceedingly sweet singing. His serenade was encored. The Mephistopheles of Mr. Tom Griffiths met with the cordial approval of the audience. His fine voice was heard to excellent advantage in some of the best songs of the opera, and his acting was equally excellent, being marked by some fine touches of humour, which occur in capital scenes with Miss Lizzie Stock, who played Martha. Mr. Frank Clarke was more than once encored for some effective songs, and the way in which he sustained the character generally was equally meritorious. Mr. George Ridding was also a decided success as Wagner. Miss Jessie Dennis represented Siebel, and her singing of the song in which she deplores the loss of the love of Marguerite quite touched the heart of her hearers, Miss Dennis having to respond to a most cordial encore. Miss Sarah Williams scored a decided success as Marguerite, and was heard at her best in the difficult "Jewel" song. The ever-popular "Soldiers' Chorus" was, as usual, vociferously redemanded. Other operas presented during the week include *The Bohemian Girl*, *The Puritan's Daughter*, *Lily of Killarney*, *Il Trovatore*, *The Waterman*, and *Daughter of the Regiment*.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, Feb. 22, the Drama, in Four Acts, entitled
"HER FATAL MARRIAGE."

This play, with its many telling incidents and rousing situations, has proved very acceptable to Mr. William Bailey's patrons, who dearly love a drama where the excitement runs high and the interest is sustained to the finish. Mr. Arthur Hinton enacted Zaco Malletto, *alias* the rascally Captain Vigo, with plenty of determined force and grim resolution; Mr. Norman Tracey proffered a carefully-thought-out study of Wilfred Grey; Mr. Percy Morton-Wright was alert and decisive as Detective Smart; and Mr. P. Laurence gave a capital representation of the self-assertive village constable, Sergeant Wiggins. As Paul, the half-witted country yokel, Mr. Gerald Byrne was intensely earnest and decidedly impressive; Mr. Frank Brunell caused much amusement with his quaintly droll impersonation of Peter Simple, in which he received the most ample assistance from Miss Laura Wright, who, as buxom Dolly Dimple, played with refreshing and pleasing vivacity. Miss Lydia Andre was full of girlish charm as the pretty *ingenue* Lily; whilst Miss Ruth Zillwood sustained the rôle of Myra Malletto in an irreproachable manner, her acting being full of fire and vigorous energy, and her stage presence most fascinating. The play was well mounted and staged, and its reception was most cordial and encouraging.

BRIXTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 22, the Drama entitled
"AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES."

This exciting drama by Mr. Edward Marris was performed here on Monday evening for the first time before the Brixton public, and gave satisfaction to an appreciative house. Mr. Tom H. Taylor, who is responsible for the company, has engaged a capable body of artists, and the many incidents in the play are well brought out. Capital scenic effects also add to the success of the production. Mr. Melville Bickford is to be highly complimented on his delineation of the dealer in smuggled goods, Luke Dezzard; Mr. Clifton Boyne is a robust representative of Dave Stannard; Mr. Walter Westwood is capital as Ezra Gamble; Mr. Tom E. Sinclair realises admirably the character of Tat Spavin; and Mr. Percy Maitland does justice to the coastguard officer, Nat Wilson. Mr. F. Vernon Travers is a lifelike Chief Constable; Mr. Harvey Welton good as Limpy Mudge; Mr. Joe Bardsley is a stalwart representative of the law; Mr. Alec Sandford is good as Warder Blunt; and Mr. James White deserves mention as Detective Pollard. Miss Josie Farrington's acting as Suzette, a French maid, won favourable recognition from the audience; Miss Lilian Earle is realistic as the Indian girl, Zamora; Miss Elsie Gray is very natural as the child, Little Davy; and Miss Marjorie Davenport displayed real power and pathos in the arduous rôle of Mary Stannard.

BENSON SEASON AT THE CORONET.

On Friday, Feb. 19, for the First Time in London, a Play, in One Act, Dramatised from Halliwell Sutcliffe's story by Mrs. F. R. Benson and H. O. Nicholson, and entitled
"A MIDNIGHT BRIDAL."

Maurice St. Quain	MR. MURRAY CARRINGTON
Bruce of Muirtown	MR. MOFFAT JOHNSTON
Mr. Kenneth	MR. JOHN HOWELL
Robin	MR. F. S. RICHARDSON
Lady Locherbie	MISS HELEN HAYE
Janet Locherbie	MISS OLIVE NOBLE
Nurse	MISS ELINOR AICKIN

A Midnight Bridal tells an artless story, based upon a melodramatic and somewhat improbable theme, but it was capitally acted, and at times quite carried away the audience into temporary forgetfulness of its wildly romantic nature. A curse is on the House of Locherbie, and every young maid of the name dies in her eighteenth year. The only chance to avert the evil eye is for her to wed before this period shall be reached. All preparations are made for such a union between Janet Locherbie, the fair and innocent daughter of the house, and her sweetheart, Bruce of Muirtown. Bruce has loved her since childhood, without his affection being reciprocated, however, as he is uncouth, fierce, and wild. At the eleventh hour news comes of his death in a duel. A belated traveller, one Maurice St. Quain, seeking shelter from the storm, is pressed into service to avert disaster, by means of a midnight bridal, run on strictly loveless lines. But he falls in love with Janet at first sight, and when Bruce turns up, having been only wounded, and rendered unconscious, St. Quain refuses to give her up. As Bruce insists, with many an insult, on fighting the "Southerner," he perforce gives combat, and disarms his opponent, who is weak from loss of blood. Admiration for St. Quain's magnanimity in not taking advantage of his helplessness to inflict even the slightest wound converts the rough, but brave, Scotchman into a friend, who pleads the cause of the soldier of King George with the somewhat bigoted advocate of the Stuart cause, Lady Locherbie, and enables him to carry off his willing bride. Lady Locherbie is so far convinced by Bruce's reasoning that she consents to a union of hearts, and trusts that the curse of the Locherbies may be lifted. All three authors made their appearance to great applause at the fall of the curtain. Mr. Murray Carrington as the romantic young officer, Maurice St. Quain, acted with fire and conviction, and was agreeable, earnest, and manly throughout. Mr. Moffat Johnston represented the fierce and determined Highlander with rugged force and power. Miss Helen Haye gave a performance of much distinction as the proud and aristocratic Lady Locherbie; and Miss Olive Noble was very sweet and gentle as Janet Locherbie, her daughter. Miss Elinor Aickin played with conviction as the old nurse; and Mr. John Howell and Mr. F. S. Richardson completed the cast.

On the same evening was revived Mrs. Hannah Cowley's three-act comedy, entitled
"THE BELLE'S STRATAGEM."

Sir George Touchwood	MR. GUY RATHBONE
Doricourt	MR. F. R. BENSON
Hardy	MR. E. A. WARBURTON
Flutter	MR. H. O. NICHOLSON
Saville	MR. F. G. WORLOCK
Villers	MR. G. HANNAM CLARK
Courtall	MR. MURRAY CARRINGTON
Mountebank	MR. MOFFAT JOHNSTON
Gibson	MR. HARRY CAINE
Frenchman	MR. J. P. WILSON
Porter	MR. JOHNSTON
Dick	MR. RIBTON HAINES
Fool	MR. HOWSON
Lady Francis Touchwood	MISS OLIVE NOBLE
Mrs. Rackett	MISS HELEN HAYE
Letitia Hardy	MRS. F. R. BENSON
Miss Ogle	MISS DALE
Kitty	MISS MARION FOREMAN
Maid	MISS BRETHERTON

It was in *The Belle's Stratagem*, in the early days, or, to be more exact, in 1866, that the late Sir Henry Irving made a name as Doricourt, under Miss Herbert's management at the St. James's. The famous actor revived the play at the Lyceum in 1876, with Miss Isabel Bateman as Letitia Hardy, and again in 1881, when Miss Ellen Terry was the Letitia. This is one of the very few old-fashioned plays which have, to some extent, survived the ordeal of time. *The Belle's Stratagem* is that of her endeavour to make her blasé lover woo her in a different guise, and by awakening his interest in her, even though it might be one of repulsion, to pave the way for the substitution of the tender passion. A multitude of side issues are interwoven in the main theme, such as the villainous intent of the unscrupulous gallant Courtall, the loyalty of Saville to his loved but lost adored one, the unreasoning jealousy and suspicion of Sir George Touchwood, with the usual small talk and scandalous gossip of the men and women of fashion. The music for the minuet in Act III., scene 5, had been specially composed by Mr. Edward Agassez, and the dance arranged by Mrs. F. R. Benson. This scene of the masquerade ball is quaintly designated merely a "Garden in London." It is the best scene of the piece, and though the attempted abduction of Letitia Hardy by Courtall, and her rescue by Saville, with the aid of careless Kitty, is rather "thin," the scene itself is very pretty and picturesque, and the dancing charming, a weird effect being given by the saturnalian revelry at its close, set to most grotesque music.

Mr. F. R. Benson acted the part of Doricourt in the spirit of pure farce, letting himself go thoroughly in the display of feigned madness in Act III. His polite comedy in Act II. is perhaps preferable, but he gave a sound, thorough-going performance throughout. Mrs. F. R. Benson as Letitia Hardy did not spare herself in her effort to make Doricourt dislike her if he will not love her. Mr. Guy Rathbone was excellent as the jealous, but doting, husband, Sir George Touchwood. Mr. H. O. Nicholson gave quite a gem of character-acting as the sprightly and good-natured old muddler and man of fashion, Flutter. Mr. E. A. Warburton made much of the character of the supposedly far-seeing old Hardy *père*; Mr. Murray Carrington was duly saturnine and intense as the rascally Courtall; and Mr. F. G. Worlock was good as the faithful friend Saville. Miss Helen Haye was a charming Mrs. Rackett; and Miss Olive Noble acted with girlish grace as Lady Francis Touchwood. The small part of Kitty was well done by Miss Marion Foreman; and a word of praise is due to the masqueraders for their elegant deportment and graceful dancing.

Mr. Benson and his company always show to advantage in *The Taming of the Shrew*, with which this week was begun. This breezy comedy and salutary lesson to scolding women was admirably presented by all concerned. Mrs. F. R. Benson's enactment of Kate the curst is a most amusing exhibition of impish ill-humour and ungovernable temper tamed by a similar unreasoning fury and blustering tyranny on the part of Petruchio, played with unctuous humour and admirable resource by Mr. F. R. Benson. The scene when Katherine, weary and spent, in a final outburst of rage attempts to stab Petruchio, but, overawed, lets the knife fall from her nerveless grasp and bursts into a paroxysm of tears was one of the best in the piece. Mr. Edward A. Warburton (whose performance as Brutus we inadvertently alluded to as Julius Cæsar last week) gave a sound embodiment of the perplexed Baptista; Mr. F. G. Worlock made a handsome Lucentio; and Miss Olive Noble was equally charming and comely as his loved one, Bianca. Mr. H. O. Nicholson excelled in the portrayal of the crafty old fox Gremio; and Mr. Nigel Playfair (in the regretted absence through illness of Mr. Geo. Weir) gained golden opinions as Grumio. Mr. Murray Carrington as Tranio, Mr. Guy R. Rathbone as Hortensio, and Mr. J. Moffat Johnston as Vincetio were all well in the picture. Mr. J. P. Wilson deserves special commendation as Biondello; and Miss Cissie Saumarez's sweet singing of "Should he upbraid" was a very pleasing feature of the entertainment. The week's programme further consisted of *King Lear* on Tuesday evening, *Julius Cæsar* on Wednesday, *Macbeth* at Thursday's matinée, *Coriolanus* in the evening, and *The Merchant of Venice* on Friday. *Henry the Fifth* is announced for to-day's matinée, and this evening *The Merchant of Venice* will be repeated.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, Feb. 22, the Comedy, entitled
"MRS. WIGGS OF THE CABBAGE PATCH."

The attraction this week at the Shakespeare is the popular comedy, *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch*, written by Anne Crawford Flexner, and based on Alice Hegan Rice's book of the same name. Though the use of quaint forms of expression evoke considerable laughter, the wholesome lesson of the piece is always to the fore, and strikes a chord of sympathy in the hearts of the audience. An excellent company, under the direction of Mr. Gaston Mayer, does full justice to the comedy, and the spontaneous enthusiasm which greets the salient features of the play shows that unanimity of opinion which ensures success. The lovable nature of *Mrs. Wiggs* is portrayed by Miss Augusta Haviland in a manner that makes the character stand out prominently, without undue striving after effect. Miss Haviland has a thorough grip of the character, and throughout never fails to strike the right note of humour or pathos. A more quaintly comical impersonation of Miss Hazy than that given by Miss Armine Grace could not be conceived, and her vacant expression and high-pitched voice serve to keep the audience in roars of laughter. Miss Beatrice Bell contributes a clever study of Mrs. Eichorn; and Miss Violet Chamier does well as Mrs. Schultz. Miss Winifred Murray fully justifies her appearance as Lovey Mary, acting with delicacy and restraint. Miss Dorothy Clifton makes the most of her opportunities as Miss Lucy; and Miss Margaret Nybloc is a vivacious Asia. The droll character of Mr. Stubbins is played by Mr. Edward A. Coventry with an amount of comic force that ensures laughter and applause, of which he had a large share. Mr. Guy Addison is pleasing as Mr. Bob; and Mr. Harry G. Wright creditably sustains the rôle of the matrimonial agent, H. Hunkerdunkus Jones. Mr. Gerald Valentine is a manly Billy Wiggs; and Mr. Lawrence White supplies a contrast in the rôle of the cripple, Chris Hazy. Deacon Bagsby has a capable representative in Mr. Edwin Cushman; and Mr. Francis Chamier is interesting as the erring Mr. Wiggs. Minor parts are played by Miss Mimi Le Claire, Miss Marie Stella, Miss Kitty Rogers, Miss Nellie Brookes, and Masters Victor Ford and Francis Steel. Mr. Arthur Lyons is acting-manager and Mr. Harry G. Wright stage-manager for Mr. Gaston Mayer.

GREENWICH THEATRE.

Monday, Feb. 22, a Drama, in Four Acts, by Charles Rogers, entitled
"THE LADDER OF LIFE; OR, GORDONS TO THE FRONT."

Messrs. Charles Rogers and W. Wilson's company in the above play is the attraction this week, and on the night of our visit there was an excellent house, and the play was exceedingly well acted throughout. Mr. Charles Rogers plays David Gordon with energy and spirit; Mr. Roland Douglas is a capital General James Gordon, and his nephew Fergus has a clever representative in Mr. Claude H. Seaton; Ivan Karchikoff is well acted by Mr. Gerald Melville. Colonel Macgregor is well impersonated by Mr. M. E. Compton Mackenzie. Mr. Ernest Gifford is well suited to the part of Donald Macdougal. The Stebbings are very good indeed as Bill McJones, 'Arry McSmith and Joe McBrown. Mr. James Stirling is well suited to Breezy Bill (born tired). Piper Find later is also in the cast. Mr. Henry C. Vincent and Mr. Henry Beauford are both good. Little Ruby is pretty and natural as Little Gordon; Miss Connie Meadows is a smart and clever Mary Jane. Miss Eva St. Vincent is a dramatic Mother Flint. Meg Merriles is well played by Miss Gladys Ford. Howitt, and Miss Mary Ford is a delightful Olga Sobinsky.

THEATRE ROYAL, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Feb. 22, the Drama, entitled
"HER NAMELESS CHILD."

The drama for the current week is meeting with cordial support at this theatre, and Mr. Sam Duckworth's company is giving a good and interesting representation. Mr. J. W. Evelyn offers an excellent rendering of the character of Anthony Ford, the sorrow-stricken blacksmith, and his pathetic portrayal is imbued with considerable dramatic effect, which is received in a distinctly favourable manner. Arthur Ford finds a capable exponent in Mr. Sidney C. Cranston, who puts heart into his work. Mr. Arthur E. Pringle supplies a clever study of Lord Henry Woodville; possessing a good stage presence and commanding voice, he plays the unsympathetic part in robust fashion. Mr. Frank Thompson is responsible for the part of the unworthy catspaw, and is successful. Mr. Larry Clements as Tom Rivers supplies the comedy relief, and offers a humorous characterisation, and is ably assisted in the fun-making by Miss Renie Douglas as Bessie Brooks; Miss Pattie Hastings as Phillis Ford gives a good delineation of that much harassed woman, delivering her lines in an impressive manner; Miss Mona Grey shows to advantage in the part of Lady Sibil Woodville. The remaining characters in the cast are suitably represented.

ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Feb. 22, the Musical Drama, entitled
"WHAT A WOMAN DID."

Presented by Messrs. F. Marriott-Watson and Sanderson Moffatt's company, the drama *What a Woman Did*, although running on familiar lines, is, in the present case, made considerably lighter by the addition of musical numbers. Miss Florence E. Florence undertakes the part of Elise de L'Orme, who undergoes severe tribulations. Miss Phyllis Hamilton gives a good delineation of the character of La Papillon, the butterfly of Paris. Miss Norah Waylett essays the part of Nanette in a vivacious fashion. Miss Flo Norman makes a lovely Fanchon, and scores in several songs and dances. Mr. F. Marriott-Watson sustains the character of Raffaelle Duroc in a very able manner. Mr. Sanderson Moffat plays the rôle of Conrad de L'Orme in a powerful manner, and achieves distinction for a dramatic rendering of the part. Black Pitou has a capital representative in Mr. Reg. Kloof. Mr. C. Elton Morgan as Fritz von Hoeglheim submits a pleasing interpretation, and is happily suited in a laughing song. Mr. Owen Edwin is amusing as Perfect Peter Pippin, his eccentric dancing being diverting. Specialities are contributed by the Clancy Girls, who afford much pleasure both in song and dance.

MR. EDITOR.—Sir,—A slight error was made by your Fleetwood correspondent in to-day's notice of the Queen's Theatre. The part of Jack Hearne was not played by Mr. K. Arthur, but by—Yours faithfully, HERBERT HASTINGS. Queen's Theatre, Fleetwood, Feb. 18.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

Minutes of the council meeting, held at 353, Strand, on Tuesday, Feb. 23. Present:—Mr. Cecil Brooking (in the chair), Mr. H. W. Mote (hon. solicitor), and Messrs. Clive Currie, J. Poole Kirkwood, Gilbert Esmond, J. Sebastian Smith, Langford Reede, and Cecil Raleigh, and Misses Rose Mathews and Agnes Imlay. In the absence of Mr. Blount, Mr. Robson Paige acted as secretary. A telegram was read from Miss Conti regretting her inability to attend. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Letters from Clarence Derwent, F. Llewellyn, R. A. Greene, C. F. Collings, J. Poole Kirkwood, and Lewis Casson, accepting their election to the council, were read.

The following were nominated for election:—Nancy Blackwood, proposed by Mildred Surrey, seconded by A. Russell Davis; Thomas C. Fairbairn, proposed by Charles Magrath, seconded by Agnes Imlay; and Frederick Hill, proposed by J. Poole Kirkwood, seconded by Robson Paige.

With a view to increasing the membership, the council instructed the secretary to make it known that the council had determined to make two awards of honour to the members who introduced the largest number of fully-paid annual members during the ensuing year. For the first award the number of such members must exceed twenty. The first award will be an honorary life membership of the Association, and the second award a fully paid-up subscription for one year.

Mr. Raleigh brought forward a resolution dealing with the Actors' Association form of contract, and arrangements were made for further discussion. Mr. Raleigh also gave notice that he would make an important proposal *re* the agency at the next council meeting. A sincere vote of sympathy with Mr. Richard A. Greene on the loss of his mother was passed.

The secretary was instructed to put up notices to the effect that smoking is prohibited in the front room, and that in future all agency work must be done through the secretary.

Miss Imlay submitted the Finance Committee's report, which was adopted.

Miss Mathews reported that the "Actresses' Franchise League" accepted the invitation of the A.A. for the use of the general room, fixing the time from 2 to 5, on Thursday, March 4, and that time. Madeleine Lucette Ryley would take the chair.

ACTORS' UNION.

The usual committee meeting of the Actors' Union took place on the 19th inst. at the offices, 19, Bedford-street, Strand. The following were present:—Messrs. Frank Gerald, Henry Bedford, F. W. Braithwaite, Robert M. Taylor, Walter L. Rignold, Langford Reed, Doré Lewin-Mannering, and Kenneth Blackmore (secretary).

Communications were received from H. Tripp-Edgar, Jerrold Heather, A. Maitland Stapley, and George P. Lester.

A member was advanced the sum of 12s. 6d. from the A.U.B.F., and the secretary reported the repayment of 10s. 6d. from a member who had been advanced a loan from the fund. Those members who have money in hand from the sale of the A.U.B.F. stamps are requested to remit the amount as soon as possible to the secretary.

The rules requiring revision, Mr. Rignold proposed and Mr. Braithwaite seconded that Mr. Gerald and Mr. Blackmore revise the rules that require it, the rules then to be submitted to the committee in time to place the alterations on the agenda for the general meeting.

A resolution having been received from the meeting at Hummum's Hotel to the effect that the members' meeting there be only held once a fortnight, the committee decided that it was to the best interests of the Union to hold the meetings as heretofore.

A suggestion by the secretary that those members who have not purchased their stamp for the current month by the 7th inst. be written to as soon after that date as possible was adopted by the committee.

Another suggestion, with regard to a Union cricket club, was placed before the meeting, and those members of the Union who are in favour of the idea are asked to communicate with the secretary.

ACTORS' REFERENCES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I cannot understand why managers are so often careless in neglecting to write for references of artists, agents, &c., whom they engage, and who are unknown to them. Some time ago I had a letter from a manager stating that a man he had engaged, and who had given me as a reference, had run away suddenly. Had he applied to me originally, I could have told him this would probably happen. I have also seen people whom I have been obliged to get rid of advertising in papers that they have "resigned" engagements with me. My own experience with people whom I have been obliged to engage in a hurry without applying to references has been most unfortunate.—Yours faithfully, NORMAN V. NORMAN.

Tyne Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Feb. 25.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, Feb. 22, the Farcical Comedy, by Brandon Thomas, entitled,
"CHARLEY'S AUNT."

That this well-known comedy has, nothwithstanding its age, still a strong attraction for the play-going public was amply evidenced at the Royal County Theatre this week, where Mr. Thomas's own company is fulfilling a week's engagement. The interest was as keen and the laughter as loud as when the clever play first began to tickle the risibilities of the British public. Mr. Arthur Chesney, who has played the "aunt" many times, continues to give a most mirth-provoking picture of the part, and he receives valuable assistance from Mr. Hastings Lynn and Mr. Robert Burnett, who acquit themselves well as his college chums Jack Chesney and Charley Wykeham respectively. The fun is sensibly added to by the efforts of Mr. Roy Byford as Spettigue. Admirable performances are also given by Miss Estelle Wingood as Kitty Verdun; by Miss Ethel Fifield as Amy Spettigue; by Miss Sylvia Morris as Ela Delahay; and by Miss Vere Gerald as Donna Lucia; by Mr. Thos. McCausland as Col. Chesney; and by Mr. Sydney Compton as Brassett.

NEW LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Feb. 22, the Drama, entitled
"A BROKEN HEART."

The visitors here this week are Mr. Harry Foxwell's company in *A Broken Heart*. It is a well-written and powerful drama, and is meeting with considerable success. Mr. Gerald Kennedy, a most capable actor, fills the part of John Barnard, and has a flattering reception nightly. Mr. G. Moreton-Williams does well as the evil genius Stephen Raylton. A clever character study is given by Mr. Edward Rawlinson as Gash Gills. Mr. Vivian Charles does well as the Rev. Mr. Staunton. Mr. Newton Pearce is decidedly good as Tony Tibbetts. As Mary Barnard Miss Sheila Walsh gives an excellent and most sympathetic performance. In Miss Daisy Rocheford a sweet and clever child has been found, her Little Mary being a delightful piece of acting. Miss Emma Rainbow is good as Mrs. Barnard, mother of John, and as Miss Grace Fanshaw Miss Mabel Kelland does well. All the minor characters are well played, and the play is staged and dressed in an entirely satisfactory manner. The orchestra, under the Lyric's new musical director, Mr. Ashley Richards, dealt satisfactorily with the incidental music, and their tuneful selections during the intervals were much appreciated.

THE TERRITORIAL QUESTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—As a result of *The Era's* kind help, I have had a large number of replies, but like Oliver, "I want more." The replies I have received include a retired captain of R.F.A., a Chinese magician, an offer of twelve acres of land for a camp, an application to be allowed to supply whatever horses I require, and amongst the volunteers are a comedian, a tragedian, juvenile men, heavy men, character men, musical turns, gymnasts, dancers, singers, boxing turns, and last, but not least, managers.

As soon as we have the numbers, I shall approach the leading managers of the music-hall and theatrical worlds, and get them interested in our scheme, and incidentally in our smoking concerts.

The scheme has been well received by my brother "pros.," but I want them to speedily fill up and return at once the forms I have sent them.
—Yours faithfully, CHAS. C. OMMANNEY.
41, West High-street, Salford, Manchester.
Feb. 23, 1909.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—May I draw your attention to the fact that something like ten years ago I obtained permission to form an Actors' Company of volunteers, and it was actually arranged that it was to be attached to the Artists' Rifle V. Corps.

The idea with regard to drill was exactly the same as the one now suggested by Mr. Ommanney. We obtained one hundred and twenty recruits, including such well-known men as Messrs. F. R Benson, Harry Nicholls, Frank Gillmore, &c. Unfortunately the movement was not supported by the highest theatrical leading lights in London.—Yours faithfully,

CHARLES CLIFFORD,
Late Lieutenant and Acting Captain,
4th East Surrey Regiment.
T. R., Tonypandy, Feb. 20, 1909.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Being an old volunteer, I was much interested in the article in last week's *Era* under the above heading. I don't wish to throw cold water on this new patriotic movement on behalf of the profession, but it seems to me that there are too many obstacles in the way to prevent the scheme ever becoming practicable for the touring actor. It is suggested that the actor should put in his drills with the local companies one afternoon in the week. Now, in the majority of provincial towns the local companies drill at night, and when once the actor has passed the "recruit" stage, drilling on his own will be wasted time, because he will need what is known as "company" drills. But the great object is to be able to shoot, and to be even a "passable" shot one must practise at the butts. This would mean that the actor would either have to shoot with a different rifle each time—and this is not calculated to improve his shooting—or tour his own rifle. Also, it has been suggested that it would be very pleasant for him to put in a fortnight's camp in June or July—the slack season. That is so, but a large number of the touring profession are, during those months, endeavouring to settle for the autumn. And what about men in the ranks? Wouldn't there be a lot of dissatisfaction because Mr. A. had been made a sergeant and Mr. B. not promoted at all? We all know the petty jealousies that arise in the profession, and I fear they would be carried on to the parade-ground. As the actor—and in this particular instance I refer to the legitimate—cannot, or will not, amalgamate with his brother actors in any suggested reform that is mooted for his welfare, I'm afraid his patriotism will not be strong enough to make him a successful Territorial. Anyhow, I fervently wish Mr. Ommanney and his co-workers the very best of luck in their patriotic movement, and hope they will surmount all the difficulties I mention, and their efforts be crowned with success.—Yours faithfully, NORMAN YATES.
Theatre Royal, Worcester.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I trust I shall not be accused of sounding a discordant note in the general tone of enthusiasm which has greeted Mr. Chas. C. Ommanney's Territorial scheme; but I cannot help thinking that there are one or two difficulties in the way of its realisation, difficulties which seem to me well-nigh insuperable.

In the first place, let me state, in fear of being misunderstood, that I am thoroughly in favour of the movement, if it can be realised, and if the difficulties I have alluded to are adjusted I would willingly give it my support. I may here mention that I have had some little experience in matters military, having served nearly two years in South Africa during the Boer War, and also a shorter period, some years ago, in the old Volunteers.

To return to my objections. Firstly, granted that our Theatrical Territorial (it really sounds rather well) has the entrée to a Drill Hall in every town he is likely to visit on tour, and supposing—not at all an unlikely supposition—that he is the only T. T. in the company. He is free all the day, and has time to put in as many drills as he cares to, but he is alone, his local comrades-in-arms can only attend in the evening.

Is he to be drilled in solitary state by a reluctant drill-sergeant deprived of his customary leisure, and will this do him much good? He can be taught a great deal certainly; the mechanism of the rifle, for instance, and how to handle the weapon, even his movements on parade, but one of the most important parts of his military education, the training to work with his comrades and obey orders as one man, it is extremely unlikely that he will ever get, or, if so, only at very rare intervals.

Secondly, the annual camp, the only time our "Terrier" would get any real idea of war conditions, and the absolutely essential part of his training, is, I understand, now compulsory. It is right that it should be so, but how does it affect our T.T.? Mr. Ommanney has said that the T.T. camp would be arranged in the slackest time of the theatrical year; but our actor-soldier is possibly in an engagement going right through the summer—a stock season, perhaps, in Scotland. Will his manager release him for a fortnight, fill his place at, in all probability, a considerable additional outlay, and have him back again when his training is over? I fear there are very few managers who would do so, and who shall blame them?

Then, from the actor's point of view, who is going to pay his fares from Scotland to Salisbury Plain, or wherever his battalion is to camp, and back to his engagement, to say nothing of the loss his pocket will suffer by the difference in his salary and the Army rate of pay which he will receive whilst under canvas? I am assuming that the actor in question is one who cannot afford to be "out" all the summer. His Territorial obligations would undoubtedly prejudice his chances in the "slack season," and summer managers, as they declined his services, would say, gently but firmly, "No Territorials."—Yours faithfully,

W. HENRY HARGREAVES,
The Bondman Company.
Theatre Royal, Edinburgh, Feb. 24.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Now that the Territorial question is first and foremost, would you kindly grant me a little space in your paper for a few remarks and bare suggestions regarding actors and their country's defence. At present everybody outside acting seems to be imbued with patriotism arising from the play, *An Englishman's Home*, now being performed at Wyndham's Theatre, but we do not hear of any actor enthusiasts. Why, I wonder? Are actors exempt from their share of home defence? Surely out of a profession with something like 4,000 members in Great Britain, it is possible to obtain at least 200—two companies—to swell the ranks of the Terriers.

This would not be without its advantages to actors themselves. For instance, unless an actor is very fortunate, he will find himself out of work for at least two-and-a-half months in the summer, during which he is very apt to idle away his time in or near the Strand, going, from force of habit, from agent to agent in a fruitless search for work, and quickly getting rid of the few pounds he may have saved during his autumn and spring engagements. Why not form an actors' corps of Territorials, which should by a special arrangement be attached to the Regular Army for drill and camp training during these two-and-a-half months, for which time he would be receiving a small sum by way of salary, his keep, good health, fresh air, and learn how to be of some use to his country in the event of attack—infinitely more than it is possible to gain in the Strand? Some might say, What about our autumn? Well, it's not necessary to be out of touch with managers. These gentlemen, knowing where to find men serving in an Actors' Corps of Territorials, would naturally turn there for them, and, I venture to say, prefer them to others not members of such an institution. It might also lead to something of a union amongst professionals—a union which is sorely needed, and would undoubtedly raise the actors' status, which in many towns is not of a very high standard.

I have had a chat on the subject with an Army officer, and he is of the opinion that it would be a good thing for the actor, and that the Territorial Association would make special arrangements for such a corps. I shall be pleased to hear from any fellow actors interested.—Yours faithfully,

W. MAYNE LYNTON,
East View, Bowness-on-Solway,
Feb. 23, '09.

Mr. Ernest Mansell's idea to offer the Royal Palace Theatre, Ramsgate, to local officers of the Territorial forces for the purpose of holding a grand recruiting march round the town, to be followed by a programme of patriotic songs, speeches, and tableaux, was a magnificent one, and has been crowned with unbounded success. Among the officers who have fallen in with the idea and promised their active support are:—General Sir Charles Warren, K.C.M.G., &c., Major A. Lewis, Capt. S. H. Page, Capt. F. Mainwaring Dunstan, Lieut. R. M. Sebag Montifiore, Captain Inskip, Regimental Q.M.S. W. T. Smith, Captain Witts (Church Lads'), Miss Devonport (Nurses' Institute), and Captain F. W. Conconi (St. John's Ambulance). It is hoped that the Coastguard Service will also be represented. It is hoped to show three tableaux—(1) old soldiers who have served their country, (2) men who are now serving in all branches, and (3) the youngsters who are coming along. All men of twelve years' service wishing to take part (either army, navy, or ex-volunteers) are invited to send in to the theatre at once their names and the names of their regiments. Committee meetings will be held at the theatre at four o'clock on the 25th inst. and the 4th prox., when all interested in the movement are invited. Some idea of the interest taken in the event may be gathered from the fact that Sir Charles Warren has kindly offered to put on a special tableaux with the boy scouts. Lieutenant Montefiore says: "I shall be pleased to co-operate with you, and I shall be pleased to do what I can to help them (other officers) and to support their recruiting." Major Lewis refers to the offer as a most patriotic one, and adds: "Your proposal is not only one that will tend to make the Territorials proud of the fact that their services are recognised and appreciated, but it will also stir up the young men of our district to consider what is their duty to the empire to which they have the honour to belong." A large number of men are required for the "Buffs" and the Artillery, and Ramsgate is called upon to raise one of the eight companies of the Kent Cyclist Battalion, consisting of sixty men, so there is ample choice for young men. What is required of them will be simply and concisely explained by forceful speakers in short speeches. Among the special songs to be sung is "Lads of the Empire," which has been specially written and composed by Mr. R. Partridge, and will be sung by Mr. Chas. Sutton. Loans of flags or trophies of arms, &c., will be much appreciated, on loan, by Mr. Mansell, and will be carefully preserved and returned. The Mayor and Corporation have been invited to attend, and, after paying expenses the proceeds will be devoted to the General Hospital and other local charities.

THE patriotic spirit is being enthusiastically promoted at the Elephant and Castle Theatre, where a meeting was held on Saturday last, under the presidency of Mr. Charles Barnard, to discuss the possibility of forming an "army" of Territorial Cadets. Mr. Barnard explained that he intended that these cadets should be something between the ordinary Boy Scouts and the Territorial Army. He suggested that a district headquarters should be formed at various theatres, and that some arrangement might be made whereby a Territorial officer should drill the lads at stated times.

MR. BARNARD expressed himself willing to allow the Elephant and Castle Theatre to be used as one of the Southern District Headquarters, and he hoped other managers would follow his example, and so help to forward a good and necessary institution. He would be pleased to forward particulars to anybody interested in the movement, and uniforms could be obtained on application to him at the Elephant and Castle Theatre at a very nominal figure. A great many boys were in attendance, and three hearty cheers for the President (Mr. C. Barnard) and the King were given before they finally disbanded.

THERE will be a meeting at the Elephant and Castle on Tuesday next at one o'clock. Anyone interested in the subject of the Boy Scouts will be welcomed.

WITH his accustomed enterprise, Mr. Robert Arthur has booked *An Englishman's Home* for Kennington Theatre during the week commencing March 15, and the business-manager (Mr. H. Barrett Brandreth) has arranged to give this patriotic play a fitting send-off. Monday, the 15th prox., is to be a military night, and in recognition of Mr. Brandreth's efforts to assist recruiting for the Territorial Army during the pantomime the Mayor of Southwark, Col. Villiers, A.D.C. to the King, Col. Whitehead, commanding the 21st Battalion of the London Regiment, and two officers and non-commissioned officers are attending the performance. The officers will wear the uniform of their corps, and will be joined by members of other Territorial battalions. During the recent appeal at Kennington 115 recruits were enlisted in the 21st London from amongst the audience, while all the attendants at the theatre who were eligible have also donned the kharki.

AN International Music Congress will mark the celebration of the Haydn Centenary in Vienna. It will last from May 25 to May 29, and will be under the patronage of the Emperor Francis Joseph. Papers have been promised by some hundred of the leading European musicians, Great Britain being represented among others by Sir Hubert Parry, Bart., Dr. Cummings, Sir Alexander Mackenzie, Dom Andre Mocquereau, and Sir Charles Stanford. Several evening receptions, and visits to the graves of the great composers in Vienna will be included in the proceedings.

THE TERRITORIAL BOY SCOUTS.

HOW A NOTABLE MOVEMENT CAME INTO BEING.

A CHAT WITH MR. CHARLES BARNARD.

In *The Babes in the Wood* pantomime at the Elephant and Castle Theatre Miss Kitty Clinton has been singing a military song apropos of the Territorial Army movement, and has had fifty lads dressed in uniform acting in a picturesque setting to the number. Mr. Charles Barnard was surprised to receive many applications from lads asking to be enrolled in the "corps." This suggested to Mr. Barnard the idea of forming a contingent which should act as a "feeder" to the adult army which is now being recruited. He at once set the business machinery of his various theatres to work, and recruiting has been proceeding like wildfire. It is Mr. Barnard's ambition in this way to get together an army of youthful soldiers, who shall be drilled under proper supervision, of at least 100,000 boys.

These are to be known as the "Territorial Boy Scouts," and the committee, composed of well-known theatrical business men, have been meeting at the Elephant and Castle Theatre during the past two weeks organising the movement.

Interviewed by an *Era* representative, Mr. Chas. Barnard confessed that the undertaking seemed, at first sight, a gigantic task. "But," he added, "I am sure it will be an equally gigantic success. You see, the main idea is to catch the Territorial young as far as we are concerned. These lads will be properly drilled by competent instructors, and can, when the age limit of sixteen is reached, be drafted into a Territorial regiment proper. In this way the junior corps formed at my theatres throughout the country will act as 'feeders' to the district Territorials. This will lessen the work of drilling in the senior corps, because after a three or four years' course in the Scouts a boy should be a smart soldier.

"It is quite true that at the first glance the idea has a strong theatrical flavour about it. But, in the present instance at least, the thing has been put into practice without any hope of anything but a lot of hard work and no hope of reward, except that feeling of satisfaction which every man must feel who has contributed his mite, however small, to repel a danger—real or imaginary—that threatens his beloved country. The gentlemen who are acting on my committee have spent a great deal of time and money too in helping me to get the idea into working order.

"Already at Woolwich, Chatham, Wolverhampton, and Tunbridge Wells the matter has been taken up by the enthusiastic theatre managers there, and by the time you have printed what I am saying we should not be less than 1,000 strong. The 1st Battalion, with its headquarters at the Elephant and Castle Theatre, already numbers over 400, and fresh recruits are coming up daily. The boys display the utmost enthusiasm, and many are the sons of well-to-do local people."

The following set of rules has been drafted and circulated:—

(1) That this body be called the "Territorial Boy Scouts." Each corps to be self-supporting, and each boy to provide his own equipment.

(2) Its object is to imbue a spirit of citizenship and love of country in each boy, and to keep him healthily employed in his leisure.

(3) Age limit to be from 11 to 16. All membership to cease at the age of 17, at which age those desirous can transfer to the Territorial Army.

(4) A general committee to be formed, with power to add to the number.

(5) An executive committee to be elected from the general committee.

(6) This body to be incorporated with the Territorial Army.

(7) All boys to be, on their honour, loyal to their King and country, to submit to those placed in authority over them, and always to conduct themselves in a manner conducive to the best interests of the corps. Any boy whose behaviour is contrary to the spirit of this rule, either in or out of the corps, to be dismissed.

(8) This head company, originating at the Elephant and Castle Theatre, to be called the 1st Battalion, and all others formed in the future to take their number in order of formation with the sanction of the head battalion.

(9) The full equipment to consist of the following:—Slouch hat, khaki putties and breeches, shirt with collar, mess-tin and cover, belt and pouch, staff and strap, and Union Jack scarves.

Permission was granted to Tunbridge Wells, Aston, Smethwick, and Birmingham to form corps to act in conjunction with the 1st Battalion. All bodies wishing to form a corps, in town or country, in connection with this movement to communicate with us at this office, or with Mr. Charles Barnard, founder, Elephant and Castle Theatre, S.E., when all information and assistance will be given.

Copy of letter from Capt. F. G. Hargon, Quartermaster of the 24th Battalion County of London Territorials ("The Queen's"):—

73, New-street, Kennington, S.E.
Feb. 25, 1909.

Dear Sir,—

I consider that this scheme for the formation of the Territorial Boy Scouts is an excellent one. It will tend to install into the minds of the youth of this country patriotism, discipline, cleanliness, and order. The boys would become systematic in their arrangements, and ultimately not only be a credit and of great use to the British Empire, but also a help and comfort to their parents. This organisation, if founded on the sound fundamental principle of being a part of the King's Forces, *i.e.*, of the Territorial Force, would after a lapse of a few years, be the means of keeping the Territorial Force at its most efficient strength, by filling up gaps caused by resignation and casualties.

Wishing you every success,

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. G. HARGON,
Capt. and Qrmter. 24th Battn. County of London ("The Queens").

THE British Empire Shakespeare Society's much-appreciated reading of *King Lear* at the Victoria Hall, Bayswater, on the 2nd inst., will be repeated to-morrow (Sunday) evening, at the Passmore Edwards Settlement, Tavistock-place, W.C. A certain number of free seats will be available for the use of the public. The cast will be practically the same as on the previous occasion, and will include Messrs. Lyn Harding, Acton Bond, Bassett Roe, Fewlass Llewellyn, A. Harding Steerman, J. Henry Twyford, George Silver, Shakespeare Stewart, Howard Rose, Cecil Du Gue, and George Owen; and Misses Adeline Bourne, Evelyn Weeden, Violet Hunter, and Dorothy Thomas.

IT has been decided to hold a meeting at 217, Piccadilly, W., on Wednesday next, at 3.30 p.m., to discuss the desirability of forming a society for the protection of unacted authors. The objects are as follows:—(1) To arrange with a competent reader to read and criticise members' plays; (2) to approach certain managers for the use of their theatres for the production of approved plays by members; (3) to have the said plays produced by a well-known producer, and acted chiefly by competent provincial artists, so as to enable managers to see the work of both authors and artists. Seats for every performance of the society would be reserved for all managers who cared to be present.

"LADY EXMORE'S EMBARRASSMENT."

A New Comedy, in Three Acts, by Herbert G. Phillips, Adapted from a Story by Alice and Charles Askew, by Special Permission, Produced by Amateurs for the first time on any stage at the Royal Concert Hall, St. Leonards-on-Sea, on Saturday, Feb. 20.

The Earl of Exmore ..... MR. H. G. PHILLIPS
Charles Cholmeley ..... MR. H. MARTIN
Richard Digby ..... MR. J. HAWORTH
Alister Ansell ..... MR. J. WOODCOCK
Sir Claude Craven ..... MR. E. H. LANGHAM
Gant ..... MR. R. J. BEATTIE
The Countess of Exmore .. MRS. W. T. C. BEASLEY
Mrs. Lushington ..... MRS. E. H. LANGHAM
Millicent Mainwaring ..... MISS CREAGH

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

In *Lady Exmore's Embarrassment* Mr. Phillips is responsible for a play of some interest. The curtain discloses the drawing-room at Lady Exmore's house in town. It is the afternoon of Derby Day. She has remained at home from choice; the Earl and party of friends have gone to the races. Her brother Charles, a brieflless barrister, calls on her and tells her that he is dreadfully cornered, having given a bill for £1,000 for losses at bridge, which he must meet at once. She offers him £150—all the cash she has at command. He urges her to lend him her jewels temporarily. This she refuses, as they are family heirlooms. A post-horn announces the return of the party, and she gives him the key of her jewel safe that he may get the notes and go away without seeing the others. He is enamoured of Mrs. Lushington, who is the cause of his reckless play. She enters with the rest of the party, and he sees her alone on leaving. He entreats her to marry him and he would then take up an appointment in Canada. She refuses, because re-marriage would lose her her large fortune under her late husband's will. He hands the key to the butler, and leaves in despair, but makes an appointment to see her again that evening. The Countess takes occasion to urge Mrs. Lushington to discourage her brother's attentions to her, not only because she is so much his senior, but because he is being ruined. This speech earns the widow's enmity. The Earl tells his wife of Richard Digby, an expert judge of jewels, who is to be at the dinner party that night, and asks her to be cordial with him, as his knowledge would be useful.

At the dinner party in Act II. the Earl asks his wife to show Digby her tiara, and is called away to the telephone. She does so, and Digby at once tells her that they are paste. She is terribly agitated. He asks her to tell him the reason; she, thinking her brother in his distress has changed the jewels, begs him not to question her. He agrees not to do so for a kiss. He is prompted to this by his resentment of my lady's sarcasm previously expressed. To save her brother she permits him to kiss her lips, and the action is seen by Mrs. Lushington who enters at the moment. The widow excuses her absence, and a letter is given the Countess. It is from her brother, saying that he should at once leave England. She is terribly perturbed. The Earl returns and asks Digby's opinion of the diamonds. With a glance at the Countess Digby replies "They are remarkably fine," and the Earl tells them Charles has just telephoned him that he is leaving for Canada. This news disconcerts the widow, who leaves, and Digby expresses his regret to the Countess at what had happened. She begs him to keep the secret of the false gems. Some amusing comedy is introduced in the third act. The young lovers—Alister and Millicent—at a Suffragist meeting, had assaulted the police, which had led to another tiff between them. Lady Exmore's good services were asked by Alister, who displays a card, "Votes for women." Digby informs Lady Exmore that something must be done promptly to stop Mrs. Lushington's malicious tongue, which betrays far and wide the imprudence of the Countess. He presses her to allow him to assist her, thinking she had been led to pawn the jewels for some private debt. In her confusion she betrays her secret fears as to her brother's action and explains the whole story of his infatuation for the widow and his losses at bridge. Mrs. Lushington is announced, and being left with Digby explanations ensue. She is now full of remorse for her malicious action, and tells Digby his fears are erroneous, for she had herself advanced Charles the money, and his disgrace was simply his wounded pride at taking her money. She expresses her admiration of the Countess whom she had traduced, and promises to set things right. The Earl tells the Countess that Charles has written him good news, and sets her secret fears at rest by saying he had himself had the false tiara made, and intended telling her when she better knew the value of diamonds. The piece was adequately played by the amateur cast mentioned above.

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. J. E. B. BEAUMONT.

After the final performance of *Goody Two Shoes* at the Theatre Royal, Sheffield, on Saturday, a presentation was made to Mr. Beaumont, general-manager of Mr. John Hart's Sheffield theatres, of a beautifully illuminated address, designed by Miss Pilley, and a purse of £100, subscribed for by over 500 patrons of the Lyceum and Royal Theatres. The presentation was made by Alderman George Senior in a characteristic speech, in which he referred to Mr. Beaumont's high qualifications for the responsible position he occupied in regard to local theatrical affairs, and to his virtues as a man and a citizen. Mr. Beaumont, who was very cordially received, spoke of his happy six years' association with Sheffield. He had an excellent and indulgent public, and a considerate board of directors, and a free hand was allowed him in most matters. He spoke highly of the staffs of the two theatres, and he hoped that he would long remain with them, and that the Sheffield public would never regret the confidence they had expressed in the policy he had adhered to. The following is the text of the address:—

"To J. E. B. Beaumont, Esq., manager of the Lyceum Theatre, Sheffield, and the Sheffield Theatre Royal.

"The conclusion of the third successful pantomime provided at the Theatre Royal, and at a time when you have completed six years' association with the Lyceum Theatre, a considerable company of Sheffield playgoers desire to offer you this token of their esteem, together with a purse of gold.

"It is felt that during the years you have held the position of manager of the Lyceum, you have done everything in your power to ensure the comfort and entertainment of thousands of Sheffield lovers of play. The two theatres were certainly never better controlled than they are to-day, and patrons are always confident of receiving courtesy, kindness, and the most efficient attention at your hands.

"When Mr. John Hart, having taken over the Theatre Royal, decided to give you a dual charge, he only confirmed an impression already held of your exceptional capabilities as a theatrical manager.

"We trust that your connection with Sheffield will long be maintained, and that you and Mrs. Beaumont will enjoy succeeding decades of health and prosperity."

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES visited the St. James's Theatre on Monday and witnessed the performance of *The Prisoner of Zenda*.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"L'ANE DE BURIDAN,"

Comedy, in Three Acts, by MM. de Flers and de Caillavet, Produced at the Gymnase on Feb. 19.

Micheline ..... MLLE. MARTHE REGNIER
Vivette ..... MLLE. MISTINGUETT
Fernande Chantal ..... MLLE. FONTENEY
Odette ..... MLLE. FREVALLES
Baronne de Stecke ..... MME. BLANCHE BARAT
Louise ..... MLLE. MONTAVON
Lucien ..... M. DUMENY
George Boullains ..... M. GASTON DUBOSC
Morange ..... M. ARVEL
Adolphe ..... M. JEAN DAX

PARIS, THURSDAY, FEB. 25.—MM. de Flers and de Caillavet have given us a pleasing play, but with hardly any plot. It may be argued that bright dialogue is the essence of modern comedy, yet the authors should beware of monotony in a three-act play wherein there is so little material as in *L'Ane de Buridan*. We are reminded at the outset of *Mademoiselle Josette* and *Triplepatte;* of the former in the character of a charming tomboy that Mlle. Marthe Regnier has made a speciality; of the latter in the foolish clubman, George Boullains, who makes love to all the women, and is constantly getting in and out of bed in blue silk pyjamas. All this is very droll for a little while, but in the long run of three acts it is apt to become somewhat tedious. As the title implies, the donkey in question is the animal who hesitates between the pail of water and the sack of oats, ultimately dying from hunger because he cannot make up his mind whether he is more hungry than thirsty. In the same manner George Boullains is undecided as to which of the two charming women he should lay siege to: one the wife, the other the mistress, of his friend Lucien, whom he met at the house of some friends in St. Lunaire. He finally chooses the little tomboy, Micheline, Lucien's ward, who frankly asks him to marry her. The dialogue is sparkling throughout, and the final scene, wherein Micheline falls asleep in Boullains's rooms, makes an original and charming curtain. Much of the success of the work is due to the exponents, who acted splendidly; in fact, the management of the Gymnase may pride itself on having one of the best companies in Paris.

"GUERRE."

Play, in Three Acts, by M. Robert Reinert, Adapted from the German by MM. A. Germain and R. Trébor, Produced at Antoine's on Feb. 19.

Madeleine Axen ..... MLLE. LUCIE BRILLE
Gertrude Volney ..... MLLE. JEANNE EVEN
Mme. Axen ..... MME. MASSART
Elise ..... MLLE. CORBE
Le Curé ..... M. GEMIER
Rodolphe ..... M. MAXENCE
Un Soldat ..... M. FLATEAU
Le Commissaire ..... M. COLAS
Le Maire ..... M. HOURY

The Théâtre Antoine has produced three novelties, of which *La Guerre*, the *pièce de résistance*, is the least satisfactory. The work is of German manufacture, and was performed—so we are told—two or three times for the benefit of the members of the Peace Conference in Munich. Others assert that it had a long and successful run in the Fatherland, a statement I doubt very much, because a hymn of Peace would hardly prove acceptable to our warlike neighbours, who prefer the sound of the clashing of swords. It certainly was a praiseworthy attempt on the author's part to depict the folly of war; but these theories can only be expressed in book form. As a play it proved a failure. At curtain-rise a handful of wounded soldiers are vainly waiting for the ambulance men. The noise of the battle is heard in the distance, and the men while away the time by indulging in painfully long dissertations on war and other matters. In the second act, at the house of the relatives of one of the before-mentioned wounded soldiers, more distant noises are heard, the cheering of a drunken crowd celebrating a victory wherein fifty thousand of the enemy's troops are slain. There is also an invisible dog howling in the distance—a stage howl that took the audience somewhat by surprise. In the final act the same wounded men are still seen waiting for the ambulances, and more tirades follow. Expressed at a conference or in the form of a pamphlet, the author's generous theories might have been telling. As a play they missed their mark.

"LE DONATAIRE,"

Play, in Two Acts, by M. Léon Madart, Produced at Antoine's on Feb. 19.

Louise ..... MLLE. LAVIGNE
Jérôme Madré ..... M. HENRY-HOURY
Ernest Madré ..... M. GERARD GARNIER
Maître Corbe ..... M. MARCHAL
Grosjean ..... M. GEORGES DALLEU
Duveau ..... M. DUVEAU
Depré ..... M. PIERRE LAURENT

This is a clever, amusing play, which, however, will give rise to litigation, inasmuch as M. Léon Madart is accused of plagiarism; and the matter will be fought out before the Authors' Society. Jérôme Madré is an old peasant. He has not a single relative, and the thought that his fortune will after his death go to the State preys so much on his mind that he sends for his lawyer, and gives all his property to Ernest, a youth who also bears the name of Madré, on the condition that Ernest will have to keep the old man in comfort and treat him with respect. When, however, Ernest comes into this unexpected fortune he shows himself cruel, and discards Louise, a girl he seduced and who soon expects to become a mother. His behaviour to Jérôme is altogether so outrageous that the old peasant implores the lawyer to cancel the deed wherein he disposed of his property. Unfortunately, the document is binding. But the lawyer has a happy inspiration. According to law, the deed becomes null if the donor marries and his wife presents him with a child. Jérôme jumps at the idea, although his joy cools down when he remembers that he is close upon eighty and that his chances of having an heir are somewhat remote. The lawyer then has a second inspiration. He remembers Louise, and sends for her, for he knows that, through Ernest's fault, she is in an interesting condition. The girl, starving and homeless, at once accepts this aged fiancé, and the wicked Ernest has the mortification of knowing that he is being disinherited by his own child. The amusing two acts, which raised much laughter, were excellently acted.

THE evening's entertainment at Antoine's wound up with *Lorsque l'enfant paraît*, two brightly written acts, by M. Ch. Esquier. His heroine is Léonide, a scheming, grasping, clever little cocotte, who has two elderly admirers—Gaston de Moultaire, a rich aristocrat, and Arsène Lechalguilliers, a wealthy ex-professor. Gaston thinks he is the father of Léonide's baby; so does Arsène. Both are in ecstasies before the child appears, and provide handsomely for its present and future wants. In an unfortunate hour they meet. The truth leaks out that they have been fooled by the wily Léonide, and they call her ugly names. The damsel, however, is equal to the occasion, and appeals to their feelings. She admits that either Gaston or Arsène is her baby's father—she cannot say who—but the moment there is a doubt it is evident the child must have the benefit of it. The two men eye each other in silence; and as each thinks he can lay claim to the paternity, they take the heroic resolve of continuing to befriend both mother and child. And they go away arm-in-arm in blissful ignorance of the fact that the infant was begotten by a certain Léon, a youth, the "amant de cœur" of the treacherous Léonide. The farce was spiritedly played by Mlles. Lyses and Lavigne, MM. Colas, Clasis, and Henry-Houry.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree paid a flying visit to Paris on Sunday in order to meet Mr. Hall Caine and Mr. Louis N. Parker, whose dramatisation of Mr. Caine's novel, "The White Prophet," is destined for the autumn production at His Majesty's. Progress in the preparation of the play was reported, and Mr. Tree expressed the liveliest satisfaction with the portion of the work which was read to him.

The Haymarket is shortly to harbour two revivals of classical comedy, Mr. Tree having determined to follow *The Dancing Girl* at His Majesty's with a reproduction of *The School for Scandal*. Sheridan's famous play will be presented with a star cast. The distinguished actor, who has before appeared as Sir Benjamin Backbite and Joseph, will afford his admirers an opportunity of seeing him as Sir Peter Teazle, and for the rôle of Lady Teazle he has secured the services of Miss Irene Vanbrugh, whose appearance in the part of the tantalising young wife will be awaited with eager interest. Other engagements of equal importance are pending.

Next month's production of the Afternoon Theatre will consist of a new three act play by Seymour Obermer, entitled *The House of Bondage*, the first performance being fixed for Friday, March 12. The chief character is that of a woman who has married unhappily, and falls in love with the doctor upon whose skill the life of her husband depends. The part will be played by Miss Eva Moore, and included in the cast will be Mr. Aubrey Smith, Mr. Michael Sherbrooke, Mr. Compton Coutts, Miss Beryl Faber, and Miss Sarah Brooke.

Miss Lena Ashwell will take *The Truants* to Brighton on Thursday, March 11, in order to give a flying matinée at the Theatre Royal. The highly successful run at the Kingsway Theatre of this bright and unconventional play will not, of course, be interrupted.

The late Charles Warner was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, a short distance from New York, on the 13th inst., the funeral service being held at the Church of the Transfiguration ("The Little Church Around the Corner") in East Twenty-ninth-street, the Rev. George C. Houghton officiating. Mr. B. F. White, of the Lambs Club, had charge of the arrangements at the church, and a delegation from the club was in attendance. There were many flowers covering the coffin, sent by prominent players. Mr. and Mrs. Harry B. Warner were the only relatives present, but many well-known artists attended to pay a last tribute to the deceased actor, these including Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence D'Orsay, Mr. Eben Plympton, Mr. Wilton Lackaye, Mr. Lloyd Bingham, Mr. Brandon Hurst, Mr. J. R. Crauford, Rev. F. J. Clay Moran, of the Actors' Church Alliance, Mr. Walter Price, Mr. W. L. Abingdon, Mr. Max Strakosch, Mr. Frank Gilmore, Mr. F. H. Westerton, Mr. Thomas Patten, Mr. Hassard Short, Mr. Frederick Perry, Mr. Marcus R. Mayer, Mr. Melville Stewart, and Mr. A. R. Lipman. The pall-bearers were Mr. W. L. Abingdon, Signor G. Perugini, Mr. Walter Price, Mr. Ernest E. Malcolm, Mr. J. R. Crauford, and Mr. F. H. Westerton.

The members of the New Frances Club for Ladies, 425, Strand, gave a most successful fancy dress ball at the Elysée Galleries on the 23rd inst. The dresses were very original and well executed. On the stroke of midnight the whole company formed into couples and marched past the judges (Miss Lena Ashwell and Miss Edith Craig). The prizes, presented by Miss Ashwell, were awarded to Miss Hodgson for her realisation of "A Welsh Girl" and to Mr. James Warren for his portrayal of "The Scarlet Pimpernel." Consolation prizes were given to Miss Fairweather, "A Japanese Girl," and to Mr. Isidor Newmark, a "Golliwog."

Mr. H. B. Irving concludes an extended season of unquestionable success at the Shaftesbury Theatre to-day with two performances, *Louis XI.* being given this afternoon and *The Lyons Mail* in the evening. In taking up the rôles in which his illustrious father shone so conspicuously, Mr. Irving has challenged comparison of the most exacting kind, but that he emerged in triumph there can be no possible doubt. The audience at the Shaftesbury on Monday spent itself in enthusiasm over his performance of Louis XI., and no dissentient voice has been heard in the chorus of approval which has been raised. It is agreed on all hands that no part in the dramatic calendar can be considered too difficult for the accomplished young actor to attempt.

Mr. Irving starts his spring tour at Harrogate on April 8. During the tour, which will last about twelve weeks, Hanley, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Liverpool, Burton-on-Trent, Cambridge, and Oxford will be visited in the order named. A new comedy based upon the late Oscar Wilde's story "Lord Arthur Savile's Crime," by Gilbert Crannan and Howard Peacey, will be produced in the course of the tour. Mr. Irving has also acquired for eventual production Mr. Stephen Phillips' poetical play *The Sin of David*.

The Follies' new programme will be produced at the Apollo on Monday, when two "potted" plays, *The King of Cadonia* and *What Every Woman Knows*, will be presented. In the same programme *Everybody's Benefit* will be revived with new "turns," notably a parody of Miss Margaret Cooper's performance, and Miss Gwennie Mars's popular skit on Harry Lauder.

"An Englishman's Home" was also to have been subjected to the potting process, but the Lord Chamberlain has intimated to Mr. Pelissier that he will not licence the "skit" on that play. The burlesque, however, was in no way a travesty of the patriotism of the piece, and dealt solely with the alien question, from a very droll point of view. The scene was the interior of a villa, wherein a family of foreigners is discovered at dinner. The house is bombarded, fragments of the walls falling in one by one until there is little left. As the commander of the troops enters he is recognised by the host as a long-lost nephew. "Uncle!" exclaims the officer in astonishment. "What are you doing here, nephew?" asks the owner of the house. "We have come to take England," is the reply. "You are too late," responds the householder, "we have taken England years ago!"

Mr. Martin Harvey, who concludes a successful week at Bradford Theatre Royal this evening, has now been some seven weeks on tour, and it is satisfactory to learn that his experience of business in the provinces does not coincide with the gloomy statements which find acceptance in some quarters. Talking to an interviewer, the popular actor said that his experiences this year were fully up to expectation, and had been remarkably good.

At Rochdale on Monday Mr. Harvey, Miss de Silva, and their company make their first appearance at the Theatre Royal, and the engagement is the fulfilment of a promise to visit the town made between five and six years ago. The visit is limited to three nights. To signalise his first appearance, Mr. Harvey will present a souvenir volume on the opening night. The remainder of the week will be spent at the Theatre Royal, Halifax, and on Friday the performance will be under the patronage of the local branch of the Dickens' Fellowship.

Miss Rita Everard, the second "boy" in the pantomime of *Boy Blue* at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham, was on Monday married to Mr. Hubert Ignatius Blount, secretary of the Actors' Association and member of a well-known Catholic family. The ceremony took place at the Catholic Church of St. Simon and St. Jude, Tulse Hill, London, and the officiating clergy were Father Charles Blount, S.J., the uncle of the bridegroom, assisted by Father Hurden and Father Fletcher and the Revs. Francis and Stanislaus Jones, brothers of the bride.

The bride's full name appeared in the register as Mary Margaret Amelia Jones. She was attired in a pretty dress of Empire lace, over white satin, with a Directoire panel of accordion-pleated chiffon, long sleeves of net, and a transparent yoke. She wore orange blossoms (which had adorned her mother at her wedding), and a pearl and diamond pendant, the present of the bridegroom, while the latter wore a diamond ring and pin, the gifts of his bride.

The wedding party arrived at the church in motor-cars. A reception was subsequently held at the residence of the bride's mother, in Hailsham-avenue, Mrs. Blount afterwards returning to take her usual place in the pantomime at the Prince of Wales's, Birmingham, in the evening. Among the presents received was a silver sugar-sifter, per Mr. J. F. Graham, the manager of the Prince's Theatre, and a silver inkstand from his sons and daughter, Keith and Leslie. Mr. Southworth, musical-director, sent a silver-backed comb, while members of the company, including Miss Hetty King, offered acceptable gifts.

Although Miss Everard has only reached the age of twenty-one, she has been on the stage twelve years. She started her professional career at Brighton in *Ye Queen of Hearts*, and since then has played leading parts with Mr. George Edwardes, Mr. Ben Greet, Mr. Fred Mouillot, Mr. George Dance, and many other prominent managers. The happy couple contemplate a trip abroad at the conclusion of the pantomime, after which Miss Everard will resume her professional engagements.

We regret to announce the death of Miss Mary Smith, a well-known actress and sister-in-law to Mr. William Mallalieu. The deceased lady was the descendant of generations of theatrical notabilities, her father (Mr. George Smith) and her grandfather (James Smith) being for many years managers of the Norwich circuit. Her uncle (J. F. Smith) was the author of the popular novels, "The Will and the Way," "Woman and Her Master," "Minnigrey," &c., which appeared in the *London Journal*. Miss Smith was 75 years of age, and had been ailing for some time. She died peacefully at a private nursing-home at 10, Ziz-Zag-road, Liscard, Cheshire.

The Malacca cane presented by the late John Hollingshead to Sir Henry Irving, who used it when impersonating Dr. Primrose and Robespierre at the Lyceum, was included in the sale at Sotheby's on Tuesday, and fetched £30, as compared with £42 at the Irving sale in 1905. The stick was at one time the property of Thomas King, the comedian, who used it in the characters of Sir Peter Teazle and Puff.

Mr. Robert Smythe Hichens, the author of *The Real Woman*, which was produced with so much success at the Criterion on Thursday, was born at Speldhurst, Kent, on Nov. 14, 1864. He is the eldest son of the Rev. Canon Hichens, Rector of St. Stephen's, near Canterbury. After leaving Clifton College he resolved to be a musician, studied at Bristol and in London for some years, meanwhile wrote and published many lyrics for music, some recitations, and short stories, and finally resolved to abandon music for literature. He studied for a year at the London School of Journalism, and since then has written much for various newspapers. His publications are "The Coastguard's Secret" (written at the age of seventeen); "The Green Carnation," 1894; "An Imaginative Man," 1895; "The Folly of Eustace," 1896; "Flames," 1897; "The Londoners," 1897; "Byeways," 1897; "The Slave," a Romance; "Tongues of Conscience," 1900; "The Prophet of Berkeley Square," 1901; "Felix," 1902; "The Woman with the Fan," 1904; "The Garden of Allah," 1905; "The Black Spaniel," 1905; "The Call of the Blood," 1906; also "The Daughters of Babylon," in collaboration with Mr. Wilson Barrett. He collaborated in *The Medicine Man*, produced by Sir Henry Irving at the Lyceum Theatre; and *Becky Sharp*, produced at the Prince of Wales's Theatre.

Mr. Forbes Robertson and Miss Gertrude Elliott will open their tour at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, on Monday, with *The Passing of the Third Floor Back*, which has had such a prosperous career at the St. James's and Terry's Theatres. The chief piece will be preceded by *A Play in Little* by Mr. Ian Robertson. In addition to the principals the company includes Messrs. Ian Robertson, Edward Sass, Ernest Hendrie, Wilfred Forster, David Powell, S. T. Pearce, and Alexander Cassy; Misses Agnes Thomas, Haidée Wright, Amy Brandon Thomas, Kate Carlyon, Keith Lytton, and Cicely Barcham.

A souvenir containing artistic reproductions of characters and scenes, with appreciations of the play by Sir Edward Russell and Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., will be presented to those booking seats for Monday, to inaugurate the approaching 200th performance, which will be reached at Kennington the following week. It may be added that Sir John Hare has released Mr. Percy Burton in order to enable him to join Mr. Forbes Robertson as one of his general managers.

The many friends of Mrs. F. M. Paget, who is, with her husband, residing at Eversleigh, Frances-road, Windsor, will be glad to hear she has made partial recovery from her recent very serious attack of illness. She is left, however, a permanent invalid, with a palsied right hand and general weakness. Her memory fails her as to the months of the year and days of the week, but is brilliantly lucid and clear on most subjects connected with her strenuous and eventful life.

The next meeting of the Actresses' Franchise League will be held on Friday next at 3 p.m., at the Dover-street Studios, Dover-street, W. Not only members of the League and their friends, but all members of the profession are cordially invited to attend. Miss Alice Crawford will receive for the League, and Miss Abadam, of the National Union, and Sir John Cockburn have promised to speak.

Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton have re-engaged Mr. Ernest Ch. Gittins as business-manager for their spring tour, in the course of which they will present *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Othello*, and *Count Hannibal*, adapted from Stanley J. Weyman's novel of that name.

The principals of the Prince's Theatre pantomime at Bradford paid a visit to the Royal Infirmary on the afternoon of the 19th inst., accompanied by the secretary and the Hospital Fund staff. Miss Florrie Forde, Mr. Bert Byrne, and the rest of the artists made a round of the wards, and spoke many words of encouragement and hope to the inmates. It was a considerate thought on the part of the artists, who on more than one occasion have given their services for the Hospital Fund.

The receipts of Mr. Percy Hutchison and company with *Brewster's Millions* at Hull last week were higher than they have ever been before with this attraction. Over three thousand people nightly paid for admission, and on some evenings it was unnecessary to open the ordinary doors of Mr. Morton's popular theatre. Great interest was aroused among local theatre-goers by the first professional appearance in Hull of one of their own townspeople, viz., Miss Sybil Walsh, in an important part. On Saturday night, in response to persistent cries of speech, Mr. Percy Hutchison announced that at Whitsuntide he should have very great pleasure in again introducing Miss Sybil Walsh to a Hull audience in another of his companies.

Mr. Charles Frohman journeyed from New York in the Lusitania, and arrived in London on Tuesday. His plans for the future are full of interest, and his new productions in the coming London season will include plays by English, French, and American authors. Included in those ready for presentation is a new comedy by Hubert Henry Davies, as yet unnamed. Among later productions will figure the Paris success, *Arsène Lupin*, *The Honour of the Family*, *The Great Divide*, *The Servant in the House* and a new play by MM. Caillavet and De Flers.

It is good to learn that complete success has been achieved in America by the different English plays and players taken there by Mr. Frohman. Before leaving New York, the enterprising manager arranged for the production in America of Major Guy du Maurier's patriotic piece, *An Englishman's Home*.

The coming performance of *Le Pré aux Clercs*, by the students of the Guildhall School of Music, has aroused great interest in musical circles. *Le Pré aux Clercs*, one of the tuneful works of Herold, the composer of *Zampa*, was first played in Paris at the Opéra Comique, on Dec. 15, 1832, only two months before the death of its talented composer, at the early age of forty-one. It was sung in French at the Princess's Theatre, on May 2, 1849, and was heard in Italian at Covent Garden on June 26, 1880. The scene is laid in Mediæval France, the period being that of Henry of Navarre, with whose presentment Mr. Fred Terry is now achieving popularity The opera will be performed on Thursday and Friday evenings and Saturday afternoon next.

Mr. Stanley Rogers, lessee and manager of the Theatre Royal, North Shields, has been successful in obtaining the licence to sell intoxicating liquor at that establishment. Although the Temperance Party were strongly represented in opposition, Mr. Rogers came off with flying colours, the voting being eighteen for and ten against.

Mr. Harold Wagner is severing his engagement with Mr. Walter Melville, with whom he has served as acting-manager for two years. Mr. Wagner will be seen in the variety theatres in March.

Mr. A. S. Homewood, who recently returned to England after a busy year at the Antipodes as Mr. Herbert Flemming's leading man, is apparently very much in request. He appeared in both pieces produced by the Stage Society at the Kingsway this week, and, in addition, will be in the cast of John Galsworthy's new play *Strife*, to be presented at a series of matinées at the Duke of York's. He is also producing a play for the Play-Actors. Mr. Homewood has had many interesting experiences in New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, Canada, and the States; but, "in spite of all temptations to belong to other nations," he steadfastly remains an Englishman, and hopes to be able to find "an Englishman's home."

Mr. George Lestocq starts a long tour of *The Sportsman* at Brighton on Monday. At Eastbourne the following week Mr. Lestocq will produce a new and original one-act musical play, *The Garden of the Gods*. Mr. Lestocq will also send *Jane* on tour in the North, commencing March 29.

Mr. Frank Varna, the clever young son of Mr. H. W. Varna, has been winning golden opinions in *The Likes o' Me*, at the Kingsway Theatre, and Miss Muriel Varna, his daughter, has been engaged by Mr. Robert Courtneidge for a part in the new piece which he is shortly producing.

The curtain fell for the last time on Saturday, 20th inst., on the Edinburgh Theatre Royal pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, amid a scene of great enthusiasm. During the evening, the principal ladies of the company were the recipients of many beautiful bouquets, and, in the final scene, the stage resembled a lovely bower of flowers. The singing of "Auld lang syne" was heartily joined in by the audience, the occupants of the stalls clasping hands with the actors in the final verse. Much applause succeeded, and Mr. Phil Ray then stepped before the curtain and thanked the Edinburgh public for the warm reception accorded the pantomime; but the audience was not satisfied until the actors, one by one, had spoken a few words.

"The Yeomen of the Guard" will be revived for a run of four weeks on Monday, Mrs. D'Oyly Carte's management of the Savoy ending on March 27. The theatre will then be entirely redecorated. The cast of *The Yeomen of the Guard* will include Mr. Workman as Jack Point, the part created by Mr. George Grossmith, and Mr. Richard Temple in his original character of Sergeant Meryll. Mr. Rutland Barrington will be seen for the first time as Wilfred Shadbolt, which was first played by Mr. W. H. Denny. Miss Jessie Rose and Miss Louie Rene will resume their former rôles, and Miss Elsie Spain will play Elsie Maynard.

Messrs. Smith and Carpenter have secured the services of Miss Amy Grace, South Africa's popular comedienne, for the part of Nancy in *Pete*, starting on tour on March 8. Miss Grace's last engagement was in the spring of last year, when she starred as Dorcas Gentle in *The Prodigal Daughter*.

"The Head of the Firm," the play adapted from the Danish of Hjalmar Bergstrom by Mr. Leslie Faber, will be presented on Thursday next at the Vaudeville. The author himself will play the part of the manager of an ironworks, and the cast will also comprise Mr. James Hearn, Mr. Harcourt Williams, Mr. J. D. Beveridge, Mr. Evelyn Beerbohm, Mr. Ernest Cosham, Miss Henrietta Watson, Miss Ethelwyn Jones, and Miss Sydney Fairbrother. The piece was originally produced at the Opera House, Buxton, last June.

"The Cingalee" has made a great hit in Swindon, every seat in the house being booked. On Friday the Earl of Suffolk and party occupied a private box.

"Strife," the new three-act comedy by Mr. John Galsworthy, will be presented by Mr. Charles Frohman for a series of six matinées at the Duke of York's on Tuesday, March 9. The play, which will be produced by Mr. Granville Barker, will have a strong cast, the principals of which will consist of Messrs. Norman McKinnel, C. M. Hallard, Dennis Eadie, Luigi Lablache, Charles V. France, O. P. Heggie, A. N. Homewood, George Ingleton, J. Fisher White, R. Leisk, P. L. Julian, H. R. Hignett, Owen Roughwood, and Edmund Gwenn, Master Simon Nagle, and Misses Ellen O'Malley, Mary Barton, Lillah McCarthy, Rose Cazalet, Sidney Paxton, Blanche Stanley, and Gladys Storey.

A play by Mrs. Percy Dearmer, the novelist, entitled *Nan Pilgrim*, will serve for the fourth essay of the Dramatic Productions Club, and will be presented at the Court on Sunday, March 7, and repeated the following afternoon. Miss Lilian Braithwaite will sustain the title-rôle, and in the fourth act will sing a ballad composed by Dr. R. Vaughan Williams Among those engaged are Miss Agnes Thomas, Miss Elsie Chester, Messrs. Wm. Haviland, Edward Sass, and A. Holmes-Gore, who is producing the play.

Mrs. Dearmer is the wife of the Rev. Percy Dearmer, the Vicar of St. Mary the Virgin, Primrose-hill, and the authoress of several successful books, on one of which "The Difficult Way," the play is founded. We should add that the Rev. Percy Dearmer has written many religious works, and is also the author of a Fabian tract on "Christianity and Socialism."

The curtain was rung down on *Jack and Jill*, Mr. John Hart's successful pantomime, at the Theatre Royal, Bradford, on Saturday, and, as usual on last-night performances, the theatre was packed by a good-humoured audience. Showers of bouquets greeted the principal ladies, and money was thrown to the bright little children, who, during the run of the pantomime, had afforded so much pleasure to the patrons.

In response to repeated calls, Mr. Hart made his appearance, and referred to the efforts of his company, and those of the artists of the other theatres in Bradford, in the sacred cause of charity, £100 having been raised for the Cinderella Club by a matinée at the Royal, and £200 being the net proceeds of a pantomime football carnival on the 17th, in aid of the Hospital Fund. During the performance, Mr. Albert Le Fre, on behalf of the orchestra, presented to Mr. C. W. Chambers, the conductor, a handsome barometer. After a speech from Mr. T. F. Doyle, the general-manager and author of the pantomime, the evening concluded amidst great enthusiasm.

Miss Sophie Lingwood, who concludes to-night nine weeks as Janet McCleod in *The Gay Gordons*, has been kindly released by Mr. Seymour Hicks to enable her to rejoin Mr. Edward Terry.

Miss Dorothy Firmin underwent an operation for throat throuble on the 13th inst., and is, we are glad to hear, making satisfactory progress towards recovery. She intends going to Brighton shortly to recruit her health.

A matinée will be given on March 18 at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne, the proceeds of which will be devoted to the benefit of the widow and children of the late treasurer of the theatre, Mr. W. N. Ramsdale. All the leading artists engaged in the city have promised to appear, and arrangements are in the hands of a committee, comprised of Mr. F. Teale Lingham, Mr. F. C. Sutcliffe, Mr. W. P. Wells, and Mr. W. H. Boardman.

Mr. Henry Lytton makes his last London appearance for some considerable time at the Savoy this evening. During the twelve years since his joined the old Savoy company, in February, 1897, Mr. Lytton has been continuously before the London public. He will now, under a twelve months' engagement with Mrs. D'Oyly Carte, play the principal comedian's parts in the Gilbert and Sullivan operas on tour.

Mr. Clarence Derwent has returned to Miss Horniman's Theatre in Manchester, where he had already been for nearly a year.

During the performance of the pantomime *Dick Whittington* at the Grand Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne on Saturday night, the principals of the piece went round the theatre with boxes and collected £11 11s. 9d. for the West Stanley Pit Disaster Relief Fund.

Mr. H. Cecil Beryl, we regret to learn, is suffering from a severe chill, which has compelled him to keep to his bed for the past week. He hopes to be about again in a few days.

"Lady Frederick," controlled by the successful and popular Hutchison management, with Miss Eleanor Delaporte and Mr. Robert Minster and a strong cast visited for the first time the very pretty new Pavilion Theatre, Weymouth, and opened on Monday to a vast audience, conspicuous in the stalls being many well-known officers from the Channel Fleet at Portland, who participated in extending a cordial reception to Mr. Somerset Maugham's brilliant play magnificently mounted and produced under the personal supervision of Mr. Percy Hutchison this spring. Numerous calls after each act and much enthusiasm at the termination of the play proved how much appreciated the society productions for which the Hutchison management are celebrated are in Weymouth.

At the Liverpool Shakespeare Theatre, on Tuesday, a matinée of the pantomime *Jack and the Beanstalk* was given in aid of the funds of the annual Theatrical Football Gala, the proceeds of which are devoted to local theatrical charities.

Mr. Arthur Law Raynor is relinquishing his engagement as business manager for Mr. J. A. Campbell's *The Little Breadwinner*. He concludes eight months' tour with the piece on Saturday next.

Mr. W. Wilson Blake, who is business manager for Messrs. Henry Chattell and Jack Denton's company, *Through the Divorce Court*, which opened its tour at the Grand Theatre, Brighton, on Monday night, is to be congratulated on a remarkable achievement. Owing to the sudden illness of Mr. Cyprian A. Matthews Mr. Blake undertook at three minutes' notice the heavy lead, Señor Guzman di Mendoza, with complete success. At the termination of the performance Mr. Blake was complimented by Mr. Henry Chattell and Mr. Jack Denton, and by Mr. Ben Court, the resident-manager.

Mr. Martin Adeson is putting on shortly a new duologue entitled *Lady Maude's First Patient*, written by Herbert Darnley. Mr. Adeson will be supported in the novelty by Miss Clara Bernard.

"The World, the Flesh, and the Devil," the drama by Lesser Columbus recently produced at the Pavilion, Mile End, was not intended to be toured before August, but the requests from the provinces have been so numerous that an additional company is being formed, and is booked to open at Easter. Everything will be done in first-class style, and the printing will be "sensational." The American rights are being negotiated; and in addition the play is being translated into Yiddish.

Mr. James Welch, supported by his entire Wyndham's Theatre company, including Miss Audrey Ford, will commence a tour with *When Knights were Bold* on Monday at the Borough Theatre, Stratford.

One-act pieces are evidently to be the special care of "The Curtain-Raisers," the latest addition to the number of play-producing societies. Under the auspices of this institution will be produced at the Rehearsal Theatre on the evenings of Wednesday and Thursday, March 10 and 11, *My Lady's Glove*, a comedietta by Neilson Morris; *Bertha Brent*, a play by Lester Thomas; *The Jewel*, a "phantasy in blank verse," by Florence Eaton; and *The Catastrophe*, a play by Hubert C. Ferraby.

The Lyceum pantomime ended its triumphal career on Saturday, when a house packed in every part cheered throughout the performance of *Little Red Riding Hood*. Gifts of bouquets were numerous, so that at the end when the principals formed up on the stage they were half hidden by a bank of flowers. Mr. Ernest Carpenter made a short speech, thanking the public for its support and the actors for their zeal. He announced that *Hamlet* would be revived on March 9, and that *Cinderella* would be next year's pantomime.

Mr. Julian Rose then came forward and stated that he had been asked on behalf of the principals to make some presentations. He handed to Mr. Major Jones, the stage manager, and to several others, some handsome gifts. Subsequently, little Miss Marjory Carpenter, as representing the chorus and dancers, presented Mr. Espinosa, the ballet master, with a large clock. Finally, after the National Anthem had been played, artists and audience joined in the singing of "Auld lang syne."

The Revival Society announces for Sunday the production at the Rehearsal Theatre in Maiden-lane, W.C., of four new pieces—*Love and Be Silent*, by Mrs. Sim; *Fifi* and *The Friends*, both adapted from the German by Miss Ella Erskine, and seen for the first time in this country; and *Fortune's Fool*, by Rathmell Wilson, author of "The Book of the Sirens." Miss Erskine, the adapter, will play the title rôle in *Fifi*, and will be assisted by Mr. Leveson Lane. The piece will be produced by Mr. Walter Pearce. In *The Friends*, Miss Victoria Addison, daughter of Miss Carlotta Addison, will appear.

Mr. Esme Percy, lately with Miss Horniman's company, will act in both of Mr. Rathmell Wilson's plays—*Fortune's Fool* at the Rehearsal Theatre, Maiden-lane, to-morrow (Sunday), and in *The House of the Traitor* at the Court Theatre on March 21.

The Kennington pantomime of *Red Riding Hood* came to an end on Saturday last, amid the enthusiasm of the biggest house that has ever said farewell to the Christmas annual in that theatre. The leading ladies were overwhelmed with bouquets, the Bros. Poluski were repeatedly brought before the curtain, and at the end the audience insisted on a speech from Mr. Brandreth, to whose astute management much of the popularity which the pantomime enjoyed was due.

Miss Florence Smithers has signed an engagement, through Mr. Blackmore, for one of the principal comedy parts in pantomime 1909-10 at the Lyceum.

Mr. Norman V. Norman has made a great success at the Tyne Theatre, Newcastle, this week, the audiences being most enthusiastic. He has engaged Mr. Robert Hilton, who played Herod in *Salome*, to play for a few special performances.

In the performance of *The Sign of the Cross* at the Pleasure Gardens Theatre, Folkestone, the part of the boy, Stephanus, has been played for the whole of this week by Miss Alys Hall, in place of Miss Edith Drayson, who is indisposed. Miss Hall essayed the part at extremely short notice, and has been highly complimented upon her excellent and sympathetic rendering of the character.

Owing to the serious illness of Miss Amy B. Ellis, the part of Gati in *Her Luck in London*, at the Gaiety, Burnley, this week was successfully taken by Miss Florrie Groves.

Mrs. Brown Potter has put an end to the disquieting reports regarding a breakdown in health by cabling to the Central News that she is perfectly well. She adds that she has signed a contract for a concert tour in England commencing on April 12.

Among the numerous letters of condolence received by Miss Julia Listelle (Silas), the daughter of Mr. Edouard Silas, the Dutch composer, whose death we recorded in a recent issue, were messages from Sir Charles Santley, Mr. W. F. Ganz, and Mr. Hermann Vezin.

"The Marriage of Kitty" will be played by Mr. Frank Weathersby's company for six nights and two matinées at the Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne, on Monday, March 8.

Miss Maxine Elliott, in a recent interview in New York, was accused of being a suffragette. "Of course I am," she retorted. "Isn't every woman who earns her living? This is a woman's age. Who founded the Bon Marché, the largest department store in the world? A woman. Who manages one of the finest hotels in the world, the Savoy, in London? A woman. Who," laughed Miss Elliott, "has the finest theatre in New York?"

"The Novice," a one-act play from the pen of the Marchioness Townshend, was produced on Monday at the Maidenhead Town Hall, in aid of a local institution. The piece is founded on a picture called "The Foundling," which was exhibited at the Academy.

The rising colliery town of Pencoed, near Bridgend, Glam., has just been provided with a hall to seat 1,200 people. While local concerts, meetings, and eisteddfodau are expected to supply the chief income for the company which has erected the building, it is hoped that a good many theatrical companies may be induced to attend. The hall was opened on Tuesday evening, Feb. 23, by a concert, in which some well-known South Wales artists appeared, and speeches were made by local dignitaries.

The annual "pantomime charity carnival" was held at Bradford on the 17th inst., on the ground of the Bradford City Association Football Club, and the artists of the Theatre Royal, Prince's Theatre, Empire Theatre, and Palace Theatre, combined heartily in fun and football, the net result for the Hospital Fund being £200. A procession, consisting of tableaux designed by the managers of the respective theatres, trades associations, members of the profession, military bands, and mounted police, marched to the ground, where an eleven of the Karno's Troupe tackled an eleven of the reserves of the City Club team in serious football. The result was City Club, 3 goals; Karno's Troupe, 1 goal. There were races for pantomime children, hat trimming competition, a ladies' football match, and a tug-of-war (which was won by the Prince's Theatre team). Then the fun became fast and furious. Messrs. A. Le Fre and Bert Byrne were much in evidence with a flying machine competition. The machines were wonderfully and fearfully made to "raise the wind," so were the "side shows" on the improvised "fairground."

Miss Florrie Forde and Miss Isabel Dillon kicked off for the football match, and the former lady "took the cake" at the tea stall for the largest sum of money collected. She shared honours, however, with Mr. Bert Byrne, who, as "Carrie," astonished the "Nation" with the business he did at the "pubs" en route to the ground. There was a Marathon Race of 1,000 yards, which is still undecided, the winner not having arrived yet. The chorus ladies did a roaring trade in cigarettes, programmes, sweets, and flowers, and the Lord Mayor and Mayoress entered heartily into the fun.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

An Impressionist Playwright.

"I have been called a 'neo-romantic' by some, a 'neo-naturalist' by others," says M. Bernstein in the *Mail*. "I am neither. I am an impressionist. In other words, I have attempted in my plays to do what Claude Monet and Whistler have done in painting. The English, no doubt, will understand my meaning. Ruskin once accused the great Whistler of having thrown a pot of paint at the head of the British public. I have been accused of a similar offence by all those who, in France, represent the Pre-Raphaelite spirit—or its equivalent. But it has not prevented me from pursuing my aim and holding firmly to my own conception of the drama.

"To me, impressionism means two things. First, it consists in seizing the culminating moment of one human life—or several—a moment which is created by conflicts, perhaps somewhat extreme, but always essentially human. This, to me, has the advantage of bringing the characters into strong relief, for in those conflicts characters must forcibly reveal themselves. Secondly, instead of a painting, minute and laborious, of beings, things, and facts—a reproduction which, by the way, can never be really a faithful copy of Nature—I, as Whistler did on canvas, do not try to reproduce what my eyes perceive according to certain classical and artificial rules, but to give a visual impression, vivid and definite. My aim is to produce not an accurate copy, but an interpretation of truth. A line, a contour, can suggest more, have a greater and deeper meaning, than the most elaborate and careful accumulation of useless details."

A Long Embrace.

According to Mr. Robert Evett's statement to the *Manchester Umpire*, the effect upon audiences in that city of the "Waltz Dream" kiss is remarkable. "On Wednesday night at the Prince's," says Mr. Evett, "a voice from the gallery was heard during the moment of silence that succeeds the kiss. It remarked in heartfelt accents, 'That's fine!' In Glasgow one night a very stout lady in the stalls gazed upon the operation most intently. When it was over she turned to a neighbour and ejaculated audibly, 'Oh, my Lord!' in much the same tone as might have been used if she had just got over an amputation."

A Curious Coincidence.

After finishing our season at the Theatre Royal, Gravesend—says Mr. Butler Stanhope—we opened at Wakefield with *The Babes in the Wood*, written, produced, and played in by myself. After its successful run we had a few weeks of the legitimate and classical drama. Our manager was W. C. Dillon, the son of that great actor Charles Dillon, of Belphegor fame, who was then touring the provinces with his répertoire company. He paid a visit to the Town Hall, Wakefield. We were at the Theatre Royal, and judge of our surprise to see the programme. The companies were playing the same plays each night (Friday excepted), and this without the slightest knowledge on either side. I give you the list of plays:—

Charles Dillon.	W. C. Dillon.
Mon., *Othello*	*Othello*
Tues., *Hamlet*	*Hamlet*
Wed., *Macbeth*	*Macbeth*
Thurs., *Merchant of Venice*	*Merchant of Venice*
Fri., *Richelieu*	*William Tell*
Sat., *Richard the Third*	*Richard the Third*

This was a pure coincidence, without any arrangement or collusion whatever—father and son playing the same programme each night in the same town. The townspeople were raised to a high pitch of curiosity and excitement. We had a very pleasant week, and had a supper at which both father and son were present.

Miss Anderson's Opinions.

Miss Mary Anderson (Mme. Antonio de Navarro) has recently been paying a visit to New York, and has described the joy of living in England. "I don't prefer it, I love it!" she exclaimed, almost exultingly. "We have such a beautiful place in the country there, an old house of the Tudor period. And everything about us is so tranquil, with the stretches of lawn and the old, old trees, and the glimpse down in the valley where the ancient Tudor village lies. Then I have a little study at one side of the house, built in the time of the Jacobites, and all summer long the roses bloom about the windows. And in the twilight through the roses I watch the evening sky, all pink and tender grey behind the great trees; and I feel so peaceful and so contented that I could fairly cry."

Only for Stars.

With regard to young girls going on the stage, Miss Anderson said: "I want to repeat, as a message to all girls, what I am constantly writing to them, for they deluge me with letters from all parts of the world asking my advice on that very point. Some mornings my desk is piled with a perfect Matterhorn of such letters. I want to repeat 'Punch's' advice to those about to"—she smiled—"to go on the stage. Don't! There is but one qualification to that advice, and it is: Don't go on the stage unless the feeling that you can rise to the top within a very few years is so strong within you that it amounts to a moral certainty. To the girl who wants to show how pretty she is, or who has an idea that she can work up gradually, as she would in a business house, I say: Keep out of it. It is a hard life, and its unpleasant features are so peculiar to it that no girl but a positive genius should think of it for a moment as a means of livelihood. With all the other professions that are now open to women it isn't worth while."

Union of the Unacted.

"Might I," writes Mr. N. Thorpe Mayne in the *Mail*, "suggest a scheme which, perhaps, might bear good fruit—the formation of a society of 'unacted authors'? These might meet in the first instance, and endeavour to form some plan whereby someone competent should be engaged to read their plays, advise thereon, and then introduce suitable ones to likely managers. They might, further, make arrangements with certain managers to lend their theatres for occasional productions of the society's members' plays, open to the public at reduced fees, a small royalty on the gross takings being paid the authors, and the balance going to the proprietor of the theatre used. I would suggest a small subscription from each author who joined, to defray office expenses, postage, &c."

A Conjurer's Joke.

An American—reputedly a smart man—once agreed to act as confederate to Mr. Horace Goldin. He loaded up the Yankee with six eggs in each side pocket, planted a lively rabbit in his coat tail, a guinea-pig in his waistcoat, and one or two other farmyard items in sundry hiding places. Then he placed him in the centre of a seat where he had to keep getting up as people passed along. The show began and the confederate waited patiently to be called upon to do his part. The eggs were getting jammed into an omelette, the guinea-pig was scratching at his chest—but he bore himself bravely and waited. Trick after trick was reeled off by Goldin, but still the confederate's call came not. At last the curtain came down, the show was over, and—the smart man realised that he had been done. What he said when he unloaded his live stock need not be referred to.

"SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER."

Revival of Goldsmith's Comedy at the Haymarket Theatre, on Saturday, Feb. 20.

Sir Charles Marlow	Mr. Herbert Bunston
Hardcastle	Mr. E. Holman Clark
Young Marlow	Mr. Robert Loraine
Hastings	Mr. Louis Goodrich
Tony Lumpkin	Mr. George Giddens
Stingo	Mr. Gilbert Porteous
Diggory	Mr. Edward Rigby
Roger	Mr. John Castle
Ralph	Mr. H. Gerrish
Gregory	Mr. Edmund Breon
Jeremy	Mr. J. Cassels Cobb
Tom Twist	Mr. Reginald Eyre
Jack Slang	Mr. Harry Norton
Tom Tickle	Mr. Charles Fancourt
Mat Muggins	Mr. George Wallace
Mrs. Hardcastle	Mrs. A. B. Tapping
Miss Hardcastle	Miss Ethel Irving
Miss Neville	Miss Beatrice Ferrar
Maid	Miss Winifred Beech

It is strange that there should have been any doubt in the minds of Goldsmith's contemporaries as to the success of *She Stoops to Conquer*. How strongly prejudice sometimes works against the introduction of a novel style into drama was shown by the difficulties attending the production of the piece. The public, however, immediately contradicted the gloomy anticipations of the experts, and the success of the play was instant and immense. The evidence on this point is clear. At the first production all eyes were turned upon Dr. Johnson, sitting in the front row of a box, "and when he laughed everybody thought himself entitled to roar." Enjoyment and good humour were contagious. Tony Lumpkin's antics and Marlow's mistakes set the house in excellent humour. Goldsmith, hoping little and fearing much, wandered moodily in St. James's Park, where he was met by a friend, who, remonstrating with him on his absence from the playhouse, and representing "how useful his presence might be in making some sudden alterations which might be found necessary in the piece," prevailed on him to visit the theatre. Accordingly he bent his steps towards Covent Garden, and timorously crossed the threshold of the stage door. As he reached the wings, a solitary hiss fell upon his ear. This was evoked by the supposed improbability of Mrs. Hardcastle believing herself forty miles distant from her home, though standing in her own gardens, a deception actually practised by Sheridan on Mme. de Genlis. Hearing this ominous sound Goldsmith started in terror. "What's that?" he said to Colman, who stood beside him. "Psha," replied the manager, wrathful that his prophecies of failure had been falsified, "don't be fearful of squibs when we have been sitting these two hours on a barrel of gunpowder." The heartless cruelty and injustice of this speech were never forgotten by the author, who, hearing the immoderate laughter and loud applause which quickly followed, was speedily assured of his success.

Between the night of its first performance and the close of the season, in consequence of holidays, and benefits, when actors selected their own pieces, but twelve nights remained at the manager's disposal. On these, *She Stoops to Conquer* was played to crowded houses and with increasing popularity. "The applause given to a new piece on the first evening of its representation," says one of the papers of the day, "is sometimes supposed to be the tribute of partial friendship, but the approbation shown on the second exhibition of Dr. Goldsmith's new comedy exceeded that with which its first appearance was attended. Uninterrupted laughter and clamorous plaudits accompanied his muse to the last line of the play; and when it was given out for the author's benefit, the theatre was filled with the loudest acclamations that ever rung within its walls." Its success was assured by its being witnessed on the tenth night of its production by George III.; and receiving a most favourable verdict from Johnson. "I know of no comedy for many years," said he, "that has so much exhilarated an audience—that has answered so much the great end of comedy—making an audience merry." This opinion was heartily endorsed by the audience which assembled at the Haymarket on Saturday and applauded "Goldie's" comedy and Mr. Frederick Harrison's capital company with enthusiasm. The text has been relieved of certain "gags" and excrescences, and the elisions are always improvements. The acting of the company was both enjoyable and interesting, the amount of freshness and originality which was introduced into the readings of the principal parts being very acceptable. Miss Ethel Irving's Kate Hardcastle was, like everything she does, permeated with a piquant personal flavour, which was very pleasant indeed. A great charm of her performance was the delicate distinctness of her delivery, which gave exactly the right value to each word and phrase, and her judicious and intelligent use of inflexion and emphasis. The smiling demureness and arch humour of the character were done full justice to, and its comedy has not of late had as capable an exponent as Miss Irving, who certainly achieved a marked success. She had a very agreeable and amusing young Marlow in Mr. Loraine, who surprised everybody by the clever manner in which he played the part. While retaining, in submission to tradition, some of the farcical business which has been imported into the play, Mr. Loraine kept Young Marlow in the category of courteous gentlemen. Though shy, he was never actually awkward; and though comical, he never became ridiculous. He justified, indeed, entirely Miss Hardcastle's favourable estimate of the youth after their first interview. The performance was one of striking merit, and has greatly added to Mr. Loraine's reputation. Mr. George Giddens is famous for his fine reading of Tony Lumpkin, which has rather improved than otherwise by frequent repetition; and this sterling artist renders it in a manner which delights his audiences immensely. He never allows the drollery of Tony to degenerate into mere buffoonery, and keeps his reading always on the lines of genuine comedy. Miss Beatrice Farrar infuses a vast amount of playful vivacity into her impersonation of Miss Neville, which is already favourably known to playgoers. She is a most exhilarating artist, and her popularity, which was plainly shown on her entrance on Saturday, is thoroughly well deserved. Mr. Louis Goodrich played Hastings in a sound, neat, careful, and satisfactory style; and Mr. Edward Rigby rendered the rôle of Diggory in the effectively farcical way with which custom has made us content. Mr. Holman Clark gave a very amusing and original rendering of Mr. Hardcastle, full of good points, and quaint and dry to a very diverting degree. Mrs. A. B. Tapping did full justice to the absurdities and eccentricities of Mrs. Hardcastle, and created a great deal of laughter by her vivid caricature of a country lady with urban aspirations. The remaining rôles had excellent exponents. Mr. Herbert Bunston was a quite competent representative of Sir Charles Marlow; Mr. Gilbert Porteous gave a droll character-sketch as Stingo; and Mr. John Castle and Mr. H. Gerrish were efficient as the two under-servants, Mr. J. Cassels Cobb making a good Gregory. The motley crew at the ale-house were cleverly embodied by Messrs. Reginald Eyre, Harry Norton, Charles Fancourt, and George Wallace; and Miss Winifred Beech was satisfactory as the Maid. Mr. Walter Hann's scenery was quite worthy of that gifted scenic artist's repute; and the costumes, from designs by Karl, were an important feature of the production, reminding one of the portraits of the day in their delicate daintiness and sweet simplicity. The revival was enthusiastically received, and we may thank Mr. Harrison for giving the rising generation another opportunity of seeing Goldsmith's charming comedy.

"LOUIS XI."

The Drama, in Four Acts, by Casimir Delavigne, Adapted and Arranged by Dion Boucicault, Revived at the Shaftesbury Theatre on Monday, Feb. 22.

Louis XI.	Mr. H. B. Irving
The Dauphin	Miss Eily Malyon
Duc de Nemours	Mr. Eric Maxon
Philip de Comines	Mr. B. A. Pittar
Jacques Coitier	Mr. Tom Reynolds
Tristan L'Ermite	Mr. Frank Tyars
Olivier le Dain	Mr. Arthur Curtis
Francois de Paule	Mr. Frank Cochrane
Cardinal D'Alby	Mr. H. R. Cook
Count de Dreux	Mr. Stanley Howlett
Monseigneur de Lude	Mr. P. Walder
Count de Dunois	Mr. W. Hemstock
Montjoie	Mr. Norman Macowan
Toison D'Or	Mr. S. Beaumont
Marcel	Mr. Charles Dodsworth
Richard	Mr. J. Patric Curwen
Officer of the Royal Guard	Mr. W. Graham
King's Attendant	Mr. H. C. Hewitt
Martha	Miss May Holland
Marie de Comines	Miss Dorothea Baird

The history of the play of *Louis XI.* is a curious one. Casimir Delavigne founded his drama upon Scott's novel of "Quentin Durward." Delavigne's *Louis XI.* was given for the first time at the Théâtre Français on Feb. 11, 1832, with the eminent French actor Ligier in the title-part. Dion Boucicault prepared an English version of Delavigne's play which was given at the Princess's Theatre on Jan. 13, 1855, Kean modelling his reading on that of Ligier. Henry Irving appeared in this version at the Lyceum in the March of 1878, with Mr. F. Tyars as the Duke de Nemours, Mr. Fernandez as Jacques Coitier, and Miss Virginia Francis as Marie de Comines. The character of Louis was one of the most effective in the late Henry Irving's repertory; and Mr. H. B. Irving, who inherits so many of his father's personal gifts, makes a success in it which is equally striking. The personage is riveted in the memories of playgoers by Sir Henry Irving's performance; and its salient points are so well known that we need only say that Mr. H. B. Irving brings them all out with admirable skill and power. Personality is the secret of his success, as it was of that of his father, whom Mr. Irving resembles so much in feature, voice, and temperament. The part absolutely demands an actor of distinction and intensity; but in the hands of a first-rate artist there are few which are so certain of creating a powerful impression. The words which Dutton Cook wrote of the late Sir Henry Irving's acting in the leading rôle are exactly true as applied to that of his son: The performance is throughout very masterly, even and consistent, subtle and finished. There is no neglect of the small, delicate touches which give completeness to a picture, while the stronger portions of the design are executed with supreme breadth and boldness. Mr. Irving boasts the great actor's art or gift of at once riveting the attention of his audience; presently his influence extends more and more, until each word and glance and action of this strange king he represents—so grotesque of aspect, so cat-like of movement, so ape-like of gesture, so venomous in his spite, so demoniac in his rage, and meanwhile so vile and paltry and cringing a poltroon—are watched and followed with a nervous absorption that has something about it of fascination or even of terror. The performance reaches its climax perhaps in the King's paroxysm of fear after Nemours' assault upon him; the actor's passionate rendering of this scene, his panic-stricken cries and moans, prayers, and threats, and the spectacle of physical prostration that ensues, affecting the audience very powerfully. The death of the King is elaborately treated, but with no undue straining after the horrible. Here the slipping of the sceptre through the flaccid, nerveless fingers of Louis, the moment after he has announced himself 'strong and capable,' may be noted as an original and ingenious artifice on the part of the actor.

Some fault was found with the support at the Lyceum in 1878; but the cast at the Shaftesbury gives little cause for complaint. We could scarcely ask for a more dazzlingly beautiful and exquisitely feminine representative of the rôle of Marie de Comines than Miss Dorothea Baird, who wins the heart of the audience by a touchingly sympathetic and charmingly picturesque performance of the part. Miss Eily Malyon is a dashing Dauphin—impulsive, animated, and full of boyish energy and *entrain*. Mr. Eric Maxon plays the Duc de Nemours in just the bold, free, and flamboyant style required, his delivery of the passionate speeches of the part being full of vigour, assisted by excellent elocution. Mr. B. A. Pittar is entirely satisfying as Philip de Comines; and Mr. Tom Reynolds supplies a shrewdly conceived and cleverly executed character sketch of Jacques Coitier. Mr. Frank Tyars' Tristan L'Ermite is the same strong, deep, dark, and imposing portraiture that it was in 1878; he is a fine example of the class of actor which was created in the grand school of the Lyceum. Mr. Arthur Curtis plays Olivier le Dain very intelligently; Mr. Frank Cochrane is decidedly good as Francois de Paule; Mr. H. P. Cooke renders justice to the rôle of Cardinal D'Alby; Mr. Stanley Howlett is entirley satisfactory as the Count de Dreux; Mr. P. Walder does well as Monseigneur de Lude; Mr. W. Hemstock is excellent as the Count de Dunois; Mr. Norman Macowan is a gallant Montjoie; Mr. S. Beaumont is dignified and stately as Toison D'Or; and Mr. Charles Dodsworth's originality and skill are convincingly employed as Marcel. Mr. J. Patric Curwen plays Richard with appreciation and ability; Mr. W. Graham bears himself well as the officer of the Royal Guard; Mr. H. C. Hewitt is competent and careful as the King's attendant; and Miss May Holland is very effective in Mrs. Chippendale's part of Martha. The scenery is adequate, and the revival has had a most enthusiastic reception. It is, indeed, one of the most successful of Mr. H. B. Irving's reproductions at the Shaftesbury.

TRINITY COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

A violin recital was given at the College on Wednesday afternoon by Mr. Harold Ketèlbey, professor, who used on this occasion a New Cremona violin of powerful and brilliant tone, which only needs the mellowing effect of time to be a splendid instrument. Mr. Ketèlbey was first heard in "Le Trille du Diable" (Tartini), for which he has written a clever cadenza, quite in keeping with the subject. Beethoven's beautiful Romance in F was admirably played by Mr. Ketèlbey, whose all too short programme concluded with Wieniawski's "Russian Airs." Miss Stella Emery, who was the vocalist, sang Schubert's "Peace," and was particularly happy in her rendering of Bishop's air "Should he upbraid." The accompanist was Mr. Leonard Gordon.

Miss Fannie Ward's Freaks.

Although America is her native country, Miss Ward has, says our New York correspondent, found it necessary to deny that she is English, and has even been asked for her "impressions of America." She told an interviewer that there was once a famous actress who announced that she would appear in a cage with a number of ferocious animals, and when the curtain went up she was the centre of a group of dramatic critics. Speaking of herself, the critics had been kind to her, but had "mixed things up a little." Miss Ward declared that as an actress she was not of "mushroom growth."

The King and Queen were present at the performance of *Samson* at the Garrick Theatre on Wednesday.

"THE REAL WOMAN."

Play, in Three Acts, by Robert Hichens, Produced at the Criterion Theatre, on Thursday, Feb. 25.

Mark Vernon	Mr. Allan Aynesworth
Horace Carruthers	Mr. Herbert Waring
Hugh Graham	Mr. Henry Ainley
Sir George Venables	Mr. C. Leveson-Lane
Mr. Bew	Mr. Lytton Grey
Doctor Byrd	Mr. Heath Haviland
Butler at Lady Arden's	Mr. Horton Cooper
Butler at Vernon's	Mr. Frank H. Dansy
Footmen at Lady Arden's	Mr. D. H. Keith, Mr. Geoffrey Douglas
The Duchess of Dorchester	Miss Annie Hughes
Diana Woodham	Miss Kate Cutler
Mrs. Gage	Mrs. Harry Cane
Lady Arden	Miss Evelyn Millard

Mr. Hichens has rather the reputation of being cynical, morbid, and ultra-refined; but in *The Real Woman* he has given us a touching, sincere, and pathetic play, which interests from first to last, though the preparation is somewhat prolonged. The action, when it commences, is, however, all the more convincing from this artistic deliberation, and from the leisurely way in which an atmosphere has been created of luxury, ease, and idle enjoyment. In the first act, we are at the house, in Grosvenor-street, of Lady Arden, a fascinating widow, whose fashionable friends, Horace Carruthers, Sir George Venables, Mr. Bew, and the Duchess of Dorchester, are supping with her after a Wagner night at Covent Garden. Mark Vernon, a rich, shrewd, and amiable newspaper proprietor, is wooing Lady Arden in an easy-going way, but she is not in love with him, though they are very good friends. At the supper-table there is much discussion of a certain Hugh Graham, a man of good family, who has gone out into the East End to work among the poor. He is a friend of Vernon, who defends him against the attacks of the cynical Carruthers, who hates Graham because the latter has discovered his seduction of a servant girl, Diana Woodham. Her child, a crippled boy, has been run over, and is now lying seriously injured in a house at Poplar. Carruthers scoffs at Graham's saintliness and indifference to women, and bets Vernon £500 that if Lady Arden employs her powers of fascination on the philanthropist he will become her slave. Graham arrives, and, to try the proposed experiment, Lady Arden volunteers to go with him and Vernon to the bedside of the dying boy.

In the next act, at Poplar, we witness the result. Graham at first snubs Lady Arden, and exposes her ignorance of the simplest domestic duties. But the hopeless sorrow of Diana Woodham at the death of her boy touches the heart of her ladyship, and she takes the work-girl into her arms. This changes Graham's opinion of Lady Arden's character, and he is on the brink of falling in love with her. Vernon, moved both by justice and jealousy, threatens to open Graham's eyes, and tell him about the bet. So ends this excellent and interesting act.

The situation thus created is handled very judiciously in the concluding division of the play. The leopardess cannot change her spots, and nothing but a miracle can make Lady Arden a suitable wife for Graham. It is evident, indeed, that Vernon is her proper mate, and that he must be made to defeat the other suitor, Carruthers, for whom Lady Arden has rather a preference. This is cleverly brought about by the author's skill. Though Lady Arden's nature has not been altered, it has been modified by her experience, and Vernon is more in love with her than ever. It is through Carruthers that Graham learns of the wager, and is disillusioned. He goes back to his work at Poplar. All this is handled both firmly, ingeniously, and delicately; and the result is that out of a rather slight scenario is evolved a very agreeable evening's amusement.

The Real Woman was admirably acted, dressed, and mounted. Miss Evelyn Millard was seen at her best in the character of Lady Arden, the charm and grace of the character being given with excellent effect, the note struck in the emotional passages being true, deep, and sincere. An important factor of Miss Millard's success was her exquisite appearance in some very artistic and becoming dresses. Mr. Allan Aynesworth's Mark Vernon was, of course, irreproachable in attire and *tenue*, and he showed what a firm and strong actor he is by the power which he displayed throughout his performance. No better exponent of the rôle of Hugh Graham could have been chosen than Mr. Henry Ainley, whose picturesqueness has no defect of effeminacy, the sharp decision and curt authority of his tone in the scenes with Lady Arden in the second act being thoroughly effective, and his whole reading being distinguished by manly self-respect. Miss Annie Hughes was exceedingly amusing as a lackadaisical Duchess dieting herself by "doctor's orders"; and Miss Kate Cutler made a deep impression by her fine emotional acting and clever characterisation as Diana Woodham. The remaining rôles were neatly and sharply played. Mr. Herbert Waring's hard, cynical, and sarcastic Horace Carruthers was a striking and impressive piece of acting; and Mr. C. Leveson-Lane as Sir George Venables and Mr. Lytton Grey as Mr. Bew contributed highly-finished miniatures of great merit, Mr. Heath Haviland being firm and efficient as the East End doctor, and Mrs. Harry Cane a satisfactory exponent of the little rôle of Mrs. Gage. *The Real Woman* had an enthusiastic reception, and should draw Miss Millard's admirers in crowds to the Criterion.

Ophelia with a Twang.

"American players are admirable in the smaller parts, but in the higher walks the same relative excellence is not observed. Every nation has its own social observances, its own peculiarities of accent, its own types of character; and for the reproduction of these certain education or experience is necessary. So that if reproduction of national type, or manner, or accent is required, the best results can be had from those artists who are familiar with them. It used to be supposed that a fully-equipped player should be able to assume at will accents and such like accessories of character; but a too rigid adherence to this belief is throwing away natural advantages. Surely a 'Down-east,' or an 'Out-west' type can be better assumed by one who knows the special world represented. On the other hand, the personal peculiarities—whether they be due to race or nationality—which enable actors to represent, almost without study, certain strongly marked characters, are out of place in the representation of classical characters, who on the stage represent average or natural types of emotion or passion. The perfect Hamlet, for instance, or perfect Ophelia should not have a brogue, or a twang, or a lisp, or even that Attic broadness which can win fame and fortune on the variety stage. A Romeo and Juliet who chewed, the one tobacco and the other gum, would be out of place even in a canvas Verona. On the other hand, it would be fatal for Hamlet or Macbeth, Juliet or Beatrice, to be self-conscious in the midst of a scene of sweeping passion. Self-consciousness and strenuousness are most excellent qualities—when in their proper places. And their proper place is in the educational stage of advance—in the preparation for supreme effort, not during the effort itself."

Mr. Editor,—Sir,—In your report of the Theatre Royal, Stratford, in this week's issue, *Sapho* is mentioned as being revised and adapted by Mr. Stuart Lomath. I beg to say that I adapted and wrote Mrs. Frank Bateman's version of *Sapho*.—Yours faithfully, Hal Collier, 50, Bromford-road, Oldbury, near Birmingham.—Feb. 22.

"THE RIGHTS OF THE SOUL."

A Play, in One Act, by Giuseppe Giacosa, Translated by Miss F. M. Rankin, Produced by the Incorporated Stage Society at the Kingsway Theatre on Monday, Feb. 22.

Paolo	Mr. E. Harcourt Williams
Maddalena	Miss Margaret Bussé
Mario	Mr. A. S. Homewood
Anna	Miss Margaret Halstan

Another recreative afternoon for the members of the Incorporated Stage Society and their friends was given at the Kingsway on Monday, when a large invited audience did not become too effusive in their reception of two plays, both of them translations. On such occasions the drama that "draws," and incidentally pays the salaries of our actors and actresses, fades into insignificance. The convention of the theatre is tabooed as much as familiar types of stage character, which are roundly condemned by the Incorporated *sociétaires*. As one of them remarked on Monday: "I do like plays with blood and humanity in them." As a type of humanity, Paolo—the chief character of the first piece, *The Rights of the Soul*, a play in one act, translated by Miss F. M. Rankin from the Italian of Giuseppe Giacosa—does not strike us as normal. He is the supremely jealous husband of the beautiful Anna. At the opening of the play he is in a state of feverish agitation, reading the letters found in the pocket of Lucio, his cousin, who has committed suicide. They are from Anna, whose wifely honour is amply vindicated by the few sentences read by Paolo. But a settled gloom is on Anna, who does not believe in her husband's promise that he will never refer to the painful incident again, and tortured by her husband's ravings, and finally stung to the quick by his hectoring, she confesses her love for the dead Lucio, whose passion she rejected, and she leaves Paolo. The piece was chiefly remarkable for a study of hysterical jealousy given by Mr. Harcourt Williams, who represented Paolo as a bundle of nerves, and suggested in his neurotic ravings not only the self-torture of the husband but his southern origin. As the calmer Anna Miss Margaret Halstan's quiet force and intensity realised the tragedy of a life without love, and her outburst at the end of the play was admirably restrained and powerful. Mr. A. S. Homewood was quite breezy in his impersonation of Mario, and Miss Margaret Bussé did well as Maddalena.

The chief attraction of the afternoon was the play, in two acts, by Turgenev, translated by J. Nightingale Duddington, and entitled—

"THE BREAD OF OTHERS."

Nartsis Constantinich Trembinsky	Mr. Leon M. Lion
Piotr	Mr. A. S. Homewood
Anpadist	Mr. F. Grove
Yegor Kartaschov	Mr. Henry Kitts
Masha	Miss Edith Cuthbert
Vassili Semionich Koozovkin	Mr. J. Fisher White
Ivan Koozmich Ivanov	Mr. Ernest Cosham
Vaska	Mr. Frederick Kings
Praskovya Ivanovna	Miss Helen Boucher
Olga Petrovna Yéletsky	Miss Jean Bloomfield
Pavel Nicolaevich Yéletsky	Mr. A. Holmes-Gore
Flégont Alexandrich Tropachov	Mr. Leon Quartermaine
Karpachov	Mr. Stanley Lathbury

Turgenev is invariably interesting, and his study of the conditions of Russian society in 1840, pictured in this play, is intensely human. The opening scene in *The Bread of Others* is taken up with the preparations by the butler and a staff of servants for the homecoming of the newly-married couple, Olga Petrovna and Pavel Yéletski, to the former's estate. Olga, as the chatelaine, had cherished as an honoured dependant Vassili Semionich Koozovkin, who has eaten the "bread of others" for many years. As a piece of harmless pleasantry a frivolous neighbour of the Yéletskys—by name Flégont Alexandrich Tropachov—proposes to make poor old Vassili drunk at luncheon, and succeeds only too well. This joke is carried too far—a tedious length we should add—by putting a fool's cap on the old man's head. The degradation cuts the old dependant to the heart, and in his inebriated indignation he makes a boast that the bride, Olga Petrovna, is his own daughter. In the second act Olga learns the whole truth about her mother from Vassili, who is eventually persuaded to take a sum of money and retire to a spot far distant from his daughter, who sees the wisdom of the arrangement which is made by her autocratic husband, a typical Russian of the period.

Mr. Fisher White, always an interesting actor, submitted a fine study of dignified senility as Vassili; Mr. Holmes Gore was really excellent as Paul Nicolaevich Yéletsky; Mr. Leon Quartermaine was responsible for a capital realisation of the light-hearted and thoughtless Flégont Alexandrich Tropachov; and Miss Jean Bloomfield, who took up the part at short notice, was decidedly amateurish but promising as Olga Petrovna. Mr. Leon M. Lion was amusing as a fussy butler; and Mr. Ernest Cosham was particularly good as the lugubrious Ivan, Mr. F. Grove being responsible for a whimsical sketch of a bucolic and deaf old tailor. Mr. Stanley Lathbury in the sketchy part of Karpachov was effective. Mr. A. S. Homewood, Mr. Henry Kitts (an effective Yegor), Mr. Frederick Kings, Miss Helen Boucher, and Miss Edith Cuthbert played other parts without much chance of distinction.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

The first item in the programme of Wednesday evening's concert was an organ solo, Fugue from Sonata in G major (Pastoral) (Rheinberger), cleverly played by Mr. J. B. Molyneux. Miss Nellie Evans sang "Ye that by night" (Tinney); and Miss Helen Squire had a most hearty reception after her pianoforte solos, "Nocturne" (Raff) and Schubert-Liszt's "Serenade." Although taking some liberties with the tune, Mr. Laurence Tyler proved himself an able executant, and well deserved the applause which greeted his performance of the Polonaise in A, No. 2, for violin (Wieniawski); while Mr. Arthur Morse, who sang "Onaway! awake, beloved!" from Coleridge-Taylor's "Hiawatha," would have done greater justice to his pleasing voice if the severe weather had not so badly affected his upper notes. In Miss Eleanor D. Wort's organ solos, the beautiful and delicate tones of this fine instrument were admirably displayed in Hollins's pretty "Spring Song." Miss Wort, who is a pupil of Dr. W. Jordan, and a Mitchell scholar, was also successful in her performance of Bach's Fugue in D minor. Miss Marion Watkins sang "Betwixt the Lights"; and Miss Clementine de Vere did justice to a pleasing song of Signor Zardo's entitled "To the Angels." A young pianoforte student, Miss Connie Cowderoy, gave an effective rendering of Chaminade's "Columbine"; and Miss Jessie Lewis received a recall for her singing of "My dearest heart" (Sullivan); while Nelson's stirring song "The Windmill" was ably sung by Mr. Henry Goodall. An interesting feature of the concert of Wednesday was the mandoline orchestra of Madame Waldahoff's pupils, who gave a most animated performance of "Canto Populari" (Ciociani), "Fréda Gavotte" (Pietrapertosa), and "The Passing of the Regiment" (Eilenberg), which was accompanied by drum and violoncello, Miss Amy Parsons presiding at the pianoforte. The accompanist was Miss Jenny Hyman.

Can any of our readers inform a correspondent (X Y Z) whether the late Mr. Wilson Barrett and Miss Heath ever played *East Lynne* at the old Wooden Theatre in Middlesbrough under the management of Mr. J. C. Hunter?

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE ALHAMBRA.

On the Square, Mr. Alfred Moul's latest production at the Alhambra, was applauded with considerable enthusiasm on Monday evening, and so bright and exhilarating is it that we may expect it to run into the days of summer. It is of considerable importance, too, as the first divertissement at the older Leicester-square house in which Miss Elise Clerc—a consummately clever dancer and a repository of the finest choreographic traditions—has had a hand. Fun and prettiness are the principal recommendations of the new entertainment, and from the moment Mr. Geo. Byng moves his bâton to conduct the lively American music until the curtain finally descends on a bustling and animated scene the spirit of the whole thing is infectious. We find ourselves unconsciously humming the "airs" that floated across the Atlantic during the last century, and we have a feeling of gratification that there is a reflection in the scheme of *On the Square* of the *entente* that always should have a special significance for the well-wishers of both countries.

The scene opens in Herald-square, with New York skyscrapers in the background. Flower-girls, bootblacks, loungers, and newsboys realise the life of the Empire City. The arrival of an airship from John Bull's Island brings Mr. and Miss Brown, who start having a very good time. "Blinky Bill" from the Bowery comes in the person of Mr. Frank Lawton, who whistles with the same sweetness that first attracted Londoners to the Shaftesbury Theatre when Edna May took gilded youth captive as Violet Gray in *The Belle of New York*. Another belle—John Brown's daughter—a lady of historic prestige—presents herself, and the house immediately recognises that Miss Britta is just about as sweet a dancer as one could really desire. A smart American youth, cleverly played by Miss Julia Seale—as perfect a mime as one could possibly wish—speedily falls in love with the London miss, and a *pas de deux* of the greatest charm fills us with admiration. The buck-dancing of Topsy, a lively little negress dressed in flaming red—is a strenuous exercise that brings down the house; but the artistic triumph of the whole production is the doll dance of Britta. This is a phase of the Danish prima donna's art that is new to Londoners; but it should speedily become the talk of the town. The assumption of a vacant expression and of complete inertness is quite perfect. Miss Carlotta Mossetto, a clever recruit from the *corps de ballet*, shares the success of the doll dance, but is somewhat too anxious to pirouette.

Among the concerted numbers we may mention the Directoire dance by élégantes of considerable charm; the dance of equestriennes, in jockey caps and skirts; and the dance of Roughriders and a number of ladies representing Fluffy Ruffles, all beautifully gowned. Miss Elise Clerc has a comic dance on her own, and is encored. She then burlesques Carrie Nation, smashing a temporary bar with a harmless-looking hatchet. Later, she introduces, with Frank Lawton, a burlesque of the Apache dance at the Empire. This will undoubtedly be worked up into a greater success. Signor G. Rosi and Messrs. Tom Coventry and Percy Clifton are seen in impersonations into which they put much significance. Mr. E. H. Ryan's artistic brushwork is again in evidence, and the rich and tasteful costumes (designed by Comelli) are once more manufactured by Alias.

The beautiful Leonora is the cynosure of all eyes in the most interesting episode *La Petite Bohémienne*; and the first scene of *Paquita* opens the excellent bill, to which Bobker's Moorish Arabs contribute a unique acrobatic turn.

LONDON PAVILION.

The chief comedians of Mr. Frank Glenister's fine bill at this luxurious home of variety are Tom Dunville and Little Tich, both enormous favourites. Excellently contrasted in their methods, both entertainers give the greatest enjoyment. Mr. Dunville takes the subject of Hamlet, and travesties the tragedy in his own amusing way, which catches on. We get a comic account of the plot and a farrago of nonsense as a summary of the incidents; but it is all very droll. Little Tich as a fiery untamed king of savages dissembles with a rare fund of *grotesquerie*. Such a resolute monarch is only found in pantomime, and unlimited mirth marks his short reign. The policeman's lot, according to the comic singers of the variety stage, is quite a happy one, and the "copper" represented by the diminutive comedian has a series of adventurous happenings that are eloquent of his fascinating and canoodling way. Quite a gourmet in his way is this "Robert," and a great and experienced critic of rabbit pie—always the *plat de résistance* of the "force." Tich winds up his versatile turn by a revival of the evolutions of "Miss Turpentine" in voluminous skirts. The big-boot dance is a thing of the past, but the ballerina burlesque is distinctly precious.

We have something quite serious and dramatic when Miss Dorothy Grahame, assisted by a French artist, dances the Apache dance. The Paris hooligans, it appears, have their times of gaiety; and the main points about the dance are its alternate decorum and wildness, and the ferocity, both of expression and conduct, in both of the performers. These characteristics are well realised by Miss Grahame, who is encored and recalled.

Mr. A. de Bessell has an entirely sympathetic audience while he models in clay a Sicilian peasant. He is a clever artist, and is deservedly applauded. It will be remembered that he was one of the few survivors of the Messina calamity, escaping with his life, which he is recommencing, as it were, as he lost everything in the earthquake. Mr. Charles Reckie, as his name implies, is a Scotch comedian with a pawky style; Thorpe and Coe present their burglar sketch with success; Arthur Melrose whistles extremely well; and Mr. Tom Costello's song concerning a termagant wife (No. 2) is comically illustrated by her appearance on the stage. Mr. Percy Honri plays the overture to *The Bohemian Girl* extremely well on the concertina; and Marcel and Boris present a versatile turn, in which trick fiddle playing and acrobatics are mixed. Osborn and Brooks are responsible for a bright entertainment, in which a burlesque comedian, assisted by a pretty and sweet-voiced lady, submits an amusing travesty of the Spanish señorita given to cachucas and other Iberian importations. The Three Cunards have made simultaneous dancing a very exact study, and their "stepping" is very perfect. Mr. Tom Clare at the piano is one of the successes of the night, especially when he sings "I can't keep my eyeglass in my eye." His playing of "We won't go home till morning" in the various styles of Chopin, Mendelssohn, and Wagner is very artistic. Other turns in the bill are furnished by Harry Zetter, the Columbias, Vandinoff, the Hiatts, and Miss José Collins, who has been deputising for Miss Radie Furman.

PUTNEY HIPPODROME.

As this palace of amusement is connected with the Barrasford and Gibbons Syndicate halls one can always rely upon a good bill, embracing a number of well-known artists, and consequently it is not uncommon to find the house well filled. At the second house on Monday evening last the majority of the stalls had apparently been booked in advance. The star turn of the evening was the mysterious Charcot, with his automatic Man. Charcot is a striking personality, tall and broad-shouldered, with a strong face and a good voice. After a brief introductory speech, he draws back the heavy curtains, behind which the audience discovers the "assistant" comfortably seated in an armchair. Quickly the latter is rendered motionless by the administration of an anæsthetic, and is declared to be absolutely subject to the will of Charcot, and at his suggestion he mimics the performance of a conjurer in numerous card-tricks and manipulations. Then a realistic scene from *The Silver King* is dramatically portrayed, and similarly the overture to *Cavalleria Rusticana* is played on the piano. This is followed by accurate descriptions of numerous articles in the possession of the audience, the turn concluding by the "automaton" conducting the orchestra *a là* Sousa. On Thursday, at mid-day, Charcot's subject was to make a drive through Putney's busiest thoroughfares whilst blindfolded, the ride starting from the Hippodrome.

Miss Bertha Winder, the champion lady clog dancer, gives a remarkable display of steps. Miss Maud Esmond, an acceptable comedienne, sings in delightful style the songs "Charlie Brown" and "I don't care if there's a girl there," in the chorus of which the audience joins very heartily. Stanley Walker's turn is quite a novelty, consisting of buck-dancing on roller skates, a clever performance requiring exceptional skill. Leo Tell provides much amusement by his faithful imitations of musical instruments, &c. His French horn and piccolo solos are excellent, but the 'cello solo, Chirgwin's "Blind Boy," proves the greatest favourite.

King's College Boys render solos and concerted pieces with great spirit, retiring amidst well-earned applause. Eadie and Ramsden's turn is very clever, the lady singing and dancing attractively, whilst her partner's exhibition of leg-twisting and general contortions is very much appreciated. They conclude with a finished dance. Tom Leamore is also entertaining with his inimitable comedy. New and amusing pictures are screened by the Imperial Bioscope.

CAMBERWELL EMPIRE.

Mr. Jesse Sparrow offers a capital list of attractions this week at the Camberwell Empire. Among them is a new musical absurdity, entitled

"THE BELLE OF OSTEND,"

Written by Albert Layton, Music and Lyrics Written and Composed by Frank Bradsell.

Lieut. Gerald Graham ..... Mr. Edwin Oxlee
Timothy Flicker ..... Mr. Albert Layton
James Fatsow ..... Mr. T. E. Turner
Count Dejune ..... Mr. Leslie Sears
Inspector Johnson ..... Mr. F. Day
Phyllis ..... Miss Gracie Rosaire

As in most musical comediettas, there is very little story or plot. It is almost sufficient to say that Lieut. Gerald Graham is in love with Phyllis, the belle of Ostend. But Phyllis has other admirers, including a retired pork butcher and a French count—both of them ridiculous, yet entertaining, characters. Then there is Graham's manservant, Timothy Flicker, who makes love to two girls at once, and spins yarns concerning purely imaginary wealth and an imaginary motor-car. Of course, everything ends happily, Phyllis accepting the lieutenant. Mr. Edwin Oxlee acts nicely, and displays considerable musical talent in the part of Lieut. Graham, his song, "True heart," being particularly well rendered. Miss Gracie Rosaire is quite pretty and effective as Phyllis, the belle of Ostend, and her enchanting vocalism is listened to with delight, especially in the number, "O, come, my heart." Mr. Albert Layton is quaintly humorous in the rôle of Timothy Flicker; and others who assist in the fun-making are Messrs. T. E. Turner as a retired pork butcher, Mr. Leslie Sears as an eccentric French count, and Mr. F. Day as a police inspector. There is an able chorus, the members of which are heard to great advantage in the bathing scene, in the song, "You can always rely upon me." The sketch is picturesquely staged, the scene showing a panoramic coast and sea view from Ostend during the summer.

An interesting and attractive act is furnished by the Tennessee Guards, who appear in a military song-scena, their wonderful lightning drill and wall scaling, and their exceedingly melodious plantation harmonies, providing an entertainment which is most enjoyable. Zaleski, the "golden spider," performs some remarkable feats of contortion amid ropes fitted up in the form of a spider's web; and Miss Babs Lloyd, the juvenile comedienne, distinguishes herself in her special songs and dances. Damerell and Rutland, with their company, present the amusing sporting skit, *Clever Mr. Fugg*, in which the comical capers of the principal characters create huge merriment, all the five members of the cast working with hearty goodwill to bring out the best points of a petite comedy, which has found much favour wherever it has been played. Miss Edith Courtney, the lady singing conductor, treats the house to delightful renderings of old-fashioned ballads, including "The Maid of the Mill" and "In the gloaming"; and the Bros. Durant, the society acrobats, are seen and admired in an extremely smart display. The Wakeman Quintette have a capital musical comedy sketch, in which their singing and patter, are much appreciated; and the Wartana Trio of modern lady jugglers submit an amazingly clever demonstration of their art with the aid of plates, bottles, discs, and other articles, their manipulation of which is characterised by neatness and precision. Leton and Lane offer a pleasant little "comedy concoction," in which we are told the story of a gentleman who has found a garter and a lady who has lost one—in addition to a husband in divorce—and of the happy culmination of the meeting between the two. Mr. Harry Tomps, the musical comedian, plays in delightful fashion on the concertina various popular selections, including "Sing me to sleep"; and Jeapes's Animated Graphic is responsible for several agreeable film-subjects.

THE PARAGON.

A most interesting programme here includes many popular favourites. Chirgwin, the genial white-eyed one, is, as usual, heartily received, his little snatches of song on topical events being greatly appreciated. Mr. T. E. Dunville gives his quaint policeman song, "Dinky Doo," with several new gags, and also "The Postman," the latter obtaining great laughter when the various postcards are scrutinised by the comedian, who afterwards explains the portion worth commenting upon. Miss Madge Beresford, a charming comedienne, beautifully gowned, has a couple of well-written songs in "Love" and "There you are—that's a girl," which she sings and acts perfectly. Burley and Burley, acrobatic comedians, are decidedly clever, and at times truly humorous, with many neat feats. An exceptionally good dancer is a young lady calling herself Estrella, who executes several polyglot dances, the principal being an American sand dance with bare feet. For an encore the lady gives a sailor's hornpipe, also minus the usual coverings, retiring with a hearty reception.

Mr. Fred Earle's songs are enjoyed by the majority. They include "There's another little one a-coming out" and "My little wigger-wagger in my hand," the latter relating to a cane which he constantly carries. Miss Ella Lorraine, a pretty and attractive artist, has a pleasing voice, which is heard to advantage in "Where the Shannon river flows" and "Will you love me in December?" Mr. Sam Mayo, whose immobility of features and body is quite well known, has two good songs in "I played my concertina" and another dealing with troubles, which suits the comedian's style admirably.

An exceptionally well acted dramatic sketch is given by Mr. Kenneth Macleod and company, the title being *A Test of Friendship*, written by Percy Ford. The playlet has only two principal characters, both "soldiers." When the scene opens, one of them, badly wounded, is being attended to by his comrade. An interesting story is unfolded, the acting of both gentlemen being delightful. A good dénouement is reached by the arrival of a tribe of blacks. Unfortunately we are unable to name the principals, no guide being given on the programme.

George Formby has established himself a firm favourite by his songs, "One of the boys" and "John Willie, come on." Jester and Joker, the "rowly powly boys," are true to their name, for they do some clever tumbling and acrobatic feats, both their entrance and exit being distinctly new. Lozelle, in a speciality trapeze act, has an effective fit-up, the gentleman performing various difficult hand and feet balances in the easiest manner possible. Miss Dolly Harmer amuses with "Petticoat" and "His Mother." Ruffell's Bioscope displays many interesting films.

Mr. Fred Karno's company in *The Dandy Thieves*, keep the house in a continual ripple of merriment, which at times bursts forth into roars of laughter, particularly in the Emporium Drapery scene, where Sergeant Lightning, disguised as an assistant, is attending to the lady customers. Mr. George Nestor as the Sergeant is most funny, being greatly assisted by Miss Kitty Brunton as a New Woman. Special praise is also due to Miss Aggie Morris as Lady Maud Easum, her rendering of the character stamping her as a first-class actress. The knockabout business, as usual, is of the best, the little "Burglar" song being catchy and well staged. Mr. E. Freshwater was good as Lord Easum. The courteous Mr. Chas. Marte and his able sub are extremely busy in looking after the general comfort of well-filled houses.

ROTHERHITHE HIPPODROME.

Mr. Vernal must be congratulated on always presenting to his patrons at this popular house an interesting and entertaining show, and though there is no outstanding feature in this week's programme, all the numbers are really good, and several are of exceptional merit. Marie Empress is a dainty comedienne; she is versatile and quick, and Rotherhithe evidently likes her. Mr. L. B. Athol is the owner of a good voice, a pleasing manner, and excellent delivery. Moreover, his songs are clever and catchy, and every word he speaks can be heard distinctly in the most remote parts of the house. It is a pity that many of his confrères do not emulate him in this respect. Messrs. Kent and Keith are a really clever and comical couple, and keep the house in a ripple of laughter the entire time they occupy the stage. The Sisters Marion are attractive young ladies of considerable ability; their performance is a very pleasing one, and called forth hearty and deserved applause. Mr. Fred Earle, past-master in the art of comic patter, rendered a couple of songs in his own inimitable style.

Fielding and Hull are an American couple whose acquaintance one would gladly prolong; not only is their scena pretty and effective, but the performers are genuine artists. The Carina Sisters are experts in the use of the piano, the piccolo, and the violin. Their turn is a musical treat: there is only one fault to be found with it, and that is its brevity. Conway and Garland convulsed the house with their farcical nonsense; their make-up is excellent, their by-play superb—in fact, it must be a long time since the denizens of the river side laughed so heartily. The Bioscope, always good, is exceptionally pretty and interesting this week. Harry Champion, the rapid and amusing comedian, pleased his hearers thoroughly. The orchestra, under the able guidance of Mr. Martin, helps to make the evening thoroughly enjoyable; whilst the manager is ably seconded by the courteous Mr. Murray in looking after the comfort of his patrons.

Notes from the Principality.

Messrs. Dooner and Son still continue to attract good houses on the fair field at Neath. Kent and Earle, comedians, are well received; also Nellie Anderson, comedienne and dancer, deserves praise. The pictures are well chosen, and include The Messina Earthquake and the Tottenham Tragedy, also several amusing subjects, under the guidance of Mr. Gus Sylvester, who is popular with Neath audiences.

Llansamlet flannel and pleasure fair was not so well attended as usual, which may have been due to the cold snap in the weather. Among the amusements was Messrs. Hy. Studt and Sons' gondolas, J. Danter's switchback swings, shooters, &c., T. Hill's hobby-horses, J. North's houp-la, shooters, cokers, &c.

Crecraft's animated picture theatre has opened at Pentre this week on the fairground, and has attracted large and appreciative audiences. A special feature of the show was the athletic performance of Foster Sanchez, who pitted himself against local talent in a series of wrestling bouts. Booth's varieties, including aerial swings, shooting saloons, &c., also commanded large business.

A great attraction at the People's Hall, Barry Dock, is Harold Pyott ("Tom Thumb"), 23in. high, age 24, weight 24lb.

Good business has induced Messrs. Wadbrook to prolong their stay at Maesteg. This week they are showing several of the latest pictures. The most attractive being that of the King's Visit to Berlin. Variety turns are given by Mr. George Battle, vocalist actor. In a scena, entitled "I'm an old man now," he displays clever dramatic power. A good juggling performance is given by Mr. Jean Kram; recitations (illustrated by the aid of the lantern) are powerfully rendered by Mr. Jeffries; and as guide Mr. Glover still maintains his popularity.

Amateur Vandwellers.

At a general meeting of the Caravan Club held last week the following were elected for the new council: Lady Edwards, Mrs. Skerrett-Rogers, Messrs. E. Bennett, P. J. Crimp, H. King, H. Keep, E. H. Hancock, J. Oscar Parker, Rev. A. H. Clarke, and Mr. Geoffrey W. A. Norton, of the Showmen's Guild. Mr. J. Harris Stone has again become Hon. General Secretary, to the satisfaction of the members.

A veterinary book, free of charge, may be had from the proprietors of Condy's Fluid, of 65, Goswell road, London, E.C. It is a most useful little booklet, entitled "Ailments of Animals and How to Cure Them," and contains instructions by a large number of eminent veterinary surgeons for the treatment and cure of ailments affecting horses, dogs, cattle, poultry, rabbits, cats, cage birds, &c. All our readers who are interested in animals are recommended to apply for this little veterinary book, which is sent gratis and post free.

Maud Allan's Ideal.

"For the uses of every-day existence," said Miss Maud Allan in her lecture to the O.P. Club on Sunday, "spontaneity is no longer good form. In the amusement marts of the twentieth century the artist finds it better to invite the public, not to witness the genuine and spontaneous expression of his own spiritual state, but to view with coldly critical eyes a talented and precise exhibition, upon which, for the sake of theatrical effect, unnatural difficulties have been laboriously engrafted. Like Adam and Eve we have painfully acquired the knowledge of good and evil; and, in the market of souls, to be naked is to be ashamed. The moment has come, I humbly believe, to sacrifice the Niebelung gold of convention, and redeem and regain the apples of youth and beauty. Thus, and thus only, shall we reach our attainable ideal, and dancing shall be, as it should be, the spontaneous expression of a spiritual state. Am I asking too much of a tired and utilitarian age? Am I asking my fellow wayfarers, soiled and weary, to make too great an effort to reach the Bourne beyond the Gates of Ivorie? This should be our ideal, and it is *not* an unattainable ideal; and so far as my poor powers have been given to me I will try to brave the quest."

INVENTIONS.

[The particulars furnished below of recent applications for patents are taken from the official records. Correspondence is invited with our readers on all matters relating to new ideas and inventions, with a view to affording them advice and assistance. Letters should be addressed to the Manager, Inventions Department, "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London.]

Inventors and others who have no business representative are invited to communicate with the Manager of the Inventions Dept. as above.

APPLICATIONS.

2,321.—John Lodge Shaw, of Birmingham. Improvements in roller skates.

2,393.—Arthur Gilbert Steeves and Frederic George Redford, of London. Improvements in toys or recreation apparatus.

2,406.—Luigi Risso, of London. Shoes for aquatic purposes.

2,543.—United Amusements Structures, Ltd., and Samuel Meyer Friede, of London. Improvements in amusement apparatus.

2,558.—Reginald Townsend and Alfred George Hackett, of Birmingham. Wheels for roller skates.

2,649.—Richard Nichole Preece, of London. Means for colouring the flames given off by domestic fires.

2,779.—Eustace Meredith Martin Johnstone, of Birmingham. Improvements in the control systems of theatrical and like electric lights.

2,905.—John Breckenridge, of Kilmarnock. Automatic figure target signalling apparatus.

2,920.—Theodor Hollerbach, of London. Improved apparatus for physical exercises.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS ACCEPTED.

2,708.—Rose. Recording targets.

6,151.—Whitney. Rifle ranges, targets, and the like.

7,620.—Lewis's moving picture apparatus.

8,892.—Bresztovszky. Automatic falling targets.

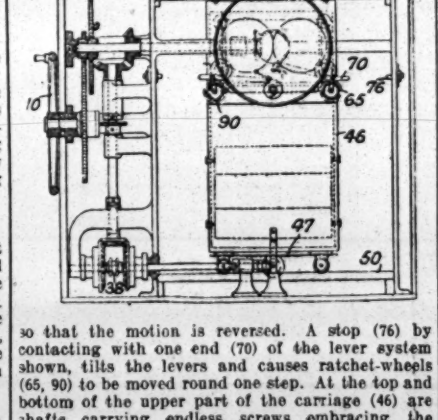
11,526.—Parker and Goldston. Apparatus for performing conjuring tricks.

ABRIDGEMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

20,863.—Kinematographs. Fauconnet, R. A., of Paris.

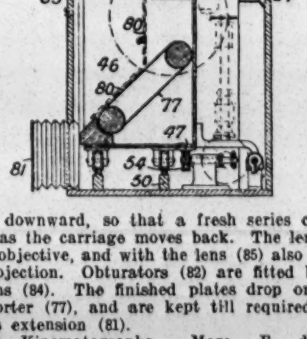
Kinematograph pictures in a sinuous series are taken in and projected from the same apparatus. The plates (80) are carried in the upper part of a carriage (46), which is traversed along the rails (50) by means of a pinion (54) and rack (47), the pinion being actuated from the driving-handle (10) through suitable gearing. A projection on the carriage comes into contact with a stop at either end of the motion and throws the clutch (38) over,

FIG. 1.



so that the motion is reversed. A stop (76) by contacting with one end (70) of the lever system shown, tilts the levers and causes ratchet-wheels (65, 90) to be moved round one step. At the top and bottom of the upper part of the carriage (46) are shafts carrying endless screws embracing the plates (80). The lower shafts also carry pinions taking into vertical racks controlled by the plates. Consequently at the end of one movement the untouched plates are fed slightly forward, and the plate on which the pictures are being taken

FIG. 3.



is fed downward, so that a fresh series can be taken as the carriage moves back. The lens (84) is the objective, and with the lens (85) also serves for projection. Obturators (82) are fitted behind the lens (84). The finished plates drop on to a transporter (77), and are kept till required in a bellows extension (81).

20,836.—Kinematographs. Mare, F. de, of Brussels.

Metallic strips with a polished white metal surface have printed on them enlarged positives corresponding to the ordinary negatives, the positives being viewed by reflection. The strips are printed in black or colours, and the surface may be flat or in relief.

To Stage Machinists and Electricians. — The Manager will be pleased to receive particulars of any new stage appliances or ideas for same for illustration in this column.

Mr. Auguste Van Biene tells a good story of how he entertained a stranger, in the belief that he was Mr. Frank Curzon, for three weeks at Worthing some years ago. "I was running my own company at the time, and happened to be standing near the box-office one evening when I thought I saw Mr. Frank Curzon walk up and pay for a seat. I immediately rushed forward with extended hand, saying, 'My dear Frank, I cannot allow it; how are you, old boy?' I insisted, despite his protests, in returning his money to him, and then escorted him to a box. Further, during the evening, I pressed him to become my guest, and he good-humouredly accepted.

"To shorten my story, he lived with me, boated and played golf with me, talked 'shop' with me, and lord only knows what he did not do with me for the next three weeks. Then one day I had occasion—strangely enough, for the first time—to introduce him as Mr. Frank Curzon, the celebrated, &c. 'Pardon me,' he said, 'that is not my name.' 'What is the joke?' I queried. 'No joke at all,' he replied. 'You are not Frank Curzon?' 'No,' he said, easily. 'Then who the devil are you?' I shouted in a rage. 'Frank Robson.' 'You are a scoundrel, sir,' I said, 'never to have informed me so before.' 'I tried to do so at the box-office that night,' he replied, 'but you enthused so, and would not listen to a word from me, and also on a dozen later occasions. So, as you were determined to make things so pleasant, I let you do so, merely resolving to tell you the truth on the very first occasion. I have done so.' Then it dawned on me that he was right. I had called him Frank, his correct name, every day for three weeks."

ON THE ROAD, MARCH 1.

Aschs, Oscar.—King's T., Sunderland.
Assassin, The.—T. R., Sunderland.
At Duty's Call.—Metropole T., Abertillery.
Bateman and Lomath.—Pavilion, Abertillery.
Beggar Girl's Wedding.—Brixton Theatre, S.W.
Benson, F. R. (N).—Grand T., Falkirk.
Benson, F. R. (S.).—Pembroke Dock.
Benson, Mr. and Mrs. F. R.—Coronet Theatre, W.
Bondman, The (Croke).—T. R., Glasgow.
Brewster's Millions.—O. H., Leicester.
Broken Heart.—T. R., Sheffield.
Builder of Bridges.—T. R., Nottingham.
Builder of Bridges.—Grand T., Southampton.
Carl Rosa Opera Co.—King's T., Edinburgh.
Cassidy, Mr. J. Rice.—T. R., Chatham.
Christian, The (Croke), M.—Prince's T., Accrington
Christian, The (Croke), N.—T. R., Bolton.
Christian, The (Croke) (S).—T. R., Hanley.
Cingalee, The.—T. R., Norwich.
Claudian.—Castle Theatre, Stockton.
Coal King.—Metropole T., Glasgow.
Compton Comedy Co.—King's T., Glasgow.
Conscience of a Judge.—T. R., Woolwich.
Country Girl in London.—Grand T., Brighton.
Dairymaids, The (Courtneidge).—T. R., Preston.
Dairymaids, The (Macdonald).—T. R., Stockport.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—Clarence T., Pontypridd.
Diana of Dobson's (M).—Grand T., Croydon.
D'Oyly Carte.—Lyceum T., Newport.
Early Worm.—T. R., Huddersfield.
East Lynne.—West London Theatre, W.
Eve of Her Wedding.—Metropole T., Birmingham
Eyes of the World.—Grand T., Newcastle.
Fatal Wedding.—O. H., Blackpool.
Flag Lieutenant.—Grand T., West Hartlepool.
Flower Girl.—O. H., Burton-on-Trent.
For Love and the King.—T. R., Chesterfield.
Gay Goddess.—Century T., Motherwell.
Gay Gordons, The (N.).—T. R., Dewsbury.
Geoffrey Langdon's Wife.—T. R., South Shields.
Girl's Cross Roads.—Rotunda T., Liverpool.
Glossop-Harris, Miss F.—Pavilion, Weymouth.
Golden Ladder, The.—T. R., Ilkeston.
Greed of Gold.—T. R., Middlesbrough.
Grit.—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
Guilty Gold.—Mansfield.
Harvey, Mr. Martin.—Rochdale and Halifax.
Havana.—Broadway T., Deptford.
Her Fatal Marriage.—P. O. W., Nuneaton.
Her Father and My Wife.—New T., Cambridge.
Her Life in London.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
Her Love Against the World.—Ashton-under-Lyne.
Her Marriage Vow.—Alexandra T., Sheffield.
Her Nameless Child.—O. H., Crewe.
Her Secret Lover.—Junction T., Manchester.
His House in Order.—T. R., Birkenhead.
His Sister's Honour.—Weston-super-Mare.
Hypocrites, The.—T. R., Colchester.
Idols.—County T., Reading.
King and the Unknown Woman.—T. R., Wolverhampton.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Penzance and St. Blazey.
Lady Frederick.—Crystal Palace Theatre.
Lyah Kleschna.—T. R., Castleford.
Lighthouse Robbery.—T. R., Peterborough.
Little Breadwinner.—Royalty T., Barrow.
Love of the Princess.—Athelæum T., Lancaster.
Man and Wife.—Theatre Royal, Aston.
Master and Man.—Lyric T., Hammersmith.
Miss Hook of Holland (Dance).—Q. T., Keighley.
Moody-Manners (A).—H. M. T., Dundee.
Moody-Manners (B).—Paisley T., Paisley.
Mrs. Dot.—Shakespeare T., Clapham.
Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch (N.).—Bournemouth.
Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch (S.).—T. R., Bath.
My Mimosa Maid.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
New East Lynne.—Grand T., Rawtenstall.
Night Before Christmas.—O. H., Coventry.
Norman V. Norman.—Tyne T., Newcastle.
Old Folks at Home.—T. R., Barnsley.
Old Home, The.—Osborne T., Manchester.
Pete.—Opera House, Northampton.
Peter Pan (Frohman).—T. R., Edinburgh.
Peter's Mother.—Maidstone.
Power of the King.—Grand T., Aberavon.
Private Secretary.—Gaiety T., Hastings.
Prodigal Son (Croke).—T. R., Smethwick.
Prodigal Son (Croke), M.—Pontypool and Nantymoel.
Prodigal Son (Day).—Alexandra T., Greenock.
Rignold, Lionel.—T. R., Huddersfield.
Rollicking Rory.—Halifax and Rochdale.
Royal Divorce.—O. H., Belfast.
Send Him Victorious.—Lyceum T., Stafford.
Sign of the Cross.—Kennington Theatre, S.E.
Silver King (Polini).—Palace T., Bordesley.
Soldier's Honour.—Cambridge T., Spennymoor.
Starr, Harry.—T. R., Wednesbury.
Still Alarm.—T. R., Smethwick.
Sutton and Raynor.—King's T., Manchester.
Thief, The.—D. P. T., Eastbourne.
Thief, The.—Theatre Royal, York.
Through the Divorce Court.—T. R., Margate.
Toddles.—O. H., Cheltenham.
Tom Jones.—King's T., Cardiff.
Two Little Vagabonds.—P. G. T., Folkestone.
Tyrant, The.—T. R., Tyldesley.
Uncle Tom's Cabin.—Grand T., Walsall.
Village Blacksmith.—Alexandra T., Widnes.
Waltz Dream.—T. R., Bradford.
When It Was Dark.—O. H., Southport.
When Knights Were Bold.—Borough T., Stratford.
When Other Lips.—P. O. W., Salford.
Who is She?—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
Woman Pays.—Grand T., Nelson.
Wilkie, Allan, and Co.—T. R., Rotherham.
With Edged Tools.—Empire T., Swindon.
Woman and Wine.—County T., Bedford.
You Never Can Tell.—Grand T., Wolverhampton.
10.30 Down Express.—Mansfield.

Dowager Lady Poltimore, whose death has just been announced from Hyères, in the South of France, was a great-granddaughter of Richard Brinsley Sheridan, the famous dramatist.

The annual dinner of the composing staff of the London and County Printing Works (printers of *The Era*) was held at Stone's Restaurant, Ludgate, on a recent Saturday. Mr. S. D. Ray presided, and was supported by Mr. Bernard Gill (son of the principal of the firm, Mr. Upcott Gill), Mr. E. Mynott (works manager), Messrs. H. P. Hodges, W. A. Perkins, T. C. Bell, C. Pattle, Geo. Wray, S. Nash, W. Boxall, T. Brightwell, G. Fellowes, &c. After dinner a short list of toasts and a long musical programme were gone through, the whole proceedings showing the good feeling existing between the employés, the heads of departments, and the firm.

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"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

Notice to Contributors.

All communications intended for publication should be sent to "THE EDITOR," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

Notice to Subscribers.

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Notice to Advertisers.

Advertisements should reach the Office early in the week, and not later than Thursday, 7 p.m. Remittances, payable to "THE ERA," LTD., and crossed Lloyd's Bank.

Communications.

Business Communications should be addressed to The MANAGER,
"THE ERA" BUILDINGS,
5, TAVISTOCK-STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.
(two doors off Wellington-street).
Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephones 4747 and 1433, Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We cannot undertake to answer the inquiries of correspondents by post. In all letters names and addresses must be given as a guarantee of good faith. Initials only or pseudonyms will be used in the replies if so desired.]

BATCHELOR.—*We do not know the age of the artist to whom you refer. If you asked him the question, which is prompted by idle curiosity, he would very properly ignore your letter. The date of Mr. Fitzsimmons's marriage would be better answered by a sporting paper. As to your last question, you do not mention the composer or the date of the publication of the song; but try Messrs. Francis and Day, publishers, 142, Charing Cross-road, W.C.*

CATESBY (Peckham).—*Put your question to Mr. G. B. Bigwood, tobacconist, Southend-on-Sea, who was stage-manager for so many years at the Britannia, and must have known the veteran actor and his wife intimately. You do not give us the lady's professional name.*

T. B. VAUGHAN.—Tom, Dick, and Harry, farcical comedy, *in three acts, was originally produced in America as* Incog. *It was first presented in England at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, Aug. 24, 1893, and first produced in London at the Trafalgar-square Theatre (now Duke of York's), on Nov. 2, 1893. The authoress was Mrs. R. Pacheco.*

SYDNEY SHAW (Cork).—*Mr. William Terriss was assassinated on Dec. 16, 1897. See note above.*

GILBERT.—*Try your songs at a music-hall where they give new turns a trial. A good Anglo-French song on the difficulties of our language should go down well.*

F. CHEESMAN.—*Both the copyright and the performing rights should be registered at Stationers' Hall, London, E.C., to which you should write for the necessary forms. You should also send a typewritten copy of the play to the Lord Chamberlain, Buckingham Palace, S.W., for his licence.*

C. H. LESTER.—*A child of twelve can play until 9 p.m. without a licence.*

RIDING HOOD.—The Sign of the Cross *was revived at the Lyceum Theatre, London, with the late Wilson Barrett in the cast, on Oct. 19, 1899.*

W. B.—*The date of the first appearance of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show at Earl's Court is May 9, 1887. It concluded in October. It afterwards went to Paris.*

DUNCAN G. MAC.—(1) *The Empire started as a variety theatre on Dec. 22, 1887, under the joint direction of George Edwardes and the late Sir Augustus Harris. The building was opened as a legitimate theatre on Thursday, April 17, 1884. (2) Terry's Theatre was opened on Oct. 17, 1887. (3) At the Canterbury and Oxford for certain; but why not write to him on tour. (4) The comedian has been too long dead for us to be able to ascertain. You must ask some greybeard frequenter of the early free-and-easies.*

C. J. K. (York).—*We have not yet been able to trace the first production of the opera in English. The Italian libretto was by Piave—not Piavo—who was also responsible for several other libretti of operas by Verdi. We will make further inquiries.*

GEORGE TRAILL.—*Miss Julia Mathews played at the Alhambra in the extravaganza entitled* Whittington, *in which she was the Alice. Miss Kate Santley was in the cast, and also Miss Lennox Grey. The date was Dec. 26, 1874.*

JOSIE ZEIDLA.—*You will find the list you want in the* Era Annual *for 1909, price 1s., to be obtained at this office. Write to Publisher, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, enclosing postal order for the amount.*

THE Midland Automobile Club's "smoking concert" took place last Saturday in the Grosvenor Room at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, the programme being supplied by Moss's Empires, under the direction of Mr. Hatton Wharton and Mr. Litchfield Meek, hon. secretary to the club. It was "ladies' night," the élite of Birmingham and Midland society being present, and the fair guests, who were delighted with the proceedings, presented, with their rich dresses and costly jewels, quite a brilliant scene.

THE entertainment was given on a pretty fit-up stage, and Mr. Waller Jeffs gave a show of automobile pictures which naturally interested. As many of the artists as could conveniently stay were entertained to supper by the committee after the concert, when Mr. Litchfield Meek (in the chair) presented Mr. Hatton Wharton on behalf of the club with a handsome silver tobacco box, also presenting Mr. Edward Foster, of the Grand, with a beautiful silver cigarette-case, richly chased and enamelled with green fleurs-de-lys, this being in recognition of the latter's quiet but extremely helpful co-operation. Mrs. Foster was present at the supper, which was full of happy phases and phrases, and the proceedings terminated at an "early hour."

BEFORE Mr. Wallace, K.C., at the London Sessions, on Tuesday, Alfred William May, 25, labourer, pleaded guilty to having stolen two overcoats and a pair of boots from dressing-rooms behind the stage at the Coliseum. The prisoner had also committed robberies at the Polytechnic, Regent-street, and the Lyceum. He was sentenced to fifteen months' hard labour.

MR. MARK MELFORD has written to the *Morning Advertiser* expressing amusement regarding the descriptions given by newspaper correspondents of his having been seen "in various places in grotesque disguises." He concludes: "I seek absolute privacy and repose. My medical adviser confirms my keen desire for perfect seclusion. I made no firework display at my final exit from public life. I never looked for a farewell benefit, although my theatrical career has been studded by almost weekly contributions in services and cash to my fellow-artists. I simply ask to be left alone by those who have neither business nor interested motives to serve by seeking to hunt me down."

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a **Birth, a Marriage,** or a **Death,** or an **"In Memoriam"** notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is **One Shilling and Sixpence.**

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

CURRY.—On the 13th inst., at Thespian House, Grimsby, the wife of Joseph H. Curry, Managing-Director P. O. W. Theatre, Grimsby, of a daughter. Both doing well.

HARBEN.—On the 22nd inst., at 86, Carlton-mansions, Maida Vale, W., the wife of Hubert Harben (Mary Jerrold), of a daughter.

HUNTER.—On Feb. 22, at 299, Camberwell New-road, S.E., the wife of Horace Hunter (Miss Lily Hammersley), of a daughter. Both doing well.

THATCHER.—On Feb. 21, 1909, at 4, Denbigh-place, Pimlico, S.W., the wife of Robert Thatcher (George Dance's "Miss Hook of Holland" Co.), of a son. Both doing well.

MARRIAGE.

BLOUNT—JONES.—Feb. 22, at the Catholic Church of St. Simon and St. Jude, Tulse Hill, by Father Charles Blount, S.J., uncle of the bridegroom, assisted by Father Hurden and Father Fletcher and the Revs. Francis and Stanislaus Jones, brothers of the bride, Hubert Ignatius Blount, Secretary of the Actors' Association, to Mary Margaret Amelia Jones (Miss Rita Everard).

DEATHS.

CAMPBELL.—At Liverpool, Feb. 19, suddenly, Denis Campbell, beloved husband of Annie Barclay; age 48. R.I.P. Gone, but not forgotten.

CAMPBELL.—19th inst., suddenly, of heart failure, Denis Campbell, Irish Comedian, age 45, the dearly beloved husband of Annie Barclay. R.I.P.

CAMPBELL.—Feb. 21, at The Sun, Long Acre, W.C., after a short illness, Ellen Maud Campbell, widow of the late Herbert Campbell.

CULEEN.—Jan. 30, at Burnley, James Edward Culeen, proprietor of the Cattle Market Hotel, and business-manager of the Gaiety, Burnley, aged twenty-nine.

FULLER.—John Fuller, musician, buried at Manchester, Monday, Feb. 15. Deeply mourned by his only sister, EMILY ROSEDALE.

RUSSELL.—Jan. 27, at Cambridge, Frederick William Russell (H. C. Barry), comedian.

SMITH.—On Feb. 25, at the Private Nursing Home, 10, Zig-zag-road, Liscard, Cheshire, Miss Mary Smith, the fondly beloved sister of Mrs. William Mallalieu.

VENARD.—Feb. 18, Céleste Venard (Comtesse de Chabrillan), retired dancer.

WALLER.—On Feb. 25, after a very short illness, of pneumonia, Mrs. Alma Waller (of Keen and Waller) passed away. Interment will take place at Forest Hill, Saturday, 1 o'clock service. Sleep on dear Maggie.

IN MEMORIAM.

AUBREY.—In loving memory of Miss Lizzie Aubrey (Mrs. Chas. Dodsworth), who died Feb. 22, 1900. Never forgotten by her friend, Maude Stoneham.

COURTENAY.—In loving and affectionate memory of Lindo Courtenay (late Lessee, Wolverhampton, Oldham, Chester, and Liverpool Theatres), who departed this life at Oldham, Feb. 28, 1896.—CHARLIE.

JUDGE.—In loving memory of our dear father, Mr. William Judge, from his loving sons, Willie and Charlie (Alaska and Captain Lipton's Sea Lions).

JUDGE.—In ever-loving memory of Mr. William Judge (Judge's cockatoos), who died Feb. 24, 1903. Still sadly missed by his loving wife and daughters, Lily, Elsie, and Edith.

MACARTHY—MAY.—In loving memory of Madam Castaglioni May (Mrs. Huntley May Macarthy), died Feb. 22, 1895. Gone before, but not forgotten by her devoted sons and daughters.—W. F. M.

STOCKTON.—In loving remembrance of Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Stockton (Ella Stirling), who both died Feb. 27, 1898. Never forgotten.

THORNE.—In ever-loving memory of our dear mother, Sarah Thorne, who passed peacefully away Feb. 27, 1899. Sadly missed.

VANE.—In loving and never-fading memory of our devoted mother, who sank into rest Feb. 28, 1908. May and Ella Vane.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following Ladies and Gentlemen:—

Ellen Terry—Saturday, Feb. 27.
J. Bannister Howard—Saturday, Feb. 27.
Sidney Cooper—Saturday, Feb. 27.
Nellie Gillard—Saturday, Feb. 27.
Miss Eyre Robson—Saturday, Feb. 27.
Sir Chas. Santley—Sunday, Feb. 28.
E. V. Page—Sunday, Feb. 28.
Marie Blythe—Sunday, Feb. 28.
Ernest Korrie—Sunday, Feb 28.
Frank Harvey (Harvey Boys)—Sunday, Feb. 28.
Stylo—Sunday, Feb. 28.
Beatrice Bonnie—Sunday, Feb. 28.
Harry Nicholls—Monday, Mar. 1.
J. Comyns Carr—Monday, Mar. 1.
Albert Christian—Monday, Mar. 1.
Rachel Lowe—Monday, Mar. 1.
Sid Bandon—Monday, Mar. 1
Lionel Atwill—Monday, Mar. 1.
Richard Temple—Tuesday, Mar. 2.
Hermann Vezin—Tuesday, Mar. 2.
Albert Le Fre—Tuesday, Mar. 2.
Nellie Navette—Tuesday, Mar 2.
Ada Reeve—Wednesday, Mar. 3.
Rollo Balmain—Wednesday, Mar. 3.
Felice Napoli—Wednesday, Mar. 3.
Ada Crossley—Wednesday Mar. 3.
Fewlass Llewellyn—Friday, Mar. 5.
Harry Bawn—Friday, Mar. 5.
Hercat—Friday, Mar. 5.
Miss Georgie De Lara—Friday, Mar. 5.

LEICESTER has now added another to its many attractions in the opening on Monday evening last of the Empress Rolling Skating Rink, at the corner of Aylestone- and Welford-roads, on a large piece of ground belonging to the Corporation, which has been taken on a five years' lease. The proprietors are Rinking, Limited, of Earl's Court, the managing-director being Mr. P. W. Willard. It is intended that everything shall be carried out on first-class lines, and, judging from the assembly at the Tuesday afternoon session, the establishment should become the rendezvous of Leicester's smart set. The floor, of maple, is pronounced by expert skaters to be a beautiful one.

ON the opening night, the champion skater, Bobby Aginton, gave a remarkably smart exhibition. The acting-manager is Mr. H. Cormack. There are six instructors, in gold-braided and smart uniforms, and also lady instructors. Guidi's Military Orchestra supply the music. It is thirty years ago since the first rink was opened in Leicester, at the side of Victoria Park. The last was erected in the Floral Hall, in Belgrave-gate, and was under the management of Mr. John H. Clarke, who later became the manager of the Theatre Royal for Colonel Winstanley.

EVENTUALLY the place was acquired by Mr. Oswald Stoll, who erected thereon Leicester's premier place of entertainment, the Leicester Palace Theatre. Since then the town has been without a rink, and there is no doubt that with the opening of the new rink the old enthusiasm for roller-skating will be revived.

PROBABLY one of the best-liked sports which are from time to time to be seen at the Empress Roller Skating Rink, Earl's Court, is that of pushball on skates. Last Wednesday afternoon a young ladies' team of twenty skaters competed against one made up of a dozen boys not over seventeen. The ladies were led by Miss Amelie Van Biene, a niece of the famous 'cellist of the same name, and who is a very pretty and charming girl of sixteen. They played so vigorously that they succeeded in scoring three goals to nil, the dismal record of the opposing young gentlemen. Ladies and gentlemen wishing to take part in a pushball battle on skates are invited to send in their names to Mr. P. W. Willard, the managing-director, who will arrange the time and meeting of the opposing teams.

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.

No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this list.

Adderley, Mr. Fredk.
Andre, Mr. Victor
Artois, Mrs. Florrie
Baldwin, Mr.
Balehm, Mr. Fred
Barrett, Mr. W. B.
Barry, Mr. J. L.
Bassett, Mr. A. Fellows
Bentley, Mr. Will
Bertram, Mr. E. V.
Bessie, Miss Sarah
Biddall Brothers
Bill, Buff
Bourne, Mr. Wm.
Brownie, Mr. Gardener
Cady, Mrs.
Cady, Mr. F. W.
Carew, Miss K.
Cestria
Chapman, Mr. A. H.
Chorley and Connor
Chung Ling Soo
Cohernay, Mr. Ivan
Collins, Mr. Arthur E.
Collins, Mr. Pat
Conner, Mr. J.
Cromwell, Mr. W.
Daly, Mr. Orlando
Davies, Miss Vi
Dawson, Mr. Forbes
Dawson, Mr. John
De Fontenoy, Miss R.
Dice, Mr. Fred
Donelly, Mr. Dick
Dreadnoughts, The
Dumond, Mr. J.
Durell, Mr. Leonard
Durham, Mr. Wm.
Earle, Mr. R. H.
Edney, Mr. George
Eidelsten, Mr. E. H.
Elliston, Mr. Harry
Elton, Mrs. Fred
Evans, Mr. Ernest
Evans, Mr. Wash.
Fishburn, Mr. Frank
Fordham, Mr. Fred
Fossett, Mr. R.
Foxwell, Mr. Harry
Fuller, Mr. Walter
Glennister, Mr. Lionel
Godwin, Mr. Will
Grey, Mr. Harry
Halmore, Mr. J.
Hastings, Mr. Wilmott
Hawtrey, Mr. Geo. P.
Hayes, Mr. Tom
Heathcote, Mr. Robert
Henderson, Miss May
Herington, Mr. Graham
Hewlett, Miss Cissie
Hill, Mr. Hamilton
Hodson, Miss Janet
Holding, Mr. Thomas
Hollister, Mr. Herbert
Hyde, Miss Florence
Ingram, Mr. T. Woods
Kemble, Mr. Henry
Kendal, Mrs.
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Kloss, Miss Sophia
Lamour, Miss Yvonne
Langden, Mr. George
Launcelot, Mr. John
Leaburn, Miss Bella
Leighton, Mr. Fred
Le Roy, Mr. H. C.
Leslie, Mr. Alfred
Leslie, Mr. Frank
Lessing, Miss M.
Levante, Madame
Loraine Mr. Basil
Luxmore, Miss M.
Lyons and Culum
Mackay, Mr. W. J.
Marsden, Miss Louie
Marshall, Mr. Arthur
Massey, Miss Grace
Maxford, Mr. Dan
McLean, Mr. A.
Michel, Brothers
Mimum, Miss G.
Moon and Morris
Neil, Miss Nellie
Noble, Mr. Dan
Noble, Miss Gertrude
O'Brien, Miss Helen
Parke, Miss Beatrice
Partridge, Mr. A.
Paull, Miss Ethel G.
Pembroke, Mr. Clifford
Perera, Prince
Perris, Mr. Robert
Peverell, Mr. Walter
Phillips, Miss Kate
Pleon, Mr. Harry
Plimmer, Mr. W. J.
Pollard, Miss Alice
Pounds, Mr. Fern
Ray, Miss Belle
Reed, Miss Eva
Ridgewell, Mr. Leo
Roadnight, Mr.
Robbins and Collier
Robertson, Mr. Forbes
Rodney, Mr. Arthur
Roe, Mr. Norman
Rosenthal, Miss A.
Rough Miss Ethel
Saville, Mr. Frank
Schaboo, Prince
Scott, Messrs. W.
Selway, Mr. Jack
Sidney, Madame F.
Silvester, Bros.
Sleath, Mr. Herbert
Smith, Miss Winifred
Snazelle, Mr. G. H.
Spinner, Mr. Wallie
Sproul, Mr. James
Stansfield, Miss Myra
Sterling, Mr. Max
Stewart, Mr. C. Dudley
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Syers, Mrs. C.
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Yorke, Mr. Gilbert

MISS FLORA LINGTON, who is now at the National Sanatorium, Bournemouth, leaves a husband who has been blind for five years and two children. Any further contributions for this good cause may be sent direct to the Music Hall Ladies' Guild.

CHILDREN ON THE STAGE. The Act affecting the Employment of Children on the Stage came into force on Saturday, Oct. 1, 1904. Managers, Agents, Entrepreneurs, and Performers wishing to possess a copy of the Complete Act in a concise form can do so by forwarding three stamps to the Publisher, *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

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C. I. COLTSON, Secretary.

ACTORS' BENEVOLENT FUND.
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for 1909 and 1910.
All Subscribers of 21s. and upwards are entitled to Nominate and Vote in the Election of the Executive Committee for 1909 and 1910, which must be composed of fourteen members of £5 and upwards, and seven members of not less than 1 guinea.
Gentlemen qualified as above, and who are willing to serve on the Committee for 1909 and 1910, are requested to send in their names not later than Thursday, March 11, 1909.
In the event of more than twenty-one candidates consenting to serve, an Election will take place on Thursday, March 18, 1909, at 4 p.m., at 8, Adam-street, Adelphi, when the voting papers will be examined and recorded by the Scrutineers appointed at the Annual General Meeting.
(By Order),
C. I. COLTSON,
Secretary.
Offices:—
8, Adam-street,
Adelphi, W.C.

ACTORS' BENEVOLENT FUND.
ACTORS SATURDAY, JAN. 30, 1909.
FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	£ s. d.
Brinckman, Rev. Arthur	10 0 0
Lewis, Eric	10 0 0
Wharton, Mrs. W. H. A.	1) 0 0
Beveridge, J. D.	5 5 0
Dutton, F. M.	5 5 0
Smith, S. Theyre	5 5 0
Ross, G. Lockhart	5 0 0
Grimes, Miss A. M.	3 3 0
Robertson, J. Forbes	2 0 0
Brooks, Mrs. Herbert	1 1 0
Brougham, W. H.	1 1 0
Chippendale, James	1 1 0
Davey, Peter	1 1 0
Douglas, E. L.	1 1 0
Evans, Thomas	1 1 0
Gay, Mrs. Chas.	1 1 0
Goldsmith, Miss Ina	1 1 0
Hallatt, W. H.	1 1 0
Jecks, Miss Clara	1 1 0
Jenning, Miss Viola	1 1 0
Lawrence, Arthur	1 1 0
Marshall, Percy	1 1 0
Matthison, Miss Wynne	1 1 0
Miller, George	1 1 0
Poulton, Mrs. Victoria	1 1 0
Rivington, Miss Constance	1 1 0
Slee, Miss E. E.	1 1 0
Spurgen, Mrs. W.	1 1 0
Tapping, A. B.	1 1 0
Taylor, J. Milne	1 1 0
Beaumont, Miss Lucy	1 0 0
E. M. W.	1 0 0
Hodgkinson, Miss E.	1 0 0
Levettez, Miss Emily	1 0 0
Mayo, Miss Winifred	1 0 0
Vigors, Douglas	1 0 0
Brabazon, T. B.	0 10 6
Elliott, Mrs. C.	0 10 6
Gray, Mr. and Mrs. A.	0 10 6
Greet, Miss Harriet	0 10 6
Lowe, Mr. and Mrs. Wm.	0 10 6
Stage Correspondent, Southport	0 10 6
Weare, Miss Emily	0 10 6
Zerbini, Carlotta	0 10 6
Canninge, George	0 10 0
Compton, Sydney	0 10 0
Cordiner, J. W.	0 10 0
Davies, Coleman	0 10 0
Mackinley, J. S.	0 10 0
Stone, Charles R.	0 10 0
Thatcher, Fowler	0 10 0
Walker, Chris.	0 10 0
Webster, Miss Davies	0 10 0
Williams, Harcourt	0 10 0
Cazalet, Miss Rose	0 5 0
Collins, Mrs. E.	0 5 0
Howett, E. C.	0 5 0
King's Theatre, Hammersmith, box	2 2 6
Royal County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames, box	1 1 8
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Loveday, H. J.	5 5 0
De Silva, Miss	2 2 0
Glenny, Charles	2 2 0
O'Neill, Frank B.	2 2 0
Rorke, Miss Mary	2 2 0
Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick	2 2 0
Foster Percy	1 1 0
Raynor, Albert E.	1 1 0
Hudson, W. H.	1 0 0
Cooke, George	0 10 6
Hewland, Philip	0 10 6
Cameron, Charles J.	0 10 0
Rivers, Alfred	0 10 0
A Friend	0 5 0
Comberback, Edward	0 5 0
Elder, Miss Bessie	0 5 0
Livesey, E. Carter and Miss Lillian Rosebery	0 5 0
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Worrall, Henry	0 10 6
Gordon, Philip	0 10 0
Leigh, Miss Kathleen	0 7 6
Hassall, Miss Marie	0 5 0
Johnston, Wallace	0 5 0
Merton, Miss Constance	0 5 0
Austin, J. W.	0 2 6
Gratton, Colley	0 2 6
Leslie, Ivan	0 2 6
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Strathmore, Herbert	0 2 6
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Barrington, Rutland	1 1 0
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Herbert, Henry	0 10 6
James, Albert	0 10 6
Sheffield, Leo	0 10 6
Court, Miss Dorothy	0 5 0
Spain, Miss Elsie	0 5 0
Board Beatrice	0 3 0
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Thorne, G. R.	0 2 6
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Entrance

SHAFTESBURY. MR. H. B. IRVING.

LAST NIGHT OF THE SEASON.

MATINEE TO-DAY, at 2.30.

LOUIS XI.
MISS DOROTHEA BAIRD.
MR. H. B. IRVING as LOUIS XI.

TO-NIGHT, at 8.45,
THE LYONS MAIL.
At 8, "KING RENE'S DAUGHTER."

UNANIMOUS VERDICT OF PRESS & PUBLIC.

The TIMES:
But the new performance is no mere outward reproduction of the old; it has—and that is why we call it remarkable—the spirit and fire and gusto of the old. That is to say, the ogre gives you real thrills, and dominates the stage so that you cannot take your eyes off him. . . . The house was highly delighted, and called Mr. Irving before the curtain again and again.

The MORNING POST:
The picture he draws of the wily, ferocious, cowardly old hypocrite is very effective, the touches of grim humour being admirably rendered, and last night's large audience watched the performance with attention, and applauded it most enthusiastically as often as occasion offered. It is certainly a performance which should not be missed.

The DAILY TELEGRAPH:
There is so much that is thoughtful, histrionically effective, and instructive in Mr. Irving's rendering that popularity is assured.

The STANDARD:
A most scholarly piece of work. In make-up it is brilliant; as a study of senility it is well-nigh perfection. . . . Of its grimness there can be no question, of its intensity there cannot be too much praise, of its power to grip, the enthusiastic audience bore witness. The audience was really remarkably enthusiastic.

The DAILY MAIL:
It is one of the best things he has done. At the beginning, in the scene in the bedroom, and at the end he gave a performance of real power and fascination. He succeeds admirably, and the house thoroughly appreciated it.

The DAILY EXPRESS:
There can no longer be any hesitation in declaring that the mantle of the greatest actor of modern times has descended upon the shoulders of his son.

The DAILY CHRONICLE:
Yet another night of enthusiasm and of triumph.

The DAILY GRAPHIC.
As a portrayal of age the performance is quite masterly, especially in the death-scene. . . . His performance is in every way a thing to be seen.

The MORNING ADVERTISER:
Each of these scenes demands much of the actor, and it was highly gratifying to see how successfully Mr. Irving grappled with their many difficulties. . . . We have nothing but praise for a performance which had evidently been well considered, and which showed Mr. Irving in a new and very welcome light.

The MORNING LEADER:
Frequent curtain calls, loud applause, a little speech spoken under stress of emotion at the finish marked the revival, and made one think of the enthusiasm evoked in the old days when Mr. Irving's distinguished father played this part. Mr. Irving has done nothing better than this.

The SPORTSMAN:
Mr. Irving has made a striking personal success.

The PALL MALL GAZETTE:
Mr. Irving obtained a more notable personal success than in any other of his revivals this season, not excluding "The Lyons Mail." Last night Mr. Irving held his audience far more surely than he has done before at the Shaftesbury. The silence during the performance spoke more spontaneously than the applause in the darkened theatre at the end of each act, and the little bursts of laughter at the old Satyr's occasional jests and the little gasps at the more diabolical displays of his disposition were also eloquent evidence that the impersonation was "getting home," as they say. Someone has observed that a new generation of playgoers succeeds every three years. If that is so, the majority of those who will crowd to see this vivid piece of acting will be untroubled by memories of Sir Henry Irving's wonderful display, and will admire and enjoy the son's work, as last night's audience enjoyed and admired it.

The EVENING STANDARD:
The audience last night evidenced a deep appreciation of the significance of Mr. Irving's achievement, for everyone in the house, from stalls to gallery, united to make the occasion memorable. Exactly how many times the accomplished young actor was called before the curtain it would be difficult to say. Six or seven times after every act and at least a dozen at the end would be a reasonable computation. One recognised the ring of genuine, unforced admiration in the round upon round of cheering which greeted the conclusion of the wonderful death scene. In sheer histrionic intensity the Louis of Mr. Irving leaves far behind his Hamlet, his Lesurques, his Dubosc, and his Charles the First. Fine as these assumptions are, his Louis is finer still. It is the crowning triumph of a series of successes which have astonished the most ardent believers in Mr. Irving's uncommon abilities. After this there is no defining the limits of his capacity. We can "see him" in an endless procession of famous rôles, all of the highest character. There is nothing of first importance that he may not attempt and conquer.

The WESTMINSTER GAZETTE.
In some respects Louis XI. is Mr. Irving's best performance. He seems to play it as if he loves it. . . . There remains, then, Mr. Irving for serious consideration, and I think very high praise is due. In the first place, he succeeded in suggesting vividly old age and weakness, with strength of will, and without the commonplace stage doddering. His make-up was very striking, and he was skilful enough to cause his hands to seem old. In the main he gave a very strong picture of the ineffably wicked old man and very useful king. He seemed the embodiment of cunning, yet capable of suggesting simplicity, and though I think that in the Angelus business, like his father, he overstepped the bounds a little, as a whole his performance was marked by a nice avoidance of the needlessly theatrical. His death, or, rather, his dying, was horrible enough for anybody's taste; and his laborious uprising when all deem him dead was quite terrible. Consequently one may say that the Louis XI. is a really successful piece of acting.

The GLOBE:
It may at once be said that his performance is admirable.

The EVENING NEWS:
An altogether astonishing study. Mr. Irving's make-up is itself wonderful, yet it is the least surprising things about this grim and relentless picture. Mr. Irving's rendering of the character is remarkable as a brilliantly realistic study of the least attractive aspect of old age. It is small wonder that the actor's almost harrowing art thrilled the house, and drew from it a striking tribute of enthusiasm. . . . But the play is Louis and Louis is the play, and this particular Louis is unforgettable.

The STAR:
Mr. Irving must be congratulated on a brilliant success. As Louis he achieves a very real conquest, and offers an impersonation which is quite masterly. The performance is one which, even though it but carries on a tradition and is in no sense creative, establishes Mr. Irving's right to be regarded as one of the most powerful and intelligent actors of the younger generation, an actor of strong individuality and artistic authority.

SHAFTESBURY.

LAST NIGHT OF THE SEASON.

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1909.

ACTORS AND TERRITORIALS.

It was only to be expected that the sensation created by the production of *An Englishman's Home* should be followed by an effort on the part of the profession to practise what it had so powerfully preached; but we confess we were not prepared to have such a complete and practical scheme presented to us as that which has been originated by Mr. CHARLES C. OMMANNEY, Mr. E. S. BALE, and Messrs. GEORGE CARNEY and FRANK ARMSTRONG for the formation of a purely theatrical and variety battalion of Territorials. Mr. OMMANNEY has the advantage of having seen active service in South Africa, our latest training-ground for soldiers; and he has his heart in the work that he has put before him.

The theatrical profession is one of the greatest tests possible of the sobriety and common-sense of youth. It has always been a problem how to occupy the actor, both in London and on tour, in the earlier part of the day. The exceptional artist is, of course, easily accounted for. He may be an amateur painter, a collector, or he may have some other excellent and improving hobby. But after the first novelty of touring is over, the problem of how to get through the day presses hardly on many actors in the provinces. Things, indeed, are much better now than they used to be. Cricket has engaged the attention of many of our actors, golf has been found a valuable resource to even more; but there still remains the want of a healthy pursuit suited to those who do not care for these two games. Military training offers advantages to this unoccupied majority which are not generally appreciated. Volunteering has been so consistently ridiculed and depreciated by the Press, both in articles and illustrations, that it needs a certain amount of moral courage to walk along the street wearing the Territorial uniform. But the recompenses are many and real. One of them, which should much appeal to actors, is the great improvement in bearing which results from drill. The "manual," which teaches the smart and neat handling of the rifle, is a fine exercise for the chest and arms, and squad drill, with its constant formation of fours, its various steps and turnings, sets a man securely on his feet, and creates in him a striking improvement in ease and grace of movement. The attention paid to erect and becoming attitude leaves behind it, even when off duty, a certain "well-set-up" appearance which all must notice in trained men. We should be sorry to see introduced into England any of the physical pedantry of the Continent, where a man at a party knocks his heels together before asking a lady to dance, but it must be owned that the carriage of many of our young men, both on and off the stage, leaves something yet to be desired.

It is not generally known that to purely military training is added, in all the larger centres at least, a physical drill which is an education in athletics. On alternate evenings the drill sergeant becomes an athletic instructor, and, under his command, exercises with the Indian clubs, the horse, &c., are performed by the whole battalion. Boxing and fencing are taught gratis to those who desire the teaching; and there is a swimming club to each big battalion. Nor are the more delicate senses neglected. Men with especially fine eyesight and mental judgment can employ these gifts in rifle-shooting, which is a severe test of nervous endurance and coolness. In the hot weather nothing can be more interesting than to lie on a mat in the pure air of Bisley or some provincial range and see the welcome signal that announces a bullseye rise above the bank before the targets.

There are some egoists who cannot combine with others in any sport or action. They must always be playing for their own hands, and looking out for number one, with a complete indifference to all the other numerals. To these mean and selfish persons, sharing in the fatigues and the fun of a company, either in the prosaic perseverance of the drill-yard or the more interesting adventures of camp and manœuvres, is mere unpleasant drudgery. These are better out of the Territorials than within their ranks, lest they should infect their wholesome brothers with their own complaint. But such characters are rare in the theatrical and variety professions, which have always been noted for their generosity and good fellowship. The idea that obedience to reasonable authority is manly and wise has been infused into them at rehearsals; they have learned to co-operate, to be loyal to a chief, and to obey instantly and smartly. Many of them are sportsmen, and to these the mounted section of the Territorials should appeal with power. It should not be concealed from them, however, that mounted infantry work is really hard, and that only those of considerable powers of endurance should attempt it. The envied mounted infantryman has to pay for his equestrian pride by very onerous stable duties being added to the ordinary drill. It is no joke, when you arrive at camp at evening after a hard day on the Fox Hills or elsewhere, to have to groom your horse and bed him down for the night, besides cleaning bits and saddlery for the morrow. Therefore, the average actor should weigh well the *pros* and *cons* and estimate his own ability before choosing this attractive but exacting branch of the Service.

In joining the Territorials it is only the first step that is really uncomfortable. That taken, the recruit's interest in his work soon becomes excited; he finds out what he can do best, and tries to excel in it; and he acquires a taste for the work which is never quite lost. Everyone who has been through the Volunteer service speaks in enthusiastic terms of the benefit derived from his experience, and is full of affection for his old battalion and of pleasant memories of the past. We do not wish to paint too rosy a picture of military service, amateur or professional. But, on the other hand, we want our soldiers to be cheerful volunteers, not sullen conscripts. If we can only induce the cream of the profession to learn to defend their country, we may feel certain that, should the necessity ever arise, our actors and variety artists will face the inevitable hardships and dangers with all the steadiness and seriousness required to repel the foe.

"BLUFFING ONE'S WAY."

A Comedy, in Three Acts, Adapted and Modernised from the play, *Le Puff au Mensonge et Verite*, by Eugene Scribe, Produced at the Royalty Theatre, on Monday, Feb. 22.

Jacob File ..... MR. T. P. HAYNES
Sir Sacripant Brazen, M.P. ..... MR. WATTY BRUNTON
Ernest Reinhold ..... MR. HENRY AINSWORTH
Jobbing Highflyer ..... MR. A. DAVIDSON
Subtle Pamphlet ..... MR. HENRY TEMPLETON
Emily File ..... MISS UNA BRUCKSHAW
Alma Highflyer ..... MISS MABEL FUNSTAN

The author of *Bluffing One's Way*, whom we judge to be Mr. W. H. C. Nation, has probably utilised more of his own ideas than those of the well-known French author who is named, for one cannot but very readily recognise in this piece many of the characteristics which distinguished other plays which have recently been produced at the Royalty Theatre, and in which the author has postulated his theories as to political and social questions. Old Jacob File, the wealthy miser, has a daughter and a ward. With the former, Emily File, Sir Sacripant Brazen has at one time pretended to be in love, though when he discovered that there was less possibility of getting possession of her father's wealth than he had at first fancied, he discards her, and simulates affection for Alma Highflyer. That young lady's brother has been gambling rather heavily upon the Stock Exchange, with the result that Alma loses a considerable portion of her fortune. When Sir Sacripant is told this, he believes that a game of bluff is being played upon him, and in order to make the family and others think that he is an unselfish, high-minded gentleman, he still says that he will marry Alma. When, however, he learns that what has been related to him of Alma's misfortunes is only too true, he writes a letter breaking off the engagement. He is just about to send the letter to Alma—who, by the way, is in love with someone else, and detests the notoriety-seeking member of Parliament—but when the news comes that Alma's brother has had an extraordinary stroke of luck and is a rich man, Sir Sacripant changes his mind and decides that he loves the girl after all. Alma's real fiancé is Ernest Reinhold, who threatens to expose Sir Sacripant for having stolen some of his notes for a book on India, the authorship of which is attributed to Sir Sacripant, although that worthy was not the writer, this, however, being part of the game of bluff engaged in by the enterprising, if not altogether honourable, politician. The end of the case is that Sir Sacripant relinquishes all claims to Alma, and Ernest, after all, gets the woman he wants.

Mr. T. P. Haynes as Jacob File, Mr Henry Templeton as Subtle Pamphlet, a publisher whom Sir Sacripant makes use of to advertise himself, and Mr. Henry Ainsworth as Ernest Reinhold furnish satisfactory portraitures, and the other parts are given all the representation that is necessary under the circumstances.

A TERRIBLE end has been met by a young Parisian actress named Irene Muza, who was burnt to death on Tuesday night while her hair was being dressed. The hairdresser, who was also severely burnt, and is not expected to recover, was washing Mlle. Muza's hair in the kitchen, when some of the wash fell on the kitchen range, flamed up, and set fire to Mlle. Muza's hair and dressing-gown. She rushed shrieking about her flat, until two visitors, one of whom was Mlle. Muza's sister, eventually succeeded in putting out the fire. The actress, however, was so badly burnt that she died in the course of the night.

A COQUELIN MEMORIAL.

The following correspondence has taken place between Sir John Hare and Monsieur Jules Clarétie, l'Administrateur Général de la Comédie Française, and M. Jean Coquelin, the son of the eminent actor, lately deceased:—

"DEAR MONSIEUR CLARETIE,—A strong desire is felt by leading members of the English stage to give expression to their sorrow at the loss of the great actor whose talents were not only a glory to the stage of his own country, but shed lustre on the dramatic art of the entire world.

"M. Coquelin was known, revered, and loved in England, and especially by his confrères, who admired him equally as an artist and respected him as a man.

"It has, therefore, been felt that we, his English brothers, should like to pay some tribute of honour and affection to the memory of the great actor who was for so many years not only one of the chief ornaments of the French stage, but for thirty years a shining light in the house of Molière, the theatre which you, Sir, have so long directed with such distinction, taste, and skill.

"It has been suggested and agreed that the most fitting form our modest tribute should take would be that of a silver wreath or similar artistic design, and I am deputed to ask you if, in the event of the design being executed to your and our satisfaction, we might offer it as a tribute to the memory of Constant Coquelin from his English brothers, and, if they will do us the honour to accept it, as a memorial gift to the Théâtre Français.

"As it was as sociétaire of the Comédie Française that M. Coquelin first appeared before and won the admiration of the English public, it has occurred to us that the most fitting destination for our little offering should be the historic theatre so closely associated with his name and fame.

"The committee who are organising this memorial tribute comprise leading representatives of the English stage, a completed list of whose names will be sent to you in due course.—I have the honour to remain, &c.,

(Signed) "JOHN HARE.

"75, Upper Berkeley-street,
"Portman-square, London, Feb. 2."

The following is a translation of M. Clarétie's answer:—

"DEAR SIR JOHN HARE,—The Comédie Française can only be touched by the thought which you express to me in the name of the English dramatic artists. It is one more link which binds the house of Molière to the country of Shakespeare.

"Since you kindly mention that it is to Constant Coquelin to whom you address your glorious and generous tribute—to Constant Coquelin, 'sociétaire of the Comédie Française'—the Comédie will be happy to accept a gift which will record that from such-and-such a date to such-and-such a date the brilliant interpreter of Molière was the honoured sociétaire of the Théâtre Français. These two dates I will send you.

"Accept, I beg you, dear Sir John Hare, and kindly convey to the representative artists of the English theatre, the thanks of the Comédie Française, and add to them the personal expression of the devotion and gratitude of its director.—Yours very sincerely,

"JULES CLARETIE."

Sir John Hare wrote to M. Jean Coquelin:

"DEAR M. COQUELIN,—A great desire has been expressed by leading members of the English stage to pay some tribute to the memory of your dear father, who had won from us not merely admiration for his genius, but affection and respect for him as a man.

"A committee of leading actors have met to consider the best form this tribute should take, and it has been decided that a silver wreath or similar artistic design should be offered for the acceptance of the Théâtre Français, to be placed, we hope, in the foyer of your national theatre.

"As honorary secretary of the committee, I have been requested to communicate with M. Clarétie to ascertain his views on the subject, but, before definitely deciding on our course of action, we should first like to ascertain your wishes on the subject, and whether the steps we are taking in this matter are agreeable to you.

"In offering this gift to the Théâtre Français, we have been influenced by the fact that it was as sociétaire of that theatre that in 1871 your illustrious father first appeared before and won the admiration of the English public, since cemented by intimate association into reverence and affectionate regard.—I am, dear M. Coquelin, yours very sincerely,

"John Hare, Hon. Secretary to the Committee.
"75, Upper Berkeley-street, London, Feb. 2."

A telegram was received, of which the following is a translation:—

"Am much touched by your generous offer and tender thought. Approve of your exchanging views on this subject with Comédie Française, and shall be much obliged by your letting me know the result of negotiations."

The committee which has been formed for the purposes of the memorial is composed of Sir Squire Bancroft, Sir Charles Wyndham, Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. W. H. Kendal, Mr. Edward Terry, Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Mr. Forbes-Robertson, Mr. Cyril Maude, Mr. Arthur W. Pinero, and Sir John Hare (honorary secretary).

A NEW charge of obtaining money by fraud and false pretences was preferred on Monday against Frederick John Morgan, alias "Norman Craig," a young man described as an actor, of Kemble-street, Drury-lane. John Featherstone, a young man giving an address at Shoreditch, and described as a clerk, deposed that early in March last he called on the prisoner, at an office at 95, Great Eastern-street. The prisoner, who gave the name of "Norman Craig," said his theatrical company was going on tour with two plays, *East Lynne* and *Lady Dedlock's Secret*. In the former witness was offered the part of Otway Bethel, at a salary of £1 a week. Morgan said he should require a premium of two guineas and a deposit of at least 10s. The prisoner signed a type-written contract, and said the rehearsals would be at the Bay Malton, Great Portland-street. Witness parted with sums amounting to 22s. 6d. to prisoner, believing his representations as to salaried employment on the stage. The rehearsals took place in a sort of cellar, but when the time was approaching for public performances Morgan said he could not carry out his arrangements. Finally he deserted the "company." A detective-inspector said he put forward the last witness to show that defendant's system had been going on for twelve months. He had got up three companies at least, and there was one attempt at a performance at Harrow. Morgan was committed for trial, Mr. Francis offering to accept bail.

THE action brought by Mr. Fred Storey against Miss Iné de la Garde Cameron (Mrs. Wilkie) for damages for breach of agreement was settled in the King's Bench Division on the 19th inst. The contract was in writing, and was made on Jan. 31, 1908. Under it the defendant engaged plaintiff to act leading parts in old English comedy and Shakespearean plays, and to provide certain costumes and scenery. The plaintiff said he adhered to the agreement up to Feb. 29 of last year, when the defendant wrongfully terminated it. The defence was that the agreement was terminated by mutual consent. His lordship said Mr. Storey had a contract which had never been put an end to. After deducting £15 for the week at Blackpool and £10 for the repayment of the money lent, there would be judgment for the plaintiff for £198 10s.

THE COPYRIGHT QUESTION.

The report presented by Sir H. Bergne, Mr. Askwith, and Count de Salis, the British delegates at the International Conference of the Union for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, held at Berlin on Oct. 14, 1908, is too long for us to reproduce *in toto*, but we have extracted some paragraphs which may be of interest to our readers:—

"PUBLIC PERFORMANCE OF MUSICAL WORKS.—The stipulations of the present Convention shall apply to the public representation of dramatic or dramatico-musical works and to the public performance of musical works, whether such works be published or not. Authors of dramatic or dramatico-musical works shall be protected during the existence of their right over the original work against the unauthorised public representation of translations of their works. In order to enjoy the protection of the present Article, authors shall not be bound in publishing their works to forbid the public representation or performance thereof."

The Berne Convention (Article 9) provides that, in the case of published musical works, authors must expressly declare on the title-page or at the head of the work that public performance is forbidden if they desire to retain the performing right. This requirement has, in practice, given rise to confusion, and it was proposed to abolish it.

Owing to the conditions of our law this proposal involved certain difficulties; but, after reference to you on the subject, we made the following Declaration:—

"The Government of His Britannic Majesty recognises the value—especially from the point of view of simplicity—of the amendment of the German delegation with the view to protect the performing right of a work without making special prohibition obligatory. According to English law, special mention of prohibition is obligatory, and a sudden modification of that provision would lead to some confusion, and for some time be a source of danger to the public until it had become accustomed to the change. On the one hand, therefore, we shall have to give complete protection to persons who have innocently infringed exclusive performing rights, and, on the other hand, to guarantee to authors the means of preventing the violation of those rights. We are glad to believe that these considerations are not in disaccord with the German amendment, which we are happy to be able to accept."

After this declaration was made, Switzerland, the only other objecting country, withdrew her opposition, and the Article was adopted unanimously.

"INDIRECT APPROPRIATIONS.—Art. 12: The following shall be specially included among the unlawful reproductions to which the present Convention applies: Unauthorised indirect appropriations of a literary or artistic work, such as adaptations, musical arrangements, transformations of a novel, tale, or piece of poetry into a dramatic piece and *vice-versâ*, &c., when they are only the reproduction of that work, in the same form or in another form, without essential alterations, additions, or abridgments, and do not present the character of a new original work."

This corresponds to Article 10 of the Berne Convention, with the addition of "transformations of a novel, tale, or piece of poetry into a dramatic piece and *vice versâ*" to the list of reproductions which are illegal without authority.

Complete protection is not as yet given in England in the case of these additions, but we were instructed to offer no objection to the proposal, which was accepted without discussion.

"MECHANICAL MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.—Art. 13: The authors of musical works shall have the exclusive right of authorising: (1) The adaptation of those works to instruments which can reproduce them mechanically; (2) the public performance of the said works by means of these instruments. Reservations and conditions relating to the application of this Article may be determined by the domestic legislation of each country in so far as it is concerned; but the effect of any such reservations and conditions will be strictly limited to the country which has put them in force. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall not be retroactive, and consequently shall not be applicable in any country of the Union to works which have been lawfully adapted in that country to mechanical instruments before the coming into force of the present Convention. Adaptations made in virtue of paragraphs 2 and 3 of the present Article, and imported without the authority of the interested parties into a country where they would not be lawful, shall be liable to seizure in that country."

THE Royal Ear Hospital matinée at the Queen's Theatre on the 18th inst. drew a brilliant audience, which included the King and Queen. Over £500 was secured for seats alone and about £120 collected by the charming young actresses, who sold programmes, flowers, cigarettes, and sweetmeats. Miss Dorrien Keppel headed the list with £20. The hospital is also benefiting by the beautiful souvenir, which is sold for half a guinea, and entitles the purchaser to a free sitting at the Urbanora Studios, Wardour-street, and a guinea's worth of photographs free. In addition to the photo coupon, the souvenir contains a signed photogravure of the Queen, and many interesting items.

THE obituary announcements of the week include that of Mlle. Victoria de Bunsen, the well-known singer. Miss de Bunsen was born in Sweden, of German parents, and made her first appearance in opera at Stockholm. After studying with Lamperti, Masset, and Fontana she was engaged by Mr. Mapleson and took part in his performances at Her Majesty's Theatre. While touring as a member of Mr. Mapleson's Italian opera company in Great Britain the artist caught a chill, which necessitated an abandonment of the stage. She appeared frequently on the concert platform and was very well known as a teacher.

THE third sacred concert under the auspices of the Amalgamated Musicians' Union in aid of their benevolent fund was given in the Theatre Royal, Plymouth, on Sunday, when a well-selected programme was rendered. Miss Gladys Jeffery sang with expression Liddle's well-known hymn, "Abide with me," and gave an artistic rendering of Handel's "Return, O God of Hosts." Mr. J. Pardew played the pianoforte accompaniments. Other items on the programme were the overture "Trumpet" of Mendelssohn, Raff's "Cavatina," Wagner's overture to "The Meistersingers," the "Stabat Mater" of Rossini (cornet solo, Mr. S. Mitchell), and a suite of "Three Rural Scenes." Mr. Stephen Blythe was the conductor, and Mr. J. W. Wingate was the leader of the orchestra.

A MEETING was held in the Grosvenor Restaurant, Glasgow, on the 19th inst., with a view to the establishment, in that city, of a repértoire theatre, and for the purpose of encouraging the writing and production of Scottish national drama. Mr. Alfred Wareing, the organiser and manager, explained the scheme, stating that one element of the idea was to issue subscription tickets for different parts of the house. The capital demanded only amounted to £2,000, and the expenses he had calculated at £240 per week. It was their intention to secure twelve or fifteen London actors of proved ability for the theatre, which was to be a citizens' theatre, supported and financed by citizens. The movement could be set on foot in April in the Royalty Theatre, Glasgow.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

A WELCOME-HOME dinner to Mr. Harry Lauder will be given at the Café Monico on Sunday, March 14. Sir Thomas Dewar, a countryman of Lauder's, ye ken, has consented to take the chair.

As showing the popularity of the Coliseum programme, it is interesting to note that the following visited the theatre during the past week:—The Dowager Lady Inverclyde, Mrs. Ruthven Guest, the Countess of Southesk, Lady Strathcden, the Hon. Mildred Campbell, Lord Sanderson, the Dowager Lady Kensington, Lady Inverclyde, the Hon. Miss Vivian and the Hon. Miss Lascelles (Maids of Honour to the Queen), Sir Walter and Lady Grove, and Lord Charles Thynne.

THE members and friends of the fraternity of Water Rats will be footing it merrily on Thursday next at the Trocadero, at the annual ball of the "Grand Order," under the limited monarchy of King Rat, Fred Ginnett. Mr. Bond Sayers, musical director of the London Pavilion, will again conduct a special orchestra. Supper will be served at 1.30.

WE are pleased to state that Mr. John L. Shine's injured arm is progressing as well as possible under skilled attention. Mr. Shine is negotiating for the immediate production of his latest playlet, in three scenes, *Invasion; or, Wake up England!*

MRS. HERBERT CAMPBELL, the widow of Herbert Campbell, comedian, died on Sunday, after a short illness from pneumonia, at the Sun Tavern, Long Acre, of which she was the proprietress. The deceased lady was interred on Thursday in her husband's grave at Abney Park Cemetery.

MISS VESTA VICTORIA has returned to this country once more with a remarkable record of American successes. "Poor John," "Sally in the ballet," and "Now I have to call him father" have been sung and chortled by the most sedate of audiences in the principal vaudeville theatres in New York, Boston, and other cities. The Yankee critics admit that British song-writers have the monopoly of numbers that are comically descriptive of domestic trials and "home life," and, incidentally, they tell us that it is only artists like Vesta Victoria who can extract the real fun of such ditties.

"MISS VICTORIA makes people forget themselves, and that is precisely what people want to do. Stupid songs never achieve this result. All of Vesta Victoria's songs are good and funny." This is the verdict of one of New York's leading critics. The gaiety of life is said to be absent from New York vaudeville audiences; and funereal gloom is not lifted by gloomy sketches, lengths of monologue, or worn-out ragtime music. Vesta Victoria's songs, however, have spread the contagion of mirth everywhere, and through her teaching New York has learnt to appreciate the preciousness of domestic comedy.

"MISS VICTORIA'S principal mission," says a critic, "is to sing songs that are contagious, and that will induce the audience to sing with her." Once start an audience singing "on its own" and the victory is won. For just as most people like to hear themselves talk, they like to hear themselves sing. They revel in the songs that they can sing themselves. The successful vaudeville artist routs an audience from its apathy, and makes it sing.

THE latest sensational spectacle at the London Hippodrome is entitled *The Motor Chase*, and all Mr. Frank Parker's ingenuity has been taxed to realise the startling incidents of the piece, of which Mr. Sidney Blow is the author. *The Motor Chase* is down for production on Monday.

"PIERRETTE'S BIRTHDAY," episode by Colin Neil Rose, with music by Clement Locknane, is to be seen for the first time on the variety stage on Monday next at the Coliseum, with Mr. Robert Cunningham, who has been playing Canio in *Pagliacci* at the fine house in St. Martin's-lane during the week, in his original part. Mme. De Noce, a Parisian prima donna, is also to make her first appearance on the variety stage, and Evie Greene returns.

MR. HARRY LAUDER, who will be at the Argyle, Birkenhead, next Monday, has been telling the story of his experiences during a visit to Ward's Island Asylum, where he taught the inmates to sing the chorus of "I love a lassie." A woman inmate took him on one side and whispered in his ear, "For Heaven's sake, Mr. Lauder, don't pull funny faces here, or do anything that will make them think you are 'a bit off the top,' or they will surely keep you in." "And that wasn't after I had sung 'The saftest of the family,'" he added, with a twinkle in his eye.

MLLE. LIANE D'EVE, the celebrated French artist, who is appearing at the London Tivoli, has entered into a contract with Colonel Mapleson, whereby she is under his sole and exclusive management for the entire world for a period of three years. Liane is not only an accomplished actress, singer, and dancer, but a young and beautiful woman, and her success has been equally great in Russia, Germany, Austria, Italy, Spain, France, and the United States.

THE following names of light and leading in the world of variety form the committee of the Maurice de Frece testimonial:—Sir Edward Moss, Miss Vesta Tilley, Messrs. Arthur Collins, Joseph Lyons, Oswald Stoll, J. L. Graydon, Henri Gros, Joseph Davis, Henry Sutton, Alfred Butt, T. G. Hales, Fredk. Abrahams, Eugen Sandow, Sidney Smith, F. H. Pedgrift, Walter de Frece, Michael Garcia, Chas. Fisher, E. J. Leamy, Chas. Simons, Lauri Cohen, Henry Neville, Harry Barnett, Natt Behrens, Sydney M. Hyman, Jack Lotto, Johnny Jacobs, Geo. Foster, Jack de Frece, Thos. Holmes, H. W. Wieland, and Will Oliver.

THE fidelity and strength of Mr. and Mrs. Lucas's impersonations of characters from the novels of Charles Dickens immediately impressed a large and critical audience at the American Theatre, New York, on their début there.

Two scenes from "Martin Chuzzlewit" and from "The Old Curiosity Shop" had a pronounced Dickens atmosphere. Mr. Lucas in the first scene was both old Martin Chuzzlewit and Jonas Chuzzlewit, while Mrs. Lucas was Mercy Pecksniff. If such an achievement is possible, Mr. Lucas made Jonas Chuzzlewit a more contemptible creature than in his original creation by Dickens himself, and the simple comedy of Dick Swiveller and the Marchioness was in striking contrast.

MR. ALFRED BUTT is presenting another celebrated player on Monday—none other than Mr. Louis Calvert, who will play the title-rôle in the production of an episode in one act, *Ezra Solomon*. The cast is exceptionally strong, containing as it does the names of Miss Lucie Caine, Mr. George Silver, and Mr. Sebastian Smith. This is the first time that Mr. Calvert or Miss Caine has appeared on the variety stage. The playlet is both serious and humorous, and, whilst being thoroughly "human" in theme, deals with the position of Jews in Russia. On Monday also will be seen the unique picture entertainment on the Urbanora Bioscope which is entitled Kinemacolor, to which we have referred in detail.

WE call the attention of our readers to an important announcement in our advertisement columns from Mr. Oswald Stoll concerning the Coventry Empire.

WE are officially informed that the statement in a Liverpool paper that Messrs. Broadhead and Son intend to erect a variety house on the site of the old Prince of Wales's Theatre in the Mersey city is without any foundation.

THERE will be a revival on Monday for a few weeks of varieties at the Royal County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames.

MISS CORA DUNCAN and Albert Brasque have scored a big success at every hall where they have played their new and original Lancashire comedy sketch entitled *My Lancashire Wife*.

ON her return to town in a fortnight Miss Winifred Hare will sing her pantomime success, "Keep a-whistling." Miss Hare in this number will have the assistance of Miss Dorothy Rayner, who, as our Yankee cousins would say, "chips in."

A SYNDICATE has been formed for the purpose of erecting a new theatre of varieties in Northampton. A site in the centre of the town has been secured. The plans were passed last week, and the building will shortly be commenced. It will hold 2,500 and the gallery alone will have four exits, and in all other respects the theatre will be thoroughly up to date.

MR. ALBERT BUSHELL'S eighth annual managerial benefit at the Birmingham Gaiety took place on Tuesday, when he was supported by the public and his friends to an unprecedented extent, the house being a record one. Presents galore poured in on the beneficiaire, and the programme was also a record one, extending till nearly twelve o'clock, and would easily have lasted until three in the morning.

MR. WILLIAM HOLLAND, who will be remembered as general-manager of the Tower, New Brighton, and the Winter Gardens, Morecambe, has been appointed general-manager of the Edinburgh Marine Gardens Co., Ltd., who are laying out an amusement park of 27 acres at Portobello, the Blackpool of Scotland. Buildings to accommodate 15,000 people are being erected facing the sea, and the management is advertising for side-shows and novelties of every description.

MR. E. H. BOSTOCK, of the Glasgow Hippodrome, is steadily adding to the list of places of amusement under his management. A short time ago he purchased the Victoria Hall, Hamilton, and on Monday last opened the Wishaw Pavilion at Wishaw. Pictures and variety are the attractions at the new house for the present, to be followed by a dramatic season. Mr. René Clayton, the courteous resident-manager of the Hippodrome, Hamilton, has been appointed Mr. Bostock's general-manager for all three places, Mr. Jack Bostock being appointed as Mr. Clayton's successor at Hamilton.

THE members and friends of the Birmingham Rocket Club, to the number of three hundred, paid their annual visit to the Prince of Wales's Theatre on Friday week. The occasion was, as usual, one of present giving, thirty-three gifts being made to the artists. Miss Rita Everard, who was married on Monday (22nd), received a toy piano, suite of furniture, and scrubbing brush, in addition to a floral tribute; and Mr. Horace Mills had the "Old cracked basin" presented to him with a rug. Mr. Graham, the senior vice-president of the club, made a happy speech, and Mr. E. B. Holmes (the president) replied from a stage-box. Extra turns were supplied by Mr. Clay Thomas and Mr. Fred Pardoe.

READING is the latest town to have a roller skating rink. A company has been formed, of which Mr. Milton Bode (probably one of our most enterprising managers) is chairman. Messrs. Galt Millar, the Reading architect, Charles Byng Hall, and T. B. Percy, of the Ealing Skating Rink, and a number of the most prominent business men in Reading are also interested. Building will commence almost at once, and it is hoped, and confidently expected, to be open in time for the Easter holidays. The Rink will have a skating surface of over 15,000 super feet.

DURING these last few years Ellesmere Port, the Cheshire Merseyside town, has developed from a small village to a place of considerable commercial importance, and the New Hippodrome, capable of seating about eight hundred people, well furnished and appointed, was opened on Monday to supply the inhabitants with a place of entertainment, for which the promoters felt there was a need.

MR. CORELLI, the chief promoter of the new enterprise, in a neat little speech, on Monday declared the building open, and assured his audience that it was his earnest desire to make the Hippodrome a place of ideal family entertainment, and by providing week by week, twice each night, a programme of an up-to-date variety character to enlist their sympathy and support.

THE following excellent programme delighted two packed houses:—Ethel Dancy, contralto; Long Amos, character comedian; Arthur Corelli (resident manager) in *A Lesson in Magic*; Victoria Dagmar and Clown, experts on the horizontal bar, and some excellent animated pictures. All the turns were well applauded, and the residents of Ellesmere Port have reason to rejoince that they now have some place of entertainment in which to pass their leisure hours.

THE Liverpool Pavilion celebrated the first anniversary of its opening on Wednesday night, when the manager, Mr. Henry Hearn, thanked the patrons for the cordial support they had extended to the new venture. The manner in which the public of Liverpool had patronised the Pavilion during the twelve months of its existence proved that Messrs. Broadhead had succeeded in giving them value for their money, and he assured all that his firm would continue to provide a healthy and acceptable form of amusement. During an interval Mr. Lewis Peake, chairman of the Theatrical Football Gala, which was held last week, presented, on behalf of Messrs. Campbell and Lumley, the donors, a new magnificent challenge shield to the tug-of-war team connected with the Pavilion, who won it on that occasion. The trophy is to be carried off three times in succession, or four times in all, to be absolutely claimed.

MR. G. RHODES PARRY, the general-manager of the Palace Theatre, Grimsby, has been the victim of a burglary at his residence, Bankfield House, Dudley-street. On Tuesday evening, Feb. 16, between the hours of seven and nine, the residence was left unoccupied, Mrs. Parry going to see some friends. When she returned shortly after nine o'clock she was surprised to find the door open, and examination showed that it had evidently been forced by a jemmy. A thorough search of the rooms showed that the whole place had been ransacked, and only the most valuable goods taken. The jewellery seems to have claimed the most attention, and valuable rings, pendants, and ornaments were taken, the total value being over £230. The visitors appropriated about £20 in money. Much damage was done to the furniture. There is at present no clue.

MR. HENRY J. CORNER is the pioneer of the Dandies, an artistic combination that secured the approval of the King and Queen at a command performance at Sandringham. He is by way of presenting this clever company in an entirely novel scena.

MR. WILLIE BENN has entered into partnership with Mr. Fred Neiman, variety agent. Henceforth the business will be conducted as Neiman and Benn's Agency, at 108, Strand, London, W.C.

MISS BESSIE BUTT, fresh from pantomime at Kingston-on-Thames, goes to the London Pavilion next Monday. Miss Butt, consequent on her success in pantomime, has been booked by Mr. Robert Arthur for the next three seasons at his theatres.

WE regret to announce the death of Mrs. Alma Waller (of Keen and Waller), which sad event took place at 82, Church-street, Camberwell, after a very short illness, of pneumonia, at the early age of twenty-seven years. The remains were interred in the Forest Hill Cemetery.

SANDY MCNAB will open at the Bedford on Monday in a new version of his *Egyptian Mummy* sketch with £70 worth of new scenery and effects. This will be the first time this sketch has been seen in London. Sandy has just finished twelve months' successful run in the provinces.

IT has been arranged to hold the meetings of the Executive Committee of the V.A.B.F. on Wednesdays, immediately following that of the Music-Hall Artists' Railway Association, which will, in future, sit at 12 noon. This will be a great convenience to artists, and a decided economy in time.

AT the 596th meeting of the Executive Committee of the M.H.A.R.A., held on Wednesday afternoon, Lieut. F. Albini presiding, the following gentlemen were added to the list of the Association's medical officers:—Dr. H. M. Walker, 93, Camberwell-road, S.E.; Dr. Wallis, Church-street, Barnsley; and Drs. Reed and Reed, Rawlinson-street, Barrow-in-Furness.

MR. WILL OLIVER desires us to thank through our columns all (over 150) who sent telegrams, cards, &c., on his fifty-seventh birthday; also those who sent him some very useful and costly presents. Will is getting over his bronchitis fairly well, and hopes to be on the road in a few days.

MR. CHARLES CAREY'S production, *The Top of the Bill*, which recently made such a success at the Standard, Pimlico, and since that at the Palace, Camberwell, is scoring heavily in the country. New scenery has been provided, and the act goes with a tremendous swing. When next seen in London it will be newly dressed, and will be played by a company of over twenty.

NEIL KENYON has in *The Station-master o' Dunrobin* a worthy succeseor to the *Postie*. The new cameo of the Railyard series was put on with a lavish hand at the Manchester Hippodrome on Monday. The scene of the station-master's labours is an out-of-the-way station, on a single track line. The old station house stands in the distance, and the rails curve out from the foreground to be lost behind a heather-covered prominence.

WHEN the curtain rises a porter is discovered asleep on a truck. The station-master slangs him for his neglect of duty. Porter replies by quoting Shakespeare, who, of course, "has nothing to do with the case." Porter is promptly sent about his business. The station-master then gives an amusing version of the trials at a busy station.

A MOST artistic exit, in which lighting effects play an important part, has been devised by Mr. Kenyon, who has been invited to appear at the new hall in Dundee early in March, when the Duchess of Sutherland, who is the owner of Dunrobin, will be present. We hope to see the new production shortly at the West End.

MRS. FRED GINNETT desires, through the medium of our columns, to thank the ladies of the committee of the Music-hall Ladies' Guild for again electing her president. Mrs. Ginnett, in her letter, writes: "I can only say that I will use my best endeavours to fill the position." Mrs. Ginnett has elected Mrs. Eugene Stratton and Miss Maude Mortimer as vice-presidents and Miss Belle Elmore as treasurer.

MR. WHIT CUNLIFFE, who is playing Dandini at the Grand Theatre, Glasgow, has scored such a success that the pantomime bids fair to be even a greater hit than it was last year at Liverpool. Mr. Cunliffe has been offered the same part for next Christmas, but has not quite decided yet owing to several important music-hall dates that stand in the way.

THAT famous musical combination the Stavordale Quintette, has passed into the hands of Miss Denton, who has hitherto been Mr. Stavordale's right hand and partner. Mr. Stavordale will in future devote most of his time and attention to another business in which he has lately invested, but arrangements have been entered into whereby he will still be seen in the celebrated Quintette when required.

MISS MABELLE MORGAN, a versatile lady, who has become celebrated in the Southern hemisphere, will shortly open in London with an original sketch *A Musical Tragedy*. Miss Morgan has just finished a successful five years' engagement with Mr. J. C. Williamson in musical comedy and pantomime. The novelty has been specially written and invented by Bert Gilbert, the music being by George Hall.

DAINTY DAISY DORMER has proved an enormous success in *Sinbad* at the Grand Theatre, Leeds, which terminates to-night. The little lady will open at the Empire, Leeds, on Monday, after which she will be seen in town almost to the eve of her next pantomime at the Prince of Wales's, Birmingham, for which she has already been engaged by Mr. Fred Wyndham. She will play the title-rôle Goody Two Shoes. Daisy is fully booked for the halls until 1917.

ONE of the most celebrated dancers of the forties passed away in Paris on Thursday, Feb. 18, in the person of the Comtesse de Chabrillan. As Céleste Yémard she made her début on the boards of an obscure Montmartre music hall, where she soon became popular. During the time of the Moroccan War she was nicknamed Celeste Mogador, in commemoration of the bombardment of Mogador by the French troops in 1844. Ten years later she went to Australia as the wife of the Comte de Chabrillan, who had been appointed French Consul there.

"THE MIDNIGHT LONDON EXPRESS," now playing at the Bedford to crowded houses, has had a somewhat chequered career, many managers having returned the MS. to Brien McCullough, the author, and it is only fair to say that Mr. Roy Cochrane, the manager of the Surrey Theatre, and to whom the production is in a large measure due, was the first to see in it the possibilities of a great sketch, which it undoubtedly is, and has proved itself to be. It is quite safe to say that no sensational episode has been produced in the London variety theatres that has caused more excitement or played to fuller houses than the above, and Frederic Baugh, Francis H. Bull (who is responsible for the magnificent scenery), and Brien are all to be warmly congratulated.

THE annual dinner and ball of the Terriers' Association will be held on Sunday, March 21, at the Horns Hotel, Kennington, at 9 p.m. Tickets (for Terriers and their friends only) may be obtained from Arthur Were, secretary.

TERRIERS are requested to forward their permanent or next week's address to the secretary.

THE second edition of the new handbook of the Terriers' Association is now ready, and variety artists are invited to apply for a copy, which will be forwarded free of charge on application to the secretary. This book gives full particulars of the advantages and benefits open to members.

THE greatest excitement prevailed in the usually quiet suburb of Putney last Thursday, when Charcot gave his sensational blindfold drive. Thousands lined the streets, and in the neighbourhood of the Hippodrome the people stood twelve deep, and traffic became so congested that it was with the utmost difficulty the police cleared a way for Charcot to start.

CHARCOT was accompanied on his drive by mounted police, behind and in front of his carriage. To compel the attention of Scotland Yard in such a manner speaks volumes for Charcot's foresight, and at once stamps him as a showman of the very first order.

ARTISTS should note that Mr. W. Ainsworth has taken over the Stag Hotel, Stockton-on-Tees. He intends to make his professional house of call the most comfortable in the kingdom.

MRS. ARTHUR REEVE writes:—"In a recent issue of *The Era* it is stated that Mr. Ginnett is about to marry the third daughter of Lord George Sanger. This should be the daughter of Mr. John Sanger. I am the only surviving daughter of Mr. George Sanger."

THE Palace Theatre of Varieties, Stoke Newington, will, it is understood, be reopened during the first week in March as a high-class theatre, thus returning to its original condition when erected some thirteen years ago, and known as the Alexandra Theatre.

MASTER CLIFF DIAMOND returns to the Canterbury on Monday. At his initial performance here his success led to his agent, Will Oliver, securing all the syndicate halls, and his provincial success during the present week at the Empire, Portsmouth, has led to further engagements at increased terms.

MR. FRED GINNETT'S great spectacle The Johnstown Flood, which, it will be remembered, made such a tremendous success at the late Franco-British Exhibition, is to be at the Canterbury. Another sketch previously produced at this house by the late Charles Lauri, entitled *The Sioux*, is to be played by Fred Kitchen's company.

MISS TRULY SHATTUCK was out of the bill at Drury Lane last week, and Miss Joan Burton sprang into the breach at a moment's notice, and came through with flying colours. This young lady, who has a figure of which she may be justly proud, is sure to be heard of again. She is now playing her own part of the Chamberlain.

A PLEASING little ceremony was enacted upon the stage of the Theatre Royal, West Bromwich, on Friday, Feb. 19, when Mr. J. P. Moore's *Whittington* pantomime company assembled to mark their esteem for Mr. Percy Victor by presenting him with a handsome watch, gold chain, and pendant, suitably inscribed. Mrs. Warwick Gray, wife of the manager, made the presentation, and Mr. Victor briefly returned thanks.

AT the Coliseum an invasion scene such as occurs in the famous play, *An Englishman's Home*, has greatly impressed audiences that have witnessed it on the bioscope. The cleverly rehearsed incidents were acted for the camera on the Sussex Downs by a local amateur organisation and a squadron of the 4th Dragoon Guards. Mr. Leo Stormont gives the stirring patriotic song "Fall in!" the words of which are by Mr. C. E. Burton.

PRINCESS TRIXIE, the educated horse, was burnt in a railway collision in Delaware on Monday. Her unhappy fate will be regretted by thousands of persons who witnessed her performances at the Palace Theatre and elsewhere. The beautiful white Arab mare came of a good stock. Gipsy Queen, a famous performing horse, was her dam, and Bonaveta, the Arab stallion, one of the stars of Barnum's show, her sire.

MR. EDWARD H. LUCAS writes from New York:—"It would be well to advise artists coming out to America of the difficulty they have in bringing scenery and other stage properties into the country. The duty is 60 per cent., and they have to obtain a bond for double the amount of duty and have to place the cash as security, which is not refunded till a landing certificate is obtained on their return to England. This means you do not get your money returned till you arrive back in England.

"They will not examine your goods at the docks on arrival, but you have them sent to the public stores and bonded warehouse, and it takes at least four or five days to get them through. It is also advisable to have a list of everything with the price fixed against same.

"With only a small amount of properties and costumes it is best not to travel as artists, but to take them through as personal baggage. You cannot get through the Custom House without a broker, which costs you about £4."

THE secretary of the Music Hall Home (Mr. Ben Woodger) desires to thank on behalf of the committee Mr. F. H. Pedgrift (*The Era*) for illustrated volume for the inmates of the home. The next committee meeting will be on Thursday, March 4, at the Empire, Camberwell, at 12 noon. Will any manager who has not got one kindly take a pence-collecting box to help the Music-Hall Home Fund along, and will any artist who has not a collecting-card for the Home please apply for one? Send a postcard to the secretary, 31, Wilson-road, London, S.E.

THE sum of £67 was realised by a performance, under the auspices of the National Sunday League, at the Tottenham Palace on Sunday week, in aid of the sufferers by the Tottenham outrage. The Police Band gave their services, and a number of artists did yeoman service, under the direction of Mr. T. S. Mayne, the popular resident-manager. Captain Cutler (Harry Vaux) has given his salary to the same good cause, and the amount realised by this self-sacrifice and the copies of his policeman's song sold in the house, have realised £25 for same good cause.

ON behalf of the Committee of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, 61, New Oxford-street, W.C., Miss Melinda May (secretary) begs most gratefully to acknowledge the following gifts:—Sir William Treloar, £2; Mrs. Elinor Rogers, 5s.; Mrs. Lewis Levey, 4s.; Mr. Dives, 2s. (for little Willie Valesco, Sir W. Treloar sending a hamper to the same crippled boy); Mr. Fred Baugh, 2s. 6d. (through Miss Emma Don); Miss E. Don, 5s. (collected); Mrs. Hole, parcel of clothing; Mrs. George Smythson, parcel of clothing; Miss Mabel Osborne "Barnes," parcel of clothing; Miss Lottie Albert, clothing; Mr. J. Kohn, clothing.

MR. HARRY LISTON writes:—"I notice in your remarks anent Mr. Maurice de Frece's testimonial in your last issue you say: 'Harry Liston is still in the land of the living, and giving his mimetic entertainment on tour with his wife, Miss Lumley.' Will you please make it publicly known that Miss Lumley is not my wife."

THE name of Vasco, "mad musician," is well "postered" in Brighton, where his success has been so great at the Hippodrome that Mr. Barrasford has got out special bills. Vasco opens in Paris on Monday at Barrasford's Alhambra.

TENDERS are invited by the Borough of Plymouth for the use, during the summer season, 1909, of the bandstand on the Hoe, when not required by the Corporation Bands. Tenders to be delivered by noon on March 16 to Mr. J. H. Ellis, Town Clerk, Municipal-buildings, Plymouth.

MISS MAUDE MAY MURRAY for her last performance at the Opera House, Middlesbrough, on Saturday last, produced a new electrical dance with most wonderful effects. Her success has been so great that Mr. Constant, after the fall of the curtain, made Miss Murray the offer to return to Middlesbrough next Christmas.

MISS ANNIE BRADDAN, the Manx girl, will be heard at the Canterbury next week in a new song which will appeal to every sportsman in the theatre. It puts the pertinent query: "Why can't we back our opinion?" and, sung in the way Miss Braddan has tanght us to expect, should at once be a most successful number

MR. GRAHAME HERINGTON is shortly introducing a novel entertainment to the music hall stage in the form of a burlesque of a Beach Pierrot show, written and composed by Lawrence Hanray. It will be produced at a matinée given on Tuesday next at the Rehearsal Theatre. Miss Dorothy Payn heads the list of artists engaged.

MISS DECIMA MOORE will recite on Monday at the Tivoli an original poem by Miss Ethel M. de Fonblanque, entitled "A Call to Arms." This is an appeal to the women of England and to their influence over the men to secure the necessary defenders of their native land. It may be remembered that the same gifted authoress composed a poem, entitled "The Women of England," which was recited during the late war by Mrs. Patrick Campbell and Mrs. Langtry with great success.

THE ordinary meeting of the Empire Palace, Ltd., was held at the Empire Theatre, Leicester-square, W.C., on the 19th inst. Mr. Frederick Hurdle presided, and, in moving the adoption of the report, stated that the item of advertising was higher, but that expenditure had been fully justified. Their receipts for the year were £6,000 higher than those for the previous period, and this in itself was evidence that the entertainment they provided was popular.

THE directors proposed to pay a dividend for the year of 3s. on each 15s. paid share and of 2s. on each 10s. paid share respectively, this being at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum. The Debenture debt had been reduced by £1,000, and this would continue to be an annual charge.

THE dividends had been progressing satisfactorily for the last four years. In 1905 the dividend declared was 5 per cent., in 1906 it was 13 per cent., in 1907 16 per cent., and in 1908 20 per cent. He hoped that this state of progress would continue; at any rate, they were certainly not going back.

THE following are the latest prices of music-hall shares:—Alhambra, 1⅜; Canterbury, ½; Empire (15s. paid), 1⅜; Empire (10s. paid), 1½; London Pavilion Ord., 3⅜; London Pavilion Pref., 5; Metropolitan, ⅝; Moss' Empires, 5⅜; Moss' Empires 5 per cent. Pref., 4⅛; Oxford, 6½; Palace, 1; Tivoli, 5⅞; United Varieties, 1; Variety Consolidated Theatres, 9-16.

MR. RICHARD THORNTON, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, a director of Moss' Empires, Ltd., and managing-director of the South Shields Empire Palace, Ltd., and the Sunderland Empire Palace, Ltd., has been negotiating for some time past for the purchase of a site to build a first-class variety theatre in West Hartlepool. Recently he was able to secure options over a number of properties with a frontage in Lynn-street, which is the principal street in West Hartlepool, and within easy distance of the railway station. Here he intends building a new amusement house on the most up-to-date lines, the plan adopted being much the same as the Empires at South Shields and Sunderland.

THE principal entrance from Lynn-street will have two flights of steps into the inner hall, from which the audience will proceed over a bridge leading over the back street into the grand saloon, instead of having to wait in the street.

NEARLY 2,000 people will be accommodated. The entrance to the pit will be by the side street, where a waiting hall is also to be provided. The site is 270ft. in depth, with a stage 40ft. deep and 32ft. opening. The building will be constructed of fireproof materials, and on the cantilever principle.

THE plans, which have been prepared by Mr. W. T. R. Milburn, of Sunderland, were unanimously approved of in committee on Monday night, the 22nd, but have yet to be passed by a general council meeting of the Corporation. Mr. Harry Barker, of the North Eastern Hotel, is appointed clerk of the works. The theatre will be run in conjunction with the Empires at Sunderland and South Shields.

MR. LUSH, K.C., on Thursday, asked for judgment on the verdict of the jury given on the previous day in the action of the United County Theatres, Ltd., against certain trades union officials who were sued for libel. The jury had awarded plaintiffs £500 damages. Mr. Lush also asked for a continuation of the injunction previously granted. Mr. Roskill, K.C., for the defendants, said that after what Mr. Justice Lawrance had stated, defendants must take the case further, and he asked for a stay of execution. His lordship complied with Mr. Lush's application, and granted a stay of execution.

ON Saturday night last, during the interval in the pantomime at the Grand Theatre, Byker, Newcastle-on-Tyne, all the principals of Dottridge and Longden's *Dick Whittington* pantomime company went in front of the house, and collected, in aid of the West Durham Colliery Disaster Fund. The total amount received was £11 15s. 7d., for which the following ladies and gentlemen are responsible:—Miss Florrie Gallimore, Miss Rose Tilley, and Miss Josie Delaine, Messrs. H. O. Wells, J. Mackenzie, and A. Clegg, and the Herald Comedy Four.

"WRINKLES ON THE RINK," a skating skit, by Roy Redgrave and Harry Roxbury, music by Dudley Powell, was produced (for copyright) at the Hippodrome, Paisley, on Saturday, Feb. 20. The cast included:—General D. Zaster (of the American Army), Mr. Fred Acton; Ethel Hoo Zaster (his daughter), Miss Maud Prenton; Charles Y. Derwake (an American inventor), Mr. George Castrey; Professor Hyam Itt (a professional skater), Mr. J. W. Gallagher; Manager of the Hotel, Mr. Fred Guinness; and Willie Wrinkles, Mr. Harry Roxbury.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS

MR. REUBEN MORE'S latest composition, "I loved you then, I love you yet," has been accepted for immediate production by Mr. Dave Carter, who is sanguine of its proving another "Love me and the world is mine."

MISS OUIDA MACDERMOTT has been recently singing the new patriotic song, "Bravo, Territorials! (Gallant Teddy Boys)," by Charles Wilmott and Hermann E. Darewski, who have just been honoured by His Majesty King Edward accepting a copy of the number. Miss Macdermott sings the song excellently, and the local Press admiringly stated that "the mantle of her father has descended upon a clever daughter." Messrs. Francis and Day are the publishers.

MESSRS. FRANCIS AND DAY'S fine "Songe d'Automne" waltz, by Archibald Joyce, continues to grow in popularity by leaps and bounds, and the publishers were informed that a few nights since, at a county ball at Chipping Sodbury, Bandmaster Sidney Jones, of the 6th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment, had included it in the programme, and so instantaneous was its success that it had to be repeated no fewer than four times during the evening, and at the conclusion of the dancing some ladies borrowed the piano part, and played it for the company to dance to again! Mr. Leonard Bellamy, of Messrs. Francis and Day's orchestral department, reports a great demand for band parts of the work.

THE Arpeggio Football Club (Messrs. Francis and Day) this (Saturday) afternoon play their first match on their own ground at Golder's Green, captained by Mr. William Francis. Their opponents are West Central United.

MISS KITTY RAYBURN, who has been out of the Bedford bill a couple of nights owing to a severe cold, and who thinks of resting for a fortnight, has just secured a new song by Bennett Scott, and one by T. F. Robson and Donovan Meher. On Monday and Thursday evenings, the enormous houses joined in Miss Rayburn's songs, "It seems to make the sun shine brighter" and "Won't you come to me in Canada?" with the utmost zest, and much disappointment was evinced on the nights she was unable to appear.

MESSRS. FRANCIS AND DAY have in the Press a new two-step, entitled "Mickey's birthday." It is by Archibald Joyce, and is said to be of so rollicking and joyous a nature that even the musicians have an almost irresistible desire to get up and dance.

MISS MAIDIE SCOTT has thought out some clever, original "business" for her forthcoming song, "The great invasion play," which will be produced almost immediately. The engravers have the song in hand, and it will be shortly issued by Messrs. Francis and Day.

MESSRS. B. FELDMAN AND CO. are the publishers of two new Devonshire songs. One, entitled "You're the apple of my eye," is from the pen of Fred Godfrey and John Neat, and the other, "Nancy," is by Ballard Macdonald and Jas. W. Tate. Much will be heard of both these excellent choruses in the near future.

"SMILE, SMILE, SMILE," by Fred Murray and Chas. Collins, is a song in Messrs. B. Feldman and Co.'s catalogue that promises to be a pronounced stage success. The moral is one that the public love, and the chorus will shortly be heard whistled all over the town.

MISS DAISY DORMER will shortly produce two new songs, "Mary, my factory fairy," by Murphy and Liptin, and "My boy's a sailor-man," by Mills and Scott. This dainty artist has also secured the sole singing rights (from Francis, Day, and Hunter) of the latest American craze, "Are you sincere?" which she will produce at the Empire, Leeds.

ALF. ELLERTON and Alf. Ellerton, jun., are responsible for five of the most successful numbers in this week's London Pavilion programme, viz., T. E. Dunville's "Hamlet," "The Difference"; Little Tich's "King KI," "The Policeman"; and also "Keep a-whistling," sung by Arthur Melrose, by kind permission of Miss Queenie Leighton.

MESSRS. SHEARD AND CO. inform us that they will shortly publish a new patriotic song from the pen of Mr. Clifton Bingham, entitled "Stand to your guns!" It is a most inspiriting song, not for the moment only, but for all time. The music, by Edward St. Quentin, is in march time, with a bold and decisive melody that impresses itself on the mind. The refrain runs:—

Stand to your guns!
Though not as yet,
When comes the warning,
Lest you forget,
John Bull, you should be ready.
Say to your sons,
"Great Britain needs you;
Stand to your guns!"

MAJOR DU MAURIER'S highly successful patriotic play, *An Englishman's Home*, has inspired more than one song-writer with a theme. Mr. Frank Stanley Smith's "The Home of an Englishman" is the production of a Briton, and breathes the true patriotic sentiment both in music and words. This is also published by Charles Sheard and Co.

CHARLES SHEARD AND CO. have secured Leo Mansfield's song, "Why can't we back our opinion?" a song written in defence of our national freedom in matters of sport. It is published, under the auspices of the Amalgamated Sports Committee and of the leading sporting newspapers, in the hope that it may help to rouse the enthusiasm of all good sportsmen against the meddling of Parliamentary faddists.

MISS TRULY SHATTUCK has introduced the latest American ballad success, entitled "To the end of the world with you," to the Drury-lane pantomime. When we say that the song is the joint work of the author and composer of "Love me and the world is mine," and up to the present has even been more successful than that popular song, it is proof positive of its merit.

M. WITMARK AND SONS have just published a tuneful Irish chorus, written by Mr. Harry Staunton, and composed by Mr. Maurice Scott. It is now being sung in the provincial music halls by Mr. Pat Rafferty, and will shortly be heard in London.

Two charming duets, published by M. Witmark and Sons, are now being sung in Robert Courtneidge's Adelphi pantomime *Cinderella*. Miss Phyllis Dare and Mr. Stephen Adeson introduce "I could learn to love you when you smile, smile, smile," and the sprightly and vivacious Miss Mabel Russell and Mr. Fred Leslie extract laughter and applause for their quaint rendition of "The doggie in the yard." Both of these numbers should be in great demand by summer entertainers.

MR. JULIAN RUTT has been appointed musical director of the Palace, Brighton, and commences his duties there on March 22.

LA FLORIDOS, the Spanish dancers who are appearing at the Palace Theatre, danced before the Prince and Princess of Wales at the dinner party given by Lord and Lady Iveagh on Tuesday night.

"OUR HOME DEFENDERS."

Military Episode, by Cayley Calvert, Produced at the Palace, East Ham, on Monday, Feb. 22.

John Bell .....MR. ARTHUR ESTCOURT
Jimmy Bell .....MR. ALFRED BENNETT
Arthur Preston .....MR. HORACE HUNTER
Lieut. Altkoff .....MR. CECIL DE GUE
Emily .....MISS OLIVE PALMER
Bella .....MISS DENNIS DUNCAN

The great success of *An Englishman's Home* at Wyndham's Theatre was sure to create a demand for playlets dealing with a similar subject at the variety theatres, and the fertile pen of Mr. Cayley Calvert has been employed in the writing of an interesting and exciting sketch, which met with a very cordial reception on its first performance at the East Ham Palace on Monday. The first scene of *Our Home Defenders* takes place in the sitting-room of Radnorth, the home of John Bell, a prosperous British manufacturer. He is expected home to tea every minute by his daughter Emily, and soon comes on the scene accompanied by his supposed friend, Lieut. Altkoff, who has previously expressed his admiration for Emily, who is not at all enamoured of her father's acquaintance. He asks for some road maps Bell has in his possession, and these are handed him, and when her father is absent he renews his protestations of affection to Emily. When he has gone a much more welcome visitor arrives—Arthur Preston, an employee of Bell's, and evidently a suitor for the hand of his daughter. He is an enthusiastic Territorial, and when Bell's son Jimmy, a "tennis and golf Johnnie," comes on the scene, he paints in glowing colours the many advantages to be gained by joining the "home defenders." Jimmy, however, whose chief recreation appears to be watching football matches and reading sporting papers, only mocks him. The elder Bell does not much favour the idea, especially when Preston asks for three weeks' leave in the summer to do his training. While the khaki-clad hero is still endeavouring to gain another recruit in Jimmy, newspaper boys are heard outside, and the alarming news is soon spreading that England has been invaded by a foreign Power, whose troops are at that very moment marching through Essex. Arthur hastily departs to join his regiment, and in the next scene we see a party of the enemy, headed by Altkoff, who is, of course, a traitor, and has found the road maps very handy. Arthur and his comrades also put in a brief appearance. The final scene is again the home of John Bell, where the now thoroughly alarmed household are making amateurish attempts to defend the place against the invaders. Shots are heard outside, the walls are blown in, and Altkoff and his men effect an entrance. Bell and his son are made captive, and Altkoff expresses his determination of spending a little more time in Emily's company; but, of course, the gallant Territorials arrive in time to avert any bloodshed, and Preston makes Altkoff his prisoner. The sketch was excellently enacted throughout, Mr. Horace Hunter making a manly and convincing Arthur Preston, and delivering his many telling lines with much earnestness and power. Mr. Arthur Estcourt as the easy-going John Bell contributed an admirable portrayal throughout; Mr. Alfred Bennet contrived to be amusing as the football enthusiast, Jimmy; Mr. Cecil du Gue left no doubt as to the sinister nature of Lieut. Altkoff; Miss Olive Palmer was a refined and natural representative of Emily; and Miss Dennis Duncan was efficient as Bella. The sketch was excellently mounted, the scene where the house is wrecked being cleverly managed.

Another novelty in Mr. Henri Gros's entertaining programme is an original sketch, *The Silent Sentinel*, an impressive, if somewhat gloomy, trifle, for which Mr. Charles Worland's company is responsible. When the curtain rises we learn that a doctor has been having a consultation with a patient, a sculptor, and has declared that he has but a month or so to live. The verdict very naturally distresses the sculptor, who has had a hard struggle since he was a boy, and now that fame and fortune are within his grasp, he is to be taken off in the prime of life. His wife, who has been his devoted and loving helpmate in all his struggles, must now know the terrible truth, and he goes out to tell her. When he has left the doctor makes it evident that he is slowly killing his patient, apparently because he loves his—the sculptor's—wife. He puts poison in his medicine, and when the wife comes in the room, declares his passion for her. His protestations of affection are, of course, indignantly spurned by the sorrowful wife, but he announces his intention of coming back for his final answer at midnight. The sculptor overhears the latter part of the conversation, and determines that he, too, will be on the scene. He also discovers the poisoned physic, and thus learns for the first time why his days are numbered. He has all but completed a statue—his masterpiece—a figure he calls "the silent sentinel." If he should die before his wife he has declared that his soul will enter the statue and watch over her. It is behind the curtains that conceal this figure that he decides to hide, and when midnight arrives, the wife comes in, and the doctor also stealthily enters. Her answer is that she will never marry him, no matter what may befall her husband, and when he endeavours to force his attentions upon her, she points a loaded pistol at him, and threatens to shoot him if he attempts to touch her. By a subterfuge he soon gains possession of the firearm, and proposes if he cannot have her love to kill her; but just as he is about to shoot the curtains are drawn aside, and a voice proceeds from the statue. The doctor, imagining that the sculptor is dead, and that his soul has entered the figure, drops lifeless to the ground from the shock, and husband and wife are reunited. The names of the characters and their interpreters are not given on the programme, but the trio responsible for its representation all enact their parts satisfactorily.

THE MIDNIGHT LONDON EXPRESS."

A Drama, in Three Scenes, Produced at the Bedford Music Hall, on Monday, Feb. 22.

Captain Jack Harlan ....MR. ERNEST OWTTRIM
Krimes .....MR. GEORGE HARVARD
Signalman .....MR. BRIEN MCCULLOUGH
Betty Martin .....MISS DENISE ZALESKI
Laura Deene .....MISS EDITH LEWIS

This thrilling sketch which Mr. Brien McCullough and company presented at the Bedford on Monday is certain to make a big success, for it is full of the most exciting incidents, and the final scene of the express train is a veritable triumph for the producer and scenic artist.

The story circles round Laura Deene, who is engaged to Captain Harlan, and we learn that Laura is only the adopted daughter of her so-called parents, they having adopted her as a waif, as she resembled a child of their own who was kidnapped. Krimes, a gentleman whose name well describes his calling, originally kidnapped the Deenes' child, and Laura is, unknown to them, their own child. Krimes again tries to kidnap Laura, and once again succeeds, but by the aid of Betty Martin, a little maid-of-all-work, succeeds in escaping from Krimes' clutches. Laura reaches the railway, and the signalman gives her shelter in his box for the night. Harlan is searching for Laura, and Krimes finds him, and, overpowering him, ties him to the rails, over which the midnight express is just due to pass. Laura looks from the signal-box and discovers this villainous plot just in time, places the signals at danger, and, breaking her way out from the signal-box, strikes Krimes down and releases Harlan just as the engine of the express emerges from the tunnel. It is an exciting moment, and elicited terrific applause.

Mr. Ernest Owttrim gave a capital portrait of Harlan, which he played in a very manly fashion, and Miss Edith Lewis presented a charming portrayal of Laura. The Krimes of Mr. George Harvard was a clever piece of work, and full of much grim humour. Mr. Brien McCullough contents himself with the small part of the signalman, but he acts the rôle in a very finished manner, and materially adds to the success of the piece. Miss Denise Zaleski was admirable as Betty Martin.

MR. SYD HERMAN is producing shortly a Hebrew domestic chorus song scena, by Mr. Eric Graham.

MR. THEODORE NEWMAN, the original "American Kandy Boy," and Connie, "The English Mascot," have been presenting this week a singing and dancing act which shows considerable originality in its inception. It has met with considerable success at the Palace, Watford. Mr. Newman, we should add, is Mr. Reed Pinaud, jun., and therefore comes from the right stock.

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER'S SONG BOOM.

BRAVO! TERRITORIALS.
Sung by ***Miss OUIDA MACDERMOTT.***

IT'S A LIE.
Sung by ***GEORGE ROBEY.***

OH! OH! ANTONIO.
Sung by ***Miss FLORRIE FORDE.***

SHE SELLS SEA SHELLS.
Sung by ***WILKIE BARD.***

GOO - GOO LAND.
Sung by ***Miss ADA REEVE.***

WHEN I GOT UP THIS MORNING
Sung by ***DAN CRAWLEY.***

BOMBADIER.
Sung by ***Miss WINIFRED HARE.***

IT'S MOONLIGHT EVERY NIGHT IN LONDON.
Sung by ***ARTHUR REECE.***

MY GIRL'S A YORKSHIRE GIRL
Sung by ***Miss FLORRIE GALLIMORE.***

SUE, SUE, SUE.
Sung by ***G. H. ELLIOTT.***

I'M AFRAID TO COME HOME IN THE DARK.
Sung by ***Miss HETTY KING.***

COME AND HAVE A DRINK WITH ME.
Sung by ***CHAS. WHITTLE.***

SYDNEY'S HOLIDAYS ARE IN SEPTEMBER (NAUGHTY BOY)
Sung by ***Miss VESTA TILLEY.***

THE AGITATOR.
Sung by ***ERNEST SHAND.***

I DO MAKE A HIT WITH THE LADIES.
Sung by ***Miss HETTY KING.***

HOW D'YOU DO, MY BABY?
Sung by ***G. H. ELLIOTT.***

COME, BE MY RAINBOW.
Sung by ***Miss MADGE TEMPLE.***

THEY WON'T KNOW I COOM FROM THE COONTRY.
Sung by ***GEO. BASTOW.***

THE MUSICAL COMEDY GIRL. Sung by ***Miss EILEEN DOUGLAS.***

ROBIN RED-BREAST.
Sung by ***HARRY CHAMPION.***

SHADOWLAND.
Sung by ***Miss ETHEL DUNFORD.***

HANG OUT THE FRONT DOOR KEY.
Sung by ***GEORGE LASHWOOD.***

THE COSTER'S PONY.
Sung by ***GUS ELEN.***

JOHN WILLIE, COME ON.
Sung by ***GEORGE FORMBY.***

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER, 142, Charing Cross Rd., London, W.C.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

COVENTRY EMPIRE, COVENTRY.

NOTICE TO ARTISTS booked through Moss' Empires, Ltd., and associated properties, who hold engagements subsequent to and including May 3rd, 1909.

"In pursuance of Clause 14 of contracts to appear at this Theatre, notice is hereby given that as the establishment is no longer associated with the Company, your services for the dates you hold will not be required, and that the contracts are absolutely determined."

OSWALD STOLL.

BENEFIT TO SISTERS PRIMROSE.

A matinée on behalf of the Sisters Primrose Fund, of which Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, of *The Era*, is hon. treasurer (this sad case has been fully placed before our readers in these columns), took place on Thursday afternoon at the Surrey Theatre, and was extremely well attended. Mr. Joe Elvin was the prime mover in arranging matters in connection with the performance, and Mr. Frank Macnaghten and his syndicate, who had already given £100 to the fund started by Mr. Elvin, had kindly granted the free use of his theatre for the afternoon. Amongst the prominent people connected with the variety profession who were present were Mr. Frederic Baugh, the London Manager for the Macnaghten Circuit, who, with Mr. Roy Cochrane, the manager of the Surrey, looked after the front of the house; Mr. Jack Somers (Somers and Warner), Mr. Harry Bawn, Miss Melinda May (secretary Music Hall Ladies' Guild), Mr. Ben Woodger (secretary Music Hall Home) Messrs. T. C. Callaghan and C. Douglas Stuart (representing the Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund), Mr. Fred Durham and Mrs. Durham, Mr. J. Johnson, Mr. Joe Lavender, Miss Attie Lauta, Miss Lil Elfreda, and "Papa" Brown, who undertook the onerous duties of stage-manager.

The entertainment provided was as varied as it was interesting. Mr. Joe Elvin amused the house in the sketch *Any More Orders?* and Mr. Eugene Stratton enchanted his hearers with the song "The Idler." Mr. Harry Anderson won loud applause for his ditty 'Cock of the roost," and Mr. Morny Cash told in his quaint style the story of the countryman who had just arrived in London. Miss Fanny Robina delighted the audience and won their entire sympathy by a very pleasing rendering of the song "Baby is the king of the castle," the chorus of which Miss Florrie Cooper sang from a position in the gallery. Miss Cooper also appeared before the footlights and gave a most tuneful rendering of her own special number. Others who contributed to the programme were My Fancy, Don Juan à Calcedo, Cruikshank, the Boy Scouts, Percy Dalton, Tom E. Conover, Gladys Goodwin, Will Gordon, the Maples, Fred Richard's company, Nellie Dalwood, Camilla Feo, Dolly Joyce, the Emson Girls, the Lombards, McKie and McKay, Stevens and Gilland, Gracie Hunt, Bell and Dance, Bowman and Morton, the Four Lovebirds, and Miss Florence Worth.

We are informed that the amount realised, including certain donations from sundry agents, will total about £60, the balance of £40 being made up by the Surrey Vaudeville Syndicate, Ltd., and Mr. Frank Macnaghten. It should be recorded that while Mr. Joe Elvin spoke on behalf of the Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund, yet he was the organiser of the entire benefit and managed all the arrangements at no little expense and trouble; and he deserves most cordial thanks from the profession for this added proof of his charitableness and generosity.

During the afternoon Mr. Joe Elvin came before the curtain and made an admirable little speech, sympathetic and right to the point. He first, on behalf of the committee of the Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund, thanked the audience for their attendance, the artists who appeared for their kindness—several, he mentioned, including T. E. Dunville, were unable to appear owing to illness and the severe weather—and the different music-hall societies for their assistance. Mr. Elvin then told his hearers the sad story of the Primroses, otherwise known as the Sisters Worth, recalling the lamentable fact that Edith had on that very stage, by the fall of the curtain upon her, sustained severe injuries, and with a fractured spine would never be able to appear again before the footlights. He had appealed to the profession, who had liberally responded, and the directors of the Surrey and Mr. Macnaghten had, with great generosity, given £100 and the house for this benefit, guaranteeing that the proceeds should not be less than £100. "Our Joe" then said that Miss Edith Worth would like to thank the audience as well as she could, and he would introduce her to them. Thereupon the act-drop was raised, and lying on an invalid couch was the unfortunate young girl, who kissed her hands to her friends in front, and with a hopeful cheery word Mr. Elvin shook hands with her. It was a pitiful scene, and touched the hearts of all present, as was evidenced by the amount of the collection obtained afterwards—£4 10s. 8½d.

HORACE WHEATLEY AT BOLTON.

The Chronicle, Feb. 23.

THE HIPPODROME, BOLTON.

There were good attendances at this hall of amusement on Monday, when a capital programme was presented. Horace Wheatley, the genial Irish comedian, of "Harrigan" fame, is "top turn," and he had the audience roaring at his patter, which, along with his Irish songs, won golden opinions, and received well-merited applause.

Evening News.

The programme submitted at the Hippodrome, which includes several good turns, should attract large audiences during the week. At the head of the bill is the Irish comedian, Horace Wheatley, who patters and sings his songs in quaint style. His song "Harrigan" has lost none of its popularity, and he received the favours of the audience at the close of his turn.

A NOVEL exhibition is to be held shortly in the Jardin d'Acclimatation in the Bois de Boulogne, where 300 dwarfs from all parts of the world are to be brought together in April. The pigmies are to be housed in tiny huts on the lawns, and they will drive about in twenty-seven gala carriages.

MISS MAUD ALLAN ON DANCING.

At the Criterion last Sunday Miss Maud Allan lectured to the members of the O.P. Club on "Classical Dancing." The chair was occupied by Mr. T. M'Donald Rendle.

Miss Allan, who was warmly received, in speaking of the attainable ideal in dancing, observed that by dancing she meant natural dancing, not the torturing and tortured contortions of the schools, but the movements evoked by, and which sought to give expression to, the imperious commands of one's own nature—movements which interpreted the force, and even the philosophy, of our own individual emotions. In such movements the body flew to meet the thoughts of the soul, and sought to give them interpretation in the insistent eloquence of unconsidered gesture. What was the corollary? Why, just this. If the emotions were impure, the dance would be impure; if they were artificial, the dance would be artificial; and if they were noble and sweet, the dance would be noble and sweet beyond all powers of description.

Dancing was a spontaneous art; revealing, perhaps more than any other, the temperament of the dancer. Without that undefinable quality, which was called temperament, the dance was meaningless. They must not think that she was decrying, or making little of, practice and technique. They were, of course, essential, but they must be subordinated. They knew the story of Dr. Johnson and the eminent violinist, during whose performance he tried to converse with Mrs. Thrale. "You must not talk," said she, "this is exceedingly difficult." "Difficult, madame!" replied the great lexicographer, "I wish it were impossible!" The modern ballet had swamped and destroyed natural dancing.

Greek dancers danced, but not to an audience. The moment that even Greek dances were transferred to the confining limits and polluted atmosphere of the theatre they became deformed, profaned, unrecognisable. Ballet at its highest stamped with its pathetic wickedness the decadence of nations. The human body was the most beautiful of all instruments. It responded perfectly and instantaneously to the impulses of the soul, and by its very readiness to respond, was the more easily strained and put out of tune. But when one spoke of the art of dancing he found himself checked, circumscribed as it were, by the phrase itself, for the word art seemed to be inseparable from artificiality.

The moment a dancer was conscious of the audience, he had fallen away from his text. The dance ceased to be the spontaneous expression of the spiritual state. No one would hesitate in agreeing that the natural dance expressed the highest and most perfect ideals. Now those conditions threw a tremendous, a terrifying responsibility upon the dancer. Natural dancing should be primarily capable of expressing only what was healthful and beautiful, not in the application of gymnastics to theatrical effect. Everything pointed to-day to the fact, and she was reverently proud to find herself in a position to say, that they were returning to the religious ideal; they were returning, she hoped and believed, to the ideal of the Greeks. Let them foster that ambition, let them once more cultivate the beauty of movement and dedicate the results to the service of beauty and of truth, which were one. This ideal was, in her opinion, not unattainable.

In the course of a discussion, Mr. M. Pigott congratulated Miss Allan on a charming paper, and a most delightfully-delivered address. It was the most convincing argument in favour of the Suffragette movement they had ever heard.

Mr. A. Robbins, after complimenting Miss Allan, reminded the audience that our kings, including Bluff King Hal and the melancholy Charles I., were exponents of the dance, and he commended the paper and Miss Allan's admonition to the young men of modern times.

Mr. Arthur Diosy, speaking from his experience in the farthest East, agreed with the ideal drawn by Miss Allan of dancing. Dancing in this country had come to be practised in couples. The roasting-jack conception, comprised in the waltz, was the sum of the modern conception of the art. But in the East dancing was performed singly and in consonance with the ideal picture which had been drawn for them by their fair lecturer.

Mr. Sidney Dark congratulated Miss Allan on having given a reason for the spirit that was within her. The supreme artist rose above technique, and this was the case with Miss Maud Allan. She had widened the possibilities of the dancing art, and in that sense had done a great service to her sex.

MASONS AT WORK.

An extra emergency meeting of the members of the Chelsea Lodge, No. 3,098, was held on the 19th inst. at the usual meeting place, the Town Hall, King's-road, Chelsea. In the absence of the reigning Master, Mr. Harry Coutts, who was engaged professionally at Gloucester, the chair was occupied by Mr. Herbert Chenery, who initiated Messrs. Ernest Dillon, John Jackson, and James Jackson into the mysteries and privileges of Ancient Freemasonry, and advanced Messrs. Herbert La Martine, W. T. Ellwanger, W. Ward, and Ed. E. Ford. Mr. Chenery then retired from the chair in favour of Mr. James W. Mathews, the first Master of the lodge, who had been prevented from attending earlier, and that gentleman completed the ceremonies necessary for the enjoyment by Messrs. Ernie Warsaw, Chas. R. Whittle, and Bertie Ralland of the full privileges of the Order. This being the first meeting of the lodge since the death of Mr. Edward Swanborough, the first Past Master, the lodge was in full Masonic mourning, and during the afternoon a memorial service was held, at which Mr. James W. Mathews president, assisted by Mr. Angelo Asher, the Organist of the lodge, at the organ. The tender and affectionate words used by the President, combined with the beautiful rendering of the "Dead March" by the Organist, created a most profound impression upon all assembled. The various offices were filled by Mr. Wolfe S. Lyon (treasurer) as acting I.P.M., Mr. W. H. Atlas, acting S.W., Harry Bawn, J.W., C. J. Doughty (secretary), W., F. K. Walton, S.D., G. H. Dyball, J.D., Douglas White, I.G., Angelo Asher, Organist, E. T. R. Lester and A. E. Nickin, Stewards, and J. H. MacNaghton, Tyler; and the following members attended:—Messrs. Fred Neiman, Leo Tell, Harry Gala, J. Grant, J. W. Ellison, J. B. Helm, Victor Kelly, Geo. Gilbey, W. Permane, W. T. Ellwanger, R. E. Wilding, Harry Kato, Will Stone, Clive Watts, Herbert Austin, Willie Benn, Harry Mason, Andie Cane, Albert Christian, B. J. Whiteley, &c.; and as visitors Messrs. G. H. Smythson (Asaph Lodge), Bernard Cohen (Skelmersdale), D. M. Trytal (Prince Frederick William), D. Swabbe (Borough of Hackney), and J. J. Knowles (Tynewald). At the conclusion of the business the members of the lodge and the visitors adjourned to the Six Bells Hotel, where dinner was served, and as it is a rule of this lodge that speeches should be limited and as brief as possible, a pleasant hour was spent in mirth and song, many of the members proving themselves no mean raconteurs.

Mr. Johnson Clark, a remarkably clever ventriloquist who is doing excellently wherever he appears in the country, will shortly display his abilities in town. His business arrangements are in the hands of Messrs. George and Fred Peel.

Patrons of Olympia will learn with regret that Messrs. Crawford and Wilkins have been unable to arrange for an extension of the lease of Olympia beyond March 6. Consequently the rink will definitely close at the end of next week.

"THE PRICE OF A GIRL."

Dramatic Sketch, Produced at the Palace Theatre, Tottenham, on Monday, Feb. 22.

Rev. James Palmer .....Mr. J. H. Clyndes
Lettie Palmer .....Miss G. Le Sage
Lady Castle .....Miss Hilda Wright
Frank Hailston .....Mr. Arthur Craighe
Hugh Wigman .....Mr. Van Courtland
Polly Clay .....Miss Polly Emery

It is, perhaps, fortunate for them that the names of the gentlemen concerned in this dramatic concoction are not revealed on the programme. Certainly there are points throughout the play that appeal strongly to the pit and gallery, but these moments hardly compensate for the prevailing dullness of the whole thing. Apart from the lack of an interesting story, there is no real grip or "grit" in the dialogue, and what situations exist are worked up to in a crude manner. We do not mean for a moment to hint that there is any flagrant lack of dramatic feeling, but the impression conveyed is that the piece has been written with the best intentions of carrying out a good idea in too great a hurry. Haste, amounting almost to slovenliness, is to be observed both in construction and dialogue. The germ—the idea—is distinctly good, and with infinite pains might have been worked up into an effective four- or five-act drama; but in his effort to compress the same notion into four scenes the anonymous author has overreached the mark and lamentably fallen on the other side.

The tale, as it is told, concerns the tribulations of Lettie Palmer, a pretty and innocent girl, who is besieged by the iniquitous proposals of a couple of scoundrels—at least they look like scoundrels, although one is supposed to be virtuous—who want to pay a price for her honour so as to relieve her of a debt of £125, incurred in some mysterious manner. How the machinations of the villain are defeated by the astuteness of the staunch friend in the person of Polly Clay, a workgirl, capitally played by Miss Polly Emery, hardly need to be described to those initiated in the ways and byways of melodrama. And as all's well that ends well, it is almost supererogatory to remark that in the end the girl is not required to make any sacrifice.

The play is, for the most part, capitally acted. Mr. J. H. Clyndes is impressive as the Rev. James Palmer, although his perpetual appeals to the Deity might be toned down to the advantage of decorum. The two young men are well acted by Mr. Arthur Craighe and Mr. Van Courtland; Miss Hilda Wright is a stately Lady Castle, delivering her lines with great emphasis. Miss G. Le Sage is a perfect bundle of pretty nerves as the girl on whom a price is placed, acting with an amount of tension that exactly suits the character. But highest honours must be accorded to Miss Polly Emery for her rendering of the workgirl, Polly Clay. This is a character-sketch of rare merit, and thoroughly deserves the plaudits that greeted her every appearance. There is a large crowd of workpeople, villagers, and so forth, who have been well drilled. The sketch is well put on the stage, scenery, accessories, and costumes being all excellent of their kind. When *The Price of a Girl* has been pulled together a bit, and the performers settle down to their parts, there is no reason why it should not develop into a big success.

MUSICIANS AND TRADE UNIONS.

In the King's Bench Division, on Wednesday, before Mr. Justice Lawrance and a special jury, was concluded the action brought by the United County Theatres (Limited), for libel by certain trade union officials. The defendants were Mr. William Durrant, secretary of the Amalgamated Musicians' Union at Bristol; Mr. J. B. Williams, the general secretary of that union; Mr. A. A. Sennington and Mr. John Curle, members of the Bristol Trades Council; and Mr. Frank Jenkins, printer.

The libel was contained in two circulars, which urged trade unionists to boycott the plaintiffs' music-hall at Bristol. Untrue statements were said to have been made in those circulars respecting music-halls belonging to plaintiffs at both Bristol and Plymouth. The printed matter complained of was issued after plaintiffs had declined to allow the defendants to dictate as to the rate of wages that should be paid to the members of the orchestra at Bristol. When the dispute was settled without the union being consulted, that body expelled all but two of the musicians from membership.

The defendants denied that the statements complained of were defamatory. They said they were true in substance and in fact; that the occasion was privileged; and, further, they pleaded the Trades Disputes Act, 1906.

His Lordship said, by sending the circulars to other than trade unions the defendants had given up any right they might have had to the claim of privilege.

The jury found for the plaintiffs with £500 damages.

Niagara and Falls arrived in Manchester on Feb. 7, and made their first appearance at the Empire, Ashton, on Feb. 15.

Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton contemplate erecting in Chester a thoroughly well-equipped and up-to-date roller skating rink.

Dunning and Kahn and Kahn, after a tour of five weeks, return to town to work the Gibbons' circuit, on which they will feature Miss Lily Kahn's thought transmission and magic.

Bella and Bijou's latest production, a duet entitled "The Skating Carnival," by Fred Murray and Charles Collins, is right up to date, and a big success.

THE L.C.C. AND AMUSEMENTS.

The usual weekly meeting of the London County Council was held on Tuesday at the County Hall, Spring Gardens, Mr. R. A. Robinson (chairman) presiding.

SURREY THEATRE.

The Theatres and Music-halls Committee reported that they had considered drawings submitted by Mr. B. Crewe, showing alterations proposed to be made to the stage skylight at the Surrey Vaudeville Theatre, in order to comply with the Council's requirements. The committee recommended the approval of the arrangements shown in the two drawings submitted.

Agreed to.

HOXTON VARIETY THEATRE.

The committee reported they had considered a drawing submitted by Mr. B. Crewe, showing certain additional sanitary accommodation to be provided at the pit, balcony, and gallery levels, and in the stage basement at the Variety Theatre, Pitfield-street, Hoxton; and they recommended approval of the arrangements shown in the drawing, provided that certain specified requirements be complied with

Adopted.

MR. REYNOLDS AND CINEMATOGRAPH FIRES.

The General Purposes Committee submitted a report with reference to the medical treatment of children attending the elementary schools, and they recommended that application be made for a Government grant for the cost incurred.

The Rev. Stewart Headlam moved that the recommendation be referred back to the committee, and this was seconded by Mr. Bray.

Mr. Walter Reynolds said he thought they were all agreed as to the necessity and desirability of the children's eyes, teeth, and ears being properly seen to, but he thought it was the duty of the Government to deal with the matter. He welcomed the debate, because it might induce the Government to move in the desired direction.

The Chairman said he could now allow Mr. Reynolds to discuss cinematograph accidents.

The amendment was, on a division, defeated, and the original motion carried.

The Miltons, skating comedians, this week finish a highly successful twelve weeks' pantomime with Mr. Harry Roxbury, who has re-engaged them for next year. Next week they are to be seen at the Surrey and Empire, Camberwell.

The pantomime company of Bliss and Bliss played a charity football match at Jarrow, in which Miss Ray Ford, principal girl, kicked off the first half, and Miss Ethel Dunford, principal boy, the second half. Bliss and Bliss received a letter from the Mayor of the town thanking them for the great help they had afforded to his fund.

"THE TERRITORIALS;
or, THE BOYS OF THE NEW BRIGADE."

Military Episode, by Fred Maxwell, Produced at the Empress, Brixton, on Monday, Feb. 22.

Lieutenant Fred Waring ..Mr. Fred Maxwell
Captain Fortescue .....Mr. Murray Yorke
Colonel Hamilton .....Mr. P. Barry Lewers
Charley Manley .....Mr. Fred Bailey
Billie .....Mr. Fred Darnton
Jess Hamilton .....Miss Lois Du Cane

Mr. Fred Maxwell, the prolific writer and producer of tabloid drama, in his "Territorial" sketch has written a playlet full of exciting situations and stirring lines, and the many expressions of approval it called forth from the large audience on the evening of its production augur well for its future success. England is supposed to be at war with Germany, and is apparently in a tight corner when the curtain rises. Colonel Hamilton, the officer in command, inquires for a certain Lieutenant Fred Waring, and learns that he has been placed under arrest by order of Captain Fortescue, who accuses him of treachery. The Colonel orders his release, and it transpires that it is really Fortescue who is the traitor. Waring had absented himself from camp, and cannot honourably explain his reason for doing so; but it is imperative that someone shall go to the aid of a Captain Jessop, who has been surrounded by the enemy, and Waring and a handful of "Terriers" are entrusted with the task. When Colonel Hamilton has departed the scoundrelly Fortescue purloins some papers from his tent, but is forced to give them up by the Colonel's daughter, Jess, a Red Cross nurse, with whom both Waring and Fortescue are in love. In the next scene, the old ruins by moonlight, we see a wounded British soldier refused a drink of water by one of the enemy, but he is eventually succoured by the timely arrival of Waring, who gives the callous scoundrel a severe hiding, magnanimously sparing his life, only to have his own attempted by the cowardly wretch a few minutes later. Charley Manley, a British soldier, and the bearer of an important despatch, next comes on the scene. He is mortally wounded, and Waring swears to deliver the despatch for him, although it looks like certain death, the enemy being strongly entrenched. Colonel Hamilton has been taken a prisoner, and the enemy threaten to take his life if Waring will not give up the papers. Hamilton signs to him not to do this, and is led out to be shot, and Jess and Waring are also in danger of being killed, when help arrives. One of the foreign officers, when relieved of his disguise, turns out to be Captain Fortescue. Eventually, of course, Waring accomplishes his dangerous mission, and the "Terriers" completely rout the enemy. Mr. Fred Maxwell makes a robust and convincing representative of Lieutenant Fred Waring, looking every inch a gallant Territorial, and delivering his many patriotic speeches very effectively. The scoundrelly Captain Fortescue is easily and efficiently undertaken by Mr. Murray Yorke; Mr. P. Barry Lewers contributes an excellent portraiture in every way of the brave Colonel Hamilton; and an impressive enactment of the mortally-wounded Charley Manley is submitted by Mr. Fred Bailey. That experienced and always interesting actress Miss Lois Du Cane has a part well within her powers in the plucky little nurse, Jess, and quickly became a favourite with the audience, her enactment throughout being very meritorious. The sketch was realistically and smartly staged, the encounter between the "Terriers" and their foes being adroitly managed.

THE DAYLIGHT SAVING BILL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—On Friday next the above will receive the attention of the House of Commons, and judging by the recommendations of the Special Commission and from the support accorded it by all conditions of industrial enterprises, it has every chance of appearing upon the Statute Book.

This measure will seriously affect all classes of the entertainment world—theatres of varieties as well as the drama houses, music-hall artists as well as actors—for this reason: the performance in music halls invariably commences at 6.50 (in some cases at 6.30), and owing to the attraction of fresh air and *prolonged daylight*, the first houses from May to August suffer heavily as money-making concerns. Now it is proposed to add *another hour's daylight* to the second house, with a consequent disadvantage to the places of indoor amusement.

Music-hall proprietors and shareholders will have to consider which will be the cheaper, to keep open throughout the summer, hoping to pull through successfully, or to reduce their loss to an absolute and certified minimum by closing down for "alterations and repairs."

The question requires the fullest and immediate attention of all who live by the entertainment world. The millions of money invested in our theatres and music halls have their living representatives, who surely have missed this Bill and its consequences. The workers also have all to lose by not being prepared with their objections. They have to pay their taxes, whether they work or not; why muddle along without an effort? You cannot *all* be pierrots.

This is a point on which proprietors and artists should be unanimous and oppose to the bitter end. I trust this letter will, by its publicity, be the means of having the desired effect in the right quarter.—Yours faithfully,

MONTE BAYLY.

Varieties, Leeds, Feb. 26.

MLLE. SAHARA.

In the King's Bench Division, on Wednesday, before Mr. Justice Hamilton, the action brought by Miss Violet Cadbury, music-hall dancer, against Mr. John P. Beardmore and Miss Violet Hope was concluded. The plaintiff asked for an injunction to restrain the defendants from the use of the name "Mlle. Sahara"; also for the return of dresses, scenery, properties, and music-score, or their value, and damages for the detention and conversion of the goods. She further claimed £8 10s. and £2 10s., as sums due to her from Beardmore, and an additional sum of £2, which he was alleged to have received to settle a debt due to a variety artists' agent. Mr. Vaughan Williams (instructed by Messrs. Smith, Rundell, and Dods) appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. Beardmore appeared in person.

In giving judgment, his lordship held that there was no partnership between the parties. He awarded plaintiff £30 damages for her dresses, £18 for the scenery, £3 for the snake, and £5 for the wigs. With regard to the music, she had had the score returned, and could have no damages for that. There was a further sum owing to plaintiff for £13, making a total of £69. In respect to the use of the name Sahara, and to cover the loss sustained by plaintiff through being prevented from getting engagements, he awarded £50 damages, making in all £119. The injunction against Beardmore would be perpetual. Miss Hope had delivered a defence, and had never withdrawn it, in which she claimed that plaintiff was not entitled to use the name Sahara, and defended her own use of it. He quite accepted Miss Hope's story that in this matter she had been little more than the puppet of Beardmore, who had told her that he would see her safe as to costs, and, rather to her annoyance, had dragged her into this action. There would be a perpetual injunction against Miss Hope, with costs, and judgment against Mr. Beardmore for £119, with costs, and a perpetual injunction.

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SHILLING COLLECTION FOR THE MUSIC HALL HOME.

2,339 SHILLINGS.

In again directing the attention of our readers to *The Era's* Shilling Fund on behalf of the Music Hall Home we are in the happy position of being able to associate with the appeal thus being made the name of the foremost music hall comedienne—Miss Marie Lloyd. It seems scarcely necessary to remind our readers of the deep interest Miss Lloyd has ever taken in matters affecting the welfare of her brothers and sisters of the variety profession. It is her desire that her "year" will be marked by a considerable increase in the subscriptions of previous years, and she therefore, through *The Era*, commends the Music Hall Home to the charitably-minded. Mr. Thomas Barrasford, the President of the Fund, is again this year exerting himself in its behalf, and this fact is sufficient indication that he is satisfied as to the way in which the institution is being conducted, and that he considers it worthy of support.

Mr. Ben Woodger, the secretary of the Music Hall Home, tells us that in 1907 the inmates averaged ten, but that in 1908 there have been as many as twelve. The address of the Home is 31, Wilson-road, Camberwell, and there the matron (Mrs. Fruin) busies herself for the comfort and convenience of her "family." At present there are eleven of these, and the desire is to increase the number, which can only be done when sufficient funds for the purpose are collected. During the past twelve months three or four of the inmates have recovered their health and strength sufficiently to enable them to look for engagements. These secured, they left the Home, and the vacancies thereby created were immediately filled up. Now, this Home requires keeping up, and it cannot be kept up on air. There is no need for us to refer to all the good work which has been performed by the institution in the past, as that must for the most part be within the recollection of our readers. The ages of the inmates range from fifty to seventy-six. In all probability these men will be maintained in the Home until the day of their death, and their funeral expenses paid for out of the funds of the Home.

The Era's Shilling Fund is the main source of income to the Home, and this means of sustenance is added to by the donations of artists, either given directly, or through the collecting boxes through which many managers of variety theatres collect pennies from "dead-heads" and from artists who desire free admission.

Anyone can be supplied with a collecting-card by sending a postcard to Mr. Woodger.

Briefly, we may once more repeat that the objects of the Music Hall Home Fund are to provide shelter for deserving members of the variety profession who have been stricken with poverty or illness in their declining years, or who have in other ways fallen on evil times. Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, the hon. treasurer, will be pleased to receive filled-up collecting cards addressed to him at *The Era*, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C., and to acknowledge them in these columns.

FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	Shillings.
Jack Miles Stavordale	120
Marie Lloyd	113
Joe Elvin, per Marie Lloyd	105
Bert Williams	30
Jack Woolf	30
Leoni Clarke	21
Gus Elen	21
Chas. Weldon	21
John Lawson	21
Mr. Hymack	20
A Beginner (York)	20
Harry Alaskas	14
O. M. Dayton	10
Alf Chester	10
Ben Brown	10
E.	6
Slippere	5
Frank Folloy	1
Collected by :—	
Horace Wheatley	50
The Maples	10
The Musical Johnstons	6
The Hartley Wonders	2

Collected by Dave Carter, £1 10s.

Dave Carter	1	Al. Johnston	1
He of the Topnote	1	W. Ellwanger	1
He of the Topnote	1	J. J. Harvey	1
He of the Topnote	1	Dan Conroy	1
He of the Topnote	1	Bowker Andrews	1
James Shewart	1	J. W. Wilson	1
James Mooney	1	W. H. McCarthy	1
Percy Haley	1	Young Dave Garrick	1
Master May	1	Lancelot B. Andrews	1
Fred Morley	1	Geo. Hughes	1
Alf. Ripon	1	Doc. Robertson	1
Sammy Shields	1	Baby Robertson	1
W. F. Heeley	1	D. J. Pigott	1
B. C. Meely	1	Will Oliver	1
Rose Elliott	1	Morny Cash	1

Collected by Sisters Ford, 30s.

Cissie Ford	1	Jack Hayworth	1
Emmie Ford	1	Walter Williams	1
John Simms	1	Frand Leidam	1
George Rapley	1	W. Richardson	1
Colibris Midgets	1	Joe Athos	1
Colibris Midgets	1	John Trowel	1
P. E. Edmond	1	Hectors	1
Arthur Woodville	1	Thorpe and Co.	1
Horace Pollock	1	Rastus and Banks	1
M Simms	1	Mrs. Haley	1
Hughie Rostron	1	Milner and Storey	1
Little Innocence	1	Jimmy and Fanny	1
Earl of Dudley	1	Raven Wood	1
Cecile Eldred	1	Vivienne Bell	1
Sam J. Downing	1	W. M., Friend	1

Collected by Seener and Fridkins, £2 5s.

Seener and Fridkins	5	Bertha Northam	1
John A. Leopold	5	Augustus Dale	1
Zeymand Andrews	5	William Ward	1
Mr. Edwardes	2	Herbert La Martine	1
Geo. Auger	2	Horace O'Malley	1
Ernest Rommel	2	Marie Loftus	1
E. Ch. Gittins	2	A. Dome	1
Dick Bell Rio	2	C. Coborn	1
Fredk. Wilson	1	Ae-Bo-Kou	1
X X X	1	D. H. C.	1
Boccaccio	1	Will Murray	1
A. H.	1	Joe Sylvana	1
Bertie Ralland	1	Tom Collins	1
Bertha Winder	1	W. H. C.	1

Collected by Ben Brown (fourth card), 23s.

Robbie	2	J. Mitchell Langley	1
Daisy James	2	W. W. B.	1
Manning's Entertainers	1	W. A.	1
F. Toomey	1	F. G.	1
M. A. Pettitt	1	Pill Wank	1
Count Landeryou	1	Bothey	1
Fred Reeves	1	R. T.	1
Alf. Lotto	1	G. Young	1
Jan Lyell	1	F. Leon	1
Miss Winifred Earle	1	Col. Clough	1
		S. Girling	1

Collected by Tom Fancourt, 23s.

Tom Fancourt	1	Van Allen	1
Jennie Rubie	1	Florence Yaymen	1
George Rowlands	1	Stylo	1
George Brooks	1	John Macaulay	1
Charles McConnell	1	Kate Forster	1
Arthur Aldridge	1	A. E. B.	1
Polly McConnell	1	Dr. Collins	1
Albert Bruno	1	Charles McConnell	1
Gilbert Childs	1	Ernest Ball	1
Victor Smith	1	P. E. Draco	1
Lydia Weber	1	Fred Poplar	1
Austin Rudd	1		

Collected by Jimmy Shields, £1 15s.

Johnson and Bert	2	Monty Walker	1
Billy Williams	1	J. E. Wilkes	1
Jimmy Shields	1	Floradoras	1
Edward Rowland	1	Mr. J. Burslam	1
George Shields	1	Arthur Royce	1
Sam Thomson	1	Margaret Drew	1
Harrison Brookbank	1	Beatie and Babs	1
Dolly Ross	1	Frank Coyle	1
Ernest Krake	1	Friend	1
Fred J. Hudson	1	Pal	1
George Edney	1	S. F.	1
Mr. and Mrs. Will Pettitt	1	Tom Joy	1
Ernest Dillon	1	Henry Herne	1
Percy Farrimond	1	Leonard Fisher	1
Evelyn and Norrie	1	Will S.	1
George Cooper	1	Sam B	1
J. W. Hall	1	Devonshire, Barnsley	1

Collected by Kloof and Ramsay, £1 12s. 6d.

George Lashwood	2	J. E. Nightingale	1
Verona Quartette	2	A. C. Williams, stage representative, Pontypridd	1
Per Messrs. Benet and Kloof, Crusoe panto. company :—		Miss Nellie Dyson	1
Mr. Harry Benet	2	Miss Gertie Millar	1
Sisters Rowe	2	J. H. Wakefield	1
Billy Kloof	1	Rand and O'Ryan	1
Mrs. Kloof	1	Will and Roze	1
Little Jack Metz	1	Sam Saxo	1
U. C. Ugo	1	Ernest P. Grahame	1
Mrs. A. F. Bedford, V.A.F. Agency, Barnsley	1	Trixie Bascombe	1
Sandy McNab	1	Alf. Heath	1
Bert Weston	1	David Phillips	1
Syd Pete	1	Miss Eva Bentley	1
Arthur Maxey	1	William W. Fish	1
		Lonzo Brown	1
		Miss Holland	½

Collected by Regan and Ryan, £1 12s. 6d.

Fanny Fields	5	Room No. 4, M.T.	1
Violet Lloyd	5	Doris Dean	1
Malcolm Scott	5	Florence Herseé	1
Harry Tate	5	Harry Claff	1
Regan and Ryan	5	Horace Lane	1
Patty Yole	2½		

Collected by Ben Brown (second card), 38s.

W. H.	5	F. Gill	1
D. V. Goldberg	2½	S. D.	1
G. C. N. P.	2	H. Webster	1
Gaskin	2	E. Davidson	1
L. S.	2	Levene	1
David Levy	2	Hean	1
Mamney	2	L. Z.	1
H. Heathan	2	C. B.	1
P. Samuels	2	Elsie Pratt	1
Sutters	2	Charlie Pratt, jun.	1
H. D.	1	Mrs. Frith	1
Cast	1	H.	½
Samuels	1		

Collected by Barney Armstrong, 24s.

Joe Elvin	2	George Kirby	1
Gala and Norris	2	Harry Lappo	1
Miss Winifred Hare	2	Lena Brunton	1
Barney Armstrong	2	Leo Behan	1
Mr. J. Lucy	1	Martha Cowper	1
Mr. H. C. Arnold	1	Chas. Coborn	1
Frank Benson	1	E. A. Matthews	1
Baddow	1	Leighton Rooke	1
Ulrick	1	Gladys White	1
J. J. Dallas	1	Jimmy Steel	1

Collected by J. W. Hall, 30s.

J. W. Hall	1	Gent. Lotto	1
Pat Rafferty	1	Tom Wilson	1
Walter Wade	1	Harry Barrett	1
Harold Hughman	1	J. W. Hall	1
George P. Smith	1	J. W. Hall	1
F. A. Gotch	1	J. W. Hall	1
T. Mercer	1	Mrs. Hall	1
Alf Pontai	1	Mrs. Hall	1
Harry Shirley	1	Mrs. Hall	1
Campbell	1	Mrs. Ella Hall	1
R. Galland	1	Mrs. Ella Hall	1
W. H. Barber	1	Mrs. Ella Hall	1
Lucy Crichton	1	Master Harry Hall	1
Mr. Clark	1	Master Harry Hall	1
A. Lotto	1	Master Harry Hall	1

Collected by Mlle. De Rose, £2 1s.

Our Boys	4	Edie May	1
Mlle. De Rose	2½	Dick Thomas	1
J. H. Hawtrey	2½	Hettie Gale	1
Reginald Grant	2½	Leslie Hawkins	1
W. W. Kelly	2½	Joe Huda	1
Hilda Claremont	1	Our Willie Hall	1
Alf Leonard	1	J. Gar Kiddie	1
Stanley Fairless	1	Sisters Raymond	1
W. G. Wesley	1	E. Adeler	1
James Lowe	1	H. O. Callaghan	1
Nellie Barrett	1	Herbert Bates	1
Ada Tyrell	1	Mrs. Egerton	1
George Burton	1	Harry Mayville	1
W. H. Lisando	1	Edgar Stebbings	1
Bob Lisando	1	Mark Stuart	1
Harry Bliss	1	Joe Oliver	1

Collected by Frank Coyle, 20s.

W. E. Gillin	1	Gladys Godwin	1
Ramsey Trio	1	The Ellimans	1
J. Smith	1	Lilian Graham	1
Frank Coyle	1	Fioretti and Elly	1
Violet Coyle	1	Percy Mannings	1
Mrs. Frank Coyle	1	Walter Mannings	1
Miss Fanny Coyle	1	F. B. Bedford	1
Jimmy Shields	1	John Huxley	1
Will Godwin	1	Denby and Dent	1
Mrs. Godwin	1	Geo. Hall	1

Collected by the Three Bros. Huxter, 11s.

Lambeth and Robertson	2	R. Taylor	1
Edward Huxter	1	A. Rudd	1
Bros. Milford	1	G. G.	1
Jeannie Johns	1	Corradini	1
Elsie Steadman	1	A. Saxon	1

Collected by Fred Kitchen, £1 2s.

Fred Kitchen	5	Geo. Craig	1
Harry Kitchen	2	Geo. Messer	1
Mrs. F. Kitchen	2	Grimani	1
Fred Kitchen, jun.	1	T. Scott Bell	1
Kitty Horan	1	Harry Howe	1
Frank Rickards	1	Jimmy Russell	1
Bert Landeck	1	Fred Karno	1
James Beresford	1	Billy Morgan	1

Collected by Three Sisters Lee, £2 0s. 6d.

E. F. Murray	2½	E. Pender Cudlip	1
Fred Ginnett	2	J. Morgan	1
Reg. Beauchamp	2	George Narow	1
M. Arnold	1	Herbert Mack	1
A.	1	Jas. E. Donegan	1
W. Murray	1	Jim Dunedin	1
Thomas Lee	1	George French	1
Mina Lee	1	Gent Lotto	1
Jeanette Lee	1	Syd Pete	1
Leonie Dixon	1	T. C. Downie	1
Marie Empress	1	Schus	1
Sue Lewis	1	Ned	1
Jas. W. Dixon	1	Three Orleans	1
R. A. Johnson	1	Reg Bolton	1
Ernie Warsaw	1	H. Finden	1
R. H. Douglas	1	Hanvarr	1
Mrs. Dent	1	Hanvarr, jun.	1
W. W. Walton	1	Anna Lee	1
Harry Curry	1		

Collected by Ted and May Hopkins, £3 1s. 6d.

Courtice and Louie Pounds	20	H. P. Milner	1
Ted and May Hopkins	5	N. Bowman	1
A Wellwisher	3	Charles Stuart	1
Bransby Williams	3	Marie Clissold	1
Mabel Bardine	3	Sybil St. Elmo	1
William Jackson	2½	Lottie Lennox	1
Sisters Geretti	1	Chas. Santoi	1
Fred Horsfall	1	Colonna Frances	1
Nat Gilbert	1	J. Humphries	1
Ida Kathrena	1	Madge Osmond	1
Edward Foster	1	Pearl Keats	1
Arthur Schofield	1	E. S. Jackson	1
John Macauley	1	Ernest Wighton	2
Master May	1	Morris Harvey	1
		Will Poluski, jun.	1
		Harry Weldon	1

Collected by Charles Cardow, 20s.

Charles Leighton	1	Leo Royburn	1
Ena Richards	1	Hayman and Franklin	1
Collected at billiards	1	Dave Laird	1
Russell Carr	1	A. Standing	1
Hal Godfrey	1	S. Scravitch	1
Mayme Cannon	1	A Commercial	1
John G. Marx	1	Pennies collected :—	
Dan Filmer	1	Lime-street Station	1
Bob Reano	1	Dressing-room	1
Charles Cardow	1	King's Cross Station	1
Henri Doré	1		

Collected by Carl and Carr, 31s.

J. N. Smith	5	Evelyn Desa	1
Carl and Carr	3	Tom Lawson	1
A Friend	1	Nancy Renshaw	1
Tom Costello	1	Louie Love	1
Billie Costello	1	Queenie King	1
Frank Freeland	1	Ernie Davey	1
James Rallis	1	Jack Osmond	1
L. Hoffman	1	M. Austin	1
E. D. Nicholls	1	Marie St. Hilary	1
A Friend	1	Arthur Carlton	1
Michael Madden	1	A. W. Lethbridge	1
Charles Leverton	1	Bertha Priddy	1
Mlle. Lucretia	1		

Collected by Dick Tubb, £1 15s.

Eight Imperial Girls	4	Dudley Powell	1
Dick Tubb and Jessie Buckle	2	P. C. Armstrong	1
W. Groome	1	Bert H. Delmar	1
F. Brown	1	Grimshaw and Esmond	1
H. J. Corner	1	Maidie Scott	1
Fred Douglas	1	Winifred Ward	1
Mrs. Engel	1	Harold Wellesley	1
Tom Child	1	James Fletch	1
J. H. Farr	1	W. Morgan	1
Bart Farland	1	Sam Poluski, jun.	1
J. Murray	1	Kittie Douglas	1
F. Emney	1	Little Rosie Lee	1
M. Rees	1	F. Brett	1
Nellie Howard	1	Little Maudie Francis	1
Gwladys Soman	1	A. T.	1
May Davis	1		

Collected by Miss Ray Maskell, 41s.

Ray Maskell	5	U. G. O. Nap	1
Ted E. Box	2	G. Fletcher	1
G. Baner	2	Walter Lee	1
Jas. Fortune	2	Auntie Hart	1
S. Wheeler	1	F. B. J.	1
O. Botwright	1	E. B. Dwyer	1
Mr. Chard	1	Raven Wood	1
Coverdale	1	Fred McLean	1
Billy Farrell	1	C. T. Aldrich	1
H. E. Fairbanke	1	Chris Horp	1
Rosie Gaston	1	Fred Rinnell	1
Bob Duce	1	Brinn	1
Pete	1	Geo. Abel	1
B. C. Packham	1	Sid Cotterell	1
Nemo	1	Bert Wilson	1
Bob White	1	H. H. Garner	1
W. McIvor	1	G. E. R.	1

[*Photo by Sarony.*

MISS MARIE LLOYD,
The Fair Worker for the Home.

Collected by Ted E. Box, 71s.

Ted E. Box	10	Dora Lyric	1
Emerson and Baldwin	10	J. M. Green	1
Ray Maskell	5	Dirty Doughty	1
Servia Le Roy	5	Victoria Monks	1
Hanvarr and Lee	4	Carrie Laurie	1
Lafaille	4	W. P.	1
Willy	3	Albert Christian	1
Mr. Pete Dover	2	Maude Edwards	1
Percy Hayden	2	Virto	1
P. Anger	2	May Ambrose	1
Leon Bosco	2	A "Pro.'s" Friend	1
Tom Bryce	2	C. W. Luker	1
Fred Story	2	Tom Bryce	1
De Marce	1	John E. Somers	1
J. A. Carter	1	Jack Stephens	1
Tossing Austins	1		

Collected by Herbert Shelley, £2 3s.

Albert Chevalier	20	Arthur Burne	1
Herbert Shelley	10	Huntley Wright	1
J. W. Macdonald	2	Harry Nicholls	1
Lionel Rignold	1	Mrs. Herbert Shelley	1
J. Cook Beresford	1	Alma Shelley	1
L. Race Dunrobin	1	Florence Huntley	1
Graham and Harrington	1	May Fairclough	1

Collected by Ben Brown (third card), 28s.

Young Dave Garrick	1	H. Darnley	1
P. M.	1	W. Collins	1
H. Barrett	1	Jas. E. Donegan	1
H. S. Kitching	1	George B.	1
W. B. Abbey	1	J. Welch	1
W. J.	1	Deane Trulove	1
B. C.	1	Ponyston Mills	1
J. J.	1	Terrey Erynon	1
W. Morgan	1	Dan Ricardo	1
G. H.	1	R. Trebor	1
S. S.	1	"Apollo"	1
G. R.	1	Traynor, Dublin	1
F. J. F.	1	Miss Gussie Allright	1
F. W. E.	1	W. Saxby	1

Collected by The Bohemians, 14s

W. Bohemian	1	Newco and Sullo	1
M. Bohemian	1	Dan Hendy	1
Geo. Gulliver	1	Ernest Caxaellas	1
T. W. Paul	1	Percy Caxaellas	1
M. Etta	1	Edwin Caxaellas	1
D. W. Watson	1	Hull Newsboy Trio	1
Bob Swift Duo	1	Sam Vincent	1

Collected by Fred Herbert, 32s

Joe Elvin	3	The Itrams	1
O. Maus Dayton	2	C. Douglas Stuart	1
Fred Herbert	1	Bert Byrne	1
Mrs. G. Gunnup	1	John Donald	1
Mrs. Walsh	1	Arthur Gallimore	1
George Gunnup	1	Bob Venola	1
J. Walsh	1	Joe Venola	1
Jack Walsh	1	Flo Chevalier	1
J. Harding	1	Arthur Breton	1
J. Jones	1	J. C. Morris	1
Sam Myrans	1	Gus Dallon	1
Chas. J. Johnson	1	T. C. Callaghan	1
Jack Lorrimer	1	Lieut. Albini	1
Stella Stahl	1	George Jackley	1
Paul Kramer	1		

Collected by Conway and Leland, 10s.

W. B. Leland	1	Maringo	1
Crissie Cross	1	Bert Wilson	1
M. B. Conway	1	George Gilbey	1
Mrs. M. B. Conway	1	Billy Seeley	1
Mr. De Breau	1	A Friend	1

Collected by Livesey and Rosebery, £1 8s.

Leo and Roland	1	W. H. Carnis	1
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilde	1	Montaldos	1
Mr. Sam Williams	1	Joe Hay	1
Gladys Mavius	1	Leonie Dixon	1
Miss Adah Payne	1	Jim Dixon	1
G. Barclay, jun.	1	The Heroine	1
Tom Shaw	1	The Villain	1
Billy Stevens	1	The Hero	1
A. Earl Hunt	1	Lillian Rosebery	1
W. Higgins	1	Carter Livesey	1
Dr. Caine	1	Little Willie	1
Harry Randall	1	Gannimede	1
C. W. Whittle	1	Signorita	1
Gordon and Grace	1	The Skipper	1

Collected by Abel and Welsh, 35s

J. W. Rowley	5	Hady Mohamed	1
Mohamed's Arabs	2	A. Gulimlip	1
S. Dix	2	Charles Chard	1
Robert Abel	1	H. Meredith	1
William Welsh	1	Bros. Ford	1
Mimi Abel	1	Gladys and Alber	1
Charles Serra	1	Tate and Tate	1
Martino	1	Wm. Thomas	1
Israel Price	1	Chas. Triton	1
Edward Crosland	1	John B. Roberts	1
Dorians	1	Harry Czar	1
Kyoto	1	Dave Czar	1
Val Gerald	1	Harry Friskey	1
J. Bertram Brennan	1	Blanche Albert	1
Felix Powell	1		

Collected by Ben Brown (first card), 42s.

Geo. Le Clerq	5	Fred Maple	1
Ben Brown	5	F. W. Wood	1
G. B.	5	Munro	1
C. Matthews, Sheffield	2	Sympathy	1
Pot	2	Coly	1
Same	2	W. Childs	1
Mr. S. E. Humberston	1	Tom Craven	1
B. A. Rolfe	1	H. Martin	1
Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Edwards	1	Friend	1
Will Cutler	1	Harrison	1
Three Horse Shoes, Sheffield	1	Butts	1
V. L. Granville	1	Topsy	1
		W. R.	1
		C. F. Brown	1

Collected by A. N. Hennessey, 40s.

Stanley J. R. Cohen	5	Mrs. Regan	1
A. N. Hennessey	5	G. F.	1
Kittee Rayburn	5	A. Bowman	1
Fred Boustead	1	Glen Alva	1
A. Juniper	1	C. S.	1
C. F. Wright	1	H. C.	1
Tom Lyle	1	E. M. Cohen	1
C. W. Douglass	1	Will Thompson	1
Walter Gibbs	1	Mrs. Thompson	1
Ted Whiteman	1	W. Ransted	1
Tom Malvern	1	Johnny Alexander	1
Harry Anderson	1	Mr. Reeve	1
G. Dyke	1	J. Garlish	1
J. J. Regan	1	T. Callaghan	1

Collected by Harry Conlin, £3 10s.

Leigh House	5½	H. Rogerson	1
Harry Conlin	5½	Alex. Kendall	1
Hilda Dugdale	5	Chas. Norton	1
Rosie Coleman	5	Russell Brandow	1
One of the Ba-hoys	5	W. Stanley Parker	1
Amy Singleton	5	S. W.	1
G. Gilbride	4	Seth Egbert	1
Marie Ashton	4	Emmie Egbert	1
Mabel Hirst	3	Violet Egbert	1
Albert Egbert	2½	Gus Le Clerq	1
Daisy Dormer	2½	E. Wright	1
Hal	2	The Witch	1
J. Hoffman	2	May Beatty	1
F. Self	2	Harry Clifford	1
Gus Le Clerq	1	Mr. Blackhurst	1
Tommie Pender	1		

Collected by Elsie Robey, 10s

Elsie Robey	1	Molly Wynne	1
Laurence Irving	1	Lewis Leslie	1
Mabel Hackney-Irving	1	Mrs. Lewis Leslie	1
William Fullbrook	1	Sale of Post-cards	1
Mabel Carr	1	William Spencer	1

Collected by Cedar and Elgar, £1 7s.

Hugh Cedar	2	Robins and Collier	1
Ed. Elgar	2	Mr. Bert Harrow	1
Louis Kerno	1	Miss Marion Walker	1
Dan Maxford	1	Mr. Bert Rolfe	1
Tom O'Neill	1	A. Yorke-Stephens	1
Fred Sinclair	1	E. B. Edie	1
Jake Friedman	1	T. J. Dillon	1
Miss Ray Wallace	1	Miss Isa Gibson	1
Miss Mildred Bryan	1	Miss Nellie Duval	1
Mr. Joe Robins	1	Mr. M., Manchester	1
Mr. Leonard Russell	1	Mr. Charlie Hopkins	1
Miss Phyllis Seymour	1	Mr. E. W. Avery	1
Mr. Herbert King	1		

Collected by Harry Wright, 31s.

S. Charlie Pratt	2	Ford	1
Montefiore	1	M. F.	1
Bert Chapman	1	E. E. W.	1
Harry Gage	1	Allan Hanbury	1
Mr. H. McDowall	1	Tom Shenton	1
Mrs. F. Kahler	1	Jesse Sparrow	1
G. P. R. Burgess	1	Vivins	1
Harry Wright	1	John E. Brandon	1
Nellie Gannon	1	W. E. Stephenson	1
T. W. Wright	1	F. Newman	1
G. Baselgia	1	J Hewson	1
Bert Chapman	1	A. Knight	1
Leon Bassett	1	Sam Hart	1
G. Pearson	1	S. N. Salter	1
F. Kohler	1	D. White	1

Collected by Eugene and Willie, 11s.

Miss Dunbar	2	Richard Lomas	1
Bernard and Weston	2	Henry Hodgkings	1
Eugene and Willie	2	B. Comerford	1
Miss M. Hope	1	J. Comerford	1

Collected by the Sisters Morgan, 14s.

Will Lorenzi	2	Alice Maple	1
Barrett and Knowles	2	Gracie Mortimer	1
Rita and Roma	1	Will Cartwright	1
Elsie Morgan	1	Hester Reeve	1
Annie Morgan	1	Charles Clark	1
Kitty Clinton	1	S. Barnard	1

Collected by Geo. French's Troupe, 22s.

C. Poole, jun.	6	Bert Gates	1
George French	5	Harry Dowsett	1
Richard Karsy's Myriophone	5	Fred Bescoby	1
Learto	2	Miss St. Clare	1

Collected by Nellie Wilson, £2 11s. 6d.

A White Man	10	Fred Eustace	1
Eugene Stratton	5	Mary Eustace	1
Edwin Boyde	5	Rose Bancroft	1
H Thutton	2½	Charles Chapman	1
The Sivonis	2	Wilman	1
Nellie Wilson	2	Ernie Aplin	1
Mrs. Stavodale	2	Phœbe Lyndhurst	1
Little Miss Muffit	1	Charles McConnell	1
Mona Clifford	1	Muir and Bartlett	1
Florence Hyde	1	Margery Maidment	1
Clara Stroud Wilson	1	Flo Penley	1
Beatrice Elie	1	T. Grindall	1
F. Hurst	1	Dusty Rhodes	1
Will Toole	1	Rose Daulby	1
Charles Granthley	1	Mrs. Fred Southern	1

Collected by Ernest D'Almaine, 14s.

Ernest D'Almaine	1	Rose D'Almaine	1
Mrs. E. D'Almaine	1	Charles Dare	1
James D'Almaine	1	Dan O'Connor	1
Charles D'Almaine	1	Gus Daniels	1
Ada D'Almaine	1	George Snow	1
Amy D'Almaine	1	George Richens	1
Lily D'Almaine	1	E. Kay	1

Collected by Miss Ada Reeve, £4.

Ada Reeve	9½	John Wilson	1
A Friend	7	W. Griffin	1
A. C. Hills	5	K. Adeler	1
Mary Hargreaves	5	Marie Vere	1
Flo Marston	5	Fred Griffiths, jun.	1
A. Rowe	5	A. N. Other	1
Arthur Poole	4	R. Abrahams	1
Edorler	4	J. Lonnen	1
L. de Frece	4	Russell Ardell	1
Beauty	2½	Dan Crawley	1
W. A. Short	2½	Bobbie Mendall	1
H. Milburn	2½	Florence Meeson	1
E. T. Steyne	2½	F. C. Upton	1
P. Ettinger	2½	J. Wilson	1
A Friend	2	G. E. Mills	1
Another	2		

Collected by Leoni Clarke, 21s.

Mr. and Mrs. Body	2	Marjory Burns	1
Tom Mezzetti	1	Nell Stephens	1
Bob Mezzetti	1	Wisper	1
Hal Forde	1	Dunlop	1
Arthur Bright	1	H. Rudge	1

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

LIST OF FAIRS, FEASTS, AND WAKES IN ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND WALES FOR MARCH.

ENGLAND.

1. Cornhill-on-Tweed (600)
1. Downham (2,500)
1. Dudley (49,000)
2. Oswestry (9,600)
3. Belford (1,600)
3. St. Buryan's (1,300)
4. Maiden Newton (700)
5. Bury (60,000)
6. Alnwick (6,700)
6. Cambourne (8,200)
6. Hingham (1,600)
6. Wisbech (9,426)
10. Colne (23,000)
13. Alnwick (6,700)
13. Stockport (70,000)
13. Wadebridge (3,300)
20. Alston (Cumbs.) (3,300)
20. Oldham (3,200)
22. Gomersall Feast
22. Retford (4,200)
22. Stamford (8,200)
23. Wooton-under-Edge (2,200)
25. Henley-in-Arden (1,000)
25. Leigh (Dorset) (400)
25. Okehampton (2,600)
25. Stamfordham (900)
26. Clitheroe (11,400)
26. Durham (15,000)
27. Bridgnorth (6,000)
27. Stourbridge (16,000)
29. Grantham (17,600)
29. Swindow (45,000)
30. Ottery St. Mary (3,500)
31. Tetbury (2,000)
31. Worthen (11,000)

SCOTLAND.

2. Jedburgh (2,222)
6. Roxburgh (958)
11. Haddington (3,992)
17. Dumfries (18,680)

WALES.

8. Menai Bridge (1,800)
14. Penmorfa (1,486)
16. Corwen (6,000)
16. Pontardawe
18. Cowbridge (1,000)
18. Rhyader (8,000)
27. Llanfyllin (2,000)

Lynn Mart Pleasure Fair.

A second visit to the fair at the height of its glory on Saturday night at nine o'clock was a revelation to us of the constantly increasing attraction of our modern fairs, feasts, and wakes. The great market-square was the "Mecca" for the pleasure-seeking pilgrims of Lynn and Norfolk towns for miles around, the streets leading to the fair were thronged with people, the market-square and its immediate thoroughfares were packed with a typical British crowd, all on pleasure bent it is true, but so orderly, yet withal brimming over with good humour and comradeship.

No; the superficial observer who vainly imagine that pemanent shows are going to supplant portable ones, or that our fairs are decadent, cannot have seen such fairs as King's Lynn, or any one of the fairs that really count. It was a glorious kaleidoscopic scene of ever-varying colour and light, the triumph of the dynamo, the artistry, and the mechanics of showland. Here were showmen of whom England does well to be proud. Nothing second-rate, all of the very best, and the people, from the highest to the lowest, entered into and fully enjoyed the fun of the fair.

The Guild Chaplain at Work.

On Mart Sunday the Rev. T. Horne took part in the interesting ceremony of the dedication at the Parish Church of a beautiful memorial screen and chancel gates. The dedication office was taken by Bishop Harrison, Assistant Bishop of Ely, acting for the Bishop of Norwich.

In the afternoon the Guild service in Tuby and Sons' superb coliseum was a most gratifying success. The show was crowded; the showpeople attended in a body; the church choir, with cross bearer, the organist (who accompanied the hymns), the vicar, and assistant clergy, were present, and took part in the service.

The Guild Chaplain conducted the service and preached. In the evening the Guild Chaplain was the special preacher at the Parish Church. The rapidly-growing appreciation of this side of the Guild work is a matter of extreme importance and of the utmost gratification to the Chaplain.

Guild Subscriptions, 1909.

Charles Thurston, £2 2s.; T. Essam, 5s.; H. Wright, 5s.; R. Palmer, 5s.; H. Barnard, 5s.; B. Gray, 5s.

Trial and Acquittal of the Cook Family.

We have placed before our readers from time to time the developments of the Coedpoeth riot, in which the Cooks (father and two sons were involved). We have held all along that the way in which the Press, with one or two notable exceptions (the Manchester and the Wrexham papers to wit), reported the riot was nothing less than a scandal, and highly prejudicial of the true purposes of justice. First of all, utterly misleading accounts of the extremely grave and serious occurrence were sent broadcast through the land. It was reported as "Gipsies fire upon the people." Then we had imaginary details "that the attack upon the gipsies was provoked because someone had climbed a greasy pole and had won a prize, and no prize was forthcoming." After a few days came another version, "Not gipsies, but showmen"—no a gipsy encampment but a pleasure fair or carnival on private land. In the meantime, the Cook family (and, in fact, all the unfortunate show people, were placed under arrest or police surveillance). Mr. P. Collins went down to Wrexham and, in conjunction with Mr. B. Mitchell, bailed out the accused, and now we have the trial at the Denbigh Assizes and the truth of the matter.

Innocent People Condemned Without Trial.

We drew attention at the time to the utterly misleading comments on the regrettable incident in leading articles in some few (we noted with relief) newspapers. One paper went so far as to cry aloud for special legislation against such dangerous classes as show people, and ranked them with aliens and as possible Anarchists. This sort of thing was absurd but when men are waiting trial on the serious charge of firing upon a crowd with intent to do grievous bodily harm it is manifestly unfair for newspapers, however obscure and insignificant they may be, to make such damaging statements.

The Rally of Showland to the Rescue.

The energetic action of the president of the Showmen's Guild and Mr. Mitchell in bailing out the Cooks was followed by collections at all the fairs and winter quarters (at Christmas) of showmen, and ample means were speedily available for all the purposes of a proper defence.

It must be said to the credit of the authorities and the police that every assistance and kindly consideration were given to the accused showmen; that at the magisterial investigation at Wrexham the Clerk to Magistrates expressed his opinion that the showmen had been provoked beyond human endurance, and that the police at Coedpoeth were not strong enough to protect the attacked showmen from the riotous mob. Although James Cook and his two sons, James and John, were committed to take their trial at Denbigh Assizes for unlawful wounding, it was manifest that, serious as the charge was, that mitigating circumstances were already admitted by the police.

Summary of the Evidence.

Mr. Ellis Griffith, M.P., was for the prosecution and Mr. Harrison for the defence. Plans and pictures were put in. Then James Edwards, milkman, Coedpoeth, said he let part of the field to the elder prisoner. Witness was on the showground when the four young men came on the scene. The show had then been shut for half an hour. Oliver Edwards climbed to the top of the gallery pole, and one of the prisoners told him to come down. Edwards persisted in a defiant attitude, and James Cook knocked him down. Edwards and his friends then went away, and threatened to bring a crowd. On witness's advice the prisoners put a lock on the gate. Witness went away at once, and did not hear any shooting.

There were stones and bricks lying about the field next morning, and there were signs of something having been burned there. Cook did not touch one of the young men until he had been angered. He heard one of the Cooks say "Fetch the guns."

Edward Oliver Edwards, collier, said that when he climbed the pole, James Cook ordered him to come down. When he reached the ground Cook struck him in the face, causing his nose and mouth to bleed. He left the ground with his friends, and on the way home he was met by a number of people, who asked him what was the matter? He was induced by the crowd which collected to go back with them. He went as far as the gate and then turned back, as his nose was bleeding. When about 40yds. away he heard firing, and was shot in the leg.

Cross-examined: When he first reached the showground the prisoners were friendly. He had had a number of drinks that day, but knew what he was doing. He admitted that he used a filthy expression to Cook, but Cook had first used it to him. Everyone in Coedpoeth was a friend of his, but he made no attempt to induce the crowd to give the Cooks a thrashing.

Other witnesses for the prosecution corroborated, but added no material facts.

The Cooks on their Own Defence.

James Cook, sen., said that on the night of the row the farmer who had let the land said to him, "They have got one of your men and they are killing him." The crowd was then at the gate, and had Hewitt, one of his assistants. Cook said, "Have a bit of sense. We have never done any hurt. Shake hands, and if there is anything wrong I will make it right in the morning by daylight." One of the crowd shouted, "Lynch him! Set him on fire!" They said something in Welsh, sang a kind of song, and then smashed the gate. He ran back to the van and shouted, "It is no use, we will have to do something. Give me one of the guns and run for the police." The crowd ran after him on to the field, the van being about 30yds. from the gate. His daughter-in-law, Betsy Cook, handed him a rifle, and he shot some shots up in the air quickly and on the ground to frighten them, and they ran back to the gate. At the gate they began throwing stones again. A man shouted out, "They are only blank shots. Let's go and lynch him and set him on fire." They were coming again, and he said, "The first who touches that gate I will shoot him in the leg. I will let you know whether they will hurt or not." There were seven children in the camp, one baby in arms being very ill. When the police came, a constable turned to the crowd and said something to them in Welsh. They replied in the same tongue, and the constable said, "They say if you will give me the gun and shoot all the cartridges out of it they will go home and come again in the morning." The rifle was then handed to the officer, who accompanied the prisoner into the van. Then the crowd flocked on to the field, pulled down the cocoanut-stall and the doll-stall, emptied the paraffin can upon them, and set them on fire. Altogether damage to the amount of £100 was done. A number of articles were stolen.

In cross-examination the prisoner said that he fired into the air or into the ground. He did not know that anybody was hit till afterwards. He was afraid of the crowd, and he only wished to keep them back. His two sons were looking round for the police.

The younger Cooks corroborated.

The Judge's Summing-up.

His lordship advised the jury that there was not sufficient evidence to justify their finding that John Cook did any shooting.

The jury then found that John Cook was not guilty, and he was discharged.

Mr. Harrison addressed the jury for the defence. He claimed sympathy for the Cooks, who had lost property valued at £100, their goods had been stolen, they had been imprisoned, had been put to the expense of a long Assize trial, and stood in danger of going to prison—all for doing what he ventured to think any of the jury would have done under the circumstances.

Mr. Ellis Griffith having addressed the jury for the prosecution,

The Judge, in summing up, said the main thing in Cook's mind was to keep the people out and to defend himself. The jury would be wise if they assumed that to be his intention, and then considered whether he was justified, or whether he was guilty of unlawful wounding. There was no suggestion of any ill-will between either prisoner or any of the showmen and any of the persons who were shot. There was evidence that Hewitt was maltreated, and if the crowd had got into the field what would they have done to the Cooks? If the crowd wanted to maul the Cooks, the latter were justified in defending themselves in some way. Did they do more than they ought to have done? Of course, the weapons they used were dangerous, but they were not so dangerous as military rifles or shot guns would have been.

The jury found the two prisoners not guilty.

Harringay Park Carnival Ground.

North London is well supplied by shows, &c., at the Green Lanes, N., fairground, also run by the enterprising London caterers, Messrs. S. and H. Forrest. Here are Wm. Wilson's grand aggregation from the World's Fair, the motor car set, and the big wheel; Walter Payne's superb palace of light and picture theatre, fine art gallery by Warwick, Shippobottom's No. 2 bicycle circus, and Carter's galloping horses. The throwing games, houp-la circles, and variety frames are those of Messrs. H. Pickard, T. and G. Bolesworth, J. Somerville, and Forrest's; Mrs. Andrews, with shooters; Mr. Manning, Mrs. Rawlins, and a fine range of swings by the lessees (Forrest Brothers).

Purchase's menagerie brings its Wood Green season to an end this week.

Preference to Guild Members.

The movement is growing to recognise members of the Showmen's Guild and to give them preference in setting out ground to tenants by the principal lessees. Amongst those who decided to give preference are Messrs. P. Collins, John Collins, George Green, T. Hurst, John Studt, H. Thurston and Sons, Jacob Studt, Charles Thurston, H. R. Hibbert, John Murphy, Wm. Murphy, Ben Howden. We ask for other names to add to this list.

The Attack on Show Vans at Corbridge, County Durham.

The following official reply to the letter of the Guild Chaplain has been received:—

HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Dear Sir,—Your letter of the 2nd inst. was laid before the Council at their meeting yesterday, and was referred to the Corbridge Parochial Committee for their consideration and report.—Yours faithfully, J. H. NICHOLSON.

Midland Bank Chambers, Feb. 17, 1909.

Rev. T. Horne, Hon. Chaplain and Organiser, Showmen's Guild, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London, W.C.

Roundabout Proprietors' and Showmen's Union.

We call our readers' attention to the next gathering of the members of this society advertised for March 3 at Bury Fair.

SHOWMEN OF TO-DAY.

In a former article, dealing with the return of Mr. E. H. Bostock to the Glasgow City Council, we referred to the part showmen were taking in municipal and civic life. To Councillor Tuby, of Doncaster, belongs the peculiar honour and marked distinction of being the first showman of note counted worthy by his fellow-townsmen to represent them on the Borough Council. To Doncaster, the town Mr. Tuby has made the head centre of his show enterprises, belongs the singular honour (and, be it remembered, Doncaster is "no mean city") to recognise that a showman might be an excellent man of business, and also that the experience with "men and things" gained in the show business was qualification enough to justify his call to the honour and dignity of civic life, and, of course, the inevitable sacrifice of ability, time, and means in the service of the community. For sixteen years past Councillor Tuby has been a member of the Doncaster Board of Guardians. As a friend of the aged poor of his adopted town, Mr. Tuby is deservedly esteemed. We take the following appreciation of his kindliness of heart from a biographical sketch of his career that appeared in the showmen's quarterly, the *Caravan*, two years ago:—

"On three different occasions Mr. Tuby took the inmates of the workhouse to the seaside, and a note which he received from one of the inmates said: 'I am sure you deserve the warmest thanks of those who have received your favours, and the gratitude of all who are interested in the comfort and welfare of the poor, the sick, the infirm, and the children.'

"Mr. Tuby has had a gold medal presented to him as a memento of his handsome gifts to the hospitals.

"On Jan. 30 Councillor Tuby entertained over 180 aged poor to a knife-and-fork tea in the Guild Hall, all of whom were resident in St. George's

COUNCILLOR G. T. TUBY.

Ward—the ward represented by Councillor Tuby—and they were all over the age of sixty. The preparations had been made with thoroughness, and the proceedings passed off successfully. A large number of ladies and gentlemen took part in the proceedings, the excellent programme which followed consisting of pianoforte solos, songs, humorous sketches, violin solos, and a humorous reading. During the evening the Bishop of Sheffield proposed a vote of thanks to Councillor Tuby for the kind way in which he had entertained the company: 'Last Sunday was Infirmary Sunday, and in looking through the report of the Infirmary he saw that Mr. Tuby had set apart a certain day, the proceeds of which were to go to the Infirmary. Everything that he earned by his horses on that day went to the Infirmary, and he saw a very large sum put down to their account because of the kindness that he had shown. He believed that those who tried to give pleasure would get a great deal themselves, and he hoped others would follow Mr. Tuby's example.' Votes of thanks were proposed by Councillors Birkenshaw and Mainwaring to all who had in any way contributed to the enjoyment of the evening."

Contributions to Charities.

Councillor Tuby is a life governor of many charitable institutions and is a Mason, and holds a number of votes for the Sailors' Orphanage at Hull. During the past nineteen years Councillor Tuby has collected on his riding-machines or at charity performances in his new show £3,500. Surely, this shall be counted to him for righteousness.

An important part of the circuit he travels is in "the industrial danger zone of the Barnsley coal district." Whenever disaster has overtaken the workers in the mine Mr. Tuby has given benefit performances for the sufferers, the widows, and orphans, with the consequence that "Tom Tuby, showman," is an honoured name in the circuit he travels. There are "kings of the road in showland," and Councillor Tuby is admittedly "king" in his own county—"a province of showland" that embraces a goodly portion of Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Norfolk, and Cambridgeshire.

His Civic Career.

He has been returned to the Borough Council of Doncaster five times—three times he had to contest the election, and twice without a fight. He was triumphantly returned last November without opposition, and his friends confidently anticipate that the good old town of Doncaster will select him as mayor next November. It is, therefore, eminently true of the subject of this biography that business ability, sterling integrity of character, large-hearted charity, and native wit will qualify a man (even though he be a showman) for the highest and most honourable offices of civic service and social distinction.

His Show Enterprises.

A thorough up-to-date showman, nothing but the best is good enough for him. His machines are models of perfection—always kept attractive—neither time, labour, nor expense being spared to maintain their hold upon public esteem and consequent patronage. His superb cinematograph theatre is an example of the latest and best in grand organ-fronted shows. This concern is under the personal supervision and management of Mr. E. T. Tuby, jun. Mr. Tuby (père) believes in co-operation, so he takes his sons into partnership as they attain manhood. No notice of Councillor Tuby would be complete without a word—and a big one too—of appreciation of Mrs. Tuby, his partner and fellow-genius and worker in all his enterprises. Mrs. Tuby is beloved by her wide circle of friends, both on the road with the show and at home at Doncaster.

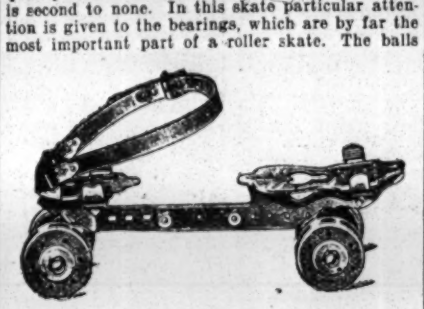
The family life of the travelling showman is the "very Ark of the Covenant" of his ultimate success. *When that fails, it is disaster.* Councillor and Mrs. Tuby, "at home" on the fairground in a beautifully-ordered Pullman car living-van, is a picture that reveals the inner secret of their successful career. It is the ark of their domestic happiness. "May God and good angels," as dear old George Sanger phrases it, "ever bless and keep them and theirs in it!"

Some Biographical Details.

Born fifty-one years ago at Newlands, near Selby, his father a showman before him, he served as a lad his full apprenticeship, and learned the technique of his trade travelling the fairs. His first enterprise "on his own" was as a photographer. Following the fairs with photo booth, he soon saw the possibilities of Doncaster as a centre for his work. He next enterprised a set of swings; followed that (in the days of their rapid rise) with a set of steam horses. Then followed a second set of horses (four abreast), sets of gondolas and motor-cars, and the superb coliseum of varieties and living pictures. Both Mr. and Mrs. Tuby take a keen interest in the work of the Showmen's Guild, and are generous subscribers to its funds. They lend their show many times in the course of each season for the services and meetings of the Guild, and for services conducted at various fairs by the local clergy. Councillor Tuby is a Vice-President of the Guild, and his eldest son, G. T. Tuby, jun., is on the Executive Committee. We not only congratulate Councillor and Mrs. Tuby on their honoured position in their own town, but on the even greater honour that is theirs in the great world of shows. We hope to be present at his first Mayoral banquet.

NEW BRITISH-MADE ROLLER SKATE.

The New Brampton skate is made by a firm of cycle-fitting manufacturers, whose reputation for quality and material, workmanship and accuracy, is second to none. In this skate particular attention is given to the bearings, which are by far the most important part of a roller skate. The balls



used are of genuine Hoffmann manufacture, and the axles are of case-hardened steel.

Either steel, boxwood, or aluminium wheels are fitted to the Brampton. The steel wheels have a patented feature in the specially-hardened cups recessed in the wheel. These skates are easily adjustable, and while exceptionally strong are not at all heavy. The prices compare favourably with foreign-made ball-bearing skates, and can be obtained on application to the sole selling agents, Messrs. Brown Brothers, Ltd., Great Eastern-street, E.C.

LICHFIELD SHROVETIDE FAIR.

The Shrovetide Fair at Lichfield is particularly interesting to showmen in all branches, inasmuch as an ancient custom is observed by a picturesque ceremony before the fair is allowed to commence. The Deputy Mayor performed the opening ceremony on Tuesday, Feb. 23, amid much excitement. The custom should be more properly called the Court of Pie Powdre, the occasion in the olden times being one of mirth and levity. The Pie Powdre used to sit all day at the Guildhall to hear any complaints made by the citizens.

Punctually at noon the Deputy Mayor (Councillor Coleridge-Roberts), in the absence of the Mayor (Alderman Morgan), the Sheriff (Councillor Wood), the Town Clerk (Mr. H. Russell), members of the Corporation, mace-bearers, and the town crier, headed by the police, marched round the fair to the market square, where the crier announced to the citizens that the fair was open. The declaration commenced with the usual "Oyes, Oyes, Oyes," and the officials in their uniforms, and the mace-bearers and crier in their old-fashioned clothes, made a picturesque scene, surrounded as

[*Photo by Midland Photo Press.*

OPENING CEREMONY OF LICHFIELD SHROVETIDE FAIR.

they were by roundabouts and general fair paraphernalia. The procession afterwards marched back to the Guildhall, where the company were served with cake and wine. Toasts were drunk out of the massive silver Ashmolean cup to the "Church and King, weal and worship," "The Mayor," "The Sheriff," and "The Deputy Mayor."

Lichfield Shrovetide Fair.

The attractions of the fair were P. Collins, jun.'s, wonderland theatre of animated pictures, with latest films. Amongst these were pictures of the Tottenham Tragedy, the Messina Disaster, and the West Stanley Colliery explosion, and P. Collins's royal racing motors (manager, John Whyatt). The shooting galleries were by Messrs. G. Ford, T. Dobson, and J. Humphreys; the skill and throwing-games were provided by S. Collett, T. Dobson, A. Harris, J. Brown, G. Osborne, and B. Chaplain. There was also the usual big array of fairground novelties.

Some London Show Pitches.

On Forrest's Mile End-road fairground there is a good collection of shows and fairground novelties, including the lessees' (Messrs. S. and H. Forrest's) new cinematograph theatre, big wheel and park swings, J. Manders's galloping horses, Shippobottom's bicycle railway track, Lewis's snake jungle, Bedford's freak show, and variety frames and throwing games by Bolesworth, Harvey, Irving Brothers, Turner, and others.

Humorous and Tragic Stories of Showman Life, told by the Rev. Thomas Horne, Chaplain to the Showmen's Guild. Now ready, price 6d., post free 7½d. Issued at *The Era* Publishing Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CINEMATOGRAPH TRADE PROTECTION SOCIETY.

At a mass meeting of exhibitors, hirers, showmen, and non-associated manufacturers, held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, on Wednesday afternoon, it was resolved that in view of the serious condition of the trade, induced by the proposed action of the associated manufacturers, that a trade society be formed as above to resist such proposed encroachments and for mutual protection and guidance of the trade generally, the following officers and committee were elected:—Chairman, F. R. Griffiths, New Bioscope Trading Co.; vice-chairman, W. F. Jury, Jury's Imperial Bioscope, Ltd.; Secretary, C. W. Lovesy, Ruffell's, Ltd.; treasurer, M. Raymond, Raymond's Bio-tableaux; committee, Messrs. Lewers, Haddow, Jamieson, Hagar, A. T. Wright, Ruffell, and Rosenthal.

It was resolved that the society have power to increase the committee to fifteen members, and that the officers and committee hold their appointment for three months, and are then subject to re-election. A long discussion took place, in which the situation of the trade was thoroughly reviewed by speakers representing all sections of the business in every part of the United Kingdom, the opinion being unanimous that the proposed action of the associated manufacturers is calculated to have serious effects on the continuation of the cinematograph industry in Great Britain, and the committee were empowered to take such steps as they considered necessary to enable the society to be self-supporting in all branches of the trade.

At the close of the meeting it was decided that all present should attend the private meeting called by Mr. Ivatts, of Messrs. Fathé Frères, and the meeting then adjourned.

At 5.30 o'clock the same evening, at the invitation of Mr. Ivatts, a meeting was held at the Crown Hotel, Charing Cross-road. On behalf of Pathé Frères, Mr. Ivatts laid before the meeting certain proposals, and suggested that those present should agree to the submitted terms, which were, however, entirely at variance with those of the English manufacturers.

The other speakers, representing all sections of the society, were strongly antagonistic to Messrs. Pathé's proposals, and were of the opinion that they were impracticable.

No agreement was come to by the meeting.

Mr. Ivatts stated that he would place the opinions expressed before Messrs. Pathé in Paris.

A further meeting of the society was called, and held at the Salisbury Hotel the same evening, when the speeches of the members at Messrs. Pathé's meeting were approved, and it was decided to call another meeting at the same place on the next day, and invite representatives of the manufacturers to attend.

At a meeting of the society held at the Salisbury Hotel on Thursday afternoon, the following resolution was unanimously carried:—

"That we, the undersigned members of the Trade Protection Society, are of the firm opinion that when we purchase a film it becomes our property to do as we think fit with, and we hereby promise to stand by each other to the utmost to effect this purpose."

The representatives of the manufacturers, which included Messrs. Hepworth, Paul, Williamson, Vitagraph, and Gaumont, were then invited into the room, and a heated discussion took place.

Mr. Grant, representing Messrs. Lumière, stated that his firm intended continuing their business precisely as hitherto, and they had no intention of joining any combine by which the sale of their film "base" would be restricted.

No agreement was come to, and the above resolution was read to the manufacturers by the chairman, Mr. Griffiths, and the meeting closed.

The committee desire it to be known that all members of the society are free to purchase and deal in films exactly as heretofore, without any restriction whatever.

Proposed Abolition of Bedford Fair.

At a meeting of the Bedford Town Council on Wednesday the Public Works Committee reported "That they are of opinion that it would be to the convenience and advantage of the public if the statute fairs held in the town were abolished, and they recommend that the Town Clerk be instructed to take the necessary steps with a view to obtaining an order from the Home Secretary abolishing such fairs." The Town Clerk said a letter had been received from the Chaplain and Organiser of the Showmen's Guild (the Rev. T. Horne), who stated that his attention had been called to certain statements made by the Medical Officer of the Borough which were dangerous to showmen. The society was prepared to take steps at all costs to investigate the charges of the Medical Officer. The showpeople did not come from all over the country, and they were honest and industrious citizens of the world. He challenged the Medical Officer to prove his statements. Dr. Willmer Phillips, the Medical Officer, said he made no libel on the showmen, but he maintained that in a town like Bedford the twice yearly visit of those shows constituted a danger. He did not say anything about the showmen, but against the "hangers-on."—The report was adopted.

The Reply of the Corporation to the Protest Letter of the Guild.

"Town Hall, Bedford, Feb. 25, 1909.

"Dear Sir,—Your letter of the 9th instant was read to the Council at their meeting held yesterday. The Council have decided to make an application to the Home Secretary with a view to obtaining an order from him abolishing the local Statute Fairs.—Yours truly "Hedley Baxter.

"The Rev. T. Horne, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C."

Fourteen persons were crushed to death and thirty injured in a panic which occurred on Sunday at a cinematograph entertainment in Tula (Russia) owing to the ignition of the apparatus.

FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Pathé Frères.

HISTORICAL VISIT TO VERSAILLES.—This is a gracious evocation of the pleasures of the French Court in the reign of Louis XIV. The King, Mme. de Maintenon, and their suite of powdered marquises and marchionesses fill the alleys of the park so carefully laid out by Lenôtre. They linger in the Trianons, dance slow minuets, or glide in boats on the waters of the Latone fountains. The scenes are beautifully arranged, and not less beautifully photographed.

GOOD OFTEN COMES FROM EVIL.—Trap is a charming little dog, beloved by his young mistress, who takes him out for a walk every day. One fine morning a scoundrel shows Trap a lump of sugar, which the dog cannot resist, for he does not know anything about illicit dog trade. Trap is sold for a mere song to a gentleman, who soon loves him. One day, however, meeting his former mistress, he goes to her, showing her by all sorts of caressing ways that he has not forgotten her. She takes him in her arms, and refuses to restore him to his present owner. In order to settle the quarrel, they go to the police station, where the police officer decides in favour of the gentleman. The lady cries, and the gentleman is so moved that he looks at her with great interest. Then he finds out that she is pretty, and in order to make everybody happy he proposes to her. She agrees to marry him in order not to part with her darling dog!

WE DESIRE A BUTLER.—Mr. and Mrs. Upstart wish to have a butler in order to show off the more, as they are well off. The new servant is well groomed, and he knows more of etiquette than his master and mistress put together. He looks so much like a gentleman that Mr. and Mrs. Upstart feel quite abashed and timid in his presence. Mr. Upstart, swollen with pride, sends his "butler" to all his acquaintances, asking them to dinner the same day. The friends come. They look at the new servant with wonder. Murmurs of approval are heard in the room, but the servant, who is really a professional acrobat, juggles with the plates, glasses, bottles, and dishes. Then he performs a high jump over the heads of the terrified guests, who, thinking that their hosts are trying to mystify them, take French-leave.

THE BOHEMIAN GIRL.—In this we get some dramatic scenes. The handsome vagrant known as the Bohemian Girl is so beautiful that a rich gentleman falls in love with her. She is now a happy woman, for she possesses riches and the love of her husband, but early memories sometimes trouble her. She longs for freedom and liberty. One day the sound of an accordion thrills her so much that she rushes to the window, and recognises in the street below her old father and mother tramping the world in search of her. As her husband tries to keep her back when she runs to them the Bohemian Girl, yielding to her savage instincts, grasps a knife, wherewith she slays him for standing in her way.

AN EXCITING ELOPEMENT.—In this we get some clever trick scenes. Two young people realise that their parents will never consent to their marriage, and in order to force them to do so they elope in a motor-car. They are chased by the girl's father and mother, and as the young man sees that he is going to be overtaken with the girl, he throws her up in the air, where she vanishes. Upon the wrathful father demanding to be given back his daughter, he is shown her whirling in mid-air like an aerolite. A few seconds later the girl lands at their feet, and the father, seeing that the *fiancés* are so much in earnest, gives in, and allows them to get married. This sort of elopement is likely to be fashionable in the near future, when aeroplanes are steerable.

MA-IN-LAW HAS A HARD LIFE.—Ma-in-law is just recovering from a severe illness, and she looks better every day, to the great sorrow of her son-in-law, Reggy. Ma-in-law worships him, but he does not return her love. As he cannot bear the sight of her any longer, he pushes her out of the railway carriage, but she overtakes him at the next station, beaming all over with happiness at the pleasant meeting. On board ship he throws her overboard. She swims to the shore, and then falls into the arms of the distracted man. He tries to crush her under a heavy stone thrown at her, and she looks for the mosquito which has stung her. He throws her into a sewer, but she reappears shortly afterwards. He is now so desperate that he pushes her under a motor-car, and triumphantly brings home a few scattered bones. An hour later however, his mother-in-law arrives in her cripple's carriage, and greets him with a smile.

THE LAST ILLUSION.—Mr. Gerville is about fifty years old, and the father of a grown-up son. In spite of this, he is courting a lady many years his junior, whom he believes to be disinterested, but although she does not discard him altogether, she is in love with his very son. An unlucky rival acquaints Mr. Gerville with this fact, and it is at the seaside, when he is comfortably enjoying his afternoon nap in his rocking-chair that the dreadful news is conveyed to him in the shape of an anonymous letter. The poor man hurriedly seizes his revolver, and runs to the place where he knows he will find the lovers. He is so dumfounded, however, on finding that the man he had resolved to kill is his only son that in his incapacity to hate him or kill him he turns the weapon against himself, and dies a victim to his last illusion.

Edison Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

ORIGIN OF BEETHOVEN'S MOONLIGHT SONATA.—Music lovers will enjoy seeing this beautiful picture showing the great master "in his habit as he lived," and following his footsteps on the night when, moved by pity, he was inspired to compose, for a poor blind girl, his immortal "Moonlight Sonata." Wandering one evening alone through the streets, his attention was attracted by the notes of one of his own compositions rendered in a masterly manner, and, upon inquiry, he found that the player was a poor blind girl. Entering the humble home, he found the beautiful musician the devoted sister of a loving brother; he a mender of shoes, she a pianist—both well bred, refined, and of lofty ideals. Without revealing himself, Beethoven, learning from the fair musician's lips that she was an ardent admirer of his music—moved by the environment and charm of the evening—sat down at the piano and improvised. The beauty of the night, the moonlight, the breathless attention of his hearers, his sympathy, all combined to inspire a masterpiece which thousands have enjoyed since that fateful evening when an accidental turn brought to life the "Moonlight Sonata."

THE ADVENTURES OF AN OLD FLIRT.—Mr. Jack, although past middle age and married, is only as old as he feels; and, as he feels like a "boy of twenty," it is not to be wondered at that he still looks for a good time whenever the opportunity affords. Another "old boy" and crony of Jack's, also ever ready for a lark, lets Jack in on the Perfect Peach Masquerade Ball, and sends him a ticket, which delights Mr. Jack. "The best-laid schemes of mice and men gang aft a-gley"; Jack's do, for instead of burning the letter he very carelessly leaves it in the pocket of his smoking jacket, and—wifey finds it. Although not o'er youthful herself, Mrs. Jack still possesses ginger and snap, and instantly prepares for action. When she leaves the costumier's on the night of the masquerade it is as a captivating soubrette. Jack and his bosom-friend are there bright and early, admiring the "peaches," and making numerous "mashes" and having "one good time," but do not get into action in earnest until the dashing soubrette arrives. The old fellows are at once rivals for the fair one's attention and admiration, and try to outdo one another in gallantry, in the dance, in wit and humour, and in all the arts they possess, to enliven the beauty's pleasure. She seems thoroughly impartial regarding both, but with a leaning toward the friend; which causes Mr. Jack to try a spurt, and he wins and takes the "lady" to supper. Mr. Jack pours out his soul in confidence to the fair listener; gently urged to "make a clean breast of it," and nobly responds. He declares that he is unmarried, dotes on blond soubrettes, &c., and, when he reaches the height of his eloquence, he is doubly unmasked, and Mrs. Jack gets a new sealskin.

Gaumont Company.

THE BURNS-JOHNSON FIGHT.—This subject is now ready for delivery, and can be hired for one week or longer periods for various territories. The entire length is 3,700 feet, but it is no advantage to obtain shorter lengths as far as price is concerned, although the firm are willing to supply what length showmen desire. The price per week is regulated by the town or province. Two towns can be booked up by one showman unless any other applicant has asked for its hire. We advise showmen who are anxious to have a splendid booming subject to correspond at once with Messrs. Gaumont. Showmen featuring the film might find it pay to advertise some of the following facts. The Stadium in which the fight took place measured 480ft. by 360ft., covering approximately 4½ acres of ground. The cost of erection was about £2,600, and the work, with day and night shifts, took six weeks. 20,400 people paid for admission, and there were 40,000 more outside the Stadium. The gates were opened at 6 a.m., 10,000 people were seated by 7.30, and at 8.30 only a few £3 seats were left. This tremendous crowd was handled in six hours without the slightest mishap. The financial side of the fight is no less remarkable. The total gate receipts amounted to £26,200, the advanced bookings coming to £10,200, and the receipts from training exhibitions to £2,000; 244 employees were engaged, and there were also present 250 policemen, 150 mounted police, and some 250 pressmen. The figures regarding the money taken by pictures of the fight are, as had been expected, equally extraordinary, the total up to date being well over £20,000, and the estimated value, based on offers received, £75,000. In Melbourne in one week close upon £1,000 was taken, eighteen performances in Sydney realised £3,158, seven in Brisbane, £1,761; ten in Adelaide, £1,627, and nine in New Zealand, £1,111.

WEARY WILLIE AT THE CARNIVAL.—Weary Willie is resting on a bench when a gentleman passing drops an invitation to a fancy dress carnival. Willie decides to go in his usual dress, and arriving is taken for the wealthy gentleman, and is congratulated on his disguise. Everything goes on well until the gentleman himself appears, when the deception is explained, and Willie is sent off, with several banknotes which he has won at cards.

TRAGEDY OF THE SNOW.—In this picture a poor peasant is starving, and Satan appears and induces him to rob a passer by. The snow scenes are beautifully tinted, and at the end Satan returns to claim his due, but an old beggar whom the peasant befriended happens to be an angel in disguise, and repulses him, finally taking the peasant's soul to the clouds.

THREATENED REVOLUTION IN THE CINEMATOGRAPH WORLD.

There have been most alarming rumours current in the cinematograph world of a revolution so far-reaching that it is impossible, without more definite information, to forecast its effects. Rumour says that a strong combination of the film-producing firms of Europe has been effected; that after the end of March film makers will not sell films right out, but will supply only on hire and return conditions films both to film traders and exhibitors.

Our information is that this is true, despite certain diplomatic disclaimers by the local supply agents of the firms implicated in the agreement. These disclaimers are made to allay the storm that would inevitably arise when the film users got wind of the trade being cornered.

We have interviewed one of the most important showman exhibitors. We have also heard the expert opinions of traders and exhibitors in the film-showing business. Certain documents have been seen and read that make it evident that the combination of film producers in Europe is strong enough to practically dictate its own terms.

Meetings Private and Meetings Open.

Showmen and exhibitors met in London on Wednesday last to consider the situation.

Protests Loud and Deep.

At both the private and the open meetings the proposals, in their entirety and in detail, were condemned. Speaker after speaker clearly demonstrated the ill-considered and destructive nature of the film manufacturers' proposals. Already film-users have countered the combination of the makers with a strong union of the showmen and exhibitors, together with the other trades and industries that have grown up with the rapid development of the cinematograph for exhibition purposes.

Our Position in the Matter.

As the premier journal in the showman world, we reserve our opinion until we have the whole evidence before us. We can only express a strong hope that an industry like the vast enterprise of the cinematograph, both as an educational factor and as a perpetually fresh source of amusement, may not suffer a reaction from schemes that have been hastily outlined and that may not bear the most exhaustive examination and the utmost discussion. The interests involved are too vast for immature and mischievous adventure. Cinematography has become too precious a national asset to be either engineered, cornered, or combined by any one section of the industry.

Notes from the West.

BOSTOCK AND WOMBWELL'S menagerie is at the Rovers' ground, Bristol, for the week. The collection is a fine one, and interesting performances are given in some of the cages. There is a good band, and the attendance appears to be satisfactory.

W. C. AND S. HANCOCK still continue their season at Mutton Cove, Devonport.

MESSRS. ANDERTON AND ROWLAND are at Chippenham with their Empire varieties and picture theatre.

J. BREWER is at the Winter Gardens, Plymouth.

THE local amusements at Bath this week have had added interest by a visit of Bostock and Wombwell's menagerie, which stayed for a couple of days, and drew large numbers to view the fine collection of animals. On Wednesday a local publican was announced to enter the lions' cage for a wager.

JOHNSON-BURNS
FIGHT FILM.

You can only get it from GAUMONT'S.

Item 1. Booking is proceeding merrily.
„ 2. We are looking after our Customers.
„ 3. First Show—Bradford, February 27th.
„ 4. Plenty of Prints ready for end of week.
„ 5. Mr. McIntosh has opened a Press Bureau.
„ 6. So have we—to boom the film in every town booked.
„ 7. Several first-class towns still available.
„ 8. And a number of the smaller ones.
„ 9. Hard work and late hours are pulling us through.
„ 10. The rush has been awful.
„ 11. But we are looking after our Customers.
„ 12. The length is about 3,700 feet, or shorter if required.
„ 13. The quality is the best ever seen in a fight film.
„ 14. Poor Burns' face—It was a fight—you should see the film.
„ 15. One hundred and fifty telegrams in an hour and a half? Record.
„ 16. All the public are talking about it and waiting for it.
„ 17. Special Press view on Friday at Gaumont's.
„ 18. A Terrific Fight—The Greatest Fight by world-known men.
„ 19. We are looking after our Customers.
„ 20. No other fight is as good.
No other fight has the drawing power.
No other fight has had or will have such Publicity and Advertisement as the

JOHNSON-BURNS
FIGHT.

THE BERLIN CONFERENCE.

The following is one of the clauses of the report of the British delegates at the International Conference at Berlin last October:—

"Authors of literary, scientific, or artistic works shall have the exclusive right of authorising the reproduction and public representation of their works by cinematography.

"Cinematograph productions shall be protected as literary or artistic works if, by the arrangement of the acting form or the combinations of the incidents represented, the author has given the work a personal and original character.

"Without prejudice to the rights of the author of the original work the reproduction by cinematography of a literary, scientific, or artistic work shall be protected as an original work.

"The above provisions apply to reproduction or production effected by any other process analogous to cinematography.

"This Article secures to the authors of literary, scientific, or artistic works the exclusive right to authorise the reproduction and the public representation of their works by the cinematograph or analogous processes. Original cinematograph productions in certain cases and reproductions of a literary, scientific, or artistic work receive copyright protection. These provisions deal with a specific case of the indirect appropriations contemplated by Article 12, but in view of the importance of these productions it was deemed advisable to have a separate Article on the subject."

The James Chittock Fund.

WE gladly publish the enclosed letter from Mr. James Chittock, one of the oldest and most esteemed of London showmen. Although for many years past Mr. Chittock has been the proprietor of Chittock's Royal Metropolitan Cinematograph Exhibiton, he is world famous as the originator of Chittock's Dog and Monkey Circus:—

"DEAR SIRS,—Allow us, through the columns of your paper, to express our heartfelt thanks to the travellers and showmen for the generous way in which they have contributed towards our defence fund in meeting two law suits. When the cases are settled the names will be published in this paper. Great praise and credit are due to Mrs. Panton, of 34, Torrington-square, London, for the energetic way she has travelled and worked to save a showman's home. All donations will be thankfully received and published by this lady until the 10th day of March. The names of all those who have already subscribed will be published in next week's issue.—With heartfelt thanks to all from my wife and self, "JAMES AND SOPHIA CHITTOCK.

"Acton Green, Chiswick."

"All other papers please copy."

MESSRS. BOSTOCK AND FITT, proprietors of the Norwich Hippodrome, on Friday evening, the 19th inst., gave the entire proceeds of the first performance for the benefit of the Mayor's Unemployed Fund. There was a capital attendance in the best parts of the house, including the Mayor (Mr. Walter Rye) and his personal friends, and a large number of aldermen, councillors, and guardians of the city.

MR. COUNCILLOR F. W. FITT appeared during the evening at the footlights, and said that last year when Mr. Bostock and he were approached on the subject of the unemployed they handed to the fund a cheque for 10 guineas, but this year they suggested that the entire proceeds of one performance should be given to the fund. The receipts for that performance were £22 3s. 6d., and if the Mayor would accept it he would hand his Worship a cheque for £30.

KINEMATOGRAPH REGULATIONS respecting the use of the Kinematograph in Theatres and Halls, also the Regulations respecting the use of Limelight, can be had, price 1d. (by post 1½d.), from *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C. All those who handle the Cinematograph or Limelight should possess a copy of these Regulations.

EDISON FILMS

THE EDISON IDEA

in FILM MAKING is to produce Subjects that hold the attention by reason of their cleverness.

THEY ARE HIGH-CLASS & THEY PLEASE

They are never coarse or suggestive. Some thrill, others amuse. All are of the kind that appeal on the strength of high quality.

EXHIBITORS WHO SHOW THEM

draw big crowds, and are satisfied.

New Subjects made each week.

NOW READY FOR SHIPMENT FROM THE FACTORY, ORANGE, N.J., U.S.A.

ORIGIN OF BEETHOVEN'S "MOONLIGHT SONATA."

Music lovers will enjoy this beautiful picture showing the great master finding a poor blind girl playing one of his compositions. This, and the beauty of the moonlight night, brought to life the "Moonlight Sonata."

No. 6418. Code, "Vengeable." Length, 945ft.

THE ADVENTURES OF AN OLD FLIRT.

Feeling like a boy, a middle-aged married man goes with a friend to a masquerade ball. Wife finding letter, goes also. Both men make love to her. Husband wins. So does wife, giving him a surprise, and making him buy her a new sealskin.

No. 6419. Code, "Vengeance." Length, 999ft.

Write for Descriptive Circulars.

EDISON MANUFACTURING CO., Ltd.,

Edison Works, 200, Victoria Rd., Willesden, London, N.W.
City Showroom—25, CLERKENWELL-ROAD, E.C.

REVISED SCALE OF CHARGES FOR

ARTISTS WANTING ENGAGEMENTS, MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

This Scale does not apply to "Trade" Advertisements in these Columns.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION (Post Free).

	UNITED KINGDOM.	FOREIGN.
One Quarter	6s. 6d.	8s.
Half Year	13s. 0d.	16s.
One Year	26s. 0d.	32s.

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For the convenience of Advertisers, Replies to Advertisements are received. They can remain until called for, or be forwarded by Post if postage be arranged.

NO STAMPS.

Advertisers and subscribers are politely requested to forward Cheques or Postal Orders in payment of their Advertisements and Subscriptions, crossed "Lloyd's Bank, Ltd." Remittances should be made payable to "The Era," Limited, and addressed,

THE PUBLISHER,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.
"Wire," "The Era, London."
"Ring-up," 4747 or 1433 Central.

IN case of the non-delivery of "THE ERA" by the First Post, the Publisher will be greatly obliged if Advertisers will forward their Postal Wrappers with the time of delivery marked upon them.

COMPANIES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE AND EDWARD COMPTON'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for
THEATRE ROYAL BRIGHTON
Mar. 29 May 10, 17, 24, 31, June 7, Aug. 23, Sep. 6, on.
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.
May 17, 31, June 7, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 30, Sept. 6, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING.
April 5, 12, 19 May 24, 31, June 7, 14, Aug. 2, 16, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER,
May 10, 24, 31, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
April 5, May 17, 24, Aug. 30, Dec. 6, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON,
May 10, 17, 24, 31, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, on.
THEATRE ROYAL HUDDERSFIELD
May 17 24, 31, Aug. 2, 16, 23, 30, Sep. 6, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON,
April 5, 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10, Aug. 2, 9, 16, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER,
Mar. 22, Apl. 12, May 17, 24, 31, Jun. 21, Aug. 2, 9, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
March 1, 22, April 5, 22, 26.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Company, for Reading, April 5, 12, 19; Theatre Royal, Leicester, March 22.
Apply, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for
COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD
March 22, 29, April 12, 19, May 3, 10, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON,
April 5, 12 (certainty only), 19, 26, May 10, 17, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.
March 22, 29, April 12, 26, May 3, 10, onwards.
Address, E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

THREE PROGRESSIVE THEATRES.
WANTED, High-class Companies,
DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE.
March 8 (?), April 5 (?), 12, May 3, 10, 17.
Easter Vacant for Big Musical Attraction or London Star.
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS.
April 26, May 10, June 7, on.
PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE.
March 22, June 7, on.
Apply for all above.
H. W. ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

ROYAL PALACE THEATRE,
RAMSGATE.
Proprietor, LORD GEORGE SANGER.
Lessee, ERNEST MANSELL.
Business-Representative, BERT ATKINSON.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted
All communications re dates from
July 5 to Oct. 2,
must be addressed to
JAY and MANN, 10-11, Jermyn-st., Piccadilly, W.

All dates from Oct. 2, onwards,
Apply, BERT ATKINSON, Royal Palace, Ramsgate.

F. W. BOLAM'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies.
GRAND T., NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,
May 10 and May 31 (Whit Week).
METROPOLE THEATRE, GATESHEAD,
May 3 and May 31 (Whit Week).
Address, R. G. ELDER, Gen.-Manager,
Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.

WANTED, Leading Attractions,
PRINCESS'S THEATRE, GLASGOW, April 5.
LYCEUM THEATRE, GOVAN, April 12.

Terms to RICH. WALDON.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
First-class Dramatic Companies,
for April 5, May 17 and 24 next.
Apply, BEN COURT,
Grand Theatre,
Brighton.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, May 10, 24.
Now Booking Autumn.

T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies,
MOTHERWELL, March 22, May 3 and 10.
GREENOCK, April 5, 12, and on.
FALKIRK, April 12 (3), 26, May 3.
AYR, April 12 (3), April 26, May 3.
Apply, R. C. BUCHANAN, 102, Bath-street, Glasgow.

PALACE THEATRE, BRIGHTON.
WANTED, Known, Messrs. Jay and Mann have secured a lease of this theatre from Lady Day next. In addition to a local management alert and vigorous in its methods, visiting companies will have the advantages of—
(1) The freeing of the pier toll to playgoers.
(2) A handsome wind and rain shelter the entire length of the pier.
(3) A redecorated and recarpeted theatre.
Vacant dates, April 5, 19 (?), May 3, and Whit Week, onward, with exceptions.
For vacant dates apply
MESSRS. JAY and MANN,
10 and 11, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly, S.W.

WANTED, First-class Companies,
THEATRE ROYAL, NORTH SHIELDS,
April 5, May 24, June 14.
GRAND THEATRE, LANCASTER,
May 17, 24, April 12.
OPERA HOUSE, WORKINGTON,
Aug. 2, 9, 16, Sept. 13.
STANLEY ROGERS, Theatre Royal, North Shields.

WANTED, First-class Attractions
for March 29 and April 5, at Aberdeen and Dundee, through transferring to oblige.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-st., S.W.

WANTED, First-class Attractions
for April 5, 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-st., S.W.

KING'S THEATRE, KILMARNOCK,
Lessee and Manager, J. CUMMINGS.

One of the Finest and Most Up-to-date Buildings in the Provinces.
WANTED, First-class Attractions Only.
Vacant March 29,
and April,
onwards,
with exceptions,
for First-class Attractions only.

GRAND THEATRE, NELSON.
WANTED, First-class Companies, April 5 and 12, also May 10, 24, and 31.
Silence a courteous negative.
GEORGE E. MUDD, Business-Manager.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies

ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH
Vacant March 8, 29, April 5,
onward with exceptions.

All communications re dates,
ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant April 5, July 5, 12, 19,
onward with exceptions.

EMPIRE, WORCESTER.
See Music Hall Artists Wanted Column.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY, S. WALES
Vacant April 12, May 24, 31, June 7,
onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME,
BARRY DOCK.
Vacant April 5, Aug. 2, Dec. 20,
onward, with exceptions.

The Three Great Pantomime Successes,
"BABES IN THE WOOD," Jan. 17, onward.
"CINDERELLA," Dec. 27, onward.
"PUSS IN BOOTS," Dec. 27, onward.

Can also arrange Production dates for next season for the above.

All communications,

ARTHUR CARLTON,
Theatre Royal, Worcester.
Telegrams: "Carlton, Worcester."

WANTED, good Company, April 5, Barry; April 12, Ton-y-Pandy.
Wire, CARLTON, Worcester.

BARRROW-IN FURNESS.
BARRROW-IN-FURNESS.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.
HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

Lessees and Managers,
Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.

First-Class London Productions only Booked.
WANTED, Company, March 15.
For few remaining Autumn Dates,

Apply,
CALVERT ROUTLEDGE,
H. M. T., Barrow.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE,
MIDDLESBROUGH.

Seating capacity, 3,500.
Acknowledged to be one of the largest, most handsome, and best equipped theatres in the Provinces.

The Premier and Central Theatre of the District
WANTED, First-class Attractions only
March 22, 29, April 19, May 17, 31 (Whit),

also Big Star Attractions for August Bank Holiday, and Aug. 16 (Race Week).

All communications,
JNO. ED. JOWSEY,
Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough.

Telephones, 413, 426, 500. Telegrams, "Magnet."

WANTED, Genuine Pay-Box Attractions, for
March 1, April 12,
and
Various Dates onwards.
Little and Darcy's "Forty Thieves."
Brilliant reception. Receipts well over £300.
Wire,
SWANSTON, Redburn-chambers, Kirkcaldy.
BURNETT, Gaiety, Methil.
JOHN C. BURNETT, Manager.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, April 19, Whit Week, July, and onwards.
The Theatre has been beautifully redecorated and upholstered at an enormous expense.
and is now one of the most charming and up-to-date Theatres in the Provinces.

Address,
CHARLES M. JULIAN,
General-Manager.

THEATRE ROYAL, MIDDLESBROUGH.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, for March 15, 29, April 5, 19, 26; also for Castle Theatre, Stockton, April 19, 26, May 3.
J. CHAS. IMESON,
Theatre Royal, Middlesbrough.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
WANTED, First-class Attractions,
April 26,
May 24, 31,
Several Dates June and July, onwards.
JAMES BELL.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, BLYTH-BY-SEA.
WANTED, Attractions, with Strong Musical or Dramatic Drawing powers, for
April 5 19, 26, May 10 and 31,
March 1, "Babes in the Wood."
Lessee and Manager, A. C. MOODY.

THEATRE ROYAL, YORK.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, for April 19, Musical preferred.
Apply, WADDINGTON and SON, Stonegate, York.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, PEMBROKE DOCK.

WANTED, First-class Attractions,
April 19, onwards.
April 19, onwards.
Address, NORMAN H. BARGER.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE,
LEIGH, LANCS.
WANTED, really First-class Dramatic and other Attractions, April 5, May 17, 24, and 31. Good shows, good business. W. H. CHIPPENDALE, Manager.

WEST END PIER, MORECAMBE.
WANTED, Opera, Musical Comedy, Dramatic Cos., Whitsuntide, July 12, 19, and Aug. 30.
Apply, JOHN BASTOW, Secretary.

VICTORIA THEATRE, KETTERING.
WANTED, Autumn Dates, August Bank Holiday, and Christmas settled; the premier house of the town; situated in main thoroughfare; full orchestra and staff; electric light; large stage. Bookings already include "Merry Widow," "Gay Gordons," "Cingalee," "Belle of New York," "Sunday," "Sign of the Cross," &c. Managers with open dates please communicate. ALF BAILEY and Co.

THEATRE ROYAL, MARGATE.

WANTED, Good Attractions, for March 8, and onwards. Apply to W. W. KEENE.

WANTED, First-class Companies, Grand, Llandudno, Easter, Whit, July 22, 26, Sept. 20. Wire, HALDANE CRICHTON, Emp., Swindon; next, Norwich.

THEATRE ROYAL, HANLEY.
WANTED, good First-class Attractions, for April 12 (Easter), May 10 and 31 (Whit).
Apply, ELPHINSTONE.

STANLEY, DURHAM, NEW ROYAL, LTD.
WANTED, Good Attractions, May 3 through transferring; also May 31, and on, with exceptions. MARK H. LINDON.

WANTED, for T. R., Wednesbury, First-class Companies, April 12, 19, May 3, 10; also good Combinations write in; would entertain Panto. Easter.

COMPANIES WANTED.

Booked by
MOSS' EMPIRES, LIMITED.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE,
GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM,
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS,
and
GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Vacant Dates, May 10, 17, 24, Aug. 9, 16, Nov. 1, 15, 29, Dec. 13.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE.
Vacant Dates, May 10, 24, June 28, July 5, 13, Dec. 13.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Vacant, June 28, Aug. 2.

GRAND, GLASGOW.
Vacant, April 19, 26, May 24, 31, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Sept. 13, 20, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, 22.
ALEXANDRA THEATRE, STOKE NEWINGTON.
Reopened Shortly.
First-class Attractions Required, April 5, 19, 26, May 10, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, Sept. 13, Oct. 4, 11, 25, Nov. 8, 22, Dec. 6.
Address,
with full particulars, terms, &c.,
where can be seen, to
Moss' EMPIRES, LIMITED,
Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-st., London, W.C.
Envelopes marked "Theatres."

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. HUGH ROBERTSON.

The Premier Theatre in the Furness District, with a holding capacity of £90 at ordinary prices.
WANTED, First-class Musical Attraction for Easter week; April 19 also Open, and May 17, on, with exceptions.
Season's Bookings include among others: J. W. Turner's Grand Opera Company (return) Mr. Wentworth Croke's "The Bondman," "Amasis," Mr. Charles Frohman's "Raffles," Mr. George Dance's Company in "Miss Hook of Holland," Mr. Wilfred Cotton's Company in "Butterflies," Mr. Seymour Hicks' Company in "The Gay Gordons," and Mr. George Edwardes's Company in "The Merry Widow," Paumier and Howard's "The Prince and the Beggar Maid" and "The Midnight Wedding," "The Flag Lieutenant."
All applications for dates to
HUGH ROBERTSON, Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne

THE GRANVILLE THEATRES, LTD.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL,
Wire for March 8.
Wire for March 8.
Wire for March 8.
Also Vacant March 22, 29, and onwards.

GRAND THEATRE, RAWTENSTALL.
Vacant March 22.

GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
WANTED, Powerful Musical Attraction, April 5.
Also Vacant April 19 and on, with exceptions.
Address, FRED GRANVILLE,
Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

PIER PAVILION THEATRE,
EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, March 15, April 5, 19, and Various Dates onwards, including one or two Season Dates.
Apply, G. HAYES, Pier, Eastbourne.

WANTED, Companies, Drama, with change of Bill or Musical, March 8, and on. JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

WANTED, something good, March 15, Grand, Chorley; also March 15, April 12, Radcliffe. SANTE, Radcliffe.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 8, April 12 (Easter). Wire for March 8.
E. A. SMITH, Marina Theatre, Lowestoft.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, Good Company, April 5.
Address, GERALD HARDING.

GRAND THEATRE, ABERAVON.
Proprietor, Mr. D. JONES.
WANTED, good Companies, March 11, 12, 13, April 26, May 3, weeks, and on. The only place of convenience in the town. Apply, LEO.

KING'S THEATRE, KIRKCALDY.
KING'S THEATRE, KIRKCALDY.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for March 15, new to the Town.

Bookings include Louie Freear, "Sexton Blake," and other First-class Attractions.

Wire,
ABRAHAMS, 26, Great Eastern-road, Stratford.

PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE.
WANTED, First-class Company, March 22, March 22.
Could Book really Big Drama.
H. W. ROWLAND, Manager.

NEW THEATRE, WEYMOUTH.
This building is now complete, and admitted to be one of the finest and most complete Theatres in the Provinces. The whole of the Stage fittings carried out under the direction of Experts.
Capable of taking £120 at ordinary prices.
WANTED, First-class Companies only, April and May onwards, including Whit.
All communications, WALTER R. WALLIS,
New Pavilion Theatre, Weymouth.
London representatives, Messrs. JAY and MANN, 10 and 11, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. LANGDON LEE.
WANTED, Light Musical Attractions, for May 10, 17, 24, 31, Sept. 6 and 20, and onwards.

EMPIRE THEATRE, SWINDON.
WANTED, First-class Musical Comedy and Dramatic Attractions; also Big Variety Combinations. Apply direct to ALFRED MANNERS, Wanted, Strong Attraction for Whit-Week; also June 14. Now Booking Autumn.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, Musical and Farcical Comedies and Society plays preferred, March 22, April 5, Holiday, 12th, 19th, 26th, on, three or six nights. W. E. POTTS.

EMPIRE AND THEATRE ROYAL, HYDE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 15, onwards; pop. 33,000; surrounding district 60,000. Coms., W. TURNER, Regent, Salford.

OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER.
WANTED, High-class Companies; holds £100: March 29, Easter, and Autumn. Bookings: "Merry Widow," "Dairymaids," "Prince of Pilsen," "Prodigal Son," &c. All coms., J. P. MOORE, King's Hall, Birmingham.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple

WANTED, First-class Attraction, March 29 (Wednesday excepted), No. 1 Companies only, Musical Comedy or Drama. E. H. PAGE, New Prince's Theatre, Blackburn.

KING'S HALL, ILKLEY.
WANTED, Companies, Musical or Farcical Comedy preferred, one to three nights, £70 to £100; efficient orchestra. W. S. BELLERBY.

WANTED, Good Company, Monday next, Drama or Variety, for Empire Theatre, Riddings, Derbyshire. Wire, GUSTAVE, Palace, Longridge Lancs.

BEXHILL-ON-SEA KURSAAL.
WANTED, good Musical Attractions, Easter week and onwards, three nights only; anything big takes; no Drama or Variety Turns entertained; fully equipped with scenery and every accessory of first-class Theatre; electric light, &c.; holds £100; a first-class Picture Show could be entertained for one month. Any Company visiting Eastbourne, Brighton, or Tunbridge Wells could do good Flying Matinée. Last season's Flying Matinées included Arthur Bourchier, Cyril Maude, Arthur Roberts, Madame Albani, and Mischa Elman. Address, J. M. GLOVER, Bexhill.

COMPANIES WANTED.

THEATRE ROYAL, LOUGHBOROUGH.
WANTED, good Company, April 29, 30, May 1 (three nights).

THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.
Vacant March 15 and 29, April 19 and 26 (last three).
Wanted, Special Light Attraction, March 22 (three nights, for the Races).

NEW GAIETY, WORKSOP.
Vacant March 1, 8, 22, and 29 (last three days only).

TOWN HALL, RUGBY.
Vacant Easter (three nights) and April 26.

OPERA HOUSE, LONDONDERRY.
Wanted, good Drama, twice nightly, March 22 (certainty only).

THE SPA, WHITBY.
Vacant Easter, Whit, Aug. 16 (three nights), and Sept. 2 (three nights).

DUMFRIES AND HAWICK.
Vacant March 22 and 29.

W. PAYNE SEDDON, Loughborough.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Powerful
Easter Week
Attraction.

Share or certainty.

Communications,
HARRIS FINEBERG,
Star Theatre,
Liverpool.

Telegraphic Address,
"Applause, Liverpool."

NEW PALACE THEATRE, WATFORD.
The only place of amusement in the town.
Lighted by electricity; holding capacity £75.

WANTED, Strong Dramatic and Musical Companies, First-class only, April 5, 26, May 10, 24.
SYLVESTER, 217, Piccadilly, W.

OPERA HOUSE, WAKEFIELD.
WANTED, Company, March 15.
Wire, SHERWOOD and Co.

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE BEGGAR GIRL'S WEDDING."
WALTER MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION.
WANTED, April 5, Oct. 25, Nov. 1.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, April 5, Sept. 6.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, April 26.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
WANTED, Theatres, May 10, Sept. 20, 27.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
WANTED, Aug. 9, 16, 23.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME."
By Walter Melville
WANTED, March 29, April 5, 12,
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

FREDERICK MELVILLE'S COMPANIES
WANTED, Theatres, April 5, Aug. 9, Sept. 13.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres,
April 12, 19, Aug. 2, 30, Sept. 6, 20.
TOM H. TAYLOR, Brixton Theatre, S.W.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, April 5, Aug. 2, 9, 16, Sept. 27.
DOUGLAS BRUCE, Metropole Theatre, Devonport.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."
WANTED, April 12, Aug. 2, 9.
ANDREW MELVILLE, Met. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."
WANTED, April 12, 19, Aug. 9, 16.
ANDREW EMM, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
for this Phenomenal Success,
Weeks of May 10 and 17.

Wire or write to
W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
WANTED, Weeks of
March 29 and April 5,
March 29 and April 5,
for this Remarkable Success,
which in a fortnight at Dublin played to £1,400, and at Belfast turned hundreds away nightly.
Wire or write to W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, March 22, April 5, 26.
CHARLES HARRINGTON,
Grand Theatre, Walsall.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, April 12, 26.
May 17, 24, 31.

All communications, J. W. CORDINER,
March 1, Clarence Theatre, Pontypridd.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."
EUGENE C. STAFFORD'S No. 1 CO
WANTED, March 29 (?), April 5 (?), 19; also Oct. 11, 18, 25, Nov. 8, onwards.
Letters or telegrams to
Bishopsdale, Biddenden, Kent.

MURRAY KING AND HIS COMPANY, IN
"TODDLES."
"TODDLES."
WANTED, March 29, April 19, 26, May 17, Aug. 2, Sept. 6, 13, Oct. 4, 11, onwards.
Next week, Opera House, Cheltenham.

WANTED, First-class Theatre, for
"A MESSAGE FROM MARS,"
No. 1 Co.,
March 22 North or Midlands.
Also a few Autumn Dates.
Apply,
F. MOUILLOT, 1, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

WANTED, Theatres, for
HUTCHISON'S NO. 1 COMPANIES.
"PETER'S MOTHER," March 22, 29, April 5, 12, May 10, 17, 31.
"MRS. DOT," April 5, May 10, 17, 24, and 31.
"IDOLS," March 29, May 10 and 24.
"LADY FREDERICK," May 17 and 24.

Mr. LOUIS CALVERT'S PRODUCTION.
"SUNDAY."
WANTED, Theatre, March 22.
to precede Belfast.
Address WILLIAM GIFFARD,
Prince of Wales's Theatre, Great Grimsby.

WANTED, Dates, for Fred Moule and E. W. Avery's 1909-10 Pantomime Production,
"CINDERELLA,"
Refined, Operatic, and Funny.
Address,
153, Capworth-street, Leyton.

THEATRES WANTED.

MISS HILDA BEVERLEY
in
"A DESTROYER OF MEN."
WANTED, Theatres, for
a Few Vacant Dates in 1909.
Now Booking 1910.

Miss HILDA BEVERLEY,
"A Girl's Cross Roads" Co.,
March 1, Rotunda Theatre, Liverpool.

H. ARMITAGE and ARTHUR LEIGH'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
Henry Seton Merriman's Great Play,
"WITH EDGED TOOLS."
Vacant March 29, April 12, 19,
Aug. 9, Sept. 6, 27, Oct. 25.
Wilson Barrett's Last and Greatest Play,
"LUCKY DURHAM."
Vacant Aug. 2, 16, Oct. 4, 18, 25, Nov. 15.
Charles Frohman's Greatest Success,
"LEAH KLESCHNA."
Vacant April 5, 19, Aug. 16, 23,
Sept. 13, 20, Oct. 18,
Nov. 1, 22, Xmas.
Address, H. ARMITAGE, Empire Theatre, Swindon.

"THE SORROWS OF SATAN"
and
"NANA, THE RAGE OF PARIS."
WANTED, March 22, 29, April 12, for these
Superbly Dressed, Mounted, and Acted Plays.
Wire,
LOIE ESMOND, Globe T., Deal (fourth visit).
March 1 Royal Palace T., Ramsgate.

ROSE MONCRIEFF'S CO.
"THE BELLS OF OLD YORK."
"THE BELLS OF OLD YORK."
WANTED, March 15, 29, and April 12. Spring Bookings include: T. R., Leicester; Met., Birmingham; Star, Swansea; T. R., Stratford; Aberdare, Llanelly, Walsall, &c. Great success last week, T. R., Belfast; March 1, Hippo., Ferndale.

"DANDY FIFTH."
WANTED, March 22, April 5, April 26, and various onwards, also Whit, owing to unexpected closing of First-class Provincial Theatre.
CORRI, East Oxford Theatre.

"THE POWER OF THE CROSS," "A FIGHT FOR A THRONE." (Under the Sole Direction of the Author.)
WANTED, Wanted, Dates, "The Power of the Cross." March 15 (between Devonport and Manchester). "A Fight for a Throne," Booked Solid till Whit. Re both plays, GEO. A. DE GRAY, Mountain Ash; next, O. H., Torquay.

"HIS SISTER'S HONOUR."
WANTED, Known, vacant May 3, 10 (?), 17. Third year of consecutive Tour, Third.
Acknowledged everywhere to be one of the best all-round played, staged, and dressed pieces now touring. Refer S. Fredericks, Esq., T. R., Stratford, E. Wire, E. A'DELL, to-day, T. R., Stratford; next, Knightstone Pavilion, Weston-super-Mare.

"THE TYRANT."
"THE TYRANT."
"THE TYRANT."
WANTED, for this Grand Attraction, Nov. 15, 22, 29.
Only Vacant Dates this year.
Also Jan. 3, 10, Feb. 21, 28,
May 16. Only Vacant Dates in 1910.
FRED C. SOMERFIELD, Rushall Walsall.

"THE IDOL OF PARIS."
"THE IDOL OF PARIS."
By Charles Darrell.
WANTED, First-class Theatre,
March 15.
March 15.
No greater Success Touring.
Miss Annie Bell as Flare-Flare.
Also Wanted,
April 12,
April 12,
Wire for March 15, Wire.
JAMES BELL, T. R., Darlington.

ALFRED PAUMIER and WALTER HOWARD'S COMPANIES.
"THE PRINCE AND THE BEGGAR MAID."
WANTED, First-class Theatre
March 15, North.
WALTER HOWARD,
11 and 12, Bishop's-mansions, Fulham, London.

"I DEFY THE WORLD."
By Arthur Shirley and E. Hill-Mitchelson.
Mr. F. B. Woulfe as Leon Darville.
WANTED, Big Theatres,
April 12, to follow Palace, Bordesley;
May 24, to precede Metropole, Birmingham;
July 5, to precede Hammersmith.
Address, CHAS. M. JULIAN,
March 1, R. T., Llanelly.

Mr. ERNEST DARE
Presents the Great Play,
"CAMILLE."
WANTED, First-class Theatres.
Address, 2, Cecil-road, West Croydon.

WANTED, April 12, 19, May 24, 31, for "The Cingalee." Wire,
HALDANE CRICHTON, Emp., Swindon; next, Norwich.

WANTED, March 29, April 12, "Under Two Flags," "At Cripple Creek." MARK BLOW, 11, St. Edmund's-terrace, Regent's Park, London.

CHARLES ROGERS and W. E. WILSON'S CO.
"LADDER OF LIFE."
WANTED, March 15 and 22, and on, with exceptions.
Opera House, Dudley.

S. RENNEF AND G. M. COPPING'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, "Love Rules the World," April 26 (to follow Prince's, Preston), May 3, 10, 17, 24; Whit Week, T. R., South Shields. Several Summer Dates "How Women Ruin Men." G. M. COPPING, A. T., Yarmouth.

WANTED, Theatre, March 8, through double booking,
"THE MADEIRA MAID."
Musical Comedy in Two Acts. Beautifully Dressed and Mounted, Bright, and full of Broad Comedy.
Full Operatic Chorus (22 voices).
March 8 Vacant (precede St. Helens), May 24 (follow Royal, Edinburgh), May 31. Aug. Bank Holiday, Aug. 16, &c.
"THE MADEIRA MAID."
CHARLES CAREY, Managers' Club, Savoy-mans., W.C.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"ROLLICKING RORY."
Romantic Irish Musical Fairy Play.
Only two Vacant Dates this year.
April 5 and 12 (Midlands or South).
WANTED, First-class Theatres.
March 1, Halifax; 4th, Rochdale.

"THE 10.30 DOWN EXPRESS"
and
"GUILTY GOLD."
WANTED, May 3, 10 (Midlands)
HORACE STANLEY,
To-day, Sutton;
next, Grand, Mansfield.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Cast of Recognised Artists. Each Member with not less than 10 years' experience.
Magnificent printing. Beautifully mounted.
WANTED, Aug. 16, 30, Nov. 1, 8.
FRED BULMER,
Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, Strand, W.C.

GEORGE A. DE GRAY presents his latest new Play, "THE ANGEL OF HIS DREAMS."
Production, April 26, Theatre Royal, Castleford
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 2, 9, Sept. 20, Nov. 1, 15, Dec. 13, Jan. 3, 10, 31. All coms., GEO. A. DE GRAY, O. H., Torquay.

GRAND PANTOMIME. "CINDERELLA."
WANTED, Theatres, March 8, 22, also for Easter Production, this Beautiful Pantomime, first-class company, big specialities, gorgeous dresses, funny comedians. Address, FARREN, Grand Theatre, Blackpool.

"LUCKY 'LIZA."
WANTED, Known, Vacant Easter.
DICKIE CLARE,
T. R., Worthing.

"A NOBLE WIFE."
WANTED, March 8, on, with exceptions. Wire, BOLTON, 26, Tyler's-avenue; next, 8, Grove-terrace, Regent's Park-road, Church End, Finchley, London.

THEATRES WANTED.

FRED GRANVILLE'S PRODUCTIONS, LTD.
Pantomimes:
"BABES IN THE WOOD."
A Phenomenal Success.
Wire for March 8.
Also Vacant March 22, 29, April 5, and Easter.
Good Theatres Only.

WANTED, First-class Theatre, for Production 1909-10.
"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST."
The Record Breaker.
Wire for March 8.
Also Vacant March 22, 29, April 5, and Easter.
Also Wanted, Good Theatres, Jan. 3, 1910, onwards.
Christmas Production Settled.
"ALADDIN." A "No. 1" Production.
Wanted, Good Theatre, for Production, Christmas, 1909-10. Managers Note!
These Pantomimes are First-class in every way. Beautifully Mounted and Dressed. All Star Caste. Grand Specialities and Full Chorus.
Plays: "THE BETTER LAND."
A High-class Powerful Domestic Drama.
A Winner.
First Vacant Date, Aug. 9.
Also Wanted, Aug. 23, 30, Sept. 13, 27, and later.
"FOR BETTER OR WORSE." No Vacant Dates.
"DEFENDING HIS HONOUR." No Vac. Dates.
"ANOTHER MAN'S WIFE." Success.
Produced Queen's Theatre, Liverpool, Feb. 8.
Instantaneous Success.
Vacant August Bank Holiday, onwards.
Re Dates for Fred Granville's Productions, Ltd., Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

MISS MARY NEIL,
in her Great Successes
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS,"
By Charles Darrell,
and
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
By Charles Darrell,

WANTED, Wanted, Theatres,
Vacant for either Play,
April 5, May 10 and 24,
June 7 and 14.

Miss Neil begs to inform Managers that she is now rapidly booking 1910 for her next new production.
Coms. to GEO. KIRK,
Colosseum, Oldham.

MR. AND MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S CO'S.

"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
WANTED, March 22, April 5, Autumn Dates.
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR."
Wanted, March 29, April 26, May 3.
"BOUND TO WIN."
April 12, 19, 26, April 12.
"A SISTER'S SIN."
May 3, 10 31, only vacant dates.
Wire for dates to
KIMBERLEY, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

"MAN TO MAN."
EDWARD LLOYD AND CLIFFORD BOWN'S CO.
WANTED, March 22, May 31, Aug. 16, 30.
EDWARD LLOYD, 4, Pulteney-avenue, Bath.

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Nov. 1, 8, Dec. 6, 13, and 27.
FRANK M. THORNE, Grand Theatre, Nelson.

WANTED, Theatre, March 29, between New Theatre, Cambridge, and T. R., Dalston, for the truly magnificent production of Tom Craven's latest Dramatic Success, "When a Lass Loves," splendid scenery (Camus), splendid pictorials by David Allen and Sons.
Only vacant dates, Easter and March 29.
Wire, H. CECIL BERYL, Pier Hotel, Brighton; or, TOM CRAVEN, 1, Arodene-road, Brixton Hill.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
for March, April, and onwards,
THE ADVERTISING RIGHTS
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ON CURTAINS and PROGRAMMES,
ON CURTAINS and PROGRAMMES,
in a few more First-class Theatres and Variety Halls in any part of England.

The firm is barely five years old, therefore have no out-of-date methods, but we have during that short period built up a
BIG REPUTATION FOR
SMART ARTISTIC CURTAINS.
STRAIGHTFORWARD DEALINGS
WITH THE ADVERTISERS,
PROMPT PAYMENTS IN ADVANCE
without any humbug or delay.

We do not allow our men to seek out all the third-rate pubs and fried-fish shops and such-like but place upon your curtains or programmes only the best class advertisements available.
If you have already done business with us you know our methods. If not, we refer you to any of the following Clients:—
Moss's Empires, Ltd.
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H. Dudley Bennett, Esq.
E. Graham Falcon, Esq.
J. W. Boughton, Esq.
Walter De Frece, Esq.
Frank Macnaghten, Esq.
J. Worswick and Sons.
C. and L. Barnard.
J. C. Imeson, Esq.
W. H. Westwood, Esq.
W. C. Horner, Esq.
J. L. Graydon, Esq.
Will Sley, Esq.
W. Peacock, Esq.
Harry Yorke, Esq.
Will Smithson, Esq
In addition to many others.
Other Contractors try to copy our Designs and imitate our Methods, but their efforts ARE LIKE MOST OTHER IMITATIONS—something wanting. WHY RISK DISAPPOINTMENT?
OUR SYSTEM IS STILL FAR AHEAD OF ALL OTHERS.

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and employ only First-class Artists, under the personal supervision of the General Manager,
E. JAMES WOOLLEN.

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It will Pay You.

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Head Offices:
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Contractors for over 100 Curtains and Programmes in most of principal Theatres.

Telegrams, "Expert, Sheffield."
Nat. 'Phone, 2614.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Artists played "Marriage of Kitty," Rehearse Immediately for three week' Tour. WEATHERSBY'S Agency, 3, Bedford-st., W.C.

WANTED, for "When Other Lips," Rehearse Monday, Heavy Lady, Robust Chamber maid, Char. Comedian (Eccles part); Practical Carpenter play small part. Refs. and photos. imperative. JONES, Scarborough; next, Salford.

WANTED, Artists, small salaries, long engagement, Musical Comedy; all Sing and Dance. Comedian, Low Comedienne, Young Man with really good tenor, and Bright Girl to Sing exceptionally well; other possible vacancies, including Conductor. Fullest particulars, Box 5,566, "The Era."

WANTED, Gentleman, to Play Character and Comedy Parts, and Lady and Gentleman, to Play Small Parts. NORMAN V. NORMAN, Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, W.C.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, a Lady for Aunt Ophelia, and a Child for Eva. Fullest particulars, photo., age, height, terms, &c., to CHARLES HARRINGTON, Grand Theatre, Walsall.

WANTED, good Chambermaid, open Monday if possible; also tall Heavy Lady write in, short but showy part. Wire, NEVILLE, Theatre, Cradley; next week, Palace, Southbank.

WANTED, for Sutton and Raynor's Company, shortly, Pretty and Sympathetic Juvenile Actress, for Vere, "Moths," &c. Send photos. and state where can be seen next week, Mr. SUTTON, King's, Manchester.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, through releasing, smart young Juvenile Man, for Captain Fielding, in the above, must possess good Baritone voice, height not less than 5ft. 10in. Full particulars and photos in first letter to J. W. CORDINER, Clarence Theatre, Pontypridd.

Juvenile Lead in Répertoire.
WANTED, Known, a Vacancy has occurred for a refined and thoroughly experienced Juvenile Gentleman willing to invest capital in Classical Répertoire Co. Apply, with full particulars, to Box 5,521, "The Era."

WANTED, experienced, Tall Actor, for Peranza, "The Golden Ladder" (broken English). Refs., photo. (stamped envelope), &c., to F. C. LEIGHTON, this, Grand, Walsall; next, T. R., Ilkeston.

WANTED, Gent., for Lead, and to invest £100 with well-known London Actress, for Tour. Letters in confidence to
SEVARO, Ashmoor, Leigh-on-Sea.

WANTED, for well-known Costume Concert Party good Pianist, Baritone Comedian, Young Soubrette Soprano who can Dance; only refined Ladies and Gentlemen.
Full particulars, references, lowest summer terms, photo, to VIVGAR, 135, Church-street, W.

WANTED, Boys, age 14, must have good voices. Letters only, with full particulars, to RACINE, 21, Daneville-road, Camberwell, London.

WANTED, Tenor and Baritone Choristers, Principals, &c., for long tour, Grand and Comic Opera. State rép. and all particulars, Box 5,522, "The Era."

WANTED, Amateur Soprano, who can Dance, for well-known Costume Concert Party; only refined ladies to apply, with all particulars, to VIVGAR, 135, Church-street, W.

WANTED, Known, The New Frances Club 425, Strand, W.C., for Ladies. Members have use of Cosy Sitting and Dining-room, Piano, and Circulating Library. Exceptional Tariff. Terms, 1 guinea yearly; may be paid quarterly, monthly, or weekly (6d.). No entrance fee.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, Stage or Concerts, Miss Norma Russell (Contralto), late D'Oyly Carte Opera Co. 50, Cranwich-rd., Stamford Hill, London, N.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

THE GRANVILLE PRODUCTIONS, LTD.
"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST."
"BABES IN THE WOOD."
"ALADDIN." "DICK WHITTINGTON."
WANTED, Troupe of Dancers, Pair of Comedians, at once, also Principals, for next year's productions. Coms. to
H. G. GRIFFIN, T. R., Hyde, near Manchester.

WANTED, Comedians, next season's Pantos. Last two references, address where performing next three week, age, photos., lowest terms, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists all Lines. Age, height, photo., salary, last two references. Particulars, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Good Chorus Ladies, next Pantomime Season. Age, height, names, addresses last two references, photo., lowest terms, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, at once, Dame and Tinbad.

HENRY BOWMAN,
Knightstone Pavilion, Weston-super-Mare.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions, Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, Contracts, for Painting Scenery, First-class Work guaranteed. CECIL E. HICKS, Painting Room, Princess's Theatre, Oxford-street, London, W.

WANTED, Contracts, for Scenery of all Kinds, Secondhand Scenery, both for Theatres and Fit-ups, for Sale.
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery, Productions, Sketches, or Stock, good effective work, cheap J. JACKS, Scenic Artist, 46, Holloway-road, London, N.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery; Effective Artistic Work, Good Joinery. Moderate Prices. Large Studio and Workshop. CHAS. SAYER, Scenic Artist, 2, Clarendon-road, Croydon.

WANTED, Contracts for High-class Effective Scenery, very lowest prices; Scenery repainted or adapted. W. B. ROBINSON, 170, King's-road, S.W.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
for Scenery and Props, good and cheap,
C. ROBERTS, Blucher-street, Liverpool-street,
Salford, Manchester.
Scenic Artist to R. A. Roberts, Esq.

WANTED, by Scenic Artist, abstainer, reliable Engagement in Provinces; best refs. Special terms for permanency; £2 per week. Address, Box 5,518, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, A. W. Moore, Scenic Artist, First-class, at Liberty for Engagement or Contract. Address, pro tem., 2, St. George's-terrace, York.

WANTED, by Scenic Artist, Engagement; 11½ years with Peter Davey, Esq., Royal County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames.
Special terms for permanency.
GEORGE MILLER,
39, Beresford-road, Kingston-on-Thames.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Young Gentleman, take up Appointment, Mon., Mar. 8, as Acting-Manager for the Hippodrome, Oswestry; £60 premium required; salary to start, £75 per year. POWER, 11, Victoria-buildings, St. Mary's Gate, Manchester.

WANTED, Energetic and Smart Young Manager, for Seaside Variety Theatre and Picture Show. Box 5,548, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, First-class Electrician and Mechanic, accustomed to automatic machine repairs, phonographs, and bioscopes. State age, experience, references, and wages in first letter. A. E. PICKARD, Britannia Theatre, Glasgow

WANTED, Contractor to supply complete Electric Installation and run same for coming Circus Season, Tenting, week stands. B. VOLPI, Royal Italian Circus, Andrew's Hall, Cardiff.

WANTED, Engagement by experienced Stage-Manager, used to two shows nightly; lightning Programme; at Liberty; could combine Bill Inspector, &c. S. M., 13, New Gladstone-street, Abertillery.

WANTED, Re-engagement, Assistant-Manager, Advance Agent, or Bill Inspector nightly, or Picture Entertainment
CHAS. LYONS, 93, Knowsley-road, Pootle, Lancashire

MISCELLANEOUS.

To whom this may concern.
Music Hall and Picture Hall Lessees.
Special Notice.
WANTED, Known, any person interested in the above and having a place which to their estimation is not doing the business they imagine it ought to do, matters not how badly their place is situated and matters not how badly it may have been neglected in the past, an expert Managing-Director is now at Liberty. Pay no wages till you notice the improvement. It must be a booming and record-breaking improvement, as this person knows his abilities. No reasonable offer will be refused weekly. Apply, W. APPLICANT, G.P.O., South Shields.

WANTED, Engagement, by smart Working Manager, at Liberty; life experience Variety, Dramatic. Address first instance, MANAGER, 45, New York-street, Manchester.

WANTED, by Young Gentleman, 30, Position of Trust, 4 years' Box-Office experience, good education and appearance, also good Accountant. Address, Box 5,523, "The Era."

WANTED, Joint Engagement, Carpenter, Properties, Baggage, Parts; wife Wardrobe, Parts; experienced; good references; relinquishing 7 months' engagement with J. Chas. Imeson, Esq. ROBERTS, Castle Theatre, Stockton.

WANTED, Known, Billposting Manager at Liberty shortly; thoroughly experienced, good references. BERT HALL, Manager, Glamorgan Billposting Co., Ltd., Cardiff.

WANTED, by Smart Steady Man, Engagement as Baggage Man; willing to make himself generally useful. F. FRANCIS, 138, Stockwell Park-road, Brixton, S.W.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

Bandmaster.
WANTED, for Ocean Liner, thoroughly efficient Violin Conductor.
Apply by letter, BANDMASTER, 3, Fenchurch-street.
Wanted, also, Good Cornet.

WANTED, for King's Theatre, Dundee, March 15, Good Leader, First Violins, Second Violins, Viola, 'Cello, Basso, Flute, Clarionet, Oboe, Cornets, Trombone, Drums, Variety, twice nightly. Terms, &c. E. G. SUMMERFIELD, Zoo-Hippodrome, Glasgow.

WANTED, for Alexandra's Circus, Leader (Cornet); well up in Circus Business and have Good Stock of Music. Address, Arboretum Inn, East-street, Worcester.

WANTED, for one of Principal Orchestras, for Long Summer Season, Brilliant Leader (Solo Violinist). Write Box, 5,532, "The Era."

ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER.
WANTED, Second Violin, capable of Playing First if required. Write full particulars and lowest terms to C. B. FOUNTAINE, Manager.

WANTED, for Duffy's Circus, Touring Ireland, starting Easter Monday, First Cornet, Trombone Euphonium, and Bass. Those that finished with me last year write. Musicians who attend military trainings, save stamps. Reply, JOHN DUFY, Theatre, Newry, Ireland.

WANTED, good Cornets, Trombone, and Euphonium, for big Musical Production; also Lady Instrumentalists. Age and refs. to Box 5,514, "The Era."

WANTED, for Hanneford's Circus, Tenting Ireland, Season 1909, commencing Easter Monday, April 12, Cornets, Euphonium, and Horn; also a Good Double Drummer. Apply, HANNEFORD, 27, Third-avenue, Strandtown, Belfast.

WANTED, good Solo Cornet, May 29 to Oct. 2, Military, 2½ hours daily. References, age, terms, 11, Strawberry-dale, Harrogate.

WANTED, First Cornet Player, for a Leading Military Band. Bonus for good Solo Performer. E. B., c/o Besson and Co., 198, Euston-rd.

THEATRE ROYAL, DEWSBURY.
WANTED, good Solo Cornet, experienced. Age, references, lowest terms, JOSEPH FIELD, Musical-Director.

WANTED, Good Solo Cornet, to Open March 6 at Salford Skating Rink. Apply, with lowest terms, to GUIDI, 29, Ongar-road, Fulham, London, S.W.

WANTED, Good First Cornet, for First-class Music Hall at Cardiff.
Apply, stating lowest terms, &c., to
Box 5,550, "The Era."

WANTED, Good Cornet,
SMITHSON,
Empire, Barnsley.

WANTED, Clarionet Players, for First-class Line Band. Good bonus given for solo player. R. C., c/o Besson and Co.,
198, Euston-road, London.

WANTED, Second Clarionet, Second Flute and Piccolo, Double Bass, experienced Concert work, Orchestra, Seaside, North, middle July, two months. Age, full particulars, experience, refs., to Box 5,551, "The Era."

WANTED, Double Bass, well up in Drama and Pantomime. Apply, enclosing copies of last two references, lowest terms (open all the year round), CHAS. ED. CLARKSON, New Prince's Theatre, Blackburn.

ROYAL COURT THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
Managing-Director, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR.
WANTED, for Orchestra, First and Second Horns, to commence March 8, 1909. Apply, with references to J. O. SHEPHERD, Musical-Director.

WANTED, at once, good Viola for Orchestra, King's Theatre, Edinburgh. References, &c., to M. JULES GUITTON, Musical-Director.

WANTED, for Tour of High-class Music Hall Show, two Lady 'Cellists; must have had good orchestral experience. Also Gentleman Solo 'Cellist; must be an artist. Good salary to right man. B. A. ROLFE, c/o Paul Schultze Agency, 38, Cranbourn-street, London, W.C.

WANTED, thoroughly competent Young Lady 'Cellist, for Trio at Seaside Resort, for ten weeks, commencing June 21; must be reliable. Send fullest particulars, photo, and list of solos, to JEFFRIES, G.P.O., Halifax.

LONDON COUNTY ASYLUM, HORTON, EPSOM.
WANTED, Male Attendant, must be flute or piccolo player, wages £29 a year for first six months, then, if satisfactory, rising to £31, and subsequently by £1 annually to £40 a year, with board, lodging, washing, and uniform; also special payment for Band duty; previous asylum experience not necessary. Daily leave, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.; weekly leave, 1½ days; annual leave, first 15 months (after nine months' service), 6 days, the following 12 months, 12 days, each successive 12 months, 14 days. Candidates must not be more than 35 years of age. First-class attendants are appointed by promotion from the second class. Apply to THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT, at the Asylum.

WANTED, good Flute and Piccolo and Second Violin, for Exhibition Orchestra, which travels fortnightly throughout the year, to start March 8, at High Wycombe (near Reading).
Apply, with references and age,
WM. SCHOTTLER, Musical-Director, Bath.

WANTED, Piano Player, to travel with Picture Show.
Address, Box 5,537, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, the Worthing Season Band Committee invite applications from Conductors who are prepared to provide and personally conduct a Band of twenty-one, or, alternatively, twenty-five performers (String and Wind Instruments), at a stated sum per week for a period of thirteen weeks, commencing the third week in June; three performances daily.
Applications in writing, stating sum required per week, must be made to the
BAND SECRETARIES,
Borough Offices, Worthing,
on or before Tuesday, March 9.

WANTED, Instrumentalists for Corporation Military Band, including a certain number capable of combining Strings, 14 weeks' engagement, commencing May 29, 1909. First-class performers only need apply, and must forward with application two testimonials of recent date, addressed J. S. HOWGILL, Pavilion, Weymouth, who will be pleased to hear from members of his previous Bands.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, Leaders, Solo Violinists, Pianists, 'Cellists, and Bass Players, for White Star and Cunard Mediterranean Services, commencing March; also Vacancies on American Service, April to Oct. For terms and conditions, apply C. W. BLACK, 14, Castle-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Orchestral Musicians, including Pianist, Double Drummers, own Tympanis, Bells, &c., about 3 months Summer, East Coast; Principals, Soloists preferred. Trial essential; experienced only send particulars and lowest terms; under and double-handed preferred. Box 5,542, "The Era."

WANTED, Good Brass Instrumentalist, in all Lines, for Present and Future Dates.
Box 5,516, "The Era."

WANTED, Lady Instrumentalists, with First-class Orchestral experience only. Apply by letter, 17, Prebend-mansions, Chiswick High-rd., W.

WANTED, Good Comedian, who can play instruments well, brass preferred.
Address, Box 5,529, "The Era."

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

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To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept.,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.
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"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

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"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
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WANTED, Professional Musicians, every instrument, to know this, viz., that every Semi-Amateur holding a Permanent Engagement is causing a Professional to be Out of Work. Join the National Federation of Professional Musicians (Trade Union), and help to remedy the grievance. Write at once for Propaganda, F. BALL, Hon. Sec., 19, Grange-street, Rusholme, Manchester.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Conductor, Disengaged March 25; valuable Library. Reference Jules Richeux, Esq., 3½ years; Summer Orchestra, Solo Instruments, moderate terms. Pavilion, Ramsgate.

WANTED Engagement, Charles Weldon, Conductor, concluded Panto., Feb. 13, opened special month Feb. 15, at King's Theatre, Kirkcaldy. Best offers only.

WANTED, Known, J. A. McAlister, Musical-Director (Piano or Violin), late of T. R., Hull, at Liberty owing to expiration of lease; first-class offers for Theatre, Variety, or Tour; exceptional references. 130, Ella-street, Hull.

WANTED, Engagement, Musical-Director, 35, Violin, Viola, good library, London references, Hall, Théatre, Pavilion. F. H. ESKE, 44, Cargill-road, Wandsworth, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Experienced Musical Director (Violin), any business, moderate salary, excellent testimonials, good arranger. MACKEN, 16 Inglis-street, Stoke-on-Trent.

WANTED, by Musical-Director, 40 (Violin and Piano), a Post in First-class Theatre; £20 premium for permanent engagement only. Box 5,547, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement by Frank Barrett, Musical-Director, at Liberty 29th inst, Tour or Resident. Address, 9, Boxworth-grove, Barnsbury, N.

WANTED, First-class Violinist, for a Trio (Piano, Violin, 'Cello), in first-class hotel lounge, Leeds. Easy work; no Sunday. Splendid opportunity for teaching connection. Some Solo Répertoire necessary. Permanency; £3 5s. weekly. Start March 6 or 8. Wire and write afterwards, full particulars, to CONDUCTOR, 43, Harehills-avenue, Leeds.

WANTED, Engagement by Violinist; well experienced; highest references. Address, VIOLINIST, 49, Melrose-gardens, Shepherd's Bush, London, W.

WANTED, by Violinist, Re-engagement, First or Second Violin, well acquainted with the Variety business. W. G., c/o Castle Hotel, Bolsover, Chesterfield.

WANTED, Engagement, Violin, Viola, steady, reliable; good credentials; thoroughly experienced, Theatre, Music Hall, any Business. FRANK WARMAN, 102, Sydney-road, Eastbourne.

WANTED Engagement, as Violinist; experienced in Dramatic or Variety Business; good references. Apply, VIOLINIST, St. John's Villa, St. John's-rd. Lowestoft.

WANTED, Engagement, good, experienced Violinist and Pianist, Lady and Gentleman, small Restaurants, Tea Rooms, &c.; varied répertoire, latest selections; well dressed; terms moderate. Box 5,543, "The Era."

WANTED, by experienced Lady Violinist, Re-engagement in Orchestra, Variety or otherwise; young; terms moderate. Address, VIOLINIST, 400, Wandsworth-road, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Solo Cornet, thoroughly experienced; excellent refs. Address, F. ADAMS, c/o 6, Burt-terrace, Gateshead.

WANTED, Engagement, by Cornet, experienced, sober; good refs. Perm. or season. J. LONG, Tunn-street, Fakenham, Norfolk.

WANTED, Engagement as Cornet, any business, reliable and experienced. Address, CORNET, 19, Cantrell-road, Bow, E.

WANTED, Summer Engagement as Solo or First Cornet, Military; thoroughly reliable and experienced. J. RIDDETT, 19, Cantrell-rd., Bow, E.

WANTED, Known, Clarionet, 8 years Eastbourne Pier Pavilion, wants Shop; used to Programmes in Bandstand. Musical Comedy, Drama, Variety, &c.; good refs.; sober, reliable. BURTON, 3, Cross-street, Eastbourne.

WANTED, by Clarionet, Summer or Permanent Engagement, experienced Military Band and Orchestra; good refs. Bandmaster J. KNIGHT, Norton Barracks, Worcester

WANTED, Engagement as Clarionet, experienced in Grand Opera and Variety; combine Répétiteur, Violin. Address, CLARIONET, Poole's Myriorama, Doncaster.

WANTED, by an Artist, Double Bass Player. permanent Engagement; life experience, Vareity, Dramatic, Opera, &c.; five years present engagement (high-class theatre); highest credentials. BASSIST, 26, Crowther-rd., Norwood Junction.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, Double Bass. Good refs.
Box 5,513, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, First-class Contra Bass, Theatre or Variety; 10 years in Moss Empires. R. DAWSON, Moss Empire, Ardwick, Manchester.

WANTED, by Lady Bassoonist, Engagement in First-class Orchestra; experienced. References. Apply, Box 5,517, "The Era."

WANTED, by First-class Bassoon, Summer or other Engagement; 12 years' experience in Orchestra and Military Bands; excellent testimonials. PITT, 262, Cemetery-road, Trealaw, S. Wales.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, good Summer Engagement as Contra Bass, any business. DAN MOXON, Contra Bass, Orchestra, New Gaiety, Clydebank, Scotland.

WANTED, by Double Bass, Good Engagement.
J. WIGHT,
Municipal Orchestra, Bournemouth.

WANTED, by thoroughly experienced Contra Basso, Engagement, Opera, Concert, or Theatre. Highest references. WILL DARLEY, 11, Sheil-road, Liverpool.

WANTED, by First-class Double Bass, Summer Engagement. Address,
G. WEISS, Pump Room Concerts, Bath.

WANTED, Engagement, by Lady Double Bass and Drummer, also 'Cellist. Address, E. S., 142, Caledonian-road, King's Cross, N.

WANTED, Engagement, Basso, or take Second Violin, through closing C. W. Poole's No. 1 Company, Vacant March 6. JONES, Melton Mowbray.

WANTED, Known, Good Trombone, Open for Summer Engagement, Disengaged March 6. E. REED, 53, Greaves-street, Langsett-rd., Sheffield.

WANTED, Engagement, by good Trombone; thoroughly experienced, Theatre or Music Hall; now at Liberty. Address, GRIFFIN, Church-street, Bawtry, Yorks.

WANTED, by Trombone, combine Euphonium, Engagement, any Business; fully experienced, good Soloist; excellent refs. Apply, GEORGE GRUBER, Court Villa, Pulborough, Sussex.

WANTED, by reliable Bombardon, Yeomanry Training in middle May; late T. M. and Band Sergt. Dorset Yeomanry; 11 years ex-cavalry. A. E. RODGER, Bombardon, Bournemouth.

WANTED, Good Season's Engagement, by experienced Bombardon; late Tuba, Moody-Manners Op. Co. Address, SALISBURY, Bombardon Skating Rink, Dundee.

WANTED, by good Bombardon Player, with a long military experience, Engagement.
Apply, Box 5,563, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Euphonium, combine Trombone, any Business, at Liberty, Theatre or Military Band. Apply, Box 5,562, "The Era."

WANTED, by French Horn (Second), Engagement in First-class Orchestra or Military Band, for the coming Summer Season or perm.; thoroughly experienced; excellent testimonials. MUSICIAN, 70, Meanley-road, Manor Park.

WANTED, Engagement as 'Cellist, Music Hall or Theatre, good reader, experienced.
Address, 'CELLO, 170, Roundthorn-road, Oldham.

WANTED, Engagement, Viola or Second Violin, good references, Music Hall and Theatre. J. S., 30, Chandos-avenue, South Ealing.

WANTED, Engagements, by Misses Harrison, Harp and Violin, duets, solos, orchestral, and vocal. For terms and dates, Messrs. FORSYTH BROS., LTD., 126, Deansgate, Manchester.

WANTED, Engagement, in Ladies' Orchestra, by the well-known Solo Flautist and Piccoloist, Nellie Flood-Porter, of the Celebrated Flood-Porter Concert Party. 17, Formosa-street, Maida Vale, London, W.

WANTED, by experienced Flautist, Engagement, Theatre or Music Hall.
Apply, 10, Fisher-street, Lewes, Sussex.

WANTED, by Flute and Piccolo, Re-engagement, permanency desired. Address, R. S. BALLANTINE, c/o Mrs. Haigie, 5, Shamrock-street, Glasgow, West.

WANTED, Known, Flautist, at Liberty, any business, first-class references, steady at all times. Address, FLAUTIST, 30, Cromwell-street, Millfield, Sunderland.

WANTED, by Brilliant Pianist (Lady R.A.M.), Re-engagement, Orchestra, Accompanist, or Cinematograph; read anything at sight. SANDERS, 93, Ledbury-road, Bayswater.

WANTED, by Brilliant Solo Pianist and Exceptional Accompanist, Engagement with High-class Orchestra for Summer Season; three seasons leading pier; highest references. ARTHUR L'ESTRANGE, 31, Villa-road, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, by Lady, post as Secretary and Accompanist, preferably to Lady Artist travelling during summer; excellent experience in both capacities; shorthand, sight reading. Box 5,531, "The Era."

WANTED, by Lady Pianist, Engagements, Orchestra, Quartettes, or Private Practice; good sight reader. Terms moderate. E., 3, Lebanon-park-mansions, Twickenham.

WANTED, Known, exceptionally fine Accompanist desires Engagement in good Operatic and Ballad Concert Party for Season. ARTHUR SHEPARD, 13, Denzil-avenue, Southampton.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by Pianist, first class, doubling on Clarionet, conversant all lines. Address, 35, Waverley-terrace, Parkhead-st., Motherwell, near Glasgow.

WANTED, Engagement by a young, capable, brilliant Pianist, Disengaged through disappointment; exp. orchestra, quartette, concert parties; accompanist; excellent references. 207, Hampton-road, Twickenham.

WANTED, Engagement, Piano or Double Bass, experienced Hotel, Theatre, Variety. ROSSLAND CLARKE, 23, Lebanon-road, Croydon. 'Phone 835 P.O., Croydon.

WANTED, Engagement, as Tympanist, Double Drums, Effects; good refs. for Theatre Permanency. F. CHARLES, Welcome Lodge, Avondale-road, Eastbourne.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Tympanist and Double Drummer; can Open at Once. STEVENSON, 22, Agnes-st., Maryhill, Glasgow.

WANTED, Engagement, by Drummer, First-class Tympanist, own Tympani, Glockenspiel, and Effects; thoroughly experienced; excellent references. SLATTER, 19, Station-rd., Hastings.

WANTED, through Breach of Contract, Engagement, Double Drums and Effects, sober, reliable, experienced, liberty now. HAYES, 27, Towson-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Drummer; Music Hall experience. A. TYTE, 74, Colebrooke-row, Islington, N.

WANTED, Offers for Miss Winnie Watson's Ladies' Poppy Orchestra, Soloists and Singers, from Franco-British and Principal Exhibitions, now Folkestone; Southport Pier following. 'Phone, 5,100 Nat. 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton.

WANTED, by First-class Blue Viennese Orchestra of six or more, Engagement, Hotel, Pier Pavilion, &c. At present engaged till April 1. Apply, O. HUTTL, Musical-Director, Grand Hotel, Eastbourne.

WANTED, Known, Shikissimma Band, Original Ladies' Japanese Orchestra, all Soloists; latest Répertoire. CONDUCTRESS, Winshill, Howard-road, Newbury.

WANTED, by the Grosvenor Ladies' Orchestra, from three to thirty performers, from Franco-British Exhibition (specially engaged). Open for Hotels, Piers, Pavilions. New Smart Costumes, Up-to-date Répertoire, Tubular Bells, &c., also Good Vocalists and Dancers, Whole or Part Programme. Fêtes, Galas, and Garden Parties. WILTON DAVIS (Baritone Comedian), Manager, 42, Linton-street, Islington, N.

WANTED, Known, Imperial Ladies' Orchestra, Piers, Hotels, Exhibitions, &c.; experienced Musicians; large répertoire; tubular bells. Madame BAKER, 114, Woodlands-road, Ilford.

WANTED, Known, the Incomparable Royal Viennese Band, Conductor Herr Sigmund Winternitz, is open for Summer Season. Only selected Soloists, brilliant execution; smart gold-braided uniforms, any number of performers; highest references; enormous success everywhere. Address, HERR WINTERNITZ, Musical-Director, 19, Corporation-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, by Military Band, Engagements, town or seaside; smart uniform; good répertoire. B. M., 56, Chipstead-st., Parsons Green, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, for Easter Week, by Orchestra of Seven Players; good ref. Apply, BARTLE, Moorhead-street, Colne, Lancs.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

HIPPODROME AND PALACE THEATRE, SPENNYMOOR, CO. DURHAM.

WANTED, Equestrians, for March 8, and on. Specialities of Every Description that can Work in a Circus Ring.
Address, C. ALGIE.

WANTED, for Duffy's Circus, Touring Ireland, starting Easter Monday. Useful People; those doing two acts preferred. No fancy salaries, but money sure. Reply, JOHN DUFFY, Theatre, Newry, Ireland.

WANTED, for Gilleno's White City Circus, Manchester, Artists doing more than one Act. Long comfortable engagement for the right sort. GILLENO, 8, Caird-street, West Derby-road, Liverpool.

WANTED, First-class Ground Acts, for Tenting. Send lowest terms and particulars in first letter. Address, Scorr's Circus, Wednesbury.

WANTED, at Once, Good Bearer or Middleman, with Good Tumbling Tricks, for Comedy Act. Reply, with photo., particulars, CHAS. BAKER, Gaiety, Birmingham. Will E. Casca write.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, that the Greatest Success ever Known at the Grand Circus, Hull, has been made by the Three Royal Ohmys, the Favourite Riders of the Crown Prince of Denmark, Greatest of all Acrobatic Three-horse Riders, and most up-to-date Show now before the English Public. Complimented by everybody that has seen this great act. Will be at liberty March 8, until further notice, with six great acts and four trained horses. A sure success to the greatest show on earth. Address, ROYAL OHMYS, Grand Circus, Hull.

WANTED, Known, Four Zolas, at Liberty for Tenting or Galas, Home or Abroad, Society Herculean Acrobats and Tumblers; also Bros. Alpine, in their New and Novel Trapeze Act (the Only Act of its Kind); also La Perch. Three distinct acts. Still on Tour with Captain Clayton's Grand Panto. Next, Alhambra Theatre, Stourbridge; after, Theatre R., Bilston.

WANTED, Engagements, two High-rope Acts, Lady and Gentlemen Performers, Big or Small Galas.
CHEVALIER PONCHERY,
Bank-street, Cradley Heath.

WANTED, Known, Don Pedro the Great, Unparalleled and most Daring High-wire Performer, Open for Fêtes and Galas.
Terms, 99, Rhyddings Park-road, Swansea.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, Twice Nightly; also WORCESTER EMPIRE, Twice Nightly. Wanted, Artists doing Double Turns, used to Picture Shows. No wires, please. ARTHUR CARLTON, Palace, Worcester.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, but must be smart, 30s. to 60s.; small halls, immediate dates. ROYSTON, 22, Church-road, Northwich.

CLYDEBANK NEW GAIETY THEATRE.

WANTED, Variety Artists, First-class Acts of all Kinds, Star Comedians, Comediennes, Good Comedy Acts, Specialities, Sketches, &c., &c., for Immediate and Future Dates. A. E. PICKARD, Sole Proprietor and Manager.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Branches, for Scotland. Address, JAMES ANDERSON, the Old Reliable Scotch Agent, at the Musical Artists' Club, 32, Stockwell-street, Glasgow. Open from 11 till 3 and from 7 till 12 p.m.; on Sundays, from 10 a.m. till 12.0 midnight.

BRITANNIA, GLASGOW.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, March 1 and onwards, with exceptions. Apply, A. E. PICKARD, Sole Proprietor and Manager.

WANTED, Variety Artists, Doubles, Singles, for Monday next and March 8.
Wire lowest, MANAGER, Hippo., Tredegar, Mon.

WANTED, Variety Artists all Lines, March 8, onward. Terms must be low; small Picture Halls. ALBANY WARD, Jubilee Hall, Weymouth.

VERNO'S AGENCY.
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Variety Artists, in all Lines, March 8, onwards.
Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone, 2076 Royal.

WANTED, Monday, March 8, and onwards, Variety Artists, all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, KITCHINGMAN, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

VICTORIA T., STANLEY, CO. DURHAM.

WANTED, Star Artists for immediate and future dates. T. C. RAWES, Proprietor.

NORTHAMPTON.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, direct or through Agents. Particulars, terms, and bookings, FRED H. ANDERSON, Palace, Notrhampton
N.B.—This Hall makes a very convenient break in railway journeys North, &c.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, from now, onwards.
Apply, Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, for Carl and Carr's Enterprises, Al-fresco Artists in all Lines; two smart Pianists required. Age, height, last two references, photos, and lowest terms for Plymouth and Devonport. Address next four weeks, CARL and CARR, 46, Cooks-road, Kennington Park-road, S.E.

WANTED, Gala Artists all Lines. Belle Duchess, Zeenas, Miss Le Breton send addresses.

JAMES FIONI'S Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, immediate and future Dates. MAURICE FRITZ,
100, Newington Green-road, Canonbury, London, N.

PALACE, WATFORD.

WANTED, First-class Artists all Lines, March 29, April 12, May 3. Full particulars, letters only, CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Artists for my Trial Matinée, March 8, at Empire, Shoreditch; two of the best Turns will have an Engagement. SAM HART, 7, Lancaster House, Ruscroft-road, Brixton.

WANTED, for Fred Durham's Agency, Artists, all Lines, March 1, on.
1a, Loughboro'-rd., Brixton, S.W. Tele., 15 Brixton. Telegraphic address, "Durhamlike, London."

GRAN TEATRO SORIANO, BARCELONA.
First-class Theatre and Music Hall.
Proprietors and Managers, SORIANO BROTHERS.
Leading and Most Important Place of Amusement in Spain.
First-class Artists Only play at Sorianos.
Two Shows Daily. Sunday Matinée.
Important Notice.

WANTED, Wanted, Known, Applications for Engagements by Artists or Agents must be made direct to the Sole and Exclusive Agent for this House
Mr. JUAN A. CAICEDO, 155, Kennington-road, Lambeth, London, S.E.
Applications for Contracts, with absolutely lowest terms and pictorial matter should be sent to Mr. CAICEDO, as above.
Telegraphic and cable add., "Caicedo, London."

Important Notice.
THE EMPIRE THEATRE, ROCHDALE.

WANTED Artists, to Note,
I, Thomas Hargreaves,
Proprietor The Empire Theatre, Rochdale, do hereby give eight weeks' notice to all Artists who are Booked at the above Hall
that all Contracts from April 24, '09, are Cancelled, according to the award, owing to the Hall going to be closed for Alterations.
(Signed) THOMAS HARGREAVES.

WANTED, Boy and Girl Vocalists, over 14, for Munroe's Comedy Team. Apply, 28, Kerfield-crescent, Camberwell Green, London.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Artists of Note Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY. I can book you.
DALTON'S AGENCY. Immediate Dates,
DALTON'S AGENCY. and
DALTON'S AGENCY. Dates onward.
DALTON'S AGENCY. No Guessing.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY. Send full list
DALTON'S AGENCY. and very lowest
DALTON'S AGENCY. (this essential),
DALTON'S AGENCY. and permanent addresses,
DALTON'S AGENCY. also
DALTON'S AGENCY. weekly apartments
DALTON'S AGENCY. address.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY. 29, Mauldeth-road West,
DALTON'S AGENCY. Withington,
DALTON'S AGENCY. Manchester.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
I said "Agency."

N.B.—State where never played. Columbia Comedy Trio please wire address. Very urgent.

WANTED, Artists, for a Certain Seaside Hall,
JULY-AUG. DALTON'S AGENCY,
JULY-AUG. 29, Maulreth-road, West,
JULY-AUG. Withington, Manchester.
AUG.-SEPT.
AUG.-SEPT. July—Aug.—Sept.

WANTED, Known, Professor Ainsworth, five years Manager Oxford Palace, Middlesbrough, late Hippodrome, Stockton. My Agency Bureau Address, Stag Hotel, Stockton-on-Tees.

WANTED, for March 8, and onwards, Stars in all Lines.
Stars in all Lines.
Full up for smaller items.
CADLE'S Agency, 105-6, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Variety Stars and Artists in all Lines, March 8, and on. Terms and current week's Bill. JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

WANTED, good Single Turns, for Pattison's Picturedrome, Maryport. State salary required. WILLIAM GIBSON, Manager.

BARNARD'S VARIETY AGENCY, SHAW-ST., LIVERPOOL. Telephone No. 2349 Royal.
WANTED, Talent in all Descriptions for Immediate Dates; also Pantomimes and Big Acts on sharing terms. Bigger the Better. We can book you.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY. 'Phone 234Y5 Tron.
WANTED, the Very Best of Talent in all Lines for now and on; Big and Small Turns write at once. BAYLEY, 170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

VENTOM SWIFT'S AGENCY.
1, West Tollcross, Edinburgh.
WANTED, the Best of Talent for Glasgow, Dundee, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Kilmarnock, Greenock, &c., March 8, onwards.

HORACE CAMPKIN'S AGENCY,
HORACE CAMPKIN'S AGENCY,
HORACE CAMPKIN'S AGENCY,
HORACE CAMPKIN'S AGENCY,
14, Norton-street, Liverpool.

Telegraphic address, "Campkin, Liverpool."
Telephone, 1192 Royal.

WANTED, First-class Acts, of every description, March 8, onwards.

Communicate immediately, with fullest particulars, to
HORACE CAMPKIN'S AGENCY,
14, Norton-street, Liverpool.

SMYTHSON'S AGENCY.

WANTED, the Biggest of Big Acts New Acts state where can be seen.
Good Acts known to me send full list of bookings.
Quote actual lowest, London and Provinces.
Silence polite negative pro tem.

All communications to SMYTHSON,
38, Craster-rd., Brixton Hill, London, S.W.
No callers except by appointment.

WANTED, big Novelty Acts for Top and Bottom, smart Sisters Turns doing Singles, also Violinist. Photos., lithos., &c., &c. Call or write immediate. J. GREEN, Variety Agency, 133a, Clapham-road, S.W.

WANTED, Acts all kinds, South Wales and District, Gala Acts, Whit week. Pars., MARTINO'S Agency, 125, Barcroft-st., Grimsby. Polo and Florence and Perezofs communicate.

WANTED, Greatest Acts in the Profession to send terms, lithos., full bookings (the man you know) AINSWORTH, Stag Hotel, Stockton-on-Tees.

FRANKLIN'S GARDENS, NORTHAMPTON, May 31, four days. Twice Daily.
WANTED, Acts, all Kinds, McAskell's Agency, no other source), 126, Roker-av., Sunderland.

WANTED, March 1, onwards, Star Speciality and Variety Acts, all Lines. Artists booked Syndicate Tours, S. Wales, can have date to follow or precede. GANNON, West-grove, Bristol. Telephone 2636. Wires, "Fêtes, Bristol."

WANTED, a Sensational Attraction, on sharing terms,
for QUEEN'S THEATRE, FLEETWOOD, one week, March 15;
also Artists, all Lines (not Sketches).
All must be new for Fleetwood.
Communication to CLIQUOT'S Agency, 90, Rusholme-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Varieties all Lines, Doubles doing Singles; Acts with drawing power can share; March 8, on. New to Morley. ARTHUR IZON, Empress, Morley.

ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, CASTLEFORD.
WANTED, Big Top Liners, Artists of Every Description. Nothing too Big, March 15, onwards. Full particulars, BRANLAND and EMERSON, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

DAN NOBLE'S AGENCY,
272, Liverpool-street, Salford, Manchester.
WANTED, Top Liners and Smaller Acts if good. Contracts await Corcorum Bros., Dan Rodney, Bros. Hannaway, Walter Sutton, Geo. Porter, Vanderbilts, Arthur Slator, Albert Toft's Living Statuary, Sandy McNab and Co., Welda and Wynne, Mastro and Orretta, Jack Truman, Lascerno's Cats, Chas. Hughes, The Brontes, Ena Compton, Lisbon and Barker, Lily Butler, The Mosaics, Geo. Goldburn, Wynnie Darrell, and Great Haydas Troupe. Please send addresses.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME, SHREWSBURY.

PIER PAVILION, NEW BRIGHTON.

WANTED, March 15, onwards, Tops and Bottoms, First-class Animal Acts, Musical Numbers. Acts that have worked for me before entertained, for the Pier, New Brighton. State lowest terms, and mark "Variety" on envelopes. Reply to W. YATES GREGORY,
Theatre Royal and Hippodrome, Shrewsbury.

PALACE THEATRE, READING.
WANTED, Tops and Bottoms of Bills, several dates this and next year. Letters only, STANHOPE and Co., Ltd., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Sketch Artists to Note,
I, the undersigned, cannot possibly represent any more Sketches at present.
Every morning brings five or six, and I cannot find time to see all the lot.
Novelties and Important Numbers can rely on my prompt attention.
Full for small Turns and Sketches.
Note my new address,
WILL OLIVER, 28, Trent-road, Brixton Hill, S.W.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

Summer, 1909.

WANTED, Pierrot Troupe, for Beautiful Public Park, containing Bowling-greens, Tennis Courts, and Bandstand. Exceptional opportunity for Combination providing High-class Programmes. Apply, Box 5,489, "The Era."

SPANISH CITY, WHITLEY BAY.

WANTED, First-class Concert Party, Easter Week. Sharing terms or certainty. Full particulars,
CHARLES ELDERTON, T. R., Seaham Harbour.

WANTED, Small All-round Dancers, Ladies who know their business; must be young, clever, and good-looking. Call with practice dress, 11 to 4, any day during this and next week.
SINCLAIR, 118, Kennington-road, S.E.

WANTED, Good Acrobatic Lady Dancer, who can Sing; must be young, pretty, and good figure. Good salary.
Established Act, Playing Only the First-class Tours.
Address, letter only, with photo., R. W., c/o "The Performer," 28, Wellington-street, London, W.C.

WANTED, Single Lady, intelligent, young, healthy, and of
Full Physical Development;
height 5ft. 8in., bust 38in., hip 42in., waist 28in., for High-class Music Hall Posing Act giving magnificent scope.

Applicants must be as above measurements otherwise no use.

Send full particulars, age, and measurements, to Box 5,462, "The Era" Office.

Silence a polite negative.

WANTED, a Handsome Lady, of perfect features and figure, for Poses (Living Pictures).
Apply, 11 to 4, any day during week,
SINCLAIR, 118, Kennington-road, S.E.

WANTED, Young Lady or Youth, some individual ability, for New Comedy Act; Resident London preferred. Particulars, terms, Box 5,554, "Era."

WANTED, Comedian and Dancer, for Sketch; height about 5ft. 9in.; must have good voice; first-class performer only. Write, Box 5,525, "The Era."

WANTED, Good Comedian who can play Instruments well, brass preferred.
Address, Box 5,530, "The Era."

WANTED, for Concert Party, Clever, Refined Comedian (sing), Lady Vocalist, Pianist, all young. Box 5,557, "The Era."

WANTED, at once, smart Second Mounter and good Tumbler, used to Comedy, for well-known Troupe. State tricks, lowest terms, if married or single, full particulars, in first letter, NELSON, c/o "The Era" Office.

WANTED, a Smart Young Man Knockabout, good Bender or Posturer preferred. Age, terms, and experience, G. HANNAM, 41, Castle-street, Leeds.

WANTED, Young Man, with small capital, for Comedy Act; genuine offers. Letters, particulars, B., 47, Kinsale-road, Peckham Rye, London.

WANTED, Partner, at Once, Young Gentleman to Play Piano, and Straight Part with Comedian. Interview, London; no amateurs. Box 5,568, "The Era."

WANTED, Young Man, Comedy Acrobat, must be steady and reliable.
Address,
Box 5,544, "The Era."

WANTED, a Girl, 14 to 16 years of age, as Apprentice to First-class Juggler; a good home. Address, Box 5,524, "The Era."

WANTED, to Open Monday, Operator, with own machine and up-to-date films, 1½ hours. Wire lowest, MANAGER, Comedy Theatre, East Kirkby, Notts. Artists write in.

270 Replies.

WANTED, Wanted, Known, Sir,—
I inserted an advertisement, asking for Music Hall Artists in the last week's issue of "The Era." May I say that I am absolutely astounded at the number of replies I received to my small advertisement, no less than 270 Artists favouring me with applications. May I by this means thank the many artists who sent in their terms, as it is impossible for me to reply to each individual. I thank all for their very kind promptitude in responding to my advertisement.
I remain, yours faithfully,
ALFRED BALL.
New Lyceum, Tilbury Docks, Essex.
3/12/'08.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, March 8, through transfer, to follow Grand, Blackpool; also March 22 (3), precede Hippo., King's Lynn. L. AUSTIN MILLAIS, Venus-Salomé, Vaudeville, Blackpool.

WANTED, March 1 and 8, by Belle Brocade, the Versatile Vocal Comedienne; Chic and Dainty. A Sure Draw. Wire, 31, Russell-street, Liverpool, till Sunday; then, 65, Catherine-street, Buckingham Gate, London.

WANTED, Monday next, by Marie Russell, American Illustrated Songs (own slides), also Serio and Pianist, suitable for good reliable picture show. Wire, Mechanics' Hall, Frome.

WANTED, March 1, 8, 22, 29, through altering dates, Babs Lloyd, Star Artist. Wire, Empire, Camberwell, London; after Saturday, 96, Bracebridge-street, Birmingham. Return London April 26.

WANTED, Known, to all it may concern. On account of so many Elsies in the business, Miss Marie Elsie will in future be known as Jolly Rina Bay. Monday next, Foresters', London.

WANTED, Known, Rubie and Elsie Redfern, in their Drawing-room Piano, Banjo, Singing, Dancing Act. Vacant April 19, 26, May 10; in Scotland or district preferred. This and next, Tivoli, Dublin.

WANTED, by Two Beatrices, Duettists and Expert Dancers, March 8 and 15. Wire, Hippo., West Bromwich, Staffs; after Sat., c/o P.O., Amesbury, Wilts.

WANTED, Monday next, by Ted Young, Comedian, also March 8 and 15.
Wire, 95, Fentiman-road, Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Willie Long, Comedian and Parodist, Liberty March 8, between London and Plymouth. Wire or write, 39, Elms-road, Aldershot.

WANTED, March 8, onwards, Aldro Lukos, Man Monkey, swinging perch act and tumbling antics. Address, People's Palace, Portsmouth.

WANTED, by Pat O'Connor, Humorist and Champion Dancer, Monday, and onwards. Wire, 7, Poplar-street, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, E. Lucknow, English and Continental Refined Comedy Musical and Patter Comedian, Liberty March 8, 15. Address, Opera House, Workington.

WANTED, Known, Little Tichbourne has few immediate Dates vacant. This, Standard, Pimlico; next, Empire, Shoreditch.

WANTED, March 1 and 8, Bu-Val, Happy Dutchman (Concertina).
Wire, Temperance Hall, Merthyr.

WANTED, Monday next, Harry Tomps, New Original Concertina Act. Original Dying Dog, no act like it. Wire, 357, Holloway-road, London.

WANTED, Known, Mr. Russell Kirkley, Actor, Baritone, Pianist, desires Offers.
Empire, Southend-on-Sea.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Monday next, Harry Tomps. Great success Empire, Camberwell, this week, four and five calls each house. Wire, 357, Holloway-rd., London.

WANTED, March 1, through transferring, Charlie Carr, smart style Comedian and Dancer. First vacancy for two years; only date this year. Wire, PACEY, or 28, Water-lane, Brixton.

WANTED, Known, Cambo, The Musical Monkey, has some immediate Vacancies; New Show. Address, Pier Pavilion, Southport.

WANTED, Monday next, by Marcus Boyle, Comedian, Up-to-date Business.
Wire, 35, Rumford-street, C.-on.-M., Manchester.

WANTED, Monday, and March 8, by W. M. Cleveland, Comedian, in Song and Story. Sure Hit. Wire, 14, Waterloo-road, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, Monday next, any distance, Harry Tomps' Speciality Act; away from all others, Singing, Patter, Concertina. Wire, 357, Holloway-road, London.

Wire, March 8, 15, 22, and 29. Wire.
The Great Vincent, Acrobatic Table Expert.

WANTED, the above Dates, through Transferring. Wire quick, this week, Palace, Ebbw Vale; next week, Hippo., West Bromwich.

WANTED, March 8 and 15, by The Original Li Chang Hi, Chinese Conjurer par excellence. Wire or write, Hippodrome, W. Bromwich.

WANTED, Monday next, any distance, Harry Tomps, Comedian, Raconteur, Concertina Expert. Hit of every Programme. 357, Holloway-road, London

WANTED, Monday next, March 1 and 8, by the Great Yettmah and O Sasa San, Marvellous Japanese Magical Entertainers. Splendid setting. Booked all the Principal Tours and Syndicate Halls. This week, again top of bill at Dudley.
Wire or write
YETTMAH, Empire, Dudley.

WANTED, March 1, by the Great Kyoto, Japanese Contortionist, Conjurer, &c.; also May Geraldine, Comedienne, Dancer. Wire, 15, Haslemere-avenue, Bridlington. Also Vacant March 8, onward, any distance. Two solid hits.

WANTED, March 8, 15, The Monckton's (Fred, Lillie), in their ever successful screaming Farcical Episodes, "A Woman's Curiosity," "Two in a Flat." Immense success this, Palace, Reading. March 1, Hippodrome, King's Lynn. Specially engaged fourth time by Elliott Savonas.

WANTED, March 8, 15, by Edie Le Brun, the Girl Cinquevalli and Vocal Comedienne, assisted by Edgar. An amazing spark of genius.—Vide Birkenhead Herald. Add., Theatre Royal, Grantham

WANTED, March 1, by Mons. Savaro, Bird Mimic; also Mlle. Lillian, Vocalist and Contortionist. Wire offers, Town Hall, Chorley, Lancs.

WANTED, Known, Ray and Lingard, Comedy Duologue Artists, Vacant March 1, 8, and 15. 95, Fentiman-road, Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, Newman and Howard, "The Slop and the Slavey," screamingly funny, big hit. Vacant March 1 and 8. Wire, Britannia, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, the Bells, in Comedy Interlude, The Milkman and the Maid; single turns if required; want Monday, onwards. Wire, Palace, Boston.

WANTED, by Mike and Lena, Comedy Dutch Duo, Monday next, also March 15, 22, 29. Wire, Hippo., Stalybridge.

WANTED, Known, Agnese and Arthur Lynch, in American Picture Songs, want March 8, to follow Harrogate. Write or wire, LYNCH, Opera House, Harrogate.

WANTED, Known, the Bohemians, Will and Madge, Instrumentalists. Terrific hit Palace, Attercliffe; vacant Monday, also March 8. Wire.

WANTED, Monday, by Harry Keeble, Ventriloquist, Gladys Wells, Comedienne, through altering Date. Wire, Hippodrome, Tredegar. We don't want the earth.

WANTED, Live Managers to Note.—Harry Keeble, "The" Ventriloquist, and Gladys Wells, the Charming Comedienne, are Vacant Monday. Mr. Morritt, who is a judge, says:—"I wish I had topped the bill with you." Wire, Hippodrome, Tredegar.

WANTED, Monday next, by Douglas and Gordon (Don and Lil), Comedy, Singing, Dancing, Patter Act, Double and Single. Empire, or 80, James-street, Jarrow.

WANTED, by Mlle. Silvesto, Unique Contortionist, and her Funny Comedian, March 1, 8, 15, 22, two performers. Wire for a success. Palace Theatre, Aberdeen, till Sunday; then, G.P.O., Glasgow. Any distance.

WANTED, Known, Fields and Lewis, Great Comedy Act. A Star Turn. A Scream. Vacant March 8. Wire, Grand Theatre, Bolton. Wire.

WANTED, Known, Lavelle Bros. conclude Pantomime to-night with Messrs. Glenville and Osmond's "Aladdin." March 5 to 19, Etoile Palace, Paris.

WANTED, Monday next, March 1, 15, and 22, Olive and Owen, in Vocal Novelty, "The Roadside Tinkers." 47, Coram-buildings, Herbrand-street, W.C.

WANTED, March 8, 15, 22, Alex and Jolly, Comic Three-bar Act; Miss Lo-La, Stage Trapeze Act. Offers invited for one or two turns. Address, 13, Westfield-terrace, Sheffield.

WANTED, by Wright and Elton (Novel Comedy Duo), March 8, 15. March 1, Hip., King's Lynn, where wire or write. Wire "Alright."

WANTED, Monday next, by Rezene and Rezene, through obliging to postpone tour a week later. All papers here declare we are the hit of the programme. Wire, Hippodrome, Eastbourne.

WANTED, Offers, for "The Dutch Drolls," the Somewhat Different Entertainers. Now in their Seventh Year of Tour. Originality, Versatility. For vacant time, write 65, Catherine-street, Buckingham Gate, London.

WANTED, Known, Les Zanonis, Boy and Girl Jugglers and Lightning Club Throwers, vac. March 8, through misunderstanding. Mon., Hip., Stalybridge.

WANTED, Known, What a Draw Four Cecilians Are! Storming Barnard's, Chatham, this; vacant next. Smartest All-round Act on Variety Stage.

WANTED, Monday next, March 8, THE THREE FLYING ORENIUSES (Lady and Gentlemen Gymnasts), in their Marvellous Stage Aerial Act, the only one of its kind ever attempted and performed without Net or Trampolin.
THE SENSATION OF THE AGE.
Managers and Agents desirous of Booking a Smart and Novel Turn should secure this Act.
93, Cook's-road, Kennington, S.E.
Wire for Monday.

WANTED, Monday next, on, by La Dor Troupe, Male and Female Acrobats, three Acts, Comedy, Burlesque, Bull Fight. 21, Western-st., Bedford.

WANTED, March 8, by Almo Trio, Smart Comedy Three-Bar Act including Miss Myria, just concluded two weeks, Curzon Hall, Birmingham, and Special Engagement, Grand Cirque, Hull. Monday next, New T., Pontefract.

WANTED, Monday next, Harry Tomps, a novel Turn, Original, successful any part of the world. Wires, 357, Holloway-road, London.

WANTED, March 29, April 26, by Hulbert (Ventriloquist) and De Lil (Illusionist); two smart Acts. Offers invited. Theatre Royal, Shrewsbury.

WANTED, Known, George Gulliver, the Ventriloquist who copies nobody. For vacancies address, Monday, Hippo., Yarmouth.

WANTED, for "The Cruise of H.M.S. Victory," March 15 (between Pontefract and Edinburgh), sixteen Artists, Troupe of Dancers; all Scenery carried; thirty minutes' laughter. WATSON STANLEY, this, Merthyr; next, Marina, Lowestoft.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.
D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.
D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.
D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.
D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.

WANTED, April 12, in Scotland,
Wanted, April 12, in Scotland,
Wanted, April 12, in Scotland,
Wanted, April 12, in Scotland,
Wanted, April 12, in Scotland,

owing to Pavilion, Kirkcaldy, changing, to follow Edinburgh and precede Dundee.

Also June 7 and 28,
Also June 7 and 28,

July 5 and 19.
July 5 and 19.

No further open dates until July, 1910.
No further open dates until July, 1910.

Will accept same through any Agent or Direct.
Will accept same through any Agent or Direct.

W. J. D'ARC,

Address next week,

HIPPODROME, ROTHERHITHE, LONDON.
HIPPODROME, ROTHERHITHE, LONDON.
HIPPODROME, ROTHERHITHE, LONDON.

D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.
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D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.
D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.

WANTED, March 1 and 22, and April 12, through transferring to oblige, by TOM KELSO and CO., Comedy Absurdity "THE SILLY SERVANT."
15 minutes' continual laughter without vulgarity.
The Value for Salary Act.
Just concluded with Mr. J. F. Elliston's "Aladdin" Co.,
Widow Twankey. The usual Success.
This, Palace, Gloucester.
Wire or write, Monday.

Per. address, 36, Cremorne-street, Nottingham.
March 8, Grand, Bolton, Lancs.

WANTED, Monday next (South preferred), and April 5, Percy Victor's Dog Minstrels; Eddie Clay, Comedy Musical Act. Booking Galas, Shrewsbury, Abergavenny, &c., settled. Concluding J. P Moore's Panto., Kidderminster till Sunday; after, 72, Farleigh-road, Stoke Newington, London.

WANTED, Known, Fontainbleau and Her Beautiful Troupe of Performing Dogs, Topping Bill, Opera House, Workington. Next week, Hippo., Bury. Vacant March 8, 15. Open with this Great Performance, for Fêtes and Galas.

WANTED, by Swift Duo, Funny Cycling Speciality, March 1, 8, 15. Address, 89, Bristol-street, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, The Dunlops, Comedy Cyclists; Lillian Sivado, Gymnast; two Acts, vacant March 8 and later; two big Acts for Galas. Monday, Tivoli, Dublin.

WANTED, Known, Cyclinis Trio, Comedy Acrobatic Cyclists, Football on Wheels, vacant 1, 8, 15; two Acts, for Galas. Perm., see Cards.

WANTED, Known, Pauletti, Novel Eccentric Acrobatic Cyclist, Free Monday, onwards. This O. H., Kidderminster. Per., 106, Bigland-st., Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Will Lorenzi (Our Will), now playing with success Dame in the most successful and record Elephant and Castle Pantomime, "Babes in the Wood," will be at Liberty for Sketches (a Versatile Comedian), on March 13; would like to hear from a business and reliable Operator with own Bioscope, one not afraid of work.
Coms., Elephant and Castle Theatre, S.E.

WANTED, Proprietors of Well-known Troupes to Note, WILL DAULBY, at Liberty March 15, for Tumbling, Second Mounter or Bearer; 6 years Woodbee Wonders, now Original X-Rays. This week, Palace, Porth. Letters, Monday, 102, Mansford-st., Hackney-rd., London.

WANTED, Known, Prof. Lenton's Bioscope Entertainments; Change of Pictures Nightly or Weekly; Machines, Films, and Accessories Bought, Sold, or Hired Out to any amount. 2, Capener's-yard, Knightsbridge, S.W.

WANTED, Ventriloquists, to Buy Hereat's "Ventriloquist," New Edition, 115 pages, Illustrated, containing 66 pages of Original Dialogues By post 1s. 2d. 30, Racton-road, Fulham, S.W

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known, Wanted, Known, that the Next Meeting of the BRITISH ROUNDABOUT PROPRIETORS AND SHOWMEN'S UNION will be Held at the QUEEN'S HOTEL, BURY, on Wednesday next, March 3, at 2.30 p.m., for the Transaction of Important Business.

(Signed) T. HURST, Secretary.

CAKE WALK. BROOKLYN CAKE WALK.
WANTED, Known, Thousands of Pounds taken and waiting to be taken on these machines. Cake Walk Riding Craze becoming Universal. No waiting to load up.
11,000 passed over in one night at Hamburg Fair.
All the leading papers write about it.
Write for Press Opinions, terms, and full particulars, Patentees and Sole Makers, TAYLOR, PLINSTON BROS. and Co., 94, Farncombe-st., and 98, Bermondsey-wall, London, S.E.

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WANTED, Showmen to Save Money by sending for Leete's Catalogue of Specially-prepared Paints, Colours, Varnishes, Brushes, &c., and every requisite for decorating Caravans, Roundabouts, Swings, &c. Cheapest house in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, all Kinds of Attractions, for the DEVIL'S DYKE FUN CITY.
Apply,
BARRASFORD,
Court Theatre, Brighton.

WANTED, Novel Attractions, Freaks, Midgets, Marionettes, &c., &c., for King's Exhibition Hall, Corporation-street, Birmingham, centre of City, magnificent position; holds 400; open all day. Share or Rental. Particulars, &c., to KENNEDY and MOORE, King's Hall, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, the Proprietor of Pavilion (100ft. by 72ft.) and Open Air Space in Centre of Largest and Most Popular Seaside Resort is Open to receive Offers of Attractions (First Season).
Address, Box 5,520, "Era."

WANTED, Attractive Novelties for large Shop, good Vent. or Bioscope, immediately, Shares. Elbas concluded two weeks Bosco this week; Space for Tattooist and Machines. Wire, Exhibition, 100, Llewellyn-st., Pentre, Rhondda. Good business.

WANTED, to open at once, a good Novelty, with own Flash; on Shares. 39, Wilton-road, Victoria. Apply, J. HURLEY, 112, Waterloo-road, London, S.E.

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WANTED, up-to-date Glass Blowers, also a good set of Distorting Mirrors, on Share terms; established place, right position, in a large town. Thousands of people to pull from. Owners of any good Novelty write.

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THE PALLADIUM, LONDON

(late Hengler's Circus), will be open August Bank Holiday, 1909.

THE ALHAMBRA, PARIS.

H. Goldin, Two Cabiacs, Hall and Earle, Serenaders, Troba, Stowe Bros., Les Berthos, Pictures, Vasco, Alexandre and Bertie, Ausonias, &c.

HIPPODROME, BIRMINGHAM.

Hall and Macey, Terry and Lambert, Bliss and Bliss, Three Spoons, Cecilias, Auers, Three Krakes, Mayne Cannon, Captain Woodward's Sea Lions, Pictures.

HIPPODROME, BRIGHTON.

Phil Bransby, Mark Leslie, Pantomime, Broadways, Moxon Trio, Pictures, Bostock's Baboons.

HIPPODROME, SHEFFIELD.

Wright and Lawson, W. T. Ellwanger, Rosie Archer, Madam Albani, Sisters Marion, Elmo and Rego, Pictures, Faludy Troupe, Camphins, W. Fullbrook and Co.

HIPPODROME, LEEDS.

Zenarys, Arthur Reece, Klein Family, Three Allison Sisters, C. Dillon, Willie Allan, Markies, Pictures, J. Walthur, F. Fenton and Co.

PAVILION, NEWCASTLE.

Anileda and Auguste, Tod Lowen, Gallimore Trio, C. F. Best, Lalla Selbini, Vasilescu, A. Roberts and Co., Pictures, A. Heath, D. Gould.

HIPPODROME, ST. HELENS.

Kartelli, Milner and Storey, Witty Watty Walton, Montague Biggs, Four Gilbeys, Minnie D'Aubin, Weisker Bioscope.

HIPPODROME, EALING.

Chas. Lilburn, Little Tich, Sisters Sprightley, Enid Erroll, Pictures, Johnny Fuller, Primavesi, Stacey and Williams, Souplessi.

EMPRESS, BRIXTON.

Dan Crawley, L. Barclay, Harry Thurston, Douglas Stuart, May Loftus, Dolly Golden, Little Rosie Lee, Dolly Bell, Five Vernons, Pictures, Joe Elvin and Co., Lombards, Marconi Sketch Co., Yangar.

PALACE, HAMMERSMITH.

Jules Charmettes, Gus Dallon, Stanley Waller, Marie Empress, Annie Laurie, Edna Latonne, Sydney Girls, Karno's "Yap Yaps," Pictures, Eadie and Ramsden, Thiely and Leill, The Braggs.

OLYMPIA, SHOREDITCH.

Harry Rogerson, Fred Hallam, Harry Hayton, Helen Charles, Lily Langtry, Two Clares, Ruth Lyiton, Pictures, Hans and Lux, Three Cunards, Phil and Nettie Peters, F. Karno's "Yap Yaps."

THE WEEK'S CALLS

THE EMPIRE, HOLBORN.

Walter Emmerson, Will Evans, Esta Stella, Gwennie Hasto, Edna Latonne, Irma Lorraine, Gladys Huxley, Kellinos, Pictures, The Findens, Warsaw Bros., Joe Peterman and Co. in "Singing Servants," Chas. Austin and Co. in "Parker, P.C.," Kennedy's Kiddies.

HIPPODROME, WILLESDEN.

Chas. Stevens, Harry Taft, Dave Samuels, La Belle Nello, Johnny Summers, Pictures, Thorpe and Coe, Wilman, The Westwoods, Arden and Abel and Co., Alaskas, Ike and Will Scott.

EMPIRE, CROYDON.

Sam Mayo, Geo. Newburn, Harry Champion, Nellie Lunelle, Sisters Julian, Jenny Reeve, Pictures, Athas and Collins, Royal Tokio Troupe, Fred Karno's "Mumming Birds."

ISLINGTON EMPIRE.

Herbert Rule, Herbert Shelley, Harry Cook, Johnny Summers, Olga Dore, Little Vi Davis, Ella Shields, Carlotta de Yonson and Co., Pictures, Warsaw Bros., Three Merrills, "Belles of the Kitchen."

HIPPODROME, BALHAM.

Tim O'Connor, Dorothy Vine, Pictures, Woodhouse and Wells, Lafayette.

HIPPODROME, PUTNEY.

Sam Mayo, The Garricks, Jack Smiles, Ida Barr, Daisy James, Pictures, Kent and Keith, Elton and Edwin, Summers and Britt Film, Will Evans, Bessie Lind.

HIPPODROME, POPLAR.

Chas. Whittle, Claude Gardiner, Geo. Ridgwell, Esta Stella, Lucy Coventry, Pictures, J. Willard and Co., Bros. Obo, The Menzies, Martinet and Wallis, Nora Stockelle.

HIPPODROME, ROTHERHITHE.

Chas. Craston, Chas. Ashdown, Sisters Silcott, Maggie Rimmer, Pictures, Dare's Marionettes, Charley, Farr and Farland, Bayne and Hope, Kenway and Emery.

PALACE, CAMBERWELL.

Lawrence Barclay, The Musicoys, Forman and Fannan, Geo. D'Albert, Ella Shields, Lulu Valli, Maidie Scott, Daisy Hurdle, Alec Hurley and Co., Verno and Voyce, Tamamoto, Pictures.

HIPPODROME, NOTTINGHAM.

Bob Fitzsimmons, Mike Cray, Hampton and Bauman, Kendrick and Laura, Forsyths, Juno Salmo, Bijou Troupe, H. Levaine, Renroff Pictures.

THE LONDON CASINO

will be open at the end of November, 1902.

THE ALHAMBRA, BRUSSELS.

Les Ongars, Four Aces, Norman Leonard Trio, J. Hart and Co., Les Marbas, F. Dufor, Mlle. Renee, Frères Carpatti, Soeurs Karitson, Dorvel, Les Ados, &c.

HIPPODROME, LIVERPOOL.

Gus Harris, Effie White, Sinclair and Whiteford, Philip Levard, Reg. Beauchamp, Henry and Tyler, Bertisch, Hayman and Franklin, Mabel Green, Iris Banfield.

HIPPODROME, RICHMOND.

Albert Mackelvin, Arthur Holland, Monte Walker, Elsie Bernard, Ray Forde, Kate Gourley, Pictures, Wyndham and Wyatt, Manning and Gomersal, Hackenschmidt.

EMPIRE, SWINDON.

Musical Comedy and Dramatic Season.
Bill matter for this hall to be sent direct to Mr. Manners, Empire, Swindon.

KING'S THEATRE, SOUTHSEA.

Tony Iveson, Heraleb Bros., "Master Card," Four Canadians, J. C. Scatter, Caryl Wilbur, Pictures, Jules Garrison.

HIPPODROME, WOOLWICH.

Chas. Whittle, Larry Lewis, Fred Russell, Bertha, Winder, Violet Stockelle, Pictures, Mendal, Fielding and Hull, Whiteleys, "Midnight London Express."

GRAND, CLAPHAM JUNCTION.

Harry Zetter, Hal Forde, Lena Wylie, Minnie Paget, Mooney and Holbein, Wilson and Waring, Pete and Juno, The Garricks, F. Karno's "Mumming Birds," Summers and Britt Film, Ella Lorraine.

HIPPODROME, PECKHAM.

Herbert Rule, Max Martin, Alex. Kennedy, Hackenschmidt, Evelyn Taylor, Elsie Ellis, Pictures, Clifton and Gibson, Muir and Bartlett, The Braggs.

BRITANNIA, HOXTON.

Drama, Twice Nightly.

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All communications, bill matter, &c., for London Halls to be sent to Mr. Walter Gibbons at above address.
Those for Mr. T. Barrasford at 11, Leicester Place.

INTERVIEWS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

BAND PARTS ARE REQUIRED FOR AT LEAST 14 DIFFERENT INSTRUMENTS.

OFFICE HOURS: 10 to 5 p.m.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

THE EDINBURGH MARINE GARDENS, LIMITED.
General-Manager, WILLIAM HOLLAND.

This magnificent Amusement Park, embracing over 27 acres, and situated on the sea front at Portobello, Edinburgh, will be opened to the public at the end of May next.
The buildings will comprise Exhibition Galleries, Skating Rink, Concert Hall, Restaurants, &c., capable of sheltering 15,000 people.
The Marine Gardens are situated within a 1½d. tram fare from a population of 350,000, the Edinburgh Cable Trams passing the main entrance.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Novel Attractions of all kinds.
Spaces to Let for large Side-Shows.
Stalls and Kiosks to Let.
Concessions for all descriptions of Exhibition and Amusement Park propositions will be considered by the Directorate.

All communications to be addressed to
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WANTED, Known, Mme. de Para, experienced Palmist and Character Reader, can be booked, shares or rental. 1, Oakley-cres., City-rd.

WANTED, Known, Tom Thumb, the smallest man in the world, age 22 years, 23in. in height, and 24lb. in weight, is now open for Engagements. Permanent address, J. S. BEELEY, 83, Market-street, Westhoughton, Lancs.

WANTED, Known, Alf Shirley, Vocalist, own Slides, loud tone, Portable Harmonium; can describe; abstainer; refs.; at Liberty March 1. 3, Strode-road, Napier-road, Tottenham, Middlesex.

WANTED, Known, I, Fred M. Barber, having recovered from my illness, can recommend Charles Booth, who has been First Auctioneer on my No. 1 Mart; he is steady, young and capable. Write, BOOTH, Barber's Auction Mart, Clay Cross, Derbyshire.

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Telegrams, "Popular, Blackpool."
Telephone 158 Blackpool.
The Leading Open-air Amusement Resort in the Country on the Sea Front.
WANTED, Known, opens at Easter for the Season, Scenic Railway, one mile long,
Highest Water Chute in England,
Canadian Toboggan,
Motor Racing Track.
&c., &c., &c., &c.
Address applications for anything really new to PROPRIETORS, Pleasure Beach, Blackpool.

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WANTED, to Let, three Shops, Auctioneers, Exhibitions, Bazaars; best positions, towns, South Wales, open immediately. MICHAEL, 10, The Circle, Tredegar, Mon.

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WANTED, Known, to Showmen and Others, Natural Freak Mare.
ALDRIDGE'S, ST. MARTIN'S-LANE, W.C.
Next Wednesday, March 3, Messrs. W. and S. FREEMAN will Sell by Auction a Bay Mare, 4 years old, long mane and tail, with pronounced curvature of the spine, forming a large Camel-like Hump or fibrous growth on the back, and deep cavity or depression of the ribs on the near side. The mare is physiologically perfectly sound, clean legs, action sound, and very fast.
On view Monday.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

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WANTED, to Sell, Gold-mounted Photos., Husbands, Wives, Babies, X-rays, latest sensation, marvellous value, your profits doubled. MEURICE, Argyle-square.

WANTED, to Sell, Love Letters, Palmistry, Fair and Dark, Comic Cards, Eyes, Marriage, Liars', Lunatics' Licences. MEURICE, 39, Argyle-square.

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WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Arcade, with or without Machines; large Shop, with Open Front; rent £100. 150, Seven Sisters-road, London.

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SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

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Elaborate Properties and Electrical Effects.

For fuller particulars apply to
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WANTED, to Sell,
Grand Production of
"RED RIDING HOOD."
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To be seen nightly,
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Apply,
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WANTED, to Sell, Several Pantomime Productions, as I am doing some different Subjects next year. ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

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WANTED, to Sell, Thorough-bred Mare, broken for Manège, Liberty and Turpin; also Turpin Scenery. Cheap. LAWTON, Wood Castle, Bordesley Green, Birmingham.

WANTED, to Sell, Cheap, Troupe of Performing Dogs, pretty act, everything complete, suitable for lady or gentleman, can be seen working. Apply, A. L., Angel Hotel, Frome.

WANTED, to Sell, Lady's Pet, Silver-coated Yorkshire Toy Terrier, about 8in. high, 5lb., 30s. Approval. 59, Wells-road, Glastonbury.

WANTED, to Sell cheap, Self-acting Orchestra, Drum attachment, suitable for a hall or small rink. BECKER, Tontine-square, Hanley.

WANTED, to Sell, fine Mythical Temple, Solid Columned Front, 30ft. by 22ft. high, suit Illusion, quite new. Cost £75; accept £30. Box 5,559, "The Era."

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WANTED TO SELL.

WANTED, to Sell, Circus Tents, 70ft., 80ft., 85ft., New and Secondhand, cheap for cash. ARTHUR SAUNDERS, England's Circus Tent Maker, Wisbech.

WANTED, to Sell, a Quantity of Scenery, consisting of Flats and Set Pieces; also a Working Trap Scene on Stage. Apply, J. WOOLF, Wonderland, Whitechapel, E.

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"Yours faithfully,
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EMPIRE PALACE, EDINBURGH.

Rehearsal at 1.30 for :—

Joseph Hart's "Polly Pickle's Pets," George Westland, Baker and Balfe, Ted E. Box, Sanford and Lyons, Great Wieland, Goodwin's Piccs, Grosvenor Sisters, Bioscope, J. F. Preston and Co., in "Rogues of the Turf."

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—

Albert Chevalier, Three Prestons, Gracie Moore, The Gems, Walter Bellonini, Lionette Roberty, Frank Bertram and Co., Fayre and Manning, Bioscope, Tom Edwards.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—

Jos. Hart's "Rain Dears," Bert Williams, The Anartos, Margaret Parker and Co., Hilda Jacobsen, McConnell Trio, Dennis Drew and Boys, Eily Adair, Bioscope, The Bogannys.

GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—

Stevens and Buchanan's Grand Pantomime, "Cinderella."

ARDWICK THEATRE, MANCHESTER.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Fred Walton and Co., Joe O'Gorman, Mabel Mavis, Ugo Nap, Miles Stavordale Quintette, The Rawsons, Theo Bouwmeester and Co., Alf Holt, Wee Mona, Bioscope, Hubert Carter and Co., in "David Garrick."

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—

Clark and Hamilton, Henriette de Serris, Amy Anderson and Co., Staig's Cycling Steeplejacks, Annie Purcell, Fred Eustace and Co., in "The Amber Light," Bessie Slaughter, Burnetti, Bioscope, Laurie's Kindergarten.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Daisy Dormer, Nellie Wallace, Phil Parsons, Enzer, W. F. Frame, "That Brute Simmons," Naughton and Gold, Les Uniques, Edie Endon, Bioscope, Zeynard's Lilliputians.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Victoria Monks, Barrington, Lyric Mummers, Boyd and Gilfain, Jack Pleasants, Marstro and Oretta, Arthur Gill, La Danseuse, Bioscope, Master Edward Garratt and Co.

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Messrs. Polini and Melford's Co., in "The Silver King."

GRAND, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

George Robey, Two St. Johns, Walter King, Haley's "Garden of Girls," The Stockham Grecian Band, Arthur Aldridge, Phillips and Merritt, Arthur Kenny, Baby Boden, Bioscope, Poluski Bros.

PALACE, LEICESTER.

Rehearsal at 2.30 for :—

Ernest Shand, Lil. O'Gorman, Cline and Clark, Lickson's Dogs, Florence and Lilian, "No. 99," Vetter Bros., Walter Curtis, Bioscope, Ginnett's "Hunting Morn."

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Karno's "Football Match." Percy Hannan, Barlee and Smith, Nina Wood, Alburtus and Millar, Alexandra Dagmar, Mlle. Haydee, Annette Hayward, Bioscope, Carter Livesey and Lilian Rosebery.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Fred Karno's Co., including Fred Kitchen, in "G. P. O.," Sybil St. Elmo, Brothers St. Clair, Marriott Edgar, The Bensons, Sisters Caselli, Walter Aubrey, Dot Hardy, Bioscope, Winifred Hare.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

"Sands of Dee," Tom Collins, Mary Ambrose, Walter Munroe, Trentanovi Sisters, Beattie Kent, McCann's Dogs, Bioscope, The Gothams, Lydia and Amelys.

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

George Gray and Co., in "Parson Gray, V.C.," Maud and Sydney Wood, John Macauley, Gladys Mavius, Six Lancashire Lasses, Fred Curran, The Royal Diamonds, Thora, Bioscope, Phil Ray.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Carrie De Mar, Grey and Brown, Kate Traill, The Mayvilles, Belle Davis and Piccs, Les Martineks, Tom E. Hughes, Jeannie Mackay, Bioscope, Herbert Cottesmore and Co., in "The Old Willow Plate."

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Vesta Tilley, St. George Sylvesta, Frank Cass, Schenk Bros., Wood, Wells and Wilkins, Burns and Danvers, Walter Dowling, Rita Rhylle, Bioscope, King and Benson.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

George Dance's No. 1 Company, in "Havana."

THE LONDON COLISEUM

Rehearsal at 10 a.m. for :—

Miss Elise Craven and Co., in "The Queen of the Fairies," Miss Evie Greene, Four Rio Bros., The Villions, Haines and Borthwick and Co., Alexander and Hughes, Robert Cunningham and Co., Eight of Hearts, Willie Zimmerman, Carina Sisters, Tom E. Finglass, Lily Flexmore, England Invaded, Madame Madelaine de Noce.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

La Milo and Cruikshank, Will Cornish, Mabel Bright, J. L. Shine and Co., in "Hogmanay," Burke, Andrus, and Frisco, Bioscope, Soho Trio, Mike Nono, Hal Hughman, "Motogirl."

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Fred Edwards and Co., in "Kleptomaniacs," Nellie Coleman, Melia and Mozarabar, Ethel Newman, Ben Albert, May Edouin, Billy French, Chronomegaphone, Bioscope, Casey's Court.

EMPIRE, SWANSEA.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Auguste Van Biene, Frank Lynne, Jackley Trio, Chas. Fisher's Opera Co., Guyer and Valli, Watson's Dogs, Three Dixons, Allan Hanbury, Bioscope, Gertie Gitana.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Alice Pierce, Jack Lane, Helen Forsyth, Rex Fox, The Delevines, Coloured Meisters, Adams and Ward, Frances Letty, Bioscope, Herbert Darnley's Co., in "The Mandarin."

PHILHARMONIC HALL, CARDIFF.

Rehearsal at 3 for :—

Company as booked.

EMPIRE, NEWPORT

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Karno's Co., including Albert Bruno, in "The Bailiff." Stylo, Kroney Bros., Fatmah Diard, Van Allen, Beatrice Bonnie, Bioscope, Austin Rudd.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

O Hana San and Co., Norman Wrighton's Co., in "Wake up, England," J. H. Scotland, Achmed Ibrahim Troupe, Bioscope, Kitts and Windrum, Billy Hobbs, Maudie Francis, Bert Woodward, Fred Earle.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

La Scala Opera Co., La Pia, Les Frasettis, Edie King, Pat Rafferty, Rhoda Paul, Victor Newman, Arthur Astill, Bioscope, De Gracia's Elephants.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco, Sisters Dorrell, Harry Leybourne, Maud Rochez's Monkeys, The New Macs, Nance Elder, Ida Kathrena, E. J. Sheldon, Bioscope, Terry and Lambert.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Les Fleury, Orpheus, Nellie Le Breton, Dot Stephens, Spry and Monti, Miss Marquis' Ponies, Brammall's Comedy Company, Herald Comedy Four, Frank Hartley, Bioscope, Miss Mary Mayfren and Co., in "The Yellow Fang."

The following are booked in conjunction with the above:

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUBLIN.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Helen Roberts, Frank Sylvo, Ethel Walker, Canty's Grotto, Fred Land, Lena Brunton, C. H. Charlton, Pictures, Stein Eretto Troupe.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

George Lashwood, Edith Fink, Tee and Tee, Sisters Herbert, Walter Barrett, Sisters Aindow, Pictures, The Brasques.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—

Daley Cooper, Mabel Lait and Co., in "Passing the Time," The Brennans, Frank F. Street, Virto and Venita, The Falcons, Three Welsh Girls, Bioscope, The Dandies.

IMPERIAL HALL, WALSALL.

Company as booked.

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EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Oswald Williams, Les Voces, Lily Palmer, Howell and Scott, Musical Courtiers, Minnie Mace, Bioscope, Harry Herbert, Selbinis.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Madame Clasen's Art Bronzes, Takio, The Meymotts, Fred Keeton, Wilbert and Lealand, Lily Esplin, George Young, Pictures, J. H. Milburn.

IMPORTANT NOTICES.

RE APPLICATIONS FOR ENGAGEMENTS.

All applications by either Artists or their Agents must be made to the Head Office. Lowest terms must be stated, and distinction made between salaries required for larger and smaller towns. Vacant dates should be stated. If a list of existing bookings be sent, it will render selection easier.

Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not rebooked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follow :—

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BIRMINGHAM, NOTTINGHAM, LEICESTER, AND DISTRICT.
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SOUTH WALES DISTRICT.
MR. ALBERT MITCHELL, Empire Theatre, Cardiff.

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MR. T. GERALD MORTON, Empire Palace, Leeds.

LIVERPOOL, MANCHESTER, AND DISTRICT.
MR. ALBERT BULMER, The Empire, Liverpool.

LONDON DISTRICT.
MR. J. CHRISTIE, Empire Theatre, Shepherd's Bush, W.

N.B.—Mr. OSWALD STOLL or Mr. FRANK ALLEN can be seen by appointment on all matters arising out of the above, and for the discussion of entirely new Numbers.

All Artists or Agents who communicate with our District Representatives must have made definite applications, in accordance with above directions, to the Head Office, at the same time, or just previously.

Artists and Agents are requested to note that the Standard Theatre, Shoreditch, and the Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, come within the areas absolutely barred by us. Artists and Agents are also requested to note that the Hippodrome, Aston, Birmingham, comes within the area absolutely barred by the Grand Theatre and Empire Palace, Birmingham.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have at least Fourteen Band Parts for English Orchestrations, and Seventeen Band Parts for Foreign Orchestrations. Matter of Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to Co-operative Offices, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced. Artists' Scenery, Properties, &c., MUST be fireproofed in accordance with the regulations of the Licensing Authorities.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

No order or contract for goods or services must be accepted for any of the foregoing theatres except upon receipt of an Official Form, issued from the Co-operative Offices, London, and signed by either Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. Frank Allen, or the Chief Accountant, otherwise the Company concerned will not be responsible for same, and will refuse payment. In special cases, where goods are required at once, suppliers must look to the individual placing the order, who will be personally liable, unless an official confirmatory order, signed as above, is received within forty-eight hours. Invoices must be sent to the Theatre, but monthly statements should be sent to the Co-operative Offices. The individual Company on whose behalf orders are signed is solely responsible for payment. The Management will not hold themselves responsible in the event of loss of or damage to any MSS., Songs, &c., submitted for consideration.

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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1909.

"The Era" Dramatic and Musical Annual, 1909. 1s. 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C. This well-known almanac and annual contains, as usual, much information, including lists and particulars of new plays of interest to members of the dramatic profession. The symposium of stories by well-known people includes some interesting experiences and anecdotes by some of the best known actors and actresses of the day.—The Financial Times, Jan. 18, 1909.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1909.

I have received a copy of "The Era" year book, which probably contains more "meaty" guidance to the square ounce than any other publication of its kind. Data of all theatrical and music hall subjects are to be found within its covers, as well as a collection of interesting yarns by prominent entertainers. It is cheap at a shilling.—Sunday Chronicle, Manchester, Jan. 24, 1909.

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Master George Wood, Hicks and Hunter, Jack Hayworth, Bouncing Dillons, Sable Fern, Cosgrove and Burns, Beau-Ideals, Ando Japs, "Singing Servants," Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, HALIFAX.

Mysticus, Ted Waite, Crissie Cross, Tina Frank, Leslie's Cadets, A. Ba-Be, Seven Wulfrunas, Carney and Armstrong, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.

Morton and Elliott, The Glanvilles, Frank Vallance, Norah Desmond The Wedburns, Sisters Hampel, Maudie Forde, Mr. and Mrs. G. Wilde, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.

L. Mortimer and Co., Rose and Wold, The Cromwells, Carr and Rose, Mack Olive, Mulvey and Miriam, Harwood's Juveniles, Chris. Richards, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

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PALACE THEATRE, LINCOLN.

Cestria, Ted Gill, Alma Campbell, Penstone and Co., Archie Pitt, St. Ruth and Conyers, Capt. Ellis and Son, Chas. Bignell, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, CARDIFF.

"Cowboy Millionaire," Clack and Clack, Sisters Brooke, Bert Maddison, Bros. Rees, J. H. Greener, Gladys Witton, Lisbon and Barker, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, WARRINGTON.

Minerva, Ethel Sheffer, T. C. Jaques, The Arntes, Winifred Ward, Neilson's Boys and Girls, The Mysterious Howards, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

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"Claude Duval," Wilton Heriot and Co., Harvey and Holt, Master Day, J. W. Rowley, Tate and Tate, Jamie Piper, Marion Armitage, Cassie Walmer, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PIER PAVILION, SOUTHPORT.

Matinée Monday.

Ted Karno and Co., George Lawrence, Beattie Lyndon, Frank H. Fox, Dancing Gilberts, Toff Noel, Cambo, Milsted-Bell Trio, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Dewar and Dunville.

PALACE, BOW.

Matinée Every Monday.

Sisters Belmont, Bros. Ashley, Raymond, Tray and Rich, Ajax and George, Two Rays, Jos. Crooke, Majery Maidment, Will Harmony, Gertie Yolande, Frederic Maxwell and Co.

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Matinées, Monday and Thursday.

Fred Maxwell and Co., Raymond, Norah Noble, Two Rubies, Hayes and Watson, Marie Elsie, Marguerite Radcliffe, Helena Walbran and Co., Johnny Cecil, Clem Collins.

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Matinée Every Monday.

Raymond, Deans and Wilton, Les Elgonas, Bowman and Morton, Bessie Neilson, Edna Barrett, Chas. Austin, Albert Townsend, Florence Worth, Tom Ashley.

PALACE, BATTERSEA.

Matinée Monday, at 2.30 o'clock.

Colin Mail, Julia Gilbert, Raymond, Sisters Melba, Morning Leader Picture, Wrestling Tournament, Emma Don, Walter Munroe, Madge Field, Perrier, Bernard Mervyn and Co.

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All Artists engaged for Surrey Theatre must bring 14 Band Parts.

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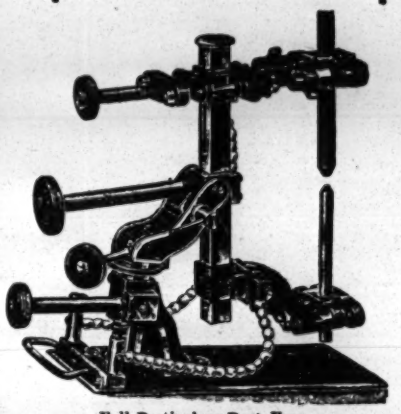

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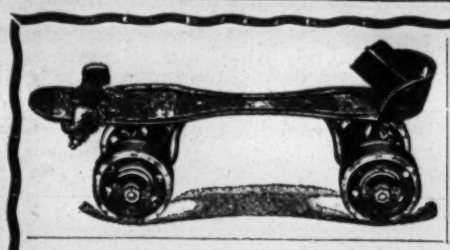

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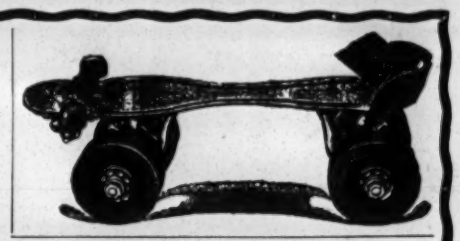

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CONTENTS.

Map (19in. by 10in.), showing the distance betwixt the various Music Halls at a glance. Will tell if one Hall is within the barring radius of the other, thus saving fears, worry, and anxiety.

All About Artists' Luggage.
Lists of Clubs.
Information about stamping Contracts.
Foreign Money Tables.
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Their Telephone Numbers
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List and Address of Photographers.
Size of Theatrical Printing Paper.
Names and Addresses of Theatrical
Railway Managers, &c., &c.

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PRUDENTIAL
ASSURANCE CO., LTD.
Chief Office: **HOLBORN BARS, LONDON.**

Summary of the Report Presented at the Sixtieth Annual Meeting, held on 4th March, 1909.

ORDINARY BRANCH.—The number of Policies issued during the year was **80,379**, assuring the sum of **£7,614,898**, and producing a New Annual Premium Income of **£440,376**. The Premiums received during the year were **£4,616,337**, being an increase of **£135,960** over the year 1907. The Claims of the year amounted to **£2,812,962**. The number of Deaths was **8,389**, and **15,322** Endowment Assurances matured.

The number of Policies in force at the end of the year was **866,797**.

INDUSTRIAL BRANCH.—The Premiums received during the year were **£6,925,755**, being an increase of **£264,124**. The Claims of the year amounted to **£2,670,345**, including **£72,696** the proportion of bonus paid since the date of the last Annual Meeting. The number of Claims and Surrenders, including **4,355** Endowment Assurances matured, was **310,722**. The number of Free Policies granted during the year to those Policyholders of five years' standing and upwards who desired to discontinue their payments was **145,261**, the number in force being **1,395,929**. The number of Free Policies which became Claims during the year was **40,094**.

The total number of Policies in force at the end of the year was **17,963,127**; their average duration exceeds eleven and a quarter years.

The Assets of the Company, in both branches, as shown in the Balance-Sheet, are **£71,958,859**, being an increase of **£3,952,575** over those of 1907.

In the Ordinary Branch a reversionary bonus at the rate of **£1 12s.** per cent. on the original sums assured has again been added to all classes of participating policies issued since the year 1876.

The Directors are pleased to announce an increase in the Industrial Branch bonus. All policies of over 5 years' duration, which become claims either by death or maturity of endowment from the 5th of March, 1909, to the 3rd of March, 1910, both dates inclusive, will participate. This bonus will be paid by way of addition to the sums assured of:—

£5 per cent. on all policies becoming claims upon which at least five but less than ten years premiums have been paid;

£10 per cent on all policies becoming claims upon which at least ten but less than twenty years' premiums have been paid, and

£12 10s. per cent. on all policies becoming claims upon which at least twenty years' premiums have been paid.

GENERAL BALANCE-SHEET of the PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED, being the Summary of both Branches, on Dec. 31, 1908.

LIABILITIES.			
Shareholders' Capital	£1,000,000	0	0
Reserve Funds	2,850,000	0	0
Life Assurance Funds	67,894,765	0	4
Claims under Life Policies admitted	146,790	18	10
Bonus under Life Policies Reserved for Distribution	67,303	4	11
	£71,958,859	4	1
ASSETS.			
British Gov. Securities	£3,416,799	17	6
Indian and Colonial Government Securities	6,282,786	12	11
Railway & other Debentures and Debenture Stocks, & Gold & Sterling Bonds	10,119,247	2	1
Loans on County Council, Municipal, and other Rates	15,036,040	5	5
Freehold Ground Rents and Scotch Feu Duties	4,880,107	8	7
Freehold and Leasehold Property	3,729,237	18	11
Mortgages on Property within the United Kingdom	8,997,567	2	6
Railway, Gas, and Water Stocks	7,603,002	16	2
Suez Canal Shares	161,192	13	5
Telegraph and other Shares	96,984	18	0
Leasehold Ground Rents	8,207	13	0
Met. and London County Consolidated Stocks, and City of London Bonds	248,406	8	9
Met. Water Board Stocks	435,263	10	7
Bank of England Stock	202,754	7	10
Indian, Colonial, and Foreign Corporation Stocks	2,268,696	4	2
Foreign Government Securities	2,438,547	8	4
Reversions and Life Interests	1,339,794	19	6
Loans on the Co.'s Policies	2,806,987	16	2
Rent Charges	249,736	11	8
Outstanding Premiums and Agents' Balances	563,622	3	0
Outstanding Interest and Rents	587,149	17	7
Cash—In hands of Superintendents	34,951	2	0
Do.—On Deposit, on Current Accounts, and in hand	451,774	6	0
	£71,958,859	4	1

FREDK. SCHOOLING, A. C. THOMPSON, } *Joint Managers.*
D. W. STABLE, J. SMART, } *Joint Secretaries.*
H. A. HARBEN, *Chairman.*
THOS. C. DEWEY, W. J. LANCASTER, } *Directors.*

We report that with the assistance of the Chartered Accountants as stated below we have examined the foregoing accounts and have obtained all the information and explanations that we have required, and in our opinion such accounts are correct, and the foregoing Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the books of the Company.

PHILIP SECRETAN, W. H. NICHOLLS, } *Auditors.*

We have examined the Cash transactions (receipts and payments) affecting the accounts of the Assets and Investments for the year ended December 31st, 1908, and we find the same in good order and properly vouched. We have also examined the Deeds and Securities, Certificates, &c., representing the Assets and Investments set out in the above account, and we certify that they were in possession and safe custody as on December 31st, 1908.

DELOITTE, PLENDER, GRIFFITHS, & CO., *Chartered Accountants.*
February 15th, 1909.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERAMAN.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. A. Jackson Withers; Resident-Manager, Mr. Archie Ainsleigh.—Mr. Dudley Bennett and Mr. T. C. Wray's company is here this week in *Miss Hook of Holland*. Miss Ethel James is charming in the title-rôle; Mr. Charles B. Maclagan is a humorous Mr. Hook; Mr. J. B. Fox gives a striking performance of Captain Paap; Mr. Sam Lockridge is a capital Bandmaster; Mr. Frank Altred a successful Schnapps; and Mr. Fred Dark is seen to advantage as Simon Slinks. Miss Muff Carew fully realises the rôle of Mina. The scenery and staging are good.

ABERDARE.—NEW THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Aberdare Public Hall, Theatre, and Billposting Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting-Manager, Mr. B. Richards.—Mr. George Edwardes's company in *The Merry Widow* is playing to packed houses here. Miss Daphne Glenne makes a fascinating widow, her dancing in the Waltz scene being wonderfully artistic. Mr. Alec Worcester is an excellent Prince Danilo; Miss Violet Hobson a capital Natalie; Mr. H. Sinclair Cotter a richly humorous Baron Popoff; and Mr. Harry Emerie a satisfactory Nisch. Mr. Arthur Geary's voice is heard to advantage in the rôle of Jolidon; Mr. Cecil Warwick cleverly represents the old General; Mme. Novakovitch is well portrayed by Miss Eileen Clanford; and Mr. John H. David is a capable Cascada.

ABERDEEN.—H. M. THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—*Married to the Wrong Man* is one of those sensational pieces of deep interest which always attract crowds to the more popular parts of the house. Miss Gertrude Boswell gives a sympathetic interpretation of Ruth; and Mr. Oswald Cray plays with conspicuous skill as Captain Gladwin; Mr. Charles Vivian and Mr. H. Lane Bayliff are superior villains; Mr. Paige Lawrence is successful in a dual rôle; Mr. Syd Clayton contributes admirable sketches of a potboy, soldier, and amateur doctor; and Miss Dorothy Haigh makes a charming Rose.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessees, the United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—The performance of Park's Eton Boys and Girton Girls was much appreciated, as last week; the Colonial Septette give a delightful musical act, in which Mr. Charles Edwards, the eminent cornet soloist, appears; Doody and Wright and Spry and Austin are as genuinely amusing as ever; Mr. Harry J. Crane and company play with success a pathetic musical sketch, *Truth in Absence;* Shrillo is highly appreciated as an operatic whistler; Miss Edith Chanfler is a very pleasing juvenile soprano; Mr. Henry Hilton shows much dexterity as a conjurer; and Mr. Tony Black is a versatile Scottish comedian. The Palascope views are novel and effective.

ALHAMBRA AND EMPIRE MUSIC HALLS.—Managers, Messrs. R. Calder and J. Montague.—Newman and Howard appear in a clever sketch, *The Slop and the Slavey*, which is much appreciated; Miss E. Duncan excels as a step-dancer and club-swinging expert; and the other members of the company, including Misses Marie Rose, May Calder, and Marguerite Lowe, and Messrs. Jack Merson and Archie Murray are as popular as ever.

ABERTILLERY.—THEATRE METROPOLE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. J. Seaborn.—*At Duty's Call* is successfully presented here this week by Mr. John Gerant's talented company. Harold, the Anglo-Egyptian, is realistically portrayed by Mr. John Gerant, who receives the full appreciation of the house. Mr. Ernest St. John gives a dramatic delineation of the difficult part of General Gordon; and Captain Alison finds a clever and capable exponent in Mr. Charles C. Calvert. Mr. Royston Denman is a successful Jack Spencer; and Mr. Harry Ives excellently fills the comedy part of Terry O'Halloran. Miss Beatrice Western gives a very effective rendition of Dora; and Salema is cleverly reproduced by Miss Ada Roscoe. The mounting is exceedingly good.

THE PAVILION.—Lessees, Messrs. E. and H. Tilney; Manager, Mr. E. Pryce.—David Poole is a skilful ventriloquist; Ernesto, a clever juggler, performs several difficult feats; Edward Cranston and company produce the popular Irish racing sketch, *Terry; or, True to His Trust*, with great success. Wat Tyler delights the audience with the dramatic scena, *The Poachers;* Dacey and Lewis are a pair of pleasing comedy entertainers; Flo Cecil is highly successful in song and dance; and the Cosmans give a very pleasant comedy act. Pictures are also shown.

ACCRINGTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company is presenting the new version of Hall Caine's *The Christian* here this week to crowded houses. Miss Margery Fane is a charming and lively exponent of the complex character of Glory Quayle, and enters thoroughly into the spirit of the part; Mr. P. Gedge Twyman as John Storm acts with much latent strength, and is a decided success; Mr. Edward Ouston ably impersonates the impetuous and self-willed Horatio Drake; Mr. G. Montague Lane is duly sinister and sarcastic as the polished profligate, Lord Robert Ure; and Mr. John Hastings Batson acts with fervour and is singularly eloquent as Father Lamplugh. Miss Alice Maude is excellent as the kind-hearted Mrs. Callender; Miss Gladys Vernon contributes a pretty and touching impersonation of Polly Love; Miss Grace Baring is very well cast as Black Meg; and Miss Sissie Murdock is successful as Mother Kent. The piece is mounted with care, and is received with much favour.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Accrington Hippodrome Co.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—The great draw here this week is undoubtedly Tom Rose, described as the world's champion light-weight wrestler, and great excitement is created by contests with local aspirants. The Four Musical Victorias give some fine selections of high-class music; and Richard Fineburg presents impersonations of popular characters in famous plays. Mike Cray, comedy juggler, keeps the house in roars of laughter; and Helen and Cozens appear with success in a skit. The Werd Brothers, comedy acrobats, are accorded a hearty reception; and John Grun Marx astonishes the audience with his feats of strength. The Custances, comedy duo, prove popular; and the Burnley *v.* Tottenham Hotspurs Football Match is shown by the Bioscope.

ALDERSHOT.—THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Gladwin.—*The Face at the Window* is being presented here on a return visit. Mr. Hoggan-Armadale impersonates Le Loup with cleverness and reserve; whilst as Goufet Mr. Scott-Leighton is quite natural. Mr. Arthur Beverley is good as the Clerk; and Miss Elsie Marriott-Watson is successful as Marie.

ASHINGTON.—MINERS' THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fred Gould.—Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Draycott's répertoire company entered upon their second week on Monday, when *The Heart of a Hero* was presented. As Jem Resdale Mr. Draycott gave a finished performance, being ably supported by Mrs. Draycott, a sympathetic Nell. The Dave Pritchard of Mr. George Steel was well studied; Mr. George Arthur played forcibly the part of Wilfred Marl, the villain; the comedy part of Timothy Heighno was ably undertaken by Mr. Will White; Mr. Wilfred J. Short was a manly Jack Collinson, and Mr. H. Scatchard's reading of the miser, George Winton, was satisfactory. Miss Eva Norman was neat and pleasing as Susie Slack; and Miss Marie Ellis as May Ryder and Miss Louise Millward as Mrs. Ryder were both good in their respective parts.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill, jun.—Messrs. Hallatt and Howard's company is here in Walter Howard's romantic play *Her Love Against the World*. The character of Eric, Earl of Strathmere, is played by Mr. Fred Emery with force, dignity, and impressiveness. Miss Grace Heywood gives a good representation of a true-hearted woman as Iris, Princess of Idalia; Miss Rossie St. John as Lionel, the boy brother of the Earl Strathmere, is fully equal to the demands made by the character; Mr. Lewis Gilbert invests the part of Ulric, Prince of Ravensburg, with thorough vindictiveness; Mr. W. H. Hallatt sustains the part of Prince Othmar with rare skill and keen perception. Minor rôles are capably interpreted.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leach; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Jessie Burslem.—Another pantomime is here for the week, Mr. Harry Burns' combination being responsible for its interpretation. Mlle. Du Roche in the character of Robinson Crusoe is a sprightly boy, and sings in charming manner; Miss Marie Bell is a pert and chic Polly Perkins; Miss Kitty Trewhitt is equally attractive and smart as Tommy Bowline; Misses Ruby Aiston, Nina May, and Violet Ramsay score as Bessie Bar, Fairy Pearl, and Princess Koko. Mr. Henry Curwen exerts all his comic powers to create fun as Dame Crusoe; and Mr. Arthur Aiston is the usual swashbuckler as Will Atkins. Captain Cuttle and Captain's Mate are ably sustained by Messrs. Edwin and Harry Ramsay as contributors of comicality. Commendation is well bestowed in the case of Mr. Will Sterne, who enacts the part of Billy Crusoe; Mr. Billy Hubbard does the black-skinned man Friday in the orthodox manner; and Mr. Couth Griffiths merits praise as King Hannibal. Mr. Jack Montrose is a capital Demon Davy Jones; and the Pirates, Messrs. Hastings and Harkaway, are nimble as well as funny. The evolutions of the Yankee Doodle Girls are exhilarating.

THE NEW PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech; Assistant-Manager, Mr. C. F. Wilson.—The animated picture shows continue to attract amusement-seekers to this hall. The show of films is choice this week, the best and most up-to-date of Pathé Frères, Gaumont, and others. The most striking film is The Murder with a Butcher's Knife. The vaudeville artists for the week are Barney Ives, a clever conjurer and illusionist; and the Sarony Sisters, in a Continental novelty act.

THE PICTUREDROME.—Lessees, Messrs. Weisker Bros.; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Marks.—The picture shows for the week are excellent. The chief film is the great boxing match between Burns and Johnson, and is drawing crowds. Interludes are supplied by the Albion Quartette.

ATTERCLIFFE.—PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Bert Dent.—The outstanding feature of this week's programme here is the engagement of Vonetta, described as the "Queen of Illusionists," who gives a clever and artistic exhibition of conjuring and illusions, in combination with remarkably quick changes of costume and graceful poses. Altogether, her act is unique, and calls forth well-deserved applause. The Paul Kramer troupe give a smart display on the trapeze; Miss Ethel Stephenson, contralto vocalist, has a rich voice which she knows well how to use, and her songs are rendered in admirable taste; Brady and Johnson present a laughable sketch, entitled *Blunders;* and other attractive items are given by Miss Winnie Wentworth (vocalist), Indiana (girl contortionist), Mr. Keane Harker (comedian), and the "Attergraph" pictures, The Auto-Heroine.

AYR.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—This week Mr. Chas. W. Poole's Myriorama and vaudeville company occupies this theatre. The pictures are a great feature, but interspersed are several turns by clever artists. Amongst these are Amasis, the Egyptian man of mystery; the Four Craigs, in their gymnastic turn; the Ettenas, performers on the rolling sphere; Robert Tebbitt, whistler, and Ray, Miles, and Ray, comedy jugglers.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS. — ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—J. A. Campbell's company, in *The Little Breadwinner*, is here. Mr. J. Monkhouse gives a capital impersonation of Lord William Dorrington; and Mr. Reginald Brown does well as Richard Lawrence. Mr. Sydney Lynn is a humorous Charles Prior; and Mr. Alfred Maurice a Uriah Heap-like Joseph Prior. Miss Josephine Richards is a winsome Margaret Daventry; and Little Irene is very winning and clever in the title-rôle.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Mr. E. Oswald Brooks' company, in *The New Housemaid*, is here. Mr. Howard L. Tracy is a clever and humorous Hon. Bertie Rashleigh; and Miss Babs Stuart is an effective and vivacious Dulcie. Miss Kate Newton draws a good portrait of Aunt Caroline; and Mr. Brember Wills is a good Peter Pinkerton. Mr. Herbert Colley is a capital butler, Roseberry; and Mr. P. Ramsay Forman a cute detective, Marmsbury Bloom. The Rev. Stephen Stingles is amusingly done by Mr. Archie Selwyn; and Miss Ruby Wyndham, Miss Josephine Middleton, Miss Renee de L'Estrange, and Mr. Reginald Hargreaves also deserve mention.

TIVOLI.—Lessee and Manager, Signor R. Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edgar G. Laban.—Bella and Bijou, who are paying a welcome return visit, are the top of the bill here this week, and their performance brings down the house; Chimes is very clever and amusing in a musical fantasia; Fred Elton is, as usual, exceedingly good in his act; Arthur Stacey has some very catchy patter; Maude Vera is a smart and pleasing comedienne and dancer; Vernon's Bioscope contributes very considerably to the evening's entertainment.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Owners and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ralph D. Fenton.—Some capital pictures of the King's and Queen's visit to Berlin are being shown.

BARRY DOCK.—THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brogden.—Mr. Montague Beaudyn pays a return visit here this week, and on Monday drew a well-filled house with *The Power of a Wicked Woman*. Mr. Beaudyn gave an effective rendering of Philip Carey; and as Horace Winter Mr. C. D. Pitt did exceedingly well. Mr. Arthur Cresswell (Guy), Mr. Rupert Talbot (Lord Dumbey), Mr. Arthur Tomlin (Bransby), all capably filled their respective parts. Miss Irene Monro (Helen Terraire) gave a finished portrayal of a very heavy rôle; and Miss Winifred Rutland acted Denise in a most sympathetic manner. Miss Cecilia Crawford as Nellie Montague was very diverting; and the French character of Marie was ably acted by Miss Phyllis Rae.

BATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—*Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch* is here this week to sway local playgoers by her loving and kindly disposition. Mr. Gaston Mayer has been fortunate enough to secure the services of Miss Augusta Haviland to portray the title-rôle, and this charming actress gets every ounce out of the part; Mr. Stubbins and Miss Hazy are impersonated cleverly by Mr. Edward A. Coventry and Miss Armine Grace; Miss Beatrix Bell is highly amusing as Mrs. Eichorn; as is Miss Violet Chamier as Mrs. Schultz. Lovey Mary is portrayed with tenderness by Miss Winifred Murray; the young lovers, Miss Lucy and Mr. Bob, find capable exponents in Miss Dorothy Clifton and Mr. Guy Addison; the three children Asia, Europena, and Australia are commendably undertaken by Miss Margaret Nybloc, Miss Mimi Le Claire, and Miss Marie Stella. Mr. Wiggs is played by Mr. Francis Chamier with conviction.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—The leading item in this week's bill is supplied by the Singing Jockeys, boy vocalists and dancers, presented by G. Barclay, jun., and W. Netta. Bert Weston is again at hand to roll off funny stories and topical songs; Brull and Hemsley return to amuse with their scena *Fun in a Music Shop;* the contortions of Sim Moree, the Indian coil, baffle description; Rosie Reval scores in her Dutch and coon specialities. Alec B. Thorne, Scotch comedian, and Rose Pink, a young comedienne and dancer, also appear. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux continue to cause interest and pleasure.

BEDFORD.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—*Women and Wine* is being presented this week by Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmond's company. The handsome stage presence and artistic acting of Miss C. St. Elmo as Marcel Ragadout, and the sympathetic rendering of Mary Andrews by Miss Violet Sims were much admired. Miss Octavia De Noel's clever impersonation of La Colombe was praiseworthy; and Miss Ethel Vinroy's performance as Janet Marlow added to the success of the piece. Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds as Dick Seymour had a difficult part, but he played with force and feeling; Mr. J. Milne Taylor was a dignified Hugh Seymour; and Professor Sauter was splendidly impersonated by Mr. W. Manning; while Mr. Harry Harrop was exceedingly funny as the Professor's son. In act three, Le Bal Masque, some clever dancing was performed by the Lottie Stone Troupe of whirlwind dancers. The scenery was excellent.

BELFAST. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. A. Salmond.—Miss Winifred Chalmers' company opened on Monday in *The Master Criminal*. In the title-rôle (Telford Lestage) Mr. Henry L. Osmond achieved a pronounced success by his powerful impersonation, and Miss Lilian Burns also deserves high praise for her clever interpretation of Cecile, alias Lady Trevennes; Mr. J. C. Carlyle was the detective, Ben Blandy, to the life, and Mr. Cuthbert Taylor ably presented the rôle of Philip Manners; Miss Dorothy Oswald furnished a charming interpretation of Mabel Manners, and Mr. Charles Tolcher, in the exacting rôle of Gentleman Jim, was decidedly effective; Mr. Harry Cook created much laughter with his inimitable impersonation of Tommy Dale, and Mr Russell Yorke as Dawnay furnished a convincing study; Miss Mabel Tremere was exceedingly vivacious as Peggy Perks; and other parts were sustained by Miss F. Carlyle and Messrs. B. C. Hacking, H. Mason, &c. Last night (Friday) the play *Oliver Twist* was announced for presentation.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Mr. W. W. Kelly's company opened here on Monday in the popular historical play *A Royal Divorce*. As Josephine the charming actress, Miss Edith Cole, achieved her customary success with her remarkably clever impersonation, and honours were also achieved by Mr. Keith Fraser as Napoleon, his acting being thoroughly convincing. As the crafty Tallyrand it would be difficult to equal Mr. Percy H. Vernon, and Mr Stanley Harrison was admirable as the Marquis De Beaumont. In the difficult rôle of Marie Louise Miss Winnie Tempest deserves a special line for the excellence of her acting, and a delightful interpretation of Stephanie De Beauharnais was furnished by Miss Maud Lacy; Mr. Ernest Plumpton made the most of his opportunities as General Augereau. Some humour was invested in the rôle of the innkeeper, Grimaud, by Mr. George Hudson, and congratulations are due to Miss Ethel Love on her clever impersonation of the little King of Rome. As Lord Keith Mr. C. Jackson acquitted himself with distinction, and Mr. Harcourt S. Standing was good as Marshall Murat. Other rôles were adequately presented by Miss Helen Meadows, Miss Marie Johns, Miss Loyale Frere, Miss Nellie Lucas, and Messrs. W. Robbins, E. Lingford, Lawton Orme, &c.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fred Willmott and Will Sley; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The star here this week is Mr. Neil Kenyon, the droll Scotch comedian, who has been most successful in his creations, "The Scottish Postman" and "The Stationmaster o' Dunrobin." Another great favourite here is Miss May Moore Duprez, the original "Jolly Dutch Girl," who on Monday was warmly welcomed, encores being frequent. Messrs J. C. Piddock and company appear to great advantage in their original musical fantasy, *The Capture of Venus*, which is very entertaining; Mr. Hugh Cedar and Mr. Edward Elgar produce with much effect their novel comedy act *Ye Days of Old;* and Mr. Julian Mack, "the chatterbox," gains universal favour. Also appearing are Les Currys, in their musical speciality; the Kontaidos, with their feathered tribe; Ben Bradshaw, eccentric acrobats; and the Hipposcope.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—Mr. George Lashwood—fresh from pantomime triumphs in Belfast and Dublin—opened here on Monday, and achieved a great success; the Brasques present with much *eclât* a new and original playlet, entitled *A Society Butterfly*, which found much favour; and Miss Edith Fink is a smart comedienne with capital songs. The clever musical act of the Sisters Aindow is accorded a good reception; and Mr. Walter Barrett's vocalism is quite a treat. Also here are Tee and Tee, musical eccentrics; Sisters Herbert, described as the youngest sister team in vaudeville; and the Bioscope, under the direction of Mr McGibney.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Will White.—Under the direction of Mr. Gerald Tweedie, the following films have been exhibited:—A Drama in Seville, Vaccination Against Injuries, Life of an American Fireman, Wild Man from Borneo, White-gloved Man, &c. In addition, Lindsay and Harte, in their smart comedy act, and Mr. Alf Deane, the tall man, appear.

ST. GEORGE'S HALL.—General-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—Some beautiful films are exhibited here this week, including The Auto Heroine, Rival Sisters, Dauber's Whims, Hong Kong, For the Peace of the Family, &c. Smith and Ashcroft, capital comedians, and Miss Florrie French, a charming comedienne and dancer, appear with much success.

CLIFTONVILLE HALL.—General-Manager, Mr. O. E. Laumann.—Roller-skating continues to be a great attraction here, and the new manager (who is so courteous to everyone) announces more novelties. On Monday next the great Monahan will furnish exhibitions of graceful and fancy skating each afternoon and evening.

BILSTON. — NEW THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. John M. Dawson.—*The World's Verdict*, played by Mr. George Cremen's company, is on a return visit. The piece, which is admirably staged and mounted, meets with capital support. Miss Kitty McPherson is successful as the heroine, Nellie Ashford, and Miss Molly St. George does well in the heavier part of Cora Cassilli Willenhall.

PICTURE HALL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Will Hunter.—A really fine set of films is shown here this week.

BIRKENHEAD. — NEW THEATRE ROYAL. — Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—Mr. Herbert Ralland's company in Pinero's comedy *His House in Order* is again doing excellent business here. On the present occasion Hilary Jesson is finely played by Mr. J. Herbert Beaumont; Miss Elsie Roberts secures the sympathies of the audience by a clever performance of Nina; and Mr. J. Parish Robertson gives a careful rendering of the difficult rôle of Filmer Jesson, M.P. The Ridgeleys are admirably played by Mr. Langford Browne, Mr. Dudley Stuart, Miss Avis Grahame, and Miss Victoria Wray, and remaining characters are, without exception, capably represented.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Mr. Harry Lauder, the popular Scotch comedian, is making his first appearance in England after his recent American success. In addition to this undoubted attraction, the week's company also includes the Four Royal Scots, a quartette of young lady vocalists, dancers, and instrumentalists—a most attractive turn; Miss Millie Payne, comedienne; Kiltie's Camp, a clever representation of Scottish military camp life; Fyne and Hurley, comedians; the Rose Trio of comedy acrobats; Miss Lillie Lassah, comedienne and dancer; Mr. John Robbs, tenor vocalist; Pat Lynch, dancer; W. G. Wesley, comedian; and Brown's Royal Bioscope. The week's matinées have been devoted to a cinematograph exhibition of the fights of Johnson and Burns and Summers and Britt, and have been extensively attended.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Ball.—A leading feature is "Payen," an auto pierrot gymnast and illusionist, presented by Miss Lucia with excellent results; Johnson and De Vere, trick cyclists, execute some marvellous tricks; and a strong company also comprises Reppo and Ella, equilibrists; Miss Rosie White, comedienne; the Brooklands, song and dance artists; Bert Bowden, comedian; Carl Rosan, a talented vocalist; Brent Hayes, an expert banjoist; Stanley Foster, in his magical entertainment, and the Hippo. pictures.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*Dick Whittington* concludes to-night, to make way for *An Englishman's Home*, specially secured for Monday next. The pantomime has been a big success, and the management are to be congratulated in having been able to draw on their own resources so well at the "first time of asking." Last night Mr. Tom Foy held his benefit at this house.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*Boy Blue* continues to attract as well as ever, albeit the last few weeks are announced. On Tuesday next Miss Hettie King, the popular and bonnie Boy Blue, takes her benefit, when her popularity, without the special and extra attractions offered, should be sufficient to ensure a full house.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. T. Guest.—*Little Red Riding Hood* is still the people's popular pantomime, the fun of the comedians, the charm of the comediennes, and the beauty of the scenery having abated their attractions in no wise. Signs of Mr. Collingwood's anniversary are in the air, while on Tuesday Mr. Bert Wilson's society, pleasantly denominated "the Tincans," will take the stalls. The Rocket Club visited the pantomime last night (Friday), the number of clubs which remain loyal to the Alexandra pantomime being great.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*The Eve of Her Wedding* is fulfilling an attractive engagement here, with Mr. Wilson Benge and company. Mr. Benge makes an engrossing character as George Tremain, some time known as Nemo; while the acting of Miss Sadie Smith in the rôle of Mavis Leverton attracts irresistibly; Mr. Fred Lloyd makes excitement rife with his telling portrayal of the villain, Dean Clifton; Miss Florence Zillwood keeps things at a high tension by her vivid flashes in the character of the adventuress, Renie de Telle; Mr. Henry Danson gives a true touch of life to the rôle of Dick Leverton; Mr. Arthur Keand does very well as Squire Leverton; Mr. Gilbert Elvin imbues the rôles of Paul Cairshaw and Hyram P. Younger with much distinction; the comicalities of Mr. N Carter Slaughter as Rudolph Earle are of a very clever order; and Miss Mary Mall as the vivacious Kinkie scores indubitably.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*Human Nature* is having a big slice of success here with Mr. R. A. Beaton's company. Mr. S. Herbert Humber gives a stirring representation of the rôle of Captain Temple; Miss Ada Oakley plays the wife's rôle, Nelly, with fine feeling; Miss Beatrice Burdett scores as the friend, Cora Grey; Miss Nelly Peters fills the part of the maid, Lucy, with much success; Mr. C. W. Maxwell duly emphasises the baser nature of Stephen Mardyke; Mr. J. P. Dryden plays the solicitor's rôle, Matthew Hawker, in a clever style; Mr. E. Harvey White gives a comic representation of Horatio Spofkins which keeps the audience in the best of humours; and there is some very good acting on the part of the others.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. J. Robertson.—*Man and Wife*, with Messrs. Van Biene and Traynor's company, is making a welcome visit here. Mr. Edward Van Biene figures largely as Colonel Lateur, his acting being very well studied, obviously; Mr. John F. Traynor's portrayal of the fisherman, Paul Revere, is one well calculated to please, being imbued with the aspirations of the rôle; Miss Kate Hallam as the fisher girl, Marcelle, shows great charm as well as dramatic ability; and the humours of the twins, Bimbo and Bambo, could not be in better keeping than that of Messrs. E. Hall-Eldon and George Vining. Miss Millie Dorris scores as the amorous Rosette; Mr. Edward H. Hamilton is very fine as Captain d'Esparre; and Mr. Geo. Overs is good as Jean.

PALACE THEATRE, BORDESLEY.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—*The Silver King* never seems to grow old, its success here with Messrs. Polini and Melford's company being as great as ever. Mr. Fred D. Daviss makes a capital Silver King, the recklessness and subsequent remorse of the character being depicted with much fidelity; Miss Madge Morley enacts the faithful but sorely-tried wife Nelly in manner poignant and very sympathetic; Mr. E. Stanton-Sharp gives a polished study of "the Spider"; while that unctuous rogue Coombe is impersonated to the life by Mr. Arthur Wright; the faithful Jaikes sees that tried and true impersonator of the rôle Mr. Edward J. George again to advantage; and Miss Lila Barclay, Mr. Leslie Ellis, Mr. Arthur H. Rooke, and the rest of the company are very good.

GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Ed. Foster. Crowded houses are being attracted here by George Robey, who is loudly encored for his funny songs and patter. Another big item is the Stockham Grecian Band of fifteen performers, whose selections are well applauded; the Poluski Brothers in their latest success are most amusing; Haley's Garden of Girls do an attractive turn; and Phillips and Merritt, the St. Johns, Baby Boden, Arthur Aldridge, Walter King and Arthur Kenny complete the bill.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—Victoria Monks is the bright particular star here and she wins loud applause for her latest successes. Jack Pleasant is amusing and droll; Boyd and Gilfain are a refined turn; *An Outside Chance* is a bright racing sketch in which Master Edward Garratt has a prominent part; and other good turns are done by the Lyric Mummers; Marstro and Oretta, Arthur Gill, La Danseuse, Boyd and Gilfain, and Barrington.

HIPPODROME. — Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Lyons.—Captain Fred Woodward's sea lions are always interesting; Maude Hall and Carleton Macy appear in a bright comedy-drama, which is thoroughly well played; the Krates do an amusing act, *The Conductor;* S. and G. Auer are exceedingly funny; the Cecilias have an amusing juggling act; and Bliss and Bliss, Mayne Cannon, and Terry and Bentley are excellent.

GAIETY THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—Nat Clifford is attracting large houses here. The Adras do some difficult feats; and the excellent bill also includes Frank Harwood, Duncan and Godfrey, Nora Moore, Jessie Buckle, Jesse Hackett and Nash and Noel.

ASTON HIPPODROME.—Resident-Manager, Mr. T. Middleton.—On Monday the condensed opera *Queen of the Adriatic* was presented here. It is an artistic production, and deserves praise. Howard and Collinson do a novel and clever turn; Baldwin and Emerson are smart in their comic juggling act; Mollie Seymour is encored for her songs; and Horace Wheatley, Gladys and Alber, Harry Mantle, F. W. Warner, and the Orchids complete an entertaining company.

KING'S HALL.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy.—The programme at this place of amusement is again of an excellent character. The pictures include Face to Face, The Troublesome Creditor, The Count of Monte Cristo, &c. The variety turns are also very good, and include Mr. A. C. Ugo, conjurer and illusionist, whose feats are cleverly executed. Mlle. Vera Blanchard is also an attraction. The roller-skating rink is very popular, and is well attended.

CURZON HALL.—Lessee, Mr. Waller Jeffs.—Mr. Waller Jeffs has again made a change in the programme here, which includes a new Cinephone picture reproducing the original "Dance des Apaches." Variety is represented by The Players, who enter upon the last week of their engagement; and Miss Ducie Saunderson sings several illustrated songs with success.

QUEEN'S HALL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy.—The pictures at the Queen's Hall this week are of a very high standard, and include an interesting series, showing Burns and Johnson training for the fight which decided the championship of the world. Paddy turns Cabman after Eating Horseflesh is a very humorous selection, while there are numerous other pictures. The principal vaudeville item is provided by Miss Elsie Lewis, who shows much talent and is well received. Mr. Will Beauland proved a female

PUBLISHED THIS WEEK (Fourth Year of Issue).

The Official Handbook of the Dramatic Profession.

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impersonator of more than average ability, and the competition for local artists still attracts.

BISHOP AUCKLAND.—EDEN THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. Huntley.—Mr. Walter Melville's company occupies the boards here in *The Girl Who Took the Wrong Turning*. Mr. Frank Denis is a capital Richard Fenton; and Mr. Frank R. Robertson a good Jack Fenton; Mr. F. Ronald Adair plays the part of Willie Mason in fine style; and Mr. Raymond Wood (Jas. Harcourt), Mr. Sidney Sarl (Bill Slater), and Mr. F. Irgram (Johnny Walker) are satisfactory. Miss Jessie Belmore is a distinguished Sophie Coventry; as Lucy Coventry Miss Zoe Davis is excellent; and Miss Marie Kildare (Poppy Slater) and Miss Nannie Meade (Vesta Le Clerc) ably present those parts.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Mr. Percy Williams' company is playing *The Fatal Wedding* here this week. Mr. Cecil A. Melton submits a faithful representation of Howard Wilson, and Mr. W. H. Garbois displays undoubted ability as Robert Curtis; considerable humour is supplied by Miss Ethel Sarjint as Bridget whilst Miss Lulu Wohlmann, who plays the part of Jessie, "the little mother," is a juvenile actress of very great promise. The play is excellently staged.

GRAND THEATRE.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—Venus, a lady model of the late Lord Leighton, tops the bill here, and appears with success in a dancing act of the Salome order. She is a delightful dancer and very beautiful and graceful. Other turns are given by Hall and Wilson, expert trick cyclists; Coombes and Webb, banjoists; Arthur Hickman, a very good tenor vocalist; W. H. Blackman, an actor-mimic of no mean order; Æolia, a daring trapeze artist; and Leoville, a marvellous lady wire walker.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Geo. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—A programme of a very high standard is provided here this week. The place of honour is worthily filled by Paul Barnes, a popular humorist, who is droll to a degree; the Gaudsmidts are funny acrobats; Rich and Rich make merry in duologue and dance; the Cavallottis are expert musicians; the Gilberts are well received in a tight-wire act; whilst Kathleen Gray and Aggie Nolan are both pleasing and clever comediennes.

BLYTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur C. Moody.—Continuing a successful pantomime season, Mr. Moody has provided an excellent attraction by the engagement of Mr. and Mrs. Levy's and Mr. J. B. Cardwell's popular juvenile company, who appear in *The Babes in the Wood*. In the title-rôles Little Peggie McDonnell and Cissie Wyse give a charming performance and are the recipients of the unstinted applause of the large audience present. The support rendered by the numerous members of the clever juvenile company is of a highly meritorious description; J. G. Aitkin, Harry Leandor, Jennie Watson, and the Marguerite Troupe introduce specialities of a pleasing character.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. J. Fraser.—The Edison pictures continue popular.

BOLTON.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Moncur.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company is here this week with the new version of Hall Caine's play *The Christian*. The company is a good one, and all the characters are well sustained. Mr. Henry Renouf gives a fine rendering of the Hon. John Storm, and Miss Doris Gilham gives a realistic portrayal of Glory Quayle.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—One of the most powerful companies ever appearing here is engaged this week, and comprises George Formby, a Lancashire comedian, who has fairly stormed the house nightly; Ruhart, assisted by La Belle Rosalind, is also going strong with his novel burlesque on vaudeville; the Carpos Brothers give a smart acrobatic and head-to-head balancing turn; Bennett and Martell (old favourites here) appear in a new act entitled *Shipwrecked Mariners;* John Warren presents by his company a musical military mystery entitled *The Magic Carpet*. Other items are given by the Varleys, duettists; Phern and Phern, in their inimitable 'phone act; Lily Eyton, vocal comedienne; Les Zelovas, acrobatic equilibrists; Fields and Lewis, vaudeville stars of burlesque; and the Olympian Team of comedy cyclists.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Hippodrome, Bolton, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Walter De Frece.—A good company has again followed a good company, the principal turn here being the inimitable Zona Vevey in *My Lady's Bower*, introducing her latest dainty songs with catchy choruses, assisted by Herr Max Erard (pianist), accompanist. Other turns are Miss Alexandra Royal, burlesque actress and character vocalist; Blanco J. White, comedian and buck dancer; Leo and Roland, novelty equilibrists; the Langfords, in a refined singing and tricky dancing act; Charles Coll, comedian; Vowles and Bryan, in their refined scena, *Song and Story in a Garden;* George Reeves, eccentric comedian; Wyllie, comedy tramp musician; Abel and Welch, in their eccentric comedy act, and the Hippodrome Bio.

BOOTLE.—MUNCASTER THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Young.—The Zerbinis Troupe, with their musical novelty, *The Enchanted Glen*, are proving a strong feature here this week; Sam Shipley is well received with his songs and patter; Morimura, the Japanese conjurer, mystifies his audience with good tricks; Bessie Willows is a charming and pleasing comedienne; the Dorian Troupe show strength and agility in their gymnastic performance; Little Vi Norman, child vocalist; Nick and Nack, comedians; and Dolly Brough, comedienne, completes.

BOSTON.—PALACE THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Fountain and Holloway.—On Monday a company, with *Dolly Reforming Herself*, paid a flying visit, under the direction of Messrs. T. Grant Allen and Geoffrey Besant. The whole of the compnay travelled by motor cars. A very large audience had the pleasure of witnessing this fine production. Mr. Clayton Greene made an excellent Harry Telfer; and Miss Aimee de Burgh was capital as his wife, Dolly, to whom the success of the evening was due. Mr. P. Besant was a very manly Mathew Barrow; Miss G. Bibby played Mrs. Sturgess in good style; Mr. E. Sterling as Professor Sturgess was at his best. The scenery was very pretty and the dresses excellent.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, Messrs. David Allen and Sons; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Hubert Dunbar. Mr. Gaston Mayer's company in a return visit of *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch* opened here on Monday. In place of Mrs. Madge Carr Cook the name-part is being played by Miss Gertrude Irving, who in depicting the vicissitudes of a loving personality showed herself an actress of no mean versatility. She received strong support from Mr. Frederick Forrest, a capital Mr. Stubbins, Miss Rita Carlyle with a carefully finished study of Miss Hazy, Miss Maud Townsend as the "timid" Mrs. Richorn, Miss Amy Fenchette, well cast as Mrs. Schultz, and Miss Margaret Shelly as Lovey Mary.

BRADFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—On last Monday night Messrs. George Edwardes and Charles Frohman presented to a large and highly-appreciative audience here the latest musical success *A Waltz Dream*, which is gorgeously staged. Full justice was done to the tuneful numbers the piece contains, and in the hands of the clever company engaged on the representation the humorous situations were made the most of, laughter and applause greeting the performance throughout. In a bright and exceedingly clever rendering of the part of Franzi Steingruber Miss May de Sousa scored a genuine success, her vocalism being a feature of the impersonation; and Miss Ethel Cadman, who shared in the honours, was altogether charming as Princess Helene. Miss May Marion played the buxom Fi-Fi prettily; Mr. Eric Thorne was delightfully quaint as Joachim XIII., eliciting roars of laughter; and Mr. Leslie Holland's bearing and humour as Count Lothar tickled his audience immensely. In the part of Lieut. Niki, the Austrian prince, Mr. Wilson Pembroke made a most favourable first appearance, and he sang with expression and power. The scenic effects are magnificent. The Ladies' Orchestra is a feature of the production, and the dresses are very beautiful.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Councillor Francis Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—The run of *Red Riding Hood* continues with unabated success here. On Tuesday last Miss Florrie Forde (the principal boy) had her benefit, when the theatre was crowded both at the matinée and at the evening performance. There were many extra "turns" provided by the beneficiaire's colleagues from the local theatres and Leeds and Halifax.

EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Fred Edwards and Co. (including Miss Bertha Northam), in *Kleptomaniacs*, are providing plenty of fun; the sketch contains some very funny situations, and it goes with a swing. *Casey's Court* is presented again, with Will Murray as Mrs. Casey; there is plenty of broad, boisterous fun in the sketch, and some good singing by the juveniles, who represent street urchins. Nellie Coleman, "the female comedian," also reappears, and her broad comedy and remarkable "gets up" entertain highly; Ben Albert's "logic" proves very diverting; Melia and Mozarabar, with their cleverly-trained ravens and pigeons, give a pretty and pleasing entertainment; "Her Wedding Day" is a clever monologue, presented here again successfully by Ethel Newman; as "the stage-struck costumier" May Edouin displays ability as a comedienne; Billy French is a clever wooden-shoe dancer; the Chronomegaphone, with selections by Will Evans and Victoria Monks, presents a new attraction; and there are capital pictures shown by the Bioscope.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Harrison.—"The Smart Set" (including Miss Georgie Martin) are an entertaining company of the drawing-room type, who are particularly successful; a capital turn is furnished by the Fordyces, comedy artists and dancers; Johnny Holland and company, in *My Friend Boots* (substituted for *The Boatbuilder*), are again this week eliciting hearty laughter; Ada Fawn, in a comedienne turn, meets with much success; a very bright and clever turn by the Royal Czar troupe of Russian dancers commands hearty marks of appreciation; Hanvarr and Anna Lee ("the golfer and the maid") give a fine juggling display; there is some excellent vocalism by Adah Payne, late of the Moody-Manners company; Jack Cromo and Meg Hamilton, of recent pantomime fame here, present successfully their comedy turn *The Old and New;* and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are a feature of the entertainment.

BRIGHOUSE.—ALBERT THEATRE — Lessees Messrs. Beanland and Emerson; Manager, Mr. Charles H. Beanland.—Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company in *The Lancashire Lad*, under the able direction of Mr. Hugh Wallace, opened to a capital house on Monday. Mr. Joe Millane as the Lancashire Lad is well adapted for the part, and plays the character realistically; John Willie Wardle is played by Mr. Bob Anderson in his inimitable way, causing roars of laughter throughout; Mr. Hugh Wallace supplies a faithful study of Jem Wincote; Miss Molly Monaghan as Mother Wardle throws plenty of life and humour into her part; Jessie Wincote is in the capable hands of Miss Mabel Rose; the Sisters Gaye as Flossie Mayfair and Trixie Golightly score heavily with their singing and dancing. The scenery and staging are excellent.

BRIGHTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Gates; General-Manager, Mr. Ben Court.—Mr. W. V. Garrod and company opened here on Monday with *A Country Girl in London*. Miss Bertha Kingston sustained the title-rôle, and gave a very fine and expressive enactment; Mr. W. V. Garrod submitted an admirable representation of Frank Gordon; Mr. John S. Sheridan was highly successful as the Squire of Langdale; Mr. Stewart Quartermayne gave an excellent impersonation of Godfrey Clinton; Mr. Clifford Marle was very effective as the ne'er-do-well, Joe Smithers; Miss Josephine Colona made a charming Gwendoline Gordon; and plenty of fun was afforded by Mr. Seymour Parry as Wilberforce Puddyphat and Miss Ethel Whiteley as Adelaide Puddyphat. The play was superbly staged.

ALHAMBRA.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Alfred Smith.—There is a capital company here this week. Mr. Frank Hardie's company achieve great success in the dramatic episode *The Traitor;* Cressie Leonard wins very hearty applause for her charmingly-rendered songs; the Four Spanish Goldinis give a novel electrical speciality entertainment, which includes some clever carpet spinning; Eugene and Willie are a diverting pair of musical clowns; Earle and Godfrey are pleasing singers and dancers; Flo Inman, vocalist and dancer, is cordially received; Charles Leighton, comedian at the piano, gives an effective turn; the Doreen Girls sing and dance themselves into favour; Cash and Clair are clever dancers; Percy Sarrimond, tenor vocalist, is distinctly successful; and the Alhambra Picturegraph furnishes interesting and amusing subjects.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. B. J. Brown.—An excellent programme is sustained here this week. The pantomime *The Forty Thieves* meets with a very hearty reception. Great fun is provided by Bob Selvidge as Ali Baba; and among others who are highly effective are Robb Wilton (Cogia), Bertha Clifton (Ganem), Cecilia Gold (Morgiana), Poppy Holland (Zaide), and Chris Le Brun (Percy, Ali Baba's donkey). The remaining turns are attractive. The Ted Moxon Trio of Continental acrobats are very eccentric; Bostock's baboons perform some clever tricks; Mark Leslie is warmly applauded for his coon songs and dances; and Phil Bransby is very entertaining.

WEST PIER.—Secretary, Mr. A. W. Scholey.—Mr. George Lestocq and company are here this week with *The Sportsman*. Mr. George Lestocq gives a capital impersonation of the mendacious "sportsman," Harry Briscoe; Mr. Wilfried Compton makes a capital Dr. Halroyd; Miss M. Du Val is a charming and refined Mrs. Briscoe; Miss Agnes Maude gives a good character study as the garrulous Mrs. Critchly; Mr. Sidney Bransgrove is well suited as Mr. Perkins; and effective support is given by Mr. Gordon Smythe (Bob Briscoe) and Miss Pauline Emeric (Emily).

PALACE PIER THEATRE.—King's Royal Bioscope submits some capital pictures here this week. Italy's Marvellous Cavalry is a splendid film, A Christmas Eve Dream is highly interesting, and other pictures in the programme include The Custom Officer's Revenge, Grandpa's Pension Day, The Train Robbers, The Electric Man, Leah the Forsaken, and Moving Day.

COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. Maud Barrasford.—There is a capital series of animated pictures here this week. A film depicting the Invasion of England is interesting; The Sailor's Adopted Child conveys a dramatic story; The Donkey That Was Not an Ass is a very clever production; and much amusement is afforded by The Runaway Dog, The Nurses' Race, and King for an Hour. Barrasford's Sable Operatic Minstrel Troupe are very successful in new songs and jokes.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr James Macready Chute.—This is the last week of *Aladdin*, which has been highly successful. The pantomime is staged to perfection, the scenery being very fine, and the dresses both tasteful and costly. The company is an exceptionally good one, the members of which all appear to be suited to their respective parts, and they work admirably together. Miss Ouida Macdermott makes an ideal Aladdin; she invests the part with considerable dramatic power, she sings very pleasingly, and her selections of songs are all in good taste. Miss Deborah Volar is pleasing as the Princess; she is a well-trained vocalist, her songs are all pretty, and she acts the part so as to render it interesting. Miss Topsy Sinden has scored much success with her artistic and graceful dancing, her part of Yu-Bu-Tee being played with considerable ability. Miss Daisy Lloyd Wood infuses plenty of gaiety into the part of Our Mary Ann (from London), and scores with her songs and dances. The comedians are all successful, Mr. Bransby Williams playing Abanazar effectively, and scoring with his character-sketches; Mr. W. H. Powell being really amusing as Widow Twankey; and Mr. Alfred Clark making a capital broad comedy part of the Emperor. Miss Florence Foster has displayed much ability as Ah Sing; Mr. Alfred Sutcliffe's singing has met with much appreciation in the part of Pekoe; and others who have rendered admirable assistance are Miss Flora Gordon (Slave of the Lamp), Mr. Jocelyn Hope (Genie of the Ring), Mr. Walter Fairbrother (Amenophis), Mr. Herbert Uzielli (Zoroaster), Miss Nellie Palmer (Love), and Miss Sabina Guiver (Power). The ballets have been universally admired, and the large contingent of extra ladies, all dressed magnificently, have added much to the effective staging of the pantomime.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Ally.—Everything still goes merrily at the "Old," as yet there being no sign of any wane in the popularity of *Little Red Riding Hood*. Some benefits have now been announced, with extra attractions.

PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Rousby's company head the bill in *Greater London*. The scenic and dioramic effects are very fine, the idea being a visit of tourists to the White City. Galetti's monkey comedians are amusing and well trained; Ethel Pender-Cudlip and Claude Anderson present the "Miserere" scene from *Il Trovatore* with appropriate scenery, both artists having exceptionally fine voices, and singing in true artistic style; the Woodwards do a clever balancing act with cycles, &c.; Will Mitcham does a good musical act; Roze and Calvert are a smart comedy duo; George Acre is successful with his song-scena "Dear Old Westminster"; Mignonette Kokin is a vivacious comedienne and an expert dancer; and the performance concludes with interesting animated pictures.

EMPIRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—Henry De Vries is presenting his protean sketch, *Trapped by Telephone*, in which he cleverly sustains eight characters, and is ably assisted by Miss Dorothy Drake and Miss Florence Harcourt in the two female parts. The sketch is interesting and well staged. Jack and Evelyn amuse with their comic speciality, *Come Into the Office;* Edie Veno, eccentric comedienne, does a good turn of song and dance; Mark Tedwell, comedian, obtains applause; Austin Lenton and Agnes Lane entertain with their comedy concoction *Unconsidered Trifles;* the Paulastons do a good comedy tumbling and acrobatic act; Marie Wilton is a pleasing comedienne; Frank Weir, patter comedian, is appreciated; and Damerell and Rutland cause merriment with their speciality, *House Full*. Interesting animated pictures conclude the entertainment.

COLSTON HALL.—Sydney Carter's New Century pictures are being exhibited here, including the special film, something like 15,000ft. in length, of the Johnson-Burns fight. There is a competent orchestra, and the pictures are shown twice daily.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—*Her Road to Ruin* finds much favour on the first visit to Broughton of Frederick Melville's production. Miss Beatrice Edwards impressively acts the principal part of Jess Willoughby; the heroic curate, Frank Temple, is vigorously portrayed by Mr. Henry Wolston; while Philip Hardy is excellently presented by Mr. Alex Bradley. Miss Nellie Bonser as Mary Dawson, Marie de Vaune, and 'Orrible Mary does very well in the three parts; Miss Alice Bowes is a charming May Willoughby; Mr. Harry Talbot as Billy Boots and Miss Marie Wright as Jenny Crackling successfully add a lot of comic business. Mr. Duncan Yarrow as Tom Wells, Mr. Dane Clarke as the Bishop, and Mr. V. R. C. Moors as Charles Cholmondeley make excellent use of their opportunities; and the remaining characters are well placed.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—Mr. George Edwardes's company is here in *The Merry Widow*. Mr. Frank Greene sings well and is a brilliant actor as Danilo; whilst Miss Mysie Devine is most fascinating in the title-rôle. Mr. Ripley Evans has a fine tenor voice, which is used to advantage as Vicomte de Jolidon; and pretty acting and delightful singing is done by Miss Ada Thomas as Natalie. Baron Popoff, brimful of humour, is represented by Mr. Edward D'Arcy; and Mr. Fred Fowler is a clever dancer and a funny Nisch. Mr. Clifford Seyler is good as General Novakovitch; and Miss Katie May dances charmingly as Frou-Frou. The beautiful music of Franz Lehar is excellently rendered by the chorus and orchestra under the baton of Mr Ernest Vousden.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—Arthur Dandoe and company appear in a musical burletta in three scenes, *The Phonograph Belle*, which goes exceeding well, Mr. Dandoe causing great fun as Crookie Shanks, while there is a capital chorus; Surrie Lindon's entertainers are very good in a miniature musical comedy, *Monks at Play*, introducing pretty music and excellent dances; Miss Marie Vere, chorus singer, has a most cordial reception; and Fritz Kornan wins much favour with whistling solos. The Four Scoreys in a musical acrobatic act provide a good turn; whilst the Maltans, with "Kiss me again, dear," cause great merriment. Bert Harrow and Miss Marion Walker for "On the Prom" are also warmly received; and the picture by the Empire Theatrescope is of the Cup tie between Burnley and Tottenham Hotspur.

PALACE THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr Badcoe.—Pride of place in this week's bill is given to the playlet *Claude Duval*, which is beautifully dressed and mounted, and most creditably performed by Messrs. Arthur Max, Harry Calver, Geo. Hammond, Jack Collinson, and the Misses Victoria Douglas and Ray Heyden. Wilton Heriot and company present a clever quick-change sketch, *An Anglo-American Alliance;* and J. W. Rowley, an old favourite, is warmly received. Master Day gives a clever performance with diabolo spools; and James Piper is most acceptable in a musical turn introducing bagpipes and bassoon. Cassie Walmer, coon singer, is full of dash and sings catchy songs; whilst Tate and Tate are clever acrobats and contortionists. A good programme is completed by Marion Armitage, comedienne; Harvey and Holt, comedy speciality artists; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

BURSLEM.—HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. R. Colin; Manager, Mr Matt. Hall.—Fine pictures and clever vaudeville items form the programme.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. de Hague Body.—Mr. Chas. M. Bertie's company is here for the week with *The Flower Girl*. Miss Eva Nelson as Lily the flower girl is a winsome and clever artist, acting and singing excellently; Miss Lilian Drake is effective as Lizette de Racquet; Miss Georgie de Lara is decidedly amusing as Miss Greenhill (a Suffragette); and Miss Elsie Loir is good as Maisie Flirtington. Mr. John T. McCallum has a strong part in Joe Wheeler, and does full justice to it; Mr. John Latham is very capable as Johnny Wheeler; and as the Honourable Billy Greenhill Mr. Robert Cranny is first-class throughout; Mr. Louis du Cane as Reginald Rackit and Mr. Hy. Adnes as Alphonse de Racquet both do well; while Mr. A. Sawyer as Mr. Bunker, the bookmaker, is responsible for hearty laughter. Other parts are well played by Mr. G. Brailsford and Mr. F. Cranbourne. The piece is splendidly mounted and dressed, and the singing of the chorus worthy of commendation.

This Little Lady

has a nice muff to keep her pretty hands warm.

How, do you think, she keeps them WHITE, SOFT, and SMOOTH?

Why! She uses

Vinolia Cream

as grown-up ladies do.

Of all Chemists, 1/1½.

BURY (Lancs.).—ROYAL.—Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Resident-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—Considerable interest is evinced in the visit of Mr. Herbert Sleath's company in *A White Man*. Mr. Frank Tennant acts throughout with ease as Jim Carson; the Earl of Kerhill is in the capable hands of Mr. Harold T. Richardson; Mr. R. A. Brandon makes the part of Big Bill stand out prominently; and Mr. Eric Hudson is the Indian Chief Tab-y-wana to the life. Mr. Gerald Earle is good as Cash Hawkins; Mr. Cecil Yapp gives a clever study of Shorty; and Mr. F. Thornton makes a capital Baco White. Valuable assistance is rendered by Mr. H. Wilmott Jackson as Sir John Applegate, Mr. William Dempsey as Malcolm Petrie, and Mr. Henry Hare as Bud Hardy. Miss Margaret Fairleigh is admirable in the part of Nat-u-ritch, and Diana has a capable exponent in Miss Eleanor May.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Resident-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—Some excellent films are on view this week, particularly noticeable being Custom Officers Slick and The Vampires of the Coast. Pleasing variety is contributed by the Cheers, introducing some cleverly trained cats, and Mazie Hibbs, dancer.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. Edward Owen.—H. O. Wills maintains his popularity as a comedian of ability and originality; Captain Kettle is a neat comedy coin and card manipulator, and his patter is diverting; the possessor of a splendid baritone voice, Angus Strong is deservedly popular; and Fountainblau's dogs give evidence of careful training. Will Nosam, vocalist; Jean Kram, juggler; Edwards and Ward, comedy entertainers; the Five Bombays, harmony singers and dancers, and Lyons Trio in a clever and amusing pantomimic act complete a bill of all-round excellence.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—General-Manager, Mr. Auguste A. Peuleve.—A flying visit of *Dolly Reforming Herself*, under the direction of Mr. Jerrard Grant Allen and Mr. Geoffrey Besant, has been a great attraction here. The part of Harry Telfer is excellently played by Mr. Clayton Greene; Mr. Reginald Besant's drily humorous impersonation of Matthew Barron would be difficult to improve on; Mr. Donald Calthorp is splendidly suited in the part of Captain Wentworth; Mr. Edward Sterling and Mr. Charles Hawthorne giving entire satisfaction as Professor Sturgess and Rev. James Pilcher; a winning portrayal of Dolly comes from Miss Aimee de Burgh, and the hysterical Mrs. Sturgess is cleverly presented by Miss Gertrude Bibby.

CAMBRIDGE.—NEW THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—Mr. Stanley James's company, in the comedy, *My Wife*, gave an interesting performance on Monday evening. Mr. C. H. Croker King is well known here, and as Gerald Eversleigh he had a part that suited him to perfection; Miss Mary Carnegy made a delightful character of Beatrice Dupré (Trixie); Mr. James Geldred was good as the effeminate Hon. Gibson Gore; Miss Katherine Harrington was taking and pleasing as Miriam Hawthorne; Mr. Cecil Brooking cleverly rendered M. Dupré; Mr. Stanley Killby was excellent as M. Valboure; as were Mr. Gerald Fitzgerald (Captain Putnam Fusby), Mr. Vernon O. Crabtree (René Falandres), Mr. Ashley Percival (Baron Granclos), Miss Olivia Edwards (Mrs. Denham Lane), Miss Barbara Fenn (Baroness Granclos), Miss Winifred Beadnell (Mme. Dupré), and Miss Dorothy Mayhew (Marie). The comedy was preceded by a refreshing little piece, entitled *The Vengeance of Jim*, played capitally.

CARDIFF.—NEW THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robt. Redford.—A most welcome return visit is made this week by Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company in *Tom Jones*. In consequence of the regrettable indisposition of Miss Florence Smithson, the part of Sophia on Monday night was played by Miss Rene Carew, a charming young lady, whose performance was most acceptable; Mr. Harry Welchman did well as Tom Jones; Mr. Ambrose Manning's Squire Western was decidedly good; a really clever and humorous portrayal of Benjamin Partridge was given by Mr. George Elton; and Mr. J. T. Macmillan was quite at home as Gregory. Miss Joan Ritz made a bright and sprightly Honour; as Lady Bellaston Miss Alice Oppitz was seen to advantage; Mr. John Morley as Mr. Allworthy was particularly noticeable for his bass singing; and Mr. Deane Percival did well as Blifil.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—An exceptional turn here is Alice Pierce, who presents several impressions of well-known players; Mr. Herbert Darnley's company is seen to advantage in *The Mandarin;* the Delevines are welcome with their successful act *Flip and Flop;* Adams and Ward are smart acrobatic comedians; Helen Forsyth, the heroine of the Queen disaster, renders a song descriptive of the scene, illustrations adding to its realism; the Coloured Meisters are acceptable with their quartettes; and Jack Lane, the Yorkshire rustic; Rex Fox, the ventriloquist on the wire; Frances Letty, America's great lady wooden-shoe dancer; and Bioscope pictures are the remaining items in a varied entertainment.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton.—The sketch occupying a large portion of this week's performance is *The Cowboy Millionaire*, presented by Mr. Harry Roxbury, in which Mr. Tubby Edlin is remarkably amusing. Mr. Bert Maddison, a Cardiff man who has just recently taken to the halls, is accorded a hearty reception; J. H. Greener, in a song of the Durham pit disaster, appeals particularly to audiences in this city; and Click and Clack, the lady barrel jumpers; Mollie and Winnie Brooke, vocalists and dancers; the Brothers Rees, cannon ball manipulators; Lisbon and Barker, comedians; and Gladys Witton, contralto, are others who help a capital bill of fare.

CARLISLE.—H. M. THEATRE.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart McKim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—The popular melodrama *Sherlock Holmes* is on a return visit this week. Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart has brought a most capable company, the staging is excellent, and the quick-change lighting effects add to the impressiveness of the "curtains." Mr. Stewart appears in the title-rôle, and gives a finished and artistic performance. His strong personality and effective handling of the character made it stand out with quite unusual boldness. As Moriarty Mr. Robert Gilbert was equally successful, his powerful impersonation meeting with well-deserved recognition. Mr. Arthur Shelton as the Doctor, Mr. Walter A. Chetham as the Butler, and Mr. Mark D. Draper as James Larabee filled their respective parts with great credit. Miss A. Bruce-Joy gave a quiet and effective impersonation of Miss Faulkner, and Miss Edith Vogne's handsome appearance and capital acting made Madge Larabee prominent.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting Manager, Mr. C. F. Morgan.—The Paquali Brothers top the bill here, and their performance is truly astonishing, the neatness and nerve displayed, combined with daring and skill, thoroughly meriting the enthusiastic applause they receive nightly. As trapeze artists Natalia and Diana give a clever and attractive display; Jennie Hartley has some excellent songs, which she renders with any amount of dash and go; her dancing, too, is neat and effective, and met with every sign of approval. A sensational comedy gymnastic act by Spangles and Sawdust is well and smartly worked and creates laughter and applause; *Stage Aspirants*, a well-played comic skit by Dene and Dawson, is not the least interesting item in the programme; and the Pepiscope shows a fine series of pictures, the most popular being Land of the Midnight Sun and Major Richardson's Bloodhounds on a Trail.

CARMARTHEN.—Assembly Rooms.—Proprietors, Public Rooms Co.; Secretary, Mr. Edward Baldwin.—Mr. Ernest Bodkin's powerful company is here in *The Thief*, under the management of Mr. Alban B. Limpus. Mr. Frank Darch as Richard Chelford gives such a pleasing and powerful interpretation as to elicit the warmest encomiums. Miss Kathlyn Stocks, in her excellent representation of Marise Chelford, shows that she posesses dramatic power of a high order. Mr. C. W. Lindsay gives a fine portrayal of the difficult part of Harry Leyton, his performance being very natural; Mr. Ernest Bodkin supplies an admirable representation of Raymond Leyton; Miss Mary Forrester is an artistic Mabel; Mr. T. Taylor-Vinson is an unqualified success as Mr. Protheroe, the private detective; and Mr. Akers capably enacts the minor part of servant. The dresses and scenic effects are elaborate.

CASTLEFORD.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Hy. Masterman, J.P.—On Monday Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company presented *Leah Kleschna* by special arrangement with Mr. Charles Frohman. Mr. Charles Barrett as Paul Sylvaine is to be congratulated on his able interpretation; Mr. Barrett is fortunate in being associated in so many scenes with Miss Bessie Rignold, who gives a powerful impersonation of Leah Kleschna; Mr. William Clayton plays Kleschna extremely well; Raoul Berton as portrayed by Mr. Arthur Leigh is a sound performance; Mr. William Hielbronn makes the part of Schram stand out prominently.

Queen's Theatre of Varieties. — Proprietors, Messrs. Chas. Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will H. Emerson.—Topping the bill here are Rochez's performing dogs and ponies. They have evidently been well trained, and go through their various feats as if they enjoyed them. Les Wambas are smart and elegant on the trapeze, and their musical entertainment meets with hearty applause. Harry Bland, eccentric comedian; Celest, a clever wire performer, who achieves an emphatic success; Dalton and Euston, black and white comedians; Blanche Leslie, a charming contralto; Forest and King, in smart acrobatic dancing; and Arthur Bright, Milanese piper, are also in the bill. The Loyal Dominion Company is presenting interesting pictures.

CHATHAM.—Barnard's Palace of Varieties.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—Beattie and Babs, a pair of juvenile artists, astonish all by their skill as vocalists and dancers; Lew Peterman raises many a laugh by his stories of the sayings and doings of his friend Levy; Ross and Lewis, the Yankee duo, go better than ever; the Avolos are particularly smart in their acrobatic act; Stuart and Evans, comedians, the Wyffs, in an amusing comedy, *St. Valentine's Day*, Phil Peters, jun., the rag-time boy, and Victoria Glenn, also appear; while Lacey's Erascope has a most interesting series of views of Nijni-Novgorod.

Gaiety Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Capt. H. B. Davis; Manager, Mr. G. Humphries.—At the top of the bill here we have Lottie Lennox, who is making a conspicuous success, her song, "Join the Territorials," being most popular; the Three Comerfords make a decided hit as comedy acrobats; Jimson's Pets at Home is freely applauded; and Lill Elfreda's representations of well-known music hall artists are thoroughly appreciated. Others on welcome return visits are Allsopp and Beckwith, the popular couple, and Mark Adams and company, in song scena, "The Wanderer." Fred Dornan and the Edisonograph complete the list of attractions.

CHESTER. — Royalty Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—An excellent variety company is here this week. Lievin and Pantzer top the bill, and give a smart exhibition of acrobatic and equilibristic feats; Charles Rothwell is a quaint comedian of promise; and Marie Neilson a good comedienne and dancer. Smarte Bros. excel in the eccentric acrobatic business; and Frank Mortimer is a good light comedian. Mme. Roma's Six Juggling Girls give a clever and finished display of Indian club juggling; Miss Zona Joy's sketch absurdity, *Selling a Gee-gee*, convulses the audience; all members of the cast are clever, and deserve every praise. Some excellent pictures by the Imperial Biograph complete.

COATBRIDGE. — Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, the Coatbridge Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Business-Manager, Mr. John Commins.—This week the boards here are occupied by the Coatbridge Amateur Dramatic Association, who are for the first time producing *Jeanie Deans*.

COLCHESTER.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Chas. Macdona; Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—Mr. Charles Frohman's talented company in *The Hypocrites* is paying a return visit this week, and the house on Monday was highly enthusiastic. Mr. H. Lewrence Leyton as the Rev. Edgar Linnell was quietly convincing and always held his auditors with a strength duly shown by repeated curtains. Miss Grace Murielle established her name with much respect as an actress of ability and adaptability in the part of Mrs. Wilmore. Mr. Charles Harley showed a great appreciation of the rôle of Lawyer Viveash; Miss Violet Harley in the very pathetic part of Rachel Neve was always an attractive study. Two most capital studies of real life were Mr. Wilmore and Rev. Daubeney as portrayed by Mr. F. Morland and Mr. F. C. Thurstans respectively, whilst two minor parts, viz., Sir John Plugenet and Dr. Blaney, were nicely depicted by Mr. Chas. Tyrel and Mr. Fred Lake. Mr. S. Dennys acted very naturally as Leonard; Miss Muriel Mason made a charming picture as Helen; and the "nosey Parker" qualities of Mrs. Blaney were illustrated with much truism by Miss Millie Emden.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Colchester Hippodrome Co.; Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—The leading turn this week is furnished by Mr. Fred S. Peake and company in the romantic sketch *The Gambler*, and the parts are worthily sustained by Miss Dora Davis and Messrs. Fred S. Peake, Edwin Morton, Hy. Hatchman, and S. Power. Bros. Durant, in their skit on aerial navigation, are entertaining; Frank Couch, ever original, is a most welcome turn, his personality being highly popular; the Frohmans present a musical act of a charming description; Sisters Selwyn are on a return; Peter Shannon gives a variety of dances; and films by Williamson and Pathé afford real pleasure.

CONSETT.—New Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Mr. Fred Granville's pantomime company is here in *The Babes in the Wood*. Mr. Val Morgan plays the part of Aconita with much skill, and is well supported by Miss Maud Harvey, Miss Dolly Sables, Miss Rose Dale, Miss Madge Courtney, and Miss Aice Walton. Miss Hilda Brendt is pleasing as Sylvania, the Fairy Queen; Mr. Alf. Brooks as Araminta Koffkake is the life and soul of the humorous side of the pantomime; as Maid Marian Miss Hettie Lind is charming, with her well-trained voice and stylish dancing; Miss Mary Poulton as Robin Hood introduces some new songs, which contribute to the success of the pantomime; and other specialities are Wilson and Purdy, clever juveniles; the Kimberley Boys, good dancers; and Vi Wilson, a little mite who receives applause from crowded houses.

Daly's New Hall.—Lessee, Mr. John Cottrell; General-Manager, Mr. Arthur Campbell.—An exceptionally good programme is given here this week, amongst the best of the pictures being The Ayah's Revenge, The Little Woodcutter, The Blacksmiths' Strike, A Double Suicide, and A Clown's Christmas Eve.

CORK.—Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. Thomas F. O'Brien.—A capital company here this week includes Leo Dryden, the popular descriptive vocalist, who gives a series of song playlets, which are very clever and interesting; Ernest Powell is a talented pianist, and provides a musical treat; the Gascoignes supply some amusing patter; Lil Hartley, comedienne, gains approval for her singing; Miss Elsa Joel, operatic vocalist, contributes some acceptable songs; Charles Pastor, comedian, is most popular; the Mezzettis, in comedy act, entitled *The New Recruit*, are clever horizontal bar performers, all-round gymnasts, &c.; and the Palascope displays some excellent pictures.

COVENTRY.—Empire Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. R. Draco.—Good audiences are well repaid this week by the programme provided. Jordan and Harvey, the Hebrew comedians, are top turn, and provide plenty of amusement; a clever sketch is given by Mr. Victor Widdicombe and company, who present *Her Devonshire Dad*, Mr. Widdicombe taking with success the part of a Devonshire farmer; the Eight 'Varsity Girls give some pleasing songs and dances in their scena *A Musical Evening*; Curtis Leo is an entertaining and clever conjurer; Joe Belmont, American whistler, is a popular turn; Harry and Paul are capable trick cyclists; and Cissie Jewell is a charming comedienne and dancer. The Bioscope pictures conclude.

Hippodrome.—Manager-Director, Mr. S. T. Newsome; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. E. Wright.—Heading the bill are Barton and Ashley, who appear in the new farcical creation *Adam the Second*. The two artists keep the audience in one continual roar with their quaint ways and doings; Roma and Romain, two classical musicians, give selections on a variety of instruments; Stelling and his cleverly-trained dog give a very good turn; Haley's Juveniles (twenty in number) give some well-executed dances, songs, &c. One dance presents a number of tableaux in living statuary, and is cleverly done. Other artists are Jennie Johns, a dainty comedienne, who sings some good catchy songs; Billy Farrell, creator of the famous cake-walk, also sings some good songs; and McNann gives a performance on roller skates.

CRADLEY HEATH.—Empire Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. John H. Morton.—Mr. Coleman Davies' company with *Beneath the Stars; or, A Lancashire Lad in London* is here this week. Mr. Coleman Davies as Jemmy Hopblossom proves himself to be a comedian of the first water; Miss Eunice Udall as Becky Wiggins adds to the fun and gaiety of the piece; Mr. C. Nelson Turner as Stephen Harcourt shows much ability in a careful study; Mr. W. Fraser Brunner as Major Blonson submits a realistic picture of a true villain, and Mrs. W. Fraser Brunner exhibits wonderful dramatic power as Angel Marsden. Mr. Arthur Prescott as Silas Clipper, Mr. B. Halley as Matthew Marsden, and Mr. Harrald as Lord Silvester are also deserving of commendation.

CREWE.—Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. G. Dudley-Bennett; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Cuthbert.—Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company is here this week in *Her Nameless Child*. As Anthony Ford, Mr. J. W. Evelyn distinguishes himself; Mr. Sidney C. Cranston gives a good account of the rôle of Arthur Ford; as Lord Henry Woodville Mr. Arthur E. Pringle is well placed, and Mr. Frank Thompson is an efficient Mongrole. Miss Pattie Hastings gives an excellent portrayal of Phyllis Ford; and as Lady Sybil Woodville Miss Mona Gray acquits herself creditably; Mr. Larry Clements as Tom Rivers and Miss Renie Douglas as Bessie Brookes are responsible for the humour.

CROYDON. — Grand Theatre. — Manager, Mr. Roland Daniel; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Ernest Archer.—Miss Lena Ashwell's company is presenting *Diana of Dobson's* here this week. Mr. W. Kingsford Pearce is excellent as Sir Jabez Grinley; Mr. Leslie Rea is commendable as Captain the Hon. Victor Bretherton; Mr. J. Benedick Butler makes the most of P.C. Fellowes; Miss Emelie Polini makes a charming and interesting Diana Massingbird; Miss Ada Palmer is successful as Mrs. Cantelupe; Miss G. de Serville is suitable as Mrs. Whyte Fraser; and Miss Minnie Griffin deserves a word as the Old Woman. The opening piece is *The Bishop's Candlesticks*, in which admirable services are rendered by Mr. W. Kingsford Pearce as the Bishop and Mr. J. Benedick Butler as the Convict.

Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. Anthony.—Animated pictures and picture songs are drawing good houses here. Mr. Walter Hillier, baritone; Mr. Bert Williams, reciter; and Master Leonard Athersych, child soprano, are first rate.

Empire Palace of Varieties.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Walter Gibbons and Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Eustace Jay.—The Sisters Julian are pretty and clever comediennes and dancers; Fred Karno's Troupe in *Mumming Birds* creates plenty of fun; the Royal Tokio Troupe are wonderful in their three-ladder act; Sam Mayo is a favourite; Nellie Lunelle is an enchanting soubrette and dancer; Athas and Collins are well received in sketch, *The Scarecrow*; Harry Champion is a smart comedian; Geo. Newburn gives praiseworthy imitations of popular comedians; Jenny Reeve is a neat comedienne; and the Imperial Bioscope is good.

DARLINGTON.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Bell.—Messrs. Paumier and Howard's company admirably presents *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*. Miss Ethel Bracewell as Monica gives a charming and engaging portrayal; Miss Gertrude Branscombe as Camoila plays in able style; Miss Jessica Black is good in comedy as Viola; Mr. Alfred Brandon as Prince Hildred hits off the heavy part most effectively; Mr. Lionel Gadsden as Prince Michael shows much power and versatility; Mr. Ernest Cox gives a sound study of Prince Olaf; Mr. Robert Noble is a clever Captain Hector; and Mr. Kenneth Black's portrayal of the Bishop is excellent.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Theatre, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Hersee.—Miss Marie Loftus, on her return visit, provides the star turn, and meets with a warm reception every night. The Strolling Players, refined society entertainers, are prominent in the programme, and other good turns are the Westbrooks, in their novelty dancing scena; Chas. Vincent, comedian; the Alberto Troupe, lady equilibrists; and Edgar Budden, roller skate dancer. Up-to-date pictures are shown by the Pepiscope.

Central Hall.—The Edison Picture Co. has taken this hall for some months, with Mr. Victor Bransford as General-Manager, playing twice nightly to good houses. Some fine up-to-date pictures include The Helping Hand, The King and Queen's Visit to Berlin. The singing and talking Cinephone is also a great attraction.

DARWEN.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees, The Animated Pictorial Enterprises, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. A. Whitehouse.—Interspersed with the pick of the picture world are several good variety turns. Miss Marie Winsome is an ideal male impersonator; the Leonas are clever in their musical melange; Jarvis and Julian, comedians, cause laughter; and the Sisters Volka present an original sketch entitled *My Birthday*, in which some clever contortions are performed.

Public Hall and Palace of Varieties.—Lessees, Messrs. Thomson, Leivers, and Bennett; Manager, Mr. J. E. Thomson.—In addition to excellent pictures, "Mr. E." is most amusing in his patter and piquant portrayals of peculiar pictures; and the Evalos give a clever juggling and acrobatic turn. Mike Daly is announced to appear, but was indisposed on Monday night.

DERBY.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—Messrs. Dudley Bennett and T. C. Wray's company is this week producing *The Catch of the Season*. Mr. Wm. Greene, who figures as the Duke, is entirely successful, and Miss Dorothea Clarke is a delightful Angela, the singing and dancing of both artists being such as to do them infinite credit. Mr. Joseph Bruce as Lord Dundreary is to be congratulated upon a good assumption; Mr. Fremlin Miles is a capital Sir John Crystal; Mr. William Gibson is cleverly portrayed by Mr. Geoffrey Berwick; and the Gibson Girls all figure in very acceptable fashion. Miss Claire de Vere as the Duchess of St. Jermyn and Miss Edna Eden as Lady Crystal are to be commended; the two step-sisters are well played by Miss Barry Eldon and Miss Kate Robertson; Miss Grace Hampton does well as Lady Caterham; and Master Ernest Grata should also be specially mentioned.

Palace. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes.—A strong attraction here this week is the Davis Gledhill Trio, who give a unique exhibition of cycle and motor racing. Second place is deservedly accorded to Maude Courtney, a charming American comedienne, whose tuneful songs and smart monologue make her an assured favourite. Ronald George, instrumentalist, renders various selections with musicianly skill; Mr. C. is an accomplished raconteur; Johnnie and Willie, acrobatic piccaninnies, are clever and amusing; Johnnie Walker, comedian, extracts all possible merriment out of a skit on football; and Lily Hayes, with song and dance, is entertaining. The Bioscope, with capital pictures, closes a well-chosen programme.

DEVONPORT.—Metropole Theatre.—Manager, Mr. G. S. King.—Mr. Douglas Bruce's company is this week staging *The Girl Who Lost Her Character*. Miss Doris Brookes is Molly Vernon, the girl to whom the title is attributed, and performs the sensational parts in most commendable fashion; Mr. Richard Ferris as Captain Geoffrey Caversham is a fire-rate villain; Miss Lydia Mannington finely interprets the part of Marian Franklyn, a London mystery; Mr. C. W. Standing does well in the dual rôle of Jack England and Private Johnson; while Rose Seymour could not find a better exposition than that of Miss Cherry Veheyne.

Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—Signor and Mme. Borelli's pianoforte selections are of the highest possible order of merit, whilst the humorous interludes are particularly well chosen; Mr. F. W. Purcell's company supply a dramatic tabloid entitled *What Women Do For Men*, which is both interesting and well acted; Larola is well described as a clever man with funny ways, and earns much-merited appreciation; the blind musician Slippere is no stranger to the West, but each visit serves to enhance his popularity; Lieut. Travis is a down-to-date and original ventriloquist; Selby and Myer furnish a well-executed dancing number; Rose Cabina is an attractive comedienne; and Chas. Rowen (eccentric comedian) and the Hipposcope complete.

DEWSBURY.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Asquith.—Mr. Seymour Hicks' company in *The Gay Gordons* is here. Miss Marie West as Peggy Quainton soon makes herself a favourite, being recalled several times; Mr. Charles Childerstone ably represents Angus Graeme, his singing and dancing being greatly appreciated; Mr. Edward Carlton as Nervy Nat evokes hearty laughter; Daisy Burrell is on good terms with the audience as Victoria Siddons, her singing and dancing leaving nothing to be desired; Mr. R. H. Vallis as Jack McPrisky does a lively dance; Mr. Leonard Leslie had charge of the chorus, and an augmented orchestra, and Miss Tessa D'Alberta, who played the part of Mary McLeod, sang very sweetly.

DONCASTER.—New Grand Theatre and Empire, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—The fascinating *Country Girl* drew a large house on Monday, and met with a most cordial reception. There is a bevy of sweet-looking and brightly-dressed ladies in a powerful chorus. The titular-rôle is taken by Miss Anna Hickish, who was recognised as having previously created a great impression as the Duchess of Dantzic; her singing is sweet and passionate. Mr. Coningsby Brierley as Barry appears here in this rôle for the second time. This young artist has established a fine reputation, and he keeps the audience in a happy frame of mind the whole of the time he is before them. Miss Effie Vincent is a charming lady as Sophia, and makes a great success of her part. She is a capital songstress and an accomplished *danseuse*. The part of Geoffrey Challoner, a young naval officer, is in the capable hands of Mr. Hardy Jackson; Mr. W. O. Billington does well as Sir Joseph Verity; and Miss Lucy Lever as the Princess gives an effective and artistic representation.

DOVER.—Royal Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. S. W. Winter.—Les Xentrix, who are fulfilling a star engagement here this week, introduce a variety of pretty dances and songs into their scena *The Garden of Terpsichore*. The smartness of the dialogue places the little sketch entitled *His Wedding Morning* high in order of merit, and praise is due to Messrs. Dare Austin and Robert Harcourt for the brisk manner in which it is played; the Showells are two lady vocalists possessed of refined and well-trained voices, who sing a couple of duets with much success; harmony is also supplied by the Georgia Trio; Dan Merritt, the man behind the drum, contributes a turn which is both original and attractive; Tom Ovis has an excellent patriotic song and also a good light comedy number; and Lou Langley sings comedy songs cleverly. The Hippodrome pictures also prove entertaining.

DUBLIN.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington. — The annual Hippodrome season commenced here on Monday night, when the house was packed at each performance to witness the excellent programme provided. Miss Marie Lloyd, who is the star turn, met with an enthusiastic reception at both houses, her songs being repeatedly encored; the Colombia Trio of lady cyclists gain plenty of applause for their clever act; George Campbell, quaint comedian, is responsible for much laughter; a pleasing and dainty turn is submitted by Miss Ella Lane, a charming comedienne; George Auger, "the giant actor," and company, present an interesting novelty entitled *Jack the Giant Killer*, which is greatly appreciated; the Twelve Hippodrome Girls, in song and dance, are an attractive feature of the programme; and the Royal Pictures are an interesting series.

Empire. — General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—The premier position here is held by Miss Helen Roberts, Salome dancer, whose charming and graceful performance elicits loud applause; a big reception is awarded the Stein Eretto Troupe for a remarkably clever hand-jumping acrobatic display; and Miss Ethel Walker at the piano has some good songs, and knows how to render them. De Canty's gorgeous spectacle representing an illuminated water grove arouses much enthusiasm; and Fred Land is an amusing comedian with catchy songs. In a smart conjuring act, C. H. Charlton makes a decided hit; and Frank Sylvo, comedy juggler, scores a success. Miss Lena Brunton, a vivacious comedienne, is well received; and the Empire Pictures complete a good programme.

Tivoli.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—A good bill is presented here this week. The Gregory Troupe, in a smart hoop-rolling and juggling act, win unstinted applause; the Sisters Anderson, in their dancing novelty on the rope, give a really clever performance; Rose and Challoner, the comedy couple, entertain the audience highly; the Sisters Redfern, in a pleasing and refined drawing-room act, win favour from all parts of the house; Sam Thompson, Scotch comedian, is very popular; and other acceptable turns are the Dunlops, comedy cyclists and skaters; Lilian Savado, lady gymnast, Fred Hastings, comedian, and the Bioscope, depicting More Milk for Baby.

World's Fair and Music Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The programme here includes Harry Hewitt, ventriloquist; Annie Bamford, comedienne; Dan Leslie, pedestal dancer; Witt and Wynn, duettists; Queenie Voone, all-round dancer; the Blydons, duettists and dancers; and the Cinematograph.

DUDLEY.—Opera House.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—Messrs. Chas. Rogers and W. E. Wilson's company opened on Monday in *The Ladder of Life*. Mr. Rogers as David Gordon acted with skill and ability, and Mr. Roland Douglas as General Gordon gave an earnest rendering; Mr. Claud H. Seaton invested the part of Fergus Gordon with plenty of villainy; another favourite character was that of Donald McDougal by Mr. Ernest Gifford; Miss Connie Meadows was vivacity itself as Mary Jane Jolliboys; Miss Gladys Ford Howitt was refreshingly sweet as Meg Merrilies, and Miss Mary Ford displayed artistic ability as Olga Sobinsky. All the other parts were excellently filled.

Empire. — Proprietors, Midland Entertainment Corporation, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. H. Waters.—At the head of the programme we have Morander and Darius, who as gymnasts and instrumentalists are responsible for a clever and pleasing performance; many tricks, sensational and novel, are neatly executed by Kavados, juggler and equilibrist. The following well known artists are conspicuuous on a strong programme:—Ethel York, comedienne; Alma De Liera, soprano; Clifton Hall, baritone vocalist; Neville Delmar, comedian and whistler; Frank Waldon, comedian. The Empire pictures are entertaining.

DUNDEE.—Her Majesty's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe.—The popularity of the Moody-Manners Opera Company was evidenced by the huge and appreciative audience which gathered on Monday to witness the production of *Lohengrin*. The opera was superbly staged and costumed, the principals were in capital voice, while the chorus work was rendered with a vigour, precision, and balance that were gratifying in the extreme. Especially meritorious was the performance of Mme. de Vere-Sapio, whose Elsa was an artistic, vocal, and dramatic triumph. Her treatment of the "Dream Song" was exquisite, and in the dramatic duets with Ortrud and Lohengrin she also sang excellently. Miss Marie Louise Rogers as Ortrud gave a very pleasing rendering. She is possessed of an exceedingly full and powerful voice, and her singing made quite an impression. The Lohengrin of Mr. Seth Hughes was a capital conception, his richly-resonant voice being heard to much advantage in the "Farewell" song to the Swan, which he sang with great charm and feeling. Mr. William Dever's Frederick of Talramund was a remarkably fine performance both vocally and dramatically; Mr. Charles Magrath was impressive and powerful as the King, his fine rendering of the "Prayer" being an artistic treat; Mr. R. Cliffe as the Herald was excellent, his rich, sonorous voice being heard to great advantage; and the splendid orchestra of forty-six players, which was conducted by Herr Richard Eckhold, did full justice to the score. *The Meistersingers* was played on Tuesday, *Il Trovatore* at Wednesday's matinée, *Faust* on Wednesday evening, *Caralleria Rusticana* and *Pagliacci* on Thursday, *Aïda* on Friday, *Tannhäuser* will be played at Saturday's matinée, and a most memorable visit will be brought to a close with *Carmen* in the evening.

Palace Theatre. — Lessees, the United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. S. McIntosh.—An excellent company here is headed by Mr. Charles Baldwin's company of comedians, who create great merriment in the absurdity entitled *Bank Clerks*. Archie Royer, the American eccentric, is possessed of a fine fund of humour, his marvellous display of somersaulting being also a feature; May B. Brilliant, a vivacious comedienne and dancer, creates great enthusiasm; Ray and Calden are very successful in a cleverly conceived and executed comedy act; Albert Letine is a female impersonator par excellence; Bert Terrell, a Dutch comedian, is a big favourite; Mabel Fairchild submits her delightful dancing scena, *A Belfry Dream*, which meets with warm appreciation; the Ray and Delmore Trio are very popular in an amusing sketch; the Poole-Pelham Troupe of acrobats and dancers give a marvellous display; and the Palascope shows some of the latest pictures.

Gaiety Theatre.—Lessee, Mrs. Lillie Williams; Licensee, Mr. W. E. Potts; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Evans.—Topping a most enjoyable bill here is the Haydas Troupe of Manchurian acrobatic tumblers, who perform some astounding feats. A romantic comedy episode entitled *My Lady Betty* is excedingly well staged and played by Frank Elliston and company, which includes Richard Oliver and Nellie Stevens; Arthur Croxon, a mimic of unusual ability, is vociferously applauded, his impersonations being remarkably clever; Kathleen Cogan, a dainty comedienne and dancer, sings in her best style and is exceedingly popular; Julian Ross's turn is thoroughly enjoyable; Queenie May speedily finds favour with her catchy ditties; Willie Garvey is very amusing in his various impersonations; the Fitzroys appear with much success in their tasteful and clever trapeze and rope speciality; and the Cinematograph, with some splendid films, completes.

Empire Theatre.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. Lillie Williams; Business Manager, Mr. Frank Percival; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alfred Ross.—Large crowds are being attracted to this cosy house this week to see Mr. Fred J. Webb's company in the musical comedy drama entitled *A (K)night in Armour*. The piece is well portrayed by a large company, and the mounting is all that could be desired. Miss N. Danvers Smith plays the part of Olive Webb, the heroine, with much power; while the brothers James and Frank Millbourne are capitally represented by Mr. George Clive Hall and Mr. F. J. Webb respectively. The singing is first-class, the soli and choruses finding favour with the audience, while the dances are also immensely enjoyed. A special item is the nightdress dance by the Eden Quartette.

Newmann's Picture Palace.—Mr. Fred Newmann has another fine assortment of pictures on view at his popular house. Amongst the films shown this week are Julius Cæsar, Musician's Dream, Opening of Parliament, The Elf King, Making House Attractive, Unfortunate Neighbours, Mother's Picture, Sailor's Reward, House Full of Excitement, &c. A "Go-as-you-please" contest is proving a popular item.

Filfillan Hall.—The B.B. Pictures pay a welcome return visit here. Amongst the pictures exhibited are Scenes in Burmah, which gives a most realistic illustration of the life and customs of the Burmese natives, and an excellent reproduction of King Edward in Berlin. Other good films are Lucy of Lammermoor, The Herring Industry of Lowestoft, Last Year's Timetable, The Model Wife, Getting Father's Consent, &c. Enjoyable variety is lent to the entertainment by the singing and playing of Frank Stanert.

Roller Skating Rink. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. C. P. Crawford and F. A. Wilkins; Manager, Mr. Bert Crump.—The spectacle presented at the three sessions daily here is a most animated one, especially in the evening, when vast crowds gratify their taste for the exhilarating delights of "rinking." The Winslow skates, which are in use here, render indulgence in the graceful art a perfect treat.

EASTBOURNE.—Devonshire Park Theatre.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray King and Clark.—Mr. George Alexander's very capable company is appearing here in *The Thief*. Miss Marie Polini as Marise Chelford grips the audience in intense interest, and Mr. Rupert Lister, artistic in every line and gesture is a dominating Richard Chelford; Mr. Cyril Harcourt is an earnest and effective Raymond Leyton; Mr. Owen Nares earns much praise for his well-judged efforts as Harry Leyton; Mr. Luke Forster is a smart and businesslike Mr. Protheroe; Miss Frances Leighton does excellently as Isabel Leyton, and Mr. Bernard Stevens as the servant completes the cast. *The Nursery Governess* precedes.

The Royal Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; District-Manager, Mr. George Egbert; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—Miss Eileen Douglas heads the bill here, and with her effective singing and graceful dancing is well received; Miss Marjory Clark and Mr. Percy Hayden have a smart and clever musical show, *By Appointment*; Byron is a talented and amusing clay-modeller; the Betsons in a cycling act introduce comic and original business; Mr. Archie Cornwall, a local comedian, sings and patters effectively; Victor Kerr and Violet Dene are hard workers in a sketch, *It's a Walkover*; Mr. William Walton is a successful comedian, and a film of Johnson boxing proves interesting.

Pier Pavilion Theatre.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. Lewis Waller's capital company is appearing here in *Robin Hood*. Mr. Ethelbert Edwards is again a romantic, attractive Robin Hood; Mr. H. Elliot Ball a keen and effective Prince John; Mr. F. Clive Ross a very happy Little John; Mr. Lawrence Tessier a dashing and handsome Will Scarlet, and Mr. Stenson Liddard as Allan a' Dale uses a fine voice with effect; Mr. Colin Johnson causes much merriment as Friar Tuck; Mr. Frank Lichfield is an excellent Hugo, and Mr. Ernest Gray an able Fitz Alwynne; Miss Cahill displays graceful tenderness as Maid Marian; Miss Laurie Flockton is a vivacious Adela; Miss Roberta Pulleyne a dignified Eleanor; Miss Madge Devereux a bright Alison, and the remaining parts are well played.

ECCLES.—Crown Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert Rogers.—Dolly Ross, comedienne and dancer, pleases; Billy Merson provides lots of fun; Lester and Moure furnish a good turn; Charters and Clare amuse in mock dramatic scena; Beattie Foster, comedy actress and vocalist, causes satisfaction; Wallace Whitney is responsible for much mirth; Radie Furman is well received; Gala and Norris, in musical duologue, entitled *Down South*, have an excellent show; Les Rallis and his monkey are clever. Tommy and the Policeman's Whistle is depicted on the Bioscope.

EDINBURGH.—Royal Lyceum Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—Mr. Frank Curzon's company is here this week with *My Mimosa Maid*. Miss Marie Studholme is the principal attraction in a cast which includes several clever artists. The popular actress plays with all the daintiness and brightness which make her style so delightful, and in the part of Paulette she adds another to her many successful impersonations; Mr. Charles McNaughton, a comedian of much humour and resource, is admirable as Victor Guilbert, and sings and dances with notable dash; as Max Guilbert, a bailiff, Mr. Charles A. Paton gives a droll bit of character-acting, and Mr. Percy Carr sings with taste as M. Emil Gerard; Miss Ruby Gray is a prepossessing Marcelle, and her singing is marked by power and expression; Miss Eva Sandford is a vivacious Popite, and Miss May Garstang is excellent as Madame de Pilaine; Mr. Powis Pinder is a lively Captain Louis de Laurier, and Mr. Arthur Jackson is very good as the elderly waiter, Grove. One of the hits of the piece is made by Master Archie McCaig, a boy comedian with a real sense of humour, whose acting and singing was heartily applauded. The chorus sing well, and the play is capitally mounted, Mr. Harry R. Mathews conducts with efficiency.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Whitehead.

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MR. JOHN HENRY JONES, (from a photo.).

—*Peter Pan*, now on its fourth visit to Edinburgh, opened a fortnight's season here on Monday evening before the usual enthusiastic audience. Mr. Charles Frohman still retains the charming Miss Pauline Chase in the name-part, which she has now played five hundred times, and Miss Gertrude Lang is a new and dainty Wendy, the other members of the Darling family being all well represented by Mr. Stanley Logan, Miss Sybil Carlisle, Master George Hersee, and Master Herbert Hollom; Mr. Robb Harwood makes an excellent Captain Hook; Mr. George Shelton is again irresistible in his original rôle of Smee; Mr. Edward Sillward distinguishes himself as the intelligent Nana, and Masters B. Rose and W. child are sufficiently rapacious as the crocodile. The pirates, the redskins, the mermaids, the ostrich, the pack of wolves, and the members of Peter's band—not omitting the first twin, whose pillow dance secures the inevitable recall for Miss Violet Hollom—are all as delightful as ever, and the scenic effects continue to excite admiration.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—A melodramatic racing episode by Max Goldberg, entitled *Rogues of the Turf*, bulks largely in this week's bill, and its half-dozen scenes are effectively presented by Mr. John F. Preston and his specially selected company of human and equine performers, the latter including three beautiful thoroughbreds, while the former comprise, besides the principal actors, numerous auxiliaries, who figure as jockeys, trainers, grooms, and a motley racecourse crowd. The piece is carried through with much vigour and breeziness by all concerned. Quite a miniature pantomime is contributed by Grace Arundale, assisted by an efficient chorus of seven ladies and a menagerie of birds and beasts, very cleverly impersonated, who form *Polly Pickle's Pets in Petland*. Bonnie Goodwin's Apollo Piccaninnies give a spirited exhibition of coon dancing; the Three Sisters Grosvenor are heard approvingly in operatic and popular vocal selections; Baker and Balfe are versatile xylophone experts, and Sanford and Lyons show smartness as patterers and dancers; the great Weiland's comical juggling is one of the liveliest turns in the programme; Ted E. Box is particularly happy as an amusing comedian and sifflеur; George Westland supplies the Scotch element acceptably; the Bioscope concluding.

KING'S THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard.—The visit of the Carl Rosa Opera company is proving to be a very popular one here. The repertory of the company is large, and several operas which are seldom seen on the stage nowadays have been produced to the great satisfaction of crowded audiences. The company began the second week of its engagement with Bizet's always attractive opera *Carmen*. Miss Doris Woodall, a charming singer and an actress of much power, made a conspicuous success in the title-rôle, which she had played during last week. The Habanera in Act. 1 was artistically rendered and the Seguidilla in the following act called forth a storm of applause, while the dramatic force of Miss Woodall's acting throughout, particularly the passionate disdain expressed in the closing scene, compelled the unstinted admiration of the audience. Mr. Edward Davies sang the music of José's part with taste and effect, and his acting was marked by many fine touches; Mr. Hebden Foster was a strong Escamillo, and his excellent declamation of the "Toreador" song was enthusiastically encored; Madame Ina Hill acted with simplicity and pathos as Micaela, and sang with expression; and the parts of Dancairo by Mr. Frederick Clendon, Remendado by Mr. William O'Connor, and Zuniga by Mr. Alexander Richard were admirably done. The chorus work was rendered with power and precision, and Mr. Walter Van Morden conducted with ability. *The Marriage of Figaro, The Bohemian Girl, Cavalleria Rusticana, Pagliacci, Esmerelda, Tannhäuser*, and *Faust* are also billed.

THE ORIENT ORIGINAL PICTURE PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. W. C. Burns.—At Cooke's Circus, Mr. W. C. Burns, who had a most successful season last year, has again opened with a variety entertainment, to which the Bioscope contributes largely. The building has been crammed nightly with delighted audiences, who are treated to a generous programme, which is changed twice weekly. The films comprise scenes both humorous, descriptive, and pathetic, much interest being evoked by a beautiful series depicting a tour through France and snapshots in Spain. Miss Muriel Dante, an admirable singer of illustrated songs, gives great pleasure to the audience by the expressive rendering of her selections, and records by a giant phonograph add to the variety.

EXETER. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—Mr. Walter Melville's company is doing good business here in *The Girl Who Wrecked His Home*. Mr. Fred. W. Goddard is a powerful Jack Marshall; Mr. Edward Thane ably depicts Leonard Kenyon; and Mr Alfred Richards is a successful William Stevenson. Tommy Biffen is humorously delineated by Mr. Francis Hope; Mr. George P. Lester handles the part of Joss Crockett in a capable manner; Master Dick Evans does full justice to his opportunities as Billy Stevenson; and Mr. Herbert Goddard is an excellent Henry Stevenson. Miss Ida Thompson plays delightfully as Winnie the younger; Miss Nellie Burdette causes amusement as Lottie Primrose; Miss Winifred Whyte depicts Val Raymond with skill; and as Bertha Miss Louise Hampton is powerful and sympathetic.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frederick Sandy.—The premier turn this week is provided by Carl Hertz, assisted by Miss Emeline D'Alton, and large audiences are thoroughly enjoying his mystifying illusions. The Schiavonys contribute a fine exhibition of gymnastics, and an excellent vocal turn is that of the King's College Boys, whose efforts are appreciated; merriment is introduced by Zimpa, in his act *A Holiday in a Farmhouse*, and Fred Lincoln is equally successful. The Athlones (Sandow's Lecture Models) meet with a good reception, as also does Princess Pocahuntas. The Hippodrome pictures maintain their high reputation.

FALKIRK.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. W. Ebbutt.—Mr. F. R. Benson's company is appearing this week in Shakespearean répertoire, which includes *The Taming of the Shrew, Julius Cæsar, The Merry Wives of Windsor, Richelieu, Henry the Fifth*, and *Richard the Third*. On Monday evening there was a capital house, and during the week the business improved. Mr. Henry Herbert took the important part of Petruchio; Mr. Robert Atkins, Lucentio; Mr. Cyril Sworder, Hortensio; and all filled their parts well, particularly the first-named, who was brought before the curtain again and again. Miss Gladys Vanderzee as Katharine created a most favourable impression as the Shrew, and Miss Violet Farebrother made a graceful and winsome Bianca. The other parts were exceedingly well placed, and altogether the piece was delightfully represented.

FLEETWOOD.—QUEEN'S THEATRE. — Manager, Mr. H. J. Snelson.—Mr. Harry Snelson's pantomime *Dick Whittington* provides the attraction here this week. The piece abounds with tuneful music, catchy sayings and smart dancing. Miss Marion Collins as Dick makes a dashing principal boy, her singing being a principal feature of her work; Miss Lizzie Levaine makes a winning and clever Alice, and is very well received. The other parts are all in good hands. The Ruby Quartette of dancers are great favourites.

FOLKESTONE. — PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—Manager, Mr H. W. Rowland.—This week we have Messrs. Hardie and Von Leer's *Two Little Vagabonds* company. Although this play has been performed in Folkestone a great number of years, it is always greeted by large and enthusiastic audiences. Miss May Hart as Dick, and Miss Josie Beltram as Wally, in the name-parts, each played excellently, the brightness and vivacity of the former contrasting strongly with the latter's helplessness. As Marion Thornton Miss Leonora Castelle played with great intensity, and gave a powerful rendering of the part throughout; Mr. George Denham was a manly and sincere George Thornton, and the Captain Darville of Mr. Norman Yates was quite good; Mr. Jas. Skea as Bill Mullins and Miss Pritchard as Biddy, his wife, each gave a capital character sketch of low life without undue exaggeration, and Messrs. St Clair and Archer did well as their confederates.

TOWN HALL.—This week Mr. Joshua Dyson's Dioramas and Gipsy Choir are drawing crowded houses nightly. The choir consists of twenty talented artists, who discourse appropriate music, including good choruses and part-songs, fine instrumental selections, and laughable sketches. The animated pictures and dioramas are quite up to date, and are thoroughly enjoyed.

GAINSBOROUGH.—KING'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Gainsborough Theatre Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Leighton.—The variety company this week consists of John Krownow, who gives his well-known facial entertainment; Frank Ford, a clever coloured dancer; Palette in *A Busy Time in the Studio*, and Dog Max, Esdale Bros. (patterers), Phyllis Seymour (dainty singer), Albert Vinter (comedian), and Jack Ramsay (Scotch comedian), concluding with some excellent pictures of scenes in Norway, &c.

GATESHEAD.—KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager and Licensee, Mr. Harold Arnold.—The Ten Loonies with their admirable and clever musicalities are "starring" here. Lidy Nirvanah with her white posing horse supplies an agreeable novelty; J. G. Grahame, jun., and Zerlina Harrington create quite a furore in the dramatic episode *A Daughter of Pleasure;* Henri Bekker combines comedy and magic with good results; Oliver Martyn has a quaint style of comedy; Harry Cotton (comedian), Edie Coolville (comedienne), and the Kingscope are other items which find favour.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; General-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Dixon.—Mr. Fredk. Melville's company in *Her Forbidden Marriage* occupy the boards here. Mr. Henry Lonsdale as George Maddison plays powerfully, yet with agreeable ease; Mr. Louis Hector is a convincing Charles Devereux; Mr. Wilfred Mansfield is well suited to the part of Sir George Lancaster; Miss Grace Lester does full justice to the part of the Mother Superior; Miss Isla Garnet-Vayne is a womanly Lucy; and Lady Lucretia is well attended to by Miss Florence Hunt.

GLASGOW.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company is here with Hall Caine's drama *The Bondman*. Mr. R. Scrope Quentin gives a powerful performance as Jason; the part of Michael is excellently done by Mr. W. Henry Hargreaves; Mr. Oswald Lingard gives dignity to the character of Adam Fairbrother, and his sharp-tongued wife is cleverly acted by Miss Madge Lanerton; the parts of Father Ferrati and Grandfather are doubled by Mr. W. H. Rotheram, and both are extremely good; and Miss Georgina Wynter as Greeba is at her best in the pathetic scenes.

KING'S LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—Mr. Edward Compton commenced a week's engagement here on Monday, when once again that never-failing attraction *Davy Garrick* was played. Mr. Compton's impersonation of the famous actor seams to grow in public favour year by year; the Violet of Miss Kathleen Leigh was charming in its womanly grace and feeling; the company possesses an ideal Alderman Gresham in Mr. Henry Crocker; and as Tallyhaut Mr. Henry Worrall gave a capital idea of a roystering young squire. The guests (Rumbelow, Sowerberry, and Simkins) were portrayed with characteristic humour by Mr. Philip Gordon, Mr. Wallace Johnston, and Mr. Ivan Leslie; the Mrs. Rumbelow of Miss Marie Hassell was a good bit of work; Miss Constance Merton did well as Selina; and the servants' parts were ably filled by Messrs. J. W. Austin and Laurence Meade. The one-act comedy *Porteus in Petticoats* was played in front, the heroine, Diane de Dio, being represented in captivating style by Miss Viola Compton. The bill for the week includes *The Rivals, A Reformed Rake, She Stoops to Conquer, The Scarlet Coat*, and *The School for Scandal*.

ROYALTY, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Carpenter.—Considerable interest is being manifested in the production here of Ibsen's play *The Pillars of Society*, being the first time this drama has been given in Glasgow. Mr. Graham Price is responsible for the production, and gives an excellent performance as Consul Bernick. Miss Nora Dempsey is well suited as Lona; Miss Millie Wilson gave a fine rendering of the part of Dina; and Mr. George Henderson as Aune, the foreman shipbuilder, Mr. R. B. Wharrie as Doctor Rarlund, and Miss Polly White as Martha also sustained their respective characters with good effect. The other parts were ably filled, and the play was received with favour by a large audience.

GRAND.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. B. G. Maclachlan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Christie Grant.—*Cinderella* entered on its last week here on Monday, and but for the advent of the Carl Rosa Company might have held the boards for a month yet. Owing to a very severe cold, Miss Queenie Finnis, the charming Cinderella of the cast, has been out of the bill for a few nights. Mr. Barry Lupino, the lively Capers, has been trying some new songs this week, two of which are likely to be heard of again—and very often, too. One of these is a lively ditty with the title of "And the conversation ended just like that," and the other is "I'm going to marry Mary." It is an open secret that Mr. Harry Henderson, the conductor at this theatre, has composed the music of both, and they reflect considerable credit on him. The pantomime has been such a success that the farewell night is certain to witness a great display of enthusiasm. Misses Violet Halls, Queenie Finnis, and Nellie Wigley, and Messrs. Whit Cunliffe, George French, Tom Conway, and Barry Lupino in the principal parts have all caught on immensely here.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—*Diccory Dok* still continues to draw enthusiastic crowds, but even the most popular pantomimes must come to an end, and this week benefits are in the air. On Monday Mr. Peter Bermingham's friends rallied round him, and the popular Scotch comedian had a tremendous ovation from a crowded house. Numerous extra items were introduced, and Mr. Bermingham's professional associates rallied round him in good style. Miss Ella Retford, the favourite principal girl here, appealed to the public on Friday.

METROPOLE, LTD. — General-Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—Very satisfactory houses have been the rule here during the week. Mr. A. Clifton Alderson's company in *The Coal King* is the attraction. Mr. Alderson as Tom Roberts, the hero, gave a fine, manly impersonation; Miss Winifred Love's acting as Grace Shirley was characterised by delicacy; and Mr. Ulick Burke as the Coal King, Mr. Escott Robson as Walter Hartford (the villain), Mr. Frank Dalton as Dick Shirley, and Miss Joan Wellman as Mad Ann all performed their parts in an admirable manner. Miss Max Hinton as Araminta and Mr. Sam Roberts as Jim Williams gave the humorous touches in a most acceptable fashion.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—Mr. M. Russell Rosse on Monday presented Haddon Chamber's comedy-drama *Captain Swift*. Mr. Edward Sorlay scored as Wilding; the much-tried Mrs. Seabrook was ably portrayed by Mrs. Bennett; and the other parts were in capable hands. The piece was preceded by a comedietta, *My Friend the Major*. On Thursday and Friday evenings the romantic play *Jim the Penman* was staged.

EMPIRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Manners.—Albert Chevalier and company in *Behind the Scenes* provide a bright entertainment. Owing to the indisposition of Mr. Tom Edwards, ventriloquial huntsman, the Anartos deputised, contributing a diverting musical performance. The Gems provide amusing diversion; Walter Bellonini is a clever juggler; the Three Prestons create boisterous laughter in their absurdity *The Liftman's Rise;* Grace Moore is a pleasing singer; Fayre and Manning win favour; and Lionette Roberty and her whirlwind dancers, and Frank Bertram and his company in *The Chaperon* are good items.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Councillor E. H. Bostock; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock.—Mr. John Clyde and company are here in *Rob Roy*. Mr. Clyde gives an excellent impersonation of the bold outlaw; Miss Joan Keddie makes a sweet-voiced and handsome Diana Vernon; Mr. J. W. Bowie's fine voice is heard to advantage in the music allotted to Francis Osbaldistone; and the part of the treacherous Rashleigh is strongly expressed by Mr. Clavering Power. The worthy Bailie Nicol Jarvie is ably handled by Mr. W. G. Robb; Mr. A. Young Ritchie is a shaggy and picturesque Dougal; Helen Macgregor is finely impersonated by Miss Clara Cowper; and Miss Nana Linton is a pleasing Mattie. Mr. D. Blair as Captain Thornton is a fine soldierly figure, and Mr. Alec Hamilton makes a swaggering Major Galbraith. The incidental music is rendered by a well-balanced chorus and an efficient orchestra.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Evan Good.—La Tortajada is an artist with a bewitching style, and all her movements reveal the grace and finish of a natural dancer. The Leslie Brothers' amusing musical performance is provocative of much laughter; Jane Eyre contributes two songs in good style; Talbot and Pearce in *Yo-San* are in high favour; and Nan Farren, comedienne and dancer; Blake and Granby in a droll comedy duologue, "The Clarionet"; the Macdonald Troupe of dancers; and Odeyne Spark, comedienne, provide items of excellent quality.

PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Rich. Waldon; General-Manager, Mr. Harry M'Kelvie.—Alf Gibson, the popular quaint comedian, tops the bill here, and on the opening night submitted several songs in his original style. Dent and Harris are also appearing in their mystic musical comedietta *The Indian Bottle;* Dan Whitley, eccentric, is favourably received; Dave Carter is a popular Irish tenor; Madge Goodall a clever comedienne and dancer; and the marvellous Rizarellis submit a sensational trapeze act. The programme also includes Flo Deighton, vocalist; the Recar Trio of lady acrobats; and Bonnetti and Corrie, eccentric jugglers.

COLISEUM.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—The place of honour is occupied by Joseph Hart's *Rain Dears*. Dennis Drew presents a successful military scena, *Back to Barracks;* Margaret Parker and company are responsible for a dramatic sketch entitled *Sunshine;* the McConnell Trio are ever welcome in Glasgow; and another city favourite is Miss Hilda Jacobsen. The Boganny's in their bakehouse scene are applauded; the Two Anartos are a good pair of comedians; Elly Adair is a smart little comedienne; Bert Williams takes well in a ventriloquial entertainment; and the Bioscope terminates a good all-round programme.

GAIETY, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—The special novelty here is the performance of d'Artagnan, the equestrian lion, presented by M. and Mme. Gailliard. Miss Louie Freear delights with some of her inimitable impersonations; the McKinleys sing, dance and patter well; Minnie Glenn, a young coon singer and buck dancer, gives a promising show; Harry Glynn and company appear in a side-splitting playlet entitled *Before the Beak;* Jules and Earl in their harmonised duets give evident pleasure; Harry Leaton's items are warmly applauded; and pictures complete the programme.

PANOPTICON.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—Velma and Edward are comely equilibrists; and Edgar Cook, conjuring chef; James Tower, a clever mimic; Vante, the tramp on the clothes line; and the Nicholsons are the chief attractions. The Bioscope pictures complete.

GLOSSOP.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—Mr. Charles Carey's company is here with the musical comedy *The Madeira Maid*. Miss Madge Lacey, in the title-rôle, is delightfully winsome, her singing and dancing being heartily appreciated; Miss Mari Ault keeps the house convulsed with the humour imparted into the character of Mary Ann Chovey; Miss Jessie De Gray as Mrs. Amelia Downe, Georgie Wallis and Carrie Wood as Vida and Ida Downe respectively were exponents of no mean order; Mr. Charles Carey himself gives a skilful exposition of the rôle of No-One-in-Particular; Mr. Harold Perry's representation of Jack Danby is excellent; as Mr. Eno Downe Mr. W. E. Matthews is very effective; Mr. W. Lazard as Martin Smith and Mr Jay Ellis as Major-General Coleman ably add to the merit of the piece. The music is bright, and the costumes and scenery are attractive.

GLOUCESTER.—PALACE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Pooles Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. T. Rea.—Jan Rudenyi, violinist, returns with a clever sketch, *The Power of Music;* Horace White, ventriloquist, at the piano, proves a novelty; the Three Calbas have a funny acrobatic comedian, and the Bros. Ford dance together in excellent style; Mr. W. G. Webber sings bass songs with success; the Sisters Desmond are capital character duettists; Spry and Bentley in a dramatic episode *The Terror of Tierney's Rents* are appreciated; and the Maroe, bar experts, cause amusement. The Palacescope concludes the entertainment.

KING'S HALL.—Messrs. Pooles Theatres, Ltd.—The illustrated pictures are now sung to by Miss Evelyn Herbert, who looks like being a favourite.

GOOLE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Fred Greaves.—Mr. J. B. Hart and company opened here on Monday with *The Outcast of the Family*. Miss Florence M Daley is distinctly good as Ruth; Miss Ethel Teeney plays Grace Redfern with much spirit; Miss Vera Neville is a lively Nancy Bray; Mr. Miles Platting submits a fine piece of acting as Sir Henry Thorne; the villain, Richard Martin, is ably taken by Mr. Clifford Bean; Mr. C. A. Olgar is a powerful Harry Thorne; and Mr. Reg. Oldroyd as Joe Bushell and Mr. J. W. Boyling keep the house in roars of laughter in the comedy scenes.

GRAVESEND.—GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Wright.—Mr. Fred Storey and his capable company are here in *Rip Van Winkle*. Mr. Storey plays the title-rôle with unqualified success and receives a tremendous ovation nightly; Ena Richards is a dainty soubrette and brilliant dancer; York and Lister in their sketch, *The Other Mrs. Brown*, evoke roars of laughter; Dudley Hayes, comedian, is very droll; the Godfreys in their musical act *The Slavey and the Coon* do remarkably well; as does Alec Kennedy, a good comedian; and the Maples pay a welcome return visit, causing hearty laughter with their original skit, *How to Treat a Burglar*.

GREAT YARMOUTH. — ROYAL AQUARIUM.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Nightingale.—Messrs. Ebbutt and Copping are presenting the romantic drama *Held in Bondage*. Mr. Tom Ronald ably portrays the hero, Ivan Dronski; Mr. Richard Vane makes a fine Prince Maxaroff; Miss Constance Medwyn gives a sympathetic rendering of Zara Dronski; Miss Matt Russell is very funny as Harry Dunn; Dr. Petrovitch has a clever exponent in Mr. Harold Knight; Miss Kitty Russell is a vivacious Lisette, and Miss Aimee Grattan Clyndes plays with great skill as the adventuress, Leoni Devigne. As an additional attraction a display of animated pictures is provided during the intervals, and are appreciated by the audience.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H.

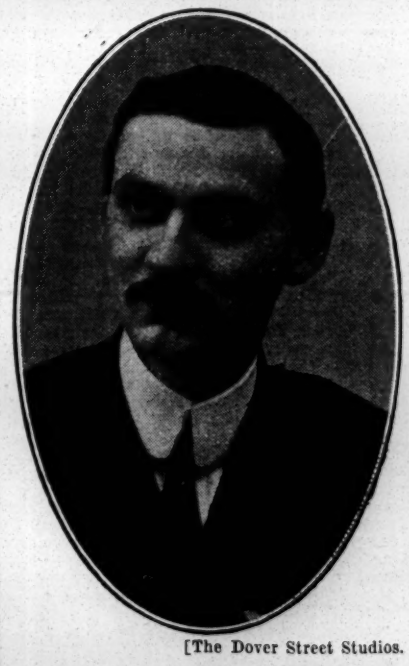
How Theatres and Music Halls are Bought and Disposed of.

FACTS OF INTEREST TO EVERYONE.

By FRANK BURT.

London is undoubtedly renowned for the ability and astuteness of the prominent firms which carry on operations in its midst. It would, however, be difficult to find in its annals one more up-to-date than the writer of this short article proposes to deal with in the limited space which the *Era* has allotted him. In this, the first of a series of articles of a commercial nature, it is but fitting a professional paper should review the operations of a firm closely allied to the stage. Messrs. Uloth and Sparks, Ltd., Theatre and Music Hall Surveyors and Estate Agents, of 166, Piccadilly, London, W., are the firm to whom reference is made.

To the proprietors and would-be proprietors of theatres and music halls, and to those who have land for disposal on which to erect them, they are absolutely indispensable, also in the matter of arranging mortgages and debentures, and finding capital, however large or small, for sound ventures. It is well known that their operations cover the whole of the United Kingdom. Messrs. Uloth and Sparks' offices are situated in the very centre of the greatest city on earth, immediately opposite the Piccadilly end of Bond-street, very close to the



[The Dover Street Studios.
MR. GEORGE ULOTH.

Dover-street Tube Station, and within two minutes' walking distance of the Piccadilly Station. One cannot wonder that the foresight and diplomacy exercised by the partners have gained for them a very high reputation in their particular business.

Having introduced Messrs. Uloth and Sparks to the notice of the reader, some particulars concerning their business will be anticipated. It must necessarily follow, that considering there are an immense number of theatres and music halls in the United Kingdom, there are often changes in proprietorship, and would probably be more often were it even a little better known there is in existence such a reliable firm as Messrs. Uloth and Sparks. Any individual, or individuals, requiring a Palace of Pleasure in north, south, east, or west, can always be assured of securing one upon remunerative terms if this firm are entrusted with their confidence. The archives in their comfortably-furnished offices, wherein the visitor is made at ease, contain many records of changes in which it has been necessary to exercise faith. Even solicitors are unacquainted with the confidences their clients have disclosed to this reputable firm. Messrs. Uloth and Sparks are acquainted with the history of almost every property connected with the profession.

Quite recently several large and successful ventures have changed hands, and the firm have been congratulated by all the parties interested on the expeditious and satisfactory manner in which negotiations have been conducted. The writer last week saw many pictures adorning the walls of the offices of fine and handsome buildings, which, to his own knowledge, Messrs. Uloth and Sparks had disposed of. It frequently happens that their advice is sought by someone residing a considerable distance from the metropolis. In the illustration given one of the partners is seen seated, in his fast motor-car, on a particular Sunday, ready for a long journey, the train service being on this day so infrequent. Far or near, their clients' interests are promptly attended to, a fact of importance in itself. A few weeks since this self-same car whirled one of the partners over 800 miles in the pursuit of a suitable site for a prominent syndicate, marked success attending the quest.

The offices daily present a scene of activity, and the telephone is ever being utilised to answer the inquiries made from every quarter. So complete is the list of places of amusement in the hands of Messrs. Uloth and Sparks that at a moment's notice minute particulars can be flashed over the wires. In a large measure this enterprising firm control the business done as Theatre and Music Hall Surveyors and Estate Agents, and, moreover, have been, and are now, responsible for the foundation of many flourishing Picture Palaces. Widespread, indeed, are their operations.

There is undeniably an insatiable craze amongst the people for healthy and clean amusement, but it may be news to many would-be speculators that there are yet towns with a population around of 100,000 wherein there is not an up-to-date place of amusement, but only flimsily-built structures. One prosperous town in particular was mentioned to the interviewer as an illustration. And yet in this and other similarly prosperous places land is available for the purpose, the people are clamouring to be catered for, and there is little doubt the development of the industry would result in financial success. There are also many towns where existing, but somewhat antiquated buildings might be well changed to the advantage of everyone concerned. It is no idle assertion to make that almost every property in the market passes through the hands of Messrs. Uloth and Sparks, so established is the firm's reputation.

Now that the recent dispute has been so amicably settled, to the complete satisfaction of both parties conducting the operations, and the many thousands of talented artists gaining their livelihood in an honourable profession, there is undoubtedly cause for anticipating that the coffers of proprietors and artistes will be still further enriched in the future. This fact being recognised, the interviewer, whose journalistic wanderings as an unbiassed and independent critic constantly take him into the domain of places of amusement in London town and the provinces, has no hesitation in heartily recommending Messrs. Uloth and Sparks to those interested as specialists in such operations, so assured is he they will be well rewarded. Therefore it is a pleasure to place on record some interesting facts concerning the firm.

A short biography of the responsible heads—the Two Georges, as they are familiarly called—will be perused with interest.

Mr. George Uloth was born in Gunnersbury, his parents having long been residents in that district. He was educated at Deal College, and started early in life on a commercial career. Mr. Uloth is particularly well known throughout the length and

[Ward's Studios, Hounslow and Reading.
MR. GEORGE SPARKS.

breadth of the country amongst everyone connected with the theatrical and music hall world. Mr. Uloth is an all-round sportsman; but it may well be imagined this busy man of the world has little time to devote to leisure. He is an enthusiastic sculler and motorist. Mr. Uloth resides at Gunnersbury.

Mr. George Sparks was born at Hanworth, Middlesex, his parents being socially prominently connected with the neighbourhood. Mr. Sparks was educated at Apsley House, Margate. Receiving an excellent commercial training, he quickly established a name for himself in the City on account of his energy and zeal. He is a director of several important public companies. Besides being an expert in the business with which he is connected Mr. Sparks is a skilled engineer, and in the motoring world has been responsible for the design of highly-favoured patents. Like his partner, he is fond of motoring. He is one of the oldest motorists in the country, and has gained considerable fame in racing. Mr. Sparks resides at Feltham.

[Ward's Studios, Hounslow and Reading.
STARTING ON A LONG JOURNEY.

Nightingale.—The patrons here were afforded a big dramatic treat last Thursday by two special performances of *Dolly Reforming Herself* by Messrs. Jerrard Grant Allen and Besant's company, who are making a flying tour with Henry Arthur Jones' delightful comedy. Miss Aimee De Burgh captivated the audience by her engaging personality and delightful acting as Dolly; Mr. P. H. Clayton Greene made an admirable Harry Telfer; Mr. Edward Sterling was very humorous as Professor Sturgess; Mr. Reginald Besant displays marked ability as Mathew Barron; Miss Gertrude Bibby charmingly portrayed Mrs. Sturgess, and Mr. Donald Calthrop was good as Captain Wentworth.

Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. George Gilbert.—The Trippellos present an exceptionally smart musical turn; Mollie O'Connor gives a clever Japanese scene; Tom Carrick creates a lot of fun with his funny songs; Miss Allisson and company in *The House Next Door* are very popular, and pictures on the Bioscope conclude.

The Gem.—Lessees, the Yarmouth Amusement Centre, Ltd.; Resident-Director, Mr. C. B. Cochran; Manager, Mr. Sidney Lawrence.—Considerable enterprise is being shown by the management, who last week displayed a film illustrating the Britt *v* Summers match on the night following the actual fight. This week an excellent set of films are being exhibited, the one entitled A Cattle Dancer being worthy of special mention. The song "Roses, roses everywhere" is illustrated by some fine pictorial slides, and the programme concludes with some excellent slides depicting the principal scenes from the play of the moment—*An Englishman's Home.*

GREENOCK.—Alexandra Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—A very popular visit this week has been Mr. George D. Day's company in *The Prodigal Son.* Mr. Albert Ward plays Oscar Stephensson with success, and Mr. Alfred Goddard is equally meritorious as Magnus. The dual rôles of Thora and her daughter Elin are cleverly delineated by Miss Dorrie Roberts; Miss Pearla Gardner enacts with distinction the part of Helga; Mr. Jackson Hayes displays much ability as Stephen Magnusson, as also does Mr. J. E. Savery as Doctor Olsen; Miss Maud Locker submits a lively study as Margaret Neilsen, and Miss Florence Lovell is good as Anna. Mr. B. C. Brooksmith as the Sheriff, Mr. J. H. Leigh as Neils Finsen, Mr. A. J. Williams as the Pastor, and Mr. Norman Liddell as the Director of the Casino lend able support.

Empire.—Lessees, The Greenock Empire Syndicate; Responsible-Manager, Mr. Edward McCormick; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. J. Colquhoun.—The principal attraction here is Jack Sheppard, the world-renowned handcuff king and jail-breaker, assisted by Miss Ruby Vesta, who submits an excellent turn. Capital items are also provided by the Sauternon Wonders, Zemco and Sulls (the boys in red), Taylor and Bridge (singing Lancashire mill lads), Queenie Lolo and Little May (gymnasts, contortionists, and speciality dancers), and Zellini (comedy juggler), while the Bioscope displays some capital pictures.

Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry L. Skivington.—The stage at the Hippodrome this week is occupied by the Greenock Amateur Operatic Society with an excellent production of Farnie and Planquette's comic opera *Nell Gwynne,* the performances being given in aid of local charities.

GRIMSBY.—Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—The charming play *Sunday* is again here, and is meeting with its former success. Miss Janet Lind is now seen in the name part, and her delineation of this pretty and original character is quite in keeping with its interesting qualities; Mr. William Giffard represents Colonel Brinthorpe, and is equally good in the light as in the more intense moods of the part. Sunday's four picturesque guardians are realistically played by Mr. Richard F. Symons as Towzer, Mr. A. Cotton Holmes as Davy, Mr. James Hussey as Lively, and Mr. George Marriott, jun., as Jacky; Mr. Richard Trieve acts well as Tom Oxley, and the same may be said of Miss H. Graham Edwins as Mrs. Naresby and Miss Jessie Stone as the Nun.

The Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Berry.—The series of illusions presented by Mlle. Naveeda are very entertaining, and the vanishing lady trick is carried out on entirely new lines; Mlle. Racko and Partner appear in an acrobatic speciality of a distinctly original type, and the lady displays exceptional strength; the Eight Lancashire Lads are a smart troupe of clog dancers, and display much clever work; Arthur Pier gives a song scena, *Only A Dream,* with dramatic effect; Martin Henderson, a blind musician, is a skilled concertina soloist; Cyclumina accomplishes difficult cycling feats, accompanied by electrical effects; Alma Curzon is a pleasing comedienne and burlesque artist, and Jennie Sydney sings and dances well.

GUERNSEY.—Theatre St. Julian's.—Lessee, Mr. Edward Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—The fare provided this week is *The Love That Women Desire,* excellently interpreted by Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company. Miss Maude Hastings gives an intelligent reading of Sybil Thornburn; Miss Vere Rose gives sinister effect to the rôle of Marquinha; Madge Abingdon is in the safe hands of Miss Nellie Fletcher, and Miss Dorothy Hilderbrand is a vivacious Patti Swift. Mr. J. O. Stewart is suitably cast as the Squire; Mr. S. Leigh Courtney an able exponent of Richard; Mr. Sidney Bland is highly successful as Philip Carnaby; Mr. Wilton Reed is all that could be desired as Frank Hardy; Mr. John Higgnett proves diverting as Dennis O'Rourke, and as P.C. Sowerberry Mr. J. Wilkinson causes laughter.

HALIFAX.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Mr. and Mrs. C. Mackey's company, with *Rollicking Rory,* were at the Royal the first three nights of this week. Mr. Mackey infuses plenty of life and Irish humour into the name part, and is well supported by Miss Nana Flensburg as Rosie Callagan and a good all round company, including Mme. Constance Bellamy, who takes the part of Peggy O'Moore in the first act and Queen of the Fairies in the other acts.

Grand Theatre, Ltd. — Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—The main attraction at this house is Reano's famous band of instrumentalists. This band has had a magnificent reception from crowded houses, Mr. Reano having to respond to numerous calls at each performance. The Three Original Bordellas give a highly-finished, clever acrobatic performance, introducing several new and very difficult feats; Mahatma, the mistress of second sight, has had a very successful week, dumbfounding the audiences by her marvellous powers; the Saletos (lady and gentleman) are another decidedly good turn, giving some remarkable exhibitions of hand and head balancing, the lady (who is quite young) acting as bottom artist in most of the feats; Sylvia Du Barry, South American soprano, is deservedly encored for her songs. The Player Company in *Where's Ma Kilt?* Vera and Royal, comedy sketch artists; Frank Weaver, vocalist and champion dancer; and the Bioscope complete the programme.

Palace and Hippodrome, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Foster.—Mysticus, the English human chameleon, gives an entertaining and mystifying performance. His last trick is exceptionally smart. Crissie Cross is a dainty dancer, has an attractive appearance, is prettily dressed, and has met with a hearty and well-earned reception; A Ba-Bee's Picture Post Card Album pays a return visit, and is well received. Others appearing are Carney and Armstrong, patter comedians; Leslie's Comedy Cadets in *Lights Out;* Ted Waite, comedian; the Seven Wulfrunas in *Fun in a Café;* Miss Amy Bellwood, singer and dancer; and Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

HAMILTON, N.B.—Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Managing-Director, Mr. René Clayton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Jack Bostock.—Billy Howard and Kathryn Harris are topping the bill in *The Adventures of a Sappy Tramp;* Karr and Kooney are diverting in cross-talk; the Calcotts are good in a musical turn, *Rags and Tatters;* Master Edward Frisby sings popular songs; Leslie, Lyn, and Willie contribute some clever glee singing; Maud Elliston and company are warmly received in *Dobson's Day Off;* and J. W. Hall, character comedian; Chas. Johnson, and the Bioscope complete the bill.

HANLEY. — Royal. — Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company in *The Christian* is this week attracting large crowds. Mr. Roy Redgrave gives a powerful impersonation of John Storm, his fine appearance and voice being great factors in the success attained. Miss Daisy Scudamore is superb as Glory Quayle; Mr. Herbert Hewetson as Lord Robert Ure is effective in a difficult rôle; Mr. Royce Milton as Lord Storm is capitally suited; Mr. John J. Hooper gives a clever rendering of the austere Archdeacon; Mr. Thomas Barry's Father Lamplugh is an artistic rendering; and Mr. John Black as Parson Quayle is also very fine. Miss Molly Hayden as Mrs. Callendar and Miss Cora Deane as Polly Love are good, and Miss Muriel Marsden plays Black Meg admirably.

Grand.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand.—Heading a good programme this week is that laughable sketch *The Demon of the Cellar,* excellently played by the Brothers Luck. Valazzi excites considerable enthusiasm by his original act; the Figaros are responsible for a clever musical potpourri; Georgina Lena contributes pleasing songs; Jack Barker's mimicry is of special worth; Harry Bedford is a clever comedian; Chas. Norton, a warm favourite, gives his smart imitations of music-hall stars; the Bio-tableaux portrays pleasing pictures; Alice Hollander, a vocalist of decided merit, wins loud applause.

King's.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy; Manager, Mr H. Kennedy.—Crowded houses are bearing testimony to the attractiveness of the pictures. Mr. Dennis McCarthy is a comedian of merit, his songs and scena being applauded.

HARROGATE.—Grand Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. William Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eric Fielding Smith.—Variety forms again the capital bill here this week. The Barton and Franklin Trio do a good musical act; Miss Raie Walters is a smart serio and scores with her fishing song; Bert Lytton, swell comique, sings a couple of acceptable songs; and Charles Santon is a good double-voiced vocalist; Dan Fraser is a clever Scotch comedian with tuneful songs; Agnese and Arthur Lynch in American picture songs are greatly to the liking of the audience, and the Sisters Lavender are good song and dance artists. The top of the bill is occupied by Mohamed Ben Mohamed Troupe of nine Souasa Arabs, who gain thunders of applause; Miss Billie Burford is a handsome and well-dressed chorus comedienne.

HASTINGS.—Gaiety Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—After a considerable interval Mr. Eugene C. Stafford's company is here on a return visit in that laughter-provoking comedy *The Private Secretary,* and opened on Monday to a well-filled house. Needless to say, the performance was masterly throughout. The rôle of the simple-minded curate was finely played by Mr. Donald Price-Evans; Mr. W. Hargreaves again impersonated Mr. Cattermole, a part with which he has thoroughly identified himself by reason of his long association with the character; Mr. Frederick Tyrrell was no less perfect as the ambitious tailor, Mr. Sydney Gibson. The remaining characters were capitally portrayed by the other members of the cast. The screaming farce, *The Wild Man from Borneo,* preceded.

Pier Pavilion. — General-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—After an absence of some weeks Mr. J. D. Hunter has returned to the Pavilion, and with a talented company is appearing in the laughable comedy by Buckstone, *Married Life.* As the dignified footman, Henry Dove, Mr. J. D. Hunter takes a very amusing character. The pleasing sprightliness of the piece and the humorous situations render it an enjoyable and spirited performance. The others of the cast are ably supplied by Mr. J. E. Cowell, Miss Blanche Bayley and Miss Eva Bayley, the Misses Clarissa Selwynne, Helen Anderson, and Cherry Wardroper, Mr. E. W. Maule Cole, Mr. Oliver Rogers, and Mr. Edward Harrison.

Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr. Harry Boyd; General-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—Mlle. Marvelle introduces a remarkable troupe of performing cockatoos and macaws; great fun is created by Hemsley and Ambrose in a motor-car absurdity entitled *The Coster's Honeymoon;* Dennis and Morris are very clever in the art of step and slate dancing and humorous pattering; a skilful juggler is seen in Charles Lestree, who gains much applause; some novel illustrations of songs are pleasingly rendered by the Rinders; the Alhambra pictures are a prominent feature this week; George Prince is a favourite comedian; Renee Grahame is a very refined and talented vocalist.

HUDDERSFIELD.—Hippodrome, Ltd.—Resident-manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—Miss Maude Mortimer has established herself a prime favourite by her spirited renderings of taking songs. Others appearing are Miss Rosie Ring and assistants in her musical pot pourri; W. G. Raby, comedian; Miss Nelly Neil, comedienne and dancer; a highly amusing contrivance called "Whizzing the Whirl"; Johnson and Bert, comedians; Miss Sadie Early and company in the refined song scena, entitled *Memories;* and a comical film on the Bioscope.

HULL.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Mortons, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. W. F. Morton.—A welcome return visit has been paid this week by Mr. Seymour Hicks' company in *The Gay Gordons.* Though Mr. Hicks is not in the cast, his brother, Mr. Stanley Brett, fills his rôle with success. While he is on the stage the house is in one continued ripple of merriment. His dry humour, his quaint gags all afford intense amusement. Instead of Miss Zena Dare, on this occasion we have Miss Maie Ash, and it is no false compliment to say that in no sense do we feel the absence of the former. She is vivacious, arch, pretty, pleasing, and has won a warm place already in the audiences affection. Another newcomer is Miss Lily Maxwell, who is very successful; Miss Dade, in a Connie Ediss part, takes the taste of the audience—a song on the Suffragette movement is given with verve; Mr. George Carroll, a clever little comedian, does excellently as Edmund; and as the père Siddons Mr. Fred Rolph does capitally. The comedy is finely mounted and chorus effective.

Alexandra Theatre.—Mortons, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—This week, instead of giving us ultra-melodrama, the management have selected a play that is already taking the city by storm—*The Prince and the Beggar Maid.* From whatever side considered it has attributes to recommend it; literary and stage craft alike are far above the usual. It has a fine romantic flavour, recalling Anthony Hope and Stanley Weyman. No less happy is the selection of the play than the artists called upon to represent it, foremost of whom is Miss Annie Saker, who as Princess and Beggar Maid brings to bear a fine talent. She has histrionic gifts of no mean order. The Prince Hildred of Mr. Cleveland was conceived in the right spirit; the Prince Michael of Mr. Graeme Campbell was a capital study; Mr. Wallace Court won a fine place in the audience's affections as Prince Olaf; Mr. Francis Hawley realised the Bishop with effect; and fine aid was vouchsafed by Messrs. Kendal Chalmers (Nathan) and Mr. J. Chamberlain (Col. Wellenberg). Miss Ivy Millais played with credit. The play is a great success and will meet with a good reception wherever produced.

ILKESTON.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—*The Golden Ladder* is being played here this week by Mr. F. C. Leighton and company. Mr. Harry Cullenford as Rev. Frank Thornhill gives an excellent interpretation of the part, and Miss Violet Ennis-Lawson wins great admiration for her skilful reading of Lilian Grant; Miss Lily Fuller is a dainty Lily; Mr. E. W. Cudd is a good representative of Samuel Peckaby, the same remark applying to Miss M. Leslie-Cudd (Mrs. Peckaby) and Miss D. Tullyhole (Victoria Alexandra Peckaby); Miss Dora Lewis causes much laughter as "The Tearer"; Mr. F. C. Leighton as the villain Michael Severn is a clever exponent, and has able assistance from Mr. Charles Loraine (M. Peranza) and Mr. Robert Pittard (Jim Dixon).

IPSWICH.—Lyceum Theatre.—Messrs. Arthur Paumier and Walter Howard's company is here in *The Midnight Wedding.* Mr. E. A. Winnington Barnes plays Paul Valmar in a capable manner; Mr. John Nesbitt as Prince Leopold, Mr. Vernon H. Vayne as Von Strelsburg, and Mr. F. Booth Conway as Von Scarsbruck are all accomplished actors; Sergeant Mart, Corporal Otto, and Private Bobo are played amusingly by Messrs. James E. Page, Harry Richardson, and Algie Spalding. The part of Princess Astrea in the hands of Miss Yvonne Orchardson is an excellent piece of acting, and Miss Gwladys Faunce is a vivacious Kathie.

Hippodrome. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—The house this week is occupied by Mr. J. Collins's pantomime *Puss in Boots.* The dancing of the Collins Sextette and the Eight Gems children is graceful, and far and away above the average pantomime companies; Miss Ethel Beech is Juan, the hero, Miss Eva Elliss is Princess Corita, and Miss May Otto the Good Fairy, all of whom at once established themselves as favourites; the King is played by Mr. Wyn Weaver, and Mr. Bobby Hall as the Widow Dolores is very funny; the Cat is impersonated by Mr. Harry Seymour; Messrs. Arthur Watts (Sancho), Mr. Algernon Lea (Pancho), Ferriss and Fornley (Bilbalio and Jobalio) are all humorous.

JARROW.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Lionel Locke.—The well-known actor Mr. William Mollison is appearing at the head of a talented company with a répertoire of classical dramas, *Hamlet* being submitted on Monday. Mr. Mollison's conception of the Prince of Denmark was an admirable one, and his efforts were ably seconded by Miss Evelyn McNay as Ophelia; Mr. Archie W. Chappell was a very fine Horatio, and Mr. William Calvert was well placed as Claudius. Miss Elsie Anderson did full justice to the part of Gertrude, Queen of Denmark. The remainder of the week is devoted to *Julius Cæsar, The Bonnie Brier Bush,* and *Davy Garrick.*

Empire.—Lessee, Mr. James A. Lauder; General-Manager, Mr. Edward Ranier.—The attractions here include the Little Hackenschmidt, the bantam-weight champion wrestler, who is taking on all comers; Two Sprigs of Holly, comedy duettists and dancers; Billy Myers, Tyneside comedian; Nellie Sadie, comedienne and dancer; Pauline Lucy, the female whistler; Wilbur and Wright, the eccentric couple; and Mr. J. A. Lauder, magician, who does excellent tricks.

KEIGHLEY.—Queen's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. R. S. Kendall; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Carson.—Mr. George Dances company in *Miss Hook of Holland* is popular here. Mr. Alfred Wellesley is excellent as Mr. Hook, and creates roars of laughter; Mr. W. Balfour possesses a fine voice, and is successful as Captain Paap; Mr. Frank Crimp is a local favourite, and his performance of the Bandmaster, Van Voyt, is delightful; Mr. George Mudie, jun., plays well in the part of Schnapps; Miss Daisy Manning is winning and graceful as Sally; and Miss Cissie Stephen scores as Mina. Pretty scenery and a capital chorus add to the evening's enjoyment.

KETTERING.—Avenue Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Payne.—Mr. Charles Constant's company is here with *Bluebeard.* Miss Marie Duncan is an admirable Fatima; Miss Laura Wickender is an attractive Fairy Queen; and Miss Daisy Lake is a great favourite as Selim. The comic element is very strong, Mr. Johnny Clegg being very funny as Sister Ann, and is admirably supported by Mr. Jack Parker as Bamboozlum, Mr. Walter Freer as Pimple, and Messrs. Harlin and Hanlon.

KIDDERMINSTER. — New Opera House.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. Jas. P. Mooro; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon.—Messrs. O. Silverstone and H. Wright's company is here this week with *The Nihilist.* Mr. O. Silverstone gives an effective portrayal of Prince Alexander, and Mr. William A. Armour scores as Ivan Nowasky. Bobby Smart is realistically played by Mr. Henry Wright, and Mr. Cowell Clark does well as Paul Orloff. Piertree Petoff is cleverly enacted by Mr. C. Newton Buckland. Miss Edna Clare as Alexina gives a finished rendering, and Miss Florrie Kelsey as Princess Olga well supports her.

KING'S LYNN.—New Royal Theatre.—Manager and Lessee, Mr. B. Pareezer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Pareezer.—For three nights last week Mr. Stanley James's company presented the comedy *My Wife* to appreciative audiences. Mr. C. H. Croker King as Gerald Eversley and Miss Mary Carnegy as Beatrice Dupré performed their parts with that precision which characterise them as first favourites with a Lynn audience; Mr. James Geldered as the Hon. Gibson Gore, successfully provoked the element of mirth throughout the play; Miss Katherine Harrington was most graceful as Miriam Hawthorne, and Mr. Cecil Brooking as M. Dupré sustained the vigour demanded by his part; Mr. Frank Stoney made a typical butler; Mr. Vernon Crabtree was most vivacious in his part as Rene Falandres, and the other parts were excellently sustained by the company. Each evening the play was preceded by a charming and cleverly-written one-act comedy-drama by Mr. Stanley James, entitled *The Vengeance of Jim.* This was produced for the first time on Thursday evening, and an account of it is given elsewhere.

Hippodrome.—The Elliott-Savonas are here for six nights with their marvellous musical entertainment. Their new creation *The Palace of Morpheus,* with its many-coloured lights present a scene of exquisite beauty, such as is seldom witnessed in a provincial town, and the dexterity they exhibit on various instruments proclaim them masters in musical art. They have with them a strong variety company, which includes Senorita Eloina, who is a clever gymnast; Burley and Burley, acrobatic comedians, present some original contortions; the Moncktons are entertaining in a comedy sketch *Two in a Flat;* Charles J. Lever is a tramp comedian and juggler of excellent style: Wright and Elton are vivacious and graceful in their dancing, and Miss Florence receives vociferous applause for her illustrated songs.

KIRKCALDY.—Hippodrome.—Lessee, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—Mr. Edmund Tearle and company are presenting a repertory of Shakespearean plays this week. As Othello Mr. Tearle's resonant voice and exceptional histrionic ability are effectively employed. He is ably assisted by Miss Wanda Beresford, who makes a beautiful and convincing Desdemona; Mr. A. Wilson Gunning is worthy of praise for an effective rendering of Iago; Mr. Stuart Black is very successful as Cassia, and Mr. P. P. Millar is sufficiently simple as Roderigo. The smaller parts are in the capable hands of Messrs. Thomas Price, Denis Hogan, Ernest Lodge, and Misses M. Campbell, H. Macrae, and H. Robertson.

LANCASTER.—Grand Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. C. Howitt.—*The Love of the Princess* is the attraction this week, and is staged in a commendable manner by Mr. T. Edward Ward's company. Miss Maisie Hanbury is a graceful and pleasing Princess; Mr. Wilson Coleman as Prince Conrad acts with care and judgment; Mr. E. H. Dobell plays in a clever and convincing manner as Josef, the King; and Mr. Ernest E. Imeson is well placed as Count Daniello. Miss Nellie Grahame is a pleasing Constantia; and Miss Olive Lloyd wins favour in the part of Lady Irene.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. John Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—Substitutes for Harry Radford and Mlle. Valentine, absent through indisposition, have been found in Blair and West, the clever comedians and speciality dancers; the Rays are smart equilibrists; the Eeduns supply a pleasing musical turn; La Belle Greta sings and dances well; and Datas, the man with a memory, has a good reception. The Bros. Redmond, comedians, are recalled each house; and Grogie, the character man of the South, is well received. The Hippograph with amusing pictures brings the programme to a successful finish.

LEEDS.—Grand Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Jno. Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—Pantomime is succeeded by *The Dollar Princess,* which is touring the provinces previous to appearing in London. Mr. Geo. Edwardes has secured a capable company, consisting of Miss Hilda Moody, who sings and acts delightfully; the oil magnate is amusingly presented by Mr. Fred Winn; Mr. Robert Michaelis is a capital singer, and acts the part of the stand-offish lover with ease and gracefulness; Miss Kitty Gordon sings charmingly, and her dresses are superb. Other characters in the cast are popular.

The Royal Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. MacNaghton.—*A Woman Worth Winning* is here.

The Empire.—Moss Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. Gerald Morton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alex. Galley.—Miss Daisy Dormer is unable to appear owing to illness; Nellie Wallace is as amusing as ever in some new songs; W. F. Purcell's company act well in a breezy sketch, *That Brute Simmons;* Leynard's Lilliputians perform some neat circus tricks. Others contributing to a well-balanced programme include W. F. Frame, Naughton and Gold, Phil Parsons, Les Uniques, and Edie Endon.

The Hippodrome.—Lessee, Mr. T. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Collingwood.—Following Madame Albani comes Herr Julius Walther, who has been heard in grand opera quite recently; the Klein Troupe are smart cyclists, and the daring antics of the black boy are a good addition to their act; Frank Fenton and Co. cleverly present a nutshell version of *David Garrick;* Arthur Reece is very popular; the Three Allison Sisters work hard in acrobatic dances; and the Bros. Zenary and Willie Allan complete.

The Varieties.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sam Jones.—Sammy Shields, of football fame, is topping the bill. Other artists include Zeta Grey and Co., Rowland Hill, Madeline Rossiter, and Boden and Bell.

The Queen's.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Bush.—Of chief importance are Carl and Mary Ohm, with their animal circus. Other good turns include Colin Coop, Lily Lonsdale, Ernie Myers, and Picitt and Lizette.

LEICESTER.—Opera House.—A first visit of Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company in *Brewster's Millions,* with its famous Yacht scene, is the attraction here this week. The company is an all-round good one, at the head of which is Mr. Percy Hutchison in a remarkably successful impersonation of Monty Brewster. Miss Cicely Stuckey is an altogether charming exponent of the part of Peggy; and Miss Lilias Earle scores a well-deserved success as Mrs. Dan de Mille. Mr. Cyril Rawdon is very good as Charlie Harrison. The numerous other parts are allotted to artists who well maintain the high reputation so deservedly earned by this successful and popular touring management.

Theatre Royal.—Mrs. Frank Bateman and Mr. George Conquest's company is here this week in the well-known drama *The Crimes of Paris.* It is a play that suits the tastes of the patrons of this drama house, and is being presented in a manner that ensures its success.

Palace Theatre, Ltd. — Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. S. Buccleuch.—Topping this week's bill is Ernest Shand, a particularly brilliant humorist, whose turn is brimful of smart patter. He is receiving a most cordial reception from all sections of the audience. At the other end is Fred Ginnett's musical sketch *Hunting Morn,* supported by a clever company of artists, who contribute a number of hunting songs. Mr. Ginnett also introduces his wonderful hunting mare Clonmel, who is brought into a drawing-room and performs some remarkable feats of jumping. The sketch is well staged, and proves very popular. Fred Kitchen and Frank Lister's company are again cordially greeted in their finely-played and thoroughly interesting American dramatic sketch, *No. 99;* Harry Lickson's balancing dogs are put through a most astonishingly clever performance; Florence and Lilian score a well-deserved success in their artistic musical act. The Vetter Brothers are clever gymnasts and hand-balancers; Walter Curtis, a comedian of great ability, keeps the audience in laughter; Lil O'Gorman is a capital comedienne and dancer; Winnie Oldershaw, a favourite young comedienne and dancer, appears in place of Cline and Clark. The Bioscope shows The Incendiary in ten tableaux.

Pavilion Theatre.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joseph Lawrence.—Arthur Norton, the 9st. Græco-Roman champion, is the special attraction here. The usual challenges are thrown out, but it is needless to say that Norton is always the successful man; Gilbert's dogs are put through a very interesting and clever performance, which is much to the credit of their trainer; the Laurie Brothers give a smart and clean acrobatic display; Kinnaird is a deft conjurer, whose many feats are well performed; Lily Lumaine gives an entertaining musical act; both Charles Byron, eccentric comedian, and Joe S. Aitken, quaint comedian, create much merriment; the Granvilles, song illustrators, are successful deputies for Rose Cass. Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope is a feature with Warrior's Bride and Paddy Eats Horseflesh. He is also showing the Cinephone, with new films.

Empire.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Company; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles R. Craig.—The chief films this week include the Tottenham Tragedy, The Gentleman Burglar, The Laughing Man, Modern Cinderella, Repelled by All, By a Woman's Wit, Magistrate's Conscience, Electricity, and The Press Gang. Harry Lynx, a popular and laughter-compelling comedian, is on a successful return visit, having to contribute three songs.

The Empress Rink.—Proprietors, Rinking, Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Cormack.—This new establishment has "caught on," as large parties of skaters attend, especially the afternoon and evening sessions. There is no reason why it should not become a splendid success, as efficiency is conspicuous in every department of the undertaking. Mr. H. Cormack is untiring in his duties in the managerial capacity, and Guidi's Military Orchestra adds to the pastime with excellent selections.

LEIGH.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. W. H. Chippendale.—The boards this week are being occupied by Miss Maud Hildyard's company in the sensational drama *The Great Awakening.* Miss Maud Hildyard admirably portrays the rôle of Lola Selby; Miss Lilian Deane submits Molly Merton in excellent and sympathetic style; Mr. Bernard Copping does exceedingly well in the dual rôles of Sir Henry Merton and Jack Merton; Mr. Gordon Laws as the villainous schemer Guy Regan plays his part well; Mr. Wallis Clark is well placed as James Selby; Mr. Charles Ashwell is a creditable Captain Harry Lambert, and Mr. Gifforde Reynolds is an effective Richard Wilson; Mr. Willie Scott is intensely funny as Billy Braso, and together with Miss Isa Bellington as Selina Worte keeps the house in good humour.

Grand Theatre and Hippodrome, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Benson; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Woolstencroft.—An excellent programme is being submitted headed by the Six Brothers Luck in their clever absurdity *Hotel Grande;* Mr. Harry Wright, extempore vocalist, is very smart and refined; the popular August and September, eccentric comedians, fairly bring down the house; the Three Merrions provide a pleasing and acceptable turn; Miss Mi Narom, comedy lady, is very clever and original; the Two Erolls gain much applause for their clever tumbling act; Mr. Bruce Green, comedian; Miss Nellie Cannon, vocalist; and the Empire Bioscope complete a most attractive bill.

Assembly Rooms.—Lessees, Mr. and Mrs. J. Frank Walker; Manager, Mr. J. Frank Walker.—The pictures this week are drawing good houses at each exhibition. The list of films includes Sold to Thieves, Master as General, Baby's Chum, &c. The artists include the Gelders, magicians; Miss Ivy Dene, comedienne; and Mr. Alf Collinson, singing pit lad, all of which find favour.

LEITH.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Licensee and Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—Mr. Frederick Melville's well-known drama *The Ugliest Woman on Earth* has been favourably received on its third visit to Leith. Miss Beatrice Homer repeats her finished and effective rendering of the difficult name-part; and Mr. Philip Darien and Mr. Leyton Chancellor are again prominent in their forcible interpretations of the hero and villain of the piece. Miss Gertrude Harrison does well histrionically as the adventuress Rose Courtenay; Mr. Freddie Bentley and Miss Nellie Jackson as Tubby Harrick and Aggie Brown successfully supply the comic relief; Miss Violet Macaree is to be commended for her Morita; and other praiseworthy impersonations are those of Antonio Luckess, Tom Redvers, Raggles, and Dr. Carr, by Messrs. Leonard Thackeray, William De Brigord, Harry Leyton, and Gerald Nolan respectively.

LIVERPOOL.—Royal Court Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—*Humpty Dumpty* will finish its pantomime run to-night (Saturday).

Shakespeare Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wentworth Croke; Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney.—For the opening of the dramatic season, after a successful pantomime, a work replete with life and movement, entitled *The Sailor's Wedding,* was presented here on Monday evening by the Hardie and Von Leer company, many members of the cast when the piece was originally given at London last September appearing. The drama was staged in admirable fashion, and an appreciative audience greatly enjoyed it. Miss Mary Pemberton was, on this occasion, the daughter of Count Bellini, and played the heroine's part with a charm that strongly appealed to the sympathies of her audience; another change in the original cast was that of Mr. Richard A. Greene, who very ably undertook Gordon Drake, into which rôle he infused a deal of spirited manliness that found favour; Mr. Cecil Klein was again Sir Victor Lascelles, which he handled with excellent point; Mr. Hodgson Taylor repeated his capital picture of the villainous Ferici; Mr. F. Finch Smiles stood out prominently in the small but effective character of Giacomo; Miss Laura Hansen acquitted herself as the distressed mother; Miss Winifred Pearson, with her original rôle of the adventuress, Lenore de Gresac, proved a tower of strength; and worthy support also came from Messrs. Walter Pemberton and Gerald Ford, the naval sailors; Miss M. Sadie, the lively waitress; and Mr. Harold Weston as Count Bellini.

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ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—Here this week we have had *A Girl's Cross Roads*, with Miss Hilda Beverley giving a powerful representation of the unfortunate Barbara Wade; Mr. Harry Cane did excellently as John Meadows; Mr. Norman B. Cannon made a fine Jack Livingstone; and credit was also due to Messrs. Fred Hodson (Toby Turvy), W. J. Butler (Cuthbert Lumley), Fred Withers (Luke Ramsden), Edward Valentine (Dr. Weston); and the Misses Jeannie Thomas (Tilly Vane), Nita Langton (Nellie Meadows), and Muriel Dean (Constance Cornell).

STAR THEATRE. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—Here this week Lingford Carson's company introduced to Liverpool *The Great White Chief*, a well-written drama, which proved a big draw. The work was presented in excellent style, and the artists engaged were quite capable of doing justice to their allotted parts. Mr. Hugh Brady made a decided impression upon his audience by his fine depiction of Reindeer, the dumb chief; Mr. Mansell Fane, in the title-part, proved eminently successful; as Latika Miss Polly Denville acted with sound judgment and charm; Miss Dulcie Lawrence made a strong Hester Stafford; Mr. Miller Wilson (George Rupert Walker) and Miss Amy Ross Clyde (Martha Curley) provoked great laughter; and valuable assistance also came from Messrs. George Butler (Hartley Deane), and Billy Melrose (John Warton). The new feature introduced here of presenting Bioscope pictures at the conclusion of the drama has been appreciated.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—Topping the programme here this week was Karno's latest, *The G.P.O.*, with Fred Kitchen as Perkins. Among the principal supporters were Raymond Thomas, Herbert Landeck, Walter Wilby, and Jessie Grammonde. The production was richly enjoyed. An always welcome artist in Liverpool, Miss Winifred Hare paid another visit, and was received with the utmost cordiality, her latest song, "Keep a-whistling," finding great favour. She was assisted by Miss Dolly Raynor. The Bensons provided a most amusing turn, entitled *The Page and the Maid*; an interesting and diverting football match on bicycles was presented by the Bros. St. Clair; the Sisters Caselli as duettists and dancers, pleased generally; Sybil St. Elmo sang several numbers in good style; and the list also contained the names of Marriott Edgar, "the man in red"; Walter Aubrey, coon vocalist and buck dancer; and Dot Hardy, character comedienne.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.—Here during the week *Mother* has been presented by Mr. Harry Foxwell's company.

LYRIC. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—Gus Garrick has been foremost here during the week, pleasing everybody with his music-hall tit-bits; the remarkable juggling powers of Rapoli earned for that accomplished artist much applause; a smart vocal speciality was given by Stewart and Morgan; Marie Jones, assisted by Ernest Munro, gave her particularly clever protean sketch, *The Way to Win a Bet*; as child vocalists and dancers Tiny and Mite pleased generally; a novel quick-change comedy act came from the Three Behans; and others who appeared were Lenoi Dixon, comedienne and dancer; and Mlle. Eldee, "the girl in the golden frame."

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan. —Hayman and Franklin headed the bill this week with the funny sketch, *A Suit for Divorce*; Sinclair and Whiteford caused endless laughter with their trifle, *Getting Even*; the New York Comedy Four rendered some humorously harmonious numbers; Mons. Payen submitted several smartly-executed impersonations; Effie White gave her latest kaleidoscope dance, "The Spirit of the Cave"; some quaint and sensational trick cycling was gone through by Henry and Tyler; Phillip Levard presented some bewildering illusions; and contributions also came from Reg. Beauchamp, comedian; Bertisch, athlete; Iris Banfield, comedienne; and Gus Harris, Hebrew comedian.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole. —During the week the stock company here gave *The Prodigal Parson*, included in the principal characters being Rev. Tom Godley (Mr. David G. Noble), Enoch Jaggins (Mr. Sydney Grant), Ben Jaggins (Mr. R. Seath Innes), Phil Drive (Mr. Tom H. Solly), Karten (Mr. Cecil Ravenswood), Mrs. Snaffewich (Miss Lilian Radbourne), and Fern Godley (Miss Gwyn Warren). Mr. Anthony Brown's Bioscope showed the latest pictures.

WESTMINSTER.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—In addition to a series of cinematograph pictures shown here during the week, the following artists appeared: The Birkenhead Family of vocalists, Hall and Sanders, comedians, and Deane Tribune.

OLYMPIA.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton.—*The Sands of Dee* has put in a fifth and last week, thus proving the most popular water spectacle ever presented here. The excellent entertainment given by the Gothams was received with every satisfaction; Lydia and Amelys gave the Apache dance; a neat transformation gymnastic act came from the Trentanovi Sisters; McCann's performing dogs were a source of much interest; Walter Munroe, Irish character comedian, was heartily received on his return visit; Beatie Kent sang and danced gracefully; and others seen were Tom Collins, light comedian; and Mary Ambrose, comedienne.

PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—Top of the programme here this week was Richard Corbin, with his troupe of dogs, whose antics provoked much merriment; Walter Ellis presented an amusing scena, *Captain Duncan and His Airship*, in which Bob Barbour and Harry Danby took part; some pleasing harmony was provided by the Wakeman Quintet, consisting of Miss Marion Bradshaw, Miss Dolly Percival, and Messrs. Will Dawson, Jack Lennox, and Charles Wakeman; Mabel Thorne brought her latest delightful songs, including "Oh! Georgie," "The Music Teacher," and "Home made Home"; a clever ventriloquial turn was given by Coram; the Eight College Girls afforded satisfaction with their pretty dancing and singing; and the programme also contained the names of Jack Crawley, with his novel act, "Lights out"; Marie Kay, juvenile comedienne and dancer; the Four Henry Hearns, comedy acrobats; and Ben Silvo, gymnast and clown.

GRAND TIVOLI.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jasper Redfern.—Much enjoyment has been got out of Audie Caine's tabloid pantomime, *Goody Two Shoes*, which has been foremost here this week. Mr. Caine, as the Dame, proved exceedingly droll, and he was supported by a number of able artists. Mr. Redfern's pictures gave a deal of pleasure; and variety turns were provided by Evelyn and Norrie, with a quaint act, *Set a Thief to Catch a Thief*; Nellie Moore, classical impersonator; Leo Fields, comedian; Molly Doon, vocalist; and M. H. Thiessan, with his dogs.

PARK PALACE.—Mr. Jasper Redfern.—The fine series of animated pictures shown here continues to give satisfaction. This week the following variety artists also appeared: Herbert and Linden, dancing and comedy duo; Frank Coyle, comedian; Two Katos, comedians; Baby Sophie, juvenile vocalist; Edmunda, comic ventriloquist; and the Forrest Comedy Company.

NEW CENTURY PICTURE HALL.—Proprietors, The New Century Animated Picture Company, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter W. Hook.—The big draw here this week has been the Bioscope picture of the Australian fight between Johnson and Burns, the film having been secured by the Gaumont Company, Ltd., in conjunction with Mr. Hugh D. McIntosh, and, so far as Liverpool is concerned, exclusively shown at the above hall four times a day. In addition, many other excellent pictures were presented, and business proved good.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Resident-Business-Manager, Mr. W. Payne Seddon.—Mr. Chas. H. Lester's company in *A Life for a Life* has been well received. Mr. Chas. H. Lester's Don Leon Farnandes is a fine effort; Mr. Chas. Felton as Pedro Li Celci is successful; and Bunker Ben is safe in the capable hands of Mr. Jack Mason. Miss Gertrude Wasley as Nancy Dorn and Miss Dorothy Riddell as Kate Evelyn act with true artistic feeling; Miss Lydia Hart as Eulalie plays with great dramatic power; and Little Winnie as Venetta brings down the house by her clever acting and singing.

LOWESTOFT.—MARINA.—Manager, Mr. E. A. Smith.—Variety is again in evidence here, following drama, musical comedy, pantomime, &c. The bill includes Arthur Watson and Flo Stanley in the sketch *H.M.S. Victory*; Miss Alice Hughes and company present *The Star of the Bazaar*; and the Sisters Rene (duettists and dancers), Freedo and Preston, Mabel Moss, and Harry Desmond complete a successful bill.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—An audience of nearly 3,000 witnessed Monday's performance, and the various turns had a popular welcome. Messrs. Surrey and Carlton's company presented *The Plucky Nipper*; while the Mannikins gave a clever imitation of the marionettes. Metz and Metz (singers and dancers), Harry Morgan, and Bertha Norwood added to the general success; while the Biograph presented all the latest and best subjects.

MACCLESFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—This week we have Mr. and Mrs. John Walter's company with *The Babes in the Wood*. Miss Violet Thorne is a winsome and vivacious Robin Hood. Admirable support is given by Miss Lily Miller as Maid Marion; excellent portrayals of the Babes are submitted by Miss F. Parkinson and Miss Kitty Chesters; as Alkan-a-Dale Miss Edie Bracewell is decidedly good, her dancing being exceedingly pretty and effective; Miss Elsie Kedward is a pleasing Dolly Dimple; Mr. Alley M. Benson is to be congratulated upon his clever impersonation of Dame Flossie; Mr. Tom Lewis does well as the Baron; as Tommy Mr. Tom Hulme wins appreciation; Blustering Bill and Wavering Walley are well played by Mr. Martin Haley and Mr. Dan Rayner respectively; and the Cattaneo Trio are smart athletes.

MAESTEG. — TOWN HALL THEATRE.—Lessees, Poole's Theatres Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. G. F. Knowles.—Messrs. Forbes and Battersby's company in *The Empty Cradle* is the attraction here this week. As Kenneth Bloodworth Mr. David Urquhart is a decided success; Carnaby Bloodworth is ably impersonated by Mr. St. Clair Forbes; Miss Nancy Battersby wins the appreciation of the audience by her clever portrayal of Ida Boswell; Miss Florence Trevoir is commendable as Mary Burton; and other characters are well sustained by capable artists.

MAIDSTONE.—PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. S. Baskerville.—*Peter's Mother* is here, and as played by Miss Emma Hutchison's company is proving very attractive. Mr. Vivian Gilbert as Peter Crewys gives a good interpretation; Mr. Drew Mackintosh is well suited as John Crewys; and Mr. Walter Russell makes a feature of the part of Canon Birch. Mr. Townsend Whitling acts well as Sir Timothy Crewys; Miss Lilian Ley as Lady Mary Crewys is womanly and sympathetic; Miss Hilda Sims as Sarah and Miss Mary Griffiths as Lady Belstone are good; and Miss Josephine Rae as Miss G. Crewys is responsible for some hearty laughs. *Turtle Doves*, a well-acted farce, is the curtain-raiser.

MANCHESTER. — GAIETY THEATRE — Proprietor, Miss A. E. F. Horniman; Manager, Mr. B. Iden Payne; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edwin T. Heys.—So successful were the performances of John Galsworthy's play, *The Silver Box*, at this theatre a few weeks ago that the piece was put on again on Monday, when a large audience was attracted. The performance was excellent, and the theme and its painful thrills made a deep impression. The cast is as before, with the exception of Mr. Michael Sherbrooke, whose place is taken by Mr. B. Iden Payne as Barthwick, M.P. A one-act play, *Bringing It Home*, precedes.

ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Mason.—Last week's attraction at the Grand Junction Theatre, *The Old Home*, is staged here with equal success, Mr. Roland Yorke's company including Mr. Charles Franmore and Miss G. Bonser in important rôles.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son.—Messrs. Cullen and Carthy's successful pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*, is drawing big houses here, as it did at the Hulme Hippodrome last week. The show is distinctly smart.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Brearley.—Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's latest play, *Her Secret Lover*, presented by Mr. Thompson-Carruthers, made a successful appearance here on Monday. It is a strong piece, well staged and powerfully rendered. Mr. Cecil Gray as Gilbert Seymour makes a capital hero, and he is well matched by Miss Mabel Mannering in the sympathetic rôle of Ivy Seymour; Mr. Millar Anderson's villainies as John Strange are equally well supported by the wickedness of Miss Amy Ellam as Alicia Royale; Mr. Arthur Preston as Captain Rose and Mr. Milner Noble as Mr. Murfield are also well placed; while the humour of the play is smartly exploited by Miss Beatrice Reynolds as Jane Maria Wilkes and Mr. Cecil de Lee as Bill Burley. All the minor parts are capably handled, and the total effect is excellent.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—The most notably good turns here this week are provided by Hubert Casting and company in a capitally acted version of the drunken scene in *David Garrick*; Fred Walton, the king of silent comedians, in his Toy Soldier act; and Joe O'Gorman, the Irish raconteur, who gives of his best in his well-known racy style; very good also is Theo Bouwmeester, in his protean drama; the Stavordale Quintette give their stringed imitations of the human voice; Alf Holt is a particularly good sifflеur and mimic; and other enjoyable turns are Mabel Mavis, society entertainer; Ugo Nap, burlesque comedian; the Rawsons, youthful entertainers; and Wee Mona, an accomplished juvenile comedienne and dancer.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—Highly entertaining here this week are Clark and Hamilton in new and old business; Henrietta De Serri's reproductions of famous works of art are exceedingly well carried out; Annie Purcell charms with excellent songs, rendered delightfully; Fred Eustace, ably assisted, is particularly good in a comedy sketch entitled *The Amber Light*; Carrie Lauri's Kindergarten scena introduces several very clever children; Burnetti is well received as a character musician; Bessie Slaughter, contralto, sings well; Amy Anderson and company are good in a smart vaudeville act; and a sensational performance is given by Staig's Steeplejacks cycling the chimney. Pictures complete the programme.

PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Manager, Mr. A. J. Carter.—Maurice Farkoa is starring here this week, and delighting all with his charming songs and style. The Brothers Horne cause no end of laughter in their boxing sketch, *The Biter Bit*; Tschin-Maa and his Chunchuse Entertainers go through a clever and interesting performance; and Miss Teddy Edmonds and company are seen in an amusing farce, *The Lady Jockey*; Dusty Rhodes is a capital comedian; Willie Gardner scores as a skate dancer; Jenny Alexander, a very clever juvenile, makes a hit as a mimic; and other smart turns are given by the Rangers, expert comedy cyclists; and James Bassett, vocal comedian. Palace Pictures are also included in the programme.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. R. Trippett.—Messrs. Sutton and Raynor's excellent combination of players are here this week in *Captain Swift*, which is given twice nightly before crowded houses. Mr. Raynor in the title-part adds to his reputation as an actor of sterling merit, and Mr. Cecil Wynne renders valuable support in the rôle of George Gardiner; Miss Henrietta Schrier as Mrs. Seabrook gives a highly effective performance, while Miss Dorothy West-Symes is charming as Mabel; good work is done also by Miss Cecilia Dare as Stella Durbisher, Mr. Milton C. Curtis as James Seabrook, and Mr. Leonard Lawrence as Marshall, the butler, and the remaining parts are all in capable hands. The programme included a performance of *Harvest* on Friday.

TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Mme. Maud Santley, the famous prima-donna, is the bright particular star here this week, and her reception is deservedly great; La Belle Nilla and partner are pleasing in songs and transformations; the Sisters Du Cane make a hit as vocalists and dancers; Ryder Davis is a good vocal comedian; Mlle. Ottino is a clever lady conjurer, with a charming style; Kitty Malone, though obviously suffering from a severe cold, did well; Cissie Astbury is a pleasing comedienne; Tom Londberg, the "one-man programme," is smart; and Eva Ward sings two songs nicely. Ruffell's Bioscope pictures are, as usual, exceedingly good.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—A change from the ordinary fare is provided here this week by Messrs. Watson and Owen's company in the domestic drama, *How Women are Slandered*. The strongest part in a well-balanced company of artists is undertaken with dramatic effect by Miss Phyllis Elton as the scheming Madge Gilroy, and she is capably assisted by Mr. Bert Oakes as Bob Warberton; the part of Major Sterling is engagingly filled by Mr. Edward Fryer, and Miss Rusel Spiers as Maud Warberton makes a charming heroine; while Mr. Leslie Newton ably impersonates the Squire, and humorous rôles are made the most of by Mr. Templar Ellis and Miss Mollie Hackett.

HULME HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thos. Baker. —Arnold Richardson, Ethel Lonsdale, and Flockton Foster top the bill here this week in a highly-amusing comedy-sketch, *Ferdie's Ma-in-Law*. The Three Warners, lady vocalists and acrobatic dancers, give an excellent turn; Ethel Loftus, a smart comedienne, makes a big hit; Pueblo and Cropp are expert sand dancers, and are well received; Seener and Fridkins are clever Russian dancers; Edwin Garth, the quaint dame, gives a very funny turn; and other capital items are those of Will Willis, comedian; the Ray Hearn Trio in sketch, *The Model Husband*; Major Moss, singer of old songs; and the Arthur Bedini Trio in a pantomime act. Interesting films complete.

MARGATE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. E. Michael; General-Manager, Mr. W. W. Keene.—Messrs. Henry Chattell and Jack Denton's company opened here on Monday with *Through the Divorce Court*. The drama is finely staged and mounted, the Divorce Court scene being very realistic. Mr. Cecil A. Collins gave a masterly enactment of Lord Robert Penarth; Miss Katherine Carew made a charming Lady Dolores Penarth; Miss Genna Lyndon was winsome and bright as Lady Sybil, their daughter; Mr. Ernest E. Norris acted forcibly as the scheming Mendoza; Mr. Frank E. Straker was effective as Leon Di Valdiz; Miss Edith Cruikshanks gave a praiseworthy impersonation of Lady Hilda Fitzmaurice; Mr. Jack Denton was entertaining as Algy Fitzmaurice; whilst great amusement was afforded by Miss Nellie Sheffield as Dinah and Mr. Horace Hammond as Patsy Rafferty. Deserving also of favourable mention were Miss Pattie Groves, Mr. Wilson Blake, Mr. Arthur Eastwood, and Mr. Edward Belcher, who capably sustained the parts allotted to them.

HIPPODROME.—Joint Managing-Directors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—The current week's programme has again been a varied one, contributed to by the Max Milan Trio, equilibrists and balancers; the Rosana Quartette, in their novelty dancing creation; De Lilo and Metz, comedy specialists; Gus Earle, hurricane dancer; London and Barrett, in *The Dutch Flirtation*; and Walter Wade in his scena *Patsy Burke*. This week's pictures represent The Czar of Bulgaria and The Auto Heroine.

HALL-BY-THE-SEA.—Sole Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General-Manager, Mr. Chas. Evans.—The Joseph Poole's Myriorama opened on Monday for a week with a capital programme, which included, among a series of new and interesting pictures, actual photographs showing the destruction of Messina. Among the entertainers providing the variety concert are the Mackaines, mystifiers; the Seddons, jugglers and wire walkers; and Miss Frederica's performing terriers and trained pony.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees, The South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Albert Jackson.—*The Thief*, presented by Mr. Ernest Bodkin by arrangement with Mr. George Alexander, is here. Mr. Paul Lovett makes a natural and convincing Richard Chelford; Mr. Ernest Bodkin as Raymond Leyton is very incisive throughout; Mr. C. W. Lindsey is well placed as Harry Leyton; and Mr. T. Taylor-Vinson is admirable as the detective Protheroe. Miss Kathryn Stocks ably sustains the part of Marise Chelford; and Miss Mary Forrester is effective as Isabel Leyton.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—Ashley's American Circus heads a very interesting programme with cleverly-trained ponies and dogs; Will Probyn's Mirthful Mariners are much applauded; Shirley and Ransome are paying a successful return visit; and other good turns are furnished by Ernest Stidder and Gwennie Dunbar, Victor Brothers (Olympic athletes), Cliff and Kean (in a novelty dancing act), Zaleski (the Golden Spider), and Tom Yorke (coster comedian).

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Mr. John H. Tompkinson's Royal Gipsy company is here with an excellent vaudeville programme—La Vie, in electrical art panel poses; the Four Louberts, in the comedy acrobatic act *Uninvited*; Wee Winnie, vocalist and dancer; Miss Elsie Howard, contralto vocalist; Miss Irene Lyne, soprano; James Carr, baritone and descriptive vocalist; Sam Paul, actor-vocalist; Elsie Rubina, a queen of equipoise; Tompkinson's Quartette Party; Chas. Bradford, raconteur and humorist, and others.

MIDDLESBROUGH. — OPERA HOUSE. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Ed. Jowsey; Manager and Licensee, Mr. W. Ker Chatto.—Mr. Walter Melville's stirring new production, *The Solidier's Wedding*, occupies the boards here this week, and meets with gratifying success. Mr. Wingold Lawrence brings good histrionic talent to bear upon the part of Jack Brown; and Miss Dorothy Richardson is well suited to that of Nancy Lee. Miss Alice Campbell is very pleasing as Mrs. Hatherton; and among other members of a strong cast are Miss Mary McAulay as Julie de Beauvries, Miss Mabel Love as Peggy Munroe, Mr. Fred Yarnold as Nathaniel Lee, and Mr. Fred Biron as David Munroe. The piece is admirably staged.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson.—The sensational drama, *Greed of Gold* is being presented here by Mr. T. Morton Powell's company. Mr. James Jarrett is excellent as Tom Welstead; and Mr. Harry Parr gives a fine portrayal of the part of Harry Hood. Mr. Alf Stretton is equally good as Arthur Errol; and Miss Maud M. Powell as Dora, the heroine, displays her great histrionic ability. Humour is introduced into the play by Mr. C. Eldred Wood as Conn Creamer; and Miss Florrie Hayes as Patty Manfield.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Charles Rembges.—The principal item here this week is the cinematograph pictures of the great fight between Johnson and Burns for the championship of the world. The fight is given from start to finish, and every detail is seen as clearly as by those who paid fabulous sums for a seat at the actual contest. Starr and Leslie are exceedingly good in their speciality act; and Herbert Clifton also makes a welcome reappearance. Mona Garrick is a clever character actress; and Madge Temple is a dainty comedienne. Other turns are given by Woolmer Young, vocal comedian; Martin D. Pitts, vocalist; and Gold, and Stirling, comedy artists.

HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Manager, Mr. C. E. Nicholls.—Lew Lake and Bob Morris and large company create roars of laughter here this week, in their sketch *My Pal Jerry*. The Ramlos are clever gymnasts; and Wilfred Burnand's impersonations find a host of admirers. Webb and Banston, Harrigan and Holt, Jock Mills, Olnars, and Joe Reichen and his dogs are also capital turns.

MOTHERWELL.—NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hales.—Mr. Julian Graham's company is here in *The Gay Goddess*. Miss Kate Graham-Beck admirably sustains the title-rôle; Mr. Arthur Staples is funny as the sorely-harassed Solicitor's Clerk; Miss Leah Howard is sweet and dainty as Priscilla; Miss Amy Wood fitly acts the part of the strong-minded stepmother; Miss Louie Grey sings and dances prettily as Lottie Stimson; Mr. Fred Hammond does well as the deaf old stepfather; and mention should be made of Mr. Richard Teasdale, who ably enacts the rôle of Sherlock Blake.

MUSSELBURGH.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Hugh Ritchie; Lessee, Mr. A. W. B. Kingston; Resident-Manager, Mr. Dennis Glover.—Stock drama wears well at this house, many old pieces appearing in this week's bill. *The Ticket-of-Leave Man* was played on Monday.

TOWN HALL.—Clerk, Mr. John Richardson.—On Monday the late Mr. T. W. Rushbury's company paid a return visit here under the direction of Mrs. Rushbury. Roland Yorke's romantic drama *The Old Home* was played. A well-balanced performance and the elaborate setting of the piece keep the play at the usual high standard of Rushbury productions. Messrs. T. B. Brabazon and Walter A. Warren are still with the company, and do very well in their respective parts of Lord Avondale and Sam Adams; Hazel Dean is played by Miss Mona Garland, and the Rev. Eric Armstrong by Mr. Harold E. Kinton. Other characters are in the hands of Mr. J. P. Marsden (Daddy Dean), Miss Lillian Murray (Biddy), and Miss Alice Granville (Polly).

NEATH.—CASTLE.—Proprietor, Mr. Will Haggar, jun.—*True as Steel* was produced here Monday and Tuesday. Mr. Wm. Haggar had an enthusiastic reception for his powerful acting as Tom the Waif; Mr. Geo. Stanley makes a dignified Mr. Welford; Mr. W. Percy as Bill Firelock is impressive; Mr. W. Fyffe as Joe Wilkins keeps the audience in good humour; Mr. Fred Hilland as Phil Randall shows ability; Mr. Arthur Stanley well sustains the part of Harry Rathbene; Mr. Courtney scores a success as Edgar Welford; Mr. Chapman is a capable Tom Sawyer; Mrs. Will Haggar is highly successful in the double parts of Tittums and Ellinor Welford; Miss Emily Silverton is smart as Philip; Miss Lloyd plays Susan Wilkins in good style; Miss Giddings is an original Carry Carraway; and Mrs. Dench as the Hospital Matron is seen to advantage.

VICTORIA.—Proprietor, Mr. John Johnson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred D'Albert.—The military drama *What Invasion Means* has been presented. The leading part of Jack Lander was cleverly played by Mr. Fred D'Albert; Mr. W. Bennet created fun as Jock McKay; Mr. T. Gough was a favourite as Felix O'Dowd; Mr. John Johnson as David Ap Rees kept the house in roars; Mr. H. Reynolds was an original Joe Willing; Mr. Watson as Bertie Woodfine was well received; Mr. H. McDonald distinguished himself as Capt. Barrington; Mr. J. Desmond as Scarra, a spy, gave a powerful performance; Miss L. Pearce made a graceful Mary Orchardson; Miss T. Bennet well sustained the part of Mrs. Scarra; Miss O. Lyndale cleverly portrayed the character of Clara Miffets; and Miss G. Vane scored as Mrs. Smith.

NELSON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. T. Greenwood Croft; Business-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Mudd.—*The Woman Pays* has been presented here by Mr. F. W. Thorne's company. Mr. Phil Harper gives a splendid portrayal of the character of Sid Armstrong; the scheming steward is powerfully played by Mr. Jno. Davidson; whilst Mr. Beresford Innes' delineation of Cyrus Treadgold is dignified and convincing. As his daughter Madge, Miss Maud Russell acts with grace and charm; Miss Kate Blair shows admirable histrionic ability in the difficult rôle of Neil Morland; Miss Avena Walton as Polly Stokes and Mr. F. M. Thorne as Micky Moloney make a very humorous pair. The scenery is very attractive.

NEW BRIGHTON.—WINTER GARDENS.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. H. E. Jones and A. Douglass.—The Royal Quintette of dancers are excellent in their various contributions, and the Kymros, Welsh vocalists, are great favourites; Mr. Harry Rogers and company appear in a finely-acted dramatic episode, *Told in a Flat*; Mr. Edwin Austin brings down the house by his effective playing on various concertinas; Miss Lillie Le Main in living marionettes is a pleasing and clever turn; and Messrs. Earle and Kent evoke laughter. The animated pictures are of the best.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—*Aladdin* is still going merrily, and bids fair to outrival the majority of provincial pantomimes in popularity and longevity. Miss Violet Lloyd returned to the cast on Monday evening, after an absence of several weeks owing to a severe attack of influenza. She received a most gratifying welcome, and was made the recipient of many beautiful bouquests and other floral tributes. Her playing, singing, and dancing is as charming and delightful as before. Miss Fanny Fields, Miss Maud Thorne, Miss Doris Dean, and Miss Florence Hersee still maintain their well-deserved popularity; whilst the mirth-provoking business of Malcolm Scott, Harry Tate, Regan and Ryan, Horace Lane, and Harry Claff is still very exhilarating.

TYNE THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Manager, Mr. Fred C. Satcliffe.—Mr. Brandon Thomas's London company, in the popular farce *Charley's Aunt*, is the attraction here this week. Mr. Theo McCausland Stewart is impressive as the Colonel; Mr. Roy Byford efficiently represented Stephen Spettigue; Mr. Hastings Lynn is seen to great advantage as Jack Chesney; Mr. Robert Burnett is successful as Charley Wykeham; while Mr. Arthur Chesney as Lord Babberley provokes much amusement with his characteristic impersonation of Charley's aunt, and Mr Sydney Compton does well as Brassel. Miss Vera Gerald assumes the rôle of Donna Lucia D'Alvadorez with entire satisfaction; Miss Sylvia Morris makes a charming Ela Delahay; while the interpretations of Kitty Verdun and Amy Spettigue are ably presented by Miss Estelle Winwood and Miss Ethel Fifield respectively. The farce is preceded each evening by a one-act play, entitled *The Colour-Sergeant*.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—Messrs. Levy and Cardwell's company of juvenile artists in *The House that Jack Built* is doing good business here this week. Miss Evelyn Major as Jill gives a dainty and refined portrayal, her rendering of the various songs allotted to her being very good; Miss F. Taylor makes a pleasing Jack; Miss G. Wyse as Wee M'Gregor rouses the audience to enthusiasm with her clever impersonations of Harry Lauder; Miss Olive Purcell as Fairy Twinkle Star has a capital voice, and she uses it with considerable effect in several smart songs; and Mr. H. Hillerby as the Dame presents a very eccentric appearance and causes much amusement. Other leading comedians who combine successfully in keeping the fun alive are Messrs. Doyle and Gibson, Mr. W. McNorton, Mr. Paddy Sloane, and Mr. Stanley Jefferson.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; Manager, Mr. H. G. Elliott.—Miss Ethel Van Praagh and company, in the highly successful drama *The Eyes of the World*, is paying a welcome visit here this week. The piece is of intense interest, and Miss Van Praagh as Helen De L'Orme gives a study at once convincing and of rare dramatic force, her efforts being admirably seconded by Mr. G. D. Daiper as Hector De L'Orme.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells. —Broad farce is the feature of this week's programme, and Fred Karno's production *The Football Match*, is nothing if not hilariously funny. Harry Weldon as Stiffy and W. Poluski, jun., fairly bring down the house with their laughable absurdities. A turn of more than usual excellence is that of Livesey and Rosebery, in their successful skit *The Would-be Actors' Rehearsal*; whilst a most pleasing and entertaining performance is contributed by Nina Wood at the piano, her tuneful and accomplished singing being especially well appreciated. Miss Alexandra Dagmar, the popular comedienne, goes well with some capital songs and patter; and other excellent turns are contributed by Alburtus and Millar, American eccentric and lady cornettist, Mlle. Haydee, Barlee and Smith, musical comedy artists, Percy Hannan, tenor, and Annette Hayward.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—Arthur Roberts and company in the farcical sketch *Till Sunday* head a splendid bill here this week, while other artists appearing are Lalla Selbini, Arthur Gallimore Trio, Annie Heath, Vasilescu Troupe, Dorothy Gould, Tod Lowen, Charles F. Best, and Anileda and August.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—The D'Oyly Carte principal reper-

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toire company opened a week's engagement here on Monday evening with *The Mikado*. Mr. H. A. Lytton as Ko-Ko played with a dry satirical humour, and danced and sang well; Mr. Leicester Tanks made an impressive Mikado; Mr. Strafford Moss in the part of Nanki-Poo was certainly consistent and telling; Mr. Fred Billington was exceedingly good as Pooh-Bah, Miss Clara Dow's Yum-Yum was capital; Miss Beatrice Meredith sang nicely and acted well as Pitti-Sing; and Miss Mabel Graham was entirely successful as Peep-Bo, Katisha being finely acted by Miss Ethel Morrison. *The Gondoliers, The Pirates of Penzance, Princess Ida, Iolanthe,* and *Yeomen of the Guard* are also billed.

Empire.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. O. Stoll.—Fred Karno's sketch *The Bailiff* takes first place in the bill here, and for unadulterated fun it would be difficult to beat. Stylo, the hoop juggler, performs some wonderful tricks; Kroney Brothers in a street scena, *London's Merry Coalmen*, provoke laughter; and Austin Rudd, in humorous songs, keeps the house in roars. Van Allen is a comedian who takes well; Beatrice Bonnie is justly popular as a comedienne; and Fatmah Deard is a charming singer.

NORTH SHIELDS.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and Mr. J. E. Cardwell's company is here this week with *Little Red Riding Hood*, which has had a hearty reception. In the title-rôle little Iris Vivienne acts very prettily; Miss Fannie Adamson makes a capital Boy Blue; Miss May Gibson is thoroughly successful as Miss Muffett; Miss Trixie Wyatt is good as Silvia; and Miss Daisy Clifford does well as Marjorie Daw. As Dame Trot Mr. V. Wakeman makes a great hit; Mr. Billy Melia as Sunny Jim is responsible for some funny business; Messrs. Denby and Dent as Doleful Dan and Whimsical William supply endless merriment; and Mr. J. J. Mannix makes an excellent Baron. Specialities are introduced successfully by Mr. J. J. Mannix, Mesars. Denby and Dent, Mr. Billy Melia, and the Pansy Troupe of dancers.

Central Palace.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—The bill here is headed by Kyoto and Esa, who introduce a marvellous ladder act, for which they are loudly applauded; Messrs. Smith and Johnson, American entertainers, win considerable favour; Comical Walker and his local Acrobatic Nippers create much merriment; Messrs. Mathews and Brown, coloured comedy duo, take well; Messrs. Hillett and Hallett, comedians and dancers, are popular; Globerino introduces a clever speciality act; and the Kiematograph, showing Moonlight on the Bosphorus and other pictures, complete the programme.

NORWICH.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. Jack Crichton's excellent company is here in *The Cingalee*. Mr. Crichton himself is an amusing Chambuddy Ram; Mr. Arthur Cartwright is a capable Harry Vereker, his singing being thoroughly appreciated; Mr. Douglas Munroe is diverting as Boobhamba; Mr. F. W. Ford is humorous as Sir Peter Loftus; Mr. Scott Cullen is successful as Bobby Warren; Miss Alice Nixon makes a pleasing Peggy Sabine; Miss Mollie Wolstenhulme's acting is appreciated as Nanoya; Miss Geraldine Somerset is responsible for a clever dance in the second act; and Miss Pauline Hague secures admiration for her Lady Patricia Vane.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—Mr. A. C. Lilley and company in the military episode *Drummed Out* create much interest. Don and Mabel Keir sing Scotch ballads; H. C. Lovell and company in their comedy *Mam'selle Pom Pom* create hearty laughter; the Wallys are clever jugglers; and Kitty Wager (comedienne), Fred Poplar (comedian), Horace Jones (character comedian), and the Hippo Bio complete.

Bank Plain Assembly Rooms.—The Franco-British Pictures are well patronised. Prizes are given to their patrons who possess the lucky numbers distributed among the audiences.

Agricultural Hall Assembly Rooms.—The New Era Pictures, with fresh scenes, introduce a singing competition, which adds to the already attractive entertainment.

Agricultural Hall.—The Roller Skating continues very popular.

NOTTINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—*The Builder of Bridges* is drawing large houses this week, and the company of Mr. George Alexander gave an excellent presentation on Monday. To Mr. Stephen T. Ewart must be accorded all praise for a masterly conception of Edward Thursfield, the right note of earnestness and intensity being struck, while in the third act he emphasised the passion of the scene; Miss Rosalind Ivan treated the difficult rôle of Dorothy with all care and tact, playing with a depth of tenderness that completely won over the audience; Mr. Henry Ludlow interpreted Arnold Faringay with naturalness and discretion; the narrow-minded but effusive Walter Gresham had a capital exponent in Mr. Brisco Owen; Mr. W. R. Staveley was excellent as the bluff but kind-hearted Sir Henry Killick; Mr. Eric Ward proved distinctly good as Peter Holland; Miss Claire Pauncefort made a great deal out of her part as Mrs. Debney, causing frequent laughter; and Miss Jessica Thorne as the typewriter and Miss Angela Moseley as Minnie also helped in the success.

Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Harry Upton.—Mr. Mouillott's company is appearing here in *A Message from Mars*. Mr. W. Widdicombe enacts the rôle of Horace Parker with a thoroughness and care that draws forth hearty acknowledgments; Mr. W. H. Brougham is sufficiently brusque and sonorous as the Messenger; in depicting the Tramp, Mr. Norman Clark pays necessary attention to the minor details; Mr. Robert Grey gives a fine study of Arthur Dicey; Mr. Guy O'Neil as Dr. Chapman and Mr. Eustace French as Sir E. Vivian are well in the picture; Mr. Arthur Linay is good as Mr. Ferguson; Miss Rose Helene plays with admirable restraint in the trying part of Minnie Templar, and her work is highly meritorious; Miss Winifred Knightly is entirely successful as Miss Parker; a bright Bella is seen in Miss Ethel St. Barbe; and Miss Mary Glanbrane does well as Mrs. Clarence.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—A very pretty Japanese scena, *A Vision of Japan*, is presented by O Hana San and company; the patriotic spirit of Englishmen is appealed to in Mr. Norman Wrighton's playlet *Wake Up, England!* in which Mr. H. Scott Russell does some excellent work, supported by Messrs. Norman Wrighton, Richard Norton, and Frank Harding, and Miss Maud Stuart; Fred Earle is amongst the first flight of comic singers, and it goes without saying that all the time he occupies the stage his outrageous fun is greeted with roars of laughter and applause; J. H. Scotland has a powerful bass voice, which he knows how to use to the best advantage; Billy Hobbs is a most successful coon impersonator and dancer; Charles Kitts and Rhoda Windrum are again here in their funny military sketch, *The Cuckoo*, which proves to be as attractive as ever; Maudie Francis, a pretty little comedienne, and Bert Woodward, a clever cyclist, are acceptable turns; the acrobatic performance of the Achmed Ibrahim Troupe is deserving of all praise; and some excellent films showing Wilbur Wright on his flying machine exhibited through the Bioscope conclude a very good and attractive programme.

Royal Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—A smart little playlet, *A Man's a Man for a' That*, gives Mr. and Mrs. Bob FitzSimmons opportunity to display their several attainments, and forms a pleasing entertainment; Renroff's Dancing Horse demonstrates again what can be accomplished by patience and perseverance in training; the Forsyths compel uproarious laughter in their sketch, *The Tramp in the Nursery*; the comic juggling of Mike Gray is another incentive to mirth; Harry Levaine's patter gives delight to his hearers; Hampton and Bauman prove smart impersonators of coon songs and dances; an excellent musical scena by the Bijou Juvenile Troupe provides amusement and pleasure; and the society entertainment of Kendrick and Laura is duly appreciated, as also Juno Salmo and the Barrascope.

NUNEATON.—Prince of Wales's.—Proprietors, Theatre and Entertainments Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Brown.—Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hinton, Travis Green, and Ruth Zillwood's company is presenting *Her Fatal Marriage*. Mr Arthur Hinton plays with much determination as Zacc Maletto, *alias* Captain Vigo, and plans and carries out his villainous schemes with persistent coolness. Mr. Norman Tracey's acting as Wilfred Grey is much approved; Mr. Gerald Bryne gives a cleverly-studied impersonation of the half-witted Paul; Mr. Percy Morton-Wright as Detective Smart is ever alert and resourceful; Miss Ruth Zillwood makes an imposing Myra Maletto, and secures vociferous applause; Miss Lydia Audre as Lily, the White Angel, invests the part with much sympathetic charm. Humorous relief from the exciting incidents of the drama is provided by Mr. Frank Brunell as Peter Simple, and Miss Laura Wright as Dolly Dimple, who manage to keep the house highly amused.

OLDHAM.—Grand Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Mayall.—Mr. Wilfred Cotton's company in the successful musical play *Butterflies* opened here on Monday evening. Mr. W. Louis Bradfield as Widgery Blake acts the part splendidly, his song "Puck" being much appreciated; Mr. Blake Adams as the irascible Christopher Podmore is clever in his humorous impersonation; and Mr. William Spray is capital in his conception of the part of Yarker, his acting being highly amusing. Miss Georgie Corlass as Rodanthe is charming, her singing being smartly done; Miss Stella St. Audrie as Mrs. Podmore is excellent; and Miss Constance Clive as Elsie is dainty in her acting. Mr. Richard Green sings well as Max Riadore, although suffering from a cold; Miss Alice Sands as Lalage and Miss Elsie Ashton as Myra are capital, as is Miss Cissy Gilbert as Salome. Miss Phyllis Monkman dances with excellent effect in a classical dance entitled "La Naissance de Papillon"; and Messrs. A. Selby and R. Sydney are excellent as Paul and Peter. Recalls were numerous, the dresses pretty, and the chorus is a strong one, ably directed by Mr. Pierre De Reeder.

Colosseum Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Wm. Eastwood.—*Her Luck in London*, played by Mary Neil and Geo. Kirk's company, is here on a return visit. The leading rôle of Nelly Harborne is again undertaken by Miss Mary Neil, whose acting earns much applause. Miss Beatrice Hudson as the sister Lillian acts cleverly; Mr. Douglas Tremayne as the Rev. Lionel Strong is a manly clergyman; and Mr. Douglas Cecil as the impetuous Irishman Fitzgerald O'Connor is smart. Mr. William Domoney concocts much villainy as Richard Lenowen, being ably seconded by Miss Amy B. Ellis as Madame Gabrielle; Miss Georgie France is very amusing as Angelina Plantagenet; and Miss Florrie Groves as Maud Gladys and Mr. Henry Hope as Archie are responsible for smart comedy. Mr. T. Lionel Ellis is capital as the sturdy Stephen Harborne; Mr R. Wharton being good as Algie; and the remaining characters are well played.

Empire Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—Herman Melot is exceedingly smart in his feats of neat illusions; the Cumberlands give a daring cycling and acrobatic turn; Viviana and Co. appear in *The Toy Shop*, and they introduce some clever dancing; Carlotta Levey has a hearty welcome, and is very successful; Francis Gerard gives a fine demonstration of weight-lifting; Cyrus Dare is a capital child mimic; the Donatos are clever in their dancing, jumping, and acrobatic act; Prince Schaboo sings well; and the Bioscope concludes.

Palace, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. Thorne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. Sharrocks.—Jock Whiteford sings several smart songs, and is well received; Edwin Boyde is well to the fore with his quaint songs and parodies; *Rejected Remounts* is played by Mr. Fred Ginnett's company, being heartily enjoyed; Lee and Kingston cause hearty laughter with their funny comedy act; Lennie and Hast present a good poetic phantasy, *A Sea Nymph*, with success; Cara Magda is a dainty lady gymnast; Mabel Mignon is smart in song and dance; Clark and Glenny are amusing in an absurdity; and the Palace Pictures are fully up to date.

Royal Theatre of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Kilrow.—Maud Lordys provides a marvellous troupe of well-trained dogs in a really clever show; Gracie Graham, comedienne, sings some songs very well; Blanche and Diacoff are neat and smart in their cycle act; the Sages are capital in song and dance, with good comedy; the Paolias are very good in a smart athletic turn, being well received; Harry Russell and company, including Miss Verna Reed, have a screaming comedy trifle in *Binks' Blunder*; the Crown Trio sing very well; Kleof and Ramsey are funny in their comedy musical novelty; Walter Stanley (comedy) and Chas. Cardow (entertainer) are good; and the Dottoscope completes.

Hippodrome.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. L. King.—Luigi Salvini appears in his clever musical entertainment, and the pictures exhibited continue to draw crowds.

OXFORD.—New Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. C. C. Dorrill; Assistant-Manager, Mr. G. T. Lucas.—For the third time we are having a most delightful return visit of Mr. George Edwardes's admirable in the ever-fascinating play *The Merry Widow*, which was received with as much enthusiasm as when it first came by a crowded and evidently very well-pleased house on Monday. Mrs. Nora Barry, who now plays Sonia, sings sweetly and acts with a charm that quite brings down the house; Miss Octavia Barry repeats her former successes as Popoff's wife; and Olga, Sylvanie, and Prescovia all have the most charming exponents in the Misses Beryl Vaudrey, Kathleen Courtney, and Pollie Edwards. Mr. Leonard Mackay, a great favourite here, met with a big reception, and played Prince Danila in the natural, easy fashion that is so effective. Mr. Lionel Victor is genuinely funny as Baron Popoff; Mr. Haigh Jackson sings well as De Jolidon; Mr. Tom Redmond is very funny indeed as Nisch; and the other characters are all well played. The chorus is strong and tuneful, and in their handsome dresses will play havoc with susceptible hearts; and the scenery and appointments are all of the best. The dances are exceedingly well done. An excellent week's business is assured for Mr. Edwardes's splendid company.

East Oxford Theatre.—Lessees, East Oxford Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Stuart.—Mr. Montague Beaudyn's company is here with *A Traitor Prince*. Mr. Jas. Burt enacts the part of Prince Rao Dalmirez with considerable power, and Mr. Percy Coningsby is robust as the hero, Lieut. Frank Derrick. Mr. Robert Foster sustains Cara very creditably; Mr. Chas. Searle is good in the dual rôle of Richard Vane and Colonel Vane; while Mr. J. B. Stewart gives an effective rendering of Billy Bright. Miss E. Tinniswood makes a sympathetic Lola Vane; Miss Hetty Marriott is bright as Pansy Blossom; and Miss Agnes Williams is dignified and able as Vashti.

PAISLEY.—Paisley Theatre.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—The Moody-Manners Opera Company, which is under the managership of Mr. J. St Clair, is giving a selection of operas from their repertory. The week's run opened on Monday with *Madama Butterfly*. Miss Enriqueta Crichton sustained the title-part with passionate and intensely real art, her vocalisation being delightfully fresh; and Mr. Charles Carter made an ideal B. F. Pinkerton, singing with great sweetness and power. Mr. Marshall Vincent as Sharpless was effective and convincing; and Miss M. Dennis was a decided success as Suzuki. Admirable support was given by Mr. R. Brookes as Goro, Mr. R. Carter as Prince Yamadori, Miss A. Gill as Kate Pinkerton, and other minor rôles were adequately filled. The orchestra, directed by Mr. Cuthbert Hawley, played the melodious music with due effect. Other operas presented during the week include *Maritana, Faust, Carmen, Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Pagliacci*, and *The Bohemian Girl*.

Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Stead.—Phil Rees' Stable Lads head the bill here, and do an exceptionally clever turn of singing, playing, and dancing; Starr and Leslie are intensely amusing in a novel and clever specialty act; Palles and Cussick cause laughter in their comedy act, *The Funny Side of Life*; Ivey Aberdare is exceedingly clever as a dancer and sings well; Walker and May are very diverting with their comedy duets and patter; Dave O'Toole is entertaining with his songs; Irvo Hayman and company are well received in a delightful episode, entitled *Christmas Eve*; Harry Vardon, ventriloquist, submits a pleasing entertainment; and the Bioscope completes.

PERTH.—The Perth Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—A crowded house on Monday extended a hearty welcome to Hamilton's Excursion Party on their return visit to the "fair city." The pictures are very interesting and instructive, and Mr. Claude Howell makes a capable guide. Melvin and Max give a novel dancing act; Jack Henri, Scottish comedian, keeps the audience in hearty laughter; Miss Maude May Murray executes skilful electrical dances, which were greatly admired; and Mr. J. A. Wilson and his wonderful dog, Towser, fairly take the house by storm. A fine series of animated photos greatly amuse the audience; and the programme concludes with a laughable sketch, *The Haunted House*.

PETERBOROUGH.—New Hippodrome, Ltd.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards; Manager, Mr. Percy Hart.—The Three Royal Dreadnoughts, the world's champions in the art of rifle and pistol shooting, are the chief attraction here this week; Olive West is a dainty comedienne and dancer; the Leonards, the versatile couple, have a good reception; the Comedy Girls, Vesta and Minnie Pine, achieve great success in their musical comedy, *Maggie's Day Out*; and also in the list are The Indian Mutiny, a most realistic picture, and James Stewart, the original tramp at the piano.

PLYMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—*The Idol of Paris* forms a strong attraction here this week. Miss Annie Bell impersonates Flare-Flare, a variety star, around whom the story is woven, and performs her task with credit and ability; Mr. Chas. Stafford as Phillipe D'Esterre, a man about town, has a distasteful rôle, but executes it admirably; Mr. Sydney Arnold as Victor Castelle quickly obtains the popular support, and certainly deserves his commendation; Mr. Gordon Robey as H.R.H. Prince Sergius Moresky has a fine military style and bearing; Mr. C. St. John Medley as Gustave Langlois, a notary, is particularly good; and Miss Frances Bruce's portrayal of Mme. Sancterre, a puritanical philanthropist, is very amusing.

Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—Morris Cronin and troupe, in their wonderful juggling turn, occupy the leading position on the bill, the exhibition being clever and amusing; Ted Cowan's skit on a talkative Jack Tar is the cause of much hearty hilarity; Miss Arabella Allen gives a couple of Dickens's and Hall Caine's principal characters, her efforts being rewarded with much applause; Siveter's Mechanical Giant Head does much credit to its inventor; Bernard and Weston work hard in patter, song, and dance; a very excellent film depicting the Summers *v.* Britt boxing match is followed with intense excitement; and the Melbournes (comedy duo) and Alf Chester (comedian) complete the programme.

PONTEFRACT.—Alexandra Theatre of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. Tom Diacoff.—Perhaps the big attraction this week will be found to be the picture of the Burns-Johnson Fight, which on Monday night gave promise of big houses. Walter Ellis and company rollick through an exceptionally witty and ingenious playlet, *The Sleepwalker*, which is not ill described as laughter-raising; Victor and Lewis are smart comedians; Miss Lola and Comic Jake do a clever triple-bar show, and the lady is by no means purely ornamental; Shenton and Chicks (including two very promising youngsters) put in some lightning-like sand-dancing; and comedy is well represented in Sam Clarke, the Lancashire fool and philosopher, and Harry Morris, comedian. Ray Belle, described as "an illustrated songstress," has a contralto voice of much power.

PORTH.—The Palace.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole; Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—The chief position is occupied by Leo Merode in looping the loop on a bicycle, but, owing to circumstances, this turn did not appear. For it was substituted Charles Ulrick, a wonderful jumper. The Sisters Terry, character comediennes, are warmly received; Sira is a marvellous one-legged acrobat; Reg. Bolton is deserving of praise for his original comedy scena *The Editor's Imp;* George Rae, eccentric dancer, gives a pleasing turn; the Robertys are clever in their balancing act; Blarney and Kennard, patterers, are all that can be desired; and the Instrumentalists who appeared (eight violinists) gave a highly-appreciated turn. The Palascope concludes.

PORTSMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Mr. and Mrs. Weedon Grossmith (Miss May Palfrey) and their highly-efficient company are here with *Mrs. Dot*. Miss Palfry as the wealthy, fascinating widow achieves a great success; she is ably supported by Mr. Hugh C. Buckler as Gerald Halstane; Mr. F. Kinsey Peile is excellent as James Blenkinsop; Mr. Basil Hallam does good work; and Miss Emily Patterson as Lady Sellenger and Mr. McIntyre Wicksteed as Charles are admirable. The play is well staged. The production of a new one-act piece, *The Mystery of Redwood Grange*, is described elsewhere.

Prince's.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Agate.—Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson is here with his own play *Who is She?* Prince Vladimir is in the capable hands of Mr. Graham Woods; Prince Bora is skilfully interpreted by Mr. Horace Booth; Mr. Alfred Grenville is a bluff, honest Sergt. Metroff; the Chinaman Chang-tee is ably impersonated by Mr. Edward Swinton; the title-rôle is sympathetically supported by Miss Violet Carlyle; Miss Marie Robson makes the adventuress Keta Noveitch interesting; amusing comedy is provided by Miss Alice Barber (Countess Ladori) and Miss Mary Collier (Sarette); and Miss Mabel Ronald pleases as the Little King.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Capt. E. H. Warren Wright; Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—Albert Whelan's impersonations win great favour here; the Six Cattaneos provide a smart acrobatic sketch; A. Wyndham and company are seen to advantage in *Svengali, the Hypnotist;* the Fimans also present a humorous sketch, *The Fire Station*; a picturesque scena, *Primrose Farm*, affords scope for Miss Lilian Lea's display of vocal and terpsichorean abilities; and the bill is strengthened by Venie Clements, George Rapley, and Payne's Bio-photoscope.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris; Assistant-Manager, Colonel F. Roberts.—Mr. Harry Fragson is paying us a return visit, his versatility and genius finding appreciation; the Ten Dixie Girls in their scena *The Silver Moon*, with pretty effects, songs, and dances, are attractive; and other popular turns are done by Ferguson and Mack, De Breans, Barney Armstrong, Jock Campbell, Oliver Conroy, and Bean and Belle.

King's.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Claude Marner; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Thos. Barrasford.—Carl Reinsch's Horses and Dogs are well trained; sensational card tricks are performed by Thompson Carruthers; a capital item is Caryl Wilbur's new sketch, *Her First*; an amusing little act is *A Bit of Nonsense*, represented by Jules Garrison and Grace Desmond; and Tony Iveson, Brothers Damm, Four Canadians, Hersleb Brothers, and J. C. Scatter, with some good pictures from the Barrascope, make up the programme.

PRESTON.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, the Executors of the late W. Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company opened on Monday, on a return visit, with *The Dairymaids*. Lady Brudenell was well enacted by Miss Carrie Lacey; Lieut. Sam Brudenell, as presented by Mr. Nelson Keys, caused much merriment, especially in Scene 2, Act 2, when, in conjunction with Mr. J. Herbert Willis, as Lieut. Frank Meredith, they masquerade as the daughters of Dr. O'Bryne, R.N., another capital character cleverly undertaken by Mr. Percy Marshall, whose rich Irish brogue was distinctly refreshing. Mr. Dan Agar as Joe Mivens, A.B., kept the house in one continuous roar while he was on the stage; Miss Clare Marsden as Peggy was most pleasing, and her songs were much appreciated; Miss Vera Crichton was a vivacious Winifred; Miss Gladys Silvain as Eliza scored a distinct success, her comedy being delightful, as Miss Penelope Pychase; Miss Lucy Edwin gave a clever character study, her make-up being perfect; Miss Hazel Sayne as Helen was capital. In the minor parts of Tim Capers, Lieut. Brereton, and Togers, Messrs. Harry Cottell, J. Duval, and Fred Foster proved capable; while as the Dairymaids, the Misses Cissie Fancourt, Lily Cameron, Flora Haydu, Edna Russell, Kate Bartlett, Kathleen Sayer, and Kathleen Simes add much charm to the play. Mention must be made of "three little strangers," Dora Hodgson, Ethel Clare, and Beatrice Evenden. The excellent chorus and augmented orchestra were under the able direction of Mr. Albert Bartlitt, and contributed in no small measure to the success of the production, which is mounted and dressed in a lavish manner.

Prince's Theatre.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—A return visit is being paid by Hardie and Von Leer's No. 1 company, in *Two Lancashire Lasses in London*. Mr. George Rammell as John Edmunds acts with an earnestness throughout which gains applause; Mr. Chris Mason, in his original part, is as amusing and popular as ever; Mr. J. Edward Fletcher is a typical Rev. Frank Selby; Mr. A. Elwyn is again seen as the unprincipled Jonas Deane, and scores a success; while Mr. Herbert Sidney is equally good as his partner, Edward Langley. Mr. Jack Miller and W. Walmsley as the burglars, Jim Price and Ratty Gabbit, are both most capable exponents of the art; and Mr. Roland Clive is still seen as Jellaby, a police sergeant, a character which suits him well; as does Dr. Gay, in the hands of Mr. Jack Winslow. Miss Alice Defoe and Miss Laura Walker as Nellie and Constance (the two Lancashire lassies) win much applause for their clever portrayal of their respective characters; Miss Stanley Burt is an excellent Bessie Edmunds; and Miss Marrie Corrie is decidedly clever as the child, Lucy. Miss Evelyn Shaw is as big a success as ever as Jane Adelaide Bloomfield. The mounting of the play leaves nothing to be desired.

Royal Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—Houdini, the original handcuff king, tops the bill here this week, and is proving a decided draw. His latest sensation of escaping from an air-tight galvanised iron can filled to the brim with water, is little short of the marvellous, and must be seen to be believed. Miss Kitty Colyer, comedienne and expert dancer, delights the audience with her clever dancing, and wins loud applause; Miss Marie Blythe is a pleasing vocalist with an excellent contralto voice, who is much appreciated; a very clever musical act is given by the Five Musical Tritons, who render a most attractive selection in a very finished manner; the Roxbys (Phil and Kitty) have a unique sketch, entitled *In the Old Man's Garden*, which is well received; Bradley, the cycling Jew (who claims to be the only trick cyclist working six bikes) presents a clever turn; Mint and Mart have a novel turn, and prove themselves to be experts in manipulating paper and transforming same into elegant lace pattern curtains and antimacassars; Jack Hartley is a capital Yorkshire dialect comedian; and Martin Conway is clever.

Empress Rink.—Proprietors, W. H. Broadhead and Son.—This new craze has certainly "caught on" in Preston, and one wonders where so many people find the time to disport themselves at this most pleasurable resort. Messrs. Broadhead are to be congratulated on the immediate success of their venture.

RADCLIFFE.—Grand Opera House.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Boothman.—Boswell's Circus Company is a new innovation here, and they are drawing well-filled houses. The show includes the clown pony, Master Know All; Mick, the riding dog; the beautiful performing pony, Robin Hood; two comical clowns; Barney, the unridable donkey; marvellous spring-board leaping over a number of ponies; Crusoe, in his great feet equilibrist act; Jupiter, the pony of knowledge; an amusing and laughable sketch; *Fun on the Chairs*, by the Brothers Austin; Little Togo, the wonderful little Jap; the comic ponies, Billy and Bobby; *Fun in a Circus Riding School;* Albert Morrow, the conjurer; and the revolving table, which produced roars of laughter. Everything went with a good swing under the directorship of Mr. James H. Boswell.

RAMSGATE.—Royal Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; Lessee, Mr. Ernest Mansell.—Miss Loie Esmond's talented company have been giving admirable performances at this theatre on each evening of the present week. On Monday evening *The Sorrows of Satan* was staged, the chief parts being filled in fine fashion by Mr. Edward Neville (Prince Lucio), Miss Rosie Neville (Lady Sybil Elton), and Miss L. Esmond (Diana Chesney). On Tuesday the same company put on *Nana, the Rage of Paris*. Miss Rosie Neville displayed very marked histrionic ability as Nana; and Mr. Douglas Howard appeared to distinct advantage as Phillippe. For Wednesday and Friday evenings *The Sorrows of Satan* filled the bill, and on Thursday *Nana* was successfully repeated.

RAWTENSTALL.—Grand Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; General-Business-Manager, Mr. A. R. Feather.—We have Mr. W. W. Kelly's company this week in *The New East Lynne*, the opening performance on Monday last having a most cordial reception Miss Marion Lind as Lady Isabel and Mme. Vine gave a most artistic and sympathetic impersonation, and Miss Guinevere Shilton was also most successful as Barbara Hare; whilst Miss Madge Beresford was an excellent Joyce and Afy Hallijohn; Miss Doris Denville showed considerable aptitude in the part of Willie Carlyle, and Cornelia Carlyle is admirably portrayed by Miss Sophy Shenton. Mr. Fred Terriss gives a fine impersonation as Archibald Carlyle, and Mr. Leonard Booker as Francis Levison is everything desirable; and Mr. Richard Nugent as Murty O'Flynn gives an excellent portraiture. The whole of the remaining characters were admirably sustained, and the setting of the play is of the first order.

READING.—Royal County Theatre.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Benton.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is appearing this week in *Idols*, adapted from W. J. Locke's novel of the same name. Miss Edyth Goodall gives an emotional and sympathetic rendering of the part of Irene Merriam; Miss Moira Creegan gives a very powerful impersonation of the beautiful, but unscrupulous, Jewess, Minna Hart; Mr. Herbert Ford is a very capable exponent of the part of Hugh Coleman; and Mr. A. B. Imeson acts most satisfactorily as Gerald Merrian. The Trial scene is a special feature of the performance, being represented in a very realistic and effective manner. In addition to the evening performances a special matinée was given on Wednesday, which was well attended.

The Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. E. Draco.—The wonderful performance of Cliff Berzac's (late Woodward's) sea lions and seals is a very special attraction this week. Under the direction of Captain Walter Ashcroft, the animals display a high state of training by going through a marvellously clever performance. The other items include a good old Christy Minstrel turn by Reynolds's Minstrels, which includes the well-known favourite, Tom Birchmore; the Three Delaries, who are attired in Mephistopholean costume, go through a clever trapeze performance with limelight effects in their "Demon Grotto"; some clever tumbling is introduced by the Maid and Page Boy in a comedy pot-pourri act by the Four Panamas; Paul Pelham is an acceptable comedian and character vocalist; Nellie Wilson and Minnie Love both sing and dance very effectively; and Dion Wade gains much applause as a comedian and mimic. Some good Bioscope pictures complete the show.

ROCHDALE.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Burton.—Mr. Martin Harvey made his first appearance here for three nights with *The Only Way*. Mr. Harvey, in his original part of Sydney Carton, fairly held the audience spellbound; Mr. Charles Glenney as the coarse and vindictive Ernest Defarge played his part to perfection; Mr. Percy Foster submitted a characteristic delineation of Mr. Lorry; and Mr. Fred Wright, sen., portrayed with lifelike effect the part of Dr. Manette. An artistic study of Charles Darnaz was presented by Mr. Leonard Craske; Mr. Charles J. Cameron made an ideal President; Mr. Paul Barry portrayed with skill the part of Public Prosecutor; Miss N. De Silva created a most favourable impression as Mimi; and Miss Maud Rivers acted with a natural grace and refinement the part of Lucie Manette.

The Empire.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank

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Only a bitter mockery. The world is full of delights in which he cannot share. He can buy them but not enjoy them, and is poor despite his millions. This is specially true of the dyspeptic—the man who cannot digest his food. When the stomach ceases to effectually perform its natural work, food ceases to nourish and causes pain, heartburn, wind, acidity, and a host of other troubles which spoil life. Perfect digestion is the foundation of sound health, and that is assured by the use of the world- renowned digestive tonic and stomachic remedy, Mother Seig el's Syrup.

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Hargreaves.—The Aribos submit a sensational series of balancing feats; Sid Cotterell and company in *The Substitute* evoke roars of laughter; the Musical Palmers contribute an enjoyable and pleasing turn; and other capital turns are presented by Robbie Roy (Scotch comedian), Brothers Ives (vocalists and dancers), Little Dot Moss (toy comedienne), Jules Kiaro (equilibrist act), the Loveiaces (American song illustrators), and the Empire Bioscope pictures.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Jackson Family; Business-Manager, Mr. Jno. Jackson; Resident-Manager, Mr. James Jackson, sen.—Mr. Charles Parker's Æolians in their refined vocal and dancing act are deservedly appreciated; Ed. B. Ford, the Australian Sundowner, was unable, through sickness, to appear, his place being filled by the Clements Trio in a daring and sensational acrobatic act on the swinging trapeze; Charles Harvey and company present a laughable sketch, *The Broken Statue*; Goggins and Davis are amusing and clever acrobats; and Maud Prenton (comedienne), Netty Janowsky troupe of head and hand balancers, Mdlle. Marjutti (in *From Demon to Fairyland*), the Sisters Allen (duettists and dancers), and the Hippodrome Pictures complete a most attractive programme.

ROTHERHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—After a very long interval the legitimate drama is being staged here this week, Mr. Allan Wilkie and company occupying the boards with the following répertoire: *The Merchant of Venice, Hamlet, Othello, The Sleigh Bells, David Garrick, Romeo and Juliet*, and *Richard III.* The company is here for the first time, and is receiving record support. Mr. Allan Wilkie as Shylock gives a scholarly rendition of the part; and Mr. Alexander Marsh is seen to advantage as Bassanio. Mr. John Paley scores heavily as Antonio; and Mr. Houston Meharry is deserving of mention as the Duke of Venice. Miss Agnes Gagan in interesting as Nerissa; and Miss Hunter Watts is very effective as Jessica. Miss Haidee Gunn as Portia gives a brilliant portrayal of the part, the Trial scene being rapturously applauded. The other parts are capably handled.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. Edgar Fox; Resident-Manager, Mr. Claude Shayler.—Mr. Chas. Lewis gives an original and highly finished ventriloquial turn; the Three Orros are brilliant acrobats; Messrs. Fremel and Fremel are amusing in their eccentricities; and Mr. Steve Bartle gives an excellent turn on English concertinas. Messrs. Burns and Bentley are clever vaudeville artists; and Messrs. Rell and Butt are most amusing in their act, *Fun in a Garden*. Messrs. George Marriott and company present a Dickens episode, *Oliver Twist*. Miss Edith Finlay is clever as Nancy; and Mr. George M. Marriott is seen to advantage as Fagin. Mr. Fred Conway scores as Bill Sikes; and Mr. John A. Stimson is deserving of mention as the Artful Dodger.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr Harold Goulden.—The drama, *When Other Lips*, by T. Arthur Jones, is presented by a good all-round company, under the general-management of the author, who himself very satisfactorily portrays the part of the hero, Ted Daunton; Miss Marie Daventry cleverly acts and is sweetly emotional as Ruth Lingley; Basil Cunningham, the villain, is played with marked effect by Mr. Juan D'Alberti; and Miss Gwen Stewart makes a good impersonation of Octavia. A lot of comedy is provided by Mr. Olly Seymour as Tommy Neccles, Mr. Richard Webb as Dabbie Topwash, Mr. Herbert Benton as Phylocrates, and Miss Lizzie Lennon as Kitty Topwash. Nancy is charmingly portrayed by Miss P. Massey; and a large number of small character parts are well presented by the other members. The scenery is very pretty, and the staging well done.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—Rosie Lloyd, comedienne, heads an excellent programme, and is well received; Leo Tell gets a lot of applause and laughter for his funny mimicry; *Two's Company, Three's* ——? is a sketch smartly played by Ferris and May; Capt. Maximilian Gruber and Miss Adelina have a very pleasing act with elephant, horse, and pony; Percival, a smart pianist and comedian, Williams and Warden, in vaudeville act. *Mr. Dooley*, Rene, clever girl juggler, Tennyson and Wallis, comedians, George James, comedian, and Nancy Renshaw, negro comedienne and expert bone solist, worthily fill the remainder of the bill.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H Winstanley; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo F. Slatter.—Vanando is a very clever ventriloquist in The Park Pest"; *The Pawnbroker* is a very comical sketch, presented by Joe Peterman's company, including George Ricketts as Ikestein; Clown Barker, assisted by Miss Rozsika, does some very clever business with his dogs, cats, monkeys, &c. The other items include Hector and Dale, acrobatic eccentrics; Frank Boyce, character vocal comedian; Adela Crispin, musical comedy artist; Farrell and Dunn, patterers; Idento Bros., comic jugglers; and Frank E. Solbey, child mimic.

OPERA HOUSE AND ASSEMBLY ROOMS, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; General-Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Shepherd.—In addition to Mr. Tom Sherlock's illustrated songs, large audiences are drawn by the many animated pictures, including A Mother's Protection, Forget-Me-Not Legend, Tribulation of a Lover, Choosing a Fiancée, King Edward's Visit to Berlin, A Drunkard's Dream, Good Friends, Attack on the Mail, Women Chauffeurs, and United by Misfortune.

SCARBOROUGH.—THE AQUARIUM.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman.—The Howards head the bill here in a comedy musical act, *Military Mad*, in which they appear to advantage; the San Remo Girls give an excellent turn: Gravetta and Parr are clever; Baddow, ventriloquist, is highly appreciated; the Bros. Ralston are pleasing duettists; and Hearne and Palmer are smart knockabouts. In the drawing-room act *The Girl from the Hat Shop* Miss Adey Spencer proves herself a skilled pianist and dancer. Kisbey also appears.

THE NEW HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock.—This week's attraction is provided by Mr. Edwin C. Jazon's pantomime company in *Dick Whittington*. In the name part Miss Maude Beaumont is successful; the cat is well represented by Mr. Willie Vanda; Mr. William Miller deserves praise as Fitzwarren; and Miss Vera Snowdon is well received as Alice. An excellent comedian is Mr. Fred Ward, who, as Jack, the idle apprentice, scores exceptionally well, being ably assisted by Mr. Harry Albery as the cook. Miss Daisy Dashwood is very good as the Prince, and the same may be said of Miss Olive Audley as the Fairy. The specialities are the Willoughbys, acrobatic eccentrics; Salida and Vone, Creole performers; Pearce and Ward, comedy act; Terry and Snowdon, duettists; and the Vandas.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. Wallace Childs.—*Robinson Crusoe* is this week being played here by Mr. Chas. Elderton's company. The pantomime is beautifully staged and dressed, and the company unusually large. Miss Rosa Revell appears as Robinson, a rôle she fills with great success; Polly is charmingly presented by Miss Gertie Gavagan; Miss Lena Lewis is a rollicking Captain Kettle; Miss Bartinelli is a successful Dolly Dimple. A pleasing Princess is supplied by Miss Nellie Stuart. Prominent amongst the comedians are Mr. James Grant as Mrs. Crusoe, Mr. Teddy Worth as Billy Crusoe, Mr. Fred Boulton as Will Atkins, and Mr. Carson Hicks as Friday. Pleasing specialities are introduced by the Three Eltons, in a comedy bar act; Rowe and Holden, coloured cake-walkers; Stuart and Worth, comedians; Carson Hicks, coon dancer; the Marblesque Trio, in living pictures; Miss Olive Sara, musician; Miss Bartinelli, contortionist; the Bros. Barron, comedians and dancers; and the Boultons, comedy entertainers.

SHEFFIELD.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. B. B. Beaumont.—The new modern play *Grit*, in four acts, from the Kingsway Theatre, was acted to a good audience for the first time in Sheffield. The piece has been carefully rehearsed under the direction of Miss Lena Ashwell, and the cast is of all-round excellence. The scenery, dresses, and appointments are in perfect taste, and the reception of the company on Monday augured well for a successful tour.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. Henfrey Aldred.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's company opened to a large house on Monday in the new domestic drama, *A Broken Heart*. As John Barnard, Mr. Gerald Kennedy acts with considerable power and emotional ability; Mr. Edward Rawlinson is good in the character part of Gash Gills; Mr. Newton Pearce is a humorous Toney Tibbetts, and the villain, Stephen Railton, is forcibly represented by Mr. George Moreton-Williams; Miss Shiela Walsh wins the warm sympathies of the audience as Mary Barnard, and the well-known favourite Miss Emma Rainbow acts with her usual distinction as Mrs. Barnard; Miss Daisy Rocheford is a pretty and intelligent little Mary and other characters are cleverly played by Miss Mabel Kelland, Mr. Vivan Charles, &c. The mounting is artistic and the play has given general satisfaction to the patrons of the Royal.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. William D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—Owen Davis's new drama, *Her Marriage Vow*, is being performed for the first time to local audiences by a strong company, headed by Miss Lillian Herries and Mr. J. Forbes-Knowles, who appear respectively as Kate Walters and Ned Benton; Mr Edward L. Garside's experience and dramatic ability make his task an easy one as Gilbert Carlton. The comic relief is provided by Miss Grace Garside as Alida, an old maid, and Mr. Owen Remonde as Larry; Mr. Vincent Wardle as Dan, Mr. W. Bailey as Eden Chubb, Mr. J. J. Ryder as Bill Walters, Mr. W. Brookes as Jenks, Mr. Chauncey Morris as Jim Burke, Miss Nellie Shirley, Miss Effie Crawford as Maggie Clare, and Miss Nelly Shirley as Hester Norton, a beautiful heiress, all do good work. The railway sensation scene is loudly applauded.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—The Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—After a spirited overture by the fine orchestra, the following artists appeared to a packed house on Monday:—The graceful dancer La Pia in "The Spirit of the Ocean," "The Fire Fay," and other exquisite realisations of poetic conceptions, illustrated with exquisite scenery and wonderful electrical effects; the Scala Opera company in a selection from *Cavalleria Rusticana*; Les Frasettis in a refined and clever musical performance; Miss Edie King, a dashing burlesque actress and agile danseuse; Miss Rhoda Paul, male impersonator; Mr. Arthur Antill, whistler; Mr. Victor Newman, with dramatic imitations of Henry Irving and Wilson Barrett, which were loudly applauded; Mr. Pat Rafferty, Irish comedian, and M. de Gracia and his well-trained elephants. The performance concluded with comic pictures.

THE HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr Thos. Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. D. Elbourne.—In Mlle. Albani the management has secured this week a star of the first magnitude, and the great singer has naturally drawn crowded and enthusiastic audiences. The company also includes Wright and Lawson in a novel entertainment; Mr. Fullbrook's sketch troupe in a funny topsy-turvy absurdity; Elmo and Rego, comedy acrobats, the charming sisters Marion, Mr. W. T. Ellwanger, Miss Rosie Archur, the Camplins, and the talented Faludy Troupe in an original and picturesque performance. Beautiful pictures by the Barrascope are also included in the generous pragramme.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. A. W. Turpin.—Sheffield's leading picture palace, known to its many patrons as the "Electric Theatre," continues to do good business with well-produced vocal scenas and a constant change of the latest films, under the direction of the well-known Raymond Bio-tableaux Co.

CENTRAL THEATRE.—Lessees, the Jasper Redfern Co., Ltd.—Variety turns and animated photos are sharing the honours nightly.

SURREY PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Frank Howson.—This old-established music-hall, now enlarged and re-decorated and provided with a new proscenium and artistic scenery, is doing well with the following artists:—The Sheppards, vocalists and legmania grotesques; Miss Lottie Cozens, a pleasing singer of tuneful ditties; Miss Nelly Hogan, serio-comic; Mr. Tom Tonks, comedian, and the Surreygraph, with comic and pathetic new picture plays

SMETHWICK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. Barnard; Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson.—This week Mr. Wentworth Croke's company is presenting *The Prodigal Son*. Mr. Hugh Montgomery acts with all the fine sincerity and rugged sympathy necessary in his rôle of the noble-hearted Magnus; Mr. Gordon Mackintosh gains applause as Oscar; Miss Valerie Crespen enacts the patient and gentle Thora with an infinity of charm and pathos, afterwards appearing as the daughter, Elin, with even greater success; Miss Mildred Cottell gives irresistible fascination to the rôle of the temptress Helga. Other parts have excellent exponents, especially Mr. Bellenden Clarke as Stephen, the Governor, Miss Barbara Gott as his wife, Anna, Mr. Philip Renouf as the factor, Miss Marie Harcourt as Margaret, the factor's sister, Mr. E Rivarz as the Sheriff, Mr. Bruce Lindley as Dr. Olsen, Mr. Chas. A. Maynard as Neils Filsen, Mr. George W. Hewetson as the Pastor, and Mr. G. Dickson Kenwin as Director of the Casino.

SOUTHAMPTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Weston.—*The Builder of Bridges* is being played by Mr. George Alexander's company with great success. A capital company is headed by Mr. Leonard Pagden, who invests the part of Edward Thursfield with great virility; Miss Dorothy Green is very successful as the changeable heroine, Dorothy Faringay; and Mr. Lewis Fielder does well as Arnold Faringay. Mr. Alfred Harris gives a capital impersonation of Sir Henry Killick; and Mrs. Kemmis creates an agreeable impression as Dorothy's aunt. Other parts are well played by Mr. Percy D. Owen, Mr. A. Vezin, Miss Beatrice Smith, and Miss Ella Collins.

PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wm. Trussell.—Mr. Leonard Mortimer's sketch *Paying the Penalty* is the star attraction, and the realistic fire scene wins universal approval. The acting and scenery is also good. Chris Richards is a wonderful dancer and contortionist; Mack Ollive, for whistling scena, assisted by Miss Daisy Baldry, wins loud applause; Harwood's Juveniles submit an attractive scena; and others who entertain are Mulvey and Miriam, comedy entertainers; the Cromwells, in a smart juggling display; Rose and Wold, in a wire act; and Carr and Rose.

HIPPODROME.—Joint-Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fred Mouillot and W. de Frece; Manager, Mr. H. Yardley.—Alfred Lester, supported by Miss Gwen Howard, simply makes the house rock with laughter with his burleque skit *A Restaurant Episode*; Harry Russon is another big favourite who scores alike in song and recital; the famous Craggs achieve their usual big success; and Dora Lyric, with her chorus ditties, is as popular as ever. Allan Shaw is the smartest coin manipulator we have ever seen, and his entertainment is highly appreciated; Stirling and Love are successful in a cleverly conceived musical speciality; Hillman and Russell sing delightfully; and Fred Ellis proves a clever comedian.

PHILHARMONIC HALL.—Messrs. A. and H. Andrews are submitting a brilliant and up-to-date programme of animated pictures. Mr. Bert Pemberton is the cicerone, and sings some songs, beautifully illustrated. A full band, under Mr. J. Gabriel, helps the evening to pass pleasantly away.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Auguste Denton.—This popular picture palace still draws crowded houses twice nightly, all the latest films being exhibited, to the accompaniment of high-class vocal and instrumental music. The Sunday concerts are packed each week.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Directors, Messrs. Geo. Conquest and Richard H. Nervey; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—*The Way of the World*, the attraction here, is presented by Messrs. Herbert Skardon and H. Sherwood Martin and company. Miss Sidney Crowe is a powerful exponent of Lady Adela Hardy; Mr. Victor Gordon capably impersonates Capt. Fred Slade; Mr. Herbert Skardon does well as Cecil Hardy; Mr. Clarence Temple is a good Matthew Malyon; Mr. Pat Quinn is well suited as Sir John Hardy; and Mr. D'Arcy Kelway is mirth-provoking as Joe Sparrow, Mr. Lancelot Usher assisting with good fun as Horatio Bluff.

PIER PAVILION.—Lessee, Mr. H. E. Angless; Manager, Mr. Stanley E. Angless.—The successful grand fancy-dress Skating Carnival which took place on Wednesday evening, under distinguished patronage, was also the occasion of a complimentary benefit to Mr. Stanley E. Angless, whose amiability and courtesy have won him a host of friends. They testified in no unmistakable manner their appreciation of his capable management. Mrs Prevost, accompanied by Alderman Prevost, asked his acceptance of a gold sovereign case, a purse of gold, gold scarf pin, and a signet ring, the gifts of a few personal friends. The recipient made a feeling response amid enthusiastic cheering. An excellent programme consisted of challenge races for gold medal and silver cup, while valuable prizes were offered for other races and best costumes.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE WINTER GARDENS.—Proprietors, The Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens Co., Ltd.; Secretary and General-Manager, Mr. R. Singleton.—Mr. Morton Powell's capable company is this week presenting a capital interpretation of Mr. S. Buchanan Rogerson's sensational play *When It Was Dark*, which was seen for the first time here on Monday evening, and was accorded a good reception from a large audience. Mr. Wilfred Lyndon submits an earnest and convincing impersonation in the rôle of the Rev. Basil Gortre, which was capitally enacted throughout; the trying part of Gertrude Hunt was brilliantly portrayed by Miss Alice O'Dea, whose acting was much admired; Constantine Schwabe, the millionaire, was admirably delineated by Mr. Cecil Mannering, who presented a striking study; Mr. William Burgess is highly commendable as Sir Robert Llewellyn; Miss Valerie Russell is clever and successful in the character of Helena Byars; Harold Spence, the *Mercury* correspondent, was exceedingly well played by Mr Alfred Collingham; Ionides had a praiseworthy representative in Mr. Charles Grandley; Mr. William H. Burton did well as the Vicar of Walkden. Other parts were capitally assumed by Mr. Francis Cavins, Mr. F. Venn, Mr. J. Armitage, and Miss Florrie Lyndon.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—Large audiences are appreciating Mr. Fred C. Somerfield's company in *Geoffrey Langdon's Wife*. Mr. Paul Beckett furnishes a vigorous portrayal of Felix Beverley; Miss Mary Lovett is seen to advantage as Mary; Mr. Edward E. Ashby is a manly Jack Stirling; Mr. Cyril Grier brings ripe experience to bear upon his exposition of Colonel Mills; Mr. Edwin Jenner is good as Geoffrey Langdon; Mr. Percy Brown and Mr. Victor T. Raymond are deserving of mention as Thomas and Charles; Miss Hetty Senior is a bright Nancy; and a sound and clever delineation of the Hon. Mrs. Sands is presented by Miss Kathleen Magee.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, South Shields Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F Thompson.—The principal turn this week is furnished by Mdlle. Clasen's Living Art Bronzes, a performance artistic to a degree; J. H. Milburn is an old favourite; Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Meymott in a smart duologue entitled *Semi-Detached* are well received; Fred Keeton, a funny comedian, causes laughter; a clever gymnastic comedy creation is contributed by Wilbert and Lealand; and other interesting items include Takio (Japanese mimic of sounds), Lily Esplin (character comedienne), George Young (blind musician), assisted by Mdlle. Louise, and the ever-popular Bioscope.

SPENNYMOOR.—CAMBRIDGE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; General-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance; Resident-Manager, Mr. David Collins.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company, in a *Soldier's Honour*, is here. The company includes Mr. T. Arthur Ellis as Captain Deane, Mr. William Vane as Captain Temple, and Mr. Andrew Money as Henry Thornton. Much amusement is caused by Mr. Harry Lyndon and Miss Edie Macklin as Percy Brattle and Jemima respectively. Miss Lilla Wilde gives a strong performance as Cora Lee. The rest of the company are good.

HIPPODROME AND PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. Algie.—Mr. Fred Granville's pantomime *Beauty and the Beast*, under the management of Mr. Leslie Austin, occupies the boards.

STAFFORD.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Elphinstone.—*Send Him Victorious* is being presented here. Mr Frank Holyoake gives a fine impersonation of the King of Baronia; Mr. G. M. Montaneni presents a powerful study of Col. Kaufmann; Mr. Oliver Birrell is a manly Captain Allison; Mr. Bert Woodlin as Geordie Walker and Miss Madge Palmer as Gretchen keep the house in good humour; and Miss Katharine Herbert gives a brilliant portrayal of Countess Kara.

STALYBRIDGE.—HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Fioni; Resident-Manager, Mr. W A. Jackson.—May Henderson, the dusky comedy queen, is at the head of the bill, and succeeds in keeping the audiences in a state of uproarious hilarity during the time she is on the stage; Donald McDougal, the lively Scot, is with us again and is as lively and quaint as ever; the Four Burnells appear in a musical comedy scene, which meets with approval; Nellie Nora proves herself to be a very clever instrumentalist; and other turns are given by J. H. Ellis, comedian; Hardie Palm, comedian, Dorien and Doritz, &c.

ST. HELENS.—THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, St. Helens Theatre, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. A. McLeod Loader; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harry E. Johnson.—The appearance of Mr. Harrison Brockbank, who is a townsman, gives an additional interest to the delightful musical play *Butterflies*. Mr. Brockbank as Puck has a great reception; the character is evidently an agreeable one to him, and he enters merrily into the spirit of the part. Miss Annie Heenan plays Rhodanthe with charm and abandon; as Christopher Podmore Mr. Edwin H. Wynne is exceedingly amusing; Miss Ada Davidson makes a graceful and natural Mrs. Podmore; Miss Lilian H. Wesson is a winsome Elsie; as the unconsciously-humorous Yarker Mr. Johnnie Wilkinson is delightfully funny; Mr. Cyril Biddulph sings with feeling as Max; Mr. Arthur Edwards is a capital Paul; Mr. Francis Rayne as Gilbert makes the most of his opportunity; Mr. Allan Mudie is lively and animated as Peter; and a classic dance, full of poetic beauty, is performed by Miss Minnie Gordon.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Leo. Weisker.—A programme of variety is presented this week, headed by Kartelli, who performs cleverly on the slack wire; Hyde and Cody Trio receive much applause for their eccentric tricks; Witty Wattie Walton, an old favourite, is most amusing; Minnie D'Aubyn contributes two songs very pleasingly; the Four Sisters Gilbey perform well on various musical instruments; and Milner and Story (comedy duo) and Montague Biggs give good turns.

STOCKPORT.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—Thoroughly entertaining have been the representations of *The Dairymaids* given here for the first time by Mr. Robert Macdonald's company. Mr. Richard Telford as Lieutenant Sam Brudenell and Mr. J. Scott Melville as Lieutenant Frank Meredith provide an abundance of fun; Dr. O. Bryne, R.N., is capably portrayed by Mr. Bernard Vaughan; Miss Empsie Brown is a delightful Peggy, and Miss Kitty Kirwin impersonates the schoolmistress, Miss Penelope Pyechase, with marked ability; Miss Edie Morton is a talented and clever comedienne, and as Eliza makes a distinct success, particularly so in the duet with Joe Mivens, a part which was amusingly played by Mr. Johnny Osborne.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, the Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—The Four Holloways in their marvellously clever feats on the tight wire have provided the chief attraction here this week. Other entertaining items are Rennie Glendower and company in a laughable sketch, *A Bit Too Clever*; Frances Hanlon, a dainty coon vocalist and dancer; Ruby and Laws in a pleasing vocal and comedy scena; Brothers Lydamore, amusing patterers and capable dancers; Angeline and Page, smart jugglers; Nellie Walton, the singing mill girl, who is a popular favourite; Irene and Merton, entertaining vocalists and dancers, and Decima Brooke, a much-appreciated comedienne and dancer.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—CASTLE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Charles Imeson; Acting-Manager, Mr Cecil Imeson.—Mr. William Maclaren's company with *Claudian* is here this week. Mr. William Maclaren appears in the title-rôle; his acting is very impressive and full of pathos. Miss Lily C. Bandmann is very effective as Almida; Mr. Bernard Elliott ably represents Thariogalus Tetrach; Mr. Chal. T. Chaloner is very humorous as Belos; Mr. Douglas Earle powerfully portrays Agazil; Miss Ruth Trafford does well as Edessa; Mlle. Stella Dorin performs a skilful cymbal dance. The scenery and effects are good.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stainton—Sam Lowenwirth and Charles Cohan, Hebrew comedians, pay a return visit, and are as popular as ever; Clarice Sefton, comedienne, is responsible for some clever speciality dancing; Maxwell and Frances, in a comedy scene, take well; Denaro Bros. are clever juvenile acrobats; Lyons and Cullum are very entertaining in a novelty act; Edie Anderson is a pleasing comedienne; the Marvellous Jees are very daring in a tight wire act, and are loudly applauded; the Bioscope concludes with Back from the Grave and The Gendarme's Horses.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—Mr. M. Montgomery's company is presenting *Leah; or, The Jewish Maiden's Wrong*. Mr. Ernest Wingfield furnishes a fine portrayal of the character of Rudolph; and Mr. H. Hesslegrave is excellent as Lorenz; whilst Mr. F. S. Strickland submits a capital delineation of the Schoolmaster. In the title-rôle, Miss Lilian Beaumont proves most charming; and Annette is admirably represented by Miss Lina Nazeby. Payne's Bio-photoscope concludes.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Miller; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. Moroney.—Tarro Myaki, the Japanese exponent of ju-jitsu, this week gives an exhibition of his prowess, and during his stay he will meet various "local" wrestlers. An interesting football match on bicycles is played by Hinton and Wootton, whose efforts are much appreciated; Ellis and Ellis are most pleasing International singers and dancers. The male partner is a most finished and accomplished dancer, whom it is a treat to watch. Fred Dunstone's parodies are good and well rendered; also numbered are the Seymons, Ena Corelli, Master May, and Ward and Davis. The Bioscope depicts scenes of Zulus on the War-path. On Thursday evening Mr. Miller, the genial manager, is to be accorded a complimentary benefit, at which a host of local artists and friends will help, as well as the above company.

SUNDERLAND.—KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. S. F. Davidson; General-Manager, Mr. Alexander Telford.—To lovers of Shakespeare especially Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton's visit here this week is of considerable interest, and the house on Monday was crowded to the doors with an audience which showed keen appreciation of the play *The Taming of the Shrew*. Mr. Asche has a fine presence, and literally carries all before him as Petruchio. Miss Brayton makes a strikingly beautiful and spirited Kate; Mr. Athol Forde as Grumio and Mr. R. F. Anson as Biondello both filled their parts capitally; Mr. Herbert Grimwood, a sound actor, gave an artistic impersonation of Baptista; Mr. Caleb Porter did his utmost with Gremio; Mr. R. Jan Penny was a praiseworthy Hortensio; Mr. Tripp Edgar showed ability as Tranio; and Mr. J. Fritz Russell as Vincentio and Mr. G. K. Souper as Lucentio were both meritorious. Miss Elerida Clement merits the highest eulogy for her portrayal of Bianca.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Hy. Esden; Acting-Manager, Mr George Dunn.—Mr. Augustine Knight's company is paying a return visit in *The Assassin*. Miss Ella Vane did well as the Countess Wanda; of Nita a sympathetic rendering was given by Miss Maud Steeple; Prince Demetri was capitally played by Mr. Augustine Knight; Ivan Ipanoff was faithfully portrayed by Mr. John Worth; Messrs. Hy. C. Ward and Edwin Jenner were equally clever as Duke Carl and Captain O'Neill; and amusement was caused by Miss Rosa Webster (Connie Jonathan) and Messrs. Murray Hawthorne (Baron Alphonse), T. J. Dillsen (Peter), and W. R. Christmas (Evangie).

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—Oswald Williams, the famous illusionist, supported by Winifred La Barte and company, are starring here this week. Important among the producers of high-class music were the Musical Courtiers, four pianists, playing on four splendid instruments, and five talented singers, who submitted airs from *The Bohemian Girl*. Les Voces, whose beautiful singing is always appreciated; the Selbinis, in their clever pot-pourri cycling act; Harry Herbert, a droll and entertaining comedian; Howell and Scott, humorous Hebrews; Minnie Mace; and Lily Palmer are other attractions.

AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. Foulkes Edwards.—The picture entertainment at this house attracts crowded audiences, and Mr. Wm. Ross, tenor, sings an illustrated song, entitled "The Toilers."

PALACE THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Henry N. Phillips; Resident-Manager, Mr. Francis MacDermott.—A capital selection of pictures is on view at this hall this week, chief among which is the Bostock Jungle, which had a good reception.

SWANSEA.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks; Acting-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. Walter Page.—Excellently acted well staged, and beautifully dressed, *The Sins of Society*, played by Mr. F. W. Bolam's company, is creating quite a furore here this week. Mr. E. Vassall Vaughan is an effective Sir Dorian March; Noel Ferrers is ably portrayed by Mr. C. F. Collings; Mr. Edward Lewis as James Hogg does much towards the success of the play; and Mr. Morris has a really good delineator in Mr. Frederick Annerley. Miss Grace E. Leslie is responsible for finished acting as Lady Marion Beaumont; Lady Goldbury had a winsome impersonator in Miss Vita Spencer; Miss Beatrice Hodson charms all as Lady Gwendolen Ashley; and Mr. Edwin Palmer is adequate as Parker.

THE STAR.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—Mr. G. Watson Mills' company is presenting *A Warning to Women* here. As Maria Kennion Miss Blanche proves herself a thorough artist; Mr. Edward Warden's Shaun is effective; Dr. Marcus Dread is forcibly played by Mr. Harry Robinson; and Miss Winifred Rutland makes a charming Sheila Kennion.

THE EMPIRE.—Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—Auguste Van Biene again charms local audiences with his playing in *The Master Musician*, Miss Mary Mannering giving him able support; a delightful musical interlude is provided by the Charles Fisher Pocket Opera Company with a pot-pourri from *Il Trovatore*, in which Mdlle. Lusano, Mr. Alec Johnson, and Mr. Charles Fisher appear; possessing refined style and an excellent voice, Miss Gertie Gitana proves a thorough success; the Three Dixons, banjoists and baton swingers, contribute a pleasing turn; Guyer and Valli wind up a smart sketch with some sensational dancing; the Jackley Trio, as usual, do well here; Frank Lynne scores a decided hit; Watson's Fox Terriers provide a unique turn; Allan Hanbury does well in song and story; and the Bioscope pictures are again excellent.

SWINDON.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wiltshire Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Manners.—The attraction here this week is Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company, in Henry Seton Merriman's *With Edged Tools*. Mr. J. A. Rosier impressively impersonates Sir John Meredith; and Jack Meredith is splendidly handled by Mr. William F. Grant. Mr. Chas. Hartopp does capitally as Guy Oscard; and a fine piece of acting is displayed by Mr Campbell Goldsmid in the part of Victor Durnovo. Mr. J. Graham Pockett is well placed as Maurice Gordon; Miss Marie Leonhard gains the admiration of all by her charming representation of Jocelyn Gordon; and Miss Alice Belmore fills the rôle of Millicent Chyne with distinct credit. Miss Marion Fawcett acts with skill as Lady Cantourne; and Miss Florence Dulhunty as Lady Herries and Miss Violet Thorold as Marie also do well in their respective parts.

TON-Y-PANDY.—ROYAL.—General-Manager, Mr Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ridgewood Barrie.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company is here in *Under Two Flags*. Mr. Austen Milroy is admirably placed as Louis Victor, and as Colonel Chanteroy, the Black Hawk, Mr. Roy Jackson is forcible; Mr. Will Hook undertakes the part of Rake in a creditable manner; the Princess Corona of Miss Dorothy Lart is highly sympathetic; and Miss Agnes Verity is delightful as Cigarette.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. W. Stone.—An excellent programme is topped by Mlle Martha, a daringly clever gymnast on the flying trapeze; Barney Stuart is a great impersonator; Vendome and Chase score heavily in their dancing act; Burt Welch, ventriloquist; and Vena Velma, comedienne, also do well. The leading picture is Rifle Bill Caught in a Trap.

TORQUAY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—Mr. George A. De Gray and company are occupying the boards this week in the powerful drama, *The Power of the Cross*. Miss Annie Hylton makes a touching and pathetic character as Margaret Seaton, whilst Miss Phyllis Vaughan is equally well placed as the charming Blanche Kingsley; Miss Stella Carmichael is a flippant and hard-hearted adventuress as Rita Lascelles; whilst the rôle of Gerald Fairfax is excellently taken by Mr. Robert Hall. As his brother, Leslie, Mr. Alexander J. Haviland does well, and Mr. T. Bowron gives a powerful interpretation of Benjamin Hawke. The part of Baron Curzola is portrayed by Mr. George A. De Gray in a forceful and vigorous manner, calling forth frequent applause.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—OPERA HOUSE.—Mouillot and De Frece Hippodrome season.—Manager, Mr. C. V. Hoskins.—The Courtiers appear in vaudeville, and a dramatic episode, entitled *An Extra Turn*, is presented by Paul Mill, and well received; Lozelle performs some clever gymnastic feats; the Voldane Bros., in Dutch costume, are amusing acrobats; Harold Heath is an excellent coon delineator; and Hal Berte justifies his title of the elastic comedian. The Salisbury Plain Manœuvres are shown on the Bioscope.

TYLDESLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. W. Brierley.—Miss Marie Dagmar and company, in that striking drama *The Tyrant*, are proving a strong attraction. Miss Marie Dagmar plays the trying part of Tisbe in finished style; Mr. Roy Fortescue submits a fine performance of the title-rôle; Homodei is effectively impersonated by Mr. Norman Overton; Mr. Ed. E. Lewis makes an earnest and manly Rudolph; Miss Margaret Frame is

songstress; Lydia Neilson has a rare combination of boys and girls who sing well in their sketch, *An Impromptu Rehearsal*; T. C. Jaques is a thoroughly versatile comedian; and Winifred Ward, the immaculate boy, again proved herself a big favourite; the Arutes are capital coloured vocalists and dancers; whilst the pictures are much enjoyed.

Royal Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, the Franco-British Animated Picture Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Jack Waters.—Hanlon and Le Fre head the bill here this week, and their sketch, *The Escaped Indians*, is much enjoyed; Joey Stirling is a capital comedian, and Laurie Leyton a clever boy ventriloquist, and the Sisters Brereton are dashing comediennes and dancers.

WATFORD.—Palace Theatre.—Sole Responsible Manager, Mr. T. M. Sylvester; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Mason; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Wright.—A variety programme even beyond the standard hitherto maintained has been enjoyed this week. The overture by Mr. G. Whittington's admirable orchestra is succeeded by Professor Maurin's waterfall spectacle, Marie Santoi's *A Night in Japan* sketch, and the Selbos, Little Zola, the Sisters Brand, and the Brothers Brooks are other turns. The success of the week has undoubtdly been Mr. F. V. St. Clair, whose topical songs have produced innumerable recalls. Last (Friday) evening was set apart as a "grand fashionable night."

WEST BROMWICH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. R. Nightingale.—A new romantic play entitled *Love the Conqueror* is being produced here by Mr. Frank Lindo and company. Miss Marion Wakeford as Mistress Beatrice Mortimer scores a great success; Mr. Lindo, the author, appears with much distinction as Brian Norval, an outlaw and highwayman; Mr. Norton Shields is a clever Sir John Mortimer; Mr. D. Lawrence Doyle has a part well suited to him as Count Leon Lascelles; Mr. Tom E. Lewis is good as Capt. Rupert Armadale; Mr. Harry Belford as the landlord of the Blue Posts Inn, and Mr. W. Gregory as Sir John's servant do much to add to the attractiveness of the piece; Miss Nellie De Benson is charming as Dame Norval, and Miss Helene Thompson is an attractive Susan.

New Hippodrome.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Tom Kuner.—There is another strong variety programme at this popular house, the bill being headed by Lockhart's famous elephants, which give a wonderfully clever performance, as also do Capt. Frank Taylor's marvellous baboons, in both instances the work of the animals reflecting the highest credit on their trainers; Ernest Montefiore and company appear in a clever sketch, *The Little Colonel*; the Peps are remarkably smart gymnasts; Dorothy and Joe give an attractive comedy turn, while H. E Smarte proves his skill as a whistler; Ivy Rochefort is a clever comedienne, and Vincent is an acrobatic table expert of high order. The Hippodrome pictures conclude an attractive programme.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—Grand.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. H. E. Feather.—Messrs. Lyn Harding and Sidney Cooper's company is presenting *The Flag Lieutenant*. This is the first time local people have had an opportunity of seeing the play, and it is, therefore, proving a great attraction. The scenic effects are at once beautiful, elaborate, and realistic, and call forth expressions of keen admiration. No fault whatever can be found with the cast, which is strong all round, and the work is seen to the best advantage. It would be impossible to speak too highly of the artistic manner in which Mr. Lionel Atwill interprets the rôle of Dicky Lascelles; Mr. Montague Love also scores very greatly as Major Thesiger; Mr. Geo. Mallet is very breezy as the Admiral; whilst as Mrs. Cameron Miss Florence Jackson is a distinct success, playing her part charmingly. Miss Vina Birkett, Miss Marjory Dore, Miss Stella Leigh, and Miss Evelyn Robson all take their parts exceedingly well, making the most of them.

Palace Theatre.—Shadowgraphy is a great feature of the entertainment here this week, and Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilde are deservedly great favourites. Their performance is clever and novel. Lloyd's glee singers render some very fine glees in capital style, and are heartily encored; the Glanvilles are exceedingly good, both in their singing and dancing; Miss Norah Desmond introduces some beautiful pictures, with which she illustrates her songs, which are tastefully sung; the Wedburns are old favourites, and are going strong in their songs and comedy business. Another comedy couple, the Sisters Hampel, take very well; Frank Vallance, a smart magician, Maudie Forde, comedienne, and Raymond's fine Bio-Tableaux complete a good bill.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE. — Knightstone Pavilion and Opera House.—Manager, Mr. W. Payne.—Mr. Evelyn A'Dell's company is here this week in *His Sister's Honour* and *The Romany's Revenge*. The former was presented on Monday to a large and enthusiastic audience. Mr. Evelyn A'Dell showed histrionic ability in his interpretation of Frank Stanley; Mr. Walter Wilson was thoroughly artistic as the villain, Sir Richard Redvers; Mr. Willie Barratt convulsed the house with laughter by his humorous impersonation of Timothy Timid; Mr. P. O'Brien was a praiseworthy Dr. Godfrey; and Mr. S. Verner's P.-C. Worthie is entitled to high encomiums; Dora Stanley was charmingly portrayed by Miss Flora Leslie; Miss Ethel Ashleigh showed exceptional talent as Ivy Merton; and Miss Molly Aitkins was decidedly comical as Dora's maid.

WEYMOUTH. — Pavilion Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. R. Wallis.—Miss Florence Glossop-Harris's Shakespearean company is producing a selection of Shakespeare's plays, and on Tuesday a large and appreciative audience witnessed *Romeo and Juliet*, Mr. Frank Cellier and Miss F. G. Harris appearing to great advantage in the principal parts; Mr. Eugene Wellesley played Mercutio with good effect, and Mr. Murray Kinnell was very good as Paris; Friar Lawrence was capitally played by Mr. Francis Roberts; Tybalt was capably represented by Mr. Arthur Seaton; Capulet and Lady Capulet were effectively interpreted by Mr. A. D. Layland and Miss Gertrude Tate; and Juliet's Nurse was beautifully played by Miss Gertrude Gilbert. The other characters in the play were artistically represented.

WIDNES.—Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Jas. Kiddie; Secretary, Mr. Tom Swinton.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company is here this week with *The Village Blacksmith*, a vigorous drama which makes a strong appeal to Lancashire taste. Mr. Livesey draws a fine portrait of John Strong; Mr. Albert Sinclair is an admirable Captain Leo, and his wrestling scene with Strong is naturally and cleverly performed; Mr. Edwin Maydew is well suited to the part of Lucas Marler; Mr. Thomas E. Marshall as Jeremiah Parkins is responsible for good comedy work, and Miss Florence Dooley as Sal Parkins lends valuable assistance; the Billy Twigg of Mr. Fred Haming is one of the successes of the evening; Miss Edith Giddens is a good Martha Mopps; Miss Cassie le Grande as Ruth Parkin handles a difficult part cleverly; Miss Maggie Edwards is a winning Kate Strong, and Miss Kathleen Saunders is charmingly natural as Harry Strong.

WIGAN.—Royal Court Theatre.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Company.—A welcome return visit is being paid here by Mr. J. Gar Kiddie's talented company in *Babes in the Wood*. Miss Marion Scott is a spirited and charming Robin Hood, and receives every support from Miss Margaret Cathcart, the vivacious Marion; a hearty reception is given to the Sisters Mawdsley, who interpret the part of the Babes to perfection; Mr. Dawson Dewick is remarkably funny as Soft Sammy; while Mr. Mark Stuart deserves special praise as Araminta; Sir Brokah de Pawn finds an able exponent in Mr. T. D. Tandy; and the Messrs. Conan and Doyle never fail in their untiring efforts to amuse as the Robbers.

The Hippodrome.—Proprietors, the Wigan Entertainments Co.—Tom and Marie Motramo top the bill here in a musical comedy sketch, *Do You Reverse?* which creates roars of laughter from start to finish; the Daunton Shaw troupe give an exceptionally smart cycling performance, their efforts being highly applauded; Hayes and Meritt display much ability as bouncing trampolinists; Cliff Ryland's stories provoke much merriment; and Dancit and Ernest Clifford dance themselves into favour; Alpho is a ventriloquist of much merit; and the sketch given by Pete and Minnie Lee is also very amusing; the Les Bornes are truly acrobatic wonders; while Jack Truman and Marie Liston cause quite an ovation with their songs.

The Empire.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Co.; Manager, Mr. H. C. Woon.—Some interesting films are to be seen at this popular place of amusement. The chief spools are The Road to Ruin and Richard II.; others none the less instructive are The Dog and Pipe, The Great Bear Hunt, A Soldier's Heroism, Coney Island by Day and Night &c. The usual diverting turn is supplied by D. W. Watson, who proves himself to be a clever cornet and post-horn artist.

WOLVERHAMPTON. — Theatre Royal. — Managing-Director, Mr. Charles Barnard; Resident-Manager, Mr. Gerald Spencer.—Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson's company is here this week in the romantic play *The King and the Unknown Woman*. Mr. James Stillwell presents a forceful picture as the hero, Prince Loris, and his rival Prince Menski proves a formidable opponent in the hands of Mr. Stephen E. Scanlan, who is ably assisted by Miss Muriel Inglis as Countess Melveitch; Mr. W. R. Winning is a good General Platz; and Mr. Cyril Harrison gives an easy and natural performance of Captain Gara; Miss F. Conyers Radcliffe makes an excellent impression as the heroine Zora; Miss Norma Dumayne is an interesting Else; and Mr. William E. Passmore as Corporal Stack and Miss Cissie Podmore as Schnapps provide plenty of fun. The play is well staged, the uniforms being particularly handsome.

Empire Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frank Weston.—Foremost in the bill this week is Mr. Arthur Lennard. He shines most prominently in "One of the brave old guard," which fairly captivates the house. Another favourite is Harriett Vernon, who presents new songs with all her old charm; Harry Friskey introduces several novel items in his juggling entertainment; Burley and Green are smart acrobatic eccentrics; and Leslie Race, vocal comedian, the Sisters Ford, duettists and dancers, and Will English, in coon songs are also in the bill.

WORKINGTON. — Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Falconer Jackes.—A good set of pictures this week include Mr. Jaunty's Reception Day and Evil Spirit of the Boarding School. Variety is ably represented by A. G. Spry with song, dance, and stories; Mr. Ted E. Lucknow is a musical turn; and Renson and Waite are a pair of keen Yorkshire humorists, well worth watching.

Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr McKenzie Morgan.—The pictures are charming. Mr. Hefron, a good old comic, is very well received; Miss Edna West is a charming vocalist; and the two Morellis, with their hand and foot bells strike original notes and secure rounds of applause.

WORTHING.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold.—On the first three evenings Dickie Clare's company presented *Lucky Liza*. Mr. Dickie Clare, in the triple parts of Silas Slim, the Judge, and the French waiter, put in excellent work; Miss Vesta Brownie, in the title-rôle, was successful; Mr. T. W. Benson was an effective Peter Pettitoe; Mr. Martin Alwyne as Paul Pettitoe deserved special commendation; the Misses Louie Astor, Lily Bell, and Edna Evelyn gave great satisfaction; and Miss Evelyn Wood well portrayed the part of Sadie Potts. On Thursday Charles Constant's company appeared in *Blue Beard*.

WREXHAM.—Empire Music Hall.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Jno. J. Scott. This week the Carr Loates company, in a series of "tabloid dramas," has attracted good houses, the artists being Carr Loates, Cissy Milford, W. H. Irving, Cissy Carter, Daisy Jago, W. Melvyn, J. O. Knight, and Fred Overton. The company is an excellent one all round, and the performances have proved highly successful.

YORK.—Royal.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—Mr. George Alexander's company is here in *The Thief*. As Marise Chelford Miss May Congdon is seen to the greatest possible advantage, and her reception has been most cordial; Mr. Grendon Bently imparts rare skill into his impersonation of Richard Chelford, a part affording him ample opportunity; Mr. Alfred Lugg does admirably as Harry Leyton, playing a difficult rôle with much skill; as Isabel Leyton Miss Mary Dibley gives a delightful performance, and Mr. Gerald Ames is seen to advantage as Raymond Leyton, an exacting part which gives evidence of careful study.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brooke.—There is a strong company here, headed by Mr. Bert Wickham, whose feats of strength have astonished crowded houses. Relwyskow, light-weight champion wrestler, has also proved a distinct attraction, and has secured applause; Ruby Norton, who is a pleasant singer of taking songs, has been well received, as has also Miss Julia Reeve, a dainty comedienne with a racy, taking style; the performance of the American Pattersons is both clever and wonderful; Corcoran Brothers are adept manipulators of various wind instruments; the Ormesby Quartette sing in first-rate style; Bert and Dora indulge in some amusing patter, which is well received, and Stratton Mills and company in an absurdity entitled *Ananias II.*, contribute in a large degree to the evening's enjoyment.

The sixtieth annual report of the Prudential Assurance Company, Limited, for the year 1908, shows that decided progress has been made by this popular company. The number of policies issued during the year in the Ordinary branch was 80,379, assuring the sum of £7,614,898, and producing a new annual premium income of £440,376. The premiums received for the same period were £4,616,337, being an increase of £135,960 over the previous year. The number of deaths was 8,389, and 15,322 endowment assurances matured, the claims of the year amounting to £2,812,962. The number of policies in force at the end of the year was 866,797. The premiums in the Industrial branch were £6,925,755, being an increase of £264,124. The claims of the year amounted to £2,670,345, including £72,696, the proportion of bonus paid since the date of the last annual meeting. The number of claims and surrenders, including 4,355 endowment assurances matured, was 310,722. The total number of policies in force at the end of the year was 17,963,127, and their average exceeded 11¼ years. The assets of the company, in both branches, as shown in the balance-sheet, are £71,958,859, being an increase of £3,952,575 over those of 1907. The directors announce an increase in the Industrial branch bonus, in which all policies of over five years' duration which become claims either by death or maturity of endowment from March 5, 1909, to March 3, 1910, both dates inclusive, will participate.

The "flying" company of *Dolly Reforming Herself*, under the direction of Messrs. Jerrard Grant Allen and Geoffroy Besant, gave a matinée and an evening performance last Saturday at the Ipswich Lyceum, and in spite of the wintry weather two appreciative houses assembled. At the end of Act III. no less than eight curtains were demanded.

"RAGS."

A Western American Musical Drama, Produced at the Prince's Theatre, Horwich, on Monday, March 1.

Brant Yorel ..... Mr. Edward Leroy
Major Timothy Seymour .. Mr. Chas. E. Lambert
Charles Kingston ..... Mr. F. E. Chabot
Pedro Valasquez ..... Mr. Frank Wheatley
Joe Crossley ..... Mr. Arthur Saunders
Jim Burgess ..... Mr. Alfred Gordon-Dobb
George Washington ..... Mr. Alfred Lafolle
Sheriff Wilson ..... Mr. Martin J. Moar
Richard Kent ..... Mr. Lewis Clarke
Esme Deering ..... Miss Hilda May
Mrs. Timothy Seymour .... Miss Louie Walton
Leonora Seymour ..... Miss Blanche Leroy

(from our own correspondent.)

The above play is a happy combination of drama, comedy, and variety, and is, moreover, crowded with incidents of an exciting character which occur in a remote quarter of North-West America. The first act opens outside the Lone Star Hotel, where Pedro Valasquez and his accomplice, Joe Crossley, are negotiating with Kent, the speculator, for the sale of their land. This land, however, is not legally theirs to sell, as it really belongs to a certain Charles Kingston, who had left the neighbourhood many years ago and was supposed to be dead. Major Timothy Seymour, a widower, and owner of the Lone Star Hotel, returns from San Francisco with his new wife and his daughter "Rags," together with a gentleman whom he introduces as Charles Kingston. The latter explains that many years ago he bought up thousands of acres of land in the vicinity, which was at that time nothing more than a wilderness, trusting to the future to turn it into a profitable speculation. He has returned to find his hopes realised, many having settled on his land, and he has come to take possession of his own. This news causes much anger and ill-will among the settlers, Pedro Valasquez in particular. The only man who is not antagonistic to his claim is Brant Yorel, a half-bred Indian, who has settled on the land, and whom Kingston discovers to be his son by an Indian woman he had secretly married and deserted. Kingston, without disclosing his identity, wishes to atone for his deed, but finds that Yorel is full of vengeance against the man who wronged his mother. Kingston is thrown from the cliffs by Pedro Valasquez, who fastens the crime on Brant Yorel. The latter succeeds in escaping from the lynchers and rushing into the house. The mob, headed by Valasquez, are about to follow, when "Rags" appears at the door and keeps them at bay with a pair of revolvers.

Act 2 displays the interior of the Lone Star Hotel, where Brant Yorel is concealed. Valasquez, who is in love with "Rags," asks her to become his wife, but she refuses, and learning that it is Brant Yorel whom she favours, he swears vengeance on him. The sheriff and men arrive with a search warrant, but are induced to accept of the Major's hospitality before commencing their duty, and while they are at table Yorel, disguised as the negro servant, effects his escape.

Act 3 takes us back to the exterior of the hotel. The Major is in sore straits, and has borrowed 2,000 dollars from Valasquez, who intends to sell him up. Yorel, disguised as a Jewish pedlar, returns and beg "Rags" to go away with him. "Rags" agrees, and leaves home immediately. Subsequently Velasquez induces the Major to play cards, with "Rags" as the stake on the one hand and the receipt for 2,000 dollars on the other. The Major wins, and thereby discharges his liability to Pedro.

The last act passes in a hunter's deserted hut in the Rockies, where Yorel has taken "Rags." While Yorel goes out for food, an old man, wounded and half-starved, crawls to the hut for refuge. It is Charles Kingston, who, after a miraculous escape, was washed ashore near this spot. Yorel can now prove his innocence, but Pedro and Crossley discover both the old man and "Rags," and bind and gag them. The Major, who is searching for his daughter, is waylaid by Pedro, and when Yorel returns he, too, is seized and bound. The lynchers have their prey, and are about to string him up, when the Sheriff arrives and demands Yorel as a prisoner for the murder of Kingston, who is promptly brought forward as convincing proof of Yorel's innocence. Pedro, baffled, rushes at Yorel, and after a very thrilling and exciting knife duel, Pedro is killed.

Mr. Edward Leroy's portrayal of the half-breed, Brant Yorel, is a very fine conception, and his earnestness and manly bearing received due recognition at the hands of the audience. Mr. Chas. E. Lambert's Major Timothy Seymour is a typical Yankee, full of dry humour and quaint expression. Mr. F. E. Chabot as Kingston, the landowner, has a small part, to which he does full justice. Mr. Frank Wheatley as Pedro Valasquez displays throughout the desperate unscrupulous villain, and is ably assisted by Mr. Arthur Saunders as Joe Crossley, a type of scoundrel common to the district. Mr. Alfred Gordon-Dobb also scores as Jim Burgess, a Western tough ready to lynch anyone. Mr. Alfred Lafolle, as the nigger George Washington, keeps the audience highly amused. He also scores heavily with his sand and buck-dancing and coon singing. Sheriff Wilson has a capital exponent in Mr. Martin J. Moar, his duties being well carried out. Miss Hilda May makes a charming Esme Deering, a Boston belle, and captivated the audience with her dancing and singing. Miss Louie Walton's impersonation of Mrs. Timothy Seymour, the Major's new wife, is brimful of genuine comedy. Miss Blanche Leroy gives a most artistic rendering of the title-rôle, "Rags," known as "the pet of the gulch," and her singing is of a high order.

ACTORS' UNION.

The usual committee meeting of the Actors' Union was held at 49, Bedford-street, W.C., on the 26th ult., and the following members of the committee were present:—George H. Child (chair), Cecil G. Calvert, J. W. Braithwaite, Walter L. Rignold, H. Naylor Grimson, Langford Reed, Frank Gerald, and Kenneth Blackmore (secretary).

Communications were received during the week from the following committeemen:—Messrs. Paul Lovett, J. Hastings Batson, Jerrold Heather, F. Rawson Buckley, James English, Royce Milton.

It was stated that Mr. Walter L. Rignold would deliver an address on actors' organisation at the weekly meeting at Hummums Hotel, Covent Garden, and that members of the theatrical profession were cordially invited.

A manager was reported as bogus to the Secretary, and he was instructed to remove his name from the engagement board, the manager in question having applied to the Union for artists.

Mr. Langford Reed proposed and Mr. Gerald seconded, that a cricket club be formed in connection with the Union, and that the matter be left in the hands of Messrs. Reed and Rignold.

On Monday, the F. R. Benson's Shakespearean Company (South) presented the *Merry Wives of Windsor* in the Temperance Hall, Pembroke. Mr. Baliol Holloway gave a fine interpretation of Sir John Falstaff; Mr. Herbert Lester as Sir Hugh Evans was well placed; as also was Mr. Burgess Barratt as Dr. Caius; Mr. Charles Warburton and Mr. John Cairns as Ford and Page were both good; Mr. Victor Hardy as Slender was successful; Mr. Charles Maunsell played Fenton in good style; Mr. Frank G. Weir making a fitting Shallow. Miss Emil Leslie enacted Mrs. Ford in a thoroughly capable manner; Miss Constance Bromley as Mrs. Page being also effective; and credit is due to Miss Agnes Ray as Anne Page, and to Miss Dorothy White as Mistress Quickly.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

(from our own correspondent.)

BERLIN, Thursday, Feb. 25.—We have had a paucity of novelties during the past week, and double quantity is announced for next. The most amusing piece in last week's bill was a three-act farce entitled *Rechts Herum*, by Herr Hans Gaus, which was produced at the Schiller, O., on Friday, meeting with an enthusiastic reception. The action passes in a tiny town somewhere in South Germany, the name of which is the euphonious one of Schneuzelswerth. To all appearance the leading citizens are models of virtue and piety, while inwardly, and on the quiet, they are the proverbial ravening wolves. The good old priest has the imprudent habit of committing to paper the sins of his flock, as told under the seal of the confessional, and he possesses a stack of these uncanny documents. When the holy man is gathered to his fathers, his household goods are sold, and a pile of paper is bought up by the town butcher. The consequences are disastrous. Innocent portions of sausage are found to be wrapped up in a register of somebody's sins, and when the fact leaks out the news spreads like wildfire through the little town. There is a perfect run upon the happy butcher, who never in the whole course of his career did so much trade in "Wurst," and he rejoices to think his wares are so well appreciated. The smart young journalist—that person we are so familiar with in pieces of this kind—is here, too, Dr. Paul Freihold, editor of the Schneuzelswerth *Intelligenzblatt*, who comes to the bottom of the run on sausage, and proceeds to revenge himself for various slights put upon him. Freihold, being opposed by nature and principle to hypocrisy, has been often treated with contumely by the burgomaster—an arch-hypocrite—and his satellites, and his opportunity has now come. He pretends he has the list of sins in his possession, and while severely cross-questioning the frightened sinners draws from their own lips the most damning evidence against them. This scene is particularly comical, causing roars of laughter from all parts of the house. Of course, each criminal gets his share of punishment meted out to him by the avenging hands of the young editor, and equally, of course, all ends as it should. The acting was remarkably vivacious, author and artists being called repeatedly in response to most hearty applause. The only thing to be objected to in the merry play is the title, which is misleading. "Eyes right" is intended by the author to mean that we should look towards the bright side of life, whereas the uninitiated German would certainly associate it with things military.

At the Friedrich Wilhelm Städtisches a very old piece has been revived after an interval of years, and with every appearance of success. It is Barnay's adaptation of Dumas's *Kean*, which enjoyed an almost unprecedented run at the Berliner Theatre a dozen or more years ago, when Herr Barnay was manager there, and he himself played the name-part. It exercised its old fascination on the large audience again last week. Herr Rudolph Werner gave the part of Kean in excellent manner; Herren Sarnow and Holthaus were good as the Prince of Wales and Count Coefeld; and an admirable piece of acting was the Saloman of Herr Arnold.

Hebbel's comedy *Der Diamant*—a work that is, wisely enough, very seldom given—was performed on Monday at the New Schauspielhaus. It was to celebrate the jubilee of one of the principal actors of the company—Herr Ernst Arndt, who has been before the public now twenty-five years. He, of course, gave the important rôle of Benjamin, the Jew, who swallows the stolen diamond. The story of the vicissitudes of the precious jewel is not to everyone's taste, and the play cannot compare in any way with the other works of the famous dramatist. The audience, however, who had turned up in great numbers to honour a favourite artist, were indulgent, and applauded cordially. Kleist's ever-popular comedy, *Der Zerbrochene Krug*, with Herr Arndt in the rôle of the village magistrate Adam, followed, making its customary mark.

Dr. Paul Lindau, who has succeeded Herr Barnay at the Royal Schauspielhaus in the position of director, made his début very successfully on Thursday last by the selection of Hauptmann's charming and fantastic play, *Die versunkene Glocke*. The idea was all the happier from the fact that the piece has never been given before in this theatre, while a long interval has elapsed since its performance at the Lessing. It made an admirable impression, the interpretation being for the most part very good. Fräulein Somary—a young actress recently engaged—was, however, not equal to the rôle of Rautendelein, and sad memories of Frau Agnes Sorma's delightful interpretation were recalled by many in the audience. The part of Heinrich was excellently rendered by Herr Sommerstorff; and Dr. Max Pohl was extremely good and judicious in the rôle of Nickelmann. That the play was beautifully staged it is superfluous to mention.

Mr. and Mrs. Maclennan have returned from their London season, and commenced their duties at the Royal Opera on Friday with *Madama Butterfly*. Mrs. Maclennan is cast for a new rôle this week, that of the Daughter of the Regiment.

I hear from Dresden that, in consequence of the terrible exertion demanded by *Elektra*, Herr Von Schuch, the chief conductor at the Royal Opera, has sprained the muscles of his right arm, and will be forced to take a long rest. A more drastic proof of this forceful composition could hardly be given.

"IM KLUBSESSEL,"

Farce, in Three Acts, by MM. Karl Roessler and Ludwig Heller, Produced at the Lustspielhaus, Feb. 27.

Johann Georg ..... Herr Schonfeld
Johann Christoph ..... Herr Schindler
Klaus ..... Herr Bach
Klemtine ..... Fraulein Hiller
Sara ..... Fraulein Cerigioli
Malwine ..... Fraulein Marda
Stephanie ..... Fraulein Winckler
Elisabeth ..... Fraulein Limburg Vogel
Vogelsang ..... Herr Impekoven
Koch ..... Herr Paulmuller
Auctionator ..... Herr Bachwitz
Kunwald ..... Herr Mayerhofer
Emmi ..... Fraulein Richard

BERLIN, Thursday, March 4.—It may at once be stated that the new piece at the Lustspielhaus is an unqualified success. Not that it is very original or that its characters are not familiar to us, but the humour of the whole is so bright and infectious that the audience frequently broke into applause by open stage. The capital acting, too, aided not a little the success, and the artists were called with the authors times innumerable. A "klubsessel," it must be premised, is one of those exceptionally comfortable morocco leather armchairs usually to be found in men's clubs. It is to this article of luxury that Johann Georg, Count of Tata-Lannatch, wishes to liken his life, which is certainly—as far as a super-optimistic nature can make it—utterly devoid of clouds. The Count and his son Johann Christoph, and an equally easy-going nephew Lieutenant Klaus, are a very charming trio of good-for-nothings, and it is not to be wondered at that the family castle comes under the hammer at last. The purchaser is a fascinating young lady named Sara, who comes over with her governess-companion from England to try to convert the frivolous Counts, father and son. These are no other than Sara's father and brother, her mother—an Englishwoman—having obtained a divorce from Johann Georg and returned to her native country, where the little girl was born. The Count's delight at finding a pretty daughter of whose existence he had no idea is great, more especially as she has inherited her mother's large fortune. Malwine Eldredge, the companion, at whose instigation Sara has come over to Germany to "save" her father, is depicted as such a virago (she is an advanced suffragette, teetotaler, &c.) that it is no wonder that the girl is more attracted by her newly-found relatives. The Count takes refuge in a hydro for a while, which provides the authors with good opportunity for some capital caricatures, notably one Colombus Vogelsang, a barefoot-walker; but ultimately our amiable hero marries a wealthy widow, who has been courted by father and son, and could not make up her mind for a long time. Pretty Sara falls a victim to the smart officer cousin, and all ends happily, although nobody is "converted." The paucity of the plot is atoned for by the characters, which are all amusing, and by the particularly bright dialogue. There is little doubt that *Im Klubsessel* will enjoy a lengthy run.

Nestroy's laughable farce-burlesque, *Revolution in Krähwinkel*, has passed its hundredth performance, and still continues to draw well. The management of the Deutsches may be congratulated upon their good business with this antique piece, which could give many a modern farce points.

"Klein Eyolf" has been given at the Lessing after a long interval as number two of the Ibsen Cycle. This most enigmatical of all the works that have proceeded from the pen of the "Northern Wizard" could never in the nature of things become popular, but that it has its interesting moments nobody would wish to deny. The acting was exemplary, a new member of the company, Fräulein Lossen, of the Munich Court Theatre, giving the rôle of Asta, one of the most sympathetic impersonations ever seen in this theatre. Fräulein Triesch's Rita and Herr Sauer's Allmers are too well known to need description; they are among the best pieces of acting on record, and Dr. Brahm had mounted the work in his customary tasteful style.

Madame Meta Illing left for London on Saturday to complete arrangements for the English-American Theatre in Germany. The season commences at the end of May in the Wiesbaden Court Theatre, and ends in some eight or nine months at Bremen. Engagements have been made for the company to appear during this time at Dresden, Hamburg, Cologne, Bonn, Frankfort, Breslau, Vienna, and many other places. In Berlin the theatre for scientific purposes known as the Urania has been placed by the authorities at Madame Illing's disposal.

News comes from America that Herr Berger, the first baritone of our Royal Opera, turns out to be a tenor, and a tenor who is going to astonish the world. The artist—whose voice has always been of a most beautiful quality—went on a short tour to the States (by special permission of Count Hülsen) to study with a famous teacher, whose discovery it is that the former Berlin and Bayreuth baritone is a tenor. Herr Berger is already termed by his professor the "German Caruso," and he is coming home to Berlin to sing the parts of Siegfried, Lohengrin, and others at the Royal Opera very shortly.

THEATRICAL FOOTBALL.

When members of the theatrical profession receive a "call" for charity, the services of a call-boy are not required; they are willing and ever ready to give every assistance possible. This spirit has been strongly in evidence during the present pantomime season in Birmingham, and Tuesday was the day fixed for the very latest effort for charity. It took the form of a football carnival, at Villa Park, the headquarters of the Aston Villa Football Club. During the morning the sun shone brilliantly, but half an hour before the commencement of the proceedings snow clouds began to gather, and threatened to spoil the "gate." Fortunately, however, well over 5,000 spectators had assembled before a blinding snowstorm set in. This happened during the progress of the game between the Aston Villa and Birmingham teams, and the twenty-two pantomime artists who were donning their respective lovelty costumes and the onlookers saw that the subsequent match between the Villa team and the performers would be seriously interfered with. There was joy in the camp, however, and hail, snow, thunder, and lightning would not have damped the spirits of the theatrical footballers. The Villa-Birmingham match over, Mr. John Power (Theatre Royal), in character, "The Last of the Brandies," led on "the boys," and there was wild cheering and much laughter when the players, in ludicrous costumes, commenced to run wild on the snow-covered ground. Mr. Eric Campbell (Theatre Royal) made an excellent 18st prize Baby, with curls and pinafore and short white socks; Mr. Jay Laurier (Prince of Wales's) was in sacking; Mr. G. H. Elliott (Prince of Wales's), was not the chocolate coloured coon, but he stuck to the old coon hat; Stephens and Rennion (Alexandra Theatre) copied their stage costumes, and one of the funniest incidents of the afternoon was when Mr. Rennion pushed the ball down his trousers and rushed through the Villa goal. Drew and Alders (Theatre Royal) were the comical sailors again; Mr. F. Blythe (Alexandra) appeared as the Baron; and George Penn (Alexandra) as an Irish Yiddisher. Mr. Keith Graham (Prince of Wales's) was the policeman, and had a very busy time arresting the Villa players in turn and marching them off the ground, until only the theatrical representatives remained, and then—well, they could not score. Nobody appeared to know the correct score at the finish, and nobody seemed to care. It was a farce from beginning to end, and was thoroughly enjoyed. Two other incidents must be mentioned. Miss Hetty King, the popular Boy Blue in the Prince of Wales's pantomime, had been advertised to kick off, and she bravely faced the snow blizzard and gracefully performed the "ceremony," to the accompaniment of loud cheers. Tom Foy (Theatre Royal) led his favourite donkey on to the field, but the Villa players objected to "Neddie" acting as goalkeeper. He was indignant and very stubborn until Tom tempted him with a piece of sugar and took him in out of the snow.

Considerable interest was manifested in the carnival, the officials of the Villa and Birmingham football clubs and the managers of the respective theatres and halls all taking part in the work of organisation. Amongst those present were Mr. J. F. Graham (Prince of Wales's), Mr. Lester Collingwood (Alexandra), Mr. Philip Rodway (Theatre Royal), Mr. Hy. Johnstone (Prince of Wales's), Mr. A. Matcham (Empire), Mr. A. Bushell (Gaiety), Mr. E. Foster (Grand), Mr. Guest (Alexandra), Mr. Tom E. Murray (Prince of Wales's), and other prominent pantomime artists also witnessed the games. A special compliment must be paid to Mr. Harry Doe for producing the official *Villa News and Record* on the lines of an illustrated pantomime number, the proceeds from the sale of which helped to augment the substantial sum which must have been realised on behalf of charity.

Owing to the indisposition of Miss Kitty Clinton, Miss Georgina Courtnay has been playing principal boy at the Elephant and Castle for several nights.

The artists who will take part in the 5.30 Irish concert on St. Patrick's Day (March 17) at the Crystal Palace will include Miss Annie Bartle, Miss Dora Deveen, Mr. Reginald Brophy, and Mr. W. A. Peterkin.

Presentation.—Mr. Fred Smith, the bill inspector of the Grand Theatre, Swansea, has been presented by Mr. G. P. Fenton, advance manager for the *Sins of Society*, with an elegant silver-mounted partridge walking-stick, suitably inscribed, as a token of his appreciation of the capable way Mr Smith had billed the play.

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MISS DORIS FOOTE.

Miss Doris Foote first faced the footlights at the old Spring Gardens Queen's Theatre, Manchester, at the age of three, when she essayed the part of Little Leah in *Leah*, and received a bouquet with the stems packed with chocolates to mark the event. As memory serves, the next appearance was as Much in *Robin Hood* at the Theatre Royal, Rochdale, under the management of the late Mr. John Foote, at the mature age of five years. Later, engagements followed as Red Riding Hood under the Duval and Elliston management at the Theatre Royal, St. Helens, and as Jack Frost and Fairy Boy at the Theatre Royal, Blackburn, together with children's parts at both theatres, including Prince of Wales, *Richard III.*, and the Duke of York; Jenny in *The Orange Girl*, besides starring engagements as the much-lamented Willie Carlyle. On a tour with the late Mr. Charles Dillon, Miss Foote appeared as Henri in *Belphegor*, and in other rôles. Next came an engagement for small part and chorus at the Theatre Royal, Bath, under the management of Mr. Frederick Neebe. Soon after an opportunity occurred, and Miss Foote took up the character of Cinderella at a moment's notice at the Theatre Royal, West Bromwich, with creditable results.

Next came an engagement as walking lady—"grown up"—under the management of Messrs. Elcock and Hughes at the Skating Rink Theatre, Aberystwyth, followed by a six months' engagement with the late Mr. A. Melville at the Star Theatre, Swansea, which was the forerunner of many appointments under the same management in leading and various lines of business at Swansea, Newport, Bristol, and the Queen's and Grand Theatres, Birmingham. Other experience in pantomime was gained as second boy at the Theatre Royal, Gloucester, and Alice in *Dick Whittington*, at the Theatre Royal, West Hartlepool, under the management of Mr. Charles Darrell; also as the Princess in *Sinbad* at the Theatre Royal, Worcester, under the management of the late Mr. W. Gomersal. Engagements have been fulfilled with the Liverpool Amateur Dramatic Society as Leoni in *The Ladies' Battle;* and with the Workington and the Ilkeston Amateur Dramatic Societies. Next came tours with Mr. Charles Dornton's *Two Orphans* company, as Florette, Louise, and the Sister Superior. At the Theatre Royal, Workington, during the stock season she acted First Chambermaid and Ned Doyle in *Man to Man*, and Patricia Caryglass in *A Mother's Sin*, were among her other parts. Next followed special weeks as Nelly Armroyd, *Lost in London*, at Birmingham and Derby; also in own company at Theatre Royal, Edmonton, 1898. Miss Foote played the irrepressible Bet Dabbs with Mr. W. H. Hallatt

MISS DORIS FOOTE.

for several engagements; Bessie Harman, in *The Wide World*, with Mr. F. Brooke-Warren; lead with Mr. Arthur Carlton in *A Sailor's Honour;* Nancy, *The Manxman*, on Mr. E. Bandmann's tour; Mrs. Dingle, in *A Good Time*, with Mr. George Walton; Gervaise, in *Drink*, with Mr. Charles March; Arte O'Neil, in *The Shaughraun*, with Mr. Leonard Yorke; and leading parts in *The Housebreaker* and *The Better Half*, with Mr. H. Hodgson.

Miss Foote's musical comedy experience includes a six months' engagement in *The Geisha* chorus. This was followed by a long engagement as Polly in *A Message from Mars*. In character parts Miss Foote's only essay was that of the drunken hag, Mother Worrall, in *The Sorrows of Satan*, under the management of Mr. C. W. Somerset on tour; and Priscilla Gedge, in *Captain Fritz*, with Mr. Charles Arnold. Other parts include Eliza Harris, with Mr. Charles Hermann; Jess in *Life*, with Mr. Herbert Barrs; and Beatrice Ferrars, the lead, under the same management. She also played First Chambermaid in production of *A Double Life* at the Metropole, Birkenhead; Esmé, the dumb girl, in *The Hand of Justice;* the Duchess in *Moths*, and Mme. Danglars in Monte Cristo. Stock seasons at Newport, Swansea, Bristol, Workington, Llanelly, embraced parts too numerous to mention, and her career has included a tour as Chambermaid with Mr. Russell Norrie. Her répertoire rôles include those of Osric (*Hamlet*), Player Queen, Lazarillo (*Don Cæsar*), Moya (*Shaughraun*), and Georgina (*Money*).

MISS MABEL MAVIS.

The daughter of an English gentleman, holding an important Government position in India, Miss Mabel Mavis was born in that country. Very early she developed a great fondness and talent for music. At the age of six, so quick was her ear for music that she was able to play "Kathleen Mavourneen" upon the piano, after hearing a military band render it only once. Her parents were desirous that their children should learn everything which might serve them usefully in after-life, so that, with her brothers and sisters, Miss Mavis was early initiated into the arts of horse-riding, swimming, cooking, dressmaking, drawing, and painting, drill, and calisthenics, besides the ordinary curriculum of school life. Her later studies in music were carried out under various masters. At eleven years of age she composed a valse, which was published, and has since written many songs and pieces for the pianoforte, some of which also have been published. She is an accomplished miniature painter, and has executed the "counterfeit presentment" of some of our leading actresses, besides those of many "lay" individuals. But her talents are really shown to the greatest advantage in her stage performances. In addition to being an accomplished pianist, with a thorough knowledge of the theory of music, she has made a speciality of the glassophone (another name for our old friend, the "musical glasses"), which she plays to the accompaniment of an orchestra. Her répertoire likewise includes mandolino solos, playing the mandolino at the back of the head while accompanying herself upon the piano with her feet, playing the piano with right hand alone, with left hand alone, and with the elbows.

At the Empire, Leeds, on one occasion, she drew a crayon sketch-portrait of Lord Hawke with her right hand while playing a solo on the piano with variations with her left. This does not exhaust the list of her stage accomplishments, but will serve to indicate her uncommon powers. It is not many years since she made her first public appearance at a concert in Sydenham. Later, she toured the United Kingdom in association with concert parties, and finally decided to "play a lone hand."

It was while performing at the Hastings Pier Pavilion that Mr. Charles Coborn "discovered" her, so to speak. Having heard that she could give other performances besides her usual work with the glassophone, he persuaded her to give him some specimens of her varied accomplishments. He at once prophesied for her a great

[*Photo by Gibson.*

MISS MABEL MAVIS.

future, and introduced and recommended her to various managers and leading agents, with the result that before long she was engaged in turn by Messrs. Macnaghten, Barrasford, Edwardes, and others, and finally booked the entire Stoll tour. She has also appeared with the greatest success at Mr. Barrasford's halls in Paris and Brussels, and while at the former her services were secured for Monte Carlo and Nice upon very satisfactory terms.

MR. WILLIAM FULLBROOK.

Though born in Waterford, the early portion of Mr. Fullbrook's life was spent in Sussex, and his first appearance was made at the Theatre Royal, Brighton in a quartette of glee singers. He then became associated with the old Swiss Gardens, Shoreham, playing stock business, &c. Returning to the Brighton Royal for small parts, general understudy, and harlequin, Mr. Fullbrook thus gained a varied experience in a short space of time, and held a similar position for the two following seasons.

In the meantime Mr. Fullbrook toured in *La Cigale, Little Christopher Columbus, The Gay Grisette, Bilberry of Tilbury, Orlando Dando, The Lady Slavey*, &c. During the latter tour he was engaged by Messrs. Howard and Wyndham to appear as the Emperor in Aladdin at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, where he first met the inimitable comedian Mr. Harry Tate, with whom he was associated for over five years, supporting the principal, and also playing Mr. Tate's own parts in the side-splitting concoctions, *Motoring, Fishing*, and *Golfing* in London and the provinces. During this period Mr. Fullbrook also sustained various characters in pantomime for five seasons under the management of Mr. J. F. Elliston. During the last of these engagements Mr. Fullbrook produced his skit *Astronomy*, with which he afterwards toured the variety theatres, fulfilling engagements on the Stoll tour, Barrasford tour, &c. Mr. Fullbrook afterwards discharged special engagements at the London Hippodrome, to create the principal comedy parts in *The Avalanche* and *Honeyland*, in which productions he appeared with conspicuous success. On ter-

[*Photo by Bacon and Son.*

MR. WILLIAM FULLBROOK.

minating his engagement at the London Hippodrome, Mr. Fullbrook resumed the interrupted *Astronomy* tour. He has just concluded a successful run as Abanazar in Mr. Elliston's *Aladdin* pantomime at the Grand Theatre, Nottingham.

MR. CYPRIAN H. MATTHEWS.

Born in Glasgow, Aug. 4, 1873, Mr. Cyprian H. Matthews was originally intended for the medical profession; but coming of an old theatrical family, with the parental instinct strong within him, he drifted naturally on to the stage at the beginning of 1896. His first professional *entré* was made at the old Theatre Royal, Ayr, under the management of the late Mr. Frank Pierce—a six months' stock season, playing four, five, and six pieces and farces weekly, during which time he went on for anything, from carrying a banner to juvenile lead. Mr. Matthews' next venture was a tour with his uncle, Mr. J. A. Hybert, as Phineas Fletcher in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Two seasons followed at the North Pier, Scarborough, and Pier Pavilion, Portobello, playing and producing light sketches under the management of Mr. Joseph Ellis. Then Mr. Rothbury Evans engaged him as his leading man in a round of répertoire, from rough drama to the classical, and his next engagement was with the late Mr. F. A. Scudamore for the heavy part in *Against the Tide*. Following this came a round of Irish drama as juvenile lead with Mr. Leonard Yorke; a tour with Mr. Henry Rutland as juvenile lead in *The Woman in Black;* his first engagement with Mr. Henry E. Chattell as juvenile lead in *When London Sleeps;* a tour with the late Mr. Osmond Tearle in Shakespeare and old English comedy; a stock season in Glasgow; three tours with Mr. Henry Swinerd as stage-manager and heavy lead, and one tour playing the baritone part in his musical play, *Dare-Devil Dorothy*. Mr. Matthews was next secured by Mr. Frank E. Burdett as juvenile lead in *Denounced* for two tours, and later by Messrs. C. and F. Renad as light comedy lead and stage-management in their *Swiss Express* company. A summer tour with Messrs. Bailey and Cooper as heavy lead in *A Girl of To-day* was followed by two tours with Miss Olga Audré, supporting her as lead in *The Mockery of Marriage;* and a return engagement with Mr. Henry E. Chattell as juvenile lead in *Between Two Women*. After a short tour with Mr. C. Finch Hatton, in *From Scotland Yard*, he was re-engaged by the same gentleman to manage and play heavy lead in his first tour of *The Ladder of Life*. A stock season in Edinburgh over, Mr. Matthews was once again retained by Mr. Henry E. Chattell for six successive tours, in the course of which he appeared as Harold Wilson in *Tommy Atkins*, as Tigellinus in *The Sign of the Cross*, Captain Rodney Haynes in *When London Sleeps*, and Captain Rudolph von Scarsbruck in *The Midnight Wedding*, a part which he is still playing on his third tour. The Tigellinus engagement was a particularly eventful one for Mr. Matthews, as it was at that time he first met his wife, Miss May Beatrice, now playing pantomime at the Princess's Theatre, Glasgow. Some of the principal rôles he has essayed in répertoire and stock are Romeo, David Garrick, Charles Surface (*The School for Scandal*), Humpy Logan (*Master and Man*), Svengali (*Trilby*), Jack Yeulett (*Hoodman Blind*), Matthias (*The Bells*), Lord Windermere (*Lady Windermere's Fan*), Macari (*Called Back*), Talbot (*Our Boys*), Harry O'Mailley (*The English Rose*), Claude Melnotte (*The Lady of Lyons*), Ingomar, Shylock (*The Merchant of Venice*), George D'Alroy (*Caste*), Prince (*Ours*), Hawkshaw (*Ticket-of-Leave Man*), Tom Cooper (*Shadows of a Great City*), Captain Mollineaux (*The*

MR. CYPRIAN H. MATTHEWS.

Shaughraun), Beamish McCoul (*Arrah-na-Pogue*), Hardress Cregan (*Colleen Bawn*), Levison (*East Lynne*), Martin Preston (*Golden Plough*), title-rôle *Paul Kauvar*, title-rôle *The Curate*, Philip Selwyn (*A Fool's Paradise*), &c. Mr. Matthews' favourite recreations are music (the violin), walking, sculling, fishing, and golfing.

MISS DORA LYRIC.

Once upon a time, as the story-books say, a bonny little fair-haired lassie was skipping down a country lane on the outskirts of Cardiff. She was singing merrily, and apparently took no heed of a clerical-looking gentleman who approached her. An exchange of words with the dainty maid soon revealed her name and address, and on the morrow the minister called upon her parents, and gained their permission for her to sing in the choir at his church. This event gave Miss Dora Lyric, now one of London's most popular chorus singers, her first opportunity of singing before a public assembly. A few years later still found her attached to the choir, but time had wrought an improvement in her voice.

There was a talk of producing a big pantomime in Cardiff, and the services of the little Dora were sought for a juvenile part. It was then the turn of the parents, being good, proper church people, to ask permission of the clergyman for her to appear in this pantomime, and he consented. This led to a highly successful engagement for the youthful actress. Her charm, natural abandon, and pleasant ways won the admiration of all. The village choir soon lost a favourite, and the stage gained a promising recruit. After playing in a number of other productions, both light comedy and drama, she joined the Lyrics, a troupe of lady singers, making it a quartette. As the Four Lyrics they came to London, and opened at Hammersmith, making a hit. As such she played at Portsmouth, where she first met Mr. Walter Bentley, who, as a comedian, was playing on the same bill. The introduction quickly ripened to more than friendship, and in May next Mr. and Mrs. Bentley will celebrate the thirteenth year of their marriage. After some time Miss Lyric accepted a variety engagement as a single turn at Sheffield, which secured her the whole of the Macnaghten tour, then three halls, and she saw that as a single turn she would show to better advantage.

That about this period Mr. Bentley evinced no particular admiration of his wife as a variety artist is clearly enough shown by the fact that when he became an agent soon after their marriage, he did not even include her in his list of clients. Another agent worked for her. Till this day Mr. Bentley admits that it was Mr. J. L. Graydon who first opened his eyes to her real talent. This was at the Alhambra, Brighton. Then, and then only, did he realise that he had wed a clever artist as well as a bonny wife, and since this awakening Miss Lyric has remained a standing star of the constellation which Mr. Bentley offers to managers. Through his agency this footlight favourite holds contracts for many thousands of pounds, running into 1915, at every hall of note in Great Britain. Always beautifully gowned, Miss Lyric delivers her songs with ingratiating freshness, and she has the knack of inducing her audience to join in her always catchy choruses, without being asked. As a judge of songs, Miss Lyric is most perspicacious. Her intuitiveness in this direction has stood her in good stead, as a bare mention of a few of her song successes will prove:—"The shamrock and the rose," "Good-bye, baby," "Your daddy doesn't love you better than mine loves me," "Somebody cares for you." These are some of her earlier ones; and her latest most popular hits are "All that glitters isn't gold," by Castling and B. Scott; "I'll tell Tilly," by Castling and Godfrey; "I'm leaving Monte Carlo," by Harrington and Powell; and "Winkles and watercress," by Alf. Ellerton. Refinement is always the keynote of her répertoire. She is a quick study. When at the Oxford a few weeks back she was asked to sing Feldman's pantomime hit, "If I should plant a tiny seed," on the Friday, and on the following Monday Mr. Blyth Pratt had double-crowns out specially mentioning her appearance in this song.

[*Photo by Charles and Russell.*

MISS DORA LYRIC.

Such a compliment has not been paid to any artist by the Oxford management before.

MR. LEWIS BROUGHTON.

Before adopting the stage as a profession Mr. Lewis Broughton was a very keen amateur, and also did a good deal of concert work. His first real engagement was with Messrs. Machin and Alderson in 1898, when he created the part of Lieut. Pelham in their production of *A Soldier and a Man*. The part was a difficult one for a beginner, as it included a long dying confession. Mr. Broughton, however, studied it on ingenious methods, and got a doctor friend to help him in rehearsing the different voice tones necessary to the presentation of the incident. With this piece Mr. Broughton was for seven months, and he then went to Hastings for a stock season, playing Cornelius Griffin in *Niobe*, Phil Marsden in *One Summer's Day*, Harry Seabrook in *Captain Swift*, and the Hon. Tom Stanhope in *The Glass of Fashion*. An engagement in *The World Against Her* followed, and he then joined Messrs. Morrel and Mouillot, under whose management he toured for about two years, first as Lollius in *A Greek Slave*. A suburban tour of *Alice in Wonderland*, in which he played the March Hare, was succeeded by a tour of *The Geisha*. He was then engaged by Mr. Lionel Rignold to play Fred Bonds in his first tour of *The Wrong Mr. Wright*, combining with it the part of Bonnefoi in *A Model Wife* as a curtain-raiser. Mr. Broughton rejoined Morrel and Mouillot for *Pot-Pourri* at the Avenue, and then toured as Sergt. Davidson in *The Little Minister*. Following this, he was engaged by Messrs. Harrison and Maude to play small parts and understudy at the Haymarket, at which theatre he stayed altogether three years, playing in *The School for Scandal, The Rivals, She Stoops to Conquer*, and *The Little Minister*. He also had a small part in the production of the *Second in Command*, and during the long run of that piece appeared in several important parts as understudy, in two cases for six weeks. During one of the vacations at the Haymarket he again went to Hastings, and played Dr. Maw in *Sweet Lavender*, Ted Morris in *The Prude's Progress*, and the light

MR. LEWIS BROUGHTON.

comedy part in *A Bachelor's Romance*. Returning to the Haymarket, he acted and understudied in *Frocks and Frills* and *Caste*. During the autumn vacation there he was engaged by Mr. Walter Maxwell to play Captain Halliwell in *The Little Minister* for four weeks on tour; and on the re-opening of the Haymarket he acted in *There's Many a Slip* and *The Ghost of Jerry Bundler*. Subsequently he went to the Avenue to play the same part in *Jerry Bundler*, and Welkins in *Brown at Brighton*.

Then followed a tour with Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Sugden as Captain Ardale in *The Second Mrs. Tanqueray*, and other parts in *Hagar* and *Wheels Within Wheels*. Re-engaged by Mr. Walter Maxwell, he played Alfred Stott in *The Lion and the Mouse* for a long tour, and then joined Mr. Cyril Maude for the production of *The Flag Lieutenant* at the Playhouse, playing Captain Penrose. Owing to a previous contract, Mr. Broughton had to leave the Playhouse to undertake the rôle of Lord Kerhill in Mr. Herbert Sleath's company of *A White Man*, and to understudy the lead. This tour continued for five months, and at its conclusion he was secured by Mr. Lyn Harding to play Sergt. Steele in *The Flag Lieutenant*. Mr. Broughton is a Londoner, and his hobby is horticulture. He has a very large garden on Tulse Hill, where he grows roses and chrysanthemums for exhibition.

MISS MILDRED HODSON.

"My wish to become an actress," avows Miss Mildred Hodson, "dates from my sixth year, when I took the part of Fairy Queen in a small play for children; but, though I studied patiently by myself, trying to gain knowledge from various books on elocution, it was not until I was well on in my 'teens' that an opportunity came to join Mr. F. R. Benson's company as a pupil. Then, of course, I revelled in real elocution, dancing, and fencing lessons, and felt my foot was really on the first rung of the ladder of fame when I was given a small part." Her tour lasted seven months, and then, acting on Mr. Benson's advice to get as much experience as possible in a small company, she went into the "fit-ups" in Ireland and Wales, playing leading parts in répertoire—Lady Isabel, Nell Gwyn, &c. Though the change from touring in first-class towns was a striking one, Miss Hodson spent four months very happily, in spite of many strange experiences in the little Irish towns. Once the only accommodation she could get was a kind of loft in a two-roomed cottage—and that she had to share with the landlady! The young actress went into her next engagement—Millie Grace in *The Lady of Ostend*—feeling she had gained something. Then came a season in town under Mr. Otho Stuart's management, followed by stock work with Mr. Arthur Carlton, playing leading parts in the good old plays *Harbour Lights, The Union Jack*, &c.

After some experience in drama with Hardie and Von Leer, Miss Hodson returned to comedy, which she much prefers, and sustained Miss Fotheringay in *Facing the Music*, the title-rôle in *A Country Mouse*, and Phyllis in *When We Were Twenty-one*. The last-mentioned is her favourite part, and the playing of it led to an offer from Mr. Frank Bertram for Margaret in *The Breed of the Treshams*, an engagement she fulfilled during the last two autumn tours, in the meantime playing Grace Pennington in *The New York Idea*, under Mr. Herbert Sleath's management, at the Queen's Theatre, and Mabel in *The Mariners of England* at the Pavilion, Whitechapel. Miss Hodson's favourite recreation is

MISS MILDRED HODSON.

playing golf, though she can only claim to be a beginner. Naturally, too, she is an enthusiastic playgoer.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

An excellent performance of Haydn's Quartette for Strings in G major, which headed the programme of the College concert on Thursday afternoon, Feb. 25, was given by Miss Giulietta Motto, Mr. Thomas Peatfield, Miss Rebecca Clarke, and Mr. Harold Pickett. In one of Schumann's Fantasiestücke for piano and clarionet, Miss Ellen Edwards and Mr. Clifford Foster were entirely successful; and Mr. Harold E. Darke, who played Three Concert Studies for piano of his own composition, had a most hearty reception from the audience. Of the three concert studies, the first, Allegro ma grazioso, proved by far the most attractive. Miss Gladys Coppin sang "The west wind loved the willow," by A. Goring Thomas; and, in the absence through indisposition of Miss Doris Simpson, Mr. John Ireland sang "Two Freebooter Songs" (W. Wallace) with admirable fulness of tone and fervant expression. Another clever vocalist was Miss Edith Leitch, whose fine voice was heard to advantage in "Verborgenbiet" (Hugo Wolf) and "Der Schmied" (Brahms). The last item in the concert of Thursday was Dvorák's Serenade in D minor for two hautboys, two clarionets, two bassoons, three horns, violoncello, and double bass, in which Messrs. H. Halstead, L. H. Fitzgerald, C. Foster, H. P. Draper, W. H. Foote, R. Tupper, A. E. Davin, F. T. Stephens, B. J. Muskett, C. Sharpe, and E. Cruft secured a good interpretation of an interesting work. The accompanists were Miss Constance Stockbridge and Miss Ellen Tuckfield.

"THE SPARE ROOM."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I notice in the papers that a one-act play, entitled *The Spare Room*, has been recently produced at the Criterion Theatre.

I beg leave to state, through your columns, that a one-act play with this title was copyrighted by me at the Town Hall, Crediton, on Oct. 23, 1893, was acted at the Royalty Theatre, London, on June 18th of the same year, and was taken on tour (before *Betsy*) by Messrs. Atwood, Barry, and Clinton's company in 1903.

As it is one of the best-known farces for amateurs, and will shortly be in its third edition, I am naturally unwilling that the title should be used for a similar piece written by somebody else.—Yours faithfully,

LEOPOLD MONTAGUE.

Crediton, Devon, March 2.

By the liberality of Mr. W. Yates Gregory, the new lessee and director of Shrewsbury Theatre Royal and Hippodrome, the entire theatre and its staff were on the evening of the 18th ult. placed at the disposal of the Shrewsbury Amateur Club, for a performance in aid of the funds of the local branch of the St. John Ambulance Society. The gross receipts amounted to £36 12s., a record for any single benefit at this theatre.

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, March 1, the Play by Jerome K. Jerome, entitled

"THE PASSING OF THE THIRD FLOOR BACK."

Mr. Forbes Robertson's tour opened auspiciously at the King's on Monday evening, the house being very crowded and most enthusiastic over the merits of Mr. Jerome's original sermon-play. For the piece is distinctly original, and it is certainly a sermon, preaching for good the whole way through. The inhabitants of the Bloomsbury lodging-house, broadly sketched as they are for stage purposes, with their despicably petty meannesses, are all transformed owing to the spiritual influence exercised by the "Third Floor Back," and their better selves brought uppermost. Mr. Jerome's rich humour is prominent throughout, but it is made subservient to the dominance of the supernatural being whose counsels are so productive of good. It is needless to say that Mr. Forbes Robertson as the "Third Floor Back" fulfils the ideal of the part. His sad but highly intellectual appearance, together with his delivery of the lines entrusted to him, ensure fine acting for the character, and the audience readily appreciates Mr. Robertson's efforts. An excellent performance of the raucous-voiced bookmaker, Joey Wright, is given by Mr. Ernest Hendrie; and Christopher Penny, the artist, is well played by Mr. David Powell. Mr. Ian Robertson is particularly good as Major Tompkins; as Jake Samuels, of the City, that ripe and experienced actor, Mr. Edward Sass, is bound to be successful; and Mr. Wilfred Forster plays Harry Larkcom with capital effect. Miss Gertrude Elliott is seen to much advantage as the slavey, Stasia, effacing her undoubted charms in order to emphasise the humours of the servant. A distinct hit is made by Miss Haidee Wright in the character of Miss Kite ("the painted lady"), her contrasts in make-up and acting meeting with marked approval. Miss Kate Carlyon makes an effective Mrs. Tompkins; and Miss Keith Lytton proves entertaining as Mrs. Percival de Hooley. In the part of Mrs. Sharpe, the landlady, Miss Agnes Thomas wins much praise; and Miss Amy Brandon Thomas exercises much grace and charm as Vivian. Earlier in the evening Mr. Ian Robertson's *A Play in Little* is given, in which the characters are cleverly sustained. On Monday evening the members of the audience were presented with a handsome folio, containing beautiful reproductions of the characters and scenes in the play, by Messrs. Foulsham and Banfield, together with appreciations written by Sir Edward Russell and Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.

On Monday, March 1, the Play,

"LADY FREDERICK."

Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's well-selected company did every justice to this most amusing comedy; and although the leading lady was unfortunately too ill to appear, Miss Rita Ward made a most efficient and capable substitute as Lady Frederick, and her clever and intelligent rendering of a very exacting part caused a continuous ripple of laughter, punctuated by genuine outbursts. Mr. Robert Minster as Parodine Fouldes was excellent, his dry manner, good voice, and faultless delivery making it a pleasure to listen to the crisp lines which fell to the lot of this telling part. The Sir Gerald O'Mara of Mr. W. Barnett Parker was a good conception of a mercurial Irishman in love, and he made the most of his scene in the second act, where he discusses the problem of the education of his unborn family with his fiancée, Rose Carlisle, charmingly acted by Miss Lynn Fontanne. As Lady Mereston Miss Celia Gordon was well suited, and she made the vindictive mother as acceptable as it was possible to do. Mr. E. F. Meads as Lord Mereston, the young marquis in love with Lady Frederick, was very good, and acted naturally and with much restraint, especially in the difficult third act. Mr. Edward Bonfield as Captain Montgomery was excellent, and succeeded in making the character despicable without resort to any melodramatic methods; and Captain Gerald Gambier's experience stood him in good stead in his impersonation of Admiral Carlisle. Miss Phyllis Manners, through the indisposition of Miss Eleanor Delaporte, and the consequent rearranging of some of the characters, cleverly doubled the parts of Mme. Claude, a very British modiste, and Angelique, a very Gallic maid, and was equally good in both rôles. In the small part of Albert, Lady Frederick's footman, Mr. Bruce-Smith was unobtrusively efficient; and Mr. Harry Winton made a very satisfactory Pierre, the waiter at the Monte Carlo Hotel. A pretty little curtain-raiser, *The Peacemaker*, by E. M. Bryant, preceded the comedy, in which Miss Lynn Fontanne and Mr. W. Barnett Parker were a divided married couple, ultimately reconciled by the kindly wiles of a mutual friend (Miss Celia Gordon), assisted by a sympathetic doctor (Mr. Edward Bonfield). Miss Phyllis Manners was amusingly quaint as a parlourmaid.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, March 1, Wallace's Opera,

"MARITANA."

The concluding week of this season's visit of Mr. J. W. Turner's opera company to the Dalston Theatre has proved as successful as the preceding weeks, and lovers of the presentation of operas in English—and their name is legion in North London—are disappointed that the performances are not to be continued for a longer period. Monday evening witnessed a representation of *Maritana*, all the best points in which met with the customary enthusiastic reception. The occasion was noteworthy as being the first time that Mr. Charles Le Sueur, a very popular member of the company, has appeared in the part of Don César de Bazan. He met with a very good reception. Mr. Tom Griffiths was a thoroughly robust Don José, rendering the songs falling to his share with a heartiness that was much appreciated. Mr. Frank Clarke was decidedly interesting as Charles II., King of Spain. Another noteworthy performance was the Marquise de Montifiore of Mr. R. Cummings. This was quite a character-sketch in its way. Mr. P. Newton's Alcade was a careful study in every respect; and Mr. Arthur Fisher's Captain of the Guard was equally satisfactory. Miss Jessie Dennis was, as usual, thoroughly well received in the male character of Lazardio, and her rendering of "In the mansions of the blest" was enthusiastically encored. Miss Maud Esdale was just sufficiently quaint as the Marchioness. As Maritana Miss Kitty Brownless was much appreciated, and was encored for the principal songs. Mr. J. W. Turner's name has been associated during the week with the operas *The Waterman* and *Faust*, and the other works presented have been *The Lily of Killarney*, *Il Trovatore*, *Martha*, *The Daughter of the Regiment*, and *Satanella*.

BROADWAY THEATRE.

On Monday, March 1, the Musical Comedy entitled

"HAVANA."

Musical plays are always popular here, and the members of Mr. George Dance's company had a warm welcome on Monday when they appeared in the charming production entitled *Havana*. Mr. Cecil W. Parke made a dashing Jackson Villiers; the Hon. Frank Charteris was well played by Mr. Bay Russell; Mr. A. Gordon Begg acted well as Bombito; Diego, Hilario, and Alejandro were in the capable hands of Messrs. Herbert Bryan, Harry Campbell, and Clarence Hart; Mr. George Story gave a capital rendering of Don Adolpho, and his song, "The telephone," made a hit. Mr. Tom Seymour was excellent as Reginald; Mr. Mark Lester was very amusing as Nix, and sang "Faces" with good effect. Miss Gladys Guy was excellent as Anita, and her share of dance and song, entitled "A supper table laid for two," in which Mr. Bay Russell also successfully took part, was cleverly done. Miss Daisie Irving is a charming Consuelo, and sang her numbers, especially "I'm a Cuban girl," delightfully. Other parts were attractively filled by Mesdames Helen Langton, Rosa Sullivan, Beryl Gordon, Kathleen Haddon, José Sullivan, Maud Seymour, Elsie Deighton, and Maud Lennard. Mr. James Davis is also included in the cast.

THEATRE ROYAL, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, March 1, the Drama entitled

"CONSCIENCE OF A JUDGE."

There is no lack of strong stirring moments in the *Conscience of a Judge*, but, on the contrary, the authors, Madge Duckworth and Ridgewood Barry, have instilled into their highly interesting play many dramatic and pathetic episodes which are very effectively rendered by the company under the leadership of Mrs. Sam Duckworth, and which gave every satisfaction to the audience on Monday last, and will no doubt continue to do so during the week of their stay here. Mr. Charles Whitlock, who not only looks the part but offers a clever delineation, sustains the character of Herbert Cranstone, a barrister, afterwards the Judge, in a powerful manner, and deserves the approbation which is accorded him. Miss Eva Moss as Jessica Draycott is instinctively pathetic, and essays the rôle with delicacy and feeling, particularly in the scene at the death of her child; Mr. Frank Eaglesfield puts energy into his representation of Sir Edward Mervin, the unscrupulous scoundrel, and acts in forcible fashion; Cecil Bentley is capably played by Mr. Martin Pedler, and the same may be said of Mr. Cecil Renton as Geoffrey Granstone; Mr. Frank Eden is very amusing as Horatio Winter, and makes the most of his opportunities; Mr. Price Evans also supplies comedy relief in the person of John Summers; and is ably assisted by Miss Bessie Frank as Mary Wilson. Ethel Vaughan is daintily undertaken by Miss Mabel Coleman; Miss Mona Dawlish makes a suitable Mrs. Draycott. By no means the least agreeable feature is the acting of Miss Elsie Isaacs as Little Kitty.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, March 1, the Comedy, in Three Acts, by W. Somerset Maugham, entitled

"MRS. DOT."

An excellent company, under the direction of Mr. Percy Hutchison, has been delighting large audiences with the adventures of the rich and fascinating widow, Mrs. Dot, in her endeavours to secure as a husband a man already betrothed to another. The amusing incidents and witty dialogue, together with the excellent acting, provoke continuous merriment, and the charm and interest of the play keep the audience in a state of enthusiasm. In the title-rôle Miss Nancy Beresford scored a decided hit on Monday, when her clever and spirited acting as the fascinating widow kept the house in continual laughter. Miss Emma Hutchison played Lady Sellenger in the true light comedy style, and her capital portraiture won favour by reason of the sincerity of her acting. Miss Ethel Grahame acted prettily as Nellie Sellenger; and Miss Sybil Brooke was excellent as Miss Eliza Macgregor. Mr. Frank Lacey contributed a really funny embodiment of James Blenkinsop, making the utmost use of his opportunities. He shared with Miss Nancy Beresford the honours of the evening. Mr. Hugh Kennedy gave a smart and concise rendering of the part of Gerald Halstane, acting with vigour and earnestness; Mr. Charles A. Staite played Freddie Perkins in a dandified style, and acquitted himself with credit; and minor parts were capably sustained by Messrs. William Midgley, H. Allistoun Samson, K. Brandon, and Frank Leach. The play was preceded by *Her Dearest Friend*, the characters being brightly enacted by Mr. Hugh Kennedy, Miss Sybil Brooke, and Miss Ethel Grahame.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.

On Monday, March 1, the Farce in Three Acts,

"WHEN KNIGHTS WERE BOLD."

Mr. James Welch and his company in *When Knights Were Bold* provide this week another of the brilliant bookings which Mr. Fredericks has made for the current year, and despite the prevalent inclement weather the holding capacity of the Borough Theatre is being severely taxed. Mr. James Welch, in his familiar part of the "slangy" Sir Guy, is irresistibly funny, and during his occupancy of the stage a dull moment is impossible; he works unflaggingly and his effervescent humour is simply contagious. Miss Audrey Ford as Lady Rowena is extremely graceful and interesting, acting in the true spirit of burlesque allied to much personal charm. Mr. Arthur Grenville submits a clever, restrained Hebraic characterisation as Isaac Isaacson, looking the part well and acting most consistently. Mr. Henry J. Ford supplies a well-defined portraiture of amiable inanity as the Hon. Charles Widdicombe; Mr. Guy Lane as the worldly, rotund cleric, the Rev. Peter Pottleberry, does exceedingly well; and Mr. Cecil Kinnaird as the fortune-hunting Sir Brian Ballymote is admirably cast, both physically and histrionically. Mr. George F. Tully as the imperturbable Wittle plays in just the right vein; Mr. Gordon Tomkins is a most commendable Barker; and Mr. Leopold Profeit speaks his lines well as a Herald. Miss Daisy Cordell makes a very prepossessing Sarah Isaacson; Lady Millicent and Lady Marjorie Egginton are daintily portrayed by Miss Maev O'Hea and Miss Doris Marshall; Miss Helen Palgrave acts with much tact and skill as the Hon. Mrs. Waldegrave; Kate Pottleberry is very appropriately played by Miss Amy Broadwood; and Miss Annie Chippendale is an excellent Alice Barker. *The Wrong Side of the Road* is a very entertaining curtain-raiser, the two parts being admirably undertaken by Mr. Cecil Clayton and Miss Maev O'Hea.

ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, March 1, the Musical Comedy entitled

"THE GAY GORDONS."

A very cordial welcome is being bestowed on Mr. Seymour Hicks' company in *The Gay Gordons*, and deservedly so, as the well-known comedy runs its course with a briskness and swing attributable only to a well-conceived play combined with lilting refrains and performed by a judiciously selected cast of talented artists, whose lively endeavours give keen enjoyment to well-filled houses, and who are also thoroughly qualified to do justice to the merry moods of the play. Mr. Frank Lincoln assumes the rôle of Angus Graeme in a very vivacious manner, and being an actor of great abilities he brings out his points into marked relief and with telling effect, and is received with emphatic expressions of approbation. Mr. Tom Graves as Nervy Nat is in his happiest vein, and is the source of much merriment; Mr. Edward Nainby does well as Edmund Siddons; Mr. Ernest Ruston contributes a capital portrait of the American millionaire Andrew Quainton; Archibald Speedy has a good representative in Mr. Buchanan Wake; Mr. Charles Tyers is thoroughly diverting in his dancing as Jack McPhrisky; Miss Dorothy Giles imparts a good deal of charm to the character of Peggy Quainton, and offers a clever impersonation and is entirely successful; Miss Mabel Dent portrays the part of Victoria Siddons in a lively fashion, and gives a good rendering; Miss Ida Laurie is amusing as Charlotte Siddons; Miss Gwynneth Hughes is satisfactory as Mary McLeod; and the same may be said of Miss Emily Mellon as Janet McLeod. Lady Graeme and Lady Millicent are capably undertaken by Miss Norah Guiness and Miss Rosa Carlisle respectively; while the orchestra is under the direction of Mr. Arthur Spittle.

BENSON SEASON AT THE CORONET.

Mr. F. R. Benson invited the Press to criticise the performance at the Coronet, on Feb. 26, of *The Merchant of Venice*, with a special cast, and a very excellent all-round performance was given. As Portia, one of Shakespeare's most gracious heroines, Miss Margaret Halstan scored a complete success, her sweet face, charming manner, and dignified deportment, as well as her clear enunciation, being most agreeable to eye and ear. Her delivery of the famous speech "The quality of mercy" was distinguished by rare point and emphasis, but with no undue straining after effect. As Nerissa Miss Helen Haye presented a very pleasing portraiture of the merry-minded and loyal lady-in-waiting. Bassanio, as enacted by Mr. Cyril Keightley, is a fine, manly and exceedingly handsome young nobleman, and he speaks his lines "trippingly on the tongue," and suits the action to the word—an altogether admirable embodiment. As Shylock Mr. F. R. Benson dwells principally on the savage, revengeful, avaricious nature of the Jew, and his craft, cunning, and duplicity are quite overshadowed by his ferocity; only occasional glimpses of the power of mind that underlies these more human passions is allowed to peep out. Mr. Murray Carrington makes a very patient and resigned Antonio, and his elocution is excellent; Mr. H. O. Nicholson is a capital Duke of Venice, kindly, dignified, and impressive; Mr. F. G. Worlock and Miss Olive Noble make a very pretty pair of lovers as Lorenzo and Jessecia. Indeed, the cast is notable for its handsome couples. Mr. G. Hannam Clark is very well cast as Gratiano, and does not, as so many in the part have done, overdo the boisterous gaiety of this laughter-loving Venetian. Mr. E. A. Warburton spoke his lines well as the Prince of Morocco, though he might with advantage put more fire into his performance. The part of Salanio was excellently rendered by Mr. Moffat Johnstone; and Messrs. Guy Rathbone, Wilson and Nigel Playfair were all good. There is only one real improvement we would suggest, and that is that when Bassanio makes his choice of the caskets all save, perhaps, Nerissa and Gratiano should retire whilst this momentous question is settled.

On Monday was produced Shakespeare's tragedy *ing Lear*. The part of King Lear is among Mr. F. R. Benson's best Shakespearean performances. As the poor old King, driven from pillar to post by his two unnatural daughters, with intermittent glimpses of the unreason which caused him to make such a witless division of his kingdom, he is seen quite at his best. The fierce struggle of a noble nature with growing madness and senility, accentuated by his privations, is most powerfully and pathetically portrayed by Mr. Benson with many apt touches of his own. Mr. Cyril Keightley gave a stirring performance as Edgar, and his simulation of madness in the storm scene was so effective as to provoke continuous applause at the fall of the curtain. Mr. Murray Carrington made a fine picturesque figure of Edmund, the double-dealing bastard son of Gloucester, and the Earl of Kent, as presented by Mr. E. A. Warburton was, perhaps, the best bit of character-acting he has done during the present season. Mr. F. G. Worlock was very good as the Duke of Albany, and Mr. H. O. Nicholson contributed a telling performance as the ill-fated Earl of Gloucester. Mr. Nigel Playfair as the fool, Mr. Moffat Johnston as Oswald, Goneril's "serviceable knave" and steward, and others submitted effective impersonations. Miss Olive Noble was a very sweet and natural Cordelia; Miss Helen Haye, though in "fair seeming," was sinister and serpent-like as Goneril, and Miss Mayne Young was a satisfactory Regan. The scenery and accoutrements were excellent, especially well-managed being the storm scene. On Tuesday evening *The School for Scandal* was given; the Wednesday matinée was set apart for *Richard the Second*, *Henry the Sixth* (Part 2) being given in the evening. For Thursday *A Midnight Bridel* and *The Belle's Stratagem* were underlined, and for Friday *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. *Julius Cæsar* and *Macbeth* are announced for this afternoon and evening respectively.

Those of the playgoing public who love their Shakespeare are much indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Benson for their indefatigable efforts to immortalise the Bard. It is seldom indeed that we get a chance to see his historical plays, with a few notable exceptions, such as *Henry V.*, which Mr. Lewis Waller has taken under his ægis, *King John*, for which Mr. Tree has displayed a partiality, among others. Last year Mr. Benson produced *Henry IV.* (Part 2) at the Coronet, and now we have *Henry VI.* (Part 2) let upon the public in masterly fashion, and in a manner highly creditable to the direction of Mr. Benson, and the stage-management of Mr. Harry Stafford. So indefatigable is Mr. Benson in the smooth and successful working of his plays that, after the death of Cardinal Beaufort, he took his call at the close of the play garbed as one of the rabble! The part of King Henry VI. is portrayed by Mr. F. G. Worlock, and while he earns our sympathy for this weak, well-meaning monarch, he forfeits our esteem by his display of spiritless irresolution and irresponsibility. The learning and piety of good King Henry were far in advance of the troublous and warlike times in which he lived, when might was right and treasons, stratagems, and spoils abounded. According to the Bard, he was for ever telling his beads and moralising when he should have been up and doing; ever lilting "I dare not wait upon I will" and delivering up the reins of government to whoever was at the moment most in power, be they honest and statesmanlike or unscrupulous and self-seeking. The play also touches upon the Jack Cave insurrection, and vaguely hints at the outburst of fanatical hatred against the innovation of printing and book lore as being a form of witchcraft and the promptings of the fiend. Certes, Shakespeare anatomatised in no niggardly fashion the inmost souls of kings, ministers, and caitiffs. Mr. F. R. Benson contents himself with the part of the choleric and ambitious Churchman, Cardinal Beaufort, Bishop of Winchester, and instils much vindictive rancour into the part; whilst his depiction of the death of the aspiring Prelate, unshrived and unrepentant, is a very gruesome and awe-inspiring scene. As the smooth-tongued Suffolk, who does not stop at conniving, in conjunction with Winchester and York, at the death of Gloster at the hands of common murderers, is played with excellent judgment by Mr. Murray Carrington. Mrs. F. R. Benson as his patroness and illicit lover, Queen Margaret of Anjou, acts with fervour and conviction, and limns the portrait in all its primary colours of baseness and intriguing passion. Miss Helen Haye gains great and deserved applause by her impressive rendering of the part of Eleanor, the Protector's wife, whose vaulting ambition doth o'erleap itself and lights i' the mire. She commands sympathy and attention for what is after all an ignoble, scheming, and unscrupulous character. Miss Leah Hanman gets her chance here as the witch, Margery Jourdain, and in the scene of the incantation and her doom to be burnt at the stake, she moves the audience to awestruck wonder. Mr. Lock as John Hume, the conspiring dealer in magic, is also impressive and convincing. Mr. H. O. Nicholson contributes a sound, sterling performance as the hapless Humphrey, Duke of Gloster, and as the Duke of York Mr. Hannam Clark acts and speaks with an air of authority. Mr. B. A. Pittar is powerful and virile as Warwick, the king-maker; Mr. Plingo does well as Sir John Stanley; and as Buckingham Mr. Guy Rathbone, and as Salisbury Mr. Harry Caine are eminently satisfactory. The part of the truculent scoundrel Jack Cade is rendered with great vigour and *aplomb* by Mr. E. A. Warburton, and he displays great fire and ferocity in his death scene; whilst Mr. Ribton Haines as the armourer, Mr. Wilde as Dick, the butcher, Miss Regina Laurence as Mrs. Simpcox, and others give valuable assistance in the scenes of riot and disorder. Mr. Nigel Playfair brings in some welcome comic relief as the witless Peter Thump; Mr. Caine as the clerk of Chatham and Mr. Caithness are good; and the other small parts are all carefully and discreetly rendered.

"THE LUCK OF ROARING CAMP."

A Drama, in Four Acts, Adapted from Bret Harte's Stories by Ben Landeck, Produced at the Fulham Theatre on Monday, March 1.

Will Gordon	Mr. Robert Purdie
Tom Barnes	Mr. Chas. E. Johnson
Gonzales	Mr. Geo. Porteous
Ebenezer	Mr. Clarence Ibbotson
Paddy McGinty	Mr. Hyland O'Shea
Old Pard	Mr. G. Cuthbertson
The Sheriff	Mr. Arthur Redmond
Snapshot Harry	Mr. Tom Sharpe
Whiskey Jim	Mr. Alfred Rochester
Bunco-Eyed Bill	Mr. Alfred Cooper
Red Pete	Mr. Arthur Watson
Jovita de Sutro	Miss Flo Melrose-Millett
Tommy	Baby Audrey
Fanny Twinkle	Miss Norah Dillon
Pinky Tibbs	Miss Gracie Lawrence
Mrs. O'Flynn	Miss Jenny Clare
Nell Curtis	Miss Olive Wilton

Characters of Western American mining life which Bret Harte has made famous are introduced to us with vivid realism in the piece under review, and playgoers who delight in strong melodrama as a change from the lighter stuff which we have had in such abundance recently will welcome this new four-act drama, adapted from Mr. Bret Harte's stories by the well-known playwright Mr. Ben Landeck.

The play has the advantage of novelty—the novelty of situation and of characters—and gives us the breeziness, the dash, the dare-devil recklessness of the "free-from-law-and order settlers" of the gold-diggings of California. In the particular gold-diggings known as Roaring Camp, and made famous by the great novelist, Bret Harte, were men who were "neither God-fearin' nor revolver-fearin'," whose shouting and yelling had gained for Roaring Camp its title, and whose singular proficiency with the revolver kept all but the most reckless and daring spirits from settling in Roaring Camp. Into this "City of Refuge," where most men dropped their surnames—probably it was safer and gave no clue to their past—and were known as Whiskey Bill, Buck-eyed Barney, Jay-Bird Charlie, and the like comes young Will Gordon, the son of a New York banker, and he falls in love with Nell Curtis, the daughter of his partner (Old Pard). In the first act, the scene of which is the Devil's Gorge, near Roaring Camp, Tom Barnes, the evil spirit of the camp, and Gonzales, a Mexican adventurer, are accomplices in the murder by night of Old Pard, and they take from his pocket certain documents which give his real name and indicate that he is the heir to property in England. They accuse Will Gordon of the crime; he is Nell's sweetheart, and her love for him saves his life. Barnes urges on his roughs to lynch Will. The rope is round his neck, the other end of it in the hands of the lynchers, when Nell dashes on and covers them with her revolver. "The first man who pulls that rope is a deader! Now who wants a funeral?" They know she means what she says, and in the confusion Will escapes. Barnes, in gaining possession of the papers for which the old man was murdered, finds the clue to the mine, and learns from them that Nell is heiress to this vast wealth. He asks her to marry him, but she declares in her characteristic manner that she would rather marry "any old bull frog"; so he chloroforms and carries her off to a secret cave 200 feet beneath the earth's surface. Here Barnes tells her she will rot as his other victims have done unless she agrees to marry him. Nell still refuses; he, enraged, attacks her; and, at the critical moment, when all hope for her seems over, occurs the great rescue scene—one must see this to fully appreciate the effect of a difficult piece of stage-business. Exciting scenes follow each other in quick succession—the "Dice of Death," the pistol duel, the intrigues of Jovita, a handsome Southern woman, who has tracked Barnes to Roaring Camp, and the final fight between Barnes and his Mexican confederate. There is never a dull moment, and the fun is fast and furious when the three excellent comedians, Ebenezer the nigger, Widow O'Flynn, and Paddy McGinty are on. Of course, everything ends happily for the hero and heroine.

This sort of play requires to be given with whole-hearted vigour to be successful, and the company do not fail in this respect. Mr. Robert Purdie acts with great power and tenderness as the hero Will Gordon; and Mr. C. E. Johnson is no less strenuous and effective as the villain Tom Barnes; while Mr. Geo. Porteous gives a good study of the revengeful Mexican Gonzales. Mr. Clarence Ibbotson has an eccentric rôle as the nigger Ebenezer, and keeps the fun alive with unflagging spirits. In this he is ably seconded by Mr. Hyland O'Shea as Paddy McGinty. Mr. G. Cuthbertson is good as Old Pard; and Mr. Arthur Redmond does well as the Sheriff. Miss Flo Melrose-Millett shows good work as the adventuress Jovita; and Baby Audrey as her child, Tommy, soon becomes one of the favourites with the house. Miss Norah Dillon and Miss Gracie Lawrence satisfactorily fill in the parts of Fanny Twinkle and Pinky Tibbs. Miss Jeanny Clare puts abundant life into her work as Mrs. O'Flyn, and gets many a laugh. Miss Olive Wilton plays capitally as Nell Curtis, the heroine, and shows her capacity both in action and in the emotional moments. The piece is picturesquely and beautifully mounted. Mr. Eric Merric is managing the show on behalf of Miss Molesworth and Mr. Blow.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, March 1, the Play entitled

"THE SIGN OF THE CROSS."

A more suitable play for this Lenten season than *The Sign of the Cross* could scarce have been booked for Kennington Theatre, and despite the wretched weather conditions, which have seriously affected business elsewhere, Mr. H. B. Brandreth has had the satisfaction of seeing good houses assemble nightly at the place of entertainment over which he presides. The production is of the high standard one always associates with Mr. William Greet's enterprises, and it has been almost as well received on the present tour, which opened after Christmas, as during the first years that this remarkable play was before the public. The company is one of all-round excellence, and the dressing and staging leave nothing to be desired. In the first and third acts particularly there is a wonderful blending of colour as the principals move by in their flowing classical robes, whilst the scene when the Christians are surrounded at the Cestian grove is also strikingly effective. *The Sign of the Cross* of course abounds in dramatic situations of great intensity, and full justice is done to these by Mr. Austin-Lee, who enacts the rôle of Marcus, and by Miss Constance Little, on whom falls the task of interpreting the part of Mercia. Mr. Austin-Lee possesses histrionic gifts of a high order, and he makes full use of them in the countless opportunities which the play presents. He gives a wonderful study of the strong-willed Roman Prefect, brought into humble submission to the Christian faith by the purity and unfaltering courage of Mercia. Miss Constance Little is the embodiment of the gentle Christian girl devotee. She makes as sweet and innocent a Mercia as we have seen for a long time, and is deserving of the warmest encomiums for the sympathetic rendering she imparts to a difficult part. Mr. Chas. Aldred makes a splendid Tigellinus, and Mr. J. Weatherall is well placed as his fellow conspirator, Licinius Ædile. The Nero of Mr. C. Yorke is a remarkably fine piece of acting, all the hideous attributes of the tyrant being carefully presented; the Poppæa of Miss Beryl Hamilton is enacted with considerable success; while Miss Lily Ward makes a brilliant Berenice. Philodemus is adequately impersonated by Mr. H. Jones, while Mr. Walter Fleet makes an impressive Favius. The Stephanus of Miss E. Drayson is remarkably well enacted, and wins general sympathy, the faltering courage of the boy in the dreadful ordeal he has to undergo being finely interpreted. Others who deserve mention are Mr. Frank Wood (Glabrio), Mr. Thurston Harris (Servilius), Mr. G. W. Ruff (Virturius), Miss Cissy Carlton (Dacia), and Mr. G. Blunden (Titus).

NEW LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, March 1, the Drama,

"AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES."

Mr. Tom Taylor has a particularly good, well-balanced cast to perform the well-known drama *The Midnight Chimes*. Mr. Melville Bickford, in the rôle of Luke Dezzard, gives a powerful performance; and as Dave Stannard Mr. Clifton Boyne wins warm approval from the audience for his manly interpretation of the part. Mr. Walter Westwood is decidedly good as Ezra Gamble; Mr. F. Vernon Travers does well as Captain Trevethick, the chief constable of Barryhaven, and also acts as Mr. Taylor's general-manager. Miss Marjorie Davenport presents a pleasing and sympathetic portrayal of Mary Stannard; Miss Mabel Hall is a clever child actress, and Little Davy is well acted by her; as the Indian girl Zamora Miss Lilian Earle is quite satisfactory in a difficult part; Miss Josie Farrington is a pert and pretty maid Suzette, and, with Mr. Tom E. Sinclair (who proves himself an excellent Tat Spavin), provides most of the humour of the piece. The remaining characters are all well played, and the show is nightly meeting with enthusiastic receptions from crowded audiences. The new year is proving very prosperous at the Lyric, and Mr. Wentworth Croke and his popular manager, Mr. Fred S. Jennings, should be very satisfied with the state of affairs.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, March 1, the Drama, Adapted from Mrs. Henry Wood's famous novel, entitled

"EAST LYNNE."

By arrangement with Mr. J. Pitt Hardacre Mr. Tom Watt's company is appearing here with marked success in *East Lynne*, a play which, like Tennyson's brook, seems destined to go on for ever. Mr. Edmund F. Kennedy's delineation of Archibald Carlyle left nothing to be desired, and his suave manners and easy bearing, coupled with his clear enunciation, made his portrayal a distinctly memorable one. Mr. Frank G. Bayly enacted Sir Francis Levison, *alias* Captain Thorn, in cool, calculating fashion, and the West Londoners warmly resented his nefarious designs. Mr. Frederick Jacques sustained the irascible Justice Hare in a forceful and convincing way; Mr. Cyril Hayward made an admirable Lawyer Dill; Mr. Rayson Cousens played in an earnestly effective style as Richard Hare; Mr. Joe Rowland quickly became a pronounced favourite with his racy and humorous portrayal of P.C. Bullock; Miss Ida Heron pleasingly sustained Barbara Hare; Miss Lilian Mason was decidedly assertive as Cornelia Carlyle; Miss Isabel Singleton did very well as the faithful Joyce; and in the trying rôle of Lady Isabel Miss Julie Kennard was seen at her best, especially in the emotional scenes. Miss Alice Moseley and Miss Ethel Ray played intelligently as Little Willie and Little Isabel respectively. Mr. Cecil Elgar is the general-manager for Mr. Tom Watt.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

Minutes of the Council meeting held at 353, Strand, on Tuesday, March 2. Present: Mr. J. Poole Kirkwood (in the chair), Mr. H. W. Mote (hon. solicitor), Messrs. Clive Currie, Jackson Wilcox, C. Hayden Coffin, Robson Page, Gilbert Esmond, F. J. Arlton, Langford Reed, Miss Agnes Imlay, and Mr. Hubert Blount, secretary.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The hon. solicitor presented the report, which was accepted.

Elsie Goulding, Marjorie Carey, Lionel Yaldwyn, and Betty Stannard were nominated for election; J. Boyd Pearson, Helen Child, and Rule Pyott were elected; and Miss Amy Grace was reinstated.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I should esteem it a favour if you will give publicity to the following in your next issue:—

The Council of the Actors' Association have issued a notice that: "In order to increase the membership two awards of honour should be made to the members who introduced the largest number of new members during the ensuing year. The awards will be:

(a) A life membership.

(b) A fully-paid membership for the ensuing year."

When I read it I was reminded of my "kindergarten days," when my aunt promised me my favourite jam for tea if I gained the highest marks at school, and greed made me attain the coveted number.

May I point out that the method suggested by the Council has its drawback both for the canvasser and the one canvassed.

I was a victim to the former when playing last week at Birmingham. I had the pleasure of meeting four charming actresses, great enthusiasts of the stage, and on hearing they were not members I asked them to join the A.A. I noticed, however, that a merry twinkle passed between them and so we dropped the subject.

Imagine my horror when on reaching home and looking at the paper, I read about "the awards." The merry twinkle was explained. No doubt the girls thought it would be a big haul if in one afternoon I could catch four victims to suit my own ends. No; it makes one hesitate canvassing on those lines. Let the A.A. rather offer one or two prizes for the best-written playlet, comic song, dancer, mimic, &c., and at an A.A. entertainment the artists to appear; the competition only open to members.

Last year, when, in conjunction with Mr. Fredk. Annerley, I got up an entertainment, we stipulated that only members should perform. We gained two new members, and one of them as a result had her monologue produced at the London Coliseum, and this was just at one of our usual socials.—I am sir, yours faithfully,

JOAN PEREIRA.

Palace Theatre, Northampton.
March 2, 1909.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL CALENDAR. See *The Era Annual*, 1909.

MAKES THE SKIN AS SOFT AS VELVET.—Beetham's "LAROLA" Preserves the Skin from the effects of frost, cold winds, and hard water. Entirely removes and prevents all roughness, redness, irritation, chaps, &c., and KEEPS THE SKIN SOFT, SMOOTH, and WHITE at All Seasons. INVALUABLE for the COMPLEXION, DELIGHTFULLY SOOTHING AND REFRESHING after golfing, cycling, motoring, dancing, &c. Gentlemen will find it wonderfully soothing if applied after shaving. Bottles, 1s., 1s. 9d., and 2s. 6d. each, of all Chemists and Stores. M. BEETHAM AND SON, CHELTENHAM.—[ADVT.]

UNACTED AUTHORS.

With reference to the notice which appeared in our last week's issue on the above subject, a meeting was held on Wednesday, March 3, at 217, Piccadilly, to consider the position of the "Unacted Authors."

Mr. Mayne, after expressing his pleasure on seeing so many people present, said that when he wrote his first letter to the *Referee* and the *Daily Mail* in reply to Miss Lena Ashwell's letter on the dearth of good plays he had no idea that the matter would be so largely taken up as it has been, and no one could be more pleased than he that such has been the case, as he feared his letters would simply be one more ineffectual "kick against the pricks."

Continuing, Mr. Mayne said that the first object of the Society which they might form would be, if possible, to get the approval and support of the managers and the heads of the theatrical profession, and this, he thought and hoped, could be done, as undoubtedly they would welcome any scheme which would relieve them of the trying work of having to wade through so many plays which were absolutely useless and unactable; and if eventually the Society could be worked to such a position that managers would refuse to read any play by an unknown author unless it had been passed by the Society and its reader as of some merit, a great benefit would accrue, not only to the managers and authors, but also to the stage generally.

After pointing out the many different kinds of unsuitable plays which were submitted by authors and the reasons of their unsuitability, touching on the other play-producing societies and expressing the hope that no feeling of rivalry might arise, and giving a few details as to his own experience with managers and bestowing high praise on Miss Lena Ashwell for her endeavour to do more for "Unacted Authors," Mr. Mayne proceeded to lay the following proposals before the meeting, supplemented by a rough idea as to the cost of production of the Society's plays, the particulars of which he had obtained from several well-known producers:—

To appoint some competent person to read plays of the Society's members, after such plays had been passed by a committee of the Society as good. This reader to be, if possible, a fairly well-known actor. What remuneration possible should be offered in the first place, and this to be increased when the Society was more firmly established. The reader to, in each case, give a written and candid criticism of each play, pointing out faults, and also suggesting alterations, &c.

To approach managers for the use of their theatres for the production of the members' plays, to which any actor, actress, or manager who is well known would have free admission on presentation of their card.

The production should be public and advertised and the seats should be sold at reduced rates; performances to be matinées on days when there were no professional matinées.

To approach the Actors' Association and the profession generally with a view of getting their support, and to obtain from them the help of competent artists to play in the production of members' plays. Artists at first to give their services, with a view, in the case of provincial artists, to themselves being seen in London and by London managers. When the Society was in a position to do so, they would undertake to give a small payment to those actors and actresses who took part in the productions.

To approach the theatrical papers to get their support, and to ask them to publish letters on the progress of the Society, and to send critics to their productions.

To approach some well-known person who is known to be interested in literature and the drama to consent to be nominated as president of the Society.

Every member shall pay an entrance fee of 10s. 6d. and an annual subscription of £1 1s.

The members shall appoint two committees from their number (1) to manage the affairs of the Society and arrange all business, and (2) to read members' plays and judge which shall be submitted to the Society's engaged critic. The Reading Committee to be elected by the members.

A president (who shall preferably be some outside well-known person), secretary, and treasurer to be appointed by the members, the last two of which shall be *ex-officio* members of each committee.

A member as soon as he or she shall have had a play accepted for production by any recognised management through the medium of the Society shall pay to the Society a sum to be arranged and if a second play is taken, a further sum such member then becoming an honorary member and undertaking to do what they can to promote the work of the Society from outside.

The Society shall only produce plays by members of the Society which are likely to appeal to managers.

Plays shall only be produced at matinées on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

No translations from foreign authors shall be produced unless such author is at the time of such production a member of the Society and "unacted" both in English and his own language.

There shall be no Sunday evening performances.

No play shall be produced by the Society which in the opinion of the Reading Committee or the Society's critic, would be prohibited by the Censor.

For the production of the Society's members' plays the services of a reliable and well-known producer shall be retained.

After a batch of plays have been approved as worth production by the reader, the mode of selection of such for production shall be either by ballot or drawing. One-act and three- and four-act plays shall be drawn for separately, and one of each performed at each production.

Each member shall be entitled to two seats for each performance of the Society.

That friends of members or others who are interested can become honorary members of the Society on payment of an annual subscription of £2 2s., for which they shall be entitled to receive two seats at each performance of the Society.

A general discussion then took place, and it was ultimately unanimously decided to form an "Unacted Authors' Association," and it was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Association on Monday, March 15, at 5 p.m., to complete the formation of the Association and elect officers. Notice of this meeting will be forwarded to all those who have already joined the movement. Others wishing to join are requested to communicate with Mr. N. Thorpe Mayne, 217, Piccadilly, W.

Letters and telegrams expressing approval of the scheme, hopes for its success, and offers of assistance in the production of its plays have been received, and were read at the meeting, from Mr. C. Aubrey Smith, Mr. Dion Boucicault, Mr. William Haviland, Mr. Charles Maude, Mr. Blake Adams, Mr. Ralph R. Hutton, Mr. Clarence Derwent, Mr. Walter Pearce, Miss Dorothy Green, Miss Drusilla Wills, Miss Rose Mathews, &c.

There were thirty authors present, and many letters were received from others sympathising with the movement who were unavoidably prevented from being present by reason of the severity of the weather.

MR. CHARLES FROHMAN has entrusted Mr. Edward Michael with a new play for a week's trial performance in the near future at the Theatre Royal, Margate. The piece is at present unnamed.

"THE ERA ANNUAL," 1909. The Most Complete Theatrical Dictionary of Dates ever Published. Price 1s., post free. 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

ACTOR-MANAGERS OF THE PERIOD

MR. ALLAN WILKIE.

Mr. Allan Wilkie completed on the 23rd of last month his tenth year on the stage, and there is probably hardly another actor in the profession who can claim to have accomplished such remarkable results in a similar period.

After a varied training in Shakespeare, old comedy, melodrama, and farce in every class of theatre from fit-ups to His Majesty's Theatre, London, Mr. Wilkie some years ago embarked on the stormy sea of theatrical management, and his rapid rise as a manager has been simply phenomenal. Commencing with a small company of about sixteen artists, which has since grown to thirty-seven, playing a round of high-class dramas, Mr. Wilkie, who had always cast a longing eye on the Shakespearean drama, first introduced *The Merchant of Venice* into his répertoire, and then followed one production after another, so that now his répertoire embraces all the more popular Shakespearean plays, several of the old comedies, and at least half a dozen high-class dramas.

To give some idea of the remarkable breadth and variety of his répertoire, his bill during a recent visit to Grimsby will form the best illustration. Opening on Monday with *Macbeth*, it was followed by *The Sleigh Bells*, *The Corsican Brothers*, *The Fool's Revenge*, *She Stoops to*

MR. ALLAN WILKIE—RICHARD III.

Conquer, and *The Two Orphans of Paris*. As Mr. Wilkie states with pardonable pride, there is no other touring company in the British Isles that could adequately present such a heterogeneous programme.

Apart from Mr. Wilkie's exceptional ability as an actor—which, after all, is not of much use without the business instinct—a great share of his remarkable success may be attributed to the fact that he was the first English manager to realise the full possibilities of pictorial printing with regard to Shakespeare, and he has had specially cut what is probably the largest plant of pictorial printing of any company in the world, consisting as it does, of over twelve hundred sheets. Another important factor in the success of his productions is the incidental music, which is composed and written by his own musical director.

Mr. Wilkie has only recently attained his thirty-first year, and is therefore the youngest actor-manager we have at present playing the legitimate drama. He is already on visiting terms with several of the No. 1 theatres and shortly contemplates a London season, when he will present twelve different plays on twelve consecutive nights, and afterwards the most successful of the twelve for the remainder of his season.

Mr. Wilkie's company is run on purely professional lines. He does not receive any pupils, and has no school of any kind attached to his company. He is of opinion that the bad business which so many managers in the provinces complain of is directly traceable to the habit of filling the smaller parts with inexperienced and incompetent artists.

Mr. Wilkie's chief successes have been made in *Shylock*, *Richard III.*, *Othello*, *Hamlet*, and Bertunio in *The Fool's Revenge*, but the part which he desires to play above all others is that of King Lear, which he hopes to include in his London season. Mr. Wilkie's career will be followed with the greatest interest, and there can be little doubt that, if his past performances at the early age of thirty-one are any criterion, his future will be one of exceptional brilliance.

THE annual supper of the working staff of the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, which takes place at the close of each pantomime, was held on Monday night after the performance of *Aladdin* at the King David Hotel, St. Michael's-hill, and the proceedings were of the usual harmonious character. Unfortunately, Mr. J. M. Chute was unable to be present, owing to indisposition, and in his absence the chair was taken by Mr. Henry Turner (stage manager), who was supported by, amongst others, Mr. F. S. Green (acting manager), Mr. George Chapman (chief of the orchestra), Mr. George Jackson (scenic artist), and several of the principals in the *Aladdin* pantomime, including Mr. Bransby Williams, Mr. Arthur Sutcliffe, Mr. W. H. Powell, and Mr. Alfred Clarke.

THE toast of "Mr. J. M. Chute" was proposed in a felicitous manner by Mr. H. Wilson (master carpenter), who spoke in eulogistic terms of Mr. Chute's many good qualities. The chairman acknowledged the compliment on behalf of Mr. Chute, and then submitted "Heads of Departments." This being duly acknowledged "The Official Staff" was similarly honoured.

IN replying for "The Pantomime Principals," Mr. Powell spoke in high terms of Mr. Chute's management, and said members of the profession throughout the country were always delighted to appear at the Prince's Theatre. Mr. Bransby Williams made a characteristic speech in speaking on behalf of the ladies. The pleasure of the company was also materially enhanced by the recitations of Mr. Bransby Williams and contributions by others present.

FULHAM meets Wolverhampton in the Second Division of the League at Fulham this afternoon, at 3.30. The team will be selected from Fryer, Charlton, Lindsay, Sharp, Collins, Suart, Mouncher, Lee, Smith, Freeman, Dalrymple, Brown, and Lipsham. Fulham Reserves and Sittingbourne will also be opposed this afternoon at Sittingbourne. Fulham and Burnley meet on Monday at Fulham, the kick-off being at 3.15. The home team will be as above. Should Burnley draw to-day with Manchester United (English Cup) the match will be postponed.

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE WEIR.

It is with deep regret that Mr. Benson announces the death from Bright's disease of Mr. George R. Weir, which sad event took place on Tuesday morning at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, where he had been lying ill for the past two months. For twenty-six years Mr. Weir was Mr. Benson's most able lieutenant, being the only one remaining of the original company, and it must have been a matter of deep regret to the old Bensonian that he was unable to join his comrades at the Coronet for the London season, to which he always looked forward with such keen pleasure.

The deceased actor came with Mr. Benson's company on the occasion of their last visit to Belfast, when they performed for a fortnight at the Theatre Royal there in the last week of the old year and the first week of January. He had been indisposed before arrival, but made the journey, hoping to fight off the illness with which he was seized; but his condition was so serious when he arrived that he could not take his place in the cast, and Mr. Benson enlisted the services of Professor Sir William Whitla, who recommended his removal to hospital. Since that time Mr. Weir has been a patient in a private ward in the Royal Victoria Hospital, where he has received the unremitting attention of Sir William Whitla and the hospital staff; but he gradually sank. For some weeks his wife and daughter have been in Belfast, and they were constant in their attendance on the deceased gentleman in his last days on the stage of life. Mr. Weir, who was fifty-six years of age, was a native of Glasgow, and for some time past his residence has been at Southend-on-Sea. He leaves a widow and four children, to whom will be extended the sympathy of the departed comedian's professional colleagues and of the general public, with whom he was such a favourite.

By the death of Mr. Weir the stage loses an actor steeped in the best traditions of Shakespearean and old English comedy, and his value in such a company as that of Mr. Benson must have been beyond appraisement. His Bottom the Weaver, was an impersonation richly comical, and one that captured the fancy of London playgoers when Mr. Benson gave, for the first time, at the now defunct Globe Theatre, a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* which for charm and fantasy has not been excelled. In this Mr. Stephen Phillips, the poet-dramatist, played Flute, and Miss Jessie Bateman made her first appearance as Cobweb. This was on Dec. 19, 1889. On Jan. 23, 1890, at a revival of *The Taming of the Shrew* at the same theatre, Mr. Weir scored a further success as Grumio; but an even greater triumph was reserved for him in Mr. Benson's production of *Hamlet* on March 6, 1890, in which Mr. Weir played the part of the First Gravedigger with delightful simplicity and humour. He repeated the performance at the Lyceum on the afternoon and evening of Thursday, March 1, 1900, when Mr. Benson revived *Hamlet* in its entirety. Other Shakespearean characters in his répertoire included Sir Toby Belch, Falstaff, Dogberry, Stephano in *The Tempest*, and the Fool in *King Lear*. At a performance at the Coronet Theatre, Notting Hill, on March 2 last year of a version of *Don Quixote*, by G. E. Morrison, Mr. Weir played Sancho Panza with a ripe unctuous method that realised the humour of Cervantes. The death of Mr. Weir will be specially regretted by those who have enjoyed Mr. Benson's artistic revivals at the Memorial Theatre, Stratford-on-Avon. To his bereaved family and friends we tender our sympathy.

Amidst many manifestations of sorrow the remains of the popular actor were laid to rest on Thursday afternoon. The funeral cortège left Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, at 2 p.m. for St. George's Church, High-street (where a special service was held at 2.30 p.m. by Rev. Dr. Murphy, Chaplain of the Actors' Union), thence to Dundonald Cemetery, where the burial took place. Amongst those present were:—Mr. Cuthbert Ricketts (manager, Mr. F. R. Benson's No. 1 Company), representing Mr. F. R. Benson; Mr. James M. McCann and Mr. W. A. Salmond, representing Mr. Fred W. Warden, managing-director of the Grand Opera House and Theatre, Belfast, at present in London; Sir Otto Jaffe, Kt., representing the civic authorities; Dr. Nelson, representing the medical profession; and others. The casket was covered with beautiful wreaths.

DEATH OF MRS. CHARLES H. LONGDEN.

We regret to announce that Mrs. Charles H. Longden, sister to Mr. Ernest Dottridge, passed away on Saturday last after a long and severe illness. Although only forty-seven years old, the deceased lady had practically been in the business that length of time, commencing her career when quite young at McDonnell's Music Hall at Hoxton. This was, however, her only appearance in the halls, as she was taken in hand by her uncle, Pitney Weston, at Bolton, and played small parts in stock seasons. Later, meeting Mr. Chas. H. Longden, they married, and toured for several years, eventually settling down at the Queen's Theatre, Leeds. Mr. Longden is the partner of Mr. Ernest Dottridge, of the well-known firm Dottridge and Longden.

The interment took place on Wednesday at Chadderton Cemetery, in the presence of a large number of the friends of the deceased lady, who evidently had the esteem of all with whom she came in contact. The body, which had been embalmed, was enclosed in an English oak coffin with panel sides, and six massive silver handles. On a silver plate was the inscription: "Edith Longden (Henderson). Died Feb. 27, 1909; age 47 years. 'Peace, perfect peace.'"

The chief mourners were Mr. Chas. H. Longden (husband), Miss Longden (daughter), Miss Louisa Dottridge (sister), Mr. Ernest Dottridge (brother), and Miss Weston (cousin). Amongst those present were Mr. Chas. Bush and Mr. C. P. Wentworth, managers for Messrs. Dottridge and Longden; Mrs. Dubois, Mrs. Howarth, Mrs. Harrison, and Miss Foster, *The Village Blacksmith* company, *The Midnight Mail* company, Empire Theatre of Varieties company, Grand Theatre staff, Empire Theatre staff, and Royal Theatre staff.

Wreaths were sent by the husband, daughter, brother, and sister, Mrs. Dubois, and Mrs. Howarth, the directors of the Empire Theatre Co., Edith and Richard Aston, the Grand Theatre staff, artists and staff of Royal Theatre, *The Midnight Mail* company, *The Village Blacksmith* company, E. Henderson, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Livesey, Jennie Weston (niece), Miss Mildred Carr, staff of the Empire Theatre, Joseph and Ada Platt, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Wolstenholme, Mr. H. Kilroy, Mr. and Mrs. James Chadwick, Edith and Jack Chester, Wm. and Lillie Maclaren, Mr. and Mrs. Brewster, Miss Bradshaw, Mr. John Waddington, Mr. Chas. Bush, and staff of the Queen's Theatre, Leeds, Miss Henderson, and Mrs. Forest.

THE Welsh National Eisteddfod, which is to be held in London from June 15 to the 18th inclusive at the Albert Hall, will be under distinguished patronage, including that of the King and Queen, while the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition will act as presidents. Mr. Balfour will preside at the chief choral competition on the first day, and the competition for male voice choirs, which will take place on the concluding day, will be presided over by Mr. Asquith. The musical adjudicators are Sir Charles Villiers Stanford, Dr. McNaught, Mr. Emlyn Evans, Mr. Dan Price, and Mr. Harry Evans, of Liverpool. The conductor of the Eisteddfod Choir is Mr. Merlin Morgan. The chairing of the bards will take place on the last day, the crowning occurring on the preceding day, and the Gorsedd ceremonies will be held on the mornings of June 15, 17, and 18 in Hyde Park.

THE LATE MR. DENIS CAMPBELL.

A brief paragraph in our obituary column announced the death at Liverpool on the 19th ult. of Mr. Denis Campbell, the well-known Irish comedian, and the husband of Miss Annie Barclay, who has received much sympathy in her great bereavement. The deceased gentleman, after being educated at Black Rock College, Dublin, made his first appearance on the stage as Solon in *The Octoroon* at the Queen's Theatre, Dublin. An Irish nigger with blue eyes did not altogether accord with the fitness of things, and young Campbell very soon forsook the "African" side of Boucicault for the Hibernian, and made his first appearance in England as Harvey Duff in *The Shaughraun* at the Theatre Royal, Oldham, where he attracted the notice of Mr. William Sidney, who engaged him for the part of Barney O'Toole in *The O'Dowd*. After that the deceased actor toured for many years with Mr. John S. Chamberlain, and also with Mr. Hubert O'Grady, whom he understudied.

Mr. Campbell was the original Mulcahy in *Muldoon's Picnic* at the Theatre Royal, Scarborough. He was also with the late Charles Sullivan for some time, and also toured in the companies of Haldane Crichton, Hardie and Von Leer, George Kirk, J. M. East, Ernest Carpenter, Morton Powell, Walter Reynolds, and Lester Collingwood (with whom he starred for five years). He also went into management on his own account with Irish

THE LATE MR. DENIS CAMPBELL.

drama. He was playing on Feb. 16, three days before his death, with Walter Reynolds's company at Liverpool twice nightly.

THE TERRITORIAL QUESTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Will you allow me to answer the criticisms of your correspondents of last week?

To Mr. Charles Clifford we say, "Bring along your friends and come yourself, and help to make it a success this time." So far we have worked practically single-handed, and if Mr. Clifford will assist us at recruiting we shall be grateful. We don't acknowledge a chance of failure, for our recruits are coming along quite as speedily as we expected.

To Mr. Norman Yates, "being an old Volunteer," we give an invitation to join. We wish to point out to him with regard to his statement—"We all know the petty jealousies that arise in the profession, and I fear they would be carried on to the parade ground"—that soldiering is a "man's" game, and that the sort of individual he describes will quickly be made a man. The question of company and battalion drills will all be arranged, and a man will be able to drill with battalions at battalion parades.

To Mr. Hargreaves we offer an invitation—come and join, prove your pessimistic ideas wrong. We have men now from the profession who have been able to do their territorial work as well as their stage work, and in their stage work they do forty-two to forty-six weeks' work per annum, which is a fair year's work; aye, and they are keen Territorialists. Read Mr. Edmund Vyson's letter of a week or two ago. Mr. Mayne Lynton, we hear, is going to join us. We shall be glad to welcome him, and as many of his friends as he can enlist for us.

Before we report progress let us point this out—no man who is absolutely engrossed with self had better join; he will find himself more "at home" reading his morning paper, describing Territorial work as a "mug's game," criticising our great generals, and telling his sympathetic family what he would have done if he had been there. Self is not the only thing in this world. A man's duty to his country comes before self.

Since we wrote you last week we have had a letter from the War Office, telling us that our scheme had been put before the Army Council; and the letter goes on to promise us consideration when we have our numbers together. It is definitely arranged that Captain Hunt Helmsley (Mr. George Alexander's manager) is to be our first company commander. This will be a step in the right direction, for we have here a theatrical man who will understand the difficulties we face in the pursuit of our profession. We have now in actual verbal and written promises some eighty to 100 members, and these numbers are increasing every day. Amongst those who have promised to join are several managers and agents, and they are all joining as privates and working for promotion. We shall be glad to have every able-bodied man in the two professions, theatrical and music hall, as members. Don't wait to write and ask for forms; but write and say "Count me amongst your members," and give us your permanent address, and let us know the earliest date you can attend at headquarters to be sworn in.

The scheme is being arranged to suit your spare time, and not to interfere with your work.

Thanking you for your kindness in publishing my letter,—Believe me, truly yours.

CHARLES C. OMMANNEY.

23, Claverton-street, South Belgravia, S.W.
March 4, 1909.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—We note with pleasure the account in last week's *Era* of the Territorial Boy Scouts movement undertaken by Mr. C. Barnard at the Elephant and Castle Theatre, and would like to draw your attention to the fact that our manager, Mr. James Marks, at the Picturedrome, Ashton-under-Lyne, has had a similar movement in hand for some time, and brought this into actual practice early last month, the first muster being 720. You will see from the enclosed this is no flash in the pan, but has taken firm hold in the town, and very great patronage from Col. Wainwright. Our sincerest wish is that the movement may extend throughout these islands.—Yours faithfully,

Liverpool, March 3. WEISKER BROS.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"LES DESARMES."

Play, in Three Acts, by M. René Wisner, Produced at the Théâtre des Arts on Feb. 25.

Sénart	M. HENRI BEAULIEU
Lieutenant Marchal	M. SCHELER
Colonel de Rodières	M. LURVILLE
Commandant Guittay	M. JULIEN-LACROIX
Capitaine Jacquot	M. TRAMONT
Térol	M. STERNY
Juliette	MLLE. ANDRÉE MÉRY
Nelly	MLLE. BERTHE LEBLANC
Madame Marchal	MME. DESVERGNES
Madame de Rodières	MME. LELIÈVRE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, March 4.—Under the auspices of the well-known dramatic society "Les Essayeurs," *Les Désarmés*, a three-act play by M. René Wisner, was brought out at the Théâtre des Arts, and met with a first-class reception. It is a clever work, worthy of finding its place on the répertoire of a leading Paris house. The plot is laid in a military milieu, and illustrates the troubles of Lieutenant Marchal, a penniless officer, in his attempt to keep up a decent appearance in Society. Marchal, married to the charming Juliette, has nothing beyond his lieutenant's pay, out of which he has even to provide for his mother and sister. To make matters worse, Juliette is fond of finery. Her dowry of £1,200 has in course of time dwindled to £800, and she owes money to dressmakers and milliners of which her husband is not aware. Acting on the advice of Sénart, an ex-priest, Marchal entrusts the £800 to a financier, who promises him big returns; but the financier absconds, and Marchal, hopelessly ruined, is in a terrible plight with his wife's debts staring him in the face. De Rodières, the colonel of the regiment, questions Marchal as to his financial position, and on being told that it is desperate informs the poor lieutenant that the affair may have serious consequences for him. Sénart, the cause of the trouble, pretends to be unable to advance the small sum that will assist the Marchals over their difficulty; but when Juliette, boiling over with anger, threatens to divulge to the anti-clerical Press his underhand dealings with the before-mentioned financier, Sénart takes up a different position and promises to help them. He keeps his word; and the author here shows the occult power of the clergy in all matters pertaining to the army. Through Sénart's influence Marchal's creditors consent to give him all the time he wants to discharge his debts, and Marchal's chances of being promoted captain—at one time doubtful—are now perfectly secure. M. Beaulieu, who reminded us of the Jesuit Rodin in Eugène Sue's "Wandering Jew," supplied a capital sketch of the wily Sénart; M. Scheler was very convincing in the rôle of the luckless Lieutenant; Mlle. Méry gave us a charming Juliette; and the other parts were also well sustained.

The evening's entertainment began with *Notre fils*, one act, by Mme. Lucy Achalme. Germaine's husband is a nobleman of the rough sort. He and his wife live all the year round in their lonely country house in Brittany, the Count's time being taken up with shooting and hunting. Their little three-year-old boy is suddenly taken ill, whereupon Germaine sends for the doctor, who says that an operation is necessary to save the child's life. From a conversation between her and the doctor we gather that she was his mistress before her marriage, and that he is the father of the child. The Count will not allow the operation to be performed, whereupon we witness a violent scene between him and his wife, culminating in the woman confessing her guilt, and telling him that under these circumstances his interference becomes odious and grotesque, and when the Count, despite these explanations, still withholds his consent, his wife seizes a gun and kills him, calling out to the doctor, "Now, let us save our boy!"

"J'EN AI PLEIN LE DOS DE MARGOT,"

Comedy, in Two Acts, by MM. G. Courteline and Pierre Wolff, Produced at the Renaissance on Feb. 27.

Margot	MLLE. JEANNE DESCLOS
Camille	MLLE. MARGUERITE CARON
Ursule	MLLE. C. DELYS
Amélie	MLLE. L. GUENOT
Lavernié	M. LUCIEN GUITRY
Lauriane	M. FELIX GALIPEAUX
Marvéjol	M. BERTHIER
Facteur	M. DELANGLE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

J'en ai plein le dos de Margot, like all Courteline's productions, leaves a bitter aftertaste. Lauriane lives with a charming little ex-ouvrière named Margot, whom, with his ill-humour and malice, he leads a terrible life. Finally, he confides to the painter Lavernié that he is sick of Margot, and that the painter can have her if he likes. In truth, this is only an exaggeration of irritable temper, and is not meant to be taken seriously. But the heart-broken child, who confesses that she has no will to help herself or to resist, makes Lavernié understand that she loves him. There follows a flirtation between her and the painter. When Lauriane learns that his mistress is at the painter's, he arrives in a fury, and the scene that ensues is very comical. Lavernié says Margot shall stay with him; Lauriane fumes, expostulates, rants, and finally wheedles. When he finishes up by telling Margot that he will marry her, she gets up and follows him, leaving the painter. And so the incident ends. Those two consummate actors MM. Guitry and Galipeaux worked wonderfully well together, and helped considerably to make the work a success. Mlle. Desclos did not throw quite enough warmth into her part, but otherwise proved a winsome Margot.

THE Renaissance also revived *Le Juif Polonais*, known to most English people, who will remember the late Sir Henry Irving in the English version, *The Bells*. The plot of Erckmann-Chatrian's famous play is sufficiently well known, and need not be retold. It was beautifully acted. M. Guitry, who made an imposing Mathias, was especially telling in the scene with his prospective son-in-law, the "maréchal de logis," and in the very difficult tableau of the dream, in which the guilty man is judged and condemned by the spectral court. The work, creditably mounted, was interpreted by an efficient cast, comprising MM. Magnier and Dubosc, and Mmes. Dux and Denèga.

THE *Chantecler* question is getting on our nerves. The fuss made about it in the theatrical world is verging upon the grotesque. Our Fine Arts Minister has very properly refused M. Le Bargy permission to impersonate the principal rôle in Rostand's play whilst still a member of the Comédie-Française. M. Le Bargy is, therefore, now out of the running; and as it was he who made the most noise in the affair, we need not trouble about the others.

THE old management—I should say mismanagement—of the Théâtre de l'Ambigu has made a graceful exit, and MM. Henri Hertz and Jean Coquelin, of the Porte-Saint-Martin, are now in possession. They intend to inaugurate their reign with a revival of *Le Courrier de Lyon*, wherein M. Léon Noël will again impersonate Choppart. Then will follow a revival of *L'Assommoir*, with Mlle. Léonie Yahne as Gervaise, a rôle played at that theatre by Mme. Suzanne Desprès. The part of Nana will be entrusted to Mlle. Marie-Louise Roger. No novelties have thus far been announced.

MM. MESSAGER and Broussan are clinging desperately to their posts. But will they be able to retain them? They are being fearfully attacked; but many of these attacks come from unclean quarters, and have an unpleasant smell of blackmail.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Sir Charles Wyndham is included among the list of speakers at the annual meeting of the Duchess of Albany's Deptford Fund. The gathering will be held at Lord and Lady Portman's West End residence on Thursday afternoon, May 27, and Her Royal Highness will preside.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree has given an earnest of his intention to secure a "star cast" for his forthcoming revival of *The School for Scandal* by the engagement of Mr. Edward Terry for the part of Crabtree. Miss Marie Löhr will be the Lady Teazle, Miss Ellis Jeffreys the Lady Sneerwell, Mr. Robert Loraine the Charles Surface, Mr. Basil Gill the Joseph Surface, Mr. Henry Neville the Sir Oliver, and Mr. Lionel Brough Moses. The production is at present underlined for Saturday, April 10.

Mr. George Alexander has accepted from Mr. A. E. W. Mason a new comedy entitled *Colonel Smith*, for production at the St. James's at the conclusion of the run of *The Prisoner of Zenda*, the revival of which is being justified by excellent houses. Mr. Mason, whose Parliamentary duties have occupied the time which might otherwise have been devoted to the stage, was last heard of on the occasion of the production of his comedy, *Marjory Strode*, at the Playhouse in March last. His latest work deals with life under modern conditions, the action of the piece being laid in the country. Mr. Alexander and Miss Irene Vanbrugh will both appear in the new play.

Mr. H. B. Irving brought his season at the Shaftesbury to a close on Saturday amid a remarkable display of enthusiasm, and many wishes for a speedy return to the West End. After *King René's Daughter* Miss Dorothea Baird, who had a very hearty reception, was presented with an exquisite basket of yellow flowers; and at the end of *The Lyons Mail*, which followed, Mr. Irving was the recipient of a huge wreath of bays.

After responding to numerous recalls, Mr. Irving was at length induced to make a short speech, in the course of which he said that after a tour to begin about Easter, he hoped to return to London, his dramatic home, when Mr. McCarthy's Cæsar Borgia play, which the success of *The Lyons Mail* had prevented him from staging in the present season, would be his first production. The popularity of the revivals of the last few weeks had encouraged him to contemplate appearing in *The Bells*, and the welcome given to *Louis XI.* suggested to him that the play should be put up for a run. Each interesting statement was received with cheers of the most encouraging description.

A pleasing ceremony was enacted on the stage after the performance. All the company and staff being assembled, Mr. Irving was summoned from his dressing-room, and was presented by Mr. Frank Tyars—so long a valued member of Sir Henry Irving's company—with an address and a large and beautiful silver Georgian inkstand, which bore the inscription: "To Henry Brodribb Irving, in commemoration of his first season as a London manager, at the Shaftesbury Theatre, Oct. 15, 1908, to Feb. 27, 1909, and also in celebration of his 125 consecutive performances there of Lesurques and Dubosc in *The Lyons Mail*, with the good wishes of his company and staff."

Mr. Martin Harvey has sent a further sum of £2 to the Secretary of the Actors' Benevolent Fund, collected on his present tour by means of his autograph, and Mr. C. H. Workman, of the Savoy Theatre, has forwarded a further sum of 12s. obtained by the same means.

Miss May Palfrey and her husband, Mr. Weedon Grossmith, will form an attraction that could not well be resisted by Stratford playgoers at the Borough Theatre on Monday, the former making her first London appearance in *Mrs. Dot*, which has met with so much success in all the big provincial towns visited by Miss Palfrey since last September. Included in the cast are also Mr. F. Kinsey Peile, Mr. Basil Hallam, and Mr. Hugh C. Buckler.

Following Mr. Somerset Maugham's diverting comedy, Mr. Weedon Grossmith will be seen for the first time in London in the piece which he produced at the Theatre Royal, Portsmouth, on Monday, entitled *The Mystery of Redwood Grange*, a new and original play, in one act, written by "An Englishman." The little piece, on the initial performance, met with a most enthusiastic reception, and Mr. Grossmith, who achieved a triumph, will no doubt be seen in it in the West End at no distant date.

Mr. Martin Harvey made his first appearance in Rochdale at the Theatre Royal on Monday, and was enthusiastically received in *The Only Way*. On Thursday Mr. Harvey, Miss de Silva, and their company travelled to Halifax, where they opened to a very large audience. The performance last night was under the patronage of the Halifax branch of the Dickens Fellowship, and it goes without saying that Mr. Harvey's Sidney Carton was received with enthusiasm.

Next Monday the popular actor inaugurates the spring dramatic season at the Royal Court, Liverpool. Following his week's stay at Liverpool, Mr. Harvey begins the Scottish portion of his tour, which, this spring, is limited to three weeks, one being devoted to Edinburgh and two to Glasgow.

Miss Ada Reeve, fresh from her pantomime success at the Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool, resumes her part of Rhodanthe the Witch in the principal *Butterflies* company at the Tyne Theatre, Newcastle, on Monday. The company, which is under the direction of Mr. Wilfred Cotton, includes Messrs. Louis Bradfield, Blake Adams, Richard Green, and Lauri de Freece, Misses Stella St. Audrie and Phyllis Monkman.

Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton, who had been drawing crowded houses at the Castle Theatre, Stockton-on-Tees, during last week, were called before the curtain after the closing performance of *The Taming of the Shrew* on Saturday night. Responding to an enthusiastic demand for a speech, Mr. Asche expressed himself as intensely gratified at his reception at the Castle Theatre, which he remarked was one of the handsomest he had played in. It was his first visit to Stockton, but he hoped it would not be his last. Miss Brayton and he were shortly going on a tour in Australia, and they hoped on their return to pay another visit to the town.

Mr. Asche has decided to produce *Count Hannibal* on the 18th, at the Prince's Theatre, Bristol. The play has been adapted from Mr. Stanley J. Weyman's famous novel by Mr. Asche himself, with the assistance of Mr. Norreys Connell. It will be mounted on the usual sumptuous scale of Mr. Asche and Miss Brayton's productions. Costumes have been specially designed by Mr. Percy Anderson, Mr. Joseph Harker being responsible for the scenery. Mr. Asche appears as Count Hannibal de Tavannes, and Miss Brayton as the fair Huguenot Clothilde, and with the exception of one or two special engagements, the principals will be supported by the company which has been so long associated with them. It may be added that the novel has already been dramatised by Freeman Wills and Frederick Langbridge, whose play under the same title was produced at the Alexandra, Stoke Newington, in the April of 1906.

Mr. Edward Terry will commence a short spring tour at the Grand Theatre, Swansea, on Monday, with a repertory including *Sweet Lavender*, *Liberty Hall*, *The Magistrate*, and *The Passport*. The company supporting Mr. Terry will consist of Misses Edith Coleman, Christine Rayner, Evelyn Ormonde, Sophie Lingwood, Lydia Busch, and Ella Dixon, and Messrs. Edmund Hollick, William Dexter, Percy Goodyer, George Byrne, J. Poole Kirkwood, Percival Madgewick, and Christopher Steele. Mr. George Byrne will be responsible for the stage management, and Mr. A. Græme will be the business manager.

Mr. J. Bannister Howard has escaped all the rigours of the wintry weather at Ventnor, Isle of Wight, where he is recuperating after his indisposition. Mr. Howard sings the praises of the island enthusiastically, describing it as "better than all your Nices." He is enjoying warm weather, the sun being really hot, while violets and primroses are in full bloom!

Messrs. George Edwardes and Robert Courtneidge will produce *The Devil* at the Adelphi on Saturday, April 17. The piece, which has enjoyed marked success in America, is by a Hungarian author named Ferenc Molnar, and the London version is by Mr. Henry Hamilton.

His Satanic Majesty is presented as a man of culture, whose purpose is to prevent the illicit affection of an artist and his model being brought to a termination. The title-rôle will be played by Mr. Lyn Harding, who may be trusted to make the best possible effect out of the part, and the cast will also include Miss Alexandra Carlisle, Mrs. Cecil Raleigh, Miss Helen Leytol, Miss Gladys Mason, Mr. Vincent Clive, Mr. J. B. Gordon, Mr. J. S. Blythe, Mr. Edwin Lewis, and Mr. Bassett Roe.

Mr. W. V. Garrod will produce his new play *Are You the Man?* by Frank Price, at the Grand Theatre, Nottingham, on April 8. The entire production has been made and painted by Mr. E. Egerton of Bradford.

At the Parish Church of St. Andrew's, Holborn, on Saturday, the wedding took place of Miss Daisy Kersey and Mr. George Kenneth Underwood, of Southend-on-Sea. The bride has had a varied dramatic career, having been on the stage since she was twelve years old, and it was while playing the Princess in *Aladdin* at Southend that she was introduced to her future husband. She is more particularly known in the provinces, having played popular musical comedy parts, including those of the bride in *The Girl from Kay's*, and Irene in *The Duchess of Dantzic*. She is retiring from the stage on her marriage, Mr. Underwood being, we understand, of independent means.

Upon the termination of a successful tour with *Robinson Crusoe*, Mr. Harry Benet and his manager entertained the whole of the company at the Horse and Groom Hotel, Maesteg, on the 26th ult., to a sumptuous supper. Mr. Benet was the recipient of a gold match box, presented to him by the lady members of the company, and of a gold watch by Mr. Willie Kloof, the popular manager. A most enjoyable evening was finished up with a dance.

The ladies' annual dinner of the O.P. Club will take place at the Criterion on Sunday, March 21, with the president, Mr. Max Pemberton, in the chair. The guests of the evening will be Miss Violet Vanbrugh and Miss Marie Löhr, who will respond to the toast of "The Ladies," proposed by Mr. T. McDonald Rendle. The toast of "The O.P. Club" will be proposed by Mr. Henry Neville, and will be acknowledged by the President.

The introduction to the fourth issue of "The Green Room Book; or, Who's Who on the Stage," which will be published by T. Sealey Clark and Co., Ltd., on Monday next, is written by Mr. Beerbohm Tree.

Miss Marie Leonhard, who is at present playing Jocelyn Gordon in Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's *With Edged Tools* company, has won the beauty prize for the division of Lancashire in the competition recently held by *Pearson's Weekly*. Miss Leonhard has the distinction of being the only actress who has won a prize.

"The Luck of Roaring Camp," which is being played this week at Fulham, is another success for Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow. The play has been meeting with great appreciation in the provinces, and future bookings include Bradford, Leeds, Newcastle, Alexandra Theatre, Hull, and Liverpool.

The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Rollo Balmain will be pleased to know that their son, Augustus Rollo, has just matriculated at London University, and is now studying for the medical profession. Young Rollo is a godson of the late Sir Augustus Harris, and made his first appearance on the stage for a charity at his father's theatre—the Royal, Plymouth—under the patronage and presence of Royalty, in the Drury Lane play *The Royal Oak* at the age of four and a half months. It is reported that he preserved a masterly inactivity and a dignified silence. He recently toured as Valma in *The Gay Lord Quex*, and last appeared as the Rev. Mr. Eden in a revival of *It's Never Too Late to Mend* at the Theatre Royal, Cardiff, under the management of Balmain *père*.

Miss Amy Willard, having concluded her engagement with the *Jack Straw* company, has been engaged for the part of Amy Brown in the No. 1 company of *An Englishman's Home*, opening at Birmingham on Monday next.

At a meeting of the members of the Urban Club, held on the 26th ult., Mr. Farlow Wilson in the chair, it was unanimously resolved that Mr. E. Chas. Fache be elected hon. secretary in succession to the late Mr. W. E. Church, who held the position for thirty years. A letter was received from Mr. Chas. Cruikshanks, an old member of the club, in support of the appointment of Mr. Fache as hon. secretary. Mr. E. J. Odell and other members present made sympathetic references to the death of Mr. W. E. Church, who, besides having achieved distinction as an able and eloquent lecturer on literary and antiquarian subjects, was for many years on the staff of the *Daily Chronicle* and *Lloyd's* newspapers as dramatic and art critic. He was well-known to members of the dramatic profession, and highly esteemed by a large circle of literary and artistic friends.

It was resolved that the postponed dinner and entertainment in honour of the veteran actor Mr. Hermann Vezin, at which Mr. Bram Stoker has promised to preside, should be held at the end of the present month. It is proposed to invite Mr. Frank Desprez, the editor of *The Era*, to be present at this interesting celebration as the guest of the club. Although the Urban Club has by the much-regretted death of Mr. W. E. Church sustained a severe loss, it is hoped that the new hon. secretary will, with the united support of the members, succeed in maintaining the strength and popularity of a club which has been in existence for more than half a century, and can boast of having had amongst its members many men distinguished as authors (dramatic and otherwise), artists, and actors.

"Hamlet," which is to be produced by Messrs. Smith and Carpenter at the Lyceum on Tuesday, will be found to be arranged in a manner that will appeal irresistibly to the popular taste. Excisions have been made in the original text, but everything of importance bearing upon the story and the development of Hamlet's character has been retained.

Mr. Matheson Lang's reading of the title-rôle will be watched with interest, and Miss Hutin Britton's Ophelia may also be expected to reveal the quality of dramatic resource. Mr. Eric Mayne will be the Claudius, Miss Mary Allestree the Gertrude, Mr. Geo. Fitzgerald the Polonius, Mr. Halliwell Hobbes the Horatio, Mr. Lauderdale Maitland the Laertes, and Mr S. Major Jones the Gravedigger; and other parts will be entrusted to Messrs. Sidney Vautier, Cowley Wright, Richard Andean, and George Relph.

Miss Iris Hawkins, who is taking up singing as an art, has commenced studying with Mme. Kate Flinn. Miss Hawkins is proving an apt pupil. She had a great success at a recent concert given by Mrs. Hammersley in her two songs and dances from *Pinkie*—"The Bunny Song" and "When I am grown up." She was encored three times for the first contribution and twice for the second. Mme. Kate Flinn is giving a concert at the Steinway Hall on May 4.

The votes and interest of Freemasons are being solicited for Mrs. Ellen May for the May election for the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Widows of Freemasons. Mrs. May is sixty-eight years of age, and is residing at 368, Camden-road, N. She is the widow of the late W. Bro. Samuel May, theatrical costumier, of Bow-street, W.C., who was initiated in the Temple Lodge No. 101 on November 4, 1862, and remained a subscribing member till his death in 1876. He was also a member of the Royal Alfred Lodge, No. 780, the Globe Lodge, No. 23, the Lewis Lodge, No. 1185, and the Grand Stewards' Lodge. He was also P.Z. of a Masonic chapter. The late Bro. May was life governor of all the institutions, and acted as steward on many occasions. The applicant also is a life governor of the boys' schools. Votes are respectfully solicited, and will be duly acknowledged if sent to Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.

A meeting in support of the Territorial Boy Scouts scheme was held on Tuesday at the Elephant and Castle Theatre, among those present being Mr. Chas. Barnard (chairman and founder), Messrs. Sidney Barnard, H. Sherwood Martin, F. Bernardo (manager for Lester Collingwood), John Coghlan (secretary), and J. H. Thurlow (manager Denmark Music Publishing Co.). Letters were read from Mr. F. H. Pedgrift and Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett expressing sympathy with the movement and their regret at being unable to attend. An application from Mr. Walter de Frece to inaugurate corps at the various towns at which he directs so many music halls, beginning with Portsmouth, was approved.

"The Swiss Express," under the personal direction of Messrs. Charles and Frederick Renad, will resume its merry career on Easter Monday next During the vacation this celebrated play, which has contributed so liberally to the gaiety of the nation, has been brought fully up to date, several new features being introduced.

Charles and Frederick Renad will produce shortly an original farcical comedy in three acts entitled *The Merry Territorial*. This play was intended to follow their successful *Swiss Express*, but in view of the present patriotic boom they are arranging for its production early in the autumn. A tour embracing the principal provincial theatres is now being booked.

Miss Glossop-Harris and her talented company have met with great success on their first visit to the handsome New Pavilion Theatre at Weymouth, by no means the least enthusiastic among the vast audiences who have nightly visited the theatre being the officers and men of the Channel Fleet. The company have presented seven Shakespearean plays, and conclude to-night with *Othello*.

Mr. Robert Arthur has made arrangements for a season of Italian grand opera at the Coronet, to commence on April 26, when Mr. Louis Hillier is to introduce to London an Italian operatic combination, with a large company of "bel canto" singers, full chorus and orchestra, and their own mise-enscène. The operas will be chosen from a répertoire of over fifty works, many of which will be novelties to the music-loving public.

Mr. Alfred B. Cross, who has so long had the management of Mr. Hall Caine's play *The Manxman*, and has played Pete for the last seven or eight years, has secured what promises to be another success, in the fine American play by Mr. Hall Reid, entitled *The Night Before Christmas*. The initial performance at the Opera House, Coventry, on Monday, met with a most auspicious send-off. Both Mr. Cross and his wife (Miss Minnie Watersford) have parts that will help to maintain their reputation. A tour of the best dramatic theatres has already been booked.

Miss Violet Lloyd, happily recovered from her severe illness, resumed her rôle of Aladdin at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on Monday, and obtained a hearty welcome. Her every appearance was greeted by floral offerings, amongst which a beautiful lamp of violets illuminated by electricity and the word "Aladdin" formed by a huge garland of flowers, stood out prominently.

Miss Jeannie Thomas has been engaged for the autumn tour of *The Passing of the Third Floor Back* to play her sister's—Agnes Thomas—part of Mrs. Sharpe.

The benefit of Mr. Philip Rodway, acting-manager of the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, and joint-author of the book of the pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, was marked by the presence of a crowded and enthusiastic audience. The ordinary book was departed from in many details in order to make room for the large number of artists from neighbouring theatres and halls who contributed special turns to the entertainment. Miss Hetty King hurried from the Broad-street playhouse to give her song "Hang out the front door key," and had to make a speech before the recalls would subside. Mr. Jay Laurier, another popular comedian, from the Prince of Wales, and Miss Ellaline Thorne, from the Alexandra Theatre, Mr. Nat Clifford and Mr. Frank Harwood from the Gaiety Theatre, Messrs. Bliss and Bliss from the Hippodrome, and others had very hearty receptions.

Many of the artists who are appearing in *Dick Whittington* contributed special numbers for the occasion; among these Miss Sybil Arundale made a particularly good impression when she appeared as Columbine and gave a graceful dance. Mr. Tom Foy, the clever comedian who has done so much for the success of the pantomime throughout, gave, with assistance, "A Yorkshire Lad in London"; and Miss Ada Reeve motored over specially from Liverpool, where she has been appearing in pantomime, and received an ovation. In the course of the evening Mr. Rodway made a little speech gracefully acknowledging the services of the various artists, and was presented by Mr. Tom Foy, on behalf of the members of the *Dick Whittington* company, with a handsome silver inkstand. Other presentations were made behind the scenes.

Mr. F. R. Benson, who is again entrusted with the organisation of the Shakespeare Festival at Stratford-on-Avon, has arranged for Mr. Arthur Bourchier and Miss Violet Vanbrugh to give a special matinée of *Macbeth* on April 27, during the second week of the Memorial performances. A background of curtains will be used in lieu of scenery.

The cast for *The Noble Spaniard*, which will be staged at the Royalty on March 20, is now complete. Mr. Charles Hawtrey will appear in the title-rôle, and Miss Fanny Brough has been engaged for an important part. The remainder of the characters are allotted to Mr. E. Lyall Swete, Mr. Athol Stewart, Mr. Leon M. Lion, Miss Vane Featherston, Miss Muriel Beaumont, Miss Joy Chatwyn, and Miss Gladys Cooper. The last-named artist, it may be added, is now appearing in *Our Miss Gibbs* at the Gaiety.

The Shaftesbury, which is to undergo important alterations both structural and decorative, will be reopened at Easter by Mr. Robert Courtneidge with a new musical play by Mark Ambient and A. M. Thompson, with music by Lionel Monckton and Howard Talbot. In the cast will be included Mr. Dan Rolyat, Mr. Harry Welchman, Miss Phyllis Dare, and Miss Florence Smithson.

A new trick pantomimic sketch, written by Ward Bailey, and entitled *A Bandit's Blunder*, will be played by the members of Miss Dorothy Ewins's company at the West London on Monday. An unusual feature of this sketch is that the ladies also take the leaps. Amongst the troupe will be found Mesdames Dorothy and Agnes Ewins, and Messrs. James and Harry Ewins and George Robertson.

Miss Constance Collier has concluded a very successful engagement as Ann Marie in *Samson* in America, and sailed on Wednesday by the Adriatic, which is due to arrive at Plymouth on the 10th.

"The New Housemaid" is quite fulfilling its mission of creating laughter among provincial audiences. The business done in Dublin last week was phenomenal, and prosperity is also attending it this week at Barrow. Mr. E. Oswald Brooks is prominently identified with the production.

The Ian Maclaren Répertoire Company, which is travelling under the direction of Mr. E. Oswald Brooks, is one of the most completely equipped Shakespearean répertoire companies now touring. Immediate dates are being booked, and an autumn tour is being arranged for, preparatory to a London season in 1910.

We offer congratulations to Lady De Clifford on the birth of a daughter. Her ladyship will be remembered as Miss Eva Carrington, who before her marriage was a member of Mr. Seymour Hicks' company.

During the visit of Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company with *The Dairymaids* to the Grand Theatre, Oldham, last week, Thursday was set apart as a Territorial night. The Mayor (Alderman T. Bolton), the members of the Council, and the officers of the local battalion, the 10th, were present, and Captain Armstrong made a stirring appeal for recruits to the large audience assembled.

Mr. William Heath, upon his retirement last Saturday as manager of the Theatre Royal, Leigh, was the recipient of a handsome gift, which took the form of a purse of gold. Mr. W. H. Chippendale (his successor) made the presentation on behalf of the staff, Mr. Heath suitably responding.

At the Grand Theatre, Falkirk, on the 24th and 25th ult., Miss Rosalie Notrelle played the part of Ruth in Mr. Frederick Melville's latest success, *Married to the Wrong Man*, at three hours' notice. Miss Notrelle received congratulations on a clever performance of the dumb girl.

Owing to the indisposition of Miss Pamela Gaythorne, Miss Nell Carter played the part of Clotilde in *Samson* very successfully at the Garrick on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

Mr. Hermann Vezin, to whom we offer our sincerest congratulations on the attainment of his eightieth birthday on Tuesday, has been alluded to by a morning contemporary as the "father of the English stage." That distinction, however, should surely belong to Mr. Frederick Wright, sen., who in his eighty-third year still retains his place in the company of Mr. Martin Harvey, with whom he has been so long associated.

The Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington, which for a little over two years has been known as the Stoke Newington Palace, will on Monday next be reopened as a theatre. Next week it will be occupied by Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company, who will present *Peter's Mother*, Mrs. Cecil Raleigh being engaged for the part of Lady Mary Crewys. *Raffles*, in which Mr. Leonard Boyne's company will appear, is underlined for the following week.

We are informed that the Theatre Royal, Whitehaven, has been purchased by Mr. Stanley Rogers, the lessee of the Theatre Royal, North Shields, the Grand Theatre, Lancaster, and the Opera House, Workington. Extensive alterations, costing upwards of £2,000, will, we understand, be carried out, and the theatre will be considerably enlarged and made thoroughly up to date.

Mr. F. M. Paget, who is residing in Windsor, has kindly consented to recite "The Fireman's Love" at the entertainment to be given by the local fire brigade at the Royal Albert Institute, Windsor, on Wednesday evening next. Vocal music will also be included in the programme.

The artists of *The Babes in the Wood* pantomime, which has had such a long run at the Elephant Theatre, and will terminate to-night, had supper at the White Hart Hotel, eighty people sitting down. The arrangements were in the hands of Messrs. H. Sherwood Martin and Will Cartwright.

"Paid in Full," the powerful American drama, which excited so much enthusiasm on its production last year at the Aldwych, will, by arrangement with Mr. Charles Frohman, be taken on tour at Easter by Miss O'Neill. This latest recruit to the ranks of the actress-manageress is a promising young player of which much may be expected, while the play, strong as it undeniably is, ought to prove highly acceptable to provincial audiences. A first-class company has been engaged, and some excellent dates secured. Mr. Wentworth Croke has charge of the entire arrangements.

The popular Hutchison management, always to the fore in the world of theatrical enterprise, have arranged with that charming actress Miss Mabel Love to appear at the Broadway Theatre, New Cross, next Monday for a special week in the title-rôle of Mr. Somerset Maugham's great play *Lady Frederick*. Miss Love will be supported by a strong cast, including Mr. Robert Minster, who has made such a decided hit in the part of Paradine Fouldes. *Lady Frederick* has attracted and fascinated big provincial audiences this spring, and Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company, with such a strong additional attraction as Miss Mabel Love, will be sure to be welcomed at the Broadway with much enthusiasm.

Mr. Seymour Hicks' *Gay Gordons* company will be at the Crystal Palace Theatre next week. The following week the Palace will have a distinguished visitor in Mr. Edward Terry, who will appear on Monday, Tuesday, and Saturday in *Sweet Lavender*; on Wednesday evening and Saturday matinée in *Liberty Hall*; on Thursday evening in *The Magistrate*; and at the Wednesday matinée and on Friday evening in *The Passport*—truly a most attractive array.

The King has thoroughly maintained his reputation as an ardent theatregoer this week. On Monday His Majesty visited Wyndham's and witnessed *An Englishman's Home*, and the following evening found him at His Majesty's for Mr. Tree's revival of *The Dancing Girl*. Accompanied by the Prince and Princess of Wales, King Edward on Thursday witnessed the performance of *Henry of Navarre* at the New Theatre.

A special matinée of Ibsen's *The Master Builder* will be given at the Court Theatre on March 16 by Miss Jessica Solomon, who has just returned from touring *Merely Mary Ann*. Miss Solomon will be supported by Miss Maud Borrow, Miss Beatrix Filmer, Mr. Rathmell Wilson, Mr. Campbell Cargill, Mr. Esme Filmer, and Mr. Ross Share.

A new comedy, entitled *A Sense of Humour*, by Cosmo Hamilton, will be produced by Mr. Reginald Dance at the Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne, on the evening of Monday, March 22. A strong cast, including Miss Beryl Faber, has been engaged.

Mr. Ernest Imeson, who to-night reaches his 200th performance of Count Danillo in that successful "imaginary kingdom" play *The Love of the Princess*, claims the distinction of being the only person who has played in *Sweet Nell of Old Drury* (Haymarket version) both in the British Isles and in Australia and Tasmania. In Australia he appeared in the juvenile part of Sir Roger Fairfax, and with Miss Julia Neilson and Mr. Fred Terry as the light comedy heavy Lord Rochester. Whilst under that management, moreover, he spoke the first line in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, and obtained the first laugh in that perennial play as Mr. Hempseed, an old countryman, and also having the pleasure of making His Majesty King Edward VII. laugh when he appeared before him.

Miss Florence Imeson, who concluded a successful nine weeks as principal girl at the Shakespeare, Liverpool, on Saturday, wishes, through our columns, to thank all those who presented her with floral and other tributes on that night, and also to thank the kind friends who presented to her the massive gold fountain pen for singing at the concert.

We announce with regret the death of Mr. Fred Thomas, a veteran actor, who passed away on Monday at 159, Trumpington-Road, Forest Gate, at the advanced age of seventy-five. The deceased gentleman was very popular in his time, having played many principal parts at the old Grecian, Pavilion, and Stratford Theatres in the early fifties. He leaves a sorrowing widow, who nursed him during an illness which lasted for upwards of ten years. The funeral was announced for yesterday (Friday) at Woodgrange Cemetery.

Statistics issued by the French Society of Authors show that in the last twelve months seven playwrights have earned over £4,000 each, eight over £2,000, twenty-seven between £1,000 and £2,000, and twenty-eight between £500 and £1,000, while of 430 others none has earned less than £200.

The Liverpool Shakespeare pantomime, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, terminated its run on Saturday night last amidst great enthusiasm, there being a tremendous audience present. Bouquets were plentiful, and all the principal artists came in for a rousing farewell, several being called upon for a speech. Before the audience burst out into "Auld Lang Syne," Mr. John Gaffney, the esteemed manager of the theatre, in reply to a strong demand, came forward and thanked the public for the support they had given the pantomime, and announced that the title of next year's production would be *Dick Whittington*. On the Friday evening Miss Ada Reeve, the "Jack," was presented with a handsome pantomime cake, she having received 2,317 votes more than any other lady artist in the city in the competition for popularity and ability.

Mr. Ernest Digges, a popular and prominent member of Mr. Allan Wilkie's company, reached his twenty-second birthday on Wednesday, and received from friends both before and behind the curtain hearty congratulations and good wishes for the future. He was also the recipient of several presentations.

The Bill amending the copyright law which protects musical compositions from infringement by automatic pianos and other mechanical means was passed in the House of Representatives at Washington on Wednesday. The measure, which has already been passed by the Senate, provides that the composer shall receive a royalty of one penny per disc or roll when the composition is used for reproduction. It also completely revises the previous copyright laws relating to books, music, and works of art, and gives a foreign author sixty days within which to make arrangements for publishing a work in the United States without endangering his copyright.

A company of English and American players has been organised by Frau Meta Illing, a prominent Berlin actress, for the purpose of giving performances of London and American successes in the principal towns of Germany. Frau Illing's scheme is supported by the British Ambassador at Berlin, the American Ambassador, and many prominent men, and committees have been formed in Wiesbaden, Frankfort, and other towns to help the company.

Among the plays to be produced will be Bernard Shaw's *Candida*, Sutro's *The Fascinating Mr. Vanderveldt*, Pinero's *Iris*, R. C. Carton's *Mr. Hopkinson*, Henry Arthur Jones's *Hypocrites*, *The Truth*, by Clyde Fitch, and plays by Zangwill, William Gillette, and Augustus Thomas. There will also be performances for schools of *The School for Scandal*, scenes from *Pickwick*, and one of Shakespeare's comedies. The tour will begin at Wiesbaden on May 1, and the international company will next proceed to Frankfort.

On Tuesday afternoon a flying visit was made to King's Lynn by the company presenting Mr. Henry Arthur Jones's famous play of *Dolly Reforming Herself*. Considerable interest was created by the arrival of the powerful motor-cars which have been specially constructed for the use of the company on their tour. The large audience appreciated the excellence of the play, and were gratified with this brief opportunity of enjoying the clever acting of the artists. Miss Aimee de Burgh as Mrs. Harry Telfer (Dolly) has considerable work to do, and notwithstanding a severe cold she gave a most praiseworthy interpretation of her part, and successfully centred the interest of the piece upon the gradual growth of her reformation. Mr. P. H. Clayton Greene was excellent as Harry Telfer (Dolly's husband), the dignified bearing of Mr. Reginald Besant as Matthew Barron was fitting the part. As Mrs. Sturgess (Renie) Miss Gertrude Bibby displayed great ability; Mr. Donald Calthorp as Captain Lucas Wentworth, Mr. Edward Sterling as Professor Sturgess, and Mr. Chas. F. Hawthorne as Rev. James Pilcher all tended to the success of the play.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Shakespeare and Bacon.

A CORRESPONDENT writes:—"In the controversy of the Shakespeareans and Baconians the latter point out the actor William Shakespeare to have been a rough, uncultured man, who could hardly write. They base this argument on the fact that five signatures on documents are regarded as all that we possess of Shakespeare's handwriting, and that these signatures are at least partly of such a neglected form as to cause doubts in the culture and mental education of their writer. They forget, indeed, that at least one of these signatures was damaged by persons examining the testament and making tracings of the famous name. There exists a copy, though, of this signature, as of all the others, out of the first two scores of years after the discovery of the testament in 1747. This copy is clear and good and shows, as well as all the other signatures, a strongly individual and highly gifted personality of a passionate disposition. These signatures are small material, though, for a thorough study of character. It is therefore an important discovery that they are identical with the handwriting of the three large sheets of the testament, said to be written by a clerk, a saying not based on a single fact, but contradicted by more than one. This discovery by M. Thumm-Kintzel, with all the handwriting material, is given in the latest copy of the German monthly magazine *Der Menschenkenner* (Leipzig, Otto Wigand). The pedantic, unpoetical handwriting of Francis Bacon is here compared with the highly genial, poetical, and artistic strokes of the testament and the signatures of William Shakespeare. They are described as follows:—'The handwriting of the testament and the signatures reveals the character, the mind, and the gifts of a giant, and is worthy of being placed aside of the handwriting of a Beethoven, a Goethe. Bacon's handwriting, though, shows a busy and serious scientist, too serious and humourless for Shakespeare's works. But a poet? No. It shows a politician and a lawyer, but a poet's phantasy and imagination? Never!' These investigations are the first attempts at solving the Shakespeare-Bacon question by comparisons of handwriting."

"The Easiest Way."

OUR New York correspondent states that the theatrical syndicate there have refused to book a play called *The Easiest Way* and several others that have been characterised as immoral. As the syndicate controls the majority of the leading playhouses of the country, it certainly looks as if the American stage is to be purified. *The Easiest Way* was produced by Mr. David Belasco, who is the head of the "independent" theatre managers. They control comparatively few theatres, and, in order to make up a profitable tour, are compelled to depend on the syndicate theatres to some extent for their bookings. Another play to which objections have been made is *The Blue Mouse*, which Mr. Clyde Fitch adapted from the German. It has been playing to crowded houses at the Lyric Theatre, New York, and it is said that the syndicate has refused to book it. This play is produced by the Shuberts, who control a number of theatres in the South and West, and the exclusion of such a profitable attraction from the syndicate houses is likely to start a theatrical "war."

"I TAKE the position," writes the author of the play, "that the decent people of this town are in ignorance of just what that wrong is, and how to fix it. I have written a play to show them the terrific influence of a certain element of newly rich or irresponsible rich sons who find their pleasure in playing with weak and unfortunate women as others do with their dogs and horses. It is the truth, and what harm can there be in the truth? Those whom the truth hurts in this instance need not see the play, but can look into their own consciences and their own memories, and those whom the truth does not hurt cannot be injured by seeing the play, because it will show them a side of life that some time, some way, they may be able to alleviate. And if one woman's soul is saved from the human wolves of the 'Tenderloin,' then the play has done something.

"'THE EASIEST WAY' is true to life. It is the arraignment of an evil that is virulent as an ulcer, eating up the vitality and strength of the American nation. It is an evil that is growing with such tremendous strides that, unless properly controlled or stopped altogether, it will spell destruction to the home and to the honour of our people and our Republic. I had an idea that the best way to deal with this was to condemn it. *The Easiest Way* is devoted to its arraignment, not its glorification. I also believe that from the condemnation of wrong-doing right-doing will result."

The Actor's Magnetism.

"IRVING'S aim," says Mr. Robb Lawson, in a clever and thoughtful article in the *Fortnightly*, "was closely akin to that of Diderot and Talma, but to the requisites of these two he added another, the virtue of personal magnetism. Psychologically, the gift is difficult to explain in a popular way. Certainly, there was in Irving's stage presence a subtle indefinable stream of magnetic power which compelled your attention, although it may not have enlisted your entire sympathy. It suggested latent power and a certain mysterious reserve. It is doubtful whether personal magnetism can be accounted a legitimate virtue in acting. Of its effect upon an audience, there can be little room for doubt. The question is one which is bound up with that of personality in acting. The conflict in the actor's mind lies between the self and what is not self: it is the striving to express a given character by sloughing off his own consciousness. To impersonate effectively demands intellectual operations of a high order. It implies the ability to maintain a certain balance of the tendencies at work in the mind. When any single tendency, or group of tendencies, inclines to overrule the others, the balance is overthrown, and the dominating tendency has the sole opportunity for expression. Such is the law of personality. And if it so happen that the personality be a dominating one, it is very probable that the sympathies of the audience will be more easily enlisted by this kind of actor than by the entirely impersonal one."

It was so Funny.

A REMARKABLE incident occurred recently at the Queen's Theatre during the performance of *The Belle of Brittany*. A lady seated in the pit laughed so heartily that at the conclusion of Mr. George Graves' eccentric dance, she became exhausted and lapsed into unconsciousness. A doctor, who happened to be in the stalls, hurried to her assistance, and the lady was removed to a cloakroom, where after great difficulty she was revived, and later on recovered sufficiently to be taken home.

Almost too Natural.

IN the successful melodrama *The Girl Who Wrecked His Home*, which has been running at the Luisen Theatre, Berlin, an accident happened the other night which might easily have proved serious. A revolver used by the hero in the second act had been loaded with shot instead of being supplied with blank cartridge—a reprehensible piece of carelessness on somebody's part. The actor, Herr Stuenker, in his attempt at suicide, received, happily, only a slight wound, and was able—with a bandaged head—to finish his part. The audience noticed nothing wrong, and merely thought—when he fell to the ground with fright—how unusually well he was acting.

"PHILOPOENA."

A Farrago of Fun, Fancy, and Foolishness in Two Acts, Book and Lyrics by Edgar Smith, Music by Maurice Levi, Played for the First Time in England at the Aldwych Theatre on Feb. 27.

Philip Gesler ..... MR. FRANK BERNARD
Henry Hawkins ..... MR. STANLEY COOKE
Charley Hammersley ..... MR. SYDNEY BARRACLOUGH
Sam Walker ..... MR. RALPH NAIRN
Mons. Dauber ..... MR. ALFRED LESLIE
Antoine ..... MR. EDWARD KIPLING
Wilhelm ..... MISS LUCY KIPLING
Marcelle ..... MISS SILVIA ZAN
Helene ..... MISS LESEMOIR-GORDON
Elise ..... MISS D. DOLARO
Jeanne ..... MISS ELIZABETH WIELAND
Eaton Beane ..... MR. P. DENTON
Mrs. Eaton Beane ..... MISS ENID LESLIE
Fuller Fogg ..... MR. ROPER LANE
Mrs. Fogg ..... MISS JULIA DOLARO
Mimi de Chartreuse ..... MME. MORICHINI
Peter Routt ..... MR. HARRY BERTRAM
Mrs. Routt ..... MISS DOROTHY WALLIS
Biffkins ..... MR. JOHN BENNETT
Howell Goode ..... MR. H. PERCY
Toots Horner ..... MR. CYRIL KEENE
Willoughby Hurd ..... MR. H. NORTH
Fifine ..... MISS CONSTANCE FISHER
Ninette ..... MISS M. ROMNEY
Marice ..... MISS GLADYS LENNOX
Pierre Montmarte ..... MR. E. J. CARLINS
Henri Batignolles ..... MR. REGINALD THOMAS
Jean Maxim ..... MR. CHRIS FRANCIS
Maurice Vian ..... MR. GEORGE GRAY
Hans ..... MR. RICHARD LOMAS
Philopoena Gesler ..... MISS MARIE DRESSLER

Messrs. Edgar Smith and Maurice Levi's piece does not claim to be more than a "farrago," and it fully justifies the description. It is, indeed, merely a background for the display of the talents of two remarkable performers with strongly contrasted styles. It is somewhat difficult to describe the piece itself. The action opens in the Alps. Here a couple of tourists, a rich mustard manufacturer named Gesler and a man from Liverpool called Henry Hawkins, are enjoying themselves, accompanied by Charley Hammersley, Hawkins's nephew, and Gesler's daughter Philopoena. She is a big, bold, half-educated American girl; and her parent and Hawkins are anxious that a match shall be made between her and Charley. The young people are strongly opposed to this arrangement, Charley being enamoured of a beautiful "Bohemian" of Paris, one Mimi de Chartreuse, while Philopoena has her eye on a youth called Sam Walker. They agree to cause a quarrel between Gesler and Hawkins, and to do so induce them to go to Paris. Before they depart, Gesler and Hawkins dress up as William Tell and his son, and are menaced by a number of Hammersley's friends disguised as Swiss brigands.

The scene of the second act is the Bois de Boulogne near the Cascade and Restaurant. Here there is some funny business with the garçon, caused by the tourists' ignorance of French; and Walker is induced to dress up as a waiter. Gesler and Hawkins discuss absurdly a will which the latter has made in favour of Miss Gesler. In this act there are some agreeable interludes, which are none the less acceptable to the audience for not having any visible connection with the play. A party of students from the Quartier Latin, disguised as North American Indians, enter and sing a song with a chorus; and Mimi gives very sweetly and pleasantly the Jewel Song from *Faust*. After much rather foolish fun, a satisfactory conclusion is arrived at, and the curtain descends amidst applause.

The success of Philopoena is a personal one, and is achieved by Miss Marie Dressler, an American artist with a striking personality and a real humorous talent. She throws herself into her work with great energy and earnestness, and she possesses the *vis comica* in a remarkable degree. She has several capital songs. In one of these, she embodies a "respectable working girl," who is greatly shocked at anything improper; in another she gives an amusing description of various types of musical play artists, which should appeal especially to professionals in the audience. Its satire is keen and its comicality undeniable. In one instance, at the end of each verse of a song, she does a sketch or burlesque of a well-known dance. These saltatory skits are very funny, and bring down the house. The vigour of Miss Dressler's appeal is irresistible, and she has personal advantages for comedy which cannot be ignored. She won the hearts of the audience entirely at the Aldwych on Saturday. Mme. Morichini's style of beauty is typically French, and she has a sweet speaking voice and a very bewitching style. The faculty of charm is certainly possessed by Mme. Morichini; she sings the Jewel Song in a way that proves excellent training. Mr. Frank Bernard and Mr. Stanley Cooke work together ably and amicably as the comic tourists; and Mr. Sydney Barraclough sings well and acts with ease and animation as Charley Hammersley, Mr. Ralph Nairn making the most of the not very thankful rôle of Sam Walker. Mr. Edward Kipling is alert and vivacious as Antoine; and Mr. John Bennett speaks his few lines well as Biffkins, a tourist from Tooting. The remainder of the rôles are subordinate, with the exception of that of Hans, a tame bear, ably represented by Mr. Richard Lomas, who quite gets into the skin of the part. The scenery by Messrs. Philip Howden and Alexandre Bailly is effective, Mr. Howden's Alpine view being picturesque, and Mr. Bailly's idealisation of the Bois de Boulogne Restaurant being very dainty and delightful. The chorus is well drilled and very earnest and efficient.

Philopoena was followed by a piece in one act, book and lyrics by Edgar Smith, music by Maurice Levi, entitled

"THE COLLEGETTES."

Prof. Witheredloon ..... MR. SYDNEY BARRACLOUGH
Jim Witheredloon ..... MR. RALPH NAIRN
"Ratty" McGown ..... MR. STANLEY COOKE
The Town Policeman ..... MR. FRANK BERNARD
Mrs. Trimley Dazzle ..... MISS LUCY KIPLING
"Stubby" ..... MISS LESEMOIR-GORDON
Polly ..... MISS GIPSY DALE
Jennie ..... MISS D. DOLARO
Tilly Buttin ..... MISS MARIE DRESSLER

With the exception of Miss Dressler all the artists who appeared in this ridiculous "skit" have our sympathy. It is a burlesque of *The College Widow*, the odd American football play which was presented to a London audience at the Adelphi last April. Mr. Sydney Barraclough and Mr. Ralph Nairn battled bravely with the difficulties of their tasks as Professor Witheredloon and Jim Witheredloon, and Mr. Stanley Cooke as the "Coach" made the most of the opportunity afforded him by a bit of mock elocution. The remainder of the cast was submerged by the silliness of the play, which was only saved from failure by the energetic and broadly-comic exertions of Miss Marie Dressler as Tilly Buttin, an "emergency half-back," a part which she sustained with energy, earnestness, and stolid comicality.

AN A.U. CRICKET CLUB.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—It having been decided that an Actors' Union Cricket Club be formed, we, the undersigned, would be glad to hear from all cricketing Thespians. The subject will be fully discussed at the Actors' Union weekly meeting at Hummum's Hotel, Covent Garden, March 9, at 2.30 p.m., and members enrolled.—Yours faithfully,

LANGFORD REED and WALTER L. RIGNOLD,
Hon. Secs.

49, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C., Feb. 26.

"THE HEAD OF THE FIRM."

Play, in Four Acts, Adapted by Leslie Faber from the Danish of Hjalmar Bergstrom, Produced at the Vaudeville Theatre on Thursday, March 4.

John Lydford ..... MR. JAMES HEARN
Philip Lydford ..... MR. HARCOURT WILLIAMS
James Browne ..... MR. J. D. BEVERIDGE
George Heymann ..... MR. LESLIE FABER
Edward Dalby ..... MR. EVELYN BEERBOHM
Torley ..... MR. ERNEST COSHAM
Helen Lydford ..... MISS HENRIETTA WATSON
Betty Lydford ..... MISS ETHELWYN JONES
Mrs. Dalby ..... MISS SYDNEY FAIRBROTHER

Mr. Leslie Faber's translation of Hjalmar Bergstrom's drama was not received at the Vaudeville Theatre on Saturday in quite the same spirit that its author probably intended; but, nevertheless, it held their attention firmly, created strong interest, and evoked hearty laughter. It is a drama of sociology and business, and the scene is laid in the house of John Lydford, the owner of the Lydford Ironworks. In order to indulge his taste for pictures he has allowed the reins of government at the works to be taken out of his hands by his manager, George Heymann, a young Jew of great cunning and ability. The great rivals of the Lydford works are a certain American Iron Trust, who threaten the Lydford establishment with extinction by underselling. Philip Lydford's son is an idle theorist, who has been spending his time abroad, and has become a strong Socialist. Mrs. Lydford fears and suspects Heymann, and when she learns that, by his advice, the business is to be turned into a limited liability company, she offers Lydford the alternative of dismissing Heymann or being separated entirely from her and from his son. Mrs. Lydford's father, an elderly schoolmaster, advises Lydford to consent to his wife's departure, but to send her daughter, Betty, who is secretly in love with Heymann, away with her. Betty at first refuses to go, but consents when Heymann asks her to do so. He then declares his love, and they become engaged. But when it comes to the point, the ironmaster consents to postpone the conversion of the business into a company, and has a violent quarrel with Heymann, who reveals the fact that the firm is in a dangerous position, with a strike imminent and the Trust menacing its prosperity. However, he resigns his position, and goes out.

The last act is taken up with showing that Heymann, *l'homme nécessaire*, must be reinstated. The son goes out to address the rioters, and is received with howls and insults. He returns, convinced that he is helpless, and the curtain falls on Lydford, with his wife's full consent, sending for Heymann to resume his post.

The piece was admirably acted, the most strikingly clever performance being that of Mr. Evelyn Beerbohm as Edward Dalby, an entirely original character, a young man overcome with conceit, who has started forging banknotes with the idea of making money of no value and thus doing away with capitalism. There was something so quaint and distinctive about Mr. Beerbohm's style of dressing and acting the part that the audience took him into favour at once, and laughed at every line he had to speak. Mr. Leslie Faber gave a very fine performance as George Heymann, his delivery of Heymann's defence when attacked by Lydford for "ingratitude" benig full of dramatic power and expression. Mr. Harcourt Williams gave a picturesque performance as Philip Lydford, and put an immense amount of fervour into Philip's Socialistic speeches. Mr. James Hearn was very happily selected to represent John Lydford, the weak, vain, nervous nature of the man being suggested with admirable art; and Miss Sydney Fairbrother made a brief but striking impression in the comic part of a "carneying" old work-woman. Mr. Ernest Cosham was efficient as a servant; and Miss Ethelwyn Jones played the lively and self-willed daughter very prettily; Miss Henriette Watson giving a most artistic representation of Mrs. Lydford's nervous and excitable nature. *The Head of the Firm* was preceded by the one-act piece by Keble Howard called *The Dramatist at Home*, in which Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Faber appeared to great advantage.

"TERENCE."

Comedy in Four Acts, Adapted by Mrs. B. M. Croker from her Novel of the same name, Produced at the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin, on Monday, March 1.

Terence ..... MR. MURRAY CARSON
Sir Greville Fanshawe ..... MR. EDGAR KENT
Capt. Bertrand Lovell ..... MR. PHILIP LESLIE
Simon Foulcher ..... MR. ERNEST A. DOUGLAS
Patrick Ryan ..... MR. J. R. LA FANE
"Judge" ..... MR. T. N. WEGUELIN
Waiter ..... MR. C. BULKLEY
Maureen D'Arcy ..... MISS LILLIAN HALLOWS
Lady Nita Fanshawe ..... MISS GWLADYS MORRIS
Mrs. Duckett ..... MISS HILDA DICK
Mrs. Willis ..... MISS ELSIE WOOD
Mrs. Perry ..... MISS L. MARSHALL
Mrs. O'Hara ..... MISS EUGENIE VERNIE
Julia ..... MISS MAUD ABBOTT

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Mrs. B. M. Croker is the authoress of several successful Irish stories besides that on which she founded the play which Mr. Murray Carson and company produced at the Gaiety, Dublin, on Monday.

The first act opens at the Fly and Fish Hotel at Ballybay, a popular angling resort. Lady Nita Fanshawe, during the fishing excursions of her husband with a lively young widow, Mrs. Duckett, has been flirting with Captain Bertrand Lovell. Her half-sister, Maureen D'Arcy, a wealthy young Australian lady, prevents Lady Fanshawe from eloping with the Captain. Terence, a coachman, is the last of the ancient family of the Desmonds, who has sold out from the army. He and Maureen, after a perilous ride across the mountains, overtake the fugitive lovers. They abandon their intention, but Lady Fanshawe has left a letter at the hotel addressed to her husband which would compromise her completely. Sir Greville and Mrs. Duckett are expected back shortly; and the situation is urgent. By the help of Terence the letter is secured in time, and Maureen falls in love with him, Lady Fanshawe returning to her wifely allegiance repentant. Mr. Murray Carson's company gave a fine performance of the piece. Mr. Carson as Terence acted with his usual alertness and vivacity; Mr. J. R. Le Fane as Patrick Ryan was very characteristic; and Miss Lillian Hallows as Maureen D'Arcy acted with remarkable expression and charm. Miss Eugenie Vernie played the landlady of the Railway Hotel neatly, and Mr. Ernest A. Douglas as an inquisitive guest at the hotel was very quaint and humorous. Mr. Edgar Kent, Mr. Philip Leslie, Miss Hilda Dick, and Miss Gwladys Morris also did excellent work. The play was staged and dressed liberally, and had a cordial reception.

"BLUFFING ONE'S WAY."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—with reference to your notice in *The Era* of to-day, of the production of the new comedy, *Bluffing One's Way*, it is not correct to say that I have utilised more of my own ideas in it than those of Eugène Scribe, from whose comedy, *Le Puff*, it is adapted, though it would be quite correct to say that I have utilised many of them. By far the greater part of the ideas are those of Eugène Scribe, but the dramatist who made the adaptation for me had necessarily to omit a certain number of them, seeing that Eugène Scribe's comedy is in five long acts, and the adaptation had to be made in three fairly short ones.—Yours faithfully,

W. H. C. NATION.

Royalty Theatre, Feb. 27.

LYRIC THEATRE.

On Wednesday, March 3, Revival of the Play, in Five Acts, Adapted by Henry Hamilton from the Novel of Alexandre Dumas, entitled "THE THREE MUSKETEERS."

Louis XIII. ..... MR. GAYER MACKAY
Cardinal Richelieu ..... MR. A. E. GEORGE
Duke of Buckingham ..... MR. VINCENT CLIVE
Comte de Rochefort ..... MR. REGINALD DANE
M. de Treville ..... MR. CRONIN WILSON
Athos ..... MR. BASSETT ROE
Porthos ..... MR. HERBERT JARMAN
Aramis ..... MR. SHIEL BARRY
De Chemerault ..... MR. FRANK RIDLEY
D'Estrees ..... MR. FREDERICK LLOYD
Jussac ..... MR. S. J. WARMINGTON
Bicarat ..... MR. CATON WOODVILLE
Bernajoux ..... MR. O. S. BAILEY
De Cahusac ..... MR. CECIL MCGUINNESS
La Vieuville ..... MR. A. J. NAPPER
Vernet ..... MR. ROY CUSHING
Dujart ..... MR. C. BANKES
Felton ..... MR. S. J. WARMINGTON
Planchet ..... MR. ALEC F. THOMPSON
Mousqueton ..... MR. HERBERT VYVYAN
Bourdet ..... MR. PATRICK DIGAN
Brisemont ..... MR. A. N. WIGHT
Fourriet ..... MR. L. JAMES
De La Fauconnière ..... MASTER HAMILTON KNIGHT
Le Masle ..... MR. D. BARTUN
Raoul d'Artagnan ..... MR. LEWIS WALLER
Anne of Austria ..... MISS EVELYN D'ALROY
Miladi ..... MISS AURIOL LEE
Gabrielle de Chalus ..... MISS MADGE TITHERADGE
Mother Superior ..... MISS GWENDOLIN FLOYD
Toinette ..... MISS DOROTHY DIX
Sister ..... MISS MAY CHENERY

Mr. Henry Hamilton's adaptation of Dumas' novel was produced at the Globe Theatre on Oct. 22, 1898, with Mr. John Beauchamp as Cardinal Richelieu, Mr. Bassett Roe as Athos, Mr. Charles Goodhart as Porthos, Mr. Gerald Gurney as Aramis, Miss Kate Rorke as Anne of Austria, Miss Florence West as Miladi, Mis Eva Moore as Gabrielle de Chalus, and Mr. Lewis Waller as d'Artagnan. Mr. Waller revived the popular drama at the Lyric Theatre on Wednesday with marked success. His d'Artagnan is, indeed, one of the best rôles in his repertory, and he plays it with a spirit, *verve*, and *entrain*, and a dry, natural humour that are thoroughly effective. Fortunately that excellent actor Mr. Bassett Roe was again available for the part of Athos. Mr. Roe endows the personage with a chivalrous grace and serious dignity which make his performance noble and artistic. Mr. Herbert Jarman is a magnificent Porthos, and his splendid appearance, combined with a majestic largeness of style, fill the eye and satisfy the mind completely. Mr. Shiel Barry gives a dainty and delicate performance as Aramis; and Mr. Cronin Wilson is altogether excellent as M. de Treville, acting with warm feeling and bright, manly energy. Miss Evelyn D'Alroy gives a queenly and charming representation of Anne of Austria, and Miss Auriol Lee as Miladi cleverly combines coquetry with cunning and wickedness, Miss Madge Titheradge being a delightfully bright and natural Gabrielle de Chalus. Mr. Vincent Clive is a gallant Duke of Buckingham; Mr. A. E. George's Richelieu is a clever bit of historical characterisation; and Mr. Gayer Mackay contributes a well-considered and effective reading of the rôle of Louis XIII. Mr. Alec F. Thompson and Mr. Herbert Vyvyan do capital comedy work as Planchet and Mousqueton, and the subordinate rôles all have good exponents. The scenery is picturesque and suitable, and Mr. Waller's production of the play, in which he has had the valuable assistance of Mr. Herbert Jarman, is without shortcomings or defects, Mr. Charles La Trobe's stage-management having much to do with this result. The overture and incidental music, cleverly composed by Mr. Frederick Rosse, are admirably performed by Mr. Leonard Chalk's excellent orchestra. The revival has had a hearty reception.

"THE SPARE ROOM."

Play, in One Act, by E. M. Bryant, Produced at the Criterion on Saturday, Feb. 27.

Keziah Crauford ..... MISS ALICE BEET
Jane Crauford ..... MISS AMY LAMBORN
Dulcie Crauford ..... MISS GWENDOLEN WREN
Mary ..... MISS MAY TAVERNER
Henry Crauford ..... MR. LYTTON GREY

One of Tennyson's most touching poems is concerned with the triumph of infantile charm over the heart of a relentless parent, and a similar theme is treated effectively in the new one-act play which now precedes *The Real Woman* at the Criterion. The sentiment of the story is skilfully preserved by the writer, who has managed to weave into it a humorous interest, and so provide a piece that might well warrant an early arrival at the theatre. The authoress, of whose little play, *The Peacemaker*, we have agreeable memories, has been at some pains to limn the character of Keziah Crauford, the maiden lady who rules with a rod of iron the little country cottage of which she, her sister Jane, and her brother Henry form the sum total. If Keziah has a weak spot it is that of her affection for her nephew Hector, whom she had brought up from childhood. What is her horror, therefore, to receive a letter in which it is stated that during his sojourn in America Hector has married, having concealed the fateful fact from her for two years. Moreover his young wife is coming to England to take up her abode with his aunt until such time as he shall have recruited his fallen fortunes. Jane, who is for welcoming the visitor, ventures to suggest that she shall be accommodated in the spare room, but Keziah warmly dissents from the proposal, and when the young wife arrives gives her a frigid reception, eventually assuring Hector's wife that she will never forgive her nephew. The young lady indignantly announces her intention of going to London, when Keziah becomes alarmed at her determination, and Henry, who has been banished from the room for fear that the designing young person may influence him, is recalled to prevent her departure. Keziah's defeat, thus begun, is emphasised by the appearance of baby, and is made complete when she learns that Hector's child has been named after herself, the aunt being left caressing the child as the curtain falls.

A cordial reception was given to the little piece, which was acted with sympathetic care and finish. Miss Alice Beet gave a clever character sketch of the prim and precise Keziah, retaining her adamantine firmness to the end, when the innate tenderness of the maiden aunt was pleasingly expressed. The young wife was presented with girlish freshness by Miss Gwendoline Wren, whose graceful appearance and refined style were invaluable in the rôle, and the concern of the good-hearted Jane was quite affectingly portrayed by Miss Amy Lamborn. Mr. Lytton Grey drew an amusing picture of a benevolent elderly gentleman as brother Henry, and a comic creation was supplied by Miss May Taverner's "slavey," who is reputed to be either breaking crockery or gossiping with the neighbours.

The Real Woman is being thoroughly enjoyed by large audiences, to whom Miss Evelyn Millard's portrayal of the society butterfly, first fascinating, then generously impulsive, and finally convincingly sincere, becomes very engrossing. Miss Annie Hughes makes one of the most conspicuous successes of a notable career as the delightfully original Duchess of Dorchester, and Mr. Henry Ainley, Miss Kate Cutler, Mr. Allan Aynesworth, and Mr. Herbert Waring contribute valuably to a production which well deserves to figure among the successes of the season.

THE Theatre Royal, Cardiff, has been closed for alterations.

"THE FOLLIES."

The bill which was offered to the audience on Monday at the Apollo was composed of a variety performance including ten items; that clever, amusing, but rather unfair "skit" *Everybody's Benefit*, and two of "Pélissier's Potted Plays." The taste for travesty was strong in the days of the old burlesques, and the public still finds pleasure in the caricature of well-known pieces. A tribute is paid to the success of *What Every Woman Knows* by its being travestied by the Follies. The stage represents a combination of the first three scenes of Mr. Barrie's play. The best burlesque is undoubtedly that of Maggie Wylie, which has just the necessary amount of resemblance to Miss Hilda Trevelyan. Mr. Pélissier is physically unable to "embody" Mr. Gerald du Maurier as John Shand, and falls back on pure drollery, appearing attired in a railway porter's jacket, a kilt, and a top hat, the last-named being intended to show that he is trying to be a gentleman. Much fun is got out of the accents of the personages, the double of the Comtesse de la Brière giving up Scotch in despair, and resorting to the more easily imitated Welsh. There is also a suffragette, who dashes in at intervals demanding "votes for women." The skit does not satirise any weakness in *What Every Woman Knows*; it simply uses the original as a suggestion for a "screaming" absurdity. The conventional effects of comic opera lend themselves even better to burlesque; the "potted" version of *The King of Cadonia* is a light-hearted and comical skit on that successful entertainment and its leading exponents. The loudest laughter was heard when one of the Follies, raised on a platform on wheels, was pushed on to caricature Miss Isabel Jay's charming mannerisms. Mr. Pélissier does not require to burlesque any particular person; he is a "droll positive"; and his entry in the royal robes made so familiar by a celebrated "poster," and wearing enormous boots, evokes roars of laughter. There are some hits at the alleged inanity of the choruses and the choristers, and a great deal of harmless fun, such as the use of penny trumpets to supply the absent "brass." The "hit of the evening" was made in a very ingenious manner. Mr. Pélissier, coming forward, apologised for the non-production of the proposed "pot" of *An Englishman's Home*. Then cries of "Let's do it!" were heard behind the curtains, accompanied by the sounds of firing and the explosion of shells. Mr. Pélissier frantically endeavoured to stop the performance, but his efforts were in vain. The cannonading continued; and when the curtains were at last drawn the scene represented "Britannia's Villa," after being bombarded by the army of the "Empress of the North," knocked almost to pieces, with a "To let" board standing in the garden. This "surprise" had an immense success. The miscellaneous entertainment which preceded it is very bright, amusing and agreeable. Mr. Louis Laval and Miss Maud Evans play on the double grand; "The Follies" sing a tuneful chorus, and support Miss Muriel George in her rendering of "My Moon"; Mr. Lewis Sydney tells some funny stories; Miss Gwennie Mars and Mr. Douglas Maclaren join in "I Worship the Ground"; Miss Effie Cook and Miss Muriel George have a quaint operatic duet; Miss Ethel Allandale sings "Teddy Bear," the rest of the company fondling each a specimen of those furry toys; "There's a sun still shining in the sky" is given by Mr. Pélissier with all the old effect, and an allusion to the censor's recent prohibition; Miss Effie Cook warbles "Never More"; and the Beverage Quartettes, "Port," Harrogate Wells," "Cyder," "Rum," and "Blubber," are as comically-childish and quaintly clever as before. In the interval Mr. Alfred H. West plays his original "Famous Patrol." The humours of *Everybody's Benefit* again appeal strongly to non-professional audiences, though anyone who has been present at such benefits as that to Miss Nelly Farren, for instance, realises the unfairness and unfounded satire of the "show."

TRIAL PRODUCTIONS COMPANY.

A new enterprise intended for the exploitation of novelties was begun at the Rehearsal Theatre, Maiden-lane, on Tuesday afternoon, when a performance chiefly embracing the lighter form of variety was given, under the direction of Mr. Lewis Willoughby. The entertainment was designed to put forward fresh acts rather than new talent, for some of the artists taking part bore names well known on the stage. Widespread invitations had been issued, but the audience was late in arriving, and the proceedings began under the depressing circumstances of an array of empty benches, though a number of agents and people connected with the profession put in an appearance in the course of the afternoon.

The most promising item proved to be that of *The Elites*, a burlesque of a pierrot entertainment, enacted by Mr. Grahame Herington's company, which includes Miss Dorothy Payn, an earlier member of the popular Follies. The little piece, which is written and arranged by Lawrence Hanray, is a laughable travesty of the customary beach entertainment, and includes a funny chorus by the troupe and a couple of comic contributions, one of which deals with "The bunkey and the bushroom," sung by a lady with an evident cold, the other being a song with the refrain "Clutch me round the neck," delivered by a big-voiced comedian. The lackadaisical tenor, who objects to go round with the collecting-box and does all his work under protest, is also a quaint personage, though it is somewhat difficult to determine whether the chorus to his song is intended to be burlesque or a real attempt at harmony. The skit contains a good deal of amusing business, and might well be elaborated into a smart show.

Another sketch was that presented by Mr. Douglas Finck, entitled *The Artist's Muddle*, in which Miss Adele Levey, of the famous Sisters Levey, played the part of Tottie Biggs, who impersonates a lay figure, and by pretending to be a ghost frightens the father of the artist into consenting to her marriage with his son. The dialogue is not particularly brilliant, but the sketch was briskly enacted by Miss Levey and some experienced artists, whose names were not given.

The programme was opened by Miss Esme Hubbard and Miss Evelyn Erskine, who appeared as Pierrot and Pierrette, and joined in a melodious duet. Later they sang a humorous effusion, in which a sausage and a sausage-roll figured, and a feature of their performance was the mimicry by Pierrot of several leading actors and actresses reciting the Balcony scene from *Romeo and Juliet*, the impersonation of Mr. Martin Harvey bearing perhaps the nearest approach to the original. Violin solos were given by Mr. Albert Cazabon, who displayed a complete command of the instrument in several showy selections, in which some difficult bowing and pizzicato effects were obtained. Miss Clara Alexander, weirdly made up as a plantation Negro of the Uncle Tom description, sang a nigger ditty, and recited a stirring tale in the style of "Kissing Cup's Race," for which she obtained a hearty recall. "Dances of the East" were contributed by Miss May Hoey, who indulged in those classical evolutions which have been described as "the spontaneous expression of the spiritual state." The accompaniments throughout were rendered by a competent little band consisting of piano, violin, and 'cello. Subsequent performances are announced to take place every Tuesday, and should afford opportunity for embryo talent to put forth its best efforts under favourable circumstances.

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

THE REVIVAL COMPANY.

None of the four one-act plays presented before a small audience at the Rehearsal Theatre under the auspices of the Revival Company on Sunday evening, the 28th inst., was distinguished by great merit. The opening piece was

"LOVE AND BE SILENT."

An Original Play, in One Act, by Mrs. Chas. Sim.

Major Gerald Thornton ..Mr. Henry le Grand
Dr. Pownall .....Mr. William Pringle
Dick Shelton .....Mr. Charles King
Phyllis Thornton .....Miss Adah Barton
Violet Mostyn .....Miss Florence Tressilian
Carson .....Miss Frances Wolviston

Mrs. Thornton, whose health is in a very precarious state, and whose days, according to her medical adviser, are numbered, has written a letter to her husband, Major Gerald Thornton, which is to apprise him of her condition. The letter is given to her sister, Violet Mostyn, to post, but that young lady comes back with the letter and the news that the Major has been ordered to the front. It is then that, apparently realising the opportunity that is offered to her husband, and wishing that he shall leave with a mind not distressed on her account, Mrs. Thornton decides to hold back the letter and to refrain from informing him that they will never meet again in this world. The Major returns to say farewell, and Mrs. Thornton leads him to believe that she is vastly improved in health, and that he need have no anxiety on her account. And so, much against the doctor's wish, husband and wife part, the latter preferring to "love and be silent" rather than speak the truth.

Miss Adah Barton adequately represented the pathos of the character of Mrs. Thornton, and Mr. Henry le Grand was affectionate and manly as her husband, while Miss Florence Tressilian acted in vivacious fashion as Violet Mostyn.

The second piece was

"FIFI."

A One-Act Play, Adapted from the German, by Ella Erskine.

Fifi .....Miss Ella Erskine
Raymond, Baron de Courcelles .....Mr. C. Leveson-Lane
Pierrot .....Mr. Langford Reed
A Waiter .....Mr. William Pringle

To a private room in a restaurant in Paris Fifi, a masked dancer and a demi-mondaine, is taken by Raymond, Baron de Courcelles, who, during supper, intimates to the girl that he would like her to accompany him on a long voyage. He would, first of all, like to know the story of her life. And so Fifi's sad story is related. She is an illegitimate child, and her mother, who is dead, was deserted by her father, and left to do the best she could for herself. Fifi in course of time became a shop girl, but getting tired of the monotonous drudgery of that calling, she adopts a somewhat different rôle in life. Her one desire now is to meet the father who has brought such misery and shame upon her. A few questions as to her real name and that of her mother—the names, curiously enough, are suggested by the Baron—are a sufficient indication to her that the man who is entertaining her is her own father. And then, instead of accepting his offer to make ample requital for the past, and look after her as he would look after a daughter, she bursts into a strange access of feminine ferocity and declares that she will revenge herself upon him by following him wherever he goes and proclaiming to the world in general and to his friends in particular that she is his daughter; after which she rushes out to join her fast companions.

Miss Ella Erskine displayed considerable dramatic power as Fifi, and her enactment of the rôle was commendable. Mr. C. Leveson-Lane submitted an able study of the Baron de Courcelles.

This piece was followed by

"THE FRIENDS."

A One-Act Play, Adapted from the German, by Ella Erskine.

Mme. de Chaumont ....Miss Victoria Addison
Mme. de Livardeau .....Miss Maud Kirwan
Louise .....Miss Dorothy Heal

Mme. de Chaumont and Mme. de Livardeau discuss in the former's boudoir their husbands and their admirers, and the views expressed by Mme. de Chaumont scarcely do credit to that lady—or, rather, they would scarcely do credit to any married woman. On parting the two ladies kiss each other most affectionately, and then Mme. de Chaumont makes use of her friend's confidence by getting her servant to write an anonymous letter to M. de Livardeau informing him of his wife's clandestine relations with another man. The little piece was extremely well acted by Miss Victoria Addison and Miss Maud Kirwan, in the respective rôles of Mme. de Chaumont and Mme. de Livardeau.

The concluding item on the programme was

"FORTUNE'S FOOL."

A Short Play, by Rathmell Wilson.

Mignon .....Miss Gertrude Robins
Cardo .....Mr. Esme Percy
Velma .....Miss Winifred Rae
Jabot .....Mr. Campbell F. Cargill

It is not possible to bestow commendation upon this playlet. The author seems to possess some notion of poetic expression, but his phrases are as old as the hills, and the sentiments in which his characters indulge come as familiarly to one's mind as the words of "Home, sweet home." In a moonlit garden on a summer's eve Cardo and Mignon proclaim to each other their love. They are overwhelmed with joy in the blissful state which precedes an arranged marriage. But when Cardo is left alone in the garden there comes to him a former lover, Velma, who knows all about Cardo's new affections—for he has told her that he had loved her for her body and not for her soul—and begs of him one last favour—namely, that they may on this farewell night share "Love's Banquet" together. Cardo surrenders himself—unwillingly, we are led to believe—and unfortunately the proceedings are witnessed by Mignon and the ancient Jabot. Of course, this unfaithfulness on the part of Cardo causes Mignon such sorrow of heart that that organ within a few minutes ceases to beat, and Cardo, who is subsequently informed of the tragedy, piously promises that it would be an act of cowardice on his part to commit suicide, but he will bemoan his unhappy fortune for the rest of his days. The different parts were well spoken by the members of the little cast.

At the Theatre Royal, Barnsley, this week, Mr. J. A. Campbell's company, which is presenting *The Old Folks at Home*, is again proving popular. Mr. H. E. Herbert and Miss Mary Fulton enact the principal parts, and they are surrounded by a capable company.

The students of the University of Birmingham paid their annual visit to the pantomime at the Theatre Royal on the 26th ult. There was a plentiful supply of fun, but a total absence of anything approaching horseplay, and a thoroughly enjoyable evening was spent by all in the theatre. As is customary, a large number of the students attended in fancy dress, and the majority of the costumes were both topical and original. The judging took place in the "Palace Gardens" scene in the second act, Miss Sybil Arundale (Dick Whittington) adjudicating. Both Miss Arundale and Mr. Tom Foy (Idle Jack) contrived to introduce good-humoured allusions to University life into their songs, and in assuming the garb of an undergraduate Mr. Foy made a decided hit. During an interval Mr. Philip Rodway, the popular acting manager of the theatre, in response to many requests for a speech, extended a very hearty welcome to the students, and expressed the hope that their visit would be repeated annually.

NEW PLAYS OF THE MONTH.

London.

Feb. 1. *The World, the Flesh, and the Devil*, drama, in four acts, by "Lesser Columbus"—Pavilion.
,, 2. *The Chief of Staff*, play, in four acts, by Ronald MacDonald—Lyric.
,, 3. *Samson*, play, in four acts, from the French of Henry Bernstein (the French piece produced in Paris, 1908)—Garrick.
,, 7. *Strangers Within the Gates*, play, in three acts, by H. C. M. Hardinge—Court.
,, 9. *Her Proper Mate*, play, in one act, by Ashton Pearse—Playhouse.
,, 11. *The Truants*, comedy, in three acts, by Wilfred T. Coleby—Kingsway.
,, 15. *The Fur Cloak*, play, in one act, by J. H. Irvine—Artillery Theatre, Woolwich.
,, 18. *The Dashing Little Duke*, play, with music, in three acts, by Seymour Hicks, music by Frank E. Tours, lyrics by Adrian Ross (founded on *A Court Scandal*, an adaptation by Osmond Shillingford and Aubrey Boucicault of *Les Premières Armes de Richelieu*, by Bayard and Dumanoir)—(Palais Royal, Paris, December, 1839), played at the Court Theatre, London, on Jan. 24, 1899—Hicks.
,, 18. *The High Bid*, comedy, in three acts, by Henry James (Afternoon Theatre)—His Majesty's.
,, 18. *A Soul's Fight*, play, in one act, by Louis Tiercelin, done into English by Louis N. Parker (produced originally under the title of *The Sacrament of Judas*) (Afternoon Theatre)—His Majesty's.
,, 19. *A Midnight Bridal*, play, in one act, dramatised from Halliwell Sutcliffe's story by Mrs. F. R. Benson and H. O. Nicholson (first time in London)—Coronet.
,, 22. *The Rights of the Soul*, play, in one act, translated by Miss F. M. Rankin from Giuseppe Giacosa (Incorporated Stage Society)—Kingsway.
,, 22. *The Bread of Others*, play, in two acts, by Turgenev, translated by J. Nightingale Duddington (Incorporated Stage Society)—Kingsway.
,, 25. *The Real Woman*, play, in three acts, by Robert Hichens (Miss Evelyn Millard's season)—Criterion.
,, 25. *The Land of Cherry Blossom*, Japanese musical play, in two acts, by Frederick G. Turner and Maude Smyth, music by Sydney H. Smith (produced by amateurs)—Stoke Newington Library Hall.
,, 26. *Das Kätchen von Heilbronn*, romantic drama, in four acts, by Heinrich von Kleist (Eleonore Driller's German season)—Court.
,, 27. *Philopoena*, a farrago of fun, fancy, and foolishness, in two acts, book and lyrics by Edgar Smith, music by Maurice Levi (Marie Dressler's season)—Aldwych.
,, 27. *The Collegettes*, travesty of *The College Widow*, American play, book and lyrics by Edgar Smith, music by Maurice Levi (Marie Dressler's season)—Aldwych.
,, 28. *Love and Be Silent*, play, in one act, by Mrs. Charles Sim (the Revival Company)—Rehearsal Theatre, Maiden-lane, W.C.
,, 28. *Fifi*, play, in one act, adapted from the German by Ella Erskine (the Revival Company)—Rehearsal Theatre, Maiden-lane, W.C.
,, 28. *The Friends*, play, in one act, adapted from the German by Ella Erskine (the Revival Company)—Rehearsal Theatre, Maiden-lane, W.C.
,, 28. *Fortune's Fool*, play, in one act, adapted from the German by Ella Erskine (the Revival Company)—Rehearsal Theatre, Maiden-lane, W.C.

Revivals.

Feb. 8. Hamlet, revived by Henry B. Irving—Shaftesbury.
,, 9. *The Grandsire*, play, in three acts, adapted by Mr. Archer Woodhouse from Jean Richepin's *Le Flibustier* (Comédie Française, June 28, 1888), originally played at Terry's, May 15, 1889—Playhouse.
,, 15. *Charles the First*, play, in four acts, by W. G. Wills, originally produced at the Lyceum on Sept. 28, 1872, revived by Henry B. Irving—Shaftesbury.
,, 16. *The Dancing Girl*, drama, in four acts (originally produced at the Haymarket on Jan. 15, 1891)—His Majesty's.
,, 18. *The Prisoner of Zenda*, romantic play, in a prologue and four acts, adapted from Anthony Hope's story by the late Edward Rose (originally produced Jan. 7, 1896, at the St. James's Theatre)—St. James's.
,, 19. *The Belle's Stratagem*, comedy, in three acts, by Mrs. Cowley (Mr. F. R. Benson's season)—Coronet.
,, 20. *She Stoops to Conquer*, comedy, by Oliver Goldsmith—Haymarket.
,, 22. *Louis the Eleventh*, drama, in four acts, adapted and arranged by Dion Boucicault from Casimir Delavigne's play (Mr. H. B. Irving's season)—Shaftesbury.

Provinces.

Feb. 8. *Mother*, domestic drama, in four acts, by Miss Shelia—Opera House, Wakefield.
,, 8. *The Dashing Little Duke*, play, with music, in three acts, by Seymour Hicks, music by Frank E. Tours, lyrics by Adrian Ross.—Theatre Royal, Nottingham.
,, 8. *Another Man's Wife*, drama, in four acts, by Miles Wallerton—Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.
,, 8. *Her Secret Lover*, drama, in four acts, by Mrs. F. G. Kimberley—Theatre Royal, Wolverhampton.
,, 8. *Cupid and the Styx*, comedy, in three acts, by F. Sackville Martin—Gaiety Theatre, Manchester.
,, 17. *The Frogs* of Aristophanes, in the original Greek, produced by the Oxford Union Dramatic Society—New Theatre, Oxford.
,, 20. *Lady Exmore's Embarrassment*, comedy, in three acts, by Herbert G. Phillips, adapted from a story by Alice and Claude Askew (produced by amateurs)—Royal Concert Hall, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

Paris.

Feb. 16. *Train de Luxe*, comedy, in four acts, by Abel Hermant—Réjane.
,, 17. *La Marquesita*, play, in four acts, by Robert d'Humières—Théâtre des Arts.
,, 17. *Monsieur Zéro*, vaudeville, in three acts, by P. Gavault and Mouézy-Eon—Palais-Royal.
,, 17. *La Furie*, drama, in five acts, by Jules Bois—Comédie-Française.
,, 19. *L'Ane de Buridan*, comedy, in three acts, by R. de Flers and C. de Caillavet—Gymnase.
,, 19. *Le Donataire*, in two acts, by Léon Madart—Antoine.
,, 19. *La Guerre*, play, in three acts, by Robert Reiners—Antoine.
,, 19. *Lorsque l'Enfant Parait*, play, in two acts, by Ch. Esquier—Antoine.
,, 27. *J'en ai Plein le dos de Margot!* comedy, in two acts, by Georges Courteline and Pierre Wolff—Renaissance.

Berlin.

Feb. 1. *Seine Kleine Freundin*, three-act farce, by MM. Engel and Horst—Lustspielhaus.
,, 4. *Lazuli*, comic opera, in three acts, by Emanuel Chabrier—Komische Oper.
,, 4. *Das Warenhausfräulein*, five-act volks-play, by Otto Popper—Bernhard-Rose.
,, 12. *Wo wohnt sie denn?* musical farce, in three acts, by MM. Kren and Okonkowsky—Thalia.
,, 15. *Elektra*, one-act opera, by Richard Strauss—Royal Opera.
,, 18. *Rechts Herum*, three-act farce, by Hans Gans—Schiller O.
,, 22. *Die goldene Lebenslüge*, fantastic comedy, in five scenes, by Pordes-Milo—Luisen.
,, 27. *Im Klubsessel*, three-act farce, by MM. Roessler and Heller—Lustspielhaus.

"THE STORY OF VIRGINIA PERFECT."

By Peggy Webling. Methuen and Co.

Miss Webling's novel is appropriately entitled. It is the "story" of a young watchmaker's wife, very beautiful, simple, and affectionate, who attracts the attention of an artist of genius, and is married to him after her rather uncongenial husband has been killed in a "trap" accident. There is an under-plot, in which a certain Constance Malet, a pretty, shallow girl who goes on the music hall stage, infatuates another painter, George Hunt, who eventually hangs himself in despair. The book, however, does not depend for its success upon its plot, but upon the faithfully-described characters which it contains. The life chosen for depiction has evidently been studied at first hand; and the result has all the conviction-carrying power which truth to Nature creates. The "variety" business in the story of Virginia Perfect is rather darkly shaded; but the following picture of an elderly teacher of dancing is decidedly clever and amusing:—

"Mrs. Cortelyon was a tall, very dignified lady, whose appearance made Virginia think of the picture of a witch in an old, paper-bound copy of 'Grimm's Fairy Tales' she had had as a child, a witch with dyed hair, a nut-cracker nose and chin, and very bright, fine eyes. Her dress was amazing, and she held her skirts high, displaying a pair of thin, high-heeled shoes with buckles and brown silk stockings, frays in the silk—'ladders' as she called them—being neatly darned with black thread. Virginia tried stealthily to count her petticoats, starting at the frills of a threadbare black moiré, covered with lace, but giving it up at the third short red flannel. Her black velvet bodice, trimmed with jet, was open at the throat, showing some mysterious striped undergarment, and was half concealed by a grey woollen jacket, the whole being kept together by a big cameo brooch at the top, and a wide belt, from which a few spangles still hung, at the waist. She wore several rings on fingers cramped with rheumatism, and a couple of bracelets over black knitted cuffs.

"But Mrs. Cortelyon, in spite of torn finery and haggard face, retained something of the grace and elegance of more prosperous days. She was severely respectable, strictly honest, and made a point of attending church every Sunday, accompanied by her little girl, both of them tidily dressed, and perfectly happy in each other's society.

"Constance had changed her ordinary skirt for a shorter one of cheap muslin, gathered in big folds round the waist, and tied a pair of heelless canvas shoes—ballet girls' practising shoes—round her ankles with black tape. Having no piano, Mrs. Cortelyon hummed a tune, sitting on a rather high chair and indicating the steps with her daintily-shod feet, her confusion of underskirts nearly to the knees.

"Virginia could have shrieked with laughter—she had not felt such an inclination to laugh for months—but she managed to preserve a gravity of demeanour suitable to the occasion.

"Connie's earnestness and evident delight in Mrs. Cortelyon's patronage surprised her, but Connie was always surprising her. A shallow nature is sometimes as difficult to understand as a deep one.

"'One, two, three, change! One, two, three—steady! One, two, three—parbaray! One, two three, change!'

"Beating time with her heel, Mrs. Cortelyon hummed her directions to the tune, and Connie danced with laborious effort, counting under her breath, with her eyes fixed on her teacher's face.

"Mrs. Cortelyon had been well trained by an Italian ballet master in her girlhood, but she had forgotten many of the steps, and anglicised their French names out of all recognition. 'Parbaray' was her favourite word, being doubtless intended for *pas de Bourée*, and whenever she was uncertain how to end a movement or make up time she fell back on 'parbaray.' More than half of Connie's *pas de seul* seemed to Virginia to consist of parbaray.

"'Keep it up, dear!' cried Mrs. Cortelyon, 'one, two, three—battlements! (*battement*). One, two, three—rondaljam! (*rond de jambe*). One, two, three—parbaray!'"

The book is full of these bright and piquant little sketches; and the tender humanity of its tone, its constant variety, and its delicate sentiment should recommend it to many readers.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—Sir Henry Irving.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun*

Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

Mr. Emanuel Warner (Manny), partner in Somers and Warner's Agency, is receiving many congratulations on the birth of a daughter.

At the Boscombe Hippodrome Fred Karno's *Mumming Birds* is the chief attraction this week, and is greatly appreciated. The Frière Troupe give an extremely smart acrobatic performance and receive loud applause; Medley Barrett, the popular comedian, also comes in for a good round of applause; Will Driscoll, swell comedian and dancer, is very popular here; Florry Cooper, vocal comedienne, is much appreciated; Jimmy Frizzell, the Dorset Yokel, Bros. Roland, Herculean equilibrists, and Little Leighton, comedienne, also deserve mention. The Hippo pictures conclude.

The funeral of Mrs. Young, whose death occurred on the 26th ult., of the Chequers Hotel, Walthamstow, which was used as the "professional house" of the Palace, Walthamstow, took place on Wednesday last at St. Patrick's Cemetery, Leyton. Many members of the variety stage were among those who followed. The deceased lady was well known for her philanthropic work in the district, and will be sadly missed. Amongst those who sent floral tributes—numbering nearly a hundred—were Miss Marie Lloyd, Miss Kate Carney, Mrs. Ellis Fredericks (Stratford Theatres), Two Bostons, Mr. Frederic Baugh (General Manager, Macnaghten Circuit), Mr. and Mrs. Harvey (Palace, Bow), Staff, Palace, Walthamstow, and many other professional friends. Mrs. Kate Sly and Gertie Youlande, daughters of Mrs. Young, wish to thank, through our columns, numerous friends for their sympathy.

RECOLLECTIONS OF WAGNER.

Musical London was torn with dissension in the seventies concerning Wagnerian musik-drama; ink in gallons was shed in condemnation of what was regarded as the extraordinary theories of the Bayreuth master, who for the first time in the history of music claimed to have given the orchestra its rightful place in lyrical compositions; and the cabal against the greatest musical genius of the nineteenth century derived as much of its power from artists grounded in the school of Bellini and Donizetti as from critics. We are again familiarised with the strenuous fight the Leipzig maestro had for recognition of his work in the volume of Angelo Neumann's "Personal Recollections of Wagner," translated from the fourth German Edition by Edith Livermore, and published by Archibald Constable and Co., London, at the price of half a guinea net. Neumann was fired with an early enthusiasm for the genius of Richard Wagner by Therese Stilke-Seesi, of Vienna, who gave him his first introduction to the composer by teaching him the part of Wolfram in *Tannhäuser*. This was in the early forties; but though the young singer became an ardent disciple he found it utterly impossible one night to sit through an entire performance of *The Flying Dutchman*, then being given at the Royal Opera, Vienna. Of the company at this famous house Neumann himself became a member in 1862. This very year Wagner—who had come from Paris disheartened at the reception there of *Tannhäuser*, which he withdrew after the third performance—began his career in Vienna, and his three years in that city must be counted as among the most distressful of his entire career. His hopes and prospects lay in a successful performance of *Tristan*, and all his efforts to bring about such a performance failed. After fifty-seven rehearsals the work was definitely shelved, owing to the incompetence, physical, or otherwise, of the tenor Ander.

We learn that Angelo Neumann played the Herald in *Lohengrin* in the old Kärnthnerthor Theater, Vienna, and in the spring of 1864 went to Stuttgart to play a short engagement. "When I returned to my hotel after our first rehearsal of *Don Giovanni* I was greatly annoyed by a man in the next room pacing up and down in squeaky boots." It was Wagner, who was then in great financial straits, being indeed utterly without funds. Karl Eckert, the conductor, relieved the master's impecuniosity. The first performance in Vienna of the *Meistersinger*, in which Neumann played the Night-watchman, was marred by a stormy scene got up by a cabal of anti-Wagnerites; but in May, 1872, the Viennese had overcome their prejudice against the master. Connected with this visit of Wagner to Vienna the following good story is told:—

"On the 12th of May the Master conducted a concert in our new music hall, and on this occasion the hornist, Richard Levy, had the misfortune to make a slip on a high note—a 'Gicks,' as they call it in the orchestra. If I remember rightly, it was in one of the most difficult and intricate passages of the Scherzo in the Symphony Eroïca. Edward Mauthner, a well-known wit and writer of comedies, took this occasion to jeer at his friend the soloist from his place in the front row. In the intermission, when all those qualified (or who considered themselves qualified) as artists had assembled in the green-room, Wagner took the occasion to reprimand any who had seen fit to laugh at such a slip. Those who understood the mechanism of the horn and its technical difficulties, he said, would surely realise that the greatest artist could come to grief, since the least drop of moisture in the instrument was fatal. With that he embraced our hornist warmly to console him for his misadventure.

"Presently Levy, who was a wag of the first order, stepped up to Mauthner, saying, 'My dear fellow, that was not nice of you at all to laugh at my little "Gicks."' Mauthner tried glibly to explain, but Levy continued solemnly, 'No, really it was not nice of you at all—and most ungrateful. Truly, I wouldn't do such a thing to you. I've never laughed at one of your comedies in all my life!' The cheers and uproar that followed this sally may be imagined, and Wagner led all the rest in his gleeful shouts at the discomfiture of the luckless playwright."

Speaking of Wagner as a director, Neumann becomes enthusiastic: "How inspiring he was! I never hear a performance of *Tannhäuser* or of *Lohengrin* without his image rising before me in certain scenes.

"How wonderfully he took the part of Tannhäuser finding himself at the crossways in the forest after his release from the enchantments of Venusberg. Riveted to the spot, he stood like a graven image, with arms upraised; then gradually, at the entrance of the pilgrims, came to life with a tremendous shuddering start, and, finally, overcome with emotion, sank to the ground as the chorus proceeded; to break out at the end in his great cry—'Ach, schwer drückt mich der Sünden Last!'"

In rehearsing *Lohengrin* he took each part in turn, not only the title-rôle, but Telramund and the King as well, showing each player his every attitude and movement.

"The Elsa of our cast was making her début, so he went through that whole long act with the King, showing her each expression, each movement of the hand. How well he simulated Elsa's rapture as she throws herself into Lohengrin's arms, and how he arranged for the eager interest and acclamation of the chorus. As the curtain fell on this great scene—orchestra, chorus, soloists and the director crowded wildly about the Master, clamouring in their enthusiasm to shoulder him and bear him off in triumph. But Wagner, though evidently touched by this spontaneous ovation, waved them back, saying earnestly, 'That'll do, that'll do, children; that'll do.' Then we went to the second act, where he showed us, in the great scene between Telramund and Ortrud, how the latter rises snake-like from her prostrate pose on the Minster steps as she finds she has won Telramund for her purpose. Now came the scene between Ortrud and Elsa, and I must say here that the Elsa of this cast was Mila Kupfer-Berger, one of the most beautiful creatures who ever took that rôle."

The neatly printed and excellently got-up volume contains many letters from Wagner, which reflect his enthusiasm, his gratitude, and occasionally his irritability. He was not tactful—great geniuses seldom are—and he was very naturally impatient of the ignorant diatribes of his critics. Before his death he saw many of them confounded, but the full recognition of his genius did not come till the dawn of the twentieth century. The "recollections," which do great credit to the translator, are illustrated with some excellent portraits, and the copious index adds much to their value.

At the New Court Theatre, Bacup, Lena Stanton and Harry Joseph's pantomime *Aladdin* is presented this week. Miss Janet Lawton in the title-rôle is vivacious and plays with inexhaustible freshness. She possesses a good voice, and her songs are well rendered. Miss Norah Neville makes a captivating Princess, and her songs are well received; Miss N. Gibson makes an attractive Pekoe; Mr. George Melville is a clever exponent of the Emperor Chow-Chow; Mr. W. Shephard as What O and Mr. F. Shephard as What Hi are very popular; as Mrs. Twankie Mr. Rex Kempton was excellent; and as Slavee Slo Miss Minnie Millwards is a great favourite; Miss Rene Willoughby is an effective Fairy of the Enchanted Ring. The specialities include the Gibson Girls, the Sabot Trio, the Brothers Shephard, and the La-Dor Troupe. The scenery is pretty and the music attractive.

AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS.

(From our own correspondent.)

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—Miss Julia Marlowe, having experienced some difficulty in finding a suitable play, has been absent from the metropolis for a rather long period. But now her name shines forth on Broadway once again, and she is enjoying the success which naturally belongs to an artist who holds such an eminent position on the American stage. Miss Marlowe began an engagement at Daly's Theatre last week, appearing in a five-act play, by Mary Johnston, entitled *The Goddess of Reason*, which, while it deals with the well-worn subject of the French Revolution, is made up of incidents, the faithful and vivid representation of which will never fail to hold the interest and quicken the pulses of the large majority of playgoers. In the heroine of this drama Miss Marlowe has found a rôle that fits her personality, and has added a memorable creation to her répertoire, her performance having won unanimous praise. Miss Marlowe impersonates a peasant girl named Yvette, who lives near Quiberon, on the sea coast of Brittany. The revolt of the people has begun, and Yvette participates in an attack on the mansion of the lord of the manor, Baron René de Vardes. The peasants attempt to set fire to the château, but their plans are frustrated and several of them are taken prisoners. Baron René does not condemn them, however, but sets them free, thereby disgusting his aristocratic friends, and places Yvette in a convent at Nantes. He does this because he has encountered the girl on a previous occasion whilst riding through the woods, and at their second meeting they are strongly attracted towards each other. Furthermore, he has learned that Yvette is really a cousin of his, being the illegitimate child of his uncle, Baron Henri de Morbec, now deceased, and the wife of one of his yeomen. The young woman presently escapes from the convent to join her friends of the revolutionary movement, which is now at its full height. In taking this step she is prompted by jealousy of Clarice, Marquise de Blancheforêt, with whom she fancies René is in love. Moreover, one Redmond Lelain, a revolutionist, who loves Yvette and hates René, fans the flame of jealousy and appeals to her patriotism until she rejoins the revolutionary mob. Two years later, in Nantes, Yvette is chosen by the Republicans to be the "Goddess of Reason," and is thus enabled to control a bloodthirsty gathering led by Lelain, and to save the life of René de Vardes when his enemies are about to dispatch him. When she discovers that René has protected Clarice, however, she denounces them both, and causes their arrest as enemies of the Republic. But when they are threatened with death Yvette repents, and being overwhelmed with remorse sends a purse of gold to De Vardes, containing a written message, which she has extorted or beguiled from the rascal Lelain. The production of this message in court would effect the release of René and Clarice, but the plan miscarries and Clarice is slain. De Vardes is imprisoned in an old church, where he is visited by Yvette, who learns when it is too late that he has never loved Clarice, and receives from his lips the avowal of his love for herself. When she hears the doom of her lover pronounced in the crowded court-room at Nantes she casts aside her cap and tri-coloured badge and denounces the Republic, thus procuring her own condemnation. And at night the two are bound together and thrown into the dark waters of the Loire. The play is sumptuously staged, and the scene in the Judgment Hall at Nantes is very effective. Mr. White Whittlesey, Mr. Wilson Melrose, Mr. Vincent Sternroyd, Mr. Theodore Hamilton, and Miss Olive Temple distinguish themselves in important rôles.

The new German theatre in Fifty-ninth-street, which was opened last October, has passed into the hands of the Shuberts, who will present their own attractions there in English at popular prices. The house will be known as The Plaza, and will be the ninth theatre, exclusive of the Hippodrome, under the management of the Shuberts in this city. The old Irving-place Theatre, formerly conducted by Herr Conried, seems to meet the requirements of the German population of New York.

Actresses who want to keep their hands white, soft, and smooth, should use Vinolia Cream. It is unrivalled in its influence on the skin, making it very beautiful.

The following artists will take part in the six o'clock promenade concerts at the Crystal Palace next week:—Misses Helena St. Clemens, Nora Meredith, Sara Hendy (with songs at the piano), Evelyn Russell (solo violinist), Ethel and Mary Williams (in duets), Messrs. V. L. Cockburn, Reginald Davidson, William Maxwell, Robert Dennant, Julien Henry, and the Harmonic Singers—Messrs. Sydney Hart, Frost Lambert, Gilbert Lockyer, and Seward Phillips.

Church and Stage are coming to the closest quarters in America, the Universalist Church at Atlanta, Georgia, having decided to run its own theatre, plays, and actors. The pastor maintains that as the theatre had a distinctly religious origin, it is capable of great moral good. The first play will be *The Servant in the House*, and to accommodate the production the lower floor of the church is being converted into a stage, with footlights, scenery, curtain, and other properties.

A private conference of local and other authorities was held at the Mansion House on the 26th ult., under the presidency of the Lord Mayor, to discuss the future of the Crystal Palace. As the result of the conference a motion proposed by the Mayor of Westminster, "That this meeting is of opinion that, subject to a market price being agreed upon, it is desirable that the Crystal Palace should be acquired and vested in the public and dedicated to their use for ever," was unanimously adopted.

The Foreign Press Association in London have organised a dramatic and musical matinée at the St. James's Theatre, on March 18, in aid of the Messina Earthquake Fund, when four new one-act plays will be produced. The first is a musical piece by Louis Hillier entitled *A Christmas Fast*. This will be followed by a fairy tale, *The Village of Youth*, by Bessie Hatton; *A Maker of Women*, by Edith A. Browne, and a duologue entitled *In a Bathroom*, by John Raphael. The patronage of the Ambassadors and Ministers of many foreign Powers has been secured.

New Pieces Produced at the Provincial Theatres. See *The Era Annual*, 1909.

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ON THE ROAD, MARCH 8.

ACHE, OSCAR.—Opera House, Oldham.
AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES.—T. R., Sheffield.
AT DUTY'S CALL.—King's T., Sutton-in-Ashfield.
BATEMAN AND BOMATH.—Star T., Swansea.
BEGGAR GIRL'S WEDDING.—O. H., Coventry.
BELLS OF OLD YORK.—Coliseum, Aberystwyth.
BENSON, F. R. (N.).—Century T., Motherwell.
BENSON, F R. (S.).—Haverfordwest and Carmarthen.
BENSON, MR. AND MRS. F. R.—Royalty T., Glasgow.
BONDMAN, THE (CROKE).—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
BREWSTER'S MILLIONS.—Lyceum T., Newport.
BROKEN HEART.—Junction T., Manchester.
BUILDER OF BRIDGES.—Theatre Royal, Hanley.
BUILDER OF BRIDGES.—Grand T., Croydon.
CARL ROSA OPERA CO.—Grand T., Glasgow.
CASSIDY, MR. J. RICE.—Lyric T., Hammersmith.
CHARLEY'S AUNT.—T. R., Manchester.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE) (N.).—Court T., Warrington.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE) (M.).—Lancaster and Kendal.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE) (S.).—T. R., Worcester.
CINGALEE, THE.—Dalston Theatre, N.E.
CLAUDIAN.—Theatre Royal, York.
COMPTON COMEDY CO.—Gaiety T., Ayr.
CONSCIENCE OF A JUDGE.—T. R., Edmonton.
COUNTRY GIRL IN LONDON.—County T., Reading.
DAIRYMAIDS, THE (COURTNEIDGE).—O. H., Middlesbrough.
DAIRYMAIDS, THE (MACDONALD).—T. R., Ashton-under-Lyne.
DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY.—Theatre Royal, Barry.
DIANA OF DOBSON'S (M.).—Leven and Forfar.
DIANA OF DOBSON'S (S.).—T. R., Portsmouth.
D'OYLY CARTE.—Prince's T., Manchester.
EARLY WORM.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
EYES OF THE WORLD.—Lyceum T., Govan.
FATAL WEDDING.—Royalty T., Chester.
FLAG LIEUTENANT.—Grand T., Hull.
FLOWER GIRL.—Lyceum T., Crewe.
FOR LOVE AND THE KING.—Osborne T., Manchester.
FOR WIFE AND KINGDOM.—Crown T., Eccles.
GAY GODDESS.—Grand T., Falkirk.
GAY GORDONS, THE.—Court T., Wigan.
GEOFFREY LANGDON'S WIFE.—T. R., Crook.
GIRL'S CROSS ROADS.—Elephant and Castle T., S.E.
GOLDEN LADDER, THE.—O. H., Blackpool.
GREED OF GOLD.—T. R., Tyldesley.
GRIT.—Shakespeare T., Liverpool.
GUILTY GOLD.—T. R., Lincoln.
HARVEY, MR. MARTIN.—Court T., Liverpool.
HAVANA.—New Theatre, Cardiff.
HER FATAL MARRIAGE.—Grand T., Rawtenstall.
HER FATHER AND MY WIFE.—Lyceum T., Ipswich.
HER LIFE IN LONDON.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
HER LOVE AGAINST THE WORLD.—Marlborough T., N.
HER MARRIAGE VOW.—O. H., Perth.
HER NAMELESS CHILD.—P. O. W., Salford.
HER SECRET LOVER.—New Hall, Bargoed.
HIS HOUSE IN ORDER.—Victoria T., Broughton.
HIS SISTER'S HONOUR.—O. H., Ferndale.
HORNIMAN, MISS.—New Theatre, Oxford.
HYPOCRITES, THE.—Theatre Royal, Norwich.
IDOLS.—T. R. Wolverhampton.
KING AND THE UNKNOWN WOMAN.—T. R., Aston.
LA COMEDIE ANGLAISE.—St. Blazey and Fowey.
LADY FREDERICK.—Broadway T., Deptford.
LEAH KLESCHNA.—Grand T., Newcastle.
LIGHTHOUSE ROBBERY.—T. R., Glossop.
LITTLE BREADWINNER.—T. R., North Shields.
MAN AND WIFE.—T. R., Macclesfield.
MASTER AND MAN.—T. R., Sheffield.
MIDNIGHT MAIL.—P. O. W., Mexborough.
MIDNIGHT WEDDING.—Grand T., Nottingham.
MISS HOOK OF HOLLAND (DANCE'S).—Prince's T., Preston.
MOODY-MANNERS (A).—T. R., Glasgow.
MOODY-MANNERS (B).—Gaiety T., Manchester.
MRS. DOT.—Weymouth.
MRS. WIGGS OF THE CABBAGE PATCH (N.).—Southampton.
MRS. WIGGS OF THE CABBAGE PATCH (S.).—Exeter.
MY MIMOSA MAID.—King's T., Glasgow.
NEW EAST LYNNE.—T. R., Seaham Harbour.
NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS.—Empire T., Southend.
NORMAN V. NORMAN.—H. M. T., Barrow.
OLD FOLKS AT HOME.—Rotunda T., Liverpool.
OLD HOME, THE.—New T., West Stanley.
PETE.—Brixton Theatre, S.W.
PETER PAN (FROHMAN).—T. R., Edinburgh.
PETER'S MOTHER.—Alexandra T., Stoke Newington.
POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN.—T. R., Leicester.
POWER OF THE KING.—Aquarium, Yarmouth.
PRIVATE SECRETARY.—Pleasure Gardens, Folkestone.
PRODIGAL SON (CROKE).—T. R., Wolverhampton.
PRODIGAL SON (CROKE), M.—Abertillery and Mountain Ash.
PRODIGAL SON (DAY).—Grand T., W. Hartlepool.
RAFFLES.—T. R., Bournemouth.
RIGNOLD, LIONEL.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
ROYAL DIVORCE.—O. H., Cork.
SEND HIM VICTORIOUS.—Hippodrome, Salford.
SIGN OF THE CROSS.—Fulham Theatre, S.W.
SILVER KING (POLINI).—T. R., Bath.
SOLDIER'S HONOUR.—T. R., Consett.
SUTTON AND RAYNOR.—T. R., Grantham.
THIEF, THE.—Grand T., Leeds.
THIEF, THE.—Coronet Theatre, W.
TODDLES.—T. R., Leamington.
TOM JONES.—Prince's T., Bristol.
TRAITOR PRINCE.—O. H., Kidderminster.
TYRANT, THE.—Alexandra T., Sheffield.
UNCLE TOM'S CABIN.—T. R., Wednesbury.
VILLAGE BLACKSMITH.—Prince's T., Accrington.
WALTZ DREAM.—Gaiety T., Dublin.
WHEN IT WAS DARK.—O. H., Buxton.
WHEN KNIGHTS WERE BOLD.—King's Theatre, W.
WHEN OTHER LIPS.—P. O. W., Salford.
WHO IS SHE?—T. R., Chatham.
WOMAN PAYS.—Alexandra T., Hull.
WILKIE, ALLAN, AND CO.—O. H., St. Helens.
WOMAN AND WINE.—Grand T., Derby.
YOU NEVER CAN TELL.—New T., Cambridge.
10.30 DOWN EXPRESS.—T. R., Lincoln.

MR. LOUIS DE REEDER has been engaged to conduct the new comic opera *Dingley Dell* which is to be produced by Bath amateurs at the Theatre Royal on March 25 and following days.

AT the Stalybridge Hippodrome last week, during the engagement of J. H. Greener, the singing pit lad, a collection was taken in aid of the Relief Fund organised to assist the sufferers through the Durham colliery disaster at West Stanley, and the amount realised was £13 2s. 10d. This sum has been forwarded to the Vicar of West Stanley by Mr. W. A. Jackson, the resident-manager.

IN an action for damages for slander brought during the week by Miss Florence Ellis (of Ellis and Ellis) against Miss Gladys Dillon, of Deansgate, Manchester, the Lord Chief Justice, in giving judgment for 40s. and fixing the costs at £20, observed that young ladies of the music hall profession lived amid great temptations, and a great many things were said about them that were very hard and often very untrue. He could understand Miss Ellis's resentment at the least suggestion made upon her character and virtue, and he was forced to the conclusion that the memory of the defendant as to what she actually said was not perfect, and therefore there must be some damages.

"IT has been usual," says Hazlitt in his "Table talk," "to raise a very unjust clamour against the enormous salaries of public singers, actors, and so on. This matter seems reducible to a moral equation. They are paid out of money raised by voluntary contributions in the strictest sense; and if they did not bring certain sums into the treasury, the managers would not engage them. The sums are exactly in proportion to the number of individuals to whom their performance gives an extraordinary degree of pleasure. The talents of a singer, actor, &c., are therefore worth just as much as they will fetch."

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

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All communications intended for publication should be sent to "THE EDITOR," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

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Communications.

Business Communications should be addressed to The MANAGER,
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Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephones, 4747 and 1433, Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We cannot undertake to answer the inquiries of correspondents by post. In all letters names and addresses must be given as a guarantee of good faith. Initials only or pseudonyms will be used in the replies if so desired.]

NEMO.—*The title of the Aquarium Theatre was changed to that of the Imperial on April 20, 1877.*

SCENA.—*We should say not, as there is no such word in French. Should it not be "La Marraine"?*

F. H. MURPHY.—*Very probably; but you do not give the front name. The "Gaiety" Dallas is J. J.*

HENRY CHERRY.—*Probably you refer to Mr. William Hogarth. Mr. John Howson was the original, and Mr. Frank Celli also appeared in the part.*

TERRIER.—*The banquet in aid of the fund for the establishment of the home for aged professionals (the Music Hall Home) occurred on Dec. 13, 1896, at the Hotel Cecil. Mr. John Brill, of the Old Royal, Holborn, took the chair, and Mr. Dan Leno, who was in the forefront of every movement for the amelioration of the lot of his professional brethren, was in the vice-chair. The amount then raised and promised on that occasion approached £340. The first home was in Lambeth close to the York-road.*

W. BUSCH (St. Louis).—*We do not undertake literary agency, but for the placing of your book you might try the Author's Syndicate, 5-7, Southampton-street, London, W.C.; the Incorporated Society of Authors, 39, Old Queen-street, Westminster; or the Authors' Club (Secretary, G. B. Burgin), 4, Whitehall Court, London, W. As to the staging of one of your plays, it depends so much on its nature. You might seek the help of one of the societies devoted to the production of works of unknown playwrights, such as the Play Actors (Secretary, Miss Winifred Mayo, 93, Oakley-street, Chelsea, London, W.); or the Stage Society (Secretary, Mr. A. E. Drinkwater, 9, Arundel-street, Strand, London, W.C.).*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a **Birth**, a **Marriage**, or a **Death**, or an "**In Memoriam**" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is **One Shilling and Sixpence.**

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

CURRY.—On the 13th ult., at Thespian House, Grimsby, the wife of Joseph H. Curry, Managing-Director P. O. W. Theatre, Grimsby, of a daughter. Both doing well.

GINNETT.—Feb. 26, at Nichols-square, Hackney-rd., the wife of Claude Ginnett, of a son.

FORD.—On Feb. 25, 1909, at 18, Linkenholt-mansions, Ravenscourt Park, W., the wife of Herbert Ford, of a son.

PARRY.—At Bankfield House, Dudley-st., Grimsby, on Feb. 18, the wife of George Rhodes Parry, manager Palace Theatre, Grimsby, of a daughter. Both doing well.

WARNER.—On Feb. 28, at Beryldene, Goldhurst-terrace, Hampstead, the wife of Emanuel Warner, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

GINNETT-SANGER.—March 2, at Burstow Parish Church, Horley, J. F. Ginnett, eldest son of Mr. Fred Ginnett, to Maud Sanger, third daughter of "Lord" John Sanger.

UNDERWOOD—KERSEY.—Feb. 27, at St. Andrew's, Holborn, Kenneth Underwood, son of Mrs. Isabel Montgomery Underwood, to Daisy, youngest daughter of Mrs. Martha Kersey.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY.

MOXON—BAINTON.—March 3, 1907, at St. James's Church, Bristol, by the Rev. Edward Francis Nuss, Vicar, Edwin T. Moxon (Ted Moxon Trio) to Frederica Bainton (Freda Bosco, Poole and Bosco, Ltd.), granddaughter of the late James Sheering, Esq., of Bristol.

DEATHS.

JEWELL.—Feb. 10, 1909, at Brooklyn, U.S.A., of apoplexy, Jesse Jewell, of Jewell's Mannikins; aged 62 years. Deeply lamented by the sorrowing widow and family. "The Lord's will be done."

LONGDEN.—Dolly, wife of Chas. H. Longden, and sister to Ernest Dottridge, who died Feb. 27, aged 47. A cheery little soul, loved by all.—ERNEST.

LONGDEN.—Dolly Dottridge, beloved wife of Chas. H. Longden, who passed peacefully away at Oldham on Feb. 27.

NOBLE.—On Feb. 28, 1909, at the Eldon Grove Private Hospital, West Hartlepool, of pneumonia and enteric fever, Mr. Vernon Noble (late of Leslie's Comedy Cadets), dearly beloved husband of Miss Tina Frank, age 28 years. R.I.P.

THOMAS.—March 1, at 159, Trumpington-road, Forest Gate, Fred Thomas, actor. Aged 75.

WALLER.—Maggie, the wife of Almer Waller (Keen and Waller), who passed away on Feb. 25, after a very short attack of pneumonia. Funeral took place on Feb 27, at Forest Hill Cemetery. Mr. Waller thanks the numerous friends for kind wires of condolence, also for the wreaths.

WEIR.—March 2, at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, of Bright's disease, George R. Weir, for twenty-six years with Mr. F. R. Benson's company. Aged 56.

WELLS.—On the 23rd, Albert Wells, late Equestrian, beloved husband of Mary Ann Wells, after a long and painful illness. Deeply mourned.

IN MEMORIAM.

BROWN.—In loving memory of the late Henry Brown (Shakespearean jester), who died March 4, 1902.

DAY.—In loving memory of our dear father, Harry Day (of Day's, Birmingham), who passed away ten years ago.—HARRY, WILL, and AMY.

GROVES.—In sacred memory of my dear husband, Walter Groves, the well-known comedian, who died at Blackpool, March 4, 1906. Loved in life, in death never forgotten. Missed more and more every day. Deeply regretted by his wife and children, Walter and Lily. 250, Kennington Park-road.

NOYLE.—In loving memory of Olga Kate Noyle, who passed away Feb. 28, 1899. Never forgotten by her still sorrowing daughters, Louise, Katie, Ruby, and Pearl.

There is a God of pity and love;
'Tis He knows best.
Leave all to His compassion,
And rest, my dear one, rest.

SCARD.—In ever-loving memory of Maryana, beloved wife of H. Scard, who passed away March 9, 1906. Gone but not forgotten by her loving husband and children.

SCARD.—In memory of our dear sister Maryana, wife of H. Scard, who died March 9, 1906. Still missed by her brothers and sisters.

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.

No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this list.

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Arnte, Mr. Billy
Artois, Mrs. Florrie
Artois, Mr. Jack
Atalanta
Ball, Mr. Alf
Beckett, Miss L. M.
Bentley, Mr. Will
Bertram, Mr. E. V.
Bessie, Miss Sarah
Biddall Brothers
Bill, Buff
Birch, Mr. C.
Blake, Miss Marion
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Ferguson, Mr. Billy
Foxwell, Mr. Harry
Freeman, Mr. J.
Fuller, Mr. Walter
Ginnett, Mr. Fred
Glennister, Mr. Lionel
Grey, Mr. Harry
Hawtrey, Mr. Geo. P.
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Lamour, Miss Yvonne
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Tiller, Mr. A.
Thorburn, Mr. Chas.
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Tremaine, Miss Mignon
Turner, Mr. E.
U.S.A. Boys
Vandy, Mr. Paul
Vasilescu Troupe
Venne, Miss Lottie
Volpi, Mr. B.
Walters, Miss May
Watson, Miss F.
Wells, Mr. Herbert G.
Weston, Mr. Harry
Whiteford, Mr. J.
Wilkinson, Mr. Sam
Williams, Mr. Eric
Williams, Mr. P. D.
Wold, Mr. A.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following Ladies and Gentlemen:—

Leonard Rayne—Saturday, March 6.
Will Bishop—Saturday, March 6.
Minnie Chippendale—Saturday, March 6.
Charles Cartwright—Sunday, March 7.
Ellaline Thorne—Sunday, March 7.
Albert E. Ansell—Sunday, March 7.
Stanley Radcliffe—Sunday, March 7.
Florence St. John—Monday, March 8.
James Skea—Tuesday, March 9.
Jerrold Manville—Tuesday, March 9.
Lionel Brough—Wednesday, March 10.
Edward Terry—Wednesday, March 10.
Gertrude Le Sage—Thursday, March 11.
Harry A. Gribben—Friday, March 12.

DEATHS OF THE MONTH.

JAN. 1.—Augusta Du Cane, aged 69.
" 4.—Frank Buckley.
" 4.—Richard Walton Hemming.
" 4.—Tom Lovell.
" 6.—Mrs. John Crossley, aged 61.
" 6.—Bob Shirley, aged 39.
" 8.—Harry Russell.
" 8.—Henry Hart, aged 81.
" 8.—W. Reuben Payne.
" 9.—Mrs. Evelyn Greenleaf Sutherland (John Rutherford).
" 10.—John Hare (concert agent), aged 87.
" 11.—Mowbray Robinson (Charles Mowbray).
" 12.—Matthew Parker Tench, aged 64.
" 15.—Ernest Reyer, aged 86.
" 15.—Dr. Ernst von Wildenbruch, aged 63.
" 16.—Jenny Mason, aged 72.
" 17.—Emily Maria Robson.
" 18.—George Lansdowne Cottell, aged 73.
" 18.—Minnie Crisp, aged 28.
" 18.—Joe Prinella, aged 31.
" 18.—W. T. Rushbury.
" 19.—Kortright Hamilton-Bell, aged 17.
" 21.—Frank Baker, aged 23.
" 23.—John E. Ince, aged 68.
" 24.—Joe Lawrence, aged 60.
" 25.—John Smith.
" 26.—May Audrey.
" 26.—Benoit-Constant Coquelin, aged 68.
" 27.—George Julian Yarwood.
" 27.—Frederick William Russell (H. C. Barry).
" 28.—George Henry Davey, aged 71.
" 29.—Frederick G. Brooke.
" 29.—George Scott.
" 30.—Julia Seaman Montague-Court, aged 71.
" 30.—Dorothy Garner, aged 17 months.
" 30.—James Edward Culeen, aged 29.

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Towards the end of last autumn we received from customers of ours a block of a drawing by Mr. John Hassall, used in connection with the Comic Opera "Amasis," with an order to print cards from it. We printed the cards and supplied them for use as advertisements in the various provincial towns visited by the theatrical company performing the said Comic Opera until the month of Nov. last. We now learn that the copyright of the drawing in question belongs to you, and that the printing and publication of it by us constituted an infringement of such copyright. We wish to express to you our sincere regret that we should have inadvertently infringed your copyright, and we have consented to this apology being published and to pay your costs as between solicitor and client in connection with the proceedings which you have instituted against us in respect of such infringement.
Dated this 27th February, 1909.
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THE ERA

SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 1909.

THEATRES BILL AND SKETCHES.

Mr. ROBERT HARCOURT'S recent letter to the *Daily Chronicle* reminds us of the existence of his Theatres Bill, of which so much was heard in January. By the Bill, as our readers may remember, it is proposed to enact that the powers of the Lord Chamberlain under the Theatres Act, 1843, in respect of the licensing and closing of theatres within the ancient Parliamentary boundaries of the cities of London and Westminster, and of the boroughs of Finsbury and Marylebone, the Tower Hamlets, Lambeth, and Southwark, shall be transferred to the London County Council. Also that the licence of the London County Council shall be required in respect of a theatre within the said ancient Parliamentary boundaries authorised by virtue of letters patent from His Majesty or his predecessors in the same manner as if no letters patent had been granted in respect thereof; but that nothing in the Act shall affect the powers of the Lord Chamberlain under the Theatres Act, 1843, in respect of the licensing and closing of theatres in those places outside the Administrative County of London in which His Majesty, his heirs and successors, shall in their Royal persons occasionally reside. The first clause in the Bill proposes that it shall not be necessary to submit any stage play to the Lord Chamberlain before the first acting or presenting thereof, whether for hire or otherwise, and it shall not be lawful for the Lord Chamberlain to forbid the acting or presenting in Great Britain of any stage play.

It appears from Mr. ROBERT HARCOURT'S letter that emphasis was laid on the Censorship part of the Bill merely as a matter of policy. "The promoters of the Theatres Bill," says Mr. HARCOURT, "are fully alive to the importance of the legalising of the production of sketches at music halls, and as a matter of fact they consulted with Mr. OSWALD STOLL and Mr. BUTT, of the Palace, on the point last December. It was thought desirable at first as a matter of tactics to concentrate discussion in the Press on the single point of the Censorship, but when the Bill reappears this Session it will contain a clause to legalise a situation which already exists *de facto*."

The situation is a curious one. Theoretically the present arrangement is absurd; practically it is working extremely well, and no one wants it altered. When the Theatres Bill was first brought forward many of the leading London managers were opposed to it, especially to that portion of the Bill which would do away with the censorship. Mr. FORBES ROBERTSON said, "I am not in favour of the Bill." Miss LENA ASHWELL considered our present conditions preferable. Mr. LEWIS WALLER could "see no reason for changing the existing order," and Mr. GEORGE ALEXANDER hoped the censorship would be retained. Mr. HENRY R. SMITH asked "What has arisen recently, or, indeed, at any time, in the conduct of theatres which should cause anyone to bring forward a Bill on these lines? I really see no necessity for it. I know of no London manager who has expressed any feeling antagonistic to the Lord Chamberlain or to the way in which the duties of his office are carried out. Mr. ERNEST CARPENTER and myself have always found him perfectly reasonable in regard to the censorship of plays, and I cannot see that he has treated anybody badly. We have no desire to introduce anything that might be objectionable into our plays; we want to present what is popular. We are perfectly satisfied with the reader of plays, who is a man of wide experience, and have no desire to change a system which has lasted long and worked well. But if there are any London managers who are dissatisfied with the Lord Chamberlain's department let them speak out now and say why they are dissatisfied. Some dramatic authors, I dare say, may desire a change; but the managers, so far as I know, are quite content to let well alone. The Lord Chamberlain has the power to grant or to refuse licences, and if a licence were abused it would very quickly be revoked."

Opinion on the other part of the Bill, that which proposes to remove the existing anomaly with respect to sketches at music halls, is not unanimous. It will be remembered, indeed, that when the arrangement between the theatrical managers and the music hall managers was arrived at, Mr. HENRI GROS refused to join with his brother managers of variety theatres in accepting it, on the ground that the compromise was unsatisfactory and unfinal. It cannot be denied that Mr. GROS'S contention was correct. The production of sketches at music halls is illegal, and goes on only in the absence of "common informers." In his letter to the *Daily Telegraph* on Thursday, Mr. CECIL RALEIGH said "sketch artists receive £460,000 per year for doing illegal work. Not a single one of the contracts under which they perform is valid; and not a single halfpenny they earn is recoverable by law. Ought this to go on?" The well-paid and prosperous sketch artists will probably say, "Certainly. We do not care how illegal our performances may be as long as they are not interfered with and we draw the £460,000 per annum; and as long as the theatrical managers are so well disposed that they will actually, as in the case of Mr. LOUIS CALVERT and the Palace Theatre, permit artists under engagement to them to fill up an interval by appearing at a music hall. All that we ask is that the present arrangement be not disturbed, and that we may go on reaping our golden harvest. The ordinary variety artist who may dread the rivalry of the sketches does not desire to increase their legality or to bring about a condition of things which would free sketch production from the restraints as to length and number which were imposed by the compromise. And the theatrical manager who does not wish to produce plays that would be prohibited by the Censor, and desires that no unworthy rival shall be allowed to make a success by appealing to prurient tastes, is, like the gentlemen we have quoted above, luke warm, to say the least, as to the abolition of the Censorship. It is hard, therefore, to perceive from what quarter Mr. ROBERT HARCOURT is to expect support.

There is an easy and simple method of satisfying all parties without the introduction of any Act of Parliament. Let it be permitted to any proprietor of a building which has satisfied the requirements of the County Council as to safety, &c., to apply for and receive a double licence. This plan is already working in the suburbs; and what can be done at Richmond and Walthamstow is surely not impossible in Spring Gardens. In this way no revolutionary alteration of existing methods would be needed; and certain inconveniences removed without an upheaval which would be against the wishes of most of the persons affected. At present, however strong be the logical arguments in its favour, we see no prospect of the passing of the Bill.

"THE VENGEANCE OF JIM."

A Comedy-Drama in One Act, by Stanley James. Produced at the New Royal Theatre, King's Lynn, on Thursday Evening, Feb. 25.

Colonel Buckle ..... MR. CECIL BROOKING
Sam Barker ..... MR. LIONEL HANSEN
Jim Stanton ..... MR. VERNON O. CRABTREE
Foxy Flint ..... MR. JAMES GELDERD
Jack Masters ..... MR. GERALD FITZGERALD
Dicky Doyle ..... MR. REGINALD W. FRY
Tangle Foot Tim ..... MR. P. HARTLEY
Ted Leeder ..... MR. STANLEY KILLBY
Grace Leeder .... MISS KATHERINE HARRINGTON
Maggie Leeder ..... MISS BERYL ST. LEGER

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The scene opens in the Eureka Hotel, at One Tree Diggings, California, where the diggers are assembled on Christmas Eve; the bar is being decorated in honour of the festive season. Colonel Buckle, the proprietor of the hotel and President of the Vigilance Committee, sees that the wants of his patrons are satisfied and receives a complaint from Jim Stanton that he has been robbed a few days previously of a nugget of gold. In corroboration of evidence as to the guilt of one named Ted Leeder, Foxy Flint produces a clay cast of a footprint, which he asserts is Leeder's. Foxy informs the company that Leeder has gone to Prestonville and will return in the evening, calling on his way back at the hotel. Jim Stanton, anxious to wreak his vengeance upon the culprit, desires to meet him on the way back, but the Colonel decides that he shall be apprehended and given a fair trial, and every provision made for his widow and children. During these proceedings Grace Leeder and Maggie Leeder, wife and daughter of the culprit, make their appearance at the hotel, and to the consternation of the Colonel, Maggie invites the company to dine with her husband and family on Christmas Day, to celebrate a piece of luck which has come to them in the shape of a sum of money from a friend. The plaintive appeal of Mrs. Leeder that the culprit, whoever he might be, should have mercy shown him at this particular season is most pathetic. Jim Stanton, the aggrieved man, is prevailed upon by the child to play with her, and eventually she falls asleep with her head on his knee. At this moment the guilty man makes his appearance and is stricken with terror as he beholds the occupants of the bar. The touching appeals of the wife for mercy and the innocence of the child have a transforming effect upon Jim Stanton, who, instead of taking his vengeance, extends his hand to the man who has robbed him, freely forgiving the wrong done. Mr. Cecil Brooking made a striking figure as Colonel Buckle, and Mr. Lionel Hanson was effective as his assistant. Mr. Vernon O. Crabtree as Jim Stanton faithfully portrayed the character, and Mr. Stanley Killby as Jim Leeder gave a splendid delineations of a difficult part. As Grace Leeder Miss Katherine Harrington was in both voice and gesture admirable. Miss Beryl St. Leger as Maggie Leeder showed ability seldom found in a child of such tender years, and there is little doubt that she has a most successful future in store.

THE KING was present at the performance of *The Dancing Girl* at His Majesty's on Tuesday.

MR. IVAN CAPELL writes to inform us that he was responsible for the production of Mr. John Hart's pantomime, *Goody Two Shoes*, at the Theatre Royal, Sheffield, and at its conclusion was the recipient of several handsome presents from the management of the theatre and the principal members of the company.

COURT THEATRE.

Four new one-act plays were produced on Wednesday evening at the Court by the Amateur Players' Association, and whatever was good in four new one-act plays was spoilt by bad acting. The performance was organised in aid of the funds of the Victoria Hospital for Children, and, as is usually the case with amateur entertainments of this nature, we do not suppose that the medical establishment will benefit much. The opening piece was

"THE SILVER TANKARD,"

A Simple Play in One Act, by Cecil Egerton.

Colonel Heathcote ..... MR. J. HARTLEY
John Saunders ..... MR. R. HARRISON ARCHBALD
Robert Hardy ..... MR. FRANCIS W. WATTS
Martha ..... MISS FRANCES SHEWRY
Jessie ..... MISS DODGSON

Here we had an old idea rather prettily worked out. Robert Hardy, a carpenter, who helps his widowed mother, and is engaged to be married to Jessie, another character in the play, is tempted in his poverty to steal a silver tankard belonging to Colonel Heathcote, at whose house he is doing some work, and is afterwards conscience-stricken when the Colonel finds him a permanent situation. Fortunately, however, the theft is not discovered, and Jessie has in the meantime replaced the tankard which her lover had stolen. The piece was produced by the Marlborough Dramatic Club, the members of which certainly showed better "form" than the representatives of the other two clubs producing a couple of the following pieces.

The Twelfth Night Players were responsible for the production of a very poor dramatic work.

"THE END OF THE STORY."

A Play in One Act, by Neilson Morris.

George Powys ..... MR. LIONEL CORNISH
Charles Cochrane ..... MR. DAVID DAVIES
Inspector Morrison ..... MR. EDWIN FEIS
Isobel ..... MISS ADRIENESSE CLARKE

Isobel has murdered the father who had brought about the death of her mother by his cruel treatment, and who had made the daughter's life intolerable by his brutal assaults. George Powys has fallen in love with Isobel, who is now flying from justice, and he gives her temporary refuge in his bungalow "up the river." Inspector Morrison duly arrives there, and permits himself to engage in a foolish conversation with Powys' friend, Charles Cochrane, whom in every sentence he addresses as "Sir" with, in addition, an occasional "Mr. Cochrane." We hope that such a silly specimen of a police officer is not to be found in the Metropolis. The Inspector discovers Isobel, who is placed under arrest, George Powys protesting and swearing that he will remain true to her. Cochrane is, perhaps, a little wiser, for he slips into the hand of the haggard Isobel—Isobel fleeing from justice in evening dress!—a revolver, the subsequent use of which brings the sad story to an end. We are quite unable to congratulate the authoress upon this piece. Mr. David Davies, who appeared as Cochrane, is the only one to whom a word of praise can be given for the acting.

"SPOILING THE BROTH."

A Comedy in One Act, by Bertha N. Graham.

Mrs. Chance ..... MISS MARIE W. GOLDIE
Joey ..... MR. LESLIE THOMAS
David Wells ..... MR. H. CLIFTON DALE
'Melia Hammond ..... MISS NINA HAZEL

Miss Bertha N. Graham's amusing and rather well-conceived sketch of low life in Camberwell lost most of the merit it possessed by the way in which it was presented by the company known as the Curtain-Raisers. The story tells of the attempt to cure Joey Chance of the drink habit, of the love-making between that young man's mother and the lodger, and of Joey's own affection for pretty 'Melia Hammond.

"THE BLACK COTTAGE."

A Dramatisation in One Act of Wilkie Collins' Story of the same name, by David Kimball.

Aaron Black ..... MR. H. V. HODGSON
Abigail ..... MISS MAGGIE GALSWORTHY
Bessie Black ..... MISS LILLIAN GRAY
Abel White ..... MR. FRED P. DAVIS
Mrs. Knifton ..... MRS. FRANK ANDERSON
Mr. Knifton ..... MR. GERALD LINDSAY
"Shifty" Dick ..... MR. DAVID KIMBALL
Jerry ..... MR. R. MALCOLM MORLEY

The late Mr. Wilkie Collins might not, we fear, feel flattered by the association of his name with this unsatisfactory dramatisation of his story, "The Black Cottage." Briefly, the plot concerns the determined attempt of two blackguards to break into Aaron Black's cottage at night, for the purpose of stealing some banknotes, and how their scheme is fustrated by Black's daughter, Bessie, who sends her younger sister, Abigail for help, and how Bessie's lover arrives on the scene as rescuer. Miss Lillian Gray displayed some dramatic talent as Bessie; and Miss Maggie Galsworthy was an engaging little personage as Abigail; while Messrs. David Kimball and R. Malcolm Morley furnished suitable studies of the two ruffians.

"THE MYSTERY OF REDWOOD GRANGE."

Play, in One Act, by "An Englishman," Produced at the Theatre Royal, Portsmouth, on Monday, March 1.

Mr. Wilkins ..... MR. WEEDON GROSSMITH
Coachman ..... MR. H. C. BUCKLER

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

At the conclusion of the performance of *Mrs. Dot* at the Theatre Royal, Portsmouth, on Monday, special interest was centred in *The Mystery of Redwood Grange*, a one-act playlet written under the nom de plume of "An Englishman." It was produced by Mr. McIntyre-Wicksteed and the author, with incidental music by Mr. A. Humphreys. The plot is woven around the visit of a Mr. Wilkins, of London, to a country house—where a previous owner had been murdered—for the purpose of sleeping there one night previous to his taking it as a country residence. The night of his arrival is a very stormy one, with thunder, lightning, and wind, so Wilkins, in the presence of the coachman, whom he asks inside, simulates a false courage. After listening to the ghostly revelations of the coachman, Wilkins begs him to stay the night, but is unable to persuade the man. Left to himself, despite sundry whiskies, what with doors mysteriously opening, imaginations of echoes, the racing of rats through the empty rooms, and finally smashing of glass, Wilkins' nerves become so over-wrought that he falls to the ground, thinking his last hour has arrived. A man enters, to whom he pleads for life, but finds him to be his own servant, who has missed a train. Mr. Weedon Grossmith acted admirably as Mr. Wilkins, and Mr. H. C. Buckler was good as the coachman.

MME. CLARA BUTT has now recovered from her recent illness, and is leaving England in order to complete her cure at Cannes, where she will remain for several weeks. Her first appearance upon her return will be at the afternoon concert at the Crystal Palace on Good Friday. Besides Mme. Butt and her husband (Mr Kennerley Rumford) Sir Charles Santley, Miss Agnes Nicholls, Miss Gleeson White, and Mr. Charles Saunders will appear. The London Symphony Orchestra, the Crystal Palace Choir (augmented to 300 voices), and the Crystal Palace Military Band will take part. Mr. Fred W. Holloway will be at the organ and Mr. Walter W. Hedgcock will conduct. The usual familiar hymns will be sung by the audience and choir.

At the evening concert at 7.45 the artists will be Miss Phyllis Lett and Mr. Thomas Meux. The full band of the Coldstream Guards will be conducted by Dr. Mackenzie Rogan, M.V.O., Lieutenant and Bandmaster.

"THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD."

Revival of the Comic Opera, in Two Acts, by W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan (Originally Produced at the Savoy Theatre on Oct. 3, 1888), Savoy Theatre, Monday, March 1.

Sir Richard Cholmondeley ..MR. LEO SHEFFIELD
Colonel Fairfax ..... MR. HENRY HERBERT
Sergeant Meryll ..... MR. RICHARD TEMPLE
Leonard Meryll ..... MR. LAURENCE LEGGE
Jack Point ..... MR. C. H. WORKMAN
Wilfred Shadbolt .... MR. RUTLAND BARRINGTON
The Headsman ..... MR. RICHARD SHAW
Corporal ..... MR. CECIL CURTIS
First Yeoman ..... MR. W. DAVIDSON
Second Yeoman ..... MR. FRED HEWETT
First Citizen ..... MR. FRED EDGAR
Second Citizen ..... MR. SIDNEY ASHCROFT
Elsie Maynard ..... MISS ELSIE SPAIN
Phœbe Meryll ..... MISS JESSIE ROSE
Dame Carruthers ..... MISS LOUIE RENE
Kate ..... MISS BEATRICE BOARER

The announcement that Mrs. D'Oyly Carte concludes her season of Savoy Opera after a four weeks' run of *The Yeomen of the Guard* has given rise to a general feeling of regret among the lovers of music and fun, and if the joyous time spent by a large audience on Monday—the opening night of the revival of the work named—be any criterion, we may not be too sanguine in looking for a continuance of Gilbert and Sullivan at its old home. The gallery boys and girls spent the time of waiting by singing favourite excerpts from *Pinafore* and other of the more familiar works; but when Mr. Cellier—received with a hearty cheer—tapped his desk, there was a call for silence, and no company could have played to a more appreciative audience. Sir W. S. Gilbert, who was called and complimented at the close of the performance, is indebted for the main incident of his libretto to *Don Cæsar de Bazan*, and one does not wish—least of all the witty writer—to conceal the obvious similarity of the character of Jack Point to Touchstone. The freshness and geniality of the music are as apparent as ever, and encores on Monday were frequent. In the bulk of the score the composer has written elegant melodies, exactly suited to the spirit of the words, for in the lyrics Sir W. S. Gilbert has been most happy.

When the curtain rose on Monday Miss Jessie Rose, the latest Phœbe Meryll, sitting at her spinning wheel, sang the graceful opening air, "When maiden loves she sits and sighs," with considerable charm; and was particularly roguish in her scene with the lugubrious gaoler, Wilfred Shadbolt, in which she scored an unmistakable success in "Were I thy bride," the arch and animated manner in which she alternately cajoled and repelled the advances of the grumpy Wilfred amusing the audience greatly. Miss Elsie Spain as Elsie Maynard made her success assured on her first entrance with the jester. Of course the duet "I have a song to sing, oh," which is one of the gems of the opera, was rapturously encored, and Mr. C. H. Workman and Miss Spain might have accepted a double *bis*. In the final scene with Colonel Fairfax Miss Spain's acting calls for high praise, and throughout she was dainty, interesting, and dramatic. Mr. C. H. Workman in a former revival of the opera, in May, 1897, appeared as the first citizen, afterwards going in for hard work in the provinces. We doubt whether we have ever had a Jack Point who has realised so cleverly and completely the pathetic side of the part, and he had a specially hearty call at the close of Monday night's performance. He made a great hit in the song of the second act:—

"If the jests that you crack have an orthodox smack
You may get a bland smile from these sages;
But should it, by chance, be imported from France,
Half-a-crown is stopped out of your wages!"

Mr. Rutland Barrington for the first time took up the part of Wilfred Shadbolt, originally assigned to Mr. W. H. Denny. Wilfred fancies he has a pretty wit, and believes he is "the merriest dog that barks," and his smug self-satisfaction is drolly emphasised by Mr. Barrington, who is quite admirable in the character. Mr. Richard Temple was at hand to take up his old rôle of Sergeant Meryll, and to his principal number, "A laughing boy but yesterday," he did complete justice. In the Courting scene with Dame Carruthers his success was shared by Miss Louie Rene, who made the most of her rather grim song, "When our gallant Norman foes." Mr. Henry Herbert is improving in his acting, and his Colonel Fairfax was always interesting. Mr. Leo Sheffield was an effective Sir Richard Cholmondeley; Mr. Richard Shaw realised the lugubrious character of the headsman; and other parts were adequately handled by Mr. Laurence Legge as Leonard Meryll, Miss Beatrice Boarer as Kate, and Mr. Cecil Curtis.

MR. JOSEPH CORNISH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—An earnest appeal is made on behalf of Mr. Joseph Cornish, for sixteen years representative of Stedman's Musical Agency; also with the late Sir Augustus Harris at Drury Lane, Covent Garden, and Olympia; and the late Mme. Katti Lanner and Mr. Imre Kiralfy, and associated for many years with Mr. Seymour Hicks' companies.

Mr. Joseph Cornish has recently undergone a series of heavy and undeserved misfortunes and much illness and domestic trouble. He is at present out of an engagement, and his son (twenty-four), upon whom he depended for some assistance, has now been for nineteen weeks an inmate of St. Mary's Hospital, suffering from tuberculosis, having had six severe operations, including the amputation of the left leg and one finger, and this week another operation on the right leg. He will be entirely incapacitated from further work, and when sufficiently recovered the doctors say he must be immediately removed to sea air.

Under these painful circumtsances it is hoped and believed that all those who know Mr. Joseph Cornish will generously assist him to provide for his helpless son and meet temporary necessities during the few weeks which must elapse before he can take up the duties of an already-promised situation.

I shall be pleased to receive and acknowledge all subscriptions, and to give any further information desired.

M. A. VICTOR.

Broadway Hall, Hammersmith, W., March 4.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

From the *Dashing Little Duke* company, Hicks Theatre (per Mr. Harry Ulph):—

	£	s.	d.
Miss Ellaline Terriss and Mr. Seymour Hicks	5	0	0
Anonymous	5	0	0
Stedman's Musical Agency	2	2	0
Mr. Frank E. Tours	1	0	0
Mrs. M. A. Victor	0	10	6
Miss E. Firth	0	10	0
Miss Louie Pounds	0	10	0
Mr. Hayden Coffin	0	10	0
Mr. Courtice Pounds	0	10	0
Miss Coralie Blythe	0	5	0
Miss Maud Milton	0	5	0
Miss Florence Wood	0	5	0
Miss Graham	0	5	0
Miss Pryor	0	5	0
Miss Rose	0	5	0
Ladies' Room	0	5	0
Mr. Harry Ulph	0	5	0
Chorus Gentlemen	0	4	0
Miss Chesney	0	2	6
Miss Watson	0	2	0
Miss Chisholm	0	2	0

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

GERMAN DRAMA IN LONDON.

On Friday, Feb. 26, at the Royal Court Theatre, the Romantic Drama, in Four Acts, by Heinrich von Kleist, entitled

"DAS KATHCHEN VON HEILBRONN."

Der Kaiser ..... HERR ERNST KUHN
Archbishop Gebhardt .. HERR RICHARD MULLER
Friedrich Wetter, Count von Strahl ..... HERR RUDOLF EXNER
Countess Helene ..... FRAULEIN PAULA GRUBER
The Knight of Flamberg ..... HERR MAX BRATENGEYER
Gottschalk ..... HERR JOSEF KISCH
Brigitte ..... FRAULEIN ANTONIE VON DRIESCHE
Kunigunde von Turneck ..... FRAULEIN HEDWIG ROHMANN
Rosalie ..... FRAULEIN MARIE LINCKE
Theobald Friedeborn ..... HERR PAUL WIND
Käthchen ..... FRAULEIN ELEONORE DRILLER
Maximilian, Count von Freiburg ..... HERR HERMANN ZETTLER
Georg von Waldstätten ..... HERR HERMANN LINDHORST
Count von Stein ..... HERR HUGO BERGMANN
Eginhardt von der Wart .... HERR HANS BERLE
Count Otto von der Flühe ..... HERR BERNHARD WIESE
Jacob Pech ..... HERR RUDOLF FISSIG
A Charcoal Burner .... FRAULEIN MARIE KISCH

The idea of establishing in London a German "Volksbühne," a people's theatre, apart from being commendable as of service to the dramatic art, should, from the nature of the productions at moderate charges, appeal to the greater portion of the German colony, and thus prove financially successful. The wealthier contingent of merchant princes of German origin are, from some curious if not altogether admirable reason, rarely proud of their descent. With an adaptability which even the Hebrew race can scarcely rival, they very soon *Hibernis ipsis Hibernior* become Englishmen to the backbone, with the average Britisher's wholesome contempt for everything foreign. But there remains a very large number of moderately well-to-do Germans in the metropolis to whom the classics of their home recall the days of their youth, and who take an intelligent pride in the education of their children. The play selected for the opening of the series, if somewhat ambitious from the producers' point of view, was admirably adapted for its purpose. It breathes the spirit of mediæval romance, dear to the sentimental Teuton; that spirit which inspired de la Motte Fouqué, Joseph Victor von Scheffel, and other German lyrists and which even at times overwhelmed a cynic like Heinrich Heine.

Käthchen von Heilbronn, the putative daughter of the town's armourer, has become infatuated with the handsome young Knight of Castle Strahl, Friedrich Wetter, who, however, mindful of his degree, will have naught of her. There exists, furthermore, in his family, a legend which foretells that he is to wed the daughter of an Emperor. Kunigunde von Turneck, being a descendant of a previous Emperor and a lady of great possessions in her own right, seems therefore to be chosen by fate. Having ruthlessly thrown over two previous lovers, Kunigunde, with diabolical cunning, sets about the capture of Count von Strahl and the destruction of Käthchen. The accidental revelation of the latter plot brings about the frustration of the former. The Count realises and avows his love for Käthchen, who turns out to be the Countess of Suebia, the reigning Emperor's daughter, who, for reasons of State, had in her infancy been handed over to the care of old Theobald Friedeborn.

Miss Eleonore Driller made a charmingly sympathetic Käthchen, ably assisted by Mr. Paul Wind, who, at a moment's notice, owing to a serious accident sustained by Mr. Rudolf Exner, took over the part of Count von Strahl. An excellent characterisation was that of Fräulein Hedwig Rohmann as Kunigunde von Turneck, notably in the scenes with Herr Hermann Zettler as Count von Freiburg and Herr Hugo Bergmann as Count von Stein.

The next performances of this series will take place as follows:—Thursday, March 18, *Goldfische;* Saturday, March 27, *Dorf und Stadt;* Thursday, April 8; *Donna Diana;* Friday, April 23, *Der beste Ton;* and Thursday, May 20, *Die Hochzeit von Valeni.*

MASONS AT WORK.

The brethren of the Lodge of Asaph held their March meeting on Monday last at the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, London, under the presidency of their Master, Mr. Ernest H. Paterson, who was supported by his officers: Messrs. Herbert Chenery, I.P.M., Tom Clare, First Steward, acting as S.W., Chris Hilton, J.W., Chas. Cruikshanks, P.A.G.Std.Br., Treasurer, James W. Mathews, Secretary, Albert Le Fre, S.D, W. E. Holloway, Second Steward, acting as J.D., E. Wesley Woolhouse, I.G., John Gilbert, T., Rev. W. P. Besley, Chaplain, E. H. Bull, P.M., acting as Director of Ceremonies, and J. E. Hambleton, P.M., Organist.

The Grand Lodge of England was represented by Mr. John Strachan, the Grand Registrar, and Mr. Charles Cruikshanks, P.A.G.Std.Br.

Considerable interest was taken in the discussion which arose upon a proposition made by Mr. Tom Clare, seconded by Mr. Chris. Hilton, that the day of meeting should be altered from Monday to Tuesday. After various members had given their opinions on the subject, it appeared that any day in the week would be more or less inconvenient to many, and it was ultimately agreed that the resolution should be withdrawn, to be put forward on some future occasion when a larger gathering of the members could be secured.

There were present Messrs. A. Alexandra, Jesse Birch, Fred W. Crellin, Geo. H. Dyball, Philip Howden, Ed. Humphrey, Harry Locket, Charlton Mann, Cecil H Phillips, F. Lyndhurst Schmitz, C. O. L. Smythson, and Charles J. Taylor; and Messrs. E. W Hincheliff (Orchestral Lodge), Wilton G. Brown (Morning Star Lodge), H. J. Squire (Temple Lodge), A. H. C. Squire (Temple Lodge), Edward A. Davis (Jubilee Masters' Lodge), and Fred Terry (Green Room Lodge), visitors.

Letters of regret and apologies for non-attendance were received from Messrs. Chas. B. Powell, Jas. Weaver, and Richard Abbott.

Mr. Arthur Garrett was a candidate for initiation into the mysteries of the Order, and his proposer and seconder having brought the matter before the members in the manner which is customarily observed on such occasions, the ballot was taken, and proving to be unanimous in his favour, Mr. Ernest H. Paterson in a most impressive manner admitted Mr. A. Garrett into the Order, and conferred upon him the privileges connected with the first stage in his Masonic career. Mr. Paterson was assisted by his various officers, and at the conclusion of the ceremony Mr. Herbert Chenery, the Immediate Past Master, addressed the novice in fitting terms.

Messrs. Philip Howden and Francis Lyndhurst Schmitz, who were admitted to the Order at the last meeting, now offered themselves for advancement, and, having satisfactorily complied with the regulations, they were duly invested with the privileges connected with a further stage in their Masonic progress.

Certain details of a purely business character having been disposed of, the meeting was closed.

The next meeting of the lodge will be held on Monday, May 3.

MR. HERBERT AUSTIN has been appointed by Messrs. Jay and Mann, the lessees of the Palace Theatre, Brighton, to the post of manager.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

For the first time in our advertisement columns the Walter de Frece Circuit calls appear with those of the Moss and Stoll Empires, and the fact marks the completion of the arrangements for a combine which has been agitating professional circles for some months. The De Frece Circuit will still have the active personal supervision of Mr. Walter de Frece, its managing-director, who has taken up his quarters at the Co-operative Offices at Cranbourn Mansions.

Miss Vesta Victoria, who had a great welcome from a crowded house at the London Pavilion on Monday on the conclusion of her three numbers—"Mary took the calves to the Dairy Show," "Is anybody looking for a widow?" and "Now I have to call him father"—was the recipient of a magnificent bouquet.

The popular artist's exalted position on the variety stage was never more clearly demonstrated than on Monday, when a delighted house laughed at her clever exposition of domestic humour, and sang with enthusiasm and heartiness the chorus of each number. America has been enthusiastic in its praises of Miss Victoria, and English audiences are not going to be outdone in their affectionate demonstrations towards an artist with such a delightful personality.

It is hoped that Mr. Weedon Grossmith will appear at the Palace Theatre in the course of the spring. Mr. Alfred Butt has made the popular comedian a generous offer, which will be accepted if nothing stands in the way.

Mr. Seymour Hicks and Miss Zena Dare will appear in *Papa's Wife* at the Coliseum on Monday. It was originally produced at the Lyric on Jan. 26, 1895, when the music was announced as by Ellaline Terriss, the authors being Mr. F. C. Philips and "Seymour. Mr. Hicks will also present his well-known character Ebenezer Scrooge.

Mr. Will Evans, as we informed our readers some time ago, is interesting himself in the formation of a golf club on his estate at Mitcham. At present thirty-six acres are available, and it is proposed to plan nine holes and subsequently obtain additional ground so as to extend the course to eighteen holes. The club will be a private one, and will be called the Ravensbury Park Golf Club.

Mr. Louis Calvert, who is making his first appearances on the variety stage in the sketch *Ezra Solomon* at the Palace, is a member of His Majesty's Theatre company, where he is playing David Ives in *The Dancing Girl*. That Mr. Tree has lent him to Mr. Butt is eloquent proof of the popular actor-manager's breadth of view, and also affords palpable evidence that theatrical managers, in London, at any rate, regard the provisions of what John Hollingshead called the Moll Flanders act of Queen Anne as, practically speaking, dead.

Mr. Harry Lauder will make his reappearance in London at the Tivoli on Monday with two new songs, "Bonnie Leazie Lindsay" and "I've loved her ever since she was a baby." In this latter song Mr. Lauder is assisted by a lady, the scene being a kitchen. Mr. Joseph Wilson has arranged to give Mr. Lauder a Scottish welcome on his return to the Tivoli, where he remains for thirteen weeks. Consequent on the success of Mrs. Lewis Waller and company in *The Admiral's Lady*, that lady's engagement has been extended.

The announcement is made that Miss Alice Hollander, the well-known Australian contralto, was married at the Marylebone Registry Office on Feb. 17 to Mr. F. R. H. Carew, a gentleman of independent means, of Beddington, Surrey. Miss Hollander, who is the daughter of a physician, was born at Sydney. She studied in Paris, and afterwards toured in Australia, the United States, and South Africa. Later she appeared in *Sergeant Brue* at the old Strand Theatre, and in *My Darling* at the Hicks' Theatre in March, 1907. She is an immense favourite also at the halls.

The Alexandra Theatre, lately the Palace, Stoke Newington, re-enters the original phase of its existence next Monday, when Mr. Oswald Stoll, as managing director of Moss' Empires, Ltd., and the Hackney and Shepherd's Bush Empires, Ltd. (the new proprietors) will reopen it as a theatre with Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company in *Peter's Mother*, Mrs. Cecil Raleigh, who has been specially engaged, playing the leading rôle.

Most interesting performances are promised at the Balham Assembly Rooms on Wednesday and Thursday next, when a grand juvenile pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*, by Arthur Le Clerq, will be played. In the cast will be the sons and daughter of the late Dan Leno (Ernest, Bert, and May Leno), Miss Lillie Leonard, a daughter of those favourite duettists Bob and Jennie Leonard, and a sister of the Sisters Pine, and Arthur and Cissie Le Clerq, the son and daughter of George Le Clerq, that unctuous and droll exponent of the best traditions of burnt cork comedy.

After a most successful season at the London Pavilion, the Euston, and other Metropolitan variety theatres, Miss Henriquette Maude, the little New Zealand girl, starts, on Monday, a tour which will not terminate until the summer, when she again returns to town. During her provincial engagements Miss Maude will probably recite in khaki uniform some stirring verses on the Territorial question. She could most appropriately do so, as she is descended from a long line of distinguished soldiers.

Messrs. H. and M. Rayne, of the Theatrical Stores, Waterloo-road, forwarded on Thursday for distribution £15 between the Actors' Benevolent Fund, the Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund, and the Music Hall Home, being the balance to date on the proceeds of the sale of their handy little pocket telephone call and date book.

The Palace Theatre ball, given on Thursday night at Prince's Galleries, had a variety of orchestral conductors, among them being Dr. J. Mackenzie Rogan, M.V.O., Mr. Leslie Stuart, Mr. Lionel Monckton, Baron Oscar von Ernsthausen, Mr. H. G. Pelissier, and Mr. Herman Finck, who each conducted his own dance music. On the committee were such stage favourites as Miss Maud Allan, Miss Alice Crawford, Misses Zena and Phyllis Dare, Miss Evie Greene, Miss Gertie Millar, Miss Gabrielle Ray, Miss Ellaline Terriss, Miss Vesta Tilley, and Miss Ruth Vincent.

Mr. Henry Ford, formerly a butcher of Brixton, who lost £22,000 in connection with the Palace-by-the-Sea at Clacton, opened at Whitsuntide, 1906, by Mr. George R. Sims, asked for his discharge in the Bankruptcy Court on Thursday. The cost of the Palace was £36,000, of which the debtor had to borrow £20,000. Up to the present his assets had realised £10. The Official Receiver submitted that the applicant had brought on his bankruptcy by rash and hazardous speculation, but this was disputed, and the application stood over.

Miss Bessie Butt, who was the undoubted success of the Kingston Theatre pantomime as Dandini (which for the occasion was made principal boy), has been secured by Mr. Robert Arthur for the next three Christmas seasons. This clever little lady has been making a great success at the London Pavilion with her popular song "Sunshine Soo."

The Brighton Town Council on Thursday decided to offer "uncompromising opposition" to the Casino and Marine Palace Bill. A petition is being signed by the fishermen against the Bill.

Mr. Thomas Hargreaves, proprietor of the Rochdale Empire, has leased his premises for a lengthy term to Mr. Ralph Pringle, who we understand will shortly take possession of the house, and open it as the "Ralph Pringle Picture Palace."

The opposition which had been threatened by a body of clergymen of different denominations to the renewal of the licence for the Brighton Aquarium collapsed at the adjourned brewster sessions, held on Tuesday. A solicitor wished to hand in petitions against the licence, but the justices ruled that no such procedure could be permitted. Ultimately the magistrates announced that the licence would be renewed.

At the adjourned annual licensing meeting for the City of Wakefield on Tuesday great interest was evinced in an application by Mrs. Fanny Sherwood, who asked for permission to sell intoxicating liquors six days a week at a music hall proposed to be erected in Kirkgate.

Mr. R. L. Prince, in support, said Mrs. Sherwood had purchased a valuable site in Kirkgate at considerable expense, and an elaborate building was to be erected at a cost of £8,000 or £10,000. The place would accommodate about 1,232 people. The licence was wanted for the convenience of the people who would go to the hall for entertainment.

Mr. T. T. P. Sherwood, son of the applicant, stated that the music hall would cost about £13,000. Without calling on the opposition, the Bench refused the application. Publicans, brewers, and teetotallers were among the opposition.

Miss Lillie Lassah has scored a brilliant success at the Argyle, Birkenhead, during the week, crowded houses giving her a rousing reception.

Mr. Harry Leslie, the Manchester variety agent, informs us that plans prepared to his ideas by Mr. Albert Winstanley, architect, are now in possession of the Town Hall authorities, for the erection of a high-class theatre and music hall on the site of his Rusholme Alfresco Pavilion, corner of Wilmslow-road and Dickenson-road, Rusholme. It is proposed to spend £10,000 on a building to seat 2,000 people. The theatre will have a frontage in Wilmslow-road. The "novelty" will be that in the summer the theatre can be made alfresco.

The revised plan for a new theatre and hippodrome to be built at the corner of Abington-street and St. Giles's-terrace, Northampton, for Messrs. Stanhope and Co., London, will be laid for approval before the adjourned Northampton Borough Council on Monday next. Plans will also be submitted for a new music hall and shops in Marefair by Mr. Mark Bromet, London.

Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton have not yet been able to find a suitable site for their proposed Northampton music hall. When built, these and a prospective skating rink promise to make the old borough a lively place.

Arthur Carlton, the well-known comedy card manipulator, has taken a company of his own to the Worcester Theatre, run by another well-known Arthur Carlton. Of course, Carlton, the hanky-panky merchant, is no relation whatever to Carlton, the theatrical proprietor, although both have a right to the same name. But both have had to occupy the same office and read each other's letters, and in some cases, have had to guess for whom they were meant.

Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt, proprietors of the Norwich Hippodrome, with much enterprise have succeeded in purchasing the lease of a large area of ground at the bottom of Rose-lane, and situate close to the Prince of Wales-road in Norwich, of about 200ft. long by 160ft. in breadth, where they intend to establish a permanent skating-rink.

The building will be of corrugated iron, and laid with American maple. There will be no columns or other obstructions to impede the skating. A staff of efficient teachers has been engaged. A handsomely furnished tea-room will be provided, and everything will be up to date in the finest rink in the Eastern Counties. The building will be known as the Rinkeries, and will be close to Thorpe Station and the tramways.

Ipswich is indebted to the enterprise of Mr. E. H. Bostock for the provision of a new roller skating rink, for which there has been a demand for some time. The building is centrally situated on what is known as the Old Market, and is nearing completion. The length of the skating floor, which is of finest maple, will be 160 feet, with 55 feet width, giving accommodation for 250 to 300 persons to enjoy the sport at a time. A good band will be provided, with tea-rooms and other accessories, and it is expected to be ready for opening on Saturday, March 13.

The local Bench, after granting a three months' conditional licence to the Palace, Watford, had an application for renewal up to Dec. 31 next before them on Tuesday last. The police superintendent spoke in the highest terms of the performances and conduct of the house under the management of Mr. T. M. Sylvester, and the application for renewal was accordingly granted.

Miss Sylvia Cavalho made a hit with *What's Charles Worth?* in Birmingham, the Birmingham Press being highly eulogistic in extended notices of the wit and freshness of the skit. This week the burlesque has been pleasing the patrons of the New Cross Empire.

The Musical Palmers, when playing with Mme. Vonetta's variety company at the Hippodrome, Spennymoor, last week, were asked by Mr. Algie (the proprietor) to assist in making the nightly collection in aid of the West Stanley Colliery disaster. This they did with the most gratifying results.

The charity festival promoted jointly by Aston Villa, Birmingham, and the various theatres and music halls of that city was not blessed with the best of weather. But things improved a bit before the popular Miss Hetty King (Prince of Wales Theatre) set the ball rolling, and put in action one of the most motley crowds who ever took part in a football burlesque. For a time the fun was fast and furious, all laws and regulations being out of consideration for the time being. When George, the Villa goalkeeper, was rendered hors de combat (in a theatrical sense) by a revolver shot, the soldiers and sailors, tinkers and tailors, together with giants and mannikins, took possession of the entire arena.

One at a time the Villa players were escorted from the field by a bodyguard, and without opposition goals were scored in a most remarkable manner. It was excruciatingly funny to those who entered into the spirit of the thing, and it is satisfactory to know that in spite of the unpropitious conditions there will be a fair sum to devote to the cause of charity. Early in the second half the snowstorm increased in intensity, and the game was abandoned.

Mr. Gus Elen is just recovering from an attack of influenza, which kept him a prisoner all last week. He went out for the first time on Tuesday for half an hour, and will be quite himself again by the time these lines are in print.

The monthly meeting of the Committee of the Music Hall Sick Fund will be held at the Crown Hotel, Charing Cross-road, on Wednesday next at 4 p.m.

H.M. the Queen, in graciously accepting a copy of Miss Ethel de Fonblanque's patriotic poem "A Call to Arms," now being recited by Miss Decima Moore at the Tivoli, expressed her warm appreciation of its excellence and appropriateness.

Mr. Ivan Berlyn will present his new Anglo-Russian alien episode at the Canterbury on March 15. He will play Karl Veronski and Vareska Orloff. The leading female part will be performed by the well-known and gifted actress Miss East Robertson.

Dainty Daisy Dormer was the recipient of many valuable presents on the last night of the Leeds Grand Theatre pantomime. The gifts included a bag from the pricipal boy and numerous articles from the local children. No fewer than thirty boxes of chocolates were thrown on the stage during the lady's dainty rendering of "Carolina Brown."

Mr. Charles Adams, who succeeded Mr. Fred Miller as manager of the Canterbury, has been appointed district manager of the Gibbons-Barrasford halls in the metropolis. It is understood that Mr. Ernest Lepard, who was associated for some years with the Brighton Alhambra, will follow Mr. Adams at the hall across the water.

Among the merry party sent to Australia by Mr. Tom Pacey were the Three Laurels, who will fulfil a long engagement "down under" with Mr. Harry Rickards, and then go on to Africa to play at the houses controlled by the Hymans.

Miss Gipsy Woolf will be at the Shepherd's Bush Empire on Monday next with her bright and pretty production of *The Mermaids of Margate*. This will be Gipsy's first appearance in town after her successful Continental tour.

It speaks well for Will Oliver's protégé, Cliff Diamond, that having only as yet played four of the syndicate halls, he is already rebooked to do the whole circuit from March 7, and at increased terms. And only eleven and a half years old!

Queen, Le Brun and Co. (five in number), who went to Australia with Mr. J. C. Williamson for six months and stayed two years, have just returned to England. Mr. George Queen is now running the great sporting absurdity, *The Cockney Huntsman*, entirely on his own with a specially selected company.

Mr. Will Collins, who left the Moss' Empires in February, 1908, to become general manager of what are known as the Syndicate halls, is leaving Durham House-street on Saturday to take up on Monday a similar post with the London Provincial and Continental Combination (Walter Gibbons and Thomas Barrasford). Mr. Collins will be joint manager with Mr. Harry Masters, and will give his attention mostly to the Barrasford interest.

A musical fantasy entitled *The Old Willow Plate*, written by Robert Wilford and composed by Mark Strong, has been winning high encomiums at the Holloway Empire during the week. It is well staged, and Mr. Herbert Cottesmore's company includes several artists well known to lovers of opera in English, comprising as it does the names of Miss Christine Gomez and Miss Ursula Graham and Messrs. John Ridding, G. P. Polson, F. Maxwell Stewart, and Maurice Wright.

Miss Kitty Colyer, the famous dancer, has been the victim of a hoax at Bath, where she has been appearing at the Hippodrome. Some practical joker advertised in the *Bath Herald* for three little dogs and two large dogs, to apply on Monday at the Hippodrome, and ask for Miss Colyer. The time fixed was at the start of the weekly rehearsal, and dogs were brought in such large numbers that the Hippodrome looked like a National Dog Show.

The fair artist, in her letter to the journal mentioned, says: "I know nothing of any such advertisement. I am not in the habit of playing practical jokes upon my friends and kindly patrons the public, and regret they should have been involved in some unknown person's attempt to play a trick upon me."

The Stockham Grecian Ladies' Band, consisting of fourteen ladies in beautiful Grecian costumes, is conducted by Mme. Stockham, and includes the famous Stockham Harp Trio. The curtain had to be raised four or five times at the conclusion of their turn at the Grand Theatre, Birmingham, this week. Their success must be very gratifying both to Mr. Stoll and Mme. Stockham, and their enthusiastic reception has already resulted in a number of tempting offers for home and abroad.

Friends of Mr. Vernon Noble (late of Leslie's Comedy Cadets), husband of Miss Tina Frank, will be sorry to hear of his death, which took place at the Eldon Grove Private Hospital, West Hartlepool, on Friday, Feb. 26, after a short illness. Mr. Noble, who was only twenty-eight years of age, suffered from pneumonia and enteric fever. Miss Tina Frank has cancelled her engagements for a few weeks owing to her bereavement.

Caicedo, king of the wire, who has entered the agency business, has received a commission from the management of the Gran Teatro Soriano, Barcelona, to supply artists for the programme and to transact the whole of their agency business. Caicedo is a "globe-trotter" and a cosmopolitan, and his World's Agency should prove a very successful concern.

At Amiens-street terminus, Dublin, on Sunday evening, over 100 members of the Pawnbrokers' Assistants' Association, accompanied by their past-president, Mr. Thomas Doran, the executive committee of the concert given in the Rotunda last week, and several friends, gave Mr. and Mrs. George Lashwood (Miss Edith Fink) a send-off on their leaving Dublin to fulfil an engagement in Belfast. They return to Dublin on Monday to the Empire. Mr. Lashwood was presented recently with a silver-mounted dressing-bag by the Association.

At the Music-hall Home committee meeting at the Camberwell Empire on Thursday (Harry Barnard in the chair), there were present Harry Blake, Douglas Stuart, Harry Gage, Leon Bassett, C. Cornish, Ben and Jim Obo, Jimmy Tray, and Ben Woodger (secretary). Several applications were considered. The Secretary begs to acknowledge the donation from President Thomas Barrasford of £2 10s., per P. J. Brown; Mrs. O'Brien, "Rule's," Maiden-lane, £1 1s. 10d., box collection; and Mlle. Marjutti, card, and 10s., which will appear in *The Era* list. The next committee meeting will be held on March 18.

The position of Chairman of the Executive of the Variety Artists' Federation will now be filled by Mr. Fred Russell, the well-known ventriloquist, who had no serious opposition to contend with. Mr. James Allison will be the vice-chairman and Mr. William Lee the treasurer.

Mr. Fred Russell, in his address, announces his intention of giving a fair trial to a policy of moderation, which he has never ceased to advocate, and directly that policy is departed from on any essential point he will consider himself at liberty to place his resignation in the hands of the executive.

He very properly adds, "There must be no shuffling and no evasion of what is the obvious intention of the arbitrator." This applies to artist and proprietor. He hopes that moderation will not be mistaken for weakness.

The charity matinée question, he considers, has engendered bad feeling, and has robbed the Federation of the support of men and women whose membership they could ill afford to lose. In the case of performances in aid of *bona-fide* public charities, hospitals, or benevolent or patriotic institutions, Mr. Russell thinks the artist should be allowed to act without consulting the V.A.F.

With the object of bringing about a better understanding all round, the new Chairman proposes a conference with the proprietors, when will be laid before them an excellent suggestion of Mr. Joe Elvin, and in this way arrive at a "mutually satisfactory settlement of a dispute which was never worth the trouble it has caused, and which might possibly have been avoided had a little more tact been displayed in the first instance."

The relationship of the Federation to Trade Unionism is responsible for a considerable diversity of opinion, and the matter will be fully debated in committee. Mr. Russell also proposes to appoint a Board of Control, consisting of all the chief officers, who shall be empowered to act collectively in a crisis.

In speaking of Mr. Joe O'Gorman, Mr. Russell says:—"I have been opposed to him at times when I believed him to be mistaken; but my admiration for him personally and for what he has done for the Federation has never wavered. His honesty of purpose and unfailing devotion to duty are beyond all praise."

Miss Winnie Stanhope desires to inform managers and others whom it may concern that her interests are no longer represented by Mr. Didcott.

The following subscriptions have been received for the Primrose Fund:—My Fancy, 6s.; Harry Low, 5s.; Nina Osborne, 5s.; Kenneth Altamont, 5s.; T. E. Dunville, £1 1s.; Wal Pink, £1 1s.; and Miss Vicat, 2s.

Mr. Fred Elton, the popular entertainer and composer of some of our latest novelties, has been secured by Oswald Stoll through his agent, Will Oliver, for 1909, 10, 11, and 12.

"A Dance for Life" is the title of a new scena produced by Miss Rosa Bennett at the Palace, Hammersmith, on Saturday night last. The feature of this turn is a novel dance, with a startling and dramatic climax. It has been specially arranged by Mr. John D'Auban, and was received with great enthusiasm.

A military sketch, by Mrs. Mildred Brammall, entitled *The Dead-shot Brigade*, was produced at the Shepherd's Bush Empire on Monday. Well acted and finely staged, it was quite worthy of a London West-end house. The Boy Scouts are given an important part, and are one of the novel features of the sketch.

The duologue *Married or Photographed*, presented by Warden Reed and Jennie Stevens, has already had a most successful run for over six years, and has topped the bill in England and Australia. It was recently given at Nasirabad, India, the quarters of the Durham 1st Light Infantry, and made an uproarious success, with one of the boys playing the girl's part.

"Captain Duncan and His Airship" is the title of a new "spectacular absurdietta" which made its first appearance in Manchester three weeks ago. It has been written and produced by Mr. Walter Ellis, of *Sleepwalker* fame. The excellent scenery alone of this new act must be a great acquisition to any bill, and the amusement it affords will no doubt make it a very great attraction. Mr. Robert Barbour and Mr. Harry Danby are responsible for the greatest share of the fun. The turn is booking rapidly, and will undoubtedly be much sought after for pantomime.

On Saturday night, while Dr. Bodie was putting himself through a stringent test by passing the full current from a 4in. spark-coil, he was seen to collapse, and great excitement prevailed. Some of the audience thought he was dead, and the curtain was immediately lowered. Meanwhile, Dr. Bodie lay in the wings, and first-aid was rendered to him. His body was perfectly rigid, with occasional convulsions, as is usual when a powerful electric shock has been received. It was not until nearly midnight that he regained consciousness and was sufficiently recovered to sit up in his dressing-room.

Many of the large audience remained in the vicinity of the hall until after midnight. As the result of the excitement caused Dr. Bodie's daughter, who is presently on a short holiday with her parents, was taken seriously ill, and is now lying in Southport, being carefully nursed by Mrs. Bodie. It is hoped she will soon be on the road to recovery. The Doctor himself has now fully recovered, although still suffering from shock, and very much bruised with the fall, but he will positively appear Monday next at the New Cross Empire, where he has been specially engaged by Mr. Oswald Stoll.

Dr. Bodie's second story of his "Harley the Hypnotist" hypnotic tales appears in this month's number of the *Novel Magazine*, and should be a great success. The title is "The Rival Flying Machines," being an exciting story of hypnotism and clairvoyance. Many of the leading daily papers have stated that the Doctor's latest effort is a serious rival to Sherlock Holmes and Captain Kettle, and is a new and refreshing character in fiction. He bids fair to become a very popular fiction writer.

The Pall Mall Deposit and Forwarding Co., Ltd., of Carlton-street, Regent-street, S.W., give publicity to the fact that their New York agent, Mr. Paul Tausig, of 104, East 14th Street, well known by all artists who have visited the States, will gladly, without charge, meet and assist performers arriving in New York, and will have his broker, who makes only a reasonable charge, at the pier awaiting the steamer, so that the baggage can be cleared with the least possible delay. They have a special American and Colonial Exchange Department, and always advise M. Tausig well ahead of all artists whose passages have been arranged by them, and they will be glad to give any information regarding all passenger lines, shipping baggage, and scenery, or any matter connected with the States or elsewhere. Artists going to America should ring up 3,763 Gerrard, or, better still, interview the secretary of the company, Mr. E. J. Doble.

The Terriers' Association will hold a grand ladies' concert on Sunday at the Three Stags, Kennington, at 9 p.m.

The Terriers' annual dinner and ball will be held on Sunday, March 21, at the Horns, Kennington, at 9.30 p.m.

Mr. Percy Curry and Mr. F. A. Hooper were initiated on Sunday last into the mysteries of the Terriers. Recently-made Terriers include Barney Hyams, George Brown, Fred Durban, Spangles and Sawdust, and Leo Roland.

The Corporation of the Borough of Hartlepool invite tenders from Pierrot parties for the right to give performances on the Promenade during the ensuing season. Tenders to be sent to Mr. H. W. Bell, Town Clerk, Hartlepool, not later than March 27.

We extend hands across the sea to the *New York Clipper*, our American variety contemporary, which marks the commencement of its fifty-seventh year by a number that is eloquent of the popularity of vaudeville in the States. The issue has many features of interest, some admirable portraits, and an artistic cover.

Miss Helena Walbran successfully produced on Monday at the Foresters' a sketch, specially written for her, entitled *The Sailor's Lass*, which will be played at Sadler's Wells next week.

The offer of Mr. Mansell to hold a "Territorial Night" at the Royal Palace Theatre, Ramsgate, to encourage recruiting for the local detachments has been heartily accepted by the local officers. At a meeting to deal with the arrangements, held at the Royal Palace Theatre on Thursday afternoon, Feb. 25, and presided over by the Deputy-Mayor, it was decided to hold the "Territorial Night" on Wednesday next.

A provisional programme was adopted, consisting of Bioscope pictures of military subjects, patriotic songs, and a series of tableaux—"The Past," "The Present," and "The Future," in which the boy scouts will figure. A military sub-committee has been elected to carry out the details, Major Lewis being appointed senior officer in command, Capt. Page, acting adjutant, and Mr. J. H. W. Porter, secretary.

Mr. Jesse Jewell died suddenly in Brooklyn on Feb. 14, of vertigo. Mr. Jewell had been enjoying splendid health up to five minutes previous to his death, and had been busy preparing a new act for the vaudeville theatres of America. At the time of his passing his wife and family were 3000 miles away, appearing at the Orpheum Theatre, Oakland, Cal., with the famous Jewell's Mannikins Act. Awaiting the arrival of the deceased's family, the body was embalmed, and the funeral took place on Wednesday, Feb. 17, the remains being interred in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn.

Numerous mourners followed the hearse to the grave, and beautiful floral remembrances were sent by the United Booking Offices of America, Martin Beck, of the Orpheum Circuit, Pat Casey, White Rats of America, Mr. Frank Bostock, of London, Mr. and Mrs. James Bostock, of New York, and others too numerous to mention. Mrs. Jewell is completely prostrated, and wishes her many friends who have been so kind to her in her bereavement to accept her heartiest thanks for their many expressions of sympathy.

Referring to the Bradford City *v.* Sunderland football match, played at Bradford last Saturday week before 40,000 people, the *Bradford Telegraph* said:—"And so the Cup-tie was decided, and amongst the most salient features (to an outsider) were the delighted recognition which our Sunderland guests bestowed upon Mr. Craig, the popular manager of the Empire, when he made his appearance for a moment on the field, and which caused him to beat a precipitate and blushing retreat, to the accompaniment of shouts of 'Hello, Percy.'" Bioscope pictures of the match were shown at both the Sunderland and Bradford Empires, and some of the views show the crowd cheering Mr. Percival Craig.

At the Bradford Charity Carnival last week, held in the open air, no less than £225 was taken as a result of the efforts of the artists engaged at the local pantomimes and variety theatres. A strong attraction was the football match arranged by Mr. Percival Craig, of the Empire Theatre, between Karno's XI. (with Harry Weldon, "Stiffy," as captain) and the Bradford City Reserves.

At the general meeting of the West Hartlepool Town Council on Wednesday the plans for the new theatre to be built by Mr. Richard Thornton, and which had already been passed in committee, were submitted for approval. Councillor Fryer said he understood there was to be a bridge over the back street. Were they getting monopoly value for that? Councillor Horsley asked what attention had been paid to the question of exits and entrances? Alderman Macfarlane said he had seen the plans, and they were a great improvement on anything they had had in the town, so far as he could judge. It did, however, occur to him that there was a question with regard to the desirability or otherwise of having so large and commodious a building with such narrow streets round about. There were many streets much wider.

Alderman Sargeant stated they were not getting anything for the bridge across the back street. They did not want to impose any undue restrictions, as, according to the plans, this would be one of the most up-to-date theatres in the country. Replying to Councillor Horsley, he said that the committee and the Borough Engineer were thoroughly satisfied with the exits of the theatre and the safeguarding of the public generally. There would be everything that man could wish for from the point of view of comfort and safety. The plans were unanimously adopted.

On behalf of the Committee of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, 61, New Oxford-street, W.C., Miss Melinda May (secretary) begs most gratefully to thank Miss Hetty King for her generous gift of a guinea, Miss Flo Banks (collecting) 10s., Mrs. Jennings (*Dick Turpin* Co.) (collecting) 3s. 6d., Mrs. Ernest Collins (collecting) 3s. 5d., Miss Lottie Albert (collecting) 2s. 6d., Mr. Will Ellis (collecting) 2s. 6d., Mr. Tom Conover (collecting) 2s. 6d., Mrs. Schaller (collecting) 5s., Mrs. Walter Curtis 5s. (through Mrs. Joe Elvin), Mrs. Herbert D. Cohen £1 1s., subscription (through Mrs. Bradgate); Dr. Crippen, for large bottle of oil and bundles of lint (for little Willie Valesco); Dr. J. O. Dwyer, 51, Hackney-road, for promise to attend one of our pensioners that way free of any charge; Mrs. Alfred Artois, parcel baby's clothing; Miss Edith Fink (Mrs. George Lashwood), stage costumes; Miss Amy Grace (through Miss Lottie Albert), box of clothing; Mr. Edward Luke (Southsea), boxes of toys, and collecting 2s. 6d. for Miss Flora Lington, who is now at the National Sanatorium, Bournemouth. Contributions to this most deserving case should be sent direct to the Guild. Ladies of the Guild are helping at a concert in aid of St. Saviour's Hospital, Osnaburg-street, given at the Café Monico on Thursday next, March 11. Tickets for the same may be bought at the Guild, 61, New Oxford-street.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS

MISS VESTA VICTORIA has just acquired a new song, by Fred Murray and Charles Collins, entitled "On the same place every time." Messrs. Francis and Day have secured the song.

FOR upwards of fifteen years that well-known author and composer E. W. Rogers has been threatening to write a song for Mr. Tom Costello, and has at length fulfilled his promise, and the result on Monday night, at the Granville, Walham Green, was an unmistakable and emphatic success, the chorus being taken up by the house instantly. The song is named "You're still one of the boys," and deals with the jovial recognition by a crowd of merry Stock Exchange members in the lounge of a big hotel, during the interval of a grand "smoker," of an old companion who has come down in the world.

THE song has been accepted for publication by Messrs. Francis and Day, who have already issued Mr. Costello's current comic song, which is causing hearty laughter both at the Pavilion and Granville, and which is entitled "I got married to a widow," by Joe Burley and Maurice Scott.

"THE GREAT INVASION PLAY," Miss Maidie Scott's new humorous song, will most probably be produced during the coming week at the Lyric, Liverpool. Miss Scott, who has bottomed the bill at the Granville during the week, has been photographed in a very original costume, which photograph will adorn the frontispiece of the "Invasion Play" number when issued shortly by Messrs. Francis and Day.

AMONG a number of new songs and dances about to be placed upon the market by Mr. David Day's firm are the following: "Ten a penny walnuts" (sung by Miss Bertha Stuart), by Joseph Tabrar; "Moonbeam, a dream of Cinderella," by A. J. Lawrance and Harry Gifford; "That wasn't so bad for a start" (Fred Hastings), by F. Hastings and E. A. Searson; "The boys of the Territorial Army" (Pat Rafferty), by F. W. Carter; "Billy 'Possum," two-step, by T. W. Thurban; "La Venue de Printemps," waltz, by H. R. Hood; "Rolling round on the rollers" and "There are more heavens than one," by Harry Castling and C. W. Murphy; "The Agitator" (Ernest Shand), by Tom Wick; "The last of the cabbies" (Harry Russon), by Bowker Andrews; "Don't hang your trouble on me" (Miss Sable Fern), by Frank Leo; "Let me dream" (Miss Ella Lorraine), by Harold Bagley and Donovan Meher; "I cheered as the boat went out" (Bernard Russell), by Edward Elliott and Harold Lonsdale; "Don't be angry, Mr. Bee" (Miss Amy Clevere), by G. A. Stevens; "Who's the lady?" by Harry Staunton and J. P. Long; "My little river bungalow," by George Arthurs and A. J. Lawrance; "Love's sunshine," by Miss Winifred Ethel Heard and E. Jakobowski; and "With flying colours," march, by E. Jakobowski.

MR. ARTHUR FRANCIS, the composer of the well-known "Valse Lilian," is ill with influenza, as is also Mr. Charles Osborne, and Mr. Will Hyde has just got the better of a sharp attack of pneumonia.

MR. BILLY WILLIAMS, the "Man in the Velvet Suit," has accepted a song by Harry Heath and Will Hyde, entitled "Since poor father joined the Territorials." Will Hyde has also, in conjunction with Heath, just fitted Mr. Frank Seeley with a number entitled "The little black patch my mother patched."

EVERY season has its popular ballad. This year undoubtedly the most sought after is the song entitled "Sweetheart days," which has gradually won its way into favour on its intrinsic merits. Its dainty words set to a charming and haunting melody has already caused it to be included in the répertoire of all the leading sopranos, contraltos, tenors, and baritones, as the pretty ballad is suitable for all voices. Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter, the publishers, have thus early been notified by all the principal seaside entertainers of their intention to include it in their programmes. "Sweetheart days" has undoubtedly come to stay.

MESSRS. FRANCIS, DAY, AND HUNTER have much pleasure in announcing that they have arranged with Miss Ouida Macdermott to feature at all her engagements their popular number "Bravo, Territorials," with which she has already created such a furore at Bristol. In addition, Miss Macdermott has acquired from the same firm the sole rights for three months of that delightful descriptive song "In the land of the kangaroo."

MISS DAISY DORMER will introduce to English audiences the popular American success, "Are you sincere?" which is already the latest rage of America. This pretty refrain, sung with its ear-haunting melody, will fit dainty Daisy Dormer like the proverbial glove. It is another likely candidate for the hall-mark of success, namely the street organ, which has ground out so many of this little lady's popular successes.

THE professional department of Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter are having an exceptionally busy time. In addition to fixing up all the leading al-fresco entertainers with new items for the season, they have within the last few days placed new numbers with most of the leading variety stars, including George Lashwood, Hetty King, G. H. Elliott, Ouida Macdermott, Arthur Reece, Millie Legarde, Truly Shattock, Marie George, Mabel Green, Winifred Hare, Dorothy Craske, Madge Temple, Alexandra Dagmar, Bonnie Godwin's Pics., Maude Courtney, Elsie Kerry, Dora Lyric, and J. H. Milburn. Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter have another batch of winners ready for exploitation by other stars.

MISS FLORRY COOPER is producing a new song entitled "You don't know the value of the sun till the rain is coming down," which this popular vocalist thinks will be even more successful than "The stars are angels' faces."

DURING the last week or so the Von Tilzer Co. have added the following songs to their catalogue of shilling editions:—"Poor old John!" (Dan Rolyat), "Fat, Fat, Fatty Whack" (Harry Champion), "I always like to do things nice and friendly" (Harry Ford), and three of Sam Mayo's latest successes, "I felt so jolly I jumped for joy," "He's got no work to do," and "The wind blew hard from the North-South-West."

MISS GERTIE GITANA has found another winner in her new song, "When the harvest moon is shining, sweet Eileen," which is a successor to "In the evening by the moonlight, dear Louise," both numbers being published by Von Tilzer's.

A SUMMER BOOK containing fifty comic songs for pierrot work is now being prepared by the Von Tilzer Music Co., which will undoubtedly prove invaluable to all al-fresco artists needing a large répertoire. All types of songs are to be included, and the latest successes of Sam Mayo, Harry Ford, Wilkie Bard, Harry Champion, Bernard Russell, George Formby, Fred Earle, T. E. Dunville, Whit Cunliffe, Arthur Lennard, &c., &c., will figure prominently.

THESE publishers are also issuing budgets of ballads and descriptive songs, and comedy chorus numbers, full particulars of which will be found in our advertisement columns. All the above pierrot songs will be ready in about a fortnight.

"THE MOTOR CHASE."

A "Mile-a-minute" Sensation, in Five Scenes, by Sydney Blow. Music by Edward Jones. Produced by Frank Parker at the London Hippodrome, on Monday, March 1.

Duke of Stroud ..... MR. EVELYN VERNON
Walley Berkeley ..... MR. PHILIP CUNNINGHAM
Lord Winkworth ..... MR. CLIVE CURRIE
Count von Brisen ..... MR. H. LATIMER
A Loafer ..... MR. O. E. LENNON
Mr. Issy Tass ..... MR. C. W. SOMERSET
Lady Sybil Pinbury ..... MISS MAUD CRESSALL

The melodramatic devices of the Boucicaultian school of melodrama fade into insignificance when compared with the thrilling modern-day dramettas, presented with such profusion at the Hippodrome; and could some of the dramatists of the last century revisit this terrestrial sphere, they would rub their eyes with astonishment at the sensations devised with such prodigality by that ingenious stage-director, Frank Parker, who will, if we mistake not, add considerably to his already high reputation by his latest production at the Leicester-square arena. It is entitled *The Motor Chase*, and is described as a "mile-a-minute sensation." Considerable care has been shown in the mounting, and the ball in the drawing-room of the Duke of Stroud, which forms the opening scene, is an elaborate apartment peopled by guests who are beautifully gowned. If the Adelphi "guest" of the days of Ben Webster has departed from the theatres, he or she has found no abiding place in the houses of variety, and the whole scene of the dance, with the fashionable throng careering round in a waltz and polka has quite the aspect of Mayfair. The story is soon told. Issy Tass, a Hebrew, rich beyond the dreams of avarice, has been lending large sums of money to the Duke of Stroud, impecunious and proud. The monetary obligations of the Duke are used as a lever to make him consent to the union of his daughter, the Lady Sybil Pinbury, with Tass, who demands her hand in marriage, threatening as an alternative to make the Stroud family penniless. Lady Sybil declares that the Jew may buy everything, but he cannot buy her love. She is staunch to her sweetheart, Walley Berkeley, who is to appear at the ball that night disguised as the Count von Brisen, who has business with Tass, but has been called away. The lovers meet, and arrange to elope from Hyde Park to Plymouth, there to get married, and spend the honeymoon on Berkeley's yacht, which is lying in the harbour. As a temporary expedient to gain time, Lady Sybil pretends to accept Tass.

At Hyde Park Corner a sham carriage accident is brought about by Lord Winkworth, a friend of the young people, in order to attract the attention of Tass who is driving the fastest car in the world. Tass discovers the subterfuge, but meanwhile Lady Sybil has dismounted and joined her lover in his car. The race then commences. At a level-crossing Tass is held up by a passing train, and later, while on the point of overtaking the fugitives at a dangerous curve on the Plymouth road, his car crashes through the wall, and Tass and car are hurled to the bottom of the silent pool. There is a wonderful illustration of a railway train—complete, with an immense engine, tender, guard's van, and several carriages. A marvellous illusion is obtained by telescoping the scene. The company is well chosen. Mr. C. W. Somerset, an admirable actor of character parts, makes a cool and calculating money-lender, and every word of the dialogue of Tass is heard in the most distant portion of the gallery. Mr. Philip Cunningham plays with perfect ease and naturalness as the chivalrous Walley Berkeley; Mr. Evelyn Vernon is a dignified representative of the aristocratic Duke of Stroud; Mr. Clive Currie plays with a light touch as Lord Winkworth; and Mr. O. E. Lennon is characteristic as a loafer. Miss Maud Cressall, who looks very pretty indeed in some delightful confections, sustains the interest of the dramatic situations by her clever treatment of the part of Lady Sybil. The scenery by Messrs. Bruce Smith and J. C. Harker is well arranged and excellently painted, and Mr. Oswald Stoll may be heartily congratulated on another triumph at the Hippodrome. Mr. Frank Parker was very highly complimented on Monday by a demonstrative and thoroughly appreciative house.

"THE MAN FROM PARIS."

A Sketch, by Henry W. Barker, Produced at the Muncaster Theatre, Bootle, on Monday, Feb. 22.

Pauline ..... MISS NINA VAUGHTON
Mark Hammerton ..... MR. STANLEY S. GORDON
Lord Darborough ..... MR. ARTHUR CHISHOLM
Servant ..... MR. JOHN SAXON

This is a smart and interesting little fifteen minutes' production, and well entitled to a place in any variety programme. The story sets forth that Hammerton, a French painter of repute, has completed a picture which has attracted attention, when the impecunious Lord Darborough comes on the scene and obtains possession of it under the pretence of having it handsomely framed and placed in the French Salon. He, however, makes off to London with the picture, where he obtains a big price for it. Hammerton follows, and, disguised as an art patron, obtains entrance to Lord Darborough's house, where he engages him in a game of cards, and wins the money received for the picture. As the badly-used painter, Mr. Stanley S. Gordon acted with distinct ability; Mr. Arthur Chisholm handled the part of the rascally lord in excellent style; and Miss Vaughton showed her high qualifications in the rôle of the easily-persuaded Pauline. The sketch will shortly be presented at a West End hall.

MR. HARRY CARLTON has just written and composed a Yiddisher coon song, entitled "Ruby Rubenstein," for Jack Marks, who will produce it at the Paragon and Oxford on Monday.

TESTIMONIAL TO MAURICE DE FRECE

TO COMMEMORATE HIS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DRAMATIC AND VARIETY AGENCY.

President, MR. ARTHUR COLLINS, T.R., Drury-lane.

The following gentlemen form the Committee, with power to add to their number:—

Sir Edward Moss	Mr. J. L. Graydon
Mr. Joseph Lyons	Mr. Nait Behrens
Mr. Sidney Smith	Mr. Sydney Hyman
Mr. Alfred Butt	Mr. Jack Lotto
Mr. Oswald Stoll	Mr. Geo. Foster
Mr. Henri Gros	Mr. Harry Barnett
Mr. T. G. Hales	Mr. H. W. Wieland
Mr. Joseph Davis	Mr. Will Oliver
Mr. Henry Sutton	Mr. Chas. Simons
Mr. Eugen Sandow	Mr. Thos. Holmes
Mr. Walter de Frece	Mr. Jack de Frece
Mr. J. W. Boughton	Mr. Johnny Jacobs
Mr. Frederick Abrahams	Mr. Henry Neville
Mr. Michael Garcia	Mr. Lauri A. Cohen
Mr. Chas. Fisher	Mr. Henry Tozer
Mr. George May	Mr. Lauri de Frece
Mr. E. J. Leamy	Mr. Ernest Devere

Hon. Treasurer, MR. F. H. PENDRIFT, *The Era*.
Joint Hon. Secretaries, MR. GEO. FOSTER and MR. EMANUEL WARNER.

SUBSCRIPTIONS PROMISED AND RECEIVED.

	£	s.	d.
Mr. T. G. Hales	10	10	0
Sir Edward Moss	5	0	0
Mr. Charles Fisher	2	2	0
Mr. Harry Barnett	2	2	0
Mr. Jack Lotto	1	1	0
Mr. Lauri A. Cohen	1	1	0
Mr. Tom Shaw	1	1	0
Miss Carrie O'Brien	1	1	0
Mr. Ian Colquhoun	1	1	0
Mr. Carl Hertz	1	1	0
Miss Kittee Rayburn	0	10	6

MISS HETTY KING will produce immediately after pantomime two new songs, specially written for her by Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford, entitled respectively "I do make a hit with the ladies" and "Rain, Rain, go away."

As already stated in our columns, the Tynemouth Palace, which cost over £100,000 to construct, was recently purchased by a North Shields syndicate (represented by Messrs. Dodds and Johnson). It is now undergoing complete internal reconstruction, and will have a seating capacity of over 2,000. The ground floor is to be devoted to orchestra and pit stalls, which will be seated with tip-up chairs. The old side promenade has been removed, and a tier supported by steel cantilevers, capable of seating 800, has been substituted. At the rear of the circle will be a large and luxurious foyer, where about 500 patrons may see and hear the performance. The basement is to be used as a skating rink.

"EZRA SOLOMON."

Play, in One Act, by Arthur Layard and Leopold Pam, Produced at the Palace Theatre, on Monday, March 1.

Prince Sarstoff ..... MR. WILLIAM HAVILAND
Ivan ..... MR. SEBASTIAN SMITH
Anna ..... MISS LUCIE CAINE
Ezra Solomon ..... MR. LOUIS CALVERT

The advent of prominent actors on the Palace Theatre has become a weekly event, and therefore Mr. Alfred Butt's engagement of Mr. Louis Calvert to take the principal part in a sketch has not excited the comment that would have been the case even a couple of years since. Mr. Calvert appears in the title-rôle of the playlet *Ezra Solomon*, by Arthur Layard and Leopold Pam, and by his admirable acting does much to stimulate interest in the simple little story. The rich Ezra wishes for an audience of Prince Saratoff, High Chancellor of the Russian Empire, to plead for his support of a measure of toleration for the ancient race. Help in the attainment of his object comes to Ezra through the humble Ivan, who blacks the Prince's boots, and is the victim of a hopeless love for pretty Anna, the daughter of the Prince's lodge-keeper, whom he cannot marry for the lack of 500 roubles. Ezra promises this sum and another five hundred after the wedding, providing that Ivan will obtain for him an audience. The Prince restricts Ezra's speech to one word, but is not sparing of voluble abuse of the Jews, incidentally barbing his remarks by a quotation from Portia's speech in the Trial Scene from *The Merchant of Venice*. When the measure of toleration shall come on for discussion, the Prince will advocate its rejection. "Tell me, in one word what you demand of me." "Silence!" says Ezra with uplifted hands, and the curtain falls. Mr. Calvert is excellently supported by Mr. William Haviland as the Prince, Mr. Sebastion Smith as Ivan, and Miss Lucie Caine—a winsome Anna.

Of Miss Maud Allan's return to the house of her triumphs we spoke at length a fortnight since. In spite of her jeremiad against the dancing of the schools, Mr. Butt still retains his belief in the attractions of Spanish dancers—whose methods are partly founded on the Moorish—and he has brought from Seville Los Floridos—Marie and Pepe—who delight in their three numbers.

The greatest novelty of the programme is, however, the Kinemacolor, a short and appropriate name for the presentation of animated scenes and moving objects bioscoped in the actual tints of Nature. The beautiful results are the achievement of Messrs. Charles Urban and Albert Smith. Kinemacolor wholly and radically revolutionises all previously-expressed theories concerning the possibility of bringing the hues of Nature within the range of the bioscope. The scenes are taken by an ordinary Urban Bioscope camera, fitted with a prismatic screen, or colour filter. This screen, or filter, divides all the colours of the spectrum into two groups—one ranging through white and yellow, then orange and scarlet, to the darkest reds; the other, through white and yellow again (those two being at the head in luminosity and requiring the fullest representation) to green, blue-green, blue, violet, and indigo, to black.

From beginning to end there is no stencil or hand colouring in the picture at all; the newly-enlisted sunshine completely eclipses the colourist. The resultant film (as the ribbon of celluloid which bears the pictures, each no bigger than a postage stamp, is termed), though to all appearances an ordinary monochrome, or black-and-white production, becomes sensific again to the colour filter when run through the projector and shown upon the sheet—in reality, the lens of the lantern links up the colour waves and throws them upon the screen with all the gradations of tone and shade that composed the original scene. We see the original colours of roses and chrysanthemums; we gaze at the yellow of the corn in the picture of the reaper, and even the gloss on the coat of a chestnut horse is permanently registered by the new process, which bids fair to revolutionise the cinematograph industry, for the pictures are simply beautiful.

Other turns in Mr. Butt's fine bill include Contadina, an Italian lady violinist, who plays with excellent technique and expression; Miss Anita Bartling in a juggling scena, and Melville Ellis, whose pianologue might be more successful if his enunciation were clearer. One can quite easily understand Mr. J. P. Ling, who, unaided by any instrument whatever, keeps his hearers in a roar. He has certainly made a great advance as an entertainer. Arthur Prince is on a return visit; Eadie and Ramsden open the programme in *Charlie's Visit*; and the Palace Girls are as bright as ever. The real quality of the fine orchestra under Herman Finck comes out in the beautiful rendering of the *Peer Gynt* suite.

MR. WALTER STANTON is the talk of Melbourne as the Giant Dancing Rooster in the *Jack and Jill* pantomime produced by Mr. J. C. Williamson. It is a magnificent production, that would do credit to Old Drury. Money is being turned away at every performance, and it looks like beating all records.

THAT famous family of musicians, the Elliott-Savonas, hold the premier honours on next week's Hackney Empire bill. One of the things which the Savonas will always look back upon with the greatest of pleasure is their association with the gigantic combination raised and matured by that famous pair Barnum and Bailey. That was years ago when the present performers were very young, and owing to their immature age the American authorities arrested both Mr. Barnum and Mr. Elliott. A special performance had to be given by the children before a committee of doctors, who felt their pulses, examined their hearts, and performed other troublesome operations in order to ascertain if the performance was likely to injure the children in any way. In the end the artists won the case, and though they lost some money over it, they got an excellent advertisement. The amusing part of the affair, however, was that one of the boys was dressed as a girl when appearing before the doctors, and a full account of "her" symptoms appeared in the evidence given, and was duly reported in the papers.

THE Savonas find travelling very awkward owing to the amount of luggage which they have to carry. Altogether they travel considerably over fifty musical instruments, including three large organs, which are mounted on rostrums in the Palace of Orpheus scene, a number of dresses, a private switchboard, and scenery.

"A CRITICAL OPERATION," Cayley Calvert's new medico-comedy sketch, produced by Mr. Harry Bawn this week at Edmonton, has for its scene a doctor's surgery. On the production night the singular coincidence was discovered that three out of the four members of the cast are connected with the medical profession. One is an ex-medical student, and the fathers of two others are West End doctors at the present time. No wonder they knew so well how to treat the case.

MR. CHAS. ELDERTON, the managing-director of the Whitley Bay Amusements Company, is sparing neither trouble nor expense to increase the already numerous attractions at the Spanish City for the coming season. This year, in addition to the capital variety entertainments in the handsome pavilion, there will be many other diversions, including the Maze, Scenic Railway, Water Chute, Flying Machine, the Geo-Whizz Katzenjammer, the Flip-Flap, and other unique American attractions. Everything is expected to be completed by Whitsuntide.

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER'S SONG BOOM.

BRAVO! TERRITORIALS.
Sung by *Miss OUIDA MACDERMOTT.*

IT'S A LIE.
Sung by *GEORGE ROBEY.*

OH! OH! ANTONIO.
Sung by *Miss FLORRIE FORDE.*

SHE SELLS SEA SHELLS.
Sung by *WILKIE BARD.*

GOO-GOO LAND.
Sung by *Miss ADA REEVE.*

WHEN I GOT UP THIS MORNING
Sung by *DAN CRAWLEY.*

BOMBADIER.
Sung by *Miss WINIFRED HARE.*

IT'S MOONLIGHT EVERY NIGHT IN LONDON.
Sung by *ARTHUR REECE.*

MY GIRL'S A YORKSHIRE GIRL
Sung by *Miss FLORRIE GALLIMORE.*

SUE, SUE, SUE.
Sung by *G. H. ELLIOTT.*

I'M AFRAID TO COME HOME IN THE DARK.
Sung by *Miss HETTY KING.*

COME AND HAVE A DRINK WITH ME.
Sung by *CHAS. WHITTLE.*

SYDNEY'S HOLIDAYS ARE IN SEPTEMBER (NAUGHTY BOY)
Sung by *Miss VESTA TILLEY.*

THE AGITATOR.
Sung by *ERNEST SHAND.*

I DO MAKE A HIT WITH THE LADIES.
Sung by *Miss HETTY KING.*

HOW D'YOU DO, MY BABY?
Sung by *G. H. ELLIOTT.*

COME, BE MY RAINBOW.
Sung by *Miss MADGE TEMPLE.*

THEY WON'T KNOW I COOM FROM THE COONTRY.
Sung by *GEO. BASTOW.*

THE MUSICAL COMEDY GIRL.
Sung by *Miss EILEEN DOUGLAS.*

ROBIN RED-BREAST.
Sung by *HARRY CHAMPION.*

SHADOWLAND.
Sung by *Miss ETHEL DUNFORD.*

HANG OUT THE FRONT DOOR KEY.
Sung by *GEORGE LASHWOOD.*

THE COSTER'S PONY.
Sung by *GUS ELEN.*

JOHN WILLIE, COME ON.
Sung by *GEORGE FORMBY.*

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER, 142, Charing Cross Rd., London, W.C.

"A CRITICAL OPERATION."

Sketch, by Cayley Calvert, Produced at the Empire, Edmonton, on Monday, March 1, 1909.

Charley Racket .....Mr. Edmund Baker
Tin Tacks .....Mr. Basil Lynn
Dr. Carnegus .....Mr. V. R. Gill
Bessie .....Miss Ida Chapman

Mr. Cayley Calvert's latest bid for a prize in the arena of music-hall sketches possesses the two essential elements of success—it is never dull and it is not too long. The story—what there is of it—is compact and firm; each of the four characters has a distinct individuality; the situations are adroitly worked up to; the dialogue is throughout bright and amusing, and commendably free from the taint of undue straining after brilliancy.

The plot of *A Critical Operation* is simple and straightforward. If in its development the clever author has, or seems to have, allowed himself to be influenced by dramatic work that has been seen before, he can at least claim to be only following in the footsteps of other dramatists much esteemed by the world, from Shakespeare downwards; and, perhaps, the presence in the cast of a young actor who has been associated with a certain character not unknown to fame may have supplied part of the inspiration.

Dr. Carnegus has a lively young assistant rejoicing in the name of Tin Tacks—the reference is not particularly clear—who, although very clever, has not yet won his spurs. He (the doctor) has also one fair daughter, Bessie, whom he loveth passing well. Needless to say, the two young people are ardently devoted to each other; but "the father of she" will not listen to any matrimonial arrangement between the young couple until the untried assistant has proved himself capable of performing a critical operation. Tin Tacks has no convenient patient on whom he can experiment, and they are on the verge of despair when there opportunely arrives on the scene a mutual friend, Charley Racket. Tin and Bessie explain to their vivacious visitor exactly how they are placed, and implore his assistance. Charley is good-naturedly delighted to do all he can, at first, but when it is explained to him that he must, for their sakes, consent to undergo an operation, he has qualms of conscience—and fear. Ultimately his scruples are overcome, and he agrees to lend a helping hand. His disinterested friendship, however, is put to a severe test when he finds that it will be necessary for him to assume petticoats, pass himself off as an elderly lady suffering from a distressing complaint, and submit to an operation in the presence of the old doctor. However, he again consents, and the change into the necessary feminine habiliments is made in view of the audience. When the disguise is effected Charley Racket presents a wonderful family resemblance to a certain well-known "Aunt" from Brazil, where the nuts come from. When he is finally induced to stretch himself on the operating couch, and prepares to undergo the great operation in the presence of the dreaded pater, the fun becomes fast and furious. Tin does his best to assume the necessary professional air of a skilful surgeon, while Bessie, charmingly got up as a nurse, aids and abets him. Needless to say, the burlesque operation is highly successful in hoodwinking the doctor, who at once removes his ban against the proposed marriage, and all ends happily.

Chief acting honours are easily won by Mr. Edmund Baker, who, when made up as the elderly patient, presents a wonderfully clever reproduction of the elderly lady already referred to. Mr. Baker's assumption is brimful of genuine humour, and never, even in its wildest moments, oversteps the line of strict decorum. A very clever performance. Mr. Basil Lynn is refreshingly bright, easy, and loquacious as the bewildered Tin Tacks, speaking his lines with distinctness and point, and acting in the best comedy spirit. Miss Ida Chapman, with, perhaps, fewer opportunities than are vouchsafed to her male accomplices, plays brightly and cleverly. Mr. V. R. Gill (whose company it is) will do better as Dr. Carnegus when the cares of management no longer interfere with the efforts of the actor. *A Critical Operation* has started well on what should prove a successful career.

EALING HIPPODROME.

Although not in the first blush of youth, the "golf-turn"—with variations—of the Sisters Sprightly continues to bristle with fun. In fact, with maturity, the "holes," "bunkers," and "putting greens" have multiplied their surprises until what the aunt, niece, and maid of this versatile trio are ignorant of in the way of "spoof-lofting" is not worth knowing, and an amused house is not niggardly in its acknowledgments of the vim and frolicsomeness of their sparkling little show. In their second turn "Isn't it Funny How Fashions Change; or, Dresses Now and Then," the Three Sprightlys are equally happy as amusement makers. There is the high-crowned sugar-loaf headgear of the Queen Eleanor period, the Directoire costume of the Revolution, and the pork pie, and crinoline-dressed dame made famous by John Leech. Fresh from his tour of the provinces, Primavesi presents his unique juggling act, "A Farmer's Boy" and is responsible for some clever business with his milk-can and ball manipulation, while his candle-lighting trick is a particularly neat example of juggling. As assistant he has a smart soubrette whose song "In this enchanted land," makes one wish for more of the same fare. Primavesi's bonhomie aids him greatly, and his popularity is never in doubt. Supelessi is a sort of boneless phenomenon, to whom tying knots with his own body for a cord presents no difficulties. Clothed in a epiderm of green and gold bespattered with sequins, there is something serpent-like and uncanny in all his movements; his whirling performances upon the trapeze are remarkable. Stacey and Williams, "the immaculate comedy pair," are not inexpert dancers and singers, but it is as cross-talkers that they attain the greatest success, and here they invoke volleys of laughter. Enid Errol has three pretty dances to her credit—the jester, the Chinese, and the première danseuse—and in each she foots it merrily and daintily. Chas. Lilburn, in his first song, sings of how "You are the girl I have been waiting for," while in his second number he tells of the way "He employed his time." Both chansons have merit, but "this rising comedian" would do well to supply himself with some more amusing patter.

Johnny Fuller's cat, by himself, is a very expert feline, both as a wire-walker and dancer, and Johnny must have watched long and often to be able to reproduce "Master Tom" so cleverly. Little Tich, who brings with him "King Kiko" and "Sergeant Rose," is here this week. With his first line "I am the Blokio who rules in Kokio" he starts the house laughing, and when his wonderful legs commence to "talk" it screams. As usual, some fine films are displayed by the Imperial Bioscope, while Mr. Malcolm Park's band is heard to advantage in the "Pique Dame" (Suppé) overture. Mr. J. A. Molloy, the popular manager here, is to be congratulated upon his bill of fare.

Master Max Darewski, the famous boy composer, conductor, and pianist, makes his first appearance at the Paragon on Monday next. Master Darewski has scored the greatest success all over the country, and is sure to do the same at this hall.

The energetic proprietors of Stedman's Agency have made still another addition to their already large staff in the person of Marshall Moore, the well-known producer, whom they have engaged to produce their own plays, sketches, and scenas, and also as manager of their new dramatic department.

"THE KING OF TERRORS."

By Roy Redgrave and Harry Roxbury, Produced for the First Time at the Battersea Palace on Monday, March 1.

Jack Ralston .....Mr. Bernard Mervyn
Captain Blackstock .....Mr. Wellesley Draper
Peter Gigg .....Mr. Ernie Spalding
Bessie Power .....Miss Mamie Rendle
Marion Ralston .....Miss Dorothy Kitson
Olga Lament .....Miss B. Doyle

The King of Terrors is an admirably-written sketch, in which there is a vein of domestic interest that strongly appeals to the affections of the audience; but why it is called *The King of Terrors* is not clearly defined. Jack Ralston, a fugitive supposed to be dead, has left a will by which his daughter Marion inherits his property; but Captain Blackstock, a so-called friend of Ralston, forges another by which Olga Lament, the child's mother, and himself obtain control of it. Jack unexpectedly returns—disguised—and overhears a conversation between the precious pair, and confounds them by his reappearance. In the meantime the child, who has been brutally treated, is slowly dying, and they are desirous of obtaining a doctor. Her father, again disguising himself, impersonates one, and is brought face to face with his daughter, and in answer to her repeated cries makes himself known to her. The others are in a terrible way owing to the return of Jack, and visiting the chi'd again cannot believe she has seen him, and the Captain gives her a severe hiding with a whip to compel her to say a prayer cursing her father. Eventually Ralston returns, and, giving the Captain a downright good thrashing, which he thoroughly deserves, the poor girl dies in his arms.

The playlet is undoubtedly well played by Mr. Bernard Mervyn and his capable company, Mr. Mervyn undertaking the arduous character of Jack Ralston, a part that requires very careful handling, as in some portions it could easily be overdone, which would spoil a good impersonation, but the artist is equal to the occasion, and must be complimented on a very fine character study. Miss Doyle as Olga Lament has a part that suits her admirably, and gives her ample opportunities of displaying those histrionic powers which she possesses, and scores a great success. Mr. Wellesley Draper is an excellent actor, and his performance of the despicable and callous Captain Blackstock is meritorious and deserving of great praise. Miss Mamie Rendle plays artistically the small but important part of Bessie Power, which adds considerably to the success of the sketch. Mr. Ernie Spalding causes amusement by his rendering of Peter Gigg; Miss Dorothy Kitson is to be complimented for her very natural playing of Marion Ralston, speaking her lines very clearly and impressively, and was heartily applauded for her performance. The sketch, which was well mounted and smartly dressed, was produced under the personal direction of Mr. Fred Baugh.

"SAVED BY WIRELESS."

Sketch, in One Scene, Produced at the Empress, Brixton, on Monday, March 1.

Dick Medway .....Mr. George Belmore
Martin Lancaster .....Mr. Arthur Ross
Harry Grant .....Mr. Gilbert Heron
Kitty Delaney .....Miss Jessie Dennis

Wireless telegraphy has at length been pressed into the service of the stage, and the result is to be seen this week at Brixton, in the shape of an engrossing sketch. A real Marconi apparatus is said to be used in the scene, which is laid at an operating station on the coast of Ireland, and affords quite a lesson—rudimentary, it is true—in the intricacies of the system. There is no lack of sensational episodes, and an ingenious story is woven round the schemes of a young operator named Harry Grant to gain wealth by easy means. Having elaborated the Marconi principle so that he can convey messages to any part of the world, he forms a plan by which the winners of the French races are to be transmitted to New York ahead of the cables and the horses heavily backed before the news can reach the city in the ordinary way. Harry arrives at the telegraph station where his friend Dick Medway is in command, and having got him out of the way by a ruse, he prepares for his task in the presence of his confederate, the unscrupulous Martin Lancaster. Before he can apply himself to business, however, a message comes from a stranded ship which has caught fire in mid-ocean. It proves to be the vessel in which Harry's wife and child are travelling, and the young man, realising that he is being punished for his intended crime, would give up his nefarious project, but is compelled by Lancaster at the point of a revolver to carry on the work, until Harry gets possession of another pistol and forces Lancaster to depart. Harry works the signals feverishly, in the forlorn hope that some ship may go to the rescue of the burning vessel, but in vain, and in despair he clutches the revolver and places it to his forehead. The weapon is snatched from his hand by Dick Medway, who returns in the nick of time, and the movement of the machine denotes that a message is being delivered. The tape is eagerly scanned, and Harry learns that his efforts had not been ineffectual, and that his wife and child had been picked up safe and sound by a homeward-bound steamer.

The sketch was followed with rapt attention by the audience, and at its close the performers were loudly cheered. Good work was done by Mr. Gilbert Heron, who acted the difficult part of the young inventor with power and intensity. He received effective support from Mr. George Belmore as Dick Medway and from Mr. Arthur Ross, who made a cool and sardonic scoundrel of Martin Lancaster. The mounting was very realistic, the electric coil, the receiver, and the "co-hearer" appearing to the uninitiated to be copied in every detail.

A Copy of "The Era" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

"THE WISHING WELL."

Madge .....Miss Hasker
Officer .....Mr. Lionel Rothery
Tommy .....Mr. James Glover
Sally .....Miss Emmie Glover
Dairymaids .....Miss Benham, Miss Lily Kendall, Miss Kate Temple
Gleaners .....Miss Kendall, Mr. Edgar

Amongst the excellent turns presented on Monday evening at the Middlesex was an attractive musical sketch, which was accorded a capital welcome. Miss Edith Summers, the authoress, is to be congratulated upon this, her first work staged at a legitimate music hall, and much should be seen of it in the future. The scene opens with the return from the Islington Dairy Show of prettily-costumed dairymaids, who sing of their experiences, as does Sally (Miss Emmie Glover), the maid-of-all-work, who superintends operations while the country girls are in London. The three maids had found lovers during their visit, as had Sally, in the person of a soldier. The legend of "The Wishing Well," so well-known to country folk, is introduced in one scene. The curtain rises on a pretty farm scene, the well, country cottage, and many implements used in the pursuit of agriculture being displayed. Melodious, catchy songs have been expressly written for the sketch by Mr. James Glover, especially "Three little dairymaids are we," "The Territorial" (delivered by Sally's soldier lover), and a comic duet, "Proverbs," anent the tale of "The Wishing Well." The cast includes Mr. Lionel Rothery, Miss Dolly Hasker, Miss Emmie Glover, Mr. James Glover, Miss Kendall, Miss Temple, and Miss Maud Benham. *The Wishing Well* is certainly an exceedingly pretty production, and those present at the first performance on Monday predicted for it an assured success and a long run.

Miss Tressie Stuart, of Stuart and Stuart, wishes to thank Mrs. Royston Dene for handsome diamond bracelet, presented to her at the Standard, Pimlico, last week

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Monday next has been fixed by the directors of the Empire Theatre for the return of the famous juggler Maurice Cronin and his merry men. The skill of Mr. Cronin and his company has been already witnessed by Empire audiences, and his return visit with an entirely revised performance will be of considerable interest.

The will has been proved of the late Mr. James Lynam Molloy, the popular song composer, the value of the estate being £2,083. Mr. Molloy, who lived at Hambledon, Bucks, and was a barrister, acted as a war correspondent during the Franco-German war. Among the most popular of his songs were "The Carnival," "Love's old sweet song," "The Vagabond," and "By the river."

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WATER RATS' BALL.

The annual ball of that delightful fraternity known as the Water Rats started on Thursday night, and came to a conclusion a little after five o'clock yesterday morning. The function was held in the Empire Rooms at the Trocadero, the presiding spirit being, of course, King Rat (Mr. Fred Ginnett). Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. Albert Le Fre, Mr. Sidney Wood, Dr. and Mrs. Crippin, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Martinetti, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Bartram, Mr. Ben Brown, Mr. Burt Shepard, Mr. Frank Macnaghten, Mr. "Papa" Brown, Mr. Geo. Hughes, Mr. B. Carslake, Mr. G. Fraser, Mr. E. W. Manning, Mr. and Mrs. Protti, Miss Susie Ungley, Mr. and Mrs. Bayly, Mr. and Mrs. Coutts, Mr. and Mrs. "My Fancy," Dr. Goldberg, Mrs. Jules Jordan, the Sisters Macarte, Mr. and Mrs. Cruickshank, Mrs. Mayer, Miss Selkirk, Mr. C. P. Richards, Mr. Victor Kelly, Mr. Fred Reeves, Mr. Will Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. James J. Morton, Mr. and Mrs. Landsman, Miss Greenhill, Miss Fox, Mr. Dibdin Lewis, Miss Wright, Mr. Lionel Carson, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Murray, Mr. Jesse Freeman, Mr. and Mrs. F. Cass, Mr. and Mrs. Brooks, Mrs. Osborne, Mr. and Mrs. Farland, Mr. Fred Russell, Mr. Dick Kendal, Miss Florence Kendall, Miss Marie Kendall, Mr. Steve McCarthy, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Maple, Dr. and Mrs. Robertson, Miss Sohl, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Austin, Mr. Geo. Ross, Mr. and Mrs. Aylin, Mr. W. H. Clemart, Mr. and Mrs. Edwards, Miss Annie Wood, Miss Maud Wood, Miss Rose Hamilton, Mr. M. Hyman, Mr. Ben Dillon, Mr. W. Griggs, Mr. T. F. Dawe, Miss Clara Beck, Apollo, Mr. Danny Maher, Mr. G. Williamson, Mr. Wilkinson, Mr. H. Rich, Mr. and Mrs. Lew Levy, Mrs. Shaw, Mr. W. Cobbett, Mr. H. G. Hibbert, Mr. Fred Karno, Mr. L. Zeitlin, Mr. and Mrs. W. Hargreaves (Ella Shields), Miss Hardy, and Mr. Holt.

There was a capital programme of dances, and in connection with these the Rats had the very able assistance of Mr. Knightsmith as master of the ceremonies, and many merry little scenes were enacted. Supper was partaken of about two o'clock, King Rat being in the chair. The speeches were commendably brief. After the loyal toasts had been heartily honoured, King Rat proposed "The Visitors." He said that it gave him very great pleasure to see all parties connected with the music hall interests present. During the past two years they had been fighting against serious troubles. He was of the opinion that the proprietors would be perfectly willing to meet the artists more frequently than they did, and he thought that they could get over all their little difficulties without fighting at all. They could not live without the proprietors and the agents, and the best thing they could do would be to bury the hatchet. He had very great pleasure in welcoming their visitors.

Mr. James J. Morton, a prominent member of the Vaudeville Comedy Club and the White Rats of America, who has been appearing at the Palace Theatre recently, replied on behalf of the visitors. He stated that he had never met with a more manly lot of men, a more jovial set of good fellows, and a more open-hearted "gang" of boys than he had since he had been in London. If visitors from America had the commonsense to go where they belonged—among their brother professionals—he did not think there would be any need for any visitors at all. There was only a pond between England and America, and their language was the same, and they were all brothers and sisters. He had never had such a pleasant nine weeks in his life as since he had been in England.

Apollo briefly proposed "The Ladies," and Mrs. Ginnett gracefully responded.

Mr. H. G. Hibbert proposed the health of King Rat, and after the toast had been drunk amid musical honours, Mr. Ginnett expressed his thanks for the compliment which had been paid to him.

STOPPING A SALARY.

In an action tried at Bloomsbury County Court on March 4, 1909, a matter of some importance to music hall proprietors was determined. Amos Howard sued the Macnaghten Vaudeville Circuit for £10 16s. 8d., being one week's salary due to him for a week's performance at defendant's hall at Bradford during the week commencing Jan. 25, 1909.

The plaintiff was engaged by the defendant to appear at Hartlepool during the week commencing Feb. 1, 1909.

On Jan. 28 Howard declared his intention of not appearing at Hartlepool during the week following, and Mr. Fred Baugh, manager for the defendant, informed Howard that his salary would not be paid for Bradford, but would be kept by the defendant as a set-off against the damage the defendant would suffer through the plaintiff not appearing at Hartlepool.

The plaintiff sued for his week's salary, and the defendant counter-claimed for £10 damages for plaintiff not appearing.

Mr. Doughty, instructed by Judge and Priestly, said the plaintiff's claim was admitted, and that it was upon the defendant to show whether he could succeed on his counter-claim.

Mr. Martin O'Connor, instructed by Blackwell and Co., said that the defendant was justified in doing what he did. At the moment the plaintiff informed the defendant that he would not appear at Hartlepool, damages to the amount of the salary that would be paid to the plaintiff became due to the defendant from the plaintiff. That being so, the defendant was entitled to deduct these damages from the salary of the preceding week. All the plaintiff could be entitled to was 16s. 8d., the difference in salary between Bradford and Hartlepool. That amount had been paid into Court.

Mr. E. Edelsten was subpœnaed by the defendant to prove that he booked the plaintiff for Hartlepool, and that the engagement was made subject to the Arbitrator's award. Mr. Doughty contended that the agent was the agent of the defendant, and that the agent had offered other engagements to the plaintiff, which the defendant did not confirm; that the refusal by the defendant to confirm these justified the plaintiff in refusing to go on.

His Honour held that that evidence was inadmissible, as it was quite clear the plaintiff had agreed to appear at Hartlepool, and the defendant was entitled to hold the money due to the plaintiff for breach of contract at Hartlepool.

Judge Bacon held that the 16s. 8d. paid into Court, together with the 2s. costs, settled the plaintiff's claim, and entered judgment for Mr. Macnaghten, together with costs on the counter-claim.

Mons. Jules Charmettes, the Anglo-French eccentric, otherwise the French Harry Lauder, will be at the Olympia, Shoreditch, on Monday next.

Mr. Harry Day, whose health of late has not been all that his best friends could desire, is taking the cure at Bath, and improving rapidly.

The latest quotations for music hall shares are as follow:—Alhambra, 1 7-16; Canterbury, ½; Empire (15s. paid), 1⅞; ditto (10s. paid), 1⅛; London Pavilion Ord., 3⅜; ditto, Pref., 5; Metropolitan, ⅜; Moss Empire, 5 3-16; ditto, 5 per cent. Pref., 4½; Oxford, 6⅜; Palace, 19s.; Tivoli, 6½; United Varieties, 1; Variety Consolidated Theatres, 9-16.

Miss Madge Temple has been scoring a great success this week at Middlesbrough. Her rendering of those delightful songs "Sue, Sue, Sue" and "Come, be my rainbow" has established her as an artist of the highest order. She has caused great amusement with her matinée hat and song. It was her first appearance in the town, and judging from her success she will soon be there again.

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MUSIC HALL HOME.

2,476 SHILLINGS.

In again directing the attention of our readers to *The Era's* Shilling Fund on behalf of the Music Hall Home we are in the happy position of being able to associate with the appeal thus being made the name of the foremost music hall comedienne—Miss Marie Lloyd. It seems scarcely necessary to remind our readers of the deep interest Miss Lloyd has ever taken in matters affecting the welfare of her brothers and sisters of the variety profession. It is her desire that her "year" will be marked by a considerable increase in the subscriptions of previous years, and she therefore, through *The Era*, commends the Music Hall Home to the charitably-minded. Mr. Thomas Barrasford, the President of the Fund, is again this year exerting himself in its behalf, and this fact is sufficient indication that he is satisfied as to the way in which the institution is being conducted, and that he considers it worthy of support.

Mr. Ben Woodger, the secretary of the Music Hall Home, tells us that in 1907 the inmates averaged ten, but that in 1908 there have been as many as twelve. The address of the Home is 31, Wilson-road, Camberwell, and there the matron (Mrs. Fruin) busies herself for the comfort and convenience of her "family." At present there are eleven of these, and the desire is to increase the number, which can only be done when sufficient funds for the purpose are collected. During the past twelve months three or four of the inmates have recovered their health and strength sufficiently to enable them to look for engagements. These secured, they left the Home, and the vacancies thereby created were immediately filled up. Now, this Home requires keeping up, and it cannot be kept up on air. There is no need for us to refer to all the good work which has been performed by the institution in the past, as that must for the most part be within the recollection of our readers. The ages of the inmates range from fifty to seventy-six. In all probability these men will be maintained in the Home until the day of their death, and their funeral expenses paid for out of the funds of the Home.

The Era's Shilling Fund is the main source of income to the Home, and this means of sustenance is added to by the donations of artists, either given directly, or through the collecting boxes through which many managers of variety theatres collect pennies from "dead-heads" and from artists who desire free admission.

Anyone can be supplied with a collecting-card by sending a postcard to Mr. Woodger.

Briefly, we may once more repeat that the objects of the Music Hall Home Fund are to provide shelter for deserving members of the variety profession who have been stricken with poverty or illness in their declining years, or who have in other ways fallen on evil times. Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, the hon. treasurer, will be pleased to receive filled-up collecting cards addressed to him at *The Era*, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C., and to acknowledge them in these columns.

FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	Shillings.
Jack Mifes Stavordale	120
Marie Lloyd	113
Joe Elvin, per Marie Lloyd	105
Bert Williams	30
Jack Woolf	30
Leoni Clarke	21
Gus Elen	21
Chas. Weldon	21
John Lawson	21
Mr. Hymack	20
A Beginner (York)	20
Harry Alaskas	14
O. M. Dayton	10
Alf Chester	10
Ben Brown	10
E.	6
Slippere	5
Frank Folloy	1
Collected by :—	
Horace Wheatley	50
Seener and Fridkins	45
Ben Brown (second card)	38
Dave Carter	30
Sisters Ford	30
Tom Fancourt	23
The Maples	10
The Musical Johnstons	6
The Hartley Wonders	2

Collected by Jimmy Shields, £1 15s.

Johnson and Bert	2	Monty Walker	1
Billy Williams	1	J. E. Wilkes	1
Jimmy Shields	1	Floradoras	1
Edward Rowland	1	Mr. J. Burslam	1
George Shields	1	Arthur Royce	1
Sam Thomson	1	Margaret Drew	1
Harrison Brookbank	1	Beatie and Babs	1
Dolly Ross	1	Frank Coyle	1
Ernest Krake	1	Friend	1
Fred J. Hudson	1	Pal	1
George Edney	1	S. F.	1
Mr. and Mrs. Will Pettitt	1	Tom Joy	1
Ernest Dillon	1	Henry Herne	1
Percy Farrimond	1	Leonard Fisher	1
Evelyn and Norrie	1	Will S.	1
George Cooper	1	Sam B	1
J. W. Hall	1	Devonshire, Barnsley	1

Collected by Regan and Ryan, £1 12s. 6d.

Fanny Fields	5	Room No. 4, M.T.	1
Violet Lloyd	5	Doris Dean	1
Malcolm Scott	5	Florence Herseé	1
Harry Tate	5	Harry Claff	1
Regan and Ryan	5	Horace Lane	1
Patty Yole	2½		

Collected by Ben Brown (third card), 28s.

Young Dave Garrick	1	H. Darnley	1
P. M.	1	W. Collins	1
H. Barrett	1	Jas. E. Donegan	1
H. S. Kitching	1	George B.	1
W. B. Abbey	1	J. Welch	1
W. J.	1	Deane Trulove	1
B. C.	1	Penyston Mills	1
J. J.	1	Terrey Erynon	1
W. Morgan	1	Dan Ricardo	1
G. H.	1	R. Trebor	1
S. S.	1	"Apollo"	1
G. R.	1	Traynor, Dublin	1
F. J. F.	1	Miss Gussie Allright	1
F. W. E.	1	W. Saxby	1

Collected by Barney Armstrong, 24s.

Joe Elvin	2	George Kirby	1
Gala and Norris	2	Harry Lappo	1
Miss Winifred Hare	2	Lena Brunton	1
Barney Armstrong	2	Leo Behan	1
Mr. J. Lucy	1	Martha Cowper	1
Mr. H. C. Arnold	1	Chas. Coborn	1
Frank Benson	1	E. A. Matthews	1
Baddow	1	Leighton Rooke	1
Ulrick	1	Gladys White	1
J. J. Dallas	1	Jimmy Steel	1

Collected by J. W. Hall, 30s.

J. W. Hall	1	Gent. Lotto	1
Pat Rafferty	1	Tom Wilson	1
Walter Wade	1	Harry Barrett	1
Harold Hughman	1	J. W. Hall	1
George P. Smith	1	J. W. Hall	1
F. A. Gotch	1	J. W. Hall	1
T. Mercer	1	Mrs. Hall	1
Alf Sontai	1	Mrs. Hall	1
Harry Shirley	1	Mrs. Hall	1
Campbell	1	Mrs. Ella Hall	1
R. Galland	1	Mrs. Ella Hall	1
W. H. Barber	1	Mrs. Ella Hall	1
Lucy Crichton	1	Master Harry Hall	1
Mr. Clark	1	Master Harry Hall	1
A. Lotto	1	Master Harry Hall	1

Collected by Kloof and Ramsay, £1 12s. 6d.

George Lashwood	2	J. E. Nightingale	1
Verona Quartette	2	A. C. Williams, stage representative, Pontypridd	1
Per Messrs. Benet and Kloof, Crusoe panto. company :—		Miss Nellie Dyson	1
Mr. Harry Benet	2	Miss Gertie Millar	1
Sisters Rowe	2	J. H. Wakefield	1
Billy Kloof	1	Rand and O'Ryan	1
Mrs. Kloof	1	Will and Roze	1
Little Jack Metz	1	Sam Saxo	1
U. C. Ugo	1	Ernest P. Grahame	1
Mrs. A. F. Bedford, V.A.F. Agency, Barnsley	1	Trixie Bascombe	1
Sandy McNab	1	Alf. Heath	1
Bert Weston	1	David Phillips	1
Syd Pete	1	Miss Eva Bentley	1
Arthur Maxey	1	William W. Fish	1
		Lonzo Brown	1
		Miss Holland	½

Collected by Mlle. De Rose, £2 1s.

Our Boys	4	Edie May	1
Mlle. De Rose	2½	Dick Thomas	1
J. H. Hawtrey	2½	Hettie Gale	1
Reginald Grant	2½	Leslie Hawkins	1
W. W. Kelly	2½	Joe Huda	1
Hilda Claremont	1	Our Willie Hall	1
Alf Leonard	1	J. Gar Kiddie	1
Stanley Fairless	1	Sisters Raymond	1
W. G. Wesley	1	E. Adeler	1
James Lowe	1	H. O. Callaghan	1
Nellie Barrett	1	Herbert Bates	1
Ada Tyrell	1	Mrs. Egerton	1
George Burton	1	Harry Mayville	1
W. H. Lisando	1	Edgar Stebbings	1
Bob Lisando	1	Mark Stuart	1
Harry Bliss	1	Joe Oliver	1

Collected by Frank Coyle, 20s.

W. E. Gillin	1	Gladys Godwin	1
Ramsey Trio	1	The Ellimans	1
J. Smith	1	Lilian Graham	1
Frank Coyle	1	Fioretti and Elly	1
Violet Coyle	1	Percy Mannings	1
Mrs. Frank Coyle	1	Walter Mannings	1
Miss Fanny Coyle	1	F. B. Bedford	1
Jimmy Shields	1	John Huxley	1
Will Godwin	1	Denby and Dent	1
Mrs. Godwin	1	Geo. Hall	1

Collected by the Three Bros. Huxter, 11s.

Lambeth and Robertson	2	R. Taylor	1
Edward Huxter	1	A. Rudd	1
Bros. Milford	1	G. G.	1
Jeannie Johns	1	Corradini	1
Elsie Steadman	1	A. Saxon	1

Collected by Fred Kitchen, £1 2s.

Fred Kitchen	5	Geo. Craig	1
Harry Kitchen	2	Geo. Messer	1
Mrs. F. Kitchen	2	Grimani	1
Fred Kitchen, jun.	1	T. Scott Bell	1
Kitty Horan	1	Harry Howe	1
Frank Rickards	1	Jimmy Russell	1
Bert Landeck	1	Fred Karno	1
James Beresford	1	Billy Morgan	1

Collected by Three Sisters Lee, £2 0s. 6d.

E. F. Murray	2½	E. Pender Cudlip	1
Fred Ginnett	2	J. Morgan	1
Reg. Beauchamp	2	George Narow	1
M. Arnold	1	Herbert Mack	1
A.	1	Jas. E. Donegan	1
W. Murray	1	Jim Dunedin	1
Thomas Lee	1	George French	1
Mina Lee	1	Gent Lotto	1
Jeanette Lee	1	Syd Pete	1
Leonie Dixon	1	T. C. Downie	1
Marie Empress	1	Schus	1
Sue Lewis	1	Ned	1
Jas. W. Dixon	1	Three Orleans	1
R. A. Johnson	1	Reg Bolton	1
Ernie Warsaw	1	H. Finden	1
R. H. Douglas	1	Hanvarr	1
Mrs. Dent	1	Hanvarr, jun.	1
W. W. Walton	1	Anna Lee	1
Harry Curry	1		

Collected by Ted and May Hopkins, £3 1s. 6d.

Courtice and Louie Pounds	20	H. P. Milner	1
Ted and May Hopkins	5	N. Bowman	1
A Wellwisher	3	Charles Stuart	1
Bransby Williams	3	Marie Clissold	1
Mabel Bardine	3	Sybil St. Elmo	1
William Jackson	2½	Lottie Lennox	1
Sisters Geretti	1	Chas. Santoi	1
Fred Horsfall	1	Colonna Frances	1
Nat Gilbert	1	J. Humphries	1
Ida Kathrena	1	Madge Osmond	1
Edward Foster	1	Pearl Keats	1
Arthur Schofield	1	E. S. Jackson	1
John Macauley	1	Ernest Wighton	2
Master May	1	Morris Harvey	1
		Will Poluski, jun.	1
		Harry Weldon	1

Collected by Charles Cardow, 20s.

Charles Leighton	1	Leo Royburn	1
Ena Richards	1	Hayman and Franklin	1
Collected at billiards	1	Dave Laird	1
Russell Carr	1	A. Standing	1
Hal Godfrey	1	S. Sciravitch	1
Mayme Cannon	1	A Commercial	1
John G. Marx	1	Pennies collected :—	
Dan Filmer	1	Lime-street Station	1
Bob Reano	1	Dressing-room	1
Charles Cardow	1	King's Cross Station	1
Henri Doré	1		

Collected by Carl and Carr, 31s.

J. N. Smith	5	Evelyn Desa	1
Carl and Carr	3	Tom Lawson	1
A Friend	1	Nancy Renshaw	1
Tom Costello	1	Louie Love	1
Billie Costello	1	Queenie King	1
Frank Freeland	1	Ernie Davey	1
James Rallis	1	Jack Osmond	1
L. Hoffman	1	M. Austin	1
E. D. Nicholls	1	Marie St. Hilary	1
A Friend	1	Arthur Carlton	1
Michael Madden	1	A. W. Lethbridge	1
Charles Leverton	1	Bertha Priddy	1
Mlle. Lucretia	1		

Collected by Dick Tubb, £1 15s.

Eight Imperial Girls	4	Dudley Powell	1
Dick Tubb and Jessie Buckle	2	P. C. Armstrong	1
W. Groome	1	Bert H. Delmar	1
F. Brown	1	Grimshaw and Esmond	1
H. J. Corner	1	Maidie Scott	1
Fred Douglas	1	Winifred Ward	1
Mrs. Engel	1	Harold Wellesley	1
Tom Child	1	James Fletch	1
J. H. Farr	1	W. Morgan	1
Bart Farland	1	Sam Poluski, jun.	1
J. Murray	1	Kittie Douglas	1
F. Emney	1	Little Rosie Lee	1
M. Rees	1	F. Brett	1
Nellie Howard	1	Little Maudie Francis	1
Gwladys Soman	1	A. T.	1
May Davis	1		

Collected by Miss Ray Maskell, 41s.

Ray Maskell	5	U. G. O. Nap	1
Ted E. Box	2	G. Fletcher	1
G. Baner	2	Walter Lee	1
Jas. Fortune	2	Auntie Hart	1
S. Wheeler	1	F. B. J.	1
O. Botwright	1	E. B. Dwyer	1
Mr. Chard	1	Raven Wood	1
Coverdale	1	Fred McLean	1
Billy Farrell	1	C. T. Aldrich	1
H. E. Fairbanke	1	Chris Horn	1
Rosie Gaston	1	Fred Rinnell	1
Bob Duce	1	Brinn	1
Pete	1	Geo. Abel	1
B. C. Packham	1	Sid Cotterell	1
Nemo	1	Bert Wilson	1
Bob White	1	H. H. Garner	1
W. McIvor	1	G. E. R.	1

Collected by Conway and Leland, 10s.

W. B. Leland	1	Maringo	1
Crissie Cross	1	Bert Wilson	1
M. B. Conway	1	George Gilbey	1
Mrs. M. B. Conway	1	Billy Seeley	1
Mr. De Breau	1	A Friend	1

Collected by Ted E. Box, 71s.

Ted E. Box	10	Dora Lyric	1
Emerson and Baldwin	10	J. M. Green	1
Ray Maskell	5	Dirty Doughty	1
Servia Le Roy	5	Victoria Monks	1
Hanvarr and Lee	4	Carrie Laurie	1
Lafaille	4	W. P.	1
Willy	3	Albert Christian	1
Mr. Pete Dover	2	Maude Edwards	1
Percy Hayden	2	Virto	1
P. Anger	2	May Ambrose	1
Leon Bosco	2	A "Pro.'s" Friend	1
Tom Bryce	2	C. W. Luker	1
Fred Story	2	Tom Bryce	1
De Marco	1	John E. Somers	1
J. A. Carter	1	Jack Stephens	1
Tossing Austins	1		

Collected by Herbert Shelley, £2 3s.

Albert Chevalier	20	Arthur Burne	1
Herbert Shelley	10	Huntley Wright	1
J. W. Macdonald	2	Harry Nicholls	1
Lionel Rignold	1	Mrs. Herbert Shelley	1
J. Cook Beresford	1	Alma Shelley	1
L. Race Dunrobin	1	Florence Huntley	1
Graham and Harrington	1	May Fairclough	1

Collected by Ben Brown (fourth card), 23s.

Robbie	2	J. Mitchell Langley	1
Daisy James	2	W. W. B.	1
Manning's Entertainers	1	W. A.	1
F. Toomey	1	F. G.	1
M. A. Pettitt	1	Pill Wank	1
Count Landeryou	1	Bothey	1
Fred Reeves	1	R. T.	1
Alf. Lotto	1	G. Young	1
Jan Lyell	1	F. Leon	1
Miss Winifred Earle	1	Col. Clough	1
		S. Girling	1

Collected by The Bohemians, 14s

W. Bohemian	1	Newco and Sullo	1
M. Bohemian	1	Dan Hendy	1
Geo. Gulliver	1	Ernest Caxaellas	1
T. W. Paul	1	Percy Caxaellas	1
M. Etta	1	Edwin Caxaellas	1
D. W. Watson	1	Hull Newsboy Trio	1
Bob Swift Duo	1	Sam Vincent	1

Collected by Fred Herbert, 32s.

Joe Elvin	3	The Itrams	1
O. Maus Dayton	2	C. Douglas Stuart	1
Fred Herbert	1	Bert Byrne	1
Mrs. G. Gunnup	1	John Donald	1
Mrs. Walsh	1	Arthur Gallimore	1
George Gunnup	1	Bob Venola	1
J. Walsh	1	Joe Venola	1
Jack Walsh	1	Flo Chevalier	1
J. Harding	1	Arthur Breton	1
J. Jones	1	J. C. Morris	1
Sam Myrans	1	Gus Dallon	1
Chas. J. Johnson	1	T. C. Callaghan	1
Jack Lorrimer	1	Lieut. Albini	1
Stella Stahl	1	George Jackley	1
Paul Kramer	1		

[*Photo by Sarony.*

MISS MARIE LLOYD,
The Fair Worker for the Home.

Collected by Livesey and Rosebery, £1 8s.

Leo and Roland	1	W. H. Carnis	1
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilde	1	Montaldos	1
Mr. Sam Williams	1	Joe Hay	1
Gladys Mavius	1	Leonie Dixon	1
Miss Adah Payne	1	Jim Dixon	1
G. Barclay, jun.	1	The Heroine	1
Tom Shaw	1	The Villain	1
Billy Stevens	1	The Hero	1
A. Earl Hunt	1	Lilian Rosebery	1
W. Higgins	1	Carter Livesey	1
Dr. Caine	1	Little Willie	1
Harry Randall	1	Gannimede	1
C. W. Whittle	1	Signorita	1
Gordon and Grace	1	The Skipper	1

Collected by Abel and Welsh, 35s

J. W. Rowley	5	Hady Mohamed	1
Mohamed's Arabs	2	A. Gulimlip	1
S. Dix	2	Charles Chard	1
Robert Abel	1	H. Meredith	1
William Welsh	1	Bros. Ford	1
Mimi Abel	1	Gladys and Alber	1
Charles Serra	1	Tate and Tate	1
Martino	1	Wm. Thomas	1
Israel Price	1	Chas. Triton	1
Edward Crosland	1	John B. Roberts	1
Dorians	1	Harry Czar	1
Kyoto	1	Dave Czar	1
Val Gerald	1	Harry Friskey	1
J. Bertram Brennan	1	Blanche Albert	1
Felix Powell	1		

Collected by Ben Brown (first card), 42s.

Geo. Le Clerq	5	Fred Maple	1
Ben Brown	5	F. W. Wood	1
G. B.	5	Munro	1
C. Matthews, Sheffield	2	Sympathy	1
Pot	2	Coly	1
Same	2	W. Childs	1
Mr. S. E. Humberston	1	Tom Craven	1
B. A. Rolfe	1	H. Martin	1
Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Edwards	1	Friend	1
Will Cutler	1	Nat	1
Three Horse Shoes, Sheffield	1	Harrison	1
V. L. Granville	1	Butts	1
		Topsy	1
		W. R.	1
		C. F. Brown	1

Collected by A. N. Hennessey, 40s.

Stanley J. R. Cohen	5	Mrs. Regan	1
A. N. Hennessey	5	G. F.	1
Kittee Rayburn	5	A. Bowman	1
Fred Boustead	1	Glen Alva	1
A. Juniper	1	C. S.	1
C. F. Wright	1	H. C.	1
Tom Lyle	1	E. M. Cohen	1
C. W. Douglass	1	Will Thompson	1
Walter Gibbs	1	Mrs. Thompson	1
Ted Whiteman	1	W. Ransted	1
Tom Malvern	1	Johnny Alexander	1
Harry Anderson	1	Mr. Reeve	1
G. Dyke	1	J. Garlish	1
J. J. Regan	1	T. Callaghan	1

Collected by Leoni Clarke, 21s.

Mr and Mrs. Body	2	Marjory Burns	1
Tom Mezzetti	1	Nell Stephens	1
Bob Mezzetti	1	Wisper	1
Hal Forde	1	Dunlop	1
Arthur Bright	1	H. Rudge	1
Josh Dixon	1	E. G.	1
The Fordyces	1	Edie Le Brun	1
Chas. Rowen	1	Edgar Le Brun	1
Marie Collins	1	H. Daniels	1
Geo. Stephen	1	Sam Shipley	1

Collected by Harry Conlin, £3 10s.

Leigh House	5½	H. Rogerson	1
Harry Conlin	5½	Alex. Kendall	1
Hilda Dugdale	5	Chas. Norton	1
Rosie Coleman	5	Russell Brandow	1
One of the Ba-hoys	5	W. Stanley Parker	1
Amy Singleton	5	S. W.	1
G. Gilbride	4	Seth Egbert	1
Marie Ashton	4	Emmie Egbert	1
Mabel Hirst	3	Violet Egbert	1
Albert Egbert	2½	Gus Le Clerq	1
Daisy Dormer	2½	E. Wright	1
Hal	2	The Witch	1
J. Hoffman	2	May Beatty	1
F. Self	2	Harry Clifford	1
Gus Le Clerq	1	Mr. Blackhurst	1
Tommie Pender	1		

Collected by Cedar and Elgar, £1 7s.

Hugh Cedar	2	Robins and Collier	1
Ed. Elgar	2	Mr. Bert Harrow	1
Louis Kerno	1	Miss Marion Walker	1
Dan Maxford	1	Mr. Bert Rolfe	1
Tom O'Neill	1	A. Yorke-Stephens	1
Fred Sinclair	1	E. B. Edie	1
Jake Friedman	1	T. J. Dillon	1
Miss Ray Wallace	1	Miss Isa Gibson	1
Miss Mildred Bryan	1	Miss Nellie Duval	1
Mr. Joe Robins	1	Mr. M., Manchester	1
Mr. Leonard Russell	1	Mr. Charlie Hopkins	1
Miss Phyllis Seymour	1	Mr. E. W. Avery	1
Mr. Herbert King	1		

Collected by Harry Wright, 31s.

S. Charlie Pratt	2	Ford	1
Montefiore	1	M. F.	1
Bert Chapman	1	E. E. W.	1
Harry Gage	1	Allan Hanbury	1
Mr. H. McDowall	1	Tom Shenton	1
Mrs. F. Kahler	1	Jesse Sparrow	1
G. P. R. Burgess	1	Vivins	1
Harry Wright	1	John E. Brandon	1
Nellie Gannon	1	W. E. Stephenson	1
T. W. Wright	1	F. Newman	1
G. Baselgia	1	J Hewson	1
Bert Chapman	1	A. Knight	1
Leon Bassett	1	Sam Hart	1
G. Pearson	1	S. N. Salter	1
F. Kohler	1	D. White	1

Collected by Eugene and Willie, 11s.

Miss Dunbar	2	Richard Lomas	1
Bernard and Weston	2	Henry Hodgkings	1
Eugene and Willie	2	B. Comerford	1
Miss M. Hope	1	J. Comerford	1

Collected by the Sisters Morgan, 14s.

Will Lorenzi	2	Alice Maple	1
Barrett and Knowles	2	Gracie Mortimer	1
Rita and Roma	1	Will Cartwright	1
Elsie Morgan	1	Hester Reeve	1
Annie Morgan	1	Charles Clark	1
Kitty Clinton	1	S. Barnard	1

Collected by Geo. French's Troupe, 22s.

C. Poole, jun.	6	Bert Gates	1
George French	5	Harry Dowsett	1
Richard Karsy's Myriophone	5	Fred Bescoby	1
Learto	2	Miss St. Clare	1

Collected by Nellie Wilson, £2 11s. 6d.

A White Man	10	Fred Eustace	1
Eugene Stratton	5	Mary Eustace	1
Edwin Boyde	5	Rose Bancroft	1
H Thutton	2½	Charles Chapman	1
The Sivonis	2	Wilman	1
Nellie Wilson	2	Ernie Aplin	1
Mrs. Stavodale	2	Phœbe Lyndhurst	1
Little Miss Muffit	1	Charles McConnell	1
Mona Clifford	1	Muir and Bartlett	1
Florence Hyde	1	Margery Maidment	1
Clara Stroud Wilson	1	Flo Penley	1
Beatrice Elie	1	T. Grindall	1
F. Hurst	1	Dusty Rhodes	1
Will Toole	1	Rose Daulby	1
Charles Granthley	1	Mrs. Fred Southern	1

Collected by Ernest D'Almaine, 14s.

Ernest D'Almaine	1	Rose D'Almaine	1
Mrs. E. D'Almaine	1	Charles Dare	1
James D'Almaine	1	Dan O'Connor	1
Charles D'Almaine	1	Gus Daniels	1
Ada D'Almaine	1	George Snow	1
Amy D'Almaine	1	George Richens	1
Lily D'Almaine	1	E. Kay	1

Collected by Miss Ada Reeve, £4.

Ada Reeve	9½	John Wilson	1
A Friend	7	W. Griffin	1
A. C. Hills	5	K. Adeler	1
Mary Hargreaves	5	Marie Vere	1
Flo Marston	5	Fred Griffiths, jun.	1
A. Rowe	5	A. N. Other	1
Arthur Poole	4	R. Abrahams	1
Edorler	4	J. Lonnen	1
L. de Frece	4	Russell Ardell	1
Beauty	2½	Dan Crawley	1
W. A. Short	2½	Bobbie Mendall	1
H. Milburn	2½	Florence Meeson	1
E. T. Steyne	2½	F. C. Upton	1
P. Ettinger	2½	J Wilson	1
A Friend	2	G. E. Mills	1
Another	2		

Collected by Elsie Robey, 10s

Elsie Robey	1	Molly Wynne	1
Laurence Irving	1	Lewis Leslie	1
Mabel Hackney Irving	1	Mrs. Lewis Leslie	1
William Fullbrook	1	Sale of Post-cards	1
Mabel Carr	1	William Spencer	1

Collected by Newham and Latimar, 15s.

George Newham	1	Johnny Worman	1
Fred Latimar	1	Madge Daly	1
Charlie Osborne	1	May Maddison	1
Erne Chester	1	Ida Scott	1
Wm. Doust	1	Sisters Florence	1
Eric Farr	1	Jessica Brooke	1
S. C. Lodge-Percy	1	Lewis Tolano	1
H. C. Momber	1		

Collected by Shenton's Chicks, 4s.

Shenton's Chicks	1	May Mars	1
Dancit	1	Rose Tilley	1

Collected by Harry Alaskas, 14s.

Ch. Armenis	1	Victoria Monks	1
Mr. Alaska	1	Agnas Kelly	1
Mrs. Alaska	1	La Pia	1
Madoline Rees	1	Victor Kelly	1
Texas Hattie	1	Arizona Karling	1
Patty Yole	1	Harry Alaska, jun.	1
Tiger Lily	1	Sam Alaska (son)	1

Collected by Carl Hertz, £1 10s.

Harris Fineberg	1	Carl Hertz	1
Harris Fineberg	1	Carl Hertz	1
Harris Fineberg	1	Carl Hertz	1
Harris Fineberg	1	Mrs. Carl Hertz	1
Harris Fineberg	1	Mrs. Carl Hertz	1
Harold Lyson	1	Ernest Pyke	1
Harold Lyson	1	W. Harris	1
Harold Lyson	1	F. Isaacson	1
Harold Lyson	1	L. Hill	1
Harold Lyson	1	L. Hill	1
John McInnes	1	Nemo	1
John McInnes	1	S. Burnett	1
John McInnes	1	H. Radford	1
John McInnes	1	Nat. Morris	1
John McInnes	1	Ike Rose	1

Collected by Rowland Hill, 25s.

Rowland Hill	1	Annie Schuberth	1
Daisie Morell	1	Harry Harrigan	1
Little Mamie Hill	1	Will Holt	1
Connie Gordon	1	Harry Radford	1
Minnie Muir	1	Alfred Hill	1
Connie Haydon	1	Jane Hill	1
Lulu Russel	1	Mabel Hill	1
Daisy Dormer	1	James Percy	1
Billy Stephens	1	Tow'd Mon	1
Fred Epitaux	1	J. Traynor	1
Henrie Jaxon	1	Mercantile Club, Leeds	1
Nell Emerald	1	"Ye Dame"	1

Collected by Glen Alva, 23s.

Fields and Lewis	2	James Young	1
Glen Alva	1	James Dee	1
Tom E. Cliffe	1	Topsy Johnson	1
J. H. Savile	1	Bernard A. Leslie	1
Harry Karr	1	Daisy Kingswood	1
Daisy Morrell	1	Mabel Earle	1
Walter Kooney	1	Tommie Hunter	1
Mrs. W. A. Savile	1	J. September	1
Winnie Savile	1	Chas. May	1
Glen Alva	1	Fred Sinclair	1
Sam Young	1	A. N. Hennessey	1

Collected by Harry Delevine, 15s.

Harry Delevine	1	Henry Carlton	1

FILM MAKERS' AGREEMENT.

The new regulations regarding the selling and hiring of films adopted by the signatories to the European Convention of Kinematograph Film Makers and Publishers, held in Paris on Feb. 4, came into operation on Monday of this week. The firms who will conduct their business according to the conditions of the new agreement are as follow :—

Urban	Walturdaw	Pathé Frères	Radios
Hepworth	Paul	Melies	Vitagraph
Cricks and Martin	Messter	Raleigh and Robert	Aquila
Wrench	Deutsche Bioscope	Gaumont	Comerio
Warwick	Licht-Effect Gesellschaft	Eclipse	Ambrosio
Clarendon	Duskes	Eclair	Itala
Williamson	Deutsche Mutoscop	Lux	Cines
Gaumont (England)	Nordisk	Le Lion	

These firms have agreed that they will supply films in Europe (including Great Britain) only on the conditions set out below :—

1. No film shall be lent or hired out by the purchaser or by any person to whom he may sell or hand over the same at a less rate than that specified in the Schedule of Hiring Charges following, and any purchaser selling or handing over any film shall take all necessary steps to ensure that this condition is duly observed.
2. Under no circumstances shall the trade mark or the identification number or mark on any film be removed, destroyed, or mutilated.
3. No film shall be allowed to enter France, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, or Austria-Hungary, or any other country of which notice may be given from time to time by the signatories or some person authorised on their behalf, except on the condition that such film be returned into the hands of the signatory from whom same was purchased, carriage paid, with all trade and identification marks intact, within four calendar months of the date of receipt of such film by the purchaser, who shall be responsible for, and who shall take all necessary steps to ensure, such return.

   NOTE.—Exception is made in the case of films which are exclusively for scientific purposes and not used for public exhibition before a paying audience.
4. Any film supplied on approbation shall be returned undamaged within forty-eight hours of its receipt, and shall not in the meantime be used for the purpose of public exhibition or shown before a paying audience, and if so used it shall be deemed to be purchased.
5. Every film shall be paid for by the purchaser within thirty days from the end of the calendar month during which the same was despatched to him, and no discount shall be allowed under any circumstances.
6. Films shall not hereafter be purchased or obtained by the purchaser from any person, firm, or company, other than the signatories, neither shall a purchaser or his servants or agents use any film other than one produced or furnished by one of the signatories.

Schedule of Minimum Hiring Charges per 1,000 feet and pro rata.

To come into operation March 1, 1909.

For the first six weeks from the date of publication :—

Plain Films, per week 50s., per one day 25s., per two or three consecutive days 37s. 6d.
Coloured Films, per week 75s., per one day 37s. 6d., per two or three consecutive days 50s.

After the first six weeks from the date of publication :—

Plain Films, per week 30s., per one day 15s., per two or three consecutive days 20s.
Coloured Films, per week 40s., per one day 20s., per two or three consecutive days 30s.

Carriage to be paid both ways by the person to whom the films are lent on hire.

No responsibility to be accepted by the lender.

If any films, published before March 1, 1909, are included in a spool containing also films published on or after March 1, 1909, the whole spool shall be charged at not less than the above rates.

This form must be signed by the purchaser prior to the supply of any films, and in the case of the purchaser being a Company must be signed by the Chairman or Managing Director of such Company on its behalf.

I,.....

of .....

have read the above conditions and agree to the same, and will accept all films which may be supplied to me from time to time by the before-mentioned signatories, or any of them, subject to the such conditions.

Witness. Signature of Purchaser.

....

..... Date .....

To the *SECRETARY* of the British Committee of the
EUROPEAN CONVENTION OF FILM MAKERS AND PUBLISHERS,
HOLBORN RESTAURANT, LONDON, W.C.

THE CRISIS IN THE CINEMATOGRAPH WORLD.

NEWS FROM ALL SIDES.

We are inviting the free expression of opinion from all sides on this great question. We realise that the issues at stake are too important to be dealt with consistently and effectively without the most careful thought and liberal consideration for the film-users as well as the film-makers. It is all to the good that the film-users have organised themselves. The Makers' Union has now an organised body to face—an authority able to speak for, and to act for, the whole body of film-users. As in the allied professions and industries of the amusement world, the trade societies have been brought together in times of serious crises; so now in the cinematograph world the serious crisis will be met, and peace, it is hoped, will be secured after both sides have got together at a round table conference—where, under an impartial chairman, the differences may be adjusted, and the real interests of the trade and business of cinematography may be placed on a permanent basis. Why not a conference? We assume that there are real difficulties in the manufacture and distribution of films that have led to the powerful union of makers. We need not assume (at least, not on merely *ex parte* statements) that the object of the Makers' Union is to corner the business of making films in Europe and to dictate prices and terms of distribution. It may look like it; but is it? Let the whole transaction of forming the Makers' Union be before us, and then will be the time to give judgment. We have heard (nay, we have seen) the articles of association, and we know the prospective power of a combination so obviously strong. We are told (semi-officially at least) that even people in the Union view its great power with alarm.

We also know that film-users condemn the proposals that came into force on March 1 with a unanimity that is striking in its vehemence and volume.

Film-users on the Question.

An extremely important section of film-users are the travelling showmen. It is no exaggeration to say that next to the introduction of steam and electric power riding machines, the cinematograph theatre is the greatest revolution in the British and Continental show business.

The showmen are already organised, and have powerful trade societies to act in their interests.

The guild chaplain and organiser, the Rev. T. Horne, acting on the advice and authority of the guild president, Mr. Patrick Collins, attended the private meeting of the customers of Pathé Frères called last week by that firm. After hearing the opinion of such experts in the business as Messrs. Griffiths, Jury, Henderson, Lever, Haggar, and Jacob Studt, Mr. Horne, as representing the large interests of the showmen of Great Britain, warned the conveners of the gathering that whatever might be thought good enough trade methods for the Continent would not be accepted by British users of films without full proof that the new methods were for the general good. He laid particular emphasis upon the economic fact that Great Britain was a Free Trade country; that the "American combine idea" was abhorrent to all right-thinking Britons; that to attempt to corner the film-making business and to dictate terms to the users was too big a venture to succeed in Great Britain.

Speaking as the accredited representative of the organised showpeople, and in the name of Patrick Collins, the leader and president of the Federated Societies of Showland, he expressed his strong conviction that such schemes, however skilfully engineered, were foredoomed to failure.

The guild chaplain's words of warning to the Film-Makers' Union were most warmly endorsed by the representatives of the business present.

We now submit a few opinions, giving first place to the president of the Showmen's Guild. Writing, Mr. Patrick Collins says :

"Dear Mr. Horne,—I am exceedingly obliged for your long and explicit letter *re* Cinematograph Film Makers' Combine meeting. Showmen could not afford to hire films on the proposed terms; our business is different from the music-hall business. In halls they can run one spool of films daily for a week, and then send it on to the next hall, while they receive a fresh spool from another hall. They work in circuit, and only change their programme once a week. We on the fair-grounds have to change our programme daily, sometimes twice a day, till we hit the taste of our public. We must carry many hundreds of pounds worth of films with us, to enable us to give good entertainments. And as our films are worked so many times a day, they wear out quicker than those used in halls, so that the film maker would continually complain about their condition when returned, and soon would want to charge us more again. I doubt that all makers will join, and if they do, new ones will spring up and sell films outright. Thanking you again for the interest and trouble you have taken, believe me, yours faithfully. "P. Collins.

To the Guild Chaplain, c/o *The Era*, London.
"Gondola Works, Walsall, March 1, 1909."

Other Opinions on the Subject.

Mr. James Leo, a well-known showman, and formerly proprietor of a cinematograph theatre, has given us his opinion and that of the Midland showmen he has been in touch with since the crisis began. He admits that, judged by the circulars sent out by the allied manufactures, and now in the hands of their showmen customers, the combination of film makers is a big thing. He does not deny its power to harden prices, and for a time to control the output. He is, however, sure that the "combine"—for so he does not hesitate to call it—will find that the exhibitors as a body will be too strong for them. We need not give his excellent letter *in extenso*, as Mr. Collins has covered (and effectively) most of the ground in his letter given above. He points out that showmen who are enterprising enough to sink a capital of between four and five thousand pounds in a portable palace of cinematography are certainly able enough to make their own films should necessity drive them to that extreme course. He emphasises the obvious fact that there is no law in Great Britain against starting film manufacture; that the showmen alone could find the capital and the skilled workers to do this. He is amazed at the fatuity of the promoters of the new scheme in that they persist in imposing conditions irksome to every user of films, and especially detrimental to the show business.

A French colleague of Mr. Leo sends to his English confrères the news that already the French showmen have taken steps to form a syndicate to make their own films. The entente cordiale is so real a fact that perhaps it may be well (if driven to it) for the French and English film users to combine forces.

We shall be glad to receive the views of other users, and also equally glad to hear what the promoters of the new conditions in the cinematograph films trade may have to say.

Dudley Spring Fair.

Here were some of the principal show and machine attractions of P. Collins and Son, the superb palace of cinematography, "Wonderland," the new two racing motors, and the steam yachts. Houp-las were to the fore, and well provided by Messrs. Hayes, Harris, Wagstaff, Cooper, and Chaplain. The shooters were by Messrs. Dobson, Ford, and Humphreys. The other caterers with novelty stalls and throwing games were Messrs. Cooper and Wilson and several others whose names did not transpire.

Notes from Wales.

Wadebook's Cinematograph and Palace of Varieties continues to draw big houses at Maesteg. A film which proves a big draw is that of the Britt and Summers Fight, while other pictures equally as interesting are being shown. Rex and Ford are responsible for the comedy element.

Electric Theatres (1908), Ltd., have taken over the sites arranged for by Provincial Electric Theatres, Ltd., with a view to extending their operations throughout the provinces.

THE GINNETT-SANGER WEDDING

The marriage arranged between Mr. J. F. Ginnett, eldest son of Mr. Fred Ginnett, and Miss Maud Sanger, third daughter of Lord John Sanger, was solemnised at Burstow Parish Church, on Tuesday, March 2. A reception was afterwards held by Mr. and Mrs. John Sanger at their residence, Burstow Lodge, Horley, Surrey.

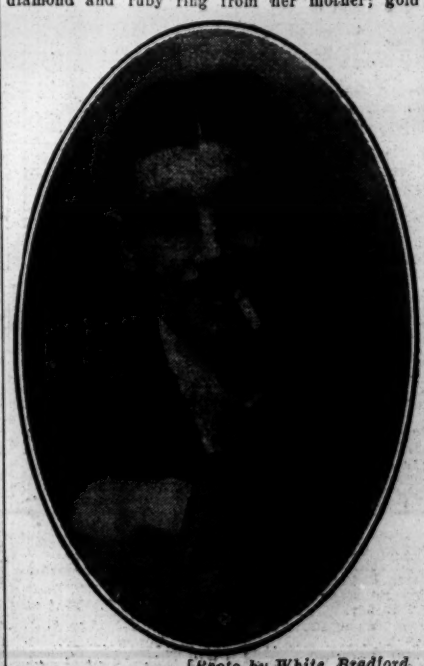
A large company of guests were present, including Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ginnett, Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman, Mr. and Mrs. George Sanger, Mr. and Mrs. James Sanger, Mr. and Mrs. H. Austin, Mr. and Mrs. S. Lockhart, Mr. W. Pinder (grandfather

[*Photo by Debenham and Smith.*
MISS MAUD SANGER.

of the bride), Miss Hoffman, Mr. and Mrs. Irvine, Mrs. Mayer, Miss Popett Ginnett, Mrs. and Miss J. W. Riley, Mrs. Bartlett, Mrs. A. Clarke, Mr. A. Clarke, jun., Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Stratton, Miss Belle Elmore, Mr. Fred Ginnett's *Dick Turpin* company, Mr. Wal Pink, Mr. Mitchell, and many others. The bride was given away by her grandfather, Mr. W. Pinder, and Mr. C. P. Richards acted as best man. The happy pair left by the 6.30 p.m. train for Brighton, where the honeymoon is being spent.

The presents were numerous and costly, and included :—Diamond ring, bridegroom to bride; cheque, Mr. Fred Ginnett; dressing-case to bride and suit case to bridegroom, Mrs. Fred Ginnett; travelling clock, Mrs. Mayer; luncheon and tea basket, Mrs. Riley; tea basket, Mr. Frank Ginnett; cheque, Mr. Frank Bostock; travelling rug, Mr. C. P. Richards; silver-mounted and engraved umbrella, *Dick Turpin* company; silver cigarette case and match box, Mrs. F. Ginnett, sen.; silver match-box, Mrs. Popett Ginnett; silver tea service, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Stratton; gold photo frames, Dr. and Mrs. Crippin; silver cigarette case, Mrs. Villers; to the bride, cheque from her father, and diamond and ruby ring from her mother; gold

THE GINNETT—SANGER WEDDING.



[*Photo by White, Bradford.*
MR. J. F. GINNETT.

watch and chain, Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman and family; diamond and turquoise bracelet, Mr. and Mrs. George Sanger; silver fitted dressing bag, Mr. and Mrs. James Sanger; ivory and silver hair brushes, Miss Ida Sanger; workbox, Miss Dagmar Sanger; travelling rug, Mr. Bert Sanger; Thermos flask, Mr. John Sanger; silver sovereign case, Mr. George Sanger; jewel case, Mr. and Mrs. Bell; hand-bag, Mr. and Mrs. H. Austin; silver grape scissors, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Lockhart; travelling clock, Mr. Upton and family; silver fitted dressing case, Mr. H. M. Baker; silver cake basket, Mr. J. Levy; needlework, Mrs. Ashwin; silver photo frame, Mr. and Mrs. Philpott, of Newnham; writing case, Miss Emmie Fossett; silver trinket box and companion, Misses E. and A. Emberson, of Chertsey; turquoise brooch, Mr. and Mrs. A. Denton; Honiton lace handkerchief, Mrs. Archer; needlework, Mrs. George Jennings; silver and cut glass scent bottle, Miss Popett Ginnett; travelling clock, Mrs. Grist; silver vases, Mr. W. F. Drake; bronze chiming clock, Mr. Wal Pink; point lace, Mrs. Aerion; silver manicure set, Mr. W. Pinder; silver fish carvers, Mr. and Mrs. J. Irvine.

THE CHITTOCK FUND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—Permit us once more, through your columns, to express our sincere thanks to the ladies and gentlemen of the showman and travellers' community for the gracious way in which they have contributed towards our defence fund. In meeting two law suits none of us like to lose our homes, be they good or bad. Law suits are distressing, even to the rich, and to the less fortunate even more so. Great praise and thanks are due to Mrs. E. J. Panton, of 34, Torrington-square, W.C., the home of the showman traveller when in town. This lady will receive and be thankful for the smallest donations. The fund will be open until March 16. This is a bad time of year to ask of our fellow travellers, but if they cannot send large sums, send small. A penny will be received with thanks as well as a pound, and the names of all will be made public in this paper.

This is a list of the names of ladies and gentlemen who have already subscribed :—Mrs. E. Panton and personal friends, £5; Mr. Reed, £2; Unknown Subscriber, £2; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Chipperfield, £1 10s.; Mr. James Chipperfield, £1 5s.; Mr. Henry Chipperfield, £1 5s.; Mr. and Mrs. Hanniford, £1; Mr. W. Wilson, £1; Miss Minnie Chipperfield, £1; Mr. Charles Day, £1; Mr. John Hastings, £1; Mrs. George Kemp, 5s.; Mrs. W. Wilson, 4s.; Mrs. Henry Powell, 2s.; Mrs. Richard Pettigrove, 2s.; Mr. Charles Simpson, 2s.; Mrs. Frank Wilson, 2s.; Miss Rose Sedgewick, 1s. 6d.; Mrs. Bennett, 1s.; Mrs. Le Neve, 1s.; Mrs. Elijah Ball, 1s.; Mrs. G. Lee, 1s.; Mr. Manning, 1s.; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Manning, 1s.

If any of the ladies or gentlemen whose names and subscriptions have been omitted will send Mrs. Chittock a postcard, Acton Green, Chiswick, London, it will be acknowledged in next week's *Era*.—Thanking you all, allow us to remain, Dear Sir, yours sincerely,

JAMES AND SOPHIA CHITTOCK.

White City, Old Trafford (proprietor, Mr. John Calvin Brown).—Mr. Brown has arranged to have Gilleno's circus—which was a source of much enjoyment when it was here the first season—in this beautiful amusement park, which opens in a few weeks. The Japanese Puzzle House, which was a popular attraction at the Franco-British Exhibition last year, is one of the novelties for this season here.

Wombwell's Show at Gloucester.

Bostock and Wombwell's menagerie was located here on March 2, and had crowded houses at each performance. A local publican entered the lion's den at the evening show, and drew a big audience.

Kinematograph Regulations respecting the use of the Kinematograph in Theatres and Halls, also the Regulations respecting the use of Limelight, can be had, price 1d. (by post 1½d.), from *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C. All those who handle the Cinematograph or Limelight should possess a copy of these Regulations

BURNS-JOHNSON FIGHT PICTURES

NOW BEING EXHIBITED THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCES.

GREATEST SUCCESS OF THE YEAR.

Only Pictures taken of this WORLD-FAMOUS CHAMPIONSHIP FIGHT.

Proprietors of all London, Suburban, and Provincial Theatres, Halls, and Places of Entertainment desiring to book this stupendous attraction, apply immediately to the

GAUMONT CO., LTD.,
5, SHERWOOD STREET,
PICCADILLY CIRCUS, W.

STORIES OF SHOWMAN LIFE.

Second Series.
[Copyright.]
By the Rev. Thomas Horne
(Chaplain to the Showmen's Guild).
"TELLING THE TALE."
The Old Doorsman's Reminiscences.

Scene I.

Picture a venerable showman resting in the plenitude of a grand old age. At home surrounded by every comfort of life, his children, "even unto the third and fourth generation," around him. Sitting in his garden in the glorious sunset of a summer day, the old man is in "The glory cloud of precious memories." He sees pictures in the sky, and muses thus :

'Tis the sunset of life, so I sit here and muse
Of the long, long ago till my old brains refuse
To think any longer—or to answer the test—
After full ninety years the "brainpan" must rest.
Yet, most wonderful pictures I pass in review,
Life's Panorama—all the scenes I've been through—
Things won and lost, things done and said, find
their true niche,
When the world is the show, when the mind is
the pitch.
Not freaks of the brain, but a mind richly blest
With the schooling of life, at its worst, at its best.
So I'll "*Tell you the tale*" as the scenes quickly
change—
To repeat the old *patter*, "A tale passing strange."

Scene II.

The dear old showman seer recalls—

Memories of Lynn Mart.

I would winter in town, then in springtime would
start
The Great Round of England, at the Fair of Lynn
Mart.
Showmen travell'd by road in the great long ago
Before railways and tractors—we travell'd the
show.
Over highways and byways, in the sunshine or
rain;
Could I live my life over I would do it again.
Memories of Lynn grow as flowers round my heart,
There in the late fifties Sanger's circus did start;
It was but a small tent, I remember it well,
With George on the run-up what a "*Tale*" could
he tell.
Ah! he could "*Tell the Tale.*" He could draw the
whole town—
Outside with his "patter," in the ring with the
clown.
It was there at King's Lynn Fred'rick Savage
began
His world-famous machines to make and to plan :
Of bike track, of switchback, gondolas as well,
Of gallopers and motors—what a "Tale one could
tell"!

Scene III.

Still in rapt vision he continues his tale.

Memories of Knott Mill Fair.

Well do I remember Manchester's Great Fair—
When the best in the kingdom were gathered
there—
When the people flocked in from the big towns
around,
When great Wombwell and Pablo stood on their
old ground;
"Chorus Tommie" with Dollies was just all the
rage,
When old Lomas, the Mummer, with kids of the
stage;
When old Billie Strand started wild beast;
When the bells of St. Matthew rang out Easter
Feast;
When the stalls lined Deansgate right up to the
Fair,
And Fearn's pannum stall was the entrance there;
When young Randall Williams began his great life
With his two waggon load and clever young wife—
I picture them now as they worked with a will :
She danced in her tartans, he pattered with skill.
He could "Tell the Tale," for the people must
know
The mystery and mirth of his conjuring show.

Scene IV.

A Vision of Old Glasgow Fair.

The shows were all pitched on Old Glasgow Green;
The best in Great Britain were there to be seen :
Menagerie and circus, with shows great and small,
On the Green's great quadrangle, I remember them
all.
I was Doorsman for Ewing's, the big waxwork
show,
And "Telling the Tale," for the people must know
The song of the famous that history sings,
The world's greatest heroes, its leaders, its kings.
I was careful to tell them that inside we'd got
Burns, their own poet, old Margery Scott,
Rob Roy Macgregor, Great Wallace, and Bruce,
The most lifelike models art could produce.
A great group historic inside could be seen—
The beheading of Mary, their sweet martyr Queen.
Ah, that was the magnet that drew without fail,
As I stood on the steps "Telling the Tale."

Scene V.

A Vision of Old Bartholomew Fair.

Once London could boast of old England's best
Fair,
For the showmen from all parts were gathered
there.
'Twas in the early forties of the century past—
When each Fair at Smithfield was condemned as
the last—
That I stood on the steps of George Wombwell's
great show
And was "Telling the Tale," for the people must
know
Of the wonders of nature treasured within,
Of the great lion-fight about to begin;
That Tim Newsome, the tamer, the bravest of men,
With sixteen mighty lions performed in the den,
Man's power o'er the brute he'd show to them
there,
How he hunted the lion in his African lair.
Then we'd birds, beasts, and reptiles from every
clime;
That the charge was but sixpence—it was then
feeding-time—
When the band ceased to play, most positively
then
The great lion-tamer would enter the den.
Thus I stood on the steps of Wombwell's great
show
"Telling the Tale" for the wide world to know.

Scene VI.

Memories of Nottingham Goose Fair.

When the story of Britain's great fairs is told
Nottingham Goose Fair will be written in gold;
Where'er Britons meet, our mother tongue spoken,
Nottingham's proud record will stand yet un-
broken.
Whilst other towns neglected or killed their old
fairs,
Nottingham men cherished and built up theirs.
For full sixty years I ne'er missed a fair,
I picture the showmen I've been Doorsman for
there—
George Wombwell, Billy Manders, Batty, and Day,
In the years when wild beast shows held popular
sway.
I remember the rise of the marionette show,
When Walter Calver and Holden were just "all
the go,"
Till the great ghost illusion overshadowed them
all—
Randall Williams and Bailey and bluff Harry
Wall.
But the marvel of all the great changes I've seen
Was the rise and perfection of the riding machine.
In my old age I ponder, till thinking powers fail.
But as I have remembered I have told you "The
Tale."

"The Era" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Pathé Frères.

THE GOLD PROSPECTORS.—Under this title Messrs. Pathé have produced an interesting dramatic film. At the camp the gold prospectors are making ready to proceed on their way, with the help of a youth who has just joined the party. After a long ride the horses are unharnessed and put to graze in a fresh place while the prospectors set to work, and a few hours later they are able to bag some nuggets which form the commencement of their future fortune. In a savage and rocky spot, a gang of pirates of the plain are plotting to bereave the prospectors of their gold. A scout is now riding towards the encampment, but the young prospector recruit is lying in wait behind a rock for a bird he is covering with his gun, when he perceives the robber, and understanding that danger is hovering over his friends he gives the alarm. The horseman, noticing that he has been seen, disappears in the distance. The prospectors, after loading their guns, ride away to the camp. On their arrival the bags are taken from the horses' saddles and carried into the hut, outside which a sentry is being placed. Then they have time to greet their families properly. Meanwhile, the scout has returned to his confederates in the mountains, who are not long in jumping on to their saddles and repairing to the prospectors' camp. The latter are now enjoying themselves round a bright fire, and their placid features do not betray the least suspicion of the enemy's approach. The sentry seems to be asleep. One of the thieves, using some of the tricks of the Red Indians, skirts the hut, and arriving near the man on watch, stabs him with his knife. In a short time the hut is ransacked, the bags of gold are slung on to the saddles, and away go the gang through the limitless prairies. The gold prospectors, soon finding out the theft, follow the pirates' trail, and arrive before a grotto at the entrance to which a man is keeping watch. Bullets are exchanged, and after a hot fight the prospectors, who have the best weapons, take back their belongings. The boy, armed by his father, kills the last opponent and becomes the hero of the day.

THE SHROVE-TUESDAY TURKEY.—The maid has just put a superb turkey on the table, stuffed with truffles, and Jane and George Darling, aged eight and five respectively, think they would like to taste it; but the servant coming in at that very moment, threatens to give the fowl to the Bogey man, at the same time as she puts it on the window-sill. A young male friend of the family takes the dish away in order to play a trick on them. Just then he perceives, coming towards him, Mr., Mrs., and Miss Darling, who shake hands with him, and invite him to partake of the Shrove Tuesday turkey, which is by now in a sewer-main, for he has disastrously thrown it away at the sight of his friends. The poultry is taken from the sewer-main by an urchin, who carries it to his humble home; but his mother, after enquiring as to the source of supply, orders him to restore the turkey to its owner. Meanwhile, the young guest, having promised to the desperate Darlings to replace the missing fowl, finds the little boy near the entrance to the sewer, and taking the turkey from him gives him some money, and restores the appetising turkey to its former place on the table, where everybody does it justice.

BAD EXAMPLE.—In front of a whitewashed house, where her two children are playing, a mother tries vainly to keep her husband from going to the public-house. As she cannot make the man heed her remonstrances, she sends her boy to watch him. A horse dealer comes and sits down beside the father and his friend, and unsuspectingly speaks about his business, a bargain just sealed for the sale of two magnificent draught-horses. The bad friend plays his part of the eavesdropper to perfection, and after making sure that the workman is in his cups, he goes with him to a place the horse dealer must pass on his way home. As soon as he sees the merchant he assaults him, and is on the point of appropriating his money, when the workman's son, who has followed from a distance, comes up in order to prevent him from executing his black designs. The assailant is so frightened that he takes to his heels. The boy runs home, and soon comes back with his mother. The two at last succeed in carrying the wounded man to their house, where they nurse him carefully. At last he recovers, and thanks profusely those he calls his rescuers, while the culprit is overcome with grief and remorse.

DANCING THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.—People of different countries are seen performing their national dances: Brittany displays its motley crowd of clog-shod peasants slowly keeping time in the open air with the tune played on the bagpipe. Chinese women, famous for the smallness of their feet, dance with diminutive movements. Caucasian girls, possessed of gliding steps, alternate with South African dancers, imitating the ostrich in a most ludicrous manner, while the Japanese women gracefully move their be-jewelled hands and smile, and Spain presents us with the Bolero and the Fandange, danced to the accompaniment of guitars and castanets.

THE LEADER.—The foreman is having his midday meal at home, surrounded by his happy family. The father and elder son go to work soon after with their joiner's tools thrown over their shoulders. The factory owner, who is watching his workmen as they come in, dismisses one of them whom he sees smoking on the premises during working hours. The man is a lazy creature imbued with ideas of revolt, who posts himself the following evening outside the gates, in order to lure his fellow-workers into a strike. He succeeds entirely in causing them to sign a petition demanding an increase of salary of 1d. per working hour, at the same time as a decrease of two hours' working time per day. A deputation of workmen is sent to the works' owner, who refuses to grant anything; after this the workmen hold a meeting, during which threats are uttered. The foreman comes in with his two small children. "Who will feed them," says he, "You? for I have no money. I shall go to work to-morrow, and woe to those who stand in my way!" The foreman withdraws after this speech, under the threats of the strikers. The next day the father and son go to work as usual. Meanwhile, a furious crowd of strikers go to the foreman's house, where the poor mother folds the children in her arms in order to protect them from the stones which smash the window-panes. Afterwards, a burning torch is thrown into the room, while the husband has his hands full at the factory with another gang of the strikers. The dismissed workman who heads them kills the foreman's son with a plane. The poor father ceases fighting, and snatching the dead boy in his arms, he goes home with his precious burden, protected by the police. The poor mother throws herself on her dead son, while the father groans with sorrow in a corner of the room. On leaving the burial ground, the factory owner shakes hands affectionately with the bereaved father, a victim to his duty, and the workmen, awed by Death, give up striking. The master comes to the strike leader, and taking him by the shoulders, forces him to kneel down and ask for pardon. The mourning family walk home, while the workmen, realising the consequences of their mistake, rush upon the leader and serve him according to his deserts.

THE WAY TO HAPPINESS.—An unknown painter is trying hard to make a name for himself, but the struggle would prove too much for him if he had not at his side his devoted wife, who has taken up artificial flower making in order to make both ends meet. Fortune smiles on them at last, in the shape of a wealthy lady who sits for her portrait. The artist is so fascinated by her that he forgets his gentle wife, and makes love to his model. His paintings have won him fame by now, and in his new surroundings he forgets the past. His deserted wife, who in the days of dire want did not hesitate to pawn her Sunday frock to procure bread and colours, is utterly forgotten by her fickle husband. Soon, however, his rich patroness becomes tired of him and his homages, and one day the poor wife reads in her morning paper the following:—"News in brief. 'An accident is recorded among the young artists of the French school. Mr. George Dupin, who won the first prize at the Academy exhibition, has severely wounded himself with his revolver. His condition is critical.'" Forgetting everything but the love she still bears to her husband, she goes and nurses him during his long illness. After recovering, the painter entreats his wife to forgive his fickleness, which request she fondly grants, for he knows now that a devoted wife is better than all the riches in the world.

Gaumont Company.

THE BURNS—JOHNSON FIGHT.—Mr. Hugh D. McIntosh has disposed of the French rights of the Burns—Johnson pictures for £5,000. The deal was consummated through the Gaumont Company. The Burns—Johnson pictures are being exhibited this week at Ashton-under-Lyne, Leeds, Liverpool, Birkenhead, Middlesborough, Hyde, near Manchester, Pontefract, Yarmouth; and next week at Oldham, Lowestoft, Preston, Burnley, Wakefield.

Edison Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

A BACHELOR'S SUPPER.—Travers is a lonely old bachelor. It is the eve of a holiday, and everyone is abroad on pleasure bent, so he goes to his club for companionship. Unable to find any companion, he wanders into the street to watch the people. Lovers, happy in a world of their own, go by. Then proud parents, delighted with the children's joy at the gay sights, pass along. This makes Travers' isolation more intense, so he hastens to his bachelor quarters, where his faithful Japanese servant greets him. Memories still haunting him, he decides he will not sup alone, so gives his man-servant orders to lay the table for seven, with flowers and favours. Dismissing the servant for the night, he places before each plate a card bearing the name of a former loved one, and adds a souvenir or keepsake to remind him of the past. Dining alone, in the quiet and solitude of his chambers, he drinks to each fair face as memory brings it to view. As he drinks the vision of the fair one arises before him, and, in fancy, partakes with him, until one by one the chairs are occupied. Each former sweetheart responds to his toast. Then the lights grow dim, the shadows deepen, and—at the stroke of twelve—the last candle flickers out—he is alone! His head sinks on his breast, and when his faithful servant arrives in the morning finds his beloved master is lonely no more, for his spirit has gone to join his loved ones in the Shadowland.

THE SALES-LADY'S MATINEE IDOL.—Diana, a romantic minded sales-lady, looks with contempt on ordinary suitors, and longs to meet an actor who will win her too-willing heart. Fortune favours her, for she comes face to face with her ideal on a theatrical poster advertising the romantic actor, "Tremayne Marblebrow," at the entrance of the Olyric Theatre. Occupying a box on the opening night, Diana—by frequent applause—tries to attract his attention, but is not successful. She sends him a foolish note signed "A Devoted Admirer." Waiting at the stage door, she is in raptures as he brushes by. Following him on the car, she drops a flower on his lap and blushingly retreats, delighted at her daring. At night she dreams she is the wife of her "Idol," and is kept busy driving other female admirers away, then wakes and goes to work. Next day she nearly faints when she sees him coming through the shop, feeling sure that he is looking for her—but he goes by to another counter. She is sent by her mother to the dressmaker's. The house is an old-fashioned one let off to tailors, music teachers, &c., and she is directed up several flights of stairs. Knocking at the wrong door, she is ushered in by Mrs. Marblebrow, to find her "Idol" seated at the fire cooking ham and eggs, and caring for the baby at the same time—and her "Idol" is shattered.

Kinemacolour.

At the Palace on Friday afternoon, the 26th ult., a special invitation matinée was given with the object of introducing "Kinemacolour," the Urban-Smith natural colour cinematography. The scenes were taken by an ordinary Urban Bioscope camera, fitted with a prismatic screen, or colour filter. This screen, or filter, divides all the colours of the spectrum into two groups—one ranging through white and yellow, then orange and scarlet, to the darkest reds; the other, through white and yellow again (those two being at the head in luminosity and requiring the fullest representation) to green, blue-green, blue, violet and indigo, to black. The Urban-Smith system, by enlisting Nature herself as a substitute for the hand of the artist, takes the picture in the afternoon and exhibits it in all its prismatic animation during the evening.

An exceedingly interesting programme of pictures was submitted, the natural colours being admirably represented. Thus, the spectators were shown views of Brighton front, a band of the Queen's Highlanders marching on West Pier, sailing and motor boat scenes at Southwick, carnival scenes at Nice and Cannes (photographed as recently as Feb. 21), Riviera coast scenes, with panoramas of Cannes, Nice, and Monte Carlo, and many street incidents; some vivid examples of rocky coast scenery, of Riviera fisher folk, of a water carnival at Villefranche, of the Cascade de Courmes, of a church parade of the 7th Hussars and the 16th Lancers, in addition to pictorial studies of animals, plants, and flowers. Altogether it was a most delightful exhibition that was most highly appreciated by the audience. A selection of these remarkable pictures became from last Monday a permanent feature of the Palace programme, and the management of that establishment will no doubt in future be able to present all the leading events of the season in Nature's incomparable hues—the State, civic, and diplomatic functions, the naval and military demonstrations, the historic and other pageants, and the great sporting events.

The Empire Improved Safety Shutter (Patent applied for).—Messrs. W. Butcher and Sons are fitting to their No. 2 "Empire" machines the improved safety shutter, as exhibited at the London Hippodrome. The special feature of this safety shutter is the fact that its release, in the event of a break, is controlled by the film, and not dependent upon the operator stopping the machine. It is impossible to fire the film in the gate, as the shutter cannot remain open unless the film is travelling through the machine in the ordinary way. In addition, when the cinematograph is driven by a motor, means are provided whereby, in the event of a break, the electrical circuit is automatically broken, and the machine instantaneously brought to a standstill. The improvement can be fitted to all existing "Empire" machines and most other types of projectors manufactured.

Cinematograph Fires.—At the weekly meeting of the London County Council on Tuesday, Mr. Walter Reynolds asked the Chairman of the Theatres and Music Halls Committee whether, in view of another cinematograph fire having occurred—the third one resulting in deaths and injuries since Christmas—he could give any information as to the progress of the short Bill promised by the Government to bring all cinematograph exhibitions under the control of the Council?

Mr. H. J. Greenwood replied: I have no information as to the progress of the Bill dealing with cinematographs which the Home Secretary stated he would introduce in the present Session of Parliament. No such Bill has yet been introduced, but it should be remembered that scarcely five weeks have elapsed since the intimation to the Council of the Home Secretary's intention to introduce legislation on the subject.

R. Prieur.

GAFFES, KING OF DETECTIVES.—Mr. Gaffes is a comic Sherlock Holmes, and he has many mad adventures in search of a stolen duck, the fun being increased by the fact that the lost property has been hooked on to his own coat tails by a mischievous boy. Mr. Gaffes, when he goes out searching, takes with him plenty of paraphernalia. He thinks nothing of invading bedrooms and ransacking wardrobes, of entering the kitchen, and peering into all the stewpans. He is set upon and chased several times, and in the end he does not find the stolen duck. A sagacious dog retrieves it, and Mr. Gaffes gets a good beating for mistaking a lady's hat for his quarry.

THE BLIND PILGRIM.—The Lux firm have produced a number of good dramatic films recently, and this is one of the best. It is a tale of the Crusaders, and takes place in an old Norman castle. A young man leaves home for Palestine, to fight under Richard the Lion Heart. In the battle he is wounded, and falls captive to the Turkish commander, who orders his eyes to be put out. Blind, and a slave, he toils in the quarries for many years, but at last is released, and by painful stages finds his way back to the old home. But he has been thought to be dead, and his betrothed has married another man. It is her little child who gives the poor blind man a drink of water in the courtyard, and when he realises the truth he determines to go away without telling anyone who he is. It is a pathetic story, and one that will be very popular in this country.

EARTHLY PARADISE.—A comic film, in which we see the idea of a modern gaol, showing the manner a convict is treated. He is awakened by the warder, who assists him to dress, brings the morning paper; the servant brings in his breakfast, the jailer going out, allowing him to make love to her. On the day of his release he begs to stay, but is not allowed to do so. He then tries his utmost to be arrested, having many adventures. Finally he is successful, and we leave him back in the cell.

CINEMATOGRAPH TRADE PROTECTION SOCIETY, LTD.—A meeting of the council of this Society was held on Wednesday, the business transacted being:—(1) Solicitor appointed, Mr. H. V. Harraway, 12, South-square, Gray's Inn, W.C.; (2) draft of rules and objects drawn up and approved; (3) solicitor instructed to proceed with the registration of the Society.

AT the Queen's Theatre, Pembroke Dock, animated pictures are the attraction this week, and some very fine films are shown.

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

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Item 1. Booking is proceeding merrily.
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" 3. First Show—Bradford.
" 4. Plenty of Prints ready.
" 5. Mr. McIntosh has opened a Press Bureau.
" 6. So have we—to boom the film in every town booked.
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" 11. But we are looking after our Customers.
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" 14. Poor Burns' face—It was a fight—you should see the film.
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" 16. All the public are talking about it and waiting for it.
" 17. Special Press view on Friday at Gaumont's.
" 18. A Terrific Fight—The Greatest Fight by world-known men.
" 19. We are looking after our Customers.
" 20. No other fight is as good.
No other fight has the drawing power.
No other fight has had or will have such Publicity and Advertisement as the

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in FILM MAKING is to produce Subjects that hold the attention by reason of their cleverness.

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They are never coarse or suggestive. Some thrill, others amuse. All are of the kind that appeal on the strength of high quality.

EXHIBITORS WHO SHOW THEM

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ORDERS NOW BEING TAKEN FOR FUTURE DELIVERY FROM THE FACTORY, ORANGE, N.J., U.S.A., for

A BACHELOR'S SUPPER.

The sight of other's happiness upsets the lonely bachelor. He goes home, and, in fancy, dines with former loved ones. Visions of the fair ones appear. Next morning his servant finds his master's spirit has gone to join them in the shadowland.

No. 6420. Code, "Vengefully." Length, 845ft.

THE SALES-LADY'S MATINEE IDOL.

Diana wants an actor lover. She sees her ideal on a poster. Goes to theatre to attract his attention. Waits at stage door. Dreams of him. Then, by mistake, she is introduced by his wife into his home, where he is seen cooking and looking after baby as well, and her "Idol" is shattered.

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FAIRGROUNDS IN FICTION.

By CONGREVE HORNE.

The "fairgrounds of our fatherland" are more than a national institution; they are a national asset. For their right to exist they look back to antiquity. For their means of existence they anticipate to-morrow. When you find yourself on a fairground and, like a sensible fellow, are enjoying the newest sensation mechanical ingenuity can thrill you with, you are really only enjoying a privilege a Norman king granted the loyal townsmen as a reward for relieving him of temporary embarrassments close on a thousand years ago. When the Hibaldstowe yokel shies at cokernuts on his village green at his village feast, he is, if he only knew it, having three a penny in honour of St. Hibald. Among all the glitter and clatter of the modern fairground, it is difficult to remember these ancient origins of it all; but there are two people who will remind you of it. The one is the historic showman. Give him cause and he will never hesitate to bring his chartered liberties into court. The other is the historical novelist. Give him a chance and he will never hesitate to drag a fairground into his romance. It makes such splendid local colour.

Any novel reader will call to mind descriptions of fairgrounds in fiction. Whenever he may come across one he is ready to welcome the fairground as part of the living tradition of Merry England. What old English pantomime is complete which has not an old English fairground as one of its scenes? The Statutes Fair or the village wakes came, like Christmas, once a year, and like Christmas, it was welcomed right royally. The mumming booths and the merry-go-round, the ginger-bread stall, the cheap-jacks and the fairings were the visible signs of spiritual merry-making, the outward sign of high spirits. Wherever you meet with them in the pages of fiction you recognise old friends. You are grateful when Mr. Stanley Weyman gives you a glimpse of mediæval mummers; you are delighted when "Q." lets you spend an hour in passing at Bodmin Fair in the "Splendid Spur," and when he gives you a whole day at the regatta with the hapless Mayor of Troy, you vote him your favourite author. Because the fairground appeals to your imagination, you do not much mind if a novelist draws on his imagination. You do not pause to criticise even when he makes his local colour too rosy a colour.

That is why it probably happens that when you go to a village fairground you are, like Lancelot in "Yeast," a little disappointed. You have shared with him, it may be, "a hope of something melodramatic, dreams of Maypole dancing and athletic games," somewhat of village belle rivalry of the Corin and Sylvia school, or, failing that, a few Touchstones and Audreys, some genial buffo humour here and there. You have found, apparently, nothing of the sort. But neither have you found what Lancelot found. "Yeast" of course, was written to point a moral. It is an exposure of certain social conditions in the middle of the last century. The sketch it gives of a village "revel" shows to what depths revelry had sunk. If Kingsley had not told us he was describing a village fair we should not have believed it was a village fair he was describing. This is what Lancelot found:—

"Two or three apple and gingerbread stalls, from which draggled children were turning slowly and wistfully away to go home; a booth full of trumpery fairings, in front of which tawdry girls were coaxing maudlin youths, with faded southernwood in their button-holes; another long low booth, from every crevice of which reeked odours of stale beer and smoke, by courtesy denominated tobacco, to the treble accompaniment of a jigging fiddle and a tambourine, and the bass one of grumbled oaths and curses within—these were the means of relaxation which the piety, freedom, and civilisation of fourteen centuries, from Hengist to Queen Victoria, had devised and made possible for the English peasant!"

We have changed all that! To-day if your hope of something melodramatic is disappointed, it will be because you cannot see the essential melodrama of to-day. You have not yet learnt that it is romance which "brings up the 9.15." Instead of the Maypole dancing of Corin and Sylvia you will find upon the village green the very latest thing in motors whirling round in a blaze of unaccustomed electric arc lamps to the blare of unaccustomed steam brass bands; you will find an open-air vaudeville preceding the latest and greatest wonders of the cinematograph ever seen, and until your quiet country ears are hardened you will be dazed by that concatenation of the competitive fairground which is called in more sober language "all the fun of the fair."

In a word, you will find that amazing product of modern science, ingenuity, and enterprise—the modern fairground. You will find the public amusement caterer in his glory. And this is his glory: to cater for the amusement of the public, so that all may be amused and unashamed.

But you must not think that your imaginative picture of mummers and Maypoles on the village green is all imaginary. The genial author of "Tom Brown's Schooldays" gives us, so he affirms, "a true sketch, as far as it goes, of one of the larger village feasts in the Vale of Berks," when he was a little boy. We may take it as a typical picture of how our fathers' fathers kept up the customs of their fathers' fathers. "There was," he says, "no longer any remembrance of why the 'veast' had been instituted, but, nevertheless, it had a pleasant and almost sacred character of its own. For it was then that all the children of the village, wherever they were scattered, tried to get home for a holiday to visit their fathers and mothers and friends, bringing with them their wages or some little gift from up the country for the old folk. . . . Every household, however poor, managed to raise a 'feast-cake' and bottle of ginger or raisin wine, which stood on the cottage table ready for all comers, and not unlikely to make them remember feast-time—for feast-cake is very solid, and full of huge raisins. Moreover, feast-time was the day of reconciliation for the parish. If Job Higgins and Noah Freeman hadn't spoken for the last six months, their 'old women' would be sure to get it patched up by that day. And though there was a good deal of drinking and low vice in the booths of an evening, it was pretty well confined to those who would have been doing the like, 'veast or no veast,' and, on the whole, the effect was humanising and Christian." On the day before the "veast," old Benjy takes young Master Tom for a preliminary inspection of the morrow's scene. The feast was held in a large field below the old church which towered up with its grey walls and lancet windows overlooking and sanctioning the whole, though its own share therein had been forgotten. "Past the old church and down the footpath, pottered the old man and the child hand in hand early on the afternoon of the day before the feast, and wandered all round the ground, which was already being occupied by the 'cheap Jacks,' with their green-covered carts and marvellous assortment of wares, and the booths of more legitimate small traders with their tempting arrays of fairings and eatables, and penny peep-shows and other shows, containing pink-eyed ladies and dwarfs, and boa constrictors, and wild Indians.

"On the day of the feast itself they find the field thronged with country folk, the men in clean white smocks or velveteen fustian coats, with rough plush waistcoats of many colours, and the women in the beautiful long scarlet cloak, the usual out-door dress of west-country women in those days. The air resounds with the pipe and tabor, and the drums and trumpets of the showmen shouting at the doors of their caravans, over which tremendous pictures of the wonders to be seen within hang temptingly; while through all rises the shrill 'root-too-too-too' of Mr. Punch, and the unceasing pan-pipe of his satellite. Presently they inspect the penny peep-show, at least Tom does, while old Benjy stands outside and gossips, and walks up the steps, and enters the mysterious doors of the pink-eyed lady, and the Irish giant, who do not by any means come up to their pictures; and the boa will not swallow his rabbit, but there the rabbit is, waiting to be swallowed—and what can you expect for tuppence?"

And then our author gives us a long passage which describes in Homeric vein great bouts of back-swording and wrestling which were the characteristic feature in those days of these country fairs.

Your imaginative picture of the old English fairground is not, then, all imagination. It had its actual prototype. Perhaps it is because you do not bring enough imagination to bear upon the modern fairground that you do not find there what you look for. It is as much the development of the fairground of fiction as the motor-car is of the post-chaise. Next time you see a shooting gallery, use your imagination. You will see the lawful successor of Queen Elizabeth's archery butts. Next time you see a fairground boxing booth, salute it as the heir of a long line of athletic sires. Next time you are caught riding on a roundabout, remind your cardid and superior friends that it is nothing other than a mechanical Maypole, around which you were dancing.

THE GREATEST FAIR IN THE WORLD.

Nijni-Novgorod, where the greatest fair in the world is held, is picturesquely situated at the junction of the Volga and the Oka, two of the mightiest rivers in Russia—the Volga, the largest river in Europe; the Oka, the river which flows through the most fertile and the most densely populated lands in all Russia. The fair is held in the plain on the left bank of the Oka, where there is no lack of open ground, there being more than sufficient to accommodate all comers.

Coming down from the higher part of the town one crosses the Oka on a bridge of boats 1,500 yards long, and one finds oneself at the entrance of a city after the American model; that is to say, monotonous, regular, and modern.

In the centre of this town is the bazaar, wherein are spread out over 4,000 stalls. One passes through streets of iron goods, wool, furs, tea, &c., but these stalls are not capable of taking the mass of merchandise poured into Nijni by rail, water, and land carriage.

To the east of these general stalls two bridges lead to a long narrow island, where wheat, fish, and iron are for sale, and on the west the 3,000 other stalls whose lines are coterminous with that of the fair are erected.

At all times Nijni is a veritable Babel of tongues—Russians, Siberians, Caucasians, visitors from Central Asia, Persians, Chinese, jostle each other in the enormous throng and by the barbaric splendour of their costumes render the scene a veritable kaleidoscope of colour.

The fair is always opened with a religious ceremony, at which the Archbishop of Nijni presides. After the orthodox Mass, a procession, headed by the Archbishop, is formed; priests, deacons, and the faithful bringing up the rear. All go to the Chapel of St. Macaire, patron of this immense fair field, where more prayers are said, and a number of little flags blessed and sprinkled with holy water. These flags are all thrown up into the air together outside the chapel, and as they are borne away by the wind their uncertain progress is anxiously watched by the people. The merchant near whose stall one of these flags happens to fall considers himself supremely fortunate in having obtained this sign of saintly favour, and treasures the flag as a harbinger of good luck. Business is carried on during the day in comparative silence; the shops open as early as 6 a.m. to allow for the lengthy bargainings which are conducted with the characteristic impassivity of these Eastern peoples. One feels far from Western modes of thought and expression, but at nightfall, business over, all the fun of the fair begins. Restaurants, cafés, and drinking saloons are filled up, and, under a brilliant electric light, the long lines of shows, theatres, cinematograph booths, circuses, panoramas, temples of mystery, menageries, shooting saloons—all of which are laid out in streets like the stalls for the sale of merchandise—drive a roaring trade.

The shows at Nijni are not to be compared with our English variety shows, either in size, magnificence, or talent. They indulge in no elaborate carved front, nor do they have the magnificent Gavioliphones which are necessary corollaries to good shows in England. The front consists of a painted representation of what is to be found inside; paraders display their feats of strength and dancing on a raised platform high above the heads of the people, and the entrance to the booth is beneath this platform.

The fair lasts from July 16 until Sept. 5, consequently the showman, relieved of the necessity of travelling from place to place, has every opportunity in the midst of such a vast and changing population, of making enormous return on his capital outlay.

Although the commercial side of Nijni fair remains unchanged, yet its character is changing, and there is no doubt but that the fair will ere long lose much of its pristine glory.

As the network of railway spreads throughout Russia and Siberia, and with the perfecting of rapid means of transit, Nijni must inevitably lose its raison d'être and the fair will cease to be.

GEORGE LEYTON AND THE OLD SOLDIERS.

Mr. George Leyton has received the following letter from Sir Wm. J. Hills-Johns, Lieut.-General, V.C., G.C.B.:—

Telegrams: Pumpsaint.
Dolaucorthy,
Llanwrda, R.S.O.,
Sonth Wales,
March 2, 1909.

Mr. George Leyton.

Dear Sir,—Commandant C. Maggs, United Service Brigade, Swansea, duly sent me a report of the Happy Evening's Entertainment given by you at Swansea, at which I fully intended to have been present, but was prevented by a sudden and sad call to the north of Scotland, which call has delayed this acknowledgment of your most kind and generous gifts to the old veterans of the Crimea and Indian Mutiny campaigns—the proceeds of the sale of your songs whilst staying in Swansea. I now do so, and as President of the United Service Brigade, I give you—for myself, for the vice-presidents, the Commandant, and officers and men of the brigade—our most hearty thanks for this and all the good and generous acts you apparently make the rule of your life to carry out for the benefit and comfort of old and infirm soldiers.

May your health continue good, and thus enable you for many years to go to rest with a cheery heart, thinking of the happiness given by the good deeds of the day, is our most sincere hope and desire. Commandant Maggs tells me he thinks you would be pleased to get my photograph; I therefore enclose it, and hope you will accept it, as it is the likeness of an officer who feels much beholden to you for the many kind and generous gifts given to old soldiers.

I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,
J. Hills-Johns, Lieut.-General, V.C., G.C.B.,
President U.S. Brigade, Swansea.

"The Era" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

INVENTIONS.

[The particulars furnished below of recent applications for patents are taken from the official records. Correspondence is invited with our readers on all matters relating to new ideas and inventions, with a view to affording them advice and assistance. Letters should be addressed to the Manager, Inventions Department, "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London.]

Inventors and others who have no business representative are invited to communicate with the Manager of the Inventions Dept. as above.

APPLICATIONS

2,961.—Arthur Brampton and Charles William Thorneycroft, of Birmingham. Improvements in roller skates.

2,994.—William John Rickets and Henry Langabeer Rickets, of Charlton, Kent. Improvements in optical apparatus for amusement, advertisement, and displaying purposes.

3,038.—Karl Keller Lampart, of London. Improvements in roller skates.

3,048.—Frank Ernest Butcher and Francis William Baker, of London. Improvements in and relating to combined spools and casings for cinematograph films.

3,175.—Ira June Owen, of London. Display apparatus.

3,187.—Gavin Rowan Hamilton, of London. Improved construction of skate.

3,443.—Henry William Hamblin Palmer, of Tunbridge Wells. Improvements in apparatus for photographing and exhibiting cinematograph and mutoscopic pictures.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS ACCEPTED.

8,137.—Rhodes, Rhodes, Hirst, Parker, and Tavernor. Device to be used as a sandwich-board for displaying a number of advertisements in succession.

11,791.—Friese-Greene and Friese-Green Patents, Ltd., Cinematographic apparatus.

11,893.—Solano. Moving targets.

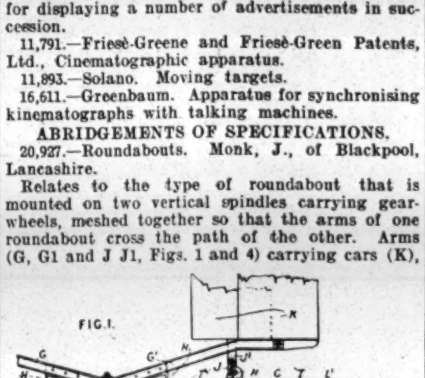
16,611.—Greenbaum. Apparatus for synchronising kinematographs with talking machines.

ABRIDGEMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

20,927.—Roundabouts. Monk, J., of Blackpool, Lancashire.

Relates to the type of roundabout that is mounted on two vertical spindles carrying gear-wheels, meshed together so that the arms of one roundabout cross the path of the other. Arms (G, G1 and J J1, Figs. 1 and 4) carrying cars (K),

FIG.1.



rotate about centres (D, E), geared together as shown, the arms being shaped, as in Fig. 1, to allow the necessary crossing. To avoid strain on the spindles (D, E), the gear-wheels (B, C, Fig. 1) are supported on rollers (F), or the like. The arms are also supported by angle-pieces (H). Guards (T, T1) are mounted above the gear-wheels, which are driven by a spur-wheel (L1) geared to a shaft

FIG.3.

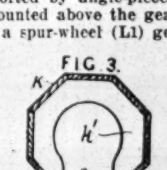
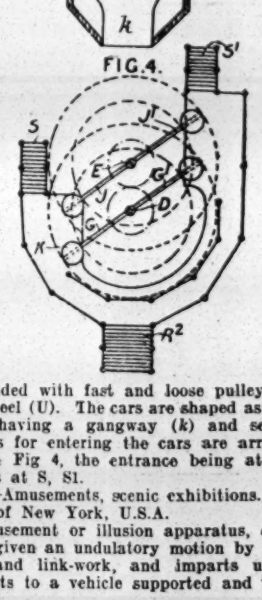


FIG.4.



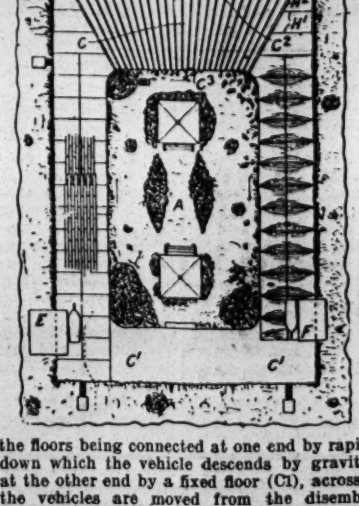
(O) provided with fast and loose pulleys, and a brake wheel (U). The cars are shaped as shown in Fig. 3, having a gangway (*k*) and seats (*k*1). Platforms for entering the cars are arranged as shown in Fig 4, the entrance being at R2, and the exits at S, S1.

20,971.—Amusements, scenic exhibitions. Kannel, T. van, of New York, U.S.A.

In amusement or illusion apparatus, a flexible floor is given an undulatory motion by means of cranks and link-work, and imparts undulatory movements to a vehicle supported and travelling thereon.

The surroundings are constructed to imitate a shore-way, and two vibratory floors are placed on opposite sides of a platform or island (A, Fig. 1),

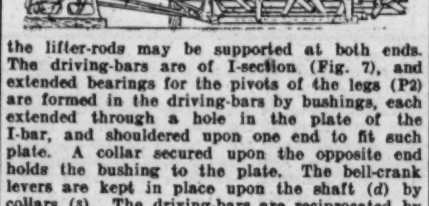
FIG.1.



the floors being connected at one end by rapids (C), down which the vehicle descends by gravity, and at the other end by a fixed floor (C1), across which the vehicles are moved from the disembarking pier (F), to the embarking pier (E). The line of the floor is made to correspond to a wave form by suitably disposing the supporting beams (J), which may be covered by floor-plates made of pliable steel sheets (I, I1), bolted together, the lower sheets being fastened to the beams. The floor beams (J) are jointed to side uprights by ball-and-socket joints (K, Fig. 7), and are also connected centrally by a hook (N) on one part resting in a socket (M1), carried by the other part. The beams are lifted by means of rods (O) engaging shoulders (M2) on castings (M) bolted to the beams. Lifting-rods (O4, O8, Fig. 2) one-half wave length apart, are supported by bell-crank levers (P2), arranged in opposite directions, and jointed to the same driving-bar, so that the weights of the two corresponding floor sections are transmitted in opposite directions to the driving-bar, and thus balance one another. Each driving-bar is also balanced by dividing it at the middle of its length, connecting the halves together by a link, and arranging one-half of the bell-crank levers acting in an opposite direction to the other bell-crank levers.

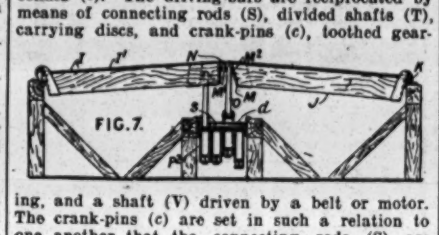
In a modification, the weight of a driving-bar is balanced by a weighted lever. The arms and legs of the bell-crank levers are preferably forked, or made with double plates, so that the pivots of

FIG.2.



the lifter-rods may be supported at both ends. The driving-bars are of I-section (Fig. 7), and extended bearings for the pivots of the legs (P2) are formed in the driving-bars by bushings, each extended through a hole in the plate of the I-bar, and shouldered upon one end to fit such plate. A collar secured upon the opposite end holds the bushing to the plate. The bell-crank levers are kept in place upon the shaft (*d*) by collars (*s*). The driving-bars are reciprocated by means of connecting rods (S), divided shafts (T), carrying discs, and crank-pins (*c*), toothed gear-

FIG.7.

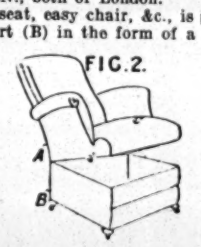


ing, and a shaft (V) driven by a belt or motor. The crank-pins (*c*) are set in such a relation to one another that the connecting rods (S) are reciprocated successively, actuating the bell-cranks in the desired progression to give the undulatory movement to the floor. To connect the undulatory floor with a stationary floor, a few of the pivoted beams adjacent to the edge of the fixed floor may have a less motion than those beams that have the normal wave movement. The wave motion of the rapids is preferably of variable character to produce choppy waves; the floor beams are hinged at their outer ends (C2, Fig. 1), are vibrated at their inner ends (C3), and are made divergent towards their pivoted ends. The beams (H1) supporting the end portions of the side floors are extended from their pivots at the outer end directly to the terminal beams (H1) of the rapids, where they are suitably jointed to such beams to facilitate the transfer of the vehicles smoothly from one floor to the rapids, or vice-versa.

22,805.—Theatre seats. Mackay, A. J. H., and Butcher, F. N., both of London.

A theatre seat, easy chair, &c., is provided with a bottom part (B) in the form of a box or recep-

FIG.2.



tacle mounted on castors, and an upper part (A) consisting of back, arms, and seat-bottom adapted to be turned as a lid about hinges at the front, back, or sides.

22,715.—Theatrical appliances. Graham, W. J., of London.

Consists of a portable miniature stage, proscenium, curtains, and effects, particularly adapted for marionette performances in which the head of the performer, with a dwarf dummy figure attached, appears through the curtain, and the arms and legs of the dummy are worked by the performer.

A box (A) into which all the parts are packed when disconnected forms a foundation and support for side-pieces (B, C, E), and a stage (D). An ornamental headpiece (B1) is pivoted at *b*1 to one side piece (B), and is clamped to the other by a screw (*b*2). A roller curtain (*c*1) is carried by a cross-piece (*c*) between two wings (C1) hinged to the sides (C). Velvet curtains (H),

FIG.1.

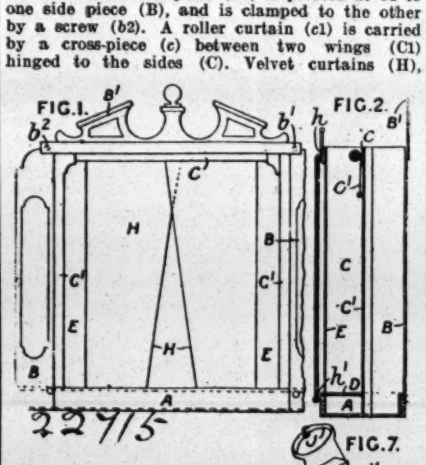
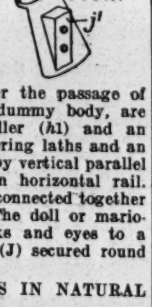


FIG.2.

FIG.7.



forming a V-shaped opening for the passage of the performer's head and the dummy body, are stretched between a lower roller (*h*1) and an upper bar (*h*) by two vertical spring laths and an elastic band, and are suspended by vertical parallel links, or rollers running on an horizontal rail. The parts of the framework are connected together by screws and cord lashings. The doll or marionette body is fastened by hooks and eyes to a block (*j*1) attached to a collar (J) secured round the neck of the performer.

CINEMATOGRAPH PICTURES IN NATURAL COLOURS.

By a new process, the joint invention of Messrs. Charles Urban and Albert Smith, photographs are now taken by means of colour filters fitted to the camera, and reproduced on the screen by a projector similarly equipped. A delighted audience witnessed the first exhibition of the invention at the Palace Theatre, London, one afternoon last week, when the variety of pictures exhibited showed the tests to which the process had been put. Views were shown of the front at Brighton, the West Pier, with the band of the Queen's Highlanders thereon, life on the Brighton beach, and motor-boat and sailing races at Southwick, and so perfect were the pictorial effects that such details as the glistening sunshine on the varnished boats were clearly visible. Loud applause greeted some beautiful sheep-grazing pictures, and the dashing of waves on a rock-bound coast with a girl and a scarlet sunshade moving above. Some wonderful colour-effects were got from views recently taken of the French Riviera graduated in beautiful tints. We understand that it is claimed for this new cinematography that it will revolutionise motion-picture displays, and also that an offer of £50,000 for the American patent was made by the representative of an American firm, and refused. We heartily congratulate the clever inventors. All that is wanted now is the perfect non-flammable film. Cannot some British inventor and reader of this column oblige?

To Stage Machinists and Electricians. — The Manager will be pleased to receive particulars of any new stage appliances or ideas for same for illustration in this column.

COLLINS'S GONDOLA WORKS.

Collins's Gondola Works, Walsall, is the scene of much activity. It is here where old shows and roundabouts are made new, not magically, as by Aladdin's lamp, but in quite a regular, systematic, workmanlike manner. It is an industry that is, seemingly, never ended. Shows, roundabouts, haunted castles, cake-walks, and all the rest of the paraphernalia of the British fun fair are brought into the works at Walsall, crippled and disabled after the rough usage of the past season. Here the different machines are dismantled and dismembered by the various specialists at work. Painters, carvers, joiners, electricians, blacksmiths, engineers, and wheelwrights are busy from early morning till late at night. It would be a transformation scene of great interest to many showmen to see a large roundabout come within the doors of the Gondola Works and, after what seems an incredibly short space of time, go out upon its circuit "spanking" new.

Nothing appears too small and nothing too large for the busy band of workers here—anything from a packing-case to a scenic railway is made by them. Every Katzenjammer Castle operating in the open air has been specially designed and made at the Gondola Works. The offices are no small item. It would be an education to many open-air amusement caterers to look within their doors. Six clerks are always at work; several telephones, typewriters, and stenographers are necessary. It is the proud boast of the secretary that every letter received is answered and then filed. Correspondense is conducted with equal facility in several languages.

Working in conjunction with these offices are numerous agents always on the move outdoors booking old positions and securing new ones. As you leave the office you conclude that a trip to the Gondola Works is necessary to realise that a roundabout business is conducted on such a large scale.

To the left of the offices are Mr. Collins's private stables and motor sheds. Under these roofs such past champions of the trotting world as Lady R., Lottie Allen, and Black Pearl have had their quarters. Mr. P. Collins, as might be expected, is a very busy man. Three or four days every week are spent at the works, superintending, advising, and otherwise consulting his numerous heads of departments. Week-ends are spent making a circuit of his fun fairs and other enterprises.

It would perhaps be as well to here mention that Mr. Collins's operations are not confined to amusements only—his business interests take him in many other directions. Mr. Collins is one of the first to join issue in anything that has reasonable prospects of a dividend. A couple of motor-cars and several horses are necessary to race Mr. Collins and his managers over the distances they have to travel, not to mention some of the longer journeys by rail. It is common knowledge that the amount spent in telegrams to and from the firm would represent a goodly income to many.

DEATH OF JESSE JEWELL.

It is with a feeling of deep regret that many of our readers will learn of the sudden death of that popular and well-known cosmopolitan showman and traveller Jesse Jewell, who succumbed very suddenly to an attack of apoplexy in Brooklyn, U.S.A., on Feb. 10 last, at the age of sixty-two. He was born at Dudley, England, and almost from his infancy had been on the road, travelling with his photo. studios, shows, and amusements to all parts of Great Britain, Continental Europe, the United States, and Canada. It is now nearly five years since he took his first trip with his marvellous marionettes across the Atlantic, and from the very date of their first appearance in America Jewell's Mannikins have been a great success, both artistically and financially, and poor Jesse, with his ever-pleasant manner, had very much ingratiated himself into the good graces of the managers, agents, and patrons of the really superb theatres in which he played. He had for several weeks prior to his death been actively preparing a new and novel act, and had the same so far advanced that he was looking forward with much pleasure to rejoin his wife and family, who were then giving their entertainment on the great Orpheum Circuit of the Far Western States. At the time of his decease the wife and family were at Oakland, California, 3,800 miles away, whence they had to journey to the sad ceremony of burial. He was interred in the magnificent cemetery known as Greenwood, one of the finest in the world, and amongst the followers were Messrs. J. Bostock, F. Ferari, Pat Casey, F. Brant, a committee of the White Rats, also of the Freemasons', of which order he was a member. The floral tributes were very numerous and beautiful, and, completely filling two carriages, were from the widow and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Bostock, Mr. and Mrs. James Holden, White Rats of America, United Booking Offices, Mr. Frank C. Bostock, Mr. and Mrs. F. Ferari, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Inshaw, Mr. and Mrs. Scattergood, Mr. and Mrs. Henri Stuart, Mr. and Mrs. P. Wartenberg, Mr. Pat Casey, Mr. F. Brant, and numerous others. Mrs. Jewell, on behalf of herself and family, desires to thank all friends for the numerous cablegrams and messages of condolence, and to say that herself and family are staying for the present at the apartments of Mrs. James W. Bostock, Bonita Mansions, West 145th-street, New York City, where any correspondence will reach her.

"THE EGYPTIAN MUMMY."

Produced at the Bedford Music Hall, Monday, March 1, 1909.

Mabel ..... Miss Lily Langley
Sandy ..... Sandy McNab

This is a new version of a sketch which has been before the public for some little time, and the new version is as big a laughter-producer as we have met with for some time. The slight story which serves as a basis for the sketch is of an eccentric old Doctor, who believes he has produced a potion which if ministered to a mummy will immediately revive it. The professor asks his daughter to procure him a mummy, and promises her a handsome reward, and she, to gratify his wish, induces Sandy—a wily Scot looking for work and hoping to evade it—to impersonate the mummy, which he does with exceedingly comic results. Sandy McNab, a genuine Highland comedian, extracts every possible grain of fun out of the part, and keeps the audience in shrieks of laughter with his various contortions, and the funny positions he finds himself in are most mirth-provoking. Miss Lily Langley also lends capital assistance as Mabel, and the little absurdity is carried through with great spirit. The reception accorded to it was a decidedly hearty one, and should augur well for the future success of the sketch. The scenery is good, and general staging most adequate.

The police have not yet obtained the slightest clue as to the perpetrator of the robbery at the Palace Theatre, Aberdeen, a fortnight ago, when the manager's safe was broken open and nearly £100 stolen. It is conjectured that, unknown to the attendants, the robber had managed to secrete himself in the building either after the dispersal of the audience at the second of the entertainments on Saturday evening, or the afternoon religious service on the following Sunday. Only the contents of the safe were stolen. It was easy for the plunderer to make his escape, as the emergency doors can be opened by a push from the inside.

RINKING GOSSIP.

THERE are now 143 registered roller skating rinks in Great Britain. As Olympia closes this week, the Empress Hall, Earl's Court, takes premier position as the largest and best-equipped rink in the metropolis.

THE fact must not be lost sight of that Earl's Court really engineered the present skating boom, for it was the first to be opened, and led the way on Nov. 5 last, thus securing a five weeks' start of Olympia. The theatrical and music hall professions at once took the delightful pastime up, and Earl's Court became the rendezvous of stars. Those who from time to time have been seen disporting themselves on the Empress Rink include Eugene Stratton, Zena Dare, Joe O'Gorman, Carlton, Arthur Reece, Blyth Pratt, Auguste van Biene, Jimmy Britt, Madge Temple, Winifred Hare, Alec Hurley, Geo. Mozart, Max Darewski, and many others. Miss Marie Lloyd prefers the seductiveness of the Aldwych Skating Palace.

RINKING is undoubtedly something very much more than a mere ephemeral craze of the ping-pong order, and although Olympia closes to-night, and Earl's Court must make way for the "Golden West" in April, it has been absolutely decided that London shall have a permanent skating palace, and that in the West. It is to be in the Bayswater-road, nearly opposite Holland Park "tube" station. Negotiations are in full progress to acquire the land, on which houses at present stand, and when these are completed "wrecking" will take place at once, and a magnificent structure will be run up. It is not anticipated that this "rinking palace" will be ready before the end of the summer.

A PEEP at the plans reveal several interesting facts. The skating area will be considerably greater than that found at Olympia. Provision, too, has been made for spectators, and there are many tea and general refreshment rooms dotted about. Several dressing-rooms will also be built, and it is whispered that many novelties common to American rinks will be seen here for the first time in this country.

IT makes one's mouth water to listen to the gloating utterances of the chairmen of the rinking companies whenever one is privileged to attend a meeting. The other day, for instance, Mr. Louis N. Schoenfeld, presiding at a meeting of the Aldwych Rinkeries shareholders, made the delightful statement that "on the basis of the last few weeks the takings amount to more than 300 per cent. per annum on the present issued capital of the company, or, in other words, 75 per cent. on our actual cash investment in two months after the registration of the company."

AGAIN, it almost reads like satire for Mr. Schoenfeld, having been revelling in what may be termed "diamond-studded statements," to blandly say:—"I shall be pleased to answer any questions you may wish to ask." But a happy shareholder made an admission that should be handed down in the history of company meetings when he replied for all present:—"I think we are all so satisfied that we do not want to put any questions."

TAKE a look at the bookstalls just now. They are simply flooded with sixpenny and shilling handbooks on the all-absorbing topic of "How to Skate." Many of them purport to give full instructions and diagrams, showing how a "rocker," or a "bracket," or a "counter" can be made on rollers.

IT is a sign, at least, that roller-skating has boomed, but it may be stated that half an hour spent in the capable hands of a good instructor is worth the entire bookstall, and is not so expensive.

OUR principal cousins are quite as keen on rinking as any cockney. At Leeds, for instance, at the Headingley Rink, they pride themselves on being the most graceful skaters in the country, which is claiming a great deal. Tests of graceful skating take place periodically here, and last week "A Graceful Skating Contest" was held, and prizes given "for perfect time, stroke, and carriage." Mr. G. Taylor and Miss Taylor, brother and sister, were the winners.

BLACKPOOL boasts two excellent rinks—one at "Switzerland" and the other at the Lytham-road Colosseum. Limelight and snowstorm effects are the great feature of the last-named palace. There is a big band, and the place is packed daily from 11 a.m. till 10 p.m.

EVEN the Isle of Man boasts four rinks, and all of them in Douglas too. Those who know Manxland's delightful capital will have no difficulty in recalling the Palace, Derby Castle, Onchan Head, and Buxton's entertainment houses, famed in summer-time as the haunts of thousands of pleasure-seekers and expert waltzers. Hitherto in winter these huge palaces have looked silent and grim with closed doors. Roller-skating altered all that in 1909, and since just before last Christmas the native population almost to a man and a woman have availed themselves of the advantages the huge area of the floors offer at the theatres and ball-rooms named for a delightful whirl on wheels. On Thursday last the fancy dress carnival held at Buxton's was crowded to the doors.

CHATHAM is not behindhand either in rinking; but they keep things very exclusive in the military town. They call it a club, not a rink or assembly, when they strap on skates at the Drill Hall. Further, nobody can indulge in the pastime unless he or she is proposed and seconded by somebody who already is a member. At the Garrison Gymnasium there is a good rink too, but it is strictly confined to the officers of the garrison and their friends. The fun, it is stated, at times here waxes fast and furious.

To many a deserted-in-the-winter south-coast pier roller-skating has come as a boon and a blessing. At Bournemouth, for instance, the past week's receipts show that the number of persons who paid for admission to the pier for rinking purposes was 21,271. Last year, in the corresponding period, less than 5,000 paid the pier toll. At Portsmouth the South Parade Pier made a profit on the week of £53 6s. 7d on its rinking receipts.

SCOTLAND has the "fever" badly. North of the Tweed they do not believe in half-measures, and the Skaterics in Victoria-road, Glasgow, is packed at every session. Fancy dress carnivals are very popular, and no Continental fête could outdo in splendour the picturesque and brilliant functions held here. At the carnival held last week it is interesting to note that the first prize went unanimously to a wee lassie on rollers for her neat impersonation of Miss Vesta Tilley in male attire. A "Harry Lauder" make-up also got a prize.

MAYOR SHARPLEY, of Louth, opened the first rink in the town last week, declaring it to be a unique task in the annals of the Mayoralty. Professor Hiley, late of Earl's Court, gave an exhibition of figure-skating. Other rinks to open during the past week have been one at St. Leonards—an offspring of the Aldwych Rinkeries—and a splendid "gliding-for-pleasure palace" at Stratford.

ILFORD is determined not to be out of the running, for a site has been secured at Ilford Hill for a rink, with a capital of £10,000. Out of this sum £4,000 will be spent on the building, which it is anticipated will be in working order by May. The skating area of this rink will be 22,000 square feet, and the promoters hope to induce a large proportion of the 250,000 in the district to become regular patrons.

THE long line of automobiles and carriages to be seen daily at the entrance to the Empress Hall, Earl's Court, is in itself a proof that the fascination of skimming along a smooth surface on wheels has charmed the men and women of the leisured and moneyed classes. But even the habitués and directors of this picturesque palace were astounded the other evening when an entire wedding party, after the ceremony at St. Peter's, Kensington, and a "breakfast" at Prince's, drove over to the Empress Hall, and spent an enjoyable time on the rink there. The bride was Miss Eva Murray, and her newly-acquired "lord" Mr. Augustus Pomeroy, a relative of the famous "skate king." There were twelve bridesmaids, all garbed in silver-grey dresses, with picture hats to match, trimmed with "Nell Gwynne" white feathers; in fact, the whole aspect of the scene was worthy of a lady fashion-writer's expert pen, but for once the Press agent was caught napping, and so there were no glowing accounts in the next day's papers.

ONE of the most reliable and speedy skates used throughout the country at the present time is Mr. Arthur Pomeroy's "Baltimore Flyer." Mr. Pomeroy himself describes these rollers as "the motor-car of the feet." They are light, graceful, swift, and ingeniously manufactured. As the name indicates, this skate is American made, and costs, according to quality, from 15s. to a guinea per pair. The mechanism cannot get out of order, and a very small boy can understand it the first time it is explained to him.

ALLIE MOORE, who lost the one mile professional championship of the roller-skating world to Harley Davidson at Olympia last week, is stated to be dissatisfied with the result of the race, in view of the fact that he not long ago skated a mile on a flat floor in Chicago in 2min. 27sec., and that his time for five miles is given as 13min. 18.3-5sec. He has won all the American championships during the past two years.

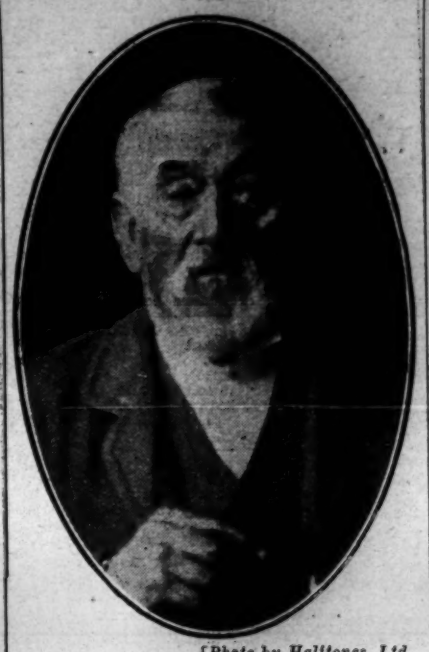
BIRMINGHAM has soon been provided with another skating rink, this being a "new one for an old one," the Edgbaston Skating Rink, to wit. Here roller skating has been the vogue for years, but to cope with the "boom" the lessees—Messrs. Salter—have had the building entirely refurbished and the floor relaid. The floor itself measured 210ft. long by 60ft. wide, and an entirely new stock of skates has been laid in, all of the latest improvements. Mr. F. A. Millin, the manager of the Edgbaston Reservoir Grounds and Rink, has engaged a permanent orchestra, and the reopening, which took place last Tuesday, was well attended, and augured well for the continued success of this old-established concern.

THE final race for the one mile roller-skating championship of the world, which took place at the Olympia Skating Rink, resulted in a victory for Harley Davidson, of America, who covered the distance in 2min. 51 3.5sec. He used the celebrated Richardson ball-bearing roller skates. All the world's records, both fast and fancy, have been won on Richardson skates, and for quality of workmanship, finish, durability, and reliability, they are absolutely unequalled. Richardson skates may be obtained from all the leading athletic outfitters, department stores, and ironmongers throughout the kingdom.

PEACE AT THE LAST.

George Wombwell, the nephew of Wombwell the Great, died at Edmonton on Friday, Feb. 26. He had reached the great age of over ninety-two years, and although (because of his lineage) he must be counted a showman, he had ceased to follow the fairs or to get his living in the show business for well nigh fifty years past.

"The pathetic story" which we were obliged to correct (in the greater interests of truth) told by the daily Press at the end of October last, was such an interesting blend of memories of the old man's life and his recollections of the life of his uncle, Wombwell the Great, that only the strongest sense of duty induced us to venture upon a correction. We did this without in the least



[Photo by Halftones, Ltd.

THE LATE GEORGE WOMBWELL
(Nephew of Wombwell the Great).

reflecting upon the character of George Wombwell, the younger, and the subject of our present memoir.

Gathering up the threads of the old man's somewhat tangled skein of life, it was evident that from the rich store of a good memory he was able to recall incidents in the career not only of the Wombwell family and the Bostocks, but of some of the greatest names in Showland that figured in the first thirty-five years of his life.

There are one or two interesting facts connected with the latter part of his chequered career that it would be well for us to place on record.

In the first place, it ought to be remembered that there never was the least need for the old man to enter the Edmonton Workhouse Infirmary; that he was not at that time or at any previous period of his life in a state of actual destitution. Contrariwise, he has been for the past sixteen years of his life in receipt of a weekly allowance of 10s., and was receiving help in other ways which quite raised him above the need of appealing to the public for assistance.

There is an old saying that it is only right to speak good things of the blessed dead, and we should not have mentioned this apparently unnecessary appeal made by him to the general public on entering the Edmonton infirmary but that we happen to know the real inside story of this somewhat doubtful incident. The real story makes that appeal for public help (an appeal which it will be remembered *The Era* was largely the means of preventing going forward) extremely creditable—though at the same time quixotic—on the part of the deceased.

The Chaplain to the Showmen's Guild investigated the matter fully at the time, and it was entirely the old man's original idea and plain that he had received no inspiration or encouragement from his son-in-law and daughter with whom he lived, and, further, that his purpose in entering the infirmary was utterly unknown to them. His scheme was to appeal to the general public under the cover of a great historic name (the name George Wombwell) for a fund ostensibly for himself, but really to help his grandchildren, to whom he was passionately attached, because their parents had fallen upon poor times owing to bad health and unemployment.

As soon as the Chaplain ascertained the old man's devotion and intense love for his grandchildren, he had not the heart to oppose the old man's urgent wish to be taken from the infirmary and restored to them.

By the generosity of Mr. Moriand (a descendant of the great Mrs. Wombwell), who for the past sixteen years had helped, together with the old man's married daughter now in America, to find the weekly allowance we have referred to above, he was still paid 5s. a week. This, coupled with the ready help of Councillor E. H. Bostock, of the Glasgow Hippodrome—who placed 10s. a week with the Guild Chaplain to help the old man, arrangements were made by which he left the infirmary.

For a time he was placed in rooms with every comfort and kindly attendance, near enough to his married daughter's home for the grandchildren to frequently visit him. This, however, did not satisfy him, and he returned to his daughter's home. Arrangements were made for a trained nurse to visit him daily, and money was paid to his daughter for his maintenance. The end of the story is that he died of sheer old age with his beloved grandchildren sleeping under the same roof. He passed away quietly in his sleep, for when his daughter took his early morning cup of tea she found that he had fallen on sweet sleep at the last, and had departed to that "bourne from which no traveller hath yet returned."

The funeral takes place to-day (Saturday, March 6). The place of burial is the Edmonton Cemetery, and the service is strictly limited to the immediate members of his family.

TWO RAILWAY SCENAS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—In your edition of Feb. 27 I note amongst gossip:—"Mr. Neil Kenyon produced at the Hippodrome, Manchester, a wayside station scena." Allow me to inform you that I have been working for some time my railway scena, entitled *On the Railway*. In this I introduce troubles on the line, arrival of train, &c., and carry a special country wayside station scene. According to your notice of Mr. Kenyon's new act it seems to be somewhat similar to mine. In case I should be accused of plagiarism I should esteem it a great favour if you will insert this in your next issue.—Yours truly, MARK BRUE (late Chas. Dixon).

Hippodrome, Hastings, Feb. 27.

MARRIAGE OF MR. W. F. JOHNSON AND MISS EMMIE FORTMAN.

A fairly large congregation remained after the morning service at the Parish Church, Chertsey, on Sunday, Feb. 14, to witness the marriage of Miss Emmie Fortman, the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Fortman, of "The Snuggery," Chertsey, to Mr. William Frederick Johnson, formerly a member of the teaching staff of the School of Handicrafts, and now of Hayes, Middlesex, and the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. William Johnson, of Reading.

Both bride and bridegroom are well known and popular in the town, where for some years past they have rendered assistance at concerts and dramatic performances. The bridegroom has also often figured in the Chertsey cricket and football elevens, for some time acting as captain of the mid-week section of the latter club. Previously to taking up her residence in the town the bride was a member of one of the finest English troupes of aerial artists which ever toured the Continent, the quartette being composed of—in addition to herself—her father, sister, and brother. Almost every town of note throughout Europe was thus visited, and they had the honour and distinction of appearing before many of the crowned heads.

[Photo by Emberson.

MARRIAGE OF CEE MEE'S DAUGHTER.

Her father, the famous aerial gymnast, Cee Mee, who gave her away on Sunday, has by command performed before three Czars of Russia.

The bride was charmingly attired in white silk trimmed with old lace, with orange blossom, myrtle, and lilies. The Brussels net and lace veil was the gift of her mother, and she was carrying a beautiful sheaf bouquet. Attending her as bridesmaids were the Misses N. and A. Emberson, of Walton, who were wearing pink crêpe de chine, with black picture hats, and carrying sheaf bouquets composed of white and pink tulips. Mr. T. Sculley, of Brockley, discharged the duties of best man, and Mr. Charles Johnson, of London, acted as groomsman. The Vicar and the Rev. G. Adams officiated at the ceremony, which was fully choral. The hymn was "How welcome was the call," and Mr. Monk played Elsa's "Bridal Procession," Mendelssohn's "Be thou faithful," and Mendelssohn's "Wedding March."

The sun was shining brightly as the happy couple left the church amidst the felicitations of many friends, and the boys of the School of Handicrafts cheered lustily. The reception took place at "The Snuggery," where the company included Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Fortman, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Holden (Forest Gate), Mr. and Mrs. Austen (Finchley), Mr. and Mrs. Fredericks (Stratford), Mr. and Mrs. H. Fortman, Mr. and Mrs. Sanger Coleman, Mrs. H. Jones (Blackpool), Mr. Robert and Miss Emmie Fossett (Northampton), Misses Ida, Maud, and Daggie Sanger, Misses Ethel and Winifred Johnson, Mr. Charles and Jack Johnson, Mr. G. and Mr. P. Sculley, Mrs. G. Emberson (Walton), Mrs. N. Cole, Mr. and Mrs. J. Emberson, Mr. T. E. H. Chaldecott, Mr. A. Howard, Mr. John Holgate (Leeds), Mr. Housell (Chiswick), Mr. Frank A'Court (Walton), Messrs. W. H. Ottaway, E. Rose, A. Stevens and H. Whitwell. Mr. Arnold Kuhn was in charge of the catering arrangements, which were eminently satisfactory.

Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Johnson subsequently left for Brighton and Worthing, the bride's travelling costume being of navy serge, with moleskin hat and sables.

Among the numerous presents were the following:—

Mr. and Mrs. Fortman, Crown Derby tea service, Sheraton table and Sheraton bedroom suite, drawing-room suite and piano.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, case of silver.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Coleman, silver and cut glass salad bowl, set of china and fancy table linen.

Mr. and Mrs. T. Holden, silver egg service.

Mr. S. Ethardo, silver-mounted oak biscuit barrel.

Miss Emberson, table covers.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Emberson, silver egg service and cruet.

Mr. and Mrs. Austen, cut glass and brass rose bowl.

Mrs. G. Emberson and family, brass crumb brush and tray.

Mr. Frank A'Court, silver and cut glass pickle stand.

Mr. and Mrs. Ottaway (School of Handicrafts), hat stand.

Messrs. G. and P. Sculley, clock.

Mr. Hounsell, set of carvers.

Miss Hoffman, silver inkstand.

Chertsey Amateur Dramatic Club, handsome inlaid Sheraton coal box.

Mr. George and Georgina Sanger, tea service (modern German, art design).

Miss L. A'Court, hand-painted satin mats.

Mr. Rose and Mr. Cole, Sheraton inlaid occasional table.

Mr. and Mrs. Adams, brass letter rack, stamp case, and buckle set in crystals.

Mr. T. E. Harland Chaldecott, solid silver sugar basin and tongs.

Mr. Arthur Howard, solid silver teapot.

Mr. and Mrs. Alsker, hand-painted fire screen.

Mr. and Mrs. Tidy, Royal Crown Derby coffee cups.

Many presents were received in addition to the foregoing, including some from the staff of the Hayes Industrial School for Jewish Boys.

"THE BROKEN MEDAL."

A Domestic Episode in One Act, by Arthur Skelton, Produced at the Gaiety, Birmingham, on Feb. 22.

Cape Smoke Jim.....MR. CLINTON BADDELEY
Nelly.....MISS DORA LYONS
Hesba.....MISS JESSIE M. LYONS

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The above attractive dramatic episode is full of stirring situations, and was highly appreciated by a crowded audience. The scene opens on the veldt in South Africa, where Nellie, a little "orphan," is cared for by an old Kaffir nurse, Hesba, her mother being dead. Her father, a ne'er-do-well gaolbird, begs hospitality one night, pretending to be wounded. When the nurse and Nellie have retired for the night the beggar turns out to be a thief. While in the act of taking a little silver box belonging to Nelly, he discovers that she is his daughter, and later on a reconciliation is effected between the child and her now reformed father. The piece is well written and played. Mr. Clinton Baddeley gives a clever piece of character-acting in the part of Jim; Nelly is dramatically presented by Miss Dora Lyons; and Miss J. M. Lyons gives an interesting rendering of the difficult part of the nurse.

"FATHER" SCOTTIE, as the Press have lately called him, gave 800 breakfasts to the poorer kiddies in Wakefield last Saturday morning. He has already given over 277,000 meals to the hungry bairns at the various towns where he has performed *The Cry of the Children*.

THE Barnsley Empire was packed at both houses on the opening night. Ernie Mayne, comedian, the chief attraction, is extremely funny, fairly bringing down the house; the Tenka troupe of Japanese magicians give a novel and interesting performance, some of their tricks being exceptionally clever; Fox and Melville, song illustrators, give a pleasing performance; Cleland causes roars of laughter by his eccentric juggling; the Lannons are fine high pedestal dancers; the Brothers Missouri, in their comedy act, *Fun in a Canteen*, give a good performance; Elmer Spyglass is a pleasing vocalist; and the Palacescope completes a good all-round bill.

REVISED SCALE OF CHARGES FOR

ARTISTS WANTING ENGAGEMENTS, MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTS.

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Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

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"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.
"Wire," "The Era, London."
"Ring-up," 4747 or 1433 Central.

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COMPANIES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE AND EDWARD COMPTON'S THEATRES.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for THEATRE ROYAL, BRIGHTON.
Mar. 29, May 10, 17, 24, 31, June 7, Aug. 23, Sept. 6, 13, on.

DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.
May 17, 31, June 7, Aug. 2, 16, 23, Sept. 6, 13, 27, on.

COUNTY THEATRE, READING.
May 24, 31, June 7, 14, Aug. 2, 23, Sept. 6, 13, 27, on.

OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER.
May 10, 24, 31, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Sept. 6, Oct. 4, on.

ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER.
April 5, May 24, Aug. 30, Sept. 20, Nov. 1, Dec. 6, 13, on.

GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON.
May 10, 17, 24, 31, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, Sept. 6, 20, on.

THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD.
May 17, 31, Aug. 2, 23, 30, Sept. 6, 13, 20, on.

OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON.
April 5, May 3, 10, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, Sept. 20, on.

THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER.
May 17, 24, June 21, 28, Aug. 9, 23, on.

THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
March 22, April 5, 22 (three nights), April 26.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for Northampton, April 5; Chester, April 5; Theatre Royal, Brighton, March 29.
Wire, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD
March 22, 26, April 12, 19, May 10, 24, onwards.

GRAND THEATRE, LUTON,
April 5, 12 (certainty only), 19, May 10, 17, 24, on.

THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.
March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 26, May 3, onwards.
Address, E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 22 and 29.
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

THREE PROGRESSIVE THEATRES.

WANTED, High-class Companies, DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE,
April 5 (?), 12, May 3, 10, 17, 24 (3 nights).
Easter Vacant for Big Musical Attraction or London Star.

GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS.
April 26, May 3, 10, June 7, on.

PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE.
March 22, April 26 (?), June 7, on.
Apply for all above.
H. W. ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

METROPOLE, GLASGOW, LTD.

WANTED, Pay-box Attractions, May, July, Aug. 23, Dec. 13, 20.
Coms., ARTHUR JEFFERSON.

WANTED, First-class Attractions for the following Dates:—
April 5, 19, 26,
May 3, 10, 17, and 24.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24a, Regent-st., S.W.

ROYAL PALACE THEATRE,
RAMSGATE.
Proprietor, LORD GEORGE SANGER.
Lessee, ERNEST MANSELL.
Business-Representative, BERT ATKINSON.
All communications re dates from July 5 to Oct. 2 must be addressed to
JAY and MANN, 10-11, Jermyn-st., Piccadilly, W.

WANTED, First-class Musical Comedy Drama, March 29.
All dates from Oct. 2, onwards,
Apply, BERT ATKINSON, Royal Palace, Ramsgate.

HOWARD AND WYNDHAM, LTD.

WANTED, First-class Attraction, April 5, Glasgow.
Address, Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, May 10, 24.
Now Booking Autumn.

T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.

WANTED, Powerful Dramatic Attraction, April 5 (five nights), good printing.
Address, T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. BUCHANAN.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 15 (?), 22, April 12, 19, 26, May 3, on.
R. C. BUCHANAN, 102, Bath-street, Glasgow.

PALACE THEATRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

WANTED, Strong Dramatic Attractions, June 7 and 28, July 19. Apply, T. W. ROWE.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, April 26.
May 17 (?), 24, 31,
June 7, July 5.
JAMES BELL.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, GREENOCK.
Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. BUCHANAN.
Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. WRIGHT.

WANTED for April 5 (Holiday Date), First-class Attraction, Musical Comedy or Star Attraction preferred.
Other Attractions may write for immediate vacant dates to R. C. BUCHANAN, 102, Bath-street, Glasgow.

KING'S THEATRE, KILMARNOCK.
Lessee and Manager, J. CUMMINGS.

One of the Finest and Most Up-to-date Buildings in the Provinces.

WANTED, First-class Attractions Only.
Vacant March 29,
and April,
onwards,
with exceptions,
for First-class Attractions only.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, April 5, Whit week, July 5, 19, and on. The Theatre has been beautifully redecorated and upholstered at an enormous expense, and is now one of the most charming and up-to-date Theatres in the Provinces.
Address, CHAS. M. JULIAN, General-Manager.
March 8, New Theatre, Aberdare.

COURT THEATRE, BACUP.
Lessee, DENMAN WOOD.

WANTED, March 15 and April 5, Good Drama or Musical Piece, or Good Combination, Variety, Up-to-date Bioscope, and First-class Turns; must be first-class, or useless. Wire re March 15, DENMAN WOOD, Theatre, Bacup.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies

ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH
Vacant March 29, April 5, 12, onward with exceptions.

All communications re dates.
Arthur Carlton, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant July 5, 12, 19, 26, onward with exceptions.

EMPIRE, WORCESTER.
See Music Hall Artists Wanted Column.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY, S. WALES.
Vacant April 12, May 24, 31, June 7, onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME, BARRY DOCK.
Vacant Aug. 2, Dec. 20, Feb. 21, onward, with exceptions.

The Three Great Pantomime Successes,
"BABES IN THE WOOD," Jan. 17, onward.
"CINDERELLA," Dec. 27, onward.
"PUSS IN BOOTS," Dec. 27, onward.

Can also arrange Production dates for next season for the above.

All communications,
Arthur Carlton,
Theatre Royal, Worcester.
Telegrams: "Carlton, Worcester."

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.
Season's Bookings and Autumn include:—Mr. Edward Terry and Co.; Mr. Lionel Rignold and Co.; Mr. George Alexander's Cos., "The Thief" and "The Builder of Bridges"; Miss Lena Ashwell's Cos., "Grit" and "Diana of Dobson's" (return); Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's Cos., "With Edged Tools," "Lucky Durham," "Leah Kleschna"; Mr. Percy Hutchison's Cos.; Mr. F. R. Benson's Co., "The Dairymaids" (return), "The Flag Lieutenant," "A White Man," "You Never Can Tell"; Mr. George D. Day's "Prodigal Son" (return), "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," &c.
WANTED, Wanted, Companies, for August Bank Holiday and a few later dates.
Managers of London Productions apply,
Calvert Routledge.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
Seating capacity, 3,500.
Acknowledged to be one of the largest, most handsome, and best equipped theatres in the Provinces.
The Premier and Central Theatre of the District.
WANTED, First-class Attractions only, March 22, 29, April 19, May 17, 31 (Whit), also Big Star Attractions for August Bank Holiday, and Aug. 16 (Race Week).
All communications,
Jno. Ed. Jowsey,
Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough.
Telephones, 413, 426, 500. Telegrams, "Magnet."

NEW THEATRE, WEYMOUTH.
This building is now complete, and admitted to be one of the finest and most complete Theatres in the Provinces. The whole of the Stage fittings carried out under the direction of Experts.
Capable of taking £120 at ordinary prices.
WANTED, First-class Companies only, April and May onwards, including Whit.
All communications, Walter R. Wallis,
New Pavilion Theatre, Weymouth.
London representatives, Messrs. Jay and Mann, 10 and 11, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly.

THE QUEEN'S THEATRE, DUBLIN.
Sole Proprietor and Patentee,
F. W. Marriott Watson.
Rebuilt and Enlarged.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Autumn, onwards. Booked in conjunction with T. R., Belfast.
Address,
F. W. Marriott Watson, Queen's Theatre.

WANTED, First-class Companies,
THEATRE ROYAL, NORTH SHIELDS, April 5, June 14.
OPERA HOUSE, WORKINGTON, Aug. 2, 9, 23, Sept. 13.
Stanley Rogers, Theatre Royal, North Shields.

KING'S THEATRE, KIRKCALDY.
KING'S THEATRE, KIRKCALDY.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for March 29, New to the Town.
Bookings include the entire Lyceum Production, "The Prince and the Beggar Maid," "Convict 99," "Louie Freear," "Sexton Blake," "Hush Money," "The House that Jack Built," and other First-class Attractions.
Wire,
Abrahams, 26, Great Eastern-road, Stratford, E.

WORTHING THEATRE.
WANTED, First-class Companies. March 25, 29, April 1, 12, 15, 19, May 3, 6, 24, also few good season dates vac.
Coms., C. A. Seebold, Worthing Theatre.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.
WANTED, Light Musical Attractions, for May 10, 17, 24, 31, Sept. 6 and 20, and on.

PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE.
WANTED, First-class Company, March 22, March 22.
Could Book really Big Drama.
H. W. Rowland, Manager.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, BLYTH-BY-SEA.
WANTED, Attractions, with Strong Musical or Dramatic Drawing powers, for April 5 19, 26, May 10 and 31.
March 8, "Sherlock Holmes."
Lessee and Manager, A. C. Moody.

ROYAL COURT THEATRE, WIGAN.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, for May 3 (musical preferred), also July 19. Address, Worswick.

WANTED, Sound Attractions, April 12 and 19, Paisley and Perth.
Apply, J. H. Savile.

WANTED, Known, Grand, Llandudno, Vacant Easter, July 22, 26, Sept. 27. Wire
Haldane Crichton, Th., Norwich; next, Dalston.

THEATRE ROYAL, EXETER.
WANTED, immediately, First-class Companies, March 29, May 10, 17, 24, 31.
Apply, Managing-Director.

KNIGHTSTONE PAVILION, WESTON-SUPER-MARE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, March 15 and 22 (three or six nights). W. Payne.

WANTED, Something Good, March 15, Radcliffe.
Wire, Sante, Radcliffe.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.
WANTED, Special Attraction, for week commencing March 22 (open through having been held for Miss Millard). Address, J. B. Mulholland, King's Theatre, W. 'Phone 119 Hammersmith.

VICTORIA THEATRE, KETTERING.
WANTED, Autumn Dates, August Bank Holiday, and Christmas settled; full orchestra and staff; electric light; large stage. Bookings include "Merry Widow," "Gay Gordons," "Cingalee," "Belle of New York," "Sunday," "Sign of the Cross," &c. Alf Bailey and Co.

COMPANIES WANTED.

Booked by
MOSS' EMPIRES, LIMITED.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE,
GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM,
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS,
and
GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Vacant Dates, May 10, 17, 24, Aug. 9, 16, Nov. 1, 15, 29, Dec. 13.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE.
Vacant Dates, May 10, 24, June 28, July 5, 13, Dec. 13

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Vacant, June 28, Aug. 2.

GRAND, GLASGOW.
Vacant, April 19, 26, May 24, 31, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Sept. 13, 20, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, 22.
ALEXANDRA THEATRE, STOKE NEWINGTON.
Reopened Shortly.
First-class Attractions Required, April 5, 19, 26, May 10, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, Sept. 13, Oct. 4, 11, 25, Nov. 8, 22, Dec. 6.
Address,
with full particulars, terms, &c., where can be seen, to
Moss' Empires, Limited,
Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-st., London, W.C.
Envelopes marked "Theatres."

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson.
The Premier Theatre in the Furness District, with a holding capacity of £90 at ordinary prices.
WANTED, First-class Musical Attraction for Easter week; April 19 also Open, and May 17, on, with exceptions.
Season's Bookings include among others: J. W. Turner's Grand Opera Company (return) Mr. Wentworth Croke's "The Bondman," "Amasis," Mr. Charles Frohman's "Raffles," Mr. George Dance's Company in "Miss Hook of Holland," Mr. Wilfred Cotton's Company in "Butterflies," Mr. Seymour Hicks' Company in "The Gay Gordons," and Mr. George Edwardes's Company in "The Merry Widow," Paumier and Howard's "The Prince and the Beggar Maid" and "The Midnight Wedding," "The Flag Lieutenant."
All applications for dates to
Hugh Robertson, Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

THE GRANVILLE THEATRES, LIMITED.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, Companies, vacant March 22, 29, April 5, and on.
GRAND THEATRE, RAWTENSTALL,
Vacant March 22.
GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
Wanted, Powerful Musical Attractions, April 5; also First-class Musical Attractions for the Autumn.
Address,
Fred Granville, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

PALACE THEATRE, BRIGHTON.
WANTED, Known, Messrs. Jay and Mann have secured a lease of this theatre from Lady Day next. In addition to a local management alert and vigorous in its methods, visiting companies will have the advantages of—
(1) The freeing of the pier toll to playgoers.
(2) A handsome wind and rain shelter the entire length of the pier.
(3) A redecorated and recarpeted theatre.
Vacant Dates, March 29 (?), April 5, 26, May 3, 17, Whit Week, onward.
For vacant dates apply,
MESSRS. JAY and MANN,
10 and 11, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly, S.W.

WANTED, Attractions, Palace T., Brighton, March 29 (?), April 5, 26, May 3, 17, Whit week, on; New Pavilion T., Weymouth, March 15, 22, 29, April 26, on; O. H., Middlesbrough, March 22 (?), 29 (?), April 19 (?). Jay and Mann, 10 and 11, Jermyn-street, S.W.

NEW HIPPODROME, SCARBOROUGH.
One of the most luxurious Theatres in the North.
Now running one house nightly at 8.
Holding capacity 2,000. Popular prices, 3d. to 1s. 6d.
Owing to the enormous success of the Dramatic Season,
WANTED, No. 1 Companies, for March 29, April 19, onward.
Apply, William Peacock, Opera House, Harrogate.
Silence a polite negative.

THEATRE ROYAL, MARGATE.
WANTED, Good Attractions, for March 15 and onwards. Apply to W. W. Keene.

NEW PALACE THEATRE, WATFORD.
The only place of amusement in the town.
Lighted by electricity; holding capacity £75.
WANTED, Strong Dramatic and Musical Companies, First-class only, April 5, 26, May 10, 24.
Sylvester, 217, Piccadilly, W.

WANTED, to oblige Dottridge, Longden, and Willard, Strong Attraction for Easter Week.
Apply, J. W. Chapman, Grand Theatre, Doncaster.

GRAND THEATRE, HULL.
WANTED, weeks May 17 and 24, may be vacant for Musical or other High-class Attraction.
Address, W. Morton.

WANTED, good Drama or Musical Comedy, for Palace, Maidstone.
March 15, three nights.
Wire, Karno, Camberwell, London.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, Holiday Monday, April 5 (three or six nights), April 12, 19, 26. W. E. Potts.

OPERA HOUSE, WAKEFIELD.
WANTED, Sound Attractions, April 26, May 10, 17, 24, June 14, on. Apply, Sherwood and Co.

WANTED, Strong Drama for three nights, March 18, 19, 20, and First-class Musical Comedies, onwards. Manager, Hippodrome, Sheerness.

EMPIRE THEATRE, SWINDON.
WANTED, First-class Musical Comedy and Dramatic Attractions; also Big Variety Combinations. Apply direct to Alfred Manners,
Wanted, Strong Attraction for Whit-Week; also June 14. Now Booking Autumn.

EMPIRE AND THEATRE ROYAL, HYDE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 15, onwards; pop. 33,000; surrounding district 60,000. Coms., W. Turner, Regent, Salford.

OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER.
WANTED, High-class Companies; holds £100; March 29, Easter, and Autumn. Bookings: "Merry Widow," "Dairymaids," "Prince of Pilsen," "Prodigal Son," &c. All coms., J. P. Moore, King's Hall, Birmingham.

WANTED, for Bognor Musical Comedy Theatrical Companies, Concert Parties, Touring Bands, Pier and Variety Entertainments, &c., on sharing terms. Now booking best dates for season from April 12. Particulars, Box 5,567, "The Era."

THEATRES WANTED.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres April 26, on
Charles Harrington,
Theatre Royal, Wednesbury.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
Re-dressed and re-mounted.
Costumes by Messrs. Harrison.
Scenery and properties by Willie Leigh.
WANTED, April 12, 26. May 17, 24, 31.
All communications, J. W. Corbiner,
March 8, Hippodrome, Barry Dock.

WILLIAM MOLLISON.
WANTED, March 29, April 26, also Autumn dates. Address, William Mollison, Castle Theatre, Stockton-on-Tees; or, Sidney Cooper, Lyceum Theatre, Newport, Mon.

THEATRES WANTED.

THE IAN MACLAREN REPERTOIRE CO.
THE IAN MACLAREN REPERTOIRE CO.
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Under Sole Direction
of
E. Oswald Brooks.

The
most completely equipped
Shakespearean Répertoire Company
now Touring.

E. Oswald Brooks
as a
Responsible Lessee and Manager
guarantees
First-class Productions
of
every Play presented.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, First-class Theatres only,
March 22
(between Northampton and Huddersfield),
April 5
(Certainty only considered for five nights and matinée),
April 19, onward
(follows return Easter at Coventry),
&c.
Now Booking Autumn,
preparatory to London Season 1910.

Present Bookings and Pencillings include
Gaiety, Manchester;
Shakespeare, Liverpool;
Alex., Widnes (second return);
Grand, Swansea;
Royal, Merthyr (return);
&c., &c.

All coms. to
E. Oswald Brooks,
Sole Lessee and Manager,
Grand Theatre, Swansea.
Tel. address:
"Determined, Swansea."

N.B.
Comparison with
other Shakespearean Companies
is welcomed, and not feared.
See our Productions,
then judge.
Huge new Plant of Armour
for
"Julius Cæsar," &c.
No expense spared
to give
absolutely the best.

"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
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"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
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"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
at
GAIETY THEATRE, DUBLIN.

Irish Times, Feb. 23:—
For over two hours kept a crowded house in roars of laughter . . . completely fulfils its mission. . . . bright and lively, up-to-date in sparkling dialogue . . . a thoroughly enjoyable and smartly-acted performance. . . . Mr. Brooks has selected a first-class company.

"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."

Irish Independent, Feb. 23:—
Of course this new housemaid is funny—she is shriekingly funny—a more farcical farce, in fact, than the Aunt of Charley. . . . The audience looking on rocks with laughter at the delightful nonsense of the whole proceedings. . . . The one object of farce is to create laughter. This piece at the Gaiety achieves its object. The company are hard-working, and they keep top-key throughout.

"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."

Freeman's Journal, Feb. 23:—
It serves the great purpose of creating universal laughter . . . all who were concerned exerted themselves with zeal and earnestness . . . no better exponents could it have. The performance was followed with great interest, and was loudly applauded.

"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."

These are
honest critiques,
entirely unbiassed.
If further evidence
be considered necessary,
Mr. Brooks
cordially invites Managers
to refer to
Mrs. Gunn
as to the
business done
during first week of Lent.
Five nights and matinée.
Figure-quoting
has been done to death,
but write and ask
Mrs. Gunn
for figures of

"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Good Theatres only,
Good Theatres only,
Good Theatres only,
Good Theatres only,
to follow these dates:
March 1,
H. M. T., Barrow-in-Furness;
March 8,
Hippodrome, Scarborough;
March 15,
H. M. Opera House, Blackpool;
March 22,
Theatre Royal, Leamington.

All coms.
to
E. Oswald Brooks,
Sole Lessee and Manager,
Grand Theatre, Swansea.

Tel. Address,
"Determined, Swansea."

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE BEGGAR GIRL'S WEDDING."
WALTER MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION.
WANTED, April 5, Oct. 25, Nov. 1.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, April 6, Sept. 6.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, April 26.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
WANTED, Theatres, May 10, Sept. 20, 27.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
WANTED, Aug. 9, 16, 23.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

FREDERICK MELVILLE'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, Theatres, April 5, Aug. 9, Sept. 13.
Frederick Melville,
14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES."
WANTED, June 21, 28, Aug. 2, 16 (?), 30, Sept. 6, 20, 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 1, on. Tom H. Taylor, 25, Flanchford-road, Ravenscourt Park, W.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, April 5, Aug. 2, 9, 16.
Douglas Bruce,
New Theatre, Burton-on-Trent.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."
WANTED, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 30.
Andrew Melville, Mel. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."
WANTED, April 12, Aug. 9, 16, 23.
Andrew Emm, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, for this Phenomenal Success,
Weeks of May 10th and 17th.
Wire or write to
W. W. Kelly,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
WANTED, Weeks, of
April 12th and 19,
for this Remarkable Success,
which in a fortnight at Dublin played to £1,400, and at Belfast
turned hundreds away nightly.
Wire or write to W. W. Kelly,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."
EUGENE C. STAFFORD'S No. 1 CO.
WANTED, March 29 (?), April 5 (?), 19; also Oct. 11, 18, 25, Nov. 8, onwards.
Letters or telegrams to
Bishopsdale, Biddenden, Kent.

"THE SORROWS OF SATAN,"
and
"NANA, THE RAGE OF PARIS."
WANTED, April 12, various on, for these
superbly dressed, mounted, and acted Plays.
Lois Esmond, Royal Palace T., Ramsgate (R.); March 8, County Hall, Salisbury (R.).

MURRAY KING AND HIS COMPANY, IN "TODDLES."
"TODDLES."
WANTED, March 29, April 19, 26, May 17, Aug. 2, Sept. 6, 13, Oct. 4, 11, onwards.
Next week, Opera House, Cheltenham.

MR. BULMER'S ENTERPRISES.
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
Vacant Aug. 30 (?), Nov. 1, 8, Aug. 1, on.
"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
Vacant Aug. 2, on, with exceptions.
"THAT LONDON WOMAN."
"THAT LONDON WOMAN."
WANTED, First-class Theatres.
Fred Bulmer,
Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, W.C.

ERNEST R. ABBOTT'S "SAPHO."
WANTED, to precede and follow Nottingham (third visit), the weeks of March 15 and 29. Fourth year of tour. Enormous plant of private printing. The finest and most artistic "Sapho" travelling. Note.—"Sapho" can, if required, be played in conjunction with our strong répertoire of eight plays. Wire, Ernest R. Abbott, Hippodrome, Pontycymmer, S. Wales, till March 13.

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANY.
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
A Powerful Domestic Drama, in four Acts.
By Walter Howe.
WANTED, April 26, May 3, 17, 24, 31, June 21, Aug. 2, 9, on.
East Oxford Theatre, Oxford, March 8.

WANTED, March 29, April 5, 12, "Under Two Flags," "At Cripple Creek." Mark Blow, 11, St. Edmund's-terrace, Regent's Park, London.

S. RENNEF AND G. M. COPPING'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, "Love Rules the World," April 26 (to follow Prince's, Preston), May 3, 10, 17, 24; Whit Week, T. R., South Shields. Several Summer Dates "How Women Ruin Men." G. M. Copping, G. T., Chorley, Lancs.

MR. SEYMOUR HICKS'S PRINCIPAL CO.
"THE GAY GORDONS."
WANTED, April 12, Mr. Seymour Hicks's Principal Company,
including Mr. Stanley Brett and
Miss Maie Ash, and the
Original Production from the
Aldwych Theatre.
Wanted, April 12.
Wire, Hamilton,
Aldwych Theatre, London, W.C.

WANTED, March 29, on, include Easter, "THE MARRIAGE OF KITTY."
Weatherbey's Agency, 3, Bedford-st., London, W.C.

"HER FATAL MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Theatre, March 22.
Wire or write.
Arthur Hinton, Grand, Rawtenstall.

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Arthur Hinton, Grand, Rawtenstall.

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Arthur Hinton, Grand, Rawtenstall.

"HER FATAL MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Theatre, March 22.
Arthur Hinton, Grand, Rawtenstall.

WANTED, April 5, 12, 19, May 24, 31, July 19, Aug. 2, for "The Cingalee." Wire,
Haldane Crichton, Th., Norwich; next, Dalston.

"DANDY FIFTH."
WANTED, March 22, South preferred. Wire to-day, Corri,
County H., St. Albans. Letters, West P., Brighton.

"THE POWER OF THE CROSS" (under the Sole Direction of the Author)
WANTED, March 15, March 15 (precede Manchester). Wire, wire, wire. "A FIGHT FOR A THRONE," no vacant dates. Geo. A. De Gray, to-day, Torquay; next, Met. T., Devonport.

"A BROKEN HEART."
WANTED, First-class Theatres. April 5 and 19.
Harry Foxwell, Junction Theatre, Manchester.

"LUCKY 'LIZA."
WANTED, April 12, 19, and 26, for this great success.
Sixteen Artists (not Chorus).
South Managers please refer
A. Seebold, Esq., T. R., Worthing.
Dickie Clare, Hippodrome, Sheerness.

GEORGE A. DE GRAY presents his latest new Play, "THE ANGEL OF HIS DREAMS."
Production, April 26, Theatre Royal, Castleford
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 2, 9, Sept. 20. All coms., Geo. A. De Gray, Met. T., Devonport.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates, for
"HOW GIRLS ARE BROUGHT TO RUIN."
"HOW GIRLS ARE BROUGHT TO RUIN."
"HOW GIRLS ARE BROUGHT TO RUIN."
The Talk of Every Town.
The Talk of Every Town.
A Pantomime Attraction.
A Pantomime Attraction.
Refer,
Queen's Theatre, Liverpool,
Theatre Royal, Belfast,
Carlton Theatre, Saltley,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth,
or
Come and see it.
Come and see it.
Played by a
Strong Company of Picked Artists.
Mounted in a Superb Manner.
We travel everything.
Advertised and Boomed by Experts.
A Moneymaker.
The business proves its worth.
Vacant
April 12, 19 (?), May 17, June 7, 14, 28.
Morton Powell,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

New Play
By
Mrs. Morton Powell.
WANTED, Dates, Aug. 2, 9, 16.
Managers booking this will be certain of securing a well-written, well-acted, well-mounted attraction, and one which it is believed will rival the success of any modern drama.
Morton Powell,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

"HONOUR THY FATHER."
WANTED, Dates, for this Great Success. Entire New Production, Play, and Scenery, Brought right up to date.
Booked at Manchester (2), Leeds, Bradford, Sheffield, Rochdale, Dewsbury, Bury, Birmingham, &c., &c., &c.
Morton Powell,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

"GREED OF GOLD."
WANTED, Dates, March 22, 29, April 12, 26. Only Vacant Dates till November.
Morton Powell,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST."
Grand Pantomime Extravaganza.
WANTED, First-class Theatres, March 22, 29, April 5, Easter Week, onwards.
Cast includes—
Miss Mary Poulton,
Miss Hilda De Gray,
Miss Dollie Barry,
The Sisters Kebble,
Miss Florence Milton,
Daleno and Stream,
Barrie and Wood,
Sammy Foster,
Leslie Austin,
Sidney Milton,
The Casino Belles (Troupe of Dancers).
Company of
35 Performers. 35
Gorgeously Mounted and Dressed.
Managers with Vacant Dates for this Money-maker communicate at once with
Fred Granville, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, Dates, for Fred Moule and E. W. Avery's 1909-10 Pantomime Production, "CINDERELLA,"
Refined, Operatic, and Funny.
Address,
153, Capworth-street, Leyton.

Mr. TOM WATTS' COMPANY.
"EAST LYNNE"
Original Bullock Version
(By Arrangement with J. Pitt Hardacre).
WANTED, Theatres, March 22, 29, April 12.
Mr. Edmund Kennedy as Archibald Carlyle;
Miss Julie Kennard as Lady Isobel.
Acknowledged to be the Best Company Ever Toured with this Version.
No Doubles.
All communications to
Cecil Elgar,
Star Theatre, Liverpool.

"BABES IN THE WOOD."
WANTED, Jan. 10, 1910, and on, for this Record Production, to follow Royal, Chatham. Barnard, Elephant Theatre, S.E.

The New Star.
"THE HEATHEN AND THE CHRISTIAN."
WANTED, May 31 (?), Aug. 2 and 23.
Enormous success at T. R. Sunderland.
Return booked.
Frank Adair, March 8, Metropole, Gateshead.

Mr. REGINALD DANCE'S COMPANY.
WANTED, First-class Theatres, for Mr. Cosmo Hamilton's New Comedy, "A SENSE OF HUMOUR."
Special Cast includes
Mr. Reginald Dance,
Mr. Edward Irwin,
Miss May Brooke,
and
Miss Beryl Faber.
Vacant April 12, 19, 26, May 17, 24.
Apply to Mr. Augustus Bingham, 44, Cranbourn-street, Leicester-square, London, W.C.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"ROLLICKING RORY."
Romantic Irish Musical Fairy Play.
Only two Vacant Dates this year.
April 5 and 12 (Midlands or South).
WANTED, First-class Theatres.
March 8, T. R., Dewsbury.

"THE 10.30 DOWN EXPRESS"
and
"GUILTY GOLD."
WANTED, June 7, 28, large Theatres only.
Horace Stanley,
Goole (3), Lincoln (3), third visit.

MR. AND MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COS.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
WANTED, March 22, April 5.
"BOUND TO WIN."
April 12, 19, 26, and Whit Week.
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR."
March 29, March 29, April 26.
The Shows to Draw the Money. Refer.
Wire, Kimberley, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

"THE MADEIRA MAID," Musical Comedy in Two Acts, in its Second Year of Tour. Full Chorus (22 voices).
WANTED, Theatres, April 5, May 24 (follow Royal, Edinburgh), Whit, and several Summer Dates owing to Extension of Spring Tour. August Bank Holiday Vacant. Charles Carey, Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, W.C.

"I DEFY THE WORLD."
By Arthur Shirley and B. Hill-Mitchelson.
WANTED, First-class Theatre, April 12, April 12, to follow Bordesley and precede Scotland.
Address,
C. M. Julian, New T., Aberdare.

WANTED, Theatres of a First-class Order for The Tschin Maa Band of Real Chunchusens Chinesens, Seven in Number. Magicians, Acrobats, Dancers, Equilibrists, &c. The Greatest Oriental Feature Ever Imported to England. The feature for fourteen weeks at Alhambra Theatre, London, and Every Theatre and Circus of Note in Europe. Will Supply Company of Artists of Repute.
Vacant March 22, '09, onwards.
Address all communications to
J. Deutsch, Manager.
Opera House, Southport.
Managers, Please Note.—The duration of the Tschin Maa Troupe is 45 minutes, and includes the only real Chinese ladies at present touring Europe.

THEATRES WANTED.

MISS HILDA BEVERLEY
in
"A DESTROYER OF MEN."

WANTED, Theatres, for
a Few Vacant Dates in 1909.
Now Booking 1910.

Miss HILDA BEVERLEY,
"A Girl's Cross Roads" Co.,
March 8, Elephant and Castle Th., London, S.E.

FRED GRANVILLE'S PRODUCTIONS, LTD.
Pantomimes:
"BABES IN THE WOOD."

WANTED, Good Theatres,
March 22, 29, April 5, and Easter Week.
Production 1909-10 Settled.

"ALADDIN."
Production 1909-10 Settled.
Wanted, good Theatres, Jan. 24, 31, Feb. 7, 14.

"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST."
Production 1909-10 Settled.
Wanted, good Theatres, Jan. 3, 17, 24, 31.
Managers Note.
These Pantomimes are First-class in every way. Beautifully Mounted and Dressed. All Star Casts. Grand Specialities and Full Chorus.

Plays: "THE BETTER LAND."
A High-class, Powerful Domestic Drama. A winner.
Through Theatre Closing,
Wanted, Easter Week.
Wanted, Easter Week.
Wanted, Easter Week.
Also Vacant Aug. 9, 23, 30, Sept. 13, 27, onwards.

"ANOTHER MAN'S WIFE."
An Instantaneous and Emphatic Success.
A Perfect Production.
Wanted, good Theatres, March 29, April 5,
Easter Week, onwards.
Re Dates for FRED GRANVILLE'S Productions, Ltd.,
Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

ALFRED PAUMIER, WALTER HOWARD'S,
ALFRED PAUMIER, WALTER HOWARD'S,
"THE PRINCE AND THE BEGGAR MAID"
and
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING,"
from
the
Lyceum Theatre,
London.

WANTED, Theatre, for
"THE PRINCE AND THE BEGGAR MAID," March 15. Wire for this,
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING,"
May 3, 10, 17, 24.
To-day, Alexandra Theatre, Hull.
Next week, GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.

MONTAGUE BEAUDYN'S SUCCESSES.
"SEND HIM VICTORIOUS."

WANTED, April 5, April 5,
also Aug. 9, 30.
"THE POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN,"
"THE POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN,"
Vacant July 26, Aug. 23.
"A TRAITOR PRINCE,"
"A TRAITOR PRINCE,"
Vacant May 31, May 31.
"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND,"
Vacant April 5, Sept. 6.
Now Booking all above for 1910.
Wire or write,
This, Barry Dock; next, T. R., Leicester.

MISS MARY NEIL,
in her Great Successes,
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS,"
by Charles Darrell,
and
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
by Charles Darrell,

WANTED, Wanted, Theatres,
Vacant for either Play,
April 5, May 10 and 24, June 7.

Coms to GEO. KIRK,
this and next, Colosseum T., Oldham
(playing both Dramas).

"MOTHER."

WANTED, Good Theatres, April 5, 19, 26.
HARRY FOXWELL, Junction Theatre, M'chester.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
for March, April, and onwards,
THE ADVERTISING RIGHTS
THE ADVERTISING RIGHTS
ON CURTAINS and PROGRAMMES,
ON CURTAINS and PROGRAMMES,
in a few more First-class Theatres and Variety Halls in any part of England.

The firm is barely five years old, therefore have no out-of-date methods, but we have during that short period built up a
BIG REPUTATION FOR
SMART ARTISTIC CURTAINS
STRAIGHTFORWARD DEALINGS
WITH THE ADVERTISERS,
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"THE IDOL OF PARIS,"
By Charles Darrell.

WANTED. First-class Theatres,
March 15, Wire,
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April 12,
Miss Annie Bell as Flare-Flare,
Supported by an all-round Star Company.
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JAMES BELL.
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WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Nov. 1, 8, Dec. 6, 13, and 27.
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BOSWELL'S STAGE CIRCUS.
WANTED, Theatres and Halls, March 15 and on with exceptions, magnificent programme, grand stud of performing Ponies, Donkeys, Dogs, and a full Company of Varieties; good printing; everything carried. Rental or share.

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WANTED, Theatres and Halls, March 22 and 29, Lancashire preferred. Magnificent Programme. Grand Stud of Performing Ponies, Donkeys, Dogs, and a Full Company of Varieties. Good printing. Everything carried.
Rental or share.
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ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Artists to Know.
MARSHALL MOORE,
MARSHALL MOORE,
the well-known Producer of Plays,
many years at Drury Lane and late Producer London Coliseum,
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WANTED, Artists, for "The Private Secretary," commencing August Bank Holiday. Age, height, refs., lowest terms, ladies' photos., E. GRAHAM-FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-class Leading Man, Leading Lady, Heavy Man, Heavy Lady, Comedian, Chambermaid, Responsible Man, and Clever Child Actress. Rehearse Liverpool, March 15. Terms, refs., and full particulars to FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool. Mark envelopes "Drama."

"LOVE THAT WOMEN DESIRE" CO.
WANTED, Intense Character Actor, tall, rehearse immediately. Send full particulars G. CARLETON WALLACE, 107, Esmond-road, Bedford Park, W.

"THE OLD FOLKS AT HOME."
WANTED, to rehearse March 15, Wigan, Young Actor for Second Juvenile; must have splendid appearance, and dress smartly. Send photos and full particulars. Also pretty Young Chambermaid. Not sing or dance. Photos. and full particulars to J. A. CAMPBELL, Theatre Royal, North Shields.

WANTED, Dashing Juvenile Lady, for Music Hall Artist's part, Vocalist and good Dancer. JULIAN GRAHAM, "Gay Goddess" Co., Grand T., Falkirk.

"MAN TO MAN."
WANTED, Smart Comedian, for Plumtree; also Carpenter, own Tools, Small Part, and Baggage; other Important Vacancies. Terms, refs., age, height, photos. (stamp for return). Silence in all cases a courteous negative. CLIFFORD BOWN, 32, Church-road, Moseley, Birmingham.

"I DEFY THE WORLD" TOUR.
WANTED, immediately, through illness, good Character Actor and Low Comedian.
Wire,
C. M. JULIAN, to-day, Llanelly; Monday, Aberdare.

"A WOMAN WORTH WINNING."
WANTED, First-class Low Comedian. Photos. and full particulars, A. B. MACKAY, Marina T., Lowestoft.

WANTED, thoroughly experienced Heavy Man, must have power, dress well; rehearse immediately. Photos., refs., and full particulars to GEO. KIRK, Colosseum T., Oldham.

WANTED, Good, Agile Knockabout Actor, able to do splits. Age, height, terms, to JOHN LEOPOLD, Leoville, Broadstairs.

WANTED, Good, Reliable, Robust Man, for Buckwheat in "Frivolity" and Colonel Scorcher in "Houseboat." Apply by letter, stating terms, height, and last engagement, JOHN LEOPOLD, Palace, Tottenham, London.

WANTED, for First-class Musical Comedy Sketch, rehearse March 15, Tall Gentleman (fiery colonel's part), smart young Juvenile Man, Juvenile Lady, two Chorus Gentlemen (Baritone and Bass), and good Quartette or Sextette of Dancers. Note.—All must dress well on and off the stage and must be prepared to go right through the Summer. Age, height, photo. Salary, last two references, which will be applied for, particulars, SYD BAZLEY, Manager for Ludwig Hoffman's Enterprises, Permanent, 54, Liverpool-street, Salford.

WANTED, for Sketch Production, March 29, Manchester, rehearse 23rd, Southport, Tall Elegant Lady (young), play small important part, wear handsome walking gown, suit Russian Countess; Tall Gentleman, for small Russian Military part (5ft. 11in.); also Intense Character Actor, small part. Full particulars, GRAHAME and HARRINGTON, Palace, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Smart All-round Dancers, Ladies who Know their Business.
Must be young, clever, and good-looking.
Call, with practice dress, 11 to 4,
any day during this and next week.
SINCLAIR, 118, Kennington-road, S.E.

WANTED, First-rate Ballet Dancers. Apply personally, Monday morning, 11 o'clock, ROBERT WALTERS, Masonic Hall, Camberwell New-rd.

WANTED, Theatrical Artists who performed on London Stages before 1860,
to kindly send
their names and addresses to
Box 5,588,
C/o "The Era."

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Bonus £1 paid for good Engagement, recognised Company, Tour, experienced Comedy Actress; refs., appearance, wardrobe good. Box 5,565, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Well-Educated Amateur will give Bonus for Privilege of Entering First-class Répertoire Company. Box 5,574, "The Era."

WANTED, by Harvard University Graduate of Sterling Ability the Opportunity to Read a Part for Managers. Box No. 5,573, "The Era."

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Comedians, next season's Pantos. Last two references, address where performing next three week, age, photos., lowest terms, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists all Lines. Age, height, photo., salary, last two references. Particulars, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Good Chorus Ladies, next Pantomime Season. Age, height, names, addresses last two references, photo., lowest terms, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Scenic Artists, Theatre Managers, &c., to write for Leete's Catalogue of colours, varnishes, painting brushes, and every requisite for scene painting and theatre decoration. The fullest range of colours in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, good Scenic Artist; must be thoroughly experienced and quick, for Contract Work. Apply by letter, stating experience and salary required, &c., to MANAGER, Queen's P., Poplar, E.

WANTED, Scenic Artist, Good at Lettering, to Paint Advertising Curtain. Full particulars, BEANLAND and EMERSON, Albert T., Brighouse.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions, Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, Contracts, for Painting Scenery, First-class Work guaranteed. CECIL B. HICKS, Painting Room, Princess's Theatre, Oxford street, London, W.

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WANTED, Contracts for Scenery of all kinds, Secondhand Scenery, both for Theatres and Fit-ups, for Sale. E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

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BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE, ROYAL VICTORIA PAVILION.
THE BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE ENTERTAINMENTS ASSOCIATION.

WANTED, a Manager, to take Sole Charge of the above Place of Entertainment and the Public Bars attached thereto. Applicants must have had theatrical experience and management of indoor amusements. Salary £3 per week and commission on net profits. Written application must be accompanied by three recent testimonials and addressed to the Chairman of the Borough of Ramsgate Entertainments Association, Town Hall, Ramsgate, endorsed "Pavilion," on or before March 13.

WANTED, Known, Splendid Opportunity for Lady or Gentleman to Finance Strong Sporting Drama; moderate capital. Author well-known, having written one of the Biggest Successes; London Production, and Tour to follow. Write, stating amount at disposal, Box 5,079, Willing's, 125 Strand, London, W.C.

WANTED, Acting Manager, for Established Variety and Picture Hall in Provinces, long engagement given, advertiser having long lease; must invest £100 at 10%. Weekly salary £2 10s. Twelve months' contract given. Address, Box 5,506, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Living Pictures, Showmen's Enterprises, Music Hall Artists Productions, &c., any established Show (with prospects) requiring financial help can be accommodated up to £100 on partnership terms; must bear full investigation. Write particulars,
KAY,
Box 5,510, "The Era."

WANTED, for Stephenson and Hardiker's Circus, commencing Easter Monday, tenting Ireland, Advance Agent not afraid to use Brush and attend Pony and Trap. Lowest terms, PHINAS, Hippodrome, Birkenhead.

WANTED, immediately, good Property Man, must be quick, industrious, sober; highest references. Write, stating qualifications, terms, BROADLEY, Gaiety Theatre, Manchester.

WANTED, Engagement, by Stage-Manager and Carpenter; two houses nightly; London experience; Lightning Programme. PAT, 702, Holloway-road. Good references.

WANTED, by Young Gentleman (23), well educated, abstainer, position of trust in Theatre, Music Hall, or Agency; good Knowledge of Theatrical and Variety Business; excellent testimonials. Small salary; London preferred. Box 5,586, "The Era."

WANTED, by Experienced Skater, Position as Rink or Floor Manager.
Highest reference.
Apply, Box 5,582, "The Era."

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WILLIAMS,
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ELECTRICIAN, 41, Charles-street, Stepney, London.

WANTED, Engagement, Master Carpenter, bench hand, touch up; highest credentials.
CARPENTER, G.P.O., Wednesbury, Staffs.

WANTED, Known, Disengaged from April 3, H. Dobson, Hallkeeper, London Hippodrome nine years; Open for Doorkeeper, or Stage, Flies, Props, or work in any capacity; good refs. Address, 24, Paris-street, Lambeth Palace-road.

WANTED, Berth by an experienced Wardrobe Mistress, can take Production right through, thoroughly understands Wig work; also have 60 White Wigs for sale, only used this season; no Touring. M., c/o Mrs. Deed, 8, Malvern-mews, Malvern-road, West Kilburn.

WANTED, Situation as French Useful Maid to Professional Lady.
A. C., 60, Blythe-road, West Kensington.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, Leader, commence March 15 (hours 7 till 10.15), small Orchestra, First-class Hotel references. Age, terms, Hindenberg my leader at Southport. Write, BERLEY, 6, Kitchener-rd., Dover.

WANTED, to open March 15, good Variety Leader; permanency if suitable. Terms, age, and references to CHAS. ELPHINSTONE, Grand Theatre, Hanley, Staffs.

WANTED, Violinist, for Monday, March 8, for Basingstoke. Wire or call,
J. GREEN, 133, Clapham-road.

WANTED, Good Violinist, Lady, capable of Leading (Season); experienced Cornetist also write (Soloist). In first instance, DIRECTOR, Box 5,679, "The Era."

WANTED, Two First Cornets (one as Conductor; must have large Répertoire, Marches, Waltzes Two-Steps, &c.), Second Cornet, Trombone, French Horn, Euphonium, Bass, Drums, with all Effects. Particulars to HARRY HUNTER, Manager American Roller Skating Rink, Queen's-street South, Huddersfield.

WANTED, Good Cornet Player; permanency to suitable person. Terms, age, and references (which will be inquired into); sobriety indispensable. Other Instrumentalists may write to J. R. BINGLEY, Musical-Director, P. O. W. Theatre, Grimsby.

WANTED, a good Cornet or Clarionet Player as an Attendant in a County Asylum. Salary commencing £34, increasing to £48. All found; extra pay if promoted; single man
Apply, with testimonials, to
W. GRAINGER, Co. Asylum, Stafford.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, at once, good Solo Cornet and Euphonium, for Tenting Season; those used to the business wire. BANDMASTER, Fossett's Circus, Okengates, Salop.

C. W. POOLE'S MYRIORAMA.
WANTED, Solo Cornet, open March 15; assist with fittings when travelling. Apply, A. S. MORRELL, Hippodrome, West Bromwich.

ROYAL COURT THEATRE, WARRINGTON.
WANTED, First-class Clarionet and Cornet, to open March 22. Terms and refs., J. WILDE, Musical-Director.

WANTED, Clarionet, Euphonium, Horn (E Flat), a Side Drum, for Pitching. Terms Shares; all the year round for good man. BANDMASTER, 11, Hall-place, Edgware-road, W.

WANTED, First-class Trombone, for High-class Musical Act; Knowledge of Trumpeting required; permanency to steady, reliable man. Apply, J. T. MORRISON, 3, Taylor-street, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, for Sir Robert Fossett's Tenting Season, E flat Bombardon, Solo Trombone, and other Brass Instrumentalist. Apply E. COOK, B.M., Tiffield, Northamptonshire.

ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER.
WANTED, First-class Flute Player, Open at Once. Write, full particulars and lowest terms, references, &c., to C. B. FOUNTAINE, Manager.

WANTED, immediately, Pianist for Picture Show; young and energetic. Wire,
LESLIE BELL, Sydenham Palace, Coventry.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
THE CLEVEDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL, SOMERSET,
is open to receive offers from a Concert Party and String Band for the Sole Right of Performance during the present season.

Applications to be sent to the Clerk
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WANTED, Instrumentalists for Corporation Military Band, including a certain number capable of combining Strings, 14 weeks' engagement, commencing May 29, 1909. First-class performers only need apply, and must forward with application two testimonials of recent date, addressed J. S. HOWGILL, Pavilion, Weymouth, who will be pleased to hear from members of his previous Bands.

WANTED, for Alexandra's Circus, to commence Sat., March 13, First-class Solo Cornet, 35s.; Second Cornet, 30s.; Trombone, 32s. 6d.; Euphonium, 32s. 6d.; Horn, 30s.; Bass, 32s. 6d.; Drums, 30s. None but sober, reliable men need apply. Address, ALEXANDRA, Arboretum Inn, East-street, Worcester.

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WANTED, Violins, Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Cornet, Trombone, and Drums. State age and last engagements. Apply, MUSICAL-DIRECTOR, 49, West-hill, St. Leonards.

WANTED, Orchestral Instrumentalists, also Leader and Pianist, Double Drummer (own Tympanies, Bells, &c.), for about thirteen weeks, Summer, East Coast, Double Hand and Soloists preferred; trial essential; experienced. Particulars, lowest terms, Box 5,581, "Era."

WANTED, for Season, six months, from Easter, Instrumentalists (brass), also Double Drummer for Skating Rink.
Write, Box 5,569, "The Era."

WANTED, Instrumentalists, for Military Band, who can combine strings, season band, July to Sept. Terms, refs., and age, BELLERBY, Deneholme, Ilkley.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

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MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Conductor, Disengaged March 25; valuable Library. Reference Jules Richeux, Esq., 3½ years; Summer Orchestra, Solo Instruments, moderate terms. Pavilion, Ramsgate.

WANTED, Engagement, Charles Weldon, Conductor; wife Pianist (Vocalist); both concluding Special Month at King's Theatre, Kirkcaldy, March 13. Best offers only.

WANTED, Known, Musical-Director, Pianist, Disengaged Now; Compose, Arrange, Read at Sight, MS. Wire or write, CONDUCTOR, 43, St. Aubyn-street, Devonport.

WANTED, by Musical Director, Violin and Piano, a Post in First-class Theatre; £20 premium, for permanency only.
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WANTED, Summer Engagement, in Orchestra and as Soloists, by Two Ladies, competent Violinists and Viola Players, L.R.A.M.; good readers; experienced Orchestral and Chamber Music. Excellent refs. Apply, Miss CATHARINE STARTUP, 30, Leigh-road South, Bristol.

WANTED, by Lady Violinist, also good Pianist, Engagement in Orchestra or for Accompanying Professionals. C., 3, Lebanon Park-mansions, Twickenham.

WANTED, by experienced Second Violin, Engagement; Theatre or Music Hall. VIOLINIST, 148, Clouds Hill-road, St. George, Bristol.

WANTED, Engagement, Second Violin or Drums; thoroughly experienced any business, can open immediately. STEVENSON, 22, Agnes-st., Maryhill, Glasgow.

WANTED, Engagement as Violinist, experienced in Ball Room or Orchestral Music, for Summer Season. F. MARSH, Holywell-lane, Conisbro', near Rotherham.

WANTED, Re-engagement, Second Violinist, well up in Variety; highest references; no Sunday post.—VIOLINIST, c/o Lawrence, Castle-st., Bolsover, Derbyshire.

WANTED, Known, Brilliant Solo Violinist and 'Cellist combined; lady wishes to join good Concert Party. Apply, Box 5,576, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, at Liberty from May 1, Ida Macqualter, Cornet Soloist; 3½ years Soloist with Bisera's. 3, Glenroy-st., Shepherd's Bush, W.

WANTED, Engagement by Cornet, First or Second, experienced, abstainer; good ref.
J. LONG, Tunn-street, Fakenham, Norfolk.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Cornet, Summer Engagement; experienced.
Address, BISHOP, Skating Rink, Dundee.

WANTED, by Cornet, Engagement, permanency desired; could start at once.
Apply, CORNET, 29, Endless-street, Salisbury.

WANTED, Season's Engagement as Solo Cornet, military or String, experienced and reliable; good refs. J. RIDDETT, 19, Cantrell-road, Bow, E.

WANTED, Engagement, by Clarionet; life abstainer; London preferred; good testimonials and refs. WHITE, 274, St. Paul's-rd., Highbury, N.

WANTED, Engagement as Clarionet (good), for Summer Season, String or Military; good refs.; distance no object. Address, J. RYAN, New Hippodrome, West Bromwich.

WANTED, Season Engagement, as Clarionet, B Flat or E Flat, E Flat preferred. F. W. ATHERTON, 1, Rosemont, Market-street, Torquay.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Clarionet, young and steady; good references; any business. L. SHUTT, 31, Charlotte-rd., Sheffield.

WANTED, Engagement, by Clarionet, experienced, Military Band and Orchestra; good refs. Apply, J. KNIGHT, Bandmaster, Norton Barracks, Worcester.

WANTED, by Double Bass, Good Engagement.
J. WIGHT,
Municipal Orchestra, Bournemouth.

WANTED, by Lady Bassoonist, Engagement in First-class Orchestra; experienced. References. Apply, Box 5,517, "The Era."

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WANTED, Known, Double Bass, good refs., excellent instrument, open for Summer, any business. CHISHOLM, Hippodrome, Paisley.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by Bass (J. Scott) and 'Cello.
GEO. CHALDER, Grand Theatre, Croydon.

WANTED, by thoroughly experienced Contra Basso, Engagement, Disengaged 8th inst, Opera, Theatre, or Concert. Highest credentials. WILL DARLEY, 11 Sheil-road, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement, by good Trombone, thoroughly experienced; Theatre or Music Hall; Now at Liberty. Address, GRIFFIN, Church-street, Bawtry, Yorks.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty May 1st, Eva Evelyn, Trombone, five years with Bisera's. Perm. Add., 43, Marsala-road, Lewisham, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, as Trombonist, any business; at Liberty March 15.
W. J. FARROW, 50, Cuthbert-street, Gateshead.

WANTED, by First-class Euphonium Soloist, combine Trombone, Engagement, Summer or Permanency; fully experienced; excellent refs. Apply, GEORGE GRUBER, Pulborough, Sussex.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty from May 1, Dorothy Hirst, Euphonium and Double Bass; 3½ years with Bisera's. P. A., 3, Glenroy-st., Shepherd's Bush, W.

WANTED, Engagement, through closing, by First-class Bombardon, String Bass; thoroughly experienced, any business. BARBER, 17, Glen-view, Ton-y-Pandy, Wales.

WANTED, by experienced Bombardon, good Summer Engagement, open for Tuba in Orchestra. Address, TUBA, 39, Henry-st, Chatham.

WANTED, by French Hornist, Summer Engagement, Orchestra or Military, competent and reliable, first-class testimonials. Apply, MUSICIAN, 70, Meanley-road, Manor Park.

WANTED, Known, Albert Janssens, fine Solo Violoncellist, fine Orchestral Musician who was for two winters at Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie, Brussels; afterwards engaged as Solo Violoncellist in Finland; now in Abo, City or Town Orchestra, and in Pavlowsk (Russia) during the last summer; has from everywhere the best references; he is looking for a Summer Engagement in England. Age 23. Address, 25, Arsenikgatan, Abo, Finland. Repertory: Concertos, Lalo, Davidoff in A, Saint-Saens in A, Deswert in D, &c.

WANTED, Engagement, as 'Cellist, Music Hall or Theatre; experienced; good reader, or to deputise. 170 Roundthorne-road, Oldham, Lancs.

WANTED, by 'Cello, combine Second Violin; age 24; steady. 'CELLO, 47, Walpole-road, Teddington, Middlesex.

WANTED, Engagements, by Misses Harrison, Harp and Violin, duets, solos, orchestral, and vocal. For terms and dates, Messrs. FORSYTH BROS., LTD., 126, Deansgate, Manchester.

WANTED, Engagement, as Harpist, can combine second violin, or would play double bass, steady and reliable. Address, STEWART, 2, Howden-terrace, Leeds.

WANTED, Engagement, by Flute and Piccolo, any business, experienced all lines; good refs. SMYTH, 15, Treherne-road, Brixton, London.

WANTED, by Flautist, Re-engagement, any Business; first-class refs.; steady at all times. Address, FLAUTIST, 30, Cromwell-street, Millfield, Sunderland.

WANTED, Engagement, by Pianist, Violinist; experienced, abstainer; excellent refs; Theatre, Music Hall, Pictures, or Rink. MANTON, 98, Mayfield, Smithfield-road, Wrexham.

WANTED, by Lady, Engagement as Accompanist; good Sight-reader. Terms by the hour. M. T., 47B, Fulham Park-gardens, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Good Orchestral Pianist; experienced, reliable; excellent references. ROWLAND CLARK, 23, Lebanon-road, Croydon. 'Phone 835 P.O.

WANTED, Engagement, as Double Drums, Effects, Tympani; good refs.; thoroughly reliable; permanency. F. CHARLES, Welcome Lodge, Avondale-road, Eastbourne.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by First-class Tympanist, three Tympani, Glockenspiel, and Effects, brilliant Xylophone Soloist. WADSWORTH, 11, Montague-street, Edinburgh.

WANTED, an Engagement for Double Drums and Effects, permanency preferred; First-class refs. TOM BURT, 181, Lovett-st., Cleethorpes.

WANTED, Engagement, by Fine Cymbal Player, for Solos, Accompaniments, and Bands; plays with Music or Without. Write, OMERO, 146, Albany-st., Regent's Park, London, N.W.

WANTED, Offers for Miss Winnie Watson's Ladies' Poppy Orchestra, Soloists and Singers, from Franco-British and Principal Exhibitions, now Folkestone; Southport Pier following. 'Phone, 5,100 Nat. 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton.

WANTED, Known, Shikissimma Band, Original Ladies' Japanese Orchestra, all Soloists; latest Répertoire. CONDUCTRESS, Winshill, Howard-road, Newbury.

WANTED, Known, the Grosvenor Ladies' Quartette and Trio, Dis.; also Vocalists and Dancers. WILTON DAVIS, Manager, 42, Linton-st., Islington, N.

WANTED, Known, the Imperial Ladies' Orchestras vacant, Musicians, Vocalists, Bells, &c., now Skating Rink, Stratford. MADAME BAKER, 114, Woodlands-road, Ilford.

WANTED, Engagement, for Easter Week, by Orchestra of Seven Players; good ref. Apply, BARTLE, Moorhead-street, Colne, Lancs.

WANTED, Engagement, by Small Brass Band; tenting or otherwise; good répertoire music. L. WALTERS, 15, Lower Drayton-place, Croydon, Surrey.

WANTED, by Military Band, Engagements, town or seaside; smart uniform; good répertoire. B. M., 56, Chipstead-st., Parsons Green, S.W.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, for Sir Robert Fossett's Circus, April 12, First-class Equestrians and Specialities, also one or two good Clowns.
Address, Sir R. Fossett,
Tilfield Lodge, Tilfield, near Towcester.
Please accept three days' silence as a polite negative.

KEIGHLEY FRIENDLY SOCIETIES THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL FETE AND GALA, to be held June 19, 1909.

WANTED, Acrobats, Gymnasts, Jugglers, Wire-walkers, Big Novelties, Fireworks, &c., to send lowest terms to J. W. Clayton, 34, Bradford-road, Keighley. All tenders to be in on or before Monday, March 15. All to be endorsed "Gala."

WANTED, Whit Week, Fêtes, Sensational and Comedy Specialities. Full bookings, lithos., Gannon, West-grove, Bristol. Telegrams, "Fêtes, Bristol." Telephone, 2,636.

WANTED, Circus Artists, Stud Groom, Tent-master, Leader, and Small Band. Address, Fred Lewis, Stitt's Hotel, 20, Great George's-st., Belfast.

WANTED, Good Leaper, able to tumble well.
Box 5,585, "The Era."

WANTED, old Circus, Booth, Fair, and Street Performers, whose London experience goes back fifty years, to greatly oblige by sending their names and addresses to
Box 5,587,
C/o "The Era."

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Crockett's Continental Circus at Liberty for Summer Season, with handsome Stud of Performing Horses and Ponies, and the best Riders in the World.
Address, Crockett,
129, Liverpool-road, Islington, London.

WANTED, Known, that the THREE ROYAL OHMYS, favourite riders to the Crown Prince of Denmark, and greatest of all Acrobatic Bareback Equestrians on one, two, three, and four horses, will be at Liberty for a few weeks March 15, before opening at the Grand Circus, Curzon Hall, Birmingham; six great Acts and four beautiful trained Horses. Grand Wardrobe, Posters, and Lithos., &c.
For further particulars address,
King Ohmy, Blackpool.

WANTED, Known, C. Tamamoto, the Japanese Blondin, the greatest Perpendicular Rope Performer in the World, displaying most sensational Rope-climbing with Flying Descent; also marvellous Slack Wire; a Peerless Act. Good Lithos. No swanking. Dates and Terms apply, Leo Fayre, Cecil House, 41, Charing Cross-road, or 330, Camberwell New-road, London.

WANTED, Known, Don Pedro the Great, Unparalleled and most Daring High-wire Performer, Open for Fêtes and Galas.
Terms, 99, Rhyddings Park-road, Swansea.

WANTED, Known, New Blondin and Son Leno, at Liberty for Fêtes and Galas; High-rope Artists. Address, 41, Somerville-street, Crewe; or Birmingham.

WANTED, Engagements, for Airship Flights, Balloon Ascents, Captive Balloons, Balloon Races, Parachute Descents, gas or hot-air balloons, by Lady or Gentlemen Aeronauts.
Spencer Bros., Ltd.,
45a, Aberdeen-park, Highbury, London, N.

Balloon Ascents and Parachute Descents.
WANTED, Engagements, for Parachute Descents of a Sensational and Attractive character. Terms and all particulars write Aeronaut, Box 5,594, "The Era."

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.
WANTED, First-class Variety Artists. Twice Nightly; also WORCESTER EMPIRE, Twice Nightly. Wanted, Artists doing Double Turns, used to Picture Shows. No wires, please. Arthur Carlton, Palace, Worcester.

BRITANNIA, GLASGOW.
WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, March 15 and onwards, with exceptions. Apply, A. E. Pickard, Sole Proprietor and Manager.

CLYDEBANK NEW GAIETY THEATRE.
WANTED, Variety Artists, First-class Acts of all Kinds, Star Comedians, Comediennes, Good Comedy Acts, Specialities, Sketches, &c., &c., for Immediate and Future Dates. A. E. Pickard, Sole Proprietor and Manager.

CLYDEBANK NEW GAIETY THEATRE.
WANTED, Variety Artists, First-class Acts of all Kinds, Good Comedy Acts, Star Comedians and Comediennes, Reliable Specialities, Sketches, &c., &c., March 22 and onward. A. E. Pickard, Sole Proprietor and Manager.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Branches, for Scotland. Address, James Anderson, the Old Reliable Scotch Agent, at the Musical Artists' Club, 32, Stockwell-street, Glasgow. Open from 11 till 3 and from 7 till 12 p.m.; on Sundays, from 10 a.m. till 12.0 midnight.

WANTED, Monday, March 15, and onwards, Variety Artists, all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, Kitchingman, Aquarium, Scarborough.

VERNO'S AGENCY,
15, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, March 15, onwards; nothing too big. State bookings, terms, &c.; we can place you. Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone 2075 Royal.

WANTED, Variety Artists, Monday next and on, good Illustrated Songs, Specialities, &c. Wire for Monday, James Elphinstone, Lyceum T., Stafford.

EDGAR STEBBINGS AND CO.,
Variety and Fête Agents,
28, Egerton-street, Manchester.
WANTED, Music Hall Artists all Lines, March 15, onwards,
Big Speciality Acts for
Fêtes and Seaside Towns.
Terms, Bookings, Lithos.,
Edgar Stebbings and Co.,
28, Egerton-street, Manchester.
Telegraphic address, "Stebbing, Manchester."
Telephone 9261.

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
William Mould, Central Palace, North Shields.

NORTHAMPTON.
WANTED, Artists in all Lines, direct or through Agents. Particulars, terms, and bookings, Fred H. Anderson, Palace, Notrhampton N.B.—This Hall makes a very convenient break in railway journeys North, &c.

VICTORIA T., STANLEY, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Star Artists for immediate and future dates. T. C. Rawes, Proprietor.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now onwards.
Apply, Mr. J. J. Scott, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artists, Double Turns or Sketches doing Singles, two weeks, March 22, 29.
Charles A. James, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

THE ALLIANCE THEATRICAL AND VARIETY AGENCY, LTD.,
18-20, Manchester-street, Liverpool.
'Phone 6782 Central. Telegrams, "Films."
Manager, Edwin W. Smith, late Parthenon and Haymarket Music Halls.
Always Openings for Star Acts. Nothing too Big.
WANTED, Artists in all Lines to send List of Bookings and Absolute Lowest Terms. Sole booking agents for Alhambra, Belfast, St. George's Hall, Belfast, Hippodrome, Staveley, and Entertainments, Ltd., Tour.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Monday next, and on. Doubles doing Singles, Sisters, Cheap Specialities, hall small. Arthur Izon, Empress Palace, Morley, Yorks.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Artists of Note
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
DALTON'S AGENCY.
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DALTON'S AGENCY. I can book you.
DALTON'S AGENCY. Immediate Dates,
DALTON'S AGENCY. and
DALTON'S AGENCY. Dates onward.
DALTON'S AGENCY. No Guessing.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
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DALTON'S AGENCY. Send full list
DALTON'S AGENCY. and very lowest
DALTON'S AGENCY. (this essential),
DALTON'S AGENCY. and permanent addresses,
DALTON'S AGENCY. also
DALTON'S AGENCY. weekly apartments
DALTON'S AGENCY. address.
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DALTON'S AGENCY. 29, Mauldeth-road West,
DALTON'S AGENCY. Withington,
DALTON'S AGENCY. Manchester.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
I said "Agency."

N.B.—State where never played.
Viviana and Co. wire address. Urgent.

O. MAUS DAYTON'S
ANGLO-CONTINENTAL AGENCY.
WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for England and the Continent.
Immediate Dates.
Nothing too Big; Nothing too Expensive if Acts with Drawing Powers.
Artists keep me posted. Fresh clients send full list of bookings, lowest terms, &c.
Thanks. Thanks. Thanks
to Proprietors, Managers, and Artists for Patronage.
Proprietors and Managers requiring Reliable Acts for immediate or future dates please remember the above Agency.
Terms as per Arbitrator's Award.
Artists, Please Note.—It is impossible to answer all Read my Half-column Advt. on other Page.
Communication
The Dayton Family,
Grand Theatre, Doncaster.

HIPPODROME, LEEK, STAFFS.
WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, with Drawing Powers, from March 29, on, to follow the Wonderful Mahatma, who has packed each house nightly Hall small, so send lowest terms.
Sole Proprietress, Mrs. Jane Williams.
General-Manager, Mr. Charles Williams.
Acting-Manager, Mr. Jack Morton.
Treasury every Saturday, 12 o'clock
Honesty is the best policy.—Shakespeare.

PALACE, WATFORD.
WANTED, First-class Artists, all Lines, March 29, April 12, May 3. Full particulars, letters only, Cadle's Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Artists, for Pierrots, for Watford, Matlock, Fleetwood, &c. Only those who know their business need write. Gustave, Empire, Cradley

WANTED, Artists all Lines, Monday next and onwards, bigger the better. Maurice Fritz's Agency, 100, Newington Green-road, Canonbury, London, N.

WANTED, Artists of all Descriptions. Write or call, with full particulars,
J. W. Johnson,
Variety and Pantomime Agent,
64, Waterloo-road, S.E.

WANTED, for March 15, and onwards,
Stars in all Lines.
Stars in all Lines.
Full up for smaller items.
Cadle's Agency, 105-6, Strand, W.C.

EMPIRE, GREENOCK.
WANTED, Stars and Novelties, share or certainty; also Good Combinations. Apply, Manager.

JOHN R. POOLE'S AGENCY.
WANTED, for Weston-super-Mare, April 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, Speciality Turns of all Kinds. Refinement absolutely essential.
Apply, Lecture Hall, Ipswich.

WANTED, three big Star Top of Bill Turns, March 15; nothing too big; Comedy Act preferable. Wire, Beanland and Emerson, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

WANTED, Sensational Talent of Every Description,
suitable for High-class Fêtes
for the Summer Season, especially August.
Really good turns.
Address, Manager of Fetes,
James Pain and Sons, 9, St. Mary-axe, E.C.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY. 'Phone 234Y5 Tron.
WANTED, the Very Best of Talent in all Lines for now and on; Big and Small Turns write at once. Bayley, 170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.
WANTED, Big Attractions, on Shares or Certainty, to follow Cullen and Carthy's "Babes in the Wood," Dr. Bodie, &c.
James Fioni's Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

HORACE CAMPKIN'S AGENCY,
HORACE CAMPKIN'S AGENCY,
HORACE CAMPKIN'S AGENCY,
HORACE CAMPKIN'S AGENCY,
14, Norton-street, Liverpool.
14, Norton-street, Liverpool.

Telegraphic address, "Campkin, Liverpool."
Telephone, 1192 Royal.

WANTED, First-class Acts of every description, March 15, onward.

Communicate immediately, with fullest particulars, to
HORACE CAMPKIN'S AGENCY,
HORACE CAMPKIN'S AGENCY,
HORACE CAMPKIN'S AGENCY,
HORACE CAMPKIN'S AGENCY,
14, Norton-street, Liverpool.
14, Norton-street, Liverpool.

SMYTHSON'S AGENCY.
WANTED, the Biggest of Big Acts New Acts state where can be seen.
Good Acts known to me send full list of bookings.
Quote actual lowest, London and Provinces.
Silence polite negative pro tem.

All communications to Smythson,
38, Craster-rd., Brixton Hill, London, S.W.
No callers except by appointment.
W. L. Murray please send address.

WANTED, March 1, onwards, Star Speciality and Variety Acts, all Lines. Artists booked Syndicate Tours, S. Wales, can have date to follow or precede. Gannon, West-grove, Bristol. Telephone 2636. Wires, "Fêtes, Bristol."

WANTED, Acts of all kinds, S. Wales and District, now and on; also Flying Act for Gala. Bookings and terms, Martino's Agency, 25, Horsedge-street, Oldham.

WANTED, Five Acts, Four Days, May 31, twice daily, Northampton; also Good Doubles doing a Single, for small picture show, Lancs, immediate dates. McAskell's Agency, Hippodrome, Peterborough.

DEETRICH AGENCY CO., 31, ISLINGTON, LIVERPOOL. 'Phone 1269 Royal.
WANTED, Star Acts of Every Description, to communicate, with full particulars, &c., for immediate Dates.

WANTED, Greatest Acts in the Profession. Send terms, lithos., full bookings, The Man You Know, Professor Ainsworth, Stag Hotel, Stockton-on-Tees.

HIPPODROME, WAKEFIELD.
WANTED, First-class Combinations, for June 7, 14, 21, 28, July 5, 12, 19, 26; must be first-class, or useless. Alfred Selwyn, Grand Theatre, Blackpool.

EMPIRE THEATRE, SWINDON.
WANTED, Big Top-liner, for April 5. Full particulars, Alfred Selwyn, G. T., Blackpool.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

HIPPODROME, WAKEFIELD.
WANTED, Novelties and Big Comedy Acts, of every description. Full list of dates and terms to Alfred Selwyn, Grand Theatre, Blackpool.

WANTED, the Solid Cream of the World's Attractions, for
Seasides,
Galas,
and
Every Town of Note.

James Fioni's Agency, 21, Norton-st., Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool."
Telephone 1686 Royal.

EMPIRE THEATRE, HULL.
WANTED, Sensational and Sporting Novelties, for Immediate and Future Dates. Full particulars of Act, whether able to work Competitions, &c., together with lowest terms, to Alfred Selwyn, Grand Theatre, Blackpool.

ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, CASTLEFORD.
WANTED, Big Top Liners, Artists of Every Description. Nothing too Big, March 15, onwards. Full particulars, Beanland and Emerson, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

PALACE THEATRE, READING.
WANTED, Tops and Bottoms of Bills, several dates this and next year. Letters only, Stanhope and Co., Ltd., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Star Tops, Bigger the Better Send bookings, lowest, and perm. add., to Keeble's Agency, 231, King-st., Hammersmith, W.

GRAN TEATRO SORIANO, BARCELONA.
First-class Theatre and Music Hall.
Proprietors and Managers, Soriano Brothers.
Leading and Most Important Place of Amusement in Spain.
First-class Artists Only play at Sorianos.
Two Shows Daily. Sunday Matinée.
Important Notice.
WANTED, Wanted, Known,
Applications for Engagements by Artists or Agents must be made direct to the Sole and Exclusive Agent for this House
Mr. Juan A. Caicedo, 155, Kennington-road, Lambeth, London, S.E.
Applications for Contracts, with absolutely lowest terms and pictorial matter should be sent to Mr. Caicedo, as above,
Telegraphic and cable add., "Caicedo, London."

WANTED, Concert Parties, Orchestras, &c., Summer Season, shares preferred, large enclosed ground, bandstand, lamps, seats, illuminations, &c. Apply to The Coventry Cricket Ground Co., Ltd., Coventry.

WANTED, a First-class Picture Show, half-hour nightly and Children's Matinée; gas. Lowest inclusive (resident). Royston, Pavilion, Northwich.

WANTED, thoroughly trustworthy and reliable Cinematograph Operator; gas and electric; single, abstainer, one preferred with knowledge of working Illuminated Fairy Fountain. Write age, references, wage, and full particulars, Box 5,572, "Era" Office.

270 Replies.
WANTED, Wanted, Known,
Sir,—
I inserted an advertisement, asking for Music Hall Artists in the last week's issue of "The Era." May I say that I am absolutely astounded at the number of replies I received to my small advertisement, no less than 270 Artists favouring me with applications. May I by this means thank the many artists who sent in their terms, as it is impossible for me to reply to each individual. I thank all for their very kind promptitude in responding to my advertisement.
I remain, yours faithfully,
Alfred Ball.
New Lyceum, Tilbury Docks, Essex.
3/12/'08.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, March 29 (follow Hippo., King's Lynn), also Easter, Lord Leighton's Venus, in New Playlet, Salome and Vaudeville. Palace, Boston.

WANTED, Known, Ethel Yorke, Dainty and Refined Comedienne, Liberty March 8, 15. Big success, Empire, Dudley. Wire, Wire.

WANTED, Monday next, Nellie Wilson, through Change of Management, Palace, Camberwell. Wire, Palace, Reading; after Saturday, 67, Burton-road, Brixton, London, S.W.

WANTED, Monday next, by Kitty Russell, American Illustrated Songstress (own slides), also Serio and Pianist, suitable for good Picture Show. Wire, Albert Hall, Barnstaple. Refer Man.

WANTED, March 15, by Sheila McNeil, Scotch Comedy Artist, to follow Grand Theatre, Luton, where wire or write.

WANTED, Monday next, by Réné, the Girl Juggler, and Roy Beavis, Deceptionist, between Manchester and London. Wire, Regent Theatre, Salford.

WANTED, by Two Beatrices, Duettists and Expert Dancers, Monday next, also March 15. Wire, 23, St. George's-road, Southwark, London, S.E.

WANTED, Monday next, by Ted Young, Comedian; also March 15. Wire, 95, Fentiman-road, Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, March 15, by Wyllie, Comedy Tramp Musician (ten instruments); a real good act; Comedy and Talent. Finish to-night with Great Success, Hippo., Bolton; next week, Tivoli, Dublin.

WANTED, immediate Dates, by ? Groves? Impersonator of Classical Vocalists, Soubrettes, and Burlesque Ballet Dancer. Wire, 20, King Edward-street, Lambeth-road, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Dan Rodney, the New Comedian, smart, and what a hit, vacant Monday next. Wire, Palace, New Brighton.

WANTED, Monday next, by Barney Stuart, Character Actor, Vocalist, and Mimic. Wire, Hippo., Ton-y-Pandy; after Sat., 4, Canterbury-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, Monday next, March 9, by Jack Calvo, Comedian and Speciality Dancer. Com., 35, North Ormesby-road, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, March 8 and 15 and April 17, Ba Val, Happy Dutchman (Concertina). Empire, Ystalyfera, S. Wales.

WANTED, Known, Bandoni, One-man Band, Liberty March 8, 15.
20, Windsor-terrace, Southampton.

WANTED, Known, Edgar Budden, Champion Skate Dancer of the World, bar nobody. Very big success this week, Hippo., Darlington; Vacant Monday. Also Millie Denham, Popular Chorus Singer.

WANTED, March 15 and 22, by Li Chang Hi, Chinese Conjurer par excellence. D.C. lithos. Next week, Hippo., Tredegar. Wire or write.

WANTED, by Morimura, Japanese Illusionist, assisted by Miss Miako, Monday next, also 15th and 22nd. Wire or write, 13, Windsor-terrace, Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, by Little Hackenschmidt, the famous World's Champion Bantam-weight Wrestler, Sensational Challenges nightly. Vacant March 22, 29, Share or Salary. All coms., 34, Margaret-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Good Agent, Good Agent,
by THE BOHEMIANS
(WILL and MADGE), Instrumentalists.
One that can Push our Act.
We've Got the Show.
Hit of Every Programme.
Vacant Monday. Wire.
Bohemians, Theatre Royal, Tyldesley, Lancs.

WANTED, March 8, onward, May Geraldine, Chic Comedienne and Dancer; also The Great Kyoto, Japanese Pot Pourri, Contortionist, Conjurer, and Dog. Wire, 15, Haslemere-avenue, Bridlington. Any distance.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.
D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.
D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.
D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.
D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.

WANTED, April 12, in Scotland,
Wanted, April 12, in Scotland,
Wanted, April 12, in Scotland,
Wanted, April 12, in Scotland,
Wanted, April 12, in Scotland,

owing to Pavilion, Kirkcaldy, changing, to follow Edinburgh and precede Dundee.

Also June 7 and 28,
Also June 7 and 28,

July 5 and 19.
July 5 and 19.

No further open dates until July, 1910.
No further open dates until July, 1910.

Will accept same through any Agent or Direct.
Will accept same through any Agent or Direct.

W. J. D'Arc,

This week,
Hippodrome, Rotherhithe, London.

Next week,
PALACE, HAMMERSMITH.

D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.
D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.
D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.
D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.
D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.

WANTED, March 15, by Harry Keeble, Ventriloquist, and Gladys Wells, Comedienne. Sure success, this, Alexandra, Pontefract; next, Empire, Bolton. Wire.

WANTED, by Mike and Lena, Dutch Comedy Duo, March 15, 22, 29, Original, Novel, and Funny, a Comedy Show. Hippo., Hyde.

WANTED, Known, Telford and Alicia, Comedian and Lady Gymnast, E. G. Falcon's Panto., ninth season; Liberty Monday. Offers. 13, Rye Hill-park, Peckham Rye, S.E.

WANTED, Monday next, also March 15, by Edie Le Brun, the Girl Cinquevalli and Clever Comedienne, assisted by Don Edgar. Wire, Theatre Royal, Grantham.

WANTED, 15th, 22nd, by The Evremonds, Laughable Duologue, "Quacks." Great Success in Australia. Write, 14, Railway-place, Bridge-street, Stratford.

WANTED, next week, by Fern and Fawn, Shriekingly Funny Duo, "The Conqueror," Good Singles. Comedian, Comedienne. Big Hit, Hippodrome, Ellesmere Port.

WANTED, Monday next, by Ryder Davis, Comedian; also Eva Ward, Burlesque Artist. This week, wire, Tivoli, Manchester; after Sat., 41, Cambridge-street, London, S.E.

WANTED, March 15, by E. W. Selman, Comedian; and Ivy Gallard, Comedienne; two Smartest Refined Acts on the road. Conclude Hip., Ton-y-Pandy; Monday, return, Hip., Rochdale.

WANTED, Monday next, by Douglas and Gordon (Don and Lil), Scotch Comedy, Singing, Dancing, Patter Act. 80, James-street, Jarrow.

WANTED, March 8, 15, 22, The Hentys (Walter and Blanche), Society Entertainers, in Vocal Comedy Sketch, "Matrimonial Discords." A sure success; can Double if required. Wire or write, Hippo., Ashton-in-Makerfield, Lancs.

WANTED, Monday next, also 15th, Capner and Steele, Character Duettists, Good Singles. Wire, Hippodrome, Tredegar, Mon. After Sat., Berwick-place, Nottingham.

WANTED, by Fields and Lewis, the Great Comedy Act, vacant Monday next, also Mar. 15. A Star Turn. Wire, Grand Theatre, Bolton; after Saturday, 35, Ducie-street, Oxford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, by Kirk and Saraski, March 15 and 22, the biggest draw and greatest attraction on the Variety Stage. Wire best offer, Empire, Hull; next, Hippodrome, Stockton-on-Tees.

WANTED, by Wright and Elton, Novel Comedy Duo, March 8, onwards. Wire, Hipp., King's Lynn; after Sat., 83, Lenthall-road, Dalston, London.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORKINGTON.
WANTED, by Pongorila and the Beautiful Zaida, to follow Royal County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames, week, March 22 and 29. Address, Empire Palace, Dudley.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty Monday, 8th, Lolo and May Trio, Lady Gymnasts and Contortionist and Dancers; also Liberty 15th and 22nd, only vacancies this year. Wire, Empire, Greenock.

WANTED, March 15, 22, 29, by Carta Mirtziana, dans leur Nouvelle Gymnastique, Equilibristique Création. Notice.—This is a new Act, different from all others. Managers who require a good Top or Bottom of Bill Act should secure this great show. Coms., 10, Tenison-street, York-road, S.E.

WANTED, Monday next, on, by La Dor Troupe, Male and Female Acrobats, three Acts, Comedy, Burlesque, Bull Fight. Post Office, Bacup.

WANTED, March 15, 22, Almo Trio, First-class Comedy Three-Bar Act, including Miss Lo-La, the Marvellous Lady Triple-Bar Expert. Close to-night New Theatre, Pontefract; next, Theatre, Worthing.

Wire March 15, 22, and 29, Wire.
The Great VINCENT, Acrobatic Table Expert.
The Great VINCENT, Acrobatic Table Expert.
WANTED, the above Dates, through transferring. Wire, 129, Linaker-st., Southport.

WANTED, Known, Les Zanonis, Boy and Girl Jugglers and Club Throwers, Vacant March 15. Big success, this, Hippodrome, Stalybridge; next, Grand, Blackpool.

WANTED, by McAleavey Marvels, the great Trick and Barrel Jumpers, March 15 and 29. Write or wire, Palace, Derby. Also later dates.

WANTED, by Mlle. Sylvesto, beautiful Contortionist, and her Funny Comedian Jumbo, in their Refined Drawing-room Act. Monday, March 8, 15, 22, Comedy and Talent combined. Wire, C/o Duthie, 102, New City-road, Glasgow.

WANTED, March 15, between Lowestoft and Burnley, by Gulliver, Ventriloquist. Big hit this week, Hippo., Yarmouth; Bottom of Bill. Monday, Hippo., Lowestoft.

WANTED, Known, Valvo, Great Ventriloquial Act, vacant March 8 and 15, Variety or Picture Shows. Wire, 12, Lapage-terrace, Bradford.

WANTED, Monday next, also March 29, by Hulbert (Ventriloquist) and De Lil (Illusionist). Wire, Hippodrome, Shrewsbury, Sat.; then, Union-road, Macclesfield.

WANTED, March 8, 15, 22, for Bert Wickham, "Man v. Motor," and Big Variety Company. Alfred Selwyn, Empire, York; Monday next, Grand Theatre, Blackpool.

WANTED, immediate Dates, Fred Southern's Sketches, by arrangement; also my own. Concluding Long Stock. Percy Emery, 122, Kensal-road, London, W.

WANTED, Known, Williams' Dogs, acknowledged by the Press as undoubtedly the Most Marvellous Exhibition of Dog-training ever witnessed; Fine Speciality for Pictures, Circus, &c. Vacant March 8, 15, 22. Rothwell, Haigh, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, Pauletti, Acrobatic Balancing and Juggling Eccentric Cyclist, vacant March 15, onwards. Perm., 106, Bigland-street, Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, Swift Duo, Funny Bicycle Speciality, Monday next, also 22nd, 29th.
Address, 99, Bristol-street, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday next, for "Whizzing the Whirl," Great Sporting Novelty, and Scottie's Operatic Ballet Troupe. Wire quick. Scottie, Hippodrome, Huddersfield.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Cyclinis Trio, Comedy Acrobatic Cyclists, Football on Wheels, Pal., Jarrow. Vac. 8th, 15th, 29th. Add. till Mon., 154, Ellison-street, Jarrow.

WANTED, Young Man, Comedy Acrobat, must be steady and reliable.
Address,
Box 5,544, "The Era."

WANTED, March 22, 29, Pollintas, Steeplechase Marionettes, Boxing Kangaroo, Skeleton Horse, Knockabouts; Few Dates Only. 2, High-street, Southend.

WANTED, Known, Prof. Lenton's Bioscope Entertainments; Change of Pictures Nightly or Weekly; Machines, Films, and Accessories Bought, Sold, or Hired Out to any amount. 2, Capener's-yard, Knightsbridge, S.W.

WANTED, March 8, on, for Gregory's Unique Life Motion Pictures, any length of show; also Violet St. Leger's Vocal Pictures. Wire, 44, Campbell-street, South Shields. Per. add., 76, Kent-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, Engagements for Bioscope.
F. T. Walker,
1, Lorne-street, Fairfield, Liverpool.

WANTED, Managers having Halls with Vacant Dates, in Town or Provinces, suitable for Bio Shows, to communicate with Box 5,570, "The Era" Office.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known, .22 Cartridges, "R," "H," "D," "P" brands, Winchester repeaters, Globes, Targets, Water Balls. Greene, 74, Falmouth-road, London, S.E.

CAKE WALK. BROOKLYN CAKE WALK.
WANTED, Known, Thousands of Pounds taken and waiting to be taken on these machines.
Cake Walk Riding Craze becoming Universal.
No waiting to load up.
11,000 passed over in one night at Hamburg Fair.
All the leading papers write about it.
Write for Press Opinions, terms, and full particulars, Patentees and Sole Makers, Taylor, Plinston Bros. and Co., 94, Farncombe-st., and 98, Bermondsey-wall, London, S.E.

WANTED, all Showmen owning Orchestraphones, in selecting their Music, to Secure that Famous Picture-Poem, the exquisite expression of a beautiful idea, "Valse Réconciliation,"
Composed by John Openshaw,
Played by all the Leading Orchestras in Europe,
Copies of which may now be obtained from
Chiappa and Sons,
6, Little Bath-street, Holborn, London.

WANTED, Known, to Fair-keepers, Swing, and Rifle Range Proprietors, Spagn's Stores, new address, 510, Kingsland-road, London; noted for Swing Ropes, Flare Lamps.

WANTED, Showmen to call at Pastimes, 53, Strand, and see Phillips' great new Side Show, now selling, specially suitable for Touring Exhibitions. Price £10. It's caught on.

WANTED, an Up-to-date Quick Side Show, for Shop, established place, right position in a large town; thousands of people to pull from, Glass Blowers and owners of Distorting Mirrors, or a good Novelty, also Auctioneers. Box 5,578, "The Era."

WANTED, Good Novelties, Quick-showing, with Paintings. Immediate Dates, for Large Shop. Share or salary. Exhibition, 100, Llewellyn-street, Pentre.

WANTED, Fat Lady or Other Good Side-show Attraction, for Season, Weston Pier; must be good money-taker. Apply, Justice, 6, Lynmouth-grove, Weston-super-Mare.

WANTED, a First-class Outside Parade, for a modern travelling Cinématograph Show; only those used to the business need apply; married couple preferred; living wagon found. State terms and particulars in first letter. Address, George Green, Carnival, Gallowgate, Glasgow.

WANTED, good Palmist, for Season, splendid position; also will Hire large Tent or Portable, view to purchase. Melville, Rathbone-gardens, Portobello.

WANTED, Hand-seller and Floorsman, who can get a pitch, at once.
Apply,
H. Rickhards, 24, High-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, Smart Floorsman (good packer). Wages and full particulars first letter. Also Auctioneer write. W. Knight, Corn Exchange, Banbury.

WANTED, Known, Madame Eugenie Leslie, Scientific Society Palmist, Phrenologist, Lecturer up-to-date, at Liberty. Address, c/o Geo. Howard, Billiard House, Cowdenbeath.

WANTED, Known, Will Furniss, First-class Pianist, Sight-reader, and Vamper, at Liberty for Auction Marts; steady, reliable. Add., 27, Middlemore-yard, Grantham, Lincs.

WANTED, Showmen to Know that the following is a complete
COPYRIGHT LIST OF FAIRS, FEASTS, WAKES, AND CARNIVALS, FOR MARCH.

ENGLAND.

6. Alnwick (6,700)	25. Henley-in-Arden (1,000)
6. Cambourne (8,200)	25. Leigh (Dorset) (400)
6. Hingham (1,600)	25. Okehampton (2,600)
6. Wisbech (9,425)	25. Stamfordham (900)
10. Colne (23,000)	26. Clitheroe (11,400)
13. Alnwick (6,700)	26. Durham (15,000)
13. Stockport (70,000)	27. Bridgnorth (6,000)
13. Wadebridge (3,300)	27. Stourbridge (16,000)
20. Alston (Cumbs.) (3,300)	29. Grantham (17,600)
20. Oldham (3,200)	29. Swindon (46,000)
22. Gomersall Feast	30. Ottery St. Mary (3,500)
22. Retford (4,200)	31. Tetbury (2,000)
22. Stamford (8,200)	31. Worthen (11,000)
23. Wooton-under-Edge (2,200)	

SCOTLAND.

2. Jedburgh (2,222)	11. Haddington (3,992)
6. Roxburgh (958)	17. Dumfries (18,680)

WALES.

8. Menai Bridge (1,800)	18. Cowbridge (1,000)
14. Penmorfa (1,486)	18. Rhyader (8,000)
16. Corwen (6,000)	27. Llanfyllin (2,000)
16. Pontardawe	

PLEASURE BEACH, BLACKPOOL.
Telegrams, "Popular, Blackpool."
Telephone 158 Blackpool.
The Leading Open-air Amusement Resort in the Country on the Sea Front.
WANTED, Known, opens at Easter for the Season, Scenic Railway, one mile long, Highest Water Chute in England, Canadian Toboggan, Motor Racing Track, &c., &c., &c., &c.
Address applications for anything really new to Proprietors, Pleasure Beach, Blackpool.

WANTED, Known.—Notice, Ground to Let, Bridgnorth May Fair (people usually attending please apply at once), also at the following: Church Stretton, Knighton, and Craven Arms May Fairs; Pontypool, Chamber of Commerce Great Fête and Gala (average attendance 40,000). I have also obtained concession from the Bristol Corporation for large Space of Ground at Ashton Park, Bedminster, for Easter Holidays. Special terms for Novelties; preference given to members of the Showmen's Guild. Marshall Hill, Fun City, Bedminster, Bristol.

TRADES EXHIBITION, KURSAAL, SOUTHEND, March 23 to April 3.
WANTED, Known, a few Spaces to Let. Apply, Renous, Kursaal, Southend.

WANTED, to Let, Two Spaces in Touring Exhibition, for Mirrors. Apply, Manager, Exhibition, Drill Hall, Tiverton, March 13, 20.

WANTED, to Let, Spaces for Automatic Machines in Arcadia, Scarboro. Apply, Catlin's Pierrots, Montgomery Hall, Sheffield.

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TELEGRAMS:
"Randvoll, London."
"Barrasford, London."

THE PALLADIUM, LONDON

(late Hengler's Circus), will be open August Bank Holiday, 1909.

THE ALHAMBRA, PARIS.

Horace Goldin, Iben-Obed Trio, Two Cabiacs, Gus Barra, Alexandra and Bertie, Three Ausonias, Serenaders, Heeley and Meeley, Hall and Earle, Denwartz Troupe, B. Troba, Les Berthos, Pictures, Stowe Bros.

HIPPODROME, BIRMINGHAM.

Bob Ftizsimmons, Tony Iveson, Henri and Tyler, Thompson Carruthers' Co., Brent Hayes, Annie Heath, Johnson and Devere, Pictures, Radford and Valentine, Paul Vandy.

HIPPODROME, BRIGHTON.

Harry Roxbury and Co., A. McKelvin, Lieut. Travis, Harry Nelson, Payen, Kartelli, Moller and Theodor, J. W. Barker, Terry and Bentley, Pictures, C. Wilbur and Co.

HIPPODROME, SHEFFIELD.

Hall and Macey, Effie White, Gillin, Bijou Troupe, Fimans, Markies, Pictures, Emerson and Baldwin, New York Comedy Four, Dorothy Gould.

HIPPODROME, LEEDS.

C. F. Best, Four Canadians, W. Ellwanger and Co., Vasilescu Trio, W. Fullbrook and Co., Tod Lowen, Bliss and Bliss, Pictures, Hal Godfrey and Co., Gus Harris.

PAVILION, NEWCASTLE.

Tortajada, Stuart and Evans, Belrose and Develin, Winifred Ward, Arthur Reece, Alf. Gibson, Jock Walker, Pictures, Klein Family.

HIPPODROME, ST. HELENS.

Tom Rose, Baddow, Four Victorias, Marie Jones, Fineberg, Harrigan and Holt, Mabel Thorne, Weisker Bioscope.

HIPPODROME, EALING.

Harry Taft, Bertha Winder, Nora Stockelle, Pictures, O'Gorman Bros., Wilson and Waring, King and Benson, Alan Holt and Co., Daisy Hurdle.

EMPRESS, BRIXTON.

Frank Harwood, Ambrose Thorne, Elsie Blanchard, Yvonne Lamore, Pictures, Callan and Adel, Carlotta De Yonson and Co., in "Sexton Blake," Jules Garrison Boys, Joe Elvin and Co., Charley, Sgt. Mumford, Tray and Rich, Lily Harmer, Bert Marsden.

PALACE, HAMMERSMITH.

Hal Forde, Fred Lincoln, Leonard Teel, Maud Esmond, Cassie Walmer, Pictures, Melbourne and McCarthy, Mooney and Holbein, Prince Kuroki, Robbins and Collier, Hackenschmidt, Elsie Bernard, D'Arc's Marionettes, Venie Clements.

THE WEEK'S CALLS

THE EMPIRE, HOLBORN.

Yvonne Lamore, Herbert Rale, Chas. Lilburn, Dave Samuels, James Fawn, Four Rosebuds, Daisy Irving, Johnny Summers and Film, Six Bros. Luck, Hackenschmidt, El Tampico Quartette, Les Georges Fils, Westwoods, Kiralfy's Girls.

OLYMPIA, SHOREDITCH.

Herbert Clifton, Gladys Huxley, Edna Latonne, Johnny Summers and Film, Graham's Juveniles, Johnny Fuller, Dandinis, F. Karno and "Jail Birds" Co., Jules Charmettes, T. E. Dunville, Lulu Evans, Kennedy's Kiddies.

HIPPODROME, WILLESDEN.

Herbert La Martine, Arthur Woodville, F. Karno's "Yap Yaps," Sisters Sprightley, Ella Shields, Ella Lane, Pictures, Bowden and Stol, Conan and Doyle, Mooney and Holbein, Kent and Keith.

EMPIRE, CROYDON.

Chas. Carr, L. B. Athol, Sisters Caselli, Evelyn Taylor, Lena Wylie, Alec Hurley and Co., Pictures, Woodhouse and Wells, Warsaw Bros., Kelly and Agnes.

ISLINGTON EMPIRE.

Joe O'Gorman, Clifton and Gibson, Tom Collins, Kitty Upton, Amy Clevere, Boisset Troupe, Pictures, Austin and Cowan, Recco, F. Karno and Co., "Jail Birds," Hinton and Wootton.

HIPPODROME, BALHAM.

Geo. Newburn, Walter Emerson, Gwennie Hasto, Sisters St. Julian, Pictures, Athas and Collins, Warsaw Bros., Jack and Evelyn, Joe Peterman and Co., Evelyn Taylor, Verno and Voyce.

HIPPODROME, PUTNEY.

Harry Zetter, Little Tich, Nellie Lunelle, Pictures, Thorpe and Coe, Primavesi, The Hiatts, "009 West," Sam Mayo, Minnie Paget, Kitty Alma.

HIPPODROME, POPLAR.

Bugler Carr, Ted Cowan, Helen Charles, Kathleen Gray, Chas Austin and Co., Pictures, Mendel, Fielding and Hull, Fidardy Trio, Marie Empress, Farley, Rennie, and Farley, Goldinis.

HIPPODROME, ROTHERHITHE.

Harry Rogerson, Gladys Huxley, Lilly Langtry, Chas. Austin and Co., Pictures, Graham's Juveniles, Paul Corrix, Beatrice Macadam, Lorne and Vallance.

PALACE, CAMBERWELL.

Madge Beresford, Pictures, The Great Lafayette, Gurney De Laporte, Fred Shephard.

THE LONDON CASINO

will be open at the end of November, 1908.

THE ALHAMBRA, BRUSSELS.

Les Ongars, Four Aces, Norman Leonard Trio, Les Marbas, F. Dufor, Mlle. Renee, Bros. Carpatti, Sisters Karitson, Dorvel, Les Ados, Pictures.

HIPPODROME, NOTTINGHAM.

Decima Moore, Philip Levard, Word Bros., Bostock's Baboons, Camplins, F. Fenton and Co., Rappo and Ella, Webb and Branston, Pictures, Sammy Shields.

HIPPODROME, LIVERPOOL.

Julian Rose, Anera, Three Spoons, Sisters Marion, Harry Levaine, Varsity Girls, Edie Veno, Phil Bransby, Pictures, Renroff, Mabel Green.

HIPPODROME, RICHMOND.

Dan Fraser, Pictures, Harry Cooke, Sam Mayo, Cassie Walmer, Evelyn Beresford, Roy and Fenton, Joly and Neilson, Muir and Bartlett, Jas. Willard and Co.

EMPIRE, SWINDON.

Musical Comedy and Dramatic Season.
Bill matter for this hall to be sent direct to Mr. Manners, Empire, Swindon.

KING'S THEATRE, SOUTHSEA

Three Braggs, Three Krakes, Milner and Storey, J. Holland and Co., Pictures.

HIPPODROME, WOOLWICH.

Chas. Stevens, Wilson Hallett, La Belle Nello, Kitty Clinton, John Lawson and Co., Pictures, Belles of the Kitchen, Stacey and Williams, Rose Cambry.

GRAND, CLAPHAM JUNCTION.

Dave Samuels, Herbert Clifton, F. Karno and Co., in "Yap Yaps," Lucy Coventry, Pictures, Howard and St. Clair, Kelly and Agnes, Leo Tell, Rolando Martin, Connie Leon.

HIPPODROME, PECKHAM.

Arden and Abel and Co., Pictures, Six Bros. Luck, Ltd., Royal Tokio Troupe, Clive Watts, See-Saw Girls, Dan Daly, Claire Vivian, Dorothy Vine, Pete and Juno.

BRITANNIA, HOXTON.

Drama, Twice Nightly.

KILBURN EMPIRE

(IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION).

ILFORD HIPPODROME

(IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION).

All communications, bill matter, &c., for London Halls to be sent to Mr. Walter Gibbons at above address.
Those for Mr. T. Barrasford at 11, Leicester Place.

INTERVIEWS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

BAND PARTS ARE REQUIRED FOR AT LEAST 14 DIFFERENT INSTRUMENTS.

OFFICE HOURS: 10 to 5 p.m.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, to Let, Shop, South Wales, Auctioneers, Entertainments, Medicine Men; good positions; open immediately. MICHAEL, 10, The Circle, Tredegar, Mon.

WANTED, to Let, at Doncaster, temporary, Good Shop, in best and busiest street, splendid position, rent £4 per week. A. STUBBS, Askern.

WANTED, Known, Simons is now Selling new Job Watches at unheard of low prices. Absolutely the cheapest warehouse for cheap Jewellery, Clocks, and Fancy Goods. I buy for cash and sell for cash. Address, 100-101, 102A, Houndsditch.

WANTED, Known, Preliminary Notice.
Wanted,
For Sale, For Sale,
By Public Auction,
on Tuesday, April 27, 1909.
The Whole of the Live Stock
forming The Scottish Zoo,
New City-road, Glasgow.
Full particulars next week,
Proprietor, B. H. BOSTOCK.

WANTED, to Sell, Lease of Shop, fitted for Bioscope Exhibition, just re-decorated, fitted electric light, separate exit, situated in the most crowded street in Brighton; season just commencing; immediate possession, or would let for £6 per month. SEYMOUR, 5, Titchbourne-street, Brighton.

WANTED, to Sell, Road Loco, 8 h.p, show engine, by Burrell, Thetford, 3 speeds, double crank, compound, springs, nearly new. REYNOLDS, Engineer, Bedford.

WANTED, to Sell, Small Road Cottage Wagon, suitable for 2, or for loading swag, in new condition. STRUDWICK, Burton Latimer.

WANTED, Known, to Pierrots, Auctioneers, &c., Barber's No. 3 Auction and Variety Pavilion, for immediate sale, 60 by 33; the smartest and cleanest on road, nearly new, Green Birkmyre Marquee, £100 lowest. BARBER'S Auction Hall, Mansfield.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
to Sell,
Orchestral Organ,
size 13ft. 6in. by 9ft., fully equipped with cymbals, drums, nine moving figures playing bells, 8 stops, 10 Cornopeans, pneumatic power, and large box of Roll Music, wants about £30 spending on it, and it will be a splendid instrument, suit large Roundabout Proprietor, £125, or best offer to
W. Fox,
Oakleigh, Gipsy-lane, Leicester.

WANTED, to Sell, Gold Framed Photos., Husbands, Wives, Babies, X-rays, latest sensation, marvellous value, your profits doubled. MEURICE, Argyle-square.

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WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines, all Kinds Lists free. Husband, Wife, Eye, Hair, Fortune, Astrologer Cards, 5s. 1,000; Loveletters, 9s. 6, Denning-road, Hampstead.

WANTED, Known, to Showmen and Circus Proprietors, that I have for sale Seven Midget Ponies, all broken to harness, height from 27in. to 36in.; one Midget Open Landau, two Midget Broughams, with harness for same, to be sold, together or separate. PROPRIETOR, 339, North End-road, Fulham, London.

WANTED, to Sell, American Game of Bowls, cost £40, sacrifice £7, 36ft. long; small Organ, 60s. ADVANCE, 510, Kingsland-road, London.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

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WANTED, to Sell, the Mystic Cross Illusion, with Original Music and Band Parts, and about 800 four-colour lithos, £10; make a splendid Side-show. LARCHER, Stafford-road, Weston-super-Mare.

WANTED, to Buy, a good Booth, suitable for Pictures, one complete with seats and inside linings preferred; also would Buy Couple of Trucks to go behind traction engine; will give ready cash for any of the above. IRVING BOSCO, Curzon Hall, Suffolk-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, to Buy, cheap, Cinématograph Booth, 40 by 30, or Cover, 40 by 30.
State lowest. Box 5,577, "The Era."

WANTED, to Buy, Waxworks, complete or Exhibition; must be perfect order. Description, particulars, lowest price. D. Willson send address.

WANTED, Gold and Silver Plating Set, similar to those used by Travelling Stands with Exhibitions. Send all particulars, MEGGITT, Electrician, Mansfield, Notts.

WANTED, a First-class Mechanic, for an Automatic Amusement Arcade, must understand all kinds of Automatic Machines. Salary and refs. MANAGER, Fun Palace, 46, Bull-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, the Seventy Thousand Showmen who use the Columns of "The Era" and are moving about should know that they can make "The Era" Offices their Permanent London Address. Letters received will be held till called for, or immediately re-addressed according to instructions. Address all communications respecting the Letter Department to the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, every Showman who uses the railway to send to "The Era" for a copy of the article on the new Railway Rates. This will be sent on application, free of charge, to any Showman in the United Kingdom.

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WANTED TO SELL.

WANTED, to Sell, Modern Built Music Hall, known as The Palace by the Sea and Theatre, Clacton-on-Sea; seating nearly 1,000 people, with pleasure gardens and other attractions; good situation on Marine Parade at this Popular Seaside Resort. Further particulars of FRANK G. BOWEN, 62A, Aldersgate-st., London, E.C.

WANTED, to Sell,
Picture Hall in North England, seating 650. Population 40,000; only place of amusement. Takings between £20 and £30 weekly.
Full particulars on application.
Box 5,571, "The Era."

WANTED, to Sell, Building, easily convertible for Skating Rink, 112ft. long, 33ft. wide. W. ADAMS, Bridge-street, Wednesbury.

WANTED, to Sell, Grand Production of "CINDERELLA" and "DICK WHITTINGTON" Pantomimes, as produced at the Theatre Royal, Nottingham, and Coronet Theatre, London, respectively, the Season just terminated. Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 244, Regent-street, S.W.

WANTED, to Sell, the "Prince of Pilsen" Production, acknowledged to be one of the best Productions Touring, Scenery and Dresses. Apply, BARON H. HARRISS, Waldorf Hotel, London.

WANTED TO SELL.

AT THE GRAND THEATRE, EDINBURGH.

On Monday, March 15,
at 11 o'clock,

SALE OF
THEATRICAL FITTINGS AND EFFECTS.

WANTED, Known, to be Sold, by instructions of the Proprietor, in consequence of the building being utilised for other purposes, comprising several hundreds Tip-up Fauteuil Seats and Forms, Stage Fittings, Fireproof Curtain, and Drop Scene, with Apparatus, Fire Extinguishing Apparatus, two large Electric Ventilator Fans, &c.

LYON AND TURNBULL, Auctioneers,
Edinburgh.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE,
BIRMINGHAM.

WANTED, to Sell,
the Magnificent Pantomime,
"BOY BLUE."
The finest and most successful Pantomime in the Provinces, now playing nightly to record business at the above Theatre. The beautiful Scenery, consisting of six full sets, six half sets, and four front cloths, by R. C. Oldham, D. G. Hall, Harry Emden, and K. J. McLennan.

The Magnificent Costumes (578) by Alias, Harrison's, Ltd., &c., from designs by Comelli.

Elaborate Properties and Electrical Effects.

For fuller particulars apply to
Mr. J. F. GRAHAM, Manager, as above.

WANTED, to Sell,
"ROBINSON CRUSOE" PANTOMIME,
appearing in its entirety,
TIVOLI MUSIC HALL, LIVERPOOL,
Weeks of March 8 and 15,
this being Fourteenth Week of Tour.

Intending Purchasers should not Miss
Seeing this Production.

Reason for Selling,
I have decided to run "Aladdin" and "Babes in the Wood" Only Next Season.

The Purchase to be completed by
Thursday, March 18.
Communicate,
HARRY BURNS, Proprietor.
Head Office: Welburn House, Hartlepool.

WANTED, to Sell, Several Pantomime Productions, as I am doing some different Subjects next year. ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, to Sell, a Quantity of Scenery, consisting of Flats and Set Pieces; also a Working Trap Scene on Stage. Apply, J. WOOLF, Wonderland, Whitechapel, E.

WANTED, to Sell, Cinematograph Machine, fitted with Condenser and Lens; also three Large Spools of Films; also 100 Slides, coloured. (This machine will show Films and Slides.) Ready for working; will suit Al-fresco Entertainers. The lot £10. A. SMITH, Operator, Chittock's Empire, Acton Green, Chiswick, London.

WANTED, to Sell, Great Bargain, High-class Cinematograph Outfit, complete, including Films. Cost nearly £100; sacrifice for £35. 10, Berners-st., Ipswich.

WANTED, to Sell, Cinematograph Arc Lamp, 100 ampère, brand new, cost £5 10s. sacrifice £2 10s.; also 153ft. 7/16 cable, cost 35s., accept 30s. to clear. Apply, POLLARD, 74, Henrietta-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, to Sell, Secondhand Films, 500,000ft., from 1d. per foot; no rubbish.
Send for lists. RAYMOND'S BIO-TABLEAUX Co., 56, Great Queen-street, W.C.

WANTED TO SELL.

WANTED, to Sell, Films, cheap, and Films for Hire, up-to-date.
THE BENDON TRADING Co., 75, Jamaica-st., Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, on Sale through finish of Pantomime, twelve small Ponies, all sizes and colours; used to children.
Apply,
FRASER, 8, Jackson's-row, Manchester.

WANTED, to Sell, four Pomeranian Puppies, 3½ months, two males, 2 females, blacks, little white on toes and breast. Males 25s., females 21s. each; bushy coats, good pedigree. On approval. SHARPLES, 12, Wareham-street, Little Harwood, Blackburn.

WANTED, to Sell, Young Fox Terrier Dog, excellent on hind legs, cheap.
A. L., Angel Hotel, Frome.

WANTED, to Sell, two Acetylene Generators, one to carry 12 lights, one to carry 16 lights. Price £4 and £5 respectively. Apply to CATLIN'S Pierrots, Montgomery Hall, Sheffield.

WANTED, to Sell, Up-to-date Trick Instruments; Musical Acts arranged. Try Lisle's Tubular Macaronis. 209, Camberwell New-rd., S.E.

To Jugglers.
To Jugglers.

WANTED, to Sell,
Illuminating Juggling Torches,
which change colour three times.
Can be seen every evening at the Palace Theatre, Shaftesbury-avenue.
Address, AMITA BARTLING, as above.

WANTED, Known, U. C. Ugo, having opened a Pawnbroker's Shop in Rhyl, will be pleased to see friends. I have for sale Full Flying Lady Show, great bargain; also Five Character Wigs, Velvet Coat and Vest (big size), and Motor Car Reply, King's Hall, Hanley.

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WANTED, to Sell, Own Popular Typed Version of "Three Musketeers" and other Free Plays, Sketches, Duos, &c. HAL COLLIER, Hippodrome, Grantham.

To the Publisher, "The Era."
6, Tavistock-street, Strand, London, W.C.
"Dear Sir,—I ordered the following advertisement to appear in your paper for two insertions:—

"'WANTED, to Sell, Self-acting Pianoforte, two barrels, twenty tunes, perfect condition. Cost £44; what offers? MEURICE, 39, Argyle-square, W.C.'

"Kindly do not insert my advertisement again, as the self-acting piano which I had to sell has been sold to Mr. Jack Woolf, of Wonderland fame, Whitechapel-road, E. I had also ten other applicants through my advertisement in "The Era."
"Yours faithfully,
"J. H. MEURICE."
"39, Argyle-square, W.C., Oct. 9, 1906."

WANTED TO BUY.

WANTED, to Buy, complete Electric Installation, for Circus Tent, must be in thorough working order. B. VOLPI, Royal Italian Circus, Andrew's Hall, Cardiff.

WANTED, Cheap Fancy Costumes, complete, must be in good condition. Apply (next two weeks), CARL and CARR, 46, Cooks-road, Kennington Park-road, S.E.

WANTED, to Buy, for Ready Cash, a large quantity of Films, any subject, in good condition. POOL and BOSCO, Picture Palace, Queen-street, West Bromwich.

WANTED TO BUY.

WANTED, several Sets of good Slides, for Illustrated Songs. Send list and lowest terms to MOXON, 101, Woodland-road, Clifton, Bristol.

WANTED, to Buy, four Secondhand Registering Turnstiles. State lowest price for cash. Apply to CATLIN'S Pierrots, Montgomery Hall, Sheffield.

WANTED, at once, some really Smart, Funny Patter, for Millionaire Motor-car Comedy Song. NANCE ELDER, New Empire, Rochdale.

WANTED, Lyrics, Patter, Gags, to be used by a Frenchman, in Scotch preferred.
Box 5,575, "The Era."

WANTED TO LET OR HIRE.

WANTED, Known, the Rehearsal Theatre, 21, Maiden-lane, Strand, W.C., to Let for Theatrical Performances, Concerts, Rehearsals, &c. Stage properly equipped in every detail. Low charges. 'Phone, Gerrard 2633.

WANTED, to Let, Victoria Rooms, Cheltenham, seat 1,000; vacant March 22 (six nights), April 15 to May 1. Wire, SHENTON.

WANTED, to Let, Empire, Riddings, from March 15 big working population, full dramatic licence, theatre, gas, piano, scenery, &c., £5 per week. GUSTAVE, Empire, Cradley.

WANTED, to Let, Dates in Mar. and onwards, Byculiah Athenæum, Enfield, any kind entertainment, Scenery, Electric Lighting. MANAGER.

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WANTED, to Let, a Good Theatre, in Yorkshire, with Flat Floor, suitable for Skating Rink. Only place of amusement in the town, with a large population within short radius. Vacant May 24. Reasonable terms. Apply, Box 5,545, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Films for Hire, 15s. per 1,000ft. per week. Send for new lists. Films for sale, from ½d. foot. CROSS, Gloucester House, Grays, Essex.

WANTED, to Let, Advertising Curtain, size 26ft. by 18ft., Arcadia, Scarboro'.
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or to invest in any sound venture
that will bear investigation;
would consider Partnership or Pictures.
Address in confidence,
Box 5,527, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, to Rent or Lease, Provincial Theatre; or would invest with view to Management. MANAGER, 44, Daneville-road, Denmark Hill, S.E.

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good seating for 800.
Address, particulars, Box 6,566, "The Era."

WANTED, to Rent or Lease, Theatre, Hall, or Pavilion, Provincial Town; distance no object. Letters, MANAGER, 23, Burchell-rd., Leyton.

FOR CONTINUATION OF "WANTED" ADVERTISEMENTS SEE PAGE 40.

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WORKING IN CONJUNCTION

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The Motor Chase, Cruickshank, Paxton Trio, Lina Marrder, Leipzig, Mann's Elephants, The Piccolinos, Boxing Kangaroo, The Four Jumels, The Fratellinis, Pathégraph, Consul.

EMPIRE PALACE, EDINBURGH.

Rehearsal at 1.30 for:—

Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco, Lily Esplin, J. W. Hall, Madge Temple, The Rawsons, Howell and Scott, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Meymott, George Young, Bioscope, The Selbinis.

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for:—

Karno's "Football Match," Two St. Johns, George Westland, Arthur Kenny, Nina Wood, Queenie Finnis, Nellie Wigley, Great Wieland, Bioscope, The Stockham Grecian Band.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for:—

Johnson v. Burns Fight Film, Grosvenor Sisters, Ugo Nap, Baker and Balfe, Ted E. Box, Goodwin's Piccs, Walter Barrett, Kathleen Cogan, The Gothams.

GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for:—

Carl Rosa Opera Co.

ARDWICK THEATRE, MANCHESTER.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Carrie De Mar, Elsie Robey, Fred. Moule and Lola Patey, Rich and Rich, Marie Santoi and Co., Tom Lloyd, McCann's Dogs, Bros. St. Clair, Bioscope, Poluski Bros.

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.

Rehearsal at 12 for:—

Karno's Co., including Fred. Kitchen, in "G.P.O.," May Henderson, Walter Munroe, Lionette Roberty, Arthur Aldridge, Sybil St. Elmo, Dorothy and Alexander, Bioscope, Motogirl.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Norman Wrighton and Co., in "Wake Up, England," Percival, Annie Schuberth, Austin Rudd, Van Allen, Johnson and Bert, Nell Emerald, Helen Forsyth, Bioscope, George Gilbey.

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Fred. Melvin's Co., in "Her Road to Ruin."

GRAND, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Henriette de Serris, Barry Lupino, Vetter Bros., The Dandies, Miles Stavordale Quintette, Adams and Ward, McConnell Trio, Eily Adair, Bioscope, Griffiths Bros.

PALACE, LEICESTER.

Rehearsal at 2.30 for:—

Karno's Co., including Albert Bruno, in "The Bailiff," Stylo, Billy Hobbs, Eadie and Ramsden, Frank Lister and Co., in "The Sundowner," Frank Lynne, Beatrice Bonnie, Bioscope, Kara.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Joseph Hart's "Rain Dears," Alice Pierce, Takio, Spry and Monti, Archmed Ibrahim Troupe, Maud A. Edwards, The Falcons, Edie Endon, Bioscope, "Yellow Fang."

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

"What's Charles Worth?" The Simms, Frank Sylvo, Margaret Parker and Co., Hilda Jacobsen, Dennis Drew, Barrington, Baby Boden, Bioscope, King and Benson.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Victoria Monks, Tom Stuart, Boyd and Gilfain, De Canty's Grotto, The Anartos, Stratton Mills and Co., Maizie Hibbs, La Danseuse, Bioscope, The Bogannys.

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Elliott Savonas, Rose Cabani, Marriott Edgar, Gwennie Llewellyn, Albert Whelan, Frank Bartram and Co., Burley and Burley, Larola, Amy Marsden, Bioscope, Will Evans.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

George Gray and Co., in "Parson Gray, V.C." Maud and Sydney Wood, Thora, Ed. E. Ford, Six Lancashire Lasses, Fred. Curran, Virto and Venita, Royal Diamonds, Bioscope, Phil Ray.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Dr. Walford Bodie, Carl and Carr, Kate Traill, Tom E. Hughes, Belle Davis and Piccs., Les Martineks, The Mayvilles, Jeannie Mackay, Bioscope, Ernest Shand.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's Co., in "Lady Frederick."

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, STOKE NEWINGTON

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's Co., including Mrs. Cecil Raleigh, in "Peter's Mother."

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Joseph Hart's "Polly Pickle's Pets," O Hana San and Co., St. George Sylvesta, Rita Rhylle, Wood, Wells, and Wilkins, Burns and Danvers, U.S.A. Boys, Frank Cass, Bioscope, Shenk Bros.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

J. F. Preston and Co., in "Rogues of the Turf," Les Frasettis, Percy Farrimond, Pat Rafferty, Rhoda Paul, Victor Newman, Arthur Astill, Bioscope, Frederic Villiers.

EMPIRE, SWANSEA.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Herbert Darnley's Co., in "The Mandarin," Frances Letty, Three Rutlands, Jack Lane, Coloured Meisters, The Delevines, Rex Fox, Bioscope, Daisy Wood.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Ginnett's "Hunting Morn," Daisy Jerome, Three Welsh Girls, Jack Smiles, Bertha Stuart, Orpheus, Walter Wade, Glenroy Troupe, Frank Hartley, Bioscope, Miss Marquis's Ponies.

PHILHARMONIC HALL, CARDIFF.

Rehearsal at 3 for:—

Company as booked.

EMPIRE, NEWPORT

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Auguste Van Biene and Co., Three Dixons, Donaldson Bros. and Co., Jackley Trio, Chronomogaphone, Allan Hanbury, Bioscope, Gertie Gitana.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Jack Pleasants, La Pia, Lily Palmer, Eight of Hearts, Ten Zerbinis, Gladys Mavius, Arthur Gill, Bioscope, Daley Cooper, Mabel Lait and Co., in "Passing the Time."

THE LONDON COLISEUM

Rehearsal at 10 a.m. for:—

Mr. Seymour Hicks and Miss Zena Dare, "England Invaded," Herman Melot, Fred Barnes, Madame Madeleine de Noce, Les Fleurys, Lily Flexmore, Ethel Beach, The Lumars, Elise Craven and Co., Miss Evie Greene.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Karno's "Mumming Birds," Maudie Francis, Bennie Barrow, Les Uniques, Alf. Holt, Watson's Dogs, Cliff Ryland, Sisters Cora, Ernest Clifford, Bioscope, W. F. Frame.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Cornelius O'Kelly, "Casey's Court," Edie King, Melia and Mozarabar, Kitts and Windrum, Ethel Newman, Billy French, Minnie Mace, Bioscope, Ben Albert.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Neil Kenyon, Ida Kathrena, Burnetti, Harry Leybourne, Carter Livesey and Lilian Rosebery, Terry and Lambert, Maud Rochez' Monkeys, E. J. Sheldon, Bioscope, Tom Edwards.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Kaufmann Cycling Beautie, Alexandre and Hughes, Tom Moore, Chas. Mattison, Mabel Bright, Gipsy Woolf, Keen and Waller, Soho Trio, Will Cornish, Hal Hughman, Bioscope, Master Edward Garratt and Co.

The following are booked in conjunction with the above:

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUBLIN.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

George Lashwood, Edith Fink, The Gascoignes, Mark Milton, The Brasques, Sisters Herbert, Estrella, Pictures, Wilbert and Lealand.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Helen Roberts, Whit Gray, Odeyne Sparke, Blake and Granby, San Remo Girls, Lena Brunton, Pictures, Stein Eretto Troupe.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL.

Rehearsal at 12 for:—

Ginnett's "Dick Turpin," Lyric Mummers, Amy Anderson and Co., Trentanovi Sisters, Walter King, Bert Woodward, Bioscope, J. H. Scotland.

IMPERIAL HALL, WALSALL.

Company as booked.

THEATRE ROYAL, CROYDON.

Animated Pictures and Illustrated Songs.

EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

De Gracia's Elephants, Phil Parsons, Bessie Slaughter, Alexandra Dagmar, Henry Carlton and Co., Fayre and Manning, Percy Hannan, Bioscope, Albertus and Millar.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Ramesis, Ethel Walker, Idento Bros., Mabel Mignon, Florence Smithers and Co., Illustrated Song, Musical Sylvo, Pictures, Adam Tomlinson.

DE FRECE CIRCUIT.

PALACE, MANCHESTER.

Rehearsal at 12 for:—

Alfred Lester, Harry Ford, Julian Mack, Tom Leamore, Melody Makers, Sinclair and Whiteford, Burley and Grian, J. H. Barnes, Woodward's Sea Lions and Seals, Pictures.

PALACE, OLDHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Great Roland, Floria, Harry Bedford, Baines and Reed, Mr. Ismay and Coons, Jas. Basnett, Fred Edwardes, Pictures.

HIPPODROME, BLACKBURN.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Jordan and Harvey, Freire Troupe, "Rejected Remounts," Harry Nation, Lennie and Hast, John Le Hay, Bert Weston, Fyne and Hurley, Pictures.

EMPIRE, WOLVERHAMPTON.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

"Claude Duval," Bros. Roland, Hillman and Russell, Willie Gardner, Smart Set, Pictures, Raie Walters, Harry Lawson.

HIPPODROME, PORTSMOUTH.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Margaret Cooper, Karr and Kooney, Florry Cooper, Allan Shaw, Schiavonys, Will Driscoll, Sisters Ford, Slippere, Mark Sheridan, Pictures.

HIPPODROME, SOUTHAMPTON.

Rehearsal at 3 for:—

Ida Barr, Medley Barrett, Barney Armstrong, Frank Maura, Will English, Jock Campbell, Fergusson and Mack, Pictures, Cornallie and Eddie.

HIPPODROME, BOSCOMBE.

Rehearsal at 1.30 for:—

Craggs, Wilman, Ernest Rees, Ike Scott and Son, Harry Russon, De Breans, Dora Lyric, Pictures.

HIPPODROME, BIRKENHEAD.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Reed and Power, Moxon Trio, Three Allison Sisters, Chas. Cardow, Kitty Cameron, Cara Magda, Phinas and Aida, Sisters Lotus, Marcus Boyle, Haley's Garden of Girls, Pictures.

EMPIRE, BOLTON.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Robbie Roy, Abalo and Hurst, Princess Pauline, The Belmoirs, Harry Keeble, Gladys Wells, Mlle. Lumiere, Singing Servants, The Meers, Pictures.

HIPPODROME, COLCHESTER.

Rehearsal at 1.30 for:—

Dan Thomas's pantomime "Aladdin."

OPERA HOUSE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Fred Russell, Childie Stuart, Pictures, Fred Ellis, Four Mexicans, Dolly White, Fynn and Fayne, Ada Gatley.

HIPPODROME, MARGATE.

Rehearsal at 2.30 for:—

Breton Troupe, Harold Heath, Peter Shannon, Dora Deane, Chas. Williams, Queenie Dell, Elroy, Pictures.

IMPORTANT NOTICES.

RE APPLICATIONS FOR ENGAGEMENTS.

All applications by either Artists or their Agents must be made to the Head Office. Lowest terms must be stated, and distinction made between salaries required for larger and smaller towns. Vacant dates should be stated. If a list of existing bookings be sent, it will render selection easier.

Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not rebooked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follow:—

EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, NEWCASTLE, AND DISTRICT.
MR. S. GETHING, Empire Theatre, Glasgow.

BIRMINGHAM, NOTTINGHAM, LEICESTER, AND DISTRICT.
MR. HATTON WHARTON, Empire Theatre, Nottingham.

SOUTH WALES DISTRICT.
MR. ALBERT MITCHELL, Empire Theatre, Cardiff.

LEEDS, SHEFFIELD, HULL, BRADFORD, AND DISTRICT.
MR. T. GERALD MORTON, Empire Palace, Leeds.

LIVERPOOL, MANCHESTER, AND DISTRICT.
MR. ALBERT BULMER, The Empire, Liverpool.

LONDON DISTRICT.
MR. J. CHRISTIE, Empire Theatre, Shepherd's Bush, W.

N.B.—Mr. OSWALD STOLL or Mr. FRANK ALLEN can be seen by appointment on all matters arising out of the above, and for the discussion of entirely new Numbers.

All Artists or Agents who communicate with our District Representatives must have made definite applications, in accordance with above directions, to the Head Office, at the same time, or just previously.

Artists and Agents are requested to note that the Standard Theatre, Shoreditch, and the Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, come within the areas absolutely barred by us. Artists and Agents are also requested to note that the Hippodrome, Aston, Birmingham, comes within the area absolutely barred by the Grand Theatre and Empire Palace, Birmingham.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have at least Fourteen Band Parts for English Orchestrations, and Seventeen Band Parts for Foreign Orchestrations. Matter of Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to Co-operative Offices, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced. Artists' Scenery, Properties, &c., MUST be fireproofed in accordance with the regulations of the Licensing Authorities.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

No order or contract for goods or services must be accepted for any of the foregoing theatres except upon receipt of an Official Form, issued from the Co-operative Offices, London, and signed by either Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. Frank Allen, or the Chief Accountant, otherwise the Company concerned will not be responsible for same, and will refuse payment. In special cases, where goods are required at once, suppliers must look to the individual placing the order, who will be personally liable, unless an official confirmatory order, signed as above, is received within forty-eight hours. Invoices must be sent to the Theatre, but monthly statements should be sent to the Co-operative Offices. The individual Company on whose behalf orders are signed is solely responsible for payment. The Management will not hold themselves responsible in the event of loss of or damage to any MSS., Songs, &c., submitted for consideration.

N.B.—Applications for engagements on the **DE FRECE CIRCUIT,** matter for bills, &c., &c., must be sent direct to **Mr. Walter de Frece,** at the Co-operative Offices.

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SAM MAYO'S—
"Listen to me and I'll prove that I'm Right."
"He's Got no Work to do."
"I Felt so Jolly I Jumped for Joy."

GUS ELEN'S—
"Don't Stop My 'Arf a Pint o' Beer."

WILKIE BARD'S—
"I Rattled My Money-box."

HARRY FORD'S—
"I Always Like to Do Things Nice and Friendly."
"What Does he Want it for?"
"You Mustn't Do that, Naughty Boy."

HARRY CHAMPION'S—
"Fat, Fat, Fatty Whack."

COMEDY-CHORUS SONG—
"I'm Wait—Wait—Waiting."

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VARIETY ARTISTES AND AGENTS.

FULL TEXT OF

MR. ASKWITH'S AWARD,

FEBRUARY 15, 1909

Post free, 1½d.

PUBLISHED AT
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HENRY J. CORNER

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NEW SCENA,

The PIONEERS of this Class of Entertainment on the Vaudeville Stage.

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FIFTH YEAR OF CONTINUOUS TOUR.

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Communications—4, Helix Gardens, Brixton Hill, S.W., or BLACKMORE'S AGENCY.

THE MACNAGHTEN VAUDEVILLE CIRCUIT

Proprietor and Director General:
Mr. FRANK MACNAGHTEN.

SPECIAL AND IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Artists engaged will please note that rehearsals at ALL Halls take place at 12 o'clock noon each Monday.

No excuses whatever for non-attendance will be entertained.

All billing matter and notification of appearance, accompanied by samples of pictorial printing, must be sent to the London Offices, Oakley House, Bloomsbury-street, W.C., fourteen clear days prior to opening, or contract may be cancelled at the option of the Management.

All Scene and Property Plots of Sketches, Scenas, &c., must be sent to Foresters' fourteen clear days before opening.

All Artists carrying scenery must have same fireproofed, in accordance with L.C.C. regulations, otherwise it will not be allowed in the Halls.

Artists please note that when stage staff are required on Sunday, according to the "award," their time must be reckoned from that given in "call."

In cases of emergency after office hours, Mr. Baugh may be consulted at the Foresters' Theatre, Cambridge-road, E.

Telephone 5954 Avenue.
Telegraphic address, "Stageyness, London."

CALLS

FOR WEEK COMMENCING

MONDAY, MARCH 8, 1909.

PALACE, BRADFORD.
Ten Loonies, Ruby Helder, Charles Woodward, Ted White, Sable Fern, Penstone, A-Ba-Be, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.
Mysticus, Jock Whiteford, Smith and Johnson, Carney and Armstrong, Norah Desmond, Mr. and Mrs. Wilde, Maudie Forde, Eight Lancashire Lads, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, HALIFAX.
Minerva, Czar Troupe, Morton and Elliott, Lily Loraine, Beattie Lyndon, Ethel Sheffer, Dan Whitley, Kinnard, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
The Garricks, Ted Gill, George Lawrence, Marion Armitage, Henriquette Maude, Master Day, Hicks and Hunter, The Cumberlands, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
L. Mortimer and Co., Godfrey James, Ruth Molloy, Brull and Hemsley, Sisters Brooke, Barclay's Jockeys, Rose Pink, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
Pictures, Marion Scott, J. H. Mannix, Les Trippillos, F. S. Peake and Co., Carl Millow, Chas. Bignell, Alma Campbell.

THEATRE ROYAL, ROTHERHAM.
"The Lancashire Lad."

THEATRE ROYAL, CHESTERFIELD.
"Human Nature."

THEATRE ROYAL, LEEDS.
"Sunday."

THEATRE ROYAL, ATTERCLIFFE.
Picture Entertainment.

KING'S, NOTTINGHAM.
Picture Entertainment.

PALACE THEATRE, BATH.
Roma and Romani, Nellie Walton, Clack and Clack, Lisbon and Barker, J. H. Greener, Mulvey and Miriam, Harwood's Juveniles, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE THEATRE, LINCOLN.
Arthur Norton, J. Holland and Co., Dott Moss, Ward and Davis, T. C. Jaques, Gladys Witton, Leslie's Cadets, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, CARDIFF.
Jem Driscoll, St. Ruth and Conyers, Rosie Reval, Alex. B. Thorne, Mack Ollive, Ringling Trio, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, &c.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, WARRINGTON.
Master George Wood, Seven Wulfrunas, Cosgrove and Burns, J. W. Rowley, Sybil Montague, Jack Hayworth, Bouncing Dillons, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, BURNLEY.
"Johnstown Flood," Belle Braham, Three Sisters Silcott, Dorma Morgan, The Tintos, Ted Karno and Co., Capt. Ellis and Son, The Arntes, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PIER PAVILION, SOUTHPORT.
Matinée Monday.
The Howards, Willie Allen, Little Dando, Nellie Gaston, Sisters Draycott, Leolin, Emmie Mascott, Jamie Piper, Le Cren Trio, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, BOW.
Matinée Every Monday.
Raymond, Emma Don, Acme Comedy Team, Harry Sims, Bowman and Morton, Rina Bay, Dalmene's Cats, The Miltons, Edna Barratt, "London Express."

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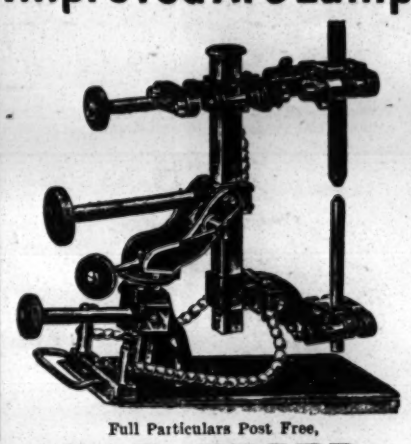

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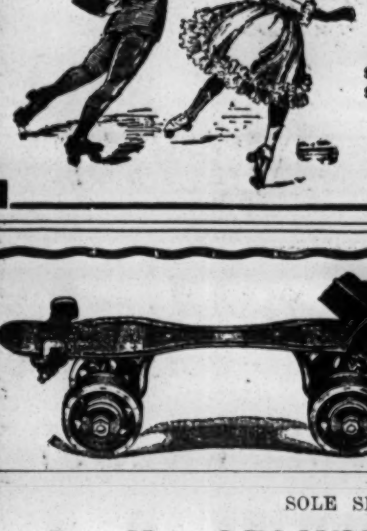

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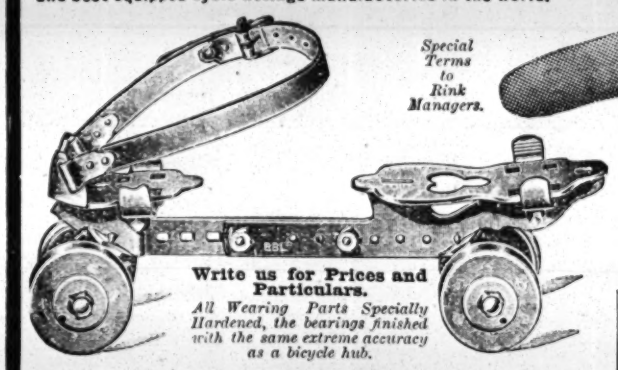

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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1909.

"The Era" Almanack and Annual for 1909 is just published. It contains a useful list of new plays and important revivals produced in the London theatres last year, and similar lists of productions in Paris and Berlin. The leading feature is a number of short stories by well-known people. Mr. George Alexander records a cabby's retort, which is worth repeating. Mr. Alexander, while looking for a taxi-cab, was solicited by an old cabman to enter his hansom, but declined. "So, Mr. G. A.," commented the cabby, "you've no use for 'osses, but you'll 'ave to 'ave one to take you on the day you're buried!'"—Morning Advertiser, Jan. 14, 1909.

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Skeleton schemes of book-keeping, &c., with explanations, showing how the affairs of a theatre can be efficiently managed by the adoption of systems of internal check in all departments. Contains also a draft agreement as between manager and artist.—*Birmingham Daily Post*, Jan. 27 1909.

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERAMAN.—Grand Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. A. Jackson Withers; Resident-Manager, Mr. Archie Ainsleigh.—Mr. Ernest Bodkins is here this week with *The Thief*. Mr. Ernest Bodkins is a great success as Raymond Leyton; Miss Kathryn Stocks is dramatic as Marise Chelford; Mr. Paul Lovett appears to advantage as Richard Chelford; Mr. C. W. Lindsey is responsible for a capital rendering of the rôle of Harry Leyton; Miss Mary Forrester makes a charming Isabel Leyton; and Mr. T. Taylor-Vinson is seen to advantage as Mr. Protheroe. The play is preceded by *The Man in the Street*.

ABERDARE.—New Theatre.—Proprietors, The Aberdare Public Hall Theatre and Billposting Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting-Manager, Mr. B. Richards.—Mr. Julian Malvern's company is here in *I Defy the World*. Mr. F. B Woulfe in the rôle of Leon Darville is effective; Miss Florence Delmar is prominent in the part of Blanche Darville; Mr. Alfred Denning makes a success as General Delaporte; Mr. Max Coutts is an excellent Count de Beaulieu; Miss Maude Lillian does well as Marie Wozzle, and Miss E. Loraine is an admirable Pauline.

ABERDEEN. — H. M. Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—*The Bondman* was played here to a full house on Monday by Mr. Wentworth Croke's company. Mr. W. Henry Hargreaves gave a most skilful portraiture of Michael Sunlocks; Mr. R. Scrope Quentin made a fine appearance as Jason; and Miss Georgina Wynter's Greeba was also a fine piece of acting. Mr. W. H. Rotherham most successfully doubled the parts of Father Ferrati and Grandfather; and Mrs. Fairbrother was excellently well impersonated by Miss Madge Laverton. All the other members of the company gave the principals highly efficient support.

Palace Theatre.—Lessees, The United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—The Andos Troupe of Japanese jugglers gave a singularly clever and graceful display, in which many completely novel feats were introduced; Mr. Archie Roger delights the audience as much as in his former visits; Miss Mabel Fairchild, who seems to be one of the finest and most artistic dancers on the British stage, appears successfully in a pretty scena, *A Belfry Dream*; Wallan is a very clever juggler; Mr. Harry Ray and Miss Lillie Calder appear in a novel and highly amusing comedy act; Mr. J. G. Grahame, jun., and Miss Zerlina Harrington play cleverly the deeply interesting sketch, *A Daughter of Pleasure*; Bi-Bo-Bi contributes a capital musical turn; and Miss May B. Brilliant sings and dances gracefully.

Alhambra and Empire Music Halls.—Managers, Messrs. R. Calder and J. Montague.—The principal artists this week are the Morrells, clever and attractive instrumentalists; Miss Jessie Dudgeon, a graceful vocalist and dancer; and those popular favourites, Miss Marie Rose, Mr. Jack Marson, and Mr. Archie Murray. Mr. Marson, who is a particularly fine tenor singer, as well as a very quaint raconteur, took his benefit last week, when the Empire was crowded to the door.

ABERTILLERY.—Theatre Metropole.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. J. Seaborn.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's powerful company appeared here for three nights in *The Prodigal Son*. Mr. George Edwin Clive gave a forcible rendering of Oscar Stephenson, and was highly applauded; Magnus Stephenson, his brother, was very effectively and dramatically delineated by Mr. T. W. Dunscombe, and Mr. Herbert Franklin made an ideal father; Helga Neilson was portrayed with great feeling by Miss Chrissie Dunbar, and Elin was in the capable hands of Miss Dora Gregory; Miss Ethel Lodge was a capital Anna, the wife of Stephen Magnusson, and Mr. Arthur E. Holland scored highly as Oscar Neilson. The rest of the parts were in excellent hands. The mounting of the piece was admirably carried out.

Pavilion.—Lessees, Messrs. E. and H. Tilney; Manager, Mr. E. Pryce.—A-Bo-Kou, a clever juggler, performs some skilful as well as daring tricks; the Three Alskarnos, delight with their clever balancing and tumbling; Stanley and Vandyke provide in *A Broken Promise* a sketch full of merriment; Bros. Lester are a pair of expert dancers, and May De Rowse is a dainty comedienne and dancer; Carter's Ten Dixie Girls provide a pleasing item in their vocal and terpsichorean scena, *The Silver Coon*. The Bioscope this week forms a big attraction, as the fight between Johnson and Burns is shown.

ACCRINGTON.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company is paying a return visit this week, with *The Village Blacksmith*. Mr. Sam Livesey's fine physique and exceptional dramatic ability specially fit him for the title-rôle; Miss Kathleen Saunders gives a clever presentation of Harry, the blacksmith's child; Mr. Albert Sinclair as Captain Leo displays sufficient villainy to suit the most exacting; Mr. Edwin Maydew submits an excellent portrayal of Lucas Marler; and Mr. Thomas E. Marshall is very good as Jeremiah Parkins. Mr. Fred Haming is humorous as Billy Twig, and is ably assisted by Miss Edith Giddens as Martha Mopps; Miss Maggie Edwards plays with intelligence and emotional power the part of Kate Strong; Miss Cassie Le Grande secures much appreciation by her capable acting as Ruth Parkins; and a clever character-study is presented by Miss F. Dooley as Sal Parkins.

New Hippodrome.—Proprietors, The Accrington Hippodrome Co.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—Miss Maidie Scott, the popular comedienne, makes a welcome re-appearance here this week, and delights with her capital character songs. Witty Wattie Walton contributes various impersonations, and is deservedly applauded; the Dinaro Bros., juvenile acrobats, give an exceedingly smart turn; and the Strolling Players have a hearty reception in their pot-pourri act; Miss Mimie D'Aubyn is a dainty comedienne; Harley and Melton are mirth-provoking comedians; the Westbrooks prove themselves expert dancers; and the Hyde and Cody Trio are successful as comedy acrobats. The Bioscope completes a most attractive and varied bill.

ALDERSHOT.—Royal and Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Gladwin.—Mr. Chas. Constant's *Blue Beard* is being greeted by good audiences twice nightly. The principals have a good selection of songs, Miss Daisy Lake (as Selim) singing "Kate, Kate, come for a skate" and "A white man"; Miss Marie Duncan is an acceptable Fatima, and with Selim sings a capital duet; Mr. Johnnie Clegg as Sister Ann keeps the ball of fun rolling, and is backed up by an able quartette of humorists in Messrs. Jock Parker, Hanlon and Harlin, and Frear; the Florodorians are seen to advantage in a clever dance; while Miss Dolly Moore makes a distinct hit in her songs.

ASHINGTON.—Miners' Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fred Gould.—Mr. Chas. Elderton's company is paying a welcome return visit here with *Robinson Crusoe*. Miss Rosa Revell is a capital Robinson; Miss Gertie Gavagan a dainty Polly Perkins; Miss Lena Lewis as Captain Kettle is as great a success as ever; Miss Bartinelli is a pleasing Dolly Dimple; and Miss Nellie Stuart an ideal Princess. Mr. James Grant as Mrs. Crusoe, Mr. Teddy Worth as Billy Crusoe, Mr. Fred Boulton as Will Atkins, and Mr. Carson Hicks as Friday are responsible for the comedy, to which they do ample justice. The specialities are excellent. Miss Olive Sara, in her musical and Indian club turn, proves herself an artist of great ability; other smart numbers being contributed by the Three Eltons, in their comedy bar act; Stuart and Worth, comedians; Carson Hicks, coon dancer; the Marblesque Trio, in living pictures; Rowe and Holden, coloured cake-walkers; Miss Bartinelli, contortionist; and the Boultons, comedy entertainers.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill, jun.—Mr. Robert Macdonald's company with *The Dairymaids* is here. Miss Empsie Bowman as Peggy is brimming over with vivacity; Miss Dorothy Belmore as Lady Brudenell scores a success in the part; then we have Miss May Casson delightfully arch as Winifred; Miss Doris Dickens as Helen, a really charming interpretation; Miss Kitty Kirwin as Miss Pyechase; Miss Edie Martin, a pert Eliza; Mr. Johnny Osborne as Joe Mivens is irresistibly funny; Mr. Richard Telford as Lieut. Sam Brudenell gives a clever character study; Mr. J. Scott Melville does good work as Lieut. Frank Meredith, and Mr. Bernard Vaughan is happily cast as Dr. O'Byrne.

Empire Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr W. Leech; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Jesse Burslem.—An attractive programme is provided in variety this week at the Empire. A good sketch, *The Pawnbroker*, is presented by Mr. George Ricketts, as Ikestein, and an efficient company; Ben Silvo presents the clever gymnast and the clown combined; the Lovelaces are a characteristic turn; La Belle Duchess introduces her two boxing stallions, ponies, dogs, and high-jumping hounds; Wynnie Darrell, comedienne; Coram, ventriloquist, and the Bioscope are other attractions.

New Pavilion.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Chas. F. Wilson.—The animated picture section of the entertainment for the week at the Pavilion is pleasantly varied. Two vaudeville artists introduce interesting business when the lights are up—Will Nosam, a study in chocolate and white, and Sidney Brandon in Dickens sketches.

The Picturedrome.—Lessees, Messrs. Weisker Bros; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Marks.—The prime film of this week's cinematograph series of pictures is Lucy of Lammermoor.

ATTERCLIFFE.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manageress, Miss Ethel J. Hope.—There is a most attractive selection of pictures here this week. The cinephone, with selections of popular songs, is a popular feature; and illustrated songs are successfully rendered by Miss Ciesie Coman.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Bert Dent.—Tarro Miyake, ju-jitsu wrestler, was to have been the star attraction here this week, but owing to sudden illness was unable to appear, his place being taken by Imrie's Six Juggling Girls. The Kraggs are seen in a clever gymnastic display; Captain Kettle is a smart card and coin manipulator; and interesting turns are given by Miss Lisle Roland, equilibrist; Little Babe, child mimic; Mr. Wilfred Burnand, character impersonator; Miss Marie Kay, vocalist and dancer; and the popular "Attergraph" Pictures.

AYR.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—Mr. Edward Compton and his company opened on Monday with *Davy Garrick*. Mr. Compton's conception of the title-rôle is irreproachable, and he had loyal support from each member of his company in making the interpretation as near perfection as could be. Miss Kathleen Leigh as Violet was admirable; the Rumbelow of Mr. Philip Gordon was very clever; and Mr. Henry Crocker made a capital Alderman Gresham. A word of praise is due to Mr. Harry Worrall for his smart study of the Hon. Tom Tallyhaut. On Tuesday *The Rivals* was produced, and on Wednesday *A Reformed Rake* was staged. The house was completely filled by an enthusiastic audience, and Mr. Compton and other members of the cast were called before the curtain repeatedly.

BACUP.—New Court Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood.—Miss Maud Hildyard's company is appearing here this week with *The Great Awakening*. Miss Maud Hildyard as Lola Selby displays much malignant intensity; Mr. Wallis Clark as James Selby does full justice to the character; in the dual rôle of Sir Henry Merton and Jack Merton Mr. Bernard Copping is seen to advantage; and Mr. Gordon Laws as Guy Rogan is powerful throughout. As Captain Harry Lambert, Mr. Charles Ashwell plays in a convincing and earnest manner; Richard Wilson is faithfully represented by Mr. Gifforde Reynolds; Miss Lillian Deane invests the enactment of Molly Merton with much grace and feeling. Suitable comedy is provided by Mr. Willie Scott as Billy Brass and Miss Isa Bellington as Selina Worts. The play is capitally staged.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—Royalty Theatre and Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. Morton Powell's company in *How Girls are Brought to Ruin* is here. Miss Rona Merrick plays Jessie Burton sympathetically, and Mr. W. Steele is a breezy Harry Hailing; Mr. Tom Robertson plays powerfully as Philip Daze, and Mr. Alrick Burton is a hypocritical Solomon Slick; Miss Bessie Elvin is good as Mrs. Annie Burton, and Mrs. Morton Powell is exceptionally clever as Miss Winnie Waters.

His Majesty's Theatre.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Mr. Norman V. Norman's company in *The Adventure of Lady Ursula* is paying a return visit here. The two principal characters, the Lady Ursula Barrington and Sir George Sylvester of Miss Beatrice Wilson and Mr. Norman V. Norman, are again exceedingly artistic impersonations. *Under the Red Robe* is also billed for presentation.

Tivoli.—Lessee and Manager, Signor R. Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edgar G. Laban.—A really first-class programme is presented here this week. Haley's Juveniles are in the premier position. Their voices blend beautifully, and their dances are dainty and artistic. Reg. Bolton has a capital sketch, *The Editor's Imp*; and Parker and Parr, the Welsh duettists, introduce humour; Newco and Sulto are expert dancers; Georgina Winstanley is a pleasing vocalist; and Vernon's Bioscope adds considerably to the attractions.

New Hippodrome.—Owners and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. C. Routledge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ralph D. Fenton.—An excellent series of interesting pictures is to be seen here.

Bakry Dock.—New Theatre and Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brogden.—Mr. Henry Swinerd's company, under the management of Mr. J. W. Cordiner, is presenting *Dare-Devil Dorothy* to crowded houses. Miss Nellie Valentine is pleasing in the title-rôle, her vocal efforts being much appreciated; Miss Nellie Harcourt acquits herself admirably as Judith; and the same remark applies to Miss Gertie Douglas (Ruth). Mr. Arthur Verne (Atkins), though suffering from a cold, did well as Captains Fielding and Dudley; Messrs. Walter Ashley and Walter Nugent leave nothing to be desired; Mr. Deane Cliffe is efficient as Featherstone Haugh. Misses Florence Corri and Daisy Holbrook prove themselves expert dancers; Mr. Edward Aldworth fills the part of Hawkins creditably. The production is well staged.

BATH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—*The Silver King* is once again staged here, and Messrs. Polini and Melford still present the famous drama with every attention to cast and general mounting. A newcomer, as far as Bath is concerned, is Mr. Fred W. Daviss, who, as Wilfred Denver, worthily upholds the traditions of this character, and throughout acts with care and distinction; Mr. Edward J. George remains the Daniel Jaikes, and nothing to enhance this well-known comedian's conception of the part can possibly be written; Miss Madge Morley portrays Nellie Denver with sincerity, and wins the sympathies of the audience; Cissie Denver is naturally played by Miss Flossie Hall Daviss; Mr. E. Stanton Sharp enacts the Spider upon recognised lines, his three companions in crime (Corket, Coombe, and Cripps) finding good exponents in Mr. Leslie Ellis, Mr. Arthur Wright, and Mr. Fred May; Miss Lila Barclay is Olive Skinner; and Mr. E. Stidwell does well as Baxter.

Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth. — Roma and Romani discourse harmony here this week, their musical instrumental act proving greatly to the liking of the audience; Harwood's Juveniles are once again presenting their pretty scena, *A Children's Christmas Eve*, with all their former success; hilarity reigns supreme while Mulvey and Miriam hold the stage with their comedy turn; Clack and Clack give a varied interlude, the barrel-jumping of one of the ladies being exceedingly skilful; Nellie Walton, the singing mill girl; J. H. Greener, the singing pit lad; and Lisbon and Barker, comedians, all secure appreciation. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux continue popular.

BEDFORD.—Royal County Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—*The Idol of Paris* is played by Mr. James Bell's company. Miss Annie Bell as Flare-Flare gives convincing evidence of her fitness for the difficult rôle; Mr. Gordon Roby renders the character of Prince Sergius Zoresky lifelike and natural; the unscrupulous Philippe D'Esterre is admirably impersonated by Mr. Charles Stafford, and Mr. C. St. John Medley is very effective as Gustave Langloise; Mr. Sidney Arnold plays Victor Cashelle with considerable ability; Mr. Frank H. Dale as the precocious Tatave is most amusing, as also is Miss Annie Megson, who undertakes the part of Ann Sancterre. The scenery is worthy of special mention.

BELFAST.—Grand Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Mr. Murray Carson and Company opened here on Monday in the romantic Irish comedy *Terence*, which met with a capital reception. The title-rôle was filled by Mr. Carson in an exceedingly clever manner, and high commendation is due to Miss Lilian Hallows for her charming interpretation of Maureen D'Arcy. Mr. J. R. La Fane was quite inimitable as the boots, Patrick Ryan; and Miss Gwladys Morris as Lady Nita Fanshawe deserves much praise for her excellent impersonation. Mr. Edgar Kent was all that could be desired as Sir Greville Fansshawe; and a really capital impersonation of the landlady, Mrs. O'Hara, was submitted by Miss Eugenie Vernie. A humorous impersonation of Simon Foulcher was given by Mr. Ernest A. Douglas; and other rôles were adequately presented by Miss Maude Abbott, Miss Hilda Dick, and Messrs. Philip Leslie and T. N. Weguelin. *A Silent Woman* forms a capital curtain-raiser, the various characters being cleverly sustained by Miss Elsie Wood, and Messrs. E. Kent and T. N. Weguelin.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. A. Salmond.—The attraction here this week is the powerful drama, *The Great White Chief*, presented by Mr. Lingford Carson's company. Mr. Hugh Brady furnishes a clever impersonation of Reindeer, the dumb chief; and the rôle of Leo Stanley—the Great White Chief—is ably sustained by Mr. Charles Homen. The iniquities of Black Forest are realistically portrayed by Mr. Norman Purnell; and Miss Pollie Denville admirably sustains the rôle of Latika, afterwards known as Nell Ellington. The part of Hester Stafford could not be in better hands than those of Miss Dulcie Lawrence. The humour of the piece is ably sustained by Miss Amy Ross Clyde as Martha Jane Curley; and Mr. Leonard Maitland as George Rupert Walker. Mr. George Butler furnishes a skilful impersonation of Hartley Deane; and other rôles are adequately presented by Messrs. J. Dobson Clyde, J. Wright, B. Melrose, &c.

Royal Hippodrome.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fred Willmott and Will Sley; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The Frank L. Gregory troupe of hoop rollers and jugglers top the bill, and create quite a sensation. The Bros. Horne return with their boxing speciality, *The Biter Bit*, which has been accorded a terrific reception; and Mr. Sam Thomson, the droll Scotch comedian, creates roars of laughter. The Birkenhead Family gain much favour in their juvenile vocal comedy act, entitled *Her Boy's Birthday*; and Lydia and Amelys perform the Apache Dance; Mr. Dave Carter's tenor voice has been heard to advantage; and also here are Wright and Lawson, eccentrics; the Twin Andersons, in their original speciality; Mr. Fred Hastings, comedian; and the Hipposcope.

Empire Theatre of Varieties, Limited.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—The leading attraction here is provided by Miss Helen Robarte, who appears with success in a Salome dance and Mendelssohn's Spring Song Dance. The Stein Eretto Troupe, hand jumping acrobats, perform some extraordinary feats; and Mr. Gus N. Blake and Miss Maud Granby, comedy duologue artists, are very smart. Mr. Whit Gray, a clever Irish and American comedian immediately makes himself a favourite; and the San Remo Girls, in their capital dances, gain immense approval. Miss Odeyne Spark, a fascinating comedienne; Miss Lena Brunton, talented mimic; and the Bioscope conclude.

New Alhambra Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Will White.—A large measure of support is being given to the pictures here. Naughton and Gold, comedians; and Mr. R. C. MacGill, a capital Scotch comedian, also appear.

St. George's Hall.—General-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—Some really excellent pictures have been exhibited here. Mr. Fred Orme is a good character comedian; and Mr. George Le Bart (assisted by Mlle. Mansell) proves a smart lightning painter in oils, and society juggler.

Cliftonville Hall.—General-Manager, Mr. O. E. Laumann.—The graceful skating contest on Thursday of last week for ladies was entirely successful, and valuable prizes were awarded. Professor G. S. Monohan commenced an engagement on Monday, and his remarkable skating feats have created much amazement.

BILSTON.—New Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. John M. Dawson; Musical-Director, Mr. J. E. Machin.—Messrs. Clayton and Lorne's grand pantomime *Cinderella* occupies the boards here. Fun is provided by Mr. Gus Granville (Blustering Jim), Mr. C. Turner (Nervous Joe), and Mr. Tom Gilbert (Gertie). Miss Amy Allnut makes a dashing Prince and Miss Daisy White a charming Cinderella.

BIRKENHEAD.—New Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—An initial visit from Mr. George Edwardes's company in the musical play, *The Merry Widow*, has naturally proved a great success. Beautifully staged and costumed, the production reflects every credit on Mr. J. A. E. Malone, under whose direction the piece is produced. Miss Mysie Devine is bright and charming in the title-rôle, and acquits herself both vocally and histrionically with distinction; Mr. Edward D'Arcy is a capital Baron Popoff; Mr. Frank Greene displays exceptional ability as Prince Danilo; and the Vicomte Camille de Jolidon is finely played by Mr. Ripley Evans. Nisch is represented with humour and ability by Mr. Fred Fowler; Miss Ada Thomas is admirably suited as Natalie; and remaining parts are, without exception, in able hands. The chorus is numerous and effective, and the orchestral arrangements are under the direction of Mr. E. Vousden.

Argyle Theatre of Varieties.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Mr. Charles R. Whittle, a comedian of resource, heads an excellent company. Miss Carlotta Levey, always a favourite here, is prominent with some fetching chorus songs; and a good company also includes the Rollicking Ralstons, in a comedy song-scena; the Lorrisons, comedians; the Charbons troupe of juvenile vocalists, in *A Picnic Up the River*; Bromley and Fontein, comedians; Charles Banks and his sagacious dog; and pictures on Brown's Royal Bioscope.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Ball. — Haley's company of lady vocalists and dancers, in an act entitled *The Garden of Girls*, have made a hit; Ted Moxon's trio of acrobats are clever; and some smart turns include those of the Three Sisters Allison, acrobatic dancers; Clara Reid and John Power, in their well-sustained sketch, *Chambermaids*; Phinas and Aida, pedestal jugglers; Charles Carew, comedian; Marcus Boyle, comedian; the Sisters Lotus, duettists; Cara Magda, lady gymnast; and the Hippodrome pictures.

BIRMINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—There is a great rush here to see *An Englishman's Home*, which Mr. Frank Curzon's company is playing quite up to its London form, and the public have filled the theatre at every performance Mr. Cecil G. Calvert's acting is thoroughly true to the typical character of Mr. Brown, and so good that when the fatuous, albeit sturdy, old Englishman goes out to his death, sullen but calm, amusement turns to admiration; Mr. Bertram Steer is especially fine as Geoffrey Smith, whose tragically sudden death comes as such a dramatic surprise, the hideous, mirthless laugh, and the blatant speech being absolutely true to the type; the prescient and serious-minded volunteer, Paul Robinson, is well played by Mr. Howard Sturge; the fussy incompetence of Captain Finch are amusingly depicted by Mr. Littledale Power; the invading Prince is portrayed with cool humour and due authority by Mr. Chas. B. Vaughan; and the general support is excellent. *The Heart of the City*, which precedes the play, is noticed elsewhere in our columns.

Prince of Wales's Theatre. — Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. T. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*Boy Blue* will close down on Saturday next, to make way for Mrs. D'Oyly Carte's Savoyards. The pantomime has since Christmas Eve been playing to "capacity business" almost invariably, and will be long remembered among the "Wales" successes.

Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. T. Guest.—*Little Red Riding Hood* shows no signs of closing, but looks like running till Easter. The company continues in fine form, and the principal girl, Miss Dolly Denton, has just been adjudged by popular vote and acclaimed the winner of that much-coveted prize the "owl cake."

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor. — *Home, Sweet Home*, with Mr. Frank Lindo and company, is fulfilling a very successful engagement here. Mr. Lindo's fine, manly acting as Stephen Armitage meets with unlimited admiration; and Miss Marion Wakeford as the truant, but finally contented, wife, Joan, is sweetness and dignity itself. Mr. Leo R. Neilson as Lucas Lyle puts in all the lurking villainy of the rôle; Mr. D. Lawrence Doyle repeats his clever study of the rugged old sailor and foster father David Armitage; Mr. Richard Walsh is appropriately strenuous in his acting as Dick Redmayne; and Mr. Bernhardt Turner and Miss Helene Thompson make hits of the lighter rôles.

Carlton Theatre, Saltley.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander. — *The Babes in the Wood* furnishes the second course of pantomime here, this being per the admirable resources and company of Mr. and Mrs. John Walters. The two Babes are prettily portrayed by the Misses F. Parkinson and Kitty Chester; the two Robbers are presented with great humour and success by Messrs. Martin Haley and Dan Rayner; Mr. Tom Lewis enters into the fun of the piece well as the Baron; Miss Violet Thorne shows considerable charm and spirit as Robin Hood; Miss Lily Miller makes a prepossessing Maid Marion; the Dame Flossie of Mr. Ally M. Benson is a truly humorous performance; and the Misses Lottie Harper, Edie Bracewell, Clara Nottingham, Elsie Kedward, Elsie Naish, Mr. Tom Hulme, and the Sweet Sixteen Ballet Troupe are prominent.

Theatre Royal, Aston.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. J. Robertson.—*The King and the Unknown Woman* is paying its first visit to Aston, with the author's (Mr. E. Hill-Mitcheison) company. The play has attracted immensely, and the applause has been great. Mr. James Stillwell has for his fine presentment of Prince Loris been highly acclaimed; Miss F. Conyer Radcliffe in the accompanying rôle of Zora makes a delightful impression; Mr. Stephen E. Scanlan invests the character of Prince Menski with all its villainous qualities; Miss Muriel Inglis as his familiar, the Countess Melvitch, proves a formidable personage; and the humour of the piece is well interpreted by Mr. William E. Passmore as Corporal Stack and Miss Cissie Podmore as Schnapps. Mr. W. R. Winning is undoubtedly good as General Platz; Mr. Cyril Harrison is also successful as Captain Gara; and Miss Nora Dumayne scores as Else.

Palace Theatre, Bordesley.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—*Her Road to Ruin* is drawing crowded houses here, with Mr. Fredk. Melville's production and company. Miss Beatrice Edwards' acting as Jess Willoughby positively holds the audience spellbound with its deep dramatic intensity; and Mr. Henry Wolston as the curate, Frank Temple, carries the audience completely with him. Mr. Alex. Bradley thrives exceedingly in his old rôle of "the man who was to blame," Philip Hardy; Miss Alice Bowes is charming as ever and sweetly sympathetic as May Willoughby; Miss Nellie Bonser keeps in thorough touch with the audience in her clever triple rôle as "the girl from Lamacashire"; Mr. Harry Talbot as Boots and Miss Marie Wright as Jennie do a good amount of work; and Messrs. Dane Clarke, V. R. C. Moors, and Duncan furnish clever studies.

Grand Theatre of Varieties.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—The artistic living art tableaux vivants presented by Henriette de Serris are the leading feature here; the Brothers Griffiths supply some amusing burlesques; the Miles-Stavordale Quintette of banjoists are a great attraction; and popular turns are done by the Dandies, in a song scena; the McConnell Trio, Fily Adair, Adams and Ward, Barry Lupino, and the Vetter Brothers.

Empire Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—The principal item here is a dramatic playlet, *Wake Up, England*, adapted from "Britain's Awakening," which is presented in an excellent manner by Mr. Norman Wrighton and company; George Gilbey is repeatedly encored for his funny songs; Austin Rudd is clever; Annie Schubert has an original song scena, "The Deputy," which goes well; Helen Forsyth sings an illustrated song; the comedy element is well represented by Johnson and Bert in their *Queer Customer* sketch; Perceval, comedy pianist; and Nell Emerald, comedienne.

Hippodrome. — Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Lyons.—Mr. and Mrs. Bob Fitzsimmons are appearing here in a playlet, *A Man's a Man for a' That*, which is smartly rendered; the humorous juggling of Radford and Valentine is entertaining.

Gaiety Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell. — Harriett Vernon is the bright particular star here. She has a new song, "A Yuletide Story," which wins loud applause. Austin Lenton and company have a sketch, *The Bigamist*, which is well played; the Three Delaries in their demon grotto act are smart; Morny Cash and Leslie Race are clever comedians; the dancing of Moon and Morris is above the average; and Wyndham and Waters and Ruby and Laws add largely to the mirth of the evening.

King's Hall.—Sole Owners and Managers, Messrs. J. P. Moore and B. Kennedy.—The attractions at King's Hall continue to be well patronised. This week's pictures are of a novel and well-varied order, including Rifle Bill, Blind, &c. Some of a more humorous nature include The Monkey Man, The Ragman's Bargain, and others. Pleasing variety turns are given by Gravetta and Parr and Miss Elsie Lewis, who won a local singing competition. The skating rink is also an attraction.

Curzon Hall.—Lessee, Mr. Waller Jeffs; General-Manager (at Curzon Hall), Mr. Irving Bosco.—The entertainment presented at this hall appeals both to young and old. The "travel" pictures are both interesting and instructive, whilst the cinematograph films cause laughter. The exhibition is admirably varied by Miss Ducie Saunderson, who sings several illustrated ballads.

Queen's Hall.—Sole Owners and Managers, Messrs. J. P. Moore and B. Kennedy.—An entirely new series of pictures is being shown here this week, and includes a pathetic film, entitled The Zulu with the White Man's Heart. Among many other entertaining pictures are The Miracle of Roses, The Chauffeur and the Cabwoman, and Women are Flirts. An excellent vaudeville element is supplied by Mr. Maurice Lee.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — Eden Theatre. — Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. Huntley.—Mr. and Mrs. Charles Draycott's repertoire company opened on Monday in *A Modern Adventuress*. Mr. Draycott (Pietro Donelli) and Mrs. Draycott (Violet Meredith) reappeared in these parts, and enjoyed a very hearty welcome; Mr. Wilfred J. Scott was painstaking as Harry Delby, and Mr. George Arthur as Wallace Danton proved himself an actor of no mean ability; Miss Marie Ellis was charming as Vivette Delby, and Miss Eva Norman was a clever Sally Hodges. The scenic effects were capital. *Shadows of a Great City* and *The Heart of a Hero* are in the week's bill.

BLACKPOOL.—Her Majesty's Opera House.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Mr. C. F. Leighton's company is playing *The Gold Ladder* here this week. The Rev. Frank Thornhill is portrayed with marked ability by Mr. Harry Cullenford; whilst Mr. Leighton very creditably depicts the villainous Michael Severn. The highest appreciation is won by Miss Violet Ennis Lawson as Lilian Grant; and the humorous parts of Samuel Peckaby and Victoria Peckaby are in the able hands of Mr. E. W. Cubb and Miss Dorothy Trellyholse respectively.

Grand Theatre.—Owner and Manager, M. T. Sergenson.—Rozel, the speciality gymnast, heads the bill here, and wins loud applause by his astonishing feats. Other enjoyable turns are provided by Mlle. De Rose and Hilda Claremont, vocalists; Sam Shipley, a funny comedian; Les Zanonis, in a juggling act; Carl Howard, the master of mystery; J. H. Hawtrey, actor-vocalist; and Nellie Bly, comedienne. An amateur competition is held nightly during the week.

Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—The top turn her this week is Gastave Kasola, the Oriental wonder-worker, whose conjuring feats completely mystify the audience. Max Langslow presents a novel feature in rifle-shooting; and the Florodoras give an excellent musical comedy scena. Walter Stanley, a clever comedian; Harrow and Walker contribute a capital comedy number; R. H. Douglas is an artistic monologue artist; Henry and Francis present a musical and comedy sketch; the Kurios give a pantomimic number; and Frank Fox is an entertaining comedian.

BLYTH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur C. Moody.—Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart has presented *Sherlock Holmes* with every success, large audiences having witnessed each performance. In the titular rôle, Mr. Stewart has many opportunities of displaying his versatility, and fully rises to his responsibilities. The support is of a most satisfactory description, and the staging leaves nothing to be desired.

Hippodrome.—Pictures, presented by the Edison Co. continue attractive.

BOLTON. — Theatre Royal, Ltd. — Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Moncur.—Mr. J. W. Turner's English Opera Company is here this week. The opera selected for Monday was Balfe's *Puritan's Daughter*, with Mr. J. W. Turner as the Earl of Rochester, Mr. Tom Griffiths as Charles II., Mr. Sidney Clifford as Colonel Wolf, Mr. George Ridding as Seymour, and Miss Kitty Brownless as Mary Wolf, the Puritan's daughter. Other operas in the week's list are Balfe's *Satanella*, Benedict's *Lily of Killarney*, Flotow's *Martha*, Verdi's *Il Trovatore*, and Wallace's *Maritana*. The orchestra and chorus have been under the control of Mr. T. Lawton.

Grand Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—Premier place in a strong company has been accorded to the celebrated prima donna Mme. Albani, and large and appreciative audiences have assembled to hear her charming singing. Other turns are those of Herr Zakovsky, violin virtuoso; the Custances, in their bright and sparkling comedietta, *A Game for Two*; the Donatos, one-legged clowns, introducing acrobatic feats, jumping, and dancing; the Bros. Zenary, in their novel acrobatic act entitled *A Meeting at the Clubs*; Tom Kelso and company in their screaming absurdity, *The Yorkshire Servant*; Millie Payne, the belle of low comedy; the Three Royal Temples, a vocal trio of operatic vocalists; the Sisters Brenton, comediennes and dancing experts; Nan Farren, vocalist and dancer; and the Jackson Family, in their smart musical act.

Empire Hippodrome. — Proprietors, the Hippodrome Company (Bolton), Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Walter De Freece.—Another good company comprises the Three Meers in their screamingly funny comedy act; Gladys Wells, refined comedienne; Robbie Roy, laughing Scotch comedian; the Belmoirs, comediennes and dancers; Harry Keeble, ventriloquist; Abalo and Hurst in their pantomimic comedy, *The Sport and the Shoeblack*; Princess Pauline, comedienne; Mlle. Flora Lumiere, queen of the fairy grotto, in her wonderful coruscations, fire dances

Osborne was well placed as Maurice Wyngate; Miss Kate Haselwood displayed able acting as Daffodil Bolter; and others meriting praise include Miss Pearl Noyle (Peggy Mahony) and Mr. Richard Bosco (Pedro).

ALHAMBRA.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Alfred Smith; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. A. Smith.—There is an excellent company here this week. Albert Layton and Miss Violet Hamilton's company prove very successful in the musical absurdity, *The Belle of Ostend;* the Original Toreadors are very amusing in the burlesque, *The Spanish Bull Fight;* Little Dolly Bell is a pleasing juvenile vocalist; Mabel Clovelly's songs are warmly appreciated; Staffo is a smart juggler; Dalvere and Gordon are a diverting pair of patter comedians; the Victas win applause for their clever barrel performance; George Rapley is entertaining with songs and patter; Madge Daly is a dainty comedienne; and the Alhambra Picturegraph is interesting and amusing, as usual.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. B. J. Brown.—A capital programme is sustained here this week. *The Cowboy Millionaire*, presented by Harry Roxbury, is very diverting, Tubby Eldin in the principal part being delightfully droll and amusing; Kartelli performs daring feats on the slack wire; Lieut. Travis is a pleasing ventriloquist; Caryl Wilbur submits the American comedy, *61, Prospect Street*, with complete success; Jack Barker is a clever character comedian; Harry Nelson is a very humorous comedian; Albert Mackelvin, Scottish monologist, is well received; Mons. Payen, pierrot automatic gymnast illusionist, achieves success; Moller and Theodor are good comedy acrobats; and Terry and Bentley, comedy artists, win cordial applause.

WEST PIER.—Secretary, Mr. A. W. Scholey.—Mr. Clarence C. Corri's company is here this week with *The Dandy Fifth*. Mr. Percy Baverstock is admirably suited as the peppery Colonel; Miss Una Palmer as Kate Lorrimer, "the merry madcap," displays charming acting and singing; Mr. Arthur Radcliff gives an excellent enactment of the gentleman trooper, Dick Darville; much amusement is afforded by Mr. J. B. Conan (Trooper Brown), Miss Nora Morra (Polly), and Mr. Chas. Sims (Sergeant-Major Milligan; and other characters are ably portrayed by Miss Maud Nichols (Mrs. Von Blitz) and Mr. Jack Leyland (Sir Victor), Mr. Clarence C. Corri, composer of the military comic opera, conducts.

PALACE PIER THEATRE.—King's Royal Bioscope still proves attractive here. Among the interesting pictures are Blue Bonnet, Boxing Mania, A Railway Ride through Central France, The New Paris Police, Little Annie's Dream, and Beginning of the Serpentine.

COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. Maud Barrasford.—An excellent series of animated pictures is exhibited here this week. The Lighthouse Keeper conveys a strong dramatic story; The Legend of the Forget-me-Not is a capital drama; and other films of a sentimental or comic character include Love and Vendetta. How the Bank was Saved, Bobby the Sportsman, The Thief in the Casino, Jimmy the Stove Fitter, I Will Have a Husband, and Baby's Revenge. Barrasford's Sable Operatic Minstrel Troupe submit entirely new numbers. Two of the members were accorded benefits, Mr. Fred McLean on Thursday evening and Mr. Bob White yesterday (Friday) evening, when extra attractions were included in the programmes.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—On Monday Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company appeared here in *Tom Jones*. Miss Florence Smithson played Sophia Western in a very pleasing manner. She is the happy possessor of a delightful soprano voice, which she uses in artistic style. Mr. Ambrose Manning is really humorous as Squire Western, acting the part for all it is worth; Mr. Harry Weldeman both sings and acts effectively as Tom Jones; Mr. George Elton is decidedly amusing as Partridge; and all the remaining characters have full justice done to them by other members of an excellent company.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Alty.—*Little Red Riding Hood* is still running well here. On Tuesday evening Mr. K. Scott-Barrie (the Dame) took his benefit. The house was packed in all parts, and he had a very flattering reception. Mr. Scott-Barrie contributed, as extra items, a couple of musical monologues, which were well received. Many extra attractions were provided, and floral tributes were plentifully distributed amongst the lady artists.

PALACE.—Local-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Lew Lake and company are successfully appearing in the knockabout absurdity (in two scenes), entitled *The Bloomsbury Burglars*. Miss Ouida Macdermott (the Aladdin from the Prince's Theatre) presents a very pleasing and attractive turn as a vocal actress; Daisy Hicks, comedienne, sings in good style; F. W. Purcell's company have an interesting and well-staged sketch, entitled *What Women Do for Men;* Alf. Chester, comedian, obtains considerable applause; and the performance concludes with animated pictures, including the Summers *v.* Brett film.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—Houdini, the handcuff king and jail-breaker, is the leading attraction here. His exploits are applauded, and he escapes from a galvanised iron can filled with water and locked with six padlocks. Leo Merode successfully loops the loop on a cycle; Dacey and Lewis please with their duo turn; Violet Stockelle, comedienne, has some attractive songs; the Millwards do smart feats on the parallel bars; the Sisters Showell are popular duettists; Larry Lewis, comedian, obtains appreciation; Lottie Leighton is a graceful and expert dancer; and interesting animated pictures conclude.

COLSTON HALL.—Sydney Carter's New Century animated pictures are still attracting full houses here. They are in great variety, including a fine series of views depicting sunsets in different parts of the world and the Johnson-Burns Fight.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—Mr. Herbert Ralland's company is presenting Mr. Arthur W. Pinero's comedy *His House in Order*, by arrangement with Mr. George Alexander, and the excellent acting on Monday caused the large house to show much appreciation of the pleasure it gave them. Hilary Jesson was finely played by Mr. J. Herbert Beaumont; Mr. J. Parish Robertson carefully portrayed the husband, Filmer Jesson; Miss Peggy Rae gave a careful study of Derek Jesson; Sir Daniel Ridgeley was capably acted by Mr. Langford Browne; Mr. Dudley Stuart was very good as Pryce Ridgeley; good studies were given by Mr. Randolfe Reade as Major Maurewarde, Mr. Richard Dalton as Dr. Dilnott, and Mr. L. Seth-Wallis as Harding; Miss Elsie Roberts was seen to advantage as Nina; Miss Katie Neville was a charming French governess, Mlle. Thomé; Miss Victoria Wray gave a good study of the staid Geraldine Ridgeley; and Miss Avis Grahame was good as Lady Ridgeley.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—*The Prince and the Beggar Maid*, performed by Messrs. Paumier and Howard's company, is doing good business here. The uniforms and scenery are excellent. Miss Annie Saker is a most sympathetic Monica; Miss Ivy Millais a very pleasing Beggar Maid; Mr. Ivan Cleveland as the unrelenting Hildred is good; Mr. Graeme Campbell is a convincing Michael; and other parts are capitally performed by Messrs. Wallace Court, J. Chamberlaine, and R. H. Stephens.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—The principal attraction here is Mr. Fred Lindsay, the Australian bushman; the Carpos Bros. are smart head and hand-balancers; and Walter Ellis and company appear in the amusing playlet, *The Sleepwalker*. Miss Nellie Brierley is heartily received; Leo King, vocal entertainer, is successful; Williams and Warden in "Mr. Dooley" are clever; and excellent dancing is done by Cadwell and Verne. Pictures on the Empire Theatroscope are good.

PALACE THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Badcoe.—A decided novelty is incorporated in the programme here this week in a miniature representation of the frightful flood which overwhelmed Johnstown, America; Ted Karno and company dispense fun in *Dinner Hour;* and Belle Braham, in songs illustrated, is very good. The Sisters Silcott are good dancers; and Captain Ellis and Son, comedy musicians, give good music and fun. Dorma Morgan is a graceful comedienne; and the Arntes are coloured dancers of merit. The Tintos are good in "African Gambols," and Raymond's Bio-tableaux have a series of interesting pictures.

BURSLEM.—HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. R. Colin; Manager, Mr. Matt Hall.—Good business is again attracted by a fine vaudeville entertainment and a series of living pictures.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett and Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. de Hague Body.—*The Girl Who Lost Her Character* is being produced by Mr. Douglas Bruce's company; Miss Doris Brookes as Molly Vernon acts with considerable ability; Miss Lydia Mannington plays effectively as Marion Franklin, and Miss Cherry Veheyne is a charming Rose Seymore; Mr. Richard Ferris gives a polished performance as the heartless Captain Caversham; Mr. C. W. Standing is a manly Jack England, and Mr. Edward McLean supplies an expressive and dignified study as the Rev. Robert Everton; Mr. George Mitchell as James Sutton and Mr. A. Bowerman as Detective Weathersby also deserve praise; Mr. George H. Asquin (Dick Punch) and Miss Mamie Thorpe (Isabella Jones) infuse some smart and amusing comedy into the piece.

BURY (LANCS.).—ROYAL, LYD.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant Resident-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—An excellently varied bill is headed by Reano's Band, whose selection, particularly the famous "1812" overture, are thoroughly enjoyed. Sylvia du Barry is a well-trained soprano vocalist; a clever exhibition of second-sight is furnished by Mahatma; the Saletos execute daring balancing feats in a manner worthy of praise; and Vera and Royal are capable comedy-sketch artists. *Where's ma Kilt*, a farcical sketch presented by the Player Company, is responsible for much amusement; Frank Weaver is a smart dancer; and the Three Bordellas give an artistic gymnastic display. Ottograph pictures conclude.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant Resident-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—Pictures again form the chief attraction, and there is no falling away in their popularity. J. H. Ellis, comedian, contributes enjoyable items; and Mlle. Marjutti is a very good contortionist.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. Edward Owen.—An original and clever acrobatic act forms the chief item; and the Spanish Juanitas are to be commended upon their excellent work. An enjoyable and amusing sketch is given by the Ray Hearn Trio, entitled *The Model Husband;* Lennard and Vereker, in pictorial songs, are well received; the Mars Trio are gymnasts of a high order; Major Moss (tenor vocalist), Gilbert Rogers (comedian), the Sarony Sisters (wooden-shoe dancers), Ethel Loftus, and Marie Blythe (comedienne) complete.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—General-Manager, Mr. Auguste A. Peuleve.—*My Wife* has been presented here by Mr. Stanley James's company, an excellent one all round. Mr. C. H. Croker-King gives a finished interpretation of Gerald Eversleigh; Mr. James Gelderd is irresistibly funny as the Hon. Gibson Gore; Mr. Cecil Brooking (M. Dupré), Mr. Vernon Crabtree (René Falandres), and Mr. Stanley Kelly (M. Valboure) handle their parts well; the Waiter and Crocker are excellently played by M. Franc Stoney and Mr. Reginald Fry; Miss Mary Carnegy's performance as Beatrice Dupré is delightfully spirited; a charming Miriam Hawthorne is found in Miss Katherine Harrington, and Miss Barbara Fenn is satisfactory as Baroness Granclos. The comedy is preceded by an interesting curtain-raiser, entitled *The Vengeance of Jim*, wherein Mr. Cecil Brooking, Mr. James Gelderd, Miss Katherine Harrington, and Miss Beryl St. Leger distinguish themselves.

CAMBRIDGE.—NEW THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—Messrs. Vedrenne and Barker's company, in *You Never Can Tell*, gave an execellent rendering on Monday. Mr. J. Edward Pearce made a central figure of Fergus Crampton, his acting being extremely good; Miss Lena Halliday deserves great praise for her Mrs. Clandon; Mr. Leslie Hamer played Valentine with attractiveness; while Gloria Clarendon, a difficult part, was impersonated by Miss Muriel Dale with effect; Miss Clara Earle (Dolly Clandon) and Mr. Percy Crawford (Philip Clandon) were as good as could be desired. Mr. Trevor Lowe submitted a clever study of the Waiter; Mr. Gerald Merrielees (Finch McComas), Mr. George Howard (Bohun), and Miss Mary O'Farrell (Maid) were perfectly satisfactory.

CARDIFF.—NEW THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—Mr. George Dance's company appears this week in *Havana*, the lovely dresses and picturesque scenery creating great admiration. Miss Daisie Irving gives a charming impersonation of Consuelo, her sweet voice gaining great admiration; a captivating exponent of Anita is Miss Gladys Guy, her rendition being the embodiment of vivacity and grace; Mr. Cecil W. Parke makes a commanding figure as Jackson Villiers, his delineation being very refreshing; and Mr. Bay Russell is an able and vigorous Frank Charteris. Mr. Tom Seymour as Reginald Brown and Mr. Mark Lester as Nix are exceedingly humorous, and keep the audiences in a continual shriek of laughter; Mr. Herbert Bryan as Diego and Miss Helen Langton as Isabelita impart the necessary dignity to the rôles; Mr. George Story as Don Adolpho makes the most of his opportunities; while Mr. A. Gordon Begg is equally as creditable as Bombito. The chorus, which is under the direction of Mr. Albert Vernon, is well controlled. The play is produced by Mr. Herbert Bryan.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—Daisy Jerome, described as "the electric spark," is a favourite; Miss Marquis obtains special distinction with her performance of highly-trained cobs; Mr. Fred Ginnett's capital musical sketch, *Hunting Morn*, is quite up to the standard; a high-class item is provided by Bertha Stuart, Scottish character comedienne, her rendition of "Caller Herrin" being very entertaining; a comedian of considerable merit is Jack Smiles, whose capital rendering of humorous songs is only equalled by his clever dancing; Orpheus, a "master of melody," is an expert instrumentalist; Frank Hartley, the boy juggler, obtains hearty applause; Walter Wade is a comedian of much ability; and the Three Welsh Girls sing in harmony with pleasing effect. The Glenroy Troupe of International Dancers and the Bioscope complete.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton.—This week an attraction is Jem Driscoll, the world's champion bantam-weight boxer, who is sparring three exhibition rounds nightly; the Ringling Trio of comedy artists create their usual amount of fun; and Mack Ollive, in his original whistling scena, gains well-merited approbation. Two charming and pleasing duettists are Bertha St. Ruth and Cissie Conyers; and Bernard and Weston are smart comedians. Rosie Reval, comedienne; Alec B. Thorne, Scotch comedian; Harry Pleon, extremely funny comedian, and Raymond's Bio-tableaux complete the programme, which has been delighting crowded houses.

ANDREWS HALL.—The Royal Italian Circus continue to do good business during the closing week. The visit has been well appreciated.

CARLISLE.—H. M. THEATRE.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart McKim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—The first visit of Mr. Walter Melville's company, with *The Girl Who Took the Wrong Turning*, drew a tremendous audience on Monday. Mr. F. Ronald Adair plays the part of a British tar to perfection; a capital character sketch of Bill Slater is submitted by Mr. Sidney Sarl; and Mr. Frank R. Robertson acts with tact and skill as Jack Fenton. Mr. Fred Ingram supplies the comedy, assisted by Miss Marie Kildare; and as Richard Fenton Mr. Frank Dennis makes the most of his opportunities. Mr. Raymond Wood as James Harcourt and Miss Nannie Meade as Vesta Le Clere acts throughout with rare effect; Miss Zoe Davis contributes a refined rendering of Lucy Coventry; and Miss Jessie Belmore's Sophie is an artistic and skilful performance.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Morgan.—A well varied programme is submitted here. At the top of the bill is Rapoli, a clever and sensational juggler; the Olmars, in their Roman statuary acrobatic act, are clever; a capital comedy gymnastic act is contributed by the Ramlos; Leo Trainor has some good songs; J. A. Wilson, accompanied by his dog, Private Towser, is always a big favourite, and he has every reason to feel gratified with his reception. The pictures are more popular than ever.

CARMARTHEN.—ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—Proprietors, Public Rooms Co.; Secretary, Mr. Edward Baldwin.—Miss Maggie Morton's company is here this week, under the management of Mr. Fred K. Herman, in *Is Life Worth Living?* Mr. Pringle Roberts is a successful Lionel Roy; Mr. Ben Carr an interesting Rowland Roxton; Mr. Raymond Chester an excellent Randolph Kerr; Miss Miriam Richards submits a good portrayal of the forsaken Isabel; Miss Nina Harding is worthy of praise in the part of Madge Roxton; Mr. Fred Rignold as Peter Stoke, the old vagabond, and Miss Amy Lloyd-Earle as Sally, win unstinted praise; and Mr. Victor Howard as Tim, the hobbledehoy, and Miss J. Melbourne as Bet Dabs (Wild Humanity) are a vivacious and clever pair.

CASTLEFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Hy. Masterman, J.P.—*Second to None* is being played here by Mr. T. Edward Ward's company. Miss Ward enacts Nell Greystone in charming fashion, and her performance is refined and artistic; Sir R. Greystone, V.C., finds an able interpreter in Mr. C. W. Spencer; a subtle exhibition of the scheming and audacious villain is found in Mr. Frederick F. Lloyd as Captain Mannering; Mr. Leonard Williams give a highly finished portrait of Harry Wilding, and receives effective support from Mr. Clifford Rean as the brother Frank. Miss Clarrie Tandell infuses a good deal of humour into the part of Nora; and Mr. Harry Benson is the cause of much hilarity as Joe Ruffles. Mr. J. G. Maine gives a strong impersonation as Sergeant Horseman; as Lieut. Ballater Mr. Frank R. Gwyn Richardson plays satisfactorily; and Miss Grace Harlington's conception of the part of May Greystone is consistently good. Mr. H. Macauley is well suited as Private Flutter.

QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Chas. Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will H. Emerson.—The chief attraction here is provided by Mohamed Ben Mohamed troupe of nine Arabs, acrobats and tumblers, who perform some daring and skilful feats; another attractive turn is Mlle. Haydee's miniature vaudeville theatre; Mr. Will Fowler contributes several songs with great success; and Florrie Errol is a finished songstress; Edwin Austin's selections on the concertina are provocative of hearty applause; Bennett and Martell, with songs, dances, and knockabout business, come in for warm recognition; Delafoire is an expert on the xylophone; and Frank Vant as a comedian and dancer is worthy of praise. The pictures of the Loyal Dominion Co. are bright and interesting.

CHELTENHAM.—OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—*Butterflies* was introduced on Monday by Mr. Wilfred Cotton's company to an enthusiastic and crowded house. Miss Annie Heenan is delightful in the part of Rhodanthe, singing her songs in excellent style; Mr. Edwin H. Wynne gives an admirable study of the transformation of Christopher Podmore; Mr. Harrison Brockbank is a delightfully irresponsible creature as Widgery Blake, singing "Cupid" with great success; Mr. Cyril Biddulph is capital as Max Riadore, making a hit with "Life"; Mr. Johnnie Wilkinson provides a good deal of fun as Yarker, the chauffeur; Miss Lillian Wesson is a pretty Elsie Podmore, and makes the most of her song, "The lily and the grub"; Miss Ada Davidson acts neatly as Mrs. Podmore; Mr. Allan Mudie is a cheery Penniless Peter; and pleasing studies are also contributed by Miss Edith Joyce, Mr. Arthur Edwards, Mr. Francis Rayne, Miss Alice Roche, and Miss Gladys Dare. Miss Millie Gordon dances a graceful *pas seul*, in the third act. The augmented orchestra is under the direction of Mr. Thos. Gray.

CHESTER.—ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—This week Mr. Percy Williams' company in *The Fatal Wedding* holds the boards. Mr. Cecil A. Melton faithfully portrays the part of Howard Wilson and Mr. W. H. Garbois is exceedingly good as Robert Curtis. The humour of the play is well sustained by Miss Ethel Sarjient as Bridget and Mr. Harry M. Vernon as Toto. Miss Ethel Kay as Mabel Wilson is excellent; and as the adventuress, Cora Williams, Miss Elaine Vanburgh deserves praise for her spirited acting. Miss Lulu Wohlmann as Jessie, "the little mother," is a juvenile actress of considerable promise. All the remaining parts are creditably performed, and the chorus of specially-trained children is a marked and pleasing feature of the play.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Chas. Macdona; Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—*The Way of the World* is being presented this week by Messrs. Herbert Skardon and H. Sherwood Martin's company. Mr. Skardon himself takes the part of Cecil Hardy; the arch-plotters are ably depicted by Miss Sidney Crowe and Mr. Victor Gordon; Mr. Clarence Temple is a powerful Mathew Malyon; and Mr. D'Arcy Kelway works hard as Joe Sparrow.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Colchester Hippodrome Company; Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—*Dick Whittington* on the two-houses-a-night system is being presented by Dan Thomas, who undertakes with every success the rôle of Betsy; the name-part is ably sustained by Miss Daisy Yates; Miss Constance Mori dances cleverly and looks charming as Alice; and Pete Almon is amusing as the Cat.

CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company is here with *A Soldier's Honour*. Mr. T. Arthur Ellis as Captain Deane is very good; the part of Captain Gerald Temple is well played by Mr. William Vane; Mr. Andrew Money in the character of Henry Thornton scores well; and as General Rochester Mr. Henry Rutland is worthy of mention. Miss Violet Langley makes a charming Doring Illingworth; Miss Lilla Wilde creates a sensation as Cora Lee; a clever character sketch of Jemima Eliza is given by Miss Edie Macklin; Mr. Harry Lindon makes a capable Percy Brattle; and as Holly Mr. Sydney Fiennes works hard. The humorous part of Alphonsus is well sustained by Mr. O. Myth.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. R. J. Bell.—Mr. W. W. Kelly's company, in *A Royal Divorce*, is here. Miss Edith Cole appears as the Empress Josephine, and imparts to it pathos and sentiment; Mr. Keith Fraser as Napoleon meets with marked appreciation; Miss Winnie Tempest as Marie Louise proves herself an admirable actress; Miss Maude Lacy as Stephanie fills the part well; Mr. Percy H. Vernon as Talleyrand, Mr. E. Plumpton (General Augereau), and Mr. H. S. Standing (Marshal Murat) played excellently.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Thomas F. O'Brien.—*A Piece of Dresden China*, presented by the Howard-Collinson company, introduces singing, dancing, and able acrobatic work here; Mr. R. C. Note, ballad vocalist, sings a number of songs well; Messrs. Howe and Ardie, comedy gymnasts, give a pleasing sketch, entitled *Up in a Balloon;* the Dunvilles contribute a charming musical act, and play on a number of instruments; Miss Florence Deighton has a rich voice and sings well; Chester and Lee's Marionettes, in harlequinade and ballet, are very entertaining; Miss Daisy Davenport, comedienne and dancer, wins distinction; the Brothers Bradshaw, eccentric acrobats, do well; and the Palascope realisations are much enjoyed.

COVENTRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Tom Bennett.—*The Beggar Girl's Wedding* is being produced here. Chief amongst a host of characters are Mr. Otto Minster as Jack Cunningham, Miss Vashte Wynne as "the Beggar Girl," Mr. Herbert Lloyd as Dicky Storm, Miss Daisy Meggnard as Tina Torkington, Mr. Herbert Morgan (George Lindsay), Miss Olive Warne (Maud Villiers), and Mr. Frank McClellan (Doctor Millbank).

HIPPODROME THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. S. T. Newsome; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. E. Wright.—Mr. Oswald Williams, with Miss Winifred La Barte and company, present astounding illusions, "The Flying Chest" and "Chinese Paper Art," which are remarkable feats of skill; the Artois Brothers give some clever acrobatic feats; Ernie Mayne is a remarkably funny comedian; Fred Keeton is also amusing; France and Stewart appear in their racing comedy, *The 100 to 1 Chance;* Fritz gives a canine exhibition with his little dog Ruth; Cliff and Kean appear in a novel dancing act; the Brennans, champion clog dancers, give a very novel display; Maud Mortimer's songs are much enjoyed.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. K. Draco.—Chief amongst a clever array of artists is Arthur Roberts in the funny sketch *Till Sunday;* the Hersleb Brothers, conjurers, are a smart turn; the Sisters Maudslay are clever juvenile singers and dancers; Chas. J. Johnson is a capable comedian and dancer; and Cissie Dryden, comedienne and dancer, Walter Wallis, comedian, and Camplin, trick cyclist, are also entertaining. Animated pictures conclude.

CRADLEY HEATH.—EMPIRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jno. H. Morton.—Gus Levaine's pantomime *Dick Whittington* holds the boards here. Miss Marie Collins is principal boy, and captivates the hearts of the audience; Miss Lizzie Levaine as Alice is winsome and pretty, and full of dainty lightness; Mr. Fred Terry as the Cook has scope to show his versatile powers; the Bros. E. and G. Farmer as the two rodents are highly to be praised; Messrs. Gower and Williams as Shuffle and Shirk are brimming over with fun and humour; Mr. Lew Vance makes a smart Emperor of Morocco; Mr. Chas. Towers is a power in himself, and as Idle Jack keeps the ball rolling; as the Cat Mr. G. Baronni is most feline.

CREWE.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Cuthbert.—A hearty reception was accorded Mr. Chas. M. Bestic's company in the musical comedy *The Flower Girl* on Monday. Mr. John T. MacCullum is a good comedian, and throws himself wholly into the character of Joe Wheeler; Mr. John Latham gives an excellent account of Johnny Wheeler; Mr. Robert Cranny as the Honourable Billy Greenhill is a good representative of the lover; Mr. Louis du Cane as Reginald Rackit is to be highly commended upon his successful efforts; the characters of Alphonse and Lizzette de Racquet are ably sustained by Mr. Henry Adnes and Miss Lilian Drake respectively; Miss Eva Nelson as Lily (the flower girl) plays her part with much grace and ease, and her singing is tuneful; Miss Georgie de Lara, as Miss Greenhill, a Suffragette, makes the most of her part. The chorus acquit themselves excellently.

CROOK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Wallace Davidson, Ltd.; Resident-Manageress, Mrs. Wallace Davidson.—The management has again secured an excellent company in Mr. Fred C. Summerfield's powerful drama, *Geoffrey Langdon's Wife*. The character of Mary is well depicted by Miss Mary Lovett, and Mr. Charles Phelps as Geoffrey Langdon is very good. An enthusiastic reception is accorded to Mr. Paul Beckett as Felix Beverley; Jack Stirling, the hero, is in the capable hands of Mr. Edward E. Ashby; and Miss Kathleen Magee is effective as the Hon. Mrs. Sands. Mr. Cyril Grier as Colonel Mills is above the average. The lighter vein is cleverly supplied by Mr. Percy Brown as Thomas and Mr. Victor T. Raymond as Charles; and Miss Hettie Senior as Sweet Nancy is all that can be desired.

CROYDON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Roland Daniel; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Ernest Archer.—Mr. George Alexander's company in *The Builder of Bridges* is giving much pleasure here this week. Miss Dorothy Green handles the rôle of Dorothy Faringay with all the skill and tact of an accomplished actress; Mrs. Kemmis makes a pleasing impression as Mrs. Debney; Miss Beatrice Smith makes capital out of the part of Miss Closson; and Miss Ella Collins is pretty as Minnie. Mr. Leonard Pagden submits a scholarly rendering of Edward Thursfield; Mr. Lewis Fielder is adequate as Arnold Faringay; Mr. Arthur Vezin gives a sound performance as Walter Gresham; Mr. Alfred Harris exactly fits the part of Sir Henry Killick; and Mr. Percy D. Owen just touches the right note as Peter Holland. Mr. V. Chalder, the very able musical director, deserves warm congratulations.

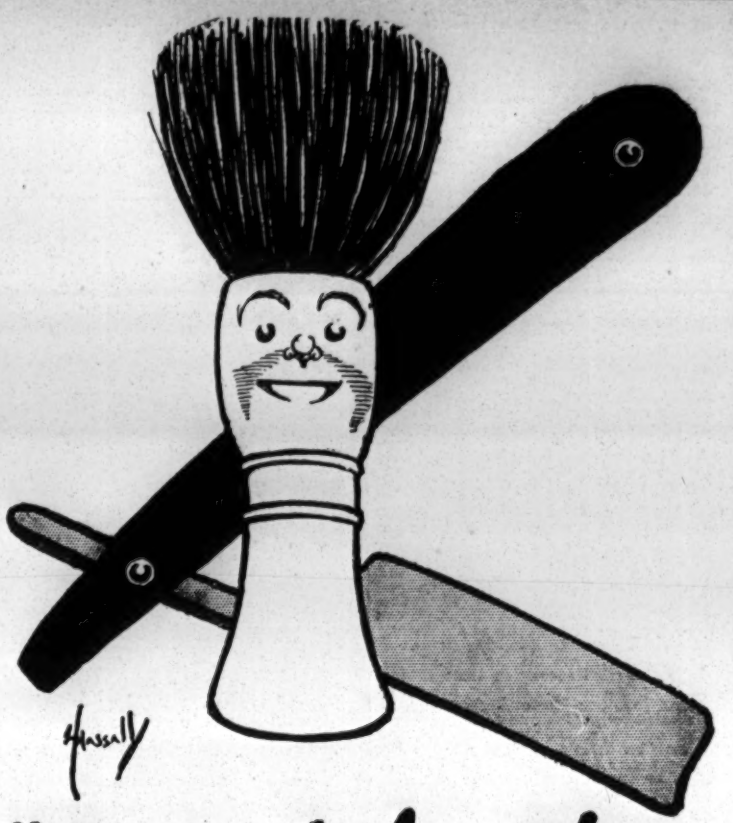
THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. Anthony.—Animated pictures and illustrated songs continue to attract good audiences here, and they are of the best.

EMPIRE PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Walter Gibbons and Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Eustace Jay.—Kelly and Agnes are a smart pair of comedy artists; Alec Hurley and company in *Cockneys in Japan* make a big hit; Woodhouse and Wells, comedians and patterers, work hard and successfully; Lena Wylie, South American soprano, is received with much favour; the Warsaw Brothers are funny in musical act; Charles Carr is a rising young character vocalist and dancer; Evelyn Taylor submits her latest song, "Mr. Poverty"; the Sisters Caselli are clever duettists and dancers; L. B. Athol, vocal comedian, is excellent; and the Bioscope completes.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Bell.—Mr. Fredk. Melville's company in *Her Forbidden Marriage* is the attraction this week. Mr. Henry Lonsdale has an immense amount of work to do in the part of George Madison, and does it in artistic manner; a powerful impersonation is that given by Miss Isla Garnet Vayne; Miss Florence Hunt plays with great passion as Lady Lucretia Lancaster; a softer study of womanhood is submitted by Miss Grace Lester as the Mother Superior; Miss Grace Emery as Patty Lovejoy causes a deal of mirth; Mr. J. Stewart as Jenkins is smart in the humorous part; Mr. Louis Hector does well in the heavy rôle of Charles Devereux; Mr. Fred De Vere is excellent as Timothy Tuttutt; and Mr. Wilfred Mansfield gives a manly representation of Sir George Lancaster. The dressing of the piece is excellent.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Hersee.—An appreciated programme is headed by Bella and Bijou, in their latest successes, which cause roars of laughter; the Four Royal Scots are clever in their musical sketch, *When the Cat's Away;* a popular turn is Arthur Stacey, comedian and dancer. Other good items are those of Chimes, the crazy butcher; Esta Stella, the military maid; Edi Coolville, vocalist; and the Pepiscope Pictures.

CENTRAL HALL.—Edison's Picture Co.; Manager, Mr. Victor Branford.—The pictures are earning excellent opinions this week. The chief films are The Life Story of Captain Dreyfus, The Martyrdom of Thomas A'Becket, and The Fisherman's Daughter.



DARWEN.—Picture Palace and Theatre Royal. Lessees, The Animated Pictorial Enterprises, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. A. Whitehouse.—In addition to a good array of pictures Miss Marion Adelaide, soprano ballad vocalist, gains applause; Mlle. Le Briton, a refined lady gymnast, does some smart feats; the Louisiana Trio of coloured song and dance artists are well received; and Lieut. Harper, a clever ventriloquist, creates amusement.

Public Hall and Palace of Varieties.—Lessees, Messrs. Thomson, Leivers, and Bennett; Manager, Mr. J. E. Thomson.—Percy Johnson, comedian, is recalled again and again; Gracie Bard, a chic comedienne, is well received; and excellent films are shown on the Bioscope.

DERBY.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds' company are here this week with *Woman and Wine*. Mr. Edmonds repeats his success as Dick Seymour; Miss C. St. Elmo cleverly enacts Marcel Ragadout; Mr. Ashmore Vincent gives a careful study of Phineas Collins; Miss Violet Sims appears to advantage as Mary Andrews; Mr. J. Milne Taylor well plays Hugh Seymour, Mr. R. Foulis is good as Brandet; Mr. Edwin T. Kirby is clever as Calsbon; and Miss Octavia de Noel is in every way successful as La Colombe. Considerable amusement is provided by Mr. W. Manning as Professor Sauter and by Mr. Harry Harrop as his son, Charley, the latter introducing several very amusing songs and receiving every assistance from Miss Ethel Vinroy, who plays Janet Marlow, a widow, and who also sings several good songs. Some excellent dancing is given by the Lottie Stone Troupe.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes.—The star turn this week is provided by the Four Burnells, musical and knockabout comedians, who prove themselves capable all-round entertainers. At the other end of the bill are Viviana and company in a distinctly clever and amusing scena entitled *The Toy Shop*. Among other good items are Stidder and Dunbar, who achieve well-merited success in their musical comedy act. The McAleavey Marvels are smart trick and barrel jumpers; Master Richard May, a boy tenor, is heard to great advantage; Fred Dunstone, topical comedian, submits rousing chorus songs; and Ena Corella is a popular quick-change speciality dancer and comedienne. The Bioscope pictures are of an excellent variety.

DEVONPORT. — Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—Miss Madge Grey's mimicry is realistic and her patter extremely funny; Rousby's Greater London is a picturesque item, the various electrical and mechanical contrivances being effective; the Austral Trio in *A Musical Evening* supply some delightful melody; the Gilberts perform some daring feats on the tight-rope; the three Sisters Lee entertain with some well-executed acrobatic dancing; Billy Farrell, the popular coloured comedian and cake walk expert, is in his best form; and Lily Arthur is an attractive vocalist and comedienne.

Metropole Theatre.—Manager, Mr. G. S. King.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company in *The Power of the Cross* is creating an excellent impression. The piece is brimful of exciting incident, to which full justice is done by a very capable company. Mr. George A. de Gray as Baron Woulfe Curzola, cleverly plays a character hedged round with mystery; Miss Annie Hylton does well as the much-persecuted Margaret Seaton; Miss Stella Carmichael works very hard as the intriguing adventuress Rita Lascelles; and Mr. Robert Hall gives a commendable rendering of Gerald Fairfax.

DEWSBURY.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Herbert Asquith.—*Rollicking Rory* is here this week. Mr. Chalmers Mackey in the title-part evokes laughter and applause, his singing and dancing being greatly appreciated; Mrs. Chalmers Mackey as Mrs. Ashleigh plays with tact and skill; Mr Wallace Campbell and Mr. St. John Stuart give excellent illustrations of the parts of Stephen D'Arcy and Shaun Brady; Mme. Constance Bellamy sings Irish melodies sweetly; Mr. J. P. McBride as Desmond Fitzgerald is excellent; and the singing and dancing of Miss Nana Flensburg as Rosie meet with approval.

Hippodrome.—General-Manager, Mr. George Weldon; Stage-Manager, Mr. Jack Harris; Musical-Director, Mr. A. D. Willcox. — The Haverleys, American song illustrators, sing sentimental songs here, accompanied by fine coloured pictures; Tom Joy, comedian, earns much applause by his drollery; Miss Nancy Renshaw, negro comedienne and bone soloist, finds favour; a clever contortionist is Sim Marco—his performance is remarkable; Zasmas is a clever gymnast, his performance on the flying rings being striking; Vasey and Ramsey are smart dancers; and Lettie and Florence, duettists, the Bros. Hannaway, and the animated pictures complete an altogether enjoyable entertainment.

DONCASTER.—New Grand Theatre and Empire.—Manager, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—A variety combination has succeeded in giving a delightful diversion this week. The Dayton Family, who are easily the finest pedestal risley performers in the world, do some magnificent work; *Down the Mine*, a vocal scena by the Four Elwyns, is a rich musical treat; agility and smartness characterise the contributions of the Three Milfords; a bright and effective display is that of the Wigham Family, drawing-room entertainers and expert dancers; the Martines are popular in their topical songs; Frank Coyle, comedian, is warmly applauded upon reviving pleasant associations; Howard and Wallace infuse comedy into their sketch, *Taming a Wife*, and Hillett and Hallett, comedians and dancers, are humorous in their songs and patter.

DOVER. — Royal Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. S. W. Winter.—At the top of a strong bill is Miss Eileen Douglas, very dainty and captivating, who repeats her success with "The Musical Comedy Girl," and introduces a pretty new number in "Rosie's Young Man." In a bright duologue, entitled *An Appointment*, Marjory Clark (a clever vocalist) and Percy Hayden (a talented and finished light comedy actor) have an excellent opportunity for artistic work; the clever trick-cycling of the Betsons is combined with comedy; and George Don, the quaint oddity, sings and dances in a style all his own; Kerr and Dene, a bright comedy pair, appear in a little sketch, *It's a Walk-over*, which is well received; as is the absurdly-amusing George Prince, the crazy comedian. The rapid charcoal sketches of Fred S. Howard are meritorious, and equal success attends his efforts in impersonations. Much interest has been aroused by the Amateur Carnival, which occupies a goodly portion of the programme, prizes and engagements being given to the winners.

DUBLIN.—Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland.—A large and appreciative audience on Monday witnessed the production of *A Waltz Dream*, as played by Messrs. George Edwardes and Charles Frohman's excellent company. Miss May De Souza's charming interpretation of Franzi Steingruber delighted all, her singing being frequently applauded; Mr. Eric Thorne gave a richly humorous representation of Joachim XIII.; as Count Lothair Mr. Leslie Holland was also successful, and Miss Amy Augarde imbued the part of Friedrike with humour and charm. The rôle of Lieutenant Montschi was well represented by Mr. John Hamilton, and Miss Ethel Cadman was seen to advantage as Princess Helene; Lieutenant Niki had an able exponent in Mr. Wilson Pembroke, and Miss Mary Hamilton was excellent as Greta; Messrs. Langford Kirby, Albert Kavanagh, and Willie Warde, jun., made the most of the parts of Wendolin, Sigismund, and Max Bauer; and as Fifi, Mitzi, and Hana Misses May Marton, Kathleen Hayes, and Polly Lorraine were also satisfactory. The chorus and orchestra under the bâton of Mr. Hamish MacCunn were all that could be desired.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—A strong bill is headed here by George Robey, whose amusing patter and songs are loudly encored. Leoni Clarke, with his cleverly-trained animals, has a rousing reception; Amandus, facial mimic and impersonator of celebrities, scores a distinct success; Miss Doris Gilbert wins much applause for her charming vocalism; Charles Pastor, a smart and happy comedian, is decidedly popular; the singing and dancing of the Twelve Hippodrome Girls proves a great attraction; and the Royal Pictures complete a good entertainment.

Empire — General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—Mr. George Lashwood, who is the star turn here, had a hearty reception on Monday, having to respond to many demands for encores. The Gascoignes (Paul and Ivy) are particularly smart jugglers and equilibrists, and the Sisters Herbert are warmly applauded for a clever vaudeville act; in a duologue entitled *A Society Butterfly* the Brasques are highly successful, and as a comedienne Miss Edith Fink is as engaging as ever; Wilbert and Lealand in their Continental novelty act win hearty applause, and Mark Milton, comedian, scores another success. Estrella, international and barefoot sand dancer, and the Empire pictures conclude an excellent programme.

Tivoli.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—An excellent bill is headed here by the Four Rio Brothers in a daring gymnastic performance, which elicits loud applause; the Mezzettis extract much fun out of their comedy act *The New Recruit*; the Gelders give a capital exhibition of their skill as magicians; Blanche and Powell submit a pleasing vocal and musical act, which is warmly applauded; the Sisters Du Cane, vocalists and dancers, are well received; Farrell and Dunn, the Caledonian Duo, meet with approval; Ralph Goggin, baritone vocalist, renders his songs in good style; Ivy Dene is a comedienne and dancer of ability; and the remainder of the programme is supplied by Wyllie, an amusing tramp musician; Mark Stuart, a smart comedian; and the Bioscope, with a very laughable picture.

World's Fair and Music Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The newcomers here this week include Witt and Wynn, duettists; Queenie Voone, comedienne and dancer; Harry Hewitt, ventriloquist; Dan Leslie, pedestal dancer; Annie Bamford, comedienne; the Blydons, duettists and dancers; and the Cinematograph.

DUDLEY. — Opera House. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—Mr. Fred Karno's company, in *His Majesty's Guests*, is here this week. The fund centres round Mr. Geo. Hestor, who, as Sergeant Lightning, is hilariously droll, and gives a true test of stage humour by making the orchestra laugh; the handsome stage presence and artistic acting of Miss Aggie Morris as Lady Maud Easem; and the winning ways of Miss Edith Ager as Dolly Miffin, were much admired; Mr. E. O. Freshwater capably filled the part of Lord Easem; Mr. C. Richardson as Bunkey, Mr. S. Bolton as Fritz, Mr. Tom Manardo as Selina, and another artist, formed a quartette of clever pantomimic knockabouts. Mr. Charles Usher combines effective stage-management with the part of Mr. Miffin (universal provider). The piece is well staged, and the ladies well gowned.

Empire.—Proprietors, the Midland Entertainment Corporation; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. H. Waters.—Mlle. Marvelle, with her performing cockatoos and macaws, proves a strong attraction here. Olive and Owen, the road tinkers, are responsible for really good singing; Zaida, slack-wire artist, with her performing doves, is a charming and pleasing turn; clever acrobatic work is given by Pongorila, "the man of the woods"; Sydney Bach as "Mrs. James, the Welsh landlady," is most entertaining; Nellie Neil is a dainty comedienne and dancer; and Lauri Howard is an efficient comedian and dancer

DUNDEE.—Her Majesty's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe.—Mr. Fredk. Melville's thriller *Married to the Wrong Man* is staged here. Miss Gertrude Boswell plays well the exacting part of Ruth; Mr. Oswald Cray as Jack Gladwin bears himself bravely; Mr. H. Lane Bayliff as Captain Deering makes a clever stage villain; Mr. Charles Vivian's Jasper Skinner is an unusually convincing character study; Mr. Arthur T. Lennard is a capital Sergeant Manners; Miss Dorothy Haigh sustains the rôle of Rose O'Connor with much grace and charm; Miss Rosalie Notrelle impersonates Nurse Manners cleverly; Dr. Archie Bird has a capable representative in Mr. Paige Lawrence; and Mr. Syd Claydon as Timothy Clinker and Miss May Davis as Dolly Fritter are admirably suited.

Palace Theatre.—Lessees, The United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. S. McIntosh.—Topping a varied and interesting bill here is Harry Tate's No. 1 company in *Fishing*, in which some capital fooling is introduced; some startling acrobatic feats are presented by the Gaudsmidts Brothers; Louie Bright sings delightfully and dances elegantly; Matthews and Brown are entertaining in coon comedy; Stanley, the singing collier, is well received; Henri Bekker, assisted by Mlle. Maie, patters and juggles in amusing style; the Zeenas give a comical and exceptionally clever exhibition on the triple bars; George Hyatt performs some difficult juggling feats with neatness and precision; Spry and Austin are smart and breezy in their act; and the Palascope concludes.

Gaiety Theatre.—Lessee, Mrs. Lillie Williams; Licensee, Mr. W. E. Potts; Business-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Evans.—Mr. John Clyde and company are presenting twice nightly here a grand production of the great Scottish national drama *Rob Roy*. The new and elaborate scenery has all been painted specially for this production by Mr. R. Miller, while Highland pipers and dancers further add realism to the scenes. Mr. John Clyde makes a particularly strong and realistic Rob Roy; Mr. W. G. Robb instils much pawkiness into the part of Bailie Nicol Jarvie; Mr. A. Young Ritchie scores as the Dougal Cratur; Mr. J. W. Bowie as Francis Osbaldistone acts the polished gentleman to perfection; a handsome and attractive Diana Vernon is found in Miss Jones; Miss Clara Cowper makes a stately Helen Macgregor; Mr. Clavering Power enacts the villainous Rashleigh Osbaldistone thoroughly well; Mr. H. W. Needham is very good as Owen; Mr. D. Blair is a dashing and handsome Captain Thornton; and Mr. Alec Hamilton an excellent Major Galbraith.

Empire Theatre.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. Lillie Williams; Business-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alfred Ross.—Mr. Fred J. Webb's company is drawing large audiences here with *The Hour of Her Triumph*. The part of Zelia Clairmont is cleverly interpreted by Miss M. Danvers Smith; Mr. Fred J. Webb appears to advantage as Eugene Harberry; Mr. Will Henderson plays feelingly the part of Harold Clavering; Mr. Clive Hall displays fine dramatic acting as Jack Vernon; Mr. Louis Nanton as Ben Brodie keep the house in merriment; Miss Nellie Lambert makes a pleasing Nellie Clavering; and Miss Lallah Price is responsible for a clever impersonation of an inebriate.

Newman's Picture Palace. — Mr. Fred Newman has an attractive programme on top at this popular house this week, several very fine pictures being on view. In addition the Cedrics in an amusing act, *Chish and Fips*, and Vela, a remarkably clever wire equilibrist, lend variety to the entertainment.

Kinnaird Hall.—The U.S.A. pictures, under the capable management of Mr. Archie Hamilton, of Hamilton's Excursions fame, commenced a two-weeks' stay here on Monday. The films are nicely varied, and a capital variety turn is provided by Aerian and Ostara, gymnasts.

Gilfillan Hall.—The B.B. pictures continue to draw good houses here. Quite a feature of this week's programme is the singing pictures, which are proving very popular.

American Roller Skating Rink.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. C. P. Crawford and F. A. Wilkins; Manager, Mr. Bert Crump.—This magnificent rink continues to maintain its popularity. The first grand skating Cinderella took place on Tuesday, all skaters appearing in evening dress.

DUNFERMLINE.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.—Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and Mr. J. E. Cardwell's juvenile company, in *The House that Jack Built*, opened a successful week's engagement here on Monday. Miss Fanny Adamson is a dashing Jack; Mr. H. Hillerby as Aunt Purdy works hard and his method of fun-making is much appreciated; Wee Gladys Wyse as Wee McGregor gives a capital impersonation of a Scotch comedian; Mr. MacNorton contributes largely to the success of the show; Doyle and Gibson as Scraggs and Scraggles put in good work; Miss Evelyn Major makes a dainty Jill, her singing being praiseworthy; Miss Olive Purcell as Fairy Twinkle Star possesses a good voice, which is effectively used. Specialities are given by Doyle and Gibson, Horance Hillerby, MacNorton, Florrie Edwardes, Wee Gladys Wyse, and Vivian Wakeman. The staging and dressing are excellent and appropriate.

EASTBOURNE.—Devonshire Park Theatre.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray King and Clark.—Mr. Frank Weathersby's company is appearing here in *The Marriage of Kitty*. Miss Helena Parsons is a charming Kitty; Miss Kathleen Russell, beautifully gowned, plays with great cleverness as Mme. de Semiano; Miss Dot Seilby does all that is necessary as Rosalie; Mr. Leslie Owen as the self-satisfied Sir Reginald makes excellent use of his opportunities; Mr. Bert Morley is a distinct and interesting John Travers; Mr. Edward Mervyn does excellent duty as Norbury; and Mr. Theodore Kelly helps ably as Hampton. *Bitter Sweet* is played each evening as a front piece.

Royal Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; District-Manager, Mr. G. Egbert; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—Heading the bill here is Mr. Randolph King, in an interesting ventriloquial and protean mystery act, *Mystery No. 1*. Mr. Dan Austin, with Mr. R. Harcourt, has an original comedy duologue, *His Wedding Morning*, which provokes much laughter; Florence Ellis and Victor Ellis display great cleverness; Miss Ida Brophy is a pleasing singer and smart dancer; Mr. Bert Ridley is a local whistler, whose imitations are astonishingly realistic; Hemsley and Ambrose have an amusing motor-car act; Miss Lou Langley is a dainty comedienne; and new pictures are shown.

Pier Pavilion.—Manager Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. W. George Lestocq and company are appearing here in *The Sportsman*. Mr. George Lestocq as Harry Briscoe is funny and natural; Mr. H. Donaldson does able work as Dr. Halroyd; Mr. Sidney Bransgrove is an amusing Mr. Perkins; Mr. Gordon Smythe does well as Bob; and as the Inspector Mr. T. Dennis is effective. Miss Dora Comyn contributes an animated study of the part of Mrs. Briscoe; Miss Agnes Maude plays with much point and effect as Mrs. Critchly; and Miss Pauline Emeric is a capital Emily. Following *The Sportsman*, a new and original one-act musical play was given on Monday evening, entitled *The Garden of the Gods*.

ECCLES.—Crown Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert Rogers.—Messrs. Matthew H. Glenville and Fred Osmond's company is playing *A Soldier of France*. Miss Beatrice Shirley gives a capable rendering of Pauline Lorraine; Zippe, a Creole slave, is well portrayed by Miss Phœbe Jones; Master Louis Lorraine is ably depicted by Miss Gertie Renaud; Miss Rose Charlesworth is successful as Rita, Duke de Laval's niece; much fun is derived from the efforts of Miss Maggie Hobart and Mr. Freddie Edwards in the respective characters of Margot and Pollyput Jollyboy; Mr. Fred Rivers gives a characteristic presentiment of Corporal, later Father, Jean, of the Fighting Fifth; Mr. Gerald Kennedy does full justice to the part of Judas Delara; and as Captain Louis Lorraine Mr. Edward Hobart displays cleverness.

EDINBURGH.—Royal Lyceum Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—The popular comedian, Mr. Lionel Rignold, has been here this week, bringing Mr. F. Lonsdale's successful farce, *The Early Worm*, on its first visit. As Allan Marchmount, who supplies the title of the piece, Mr. Rignold has a part in which his natural gifts of vocal and facial expression are heightened by a sound artistic method; and the company gathered round him is a most capable one. The two feminine rôles in the cast are happily filled by Miss Marie Daltra, who puts all the necessary force into her acting as Lady Steyne, and Miss Fyfe Alexander, whose Sybil Annesley is very prettily and gracefully rendered. Mr. T. Warburton Gamble plays the Duke of Tadcaster with easy refinement; Mr. Frank Graham exploits all the humour afforded by the part of Lord Steyne, a down-trodden husband; Sir Wm. Mayton is effectively represented by Mr. Raymond Dudley; and the other characters are well-handled by Messrs. W. H. Pierpoint, Eric H. Albury, Donald Dawson, Robert Melrose, and Geoffrey Ellis. *The Wedding Morn*, put on as a curtain-raiser, proved quite a charming little sketch, in which Mr. Dudley, Mr. Albury, and Miss Christine Jenson made an admirable appearance.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Whitehead.—Continuing its run, for the concluding week of its present season in Edinburgh, the matinée and evening performances of *Peter Pan* have attracted large and well-pleased audiences. The charms of Peter and Wendy, as portrayed by Miss Pauline Chase and Miss Gertrude Lang, and their varied adventures; the atrocities of the Pirate Captain, Mr. Robert Harwood, and his crew (including the notorious Smee, of Mr. George Shelton); and all the round of characters familiar now as household names, seem to retain their fascination for playgoers to an extraordinary degree. The piece is well staged, well acted, and warmly applauded.

King's Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard.—Miss Irma Lorraine is the principal attraction here in her poses representative of works of art, like "The Flute Player," "Bacchante," "The Indian Snake Charmer," and "A Vision of Faith"; Mastro and Mlle. Oretta are wonderful equilibrists; Marstro does some exceedingly clever juggling feats, and his concluding performance of balancing himself on a billiard table—supported by Mlle. Oretta—on two billiard balls placed on the top of two cues evokes much applause. There are other admirable artists, Mr. Bert Branitford, Mr. George Grenville, Mr. Vivian Foster, Miss Agnes Asher, Mr. R. Brown (the miniature Hercules), and Mr. F. G. Grahame's company in Mr. Mark Melford's trifle, *Non-suited*; but, perhaps, the most spontaneous applause of the evening is called forth by Miss Ethel Erskine and Miss Jane Eyre, two popular actresses who were in the cast of *Dick Whittington* at the Theatre Royal. Miss Erskine sings with conspicuous humour and expression, and by her accompaniments approved herself a pianist of ability. Miss Eyre's brightness and vivacity in several tuneful songs rouses the audience to enthusiasm. Miss Eyre is assisted in two of her selections by little Miss Eva Burnley, who dances with great neatness.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco, an exceptionally clever trio of conjurers and illusionists, lead the van in an attractive bill, and their mystifying sleight-of-hand tricks provide excellent entertainment. The accomplishments of the Selbinis, as trick cyclists, are well known, and their exhibition of skill continues to be marked by all its usual grace and dexterity, as well as by the performance of novel and startling feats; Mr. and Mr. H. A. Meymott appear with great success in an amusing comedy sketch, entitled *Semi-detached*; Howell and Scott create much diversion with their Hebrew patter; and the Rawsons, boy and girl artists, give a most pleasing musical seance; the blind musician, Mr. George Young, gains warm approval as an instrumentalist, especially for selections played on the English concertina; and commendable single-handed turns are contributed by Mr. J. W. Hall, a quaint comedian; and by Miss Lily Esplin, a character comedienne. An interesting series of animated pictures is shown by the Bioscope.

The Oriental Original Picture Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. W. C. Burns.—Mr. Burns's venture is proving successful here, including admirable views shown by the Bioscope, and music, both vocal and instrumental, of an agreeable sort.

EXETER.—Theatre Royal.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—*Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch* was presented here on Monday by Mr. Gaston Mayer's London company, which included Miss Augusta Haviland, who as Mrs. Wiggs scored a great success. As Miss Hazy Miss Armine Grace was both clever and amusing; Mr. Burton Cooke as Mr. Stubbins was characteristic; Miss Dorothy Clifton gave a well-studied representation of Lovey Mary; the matrimonial agent was in the capable hands of Mr. Forester Harvey; Mr. Guy Addison as Bob did well; and Miss Beatrice Bell as Miss Eichorn and Miss Violet Chamier as Mrs. Schultz worked ably.

New Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frederick Sandy.—The top of this week's bill is Albert Toft's living statuary entitled "Makers of History"; Signor and Mme. Borelli are accomplished pianists; the equilibristic feats of the Lombards are marvellous; Walter Curtis is aptly described as the "merriment merchant"; David Poole's ventriloquial efforts are deservedly applauded; Lilian French, comedienne, has an excellent reception; and Donald Macdougall, Scotch comedian, is funny. The Hippodrome pictures round off an excellent bill.

FALKIRK.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. W. Ebbutt.—*The Gay Goddess* is meeting with much success. The play is prettily staged and dressed. The onerous part of Juno, a statue, is admirably impersonated by Miss Kate Graham-Beck, who gets through her work in talented style, her powerful singing being quite a feature of her impersonation; Mr. Arthur Staples as Timothy Twinkle is a host in himself, and acts in inimitable style; Mr. Fred Hammond makes an ideal Samuel Strong, and his wit and humour literally "bring down the house"; as Priscilla Strong, Miss Leah Howard proves herself a charming young actress of undoubted talent, singing and dancing smartly; Miss Louie Grey as Lottie Stimson is a highly cultured soloist, and her acting is faultless; Miss Amy Wood gets through her part of Mrs. Marie Strong with distinction. In the rôles of Anthony Somers and Sherlock Blake, Mr. George Watson and Mr. Richard Teasdale are really clever; exceptionally neat is the dancing of Misses Dolly Shaw, K. Sullivan, and Louie Grey.

FLEETWOOD.—Queen's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. J. Snelson.—The clever American drama *Rags* is being presented here by a powerful company. Mr. Edward Leroy is a forceful hero as Brant Yorel; Mr. Chas. E. Lambert enacts the part of Major Timothy Seymour in true Yankee style; Charles Kingston finds a capable exponent in Mr. F. E. Chabot; Mr. F. Wheatley is an exceptionally good villain as Pedro Velasquez; the comedy—and there is plenty—is in the able hands of Mr. Alfred Lafolle, whose portrayal of the nigger, George Washington, is decidedly clever; Miss Blanche Leroy, in the title-rôle, acts with much power; Miss Hilda May as Esme Deering, a Boston belle, both sings and acts acceptably her several songs receiving unstinted approval; Miss Louie Walton has a difficult part in Miss Timothy Seymour, but she acts it excellently.

FOLKESTONE. — The Pleasure Gardens Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland. — *The Private Secretary* is being played by Mr. Eugene C. Stafford's company, and an excellent all-round performance is given. As the Rev. Robert Spalding, Mr. D. Price-Evans could scarcely be bettered, his acting being genuinely humorous; Mr. Hargreaves's Mr. Cattermole is a capital conception, finely played throughout; Mr. Frank Stanley is good as Mr Marsland; and Mr. Begbie and Mr. Herbert Garthorne deserve credit for their natural and easy acting. Mr. F. Tyrrell commands a special word of praise for his Mr. Gibson. The ladies all acquit themselves well, Mrs. A. Davis as Miss Ashford being perhaps the best. Miss Dulcie Conry and Miss Nan Macrae as the two high-spirited girls act with great vivacity and charm; and Miss M. Scharming as Mrs. Stead does well.

GAINSBOROUGH.—King's Theatre.—Lessees, Gainsborough Theatre Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Leighton.—For the first three nights this week we had a variety company, consisting of Cissie Ferndale, burlesque artist; Sisters Hula, clever dancers; George Edney, a good descriptive singer; and Edie Stuart, who on Monday introduced a new number entitled "Kangaroo," which she gave in a captivating manner The pictures included excellent views of the streets of London.

GATESHEAD.—King's Theatre.—Proprietors, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager Mr. Harold Arnold.—A very welcome return visit is paid this week by Tom and Marie Motramo with an entertaining sketch combining music and comedy; Alman Correze presents a gorgeous juggling scena, and is assisted by the droll Keith; Hamilton Hill, a pleasing baritone, finds numerous admirers; Harry J. Crane and company present a pathetic episode, *Truth in Absence*, and are successful; Leo and Roland have a novel equilibristic act, which is well received; Beaty and Blanche, dainty dancers and duettists, and the Kingcsope complete the bill.

Metropole Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; General-Manager, Mr. Robert G. Elder; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Dixon.—Mr. Frank Adair's company in *The Heathen and the Christian* is here. Mr. Adair is seen to great advantage in the part of Li; Mr. Hugh Mewburn is sufficiently repulsive as Lung Hi; Mr. Dudley Wynton makes a capital study of George Berresford; Lord Allendale is well looked after by Mr. Herbert Robinson; Miss Louie Adair is a tender May Berresford, and the important part of Mira Sampson is in the capable hands of Miss Adeline Raby.

GLASGOW.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager Mr. Percy Humphreys.—The Moody-Manners Opera company opened here on Monday with *The Meistersingers*. Mr. Philip Brozel was in good voice, and gave an excellent rendering of the part of Walter; Mr. Lewys James as Hans Sachs specially distinguished himself, both vocally and histrionically, and fully deserved the enthusiastic applause bestowed on him; Miss Kate Anderson was particularly well suited as Eva, and Miss Josephine McCarthy ably sustained the part of Magdalene; Mr. William Dewer infused a touch of quaint humour into the character of Sixtus Beckmesser; Mr. Charles Magrath's fine voice was heard to advantage as Veit Pogner, and the part of David was cleverly played by Mr. F. Davis. The augmented band and chorus responded well to the baton of Herr Richard Eckhold. *Faust*, *The Bohemian Girl*, *Lohengrin*, and *Madame Butterfly* were given on the later evenings of the week.

King's, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—Mr. Frank Curzon's company in *My Mimosa Maid* opened here on Monday. Miss Marie Studholme's Paulette is a fine performance, her gaiety is infectious, and she acts with delightful animation; Mr. Charles McNaughton plays Victor Guilbert on broadly humorous lines; Mr. Charles E. Paton is exceedingly funny as Max Guilbert; Master Archie McCaig as Bock is deserving of praise; Miss Ruby Gray as Marcelle Pilaine is heard to advantage; Miss May Garstang is a delightful Madame de Pilaine; Mr. Powis Pinder makes a satisfactory Captain Louis du Laurier; Mr. Percy Carr does good work as Mr. Emile Gerard; as also does Mr. Arthur Jackson as Grove.

Royalty, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Carpenter.—Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Benson and their Shakespearean company have opened here with *Macbeth*, in which Mr. Benson gives a highly-finished rendering of the ambitious Thane; Mrs. Benson impressively depicts the varying moods of Lady Macbeth; the part of Macduff is safe in the hands of Mr. Edward A. Warburton, and Banquo is well rendered by Mr. G. F. Hannam Clarke; the three weird sisters are portrayed by Mr. H. O. Nicholson, Mr. J. Moffat Johnston, and Miss Leah Hanman; a venerable figure is the Duncan of Mr. Murray Carrington, who also doubles the part of the Doctor; Malcolm and Donaldbain are well expressed by Mr. F. G. Worlock and Mr. J. Ward; Mr. Guy B. Rathbone and Mr. W. Ribton Haines are excellent as the Murderers. *Richard II.*, *The Merry Wives*, and *Richard III.* are also in the répertoire, varied by *The School for Scandal* and *The Belle's Stratagem*.

Grand, Ltd.—District-Manager, Mr. B. G. Maclachlan; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. Christie Grant.—The Carl Rosa Opera company is here. On Monday *Lohengrin* was given under the direction of Mr. Eugene Goossens. The tenor rôle was undertaken by Mr. Walter Wheatley, whose singing throughout was refined and expressive; Miss Elizabeth Burgess sang and acted with much feeling as Elsa; Mr. Arthur Winckworth made an imposing Henry the Fowler; Mr. Dillon Shallard displayed a thorough grasp of the part of Telramund; the Ortrud of Madame Marie Alexander was an intensely dramatic performance, and as the Herald Mr. Frederick Clindon declaimed with good effect. *Carmen* was given on Tuesday, with Mr. E. C. Hedmont and Miss Doris Woodall in the leading parts.

Royal Princess's.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—*Diccory Dok* finishes here to-night (Saturday) with a run of eighty-one nights and thirty-eight matinées to its credit. On Monday the popular second boy and girl, Misses Edith Haley and Maggie Fraser took their benefit, and those charming duettists, who are immense favourites here, were rewarded with a bumper house. On Thursday Mr. Rich. Waldon rallied his supporters round him on the occasion of his 22nd annual benefit, and, as usual, the night was made a very special one. Messrs. Peter Bermingham, Syd Walker, Cliff Lake, Harry A. Gribben, Ainslie Burton, and Walter Dale have all worked well together as comedians, and the popularity of the ladies has been a prime factor in this year's success, Misses Flora Cromer and Ella Retford (principal boy and girl) sharing the honours well with Misses Fraser and Haley, Sisters Bartholomew, May Beatrice, and Ivy Proudfoot. The useful work of Messrs. Charles Stevens and Harry Brett as knockabout comedians must not be overlooked, and an important item was the scenic splendours, devised by Mr. J. C. Bontor.

Metropole, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—Mr. Andrew Melville's powerful company in *Driven from Home*, is attracting large audiences here. Mr. Felix Pitt as Anthony Raybrook is a great success; as also is Mr. P. G. Beresford as Walter Hatherleigh; Miss Ada M. Ryder in the dual part of Laura Raybrook and Walter Hatherleigh, the younger, shows great histrionic ability; Mr. Chas. Burdon as Geoffrey Waring in the villain's part is very realistic; Willie, an outcast, is very well portrayed by Mr. Henry Helling; the comic element, in the hands of Mr. C. Imbert and Miss Susie Bevan, is well sustained. All the other parts are in capable hands, and the staging all that can be desired.

Lyceum.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—Miss Kate Clinton's production of *Jeanie Deans* is here. Miss Clinton gives a very fine performance of the faithful and heroic Jeanie, and her erring sister Effie is acted with much pathos by Miss Mary Campbell; Mr. Mackintosh Clyde contributes a clever character sketch as the Laird o' Dumbiedykes; Mr. Stuart Black plays with striking effect as the stern old father David Deans; Miss Belle Cecil is particularly good as the half-witted Madge Wildfire, and Margery Murdockson is enacted with weird power by Miss Clara Armitage; Mr. Denis Hogan's style is impressive as the Duke of Argyll; Mr. A. Wilson Gunning does well as Geordie Robertson, and Mr. Arthur Edwards is good as Reuben Butler; Mr. Neil Fitzwilliam delivers the speech for the defence with fine effect in the Trial scene. The play is well staged.

Empire.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Manners.—Fred Karno's amusing sketch *The Football Match* provides a lively three-quarters of an hour here, and the fun provided by Harry Weldon and Will Poluski, jun., as the rival goalkeepers, is brisk and mirth-provoking. Two of the ladies from the Grand pantomime are accorded a hearty reception here, Queenie Finnis (Cinderella) for a clever monologue sketch, and Nellie Wigley (second boy) for two songs, given in her own bright and fascinating manner; the Stockham Ladies' Grecian Band proves a special treat to music lovers; Arthur Kenny, sensational cyclist, does some feats of unusual daring; the St. Johns, in musical selections and neat step dancing, again prove an enjoyable turn; George Westland, Scotch comedian, also secures his meed of applause; Nina Wood takes well in her songs at the piano, and the Bioscope is well up-to-date.

Zoo-Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Councillor E. H. Bostock; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock.—The Harmony Four create uproarious mirth here; Maude Elliston and company appear in *Dobson's Day Off*, and add greatly to the general hilarity; also on the programme are Phern and Phern, who present a rather unique musical act; Shrilla, an operatic whistler of decided merit; Ray Maskell, in some good singing and dancing; Edith Chantler, a juvenile soprano, whose efforts were very promising, and Chorley and Connor, a pair of clever patter comedians and dancers; the equestrian performance

vocalists and dancers; and the Bioscope pictures complete a pleasing programme.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry L. Skivington.—Doody and Wright top the bill, and this clever Australian duo have been very successful; Robert Trebor and company are well received in their sketch, *The Reptile's Devotion;* Picitt and Lizette are particularly clever in their mysterious act, *The Crazy Cook;* and other entertaining turns are those of Charles Santon, double-voiced vocalist; the Musical Keiths, instrumentalists; Halma, Society juggler; and Bert Terrell, Dutch comedian. The pictures are again a capital collection.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—There is a novelty here this week, in the shape of the first venture of the Grimsby and Cleethorpes Amateur Operatic Society. Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado* is the work slected, and it is the first time light opera has been attempted in Grimsby on an ambitious scale by amateurs. The representation of the popular opera is very successful.

THE PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—Hayman and Franklin give a capital exposition of Hebrew humour; Les Vails, athletes, give a smart gymnastic turn; Arabella Allen's impersonations of Shakespearean and Dickens characters are warmly appreciated; Frank Whitley is a skilled dancer and performer on the bones; Jock Mills is a capital Scottish humorist; Will Sullivan has some good patter; and Madeline Rossiter is a pleasing coon singer and dancer.

GUERNSEY.—THEATRE ST. JULIANS.—Lessee, Mr. Ed. Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company is here with *The Lancashire Lad.* Miss Harriett Russell plays Mother Wardle with artistic skill; Miss Nellie Fletcher gives an effective rendering of the odious rôle of Lorna; Miss K. V. Rose creditably portrays Jane Alice; Miss Maude Hastings sympathetically enacts Jessie, and Miss Dorothy Hildebrand as Kitty is a great favourite; Mr. Sydney Bland portrays David with earnestness; Mr. Wilton Reed admirably represents Jem Wincote; Mr. J. L. Courtney smartly and cleverly plays Max Carton; Mr. John Hignett's John Willie is very funny, and Mr. J. W. Wilkinson is a capital representative of Tum.

HALIFAX.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Messrs. Smith and Carpenter's company is here this week with the Lyceum production, *Pete.* Mrs. Frederick Victor's representation of Pete Quilliam adds considerably to this popular actor's laurels; Mr. Percy Rhodes makes a good Philip Christian, his later scenes as the Deemster are excellent. Ross Christian finds an able exponent in Mr. Pennington Gush; Mr. Tom W. Ford's Cæsar Cregeen is a fine character study; as Nancy, Miss Amy Grace is excellent; Miss Marjorie Murray displays fine abilities in the part of Kate Cregeen.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—Jennie Johns, with fascinating style, a clear delivery, and a smart appearance, is attractive here this week; Rowlands and Ford create considerable amusement as a Welsh and a Scotch comedian; King Luis and partner give a clever hand-balancing turn; Florence Kay is a fine contralto singer; Bert Williams, ventriloquist, gives a good turn, introducing some laughable patter; Barton and Franklin Trio, vocal and dancing speciality. Sid Bandon, descriptive vocalist, Cromo and Hamilton, comedy entertainers, and some fine pictures, complete a good bill.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Foster.—A varied and entertaining programme at the Palace this week includes Minerva, the woman jail-breaker, who gives an interesting exhibition of her powers, and meets with hearty approval; Dan Whitley, a very eccentric comedian, keeps the house in a constant roar whilst he is on the stage; the Czar Troupe are good Russian dancers; Morton and Elliot get some phenomenal results in paper-tearing; Ethel Scheffer meets with a good reception for her illustrated songs; Kinniard is a good conjurer; and Lily Luraine, an accomplished musician. Mark Merry, comedian, and Raymond's Bio-tableaux complete.

HAMILTON, N.B.—HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Managing-Director, Mr. René Clayton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Jack Bostock.—Phil Rees' stable lads are topping the bill here in a smart turn, entitled *Not a Crook;* Star and Leslie are amusing in a speciality act; and Walker and May submit an interesting turn; Palles and Cussick, droll knockabouts; Irve Hayman and company in *Christmas Eve;* Ivey Aberdare, a dainty comedienne and dancer; Dave O'Toole, comedian; Harry Vardon, ventriloquist; and the Bioscope complete the bill.

HANLEY.—ROYAL, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. Chas G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—*The Builder of Bridges,* in the hands of Mr. Geo. Alexander's clever company, is successfully staged here to capital audiences. The truly trying part of Dorothy is undertaken by Miss Rosalind Ivan, an accomplished actress, who bears the brunt of the burden in a most meritorious manner; Miss Claire Paunceforte as Mrs. Debney is excellent, her voice, manner, and appearance being admirably suited to the rôle; Miss Jessica Thorne is a sweet Miss Closson; and Miss Angela Mosley is a good maid. Mr. Stephen T. Ewart plays the strong character of Edward Thursfield excellently; Mr. Henry Ludlow as Arnold is good; Mr. Brisco Owen is a success as Walter Gresham, the unrequited lover; Mr. W. R. Staveley makes a capable "chief"; Mr. Eric R. Ward plays Peter Holland skilfully. The scenery and dresses are superb.

GRAND, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand. — Ye Colonial Septette tops the poster, and makes a great success; the Primrose Quartette of vocalists are clever; Jenny Hartley is a sweet singer; the Garganis are expert acrobats; Addie Dorina makes a great hit in a clever quick-change scena; Marie Vere is loudly applauded; La Dorando is a marvellous lady juggler; the Grand pictures show Days of Pompeii; and Billy Howard and Katheryn Harris make their usual hit with "The Adventures of a Tramp."

KING'S.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy; Manager, Mr. H. Kennedy.—Once again a capital series of pictures are shown, the chief being Face to Face. Burns and Johnson, and Hilarious Powder. Herr U. C. Hugo is a mystifying conjurer.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eric Fielding-Smith.—Miss Ada Fawn, the bright particular star here, scores with her burlesque song as well as her popular chorus ditties; the Adras are a clever pair of acrobats, and the Maltans contribute an amusing sketch; Blair and Allen in song and dance; Edmunda, a clever ventriloquist; Miss Beatrice Allen in a pretty song; Miss Tots Davis in a slavey song; Phil and Nellie Peters, American hustlers, and Niagara and Falls are also in the bill.

ST. JAMES'S HALL.—Managing-Director, Mr. S. H. Carter; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fred A. Parker.—Several interesting films are on show here this week, notably a beautifully coloured series of the Eclipse of the Sun.

HARTLEPOOL.—EMPRESS.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Albert Mathams.—Pictures by Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope continue to hold sway here. An interesting film depicting A Travel Through Savoy and one of Glimpses of Italy are thoroughly enjoyed. Bob, the Scullion Tom Thrull, A Friend in Need, A Suffragette's Dream, and The Prestige of Uniform are all good films. W. E. Hilton gives a clever and amusing ventriloquial entertainment, and Alf. Millington's songs are prettily illustrated and well sung.

TOWN HALL.—Excellent pictures continue to be shown by the Walturdaw Company. A Convict's Revenge is very interesting, as is Eileen. Bobby Sportsman, Weary Willie, and The Persistent Suitor keep the audience amused, and romance is supplied by The Crafty Usurper and Marco Visconti.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—A return visit is paid this week by Mr. George Dance's company in *The Girls of Gottenberg.* Miss Maisie North was in the cast as Elsa, but owing to her absence her place on Monday was filled by Miss Geraldine Burne, who succeeded admirably. Mr. Bertie Wright, as Max Moddelkopf, was the cause of continual merriment; Mr. Tom Shelford did well as Otto; Miss Simeta Marsden played Mitzi with much energy. Effective oddities of character were supplied respectively by Mr. Morgan Rickards as Burgomaster, Mr. Edwin Stanley as Kanenbier, Mr. Tom Squire as Town Clerk, and Mr. George Vaughan as Corporal Schmidt.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Harry Boyd; General-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—Miss Lena Pinaud, a versatile comedian and dancer, heads a good programme; a clever jumping act is shown by Cosselly; Will Cracklee's effusions are much enjoyed; the Alhambra Pictures exhibit some highly dramatic films; a very amusing comedy duologue, *Miss Summerson's Baby,* is given by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shelley; Herman and Evelyn gain applause for their slack wire act; a vivacious and winsome comedienne is found in Miss Florrie Robina; a romantic legend of *The Mistletoe Bough* is remarkably well enacted by Mr. Geo. Wood, Miss Hilda Ross, and Miss Harrie Brookes; and a wrestling tournament by local amateurs concludes.

PAVILION.—General-Manager, MR. J. D. Hunter.—A varied entertainment is holding the boards here. One of the principal features is the effective pictures shown by the Pavilion Bioscope. The dramatic pieces include the amusing comedietta, *The Silent Woman,* and the farcical sketch, *My Daughter's Dowry.* The first piece is of the simplest kind, but Miss Eva Bayley, Miss Cherry Wardroper, and Mr. J. E. Cowell manage to extract a good amount of fun in its performance. In the sketch, Mr. J. D. Hunter as Diogenes is delightfully amusing; Mr. J. E. Cowell is excellent as Sniggins; Miss Eva Bayley makes a charming wife; and Miss Wardroper plays the daughter with a light and effective touch.

HUDDERSFIELD. — HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—The top of the bill is taken by Miss Lilian Dundas and company, who are playing *The Doom of Delilah.* Also in the bill are the Godfreys in their amusing musical act, entitled *The Slave and the Coon;* Miss Rose Harvey, ballad vocalist; Fred Maitland, comedian, in an amusing skit at the expense of the Suffragettes; Dancit, in a trio of well-varied and cleverly-executed dances; the New Macs, diverting comedians; Sisters Dorrell, duettists and dancers; Miss Annie Purcell, a dainty comedienne, and some good pictures on the Bioscope.

HULL.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Morton's, Ltd; Manager, Mr. W. F. Morton.—Here this week is *The Flag Lieutenant.* The part of the Flag Lieutenant makes an appeal upon the powers of Mr. Lionel Atwill to which he is not slow to respond; as Colonel Thesiger Mr. A. Montagu Love wins the sympathy of the house; the Admiral could need no better representative than Mr. George Mallett; Mr. Petley was a pleasing surgeon, and the two middies were realised by Messrs. H. Wakefield and L. Watts; Miss Florence Jackson with much skill caught the idea of Mrs. Cameron. Other characters are well filled.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Mortons, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. George Morton.—*The Woman Pays* is here. Miss Kate Blair plays the leading part with much success. In heroic style Mr. Phil Harper enacts Sid Armstrong, and Mr. Treadgold has a capable representative in Mr. Beresford Innes.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—*The Nihilist* is the attraction this week, the players being Messrs. O. Silverstone, H. Wright, and company. Miss Edna Clare plays with pathos and feeling as Alexina Orloff, and Mr. William Armour as Ivan Nowasky is an artist of merit. Little Alexina is charmingly taken by little Ella Nixon; Mr. Cowell Clarke makes a good Karl Orloff; the part of Father Gourko being suitably represented by Mr. J. B. Harvey. Miss Florry Kelsey as Princess Olga exhibits great skill; Mr. Henry Wright is very funny as Bobbie Smart; and Miss Jessie Ford is an amusing Katrina; Mr. O. Silverstone as Prince Alexander is a clever villain, and is ably assisted by Mr. C. Newton Buckland as Piertree Petoff.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers. — This cosy and comfortable little hall was opened for the first time as a vaudeville and picture venture on Monday on the twice nightly plan. The hall has been fitted with electric light, and various structural alterations have been made. The stage, which is 8ft. deep, has been fitted with scenery, and the proscenium opening is 12ft. The pictures are all excellent. Walter Levalle, coster comedian, is a favourite; Miss Nellie Belmore is a pleasing vocalist; and the musical act of Phil Lister is applauded.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM.—Mr. Stanley James's company occupies the house this week with the charming three-act comedy *My Wife.* Mr. C. H. Croker-King's interpretation of the exacting part of Gerald Eversleigh is powerful, and he is supported by the talented Miss Mary Carnegy in the difficult part of Trixie; Miss Katherine Harrington as Miriam Hawthorn is excellent; Miss Olivia Edwards as Mrs. Denham Lane, Miss Barbara Fenn as the Baroness, and Miss Winifred Bradnell as Madame Dupre are all good; the part of Gibby by Mr. James Geldred is funny; Captain Fuzby is by Mr. Gerald Fitzgerald; and Mr. Cecil Brooking is a capable Mons. Dupre. The one-act play *The Vengeance of Jim* is the curtain raiser.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—*Drummed Out* is being presented here by Mr. A. C. Lilly and company; Don and Mabel Kerr, in a Scotch scena, sing solos and duets with excellent effect; the Two Wallys have a clever juggling performance; H. C. Lovell and company produce a musical comedietta entitled *Mam'selle Pom-Pom,* and Miss Kitty Wager, Fred Poplar, and Horace Jones are also in the bill.

PICTURE PALACE.—Mr. John R. Poole has become lessee for a considerable period of the Lecture Hall in Tower-street, and after making internal structural alterations, has opened the building as a Picture Palace, giving two shows nightly. The moving pictures are clear, and a gramophone discourses the songs of well-known artists. Miss Eileen Russell is a solo singer with a charming voice, and Mr. F. Kingsley is a capital accompanist. Mr. A. C. Rogers is the manager.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Lionel Locke.—Messrs. Levy and Cardwell's Juvenile pantomime company is here with *The Babes in the Wood.* Little Peggy McDonnell and Little Cissie Wyse are excellent as the babes Leslie and Marjorie, and Miss Daisy Wood gives a good account of Robin Hood, her singing making her quite a favourite; Mr. Neil Hardy as Baron Strangeways is very droll; Mr. Jimmie Watson revels in the part of Lucinda Lovejoy; Mr. J. G Aitkin causes much amusement as Sandy Simple; Mr. Harry Leander is quite at home in the part of Friar Tuck, and Messrs. Graham and Baron are well placed as Willing and Weary, the ruffians; Miss Jennie Hughes is simply charming as Fairy Dewdrop, and Miss Dolly Dodds is a captivating Marion, her singing and dancing being highly appreciated. The scenery and dresses are excellent.

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. Jas. A. Lauder; Manager, Mr. Edward Ranier.—Captain W. V. Simmons Lynn gives a unique entertainment of ventriloquism and shadowgraphy; Mone Cristo, the flexible comedian; Miss May Waugh, comedienne; Benson Clive, in his song scena, "Chorus, Gentlemen!" Will Dare, swell comedian, and Adonis, in some classical poses, constitute the company.

KEIGHLEY. — QUEEN'S THEATRE. — Proprietor, Mr. R. S. Kendall; Acting-Manager; Mr. W. Carson.—Mr. Charles Carey and company are her this week in *The Madeira Maid.* The part of Maidie is ably played by Miss Lacey, and her smart dancing is much applauded; Miss Marie Ault is a decidedly clever Ann Chovey; Mr. Charles Carey, Mr. Harold Perry, and Mr. W. E. Matthews are good in their respective characters.

KING'S LYNN.—NEW ROYAL THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. B. Pareezer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Pareezer.—For three nights this week Mr. J. B. Hart has presented Mrs. F. Wybert Clive's company in the sensational drama *The Outcast of the Family.* The play has been well received, and the efforts of the artists much appreciated. The honours fall to Mr. C. A. Olgar as Harry Thorne, and Miss Florence M. Daley as Ruth, each of whom faithfully portrays the parts allotted them; Mr. Frank Hertie is excellent as Stepney Barry, and as Richard Martin Mr. J. W. Bayling makes the typical villain of the play, a part in which he is well assisted by Miss Ethel Tooney as Grace Redfern; Mr. Miles Platting as Sir Henry Thorne performs with precision; Mr. Reg Oldroyd as Joe Bushell, and Miss Vera Neville as Nancy Bray successfully introduce comedy business; Mr. Wm. Hayward is effective as Abram Wasper, and the remainder of the company interpret their parts satisfactorily.

KIRKCALDY.—HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—The Lukushimas, at the top of the bill this week, are a really wonderful troupe of Japanese acrobats; Mr. J. K. Macfarlane is a Scotch comedian above the ordinary, and an exceptionally clever dancer is Mr. Charles Ousley. Worthy of particular mention is the capital turn by Mr. Johnny Beveridge, blind pianist and humorist. Other good turns are presented by Louie and Wally, a smart comedy duo; Mr. James Miller, baritone, and Miss Cissy Gordon, comedienne.

LANCASTER.—GRAND THEATRE—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. C. Howitt.—For the first three nights this week, Mr. Wentworth Croke's company presented the new version of *The Christian.* Glory Quayle as played by Miss Margery Fane was a pleasing and painstaking effort; Mr. P. Gedge Twyman gave an able performance of John Storm; Mr. John Hastians Batson made an impressive Father Lamplugh; Mr. G. Montague Lane a successful Robert Ure; and as Horatio Drake Mr. Edward Ouston did well. The rôles of Mrs. Callender and Polly Love were successfully essayed by Miss Alice Maude and Miss Gladys Vernon. Miss Augusta Tulloch's company in *The Woman Who Sinned* is billed for the remainder of the week.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. John Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—The head of the bill this week is Victor Widdicombe and company in *Her Devonshire Dad;* the Hodginis Troupe, two ladies and a gentleman, supply a remarkable gymnastic turn; Ned Graydon plays many instruments with success; and Mike Nono, Irish comedian, is paying a welcome return visit. The Dooley Girls dance well, as also do Metz and Metz; and Edna West, vocalist, sings pleasingly. The Hippograph is also an attraction.

LEAMINGTON. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. George G. Ridley.—After being closed for a week, the local playhouse reopened on Monday, when Messrs. Murray King and Clarke's company presented the amusing play *Toddles.* Mr. Murray King himself appears in the title-rôle, and proves himself a most diverting Toddles. He receives very substantial support from Mr. J. V. Bryant, who plays the useful friend Fiddy Gunner; Miss Naomi Nelson, who impersonates the match-making aunt; Mr. A. Linden, whose sleepy old parvenu is a quaint piece of character-acting; Miss Doris Langdon, Mr. M. Cheshire, Miss Evelyne Shelley, and Miss Mabel Ormonde.

LEEDS.—THE GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Theatre and Opera House, Leeds, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—Mr. George Alexander's company in *The Thief* is here. Mr. Grendon Bentley shows much dramatic ability in the character of Richard Chelford; and the part of Marise Chelford is well sustained by Miss May Congdon. Raymond Leyton and Harry Leyton are in the capable hands of Mr. Gerald Ames and Mr. Alfred Lugg respectively; Mr. Cyril Cattley makes the most of the part of the detective; and Miss Mary Dibley well depicts the emotions of Isabel Leyton.

THE ROYAL THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaughton; Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—*Sunday* is here. Miss Janet Lind in the title-part makes the most of her chances; and as Colonel Brinthorpe Mr. Wm. Giffard is quite equal to requirements; as Arthur Brinthorpe Mr. Boyce Wellams is good; and as Tom Axley Mr. Richard Trieve does well. As the boys, Mr. Richard F. Symons, Mr. A. Cotton Holmes, Mr. Jas. Hussey, and Mr. George Marriott all give delightful performances, and other characters are ably sustained by Mr. Thomas Nixon, Mr. Harry Lenton, Miss H. Graham Edwins, and Miss Jessie Stone.

THE EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. Gerald Morton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alex. Galley.—Canny Neil Kenyon makes a welcome appearance here after his illness, and is appreciated; Terry and Lambert make a big hit in their humorous character studies; Tom Edwardes, the immensely popular ventriloquist, is also here again; Ida Kathrena dances cleverly as an automatic doll. Other capital turns include E. J. Sheldon, Burnetti, Maud Rochez (who presents a variety theatre controlled by monkeys), and Harry Leybourn.

THE HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Acting-Manager, Mr. Collingwood.—Lalla Selbini is a Spanish singer, trick cyclist, dancer, and juggler. In every item she excels. Hal Godfrey, a very droll comedian, appears again with his company in *A Very Bad Boy;* the Arthur Gallimore Trio give an excellent account of themselves; Paul Vandy is a very smart juggler; Gus Harris sings for the first time, "Back, back to Palestine," which bids fair to equal his previous successes; W. Fulbrook and company, in a comedy concoction, *Astronomy,* create much laughter. Charles F. Best, Tod Lowan, W. T. Ellwanger (in *The Peacemaker*), and the Four Canadians are successful.

THE QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Wood; Manager, Mr. Frank Bush.—A smart comedy sketch, entitled *The Amber Light,* is presented here by Fred Eustace and Co.; Rowland sings songs with success; and the amusing antics of Little Ganty are enjoyed; Sterling and Love appear in an original sketch; Zaleski as the Golden Spider proves acceptable; Fremel and Fremel, clever eccentrics, Madge May, a dainty singer, and Russell Brandon, a smart dancer, complete the programme.

CITY PALACE.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Wood; Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—The Waldrons top the bill here with success; in a funny sketch Harry Russell and company excel; Burns and Bentley appear in a refined vaudeville act; Watson and Bates are a meritable turn in singing and dancing; Lily Eyton (comedienne) and Charles Lewis (ventriloquist) are also popular and capable artists.

LEICESTER. — OPERA HOUSE. — *The Merry Widow,* in every way admirably presented by Mr. George Edwardes's company, is on a second visit here. The two principal parts are now played by Miss Nora Barry as Sonia and Mr. Leonard Mackay as Prince Danilo, both of whom well deserve the appreciation bestowed by a house delighted with their clever performances. Mr. T. Redmond makes the audience rock with laughter as Nisch; and Mr. Lionel Victor is extremely funny as Baron Popoff. The other parts in a numerous cast are

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also enacted in thoroughly successful style. A feature new to Leicester is the Apache dance, which is executed with great success by Miss Dora Langham and Mr. Alfred H. Majilton.

Theatre Royal.—We have as the attraction here this week Mr. Montague Beaudyn's company in *The Power of a Wicked Woman*, which is capitally performed and staged. Mr. Montague Beaudyn plays exceedingly well as Philip Carey; and Miss Irene Monro is also a conspicuous success as Helen Terraire. Miss Winifred Rutland is deserving of praise as Denise; and others who portray their allotted parts in a satisfactory manner are Miss Cecilia Crawford (Nellie Montague), Mr. Arthur Cresswell (Guy Oliphant), Mr. Rupert Talbot (Lord Arthur Dumbey), Mr. Arthur A. Tomlin (Bransby), Mr. C. D. Pitt (Horace Winter), and Miss Phyllis Rae (Marie).

Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. S. Buccleuch.—Roars of merriment greet Fred Karno's company in the farcical absurdity *The Bailiff*, in which Albert Bruno as the "man in possession" is really funny. He receives effective support from Gilbert Childs, Julia Bassett, Lydia Weber, and J. Frere Vernon. Fred Kitchen and Frank Lister and company are retained over another week, and are scoring a big success in their well-played and thoroughly interesting Australian sketch, *The Sundowner*, Mr. Lister in the chief part displaying high histrionic talent. Kara is a juggler who does many remarkably clean and clever tricks; James Eadie and Cissie Ramsden score their usual success in their smartly-enacted item, *Charlie's Visit;* Frank Lynne, an excellent comedian, with good patter, is a favourite; Beatrice Bonnie, possessed of a fine stage presence, is a *chic* comedienne; Billy Hobbs is a coon impersonator and dancer who is always welcome; Stylo gives a good show in a hoop-juggling act. The Bioscope is also a feature.

Pavilion Theatre.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joseph Lawrence.—Premier position is worthily held here by Fred S. Peake and company in a cleverly constructed and well played sketch entitled *The Gambler;* Charles Bignell, the well-known comedian, sings three songs to the delight of all; Les Tripellos are most entertaining in their musical speciality, introducing a smart youngster in Child Roy; J. J. Mannil proves a popular coon impersonator and dancer; Carl Million is a capital ventriloquist; and Alma Campbell is a vocalist who pleases. Walter F. Pallister's Bioscope and Cinephone are special items.

The Empire.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Company; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles R. Craig.—There is the usual diversified assortment of moving pictures here this week, interspersed with musical items by D. W. Watson, the clever one-armed cornet and post-horn artist.

The Empress Rink.—Managing-Director, Mr. P. W. Willard; Manager, Mr. R. J. Aginton; Floor-Manager, Mr. T. P. Blakesley.—The popularity of this establishment is increasing by leaps and bounds, the exhilarating pastime drawing the very best class of town and country society. Mr. Bobby Aginton, the champion fancy skater, on Saturday last gave a fine exhibition of the intricacies of the art. The maple floor is the admiration of all the patrons.

LEIGH.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. W. H. Chippendale.—This week Mr. Fred Granville's company is presenting *The Better Land*. Miss Nina Blake-Adams gives an impressive rendering of Doris; Marcedes is admirably portrayed by Miss Agnes Collier; Mr. Stanley Radcliffe as the villainous Hubert Radcliffe plays well; Mr. Leonard Aardale is a satisfactory Philip Radcliffe; Mr. Leonard Marshall and Mr. Grey P. Ellis are effective as George Grant and William White respectively; and Mr. Herbert Fuller is an amusing Tom Tadpole, his efforts being well seconded by Miss Bella Moody as Polly Perkins.

Grand Theatre and Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Leigh Grand Theatre and Hippodrome, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Benson; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Woolstencroft.—Heading the bill here this week is Mr. Andie Caine's pantomime in two scenes, entitled *Goody Two Shoes*. Mr. Andie Caine in the rôle of the Dame is very successful. Miss Aggie Nolan, comedienne and clog dancer, finds much favour; Mr. Albert Lee, tenor, has many admirers; Miss Lalie Brooke is excellent in her scena, "Girls, Past and Present"; Mr. Gus Garrick, comedian, causes much merriment; Ralph and Nellie Howard gain much applause for their musical act; and the Bioscope is very interesting.

LEITH.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Licensee and Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—The Leith Amateur Opera Company have occupied this house during the week with an excellent production of *The Mikado*. The performances have been uniformly well attended, and charities will benefit to a gratifying extent.

LIVERPOOL.—Royal Court Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—On Monday Mr. Martin Harvey and company opened here in *The Breed of the Treshams*. Mr. Harvey repeated his admirable representation of the adventurous Reresby; Miss de Silva again assumed the part of the light-hearted, rollicking Batty; that sterling actor, Mr. Charles Glenny afforded the utmost pleasure to his many admirers with his Colonel Hungerford; Miss Madge Fabian made a sweet Margaret; and credit was due, in a large measure, to Messrs. C. J. Cameron (Viscount Dorsington), Leonard Craske (Francis Tresham), A. E. Raynor (Sir Henry Curwen), and Philip Hewland (Captain Stanhope). The other evenings of the week were occupied with *The Only Way* and *The Corsican Brothers*, the curtain-raisers being *The Conspiracy* and *The House of Pierre*.

Shakespeare Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wentworth Croke; Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney.—Miss Lena Ashwell's company is here in *Grit*. A very admirable conception of the part of Erith Winter came from Miss Gladys Purnell; as Jim Barr Mr. Leslie Carter distinguished himself, earning hearty applause; the Dick Travers of Mr. T. A. Shannon was marked by much earnestness and care; good work was done by Mr. Philip Sanders and Miss Elspeth Dudgeon as Mr. and Mrs. Winter; and Miss Violet Vorley proved a sympathetic Mrs. Percival.

Rotunda Theatre.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—*The Old Folks at Home*, presented by Mr. J. A. Campbell's company, has been here. Miss Mary Fulton gave a careful rendering of the trying part of Dorothy Robin; the heroic rôle of Andrew Ross was capably undertaken by Mr. H. E. Herbert; a well-drawn character was that of Lord Kenilworth by Mr. Frank Liston; and worthy support also came from Miss Kate Froude (Patricia), Miss Amy Rale (Bonita), Miss Clara Santley (Martha), and Mr. Eugene Santley (Christopher Robin). The drama was well put on.

Star Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—*East Lynne* has been performed here by Mr. Tom Watt's company, under an arrangement with Mr. Pitt Hardacre. Mr. Edmund Kennedy was the Archibald Carlyle, and acted with much dramatic force; Miss Julie Kennard did admirably as Lady Isabel; Miss Ida Heron made a sweet Barbara Hare; Miss Lilian Mason did every justice to Cornelia; as Francis Levison Mr. Frank G. Bayly showed to advantage; and others deserving of mention were Mr. Joe Rowland (Bullock) and Mr. Rayon Cousens (Richard Hare).

Empire.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—Miss Vesta Tilley should have headed the bill here this week, but, owing to her illness a few days previous to opening, the management had to make a change, and Miss Sylvia Cavalho and company delighted everyone with the burlesque, *What's Charles Worth?* A capital item on the programme was a dramatic sketch entitled *Sunshine*, submitted by Miss Margaret Parker and company; great laughter followed the work of King and Benson, with the musical burlesque, *Around the Town;* Hilda Jacobson rendered several dainty songs in good style; Mr. Frank Sylvo gained loud applause for his comedy juggling; the military scena, *Back to Barracks*, given by Mr. Dennis Drew, proved acceptable; Barrington at the piano was a smart turn; and also in the list were Rosa and Kitty Simms, vocalists and dancers, and Baby Boden, comedienne and dancer.

Queen's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.—*Two Little Drummer Boys*, played by Mr. and Mrs. Kimberley's No. 1 company, has done good business here this week.

Lyric.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—Heading the bill here this week was Lily Morris, who had a most flattering reception for her songs, which included the popular "He's a white man." The Sisters Macarte had a neat scena, "The Land of the Lotus"; much laughter was provoked by the merry comedians, Tennyson and Wallis; some remarkable feats of strength were shown by John Grun Marx; Talbot and Pearce had a pleasing musical item, "Yo San and Cherry"; the Brothers Milford were expert dancers and smart patterers; and others who appeared were the Sivronis, with a funny turn; Fred Herbert, comedian; and Cora Carina, character dialect artist.

Royal Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—Julian Rose was the big card here this week, and drew as strongly as ever; Mabel Green, principal girl at the recent Royal Court pantomime, came in for a hearty reception, among her songs being "Naomi" and "If you mean what you say, good bye"; the Eight 'Varsity Girls gave a pleasing musical turn; S. and G. Auer caused great laughter with their jumps, bumps, and rags turn; the Three Spoons went through a clever juggling performance, which contained a deal of fun; Harry Levaine, as a patter comedian, kept his audience in a good mood; an excellent eccentric comedienne was Edie Veno; and there also appeared Renroff and his dancing horse; the Sisters Marion, juvenile duettists; and Phil Bransby, coster comedian.

Royal Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—The stock dramatic company here have this week given *Ancestors of the King*, by Max Goldberg. Mr. Harry Tresham, returned after a long stay in London, was given a hearty welcome for his depiction of Edward, Prince of Wales; Mr. R. Seath Innes did well as Bertrand Guesclin and Friar Anselm; Mr. Sydney Grant made a powerful Raymond de Mountford; Miss Lillian Radbourne worthily sustained the rôle of Blanche; Miss Gwynne Warren pleased as Joan; and other good parts were Charles (Mr. Leo Montgomery), Nicola (Mr. Tom H. Solly), Black Judas (Mr. E. D. Allen), and Walter (Mr. Cecil Ravenswood). Mr. Anthony Brown's Bioscope showed the latest films.

Westminster.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—In addition to a series of attractive moving pictures, the following artists appeared during the week: The Keppels, operatic vocalists; the Lyntons, with musical act; and Jim Clarkson, with a smart scena, "The Farm Hand."

Olympia.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton.—Victoria Monks was prominent here this week, and had a cordial reception for her efforts, which included her latest success, "The sequel to Moving Day," also "Take me back to home, sweet home," and "Jacksonville"; roars of laughter followed the Bogannys, with their lunatic bakers turn; a merry couple were the Anartos; De Canty's illuminated water grotto aroused much enthusiasm; Boyd and Gilfain presented their diverting operetta, *Sunny Spain;* a most amusing sketch, *Ananias II.*, came from Stratton Mills and company; the several charming dances by La Danseuse were watched with deep interest; and also in the list were Tom Stuart, mimic, and Mazie Hibbs, speciality dancer.

Pavilion.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—Captain Woodward's sea lions and seals were an interesting turn here this week; Shirley Liggins and company had a pleasing farmyard scena; the Gladenbecks went through a much-appreciated speciality act; Barney Ives showed himself an illusionist of high merit; the Seener and Fridkins troupe of Russian singers and dancers gave an acceptable turn; Wallace Whitney caused much laughter with his comedy character impersonations; Phillips and Bristow gained loud applause for their wooden-shoe dancing; Jack Hartley, the Yorkshire dialect comedian and patterer, provoked a deal of merriment; and also in the programme were Sig Arvi, a particularly clever illusionist; Armiens, with the musical scena, "Entertainments in Camp"; and Beattie Foster, comedy actress and vocalist.

Grand Tivoli.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jasper Redfern.—Here during the week Harry Burn's pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*, afforded large audiences much pleasure. Mlle. Du Roche held the title-part, and specialities were introduced by Bert Coote's Yankee-Doodle Girls.

Park Palace.—Lessee, Mr. Jasper Redfern.—The principal bioscope picture shown here this week was The Blind Boy, and the variety artists who appeared included the Milsted-Bell Trio, with the sketch, *Three Sharps in a Flat;* Mollie Doon, vocalist; Willar's Mannikins; the Northcotes, vocal duettists; Revill Hall, entertainer; and Grapho and Jackson, with an amusing sketch.

New Century Picture Hall.—Proprietors, the New Century Animated Picture Co., Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter W. Hook.—The exclusive bioscope picture of the Johnson-Burns Fight continues an attraction here. In addition there are shown The Stolen Legacy, Choosing Her Fiancé, and A Policeman for an Hour.

LLANELLY.—Royalty Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting-Manageress, Miss Alice Rocheforte.—*The Merry Widow* is meeting with a warm welcome here this week. The piece is produced under the direction of Mr. J. A. E. Malone, and is splendidly mounted and dressed. Miss Daphne Glenne in the title-rôle acts and sings with bewitching charm, and receives great applause; Mr. Alec Worcester as Prince Danilo deserves unstinted praise for his fine impersonation; Mr. H. Sinclair Cotter as Baron Popoff is a great favourite; Mr. Arthur Geary as Vicomte de Jolidon being also very good. As Nisch Mr. Harry Emeric does exceedingly well; Mr. Cecil Warwick as General Navokovitch, Mr. C. L. Steward as M. Radja, and Mr. Clinton Reynold as the Waiter at Maxim's are all capable and painstaking. Miss Violet Hobson as Natalie is admirable, and wins much applause. As Frou-Frou Miss Mabel May does some charming dances. The Misses Beatrice Maude, Alice Humphreys, Ethel Darsley, Beatie Wills, and Neste Laurel are captivating as the Maxim Girls. Miss Eileen Clanford as Olga, Miss Mary Florence as Sylvanie, and Miss Enid Forde as Proscovia are all also effective. The augmented orchestra is ably directed by Mr. W. Brightwell.

LONGTON.—Queen's Theatre.—Proprietors, The Longton Theatre, Ltd.; General-Manager, H. Sherriff Howard.—Messrs. F. Marriott Watson and Sanderson Moffat's company, in the musical comedy drama, *What a Woman Did*, met with a hearty reception from a crowded house on Monday. Mr. F. Marriott Watson gives a telling portrayal of the heavy part, Raefaelle Duroc; Mr. Sanderson Moffat, an old favourite here, submits a manly and vigorous impersonation of Conrad; and Mr. Owen Edwin's representation of Peter Pippin keeps the audience in the best of humour. Miss Florence E. Florence makes a most attractive Elsie, and Miss Phyllis Hamilton appears to advantage as the adventuress La Papillon. Several of the songs and dances were enthusiastically received, notably so the dances by the Clancy Girl and the song and eccentric dance by Mr. Owen Edwin. Other parts are adequately filled.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—Theatre Royal and Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Resident Business-Manager, Mr. W. Payne Seddon.—Mr. Chas. M. Daly's Hippodrome company has been delighting patrons here; Messrs. Belton and Osborne are good as variety entertainers; Mr. Frank Sley and his marvellous nipper give some excellent specimens of clog dancing; Miss Jean McDuff sings Scotch songs with success; Mr. Jack Belton is a versatile comedian and dancer; and the Three Hodginis in their ladder act give a sensational display.

MACCLESFIELD.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—*Man and Wife* has been successfully presented by Messrs. Van Biene and Traynor's company. Paul Revere is played by Mr. John F. Traynor with ability; Miss Kate Hallam's portrayal of Marcelle is effective; Captain D'Esparre is skilfully presented by Mr. Edward M. Hamilton; Mr. George Overs contributes an excellent impersonation of the cripple Jean; Colonel Latour has a capable exponent in Mr. Edward Van Biene; Mr. A. Horton is eminently satisfactory as Sergt. Jacques; as Bimbo and Bambo Mr. E. Hall Eldon and Mr. George Vinning are exceedingly amusing; Miss Millie Doris makes a vivacious Rosette; and Miss M. Thorne does well as Ruth Revere.

MAIDSTONE.—Palace Theatre.—Manager, Mr. S. Baskerville.—The following are appearing here this week: Jose G. Levy's company in the dramatic episode, *The Irony of Fate;* Les Xentrix in *The Garden of Terpsichore*, a clever singing and dancing act; Ezra, mimic and whistler, with novel methods; the Three Gartis, dancers; the Athlones, in an original balancing and trapeze act; Stuart and Stuart, society entertainers; J. H. Crewe, comedian; and the Bioscope.

MARGATE.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. E. Michael; General-Manager, Mr. W. W. Keene.—Mr. Arthur Crichton's company, which includes Mr. Harry Paulton in his original character of Peter Amos Dunn, has been presenting the farcical comedy *Niobe* here this week. Mr Paulton comes out as fresh as ever in his amusing impersonation of the head of the Dunn family, and as Niobe Miss Agnes Imlay plays most effectively; Mr. H. C. Lloyd is good as Cornelius Griffin; Mr. Phil Cooper does well as Philip Innings; Mr. A. M. Seton puts in some capable work as Hamilton Tomkins; Mr. Stanley Brown is effective as Parker G. Sillocks; Miss Blanche Ripley is a delightfully aggressive Caroline Dunn; the Misses Clara Nicholls and Katrina Morris capably sustain the rôles of Helen and Hattie Griffin; Miss Lilian Stafford is excellent as Beatrice Sillocks; and Miss Dent, as Mary, and Miss Winifred Wood as Madeleine Mifton are good.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—Elroy, the armless wonder, uses his feet with as much facility as an ordinary person would use his hands; the Breton Troupe, in the pantomimical sketch, *The Tramp's Picnic*, create great merriment, and Charles Williams, comedian, meets with a good reception; Dora Dean, transformation dancer; Peter Shannon, coloured comedian and dancer; Harold Heath, comedian and dancer; and Queenie Dell, comedienne and dancer, all give excellent turns.

MANCHESTER.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees, the United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edmundstone Shirra.—Following on the close of pantomime, which had a very successful run, Mr. Brandon Thomas's company opened on Monday in *Charley's Aunt*. Mr. Arthur Chesney as Lord Fancourt Babberley plays in capital spirit, and he is cleverly supported by Mr. Hastings Lynn and Mr. Robert Burnett as the victimised undergraduates; Mr. Theo McCausland Stewart as Colonel Chesney is, as usual, quite at home in the midst of it, and Mr. Roy Byford is equally effective as Spettigue; Mr. Sydney Compton as Brasset is quaint, and the other parts are very agreeably filled by Miss Vere Gerald, Miss Estelle Winwood, Miss Ethel Fifield, and Miss Sylvia Morris. A one-act play, *The Colour Sergeant*, by the same author, precedes.

Prince's Theatre.—Proprietors, the United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—The D'Oyly Carte Répertoire Company is here this week. On Monday *The Mikado* was given. Mr. Fred Billington's appearance as Pooh-Bah was the signal for positive enthusiasm; Mr. Leicester Tunks as the Mikado, and Mr. Strafford Moss as Nanki-Poo were decidedly well placed; and Mr. Henry A. Lytton scored unmistakably as Ko-Ko, a rôle made difficult by the achievements of some notable predecessors; clever and amusing work was added by Miss Ethel Morrison as Katisha, and, as the three sisters, by Misses Clara Dow, Beatrice Meredith, and Mabel Graham; while in the other parts Mr. Sydney Granville and Mr. Fred Drawater were efficient. The same brightness, charm, and excellence characterised the performance of *Iolanthe* on Tuesday, when, in addition to most of the artists already named, Miss Bertha Lewis and Miss Lillias Engholm appeared. The company includes also Mr. Allen Morris and Mr. Hugh Blackmore, who were seen in later pieces, the week's répertoire being further enriched by *The Gondoliers*, *H.M.S. Pinafore* (preceded by *After All*), and *The Yeomen of the Guard*. In the way of chorus, orchestral accompaniment, and setting, nothing was wanting to make each performance perfect.

Gaiety Theatre.—Proprietress, Miss A. E. F. Horniman; Manager, Mr. B. Iden Payne; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edwin T. Heys.—The Moody-Manners Opera Company is here. *Madame Butterfly* was given on Monday in excellent style before a large and appreciative audience. Miss Enriqueta Crichton in the title-part was in superb voice, and Mr. Charles Carter as Pinkerton, the naval lieutenant, matched her in dramatic ability as well as in vocal achievement. Among many other interesting rôles that of Susuki was admirably rendered by Miss M. Dennis. Orchestrally, as well as in respect of the chorus, considerable body was contributed to the rendering, which gave full value to the emotion and pathos, and ensured a performance which could scarcely be excelled.

Royal Osborne Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Mason.—Mr. C. Watson Mill and his company are here in *For Love and the King*, in which Mr. Mill (the author) is playing most successfully the picturesque rôle of Jarval, and Miss Rosalind Tate is supporting him as Princess Athene; Mr. Villiers Stanley as Prince Dragomir is also notably good; Mr. Geoffrey Chate gives an engaging performance as Duke Fernand; and the strong dramatic parts of the Obrenovics are powerfully rendered by Messrs. John Burton and Henry Earlesmere; a capital character study of a German artist is given by Mr. Jim K. Woods; Miss Joan Ellis as Natila well earns the sympathy of the audience; and others commendable are Miss Lily Wynter and Miss Frances Tierney.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Day.—A strong variety programme here includes Radie Furman, the jolly Dutch girl; the Wakeman quintet of comedy sketch vocalists; H. O. Wills, comedian; Jim Cheetham, juvenile whistling mimic; Dorien, in an electric comedy act; Pueblo and Cropp, creole artists; Little Tichbourne, the little lump of comedy; Carr and Rose, in a charming operettas; and Lillie Le Main, in Lilliputian specialities.

Grand Junction Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Brearley.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's company is here in *A Broken Heart*. Miss Sheila Walsh as Mary Barnard scored a big success, and considerable talent was displayed by Mr. Clinton Dawson as the husband, John Barnard; Little May was played finely by Miss Daisy Rocheford; on the side of wickedness Mr. J. Moreton Williams gave a virile rendering of Stephen Raylton, and was capably supplemented by Mr. Edward Rawlinson as Gash Gills; in the way of humour successes were made by Mr. Quinton Pearce as Tony Tibbets, Miss Nancy Mitchell as Sally Travner, and Mr. George Addison as Skrimp.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—Big turns here this week are Carrie De Mar, a very good character comedienne; and the Poluski Brothers, in their latest success, *Pictures*. Very good also is Elsie Roby, the slavey at the piano; the Brothers St. Clair are both clever and funny on cycles; Marie Santoi and her Japs present a novelty scena; Tom Lloyd's parodies are very well received; and other striking turns are *Doreen*, played by Fred Moule and Lola Patey; Rich and Rich, comedians; McCann's performing dogs; and Frank F. Street, a smart second edition of R. G. Knowles.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—*The G.P.O.*, played in fine style by Mr. Fred Karno's company, including the one and only Fred Kitchen, is here for the first time. It has many happy moments, and causes much laughter. Frederic Melville presents the Moto Girl ably; May Henderson, as usual, is full of vim; Walter Munroe, Irish character comedian and dancer, is well received; Arthur Aldridge, tenor vocalist, sings beautifully; Lionette Roberty and her whirlwind transformation dancers are excellent; Dorothy and Alexander, juvenile instrumentalists, give a very pleasing turn; and Sybil St. Elmo, ballad vocalist, sings well. Striking pictures of Wilbur Wright and his flying machine are shown on the Bioscope.

Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Manager, Mr. A. J. Carter.—Alfred Lester, with his quiet, effective manner, assisted pleasingly by Gwen Howard, is highly amusing in *A Restaurant Episode;* Harry Ford makes his usual hit with quaint songs and style; Tom Leamore scores in songs and eccentric dances; and Capt. Fred Woodward's sea lions go through their astonishing performance. In addition we have that sterling actor J. H. Barnes; the Melody Makers, in phantom scena, *The Burglar's Dream*, a clever turn; Sinclair and Whiteford in comedy episode, *Getting Even;* Burley and Grean, eccentric acrobats; and Julian Mack, the chatterbox. Pictures complete.

King's, Longsight.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. James E. Trippett.—A nicely-varied programme here comprises turns by Clown Barker, in his parade of clever animals; Edwin Garth, comedy character artist; Vanando, a distinctly smart ventriloquist; Gala and Norris, in *Down South;* the Breen Family of accomplished jugglers; the Rangers, expert cyclists; Frank E. Solby, child mimic and comedian; W. H. Merson, comedian; and Will and Alicia Frohman, artistic instrumentalists.

Tivoli.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Sadie Jerome, burlesque artist, tops the bill here this week, and meets with a good reception.; Alice Hollander, the Australian contralto, sings well; Mart and Pep give a smart hand-balancing turn; Rosie Bartlett is a pleasing comedienne; and Dickson Moffatt and company are amusing in *Six and Eightpence*. Others who contribute to the programme are Reed and Stevens, in funny sketch, *Married or Photographed;* the Sisters Allen, duettists and dancers; Marie Beresford, musical comedy artist; Blanche Marion, comedienne and dancer; and Mimosa, in Japanese novelty.

Queen's Park Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—Martin Conway, a great favourite here, is warmly welcomed, and Walter Ellis presents *Captain Duncan and His Airship*, a very amusing sketch, with elaborate scenery and effects; Mabel Roberts is very good in illustrated songs; the Five Paulos are exceedingly clever acrobats; Britain's Military Heroes as produced in living statuary by L. and R. Edmond are a great success; Tiny and Mite, twin sisters, are charming juvenile vocalists and dancers; Robb Gilmore scores as an eccentric comedian and dancer; J. F. Franklin, comedian, makes a hit; Conan Dawson is a clever mimic at the piano; and Dolly Ross, comedienne, completes an excellent programme.

Hulme Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thomas Baker.—Richard Corbin and his clever dogs give a really wonderful performance. *Told in a Flat*, a comedy dramatic episode, is well played by Harry Rogers and company; J. W. Gallagher, comedian, causes much laughter; Lidden and Hayward are a smart comedy couple; Adela Crispin sings "The sunshade girl" in pleasing style; Kenway and Emery are amusing in duologue, *Turtle Doves;* Rezene and Rezene are smart acrobats; Jack Crawley, in neat act, *Lights Out*, takes well; and Harry Kirk, comedian, completes. Angus Strong, baritone did not appear on the occasion of our visit.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessees, The South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Albert Jackson.—*Miss Hook of Holland* is paying a first visit this week, under the auspices of Messrs. Dudley Bennett and T. C. Wray. The staging and dresses are admirable, and the chorus excellent. Mr. Charles D. Maclagan makes a typical Mr. Hood, creating roars of laughter by his whimsicalities; Messrs. J. B. Fox and Mr. Sam Lockridge as Captain Haup and Van Vuyt respectively sing with much taste and discretion; Mr. Fred Dark is very amusing as Simon Slinks; Miss Ethel James, who plays the title-rôle, has a good voice and a charming personality; Miss Muff Carew as Mina and Miss Molly Tidevoi as Gretchen also sing and act well.

Temperance Hall.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—The premier place is held by Charles Fisher's Pocket Opera Company, who provide a rich musical treat, with excerpts from popular operas; Netty Janowsky Troupe of acrobats give a smart exhibition of head and hand balancing; Carl Lymn makes a hit as an animal mimic; the Royal Quintette of dancers secure hearty appreciation; other enjoyable turns are contributed by Massona, an eccentric juggler; Sisters Clare, popular duettists and dancers; Mlle. Martha, a graceful gymnast; and the Wedburns, who score as vocalists and instrumentalists; the Biograph completes the programme.

MEXBOROUGH.—Prince of Wales' Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Willard's company is this week presenting *The Midnight Mail*.—Mr. James Hare plays with vigour as the engine-driver, Harry Steyne; a humorous and interesting character study of the ne'er-do-well, Billy Brewer, is submitted by Mr. E. W. Avery; Mr. Chas. H. Longden plays capitally as Leonard Royle; the Turkish adventurer, Hassan Padisha, has an able exponent in Mr. C. P. Wentworth; Miss Trissie Humphries plays in sympathy and charm the rôle of Mary Steyne, the engine-driver's unfortunate wife; Nancy Brewer is invested with spirit by Miss Daisy Clifford; and Miss Jeannie Weston is great as Lady Phyllis Eustace.

New Picture Hall.—Lessee, Mr. Will Hunter.—Manager Mr. E. H. Jones.—A leading feature among many good films this week is a fine pictorial delineation of the famous story, "She."

MIDDLESBROUGH.—Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Ed. Jowsey; Manager and Licensee, Mr. W. Ker Chatto.—*The Dairymaids* is being presented here by Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company. Monday was "a grand Territorial night," and was under the patronage of the Mayor and Mayoress (Councillor J. F. and Mrs. Pannell), Sir Samuel and Lady Sadler, and members of the Town Council. Mr. Nelson Keys maintains his reputation in the part of Sam Brudenell, and keeps the audience laughing continually. He is ably seconded by Mr. Dan Agar as Joe Mivens. Miss Gladys Silvani as Eliza creates roars of laughter; Miss Clare Marsden gives a delightful performance as Peggy, her fine voice being heard to great advantage; Miss Vera Crichton is charming and vivacious as Winifred, and sings very sweetly; Mr. Herbert Willis is good as Frank Meredith, R.N.; and as Dr. O'Byrne Mr. Percy Marshall is excellent; Miss Carrie Lacey is very pleasing as Lady Brudenell; and Miss Hazel Saqui is good as Helen.

Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Charles Imeson.—Mr. Dudley Bennett and Mr. T. C. Wray's company is here this week with *A Country Girl*. The title part is admirably played by Miss Anna Hickisch, who has a beautiful voice; Mr. Conningsby Brierley is well suited to the rôle of Barry, and is very amusing; Mr. Hardy-Jackson is excellent as Geoffrey Challoner; and Mr. W. O. Billington does full justice to the part of Sir Joseph Verity; Mr. H. Besley Beltram is good as Douglas Verity; and Mr. Frank Sealey as Lord Anchester and Mr. J. A. Valentine as Lord Grasmere are all that can be desired. Miss Victoria Seevens is very pleasing as Marjorie; and Miss Lucy Lever is a charming Princess; Miss Florence Hylton as Mrs. St. Quinton and Miss Hilda Darnell as Lady Anchester and Miss Elsie Beetham as Lady Vivian are delightful.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Charles G. Rembges.—The Leslie Bros., besides providing a delightful musical turn, create roars of laughter by their antics; Tom Foy and company are very amusing in the sketch, *The Yorkshire Lad in London;* and Menotti does some smart feats on the wire. A pleasing turn is supplied by Boden and Bell; and the Ormesby Quartette are exceptionally fine vocalists; Miss Maude Murray is exceedingly good in her electrical dances; and Issa Steel (a charming soprano), Arthur Royce, and Fred Hallam add to a capital programme.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Manager, Mr. C. E. Nicholls.—The premier item here this week is provided by Park's Eton Boys and Girls, in their singing act; the Alberto Troupe do some clever tricks; and Baby Vi Davies, a juvenile actress-vocalist, is excellent; Maude is a dainty comedienne; and Ray Beauchamp is very amusing; Haidee Lee and Wallace Kingston are pleasing in a comedy duo; and other turns are provided by Fred Elton, refined entertainer; and Chas. Vincent, comedian.

MOTHERWELL.—New Century Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hales.—Mr. F. R. Benson's Shakespearean company (North) is paying a return visit in a répertoire including *Richard the Third, The Merchant of Venice, The Taming of the Shrew; Twelfth Night, The Merry Wives of Windsor, Julius Cæsar*, and *Hamlet*. On Monday *Richard the Third* was staged, and Mr. Henry Herbert submitted a scholarly embodiment of the title-rôle; Mr. James Berry admirably sustained the double rôles of Buckingham and Richmond; Queen Elizabeth was finely played by Miss Gladys Vanderzee; Miss Edith Howards being excellent as the Duchess of York.

NEATH.—Castle.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Haggar, jun.—*The Avenging Hand* was well received on Monday night. Frank Lomond and the Gipsy part of Balthazar by Mr. W. Haggar were clever pieces of acting. As Rupert Dashwood Mr. Will Percy was successful; Mr. Geo. Stanley was a dignified General Lomond; Mr. Arthur Stanley was highly entertaining as Benjamin McManus; Mr. Fred Hilland was original as Pietro Mascar; Mr. Bob Chapman made a popular P.C. Bee; Mr. Courtney scored as the butler, Phillips; Alice Lomond was portrayed with dignity and grace by Mrs. Will Haggar; Miss Frances Giddings had a good reception as Jim, a waif; Miss Lloyd was an engaging Kitty O'Kay; and Mr. Will Fyffe kept the fun going and was accorded a good reception. *Lady Audley's Secret* and *Who Is the Woman?* were on the bill for Wednesday and Thursday.

Victoria.—Proprietor, Mr. John Johnson.—*The Woman Who Sinned* was staged on Monday and Tuesday. Mr. Fred D'Albert was excellent as Jack Carrington; Mr. J. Desmond skilfully represented Eugene D'Arville; Mr. H. McDonald was a capable Silas Norris; Mr. W. Bennet, Sergeant Jones, was highly amusing; Mr. J. Watson gave a good portrayal of Percy Hogg; Mr. John Johnson faithfully represented Bill Scamp; Mr. H. Reynolds was well placed as a K.C.; Miss L. Pearce supplied an excellent study of Judith Sarton, "the woman who sinned"; Miss G. Vane scored a success as Hester Norris; Miss O. Lyndall as Maud gave a good account of herself; Miss T. Bennet was a stately Lady Munro; Miss Frances Atkin won sympathy as Blind Meg. Several new pictures were shown on the Bioscope.

NELSON.—Grand Theatre.—Proprietress, Mrs. T. Greenwood Croft; Business-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Mand.—Miss Ethel Van Praagh and Mr. J. E. Whitty's company in *The Eyes of the World* has attracted good audiences here. The former gives a fine presentation of Helen de l'Orme; Miss Beatrice Fitzhugh makes a very acceptable Mme. Esme de Carnac; Miss Nellie Garside is a vivacious Mlle Pomfleane; as Avice Miss Elsie Capell displays much charm; the part of the renegade husband is cleverly played by Mr. Geo. W. Waiper; Gaston de Carnac receives admirable treatment by Mr. Will Casey; whilst both Mr. J. E. Whitty and Mr. C. Stirling are exceedingly good in their respective rôles of M. Achille Fanfarade and Octave de Carnac.

NEW BRIGHTON.—Winter Gardens.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. H. E. Jones and A. Douglass.—The Aeolians, presented by Mr. Charles Parker, head the bill, and by their brightness, beautiful costumes, and clever dancing score a marked success; Beattie and Babs, two remarkably clever children, cause great enthusiasm by their vocalism, dancing, and extremely quaint acting; Mr. John Bland gives his humorous dialect characters with skill, and is ably assisted in his sketch by Miss Poppy Lytton; a singer of exceptional merit is Mr. William McIvor; whilst a smart and up-to-date coon delineator is found in Mr. J. H. Wakefield. In a drawing-room scena Miss Lena and

SHILLING COLLECTION FOR THE MUSIC HALL HOME.

2,785½ SHILLINGS.

In again directing the attention of our readers to *The Era's* Shilling Fund on behalf of the Music Hall Home we are in the happy position of being able to associate with the appeal thus being made the name of the foremost music hall comedienne—Miss Marie Lloyd. It seems scarcely necessary to remind our readers of the deep interest Miss Lloyd has ever taken in matters affecting the welfare of her brothers and sisters of the variety profession. It is her desire that her "year" will be marked by a considerable increase in the subscriptions of previous years, and she therefore, through *The Era*, commends the Music Hall Home to the charitably-minded. Mr. Thomas Barrasford, the President of the Fund, is again this year exerting himself in its behalf, and this fact is sufficient indication that he is satisfied as to the way in which the institution is being conducted, and that he considers it worthy of support.

Mr. Ben Woodger, the secretary of the Music Hall Home, tells us that in 1907 the inmates averaged ten, but that in 1908 there have been as many as twelve. The address of the Home is 31, Wilson-road, Camberwell, and there the matron (Mrs. Fruin) busies herself for the comfort and convenience of her "family." At present there are eleven of these, and the desire is to increase the number, which can only be done when sufficient funds for the purpose are collected. During the past twelve months three or four of the inmates have recovered their health and strength sufficiently to enable them to look for engagements. These secured, they left the Home, and the vacancies thereby created were immediately filled up. Now, this Home requires keeping up, and it cannot be kept up on air. There is no need for us to refer to all the good work which has been performed by the institution in the past, as that must for the most part be within the recollection of our readers. The ages of the inmates range from fifty to seventy-six. In all probability these men will be maintained in the Home until the day of their death, and their funeral expenses paid for out of the funds of the Home.

The Era's Shilling Fund is the main source of income to the Home, and this means of sustenance is added to by the donations of artists, either given directly, or through the collecting boxes through which many managers of variety theatres collect pennies from "dead-heads" and from artists who desire free admission.

Anyone can be supplied with a collecting-card by sending a postcard to Mr. Woodger.

Briefly, we may once more repeat that the objects of the Music Hall Home Fund are to provide shelter for deserving members of the variety profession who have been stricken with poverty or illness in their declining years, or who have in other ways fallen on evil times. Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, the hon. treasurer, will be pleased to receive filled-up collecting cards addressed to him at *The Era*, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C., and to acknowledge them in these columns.

FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	Shillings.
Belfast Theatrical Charity Fund (per Mr. Fred W. Warden)	200
Jack Miles Stavordale	120
Marie Lloyd	113
Joe Elvin, per Marie Lloyd	105
Bert Williams	30
Jack Woolf	30
Leoni Clarke	21
Gus Elen	21
Chas. Weldon	21
John Lawson	21
Mr. Hymack	20
A Beginner (York)	20
Harry Alaskas	14
O. M. Dayton	10
Alf Chester	10
Ben Brown	10
E.	6
Slippere	5
Frank Folloy	1
Collected by :—	
Horace Wheatley	50
Seener and Fridkins	45
Ben Brown (first card)	42
Ben Brown (second card)	38
Jimmy Shields	35
Kloof and Ramsay	32½
Dave Carter	30
Sisters Ford	30
Ben Brown (third card)	28
Tom Fancourt	23
The Maples	10
The Musical Johnstons	6
The Hartley Wonders	2

Collected by Newham and Latimar, 15s.

George Newham	1	Johnny Worman	1
Fred Latimar	1	Madge Daly	1
Charlie Osborne	1	May Maddison	1
Erne Chester	1	Ida Scott	1
Wm. Doust	1	Sisters Florence	1
Eric Farr	1	Jessica Brooke	1
S. C. Lodge-Percy	1	Lewis Tolano	1
H. C. Momber	1		

Collected by Ted and May Hopkins, £3 1s. 6d.

Courtice and Louie Pounds	20	H. P. Milner	1
Ted and May Hopkins	5	N. Bowman	1
A Wellwisher	3	Charles Stuart	1
Bransby Williams	3	Sybil St. Elmo	1
Mabel Bardine	3	Lottie Lennox	1
William Jackson	2½	Chas. Santoi	1
Sisters Geretti	1	Colonna Frances	1
Fred Horsfall	1	J. Humphries	1
Nat Gilbert	1	Madge Osmond	1
Ida Kathrena	1	Pearl Keats	1
Edward Foster	1	E. S. Jackson	1
Arthur Schofield	1	Ernest Wighton	2
John Macauley	1	Morris Harvey	1
Master May	1	Will Poluski, jun.	1
		Harry Weldon	1

Collected by Three Sisters Lee, £2 0s. 6d.

E. F. Murray	2½	E. Pender Cudlip	1
Fred Ginnett	2	J. Morgan	1
Reg. Beauchamp	2	George Narow	1
M. Arnold	1	Herbert Mack	1
A.	1	Jas. E. Donegan	1
W. Murray	1	Jim Dunedin	1
Thomas Lee	1	George French	1
Mina Lee	1	Gent Lotto	1
Jeanette Lee	1	Syd Pete	1
Leonie Dixon	1	T. C. Downie	1
Marie Empress	1	Schus	1
Sue Lewis	1	Ned	1
Jas. W. Dixon	1	Three Orleans	1
R. A. Johnson	1	Reg Bolton	1
Ernie Warsaw	1	H. Finden	1
R. H. Douglas	1	Hanvarr	1
Mrs. Dent	1	Hanvarr, jun.	1
W. W. Walton	1	Anna Lee	1
Harry Curry	1		

Collected by Miss Ada Reeve, £4.

Ada Reeve	9½	John Wilson	1
A Friend	7	W. Griffin	1
A. C. Hills	5	K. Adeler	1
Mary Hargreaves	5	Marie Vere	1
Flo Marston	5	Fred Griffiths, jun.	1
A. Rowe	5	A. N. Other	1
Arthur Poole	4	R. Abrahams	1
Edorler	4	J. Lonnen	1
L. de Frece	4	Russell Ardell	1
Beauty	2½	Dan Crawley	1
W. A. Short	2½	Bobbie Mendall	1
H. Milburn	2½	Florence Meeson	1
E. T. Steyne	2½	F. C. Upton	1
P. Ettinger	2½	J Wilson	1
A Friend	2	G. E. Mills	1
Another	2		

Collected by Fred Kitchen, £1 2s.

Fred Kitchen	5	Geo. Craig	1
Harry Kitchen	2	Geo. Messer	1
Mrs. F. Kitchen	2	Grimani	1
Fred Kitchen, jun.	1	T. Scott Bell	1
Kitty Horan	1	Harry Howe	1
Frank Rickards	1	Jimmy Russell	1
Bert Landeck	1	Fred Karno	1
James Beresford	1	Billy Morgan	1

Collected by Carl and Carr, 31s.

J. N. Smith	5	Evelyn Desa	1
Carl and Carr	3	Tom Lawson	1
A Friend	1	Nancy Renshaw	1
Tom Costello	1	Louie Love	1
Billie Costello	1	Queenie King	1
Frank Freeland	1	Ernie Davey	1
James Rallis	1	Jack Osmond	1
L. Hoffman	1	M. Austin	1
E. D. Nicholls	1	Marie St. Hilary	1
A Friend	1	Arthur Carlton	1
Michael Madden	1	A. W. Lethbridge	1
Charles Leverton	1	Bertha Priddy	1
Mlle. Lucretia	1		

Collected by Dick Tubb, £1 15s.

Eight Imperial Girls	4	Dudley Powell	1
Dick Tubb and Jessie Buckle	2	P. C. Armstrong	1
W. Groome	1	Bert H. Delmar	1
F. Brown	1	Grimshaw and Esmond	1
H. J. Corner	1	Maidie Scott	1
Fred Douglas	1	Winifred Ward	1
Mrs. Engel	1	Harold Wellesley	1
Tom Child	1	James Fletch	1
J. H. Farr	1	W. Morgan	1
Bart Farland	1	Sam Poluski, jun.	1
J. Murray	1	Kittie Douglas	1
F. Emney	1	Little Rosie Lee	1
M. Rees	1	F. Brett	1
Nellie Howard	1	Little Maudie Francis	1
Gwladys Soman	1	A. T.	1
May Davis	1		

Collected by Miss Ray Maskell, 41s.

Ray Maskell	5	U. G. O. Nap	1
Ted E. Box	2	G. Fletcher	1
G. Baner	2	Walter Lee	1
Jas. Fortune	2	Auntie Hart	1
S. Wheeler	1	F. B. J.	1
O. Botwright	1	E. B. Dwyer	1
Mr. Chard	1	Raven Wood	1
Coverdale	1	Fred McLean	1
Billy Farrell	1	C. T. Aldrich	1
H. E. Fairbanke	1	Chris Horn	1
Rosie Gaston	1	Fred Rinnell	1
Bob Duce	1	Brinn	1
Pete	1	Geo. Abel	1
B. C. Packham	1	Sid Cotterell	1
Nemo	1	Bert Wilson	1
Bob White	1	H. H. Garner	1
W. McIvor	1	G. E. R.	1

Collected by Conway and Leland, 10s.

W. B. Leland	1	Maringo	1
Crissie Cross	1	Bert Wilson	1
M. B. Conway	1	George Gilbey	1
Mrs. M. B. Conway	1	Billy Seeley	1
Mr. De Breau	1	A Friend	1

Collected by Ted E. Box, 71s.

Ted E. Box	10	Dora Lyric	1
Emerson and Baldwin	10	J. M. Green	1
Ray Maskell	5	Dirty Doughty	1
Servia Le Roy	5	Victoria Monks	1
Hanvarr and Lee	4	Carrie Laurie	1
Lafaille	4	W. P.	1
Willy	3	Albert Christian	1
Mr. Pete Dover	2	Maude Edwards	1
Percy Hayden	2	Virto	1
P. Anger	2	May Ambrose	1
Leon Bosco	2	A "Pro.'s" Friend	1
Tom Bryce	2	C. W. Luker	1
Fred Story	2	Tom Bryce	1
De Marce	1	John E. Somers	1
J. A. Carter	1	Jack Stephens	1
Tossing Austins	1		

Collected by Herbert Shelley, £2 3s.

Albert Chevalier	20	Arthur Burne	1
Herbert Shelley	10	Huntley Wright	1
J. W. Macdonald	2	Harry Nicholls	1
Lionel Rignold	1	Mrs. Herbert Shelley	1
J. Cook Beresford	1	Alma Shelley	1
L. Race Dunrobin	1	Florence Huntley	1
Graham and Harrington	1	May Fairclough	1

Collected by Ben Brown (fourth card), 23s.

Robbie	2	J. Mitchell Langley	1
Daisy James	2	W. W. B.	1
Manning's Entertainers	1	W. A.	1
F. Toomey	1	F. G.	1
M. A. Pettitt	1	Pill Wank	1
Count Landeryou	1	Bothey	1
Fred Reeves	1	R. T.	1
Alf. Lotto	1	G. Young	1
Jan Lyell	1	F. Leon	1
Miss Winifred Earle	1	Col. Clough	1
		S. Girling	1

Collected by The Bohemians, 14s

W. Bohemian	1	Newco and Sallo	1
M. Bohemian	1	Dan Hendy	1
Geo. Gulliver	1	Ernest Caxaellas	1
T. W. Paul	1	Percy Caxaellas	1
M. Etta	1	Edwin Caxaellas	1
D. W. Watson	1	Hull Newsboy Trio	1
Bob Swift Duo	1	Sam Vincent	1

Collected by Fred Herbert, 32s.

Joe Elvin	3	The Itrams	1
O. Maus Dayton	2	C. Douglas Stuart	1
Fred Herbert	1	Bert Byrne	1
Mrs. G. Gunnup	1	John Donald	1
Mrs. Walsh	1	Arthur Gallimore	1
George Gunnup	1	Bob Venola	1
J. Walsh	1	Joe Venola	1
Jack Walsh	1	Flo Chevalier	1
J. Harding	1	Arthur Breton	1
J. Jones	1	J. C. Morris	1
Sam Myrans	1	Gus Dallon	1
Chas. J. Johnson	1	T. C. Callaghan	1
Jack Lorrimer	1	Lieut. Albini	1
Stella Stahl	1	George Jackley	1
Paul Kramer	1		

Collected by Livesey and Rosebery, £1 8s.

Leo and Roland	1	W. H. Carnis	1
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilde	1	Montaldos	1
Mr. Sam Williams	1	Joe Hay	1
Gladys Mavius	1	Leonie Dixon	1
Miss Adah Payne	1	Jim Dixon	1
G. Barclay, jun.	1	The Heroine	1
Tom Shaw	1	The Villain	1
Billy Stevens	1	The Hero	1
A. Earl Hunt	1	Lilian Rosebery	1
W. Higgins	1	Carter Livesey	1
Dr. Caine	1	Little Willie	1
Harry Randall	1	Gannimede	1
C. W. Whittle	1	Signorita	1
Gordon and Grace	1	The Skipper	1

Collected by Leoni Clarke, 21s.

Mr and Mrs. Body	2	Marjory Burns	1
Tom Mezzetti	1	Nell Stephens	1
Bob Mezzetti	1	Wisper	1
Hal Forde	1	Dunlop	1
Arthur Bright	1	H. Rudge	1
Josh Dixon	1	E. G.	1
The Fordyces	1	Edie Le Brun	1
Chas. Rowen	1	Edgar Le Brun	1
Marie Collins	1	H. Daniels	1
Geo. Stephen	1	Sam Shipley	1

Collected by Charles Cardow, 20s.

Charles Leighton	1	Leo Royburn	1
Ena Richards	1	Hayman and Franklin	1
Collected at billiards	1	Dave Laird	1
Russell Carr	1	A. Standing	1
Hal Godfrey	1	S. Sciravitch	1
Mayme Cannon	1	A Commercial	1
John G. Marx	1	Pennies collected :—	
Dan Filmer	1	Lime-street Station	1
Bob Keano	1	Dressing-room	1
Charles Cardow	1	King's Cross Station	1
Henri Doré	1		

Collected by Abel and Welsh, 35s

J. W. Rowley	5	Hady Mohamed	1
Mohamed's Arabs	2	A. Gulimlip	1
S. Dix	2	Charles Chard	1
Robert Abel	1	H. Meredith	1
William Welsh	1	Bros. Ford	1
Mimi Abel	1	Gladys and Alber	1
Charles Serra	1	Tate and Tate	1
Martino	1	Wm. Thomas	1
Israel Price	1	Chas. Triton	1
Edward Crosland	1	John B. Roberts	1
Dorians	1	Harry Czar	1
Kyoto	1	Dave Czar	1
Val Gerald	1	Harry Friskey	1
J. Bertram Brennan	1	Blanche Albert	1
Felix Powell	1		

Collected by Mlle. De Rose, £2 1s.

Our Boys	4	Edie May	1
Mlle. De Rose	2½	Dick Thomas	1
J. H. Hawtrey	2½	Hettie Gale	1
Reginald Grant	2½	Leslie Hawkins	1
W. W. Kelly	2½	Joe Huda	1
Hilda Claremont	1	Our Willie Hall	1
Alf Leonard	1	J. Gar Kiddie	1
Stanley Fairless	1	Sisters Raymond	1
W. G. Wesley	1	E. Adeler	1
James Lowe	1	H. O. Callaghan	1
Nellie Barrett	1	Herbert Bates	1
Ada Tyrell	1	Mrs. Egerton	1
George Burton	1	Harry Mayville	1
W. H. Lisando	1	Edgar Stebbings	1
Bob Lisando	1	Mark Stuart	1
Harry Bliss	1	Joe Oliver	1

Collected by Harry Conlin, £3 10s.

Leigh House	5½	H. Rogerson	1
Harry Conlin	5½	Alex. Kendall	1
Hilda Dugdale	5	Chas. Norton	1
Rosie Coleman	5	Russell Brandow	1
One of the Ba-hoys	5	W. Stanley Parker	1
Amy Singleton	5	S. W.	1
G. Gilbride	4	Seth Egbert	1
Marie Ashton	4	Emmie Egbert	1
Mabel Hirst	3	Violet Egbert	1
Albert Egbert	2½	Gus Le Clerq	1
Daisy Dormer	2½	E. Wright	1
Hal	2	The Witch	1
J. Hoffman	2	May Beatty	1
F. Self	2	Harry Clifford	1
Gus Le Clerq	1	Mr. Blackhurst	1
Tommie Pender	1		

Collected by Cedar and Elgar, £1 7s.

Hugh Cedar	2	Robins and Collier	1
Ed. Elgar	2	Mr. Bert Harrow	1
Louis Kerno	1	Miss Marion Walker	1
Dan Maxford	1	Mr. Bert Rolfe	1
Tom O'Neill	1	A. Yorke-Stephens	1
Fred Sinclair	1	E. B. Edie	1
Jake Friedman	1	T. J. Dillon	1
Miss Ray Wallace	1	Miss Isa Gibson	1
Miss Mildred Bryan	1	Miss Nellie Duval	1
Mr. Joe Robins	1	Mr. M., Manchester	1
Mr. Leonard Russell	1	Mr. Charlie Hopkins	1
Miss Phyllis Seymour	1	Mr. E. W. Avery	1
Mr. Herbert King	1		

Collected by Harry Alaskas, 14s.

Ch. Armenis	1	Victoria Monks	1
Mr. Alaska	1	Agnas Kelly	1
Mrs. Alaska	1	La Pia	1
Madoline Rees	1	Victor Kelly	1
Texas Hattie	1	Arizona Karling	1
Patty Yole	1	Harry Alaska, jun.	1
Tiger Lily	1	Sam Alaska (son)	1

Collected by J. W. Hall, 30s.

J. W. Hall	1	Gent. Lotto	1
Pat Rafferty	1	Tom Wilson	1
Walter Wade	1	Harry Barrett	1
Harold Hughman	1	J. W. Hall	1
George P. Smith	1	J. W. Hall	1
F. A. Gotch	1	J. W. Hall	1
T. Mercer	1	Mrs. Hall	1
Alf Sontai	1	Mrs. Hall	1
Harry Shirley	1	Mrs. Hall	1
Campbell	1	Mrs. Ella Hall	1
R. Galland	1	Mrs. Ella Hall	1
W. H. Barber	1	Mrs. Ella Hall	1
Lucy Crichton	1	Master Harry Hall	1
Mr. Clark	1	Master Harry Hall	1
A. Lotto	1	Master Harry Hall	1

Collected by Regan and Ryan, £1 12s. 6d.

Fanny Fields	5	Room No. 4, M.T.	1
Violet Lloyd	5	Doris Dean	1
Malcolm Scott	5	Florence Herseé	1
Harry Tate	5	Harry Claff	1
Regan and Ryan	5	Horace Lane	1
Patty Yole	2½		

Collected by Barney Armstrong, 24s.

Joe Elvin	2	George Kirby	1
Gala and Norris	2	Harry Lappo	1
Miss Winifred Hare	2	Lena Brunton	1
Barney Armstrong	2	Leo Behan	1
Mr. J. Lucy	1	Martha Cowper	1
Mr. H. C. Arnold	1	Chas. Coborn	1
Frank Benson	1	E. A. Matthews	1
Baddow	1	Leighton Rooke	1
Ulrick	1	Gladys White	1
J. J. Dallas	1	Jimmy Steel	1

Collected by Frank Coyle, 20s.

W. E. Gillin	1	Gladys Godwin	1
Ramsey Trio	1	The Ellimans	1
J. Smith	1	Lilian Graham	1
Frank Coyle	1	Fioretti and Elly	1
Violet Coyle	1	Percy Mannings	1
Mrs. Frank Coyle	1	Walter Mannings	1
Miss Fanny Coyle	1	F. B. Bedford	1
Jimmy Shields	1	John Huxley	1
Will Godwin	1	Denby and Dent	1
Mrs. Godwin	1	Geo. Hall	1

Collected by Harry Wright, 31s.

S. Charlie Pratt	2	Ford	1
Montefiore	1	M. F.	1
Bert Chapman	1	E. E. W.	1
Harry Gage	1	Allan Hanbury	1
Mr. H. McDowall	1	Tom Shenton	1
Mrs. F. Kahler	1	Jesse Sparrow	1
G. P. R. Burgess	1	Vivins	1
Harry Wright	1	John E. Brandon	1
Nellie Gannon	1	W. E. Stephenson	1
T. W. Wright	1	F. Newman	1
G. Baselgia	1	J Hewson	1
Bert Chapman	1	A. Knight	1
Leon Bassett	1	Sam Hart	1
G. Pearson	1	S. N. Salter	1
F. Kohler	1	D. White	1

Collected by the Three Bros. Huxter, 11s.

Lambeth and Robertson	2	R. Taylor	1
Edward Huxter	1	A. Rudd	1
Bros. Milford	1	G. G.	1
Jeannie Johns	1	Corradini	1
Elsie Steadman	1	A. Saxon	1

Collected by Geo. French's Troupe, 22s.

C. Poole, jun.	6	Bert Gates	1
George French	5	Harry Dowsett	1
Richard Karsy's Myriophone	5	Fred Bescoby	1
Learto	2	Miss St. Clare	1

Collected by Nellie Wilson, £2 11s. 6d.

A White Man	10	Fred Eustace	1
Eugene Stratton	5	Mary Eustace	1
Edwin Boyde	5	Rose Bancroft	1
H Thnton	2½	Charles Chapman	1
The Sivonis	2	Wilman	1
Nellie Wilson	2	Ernie Aplin	1
Mrs. Stavodale	2	Phœbe Lyndhurst	1
Little Miss Muffit	1	Charles McConnell	1
Mona Clifford	1	Muir and Bartlett	1
Florence Hyde	1	Margery Maidment	1
Clara Stroud Wilson	1	Flo Penley	1
Beatrice Elie	1	T. Grindall	1
F. Hurst	1	Dusty Rhodes	1
Will Toole	1	Rose Daulby	1
Charles Granthley	1	Mrs. Fred Southern	1

Collected by Ernest D'Almaine, 14s.

Ernest D'Almaine	1	Rose D'Almaine	1
Mrs. E. D'Almaine	1	Charles Dare	1
James D'Almaine	1	Dan O'Connor	1
Charles D'Almaine	1	Gus Daniels	1
Ada D'Almaine	1	George Snow	1
Amy D'Almaine	1	George Richens	1
Lily D'Almaine	1	E. Kay	1

Collected by A. N. Hennessey, 40s.

Stanley J. R. Cohen	5	Mrs. Regan	1
A. N. Hennessey	5	G. F.	1
Kittee Rayburn	5	A. Bowman	1
Fred Boustead	1	Glen Alva	1
A. Juniper	1	C. S.	1
C. F. Wright	1	H. C.	1
Tom Lyle	1	E. M. Cohen	1
C. W. Douglass	1	Will Thompson	1
Walter Gibbs	1	Mrs. Thompson	1
Ted Whiteman	1	W. Ransted	1
Tom Malvern	1	Johnny Alexander	1
Harry Anderson	1	Mr. Reeve	1
G. Dyke	1	J. Gartish	1
J. J. Regan	1	T. Callaghan	1

Collected by Elsie Robey, 10s

Elsie Robey	1	Molly Wynne	1
Laurence Irving	1	Lewis Leslie	1
Mabel Hackney-Irving	1	Mrs. Lewis Leslie	1
William Fullbrook	1	Sale of Post-cards	1
Mabel Carr	1	William Spencer	1

Collected by the Sisters Morgan, 14s.

Will Lorenzi	2	Alice Maple	1
Barrett and Knowles	2	Gracie Mortimer	1
Rita and Roma	1	Will Cartwright	1
Elsie Morgan	1	Hester Reeve	1
Annie Morgan	1	Charles Clark	1
Kitty Clinton	1	S. Barnard	1

Collected by Shenton's Chicks, 4s.

Shenton's Chicks	1	May Mars	1
Dancit	1	Rose Tilley	1

Collected by Eugene and Willie, 11s.

Miss Dunbar	2	Richard Lomas	1
Bernard and Weston	2	Henry Hodgkings	1
Eugene and Willie	2	B. Comerford	1
Miss M. Hope	1	J. Comerford	1

Collected by Carl Hertz, £1 10s.

Harris Fineberg	1	Carl Hertz	1
Harris Fineberg	1	Carl Hertz	1
Harris Fineberg	1	Carl Hertz	1
Harris Fineberg	1	Mrs. Carl Hertz	1
Harris Fineberg	1	Mrs. Carl Hertz	1
Harold Lyson	1	Ernest Pyke	1
Harold Lyson	1	W. Harris	1
Harold Lyson	1	F. Isaacson	1
Harold Lyson	1	L. Hill	1
Harold Lyson	1	L. Hill	1
John McInnes	1	Nemo	1
John McInnes	1	S. Burnett	1
John McInnes	1	H. Radford	1
John McInnes	1	Nat. Morris	1
John McInnes	1	Ike Rose	1

Collected by Rowland Hill, 25s.

Rowland Hill	1	Annie Schuberth	1
Daisie Morell	1	Harry Harrigan	1
Little Mamie Hill	1	Will Holt	1
Connie Gordon	1	Harry Radford	1
Minnie Muir	1	Alfred Hill	1
Connie Haydon	1	Jane Hill	1
Dorothy Frostick	1	Mabel Hill	1
Lulu Russel	1	James Percy	1
Daisy Dormer	1	Tow'd Mon	1
Billy Stephens	1	J. Traynor	1
Fred Epitaux	1	Mercantile Club, Leeds	1
Henrie Jaxon	1		
Nell Emerald	1	"Ye Dame"	1

Collected by Glen Alva, 23s.

Fields and Lewis	2	James Young	1
Glen Alva	1	James Dee	1
Tom E. Cliffe	1	Topsy Johnson	1
J. H. Savile	1	Bernard A. Leslie	1
Harry Karr	1	Daisy Kingswood	1
Daisy Morrell	1	Mabel Earle	1
Walter Kooney	1	Tommie Hunter	1
Mrs. W. A. Savile	1	J. September	1
Winnie Savile	1	Chas. May	1
Glen Alva	1	Fred Sinclair	1
Sam Young	1	A. N. Hennessey	1

Collected by Harry Delevine, 15s.

Harry Delevine	1	Henry Carlton	1
Sam Delevine	1	The Window Cleaner	1
J. F. Henry	1	Thora (?)	1
Percy Delevine	1	W. F. Frame	1
W. E. Tyler	1	Harry Herbert	1
Minnie Delevine	1	Mr. Barnett	1
Douglas Burley	1	Robins and Collier	1
Jack Burley	1		

Collected by Miss Fanny Robina, 7s.

Fanny Robina	1	H. W. Whitaker	1
Florry Cooper	1	P. Abrahams	1
Billie Bint	1	A. Allen	1
B. Warwick	1		

Collected by Miss Aggie Nolan, 15s.

Aggie Nolan	1	Hardie Palm	1
Agnes Hazel	1	James Fioni	1
Michael Nolan	1	James Fagan	1
Jimmy O'Connor	1	Tom McMahon	1
Mr. Tom Leamore	1	Harry Catlow	1
Jack Norman	1	Jim Quinn	1
Gus Garrick	1	Arthur Royce	1
Shirley and Ransome	1		

Collected by Sydney Lee, 21s.

Sydney Lee	1	Nancy Thornton	1
Gay Deceiver	1	Latter's Dresser	1
Mrs. Deceiver	1	German Emperor	1
Little Deceiver	1	Prince of Wales	1
Rabbit	1	Man on the Spot	1
Cat	1	Robert	1
Mr. E.	1	What What!	1
C. C.	1	Pip Pip!	1
Cliff Barrett	1	Card Tricks in Saloon	1
Little Barrett	1	H. C. T.	1
Moran and Wiser	1		

Collected by Sterling and Love, 23s.

Leo Sterling	1	Chas. Lake	1
Addie Love	1	Charles Martell	1
Frank Dunlop	1	Edwin Garth	1
Phil Smith	1	Blanche Marion	1
Mark Lester	1	Aimee Roberts	1
Ben Court	1	A. S. Betts	1
Walter Norman	1	C. H.	1
C. F.	1	J. Smith	1
Rosie Albert	1	A. C. Ganorn	1
R. B.	1	G. E. Gates	1
Jennie Albert	1	J. Stuart Bertram	1
W. Nash	1		

Collected by F. V. St. Clair, 13s.

F. V. St. Clair	2½	Alf. Lennard	1
Mrs. Pollie V. St. Clair	2½	Carl Borrell (Gin-nets)	1
Fox and Melville	1	Harry Barker	1
A. Norman	1	Mr. Mason	1
Billy Lennard	1	Burt Burnell	1

Collected by The Wedburns, 30s.

Laurence Irving	2	Geo. Acre	1
J. Wedburn	1	Dex	1
W. Wedburn	1	Mrs. Helsby	1
Primavesi	1	Nellie Nora	1
Joe Conway	1	Barry Lindon	1
W. Horne	1	Douglass	1
Mi Narom	1	Florence Smithers	1
T. Iveson	1	F. Vallance	1
Mrs. T. Iveson	1	Vere and Royal	1
Melvin and Max	1	Anileda	1
A. St. Clair	1	Marstro	1
Carle	1

ing the "Invasion of 1910" and Miss Victoria Monks "If you want to have a row." The Bioscope, showing a pretty subject, A Child's Love, completes the bill.

NORTH SHIELDS.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's company is warmly greeted in *The Little Breadwinner*, Mr. J. Monkhouse gives a capital rendering of Lord William Dorrington; Mr. Reginald Brown displays undoubted ability as Richard Lawrence; Mr. Alfred Maurice makes the most of Joseph Prior; Mr. Sydney Lynn is clever as Charles Prior; and Mr. William Casey scores as Dr. Chadwick. Little Irene contributes a clever impersonation of Meg; Miss Josephine Richards fills the part of Margaret Daventry with much success; Bridget O'Flinagan has an able exponent in Miss Clara Hunt; and Miss Millie Ford as Kate Cherry is seen to advantage.

Central Palace.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—Pride of place in this week's bill is held by Mr. Will Todwin, actor vocalist and comedian, who is deservedly popular; Mr. Tom Colgnitt, champion jumper, performs some marvellous feats, for which he is loudly applauded; the Three Spangelettis, with their Comedy Canine, Pony, and Baboon Hippodrome, are heartily greeted; Miss Gladys Todwynne, juvenile vocalist and dancer, meets with a cordial reception; Miss May Davies, with illustrated songs, is well received; Mr. John Grant, vocalist, with "An old warrior," meets with favour; and the Pictures are, as usual, interesting.

NORTHWICH.—Pavilion.—Proprietress, Mrs. P. E. Fletcher; Manager, Mr. Phil Royston.—The Follyettes are very clever in their comedy skit, *Drama and Opera*; Ru Allan proves an amusing ventriloquist; Peakman and Walsh are skilful and amusing jugglers; Miss Eva Bailey has a very pleasing soprano voice, and her songs are well received; Alec Godfrey is a refined comedian; and the Biograph presents some of the finest pictures which have been given during the season.

NORWICH.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. Charles Frohman's excellent company in *The Hypocrites* is appearing here. Mr. H. Lawrence Leyton admirably portrays the rôle of the Rev. Edgar Linnell; Mr. Fred E. Morland is a good Mr. Wilmore; Mr. I. Dennys an excellent Leonard Wilmore; and Mr. Charles Harley a successful Mr. Viveash. Mr. Charles Tyrel does well as Sir John; Mr. F. G. Thurstans is humorous as the Rev. Everard Daubeny; Miss Grace Murielle deserves praise as Mrs. Wilmore; Miss Muriel Mason is an attractive Helen; Miss Violet Harley acts well as Rachel; Miss Millie L. Emden is good as Mrs. Blaney; and Miss Madge Severne as Mrs. Linnell and Miss Eva Turnour as Patty give most able support.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—Miss Lilian Lee heads the bill this week and has a good reception; the Brothers Lawrence, Scotch dancers, are good in their act entitled *All Scotch*; Gerard, a herculean juggler, gives some astonishing feats; the Concoran Brothers are pleasing as musical specialists; Les Rallas and monkey display some amusing tricks; the Harvey Boys create fun; and Arthur Holland, comedian, finds favour.

NOTTINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—Mr. George Edwardes's company is here with *The Dollar Princess*, the mounting and dressing of which are all that could be desired. The music is pleasant and tuneful, and is excellently rendered by a capable orchestra under the guidance of Mr. Carl Kiefert. In the rôle of Olga, Miss Kitty Gordon makes hosts of friends by her charming appearance, acting, and singing; Mr. H. Corson Clarke is a comedian of great merit, and the scenes in which he and Miss Gordon are engaged are artistically executed; Mr. Robert Michaelis is a most engaging actor, and with Miss Hilda Moody to assist him success is assured. Another pair who play up to each other in first-class style are Mr. Vernon Davidson and Miss Alice Pollard, their duets and dances being of the daintiest. Good work in small parts is done by Mr. Willie Warde, as the aristocratic footman, Messrs. Howard Cridland, Harry Parker, Robert St. George, and Phillip Simmons. Miss Alice Moffat looks very dainty as Dulcie, and the Misses Mabel Duncan, Kathleen Owen, Evelyn Powys, and Betty Selwyn add to the success of the production.

Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Harry Upton.—*The Midnight Wedding* is proving a big success this week. Mr. Alfred Paumier acts with natural force and intensity in the trying rôle of Paul Valmar; Miss Yvonne Orchardson looks charming, and plays with womanly tenderness as the Princess Astra; Mr. Adrian Lovett makes a bold and dashing villian of Captain Von Scarsbruck; as a minor scoundrel, Lieut. Von Strelsburg is well depicted by Mr. A. E. Barnes; Mr. John Nesbitt makes a creditable Crown Prince; and the comedy element is well to the fore as supplied by Messrs. James E. Page, Vernon Vayne, and Algie Spalding; a pert Kathie is seen in Miss Gwlady's Faunce; Miss Prudence Lawrence as Marie and Miss Nesta Sandford as Rozel are also to be commended; and Mr. Forbes Harrison adds dignity to his part of Father Gerrad.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—Jack Pleasants is making a huge success of all his songs this week, and hearty laughter is continuous while he occupies the stage; the musical farce, *Passing the Time*, is exploited with an energy and dash that may be expected of Daley Cooper, and he is capably assisted by Mabel Lait, in a burlesque on the "Apache Dance"; the wonderful dancing of La Pia is enhanced by mechanical and electrical effects; the Ten Zerbinis add to their popularity in a novelty, entitled "The Enchanted Glen"; Arthur Gill receives a warm welcome for his singing; and the Eight of Hearts dance themselves into favour; Gladys Mavius looks attractive and sings with taste; Lily Palmer contributes a song and dance; and there are excellent films shown by the Bioscope.

Royal Hippodrome Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. Vic Carnell.—The engagement of Miss Decima Moore has brought crowded houses nightly, and this delightful artist charms her audiences by several songs delivered in her own inimitable style; Sammy Shields causes abundance of laughter by his Scotch stories and songs; Frank Fenton, as David Garrick in a little sketch, submits a fine piece of work; Rappo and Ella offer some really expert work as equilibrists and hand balancers; while Bostock's baboons prove an interesting turn; the eccentricities of the Bros. Werds are entertaining; and an enjoyable illusionist item is given by Philip Levard; the Camplins, musical comedy duo; Webb and Branston, operatic duettists; and the Barrascope also add to a pleasant evening.

OLDBURY.—Palace of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. Jas. Tyrer.—Business is extraordinarily good. Ernie Garner, the Black Country comedian, causes keen enjoyment with his patter, which is extremely funny; Little Ivy Rochfort is a comedienne and dancer of merit; Will Harris is a funny comedian; Miss Florrie Delemere is a dainty comedienne; the Bioscope films complete a very enjoyable entertainment.

OLDHAM.—Grand Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Mayall.—Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton are here with *The Taming of the Shrew*, and a large and enthusiastic audience gave them a hearty welcome on Monday. Mr. Asche as Petruchio was powerfully humorous; Miss Brayton as Katharine is delightful in her portrayal of the various moods of the shrew; Miss Elfrida Clement appears as Bianca, acting in a really clever manner; Miss E. Mullock has little to do as the hostess, but is most capable; Mr. R. Ian Penny as Hortensio is highly successful; Mr. Ewan Brookes as Lucentio and Mr. Caleb Porter as Gremio are excellent; Mr. J. F. Russell as Vincentio acts in well-finished style; Mr. Tripp Edgar is a capital Tranio; and the part of Grumio is capably played by Mr. Athol Forde. Mr. Arthur Franton is very good as a Pedant; and the remainder of the company give excellent support. The staging is most elaborate. Mr. E. Ch. Gittins, so long associated with the Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company, has charge of the business-management On Friday *Othello* is also in the bill.

Colosseum Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Wm. Eastwood.—Miss Mary Neil and Mr. George Kirk opened the second week with *From Shop Girl to Duchess*, and their reception was most gratifying. Miss Neil, in the rôle of Sylvia Grey, acts in accomplished style; Mr. Douglas Cecil as Arnold Vyvian makes a manly Duke; Mr. T. Lionel Ellis in the character of Sir Morris Maitland, M.D., makes a clever study of the part; Mr. Douglas Tremayne is excellent as Gilbert Spate; and Mr. Roy Wharton is capital as Pelham. Miss B. Hudson gives a clever study of Lady Celeste; Miss F. Groves as Tilly Dobson and Mr. Henri Gerald as Tommy Tinkler are responsible for really smart comedy; Mr. E. S. Nuttall is smart as Corbet; Miss Amy B Ellis as the Dowager Duchess is most successful; and Misses Hawkins and France are equally applauded. The remainder of the company do full justice to their respective parts.

Empire Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—Carl Hertz heads the bill in his marvellous illusions; Kitty Colyer could not appear owing to indisposition after Monday; Joe Reichen provides a smart show with his highly-trained dogs; Annie Lang is an excellent dancer, and sings very sweetly; Carrie Laurie's Kindergarten is full of smart singing and dancing and good comedy; Mlle. Jenny Mills provides a pretty electrical spectacle in three numbers; Fred Carey is very amusing with his funny songs; Duncan and Godfrey are smart in a cockney comedy sketch, *Me and 'Er*.

Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. Thorne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E Sharrocks.—Roland produces his latest illusion, "The Bachelor's Dream," assisted by Miss Marjorie Russell. Fred Edwards and company, including Miss Bertha Northam, in *Kleptomaniacs*, cause hearty laughter; Margaret Ismay and Coons provide a really smart and clever singing and dancing act; Floria, a phenomenal equilibrist, has a hearty reception; Bains and Reed are clever in their eccentric tumbling act; Fred E. Terry is a good comedian; Harry Bedford has a capital burlesque "Salome" song; and Jas. Bassett sings well. The Palace Pictures are again very good.

Royal Theatre of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Kilrow.—Chas. Baldwin's Bank Clerks are capable comedians; Damerell and Rutland are good in a comedy sketch, *Clever Mr. Fugg*; Rosie Archer at the piano gives some delightful imitations; and Foley and Francis are a merry pair. The Sisters Henderson are smart in a musical speciality; Martino is very good in his original contortions; Barfoot and Carson give a refined comedy act; and Frank Boyce sings character songs. The Dottoscope depicts a good dramatic film.

Hippodrome.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. L. King.—The Johnson-Burns film is adding to the attractions.

OXFORD.—New Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. C. C. Dorrill; Assistant-Manager, Mr G. T. Lucas.—This week we are having a most welcome return visit of Miss Horniman's company, under the direction of Mr. B. Iden Payne. Opening on Monday with *Widowers' Houses* to a most appreciative house, on Tuesday *The Return of the Prodigal* was the attraction. In the play Mr. Charles Bibby gave a sterling performance of Samuel Jackson, the irate parent of the prodigal; Mr. Lewis Casson was highly successful as the priggish and unpleasant brother Henry Jackson; Mr. Basil Dean made us all in love with the prodigal and worthless son Eustace Jackson; and Sir John Faringford, Doctor Glaisher, and the Rev. Cyril Platt all found most capable exponents in Messrs. Jules Shaw, Edward Landor, and Leonard Mudie; while the Baines of Mr. Henry Austin was a well-thought-out and finished performance. Miss Ada King well realised the part of the weak and frail mother Mrs. Jackson; Miss May Saber was a charming wholesome English girl as Violet Jackson, Miss Sybil Thorndike was well suited as the proud Lady Faringford; while her daughter Stella was played in most delightful and taking fashion by Miss Hilda Bruce Potter. *The Return of the Prodigal* was preceded by *Bringing it Home*, played in a finished style by the company. The plays billed for the rest of the week are *The Silver Box*, *When the Devil was Ill*, *Cupid and the Styx*, and the ever-popular *Candida*. The company keeps up its excellent reputation, and the plays could not be more cordially received.

East Oxford Theatre.—Lessees, East Oxford Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Stuart.—Mr. Frank J. Pitt's company is here with *A Victim of Villany*. Mr. Frank J. Pitt impersonates the hero, Frank Manton, with due restraint, and Mr. H. Creagh Hunt is smart as the villain, Stephen Cavanagh; Mr. Fred Carroll is entertaining as Tom Leckie; Mr. John Campling does well as Walter Lennox; and Mr. Frank Dallas is diverting as Patrick Maloney; Mr. Wilson Roberts is successful as Dick Carson. Miss Olive M. Pitt makes a bright Norah Maloney; Miss Florence Halton sustains Alice Cavanagh very creditably; Miss Dollie Lester makes the most of Eric; and Miss Katheryne Eckart gives a capital and sympathetic rendering of Mary Manton.

PAISLEY.—Paisley Theatre.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—Miss Adria Hill and Mr. Robert Ayrton's company is here this week, three nights being devoted to each of the plays *A Gambler's Daughter* and *The Woman from Russia*.

Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Stead.—Harry Dent and Fanny Harris, in their mystic musical comedietta *The Indian Bottle*, top the bill here, and have made a great hit; Frank Elliston and company, which includes Miss Nellie Stevens and Mr. Richard Oliver, present in powerful style the romantic comedy episode *My Lady Betty*; Willie Garvey, comedian, a prime favourite here, is very diverting; Arthur Croxon, mimetic comedian, supplies an entertaining turn; the Dancing Gilberts contribute a smart and novel dancing act; Queenie May scores with her latest successes; Poole and Maguire, vocal comedy duo, are deservedly applauded; Julian Ross, light comedian, is excellent; and up-to-date pictures are shown on the Bioscope.

PEMBROKE DOCK.—Queen's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Tom Barger; Business-Manager, Mr. Norman Barger.—Animated pictures on the Bargerscope are again the attraction here.

PERTH.—Perth Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—*Her Marriage Vow* is being performed here this week by a powerful company, headed by Miss Lillian Herries, who submits a fine piece of acting as Kate Walters. Mr. J. Forbes Knowles as Ned Benton is capital; Mr. Edward L. Garside makes a thorough villain in a quiet but masterful way; Mr. Vincent Wardle cleverly plays the part of Daffy Dan; and the comical parts are in the capable hands of Miss Effie D. Crawford as Maggie Clair and Mr. Owen Remonde as Larry Leary. Miss Grace Garside as Almira, Miss Nellie Shirley as Hester Morton, Mr. Wilford Bailey as Eben Chubb, Mr. Chauncy Morris as Jim Burke, and Mr. R. Carthew as Jenks are all good.

PETERBOROUGH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Winter; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. Watson.—Mr. Lewis Waller's company, under the direction of Mr. F. Clive Ross, is appearing here in *Robin Hood*. Mr. Ethelbert Edwards, who is well suited in the title-rôle, scores a great success; as King Richard Mr. J. N. Briant displays ability; Prince John is capably handled by Mr. H. Elliot Ball; Mr. Ernest Grays plays with success in the part of FitzAlwynne; Mr. F. Clive Ross is seen to advantage as John Little; the Abbot of Jorvaux is in the capable hands of Mr. Lambert Plummer; Mr. Ralph Leon as Tracy is well chosen for the part; Miss Cahill wins approval as Lady Marion; Miss Roberta Pulleyne as Eleanor is worthy of praise; and Miss Madge Devereux is all that can be desired as Alison.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards; Manager, Mr. Percy Hart.—Horace Pollack and company in *Hester's Mystery* are topping the bill here; A. G. Uno, comedian, on his first visit to Peterborough, has a good reception; and McAskell, comedy talking conjurer, Robert's sporting dog act, Cyril Dane, light comedian, Macintosh and Royal, speciality singers and dancers, the King's College Boys, and the pictures, complete a capital programme.

PLYMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—*The Girl Who Wrecked His Home* is again drawing large crowds to the popular parts of the house. Miss Louise Hampton as Bertha Marshall performs the part excellently; Mr. Edward Thane as Leonard Kenyon furnishes an excellent rendering of a part requiring great delicacy of treatment; Mr. Fred Goddard is a manly Jack Marshall; Mr. Francis Hope is smart as the somewhat advanced Juvenile Tommy Biffin, and Mr. George P. Lester is very realistic as the beer taster Joss Crocket; Miss Winifred Whyte is a good exponent of the villainous Val Raymond.

Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—Mr. Edwin Boyde is starred and fully sustains his well-established reputation; Wee Mona Vivian proves very popular, her representation of a Gibson Girl being clever; the Bros. Ford furnish a skilfully daring turn; Fred Vallance supplies some original ventriloquial business in a sketch *The New Orderly*; F. A. Martell is an accomplished equilibrist, balancing himself on his finger-tips, and Lucy Gillett is a smart juggler and conjurer; Hampton and Baunor, coloured duettists, and the Three Orleans, dancers, also contribute.

PONTYCYMMER.—Bodie's Hippodrome and Opera House.—Sole Proprietor, Dr. Bodie; General-Manager, Mr. T. N. Mills.—Mr. Ernest Abbot this week presents *The Mariners of England*, and on Monday night a good house was enthusiastic in its appreciation. Mr. Abbot plays the principal rôle of Lord Nelson in a most realistic manner, and his dramatic portrayal of the death scene earns well-deserved applause. Miss Ada Abbot makes a charming heroine, evincing sympathy and feeling. Much appreciated comedy is provided by Mr. Edwin Keene, and excellent support is rendered by Mr. Bonhate Wilson, and the rest of the company. The scenery and dresses are distinctly good and tasteful.

PORTH.—Palace.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole; Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—Topping an excellent bill here this week we have Jan Rudenyi in *The Power of Music*, whose violin playing is immensely appreciated; the Sisters Desmond, character duettists; the Vanderbilts in their song scenas; the Indiana Troupe of lady acrobats; Khan and Khan, illusionists; Dunning, a clever ventriloquist; W. G. Webber, the Lancashire Basso; the Maros, quaint triple bar performers; and pictures of the Burns v. Johnson fight are other attractions.

PORTSMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Miss Lena Ashwell's company is here with *Diana of Dobson's*, the play being excellently performed throughout. The title-rôle is in the capable hands of Miss Emelie Polini; the rôle of Captain Victor Bretherton is well developed by Mr. Leslie Rea; Sir Jabez Grindley has a capital exponent in Mr. W. Kingsford Pearce; Mrs. Pringle, Mrs. Cantelupe, and Mrs. White-Fraser receive effective impersonation from Misses Daisy England, Ada Palmer, and G. de Serville. *The Bishop's Candlesticks* afforded scope for some fine acting by Mr. W. Kingsford Pearce (the Bishop), Mr. J. Benedick Butler (the Convict), and Miss Daisy England (Persine).

Prince's.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Agate.—Arthur Shirley's exciting play *Her Life in London* is this week being presented by Mr. Stanley Carlton and company, the telling situations being developed with marked effect. A robust impersonation of Rev. Allen Gordon is given by Mr. Stanley Carlton; Astra Bell is exceedingly well played by Miss Maud Rubie, whose benefit was fixed for Friday, with *A Secret Wedding* in the bill.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Capt. E. H. Warren-Wright; Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—The foremost turn of an all-round good programme is John Clempert, described as the original Siberian gaol-breaker, who escapes from a water tank securely locked. An amusing sketch, *Half-a-Dollar*, is enacted by Haines Borthwick and company; a clever cycling balancing act is performed by the Two Woodwards. Carina Sisters, Adah Payne, Fred Barnes, Gertie Lewis, and some capital films from Payne's Biophotoscope find favour.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris; Assistant-Manager, Col. F. Roberts.—The largest audience seen here for some time was present on Monday, when Miss Margaret Cooper was the recipient of vociferous applause for her refined singing. Mr. Mark Sheridan on Monday was unfortunately absent, owing to temporary indisposition; the Schiavonys provided an amusing acrobatic entertainment; Mr. Allan Shaw's deft manipulation of cards and coins kept the audience on the qui vive; Will Driscoll, Karr and Kooney, Florry Cooper, and Sisters Ford supplied the comedy-serio portion of the bill; and Slippére, the eightless musician, displayed his talent on the piano and 'cello. Russell's Bioscope attracted attention and pleased.

PRESTON.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, the Executors of the late W. Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—*Miss Hook of Holland*, presented by Mr. George Dance's principal company, is as popular as ever. Mr. Hook is in the hands of Mr. Fred Wellesley, who gives an excellent portrayal; Mr. Walter Balfour as Captain Adrian Paap sings well, and Mr. Tom Robertson is capable in the small part of Lieutenant de Coop; Mr. George Mudie as Ludwig Schnapps is as breezy as ever; Mr. Frank Crimp possesses a good voice, which is heard to advantage in the songs allotted to him as Bandmaster van Vuyt; the drolleries of Mr. Fred Lyne as Simon Slinks are inimitable, and Miss Gertrude Melville well deserves the applause she receives for her clever and winsome presentation of Sally (Miss Hook). Too much praise cannot be given to Miss Cissie Sephton for her Mina; Miss Tattie Leonard is as bewitching as ever as Gretchen; Miss May Leslie and Miss Dora Woodruffe are both very capable as the old market woman and Thelka.

Prince's Theatre.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Mr. T. Edward Ward is this week presenting *The Love of the Princess*. Mr. Wilson Coleman gives an excellent account of himself as Prince Conrad; Mr. Ernest E. Imeson is sufficiently repellant as Count Nicholas; Mr. E. H. Dobell as the profligate monarch Josef plays with force; Mr. Beckett Bould and Douglas B. Watson as Lieutenant Orlans and Lieutenant Zaroff are equally good; Mr. Graham Winsford is an impressive Prince Regent of Narava; Mr. Francis Serle is good as Duke Scarfe, and Mr. Edgar Morgan is a capital Boris; Miss Olive Lloyd is to be congratulated on her Lady Irena; as is also Miss Nellie Grahame on her excellent portrayal of Constantia; as Princess Idalia Miss Maisie Hanbury fully deserves the calls she receives.

Royal Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—Cullen and Carthy's pantomime *The Babes in the Wood* is the particular attraction this week, and included are specialities by the Melbahs (Dolly and Elsie), Les Belles Americaines, Cullen and Carthy, and Bessie Cohen, a bonnie Robin Hood. Miss Ruby Roya is a dainty Maid Marion, and as Bantam Little Cluley is a most grotesque; Mr. Tom Drew is a capital Dame Peggy; Misses Dolly Cullen and Elsie Jordan as the two babes, Reggie and Cissie, are really clever juveniles, their singing and dancing being exceedingly good; as Bill Morgan and Dick Rockyfeller Messrs. Cullen and Carthy succeed in keeping the "pot a-boiling" with their eccentricities; Miss Mollie Edwards is an engaging Fairy Queen, and Mr. Fred Melville is a capital Herne the Hunter; Miss Kitty Kearns as Phyllis, Miss Violet Ray as Marjorie, and Miss Una Ellis as Dorcas are each good in their respective parts; Mr. George Melbah creates considerable mirth as Friar Tuck.

RADCLIFFE.—Grand Opera House.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Boothman.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's company is here in the production of *Mother*. Duncan Fairweather has a fine exponent in Mr. J. O. Stewart; Mr. Alex Alexander is good as Frank Rodney; and the villainies of Stephen Carrington are well shown up by Mr. Bartlett Garth; Mr. Evan Roland is worthy of praise as Jasper Randon; and Mr. Roy Gordon does good work as Old Crump; Mr. Teddy Myles deserves a word as Tommy Noblets; Miss Nellie Waddington is a typical Mrs. Fairweather; Miss Grace Stafford is all that can be desired as Polly; and Miss M. Thorne Hallam distinguishes herself as Nellie Fairweather.

RAMSGATE.—Royal Palace Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Ernest Mansell.—Good audiences have again patronised the above theatre twice nightly during the past week, when Mr. Mansell has presented admirably-varied programmes of graphic life-motion pictures. The films are of excellent quality, their steadiness being a marked feature. Acceptable variety turns have been introduced by Ted E. Rose (comedian and dancer) and Miss Maude Evelyn in a répertoire of new American chorus songs. Wednesday night was observed in the town as Territorial night. Mr. Ernest Mansell kindly placed the theatre at the disposal of the committee, formed to organise the event, who enjoyed the patronage of the Lord Lieutenant of Kent (Marquess Camden), the Mayor and Corporation, and other influential residents of the town and district. A splendidly-attractive programme, a feature of which were tableaux, had been arranged, and speeches were delivered by General Sir W. H. Mackinnon, K.C.B., and others. On each evening of next week the well-known drama *The Eve of Her Wedding* will be presented.

RAWTENSTALL.—Grand Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; General Business-Manager, Mr. A. B. Feather.—Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hinton, Travis Green, and Ruth Zillwood's company is here this week with the powerful and exciting drama, *Her Fatal Marriage*. As Zaco Malletto Mr. Arthur Hinton is powerful; Mr. Norman Tracy is successful as Wilfred Gray; Mr. Gerald Byrne makes a capable Paul, and Mr. Percy Morton Wright an excellent detective. Mr. Frank Brunell displays ability as Peter Pimple; Miss Ruth Zillwood is an imposing Myra Malletto; Miss Lydia Audre is charming as Lily; and Miss Laura Wright is a capital Dolly.

READING.—Royal County Theatre.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Benton.—*A Country Girl in London* is being played this week by a capable company, under the direction of Mr. W. V. Garrod, who himself enacts the leading character of Frank Gordon in excellent style. The part of the heroine, Marjorie Hamilton, is well sustained by Miss Bertha Kingston. The plot, which is of great interest throughout, depicts scenes of modern English life.

The Palace.—Managing Director, Mr. G. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. E. Draco.—The Bros. Wright present an expert and graceful acrobatic turn; the Celestials, a clever comedy quartette, introduce a very funny musical and burlesque medley; the sketch *In the Midst of Life*, which is of an unusually pathetic and tragic nature, is well acted by Mr. Herbert E. Terry and Miss Jessie Danvers; Monty Walker, the Lancashire comedian, is very droll; George Acre is successful as a comedian and character vocalist; Madoline Rees sings effectively; Shirley and Ransome appear in a comedy and pathetic episode; the Four Netherlands give a smart performance, including a bare-footed dance, and some good pictures are displayed on the Palace Bioscope.

ROCHDALE.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Burton.—The boards are occupied this week for the first time with Mr. Herbert Sleath's company in *A White Man*. The play is finely staged, and holds the audience interested throughout. Mr. Frank Tennant admirably sustains the part of Captain James Wynnegate or Jim Carson; Mr. H. T. Richardson is effective as the Earl of Kerhill; Mr. H. Wilmot Jackson makes the most of Sir John Applegate; and Mr. Wm. Dempsey is all that can be desired as Malcolm Petrie. Mr. R. A. Brandon submits a convincing portrayal of Big Bill; Mr. Henry Hare is a capital Bud Hardy; and Mr. F. Thornton and Mr. Eric Hudson submit lifelike portrayals of Baco White and Tab-y-Wana. Miss Leila Russell skilfully enacts the part of the Dowager Lady Kerhill; and Miss Eleanor May shows ability in the part of Diana, Countess of Kerhill.

Empire.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—George Formby is a comedian with irresistible mirth-provoking abilities; F. W. Purcell's company, in *That Brute Simmons*, evokes roars of laughter; the Zelovas are clever acrobatic equilibrists; the Sisters Barnes, comediennes and dancers; Rita and Roma, vaudeville entertainers; George Reeve, comedian; Nance Elder, comedienne; Alpho, ventriloquist; and the Empire Bioscope complete an attractive bill of fare.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, The Jackson Family; Business-Manager, Mr. Jno. Jackson; Resident-Manager, Mr. James Jackson, sen.—The excellent fare provided by the management here is attracting crowded houses. Zeynard's Lilliputians submit a wonderful performance; the Pasquali Brothers give a fine exhibition of trick somersaults; Olgar and Elgar contribute a refined musical turn; Evelyn and Norrie, in *Set a Thief*; Harris Cooney, dancer; Ivy Gallard, comedienne and dancer; E. W. Selwyn, comedian; the Danbys, comedians and dancers; and the Hippodrome pictures complete the list.

ROTHERHAM.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company is here for the first time with *The Lancashire Lad*, a strong domestic drama. Mr. Joseph Millane is a manly David Elmore; and Mr. Ernest Vaughan is seen to advantage as Max Carlton. Mr. Hugh Wallace gives a finished portrayal of the part of Jem Wincote; and Mr. Bob Anderson is most amusing as John Willie Wardle. Mr. H. N. Wilkinson is droll as Professor Napoleon Boulanger; Miss Mabel Rose is very pleasing as Jessie Wincote; and Miss Nell Oliver is deserving of mention as Lorna Wincote. Miss Jennie Hallworth scores as Jane Alice Clitheroe; and Miss Gertie Manson is a sprightly Kitty de Vere. Miss Gertie Gaye as Flossie Mayfair and Miss Daisy Gaye as Trixie Golightly are deservedly applauded for song and dances. The mounting is excellent.

Hippodrome, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. Edgar Fox; Resident-Manager, Mr. Claude Shayler.—Captain Maximilian Gruber, with his elephant, horse, and pony, heads the bill, and gives a highly-trained exhibition. W. G. Wesley is a most amusing comedian; and Kavados has a brilliant turn as juggler and equilibrist. *Ferdie's Ma-in-Law* is a side-splitting sketch; Mr. Arnold Richardson as Father-in-Law is very droll and Miss Ethel Lonsdale is a typical Ma-in-Law. Mr. Flockton Foster is seen to advantage as Ferdie; Miss Flo Melville is a dainty comedienne; and the Brothers Redmond are very funny comedians. Messrs. Nash and Noel are deservedly applauded; and George Antill has a good turn.

SALFORD.—Prince of Wales's.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—*Sexton Blake, Detective*, was presented here this week by the Melodrama Production Syndicate, Ltd., under the general management of Mr. Alfred H. Grahame, and drew a good house on Monday evening. The title-rôle was played in fine style by Mr. Jack Fortesque; Mr. Harry Nelson forcibly portrayed Farmer Blackburn; Mr. R. Barry received well-earned appreciation as the hero, Roger Blackburn; Mr. Stephen Nichells cleverly presented Squire Lovell; Mr. W. Stephens as the burglar, Simon Faggas, and Miss Lilla Morden as Euphemia Pattacake successfully did the comedy business; Mr. R. Heaton Grey capitally showed the rascality of Randolph Lovell; Miss Cecile E. Hanson cleverly sustained the part of Philadelphia Kate; Marjorie Lovell was charmingly acted by Miss Pauline Straus; Tinker was also an amusing character in the hands of Mr. Mayo Stanley; Mr. Algernon Syms gave a creditable performance of the Rev. Edward Grey.

Regent Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; General-Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—The sketch entitled *The Ten o'Clock Squad*, originally produced at the Canterbury, London, has been performed here by an excellent cast. Lowenwirth and Cohan, Hebrew comedians, kept the house in roars; Capt. Devereux's dogs showed great care and patience by the manner in which they performed their clever tricks; Talberto and Douglas cleverly burlesqued the usual comedy acrobatic work; and the bill also contained enjoyable items by Welda and Wynne, in juggling, dancing, and tumbling; Gracie Grahame, chic comedienne; the Cosmans, comedy artists; the Lannons, as "The Dancing Policeman and the Maid"; and Bert and Dora, comedy entertainers.

Royal Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Slatter.—Montague Beaudyn's company had a good reception on Monday, when they appeared in the drama *Send Him Victorious*, in which Mr. Frank Holyoake portrayed the King in fine style. Mr. G. M. Montanini gave an excellent performance as Colonel Heinrich Kaufman; a manly hero Captain Frank Allison, was that by Mr. Oliver Birrell; Mr. Bert Woodin as Geordie Walker and Miss Madge Palmer as Gretchen Holtz kept the house in excellent humour; Miss Isabelle Hunt was a charming Ethel Harding, and Miss Lily Roselle made a great impression as Countess Kara. The drama is presented twice nightly in seven excellent scenes.

Opera House and Assembly Rooms, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; General-Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Shepherd.—The Regent new animated pictures twice nightly are shown to full houses. They include scenes from the West Stanley Coalmine Disaster, A Traitor to the King, A Thief Bested, In Search of Oblivion, A Present to Her Husband, Love of a Nautch Girl, The Inheritance of Baptiste Durand, Spectre of the Plains, The Inn of Death, and High Game; and Mr. Tom Sherlock sings an illustrated song with a swinging chorus.

New Central Hall.—Proprietors, Messrs. Whiteley and Welker; Manager, Mr. Fred Sharp.—Good houses (twice nightly) are well entertained by the excellent films of the "World in Motion" pictures, which include The Incendiary (drama), Peggy's First Prance, Retribution, The Trombone Player, Champion all the Same, The Torrent (a panorama), In a Stone Quarry, Scenes in a London Zoo, Customs Officer's Stick, and Curfew Shall Not Ring To-night.

SCARBOROUGH.—The Aquarium.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman.—A good programme here includes Tom White's Arabs, in a comedy entertainment; Billy Melia, vocalist and trick dancer; Deane Tribune, in character studies; Thiessen, with his trained dogs; the Maddison Brothers, quaint comedians; Hess and Lisbon, experts in roller skating; Hesketh Meade, in illustrated songs; and Vernon's Bioscope.

The New Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock.—Mr. Oswald Brook's company occupies the boards this week in the farcical comedy *The New Housemaid*. In the title-rôle Mr. Howard Tracey is distinctly successful; Miss Babe Stuart acquits herself admirably as Dulcie; and Mr. Ramsay Forman makes a good Detective. The other chief parts are in the capable hands of Misses Ruby Wyndham and Lucy Evelyn, and Messrs. Herbert Colley, Brember Wills, and Archie Forman.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—New Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. Wallace Childs.—Mr. W. W. Kelly's company occupies the boards here this week with *The New East Lynne*. Mr. Fred Terrise is a convincing exponent of Archibald Carlyle; as Francis Levison Mr. Leonard Booker gives a capable portrayal; in the rôle of Murty O'Flynn Mr. Richard Nugent, an Irish comedian of striking ability, is very popular; Lord Mountsevern is capably drawn by Mr. Percy Warlow; Richard Haro is satisfactorily sketched by Mr. Edgar

Weisker.—Tom Rose is at the head of the bill this week, and nightly challenges all and sundry; Mabel Thorne pleases everyone with her songs; the Four Victorians perform on several instruments and dance gracefully; Richard Fineberg's different impersonations are well done; Marie Jones, in her character sketch, is successful; Harrigan and Holt are laughter-provoking; and Baddow gives a capital ventriloquial sketch.

STOCKPORT.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—*Two Lancashire Lasses in London* is here. In the character of John Edmunds Mr. Geo. Rammell acts realistically; Mr. Chris. Mason is very pleasing as Sam Hallett; Jonas Deane is effectively played by Mr. Arthur Elwyn; Jim Price and Ratty are ably portrayed by Mr. Jack Miller and Mr. W. Walmsley respectively; and the Rev. Frank Selby is feelingly impersonated by Mr. J. Edward Fletcher. Pathos and feeling are displayed by Miss Laura Walker and Miss Alice Defoe in the characters of the sisters Constance and Nellie; Bessie Edmunds is sympathetically acted by Miss Stanley. Burt; and Jane Adelaide Bloomfield is amusingly presented by Miss Evelyn Shaw.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, the Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black. —Sandy McNab and company, in an amusing sketch, *The Egyptian Mummy*, is the chief attraction here. Others appearing are Herbert and Linden, exceedingly smart dancers; Joe Almasis and assistant, in a clever juggling act; O'Malley and Brown, amusing comedians, in a sketch *You're Still a Friend of Mine*; Bruce Green, styled "the talkative dame," whose patter is mirth-provoking; Evie Hamilton, a pleasing vocalist and dancer; and the Douglas Troupe in a clever risley act.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES. — CASTLE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Charles Imeson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cecil Imeson.—Mr. William Mollison and company are here in Shakespearean plays, *Hamlet* being performed on Monday. Mr. Mollison made an admirable Hamlet, his fine elocutionary powers being loudly applauded; as Claudius Mr. William Calvert did well; Mr. Archie W. Chappell as Horatio was very striking; Miss Evelyn McNay as Ophelia played with distinction; as Gertrude, Queen of Denmark, Miss Elsa Anderson did well. The rest of the company were efficient. The remainder of the week is devoted to *Julius Cæsar*, Tuesday; *The Merchant of Venice*, Wednesday; *The Bonnie Brier Bush*, Thursday and Saturday; and *David Garrick* on Friday.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stainton.—The leading turn here this week is that of John Warren and company in a mysterious scene, *The Magic Carpet*, and was accorded a hearty reception; Lievin and Pantzer, acrobats and equilibrists, gave a fine exhibition of hand-balancing; the Calcotts, in a wayside episode, *Rags and Tatters*, were very clever; Lily Hayes, chic comedienne and dancer, took well; Little Frankie, a promising juvenile vocalist, was applauded; the Leotard Brothers, were exceptionally clever hat throwers; Kirk and Saraski, acquatic performers, gave a smart turn in a tank; and the Fordyces, comedy artists and dancers, were very funny. The Bioscope concluded with A Drama on the Sea Coast and Tramp's Cycling Mania.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—Mr. M. Montgomery's company presents here this week a spectacular drama, *The Defence of the Flag*. The drama proved to the liking of the audience, and was well received. Three new artists appeared in the cast, Mr. Stanley S. Gordon, Mr. Allan Hineson, and Miss Nina Vaughton, and created a favourable impression. The proceeds of the two performances on Wednesday night will be devoted to the fund for providing boots for the poor children. The Bio-photoscope concluded.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Miller; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. Moroney. —Herr Julius Walther, the popular tenor, charms everybody by his artistic rendering of many old favourite ballads; the Avolos, who throw double somersaults from perpendicular poles, submit a unique and clever performance; Albert Letine is a smart female impersonator; Maxey and Pete are clever trick and comedy cyclists; the Sisters Edwardes, in effective military costumes, prove themselves neat drummers and dancers; Phillips and Merritt score in a vaudeville act; Keane Harker is a quaint eccentric comedian; the Bioscope depicts a pretty incident of the doings of Two Runaway Kiddies.

STOURBRIDGE. — ALHAMBRA THEATRE. — General-Manager, Mr. Douglas C. Phelps; Manageress, Miss Maud Lynton.—Mr. Wilson Benge is doing good business here with his *The Eve of Her Wedding* company. Mr. Wilson Benge as George Tremain improves his already good reputation; Miss Sadie Smith gives a capital exhibition of histrionic power as Mavis Leverton; Miss Florence Zillwood as Renie de Telle should be highly spoken of; Miss Mary Mallalieu is a winsome and dainty Gwendoline Younger; as Hiram P. Younger and Paul Hawshaw Mr. Gilbert Elvin shows versatility; Mr. N. Carter Slaughter gives a fine rendering of Rudolph Earle; Mr. Frank Kelland deserves commendation for his smart interpretation of Giovanni; Mr. Fred Lloyd as Dean Clifton is excellent; Mr. Herbert Hastings as Jack Erne wins the sympathies of the audience; Mr. R. Arthur as Bill Groggins acts in a lifelike manner; Mr. Arthur Keand earns praise by his able performance as Squire Leverton; and Mr. H. Danson as Dick Leverton has a suitable part.

SUNDERLAND.—KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager Mr. S. F. Davidson; General-Manager, Mr. Alexander Telford; Treasurer, Mr. L. Crawford Orr.—Mr. M. Russell Rosse and company are here this week in *Captain Swift*. Mr. Edward Sorley impersonates Wilding in an exceptionally strong manner; Mr. Charles Boult gives a capital impersonation of Gardiner; Mr. Penn Hamilton is praiseworthy as Marshall; and Messrs. Arthur Dennis, Ben Barnett, W. E. Forster, and Clarence Pelham are good in their respective parts. Mrs. Bennet merits high eulogy for her portrayal of Mrs. Seabrook; Miss Gertrude Sage gives an artistic impersonation of Lady Staunton; Miss Betty Fairfax supplies a sympathetic rendering of Mabel Seabrook; and Miss Ida Phillips is good as Stella Darbyshire.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. R. Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Dunn.—Mr. Ernest J. Fare's company is here with *My Mother, God Bless Her!* Miss Ada Hender is seen to advantage as Stella; as George Temple Mr. Fare proves himself a clever actor; Mr. James Mailey does well as Isaacs; Mr. Geo. Stevens plays Tom Yorke admirably; Little Cyril is very well embodied by Miss Dorothy Tilling. The comic element is supplied in an effective manner by Miss M. Courtney (Sally Snooks), Messrs. David Harcourt (Charlie Chuckit) and Geo. Ashley (P.C. Honest).

EMPIRE THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—De Gracia's Elephants are well trained in their performances, and show a marked degree of intelligence; Miss Alexandra Dagmar wins enthusiastic encores; *A Scene at the Fair Ground*, by Albertas and Millar, creates hearty laughter. Pleasing turns are contributed by Percy Hannan, a capital baritone; Bessie Slaughter, a contralto of considerable power; Phil Parsons, an excellent light comedian; and Fayre and Manning, two singers and simultaneous dancers.

AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. Foulkes Edwards.—Another capital picture entertainment is provided here this week. The Lighthouse Keeper shows some wonderful marine effects, and the Cup-tie between Sunderland and Newcastle is a capital film, and has an enthusiastic reception. The singing pictures, Little Eva and Asleep in the Deep, are much enjoyed. The vaudeville turn of Fayre and Manning, comedians and dancers, wins well-deserved approval.

PALACE THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Henry W. Phillips; Resident-Manager, Mr. Francis MacDermott.—The Bioscope pictures here include a film based on The Last Days of Pompeii, and illustrating the adventures of Glaucus and Ione and the Eruption of Vesuvius. A Moonlight Trip on the Nile is a film of much interest, and The Adventures of Miss Charlesworth is very popular. The Campbells sing a duet.

SWANSEA.—THE GRAND.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks; Acting-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. W. Page.—Mr. Edward Terry is here this week as Dick Phenyl in *Sweet Lavender*, and is delighting all by his quaintness, good humour, and clever conception of the character. Miss Edith Coleman as Minnie gives a natural impersonation; Mr. Edmund Hallick, in the rôle of Horace Bream, does some really good acting; a clever study is that of Mr. William Dexter's Dr. Delaney; Mr. Poole Kirkwood and Miss Lydia Busch as Wedderburn and Ruth Rolt respectively, are decidedly good; Miss Christine Raynor makes a "Sweet Lavender"; and Mr. Percival Madgewick as Clement Hale could hardly be bettered. *Liberty Hall* and *The Magistrate* are also billed.

THE STAR.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—Mrs. Frank Bateman and Mr. Stuart Lomath's company is here with *No Wedding Bells for Her*. Miss Lizzie Montague as Lola Delaspierre proves herself a capable actress; and Mr. H. Aynsleigh makes the most of Abney Stone. A strong company renders support.

THE EMPIRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Gannon.—Mr. Herbert Darnley's company is here with *The Mandarin*, well staged and well acted. Daisy Woods, with catchy songs and dainty dancing, "catches on" immediately; the Three Delevines, in "Flipp and Flopp," are as diverting and popular as ever; Jack Lane is an acceptable comedian; the Coloured Meisters are always enjoyable; and Rex Fox's ventriloquial and musical turn on the slack wire is novel and clever. The Three Rutlands' musical turn is excellent; and Frances Letty, with a tuneful voice and a clever wooden-shoe dance, is appreciated. The Bioscope pictures are capital.

SWINDON.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wiltshire Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Manners.—Messrs. Dudley Bennett and T. C. Wray's company, in *The Catch of the Season*, is proving a great attraction here. Mr. William Greene is an unqualified success as the Duke of St. Jermyn's; Miss Dorothea Clarke supports him admirably as Angela; Sir John Crystal is well taken by Mr. Franklin Miles; Mr. Joseph Bruce causes much fun in the part of Lord Dundreary; Mr. Geoffrey Berwick is capital as William Gibson; and Master Ernest Grata is very good as Bucket. Miss Claire de Vere does well as the Duchess of St. Jermyn's; and Miss Edna Eden is seen to advantage as Lady Crystal. Her two daughters are capably taken by Miss Barry Eldon and Miss Kate Robertson; and Miss Grace Hampton spiritedly portrays Lady Caterham.

TON-Y-PANDY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ridgewood Barrie.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company are, for their second week, presenting *At Cripple Creek*. Mr. A. Milroy ably enacts Joe Mayfield; as Manuel Alvarez, a highly creditable display is given by Mr. Roy Jackson; Mr. Reg. H. West assumes the part of Wakketah very cleverly; Miss Daisy Carlton does well as Maggie Mason; and Miss Dorothy Lart is nicely suited as Belle Gordon. Miss Agnes Verity again carries off chief honours as Dynamite Ann. The Johnson *v.* Burns Fight is depicted on the Bioscope.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. Will Stone.—Heading the bill here is Miss Georgette Thierry and company in *A Daughter of the Revolution*. Geo. Rae is an amusing Scotch comedian; Will Punch is well received; Fred Dice and Miss Ken Ware are scoring heavily; and great interest is centred in the Britt *v.* Summers fight on the Bioscope.

TORQUAY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company is appearing here this week in *Under Two Flags* to good audiences. In the principal rôle of Bertie Cecil an excellent representation is given by Mr. Robert Purdie, who throughout the performance maintains an admirably upright and manly demeanour. As Cigarette Miss Olive Wilton exhibits the varying moods of that vivacious girl in finished and attractive style. A charming delineation of the Princess Venetia Corona is given by Miss F. Melrose Millett; and Lord Rockingham is also made a capital study by Mr. Geo. Porteous. Some amusing tactics by Miss Jenny Clare as Lavina and Mr. Clarence Ibbotson as Rake are much enjoyed; whilst Mr. Hyland O'Shea also introduces some quaint humour as Ezry Baroni. Mr. Chas. Johnstone is a typical Black Hawk, and the minor parts are well played.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—THE OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Welton Dale.—The Hippodrome programme this week includes Fred Russell's ventriloquial entertainment; the Four Mexicans, in their clever lassooist exhibition; Childie Stuart and Dolly White, two chic comediennes; Fynn and Fayne, in up-to-date cross-talk; Ada Gatley, a graceful equilibrist; Fred Ellis, comedian; and the Bioscope.

TYLDESLEY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. W. Brierley.—*Greed of Gold* is being successfully played here this week by Mr. T. Morton Powell's company. Mr. Henry Parr makes a good impression in the strong part of Harry Hood. Mr. Jas. Jarrett well deserves the applause he receives for his clever study of Tom Welstead, the dumb man; Arthur Erroll has a fine representative in Mr. Alf Stretton; Mr. Arthur Beaufort deserves mention for his Cully Snag; and Mr. Vic. C. Rolfe is well placed as Mr. Brightstone, K.C. Miss Maud M. Powells gives a meritorious rendering of Dora; Mrs. Maxwell is presented in good style by Miss Jennie D. Hicks; and Mr. Charles Eldred-Wood (Conn Creamer) and Miss Florrie Hayes (Pattie Marfield) provoke laughter.

WAKEFIELD. — OPERA HOUSE. — Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Messrs. Charles Rogers and W. E. Wilson's company is here this week in *The Ladder of Life*. Mr. Ronald Douglas gives a realistic impersonation of General James Gordon; Mr. Charles Rogers submits a powerful portrayal of David Gordon; Mr. Claude H. Seaton is effective as Fergus Gordon; Mr. Gerald Melville gives an able exposition of Ivan Karchikoff; Mr. Compton Mackenzie does justice to the part of Colonel Macgregor; Mr. John Edwards is an able Breezy Bill; Piper Findlater, of South African war fame, does justice to his rôle; Miss Mary Ford gives a finished rendering of Olga Sobinky; Miss Gladys Ford Howitt is well placed as Meg Merrilees; and Miss Eva St. Vincent is admirable as Mother Flint.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—Mr. Harry Tate's company, in the highly amusing sketch *Motoring*, heads the bill this week, and is well received. Enzer, the soldier juggler, assisted by Miss Clarice, gives a clever exhibition of juggling and ju-jitsu; Miss Mildred Bryan is a pleasing ballad vocalist; the Rowntrees, comedy couple, are popular; the Darntons, duettists, sing well; Mr. and Mrs. David Donaldson, sketch artists, merit appreciation; and Carl Benny, ventriloquist, ably contributes.

WALSALL.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—Mr. Fred Ginnett's company, in *Dick Turpin's Ride to York*, is here this week, and is creating a great sensation. Other artists include the Lyric Mummers; Amy Anderson and Co., in a new vaudeville act, entitled *Troubles On and Off*; the Sisters Trentanovi, in a transformation gymnastic act; Walter King, the doleful comedian; J. H. Scotland, who is well received; Bert Woodward, the steeplechasing cyclist; and the American Bioscope.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—The stage this week is occupied by Mr. Ian Maclaren's company, in Shakespeare and old English comedy. On Monday the performance was that of *Hamlet*, Mr. Ian Maclaren giving an impressive interpretation of the title-rôle; Miss Ruby Maclaren displayed sweetness and charm as Ophelia; and Mr. Mathew Boulton distinguished himself as Claudius. These able artists were also seen to advantage in the other Shakespearean plays of the week, which comprised *The Merchant of Venice*, *Othello*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, and *David Garrick*.

WARRINGTON. — ROYAL COURT.—Proprietor, Mr. J. Beecham; General-Manager, Mr. A. M. Loader; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Smiley.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company is here with *The Christian*. Mr. Henry Renouf as the Hon. John Storm is powerful; Miss Doris Gilham as Glory Quayle looks charming and acts admirably; Mr. Oswald Marshall scores repeatedly as Horatio Drake; Mr. George R. Montford is seen to advantage as Lord Robert Ure; and a dignified Father Lamplugh is Mr. Edwin Ling. Mr. C. T. Turpin is good as Archdeacon Wealthy; Mr. Charles Dickens does well as Rosenberg; and an effective Parson Quayle is Mr. Arthur E. Maskell. As Polly Love Miss Margaret Brodie displays much pathos; and as the outspoken Mrs. Callendar Miss Sinna St. Clair scores well; Miss Mima Renouf as Mother Kent makes the most of her opportunities; and a sympathetic Lady Ure is Miss Katherine Maude.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Eric Longden.—That smart juvenile, George Wood, scored an immense success here on Monday evening, and his remarkable imitations are very lifelike; the Bouncing Dillons again score; the Seven Wulfrunas supply a comedy speciality act, *Fun in a Café*; J. W. Rowley's songs and patter gain a firm hold on the house; and Cosgrove and Burns do well; Jack Hayworth is a smart Scotch comedian; and Sybil Montague sings sweetly.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, The Franco-British Animated Picture Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Jack Waters.—The Reays on the silver bars head the bill here; Billy Clincy and Dan Clancy are clever dancers; and the Reays, equilibrists; Ena Richards, soubrette; and Bastow and La Comet score in *The Lily and the Sunbeam*.

WATFORD.—PALACE THEATRE.—Sole Responsible-Manager, Mr. T. M. Sylvester; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Mason; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Wright.—Hardie and Von Leer's company is drawing large audiences in *The Sailor's Wedding*, excellently staged and well acted. Messrs. Richard A. Green, Cecil Klein, Harold Weston, Hodgson Taylor, Finch Smiles, Walter Pemberton, Gerald Ford, Harry Reynolds, Miss Laura Hansen, Miss Mary Pemberton, Miss Winifred Pearson, Miss Ciccly Wade, and Miss M. Sadie have met with great favour, and the drama may certainly be set down as the best yet staged here.

WEDNESBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby.—Mr. Chas. Harrington's company in *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is proving a most successful attraction here. Mr. Carr, in the rôle of Uncle Tom, gives a sympathetic rendering; as Phineas Fletcher Mr. Chas. Harrington leaves little to be desired; Mr. Geoffrey Broughton's delineation of St. Clair meets with hearty approval; the important part of George Harris is effectively portrayed by Mr. G. Ridgway Thorne; Mr. G. Lubimoff as Legree makes a decided impression; Marks is admirably presented by Mr. John Jackson; Mrs. H. Hathaway ably depicts Eliza Harris; and as Mrs. St. Clair Mrs. May Turner does excellent work. The part of Aunt Ophelia is entrusted to the safekeeping of Miss Ethel Mildmay; and as the ever-mischievous Topsy Miss Annie Watson proves a huge success. Miss Doris Brereton makes a charming Little Eva; and as Cassy Miss Hetty Johnson is warmly applauded.

WEST BROMWICH. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee, Mr. R. Nightingale.—There is a welcome return visit here this week of the powerful play *The Crimes of Paris*, which is being admirably produced by Mr. Frank Bateman and Mr. Geo. Conquest's company. The acting is of a high order. Mr. Clavering Craig as Pepin Cardel, the detective, has a part to which he does full justice; the Vicount de Vismes is well portrayed by Mr. Alfred D. Adams; Miss Vera Clavering Craig is very fine as Jacques Martel; Miss Marie Barrett as Angele Martel, Miss Flora Hastings as La Bella Helene, and Miss Chrisie Bickerstaff as Lizette are all exceedingly clever; while the other members of the company give them excellent support.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Tom Kuner.—Mr. C. W. Poole is providing a very excellent entertainment at this place of amusement this week, the bill being headed by Amasis, the Egyptian man of mystery, whose performance is indeed a wonderful one. The Royal Banzias are Japanese jugglers of more than usual ability; the Seven Bramusas, a family of juvenile musicians, give a very clever turn; while Harry Raymond, assisted by his daughter Joy, proves himself a clever comedian and dancer. Willie Dean also provides an enlivening turn; and the eight tableaux depicting Trafalgar are exceptionally good the whole show being remarkably smart.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—GRAND.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. H. E. Feather.—*A Prodigal Son* is here, presented by Mr. George D. Day's company. Mr. Albert Ward gives a masterly and finished portrayal of the character of Oscar Stephenson; a well-studied rendering of the rôle of Magnus is given by Mr. Alfred Goddard; a success is scored by Mr. A. J. Williams as the Pastor; and the part of Stephen Magnusson is capitally played by Mr. Jackson Hayes. As Thora and Elin Miss Dorrie Roberts gives a piece of impressive acting, and Miss Pearla Gardner portrays Helga realistically.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—The Cumberlands in their comedy cycling exhibition do some marvellous acrobatic feats, and create considerable amusement; Miss Henriquette Maude is a great favourite here, and her description of her tour round the world is listened to with breathless interest, and warmly applauded; Hicks and Hunter, vocalists and dancers, do a novel pedestal dance on ice skates; a smart and clever exhibition of Diabolo manipulation is given by Master Day; the Four Garricks in song are well received; an amusing comedy turn is provided by Marion Armitage, vocalist; and other attractions are Ted Gill, vocalist, and Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

WEYMOUTH.—PAVILION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. R. Wallis.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is appearing in *Mrs. Dot*. Mr. Frank Lacy as James Blenkinsop was capital; Mr. Hugh Kennedy did well as Gerald Halstane; Miss Emma Hutchison was a charming Lady Sellinger; and Miss Nancy Beresford a vivacious Mrs. Dot. Miss Ethel Grahame as Nellie Sellinger and Miss Sybil Brooke as Eliza McGregor were excellent; and Mr. Charles Staite as Freddie Perkins, Mr. Wm. Midgely as Charles, Mr. H. Allistoun Samson as Mr. Rixon, Mr. K. Brandon as Mason, and Mr. Frank Leach as Mr. Wright, were all good in their respective parts.

WIDNES.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. James Kiddie; Secretary, Mr. Tom Swinton.—This week Mr. Kiddie's *Cinderella* company returns home after a successful tour, and is drawing huge houses. Miss Hettee Gale is a winsome Cinderella; Miss Edie May plays with plenty of dash as the Prince; Miss Lye Jeffereys, a charming Dandini, sings prettily; Mr. Johnnie Groves is most amusing as Maud; and Mr. Harry Bliss as Ethel helps to keep the fun going. Mr. Joe Huda as Pimples is responsible for some clever knockabout work; Mr. Creslie Hawkins is a humorous Baron; Miss N. Riberio is at home in the part of Sunbeam, the fairy. On Friday evening Mr. Kiddie took his annual benefit.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—Crowded audiences are attending here to witness Mr. Seymour Hicks' production of *The Gay Gordons*. Angus Græme finds a talented exponent in Mr. Charles Childersone; Miss Marie West is a vivacious Peggy Quainton; Miss Daisy Burrell a jovial Victoria; Miss Rosa Wynford a dignified Lady Millicent; Charlotte Siddons is depicted excellently by Miss Louie Emery; Miss Tessie D'Albert sings brilliantly as Mary McLeod; and Miss Emily Levetezz leaves nothing to be desired as Janet. Mr. Edward Carlton is eminently successful as Nervy Nat; while Mr. Aubrey Stowell, Mr. Stafford Dickens, and Mr. Cyril Stowell all fill their respective parts in capital style.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—The Four Holloways are a clever troupe of trick cyclists; Cestria, a juggler entirely out of the ordinary, does some astounding tumbling; W. Churchill is successful with his songs; and Mlle. Eldee poses in an artistic manner. The Eduns sing pleasantly together; Prof. Charlton mystifies with his conjuring tricks; Madge Brownie dances herself into favour; Tee and Tee give an eccentric musical turn; and Helm and Cozens and Jack Hayton conclude.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Co.; Manager, Mr. H. C. Woon.—The pictures at this popular place of amusement still maintain their reputation.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles Barnard; Resident-Manager, Mr. Gerald Spencer.—Despite the inclement weather there was a large house on Monday to welcome Mr. Wentworth Croke's No. 1 company in *The Prodigal Son*. Chief interest, of course, was centred around the two brothers, Oscar and Magnus, and the opposite nature of their characters was skilfully portrayed by Mr. Gordon Macintosh and Mr. Hugh Montgomery. Mr. Philip Renouf as Oscar Neilson, in acting and make-up, was the Factor to the life; Mr. Bellenden Clarke was very effective as Stephen Magnusson, the Governor; and Mr. Bruce Lindley as Dr. Olsen made a typical family medical man. Miss Mildred Cottell gave a bold and striking performance as Helgar Neilson; Miss Valerie Crespin fully realised the hapless Thora, especially in the second act; Miss Marie Harcourt's method of giving vent to the acid utterances of Margaret Neilson caused much amusement; and Miss Barbara Gott was very successful as Anna Magnusson.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Vivian Evans.—Messrs. Fred Ginnett and Wal Pink's company, in *Claude Duval*, holds the chief place in the bill this week. Mr. Arthur Max in the title-part not only makes a courteous highwayman, but sings well; Mr. Harry Calver as Lord Leicester plays with ease and dignity; Miss Ray Heydon is a charming Lady Doris; Mr. J. Collinson as Fritz an charming Lady Doris; Mr. J. Collinson as Fritz and Miss Victoria Douglas as Polly cause much amusement; and the horse "Rol" is a marvel of equine sagacity. The Smart Set, on a return visit, are as attractive as ever; Hillman and Russell have a neat little sketch in *The Somnambulist*, in which they introduce some good singing; the Brothers Roland are splendid specimens of humanity, and perform astounding feats of strength; Willie Gardner elicits rounds of applause with his clever skate-dancing; and Harry Lawson, comedian, and Miss Raie Walters, as the fisher girl, provide acceptable turns. The pictures this week are, if anything, better than ever.

WORCESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Le Wards.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company is paying a week's visit in the new version of Hall Caine's *The Christian*, and is doing good business. The cast is an unusually strong one, and the play as presented is most convincing. The story of John Storm's life has been little altered in the revision, and his association with Glory Quayle remains much the same. Mr. Roy Redgrave gives a realistic impersonation of John Storm, a part which he makes very human by reason of its unconventionality. Miss Daisy Scudamore achieves a like measure of success as Glory Quayle, rising fully to the demands of the part in the more dramatic scenes. Mr. Herbert Hewetson's Lord Robert Ure is a finished impersonation; and Mr. Wilfred Noy is well suited as Horatio Drake; Miss Cora Deane proves herself a resourceful Polly Love; and Mrs. Callender is admirably presented by Miss Molly Hayden. The part of Father Lamplugh is safely entrusted to Mr. Thos. Barry; and Mr. John J. Hooker as the Archdeacon contributes considerably to the success of the production. The numerous minor parts are satisfactorily filled.

WORKINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. McKenzie Morgan.—The pictures here include the King's Recent Visit to Berlin. The variety is contributed by Marquis and Truly, Sid Archer, and Albert Lawrence.

OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Falconer Jackes.—Rubie and Elsie Redfern have paid a welcome return visit; Mr. J. C. Scatter, a Tyneside comedian, is also good; and the pictures are interesting.

WREXHAM.—EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. J. Scott.—The attractions this week are the Dunlops, in their comedy knockabout bicycle and skating act; the Roxbys, who gave a unique performance on three legs, entitled *The Old Man's Garden*; Miss Kitty Willis, a smart comedienne; Edgar Cook an amusing illusionist; and Miss Lillian Sivado, aerial artist. The pictures are excellent.

YORK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—Mr. Wm. Maclaren and Miss Lily C. Bandmann have been appearing in *Claudian* to large audiences. Mr. Maclaren's rendition of the title-rôle loses nothing of its force by repetition, and he has been well received; Miss Bandmann Palmer's Almida is a womanly impersonation, natural to a degree; Mr. Bernard Elliott, in the disagreeable rôle of the Tetrarch, plays in forcible style; and much light humour is judiciously introduced by Mr Ch. T. Chaloner are Belos and Miss Ruth Trafford as Edesca. The play is sumptuously mounted.

OPERA HOUSE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brook.—Miss Nellie Wallace is amusing her admirers this week with her quaint sayings; Luna Love is a comedienne with a very taking style; Mona Garrick is an impersonator with an original style; Roxborough and Wright give an amusing sketch successfully; Aeronauts and company also produce a sketch; Hunter and Maris are applauded for their efforts; the Musical Tritons are genuinely clever; and the Sisters Lavender complete the bill.

AMUSEMENTS IN BOMBAY.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BOMBAY, FEB. 19.—BANDMANN'S THEATRE.—Carter, the marvellous American magician, paid a return visit to Bombay after his tour of India, en route for Egypt. Needless to say, after the wonderful business done on the previous occasion, packed houses could only be expected. The great feature of his show are the clean American witty sayings with which he invariably accompanies each and every trick, and which completely captivated the hearts of the Bombay public. Miss Abigail Price, who assisted him in his thought-reading entertainment, proved a wonderful draw, and many of her answers have been absolutely correct in every detail. We could do with many more shows of this type in India. The opera company opens here next week, and the bookings show the visit will be a successful one.

THE merit of the "Green Room Book" for 1909 is best described in Mr. Beerbohm Tree's introduction to it, which runs as follows:—"I have always felt a certain diffidence in giving my testimony to the worth of any work. Indeed, I do not remember ever having given a testimonial save one, and that was to this effect: 'It adds a new terror to life and makes death a long felt want.' You will therefore appreciate that in my present brief tribute I am animated solely by a genuine appreciation of the useful work which is rendered by the 'Green Room Book.' It should certainly be on the table of every manager, and of all other persons interested in the affairs of the theatre in this kingdom. I know that in His Majesty's Theatre the 'Green Room Book' is referred to almost daily, and proves an indispensable work of reference. With complete confidence I commend the fourth issue of the 'Green Room Book.'" We can only say "ditto" to Mr. Tree. A list of dramatic and musical deaths extending over 350 years, and containing nearly 2,000 names, has been added, and also 250 biographical notices of artists, authors, and managers of the French and German stages; and the print and binding of the work are admirable.

THE Clarendon Hall, Watford, hitherto the centre of the majority of touring companies visiting the town, has been sold to the local Territorials, subject to the War Office sanction.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

ART IN THE THEATRE.

We have received from Mr. J. D. Rider, of 36, St. Martin's-court, a recent number of *The Mask*, which contains a most thoughtful and able article by Mr. Gordon Craig on "Plays and Playwrights, Pictures and Painters in the Theatre." In the course of his argument he says:—

"Let us take the whole front row of the London pit, consisting of twenty people.

"Ask them the reason why they have come to the theatre. Five reply, 'I come to see Mr. —— act.' Three reply, 'It is such a great play, I like to hear it so much.' Two giggle and reply, 'We don't know why we come, but we think it is such fun.' Two are there from a sense of duty both to the actors or the play, and to the audience; and the other eight will give us several elaborate and conflicting reasons for their presence.

"One will say, that it is the extraordinary sense of the impossible, the grim absurdity of the whole thing, which fascinates him (excellent judge!).

"The second will tell you that after having spent the day among dull and matter of fact people, it is quite interesting to find a body of people who will sit still while actors and scenery are pretending on the stage.

"Then there is the third, the critical man; one who having read how Edmond Kean illuminated Shakespeare by sudden flashes of genius, and that the Kemble family were of the 'classical' school, and that Charles Fechter was a romantic actor, and having read a history of the stage which skips over the first couple of thousand years in two pages and only begins to go into detail when it comes to the Shakespearean era, this man will be there, because somehow he feels that the thing would be incomplete without him; he is one of the men who know—has he not read all about it?

"Then next to him is sitting a young lady, who, with the intelligence which is natural in her sex, is ready to see *all* that is there and more (or less), if required; and yet indeed she leans towards the 'more' and is ever the champion of the 'more' when she finds it.

"Next to her sits the grumbler, one who goes to a theatre because he must, and who, I believe, is always the one who is most deeply moved by what he sees. Yet when the curtain is once down he will tell you that was not the way to do it at all. 'Why,' he says, 'the actors are so many sticks; nothing real about them.' He draws our attention to the flapping scenery and grumbles about the incidental music which he says spoils the effect; and he detests all those flashing lights, which, he says, spoil the illusion. But what illusion is destroyed he is totally unable to define. The rest of the row say that it is very nice indeed, and they all applaud heartily, while he continues to grunt and mumble and keeps on repeating that 'that isn't the way to do it.'

"And so we see that very nearly each single man or woman is come there for a different purpose, sees the thing in a different light, and composes what we can term an 'audience'; that is to say, a single idea; that audience which the actor always looks on as one man, and which we must accept as the 'ideal spectator.'

"One thing is irrefutable. They cannot keep away from the theatre. And another thing which we must admit is this: that out of the twenty, fifteen have come to see something. I will even go so far as to say that the entire twenty have come to see something; because the first on our list, the first five who came to hear Shakespeare more or less admit that they came to see it performed, for had they wished they could have joined the many thousands who sit at home and read it silently, and in this way hear it in their mind's ear with all its amazing and wonderful accompaniment; or joined those who read it together in societies.

"So we can say somewhat surely that all have come to see the play. This desire is as fierce as any in the nature of man. Only when seeing does a man thoroughly believe. There are innumerable proofs of this, and many will occur to you at this moment without my mentioning them. So now; it is reasonable to ask that that which the people desire and go to the theatre to find, should be given to them.

"They go to see something; they should be shown it. Only by showing them will they be satisfied. Therefore I hold that properly to satisfy their eye, and through that their being, we should not confuse them or confuse their sense of sight which is most delicate, by pounding at the same time at their ears with music or with words, nor by attacking their minds with problems and shaking their bodies with passions."

The number also contains an erudite and interesting essay on the "Architecture and Costume of Shakespeare's Greek Plays" by E. W. Godwin.

THE cause of the "Great Unacted" is to be taken up by the Unacted Authors' Association, under whose auspices a meeting will be held in the Green Salon of the Eustace Miles Restaurant, Chandos-street, Charing Cross, on Monday, at 5 p.m. The business of the meeting is to elect officers, readers, committees, and formulate the rules of the society. All authors will be welcomed.

Waterman's Ideal FountainPen

ON its "first appearance"

some five-and-twenty years ago, Waterman's Ideal made an "instantaneous hit;" in fact its success was at once assured. Since then, Waterman's Ideal has appeared in every important city and town in the world, and its performance has given unbounded pleasure to millions of people of almost every nation and tongue. Waterman's Ideal has won its way by sheer merit alone.

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, March 8, the Farce-Comedy by Charles Marlowe, entitled

"WHEN KNIGHTS WERE BOLD."

Very prolonged laughter was heard at the King's on Monday evening, when Mr. James Welch and company appeared in this funniest of comedies. The dream experiences of that very modern young man Sir Guy de Vere, as he encounters all his friends and adherents in the "good old times" were all wittily illustrated and thoroughly enjoyed by a crowded audience. The part of Sir Guy de Vere fits Mr. Welch's style of humour like the proverbial glove, and he succeeds admirably in inducing hearty laughter; Mr. Arthur Grenville renders Isaac Isaacson very capably and with much dramatic effect; as the Hon. Charles Widdicombe Mr. Henry J. Ford is capital, the inanity of the character being well sustained; Mr. Guy Lane makes an able Rev. Peter Pottleberry, and Sir Brian Ballymote is well played by Mr. Cecil Kinnaird. Wittle is intelligently depicted by Mr. George F. Tully, and Barker amusingly represented by Mr. Gordon Tomkins; the Lady Rowena Eggington of Miss Audrey Ford is a clever and charming performance, for which she receives much praise; the Ladies Millicent and Marjorie Eggington are delightfully rendered by Miss Maev O'Hea and Miss Doris Marshall; Kate Pottleberry finds a bright personage in Miss Amy Broadwood, and Miss Annie Chippendale is an animated Alice Barker; Miss Daisy Cordell gives a striking representation of Sarah Isaacson, which is generally approved, and Miss Helen Palgrave undertakes the Hon Mrs. Waldegrave with every distinction; Mr. Leopold Profeit is a dignified Herald. The chorus is effective, and the scenery and properties are the subjects of much admiration.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

Messrs. W. H. Hallatt and Walter Howard's *Her Love Against the World* company, which has been winning golden opinions in the provinces, is at the Marlborough Theatre this week, and its performances of the popular play have been received with hearty enthusiasm. As Eric, Earl of Strathmere, Mr. Howard acts with an elevation and power which completely enthral his hearers. Miss Grace Heywood as Princess Idalia wins all hearts by her exquisitely pathetic portrayal, and as Prince Ulric Mr. Lewis Gilbert endows the character with force, vigour, and cruel resolution. Nello is portrayed by Miss Rossie St. John very simply and sweetly, and Mr. W. H. Hallatt as Prince Othmar is admirably genial and manly. Mr. Fred Emery as Prince Maurice and Mr. A. E. Cushman as General Geseler supply good renderings of those rôles. Mr. Victor Rowland does well as Sergeant Kaspar; Miss Blanche Steele is successful as the Countess Shulah; and Miss Gertie Reid (Katinke), Miss Hettie Ferguson (Gretchen), Mr. Henry B. Lewis (Heinrich), and Mr. John Mill (Fritz) create roars of laughter by their vivid comicalities. Mr. Charles R. Hann and Mr. John Chesson as Prince Maurice's leading officers do well, and Mr. A. H. Hallatt makes the most of the Surgeon-Captain. The company is excellent all round, and the performance of the play which it gives is well worthy of the striking success achieved by it.

CORONET THEATRE.

On Monday, March 8, the Play, entitled

"THE THIEF."

Mr. George Alexander's company is appearing in this powerful piece. The company has been carefully selected and rehearsed by the actor-manager himself, and the same scenery, furniture, and accessories are used as at the St. James's Theatre formerly. Mr. Rupert Lister plays the part of Richard Chelford with naturalness and conviction, and he aptly portrays the agony of mind and the fierce desire to learn the truth, however unpalatable it may be, and the intensely virile and human, though honest and manly nature of the man. Miss Marie Polini's style is admirably adapted to the part of Marise Chelford. Mr. Owen Nares is admirable as Harry Leyton, his face, manner, attitudes, and demeanour being all effective. Mr. Cyril Harcourt acts with much feeling and natural pathos as his distracted parent, Raymond Leyton, and Miss Frances Leighton is exceedingly pretty and sweetly sympathetic as Isabel Leyton. Mr. Luke Forster (the stage-manager) is duly impressive as the detective, "Mr. Protheroe," alias Garratt, and Mr. Bernard Stevens essays a small part of a servant, besides assisting in the stage-management.

The Thief is preceded by *The Nursery Governess*, a most amusing curtain-raiser. Miss Eileen Kerin is a delightful Mrs. Trent, and Mr. Charles King wins all hearts, including his nearly-divorced wife's, by his admirable embodiment of Captain Trent. Mr. Luke Forster is vastly entertaining as Mr. Simpson Brigg.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, March 8,

"THE PASSING OF THE THIRD FLOOR BACK."

Mr. Jerome K. Jerome's delightful play *The Passing of the Third Floor Back*, in which Mr. Forbes Robertson displays his fine qualities of rare human sympathy, has been presented at Kennington Theatre this week, and has drawn huge houses nightly. The audiences have been keenly responsive to the spirit of the play. *The Passing of the Third Floor Back* is faultlessly produced, and Mr. Forbes-Robertson's company contains many artists of merit, so that Mr. Jerome's masterpiece is seen under the best possible conditions. Mr. Robertson's beautiful performance of the Stranger has gained rather than lost since the first production. Nothing could be more reverent or free from offence than his handling of the part, to which he brings a dignity which cannot fail to leave its impress on the minds of all who see it. The acting all round is on a high level. Miss Gertrude Elliott as the servant is intensely effective. It is a vivid bit of stage portraiture and equal to the best she has yet done. Miss Amy Brandon Thomas is a glorious Vivian—beautiful, clever, and happily placed. She makes a big hit with a not easy rôle. Mr. Ian Robertson furnishes a lively and interesting study of the retired military officer as Major Tompkins, and is a great favourite with the house; Miss Keith Lytton is really great as Mrs. Percy de Hooley, the snob; and Mr. David Powell is effective as Christopher Penny, Vivian's lover. Miss Kate Carlyon presents a cleverly-drawn sketch of Mrs. Tompkins; Miss Haidee Wright scores a big triumph by her brilliant interpretation of the caustic-tongued Miss Kite; Mr. Ernest Hendrie deserves warm praise for the able manner in which he enacts the part of Joey Knight, the bookmaker; Mr. Edward Sass is very fine as Samuels, the Jewish financier; Mr. Wilfrid Forster is full of high spirits as Harry Larkcom; while Miss Agnes Thomas displays histrionic talent of a high order by her delineation of the character of Mrs. Sharp, the landlady.

The piece is preceded by *A Play in Little*, in which opportunity is given for Miss Ulcely Bareham to win high encomiums as Marianne, the supposed daughter of a fencing-master.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, March 8, the Drama, in Four Acts, entitled

"A NOBLE BROTHER."

This concise and well-written drama is chiefly remarkable for the wonderful impersonation of Jerry the tramp, which has been given now by Mr. Charles Carte for upwards of 2,000 nights. There are few, if any, actors who could play this part with greater effect than Mr. Carte does, for he does not simply act it—he lives it; and not for many a long day have the West Londoners shown such a keen interest in any character put before them. Mr. Burton Ford made the most of his opportunities as Jack Elsworth; Mr. Howard Thorne lent dignity to the rôle of Colonel Leigh; whilst Mr. Frank Plumes enacted Henry Travers with easy indifference. Miss Jenny Braydon was a motherly Mrs. Leigh; Miss Winnie Rose was pert and piquant as Rosie Rapid; Miss N. Faithful did well as Clare Flaurence; and Miss Ethel Faithful enacted Nana Leigh in a particularly tender yet withal forceful way, in addition to which she sang two pretty ballads very sweetly. The play was preceded by Ward Bailey's new sketch entitled *The Bandit's Blunder*, a notice of which appears in another column.

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE THEATRE.

On Monday, March 8, the Drama, entitled

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."

After ten weeks of pantomime, the dramatic season at this house reopened on Monday with Mr. Walter Melville's production of *A Girl's Cross Roads*. This strong domestic drama with a moral was presented by a well-chosen company. Mr. Harry Cane gave an admirable character study as the old farmer, John Meadows, and Miss Nita Langford submitted an impressive portrayal of the farmer's daughter, Nellie Meadows, who "took the wrong road." Mr. H. J. Butler was her unscrupulous companion, Cuthbert Lumley; Mr. Norman B. Cannon supplied a very natural impersonation of the sorely-tried Jack Livingstone, "the man who married the wrong girl." Miss Muriel Dean is to be complimented upon a very fine study as the young schoolmistress, Constance Cornell. Her elocution was perfect, and her delivery of the long speech in the third scene of the drama was an admirable piece of work. Miss Hilda Beverley acted in a powerful and convincing manner as Barbara Wade, whose terrible craving for brandy drags her down to the gutter, and eventually causes her death. Mr. Fred Hodson as Toby Turvey and Miss Jeannie Thomas as Tilly Vane were responsible for the comedy element, supplying some very amusing situations throughout. The minor characters were all well enacted, and the drama was well staged. Mr. Sydney Barnard, the genial manager, promises some very excellent dramatic attractions during the season. The Bioscope pictures are much appreciated.

THE SHAKESPEARE, CLAPHAM.

On Monday, March 8, the Drama, in Four Acts, entitled

"TRUE TO THE QUEEN."

The above military drama, from the pen of E. A. Elton, fills the bill at the Shakespeare Theatre this week. Founded on the late Boer war, the play opens with the degradation of Captain Gerald Pierpoint, who has had the misfortune to lose certain dispatches entrusted to his care, and which were stolen by General de Berg, a Boer Commandant, with the cognisance of Pierpoint's superior officer, Colonel L'Estrange. Pierpoint is sentenced to be shot, but, with the aid of his soldier servant, Kennedy, contrives to escape, and eventually rejoins the Army as a private soldier. In the meantime, Col. L'Estrange forces his attentions on Pierpoint's wife. Believing her to be unfaithful, Pierpoint seeks his wife to demand an explanation, but is discovered and denounced by L'Estrange. At this juncture De Berg, who has been hiding in the house, makes his appearance, and in a fit of remorse confesses the truth, and the curtain falls with the arrest of L'Estrange and the re-union of Pierpoint, restored to his original rank, and his wife. Mr. Alexander Loftus as the unfortunate Gerald Pierpoint contributes an energetic and powerful impersonation; Mr. J. K. Walton submits an effective portrayal of General de Berg; and an earnest and convincing embodiment of the villainous Colonel L'Estrange is given by Mr. Vernon Sansbury. Mr. Arthur Rodnay is satisfactory as General Holmes, and Mr. Johnny Schofield, jun., renders good support as Lieut. Courtenay; Tom Kennedy is played in humorous style by Mr. Whimsical Walker, and Mr. Harry Collier as Corporal Brice is also efficient. Miss Lena Flowerdew gives a natural representation of the sorely-tried Rose Pierpoint, and is accorded sympathetic applause; Miss Violet Esmund acts brightly as Ivy, and Miss Marian Vynes is a pleasing Hetty.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.

On Monday, March 8, the Musical Comedy,

"THE GAY GORDONS."

There was no doubt as to the success of Mr. Seymour Hicks's production at this theatre, for it went with a roar from start to finish, and Mr. J. Bannister Howard is to be congratulated on another excellent engagement. Mr. Frank Lincoln was at high pressure throughout as Angus Graeme, the Highland soldier, and his witticisms and asides had an air of spontaneity which gave an added zest to their rendering. As Nervy Nat Mr. Tom Graves let himself go completely, and his grotesque get-up and bland behaviour made his agreeable fooling doubly comic. When he donned the kilts the laughter became loud and long. In direct contrast was the inane bearing of Mr. Edward Nainby, who represented the son of the last-named character, and who obtained his effects by quaint and original acting. Andrew Quainton, the American millionaire, was quietly and naturally acted by Mr. Ernest Ruston; and Mr. Norman Forrest as Corporal John Smith was useful in the development of the story. Miss Dorothy Giles had plenty to do as the heroine, Peggy Quainton, and appeared to take a genuine pleasure in her work. She had many songs, both grave and gay, and for each and all she obtained lavish applause and many encores. Miss Mabel Dent gave much point to the part of Victoria Siddons, the show-girl, her song about the Cockney-Italian organ-grinder being perhaps her best effort. As Charlotte Siddons Miss Ida Laurie did not spare herself either in her make-up or acting, and was really very funny as the showman's wife. Miss Emily Mellon as Janet McLeod supplied almost the only bit of pathos in the piece, and Miss Gwynneth Hughes was sweet and bright as Mary, her daughter. Mr. Buchanan Wake represented the Scotch solicitor, Archibald Speedy, in an unexceptionable manner; and there was a quintette of titled sportsmen well enacted by Messrs. Mervyn Dene (with a song), Melville Florence, J. Cranston Neville, W. Terriss, and J. Austin Green. Mr. Charles Tyers made a meteoric appearance as one Jack McPhrisky, an inflamed Scot, whose dancing and general antics caused roars of laughter. An assembly of extra ladies gracefully adorned the "garb of old Gaul" and other handsome and appropriate dresses, and, with the special scenery and augmented orchestra, lent efficient aid to a most praiseworthy production.

NEW LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, March 8, the Drama, by Lilian Clare Cassidy, entitled,

"IN HOLY RUSSIA."

Mr. Wentworth Croke still continues his attractive list of bookings at the popular Hammersmith playhouse, the entertainment this week being supplied by Mr. J. Rice Cassidy's well-known company in a couple of dramas quite dissimilar in character but equally alluring in their appeal to a popular audience. On Monday, Tuesday, and Saturday was presented *In Holy Russia*, a sensational and well-written drama, which has attained much success in the provinces and at the outlying London theatres. The company responsible for the production is an excellent one throughout, the all-important and exacting character of Renée Rubinoff being cleverly enacted by Mrs. J. Rice Cassidy. In the first act, where Renée is seen as an escaped captive from the salt mines, Mrs. Cassidy graphically depicted the sufferings and privations of the plucky girl; and her acting in the succeeding scenes, where she passes as a fascinating American lady and the wife of various personages in the play in order to enter Russia, enabled her to display her undoubted gifts as a versatile and finished actress, her performance throughout being one of much merit. Colonel Richard Forrest, of the Guards, who befriends the heroine, has a convincing and natural representative in Mr. Henry Compton, especially effective being the scene at the end of the second act, where the Colonel, partially intoxicated, attempts to make love to Renée. Count Gregori Petrolski, "the people's friend," has an earnest and quite satisfactory representative in Mr. Rolf Leslie; and Mr. Geo. H. Doyle as Laurice Steragoff, a Nihilist leader, who chafes under the restraint imposed upon him by Petrolski, acted with spirit and conviction, his delivery of his lines being marked by much fervour and effectiveness. Mr. St. George Frere as the villainous Captain of the Russian Guard, Michael Natolski, left no doubt as to his sinister intentions; and the cruel and crafty Chief of the Russian Police, Baron Von Pleve, was quite satisfactorily enacted by Mr. Carl Beechey. The humour of the piece rested largely in the hands of Mr. J. Rice Cassidy as the Irish servant of Colonel Forrest, Mickey Nolan, and his performance throughout was responsible for much merriment, particularly humorous being his business in the railway scene. Miss Amy McNeill as the spy in the pay of the Russian police, Catska Lavotski, played with the aplomb and finish one expects from so experienced an actress; and the numerous other parts all had excellent representatives. The special scenery and properties by Harry Masterman and Robert Goulden added considerably to the effectiveness of the production, which was evidently exactly to the tastes of the audience in the night of our visit. A notice of *The World and the Woman*, which was played on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, appears in another column.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, March 8, the Musical Play,

"THE CINGALEE."

Mr. Haldane Crichton's company, in the musical play *The Cingalee*, is meeting with a very good reception at the Dalston Theatre this week. The orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Herbert Ivey, accompany both solo and concerted pieces admirably. Mr. Alan Turner as the Hon. Harry Vereker has a part admirably suited to his style, and his rendering of the song "My Cingalee" is encored. Vanoya is played by Miss Molly Wolstenhulme, who becomes quite a favourite with the audience. Perhaps the prettiest song in the piece, "My Cinnamon tree," falls to the lot of Miss Wolstenhulme, who is encouraged by a determined encore. Generally speaking, her impersonation of the character is pleasing. Mr. Jack Crichton is responsible for a good deal of laughter by his quaint enactment of the part of Chambhuddy Ram, a Baboo lawyer, and his scenes with Peggy Sabine, a part artistically played by Miss Alice Nixon, are most amusing. Their duets, "I'll make a fuss of you" and "The Golliwog," go remarkably well, specially aided by Mr. Crichton's eccentric antics. Another decidedly interesting couple in the piece are Mr. Scot Cullen as Bobby Warren and Miss Pauline Hague as Lady Patrica Vane, and the scene between them while they are compiling a paragraph for the society papers, which culminates in an announcement of a forthcoming fashionable marriage, is excellent. Mr. Douglas Munro is well received as Boobhamba, a noble of Candy, and a topical song which falls to his lot has the inevitable number of encore verses. Mr. F. W. Ford is decidedly humorous as Sir Peter Loftus, High Commissioner and Judge, and the variety of moods which he attributes to "the climate" are as ingenious as quaintly expressed. Others included in the cast are Mr. Harry E. Ray, Mr. E. Trichler, Miss G. Somerset, and Miss Mercy June.

THEATRE ROYAL, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, March 8, the Drama, entitled

"THROUGH THE DIVORCE COURT."

Messrs. Chattel and Denton's company is giving this week a highly-satisfactory representation of Max Goldberg's drama *Through the Divorce Court*, which is meeting with appreciation and proving itself attractive to the patrons of this house. The interest of the play, centring in the tribulations of a Spanish lady, who is wed to an English peer, offers an opportunity for the introduction of well-assumed foreign characters, and some contrasty scenic effects, the play throughout being well mounted. Mr. Cecil A. Cotton has a good stage appearance, takes advantage of his opportunities, and supplies a capital portraiture of the jealous nobleman, Lord Robert Penarth; Miss Katherine Carew as the accused though innocent wife, Lady Dolores Penarth, sustains the rôle with delicacy and feeling, and submits a pathetic rendering; Sybil is capably undertaken by Miss Genna Lyndon, who displays much ability; Mr. C. H. Matthews has a finished delivery, and scores highly as Guzman Di Mendoza; Mr. Malcolm Strachan stands out prominently in the character of Leon Di Voldiz; Mr. Jack Denton creates much laughter as Algy Fitzmaurice, and is well received; Mr. Edward Beecher as Mr. Peter Pettigrew, K.C., merits commendation for a capable study; Mr. W. Wilson Blake gives a good delineation of the part of Sir Edward Sharp, K.C., and Mr. Horace Hammond is equally successful as Sir Philip March; Patsy Rafferty is amusingly portrayed by Mr. Harry Colbeck; Mr. Walter Crompton is suitably placed as the Usher; Miss Pattie Groves attains distinction in the character of Rachael Dobbins; Miss Edith Cruikshank gives a careful rendering of Lady Hilda Fitzmaurice; and Miss Nellie Sheffield imbues the part of Dinah with much humour.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.

On Monday, March 8, the Comedy by W. Somerset Maugham,

"MRS. DOT."

Miss May Palfrey and her company in W. Somerset Maugham's witty comedy *Mrs. Dot* had a very cordial welcome at the Stratford Borough Theatre on Monday. The scenic effects are very handsome and appropriate, and the dressing is quite on the high standard required. Much interest is evoked in Miss May Palfrey's performance in the name-part, and Mrs. Dot is depicted by her with such charming coquetry and vivacity, allied to such an artistic touch, that Miss Palfrey's success is unbounded. Mr. F. Kinsey Peile as the cynically humorous bachelor James Bleakinsop plays in fluent and polished style; and Mr. Hugh C. Buckler as the chivalrous Gerald Halstone acts with buoyancy and looks the part well. Mr. A. W. Tomlinson (in the absence of Mr. Basil Hallam) undertook on Monday night the part of the self-esteemed, easy-going Freddie Perkins, and made a decided hit. Miss Evelyn Kerry is very dainty and charming as Nellie Sellinger; Lady Sellinger is very appropriately played by Miss Emily Patterson; and Miss Annie Hill presents a natural portraiture of Miss Eliza Macgregor. Charles is well depicted by Mr. A. McIntire Wicksteed; and Mr. A. E. Ackerman as Mr. Wright, Mr. T. Richards as Mason, and Mr. C. Morgan as George satisfactorily account for their respective parts. *Mrs. Dot* was followed by the one-act piece by "An Englishman," played for the first time in London, and entitled

"THE MYSTERY OF REDWOOD GRANGE."

Mr. Wilkins .....Mr. Weedon Grossmith
Coachman .....Mr. H. C. Buckler

This piece serves the purpose of introducing that clever actor Mr. Weedon Grossmith in the predominating part of a one-act play. Mr. Wilkins is one of those who believes in "trying before buying," and as the prospective tenant of Redwood Grange he is "trying" it. He arrives on an awfully tempestuous night, minus "his man," who has got delayed, and sitting at a table with but one lamp to light the spacious room he jocularly discusses with the coachman who has driven him from the station, over "something to keep the cold out," his excellent fortune in getting such a fine place for such an insignificant rent. And then he learns the reason of the bargain: Why the daily papers took such an interest in Merrydale Farm—or Redwood Grange, as it was previously called; why the pantry was particularly pictured; what the cross in the corner meant—not "where the band played," as the coachman grimly remarked as he narrated. And as Wilkins listens to the story of the old man who was murdered by burglars, and whose ghost now walks at night, his sang-froid gradually oozes away. But what to do? The last train is gone, and on no account will the coachman stop the night. Left alone, the unhappy Wilkins fortifies himself with liquid refreshment and prepares to sit the night through. Then commences the most weird sounds, and suddenly a door opens in most uncanny style, while to crown all, footsteps and a distinct rapping are afterwards heard. This is too much for Wilkins, and he fairly collapses. But the next moment his fear is changed to joy, for it is only his overdue servant, and quickly regaining his imperturbability he explains away his previous fright, and even remarks that the old gent carrying the light in the pantry, whom the servant had seen, is only the caretaker. Nevertheless, the curtain falls on Wilkins strongly resolved to return to London next morning. Mr. Grossmith is splendidly suited as Wilkins, and has a rousing reception at the conclusion of the playlet. He is rendered valuable aid by Mr. Hugh C. Buckler as the Coachman.

FULHAM THEATRE.

On Monday, March 8, the Play, by Wilson Barrett, entitled

"THE SIGN OF THE CROSS."

Mr. W. Greet has organised a capital company to tour with that old favourite *The Sign of the Cross*, which still retains a large measure of its popularity. Mr. Cyril Austin Lee makes an excellent representative of Marcus Superbus, and plays with fine power, aided by a remarkably fine presence and dignity of manner. Mr. C. Yorke contributes a clever study of that extraordinary character the Emperor Nero, and Mr. Charles Aldred acts with fine restraint and force as the sinister Tigellinus, to whom Mr. J. Weatherall as the bluff and soldierly Licinius makes an effective contrast. Mr. F. Wood makes the most of the humorous eccentricities of Glabrio, and Mr. Harry Jones does well as the effeminate Philodemus. Mr. H. Thurston Harris plays strongly as the spy, Servilius, and Mr. Ernest Duggan supports him ably as Strabo. Mr. G. W. Rutt ably fills in the part of Virturius. Miss Beryl Hamilton does very well in the comparatively small part that falls to Poppœa, and Miss Mary Newcombe acts with spirit as Ancaria; Miss Cissy Carlton is appropriately spiteful and scandalous as Dacia, while Miss Lily Ward is to be commended for her work as Berenice. She shows rare dramatic power in this study of a love-sick, jealous, and revengeful woman. Miss Edith Drayson did well in the trying part of the boy, Stephanus, and Messrs. Fleet, Blunden, and Chapman played with dignity as the Christians. Miss Constance Little filled the rôle of Marcia with considerable success, and her work was well received. The piece is well staged and dressed, and the performance all round does credit to the management.

BRIXTON THEATRE.

On Monday, March 8, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Hall Caine and Louis N. Parker, entitled

"PETE."

Messrs. Smith and Carpenter's company, who are presenting *Pete* to a London suburban audience this week, will have no reason to complain of their visit to the Brixton Theatre, for that establishment has been well filled every night up to the time of the penning of these lines, and we doubt not that the latter part of the week will prove even more profitable to the company and the theatre management. Mr. Frank E. Petley is enacting the title-rôle, and no one can possibly find fault with his interpretation. His sturdy frame is well suited to the character, and he is manly and sincere throughout. Miss Helena Millais is quite successful as Kate Cregeen. With convincing earnestness she portrays the heart-rending pathos of the many unhappy situations into which the poor young wife and mother is forced by circumstances. One felt that the emotion, stirring as it did many of the audience to tears on the night of our visit, was never exaggerated—a fact that means high praise for so youthful an actress as Miss Millais. Such a study in tragedy would be a great strain upon a more experienced artist than Miss Millais, and she is, therefore, all the more deserving of commendation for her remarkably able effort. Mr. Arthur Burne is entrusted with the difficult part of Philip Christian, and his embodiment of the selfish, worldly-minded lawyer, who lives only to fulfil the ambitions suggested by his vanity, is, on the whole, a creditable performance. Mr. Frank Stone furnishes a capital representation of the severe, uncharitable, and puritanical Cæsar Cregeen; and Mr. Kenneth Brampton as Ross Christian and Mr. E. H. Clarke as Black Tom submitted able portraitures. The part of Grannie is quite an interesting enactment in the hands of Miss Gertrude Price; and Mr. Charles Lake is most effective as William; while Miss Lucy Murray is amusing as Nancy. Of course, it need hardly be said that the scenery is all that can be desired, and the piece is presented in a manner quite worthy of the reputation that Messrs. Smith and Carpenter have now gained for themselves and their productions.

TRIAL PRODUCTIONS CLUB.

A further batch of trial turns was submitted to judgment at the Rehearsal Theatre, Maiden-lane, on Tuesday afternoon, with but little result in the way of exceptional talent. Only seven items were listed, and of these one failed to put in an appearance. The most favourable impression was made by Miss Lisa Coleman, a young lady with the comedy gift well developed, who delivered a couple of monologues about a French mademoiselle with unfailing vivacity. A captivating appearance was made by Doland's Nine Taxi Girls, who have the distinction of including among their number the winner of a recent beauty competition. No means of identification was supplied, and speculation as to which was the fortunate maiden among the comely group who occupied the stage was general. They sang and danced individually and collectively, and won cordial applause. Mr. C. Preston Wynne in songs at the piano displayed a pleasing voice and an agreeable method of playing, but neither of his three songs overflowed with humour, the most definite claim to that quality being made by his "coster carol," "She ought ter be a duchess," which, however, the vocalist was unable to finish owing to temporary loss of voice. Miss Maie Hoey, who was included in last week's programme, again appeared in picturesque Spanish dances, her agile movements arousing admiration. Mr. Oswald Battye displayed a sense of drollery in a couple of songs, one of which, entitled "Morals," is founded on a good idea. The trials, we understand, are now to be discontinued until later in the year.

Mr. Allan Wilkie staged on Monday for the first time his new set for the opening scene of *The Merchant of Venice*. It is a beautiful specimen of the scene-painter's art, and the audience at the Opera House, St. Helens, was not slow in manifesting its approval.

"THE WORLD AND THE WOMAN."

Domestic Drama, in Four Acts, by Lilian Clare Cassidy, Played for the First Time in London at the Lyric, Hammersmith, on Wednesday, March 10.

Arthur Burleigh .....Mr. George H. Doyle
Ludlow Burleigh .....Mr. St. George Frere
Tut Harding .....Mr. J. Rice Cassidy
Terry O'Harris .....Mr. Rolf Leslie
Sir Francis Chalmers ....Mr. Henry Compton
Hon Willy .....Mr. F. Copeland
Mike .....Mr. Carl Beechey
Old Robert .....Mr. R. Cockcroft
John .....Mr. James Kay
Janitor at the Savage Club ..Mr. W. Hecford
Captain Barclay .....Mr. Stanley Wilford
Lady Marion Chalmers ....Miss Amy McNeill
Gwendoline .....Miss Vara Hern
Libby .....Miss Madge Trevelyan
Nina .....Miss Violet Parker
Martha .....Miss Rita Hestock
Nurse Halton .....Miss Rose Hallas
Nelly .....Mrs. J. Rice Cassidy

The authoress of *The World and the Woman*—originally produced at the Palace Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on May 11, 1908—has had considerable experience as a writer for the stage, and her latest play is an excellent specimen of the drama beloved by a popular audience, containing as it does an abundance of telling lines and exciting situations, leavened, of course, with plenty of laughable comedy business. The "woman" of the title, whom the "world" treats somewhat unjustly at times, is Nelly, an orphan, in the care of Terry O'Harris, an "honest thief." She meets and falls in love with Arthur Burleigh, heir of Lord Hartington; but their subsequent marriage is kept secret from the aged peer. The villain who compasses their unhappiness is Ludlow Burleigh, Arthur's cousin and next-of-kin, and the lovers are parted. Nelly eventually becomes a famous singer in London, and some twelve years later we see her in the grotto of a West-end gambling club. She and her child Nina have been befriended by the good-natured but impecunious Tut Harding, who apparently has squandered all the money made by his father, known as the "Jam King." Tut hints to Nellie, now famous in London as the Great Dorien, that the companions she is cultivating are a disreputable lot; but Nellie, who rebels against the aloofness and sneering remarks of society, is inclined to be reckless. Tut, who evidently has a fondness for the unhappy Dorien, suggests that they shall go away together; but the lady quickly convinces him that neither of them are really in love with each other. When she has gone Tut contemplates suicide, but the arrival of Nina, a precocious and lovable youngster, soon has a cheering effect on him, and the pistol is thrown aside. Arthur, now Lord Hartington, comes on the scene, as does also Lady Marion Chalmers, a drunken and dissolute creature, whom, we learn, also owes her downfall to Ludlow. In the last act (Dorien's Flat in St. John's Wood) Lord Hartington, who had previously met and taken a liking to Nina, not knowing she is is own daughter, calls to ask Dorien if she will allow him to adopt the child. Although her identity is unknown to him, she recognises Lord Hartington, and refuses his request. Eventually, of course, things are straightened out, the lovers are reunited, and the infamous scoundrel Ludlow told that he must quit the country. A shot is heard off, so it is to be presumed that he sees the game is up, and commits suicide.

Mrs. Rice Cassidy again distinguishes herself in this piece by her adroit handling of the difficult rôle of Nelly, the varying phases of this complex character and the many changes from gay to grave and vice versa being managed with a facility and realism which entitle her to warm praise. Particularly effective was her management of the scene with Tut Harding in the club grotto, and in the concluding episodes of the play she also displayed dramatic gifts of no mean order, her performance throughout being a very meritorious one. Mr. Cassidy as the impecunious Tut Harding had many opportunities for scoring, especially well managed and very humorous being his business with the burglars in the "Spotted Dog," where the latter, after rifling the "safe," encounters a tough customer in the son of the Jam King. His share of the scene with Dorien also deserves mention, and his embodiment of the good-natured, chivalrous spendthrift was altogether a most entertaining one, and very popular with the audience. Mr. George H. Doyle was impressive and earnest as the man of sorrow, Lord Hartington, the incident in the Haunted Gallery of Hartington Towers with his little daughter Nina being naturally enacted; and Mr. St. George Frere as the sneaking and scoundrelly Ludlow Burleigh, portrayed that unthankful rôle in a convincing and careful manner. Mr. Rolf Leslie as Terry O'Harris and Mr. Henry Compton as Sir Francis Chalmers submitted sound and finished portraits; Miss Amy McNeill as Lady Chalmers was painfully realistic in the scene where the drink-sodden woman is brought into the club, and submitted a well-thought-out and skilfully enacted performance throughout; Miss Madge Trevelyan contributed a clever and humorous little study of the Yorkshire slavey, Libby; and as the child Nina Miss Violet Parker is entitled to praise for an interesting, natural portrayal. The many other parts were all capably undertaken, and the piece was well mounted and dressed.

DEATH OF MR. FRED COULSON.

With deep regret we record the death of Mr. Robert Frederick Coulson, co-lessee of the Theatre Royal, North Shields, which took place at his residence, 9, Sydenham-terrace, South Shields, on the 5th inst. The deceased gentleman had been in ill-health for some time, and a few days ago serious symptoms set in, which ended fatally. The deceased, who was a native of North Shields, served his time with his father, Alderman Thomas Coulson, as a builder, and afterwards became acting-manager at the Royal for his uncle, the late Mr. L. M. Snowdon, at whose death he and his brother John took over the lesseeship of the Royal, which position they have held ever since. Deceased, who was in his thirty-sixth year, was well known in the harbour boroughs, and was highly respected. He leaves a widow, but no family.

The funeral took place on Monday at Presten Cemetery, North Shields, and was attended by a large gathering of personal friends, besides many representatives of the Masonic lodges in North and South Shields. The principal mourners were Alderman T. Coulson (father), Mr. John Coulson, Mr. W. Coulson, and Mr. T. T. Coulson (brothers), Mr. C. McKay, Mr. Atchison, Mr. D. Snowdon, and Mr. T. Snowdon (cousins), and Mr. Robert Coulson (uncle). The services in the church and at the graveside were conducted by the Rev. W. L. Cunningham, vicar of St. Augustin's, North Shields. At the close the Masonic brethren sang "Days and moments quickly flying," and the usual Masonic refrain. Sprays of acacia were then deposited upon the coffin. Wreaths were sent by Mrs. Fred Coulson (widow), Alderman Coulson and family, Mr. and Mrs. John Coulson, lady staff Theatre Royal, stage staff Theatre Royal, orchestra staff Theatre Royal, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. F. Thompson (Empire Palace), staff Empire Palace, Alderman T. D. Marshall, Councillor Wm. Johnston and family, Dr. and Mrs. Ord, Mr. J. R. Bell (Seamen's Union), and others.

Mr. Editor.—Sir,—In your eulogistic notice of my performance of Eliza in *The Dairymaids* at the Opera House, Stockport, last week you refer to me as Edie Morton. It should have been—Yours truly, Edie Martin. Theatre Royal, Ashton-under-Lyne, March 10.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

At the meeting of the Council of the Actors' Association, held at 353, Strand, on Tuesday, there were present: Mr. Robson Paige, in the chair; Mr. H. W. Mote, Honorary Solicitor; Messrs. Gilbert Esmond, Hayden Coffin, Jackson Wilcox, Sebastian Smith, F. J. Arlton, Miss Rose Mathews, and Mr. Hubert Blount, secretary.

The Secretary read a letter from Kenneth Blackmore as to meetings and debates which the Actors' Union are holding every Tuesday, and inviting members of the A.A. to attend same, and the Secretary received instructions to put Mr. Blackmore's letter on the board; also a letter from Miss E. Alcock asking for an introduction to a hospital at Ventnor, and received instructions to refer her to the Actors' Benevolent Fund.

The Council discussed the question of a doctor's inclusion on the consulting staff of hon. medical officers, and the council asked Mr. Paige whether he would kindly call on the doctor and inform him that his name had been put on the list in error, and report this to the Council at the next meeting, and Mr. Paige consented to do so.

The Chairman read a letter from a member with reference to another member who had been struck off, and the Secretary received instructions to write to the member to the effect that owing to a resolution having been passed striking off those members who have not paid their last year's subscription, and in view of the bye-law to the effect that members who have not paid their subscriptions within 70 days will be struck off, they are unable to include this gentleman's name on the list of members. The chairman also read a letter from Mr. Langford Reed with reference to the Entertainment Committee and the work done by the Council, which letter was handed to Miss Mathews, a member of the Entertainment Committee, and the Secretary received instructions to write to Mr. Reed telling him that his letter will be placed before the Entertainment Committee.

The following nomination was made:—Dorothy Rundell, proposer Cecil Raleigh, seconder Lucy Sibley.

The following new members were elected:—Nancy Blackwood, proposed by Mildred Surrey, seconded by Arthur Davis; Thomas Fairbairn, proposed by Charles Magrath, seconded by Agnes Imlay; and Frederick Hill, proposed by J. Poole Kirkwood, seconded by Robson Paige.

On behalf of Mr. Wilcox, Mr. Smith asked the Council to elect a new member on the Correction Committee in place of Miss Imlay, and the Secretary received instructions to write to Mr. Reed asking whether he would be willing to serve.

The Council discussed the question of propaganda in Manchester, and the Secretary received instructions to write to Mr. Casson and Mr. Derwent as follows:—"The Council are delighted with the suggestion of holding propaganda meetings in Manchester, and they have such a complete confidence in them that they give their consent to hold meetings, provided that no expense is incurred; if any outlay is required, they would wish to be consulted beforehand."

ACTORS' UNION.

Mr. Henry Bedford presided at the usual weekly meeting of the Actors' Union held on Tuesday at Hummums' Hotel. Amongst those present were Messrs. A. George Fry, Walter L. Rignold, Langford Reed, George Goodwin, Fred Chesham, Watty Brunton, Frank Gerald, Charles R. Stone, James Skea, J. W. Braithwaite, Ernest Cole, Monte Maitland, Claude Haviland, Alfred Beaumont, Frank Harvey, Ruddle Brown, and Lewin Mannering; and Mesdames May Conrade, Kitty Marion, Bessie Bedford, Leslie Warner, Ena Rozant, Florence Tresilian, Marie Clavering, Dorothy Sparrow, Carina Macallister, Nelly Howitt, Ruby Lingard, Molly Haydon, Mildred Silvestre, Florence Creagh, A. Beckwith, Madeleine Maude, Lottie Cunningham Gordon, Betty Rylot, Nora Delany.

The Chairman, in his opening remarks, read the aims and objects for the benefit of the non-members present, and then called upon Mr. Walter L. Rignold to read a paper upon Actors' Organisation.

Mr. Rignold, in the course of his remarks, said: I think I might say that this Union has, from the first, done everything in its power to bring about a working agreement or an amalgamation with the Actors' Association, and an amicable understanding with every other Association connected with our profession. We were certainly the first to bring forward the minimum wage and the revised form of contract, and we are still most anxious to bring about an amalgamation with the Actors' Association, and hope shortly to make a certain proposition to them. In forming this Union, the founders adopted trades union principles, and registered us as a trade union. They did this because the experience of other societies showed that trades unionism was the most effective method to follow. Nobody can deny that trades unionism has done more to improve the conditions of the wage earners of this country than any other form of organisation. Many actors have objected, and do object to our form of organisation, but their reason appears to be, not so much a dislike to trades unionism, but a belief that it is not suited to our profession. It is argued that ours is an art, and that we are degrading ourselves and our art by joining a movement that includes navvies, labourers, and so so. That seems to me to be a weak argument. The success of our Union depends entirely upon the soundness of our organisation, and even if our progress is but slow, yet it is better to be quite sure of every step we take. If all the various organisations connected with the stage would adopt the same methods and come together and agree upon some common working basis on all matters of general interest, then we should soon become a very powerful organisation. Our club scheme should do much to bring the members of the various societies together and make them know and appreciate each other. We all want the same thing, we want to improve the stage in every aspect. We want to help the manager to give a good show and draw good houses, so that he will be able to give us better engagements. We want to perfect our organisation so that the humblest in our ranks may earn his or her living under happier and more prosperous conditions than he or she does at the present time."

In the debate which followed several members spoke on the subject.

Mr. Langford Reed then addressed the meeting in reference to the proposed cricket club, and the following were elected as the committee:—Misses May Conrade, Nellie Howitt, Messrs. A. George Fry, Fred Chesham, Watty Brunton, Frank Harvey, Monte Maitland, Langford Reed, and Walter L. Rignold.

Mr. Reed was elected hon. secretary and Mr. Walter L. Rignold hon. treasurer. At a subsequent committee meeting of the above committee the subscriptions for membership of the club were fixed at follows:—Member for full season, 5s.; Member for half season (to play in six matches only), 2s. 6d.; Non-playing members, 1s. The colours will be the Actors' Union blue. All communications with reference to the club must be addressed to the Hon. Secretary at 49, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C.

DAVENPORT, who acquired a considerable fortune with a good character, asked Foote for a motto for his coach. "Latin or English?" asked the wit. "Poh! English, to be sure; I don't want to set up for a scholar. "Then I have got one from *Hamlet* that will match you to a button-hole; '*List! list! oh, list!*'"

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MR. HERBERT LAWRENCE.

An aspiring young actor who is coming into prominence as a player of boy parts is Mr. Herbert Lawrence, a native of Liverpool. Having studied singing and elocution under the tuition of Mr. Calder O'Beirne, who holds a high reputation for the production of Irish plays, and having a thorough musical training under the direction of Mr. Walter Bridson, at present organist of the Liverpool Cathedral, together with the advantage of a youthful and pleasing presence, Mr. Lawrence may be said to be fairly well equipped for a successful career. He first acquired a taste for his calling through enrolling as a member of amateur dramatic societies, namely those of Mr. Calder O'Beirne and Mr. Gerald Ransley, both at present being run successfully in Liverpool. Mr. Lawrence played various parts in these companies, including characters in such plays as *East Lynne*, *Shaughraun*, *Octoroon*, and *The Boys of Wicklow*. The last mentioned performance will ever remain in the memory of Mr. Lawrence, who had the unpleasantness of being howled down by a body of people known as "The Gaelic League," whose objection to certain scenes in Irish plays has more than once been manifested. Rather discouraged by the unkindness of which he was the object, Mr. Lawrence turned his attention to professional work.

His first venture on the boards was in the variety business in a sketch, entitled *Mischievous Marcus*. He played an Eton boy part, which allowed him scope for female impersonation, and he toured successfully for many months. Mr. Lawrence's first engagement on the legitimate stage was as Dick in *Little Lord Fauntleroy* under the management of Mr. Will Dennis, who is at present playing in the same piece at the Court. An opportunity to create a star boy part came with the production by Mr. George S. King, manager of the Metropole Theatre, Devonport, of

Photo by Vestel.

MR. HERBERT LAWRENCE.

His Love for Her Love, and Mr. Lawrence was the recipient of many kind congratulations. Following this engagement he played small parts in *A Bunch of Violets*, with Mr. Harold B. Neilson, and *David Garrick* with Mr. Will Dennis.

Mr. Lawrence intends going into sketch work again with a novelty from his own pen, he finding the variety business rather more profitable.

While on tour Mr. Lawrence finds his time fully occupied, as he devotes a great deal of his attention to music, enjoys a good game of golf, and is a keen cyclist.

MISS MARJORIE MURRAY.

Although little over nineteen, Miss Marjorie Murray has a good and honourable record of theatrical work. She was nine years old when she appeared as the child Cissie Denver in *The Silver King*, under the management of the late Austin Melford and G. M. Polini. She played this part close upon a thousand times, and while in the same engagement recited, at the mature age of ten, "The Absent-minded Beggar," by means of which she collected over £100 for the South African War funds. Before she was thirteen Miss Murray played the boy Stephanus in *The Sign of the Cross*, in Mr. William Greet's touring company. An inevitable school period followed, but before her sixteenth birthday she was again in harness, playing the leading part, Alice Faulkner, in Charles Frohman's *Sherlock Holmes* company. "I felt quite an important little person then," she asserts, "for I was the youngest leading lady in this country." Miss Murray sustained this part for some months, and then appeared as the *ingénue*, Claire Berton, upon the initial tour of *Leah Kleschna*. She was then engaged by Mr. Brandon Thomas to play Ela Delahay in *Charley's Aunt*, with the genial and kindly author as Sir Francis. From this typically feminine character Marjorie Murray jumped into the shoes—or, rather, as the ragged little fellow does not possess shoes—right into the skin of Dick in *The Two Little Vagabonds*. Now came an ordeal for Miss Murray, for she had to create the leading part in Mrs. Oscar Beringer's play, *The Agitator*, at the Hicks Theatre. She came through with flying colours—manager, Press, and public were unanimous in approval—and Miss Murray found she had leapt into London fame. In a letter to her Mr. J. M. Barrie said: "Having seen you, I believe in your future," and Miss Ethel Irving wrote: "I have heard so much about your charming talent, and the great sensation your acting has made." At the conclusion of the season at the Hicks Theatre Miss Murray left Mr. Charles Frohman to fulfil a special suburban engagement with Mr. Louis Calvert, as Sunday in the play of that name. Whilst appearing as Sunday in the early autumn of last year, Miss Murray was secured by Messrs. Smith and Carpenter, of the Lyceum Theatre, and will star under their management this year as Kate Cregeen in *Pete* on tour.

[*Photo by Wykeham.*

MISS MARJORIE MURRAY AS SUNDAY.

MISS CISSIE THOMPSON.

Although still young, Miss Cissie Thompson has already six years' stage experience to her credit, and, like most other artists starting at the foot of the ladder, encountered plenty of the rough before coming to the smooth. Her first essay before the footlights was in a sketch on the halls, and for about two years she went from one sketch to another, playing various minor parts. During this time she had many ups and downs. On one occasion in particular the sketch company was stranded in Barrow-in-Furness, and to raise enough money to get out of the town a small schoolroom at Askham, some six or eight miles away, was chartered for the day, and here a matinée and evening performance were given. Quite a respectable entertainment was got together, all the members of the sketch doing a

MISS CISSIE THOMPSON.

single turn besides performing in the piece. Miss Thompson was deputed to take the tickets at the main entrance, while another lady member of the company was shouting at the highest pitch of her voice, "Walk up! walk up! this way to the early doors!" The result was that quite a nice little sum of money was taken, though economy had to be practised, the company walking back to Barrow in the early hours of the morning. A pantomime engagement followed, after which Miss Thompson was with Mr. Frank Curzon's and Mr. Lockwood's musical comedy companies for two years, and latterly she played the comedy part of Daisy in *Sergeant Brue* with considerable success. Another pantomime engagement followed, this time with Mr. Charles Constant's *Bluebeard* company, which had a record run of six months. This engagement was destined to prove a fortunate one for Miss Thompson, for on the closing night at Ryde Mr. Frank Macnaghten, who happened to be in the stalls, was so struck by her performance that he immediately offered her his tour of ten weeks. The engagement started with only a break of a week, and Miss Thompson often wonders how she managed to be ready in so short a time, as she had to get new dresses and learn new songs, &c. Despite the rush, however, she opened successfully, and did exceptionally well all through the tour. Since then Miss Thompson has booked or already played every tour of note, including the Moss and Stoll, Syndicate, and Gibbons' tours, and she is in the happy condition of possessing a date-book well filled up to 1911. She had some very good offers for pantomime both last year and this, but was unable to accept them owing to her music hall bookings; she hopes, however, to be seen in a big pantomime production before long. Miss Thompson attributes her success on the halls to her voice, which is considered good—a clear delivery, which is particularly essential in singing catchy song—and a plentiful supply of pretty dresses.

MISS MADGE BROWNIE.

Miss Madge Brownie does not come of a theatrical stock, she and her sister being the only members of the family who have appeared before the footlights. The subject of this sketch was born in Glasgow, and commenced her stage career in that city at the early age of nine. Her first appearance was with the Brescian Family of High-class Entertainers—really a concert party—and she played with them "off and on" for about two

MISS MADGE BROWNIE.

years. Mr. Ernest Stevens gave her the part of Allen Gordon in *Bonnie Scotland*, which was the means of her first appearance on the dramatic stage. She played Mignon in *Bootles' Baby*, Little Willie in *East Lynne*, and several other children's parts in different plays. Mr. E. H. Bostock engaged her for two seasons in the children's pantomime, in which she played Cinderella. After this she joined Mr. Charles Majilton's company, playing light and low comedy parts for two years. During the pantomime season 1906-7 she enacted Semalina, one of the ugly sisters in *Cinderella*, at Dundee, subsequently joining Mr. Dickie Clare's *Lucky 'Liza* company, in which she sustained the title-rôle for a very long period. She was appearing as 'Liza, which, by the way, is Miss Brownie's favourite part, at His Majesty's Theatre, Carlisle, when she was engaged for Messrs. Stevens and Buchanan's pantomimes as principal girl, and opened as the Fair One with the Golden Locks at the Theatre Royal, York, a tour following. Last Christmas she sustained the same part under the same management at the Grand Theatre, Hull. Miss Brownie is again taking up variety business, and has a number of dates booked as a "dainty comedy artist," working Dutch, coon, and other speciality songs and dances.

MRS. ELLEN MAY.

The votes and interest of Freemasons are being solicited for Mrs. Ellen May for the May election for the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Widows of Freemasons. Mrs. May is sixty-eight years of age, and is residing at 368, Camden-road, N. She is the widow of the late W. Bro. Samuel May, theatrical costumier, of Bow-street, W.C., who was initiated in the Temple Lodge No. 101 on Nov. 4, 1862, and remained a subscribing member till his death in 1876. He was also a member of the Royal Alfred Lodge, No. 780, the Globe Lodge, No. 23, the Lewis Lodge, No. 1185, and the Grand Stewards' Lodge. He was also P.Z. of a Masonic chapter. The late Bro. May was life governor of all the institutions, and acted as steward on many occasions. The applicant also is a life governor of the boys' schools. Votes are respectfully solicited, and will be duly ackrowledged if sent to Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.

A brother Mason sends us the following testimony as to the deserving nature of the above case:—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

"SIR,—In your last issue you appealed to your readers for their votes in support of Mrs. Ellen May, widow of the late Samuel May, costumier, Bow-street, and it occurred to me that the younger generation of the members of the allied professions would not know who Sam May was. Permit me, through your columns, to inform them that the late Sam May possessed one of the greatest of Masonic charms—benevolence—in its fullest sense; and, in the old stock days, many an actor would have been unable to have reached the town for which he was engaged had it not been for poor 'Sam' putting his hand in his pocket and supplying the 'needful.'—Yours faithfully,

"A. L. R. MASON."

THE attraction at the Theatre Royal, Barnsley, this week is Mr. Walter Melville's four-act drama *The Soldier's Wedding*. Mr. Wingold Lawrence as Jack Brown acts with marked success; Mr. Beresford Whitcomb as Colonel James Graham is good; Mr. Johnny Chippendale as Tommy Spratt and Miss Mallee Everett as Lizzie Walker provide much amusement in their respective comedy parts; the villain, Charles Courtney, is well portrayed by Mr. Gerald Jordan; Miss Marie McAulay as Julie de Beauvrais is effective; Little Albert as Teddy Munroe is good; Mr. Frederick Biron as David Munroe gives a finished performance. Praise must be given to Miss Dorothy Richardson for her portrayal of Nancy Lee. The minor parts are in capable hands.

"THE CASE FOR THE LADY."

A Comedy in Four Acts, by Florence Warden, Produced at the Kingsway Theatre on Sunday Evening, March 7.

Sir Willoughby Ray ..... MR. STANLEY LATHBURY
Fabian Ray ..... MR. ATHOL STEWART
Colonel Waldershare ..... MR. HUBERT WILLIS
Gerald Tomlin ..... MR. LEON M. LION
Horace Greene ..... MR. GEORGE E. JAMES
Peggy Waldershare ..... MISS FLORENCE LECLERCQ
Adela Ray ..... MISS HILDA THORPE
Theresa ..... MISS MAUDI DARRELL

It has been our very unpleasant duty of late to pass censure upon several new pieces which have been produced on Sunday evenings, and we confess that we had rather looked forward to an agreeable few hours when we learned from the invitation ticket that Miss Florence Warden would "present" Miss Maudi Darrell (by kind permission of Mr. Tom B. Davis) in a new modern comedy in four acts, entitled *The Case for the Lady*. Miss Warden has a sound reputation as a novelist; she has done good work in the field of fiction—in book and magazine form—but, judging by Sunday's production, it can scarcely be said that her fiction for the stage is likely to find general favour. Sunday "congregations" at theatrical presentations are the most complacent and easily-satisfied of all classes of playgoers, but even Miss Warden's audience made no call for "author," although they did bestow applause upon the actors and actresses in the cast. But Miss Warden possesses no small measure of literary ability, and it may be that she may yet give to us a satisfactory dramatic work. If she should again attempt anything in this direction, we wish her all success with it.

The Case for the Lady is weak in construction and weak in dialogue, and it would fail to interest an ordinary audience. The story it tells is inconclusive and unconvincing. The aged Sir Willoughby Ray is married to the young, pretty, and vicacious Theresa. Sir Willoughby's cousin, Fabian Ray, who has the reputation of being a rake, had known Theresa on the Continent as a sprightly dancer, who then bore the name of Tilly Townley, and who had even appeared in tights. Sir Willoughby regards her as an innocent creature who knows nothing of the world and its wicked ways, and apparently it is Fabian's intention—the reason of which seems scarcely logical—when he now meets Theresa as the wife of his uncle to inform the latter as to her past life. But he does nothing of the kind, and it would be scarcely compatible with the character of a rake that such a proposal should, in the first place, suggest itself to him. There is, however, a malicious cad in the person of Gerald Tomlin, who makes an improper suggestion to Theresa, and he threatens to unfold her history to Sir Willoughby. Another worthy who is not averse from a bit of scandal is the elderly Horace Greene, who has noticed that Theresa is rather fond of the company of Fabian. So a ruse is planned by Mr. Greene with the object of opening Sir Willoughby's eyes, and the latter gentleman returns in a very hasty and unexpected manner from a motor ride to find his wife embracing Fabian, who indignantly repudiates the charge levelled at him that he was making love to the girl, but afterwards repents, becomes brave, and says that he was—thus taking the blame upon his own shoulders. However, in the concluding act, Theresa tells the truth as to her past, is forgiven and taken back to the heart of Sir Willoughby, and Fabian is accepted by the very charming woman (Peggy Waldershare) he really loves.

Chief honours in the acting fell to Mr. Athol Stewart for his interpretation of the outspoken and, after all, fairly clear-headed Fabian Ray. There was a certain fascination in the picture Miss Maudi Darrell presented of the lively and perhaps not too ladylike Theresa; and Mr. Stanley Lathbury furnished a satisfactory character-study of the jealous old man in love, Sir Willoughby Ray; while a word of commendation is due to Miss Hilda Thorpe for her very pleasing presentment of the quiet and dignified Adela Ray. Miss Florence Leclercq was a delightful and sympathetic Peggy Waldershare.

ACTORS' GOLF.

A match was played on the links of the Ashford Manor Club on Thursday between teams representing the London Press and the George Edwardes Golfing Societies. Play was by singles and foursomes, and scoring in the singles was on the principle of one point for each match and a quarter of a point for the bye, providing three or more holes had to be played. In the foursomes two points were counted for each match and half a point for the bye. The Press finished the morning round with a lead of 8½ points to 7½, and, winning the foursomes by 8 to 7, they gained the victory on the day's play by 16½ points to 14½. Appended are the scores:—

SINGLES.

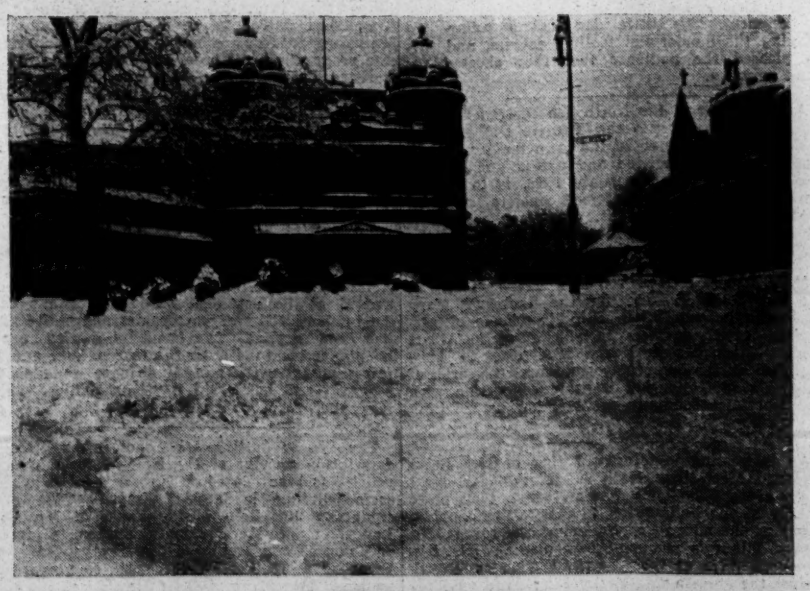
ACTORS.	PTS.	PRESS.	PTS.
Mr. Fred Leslie.....	½	Mr. G. W. Beldam (5 & 4)	1
Mr. Herbert Ross (1 hole)	1	Mr. Garden G. Smith	0
Mr. Lawrence Rae..	0	Mr. Emsley Carr (8 and 7)	1
Mr. Joscelyn Hope (3 & 2)	1	Mr. T. Wilkinson	0
Mr. Arthur Hart ..	0	Mr. G. Babington (1 hole)	1
Mr. Arthur Hatherton (2 & 1)	1	Mr. S. U. Southerton	0
Mr. A. J. Evelyn (3 & 2)	1	Mr. A. C. Godwin Smith	0
Mr. Reginald Owen..	0	Mr. A. C. Godwin Smith (5 & 3)	1
Mr. J. D. Hart.....	0	Mr. H. Rowntree (5 & 3)	1
Mr. E. C. Villiers (1 hole)	1	Mr. N. L. Jackson ..	0
Mr. Rutland Barrington	½	Mr. J. Douglas Hoare	½
Mr. A. G. Haines....	0	Mr. R. H. Bromley Read (2 & 1)	1
Mr. F. Hobbs.....	0	Mr. R. H. Bromley Read (3 & 1)	1
Mr. A. Soames (3 & 2)	1	Mr. Laurence Woodhouse	0
Mr. Spencer Trevor (1 hole)	1	Mr. Lincoln Springfield	0
Mr. W. Graham Browne	0	Mr. Lincoln Springfield (1 hole)	1
Total	7½	Total	8½

FOURSOMES.

Mr. Leslie and Mr. Ross	0	Mr. Beldam and Mr. Smith (1 hole)	2
Mr. Rae and Mr. Hope	0	Mr. Carr and Mr. Wilkinson (2 hole)	2
Mr. A. Hart and Mr. J. D. Hart	0	Mr. Babington and Mr. Rowntree (3 & 2)..	2
Mr. Hatherton and Mr. Evelyn (4 & 3)	2½	Mr. Southerton and Mr. Godwin Smith	0
Mr. Haines and Mr. Hobbs (2 & 1)	2	Mr. Read and Mr. Hoare	0
Mr. Villiers and Mr. Owen (4 & 3)	2½	Mr. Jackson and A. N. Other	0
Mr. Trevor and Mr. Browne	0	Mr. Springfield and Mr. Woodhouse (2 & 1)	2
Total	7	Total	8

"THE BELLE OF BRITTANY" will terminate its run at the Queen's Theatre on Saturday.

THE proprietors of Condy's Fluid of 65, Goswell-road, London, E.C., are posting to all applicants, free of charge, a most useful little booklet entitled "Ailments of Animals, and How to Cure Them," which contains instructions by a large number of eminent veterinary surgeons for the treatment and cure of ailments affecting horses, dogs, cage birds, &c. Many actors and actresses who are interested in animals will be glad to write for this little veterinary book to Condy's Fluid Factory, 65, Goswell-road, London, E.C. No charge is made for the book or for the postage.



"WHEN IT WAS COLD."

This week *When It Was Dark* has been played at the Opera House, Buxton. The above photograph shows what matters climatic resembled. Snow lay on the ground to a depth of 18in., and several persons were conveyed to the Opera House on sleighs. What the members of the company felt can hardly be realised.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree, we are glad to learn, is now quite recovered from his recent indisposition, and is appearing nightly in *The Dancing Girl*. Mr. Henry Arthur Jones's play is drawing crowded audiences to His Majesty's. Mr. Tree's revival of *The School for Scandal*, with an exceptional cast, is provisionally fixed for April 10.

Miss Ellaline Terriss, to whose generosity the establishment of several soup kitchens in the poor districts of London is due, went on a tour of inspection to several of the centres on Thursday. The popular actress arrived at the Latimer-road Mission, Notting Hill, just before dinner, and received a rousing welcome from the assembled youngsters. Miss Terriss presided at the table, and during the meal chatted in her own engaging way with many of her little guests, by whom she seemed to be regarded as a real fairy. Nearly 7,000 poor children are being fed weekly at the ten centres, and since the kitchens have been in operation over 20,000 youngsters have been able to enjoy good, nourishing soup, meat, and bread.

Mr. Seymour Hicks is from this afternoon taking up the title-rôle in *The Dashing Little Duke* for the Saturday matinée, at the Hicks Theatre, in order to relieve Miss Ellaline Terriss, who finds the strain of two performances in one day excessive. Mr. Hicks will thus be resuming a part he created ten years ago in *A Court Scandal*, from which the present piece was adapted. Mr. Hicks and Mr. Leslie Stuart, by the way, have arranged to collaborate in a musical play, the book of which will be adapted from the American comedy, *The Dictator*, by Mr. Richard Harding Davis. The work, which will be produced by Mr. Hicks in May, will in no way interfere with Mr. Leslie Stuart's contract to write the next two pieces for the Gaiety Theatre.

Mr. George Alexander will read Stephen Phillips' poetical play *Paolo and Francesca*, at the St. James's Theatre to-morrow at four o'clock, on the invitation of the Council of the Sunday Lecture Society. The reading will be accompanied by Percy Pitt's original music, rendered by the St. James's Theatre orchestra, conducted by Mr. William Robins. Mr. Alexander will be pleased to see his professional friends on this occasion. Only a limited number of seats are available, and as there will not be sufficient time to send tickets by post, applications should be made personally at the box-office at the St. James's Theatre any time between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. to-day.

Mr. H. B. Irving writes to the *Daily Telegraph*: "Under the above heading, in your issue of to-day, you report a case heard before Mr. Plowden, at Marylebone, in which a person giving the name of Joseph Thompson was charged with being drunk and disorderly. He described himself as an actor, and in answer to the magistrate, he is reported to have said, 'I take a small part; I finished up with Mr. H. B. Irving last Saturday,' whereupon, after some remarks from the Bench, he was discharged with a caution. Will you permit me to state that no one of this name is, or ever was, a member of my company? Of course, it is impossible to prevent those who have no right to the title from describing themselves in police-courts as actors or actresses, but such a state of things is obviously unjust to the members of an honourable profession." The protest is as truthful as it is necessary.

Mr. Martin Harvey, who has been playing to huge audiences at the Liverpool Court Theatre this week, has made a practical suggestion in the local Press. Noticing a large number of unemployed men waiting in queue to obtain a free plate of soup in one of the large Liverpool squares, Mr. Harvey addressed a letter to the papers, in which he drew attention to the fact that St. George's Hall, admittedly one of the finest buildings in Europe, if not in the world, was badly in need of exterior cleansing. He suggested that rather than pauperise so many men by this free gift of soup, their energies should be turned upon the task of bringing back the Greek temple, which is Liverpool's glory, to its original state. From all appearances Mr. Harvey's suggestion is likely to be taken up by the authorities of the Mersey city.

Mr. Harvey, Miss N. de Silva, and their company go next week to Edinburgh, where they are to appear at the Lyceum Theatre, with a fortnight at the King's Theatre, Glasgow, to follow.

Terry's Theatre will shortly be occupied by Mr. A. F. Henderson, who will start a season there at Easter, with a new farce by Mr. Arthur Law. The piece is at present without a title, but those suggested, namely, *The Spider and the Fly*, *Artful Miss Patience*, and *A Game of Patience*, may give some idea of the character of the novelty. Miss Annie Hughes has been engaged for the leading part, and others in the cast will be Mr. C. W. Somerset, Mr. Paul Arthur, and Miss Helen Ferrers.

Mr. Forbes-Robertson, in an eloquent speech at a meeting of business men at the Cannon-street Hotel on Wednesday, appealed to them to give their womenkind a broader horizon to their lives, and hope and opportunity to elevate and improve their minds. The objection that women were physically inferior Mr. Robertson met with the remark that Hackenschmidt, the wrestler, could break Lord Roberts's neck by a twist of the wrist. That, however, did not prove Lord Roberts was incapable of being a great General. It was not physique, it was mind which ruled the world.

Mr. Weedon Grossmith, who is this week appearing at the Borough Theatre, Stratford, will shortly be seen again in the West End, having acquired a farce from the pen of Mr. R. C. Carton for production at the Criterion at the end of the run of *The Real Woman*. The leading parts in the new piece, for which no title has yet been decided upon, will be played by the clever comedian and Miss Compton. It should be added that Miss Evelyn Millard is retaining her managerial interest in the Criterion Theatre, although she will not be appearing in Mr. Carton's play.

Mr. Walter Everard, who has been touring in Australasia for the past year, spent Christmas in Auckland, New Zealand. The weather was intensely hot, and he made immediately for a neighbouring lake on a fishing expedition. Every hole and corner, he reports, is full of fish, and his opinion upon trout just pulled out of the water and grilled on the spot is expressed in the words "simply delicious." After a month's sojourn among the mountains and the Maoris Mr. Everard set out on a visit to Mr. Julius Knight, who has taken a beautiful residence in Sydney for the season. Mr. Everard is booked to return to this country on March 31.

Mr. J. D. Beveridge has added another leaf to his laurels by his fine performance as James Browne in *The Head of the Firm* at the Vaudeville Theatre. His picture of the shrewd, genial, slightly cynical, humorous old ex-schoolmaster is full of dry humour and quaint, sly drollery, and his action as *deus ex machinâ* of the play is very important and effective. The embodiment is a masterpiece of quiet, clever character acting.

At the close of the performance of *Carmen* by the Moody-Manners Opera Company at Her Majesty's Theatre, Dundee, last Saturday evening, Mr. Manners, in the course of a speech, thanked the Dundee public for its support, and paid a high tribute to the management of Her Majesty's. He threw out a suggestion that an operatic society should be formed in Dundee to get up grand operas, either with a view to giving performances on their own account, when he would help them with principals, scores, dresses, &c., or else to sing with the Moody-Manners chorus when that company visited the town. There are already such societies at work in Dundee, and it would only require a little initiative and enterprise on the part of responsible people to take advantage of Mr. Manners' generous offer.

Mr. Matheson Lang's attack of influenza caused the postponement of *Hamlet* at the Lyceum from Tuesday last to this evening. Purchasers of seats for the former occasion can either have their money returned or the tickets exchanged for another night.

Influenza is also the cause of the postponement of *The House of Bondage* by the Afternoon Theatre at His Majesty's, two of the members of the cast having been laid up through the effects of the malady. Tickets purchased for yesterday, the original date, will be available for Tuesday next, for which the performance is now fixed.

A meeting of the committee of the Managers' Club, Savoy Mansions, Strand, was held on the 5th inst., when there were present Messrs. M. V. Leveaux (in the chair), E. Lockwood, A. Bertram, F. Weathersby, W. Muskerry Tilson (hon. solicitor), and M. Martin (secretary). Messrs. H. Dobell Lyle, H. Sherwood Martin, R. Courtier Dutton, and H. A. Langlois were elected members.

The committee of the Touring Managers' Association, Ltd., met on the same day at the Managers' Club. There were present Messrs. E. Graham Falcon (in the chair), F. Leslie Moreton, E. Lockwood, F. Weathersby, A. Bertram, G. Carlton Wallace, G. Brydon Phillips, Norman V. Norman, M. V. Leveaux, W. Muskerry Tilson (hon. solicitor), and M. Martin (secretary). A letter from a member with reference to the infringement of the copyright of his play by a manager was read, and the secretary reported that he obtained an apology from the offender, and an assurance that he would discontinue the use of the title. Letters from the Theatrical Managers' Association in reference to cinematograph performances were read. Mr. H. Sherwood Martin was elected a member of the Association.

Mr. Charles Hawtrey, by arrangement with Mr. Tom B. Davis, will produce Mr. Somerset Maugham's adaptation from the French, entitled *The Noble Spaniard* at the Royalty on Saturday. The scene is laid in Boulogne during 1850. In addition to Mr. Hawtrey the full cast will consist of Mr. E. Lyall Swete, Mr. Athol Stewart, Mr. Leon M. Lion, Miss Kate Cutler, Miss Gladys Cooper, Miss Fanny Brough, Miss Vane Featherston, and Miss Joy Chatwyn.

Miss Decima Moore and her husband, Major F. G. Guggisberg, have collaborated in a new volume, entitled "We Two in West Africa," which Mr. Heinemann announces for publication on March 19. The book deals with the British West African colony, and combines with a cheery account of the country and people much useful information about land-surveying and the gold-mining industry.

Miss Marie Dressler's season at the Aldwych came to an abrupt conclusion on Wednesday, owing to the sudden indisposition of the comedienne who started the venture. On the following evening the members of the company assembled, but were told that Miss Dressler was not going on. Later on, it is stated a letter arrived from the manageress which read:—"To my company,—That I am not able to continue the fight with you all is due to fate, which, I fear, has been against me. I only care for my company, which I was proud of and loved, and I am too ill to explain myself as I should like to; but I want you to know that I mortgaged everything I had in the world to pay you last week. I thank you for your attention and able support, and God knows I wish you all good luck. I did my best."

Miss Lena Ashwell will bring the run of *The Truants* and her present season at the Kingsway Theatre to a close this evening. The theatre will be reopened on the evening of Wednesday, April 14, when Miss Ashwell will present, in conjunction with Mr. Otho Stuart, a new modern play from the pen of Mr. James Bernard Fagan, whose clever play, *The Prayer of the Sword*, made such an impression on its production at the Adelphi nearly five years ago.

Mr. Acton Bond and Miss Margaret Halstan took the parts of King John and Constance, respectively, in a dramatic reading of *King John*, given on the 4th inst., at Stratford-on-Avon, under the auspices of the British Empire Shakespeare Society, the remainder of the cast being drawn from members of the local branch. Several prominent residents took part, including Mr. A. D. Flower (chairman of the Shakespeare Memorial Association), as the Bastard.

The inaugural performance of the Dramatic Sub-committee of the recently instituted "Authors' Board" will be given at the Lyceum Club, Piccadilly, on the afternoon of Tuesday, March 30, when two one-act plays, written and acted by members, will be submitted to judgment.

"Henry of England," described as a new romantic play, in a prologue and three acts, by Olive Lethbridge and John de Stourton, was copyrighted at the Victoria Hall, Bayswater, on March 4.

The Theatre Royal, Whitehaven, which has been closed for a considerable time, has been purchased by Mr. Stanley Rogers, the lessee of the Theatre Royal, North Shields, the Grand Theatre, Lancaster, and the Opera House, Workington. Extensive alterations are contemplated, and the house will be considerably enlarged and brought thoroughly up to date. It is expected that the theatre will be ready for opening early in the autumn.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Sydney Leyton, which took place at the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, on Friday, the 5th inst. The deceased gentleman was a member of Mr. Harry Foxwell's *Mother* company, which was playing at the Queen's Theatre in Liverpool, and had appeared up to the Wednesday night. He became ill, and sank rapidly, the cause of death being pneumonia.

Mr. Leyton had had a long and varied experience, his principal engagements during the last twelve years being with the Cowper Calvert company, the Compton Comedy Company, Mr. George Alexander's company in *The Prisoner of Zenda*, Mr. Percy Hutchison's company in *The Liars*, and Mr. Edward Marris's company in *The Dandy Doctor*. A few years ago he went out to South Africa with the late Willie Edouin, and there he remained for some considerable time with the late Kate Vaughan, and also under the managements of Mr. Leonard Rayne and Messrs. B. and F. Wheeler. The funeral took place on Sunday at the Roman Catholic Cemetery at Ford, near Liverpool.

Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison presented *Lady Frederick* to a big audience on Monday evening at the Broadway Theatre, New Cross. Miss Mabel Love played the title-rôle in Mr. Somerset Maugham's great London success, and was supported by a strong cast, including Mr. Robert Minster, whose finished performance of Paradine Fouldes contributed largely to the success of the production. The booking ahead for *Lady Frederick* is extremely gratifying, and the stability and general brilliancy of the production, which has drawn to the theatres many thousands of the public, proves conclusively that the Hutchison management have an ever-increasing clientèle.

Mr. E. Oswald Brooks has his hands full at present. His own *New Housemaid* company, the Ian Maclaren Répertoire Company, and the Grand Theatre, Swansea, all call for his attention at the same time. A born "hustler," hardly a week goes by which does not see Mr. Brooks racing round the country on his Darracq car, inspecting companies, booking dates, &c., and yet managing somehow to spend a quiet week-end at his charming home, Underhill, Mumbles, a few miles out of Swansea.

The Ian Maclaren Shakespearean company is "starring" this week at the Grand Theatre, Walsall, this being the first visit of Mr. Maclaren and his talented company to that city. A completely new set of armour, costing upwards of £200, has just been added to the equipment of this now justly celebrated combination.

Mr. C. W. Ramsay, the acting-manager of the Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield, took his annual benefit last week, when a crowded house gave evidence of his popularity. A special programme was submitted, the first item being a scene from *Her Marriage Vow*, the drama which was the attraction for the week. The entertainment also included contributions by the Grimesthorpe Prize Brass Band, Miss Rosie Batt, Mr. George Smith (comedian), Mr. Lauri Clare (comedian), Mr. Johnny Watson, Mr. Curley Jackson, Mr. George Loukes (comedian), Messrs. Wm. Mackenzie and George Urquhart (pipers from the Caledonian Society), Mr. James Lodge, Mr. Henry Scorah, Mr. Will Groves, Marsello (juggler), Mr. T. A. Crookes, Mr. H. Middleton, Master Willie Bray, and Mr. Cliff Dixo. Miss Edie King came from the Empire Palace to sing and dance, and the proceedings concluded with an exciting wrestling contest between two local wrestlers.

The beneficiaire was the recipient of many presents, including those from Mr. W. D. Forsdike, the managing-director, and from the staff of the theatre and members of the orchestra. Mr. Ramsay met with an overwhelming reception when he acknowledged the many gifts, and took the opportunity of giving to Messrs. E. L. Garside and J. Forbes Knowles, who kindly undertook the whole of the stage-management, a piece of Sheffield cutlery.

Miss Constance Drever, the popular young Scotch soprano, has been engaged by M. Franck, of the Théâtre du Gymnase, to create the part of the Merry Widow with his French company, in the first production of this musical piece in Paris.

Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl, who has just concluded an engagement as acting-manager for Mr. Robert Arthur's pantomime season at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, has been re-engaged by Mr. Arthur as treasurer until the end of the season at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne. He takes up his new duties on Monday

"Tried for Her Life," a Free Trade play, by Mr. Ernest Wyon, the agent of the local Liberal Association, was produced at Brighton on the 5th inst., and met with a cordial reception from opponents of Tariff Reform.

Fulham Football Club, in its match with Oldham, at Oldham, this afternoon, will be represented by Fryer, Lindsay, Sharp, Collins, Suart, Mouncher, Lee or Smith, Freeman, Dalrymple, Millington, and Lipsham. In the South-Eastern League match Fulham Reserves v. Clapton Orient Reserves at Fulham, this afternoon, the home team will be Archer, Harper, Leigh, Prout, Littlewort, Waterson, Lee or Smith, B. Millington, Wyllie, McCourt, and Bradshaw. The kick-off is at 3.30.

The Play Actors, who give their first performance of this season at the Court to-morrow (Sunday), when several one-act plays will be produced, have selected for their second production *Sister Beatrice*, by Maurice Maeterlinck, which will be staged under the direction of Miss Edith Craig at the Court on March 28. The incidental music will be specially composed for the occasion by Mr. Hubert Bath, who wrote the music for *Hannele* when that play was produced by the Society. His music was subsequently used at His Majesty's.

Miss Violet Vanbrugh and Miss Marie Löhr will be the guests of the evening at the ladies annual dinner of the O.P. Club at the Criterion on Sunday, March 21, and will answer for "The Ladies," whose health will be proposed by Mr. T. McDonald Rendle. Mr. Henry Neville will give the toast of "The O.P. Club," and Miss Ethel Irving that of "The Chairman," Mr. Max Pemberton.

A very agreeable incident marked the performance at the Theatre Royal, Sunderland, on Saturday evening by Mr. Augustine Knight's company of *Mysteries of the Thames*. As Miss Ella Vane made her entrance in the third act, a beautiful and valuable little pure white toy Pomeranian was handed over the footlights from an admirer. The little dog had a collar displaying the Sunderland football colours, and this so pleased the audience that they cheered for some minutes.

At a meeting of the Northwich District Council, Cheshire, plans of the new Theatre and Pavilion which is to be erected in the town for Mrs. P. E. Fletcher were submitted and passed. The building, which will accommodate 1,200, is to be entirely constructed of reinforced concrete, and will be fire-resisting throughout. The stage will admit of large productions. It is hoped to have the building completed by the autumn.

Miss Florence Glossop-Harris has been sitting for Mr. Louis Tussaud for the figure of Mary Magdalen in connection with his scheme of presenting the life of Christ in tableaux at the Albert Hall. Miss Glossop-Harris was also to have designed all the feminine costumes for the series of thirty-six tableaux, but work in connection with her répertoire company prevents her undertaking the task.

An interesting wedding was that of Mr. Victor Rea and Miss Mona Hall, daughter of Mr. Matt Hall, of the Burslem Theatre, which took place quietly at the Paddington Registry office on Monday last, the happy couple having first met in Mr. Harry Tilbury's company now playing *His Dishonoured Wife* at the Stratford Theatre Royal. Before the curtain was finally rung down on Monday night the newly-wedded pair were the recipients of many congratulations and gifts, including handsome bouquets handed across the footlights to the bride. The orchestra, grasping the situation, felicitously joined in with the strains of Mendelssohn's "Wedding March."

The Crystal Palace Theatre will have a distinguished visitor next week in Mr. Edward Terry, who will appear in some of his most famous characters. *Sweet Lavender* will be given on Monday, Tuesday, and Saturday evenings; the Wednesday evening and the Saturday matinée will be devoted to *Liberty Hall*; *The Passport* will be put on at the Wednesday matinée and on Friday night; and on Thursday *The Magistrate* will occupy the bill.

A company under the name of the Provincial Play Productions Company has been formed and will shortly tour several first-class dramas and sketches, under the direction of Mr. C. Elliman. The manager and secretary of the company is Mr. H. Elliman, and the head offices are at Birmingham. The company will begin with the well-known drama *A Heart's Desire*.

Miss Ethel van Praagh and Mr. J. Edward Whitty will produce at the Grand Theatre, Fulham, on Monday, for the first time in London, Mr. Charles Darrell's play *The Eyes of the World*, a conflict of sex, in three encounters. Miss van Praagh will appear as Helen de L'Orme, supported by a carefully-selected company.

Mr. Fowler Thatcher has just completed a three months' tour as Abanazar and producer of Messrs. Glenville and Osmond's successful pantomime of *Aladdin*. He is now disengaged. In comedy, character, or eccentric old men, either for musical comedy, drama, or sketches, Mr. Thatcher can boast a wide experience.

The fourteenth pantomime visit of the Rocket Club took place last Friday week at the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, when some three hundred members and friends (many of whom were attired in fancy dress) were present. Twenty-eight presentations were made during the evening to the various managers and artists, and Mr. Lester Collingwood welcomed the club from the stage. In addition to the pantomime *Little Riding Hood*, extra turns were provided by Mr. Will Gardner and Mr. W. J. Pashley.

The Old Morality *Everyman* will be given at Mr. Robert Arthur's various theatres on seven afternoons during Lent. The series will begin at the Coronet on Wednesday, March 24, and will conclude at the same house on April 8, performances being given at Kennington and Fulham in the meantime.

The next productions of the Incorporated Stage Society will be *The Fountain*, a comedy in three acts, by G. Calderon, and *Unemployed*, a play in one act by Margaret M. Mack

The Wakefield Opera House was prettily decorated last (Friday) night on the occasion of a special territorial performance of *The Ladder of Life*. The entertainment was under the patronage of the Mayor and Mayoress of Wakefield, Lady Catherine Milnes Gaskell, the Right Hon. C. G Milnes Gaskell, Captain Heslegrave, and a number of officers and civil officials.

The Glasgow Repertory Theatre, says the local *Record*, will begin operations at the Royalty in that city early next month with Bernard Shaw's *You Never Can Tell*. The cast is to include Mr. Hubert Harben and Miss Mary Jerrold. After *You Never Can Tell* will come Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People*, for which Mr. Beerbohm Tree has given the use of his own "prompt copy." Mr. Tree, it may be added, is on the list of shareholders in the Glasgow Repertory Theatre, along with Lord Howard de Walden, J. M. Barrie, Albert Chevalier, H. B. Irving, Neil Munro, and others.

The pantomime supper and dance of the Grand Theatre, Glasgow, was held in the local Albert Hall, and a merry party which included most of the principals of Messrs. Buchanan and Stevens's *Cinderella* company, with the theatre staff and a number of friends, kept the fun going briskly from midnight till dawn. The affair was unanimously voted a huge success.

A matinée in aid of the widow and children of the late W. H. Ramsdale, formerly treasurer of the Theatre Royal, Newcastle, will be given on Thursday next. In addition to the favourite artists and pantomime numbers from *Aladdin*, artists from the Tyne, Empire, Pavilian, and Palace Theatres will appear.

Miss Irene Vanbrugh, Miss Gertrude Elliott, Miss Estelle Stead, Miss Edith Craig, and Miss Stella Campbell were among the actresses present at a meeting of the Actresses' Franchise League at Dover-street studios on the 5th inst.

Miss Rose Moncrieff had an unfortunate fall on the ice last week, and has had to have her arm in splints. Consequently she has been unable to act her part in *The Bells of Old York*, but hopes to reappear on Monday.

Messrs. Jay and Mann have secured from Mr. Frank Curzon the small town rights of *An Englishman's Home*, and are sending out an immediate tour of this sensational patriotic play. Everything will be done exactly as at Wyndham's Theatre.

Miss Helena Millais, who has made a great success as Kate Cregeen in *Pete*, has been the recipient of some beautiful flowers during the week at Brixton Theatre, where *Pete* is playing to crowded houses.

An amateur performance in aid of the National Service League, of which Field-Marshal Earl Roberts is President, will be given under distinguished patronage at the Ritz Hotel, Piccadilly, on Saturday afternoon next. Included in the programme will be a new sketch, in two acts, entitled *Lady Arabella's Fortune*. The entertainment will be under the direction of Mr. John Donald.

Mr. Arthur Vezin (son of the veteran actor, Mr. Hermann Vezin, who has just celebrated his eightieth birthday) is at present playing round London with Mr. George Alexander's *Builder of Bridges* company.

A "Country Fair," on behalf of Our Dumb Friends' League, is again being organised by Mr. Arthur J. Coke, and will take place on June 25 and 26, at the Botanical Gardens, Regent's Park. An influential list of patronesses and stall-holders has been secured. The beautiful gardens are to be planned out with booths, stalls, &c., and the fair-grounds with bands, swings, roundabouts, cocoanut and bottle shies, "Aunt Sallies," shooting gallery, &c., on an elaborate scale.

The *Straits Settlements Times*, after giving a descriptive account of the New Victoria Theatre, which has been opened at Singapore—it is a handsome building holding 649—says: "The stage equipment has been in the hands of Mr. Peter Davey, of the Royal County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames, who employed Mr. Leolyn Hart, Mr. Hemsley, and other scenic artists to prepare the scenery. The whole of the fitting up of the stage has been in the capable charge of Mr. Worsfold, who was sent out by Mr. Davey to see the job through, and this very important part of the work has been most thoroughly done. Messrs. Dean and Co., of Birmingham, designed and made the handsome proscenium curtains."

The annual meeting of Warden, Limited, took place in Belfast on Friday, the 5th inst. Mr. S. C. Allen (chairman), who presided, in moving the adoption of the directors' report and statement of accounts, said he thought that on the whole the result of the year's working might be considered satisfactory. In his opinion the prospects before the company were never brighter than they were to-day. They had completed a working arrangement with their friends the proprietors of the Royal Hippodrome, by which the opposition that had hitherto existed between the Hippodrome and the Palace had been done away with, so that their former rivals were now their allies, and their interests, instead of clashing, had become identical.

The changing back of the Palace from a variety house to a theatre would, they believed, prove a popular one, and would enable them to provide their patrons with theatrical fare of the best description. It was their intention to work in conjunction as far as possible with the Theatre Royal, Dublin; and as that company had also acquired the Dublin Gaiety, the position all round was very much strengthened as far as bookings were concerned. The Theatre Royal, as they were aware, was now being run as a drama house at popular prices. Mr. Warden seconded the resolution, which was carried.

Mr. Lewis Waller will be associated with Miss Maxine Elliott in the new production which will follow *The Three Musketeers* at the Lyric, when that popular revival shall have run its course. The new piece bears the attractive title of *None But the Brave*, and is the work of Miss Constance Fletcher, who has adapted it from Balzac's short story, "La Duchesse de Langeais." The heroine of the piece is endowed with greater virtues than in Balzac's story, thus being made to appear more worthy of the devotion of the intrepid General, and it is by this means that a happy ending is secured.

At the London Sessions Court on Wednesday, before Mr. Wallace, K.C., and a jury, Frederick John Morgan, otherwise Norman Craig, was indicted for having obtained 16s. from Miss Ida Mary Steele, and £1 from William Standley, and for attempting to obtain £2 from Victor Hugo Crisfield, in each case by offering them engagements on the stage. The jury found the prisoner guilty. Mr. Wallace stated that he could not treat the prisoner as a first offender, but, having regard to his age, justice would be met by sentencing him to six months' imprisonment in the second division.

"An Englishman's Home" will make its first appearance outside the West End at the Kennington Theatre next week. The tour will be given a "send-off" on Monday night by a distinguished assembly, which will include the Mayors of Lambeth and Southwark, Colonel Villiers, V.D., A.D.C. to the King, Colonel commanding 21st County of London Battalion, Lieutenant-Colonel Whitehead and officers of his regiment, and Colonel Lucas.

Mr. Basil Dean will play Eustace Jackson in *The Return of the Prodigal*, the part originally created in town by Mr. A. E. Matthews, during the forthcoming revival of Mr. Hankin's comedy at the Gaiety Theatre, Manchester.

Mr. Wentworth Croke has definitely engaged Miss Kittee Rayburn for his pantomime of *Aladdin* at the Lyric Opera House, Hammersmith, next Christmas. Miss Rayburn's great hit in the recent pantomime at that house will be well remembered.

Mr. Croke, who has secured the provincial rights of *Samson*, will, by arrangement with Mr. Charles Frohman and Mr. Arthur Bourchier, send out a strong company with this great success in the autumn. The piece will be toured on the same scale of completeness that characterises all Mr. Croke's productions.

A new opera has been added to the list of works to be given at Covent Garden during the coming "Grand" season. It is entitled *La Habanera*, and was produced at the Paris Opera Comique in February. Both words and music are written by a young composer named Raoul Laparra.

Mr. Frank B. O'Neill, Mr. Martin Harvey's energetic business-manager, has been winning of late quite a number of prizes and commendations for his dogs, which are of the old English sheep-dog variety. Only the other day in town one of his canines carried off a testimony to its qualities, and Mr. O'Neill's interest in his hobby is such that his dogs may be expected to figure in future consistently in the prize-winning records.

Mme. Helen Townshend's efforts as a teacher of singing and voice production have had many gratifying results among her pupils. Among those who have profited by her tuition are Miss Marie Dainton, Miss Sybil Arundale, Miss Ruth Lincoln, Miss Daisy Jerome, Miss Hanid Alexander, Miss Maie Ash, and Miss Gipsy Woolf. Mme. Townshend is now forming classes for the study of breathing and voice production.

Mr. Robert White, jun., has been engaged by Mr. Charles Hawtrey for his forthcoming season at the Royalty Theatre, to play the leading part in George Paston's clever curtain-raiser *Feed the Brute*.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Charles M. Bestic, who for some months past has been running the *Flower Girl* company on tour. Mr. Bestic died on Sunday at his residence, 1, Sydney-street, Stockwell. He had won the esteem of all his company, by whom his loss is deeply regretted.

A Midsummer Fête will be held at Olympia on June 23, and two following days, in aid of the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond-street, W.C., of which her Majesty the Queen is patroness. The fête is under the patronage of the Prince and Princess of Wales, and other celebrities. The stage will be worthily represented, and among those who will preside over stalls will be Miss Lily Elsie, Miss Marie Tempest, Miss Evelyn Millard, and Miss Irene Vanbrugh.

Great enthusiasm was displayed on Saturday evening last at the Elephant and Castle Theatre, on the conclusion of the run of Mr. Barnard's first pantomime there. The stage was literally covered with bouquets. "Auld Lang Syne" was heartily sung by the artists hand in hand with the occupants of the stage boxes, who, in turn, grasped those of the patrons in the stalls. Mr. W. Stephenson, the popular *chef d'orchestre*, was presented with a handsome marble timepiece by the members of *The Babes in the Wood* company.

At the time that Garrick performed in Goodman's Fields, the stage rose so rapidly from the pit, that it was very difficult to walk on. Unfortunately it was the practice of all ghosts to appear in a suit of real armour. The dress for this august personage had one night (in honour of Mr. Garrick's Hamlet) been borrowed from the tower, and was somewhat stiff; the moment, therefore, the ghost of the King of Denmark was put up from the trap-door, unable to keep his balance, he rolled down to the lamps, where he lay "confined in lasting fires," till a wag in the pit drew the attention of the other performers by crying out, "the ghost will be burned!"

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

"In Again!"

"THERE are many stories of the late George Weir," says the *Yorkshire Evening Post*, "but one which he was very fond of relating must suffice. Performing in his earliest days in a tent in Gloucestershire, he so excited the admiration of a young friend in the audience that the exclamations of the latter became a serious nuisance, and he was finally turned out. Towards the end of the play, when Mr. Weir was in the midst of a magnificent soliloquy, and the place was wrapped in stillness, a gratified voice came from the back of the tent—'Garge, I be in again!'"

Clerical Dramatists.

MRS. DEARMER, the authoress of *Nan Pilgrim*, recently produced at the Court Theatre, is a clergyman's wife. There are among the Anglican clergy several successful dramatists. Among them is the Rev. Freeman Wills, vicar of St. Agatha's, Finsbury—brother and biographer of the late W. G. Wills—who wrote *The Only Way* in collaboration with Canon Langbridge. Another clerical playwright is the Rev. Forbes Phillips, the unconventional vicar of Gorleston. Mrs. Dearmer is the wife of the Rev. Percy Dearmer, the Christian-Socialist leader, and has written several novels.

The Law and the Censorship.

"IT is natural," says the *Law Journal*, "that in a country where complete liberty of the Press and of speech has been long established there should be dissatisfaction with what seems the arbitrary discretion of an official not responsible to Parliament to qualify the freedom of the stage, and in its operation, as well as its origin, the censorship of plays appears to be an obsolete and unreasonable survival. The censorship is actually exercised by an examiner of plays appointed by the Lord Chamberlain and paid out of the Civil List. But public control over the office is very indirect and very weak, and it may be questioned whether it would not be better either to attach the censorship to the Home Office, so as to make a Cabinet Minister responsible for its proper working, or to abolish the position altogether and leave it to the general licensing authority to refuse a licence to a theatre which has produced an objectionable piece. It is to be remembered also that when a play is blasphemous, seditious, or indecent the persons concerned in its representation are indictable at common law, and the executive could set the police in motion on a proper occasion."

He Would Not Prophesy.

THE *Daily News* tells the following story:—"When are you going to pay me for those wigs you had from me two years ago?" asked an anxious stage costumier of one of his customers who was deferring a settlement of account. "Laddie," replied the man of tragedy, "I'm an actor, not a prophet."

Kate Vaughan's Grave.

"DURING the recent hurricane and floods that have swept over the Rand," writes a correspondent, "great havoc occurred in the local cemetery. In many cases graves had sunk in some feet, and in all directions large monuments were either down or leaning over, temporarily propped up by stout poles; but I noticed that the grave of poor Kate Vaughan and the memorial stone thereon had withstood the terrific storms, and had not suffered in any way, but remained in good order and neatly kept."

The Actor's Longevity.

"MR. CLARK BELL, ex-president of the New York Medico-Legal Society, is," says *Sports of the Times*, "collecting data concerning longevity, and especially the ability of the aged for useful work. He could find no more fruitful field than in the departments of various sports and of the stage. Women of the stage are middle-aged at eighty. Mrs. Barney Williams is alive and well; so is Betty Rigl, although *The Black Crook*, of which she was the star danseuse, is forgotten; so are Mrs. John Wood, Mrs. Lester Wallack, Mrs. Annie Yeamans, Helen Tracy, Rose Coghlan, Lotta Crabtree, and a bevy of the beauties whom we used to worship and whose memories we still cherish."

State-aided Theatres.

"THE crisis of the Paris Opéra," says the *Standard*, "opens the whole question of State aid to the lyric and dramatic arts. In Paris the State owns, and practically controls, four theatres—the Opéra and the Opéra Comique, the Comédie Française, and the Théâtre de l'Odéon. Of these the Opéra Comique—which has one of the ablest theatre managers at its head—has generally paid its way during the last ten or fifteen years; that is to say, the annual subvention has more than equalled the deficit on the working capital. The same is the case with the Comédie Française. A theatre which can mount four or five of the best fifty plays within a week, and which counts in its company half a dozen of the greatest actors in France, could never lose very much money. But the Odéon and the Opéra find the State subvention not sufficient to make good the deficit."

Complete Candour.

THE following episode really happened some fifty years ago:—The walls of a country town were liberally placarded with flaming posters announcing that on a certain evening the eminent tragedian, Mr. Blankford, would give a Shakespearean reading at the local Assembly Rooms. The advertisement drew together a crowded and eager audience. After a tedious wait a personage appeared on the platform, bowing low to the packed "house." He was of diminutive stature, had jet-black curly locks, a *prononcé* aquiline nose, and was altogether as unlike the great tragedian in appearance as could well be imagined. "Who can he be?" was the whisper that went round. He proceeded to arrange the book on the reading-desk. Perhaps, after all, he was only an attendant! But no; for he again bowed, and with a most unmistakably Jewish accent, he commenced to read the work announced. A yell of disapprobation rang through the place. "No! No!" "Off! Off!" But still he kept on reading. The audience was now thoroughly enraged. "Swindle! Swindle!" they shouted. The Israelitish individual closed his book, and once more bowing lowly, addressed them thus:—"Ladith and Gentlemen, the remark does your intelligence credit. You're right, s'help me! It *ith* a thwindle!" And he skipped very hastily by the back exit. A general rush was made to the pay-boxes, but the money-takers had departed also!

Was it an Accident?

AN actor correspondent sends us the following; he actually witnessed the incident:—In Westbourne-grove the other day, a cyclist, who had just escaped death in collision with a motor-car by adroitly rolling between the legs of two horses drawing a mineral-water van, stood on the pavement, apparently lost for the moment in contemplation. His one unbunged eye was alternately surveying his mangled hand, his mud-begrimed clothes, and his brand new machine, now tangled scrap tenaciously clinging to the motor wheels. A benevolent but vacant-looking old gentleman, who had witnessed it all, placing himself in front of the forlorn roadster, kept persistently putting to him the sympathetic question—"Was it an accident?" Presently, the cyclist realising the situation, fixed his remaining eye upon the old man's face, and then, setting his teeth, said, with all the emphasis at his command—"No, you fool! I did it for pleasure!"

"STRIFE."

Play, in Three Acts, by John Galsworthy, Produced at the Duke of York's Theatre on Tuesday afternoon, March 9.

John Anthony ..... MR. NORMAN MCKINNEL
Edgar Anthony ..... MR. C. M. HALLARD
Frederick H. Wilder ..... MR. DENNIS EADIE
William Scanterbury .... MR. LUIGI LABLACHE
Oliver Wanklin ..... MR. C. V. FRANCE
Henry Trench ..... MR. O. P. HEGGIE
Francis Underwood ..... MR. A. S. HOMEWOOD
Frost ..... MR. EDMUND GWENN
Simon Harness ..... MR. GEORGE INGLETON
David Roberts ..... MR. J. FISHER WHITE
James Green ..... MR. R. LEISK
John Bulgin ..... MR. P. L. JULIAN
Henry Thomas ..... MR. H. R. HIGNETT
George Rous ..... MR. OWEN ROUGHWOOD
Llewellyn ..... MR. JOHN KELT
Henry Rous ..... MR. I. GILLESPIE
Lewis ..... MR. CHARLES BISHOP
Jago ..... MR. CHARLES DANVERS
Evans ..... MR. DRELINCOURT ODLUM
A Blacksmith ..... MR. W. HENROYS
Davies ..... MR. EDWARD SIDNEY
A Red-Haired Youth ..... MR. LESLIE OSWELL
Brown ..... MR. J. W. MASON
Smith ..... MR. HAROLD CHAPIN
Enid Underwood ..... MISS ELLEN O'MALLEY
Annie Roberts ..... MISS MARY BARTON
Madge Thomas ..... MISS LILLAH MCCARTHY
Mrs. Rous ..... MISS ROSE CAZALET
Mrs. Bulgin ..... MISS SIDNEY PAXTON
Mrs. Yeo ..... MISS BLANCHE STANLEY
A Parlourmaid ..... MISS GLADYS STOREY
Jan ..... MASTER SIMON NAGLE

There is nothing but praise to be given to Mr. John Galsworthy's play *Strife*, which was produced at the Duke of York's Theatre on Tuesday afternoon. A subject which is often dealt with in a mistaken and superficial way is treated with knowledge and judgment; the characters are life-like and impressive; and the climax is achieved inevitably and without effort. The pathos of some of the situations is calculated to wring the heart, if it be made of penetrable stuff, and the dialogue is uniformly strong, terse, and eloquent.

The position of affairs at the Trenartha Tinplate Works, "on the border of England and Wales," is this:—The men have struck work for an advance of wages, a step which has not been entirely approved of by their Union. John Anthony, the chairman of the company, is an obstinate old man, who is determined not to yield in the smallest degree to the demands of the men, although the company is losing thousands by the strike. On the other side, David Roberts, one of the workmen who has been paid a paltry sum for a clever invention which has brought in large sums to the company, urges his comrades to hold out to the last gasp. In the first act he comes, at the head of a deputation, to a board meeting which has been held in the dining-room of the house of Francis Underwood, John Anthony's son-in-law. The directors are inclined to compromise; but John Anthony will not hear of it, and overrules them all by his age and influence. Henry Trench, the secretary of the company, tells the old man that the directors are planning to throw him over; but Anthony only calls for a whisky and soda, and drinks it stolidly as the act-drop descends.

In the second act we are shown the effect of the strike on the families of the workmen. Roberts's wife is dying of starvation; but when Mrs. Underwood calls at the cottage and tries to argue with her, the poor woman is desperately loyal to her husband and his opinions. Madge Thomas, the daughter of a religious old miner named Henry Thomas, is angry at the suffering she sees, and, by appealing to her sweetheart's affection for her, she induces him to desert his leader, Roberts, and to advocate the termination of the strike. The second scene of this act shows a crowd of workmen assembled outside the Works, to hear speeches from their orators. Simon Harness, a Trades Union official, counsels a compromise, and says the Union will not support the men if they do not take this advice. The apostate sweetheart "follows on the same side," and the religious workman appeals to the Welshmen in the name of "Chapel." But all the impression thus made is destroyed when Roberts gets on the platform. By a burning speech, he inflames the passions of the men to the highest pitch; but, at the very climax of his eloquence, Madge rushes in and cries, "Your wife's dead!" Roberts collapses and goes out, and, in his absence, a compromise is agreed upon.

In the last act, the directors show signs that they, too, have "had enough of it." The death of Annie Roberts is announced, and has an influence on the board, who at last pluck up courage to depose John Anthony, and do so by a unanimous vote. The old man is as obstinate as ever, and makes an eloquent speech in his defence; but he has to yield. Roberts, who is under the impression that the men were still staunch to him, arrives full of fight, and is astounded to hear of the compromise. "They've done us both, Mr. Anthony!" he cries, and the old tyrant bows to his opponent before staggering out, a beaten man. The secretary remarks that the terms arrived at are exactly those originally proposed by Harness in a spirit of compromise, to which the latter answers, "That's just the fun of the game!"

In a very long cast, there was not a single part that was not played in the most earnest and artistic manner. Mr. Norman McKinnel was magnificently immovable as John Anthony, his slow, deliberate delivery, and his grand gloomy facial play making the old Chairman a very impressive and authoritative study. There was dogged tyranny in every glance and movement of Anthony, and his physical ponderosity added to the effect of the impersonation. Mr. J. Fisher White as David Roberts realised admirably the fiery energy of the Welsh nature. His make-up was especially good, and the touch of Welsh character which he introduced did not in the least diminish the pathos and power of his performance as the finely-fanatical friend of labour. Miss Mary Barton was natural and expressive as the slowly-dying Annie Roberts, and Miss Lillah McCarthy sustained the brief part of Madge Thomas with great passion and intensity. Mr. Owen Roughwood was excellent as the religious old workman, and Miss Ellen O'Malley acted with tact and feeling as the well-meaning Enid Underwood. The remaining characters, though actually subordinate, had a valuable share in the success. Each of the directors had a distinct individuality, Mr. C. M. Hallard as the good-hearted Edgar Anthony, Mr. Dennis Eadie and Mr. C. V. France as other varieties of the genus, and Mr. Luigi Lablache as a fat and feeble-minded gourmand being entirely effective and artistic. Mr. O. P. Heggie gave a neat sketch of the submissive secretary, Mr. A. S. Homewood was efficient as the manager, and Mr. Edmund Gwenn made the little part of Frost prominent by his delicate skill, Mr. George Ingleton realising admirably the sharp common-sense and resolute character of Simon Harness. The other rôles all had conscientious and careful exponents, and the success of the play, which was produced by Mr. Granville Barker, was never in doubt. It was listened to with breathless interest, and the applause at its close was warmly enthusiastic.

[Photo by Grahame Ellerd.

MR. HERMANN VEZIN.

Mr. Hermann Vezin, the famous actor, celebrated his eightieth birthday on the 2nd inst. Mr. Vezin made his first appearance on the stage at York in 1850. It is now fifty-eight years since he first played Shylock, and fifty-six years since his first appearance as Othello, but he is still full of energy and power. Mr. Vezin has been simply inundated with congratulatory letters and telegrams.

INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT.

The President of the Board of Trade has appointed
The Right Hon. Lord Gorell (chairman),
Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema, O.M.,
Mr. George Ranken Askwith, K.C.,
Mr. H. Granville Barker,
Mr. Charles W. Bowerman, M.P.,
Mr. Henry R. Clayton,
Mr. Henry J. C. Cust,
Mr. Edward Cutler, K.C.,
Mr. Anthony Hope Hawkins,
Mr. William Joynson Hicks, M.P.,
Mr. William Algernon Law, C.B.,
Mr. Frederick Macmillan,
Mr. Thomas Power O'Connor, M.P.,
Professor Walter Raleigh,
Mr. Thomas Edward Scrutton, K.C.,
Mr. Edmund Trevor L. Williams,
to be a Committee to examine the various points in which the revised International Copyright Convention signed at Berlin on Nov. 13, 1908, is not in accordance with the law of the United Kingdom, and to consider whether the law should be altered so as to enable his Majesty's Government to give effect to the revised convention.

The president has also appointed Mr. T. W. Phillips to be secretary to the Committee

"NAN PILGRIM."

Play, in Four Acts, by Mabel Dearmer, Produced for the First Time at the Court Theatre on Sunday, March 7.

Rev. John Pilgrim .. MR. ARTHUR HOLMES-GORE
Roger Wentworth ..... MR. BEN WEBSTER
Rev. Peter Britton ..... MR. WILLIAM HAVILAND
William Staines ..... MR. EDWARD SASS
Dr. Mason ..... MR. E. H. PATERSON
Footman ..... MR. DOUGLAS HOMER
Nan Pilgrim ..... MISS LILIAN BRAITHWAITE
Selina West ..... MISS EVELYN WEEDEN
Julie Westmacott ..... MISS ADA WEBSTER
Miss Gripper ..... MISS AGNES THOMAS
Mrs. Stamp ..... MISS MARIE HUDSPETH
Miss Gillespie ..... MISS MARION MCCARTHY
Lady Westmacott ..... MISS ELSIE CHESTER
Beatrice ..... MISS ESME HUBBARD
Mrs. Roberts ..... MISS MAUD BOWYER

A high ideal of human affection is aimed at by the authoress of the above play, to the second performance of which the public were admitted at the Court Theatre on Monday. The theories enunciated are not quite clear and still less convincing, and the final descent of the curtain leaves the situation without a real solution. Mrs. Dearmer is a well-known authoress, and the pen of a gifted writer is often to be traced in the dialogue, which, however, is not always of the kind that would interest the ordinary theatregoer. The piece might be described as a conflict between the religion of love and the love of religion. The Rev. John Pilgrim, an Anglican clergyman labouring in a poor district of South London, loves his wife "to the peril of his soul," while Nan Pilgrim claims that her affection is still more ardent, though it is not equal to the trial of assisting her husband cheerfully in his work. Pilgrim is in indifferent health, and Nan, who had been an art student, decides to accept the invitation of Roger Wentworth, an artist, to sit to him for a picture of Alcestis at a salary which will enable her to provide nourishment for her husband. While therefore Nan is supposed to be district-visiting she is in reality in Wentworth's studio at the West-end. The picture is all but completed when Pilgrim learns that one of his sick parishioners, in whose condition Nan had reported that there was no change, had died the day previous to her supposed visit, and his suspicions are strengthened by a letter he receives from two members of a "sewing party" revealing Nan's whereabouts. Meanwhile Roger Wentworth, who has long cherished a love for Nan, declares his passion, to the horror of the young wife and his own subsequent remorse. Roger has only just bidden her good-bye when Pilgrim, who has found his way to the studio, enters, and, thinking his worst fears realised, denounces his wife as a liar and a wanton. A fever follows, and for two days Pilgrim lies ill, refusing to see his wife. He evidently listens, however, to the counsels of Father Peter, a High Church clergyman of an advanced type, and eventually Pilgrim is led, in a dying condition, into the parish-room, where he repudiates the calumnies of his wife's detractors, and eventually passes into eternity, whither Nan's love will accompany him. The ending strikes one as inconclusive, and there appears to be a necessity for another act in order to tell of Roger Wentworth's return from Paris, and his reception by Nan, who at least thinks highly of him.

The play was again distinguished by the excellence of the cast. Miss Lilian Braithwaite had an exacting task in the portrayal of the title-rôle, and proved fairly equal to it, acting with vivacity and charm. The pathetic phases of the part were touchingly portrayed, but in the more impassioned moments greater power seemed to be requisite. The talents of Mr. Ben Webster were only partially employed, the opportunities given to the clever actor being scant. The aspirations of Roger Wentworth were not always easy to follow, but in their delivery the actor's elocution was, as usual, delightful. Mr. Arthur Holmes-Gore hardly succeeded in making of the Rev. John Pilgrim the noble figure the authoress evidently intended him to be, and there was a kind of martyr aspect surrounding the clergyman which grew a little monotonous. His assumption, however, of the broken voice of the consumptive clergyman was strikingly realistic. The Rev. Peter Britton was played with quiet force and dignity by Mr. William Haviland, who made of the character a most estimable cleric, despite the fact that "Father Peter," as he was known, was called upon to go out in cassock and biretta to the nearest dairy for a jug of milk. A performance rich in humour was given by Mr. Edward Sass, who depicted a vulgar debt-collector with many touches of originality, his make-up and delivery being equally unique. Julie Westmacott, who is in love with Roger Wentworth, was not material to the story, but was welcome by reason of the artistic performance given by Miss Ada Webster, who made the spitefulness of the young society lady quite fascinating. Miss Evelyn Weeden represented with refinement the rôle of Selina West, a mutual friend, who is chiefly responsible for the imprudent step taken by Nan. Much fun arose out of the efforts of Miss Agnes Thomas, whose grimness of face and acidity of voice as a mischief-making member of the sewing party, were irresistibly droll; and Mrs. Stamp, her companion in scandal-mongering, was portrayed with similar comic effect by Miss Marie Hudspeth. Miss Elsie Chester appeared to full advantage as the aristocratic dame Lady Westmacott; and Miss Marion McCarthy's rendering of the good-natured Miss Gillespie was notable for its excellent enunciation. A quaintly droll "slavey" was furnished by Miss Esme Hubbard. The play, which was produced by Mr. Arthur Holmes-Gore, was cordially received by a crowded and friendly house, the authoress being twice called at the close.

"THE GARDEN OF THE GODS."

A New and Original One-Act Musical Play, by Ivan Pat Gore and Charles H. Williams, with Music by Hamilton Weller, Produced at the Pier Pavilion, Eastbourne, on Monday, March 8.

Venus ..... MISS AGNES MAUDE
Psyche ..... MISS PAULINE EMERIC
Mars ..... MR. T. DENNIS
Adonis Prettycut ..... MR. GEORGE LESTOCQ

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

In the garden of an old Roman villa stands a group of marble statuary representing Venus, Psyche, and Mars. Into this garden at midnight wanders a modern young man, Mr. Adonis Prettycut, of Clerkenwell, E.C. He sits on a seat close by, and after contemplating the marble figures, falls into a sweet slumber. The figures become animated, and in their curiosity awaken the sleeping Prettycut. Venus addresses the little man as Bacchus, and draws the attention of Mars to his old friend, but the god fails to recognise Bacchus in the shrunken and diminutive figure, who admits that he is Adonis. Venus at once claims her long-lost husband, and also introduces her later partner Mars. The goddess of beauty has now two husbands, Mars and Prettycut, and a combat is to decide which one is to remain. Mars is about to slay Prettycut when the dawn appears. The figures are again turned to stone, and the little Londoner is left to complete his open-air slumber in peace.

Mr. George Lestocq was very happy in his work as Prettycut, and his natural acting and clever dancing are to be much commended; Mr. T. Dennis as Mars sang excellently and acted similarly; Miss Agnes Maude, possessed of a fine voice, proved a most acceptable Venus, and her singing with Mr. Dennis of the duet, "My love for thee," gained much and well-deserved applause; Miss Pauline Emeric, too, added greatly to the success as a pretty Psyche, singing her song "True love" with taste and feeling.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"LA ROUTE D'ERMERAUDE."

Drama, in Five Acts in Verse, by M. Jean Richepin, Produced at the Vaudeville on March 4.

Siska ..... MLLE. MADELEINE CARLIER
Katje ..... MLLE. CECILE CARON
La Vivandière ..... MLLE. ELLEN-ANDREE
Lisbeth ..... MLLE. CAREZE
Dame Krul ..... MLLE. RENEE BUSSY
Rembrandt ..... M. LERAND
Kobus ..... M. LOUIS GAUTHIER
Dirk ..... M. LOUIS DECORI
Balthazar ..... M. JOFFRE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, March 11.—This work is an adaptation of the novel of M. Eugène Demolder. It is a fine piece of work, though not a great play, and it is probable that most people would derive more pleasure from the book than from following the stage development of the story. Kobus, the young lover—one can hardly call him the hero, because he is overshadowed by another character—is an early seventeenth-century Dutch miller's son with a passion for art. Greatly to the sorrow of his father and his pretty cousin Lisbeth, to whom he is affianced, he goes off to study art, his "emerald road" to fame. He falls under the spell of Siska, a fiery, unprincipled woman, who acts as a model. Dirk, a middle-aged roystering student, a failure not because he loves art less, but because he loves the "bottle" more, warns Kobus of his danger, but in vain. Kobus elopes to Amsterdam with Siska, and Dirk goes with him. After a brief idyll Kobus is rudely awakened to the fact that he has a rich rival. They come face to face, and Kobus uses his knife with fatal effect. This revives Siska's waning passion for Kobus, and she takes refuge with him in a smugglers' camp, but promptly falls in love with the outlaws' leader, and dismisses Kobus. In the fight that ensues Dirk is wounded by a bullet intended for Kobus. The two make their way to the mill, tracked by the agents of the law. Dirk takes the death of Kobus's rival upon his own shoulders, and expires, leaving the young artist to repentance and domestic bliss with Lisbeth. And Rembrandt? He is one of the personages, but he has nothing whatever to do with the action, and appears to be introduced solely to intensify the artistic atmosphere. M. Décori was really great in the rôle of Dirk; M. Gauthier made the most of the weak character of Kobus; and the other rôles were also remarkably well sustained.

"COCHON D'ENFANT!"

Vaudeville, in Three Acts, by MM. André de Lorde and Raphael, Produced at Cluny's on March 5.

La tante Hudson ..... MME. EMMA BONNET
Mme. Boulard ..... MME. FRANCK-MEL
Yvonne ..... MLLE. BENDA
Cécilia ..... MLLE. DERMENVILLE
Henriette Planel ..... MLLE. VILLEROY
La Dompteuse ..... MME. SARLIER
Marius ..... M. DELPHIN
Léon Planel ..... M. CORADIN
Paul Lormoy ..... M. SAULIEU
M. Edmond ..... M. PAUL PERRET
Julot ..... M. KOVAL

M. André de Lorde's name is so intimately connected with blood-curdling Grand-Guignol dramas that we waited, trembling, for the curtain to rise on *Cochon d'Enfant!* We were mistaken. M. de Lorde had a collaborator, Mr. Raphael, a talented young Englishman well known in the theatrical world here, who, fortunately, has not yet cultivated a taste for the horrible. MM. de Lorde and Raphael's collaboration has proved eminently successful, inasmuch as their joint efforts have resulted in the production of a vaudeville that kept the little Cluny theatre in constant laughter. The work certainly seems booked for a long run. The principal character therein is Marius, impersonated by Delphin, the famous dwarf, well known to the frequenters of the Montmartre cabarets. Like all farces of the kind, there is but little plot, but it abounds in shriekingly funny situations. Léon Planel, a dentist, and Henriette, his wife, have an aunt, Mrs. Hudson, residing in America, who will only leave them her fortune if they have a child. Aunt Hudson suddenly arrives in Paris, and the distracted Planels must at once find a four-year old boy whom they can palm off as their own. Paul Lormoy, an enterprising journalist, comes to their assistance, and lays his hand on a dwarf, whom the delighted aunt cuddles and kisses to her heart's delight. But, alas, Marius—the adopted baby—is thirty-five years old. He is by profession a lion-tamer, and is married to a big strapping woman. Complications, of course, arise. Marius, of a fiery temperament, has evil intentions on the virtue of Aunt Hudson, a lady also of an inflammable nature. And the arrival upon the scene of Julot, Marius's son, a long, lanky hobbledehoy, threatens to lead to disastrous results. But, as in all good vaudevilles, everything comes right in the end. The cast is exceptionally good. Besides M. Delphin, who acted his part to perfection, we had Mme. Bonnet, an amusing Aunt Hudson; Mme. Franck-Mel, always diverting; M. Coradin, full of "go"; M. Koval—who speaks English like an Englishman—inimitable in the rôle of Julot; and the sprightly actresses Mmes. Dermenville, Villeroy, and Sarlier.

The Odéon has given us *Beethoven*, a work that reflects the greatest credit on the author, M. René Fauchois, wherein the young poet shows us the great composer's intense moral sufferings. The girl he loves jilts him to marry a rich rival; the nephew he befriends is a scamp; and he has to struggle with poverty because the great art patrons pay him only in promises. Then a fearful calamity befalls him. He becomes deaf, and his sole consolation is to be able to leave to the world his nine symphonies. M Fauchois has beautifully depicted Beethoven's giant figure, and M. Desjardins' impersonation of the great master was truly admirable.

Solange, the three-act lyric comedy by MM. Aderer and Salvayre, brought out at the Opéra-Comique, is a pleasantly-told story set to pleasant music, and therefore bids fair to find favour with the frequenters of this popular house. The action is laid in 1794. The Marquis de Beaucigny, whose life is threatened by the Revolutionists, leaves his château to seek shelter in Germany. His daughter Solange, not warned in time of her father's flight, is arrested by a band of "sans-culottes," and is on the point of being taken to jail—the anti-chamber of the guillotine—when Frédéric Bernier, a young officer, declares that he is prepared to make her his wife. Amid the cheers of the rabble she is married to him on the spot. But the moment they are alone, Bernier generously tears up the marriage contract, informing the bewildered girl that he took that step only to save her life. In the ensuing tableau six years are supposed to have elapsed, and the scene is laid in Worms, where many nobles are still waiting to be allowed to return to France. Among them are the Marquis de Beaucigny and his daughter. They are penniless. The Marquis's sister and Solange have opened a millinery shop; the Marquis teaches French, whilst his nephew gives dancing lessons. Frédéric Bernier suddenly makes his appearance. He has become general, and when Solange beholds the handsome youth who behaved so heroically, she realises the fact that she has never ceased to love him. Bernier has also lost his heart to her, but the Marquis would never have dreamt of consenting to his daughter being the wife of a son of the Revolution, had not Bernier succeeded in saving the old nobleman from the clutches of Bonaparte's police, who accused him of conspiring against the First Consul's life. Solange therefore becomes Mme. Bernier for good, and everything ends happily.

"THE HEART OF THE CITY."

A Play, in One Act, by Michael Morton and Julian Wellesley, Produced at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, on Monday, March 8.

Edward Kennion .....Mr. Walter Gay
Harry Curtis .....Mr. Ernest Graham
Martin .....Mr. Fred W. Permain
Margaret Lester ....Miss Florence LeClercq
Miss Ladd .....Miss Evelyn Martheze

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Produced in front of *An Englishman's Home*, this little play proved very interesting. The leading characters are Edward Kennion, a middle-aged clerk, who has bought the business of a respectable solicitor named Curtis; the latter's son, a waster and a wanderer; and Margaret Lester, with whom Kennion is in love. The wastrel calls on Kennion to obtain a situation, and tells him that a girl he (Curtis) left behind in England, and whom he released from her promise to marry him, has written him from time to time, her last letter containing an announcement of her engagement to a highly prosperous City man, to whom she intends to be a good and a true wife. This letter the wastrel reads aloud to Kennion, who is struck by the name "Margo." Curtis wants Kennion's help so that he may renew his suit to the girl, for whom he feels all his old passion revive as he sees the prize slipping from his hands. "Read for yourself," he says; and Kennion, listlessly picking up the letter, starts to find that it is his own Margaret's handwriting. The truth comes out, and Curtis exclaims, "You know her! She cannot give her love, because she's given it to me. That's where we poor devils score." The magnanimously-minded Kennion, despite his own heartache, declares he will put Curtis in a position to renew his suit, and leaves him for a moment to put that project into execution, when Margaret re-enters the room, and starts violently at the unexpected sight of Curtis. "What brings you here?" she exclaims, with not too much welcome in her voice, and he tells her, bursting into a tirade against his benefactor, saying that the business was his father's and ought to be his. She demands to know what Curtis has told Kennion, and Curtis tells her, without shame. "What!" she exclaims, "you dared to show my letter to gain a place!" He clasps her fiercely in his arms, and kisses her. Throwing him from her, she rings the bell. "What does that mean?" says he. "It means that you have missed your chance," she answers; and to Martin, who has just entered, she says, "Show this gentleman into another room."

The little play was very cordially received by the audience. Martin was played by Mr. Fred W. Permain with gusto; Mr. Walter Gay was the soul of good nature and forbearance as Kennion; Mr. Ernest Graham as the conscienceless wastrel Curtis played extremely well, bringing out the ungrateful and ignoble qualities of the character with many a good stroke; Miss Florence Le Clercq admirably depicted the sweet and grateful character of Margaret Lester; and Miss Evelyn Martheze was efficient and satisfactory as Miss Ladd, the typist.

THE GRAND, CLAPHAM.

One of the greatest certainties in this world of uncertainties is that the patrons of this pretty and comfortable house will always find a good two hours' entertainment at either of the two performances provided by the energetic and enterprising management. Mr. Harry Wentworth is this week giving the Battersea folk an exceptionally strong and varied programme. The premier attraction is undoubtedly Fred Karno's talented troupe in their latest sketch entitled *The Yap Yaps*, which went with a swing from beginning to end, and was received with the heartiest laughter throughout. In the last act the well-known boxers Alf Read and Young Josephs gave a smart exhibition of the noble art, which was much to the taste of the audience. A highly diverting bout of burlesque boxing in a fight to a finish between the Hon. Charlie Chinn (Mr. Gus Le Clerq) and Ben Burley, *alias* "Big Ben," the bruiser (Mr. James Prior) brought the generally well-acted sketch to an uproariously merry conclusion.

Another amusing turn was a duologue entertainment called "Do you want to buy any coke?" given by Howard and St. Clair, which went well. Miss Connie Leon's singing and dancing were much appreciated, her second contribution *re* "The Pretty French Bonnet," accompanied by a clever dance in sabots, being especially good. Miss Lucy Coventry, another comedienne, first gave in a pleasant way "No one ever sends a letter to me," followed by a well-executed step-dance. Then she treated her auditors to a lively song in praise of "Gay Paree," introducing a wonderful high-kicking dance, which received the enthusiastic applause it so richly deserved. Kelly and Agnes are appearing here this week with much success. The former gives a clever sand dance and some well-executed tumbling; his antics throughout are exceedingly droll. The lady has comparatively little to do, but that little she does well, singing tunefully and dancing gracefully.

That ever-welcome master of mimicry Leo Tell gave his entertaining performance, his imitations of musical instruments and animals being wonderfully realistic. Worthy of special mention is his imitation of the saxhorn and cornet, reminiscent of the once popular Hoffman's organophonic band, and of the horse. Others in the bill were Mr. Herbert Clifton, with an extravagant "take off" of the hat and Directoire gown as the "Merry Widow"; and Dave Samuels, Hebrew comedain, who introduced some funny patter with a verse of "Put me among the girls," and executed a whimsical dance. A word of praise is deserved by the band, which besides the well-played introductory overture, tunefully accompanies the turns.

Mr. C. W. Ramsay's fifth annual benefit at the Alexandra, Sheffield, last week, was again made the occasion of showing in a practical fashion the estimation which he has won as manager of the theatre. The special performance was under the patronage of the Lord Mayor, the Master Cutler, the Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart Wortley, K.C., M.P., Mr. Samuel Roberts, M.P., and other local notables. The house was packed to the doors.

Two acts of *Her Marriage Vow* were played, and many "extra turns" appeared, including Cliffe Dixo (from the Empire), Mr. Curley Jackson, Mr. Laurie Clare, the Pipers of the Sheffield Caledonian Society, Mr. Harry Middleton, Shakespearean reciter; Mr. H. Scarah, humorist; Marsello, juggler; and many others. Mr. Ramsay delivered his annual address with characteristic modesty, and received a large number of valuable presents, including gifts from Mr. W. D. Forsdike, the Alexandra Co., Ltd., the band, the stage staff, local tradesmen, the "gallery boys," and the staff in front.

For the first time since her advent as a music hall artist, Miss Winifred Hare will have an assistant when she opens a long metropolitan engagement at the London Pavilion next Monday. This will be Miss Dolly Raynor, who played Polly Perkins to Miss Hare's Robinson Crusoe in pantomime at Dublin this year. A new number, entitled "Come o'er the Border whistling Roderick Dhu," in a special setting, will be presented by Miss Hare, and whistling will be interpolated by Miss Raynor.

New Pieces Produced at the Provincial Theatres. See *The Era Annual*, 1909.

MASONS AT WORK.

Although the Green Room Lodge has been established for nearly six years, it held the first emergency meeting at the Imperial Restaurant, on Friday the 5th inst., when the Master, Mr. E. H. Bull, was well supported by his officers as follows: Messrs. Akerman May, Immediate Past Master; Charles Macdona, Senior Warden; E. Vivian Reynolds, Inner Guard, acting as Junior Warden; Charles Cruikshanks, P.A.G.Std.B., Secretary; J. H. Ryley, Senior Deacon; Frank Vernon, First Steward, acting as Junior Deacon; W. Lestocq, assisted by A. E. George, Director of Ceremonies; Sydney Lawrence, acting as Inner Guard; Edward Jones, Organist; J. Cooke Beresford, Fourth Steward; Chas. Patrick, Tyler; and the Rev. W. P. Besley, Chaplain. The Grand Lodge officers in attendance were Messrs. Harry Nicholls, P.G. Std.Br., and Charles Cruikshanks, P.A.G.Std.Br.

The visitors included Mr. George Highland, a Steward of the Drury Lane Lodge; Mr. Tom de B. Holmes, a Past Master of the Lodge of Asaph; and Mr. Herbert Brook, a Past Master of the Robert Burns Lodge.

There were also present Messrs. Henry Ainley, John Cabourn, Frank Harding, Walter Maxwell, Julian Royce, and Spencer Trevor.

Apologies and regrets from absent members were received from Messrs. Fred Terry, J. D. Beveridge, P.M., L.R., H. Nye Chart, P.M., Gerald Maxwell, P.M., Lionel Rignold, P.M., Blake Adams (Junior Deacon), Fred Annerley (Second Steward), Louis Calvert, Leslie Carter, Ernest H. Paterson, Thalberg Corbett, Wilfred Draycott, Dermot Fitzgibbon, Richard Green, Lytton Grey, Lyn Harding, Robert Loraine, J. W. Macdonald, Percy Nash, Fred W. Permain, Albert E. Raynor, and Herbert Shelley.

The principal business of the meeting was the reception into the order of two candidates, Messrs. Hubert Harben and Alfred Brydone, and the performance of the ceremony of initiation was impressively carried out by the Master, with the assistance of his officers, the interest in the rite being considerably increased by the masterly delivery of the ancient charge by Mr. Harry Nicholls, the father of the Lodge and First Master, and the lecture on the first tracing-board given by Mr. George Highland with scholarly precision and dramatic effect. Mr. Highland was cordially thanked for the intellectual treat he had afforded the brethren, and it was unanimously agreed that a record be entered on the minutes.

It was agreed *nem. con.* that the number of meetings of the Lodge should be increased by two, to be held on the first Friday in January and February.

A lengthy discussion arose upon the consideration of a question affecting the welfare of the Lodge and the comfort of its members, and many expressions of opinion were forthcoming. Ultimately it was agreed that the matter should stand over until the next meeting; in the meantime, Messrs. Harry Nicholls, E. H. Bull, Charles Cruikshanks, and Henry Ainley were appointed to act as a committee to deal with certain details and report results.

The labours of the day being ended, the brethren adjourned to dinner, and, at the instance of the Master, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured, and the brethren separated at an early hour, well satisfied with the results of their first emergency meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Friday, the 2nd prox. It will be the thirtieth regular meeting.

MASONIC NOTES.

The Logic and Genesius Clubs of instruction have long been considered sister clubs, and for many years it has been usual once during the session for the members of the one to visit the other for the purpose of giving an exhibition of the progress made by the junior members. One of these most pleasant functions was held on Sunday last, when the elder of the two clubs paid their annual visit to the Genesius, and presented a team composed of Messrs. Geo. A. Highland as Worshipful Master, W. Chichele Nourse as Senior Warden, A. Tanner Cooper as Junior Warden, Robert Manuel, L.R., as Preceptor, W. Hotten George, L.R., as Treasurer, J. J. Thomas, P.G.St.B., as Treasurer Charities Association, J. Percy Fitzgerald, P.G.St.B., as Secretary, Frank Vernon as Senior Deacon, J. F. Blaze as Junior Deacon, J. H. Ryley as Inner Guard, Harry Nicholls, P.G.St.B., as Director of Ceremonies, C. F. Frood as Organist, Shad Frost as Candidate, and W. Yeo as Tyler.

The work consisted of the first ceremony, together with the charge and lecture on the tracing board, and was performed in a manner that elicited the greatest enthusiasm from the very large gathering present. At the conclusion Mr. J. W. Mathews, as Preceptor of the Genesius Club, thanked the members of the Logic Club for their attendance and spoke of the work done, paying great compliments to Mr. Robt. Manuel, L.R., as Preceptor.

This week Miss Lena Stanton and Mr. Harry Joseph's company is presenting *Robinson Crusoe* at the Grand, Mansfield, Miss Stanton playing Principal Boy with much grace and vigour, and scoring a decided hit. Mr. Sid Dean as the Dame is clever, and his songs and patter are very funny; Miss Marie Gerard is both charming and vivacious; Mr. Melville Page as a Wicked Pirate is a success; his "Excelsior" medley is smart. Miss Gertie Lovedale as Crusoe's Sweetheart is "chic"; Mr. Vic Verney shows wonderful whistling powers; and the cast includes Little Keeno, boy comedian, whose songs and mimicry are received with uproarious applause. Others worthy of mention are Miss Gracie Wilson, who charmingly renders the "White Heather" song, and the Leglere Troupe of acrobats, who do some clever feats. The Allambra Girls are very entertaining.

"Dick Whittington and His Cat," at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, came to an end on Saturday, after a run of ten weeks. During the evening all the principals were the recipients of bouquets, baskets of flowers, and boxes of bonbons. Especially favoured were Miss Sybil Arundale (Dick Whittington), Miss Aimee Grey (Alice), Miss Ethel Negretti (Princess Rosydawn), and Miss Violet Baynton (Spirit of the Chimes). Other presentations were made to Mr. Tom Foy (Idle Jack), Wee Wallace Lupino, Mme. Ross, Mr. Harry C. Lupino (King Rat), Mr. Fred Whittaker (the Cat), Miss Ada Whittaker, and Miss Clara Reid.

The final scene was a picturesque spectacle. Immediately before the footlights the principals appeared behind floral barriers composed of the bouquets showered upon them, together with the gentlemen primarily responsible for the production of the pantomime—Messrs. Philip Rodway, Guy Jones, Herbert Cottesmore, St. John Hammond, Fred Cecil, and Douglas Buchanan. All were the recipients of gifts subscribed for by members of the company. Mr. George Robey also received a very hearty welcome from both stage and audience on coming before the footlights. Mr. Philip Rodway brought the evening to a close with a few remarks, in which testimony was paid to the hearty manner in which every member of the company had supported the producers.

A performer once told Garrick "that he often had the honour of playing in the same scene with him." "With me?" said Garrick, in some surprise; "I really don't recollect it. Pray, what particular part was it?" "The Cock in *Hamlet*, sir."

AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, March 3.—Miss Grace George has scored an emphatic success at the Hackett Theatre in a comedy of modern life called *A Woman's Way*, by Thompson Buchanan, a new writer, who seems to have hit the mark the very first time. The piece is bright and witty, and would easily succeed on its merits, but assurance was made doubly sure when Miss George undertook to play the heroine. Her impersonations have a distinct charm of their own, for she appreciates the true spirit of comedy, and handles her situations with a lightness of touch that preserves all their humorous value. Once again we have the *ménage à trois*; but this time the woman's way is somewhat different, for the old triangle of domestic intrigue becomes a joke instead of a tragedy. The three angles are Howard Stanton, his wife Marion, and the other woman. Stanton and his wife are already estranged when the former takes a trip in a motor-car with Mrs. Blakemore, a fascinating widow, and meets with an accident, full particulars of which, with details added by imaginative reporters, receive due publicity in the daily papers. The efforts of the newspapers to obtain the name of "the woman in the case" are depicted in two scenes, which the audience found especially diverting. Mrs. Stanton is to apply for a divorce immediately, according to these enterprising journals; but, as a matter of fact, Mrs. Stanton intends to do nothing of the kind. Her husband is a light-hearted young man, who does not know whether he is in love with the widow or not, and frankly admits as much to his wife. Mrs. Stanton is a woman of discernment and much common sense, with ideas of her own on the divorce question and the treatment of erring husbands. She declares that if Mrs. Blakemore wants her husband "she will have to earn him." Then she proceeds to make a test. She invites the widow to a dinner-party, and the list of guests includes Mrs. Stanton's young married brother, her brother-in-law, and a former suitor, who is now a platonic friend, each guest being accompanied by his wife. Mrs. Stanton counts on certain disclosures being made that will cure her husband of his infatuation for Mrs. Blakemore, and her plan works splendidly. The widow has certainly had a list of admirers. The men protest in vain that her presence is most embarrassing, all of them having been involved at one time or another, and it gradually dawns on Stanton that he has made a fool of himself. Mrs. Blakemore sees that the wife has been one too many for her, and retires with as good a grace as the circumstances permit. Stanton, of course, recognises the superiority of his wife, and as she is willing to forgive, there is a prospect of their former happiness being restored to them.

Miss Grace George is ably supported by Mr. Frank Worthing, Mr. Reginald Carrington, Miss Dorothy Tennant, Mr. Robert Warwick, and Mr. Henry Miller, jun.

Abraham Lincoln is cleverly portrayed by Mr. Benjamin Chapin in a four-act play called *Honest Abe*, which has just concluded a brief but very successful run at the Hackett Theatre, under the management of Mr. William A. Brady. This attraction possesses a timely interest, the one-hundredth anniversary of Lincoln's birth having been recently celebrated. The audience saw the great President as he is popularly known—lank, awkward, quaint, humorous, and kind-hearted. Other historical characters of the Civil War period were also represented.

Miss Carlotta Nillson is appearing at Maxine Elliott's Theatre in a three-act play entitled *This Woman and This Man*, by Avery Hopwood. Norris Townsend, who has ruined a young governess named Thekla Mueller, hurries back from Europe on receipt of a message informing him of her condition, and is confronted by his father, who has guessed the truth. The elder Townsend is inclined to view the matter rather lightly so long as he is not inconvenienced personally, and advises his son to arrange the affair as best he can. They decide to send the girl away and have the child adopted. The son submits this plan to the governess, a determined young person, who sends for a minister and a witness, locks the door, and declares that neither she nor her betrayer shall leave the room alive unless he consents to marry her at once. When she produces a revolver the young man gives his promise, and the curtain falls. In the second act, six years later, Thekla is a country school teacher, and her child, little David, is a bright and precocious youngster. During her absence from the room, the child's father turns up, and is immediately attracted to his offspring, whom he has not previously seen, Thekla having left her unwilling husband immediately after their marriage. His request to be allowed to see the child occasionally being refused, he stands on his legal rights as a father, and announces his intention of taking the boy away with him. The mother opposes him for a day or two, and then gives in. In the third act little David is discovered in a nursery fit for a prince, where Thekla and her husband learn that they love each other after undressing the youngster and putting him prettily to bed.

Miss Nillson's Thekla was an earnest and sympathetic portrayal, and her performance was warmly applauded. Master John Tansey, a clever child, distinguished himself as the precocious David. Mr. Howard Kyle was very amusing in a "hayseed" rôle; and Miss Eva Vincent played a small part well. Critical approval of the play has been withheld, but it seems likely to win a fair share of popular approval.

THE TERRITORIAL QUESTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—Mr. Ommanney describes my letter as pessimistic. This, I think, is hardly fair. The fault, if fault there be, lies in his own exuberant optimism. He does not attempt to explain away the difficulties I mentioned, but merely brushes them aside, saying, with sublime faith, that everything will be provided for. The natural inference is that there is something in my objections after all. If Mr. Ommanney has already prepared the way and made all straight, I am sure no one will be more pleased than I am; but I suggest to him that it would be better, surely, to let all who, like myself, are really interested in the scheme know, through the pages of your invaluable paper, exactly how these matters are to be arranged, and what, in vulgar parlance, they would be "letting themselves in for." This would undoubtedly stimulate recruiting, and I for one, could I see my way, would willingly come forward and do as Mr. Ommanney so cordially invites.—Yours faithfully, W. HENRY HARGREAVES (*The Bondman* Company).

His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen, March 8.

The Rifle Brigade Veterans' Association will hold their annual dinner in London on April 22. All particulars can be obtained from Colonel G. Thesiger, Royal Hospital, Dublin.

An interesting race was decided at the roller skating rink in Oxford-road, Manchester, on the 5th inst., thanks to the courtesy of the manager, Mr. Allert, between the members of Mr. Joe Peterman's *Pawnbroker* sketch company. A good race ended in the victory of Mr. E. Sefton, who beat the second (Mr. Victor Knight) by a quarter of a lap, with H. P. Owen as runner-up. The time taken, viz., 5min. 12sec., was exceptionally good, considering that all competitors were amateurs. Mr. Leonard Maxwell (stage-manager for Mr. Peterman) officiated as judge and starter.

SHAKESPEARE'S PORTRAITS.

Aubrey reported that Shakespeare was "a handsome, well-shap't man," says Mr. Sidney Lee, in his "Life of William Shakespeare," but no portrait exists which can be said with absolute certainty to have been executed during his lifetime, although one has recently been discovered with a good claim to that distinction. Only two of the extant portraits are positively known to have been produced within a short period after his death. These are the bust in Stratford Church and the frontispiece to the folio of 1623. Each is an inartistic attempt at a posthumous likeness. There is considerable discrepancy between the two; their main points of resemblance are the baldness on the top of the head and the fulness of the hair about the ears. The bust was by Gerard Johnson or Janssen, who was a Dutch stonemason or tomb-maker settled in Southwark. It was set up in the church before 1623, and is a rudely carved specimen of mortuary sculpture. There are marks about the forehead and ears which suggest that the face was fashioned from a death-mask, but the workmanship is at all points clumsy. The round face and eyes present a heavy, unintellectual expression. The bust was originally coloured, but in 1793 Malone caused it to be whitewashed. In 1861 the whitewash was removed, and the colours, as far as traceable, restored. The eyes are light hazel, the hair and beard auburn. There have been numberless reproductions, both engraved and photographic. It was first engraved—very imperfectly—for Rowe's edition in 1709; then by Vertue for Pope's edition of 1725; and by Gravelot for Hanmer's edition in 1744. A good engraving by William Ward appeared in 1816. A phototype and a chromo-phototype, issued by the New Shakspere Society, are the best reproductions for the purposes of study. The pretentious painting known as the "Stratford" portrait, and presented in 1867 by W. O. Hunt, town clerk of Stratford, to the Birthplace Museum, where it is very prominently displayed, was probably painted from the bust late in the eighteenth century; it lacks either historic or artistic interest.

The engraved portrait—nearly a half-length—which was printed on the title-page of the folio of 1623, was by Martin Droeshout. On the opposite page lines by Ben Jonson congratulate "the graver" on having satisfactorily "hit" the poet's "face." Jonson's testimony does no credit to his artistic discernment; the expression of countenance, which is very crudely rendered, is neither distinctive nor lifelike. The face is long and the forehead high; the top of the head is bald, but the hair falls in abundance over the ears. There is a scanty moustache, and a thin tuft is under the lower lip. A stiff and wide collar, projecting horizontally, conceals the neck. The coat is closely buttoned and elaborately bordered, especially at the shoulders. The dimensions of the head and face are disproportionately large as compared with those of the body. In the unique proof copy which belonged to Halliwell-Phillipps (now with his collection in America) the tone is clearer than in the ordinary copies, and the shadows are less darkened by cross-hatching and coarse dotting. The engraver, Martin Droeshout, belonged to a Flemish family of painters and engravers long settled in London, where he was born in 1601. He was thus fifteen years old at the time of Shakespeare's death in 1616, and it is consequently improbable that he had any personal knowledge of the dramatist. The engraving was doubtless produced by Droeshout very shortly before the publication of the First Folio in 1623, when he had completed his twenty-second year. It thus belongs to the outset of the engraver's professional career, in which he never achieved extended practice or reputation. A copy of the Droeshout engraving, by William Marshall, was prefixed to Shakespeare's "Poems," in 1640, and William Faithorne made another copy for the frontispiece of the edition of "The Rape of Lucrece," published in 1655.

There is little doubt that young Droeshout in fashioning his engraving worked from a painting, and there is a likelihood that the original picture from which the youthful engraver worked has lately come to light. As recently as 1892, Mr. Edgar Flower, of Stratford-on-Avon, discovered in the possession of Mr. H. C. Clements, a private gentleman with artistic tastes, residing at Peckham Rye, a portrait alleged to represent Shakespeare. The picture, which was faded and somewhat worm-eaten, dated beyond all doubt from the early years of the seventeenth century. It was painted on a panel formed of two planks of old elm, and in the upper left-hand corner was the inscription "Willm. Shakespeare, 1609." Mr. Clements purchased the portrait of an obscure dealer about 1840, and knew nothing of its history, beyond what he set down on a slip of paper when he acquired it. The note that he then wrote and pasted on the box in which he preserved the picture, ran as follows: "The original portrait of Shakespeare, from which the now famous Droeshout engraving was taken and inserted in the first collected edition of his works, published in 1623, being seven years after his death. The picture was painted nine [*verè* seven] years before his death, and consequently sixteen [*verè* fourteen] years before it was published. . . . The picture was publicly exhibited in London seventy years ago, and many thousands went to see it." In all its details and in its comparative dimensions, especially in the disproportion between the size of the head and that of the body, this picture is identical with the Droeshout engraving. Though coarsely and stiffly drawn, the face is far more skilfully presented than in the engraving, and the expression of countenance betrays some artistic sentiment which is absent from the print. Connoisseurs, including Mr. Sidney Colvin of the British Museum, and Mr. Lionel Cust, have almost unreservedly pronounced the picture to be anterior in date to the engraving, and they have reached the conclusion that in all probability Martin Droeshout directly based his work upon the painting. Influences of an early seventeenth-century Flemish school are plainly discernible in the picture, and it is just possible that it is the production of an uncle of the young engraver Martin Droeshout, who bore the same name as his nephew, and was naturalised in this country on January 25, 1608, when he was described as a "painter of Brabant." Although the history of the portrait rests on critical conjecture and on no external contemporary evidence, there seems good ground for regarding it as a portrait of Shakespeare painted in his lifetime—in the forty-fifth years of his age. No other pictorial representation of the poet has equally serious claims to be treated as contemporary with himself, and it therefore presents features of unique interest. On the death of its owner, Mr. Clements, in 1895, the painting was purchased by Mrs. Charles Flower, and was presented to the Memorial Picture Gallery at Stratford, where it now hangs. No attempt at restoration has been made. It is sometimes referred to as the "Flower portrait."

Of the same type as the Droeshout engraving, although less closely resembling it than the picture just described, is the "Ely House" portrait (now the property of the Birthplace Trustees at Stratford), which formerly belonged to Thomas Turton, Bishop of Ely, and it is inscribed "Æ. 39 x. 1603." This painting is of high artistic value. The features are of a far more attractive and intellectual cast than in either the Droeshout painting or engraving, and the many differences in detail raise doubts as to whether the person represented can have been intended for Shakespeare. Experts are of opinion that the picture was painted early in the seventeenth century.

Early in Charles II.'s reign Lord Chancellor Clarendon added a portrait of Shakespeare to his great gallery in his house in St. James's. Mention is made of it in a letter from the diarist John Evelyn to his friend Samuel Pepys in 1689, but Clarendon's collection was dispersed at the end of the seventeenth century.

ON THE ROAD, MARCH 15.

Ashe, Oscar.—Prince's T., Bristol.
As Midnight Chimes.—Aquarium, Great Yarmouth.
At Duty's Call.—Grand T., Mansfield.
Bird in the Wood.—T. R., Barnsley.
Bateman and Lomath.—Grand T., Brighton.
Beauty and the Beast.—T. R., Bury.
Brogar Girl's Wedding.—Alexandra T., Sheffield.
Benson, Mr. and Mrs. F. R.—Royalty T., Glasgow.
Benson, F. R. (N.).—Gaiety Theatre, Ayr.
Benson, F. R. (S.).—T. R., Merthyr.
Better Land.—Prince's T., Preston.
Bondman, The (Croke).—H. M. T., Dundee.
Brewster's Millions.—Grand T., Swansea.
Broken Heart.—Crown T., Eccles.
Builder of Bridges.—T. R., Bradford.
Builder of Bridges.—Shakespeare T., Clapham.
Carl Rosa Opera Co.—Grand T., Glasgow.
Cassidy, Mr. J. Rice.—Elephant and Castle T.
Charley's Aunt.—T. R., Preston.
Christian, The (Croke) (N.).—T. R., Birkenhead.
Christian, The (Croke) (M.).—Hippo., Todmorden.
Christian, The (Croke) (S.).—New T., Cardiff.
Claudian.—Grand T., Newcastle.
Compton Comedy Co.—Paisley and Perth.
Country Girl in London.—T. R., Edmonton, N.
Dairymaids, The (Courtneidge).—T. R., Halifax.
Dairymaids, The (Macdonald).—O. H., Southport.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—Royalty T., Llanelly.
Diana of Dobson's (M.).—Kirriemuir and Montrose.
Diana of Dobson's (N.).—O. H., Burnley.
D'Oyly Carte.—Prince's T., Manchester.
Early Worm.—King's T., Glasgow.
Eve of Her Wedding.—Pavilion T., Ramsgate.
Eyes of the World.—Grand T., Fulham, S.W.
Face at the Window.—H. M. T., Carlisle.
Fatal Wedding.—Grand T., Nottingham.
Flag Lieutenant.—Grand T., Wolverhampton.
Flower Girl.—O. H., Coventry.
For Love and the King.—P. O. W., Nuneaton.
For Wife and Kingdom.—T. R., Aston.
Gay Goddess.—Theatre Royal, Coatbridge.
Gay Gordons, The.—Royalty T., Barrow.
Geoffrey Langdon's Wife.—Grand T., Nelson.
Girl's Cross Roads.—Prince's T., Glasgow.
Glossop-Harris, Miss F.—King's Lynn and Bury St. Edmunds.
Golden Ladder, The.—Queen's T., Farnworth.
Great Awakening.—Century T., Motherwell.
Greed of Gold.—Carlton T., Saltley.
Grit.—Grand Theatre, Leeds.
Guilty Gold.—Theatre Royal, Worksop.
Harvey, Mr. Martin.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
Havana.—Theatre Royal, Plymouth.
Her Fatal Marriage.—Junction T., Manchester.
Her Father and My Wife.—Oxford and Leamington
Her Life in London.—O. H., West Bromwich.
Her Love Against the World.—King's T., H'smith.
Her Luck in London.—Rotunda T., Liverpool.
Her Marriage Vow.—Metropole T., Glasgow.
Her Nameless Child.—P.O.W., Salford.
Her Secret Lover.—Theatre, Maesteg.
His House in Order.—Grand T., Oldham.
His Sister's Honour.—Mountain Ash & Aberavon.
Horniman, Miss.—Gaiety T., Manchester.
Human Nature.—Queen's T., Liverpool.
Hypocrites, The.—P.O.W., Great Grimsby.
Idols.—Leamington.
King and the Unknown Woman.—T.R., Smethwick
La Comedie Anglaise.—Redruth and Camborne.
Lady Frederick.—Merthyr Tydvil.
Leah Kleschna.—Metropole T., Gateshead.
Little Breadwinner.—T. R., Seaham Harbour.
Love of the Princess.—Osborne T., Manchester.
Man and Wife.—O. H., Wakefield.
Midnight Mail.—Grand T., Lancaster.
Midnight Wedding.—Broadway T., Deptford.
Miss Hook of Holland (Dance's).—T. R., Huddersfield.
Moody-Manners (A).—T. R., Glasgow.
Moody-Manners (B).—T. R., Darlington.
Mrs. Dot.—Gaiety T., Hastings.
Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch (N.).—Portsmouth.
Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch (S.).—Lyceum T., Newport.
My Mimosa Maid.—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
New East Lynne.—Hippodrome, Scarborough.
New Housemaid, The.—O. H., Blackpool.
Night Before Christmas.—Carlton T., Greenwich.
Old Folks at Home.—Court T., Wigan.
Old Home, The.—T. R., Middlesborough.
Pete (N).—O. H., Leicester.
Pete (S).—Grand Theatre, Croydon.
Peter Pan (Frohman).—Shakespeare T., Liverpool.
Peter's Mother.—D. P. T., Eastbourne.
Power of a Wicked Woman.—West London Theatre, W.
Power of the Cross.—Palace T., Bordesley.
Power of the King.—Marina T., Lowestoft.
Private Secretary.—T. R., Norwich.
Prodigal Son (Croke).—T. R., Chatham.
Prodigal Son (Croke), M.—Brynmawr and Neath.
Prodigal Son (Day).—Bishop Auckland.
Raffles.—Alexandra T., Stoke Newington, N.
Rignold, Lionel.—King's T., Glasgow.
Rollicking Rory.—Star T., Liverpool.
Royal Divorce.—Grand T., Southampton.
Send Him Victorious.—King's T., Longsight.
Sign of the Cross.—Dalston Theatre, N.E.
Silver King (Polini).—T. R., Bolton.
Soldier's Honour.—T. R., Rochdale.
Starr, Harry, Repr.—Alexandra T., Greenock.
Terry, Mr. Edward.—Crystal Palace Theatre.
Thief, The.—Castle T., Stockton-on-Tees.
Thief, The.—Borough T., Stratford.
Toddles.—Theatre Royal, Brighton.
Traitor Prince.—Scunthorpe and Yeadon.
Two Little Vagabonds.—Palace T., Watford.
Tyrant, The.—P. O. W., Mexborough.
Uncle Tom's Cabin.—O. H., Dudley.
Victim of Villainy.—T. R., Stratford.
Village Blacksmith.—Prince's T., Bradford.
Waltz Dream.—Tyne Theatre, Newcastle.
Way of the World.—T. R., Lincoln.
When Knights were Bold.—Marlboro' Theatre, N.
When London Sleeps.—Alexandra T., Birmingham.
When a Lass Loves.—County Theatre, Bedford.
When Other Lips.—Grand T., Walsall.
Who is She?—Lyric T., Hammersmith.
With Edged Tools.—Grand T., W. Hartlepool.
Woman Pays.—T. R., Chesterfield.
Wilkie, Allan, and Co.—O. H., Burton-on-Trent.
You Never Can Tell.—T. R., Bath.
10.30 Down Express.—Theatre, Worksop.

Miss Maud Esmond, the refined chorus artist, is proving a great favourite at Hammersmith this week. She has two capital numbers, namely, "I've been out with Charlie Brown" and "I can't keep away from the girl," both by Mills and Scott.

Kinematograph Copyright. The Law Affecting the Same. By William Jago, F.I.C., F.C.S., Barrister-at-Law. Price 6d. Address, the Publisher *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, London, W.C. Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

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All communications intended for publication should be sent to "THE EDITOR," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

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"THE ERA" BUILDINGS,
5, TAVISTOCK-STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.
(two doors off Wellington-street).

Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephones, 4747 and 1433, Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We cannot undertake to answer the inquiries of correspondents by post. In all letters names and addresses must be given as a guarantee of good faith. Initials only or pseudonyms will be used in the replies if so desired.]

SCENA.—*Sorry we have no information. Try the various film firms advertising in our columns.*

H. CLEMENTS.—*We have no record of the date of the gentleman's birth. We should say he is about 65.*

W. B.—*Why not put the question to Mr. Arthur Collins, who has "placed" a special version, and is quite aware of the relative importance of the parts?*

HORACE W. C. (Newcastle-on-Tyne).—*We have no information on the subject. Why not put your questions direct? Possibly the local licensing authority could let you know. See notice above.*

CHAS. J. BENNETT.—*We have endeavoured to secure a copy of the play, but we are told it is not printed. You might send your requirements to the Rev. Freeman Wills (brother of the deceased author), 43 and 44, Sun-street, Finsbury-square, E.C.*

G. W. (Buckingham).—*We do not understand what you mean by "part right." There is no need to register the copyright, but before proceedings can be taken to protect those rights the purchaser should put himself on the register. We do not think there will be any difficulty in getting the performing right registered, whether the song has been performed or not.*

ARTHUR BATEMAN.—Trilby, *adapted from Du Maurier's novel of the same name, was produced by Mr. Beerbohm Tree at Manchester in September, 1895, and later at the Haymarket on Oct. 30 of the same year. Miss Dorothea Baird did not make her first appearance on the professional stage as the artist's model; but it was her first London appearance when she supported Mr. Tree at the Haymarket.*

SYBIL B. (Sycamores).—*The theatrical bookings of Liverpool are best known to the Liverpool theatrical lessees and proprietors, of whom you should inquire concerning "the leading plays and principals for this year." Miss Ellaline Terriss and Miss Lily Elsie are each doing so well—the one as the "Dashing Little Duke" and the other as the "Merry Widow"—that it is unlikely that they will be seen in Liverpool. The future engagements of both ladies depend on contingencies. You might write to Mr. J. A. Malone at Daly's Theatre concerning Miss Elsie, and to Mr. W. Lestocq, Mr. Charles Frohman's manager, at the Hicks Theatre, concerning Miss Terriss. See notice above.*

PONTICYMMER.—*In your first question you carefully omit the date to which it refers; and, incidentally, we may mention that pantomime is spelt with two m's, not two n's. (2) The Country Girl was produced at Daly's, Jan. 18, 1902. You do not mention the parts played by Mr. Frank Danby, Mr. W. J. Manning, or Mr. Herbert Clayton; but, assuming that they were Barry, Quinton Raikes, and Geoffrey Challoner, those characters were assigned in the original production to Mr. Huntley Wright (Barry), Mr. Rutland Barrington (Quinton Raikes), and Mr. Hayden Coffin (Geoffrey Challoner). (3) Sophie, Miss Ethel Irving; Princess, Miss Maggie May; Marjory Joy, Miss Lilian Eldee; and Sir Douglas Verity, Mr. Frederick Kaye. (4) Lady Patricia Vane, Miss Isabel Jay; Peggy Sabine, Miss Gracie Leigh; Angy Loftus, Miss Doris Stocker; Bobby Warren, Mr. Henry J. Ford*

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—SIR HENRY IRVING.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun*

Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

SHERIDAN was so much offended at being excluded from any concern in the rebuilding of Drury-lane Theatre after the fire, that he made a resolution never to enter it; from which he did not deviate till a few months before his death. When Kean, however, came out, and his talents became the universal topic of conversation and admiration, Mr. S. was impressed with an eager curiosity to see him; yet, faithful to his resolution, he could not be prevailed on to witness his dramatic exertions; he would see Kean, but not Richard, Shylock, Othello. One day when Kean was to perform, he was invited first to dine with Sheridan and an intimate friend of his, deeply concerned in the theatre, at a neighbouring tavern. They sat for two hours, when Mr. Kean was obliged to leave the party, and attend to his professional duty; but such was the interest excited in Sheridan's mind by this new dramatic meteor, that during the whole time he stayed his attention was entirely riveted upon him; he studied his every look, his every word, his every gesture, nor did he drink even a single glass of wine. "Mr. Kean (said Sheridan's friend in relating the anecdote) may boast of what no other man ever could do, of having even charmed Sheridan's attention away from his bottle." When Kean was gone, Sheridan said— "What salary do you give that man?"—"Fifteen pounds a week" was the reply.—"'Tis a shame (he said); he ought at least to have double that sum; take my word, you have got a treasure, he will be the salvation and support of the theatre." Sheridan at length could no longer resist the attraction of Kean's talents, but did go to the theatre to see his performance of the above character (Overreach), of which he thought so highly, that he said—"There is mind indeed! Those are talents that can never fail, but must be more and more admired the more they are known."

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL CALENDAR. See *The Era Annual*, 1909.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a Birth, a Marriage, or a Death, or an "In Memoriam" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is One Shilling and Sixpence.

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

OSMOND.—March 11, at Mornington-road, Regent's Park, the wife of Mr. Henry L. Osmond (Miss Winifred Chalmers), of a son. Both progressing favourably.

WRIGHT.—March 5, Belle, the wife of Charles Edward Weight (general-manager, Royalty Theatre, North Walsham), of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

EBE—SHELLEY.—Feb. 27, at St. Giles', by special licence, Walter Ebe, of Berlin, to Bessie Shelley.

MAY—HALL.—March 8, at Paddington Registry Office, by special licence, Mr. Stanley Arthur May, professionally known as Victor Rae, to Miss Mona Edith Hall (daughter of Matt. Hall, Esq., Hippodrome, Bursiem).

DEATHS.

BESTIC.—On the 7th inst., at his residence, 1, Sydney-street, Stockwell, Mr. Charles M. Bestic. Sincerely regretted.—Signed, principal ladies of his "Flower Girl" Co., Eva Nelson, Lillian Drake, Georgie de Lara.

CLIBURN.—On March 8, at Camberley, New Malden, Surrey, Irene Grace (Madame Irene Ware, A.R.A.M.), wife of James F. Cliburn. American papers please copy.

CLIFFORD.—Rose, the beloved wife of Henry Marston Clifford, who died March 3, after great suffering, borne with great patience.

COOPER.—Thursday, March 11, after a long illness, at her residence, "Arran," Summerhill, Newport, Mon., Fannie, the wife of Mr. Sidney Cooper. R.I.P.

COULSON.—At 9, Sydenham-terrace, South Shields, on the 5th inst., Robert Frederick Coulson, co. lessee Theatre Royal, South Shields, in his thirty-sixth year. Interred at Preston Cemetery, North Shields, on the 8th.

EASTWOOD.—March 7, at Rochdale, Frank Eastwood, conductor Empire, Rochdale, orchestra, aged 34.

FRANCE.—Feb. 27, at 41, Gordon-road, Cliftonville, Margate, Thomas France (father of Frank H. France), aged 77.

GARLAND.—On March 8, at Brighton, of influenza and pneumonia, Herbert Theodore Garland (Theodore Trevor), late of The Mount, Long Melford, aged 56.

HICKS.—On March 3, 1909, Mrs. S. D. Hicks, the dearly-loved mother of James and Cecil Hicks, aged 71.

LAVINA.—March 9, at Hinckley, Mrs. Joseph Miller, after long and painful illness, through cancer, aged 47.

LAVINA.—On March 9, 1909, at Hinckley, Mrs. Joseph Miller, aged 47. Deeply mourned by her husband and sorrowing children. R.I.P.

LEYTON.—On March 5, at Liverpool, Sydney Leyton, aged 43, after very short attack of acute pneumonia. After life's fitful fever he sleeps well.

WATSON-SCOTT.—On Sunday morning, March 7, at home, 69, Walcot-square, Kennington, S.E., Watson-Scott (father of Great Scott, the ladder king), suddenly, from heart failure. Deeply lamented by his sorrowing widow and family. Thy will be done.

WOODS.—March 7, 1909, at her residence, 50, Elsham-road, Kensington, of influenza and pneumonia, Maria Woods, the beloved mother of Miss Helen Forest.

IN MEMORIAM.

ALEXANDRA.—In ever-cherished memory of my beloved wife, Ada Alexandra, who passed to Higher Life, March 15, 1907. "Till the day breaks, and the shadows flee away."

GOODWIN.—In ever-loving memory of my darling wife Bonnie (L. B. Lyon), who was taken away March 19, 1907. Abide with Me.

KEITH.—In loving memory of our dear father, Charles Henry Keith (late circus proprietor), died March 16, 1895. Never forgotten by his loving children.

LOTTO.—In loving memory of Mrs. Clara Lotto, who passed away April 6, 1904. Deeply mourned.

VICTOR.—In ever-loving memory of my darling mother, Miss M. A. Victor, who passed away March 13, 1907, aged 76. Never forgotten by her heartbroken daughter Emma and granddaughter Marie. To know her was to love her.

VICTOR.—In loving memory of Miss M. A. Victor, who fell asleep March 13, 1907. Never forgotten by her granddaughter, Miss LILLIAN MAUDE.

WARDEN.—In remembrance of my dear husband, J. F. Warden, who passed away at Shakespeare House March 9, 1898. "Beyond the sea of death love lives yesterday, to-day, and for ever."—J. WARDEN.

FOR SYMPATHY.

WEIR.—Mrs. G. R. Weir wishes to thank many kind friends for letters and tokens of sympathy; also for letters received during her husband's illness.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Annie Saker—Saturday, March 13.
Alexandra Dagmar—Saturday, March 13
Edwin Boyde—Saturday, March 13.
Mrs. Kendal—Monday, March 15.
Leslie Stuart—Monday, March 15.
William Grimes—Monday, March 15.
Monte Bayly—Monday, March 15.
Harry Paulton—Tuesday, March 16.
Edith Blande—Tuesday, March 16.
Phyllis Broughton—Wednesday, March 17.
G. W. Hunter—Wednesday, March 17.
Frank Leon—Wednesday, March 17.
Nellie Wallace—Thursday, March 18.
Clara F. Poole—Friday, March 19.
Rosa Bennett—Friday, March 19.

KEAN AND THE CRITIC.

From a strange perversion of taste, Guernsey audiences in 1809 not only did not admire, but actually despised Kean's talent. One of their critics was even impudent and ignorant enough to fulminate his decrees against him in print; it is a curious document, when coupled with the present high reputation of the modern Roscius, and ought to be recorded. It was as follows:—

"Last night a young man, whose name the bills said was Kean, made his first appearance in *Hamlet*, and truly his performance of that character made us wish that we had been indulged with the country system of excluding it, and playing all the other characters. This person had, we understand, a high character in several parts of England, and his vanity has repeatedly prompted him to endeavour to procure an engagement at one of the theatres in the Metropolis. The difficulties he has met with have, however, proved insurmountable, and the theatres of Drury Lane and Covent Garden have spared themselves the disgrace to which they would be subject by countenancing such impudence and incompetency. Even his performance of the inferior characters of the drama would be objectionable, if there was nothing to render him ridiculous but one of the vilest figures that has been seen either on or off the stage; and if his mind was half so well qualified for the conception of *Richard the Third*, which he is shortly to appear in, as his person is suited to the deformities with which the tyrant is said to have been distinguished from his brothers, his success would be most unequivocal. As to his Hamlet, it was one of the most terrible misrepresentations to which Shakespeare has ever been subject. Without grace or dignity he comes forward; he shows *an unconsciousness* that *any body* is *before him*, and is *often so forgetful of the respect due to an audience*, that he *turns his back upon them* in some of those scenes *where contemplation is to be indulged*, as if *for the purpose of shewing his abstractedness from all ordinary objects!* His voice is harsh and monotonous; but, as it is deep, answers well enough the idea he entertains of impressing terror by a tone which seems to proceed from a charnel-house."

THE Prince and Princess of Wales and suite visited the Gaiety Theatre on Thursday and witnessed the performance of *Our Miss Gibbs*.

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.

No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this list.

Adderley, Mr. Fredk.
Alexander, Mr. S. King
Artois, Mrs. Florrie
Artois, Mr. Jack
Ashman, Mr. Tom
Barker, Mr. C. J.
Benn, Mr. Willie
Bertram, Mr. E. V.
Biddall Brothers
Bill, Buff
Boden, Miss B.
Bone, Mr. F. W.
Boucicault, Miss N.
Brickwell, Mr. H. T.
Brough, Miss Nell
Browne, Miss Pattie
Brownie, Mr. Gardener
Bryce and Price
Burton, Mr. Harry
Chapman, Mr. A. H.
Chard, Mr. F. W.
Cohernay, Mr. Ivan
Collins, Mr. Pat
Conner, Mr. J.
Coop, Mr. Colin
Cooper, Mr. Frank
Corrie, Mr. Frank
Croker, Mr. Dillon
Cronin, Mr. M. F.
Dacre, Mr. Louis
Dawson, Mr. John
De Vere, Miss Lillie
Dudley, Miss Beatrice
Dumond, Mr. J.
Duncan, Miss Marie
Edwards, Mr. Karl
Elliott, Miss Beth
Elton, Mrs. Fred
Emerald, Miss Nellie
Erskine, Miss E.
Evans, Mr. Ernest
Ford, Mr. Harry
Foxwell, Mr. Harry
Freeman, Mr. J.
Ginnett, Mr. Fred
Glennister, Mr. Lionel
Grey, Mr. Harry
Haggar, Mr. W.
Haldon, Lady
Hanlon, Mr. Arthur
Hawtrey, Mr. Geo. P.
Healy, Mr. Robert
Henderson, Miss May
Heno, Miss S.
Herington, Mr. Graham
Hobson, Miss Mildred
Hodgson, Miss H.
Hoey, Miss Iris
Holding, Mr. Thomas
Hook, Miss Dolly
Hughes, Miss Nellie
James, Miss Edith
Jordon, Mr. Jules
Kelso, Mr. Tom
Kendal, Mrs.
Klegin, Mr. R.
Kloss, Miss Sophia
Lafayette
La Martine, Mrs. Clara
Lang and Pleydell
Langford, Mr. Pat
Latonas, The
Lennol, Mr. Jack
Leo, Mr. J.
Liddell, Mr. W. C.
Lewther, Mr. Harry
Luxmore, Miss M.
Lyons and Culum
Mackenzie, Mr. W. D.
Maitland, Mr. Percy
Maxford, Mr. Dan
Mayer, Miss L. Ly
Mayo, Mr. Sidney
McLean, Mr. A.
Millett, Miss Maud
Moore, Miss Eva
Morgan, Mr.
Morimura
Nelson, Mr.
Nero, Mons. M.
Noble, Mr. Dan
Oliver, Miss Ethel
Otello, Beffo
Patey, Miss Lola
Paull, Miss Ethel G.
Perera, Prince
Peverell, Mr. Walter
Pleon, Mr. Harry
Plimmer, Mr. W. J.
Potter, Mrs. Brown
Pounds, Mr. Fern
Powell, Mr. A.
Purchase, Mr. A.
Raynor, Mr. Jack
Redfern, Sisters
Reiss Troupe
Rénee, Mlle.
Ridgewell, Mr. George
Robinson, Mr. Dan
Rose, Mr. Leonard
Ross, Mr. James E.
Rumford, Mrs. Kennerley
Saxe, Mr. Templar
Saville, Mr. Frank
Scott, Mr. C. Wilkinson
Shrapnell, Mr. L.
Silvester, Mr. R.
Smith, Miss Winifred
Snazelle, Mr. G. H.
Snelling, Mr.
Stadt, Mr. J.
Syers, Mrs. C.
Sylvester, Mr. Syd
Taunton, Mr. Walter P.
Terris, Mr. Alf
Thornton, Mr. Frank
Tiller, Mr. A.
Travis, Miss A.
Tremaine, Miss Mignon
Turner, Mr. E.
U.S.A. Boys
Valins, Dr.
Viviana
Watson, Miss F.
Watts, Mr. Clive
Wells, Mr. Herbert G.
Weston, Miss Lucy
Whiteford, Mr. J.
Wilkinson, Mr. Sam
Williams and Warden
Williams, Mr. Chas.
Williams, Mr. P. D.
Woods, Mr. James

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"I'll swear upon that bottle."—TEMPEST, Act ii., Scene ii.

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Artists are notified that they must send their full Bill Matter in two clear weeks before opening. Rehearsal, 1 o'clock Mondays. All must attend. Artists not complying with the above rules are subject to having their Contracts cancelled at option of Management.

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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1909.
"The Era" Dramatic and Musical Annual, just published ("The Era" Offices, 1s.), is a capital production, full of all sorts of theatrical information, and also containing a number of readable little articles by well-known actors and actresses. All the important theatrical events of the year are given in handy form, and the book is really the theatrical "Who's Who." The casts are given of all the new plays and revivals produced during the year, as well as the principal sketches and Continental plays. The book is well printed and illustrated.—Vanity Fair, Feb. 3, 1909.

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Adeson, Mr. Charles	April 25, 1908
Allen, Mr. Frank	Feb. 22, 1908
Ames, Miss Emmie	Jan. 4, 1908
Anson, Miss Carlotta	June 13, 1908
Atwill, Mr. Lionel	June 27, 1908
Bailey, Mr. Gordon	May 30, 1908
Barber, Mr. Alfred S.	Nov. 21, 1908
Barrasford, Mr. Thomas	Feb. 29, 1908
Barwell, Miss Edith	April 11, 1908
Bateman, Miss	March 14, 1908
Beck, Mr. Fred	April 4, 1908
Beckwith, Late Mr. J. W.	Nov. 21, 1908
Beresford, Mr. Frank	July 18, 1908
Boulton, Mr. Matthew	April 4, 1908
Brett, Mr. Edwin	Feb. 22, 1908
Brickwell, Miss Maimie	Nov. 21, 1908
Broughton, Mr. Lewis	March 6, 1909
Brydon-Phillips, Mr. G.	Jan. 4, 1908
Buxton, Mr. Fred	June 27, 1908
Campbell, Late Mr. Denis	March 6, 1909
Carnegy, Miss Mary	March 7, 1908
Carpenter, Mr. Ernest	Feb. 22, 1908
Chambers, Miss Lizzie	June 6, 1908
Charcot	Feb. 13, 1909
Clinton, Late Mr. Dudley	Oct. 10, 1908
Clyfford, Miss Kathleen	Feb. 6 1909
Coquelin, Late M.	Jan. 30, 1909
Cole, Mr. E. W. Maule	Feb. 1, 1908
Collins, Mr. George	March 21, 1908
Cookson, Mr. S. A.	April 11, 1908
Corlass, Miss Georgie	Sept. 5, 1908
Cory-Thomas, Late Mr. L.	Nov. 21, 1908
Corri, Mr. William	July 25, 1908
Craven, Late Mrs. H. T.	March 28, 1908
Crewe, Mr. Bertie	March 28, 1908
Croke, Mr. Wentworth	Sept. 5. 1908
Cromwell, Mr. William	Jan. 25, 1908
Crouch, Mr. Herbert	Oct. 31, 1908
Davis, Miss Lallah	March 7, 1908
Dean, Mr. Walter	May 16, 1908
De Banzie, Mr. E. T.	Oct. 3, 1908
De Frece, Mr. Maurice	Feb. 20, 1909
Denton, Mr. C. St. John	Jan. 4, 1908
Derry, Miss Joan	Feb. 8, 1908
Dexter, Miss Elizabeth	Feb. 15, 1908
Dickeson, Mr. Herbert	June 13, 1908
Donegan, Mr. James E.	July 11, 1908
Dorgere, Mlle. Arlette	May 30, 1908
Doyle, Mr. C. Milley	Nov. 7, 1908
Draycott, Mr. Charles	June 13, 1908
Drewry, Miss Maude Stewart	April 4, 1908
Dunville, Mr. T. E.	April 11, 1908
Dyas, Late Miss Ada	March 21, 1908
Edgar, Mr. Marriott	Oct. 10, 1908
Edis, Miss Anita	May 9, 1908
Edmonds, Mr. E. Vivian	June 27, 1908
Edouin, Late Mr. Willie	April 18, 1908
Empress, Miss Marie	Feb. 8, 1908
Fenton, Mr. Frank	June 6, 1908
Firmin, Miss Dorothy	Sept. 12, 1908
Fisher, Mr. Charles	Sept. 12, 1908
Fitzgibbon, Mr. H. B.	July 25, 1908
Foote, Miss Doris	March 6, 1909
Forde, Miss Florrie	March 21, 1908
Francis, Late Mr. William	Jan. 25, 1908
Francks, Mr. Hawley	Nov. 7, 1908
Frank, Miss Ada	July 25, 1908
Fullbrook, Mr. William	March 6 1909.
Gay, Mr. Walter	July 11, 1908
Gibbons, Mr. Arthur	July 4, 1908
Gilbart, Miss Eleanor	Nov. 21, 1908
Gilmore, Mr. Paul	July 18, 1908
Godfrey, Mr. Dan	Aug. 29, 1908
Godfrey, Miss Freda	Jan. 2, 1909
Goldston, Mr. Will	Feb. 22, 1908
Goodall, Miss Edyth	June 13, 1908
Grant, Mr. Christie	Feb. 29, 1908
Gribben, Mr. Harry A.	March 7, 1908
Grimes, Mr. W. J.	May 23, 1908
Hamilton, Miss Rose	April 18, 1908
Hanbury, Late Miss Lily	March 7, 1908
Hansard, Late Mr. J. B.	Feb. 8, 1908
Hardacre, Miss Ethel	July 4, 1908
Harding, Mr. Alfred	May 2, 1908
Harker, Mr. Frederick	Oct. 3, 1908
Harmer, Miss Dolly	Nov. 7, 1908
Harrison, Late Miss Fanny	Feb. 20, 1909
Hart, Late Mr. Harry	Jan. 16, 1909
Harvey, Miss Rose	July 25, 1908
Harvey, Late Mr. John	Jan. 16, 1909
Haviland, Mr. William	Nov. 14, 1908
Hawthorne, Miss Lil	Feb. 15, 1908
Heath, Late Mr. Frank	Dec. 26, 1908
Hodson, Miss Mildred	March 6, 1909
Holding, Mr. Thomas	Jan. 18, 1908
Holland, Mr. Arthur E.	May 16, 1908
Holmes-Dallimore, Mr. A.	Sept. 12, 1908
Homewood, Mr. A. S.	Nov. 21, 1908
Howard, Mr. Robert H.	Oct. 3, 1908
Howe, Late Mr. J. B.	March 14, 1908
Hudson, Mr. Eric	Nov. 7, 1908
Hudspeth, Late Mrs. J. H.	March 7, 1908
Hutton, Mr. Ralph	July 25, 1908
Irving, Late Sir Henry	Oct. 21, 1905
Irving, Mr. H. B.	Nov. 7, 1908
Imeson, Miss Florence	Feb. 29, 1908
Jefferson, Late Mrs. Arthur	Jan. 2, 1909
Jesson, Mr. C.	Sept. 5, 1908
Jones, Mr. Tom	April 4, 1908
Kay, Miss Ethel	March 28, 1908
Kilburn, Late Mr. Harry	Dec. 5, 1908
King, Mr. Claude	June 20, 1908
Lambert, Mr. R. Lawson	Feb. 8, 1908
Lanner, Late Mme. Katti	Nov. 21, 1908
Latimer, Miss Edyth	Nov. 14, 1908
Lauri, Late Mr. George	Jan. 9. 1909
Lawrence, Late Mr. Joe	Jan. 30, 1909
Lee, Late Mr. Edgar	Dec. 19, 1908
Leon, Miss Connie	April 4, 1908
Lester, Mr. Alfred	May 9, 1908
Lester, Late Mr. Harry	Oct. 10. 1908
Letty, Miss Frances	Jan. 23. 1909
Lewis, Late Miss Rosie	Oct. 24, 1908
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Lloyd, Miss Alice	Sept. 5, 1908
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THE ERA

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1909.

A DEAN ON THE DRAMA.

A dean is defined in the dictionary as "an ecclesiastical officer or dignitary attached to a cathedral." There were four kinds of deans: the dean who has a chapter, the dean who has no chapter but a cure of souls, and a "peculiar"; a dean with a donative deanery, but no cure of souls; and a rural dean, who has no judicial power in himself, but only acts by the direction of the bishop or of the archdeacon. A certain natural self-esteem has always been attributed to the office. COWPER wrote:

Pride may be pampered while the flesh grows lean;
Humility may clothe an English dean.

For nearly thirty years the Very Rev. ARTHUR PERCEVAL PUREY-CUST has held the Deanery of York. Whether he owed this extremely comfortable position to his eloquence, his industry, or to his being chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury is not known to us; but he seems to have had a remarkably pleasant time at York, having, in spite of his duties, been a voluminous writer on archæology and a well-known reader of papers at Church Congresses. We imagine Dr. PUREY-CUST as one of those fine, picturesque, and dignified ecclesiastics whom the late ANTHONY TROLLOPE used to depict so graphically in his novels. It is a pleasure to think of these grand old English gentlemen, pillars of the Church of England, Justices of the Peace, and very often excellent judges of wine; and is distressing to find one of them "giving himself away" so completely as did the Rev. Dr. PUREY-CUST at the annual meeting of the York Penitentiary for Girls the other day. Speaking from the chair, the Dean said:

One heard a great deal of the power and influence of the stage. Personally, he could not say that it was a great agency on the side of morality at the present time. Sometimes people asked him, "Why do you never go to the theatre? The actors and actresses are quite as good as other people." He replied that he had no doubt of it; he had known several of them, and he believed they were excellent, but it was not the actors and actresses he found fault with. It was the plays which they performed. When he read reports of plays, and considered what the plot was, he was very sorry that those who were respectable people should be required, by the duties of their calling, to represent parts which must be so absolutely alien to what they held and appreciated themselves. The stage had been a great power for good, and had very often brought home very striking facts to people who would not listen to any other form of teaching, but if the plays of the present day were what they were reported to be in the papers which he read, he must say that he thought the theatre was rather a handmaid to that which was immoral than a leader and prophet of that which was pure and good.

The first thing to be observed respecting the above remarks is that much depends on the papers which the Dean of York "takes in." Possibly he may have perused journals which gave garbled accounts of the contemporary drama. If that is so, we can only advise him to read his *Era*, where he will always find clear and accurate descriptions. But, really, the Dean's attack on the morals of the drama is most inopportunely made. There have been times when we have been troubled by indefensible adaptations from the French, plays with "frisky" husbands and dubious wives, and all the usual peculiarities of a Palais Royal farce. But, just now, the boards are not only free from inducements to vice; they positively teem with incitements to virtue. Where are these "immoral" plays? At the Duke of York's, where Mr. CHARLES FROHMAN has made such a success with Mr. J. M. BARRIE'S work, so limpidly fresh and pure, and where the sufferings of the poor are so poignantly presented by Mr. JOHN GALSWORTHY; at the Lyric, where the awful fate of Miladi is a standing lesson to *intrigantes;* at the Lyceum, where to-night we are to have the unimpeachable play of *Hamlet;* at His Majesty's, where the awful curse of the father nightly falls on the naughty dancing-girl; at the Haymarket, where "GOLDIE'S" pleasant and harmless humour charms us; at the Playhouse, with its naval heroism; or, to make an end, at any of the leading London theatres? Mr. FORBES ROBERTSON, as was only to be expected, was "down on" the Dean at once. It was hard, indeed, after having produced with so much success a play like *The Passing of the Third Floor Back,* which may almost be called religious in character, to read the Dean's reprehensive remarks on the drama.

Dr. PUREY-CUST, being promptly "tackled" by a representative of a Yorkshire paper, attempted, very naturally, to "hedge." He had not said that all plays were bad. Mr. and Mrs. CHARLES KEAN, whom he knew personally, did a great deal to elevate the moral tone of the stage. *He liked going to the play immensely, and would like to go now, only he was an old man, and never went out at night.* These statements which we have italicised suggest a course which we believe would be equally agreeable to the London managers and the Dean of York. In the seclusion of his comfortable deanery he evidently knows nothing of what is being done in London. He never goes out at night; but there is no reason that he should not attend matinées. Let the London managers invite the Dean up to town and give him a round of morning performances. He seems a genial, hospitable old fellow; he says of the actors and actresses whom he has known that they were "very good specimens"; and we have no doubt that he is a very good specimen of a Dean—as Deans go—for he once entertained Sir SQUIRE BANCROFT and Lady BANCROFT at his house. At the conclusion of his metropolitan experiences, a little dinner could be given in his honour, and he could then make his recantation. Until this pleasant conversion be brought about, we can only suggest that the doors of the Deanery be closed upon him that he attack the drama only in his own house.

THE SYSTEM OF BOOKING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I think the whole system of dramatic bookings and touring ought to be altered. Now that railway companies, insurance companies, and kinematograph producers are making working arrangements, it is high time theatrical managers did the same thing. By this means all the following grievances could be avoided, such as companies making jumps of 150 miles, being out for a week, all night travelling, great waste of printing, artists not being capable, guaranteeing fares and printing, a company cancelling dates, bad shows, bad scenery, and the thousand and one inconveniences that arise at present.

The following is my plan: Firstly, to call a meeting of all the managers of drama houses. Say, for argument's sake, fifty-two theatre managers make a working arrangement between themselves. They, the fifty-two managers, would appoint a working committee of four or five gentlemen who understand the profession thoroughly, this committee to have offices in London. They to produce fifty-two dramas, the money for which would have to be found by a limited company financed by the fifty-two managers. Each company would follow the other in strict rotation, thereby minimising the railway journey to a few miles. Each local manager to buy his own printing from the London office, to pay the salaries of the company for the week, also pay their fares to the next town, as well as pay for getting the scenery in and out. Each local manager to pay the London office £1 per week for management expenses, as well as pay a fifty-second part of the cost of the production of the drama he has at his theatre for that week. By that means, the production debt would be wiped out at the end of the year. Each artist would be perfectly satisfied to accept two-thirds of his present salary, as he would be sure of a certain income for the fifty-two weeks; there would be no such thing as being out for a week; his salary would be secure whether good or bad business was done. He need not be afraid of being stranded, and would save all-night travelling, the longest journey being but a few miles. Let us see what the local manager would gain. (1) He would be sure of getting a first-class show, as if any production proved a failure the company could soon be rehearsed to play something different. (2) Nor would a company turn up with two or three cloths and a chamber that has seen better days. (3) An artist knowing that he had a permanent berth would put his whole interest in the profession. (4) By paying for his own printing the local manager would get his own men to see that none was wasted. All lithos after being collected in could be sent to the London office, who would credit the local manager with their value. The London office buying a quantity of printing would be in a position to sell at less than the present prices. If any drama house would like to have an occasional musical comedy, or any other attraction, he would simply write to the London office that he would like to fill in the drama of a certain date in some theatre which does not belong to the fifty-two in the working arrangement, the company costing the local manager so little that he could afford to take a smaller percentage than any manager touring in the ordinary course.

Now, what would the company cost the local manager?—

	£	s.	d.
11 artists, at 27s. 6d. average	15	2	6
£1 extra for one of the actors, who would also manage the company	1	0	0
Average share of cost of production	2	0	0
Cost of London office	1	0	0
Average railway fares	0	15	0
Scenery getting out	0	15	0
	£20	12	6

Printing to add.

If this could be worked it would be a boon and blessing to everybody. I should be pleased to hear from any local manager on the subject. Apologising for taking up so much of your valuable space—Yours faithfully, S. GOODMAN.

Proprietor, Gaiety Theatre, Worksop, March 8.

WHEN Garrick was a boy, on his dining at Dr. Warburton's table with his father, he was asked to take a glass of wine; which, as he was not used to it at his own house, he declined, and said he would rather have a glass of beer. "No, no, young gentleman," cried the doctor; "take your wine: people who drink beer, generally *think beer.*"

"FOR WIFE AND KINGDOM."

Romantic Drama, by Ward Bailey, in Four Acts. Produced at the Theatre Royal, Smethwick, on Monday, March 8.

General Von Nestolde..MR. J. SUTTON PATEMAN
Captain Maximilian Lubeck MR. MATHEW H. GLENVILLE
Sergeant Offenbach ....MR. CHAS. A. GALLIER
Baron Maurice Breslaw ....MR. ALBERT GUYON
Karl Ludhayr .....MR. FRED OSMOND
Secretary .....MR. T. VARNEY
Jan .....MR. LEWIS GORDON
Paul .....MR. HENRY SMYTHE
Trooper Ruskin .....MR. E. HAMILTON
Trooper Tybert .....MR. ROBERT MANN
Trumpeter Gooche .....MR. GEORGE OWEN
Esther .....MISS LILLIAN MALVERN
Nita Constadt .....MISS ALICE BUCKLAND
Otille Schwartz .....MISS MABEL VERITON
Camille Von Nestolde.MISS MARGARET R. FRAME
Grand Duchess Marie..MISS HETTIE ZILLWOOD

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Servia wishes to annex Golzburg, and sends an envoy in the person of Baron Breslaw to explain her demands to the Grand Duchess Marie, the governing power at the moment. To effect his nefarious ends Baron Breslaw places Von Nestolde, General of the Golzburg army, under a financial obligation, and, under threat of exposure, demands his help. To further advance his ends Breslaw compromises the General's wife, Camille, and adroitly throws the blame on to one Captain Max, the next in command to Nestolde, and a special favourite with the Grand Duchess. In a moment of righteous indignation at Breslaw's treatment of an outcast woman, who it subsequently transpires was Breslaw's mistress, Captain Max becomes involved in a duel with him, duelling having been just previously interdicted by the Grand Duchess. The cause being just, however, Max meets the Baron, and is only prevented from being killed by the timely arrival of the Duchess, Breslaw having cunningly, with the forced aid of Von Nestolde, palmed off an unloaded pistol upon the Captain. As the result of her new edict, the Grand Duchess has no option but to order Max's arrest, thereby unconsciously furthering the Servian's schemes. Max out of the way, and the General still more deeply involved, Breslaw declares a hurried ultimatum, which, to spare her people, the Grand Duchess is about to accept. The scene of Max's incarceration, however, adjoins the room where the conference is being held, and is accessible thereto by means of a screw panel. This the Captain finds by accident, and, overhearing the Servian's demands, makes his appearance in time to prevent the signing of the treaty. A pretty love scene ensues between the Duchess and Captain Max, at the end of which Max is rehabilitated and rushes off to seek the protection of Austria, the Duchess's dead brother having at one time saved the Austrian Minister's life. Thus baulked, Breslaw enlists the aid of ruffians, and himself, accompanied by the General's wife, gives chase. Max is thrown, and seeks shelter in an old inn at Solnay. The Grand Duchess, instinctively fearing Breslaw's treachery, follows as well, only to be entrapped by Breslaw's bravos. The Captain also is for a moment outwitted, and while he is bound to a chair and the Grand Duchess is a captive in a room above Breslaw fires the inn and leaves them to their fate. A shot during the melée, however, has cut the Captain's bonds, and amid a smother of smoke and flame he escapes, and effects the rescue of the Duchess. The Duchess returns to Gotzburg while Max proceeds on his mission, followed by Breslaw and the General's wife, Camille.

To their great chagrin Max surmounts all further obstacles and reaches Austria. In a few hours he has attained his end, and is on his return journey towards the frozen forest of Althea. A terrific blizzard is raging, and the road becomes almost impassable. In a wayside hut, where he is compelled to put up for the sake of his horse before entering the depths of the forest, he again encounters the General's wife, now more than ever the dupe and accomplice of Breslaw. By subterfuge, she replaces the vital despatches with blank paper, but in a moment of nervous terror betrays her association with Breslaw. To safeguard himself the Captain insists upon her returning with him. In the meantime, Breslaw has baited the Captain's sleigh, in the hope that a ravenous pack of wolves reported to be out will attack and despatch him. And here comes in the element of sensationalism. One sees the snow-bent firs flying past as the horse-drawn sleigh dashes frantically on its perilous way. Through a screen of driving snow one sees the ravening wolves coming nearer—ever nearer—their howls echoing among the trees. They gain upon the frenzied horse; they are at its heels! A woman's shrieks commingle with their bloodcurdling howls as one, more daring than the rest, leaps through the gloom. Bang, bang, bang from the Captain's pistol, and three writhing bodies drop and are left behind. Pistol exhausted, sword flashes in the moonlight, and in a few maddening seconds safety is assured.

Back in Gotzburg, the Grand Duchess, her General, and the Servian envoy are anxiously awaiting Max's return. The Baron hears of Max's escape, and, on the horns of his dilemma, develops his final scheme. He places a bomb in the archway to the market square, which the Captain must traverse, and awaits events; but the bomb is rendered non-effective, and Max returns, wounded, but safe. His denunciation of the Baron is corroborated by the General's wife. The Baron is dismissed from office, and, in a rush for liberty, he explodes his own bomb, thus justly meeting the fate he had prepared for Max. Grateful for his release, the General forgives his wife, and the Grand Duchess, sincerely loving the gallant Captain, besides appreciating him as the saviour of her people, takes him for her consort.

The drama, from the pen of Ward Bailey, is a stirring piece of work, especially in the Sleigh scene, where the American blood mare Dakota Daisy is introduced. There are some very effective stage scenes, the uniforms and general effects being exceptionally good, and the piece is admirably staged. Chief honours are to be accorded to Mr. Mathew H. Glenville in the leading rôle of Captain Max; Miss Hettie Zillwood creates a marked impression as the Duchess; Mr. J. Sutton Pateman is an ideal General; and Mr. Albert Guyon a stage villain of truculence and force. There is plenty of comedy in the piece, and this is admirably brought out by Mr. Fred Osmond as Karl, Mr. Charles A. Gallier as Sergeant Offenbach, Miss Alice Buckland as Nita, and Miss Mabel Veriton as Otille Schwartz. Miss Lillian Malvern as Esther is commendable, and Miss Margaret R. Frame as Camille gives a clever performance.

THE CASE OF C. E. STEVENS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—An earnest appeal is made on behalf of the wife and family of Charles E. Stevens, who for the last five years has been incapacitated from following his profession through a severe attack of neuritis in the legs. He has exhausted all his little savings in keeping his home together, and is now an in-patient of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. He has been a well-known comedian for the last thirty-five years, and was foremost in every good and charitable work. Being a personal friend of thirty years, knowing his sad plight, I can assure you his case is one deserving of every sympathy.

Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, of *The Era*, has kindly consented to receive any contributions.—Yours faithfully, ARTHUR WILLIAMS.

Green Room Club, W.C., March 6.

THE CURTAIN-RAISERS.

The Amateur dramatic society known as The Curtain Raisers, which seems to be composed of people whose ideas as to acting are, to say the least, imperfect, and whose judgment in the selection of plays for production is even worse. We paid a visit to the Rehearsal Theatre in Maiden-lane on Thursday evening, with the object of witnessing four new one-act plays. The first bore the title of

"MY LADY'S GLOVE."

A Comedy in One Act by Neilson Morris.

Sir Malcolm Dudley .....MR. H. CLIFTON DALE
Benjamin .....MR. FRANK W. RUSSELL
Evelyn, Duchess of Westonhaugh MISS MAISIE CARLTON
Lady Betty Waring ..MISS MAUDE O'SULLIVAN

The scene is in the hall of Sir Malcolm Dudley's house at midnight, the period is that of George the Third, the producer of the play was said to be a Mr. H. Clifton Dale, the wigs were made by Fox, costumes by the Artists' Supply, and the furniture by Elms Lester. It is important to mention these facts, because they form the sum total of what we know about the play, for it was not produced on the evening of our visit, and no member of the society could give a coherent account of the plot. An apology was offered for the non-production, but it was whispered that the real reason of the absence of the item from the entertainment was that the comedy had been acted so badly on the previous night that the author refused to permit the celebrated Curtain-Raisers to cast further aspersions on his play by their unintelligent performance of it. We are scarcely surprised, and, indeed, for our own part, we would prefer that the child of our brain were still-born than live miserably.

The second piece was

"BERTHA BRENT."

A Play in One Act by Leslie Thomas.

Philip Lasmere, M.P. MR. GERALD DIXON-SPAIN
Frederick Charles .....MR. LESLIE THOMAS
Rhoda Medway .....MISS D. MEASE-SMYTH
Alice Lingard .....MISS NINA HAZEL
Mrs. Wilton .....MISS MARIE W. GOLDIE

Here our wondering eyes caught sight of some of the most curious characters of the human species. All the five people in the playlet are absurd creations. We will tell the story briefly. Mrs. Wilton lets lodgings at Brixton, and her son lives with her under the assumed name of Frederick Charles, his mother thinking that it would be better for his future welfare and for the furtherance of his none too clear ambitions if it be not known that she "takes lodgers in." Staying with Mrs. Wilton is Rhoda Medway, who seems to have run away from home in order to satisfy her craving for the life of an actress. Her uncle, Philip Lasmere, M.P.—we trust, for the fair fame of the Mother of Parliaments, that easily-beguiled constituents may never return a member whose conversation is so silly, and whose attitudes and manners are so ridiculous as the Philip Lasmere represented on Thursday night—is seeking to take her back, and duly arrives at Mrs. Wilton's. That lady's story of her life—she had been an actress under the name of Bertha Brent, and had "come down"—has a salutary effect upon the mind of Rhoda Medway, who relinquishes her intentions as to a theatrical career.

The other new piece was

"THE CATASTROPHE."

A Play in One Act by Hubert C. Ferraby.

John Holden .....MR. ALEX. MACLEAN
Harold Barnes .....MR. RICHARD DESBOROUGH
Marks .....MR. FRANK JONES
Mrs. Montagu .....MISS HELENE MILLER
Ethel Holden .....MISS ETHEL TAAFFE

Briefly, John Holden is a drunkard, and his wife leads a most unhappy life. She has an admirer in Harold Barnes, and they are discussing affairs in her drawing-room when John Holden enters with a demi-mondaine. Barnes renders Holden unconscious, and by the aid of his knowledge of the past life of the woman, Mrs. Montagu, succeeds in getting rid of her. When Holden recovers Barnes denounces him in unmeasured language, Mrs. Holden comes in and relates how she had intended to shoot herself, tells her husband that that is what he ought to have done, and a little later Holden does go out and commit suicide.

REOPENING OF THE ALEXANDRA.

The Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington, which for a little over two years has been given over to variety entertainments, was on Monday last re-opened as a theatre, under the management of Moss' Empires, Ltd., and the Hackney and Shepherd's Bush Empire Palaces, Ltd. Many well-known residents of the locality were to be seen among the audience on the opening night, and satisfaction was freely expressed on all sides at the theatre having reverted to its former condition, good wishes for its future success being general. The piece selected for the inauguration of the season was Mrs. Henry de la Pasture's comedy, *Peter's Mother,* presented by Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company, with Mrs. Cecil Raleigh in the title-rôle. Considerable care has evidently been exercised in the selection of the cast, so admirably does the personality of each actor or actress fit the character he or she is called upon to portray. To Mrs. Cecil Raleigh the part of Lady Mary Crewys presents no difficulties. Her tender and womanly portrayal is of immense value to the production, and wins sympathetic appreciation from her audience. Mr. Townsend Whitling, on whom also fall the duties of stage-manager, deserves all praise for his strong and convincing performance of the death-stricken Sir Timothy Crewys, which although only seen in the first act, is nevertheless not the least memorable performance in the play. The part of the selfish, yet in the main good-hearted, Peter is by no means an easy one to handle, but it would be difficult to improve upon Mr. Vivian Gilbert's interpretation of it. The widowed and spinster sisters of Sir Timothy, Lady Belstone and Miss G. Crewys, are two admirably drawn characters, the peculiarities of each being skilfully brought out by Miss Mary Griffiths and Miss Josephine Rae respectively, who contribute not a little to the lighter periods of the play. Mr. Drew Macintosh gives a clear, incisive, and telling rendering of John Crewys, Q.C., and characteristic studies of Canon Birch and Dr. Blundell come from Messrs. Walter Russell and Edward Jephson. The part of Sarah is not one of many opportunities, but of those it possesses Miss Hilda Sims makes the most; and Miss Annie Stalman is quite equal to all demands made upon her as Mrs. Hewell. The farce *Turtle Doves* is played as a curtain-raiser, and makes a bright and pleasing prelude to the longer play. The musical direction is in the able hands of Mr. Amos Parker, and the fact that Mr. T. J. Robinson is to be seen at his old post of acting-manager is sufficient guarantee that all that is possible for the convenience and comfort of the patrons of the Alexandra Theatre will be done.

WE have received from Mr. John Long a novel in one volume called "The Fault," by C. T. Podmore, a well-known Manchester journalist. Those who like a thrilling and interesting story, full of incident and well told, will enjoy Mr. Podmore's novel immensely. Though it cannot be called a tale of the drama, it deals incidentally with the travelling theatre of a Mr. Dorraby, which is most graphically described. "The Fault" is an excellent book to buy for a long railway journey in the provinces.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"GRISELDA,"

Play, in Nine Scenes, by Gerhart Hauptmann, Produced at the Lessing Theatre, March 6.

Griselda .....FRAULEIN LEHMANN
Vater Helmbrecht .....HERR PAULI
Mutter Helmbrecht .....FRAULEIN ALBRECHT
Graf Ulrich .....HERR RASSERMANN
Eberhard .....HERR REICHER
Gräfin Eberhard .....FRAULEIN GABRI
Heinz .....HERR ACHTENBERG
Baronin .....FRAULEIN SUSSIN
Baron .....HERR TEUBER
Der Fürst .....HERR KURTH
Probst .....HERR RICKELT
Arzt .....HERR MARR
Dame .....FRAULEIN ANDERSEN
Amme .....FRAULEIN STOLLE
Diener .....HERR BOROWSKY

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, March 11.—A new play by Herr Hauptmann is always an event of great importance in our theatrical world. It is the "thing" to be present on the first night, and the tickets for *Griselda* were snapped up long before, the dealers, who had taken care to provide themselves with some in time, making as much as 40 per cent. and over. That the audience included many of our leading luminaries of the dramatic and artistic world is a matter of course, and socially eminent persons were present in great numbers. The Austrian and Würtemberg Ambassadors represented the corps diplomatique. It may at once be stated that the play does not stand comparison with the best works of Hauptmann, while it is better than one or two of his later pieces. The fable of the patient Grisel is improved upon by the author to some extent, but all his talent cannot make his heroine either convincing or appealing. This Griselda is the very robust daughter of the peasant Helmbrecht; she is a distant kinswoman of Shakespeare's pretty shrew, and when the mighty lord of the country, Count Ulrich, sees her in the wood, her brusque denial of his overtures rouses all the passion in him. He is unused to opposition; it is something as fascinating as it is strange, and when the virago dashes a pan of water over him Ulrich's delight knows no bounds; he seizes her in his arms, carries her to the cottage, measures his strength with hers, and comes off victorious. It becomes now desirable for Markgraf Ulrich to marry, but he will have none of the doll-like ladies of the Court; his thoughts go out to the peasant maid whom he conquered; her very roughness appeals to him, for she can stand a thrashing, if he should be so inclined. So Ulrich woos Griselda, and she, attracted by the thought of being the Markgrafin, yields. She has not such a bad time at Court as one would have supposed, but the Count now develops such passionate love for and jealousy of his wife that he has her child taken from her at birth, fearing she will love it more than him. When Griselda very naturally asks for her baby this astonishing husband is so wounded that he goes off to the mountains to live a life of solitude for a time. Griselda, too, has undergone a change; she has become a gentle, loving woman, but she makes up her mind to leave her erring husband all the same. She returns to her native haunts, and vows she will only enter the castle again as a serving-maid to scour the stairs. And thus it comes about that in this lowly position the Markgraf and his Markgrafin meet again. Their mutual love breaks down all barriers, and they fall into each other's arms. The child is there, too, and we are quite ready to believe all will now progress smoothly in the Markgraf's family. The new play is considered weak on the whole by the majority of our critics, the sudden complete change in the two leading characters being justly pronounced unnatural. It is hardly necessary to remark upon the beauty of many of the passages, the author being Hauptmann; and the interpretation of the piece was above all praise. Fräulein Lehmann and Herr Bassermann were conspicuous in a magnificent cast, and the enthusiastic applause was easily understood. Herr Hauptmann was called before the curtain many times in response to general acclamations, but the sound of hisses mingled freely with the applause, and I do not think *Griselda* will enjoy a very long lease of life.

THE Ibsen Cycle at the Lessing came to an end last week with the fine play *Wenn wir Toten erwachen,* pronounced by Ibsen himself as his epilogue. It was faultlessly interpreted, the cast being much the same as at its first production. Fräulein Triesch's (Mrs. Frederic Lamond) rendering of the part of Irene is one of the best pieces of acting on record; Herr Bassermann's rendering of Rubek is no less excellent; while Fräulein Wuest as Maja and Herr Marr as the "Bear-slayer" completed the quartette. The audience remained to a man, applauding at the close of the performance, the stamping of the students and cries of "Bravo!" making a deafening noise. Finally Dr. Brahm appeared on the stage to receive such a storm of cheers as must have done any manager's heart good. He thanked the house in a short speech, and declared that though it was the first time the great author's works had been done in the form of a cycle, it would not be the last—a covert promise which resulted in renewed cheering.

HERR VON WILDENBRUCH'S historical tragedy *Die Carolinger* has been revived at the Schiller Theatre with a good deal of success. It is admirably acted, and will certainly run some little time.

AMONGST the plays acquired by Mme. Meta Illing for the English Theatre in Germany are Shaw's *Candida,* R. C. Carton's *Mr. Hopkinson,* and Sutro's *The Fascinating Mr. Vanderveldt.*

THE closing night of *Cinderella* at the Grand, Glasgow, last Saturday, was marked by the greatest enthusiasm, and such a lavish expenditure as was indicated by the gifts, floral and otherwise, proved the success the pantomime has been. Miss Queenie Finnis, Miss Violet Halls, Miss Nellie Cozens, Miss Nellie Wigley, and Miss Kate Walbran were almost overwhelmed by the bouquets, baskets, and sprays of flowers handed up to them, and, in addition, boxes of bon-bons, golliwog and other dolls, veils, shoulder shawls, and numerous other gifts kept the conductor busy all the evening.

MR. GEORGE FRENCH (the Baron) received several presents, and the Baroness (Mr. Tom W. Conway) was handed up a bottle of that popular Scotch medicine, "Johnnie Dewar," tastefully decorated with bows of pink ribbon. Mr. Whit Cunliffe was awarded a walking-stick, several dolls, and other tokens, and to the twelve chorus ladies who assist him in his catchy choruses, Mr. Cunliffe gave handsome floral sprays and other tangible marks of his appreciation. Mr. Barry Lupino and his wife (Miss May Gordon) were frequently included in the proofs of the audience's esteem, as was also Miss Olive Tempest, the Fairy Godmother.

THE members of the company, in addition, made very handsome presents to Mr. Christie Grant (manager at the Grand), Mr. Harry Henderson (conductor), Mr. Stanley Rogers (author of the pantomime), Mr. Frank Withers (acting-manager for Messrs. Buchanan and Stevens), Mr. Augustus Hammond (stage-manager), Mr. C. H. Baker (assistant stage-manager), and Miss Jackson (wardrobe mistress), these gifts consisting of such substantial and useful articles as a dressing-case, writing-cabinet, gold-mounted umbrella, silver flask, &c.

MR. R. C. BUCHANAN announces the removal of his offices to No. 6, John-street, Adelphi, London, W.C., and that on Wednesday next all communications should be addressed to him there.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

Mr. Walter de Frece, managing-director of the De Frece Circuit, whose combination for booking purposes with Moss Empires and the Stoll companies we announced last week, sails for America per s.s. Celtic from Liverpool on March 26, and will visit all the principal towns.

The latest De Frece enterprise is the Hippodrome, Southend-on-Sea, which is announced to open on August Bank Holiday. During Mr. Walter de Frece's absence his brother, Mr. J. de Frece, will attend to all business matters at the firm's new offices, Cranbourn Mansions, Cranbourn-street, W.C.

Miss Vesta Tilley is resting at Brighton, where she is recovering from a sharp attack of influenza. She opens next Monday at the Shepherd's Bush Empire, her farewell engagement before sailing for her six weeks' engagement in New York.

George Ali, the famous animal actor, whose enormous success as "Mouser," the cat in the Drury Lane pantomime, has been favourably noticed by the Press of both hemispheres, will shortly head a company in vaudeville to play Buster Brown's dog Tige, his original creation.

Mr. Bransby Williams, who has just completed his pantomime engagement at the Prince's, Bristol, has been released by Mr. Stoll, in order that he may appear on Monday at the opening of the new theatre—the King's, Dundee. Mr. Williams, after Dundee, will recommence the Moss' tour with his Dickens and Shakespearean répertoires.

Miss Vesta Victoria, who has been such a big attraction at the London Pavilion for the past few weeks, is compelled to absent herself from London for one week owing to her engagement in Edinburgh, and she will return, therefore, to the Piccadilly Circus house on March 22.

On Tuesday evening a party of American visitors at the Pavilion were particularly enthusiastic at the completion of each song, and at the finish of the humorous number "Now I have to call him father" paid Miss Victoria a great compliment by passing across the footlights a bouquet of English roses.

On her return Miss Victoria will give some new numbers, one in particular—"His Lordship"—being a humorous study of the difficulties experienced in "society" by a coster girl who has married an aristocrat.

Mr. Seymour Hicks, announced in our columns to do two sketches at each performance at the London Coliseum, is only giving *Papa's Wife*, with Miss Zena Dare in the part originally played by Miss Ellaline Terriss. He will present *Scrooge* in a fortnight's time.

Like most light comedians, Mr. Hicks has a decided love for tragedy, and will produce later an English version of *Les Nuits du Hampton Club*, founded on Robert Louis Stevenson's story of the Suicides' Club, and produced at the Shaftesbury a year ago during the season of the Grand Guignol company.

The Islington Hippodrome, formerly known as Collins's, closed its doors suddenly on Monday evening. The public-house attached to the hall is, however, keeping open. The hall is one of what used to be known as the L.C.C. halls. A receiver has been appointed.

Just as the prosperity of a jest lies in the ear of him who hears it, so the humour of it depends upon the point of view of the hero or the heroine in it. For instance, there's the canny man, mentioned by Harry Lauder, whose neighbour met him flitting. He had wife and children and household furniture piled on the top of a waggon; and he was solemnly driving his one horse along the street. "So you're flittin'," says the neighbour. "I am," was the reply. "I want to be near my work." "And where's yer job?" "I haven't got one yet!"

In dealing with current topics of the day in a revue, French authors seem to be more fortunate in Paris than they are in London, as M. Victor de Cottens discovered at the Coliseum. On this side of the Channel the revue has never quite taken firm root; but another effort to acclimatise it is, however, shortly to be made at the Empire, by Mr. George Grossmith, jun., who will not be committing his "first offence," his good-natured satire having already won favour at the house named, in *Oh! Indeed!* which contained skits on *Brewster's Millions* and *Diana of Dobson's*, and was produced in March last year, being played by Arthur Playfair, Farren Soutar, Sybil Arundale, and Valli Valli.

For the purposes of the annual dinner of the Royal Automobile Club next Thursday, at which the Prince of Wales will be the principal guest, the whole of Covent Garden Opera House is to be converted into a dining-room. For the concert to follow the dinner Miss Maud Allan will occupy the first place on the programme, and she will be followed by another Palace Theatre favourite, Miss Margaret Cooper. The Tivoli will lend Mr. Harry Lauder, Mr. Wilkie Bard, from Old Drury, will sing "Sea shells," and Little Tich will also contribute.

In the King's Bench Division, before Mr. Justice Hamilton, on Saturday, in the action of Allan and another v. the Birmingham Hippodrome, Limited, and another, Mr. Gilbert Beyfus moved for judgment for the plaintiffs, Miss Maud Allan and the Palace Theatre. An injunction was obtained in December, 1908. Mr. Justice Hamilton made the injunction perpetual, with costs.

Mr. Laurence Irving and Miss Mabel Hackney, who are no strangers to New York, made their début there on Monday in vaudeville at the New York Music Hall. They presented *The King and the Vagabond*, a playlet adapted by Mr. Irving from Théodore de Banville's *Gringoire*, and produced last year at the Coliseum. It was accepted with enthusiasm. Here, as elsewhere, the audience demanded a speech, and Mr. Laurence Irving responded ably.

The success of *The Midnight London Express* again proves the truth of the assertion that managers will always find an opening for the right stuff. This sketch was produced on Feb. 1 at the Surrey, and has gone right on since, and is well booked into 1910. Next week it goes to the Olympia, Shoreditch. Mr. Walter Gibbons evidently knows a good thing when he sees it. The last scene alone would make the fortune of any sketch, episode, or drama.

The Tivoli audience on Monday evening showed its appreciation in the most whole-hearted fashion of Mr. Harry Lauder, and when the Scotch comedian and Mr. Joseph Wilson, the manager, came on the stage the loudest applause was mingled with cries of "Speech, speech." Mr. Wilson, in the name of the directors of the Tivoli, presented the singer with a large wreath composed of laurels and white heather. Mr. Lauder, in reply, said he was glad to be home again, though he had made many very dear friends in America. Had he never gone away he would not have experienced the great joy of this welcome home.

Mr. Vivian Evans has been appointed to succeed Mr. Frank Weston as resident-manager of the Empire Palace, Wolverhampton.

Mr. Alfred Moul's recent application to the Bristol Licensing Justices for a music licence for the Tivoli, Broadmead, Bristol (at which it is proposed to run a kinematograph entertainment), was adjourned.

The 11th inst. being the third anniversary of the opening of the Hippodrome, Colchester, Mr. Ben de Frece presented a number of local artists, and also an augmented orchestra.

Morley, which is about five miles from Leeds, is to have a music hall, which will be probably known as the New Pavilion. The plans have been passed.

It is to be a two-tier house built on thoroughly modern lines, and will seat 1,500. The site is in Queen-street. The promoters are Mr. W. J. Attack, of the Marina Theatre, Ramsgate, Mr. George Barry, the Excelsior Picture Co., and Mr. William Lund, managing partner of the Deetrich Agency, 31, Islington, Liverpool. The opening may be in September.

Messrs. Sherwood have given to the Corporation a portion of the land at the back of their site for the new music hall in Wakefield, and have arranged to widen Phœnix-street, which is at the side of the site, thus making a thoroughfare from Kirkgate to Hardy Croft.

Mr. Frank Weston, who for the last three years has been resident-manager under the De Frece management, first at the Hippodrome and then at the Empire Palace, Wolverhampton, and has left to take up a similar position at the Hippodrome, Birkenhead, was accorded a farewell benefit matinée on Saturday last.

During his stay in Wolverhampton Mr. Weston has made himself very popular with all classes, a fact which was amply demonstrated by a crowded house. No fewer than some thirty turns by artists who came from Walsall, Birmingham, Manchester, and even Glasgow, were rattled through without the slightest hitch, thanks to Mr. Robert Watt, who, on this occasion, undertook the stage-management.

In the course of the afternoon Mr. Weston was presented with a purse of gold publicly subscribed, and he also received from the staff of the hall a travelling-clock for himself and a silver rose-bowl for Mrs. Weston, who unfortunately could not be present. Mr. Gerald Spencer came across from the Royal to look after the front of the house, and also gave an excellent recitation.

Prior to his departure from Wolverhampton, Mr. Weston was the recipient from the officers and men of the Wolverhampton Police Force of a handsome cigarette-case suitably inscribed, as a mark of appreciation of the esteem in which he was held by that body of men.

The King's Theatre and Hippodrome, Dundee, will be opened on Monday, the opening ceremony by the Right Hon. Lady Dunedin of Stenton being at twelve noon. The lessees are the United County Theatres, Ltd. Mr. Alfred Moul, the managing director, has our heartiest congratulations on the completion of a magnificent house. Mr. C. W. Young is the local manager.

We regret to record the death of Mr. Frank Eastwood, the conductor of the Empire Theatre of Varieties, Rochdale, which took place at his residence on Sunday morning. Mr. Eastwood was a clever violinist, and obtained the appointment of conductor soon after the Empire was opened, four and a half years ago. The funeral took place on Wednesday afternoon, the cortège being headed by members of the Theatre Royal, Empire, and Hippodrome orchestras. Mr. Eastwood was only thirty-four years old, and leaves a widow and three children.

A complimentary benefit to Mr. H. F. Miller, who for five years has been the popular manager of the Stoke Hippodrome, was given on Thursday evening, March 4, and at both the seven and nine o'clock performances there were "bumper" houses.

During an interval the proprietor of the Hippodrome (Mr. T. Allan Edwardes) presented to Mrs. Miller a bouquet and gold watch from the orchestra and staff; then to Mr. and Mrs. Miller a coal scuttle and accessories, a silver-plated cruet and glass shade, and a Wedgwood biscuit jar and two vases from the orchestra and staff; then to Mr. Miller a case of pipes "with good wishes" from the members of the company engaged, and a cheque for £10 10s. from himself. Mr. Miller, in returning thanks, said he hoped he might live many years in the Potteries to serve the people, whom he had found to be good and true friends.

Under a winding-up order under the Companies Acts, made on Jan. 26 last against the Maidstone Palace of Varieties (Limited), meetings of the creditors and shareholders were now held before Mr. H. E. Burgess, Assistant Receiver, at the Board of Trade offices, Lincoln's Inn. The company was registered on Sept. 24, 1907, with a nominal capital of £7,000, its objects being to acquire land at Maidstone and to construct and carry on a theatre there.

The Official Receiver reported that the failure of the company appeared to be due to onerous contracts having been taken over from the vendor syndicate, and to bad management. The responsibility of the directors in taking over contracts and engagements without previously ascertaining their nature and extent was under consideration.

The statement of affairs disclosed liabilities amounting to £9,236, of which £6,080 are expected to rank, with no available assets, the whole of the amount (£2,085) being covered by debenture bonds. The total deficiency as regards shareholders is returned at £9,955. The theatre was opened on March 23, 1908, but did not pay its expenses. In an action commenced by the first debenture holders the Court, on Sept. 30, 1908, appointed a receiver, and he has since arranged a sale of the theatre for the sum of £3,500. The shareholders left the liquidation in the Official Receiver's hands, the creditors' meeting being adjourned.

Mr. Victor Ellis, who is appearing at the Royal Hippodrome, Eastbourne, this week, accomplished what must be regarded as a very smart feat. Miss Hemsley and Mr. Ambrose were billed to appear in a comedy motor-car act, but Mr. Ambrose, meeting with an accident, was unable to reach the Hippodrome for the evening performances. Mr. Victor Ellis, after giving his clever dancing turn, mentioned to Miss Helmsley that as an interested spectator he had once or twice seen her motor-car act, and offered to go on in the place of Mr. Ambrose. Rehearsals were at once commenced, and with such effect that Mr. Ellis and Miss Helmsley appeared at the second house, and gave a performance of the motor-car act which evoked general satisfaction.

Following her most successful engagement at the Oxford, My Fancy is giving a selection from her delightful sand-dances at the Tivoli this week.

The annual general meeting of the Terriers' Association will be held on Sunday, May 2, at six o'clock at the Three Stags, Kennington.

Mr. Gus Elen will be running down to Brighton for a few days on his car to get rid of the remains of his recent attack of influenza. He goes to the Coliseum on the 22nd.

Mr. Archie Howells, musical-director of the Hippodrome, Crouch End, has been away this last few weeks with a serious attack of influenza, but hopes to be back, as well as ever, at business again on Monday.

Mr. R. A. Roberts, the well-known protean actor, is returning to London to-day after his triumphant tour of South Africa. In his new production, in three scenes, *Cruel Coppinger*, which is now complete, Mr. Roberts plays no fewer than twenty distinct characters.

Miss Gipsy Woolf has returned to good old London after a Continental tour with her musical scena, *The Mermaids of Margate*, which has scored a most gratifying success, which was repeated when she opened at the Shepherd's Bush Empire on Monday.

"Invasion; or, Wake Up England," is in active rehearsal, and will be produced on Monday, March 29, at the Canterbury. Mr. John L. Shine has secured an excellent company for his latest piece, and promises a production that will "wake up" England literally. We wish him every success.

Miss Topsy Sinden finished her engagement at the Prince's, Bristol, on Saturday amid a positive shower of flowers. The "Bristolians" gave her a flattering send-off, with bouquets, baskets, and sprays of flowers, a floral harp and an anchor, each as high as herself, and a huge frame of white flowers with "Topsy" in red right across. The harp was yellow with violet strings, and the anchor white with a crimson rope of flowers round it.

The popular lady could not lift the harp or anchor herself, so Mr. Bransby Williams assisted her. While she was giving another encore he pretended to play the harp, and the audience simply cheered. Miss Sinden took all the flowers to the Children's Hospital on the Sunday morning, and the kiddies were delighted. She is now taking a short rest.

The usual monthly meeting of the Music Hall Sick Fund was held on Wednesday at the Crown Hotel, Charing Cross-road, when there were present:—Messrs. W. Brisco (in the chair), Pat Carey, T. Carney, J. B. Brydge, and R. T. Baines, secretary. The nomination of a new member was approved, and after the transaction of other business of a formal character, the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

Mr. Ivan Berlyn next week presents at the Canterbury *Life and Love*, an Anglo-Russian episode that was originally produced last year at the Palace, Stoke Newington. Amongst other things, the playlet deals with inter-marriage with aliens. Mr. Berlyn as Karl Veronski will be supported by Messrs. Cecil Clayton, Howard Brenan, H. Strathmore, and Misses Helen Child and Adah Barton.

The holding capacity of Stanley Hall, Junction-road, Kentish Town, N., it is expected, will be taxed to the utmost on Tuesday evening next, when Little Thomas, the veteran corner man of the Mohawk and Moore and Burgess Minstrels, celebrates the anniversaries of his seventieth birthday and his golden wedding by a grand Bohemian concert. Many of his old confrères in the celebrated troupe will support him.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden produced a new sketch from the pen of E. C. Matthews, entitled *A Tale of Geraniums*, at the Granville, Walham Green, on Monday. Smartly played by these popular people, it was well received at each performance. It is full of comedy lines, and has the distinct advantage of being comfortably played in ten minutes, which in these days of hurricane programmes is a factor to be considered.

A member of Zeynard's Liliputians, Arthur Huhle, a German, aged twenty, who stands but about 2½ft. in height, met with a sad accident on Friday, the 5th inst., while rehearsing at the Leeds Empire. While riding a bare-backed pony he fell to the ground, and the animal, lashing out with its hind legs, kicked him and broke his leg in two places. He is now lying at the Leeds Infirmary.

As a memento of her late husband, Mrs. Frank Heath has presented Mr. Pat Carey, who succeeded Mr. Heath as hon. treasurer of the Music Hall Sick Fund, with a valuable walking-stick. The handle is of horn, with a silver mount, and the stick was presented to Mr. Heath by the Two Macs in 1887. Mrs. Heath has also made a presentation to Mr. R. T. Baines, secretary of the Fund, of a handsome walking-stick with a solid silver handle, being the design of a fox's head, which belonged to her late husband.

Mr. Benj. Woodger, secretary of the Music Hall Home, desires to thank Messrs. H. and M. Rayne, Waterloo-road, for cheque received of £5; Captain Fred Slingsby, Manchester, 15s. 6d.; Police Matinée, Hippodrome, Brighton, £2 10s.; Douglas Stuart, London, 5s. 3d.; Mrs. O'Brien, Rule's, Malden-lane, £1 1s. 10d.; Harry Slingsby, Empire Theatre, Hull, 12s. 3d.; and Frank Weston, Empire Palace Co., Wolverhampton, 12s. 6d. The next committee meeting will be held at the Empire, Camberwell, on Thursday next at 12 noon.

The latest addition to the ranks of the Terriers is Mr. William Hearne (of Cummin and Seaham), the initiation ceremony having been performed last Sunday by Terrier G. P. R. Burgess, P.W.T. A most enjoyable concert followed, the success of which was contributed to by the following artists:—Misses Florence Raynor, Nellie Denver, Vi Kohler, Master Jack Marks, Mr. Leslie Buxton, and Terriers J. Chas. Moore, E. D'Almaine, Bert Marsden, Barney Hyams, W. L. Murray, Tom Packer, Charles Stevens, and Charles Cornish.

On behalf of the Committee of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, 61, New Oxford-street, W.C., Miss Melinda May (secretary) begs most gratefully to thank Mr. Harry Lauder for his generous gift of a guinea (through Mrs. Bradgate); Miss Maude Mortimer, for kindly collecting 10s.; Miss Amy Elvira (collecting), 3s.; Mrs. Ginnett, 10s. (through Miss Albert); Mme. Haydee (collecting), 5s.; Miss Louie Davis (collecting), 5s.; Mr. Paul Martinette, helping to conduct the band at the Rats' ball, 15s.; Miss Williams, parcel of clothing (through Miss Albert); the V.A.B.F. for helping us to bury the baby of one of our pensioners; Miss Lottie Albert, for letter that allows Miss Lington to remain at the National Sanatorium, Bournemouth, for another two months by the hon. physician's orders. Will her friends please note that any further contributions will be gratefully received if posted direct to the Guild?

The Press Association says Mr. Mark Melford, the well-known music hall artist, who was reported some weeks ago to be missing, has been found by his friends to be at Nottingham.

All true and loyal Irishmen, and Irishwomen too, should rally at the Coliseum on Wednesday next (St. Patrick's Day), when the festival is to be celebrated by the singing of ballads and the playing of national airs. Miss Evie Greene, Mr. Seymour Hicks, Mr. Leo Stormont, and others will contribute. St. Patrick's Schools are sending a draft of 300 little scholars to the matinée.

Mr. Eric Williams is repeating his recital in aid of the Veterans' Relief Fund, of which His Majesty the King is patron, at the Crystal Palace on Saturday afternoon, March 27.

On this occasion Mr. Eric Williams will present an entirely new and original patriotic sketch expressly written for him by Mr. H. Chance-Newton entitled *An Old Warrior's Warning*, in which he will sustain the principal character. A novel and interesting feature of the demonstration will be the attendance of about a thousand Baden Powell Scouts, under the command of Capt. J. Boyes.

Mr. H. Saxe Wyndham, the secretary of the Guildhall School of Music, who has had a good deal of experience with the Crystal Palace in connection with various musical features, suggests that there should be a Crystal Palace pageant for the coming summer. When the warm weather returns he has no doubt the pageant spirit will revive, and if the Palace authorities would take up the pageant idea he is sure it would be a striking success.

Bernard Mervyn and Co. are reviving their dramatic sketch *'Twixt Dusk and Dawn*, and are giving a capital representation of this excellent production at the Bedford, where it is meeting with the greatest success. Mr. Mervyn gives a powerful portrayal of the Baron Murtoni, and Miss Doyle as the Countess Delia plays with great dramatic force. The sketch is handsomely staged.

Mr. Frank Stanmore's latest musical comedy production, *The Gay Deceivers*, which has made a hit at the Canterbury, includes a chorus of considerable personal attractions, and among the principals are Miss Maisie Ellinger, Mr. Stanmore, Mr. Douglas Phillips, Miss Pauline Primm, and Mr. Vincent Erne, who recently scored such a success at the Adelphi in Mr. Dan Rolyat's part. The entire production has been rehearsed and stage-managed by Mr. H. Buckstone Clair, and will be seen at the Holborn Empire on Monday.

At the invitation of the directors (Messrs. H. Boyd and Fred Higham), the children (some 900 in number) of the members of the Old Town Winkle Club were entertained at the Hastings Hippodrome on the 6th. The entertainment was excellent. Besides the artists engaged extra turns were given by Master Vernon Stanborough, a clever little comedian, Messrs. Stanborough, Hugh, and company, in a funny sketch, also Manager Walter Norman, who gave a character song entitled "Wicked Mary." Mr. H. Boyd, on behalf of the directors, responded in a very neat speech to Mr. J. Webb's vote of thanks.

Mr. Gus Elen expresses his opinion on the future of the Crystal Palace as follows:—"The Crystal Palace would still do well if it had some attractions out of the beaten track to offer, such as: Flights (daily) in the aeroplane; battle scenes, performed by cleverly-trained boys (in the open)—Lucknow, Waterloo, &c.; balloon ascents (daily); real fishing, shooting, racing, boxing, skating contests (for prizes); together with cheap and good luncheons, teas, &c. Nothing but the best of everything should be engaged, and the Crystal Palace might then become another Coney Island at night."

Miss Pollie Emery and Mr. J. H. Clyndes, supported by a strong company, will appear at the Oxford on Monday for twelve nights in Augustus M. Moore's sketch *The Price of a Girl*, recently produced in the suburbs.

Since Mr. Neil Kenyon produced *The Stationmaster o' Dunrobin* at Manchester three weeks ago, he has been inundated with inquiries for time from managers and agents all over the country. His re-appearance in London shortly will see him in his newest of the kailyard cameos. *The Stationmaster* is to be followed by the third of the series, *Ye Landlord of Ye Auld Dunrobin Arms*, by W. Buchanan Taylor, who also wrote *The Stationmaster*. He has also in preparation a fourth study, *The Knife-grinder o' Dunrobin*, the character in this being a quaint centenarian, whose knowledge of "steely humanity" is as extensive as it is profound.

Mr. Kenyon, as is pretty well known in the profession, is a wonderful "study." When he first took the "Barrow" song to the Ardwick Empire, Manchester, the author of it came to his room one evening and suggested some new patter, remarking that it could be studied during the week-end, and introduced on the following Monday. "Would you like to hear it to-night?" asked Mr. Kenyon. "Rather," replied the writer; "but, of course——" "Then don't talk or move while I'm making up," said Mr. Kenyon. When he went on to the stage—less than an hour later—the new patter, consisting of some 300 words, was spoken word perfect.

It is told of Mr. Neil Kenyon that, when stage-managing a piece called *Honour Thy Father* for Mr. T. Morton Powell, he found himself in a serious predicament owing to the sudden indisposition of the juvenile lead. As the curtain went up no one had been found to fill the part. The situation had become desperate, when Mr. Kenyon volunteered, though he had never seen the part in script. From hearing the part spoken, however, he had retained a perfect mental impression of it, and he went through the piece from start to finish without making a solitary mistake.

A few years since, when engaged by Mr. Robert Courtneidge to play Widow Twankey in *Aladdin* at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle, Mr. Kenyon surprised everybody by turning up at the first rehearsal without the book. Asked what he had done with it, he replied that he didn't need it. Mr. Courtneidge was somewhat incredulous at first, particularly as Mr. Kenyon was finding great difficulty in mastering a quite simple song. But events proved that when he said he did not need the book he was not exaggerating his powers. He admits he is not a singer. This gift of committing parts to memory is inherited from both his father and grandfather. The latter once recited the whole of the New Testament from memory.

At the Empire, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on Thursday, a charity matinée was given in aid of the sufferers by the West Stanley colliery disaster. The matinée, under the distinguished patronage of the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, the Sheriff, &c. proved a most decided success. A splendid programme was presented, and artists from the Tyne, Royal, Empire, Pavilion, and Palace theatres contributed. These included such well-known names as Miss Ada Reeve, Miss Fanny Fields, Miss Alice Pierce, Miss Violet Lloyd, Harry Tate, Louis Bradfield, Malcolm Scott, and a host of other prominent artists.

Mr. Douglas Stuart, secretary of the M.H.A.R.A., has received the honour of an invitation from the chairman (Mr. A. H. Hoyle, of the South Western Railway) to be present at the fifth annual dinner of the Railway Passenger Canvassers to be held at the Criterion to-day.

The Executive Committee of the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association has been compelled to expel two tronpes and suspend another from the benefits of the Association owing to serious misconduct against the railway companies, who placed the matter in the hands of the committee instead of, as they could have done, acting themselves in the matter. Performers who are guilty of acts that are likely to jeopardise the friendly relations with the railway companies seem to entirely forget that they are not only lowering the status of their profession, but are endangering a generous and valuable concession.

At the 598th meeting of the M.H.A.R.A. held on Wednesday Lieut. Albini was in the chair, and Wm. Welsh, Ben Obo, Jim Obo, W. H. Atlas, Ryder Slone, J. M. Northern, T. C. Callaghan, Harry Blake, and F. W. Millis were also present. The weekly statement showed an increase of fifty members, and cash receipts of £54 10s. 6d.

The branch offices of the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association in Manchester have now been open for just twelve months, and Mr. Fred Slingsby the energetic and excellent agent for the M.H.A.R.A. in that town, reports:—Number of artists registered, 8,141; artists on vouchers, 6,872; artists who did not obtain concession, 1,269; artists' vouchers, Dublin and Cork, 30; letters and postcards received from members, 1,016; telegrams, 76; money received for new members and renewals, £106 8s.

The Herne Bay Urban District Council invite tenders for open-air entertainments during the coming season. Copies of the conditions to be observed and forms may be obtained from Mr. Joseph Jubb, Clerk to the Council, to whom tenders should be delivered not later than March 24, at the Town Hall, Herne Bay.

The Corporation of Swansea invite tenders from persons desiring to rent that portion of the Swansea sands lying between the Slipway at St. Helens and the Vivian's Stream. Further particulars may be obtained from Mr. Marcus Hoskins, F.S.I., Borough Estate Agent, Coleridge House, Swansea. Sealed tenders are to be sent to John Thomas, Town Clerk, Guildhall, Swansea.

Miss Nance Elder is experiencing most agreeable proofs of her popularity and genuine success on tour, her value in the scheme of amusement having been recognised by several managers giving her a more important position on their programmes. At one house she held the stage for twelve minutes.

The charitable work conducted by "Uncle John's" many nephews and nieces of the Birmingham *Weekly Post* Busy Bee Society received very substantial and encouraging support on Saturday last from a matinée entertainment given in aid of the fund at the Grand Theatre, by the kind permission of Moss Empires, Ltd. Mr. E. Foster, the manager of the popular house of entertainment, generously undertook the whole management, and the house was literally packed from floor to roof.

With George Robey to head the bill, with Miss Sybil Arundale, of the Theatre Royal pantomime, and such artists from that theatre and the Prince of Wales' pantomime as the Stockham Grecian Ladies' Orchestra, Austin Boyd and Trixie Gilfain, La Danseuse, and many others, it will be seen there was no lack of variety and quality in the entertainment.

During the proceedings Mr. Foster announced from the stage that, after meeting a few trifling expenses, he believed there would be about £90 to hand over to the Uncle John Fund. Mr. C. A. Cornish, the editor of the *Weekly Post*, on behalf of his juvenile readers, congratulated Mr. Foster upon the brilliant success which had attended the generous whole-hearted effort made in the cause of charity.

Dr. Walford Bodie has been creating quite a furore this week at the New Cross Empire, where he has been playing twice nightly to packed houses. He has been duplicating the feats of Charles Quill, of New York, which were so graphically described in the *Daily Telegraph*. Dr. Bodie, by allowing himself to be strapped nightly in the electric death-chair, similar to the one used in Sing Sing Prison, New York, has demonstrated in his own person that electricity does not always kill. Dr. Bodie applied a piece of carbon to his mouth, held between his teeth, and supplied a perfect arc light. His marvellous cures of the paralysed still astound his audiences nightly. He has now fully recovered from his accident, and is as daring as ever.

Among Mrs. E. Hunt's ladies' orchestras are the Highlanders, under the management of G. E. Hunt, who are now in the third year of Continental tour without a break. They include eight charming young ladies and one to two gentlemen. Owing to the heavy tax now on orchestras in Sweden, Mrs. Hunt feels disinclined to sign further contracts there at present, and could accept immediate good offers in Britain from Easter till end of September or October.

Mr. Randolph King produced a new act on Monday evening at the Hippodrome, Eastbourne. An elaborate scene represents the workshop of an old alchemist pursuing his researches in order to discover the elixir of life. Mr. King, by rapid changes, impersonates five different characters—a professor, his workman, his son, a detective, and young ventriloquist—in a distinct and interesting manner. He also uses his ventriloquial powers to materially assist in the plot of his little drama *Mystery No. 1*, as well as in special work with the figures. On Monday, in response to hearty recalls, he was compelled to make a speech, in which he thanked his audience for the manner in which they had received his newest efforts.

A smoking concert in aid of St. Saviour's Hospital for Ladies of Limited Means in Osnaburgh-street, was given at the International Hall of the Café Monico on Thursday evening. Mr. Herbert Johnston occupied the chair, Mr. E. H. Leversage was the vice-chairman, and Mr. Fred Ginnett, Miss Ettie Albert, Miss Melinda May, Miss Belle Elmore, and Miss Viola Thompson were active in the programme department. Amongst those who contributed to a varied programme were Miss Lottie Albert, who was warmly received; Master Adolphus Rochester, solo pianist; Messrs. Claude Stuart and Guy Stavordale, in a banjo duet; Miss Winifred Bedward, with a pleasing song; Mr. Charles Cornish, with a quaint Nigger ditty; Mr. Ernest Delmaine, with a well-rendered ballad; Mr. Edwin Fels and Signor Abata, with a mandoline duet; Miss Dolly Castles, with a "charming" selection; Miss Essie Cregen, the "Welsh nightingale," who warbled well; Miss Gladys Nelson, a clever juvenile, who won an enthusiastic encore by her mimicry of well-known music hall artists; Mr. Eric Snowden, with some clever impersonations of characters from Dickens's works; and many others. Miss Florence Melville and Miss Kathleen Lozer were the accompanists.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS

NOTWITHSTANDING a bad cold, Mr. Dan Crawley has at the Euston been evoking roars of laughter with Messrs. Francis and Day's "We've all been doing a bit" and his "Mother-in-law" number. Both are from the practised pen of T. W. Connor.

A SONG that is rapidly gaining in popularity, and which is published by Messrs. Francis and Day, is "Mandy Lane," written and composed by William J. McKenna.

THE printers have been kept exceptionally busy in supplying Messrs. Francis and Day's orchestral department with band parts of Archibald Joyce's "Vision of Salome" waltz, of "Rainbow" intermezzo, by Paul Wenrich (founded on the popular song so charmingly sung by Miss Madge Temple), and also of a beautiful new intermezzo by Herbert E. Haines, entitled "Cinderella"; and yesterday (Friday) witnessed the dispatch by post of the sets of orchestrations of the same to nearly every musical-director throughout these islands. Any *chefs d'orchestre* who may have been overlooked are invited to communicate with Mr. Leonard Bellamy, manager of the firm's orchestral department.

TO-DAY (Saturday) at their private ground at Golder's Green, the Arpeggio Football Club (Messrs. Francis and Day) are matched against a club organised by Messrs. Scott, a business neighbour in the wholesale basket line. The Arpeggio's team is composed as follows:—William Francis (captain), W. Kirby, T. Templar, E. Morley, J. Bewell, F. Abbott, E. Briebach, F. Osborne, W. Ward, C. Lucas and R. Thornton with H. Simpson and John Abbott as first reserves.

FRANCES HANLON has sung "Are you sincere?" with great success for the last three months at such towns as Belfast, Dublin, Hull, Birkenhead, &c.

MISS MINNIE MACK, who is this week at the Palace, Hull, has secured a fine chorus song, entitled "Don't forget the Marble Arch," by E. W. Rogers. Mr. Gus Harris, who was the instigator of the number, has also the right to sing the ditty.

MR. TOM WICK is the author of the new song, entitled "The agitator," sung by Mr. Ernest Shand. He also wrote that fine comedian's two last big successes, "The last pub" and "The bachelors."

THE American House of Representatives has passed a bill amending the present copyright law under which it has been competent for anyone to filch a copyright musical work and adapt it to the piano-player or the talking machine without let or hindrance. Now all that is changed, and a royalty must be paid to the composer or published for any work so adapted for mechanical reproduction.

MR. FRANK H. CRIMP, now playing the Bandmaster in *Miss Hook of Holland*, is also a successful song writer. Two numbers from his pen, "A passing cloud" and "While I serve the King," have become popular, and he has just written another stirring song on the topic of the moment, entitled "The Territorial Boys," which is being sung by Miss Dorma Morgan, who is making an enormous success with it.

A SUMMER book containing fifty assorted comic songs has just been issued by the Von Tilzer Co., comprising the latest successes of Sam Mayo, Harry Ford, Wilkie Bard, Harry Champion, Bernard Russell, George Formby, Fred Earle, T. E. Dunville, Whit Cunliffe, Arthur Lennard, and others. The publishers will send a copy to any artist enclosing programme and one shilling, which covers postage. To pierrots requiring a large répertoire for the coming season the book should be invaluable.

THE Von Tilzer Co. have just accepted for publication a Territorial song written and composed by Lawrence Barclay entitled "Territorials" ("Your country's proud of you"), which Mr. Hal Forde is singing with great success. The same publishers have in press Mr. Bernard Russell's successful song, "Hold out your hand," written by Worton David and composed by R. L. Nevett.

FRANK HARWOOD has found a winner in his new song "Put me a girl inside," with which he scored heavily both at the Canterbury and Brixton last week. This song is one of Von Tilzer's Sixpenny "Pops."

So great has been the demand for permission to sing the National Publishing Co.'s song "When the leaves are tinged with gold" that arrangements have been made with J. F. Lambe and Fred Elton—the author and composer—to make it a "free" song. Applications for singing permits should be made to the firm in writing.

HETTY KING'S PRESENTATION.

Boy Blue has had a wonderfully successful run at the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Birmingham, but on no evening has the performance been more successful than last Tuesday night, when it was set apart for the benefit of Boy Blue himself, otherwise Miss Hetty King. Naturally Miss Hetty King came in for enthusiastic plaudits on every appearance. She was at her best, which is saying a good deal, and in nothing was she more successful than in the rendering of her famous sailor ditty "I am going away," while "Hang out the front door key" was trebly encored.

Apart from the members of the company, entertainment was provided by the Bros. Griffiths, from the Grand Theatre; Miss Harriett Vernon, from the Gaiety; Lupino Lane and Wee Wallace Lupino, from the Theatre Royal pantomime; and the Molasses, from the Alexandra Theatre. A remarkable success, too, was achieved by little Mona Cutler, the pupil of Miss Rose Tyrrell (ballet mistress), whose dancing displayed wonderful ability and reflected great credit upon the teacher. As a matter of fact, it was little Miss Cutler's first appearance on the stage. A great deal of amusement was caused by Jay Laurier's burlesque "impersonations" of famous people. This fresh turn was as novel as it was entertaining, while Mr. G. H. Elliott's coon song "Idaho" appealed immensely to the audience.

During the evening Miss Hetty King was the recipient of a handsome case containing sets of cutlery and other most useful and valuable household articles. The presentation was made by Mr. Jay Laurier, who explained that the gift came from the boys and girls of the pantomime, and he had never had greater pleasure in making a presentation which was so thoroughly deserved. Miss King, who was much affected, warmly thanked the donors and said she regretted that the pantomime season was so nearly at an end—a season which to her had been one of the happiest she had ever spent. She also expressed heartfelt thanks to Mr. J. T. Graham for his kindness and the audiences for their consideration. Among the many presents the "Owl" fruit basket, presented by Mr. E. C. Parsons, evoked much admiration.

A REUTER cable despatch from Melbourne on Tuesday says that Hackenschmidt and Frank Gotch have accepted the terms offered by a Melbourne syndicate, and will wrestle for the world's championship during the Melbourne Cup week in November.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE EMPIRE.

The joys of winter in Holland are reflected in the spectacle of that name which is one of the chief attractions of the current programme at the Empire. It is a vivacious crowd that careers round in the picturesque costumes of the land of dykes and dams, and the sparkle and gaiety of the scene become infectious. Of course the skaters are on rollers, and champion form is shown by one remarkable performer, whose evolutions are distinguished by grace and skill. One little fellow, who is extracted from a huge snowball, also shows fair promise of emulating the elder skater by the variety, rapidity, and spontaneity of his movements and figures. Of course there is the comic old couple, whose falls evoke laughter, and the whole thing forms an exhilarating interlude in the very excellent programme.

The latest addition to the scheme of amusement presented by the popular Mr. H. J. Hitchins is Mr. Morris Cronin, the expert Indian club manipulator, who is a favourite on either side of the "pond." Mr. Cronin when we first made his acquaintance was a single performer at another house in the near neighbourhood, and even at that time he was responsible for remarkable developments. He now brings with him a small company—known, by the way, as his "merry men"—and a fit-up that imparts an air of mystery to the show and also assists in the fun. Mysterious mechanical figures and electrical devices have their share in the laughter-raising, and the imperturbable coolness of Cronin himself as he does the most ingenious tricks with consummate ease and a complete command of poise and balance contrasts in the drollest manner possible with the continuous promenading of a couple of footmen, who run in and out with trays and catch, in seemingly the most promiscuous manner, clubs thrown at them by the chief personage in the show, every minute of which is interesting. It is wound up by a bewildering display with illuminated clubs on a darkened stage. Ingenious and clever to the last degree is Morris Cronin's entertainment.

A Blank Cheque still retains its place on the programme. In consequence of the engagement of Miss Evelyn D'Alroy by Mr. Lewis Waller, the part of Mrs. Mahoney is filled by Miss Hilda Anthony—and very well filled, too. Mr. Charles V. France is a vivacious and pathetic Mahoney. Sentimental singing is a feature of the bill. Miss Olga Tremelli is heard to advantage in an operatic air and in Tosti's favourite "Goodbye," and Signor Barbalonga gives forcible effect to the Toreador song from *Carmen* and to "Il Balen" from *Il Trovatore*. The latter sings dramatically, but his style leaves something to desire in the way of delicacy.

A Day in Paris still pursues its merry course, and in this connection we may record the rapid advance made by Mlle. Lydia Kyasht in public favour. There never was any question of her great ability as a dancer and mime; the difficulty with her was to follow the popular Adelina Genée. That she has justified her selection by the Empire directors is amply proved by her conspicuous success in her solos, especially in her Russian dances, which are full of dramatic significance. The Apache dance is encored nightly, and Mr. Fred Farren and Miss Beatrice Collier are the recipients of many compliments. Mme. Zanfretta is also pleasantly conspicuous. The final scene is a gorgeous feast of colour, and the whole is a very enjoyable spectacle with all the necessary Gallic gaiety imported into it. The Mozzettos and the Marnos are also in the list of artists.

THE COLISEUM.

Mr. Seymour Hicks came to the Coliseum on Monday, and brought with him Miss Zena Dare, who owes much of her success to natural charm, and not a little to the camera. The two presented in the most delightful way possible the comedietta *Papa's Wife*, which was originally produced at the Lyric on Jan. 26, 1895, the authors being Mr. F. C. Philips and Mr. Seymour Hicks, and the music from the pen of Miss Ellaline Terriss. The plot is very simple. Mr. Seymour Hicks represents a young man who mistakes his stepmother's daughter for that lady herself; and the slight complications arising are, of course, smoothed out by a prospect of matrimony, and, incidentally, at the Coliseum, with song and dance. There are eight pretty girls—*élégantes* every one of them—to give a background to a song daintily expressed by Miss Zena Dare, and then there is Mr. Seymour Hicks, who is never more gay or blithe than when he is himself, as he unquestionably is at the Coliseum. Our grandfathers used to talk a great deal about "Bravo, Hicks!" The phrase may still be preserved with a different meaning; for large audiences at St. Martin's-lane's sumptuous palace have been giving utterance to it in order to express their opinion of an actor of irresponsible gaiety, whose irrepressible spirits carry him shoulder high to success. Mr. Hicks is responsible for a cursory imitation of a popular music hall comedian. "Why are you hesitating?" asks Miss Dare. "I'm not hesitating; I'm *Harry Tating*." Then he gives some excellent miming, and the whole entertainment is just of that lively, joyous, and up-to-date nature that appeals to variety audiences. Of course there is a burlesque of the Apache dance at the Empire. The more serious work promised on behalf of Mr. Hicks was not forthcoming on Monday, and his Ebenezer Scrooge has yet to win favour on the variety stage.

Miss Evie Greene, who returns to Mr. Stoll's beautiful house after a short absence, sings with excellent taste, and also displays her comedy gifts in a recitation that may be entitled "But I daresn't." Les Fleury, the Parisian duo, are new to the Coliseum, and repeat the success they gained at the Palace in types that are to be found in *la ville lumière*. Their turn is particularly bright and interesting. Miss Lily Flexmore evokes enthusiasm by her remarkable dancing; and in Fred Barnes is to be found a true American humorist with plenty of funny songs and patter.

Miss Elise Craven, quite the smallest variety star in London at the present time, delights her audiences as "Queen" of the fairies, a pretty little sketch which we have already noticed; and Ethel Beach, Madelaine de Nocé, vocalist; Herman Melot, conjurer; and the Lumars are other attractions in the strong programme presented under the direction of Mr. Dundas Slater, the popular manager here.

THE METROPOLITAN.

The crowded state of the cheaper parts of the auditorium at the fine house in the Edgware-road at the first house on Monday proves that the boon of an early entertainment is much appreciated by the toilers of Paddington, who have been welcoming the one and only Marie Lloyd with enthusiastic acclaim during the week. The Met. is a favourite house with the queen of comediennes, and one can always rely on hearing her at her best when she is giving her comedy sketches there. The latest of her droll characters is the old maid, who avers that she "lives in hopes if she dies in despair." There is much cleverness in the dress and make-up, and the gross exaggeration and ugliness so often thought necessary are entirely absent. The muff, certainly, has had its day, and there is a decidedly second-hand look about the hat—with its immense bird surmounting it—the jacket and the dress; but there is no lack of gentility in the faded garments, and though pathos hovers very near, the sketch of spinsterhood is played in the key of comedy, with the result that uproarious laughter greets every amusing line and bit of patter. Marie reaches a higher plane of genuine comedy in this number than in her final, "I can't make my eyes be good," a pendant to "Wink the other eye," her great success of years ago. She is gowned prettily in pink.

An interesting turn is presented by the Welsh Miners, who very appropriately introduce a number that refers to the recent colliery disaster at West Stanley, Durham. Copies of this have been sold in the hall in aid of the fund being raised for the widows and children of the victims. The miners appear in their workaday clothes, carrying lamps, and the stage is set very appropriately. They are heard to advantage in Gounod's Soldiers' Chorus from *Faust*, and in some favourite glees. A capital entertainment is contributed by the Gems, a troupe consisting of two ladies and four gentlemen, one of the latter being the accompanist. They are particularly vivacious in their motor number, and display the essential quality of humour in the trio, "The housemaid and the cook." Their final item, entitled "Good-night," is harmoniously sung, and brings them much applause. Mr. Cyrus Dare is quite successful, too, in his mimicry of little children, but emphasises their precocity rather than their innocence. Especially is this the case in his concluding business, in which an imitation is given of a little girl nursing her dolly. Miss May Moore Duprez, the jolly Dutch girl, sings as blithely and dances as spiritedly as ever. Her patter, too, is very amusing, and she is wearing most unmistakably. Mr. Tom Dunlin, who has been appearing during the week in place of Mr. Harry Conlin, with more experience should do well, especially when he tones down his methods, and gets better songs. Baker and De Sales, who appear early in the evening, show versatility in their entertainment called "Much Ado About Nothing," which we may explain has nothing whatever to do with Shakespeare's comedy. Mr. George Collins, comedian, opens the programme, to which Miss Anita Ediss, in songs and dances, also contributes. A much-appreciated feature of the bill is Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope, which is both comical and topical in its moving pictures. We were sorry to hear of Mr. Jack Edgar's illness. During his absence the duties of management in front are ably and courteously undertaken by Mr. W. Leslie Gooch.

NEW CROSS EMPIRE.

Dr. Walford Bodie is here this week and, as usual, is drawing great business. Dr. Bodie's turn is novel and interesting, and evokes enthusiastic applause, especially when a child of four years, who has been placed on the stage with one leg quite useless, is, by electric treatment, enabled to walk away without assistance. Dr. Bodie also introduces an exact reproduction of the American death-chair and the Cage of Death. The Doctor invites seven men from the audience to ascend to the stage, and treats them to electric shocks. His movements are followed with attentive eyes, and the turn is warmly applauded.

Mr. Ernest Shand is a great favourite here, and nightly meets with most flattering receptions. He sings in his own quaint style his favourite number "The last pub." He is also heard to advantage in "In other lands," which is the medium for some very smart patter. The Martineks with their entertainment "the rag doll" make a hit, and are warmly applauded at the conclusion of their novel and clever turn. Miss Kate Traill with songs at the piano is paying a welcome return visit. Miss Traill is a charming singer and brilliant pianist, and her contributions are decidedly successful. Miss Belle Davis, assisted by her clever piccaninnies, appears with success in an entertainment entitled *Southern Pastimes*, consisting of song, dance, and acrobatic feats. Miss Jeannie Mackay—billed as the Lavender Girl—sings pleasingly of "When you have got your harvest home." Carl and Carr present a clever drawing-room interlude, in which one of them appears in female dress. They indulge in a droll burlesque love scene, and later, both in male dress, sing well and introduce some clever and original patter. Tom E. Hughes justifies his description on the programme—a comedian with a real sense of humour—by singing acceptably his well-written song entitled "Leicester Square." The Mayvilles (Harry and Elsie) are responsible for a novel and pleasing entertainment on a prettily-set miniature stage, their contributions including "In the twilight," "A Jewish love song," a Scotch song and dance, and another, entitled "The Mayvilles"; and the judiciously varied bill concludes with American Bioscope pictures, among which is a story entitled The Fisherman's Fiancée. The excellent orchestra, under the able direction of Mr. Forbes Russell, play the overture to *Pique Dame*, by Suppé. Mr. H. Percy Parry has now taken up the position of assistant acting-manager to his popular chief, Mr. Ernest Bridgen.

THE COUNTY, KINGSTON.

Once again the cosy little theatre on the banks of the Thames has changed the character of its bill of fare to meet the wishes of its numerous patrons, a return being made from drama, comedy, and so forth to a programme of varieties, which was so much appreciated by a large section of the community when the experiment was first made last year. Mr. Peter Davey, the managing-director, in making the change, wisely decided upon the two-houses-a-night plan, and this has been found to work satisfactorily to all concerned. The programme this week is a thoroughly up-to-date one, and on Monday night was received with unmistakable favour by crowded audiences.

Will Euston opens the bill with one of his clever delineations of coster characters, and he also introduces a ditty, "The Coster's Serenade," in which he shows superior vocal powers of the Tyrolean order. The gymnastic and acrobatic performances of the two young ladies known as the Lutinas are a favourite item, both showing rare skill and agility. Their Spanish dances are also much appreciated. Eugene and Willie, the musical acrobats, are received with open arms by those who witnessed their clever performance on the occasion of a former visit to Kingston, and the Sisters Morgan, duettists and dancers, also succeed in winning much favour. Mr. W. Permane's educated Siberian bears are remarkably docile, and are allowed to roam about the stage held only by a thin chain. The tricks they perform are an eye-opener to Kingston audiences, particularly those of the largest of the animals, who has been trained to counterfeit illness and to indicate in a loud basso-profundo voice that what he would like to cure him is "a drop o' rum." Bruin also rides on a horse's back and jumps through a paper-covered hoop.

Sylvene, the equilibrist, shows remarkable cleverness and strength on his hands, and finishes his performance by lifting a lady on a bicycle by his teeth whilst his body is inverted on the palms of his hands. He is assisted by Mlle. Florence. Not the least interesting feature of the programme are the tricks of Wishart, the well-known illusionist. His escape from a giant bottle securely padlocked, and which had been minutely examined by independent witnesses, was exceedingly clever, and when he subsequently escaped from the bottle and was found in a double box, locked and corded, the audience and witnesses on the stage were quite mystified. In addition to these interesting turns, there are also shown some excellent films by the Graphic Cinematograph Company.

THE ELLIOTT-SAVONAS AT THE HACKNEY EMPIRE.

These clever and well-known entertainers are at the top of the bill this week in their famous musical act. Their reappearance in London has special interest, because they are taking advantage of the circumstance to utilise for the first time new and very elaborate scenic effects. Mr. Charles Woods, the well-known scenic artist, who has painted the new setting, is to be congratulated on the very gorgeous scene which he has designed. The scene is a full palace set, very elaborate in its decorative scheme, and a brilliant lighting arrangement assists in making the whole as beautiful a stage picture as could be imagined, the semi-military costumes which the troupe wear being also very attractive. From the purely musical point of view, there can be no doubt but that their act is unique, each member of the troupe being so accomplished a musician. On the evening of our visit the selections performed included Mascagni's Intermezzo, a pot-pourri of popular airs, and concluded with the "William Tell" overture, in the latter items novel storm and lightning effects being introduced. So loud and sustained was the applause, that although the last turn on, they had to concede an encore. They can claim with some confidence that no similar act has so magnificent a staging, or secures such remarkable musical performances.

MUSIC HALL HOME FUND.
For Subscription List see page 11.

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER'S SONG BOOM.

BRAVO! TERRITORIALS.
Sung by ***Miss OUIDA MACDERMOTT.***

IT'S A LIE.
Sung by ***GEORGE ROBEY.***

OH! OH! ANTONIO.
Sung by ***Miss FLORRIE FORDE.***

SHE SELLS SEA SHELLS.
Sung by ***WILKIE BARD.***

GOO-GOO LAND.
Sung by ***Miss ADA REEVE.***

WHEN I GOT UP THIS MORNING
Sung by ***DAN CRAWLEY.***

BOMBADIER.
Sung by ***Miss WINIFRED HARE.***

IT'S MOONLIGHT EVERY NIGHT IN LONDON.
Sung by ***ARTHUR REECE.***

MY GIRL'S A YORKSHIRE GIRL
Sung by ***Miss FLORRIE GALLIMORE.***

SUE, SUE, SUE.
Sung by ***G. H. ELLIOTT.***

I'M AFRAID TO COME HOME IN THE DARK.
Sung by ***Miss HETTY KING.***

COME AND HAVE A DRINK WITH ME.
Sung by ***CHAS. WHITTLE.***

SYDNEY'S HOLIDAYS ARE IN SEPTEMBER (NAUGHTY BOY)
Sung by ***Miss VESTA TILLEY.***

THE AGITATOR.
Sung by ***ERNEST SHAND.***

I DO MAKE A HIT WITH THE LADIES.
Sung by ***Miss HETTY KING.***

HOW D'YOU DO, MY BABY?
Sung by ***G. H. ELLIOTT.***

COME, BE MY RAINBOW.
Sung by ***Miss MADGE TEMPLE.***

THEY WON'T KNOW I COOM FROM THE COONTRY.
Sung by ***GEO. BASTOW.***

THE MUSICAL COMEDY GIRL. Sung by ***Miss EILEEN DOUGLAS.***

ROBIN RED-BREAST.
Sung by ***HARRY CHAMPION.***

SHADOWLAND.
Sung by ***Miss ETHEL DUNFORD.***

HANG OUT THE FRONT DOOR KEY.
Sung by ***GEORGE LASHWOOD.***

THE COSTER'S PONY.
Sung by ***GUS ELEN.***

JOHN WILLIE, COME ON.
Sung by ***GEORGE FORMBY.***

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER, 142, Charing Cross Rd., London, W.C.

PERFORMERS' CHILDREN IN PANTOMIME.

Hereditary talent has been to the fore this week at Balham, where the local Assembly Rooms were devoted on Wednesday and Thursday to the performance of a pantomime by the children of artists whose names are famous in variety annals. The pantomime, the book and incidental music of which were by A. Le Clerq, was entitled

"RED RIDING HOOD."

Mortals.

Prince Eric .....Miss Cissie Le Clerq
Ruby .....Miss May Leno
Widow Horner .....Master Ernest Leno
Jimmie Green .....Master Arthur Le Clerq
Johnnie Stout .....Master Bert Leno
Squire Stoneybroke .....Master Syd. Jackson
Peter Simon .....Master Dick King
Tommy Smith .....Master Guy Parker
Little Red Riding Hood ..Miss Lillie Leonard

Immortals.

Fairy Dewdrop .....Miss Marjorie Bowyer
Demon .....Master Guy Parker
Wolf .....Master Dick King

Many of the elements of pantomime were found in the production, for which the scenic resources of the Assembly Rooms had been fully taxed. The sets successively shown represented the Village of Ware, where a demoniacal plot against the heroine was laid, and all the characters introduced; Widow Horner's Schoolroom, where fun of a familiar character was made; Blackberry Brake, where the traditional meeting between the Wolf and Red Riding Hood took place; Widow Horner's Cottage, where the Wolf met his doom; and the Palace, where all the characters reappear in costumes elegant or grotesque as the case demanded.

Excellent promise was shown by the youthful members of Leno and Le Clerq's company, who in many cases gave evidence of following closely in the footsteps of their talented parents, a remarkable feature of the performance being the finished manner in which the dancing and business was accomplished. An almost perfect principal boy was found in Miss Cissie Le Clerq, the daughter of the popular comedian, Geo. Le Clerq. Handsome, gay, and debonair, she acquitted herself in admirable style, speaking and singing as if to the manner born. Her song of "Sue" was rendered additionally attractive by a whistling chorus at the wings, and "I want you to see my girl," embellished by a neat dance, was loudly encored. Miss Le Clerq has evidently formed her style on the best models, and is full of resource; but she might be advised to guard against a tendency to staginess. Another revelation of ability was furnished by Miss Lillie Leonard, the daughter of Bob and Jennie Leonard, who played Red Riding Hood with grace, skill, and confidence. The little maiden has a sweet and penetrating voice, and rendered a difficult French ballad in cultivated style. Her comedy gifts were made apparent when she sang the song of a demure Quakeress who "never does such things," but indulges in incautious moments in a lively *pas seul*. Her dancing is of the excellence that might be expected from the child of such expert exponents of the art, and Mr. Leonard watched with pardonable pride from the auditorium the artistic efforts of his offspring.

The Leno Family was represented by three members, one of whom was Miss May Leno, who played principal girl with charm and freshness, and sang "Antonio" with much excellence. She shared also in the success of "A Tiny Seed of Love," sung in association with Miss Le Clerq. Two sons of the lamented comedian, Ernest and Bert Leno, played comedy parts, the former quaintly made up as the Widow and the latter contributing to the fun as Johnnie Stout. Much laughter was aroused by the efforts of Arthur Le Clerq, who clearly has a career as a comedian before him. His eccentricities as Jimmy Green were very droll, and his singing of "A. B. C." won a warm recall. Miss Marjorie Bowyer also gained distinction as a comely Fairy Dewdrop, and had an enthusiastic encore for her tuneful ballad rendered with much taste and refinement. Guy Parker and Dick King deserve praise for dramatic acting as the Demon and the Wolf respectively. The dresses were elegant and tasteful, that of the Prince, who wore in the last scene a pale blue satin suit, being quite a triumph. The only accompaniments were furnished by a pianoforte, at which Mr. Jack Fenn did loyal service.

Miss Lola Lee tops the bill at the Hippodrome, Lowestoft, this week. Her sensational Eastern dances have aroused the wildest enthusiasm nightly.

Great Scott, the ladder king, laments the sudden death of his father, who passed away on Sunday at his home in Walcot-square, Kennington. The sorrowing widow and family have been the recipients of much sympathy.

A petition has been presented to the Plymouth and East Stonehouse County Court by the United County Theatres (Limited) for the winding up of the Royal and Grand Theatres (Limited). The petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at the Western Law Courts, Plymouth, on Wednesday next.

During the final scene of the last performance of *Aladdin* at the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, on Saturday, the usual call was made for Mr. Chute, who duly appeared and bowed his acknowledgments. He was, however, present at considerable inconvenience, having but recently recovered from a severe indisposition. Mr. Chute was very warmly greeted, but his customary and much-looked-forward-to speech had to be made by a deputy, Mr. Bransby Williams, who stated that Mr. Chute much regretted that he did not feel equal to the effort of making a speech—in fact, he was present in opposition to his doctor's wishes; but he—Mr. Williams—was deputed by Mr. Chute to express his best thanks for the generous and well-sustained patronage which had made the pantomime a more than average success, and he wished to congratulate the members of the company on the hearty appreciation one and all had won from the Bristol public. Mr. Bransby Williams concluded his speech amid much applause. The floral display at the conclusion of the pantomime was very imposing, and, as usual, "Auld Lang Syne" was the finale.

A grand charity concert in aid of the Dundee Town Council and Citizens' Committee for Relief of Distress Fund was given last Sunday evening in the Palace Theatre, Dundee, kindly lent for the occasion by the United County Theatres, Ltd. There was a large audience in spite of the inclement weather. By permission of the Moody-Manners Opera Co., Ltd., Miss Kate Anderson, Miss Olive Westwood, Mr. Seth Hughes, and Mr. Lewys James appeared, and delighted the audience with their charming singing. Mr. Louis Karpe, manager of Her Majesty's Theatre, than whom there is no harder worker in the cause of charity, recited "The Ballad of Splendid Silence" and "Fra Giacomo" in impressive and telling fashion. The Palace orchestra, under the direction of Mr. George Mundell, played Beethoven's "Promethus" overture, an arrangement of Rachmaninoff's well-known Piano Prelude in C sharp minor, and Gwylim Crowe's "Io Triomphe" march very brightly. Mr. A. K. Maxwell provided admirable pianoforte accompaniments to the vocal part of the programme, and Mr. S. M'Intosh, manager of the Palace, made a courteous and attentive honorary manager.

TESTIMONIAL TO MAURICE DE FRECE.

TO COMMEMORATE HIS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DRAMATIC AND VARIETY AGENCY.

President, Mr. Arthur Collins, T.R., Drury-lane.

The following gentlemen form the Committee, with power to add to their number:—

Mr. Frederick Abrahams	Mr. Sydney Hyman
Mr. Harry Barnett	Mr. Johnny Jacobs
Mr. Natt Behrens	Mr. E. J. Leamy
Mr. J. W. Boughton	Mr. Jack Lotto
Mr. Frank Boyd	Mr. Joseph Lyons
Mr. Alfred Butt	Mr. George May
Mr. Lauri A. Cohen	Sir Edward Moss
Mr. Joseph Davis	Mr. Wm. Morris (inc.)
Mr. Ernest Devere	Mr. Alfred Moul
Mr. H. J. Didcott	Mr. Paul Murray
Mr. Chas. Fisher	Mr. Henry Neville
Mr. Geo. Foster	Mr. Will Oliver
Mr. Jack de Frece	Mr. Geo. O'Starr
Mr. Lauri de Frece	Mr. Eugen Sandow
Mr. Walter de Frece	Mr. Tom Shaw
Mr. Michael Garcia	Mr. Chas. Simons
Mr. Frank Glenister	Mr. Sidney Smith
Mr. J. L. Graydon	Somers and Warner
Mr. Henri Gros	Mr. Oswald Stoll
Mr. T. G. Hales	Mr. Henry Sutton
Mr. Fred Higham	Mr. Henry Tozer
Mr. Thos. Holmes	Mr. H. W. Wieland

Hon. Treasurer, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, *The Era*.
Joint Hon. Secretaries, Mr. Geo. Foster and Mr. Emanuel Warner.

Subscriptions Promised and Received.

	£	s.	d.
Mr. T. G. Hales	10	10	0
Sir Edward Moss	5	0	0
Mr. Fred Karno	5	0	0
Mr. Charles Fisher	2	2	0
Mr. Harry Barnett	2	2	0
Mr. Jack Lotto	1	1	0
Mr. Lauri A. Cohen	1	1	0
Mr. Tom Shaw	1	1	0
Miss Carrie O'Brien	1	1	0
Mr. Ian Colquhoun	1	1	0
Mr. Carl Hertz	1	1	0
Mr. J. Selbini	1	1	0
Mr. Joe Elvin	1	1	0
Mr. Harry Jee	1	1	0
Miss Kittee Rayburn	0	10	6
Miss Georgina Middleton	0	10	6
Mr. A. Letta	0	5	0
Swan	0	5	0
Miss Luna Love	0	5	0

Miss Annie Braddan (the Manx girl) will go to the Paragon on Monday, and after fulfilling engagements in Manchester and Glasgow, will return to London to fulfil her first contract at the Palace Theatre.

Mlle. Royal, formerly known as the Birmingham giantess, has died at Cardiff. She had toured all over the world with Barnum and Bailey, and in her prime weighed 32st.

"THE SAILOR'S LASS."

A Dramatic Sketch, in One Scene, Produced at Sadler's Wells, on Monday, March 8.

Hal Summers .....Mr. Herbert Pearson
Austen Harford .....Mr. Frank Vernon
Simon Sleeks .....Mr. Maurice Drew
Zachariah Lee .....Mr. Charles L. Ludlow
Nancy .....Miss Helena Walbran

Hal Summers, the sailor, has been so long away from England that his sweetheart, Nancy, has wondered what has become of him, for he has not even written. Still in her village home at Redcliffe she waits and hopes. Her old uncle, Zachariah Lee, a fisherman, who has brought her up from childhood, is now in financial difficulties, and it seems that his cottage must be sold up. The wealthy Austen Harford offers to pay off all charges and to make the aged fisherman comfortable for the rest of his life. But Harford stipulates that this generosity must be consequent upon his being permitted to lead the pretty Nancy to the altar. The girl, in order to be of assistance to her uncle, promises to marry Harford, and almost immediately after she has agreed to do this Hal Summers returns home. His long absence has been due to the fact that he was shipwrecked. And now it looks as if he is to be deprived of his fiancée. However, fortunately for our hero and heroine, an ex-convict, Simon Sleeks, finds his way to the village and denounces Harford as an accomplice in fraudulent transactions which got Sleeks five years' penal servitude. The ex-convict also furnishes information as to a will which proves Nancy's right to a fortune. The little piece is well acted by the members of the cast, Miss Helena Walbran giving an engaging portraiture as Nancy, Mr. Charles L. Ludlow furnishing a suitable character-study as the aged Zachariah Lee, and Messrs. Frank Vernon, Herbert Pearson, and Maurice Drew appearing to advantage in their individual rôles.

Messrs. Chapman and Hall, in a fortnight's time, will publish Mr. Bransby Williams' book, "An Actor's Story," which will contain thirty-two pages of illustrations.

For motoring without having an identification plate on the front of his car Phil Ray, the comedian, was ordered to pay the costs of the summons at Kingston on Thursday.

The advertisement referred to in the paragraph in our last week's issue descriptive of a hoax played on Miss Kitty Colyer appeared in a Lancashire paper, and not in the *Bath Herald*.

Miss Ellaline Terriss, accompanied by friends, made a visit of inspection to a number of her soup-kitchens in the West End on Thursday afternoon. Nearly 7,000 poor children are being fed at the ten centres.

"THE BANDIT'S BLUNDER."

On Monday, March 8, at the West London Theatre, Production of a New and Original Burlesque Sketch, Written by Ward Bailey.

Beppo Nicolini .....Mr. Harry Ewins
Dianella .....Mr. James Ewins
Timothy Edwin Crumpet
Mr. George Robertson
Matteo .....Miss Agnes Ewins
Bianca .....Miss Dorothy Ewins
Gendarme .....Mr. B. Crosby

The scene of this bustling little sketch is the exterior of the Silver Star Inn, amongst the mountains of Calabria, and during its short run of twenty minutes the fun is indeed fast and furious. After an extremely neat and tricky acrobatic dance by Matteo and Bianca, Beppo and Dianella make their entrance, having in custody poor Timothy Edwin Crumpet, whom they have seized, under the impression that he is a rich English lord, whose ransom they consider to be worth quite thirty thousand pounds. In spite of Timothy's indignant denials, they refuse to believe his assertion that he is only a humble whisky traveller for the well-known "Volcano" brand. However, the "fiery" nature of his samples, which he forces upon Beppo, in a particularly lavish and generous style, have such a drowsy effect on the brigand that Crumpet sees an easy way of seeking safety in flight, which is only frustrated by the entrance of a gendarme, who has come to arrest Beppo for past offences. A particularly interesting chase then ensues, through windows and doors and over the housetops, in which some very clever work is done by the Ewins family, all the members of which are such old popular Marylebone favourites. An important feature of this bright little sketch is the fact of the ladies of the troupe also taking the leaps, which they do in a most skilful and accomplished way. The West Londoners received this amusing item with every sign of encouragement and approval, and it should be sure of a hearty welcome everywhere.

Tariff reform as applied to the variety profession is not necessarily an unmixed blessing. Recently a law was passed in Stockholm enacting that all foreign performers appearing in Sweden should pay a tax on their salaries. Apart from the fact that this impost was not altogether flattering to the native talent, since a protective duty frequently implies inferior home produce, the new measure has proved itself a double-edged sword indeed. Directors and managers of variety halls, and notably of the ever-increasing kinematograph shows, which held some enlivening fillip between films, have been obliged to themselves pay this tax on the salaries of their foreign artists, owing to a determined stand made by the latter, and the budget, being a non-elastic, rigid quantity, the indigenous talent suffers pro rata.

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GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

On Thursday evening, Friday evening, and Saturday afternoon, March 4, 5, and 6, the operatic students of the Guildhall School of Music gave excellent performances of Hérold's opera, *Le Pré aux Clercs*, and Dr. Cummings deserves the thanks of the musical public for having in the past few years given revivals of works now seldom heard, such as Barnett's *Mountain Sylph*, Auber's *Fra Diavolo*, Hérold's *Zampa*, Gluck's *Iphigenia in Tauris*, and Hérold's opera *Le Pré aux Clercs*, which, although far from being a masterpiece, contains lively and tuneful music, and is in all respects well adapted to a students' performance. Ferdinand Hérold, who was born in 1791 at Paris, was the composer of numerous operas, all of which, with the exception of *Zampa* and *Le Pré aux Clercs*, are forgotten. The latter opera was originally produced at the Opéra Comique, Paris, in December, 1832, two months before the death of its composer, and has not been heard in London since the performance given in Italian at Covent Garden in June, 1880. The scene of the opera is laid in France during the reign of Henry III. Marguerite, Queen of Navarre, is kept in Paris by her brother, the King of France, as a hostage of peace. Isabelle, a beautiful young Countess of Béarnaise, is with her. Comminge, Colonel of the King's Light Horse, and a noted duellist, also a great favourite of the King, attracted by Isabelle's charms, aspires to her hand, and as in those days they managed these things in a very high-handed fashion, with little regard to the lady's feeling on the matter, the King grants his request to marry the beautiful countess. But Isabelle is already engaged to Mergy, a young Béarnaise gentleman, sent as Envoy by Henry of Navarre to arrange for his Queen's recall. The first act takes place at Nicette's Inn at Etampes, which is *en fête* for Nicette's marriage with Girot, proprietor of the Pré aux Clercs, a famous pleasure garden at Paris. Mergy arrives on his way to Paris, when Cantarelli, Superintendent of Fêtes at the King of France's Court, comes in and tells Mergy his errand to Paris is hopeless, and that Isabelle will soon be given in marriage to Comminge. The Queen Marguerite and Isabelle shortly after enter, and Isabelle is in despair when she hears the news. The second act opens in a room in the Palace of the Louvre, Paris. Marguerite and Isabelle seek Cantarelli's aid in a plot to defeat the King of France's proposal to marry Isabelle to Comminge, and Cantarelli tries to make him believe that Marguerite herself is in love with Mergy. At the masquerade ball Mergy appears, saying the King has sent for Isabelle and himself, and he intends to fly with her. In this scene Comminge is challenged to fight by Mergy, and they arrange the duel for the next day at the Pré aux Clercs. The scene of the last act is the Pré aux Clercs, Paris. The wedding of Girot and Nicette takes place, and Mergy and Isabelle are also married at the same time. Comminge arrives, is told of the plot, and is afterwards killed in his duel with Mergy. Isabelle and Mergy leave with a passport obtained from the King by Cantarelli. In the performance on Friday evening Miss Lilian Allen appeared as Marguerite with considerable success; while the music of Isabelle was cleverly sung by Miss Ethel Elmes, the young vocalist being particularly happy in the melodious and florid aria which occurs at the commencement of the second act. Miss Pansy Hooper made an attractive and vivacious Nicette; while the part of Mergy was ably sung and acted by Mr. Alfred Steed. Mr. Eldon Dacre made an excellent Cantarelli. The trio between the Queen, Isabelle, and Cantarelli went remarkably well. Mr. Arthur Gourlay can be heartily commended for the acting and singing in the small part of Girot, host of the Pré aux Clercs; and Mr. Carl True, Mr. Robert Fletcher, and Mr. Hatton-Sinclair were effective in the characters of Subaltern of the King's Light Horse, Chief Archer, and Officer of the Court of France. The costumes of the soldiers, archers, masquers, and the principal characters were picturesque and striking; while the scenery of Mr. W. T. Hemsley answered all demands. There were some pretty dances arranged by Mr. B. Soutten (stage-manager), and the small, but excellent, orchestra, was skilfully conducted by Mr. Richard H. Walthew. The costumes were kindly lent by the Royal Opera Syndicate, Covent Garden.

An interesting concert was given by the students on Wednesday evening, and two organ solos included in the programme, Mr. Kenneth Brown being very successful in the fine Prelude and Fugue in G major (Bach) and Miss Harriet Cartwright, A.G.S.M., F.R.C.O., giving a finished performance of Smart's Chorale with Variations. Miss Lilian Giles sang "O Divine Redeemer"; and four accomplished pupils of Mme. Fiammetta Waldahoff (Miss Hunt, Mrs. Hart, Miss Whitehead, mandolinists, and Miss Birch, mandola), with Miss Amy Parsons at the pianoforte, played "Pour toi" (Hucke) and a pretty gavotte by Morley entitled "Rose Leaves." Elgar's song "Like to the damask rose" was ably sung by Miss Daisy Bevis; while Mr. F. Coxall's excellent bass voice was heard in "She alone charmeth my sadness," from Gounod's *Irene*. A little more dramatic effect was perhaps required, but Mr. Coxall's voice will repay cultivation. Miss Edith Harnden, A.G.S.M., gave a cleverly-executed harp solo, "Prière" (Hasselmans), and had a special recall; and a welcome feature in the programme was the duet "Venezia" (Lucantoni) sung by Miss Frances Hall and Mr. Arthur Morse, pupils of Mr. Wallace Wells, who did their professor great credit, and such evidently was the opinion of the audience when they gave two hearty recalls. Miss Lilian Nicholson, heard in piano solos, "Sérénade" (Bredo Lasson) and Rubinstein's "Kamennoi-Ostrow," besides being a clever executant displayed considerable expression in her playing. "The Toreador Song" from *Carmen* was well sung by Mr. A. B. Steel; and Master Jack Francis in his violoncello solos "Wiegenlied" and Dunckler's "Tarantella" received warm applause. The concert concluded with the Waltz Song from German's *Tom Jones*, brightly sung by Miss Dorothy Davis. Miss Jenny Hyman was the accompanist.

Mr. Arthur Roberts has placed all his business in the hands of Mr. Stanley C. May, of Richard Warner's agency.

Kyoto, Japanese contortionist, was enjoying himself at Bridlington last week shooting and fishing, and was not at North Shields as stated by our correspondent.

The latest quotations for music hall shares are as follow:—Alhambra, 1½; Canterbury, ⅜; Electric Theatres, 21s. 6d.; Empire, 15s. paid, 1⅞; ditto, 10s. paid, 1⅜; London Pavilion Ord., 3⅜; ditto, Pref., 5; Metropolitan, ⅜; Moss Empire, 5½; ditto 5 per cent. Pref., 4½; Oxford, 6⅜; Palace, 19s. 6d.; Tivoli, 6½; Var. Cons. Theatres, 9-16.

The strong variety programme at the Lyceum, Stafford, is headed by Dinah Morris and company in the musical comedy, *A Yankee Girl in Dahomey*; Bert Wilson, a clever juggler; and Kitty Merton, a smart dancer. The Lynches, in illustrated songs, Lockhart's famous elephants, Captain Frank Taylor's marvellous baboons, and new pictures by the Empire Bioscope are other attractions.

Another well-selected combination of variety artists is engaged at the Hippodrome, Stalybridge, amongst them being Will Bowman, comedian and dancer; Mlle. Angeline, the female Cinquevalli; the Taffies, a Welsh comedy duo; Frances Hanlon, soubrette; Lily Turner, vocalist; Two Errolls, comedy acrobats; the Diacoffs, trick cyclists; Brady and Johnson company in a new sketch; and the New York Nippers.

RINKING GOSSIP.

FIVE new skating rinks are being built in Birmingham and district. All of them will be with open doors and in full swing before Easter. One will be owned and run by Rinking, Ltd., of Earl's Court, London.

THE cry is still they come! News of rinks building or about to be opened arrives almost by every post. At Peterborough, for instance, Fred Karno is greatly interested in the new rink adjacent to the Hippodrome. The Mumbles Pier management has laid down a new rink at the rear of the hotel. The roller-skating craze has reached Llanelly, and the Parish Hall now resounds with the roar of wheels. In about a week's time the Marathon Rink, with a skating area of 20,000ft., will be open. Blackburn, Bolton, and Dudley, too, are down badly with the "fever," and almost as these lines get into print will each possess an élite rink.

THE largest rink south of the Thames is to be found at Catford. It has a skating area of 10,500 sq. ft., and was opened on Boxing Day last. A speed club has just been formed, and among its members some of the most expert skaters in this country are to be found.

"YOU'VE got to tumble—whether you like it or not!" Thus one of the finest roller-skating teachers of to-day. The expert then went on to tell the writer: "You can't dodge the payment of the penalty, so minimise it. Don't struggle when you are about to fall and know it can't be avoided—just fall! Let all your muscles go slack, and go to the floor as readily as you can contrive. Get your balance first, and then walk—for roller-skating is just walking with the minimum of effort and a previously unimagined degree of speed and grace."

EVERY day this week Professor Monohan, the Irish roller-skating champion, has been giving exhibitions at the Cliftonville Rink, Belfast. His engagement has been most popular.

IN Dundee one young gentleman frequenter of the local rink at least has a grievance. There may be others. He writes: "I should like to call the attention of gentlemen skaters to the attitude taken up by certain young ladies . . . I was much surprised on asking a lady on Saturday to become my partner to receive the reply, 'Certainly not; I do not know you.' This opens up the problem: Must I bring my own partner, or must I skate alone?"

THE only rinking act to be found on the London variety stage is that at the Empire, Leicester-square.—The only roller figure-skating club in existence is to be found at Brighton.—The only place in which it is thought exorbitant for a charge of 6d. to be made for skaters and use of floor is at Norwich.—The only ladies' "two-step" competition on rollers that has yet been held took place in Dublin last week.

HARLEY DAVIDSON, the famous roller-skating champion of America, has had a professional career extending over twenty years. He has won some remarkable trophies, including thirty-one gold medals and a challenge cup. With this cup he likewise annexed 3,000 dollars and two more medals. Davidson's time for a mile on a level track is 2min. 37 3-5sec.

A PNEUMATIC-TYRED roller skate has been put upon the market.

CINDERELLAS, carnivals, championships, and contests of all kinds are in great demand throughout the country. At Ventnor a mile race for the Isle of Wight Championship Cup resulted in Mr. Bradfield, of Ryde, securing the honour in the creditable time of 4min. 52 1-5sec. Hockey and push-ball on skates "goes great" at Sunderland. They prefer fancy dress skating carnivals to anything else in Portsmouth, and in Dublin the forthcoming events strongly feature "contests for couples."

EVENING dress is insisted on at the Glasgow rink during Carnival. At the same time the management hints that "ladies may find it inconvenient to wear long trains." March 19 is the date for the next Cinderella.

BRADFORD follows Glasgow's lead in the evening dress idea. Just one deviation will be made from this rule—on March 25, when all skaters must appear in rustic costume if they would take part in the "barnyard" festival. The entire *Waltz Dream* company went rinking at the Manningham-lane Skateries last week. Leeds rinkers like masked carnivals.

MRS. BEN ISAACS, who won the first prize at a fancy-dress skating carnival held at Portsmouth, must have looked quite a formidable young lady when in costume. We are informed that "her dress represented 'Our Navy.' On her head she balanced a battleship, lit up with electric globes. Around the fringe of her white satin skirt were hand-painted battleships, cruisers, and submarines, whilst the bodice was ornamented with the epaulettes, &c., of a flag officer. The Board of Guardians acted as scrutineers, and Mrs. Ben Isaacs was awarded an upright piano, valued at 37 guineas, having received 331 votes."

RINKING, LTD., undoubtedly leads the way in opening new "skateries." No fewer than eight owned by this company will be opened during the next week. These are situate in Bath, Bristol, Cheetham, Coventry, Birmingham, Lincoln, Sheffield, and Reading. Rinking, Ltd., also control rinks at Leicester, Nottingham, Manchester, Pendleton, and Mountain Ash.

NEXT Friday Mr. A. E. Court, the popular manager at the Earl's Court Rinkeries, will take a well-deserved benefit. Tickets for the event will be one shilling, and should be secured without delay as many novelties will be in the programme, which lasts from 7 p.m. until midnight. The special events will be fancy and trick skating by J. Davidson; the Empress Cup for an open-to-all one mile race will be competed for; a one mile professional race between past and present champions; and pushball and obstacle races on skates will be included.

THE rinking fever, it seems, has reached Johannesburg. In a number of the *Transvaal Critic* just to hand a writer, poking fun at local rinkers, says: "I am bound to confess that many of the Jo'burg rinkists wear a very distressed and even agonised look when skimming the asphalted surface. But what matters so long as they are happy and perspiring! Ye gods! Rinking in 120deg. in the shade!"

THEY go in for originality as well as variety in Manxland. Last week Buxton's gave a fancy dress skating carnival. One gentleman came as a snowball, being wrapped cosily around in cotton wool. The antithesis of this was a young fellow, who was permitted to skate in a lady's bathing costume. An attractive young lady posed as a love-letter, "but," our correspondent adds, "seemed as sad as though she had just received a letter breaking off the match."

THE Snow Family of expert skaters, with their rinking act, are causing something of a sensation in every town visited, halls being packed nightly to see them.

CHAT WITH MISS GIPSY WOOLF.

Miss Gipsy Woolf, the talented daughter of Mr. Jack Woolf, of Wonderland, returned a few days ago from her Continental tour, which she seems to have found most enjoyable. "I have been away," she tells us, "seven months—nearly each month in a different country. I commenced the performances at Amsterdam at the Circus Carre, Mr. Van Haarleem's place, where I produced *The Mermaid of Margate* in German, and also sang some coon numbers. Our little piece, in which, of course, I was assisted by the troupe of girls known as the Six Sunbeams, proved greatly to the liking of the audiences, although I had had some fear as to the result of our presenting the scena in German. However, we are going back there next autumn."

From Amsterdam Miss Woolf and her little company proceeded to Berlin, where they appeared at the Apollo Theatre, doing exactly the same show as at the former place. Then they visited Prague, where there was trouble and fighting between the Austrian and the German students. "We had rehearsed our show in German," continued Miss Woolf, "and just about half an hour before we were going on the stage someone told me that it would be wiser not to speak in German; in fact, I was warned that there would be a riot if that language were spoken on the stage; so at the last moment I decided to perform *The Mermaid of Margate* in English, and it went very well. We remained in Prague for fifteen days. On the concluding night of our en-

MISS GIPSY WOOLF

gagement there we went to the station after the show, travelled all night and all the next day, and arrived at half-past nine on the following morning at Lemberg in Poland, where we appeared in the evening with our English entertainment.

"We visited Buda Pesth, where we opened at a new theatre called the Parisiana. There we gave a number of coon songs, including "The pier parade" and "Carolina," and performed the cake-walk and other dances. The Buda Pesth theatre had a dancing in addition to its other licence, and this meant that dancing was permitted in the front of the house after the show. And in consequence of this dancing licence the theatre was not permitted to use a drop curtain, so that when an artist completed his or her act the stage was left in full view of the audience until the next comer appeared before the footlights. The performances started at ten o'clock and went on until half-past twelve, and after that a winter garden entertainment was held, which included singing and dancing. On the Saturday night a masked ball was given. On the homeward journey we were stopped at Berlin by the police, some message having been sent to them from Breslau; but after explanations as to who we were and the nature of our business were furnished they apologised and interfered no further with our movements.

"I ought to tell you that theatrical life in Germany is very different from what it is in this country. Attached to many of the theatres are restaurants, where the artists can have their meals pleasantly in each other's company. The theatres in Germany are infinitely more beautiful than those in England, both from the point of view of architecture and interior appointments. There is no such system as two shows a night, but, on the other hand, we had to perform twice on Sunday."

Miss Woolf takes with her a charming younger sister, Dorothy, who has appeared as second girl in pantomime at Edinburgh, Dundee, and Glasgow, and who is of considerable assistance in *The Mermaid of Margate*. Miss Woolf and her company have now entered on the Stoll tour.

TURNER'S Motor Manufacturing Co. write that for some time past they have had a completely equipped works for the manufacture of roller skates, and that they are the only British firm turning out at the present time improved ball-bearing skates. All others are American made.

MR. AUGUSTE VAN BIENE is contributing a very amusing article to next week's *Birmingham Mercury* on "How I Caught Rinking Fever." We are permitted to make a brief extract from a rough proof, which, briefly summarised, is to the effect that the famous 'cellist's niece, aged fifteen, caught the "fever" first. "She is a darling little chatterbox at all times," says her uncle; "but when she had learned skating, general conversation at home was simply impossible. It was skating, skating, skating, morning, noon, and night."

THEN Mr. Van Biene tells us how he good-humouredly bantered the young lady; but, like most maidens of fifteen, she resented keenly anything she idolised—if only for the time being—being made fun of. So one evening, grasping a niece's privilege of being almost impertinent to a loving uncle, the young lady hotly replied to her tormentor, "Anyhow, skating is *quite* beyond *you*!" Then she scornfully added: "You haven't even pluck enough to put *one* skate on!" That little word "one" gave Mr. Van Biene an idea to play a joke on his favourite niece.

He accordingly made a wager of a silk cravat to one dozen of No. 5½'s that he would go round the rink three times on one skate without falling. In the greatest excitement uncle and niece set out, and uncle won the wager. Mr. Van Biene concludes, "And I insisted on Amelie paying me, too, to cure her of being impudent. But the worst has to be told. I liked the exercise so much that I stayed on the rink hour after hour, and one night the time flew by so quickly and so pleasantly that I nearly missed my turn at the New Cross Empire."

INVENTIONS.

[The particulars furnished below of recent applications for patents are taken from the official records. Correspondence is invited with our readers on all matters relating to new ideas and inventions, with a view to affording them advice and assistance. Letters should be addressed to the Manager, Inventions Department, "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London.]

Inventors and others who have no business representative are invited to communicate with the Manager of the Inventions Dept. as above.

APPLICATIONS.

3,457.—Benjamin Young, of Birmingham. Improvements in roundabouts.

3,494.—United Amusement Structures, Ltd., and Samuel Meyer Friède, of London. Improvements in amusement apparatus.

3,537.—Alfred Edward Robbins, of London. Improvements relating to door knobs for stage scenery.

3,548.—Charles Ralph Townsend, of Birmingham. Improvements in roller skates.

3,639.—Henry Smallwood Yoxall and Joseph Easthope, of Birmingham. Improvements in wheels for roller-skates and in the manufacture of same.

3,640.—Henry Smallwood Yoxall and Reginald Herbert Richmond, of Birmingham. Improvements in wheels for roller-skates.

3,676.—George Frederick Zimmer, of London. Improved railway for recreation.

3,702.—Norman Tuckwood Downs, of London. Improvements relating to roller-skates.

3,721.—Harry Stanley Marks, of London. Improvements in the arrangement of cinematograph curtains.

3,722.—Harry Stanley Marks, of London. Improvements in and relating to cinematograph apparatus.

3,739.—William Bevoir Buchanan Neale, London. Improved construction of apparatus or building for exercising and producing mirth

3,753.—Fritz Bothmann, of London. Improvements in or relating to roundabouts.

3,762.—Mario Ganzini, of London. Improvements in screens for use with cinematograph magic-lanterns and other optical projection apparatus.

3,769.—William Hugh Vincent, of London. Improvements in or relating to raising and lowering apparatus suitable for use with theatrical scenery and the like.

3,776.—Robert Farrow and William Farrow, of Accrington. Two-roller, ball-bearing roller-skate.

3,855.—Emanuel Kardos and Edward Albert Reed, of London. New or improved gravity wheel on railway track, having compound motion for amusement.

3,863.—William Joseph Affleck, of London. Improvements in and relating to scenic railways.

3,870.—John Calvin Brown, of Manchester. Improvements connected with convex, concave, humped, and other mirrors, throwing distorted images, used for amusement and advertising purposes.

3,872.—Frederick James Thomas, of Chertsey. Improvements in construction and working of an amusement novelty termed "A Ghost's Castle."

3,931.—John Harry Barber and Montagu Vivian Ellis Leveaux, of London. Alphabet costume.

3,952.—Alexander William Sharman, of London. Improvements in and relating to electrical apparatus for the production of singing pictures.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS ACCEPTED.

21,308.—Harris. Light cut-offs for kinematographs and the like apparatus.

24,006.—Plimpton. Roller-skates.

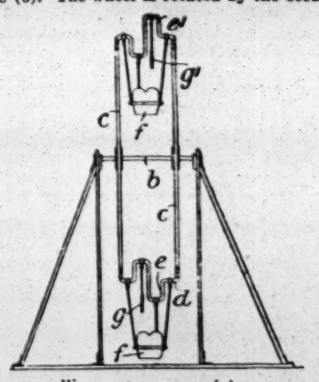
26,007.—Macfarlane. Switchback cars and the like.

27,342.—Gehrke. Chairs for theatres

ABRIDGMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

21,417.—Roundabouts. Beech, A. C., of Newcastle, Staffordshire.

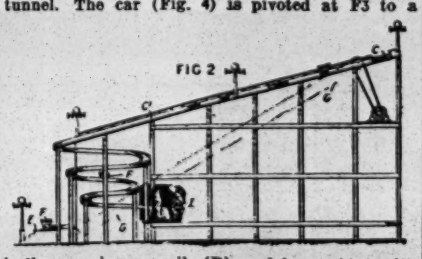
Cars (*f*) are suspended from fixed crank-axles (*d*) attached to beams (*c*) supported by a rotating spindle (*b*). The wheel is rotated by the occupants



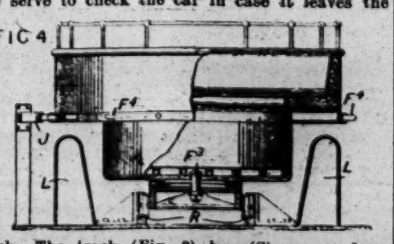
of one car pulling upon a rope (*g*) on a crank (*e*) nearer the axle (*b*), and those in the other car pulling upon a rope (*g*1) on a crank (*e*1) farther from the axle (*b*).

21,648.—Railways for recreation. Riehl, H. E., of Brooklyn, New York, U.S.A.

A rotating car runs down an inclined sinuous track, ending in a helix, which passes through a tunnel. The car (Fig. 4) is pivoted at F3 to a



trolley running on rails (R), and is provided with pins (F4), which engage with springs (J) at the side of the track, so as to rotate the car. Guards (L) serve to check the car in case it leaves the



track. The track (Fig. 2) has (S) curves from C to C1, and then winds down through a tunnel (I) to a platform (E). The car is returned up an ascent (G) provided with a travelling-chain.

TO STAGE MACHINISTS AND ELECTRICIANS.—The Manager will be pleased to receive particulars of any new stage appliances or ideas for same for illustration in this column

ROLLER skating continues to be the craze at Belfast. In addition to the spacious rink at Cliftonville, which has been so phenomenally successful, another rink will shortly be opened at Exhibition Hall, Botanic Gardens. A staff of men are now engaged making the necessary alterations and laying down specially selected maple flooring. Mr. J. Macartney is the proprietor of this latest venture, which is situated in the centre of one of the most aristocratic suburbs of the northern capital.

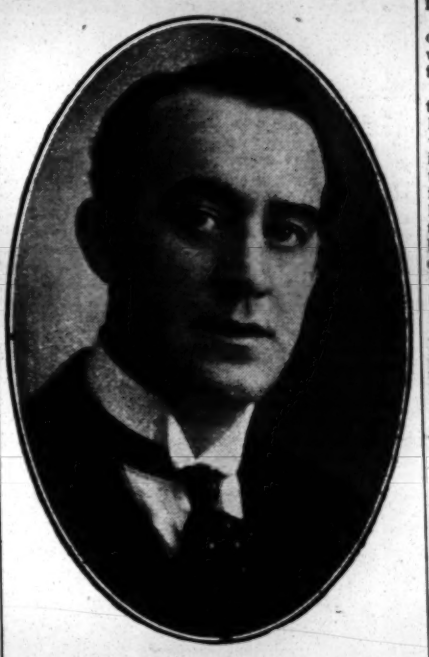
NEIL KENYON'S LATEST "KAILYARD CAMEO."

"THE STATIONMASTER O' DUNROBIN."

Neil Kenyon produced the second of what he describes as his "Kailyard Cameos" at the Manchester Hippodrome, on Monday evening. It is called "The Stationmaster o' Dunrobin." By a curious coincidence he received a telegram, just as he was about to make his first appearance in the new study, asking him to appear at the opening of a new Dundee theatre early next month, and to meet the Duchess of Sutherland. The duchess is the owner of Dunrobin. "The Stationmaster" had a very successful send-off, and Mr. Kenyon conveyed very completely the quaint characteristics of the little out-of-the-world man who is first angry because a train has stopped at and passed through his station without his knowledge, and afterwards genially reminiscent about the years he has spent in his job. The setting and lighting of the scene is such as is seldom seen on the music-hall stage. "The Stationmaster" promises to rival "the postie" in point of popularity.—Manchester Daily Dispatch.

THE HIPPODROME.

Mr. Neil Kenyon, whom one may almost term the really Scottish comedian, is bringing his quaint old village of Dunrobin, and its folk still further into our ken; and this time there is a distinct suggestion of means of access to the place for



NEIL KENYON.

admiring Southerners who may have a fancy to go and see things for themselves. For he plumps us right into Dunrobin railway station, with its lines, crossing, platform, signal and all. It is a wee bit disquieting to find that Dunrobin has a railway station. One had almost planted it in the midst of inaccessible hills, which no Scottish railway company could hope to penetrate and yet see a dividend But though Dunrobin has a railway station there is one fact that is reassuring; the stationmaster is a "character," quite worthy of Dunrobin. The solitary porter, too, is a "character"—in fact, he reads Shakespeare—with a brave Dunrobin accent. Between the two one is assured that the railway has not really done much damage to the place. Perhaps it is because trains are few. Missed the train, ha' ye? Ah, weel, the next 'll be o' Tuesday." Mr. Kenyon as stationmaster is almost as happy as he is as postman, but there is little doubt the railway has had some Southernising influence. In his duties, of course, he would be more liable than the postman would be to pick up ideas of humour less characteristically Dunrobinish. That trip to "Glasgy" did him no good, we think. We liked Dunrobin station as evening came. The setting of the sun, the lighting of the solitary signal's lamp, and then just the quietness of the hills made a "curtain" singularly impressive.—Manchester Guardian.

It would be difficult to do sufficient justice to the fine character creation of Kenyon's entitled "the Scottish postman." In some respects it is worthy of Barrie, but in essentials it is Kenyon all through, and apart from the pawky humour, which is the distinguishing feature of the delineation of what is doubtless a type of rural Scotland, there are introduced elements of pathos no less appellant and interesting. Then his stationmaster study of Dunrobin is a fine bit of work, and all the essentials of a capital study are present in the scena. It would seem as if Lauder having captured the United States, it had been left to Kenyon to exploit home territory. His pithy stories, quaint but quiet witticisms, and fine dressing of the part—to use a familiar phrase—all unite to make his business interesting, and the cordiality of his reception last evening was in every way deserved.—Belfast News Letter.

Both performances at the Hippodrome were patronised by exceptionally good houses last evening, and the items on the programme were of an unusually acceptable character. A leading place is taken by Neil Kenyon, who has delighted large audiences in this city again and again, and made hosts of friends. Needless to say he is as entertaining as ever in the rôle which he has made his own, and some of his latest successes are likely to rival old favourites. In "The Scottish Postman" and "The Dunrobin Stationmaster" he made a great hit last night. He is certain to be a big attraction during the week.—Northern Whig.

Some artists adopted a style of their own, and among these the foremost is undoubtedly Neil Kenyon. His idea of the Scotch comedian was original, and therefore successful, not that originality alone will bring one to the top of the bill, but when it is combined with real talent and intelligence the result is certain to be a sesame to the account books of music-hall owners and proprietors. In addition to his inimitable postman sketch, Neil Kenyon introduced something new in the form of a station scena, excellently staged and full of the details that one is inclined to look for. It is full of humour, of course, and concludes in the way that one is accustomed to expect in Neil Kenyon's work.—Irish News.

Kenyon is a Scotchman, but in no way does his "business" resemble that of Lauder. He strikes out on altogether original lines as the J. M. Barrie of the vaudeville stage, and just as the latter discovered Drumtochty, so Kenyon has revealed the hamlet Dunrobin—the little one-horse village in Scotland's rural wilds with its characters. A year ago he introduced us to the village postman, but now he adds to his gallery an even more delightful portraiture, that of the Dunrobin village stationmaster. It is a type true to life, the garrulous "always overworked" official whose duty is to see two trains in and out daily; and when the curtain goes down with the lighting of the signal lamps and the deserted railway platform, it goes down on the most artistic little idyll on the vaudeville stage to-day.—Nomad.

SLOT MACHINES AND GAMING.

INTERESTING CASES AT GLOUCESTER. NOMINAL PENALTY INFLICTED

At Gloucester Police Court on Friday, March 5, William S. Roberts, described as of 32, Barton-street, Gloucester, appeared at the City Petty Sessions, before Messrs. A. Slater, F. H. Bretherton, and E. Lea, to answer an adjourned summons taken out under the Gaming Acts, charging him with unlawfully keeping a room at 32, Barton-street for the purposes of unlawful gaming. The case had been adjourned from the previous week at the suggestion of the magistrates after the production of the machines in Court, in order that the police might carefully consider whether or not to proceed with the case.

Mr. A. Lionel Lane, solicitor, of Gloucester, appeared again for the defendant.

Inspector Dennis stated that on Feb. 16 he visited the rooms at 32, Barton-street occupied by the defendant, and found there a number of slot machines, including machines called the "Eureka" and "Looping the Loop."

He counted forty boys in the shop, and there were many more he did not count playing with the machines. In the case of the "Eureka" the player put a halfpenny into the slot and pulled a lever, which caused three balls to be delivered to him to play.

The game was then to get one of the balls into a cup at the top of the machine, when the player's own halfpenny was returned to him.

If the player was successful more than once with the three balls he still only received his own halfpenny back.

If the balls did not go into the cup at the top of the machine they might go into another cup, when the balls were returned to play again. In the alternative the balls were not returned.

In the case of "Looping the Loop" machine, the halfpenny was spun round by means of a lever, and might go into one of five slots. If it went into the centre one the halfpenny was lost; if into either of the two slots adjoining the centre the halfpenny was returned to the player; and if into the end slots (two) it was returned to the lever to play again. In the case of both machines the player might lose his halfpenny after having had his amusement, or if successful in playing he could go away with his own halfpenny, there being no other reward of any sort. He (the Inspector) saw some boys successful—that was, get their halfpenny back—and some lose.

He tried himself, and was successful and unsuccessful in turn.

The Deputy Chief Constable: Did you win more times than you lost?—No, sir.

By Mr. Slater: He only got his own halfpenny back in any case. He did not get any more.

Mr. Lane: He can get the ball returned again and again to be replayed?

Inspecor Dennis: That is so.

Witness repeated that all he could get beyond that was his own halfpenny back.

Mr. Lane: Mr. Roberts keeps his place open for amusement? He is a caterer for public amusement?—Yes, sir.

He has penny-in-slot phonographs, picture galleries, electric machines, and a host of others?—Yes, sir.

Mr. Lane then produced a slot machine known as the "Crack Shot," and explained the working of it, shewing that the principle was identical, and that if successful the player only got his own halfpenny back.

The Inspector admitted that he had no objection to that machine, as in his opinion it required a certain amount of skill. Otherwise the principle was the same.

Mr. Lane submitted that there was no case against his client for keeping a gaming house. He had slot machines of many kinds there for amusement purposes only, including machines for showing views, shooting machines, phonographs, machines of moving figures, and many more, including the "Crack Shot." Mr. Roberts had been all over the country with these machines, in many places where he had been visited by the police, and this was the first time that any "coin returned" machine had ever been alleged to be a gaming machine. It was well known that the cheque-returning machine, giving value in money or money's worth in excess of the original stake in case of success had been held to be illegal, but he contended that the machines which were the subject of this prosecution were based on entirely different principles and were lawful. He quoted and relied on the case of Jenks *v.* Turpin, and maintained that in order to convict the Bench must be satisfied that Mr. Roberts' premises were a public nuisance for which he could be indicted, and also that the games played there were harmful and demoralising, those being the two salient points laid down by Mr. Justice Hawkins in his judgment in the case quoted. There had, he said, been no evidence submitted by the prosecution to support either contention. Mr. Lane also quoted a decision of Mr. Bros at Clerkenwell Police Court in September, 1902, when it was held that the "Crack Shot" was a lawful game, and submitted that the present machines being based on exactly the same principle were also lawful.

The Bench retired, and after about ten minutes' consideration the Chairman said they felt bound to convict, but as the defendant had been put to a considerable expense they would make the penalty only a nominal one of 5s. and costs. As Mr. Lane knew, the full penalty was £500.

Mr. Lane: Quite so; we appreciate your consideration.

Shows Snowed Up at Dudley.

P. COLLINS'S colossal aggregation of fairground novelties has suffered the full severity of the recent inclement weather. The route would have taken them this week to Quarry Bank, Wales, but the downfall of snow was so great at the White Nobs fairground, Dudley, at the week-end that to get away was absolutely impossible. They will, however, be at Cradley Heath for this week-end.

One result of the big concerns being snowed up at Dudley was that only some few small concerns, stalls, houp-la frames, and minor novelties, were on the wakes ground at Quarry Bank. The absence of the big attractions and the weather combined made it extremely precarious for the showpeople.

Yet Another Show Snowed Up.

MESSRS. ANDERTON AND ROWLAND'S concern was snowed up for eight days on the roadside journeying from Chippenham to Shepton Mallet.

THE ROYAL CONCERT HALL, HASTINGS, is now run as the American Roller Skating Palace, as from March 2. A fine new flooring of rock maple has been laid, and the hall, draped in scarlet with blue and white reliefs, has a pretty effect. A military band plays three times daily under the direction of Mr. Moore.

THE Central Hall, Catford, was opened on Boxing Day last. It has recently been considerably enlarged, is now fully equipped with large refreshment buffet, cloak rooms, &c., its length being 185ft. by 60ft. wide. Mr. F. T. Studd holds his first carnival on the 19th inst.

THE season of rinking at Olympia ended on Saturday night. Over three-quarters of a million people have attended the rink during the season, and the following statistics speak for themselves:—Skaters each day, 7,000; spectators each day, 2,000; weekly average attendance, 54,000; gross receipts per week, £3,500; skates hired each day (pairs), 5,000; season ticket-holders (a day), 1,000.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

The Attack on Brecon Pleasure Fair.

It will be remembered that a most serious attack was made upon the Brecon pleasure fairs in the autumn of last year by a small section of the people of the town. For a number of years past the Brecon Corporation has recognised the growing importance of the pleasure fairs, and in order to encourage the best concerns to attend the fair has, on its own authority, extended the fair from a two-days to a five-days' fixture. The enemies of the fair, in addition to a strongly-worded petition against its continuance, threatened to seek an injunction to restrain the Corporation from carrying on the fair more than the old time-limit of two days.

In connection with this attack on the people's pleasure fair, certain baseless allegations were made with regard to the sanitary and health conditions of the show vans as a danger to public health. The Showmen's Guild immediately took up the challenge, and the Guild chaplain wrote a strongly-worded defence of the home life of travelling showpeople, and demonstrated once again (and for the one-thousandth time) that show vans were just as much under the control of the health authority as any other dwellings.

Interesting Correspondence with the Corporation.

A most courteous reply was received from the Town Clerk (Mr. Hyatt Williams), protesting that the Corporation did not identify itself with the crusade of the narrow-minded minority opposed to the fair, neither did it agree with the allegations as to the health conditions of the show vans. The Town Clerk also asked the Guild to co-operate with the Corporation in meeting the threat of the objectors to the fair by the counter-move of applying to the Home Secretary to extend the legal days of the fair from two to five. This, of course, the Guild executive readily promised to do. The matter was under consideration at King's Lynn when the organising chaplain consulted with Messrs. Henry and John Studt, the principal showmen attending the fair.

The extremely valuable information the Guild organiser then obtained has been since fully utilised, as the Guild Petition (which we give this week) fully shows.

The Guild Supports the Corporation.

Furnished with the necessary local information and the full strength of the Welsh showmen's case for the extension of the fair days, the Guild executive, as in duty bound, waited for the Brecon authorities to approach the Home Office. The action taken by the Corporation is indicated in the following letter:—

"Town Clerk's Office, Brecon,
"March 4, 1909.

"Dear Sir,—I attended at the House of Commons last Wednesday week, and presented to the Under-Secretary of State to the Home Department the petition from my Council asking for an extension of the days for the holding of the May and November fairs.

"If your Guild are going to do anything in this matter, I think it should be done now at once.—Yours truly, "G. Hyatt Williams,
"Town Clerk.

"Rev. T. Horne, care of *The Era*,
"5, Tavistock-street."

Immediately on the receipt of the above communication, the Guild chaplain addressed the following Petition in support of the Corporation's application to the Home Office:—

"March 5, 1909.

"To the Right Honourable H. J. Gladstone, Secretary of State for the Home Department.

Re BRECON PLEASURE FAIRS.

"Sir,—The Corporation of Brecon has asked this society to support their Petition, for the recognition by you of the five-days' term of the pleasure fairs which the Corporation has granted to the amusement caterers frequenting this fair.

"It has been a matter of great satisfaction to our Welsh members that the Corporation, during the past few years, has recognised the growing importance of the fair and the useful purpose it supplied in providing wholesome open-air amusements for the workers in a rapidly-increasing industrial district, and has extended the legal days of the fair to the more reasonable period of five days.

"In supporting the application of the Corporation, we wish to point out that the most modern shows are now of such a character, and require so large a working staff and so expensive an equipment, that the possibility of only two days' business would make it practically unprofitable for the better-class shows and roundabouts to attend the fair.

"We also wish to point out that in a centre like Brecon a two-days' duration of the fair does not allow the adjoining villages to take advantage of its occurrence.

"It is the principal aim of this society to uplift the business and enterprise of the fairground, and also to encourage and foster the better class of itinerant entertainments, in order to secure the betterment of the popular amusements of the people.

"We have reason to believe that the Petition of a minority of the inhabitants to compel the Corporation to adhere strictly to the old-time two-day limit of the fair has behind it the ulterior purpose of killing the fair, by cutting it down to such unprofitable proportions (under modern conditions) as shall gradually secure their purpose.

"We venture most respectfully to ask you to consider favourably in the interests of the workers who find so much acceptable relaxation at our pleasure fairs, by acceding to the wishes of the Corporation. To trust the Borough Council as voicing their known wishes of the inhabitant to decide the length of time that the pleasure fair should last.

"Signed on behalf of the executive committee of the Showmen's Guild of Great Britain—
"T. Horne,
"Chaplain and Organiser."

The following reply has been received from the Home Office:—

"Home Office.
"March 6, 1909.

"BRECON PLEASURE FAIRS.

"Sir,—I am directed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th inst., and to say that the same shall receive due attention.—I am, Sir, your obedient Servant, "C. E. Troup.

"The Hon. Chaplain and Organiser Showmen's Guild."

It is extremely gratifying to the Guild executive to find itself in a position (and this, happily, is not now a rare event) of helping Corporations to improve the status of their fairs, and to assist in the betterment and uplifting of the pleasure fairs of the people.

The Fight for Mitcham Fair.

Immediately after the Mitcham parish meeting held on Nov. 13 last year, in order to protest against the giving of £400 towards the purchase of the Fair Right, the Guild executive thought it wise to again approach the Conservators, and to place certain proposals before them. Amongst other things suggested, the Guild definitely undertook to co-operate with the Conservators in obtaining the sanction of the Home Secretary for the removal of the fair from its old site to a more commodious position on Mitcham Common. The Three Kings Common site and other two sites on the Croydon road, and a little further away from the heart of the village, were suggested. The Guild undertook that, given the necessary guarantees as to the security of tenure, that it would provide the money for making the new fairground suitable for its annual purpose of holding the fair, and also suitable as a recreation ground for the people at all other times. Realising that the question of the purchase of the Fair Rights was still an open one, as evidenced by the adverse criticisms upon the transaction by both the Conservators at a recent meeting, and the ratepayers at the parish meeting, the Guild informed the Conservators that, as an alternative scheme, it was prepared to purchase the Fair Rights back again, and so clear away what seemed to be a growing difficulty.

The Answer of the Conservators.

"4, High-street, Croydon,
"March 4, 1909.

"MITCHAM FAIR.

"Dear Sir,—Your letter of Dec. 7, 1908, was laid before the Conservators at their meeting last night, and I was instructed to reply that they could not entertain your proposal.—Yours faithfully, "John M. Newnham,
"Clerk.

"Rev. T. Horne, the Showmen's Guild, care of *The Era*, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C."

The Discussion of the Guild Proposals.

The *Mitcham Advertiser*, in its report of the meeting of the Mitcham Common Conservators, gives an interesting account of the discussion which arose when the Guild proposals, as summarised above, were read by the Clerk, Mr. J. M. Newnham. The members of the Board present were Mr. H. Mallaby Deeley, J.P. (in the chair), Alderman N. Page, J. G. Allen, Councillor A. A. Johnston, and Messrs. J. T. Williams, Willcocks, Dale, A. Mizen, and A. E. Cubison.

When the Clerk had finished reading the letter from the Showmen's Guild, Alderman Allen observed, "We cannot accede to a request like that. We have no power." Mr. Willcocks said he hoped he was going to draw the badger, and to put an end to this question once and for all. It was well known that an overwhelming majority of the people of Mitcham wer in favour of the Fair, and none of those opposed to it could get a hearing at a public meeting on the subject. He instanced this by the parish meeting recently held. They had no right to ride roughshod over the inhabitants. He moved that no further steps be taken to abolish Mitcham Fair until a poll of the parish had been taken on the question "Are you in favour of the retention of Mitcham Fair?" Mr. Williams seconded.

The chairman pointed out that if the resolution was carried no good would come of it. They had purchased the franchise, but they were in no better position with regard to the Fair, either for or against, than Mr. Bailey was before he sold the rights. He was of opinion that the money spent was absolutely wasted. He also mentioned that the gentlemen who purchased the franchise as trustees for the Conservators had not handed over the rights yet.

Mr. Cubison said he would like to point out that they could not take a poll of the parish on the question.

The chairman said they could not go on in that position. They said they were owners of the franchise, and sometimes the trustees said they were the owners. If the trustees would not assign the rights to the Board they would have to apply to the High Court for a declaration of trust.

Mr. Mizen said he pointed out to the Clerk that some of the money was subscribed by private gentlemen on the understanding that the Conservators would do all in their power to abolish the Fair.

Mr. Willcocks' resolution was then put, and the voting was even, Messrs. Willcocks and Williams in favour and Messrs. Dale and Mizen against, the others present not voting. The resolution, therefore, fell through.

Mr. Willcocks then moved that the Clerk be instructed to write to the trustees of the franchise asking them if they were prepared to assign the rights to the Conservators. This was seconded and carried.

There was no other business before the meeting.

The Forward Move of the Question.

Despite the official answer of the Clerk to Mr. Horne's letter, there can be no doubt, from the discussion we have summarised above, that public opinion in favour of retaining the Fair has its champions on the Mitcham Board of Conservators. It is all to the good that the subject has become so important that it is discussed with reporters present, and that the views of the members of the Board, for and against, are chronicled for the people of Mitcham to see. We are within twelve months of the next election of the Parish Council, and the people of Mitcham will have an opportunity then (if a poll of the ratepayers be not taken in the meanwhile) to record their opinions at the ballot-box. We have no doubt that those members of the Council who have used their powers to over-ride the expressed will of the people with regard to the people's Fair will then discover that in this matter (as in all other matters of vital interest to their constituents) they are not the people's masters, but sent to the Parish Council to represent the people, and not to use their power, as trustees for the people, to further their own peculiar ideas and prejudices. We welcome the forward movement on the Board of Conservators, and we congratulate the chairman on his outspoken endeavour to bring the Board, over which he so ably presides, into a just and lawful position with regard to this extremely important question.

We await with interest the developments of the fight for Mitcham Fair. We, on our part, make no concealment that our object to-day is exactly the same as at the beginning of the dispute: we want to secure to the people of Mitcham for ever the last of the yet remaining charter fairs of suburban London, and so to improve that Fair that it may be a perpetual source of innocent amusement, not only to the people of Mitcham, but to the great mass of human life that is spreading out so rapidly that in a very few years Mitcham will be as much part and parcel of London as any of the other centres of life on the southern side of the Thames.

Guild subscription for 1909: J. Batty, 5s.

The London Committee of the Showmen's Guild.

An urgent call is being sent out by the Guild Executive this week to the members of the London Divisional Committee of the Showmen's Guild. The ex-officio members include Alf. Ball, T. E. Read, F. Turner, James Manders, Wm. Taylor, H. Thurston, and F. H. Pedgrift. The ordinary members are W. Biddall, George Beach, Wm. Beach, R. Clasper, S. Forrest, H. Forrest, F. Gray, J. Hastings, T. Knighton, G. Saunders, W. Le Neve, S. Mayne, C. Thurston, and W. Wilson. They are requested to meet the Organising Chaplain at *The Era* offices, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C., at half-past three o'clock in the afternoon of Wednesday next, March 17. Business of extreme importance with regard to Mitcham Fair, Bedford Fair, and proposals against vandwellers in the County of Surrey will be considered, and resolutions submitted upon these questions. See official advertisement in our columns this week.

News from the West.

W. C. and S. Hancock continue their successful season at Mutton Cove, Devonport. Mr. J. Brewer is at the Winter Gardens, Plymouth; John Jones is running a successful boxing and wrestling exhibition at Bristol; Misses Fanny and Agnes Jones have had a most successful engagement at the Palace, Bristol; Miss Sophie Jones has returned from a second engagement at Aberavon with an enhanced reputation. The people gave her the title "The Pride of Aberavon," and would hardly let her go. John Jones will take the road this spring with a much improved variety exhibition.

Gipsy Crusade in the County of Surrey.

The Executive of the Showmen's Guild, in the interests of its metropolitan members, is carefully watching the movement to stamp out gipsies in the county of Surrey. Repeatedly the work of the Guild has been hindered by the perverse inability of a certain class of people to differentiate between shown van life and gipsy van life. The most obvious example of this type of mind is shown us in the vague wording of the Movable Dwellings Bill introduced into the House of Lords by Lord Clifford of Chudleigh. One result (and as regards the showmen a beneficial one) has been the making it clear to the landowners who wish to secure repressive legislation against gipsy life that they must make it clear in their proposals that their aim is to penalise the gipsies, not because they are *vandwellers*, but simply and only because the continuance on common lands of large bodies of itinerant campers and squatters is alien to the growing demands of local government and municipal control in matters of health and sanitation.

Landowners' Act to Suppress Gipsies.

The following circular has been sent round to the principal landowners in the county of Surrey:

"In view of the fact that existing legislation does not enable residents in the county of Surrey to cope satisfactorily with the nuisance caused by the encampment of gipsies on lands within the county, a meeting of those interested in the question was held on the 18th inst. (February) to discuss the possibility of adopting a scheme to abate it.

"It was decided thereat that an association should be formed consisting of lords of manors, owners, and occupiers of lands, shootings, and houses in the county of Surrey, for the purpose of preventing gipsies encamping on lands within the district inhabited by the members and causing annoyance and injury to the residents; that all lords of manors and owners and occupiers of land, shootings, and houses within the petty sessional divisions of Guildford and Dorking be admitted as members of the association.

"Mr. Jocelyn Bray, of Coast House, Dorking, and I were appointed joint honorary secretaries.

"It was decided further that in the event of other districts adjoining these petty sessional divisions being willing to co-operate in this scheme, we should be glad to learn the opinions of the residents therein with a view to the area of operations being extended.

"Should the gipsies be a source of annoyance to you and the objects of the association be regarded by you with favour, I shall be very glad to receive any communication or suggestion, at Clandon Park, Guildford."

The circular is sent out by Lord Cranley, son of the Earl of Onslow, and it has most influential support.

The Guild's Vigilance to Safeguard Show Van Life.

Without complicating the issues by an expression of opinion on the problem of gipsy life under modern conditions of local government, it will be necessary for the Executive of the Showmen's Guild to take all precautionary measures when the proposed Landowners' Bill is being considered that it is distinctly and clearly set out that the measure does not apply to travelling showpeople following the fairs in the pursuit of their lawful calling.

With regard to the county of Middlesex, the Showmen's Guild has already secured an exemption clause in the Act obtained by the Council to deal with nomad life. When a similar clause is secured in the proposed legislation in the county of Surrey it will prevent any local interference with the business and daily life of showpeople that might arise if the wording of the Act so loosely drafted as to simply specify *van-dwellers*, and not to clearly define what is meant by the term. There can be no serious interference with the freedom of travelling showpeople if the Act contains a carefully worded exemption clause.

The Guild Chaplain's Lenten Sermons.

By the request of the vicar (who is an hon. chaplain of the Showmen's Guild), the Rev. T. Horne is preaching two courses of sermons in his old parish of St. Mary's, Britannia-street, City-road, E.C., just a few minutes' walk from the Old-street tube and electric tramcar from all parts of Western, Eastern, and Northern London, every Sunday night at 7, and Wednesday night at 7.30 during Lent. The Guild Chaplain will resume his itinerary of the British fairs.

News from Wales.

Messrs. Skinner's waxworks and marionettes are on a visit at Mountain Ash. Messrs. Bostock's skating rink in the same town is very popular.

Messrs. Bostock and Wombwell's No. 1 Royal Menagerie, under the popular management of Mr. Birkett, is on a visit at Cardiff. The uneeka, a most weird-looking animal, is something new this tour. A litter of young porcupines—a thing never before seen in a travelling menagerie—is a unique feature. The Royal Italian Circus which has been so popular terminates its visit this week.

Stroked the Lion.

More than usual interest attached to the visit of Messrs. Bostock and Wombwell's Royal Menagerie to Newport on Monday night. It is ever a popular show, in which young and old revel alike, but the interest of this visit was greatly augmented by the fact that Mr. Charles Jones, licensee of the Butchers' Arms Inn, Griffin-street, had offered to enter a lion's cage. Shortly after eight o'clock, in the presence of a large crowd, Mr. Jones, who is a well-known figure in Newport, mounted a short ladder and, with an attendant, entered the cage of Emperor, a fine specimen of "the king of beasts." Mr. Jones walked around the lion, and stroked him on the neck. After remaining in the den between three and four minutes he descended the ladder to the accompaniment of ringing cheers and the tune "For he's a jolly good fellow" from the band. Subsequently Mr. Jones was presented with a beautiful gold and enamel medal by Messrs. Bostock and Wombwell in recognition of his pluck.

ANSWERS TO SHOWMEN.

Arthur Campbell (Consett).—We shall, of course, be glad to receive items of Showman's World news from the correspondent you name.

Pontypridd.—We are not aware of the winter quarters of the show you mention. An advertisement in our columns would be the best way of reaching them.

THE PENZANCE FAIR DISPUTE.

The concordat of peace effected by the Showmen's Guild and the settlement of better conditions with regard to tolls and tenancy for the Fair in future, granted by the conference held at the Town Hall, Penzance, on Jan. 26 last, was upset by the action of the one defendant who was not a showman.

The High Court Action to Proceed.

It is a great misfortune that upon merely technical points and not in the least effecting the real issues that were in dispute that the showmen who are prepared to support the Corporation in the vindication of their charter rights cannot be dropped out of the High Court action. Of course, the position of affairs (unfortunate as they are at the present moment) would have been a hundred times worse for the showmen if the conference had not taken place. The substantial gains that the showmen obtained by the conference can hardly be over-exaggerated.

To begin with, the schedule of tolls is a reasonable one, and the vexed question of tendering for sites will not again arise. A ballot will be taken for the best position, and thus everybody will have a fair chance. The increased facilities for both building and for pulling down are great advantages that will be much valued by the showmen, and will secure those peaceful relations between the Corporation and their show tenants that ought ever to prevail. Whilst we regret and deprecate extremely the unfortunate circumstances that necessitate the hearing of the case in the High Court, we are glad to be able to inform our readers that the Corporation and the Showmen's Guild, the two principal contracting parties and the two signatories to the concordat of peace effected at the conference, will still maintain that agreement, no matter what may be the outcome of the High Court proceedings.

It is a great mistake to suppose that although this unfortunate set-back has occurred that the ultimate issues will be anything less than the friendly agreement arrived at between the Showmen's Guild and the Corporation at the conference on Jan. 26 last.

The action must therefore proceed in order to bring the objecting party before the Court for judgment. In order to simplify matters, the showmen will not dispute any points in the Corporation's statement of claim (which we give below) that touch upon the validity and the maintenance of the ancient charter fair. It has never been the policy of the Guild to attack or to destroy the validity of existing fair rights; it is manifestly to the interests of the whole showman community that the fair rights should be maintained. Messrs. W. C. and S. Hancock, Messrs. Anderton and Rowland, and Mr. Joseph Brewer, the showmen concerned, will be obliged to put in a defence. Messrs. Strong and Mercer, the Guild solicitors for London, have the matter in hand, and counsel's opinion is being taken. Everything that can be done by the showmen to avoid costly argument as to the charter and fair rights of the Corporation will be done; in fact, after the concordat was signed the showmen defendants confidently concluded that the matter was at an end.

The Guild Chaplain, acting for them throughout, was able to secure the guarantees they sought from the Corporation, and as those guarantees still remain valid, the entire onus of a full defence of the case rests now with the objector, for the showmen will not brief counsel to offer any defence as regards their action in holding the carnival at Heamoor, nor will they in any sense whatever dispute the full powers of the Corporation to hold and to control the ancient charter fair of Penzance.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE.
Chancery Division.
Mr. JUSTICE JOYCE.

Writ issued the 19th day of Oct, 1908. Between the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Penzance, plaintiffs, and Otho Glyn Bolitho (against whom proceedings have been discontinued), John Kemp White, Albert Anderton and Arthur Rowland (trading as Anderton and Rowland), William Hancock, Charles Hancock, and Sophia Hancock (trading as W. C. and S. Hancock), and Joseph Brewer, defendants.

AMENDED STATEMENT OF CLAIM.

1. The Plaintiffs are by prescription and by divers Letters Patent and in particular by the Letters Patent hereinafter in this paragraph mentioned entitled to and possessed of a Fair or Mart holden in the Borough of Penzance on the Eve and Day of Corpus Christi and the two days following—By Letters Patent dated the 9th day of May in the twelfth year of the reign of His Majesty James I. being the Letters Patent hereinbefore particularly referred to his said Majesty granted to the Mayor Aldermen and Commonalty of the Vill of Penzance and to their successors (*inter alia*) that they and their successors hereafter for ever have hold and keep and shall be able to have hold and keep within the aforesaid Vill of Penzance and within the liberties and precincts of the same yearly and every year for ever seven Fairs or Marts therein particularly mentioned the first of the same Fairs or Marts to be holden continue and last on the Eve and Feast or Day commonly called the Body of Christ's Day together with Courts of *Pie Poudre* there to be holden at the time of the said Fairs or Marts from time to time for ever with all liberties and free customs tolls stallages piccages fines amerciaments and all other profits commodities advantages and emoluments whatsoever to such Fairs or Marts and Courts of *Pie Poudre* appertaining arising happening accruing or in any manner belonging and further his said Majesty did grant and confirm to the aforesaid Mayor and Commonalty of the Vill of Penzance aforesaid and their successors all and all manner of liberties franchises immunities privileges profits easements pre-eminences commodities advantages customs rights jurisdictions emoluments and exemptions whatsoever which the inhabitants of the vill aforesaid then had held used and enjoyed or ought to have had held used or enjoyed by reason or pretext of any gift grant or confirmation theretofore had made or granted by his said Majesty or by either of his progenitors or ancestors late Kings or Queens of England or by reason or pretext of any prescription use title right or custom theretofore had used or enjoyed or holden.

2. The Plaintiffs have always held the said Fair or Mart on Corpus Christi Eve and day and the two days following. The said Fair or Mart was formerly held in the streets of the Borough of Penzance but of recent years in a field within the boundaries thereof known as the Recreation Ground which has been assigned or appropriated by the Plaintiffs for the purpose thereof. Upon such Fairs being held persons resorting thereto for profit have erected stalls or booths or have taken from the Plaintiffs pieces of land or standings for the purpose of trading thereon and for the purposes of holding shows and performances and giving facilities for pleasure or pastime.

3. The Plaintiffs have always as of right levied from and charged upon and have been paid by the persons so erecting stalls or booths or taking pieces of land or standings reasonable sums of money as and by way of customs tolls stallages, piccages fines and other lawful dues or emoluments to the profit of the Plaintiffs.

4. On or about the 20th March 1908 the Defendants Albert Anderton and Arthur Rowland wrote a letter to the Plaintiffs and enclosed therewith a communication in writing signed by the said Albert Anderton and Arthur Rowland who thereby purported to act on behalf of themselves and other showmen who usually resort to the said Mart or Fair. The said communication suggested the arrangement by the Plaintiffs for the purposes of the Mart or Fair of the Plaintiffs' fair ground according to a plan set out upon the said communication and the maximum rents to be charged to such showmen for the ground and threatened that if the Plaintiffs were unable to comply with their suggestion they would carry on the Fair on ground not controlled by the Plaintiffs. The Plaintiffs by letter dated the 8th April 1908 refused to accept the terms offered by the said Defendants.

5. On or about the 15th June 1908 being two days prior to the Eve of Corpus Christi Day the Defendants other than the Defendant John Kemp White or some of them entered into an agreement with the said John Kemp White who was the tenant of land known as Poltaire Heamoor at a distance of one mile or thereabouts from the said Borough that he the said John Kemp White should let a part of the said piece of land to them the said Defendants so agreeing for four days beginning on the Eve of Corpus Christi Day for the purpose of holding a Mart or Fair on such piece of land. The consideration for such letting which was paid by the Defendants or some of them to the said John Kemp White was the sum of £70. The Plaintiffs have no particulars of the said agreement other than those which are stated in this paragraph.

6. The Defendants largely advertised in the public papers by means of placards or posters affixed in the said Borough and the vicinity thereof that a Mart or Fair would be open at one p.m. the 18th June Corpus Christi Feast Day and would be continued the two following days and that a charge of one penny per head would be made for admission to the ground.

7. The Defendants proceeded to hold and did hold a Mart or Fair on the land at Poltaire aforesaid on the said 18th June and the two succeeding days by letting the said grounds taken by them from the said Defendant John Kemp White to stall booth and stand holders and to showmen and by charging for admission to the said piece of ground. The Defendants other than the said John Kemp White further set up and held during the said three days stalls booths and stands. Large crowds of people resorted to Poltaire aforesaid who would if no such Mart or Fair had been held have resorted to the Plaintiffs Mart or Fair whereby the Plaintiffs lost the dues emoluments and profits thereof which they would otherwise have had and did not enjoy the said Mart or Fair and the dues emoluments and profits thereof in so ample and beneficial a manner as they of right ought to have done.

The Plaintiffs claim:

(*a*) A Declaration that they are by prescription and by virtue of Letters Patent dated the 9th day of May in the twelfth year of His Majesty King James the First entitled to and possessed of a Mart or Fair to be holden continue and last on the Eve and Feast or Day commonly called the Body of Christ's Day and the succeeding two days in the Borough of Penzance in every year.

(*b*) An injunction to perpetually restrain the Defendants their servants agents and workmen from establishing any Fair or Mart upon any portion of the land known as Poltaire Heamoor or elsewhere within seven miles of the said Borough and from using or permitting to be used any portion of the said land or property or any other land or property within the limit aforesaid so as to interfere with or disturb or prejudicially affect the rights of the Plaintiff Corporation in the said Fair or Mart as hereinbefore declared.

(*d*) An enquiry what damages the Plaintiffs have sustained by reason of the said letting of ground at Poltaire and by reason of the Defendants having held the said Mart or Fair at Poltaire Heamoor in disturbance of the Plaintiffs Mart or Fair and payment by the Defendants of the amount found to be due.

(*e*) Costs. S. H. LEONARD.

Delivered this 21st day of January 1909 by Dangerfield and Blythe of 26 Craven Street Charing Cross London W.C. Agents for T. H. and J. B. Cornish of Penzance Plaintiffs Solicitors.

Re-delivered this 2nd day of March 1909 by Dangerfield and Blythe of 26 Craven Street Charing Cross London W.C. Agents for T. H. and J. B. Cornish of Penzance Plaintiffs Solicitors.

HOW WOMBWELL'S FOUGHT THE SNOWSTORM.

Wombwell's show is at Cardiff for a short season. Before reaching Newport on its Welsh tour, the concern had the most difficult and obstinate struggle with Nature which it has ever encountered in its history. At Newport on Monday a *Western Mail* representative had a chat with Mr. Birkett, the manager, on his recent experiences. He said that he had been with the show eighteen years, and his wife (who is a daughter of Mr. Wombwell, the original proprietor) had been with it for over thirty years. Neither of them ever remember such difficulties with snow as they had last week, although their experience includes Scottish tours.

On Wednesday morning the show left Gloucester at about ten o'clock to tour through Cinderford, Coleford, Monmouth, and Usk, and thence on to Newport and Cardiff. At the bottom of the hill at Littledean the wagons got stuck in the snow, but they managed to clear the hill and reach Cinderford and Coleford. Then, as the weather was still bad, Mr. Birkett decided to miss Monmouth and Usk, and work to Newport via Chepstow. Going through the village of St. Briavels on Friday night he was surprised to see a man who looked like a "Father Christmas," with a white stockinged nightcap, put his head out through his bedroom window and shout, "You are on the wrong road; I have told the elephants the same thing." The show had, therefore, to turn in the middle of the night and take the proper road. Mr. Birkett explained that the practice in night travelling was to send the elephant team on as an advance guard, the men with horse teams following about half an hour after, picking up the trail of the elephants.

The heaviest wagon, seven tons in weight, had a low, deep well. This well acted as a sort of snowplough, but at one time there were twenty-eight horses harnessed to it. Between Coleford and Chepstow on Friday night and Saturday morning the snow was, in places, 2ft. deep. Lil, the younger of the elephants, became unwell, and it was reported to him (Mr. Birkett) that she was down in the snow in a dying state. That was, happily, not so. She was shivering and twitching, but after she had had three or four bottles of gin and hot water she recovered, and is all right now. On Thursday, when the going was very bad, he had told the man in charge of her not to spare anything to keep her warm—that he was not to pass a public-house without giving her a drink of beer (old beer for preference, and the older the better) if she wanted it. That day she had six gallons of beer. Lil is a mere youngster of fifteen years. The other elephant is twenty-five. The camels bore the hardships all right. Some apprehension had been felt for the mandril gorilla, but the attendant bedded her up all over with straw and shared his hot rum and coffee and his hot whisky and lemon with her.

Going on ahead of the show to Chepstow early on Saturday morning, Mr. Birkett got ready two buckets of hot coffee and rum, a similar supply of hot whisky and lemon, then a large supply of hot Bovril for the staff, who were very nearly beaten. At the Bell Inn a hot breakfast was prepared, and some of the men ate six eggs and one pound of bacon. In order to ease the load from the elephants the band went on to Newport by train.

FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Pathé Frères.

NAPLES, HER STREETS AND INDUSTRIES.—Naples is poor, but always adorned with flowers and picturesque and gay, in spite of her dirty streets. There the housewives lower their baskets through the windows for the hawkers to fill them with their goods, and the little street musicians sing lustily to the accompaniment of their grating mandolines. Naples spreads her houses under an ever blue sky, in spite of the latent fire that runs inside Vesuvius, striped all over with dusky streaks,, which are an unmistakable signs of previous eruptions, at the same time as a warning for the future.

STILTON'S REVENGE.—Mr. Stilton, a pale bank clerk, is the drudge at the office, as well as at home; he does not know how to make himself respected by anybody. One day an "energy dealer" teaches him the art of domineering by mere magnetic passes. Stilton, like a new Donato, is the master of his man in a few seconds, thanks to the marvellous invention, and now he avenges himself on his fellow creatures for all previous humiliations suffered at their hands.

THE PARIS REFUSE.—Where does the refuse go which is put out in the street every morning in large cities? In Paris dogs and ragpickers help themselves to what they find suitable for them in the dustbins, and the carts remove to the works what is left. There old iron, papers, &c., are sorted, and occasionally a silver spoon, expensive vases, or purses with money are found amongst the refuse, but of course this happens only too rarely. The dross is burnt, dirty paper is put on one side, and will serve for making new and coarser paper after bleaching, whilst that which can serve as manure is sent by rail to farmers and peasants.

A LOVER'S OBSTINACY.—Mr. Nuisance asks for the hand of Miss Dorothy Bell, which is refused him. He is not discouraged by this, but goes to the lady's father, disguised as a postman, who delivers to him a letter; as a waiter, who serves him at the restaurant; as a cabman, who drives him to the station; as a hotel porter; each time renewing his demand, "I beg to ask you for the hand of your daughter." At length the irritated father throws the importunate suitor out of the window, but he himself is passing under the window at the very moment when the lover seems to fall from the sky at his feet, with his petition ready on his lips. The poor father, fearing lest he should go mad, throws his daughter into the arms of happy Nuisance.

FOR HONOUR'S SAKE.—This is a common enough story. The daughter of a naval officer has been made love to during his absence by a man who must be challenged and fought with before the father's honour can be satisfied when he learns of the other's behaviour towards the girl. The beautiful landscape in which the scene takes place lends to the subject a special interest. First, there is in the blue Mediterranean the fleet leaving the Villefranche roads, throwing in the pure air thick columns of smoke, then disappearing in the misty distance. Along the country roads the cactus plants alternate with the red-berried pepper plants, whereas from the mountain the blue sea can be seen through the foliage of the lemon and orange trees.

HATE BETWEEN THE RACES.—In the maize-field the planter ill-treats the half caste's child, who has done some mischief. The servant's eye flashes with hatred at this, and having armed his gun, he goes towards the house and waits for the master's return. As the latter's wife is welcoming him home she is struck by a bullet aimed at her, and staggers into the planter's arms. The half caste is chased in the mountains, along precipices, and across torrents. At last he stands still, his strength has failed him, and like a hunted beast at bay he turns upon his enemies, and, lifting his knife, waits . . . and wounds one of the pursuers. The others surround him with revolvers pointed at him. Soon after the victim is hanged before the very eyes of his sorrowing wife and son.

HERBERT'S CIGARETTE.—Herbert cannot smoke his cigarette in peace, for every time he meets with an unforeseen accident the very moment when, having rolled it up carefully between his fingers, he is putting it to his lips. This cigarette of his costs him much, for through it he is dismissed for smoking during office hours and setting fire to official papers.

Gaumont Company.

THE BURNS—JOHNSON MATCH.—We are asked to state that Mr. Hugh Donald McIntosh, care of the Gaumont Company, Ltd., 5 and 6, Sherwood-street, Piccadilly-circus, W., the promoter and referee of the Burns—Johnson boxing contest at Sydney, New South Wales, is the sole proprietor of the cinematograph pictures of the contest, and also of the training. Proceedings will be immediately taken to restrain any infringement of these rights.

Edison Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

A DAUGHTER OF THE SUN.—This is a story of Japan at a period when few strangers were allowed to visit the Flowery Kingdom. With the exception of the Dutch and Portuguese traders—mostly established at the seaports—the only persons permitted intercourse were the faithful missionairy fathers, who sought to convert the warlike people. Our story is that of Mitsuka, a dancing girl of one of the famous tea-houses, who loved Komura, a young soldier. Both are converts to the Christian religion, but worship in secret. Taka, a noble, wants Mitsuka, but she spurns his suit, and he and Komura become rivals. Obtaining permission to take Mitsuka and her lover by force, Taka finds them together, but Komura escapes, and Mitsuka refuses to say where he is. When she is about to be put to the torture the crucifix is discovered, but Komura bursts in and strikes down the soldiers, and he and the girl escape together. The pair now appear with the priest, Father Orlotto, at Mass, when an alarm is raised. Conferring with the father, he is given to understand the position, and places Mitsuka and Komura behind him as the soldier's rush in. Unheeding the priest, the soldiers engage with Komura, who is at last overcome. In the resulting conflict the priest is struck down, and Mitsuka is also slain. As Taka rushes on, the priest pulls himself to the altar, Mitsuka puts up an imploring arm, and, as she finally sinks back, the priest gives his blessing to all and expires.

EDISON'S Pictures, under the general management of Mr. Victor Branford, conclude this week a successful three months' season at the Theatre Royal, Canterbury. The latest addition to the firm's list of towns is Heywood, where the Borough Theatre has been leased, and this Mr. Branford will open on March 22. An up-to-the-minute pictorial and variety entertainment is to be the fare provided.

R. Prieur.

PIETRO, THE BANDIT.—This film opens with a scene in which we see a tourists' guide made prisoner by a gang of bandits. He is forced to take off his clothes, and one of the gang puts them on and takes the place of the guide. He meets a party of tourists at the station, and after showing them the various sights, leads them into the trap prepared for them by the bandits. The party is captured, and one of them is forced to write to the Consul asking him to send a ransom of £2,000 or they will be put to death. The Consul sends the money by a messenger, who is robbed of his valuables before the prisoners are set free.

THE MADWOMAN'S CHILD.—The story opens with the kidnapping of a young child by a band of Gitanos. On learning the loss of their child the father and mother follow and endeavour to get back their babe. While struggling with one of the band the father is stabbed, and falls over the cliff. The loss of husband and child drives the young wife mad, and in her madness she goes to find her husband at the foot of the cliffs, and also imagines she is still nursing her child. After a lapse of fifteen years we see the young girl dancing in a public place, and one of the band is jealous of the looks she gives a young man who is watching her dance. While thus engaged the young girl's mother (who is still mad) comes up, and is taken to the camp by her daughter. The two are followed by the man whose love she rejects; and seeing her lover making his way to the camp he follows, and determines to kill him. But instead he stabs the girl, who, while lying wounded, is recognised by her mother as the babe she lost fifteen years before. The girl's lover follows the assassin. The two men meet on the rocks at the seashore, and are prevented from killing each other by the timely appearance of the mother and daughter, who take their knives away from them. The joy of once more seeing her daughter brings back the reason of the mother, who denounces the gang and gives her daughter's hand to her lover. The marvellous acting, coupled with the magnificent scenery, should appeal to all, and should be well received.

SPORTSMEN IN SWITZERLAND.—A gentleman and his family arrive at the station, and after making their way to the hotel they wish to join the various winter sports. So they try their hand at skating and ski-ing, and in doing this we see the many falls they have. We also see the professionals taking part in the sports. The party then climb glaciers, &c., and here again they have many falls, which cause much amusement. They finally dismiss their guide, and we see them leave the village disgusted.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD OF JAPAN.

Japanese fairs coincide with the Buddhist or Shinto religious festivals, and the showman erects his booth or portable theatre, composed of bamboo frames covered with rush-matting, in some temple court. The booths contain freak oddities on exhibition, such as a skeleton of a devil, the claws of a goblin, a rat as large as a sheep—probably a young kangaroo—a woman with an indiarubber neck, fortune-tellers, jugglers, acrobats, and dancers. There are also men who make pictures out of sand, and generally a menagerie. It is sufficient if a menagerie contain only two exhibits, as the charge for admission to all the shows is one of the smallest coins in use in the country. Ikiningyo, or living image exhibitions, are extremely popular, as are also the goblin exhibitions. The living image exhibitions correspond to our waxwork shows, but in this case the figures are not made of wax but of some much cheaper material. They consist of tableaux representing some popular tradition or sacred myth, and one or other of the figures is alive. So cunningly are they devised, however, that it is difficult to detect the presence of the real man or woman in the group. The goblin exhibitions have their Western counterparts in our haunted houses. The booth is darkened, and on entering one finds oneself in a sort of lane between hedges, and behind the hedges are what appear to be tombs. The effect is quite natural, and as one advances ghostly shapes appear suddenly over the hedges, clutch at the people, and then fall back with moans. The figures are moved by invisible strings, and the gift which is promised to those who can walk through without being frightened is seldom claimed. The magic-lantern show is essentially a dramatic exhibition. It is a play where the actors and the scenery are but luminous shadows, the dialogue being uttered by invisible persons. Favourite plays are those in which ghosts figure, and the audience watch with the utmost eagerness the development of the plot. The little open-air theatres wherein girls dance are much visited. The dancing is of a purely Oriental character, and consists of graceful posturing, accompanied with much waving of sleeves and of fans, and always a subtle play of eyes and features. Such is the showland of old Japan. Whether Japanese show life will be affected by the Western modes of thought which are permeating the nation remains to be seen. The exhibits now, at all events, harmonise with their surroundings, and more than satisfy the country folk.

The Chittock Fund.

SECOND list of subscriptions collected by Mr. Charles Day, secretary of the committee for the Showmen's Annual Supper and Ball, at the World's Fair, and subscribed at a meeting of that committee on Jan. 23, 1909:—Mr. Charles Day (secretary), £1 1s.; Mr. William Taylor, 10s. 6d.; Mr. W. Wilson, 10s. 6d.; Mr. E. Daneford, 10s. 6d.; Mr. T. E. Read, 5s.; Mr. Frank Turner, 5s.; Mr. William Metcalf (Star and Garter), 5s.; Mr. J. W. Bostock, 5s.; Mr. William Russell, 5s.; Mr. W. Hussey, 5s.; Mr. Henry Taylor, 5s.; Mr. William Slater, 5s.; Mr. H. Birkett, 5s.; Mr. J. Hastings, 5s.; Mr. W. D. Pickard, 2s. 6d.; Mr. J. Wentworth, 2s. 6d.; Mr. James Smith, 2s. 6d.; Mr. G. Saunders, 2s. 6d.; Mr. Thomas Irish, 2s.; Mr. J. Trowson, 2s. 6d.; Mr. C. Hyatt, 2s. 6d.; Mr. Charles Andrews, 2s. 6d.; Mr. Charles Dring, 2s. 6d.; Mr. William Stennings, 5s.; this is the committee's donations. Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Chipperfield, £10; Councillor Tubey, 2s. 6d.; Master Thomas Tubey, 2s.; Mr. and Mrs. John Chipperfield, £1 10s.; Mr. Robert Fossett, sen., 10s.; Mr. Frank Bostock (cheque), £5; Mr. Henry Chittock, £12; Mr. E. H. Bostock, £3 3s.; Mr. and Mrs. A. Tiller, 5s.; and Messrs. C. Hiappa and sons, £1.

MR. AND MRS. J. F. GINNETT wish to tender their sincere thanks to Mr. and Mrs. R. Fossett, sen., for the wedding present of a silver tea set.

Golden Sands at Yarmouth.

YARMOUTH CORPORATION, which already derives a revenue of between £2,000 and £3,000 from its beach in the shape of stall rents and concert ring rentals, did another excellent stroke of business at its meeting on Wednesday, when it agreed to lease for five years a strip of sand on the South Beach, only overlooked by the wall of the barracks enclosure, for a scenic railway similar to that at the Shepherd's Bush Exhibition, for which it is to receive a rental of £650 per annum, and the lessee is to pay all rates and taxes and use the Corporation service of electricity. The scenic railway is intended to be put up by Whitsuntide, at a cost of over £2,000, and, it is expected, will not only give a direct revenue to the ratepayers equal to a penny rate but will moreover greatly enhance the receipts from the Corporation electric cars running to the site. Yarmouth has certainly found its beach to be veritable golden sands.

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BEST BUSINESS BRINGER BOOKING.

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"There never have been pictures produced by any bioscope so clearly as those shown last Friday at the National Sporting Club illustrating the fight for the championship of the world between Jack Johnson and Tommy Burns. Every detail can be seen with wonderful clearness."—*Winning Post.*

"The pictures are as clear as crystal."—*Encore.*

"Proving *the* big attraction."—*The Stage.*

PROVINCIAL PRESS PRAISES.

"The triumph of the cinematograph clearly proved."—*Western Daily Mail.*

"Monday night's audiences testified in a vigorous manner to the success of the pictures."—*South Wales Daily News.*

"They are the best which have ever been shown."—*Bradford Telegraph.*

"A most inspiring picture, shown with wonderful clearness."—*Bradford Argus.*

"The best ever shown of a ring encounter."—*Yorkshire Sports.*

"The film is unquestionably the best ever seen, audiences packing every show."—*Cork Examiner.*

"Whole production so strikingly realistic that one could imagine himself present at the actual fight."—*Bristol Mercury.*

"It is a tribute to science that a contest which people paid as much as £10 to see can be witnessed in England for a few coppers. Nothing could exceed in distinctness these pictures."—*Yorkshire Observer.*

"Familiarity only heightens the interest in the pictures, which are wonderfully smooth and clear."—*Bristol Times.*

THIS WEEK AT Oldham, Lowestoft, Preston, Burnley, Wakefield. | **NEXT WEEK AT** Accrington, Chesterfield, Portsmouth, Plymouth.

Return Bookings being Already Requested. 3,700 Feet of Film, or Shorter if required.

EVERYBODY SATISFIED—SO WILL YOU BE IF YOU GET IT!

JOHNSON-BURNS
FIGHT.

THE L.C.C. AND AMUSEMENTS.

THE usual weekly meeting of the London County Council was held on Tuesday at the County Hall, Spring-gardens, under the presidency of Sir Melvill Beachcroft, who was elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

IMPERIAL INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

The Theatres and Music Halls Committee reported that the Council, on Nov. 27, 1908, granted a provisional music and dancing licence to Mr. Imre Kiralfy for the Franco-British Exhibition, Shepherd's Bush, now known as the Imperial International Exhibition, subject to an undertaking *inter alia* that adequate free lavatory accommodation should be provided as from the opening of the exhibition, to the satisfaction of the Council, for the public and all persons employed at the exhibition. The Committee had been in communication with the Public Health Committee and with Mr. Kiralfy on the question of the lavatory accommodation to be provided at the forthcoming exhibition, and as a result plans have been submitted by Mr. E. White on Mr. Kiralfy's behalf showing the proposed accommodation.

The accommodation for the staff will be separate from that provided for the public, and subject to certain conditions. The Committee thought that Mr. White's proposals will satisfactorily meet the needs of the case. In the absence, however, of definite information as to the number of persons expected to attend the exhibition, and the numbers to be employed, they thought the Council should reserve to itself the right to require the provision of more accommodation if what is proposed should prove to be insufficient. The work in connection with the provision of the accommodation would, of course, have to be carried out to the satisfaction of the Hammersmith Metropolitan Borough Council, the authority for enforcing the by-laws made under the Public Health (London) Act, 1891. The Committee recommended approval of the three drawings submitted.

Agreed to.

CINEMATOGRAPH FIRE.

Mr. Walter Reynolds asked the Chairman of the Theatres and Music Halls Committee whether his attention had been called to a statement in a trade paper with reference to a cinematograph fire alleged to have occurred in a London music hall on Feb. 28? It was stated that the regular operator was absent at the time, and that the films had been placed on the floor.

Mr. Greenwood, in reply, said his attention had been called to the statement referred to. None of the Council's officers were present when the fire occurred, but enquiries had since been made, and he was informed that the electrician, who was also the regular operator, and had had three years' experience in that capacity, was present. He put out the fire with his hands, but was not seriously injured. There appeared to be no justification for the statement that the films were on the ground.

THEATRES AND MUSIC HALLS COMMITTEE.

The Theatres and Music Halls Committee reported that they had passed cordial votes of thanks to their Chairman, Mr. H. J. Greenwood, and their Vice-Chairman, Mr. Ernest E. Wild, for their services during the past year.

It was agreed that the Committee, consisting of twelve members, should be constituted as follows:—Viscount Duncannon, Dr. J. Davies, Messrs. Jocelyn Brandon, F. Briant, J. A. Dawes, H. J. Greenwood, F. S. Hanson, Enos Howes, J. R. Lort-Williams, R. C. Phillimore, E. E. Wild, and Howell J. Williams.

THE new Harrogate roller skating rink in Dragon-parade is to be opened on March 13. Mr. Sharp, a local entertainer, has been appointed manager.

MR. WALTER REYNOLDS has been placed on the Education Committee of the London County Council.

EDISON FILMS

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A Story of Early Japan, when few strangers were permitted to enter the Flowery Kingdom. Telling of the tragic romance of two converts to the Christian religion. Their secret worship at the altar and the consequences.

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CHARLES SANTLEY'S REMINISCENCES.

Some of the information contained in "Reminiscences of My Life," by Charles Santley, which has just been published by Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Ltd., has doubtless already appeared in the great singer's "Student and Singer," which was published in 1893; but the "Reminiscences" contain an immense amount of amusing and interesting matter. Especially piquant are the anecdotes in Mr. Santley's capital chapter on Sims Reeves, in which the veteran artist says:—

In the whole course of my life I have never known a man so belied; it was commonly stated that his abuse of stimulants was the sole cause of his so frequently disappointing the public by non-fulfilment of his engagements. I emphatically deny that statement; we were intimate friends, constantly engaged in the same performances from the year 1858 until a few months before he died. I had every opportunity of knowing him intimately, and I declare I have never met a more moderate man as regards either eating or drinking.

The first time I sang in *Judas Maccabæus* with him was at the Queen's Rooms, Clifton, in 1858. He did not turn up at rehearsal; I found him at the hotel when I returned, in a very despondent state; he said he felt bad and would not be able to sing at night. Being only a novice, I did not like to obtrude my advice, I merely hinted that he might feel better disposed for work after a good meal. He sent two prescriptions to be made up by the chemist, one a draught, the other a gargle; when they were brought to him, after examining them he made up his mind the bottles had been improperly labelled, and put them aside; he made a very poor dinner, he ate little and drank a glass of claret.

Before going over to the concert room, I looked in upon him; he said he felt a little better and would be over in time for his work. He came, and skipped through the first recitative, but in the air, "Call forth thy powers," he did call them forth, and they answered him in such a style that the audience burst forth in a storm of applause and thus relieved him of all anxiety. His power and energy increased as he went on. "How vain is man" was splendid, and "Sound an alarm" magnificent, as he alone could sing it in my time.

A few years after, we were singing together at the Winter Garden, Blackpool. I was in the green-room when he came in; he had got a fit of "nerves"; he said he would give £20 if he could go back to the hotel, for he felt he had no voice and could not sing a note. I rallied him, and proposed that if he could not sing, he should whistle his songs, as the public would never be satisfied unless at least they saw him. He smiled faintly; I left the room and planted myself in the wings to listen to his first song, Sullivan's "Meet me once again"; his trousers were positively shaking. The first bar or two sounded as though he had plums in his mouth, but he forgot himself and his dismals, and he "pulled the house down." His second was the "Bay of Biscay," which produced a storm such as that delightful bay can produce, without the *mal de mer* attendant thereon.

About thirty years ago, as far as I can guess, the Annual Irish Concert on St. Patrick's Day, arranged by Mr. W. Saunders, had to be given at Exeter Hall, as St. James's Hall had been taken for the "pops," or some other series of concerts. Reeves, of course, was the principal attraction. As usual, the room was packed. I arrived about ten minutes before the concert commenced, and found that, unfortunately, my friend Jack was laid up with a cold, and had deferred notifying the director until the last moment, hoping to be able to fulfil his engagement, too late for a substitute to be found. I offered to sing his first song to help the manager out of his dilemma. Before I went on, Saunders tried to say a few words to the audience, but he had no sooner shown himself on the platform than the furies broke loose and hooted him off.

I went on determined to do battle for my comrade. The audience had the courtesy to suspend their rage, and, after greeting me with some applause, to remain silent. Sidney Naylor had no sooner started the prelude to the song than the storm broke out afresh. I leaned my back against the piano and calmly watched the play; the noise abated and at last ceased. I gave Naylor a signal to recommence, he got through the prelude and I had just opened my mouth to charm the British public when one of the aggrieved called out, "Where's Mr. Reeves?" I called back, "I don't keep Mr. Reeves in my pocket and cannot say, I only know he is unable to fulfil his engagement this evening." Here I was interrupted by somebody behind me on the orchestra shouting, "No! he's drunk again." I turned swiftly round and shouted in reply, "If that person who has just now spoken will come down here, I will give him a reply he will not forget in a hurry." This turned the scale; it amused the audience, one of whom got on his legs and spoke out warmly. "You have a gentleman before you," said he, "then behave like gentlemen." The noise ceased, I sang my song, and the concert continued to the end without further interruption.

Reeves, like the major part of the human race, had his little idiosyncrasies, failings, if you like the name better. He was full of nerves, and like all nervous people at times very irritable. I had literally to push him on to the platform at St. James's Hall on a Burns night, when he was going to sing in Howard Glover's cantata, "Tam O'Shanter," a very trying part. A young tenor had been engaged to take Reeves's place in case he could not put in an appearance. Just as the singers were going up to take their places, the silly young man asked Reeves if he would like him to go up at once or wait until he might be wanted. "Who are you, sir, and what would you go on for?" said Tam. "I was engaged to take your place in case of . . ." "D——n you, sir, what do you mean?" roared Tam, "I'll choke you," and he certainly would have carried out his threat, only I got between them and pushed Reeves up the stairs, he growling vengeance, and I promising he should have it out in the green-room after he had polished off Tam. The juvenile was hustled out of the hall, and the "Cock of the North" (and of every point of the compass) was appeased with a little adjustment of his plumage and cautiously-administered chaff. So all ended well.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—Sir Henry Irving.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun.*

Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

Mr. C. Douglas Stuart, the popular secretary of the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association, has been away from business since Monday last with a severe attack of influenza. He hopes to return to his post on Monday.

Mr. C. B. Cochran has secured from the Great Yarmouth Council a five years' lease of a strip of sands (600ft. by 920ft.) which he will utilise for the purposes of a scenic railway and other side shows.

REVISED SCALE OF CHARGES FOR

ARTISTS WANTING ENGAGEMENTS, MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
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"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.
"Wire," "The Era, London."
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COMPANIES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE AND EDWARD COMPTON'S THEATRES.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for THEATRE ROYAL, BRIGHTON.
May 10, 17, 24, 31, June 7, Aug. 23, Sept. 6, 13, on.
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.
May 31, June 7, Aug. 2, 16, 23, Sept. 6, 13, 27, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING.
May 17, 31, June 7, 14, Aug. 2, Sept. 6, 13, 20, Oct. 4, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER,
May 10, 24, 31, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Sept. 6, Oct. 4, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
April 5, May 24, Aug. 30, Sept. 20, Nov. 1, Dec. 13, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON,
May 10, 17, 24, 31, Aug. 2, 9, 23, Sept. 6, 20, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD
May 17, 31, Aug. 2, 23, 30, Sept. 6, 13, 20, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON,
April 5, May 10, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, Sept. 20, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER,
March 29, May 24, June 21, Aug. 9, Sept. 20, Oct. 4, 11, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
April 5, 22 (three nights).
Address, Milton Bode, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for Northampton, April 5; Chester, April 5; Leamington, April 5; T. R., Leicester, March 29.
Wire, Milton Bode, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD.
March 22, 29, April 12, 19, May 24, 31.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON,
April 5, 12 (certainty only), 19, May 10, 24, 31.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.
Vacant March 22, onwards, with exceptions.
Address, E. G. Falcon, County Theatre, Bedford

WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 22 and 29.
Wire, Falcon, Theatre, Bedford.

THREE PROGRESSIVE THEATRES.
WANTED, High-class Companies.
DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE.
April 12, May 3, 10, 17, 24 (3 nights).
Easter Vacant for Big Musical Attraction or London Star.
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS.
April 26, May 3, 10, June 7, on.
PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE.
March 22 (?), April 26 (?), June 7, on.
Apply for all above.
H. W. Rowland, Theatre, Folkestone.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, May 10, 24
Now Booking Autumn.
T. Allan Edwardes.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, Powerful Dramatic Attraction, April 5 (five nights), good printing.
Address, T. Allan Edwardes.

TH3 QUEEN'S THEATRE, DUBLIN.
Sole Proprietor and Patentee,
F. W. Marriott Watson.
Rebuilt and Enlarged.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Autumn, onwards. Booked in conjunction with T. R., Belfast.
Address,
F. W. Marriott Watson, Queen's Theatre.

PIER PAVILION THEATRE, EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, April 5 (week), or April 8 and 9 (2 nights, 1 matinée), either upon Shares or Certainties, for Strong Attraction; also May 3, 10 (?), 17, June 7, &c.; also one or two Season Dates. Apply, G. Hayes, Pier, Eastbourne.

NEW HIPPODROME, SCARBOROUGH.
One of the most luxurious Theatres in the North.
Now running one house nightly at 8.
Holding capacity 2,000. Popular prices, 3d. to 1s. 6d.
Owing to the enormous success of Dramatic Season,
WANTED, No. 1 Companies, for March 29, April 26, onward.
Apply, William Peacock, Opera House, Harrogate.
Silence a polite negative.

THEATRE ROYAL, LEEDS.
WANTED, Strong Dramatic Attraction, for April 26, vacant by obliging Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Willard. Silence to be considered an intimation that the date is filled.
Add., Francis Laidler, Prince's Theatre, Bradford.

THEATRE ROYAL, YORK.
WANTED, First-class Company, for April 19.
Apply, Waddington, Stonegate, York. Musical preferred.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for the GRAND THEATRE, OLDHAM.
April 5, May 3 (?), 10, 17 (?), 24.
Address, Ernest Dottridge.

DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, Star Attraction or Musical Comedy, for Easter Week. April 12.
April 12, Easter, probably vacant.
H. W. Rowland, Theatre, Folkestone.

KING'S THEATRE, SUNDERLAND.
WANTED, Known, Vacant May 10, First-class Attractions Only.
Address to Alexander Telford.

OPERA HOUSE, SOUTHPORT.
WANTED, First-class Company, March 29 and April 5, onwards.
Apply, Manager.

THEATRE ROYAL, NORWICH.
WANTED, Wanted, Company, May 10, and Whit Week, May 31.
Only Vacant Dates till Autumn.
Fred Morgan, Manager.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, April 26, May 17 (?), 24, 31, June 7, 28, July 5, 12.
James Bell.

THEATRE ROYAL, HANLEY.
WANTED, good First-class Attractions, for April 12 (Easter) and May 10. Elphinstone.

WANTED, for Easter Week and on, good Dramatic Company or other strong Attraction.
Apply, Edward Ronan, Proprietor, Theatre Royal, Wexford.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies

ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH
Vacant March 29, April 5, 12, onward with exceptions.

All communications re dates.
Arthur Carlton, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant July 5, 12, 19, 26, onward with exceptions.

EMPIRE, WORCESTER.
See Music Hall Artists Wanted Column.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY, S. WALES.
Vacant April 12, May 31, June 7, onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME, BARRY DOCK.
Vacant Aug. 2 Dec. 20, Feb. 21, March 7. onward, with exceptions.

The Three Great Pantomime Successes.
"BABES IN THE WOOD," Jan. 17, onward.
"CINDERELLA," Dec. 27, onward.
"PUSS IN BOOTS," Dec. 27, onward.

Can also arrange Production dates for next season for the above.

All communications,
Arthur Carlton,
Theatre Royal, Worcester.
Telegrams: "Carlton, Worcester."

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
Seating capacity, 3,500.
Acknowledged to be one of the largest, most handsome, and best equipped theatres in the Provinces.
The Premier and Central Theatre of the District.
WANTED, First-class Attraction only, Easter, Easter.
Unexpectedly Vacant owing to a tour having been cancelled.
Also April 19, May 17, 31 (Whit).
Big Star Attractions for August Bank Holiday and Aug. 16 (Race Week).
All communications,
Jno. Ed. Jowsey,
Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough.

PALACE THEATRE, BRIGHTON.
WANTED, Known, Messrs. Jay and Mann have secured a lease of this theatre from Lady Day next. In addition to a local management alert and vigorous in its methods, visiting companies will have the advantages of—
(1) The freeing of the pier toll to playgoers.
(2) A handsome wind and rain shelter the entire length of the pier.
(3) A redecorated and recarpeted theatre.
Vacant Dates, March 29 (?), April 5, 26, May 3, 17, Whit Week, onward.
For vacant dates apply,
MESSRS. JAY and MANN,
10 and 11, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly, S.W.

WANTED, First-class Attractions Only, THEATRE ROYAL, DUBLIN,
April 26.
THEATRE ROYAL, BOURNEMOUTH,
July 5.
GRAND THEATRE, SOUTHAMPTON,
July 5, 12, 19.
Apply, F. Mouillot,
1, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

WANTED, Popular Attraction,
Wanted, Popular Attraction,
Wanted, Popular Attraction,
Wanted, Popular Attraction,
Wanted, Popular Attraction,
Wanted, Popular Attraction,
Share or Certainty,
Easter Week,
April 12, 1909,
Star Theatre,
Liverpool.
All communications,
Harris Fineberg,
Star Theatre,
Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Applause."

NEW THEATRE, WEYMOUTH.
This building is now complete, and admitted to be one of the finest and most complete Theatres in the Provinces. The whole of the Stage fittings carried out under the direction of Experts.
Capable of taking £120 at ordinary prices.
WANTED, First-class Companies only, April and May onwards, including Whit.
All communications, Walter R. Wallis,
New Pavilion Theatre, Weymouth.
London representatives, Messrs. Jay and Mann, 10 and 11, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly.

EMPIRE THEATRE, SOUTHEND.
WANTED, First-class Companies Only, for April 26, May 2, 10, and 24, also several Dates in June and July.
Apply, George Conquest.

EMPIRE AND THEATRE ROYAL, HYDE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions. Pop. 33,000; surrounding district 60,00.
Coms., W. Turner, Regent, Salford.

KING'S THEATRE, KIRKCALDY.
KING'S THEATRE, KIRKCALDY.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for April 5 and 12.
New to the Town.
Bookings include "The Prince and the Beggar Maid," "Convict 99," "Sexton Blake," "The Love that Women Desire,"
and Other First-class Attractions.
Wire,
Abrahams, 26, Great Eastern-road, Stratford, E.

THEATRE ROYAL, NORTH SHIELDS.
WANTED, Company, April 5.
Address, Stanley Rogers.

GRAND THEATRE, RUNCORN (the property of, and controlled by local gentlemen entirely).
Vacant March 29 and on.
WANTED, Sparkling Musical Comedies and Dramas, of good repute. Communications, Resident-Manager, above.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, Holiday Monday, April 5 (three or six nights), April 12, 19, 26. W. E. Potts.

EMPIRE THEATRE, SWINDON.
WANTED, First-class Musical Comedy and Dramatic Attractions; also Big Variety Combinations. Apply direct to Alfred Manners,
Wanted, Strong Attraction for Whit-Week; also June 14. Now Booking Autumn.

WANTED, Companies, for Theatre Royal, Goole, March 18 (three nights), March 22 and 29. Greaves, Theatre, Goole.

WANTED, Something Good, Easter, Grand, Radcliffe.
Address, Sante, Radcliffe.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, April 5, Whit week, July 5, 19, and on. The Theatre has been entirely re-decorated and upholstered, and is now one of the most charming and up-to-date Theatres in the country.
Address, Chas. M. Julian, General-Manager.
March 15, Metropole Theatre, Devonport.

PALACE THEATRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
WANTED, Strong Dramatic Attractions, June 28, July 19 and 26. Apply, T. W. Rowe.

OPERA HOUSE, WAKEFIELD.
WANTED, Sound Attraction, April 26. All coms. to be addressed, Sherwood and Co.

COMPANIES WANTED.

Booked by
MOSS' EMPIRES, LIMITED.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE,
GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM,
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS,
and
GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.
WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Vacant Dates, May 10, 17, 24, Aug. 9, 16, Nov. 1, 15, 29, Dec. 13.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE.
Vacant Dates, May 10, 24, June 28, July 5, 13, Dec. 13

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Vacant, June 28, Aug. 2.

GRAND, GLASGOW.
Vacant, April 19, 26, May 24, 31, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Sept. 13, 20, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, 22.
ALEXANDRA THEATRE, STOKE NEWINGTON.
Reopened Shortly.
First-class Attractions Required, April 5, 19, 26, May 10, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, Sept. 13, Oct. 4, 11, 25, Nov. 8, 22, Dec. 6.
Address,
with full particulars, terms, &c.,
where can be seen, to
Moss' Empires, Limited,
Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-st., London, W.C.
Envelopes marked "Theatres."

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson.
The Premier Theatre in the Furness District, with a holding capacity of £90 at ordinary prices.
WANTED, First-class Musical Attraction for Easter week; April 19 also Open, and May 17, on, with exceptions.
Season's Bookings include among others: J. W. Turner's Grand Opera Company (return) Mr. Wentworth Croke's "The Bondman," "Amasis," Mr. Charles Frohman's "Raffles," Mr. George Dance's Company in "Miss Hook of Holland," Mr. Wilfred Cotton's Company in "Butterflies," Mr. Seymour Hicks' Company in "The Gay Gordons," and Mr. George Edwardes's Company in "The Merry Widow," Paumier and Howard's "The Prince and the Beggar Maid" and "The Midnight Wedding," "The Flag Lieutenant."
All applications for dates to
Hugh Robertson, Theatre Royal. Jarrow-on-Tyne

THE GRANVILLE THEATRES, LIMITED.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
Wire for March 22.
Wire for March 22.
Wire for March 22.
Also Vacant March 29, April 5, and on.
GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
WANTED, Powerful Musical Attraction, April 5; also First-class Musical and other Powerful Attractions for the Autumn.
Address,
Fred Granville, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

VAN BIENE'S NEW TIVOLI THEATRE, BLACKPOOL.
Sole Proprietor and Lessee,
Mr. Auguste Van Biene.
WANTED, for Opening Week (Easter), First-class Musical Attraction,
Good Musical Comedy,
or refined Entertainment à la Follies.
No Drama.
Apply, Gilbert Heron,
16, Deanery-road, Maryland Point, E.

OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER.
WANTED, High-class Companies; holds £100; Easter, Whitsun, and Autumn. Bookings: "Merry Widow," "Dairymaids," "Prince of Pilsen," "Prodigal Son," &c. All coms., J. P. Moore, King's Hall, Birmingham

WANTED, First-class Companies, for the GRAND THEATRE, OLDHAM,
April 5, May 3 (?), 10, 17 (?), 24.
Address, Ernest Dottridge.

WANTED, Good Dramatic and Musical Comedy Companies, for Bognor, April 12, on, one, two, or three nights. Address, Reading, Bognor.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, Good Companies, April 19 and 26.
Address,
Gerald Harding.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for the GRAND THEATRE, OLDHAM,
April 5, May 3 (?), 10, 17 (?), 24.
Address, Ernest Dottridge.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions, May 17, 31, June 7, 14, 21.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE, GLASGOW.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions, April 19, 26, unexpectedly vacant.
Terms to Rich. Waldon.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.
WANTED, Light Musical Attractions, for May 10, 17, 24, 31, Sept. 6 and 20, and on.

VICTORIA THEATRE, KETTERING.
WANTED, Autumn Dates, August Bank Holiday, and Christmas settled; full orchestra and staff; electric light; large stage. Bookings include "Merry Widow," "Gay Gordons," "Cingalee," "Belle of New York," "Sunday," "Sign of the Cross," &c. Alf Bailey and Co.

KING'S HALL, ILKLEY.
WANTED, Companies, Opera, Musical or Farcical Comedy, one to three nights, Whitsuntide and Season Aug.-Sept., onward. W. S. Bellerby.

WANTED, Wanted, Known, that all Arrangements have now been made for coming Summer Stock Season, at Grand Theatre, Brighton.
Please take silence as a polite refusal.

Important—Change of Address.
WANTED, Known, Mr. R. C. Buchanan desires to announce that he is removing his Offices to No. 6, John-street, Adelphi, London, W.C., and that on and after Wednesday, 17th inst., all communications should be addressed to him there.

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE BEGGAR GIRL'S WEDDING."
WALTER MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION.
WANTED, April 5, Oct. 25, Nov. 1.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, April 5, Sept. 6.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, April 26.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
WANTED, Theatres, May 10, Sept. 20, 27.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
WANTED, Aug. 23, Sept. 27.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

FREDERICK MELVILLE'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, Theatres, April 5, Aug. 9, Sept. 13.
Frederick Melville,
14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES."
WANTED, June 21, 28, Aug. 16 (?), Sept. 6, 20, 27, Xmas. Tom H. Taylor, 25, Flanchford-road, Ravenscourt Park, W.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, April 5, Aug. 2, 9, 16.
Douglas Bruce, Theatre Royal, Tonypandy.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."
WANTED, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 30.
Andrew Melville, Met. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."
WANTED, April 12, Aug. 9, 16, 23.
Andrew Emm, Metropole T., Birmingham.

THEATRES WANTED.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, for this Phenomenal Success, weeks of May 24 and June 21.
Wire or write to
W. W. Kelly,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
WANTED, Weeks of April 19 and 26, for this Remarkable Success, which in a fortnight at Dublin played to £1,400, and at Belfast turned hundreds away nightly.
Wire or write to W. W. Kelly,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, April 26, May 3, on.
Charles Harrington,
Opera House, Dudley.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
Re-dressed and re-mounted.
Costumes by Messrs. Harrison.
Scenery and properties by Willie Leigh.
WANTED, April 26, May 17, 24, 31.
All communications, J. W. Cordiner,
March 15, Royalty Theatre, Llanelly.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."
EUGENE C. STAFFORD'S No. 1 CO.
WANTED, March 29 (?), April 5 (?), 19; also Oct. 11, 18, 25, Nov. 8, onwards.
Letters or telegrams to
Bishopsdale, Biddenden, Kent.

MR. BULMER'S ENTERPRISES.
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
Vacant Aug. 30 (?), Nov. 1, 8, Aug. 1, on.
"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
Vacant Aug. 2, on, with exceptions.
"THAT LONDON WOMAN."
"THAT LONDON WOMAN."
WANTED, First-class Theatres.
Fred Bulmer,
Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, W.C.

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANY.
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
A Powerful Domestic Drama, in four Acts.
By Walter Howe.
WANTED, April 26, May 3, 17, 24, 31, June 21, Aug. 2, 9, on.
T. R., Stratford, E., March 15.

MR. AND MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"ROLLICKING RORY."
Mirth, Music, Beauty, Romance.
Every Vocal Number Re-demanded.
Thunders of Applause.
Peals of Uncontrollable Laughter.
Everything Carried.
Not the hackneyed attraction which really requires no title, all being so alike in construction.
Something Really New.
Unlike anything on the Road.
And a Big Money-maker.
WANTED, Wanted, April 12, April 12.
Wire, Wire, Wire.
T. R., Dewsbury; next, Star, Liverpool.

"BREWSTER'S MILLIONS."
"BREWSTER'S MILLIONS."
Vacant through obliging, May 17 or 24.
Only Vacant Dates this year.
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
Wire or write,
Percy Hutchison,
Grand Theatre,
Swansea.

ROSE MONCRIEFF'S CO.
"THE BELLS OF OLD YORK."
"THE BELLS OF OLD YORK."
WANTED, 3 nights, March 18, 19, 20 (South Wales), March 29, April 5 and 12, Aug. 16 (to follow Birmingham), and Sept. 6. Address, March 15, Opera House, Treherbert.

S. RENNEF AND G. M. COPPING'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, "Love Rules the World," April 26 (to follow Prince's, Preston), May 3, 10, 17, 24; Whit Week, T. R., South Shields. Several Summer Dates "How Women Ruin Men." G. M. Copping, Victoria Theatre, Broughton.

MR. GEORGE D. DAY'S COMPANY.
"OLD FLAMES."
A Farcical Comedy, in Three Acts, by Allen Reed and George D. Day, as produced by Mr. A. F. Henderson at the Grand Theatre, Fulham.
WANTED, May 3, May 31 (Whit), and onwards.
Address,
George D. Day,
Eden Theatre, Bishop Auckland.

Messrs. ARMADALE and WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, May 17, 24, Whit Week, August Bank Holiday, Aug. 16, onwards.
Address, Armadale and Warren, Her Majesty's T., Carlisle.

"LUCKY 'LIZA."
WANTED, April 12, 19, 26, for this great laughing success.
Please refer to the Hippodrome, Sheerness.
Three hours of pure laughter.
Dickie Clare, East Oxford Theatre, Oxford.

MISS EMMA LITCHFIELD'S PLAYS, "THE GUIDING STAR," "A LONDON ACTRESS," "A CLEVER IMPOSTOR."
WANTED, March 22, April 26, on; well played, staged, and advertised. Wire, "Cleveland, Ferndale." Write, Pontycymmer.

"THE MASTER CRIMINAL."
WANTED, good Theatres, April 12, 19, May 3.
Henry L. Osmond,
West London Theatre, N.W.

"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
From the Lyceum Theatre, London.
WANTED, May 3, 10, 17.
Paumier and Howard,
Broadway Theatre, New Cross, S.E.

"MAN TO MAN."
EDWARD LLOYD and CLIFFORD BOWN'S CO.
WANTED, May 31, Aug. 30 and on.
Edward Lloyd, 4, Pulteney-avenue, Bath.

WANTED, Known, "Napoleon's Divorce," Vacant March 22, between Falkirk and Liverpool; also April 12, to follow Stratford. Wire to-day, Neville, Alexandra, Greenock; next week, Grand, Falkirk.

"I DEFY THE WORLD."
WANTED, Good Theatre, April 12.
Address,
C. M. Julian, March 15, M., Devonport.

"THE TYRANT."
"THE TYRANT."
WANTED, Big Theatre, for March 22 (through an endeavour to oblige Eordesley, who has a double booking),
March 22.
Also Vacant November 15, 22, 29.
Fred C. Somerfield, Rushall, Walsall.

"THE 10.30 DOWN EXPRESS"
and "GUILTY GOLD"
WANTED, June 7, 28, large Theatres only.
Horace Stanley,
Gainsborough (3), Worksop (3).

"A BROKEN HEART."
WANTED, Big Theatres, April 5, 19, May 3, 10.
Harry Foxwell, Junction Theatre, Manchester; next, Crown Theatre, Eccles.

THEATRES WANTED.

FRED GRANVILLE'S PRODUCTIONS, LTD.

Pantomimes:
"BABES IN THE WOOD."
Production 1909-10 Settled.

"ALADDIN."
Production 1909-10 Settled.
WANTED, good Theatres, Jan. 24, 31, Feb. 7, 14.

"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST."
Production 1909-10 Settled.
Wire for this Enormous Success, March 29.
Also Wanted, good Theatres, Jan. 3, 17, 24, 31.

Managers Note.
These Pantomimes are First-class in every way. Beautifully Mounted and Dressed. All Star Casts. Grand Specialities and Full Chorus.

Plays: "THE BETTER LAND."
A High-class, Powerful Domestic Drama. A winner.
Through Theatre Closing,
Wanted, Easter Week.
Wanted, Easter Week.
Wanted, Easter Week.
Wanted, May 24, between Bristol and Swansea.
Also Vacant, Aug. 9, 23, 30, Sept. 13, 27, onwards.

"ANOTHER MAN'S WIFE."
An Instantaneous and Emphatic Success.
A Perfect Production.
Wanted, good Theatres, April 5, 12, 19, 26, and on.

Re Dates for FRED GRANVILLE'S Productions, Ltd.,

Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, Theatres, "Beauty and the Beast," Grand Pantomime Extravaganza.
Wire for this Enormous Success; March 29,
Also Vacant April 5, Easter Week, onward.
Cast includes—
Miss Mary Poulton,
Miss Hilda De Gray,
Miss Dollie Barry,
The Sisters Kebble,
Miss Florence Milton,
Daleno and Stream,
Barrie and Wood;
Sammy Foster,
Leslie Austin,
Sidney Milton,
The Casino Belles (Troupe of Dancers).
Company of
35 Performers. 35
Gorgeously Mounted and Dressed.
Managers with Vacant Dates for this Money-maker communicate at once with
FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

"THE SORROWS OF SATAN,"
and
"NANA, THE RAGE OF PARIS."
WANTED, April 12, various, on, for these superbly dressed, mounted, and acted plays.
Autumn fully booked.
LOIE ESMOND, March 15, T. R., Macclesfield.

MISS HILDA BEVERLEY
in
"A DESTROYER OF MEN."
WANTED, Theatres, for a Few Vacant Dates in 1909.
Now Booking 1910.

MISS HILDA BEVERLEY,
"A Girl's Cross Roads" Co.,
March 15, Princess's Theatre, Glasgow.

"THE IDOL OF PARIS,"
"THE IDOL OF PARIS,"
By Charles Darrell.
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
April 5 (?),
April 12,
April 12,
No greater success touring.
Miss Annie Bell as Flare-Flare,
Supported by a Star Company.
Wire for April 12. Wire.
JAMES BELL, T. R., Darlington.

MR. AND MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COS.
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR."
WANTED, March 29, March 29, near Manchester preferred.
Splendid Show. Refer.
"BOUND TO WIN."
Wanted, April 26, May 3, Whit week.
Good Theatres only, with big Stages, Racehorses toured.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
Wanted, Ap. 5, Ap. 5, at Lancs. Theatre preferred.
"A SISTER'S SIN."
Wanted, May 3 and 10; new Scenery and good Printing.
Wire, KIMBERLEY,
Theatre, Ebbw Vale; next, Star Theatre, Swansea.

MISS MARY NEIL,
in her Great Successes,
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS,"
By Charles Darrell,
and
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
By Charles Darrell,
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres,
Vacant for either Play,
April 5, May 10 and 24, June 7.

Coms. to GEO. KIRK,
This, Colosseum T., Oldham;
Next, Rotunda, Liverpool.

GEORGE A. DE GRAY presents his latest new Play, "THE ANGEL OF HIS DREAMS."
Production, April 26, Theatre Royal, Castleford
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 2, 9, Sept. 20. All coms., GEO. A. DE GRAY, Met. T., Devonport.
Next, Palace, Bordesley.

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Nov. 1, 8, Dec. 6 and 27.
FRANK M. THORNE, T. R., Chesterfield.

GRAND PANTOMIME, "CINDERELLA."
WANTED, Theatres, March 29, April 5, also 12, for Easter Production. This is a first-class Touring Pantomime, and all who see it say it is the best they have ever seen touring. Splendid vocalists, gorgeous dresses, magnificent scenery, big specialities. Managers invited to see this Panto., Address, FARREN, Prince's Theatre, Horwich, Lancashire.

WANTED, Dates, for Fred Moule and B. W. Avery's 1909-10 Pantomime Production,
"CINDERELLA,"
Refined, Operatic, and Funny.
Address,
153, Capworth-street, Leyton.

"MOTHER."
WANTED, First-class Theatres, April 19, May 10, 24, and Whit. HARRY FOXWELL, Junction Theatre, Manchester; next week, Crown T., Eccles.

WANTED, Dates, for
BURNS-JOHNSON FIGHT PICTURES,
BURNS-JOHNSON FIGHT PICTURES,
BURNS-JOHNSON FIGHT PICTURES,
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BURNS-JOHNSON FIGHT PICTURES,
Now being Exhibited throughout the Provinces.
Greatest Success of the Year.
Only Pictures taken of this World-famous Championship Fight.
Proprietors of all London, Suburban, and Provincial Theatres, Halls, and Places of Entertainment desiring to book this Stupendous Attraction, apply immediately to the
GAUMONT CO., LTD.,
5, Sherwood-street, Piccadilly Circus, W.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.

WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
"BROUGHT TO RUIN."
"BROUGHT TO RUIN."

When Money can be Taken,
this Play will Draw it.
A Great Play,
a Strong Cast,
A Beautiful Production.
Vacant
April 12, May 17, June 7, 14, and 28.

MORTON POWELL,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

"HONOUR THY FATHER."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
July 26, Aug. 2, 9, 16.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"GREED OF GOLD."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
March 22, April 26.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

New Play
by
Mrs. Morton Powell.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Aug. 2, 9, 23, Sept. 6.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

MISS MAY PALFREY'S TOUR of "MRS. DOT,"
By W. Somerset Maugham.
WANTED, First-class No. 1 Theatres only, for March 22 and 29. Reply by wire immediately to RICHARD MAYNARD, 348, Camden-rd., London, N.W. Miss May Palfrey's Company and Production is acknowledged to be the finest sent to the Provinces.

WANTED, First-class Theatres, for Ivan Coherney's Star Variety Company, March 29, to follow Grand Theatre, Blackpool; also April 5 and 12. Booked by the best Theatres in three Continents, Europe, America, and Australia. Managers Booking this Company will get a First-class Attraction and a certain winner. Acts and Artists that will please any audience in the country, including the latest London Attraction, the Les Apache Dance. Special Scenery and beautiful Printing. Re dates, address, S. LEE, West London Theatre, N.W.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Artists to Know,
MARSHALL MOORE,
the well-known Producer of Plays,
many years at Drury Lane and late Producer London Coliseum,
is now engaged by
STEDMAN'S AGENCY
as
Manager of their New Dramatic Department. Specially engaged to Produce STEDMAN'S own Plays, Sketches, and Scenas, Dramatic and Musical, also as Professor of Elocution and Dramatic Art, at their famous Schools of Stage Training, 58, Berners-street, Oxford-street, W.

WANTED, Lady or Gentleman, with fine voice, Leading Part, West End Theatre.
Liberal Salary paid. Premium wanted.
State range.
Address,
Box 5,618, "The Era."

"THE GREAT AWAKENING."
WANTED, young and pretty Juvenile Lady, to Rehearse March 30, Farnworth.
MAUD HILDYARD, T. R., Sheffield.

WANTED, Young Actress, for very Powerful, Intense Part; also First-class Actors, tall, for slightly comic Heavy Lead and Juvenile Lead, for sketch. Send particulars, height, age, salary, state where playing, Box 5,616, "The Era."

WANTED, for Sketch Production (one week), March 29, Manchester, rehearse 23rd, Southport, tall, elegant Lady, play Russian Countess (sympathetic), to look not more than 35, wear handsome walking gown (winter); Gentleman (5ft. 11in.), Russian Military part. Joint entertained. Lowest inclusive terms, references, photos., age, height, to GRAHAME and HARRINGTON, Palace, Dundee.

WANTED, to rehearse Tuesday, for Sketch, one week London, possibly longer, pretty Juvenile Lady, Heavy Gentleman, and Gentleman for Dude Part, must have high pitched voice. Fullest particulars, terms, height, and photos., FRED MOULE, 153, Capworth-street, Leyton.

WANTED, to rehearse immediately, Lady, for Sketch, must be refined, pretty, and possess elaborate wardrobe. Photos., absolutely lowest terms, full particulars, to MANAGER, 45, Harleyford-road, Kennington.

WANTED, Clever Child Actress, must sing and dance well, capable of Lead in Juvenile Light Opera Co.; big salary paid. Give particulars of height, age, and experience.
STEDMAN'S, 58, Berners-street, Oxford-street, W.

"MAN TO MAN."
WANTED, First-class Heavy Gentleman, to rehearse March 22. Terms, refs., photo., and full particulars, EDWARD LLOYD, 4, Pulteney-avenue, Bath.

WANTED, Character Comedian (tall), Fiery Military Part; and Chambermaid (short), to give Trial Show, London Hall, Friday next. Letters only. COMEDY, 127, St. George's-road, S.E.

WANTED, Young Actor, all-round experience, capable taking Special Classes, Dramatic Art, South Coast. State age, absolute lowest terms, details of experience, and give references to managers by whom engaged past few years. Address, Box 5,598, "The Era."

WANTED, Character Actor, also Coster Comedian; good singer, tall. Apply to-day, with song, 2.30, LEE, West London Theatre.

WANTED, Smart Youth, who can Sing, to Play Part and Learn Duties of Manager; must be prepared to pay small premium and give services for a short time for tuition. Proprietor pays all travelling and hotel expenses. FARREN, Prince's Theatre, Horwich, Lancashire.

WANTED, two really clever Step Dancers, with strong voice, for High-class Scena. Write age, height, experience, terms, with photo. (returned), SAVILE, 29, Bishop's-mans., Fulham, S.W.

WANTED, Known, The New Frances Club, 425, Strand, W.C., for Ladies. Members have use of Cosy Sitting and Dining-room, Piano, and Circulating Library. Exceptional Tariff. Terms, 1 guinea yearly; may be paid quarterly, monthly, or weekly (6d.). No entrance fee.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Austin's Academy, 69, Cowley-road, Brixton. Lessons in Singing, Dancing, or Elocution. Appointment only. Engagements for suitable pupils.

WANTED, by Young Man, 19½, Situation in Theatrical Profession, any position; no experience. C. CLARK, 1, Auckland-road, Clapham Junction, S.W.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Comedians, next season's Pantos. Last two references, address where performing next three week, age, photos., lowest terms, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists all Lines. Age, height, photo., salary, last two references. Particulars, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Good Chorus Ladies, next Pantomime Season. Age, height, names, addresses last two references, photo., lowest terms, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Contracts, for Painting Scenery, First-class Work guaranteed. CECIL E. HICKS, Painting Room, Princess's Theatre, Oxford street, London, W.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery, Productions Sketches, or Stock, good effective work, chead. J. JACKS, Scenic Artist, 46, Holloway-road London, N.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions, Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery of all Kinds, Secondhand Scenery, both for Theatres and Fit-ups, for sale. E. G. FALCON, County T., Bedford.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery; Effective Artistic Work, Good Joinery. Moderate Prices. Large Studio and Workshop. CHAS. SAYER, Scenic Artist, 2, Clarendon-road, Croydon.

WANTED, Contracts for High-class Effective Scenery, very lowest prices; Scenery repainted or adapted. W. B. ROBINSON, 170, King's-road, S.W.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Known, Living Pictures, Showmen's Enterprises, Music Hall Artists Productions, &c., any established Show (with prospects) requiring financial help can be accommodated up to £100 on partnership terms; must bear full investigation.
Write particulars,
KAY,
Box 5,510, "The Era."

THEATRE ROYAL, EXETER.
WANTED, experienced Pantomime Producer and to Stage-manage, for Xmas, 1909. Apply, with full particulars of recent productions, references, terms, &c., to MANAGING-DIRECTOR, Theatre Royal, Exeter.

WANTED, a Gentleman to thoroughly learn Acting, Stage, and Business-management, must be well educated; Long Tour guaranteed. Salary paid £3 per week and all fares. Premium £100. Proprietor holds first-class position in West-End Theatre. Write, A., Hippodrome, London.

WANTED, competent, energetic Resident-Manager, for Picture Variety Show, open April 5. Apply, with particulars of experience, salary, and references, to PRINGLE'S Picture Palace, Glasgow.

WANTED a Smart Young Assistant-Manager for Picture Show. State experience, salary, &c., to PRINGLE'S Picture Palace, Glasgow.

WANTED, Poster Writer, must be able to do small and fancy work. State full particulars and salary required. J. ANSONIA, 10, Seymour-st., Liverpool.

FRED GRANVILLE'S PRODUCTION.
WANTED, a good Carpenter, for Touring Panto.; also Man for Props. Apply to H. G. GRIFFIN, T. R., Hyde, Cheshire.

WANTED, Known, Gentleman at present Sole Manager of Provincial Theatre, is desirous of managing bigger concern, wants to better himself; first-class references; many years with present employers. Address, Box 5,600, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Electrician seeks permanent Engagement, practical mechanic, resident or tour. ELECTRIC, 329, Three Colt-lane, Bethnal Green, London, E.

ADVANCE AGENTS.
WANTED, to Know that T. Bartlett, the old-established Billposter, is prepared to accept Advance Work for Newcastle, Gateshead, Birtley, Chester-le-Street, Durham, North and South Shields, Tynemouth, Whitley Bay, and Cullercoats. Terms and lists on application, 1, Forth-lane, Newcastle.

WANTED, Known, Billposting Manager, 34, at Liberty shortly; lifelong practical experience; excellent refs. BERT HALL, Manager, Glamorgan Billposting Co., Ltd., 8, Park-street, Cardiff.

WANTED, Situation as Useful Maid to Professional Lady; good references; willing; age 25. L. BRACE, 73, Emmanuel-rd., Balham, London, S.W.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, Musical-Director (Violin), must be well versed in First-class Variety (twice nightly), permanent if suitable. Apply, stating age, and with latest references, to MANAGER, Hippo., Stoke-on-Trent.

WANTED, Good Conductor, also Stage-Manager and Bill Inspector combined, for Queen's Variety Theatre, Keighley. Apply, lowest terms and references, to CHAS. ELPHINSTONE, Theatre, Hanley.

WANTED, Leader, Solo and First Violinists, Double Bass, Pianist, Wind and Brass Instruments, Principal Soloists, Double Drummer (own tympanis), Bells, &c., double-handed musicians preferred, trial essential, orchestral, experienced, particulars, Whit. and season in Yorkshire, seaside. MUSICAL DIRECTOR, 92, West End-lane, London.

WANTED, good Leader, at once, for the Aston Hippodrome, Birmingham, two houses nightly, permanency to suitable man. Apply, MUSICAL-DIRECTOR.

WANTED, for London Theatre (West), Leader, 'Cello, Bass, and Cornet; experienced in high-class hotel programme. Recent references important. Reply Box 5,615, "The Era."

WANTED, Several Violins, April 8 to 17. First-class Musicians only.
Address, stating experience and terms (two performances daily), to
JNO R. HUDDLESTONE, Manager.
Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

WANTED, First-class Violinist, for a Trio, in a Hotel Lounge, Leeds; must be first-rate Soloist also; testimonials and recent programmes indispensable; open March 20 or 22; permanency. Salary £3 5s. weekly. Only competent should apply to CONDUCTOR, 43, Harehills-avenue, Leeds.

IPSWICH SKATING PALACE.
Manager, DOUGLASS BOSTOCK.
WANTED, Solo Cornet, Horn, Bombardon, and Double Drums, Monday, March 22, twice daily. Terms, &c., to SYDNEY DAVIES, Conductor, Hip., Ipswich.

WANTED, good Solo Cornet, for Exhibition Orchestra, which travels fortnightly throughout the year, from Monday, March 22, Southend-on-Sea. Apply, with references, W. SCHOTTLER, Musical-Director, Bath.

WANTED, for Summer Season, B flat Clarionets, E flat Clarionet, Flute, Piccolo, Bassoon, French Horn, Euphonium, E flat Bass, BB Bass. Box 5,599, "The Era."

PERCY HONRI in "CONCORDIA."
WANTED, Bassoon, to Double with Trombone. Age, height, photo., and terms, to PERCY HONRI, 357, Holloway-road, N.

WANTED, Good Trombone (Military), combine First or Second Violin Orchestra, for Yeomanry Training, May 10, 15 days; Comfortable Engagement. State terms, testimonials, F. BUCKLEY, Bandmaster, 39, Oliver-st., Stockport.

WANTED, good Trombone, for Palace, Watford, must be used to Variety and Musical Comedy, open at once. Lowest terms and references, MUSICAL-DIRECTOR.

WANTED, good Trombone, open March 22, Variety. Age and refs.
FREDERIC BRAHAM, Regent Theatre, Salford.

WANTED, for the Great Lafayette Show, Trombone and Baritone (Union or Non-union). I want good players and sober. Apply, Saturday evening, Camberwell Palace.

WANTED, for Tenting, Bombardon and Double Drums; must be used to the business. Address, HARRY PILLING, Bell Hotel, Northfield, Birmingham.

WANTED, Flute, Drums, and Pianist, open March 22. Apply, terms, refs., age, &c., to WILLIAMS, Musical-Director, 50, Colinwood-street, Carlisle.

WANTED, Lady Pianist and Vocalist, for Permanent Bioscope Entertainment. Age, height, references, photo., lowest terms, E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, Gentleman, good Pianist, in well-known Agency; splendid chance to suitable person. Particulars, Box 5,604, "The Era."

WANTED, Good Pianist for Picture Show. Lowest terms, names, and addresses last two references, age, photo, to ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester. Mark envelopes "Pianist."

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, a good Double Drummer, with own Instruments for Pitching; young and sober; Blue Hungarian Band, Littlehampton, Sussex. PAUL ROSINUS, Bandmaster.

WANTED, Double Drummer, with Effects. Open Monday. State terms. ALLAN GREY, Conductor, Skating Rink, Dundee.

WANTED, Gentleman as Mandoline Class Teacher, permanent, good salary. State experience. 2, Shaw-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, M. W. Shanly is now making arrangements with the local authorities at various seaside resorts for the supply of Military and Orchestral Bands for the coming season. Conductors desirous of engagements through him are requested to send full particulars and prices for Conductorship only, or supply of Bands, with or without music and uniforms.

Address by letter only to 33, King Henry's-road, South Hampstead, N.W.

WANTED, Known, the Droitwich Brine Baths Band Committee invite Tenders for Resident Orchestral Band of 10 Professionals, in Uniform, including Conductor, from end of May, for thirteen weeks, with probable extension. Twelve Performances Weekly (not Sundays) in Baths Grounds, or Park, or Salter's Hall. Apply, HON. SECRETARY, Town Hall, Droitwich.

WANTED, Leaders, Solo Violinists, Pianists, 'Cellists, and Bass Players, for White Star and Cunard Mediterranean Services, commencing March; also Vacancies on American Service, April to Oct. For terms and conditions, apply C. W. BLACK, 14, Castle-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, for Stephenson and Hardiker's Circus, Tenting Ireland, commencing Easter Monday, Cornet, Horn, Euphonium, Bombardon, or small Family Band. Lowest terms. Joe Clarke write. 12, Chadwick-street, Rochdale.

WANTED, for Cosy Skating Rink, Leeds, Open March 22, three sessions daily, First and Second Cornets, Trombone, Euphonium, Bass, Drums with Effects. State terms. Apply, DAVID WILLIAMS, 13, Virginia-street, Southport.

WANTED, Bandsmen, for small Military Band, July to Sept.; those combining string preferred. Terms, refs., age, apply BANDMASTER, Council Offices, Ilkley.

WANTED, Thirty Lady Wind Instrumentalists and others. Send particulars of experience by letter to M. S., 1, Caroline-villas, West Grove, Woodford Green.

WANTED, applications from Military and Brass Bands in the neighbourhood of Leeds and Wakefield, to perform during the season, evenings only. State if free to arrange for Easter holidays, April 9 to 13. Inclusive terms and particulars to DIRECTOR OF AMUSEMENTS (Bands), Lofthouse Park, Wakefield.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept.,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.
Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement. 'WANTED, DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Conductor, Disengaged March 20, valuable Library, Reference Jules Richeux, Esq., 3½ years; Summer Orchestra, Solo Instruments, moderate terms. Pavilion, Ramsgate.

WANTED, Known, W. H. Brinkworth, late Musical-Director Palace, Ramsgate, Disengaged 13th, Violin, Piano, Composing, Arranging. 7, Pretoria-mansions, Elderfield-road, Clapton.

WANTED, immediate Engagement, by J. W. Johnson, Piano Conductor, or as Pianist; first-class arranger; experienced in every line. JOHNSON, 26, Henry-street, Tyldesley.

WANTED, Engagement, as Leader, First Violin, or Viola, Disengaged March 22. A. E. PRITCHARD, 3, Gordon-avenue, Gosforth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

WANTED, Known, Miss Sara Walker, Leader and Solo Violinist, and Miss Fanny Walker, Clarionettist, Disengaged April 5. 36, Kenilworth-road, Seacombe, Cheshire.

WANTED, Permanent Engagement, experienced Violinist, steady and reliable; good references. Address, Box 5,591, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, for Violin or Drums; thoroughly experienced, any business; can open immediately. STEVENSON, 22, Agnes-street, Maryhill, Glasgow.

WANTED, Engagement, First Violin, thoroughly experienced, refs., strictly sober, any business. VIOLINIST, 1, Gathorne-rd., Wood Green.

WANTED, Engagement, as Violin or Viola, at Liberty March 15; excellent refs.
A. B., 22, Braeval-st., Roath Park, Cardiff.

WANTED, Engagement, by Violinist (Pictures), can do extra Musical Turn and Sing, or would join Harpist or Pianist, Al Fresco; references. H. HARLOW, 152, Lawkholme-lane, Keighley.

WANTED, Engagement, by good Violinist (Leader), any business, Variety preferred, reliable, &c. J. C., 11, Gilpin-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement, as Solo Cornet, Tenting, or any other Business.
WM. FLETCHER, 15, Eden-street, Bury, Lancashire.

WANTED, Engagement, by Clarionet, for Summer Season, Military or String Orchestra; good refs.; 21 years' Army experience; age 36 years; exemplary character. W. HALL, 60, Brighton-road, Stoke Newington.

WANTED, Engagement by First-class Clarionet, young and steady; good references; any business. L. SHUTT, 31, Charlotte-road, Sheffield.

WANTED, Engagement, for Clarionet.
Address, W. E. HARRISON,
14, Rockingham-street, Leeds.

WANTED, Engagement, Clarionettist, Disengaged, Theatre or Variety; best references, and thoroughly experienced. ALFRED BENNING, 8, Abbotsford-terrace, Church-road, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Known, Miss Susie Griffin, Clarionet and Saxophone, Disengaged.
Perm. address, 42, Farnaby-road, Shortlands, Kent.

WANTED, Known, Solo Clarionet, 8 years Eastbourne Pier, Disengaged, combine Second Violin; good ref.; String or Military. BURTON, 3, Cross-street, Eastbourne.

WANTED, Engagement, by Lady Bassoonist, in First-class Orchestra; North of England or Welsh Coast preferred; experienced; references. Box 5,596, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Miss Maude Lawson, Contra Bass, Disengaged April 5.
31, Rossett-street, Newsham Park, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Double Bass, Good Engagement.
J. WIGHT,
Municipal Orchestra, Bournemouth.

WANTED, Known, Basso, reliable, experienced all lines, open for Summer Season; excellent refs.; First-class instrument. CHISHOLM, Hippodrome, Paisley.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, by Good Bass Player, good reader, any business, young. Refs. Address, DAVID THOMAS, 1, Hill-terrace, Penygraig, Ton-y-Pardy.

WANTED, Engagement, by Lady, Double Bass and Drummer, also 'Cellist. Apply, E. S., 142, Caledonian-road, King's Cross, N.

WANTED, Engagement, by Contra Basso, any business; would deputise, town or country; young. Address, BASSO, 104, Battersea-rise, London.

WANTED, Known, Trombone and Second Violin, good, seeks permanent situation in or near London, 18 years' exp.; excel. refs.; total abstainer. HARVEY, 4, Pekin-street, Poplar, E.

WANTED, by Trombone, Engagement, Asylum preferred, four years' previous experience. E. JONES, c/o Flint, Goose Green, Hadlow, Kent.

WANTED, by French Hornist, Summer Engagement, Orchestra or Military, competent and reliable, first-class testimonials. Apply, MUSICIAN, 70, Meanley-road, Manor Park.

WANTED, by 'Cellist, good reader, Re-engagement from April 5, any Business.
'CELLO, H.M. Theatre, Carlisle.

WANTED, Engagement at Seaside, by 'Cellist; thoroughly experienced and reliable.
A. HOWARD, Lyceum, Sheffield.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Oboeist, Disengaged through terminating of Turner's Opera Season, London. WM. MORTON, 6, Ashmere-grove, Acre-lane, Brixton, London.

WANTED, Engagement, as Harpist, combine Second Violin, or would play Double Bass, steady, reliable, experienced. J. F. STEWART, 2, Howden-terrace, Leeds.

WANTED, by Flautist, Engagement now, or Summer Shop, any Bus.; first-class refs. Address, FLAUTIST, 30, Cromwell-street, Millfield, Sunderland.

WANTED, Engagement, Flute and Piccolo, any business; thoroughly experienced, sober, and competent; excellent references. CULLEN, 9, Woodford-terrace, Pavilion-road, Worthing.

WANTED, Known, Flute and Piccolo, at Lib. Late Palace, Carlisle, any Business. Wire or write, WYATT, 122, Dartmouth-street, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Engagements, Marie Bell, Piano and Double Bass; Florence Bell, Cornet. Disengaged April 5. 9, Lynthorne-road, Frizinghall, Bradford.

WANTED, Engagement by Pianist, single or troupe, take Turn, Sing, Patter, Vamp. MADAME SCHMIDT, 1, Seabourne-road, Boscombe Park, Bournemouth.

WANTED, Re-engagement by Professional Lady Pianist, First-class Orchestral experience, London or suburbs preferred. PIANIST, Empress Hall, Earl's Court.

WANTED, Engagement, by Good Orchestral Pianist; experienced, reliable; excellent references. ROWLAND CLARK, 23, Lebanon-road, Croydon. 'Phone 835 P.O.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Pianist (late accompanist for Madame Ada Colley), Solo or Orchestral; can open at once. 4, Manchester-road, Rochdale.

WANTED, through disappointment, good Double Drummer, with Effects. Terms, 45fr. weekly. Address, KETTERING, Bandmaster, Cirque Pinder, Castres, Tarn, France.

WANTED, Engagement, Orchestral or Military, Tympanies, Glockenspiel, Xylophone, accept Bass Drum and Cymbals in good Military Band. HINCHLIFFE, Theatre, Dewsbury.

WANTED, Engagement as Deputy, First-class Drums; London experience.
MUSICIAN, 163, St. Leonard's-road, Windsor.

WANTED, Re-engagement as Double Drums, Effects, own Tympani; good refs. F. CHARLES, Welcome Lodge, Avondale-rd., Eastbourne.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by First-class Tympanist; three Tympani, Glockenspiel, and Effects; Brilliant Xylophone Soloist. WADSWORTH, 11, Montague-street, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Offers for Miss Winnie Watson's Ladies' Poppy Orchestra, Soloists and Singers, from Franco-British and Principal Exhibitions, now Folkestone; Southport Pier following. 'Phone, 5,100 Nat. 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton.

WANTED, Known, Shikisaimma Band Ladies' Original Japanese Orchestra. Magnificent costume; extensive répertoire; all Soloists. CONDUCTRESS, Winshill, Howard-road, Newbury.

WANTED, Known, the Grosvenor Ladies' Orchestra, open for summer. Quartette and Trio for Hotels Disengaged. WILTON DAVIS, Manager, 42, Linton-st., Islington, N.

WANTED, Known, the Imperial Ladies' Orchestras vacant, Musicians, Vocalists, Bells, &c., now Skating Rink, Stratford. MADAME BAKER, 114, Woodlands-road, Ilford.

WANTED, Known, First-class Ladies' Trio or Quartette, Disengaged May; Good Soloists and Répertoire. A., 26, Lower Ormonde-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Engagement, for Easter Week, by Orchestra of Seven Players; good ref. Apply, BARTLE, Moorhead-street, Colne, Lancs.

WANTED, by Military Band, Engagements, town or seaside; smart uniform; good répertoire. B. M., 56, Chipstead-st., Parsons Green, S.W.

WANTED, Summer Engagement by Orchestral Band, Piers, Gardens, Exhibitions; Conductor Music, Uniforms, Methods, smart and up-to-date. Photos., Press notices, apply Box 5,593, "The Era."

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, for Summer Season, good Family of Riders, doing several Acts, with own Horses. Send lowest terms, with photos., to
OSCAR CARRÉ,
Director des Koeniglich Niederlaendischen Circus, Amsterdam, Holland.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, for Tenting Season; also two Cornets and Bass. Watty write. Open Good Friday. DENNIS, Circus, South Normanton, Derbyshire.

WANTED, Whit Week, Fêtes, Sensational and Comedy Specialities. Full bookings, lithos., GANNON, West-grove, Bristol. Telegrams, "Fêtes, Bristol." Telephone 2636.

KEIGHLEY FRIENDLY SOCIETIES THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL FETE AND GALA, to be held June 19, 1909.
WANTED, Acrobats, Gymnasts, Jugglers, Wire-walkers, Big Novelties, Fireworks, &c., to send lowest terms to J. W. CLAYTON, 34, Bradford-road, Keighley. All tenders to be in on or before Monday, March 15, endorsed "Gala."

WANTED, at Once, Young Man, good Tumbler. Send particulars and lowest terms in first letter. Also want a Smart Boy, age from 14 to 16, height between 4ft. 10in. to 5ft., one knowledge of tumbling preferred. A good home. Address, Box 5,613, "The Era."

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Rumbo Austin, Talking and Knockabout Clown, with a Number of First-class Entries. March 15, onwards. Wire, c/o Duthie, 102, New City-road, Glasgow.

WANTED, Neddy Vokes, English and French Musical Talking Knockabout Clown, Liberty Home or Abroad. Address, 16, Moreton-street, Strangeways, Manchester.

Balloon Ascents and Parachute Descents.
WANTED, Engagements, for Parachute Descents of a Sensational and Attractive character. Terms and all particulars write AERONAUT, Box 5,564, "The Era."

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.
WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, Twice Nightly; also WORCESTER EMPIRE, Twice Nightly. Wanted, Artists doing Double Turns, used to Picture Shows. No wires, please. Arthur Carlton, Palace, Worcester.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Branches, for Scotland. Address, James Anderson, the Old Reliable Scotch Agent, at the Musical Artists' Club, 32, Stockwell-street, Glasgow. Open from 11 till 3 and from 7 till 12 p.m.; on Sundays, from 10 a.m. till 12.0 midnight.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Branches, for Scotland. Address, James Anderson, the Old Reliable Scotch Agent, at the Musical Artists' Club, 32, Stockwell-street, Glasgow. Open from 11 till 3 and from 7 till 12 p.m.; on Sundays, from 10 a.m. till 12.0 midnight.

WANTED, Monday, March 22, and onwards, Variety Artists, all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, Kitchingman, Aquarium, Scarborough.

CLYDEBANK NEW GAIETY THEATRE.
WANTED, Variety Artists, First-class Acts of all Kinds, really good Specialities, Comedy Acts, Sketches, Star Comedians, Comediennes, &c., &c., for March 22 and onward. A. E. Pickard, Sole Proprietor and Manager.

BRITANNIA, GLASGOW.
WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Mar. 15, and onwards with exceptions. Apply, A. E. Pickard, Sole Proprietor and Manager.

VERNO'S AGENCY,
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.
WANTED, Variety Artists, in all Lines, March 22, onwards.
Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone, 2076 Royal.

HORACE CAMPKIN'S AGENCY,
HORACE CAMPKIN'S AGENCY,
HORACE CAMPKIN'S AGENCY,
HORACE CAMPKIN'S AGENCY,
HORACE CAMPKIN'S AGENCY,
14, NORTON-STREET, LIVERPOOL.

Telegrams, "Campkin, Liverpool."
Telephone 1192 Royal.

WANTED, First-class Artists of every Description, March 22, onward.
Communicate immediately, with fullest particulars, to
HORACE CAMPKIN'S AGENCY,
HORACE CAMPKIN'S AGENCY,
HORACE CAMPKIN'S AGENCY,
HORACE CAMPKIN'S AGENCY,
14, Norton-street, Liverpool.
Pichel Troupe wire address.

O. MAUS DAYTON'S ANGLO-CONTINENTAL AGENCY.
WANTED, Artists all Lines, nothing too big, nothing too small. Many thanks to all who have written and wired, impossible to answer all. Please accept silence a polite negative in all cases.
Communication, The Dayton Family,
This week, Grand Theatre, Doncaster.
March 15, Central Hall, Lincoln;
March 22, Palace Variety, Reading.
Read half-column Advertisement on other page.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists all Lines, March 22, onwards,
Big Speciality Acts for
Fêtes and Seaside Towns.
Terms, Bookings, Lithos.,
Edgar Stebbings and Co..
28, Egerton-street, Manchester.
'Phone 9261. Tels., "Stebbing, Manchester."

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
William Mould, Central Palace, North Shields.

VICTORIA T., STANLEY, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Star Artists for immediate and future dates. T. C. Rawes, Proprietor.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now on.
—Apply, Mr. J. J. Scott, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artists, Double Turns or Sketches, doing Single Turns, two weeks, March 22, April 5. Charles A. James, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin. Good Freaks, also Novelties write.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, South Coast Theatre, Easter Week. Terms, &c., Arthur Blount, Empire, Dudley.

WANTED, for immediate and onward Dates, First-class and the Best Artists, comprising
Great
Novel,
New,
Original,
and
Sensational
Acts.
Nothing too Big.
Small Acts also Wanted, providing they are Bright and Clever.

Big Drawing Powers Wanted, for Monday, onwards.
Wire.
Must have immediate application.

I can guarantee forty weeks yearly.

Harry Burns,
Welburn House, Hartlepool.
Wires, "Chosen, Hartlepool."
'Phone 231.

WANTED, for Fred Durham's Agency, Artists, all Lines, March 15, on.
14, Loughboro'-rd., Brixton, S.W. Tele., 15 Brixton. Telegraphic address, "Durhamlike, London."

PALACE, WATFORD.
WANTED, First-class Artists, all Lines, March 29, April 12, May 3. Full particulars, letters only, Cadle's Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, always, Double Acts who can do Singles, for Picture Shows only. Can give several weeks, but terms must be low. Full particulars in first instance, Deutrich Agency Co., 31, Islington, Liverpool. 'Phone 1269 Royal.

WANTED, Artists, Agents, and Managers, to Note.

Artists
must
Book Direct
with
Mrs. Jane Williams, Proprietress;
or
Mr. Charles Williams, Gen.-Manager.
The Hippodrome, Leek.

WANTED, Artists to Note, the B.B. Pictures having taken over the Gaiety Theatre of Varieties, Limited, Glasgow, as from and after March 29, 1909, all Contracts with Artists are cancelled after that date. The Glasgow Gaiety Theatre of Varieties, Lyd., James Hamilton, Director.

WANTED, for March 22, and onwards, Stars in all Lines.
Stars in all Lines.
Full up for smaller items.
Cadle's Agency, 105-6, Strand, W.C.

EMPIRE, GREENOCK.
WANTED, Stars and Novelties, share or certainty; also Good Combinations. Apply, Manager.

WANTED, Speciality and Variety Stars, Monday next, and on. Wire for Monday, share or certainty. James Elphinstone, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

WANTED, a few good Variety Turns, for March 22 and April 12, North. Address the Old Firm, Harry Albery. Now finishing successful run with E. C. Jazon's Record Panto., "Dick Whittington," the Ubiquitous Dame. Address, Theatre Royal, Castleford, Yorks. Silence polite negative.

WANTED, Suitable Turns, Charity Gala, near Leeds, June 12.
Tudor 61, Pelham-street, Middlesbrough.

VENTOM SWIFT'S AGENCY,
1, West Tollcross, Edinburgh.
WANTED, Talent for Glasgow, Dundee, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Greenock, Kilmarnock, &c., March 22, on. All first-class Acts North communicate.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY ('Phone 2345 Tron), 170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.
WANTED, Talent in all Lines, Tops, Bottoms, and anything that can be done on the Stage or Ring. Write at once.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Artists of Note Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY. I can book you.
DALTON'S AGENCY. Immediate Dates,
DALTON'S AGENCY. and
DALTON'S AGENCY. Dates onward.
DALTON'S AGENCY. No Guessing.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY. Send full list
DALTON'S AGENCY. and very lowest
DALTON'S AGENCY. (this essential),
DALTON'S AGENCY. and permanent addresses,
DALTON'S AGENCY. also
DALTON'S AGENCY. weekly apartments
DALTON'S AGENCY. address.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
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DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY. 29, Mauldeth-road West,
DALTON'S AGENCY. Withington,
DALTON'S AGENCY. Manchester.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
I said "Agency."

N.B.—State where never played.
Viviana and Co. wire address. Urgent.

WANTED, Big Speciality Acts for South America.
First-class
Acts
Only.
Engagement of six weeks, two months, or longer.
State if played South America before.
Fares paid out and home again.
Also Big Acts, suitable for Spain.
For two weeks or a month, with two or three shows daily, as may be arranged.
State if new to Spain.
In both instances full particulars and actual lowest terms in first letter are essential.
No callers except by appointment.
Silence a polite negative pro tem.

Aux Artistes Etrangers.
Si vous avez un Acte nouveau à L'Espagne.
(Pour quinze jours ou un mois, avec deux ou trois représentations chaque jour) ou pour Sud-Amérique
(Pour six semaines, deux ou trois mois).
Envoyez tous les détails à
Smythson's Agency,
38, Craster-road, Brixton Hill, London, S.W.

EQUITABLE VARIETY AGENCY (Rept. E. A. Ward), 8, Fenwick-street, Manchester.
WANTED, every Description of Acts, especially Big Numbers and Novelties. Early dates open. State full list of bookings and lowest terms, or useless. Address above. Telegraph and 'Phone advertised later. Interviews by appointment only pro tem.

WANTED, March 22, onwards, Star Speciality and Variety Acts, all Lines. Artists booked Syndicate Tours, S. Wales, can have date to follow or precede. Gannon, West-grove, Bristol. Telephone 2636. Wires, "Fêtes, Bristol."

WANTED, Greatest Acts in the Profession to send full bookings, terms, lithos. (The Man You Know) Professor Ainsworth, Stag Hotel, Stockton-on-Tees.

JOHN R. POOLE'S AGENCY.
WANTED, for Weston-super-Mare, April 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, Speciality Turns of all Kinds. Refinement absolutely essential.
Apply, Palace Theatre, Gloucester.

HIPPODROME,
SPENNYMOOR, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Specialities of Every Description, suitable for a Circus Ring.
C. Algie.

WANTED, First-class Specialities, Novelties, Comediennes, &c., March 15, onwards. Hall small, so no fancy prices. Terms, particulars, Louden, Hippo., Airdrie, N.B.

WANTED, three Cheap Specialities, May 31, four days, twice daily, Northampton.
McAskell, Empire, Doncaster.

WANTED, for Chappell's Concerts, Great Yarmouth (three performances daily), Specialities, Aug., Sept. Harry Barker, Pal., Warrington.

WANTED, for a Big Conservative Fête in Cirencester, on August Bank Holiday, 1909, Attractive Novelties of all Descriptions. Tenders to be addressed to T. Davies, 7, Park-st., Cirencester, Glos.

ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, CASTLEFORD.
WANTED, Big Tops of Bill, March 22, onwards, nothing too big, share or salary. Artists all Lines, except sketches; also for B. and E.'s Variety Agency. Will all Artists on our books send latest list of bookings to avoid mistakes? Wal Owen and Zelda wire address. Beanland and Emerson, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

PALACE THEATRE, READING.
WANTED, Tops and Bottoms of Bills, several dates this and next year. Letters only. Stanhope and Co., Ltd., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Big Tops, for immediate dates, on Sharing Terms, for First-class Halls; also Artists in all Lines. Send full list of Bookings and Vacancies. We can Book you. Barnard's Variety Agency, 33, Shaw-st., Liverpool. 'Phone No. 2349 Royal; telegrams, "Barnard, Shaw-st., Liverpool."

WANTED, for Immediate Dates, Big Top-liners. Send full particulars and very lowest terms in first instance, Deutrich Agency Co., 31, Islington, Liverpool. 'Phone 1269 Royal.

Al-Fresco Entertainers.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
The Penmaenmawr Urban District Council invite Offers from a Good-class Minstrel Troupe of Five or Six Performers, including not less than two Instrumentalists or a Small String Band, for Open-Air Entertainments, from July to end of Season.
Free site only provided.
Apply, giving full particulars, not later than Friday, March 26, 1909, to R. John Hughes, Surveyor, Penmaenmawr.

WANTED, Concert Parties, Orchestras, &c., Summer Season, shares preferred, large enclosed ground, bandstand, lamps, seats, illuminations, &c. Apply to The Coventry Cricket Ground Co., Lyd., Coventry.

LITTLEPORT HORTICULTURAL AND FOAL SHOW SOCIETY.
WANTED, Known, Particulars are Invited for Providing some Suitable Open-air Entertainments at the Annual Shows and Sports to be Held on Tuesday, July 27th, 1909. Distance round Sports Ring about 300yds. John S. Fendick, Hon. Secretary, Littleport, Cambs.

WANTED, Tenders for Bandstand Pitch, Al Fresco Show, at Sheerness, either rent or share. Apply, Manager, Hippodrome, Sheerness.

WANTED, young pretty Lady, good figure, able to waltz, to Star in Big Act; well-known firm. Particulars, Box 5,605, "The Era."

WANTED, a Young Lady, about 19, for Vocal and Dancing Act. Apply, C. Martin, Hillsbro', Twickenham.

WANTED, Immediately, Good All-round Acrobatic Dancer. Wire or write, with references, photos., tricks, Lily Bell, 11, Broad-street, Sheerness; Monday, 16, Friars-wharf, Oxford.

WANTED, a good Ground Tumbler, to open immediately with a First-class Troupe.

State age, tricks, and salary;

Long Engagement to the Right Man.
Must be steady and reliable.

Address,
Davis, 17, St. Stephen-street, Salford.

WANTED, a Young Man, for Semi-Protean Vocal and Dancing Act. Apply, C. Martin, Hillsbro', Twickenham.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Smart Young Comedian, for well-known Act. Age, height, and particulars. Also Juveniles (beginners with good voices entertained). Address, Lynbrook, 4, New-street, Darfield, Barnsley.

WANTED, immediately, Boy Baritone, age under 20; Long Engagement for Good Voice. Music Halls. Those in Liverpool apply at once. Marsden, Irving House, Seymour-st., London-road, Liverpool.

WANTED, a good all-round Operator, gas and electric, permanency. New Film Hiring Co., 97, St. Martin's-lane, W.C.

270 Replies.
WANTED, Wanted, Known,
Sir,—
I inserted an advertisement, asking for Music Hall Artists in the last week's issue of "The Era." May I say that I am absolutely astounded at the number of replies I received to my small advertisement, no less than 270 Artists favouring me with applications. May I by this means thank the many artists who sent in their terms, as it is impossible for me to reply to each individual. I thank all for their very kind promptitude in responding to my advertisement.
I remain, yours faithfully,
Alfred Ball.
New Lyceum, Tilbury Docks, Essex.
3/12/'08.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Monday next, and March 22, by Florrie Claribell, Tyrolean Songstress, Baladist, and Top-boot Dancer. Wire, Standard Theatre, Whitehaven.

WANTED, March 22, 29, April 5, 19, by Babs Lloyd, Star Artist. Big hit with new songs. Hippodrome, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Bolton Chronicle, Tuesday, March 9, says:—The Hippodrome.—Flora Lumiere, "queen of the fairy grotto," is a turn which in itself is worth a visit for novelty and effects in the fine art of presenting faces and various devices through the manipulation of loose garment. This week absolutely the talk of Bolton. They say:—We've never seen owt like it afore. It's champion. Unexpectedly vacant March 15 and 22. Wire above for a novelty and draw. Inventor, D. J. Birteno. Share or certainty.

WANTED, Monday next, also 22nd, Belle Brocade, the Versatile Vocal Comedienne. A sure success. 31, Russell-street, Liverpool, or Deetrich.

WANTED, Known, Sisters Terry, two of the cleverest Sisters in the business, at Liberty March 15, 22. This week, great hit Walham Green, London, where communicate.

WANTED, Known, Lawrence Derrick (late Drury Lane Theatre, &c.), Baritone, Illustrated Songs, Humorous Duets. C/o "The Era." A fine voice.—Folkestone Herald.

WANTED, immediate Dates, by ? Groves? Impersonator of Classical Vocalists, Soubrettes, and Burlesque Ballet Dancer. Wire, 20, King Edward-street, Lambeth-road, S.E.

WANTED, by Sabino, Merry Musical Monarch, Monday, March 15. Big success this, Palace, Normanton, Wire.

WANTED, Monday next, by "The Tramp at the Piano" (Frank Selby). Best offers only. A Star Act. Selby, 255, Rotton Park-road, Birmingham.

WANTED, March 15 and 22, also April 5, Buval, Happy Dutchman (Concertina). 34, Mary-street, Treharris.

WANTED, Known, Andrew McManus, one of the most versatile and talented artists added to the list of star turns.—Shields Observer. Vacant March 15, 29. Empire, Sunderland.

WANTED, Monday next, 15th, by Percy Maye, owing to barring, between Pontefract and Abertillery. Wire for an Attraction, Alexandra, Pontefract.

WANTED, Monday, and onwards, by Pat O'Connor, Humorist and Champion All-round Dancer. King, Palace of Varieties, Farnworth. Coms., 7, Poplar-st., Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Little Zola, Comedian, vac. March 22 and 29. Monday, Hippo., Rochdale. Wire, Victoria Theatre, West Stanley, Co. Durham.

WANTED, Known, Willie Long, Comedian, Parodist, at Liberty March 22, onwards. Wire, Hippodrome, Devonport, or Sole Agent, Ernest Edelsten.

WANTED, Monday next, also following week, by Barney Stuart, Character Actor-Vocalist and Mimic. Coms., 4, Canterbury-st., Liverpool.

Wire March 15, 22, and 29, Wire.
The Great VINCENT, Acrobatic Table Expert.
The Great VINCENT, Acrobatic Table Expert.
WANTED, the above Dates, through transferring. Wire, 129, Linaker-st., Southport.

WANTED, by Morimura, Japanese Illusionist, assisted by Miss Miako, March 22 and 29. Enormous Success everywhere. Wire or write, 13, Windsor-terrace, Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, March 15, onward, May Geraldine, Chic Comedienne and Dancer; also The Great Kyoto, Japanese Pot-pourri, Contortionist, Conjurer, and Dog. Wire, 15, Haslemere-avenue, Bridlington. Any distance.

WANTED, Monday next, March 15 (through transferring), by Don and Mabel Keir, Scottish Scena, "Sandy's Return." Saturday, Hippo., Ipswich; after, 30, Foundation-street, Ipswich. Anglian Times says:—A vocal turn of considerable merit is provided by Don and Mabel Keir in a Scotch scena. The male singer, who is a splendid specimen of a "braw laddie," contributed "Drinking" and "The March of the Cameron Men" in fine style. His partner joined him in one or two duets, and both met with the reception they deserved.

WANTED, Mon. next, also 22nd, by Wyllie, Tramp Musician, ten instruments; also Mlle. Telka, Ballad Vocalist. Wire for Monday, Willie, Tivoli, Dublin.

WANTED, Monday next, also Easter week, by Edie Le Brun, the only Girl Juggler and Vocalist, assisted by Edgar. Wire, 26, Agnes-terrace, Grantham.

WANTED, March 15, by Harry Keeble, Ventriloquist; Gladys Wells, Comedienne. Concluding De Frece's Empire, Bolton, where wire for Class Talent.

WANTED, by Fred Wells, the Musical Postman, and his Tired Telegraph Boy, Louis Virtoy, March 22, 29, April 5. This and next, C/o Broadway Hall, Hammersmith, W.

WANTED, April 12, by E. W. Selman, Vocal Comedian; Ivy Gallard, Smart Comedienne; two Sure Hits. Com., Hip., Rochdale; Monday, Grand Theatre, Radcliffe.

Wire, Wire, Wire.
WANTED, The Dunlops, Comedy Cyclists, also Lilian Sivado, Lady Gymnast; two distinct Acts; vacant Monday. Wire, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Monday next, also 22nd, Canner and Steele, Character Duettists, good Singles. Wire, 21, Lower Waun-street, Blaenavon, Mon. After Sat., 2, Berwick-place, Nottingham.

WANTED, by Fields and Lewis, Great Comedy Act, vacant Monday next. Wire, 35, Ducie-street, Oxford-road, Manchester. Wire.

WANTED, Engagement, Hodgsons, Henry (Comedian), George (Baritone), with Latest Bioscope, Sketches, Concerteds. Reasonable terms; one or both. 40, Watling-street, Canterbury.

WANTED, to follow Bolton, March 29, April 5, Camp and Camp, Comedians and Dancers (one single). Offers, 21, Thorold-street, Bethnal Green, London.

WANTED, March 22 and 29, by Will and Roze, Comedy Acrobatic Conjurers, in a Novel Pot-Pourri Act, "Le Café Magique." March 15, Empire, Doncaster.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.
D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.
D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.
D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.
D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.

WANTED, April 12, in Scotland. Scotland, Wanted, April 12, in Scotland, Wanted, April 12, in Scotland, Wanted, April 12, in Scotland, Wanted, April 12, in Scotland,

owing to Pavilion, Kirkcaldy, changing, to follow Edinburgh and precede Dundee.

Also June 7 and 28,
Also June 7 and 28,

July 5 and 19.
July 5 and 19.

No further open dates until July, 1910.
No further open dates until July, 1910.

Will accept same through any Agent or Direct.
Will accept same through any Agent or Direct.

W. J. D'Arc,

This week,
Palace, Hammersmith.

Next week,
EMPIRE, HOLBORN.

D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.
D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.
D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.
D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.
D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.

WANTED, March 22, Pollinta's Steeple-chase, Boxing Kangaroo, Marionettes, stands alone for Originality. Offers. Pollinta, 2, High-street, Southend, Essex.

WANTED, Known, Cambo and Castelle, Big Novelty Musical Speciality Act, "The Monkey and the Organ Grinder." Enormous success, this week, Tivoli, Brierley Hill; next, Tivoli, Netherton. Vacant April 19.

WANTED, by Wright and Elton, Novel Comedy Duo, March 15 and 22. Wire or write, 83, Lenthall-road, Dalston, London. Wire.

WANTED, Known, What a Draw! Four Cecilians are storming Empire, Doncaster, this; next, Central Hall, Lincoln. Vacant March 22, April 5.

WANTED, Monday, South or Midlands, Chas. Lestree, Juggler, Rinders, Song Illustrators, all Apparatus. Best Slides. Wire, Hippo. (or West Hill Cottage), Hastings.

WANTED, March 22, through transferring, The Dunvilles, Spectacular Comedy Musical Pot-Pourri Act; Gorgeous Stage Setting. Gigantic success, new numbers. Another triumph, fourth return Palace, Cork; just concluded Pantomime, Cinderella and Buttons, also Speciality. If in want of versatile Act, wire Monday, Tivoli, Dublin (third return).

WANTED, by Mdlle. Sylvesto, the Beautiful Contortionist, and her Funny Comedian, in their refined Drawing-room Act. Talent and Comedy combined. Two performers, March 15, 22, 29. Wire, c/o Duthie, 102, New City-road, Glasgow.

WANTED, March 22 and 29, by Herman and Evelyn, Smart and Refined Wire Act; also Cosselly, in his great Acrobatic Table Act. For one or both Acts, for a sure success write, this, Hippodrome, Hastings; next, Hippodrome, Wakefield.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
THE FLYING ORENIUSES,
four in number now (two ladies, two gentlemen), Marvellous Stage Aerial Act, the only one of its kind ever attempted and performed without net or trampolin,
Vacant March 15, 22; Continent to follow.
Notice.—Managers and Agents desirous of booking a smart and novel turn should secure this Act at once. P., "The Era"; this, 174, Lambeth-road, S.E. Wire for Monday.

WANTED, Dates, by La Dor Troupe, six in number, Male and Female, Acrobats, now Touring with Joseph's Pantomime, "Aladdin." Westminster Music Hall, Liverpool.

WANTED, March 15 and 22, The Carlsens, Comedy Trampolin Speciality. Success everywhere. Big Act for Galas. Booked for Wolverhampton Floral Fête. Splendid lithos. 40, Sidney-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday next and 22nd, Miss Myria Lo-La and Almo, Smart Comedy Three-bar Act. Wire, Theatre, Worthing; after Saturday night, 13, Westfield-terrace, Sheffield.

WANTED, Known De Ora, Speciality Gymnast, legitimate hit of the evening, Grand Theatre, Luton, Beds; vacant Monday, also 22nd and 29th. Wire, above.

WANTED, Known, Les Kestrals, Society Acrobats, Equilibristic Masterpieces, vacant Mar. 22, 29, onward. Monday, March 15, Hippodrome, Burslem.

WANTED, Monday next, March 15, by Gulliver, Ventriloquist. Thanks Mr. Zalva for return dates at increase. The hit of the Programme this week, Hippo., Lowestoft; after Sunday, 46, Terngate, Northampton.

WANTED, Monday next, by Adkin, Vent. and Bioscope, one or both, all up-to-date.
Wire,
Adkin, Ventriloquist, Hippo., Todmorden.

WANTED.—Alpho, Original Ventriloquial College Boy, wants March 22. Empire, Rochdale; next, Park Palace, Liverpool; or Stebbings.

WANTED, April 26,-May 3, 10, by Hulbert, Ventriloquist, and De Lil, Illusionist; two smart acts. Offers invited. Hippo., Harrogate.

WANTED, April 12 and onwards, for the greatest Combination Touring; nine solid Tops of the Bill, including Lauder, the Man of Mystery; May Thorne, the Charming Comedienne; the great Detective Sketch, "The Bank Robbery"; The Bros. Volaine, Musical Experts; Saxe Neil, the great Gymnast; the Sisters Coalmore, Expert Singers and Dancers; the Celebrated Military Spectacular Sketch, direct from the Syndicate Halls, "A Soldier's Home." Splendid plant of Printing; two truck loads of Scenery; special Advertising Boards. Stage-Manager, Acting-Manager; electricity carried. Only a clear Stage required. Wire or write for April 12, 15, and on. Business-Manager, Edward Ranier, Empire, Jarrow.

WANTED, Known, The Rustics (Comedy Concert Party) have one week vacant, commencing Aug. 16, to precede Ventnor. Opening season at Margate, Easter week. All coms, Myles, 15, Nile-road, Gillingham, Kent.

WANTED, Known. If you want a Novelty, engage Maurits van Yzer, Famous Zuider Zee Girls, Dutch Ladies' Orchestra, in their Quaint Peasant Costumes and Headdresses. For terms, Secretary, 6, Haarlem-road, Brook Green, W.

WANTED, Known, Three Spangelettis, with Comedy Dogs and Baboon Act; also Platter, great Comedy Juggler; vacant March 29, also April 5, only dates. Spangeletti, Algie's Hippodrome, Spennymoor.

WANTED, Known, Cyclinis Trio, Comedy Acrobatic Cyclists and Football on Wheels. Success everywhere. Immediate dates wanted. Vac. 15th, 22nd, 29th, also Easter. Write for terms (most reasonable), perm., 120, Gaythorpe-st., Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Pauletti, Acrobatic Balancing and Juggling Cyclist; Les Caros, Double Somersault Gymnasts on the Silver Frame. Perm., 106, Bigland-st., Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, by Swift Duo, Lady and Gent., Funny Cycling Speciality. March 22. Monday next, Hippo., Spennymoor, where wire.

WANTED, Known, Hal Berte, Undoubtedly the Most Accomplished Roller Skater in England, has a few Vacant Dates, for Rinks or Halls. Address, Prof. Hal Berte, The "Rinkerics," Aldwych, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Known, Ted Kennedy, five years Principal Comedy Vandyke Troupe. Offers for Comedy Parts. Empire, Dundee. O. H., Dunfermline.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, by good Continental Comedy Acrobat Pantomimist, Comedy Parts, height 5ft. 9in. Georges Malvent, 9, Deyne-avenue, Rusholme, Manchester.

WANTED, by Young Man, Engagement as Comedy Assistant to Juggler or Conjurer. A. Bannister, 43, Rawstorne-street, London, E.C.

WANTED, Known, Prof. Lenton's Bioscope Entertainments; Change of Pictures Nightly or Weekly; Machines, Films, and Accessories Bought, Sold, or Hired Out to any amount. 2, Capener's-yard, Knightsbridge, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Prof. Lenton can arrange complete Bioscope Shows and Entertainments, change of pictures once or twice weekly. 200,000ft. of Films to select from; complete Bioscope Outfits supplied; also all accessories. Films bought, sold, exchanged, or let on hire. 2, Capener's-yard, Knightsbridge.

WANTED, Engagements for 200,000ft. Films. Place your orders here and get attention.
Shanly, 2, Capener's-yard, Knightsbridge.

WANTED, by Operator, ten years' experience, good electrician, resident situation; good refs. E. P., 21, Walterton-road, Westbourne Park, London.

WANTED, Situation by Operator, any machine, strictly reliable; references.
Operator, 29, Clinton-avenue, Blackpool.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

SHOWMEN'S GUILD OF GREAT BRITAIN.
President: P. Collins, Esq.
WANTED, Known, The London Divisional Committee, to Meet at "The Era" Offices on Wednesday next, March 17, at 3.30 p.m.
T. Horne, Convener.

WANTED, Known, .22 Cartridges, "R," "H," "D," "P" brands, Winchester repeaters, Globes, Targets, Water Balls. Greene, 74, Falmouth-road, London, S.E.

CAKE WALK. BROOKLYN CAKE WALK.

WANTED, Known, Thousands of Pounds taken and waiting to be taken on these machines. Cake Walk Riding Craze becoming Universal.
No waiting to load up.
11,000 passed over in one night at Hamburg Fair.
All the leading papers write about it.
Write for Press Opinions, terms, and full particulars, Patentees and Sole Makers, Taylor, Plinston Bros. and Co., 94, Farncombe-st., and 98, Bermondsey-wall, London, S.E.

WANTED, Roundabout Proprietors and others
to please take notice
that the Back Rails on Motor Cars
are my duly registered and fully protected design.
My solicitors have instructions
to take proceedings against any makers or users
of same without permission.
Licences to make and use same granted on reasonable terms.
P. Collins,
Gondola Works, Walsall.
Telegrams, "Gondola, Walsall." 'Phone No. 80.

WANTED, Showmen to Save Money by sending for Leete's Catalogue of Specially-prepared Paints, Colours, Varnishes, Brushes, &c., and every requisite for decorating Caravans, Roundabouts, Swings, &c. Cheapest house in the trade. A. Leete and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Stacey, Showmen's Stores, supplies everything for the Fair. 510, Kingsland-road, London. Lamps, Ropes, Guns, Cartridges, Glass, &c.

KATZENJAMMER CASTLES.
WANTED, Known, to Showmen and others.—If you want the most successful show of the century, the genuine Katzenjammer Castle, as erected at Olympia, Earl's Court, White City, Manchester, Blackpool, Southport, &c., write at once for particulars to the only original introducer, Mr. A. L. Baird, 5 and 6, Clement's-inn, London, W.C. Complete outfits installed and most moderate prices, or working plans and specifications sold. The most successful show of the century. Infringers of registered design, numbers 522,803, 522,804, will be immediately proceeded against. Figure "8" Railways, Velvet Coasters, Camel-back Toboggans, and Helter Skelters built at lowest prices.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE.
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THE
WESTON OLD PIER CONCESSION COMPANY.
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The Showman's Eldorado for 1909.
The Showman's Eldorado for 1909.
800,000 Visitors last year.
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The Magnificent New Extension to the Old Pier opens this Season.

BIG ATTRACTIONS ALREADY BOOKED.
BIG ATTRACTIONS ALREADY BOOKED.
SKATING RINK,
SKATING RINK,
SCENIC RAILWAY.
SCENIC RAILWAY.
ROUNDABOUTS, &c.
ROUNDABOUTS, &c.
STILL THERE'S ROOM.
STILL THERE'S ROOM.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Side Shows, Stalls, Games, &c.
Side Shows, Stalls, Games, &c.
Side Shows, Stalls, Games, &c.
Side Shows, Stalls, Games, &c.

Important Notice.
The Low-water Pier now completed, which will enable a regular service of steamers to be maintained, by special arrangement. Last boats leave Weston 11 p.m.
Applications for Spaces and full particulars address,
C. A. Rollason,
10, Throgmorton-avenue, London, E.C.

VICTORIA ARCADE, STRAND.
WANTED, an Attractive Side Show, for this popular Entertainment House; must be novel and occupy small space.
Apply, S. A. D. Co., Ltd., Appold-street, E.C.

WANTED, good Novelties, with paintings, open at once, Pentre; Ebbw Vale and Tredegar to follow. Terms shares. Bioscope, Ghost or Marionettes write for dates. Houp-la Pole and Boards for sale. Wire for Monday, Exhibition, 100, Llewellyn-street, Pentre, Rhondda.

WANTED, at once, a really good Novelty for First-class Side Show, Midget Lady preferred; others considered. Good money and every comfort. Apply, James B. Styles, Carnival, Gallowgate, Glasgow.

WANTED, for Booth, a good Performing Novelty with paintings or poster; able to do own dooring, to open April 6, 1909, for the Summer Season. Terms, shares or salary. Brooks can apply. S. Baker, Showman, Barn House, Beaver-lane, Ashford, Kent.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
for my Run of Fairs,
commencing at Easter, a Novelty Act,
suitable for Outdoor Free Attraction;
must be First-class and Up-to-date.
Respectability and sobriety would be recognised by a lengthy engagement.
Ground to Let to Respectable Tenants.

Apply to E. Holland,
43, Belgrave-road, New Morton, Manchester.

WANTED, for Travelling Cinematograph Exhibition, a First-class Outside Parade, married couple preferred; only those used to the business. Apply, George Green, Carnival, Gallowgate, Glasgow.

WANTED, Lady Character Delineator. Lowest terms and experience. A. E. Pickard, Waxwork, Trongate, Glasgow.

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TELEGRAMS: "Randvoll, London." "Barrasford, London."

THE PALLADIUM, LONDON

(late Hengler's Circus), will be open August Bank Holiday, 1909.

THE ALHAMBRA, PARIS.

Horace Goldin, Smaun Sing Hpoo, Kartison Sisters, Serenaders Quartette, Hall and Earle, Norman Leonard Trio, Three Ausonias, Alexandre and Bertie, Vasco, Four Aces, Les Ados, Gus Barra, Pictures.

HIPPODROME, BIRMINGHAM.

Julian Rose, May de Sousa, Phil Bransby Sisters Marion, Payen, Gus Harris, Three Sisters Allison, A. McKalvin, Effie White, Pictures, Renroff.

HIPPODROME, BRIGHTON.

May Moore Duprez, Carrie Laurie's Juveniles, J. Wesley, Bliss and Bliss, Rappo and Ella, Marie Vere, Fauldys, H. Simms, Milner and Storey, Pictures, Cornella and Eddie.

HIPPODROME, SHEFFIELD.

Decima Moore, Jamie Piper, Zenary Bros., Primrose Quartette, Paul Vandy, Joe Conway, Frederick Hobbs, Arthur Reece, Auers, Pictures, Harry Ford.

HIPPODROME, LEEDS.

Woodwards, Geo. Antil, D. Gould, W. Ward, Thompson Carruthers' Co., Moller and Theodor, Bertisch, Edie and Veno, Pictures, Belrose and Develin, Hall and Macey.

PAVILION, NEWCASTLE.

Mr. and Mrs. Tomson, Juno Salmo, Florias, Moxon Trio, W. Ellwanger and Co., Nightingale and Stigant, Ferris and May, Madoline Rossitter, Pictures, Nellie Wallace.

HIPPODROME, ST. HELENS.

Johnson-Burns Fight, Corina, Three Behans, The Godfreys, Harley and Melton, Helen and Cozens, Maxey and Pete, Gus Garrick, Weisker Bio.

HIPPODROME, EALING.

Frank Seeley, Lallie Brooke, Kelly and Agnes, Thorpe and Coe, Claude Gardner, Kennedy's Kiddies, Pictures, The Maples, Recco, Fielding and Hull.

EMPRESS, BRIXTON.

Frank Leon, Fred Keeton, Neil Kenyon, W. Barrett, Eldred and Co., Amy Clevere, Daisy Mayer, Alice Hollander, Celestria Trio, Pictures, Three Langfords, Claymore Trio, Hinton and Wooton, The Marians.

PALACE, HAMMERSMITH.

Harry Cotton, Chas. Whittle, Harry Cooke, Bessie Lind, Evelyn Taylor, Winifred Hare, Johnny Summers, Pictures, The Maples, Lee and Kingston, Royal Tokio Troupe, Chandon Trio, Thompson Comedy Trio, Jolly and Neilson.

THE WEEK'S CALLS

THE EMPIRE, HOLBORN.

Chas. Stevens, Chas. Whittle, La Belle Nello, Victoria Monks, Lillie Langtry, Daisy Dormer, John Lawson and Co., Cromo and Hamilton, Three Fidardys, Frank Stanmore and Co., Laurie and Beatie, Pictures, Eight College Girls, Lordy's Dogs.

OLYMPIA, SHOREDITCH.

Chas. Lilburn, Joe Archer, Ernest Ball and Co., Joe Elvin and Co., See Saw Girls, Marie Wilton, Mooney and Holbein, Pictures Belles of the Kitchen, Wyndham and Wyatt, Queen, Le Brun and Co., Fred Russell.

HIPPODROME, WILLESDEN.

Sammy Shields, Will Johnson, Neil Kenyon, Bertha Winder, Kitty Upton, Pictures, Jack and Evelyn, Arthur Bedini Trio, M. Parker and Co., J. Lawson and Co., Barton and Ashley.

EMPIRE, CROYDON.

Walter Emmerson, Dave Samuels, Mark Leslie, Gwennie Hasto, Pictures, Wilson and Waring, Stacey and Williams, Borghetti Troupe, Eva Ellis, Chas. Austin and Co.

ISLINGTON EMPIRE.

Dan Crawley, Harry Cotton, Evelyn Taylor, Sisters St. Julian, Alice Hollander, Pictures, Woodhouse and Wells, Kent and Keith, F. Karno's "Yap Yaps," Paolias, Hal Forde.

HIPPODROME, BALHAM.

Chas. Penrose, Victoria Monks, Venie Clements, Lucy Coventry, Pictures, Karno's "Jail Birds," Horace and Olga's Cats and Dogs, Three Merrills, Herbert Shelley.

HIPPODROME, PUTNEY.

Arthur Woodville, L. B. Athol, Sisters Caselli, F. Karno and Co., Phillips and Merritt, Prince Kuroki, Pictures, Sybil Lester, Leslie's Merry Maids, T. E. Dunville, Camilla Feo.

HIPPODROME, POPLAR.

Harry Taft, W. B. Raby, Alix Lukos, Nancy St. John, Gladys Huxley, Pictures, Leo Tell, Warsaw Bros., F. Karno's "Yap Yaps."

HIPPODROME, ROTHERHITHE.

Buglar Carr, Cissie Thompson, Daisy Hurdle, Eight College Girls, Freda Murray, Pictures, Terry and Bentley, "Midnight London Express," Roy and Fenton, The Westwoods.

PALACE, CAMBERWELL.

Harry Zetter, Woodhouse and Wells, Ted Cowan, Chas. Johnson, Fred Poplar, Kitty Wager, Daisy Dormer, Cassie Walmer, Johnny Summers and Film, Pictures, Warsaw Bros., Boisset Troupe.

THE LONDON CASINO

will be open at the end of November, 1909.

THE ALHAMBRA, BRUSSELS.

Heeley and Heeley, Houdini, Les Berthos, C. Barrois, Permane Bros., Three Cumerfords, Lanos and Montes, Stowe Bros., Van Hess Trio, Les Lylys, Pictures, &c.

HIPPODROME, NOTTINGHAM.

A. Roberts and Co., J. W. Barker, Sibb and Sibb, Brull and Hemsley, W. Douglas, Ted Curtis and Pics, Henri and Tyler, Annie Heath, Pictures, Kartelli, J. C. Scatter.

HIPPODROME, LIVERPOOL.

Bros. Luck, Geo. French, Stuart and Evans, Four Canadians, Vasilescu Trio, Gallimore Trio, Tod Lowen, Parker and Parr, Johnson and Devere, Pictures, Hal Godfrey and Co.

HIPPODROME, RICHMOND.

Fred Shepherd, Cliff Diamond, Harry Champion, Will Lytton, Ada Cerito, Marie Empress, Pictures, Valazzi, D'Arc's Marionettes, Farley, Rennie, and Farley.

EMPIRE, SWINDON.

Musical Comedy and Dramatic Season.
Bill matter for this hall to be sent direct to Mr. Manners, Empire, Swindon.

KING'S THEATRE, SOUTHSEA

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Fitzsimmons, Mabel Florence, Cecilias, Edie Grey and Co., Capt. Taylor, New York Comedy Four, Markies, Sisters Maudsley, Pictures, W. Fullbrook and Co.

HIPPODROME, WOOLWICH.

Russell Brandow, Gladys Huxley, Pictures, The Great Lafayette.

GRAND, CLAPHAM JUNCTION.

Clifton and Gibson, Geo. Newburn, Sisters Sprightly, Lilly Eyton, Pictures, Phil and Nettie Peters, Primavesi, F. Ginnett and Co., Mendel, Dorothy Vine.

HIPPODROME, PECKHAM.

Joe Archer, Joe O'Gorman, Four Rosebuds, Alice Digby, Pictures, Joe Elvin and Co., Charlie, F. Eustace and Co., Mooney and Holbein, Elsie Clare.

BRITANNIA, HOXTON.

Drama, Twice Nightly.

KILBURN EMPIRE

(IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION).

ILFORD HIPPODROME

(IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION).

All communications, bill matter, &c., for London Halls to be sent to Mr. Walter Gibbons at above address. Those for Mr. T. Barrasford at 11, Leicester Place.

INTERVIEWS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY **BAND PARTS ARE REQUIRED FOR AT LEAST 14 DIFFERENT INSTRUMENTS.** OFFICE HOURS: 10 to 5 p.m.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Showmen to Notice. Showmen to Notice. Showmen to Notice. Showmen to Notice.

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BURNS.

The Sole Touring Rights of this Picture for South Wales have been secured by E. and H. Tilney, Pavilion, Abertillery.

Theatre, Music Hall, Picture Hall, and Travelling Bioscope Show Proprietors Requiring this Greatest Money Magnet, apply to E. TILNEY, Abertillery.

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Packed Houses
Packed Houses
this week at
this week at
Abertillery, Porth, and Pentre.
Abertillery, Porth, and Pentre.

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LOFTHOUSE PARK (near Wakefield).
Sixty Acres of Pleasure Grounds. Open all the year round. Special service of electric trams from Leeds and Wakefield pass the gates of Lofthouse Park every few minutes.

WANTED, Known, Applications are invited for the coming season for a limited number of Side-show Concessions (under cover or open spaces), and Amusement Devices of all sorts, on exceptionally reasonable terms, rental or share.

Special attractions for the Easter Holidays.

The permanent arrangements include Military Bands, Rinking, Dancing, Winter Gardens, Chinese Theatre, Open-air Fêtes. Continuous All-day Variety Entertainments Free. Miniature Circus, Athletic Sports, Band Contests, Firework Displays, Aeroplane Exhibits, &c., &c.

All communications to be addressed to DIRECTOR OF AMUSEMENTS, Lofthouse Park, Wakefield.

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Telephone 158 Blackpool.
The Leading Open-air Amusement Resort in the Country on the Sea Front.

WANTED, Known, opens at Easter for the Season, Scenic Railway, one mile long, Highest Water Chute in England, Canadian Toboggan, Motor Racing Track. &c., &c., &c., &c. Address applications for anything really new to PROPRIETORS, Pleasure Beach, Blackpool.

TRADES EXHIBITION, KURSAAL, SOUTHEND, March 23 to April 3.

WANTED, Known, a few Spaces to Let. Apply, RENOUF, Kursaal, Southend.

WANTED, to Let, Spaces, at 57 and 58, Promenade, New Brighton, with Sole Right for following: Maypole, Hoop-la, Bicycle Roundabout, Miniature Horses, Cake Walk, Swings, Shooting Range, Photography, Toffee Stall, Ice Cream, Palmistry, and Throwing Games; Refreshment Bar, Rooms, and Lavatories. Apply, G. WILKIE.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Wanted, Known, that I have Ground to Let at the following good Easter Fairs: Coventry, On the Corporation Fair Ground; Wolverhampton, On the Market Place; Alexandra Palace, Wood Green, London, N.; The Palace, New Brighton; Birkenhead, Borough-road Fair Ground; and good Grounds to follow all the Year round. Notice. Would Let the whole of Birkenhead Ground to a Responsible Party. P. COLLINS, Gondola Works, Walsall.
Telegrams, "Gondola, Walsall." 'Phone No. 80.

WANTED, to Let, Positions at The Palace, New Brighton, for the coming Easter Holidays, and the rest of the Season, for Cokernut Sheets, Emmas, Stalls, Swings, Shooters, and Good Side Shows. This is an exceptionally good opportunity for those wishing to make money. Don't be misled; there is only one Palace at New Brighton, of which I am the Sole Lessee. P. COLLINS, Gondola Works, Walsall.
Telegrams, "Gondola, Walsall." 'Phone No. 80.

WANTED, to Let, Ground at Hampstead Heath, for one week Easter, and Whit and Aug. Bank Holidays. Apply to FRED GRAY, 222, Lavender-hill, Clapham Junction, London. Don't forget, this is a good Easter.

WANTED, to Let (temporary), Excellent Shop, in best and busiest street, splendid position, rent £4 per week. ALFRED STUBBS, Askern, Doncaster.

WANTED, Known, Shops to Let, South Wales, Exhibitions, Auctioneers, Medicine Men, good position, open immediately. MICHAEL, 16, The Circle, Tredegar, Mon.

WANTED, to Let on Hire, for coming Season, Set of Large Distorting Mirrors. Particulars, address, Box 5,610, "The Era."

WANTED, in Touring or other Good Exhibition, Space for Flying Lady Show, sharing terms, everything up to date, only good shows treated with. Box 5,617, "The Era."

WANTED, Space for Distorting Mirrors, Pleasure Resort, &c.; will let on hire or sell. Address, MIRRORS, 77, Virginia-street, Southport.

WANTED, Good Seaside Position, Pier, Arcade, or Exhibition, for Jewellery and Games; also Small Shop. FRANCO, 53, Malvern-ter., Kidderminster.

WANTED, to Sell, Grand Pullman Car, rail or road; Shuttered Booth, canvas top; gas generator and fittings. Lot or separate. R. O., 55, Market-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, for Sale, one Set of Savage's Rubber Bicycles, newly done up this winter, with good set of Rounding Boards, Top Centre, Carved Droppers and Bottom Centre; this is a good lot, and ready to open at once, cheap for cash, or will exchange for anything useful in my business. Apply, FRED GRAY, 222, Lavender-hill, Clapham Junction, London.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known, Wanted, Known,

For Sale, by Auction, without the Slightest Reserve, on Tuesday, April 27, 1909,

the whole of the Live Stock, comprising the Scottish Zoo, New City-road, Glasgow, containing Magnificent Groups of Lions, Tigers, Leopards, Pumas, Bears, Wolves and Hyenas, Riding Elephants, Camels and Dromedaries, Zebras, Antelopes, Monkeys, Reptiles, &c., &c.

The whole in finest condition.

Particulars and Programmes later.

Sole Proprietor, E. H. BOSTOCK.

WANTED, to Sell, Love Letters, Palmistry, Fair and Dark, Comic Cards, Eyes, Marriage, Liars', Lunatics' Licences. MEURICE, 39, Argyle-square.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines, New and Secondhand, Card Delivery, Mother Shiptons, marvellous money-takers, enormous profits. MEURICE, Argyle-square.

WANTED, to Sell, Gold-framed Photos., Husbands, Wives, Babies, X-rays, latest sensation, marvellous value, for Automatic Machines. MEURICE, Argyle-square.

WANTED, to Sell, Slot Machines of every description, Watling Guessing Scale a Speciality. WORMALD, 123, Blythe-road, West Kensington, London.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines, all Kinds Lists free. Husband, Wife, Eye, Hair, Fortune, Astrologer Cards, 5s. 1,000; Loveletters, 9s. 5. Denning-road, Hampstead.

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WANTED, to Sell, three large Distorting Mirrors. Take £10, cash; honestly worth double. Seen appointment. FISHER, 169, Castellain-road, W.

WANTED, to Sell, Montezuma, the Camel-backed Horse, an extraordinary freak of Nature, half camel, half horse, warranted four years old, sound, and quiet, should earn a small fortune this Easter time, cheap to quick purchaser; owner going abroad. LEROY, 22, Gaywood-street, London-road, London.

WANTED, to Sell, Winchester Rifles, Second-hand, 22s. 6d.; Hot Air Engine, 100s.; Side Show, Newgate, 100s.; Small Reed Organ, 50s. STACEY, 510, Kingsland-road, London.

WANTED, Buy, Flat Lorry, Pullman Car, also Great Dane dog, ears cropped. SYDNEY MILLES, 74, Middle-street, Brighton.

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WANTED, to Buy, First-class Riding Devices and A1 Attractions. No rubbish. Fullest particulars, E. D., Brynygarreg Villa, Flint Mountain, Flints.

WANTED, to Buy, Waxworks, complete, or Exhibition; must be perfect order. Description, particulars, lowest price, D. Willson send address. Box 5,621, "The Era."

WANTED, a First-class Mechanic, for an Automatic Amusement Arcade, must understand all kinds of Automatic Machines. Salary and refs. MANAGER, Fun Palace, 46, Bull-street, Birmingham.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Mechanic, with Automatic Machine Proprietor; good refs.; sober, reliable. Lyndhurst, Underdale-road, Shrewsbury.

WANTED, Known, the Seventy Thousand Showmen who use the Columns of "The Era" and are moving about should know that they can make "The Era" Offices their Permanent London Address. Letters received will be held till called for, or immediately re-addressed according to instructions. Address all communications respecting the Letter Department to the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, every Showman who uses the railway to send to "The Era" for a copy of the article on the new Railway Rates. This will be sent on application, free of charge, to any Showman in the United Kingdom.

WANTED, Showmen who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any Railway Bookstall to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

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AT THE GRAND THEATRE, EDINBURGH.

On Monday, March 15, at 11 o'clock,

SALE OF THEATRICAL FITTINGS AND EFFECTS.

WANTED, Known, to be Sold, by instructions of the Proprietor, in consequence of the building being utilised for other purposes, comprising several hundreds Tip-up Fauteuil Seats and Forms, Stage Fittings, Fireproof Curtain, and Drop Scene, with Apparatus, Fire Extinguishing Apparatus, two large Electric Ventilator Fans, &c.

LYON AND TURNBULL, Auctioneers, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Known, immediate sale, Portable Pavilion, comprising Stage Van, Patent Lights, Green Birkmyre Marquee and Wallings, opens 66 by 39, all as new. Lowest £100. Now Open as Auction Mart. Apply, FRED BARBER, Auctioneer, Mansfield.

WANTED, to Dispose of, half share in Picture Palace (Midlands); six years' lease, paying property. Particulars, Box 5,608, "The Era."

WANTED, to Sell, Grand Production of "RED RIDING HOOD." To be seen nightly, and Wednesday and Saturday Matinées at the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham.

Apply, LESTER COLLINGWOOD,

WANTED, to Sell, Grand Production of "CINDERELLA" and "DICK WHITTINGTON" Pantomimes, as produced at the Theatre Royal, Nottingham, and Coronet Theatre, London, respectively, the Season just terminated. Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24a, Regent-street, S.W.

WANTED, to Sell, the "Prince of Pilsen" Production, acknowledged to be one of the best Productions Touring, Scenery and Dresses. Apply, BARON H. HARRISS, Waldorf Hotel, London.

WANTED, to Sell, Fine Drama Production (complete), good investment. Everything high-class and new. Apply in first instance, giving references, to FULLER, 4, Chancery-lane W.C.

WANTED, to Sell, a Quantity of Scenery, consisting of Flats and Set Pieces; also a Working Trap Scene on Stage. Apply, J. WOOLF, Wonderland, Whitechapel, E.

WANTED TO SELL.

WANTED, to Sell, Several Pantomime Productions, as I am doing some different Subjects next year. ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, to Sell, Secondhand Films, 500,000ft., from 1d. per foot; no rubbish. Send for lists. RAYMOND'S BIO-TABLEAUX Co., 56, Great Queen-street, W.C.

WANTED, to Sell, Films, cheap, and Films for Hire, up-to-date. THE BENDON TRADING CO., 75, Jamaica-st., Glasgow.

WANTED, to Sell, Moir and Palmer Great Fight, 1,700ft., new; other good subjects, 1½d. foot. State wants. HUGH, 3, Lebanon-gardens, Wandsworth, London.

WANTED, to Sell, Highland Band Uniforms, twelve complete Outfits, consisting of Pipers' Doublets, McKintosh Kilts and Plaids, Sporrans, Brooches, Hose, &c.

The lot cost £87; offer for £15; quite new, but water stained.

Full particulars, Address, Box 5,597, "The Era."

WANTED, to Sell, Rickshaw, in splendid condition; a Large Basket, 6ft. by 4ft.; also Basket, 7ft. by 1ft.; 3 wire Garden Arches; 4 splendidly painted Pillars, with flower vases; also splendid Gauze Tree Cloth, brand new; 60yds. of Electric Cable. Will sell the whole or part, dirt cheap. Going abroad. STELLING, 17, Angell-road, Brixton.

WANTED, to Sell, Coloured Song Slides, 16 Tiny Seed of Love, 8s.; 10 Love Me and World is Mine, 5s.; 10 Killarney, 5s. MORRIS, 18, Tweed-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, to Sell, Kit Bag, 26in, 19in. deep, 14in. wide, grand condition, £2, a bargain. Apply, JAMES BALSILLIE, Balass, Cupar, Fife, N.B.

WANTED, to Sell, Lilith, the great Aerial Mystery, a complete Act, including Colonnade Frontispiece, Garlands of Roses, fitted for 120 electric lamps, violet plush Curtains, to fit any Stage. Apply, HARCOURT, 32, Cavendish-street, Manchester.

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WANTED, to Sell, Own Popular Typed Version of "Three Musketeers" and other Free Plays, Sketches, Duos. HAL COLLIER, 73, Commercial-road, Grantham.

Exceptional opportunity.
WANTED, to Sell, Share in Successful Play (£250), Active or Sleeping Interest Entertained; First-class Management. Apply by letter to Box 5,601, "The Era."

To the Publisher, "The Era."
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"Dear Sir,—I ordered the following advertisement to appear in your paper for two insertions:—

"'WANTED, to Sell, Self-acting Pianoforte, two barrels, twenty tunes, perfect condition. Cost £44; what offers? MEURICE, 39, Argyle-square, W.C.'

"Kindly do not insert my advertisement again, as the self-acting piano which I had to sell has been sold to Mr. Jack Woolf, of Wonderland fame, Whitechapel-road, E. I had also ten other applicants through my advertisement in "The Era."
"Yours faithfully,
"J. H. MEURICE."
"39, Argyle-square, W.C., Oct. 9, 1906."

FOR CONTINUATION OF "WANTED" ADVERTISEMENTS SEE PAGE 36.

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"The Motor Chase," Boccaccios, Johnny Fuller, The Carmos, Deonzo Bros., Boxing Kangaroo, Lina Marrder, Olympian Cycling Troupe, Fratellinis, Pathégraph, Mann's Elephants.

EMPIRE PALACE, EDINBURGH.

Rehearsal at 1.30 for :—
Liane D'Eve, Virto and Venita, Annette Hayward, Nina Wood, Henry Carlton and Co., Harry Herbert, Three Prestons, Kathleen Cogan, Bioscope, De Gracia's Elephants.

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—
Mark Sheridan, Takio, Dot Hardy, Creo Bros., Stratton Mills and Co., Barry Lupino, Howell and Scott, Arthur Aldridge, George Young, Bioscope, La Pia.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—
The Poluskis, Rich and Rich, Elsie Robey, Tambo and Tambo, Kitts and Vindrum, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Meymott, J. H. Milburn, Gracie Moore, Bioscope, The Selbinis.

GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—
Carl Rosa Opera Co.

ARDWICK THEATRE, MANCHESTER.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Burns v. Johnson fight film, Frank Sylvo, Eily Adair, Dennis Drew and Boys, Canty's Grotto, McConnell Trio, Walter King, The Simms, Herbert Darnley's Co. in "The Mandarin."

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—
Mme. Madelaine de Noce, "Wake Up England," Chronomegaphone, Nell Emerald, Joseph Hart's "Rain Dears," Lydia and Amelys, Bert Williams, Albert Rees, Victoria Carmen, Bioscope, Griffiths Bros.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco, Beatrice Bonnie, Allan Hanbury, Stylo, Amy Anderson and Co., Tom E. Finglass, Chas. Fisher's Opera Co., Bennie Barrow, Nance Elder, Bioscope, Marie Kendall.

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Mr. George A. De Gray's Co. in "The Power of the Cross."

GRAND, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
O Hana San and Co., Tom Foy and Co., Sadie Simpson, Eight of Hearts, Verno and Voyce, Ten Zerbinis, Bert Woodward, Steve McCarthy, Bioscope, Daley Cooper, Mabel Lait and Co., in "Passing the time."

PALACE, LEICESTER.

Rehearsal at 2.30 for :—
Willie Zimmermann, Phil Ray, Lyric Mummers, Harry Leybourne, Terry and Lambert, Jackley Trio, McCann's Dogs, Jennie Hartley, Bioscope, Gertie Gitana.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Eli Hudson and Olgar and Elgar, Jack Pleasants, Barrington, Eadie and Ramsden, Gladys Mavius, "That Brute Simmons," Billy Hobbs, Harold Hughman, Bioscope, Kara.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
George Gilbey, The St. Johns, Maude A. Edwards, Stein Eretto Troupe, Fred Edwards and Co. in "Kleptomaniacs," Burke, Andrus, and Frisco, Ian Colquhoun, Musical Sylvo, Bioscope, "Drummed Out."

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Whit Cunliffe, Ugo Nap, Fayre and Manning, Arthur Kenny, "Beacon Bell," Ray Wallace, Lickson's Dogs, Dorothy and Alexander, Bioscope, Stockham Grecian Band.

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Sam Mayo, Henriette De Serris, Fred Barnes, Carlos Menard, May Edouin, Guyer and Valli, Roze and Calvert, Bros. St. Clair, Bioscope, Master Edward Garratt and Co.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Elliott-Savonas, Marriott Edgar, Rose Cabani Frank Bertram and Co., Burley and Burley, E. S. Kempton, Larola, Amy Marsden, Bioscope, The Craggs.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
George Gray and Co. in "Parson Gray, V.C.," Carrie De Mar, Royal Diamonds, Fatmah Diard, Fred Curran, Six Lancashire Lasses, Piccolinos, Maud and Sydney Wood, Bioscope, Thora.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's Co. in "The Midnight Wedding."

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, STOKE NEWINGTON

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Mr. Leonard Boyne's Co. in "Raffles."

EMPIRE, STRATFORD,

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Ernest Shand, Will Evans, Kate Traill, Tom E. Hughes, Belle Davis and Piccs., Gotch-Hackenschmidt film, The Mayvilles, Jeannie Mackay, Shirley and Ransome, Leipzig.

THE LONDON COLISEUM

Rehearsal at 10 a.m. for :—
Mr. Seymour Hicks and Miss Zena Dare, Miss Elise Craven and Co., Miss Evie Greene, "England Invaded," Pyck, Tholl, and Taylor, The Gothams, The Holloways, The Martineks, Dora Martine, Bioscope, Les Fleury.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Fred Karno's Co., including Albert Bruno in "The Bailiff," Alice Maple, Alf Holt, Cliff Ryland, Watson's dogs, Maudie Francis, Ernest Clifford, Bioscope, Helen Forsyth.

EMPIRE, SWANSEA.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Ella Retford, Ginnett's "Hunting Morn," Walter Wade, Orpheus, Bertha Stuart, Three Welsh Girls, Frank Hartley, Bioscope, Miss Marquis's Ponies.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
La Tortajada, The Calcotts, Bros. Harrison, Sisters Morgan, Annie Purcell, Donaldson Bros. and Co., Nora Emerald, Lester and Moure, Bioscope, "Motogirl."

PHILHARMONIC HALL, CARDIFF.

Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Company as booked.

EMPIRE, NEWPORT

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Daisy Jerome, Lupino Bros., Jack Lane, Coloured Meisters, The Delevines, Rex Fox, Lupino Lane, Frances Letty, Bioscope, "England Invaded."

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Karno's Co., including Fred Kitchen, in "G.P.O.," Percy Parimond, Austin Rudd, Primrose Harding, Van Allen, Moon and Morris, Gus Le Clerq, Bioscope, Alice Pierce.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"England Invaded," Tom Edwards, Walter Aubrey, Phil Parsons, Vetter Bros., Lionette Roberty, The Rawsons, Will Cornish, Maizie Hibbs, Bioscope, Karno's Smoking Concert.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
J. F. Preston's Co. in "Rogues of the Turf," Les Frasettis, Victor Newman, Pat Rafferty, Sanford and Lyons, Rhoda Paul, Arthur Astill, The Northcotes, Bioscope, Frederic Villiers.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Karno's "Football Match," Sisters Dorrell, Melia and Mozarabar, Ben Albert, New Macs, Edie King, Minnie Mace, Bioscope, "Casey's Court."

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Vesta Tilley, Adams and Ward, Shenk Bros., Wood, Wells, and Wilkins, Burns and Danvers, St. George Sylvesta, Rita Rhylle, Frank Cass, Bioscope, La Scala Opera Co.

The following are booked in conjunction with the above:

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUBLIN.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
"What's Charles Worth?" Whit Grey, Idento Bros., Odeyne Sparke, Blake and Granby, San Remo Girls, Fred S. Howard, Pictures, Elroy.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Webb's Electrical Transformation, George Westland, Baker and Balfe, Ted E. Box, Grace Langley, Three Sisters Grosvenor, Pictures, Bonnie Goodwin's Piccs.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—
Auguste Van Biene, The Three Dixons, Boyd and Gilfain, Frank Lynne, Bessie Slaughter, La Danseuse, Bioscope, Paxton Trio.

IMPERIAL HALL, WALSALL.

Company as booked.

THEATRE ROYAL, CROYDON.

Animated Pictures and Illustrated Songs.

EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Arthur Lennard, Mike Nono, Trentanovi Sisters, The Anartos, Great Wieland, Hilda Jacobsen, Edie Enden, Bioscope, Achmed Ibrahim Troupe.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
George Leyton and Co., Billy French, Arthur Gill, Spry and Monti, The Falcons, Percy Hannan, Pictures, Carter Livesey and Co.

IMPORTANT NOTICES.

RE APPLICATIONS FOR ENGAGEMENTS.

All applications by either Artists or their Agents must be made to the Head Office. Lowest terms must be stated, and distinction made between salaries required for larger and smaller towns. Vacant dates should be stated. If a list of existing bookings be sent, it will render selection easier.

Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not rebooked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follow :—

EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, NEWCASTLE, AND DISTRICT.
MR. S. GETHING, Empire Theatre, Glasgow.

BIRMINGHAM, NOTTINGHAM, LEICESTER, AND DISTRICT.
MR. HATTON WHARTON, Empire Theatre, Nottingham.

SOUTH WALES DISTRICT.
MR. ALBERT MITCHELL, Empire Theatre, Cardiff.

LEEDS, SHEFFIELD, HULL, BRADFORD, AND DISTRICT.
MR. T. GERALD MORTON, Empire Palace, Leeds.

LIVERPOOL, MANCHESTER, AND DISTRICT.
MR. ALBERT BULMER, The Empire, Liverpool.

LONDON DISTRICT.
MR. J. CHRISTIE, Empire Theatre, Shepherd's Bush, W.

N.B.—Mr. OSWALD STOLL or Mr. FRANK ALLEN can be seen by appointment on all matters arising out of the above, and for the discussion of entirely new Numbers.

All Artists or Agents who communicate with our District Representatives must have made definite applications, in accordance with above directions, to the Head Office, at the same time, or just previously.

Artists and Agents are requested to note that the Standard Theatre, Shoreditch, and the Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, come within the areas absolutely barred by us. Artists and Agents are also requested to note that the Hippodrome, Aston, Birmingham, comes within the area absolutely barred by the Grand Theatre and Empire Palace, Birmingham.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have at least Fourteen Band Parts for English Orchestrations, and Seventeen Band Parts for Foreign Orchestrations. Matter of Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to Co-operative Offices, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements cancelled. It is important that separate bill-matter, blocks, pictorials, &c., for Dublin, Belfast, and South Shields, be sent direct to Mr. Frank Allen at the Co-operative Offices.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced. Artists' Scenery, Properties, &c., MUST be fireproofed in accordance with the regulations of the Licensing Authorities.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

No order or contract for goods or services must be accepted for any of the foregoing theatres except upon receipt of an Official Form, issued from the Co-operative Offices, London, and signed by either Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. Frank Allen, or the Chief Accountant, otherwise the Company concerned will not be responsible for same, and will refuse payment. In special cases, where goods are required at once, suppliers must look to the individual placing the order, who will be personally liable, unless an official confirmatory order, signed as above, is received within forty-eight hours. Invoices must be sent to the Theatre, but monthly statements should be sent to the Co-operative Offices. The individual Company on whose behalf orders are signed is solely responsible for payment. The Management will not hold themselves responsible in the event of loss of or damage to any MSS., Songs, &c., submitted for consideration.

DE FRECE CIRCUIT.

Managing Director, **WALTER DE FRECE.**

PALACE, MANCHESTER.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—
Max Gruber, Fred Hastings, Hillman and Russell, Sisters Herbert, Mme. Albani, Fyne and Hurley, Jan Jakovsky, Emmerson and Baldwin, Pictures.

PALACE, OLDHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Tony Iveson, Radford and Valentine, Alice Esty, Leslie and Stevens, Macmillian Trio, Burley and Grier, Hal Bert, Kitty Cameron, Pictures.

HIPPODROME, BLACKBURN.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Bros. Roland, Bros. Horne, Soho Trio, "Happy Holland," James Basnett, Flo Kay, Rate Walters, Marcus Boyle, Pictures.

EMPIRE, WOLVERHAMPTON

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Lieut. Travis, Julian Mack, Frank Maura, Mg. Ismay and Coons, Musical Jees, Jenny Alexander, Mabel Mignon, Pictures.

HIPPODROME, PORTSMOUTH.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Great Roland, Dandy Millionaire, Dora Lyric, Harry Russon, Leslie Harris, Medley Barrett, Pictures, Kendrick and Laura, Jordan and Harvey.

HIPPODROME, SOUTHAMPTON.

Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Schiavonis Troupe, Will Driscoll, Karr and Kooney, Florrie Cooper, Wilman, Slippere Eugene Stratton, Pictures.

HIPPODROME, BOSCOMBE.

Rehearsal at 1.30 for :—
Beau and Belle, Barney Armstrong, Jock Campbell, Sisters Ford, Ida Barr, Alfred Lester, Will English, "Under the Maple Leaf," Pictures.

HIPPODROME, BIRKENHEAD.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
John Le Hay and Co., Fimans, Philip Levard, Sisters Draycott, Annie Lang, The Meers, Ethel Stephenson, Harry Beasley, Flake White, Leonard Gale, Pictures.

EMPIRE, BOLTON.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Rita and Roma, Arabella Allen, Laurie Bros., Tschinn Maa Troupe, King and Strange, Marie Francis, Racko and Partner, Arthur and Angus, J. J. Mannix, Pictures.

HIPPODROME, COLCHESTER.

Rehearsal at 1.30 for :—
Harold Heath, Childie Stuart, Clempert, Millie Woolfgang, Gus Earle, Fynn and Fayne, Valosky, Pictures.

OPERA HOUSE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Dan Thomas's Pantomime.

HIPPODROME, MARGATE

Rehearsal at 2.30 for :—
Herbert Rule, Marie Stroud, Randolph Slater, Harry Lawson, Bayne and Hope, Amy Lloyd, Lapham and Waller, Pictures.

N.B.—Applications for engagements on the **DE FRECE CIRCUIT**, matter for bills, &c., &c., must be sent direct to **Mr. Walter de Frece** at the Co-operative Offices.

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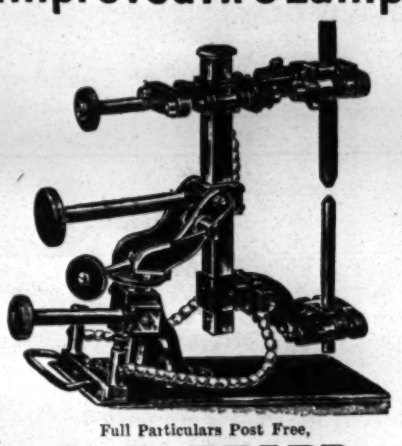

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HERNE BAY
Urban District Council.

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THE above Council invite TENDERS for the privilege of GIVING ENTERTAINMENTS during the Season 1909, on the Central Site, being the portion of the Foreshore between the Culvert and the Groyne west thereof.

The successful Tenderer will be allowed to make a collection, but will not be allowed to charge for the use of chairs.

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The Council do not bind themselves to accept the highest or any tender, and will consider no tender except on the prescribed form.

JOSEPH JUBB, Clerk to the Council.
Town Hall, Herne Bay,
6th March, 1909.

County Boro' of SWANSEA

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JNO. THOMAS, Town Clerk.
Guildhall, Swansea, 12th February, 1909.

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ARTHUR ROWLANDS,
Clerk to the Council.
Council Offices, Rhyl.
March 10, 1909.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31.

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERAMAN.—Grand Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. A. Jackson Withers; Resident-Manager, Mr. Archie Ainsleigh.—Mr. F. R. Benson's Shakespearean company (South) is presenting *Othello, Twelfth Night, Merry Wives of Windsor, Julius Cæsar, She Stoops to Conquer,* and *The Merchant of Venice.* On Monday night a large audience witnessed *Othello.* Mr. Baliol Holloway gave a powerful rendering of the title-rôle; as Desdemona Miss Emil Leslie was excellent; Mr. Charles Maunsell faithfully portrayed Cassio; Mr. Frank G. Weir made a dignified Duke of Venice; Mr. Charles Warburton was good as Iago. The remaining parts were adequately represented, and the play was carefully staged.

ABERDARE.—New Theatre.—Proprietors, The Aberdare Public Hall, Theatre, and Billposting Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting-Manager, Mr. B. Richards.—Mr. G. Carlton's Wallace's company is here this week with *The Love that Women Desire.* Mr. Wilton Reed is good as Squire Abingdon; and the part of Richard Abingdon is well portrayed by Mr. S. Leigh Courtney. Mr. Sidney Bland submits an earnest and manly portrayal as Philip Carnaby; Miss Violet Young is a vivacious Molly; Miss Maud Hastings gives an excellent rendering of the rôle of Sybil Thorburn; whilst that of Madge Abingdon is well sustained by Miss Nellie Fletcher. Mr. John Hignett as Denis O'Rourke and Mr. J. W. Wilkinson as P.C. Sowerburry are amusing.

ABERDEEN.—H. M. Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—*My Mimosa Maid* is played this week to overflowing audiences. Miss Marie Studholme is the Maid, and the part allows her full scope for the exercise of her remarkable talents for piquant and dainty acting; Mr. Charles McNaughton is wholly admirable as the sweep turned millionaire; and the substitute sweep is humorously represented by Mr. Charles E. Paton; while Bock, the juvenile sweep, is delightfully impersonated by Master Archie McCaig, a Scottish comedian of much promise. Other members of the cast who attract attention are Mr. Percy Carr as the Café Proprietor, Mr. Powis Pinder, a fine singer, as a Captain of Zouaves, and Mr. A. Jackson as an ancient Waiter; and Miss Eva Sandford and Miss Ruby Gray, who sing charmingly as Popitte and Marcelle Pilaine.

Palace Theatre.—Lessees, the United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—The more cultured sections of the audience are delighted with Miss Violet Hope's "Salome," "Cleopatra," and other dances. One can understand the meaning of the familiar phrase, "the poetry of motion," when one sees her giving expression to Mendelssohn's charming "Spring Song." The Gaudsmidts Bros., who have the assistance of two highly-trained Spanish poodles, are warmly applauded in their acrobatic turn; and Mr. Frank Fenton presents a deeply interesting sketch, *Only an Actor,* which is adapted from *Davy Garrick.* Mr. Fenton, who is a really admirable actor, receives the most efficient support from the other members of the cast—Miss Lillian Stennis and Miss Warrington and Mr. Charles F. Lloyd and Mr. George Thursby. Matthews and Brown are capital coon comedians; Mr. Henri Bekker shows much talent as a conjurer; Mr. Bert Harrow is a comedian of originality and humour; and the Baker and Franklin Trio contribute a most enjoyable musical act.

Alhambra and Empire Music Halls.—Managers, Messrs. R. Calder and J. Montague.—A wrestling tournament is the principal attraction this week. On Monday James Addison, a local athlete of reputation, easily threw all-comers. Mr. Jack McKechnie's humorous songs were popular; and the members of the Empire sketch company—Miss Marie Rose, Mr. Jack Marson, and Mr. Archie Murray—appeared with their usual success. Both houses were densely crowded.

ACCRINGTON.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—The Melodrama Syndicate, Ltd., is presenting the exciting drama *Sexton Blake* here this week. In the title-rôle Mr. Jack Fortescue acts with power and ability, and scores a decided success; Mr. Henry Nelson as Farmer Blackburn is eminently satisfactory, and Mr. Russell Barry as the son, Roger Blackburn, furnishes an excellent portrayal; Mr. Heaton Grey is well suited to the character of Randolf Lovell, and Mr. Stephen Nicholls is an acceptable Squire Lovell; Mr. Mayo Stanley as Tinker does good work, and Mr. Algernon Syms acts impressively as Rev. Edward Grey; Miss Pauline E. Straus impersonates the part of Marjorie Lovell with charming sympathy and grace; Miss Cicile E. Anson submits a meritorious performance as Philadelphia Kate, and Miss Lilla Norden makes the most of the part of Euphemia Pattacake.

New Hippodrome.—Proprietors, the Accrington Hippodrome Co.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—The leading feature here this week is W. Selkirk's juvenile spectacle *All Scotch,* performed by 100 local children, and it is being received with great applause. David Poole, the novelty ventriloquist, supplies an exceedingly clever turn; the Three Orros are capital gymnasts, and Ernesto displays much skill as an equilibrist; the Lecardo Brothers gave an admirable performance as comedy acrobats, and Miss Suzie Dole is a very pleasing comedienne; the Sivronis present an interesting comedy act; Tennyson and Wallis are popular comedians, and Miss Leoni Dixon a bright comedienne. The Hippodrome Bioscope concludes.

ALDERSHOT.—Theatre Royal and Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Gladwin.—A good all-round programme is presented by the management this week. Miss Ethel Beech and her troupe of six lady dancers, in a song scena, head the bill. Miss Beech (who was principal boy in *Puss in Boots* last year) sings several songs to advantage, and the troupe give an effective chorus and dance. Miss Madge Osmond looks the immaculate dandy she is "programmed" in her songs "Good-bye to bachelor days" and "Bertie of the Guards," her style being highly appreciated. Captain Kettle as a comedy coin and card manipulator keeps the audience amused with his clever patter during his juggling. Miss Ada Gatley performs gracefully on the slack wire, and executes several smart balancing feats; *The Happy Convict,* a sketch by Mr F. Bertram and company, with Mr. Rolando Martin as the convict, provokes laughter; Fred Rolando is amusing with song and patter; and several interesting pictures are shown.

ASHINGTON.—Miners' Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fred Gould.—Mr. Frank Adair and company are here this week with *The Heathen and the Christian.* Mr. Adair gives a powerful rendering of Li, the avenger; Mr. Hugh Newburn is good as Lung Hi; the George Berresford of Mr. Dudley Wynton is a finished reading; Mr. Herbert Robinson makes an admirable Lieutenant Lord Annendale; Miss Fay Garnet Vayne is very pleasing as May Berresford; Miss Adeline Raby renders the rôle of Mira Sampson exceptionally well. The comedy is good, Miss Eva Reed as Becky Fibbins, the love-sick slavey, being remarkably funny.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill, jun.—Messrs. Hardie and Von Leer's company is here with the popular drama *Two Lancashire Lassies in London.* Mr. Chris. Mason as Samuel Hallett, brother of the two girls, gives a wholehearted and earnest interpretation to a character which calls for much vigour; in the rôle of John Edmunds, an inventor, we have a gifted exponent in Mr. George Rammell; Mr. J. Edward Fletcher as the Rev. Frank Selby is the true self-sacrificing friend and defender of the poor and distressed; Mr. Arthur Elwyn as the manufacturer and speculator Jonas Deane, secures favour; Mr. Herbert Sidney found a character in Edward Langley suited to his capacity; Messrs. Miller and Walmsley do well as two burglars; Constance and Nelly, the two girls from Lancashire, are represented by Misses Laura Walker and Alice Defoe, each study being good; Miss Stanley Burt acts well as Bessie Edmunds, and Miss Evelyn Shaw finds ample scope for her special abilities in the part of Jane Adelaide Blomfield; the child Lucy is made lovable and intelligent by Miss Marie Corri.

Empire Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leach; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Jesse Burslem.—Richard Corbin and his dogs submit an interesting demonstration; Mabel Robarts is a delightful song-stress, and her accompanying illustrations are very apropos; Carr and Rose, in *A Winning Double,* as Fred and Ada secure the favour of the audience by able impersonation of character and good singing; J. W. Gallagher is an entertaining comedian, and Edwin Garth as a quaint dame in a comedy scena, causes much laughter; Major Moss renders with expression and feeling several good old songs; the Ray Hearn Trio in *The Model Husband* sketch win favour by some capital acting; Ethel Loftus is a comedienne with a taking style; Dorien, assisted by Mlle. Doritz, wins applause in a novel "electro-mechanical comedy"; Marie Jones is a successful protean artist, she presents her quick-change novelty, assisted by Ernest Munro, and enacts six different characters in the sketch, *The Way to Win a Bet.* The Bioscope picture is The Little Violinist.

The New Pavilion.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech; Assistant-Manager, Mr. C. F. Wilson.—This week we have a coloured dramatic picture, The Way to Happiness. Another film depicting the heroism of a child, and a powerful drama, is that called The White-gloved Man. Carried Away by an Eagle is sensational, and the comic series raises plenty of hearty laughter. The vaudeville artists for the week are Conan Dewson, a wonderful mimic at the piano; Esaw and Jacob, Hebrew boy comedians, introduce some amusing comic duets, expert dancing, and patter.

The Picturedrome.—Lessees, Messrs. Weisker Bros.; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Marks.—There is a number of good pictures here this week including The Miracle of Notre Dame, the old-world story of a starving musician buffeted about by all classes, who seeks sanctuary in the famous church. The Birth of the British Gun from the Middle Ages is a most interesting cinematograph production. The comic element looms large. The Fortune of Baptiste Durand is a screamer, and The Microbe Fear, The Broken Heart, I've Lost the Ball are all very amusing. There are interlude artists who sing and dance.

ATTERCLIFFE.—Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Bert Dent.—An attractive programme is headed by Mr. Leoni Clarke, with his novel and interesting family of highly-trained animals and birds; a popular turn is that of Blanche and Diacoff, in their "teacup track" cycle act, in connection with which local competitions are arranged nightly; Dolly, Agnes, and Maud, the "singing box-makers," receive hearty recognition for their vocal selections; the Gascoignes combine ability and comedy in their juggling and equilibristic act; a pleasing musical comedy turn is provided by Stidder and Dunbar; and the bill is also contributed to by Miss Ena Corelli, a juvenile vocalist and dancer; Mr. Fred Dunstone, comedian; and the up-to-date "Attergraph" pictures.

BACUP.—New Court Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood.—Mr. Edward Leroy's company is appearing here this week with *Rags.* Brant-Yorel is portrayed by Mr. Edward Leroy in an earnest and manly manner; Mr. Charles E. Lambert is quaint as Major Timothy Seymour; Mr. F. E. Chalcot as Charles Kingston makes the most of a small part; as Pedro Valasquez Mr. Frank Wheatley gives a skilful representation of the villain, and is ably assisted by Mr. Arthur J. Saunders as Joe Crossley. As the nigger George Washington Mr. Alfred Lafolle is highly amusing, and his singing and dancing are fully appreciated; Mr. Martin J. Moar is well placed as Sheriff Wilson; Miss Hilda May is a captivating Esme Deering; Miss Louie Walton as Mrs. Timothy Seymour is highly amusing; and as Rags Miss Blanche Leroy gives a clever rendering.

BARNSLEY.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. A. C. Mitchell.—Mr. Fred Granville's *Babes in the Wood* is playing to good houses. Mr. H. Val Morgan makes a good Demon King; as the wicked Baron Mr. Norman Hall is very funny; Mr. Alf. Brooks is very diverting as Araminta; the Kimberley Boys are the "roughens" of the show; and they give an amusing performance; the Babes are in the capable hands of Dot Pardy and Violet Wilson; Robin Hood, as played by Miss Mary Poulton is very popular; Miss Hettie Lind pleases as Maid Marion. The scenery is of a gorgeous character, and clever specialities are introduced.

Empire Palace.—Managing-Director, Will Smithson; Assistant-Manager, J. J. Tennant.—Excellent houses are the order this week. Mr. Victor Widdicombe's company tops the bill with a refined sketch entitled *Her Devonshire Dad;* the Bob Hanlon troupe give a clever gymnastic performance; Mr. Sydney James's Strolling Players provide an excellent vocal number; the Tossing Austins, American comedy jugglers, Reg. Bolton, the "comedy incubator," the Bros. Lydamore, comedians, J. H. Wakefield, singer of coon songs, and the Sisters Edwardes, vocalists and drummers, with the Palacescope, make up the bill.

Public Hall.—Proprietors, the Mayor, Aldermen, and Corporation; Manager, E. Cheesman.—Mr. Jasper Redfearn's vaudeville company is here. Zeynard's Lilliputians top the bill; the evergreen Billy Richardson, the stump orator, creates much amusement; Rousby and Rene, in the quaint Lancashire comedy *Fine Feathers* give an amusing show; Miss Molly Doon is a refreshing and dainty soubrette; Crawford and Rosslyn submit a good topical turn; the Paolo Troupe of acrobats are wonderfully clever; the Birkenhead family give a new vocal act; and Fred Fosdike sings well. The pictures are, as usual, excellent.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS. — Royalty Theatre and Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. Seymour Hicks' company in *The Gay Gordons* is here. Mr. Charles Childerstone is a most capable Angus Graeme, and Miss Dorothy Giles an interesting and entertaining Peggy Quainton; Mr. Edward Carlton's humorous Nervy Nat, Miss Emily Levettez's Janet McLeod, Miss Daisy Burrell's Victoria Siddons, Miss Louie Emery's Charlotte Siddons, and Miss Tessa D'Alberti's Mary McLeod are all well played.

His Majesty's Theatre.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Messrs. J. Fred Watson and Ernest E. Owen's company in *How Women are Slandered* is here. Miss Maisie Rudsdell is excellent as Annie Ruby; Mr. Courtney Robinson is a capital Major Sterling; and Miss Beatrice Hone as Mary Warburton and Miss Phyllis Elton as Madge Gilroy are exceptionally good.

Tivoli.—Lessee and Manager, Signor R. Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edgar Laban.—Joe Almasio and his assistant are at the top of the bill here this week. They perform some exceedingly difficult feats, and the comedy introduced is excruciatingly funny. Park's Eton Boys and Girls give a capital selection of vocal items and dances; Hunter and Maris are clever comedians and dancers; Charles Rowen sings some good songs; Leo Trainer has some quaint patter. Vernon's Bioscope adds considerably to the entertainment with some good pictures.

New Hippodrome.—Owners and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ralph D. Fenton.—Some capital pictures are shown here this week, one of interest being the wrestling match between Hackenschmidt and Gotch.

BARRY DOCK.—Theatre Royal and Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brogden.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company, in *At Cripple Creek,* opened here on Monday. Mr. Austen Mulroy gives a fine delineation of the part Joe Mayfield; Martin Mason finds a capable exponent in Mr. Geo. Hanbury, who is well assisted by Mr. Roy Jackson (Manuel Alvarez); Mr. Reginald H. West adds to the success by his character-study of Wahketah; Mr. Horace Stewart (Ben White) and Mr. Will Hook (Reggie Howard) are effective in their respective parts; Miss Agnes Verity faithfully portrays Dynamite Ann; and Miss Dorothy Hart scores as Belle Gordon.

BATH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—*You Never Can Tell,* which was seen here as recently as September last, is again being staged. Mr. Trevor Lowe is inimitable as the waiter; Mr. Leslie Hamer has greatly improved as Valentine; Mr. J. Edward Pearce is convincing as Fergus Crampton; Mr. George Howard is as cute as ever as Bohun; and Miss Clara Earle as cheeky and bright as heretofore. The newcomers are Miss Lena Halliday, really excellent as Mrs. Clandon; Miss Muriel Dole, who scores heavily as Gloria Clandon; Mr. Percy Crawford, with a typical sketch of Philip Clandon; and Mr. Gerald Mirrielees, capital as Finch McComas.

Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—Entertainment of a refined and amusing order is that of Leslie's Comedy Cadets, who are scoring a legitimate success in *Lights Out.* Arayama provides a sensational act which includes wire and bamboo walking, also barrel feet tricks; Pat Lynch's dancing is loudly applauded; St. Ruth and Conyers, lady vocalists, sing duets far above the average in artistic merit; the Melbournes give a comedy act that creates no little merriment; Godfrey James, the singing collier, on a return visit, is heard to advantage in some well chosen ballads; the Ringling Trio tumble, walk, and dance on stilts, and in so doing add plenty of funny business; and Raymond's Bio-tableaux are fully up to their usual high standard.

BEDFORD.—Royal County Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson—Mr. Tom Craven's successful drama, *When a Lass Loves,* is being played here this week. Mr. Arthur Cornell cleverly portrays the unselfish and straightforward Dr. Allan Crass; Mr. William Riley is good as the callous villain, and is ably assisted in his sinister dealings by Miss Janet Warden as Cynthia Bridge; humour is unobtrusively sandwiched between the pathetic incidents by Mr. Louis Palgrave as Slack, Mr. Percy Cahill as Reggie Stapleton, and Miss P. Rickmount as an Anglo-American chorus girl; Miss Nona Hoffe is exceptionally well fitted for the part of Constance Lane.

BELFAST. — Theatre Royal. — Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. S. Salmond.—The attraction here this week is *The Gambler's Daughter,* produced by Miss Adria Hill and Mr. Robert Ayrton's company. The dual rôle of Mildred and Miriam Grant was skilfully played by Miss Adria Hill, and Mr. Robert Ayrton furnished a capital impersonation of Desmond O'Dare; Mr. Richard Pitt played the rôle of John Grant creditably; to the iniquities of Stephen Brand full justice was done by Mr. C. Russell; Mr. Harry Monte furnished a humorous impersonation of Solomon Solomons, and Mr. Basil Probyn was all that could be desired as Jack Grant; Mr. Fred Lawrence cleverly interpreted the rôle of Ralph Gillman.

Grand Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Mr. Norman V. Norman and Miss Beatrice Wilson and company opened here on Monday with Anthony Hope's play, *The Adventure of Lady Ursula.* The rôle of Lady Ursula Barrington was delightfully played by Miss Wilson. Honours were also achieved by Mr. Norman, who furnished a remarkably clever impersonation of the young nobleman, Sir George Sylvester. Miss Hilda Forbes-Phillips made a bewitching Dorothy; Mr. Frederick Lock ably sustained the rôle of the Earl of Hassenden; Miss Ethel Coleridge was well suited as Mrs. Fenton; and the part of the Rev. Mr. Blimboe was excellently interpreted by Mr. Cyril Percy. Mr. Norman Leslie was admirable as Mr. Castleton.

Royal Hippodrome.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fred Willmott and Will Sley; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The favourite comedian, Mr. George Robey, returns here, and on Monday again achieved a hit with his capital character songs; Hanvarr and Anna Lee delight all with their juggling feats; the ventriliquial act of Mr. Harry Vardon is one of the best; Miss Ray Maskell is a dashing comedienne and fine dancer, and the Four Scoreys introduce with much effect their musical mélange. The feats of the Idania Lady Gymnasts are really remarkable, and also here are Mario, juggler and equilibrist; Mr. C. Pastor, comedian; and the Hipposcope.

Empire Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—The leading position here is filled by Webb's Electrical Quick-change Scenas; Bonnie Goodwin's Apollo Piccaninnies, assisted by talented Miss Lily Vine, furnish a capable performance; the Three Sisters Grosvenor are delightful singers of popular melodies; Mr. Ted E. Box's funny songs create much laughter; and a welcome return visit is being paid by Mr. George Westland, Scotch comedian. Baker and Balfe are aptly described as operatic xylophone experts, and Miss Grace Langley, comedienne and dancer, and the Bioscope are also here.

New Alhambra Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Will White.—Among the pictures exhibited here may be mentioned The Gentleman Burglar, A Drama on the Sea Coast, A Gallant French Guardsman, &c. Also appearing are Wills and Warlock, speciality comedians, and Mr. Dan Tandy, Irish comedian.

St. George's Hall.—General-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—This week the following pictures have been exhibited:—A Dumb Hero, Custom House Officials, Honesty Rewarded, &c. Matthew's Minstrels gain much favour for their excellent performance, and Miss Violet De Vere, a charming comedienne, also appears.

Cliftonville Hall.—General-Manager, Mr. O. E. Laumann.—The engagement of Prof. Monahan has been a great success, and the many patrons of skating here are looking forward to the Linen Carnival, which takes place on the 24th inst.

BILSTON. — New Theatre Royal. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. John M. Dawson.—*At the World's Mercy* is proving a capital attraction this week, Mr. Carr Loates' company doing full justice to the piece. Miss Polly Spooner is an expert dancer, and soon becomes first favourite as Kitty Knott; and as Skittles Mr. W. H. Irving does excellent work as Charley Smart. Miss Daisy Jago is good as Alice Lloyd; and Miss C. Carter does well as Dot. Mr. Geo. D. Knight renders efficient service as Morris Goldstein; and Mr. W. Melvyn makes the most of Captain Manly.

BIRKENHEAD. — New Theatre Royal. — Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company is appearing here in the new version of Mr. Hall Caine's play *The Christian.* Mr. Henry Renouf is the John Strong, and fills the part with much earnestness, receiving admirable support from Miss Doris Gilham, who gives a fine rendering of Glory Quayle. Mr. Geo. R. Montford is an excellent Lord Robert Ure, making every point tell; Horatio Drake is well impersonated by Mr. Oswald Marshall; Father Lamplugh is impressively performed by Mr. Edwin Ling; and the important rôle of Archdeacon Wealthy could not be in better hands than those of Mr. C. J. Turpin. Miss Sinna St. Clair is a good Mrs. Callender; Miss Margaret Brodie is an unexceptionable Pollie Love; and Mesdames May Dudley, Minna Renouf, Katherine Maude, and Messrs. B. R. Holloway and Arthur E. Maskell also accord valuable assistance. The scenic effects are elaborate.

Argyle Theatre of Varieties.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Mlle. Zona Vevey, a charming and accomplished vocalist, assisted by Herr Max Erard, pianist, is on a return visit. Hayman and Franklin, amusing Hebrew comedians, furnish an excellent turn; as also does Mr. Tom Leamore, the popular comedian. Miss Sable Fern, comedienne, is a general favourite; Miss May Henderson, the dusky queen, has again made a hit; the comedians include Mr. Harry Anderson, Mr. Frank H. Fox, Mr. Jack North, and Mr. Harry Brown, coloured artist; Carney and Armstrong are entertaining patterers; and Brown's Royal Bioscope adds variety to the programme. Mr. Ernest Denney ably conducts.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frank Weston.—A very capable company comprises the Three Meers, tight-wire performers; John Le Hay and company, musical comedians; Philip Levord, illusionist; the Fimans, comedians; the Sisters Draycott, duettists; Harry Beasley, comedian; Miss Ethel Stephenson, contralto; Mr. Flake White, cartoonist; Miss Annie Lang, top-boot dancer; Leonard Gale, comedian; and the Hippo. pictures.

BIRMINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—The rush continues here this week to see *Havana,* which Mr. George Edwardes's company is playing. Figuring prominently as Consuelo is Miss Dorothy Ward, a local young lady, who, since her *début* a few seasons ago at the Alexandra pantomime here, has made great progress. Her portrayal of the spirited heroine lacks nothing, either in grace or ability. Miss Jessie Broughton makes the rôle of Mamie very prominent with her fine singing of "Zara"; Miss Veronica Brady acts and sings delightfully as Anita; Miss Florence Phillips dances some bewitching measures as the cigarette girl, Tita; Miss Gladys Fontaine gives force and personality to the character of Isabelita; and the other young ladies of the company show distinct ability as well as charm. Mr. George Gregory as Nix, the bo'sun, has a part in which he revels, and his acting is irresistible; Mr. Maitland Marler impersonates the yacht's boy, Reginald Brown, with perfect success; and Mr. Frank Hector as the Don, Mr. Edward O'Neill as Diego, Mr. Fred Allandale as Charteris, and Mr. T. C. Maxwell, in his dashing assumption of Villiers, score.

Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*Boy Blue,* so far from declining, seems to increase in favour, though this week must be the last. There is no doubt that Mr. Graham has scored. Last night was allotted Mr. Tom B. Murray for his benefit, a thoroughly-deserved distinction for the comedian.

Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Business-Manager, Mr. Fred Bernardo; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. T. Guest.—*Little Red Riding Hood* gives every sign of eclipsing all Mr. Collingwood's former successes. Last night was Anniversary Night, followed by the Alexandra Pantomime Ball, when "sounds of revelry" would be rife.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*The Great White Chief* is inspiring tremendous applause here with its strong, romantic situations and fine company, presented by Mr. Lingford Carson. Mr. Hugh Brady portrays the dumb chief, Reindeer, in a masterly way; and Mr. Charles Homer makes a capital Leo Stanley, the white chief. Mr. J. Dobson Clyde retains his rôle of the rival chief, Sparrow Hawk, which he plays with a fine grip; Mr. George Bullen again gives full emphasis to the part of Hartley Deane; Miss Polly Denville invests the character of Latika with all its native charm; Miss Dulcie Lawrence fits the part of Hester Stafford well; the "sufferings" of George Rupert Walker, as exemplified by Mr. Leonard Maitland, cause uproarious mirth; and Miss Amy Ross Clyde scores as Martha.

Carlton Theatre, Saltley.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—Fine houses have been the rule here with Mr. T. Morton Powell's *Greed of Gold* company. Mr. James Jarrett has gained chief interest with his graphic impersonation of the dumb man, Tom Welstead; Mr. Henry Parr repels and yet attracts with his powerful portrayal of the unnatural husband, Harry Hood; Mr. Alf. Stretton gives an earnest and manly tone to the part of the young surgeon and future husband, Arthur Errol; Miss Maude M. Powell portrays the wife's rôle, Dora, in a highly satisfactory and sympathetic style; while the comic relief is safe in the hands of Mr. Charles Eldred Wood as Conn Creamer and Miss Florrie Hayes as Patty.

Theatre Royal, Aston.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. J. Robertson.—*For Wife and Kingdom,* the new drama, with Messrs. Glenville and Osmond's company, is scoring here. Mr. Mathew H. Glenville's presence in the rôle of Capt. Maximilian creates the utmost interest, his acting being such that the audience rise from their seats to applaud; Miss Hettie Zillwood as the Grand Duchess acts as if to the position born, her pathos and intensity eliciting the fullest sympathy; Mr. Albert Guyon as the evil-working Baron is exploited to full advantage; Mr. J. Sutton Pateman takes the position finely as the General; Miss Margaret R. Frame renders the rôle of Camille very cleverly; and Mr. Fred Osmond as Karl Ludhayr, assisted by Miss Alice Buckland, &c., makes good comedy.

Palace Theatre, Bordesley.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—*The Power of the Cross* is seen here, with Mr. Geo. A De Gray and company. Mr. De Gray's acting as the Baron Curzola creates a marked impression on the audience, who are held fascinated to the end; Mr. Robert Hall plays the secretary, Fairfax, with much success; Mr. Alexander J. Haviland as Dr. Leslie Fairfax the hero, acts with fine, manly feeling; Miss Annie Hylton gives a poignant ring to the rôle of Margaret Seaton; Miss Stella Carmichael shows the passions and vices of Rita Lascelles cleverly; Miss Phyllis Vaughan's acting as the heroine, Blanche Kingsley, brings the audience into complete sympathy with the rôle; Mr. Tyrone Power as the O'Dowd undoubtedly scores; and Miss Etta Turner as Dolly Gray creates much amusement.

Grand Theatre of Varieties.—Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Foster.—Tom Foy and his company in the sketch, *The Yorkshire Lad in London,* are entertaining crowded audiences here. An oriental scena, *A Vision of Japan,* is presented by O Hana San and company. This is a charming turn, and is much appreciated. Mabel Lait, Daley Cooper, and company have a musical farce, *Passing the Time,* which gives scope for some good singing and dancing; *The Enchanted Glen,* presented by the Ten Zerbinis, is a clever and novel turn, and deserves the highest praise. The programme is exceptionally good, and includes Verno and Voyce in their *Sporting Luck* turn, the Eight of Hearts, Steve McCarthy, Sadie Simpson, and Bert Woodward.

Empire Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—The programme here is headed by Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco, whose difficult conjuring feats are most cleverly accomplished. Another popular turn is Marie Kendal, who has some new songs, which are loudly encored. The Chas Fisher Opera Company are paying us a return visit with *Il Trovatore,* which is rendered in a most artistic manner. Other prominent turns are those of Nance Elder, Beatrice Bonnie, Allen Hanbury, Stylo, Tom B. Finglass, Bennie Barrow, and Amy Anderson and company in a sketch, *On and Off.*

Hippodrome. — Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Lyons.—Julian Rose, whose Hebrew patter is most amusing, is appreciated, Renroft introduces a highly trained horse, Effie White has a good scena, *The Spirit of the Cave,* and M. Payen presents a "pierrot automaton gymnast illusion" turn with success.

Gaiety Theatre.—Proprietors, Birmingham Gaiety Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushill; Musical-Director, Mr. F. Leek.—A bright and original sketch, *The Belle of the Orient,* forms the premier attraction here. It is capitally played by an excellent company under the leadership of Joe Peterman, who portrays Nevinski, the money-lender, and is responsible for much of the fun. He is supported by a company including Florence Lee as the Belle. Wilson Hallett is clever as a mimic of childhood; Conan and Doyle are smart comedians and dancers; De Breans, fancy Japanese entertainers, are smart; Tom Collins (comedian), Willis and Mackenzie (vocalists), and Beattie Kent (comedienne) complete a strong company.

King's Hall.—Sole Owners and Managers, Messrs. J. P. Moore and B. Kennedy.—A splendid series of pictures is being shown here this week. Pervis and Par prove popular as comedy duettists, and Master W. Travis sings several pleasing songs. The roller-skating rink is also an attraction.

Curzon Hall.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Waller Jeffs; General-Manager, Mr. Irving Bosco.—Some highly interesting pictures are shown here, including a set of views illustrating a visit to the Gold Mines of Klondyke, while a picture drama of absorbing interest is The Cabin Boy's Sister. The variety element is supplied by that popular vocalist Miss Ducie Saunderson, who introduces a patriotic song, "An Englishman's home is his castle."

Queen's Hall.—Sole Owners and Managers, Messrs. J. P. Moore and B. Kennedy.—The pictures shown at this hall maintain their popularity. Vaudeville items are given by Barney Deeley, a local comedian, and the Victorias, equilibrists.

BISHOP AUCKLAND.—Eden Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. Huntley.—Mr. Geo. D. Day's company is paying a return visit in *The Prodigal Son.* Mr. Albert Ward and Mr. Alfred Goddard were well applauded for their powerful portrayals of the two brothers, Oscar and Magnus; Mr. Jackson Hayes is an able Stephen Magnusson, and Mr. David Beattie gives a finished impersonation of Oscar Neilson. The Pastor, the Sheriff, and Dr. Olsen are in the capable hands of Messrs. A. J. Williams, R. C. Brooksmith, and J. E. Savery. Miss Dorrie Roberts is a successful Thora and as Elin is still more effective. A deal of praise is due to Miss Pearla Gardner for her striking portrayal of Helga Neilson; Miss Maud Locker is a clever Margaret Neilson; and as Anna Miss Florence Lovell is quite adequate to the part. The scenic effects are good.

BLACKPOOL.—Her Majesty's Opera House.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Mr. E. Oswald Brooks' company is presenting *The New Housemaid* here this week. Mr. Howard L. Tracy as the Hon. Bertie Rashleigh plays his part characteristically, and Mr. Brember Wills is seen to advantage as Peter Pinkerton, J.P. Detective Doom has a capital exponent in Mr. P. Ramsey Forman, and Miss Babs Stuart gives an excellent rendering of Dolcie. *Brokers Ahead* forms a most enjoyable curtain-raiser.

Grand Theatre.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—*Terence,* an Irish comedy, is being played here this week by a company under the direction of Mr. F. J. Richardson. The acting is all that could be desired. A more delightful Maureen D'Arcy could not be imagined than Miss Lillian Hallows, and there are some excellent points in the character of Lady Nita Fanshawe as played by Miss Gwladys Morris. Miss Hilda Dick as Mrs. Duckett and Miss Elsie Wood as Mrs. Perry are also good. The title-rôle is sustained with considerable skill by Mr. Edgar Kent, Capt. Lovell is in the capable hands of Mr. Philip Leslie, and Mr. Ernest A. Douglas successfully handles the part of Sir Greville Fanshawe. Mention should also be made of the capital character-sketch presented by Mr. J. R. La Fane as Patrick Ryan. *A Silent Woman* serves as curtain-raiser.

Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. Geo. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—King and Benson, in a musical burlesque, worthily occupy first place here. The Avoloe, whose acrobatic feats are well known, are also well received. Sybil Montague is a pleasing ballad vocalist, Walter Munroe is a popular Irish comedian, the Four Jumels contribute a clever musical act, Muriel Harding sings nicely, Victor Travers is a smart comedian and dancer, the Camplins provide an amusing turn, and Benson and Rose appear in a sketch.

BLYTH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur C. Moody.—Mr. William McHison and his talented company have paid a successful return visit here, opening with *Julius Cæsar.* Mr. Mollison as Marcus met with a hearty reception; Mr. William Calvert, in the title-rôle, was highly successful, adequate support being rendered by the company. *The Bonnie Brier Bush* and *David Garrick* were billed for the remainder of the week.

Hippodrome.—The Johnson-Burns Fight film forms the chief attraction at the above popular picture house, and a series of amusing films are included.

BOLTON.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Moncur.—Good houses have this week greeted Messrs. G. M. Polini and Austin Melford's company with *The Silver King.* The part of Wilfred Denver loses none of its strength in the capable hands of Mr. Fred B. Daviss; Miss Madge Morley gives a pleasing rendition of Nellie Denver; and Miss Flossie Hale Daviss captivates her audience by her winsomeness as Cissie Denver. Mr. Edward J. George again appears in his old part of Jaikes; and Mr. E. Stanton Sharp is a successful "Spider." The piece is well staged. On Wednesday afternoon a flying matinée was given by Miss Horniman's company, when Bernard Shaw's *Candida* was presented to a large and appreciative aud

Woolmer Young, a pleasing comedian; and excellent pictures are shown on the Bioscope.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, Messrs. David Allen and Sons; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Hubert Dunbar.—Mr. George Dance's company is presenting *The Girls of Gottenberg* here this week. Mr. Bertie Wright as Max Moddelkopf keeps the house in roars of laughter; Miss Simeta Marsden as Mitzi wins encores for her cleverly sung songs; Mr. Tom Shelford as Otto is capital, and his perfectly finished dancing and business is much appreciated; Miss Geraldine Burne, in the absence of Miss Maisie North, took the part of Elsa, and gave much promise for the future; Miss May Marshall as Clementine helps to make the performance a success. Mention must be made of the valuable services of Mr. Otto Manns, the musical director.

BRADFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—Mr. George Alexander's company is here with Mr. Alfred Sutro's *The Builder of Bridges*. Mr. Stephen T. Ewart is a convincing Edward Thursfield; Miss Rosalind Ivan depicts the mental anguish of the complex character of Dorothy Faringay; Mr. Henry Ludlow is an emotional Arnold Faringay; as Walter Gresham Mr. Brisco Owen does well; Mr. W. R. Staveley makes a bluff and hearty Sir Henry Kilick; Mr. Eric S. Ward's Peter Holland is a commendable effort; and Miss Claire Pauncefort is delightfully humorous as the comely Mrs. Debney.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Councillor Francis Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—The long and successful run of *Red Riding Hood* was brought to a close on Saturday. On Monday evening last the regular dramatic season was commenced with a return visit of *The Village Blacksmith*. Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company again presents the drama, with Mr. Sam Livesey in his accustomed place in the title-rôle, which fits him finely. He has excellent support, notably from Miss Kathleen Saunders as the stricken child of hero and heroine. In the latter rôle Miss Maggie Edwards acts with ability. Mr. Albert Sinclair is effective as the athletic scoundrel Captain Leo, and Mr. Fred Haming contributes liberally to the broad humour of the play.

THE EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Fred Karno's comedians are here again, eliciting roars of laughter with their sketch *The Bailiff*. Albert Bruno in the title-rôle is irresistible, and is capitally supported. Helen Forsyth, in an illustrated song of the wreck of the Queen (of which she was a survivor) arouses much interest; Ernest Clifford, comedian, is a clever wooden-shoe dancer; Watson's Royal fox-terriers are cleverly trained and put through an enjoyable performance by Ida Kessanley; Alice Maple is an acceptable comedienne and smart step-dancer; Cliff Ryland's funny jokes and quaint and original style prove irresistible; as a whistler and a mimic Alf Holt is both amusing and clever; Maudie Francis, a juvenile comedienne and dancer of promise, submits a bright turn; and there are some very entertaining pictures by the Bioscope.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Harrison.—Jock Whiteford's irresistible Scotch comedy is much relished by the patrons here this week; Gladys Witton, girl contralto, is received with marks of favour; Geo. Bendon's "white coon" songs are vigorously rendered; an excellent and novel juggling entertainment is presented by the Cromwells; Will Lindsay, the Yorkshire comedian of recent pantomime fame here, is eliciting hearty laughter; in their "African Gambols" the Tintos are very expert and entertaining; Bernard and Weston are amusing comedians and dancers; as a Scottish comedienne Victoria Cross adds considerably to her reputation as a pantomime favourite here in *Fun in a Café* the Seven Walfrunas do some amusing knockabout and comedy business; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are an interesting feature of the evening's amusement.

BRIGHOUSE. — ALBERT THEATRE. — Lessees, Messrs. Beanland and Emerson; Manager, Mr. Chas. H. Beanland.—The principal attraction here is John Grun Marx, termed the modern Hercules, whose performance is well received; the Four Dorians on the trapeze are clever, and Ada and Marie Webb give a novel swimming act in the tank; the Two Eltons cause roars of laughter with their comedy bar act; Kydd and Kydd, a pair of funny comedians, are loudly applauded; the Sara Trio give a neat representation of white statues; the Three Royal Temples are well received; and Wallie Gilbert, descriptive vocalist, Syd Crossley, comedian, and the animated pictures by the Loyal Dominion Co. complete a first-class programme.

BRIGHTON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Gates; General-Manager, Mr. Ben Court.—Mrs. Frank Bateman and Mr. Stuart Lomath's company opened here on Monday with *No Wedding Bells for Her*. Miss Lizzie Montague (Mrs. Frank Bateman) gave a highly artistic impersonation of Lola Delaspièrre; Mr. Stuart Lomath was distinctly effective as Frank Hatherleigh; Mr. Percy Shaw was well placed as Dick Delva; Mr. C. Coleman made an admirable Montague Blair; Miss Mabel Durham submitted a capital impersonation of Doris Fane; Mr. H. Aynsleigh achieved great success as Abney Durham; Mr. Geo. Herbert as Horatio Fane and Miss Nellie Wilson as Mrs. Eastman were effective; and the remaining characters were satisfactorily sustained. Yesterday evening (Friday), at Miss Lizzie Montague's complimentary benefit, she appeared in a specially-dramatised version of *Sapho*.

ALHAMBRA.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Alfred Smith; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. A. Smith.—Lottie Lennox wins the heartiest of applause for her charmingly-rendered songs; the Five Vernons are highly accomplished xylophone specialists; the Haydns (Mabel and Rose) are delightful dancers; Argo is a clever mimic; Friscary, the original top-hat manipulator, is warmly received; Claude Ludo is a capital siffleur and coster comedian; Nellie Ridgway appears in a refined novelty act; Gladys Warren is successful in song and dance; Lillian O'Brien is a pleasing singer; and the Alhambra Picturegraph proves interesting.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. B. J. Brown.—Carrie Laurie's Kindergarten, in a comedy sketch, *The Model School*, provides a very popular turn; May Moore Duprez, "the jolly Dutch girl," is highly effective in song and dance; Cornalia and Eddie are amusing in their juggling entertainment; the Faludy Troupe, acrobats, perform some clever feats; Bliss and Bliss are excellent patter comedians and dancers; Rappo and Ella are skilful hand-balancers and equilibrists; Harry Simms, comedian, gives his songs in good style; Milner and Storey are entertaining comedy artists; Marie Vere is an artistic vocalist; and W. G. Wesley, character comedian, merits praise.

WEST PIER.—Secretary, Mr. A. W. Scholey.—Mr. Frank Weathersby's company is here this week with *The Marriage of Kitty*. Miss Helena Parsons gives a charming enactment of Katie Silverton (Kitty); Mr. Leslie Owen is very successful as Sir Reginald Belsize; Mr. Bert Morley acquits himself admirably as John Travers; Miss Kathleen Russell submits a finished portrayal of Mme. de Semiano; and the remaining characters are ably represented.

COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. Maud Barrasford.—The exhibition of animated pictures here continues to attract good houses. Love in Olden Times conveys a finely-acted drama; Drama in Sicily and When Love Will are stirring pictures; Galilio, Inventor of the Pendulum, is very interesting; The Dangers of the Deep is replete with sensational incidents; and much amusement is afforded by Love Tabloids and Love's Obstinacy. Mr. Reavley Long contributes illustrated songs in good style; and Mr. Arthur W. Briggs merits warm praise for his highly-descriptive pianoforte accompaniments to the series.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—Mr. Oscar Asche, Miss Lily Brayton, and their company are here for the week. On Monday evening a fine performance of *The Taming of the Shrew* was given, Mr. Asche presenting his well-known exposition of Petruchio with his accustomed success, and Miss Brayton acting admirably as Katharina. The comedy was staged to perfection, and the various parts were cleverly undertaken. On Thursday evening the new play, adapted from Stanley Weyman's novel, "Count Hannibal," was performed for the first time on any stage. A full notice of the production appears in another column.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Alty.—This is the last week of the highly-successful pantomime *Little Red Riding Hood*. The company have all worked very hard for the general success, and much credit is due to them.

PALACE. — Local-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Lew Lake and company are here for a second week, during which they present the little comedy-drama *My Pal Jerry*; Venturini, Continental illusion inventor, does some smart acts; the Three Orleans score with their songs and dancing; the Sisters Desmond are pleasing duettists and dancers; Hans and Lux obtain applause for cross-talk, &c.; Lily Arthur, comedienne and dancer, does well; and the performance concludes with up-to-date pictures.

EMPIRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—Daisy Lloyd Wood, comedienne, presents a clever and attractive turn; Deborah Volar is a refined and expressive vocalist; Pip Powell and Kate Vesey amuse with their smart duologue, "A Perfect Woman"; the Courtiers, under the direction of Paul Mill, are highly successful vocalists, &c.; Jack Smiles, comedian, has some good songs, and he is a first-class clog-dancer; Cyrus Dare, mimic at the piano, is successful; Marie Reeve is a pleasing comedienne; the Betsons do a good comedy cycling act; and Hemsley and Ambrose obtain applause for their motor car absurdity. Interesting animated pictures conclude.

COLSTON HALL.—This is the last week of Mr. Sidney Carter's New Century Pictures. There is an entirely new programme, embracing a wide range of subjects, both grave and gay. The season has been a successful one.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—*Held in Bondage* was presented to a good house on Monday by Messrs. H. W. Ebbutt and G. M. Copping, and gave much satisfaction. Villainy was well personified by Mr. Richard Vane as Prince Marazoff and Miss Aimee Grattan Clyndes as Leonie Devigne; Miss Constance Medwyn played the heroine Zara very successfully; the hero, Paul, was capably portrayed by Mr. Alex Wilson Wynne; comedy was well sustained by Mr. Matt Russell as Harry Dunn and Miss Kitty Russell as Lizette; Mr. Fred Elvin gave a good study of the sculptor Ivan Drouski; Mr. S. Langton as Sir John Hawthorne also introduced much humour; Miss Pattie Delshay as Princess Marazoff, Miss Annie Brunette as Baroness Valinski, Mr. L. Milner as Boris and as Petroff, Mr. Harold Knight as Dr. Petrovitch, Mr. Tom Ronald (Colonel Ispanoff), and Mr. W. Aldred (Karevitch) also did good work. The staging was admirable.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—The boards of this house this week are occupied by Miss Lena Ashwell's company in *Diana of Dobson's*. Miss Emilie Polini is accorded hearty applause for her delightful representation of Diana, and high praise is due to Mr. Leslie Rea as Captain Bretherton; Mr. W. Kingsford Pearce presents cleverly the pompous Sir Jabez, and Miss Ada Palmer is very good as Mrs. Cantelupe; Miss Daisy England being a capable Miss Pringle.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—A remarkable turn here is the acrobatics of the fourteen-year-old Denario Bros. James Walmsley, tenor, is greatly appreciated; the Miles Stavordale string quartette are pleasing musicians; Charles Mildare's bird whistling is effective; and Jack Hayton is a funny comedian with a style of his own; the Resas, jugglers, perform clever feats; Jock Mills is a Scotch comedian with laughable songs, and Jem Etherington, vocalist, sings well, Morrin and Cardiff are funny with patter and dancing, and A Moonlight Trip on the Nile is presented by the Empire Theatrescope.

PALACE THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Badcoe.—The Cattaneos, a troupe of clever acrobats, thoroughly please audiences here, and Rapoli, Herculean juggler, is loudly applauded for his difficult feats; Burnetti, character musician, gives clever impersonations; and Marie Forde is novel in song and dance; Hicks and Hunter give an extraordinary turn of dancing on ice skates; Geo. Lawrence is well received; Jack Hayworth, Scotch comedian, takes well; and up-to-date pictures are shown by Raymond's Biotableaux.

BURSLEM. — HIPPODROME. — Lessee, Mr. R. Colin; Manager, Mr. Matt. Hall.—The chief films are The Panther of Bengal, Imprints, and The Valet's Wife. Attractive turns are given by Les Kestrals, clever society acrobats; the Harolds, song and dance speciality artists; and Barney Noble, a clever singer and patterer.

BURTON-ON-TRENT. — OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. de Hague Body.—Mr. Allan Wilkie and company opened here on Monday with a fine performance of *Othello*. In the name-part Mr. Allan Wilkie (an actor of undoubted ability) played with pathos and intensity; Mr. Alexander Marsh did well as Iago; Mr. Frank Royde was good as Cassio; and Mr. Ian Fleming as Roderigo also was effective. Miss Haidee Gunn made a tender and passionate Desdemona; Miss Hunter Watts scored as Emilia.

BURY (Lancs.).—ROYAL.—Proprietors, Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant Resident-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—Mr. Fred Granville's company is giving two performances per night of the pantomime, *Beauty and the Beast*. Prominent in the cast are Mr. Sam Foster, Mr. Juan Wood, Mr. M. Madden, and Messrs. Daleno and Stream. Miss Dollie Barrie and Miss Hilda de Gray are well suited as principal girl and boy respectively. Specialities are introduced by Barrie and Wood, Miss Flo Milton, the Sisters Keble, Leslie Austin, and the Casino Belle Troupe of dancers.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES. — Proprietors, Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant Resident-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—Charles Harvey and Co., in a farcical sketch, *Broken Statue*, top the bill here; the Sauteron Wonders are clever jumpers; Gibbon and Bell, acrobats and speciality dancers, Clifford Morgan, vocalist, Rosie Bartlett, comedienne, Lilian Neville, vocalist, Denby and Dent, comedians, and King Luis and Partner, acrobatic equilibrists, are also in the bill.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Edward Owen.—Miss Kitty Colyer is a comedienne and dancer of considerable ability, and a big house on Monday thoroughly enjoyed her turn; always a popular comedian here, Martin Conway is well received; Rezene and Rezene are clever and amusing on the trapeze; a pleasing sketch is submitted by Lambeth and Robertson; Carl and Mary Ohms present some well-trained ponies, bears, and dogs; Arthur Page, Lancashire comedian, causes considerable merriment; and the evening's enjoyment is added to by the Melba Twins, vocalists; Frank Boyce, comedian; Die Kliener Reays, gymnasts; and the Bioscope pictures.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS.—ROYAL HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. Auguste A. Penieve.—The programme here includes "Empress," the lady of mystery, in remarkable feats of strength; John Wheelan, operatic vocalist; the Two Lyrics, in a sketch entitled *The Highwayman*; Mlle. Marie D'Alcourt, in illustrated songs; and Sulling's Bio.

BUXTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Buxton Gardens Co., Ltd.; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Arthur Willoughby.—On Saturday evening Messrs. Jerrand Grant Allen and Geoffrey Besant's company paid us a visit with *Dolly Reforming Herself*. There was an excellent house. Mr. P. H. Clayton Greene was eminently satisfactory as Harry Telfer, and Mr. Reginald Besant certainly made a hit as Matthew Barron; Mr. Donald Calthorp was admirably placed as Captain Lucas Wentworth; Mr. Edward Sterling played capitally as Professor Sturgess; and Mr. C. F. Hawthorne displayed talent as the Rev. James Pilcher. Mr. Tom Mason was satisfactory as Criddle. Miss Aimee De Burgh was delightful in the title-rôle, and Miss Gertrude Bibby was very successful as Mrs. Sturgess; Miss Nellie Redwood was acceptable as Peters. The play was beautifully dressed and mounted.

CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—Mr. Russell Rosse and his company presented *Captain Swift* on Monday. Mr. Edward Sorley gave a powerful impersonation of the title-rôle; Mr. Seabrook was well played by Mr. Arthur Dennis; Mrs. Bennett rendered Mrs. Seabrook very feelingly; Mr. Charles Boult gave a first-class portrayal of Gardiner; Miss Ida Phillips made the part of Stella Darbyshire interesting; Mr. Ben Barnett was capital as Harry Seabrook, Mr. Penn Hammilton as Marshall, Mr. W. B. Forster as Ryan, Mr. Clarence Pelham as Bates, Miss Betty Fairfax as Mabel Seabrook, and Miss Gertrude Le Sage as Lady Staunton were all satisfactory.

CARDIFF.—NEW THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company is presenting the new version of *The Christian*. The piece is well staged and capitally acted. Miss Daisy Scudamore is the Glory Quayle, and a most faithful portraiture she succeeds in making; as John Storm Mr. Roy Redgrave submits a rendition which calls for the highest commendation; Mr. Herbert Heweteon as Lord Robert Ure is particularly successful; Mr. Wilfred Noy acquits himself with credit as Horatio Drake; as Father Lamplugh Mr. Thomas Barry arouses the sympathy of the audience; while Mr. John J. Hooker (Archdeacon Wealthy) and Mr. Alan Jeayes (Paul) are well suited to their characters. Miss Cora Deane as Polly Love furnishes a pathetic interpretation; Black Meg is realistically enacted by Miss Muriel Marsden; Miss Molly Hayden is a motherly Mrs. Callander; while Miss Kitty Symonds is seen as Lady Ure.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—La Tortajada appears with great success, her presentation of *The Début of Dolores*, in which the five characters are undertaken by herself, creating considerable satisfaction. Her singing and dancing are of a high order. A mysterious and sensational act is that of Fredk. Melville, who presents the *moto girl*. A great favourite is Annie Purcell, who sings her numbers in bewitching style. The new production of Donaldson Bros. and company, entitled *Sports in a Jungle*, is smartly contrived, the "animals" being cleverly worked. In an eccentric comedy act Lester and Moure prove very entertaining, and the Calcotts, in a wayside episode, *Rags and Tatters*, are clever versatile comedy artists, their banjo playing gaining much applause; Nora Emerald is a charming soubrette and expert dancer, and the Brothers Harrison, comedians and dancers, cause much fun during their turn. Disappointment was caused by the non-appoarance of the Cardiff comediennes, the Sisters Morgan, through the indisposition of one of their number, the Bioscope substituting.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton.—Mr. Leonard Mortimer and company appear in two delightful sketches, *Paying the Penalty* being put forward during the first part of the week, and *The Bells of Vernavale* during the second part. Both sketches have been highly appreciated. A very pretty scena is that entitled *A Children's Christmas Eve*, charmingly enacted by Harwood's Juveniles; Elton and Edwin are two talented banjoists, who score a great success; Ted Gill, a gifted vocalist, goes down well, while Nellie Walton, the Lancashire singing mill-girl, receives hearty approbation for her capitally-rendered numbers; Rosie Gaston, a pleasing comedienne, and Mulvey and Miriam, comedy entertainers, are the other two contributors to the programme.

CARLISLE.—H. M. THEATRE.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. B. Stewart McKim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—A return visit of Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company in *The Face at the Window* is securing full houses. Mr. E. Hoggan-Armadale repeats his striking performance of Le Loup; the detective, Paul Gouffet, is well played by Mr. Scott Leighton, and Mr. Alfred Warne is excellent as the Banker. The comedy relief by Mr. Bert Ellis and Miss Lizzie Chambers amused the audience immensely, and Miss Elsie Marriot-Watson's Marie de Brisson is an artistically-played impersonation. The scenery and effects are admirable.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting Manager, Mr. C. F. Morgan.—Bella and Bijou again top the bill, and with two bright and cleverly worked sketches keep the audience in roars of laughter. A smart acrobatic act is contributed by the Alberto Troupe, who perform some wonderful feats of equilibrium; Charles Vincent has a clever medley song, and Arthur Stacey, in a different style, is no less amusing. The Pepiscope, with a large and interesting variety of pictures, completes.

CARMARTHEN.—ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—Proprietors, Public Rooms Co.; Secretary, Mr. Edward Baldwin.—This week Mr. F. R. Benson's Shakesperean company (South), under the management of Mr. Vivian Alldridge, paid their annual three-nights' visit, and were greeted by enthusiastic audiences. It would be impossible to speak too highly of Mr. Baliol Holloway's interpretation of Sir John Falstaff in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*; the part of Fenton was capably impersonated by Mr. Charles Maunsell, and that of Shallow by Mr. Frank G. Weir; Mr. Victor Hardy was a thorough success as Slender; Ford and Page were admirably impersonated by Mr. Charles Warburton and Mr. John Cairns respectively; Mr. Herbert Lester faithfully represented Sir Hugh Evans; Mr. Burgess Barratt shone as Dr. Caius, and was ably supported by Mr. J. Montague Neville as Rugby; Miss Emil Lealie as Mrs. Ford and Miss Constance Bromley as Mrs. Page were charming, and won golden opinions for their clever acting; Miss Dorothy White was a decided success as Mistress Quickly; Anne Page was capitally portrayed by Miss Agnes Ray, and the Host by Mr. R. Marris-Davis, and Simple by Mr. Fred Coyle. Miss Ada Pine was praiseworthy as Robin, and Bardolph, Pistol, and Nym (followers of Falstaff) were effectively interpreted by Messrs. Allen Douglas, Arthur Charles, and Owen Evan. On succeeding nights *She Stoops to Conquer* and *Othello* were presented, and at a matinée *Julius Cæsar*.

CASTLEFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Henry Masterman, J.P.—Messrs. Edwin C. Jazon and Richard Nightingale's pantomime company are here with *Dick Whittington and His Cat*, and capital business is being done. The staging is excellent, and several scenes are works of art. Miss Maud Beaumont is a popular civic hero; she proves an actress of much ability and a vocalist of culture. A charming Alice is Miss Vera Snowdon, and here, too, praise must be accorded for good vocalisation and neat dancing. Mr. William Miller's excellent Fitzwarren is the essence of humour; Mr. Fred Ward is heard to advantage in several numbers, and as Idle Jack causes continued and hearty laughter whenever he is on the stage; Mr. Harry Albery has a grotesque make-up, and as Sarah, the Cook, wins favour for some really funny business; the Cat finds a faithful and nimble representative in Mr. Willie Vanda; Miss Daisy Dashwood, with a sweet and tuneful voice, looks pretty and does well as the Prince of Morocco; and Miss Olive Audrey has some pleasing numbers, and she makes an effective Fairy. The chorus and augmented orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Augustus T. McInnes, contribute in no small measure to the success achieved. The Vandas, on globe and silver wire; the Willoughbys, acrobatic eccentrics; Pearce and Ward, comedy act; and Terry and Snowdon, duettists are all good.

QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Proprietors, Messrs. Chas. Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will H. Emerson.—At the head of the bill is Zarmo, the well-known comical juggler, with a host of original paraphernalia, with which he causes hearty laughter. Niagara and Falls, eccentric knockabouts and tumblers, score a distinct success; the Lashmars in a smart comedy act, *Bits and Pieces*, are a pair of good dancers, and their act is keenly appreciated; Smiler Lee, with a variety of amusing inconsequent patter and humorous ditties, is responsible for considerable merriment; the Darntons, a couple of young ladies with winning personalities, sing several duets with pleasing effect, being both tuneful and melodious; R. Dunning in a ventriloquial sketch, *Nephew and Uncle*, causes much amusement, and he does his work with remarkable skill and promptness; Khan and Khan, conjurors and thought-readers, mystify their audiences, and contribute materially to the evening's enjoyment; and amusement of a diverting character is also furnished by Dan Charles. Animated pictures by the Loyal Dominion Co. are highly appreciated.

CHELTENHAM. — OPERA HOUSE. — General-Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—This week we have a welcome return visit of Mr. and Mrs. John Walters's pantomime *The Babes in the Wood*. Miss Violet Thorne is the bold Robin Hood, and Miss Lily Miller makes a vivacious Maid Marian; Bertie and Cissie, the Babes, are charmingly represented by Misses Kitty Chesters and F. Parkinson, pretty children, who sing sweetly and dance engagingly; Mr. Ally M. Benson contributes a huge share of the fun as Dame Flossie, assisted well by Mr. Tom Lewis as the Baron; Mr. Tom Hulme as Soft Tommy is amusing and, with Miss Elsie Kedward (Dolly Dimple) contributes some capital dances; Blustering Bill and Wavering Walley are ably represented by Messrs. Martin Haley and Dan Rayner; Miss Elsie Naish does well as Daisy; the Emerald Quartette of dancers are very capable, and the Cattania Trio of Italian athletes do some surprising acrobatic feats.

CHESTER. — ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—Chester is enjoying a rare treat this week, owing to the visit of Mr. Geo. Edwardes's company, in *The Merry Widow*. The production is perfectly staged and costumed, and is under the able direction of Mr. J. A. E. Malone. Miss Mysie Devine, in the title-rôle, is charming and sparkling, and in voice and acting is admirably suited to the part; Miss Ada Thomas as Natalie acts with spirit and sings with delightful sweetness. As Baron Popoff Mr. Edward D'Arcy is very droll, and the Nisch of Mr. Fred Fowler is a grotesquely humorous performance; Mr. Ripley Evans as the Vicomte de Jolidon is praiseworthy, and the Novakovitch of Mr. Clifford Seyler was most amusing; Mr. William Allison as the Marquis de Cascada provoked much mirth, and so, too, did Mr. Adrian Beaumont as the Waiter; Mr. Frank Greene is perfection as Prince Danilo. The chorus was strong and effective, and the orchestral arrangements were under the able direction of Mr. Ernest Vousden.

CHORLEY (Lancs.). — GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Sante; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Sante.—Mr. Percy Norman's very excellent company, under the direction of Mr. A. B. Mackay, is here presenting the military drama *A Woman Worth Winning*. As Ivan Bardoff Mr. A. B. Mackay gives a particularly powerful and strong character study; Mr. B. Crosby capitally interprets Fergus Lovinsky, and Mr. Jerold Ord undertakes General Borinski in competent style; Messrs. C. Digby and Ernest Kendrick as Bertie Scribbles and Peter Popples respectively are decidedly good. As Roma Pauloff Miss Cissie Bellamy displays great emotional power, and is conspicuous; Miss Ida Mackay excellently portrays Katerina Kless and Miss Trixie Leighton Lola Kalnovsky.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Chas. Macdona; Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—Mr. Fred Karno's company is paying a return visit with *His Majesty's Guests*, and Monday night's performance once more served to show what the piece owes to Mr. George Hestor, for as Sergt. Lightning he proved himself a capable comedian. Miss Aggie Morris ably undertook the part of Lady Maud, Miss Edith Ager made an admirable Dolly, and the minor female parts were capitally played. Mr. Tom Manardo was a good knockabout comedian as Selina; Mr. Sid Kearns was very droll as the Rev. Mr. Minks; Mr. Chas. Usher once more successfully enacted the rôle of Mr. Miffin; and Mr. E. O. Freshwater sang well as Lord Easem. The "Police" and "Burglars" choruses were good.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Colchester Hippodrome Co.; Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—A sensational turn is provided by John Clempert, the Siberian gaol-breaker, who, in addition to his usual show, releases himself from a tank containing boiling water. His reception on Monday night was flattering. Valosky, fancy and trick roller-skater, is an unique turn in this locality, and his shows is enhanced by reason of a competition for amateurs being run by Mr. Ben de Frece. Gus Earle presents a dancing act, and works particularly hard; Fynn and Payne shine as eccentric patterers, their business being very bright; Childie Stuart, smartly attired, sings well-written songs; Millie Wolfgang presents a nicely-staged song-scena, *Kitty*; and Harold Heath rand-dances in approved style.

CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—A hearty reception was accorded Mr. Robert Macdonald's company in *The Dairymaids* on Monday. Well staged and prettily dressed, the show is a great success. Mr. S. Lysons as Sam Brudenell and Mr. Edwin Dodds as Joe Mivens are very funny, and keep the house in continual laughter; Miss Babs Christapher gives a fine rendering of Lady Brudenell; whilst the quaint Miss Pyechase is splendidly portrayed by Miss Julie St. George. Miss Isa Bowman is a great favourite as Peggy, being greeted with much applause on her appearance; as Eliza Miss Maud Lucy scores well; the part of Winnie is well looked after by Miss K. Severn; Mr. Scott Melville makes a capable Lieut. Meredith; and Mr. J Barclay could not be improved on as Dr. O'Byrne. The minor parts are all ably filled by the rest of the company, and the chorus, under the guidance of Mr. C. W. Nightingale, is excellent.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. R. J. Bell. Animated pictures of the world-famous Passion Play and other first-class pictures are shown here.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Thomas F. O'Brien.—The Four Rio Brothers are a clever lot of gymnasts; an attractive turn is presented by the great Victoria Troupe, finished instrumentalists; Louie Belrose, vocalist, contributes some pleasing selections; E. Chimes, in a comedy musical act, deserves great praise; N. T. Kioto is a clever Japanese equilibrist; the Brothers Obo are a pair of entertaining comedians; King and Queen, comedy gymnasts, give a diverting acrobatic display; and the Palascope pictures continue to please.

COVENTRY.—THE OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—The first visit of *The Flower Girl* to the above house is drawing good houses. A great deal of the success of the piece is due to Miss Eva Nelson, who capably fills the title-rôle, and is ably assisted by Mr. J. T. MacCallum (Joe Wheeler), Mr. Robert Cranny (Billy Greenhill), Mr. Louis du Cane (Reginald Rackit), Mr. Henry Adnes (Alphonse de Racquet), Miss Lilian Drake (Mme. Lizette de Racquet), Miss Georgie de Lara (Miss Greenhill), Mr. John Latham (Johnny Wheeler), and Mr. C. Brailsford (Bertie).

HIPPODROME THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. S. T. Newsome; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. E. Wright.—Russell Wallett as "The Lady in Black" is very smartly made up, and his humorous songs and stories delight the audience; Sinclair and Whiteford give a very lively and entertaining performance; Tee and Tee, musical eccentrics, go through some laughable antics; Adams and Ward, acrobatic comedians, give a clever performance; Miss May Mars submits a song-scena, entitled *In the Shadow of the Pyramids*, with good effect; Mr. Dale and Miss Vale give a particularly good dancing turn. Other artists are Edmunda, singing ventriloquist, and Master Edward Frisby, boy soprano. Some good pictures finish.

THE EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. George Dance; Manager, Mr. K. Draco.—The chief turn on an attractive programme is Carl Hertz, who gives a wonderful series of illusions in the mysterious bird-cage; the Three Krakes provide another good turn with their laughable sketch *The Electric Tram Conductor*; Lily Ashcroft soon establishes herself as a favourite comedienne; the Bijou Troupe of Juveniles appear in a musical item "Pansy's Scena"; Brent Hayes, a champion banjo player, is afforded a hearty welcome; Alec Kennedy is a capable comedian; and an instructive Bioscope picture, giving a graphic description of the new piece *An Englishman's Home*, closes.

CRADLEY HEATH.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. John H. Morton.—Mr. Coleman Davies's company is here for a week with the play *No Escape*. Mr. Coleman Davies as Constable Gripp O'Grady and as Major-General Geoffrey Arlington displays wonderful powers as a comedian; Mr. H. Harrold as Horace Hardcliffe gives a good impersonation; Mr. J. Nelson Turner is very funny as Samson Sloman; Mr. Arthur Prescott deserves praise for his humorous Jabez Guzzel; Mr. W. Fraser Brunner as Vandyke Collodion makes the most of a part well suited to him; Miss Queenie Fraser Brunner as Ethel Arlington wins unstinted recognition; Miss Eunice Udall is a smart parlourmaid as Molly Muggs; Mr. Fred Weston as Sergeant Arthur Arlington furnishes an interesting study

CREWE.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. G. Dudley-Bennett; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Cuthbert.—The original version of *East Lynne* is being performed here this week by Mr. Tom Watt's company. Miss Julie Kennard makes a pathetic Lady Isabel, and is ably assisted by Mr. Edmund Kennedy as Archibald Carlyle; Mr. Frank G. Bayly as Francis Levison is well placed; Mr. Frederick Jacques as Justice Hare and Mr. Raysen Cousens as Richard Hare both give a good account of themselves; Mr. Cyril Hayward makes an excellent Lawyer Dill; the part of Cornelia Carlyle is ably undertaken by Miss Lilian Mason, and that of Barbara Hare by Miss Ida Heron. Mr. Joe Rowland as P.C. Bullock creates roars of laughter.

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MR. JOHN HENRY JONES, (from a photo.).

CROYDON. — Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Roland Daniel; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Ernest Archer.—Messrs. Smith and Carpenter's company is giving satisfaction here in *Pete*. Miss Helena Millais gives a charming impersonation of Kate Cregeen, which would be hard to improve upon; Mr. Frank E. Petley submits a fine, robust rendering of Pete Quilliam; Mr. Arthur Burne acts with dramatic effect as Philip Christian; Mr. Kenneth Brampton's Ross Christian has many good points; Mr. Frank Stone is quite up to the mark as Cæsar Cregeen; Miss Lucy Murray is commendable as Nancy; and minor rôles are carefully played by Messrs. E. H. Clarke, Chas. Clayton, Denis Bryan, and Henry Brooks.

Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. Anthony.—An excellent series of animated pictures are being exhibited here by the American Bioscope Company. The illustrated songs are a pleasing feature. Miss Kitty Briggs, soprano, sings splendidly; Mr. Bert Williams deserves congratulations for his recitals; and Mr. Walter Hellier, baritone, is in fine voice. Business is good.

Empire Palace of Varieties.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Walter Gibbons and Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Eustace Jay.—A palatable bill-of-fare is provided here. Charles Austin creates a perfect hurricane of laughter in *Parker, P.C.*; the Borghetti troupe of acrobats are exceptionally smart; Wilson and Waring are immense in the comedy sketch *An Ugly Duckling;* Gwennie Hasto is a clever comedienne and dancer; Dave Samuels is a droll comedian; Stacey and Williams, comedians and patterers, are commendable; Eva Ellis is a taking comedienne; Walter Emmerson is always well received here; and the Bioscope pictures and Mark Leslie, comedian, complete the entertainment.

DARLINGTON.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Bell.—The Moody-Manners Opera Co. is here. The opening selection was *Faust*, and the opera was played to a packed house. Mr. Chas. Carter as Faust was admirable, both in acting and singing; Mr. William Anderson has a powerful voice, and made a distinct impression as Mephistopheles; Miss Raymonde Amy as Marguerite won hearty applause; Miss Barry made a pleasing Martha; Miss Rosina Beynon as Siebel was very graceful; and the chorus is excellent. Mr. Cuthbert Hawley is the musical director. Other operas billed are *Tannhäuser, Il Trovatore, Carmen, Lohengrin, Madame Butterfly* and *Maritana*.

Hippodrome, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Hersee.—Heading a diversified programme, Mr. George Formby, with his silly songs and silly ways, keeps the audience in roars of laughter. The Jackson Family give an enjoyable musical performance; Mr. Fred Seymour, a local baritone, sings in a pleasing manner; Alf. Gibson, comedian, causes plenty of mirth; and the Olmars, acrobats, are clever. The remaining items are Fred Elton in the scena *On Board an Ocean Liner*, and the Pepiscope pictures.

DARWEN.—Picture Palace and Theatre Royal.—Lessees, the Animated Pictorial Enterprises, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. A. Whitehouse.—Edgar Cook, comedy illusionist, creates quite a sensation in his magical extravanganza, *The Conjuring Chef;* Sullivan and Edwards are two quaint comedians and excellent dancers; Helen Raye is a charming singer of illustrated songs; and the miniature pantomime given by Chester and Lees' marionettes is greatly enjoyed. Bioscope pictures conclude.

Public Hall and Palace of Varieties.—Lessees, Messrs. Thomson, Leivers, and Bennett; Manager, Mr. J. E. Thomson.—Miss Marie Powell, dainty speciality comedienne, proves a favourite; and Daly Male is a most amusing low comedian. The pictures are of the best.

DERBY.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—Mr. George Edwardes's company is paying a welcome return visit with *The Merry Widow*, and excellent houses are the rule. Miss Nora Barry, who is new to Derby, in the title-rôle, is a charming artist and an accomplished vocalist; as Danilo Mr. Leonard Mackay repeats his previous success, and is literally a host in himself; Mr. Lionel Victor as Baron Popoff is responsible for a delightfully humorous assumption, his efforts being admirably seconded by Mr. Tom Redmond, whose Nisch is an exceedingly mirth-provoking presentment; Mr. Haigh Jackson plays Jolidon with great acceptability; and both Mr. Grafton Williams as Novikovitch and Mr. Bert Edwards as the Waiter at Maxim's deserve special mention. The Natalie of Miss Octavia Barry is a particularly polished impersonation; as Olga Miss Beryl Vaudrey is in every way entertaining; and Miss Dora Langham and Mr. Alfred H. Majilton, who play Frou-Frou and Franz Fall respectively, are seen to advantage in the "Danse des Apaches." Other parts are well sustained by Mr. Somers Bellamy, Mr. Sydney Calland, Mr. J. S. Durant, Miss Elsie Spencer, and Miss Mary Morison.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes.—The premier position this week is occupied by Herr Julius Walther, the well-known operatic vocalist, whose reception on Monday evening left no doubt as to his popularity. The Eight Lancashire Lads, a carefully-trained set of singers and dancers, submit an excellent all-round turn; the Fitzroys gain well-merited applause for their neat gymnastic feats; and Ward and Davis appear to good advantage in a comedy sketch, entitled *Wanted, a Typist*. Kenneth and Kane, comedy duo, keep the house in roars of laughter, as also does Kean Harker, comedian, with an endless fund of smart patter; while Winnie Wentworth is a vivacious little comedienne, whose songs and dances are duly appreciated. The Bioscope continues to be attractive.

DEVONPORT. — Hippodrome. — Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—The Five Whiteleys are the principal attraction here; the Singing Jockeys entertain with a novel racing act; Maurice Hoffmann, Ethel King, and Co. present the sketch, *The Closing Price*, which proves very popular; Baker and De Sales retail some amusing patter; Willie Long's songs and parodies take well; the Bros. Brooks extract plenty of fun out of a comedy act; the Sisters Brand are dancers of ability; and a bare-foot turn of the same nature is presented by Lily Belle.

Metropole Theatre.—Manager, Mr. G. S. King.—Mr. Julian Malvern's company is here in the well-known drama *I Defy the World*. Mr. F. B. Woulfe portrays the leading part of Leon Darville capably; particular mention must also be made of the meritorious acting of Miss Edith Loraine. Other principals are Mr. Max Coutts, Mr. Alfred Denning, Miss Florence Delmar, and Little Dorothy Love.

DEWSBURY.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Herbert Asquith.—Mr. Herbert Sleath's company in *A White Man* occupy the boards this week. Praise must be given to Mr. Frank Tennant for his admirable presentment of Captain James Wynngate, V.C.; Diana has an ideal representative in Miss Eleanor May; the part of Big Bill is in the very capable hands of Mr. R. A. Brandon; Miss Margaret Fairleigh is to be highly commended for a perfect portrayal of Nat-u-Ritch; Tab-y-Wans, the Indian chief, is very ably taken by Mr. Eric Hudson; the Dowager Lady Kerhill is played with motherly sympathy by Miss Mary Relph; Mr. Harold T. Richardson and Mr. H. Wilmot Jackson as the Earl of Kerhill and Sir John Applegate are responsible for well-studied pieces of acting; and the Dean of Trentham, Cash Hawkins, and Bud Hardy have fitting representatives in Messrs. Louis Ashmeade, Gerald Earle, and Henry Hare respectively.

Hippodrome.—General-Manager, Mr. George Weldon; Stage-Manager, Mr. Jack Harris; Musical-Director, Mr. A. D. Willcox.—The Aldeans, comedy horizontal bar artists, head the bill here this week in a clever and amusing performance styled *The Professor and His Pupil*. The Millions are a pair of very clever skaters, their funny antics evoking laughter and applause; Emilie Warren, ballad vocalist, sings very sweetly, and finds much favour with the audience; who also appreciate the turn of Joe Cookson, ventriloquist, who gives a very clever and unique performance. The Danbys sing and dance well, and Miss Mamie Morris (comedienne), Horace Sade (character dancer), and splendid animated pictures shown by Mr. Jack Harris complete the programme.

DOVER.—Royal Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. S. W. Winter.—This week a pantomime affords an agreeable change from the usual variety entertainment. *The Forty Thieves* is a very bright production, and the scenery and dresses are magnificent. Ali Baba, as impersonated by Willie Black, is a very quaint character, his brother, Cassim, being excellently portrayed by William Bosco. Bertha Clifton as Ganem is a smart, alert, and altogether admirable principal boy; while Poppy Holland looks charming as Morgiana, and sings with success "A tiny seed of love." The eccentricities of Kennedy Allen are exactly suited to the rôle of Hassarac; and Rob Wilton, to whom is allotted that popular song, "Afraid to come home in the dark," amuses all by his humorous delineation of Cogia. Dolly Tree, as the Captain of the Forty Thieves, and Bibby and Portia Tree as her lieutenants, form a striking trio, their musical numbers and expert dances being the most attractive items in the programme. It would be impossible to overlook the excellence of Cris le Brun's work as Percy, the faithful donkey, or that of Francis Haskoll as the Chief of the Police, the fine voice of the latter being heard to advantage in "Sons of the Sea." The members of the chorus, under the direction of Caffyn Baxter, the musical conductor, acquit themselves creditably, that gentleman's incidental music being tuneful and melodious.

DUBLIN.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Charles Terry.—The hippodrome season continues to attract very good houses. This week Clarke and Hamilton are the start turn. As a farmyard mimic Sydney Locklynne is greatly appreciated; Radie Furman receives applause for her dances and songs; Marianne Tostia and her lady troubadours present a musical scena which is very pretty and effective; a clever and special turn is Captain Joseph Woodward's exceptionally well-trained seals and sea-lions; Gwennie Llewellyn is heartily encored; and the Twelve Hippodrome Girls and the Royal pictures complete an excellent programme.

Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General Manager and Secretary, Mr. Chas. Hyland.—The Players' Club occupy the boards here this week, and are presenting A. W. Pinero's famous comedy *The Gay Lord Quex* to appreciative audiences nightly.

Empire. — General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—A bright and attractive programme submitted here is headed by Miss Sylvia Cavalho and company in a clever and amusing burlesque drama entitled *What's Charles Worth? or, The Maid and the Motor-car*, which is enthusiastically received. Whit Gray is a comedian whose songs and patter are thoroughly enjoyed; the San Remo Girls, speciality dancers, have quite a flattering reception; the Idento Brothers are droll and clever in their juggling act; Blake and Granby (Gus and Maud), duologue artists, score a success; Odeyne Sparke is a chic comedienne; Fred S. Howard in *Funniosities of London Life* proves very entertaining; Elroy, the armless wonder, meets with hearty approval; and the Empire pictures conclude.

Tivoli.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—Good houses continue to witness the excellent programme submitted at this popular house. A most laughable and amusing turn is given by Miss Maud Rochez's performing monkeys; a distinct hit has been made by Sam Richards' College Boys in *The Students' Party;* the Dunvilles in their musical comedy act prove quite successful; Naughton and Gold, Scotch comedians, meet with a warm reception; R. C. Note is a capital vocalist; Wright and Lawson, eccentric comedians, are well received; and Miss Sara Rosebury is an excellent dialect comedienne. Bernando is an extremely good comedy juggler, and Lillie Dennis a pleasing comedienne. The Bioscope completes.

World's Fair and Music Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The artists appearing here include Witt and Wynn, comedy duologue artists; Edna Ray, ballad and coon vocalist; Harry Delmar, eccentric instrumentalist; Harry Hewitt, ventriloquist and living marionettes; Torie and Torie, sketch artists; and the Cinematograph.

DUDLEY.—Opera House.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—Mr. Charles Harrington's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* company is again welcomed here. Mr. Harrington, an old and tried actor, still puts zest into the part of Phineas; and Mr. J. Carr is earnest and sympathetic as Tom. Mr. G. Ridgway Thorne capably fills the part of George Harris; Miss Hero Hathaway as Eliza Harris displays refinement and ability; and Miss Annie Watson is highly amusing as Topsy. Miss Hettie Johnson secures distinction as Cassy.

Empire. — Proprietors, Midland Entertainment Corporation, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. H. Waters.—Truly sensational is the clever performance by the Three Original Hodginis, gymnastic wonders, who occupy the top of a strong programme. Percy Curry, comedian, has an original style of his own; the singing and dancing by The Sprees are greatly appreciated; an amusing turn is that of Ada Jenner; La Belle Greta is always sure of a good reception; Jock Walker, Scotch comedian, and Arthur Blount, patter comedian, are also good numbers. The Empire pictures conclude an enjoyable evening's entertainment.

DUNDEE.—His Majesty's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company is appearing here in Hall Caine's masterpiece, *The Bondman*. The piece is magnificently staged, the sensational sulpher-mine scene being a marvellous piece of stage realism. Mr. R. Scrope Quentin gives an intensely dramatic performance as Jason; Mr. Oswald Lingard presents a convincing study of the part of Adam Fairbrother; and Mr. W. Henry Hargreaves is an excellent Michael Sunlocks. Mr. W. H. Rotherham in the rôles of Father Ferrati and Grandfather, deserves the highest congratulations for his excellent renderings; and Mr. Wilfred Beckwith appears to much advantage as Governor Testa. Miss Georgina Wynter gives a delightful study of the fickle Greeba; Mrs. Fairbrother is very effectively impersonated by Miss Madge Lanerton; Miss Bessie West is a pleasing Maria; and the children Mona and Danny are very cleverly represented by Miss Gertrude Helene and Master Walter Neville.

King's Theatre and Hippodrome.—Lessees, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Moul; Manager, Mr. C. W. Young.—A report of the opening of this house appears in another column.

Palace Theatre. — Lessees, the United County Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Moul; Manager, Mr. S. McIntosh.—This old-established house, which, owing to the capable management of Mr. S. McIntosh, has been conspicuously successful, will in future give a larger selection of cinematographic views than was formerly the case. On Saturday evenings there will be given two performances nightly. Some very fine films are exhibited this week. In addition to the pictures Spangles and Sawdust present a comical trapeze act; Walker and Ray cause hilarity as coloured comics; and Oliver Martin is an A1 comedian.

Gaiety Theatre.—Lessee, Mrs. Lillie Williams; Licensee, Mr. W. E. Potts; Business-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Evans.—A varied programme is headed by Flora Cromer, who impersonates the different styles of vocalists on the music hall stage in a humorous manner; J. K. Macfarlane, Scotch comedian, makes a hit with his comical "Lodger" ditty; the impersonations of star artists by Ted Saunders are lifelike in the extreme; Charles Santon uses his double voice with effect; Victoria Dagmar, assisted by her clever comedy partner, gives an exceedingly graceful display on the horizontal bar and gymnastic rope; and Montague Biggs, Rose D'Aulby, with her chorus songs, Zellini, comedian and juggler, George Grenville, vocalist, and the Electro-Motorscope, with new pictures, complete.

Empire Theatre.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. Lillie Williams; Business Manager, Mr. Frank Percival; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alfred Ross.—Newman's pictures pay a welcome return visit here, the programme including many excellent dramatic and humorous films. In addition, the Cedrics, in a funny act entitled *Chish and Fips*, and Vela, a clever wire equilibrist, appear.

Newman's Picture Palace.—The programme here is up to the usual high standard associated with Mr. Fred Newman's house.

Kinnaird Hall.—Quite a host of new pictures are thrown on the screen here. The daring and graceful aerial act of Aerian and Ostara creates quite a furore; and the programme is further strengthened by Mr. Claude Howell, who recites with much elocutionary talent.

Gilfillan Hall.—The B.B. pictures are still drawing good houses here. An enjoyable item is the ventriloquial performance of Mr. Fisher Dixon.

American Roller Skating Rink.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. C. P. Crawford and F. A. Wilkins; Manager, Mr. Bert Crump.—There is no diminution in the popularity of this fashionable rendezvous. Quite a feature is the fine music by the splendid military band of the establishment.

EASTBOURNE.—Devonshire Park Theatre.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray King and Clark.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is appearing here in *Peter's Mother*. In the title-rôle Miss Violet Ley contributes a consistently earnest performance; Miss Mary Griffiths is a delightfully humorous Lady Belstone; Miss Josephine Rae an effective Miss Crewys; Miss Hilda Sims an excellent Sarah; and Miss Annie Stalman a dignified Mrs. Hewell. Fine and very successful work is given by Mr. Vivian Gilbert as the young prig Peter; Mr. Drew Mackintosh has a part which suits him admirably as John Crewys; Mr. Townsend Whitling is a forceful Sir Timothy; Mr. Walter Russell is a polished Canon Birch; and Mr. Edward Jephson an interesting Dr. Blundell. *Turtle Doves* is played as a front piece.

The Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; District-Manager, Mr. George Egbert; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—Heading the bill here this week are the Showells, who sing duets with taste and expression. Mr. George Prince as a crazy comedian causes much laughter; Little Don is a quaint comedian, with a style all his own; Hunter and Williams (lady and gentleman) are clever coster entertainers; Mr. Dan Merritt keeps the audience interested with his big drum; Miss Julia Gilbert is a bright, pleasing comedienne; Miss Lottie Leighton a burlesque artist; and new films are shown.

Pier Pavilion Theatre.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes. Mr. Arthur Crichton's company is appearing here in *Niobe* (all smiles). In the name-part Miss Agnes Imlay, who possesses a fine figure and beautiful voice, is excellently suited, and is a regal Niobe; Mr. Harry Paulton, who repeats his intensely amusing performance as Peter Amos, keeps the audience in constant merriment; Mr. H. C. Lloyd is a distinct and successful Cornelius Griffin; Mr. Phil Cooper a funny Philip Jennings; and Mr. A. M. Seton a very natural Hamilton P. Tompkins. Miss de Burgh is a very animated and pleasing Caroline; Miss Clara Nicholls a sufficiently severe Helen Griffin; Miss Katherine Morris a bright and girlish Hattie; and the remaining parts are in good hands.

ECCLES.—Crown Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert Rogers.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's company is presenting *A Broken Heart*. Miss Shiela Walsh plays the part of Mary Barnard with intense feeling; Little May is well portrayed by Miss Daisy Rocheford; Miss Emma Rainbow makes a suitable Mrs. Barnard, mother of John; Mr. Clinton Dawson gives a good rendering of the character, John Barnard, and his acting is convincing; Mr. J. Moreton Williams imparts distinction to the rôle of Stephen Raylton; and that of Tony Tibbets is well enacted by Mr. Quinton Pearce. Mr. Vivian Charles as the Rev. Mr. Staunton, a village curate, is most successful.

EDINBURGH.—Royal Lyceum Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—Mr. Martin Harvey's engagement is always a popular one in Edinburgh, and on Monday last, when he opened here for six nights, the house was crowded from floor to ceiling. *The Breed of the Treshams* was the play chosen for the opening night, and it was acted all round by the company with the care and effect which characterise Mr. Harvey's productions. The distinguished actor, in the part of the "Rat," Lieutenant Reresby, played with passion, tenderness, and humour, and the touch of poetic feeling which marks his work. Miss de Silva repeated her admirable performance of Batty; Mr. Charles Glenny as Colonel Hungerford gave a powerful, convincing study of the villain; and Mr. C. J. Cameron as Viscount Dorrington played impressively. Mr. Leonard Craske as Cornet Tresham acted pleasantly; and Mr. George Cooke was an admirable Colonel Curwen. Miss Madge Fabian was graceful and pathetic in the important part of Margaret Hungerford; and the remaining characters were ably filled, the veteran, Mr. Fred Wright, sen., being a capital Colonel Bagshaw. The play was splendidly staged, and recalls were numerous. Mr. Harvey was compelled to appear at the end and express his thanks to the audience for their enthusiastic reception. *The Corsican Brothers, The Conspiracy*, and *The Only Way* have also been played during the week.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Whitehead.—Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart and company are here this week with the powerful play *Sherlock Holmes*. The central figure of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's fascinating detective dominates the piece, and the part is acted by Mr. Stewart with a coolness and reserved force which admirably suit the character; Mr. Robert Gilbert makes a very clever study of the daring criminal, Professor Moriarty; and there is distinct ability in Mr. Walter A. Chetham's impersonation of John Forman. Miss A. Bruce Joy plays the part of Alice Faulkner with grace and skill; and Miss Edith Vagne as Madge Larrabee shows genuine dramatic instinct. Master Thomas Russell is excellent as Billy; and other members of the large cast include Mr. Arthur Shelton as Dr. Watson, Mr. Louis Alexander as James Larrabee, and Mr. Eric Mordein as Alfred Bassick. The play is well mounted, the scene in the gas chamber producing its usual excitement.

King's Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard.—Almost a record variety programme has been presented here this past week. To Miss Vesta Victoria was accorded the leading number, and her several songs, rendered with all her well-known vivacity and charm of method, proved irresistibly attractive, provoking most liberal recalls. Mr. Tom Clare, at the piano, is one of those brilliant entertainers of whom audiences never seem to tire, and his turns were applauded to the echo and vociferously encored; Henry Hilton's juggling and sleight-of-hand tricks showed an extraordinary degree of cleverness, which distinguished him as an illusionist of the first rank; Lievin and Pantzer give an excellent display as acrobats and equilibrists, the grace and ease with which they executed most difficult feats being special features in their performance; and the slack-wire exhibition of Celeste was notable for skill and novelty. Jolly Jimmy Walker contributed an enjoyable comedian turn; Miss Blanche Leslie pleased her hearers with illustrated songs; Miss May B. Brilliant sang and danced herself into favour; and Bioscope pictures completed a good bill.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—Vocal and instrumental music was much in evidence here this week. Mlle. Liane D'Eve, a fascinating Parisian vaudeville artist, provided the outstanding attraction with a series of original chansons and novel changes of character, her different impersonations being all marked by a finished excellence which greatly gratified the audience. The single-handed turns supplied by Nina Wood at the piano, and by Harry Herbert, a quaint comedian, were very enjoyable; Annette Hayward's illustrated chorus songs, as well as the efforts of Kathleen Cogan, a young comedienne and dancer, received kindly recognition; and Virto and Venita showed to advantage as versatile and accomplished instrumentalists. Somewhat lengthy sketches were contributed by Henry Carlton and company, and by the Three Prestons; but the most sporting combination of performers was found in De Gracia's trained elephants, which appeared equally expert in comedy and athletic feats or at cricket and football. An amusing set of films was exhibited on the Bioscope.

The Oriental Original Picture Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. W. C. Burns.—Mr. Burns has made several changes in the programme this week, many beautiful and amusing films being displayed. The audiences continue to show their appreciation of the entertainment, alike in numbers and in the hearty way in which the items are received.

EXETER. — Theatre Royal.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—*The Gentleman Jockey* is being presented here by Mr. Edward Marris's company—one of all-round excellence. Mr. H. Nelson Hancock endows the part of Sir Francis Granmere with frank manliness; Mr. T. Weldon Atherstone is an excellent villain; and Mr. Helier Le Maistre makes the most of his opportunities as David Grayson. Mr. Leonard Dalrymple is in happy vein as Archie Fitzherbert; Mr. George Brentwood as P.C. Blodgers keeps the house in continual merriment; Miss Ethel Ward is a bright and charming Poppy Grayson; Miss Maisie Jerrard is seen to distinct advantage as Kitty; as is Miss Lily Gold as Jennie Jarvis.

New Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frederick Sandy.—Harry Randall on Monday made his first appearance before an Exeter audience. His reception was of the most cordial description, and he had to respond to a couple of encores. Another first-rate turn is that of Athas and Collins, in their speciality act, *The Lady and the Scarecrow;* Little Ganty, a comedian, is really funny; Guy Ryder is a talented mimic and sifflleur; *A Private Rehearsal* is presented by Annie Schuberth, the possessor of an excellent voice; Harry Carsdale, the farmyard linguist, is well received; and Madge May proves a smart comedienne.

FALKIRK.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. W. Ebbutt.—The attraction this week is *Napoleon's Divorce*, staged by Mr. F. H. Neville's company. The piece is brimful of incidents of Napoleon's life during the war with Russia and the Battle of Waterloo, and his exile in St. Helena. The play is a powerful one, and gets an excellent lead in Mr. Neville, who is an ideal study of the Emperor. The appearances of Mr. Neville's horses for the tableau in the last act is a feature of the piece. The part of Josephine, from whom he is divorced on his return from the war, to gratify his own ambitions, is taken by Miss Lily Lews, a charming actress; Mr. Graham Hamlyn as Bonaparte's brother acts his part with great credit; Mr. W. Verne as the Duke St. Everard and Miss A. Beddard as the Duchess reveal undoubted talent; little Ethel May is smart as the Little King of Rome; and praise must also be bestowed upon Mr. J. Loder, Mr. C. Moore, and Miss Kate Randolph, the second Empress. Mr. Neville is announced to take a benefit on Friday night in the special production of *The Sinner that Repented*.

FLEETWOOD.—Queen's Theatre. — Manager, Mr. H. J. Snelson.—A strong variety company is headed by Talberto and Douglas, whose clever and funny turn is assisted by the wonderful dog Clinker; Little Hackenschmidt, the boy wrestler, is meeting local men nightly, and has not found his match; Cliquot is a marvellous sword-swallower. Among others in the bill are Will Saunders, May Vincent, Melvin and Max, and the Sisters Spadonis.

FOLKESTONE. — Pleasure Gardens Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—A return visit of Miss May Palfrey in Mr. W. Somerset Maugham's delightful comedy *Mrs. Dot* proved an attraction for the first part of the week. Miss Palfrey again delighted the audiences with her graceful and clever acting in the title-rôle, and she was ably supported by Mr. F. Kinsey Peile, Mr. Hugh C. Buckler, Mr. A. W. Tomlinson, Miss Evelyn Kerry, Miss Emily Patterson, and other members of the company. The play is followed each evening by *The Mystery of Redwood Grange*, in which Mr. Weedon Grossmith appears with his accustomed skill. Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company, in *Peter's Mother*, is billed for the remainder of the week.

GAINSBOROUGH.—King's Theatre.—Lessees, Gainsborough Theatre Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Leighton.—Mr. E. H. Bertram's company appeared here for three nights last week in *Somebody's Sweetheart*. On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday the *10.30 Down Express* was presented by Mr. Horace Stanley and company. Jack O'Malley and Bessie Leigh were pathetically played by Mr. T. A. Plummer and Miss Cora Linda. Mr. Carthage Caldcleugh gave a powerful rendering of the villain, James Inderwick. The comedy parts of Sam Wagstaffe and Peggy Potts were most amusingly portrayed by Mr. Stanley and Miss Kate Kilpack, and the other characters were in capable hands. The sensational scene of the express was well done. For the remainder of the week a variety company occupies the boards.

GATESHEAD.—King's Theatre.—Proprietors, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager and Licensee, Mr. Harold Arnold.—Mr. John Tiller's able company in *High Jinks* is here. The cast includes Messrs. Bob Selvidge, Fred Lawrence, Teddy Gibbs, and Barney Dixon, and Misses Jessie Templeton and Lizzie Hay. Captain Devereux's dogs are worthy of the applause they evoke, and the Arntes, coon comedy artists, Will Mitcham, eccentric musician, and the Kingscope are also attractive.

Metropole Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; General-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Dixon.—*Leah Kleschna* is here this week, played by Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's company. Miss Bessie Rignold portrays Leah admirably, and is nightly rewarded with abundant applause; Mr. William Clayton depicts Kleschna with great power, and the part of Paul Sylvaine is handled with just the right touch by Mr. Charles Barrett; Mr. Arthur Leigh makes an interesting Raval, and Schram is capitally impersonated by Mr. Wm. Heilbronn.

GLASGOW.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—The Moody-Manners Opera company's second week commenced on Monday with *Maritana*, in which Miss Kate Anderson gave a charming impersonation of the strolling gipsy; Mr. John Child was pleasing as the rollicking Don Cæsar de Bazan; Miss Bessie Weir's fine contralto voice was heard with excellent effect in the part of Lazarillo; and Mr. Charles Manners expressed the music allotted to the King of Spain with all his usual ability. The part of Don José was finely rendered by Mr. Lewys James; while Mr. F. Davis made an amusing Marquis, the Marchioness being adequately played by Miss Penville. On Tuesday Verdi's *Aida* was the attraction, with Mr. Philip Brozel as Radames, and Mme. de Vere-Sapio as Aida; Mr. Charles Manners as Ramphis, and Mr. Charles Magreth as the King of Egypt. *The Lily of Killarney* on Wednesday, *Faust* on Thursday, *Tannhäuser* on Friday, with *Lohengrin* and *The Bohemian Girl* on Saturday.

King's Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—Mr. Lionel Rignold is here with F. Lonsdale's comedy, *The Early Worm*. The piece gives Mr. Rignold every opportunity, and consequently a good evening's entertainment is the result. As Allan Marchmount (the Worm) he meets and overcomes his various misfortunes in a highly diverting manner. He is supported strongly by Mr. T. Warburton Gamble as George (Duke of Tadcaster), and Mr. Frank Graham as Lord Steyne. Mr. Raymond Dudley as Sir William Mayton makes a satisfactory representation; while Mr. Eric H. Albury is very amusing as Tom (the Steward). Miss Fyfe Alexander as Sybil Annesley and Miss Marie Dultra as Lady Steyne contribute two fine studies of the suspicious couple; Mr. W. H. Pierpont as Capt. Baxter and Mr. Robert Melrose as a sailor are very successful in introducing the necessary nautical flavour.

Royalty, Ltd. — Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Carpenter.—A novel entertainment was provided by Mr. F. R. Benson's company, on Monday, in the old Chester Mystery Plays, four of which were given—*The Salutation Play, The Shepherds' Play, The King's Play*, and *The Slaying of the Innocents*. A crowded house followed with rapt attention the development of these Bible incidents, and rewarded the actors with hearty applause at the conclusion. The programme gave the names of the characters only, but Mr. Benson and his able coadjutors were, of course, known to most of the audience. The actor who played Herod gave a specially strong portrayal of that vindictive monarch. Repetitions of *Macbeth, Merchant of Venice, Merry Wives of Windsor*, and *The Belle's Stratagem* were given later in the week.

Grand.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. B. G. Maclachlan; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. Christie Grant.—To bring in their second week the Carl Rosa Opera Company on Monday night staged *Tannhäuser*, the leading rôle being taken by Mr. E. C. Hedmondt. The manner in which he presented it on Monday night raised his audience to the highest pitch of enthusiasm. Owing to the indisposition of Miss Beatrice Miranda, Miss Elizabeth Burgess was pressed on short notice into the part of Elizabeth. She was undoubtedly nervous, and, perhaps, not quite so free as might have been anticipated, but withal came through the ordeal satisfactorily. As Venus, Miss Marie Alexander was suffering somewhat from a cold, and taking this into consideration she did well. Mr. Dillon Shallard as Wolfram might also have been heard to better advantage, although at times his voice touched its usual standard. As Landgrave Mr. Arthur Winckworth performed his part commendably, and was in excellent voice. Messrs. Wm. O'Connor and Alex. Richard did capital work in the minor parts; while Miss Annie Walker performed creditably in the rôle of the Shepherd Boy. The chorus was well-balanced, and the orchestral portion of the score, under the leadership of Mr. Eugene Goossens, was pleasing. During the week *The Merry Wives of Windsor, The Bohemian Girl, Cavaleria Rusticana, Pagliacci, Don Giovanni, Carmen*, and *Faust* were presented with equal success.

Royal Princess's.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—After a long run of pantomime the dramatic season has opened here with Mr. Walter Melville's company in *A Girl's Cross Roads*, in which Miss Hilda Beverley powerfully illustrates the decadence in character of Barbara Wade; while the unscrupulous Nellie Meadows is portrayed with equal force by Miss Nita Langton; the heroine, Constance Cornell, is charmingly played by Miss Muriel Dean; and Mr. Norman B. Cannon as Jack Livingstone made a manly hero. A pleasing character is that of John Meadows, an old farmer, delightfully rendered by Mr. Harry Cane; while the villainy is well expressed by Mr. W. J. Butler as Cuthbert Lumley; Mr. Edward Valentine as Dr. Weston makes a pleasing picture; and is contrasted with Luke Ramsden, a bad lot from the colonies, played by Mr. Fred Withers. The comedy is well handled by Miss Jeannie Thomas as Tillie Vane, ably assisted by Mr. Fred Hodson as Toby Turvey.

Metropole, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—The attraction here this week is Messrs. Edward L. Garside and J. Forbes Knowles' company in the sensational drama *Her Marriage Vow*. Mr. J. Forbes Knowles as Ned Benton performs excellently; while Miss Lillian Herries is pathetic and telling as Kate Walters; Mr. Edward L. Garside depicts cleverly the evil nature of Gilbert Carlton; Mr. B. Vincent Wardle bears himself admirably as Daffy Dan; and Mr. Wilfred Bailey is effective as Eben Chubb; Mr. John W. Ryder is fully equal to all the demands made upon him as William Walters; Mr. Owen Remonde as Larry Leary and Miss Effie D. Crawford as Maggie Clair contributed agreeably in the comedy line; Hester Norton has an appropriate representative in Miss Nellie Shirley; and Miss Grace Garside was most successful as Almira.

Lyceum.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—Mr. Morton Powell's company is paying a first visit here in *How Girls are Brought to Ruin*. The part of the heroine, Jessie Burton, is played with feeling by Miss Rona Merrick; and Mr. Walter Steele ably portrays the breezy sailor lover, Harry Hailing; the rôle of Philip Edgar provides Mr. Polson Turner with a strong and effective part, a suitable foil being seen in Winnie Waters, a light and airy character played by the authoress, Mrs. Morton Powell; Solomon Sleek is well realised by Mr. Alaric Burton; the coster Jack Josse is smartly represented by Mr. Sidney Bryant; Miss Violet Crauford gives decided character to the part of Mrs. Burton; Lucy Lawton (Miss Jeannie Risley) is a well-enacted part, as also are Mrs. Slutt (Miss Addie Adair), Sergeant Pride (Mr. James Tarner), and P.C. Dooley (Mr. Allen Harvey).

Empire, Ltd.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Manners.—At the head of affairs here is the inimitable Sheridan, who never fails to make his "Mark." He has this week increased his popularity by his seaside song and smart patter. In her series of art dances La Pia comes out with great credit. Her work is clever, and her show spectacular. In her latest creation, "The Sea Nymph," she is seen to great advantage. Stratton Mills and company present an absurdity, entitled *Ananias II*. The sketch is funny, and the artists make the most of it. It would be difficult to unearth a

and Scott, the Hebrew comedians, are a laughable couple, and pleasing alike in patter, song, and dance; Arthur Aldridge has been in good voice all the week, and renders his songs with much acceptance; Takio, the Japanese mimic of sounds is clever; while Dot Hardy is a sprightly comedian; Geo. Young, the blind musician, and the Bioscope pictures conclude the entertainment.

Zoo-Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Councillor E. H. Bostock; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock.—The Frank L. Gregory Troupe of hoop manipulators give a very neat and smart display here; Bennett and Martell again cause roars of laughter as the shipwrecked mariners; Minnie Hunt and Rhys Thomas repeat their former success with the smart duologue, *Her Birthday*; Kremka Bros. are a clever couple of acrobats and balancers; Tom Conway and company produce a new sketch, *Jane Ann's Prophecy*, which is noticed in another column; Dolly Ross, coon singer and dancer; Rosie Archer, in her mimicry at the piano; Bi-bo-be, the eccentric musician; and Maude Vera, comedienne and dancer, all provide enjoyable turns.

Pavilion, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Evan Good.—Marie Lloyd tops the bill here, and is giving a lot of new songs, including her "Directoire girl"; Morny Cash is another strong favourite, and his quaint humour is much enjoyed; Crissie Cross is a clever coon singer and smart dancer; the Columbia Trio show some novel and daring feats in balancing, which take well; Arthur Royer, eccentric American comedian, is a clever acrobat and high-kicker; Charles Banks and his well-trained little dog contribute an interesting turn; De La Fiore is an expert player on the xylophone; Jack Haddon and company make a successful appearance in *The Courier of Lyons*, a condensed version of the famous play; George Street's quick-change act, "Military Commanders of the World," contains a good idea.

Palace.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Rich. Waldon; General-Manager, Mr. Harry M'Kelvie.—The programme this week includes the principal artists from *Diccory Dok*. Mr. Waldon's successful pantomime. Maggie Fraser and Edith Haley, duettists, were specially favoured, and have maintained the position earned by them as pantomimists; the Sisters Bartholomew, comediennes and dancers, also shared the favours and submitted new songs; Peter Bermingham ("Wee Hughie") was in a happy mood; and Syd Walker and Cliffe Lake kept the house in laughter with their new sketch, *The Phrenologist*. Ernie Mayne, comedian, is very amusing as Cupid; the Bros. Pasquali give a splendid acrobatic display; Harry Gribben contributed a pleasing whistling solo. Other artists include Jack Hylton, eccentric comedian; Diana and Natalia, gymnasts; Bros. Ford, comedians and dancers; and Edna Latonne, a charming male impersonator.

Coliseum.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—The Poluski Brothers (Will and Sam) occupy the star position, and submit their latest amusing scena, "Pictures," which is exceedingly funny; the Selbinis are appearing in their wonderful pot-pourri act, introducing a number of sensational cycle tricks; Elsie Roby is a clever pianist and impersonator; Gracie Moore describes in song some well-known pictures; Charlie Rich and Harry Rich are clever comedians and patterers. Other notable artists are J. H. Milburn, vocal comedian; Mr. and Mrs. Harry A. Meynott, clever sketch artists; Tambo and Tambo, tambourine manipulators; and Chas. Kitts and Rhoda Windrum, speciality artists. The performance concludes with a display of amusing and interesting Bioscope pictures.

Gaiety, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—Will Godwin heads the bill, and with his catchy songs and choruses he again establishes himself in public favour; the Nicholsons are a clever pair of patter comics, whose funny sayings evoke much merriment; pleasing duets are given by the Sisters Poole-Pelham, and in their acrobatic dances display an ability of which due appreciation is shown; Miss Gladys Godwynne (daughter of Will) is a young artist of promise, who has had to respond to repeated encores; Miss José Salome contributes some fine catchy songs; the performance of Miss Rene Raie, instrumentalist, vocalist, and dancer, is deserving of great praise. Not only in her songs and dances does this artist shine, but her selections on the bells and instruments provide an entertainment as interesting as it is enjoyable.

Panopticon.—Proprietor, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—Eddie and Emmie, with their newspaper kiosk, patter amusingly, and their dancing is smart; Jongleur is an entertaining erratic juggler; George St. Helen, vocalist, and Kitty Vallance, contribute good items. The Bioscope pictures of the Territarials' March through Glasgow are the cause of enthusiastic applause.

GLOSSOP.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—Lena Stanton and Harry Joseph's pantomime *Robinson Crusoe* opened here on Monday. Miss Lena Stanton in the title-rôle gives a dashing representation, her dancing being clever and graceful; Miss Gertie Lovedale is a charming Polly Perkins; Miss Marie Gerrard is well suited as Captain Billy Taylor; Mr. Melville Page's Will Atkins is droll; Davy Jones is in the capable hands of Mr. F. Forms; Mr. Vic Verney as King Kop-Em is amusing; and as Mrs. Crusoe Mr. Sidney Deane evokes laughter. The specialities include the Leglere Troupe of acrobats and the Alhambra Girls.

GLOUCESTER. — Palace. — Owners, Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Director, Mr. C. W. Poole.—Mr. Harry Roxbury and company present a capital musical *mélange* entitled *The Prince of Monte Carlo*. Mr. Tubby Edlin causes the heartiest laughter as the pseudo Prince. Benson and Waite have a cordial reception for a smart talking, singing, and dancing act; Bostock's baboons are cleverly trained, and go well; the Gilberts in tight wire speciality are deservedly applauded; and the Netty Janowsky Troupe of acrobats and ladderites do some clever feats; Miss Toina Davis is a neat comedienne, and Taylor and Bridge as two singing mill lads duet nicely; Mr. Johnny Walker sings a couple of funny songs; and the Mays in comedy act *The Maniac's Child* are also in the bill.

King's Hall.—Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. T. Rea.—Animated pictures still going strongly.

Public Baths.—Owners, the Corporation of Gloucester.—The Italian Circus, which has appeared before Royalty on several occasions, is here for two weeks. There are over 200 animals, including bears, elephants, dogs, goats, zebras, &c., and a wonderfully attractive show is presented. The clowns are at once favourites, and include Piccolo and Fiori, Nimble Nip, and Wee Wullie.

GRAVESEND.—Grand Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Wright.—The Ten Dixie Girls, in their scena, *The Silver Coon*, introduce dancing and up-to-date coon songs with telling effect; De Lilo and Metz, the former described as a charming lady bender and the latter a clever juggler, are a good turn; Kisbey, the retired call-boy, creates roars of laughter; Harry Clare is a marvellously clever boy actor, giving some good impersonations of Charles Dickens's characters; Adey Spencer gives some clever imitations on the piano; Nellie Wilson is a bright comedienne and dancer; and Bert Dansie, comedian, is a success.

New Public Hall and Theatre.—Secretary, Mr. R. Feaver Clarke, J.P.—Mr. Joseph Poole's renowned No. 1 Myriorama is here for the week, and is doing good business. The following comprises the variety part of the programme:—The Tissots, living marionettes; Funny John O'Rourke, the tourist; Eileen and Maynie, exceptionally clever dancing duo and musical experts; the Seddons, the lady juggler and the lazy waiter; the Maclaines, marvellous illusionists; Mr. Bert Berry, guide and vocalist; Steve Cooke, comedian; and Mme. Frederica's terriers and cake-walking pony.

GREAT YARMOUTH. — Royal Aquarium. —Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Nightingale.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company is here in the drama *As Midnight Chimes*. Mr. Melville Richford ably depicts the villain Luke Dezzard; Mr. Clifton Boyne makes a manly Dave Stannard; Mr. Walter Westwood gives a clever character sketch of Ezra Gamble; Mr. Tom Sinclair is very humorous as Tat Slavin; Mr. Harvey Welton displays ability as Limpy Mudge; Miss Jessie Farrington is a chic Luzette, and her singing and dancing are much appreciated; Miss Lilian Earle is excellent as Mary Stannard, and Miss Marjorie Davenport appears with success as Zamora.

Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. George Gilbert.—Harry Friskey is a big favourite with his comedy juggling; Dick Bradley appears in an amusing comedy cycle act; Dan Rodney is a smart comedian; Mint and Mart create a lot of laughter; and the animated pictures are first-class.

The Gem.—Lessees, the Yarmouth Amusement Centre, Ltd; Resident-Director, Mr. C. B. Cochran; Manager, Mr. Sidney Lawrence.—A fine set of art films are being shown here this week, The Gunshot and A Gay Old Dog being worthy of special mention.

GREENOCK.—Alexandra Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—Mr. Harry Starr and company opened here on Monday in *Otto the Outcast*. Mr. Harry Starr as the outcast, Otto, gave a capital representation of the part, while as Laura Miss Katie Norris was exceedingly good. Mr. Will Hee as the villainous Roderique D'Estalier was successful, and Mr. Edwin Firth as the Marquis de Laporte was well placed. The other parts were in capable hands. for the last three nights of the week *Carl the Clockmaker* was billed.

Empire.—Lessees, The Greenock Empire Syndicate; Responsible-Manager, Mr. Edward McCormick; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. J. Colquhoun.—Lowenwirth and Cohan, the popular Hebrew comedians, take the lead here this week, and, as usual, are securing a most flattering reception. The Katos contribute much to the fun of the evening with their automatic theatre; and other attractive turns are provided by Chandos George, assisted by Mlle. Leonitta, in an Arabian song scena; Sira, a clever one-legged acrobat; Dewar and Dunville, expert dancers; Tom Colton, versatile vocalist; and Bert Lytton, light comedian.

Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Harry L. Skivington.—Albertus and Miller head the bill here, and win hearty approval in their comedy act, *A Scene in the Fairgrounds*. An exceptionally clever acrobatic interlude, "The Ragman and the Postman," is that presented by Cummin and Seaham; Irve Hayman and company submit an effective dramatic sketch, *Christmas Eve*, which is well received; C. H. Charlton excels as a magician; and others who contribute to the pleasure of large audiences are the Paul Hesse Trio in a pot-pourri act; Will and Jenny Sage, comedy artists; Madge Allen, a charming comedienne; Burns and Bentley, simultaneous dancers; and Madge Goodall, comedienne and dancer.

GRIMSBY.—Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—*The Hypocrites* is here again, presented by Mr. Charles Frohman's company. Mr. H. Lawrence Leyton now appears as the Rev. Edgar Linnell, and gives an earnest representation of this fine character; Miss Violet Harley instils just sufficient pathos into the part of Rachel Neve, and makes a notable success; Miss Grace Murielle gives evidence of considerable emotional power as Mrs. Wilmore; Mr. Charles Harley is quite at ease as Mr. Viveash, and imparts a genial dignity to the character; Mr. F. Morland is good as Mr. Wilmore, and the same may be said of Mr. S. Denny, who represents Lennard. Others contributing to a successful representation are Miss Muriel Wilson as Helen Plugenet, Miss Millie Emden as Mrs. Blaney, Mr. Charles Tyrel as Sir John Plugenet, Mr. F. C. Thurstans as the Rev. E. Danbury, and Mr. Fred Lake as Dr. Blaney.

The Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—Reano and his band are making a considerable sensation, and the celebrated conductor receives ovations nightly; Bob Hamilton is repeating his former success, and his exposition of Scottish humour is very amusing; the Lutinas are a couple of clever lady gymnasts; Fred Bamford, a popular whistling expert, gives an interesting turn; Clara Reid and John Power appear in a comic sketch, and Marion Armitage is a pleasing Scotch comedienne.

HALIFAX.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company is here with *The Dairymaids*. Miss Clare Marsden makes a vivacious and very acceptable Peggy; Miss Vera Crichton is well placed as Winifred, and gains encores for her songs; Miss Gladys Silvani is a good Eliza; Miss Dorothy is a stately Lady Brudenell; Miss Lucy Edwin is capital as Miss Pychase; Mr. Dan Agar's Joe Mivens is admirable; Mr. Nelson Keys is good as Sam; Mr. Percy Marshall makes a fine Dr. O'Byrne.

Grand Theatre, Ltd. — Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—Pictures are the attraction at this house. Some fine subjects are shown, notably The Date Industry and Runaway Dogs; a clever conjuror and Connie Leon also contribute.

Palace and Hippodrome, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Foster.—Peterman's Singing Servants are an acceptable turn; Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilde submit a clever and entertaining shadowgraph performance, interspersed with amusing patter; the Bouncing Dillons create roars of laughter; Webb and Edna Branston are capital operatic duettists; Master Day gives a clever diabolo performance; Captain Ellis and Son are amusing and clever musicians; and Charles Woodward, topical comedian, Sisters Florence, duettists and dancers, and Raymond's bio-tableaux complete the programme.

HAMILTON, N.B.—Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Managing-Director, Mr. René Clayton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Jack Bostock.—Harry Dent and Fanny Harris are well received in a musical comedy act, *The Indian Bottle*; Mr. Frank Elliston is supported by Miss Nellie Stevens and Mr. Richard Oliver, all excellent, in a clever and dainty patch-and-powder sketch entitled *My Lady Betty*; Queenie May is a deservedly popular little lady; Dora Poole and Fred Maguire go well in a vocal comedy act; the Dancing Gilberts are a couple of dainty dancers; Arthur Croxon is an amusing mimic; and Willie Garvey (comedian), Julian Ross (light comedian), and the Bioscope conclude an excellent programme.

HANLEY. — Royal. — Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—*The Gay Gordons* is being presented by Mr. Seymour Hicks' company. Mr. Brett as Angus is a tremendous hit; Miss Ash is admirable as Peggy, and possesses a charming voice; Miss Nellie Dade is a clever Charlotte Siddons; Miss Lillie Maxwell as Victoria Siddons is one of the hits of the piece, and her singing is a treat; Miss Gladys Dene plays Lady Millicent Graeme perfectly, and sings finely; Mr. Fred Rolph is a very quaint Nervy Nat; Mr. Ernest Torrence plays and sings in thoroughly artistic style; Mr. George Carroll is exceptionally excellent as Edmund Siddons, and wins unstinted applause; Mr. Reginald Adair is a good Lord Elmington; and the Jack McPhriskey of Mr. J. S. Wooley causes continual merriment. The remaining parts are played perfectly, and the chorus is "champion." The dresses are delightful, and the scenery splendid. Mr. F. H. Irving cleverly conducts.

Grand.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand.—The picture The Invasion of England is keenly appreciated. The Ten-Ji Troupe of Japanese magicians are marvellous; C. D. Reekie is a popular comedian; El Tampicos, Mexican troubadours, win loud applause; Joe Boganny's Lunatic Bakers triumph in their clever tumbling act; the turn of Charles Chard, comedian, is greatly enjoyed; the Sisters Warwick, trick cyclists, score a perfect hit; the Brothers Smarte, after a big hit in pantomime here, are warmly received; and Annie Casey, comedienne, wins no small measure of applause.

King's.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy; Manager, Mr. H. Kennedy.—A series of splendid pictures is drawing large houses. The Mohawk's Ring and Flash James are followed with breathless interest. New-laid Eggs and The Blind Boy are also exceptionally fine. Maurice Lee scores with several smart songs.

HARROGATE.—Grand Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. William Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eric Fielding-Smith.—The Klein Family are the head-liners, and prove both popular and clever; Luna Love sings a couple of tuneful songs and does a neat dance; and Mark Henton works some quaint wheezes; the Four Garricks are both amusing and musical in their song-scena, and Hulbert introduces ventriloquial figures; Nellie Nora plays well on various instruments; and Lena Wylie sings a couple of ballads in pleasing style.

St. James's Hall.—Managing-Director, Mr. Sydney Carter; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. Parker.—A series of beautiful views of travel in foreign parts here this week include pictures of Palermo and the Land of the Midnight Sun. Lauri Wylie, with his funny little mimicing mannikins, is to be congratulated on his very clever impersonations; Roxborough and Wright play a funny sketch entitled *My Little One* in a highly capable manner; and De Lil, illusionist, completes the bill.

HASTINGS.—Gaiety Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—A week's visit is made here by Miss Emma Hutchison and London company in *Mrs. Dot*. Miss Nancy Beresford is pleasing in the title-rôle; Miss Sybil Brooke as Aunt Eliza Macgregor and Mr. Frank Lacy as James Blenkinsop are responsible for much merriment; the love affairs of Freddie Perkins and Nellie Sellenger are well presented by Mr. Charles A. Staite and Miss Ethel Grahame respectively; and Miss Emma Hutchison provides an excellant portrayal of Lady Sellenger.

Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr. Harry Boyd; General-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—A programme of pleasing variety is submitted here. Will Sergeant, a favourite comedian, has an excellent style of singing; some good dramatic pictures are shown by the Alhambra Bioscope; Miss Chummie la Mara is a vocalist of considerable ability; the musical comedy duo given by the Melroses wins them great applause; Wilbert and Lealand give an amusing turn; and Tom Carrick, the pantomime favourite and a roller-skating carnival and competition are other attractions.

Pier Pavilion. — General-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—The principal feature of an excellent variety entertainment here is Harry Reynold's Minstrel Quintet. The Pavilion Bioscope exhibits an attractive drama entitled England Invaded.

Public Hall.—Attractive amusement is provided here by the St. Louis Animated Picture Co., under the management of Messrs. Allen and Vincent. The interest in the pictures is well maintained.

Royal Concert Hall.—Manager, Mr. H. F. Blackwell.—An extra fillip has been given to the votaries of roller-skating by the American Syndicate so well represented by Mr. Blackwell, and there are now three sessions daily, well attended by followers of this healthful amusement, which on Tuesday was officially recognised by the attendance of the Mayor and members of the corporation, when an exhibition of fancy skating was provided by Professor Albert and other experts.

HORWICH.—Prince's Theatre.—Lessees, The Horwich Theatre Co.—Pantomime holds sway this week. Mr. Arthur Farren's *Cinderella* is the attraction, and opened on Monday to a large audience. The scenery and dresses are handsome, the musical numbers bright and catchy, and the comedy element is exceptionally strong. Miss Eva Travis in the title-rôle is eminently successful, her vocal efforts thoroughly delighting the audience; Miss Florrie Anderson is a fine, dashing Prince Charming; Miss Gladys Byron is a dainty inkeeper's daughter; Miss Lola Renie as Fairy Fortune gives a fine exhibition of pirouette dancing; Peps the Page is capitally rendered by Mr. James Mackenzie, who contributes some rattling songs; Mr. Arthur Farren plays the Baron Limrich in diverting style; the Ugly Sisters, as portrayed by Messrs. E. Malcabe and Alf. Stokes, create roars of laughter; Messrs. Dave Anderson and Bert Norman as Phil and Garlic, the Baron's footmen, are very droll; Mr. James Clarkson is a typical village innkeeper; Dandini has a handsome exponent in Miss Alice Westbourne; the Misses Gertie and Kitty Johnson give a good show as tambourine dancers, and the Misses May Burns, Burgess Leclaire, Polly Johnson, and Jean and Queenie Stewart help to keep the ball rolling merrily. Mons Le Clair has a fine troupe of performing dogs, and Lord Tom Doddy contributes some excellent songs.

HUDDERSFIELD.—Hippodrome, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—At the top of the bill are Staig's cyclists in a sensational performance of riding on a perpendicular-frame track. Other turns are Harry Drew, basso; Miss Belle Braham, in her popular illustrated songs; the Tripellos, who give a pleasing musical interlude; the Sisters Du Cane, singers and dancers; Wyotti, a neat juggler; the Mohamed Ben Mohamed Troupe of Arab acrobats in their well-known feats; and some thoroughly good pictures on the Bioscope.

HULL.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Mortons, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. W. F. Morton.—Miss Ada Reeves is here this week, and drawing the city with her Rodanthe in *Butterflies*. Mr. Louis Bradfield takes Puck with pleasing effect; in the small part of the chauffeur Mr. Laurie de Frece proves a comedian of excellent talent; and Mr. Blake Adams's Podmore is a sterling embodiment. Miss Stella St. Audrie and Miss Clive play with great credit the rôles of Mrs. and Miss Podmore respectively; Miss Phillis Monkman gives with fine effect the dance "La Naissance du Papillion." The production is elaborately mounted, the dressing being superb.

Alexandra Theatre.—Mortons. Ltd.—Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—*Second to None* is proving a considerable attraction. As Neil Greystone Miss Ward gives a realistic study; the Harry Wildy of Mr. Leonard Williams is a truly soldierly reading of the rôle; Mr. C. Spencer is a very fine Sir Reg. Greystone; Mr. Fred Lloyd is forcible as Captain Mannering; and the Sergeant Horseman of Mr. J. G. Maine is not without distinction. The play is well mounted.

ILKESTON.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—*Home, Sweet Home* is being played here by Mr. Frank Lindo and company. Miss Marion Wakeford wins sympathy as Joan; Mr. Frank Lindo as Stephen is an actor of ability; Mr. D. Lawrence Doyle is a suitable David Armitage; the Duke of Ancaster is cleverly taken by Mr. Norton Shields; the Sybil Fay of Miss Helene Thompson is amusing; Mr. B. Turner is successful as the Hon. Percy; and the character of Dick Redmayne lacks nothing at the hands of Mr. Richard Walsh. Lucas Lyle finds an excellent representative in Mr. Leo R. Neilson.

Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—Reno, conjurer; Cissie Ferndale, vocalist; Le Wist, ventriloquist; and an entire change of pictures are drawing good houses here.

ILKLEY.—Bridge Pavilion.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Barron; Manager, Mr. George Asaf.—The Coronets continue to amuse large audiences, and, with an ever-changing programme, their entertainment is most enjoyable. Mr. Asaf is a comedian in every sense of the word, while Mr. Godfrey Pariss also helps in the fun; Mr. W. Edwardes-Towle is a vocalist who knows how to treat his songs, and renders them in an excellent manner; the trio of ladies (Misses Barbara Merle, soprano, Phyllis Beryl, contralto, and Leila Byron) are heard to advantage in songs and concerted items. The Pavilion closes on Saturday, and reopens after a thorough renovation on April 5.

INVERNESS.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. Cameron Burgess.—Mr. Edmund Tearle and company are here this week, and on Monday they opened with *Othello*. Mr. Tearle gave a powerful study of the Moor; Iago was well embodied by Mr. Stuart Black; Mr. Denis Hogan was good as Cassio; as the beautiful and hapless Desdemona Miss Wanda Beresford presented a sweet and pathetic figure; Miss Mary Campbell gave an effective rendering of Emilia; the Duke of Venice was ably portrayed by Mr. A. Edwards; as Roderigo Mr. P. P. Miller did well; and the other parts were in capable hands.

IPSWICH. — Poole's Picture Palace.—Good audiences have been drawn to this new place of entertainment, the pictures being all new on Monday. The film representing the King's Visit to Berlin proved very popular. Miss Eileen Russell delights with her illustrated songs, her charming voice giving them excellent effect.

Hippodrome. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—Miss Lillian Lea provides a most enjoyable musical programme of high-class songs, which are thoroughly appreciated; the Harvey Boys give an exhibition of scientific boxing with some funny interludes; Gerard, a herculean juggler, tosses about weighty cannon balls as though they were made of rubber, and his assistant is very amusing; Les Rallis are two clever gymnasts and tumblers; the Brothers Lawrance dance skilfully; and the Concoran Brothers play a number of brass instruments with good effect; Mr. Arthur Holland sings some catchy chorus songs, and the Bioscope concludes.

JARROW.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Lionel Locke.—This week we have a visit from Mr. Charles Hawtrey's company in *The Sportsman*. Mr. George Lestocq as Harry Briscoe furnishes an excellent performance; while the part of Dr. Halroyd is carefully handled by Mr. Wilfred Compton, and Mr. Sydney Bransgrove does full justice to the rôle of Mr. Perkins. The character of Mrs. Harry Briscoe is capitally played by Miss Madeline Duval; and Miss M. V. Charlsworth is quite at home as Ada; while Miss Agnes Maude is praiseworthy as Mrs. Critchley. The play is followed by a one-act musical piece, entitled *The Garden of the Gods*.

KIDDERMINSTER. — New Opera House.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon.—Mr. C. Watson Mill presents Miss Blanche St. Albans and company in *A Warning to Women*. Mr. W. Palliser Acock as Ferdinand de Joules is excellent; Mr. Harry C. Robinson ably portrays the part of Dr. Marcus Dread; and Mr. Edward Warden that of Shuan Fergus. M'Naughton is in the capable hands of Mr. Chas. O'Connor, and Lord Eversleigh is realisticly played by Mr. Leicester Jackson. Miss Blanche St. Albans plays the rôle of Moira Rennion with artistic effort; Miss Gertrude Vickers as Sheile Rennion is good. The piece is well staged.

KILMARNOCK.—King's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Cummings.—The attraction here this week is Messrs. H. B. Levy and J. E. Cardwell's juvenile company, in the pantomime *The House that Jack Built*. The book is by Mr. Levy and the music by Messrs. G. F. Dodds and Carl Sherrington. As Jack Miss Fanny Adamson makes a dashing principal boy, and sings herself into popular favour; Miss Evelyn Major as Jill has a good reception; while Miss Olive Purcell in the part of Fairy Twinkle Star has a sweet voice and sings a couple of catchy songs. Mr. H. Hillerby makes a distinct success as Aunt Purdy; and as Wee McGregor Miss Gladys Wise is capital. Among others worthy of notice are Misses Florrie Edwards and J. Marsden, and Messrs. McNorton, Wakeman, and Gibson and Doyle.

KING'S LYNN.—New Royal Theatre.—Manager and Lessee, Mr. B. Pareezer; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Reginald Pareezer.—The boards have been occupied this week by Miss Florence Glossop-Harris and company in the farcical comedy *Angela*. The title-rôle is sustained by Miss Harris with irresistible charm; the nonchalance and diplomacy of Mary Pembridge are faithfully portrayed by Miss Gertrude Gilbert; Mr. Frank Cellier shows great precision in revealing the excellent traits in the character of Richard Evesham; and Mr. Arthur Keane presents cleverly the idiosyncrasies of Christopher Keswick; Mr. Arthur Seaton as William Blithers, Mr. A. D. Layland as John Evesham, and Mr. Stuart Vinden as Hales are responsible for quiet humour. Each evening the play is preceded by an excellent rendering of the Garden scene from *Romeo and Juliet*, Mr. Eugene Wellesley taking the part of Romeo and Miss Gertrude Tate that of Juliet.

KIRKCALDY.—King's Theatre.—Proprietress, Mrs. C. Ellis; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frank Seabrook.—Messrs. Paumier and Howard's company is presenting *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*. As Monica Miss Annie Saker acquits herself with distinction; Miss Ivy Millais gives a touching and effective rendering of Camiola; and deserving of special praise is Miss Elsie Walton for capable acting as Viola. Principal among the male members of the cast is Mr. Wallace Court as Prince Olaf, and it would be hard to imagine a finer reading of the rôle; Mr. Graeme Campbell as Prince Michael makes the most of a difficult part; and as Prince Hildred Mr. James Gordon excels; Mr. Richard Lane makes a pleasing and humorous portrait of Lieut. Karl; Mr. Francis Hawley is a sufficiently dignified Bishop; and Messrs. R. H. Stephens and Kendal Chalmers are good as Captain Hector and Nathan. The smaller parts are in capable hands. The piece is admirably staged.

LANCASTER.—Grand Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. C. Howitt.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Willard's company opened on Monday with *The Midnight Mail*. The hero and heroine could not be in better hands than those of Mr. James Hare and Miss Trissie Humphreys; Mr. Charles A. Longden as Leonard Royle and Miss Jennie Weston as Lady Eustace do exceedingly well, and Miss Daisy Clifford in the rôle of Nancy Brewer is smart and acceptable. Mr. B. W. Avery as Billy Brewer is very quaint.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. John Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—The premier place is occupied by Miss Helen Roberts in a Salome Dance; Avon and Crest are smart comedy artists; Captain Curt, assisted by two ladies, two ponies, and two soldier boys, supply a remarkable turn; and Farrell and Dunn, comedians, have plenty of patter; Vera Clifford, vocalist, sings well; Moore and Sumner, in a comedy act, are well received, and Mr. J. H. Ellis, comedian, also entertains. The Hippograph pictures still attract.

LEAMINGTON. — Theatre Royal.—Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. George G. Ridley.—During the earlier part of the week Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company appeared here in *Idols*, and good business was done. Miss Edith Goodall gave a very sincere and natural performance as Irene Merriam; Mr. A. B. Imeson sustained with much merit the difficult rôle of her husband; and as Hugh Coleman Mr. Herbert Ford was in the right vein. Miss Moira Creegant's Minna Hart was an excellent delineation, carefully played; and other performances worthy of special mention were those given by Mr. Frank Powell, Mr. George Conroy, Mr. A. E. Grahame, Mr. Harvey Braban, Mr. Gilbert Clark, Mr. Alfred Ibberson, Miss Adelaine Lester, and Miss Kathleen Maude. The latter part of the week Mr. Stanley James's company is appearing in the comedy *My Wife*.

LEEDS.—Grand Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Jno. Hart; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—Miss Lena Ashwell's company, in *Grit*, is making a welcome appearance. We cannot speak too highly of the acting capabilities of Miss Gladys Purnell as Erith Winter; as Jim Barr, the carpenter-socialist, Mr. Leslie Carter acts with much sincerity; the part of Dick Travers is in the capable hands of Mr. T. A. Shannon; Mr. Philip Sanders and Miss Elspeth Dudgeon are successful as Mr. and Mrs. Winter respectively; and Miss Violet Vorley is a sympathetic Mrs. Percival. A smart curtain-raiser is *Charlotte on Bigamy*.

Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. Frank MacNaughton; Manager, Mr. Harry Liston.—*A Wife's Triumph* is staged here. Miss Ada Abbott plays with success the rôle of Bessie, and is well supported by Mr. Abbott as the Bank Clerk; Mr. H. B. Wilson as Ellis Jordan makes the most of the character; Mr. Weedon Ross as Julius Cartman submits a convincing impersonation; and the bluff and cheery Squire is in the capable hands of Mr. Douglas C. Phelps.

The Empire.—District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alex Galley.—Fred Karno's production, *The Football Match*, which includes Harry Weldon, is drawing good houses; second in popularity is Ernest Cadle's *Casey's Court*; the Two Macs, smart patter merchants, also give a comic boxing display; Ben Albert possesses a good voice and good songs; and other popular turns include Edie King, Melia and Mozarabar, and Minnie Mace and Sisters Dorrell.

The Hippodrome.—Lessee, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Arthur Collingwood.—Captain Woodward's sea lions show wonderful aptitude; Maud Hall and Carleton Macy are applauded in an American sketch; Bertisch performs some smart feats of strength; Winifred Ward is well received; and the old Leeds favourites, Belrose and De Velin, meet with gratifying success; Edie Veno (serio), George Antill (comedian), Moeller and Theodor (comedy acrobats), and Dorothy Gould (vocal comedienne) also appear.

The Varieties.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sam Jones.—The Five Musical Tritons, in a clever musical act, and pictures of the Johnny Summers fight are the leading items. Monty Walker, Metz and Metz, Nan Farren, Shenton and Chicks, Chris Baker, and the Rollicking Ranstons complete the bill.

The Queen's.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Wood; Manager, Mr. Frank Bush.—Ella Shields is repeating her

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MOTHER SEIGEL'S SYRUP.

previous successes in well-chosen songs; August, September, and May, eccentric comedians, create much fun; the Westbrooks appear in a clever dancing scena, entitled, *Two Little Maids from School*; Sam Spira, child impersonator, is successful; Baby Vi Davis sings three songs with effect; the Three Clarkes are entertaining; and the Whittakers complete.

LEICESTER.—Opera House.—The attraction is provided here this week by a first visit of Messrs. Smith and Carpenter's company in *Pete*. The company is a thoroughly capable one, and the play is most effectively staged. Mr. Frederick Victor well maintains his high reputation with a sterling performance of the title-rôle, being admirably seconded by Miss Marjorie Murray as Kate Creegan with a portrayal of especial excellence; Mr. Percy Rhodes is good as Philip Christian, and others who do justice to their parts are Mr. Pennington Gush as Ross Christian, Mr. Hartley Summers as William, Mr. Thomas W. Ford as Cæsar Creegan, and Miss Amy Grace as Nancy.

Theatre Royal.—A first visit is being paid here this week of the thrilling melodrama *Convict 99*, of which the Melodrama Production Syndicate, Ltd., are the proprietors. The principal parts of Lawrence Gray and Geraldine Lucas are effectively played by Mr. Frank Beresford and Miss Dorothy Milne respectively.

Palace Theatre, Ltd. — Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W S. Bucclench.—The top of this week's bill is shared by Phil Ray, the popular and mirth-provoking comedian, who is receiving a hearty welcome, and Willie Zimmerman, with his entertaining and clever impersonations of celebrated composers. At the other end is the young and talented artist Gertie Gitana, who is receiving her usual warm welcome for a particularly smart turn. Terry and Lambert are always worth seeing, and are given a show that proves most popular in all parts of the house; the Jackley Trio of amusing acrobats, including the clever whistling comedian, score repeatedly; McCann's dogs (Irish terriers) are put through a good performance; the Lyric Mummers are excellent duologue artists; Harry Leybourn is a mimic of ability, and Jennie Hartley dances and sings in an attractive manner. The Bioscope shows Industries and Sports in Burmah.

Pavilion Theatre.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joseph Lawrence.—An attraction quite out of the ordinary is the presentation by Mr. Frank C. Bostock of the remarkable chimpanzee Consul. His performance is of a most unique character, and is watched with the keenest enjoyment by crowded houses. Harry Pleon creates roars of merriment with his truly funny burlesques; Fred S. Peake and company are retained over another week, and are scoring a well-deserved success in the dramatic sketch *The Hypocrite*; Bett and Betts are very good in their comedy act; Ethel Yorke is a vivacious comedienne. Others who entertain are Harry Desmond, eccentric comedian; and Colin Mail, light comedian. Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope depicts A Zulu's Heart and Runaway Kids, and the cinephone has new films. Rose Cass did not appear on the occasion of our visit, owing to a cold.

Empire.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Company; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles R. Craig.—The moving pictures here this week are of the usual high-class character. Will Harmony is making a most successful first appearance here in his mimicry of leading stars.

Association Hall.—The Original Merry Cadets give a capital performance, the chief artists participating being Horace Merry, a rising baritone; Charles Galloway, comedian; Fred Richardson, an entertaining ventriloquist; Ted Saunders, Scotch comedian; Fred Tilley, comedian and pianist; Charles Grange, humorist and dancer; and Harry Carnell, pianist.

LEIGH.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. W. H. Chippendale.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company is on a return visit with *A Fight for a Throne*. Mr. John Millyard makes an admirable Captain Jack Fortescue; Mr. Jerrold Reed plays with quiet reserve as King Nicholai I.; Mr. Charles E. Linney powerfully portrays the treacherous Otto; Mr. Walter Graham is a convincing Lieut. Paul Rodna; and Mr. Charles H. Hughes ably depicts the rôle of Tom Ferret. Miss Dora Hammersley as Princess Esmee is sympathetic and charming; Countess Valeska is well presented by Miss Margarette Tueskie; General Rodna is ably rendered by Mr. Tom Royden; and enjoyable comedy is provided by Mr. Patrick Evans at Lieut. the Hon. Percy Fitzmaurice and Miss Emmeline B. Lewis as Lady Pat.

Grand Theatre and Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Leigh Grand Theatre and Hippodrome, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Benson; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Woolstencroft.—Heading the bill here is Mr. Harry Rogers and company with *Told in a Flat*. The Paul Kramer Troupe of head-balancers are loudly applauded; Miss Lily Hayes, comedienne and dancer, is deservedly appreciated; Mr. Will Walton is amusing; and the Great Lumars contribute a first-rate acrobatic performance. In addition there are Kelmere and Burns, comedians; Indiana, the flexible lady; and the Bioscope.

LEITH.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Licensee and Director, Mr R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlinson.—A return visit of *The Girl Who Took the Wrong Turning* affords an opportunity of improving acquaintance with one of the most interesting in the long list of Melville dramas, and the piece is well handled by a capable company. Mr. F. Ronald Adair puts breziness as well as feeling into his impersonation of the sailor hero, Will Mason; Mr. Sidney Sarl gives an excellent character study as Bill Slater; the persecuted Jack Fenton is effectively portrayed by Mr. Frank R. Robertson; and the villainous Vesta le Clere and James Harcourt are well represented by Miss Nannie Meade and Mr. Raymond Wood. Useful work is done by Mr. Frank Denis as Richard Fenton; virtue and error are carefully contrasted by Miss Zoe Davis and Miss Jessie Belmore in the respective rôles of Lucy and Sophie Coventry; and the comedy element is abundantly supplied by the Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Walker of Mr. Fred Ingram and Miss Marie Kildare.

LINCOLN.—Royal.—Lessees, Messrs. Seddon and Pope; Manager, Mr. Ernest Pope.—Messrs. Skardon and Martin's company is presenting *Leah* and *The Way of the World* twice nightly. The representation is very fine in each case, and the scenic effects rouse enthusiasm. Miss Sidney Crowe is seen to advantage in the chief rôle in each piece.

Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. E. Dobney.—To a powerful bill this week Ted Karno's company contribute the screamingly funny sketch *The Dinner Hour*; the Brothers Redmond's quaint acrobatic act is funnier than ever; the Czar troupe of Russian dancers give a whirlwind show; and Rose Pink, the Sisters Cora, Alec B. Thorne, and Bert and Dora score greatly.

Central Hall.—The Dayton Family head a capital bill, and in addition to their own wonderful act there is a crowd of good turns. The Cecilias offer a refined drawing-room turn; the Milfords are daring trapezists; and the whole show goes with spirit.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—Theatre Royal and Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Resident-Business-Manager, Mr. W. Payne Seddon.—Mr. Chas. M. Daly's second Hippodrome company has been attracting good houses. Miss Mamie Morris is a dainty soubrette dancer; Mr. Harry Bland a good comedian; Mr. and Miss Ives appear in a grand ball-punching act; Miss Marie Wilson is an expert male impersonator; Miss Sara Roseberry amuses as the Lancashire comedienne, and Miss Rene Glendower and her comedy company keep the house in constant laughter by their sketch, *A Bit Too Clever*. Mr. Daly's animated pictures are a great success.

LIVERPOOL.—Royal Court Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—On Monday the Mersey city had a first glance at the new musical play, entitled *The Dollar Princess*. Its reception by a critical audience was marked by keen appreciation, the general opinion being that it is one of the most amusing and dainty productions of its kind seen for years. Mr. H. Corson Clarke, as the American millionaire, whose hobby is to engage impecunious titled persons as servants in his house, was exceptionally funny, and kept the ball rolling in capital style; Mr. Robert Michaelis fitted the part of the sportive Fairfax to a nicety, and deservedly earned numerous encores for his able rendering of several difficult numbers; a delightful Alice Conder was submitted by Miss Hilda Moody, who certainly captivated everybody, her singing and acting giving much strength to the whole of the work; another distinguished artist in the cast was Miss Kitty Gordon, who wore several lovely dresses, she found great favour as the adventuress lion queen, and among her musical pieces was one, given very pleasingly, dealing with her calling; much credit was due to Miss Alice Pollard for her winsome Daisy. Included among the most humorous characters was that of the baronet-footman, capitally depicted by Mr. Willie Warde; while Mr. Vernon Davidson helped greatly as the earl, employed in the capacity of groom. The whole play went with a swing and was charmingly mounted.

Shakespeare Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wentworth Croke; Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney.—*Peter Pan* returned here this week for a fortnight's stay, and large audiences extended to Miss Pauline Chase a most flattering reception. That little lady's picture of the boy who would not grow up was as delightful as ever, and she certainly won the appreciation of all to the greatest degree. Miss Gertrude Lang played Wendy in proper fashion, making the rôle a most natural one; Mr. Rob Harwood enlivened the play with his comical Captain Hook; Mr. George Shelton as Smee lent great assistance in the matter of creating fun; Mr. Stanley Logan and Miss Sybil Carlisle were the parents, whose other children found pretty exponents in Master George Hersee (Napoleon) and Master Herbert Hallom (Michael); while Miss Ninon Dudley and Miss Nellie Bowman pleased as Tootles and Nibs.

Rotunda Theatre.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—Here during the week Miss Mary Neil and Mr. George Kirk presented *Her Luck in London*, which afforded satisfaction to large audiences. Miss Neil repeated her powerful assumption of Nellie Harborne, winning loud applause; Mr. Douglas Cecil made a striking Fitzgerald O'Connor; a carefully enacted rôle was that of Stephen Harborne by Mr. T. Lionel Ellis; Miss Beatrice Hudson gave the utmost satisfaction as Lilian Harborne; Mr. Walter Mann did every justice to the character of Lenowen; Miss Florry Groves (Shovepenny) and Mr. J. W. Melrose (Jerry) were responsible for the comedy; Miss Amy B. Ellis did well as Mrs. Harborne, and Mr. Douglas Tremayne acquitted himself excellently as the Rev. Lionel Strong.

Star Theatre. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—A hearty welcome was given here this week to Chalmer Mackey's capital Irish play, *Rollicking Rory*, and large audiences richly enjoyed the great fund of humour shown by Mr. Mackey, who assumed the title-rôle. As Mrs. Ashleigh Mrs. Mackey earned much favour; Mr. Wallace Campbell played strongly in the part of Stephen D'Arcy; Mr. Richard Hutton made an admirable Captain Ashleigh; the character of Shaun Brady was done justice to by Mr. St John Stuart; Mme. Constance Bellamy as Peggy O'More sang several Irish ballads in most pleasing manner; Miss Nana Flensburg proved a merry Rosie Callagan, and danced and sang with taste; and Mr. J. P. McBride made an admirable Desmond Fitzgerald. The Bioscope pictures shown by Films, Ltd., were much appreciated.

Empire.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—George Gilbey has been foremost here this week with his capital songs and business, the reception given to him being highly flattering A smart military episode, entitled *Drummed Out*, which met with great acceptance, came from A. C. Lilly and company, the artists including Messrs. W. G. Blunt, Leo Lilly, Fred Thompson, A. C. Lilly, and Miss Gladys Rose-Jones, Miss Lillie Leigh, and Miss Stella Charteris; Ian Colquhoun, a baritone, possessed of an excellent voice, rendered to the general satisfaction several national character songs; Burke, Andrus, and Frisco caused much laughter with their spectacular absurdity, *Trafalgar-square, London, 4 a.m.*; that pleasing little ventriloquist, Miss Maude A. Edwards, earned loud applause; the St. John submitted an acceptable turn as musical comedians and dancers; the hand-jumping acrobatic work of the Steineretto Troupe was watched with interest; Fred Edwards and company, including Miss Bertha Northam, amused greatly with their funny *Kleptomaniacs*, and Silvo showed skill on the musical glasses and chimes.

Queen's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.—Here during the week we have had *Human Nature* presented by Mr. R. A. Beaton's company, including Mr. S. Herbert Humber as Captain Temple.

Lyric. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—Here this week in big type was Madie Scott, whose taking songs got hold of the house; Kitchen and Lister's company had a most entertaining dramatic sketch, *The Sundowner*; the always popular Harrigan and Holt were heartily welcomed; a smart comedy acrobatic turn came from the Hyde and Cody trio; H. C. Lovell and company presented a neat musical comedietta, *Mlle. Pompom*; a pretty song-scena was submitted by Miss Minnie D'Aubyn; Richard Fineberg gave several well-presented studies from famous plays; Nat Clifford had a rousing reception for his new songs, "The Bullfighter" and "Living Pictures"; and Lena Leslie, comedienne, also appeared. The Thursday matinée here is a big success.

Royal Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—The Six Brothers Luck gave their merry sketch *Lift 'ems, Ltd.*, which was received with unbounded delight; George French, freed from Glasgow pantomime, visited Liverpool again to be greeted by his many friends for his very humorous songs; Hal Godfrey and company presented the amusing item *A Very Bad Boy*; the Arthur Gallimore Troupe of comedy artists were received with applause; as comedy and wire-trick cyclists, Johnson and Devere gave an excellent show; an appreciated musical novelty was provided by the Four Canadians; Parker and Parr sang and pattered in capital style; and also in the list were Stuart and Evans, refined comedians; the Vasilescu Troupe, and Tom Lowen, comedian.

Royal Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—*The Rich and Poor of London*, by Max Goldberg, has during the week been given here by the stock company.

Westminster.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—Lena Stanton and Harry Joseph's pantomime of *Aladdin* has been the attraction here this week. Miss Annie Rose held the title-part; Mr. Rex Kempton was the Widow Twankey, and specialities were introduced by the Gibson Girls, the Sabot Trio of vocalists and dancers, the Bros. Shephard with a comic boxing act, and the La Dore Troupe of classic acrobats.

Olympia.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton.—The leading line here this week has been the favourite, Whit Cunliffe, who had a big reception for his latest ditties, "Exercise" and "Nobody's satisfied"; the Stockham Grecian band gave an admirable performance; Fred Ginnett and Wal Pink's company pleased generally with their sketch *The Beacon Bell*; that clever little entertainer at the piano, Ray Wallace, earned a most flattering reception; Arthur Kenny's sensational cycling was watched with close interest; an amusing and clever turn was provided by Harry Lickson's dogs; as juvenile instrumentalists, Dorothy and Alexander showed a deal of talent, and contributions also came from Ugo Nap, and Fayre and Manning, comedians.

Pavilion.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—Top of the bill here this week we have had Dinah Morris and company with the very entertaining sketch *A Yankee Girl in Dahomey*; Billy Merson kept his audience in a merry humour; the juggling by the Wallys was skilful and pleasing; a refined and picturesque gymnastic act came from the Mars Trio; Will Willis had some amusing songs; the dancing of Wynnie Darrell earned that able artist loud applause; and also in the list were the Sisters Mawdsley, juvenile duettists and speciality dancers; George Hyam, comedian, and Nellie Rose.

Grand Tivoli.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jasper Redfern.—Harry Burns's very funny pantomime *Robinson Crusoe* has put in a second week.

Park Palace.—Lessee, Mr. Jasper Redfern.—The series of animated pictures shown here have continued to please. During the week they were supplemented by the following artists:—George Bernard, with song dramas; Evelyn and Norrie in the sketch *Set a Thief*; 'Appy Alpho, ventriloquist; Chant and Chant, comedians; the Sisters Varley, duettists, and the Itrams, with an acrobatic pot-pourri.

New Century Picture Hall.—Proprietors, The New Century Animated Picture Company, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter W. Hook.—Good business continues to be done at this favourite place, the constant change of films giving something new each week. Those shown recently included The Fisherman's Daughter, Sights and Customs in Egypt, Rifle Bill, and humorous pictures.

LOWESTOFT.—Marina.—Manager, Mr. E. A. Smith.—*The Power of the King* is appearing here this week for the first time locally. It is well staged, and the situations are well worked up.

Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—The popular form of entertainment here is hugely enjoyed by large and delighted audiences nightly. Surrey and Carlton figure prominently in their sketch, *The Blind Boy*, Miss Kitty Maynard appearing to advantage in the name-part; Charles Cole, Lily Butler, Day Rey, and Dan Rodney all contributed to a successful bill. The Bioscope is also a powerful factor.

LUTON.—Grand Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Resident-Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard.—Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds is this week presenting *Woman and Wine*. Mr. Edmonds appears to advantage as Dick Seymour; Mr. Harry Harrop as Charles Santer is really clever, and Mr. J. Milne Taylor is pathetic as the blind man; the part of Mary Ragadout is ably portrayed by Miss St. Elmo, as also is the character La Colombe by Miss Octavio de Noel; Miss Ethel Vinroy as Janet Marlow deserves a word of commendation, and an attractive exhibition is furnished by the Lottie Stone troupe of whirlwind dancers.

MACCLESFIELD.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—Miss Loie Esmond and company are here with *The Sorrows of Satan* and *Nana*, the former being presented on Monday. As Prince Lusio Rimanez, Mr. Edward Neville gave a most sardonic representation; Mr. F. Douglas Howard made an ideal Geoffery Tempest; Amiel was capably undertaken by Mr. E. Holland Day; Morris was well played by Mr. Edwin Ramsdale; Mr. J. Le Fleming did well as the Earl of Elton; Miss Rosie Neville's acting as Lady Sybil Elton displayed ability; Miss Loie Esmond admirably fulfilled the requirements of the part of Diana Chesney, and as Mavis Clare Miss Gladys Hastings Walton did creditable work. *The Green-eyed Monster* preceded.

MAESTEG. — Town Hall Theatre.—Lessees, Poole's Theatres Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. G. F. Knowles.—Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's play, *Her Secret Lover*, is being presented here this week by Mr. Thompson Carruther's company. Mr. Cecil Grey gives a forcible rendering of Gilbert Seymour; Mr. Arthur Preston as Captain Darrel Rose plays in a convincing and earnest manner; Mr. Millar Anderson very creditably depicts the villainous John Strange; Mr. Milnes Noble gives a capital portrayal of Mr. Murfield; Mr. Eric Campbell as Juan Burley creates a deal of laughter; Miss Mabel Mannering acts with intelligence and emotional power the part of Ivy Seymour; Alicia Royale is cleverly impersonated by Miss Amy Ellam; as Jane Maria Wilkes Miss Beatrice Reynolds causes roars of laughter. Other parts are well sustained by talented artists. The piece is staged and dressed on a most elaborate scale, and does great credit to Mr. Carruther.

MANCHESTER.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees, the the United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edmondstone Shirra.—A fairly good house witnessed the performance here on Monday of *A Message from Mars* by Mr. Fredk. Mouillot's company. The piece proved highly entertaining in the hands of a very well-chosen cast, the principal successes being gained by Mr. Wallace Widdicombe as Horace Parker—a clever rendering; Mr. William H. Brougham in a persuasive depiction of the Messenger; Mr. Robert Grey as the American, Mr. Dicey; Miss Rose Helene, who impersonated Minnie Templar very nicely; and Miss Winifred Knightly as Horace Parker's aunt. Many other parts were neatly and effectively handled, and the piece had all the advantages of good staging and wonderful electrical effects.

Prince's Theatre.—Proprietors, the United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—A second week of the D'Oyly Carte répertoire company is welcome fare at this theatre. In addition to a number of the popular operas played last week, a performance of *The Pirates of Penzance* was given with great success on Tuesday, and on Thursday a fine rendering of *Patience* varied the programme.

Gaiety Theatre.—Proprietor, Miss A. E. F. Horniman; Manager, Mr. B. Iden Payne; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edwin T. Heys.—Miss Horniman's company revived St. John Hankin's comedy *The Return of the Prodigal* here on Monday, and the abundant talent of the cast assured, as usual, a capital entertainment. The outstanding feature was Mr. Basil Dean's impersonation of the central figure, the contemptible Eustace Jackson; but the character is far less pleasing than even the firm, commercial Henry, played remarkably well by Mr. Lewis Casson, or the snobbish father, depicted by Mr. Charles Bibby with his customary force and skill, or, again, the supercilious Lady Faringford, played excellently by Miss Sybil Thorndike. Among the more likeable personages, Miss Ada King was especially successful as Mrs. Jackson, Miss May Saker played Violet with considerable sympathy, and Miss Hilda Bruce Potter was charming as Stella; while Mr. Edward Landor's character sketch of Dr. Glaisher was a welcome piece of comedy. A new play in one act, *Going on Parade*, preceded. See notice elsewhere.

Royal Osborne Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Mason.—Mr. T. Edward Ward presents here this week C. Watson Mill's romantic play *The Love of the Princess*. Mr. Wilson Coleman as Prince Conrad and Mr. E. H. Tobell as the decrepit and palsied King Josef stand out prominently, and an ideal performance as Princess Idalia is given by Miss Maisie Hanbury. Miss Olive Lloyd makes a charming Lady Irene, and Miss Nellie Graham as Constantia, a Sister of Mercy, is noticeably good. It is hard to discriminate where all is so admirably well done, but praise should be bestowed also upon Mr. Beckett Bould's depiction of Lieut. Orlans, the Lieut. Zaroff of Mr. Douglas B. Watson, the princely impersonation of the Regent of Navarra by Mr. Graham Winsford, and Mr. E. Ibeson's virile rendering of the traitor, Count Nicholas. The play is notable for its power and its freedom from undue sensationalism.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Dry.—A return visit of Messrs. Glenville and Osmond's company in *A Soldier of France* is the attraction here this week. Mr. F. Rivers as Corporal Jean is very effective, and Miss Beatrice Shirley as Pauline Lorraine is an engaging heroine. Mr. G. Kennedy adds a strong delineation of Judas Delara; Mr. E. Hobart's dual character of Capt. and Lieut. Lorraine is well done; and acceptable comic business is provided by Mr. F. Edwards and Miss Maggie Hobart.

Grand Junction Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Brearley.—Messrs. Hinton, Green, and Zillwood's company are here this week in *Her Fatal Marriage*. Mr. Arthur Hinton gives a fine performance as the villainous Zaco Malletto, and an equally effective rendering of Myra Malletto is provided by Miss Ruth Zillwood, who is admirably suited to heroic rôles. Mr. Norman Tracey plays Wilfred Grey in good style, and Mr. Gerald Byrne gives a very clever depiction of the half-witted Paul. Amusing work is added by Mr. William Bailey as Jim Rogers, and by Miss Laura Wright as Dolly Dimple.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—The Johnson v. Burns fight is shown here, rather wearisomely long, on the Bioscope, and Herbert Darnley's sketch, *The Mandarin*, which will improve with time, is also prominent. De Canty's "Water Grotto," an electrical spectacle, is pleasing; and other smart turns are the McConnell Trio of vocal sketch artists; Walter King, the doleful comedian; Eily Adair, Irish comedian and dancer; Frank Sylvo, comedy juggler; Dennis Drew, in a Territorial scena, assisted by a number of clever youths; and the Sisters Simms, in a vocal and dancing act.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—Mr. Norman Wrighton presents here this week a patriotic playlet, entitled *Wake Up, England!* The characters are all well sustained by Mr. H. Scott-Russell, Miss Maud Stuart, Mr. Richard Norton, Mr. Frank Harding, and Mr. Norman Wrighton. Mme. Madeleine De Noce, prima donna of the Grand Opera, Paris, sings beautifully, and is well received; the Griffiths Brothers score, as usual, in their excellent burlesque wrestling skit; Joseph Hart's *Rain Dears*, including Miss Neva Aymer, in a fine musical and dancing novelty, with unique effects, are delightful; Nell Emerald makes a hit in song and dance; Victoria Carmen, a refined comedienne, sings pleasingly; Lydia and Amelys are excellent Parisian dancers; Albert Rees is a capital drawing-room entertainer; and Gaumont's Patent Chronomegaphone is realistic. Bioscope pictures complete.

Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Manager, Mr. A. J. Carter.—Madame Albani, the famous singer, is here this week, and meets with a deservedly great reception. She is ably assisted by Mr. Victor Marmont, accompanist, and Herr Zakovsky, the renowned violinist. Emerson and Baldwin go through an exceedingly smart eccentric juggling act; Max Gruber introduces with success his performing elephant, horse, and pony; Herr Zakovsky's violin selections are exceptionally fine; Hillman and Russell sing well in *The Somnambulist*; Fred Hastings, comedian, makes a hit; Fyne and Hurley, as the coster and the dude, are very amusing; and the Sisters Herbert are very pleasing duettists and dancers. Up-to-date pictures are also shown.

King's, Longsight.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. R. Trippett.—*Send Him Victorious*, played by Mr. Montague Beaudyn's company, is here this week, still engaged in the successful entertainment of local audiences.

Tivoli.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Esther Palliser, the well-known prima donna, is the top star here this week, and meets with a fine reception. Ethel Newman is exceedingly good in a new comedy monologue *The Widow*; Fred Herbert scores, as usual, as a topical vocalist; Nita Kelly gives a unique performance as an equilibrist on the trapeze; Beatrice Lindley is good in songs at the piano; the Carlyles are very clever whirlwind dancers; the Leonas give a pleasing musical act; Billie Burford, comedienne, has some good chorus songs; and an unnamed eccentric comedian appeared on the occasion of our visit as deputy for Julia Reeve, comedienne, and made a big hit.

Queen's Park Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—Wild, Willie, and West are here this week, and provide plenty of amusement with their bounding and knockabout business. Sydney Brandon, a youthful character impersonator, is exceedingly good; La Belle Duchess presents with success intelligent horses and high-jumping dogs; Ruhart, ably assisted, amuses with a smart burlesque vaudeville act; Vanando, a clever ventriloquist, has some smart talk; Adela Crispin is a dainty musical comedy artist, her rendering of "The Sunshade Girl" being much appreciated; Angus Strong, baritone, has a good voice; Jack Hartley, comedian, and Harry Kirk, comedian, are good; and the Saxony Sisters gain great applause for their wooden-shoe dancing. Pictures complete.

Hulme Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thos. Baker.—The Lyons Trio top the bill, and give a smart turn as pantomimists and dancers. Clown Barker introduces clever animals with great success; Lillie Le Main in a neat and pretty speciality *The Living Marionettes* is good; Bains and Reed cause much laughter in a clever tumbling act; Sig. Arvi gives an astounding mystery act; Beattie Foster, comedienne, makes a hit; Cyril Dane is a neat light comedian; Wallace Whitney, character comedian, is popular; Armiens gives a good musical scena; and Ben Silvo is a smart gymnast and clown. Troubles of Childhood, shown on the Bioscope, is a good film.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessees, The South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Albert Jackson.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchson's company is here with *Lady Frederick*. Miss Eleanor Delaporte made a success with a clever impersonation of the title-rôle; Mr. Robert Minster gave an excellent study of Paradine Foulder; Mr. W. Barnard Parker played with briskness the rôle of Sir Gerald; Lord Mereston was cleverly enacted by Mr. E. F. Meade; Miss Celia Gordon acted effectively the part of Lady Mereston; Mr. Edward Bonfield as Captain Montgomery was good, as was also the Admiral Carlisle of Capt. Gerald Gambier. Miss Lynne Fontanne pleasingly depicted the part of Rose Carlisle.

Temperance Hall.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—The programme includes Lockhart's well-trained elephants, the five X Rays, justly described as the mad athletes; the Aribos in a sensational novelty; the Jollions, in a vocal scena, *The Spider and the Fly*; De Nebos; Johnny Dwyer, versatile comedian; the Della Sisters, in their latest London successes; the Four Goldins in a carpet spinning speciality; and Cave Burnett, actor-vocalist. New films are shown on the Biograph.

MEXBOROUGH.—Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Miss Marie Dagmar's company is this week presenting the drama *The Tyrant*. Mr Roy Fortesque gives a vigorous portrayal of the title-rôle; a fine study of Homodei, the avenger, is submitted by Mr. Norman E. Overton; Prince Rudolph has a dignified exponent in Mr. Ed. E. Lewis; Pan is capably sustained by Mr. T. Ashmore; as Victor and Nobbs, Mr. Frank Etheridge and Mr. Tom J. Taylor are responsible for enjoyable comedy; Miss Marie Dagmar displays her well-known artistic gifts as Tisbe; the character of Lady Catherine is treated with great ability by Miss Frances Waring, and the rôle of the unfortunate Eulie is exceptionally well played by Miss Lallah Shelton.

New Picture Hall.—Lessee, Mr. Will Hunter; Manager, Mr. E H. Jones.—Leading features in the programme here this week are a fine dramatic film The Road to Ruin, and a capital detective picture, Nick Carter

MIDDLESBROUGH.—Grand Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. E. Jowsey; Manager, Mr. W. K Chatto.—*Her Forbidden Marriage* is interesting audiences here, and Mr. H. Lonsdale and company are popular.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. C. Imeson.—*The Old Home* has a story full of pathos. Miss Gertrude Bonser, Miss Annette Jeins, Messrs. Fred L. Connynghame, Roland Yorke, and Charles Franmore play their respective parts with success.

Empire Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. Alf Mattison; Manager, Mr. Chas. B. Rembges. — Good entertainment is to be found in the programme at this place of amusement. Tom and Marie Motramo, in an amusing sketch, prove themselves artists of exceptional ability; the Kellinos submit a clever risley speciality; Beaty and Blanche, Rose and Challoner, Alexandra Dagmar, Wisper, Beattie Bloom, and last, but not least, J. A. Wilson, the well-known entertainer, assisted by his dog, Private Towser, all contribute to an enjoyable bill.

Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Manager, Mr. Nichols.—Haley's Juveniles are a troupe of highly-trained children; a clever turn is given by the Kurios; Miss Carlotta Levey's turn is appreciated and enjoyed; Miss Hilder Bowker is a successful vocalist; and Dene and Dawson create much merriment in their sketch, Stage Aspirants. Esta Stella, the Military Maid, and Harry Luck, comedian, also do well.

MOTHERWELL.—New Century Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hales.—Mr. Fredk. Melville's company is this week paying a return visit with *The Ugliest Woman on Earth*. Miss Beatrice Homer is excellent in the title-rôle, and Mr. Philip Darien is equally good as Jack Merryman; Mr. Leyton Cancellor does well with the unsavoury character of Hubert Gold, his accomplice, Antonio Luchesi, being aptly rendered by Mr. Leonard Hacking. A pretty bit of character acting is given by Miss Violet Macaree as an Italian girl; Rose Courtenay is capitally rendered by Miss Gertrude Harrison; and Mr. William de Brigord does well in the small part of Tom Redvers. A word of praise is due to Miss Nellie Jackson and Mr. Freddie Bently for their really excellent comedy acting as Aggie Brown and Tubby Harrick respectively.

NEATH.—Gwyn Hall.—Lessee, Mr. J. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. J. W. George.—The Neath Excelsior Dramatic Company presented *Current Cash* here on Tuesday in aid of charity.

NEW BRIGHTON.—Winter Gardens.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. H. E. Jones and A. Douglass.—On Monday another excellent programme was submitted here. Mr. R. H. Douglass, fresh from his great success in the Liverpool Court Theatre pantomime, gave two or three of his clever original sketches, and was again and again called before the curtain, and eventually had to respond to a fourth encore. His success was decided and pronounced, and he occupied the stage for thirty-five minutes. A most welcome return visit of Mr. Leo Carle, the quick-change artist, gave universal satisfaction. Another immediate success was made by the Four Vagabonds in their mirthful musical melange. Ducalim is responsible for a neat and original equilibrist act on ladders, and the Veroniques present a humorous sketch, *The Lady Typist and the London Messenger Boy*. Miss Gwennie Morgan and animated pictures complete.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—This is the last week of Mr. Robert Arthur's brilliant and successful pantomime *Aladdin*. Amongst those who have helped in this huge success, special mention should be made of Misses Fanny Fields, Violet Lloyd, Doris Dean, Maud Thorne, and Florence Hersee, and Messrs. Harry Tate, Malcolm Scott, Regan and Ryan, Horace Lane, and Harry Claff.

Tyne Theatre and Opera House.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—This week we have Messrs. George Edwardes and Charles Frohman's company in *A Waltz Dream*. Miss May De Sousa makes an unmistakable hit as Franzi (leader of the ladies' orchestra), acting with passion and charm, and singing with sweetness and expression; Miss Ethel Cadman gives an artistic rendering of the Princess, and delights the house with her exquisite singing; Miss Amy Augarde is effective as Friedrike; Miss May Marton makes a vivacious and amusing Fifi; Mr. John Humphries meets with a good reception, his easy and amusing style being admirably suited to the part of Joachim XIII.; Mr. Wilson Pembroke as Lieut. Niki furnishes an ideal representation, all his songs being encored, the melodious waltz in particular; while Mr. Leslie Holland extracts a great deal of humour from the part of Count Lothar. Mr. Willie Warde, jun., is very quaint as the waiter, Max Bauer; and Mr. John Hamilton is well suited as Lieut. Montschi. Other parts are ably played by Miss Mary Hamilton, Mr. Albert Kavanagh, and Mr. Langford Kirby. The chorus and augmented orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Hamish MacCunn, are excellent.

Palace Theatre.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—Mr. Frederick Melville's company in *Her Road to Ruin* is here this week on a return visit. Miss Beatrice Edwards as Jess gives a brilliant rendering of a difficult and exacting part; Miss Nellie Bonser's portrayal of the Lancashire girl is highly successful; while the rôle of May Willoughby is enacted in a charming manner by Miss A. Bowes. Mr. H. Walston submits a powerful impersonation of Frank Temple; the Bishop is presented with due dignity by Mr. Dane Clark; Mr. A. Bradley as the villainous Philip Hardy is well placed; Mr. Duncan as Tom Wells and Mr. V. R. C. Moore as Charles Cholmondeley make the most of their parts.

Grand Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Bolam; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. E. Linney. — Large houses are witnessing Wilson Barrett's drama *Claudian*. In the title-rôle Mr. William Maclaren is admirable, his acting being powerful and convincing; whilst Almida is played with ability by Miss Lily C. Bandmann.

Empire Theatre.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. W. Kilgour.—Prominent on the bill are Eli Hudson and Olga and Elgar, who give a most refined and clever musical act, which proves immensely popular; Kara, a juggler of more than usual skill, provides a most entertaining performance; a novel and refreshing turn is contributed

PAVILION THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—*The Tomson Mystery* heads an excellent bill here this week, and other artists appearing are Nellie Wallace, Joe Nightingale and Arthur Stigant, Ted Moxon Trio, Juno Salmo, Ferris and May, the Florias, and W. T. Ellwanger.

SKATING RINK, EXHIBITION BUILDINGS.—Manager, Mr. Fred B. Crowe.—The skating rink proves a most pleasant retreat this stormy and unsettled weather, and is daily attracting new patrons. Everything possible in the way of comfort is provided, and rinking has now become an institution.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—*Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch* is being presented to good houses here this week. The central figure is delightfully enacted by Miss Augusta Haviland. Miss Armine Grace plays Miss Hazy with a touch of the grotesque that in itself is pathetic; Miss Beatrix Bell showed the spirit of aggressive spitefulness in the part of Mrs. Eichorn; Miss Violet Chamier's Mrs. Schultz is another good study; and Miss Winifred Murray does splendidly in the part of Miss Lucy; while Miss Dorothy Clifton's Lovey Mary is simple and sincere. Miss Mary Nybloc, Miss Mimi Le Clair, and Miss Marie Stella are exceedingly lively as Asia, Europena, and Australia; Mr. Burton Cooke provides a good character study of Mr. Shibbins; Mr. Francis Chamier's Mr. Wiggs is amusing; and Mr. Guy Addison made the best of Mr. Bob. The Hunkerdunkus Jones of Mr. Forrester Harvey is lively; Mr. Colston Mansell and Mr. Lawrence White do well as Billy Wiggs and Chris Hazy; and Mr. Harry G. Wright dances smartly as Deacon Bagsby.

EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. O. Stoll.—The Coloured Meisters sing sweetly; Daisy Jerome, "the electric spark," is a host in herself; and Rex Fox, a good ventriloquist, is also an adept on the slack wire. Jack Lane, the Yorkshire rustic, is applauded; the Delevenes as Flipp and Flopp provide a turn that is acceptable; and the Lupinos, eccentric comedians, Frances Letty, wooden shoe dancer, and Lupino Lane, comedian, all receive warm recognition. The Bioscope, showing excellent films, completes.

NORTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and J. E. Cardwell's company is attracting large audiences here this week with *The Babes in the Wood*. Miss Daisy Wood makes a capital Robin Hood, her excellent singing being a special feature of her impersonation; Little Peggy McDonnell and Little Cissie Wyse as the Babes, Leslie and Marjorie, are much appreciated; Miss Jennie Hughes shines as Fairy Dewdrop, and Miss Dolly Dodds is a charming Marion, her singing and dancing being loudly applauded. As Baron Strangeways Mr. Neil Hardy is very funny; Mr. Jimmie Watson causes hearty laughter as Lucinda Lovejoy; Mr. J. G. Aitken makes a hit as Sandy Simple; Mr. Harry Leander proves a capable Friar Tuck; and Messrs. Graham and Barron as the ruffians, Willing and Weary, are very clever. Some capital dancing is introduced by Levy and Caldwell's Troupe of International Dancers, and the Marguerite Quartette; whilst the chorus and augmented orchestra, under the directorship of Mr. H. B. Levy, perform in capital style.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. William Mould.—Mr. J. W. Hall, the popular comedian, heads the bill here, and has come in for his usual hearty reception; the Three Coopers, comedy vocalists, are very entertaining; Miss Eddie Cascelli excels as a banjoist; and Morimura, Japanese magician, presents a clever act; Little Georgie, the boy comedian, is smart; the Three Sisters Volka, in *My Birthday*, are very pleasing; and the Pictures are excellent.

NORTHWICH.—PAVILION.—Proprietress and Manageress, Mrs. P. Fletcher.—Glyn and Glyn present a taking turn in their vocal patter and dancing act, entitled *The Captain and the Maid;* "Sunny Boy" is a good delineation of coon songs; Miss Nell Desborough is a *chic* comedienne; Will Hardy, comedian, does well; and Erle and Godfrey are expert instrumentalists. The Bioscope new pictures are entertaining.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. Eugene C. Stafford's excellent company in *The Private Secretary* pays a welcome visit here. Mr. Douglas Price-Evans was as droll as usual as the Rev. Robert Spalding; Mr. W. Hargreaves gave every satisfaction as Mr. Cattermole; Mr. Fredk. Tyrrell was good as Mr. Sydney Gibson; Mr. Herbert Garthorne was successful as Douglas Cattermole; and Mr. Alex. Begbie equally so as Harry Marsland. Mrs. Alfred Davies deserves praise as Miss Ashford; Miss Dulcie Conrey was a pleasing Eva Webster; and Miss Nan Macrea appeared with success as Edith.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—A capital programme is provided here. Clarissa Talbot and Albert Pearce in a Japanese singing duologue are pleasing; Ralph and Nellie Howard display ability in their act *Military Mad;* Pete and Minnie Lee score in their comedy act *The Scotsman's Visit to London;* Shaun Glenville and company in their sketch *The Art of Deception* create fun; Maude Mortimer is a favourite comedienne; Lily Lonsdale sings pleasingly; Willie Gardiner is a clever roller-skate dancer; and Ernie Myers evokes laughter with his comical patter.

NOTTINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—The visit of Mr. Forbes Robertson and Miss Gertrude Elliott in *The Passing of the Third Floor Back* has aroused great excitement, and the house on Monday was packed by an eager and enthusiastic audience. As the "Passer-by" Mr. Forbes Robertson is splendid, his fine diction and dignified presence contributing towards an ideal performance; Miss Gertrude Elliott develops Stasia on delightfully humorous lines, and is as artless and amusingly sly as the character demands; Mr. Ernest Hendrie invests the part of Joey Wright with earnestness and power; and Chris Penny is agreeably played by Mr. David Powell. Miss Haidee Wright assumes the affectations of Miss Kite with charming naïveté; Miss Keith Lytton as Mrs. De Hooley and Miss Agnes Thomas as Mrs. Sharp give artistic portrayals; Miss Kate Carlyon makes an excellent impression as Mrs. Tompkins; and Mr. Ian Robertson well portrays the utter meanness of Major Tompkins. Admirable work is done by Mr. Edward Sass, Mr. Wilfred Foster, and Miss Amy Brandon Thomas. *A Play in Little*, written by Mr. Ian Robertson, precedes.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Harry Upton.—*The Fatal Wedding* is being well presented by Mr. Percy Williams's company. Mr. Cecil A. Melton gives a well-studied and effective reading of Howard Wilson; Miss Ethel Kay is amply gifted to portray the emotional part of Mabel Wilson, and gains sympathy for her embodiment; the tigrish nature of Cora Williams is capitally suggested by Miss Elaine Vanbrugh; Mr. W. H. Garbois' portraiture of Robert Curtis is a skilful piece of work; Mr. J. Newton is good as the clergyman; Miss Lulu Wohlmann makes an important "little mother"; and all the children's parts are ably filled. The large element of fun is sustained by Mr. Harry M. Vernon as Toto, Mr. Frank Ashley as a Policeman, and Mr. Cyril Melton as Schwartz.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—Karno's comedians are a constant source of merriment in the sketch *G.P.O.* Headed by that inimitable comedian, Fred Kitchen, the combination keeps their audience in continuous laughter. Alice Pierce gives her impressions of star artists with charming grace and artistic merit; the musical turn of Van Allen is enlivened by clever fooling and patter; and the songs of Austin Rudd are rendered with plenty of spirit. Percy Parrimond, the singing collier, gains hearty applause; and vocal items are also contributed by Primrose Harding and Edith Brown, the latter lady playing her own accompaniments. Moon and Morris are experts in comedy and dancing; and the Bioscope concludes.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—The main attraction here this week is Mr. Arthur Roberts in the humorous sketch *Till Sunday;* a wire act of a sensational description is presented by Kartelli; and a mixture of clever cycling and quaint fooling is a very enjoyable turn by Harry and Tyler. Jack Barker in his mimetic monologue is distinctly good; a comedienne of unusual merit is found in Miss Annie Heath; the Ted Curtis Trio of singers and dancers are above the average; and a novel Risley act is the one executed by Will Douglas's Troupe, entitled *The Bakers' Beano*. J. G. Scatter, dialect comedian, sings and chatters in an amusing manner; and Brull and Hemsley and Sibb and Sibb add no little to the enjoyment of a good programme, completed by Bioscope Pictures.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietors, Theatre and Entertainments Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Brown.—Mr. C. Watson Mill's company is here with *For Love and the King*. Mr. C. W. Mill makes a forcible Jarvel; Mr. John Burton as Michael Obrenovic, and Mr. Henry Earlesmere as Valdimir Obrenovic fit their parts exceedingly well; Mr. Villiers Stanley is good as Prince Uros; Mr. Geoffrey Chate as Duke Ferdinand and Mr. A. H. Leslie as Kosta Marco are well suited; and Mr. J. K. Woods gives a carefully studied rendering of the German artist, Carl. Miss Rosalind Tate as Princess Athene is seen to advantage; Miss Joan Ellis does good work as Natalie; and Miss Lily Wynter as Grazia and Miss Francis Tierney as Edith Meredith deserve praise.

OLDHAM.—GRAND THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Mayall.—Mr. Herbert Ralland's company is here with *His House in Order*, playing to large audiences. Mr. J. Herbert Beaumont, in the character of Hilary Jesson, is the recipient of much applause; and Miss Elise Roberts as Mina, who acts in a very clever manner, also has a good reception. Miss Avis Grahame is very successful as the dignified Lady Ridgeley; and Miss Victoria Wray is capital as the austere Geraldine. Miss Katie Neville is a smart Mlle. Thome; and Miss Peggy Rae is clever as Derek Jesson. Mr. J. Parish Robertson makes an excellent Filmer Jesson, M.P.; Mr. Langford Browne as the pompous Sir Daniel is most capable; and the same may be said of Mr. Dudley Stuart as Pryce Ridgeley. Mr. Richard Dalton is very amusing as the outspoken Dr. Dilnott; and Mr. Randolfe Reade is a capital Major Maurewarde.

COLOSSEUM THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Wm. Eastwood.—*Two Little Drummer Boys* is played by Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company. Miss Maggie English as Eric Carsdale is excellent; and Miss Maudie Douglas is equally good as Jack Smith. Miss Mary Ainslie is a sympathetic Alma Kingsley; and Miss Violet Ingram as Margaret Rivers is well suited; Mr. Harry Scott is a manly Capt. Frank Carsdale; Mr. Oswald Douglas is a vigorous villian as Capt. Darrell; Mr. Edward Bikker plays Gen. Kingsley in a well-balanced style; Mr. Wilson Holmes is very good as Jim Barker; Mr. George Turner makes a capable Rev. John Rivers; and Mr. Tom Beasley is a capital Lieut. Allen Kingsley. Miss Elsie Dene in the part of Molly Meadows is responsible for clever comedy; and she is ably supported by Mr. W. Percy as Quiney O'Quirke and Mr. D. Seddon as Timothy Trimmer.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—Jenny Johns is as popular as ever with her catchy songs; Mr. Paul Barnes proves a very entertaining monologuist; the Bensons provide a neat vocal and musical comedy act; and in Haley's "Garden of Girls," excellent singing and skilful dancing are introduced. John Leopold's comedians cause screams of laughter in *The Houseboat;* the American Pattersons are smart in their novelty trampolin bar act; the Twin Andersons have a neat dancing act; and Edie Anderson is a dainty comedienne and dancer; Fred Casburn does well with funny patter; and the Bioscope has an amusing picture.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter De Freece; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. Thorne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. Sharrocks.—Madame Alice Esty, the well-known prima donna, sings with telling effect selections from her excellent répertoire; Radford and Valentine, in their comedy juggling act, cause much amusement; Leslie and Stevens are excellent in a capital comedietta; the Max Milian Trio give a skilful equilibristic turn; Kitty Cameron is smart in song and dance; Tony Iveson, at the piano is entertaining; Hal Berte is a good comedian; and Burley and Grean are a capable eccentric tumbling duo. The Palace pictures are interesting.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Kilrow.—W. J. Churchill has a pleasing reception for his breezy songs and patter; Hayes and Merritt give a clever act on the bars; and Walter Bellonini's juggling act achieves great success. The Six Albyns are good in a miniature musical comedy; the Lannons sing well and dance cleverly; Madoline Rees is a dainty vocalist; and the Brewster Troupe perform their drill and do speciality dances with good effect; Ernest Montefiore and company act well in *The Little Colonel;* the Davies and Gledhill Trio do some daring cycle riding on rollers; Fremel and Fremel are capital eccentric comedians; and Robbie Roy is a good Scotch comedian.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. L. King.—The living pictures continue to attract good houses.

OXFORD.—NEW THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. C. C. Dorrill; Assistant-Manager, Mr. G. T. Lucas.—On Monday Mr. Stanley James's company, including Mr. C. H. Croker-King and Miss Mary Carnegy, opened here with *My Wife*, which was very favourably received. Mr. Croker-King, an old member of the Oxford University Dramatic Society, had a most flattering reception on his appearance, and played the part of Gerald Eversleigh with a crispness and finish that delighted all his old admirers here; Mr. James Gelderd well backed him up with a most amusing rendering of the Hon. Gibson Gore; and the parts of M. Dupré, René Falandres, Baron Grandos, M. Valboure, M. Potin, and Davies, the butler, all found excellent exponents in Messrs. C. Brooking, V. O. Crabtree, A. Percival, Stanley Killby, L. Hansen, and F. Stoney. Miss Mary Carnegy was very charming and fascinating as Trixie; Miss Katharine Harrington was an effective and handsome Miriam; and the Misses Olivia Edwards, Barbara Fenn, Winifred Beadnell, and Dorothy Mayhew all appeared to advantage as Mrs. Denham Lane, Baroness Grandos, Mme. Dupré, and Marie. *My Wife* was preceded by *The Vengeance of Jim*, in which little Miss Beryl St. Leger appeared with much success as the child, Maggie.

EAST OXFORD THEATRE.—Lessees, East Oxford Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Stuart.—Mr. Dickie Clare's company is here with *Lucky 'Liza*. Mr. Walter T. Hybert enacts the dual rôle of Silas Slim and the French waiter, "Why," with conspicuous ability; whilst Mr. Dickie Clare is intensely amusing as the Judge. Mr. T. W. Benson gives a finished and natural rendering of Peter Pettitoe; Mr. J. W. Forrest does well as William Biffins; Mr. Harry George is seen to advantage as Barnaby Bladderwick; and Mr. Martin Alwyne is especially good as Paul Pettitoe. Miss Evelyn Wood is graceful as Sadie Potts; Miss Helen Douglas makes an effective Marie Pettitoe; Miss Violet Hurley is full of life, dances well, and is very sprightly as Vergina Bladderwick; while Miss Vesta Brownie scores with a bright and clever impersonation of Eliza Bird (Lucky 'Liza). Dances are contributed with great success by La Belle Trio.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—The boards for the first three nights of the week were in the occupation of Mr. Edward Compton and his company in three plays of their répertoire—*A Reformed Rake, Davy Garrick*, and *The Scarlet Coat*. The first-named comedy was performed on Monday night, and the rôle of Harry Jasper, B.A., was handled by Mr. Compton in his characteristically artistic manner; Mr. Henry Crocker was admirable in his assumption of Mr. Thornton; Adolphus Thornton was well and efficiently played by Mr. Ivan Leslie; Frederick Adderley was skilfully treated by Mr. Henry Worrall; a fine portraiture of Andrew Wylie was furnished by Mr. W. Johnston; and Mr. Philip Gordon in his embodiment of Matthew was excellent. Miss Kathleen Leigh as Joyce Thornton acted with natural charm and grace; the part of Mrs. Thornton was neatly and effectively presented by Miss Constance Merton; and Miss Viola Compton showed high accomplishments in her delineation of Arabella Mountstuart.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Stead.—The Harmony Four top the bill here this week in their clever and original musical comedy act, and cause no end of laughter, their antics being screamingly funny; a musical turn of a high order is given by Phern and Phern, comprising selections on various instruments; Shrillo, operatic whistler, gives a delightful entertainment; Jukes and Earle, harmonising duettists and dancers, come in for a hearty reception, their dancing being particularly smart; Edith Chantler, juvenile vocalist, provides some excellent singing; Chorley and Connor make a big hit as patter comedians and dancers; Carl Volta does some wonderful conjuring tricks; D'Artagnan, the equestrian lion, with his poodle pet, performs in a manner which elicits admiration; and the Hippodrome Bioscope is entertaining with capital pictures.

PEMBROKE DOCK.—TEMPERANCE HALL.—*The Merry Widow* was presented here on Monday and Tuesday by Mr. Geo. Edwardes's company, under the direction of Mr. J. A. E. Malone. The piece is excellently mounted and dressed. Miss Daphne Glenne, in the title-rôle, proved a charming actress, and sang delightfully; Mr. Alec Worcester's Prince Danilo was an excellent impersonation; Mr. H. Sinclair Cotter as Baron Popoff was successful; Mr. Harry Emeric as Nisch was really good; and as Vicomte Camille de Jolidon Mr. Arthur Geary deserves equal praise; Mr. Tom H. David as Marquis de Cascada, Mr. Spencer Lloyd as M. de St. Brioche, Mr. Cecil Warwick as General Novikovitch, Mr. C. L. Steward as M. Khadja, and Mr. Clinton Reynald as the Waiter at Maxim's all deserve credit. Miss Violet Hobson gained general admiration as Natalie; Miss Mabel May did some pretty dances as Frou-Frou; Miss Beatrice Maude, Miss Alice Humphrys, Miss Ethel Darsley, Miss Beatrice Willis, Miss Neste Laurel make captivating Maxim Girls; and delightful impersonations were also given by Miss Enid Forde as Prascovia, Miss Mary Florence as Sylvanie, and Miss Eileen Clanford as Olga.

PERTH.—THE PERTH THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—The drama *Driven from Home* was here for three nights. Mr. Felix Pitt was highly successful as Anthony Raybrook; Mr. P. George Beresford well realised the part of Walter Hatherleigh; Mr. Charles Burdon as Geoffrey Waring was clever; Mr. Percy Dawsone was a popular Willie; Mr. Fred C. Imbert scored as John Anderson; Mr. Harry Cornwall was a very good Jabez Thomas; Mr. Edward Finlay as Dick Saunders was effective; and Laura Raybrook was well sustained by Miss Ada M. Ryder; Barbara Ashdown, Raybrook's housekeeper, Miss Kate Walfred as Fanny Jones, Miss Susie Bevan as Margaret Bailey, afterwards Mrs. Anderson, Miss A. Williams as Mrs. McCarthy, Miss Florence Wilson as Peggie, Miss Madge Muriel as Jane, and Miss A. M. Ryder as Walter Hatherleigh, the younger, all filled their parts in capital style. Mr. Edward Compton and company are to be here for the last three nights of this week, and will produce *A Reformed Rake, The Scarlet Coat*, and *Davy Garrick*.

PETERBOROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Winter; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. Watson.—Messrs. Sutton and Raynor's company opened here on Monday with *Moths*. Mr. Cecil Wynne is an ideal Prince Sergius Zouroff; Mr. Raynor is well suited to the part of Lord Jura, his acting being decidedly clever; Miss Henrietta Schrier in the rôle of Fuschia Leach achieves success. The part of Lady Dolly Vanderdecken is well acted by Miss Lilian Kevill-Davies; Mr. Leonard Laurence is good as the Duke of Mull and Cantire; Mr. Conrad Heywood makes the most of the character of Raphael de Correze; the Duchess de Sonnaz of Miss Cecilia Dare is all that could be desired; Miss Dorothy West-Symes as Vere Herbert is worthy of special mention.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards; Manager, Mr. Percy Hart.—The chief turn is that of F. V. St. Clair, who is making his first visit to Peterborough, and is quite successful; Little Victoria is a dainty comedienne; and a capital act is furnished by the Royal Delomes, duettists and dancers. Prof. Buer's educated talking donkey keeps the house in good humour; Charlie Jerome, the American speciality artist, also submits a good item; Lulu Evans, a talented comedienne, and Horace White, the ventriloquist at the piano, have a flattering reception; Hippodrome pictures complete.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—Mr. Geo. Dance's company presented *Havana* for the first time locally on Monday to a crowded house. To Miss Daisie Irving the leading part of Consuelo is entrusted, and a better choice could scarcely have been made; Miss Gladys Guy as Anita displays wonderful dancing powers which are fully appreciated; as Nix, the melancholy boatswain, Mr. Mark Lester furnishes a clever study; Mr. Tom Seymour as Reginald Brown, in addition to being a first-rate comedian, sings and dances excellently; Mr. Cecil W. Parke is well placed in the sentimental part of Jackson Villiers; and Mr. Ray Russell is smart and lively as the Hon. Frank Charteris.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—In the absence of Mr. Sam Mayo, the Ten Dark Knights furnish some well-rendered vocal selections; Joe Reichen's Dog Show is truly wonderful; Harry Tomp's patter is much enjoyed; Miss Adah Payne is an accomplished vocalist; Dacey and Lewis find favour with a comedy turn; and Miss Daisy Hicks is a graceful comedienne.

PONTEFRACT.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Tom Diacoff.—Harry Tate's No. 1 company, in the comedy sketch *Motoring*, is highly appreciated, and deservedly so. There is still another sketch, *Ferdie's Ma-in-Law*, which for clever comedy and witty lines is almost unique. Mlle. de Rose has a phenomenal voice, and is assisted by Hilda Claremont, a soprano, who sings with refined taste; Lillie Luraine is a specialist in the way of wind instruments, and the Sisters Delmore sing and dance daintily; J. F. Franklin makes some amusing references to life in gaol; Cliff Owen has funny quips; J. H. Hawtrey sings stirring songs; and Daisy Maholne is everything to be desired as a comedienne. Then there are the pictures.

PORTH.—THE PALACE.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole; Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—The chief place in the bill here is occupied by Les Ventrix, with *The Garden of Terpsichore*, which is greatly appreciated; Caban's Circus is a rare treat, the animals being well trained; Elton and Elma have a first-class triple bar performance; Massona scores a success as a comedy juggler; Hughes and Elliott meet with a good reception in their singing and dancing act; Mona Garrick gives excellent representations of scenes and characters in various plays; Oliver Conroy is a great favourite; and Georgina Leno is a very refined comedienne.

PORTSMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Although by no means the first visit with *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch*, Mr. Gaston Mayer's company met with a cordial reception from a delighted audience. In the title-rôle Miss Gertrude Irving played with charm and ease the cheery optimist Mrs. Wiggs; poor Miss Hazy was amusingly impersonated by Miss Rita Carlyle; Lovey Mary had a sympathetic exponent in Miss Margaret Shelley; Mr. Stubbins received a characteristic impersonation from Mr. Fred Forrest; the matrimonial agent was capably played by Mr. Edward A. Coventry; and the rest of the cast was in efficient hands. The piece was well staged.

PRINCE'S.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Agate.—Another of Walter Melville's plays and company occupy the boards this week, during which *The Girl Who Wrecked His Home* is being staged. Miss Louise Hampton by clever acting keenly interests the audience in Bertha Marshall's misfortunes; Mr. Fred Goddard admirably impersonates the husband Jack Marshall; Mr. Edward Thane capably plays the scoundrel Leonard Kenyon; Miss Winifred Whyte doing well as his accomplice Val Raymond; Mr. Francis Hope and Miss Nellie Burdette as Tommy Biffen and Tottie Primrose are responsible for the lighter side of the play, and Mr. Herbert Goddard's rendering of the brewer Henry Stevenson is a good one.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Capt. E. H. Warren Wright; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. A. Maddox; Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—The keen attention of a packed house was concentrated on Dr. Walford Bodie's wonderful demonstrations in the practice of electricity. Besides presenting former local objects of his care he proceeded to treat fresh cases of paralysis, and finished up with an amusing display of the comic side of his art. Wee Mona Vivian is a clever little dancer and mimic; the Maro Duo perform some capital feats on the triple bars; an amusing farce *Two to One* finds scope for energetic acting by Mr. and Mrs. Finden; the Four Parisian Girls excel in song and dancing; the Bros. Curran display their prowess in the boxing act *Taking the Census;* and a welcome turn is that of Teresa da Silva, vocalist and burlesque.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris; Assistant-Manager, Colonel F. Roberts.—The star turn in a strong programme is the Great Roland, who quite mystifies the audience; *The Dandy Millionaire*, a musical farce prettily staged and dressed, is presented by Mr. Edward Marris and a strong company; Jordan and Harvey's Hebrew dialect is amusing; Miss Dora Lyric has a fine stage presence; L. W. Harris, Harry Russon, Kendrick and Laura are pleasing turns. Films showing the advance of the Russian ships into harbour and subsequent landing of the men are interesting.

PRESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, the Executors of the late W. Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—Mr. Brandon Thomas's company is here with *Charley's Aunt*. Mr. Theo. McCausland Stewart is a typical Colonel Sir Francis Chesney, Bart.; and Mr. Roy Byford is exceptionally good as Stephen Spettigue. As Jack Chesney and Charles Wykeham, Messrs. Robert Burnett and Hastings Lynn are both excellent, and act with plenty of spirit; Mr. Arthur Chesney is well suited as Lord Fancourt Babberley, and keeps the audience in a roar of laughter with his vagaries as Charley's Aunt; Mr. Sydney Compton is well suited as Brassett. Miss Vere Gerald is an excellent Donna Lucia, and Miss Sylvia Morris a winsome Ella Delahay; as Kitty Verdum Miss Estelle Winwood is vivacious and attractive; and Miss Ethel Fifield is a bewitching Amy Spettigue. The interesting one-act play by Brandon Thomas, *The Colour-Sergeant*, is given as a curtain-raiser.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Fred Granville's company in the drama *The Better Land* is here this week. Mr. Leonard Aardale acts with much ability as Philip Radcliffe; Mr. Stanley Radcliffe in the character of Hubert, his brother, enacts the part of the polished villain to perfection; Mr. Leonard Marshall as George Grant gives a vivid impersonation of the hunted criminal; Mr. Bert Dench is amusing as Tom Tadpole; Mr. Guy P. Ellis is capital as Detective White; and Mr. G. F. Hughes is excellent as Bill Bones. Miss Gerty Moodie as Harry and Miss Emily Entwistle as Tessa are two clever child actresses; Miss Agnes Collier is to be congratulated upon her rendition of the part of Mercedes; Miss Bella Moody causes much laughter as Polly Perkins; Miss Violet Vivian wins applause for her capital portrayal of Aunt Jemima; whilst Miss Maud Stewart Drewry wins fresh laurels for her very able rendering of the trying part of Doris.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—Coram, ventriloquist, tops the bill this week, and proves himself a first-class entertainer; Lennard and Vereker, in their illustrated songs, prove a pleasing turn; the Three Cascaellas, comedy tumblers, given a capital act, concluding with the "human chain"; Charles Baldwin's company appears in a laughable sketch entitled *The Merry Wives*, which attains its object in raising hearty laughter; the Days, in their second-sight entertainment, are distinctly clever; Little Tichbourne, "the little lump of comedy," proves himself a clever big-boot dancer; A. H. Drinkwater, swell comedian, contributes some catchy songs; Jack Crawley has a novel act, *Lights Out;* Tiny and Mite are wonderfully clever child vocalists and dancers; Walter Ellis presents his comic scena, *Captain Duncan and His Airship*, in which Bob Barbour and Harry Danby cause much merriment. The White Suit on the Bioscope concludes.

RADCLIFFE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Boothman.—A change is made this week by introducing a variety show. One of the attractions is G. de Relwyskow, winner of the Light-weight Wrestling Championship of the World at the Olympic Games, London. Bert Wickham, the world's champion all-round athlete; Kavados, the incomparable juggler; Rozel, a very fine gymnast; E. W. Selman, comedian; Flo Melville and Ivy Gallard, comediennes and dancers, also add to the entertainment of the audience.

RAMSGATE.—ROYAL PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; Lessee, Mr. Ernest Mansell.—*The Eve of Her Wedding* is played in good style by Mr. Wilson Benge's company. Mr. Benge appears with distinct success as George Tremain and Miss Sadie Smith sustains the rôle of the heroine, Mavis Leverton, admirably.

RAWTENSTALL.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; General-Business-Manager, Mr. A. R. Feather.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's company is here this week with *Mother*, which is performed with great feeling and power. Mr. Harry Foxwell gives a realistic impersonation of the bluff, honest skipper, Duncan Fairweather; and Mr. Alex Alexander makes an effective Frank Rodney. Mr. Sidney Leyton is an excellent impersonator of the villain Stephen Carrington; Miss Thorne Hallam as Nellie Fairweather gives a talented portrayal; and Miss Blumenthal as Mrs. Martha Fairweather is successful. As Polly Crumpet Miss Lily Alexander gives a vivacious interpretation; and Miss Kathleen Hunt is a capable Mrs. Bagot. Miss Marie Holmes as Little May is very clever; Mr. Teddy Myles is a comical Tommy Noblets. The scenery is good.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Benton.—The musical play *Butterflies* is being presented this week by a strong company, which includes Mr. Harrison Brockbank, whose fine baritone voice is heard to great advantage in the character of Puck; Miss Annie Heenan is a charming and vivacious representative of Rhodanthe, the witch; Mr. Edwin H. Wynne gives a clever impersonation of the infatuated stockbroker, Christopher Podmore; Mr. Johnnie Wilkinson is highly diverting as Yarker, the chauffeur; Miss Lilian Wesson is very pleasing as Elsie Podmore; Miss Ada Davidson is good as Mrs. Podmore; Miss Edith Joyce as Salome, Mr. Arthur Edwards as Paul, Mr. Alan Mudie as Peter, Mr. Cyril Riadore as Max all sustain their parts well. A special feature of the performance is Miss Millie Gordon's graceful rendering of the classic "Danse du Papillon." The Parisian corps de ballet of eight also give a spirited terpsichorean display. The scene of the Butterflies' Ball is exceedingly artistic and the costumes very effective. There is a full opera chorus and augmented orchestra, Mr. Thomas Gray being an efficient musical director. The company is under the personal direction of Mr. Wilfred Cotton. A well-attended special matinée was given on Wednesday.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. E. Draco.—The Hungarian actor-violinist, Jan Rudenyi, and company provide a most attractive turn this week, in the form of a musical romance entitled *The Power of Music*, in which Jan Rudenyi displays his marvellous power as a violinist, his performance being most rapturously received. Victoria Glen is a pleasing comedienne; the Wedburns give a quaint and humorous dialogue and instrumental turn; Great Scott gives a clever ladder and juggling act; Tom Jones, the Welsh comedian, contributes two amusing songs; Miss Bartenelli is "caught bending" in a clever contortionist turn; Keen and Waller go through some clever acrobatic tumbling; and Harry Russell and company create much hilarity in their comedietta *Binks's Blunder*. The usual Bioscope pictures complete an excellent programme.

A roller skating rink is about to be opened in Vastern-road. The season commences Monday.

ROCHDALE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Burton.—*A Soldier's Honour*, the attraction here, is presented by Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company. Mr. T. Arthur Ellis fills the rôle of Captain Deane with good effect; Captain Gerald Temple is capitally played by Mr. Wm. Vane; Mr. Andrew Money cleverly sustains the villainies of Henry Thornton; Mr. Henry Rutland is a convincing General Rochester; and Mr. Harry Lyndon an amusing Percy Brattle. Miss Iza Lyndon is an effective Gwendoline Temple, and Miss Edie Trapnell an ingenuous Queenie Deane; Miss Violet Langley enlists sympathy in the part of Doring Illingworth; Miss Edie Macklin is bright as Jemima Eliza; and Miss Lilla Wilde in the leading part of Cora Lee is excellent.

THE EMPIRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—Nellie Coleman, who tops the bill here, evokes roars of laughter; the Channings submit a pleasing and refined vocal and instrumental act; Lozern performs some clever sleight-of-hand tricks, and other good turns are Fred Dornan, comedian; Fred Poplar, comedian; Princess Pauline, comedienne; Kitty Wager, vocalist; Abalo and Hurst in *The Sportsman and the Shoeblack;* and the Empire Bioscope pictures.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Jackson Family; Business-Manager, Mr. Jno. Jackson; Resident-Manager, Mr. James Jackson, sen.—Ye Colonial Septette in *An Olde Tyme Hallowe'en* present a pretty and most acceptable musical act; the Mezzettis, in their comedy gymnastic act, *The New Recruit*, display clever acrobatic feats; the New York Nippers, in comedy act *Bedtime*, are entertaining; Cestria is an amusing juggler. Alice Lingard, comedienne; Little Zola, comedian; Dave Carter, Irish tenor; Belmoir Sisters, comediennes and dancers; and the Hippodrome pictures complete an enjoyable programme.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—*Her Nameless Child*, by Madge Duckworth and Ridgewood Barrie, is meeting with considerable success. Mr. J. W. Evelyn sustains the character of Anthony Ford with dramatic power; Arthur is well portrayed by Mr. Sidney C. Cranston; Mr. Arthur E. Pringle ably plays the part of Lord Henry Woodville; Mongrole is very successfully presented by Mr. Frank Thompson; Mr. Larry Clements as Tom Rivers and Miss Renie Douglas as Bessie Brooks are responsible for much laughter; Miss Pattie Hastings does well as the unfortunate Phyllis Ford; Lady Sybil Woodville is made effective by Miss Mona Grey.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; General-Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—Harriett Vernon heads the bill, and her excellent performance is much enjoyed; Leslie Bros. in *Music

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—New Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. Wallace Childs.—*The Little Breadwinner* is again being successfully presented here by Mr. J. A. Campbell's company. Lord William Dorrington finds a dignified exponent in Mr. J. Monkhouse; as Richard Lawrence Mr. Reginald Brown gives a manly portrayal; the scheming Joseph Prior is satisfactorily drawn by Mr. Alfred Maurice; Charles Prior is humorously sketched by Mr. Sydney Lynn; much of the success of the production must be credited to Little Irene, who as Meg, the little breadwinner, captivates the audience; Margaret is sympathetically treated by Miss Josephine Richards; Bridget is capably played by Miss Clara Hunt; as Kate Cherry Miss Millie Ford is entirely successful; Ruth Cherry is charmingly played by Miss Kitty Melville; Miss Letta Young as Bobby Trot adds materially to the humour of the play.

SHEERNESS. — Hippodrome. — Proprietors, Hippodrome Co.—*The Catch of the Season* opened on Monday for three evenings. It was admirably presented by Messrs Dudley Bennett and T. C. Wray's company. The Duke of St. Jermyns was ably impersonated by Mr. William Greene; Angela was prettily played by Miss Dorothea Clark; Bucket was successfully portrayed by Master Ernest Grata; Miss Grace Hampton was distinctly good as Lady Caterham; and Lord Dundreary was cleverly taken by Mr. Joseph Bruce. The two Sisters were ably impersonated by the Misses Barry Eldon and Kate Robertson; and Miss Claire de Vere was successful as the Duchess.

SHEFFIELD.—Lyceum Theatre.—Managing Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—*The Sins of Society*, magnificently staged and presented with a good cast, has done excellent business this week.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. Henfrey Aldred.—Miss Maud Hildyard's company opened on Monday to a large audience in *The Great Awakening*. Miss Hildyard's charm and dramatic ability combined to make the character of the beautiful and fascinating Lola an interesting and convincing study; Miss Lillian Deane's Molly Merton was invested with grace and sweet womanly dignity; Mr. Bernard Copping did good work in the dual rôle of Sir Henry and Jack Merton; and other well-played parts were Mr. Charles Ashwell's Captain Lambert, Mr. Wallis Clark's James Selby, Mr. Gifford Reynolds's Richard Wilson, Mr. Gordon Laws's Guy Rogan, Mr. Willie Scott's Billy Brass, and Miss Bellingham's Selina, the two latter causing amusement in their low comedy scenes.

Alexandra Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—Mr. Walter Melville's new play *The Beggar Girl's Wedding* is being performed here this week by the author's principal company. Leading characters are well sustained by Miss Vashti Wynne, Miss Doris White, Miss Anita Playfair, Miss Olive Warne, Miss Meynard, Mr. Frank McLennan, Mr. Herbert Lloyd, Mr. E. G. Batley, Mr. D. Cartwright, Mr. G. Vernon, Mr. H. Playfair, Mr. Herbert Morgan, Mr. J. C. Taylor, Mr. H. Kenny, and Mr. Otto Minster, who appears to advantage as Jack Cunningham.

Empire Palace Theatre.—The Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—The pantomimic absurdity *Our Smoking Concert* is rattled through amid roars of laughter by Mr. Fred Karno's clever troupe of comedians. First-rate performers who also contribute to the gaiety of the Empire are Mr. Tom Edwards (ventriloquist), Mr. Walter Aubrey, Mr. Phil Parsons, the talented Vetter Brothers, Miss Linette Robarty, the Rawsons (in an original act), Mr. Will Cornish, Miss Maisie Hibbs, and the sensational Bioscope drama England Invaded. First-rate pictures conclude.

The Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr Thos. Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. D. Elbourne. The dainty and accomplished artist Miss Decima Moore appears in a musical comedy skit, and the diverting comic singer Mr. Harry Ford is here with new songs. Others engaged are Mr. James Piper, the clever Zenary Brothers (in a novel act), the Primrose Quartette, Paul Vandy (a smart society juggler), Mr. Joe Conway, Mr. Fred Hobbs, the Auers (novelty performers), and Mr. Arthur Reece (the popular vocal comedian). The Barrascope concludes.

Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. A. W. Turpin.—A capital picture entertainment nightly meets with the approbation of large audiences.

Surrey Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Howson.—Good comic turns are engaged here, and business is excellent.

SHREWSBURY.—Royal and Hippodrome.—Lessee and Director, Mr. W. Yates Gregory; General-Manager, Mr. Thomas Baugh; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. B. Parkinson.—There is a tip-top variety programme here this week, including the special engagement of the wonderful Yokohama troupe of Japanese acrobats and entertainers, with their startling and almost incredible rope-sliding and ladder-balancing on foot feats; T. W. Barrett, an old and tried footlights favourite, vastly amuses with his eccentric comic singing; Harl is an accomplished juggler; France and Francis are really smart acrobatic comedians; Smith and Johnson give a novel and clever show, their vocalism being praiseworthy; Vera Mayne merits encomiums; and Palette has a capital studio act, displaying artistic ability of the lightning order, and being assisted by his well-trained dog "Max." Two interesting moving pictures are Love and War and He Who Arrives Late.

SMETHWICK. — Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. C. Barnard; Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson.—*The King and the Unknown Woman*, as is usual with all Mr. Hill-Mitchelson's plays, is most interesting. It is presented by a strong company. In the difficult part of the Countess Melveitch Miss Muriel Inglis displays ability; Miss F. Conyer Radcliffe as the adventuress Zora gives a clever performance; Miss Norma Dumayne is seen to advantage as Else: and little Elsie Clarke as Cæsar is delightful. Mr. James Stillwell is a natural and dignified Prince Loris; Mr. Stephen E. Scanlan a stage villain of powerful attainments; Mr. W. R. Winning acts the character of General Platz with much effect; and the comedy is admirably brought out by Mr Cyril Harrison as Captain Gara, Mr. William E. Passmore as Corporal Stack, and Miss Cissie Podmore as Schnapps.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—Empire Theatre.—Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Directors, Messrs. Geo. Conquest and Richard H. Nervey; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—*Through the Divorce Court*, as told in four acts, each prettily and tastefully staged, is being played here by Messrs. Henry Chattell and Jack Denton's company. Mr Cecil A. Collins makes a typical English peer as Lord Robert Penarth; Lady Dolores Penarth as entrusted to Miss Katherine Carew is creditable as the divorced wife; Sybil is well taken by Little Genna Lyndon; and Mr. Cyprian H. Matthews works well as Guzman di Mendoza. Mr. Jack Denton evokes the heartiest laughter by a clever portrayal of Algy Fitzmaurice; and Miss Edith Cruikshanks as Lady Hilda Fitzmaurice and Miss Pattie Groves as Miss Rachel Dobbins give every satisfaction. Mr. Henry Colbeck is decidedly amusing as Patsy Rafferty, as also is Miss Nellie Sheffield as Dinah.

SOUTH SHIELDS. — Theatre Royal. — Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—Mr. Fredk. Melville's company appears here in *Married to the Wrong Man*. Mr. Oswald Gray delineates the part of Captain Gladwin convincingly; Captain Deering and Jasper Skinner, the villains, are ably depicted by Mr. H. Lane Bayliff and Mr. C. Vivian; Miss Gertrude Boswell as Ruth, the dumb witness, makes the part stand out prominently; Miss Dorothy Haigh is good as Rose; and the comedy element is supplied by Mr. Syd Cladon as Timothy Clinker and Miss May Davis as Dolly.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Proprietors, South Shields Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—Mr. George Leyton in a military scena *Lucknow*, assisted by some local survivors of the Indian Mutiny, is received with great applause here. Another welcome turn is Carter Liveesey and Lillian Rosebery in *The Would-be Actors*; the Falcons are clever comedy acrobats; Spry and Monti in a nonsensical turn do well; and other good items are Percy Hannen, American tenor, Robusto, Billy French, wooden shoe dancer, Arthur Gill, original singing yokel, and the Bioscope.

STAFFORD. — Lyceum Theatre. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Elphinstone.—A bright and rollicking sketch, played by a crowd of able artists, entitled *The Cruise of H.M.S. Victory*, tops the bill, supported by Edna Francis, a dainty singer; Dennis McCarthy, in a very smart speciality scena, *At the Bar*; Miss Lena Page, a vocalist of real ability; the Gentrys, with their "bits of everything"; and the ever-new Bioscope pictures.

STALYBRIDGE. — Hippodrome. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Fioni; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. A. Jackson.—Messrs. Cullen and Carthy must be complimented upon the manner in which they produce their pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*. Miss Bessie Cohen is a spirited Robin Hood; Miss Ruby Roya daintily enacts Maid Marion; and other parts are capitally undertaken by the Misses Nellie Edwards (Fairy), Cissie Spencer, Nellie Amphlet, and Dorothy Vasey, Messrs. F. Melville, Arthur V. Stratton (Baron), Little Cluley (a mite of humanity who undertakes the secretarial duties of the Baron), and many others. The songs are the most recent published, and the specialities and scenery are excellent.

ST. HELENS.—Theatre and Opera House.—Proprietors, St. Helens Theatre, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. A. McLeod Loader; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harry E. Johnson.—*The Madeira Maid* is here this week. Mr. Charles Carey as No One in Particular has a breezy manner that is very taking; Mr. Harold Perry, with some good songs to sing, acquits himself successfully in the part of Jack Danby; as the father of many daughters Mr. Eno Downe is capitally taken by Mr. W. E. Mathews; and Mr. W. Layard does well in the character of Martin Smith. Miss Madge Lacey is an accomplished dancer, and introduces with great acceptability the Waltz Dream Dance in the part of Maidie; Miss Marie Ault extracts a tremendous amount of fun out of Mary Ann Chovey; Miss Jessie de Gray fills the rôle of Mrs. Amelia Downe to perfection; Miss Georgie Wallis dances and sings nicely as Veda Downe, and looks pretty. The chorus do themselves credit in their rendering of the tuneful music, and the piece is excellently staged.

Hippodrome. — Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Leo. Weisker.—A picture of the Johnson-Burns encounter is displayed here. Gus Garrick, with his comicalities, finds much favour; Cora Corina is seen in some fine dances, and Maxey and Pete give an exceedingly smart performance on cycles; Harley and Melton provoke much laughter, and the Godfreys play cleverly on several instruments. The Three Behans and Helm and Cozens are also on the bill.

STOCKPORT. — Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—*The Crimes of Paris* has quite suited the popular taste here this week. Mr. Clavering Craig as Pepin Cardel admirably portrays many characters; Mr. Alfred D. Adams makes a thoroughly efficient Viscount de Vismes; and Jules Mantel is effectively acted by Mr. Kendrew Milson; Miss Marie Barrett sympathetically fills the character of Angele Martel; La Belle Helene has a capable representative in Miss Flora Hastings; and Miss Christine Bickerstaff acquits herself creditably as Lizette.

Empire.—Proprietors, the Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—Ada Fawn, comedienne, is the chief attraction here this week, and is as popular as ever. Among others appearing are Thomas and Taylor, who are amusing in their scena *Fun on the Midland*; Alice Blandford, a pleasing vocalist; Hewitt and May, in an entertaining musical act; Folay and Francis, mith-provoking patter comedians; Francis Drew, whose vocalism is appreciated; George Reeves, a comedian of ability; and the Richards Trio in a clever and amusing acrobatic sketch.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES. — Castle Theatre. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Charles Imeson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cecil Imeson.—Mr. George Alexander's company is presnting *The Thief*. Miss May Congdon gives a fine portrayal of Marise Chelford, and is perfectly natural; as Isabel Leyton; Miss May Dibley is charming; Mr. Grendon Bentley as Richard Chelford is most commendable; as Raymond Leyton Mr. Gerald Ames played with distinction; the part of Harry Leyton is well played by Mr. Alfred Lugg; Mr. Cyril Cattley is prominent as Mr. Protheroe. In the one-act play *A Nursery Governess* Mr. Percy Marmont, Mr. Cyril Cattley, Mr. Frank Elton, and Miss Elsie Davison gain considerable applause.

Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stainton—Miss Florrie Gallimore is the leading turn here this week, her popular songs being greatly appreciated. Cedar and Elgar, in a comedy act, *Ye Dayes of Olde*, take well; Les Voces, duettists, sing in good style; Thiessen, with his acrobatic dogs, receives loud applause; little Vesta Dawson is a promising juvenile performer; Brothers Esdaile, comedians, have some good patter; Craig, Rose, and Craig are daring gymnasts. The Bioscope concludes with An Indian's Romance and His First Chemical Experiment.

Grand Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—Mr. M. Montgomery's stock company presents here this week the historical drama *A Fatal Crown*. The leading characters are ably sustained by Messrs. Stanley S. Gordon as Lord Guilford Dudley, Frank S. Strickland as Simon Reynard, Leslie Nolan as Earl of Northumberland, Miss Nina Vaughton as Lady Jane Grey, and Miss Lina Naseby as Mary Tudor.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Miller; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. Moroney.—An entertaining exhibition is that provided by Maurin's Fairy Fountains, the effects produced by various coloured limes being most beautiful; the Four Burnells pay a return visit with their musical and comedy scena, which causes much amusement; a smart and clever gymnastic act is contributed by the Krags; Lise Rolland is a graceful equilibrist. Also to be noted are Happy Attwood, Marie Kay, Kenway and Emery, Arthur Pier, and the Bioscope.

The Victoria Institute.—The New England Animated Picture Company commence their spring tour here with new pictures and illustrated songs, and should prove a popular attraction.

STOURBRIDGE.—Alhambra Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Douglas C. Phelps; Manageress, Miss Maude Lynton.—This week we have Mr. Ernest Bodkin's company with *The Thief*. Mr. Paul Lovett submits a fine piece of acting as Richard Chelford, and Miss Kathryn Stocks as Marise Chelford is entirely successful; Mr. Ernest Bodkin imparts a wonderful amount of pathos to the character of Raymond Leyton; Mr. C. W. Lindsey wins the sympathies of the house, and deserves special mention for his able interpretation of Harry Leyton; as Isabel Leyton Miss Mary Forrester throws just the right amount of energy and feeling into her portrayal; Mr. T. Taylor Vinson as Mr. Protheroe deserves a high meed of commendation; Mr. Jno. Chester makes a good servant. The play is preceded by *The Man in the Street*.

Town Hall.—This week we have C. W. Poole's Myriorama and vaudeville company. Eight tableaux of Trafalgar are the hit of the panorama. Amasis, the Egyptian illusionist, and his two assistants, give a smart show; the Banzai troupe of Japanese acrobats furnish a capital act; Harry Raymond is a first-class step-dancer, as also is his little daughter; Willie Dean is a comedian who convulses the audience; the Seven Bramusas deserve special mention for their turn as a juvenile brass band. The Bioscope and Cinephone complete.

SUNDERLAND.—King's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. S. F. Davidson; General-Manager, Mr. Alexander Telford; Treasurer, Mr. L. Crawford Orr.—Mr. John Clyde and his company are here in *Jeanie Deans*. The double of the Duke of Argyle and Counsel for the Defence was capitally taken by Mr. John Clyde. As Dumbiedykes Mr. W. G. Robb was successful; Mr. George Hunter does well as David Deans; Mr. D. Bain gives a capital impersonation of Reuben Butler; Black Frank and Tyburn Tom are capitally taken by Mr. George Elliott and Mr. J. Oswald; Miss Lena Levenstone gives an artistic impersonation of Jeanie Deans; Miss Ella Gennett supplies a sympathetic rendering of Effie Deans; and Miss Mary Allan is good as Caroline, as also is Miss Belle Cecil as Madge Wildfire.

Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Hy. Esden; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Dunn.—Mr. A. Clifton Alderson's company is presenting *The Coal King* here this week. Mr. A. Clifton Alderson takes the part of Tom Roberts, the young mine manager, in which he gives one of the finest portrayals seen at this house. Miss Joan Wellman as Mad Ann, a village character, showed unmistakable skill; another clever lady is Miss Winifred Love, whose rendering of Grace Shirley was an excellent performance; Sir Reginald Hartford was well done by Mr. Ulick Burke; Walter Hartford was in the safe hands of Mr. Escott Robson; a capitally-depicted rôle was that of Dick Shirley, and Mr. Frank Dalton gave it a fine rendering; and Miss Max Hinton and Mr. Sam Roberts as Araminta Green and Jim Williams were most diverting.

Empire Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—This week we have the Achmed Ibraham Troupe of ten Bedouin Arabs, whose performance creates a sensation. The juggling feats of "the great Weiland" are clever and humorous; Arthur Lennard, comedian and actor, was the recipient of tremendous applause for his contribution "One of the brave old Guards"; the Two Anartos, musical comedians, gave a capital turn, and kept the house in a god humour; Edie Endon, comedienne, gave some capital acrobatic dancing; the Tre'ntavoni Sisters gave a good gymnastic act; Hilda Jacobsen, burlesque actress, gave two songs in good style; and Mike Nono, the Irish cowboy, submitted some smart dancing.

Avenue Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. Foulkes-Edwardes.—The principal picture is entitled Invasion, and is particularly interesting and descriptive. The reproductions of the Summers. v. Britt boxing competition and the replayed Cup-tie Sunderland v. Newcastle are enthusiastically received, and "Round the Lake Constance" is a capital spectacular trip.

Palace Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Henry N. Phillips; Resident-Manager, Mr. Francis MacDermott.—The conversion of this theatre from Bioscope to variety (under the same management—Mr. Phillips, of the New Era Bioscope Co.) is of interest, and the management is to be congratulated on securing so capital a programme for the first week. Rameses heads the bill with his mystifying act "The Egyptian Temple of Mystery," and his varied disappearances and productions create wonderment. A Bou-Kou, the famous Chinese juggler, also gives a popular turn, his juggling being particularly original; Miss Chrissie Francis and company show considerable histrionic ability in a pathetic sketch entitled *His Father's Teacher*; Professor Newman submits an exceedingly popular ventriloquial act; May Gibson renders some pretty songs in an excellent manner; Fred Costin, comedian, makes himself extremely popular with his audience; and Dave Syms gives some capital exhibitions of mimicry. The Foresters are good in a comedy sketch, *Brought to Her Senses*, and some capital items are depicted by the Ruffelscope.

SWANSEA.—Grand Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks; Acting-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. Walter Page.—Not for some time has such a reception been given to any artist as was given to Mr. Percy Hutchison this week at the Grand, where he is appearing as Monty Brewster in *Brewster's Millions*. The audience on Monday was not content with the usual recalls, but insisted on a speech. It was a worthy tribute to remarkable acting. Mr. Hutchison is excellently supported by Miss Lilias Earle, who was distinctly good as Mrs. Dan de Mille, and Miss Cicely Stuckey was the sweetest Peggy imaginable.

The Star.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company is at the Star this week with *Bound to Win*. Philip Ayre was played by Mr. Nayher Grimson, who brought out the villainy of the character well, and Mr. Franklyn Harcourt as Ned Oakley was also good; Squire Forbes was well impersonated by Mr. Ernest C. Edwards; Miss Nancy Roberts made a charming heroine, and Miss Violet Quest showed real cleverness as Gladys Crene.

The Empire. — Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—Mr. Fred Ginnett's sketch *Hunting Morn* provides really good entertainment; Ella Retford, with new catchy songs, at once goes well, and Miss Marquis' cobs give a wonderful exhibition; Bertha Stuart's singing fairly brings the house down, and Frank Hartley, though young, has not much more to learn of the art of juggling; the Three Welsh Girls harmonise sweetly in illustrated numbers, and Orpheus plays various instruments in a masterly manner; Walter Wade is an acceptable comedian, and the Bioscope completes.

TON-Y-PANDY. — Royal.—General-Manager, Mr Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ridgewood Barrie.—This week Mr. Douglas Bruce presents *The Girl Who Lost Her Character*. Mr. Edward McLean is all that can be desired as the Rev. Robert Everton; Mr. C. W. Standing does well as Jack England; the part of James Sutton is in the capable hands of Mr. Geo. Mitchell; Mr. Richard Fernis is good as Captain Geoffrey Caversham; Detective Weathersby is well played by Mr. Augustus Bowerman; the comedy is in the safe hands of Mr. Geo. Asquin as Dick Punch; Miss Lydia Mannington plays the rôle of Marian Franklyn with great success; as Rose Seymour Miss Cherry Veheyne is well placed; and Miss Doris Brookes is seen to advantage as Molly.

Hippodrome.—Lessee, Mr. Will Stone; General-Manager, Mr. E. Harper.—The Four Musical Watsons top the bill this week. Other turns are the Zeenas (gymnastic comedians), Fernis and Farnley (patter comedians), Lea and Lovell (American song illustrators), and Geo. Hyatt (society juggler). On the Bioscope we have Nick Carter, &c.

TORQUAY.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—*The Luck of Roaring Camp* is being performed here by Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company. An admirable interpretation of Nell Curtis is given by Miss Olive Wilton; Miss Florence Melrose-Millett is attractive as the adventuress; as Mrs. O'Flynn Miss Jenny Clare gives an amusing impersonation, in which she is ably assisted by Mr. Hyland O'Shea, who does equally well as Paddy McGinty. Mr. Arthur Redmond is a typical Sheriff; a clever representation is given by Mr. Chas. E. Johnson of the brutal Tom Barnes; Mr. Geo. Porteous is well placed as Gonzales; Mr. Clarence Ibbotson introduces much merriment as the negro; and Mr. G. Cuthbertson also does well as Old Pard; Mr. Robert Purdie plays Will Gordon with success.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS. — Opera House.—Lessee, Mr. Welton Dale.—*Dick Whittington* is being successfully presented this week by Mr. Dan Thomas, who makes a big hit as Betsy the Cook, and is well supported by Messrs. H. D. Lyndon, J. Harris, H. Maddison, and R. Morris in the comedy parts. Miss Daisy Yates and Miss Constance Mori are a charming principal girl and boy; and Misses Ethel Robertson and Lily Parker are also successful as second boy and girl; Mr. Pete Almont is excellent as the Cat; and Mlle. Lilian as the Fairy is well received.

WAKEFIELD. — Opera House.—Proprietors, Messrs. Sherwood and Co.—Messrs. Van Biene and Traynor's company is here this week in the drama *Man and Wife*. Mr. John F. Traynor makes an impressive and strong Paul Revere; Mr. Edward M. Hamilton gives a capital rendering as Captain D'Esparre; Mr. George Overs is good as the cripple, Jean; Mr. Edward Van Biene does full justice to the rôle of Colonel Lateur; Mr. A. Horton is effective as Sergeant Jacques; and Mr. E. Hall Eldon as Bimbo and Mr. George Vining as Bambo are very successful in their respective amusing parts. Miss Kate Hallam gives a praiseworthy portrayal as Marcelle; Miss Millie Doris is bright and smart as Rosette, and Miss M. Thorne is admirable as Ruth Revere.

Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—Mr. George M. Marriott and company, including Miss Edith Finlay, present a stirring sketch, *The Maid of the Alps*, with success; Mr. John Lloyd's Gondolier Glee Singers provide a popular turn; Carl Howard is seen in an amusing burlesque conjuring act; Miss Nancy Renshaw, coloured comedienne, is an expert bone soloist; Herman and Evelyn, wire performers, merit applause; Cosselly, hand-jumper, wins favour; and Miss Nelly Bly, comedienne, also contributes.

WALSALL. — Her Majesty's Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—The principal attraction here this week is Mr. Van Biene, the actor-musician, and Miss Mary Mannering, who present *The Master Musician*. Other artists are Frank Lynne, the "funnymantograph"; Bessie Slaughter, contralto; the Paxton Trio, head and hand balancers and hand vaulters; the Three Dixons, bâton swingers, banjo soloist, vocalists, and dancers; La Danseuse, in her dancing scena "Santa Claus"; Boyd and Gilfain, in their operette *Sunny Spain*. The American Bioscope completes the programme.

Grand Theatre.—Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—Mr. Arthur Jones and company are here this week with the drama *When Other Lips*. Miss Marie Daventry makes a charming Ruth Lingley; Mr. T. A. Jones as Ted Daunton is all that could be desired; Miss Jane Watson is very successful in the part of a Woman in Black. Other parts are well sustained.

WARRINGTON. — Royal Court.—Proprietor, Mr. Joseph Beecham; General-Manager, Mr. A. M. Leader; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Smiley.—Mr. Dudley Bennett and Mr. T. C. Wray's company is delighting large houses here with the sparkling musical comedy *A Country Girl*. Full justice is done to the many charming numbers by the talented combination, and the staging and dresses are equally praiseworthy. Mr. Harry Burton has a fine chorus under his command. As Barry Mr. Coningsby Brierley is the personification of humour. His acting, singing, and dancing are alike excellent, and up-to-date witticisms are introduced. Mr. Hardy Jackson has a capital voice, which is heard in the tender song "My own little girl"; Mr. W. O. Billington makes much of the bumptious Sir Joseph Verity; and as his son Douglas Verity Mr. H. Besley-Beltran is well placed; Mr. Frank Tealey is a dignified Lord Anchester, and Mr. Fred Burchell makes Raikes, an Indian rajah, an imposing personage. Miss Anna Hickisch scores a success as Nan, and her vitality appears to have no limit. She is the possessor of a soprano voice full of melody, and her intonation is exceptionally true. Miss Victoria Sievers is a charming Marjorie, and wins an encore with the song "Coo"; Miss Lucy Lever as the Princess imparts much dramatic power into her acting, and her singing of "Under the Deodar" is rapturously encored; Miss Effie Vincent is a winsome Sophie, and together with Mr. Brierley had the honour of a recall for the piquant number "Two little chick-chicks."

Palace and Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Eric Longden.—The realistic scenes of the Johnstone Flood catastrophe are much enjoyed. Menotti supplies a remarkable turn, and the riding of a bicycle on a single wire worked by electricity is viewed with amazement; Percival is a remarkable performer at the piano, and Dorma Morgan is a charming comedienne with a good collection of songs. Henriquette Maude relates her experiences of travelling across various continents in a little sketch round the poem "Lasca," which proves most interesting. She is warmly applauded, and is an immense favourite. Morton and Elliott are phenomenal paper-tearers, harmonica players, and vocalists; an artistic novelty is shown in the A-Ba-Be picture postcard album; and the Raymond Bio-tableaux depict some good views. On Monday a flying matinée with *Dolly Reforming Herself* delighted a large audience.

Royal Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, the Franco-British Animated Picture Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Jack Waters.—Capital business is being done here this week, and the pictures again afford much pleasure, those depicting the coal-mine disaster at the West Stanley colliery being viewed with much interest. Excellent turns are supplied by Fame and Fortune, versatile comedians, there being a spice of originality in their business; Baby Bowden is a clever juvenile; Bessie Wilton a popular burlesque actress; and Karsley Cynski plays several cymbala and xylophone solos in capital style.

WEDNESBURY.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Battersby.—This week Messrs. Clayton and Lorne's gorgeous pantomime *Cinderella* is attracting big houses here. The pantomime, which is written by Captain Clayton, is full of wit, and attractive throughout. The musical parts adapted are exceptionally bright and cheerful. Prince Charming is admirably presented by Miss Amy Allnut; the rôle of Cinderella is delightfully undertaken by Miss Linda May, her songs and dances being most artistically performed; Miss Nina Coleman as the Fairy achieves marked success; whilst the Fairy Godmother is ably portrayed by Miss Marie Preston. Humorous turns are contributed by Mr. C. Turner as Nervous Joe; and as Lord de Cuff Miss Lola Hunt leaves nothing to be desired. Demon Thunder is capitally represented by Miss Mollie Nevell; Mr. G. Birtles comes in for a good share of applause for his interpretation of lightning. The artists included in the specialities are:—The Zola troupe of acrobats, in their interesting knockabout performance; the Gibson Girls, acrobatic dancers; La Belle Mascot, in her wonderful feat on the telephone wire; Mons. Rollo, expert roller skater; the Brothers Alpiné, on the revolving trapeze; and Mr. P. J. Durney, champion globe roller.

WEST HARTLEPOOL. — Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—J. W. Rowley is more popular than ever; Ted Waite, the spasmodic comedian, is also making a great hit; Leo and Roland, equilibrists and hand-balancers, give a smart performance; Ormonde Penstone, billiard ball manipulator and smoke picture artist, obtains a warm welcome; Bert Weston, comedian, entertains well; Miss Diana Hope presents the society episode, *Her Good Name*, which is full of life and interest; Raymond's Bio-Tableaux supply, as usual, the pick of the picture world; Miss Dot Moss (toy comedienne) was unable to appear on Monday owing to indisposition.

Grand.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. H. E. Feather.—Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company is presenting *With Edged Tools*. The staging is on a magnificent scale, and the Storm scene is wonderfully realistic. The fine acting of Miss Marie Leonhardt inspires enthusiasm, so sympathetically does she interpret the tender, womanly character of Jocelyn Gordon; Miss Alice Esther Belmore as Millicent is artistic and effective; Mr. W. M. F. Grant makes the most of the character of Jack Meredith; the rôle of Guy Oscard could scarcely be in better hands than those of Mr. Chas. Hartopp. Others who are most successful are Mr. J. A. Rosier, Mr. J. Graham Pockett, Miss Marion Fawcett, and Miss Florence Dulhurty, and Mr. Campbell Goldsmid is powerful in the character of Durnovo.

WEST STANLEY.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, The Stanley Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Kelly.—*The Prince and the Beggar Maid* is being played here to crowded houses by Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company. Mr. Walter Cox portrays the part of Prince Olaf in manly and breezy fashion; Mr. Lionel Gadsden contributes a good study of Prince Michael; and the Prince Hildred of Mr. Alfred Brandon is very good. Mr. R. Noble makes a fine Captain Hector; Miss Ethel Bracewell gives a charming portrayal of the Princess Monica; and Camiola is represented by Miss Gertrude Branscombe. The rôle of Lieut. Stromberg is in the capable hands of Mr. J. H. Vivian, who is responsible for some very good comedy.

Victoria Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. T. C. Rawes.—Excellent turns are furnished by Mr. Harry Nelson, the Bombays, Mackenzie's *Moments with the Masters*, J. H. Noble, Toleski, the Golden Spider, Joe Humphreys, and the Bioscope.

WIDNES.—Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Jas. Kiddie; Secretary, Mr. T. Swinton.—Mr. Walter Melville's company is here with *The Soldier's Wedding*, and the staging and dressing of the play evoke much admiration. Mr. Wingold Lawrence is a fine military hero; Mr. Beresford Whitcomb draws a good portrait of Colonel Graham; Mr. Johnny Chippendale is a whimsical Tommy Spratt; Mr. A. Anderson plays admirably as Jasper Northcot; Mr. Frederick Biron wins much sympathy by his handling of the part of a deceived husband; Mr. Gerald Jordon is suitably villainous as Charles Courtney; Mr. Fred Yarnold is quite at home in the part of Nathaniel Lee; Miss Dorothy Richardson is a fresh and charming heroine; Miss Marie McAulay is powerful, natural, and convincing as Julie de Beauvrais; Miss Mabel Lowe is equal to all the demands made by the character of Peggy Munroe; and the other parts are, without exception, capably played.

WIGAN.—Royal Court Theatre.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—A welcome return visit is being paid here by Mr. J. A. Campbell's No. 1 company in *The Old Folks at Home*. Miss Mary Fulton is a charming Dorothy Robin, and afterwards makes a dignified Lady Kenilworth; Miss Kate Froud is eminently successful as Patricia Bathurst; and Miss Clara Santley portrays the part of Martha with great faithfulness; Miss Maudie Grayson is a vivacious and sympathetic Susan; and Miss Amy Rale leaves nothing to be desired as Bonita Durham. The character of Lord Howard is in the capable hands of Mr. Frank Liston, and Mr. H. E. Herbert gives a striking portrayal of Andrew Ross; Mr. Eugene Santley deserves special mention as Christopher Robin; while Mr. Frank Caffrey creates roars of laughter as Ben Jolly.

The Hippodrome.—Proprietors, the Wigan Entertainments Co.—A skilful entertainment is given by Mr. Fred Lindsay, who performs some marvellous feats with a stock-whip; the Five Breens are a troupe of smart and humorous jugglers; Edgar Budden dances exceedingly well on roller skates; and Harry Levaine's patter produces much merriment. The Lovelaces are well received for their illustrated songs, while the Donatos, one-legged clowns, are also exceptionally good; the Three Florodoras give an enjoyable entertainment; Mollie Seymour is a violinist deserving of much merit, and Tom Joy causes quite an ovation with songs; Millie Denham, comedienne, and Revill Hall, entertainer, conclude a good programme.

WORKINGTON.—The Opera House.—Lessee, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Falconer Jackes.—Good houses have assembled this week to witness the Life Motion Pictures. Miss Madge Brownie, in a style all her own, captivates the audiences here. Messrs. Bell and Dryden, comedians, do some very smart "cross-talking" and a speciality song and dance. A very good show indeed.

Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr McKenzie Morgan.—Some splendid pictures are put on the screen this week, and an excellent variety programme is sandwiched into it. The Driscolls are a pair of smart cyclists, and do some good dances besides. Sid Stanto as a musical turn is popular; whilst Goodall and Knox are a pair of smart knockabouts and "repartee" artists.

WORTHING.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold.—Scottie's variety combination is sustaining the programme here. *Napoleon at Waterloo* forms an enjoyable item; Mr. Joseph Vesta makes a hit as Terence O'Moore; Miss Kitty Aaen pathetically takes the part of Kathleen O'Moore; Mr. B. M. Alec is good as Valdet; Mr. Chas. Withens is an imposing Marshal Murat; Mr. Oswell Hopcraft cleverly takes the part of Dr. Brette; and Mr. Scott Alexander typically enacts the part of Napoleon. Miss Ivy Cornwallis's efforts are greatly appreciated. Scottie's operatic ballet troupe in *The Cry of the Children* were seen to advantage; Barry and Barrie are extremely entertaining in *Jenny, the Burglar's Pride*; the Swaddies, military nondescripts, are affording great amusement; the Whizzing the Whirl forms another amusing item, and in this Dana Royal excels.

WREXHAM.—Empire Music Hall.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Jno. J. Scott.—Wright Aitken and a clever comedy company appear this week in their highly successful sketch *A Family

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

THE attention of employees generally is specially drawn to the meeting to be held in Terry's Theatre (by kind permission of Mr. Edward Terry), on Sunday evening next, for the consideration of the rules of the Dramatic and Variety Theatre Employees Provident Association.

THE proceedings will commence at 7.30 prompt. Mr. Cecil Raleigh will preside; vice-chairman, Mr. Cecil Paget, manager of the Hippodrome, Peckham. The chairman will be supported by members of the committee, and representatives of a number of theatres and music-halls in the metropolitan area.

MR. C. T. CORY, master carpenter of the Vaudeville Theatre, has been nominated for the position of treasurer. Mr. Cory was a member of the late Dramatic and Musical Fund for many years, and is connected with a number of similar societies. The trustees will be Messrs. Cecil Paget, Harry Norton (stage-manager, the Haymarket Theatre), and G. H. Dyball (stage-manager, the London Pavilion). The finance committee will be Messrs. Wm. Barbour (electrician, the St. James Theatre), hon. secrtary of the Heads of Departments Association; A. Jones (carpenter, Royal Opera House), who is the treasurer of the Carpenters' Society; and James Atterton (Adelphi Theatre), who is the vice-president of the General Staff Branch, N.A.T.E. Mr. J. Cullen (master carpenter, St. James's Theatre) is the chairman of the committee. Mr. Wm. Johnson, general secretary of the N.A.T.E., has been asked to act as the secretary. It will, therefore, be obvious that the new fund will have the services of experienced men, holding responsible positions in the business, who will assure economical and efficient management of the new association.

THE Dramatic and Variety Theatres Employees Provident Association aims to secure the co-operation of all who are connected in any capacity with the dramatic and variety theatres, except actors and artists. Managers, scenic artists, box office keepers, hall keepers, dressers, attendants (male), and employees in any department, under the rules, are eligible for membership. A matter of immediate importance to those who are over forty years of age is the decision to suspend the proposed age limit (forty years) until the end of this month, thus affording those who are too old for any similar association an opportunity of making provision for sickness and at their death.

THE objects of the Association are as follows:—

To provide by entrance fees, contributions, levies, fines, donations, interest on capital, and other funds specially raised:—

(a) To assist financial members who are incapacitated from following their usual employment.

(b) To insure a sum at the death of a financial member or on the death of the wife of a financial member.

(c) To make grants to members in distress.

(d) To divide annually, less the cost of management and the payment of benefits, the surplus general funds of the Association.

WITH reference to the Benevolent Fund it may be stated that it is proposed to devote a portion, if not all, the proceeds of the annual Theatrical Sports to it.

THE rule providing for the annual division of the surplus general funds will add to the other benefits the advantages of a savings bank.

THE contributions will be as follows:—

(b) The entrance fee shall be 1s. 3d., including cost of membership card and rules.

(c) The contribution shall be 6d. per week, payable on or before Saturday of each week.

(d) A levy of 6d. on the death of a financial member and a levy of 3d. on the death of a financial member's wife.

(e) One shilling per annum to the Benevolent Fund, deducted from share.

THE benefits proposed are as follows:—

During sickness, as per rules, members shall be entitled to 15s. per week for the first thirteen weeks, 7s. 6d. for a further thirteen weeks, if necessary. At death of a member a sum equal to a levy of 6d. per member; at death of a member's wife a sum equal to a levy of 3d. per member shall be paid, as per rules. Levies not paid within four weeks, 3d. fine.

Grants from the Benevolent Fund to members in distress, at discretion of the committee; from any such grant any moneys due to the other funds of the Association shall be deducted.

IT is estimated that there are at least 4000 persons connected with the Metropolitan theatres and halls eligible to join this new Fund. There is, therefore, the possibility of building up a very useful Fund. With a levy of 6d. per member the sum at death of a member would be equal to £25 per thousand members, half this sum on the death of a member's wife. A levy on 4000 members would mean £100. Such a fund would put an end to all the present haphazard forms of charity and indiscriminate collections, friendly meetings, &c., now a burden to the thrifty, and often mistaken benevolence for the thoughtless.

No existing fund connected with the profession offers such advantages, and considering the small contributions and the prospects of careful management, employees of all sections will be acting wisely and for their individual and mutual benefit by giving the new Association their hearty support.

COPIES of the draft rules, membership forms, &c., may be obtained from the stewards at the meeting, in the main entrance to the theatre, to whom entrance fees may be paid. While the meeting is open to all eligible to join, only those who have applied, or apply to join at the meeting, may speak or vote on the questions submitted to those present. Any information available will be given on application to Wm. Johnson, acting secretary, 29, Wellington-street, Strand.

A WELL-ATTENDED meeting of the committee of the Cinematograph Operators' Association was held at 29, Wellington-street, on Tuesday. Mr. J. Wood, president, in the chair, supported by Mr. E. Catlin, V.P., S. J. Henry, hon. secretary, Wm. Johnson, A. Malsom, A. L. Merritt, C. Mayo, F. Green, J. Clayton, and others.

MR. S. J. HENRY, having been appointed instructor to the London Bioscope School, felt, in view of the pressure of work in connection with his new duties, that he must regretfully submit his resignation as hon. secretary to the Association. The resignation was accepted, and a hearty vote of thanks given to Mr. Henry for his past services. Messrs. A. Malcolm (Walturdaw Co., Ltd.) and A. L. Merritt (Matt Raymond Co.) were appointed joint hon. secretaries.

A NUMBER of applications for membership were granted subject to passing the examination. Numerous applications for particulars of membership were dealt with. It was decided to appoint a sub-committee to draft a reply to the communication received from the L.C.C. (This committee met on Wednesday and drafted the reply.) The proof of a revised copy of the examination papers was considered and further amended, making the papers much more stringent. It was decided to print 200 copies, and send one to each of the members who have not yet obtained a certificate. Arrangements are being made to have a meeting of the board of examiners next week, and several well-known exhibitors have been invited to act on this board for the next examination. Mr. J. D. Walker, of the Walturdaw Company, has already kindly consented to act as one of the examiners.

THE second annual luncheon will take place on Tuesday, April 6, at two o'clock, in the Horseshoe Hotel, Tottenham Court-road. The tickets are 3s. 6d. each, and members should apply at once to the secretaries. Friends will be welcome at the luncheon. Mr. W. Reynolds, L.C.C., has been invited to attend as a guest of the Association. Mr. C. W. Bowerman, M.P., has been invited to attend the luncheon and present the certificates awarded to the members successful in the examination. A special circular is being issued to members, and those who have changed their address recently are requested to advise the secretaries.

MR. MATT RAYMOND has kindly arranged to give the profit derived from the Sunday Concerts at the Variety Theatre, Hoxton, to the Benevolent Funds of the National Association of Theatrical Employees, a portion of this balance to be given to the Benevolent Funds of the Cinematograph Operators' Branch.

THERE is every prospect of the dispute between the N.A.T.E. and the Middlesbrough and Stockton Theatrical Managers' Association coming to a satisfactory conclusion. The lock-out has lasted about nine weeks, and it is expected a conference between the parties will take place early next week in Middlesbrough. It has already been agreed that both sides suspend proceedings, and the N.A.T.E. have stopped all printing, billing, picketing, sandwich-board men, and meetings on their side.

THE annual Theatrical Sports Committee have secured the Stamford Bridge Sports Ground for the sports on Saturday, June 26. This is the first time the sports have been arranged for a Saturday, and may be regarded as an experiment. The committee feel the sports deserve, and will secure on a Saturday, a larger measure of public support. On the days previously selected there have always been some matinées, and it is thought that, at that time of the year, there will not be more matinées than have usually happened on the day of the sports, while on Saturday a very much larger number of employees will be able to attend.

SUGGESTIONS relating to the list of events are invited from those interested, and should be sent to Wm. Johnson, 29, Wellington-street, Strand.

THE annual general meeting of the Heads of Departments' Association, representing stage-managers, electricians, master carpenters, property-masters, &c., was held last week, Mr. James Cullen, president, in the chair. The statement of accounts and report for the past year were submitted and accepted. The following were elected to serve the Association during the ensuing year: President, James Cullen, master carpenter, St. James's Theatre; vice-chairman, Mr. G. H. Dyball, stage-manager, the London Pavilion; hon. secretary, Mr. Wm. Barbour, electrician, St. James's Theatre (Mr. Barbour was the first hon. secretary to the Association); organising and financial secretary, Wm. Johnson; committee, Messrs. Wm. Pullinger (master carpenter), G. E. Willcox (property master, the Garrick Theatre), H. J. Powell (property master, Hicks Theatre), Sheridan (electrician, Scala Theatre), W. G. Wilton (property master, the Vaudeville Theatre), A. Earnshaw (electrician, the Duke of York's Theatre), John Brunskill (master carpenter, the Savoy Theatre), F. B. Fidge (electrician, the Lyceum Theatre), R. J. Carter (electrician, Terry's Theatre), and Philip Sheridan (electrician).

THE representatives for the National Executive Committee are as follows: General president, J. Cullen; general vice-president, G. H. Dyball; general trustee, Wm. Barbour; committee, Messrs. Powell, Fidge, and Sheridan.

IT was decided to have a river outing in place of the annual dinner, and the date suggested is Sunday, July 4.

THE audited statement of accounts for 1908 is as follows:—

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
Entrance fees	3	7	6
Contributions, General Funds	50	12	0
" Benevolent Fund	1	12	9
" Concert balances (share)	20	0	0
" Hon. member	1	1	0
	22	13	9
Levies, on account, Funeral Fund	3	2	6
Annual dinner and receipts	14	17	0
	94	12	9
Balance carried forward, 1907	119	13	3½
	£214	6	0½

PAYMENTS.	£	s.	d.
Allowance at death, J. H. Ashburner	20	0	0
Sick pay	2	10	0
Grants to members, Benevolent Fund	8	0	0
Clerk's wages, honorarium, and rent a/c.	36	0	0
Central Fund dues, N.A.T.E.	3	9	4½
Printing	2	3	9
Part cost telephone	3	5	0
Annual dinner a/c.	14	10	7
Postage and stationery	1	12	9
	91	11	5½
Balance, Dec. 31, 1908	122	14	7
	£214	6	0½

THE Savoy Baths, the largest, best heated, ventilated, and the most luxurious in London, are in the centre of the theatrical world. Turkish or Russian baths (or combined) may be enjoyed up to 6 p.m. A Turkish bath is a splendid tonic for an actor. It cures colds, and relieves many ailments.

MISS MARGARET PATON, the understudy for Miss Gertrude Lester in the musical comedy *Havana*, which was presented at the Theatre Royal, Bradford, last week, was succeeded in the part of Consuelo by Miss Dorothy Ward on the Thursday evening. Her success both vocally and histrionically was instantaneous and complete.

AN influential local syndicate has been formed at Fleetwood with a view to putting up a first-class modern theatre. Plans have been passed by the town council for a compact building with a seating capacity of 800. It is proposed to begin operations at once, with a view to having the house ready for opening by August Bank Holiday.

SOME remarkably interesting letters, addressed by Chopin to his friend Fontana, are shortly to be offered for sale in Berlin. There are altogether fifteen letters, written in Polish, the composer's native language, and bearing dates between 1838 and 1848, references being contained in them to Georges Sand, and to the writer's increasing ill-health.

THIS week Hardie and Von Leer have another strong company visiting the Palace Theatre, Watford, to which satisfactory audiences have been attracted throughout the week by the evergreen *Two Little Vagabonds*. The play is well staged and so ably acted by the large company that 'twere invidious to mention names.

MR. EDWARD DE VERE, who was responsible for the stage management, at the last performance of the Elephant and Castle pantomime was presented with a handsome case of four silver and amber mounted pipes from the principals, and a bronze-gilt clock from the ladies of the chorus.

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MISS MAUDIE THORNTON.

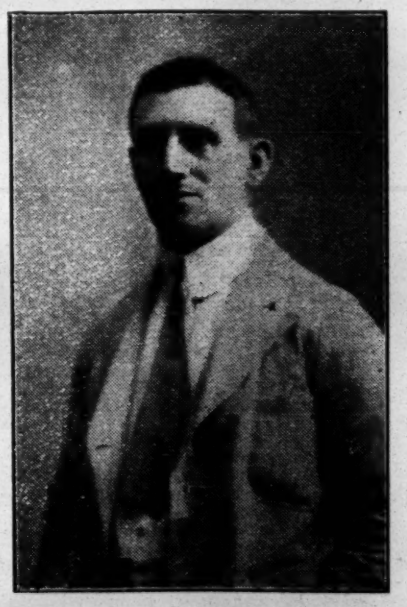
Miss Maudie Thornton, who was engaged to succeed Miss Carrie Moore as the Prince in *Cinderella* at the Adelphi, has scored a triumphant success in the part. Miss Thornton dances exquisitely, and is specially gifted by nature for her profession, having a charming presence, a beautiful voice, plenty of vivacity and "go," and a personality which speeds her in favour. A brilliant future undoubtedly lies before this gifted little lady. Miss Thornton's recent success in *The Antelope* at the Waldorf will be well remembered, her military song, "The drums of the fore and aft," being

[Photo by Foulsham and Bamfield.
MISS MAUDIE THORNTON.

the feature of the production. In South Africa last year Miss Thornton achieved a veritable triumph as Sonia in *The Merry Widow*, and the record run of that popular play in Johannesburg was celebrated by a public banquet given by the citizens to Miss Thornton, at which all the leading official and social people were present. As Mitza in *The Girls of Gottenberg*, Marie Blanche in *The Little Michus*, See See in *See See*, and other operas, Miss Thornton's performances were noted by the entire press and public as among the finest ever presented in South Africa. Miss Thornton has all the advantages of youth and enthusiasm, and it will not be long before she takes a very high place in the artistic world of London.

MR. MARK LESTER.

As a lad Mr. Mark Lester was apprenticed to the sea, and during his early life travelled practically over the world. It was in Australia that he had his first stage experience, and played a short season there. On arriving in England he joined the late Mr. Henry Dundas for the *Price of Peace*, playing the Speaker in the House and the comic policeman, both silent parts. Then followed pantomime with the same gentleman. Subsequently he went to South America to join Maurice E. Bandmann, with whom he remained five years, visiting Buenos Ayres, Monte Video, Rio de Janeiro, Falkland Isles, Valparaiso, Iquique, Lima, over the Isthmus of Panama—during the time of the revolution, when the train was guarded by American Marines—Colon, Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbadoes, Demerara, Bermuda, Halifax, N.S., Boston, U.S.A., Gibraltar, Malta, Cairo, Calcutta, Bombay, Rangoon, Singapore, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Manila, Kobe, Yokohama, playing musical comedy, comedy, and drama. The parts he has played include:—The title-rôle in *Sergeant Brue*, Hooley in *A Shop Girl*, Spoofah



[Photo by Bourne and Shepherd.
MR. MARK LESTER.

Bey in *Morocco Bound*, William in *La Cigale*, Imari in *The Geisha*, Yen How in *San Toy*, Brother Tamarind in *A Runaway Girl*, Pettifer in *Toreador*, Zaccary in *The Orchid*; the Second Mrs. Block in *Christopher Columbus*, Hi Lung in *Chinese Honeymoon*, Blinky Bill in *Belle of New York*, Colonel Chesney in *Charley's Aunt*, Mathieu in *A Night Out*, Napoleon in *The Duchess of Dantzic*, Cæsar Cregeen in *The Manxman*, Tigellinus in *The Sign of the Cross*, and Taffy in *Trilby*. Mr. Lester was at the Borough Theatre, Stratford, for pantomime last year, and in the following summer helped to write *The Gay Deceivers*, a musical comedy that has been very successful, the other two authors being Mr. Frank Stanmore and Mr. Leslie Hawkins. Last Christmas found him at the Theatre Royal, Brighton, playing Johnny Stout. Mr. Lester's favourite pastime is golf, though he confesses that he is not much of a player, but lives in hopes. He has produced a number of pieces, and recently staged *A Pantomime Rehearsal* for Lady Brassey and Mrs. G. W. Fitzwilliam, when he was presented with a magnificent gold watch, which he prides very much.

PRINCESS LOUISE and the Duke of Argyll witnessed the performance of *The Prisoner of Zenda* at the St. James's Theatre on Thursday evening.

"COUNT HANNIBAL."

Romantic Play, in Four Acts, adapted from Stanley Weyman's Novel, by Norreys Connell and Oscar Asche, Produced at the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, on Thursday, March 18.

Charles IX.	MR. HERBERT GRIMWOOD
Monsieur de Guise	MR. EWAN BROOK
Count Hannibal de Tavannes	MR. OSCAR ASCHE
Cambouillet	MR. F. BEAUCHAMP
Duke of Retz	MR. A. THORNE
Father Pezelay	MR. CALEB PORTER
Chicot	MR. ERNEST HENSHAW
Nancay	MR. FRANCIS POLLARD
A Page	MR. PATRICK FITZGERALD
The Provost of Paris	MR. ALBERT FRITH
A Cripple	MR. GORDON HARKER
Badelon	MR. ATHOL FORDE
Bigot	MR. J. FRITZ RUSSELL
The Landlord	MR. R. F. ANSON
The Provost	MR. ARTHUR TRANTOM
The Archdeacon of Angers	MR. A. V. BRAMBLE
Madame St. Lo	MISS ELFRIDA CLEMENT
Rochefoucauld	MR. REGINALD IAN PENNY
Tignonville	MR. GERALD KAY SOUPER
La Tribe	MR. CHARLES A. DORAN
Perrot	MR. TRIPP EDGAR
Carlat	MR. REGINALD DAVIS
Clotilde	MISS LILY BRAYTON
Javette	MISS MURIEL HUTCHINSON
Madame Carlat	MISS ELINOR FOSTER

The production of the adaptation by Messrs. Norreys Connell and Oscar Asche of Mr. Stanley Weyman's successful novel before a crowded house at Bristol on Thursday last adds yet another to the list of popular plays which have first seen the light in the provinces, although only the difficulty of getting a theatre with a stage that would accommodate the large cast and larger crowds prevented Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton from introducing it to a London audience at Christmas. The play follows the book very closely, and opens on the eve of St. Bartholomew. Clotilde, the Lady of Vrillac, and her betrothed, Monsieur Tignonville, both Huguenots, have come to Paris to the Court of Charles IX. Here she is seen and loved by the Catholic Count Hannibal de Tavannes. When the massacre of St. Bartholomew is at its height Tignonville, who, to save himself, has adopted the Catholic badge, makes his way to the hotel of his betrothed. Here he finds the doorway guarded by Count Hannibal, who can only save Clotilde, her lover, and her household from the sword if she is his promised wife. To save them Clotilde consents to his proposal, but stipulates that she shall be married by a minister of her own faith. Tignonville makes ineffectual attempts to make her break her pledged word, which attempts are divined by Tavannes, who exacts from him a promise to procure a minister to perform the required ceremony if, as proves to be the fact, the result of a duel between them is against him. After the ceremony Count Hannibal, who is determined to make Clotilde his *willing* bride, ordains that she shall come to him once every day either for a kiss or a blow—as she chooses. Count Hannibal sets out, with his newly-made wife and his followers, with letters from the King to Angers. Clotilde, who learns that the papers he bears are the death warrant of those of her faith in Angers, steals them from him as he sleeps in the inn on the road thither, but defends his person against Tignonville and others, who would kill him. Partly as the result of the loss of the letters, Count Hannibal and his party have to fly from the wrath of the clericals in Angers, and, being misled by Tignonville for his own ends, they fall into an ambush, and finally take refuge with their dead and wounded in Clotilde's stronghold of Vrillac. Here the wounded and broken Count Hannibal, whose innate nobility has been partly concealed by a rugged and domineering exterior, proves a more effectual conqueror, and all ends happily on a note of simple tenderness.

In Clotilde Miss Lily Brayton has a character which should prove one of her most notable impersonations. From the first scene, in which she suggests by tone and demeanour the alarm and annoyance of the young girl temporarily deserted by her lover at the brilliant Court, through all the dramatic situations in which the play abounds, to the last most moving scene of all, Miss Brayton held and carried the large audience with her by the charm of her gracious and dignified personality. In Act IV. Scene 2, in which Clotilde has finally to choose between the remnants of her affection for her old lover and her growing loyalty and love for her husband, Miss Brayton was particularly fine. Mr. Oscar Asche has given us a consistently strong character study in Count Hannibal, and the duel in Act II., Scene 2, was finely and realistically carried through. It was a superbly strong embodiment. Mr. Gerald Kay Souper as Tignonville played the young lover with sufficient fire, and cleverly indicated the inherent weakness of the character. The part of Mme. St. Lo, the cousin of Tavannes, was daintily and intelligently played by Miss Elfrida Clement; the vacillating character of Charles IX. in the first act was well brought out by Mr. Herbert Grimwood; Mr. Athol Forde and Mr. J. Fritz Russell as Count Hannibal's faithful followers Badelon and Bigot were particularly good, and gained applause; Mr. A. Tranton as the Provost of Angers was sufficiently bourgeois and subservient; and Mr. A. V. Bramble as the Archdeacon of Angers, Mr. Caleb Porter as Father Pezelay, and Mr. Charles A. Doran as the Huguenot minister, La Tribe, sufficiently differentiated the several types of clerical character.

That close attention to the details of the period presented which marks all Mr. Asche's productions was apparent. The dresses and armour, designed by Percy Anderson, are rich and elaborate, though the Huguenots are necessarily rather severely garbed; but the Court scene in Act I., Scene 1, affords an opportunity for the display of some magnificent costumes, that of Miss Lily Brayton being of cream satin, lace, and pearls. Mr. Joseph Harker's setting of Scene 1, Act. III., The Riverside, was a charming study, and gained a round of applause, and Scene 3, Act I., The Hotel of the Lady of Vrillac, Paris, was also very fine. The music was specially composed by Mr. Christopher Wilson, and was conducted by him. The large audience was unanimous in its approval, and insisted on a speech, but the author was not in the house.

AT the Opera House Winter Gardens, Southport, Mr. R. Courtneidge's company presented *The Dairymaids*. Miss Empsie Bowman's Peggy was charmingly piquant; Mr. Richard Telford as Lieut. Sam Brudenell was excellent in every way, and created much amusement; Mr. Johnny Osborne (a local favourite) sustained his reputation in the part of Joe Mivens, which he played to perfection; Eliza was cleverly and vivaciously impersonated by Miss Edie Martin; Miss May Casson enacted the character of Winifred with much grace and piquancy; Frank Meredith, R.N., had a very capable representative in Mr. J. Scott Melville; Mr. Bernard Vaughan was prominent and very acceptable as Dr. O'Bryne, R.N.; Lady Brudenell was well played by Miss Carrie Lacey; and Miss Doris Dickens was good as Helen.

AT the Theatre Royal, Tyldesley, Mr. Chas. H. Lester and company this week are presenting *A Life for a Life*. Mr. Lester powerfully sustains the part of Don Leon; Miss Chris Felton gives an admirable portrayal of Pedro Li Celci; Kit Osward is well taken by Mr. Harry T. Wood; and Mr. W. Carr is an impressive Sherriff Evelyn. Miss Dorothy Riddell makes a sweet and attractive Eva Evelyn; Aulalia finds an able exponent in Miss Lydia Hart; and Little Winnie proves a very clever child actress. Smart comedy is introduced by Mr. Edmond O'Grady as Tim McCarthy and Miss W. Rousby as Nancy Dorn.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"DIE LATERNE."

Comedy, in Three Acts, by Georges Thurner, Produced at the Neues Theatre, March 13.

Frau Régis	FRAULEIN REICHENBACH
Henriette	FRAULEIN BIEL
Lionel	HERR REUSS
Eugen	HERR SCHWAIGER
Aurelie	FRAULEIN HELMERT
Jacqueline	FRAULEIN JAEGER
Lambert	HERR ZEIGLER
Frau Lambert	FRAULEIN GAUTHIER
Chomel	HERR WERCKMEISTER
Conturier	HERR STANGE
Rafio	HERR SCHROTH
Louis	HERR ANDRESEN
Brézin	HERR SCHINDLER

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, March 18.—A very cordial reception was accorded to this novelty, the author of which is, or rather was, unknown to Berlin. He was present at the production, and responded to the hearty applause by appearing before the curtain several times. The plot being probably known to your readers, a detailed account will hardly be necessary. The original title is *Le Passe-Partout*; the "Lantern" of the German title refers to an influential newspaper of that name, the proprietor of which is a roué of the most unscrupulous kind—whose name is Lionel Régis. His liaisons are numerous as the sands of the sea, and when a pretty young widow, with two small children to support, begs employment, he instals her forthwith as his secretary. The widow, Jacqueline Hélonin, very nearly falls a victim—and not an altogether unwilling one—to the fascinatioins of our Don Juan, but the latter has a brother named Eugen, who loves Jacqueline, and wishes to marry her. Lionel at first breaks out into violent rage when his discovers his nobler-hearted brother's penchant for the lovely widow, but he knows how to console himself, and finally—in a fit of unusual generosity—he bestows his blessing on the happy pair. Interwoven with the love story are some incidental episodes which have their humorous moments, but the piece is crude on the whole, and the author—who is young—will no doubt do himself greater credit later on. The acting was capital all round.

AT the Trianon Theatre another French farce made a very successful hit last week—*Liebesgewitter*, adapted and translated from the original of Xanrof by Benno Jacobson. It is among the riskiest things of the kind ever put on the German stage, and the plot is a confused jumble of wild absurdities, which it would be difficult to disentangle. The main idea is that a certain Fräulein Prudence suffers from certain unpleasant attacks whenever a thunderstorm rages; these lead to disastrous consequences, and are turned to good account by a clever rascal, one Alfred Carotte—a valet by profession—who plays providence to his own advantage throughout the piece. The vivacious acting and the introduction of Berlin colloquialisms aided the success.

AN attempt was made at the Hebbel Theatre a few nights ago to revive what one of our best critics terms a "sad comedy"—*Die junge Welt*—by Frank Wedekind. The play was produced in Munich some ten years back, and was there hissed off the stage. The same fate awaited it here, and the artists who took part were to be sympathised with.

MISS EDITH WALKER came over from Hamburg, where she is engaged at the Stadt Theatre, to sing the part of Elektra on Tuesday at our Royal Opera. The result was a great and well-deserved triumph for the American artist, who gave the difficult rôle in magnificent style, and was applauded enthusiastically. A second "guest" was Fräulein Petzl—also from the Hamburg theatre—who sang and acted the part of Chrysothemis very satisfactorily.

"KUMMERE DICH UM AMELIE," the French farce running at the Residenz, has passed its 150th consecutive performance, and is still drawing. Herr Alexander, who had a new piece in rehearsal, has no reason yet to change the bill.

AFTER a long and painful illness, Herr Adalbert atkowsky, one of the leading members of the Royal Schauspielhaus, passed away on Tuesday evening at the age of fifty-one. The artist was the most popular actor of his kind in Berlin, and on a "Matkowsky night" the house was always crowded. In classical plays he was inimitable: Wilhelm Tell, Wallenstein, Goetz von Berlichingen were among his best rôles, and his place will be very difficult to fill. The Emperor—in whose service Matkowsky acted for nearly twenty years—was exceedingly fond of him, and showed him much honour. His Majesty received daily intelligence as to the course of the illness. Herr Matkowsky was married to an English lady.

HERR SIEGFRIED LUTZ has acquired the rights of *When Knights Were Bold*, and the piece will be produced at the Neues in a few months in his translation.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

On Thursday evening, March 11, Schubert's Posth. Quartet for Strings, in D minor, formed the opening item in the concert, and was played by Miss Dorothy Devin, Mr. Antonio Piedra, Mr. Frank Bridge, and Mr. Felix Salmond. The tone of the strings in the Scherzo was slightly rough, but the young performers gave a good account of the lively finale, which was, unfortunately, delayed by the breaking of a string. The duet for two pianos, Andante and Variations in B flat (Schumann), played by Miss Florence Cotterell and Miss Mary Vickery, proved an attractive feature in the programme; while Mr. Ivan Powell and Mr. Felix Salmond were in perfect harmony in Beethoven's fine Sonata for Piano and Violoncello in A major. The Scherzo and Adagio were capitally played, and after a spirited performance of the finale, the audience gave both performers a rousing reception, and no less than five recalls. In the vocal department Miss Florence Barrow was very successful in recit. and air "From Rosy Bowers" (Purcell); while Miss Dorothy Webb sang two songs, "Lullaby" and "Looking Back," by Hamilton Harty. In "A Voice by the Cedar Tree," a graceful setting, by A. Somervell, of Tennyson's poem, Mr. George A. Baker sang admirably; but his other song, "We sway along," was so poor in quality that it did little justice to so clever a vocalist. "We sway along" is evidently intended for a description of a ride in an express train; but what can be said in favour of the inconsistency of the concluding verse:

"We shake off the miles like water;
We might carry a royal ransom,
And I think of her waiting, waiting,
And I long for a common hansom."

All the songs on Thursday evening had one merit—they were sung in English. The programme concluded with an able performance of Schumann's Trio for Piano and Strings in G minor, by Miss Ellen Tuckfield, Miss Dorothy Devin, and Mr. Felix Salmond. Miss Ellen Tuckfield acted as accompanist.

"THE SAILOR'S WEDDING" is being presented at the Empire Theatre, Swindon, by Hardie and Von Leer's company. Mr. R. A. Greene's impersonation of Gordon Drake is capital; Sir Victor Lascelles is well taken by Mr. Cecil Klein; Mr. Harold Weston makes a good Count Bellini; Mr. T. Hodgson Taylor presents a careful study of Giovanni Ferici; a realistic portrayal of Giacomo is given by Mr. F. Finch Smiles; and Mr. Walter Pemberton causes much fun as Jack Hawkins. Miss Laura Hansen impressively renders the part of Countess Bellini; Miss Mary Pemberton enacts Mary Bellini to perfection; Miss Winifred Pearson is seen to advantage as Lenore; and Miss M. Sadie is good as Polly Clarke.

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, March 15, the Drama, by Walter Howard, entitled

"HER LOVE AGAINST THE WORLD."

This week at the King's we have had a return visit of Mr. Walter Howard's celebrated Lyceum play, which has exercised its old fascination, and attracted large audiences. Mr. Howard has a happy knack of so constructing his plays that they appear to be quite fresh and natural, and an entire breaking away from old lines. In *Her Love Against the World* the author travels into the imaginary kingdoms of Ravensberg and Saxonia, and an interesting story of love and hate is interwoven with war between the two States. A strong company, under the direction of Messrs. W. H. Hallatt and Walter Howard, take part in the production. Mr. Walter Howard is seen to excellent advantage in the very effective part of Eric, Earl of Strathmere, which, by his admirable acting, meets with marked approval. An exceedingly good representation of the brutal Prince Ulric of Ravensberg is given by Mr. Lewis Gilbert, whose style and appearance command much praise. Mr. W. H. Hallatt, of ripe experience, makes a successful Prince Othmar. As clever and neat a piece of acting as could be desired is Miss Rossie St. John's impersonation of the boy Lionel, and the audience was by no means backward in showing their appreciation. Mr. Fred Emery's rendering of Prince Maurice of Saxonia is one of ability; and General Gessler has a smart representative in Mr. Charles R. Hann. Sergeant Kaspar is stolidly undertaken by Mr. Victor Rowland; and Mr. A. H. Hallatt is a vigorous and manly Surgeon-Captain Helgar. Heinrick Pimpernickle and Fritz Pimpernickle, the two servants, are amusingly impersonated by Mr. Henry B. Lewis and Mr. John Mill. The Princess Iris of Idalia is a most engaging personality as played by Miss Grace Heywood, whose earnest and sympathetic acting lends much assistance to the artistic success of the piece. Miss Blanche Steele displays skill and power in the unfeeling character of Shulah. Miss Gertie Reid and Miss Hettie Ferguson are bright and animated as Katinka and Gretchen. Excellent scenery is provided, and the brilliant military costumes add to the general effect.

THE GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, March 15, for the First Time in West London, the Drama, in Three Acts, by Charles Darrell, entitled

"THE EYES OF THE WORLD."

M. Achille Fanfarade ..Mr. J. Edward Whitty
M. Hector de L'Orme ....Mr. George D. Daiper
M. Gaston de Carnac .....Mr. Will Casey
Octave .....Mr. Charles Stirling
M. Paul Roqueville .....Mr. Charles Sewell
Brigard .....Mr. Albert Hendley
Avice .....Miss Elsie Capell
Mme. Esme de Carnac...Miss Beatrice Fitzhugh
Mlle. Susanne Pomfleure ..Miss Nellie Garside
Antoinette .....Miss Ivy Courtney
Hélène de L'Orme ....Miss Ethel Van Praagh

A "conflict of sex, in three encounters," is being enacted before Fulham audiences this week, and is proving highly engrossing. The prolific pen of Mr. Charles Darrell has been utilised effectively, and his attacks on the sin of society which has been denounced from time to time in the pulpit, are pungent and severe. The piece, which was originally produced at the Prince of Wales's, Grimsby, on Dec. 21 last, and was later seen as near London as Woolwich, proceeds on lines superior to the ordinary melodrama, and gains strength as it advances from a series of dramatic scenes, some of which come as a startling surprise. The first of the three encounters, all of which take place in France, is that between Hector de L'Orme and his wife Hélène, who has discovered that an intrigue exists between her husband and the wife of his friend Gaston De Carnac. She taxes Hector with his infidelity, and he promises to have no more to do with Mme. de Carnac; but only a few minutes later Hélène discovers Hector and the lady in an affectionate embrace. Hélène determines to leave her husband; but in order to avoid a scandal that would recoil upon the head of her child, she consents to remain silent regarding her husband's perfidy.

For ten years Mme. de L'Orme lives in privacy at Cannes, happy in the love of her daughter Avice, whom she idolises. Every year Avice goes on a month's visit to her father, according to agreement. She has now reached the age of eighteen, and on her return soon shows signs that her love, hitherto reserved wholly for her mother, is shared by someone else. During her visit to Paris she has met Octave, the son of Gaston de Carnac, and the two young people have fallen in love. Hélène is appalled at the idea of her daughter marrying the son of the woman who had brought desolation to her home, and when Octave arrives to ask for Avice's hand Hélène reveals his mother's shame. Octave submits that his parent's vice does not affect him, but Hélène points out the awful possibility that Avice might be his sister. The doubt is cleared up by Hector, who comes to make a proposition to Hélène, declaring that Octave was born two year before his illicit association with Mme. de Carnac began. Hélène is thus enabled to consent to the marriage; but there is one more obstacle. Gaston de Carnac, Octave's father, has become a Cabinet Minister, and, anxious that the family name shall appear without blemish "in the eyes of the world," makes it a condition to the union that Hélène shall return to her husband. He gives only one alternative, and that is the death of either party. Hélène is unable to consent to go back to Hector, and suggests that he, being the guilty one, shall take his life. Hector shrinks from such a fate, and Hélène, bent upon securing the happiness of her child, proposes that they shall decide by cards. The fateful ace falls to Hélène, and her craven husband, obviously elated, retires to enable her to carry out the fatal act. Hélène has scarcely placed a revolver to her forehead when Avice rushes into the room, and falls fainting into her mother's arms, declaring that to part from Octave would kill her. Hélène determines to set aside the compact, and under the threat of exposure, to wring from de Carnac his consent to the marriage.

She carries out her intention in the third "encounter," which takes place at De Carnac's house in Paris. Although forbidden the house by Mme. de Carnac, Hélène obtains an entry, and after loading Madame with scorn, reveals her infamy to her husband. De Carnac will not credit the statement, especially as Hector denies it, but the testimony of Octave, who had come to fight a duel with Hector, is believed, and De Carnac takes upon himself the responsibility of the fight. The two men adjourn to the garden; there is a pistol shot; De Carnac returns alone, and, after bidding his wife leave his house, joins the hands of Octave and Avice. It is not an essentially "happy ending," but, after the strenuous events that have preceded, it seems the only one feasible.

The new play was acted with much credit by Miss Ethel Van Praagh and Mr. J. Edward Whitty's company, which has so long and successfully travelled the provinces. The burden of the piece was borne by Miss Van Praagh, whose exacting part as the outraged wife called up all the resources of her art. Her impersonation was one of dramatic excellence throughout, tender, emotional, and tragic by turns, and her admirable voice, though at times kept too low in tone, gave telling effect to the lines she had to deliver. Miss Van Praagh exhibited, too, an exquisite taste in dress, and her gowns were rich and beautiful. A fresh and girlish rendering of the daughter Avice was given by Miss Elsie Capell, who acted with agreeable youthfulness and grace. A truly ignoble figure was made of Hector de L'Orme by Mr. George D. Daiper, who gave a capital study of the cowardice, the malice, and the deceit of the unscrupulous libertine. Mme. Esmé de Carnac was played with quite serpentine venom and spite by Miss Beatrice Fitzhugh, who left no detail of her work incomplete. The lighter side of the piece is confined chiefly to the advocate Achille, who woos and marries a young actress named Susanne. The former was played on droll lines by Mr. J. Edward Whitty, who caused roars of laughter in a mesmerism scene which he is called upon to enact. The actress was portrayed by Miss Nellie Garside, a clever little ingénue, who revelled in the comedy of the part. Susanne is given to jealousy, and at the least excuse insists on reconstituting an imaginary scene in which her lover is conspicuous. Miss Garside is very versatile and very popular. Mr. Charles Stirling made a gallant and chivalrous youth of Octave. He has good declamatory power and vigorous methods of acting, and it is a pity that he should mar his performance by exaggeration. A little modification, both in delivery and attitude, would greatly improve an otherwise fine embodiment. Mr. Will Casey, who was obviously suffering from a cold, portrayed the Cabinet Minister with dignity and care, and the dialogue of M. Paul Roqueville, Hélène's father, was delivered with point and a keen sense of humour by Mr. Charles Sewell. The piece, which consists wholly of interiors, was elaborately mounted, the furniture of Mme. de L'Orme's boudoir and that of De Carnac's drawing-room being sumptuous. The play had an appreciative reception, and calls after the curtain were numerous, Miss Van Praagh being the recipient of a floral tribute.

CORONET THEATRE.

On Monday, March 15, the Musical Comedy, entitled

"THE GAY GORDONS."

Mr. Seymour Hicks's company is at the pretty Notting Hill Gate theatre this week in the successful musical comedy, *The Gay Gordons*. About this time last year Mr. Seymour Hicks and his charming and accomplished wife, Miss Ellaline Terriss, were here in the same piece. Miss Madge Crichton, fresh from her triumphs "across the herring-pond," makes her re-entry into the metropolis in the part of Peggy Quainton. Miss Madge Crichton plays the part delightfully, the "See-saw song" and "Everybody loves me up in London" are charmingly rendered with taste and piquancy, and her acting is bright, exhilarating, refined, and artistic. Mr. Frank Lincoln, who essays the part of Angus Graeme, afterwards Earl of Meltrose, is full of sparkle and animation, and carries the character along at the necessary racing speed, and with all the Seymour Hicks abandon. Mr. Tom Graves is exceedingly droll and original as Nervy Nat, the showman, and his song, "If she says it's black, it's black," is admirably rendered. Mr. Edward Nainby is quaintly amusing as Edmund; and Miss Ida Laurie works hard to make the part of Charlotte Siddons "go." Miss Mabel Dent is eminently satisfactory as Victoria Siddons, with song; and Miss Norah Guinness is well in the picture as Lady Graeme of Lockalt. Miss Emily Mellon acts with pathos and naturalness as Janet McLeod; and Misses Rosa Carlisle, Gladys Waring, and a bevy of beauty help to adorn the stage. Mr. Ernest Ruston is quite satisfactory as "Poppa" Quainton; Mr. Norman Forrest is funny as Corporal John Smith; Mr. Mervyn Dene, besides stage-managing the show, acts very well as the Marquis of Dalesbury, and sings the "Welcome" song delightfully. Mr. Charles Tyers proves himself an adept at calisthenic exercise as Jack McPhrisky; and other small parts are efficiently played. The orchestra is under the direction of Mr. Arthur Spittle, and Mr. W. A. Seymour is business-manager.

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE THEATRE.

On Monday, March 15, the Drama, entitled

"IN HOLY RUSSIA."

The above thrilling drama forms the attraction here this week. Being a Russian play, the Nihilist movement must needs be indispensable, and the excellent company, under the direction of Mr. J. Rice Cassidy, is to be commended for an interesting and exciting representation. Mrs. J. Rice Cassidy enacts the rôle of Rene Rubinoff, the escaped prisoner from Siberia, in a convincing manner. Her dramatic situations are very realistic, and her assumption of the character of an American lady, in which disguise she enters Russia, is a fine study. The character of Catska Lavotski, an adventuress in the pay of the Russian police, is played with much dramatic force by Miss Amy McNeill. Mr. Rolf Leslie gives an excellent reading of the calm, but masterful Count Gregori Petrolski, "the people's friend"; and a striking contrast to this character is that of the excitable Nihilist leader, Laurice Steragoff, admirably portrayed by Mr. George H. Doyle. Mr. Carl Beechey is seen to advantage as the cruel and determined chief of Russian police, Baron von Pleve; and Mr. Henry Compton infuses a good deal of humour into the many-sided character of Colonel Richard Forrest. Mr. J. Rice Cassidy gives a capital representation of the colonel's Irish servant, Mickey Nolan, introducing the necessary amount of really clever comedy into the play. The other minor characters are in safe keeping. The drama is well dressed and well staged, and the incidental music is adequately supplied by the capable orchestra under the direction of Mr. W. Stephenson.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, March 15, the Play, in Four Acts, by Alfred Sutro, entitled

"THE BUILDER OF BRIDGES."

A rare dramatic treat is provided this week at the popular Clapham theatre, where a powerful company, under the supervision and direction of Mr. George Alexander, is presenting Mr. Alfred Sutro's great play, *The Builder of Bridges*, which attained such a success at the St. James's Theatre. Chief interest in the play centres round the doings of Dorothy Faringay, played with conspicuous success by Miss Dorothy Green, an actress of undoubted talent and ability. Her impersonation of the woman who awakens to a sense of her love for one man after her hand has been given to another left nothing to be desired, and the varied feelings of emotion were portrayed with great fervour. Not less successful was the Edward Thursfield of Mr. Leonard Pagden. Possessed of a genial personality he fully realised the lighter vein of the character, and in the stronger passages his acting was powerful and convincing. Miss Kemmis brought her ripe experience to bear on the part of Mrs. Debney, and acquitted herself artistically. Miss Beatrice Smith made the most of the rôle of Miss Closson; and Miss Ella Collins was satisfactory as Minnie. Mr. Lewis Fielder handled the part of Arnold Faringay with considerable tact and skill, and is to be congratulated on a sterling performance. Walter Gresham was played by Mr. Arthur Vezin in a quiet, yet sincere manner, and was always interesting; and Mr. Alfred Harris's embodiment of Sir Henry Kilnick was a clever piece of acting.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.

On Monday, March 15, the Domestic Drama, entitled

"SWEET LAVENDER."

It is a pleasant task to chronicle the success of Mr. Edward Terry and his company in their week of varied répertoire at Mr. J. Bannister Howard's theatre here, and Mr. Pinero's play went as merrily and freshly as ever. Mr. Edward Terry as Dick Phenyl had a great reception, and his well-known crisp style, attention to trifles, and quaint mannerisms, which custom cannot stale, showed this eminent comedian to be in his best vein. The Clement Hale of Mr. Percival Madgewick was refreshingly youthful and natural; Mr. William Dexter as Dr. Delaney was excellent; Mr. Edmund Hollick as Horace Bream, the travelling American, with just enough, but not too much, of the Yankee intonation and inflection, made a hit; Mr. Bulger, the hairdresser to the legal profession, became an amusing entity in the hands of Mr. R. Goodyer; and Mr. George Byrne did all that was needed for the part of the solicitor, Mr. Maw. Mr. Poole Kirkwood as Mr. Geoffrey Wedderburn, the banker, succeeded in investing the impersonation with reality and dignity. The subdued tone so necessary to the part of the suffering Ruth Rolt was caught to a nicety by Miss Lydia Busch, and Miss Christine Rayner as the heroine, Lavender, was charming and sympathetic throughout. Miss Sophie Lingwood made the part of Mrs. Gilfillian a most amusing and acceptable one, and Miss Edith Coleman was a sprightly and engaging Minnie. At the conclusion of the performance there were vociferous demands for Mr. Terry, and the veteran comedian had to appear before the curtain and bow his acknowledgments. The theatre orchestra, under the guidance of Mr. Leonard Gautier, gave a programme of music far above the average, and added much to the pleasure of the evening's entertainment.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, March 15,

"AN ENGLISHMAN'S HOME."

An Englishman's Home made its first appearance outside the West End at Kennington Theatre on Monday night, and Mr. H. B. Brandreth, the enterprising acting-manager, had seen to it that Mr. Frank Curzon's company should have a good send-off on what promises to be a long and successful tour. The house was packed from floor to ceiling by an anxiously expectant audience, which included amongst its number the Mayors of Southwark and Lambeth, supported by many members of their respective Corporations, the officers of the 21st and 23rd Battalions of the London Regiment, whose headquarters are in the Kennington district, and scores of khaki-clad soldiers of the Territorial forces. It was fittingly enough a military welcome which awaited a play that has done more to impress upon the young men of the metropolis the duty which they owe to their country than any number of appeals from the Minister of War. The production was an immediate and complete success. The play is magnificently staged, and from the moment that the invading patrols made their appearance at Myrtle Villa, amidst the Boxing Day festivities, to the last phases, when Mr. Brown is led out to be shot for defending his home against an enemy, who are almost immediately themselves outflanked and captured, nothing is wanting to stir the pulse and arouse the dormant patriotism of the onlooker. The mounting is a triumph of stage-craft, the whistling of bullets, the whizzing of shell, the sharp crack of the rifles at magazine fire, the clatter of the horses' hoofs, the blazing roof and shell-shattered walls, all combining to give a vivid picture of the grim reality of war. The acting is excellent in every direction. During the opening act a humorous representation is given of the lighter side of the average middle-class home, but that gives place in the second and third acts to the most intensely dramatic situations powerfully played by artists who have caught the spirit of the story. The laughter which the crude satire of Geoffrey Smith constantly evokes is quickly changed when he drops dead with a bullet through the heart. Quite a shudder goes through the audience at that realistic touch, and when at the fall of the curtain on Monday Col. Whitehead made an appeal for recruits for the Territorial Army his words did not fall on deaf ears. Mr. Cecil Calvert gives a splendid study of the rôle of that sturdy Englishman, Mr. Brown, whose soul is stung into action by the ravages of the invader, and who desperately defends his home—facing the resultant death penalty with equanimity. Mr. Bertram Steer is exceedingly clever as Geoffrey Smith, the light-hearted football enthusiast, and his smart repartee keeps the house in roars of laughter. The Paul Robinson of Mr. Martyn Roland is a fine piece of acting, and he delineates the strong-limbed, stout-hearted young patriot to the life. The eccentricities of Capt. Finch, of the Blinkshire Volunteers, are effectively developed by Mr. Littledale Power, while the grotesque Reggie Brown is ably enacted by Mr. R. Fielding. Miss Lilias Waldegrave makes a stately and heroic figure as Maggie Brown; the Amy Brown of Miss Amy Willard is a vivid piece of stage portraiture; while Miss Evelyn Martheze creates much merriment as Ada Jones. The Prince Yoland of Mr. Charles Vaughan is admirably presented, and Mr. Alick Churnley is well placed as his Lieutenant; Mr. Horace Dawson makes an impressive Sergt. Thol, leader of the invading patrol; Mr. George Ide scores a great triumph as the alert and soldierly Colour-Sergt. Harris, of the Volunteers Permanent Staff, and Mr. Walter Gay is a dignified Adjutant. Mr. Ernest Graham is amusing as Lieut. Jackson, and Mr. Arthur Murray deserves mention as Syd Brown. Others who assist towards ensuring the success of a notable melodrama are Mr. Ernest Mayne, Mr. Fred Permain, Mr. W. Waller, Mr. H. L. Staples, and Mr. Lionel Scott. The play is preceded by Mr. Cyril Clensy's clever impersonations of well-known actors.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, March 15, the Play, in Four Acts, entitled

"THE SIGN OF THE CROSS."

Mr. William Greet's company, appearing this week at the Dalston Theatre with *The Sign of the Cross*, are creating an excellent impression. Mr. Cyril Austen-Lee looks the part of Marcus Superbus, Prefect of Rome, and his scenes with Mercia, a part admirably sustained by Miss Constance Little, are sympathetic and impressive. Miss Little enlists sympathy, and in certain scenes arouses enthusiasm. Mr. C. Yorke's Nero is a well-studied performance. Mr. H. Thurston Harris as Servilius, a spy, displays all the truculence of a relentless foe; and Strabo is well played by Mr. Ernest Duggan. Miss Edith Drayson plays Stephanus impressively; Mr. Walter Fleet makes an interesting Favius; Miss Beryl Hamilton capably enacts the part of the Empress; and Mr. Frank Wood is a droll Glabrio.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, N.

On Monday, March 15, the Play, in Four Acts, by E. W. Hornung and Eugene W. Presbrey, entitled "RAFFLES."

For the second week of the season here Mr. Leonard Boyne's company, including Mr. Eille Norwood and Miss Ruth Mackay, are appearing in Messrs. Hornung and Presbrey's highly successful play *Raffles*, which enjoyed such a considerable measure of success on its production at the Comedy Theatre a year or two back. The gentleman-criminal as hero of a play seems always to possess a peculiar power of attraction, *vide* Captain Swift and Jim the Penman, to quote only two examples, and A. J. Raffles is no exception to the rule, for although he is nothing more than a common thief, the authors have contrived to invest him with the halo of a hero, and the audience always hails with delight his escape from the just penalty of the law. Mr. Eille Norwood, in his interpretation of the part, need fear nothing from comparison with those who have preceded him in it, and the picture he draws of the amateur crackeman is quite an engaging and attractive one. Miss Ruth Mackay as Mrs. Vidal has a none too pleasant part to play, but she plays it with commendable restraint and freedom from exaggeration, and her impersonation is altogether effective. A clever character study of the professional burglar, Crawshay, comes from Mr. Dalziel Heron. Mr. E. W. Thomas as the American detective, Curtis Bedford, makes the most of the many opportunities with which the part abounds, and a neat and amusing little sketch of Viscount Crowley is contributed by Mr. Cecil Brymer. Mr. Arthur Willoughby is duly aristocratic as the Earl of Amersteth, whose sister, Lady Melrose, is ably impersonated by Miss Agnes Knights. Miss Dorothy Gordon as the French maid, Marie, adds to the general success by the excellence of her work, and Lady Ethel and Gwendoline Conran are prettily and gracefully played by Misses Beatrice Fitzgerald and Lucie Milner respectively. Mr. Harold West does well as Harry Manders, alias "Bunny," especially in the later scenes of the play, and the cast is completed by Messrs. Stevenson, Oswald Griffiths, and Arthur Fitzgerald. The longer play is preceded by Mr. Eric Lewis's comedietta, *A Lesson in Shakespeare*, in which Messrs. Dalziel, Heron, and Harold West and Miss Beatrice Fitzgerald appear.

THEATRE ROYAL, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, March 15, the Drama, entitled

"THE ASSASSIN."

Excellently mounted and lavishly dressed, *The Assassin* deals with life in Russia, which invariably affords a means of both powerful and picturesque treatment, and the author, Mr. E. Hill Mitchelson, has thoroughly availed himself of the opportunities that have presented themselves and has evolved a play of highly interesting qualities. Produced under the guiding hand of Mr. Augustine Knight, the drama is received with emphatic expressions of approbation. Mr. Augustine Knight gives a clever impersonation of Prince Demetri, and depicts the dastardly schemes in which that personage is engaged in convincing style; Mr. John Worth stands out prominently in the character of Ivan Ipanoff; Mr. Henry C. Ward offers a careful study of the Duke Carl; Baron Alphonse is humorously portrayed by Mr. Murray Hathorne, who submits a thoroughly diverting characterisation; Mr. Wilson Summers shows ability as General Nicol, Chief of the Police; Mr. Edwin Jenner essays the part of Captain O'Neil in a manly fashion; Peter, a "greenhorn" in the secret police, is made a morth-provoking person in the hands of Mr. J. Tilley Dillsen; and the wordless Evangie of Mr. W. R. Christmas is highly popular. Miss Ella Vane in the title-rôle as Countess Wanda offers a powerful rendering, a noteworthy feature of her performance occurring in the duel scene. Nita is pathetically played by Miss Maude Steeple; Miss Eva Trevanna gives a successful rendering of Connie Jonathan, an American girl, who becomes a great favourite; and Miss Katie Lever is happily suited as Katrina. Miss Ada Douglas, Mr. Arthur Hill, Mr. Jones Flood, and Mr. George S. Stephens lend adequate assistance in minor parts.

ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, March 15, the Pantomime, entitled

"BLUE BEARD."

Produced under the supervision of Mr. John Clegg, Mr. Charles Constant's company in *Blue Beard* is paying a week's visit to this theatre. Having been on the boards since Christmas, the pantomime has been judiciously improved from time to time, and now runs its merry course in a very brisk fashion, the numerous musical numbers with which the play abounds making strong claims on popular favour. Miss Daisy Lake makes a good principal boy in the part of Selim, her songs "I don't care if there's a girl there" and "I want you to see my girl" being well received. Miss Marie Duncan is a charming Fatima, and scores in the song "The lovelight in your eyes," also evoking applause by her rendering of "Keepsakes." Miss Laura Wickenden is suitably placed as Asphodel and looks a pretty Fairy Queen. Sister Ann has an able representative in Mr. Johnny Clegg, who provokes much laughter. He is heard to advantage in the songs "My girl's a Yorkshire girl" and "Good-bye to Charlie." Mr. Jack Parker sustains the part of Bamboozlum in a diverting manner, and contributes an attractive turn in the song "Study your cookery book." Mr. Walter B. Freer (who is a brother of that well-known and clever comedienne Miss Louie Frear) imparts much humour to the part of Pimple. He is in his element in a lively dance, and catches the ear of the house in the song "Follow me." Mr. Ellis Carlyle in the title-rôle makes the most of his opportunities; Mr. W. Harlin and Mr. B. Hanlon provide a large amount of comedy as Shacabac and Abdulla respectively; and Loolah and Cashim are capably played by Miss D. D'Armour and Miss Gerte Gordon. Specialities are supplied by Russell and Gage and Miss Dolly Moore. The orchestra is under the able direction of Mr. L. Finch.

GREENWICH THEATRE.

On Monday, March 15, the Drama, in Four Acts, entitled

"THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS."

Mr. Alfred B. Cross and Miss Watersford's company is appearing here this week with considerable success in the drama entitled *The Night Before Christmas*. Mr. A. B. Cross has long been a favourite here, his vigorous style appealing strongly to his audiences, and he submits an artistic and effective study of Judge John Phillips; Mr. C. Vernon Proctor acts well as Jack Phillips; Mr. Henry Lloyd is excellent both as Bud Means and Absalom Mack; Mr. John E. Tomlinson is very good indeed as Daniel Webster Wills; Mr. Charles Brandon does well as Joe Miller; Mr. John Beech is a clever Blind Billy Pickerall; Mr. Alfred Selwood is a capital Sam Simkins; and other parts are well filled by Messrs. W. Jackson, Fred March, William Berson, and W. Hudson. Miss Minnie Waterford is charming and clever as Marion Williams; Miss Alicia Rayleigh is good as Annie Phillips; Miss Maude Elliott gives a clever study of Grandmother Phillips; Miss Mary Forsdyke is excellent as Mrs. Higgins; and Miss Amy Rudd is a capital Charity Smith. The parts of the grandchildren, Ruby Phillips Carlton and Llewellyn Phillips Carlton, are well acted by Miss Winnie Warden and Master Sidney Forest. The scenery and dresses are good and appropriate.

BROADWAY THEATRE, S.E.

On Monday, March 15, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Walter Howard, entitled

"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."

Messrs. Paumier and Howard's company, including Mr. Alfred Paumier and Miss Yvonne Orchardson, is the attraction here in *The Midnight Wedding*. Mr. A. Paumier is a sterling actor, and does full justice to the fine character of Paul Valmar; Miss Orchardson is a charming Princess Astrea, looking and acting admirably; Miss Nesta Sandford is a clever and attractive Satanella; Miss Gwladys Faunce is a pleasing Kathie; and Miss Prudence Lawrence plays Marie cleverly. Mr. John Nesbitt gives an excellent performance as the Crown Prince Leopold; Mr. A. E. Winnington-Barnes is very good indeed as Eugene; Mr. Aidan Lovett is a finished Count Rudolf; Mr. Arthur Radford is good as Sub-Lieutenant Kulman; Mr. Forbes Harrison is an excellent Father Gerard; Mr. James E. Page is a capital Sergeant Max; and Mr. Vernon H. Vayne and Mr. Algie Spalding do well as Otto and Bebo. Mr. J. Harringay is well suited as Nathon; and the remaining characters get full justice at the hands of Messrs. C. E. Dane, Charles Stephens, Mark Shelding, and Bert Lewis. The play is lavishly mounted and exceedingly well dressed. The acting-manager for the company is Mr. Forbes Harrison, and Mr. Bertram Iles continues to grow in popularity in his position as resident-manager.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.

On Monday, March 15, the Play, in Three Acts, entitled

"THE THIEF."

Mr. George Alexander's company, in the St. James's Theatre success, *The Thief*, is occupying the boards at the Borough Theatre this week, and was received with much favour by those present on the opening night of the week. The piece is splendidly staged, and the small cast required has been most suitably selected. Miss Marie Polini, in the exacting rôle of Marise Chelford, achieves a striking success. Very graceful and charming, Miss Polini readily enlists sympathy for the fear-haunted wife, under whose butterfly surface there exists such deep devotion for the husband, who is her sole thought, and her incisive, restrained acting in the strong second act is a very fine histrionic effort. As Richard Chelford Mr. Rupert Lister portrays every phase of this important character with conviction and virility, and entirely suggests Marise's honourable, if rather casual, husband, who is determined, at any sacrifice, to uphold the truth. Mr. Cyril Harcourt is responsible for a quiet, well-defined portraiture of Raymond Leyton; and Mr. Owen Nares, as the infatuated, though chivalrous, Harry Leyton, plays in a fluent and natural style which is most effective. Mr. Luke Forster as the calm, deliberate detective, Mr. Protheroe, is eminently well suited; Miss Frances Leighton plays very appropriately as Isabel Leyton; and the small part of a servant is safely entrusted to Mr. Bernard Stevens. *The Nursery Governess*, a one-act play, provides a very popular curtain-raiser, the parts in which are capitally undertaken by Mr. Charles King, Mr. Luke Forster, Mr. Bernard Stevens, and Miss Eileen Kerin.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD.

On Monday, March 15, the Drama, by Walter Howe, entitled

"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."

This stirring drama, which had its initial production at the Stratford Borough Theatre some time back, is at Mr. Sam Frederick's popular Theatre Royal this week, and is proving a potent attraction, the strong domestic interest of the story, the many thrilling situations, and the interpolated comedy supplying a dramatic dish of piquant flavour. Mr. Frank J. Pitt's company interprets the piece most satisfactorily, and some very fine scenery is carried. Mr. H. Creagh Hunt in the important rôle of the villainous Stephen Cavanagh acts very powerfully and makes this inhuman wretch an object of particular aversion to the more susceptible among the audience. Mr. Frank J. Pitt as the young inventor Frank Manton looks the part well and speaks his lines very distinctly; Mr. John Campling is a very satisfactory Walter Lennox; Mr. Wilson Roberts plays in versatile style as the ne'er-do-well Dick Carson; Mr. Frank Dallas is a prime favourite as the good-hearted policeman, Patrick Maloney, being always entertaining and interesting; and Mr. Fred Carroll is a very amusing Tom Leckie. Miss Florence Halton acts with considerable feeling and latent strength as the much-wronged Alice Cavanagh, thereby adding prominence to this important rôle; Miss Kathryne Eckart plays with sympathy and tact as Mary Manton; Miss Olive M. Pitt is a bright and prepossessing Norah Maloney; and a word of praise is due to Miss Dollie Lester as the boy Eric. Remaining parts are all in quite capable hands.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, March 15, the Play, in Four Acts, by J. W. Sabben Clare, entitled

"THE POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN."

The many powerful situations in this intensely human play proved very acceptable to the habitués of Mr. William Bailey's commodious Marylebone playhouse on Monday. Mr. Montague Beaudyn was a host in himself as the fear-haunted Philip Carey. Heart and soul in his work, he made a deep impression on his audience, who were not chary of their applause. His whole manner and bearing were quite in keeping with the part, and his elocution was very commendable. Mr. C. D. Pitt gave a bright and manly portrayal of Horace Winter; Mr. Arthur Cresswell was quite at his ease as Guy Oliphant; Mr. Rupert Talbot was a humorous figure as Lord Arthur Dumley; and Mr. Arthur A. Tomlin did well as Bransby. As Denise Carey Miss Florrie Green played with touching effect; Miss Malone enacted Nellie Montague with an archness and vivacity that charmed all; Miss Phyllis Rae was well placed as Marie; Miss Irene Munro made the most of her opportunities as the "wicked woman," Helen Terraire. The play was well staged and mounted, and its reception was very cordial.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

A pianoforte recital was given by the pupils of Mr. John Francis Barnett on Friday afternoon, March 12, at the Guildhall School of Music. The programme commenced with Mozart's Concerto in E flat, for two pianofortes (first movement), Cadenza by Reinecke, which was ably played by Miss Muriel Kingsbury and Miss Jessie Attwell. An excellent performance was also given by Miss Beatrice Dunn, of Clementi's seldom heard Sonata, Op. 50, No. 3, "Didone abbandonata," Scena tragica. Miss Dorothy Ellis played Sarabande, from Holberg Suite (Greig) and Chopin's Ballade in F skilfully; while Miss Frances Cox gave an expressive rendering of Schumann's Concerto in A minor(two movements), Miss Bethwin Foss playing the second piano. Mr. Wallis Bandey, A.G.S.M., was heard in a really brilliant performance of Chopin's C sharp minor Scherzo; and Miss Bethwin Foss was heartily applauded after her playing of Nocturne in C minor (Chopin) and Mr. T. F. Barnett's bright and very effective Tarantelle in G minor. After a clever interpretation of Liszt's Rhapsodie Hongroise, No. 12, by Miss Jessie Attwell, Miss Greta Dunlop was heard in Nocturne in E flat (Chopin), and Mr. Conrad Richardson in the same composer's Ballade in A flat. The recital concluded with Mendelssohn's Serenade, Op. 43, played by Miss Lily White, with Miss Beatrice Dunn at the second piano. The recital was a success, and all Mr. Barnett's pupils gave evidence of sound training and acquitted themselves admirably.

Miss Eleanor Wort, pianist, gave a careful performance of Mendelssohn's Prelude and Fugue in E minor at the students' concert on Wednesday evening, and Miss Lilian Budds, a blind pupil of Mr. Johannes Wolff, did her professor great credit in her violin solo Sonata in E minor (Veracini), and had an enthusiastic reception from the large audience. In Handel's recitative and air, "O ruddier than the cherry," Mr. John Younger, for so difficult a composition, had a fair amount of success; while Miss Ethel Dieselhorst sang Bohm's beautiful song "Still wie die nacht" with expression, being more successful therein than in her second song, "I think," by Guy d'Hardelot, a somewhat tame example of a clever composer. Although taking some liberties with the time, Miss Margaret Wilson gave, on the whole, a meritorious performance of Liszt's Rhapsody, and Mr. Leonard A. Connabeer, a youthful but most promising violinist, had a hearty greeting and two recalls after a clever interpretation of "Souvenir de Moscow" (Wieniawski). A somewhat unusual song for a lady is Schumann's "The Two Grenadiers," but Miss May Harding certainly deserved praise for her singing. The Rita Mandoline Quintett, pupils of Mme. Fiammetta Waldahoff, greatly pleased the audience by their clever playing of Neapolitan Airs and "Fantasia Caratteristica" (Francia). Mr. J. A. Maynard sang "Love is a Bauble" (Parry), and Miss Ethel Oliver was much applauded in Bemberg's "Nymphs et Sylvains." The last item in the programme was the Love Scene of Catherine from Shakespeare's *Henry V.*, ably acted by pupils of Miss Kate Rorke. Miss Joyce Francis made an attractive Catherine, and Mr. W. Bentley spoke his lines distinctly and with humour, while his gestures were graceful and appropriate, but a little more regal dignity as Henry V. would have been welcome. The little part of Alice was played by Miss Kathleen Roberts.

Chevalier A. Foa, of Paris, has gratuitously designed an artistic front cover for the programme of the Alexandra Palace amusements, and Messrs. Ede and Townsend, Ltd., of Southwark Bridge-buildings, S.E., have presented the process blocks. The trustees gratefully acknowledge the gifts.

"WHO IS SHE?"

Romantic Play, in Four Acts, by E. Hill-Mitchelson, Played for the First Time in London at the Lyric, Hammersmith, on Monday, March 15.

King Vladamis .....MR. GRAHAM WOODS
Prince Bora .....MR. E. HILL-MITCHELSON
Captain Arthur Sower ....MR. SINCLAIR HOLDEN
Sergeant Metroff .....MR. ALFRED GRENVILLE
Chang-Tee .....MR. EDWARD SWINTON
Paul .....MR. GEORGE SCULLY
Michael .....MR. LEI-HAIR
The Spy .....MR. C. H. HENDERSON
Sentry .....MR. HENRY GIBSON
Headsman .....MR. CYRIL MAITLAND
Father Petra .....MR. JAMES FURGUSON
The Little King .....MISS MABEL RONALD
"Who is She?" .....MISS VIOLET CARLYLE
Sarette .....MISS MARY COLLIER
Zeta Noveitch .....MISS MARIE ROBSON
Countess Ladori .....MISS ALICE BARBER

Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson, the author of *Who is She?*—produced at the Hippodrome, Wigan, on Dec. 16, 1907—is not unknown as a playwright, having written *Death or Glory Boys* and other dramas which have enjoyed long runs in the provinces and the suburban theatres. There is action in abundance in his latest play, the many thrilling incidents and effective "curtains" revealing the hand of the practised writer for popular audiences. The action takes place in an unknown country in a state of rebellion. King and Queen and nearly all their faithful followers have been killed when the curtain rises, the first scene being the interior of an old inn near the frontier, where most of the principals come to seek refuge. The chivalrous Prince Vladamis is established King, and the cruel Prince Bora, the leader of the rebels, and his companion in duplicity, Zeta Noveitch, quickly reveal their evil designs. The lady who gives the play its title next comes on the scene, accompanied by Sergeant Metroff, one of the few faithful surviving soldiers of the late King. She refuses to reveal her identity, and eventually Vladamis promises to befriend her. A box supposed to contain her belongings is brought in, and when the coast is clear it is opened, and out steps the little King, the rightful heir to the throne. This is the youngster whom Bora is anxious to get out of the way, and his whereabouts and identity are unknown to all save the unknown lady. In the first scene of the next act she and the lad are almost starving, and she is about to sacrifice herself to Prince Bora in order to provide food for the little King when Vladamis offers to make her his wife. The next scene, the unknown woman's boudoir, is particularly fertile in sensation. Spies are on her track, and the whereabouts of the young King is suspected. She is aware she has been followed, and bids the faithful Metroff guard the door with his life, a command the loyal old soldier is only too happy to obey. When she and the boy have retired to rest Bora enters by the window, and peering through the arras and seeing Metroff removes that source of danger with a sword thrust. The unknown woman is silenced on her appearance with chloroform, and Bora then sets about to find the little King. The youngster, however, has profited by his pistol practice with Metroff, and wounds Bora in the wrist ere he is eventually removed to a place of safety. Vladamis also comes on the scene, and Bora makes it appear that he is his (Vladamis's) wife's paramour, incidentally making a cowardly attack on the hero's life. In the next act the identity of the little King—who is now dressed as a drummer boy—is nearly disclosed; and Vladamis, thinking his wife faithless, decides to annul the marriage. It should be mentioned that hero and heroine have been frequently helped out of difficulties by the cunning of a Chinese servant, Chang-Tee, who has been ill-treated by Bora, on whom he swears to be revenged. His ingenuity and resourcefulness are again conspicuous in the last scene of the third act, the Prison Grounds, and Vladamis and the unknown lady also have valuable friends in Captain Arthur Sower, a young Englishman, and the Countess Ladori, who disguise themselves as sentries, and thus frustrate Bora and Zeta Noveitch. In this scene we witness the death of the brave Metroff, who is shot by order of Bora, now in command, as Vladamis has abdicated. In the final act, Bora, who has given way to drink, quarrels with the woman who has stood by him in all his treachery, admitting that he loves the unknown woman and means to make her his mistress, eventually killing Zeta Noveitch. Chang-Tee gains admittance into the apartment, and drills a hole in the safe containing the death warrants of the young King and Vladamis, which he burns. In the end the little King, learning his power, is enabled to save Vladamis. Hero and heroine (who, it appears, is the daughter of the late Chief of the Police) are reunited, and the scheming Bora made captive, his own death-warrant being found attached to his coat.

The company responsible for the production—Mr. Hill-Mitchelson's—is an excellent one throughout, the author giving a particularly convincing portrayal of Prince Bora. There is nothing of the crafty or cunning villain about this relentless murderer, who stays his hand at nothing to remove any obstacle from his path, and Mr. Mitchelson's fine appearance and crisp and distinct delivery of his lines were exactly suited to the part, which it would be difficult to imagine more effectively enacted. The brave and generous Vladamis was undertaken in a manly and natural manner by Mr. Graham Woods, particularly praiseworthy being his handling of the scenes with the unknown woman; and the loyal and fearless Sergeant Metroff was a dignified, easy, and in every way satisfactory portrait as presented by Mr. Alfred Grenville, his scenes with the little King being especially well played. As the ubiquitous Chang-Tee Mr. Edward Swinton submitted a portrayal of the cunning Celestial which soon became popular, and on which he is to be highly complimented; Mr. Sinclair Holden played the timid lover, but brave soldier, Captain Sower, exactly as we should imagine the author intended; and Mr. George Scully, who largely contributed to the comic relief, drolly depicted the cowardice of the unfortunate servant Paul, his impersonation throughout of a rather difficult part being a very humorous one. Miss Violet Carlyle was a refined and natural representative of the title-rôle, admirably suggesting her love for the little King and Vladamis; Miss Alice Barber as the Countess Ladori was responsible for a quietly humorous and altogether admirable enactment; Miss Marie Robson as Zeta Noveitch quite realised that unhappy woman's devotion to Bora her share in the concluding scene with the Prince being excellently managed; Miss Mary Collier contributed valuably to the comic scenes by her bright and vivacious portrayal of the maid Sarette; and the little King was naturally and intelligently played by Miss Mabel Roland. The other characters were all admirably sustained. The play was excellently mounted, the handsome military uniforms and ladies' toilettes being much admired. The drama evidently gave great satisfaction to the Lyric audience on Monday, and their frequently-expressed approval augurs well for its continued success "on the road."

A WELL-ATTENDED concert was given at King Edward's Hall, Canonbury Tower, on Saturday evening, the programme being provided by the Standard Part Singers' Concert Party. The several quartettes were harmoniously rendered by Messrs. G. Morgan, E. Starkey, W. Clare, and W. Hamilton, and were well received. Miss Ethel Beetlestone's songs at the piano, admirably given, were greatly appreciated; Mr. Emil Clare and Mr. Will Hamilton also scored with humorous ditties; Mr. G. Morgan was applauded for his songs, "The Sergeant of the Line" and "Cheero"; and Mr. W. Clare deserves praise for his rendering of "In your dear eyes."

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

A council meeting of the Actors' Association was held at 353, Strand, on Tuesday, March 16. Mr. F. J. Arlton was in the chair, and amongst those present were Mr. H. W. Mote (honorary solicitor), Messrs. Clarence Derwent, Robson Paige, Sebastian Smith, Jackson Wilcox, and Clive Currie, Miss Rose Mathews, and Mr. Hubert Blount (secretary).

Mr. Paige asked the hon. solicitor as to the legality of the council continuing its sitting after a quorum had ceased to be in attendance, and the council asked Mr. Mote to draw up a resolution dealing with the matter to come up next Tuesday.

The chairman read a letter from a non-member asking as to a girl friend of his having paid a premium to join an unknown management, and the secretary received instructions to reply as follows: "In reply to your letter we know nothing of the syndicate and management you mention, but we would strongly impress upon you that in any case it is unwise to pay a premium to people personally unknown to you. We would like to add that we should regard with suspicion any manager offering 2 guineas a week to an artist who is making his or her first appearance."

A letter was read from Mr. Leonard Houghton tendering his resignation as hon. medical officer owing to his going to British Columbia, and recommending Dr. W. H. Marsden to act in his stead. A letter was also read from Mr. Chris. Walker recommending Dr. J. Murdock Brown as hon. medical officer to the A.A. The secretary received instructions to take the usual course in both cases.

John H. Mote and Sons reported having written five letters for members, interviewed two members, and advised another.

The Finance Committee's report was read and adopted. On the House Committee's report the council gave the secretary instructions to carry out repairs, but before doing so to get a written estimate.

With regard to the nomination of a ballet mistress the secretary received instructions to write to the candidate to the effect that her qualifications, as stated, did not permit her to become a member.

The following were elected: Elsie Goulding, proposed by Mark D. Draper, seconded by Ethel Russell; Marjorie Carey, proposed by Maud Kirwan, seconded by Dora Levis; Lionel Yaldwyn, proposed by A. Collins-Rolfe, seconded by Clive Currie; and Gwendoline Garland, proposed by Clarence Derwent, seconded by C. Hayden Coffin.

Miss Mathews brought up the subject of Mr. Harcourt's Bill, and the secretary received instructions to endeavour to obtain a copy of the measure.

The secretary reported that Mr. William Poel had called on him with regard to the representation of the dramatic profession on the list of Governors of the National Memorial, and received instructions to communicate with Mr. Raleigh on the subject.

ACTORS' UNION.

As only four members of the committee were able to attend on Friday last, no quorum was formed, and the meeting was adjourned till the 19th inst., when it is hoped that every member of the committee who can will attend. Members, when remitting cash to the office, are requested to register their letters and cross all postal orders and make them payable to the Actors' Union.

ALEXANDRA PALACE.

The Central Hall was crowded on Saturday with a loyal and enthusiastic audience assembled to do justice to the grand concert in celebration of the anniversary of the wedding of their Majesties, the King and Queen. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress and the Sheriffs of London attended in State, being supported by the Mayors of North London Boroughs and Chairmen of District Councils. The massed bands of H.M. Brigade of Guards, Grenadiers (conductor, Dr. A. Williams, Mus.Doc., Oxon, Second Lieutenant); Scots (conductor, Mr. F. W. Wood); Irish (conductor, Mr. C. H. Hassall); Coldstream (conductor, Dr. J. Mackenzie Rogan, Hon. R.A.M.), were in attendance.

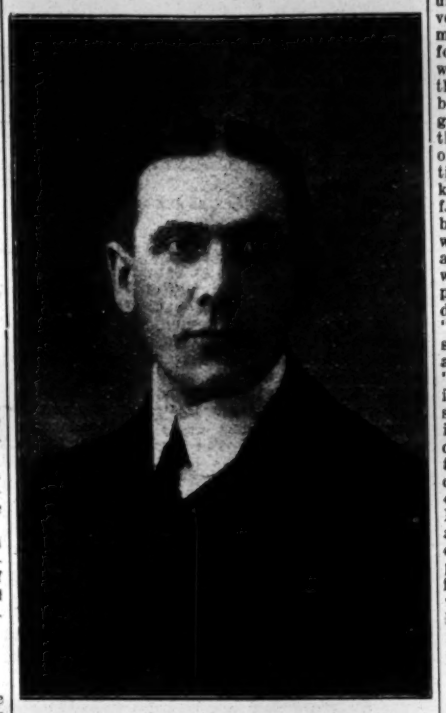
The programme opened with recitals on the grand organ by Mr. G. D. Cunningham, the organist of the Alexandra Palace. Probably Wely's grand fantasia, "The Storm," evoked the most appreciable marks of approval. At eight o'clock the concert proper commenced with "God Save the King," the first verse being sung by Mme. Mary Conly, the second by Mme. Edna Thornton, and the third by the audience. The afore-named ladies afforded the respective vocal numbers during the evening, Mme. Mary Conly sweetly rendering Verdi's cavatina "Ernani, Ernani, involami," and Mme. Edna Thornton the aria, "Softly, awakes my heart," for both of which efforts the artists had the pleasing compulsion of submitting an encore. The grand overture "Solonnelle" ("1812"), with the usual pyrotechnic effects by Messrs. James Pain and Son, was as enthusiastically received as ever; and Jullian's "British Army Quadrilles," with over half a century's record behind it, had lost none of its popularity. The assistance rendered by the drums and Fifes of H.M. 2nd Scots Guards and H.M. 2nd Coldstream Guards, and the pipers of H.M. 2nd Scots Guards, left nothing wanting to make the concluding number on the programme a most successful and realistic effort.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICAL MANAGERS.

MR. JAMES LANGDON LEE.

The popular manager of the Theatre Royal, Plymouth, Mr. James Langdon Lee, drifted into theatrical management by accident rather than design. Had he followed the career which had been mapped out for him he would now doubtless be a priest of high degree. With a view to entering the Roman Catholic Church Mr. Lee was trained at a Jesuit College in Ireland, and at St. Edmund's, Ware, in Herts. But destiny determined otherwise.

Ten years ago Mr. Lee was permitted to "walk on" in pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth, then leased by Mr. C. F. Williams. He walked off again with the conviction that to appreciate acting is one thing and to achieve it is quite another. The result of his initial association with the Theatre Royal, however, was that Mr. Williams offered him the post of assistant-acting-manager. With no experience, but with strong natural aptitude, young Mr. Lee entered upon his new calling. Some three years after his début the Theatre Royal was acquired by another syndicate, and Mr. Lee went with Mr. Williams,



MR. JAMES LANGDON LEE.

in the same capacity, to the Grand Theatre, Stonehouse. By diligent attention to duty Mr. Lee rose steadily to that standard of administrative efficiency which fits him to direct the affairs of a first-class playhouse.

After a brief absence Mr. C. F. Williams returned to the Theatre Royal, under changed conditions of proprietorship. He finally retired some two years ago, and the remaining directors then unanimously appointed Mr. Langdon Lee as resident-manager, a post he has filled with great success. Many brilliant bookings stand to his credit, he having introduced to Plymouth playgoers for the first time such eminents artists as Sir John Hare and Mr. Arthur Bourchier, and secured return visits from most of the leading stars on tour. Mr. Lee, in conjunction with Mr. Bannister Howard, arranged the production of the recent pantomime *Cinderella*, which beat all existent records as a money-maker at the Theatre Royal.

Mr. Langdon Lee is still comparatively young, and measured by the success of his career thus far his future should be fraught with the promise of big things in theatrical management.

"PLAYS OF OUR FOREFATHERS," by Charles Mills Gayley, which has been recently published in London by Messrs. Chatto and Windus, is an attempt to interest the reading public in the mediæval drama, not only as an instance of the development of literary art, but as a chronicle of the ideas and traditions, the religious consciousness, the romance and humour of times that seem to be remote. After describing the origin of the mediæval drama, Mr. Gayley deals with the evolution of Liturgical plays, the "invasion of the humorous," the Boy Bishop and St. Nicholas plays; and, finally, after other learned excursions, leads us up to the famous Miracle Plays and Mysteries. All these subjects are treated with vast knowledge, and are carefully and elaborately described. The illustrations are numerous and excellent, most of them being quaint reproductions from ancient engravings, full of the *naïf* oddity of old times, and unintentionally comical and curious. The book will be read with avidity by those who take interest in the drama of the period of which the author treats so exhaustively.

"GOING ON PARADE."

A Play, in One Act, by H. M. Richardson, Produced for the First Time on any Stage by Miss Horniman's Company at the Gaiety Theatre, Manchester, on Monday, March 15.

Mrs. O'Horan .....MISS MARY SAKER
Mrs. Tyms .....MISS LOUISE HOLBROOK
Mr. Tyms .....MR. EDWARD LANDOR
Mr. Richards .....MR. HENRY AUSTIN

Mr. H. M. Richardson's new one-act play, *Going on Parade*, depicts a corner in slum life with an amount of realism that is almost too quietly typical to be dramatically effective. There is much sordid excitement in slums, and doubtless much rough humanity and bitter pathos, for the budding dramatist to work upon if he would be really dramatic; but Mr. Richardson has chosen a few typical figures within a typical court by way of mere setting for a quiet episode which is rather sentimental in the author's brain than pathetic in the central figure he creates. Mrs. O'Horan is a typical Irishwoman who has lost an unimaginably good husband ("rest his sowl!"); Mrs. Tyms is typical of the fighting, broad-beamed, beery, half-dressed Englishwoman; and Mr. Tyms is a good specimen of the dirty British workman who seldom works, who is not unwilling to thrash his wife on the slightest provocation, and whose ideas of congenial employmen lie in the direction of tobacco and beer. The fourth personage is Mr. Richards (owd Dick), whose wife is dead and whose son was killed in the war. Richards mends shoes and sells gingerbeer. But times are bad, and the landlord has given him notice to quit. There is nothing for the old soldier but the workhouse. The bursting of a bottle of gingerbeer is meant as a premonition; his sentimental appreciation of many little kindnesses of his uncouth neighbours has a ring of farewell; and his distribution of the remaining bottles of gingerbeer—all that are left of his wife's last brew—has also a doleful significance; to all of which is added a sort of sentimental wandering of the mind, such as comes to a dying person. The old man comes forth wearing a soldier's coat and cap and carrying a gun. He is "going on parade." But the neighbours persuade him to return indoors. Presently there is a sharp report. It is not gingerbeer this time: "owd Dick" has shot himself. The theme is invested with much sympathy, and the author's sentimental fancy expresses itself further in the idea of the linnet in its cage by Richard's door and the release of the little bird preceding the more tragic release of the old soldier who could not face the workhouse. But it is not very easy to believe in Richards at all, though Mr. Henry Austin's rendering of the idea was quietly and sympathetically done. The others were real enough. Miss Louise Holbrook as Mrs. Tyms was painfully natural; Mr. Edward Landor was perfect as Tyms; and Miss May Saker's Mrs. O'Horan was sufficiently true to life. The piece, however, lacks movement, and is indicative of a narrative rather than a dramatic gift in the author. It might make an effective story.

UNACTED AUTHORS' SOCIETY.

The above society was renamed the Playwrights' Association at a general meeting held under the chairmanship of Mr. William Haviland at the Eustace Miles Restaurant on Monday.

Amongst those who have promised to become patrons are Messrs. Cyril Maude, Robt. Courtneidge, William Haviland, C. Aubrey Smith, Allan Aynesworth, Gerald Du Maurier, Lyall Swete, Henry Ainley, F. R. Benson, H. V. Esmond, and Norman V. Norman, Miss Irene Vanbrugh, Miss Rosina Filippi, and Miss Nancy Price. Mr. Dion Boucicault has also promised assistance.

Mr. THORPE MAYNE (the hon. secretary) said that altogether they had heard from 120 people, including one in France, who had membership in view.

Officers were elected and two committees appointed. Messrs. Cyril Maude, C. Aubrey Smith, and Allan Aynesworth were chosen as readers, they having promised to read plays submitted and give a written criticism.

There was considerable discussion over the title of the Association. Eventually the title chosen was the Playwrights' Association.

Mr. WILLIAM HAVILAND said that he had never sent back a play unread, and this was true of other managers. Still the society would bring pressure to bear, and if it could find a really fine play it would soon be produced.

The rules which were agreed upon provided that plays sent in to the reading committee must be unsigned, but accompanied by a sealed envelope enclosing the author's name. The entrance fee has been fixed at 10s. 6d. and the annual subscription at £1 1s. Those plays which pass both the committee and the readers will be either submitted to managers or produced by the society. All productions will be at matinées, and may be private or open to the public at reduced prices. No translations from a foreign author, unless he is a member and one of the "unacted," will be entertained. No play is to be produced which would be prohibited by the Censor, and in the case of those which are put on for a run through the society the author is to pay the society 5 per cent. of the royalties received during the first run.

"ARE 'YOU' THE MAN?" a play, in four acts, by Frank Price, was produced for copyright purposes at the Royal County Theatre, Reading, on Saturday, March 13.

[Photo by The Sport and General Illustrations Co

MISS ELLALINE TERRISS AT HER LATIMER-ROAD SOUP KITCHEN.

THE PLAY ACTORS.

Four new one-act plays were produced on Sunday evening by the Play-Actors' at the Court Theatre, and it is pleasant to be able to state that each item on the programme contained some merit. The opening piece was

"SAWNEY,"
an East-End Episode, by Sybil Noble.

Mrs. Jenks .....MISS CLARE GREET
Mr. Jenks .....MR. WILLIAM PRINGLE
Katie .....MISS FLORRIE LEWIS
Tommy .....MASTER D'OYLY SHEPPARD
Mrs. Gort .....MISS LILLIAN TWEED
Sawney .....MISS SYBIL NOBLE

Mrs. Jenks is a working woman who possesses what may be characterised as "feline propensities." In other words, Mrs. Jenks would be described by members of her own sex as a "catty" woman. Her out-of-work husband, whom she supports as well as her two children, has had goodly experience of the quality of her acrimonious tongue. So has poor Sawney, an unpaid drudge of a girl, whose life is rendered perfectly wretched by Mrs. Jenks's treatment. Mr. Jenks has decided that he has had quite enough of his too-attentive spouse, and he has, unknown to her, accepted a situation in Canada. During Mrs. Jenks's absence he leaves the house, taking Sawney's carpet-bag with him, previously arranging to take the girl with him, the two to meet a few hours later. Upon Mrs. Jenks's return the hitherto complacent Sawney proves quite refractory, and even refuses to wash down the steps, and she tells her mistress that the "lady" to whom she has lent her bag has taken her into her service. The children, however, love Sawney, and she loves them. Other considerations come to the girl's mind, she once more becomes the obedient drudge, and the appointment with Jenks is relinquished. Miss Sybil Noble, the authoress, gives us in this piece several interesting character-studies, enacting the rôle of the disconsolate Sawney in a manner that is worthy of all praise. Miss Clare Greet is sufficiently vicious as Mrs. Jenks; and other able studies are furnished by Mr. William Pringle as Mr. Jenks and Miss Lillian Tweed as Mrs. Gort, a neighbour.

The second piece was

"THE APPLE,"
by Inez Bensusan.

Ann Payson .....MISS WINIFRED MAYO
Helen Payson .....MISS ADELINE BOURNE
Cyril Payson .....MR. P. PERCEVAL CLARK
Nigel Dean .....MR. ERNEST YOUNG

"The Apple" is the nickname given to a lackadaisical young gentleman, who is permitted every opportunity of enjoying himself and generally taking life easily, while his two sisters have to drudge for a livelihood—one as a typist and the other as the domestic worker in the home. The typist sister, Helen Payson, who is in the same employment as her father and brother, rebels, intimates her intention of going out to Canada, and threatens to demand her share of the money that has been left for the three. Cyril, her brother, wants the whole of it in order to assist him in a good "match," and in the end Helen has to consent to sacrifice herself. Miss Adeline Bourne acted spiritedly and with considerable feeling in the rôle of Helen Payson, Mr. P. Perceval Clarke furnished a really capital portraiture of the selfish brother; and Miss Winifred Mayo was bright and good-humoured as the sister who busied herself with the affairs of the home.

"DARRACOTT'S WIFE,"
by Affleck Scott and Alan Carmichael.

Will Darracott .....MR. JACKSON WILCOX
Bess .....MISS WINIFRED RAE
A Revenue Officer ....MR. GEORGE FITZGERALD

Will Darracott is a smuggler, and he has the most loyal-hearted wife a man could desire. She succeeds in putting a revenue officer off the scent while her husband is away on one of his dangerous nocturnal enterprises, and when he returns by way of a secret passage, and prepares to make an escape, she attempts to divert the attention of the revenue men from her husband by donning his overall and walking out into the darkness. Her act of loyalty is rewarded by a shot, which proves fatal. Miss Winifred Rae was seen in an admirable study of the plucky little wife, and other rôles were suitably handled.

"A QUESTION OF IDENTITY,"
by Archie J. Matthew.

Sykes .....MR. LEONARD CALVERT
Rev. Aloysius Brown .....MR. FARREN SOUTAR
A Householder .....MR. EDWARD JAMES

This is an amusing playlet, which might well be given a place in a West-End programme. Sykes is on the point of removing his swag—consisting of a sack of silver plate—when footsteps are heard, and a gentleman in clerical garb, carrying his boots in his hands, enters. The Rev. Aloysius Brown—for so the reverend gentleman's name is given on the programme—is immediately covered by Sykes's revolver, and of course has to do as Sykes desires, the latter taking him for a brother burglar; while Brown protests that he is a harmless curate who has got into the wrong house. An entertaining conversation between the two—which leads one to believe that Brown is precisely what he describes himself to be—is interrupted by sounds, the lights are hastily switched off, and when turned on again we see the curate engaged in a desperate struggle with the householder, who is secured to a chair. Brown seizes an opportunity of getting possession of Sykes's revolver, and, that accomplished, he flings the sack of silver over his shoulder, and takes his departure, leaving Sykes aghast at his audacity.

In this piece the author very cleverly leads the audience, by implication, to believe that Brown is really a clergyman, and it is not until Brown goes away with the booty that the audience realise the real nature of his profession. Mr. Farren Soutar was delightfully suave and good-mannered as the seemingly complacent curate; and Mr. Leonard Calvert was distinctly good as the rough-cut burglar of the old school. Indeed, the contrast between the two thieves—one clumsy and uneducated, the other at any rate possessing the veneer of gentlemanly culture—was made very distinct by Mr. Matthew's commendable character-drawing.

TRINITY COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

The students' concert on Monday evening commenced with a neat performance of Widor's Toccata in F, from Fifth Symphony, Op. 42, No. 1, for organ, by Mr. William J. Comley. In Elgar's "A Song of Autumn" Miss Hilda Mayston displayed in her singing much intelligence; while Miss Vera Steel was equally successful in Mendelssohn's song, "On Wings of Song." Miss Mabel Gidden, set down for a violin solo of Wieniawski's Capriccio Valse in B, was, through influenza, unable to appear. Master Edward Mitchell, in his pianoforte solo of "Waldesrauchen" (Liszt), was heartily applauded; and Miss Gladys Whitaker, another clever pianist, was very successful in Schumann's "Des Abends" and "Grillen." F. Clay's once-popular song, "She wandered down the Mountain Side," was well rendered by Miss Edith Davis; while the excellent baritone voice of Mr. Leslie A. Betts gave effect to Lully's song "Sombre Words." After "The Rosary" and "In my Garden," cleverly sung by Miss Grace Trundle, Miss Bertha Tomlin, Miss Rachie Smith, and Mr. Walter Britton, members of Dr. Gordon Saunders Chamber Music class, gave Harvey Lohr's Trio Adagio-Rondo (Allegro vivace) with good results, the Adagio being particularly well played.

MISS GEORGIE CORLASS finished a successful engagement in *Butterflies* on March 6. She was the recipient from the members of the company of lovely bouquets, which she greatly appreciated.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree has decided upon the evening of April 7 as the occasion of his revival of *The School for Scandal*. All the characters have now been allotted, and the full cast will consist of Mr. Tree as Sir Peter Teazle, Mr. Edward Terry as Crabtree, Mr. Hermann Vezin as Rowley, Miss Marie Löhr as Lady Teazle, Miss Ellis Jeffreys as Lady Sneerwell, Mr. Henry Neville as Sir Oliver Surface, Mr. Robert Cunningham as Sir Harry Bumper, Mr. Henry V. Esmond as Sir Benjamin Backbite, Mr. Basil Gill as Joseph Surface, Mr. Robert Loraine as Charles Surface, Mr. Charles Quartermaine as Careless, Mr. James Hearn as Snake, Mr. Lionel Brough as Moses, Mr. Godfrey Tearle as Trip; Miss Suzanne Sheldon as Mrs. Candour, and Miss Dagmar Wiehe as Maria.

Mr. George Alexander had a full house despite the inclement weather on Sunday afternoon when he gave at the St. James's Theatre a reading of Mr. Stephen Phillips's poetic tragedy, *Paolo and Francesca*. The reading was delivered in connection with the Sunday Lecture Society. The interior of a mediæval hall was the scene set for the occasion, and the auditorium being darkened Mr. Alexander read seated at an antique writing table, by the light of a shaded lamp. His highly dramatic rendering of the tragedy delighted all. Mr. Percy Pitt's incidental music was played by the orchestra, and the choral effects were rendered "off" by the students of the Royal College of Music. Mr. Alexander has been elected chairman of the Public Control Committee of the London County Council.

Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton produced at the Prince's, Bristol, on Thursday, with complete success, the adaptation of Stanley Wyman's novel, entitled *Count Hannibal*. The piece was received with tumultuous applause by an appreciative audience, which packed the house, and followed every point in the play with absorbing interest. Undoubtedly both Mr. Asche and Miss Brayton have scored another personal triumph. The audience was deeply thrilled during the daring and touching love scenes between Count Hannibal and Clotilde. Mr. Asche's power as a lover of the forceful type is well known. After the dagger and sword fight between Mr. Asche and Mr. Souper the curtain was raised again and again. The Massacre of the Huguenots was a masterpiece of stage-management; and Mr. Christopher Wilson's music, specially composed for the play, was deservedly applauded. The beautiful Louvre Palace scene was greatly admired.

Mr. Arthur Bourchier will celebrate this evening the first half-century of *Samson*, which seems destined to run beyond the season at the Garrick. Mr. Bourchier has in the title-part one of the most remarkable of his career, and his artistic performance should be missed by none.

The Society of West End Theatre Managers had under discussion on Wednesday Mr. William Willet's Daylight Saving Bill. Among those present were Mr. Tree, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Robert Courtneidge, Mr. Lewis Waller, Mr. William Greet, Mr. Vedrenne, and Mr. Lestocq, representing Mr. Charles Frohman. The opinion was expressed that the measure, if passed, would be distinctly injurious to theatrical business, and it was unanimously resolved to present a petition against it to the Committee of the House of Commons, and, further, to request the Prime Minister to receive a deputation on the subject.

Miss Ethel Irving will join Mr. J. E. Vedrenne's management when she finishes her engagement at the Haymarket. Mr. Vedrenne is negotiating for a suitable West-end theatre for Miss Irving, and has secured several plays for her. The season, which will commence early in the autumn, will in no way interfere with Mr. Vedrenne's partnership with Mr Lewis Waller.

Mr. Arthur Collins has kindly lent Drury Lane for a matinée, under the direction of Mr. Cyril Maude and Mr. Collins, on Tuesday, May 11, in aid of the Queen Alexandra Sanatorium at Davos, for patients suffering from any form of pulmonary disease. The generosity of members of the theatrical profession, who are continually giving their services in the cause of charity, is to a certain extent to be reciprocated, for in return for every £500 gained by the matinée, a bedroom in the building will be placed at the disposal of the dramatic profession.

The Queen has already graciously intimated her intention of taking a box, and Lord Rothschild has sent a cheque for £50 for another box. All the leading actors and actresses of both the theatrical and music-hall professions will appear, including Sir Charles Wyndham, Sir John Hare, Mr. Beerbohm Tree, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Cyril Maude, Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Miss Winifred Emery, Miss Marie Tempest, and some of the leading artists of the operatic world. A souvenir, consisting of literary contributions by some of our leading dramatic authors and actors, and original drawings by well-known artists, is in preparation.

The cost of the building will be something over £36,000, and Lord Balfour of Burleigh, the president of the sanatorium, and the council have already raised the sum of £30,000, leaving a balance of £6,000 yet to be obtained before the institution can be opened, which it is hoped will be done early in the autumn. It is the earnest desire of Her Majesty that this sanatorium should be opened free of all debt, and it is anticipated the matinée will contribute substantially towards that end.

The last meeting of the Theatres Alliance was held on a special date to enable the members to adjourn to attend on a deputation before the L.C.C. on the question of the Water Board's impositions, particularly in respect to hydrants, this being a matter on which members of the Alliance feel very strongly. All efforts to get the Water Board to meet theatre and music hall proprietors in what they consider to be a fair and reasonable spirit having failed, the matter is shortly to come before the Courts in what is practically a test case in that the Water Board have taken proceedings against a member of the Alliance. Into the merits of the case one way or the other we cannot, of course, go at the moment; but the irony of the Water Board's claims is obvious, as, whatever may be their strict legal rights, having made the full statutory charge and given the minimum statutory allowance they claim an extra payment for each hydrant.

The question of the employment of children in theatres and the unreasonable attitude of certain magistrates is another matter that the Theatres Alliance are actively dealing with, letters on this subject having been addressed to the Home Secretary as well as to other officials. It is a matter that cannot be dealt with without legislation, but nothing can be more inconvenient and annoying than the present system under which a touring company has to obtain a licence for a child in each town and be subject to the whim of this or that local magistrate, with a prejudice, perhaps, against the theatre altogether. The Alliance rightly contends that once inquiry has been made and proper undertakings given and safeguards established, a licence should be available for a certain given period and area.

Mr. George Bancroft has resigned his appointment of Administrator of the Academy of Dramatic Art, and retires with the "warm thanks" of the council for his services. He has held the position successfully since 1906, when the Academy was taken over from Mr. Tree by its council, having, prior to that period, been its secretary from the date of its foundation by Mr. Tree in 1904. The result of Mr. Bancroft's management has been that the institution is in the proud position of being entirely self-supporting and without a creditor; while in the space of two years, independently of any outside assistance, it was able completely to discharge its large debt to Mr. Tree for its lease and furniture in Gower-street. Upon the artistic side, also, the Academy has undoubtedly justified its existence and proved its usefulness. A scheme of training was organised with a view to a combination of that obtaining at the Paris Conservatoire with the old stock company system here. Some of the dramatic work has been conducted under the direction of an admirable staff of instructors, comprising Miss Rosina Filippi, Miss Gertrude Burnett, Mr. E. Lyall Swete, and Mr. J. Fisher White; while many performances have been given by the students without any tuition with a view of developing their self-reliance, and have been voluntarily criticised and corrected by Sir Squire and Lady Bancroft, Sir William Gilbert, Mr. Forbes-Robertson, Mr. E. S. Willard, Mr. Henry Ainley, Mr. Dion Boucicault, Mr. Gerald du Maurier, Mr. Norman Forbes, Mr. Lyn Harding, Mr. Martin Harvey, and Mr. H. B. Irving.

The outcome of this training has been that, to take an isolated case only, as many as sixty different characters of varied types have been played by one student during a period of fifty weeks' instruction. During Mr. Bancroft's five years' work in the Academy over 500 aspirants to the stage have passed through his hands, many of whom have already proved themselves valuable recruits to the theatrical profession. The council have lately decided to grant annually a limited number of certificates of two classes, to be signed by the president and two members of the council: (1) Certificate of Honour (being the highest prize given by the Academy) for general industry and distinguished merit; (2) Certificate of Merit for general industry and proficiency. Certificates of Honour have been awarded by the council to Mr. Reginald Owen, Miss Mary Barton, Mr. H. G. Bentley, and Miss Athene Seyler; and Certificates of Merit for 1908 to Miss Gladys Dale, Miss Sylvia Dryhurst, Miss Sibyl Mockett, Miss Pearl Timberlake, Mr. Lane Crauford, and Mr. Wilfred Fletcher

Mrs. Cooper, the late wife of Mr. Sidney Cooper, of the Lyceum Theatre, Newport, was buried on Tuesday at Christchurch Cemetery. The burial service was read by the Rev. D. J. Sproule, of St. Mark's, Newport. The mourners were Mr. Sidney Cooper, Miss Cooper (sister-in-law), Mr. Harry Surman and Mr. Frank Potter (nephews), Mr. E. H. Willey, Mr. George Ventom, Mr. George Gratton, Mr. E. H. Bull, and Mr. J. de Rees. The body was borne to the grave by four members of the theatre staff—Messrs. R. Gwynne, C. Gwynne, A. Smith, and T. Maggs. Amongst those who sent wreaths were Mr. Sidney Cooper, whose wreath was in the form of a lifebelt with the words "Good-bye" in violets; Martha and Alice (sisters-in-law), "With deepest sympathy"; Mr. and Mrs. Lyn Harding, "With deepest sympathy"; Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Willey, "With sincere sympathy"; *The Flag Lieutenant* Company; the William Mollison Shakespearean Company; Mrs. de Rees and family, "With deepest sympathy"; Mrs. Grattan and family, "R.I.P."; Grannie, the Lyceum stage staff, "With deepest sympathy"; the Lyceum Orchestra, "With deepest sympathy"; Florrie, "With deepest sympathy"; the Front Staff of the Lyceum, "With deep sympathy"; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Arthur (London), "With deepest sympathy"; and Major Gallagher and family, "With deepest sympathy."

Mr. George Graves is generously interesting himself on behalf of the chorus and stage-hands of Miss Dressler's company, who are suffering from the failure of the enterprise, subscriptions to the amount of £91 having already been raised chiefly through his exertions. Among the contributors to the fund are Mr. Brandon Thomas, Mr. Bransby Williams, Mr. H. G. Pélissier, Mr. Richard Golden, Mr. Paul Rubens, and Mr. Frank Curzon. The Eccentric Club, the members of which had already subscribed £45, also made a grant of 5 guineas from its benevolent fund.

A new theatre, to be called King Edward's Theatre, is to be erected in Shaftesbury-avenue. The site selected is at the Oxford-street end of the Avenue, and the house will be designed to hold between 2,000 and 3,000 people. At the head of the enterprise, which will be run on the principle of "popular prices," with romantic drama, is Mr. William Holles, who has had an extensive experience both in London and the provinces. He has secured a number of plays, one entitled *The Queen of Sheba*, by Messrs. Arthur Shirley and Ben Landeck, another by Mr. George R. Sims and Mr. Shirley, a third by Mr. Sims alone, a piece by the late Mr. Robert Buchanan, called *Father Anthony*, and one dealing with the career of Garibaldi, by Messrs. Sutton Vane and Arthur Shirley.

Miss Ethel Barrymore, the popular actress who is touring *Lady Frederick* in America, was married at the Church of the Most Precious Blood, near Boston, on Sunday, to Mr. R. Griswold Colt, son of Colonel Pomeroy Colt, a well-known millionaire. The bride, who was born in Philadelphia, made her first appearance on the stage in 1894 at the Empire Theatre, New York. She came to England in 1897, her first part in London being that of Miss Kittridge in *Secret Service* at the Adelphi. Later she appeared at the Lyceum with the late Sir Henry Irving, playing Euphrosine in *Peter the Great*. Her last part in London was that of Cynthia, in the play of that name, produced at Wyndham's, in the May of 1904.

Besides being popular with English audiences, Mrs. Colt has a claim upon the esteem of older London playgoers from the fact that she is the daughter of the late Maurice Barrymore, who appeared at the Haymarket during the period of 1884-6, playing Count Orloff in *Diplomacy*, Ernest Vane in *Masks and Faces*, Belvawney in *Engaged*, and Louis Percival in *Jim the Penman;* and creating Dr. Basil North in *Dark Days* and Paul Devereux in *Najezda*, of which he was the author. Later he went to America. Mrs. Colt is also the niece of the eminent American actor John Drew. As soon as her professional tour is completed, Mrs. Colt and her husband will leave for England, prior to embarking on a motor-car trip through Europe.

M. Adolphe Brisson, the well-known Parisian dramatic critic, is to deliver one of the Berlitz lectures in the Grafton Galleries on the afternoon of the 31st inst. Mr. Beerbohm Tree and Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., are inviting the principal dramatic critics of London and leading representatives of the drama to meet M. Brisson at supper in the Garrick Club on the same night.

Mr. F. M. Paget, who, after a long and distinguished career on the stage, has retired and now lives in Windsor, delighted the audience at the Windsor Fire Brigade cinematograph entertainment the other evening by an excellent and appropriate recitation, "A Fireman's Love," his elocution and dramatic delivery being alike admirable. In response to an enthusiastic recall, Mr. Paget recited "The Portrait."

Mr. Edward Compton on Tuesday last entertained his company at the Globe Hotel, Paisley, to celebrate the twenty-eighth anniversary of the Compton Comedy company. During supper, at which Mr. Compton presided, and after he had proposed the health of "The King," Mr. J. H. Savile, who was many years ago Mr. Compton's manager, and, with his wife, is always present at the yearly supper, proposed, in his usual felicitous manner, the health of the host, "The Guv'nor," to which Mr. Compton responded at length and very wittily. After supper songs, recitations, &c., were indulged in by the members of the company, Mr. Compton himself contributing two songs and two exceedingly funny Irish character sketches, and Mr. Savile sang a clever parody on "A White Man" very complimentary to Mr. Compton's genius. The proceedings terminated at an early hour with "Auld Lang Syne."

The votes and interest of Masonic brethren in the May election are invited on behalf of John Fitzgerald, for many years musical director of the Strand and Toole's Theatres. Mr. Fitzgerald was a members of the Pythagorean Lodge (No. 79) from the year 1862 until 1900, and is a Life Governor of the institution with four votes. Among those by whom the case is strongly recommended are V.W. Bro. Edward Terry, P.G.T., V.W. Bro. W. S. Penley, P.G.T., W. Bro. Sir Squire Bancroft, P.G.D., W. Bro. Henry G. Neville, P.A.G.D.C., W. Bro. John H. Barnes, P.M., and W. Bro. W. Lestocq, P.M. Proxies may be forwarded to Mr. Thomas Fraser, 37, Threadneedle-street, E.C.; Mr. J. Percy Fitzgerald, "Lindacre," Balmoral-road, Cricklewood, N.W.; and to Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, c/o *The Era* Office.

Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton achieved the distinction of breaking all records last week at the New Grand Opera House, Oldham, where they presented *The Taming of the Shrew* and (for one night only) *Othello*. At the finish of the performance on Saturday night, there were loud and continued cries of "Speech." Mr. Asche thanked the vast audience on behalf of his wife, Miss Lily Brayton, himself, and the members of the company, for the enthusiasm shown that night and during the week. It was his first visit to Oldham, and he hoped that in about 18 months, after his return from Australia, they would pay another. He would then present something entirely new which he hoped would please them as well as *The Taming of the Shrew*.

At the anniversary of the West Central Jewish Working Girls' Club, to be held at the New Royalty Theatre on Sunday, March 28, the members of the dramatic class, under the direction of Mr. Sivori Levey, will perform, in costume, *Mahmud the Sultan*, a tragedy adapted by Mr. Levey from "Hellas," by Shelley.

"The Ways of Men," a play in four acts, and *Living in a Flat*, a comedietta, both by Albert Ward, were produced for copyright purposes at the Grand Theatre and Opera House, West Hartlepool, on March 11.

"The Song of Liberty," a romantic drama in three acts by Mary C. Rowsell and H. A. Saintsbury, is in preparation for a trial performance during April at a West-End theatre. The drama is based on Lamartine's account of the composition of the "Marseillaise," by Rouget de l'Isle, and the recurring choruses of the air enhance the effect of the stirring details which take place during the height of the "Terror."

"Strife," John Galsworthy's fine play, now being successfully given at matinées at the Duke of York's, will this evening figure in the bill at the Haymarket, with the same cast. The piece will run until the end of the week, with special matinées on Wednesday and Saturday.

M. Auguste van Biene opens his new theatre at Blackpool on Easter Monday. The first contract signed was that with his son's company in Walter Howard's popular play *Man and Wife*, which Mr. Edward van Biene is touring in conjunction with Mr. John F. Traynor.

Miss Louie Adair has happily recovered from her serious illness lasting since January, and will take up the part of the heroine in *The Heathen and the Christian* on Monday next.

Miss Rose Moncrieff made her reappearance after her accident last Monday at the Opera House, Treherbert, but had to announce to the audience that she would have to go through her performance with her arm in splints.

"Another Man's Wife," recently produced at the Queen's, Liverpool, is to be toured by Mr. Fred Granville, owing to the success it achieved. The tour opens at the Star, Swansea, on Monday next, and will be under the direction of Mr. Leonard Aardale, who is retained for his original part. The scenery is being built at the Granville Studio, and includes five elaborate sets from the brush of Mr. A. Linton. A full plant of printing is being supplied by the leading firms.

General satisfaction will be given to the friends of Mr. Geo. T. Minshull and to the play-going public of Edinburgh on learning that he has been appointed a director of Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd. Mr. Minshull's wide experience, both as an actor and a manager, has been of the greatest value to the company, and during his many years' residence in Edinburgh he has endeared himself by his courtesy and his kindness in various philanthropic movements to all classes. At a special meeting of the Edinburgh Pen and Pencil Club on Tuesday last, the chairman, Dr. Cattanach, took occasion to congratulate Mr. Minshull on his well-deserved preferment.

"The Garden of the Gods," which is being played by Mr. George Lestocq and company, has proved such a success that the authors and composer have decided to write a two-act musical play dealing with Greek mythology. Mr. Lestocq has secured the first refusal of the rights in London and the provinces.

Mr. Philip Currie's rehearsal company will on the 4th prox. (Palm Sunday) perform at the Rehearsal Theatre, Maiden-lane, a new play by Ina Rozant entitled *A Stage Name*, and also *The Taming of the Shrew*, with which Mr. Currie made such a big hit at the West London Theatre last year. A string band will play some special music composed by J. Airlie Dix.

The 300th night of *The Flag Lieutenant* was celebrated at the Playhouse on Wednesday, when the clever play was received with enthusiasm by a crowded audience. As the event coincided with St. Patrick's Day, Mr. Cyril Maude presented each member of the audience with a sprig of shamrock intertwined with lilies of the valley.

Miss Julia James, who is appearing as Lady Sybil in *Our Miss Gibbs* at the Gaiety, was the victim of burglars on Tuesday, when her house in Bloomsbury-street was broken into and valuable jewellery and more than £30 in notes and gold stolen. Miss James lives with her mother and brother, who both went to a theatre on the evening in question, leaving only the servants in the house. The burglars broke open a bedroom door and carried away a safe, from which they took six diamond rings, eight brooches, three diamond pendants, diamond and emerald earrings, a gold watch, a ruby and enamel locket, £17 in gold, and a number of Bank of England notes.

The creditors of Miss Marie Dressler, the American comedienne, whose season at the Aldwych Theatre came to a disastrous end after ten days, held a private meeting on Monday at the offices of her solicitors, Messrs. Slark, Edwards, and Co., Southampton-row. Miss Dressler's liabilities were stated at the meeting to be, according to her own estimate, approximately £2,000. The assets were about £600, consisting of cash at the bank, money at libraries for seats booked, and £600 the estimated value of the production of *Philopoena*. The household furniture which she possessed was subject to a charge executed some time ago. Her jewellery she sold to raise money to pay salaries to the artists.

Several of the creditors said their claims were greater than the amounts stated. Certain of the artists had been engaged for some weeks, and a considerable claim for salaries might arise. The artists' claims had not been included in the estimated liabilities. There was also due £200 rent for the theatre. When Miss Dressler came to this country, it was also stated, she had several thousands of pounds, all of which had been lost. The solicitors said they were authorised to make the proposal that Miss Dressler, who was not well enough to attend, should set aside 25 per cent. of her future earnings up to £1,500, which with the assets would pay the creditors 20s. in the pound. The meeting was adjourned.

Messrs. Jay and Mann open their season at the Palace Theatre, Brighton, which has been redecorated and recarpeted, on Monday next, with the attractive engagement of Mr. Edward Terry and his répertoire company. The new management have made several innovations, the most important of which is that the pier toll is now free to theatre-goers. Matinées will be given five days in each week by the Will-o'-the-Wisps, an excellent company of vaudeville entertainers, for whom Mr. S. Sherrington Chinn is responsible. The Saturday matinée in each week is given over to the theatrical company performing at night.

Some of the best and latest combinations have been secured or are in negotiation. Miss Marie Lloyd appears for Goodwood week with her own company; and *Butterflies, The Flag Lieutenant, Miss Hook of Holland, The Catch of the Season, The Country Girl*, and other up-to-date attractions are included in the bookings. The Palace orchestra (in uniform), under the direction of Mr. Julian Rutt, will officiate at all performances. Mr. Herbert Austin has been appointed the business manager for Messrs. Jay and Mann.

The Eccentric Club annual ladies' afternoon concert will take place at the Hotel Cecil on Tuesday, April 6, when a most attractive programme will be presented. The function is always a pleasant one, and the Eccentrics are excellent caterers for the amusement of their guests.

Mr. Stephen Fiske, the doyen of American critics, who joined the Savage Club in 1867, when the late Andrew Halliday, the dramatist of Drury Lane, was president, has been re-elected to active membership.

Messrs. Jay and Mann will start their first company of *An Englishman's Home*, by special arrangement with Mr. Frank Curzon, on March 29. The demand for dates for this play is so large that it is impossible to reply individually at the moment. An important cast has been secured, and the piece goes out mounted and played with full effects, exactly as at Wyndham's Theatre.

Mr. T. Edward Ward's next big production is to be the latest work of Mr. Charles A. Clarke, that old and experienced playwright, among whose pieces may be reckoned some of the biggest money-makers ever toured, notably that called *A Broken Heart*. The title of the new play has not yet been definitely fixed upon, but it is provisionally called *A Mother's Heart*, which serves for booking purposes. The new drama, which is in four acts and thirteen scenes, will be produced at the Royal Court Theatre, Warrington, at Christmas next.

Mr. H. A. Freeman sends a guinea and "An Old Friend" 5s. for poor Charles E. Stevens, now lying in St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

Messrs. A. and S. Gatti and Charles Frohman will resume their managerial association at the Vaudeville on April 19. That date has been selected for the introduction to London of *The Chorus Lady*, which has had a prosperous career in America. The nucleus of the play is a sketch which has already been seen in London, Miss Rose Stahl, who will sustain the chief rôle at the Vaudeville, having appeared in it at the Palace, Shaftesbury-avenue, some years since.

In addition to Mr. George Alexander himself, the cast of Mr. A. E. W. Mason's new comedy, *Colonel Smith*, which will be produced at the St. James's Theatre at the termination of the run of *The Prisoner of Zenda*, will include Miss Irene Vanbrugh, Miss Stella Patrick-Campbell, Miss Dorothy Green, Miss Lydia Bilbrooke, Mr. William Farren, Mr. Evelyn Beerbohm, Mr. E. Vivian Reynolds, Mr. Vernon Steele, Mr. Reginald Owen, and Mr. Henry Kitts.

The distinguished company at the complimentary banquet given to Sir Douglas Straight at the Savoy Hotel on Thursday included Sir Squire Bancroft, Sir W. S. Gilbert, Sir Gilbert Parker, Mr. W. H. Kendal, Mr. A. W. Pinero, Mr. Alfred Sutro, Mr. H. B. Irving, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, and Mr. Maurice Farkoa. In his speech Sir Douglas made an affectionate reference to his "old and valued friend, Bancroft," and to Sir John Hare, who, he regretted to say, was kept away by illness.

The directors of the Crystal Palace are arranging a patriotic demonstration there next Saturday, when there will be a strong muster of Baden-Powell Scouts, under Captain Boyes, and who will be inspected by Major-General Sir John W. Campbell, Bart., C.B. They will afterwards go through some scout manœuvres, cooking meals, and sham fight in the Palace grounds. In the Crystal Palace Theatre Mr. Eric Williams will repeat his recital in aid of Lord Roberts' Veterans' Relief Fund, assisted by Miss Olive Rae and the Crystal Palace Band. The principal item of the recital on this occasion will be a new and original patriotic sketch, entitled *An Old Warrior's Warning*, expressly written for him by Mr. H. Chance-Newton, which was suggested by, and is intended to illustrate, the fine dramatic "Veteran's Warning" picture which appeared in the Christmas number of the *Graphic*.

An interesting wedding took place on Saturday, March 6, at St. Saviour's, Pimlico, the contracting parties being Mr. Charles Albert Tomkins (professionally known as Charles Manville) and that clever authoress, actress, and composer, Edith Leyland Clinton, widow of Mr. Dudley Clinton, who died last year at Perth, Western Australia. The bride was given away by Mr. Ambrose Hoskyns, the best man being Mr. Charles Gordon. Among the guests were Miss Tiny Wyndham, Miss Nellie Duval, Mrs. Ambrose Hoskyns, Miss May Cooper (daughter of the bride), Miss Maude Forrest, Mrs. Phasey (Miss Jennie Walton), Mrs., Master, and Miss Klieber, Mrs. Biddle (an old and esteemed friend of the bride's family), and many others. The reception was held at the house of Mrs. Benson, 9 and 11, Claverton-street, S.W., where the bride and bridegroom hope to permanently reside.

Mr. Charles Hawtrey, by arrangement with Mr. Tom B. Davis, commences his management at the New Royalty Theatre this evening with Mr. Somerset Maugham's new play, *The Noble Spaniard*. The chief attraction will be preceded by George Paston's *Feed the Brute*, in which Mr. Robert Whyte, Miss Gwynne Herbert, and Miss Mary Brough will appear.

Subscriptions to the Actors' Association were due on Jan. 1. The Articles of the Association state that unless subscriptions are paid within seventy days membership will cease; and the Council have decided that the rule shall be enforced.

"Boy Blue," at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham, finishes its phenomenal career this evening. Mr. J. F. Graham is to be congratulated on the wonderful success of his present year's pantomime, which reached its 100th performance on the previous Thursday. Notwithstanding bad trade in the Midlands *Boy Blue* has been playing steadily to crowded houses, breaking all records at the theatre.

Mr. John Galsworthy, the author of that fine play *Strife*, himself a New College man, after the recent annual dinner of the New College Essay Society, read a paper on "Some Platitudes on the Drama." He pointed out that public interest in the drama comes upon a country in a manner somewhat similar to an epidemic of influenza, and disappears in the same way. When interest is aroused in this fashion the dramatist should not give in and pander to the preconceived notions of the public by pointing the obvious moral in a play containing the conventional interests. Mr. Galsworthy held that the dramatist should give the public life as he sees it, without drawing out any elaborate conclusions. Shakespeare, he said, fulfilled this function of the dramatist.

Mr. Charles A. Wenman has been doing big business with *Miss Hook of Holland* in Australia. *The Belle of Mayfair* was a tremendous success in Sydney; but his *Cinderella* pantomime has beaten all records.

Included in Mr. John Long's spring list of publications is a novel by Miss Marie Harvey, entitled "Satan, K.C." Miss Harvey is the eldest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Frank Harvey, and having fulfilled many interesting engagements on the stage has finally abandoned this profession to devote herself to a literary career.

So pleased was Mr. Moss, of the New Theatre Royal, Edmonton, with Mr. W. V. Garrod's production, *A Country Girl in London*, that after witnessing the performance on Monday night, he immediately advertised it as "the finest show ever seen in his theatre."

Mr. Andrew Black, the eminent basso, was married on Jan. 31 to Mrs. Nellie Lichtscheindl, the popular hostess of Pfablert's Hotel, Sydney, N.S.W., where so many professional people have stayed.

Dramatic and variety funds have benefited appreciably as the result of the recent Belfast Theatrical Gala. Out of a total of £130, Mr. Fred W. Warden, the hon. treasurer, has distributed £10 each to the Actors' Benevolent Fund, the Actors' Orphanage, the Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund, and the Music Hall Home. Other amounts are thus allocated:—Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, £50; Mater Infirmorum Hospital, Belfast, £20; Maternity Hospital, Belfast, £5; Ragged School, Belfast, £5; Children's Hospital, Queen-street, Belfast, £5; Whiteabbey Sanatorium, £5.

The Revival Company has postponed the production of *The Fool's Revenge*. The next performance under the auspices of the society will take place about the middle of April, when they will produce *Chatterton*, a play in four acts, by Professor M. A. Gerothwohl, Litt. Dr. (of Trinity College, Dublin), founded on the French of Alfred de Vigny. The play is to be staged for a run in Dublin in the autumn.

At the Prince's Theatre, Preston, on Thursday, was produced for copyright purposes a domestic drama, by D. M. C. Granville, entitled *An Old Man's Darling*. The title, it may be stated, has been used for a dramatic piece more than once before.

The Belfast branch of the British Empire Shakespeare Society gave a reading of *Antony and Cleopatra* in the Central Hall on Wednesday evening, and proved most enjoyable. The tragedy was admirably presented, the members to whom the various parts had been allotted acquitting themselves with marked ability. The local branch of this society is to be congratulated upon the success achieved. Professor G. Gregory Smith, M.A., is the president, and Miss Erskine (Whitehouse) is the honorary secretary.

Miss Margaret Halstan will appear as Imogen in Mr. F. R. Benson's festival production of *Cymbeline* on Shakespeare's birthday at Stratford-on-Avon. She will also, for the first time, play Portia and Ophelia during Mr. Benson's Scotch tour.

Mr. Alfred Lester has been added to the cast of the new musical piece with which Mr. Robert Courtneidge reopens the Shaftesbury next month. A substantial increase in the humour of the production is secured by the engagement of the droll comedian, whose gravity adds so much to the gaiety of every audience.

The Crystal Palace Theatre will be visited next week by Mr. Murray King and company, who will present the droll comedy *Toddles*, which has enjoyed such prolonged success in the West End. Mr. Murray King himself will play the title-rôle, and will be supported by an efficient company. The original scenery, dresses, and appointments are carried.

The new copyright measure which was passed by the United States Senate on March 3, having already passed the House of Representatives, gives authors the exclusive right "to perform or represent the copyrighted work publicly if it be a drama or if it be a dramatic work and not reproduced in copies for sale; to vend any manuscripts or any record whatsoever thereof; to make or to procure the making of any transcription or record thereof by or from which, in whole or in part, it may in any manner or by any method be exhibited, performed, represented, produced or reproduced in any manner or by any method whatsoever."

It is enacted "that whenever the owner of a musical copyright has used or permitted or knowingly acquiesced in the use of the copyrighted work upon the parts of instruments serving to reproduce mechanically the musical works, any other person may make similar use of the copyrighted work upon the payment to the copyright proprietor of a royalty of two cents on each such part manufactured, to be paid by the manufacturer thereof."

Any person who wilfully and for profit shall infringe any copyright secured by this Act, or who shall knowingly and wilfully aid or abet such infringement, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanour, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by imprisonment for not exceeding one year or by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, or both, in the discretion of the court.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Too Much Fat.

MISS DECIMA MOORE has decidedly scored by the publication by Mr. William Heinemann of her account of her adventures in the Dark Continent, entitled "We Two in West Africa." It is a most amusing and interesting book. One of the drollest parts of it is Miss Moore's description of the native "boy" who acted as her servant. "He looked so small, quaint, and helpless," says the authoress, "in his miniature suit of khaki, with his comical sharp little eyes and white teeth, but he soon developed into a very smart 'maid.'" When Miss Moore wanted him to fetch her helmet he had to fetch James (the black servant) to translate. He did so thus: "You go catch Missus hat one time. Missus live for walk." This is pidgin-English for "Go and get Missus's hat at once. She is going for a walk." "William's introduction to my evening dress," says Miss Moore, "was most amusing. He insisted on calling the string the 'rope,' and tied it in weird knots. After struggling with the hooks of my dinner dress for about five minutes—I could see his compressed lips and worried looks in the glass—he suddenly stopped trying, and burst out with, 'Fat too much.'"

A Descriptive Bit.

MISS MOORE gives a graphic account of a gold mine which she visited. She says:—"The scene in these deep 'levels' was strange and bewildering. The natives, naked but for a loin cloth, looked in the gloomy galleries like huge black demons as they toiled and sweated with pick and shovel at the ore around them, a faint flicker of light from the candles flashing occasionally from their white eyeballs or shining from their white teeth. Indeed, I would have often stumbled headlong into a man if it had not been for those white teeth, gleaming like danger signals in the darkness. . . . Finally, what put a finishing touch to the fascination of this underground city was the fact that I was surrounded by gold, walking on it, touching it with my hands, sometimes accidentally and painfully ramming my helmet into it. It was not pure gold, of course, nor could one see it, but it was there, mixed up with the rock, being hewn out with drills and dynamite, rattling past me in the trucks—the gold that makes the world go round. I was fairly in it."

On the Accra Links.

"IT was entertaining," says Miss Moore, describing her golfing at Accra, "when 'putting' on the 'green' by the lines to see the Haussas getting into their cummerbunds. They tied one end to a tree and then solemnly and slowly turned round and round, winding themselves into it. And then the small black caddies, the golf-bags they were carrying almost their only clothing, the whites of their eyes and their teeth glittering with excitement—their shriek when one missed the ball—their yell of delight when one hit it true and far—but these were little habits which had to be discouraged, especially when occasion caused the shriek."

Startled by a Scorpion.

IN Accra Miss Moore noticed "an odd-looking thing something like a black lobster crawling along the ground. I gave it a prog and nearly picked it up, but on second thoughts called for James (a 'boy'). He gave a little cry when he saw it, and hurled a large stone at it, and again another and another, until he had battered it to pieces in furious anger, telling me that it was an animal 'God send down when He live for anger, and it kill you.' It turned out to be a scorpion."

Native Philosophy.

THE natives evidently know something about women. One of their folk stories, "Why Owea, the Sloth, cries Ma! Ma!! Ma!!!" proves this. This is why he does it:—"Owea got three fingers and no tail. He cry for night. 'Ma! Ma!! Ma!!! As for women! As for women!! As for women!!! They are no good!!!! It is woman that deceive me! It is woman that say if I cut two finger an' I cut my tail that she marry me!! An' time I cut my two finger an' my tail an' I catch her, she say I spoil for two finger an' my tail, an' she drive me!!!!! So I cry Ma! Ma!! Ma!!! as for women they be no good!!!'"

An Endowed Theatre.

"THE fatal thing about the London theatre as it is organised to-day," writes Mr. St. John Hankin in an article on "The Need for an Endowed Theatre in London," "is that plays must succeed *at once*. If they do not, they must be withdrawn. They may have solid qualities which would in time cause their merits to be recognised, which even might ultimately justify their inclusion in the repertory of the nation's dramatic literature, but unless they can achieve an *immediate* success, they must be taken off. Nay, more, unless the manager believes that they are practically sure to achieve that sort of success, they can never be put on. Plays must succeed, and must succeed at once, or they are useless. With an endowed theatre the case is different. Even at an endowed theatre the fate of a play will depend in the end on the verdict of the public, but here it will be on the public's deliberate and considered judgment, not upon its monetary whim.

An Advantage of Endowment.

"THE endowed theatre puts up a play for a few performances. It is not necessary that it should create an immediate *furore* and fill the theatre for a year. All that is required is that it should have a success with the more critical public who form its early audiences. If they like it, the piece goes into the general répertoire and is revived from time to time as that critical approval spreads to wider circles and the demand for further performances makes itself heard among the general public. This is the only way in which the best work ever can succeed on the stage. Good plays, as a rule, do not make an immediate appeal to large and uncritical audiences. Good art of any kind does not do so. Good plays, especially if they are at all original in technique or in subject matter, begin by appealing to the critical few. If they have any real artistic merit, and are not merely interesting because of their novelty or eccentricity, they will gradually win their way with a wider circle of admirers, until at last even the general public recognises their value, and clamours for admission.

Actress and Archbishop.

MISS OLGA NETHERSOLE, who has been working a play called *The Writing on the Wall* at the Century Theatre, St. Louis, has been crossing swords with a certain Archbishop Glennon, who, in an Ash Wednesday sermon in St. Louis, said:—"I have heard people say who go perhaps oftener than they should to the theatre that they rarely see what they call a decent performance. From top to bottom the whole thing is tainted. The trail of the serpent is over it all. Not that there may not be respectable people on the stage; not that there may not be respectable managers. There are both. I am talking of the mass of the productions."

MISS OLGA NETHERSOLE retorts:—"I would like to remind Archbishop Glennon that the inception of the drama took place in the church passion plays, and all know that those who took part in such plays were the monks. I cannot help expressing my surprise at finding so eminent a man as the Archbishop so prejudiced against the stage. It is interesting to remember that the greatest Englishman of letters, the greatest English poet, William Shakespeare, the immortal and divine, was an actor. I invite the Archbishop to a performance of my play."

"HAMLET" AT THE LYCEUM.

Shakespeare's Tragedy, Revived at the Lyceum Theatre on Saturday, March 13.

Hamlet	MR. MATHESON LANG
Claudius	MR. ERIC MAYNE
Polonius	MR. GEORGE FITZGERALD
Horatio	MR. HALLIWELL HOBBES
Laertes	MR. LAUDERDALE MAITLAND
Rosencrantz	MR. SYDNEY VAUTIER
Guildenstern	MR. COWLEY WRIGHT
Osric	MR. RICHARD ANDEAN
First Player	MR. ERNEST GRIFFIN
Second Player	MR. DOUGLAS BURTON
Third Player	MISS DORA CLEMENTS
Player Queen	MISS RITA TOMKINS
A Lord	MR. HENRY ARMSTRONG
Priest	MR. R. W. WESTERMAN
Marcellus	MR. GEORGE RELPH
Bernardo	MR. WILFRED EDMUNDS
Francisco	MR. CHARLES L. LUDLOW
First Gravedigger	MR. S. MAJOR JONES
Second Gravedigger	MR. H. K. AYLIFF
Captain	MR. J. H. HODSON
Servant	MR. JOHN BEAMISH
First Sailor	MR. CHARLES TERRIC
Second Sailor	MR. ERNEST CRESFAN
Messenger	MR. RUSSELL DAVIS
Ghost of Hamlet's Father	MR. FREDERICK ROSS
Gertrude	MISS MARY ALLESTREE
Ophelia	MISS HUTIN BRITTON

The revival of *Hamlet* at the Lyceum Theatre on Saturday had many interesting points. The production positively bristled with new business. In the first place, Hamlet entered after his interview with Ophelia attired as she describes him in the text. Ophelia used a lute, on which she struck a few notes. The battlement scenes were snow-clad, and played in a fair amount of light, which was cut off on the entry of the Ghost, and white "limes" turned on him. Before one of the exits of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, Hamlet slipped behind the throne, emerged behind the courtiers, and watched their departure. After the play scene, Hamlet fainted on the steps of the throne, and there was a "picture" of him in this position with Horatio bending over him anxiously. After the funeral scene, Hamlet returned, and knelt at Ophelia's grave. The production teemed with these ingenious novelties, which showed how carefully every scene of the play had been considered by Messrs. Smith and Carpenter, who have certainly triumphed, if the reception of the revival by the audience at the Lyceum on Saturday be any criterion of success.

The most important alteration, however, is the omission of the scene in which Hamlet sophistically refuses to kill the King after the latter's prayer, and the insertion of part of the explanation of Hamlet's sudden return to Elsinore. The first-named scene, while it illustrates Hamlet's aversion from assassination, delays the action of the drama; and, without the latter, the reappearance of Hamlet, unexpected and unexecuted, is unaccountable. So Mr. Carpenter's decision, in both cases, it quite defensible.

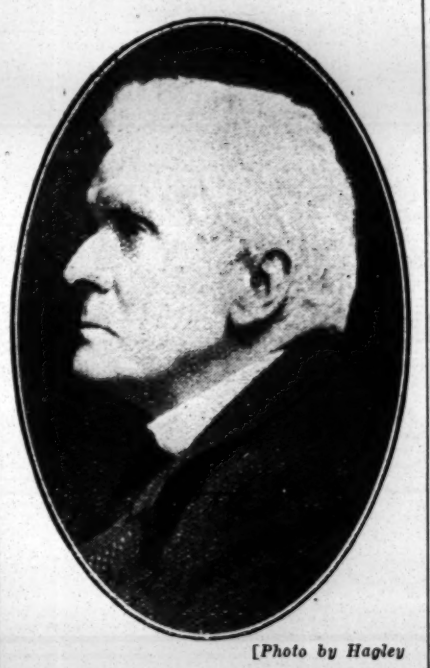
In the case of the revival of a famous play, and one of which so much has been written that there remains little to write, the acting is the thing which is most widely discussed. Mr. Matheson Lang's Hamlet had been eagerly looked forward to by the patrons of the Lyceum, and the postponement of his appearance in the part, from illness, was greatly deplored. There was little sign of indisposition, however, in his performance on Saturday. Mr. Lang introduces one striking novelty. He makes Hamlet imitate madness with a comicality which is frequently the concomitant of insanity. This view is strengthened by one of the sources from which Shakespeare derived his play. In Pavier's "History of Hamlet," the Prince, feigning lunacy, is described as entering the Queen's chamber "like a cock, beating with his arms, in such manner as cocks use to strike with their wings." In Shakespeare's text Hamlet is described as presenting himself to Ophelia with his doublet unbraced, and wearing dirty stockings, which hung about his heels like fetters. Mr. Lang does not literally reproduce this slovenly attire, but he gives a hint of it by turning down one of his hose and letting laces hang loose. There is a tricksy jauntiness about his replies to Polonius which supplies an agreeable comic relief to the serious passages of the play; and, in this interview with the players, Mr. Lang takes a bladder on a stick from a jester, and pats him on the head while lecturing him on the liberties taken by clowns. Mr. Lang's elocution is excellent, and he gives a poetic, Byronic, mystery to the Prince of Denmark, which is very effective in creating interest and sympathy. Despite his recent illness, his acting in the energetic scenes was full of vigour, and he completely won the suffrages of his audience by a reading which was as popular as it was original and artistic. The delivery of the blank verse was excellent all round, and Shakespeare's lines had every chance of appealing to the audience, who took the points very keenly. Mr. Eric Mayne gave to the treacherous Claudius just the elastic audacity which would win the heart of a susceptible Queen, and acted with fire and force in the scenes in which Claudius reveals his active and inventive wickedness. He delivered the King's soliliquy, too, with admirable distinctness and discretion. Mr. George Fitzgerald not only endowed Polonius with picturesque self-importance, but spoke the lines of the part in a mellow, sonorous voice, and with fine elocution and expression. Mr. Halliwell Hobbes's Horatio was manly, steady, sympathetic, and sincere, and must be praised for its earnestness and ease. Mr. Lauderdale Maitland was a vigorous and appropriately violent Laertes, and was particularly affecting in his expression of Laertes' sorrow at his sister's suicide. Mr. Sidney Vautier and Mr. Cowley Wright gave cleverly differentiated readings of the rôles of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern; and Mr. Richard Andean made a good Osric. Mr. Ernest Griffin lent a pleasant touch of character to the First Player, and delivered the "Hecuba" speech with power and expression; and Mr. Douglas Burton and Miss Dora Clements were bright and alert as the other players, Miss Rita Tomkins distinguishing herself by her strong and spirited recitation of the protests of the Player Queen. Mr. Henry Armstrong was efficient as a Lord; and Mr. R. W. Westerman spoke his lines well as the Priest. The parts of Marcellus, Bernardo, and Francisco had excellent exponents in Mr. George Relph, Mr. Wilfred Edmunds, and Mr. Charles L. Ludlow; and Mr. S. Major Jones was particularly good as the First Grave Digger, endowing the character with a burly self-confidence and a blunt geniality that were warmly commendable. Mr. H. K. Ayliff gave a sharp and quaint reading of the Second Grave Digger; and Mr. J. H. Hodson and Mr. John Beamish were satisfactory as the Captain and the Servant. Mr. Charles Terric made the First Sailor a thorough "tarpaulin"—rough, big, and free; and Mr. Ernest Cresfan did what was required as the Second Sailor, Mr. Russell Davis doing good work as the Messenger. The lines allotted to the Ghost have seldom been spoken more beautifully than by Mr. Frederick Ross, whose rendering was full of gentle and benevolent dignity; and Miss Mary Allestree depicted the Queen's distress and remorse with dramatic intensity. Miss Hutin Britton as Ophelia gave realistic prominence to the mad scene, her acting in which was very graphic, especially thrilling being the wild scream with which she made her exit. Mr. H. Sullivan Brooke's incidental music was very appropriate; and Mr. E. C. Nicholls's scenery was broadly effective. The revival was rapturously received, and there can be little doubt that it will draw full houses at the Lyceum for many months to come.

FIFTY-EIGHT YEARS ON THE STAGE.

CHAT WITH MR. HERMANN VEZIN.

If testimony were needed as to the profession of an actor being a healthy one and conducive to long life, it would surely be furnished in the case and person of Mr. Hermann Vezin, who celebrated the eightieth anniversary of his birthday on the 2nd inst., and who has experienced more than half a century of stage work. It is a significant commentary on fifty-eight years' strenuous stage labours, with their concomitant exercise of travelling from place to place, and with the mental and physical strain inseparable from such an existence and from such a calling, that one whose courses have run in such wise and for such time should find himself, when advanced to the honour of octogenarian years, not lacking in keen mental acumen and possessing the virility, so far as the aptitude for pursuing his professional calling is concerned, of a man half his age. Truly, Nature in a well-preserved old age hath its glories! The joys of youth may have departed, never to return, but if the eye be bright, the intellect unimpaired, and the physical organs in good working order, the man of eighty, with his abundant store of accumulated knowledge, should be transcendentally happy! And, perhaps, we should not be far wrong did we refer to Mr. Vezin as the Nestor of the stage.

Mr. Vezin's clear-cut features suggest shrewdness and perception, and these qualities were fully manifested during the brief conversation the interviewer of *The Era* had with him the other day. Asked as to his opinion of the drama of the present day, Mr. Vezin said: "I think that the drama is in a rather quiescent state. *Fedora* was the nearest approach to tragedy in modern clothes, and for a good many years nobody has been writing plays containing much tragic passion such as the works of Sheridan Knowles and Lord Lytton. Of recent years the authors have been writing plays dealing with the everyday life of the time. Some people may say that the actors who played these intensely tragic rôles have died out. That



[*Photo by Hagley*

MR. HERMANN VEZIN.

is quite true, but you must remember that the actor cannot show himself to be a great tragedian unless he gets the chance. Strange as the statement may seem, there is nowhere in the world a great actor or actress. When I speak of 'great,' I mean a great actor of great parts. I believe that Edmund Kean was the only man who played Othello as the part should be played. We would all like to appear in such a rôle, but if we have any modesty in us we know very well we cannot attain the required heights."

Speaking as to some of his last appearances in public, Mr. Vezin went on: "I played Apemantus in *Timon of Athens* at the Court Theatre in 1904, but whether I played since then I cannot for the life of me remember. I have been doing recitals in *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *Macbeth*, and *The Merchant of Venice*, not merely taking one part, but all. It seems to me that the only chance one gets of playing really good parts is when one takes a theatre. You have to be a manager and run your own seasons, and, of course, that means that you must have a lot of money. Very few of the great actors ever became great without going into management. Edmund Kean, George Frederick Cooke, Garrick, the Kembles, and Irving were able to arrive at a big position by being managers of their own theatres. That is, perhaps, why so many people are clamouring for a national theatre in England. They are always holding up the Théâtre Française as a model; but that has its faults, and in it certain actors are allowed an exclusive right to certain parts or lines of 'business.' Other actors may be better—you cannot tell until they are tried. I do not really object to the actor-manager system. The actor-managers have done very good work for the stage."

We understand that a movement is on foot to organise a benefit performance on behalf of Mr. Vezin, who, by the way, has been engaged by Mr. Tree to play the part of Rowley, in the forthcoming revival of *The School for Scandal*.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

SYDNEY, FEB. 9.—There has been no change at any of the theatres save at the Criterion, where Mr. William Anderson's company has revived the successful Australian drama *The Squatter's Daughter*. Miss Eugenie Duggan, Mr. Edmund Duggan (one of the authors), Mr. George Cass, and Mr. G. P. Carey have the leading parts.

AT Her Majesty's the phenomenal success of Miss Florence Young has resulted in record booking for *The Duchess of Dantzic*. The return to the cast of Mr. Higginson after his illness has strengthened the performance. Miss Nellie Wilson has made a hit at matinées as Mme. Sans Gêne in place of Miss Young, and Mr. O'Connor laudably replaced Mr. Higginson.

MR. J. C. WILLIAMSON'S other theatre, the Royal, sees the end of *The Breed of the Treshams* on the 14th to permit of a revival of *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, with Miss Beatrice Day as female lead. Mr. Williamson has purchased the Australian rights of *An Englishman's Home*, to be produced by his company with Mr. Julius Knight, Miss Day, and Miss Guildford Quin in the bill.

THE Palace will be occupied next week by the Meynell and Gunn dramatic company.

THE Tivoli has a big bill. Last week Mr. Harry Rickards added Honey and Cherry to his already long list, and this week sees the return of Cinquevalli, who was a great draw here years ago. Lawson and Namon, the Scottish Meisters, Nellie Maunsell, Basil and Leslie Thomas, the Three Rosebuds, and Amalia and Lenora are all prime favourites.

MR. CHARLES TERRY, brother to Miss Ellen Terry and Mr. Fred Terry, has been appointed manager of the Theatre Royal, Dublin.

"THE HOUSE OF BONDAGE."

Play, in Three Acts, by Seymour Obermer, Produced at His Majesty's Theatre on Tuesday, March 16.

Sir Vincent Meredith	MR. HERBERT WARING
Paul Bertrand, F.R.C.S.	MR. AUBREY SMITH
Dr. Roland	MR. MICHAEL SHERBROOKE
Cairns	MR. COMPTON COUTTS
Lady Joan Meredith	MISS EVA MOORE
Duchess of Banff	MISS BERYL FABER
Lady Carlington	MISS SARAH BROOKE

The productions at the Afternoon Theatre are always interesting, and *The House of Bondage* is a play with many good points. It is irritating, however, by its complexity, and by the mixture of dramatic effect with propagandism. Some of the situations are, nevertheless, intellectually, if not theatrically, effective, and the piece is capitally written. We start with a quartette of mismated people. Sir Vincent Meredith, an ambitious politician, has become indifferent to his wife, Lady Joan, and is carrying on a *liaison* with the Duchess of Banff, who has helped him greatly in his career. Lady Joan, disgusted with her husband's behaviour, has fallen in love with an eminent physician, Paul Bertrand, the greatest living expert in operations on the brain. In the first act, Lady Joan has been "making people talk" by frequent visits to the doctor's consulting-room, and his friend, Lady Carlington, warns him that he is endangering his position by giving food for scandal. When Lady Joan comes, Bertrand tells her that these visits must cease, lest they should injure her reputation. Lady Joan is less solicitous about this than he is; but Bertrand, after telling her that he loves her, says that for that very reason their meetings are dangerous, and must cease. He has just prescribed for her a visit to Switzerland, when Sir Vincent, a stern, pale personage, enters, and, after satirically explaining to Lady Joan that her conduct is the "talk of the town," puts the plain question to Bertrand, "Do you love my wife?" "Yes," says the doctor. Sir Vincent then says that he has a "growth on the brain" which will have to be removed, and that Bertrand must perform the operation. After some very natural objection, the latter consents to do so.

In the second act, we find the trio in Switzerland, preparing for the operation. Sir Vincent argues the point with Lady Joan, but, of course, finds her unanswerable. As she says, what sort of a life is she to lead if she obtains a judicial separation? Bertrand refuses to elope with her, and so give Sir Vincent a chance of getting a divorce; and Sir Vincent does not offer to strike her, and so give her the plea of "cruelty" for divorcing him. If the law of divorce were the same for the husband as for the wife, Lady Joan's course would be clear. As it is, the parties are at a deadlock. The position is further complicated by the question of the operation. Lady Carlington comes from England to protest against Bertrand's performing it. She does not question his professional loyalty; but she says that the critical position will affect his nerve. Bertrand himself is worried by it, and tells Lady Joan that he will throw up the case, and call in another doctor. But she encourages him to go through with what he has undertaken, and on his decision to do so the act-drop descends.

In the interval between the second and third acts the operation has been successfully performed, and Sir Vincent is on his legs again, apparently quite well. The duchess comes to Chamonix to renew the *liaison*, and the two women meet. Lady Joan reproaches the duchess bitterly for her conduct. "If you had been brave enough," she says, "to elope with my husband and live with him in the face of the world, I could have forgiven you; but your secret *liaison* is contemptible." The duchess is at first remorseful; but finally resumes her unrepentant attitude. Sir Vincent, however, is stricken with a sense of his sin, and promises, as he is likely to be a Cabinet Minister, to work night and day for a reform of the Law of Divorce.

The House of Bondage had every advantage in the way of acting. Mr. Aubrey Smith had a very trying ordeal in the portrayal of Paul Bertrand, especially in the first act, in which the doctor protects the exasperated and almost reckless wife against herself; but he played the part with a strength and intensity of expression which riveted the attention of the audience completely. The agony of mind of Bertrand in the second act was shown with poignant energy, and, altogether, Mr. Aubrey Smith may be congratulated on the successful performance of a most difficult task. Mr. Herbert Waring was exactly suited to the character of Sir Vincent Meredith, and his appearance—pale, hollow-cheeked, and irreproachably clothed—was a great assistance to the effect of his embodiment. He managed to make Sir Vincent thoroughly objectionable, while winning the respect of the audience for his masterful self-control and keen intellectual force. In the later acts there was much fervour in some of Sir Vincent's utterances, and of these opportunities Mr. Waring took the fullest advantage. Miss Eva Moore as the justly indignant Lady Joan Meredith acted with vivid expression and passionate dramatic power, her thrilling delivery of Lady Joan's protests against the present state of the Divorce Law being very impressive. She depicted the injured wife most pathetically, and looked remarkably well in some very becoming dresses. Miss Beryl Faber, as the unscrupulous Duchess of Banff, hit off exactly the half-cynical, half-amiable, but wholly unmoral character of the personage, and played the part, which had many phases, and called for much tact and appreciation for its adequate interpretation, with great skill and spirit. It was a clever, clear, and consistent creation. Miss Sarah Brooke might at times have been more distinct in delivery, but she made a charming Lady Carlington, full of spontaneous friendliness and bright, effusive amiability. Mr. Michael Sherbrooke did good work as Dr. Roland. The play was well mounted, the Swiss scene being exceedingly pretty.

"THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—With reference to the renewed interest which is now being taken in *The School for Scandal* in consequence of the forthcoming production at His Majesty's, perhaps the following point may be of interest to your readers.

Although Sheridan did not alter very much in the development of his plays, yet the difference of the opening of *The School for Scandal* in the original manuscript to what it now is seems somewhat striking.

We all know the opening—"Lady Sneerwell's dressing-room. Snake drinking chocolate." Now, in the original manuscript it reads thus: "Lady Sneerwell's House. Lady Sneerwell at her dressing-table with Lappet. Miss Verjuice drinking chocolate."

The lines now given to Snake were thus originally given to a spiteful old maid, with the inimitable name of "Verjuice." She it was who inserted all the scandalous paragraphs for Lady Sneerwell, and did her dirty work in Bath society for her. When we come to think of it it does truly seem work more suited to an old maid than to a man.

My apology for taking up your valuable space is that this interesting alternative reading may not be altogether generally known, and may possibly be of interest to many readers of *The Era*.—Yours faithfully, PATRICK KIRWAN.

"THE MASTER BUILDER" REVIVED.

Play, in Three Acts, by Henrik Ibsen, Translated from the Norwegian by Edmund Gosse and William Archer, and Reproduced at the Court Theatre on Tuesday, March 16, under the direction of Charles Charrington.

Halvard Solness	MR. RATHMELL WILSON
Ragnar Brovik	MR. A. E. FILMER
Dr. Herdal	MR. ROSS SHORE
Knut Brovik	MR. CAMPBELL CARGILL
Hilda Wangel	MISS JESSICA SALOMON
Mrs. Solness	MISS WINEFRIDE BORROW
Kaia Fosli	MISS BEATRICE FILMER

When produced at the matinée on Feb. 20, 1893, at the Trafalgar-square Theatre Ibsen's *Master Builder* was regarded by the cultured as a mere vehicle for the self-communings of the great dramatist, who, as Mr. Edmund Gosse, one of the translators, asserts, "gives expression, in the pathetic and erratic confessions of Solness, to his doubts, his craven timidities, his selfish secrets, and his terror of the uniformity of his luck." As far as the play tells its story on the stage, Solness is intensely apprehensive of the younger generation "knocking at the door," and is vastly afraid of his reputation being eclipsed by a youth in his service, whose genius he can but acknowledge, but whose ambition he does his best to baulk. A strange creature indeed is Solness, with his high falutin, his constantly recurring hysteria, and his colossal conceit. He has become a master builder because he has willed it so. Whatever he wills or wishes comes to pass. He wished that his house should be burned down, and because of that wish, and not through the crack in the flue, it was reduced to ashes.

The burning of that house has literally cleared the ground for the advancement of his fortune, for he has put up many pretty and comfortable villas, and has let them to highly-respectable tenants, who have put money in his purse, but seem to have added much to the sorrows of Mrs. Solness by looking out of their windows into hers. No wonder that melancholy has seized Mrs. Solness for its own. When the house was burnt down she had just become the mother of twins. The fright brought on fever, which affected the natural nourishment of the babes, who died at the age of three weeks. The conflagration had destroyed all her cherished family heirlooms; and the husband, just by way of comfort, talks to her occasionally as if demented. Poor Mrs. Solness, too, should have cause for jealousy in the attentions paid by her spouse to Kaia Fosli, his bookkeeper, who, although engaged to his pupil, Ragnar Brovik, is as devoted to her master as the master seems to be to her. But an even more dangerous rival to Mrs. Solness is Hilda Wangel, who quarters herself unceremoniously on the Solness household. She has not seen the "master builder" for ten years; but remembers his passionate kisses when he promised her—a girl of thirteen—that she should be his princess. There is much conversation between the two, and there are sentences that suggest Hilda's willingness to take possession of her "kingdom"—*i.e.*, the love of Solness. Mr. Gosse tells us that Hilda is attractive and genial, exquisitely refreshing, and yet cruel and superficial. Miss Jessica Salomon, who played the part on Tuesday in the revival, managed to make it effective by her mere downrightness of speech. Hilda, after thrusting herself on the Solness *ménage*, ought to have had the decency to depart on the morrow; but instead she "pierces the armour of the master builder's self-conceit," and displays "the inherent hardness of youth." Mrs. Grundy, even in her indulgent mood, would call it "the inherent wickedness of Delilah," and label Hilda as a brazen-faced hussy; but then Mrs. Grundy may not understand the "strange and haunting beauty of the old imaginative pieces," to which Mr. Gosse compares *The Master Builder*. Mr. Rathmell Wilson presented a highly intelligent study of the title-rôle; Mr. A. E. Filmer was earnest and ardent as Ragnar Brovik; Mr. Ross Shore most effective as Dr. Herdal; Miss Winefride Borrow did not forget to emphasise the deep-rooted sorrow of Mrs. Solness; Miss Beatrice Filmer made a sympathetic Kaia; and Mr. Campbell Cargill was adequate as Knut Brovik. The play was produced by Mr. Charles Charrington, who is well versed in Ibsen traditions.

"MEYER AND SON."

Drama, in Three Acts, by Thomas Addison, Produced at the Garden Theatre, New York, on March 1.

(FROM OUR NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT.)

According to the announcements, this play "shows the Jew as he is, and not as he has been caricatured." The scene is a large city in the West. Nathan Meyer, a banker, and the members of his household have been on excellent terms with Major Gray and his family for some years, but a break occurs in their cordial relations when Meyer seeks to obtain a franchise for a new telephone corporation in opposition to the established company, of which Major Gray is the head. To make matters worse, Max Meyer, the banker's son, and Doris Gray, the Major's daughter, have grown to love each other, and while the enmity of their parents causes no difference between them, it creates obstacles to their happiness which they find it hard to overcome. Meyer learns that Paul Gray, the Major's son, has forged his father's name to a note, but his own son, Max Meyer, buys the note in order to save Paul, who went to college with him. Moreover, as he loves Paul's sister, Max is doubly anxious to save the Gray family from being disgraced. The play is supposed to be an impartial presentment of the virtues and failings of the Jews and the Gentiles, but the Jews appear to be possessed of all the virtues, and the Gentiles of all the failings. In other words, the animosity and bitterness is entirely one-sided. The magnanimous Meyers heap coals of fire on the heads of their enemies, but fail to conciliate them. Max Meyer even tries to save young Gray from being blackmailed by a girl to whom he has written compromising letters, and almost loses his own sweetheart in so doing.

Finally, in an effort to clear up the misunderstanding, Nathan Meyer induces Major Gray to visit his home and to overhear without being seen an exposure of his own son's wrong-doing. What he hears convinces him that the Meyers have acted as friends instead of enemies, and he admits his error, and is willing to accept young Meyer as his son-in-law. But while Nathan Meyer disclaims all prejudice, and desires to live in harmony with all men, he believes that a Jew should not marry a Gentile. And as Doris Gray is reluctant to marry Max without his father's consent, a deadlock occurs at the last moment. Nor does the dramatist solve the problem. For Max Meyer finally agrees to take two years in which to think it over, while Doris Gray agrees to wait, so the question of whether the elder Meyer is right or wrong remains unanswered.

There is more dialogue than action in this play, but the conversations between the various characters are decidedly interesting, touching, as they do, upon the vital problems of race prejudice and mixed marriages. Moreover, the characters that the dramatist has truthfully drawn are as faithfully interpreted. The Nathan Meyer of Mr. William Humphrey is true to life, and Mr. Franklin Ritchie impersonates his son, Max, with convincing sincerity. Mr. H. G. Carlton as Jacob Strauss gives an excellent portrayal of an aged Hebrew, who is nothing if not orthodox, and Mr. George C. Staley admirably realises the character of Major Gray. Miss Irene Moore, Miss Ethel Browning, Mr. Charles Morrison, and Mr. Kenneth Hill play their parts well.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

PECKHAM HIPPODROME.

In spite of the influenza fiend, which is, unfortunately, greatly thinning the audiences at various places of entertainment just now, the bill at the above popular South London house is attracting ample audiences. The first turn is that dainty comedienne Miss Alice Digby, who is rewarded with generous applause. The Four Rosebuds, tastefully attired young ladies, score well with their song and dance, "I'm looking for a nice boy."

A smart quick-change sketch is presented by "Charlie," an alert French protean artist, in which he impersonates nine distinct characters. The little piece is a drama of Parisian conjugal unfaithfulness, with its consequences, and "Charlie" impersonates very cleverly, among other rôles, the wife, the husband, the lover, and, finally, an officer of the law, who takes the wrongdoers into custody. The genial Irish comedian Joe O'Gorman is excellently received, and his songs, "The Duchess," "Molly McQuene," and his "Wedding bells" ditty, together with his smart patter, are much appreciated.

We were sorry to note the absence of Mr. Joe Elvin through serious indisposition, his place being taken by Leo Morode, an intrepid Spanish cyclist, who twice performed the dangerous feat of looping the loop round a gigantic wheel amid much enthusiasm. Paletto's monkeys, who are most intelligent animals, caused roars of laughter by a grotesque shaving act and by chariot races in which they are driven by dogs, one of the monkeys meanwhile acting as judge of the course, mounting a chair, and ringing a bell. Two monkeys also play "Way down upon the Swanee River" upon the bells. Miss Elsie Clare sings most acceptably "I never knew till now I loved you so," and is deservedly applauded. Mooney and Holbein, assisted by two other unnamed artists, are successful in a comedy act. Mr. Joe Archer scores well with his seasonable and topical song, "An Englishman's home"; and Mr. Fred Eustace and an able company appear in their latest success *The Family Name*. The little piece savours more of the society play than of melodrama, but it thoroughly grips the audience, and, being admirably presented, makes an excellent impression. Some humorous films upon Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope bring a most enjoyable two hours' entertainment to a successful conclusion.

ROYAL STANDARD.

Mr. T. S. Dickie can be always relied upon to give his patrons good value for their money, and in his list of attractions this week there is a big show in the military episode, entitled *Territorials*, written by Mr. Fred Maxwell, and presented by him and Miss Lois du Cane and company. Possibly this sketch, which is of a highly-sensational character, may conduce to recruiting. In any case, the sentiment of the playlet is most enthusiastically accepted by the audience at the Standard. There are many thrilling situations, and, of course, the "Terriers" are the heroes of the hour. We doubt not that, after the admiration which the local ladies have bestowed upon the gallant heroes who have appeared before the footlights of this establishment, many Pimlico youths will have thought fit to present themselves as candidates for admission to Mr. Haldane's citizen army. The part of the hero, Lieut. Fred Waring, in *Territorials*, is played with boldness and vigour by Mr. Fred Maxwell; and Miss Lois du Cane is a most acceptable heroine as Jess Hamilton. Mr. P. Barry Lewers is a dignified and courageous Colonel Hamilton; and Mr. Murray Yorke and Mr. Fred Bailey are good as Captain Fortescue and Charles Manley respectively.

The lovely and lively Lily Burnand, the popular burlesque artist, delights the house immensely with her numbers, "The Widow," "The French Maid," and "Cheek," and the reception of these is most flattering. Hughes and Carney, comedians, have an entertaining little act, including some smart boxing; and Miss Hetty Lee gives a pleasing rendering of her song on the subject of "Girls," and dances prettily. Mr. Bruce Green has a "dame" song which is intensely amusing, and his imitations of concert singers find much favour with his hearers. Carr and Carr appear in an exceedingly agreeable "drawing-room interlude," and their patter and dancing win hearty applause. The Society Quartette are capable singers and dancers, and their ditty, "Is there another girl at home like Mary?" is delivered with vivacity and tunefulness.

Miss Eva Lumley and Miss Freda Ettrick and company submit a laughable comedy skit, *Jimmy All-of-a-Twist*, written by Mr. George de Lara, in which the two ladies mentioned, assisted by Mr. C. F. Lloyd, do some excellent acting. Mr. Frank Lennard is most successful as a descriptive vocalist; and Mr. Albert Whelan, who describes himself as "the Australian entertainer," treats the house to characteristic imitations of well-known music-hall artists, including Chirgwin, Harry Lauder, and Albert Chevalier. Miss Maud Esmond has everybody with her in her song, "I don't care," which is vociferously chorussed by the audience; and the same remark applies to her other number, "I've been out with Charley Brown"; and Mr George Porter proves his artistic versatility by rendering in excellent style a Dutch jödel song and appearing as a Hebrew character, his patter as the latter being very funny. An attractive series of pictures is projected by the Edisonograph.

HOLLOWAY EMPIRE.

The bill at this very popular North London hall is capitally diversified, attraction following attraction with unfailing regularity, and large and appreciative audiences being the natural result. The place of honour is taken by the Elliott-Savonas, who are presenting their well-known musical act. It cannot be gainsaid that their whole production is one of the very finest now making a bid for success in the country, the very striking and beautiful costumes worn by the troupe adding in no small measure to the gorgeous effect of the whole. Their selections this week include the intermezzo by Mascagni, and the overture to *William Tell*, the latter with some very novel storm effects. All their items are rendered in a most artistic manner, and they are, it is needless to say, accorded enthusiastic receptions nightly.

Frank Bertram and company are presenting their well-known sketch, *The Chaperone*, which scores its customary hit, Mr. Bertram as the spurious woman playing the part for all that it is worth. The marvellous Craggs, in their well-known absurdity *Billy*, give a smart and clever act, their balancing, acrobatic work, and tumbling being very skilfully done, a special word being due to the gentleman who plays Billy for some smart knockabout business. They met with a great reception. Rose Cabani, a very attractive young lady, made a good impression in her song "Absence makes the heart grow fonder." Burley and Burley, in an act that comprised singing, dancing, and acrobatics, were very successful, causing plenty of laughter. Larola, a silent comedian, presented a novel act, in which trick scenery plays a large part. His facial business is certainly very amusing, and his dancing capital. Larola is a very humorous entertainer, who, in addition, performs some smart tricks, perhaps the best one being the feat of balancing six tumblers and a lighted lamp on his head whilst passing hoops over his body. He secured a well-deserved call. Amy Marsden, a low comedy artist, sang "The mocking birds were singing on the trees," which scarcely serves to display this artist's abilities. Marriott Edgar, "the man in red," is a good comedian. He has a good song, "That's why I dress in red," and his second, "I lit a match," also took the fancy of the audience, some good stories causing a good deal of mirth. Altogether, his turn was clever, and he gained a good reception. The Bioscope is interesting in The Story of William Tell. The orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Fred Camp, maintains its high reputation, and Mr. Bertie Ralland, the acting-manager, is very courteous in the front of the house.

SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMPIRE.

A programme containing so brilliant and popular an artist as Miss Vesta Tilley would be certain of success anywhere, and at the Shepherd's Bush Empire this week, where this clever lady heads the bill, large and enthusiastic audiences are the rule. Miss Tilley is singing a couple of new songs, one entitled "That's the time a fellow wants his Ma," the other, "Sidney's holidays are in September." Both are typical Vesta Tilley lyrics, and quite up to the high standard of merit that one always associates with this most artistic comedienne. In addition, Miss Tilley sings once again the famous "Jolly good luck to the girl who loves a soldier," and, for an encore, a little number, which was, in effect, an appeal on behalf of the Territorial Army. The simple dignity with which Miss Tilley sang the item made a very direct appeal to the patriotism of the audience.

St. George Sylvesta, wizard and illusionist, assisted by Miss Vera de Courtney, performs some most effective tricks, his business with a small bag and an egg being most puzzling and amusing. Frank Cass goes very well, particularly with his song "Which is the sinner and which is the sainf?" Florence Burns and James Danvers achieve much success in a vocal burlesque, Miss Burns singing well and Mr. Danvers acting in comic fashion, and showing himself very much at home at the piano.

One of the best turns of the evening is that provided by the Schenk Brothers, a couple of equilibrists who, for neatness, dexterity, originality, and all-round excellence, would be hard to excel. Rita Rhylle proves a dainty performer in "song and dance," attired in a "Bubbles" costume, and Adams and Ward contribute a turn very much to the taste of the audience, to which was given the title "a miscellaneous mixture of mirthful movements." Wood, Wells, and Wilkins appear in a vocal comedy sketch called *The Piano Tuner*, in which there is some good fooling and excellent singing. At the bottom of the bill is the La Scala Opera Company, giving a selection from *Cavalleria Rusticana*. The company consists of Mrs. Arthur Rousbey, Miss Alice Rene, Mr. Edward Arthur, and Mr. Robert Burns. The selection is well mounted and well performed, and makes a most acceptable item. A word of praise must be given to the orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Henry W. May, which is this week playing a selection of Irish melodies. Mr. E. P. Morgan is the courteous acting-manager, and Mr. Herbert Mack his energetic assistant.

THE FORESTERS'.

The patrons of this cosy East End establishment, being naturally fond of drama, are generally provided with a good item of this description, and in the current programme their likes are gratified by a military sketch, exceedingly well played by Miss Dolly Elsworthy and company, viz., *A Soldier of the King*. There is nothing particularly original about the plot, and the characters are composed of the usual hero, heroine, and villain. Mr. A. Howard, Miss Dolly Elsworthy, and Mr. L. Monti, the principals, are ably supported by Mr. M. Maud as Captain Dantry, Mr. C. Stanbridge as General Mazinoff, and Miss A. Pinto as the drummer boy.

Mr. Ernest Rees, a droll comedian who has now quite established himself amongst the top-liners, rolls off endless quips and gags which are very amusing, some of his stories being particularly good. He sings also three snatches of songs, the one "Father's photograph is hanging on the wall" being no doubt the best, after which he retires to rounds of applause. Miss Nellie Farrell, a bright and dainty little Irish comedienne, has a couple of smart songs in "Molly" and "Matilda McGee," concluding with a neat quick-time dance.

The Phydoras in a comedy musical act entertain with several novelties and legmania business. Farr and Farland, who deputised for Barrett and Knowles, are most unusual in their style, which is refined, yet extremely funny. They engage in some distinctly bright repartee, their finale being the overture to "Poet and Peasant," a cleverly-rendered duet on banjoes. Miss Edna Barrett, a young lady full of vim and vigour, dashes off two songs—"I do like to be where the money is" and "An actor lady"—in which she displays plenty of "go," her dance being also well executed. Messrs. Bowman and Morton, comedy artists, are two tip-top entertainers, their gifts in comedy being greatly enjoyed. Other items are Miss Madge Field, a dainty comedienne in song and dance; and the Fordyces, comedy artists. Many excellent films are displayed on Raymond's Bio-Tableaux. Mr. Carl Hamlin leads a capital orchestra, and our old friend Mr. Faithfull looks well to everyone's comfort.

RICHMOND HIPPODROME.

Despite the vagaries of the weather, business here throughout the week has been satisfactory, thanks to the excellent bill provided at Mr. George Dance's dainty theatre. Marie Empress is, above all things, up to date, and she sings quite prettily of the new beehive hat, which, in her own words, "is knocking the fellows flat"; Marie "dresses" her songs in good style. Her second contribution, "It's the same old tale," proves quite an amusing contribution. Trick cycling is cleverly exemplified by Harry and Paul. There is a lot of fun as well as talent in connection with their "show," and they met with a particularly hearty welcome. Will Lytton causes endless fun made out of a recital of his own miseries. As a juvenile comedian Cliff Diamond does remarkably well, and details the troubles of Beau Brummel, junior.

For a turn bubbling with merriment and provocative of shrieks of joy, commend us to *The Drowsy Town Junction* episode. The sketch is capitally interpreted by Farley, Rennie, and Farley. There is a battle royal between the stationmaster and a passenger that proved irresistible, the house literally screaming with merriment. Fred Shepherd adds his contribution to the evening's successes. His first ditty "Can I help you?" touched on a variety of subjects, all of which seemed to amuse the audience highly. Later in the evening the comedian won further applause with a topical ditty "Look at that."

Valazzi's tricks are deft, clean-cut, and interesting; his wonderful balancing feats amazed everyone. Velazzi's "boy" is not without a sense of humour. The difficulties that may follow the extinguishing of the gas were told in his own peculiar vein of humour by Harry Champion, whose claim to the description of lightning comedian is perfectly valid. Mrs. John Lawson and company do excellent work in the sketch *Vanity*, in which some of Mrs. Lawson's finest qualities of acting are revealed. In front of the house Mr. Frederick H. Terrell is ever courteous and hard-working.

THE GRANVILLE.

Crowded houses have been the rule this week at this popular little home of vaudeville at Walham Green, so ably managed by the astute and always courteous Mr. R. W. Duce. The bill is headed by Mr. Charles Austin, who presents that concise concoction of comedy and comicalities written by himself and Charles Ridgwell entitled *Parker, P.C.* This diverting playlet is in three scenes, and it is "absolutely, positively, and decidedly" a scream of laughter from start to finish. The genial Charles Austin as Parker, P.C., works with untiring energy from start to finish; his spirits never flag, and his versatility is remarkable. He receives adequate support from Mr. Charles Neville as Superintendent Hardman, Mr. Harry Lennox as Sergeant Sloman, and Mr. W. Kellson as Mullins.

Foreman and Fannan, the millionaire comedians (Percy and Harold), are another big draw in an exceptionally strong programme, and their drawling dialogue and quaint mannerisms keep everybody well amused. Their satirical ditty "At Portland-by-the-Sea" is full of sly humour and jests. Johnson and Bert are seen to advantage in a scena entitled *A Queer Customer*, which affords them ample opportunities to display their skill as acrobatic dancers. Miss Olga Dore is aptly billed as an operatic actress, for she is the fortunate possessor of a well-trained voice of wide range and compass. Perhaps her best contribution was a pretty ballad, "Nightingale," which she trilled in a manner closely approaching the feathered songster after which the song is named.

Miss Mabel Bright is a vivacious and sparkling novelty entertainer, and her representation of the various characters in an imaginary *Aladdin* pantomime is decidedly new and novel. Fresh from their triumphs in the Lyceum pantomime, the Espinosas gain rounds of applause for their celebrated dances, and, beyond doubt, we have here two of the most agile interpreters of the art of terpsichore on the music hall stage to-day. Mr. Larry Lewis is a comedian with an exceedingly dry style peculiarly his own, which appeals to any class of audience, and in "A silly remark to make" the laughable Larry has a song that is quite above the average. The programme, to which Miss Violet Stockelle also pleasingly contributes, is brought to a close by some funny pictures on the Bioscope. Mr. James White is an efficient stage-manager, and the band, under the bâton of Mr. Frank Thomas, discourse some pleasant music in faultless style.

"MYSTERY NO. 1."

A Ventriloquial Protean Act, written by Randolph King, Produced at the Bedford on Monday, March 15.

Mr. Randolph King produced a novelty at the Bedford on Monday last, when he appeared in a sketch from his own pen, in which he played several different characters, and also introduced others as figures, and used his ventriloquial powers to make them play their parts. There is a little story of an old professor who has got into league with a man who goes in for fine art robbery, and uses the professor's skill to make the keys necessary for his work. The detectives get on the professor's track for the thief, but the old man's accomplice commits suicide by jumping from a Channel steamer, and leaves the professor with his secret, and the old man decides to give up such work for the future. Mr. Randolph King is an accomplished actor, and the rapidity of his changes of costume are most clever; as a ventriloquist, too, he also shines. The novelty of the little sketch, which is most completely staged, cannot fail to prove a big attraction wherever it goes, and the most cordial reception it received augurs well for its future.

"JANE ANN'S PROPHECY."

Sketch, Produced at the Zoo-Hippodrome, Glasgow, on Monday, March 15.

This new sketch, which was produced for copyright purposes at the Grand Theatre, Glasgow, during the run of the pantomime, provides Mr. Tom Conway with an excellent part in the character of a militant suffragette who is a firm believer in the prophecies of an ancestor of hers, Jane Ann Pancake by name, an historical supporter of woman's rights who is said to have lived about 100 years ago. The other two characters in the sketch are the suffragette's niece and her lover, neither of whom shares Aunty's admiration for the prophetic ancestor. They are preparing for a fancy dress ball, in which they mean to appear as Marguerite and Mephistopheles, and by way of a joke alter the date of Jane Ann's prophecy as to the end of the world from the year 2010 to the present day, with the result that Aunty firmly believes the end to be at hand. The appearance of the young lover in the garb of Mephistopheles throws her into a fearful state of excitement, and the fun provided by the suffragette's lamentations over her wasted life cause roars of laughter. The appearance of the niece as Marguerite, who is mistaken for an angel, gives a ray of hope to the erring aunt, and then the young people declare themselves, and all ends happily. Mr. Tom Conway was very amusing as the Suffragette. The names of the other two artists were not given in the programme.

A notice of a new sketch entitled *The Irony of Fate*, produced at the Middlesex on Monday, has been unavoidably held over until next week.

The first tickets sold at the theatre box-office of Messrs. Selfridge and Co., Oxford-street, were three stalls for the London Coliseum.

Mr. Frank Glenister has secured the Three Cunards to return to the London Pavilion for a number of dates through Pacey's Agency.

Miss Patty Yole has just put on a good comedy number from the pen of Alf. Ellerton, entitled "Father hasn't spoke to mother since."

Mr. Mayor Cooke has been retained by Mr. Sydney Bacon as manager for the production of *The Duchess of Tooting*, which was presented last Monday at the Palace, East Ham.

The little sketch produced by Mrs. Paul Courtney at the Battersea Palace on Monday at the matinée, was so great a success that it was immediately retained for the remainder of the week by Mr. Fred Baugh. The item deals largely with child interest, and introduces one of the talented "Courtney" children. It is from the pen of the well-known comic singer, Johnny Dwyer.

Miss Nellie Norway, "the Queen of the Silver Bells," although not yet in the "halls," is making rapid successes on every concert platform where she has been appearing. To-night she is displaying her undoubted talents at Belfast, and to-morrow night will be heard at the Criterion at the Ladies' Annual Dinner of the O.P. Club.

Lew and May, who were to have appeared at the Hippodrome, Crouch End, this week in a smart musical comedy act, entitled *A Flowery Flirtation*, owing to the lady contracting a severe attack of influenza and laryngitis have been prevented from doing so, but Mr. Lew Towers, "The Man in the Cinnamon-brown Suit," is deputising successfully.

Mr. Bert Byrne, "the Dame" of the successful pantomime *Red Riding Hood* at the Prince's Theatre, Bradford, had his benefit on Friday evening, the 12th, when he was the recipient of a heavy gold ring presented by Miss Florrie Forde, the principal boy of the pantomime, and a leather travelling-case, a handsome gold watch and Albert, and gold sleeve-links from the members of the company and admirers in front.

Mr. G. Cornelius O'Kelly, the famous Hull police-fireman wrestler, is the holder of the Marathon Heavyweight Championship of the World, won at the Olympic Games—held at the Stadium, in the White City, 1908—on which occasion he was presented with the gold medal by Her Majesty Queen Alexandra. He is making his first appearances on the music-hall stage this week as Hermanus, the Gladiator, under the direction of Mr. Charles March, the author of the sketch, which has been specially written round Mr. O'Kelly, and is entitled *The Gladiator*

RINKING GOSSIP.

A pearl and platinum ring, valued at £100, was lost by the owner, Miss Edith Neville, of Knightsbridge, at the skating rink at Olympia on Friday week. The offer of a reward of £50 proved ineffective, but on Friday John Glover, 36, a labourer, of Greyhound-road, Hammersmith, was arrested, as it is alleged he was trying to pledge the ring at a pawnbroker's shop in Norland-road. Glover's explanation to the police was that he picked the ring up at Olympia, where he was an attendant. Charged on Saturday at the West London Police Court with the theft, the prisoner told the magistrate that it was a boy who found the ring on the floor, and sold it to him for 4d. He did not think there was any value in it, and kept it for a week. Then he thought he would see what he could get on it, and so he went to the pawnbroker's. The magistrate committed Glover for trial.

Mr. H. F. Blackwell, the manager of the Rinkeries Company (the American syndicate which has transformed the Royal Concert Hall into the American Roller Skating Palace), and Mr. Elvey Thomas, manager of St. Leonards Pier, are taking over St. Leonards Pier for a term of years. The pier is in future to be the American Palace Pier, and the intention of the syndicate is to build it on the lines of their best piers in America. It is intended to build a large open-air pavilion at the sea end of the pier, which will be run as an open-air roller skating rink. There will be a new floor of the same class as at the American Roller Skating Palace, but about twice the size.

The Swanage police are threatening to arrest anyone found skating on the Esplanade. This action has been taken by the local force at the request of the Council, as it has been found that the granolithic surface on the front has been badly cut up by roller-skate wheels.

We have pleasure in pointing out that the Brampton roller skate is British made throughout, and is manufactured by the celebrated firm of the same name in Birmingham, the world-renowned cycle fitting and chain manufacturers. All the bearings in Messrs. Brampton's skates are made with the same accuracy and subjected to the same tests as a high-class cycle hub. They are claimed to be in consequence the smoothest and fastest roller skates on the market.

"Skate, and the world skates with you" is blazoned on the bills of the big 10,500 square feet skating rink at Catford. A knowing small boy added to one of them this week: "Yes; but fall, and you sit alone." Even think it may be judged that he wrote from sad experience. This rink is always crowded, and we believe we are correct in stating that it is the only one, in London, at any rate, at which the are four sessions daily.

Carnival news comes from all parts of the country. There has been an evening dress function at Glasgow, and Edinburgh gives one on the 25th. A "yokel night" will be given at Brighton Olympia on the 24th, and on the same evening "a skating Cinderella" takes place at the Leeds American Rink. On March 25 a "Barnyard Carnival" takes place at Bradford.

News of novelties comes from Portsmouth and Sunderland. Last Wednesday at the Naval station a "St. Patrick's Skating Festival" was held, and prizes given for national English, Scotch, Irish, and Welsh costumes. They had a hockey match on rollers at the Tyneside rink, the local club meeting a team from Newcastle. There was the greatest excitement when the visitors came off victorious.

Professor G. S. Monohan has captured the hearts of the Belfast rinkers by the dexterity he has shown this week. One of his feats is entitled "Threading the Forest Maze." This is a very poor and ill-chosen description for a very difficult task. A number of lighted candles are arranged on the floor a few inches apart, and Monohan skates among them without knocking a single one over of flicking out the lights. Another of his noteworthy feats consists in skating on the top of a revolving barrel.

The speed roller-skating championships of Great Britain will be held at the Crystal Palace on Saturday next. The items include one mile and a half Amateur Championship for the Benetfink Perpetual Challenge Cup and gold, silver, and bronze medals, and the one mile and a half Professional Championship: first prize £10, second £3, and third £2. The manager of the rink has now secured a large number of new up-to-date skates, as since the closing of the Olympia rink the attendance at the Palace has enormously increased.

Leith is to have its rink, and Messrs. C. Heathcote and Sons, of London, are negotiating with the Town Clerk as to the site.

The popular skating comedians, the Miltons, who have been running competitions at the Surrey, Empire, Camberwell, and Palace, Bow, are now in the provinces for five weeks, when they again return to London, where they will again introduce their novelty skating act and competition.

St. Leonards Pier has been let to an American syndicate, and is to be transformed into the American Palace Pier. The scheme includes the erection of a large open-air pavilion at the sea end of the pier, which will be run as an open-air roller skating rink. There will be a new maple floor and a large number of kiosks.

The present pavilion at the land end of the pier will be retained and enlarged, and made a dancing and entertainment hall. There will be a temporary stage somewhere about the centre of the pier for variety and other entertainments, and a large military band will play during the season. Electric coloured lights—8,000 in number—will form an illumination all round the pier.

Messrs. Bostock and Fitt's new rink is to be in a position near Thorpe railway station. The main approach will be at Rose-lane corner, and within a few feet of Prince of Wales's-road. It will measure 200ft. by 160ft. The whole of the skating area will be laid with American maple.

The Empress Skating Rink at Leicester is now in the full tide of popularity, and deservedly so, as in every department care is taken to give entire satisfaction to its many hundreds of rinking devotees. The patrons have included noble lords and ladies, but on Wednesday afternoon the most remarkable visitor of all put in an appearance in Consul the Great, who is making quite a stir at the Leicester Pavilion Theatre this week. This learned chimpanzee can add to his many other accomplishments the art of skating, as, accompanied by Mr. Joseph Lawrence, the manager of the Pavilion, he gave a very fair exhibition on the rollers. He can skate "on his own," and made a very good attempt on one occasion to catch Mr. Lawrence, who is an adept at the sport. Consul, who seemed quite unconcerned by the attention that was bestowed on him, was accompanied to the rink by Mr. Harold Hilliard (Consul's manager for Mr. Frank C. Bostock) and Mrs. Hilliard, Mr. Derowski (his attendant), and Mr. Joseph Lawrence (manager, Pavilion). A number of snapshots of Consul while skating were taken by Mr. Walter H. Pallister, of Bioscope fame.

(For other "Rinking Gossip," see page 26.)

AN ARTIST'S LIBEL ACTION.

The part-heard libel action by Miss Minni Letta, a music-hall artist, against the Dangerfield Printing Co., again came before his Honour, Judge Woodfall, in the Westminster County Court, on Tuesday. Miss Minni Letta is the stage name of Mrs. Albert Smith, who did a walk to Brighton, and then performed a walking act at music halls, called "The Sporting Girls." Her husband, according to her case, gave defendants an order for posters, to be sold at 1s. each to the management of music halls where she was to perform. Defendants, it was said, later sold some of the posters to advertise a performance of "The New York Walking Girls," in defiance of an objection lodged by Mr. Smith, and Miss Letta alleged that she being a "star," and pre-eminent in her troupe, whilst the other troupe were all on a level, she was libelled by her poster being used.

When the case was called on, Judge Woodfall suggested a private consultation with counsel, and this was agreed to, but the case proceeded.

Plaintiff's husband, in answer to the Judge, said that the use of his wife's poster had damaged her name. It was her picture, from her photograph, in the centre panel of the poster.

In cross-examination he stated that his wife was the leader in her line throughout the world, having beaten every competitor.

William T. Haycock, a printer of forty years' experience, gave evidence that printers had no right to sell an artist's posters to other artists.

William Herman, a juggler, stated that he had performed at the same halls as Miss Letta, and she had always been the "star" turn. He had never heard of an artist's poster being sold to advertise another artist. There were stock posters for that purpose.

George Purcell deposed to visiting the Hammersmith Theatre of Varieties to witness the performance of Miss Letta, whose picture poster he saw there. He had seen her perform at Olympia, and wanted to see her again, but he found that she was not performing there.

Judge Woodfall: How is this a libel?

Mr. Valetta put it that it was a disparagement of plaintiff in her profession, and it affected her prestige in her work. She was receiving a large salary, and anything that tended to derogate from her as a "star" turn was a libel.

His Honour considered that plaintiff had suffered, but a libel action was not the remedy. He gave judgment for the defendants, with costs, and granted a stay of execution.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—Sir Henry Irving.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun.*

Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

Mr. Willie and Miss Ethel D'Arc, of D'Arc's Marionettes, have both been confined to the house in consequence of an attack of influenza, which is just now very prevalent among members of the profession.

Mr. Paul Grant, for his novel and original act, entitled *The Days of Yore; or, Parts I Have Played*, has special scenery, transparencies, and lighting effects. The costumes, too, are historically correct.

Mr. Peter Adair, the veteran athlete and walker, telegraphed to us on Friday midday from Worthing as follows:—"Tell the readers of *The Era* that I shall reach Amesbury, Wiltshire, to-night, and arrive at Exeter on Monday."

Mr. W. Lovell Hurt, at one time a well-known variety agent, and sometime manager of the Tivoli, Bristol, and proprietor of the Palace, Swansea, has entered the lists again as a V.A.F. agent, and has opened offices at Churchgate House, Stockport.

Mr. Harry Mack, who died at Castleford recently in his seventieth year from cerebral hæmorrhage, was a performer better known in the provinces and abroad than in London. His loss is severely felt by his widow and his adopted daughters, Texas Hattie, the well-known funambulist, and Tiger Lily.

The Town Council of Broughty Ferry will at their meeting on April 5 next be prepared to receive offers for the right to provide alfresco entertainments on the promenade and beach for the summer season of 1909. Particulars can be had from Mr. Douglas Winning, F.S.I., Burgh Surveyor.

Mr. Harry Marlow and Miss May Manton return to town on Monday after a successful ten weeks in the provinces, opening at the Camberwell Empire and Standard, Pimlico. They will present, for the first time to London audiences, their new and clever comedy duologue, *Winning a Wife*, which has met with gratifying receptions in the country.

The Pier Pavilion, New Brighton, of which the managers are Messrs. Adeler and Sutton, has been entirely reconstructed internally, and a stage, with scenery and other accessories, has been built; while the seating has been all rearranged. A good band now takes the place of piano only, and the style of entertainment is changed, variety and animated pictures being included in the programme. On Monday Mr. Theo Bouwmeester, the Dutch protean actor, in his quick-change sketch *Who is Guilty?* was a success, and Mr. Kenna Lawson had a good reception for his refined items, the singing of "Put me on an island" causing much laughter and applause. Other items were contributed by Messrs. Hanlon and Le Fre, Dollie and Blanche, Mr. Charles Bestie (sleight-of-hand), Mlle. Patty Roberts, and Mr. Tom Smith.

Mr. W. Pratt, who since the opening of the Portsmouth Empire has acted as manager in front of the house in addition to fulfilling his duties as secretary, has lately relinquished the managerial post, being succeeded by Mr. R. A. Maddox.

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Condy's Fluid Co., London

ON THE ROAD, MARCH 22.

AN ENGLISHMAN'S HOME.—Empire T., Coventry.
AN ENGLISHMAN'S HOME.—Prince's T., Bristol.
ANOTHER MAN'S WIFE.—Star T., Swansea.
ARE YOU A MASON?—Royalty T., Glasgow.
ASCHE, OSCAR.—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES.—Palace T., Maidstone.
AT DUTY'S CALL.—Grand T., Derby.
BATEMAN AND LOMATH.—Alexander T., Sheffield.
BEGGAR GIRL'S WEDDING.—Shakespeare T., Clapham
BELLE OF NEW YORK.—Coronet Theatre, W.
BENSON, F. R. (N.).—Royal Court T., Warrington.
BENSON. F. R. (S).—New Hall, Bargoed.
BENSON, MR. AND MRS. F. R.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh
BETTER LAND.—Miner's T., Ashington.
BONDMAN, THE (CROKE).—Tyne T., Newcastle.
BREWSTER'S MILLIONS.—New T., Cardiff.
BROKEN HEART.—T. R., North Shields.
BUILDER OF BRIDGES.—Marlborough T., N.
BUILDER OF BRIDGES.—T. R., Huddersfield.
CASSIDY, MR. J. RICE.—T. R., Woolwich.
CHARLEY'S AUNT.—New T., Halifax.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE) (M.).—O. H., Burton.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE) (N). T. R., Stockport.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE) (S.).—T. R., Chatham.
CLAUDIAN.—Prince's T., Bradford.
COMPTON COMEDY CO.—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
CONFUSION.—Pier Pavilion, Eastbourne.
CONSCIENCE OF A JUDGE.—T. R., Castleford.
COUNTRY GIRL IN LONDON.—T. R., Chesterfield.
DAIRYMAIDS, THE (COURTNEIDGE).—T. R., Dewsbury.
DAIRYMAIDS, THE (MACDONALD).—Court T., Wigan.
DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY.—New T., Aberdare.
DIANA OF DOBSON'S (M).—Theatre Royal, Bury.
D'OYLY CARTE.—P. O. W., Birmingham.
EARLY WORM.—Dalston Theatre, N.E.
EAST LYNNE.—Artillery T., Woolwich.
EVE OF HER WEDDING.—Grand T., Brighton.
EYES OF THE WORLD.—Osborne T., Manchester.
FACE AT THE WINDOW.—Princess's T., Glasgow.
FATAL WEDDING.—T. R. Smethwick.
FLAG LIEUTENANT.—Opera House, Northampton.
FOR LOVE AND THE KING.—Colosseum, Oldham.
FOR WIFE AND KINGDOM.—T. R., Wolverhampton.
GAY GODDESS, THE.—Alexandra T., Greenock.
GAY GORDONS, THE.—Theatre Royal, Preston.
GENTLEMAN JOCKEY.—T. R., Plymouth.
GIRL'S CROSS ROADS.—Lyceum T., Govan.
GIRLS OF GOTTENBERG.—O. H., Cheltenham.
GLOSSOP-HARRIS, MISS F.—Lyceum T., Ipswich.
GOLDEN LADDER, THE.—Albert T., Brighouse.
GREAT AWAKENING.—Queen's T., Farnworth.
GREAT WHITE CHIEF.—T. R., Sheffield.
GRIT.—H. M. T., Barrow-in-Furness.
GUILTY GOLD.—Middleton.
HARVEY, MR. MARTIN.—King's T., Glasgow.
HAVANA.—O. H., Leicester.
HER FATHER AND MY WIFE.—Gaiety T., Hastings.
HER LIFE IN LONDON.—T. R., Ilkeston.
HER LOVE AGAINST THE WORLD.—Empire T., Swindon.
HER LUCK IN LONDON.—T. R., Ilkestone.
HER MARRIAGE VOW.—T. R., Coatbridge.
HER NAMELESS CHILD.—Prince's T., Preston
HER SECRET LOVER.—Aberaman.
HIS HOUSE IN ORDER.—T. R., Newcastle.
HIS SISTER'S HONOUR.—Treharris.
HOW WOMEN ARE SLANDERED.—Century T., Motherwell.
HUMAN NATURE.—Grand T., Oldham.
HYPOCRITES, THE.—T. R., Darlington.
IDOLS.—Opera House, Burnley.
IDOLS OF PARIS.—T. R., Margate.
KING AND THE UNKNOWN WOMAN.—T. R., Rochdale.
LA COMEDIE ANGLAISE.—Hayle and Padstow.
LADY FREDERICK.—Newport.
LEAH KLESCHNA.—T. R., Blyth.
LITTLE BREADWINNER.—Palace T., Newcastle.
LOVE OF THE PRINCESS.—Prince's T., Blackburn.
LOVE, THE CONQUEROR.—T. R., Sutton-in-Ashfield.
MAN AND WIFE.—Opera House, Kidderminster.
MIDNIGHT MAIL.—T. R., Hebburn.
MIDNIGHT WEDDING.—T. R., Leeds.
MISS HOOK OF HOLLAND (DANCE'S).—T. R., Wolverhampton.
MOODY-MANNERS (A).—Court T., Liverpool.
MOODY-MANNERS (B.).—H. M. T., Carlisle.
MRS. DOT.—Croydon.
MRS. WIGGS OF THE CABBAGE PATCH (N.).—P. T., Manchester.
MRS. WIGGS OF THE CABBAGE PATCH (S.).—Worcester.
MY MIMOSA MAID.—H. M. T., Dundee.
NEW EAST LYNNE.—T. R., Blyth.
NEW HOUSEMAID, THE.—T. R., Leamington.
NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS.—County T., Bedford.
NIHILIST, THE.—Cambridge T., Spennymoor.
NOBLE MOTHER, A.—T. R., Belfast.
NORMAN V. NORMAN.—O. H., Belfast.
NO WEDDING BELLS FOR HER.—T. R., Sheffield.
OLD FOLKS AT HOME.—Junction T., Manchester.
OLD HOME, THE.—T. R., Jarrow.
PASSING OF THE THIRD FLOOR BACK.—Grand T., Hull.
PETE (N).—Theatre Royal, Hanley.
PETE (S).—T. R., Bournemouth.
PETER PAN (FROHMAN).—Shakespeare T., Liverpool.
POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN.—T. R., Edmonton.
POWER OF THE KING.—T. R., Stratford.
PRINCE AND THE BEGGAR MAID.—T. R., Sunderland.
PRIVATE SECRETARY.—O. H., Harrogate.
PRODIGAL SON (CROKE).—Grand T., Luton.
PRODIGAL SON (CROKE) (M).—Llanelly and Brynmawr.
PRODIGAL SON (DAY).—Metropole T., Gateshead.
RAFFLES.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
RIGNOLD, LIONEL.—Dalston Theatre N.E.
ROLLICKING RORY.—Opera House, Dudley.
ROYAL DIVORCE.—Brixton Theatre, S.W.
SAILOR'S WEDDING.—Lyric T., Hammersmith, W.
SEND HIM VICTORIOUS.—T. R., Glossop.
SENSE OF HUMOUR.—D. P. T., Eastbourne.
SHERLOCK HOLMES.—Gaiety T., Ayr.
SIGN OF THE CROSS.—P. O. W., Grimsby.
SILVER KING (POLINI).—O. H., Coventry.
SINS OF SOCIETY.—T. R., Bolton.
SOLDIER OF FRANCE.—T. R., Wolverhampton.
SOLDIER'S HONOUR.—Queen's Park Hippodrome, Manchester.
STARR, HARRY, REPRT.—Gaiety T., Leith.
SUTTON AND RAYNOR.—O. H., Blackpool.
TERRY, MR. EDWARD.—Palace T., Brighton.
THIEF, THE.—Broadway T., Deptford.
THIEF, THE.—T. R., Middlesbrough.
TODDLES.—Crystal Palace T., S.E.
TRAITOR PRINCE.—T. R., Batley.
TWO LANCASHIRE LASSES IN LONDON.—Alexandra T., Hull.
TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS.—Victoria T., Broughton.
TYRANT, THE.—Palace T., Bordesley.
UNCLE TOM'S CABIN.—Empire T., Cradley.
UNDER THE CZAR.—T. R., Crook.
VICTIM OF VILLAINY.—T. R. Colchester.
VILLAGE BLACKSMITH.—Opera House, Wakefield.
WALTZ DREAM.—T. R., Nottingham.
WAY OF THE WORLD.—T. R., Lincoln.
WHAT A WOMAN DID.—New T., West Stanley.
WHEN A LASS LOVES.—New T., Cambridge.
WHEN KNIGHTS WERE BOLD.—T. R., Brighton.
WHEN OTHER LIPS.—Grand T., Chorley.
WHO IS SHE?—Elephant and Castle Theatre, S.E.
WITH EDGED TOOLS.—Buxton and Harrogate.
WOMAN AND WINE.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
WOMAN PAYS.—Queen's T., Longton.
WILKIE, ALLAN, AND CO.—Star T., Liverpool.
YOU NEVER CAN TELL.—T. R. Norwich.
10.30 DOWN EXPRESS.—Middleton.

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We cannot undertake to answer the inquiries of correspondents by post. In all letters names and addresses must be given as a guarantee of good faith. Initials only or pseudonyms will be used in the replies if so desired.]

J. R. L. (Manchester).—*Yes. The Coronet Theatre, Notting-hill Gate, London, W.*

DRAMATICUS.—*It is not necessary to obtain the Censor's licence for a sketch produced and played in the music halls.*

A. W. H.—*We cannot discover his address. Write care of Fred Harrison, Esq., Haymarket Theatre, to be forwarded.*

THE DUCHESS.—*Stationers' Hall, London, E.C., is quite sufficient. They will send you the necessary forms on application for registration both of performing right and copyright. The fee is 5s. in respect of each registration.*

H. W. GREW.—*The duration of copyright is for 42 years from first publication or for the term of the author's life and seven years from his death, whichever is longer. We believe the play in question was produced in 1866, but as the author died only in 1905 the copyright in it would still be existing.*

ORLANDO.—The Happy Land, *a burlesque version of* The Wicked World, *by F. Tomline and Gilbert A'Beckett, was produced at the Royal Court Theatre, under Miss Litton's management, on March 3, 1873, and prohibited by the Lord Chamberlain on March 7, 1873. It owed any success that it attained to the introduction of a dance by three male fairies—Mr. W. H. Fisher as Ethais; Mr. W. J. Hill as Phyllon, and Mr. Edward Righton as Lutin—who were severally made up to represent three Cabinet Ministers—Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Lowe, and Mr. Ayrton. The Lord Chamberlain intervened after the third performance.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a Birth, a Marriage, or a Death, or an "In Memoriam" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is One Shilling and Sixpence.

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

BATTYE.—March 17, at 44, North-street, Lambeth, S.E., Mrs. Oswald Battye (Miss May Fayre), of a daughter. Both well.

LENA.—March 10, at Dublin, Gertie, the wife of Roberto Lena, of a daughter.

PAUL.—On March 15, at Liverpool, Florrie, wife of Sam Paul, of a fine daughter. Both doing well.

PAUL.—March 15, at Liverpool, Florrie, the wife of Sam Paul, of a daughter. Both doing well.

MARRIAGES.

COLT—BARRYMORE.—March 15, at the Church of the Most Precious Blood, near Boston, R. Griswold Colt, son of the American millionaire, Colonel Pomeroy Colt, to Ethel Barrymore, actress, daughter of the late Maurice Barrymore and Georgie Drew-Barrymore.

TOMKINS—LEYLAND CLINTON.—On Saturday, March 6, at St. Saviour's, Pimlico, Charles Albert Tomkins (Charles Manville), to Mrs. Dudley Clinton (Edith Leyland Clinton).

DEATHS.

FOX.—March 14, Charles John Fox, aged 26 (son of Fred Fox, scenic artist, Moss's Empires), suddenly, of pneumonia. Interred Newington Cemetery, Edinburgh, March 18.

FULLER.—March 19, at his residence, Delancey-street, Camden Town, George Fuller, variety agent, aged 39.

KEYS.—March 13, at 9, York-street, Plymouth, Samuel Elias, aged 2 years 4 months. Also Queenie, aged 14 months, the beloved nephew and niece of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Cowell, Theatre, Blaenavon.

MACK.—On Tuesday evening, March 2, at Castleford, Harry, who died after seven days' illness, in his seventieth year, from cerebral hæmorrhage. Buried at Manchester, March 6. Deeply lamented by his sorrowing widow and his adopted children. Texas Hattie and Tiger Lily. Thanks to all friends for expressions of kindness and sympathy.

SCOTT.—In loving memory of Watson Scott (father of Great Scott), who died March 7. Never will he be forgotten by his loving wife and sons. Thanks to all who sent letters of sympathy.

IN MEMORIAM.

FAWCETT.—Annie Olivia, née Goward, who passed away March 21, 1907. Deeply mourned and sadly missed by her devoted husband, CHARLES FAWCETT.

GOODWIN.—In ever-loving memory of my darling wife Bonnie (L. B. Lyon), who was taken away March 19, 1907. Abide with Me.

HASWELL.—In ever-loving memory of our little "Teddie," who passed away March 17, 1904. Never forgotten by his parents and sister Mabel. R.I.P.

EARLY DELIVERY.

SPECIAL NEWSPAPER EXPRESS SERVICES now running on the London and North-Western, Great Northern, Midland, and Great Central Railways, carry *The Era* to the following important cities and towns at the times named. Newsvendors and subscribers obtain their papers at a much earlier hour than was previously possible:—

	a.m.
RUGBY	4.30
COVENTRY	4.54
BIRMINGHAM	5.20
CREWE	6. 5
MANCHESTER	6.50
LIVERPOOL	7. 0
CHESTER	9. 3
DONCASTER	6.10
YORK	7. 0
HULL	8.20
DARLINGTON	8.58
SCARBOROUGH	10. 5
NEWCASTLE	10.10
LEEDS (Central)	6.58
HUDDERSFIELD	7.37
BRADFORD (Exchange)	7.47
HARROGATE	7.50
HALIFAX	8.17
BURNLEY	9.28
LEICESTER	4.36
NOTTINGHAM	5.10
DERBY	5.35

MRS. PRITCHARD was so very natural an actress, and was so powerfully affected by her feelings, that she seldom retired from any great tragic part without being in some degree affected by a stomachic complaint.

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.

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Hoey, Miss Iris
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James, Miss Edith
Jordon, Mr. Jules
Kearns, Mr. Sydney
Kelso, Mr. Tom
Klegin, Mr. R.
Kloss, Miss Sophia
Lang and Pleydell
Langford, Mr. Pat
Latonas, The
Leycester, Miss Laura
Lyons and Culum
Mackenzie, Mr. W. D.
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Marshall, Mr. Arthur
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Marvin, Mr. A. C.
Mayer, Miss Daisy
Mayo, Mr. Sidney
McLean, Mr. A.
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Millian, Mr. Max
Moore, Miss Eva
Nelson, Mr.
Nelson, Mr. Frank
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Ord, Mr. Simon
Otello, Beffo
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Taunton, Mr. Walter P.
Terris, Mr. Alf
Thornton, Mr. Frank
Tiller, Mr. A.
Tremaine, Miss Mignon
Turner, Mr. E.
U.S.A. Boys
Vernon, Mr. Leslie
Viviana
Waldron, Mr. Billy
Walonell, Mr. Jack
Watts, Mr. Clive
Weathersby, Mr. Frank
Wells, Mr. Herbert G.
Weston, Miss Lucy
White, Miss Kitty
Whiteford, Mr. J.
Whitney, Mr. Wallace
Wilkinson, Mr. Sam
Williamson, Miss Maud
Williams, Mr. P. D.
Woods, Mr. James
Yearsley, Mr. Claude

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Mrs. Bennett—Saturday, March 20.
Martin Comstock—Saturday, March 20.
W. H. Clemart—Saturday, March 20.
Harry Randall—Monday, March 22.
Harry Brett—Monday, March 22.
Hero Hathaway—Monday, March 22.
Sir Charles Wyndham—Tuesday, March 23.
Sidney Grundy—Tuesday, March 23.
Gilbert Hare—Tuesday, March 23.
Robson Paige—Tuesday, March 23.
Victor T. Raymond—Tuesday, March 23.
Maud Milton—Wednesday, March 24.
Alec Hurley—Wednesday, March 24.
Charles Harrington—Wednesday, March 24.
John Le Hay—Thursday, March 25.
Tom Woottwell—Thursday, March 25.
Emilie Polini—Thursday, March 25.
Ernest Ch. Gittins—Thursday, March 25.
Will Collins—Friday, March 26.

DEATHS OF THE MONTH.

FEB. 1.—William N. Ramsdale.
" 4.—Florence McKenzie, aged 35.
" 7.—Llewellyn Cadwaladr, aged 49
" 8.—James Lyman Molloy, aged 71.
" 8.—Ernest Alexandre Henri Coquelin, aged 60.
" 8.—Edouard Silas, aged 82.
" 9.—Violet Morgan (Mrs. Jack Ford).
" 10.—Annie Casey.
" 10.—Amanda Cragg.
" 10.—John Fuller, sen., aged 60.
" 10.—Jesse Jewell, aged 62.
" 11.—Charles Warner, aged 62.
" 12.—Margaret Shepherd Gyde.
" 13.—Pauline I. J. Sheen (Crooke).
" 13.—Percy Lax, aged 44.
" 13.—Lady Morell Mackenzie.
" 15.—Mrs. Isaac Cohen (Fanny Harrison), aged 70.
" 16.—Thornton Radcliffe.
" 17.—Walter Harding.
" 17.—Bob Lazello.
" 17.—Fred Riley, aged 55.
" 18.—Comtesse de Chabrillon (Céleste Venard).
" 19.—Denis Campbell.
" 21.—Mrs. Herbert Campbell.
" 23.—Albert Wells.
" 25.—Mary Smith.
" 25.—Mrs. Alma Waller.
" 27.—Mrs. Chas. H. Longden, aged 47.
" 27.—Thomas France, aged 77.
" 28.—Vernon Noble, aged 28.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1909.

A NATIONAL THEATRE.

A momentous decision has been come to by the Executive Committee of the Shakespeare Memorial Scheme—including the Lord Mayor, Lord LYTTON, Sir JOHN HARE, Mr. PINERO, Mr. FORBES ROBERTSON, and Mr. BEERBOHM TREE—who have reported in favour of a National Theatre, and are of opinion that it should be proceeded with. We may now consider the theatre a *fait accompli*. The objects of the proposed playhouse will be: To keep the plays of SHAKESPEARE in its repertory; to revive whatever else is vital in English classical drama; to prevent recent plays of great merit from falling into the oblivion to which the present theatrical system is apt to consign them; to produce new plays, and to further the development of the modern drama; to produce translations of representative works of foreign drama, ancient and modern; and to stimulate the art of acting through the varied opportunities which it will offer to the members of its company.

The National Theatre will be upon a true repertory system. The theatre will be able to present, and will present, at least two different plays of full length at evening performances in each week, and at least three different plays at evening performances and matinées taken together. One at least of such weekly performances will be an English classical play; SHAKESPEARE'S plays will be given on an average of at least one a week; and the number of works presented in a year will be not less than twenty-five plays of full length. The repertory will consist of pieces in which the dramatic and not the musical element is predominant. The productions, while simple, will be efficient and beautiful. The estimates provide for such a liberal endowment as shall free the directorate from all temptation to sacrifice its artistic policy to the making of large and immediate profits. The sum required to build, equip, and endow a National Theatre will be about £500,000, and that this amount will be thus distributed: Site, £100,000; building, £100,000; stage and equipment, £50,000; endowment, £250,000. The name of the theatre will be "The National Shakespeare Theatre," and in order to provide for the legal ownership of the structure and of the endowment fund, steps will be taken for the incorporation of the governing body, either by Royal charter or by license of the Board of Trade. The supreme controlling authority of the theatre will be a body of governors, to be appointed by the Crown, the Universities, the Royal Academy, the British Academy, the L.C.C., the City Corporation, the municipalities of a number of cities, and the self-governing colonies. The Ambassador of the United States, the President of the Board of Education, the President of the Academy of Dramatic Art will be "governors." The managing staff will consist of a director, a treasurer, and a literary manager, all of whom are to be nominated by the Standing Committee, subject to confirmation by the governors.

Arrangements will be made for the National Shakespeare Theatre to give performances in the country as well as in London; and provision will be made for conferring some form of honorary distinction on actors who have completed a certain term of association with the National Theatre.

The establishment of the National Shakespeare Theatre shows the irresistible force of practical and experienced power when applied to any object. We all remember the great meeting at the Lyceum Theatre in favour of a National Theatre, and how the matter lingered on until men like Sir JOHN HARE, Mr. PINERO, Mr. FORBES ROBERTSON, and Mr. BEERBOHM TREE took it up seriously. And now the thing is "as good as" done. In a country like this—and may we not add America, with its millionaires and its intense admiration for SHAKESPEARE?—the raising of £500,000 will be easy. It will be pleasant and interesting to watch the progress of the scheme—the selection of the site, the choice of the architect or perhaps a competition amongst architects for the design, the gradual rising of the walls, the appointment of the governors and the managing staff, and the selection of the "honorary distinction" to be conferred on actors who shall have completed their service at the National Shakespeare Theatre. The rapidity with which building operations are carried on at present has been shown in the erection of SELFRIDGE'S superb establishment in Oxford Street; and almost before we are prepared for its completion the National Theatre may rise from its hoardings like Venus from the sea, and overcome us like a summer cloud without our special wonder. This is the age of wireless telegraphy, of flying machines, and old-age pensions; and the faculty of wonder is almost extinguished in us. Admiration, however, still remains; and because we shall not be surprised at the work done by the eminent actors above mentioned, it does not follow that we shall not appreciate the power which has attained this great and goodly result. On the contrary, the absence of wonder will only be a tribute to their established reputations for ability, energy, and skill.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.

A matinée in aid of the Messina Earthquake Fund was held on Thursday afternoon at the St. James's Theatre, kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. George Alexander. The principal item on the programme was a little play by Miss Bessie Hatton, bearing the title

"THE VILLAGE OF YOUTH."

King Lycian .....MR. E. HARCOURT WILLIAMS
Prince Winfred .....MR. L. RACE DUNROBIN
Old Basil .....MR. ALFRED BRYDONE
Time .....MISS BEATRICE FORBES-ROBERTSON
Beryl .....MISS JEAN STERLING MACKINLAY
Rowena .....MISS HILDA AUSTIN

The poetic flavour of this phantasy is well in accordance with its altogether enchanting setting, the scene being a very pretty garden "surrounding the Castle of Stars." Here we listen to the conversation of King Lycian and his betrothed, Rowena, who have arranged to be married at sunset. Lycian dreads the thought or the anticipation of becoming an old man. He yearns for a condition of things which would render human life an eternal spring-time and the evenings and nights a never-changing afternoon of sunshine. With Omar Khayyám he would join in the lament—

"Yet, ah, that spring should vanish with the rose!
That youth's sweet-scented manuscript should close!"

And his mental attitude towards age is such that he banishes from his kingdom the aged Basil. Rowena's sister, Beryl, sets herself the task of bringing about a fulfilment of the King's desire. She awaits the coming of the Spirit of Time, and she receives what all at the moment believe to be a favourable answer to her prayers. And so Time remains, and there is no sunset and no night in the Village of Youth, for the sun and all things stand still. But the monotony of a year of summer brightness palls upon the King and his court; he admits that he has made a mistake; he admits that the process of change and progression is a beneficient one after all, and that even old age has its joys. Besides, his marriage was to be celebrated at sunset, and there has been no sunset! Henceforth he will be satisfied, and the Village of Youth shall be the Village of Content. And so old Basil comes back at the invitation of this romantic-minded monarch, and the Spirit of Time is bidden to proceed upon his way, for he is no longer a welcome guest.

The dialogue becomes rather wearisome at times, and some of it strikes one as being insincere, the authoress having, no doubt, laboured some of her phrases instead of waiting for the mood which would bring them with easy naturalness. All the same, the little piece, taken as a whole, is quite a charming dramatic effort. Mr. E. Harcourt Williams made an imposing figure as the King—though now and again he seemed to lack dignity—and he spoke his lines with much expression. Miss Jean Sterling Mackinlay as Beryl and Miss Beatrice Forbes-Robertson as the Spirit of Time were delightfully graceful and effective in their rôles; Miss Hilda Austin was an engaging Rowena, Mr. Alfred Brydone a characteristic old man as Basil, and Mr. L. Race Dunrobin a loverlike Prince Winfred.

There were several other contributions to the programme. Mlle. Leonora and Miss Julia Seale entertained the audience with the first scene of *La Petite Bohemienne*, and Miss Beatrice Collier and Mr. Fred Farren won considérable applause for their "Danse des Apaches." Mr. Leon Quartermaine, Miss Amy Ravenscroft, and Mr. Stafford Hilliard appeared in Miss Edith A. Browne's one-act piece, *A Maker of Women;* and others whose names figured on the programme where Miss Constance Collier, Señor Léon de Souza, Miss Dorothy Lemarchand, Miss Edith Kirkwood, Señor Rubio, Mr. Lawrence Rea, Miss Mary Grey, Mr. Gordon Cleather, Mme. Jeanne Darlays, Master Max Darewski, Miss Clara Evelyn, Mr. Albert Archdeacon, Platt's Child Trio, and Mr. Norman A. Blume.

Two tariff reform plays, entitled respectively *The German Plot* and *What Free Trade Did for Bill*, were given at a gathering of the Women's Unionist and Tariff Reform Association at 5, Great Stanhope-street on Tuesday.

SIR ALEXANDER MACKENZIE, to the regret of all, has been suffering from yet another attack of influenza. He leaves London this week for Florence, and it is hoped that he will speedily be restored to health. The popular principal of the Royal Academy of Music will be accompanied by Lady Mackenzie and Miss Mary Mackenzie.

FIVE prizes for a composition piece specially designed for performance by a full military band are offered by the Worshipful Company of Musicians. The piece may take the form of a concert overture, a march, a phantasie in one movement with changes of tempo and key, or a suite. The competition is open only to British subjects, and scores must be sent in before the end of March.

THE Keats-Shelley Memorial was discussed at a meeting of the British committee of the Memorial Association held on Monday at Crewe House, the Earl of Crewe presiding. The arrangements for the opening of the Keats-Shelley house in Rome on April 5, when the King of Italy will be present, were considered. The offer of Mr. Frederick Harrison to give a matinée at the Haymarket Theatre was gratefully accepted.

A TELEGRAM from Los Angeles states that Mme. Modjeska, the famous Polish actress, is lying dangerously ill at her residence in Orange County, California. Mme. Modjeska made her *début* at Bochnia, Poland, at the age of seventeen, and speedily became the leading actress in her native country. She made her first appearance in an English play at San Francisco, in 1877, and since then has played leading rôles both in England and America. She is in her sixty-fifth year.

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"A WOMAN OF IMPULSE."

Drama, in Four Acts, by Louis Anspacher, Produced at the Herald Square Theatre, New York, on March 1.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Leonora de Valera, known as La Vecci, is the "woman of impulse." She is a grand opera singer, who has had a brilliant career, and has married Count Nerval de Valera, an attaché of the Spanish Embassy at Washington. The Count has given up his diplomatic post, and is now supported by his wife. Leonora is devoted to her art, and its exacting demands frequently clash with the wishes and inclinations of her husband, whom she really loves. It is this conflict which causes her motives and actions to be misunderstood, her sudden impulses involving her in difficulties, not only with her husband, but her aunt, Mrs. Gardineer. Count Nerval resents being placed in a subordinate position as the singer's husband, and chafes under the reflection that he is an insignificant entity so far as the public that pays homage to his wife is concerned. Furthermore, he is jealous of his cousin, Philip Gaudineer, who misses no opportunity of making himself agreeable to Leonora. Leonora has a younger sister, Nina, whom she regards with a watchful eye. Wishing to end the estrangement which exists between his aunt and his wife, Nerval persuades Mrs. Gaudineer to invite Leonora to visit her in the country. Much against her will Leonora accepts, and takes her sister with her. Cousin Philip also joins the family reunion, thereby aggravating Nerval's jealousy and suspicion.

Leonora's democratic tendencies and generous impulses clash with every inherited instinct of aristocratic reserve in the Gaudineer household. Situation after situation of misunderstanding develops, and the insulting misinterpretation of all her motives and actions enrages the singer. Mrs. Gaudineer poisons her nephew's mind against his wife; while Philip, by his every action, tries to compromise her in the eyes of her jealous husband. At last, finding her alone, he makes insulting proposals, and Leonora repulses him in a very forcible manner. Then he tries to make love to the inexperienced Nina, and Leonora saves her sister at the cost of her own happiness. Nerval decides to return to New York, and simply announces his intention to do so without asking his wife to accompany him. To his surprise she is overjoyed at the prospect of leaving, and his jealousy dies in a moment. It is quickly revived though, for an incident occurs which makes it impossible for her to leave her sister in the same house with Philip, and without explaining her reasons, she tells her husband that she cannot accompany him. Furious with jealousy, he leaves the house after a violent scene, in which he openly accuses her of being untrue to him.

In the meantime, Nina has gone to her sister's room to write a letter, and Philip, seeing a light there from the garden, conceives the idea of surprising the unprotected girl. The windows of the room open on to a balcony, which can be reached without going through the house. He comes upon her suddenly and tries to embrace her. In the struggle that follows she stabs him with a small dagger, inflicting merely a slight wound, and he makes his escape by the window. On the balcony, however, he is felled by a terrible blow. Nerval has returned, and seeing his cousin in his wife's room, has satisfied himself that his belief in her infidelity is justified. Philip is killed by the blow, and Nerval disappears.

Nina, having stabbed Philip, and knowing nothing of the encounter outside, naturally supposes when the corpse is discovered that it was she who killed him. Leonora receives this version of the affair, and accuses herself in order to shield her sister. Nerval returns, however, whilst the coroner is trying to elicit the facts, and confesses that he killed Philip just outside the window. Then Leonora, to save her husband from being convicted of murder, takes upon herself the stigma of faithlessness in order that he may claim justification under the "unwritten law." Eventually, however, the truth comes out, and Leonora, unable to forget that her husband has believed her faithless, repulses him when he would be the same to her as before. For two years they live apart. Then they meet by accident at the home of the happily-married Nina, and inspect the baby. Which doing, they experience the fellow feeling that makes us wondrous kind, and are brought together again.

Miss Kathryn Kidder assumes the title-rôle of this play, and witnessing her performance one cannot fail to note the authoritative ease and finish that mark the truly artistic portrayal. It is a long time since Miss Kidder's name appeared above the portals of a Broadway theatre, and it is to be hoped that her future engagements in this city will not be so few and far between, for while the critics are by no means enthusiastic over her play, the impression certainly prevails that the lengthy absence of such an accomplished player means a distinct loss to the local stage.

THE football match, Fulham *v.* Clapton Orient, this afternoon at Fulham, will be the occasion of Fryer's benefit. The kick-off is at 3.30. The home team consists of Fryer, Lindsay, Sharp, Collins, Suart, Mouncher, Smith, Dalrymple, Harrison or Freeman, McCourt, and Lipsham. Fulham Reserves *v.* Tottenham Reserves contend at Tottenham this afternoon.

THE Annual Ladies' Concert of the Playgoers' Club will take place on Sunday evening, March 28, at the Playhouse. Among the artists who have already accepted invitations to be present are Miss Jean Aylwin, Miss Phyllis Bedells, Miss Maudi Darrell, Miss Marie George, Miss Ida René, Mr. Randell Jackson, Mr. Frank Lawton, Little Tich, Mr. Arthur Prince, and Mr. H. Scott Russell.

THE last of the Glasgow pantomimes, *Diccory Dok*, at the Royal Princess's, finished on Saturday. Cheers greeted the entrance of each of the principals, and flowers and chocolates galore were showered upon Misses Flora Cromer, Ella Retford, Edith Haley, Maggie Fraser, Ivy Proudfoot, and the Sisters Bartholomew. The comedians were not forgotten, and numerous tokens of friendship were given to Messrs. Peter Bermingham, Syd Walker, Harry A. Gribben, Ainslie Burton, Cliff Lake, and Walter Dale. Speeches were demanded from everyone at the close, and gracefully responded to.

"CINDERELLA," at the Theatre Royal, Melbourne, Australia, is in a fair way to break all records. It is now in its thirteenth week, and still playing to packed business. *The Girl Behind the Counter*, in consequence of the success of the pantomime, had to be postponed, but is now in full rehearsal for production shortly. Mr. C. St. John Denton, who, in conjunction with Messrs. Denton, Bode, and McKenzie, Ltd., are responsible with Messrs. Meynell and Gunn for these productions, has just secured the option for the Australian rights on two forthcoming West End musical productions, which will be sent out early in February next.

A PACKED audience on Saturday evening witnessed the final performance of the successful pantomime of *Red Riding Hood*, which has established a record at the Prince's Theatre, Bradford. Speeches were the order of the evening, and showers of flowers and sweets greeted the ladies and the bright little children of the company, one of whom presented Mr. Harry Butler, the stage-manager, with a little testimonial which had been subscribed for amongst the juveniles themselves. Mr. Butler was also the recipient of a handsome diamond ring from the members of the company, and the proceedings terminated with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne," in which the audience and the company joined.

THE TERRITORIAL QUESTION.

Thanks to the patriotic spirit of Mr. Ernest Mansell, the lessee of the Royal Palace Theatre, Ramsgate, to the indomitable energy of Captain H. S. Page, of the 3rd Kent Battery of the R.F.A. (T.), and the hard work of Mr. Jos. Porter, secretary to the Territorial Night Committee, Ramsgate has had a grand recruiting march. Mr. Mansell offered the theatre to the local officers, and they accepted the use of it for one night in order to appeal for men for the Buffs and the newly-formed Kent Cyclist Battalion, of which no fewer than eight companies have to be raised. The patronage of the Mayor and Mayoress was obtained.

The arrangements within the theatre were, thanks to Mr. Mansell's foresight and watchfulness, admirable. Mrs. Mansell received the Deputy Mayor and the Mayoress, and shortly after General Mackinnon arrived, attended by Captain Page and other officers, and Mr. E. J. Large (ex-Royal Household personal service). The duty of receiving other notable residents was shared by Mr. E. Mansell, Mr. Bert Atkinson, and Mr. J. H. W. Porter, secretary. As the first item of the entertainment Mr. Sam Weller sang in good voice "The Yeomen of England." The next item was a picture show, illustrating Life in the King's Service, which were specially taken for Mr. Mansell, who has shown them in every corner of England. These were loudly applauded, and were followed by a number of local photographic lantern slides prepared by Mr. Short, photographer, of Ramsgate, and photos of her late Majesty Queen Victoria, the former illustrating camp life with local units. An exhibition of sword exercise and pursuing practice was given by men of the Royal East Kent Yeomanry, under Sergt.-Major A. Ducker. Next came more animated pictures specially prepared by Mr. Mansell, entitled Our Territorial Forces in the Field, which proved interesting and instructive and highly popular. Miss Julia Barnes was loudly applauded for her splendid rendering of Elgar's "Land of hope and glory," and then men of the 4th Buffs and Kent Cyclist Battalion, combined with signallers of the Artillery in *A Skirmish at an Outpost*, which proved to be the most realistic and best-appreciated tableau of the evening. The men worked splendidly, their proceedings being vociferously applauded. The whole scene was realistic, and the setting reflected great credit on Mr. Mansell, who was enabled, by kind permission of Mr. Leo Stormont and Mr. McManns, to show the invasion picture An Englishman's Home, direct from the Coliseum. *The Bivouac* was the next tableau of the evening, and this was supplied by the Boy Scouts, under the direction of General Sir Chas. Warren, K.C.M.G., K.C.B. It was invented specially for the occasion by Mr. R. Partridge, of the Pretoria, High-street, Ramsgate, and the music was splendidly sung by Mr. Sutton.

The final item represented *Britannia* (Miss Treadway) surrounded by her sons, and was most effectively staged. Big guns were included, and the spectacular effect was considerably heightened by the flashing sabres of the Yeomanry, the cutlasses of the Navy men, and the bristling bayonets of the Buffs.

After the entertainment Mr. Ernest Mansell, who was received with rounds of applause, said it had all been only a labour of love to him; he hoped the audience had attentively listened to the officers, and he hoped they would profit by what they had heard, and come forward and join the ranks.

The marching of 750 khaki-clad Territorials from the Belle Vue and Valley Parade Barracks to the Empire Theatre, Bradford, on Monday, created great interest. Lieut.-Col. R. A. Bottomley, commanding the 6th Battalion the Prince of Wales' Own (West Yorkshire Regiment) had sought the co-operation of the proprietors of the Empire, and their business-like and energetic local manager, Mr. Percival Craig, to provide an entertainment calculated to stimulate the interest of the citizens and their duty towards the Territorial Army. The Empire management gladly acquiesced, with the result that the scheme was carried to a successful conclusion. The programme had quite a patriotic flavour about it. Mr. Frederic Villiers, the well-known war correspondent, who is at present on a tour of the Empire theatres, had been transferred to Bradford in order to be present at the performance. Mr. Villiers, wearing as many medals as generally adorn the breast of a British General, gave a short lantern illustrated sketch of some of the scenes he had witnessed in actual warfare. Mr. Percival Craig presented some patriotic pictures on the screen and recited a couple of verses from "The Call to Arms," and Pat Rafferty, one of the artists, added to the military flavour by singing "The Boys of the Territorial Army." The audience was thoroughly enthusiastic. The "Territorial Night" was a complete success.

ABOUT 300 Territorials visited the Castle Theatre, Stockton-on-Tees, to witness the performance of *The Thief*, on Monday last, by the kind invitation of the proprietor (Mr. Chas. Imeson) and Mr. George Alexander. The entertainment was under the patronage of the Mayor, Sir Samuel Sadler, and a number of officers and civil dignitaries.

MISS VIOLET LEY will conclude on Saturday her fourth starring engagement as Lady Mary in *Peter's Mother*.

THE close of the Bristol Prince's pantomime has been marked by proof of the regard from the artists to the staff. Mr. F. S. Green was the recipient of a kit-bag, Mr. G. R. Chapman and Mr. D. Fisher a silver cigar-case, and Mr. Henry Turner a gold-mounted umbrella. Accompanying the gifts was a little note, signed by Ouida Macdermott, Topsy Sinden, Deborah Volar, Daisy Wood, Flo Foster, Bransby Williams, Alfred Clark, W. H. Powell, and Arthur Sutcliffe. It read: "A little memento of a happy ten weeks' panto. We trust that you may find it useful, and that it will accompany you on many a pleasant journey. Wishing you the best of luck."

AN agreeable vocal and instrumental concert, in aid of the funds of the West-end Ladies' Benevolent Society for the Relief of the Poor in the West-end of London, was given at the St. James's Hall on Saturday. Amongst the artists who contributed to the attractive and interesting programme were Miss Constance Jenkins, Mr. and Mrs. Van Lachterap, Miss Florence Holderness, Mr. Sidney Hamilton, Miss Marion Spindler, Mr. Walk D. Fearse, Herr Dezsö Kordy, Miss Cissie Freedman, Miss Shena Desmond, Mr. Frederic Irving, Miss Florence Clarke, Mr T. Kinniburg, Mr. Charles Coborn, and Mr. Arthur Chenery. Herr Adolf Voorzanger, who conducted, played a solo on the saxophone in excellent style; and his clever daughter, Miss Haidee Voorzanger, gave two solos on the violin with skill and taste. Mr. T. Presburg was the accompanist.

MR. BERT WILSON'S fraternity, humorously designated the "Tin-Cans," paid their annual visit to the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, last Tuesday, overflowing the stalls with their numbers, and adding to the public diversion considerably. Presents were bestowed on the proprietor of the theatre, Mr. Lester Collingwood, whom they seemed delighted to honour; Mr. Fred Bernardo, business-manager; Mr. W. T. Guest, acting-manager; Miss Ellaline Thorne, the principal boy; Miss Dollie Denton, the principal girl; and Miss Maudie Olmar, who plays the title-rôle, Little Red Riding Hood, &c., including the comedians, Messrs. Stephens and Rennior, George Penn, Albert Schafer, and Frank Blythe. The house was bedecked for the occasion.

TESTIMONIAL TO MAURICE DE FRECE.

TO COMMEMORATE HIS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DRAMATIC AND VARIETY AGENCY.

President, MR. ARTHUR COLLINS, T.R., Drury-lane.

Several mutual friends, well-wishers, and members of the profession have suggested that a testimonial should be given to Mr. Maurice de Frece, who will shortly enter upon his fiftieth year of the variety agency business. For half of this period Mr. de Frece has been connected with the firm of Richard Warner and Co., with whom he is no longer associated. Mr. de Frece's friends deem this a most fitting opportunity of expressing their esteem and appreciation of his sterling good qualities in business and his straightforward conduct and extreme courtesy to one and all with whom he has come in contact during his career as the oldest-established variety agent in the world.

The following gentlemen form the Committee, with power to add to their number:—

Mr. Frederick Abrahams	Mr. Sydney Hyman
Mr. Harry Barnett	Mr. Johnny Jacobs
Mr. Natt Behrens	Mr. E. J. Leamy
Mr. J. W. Boughton	Mr. Jack Lotto
Mr. Frank Boyd	Mr. Joseph Lyons
Mr. Alfred Butt	Mr. George May
Mr. Lauri A. Cohen	Sir Edward Moss
Mr. Joseph Davis	Mr. Wm. Morris (inc.)
Mr. Ernest Devere	Mr. Alfred Moul
Mr. Thos. H. Dey	Mr. Paul Murray
Mr. H. J. Didcott	Mr. Henry Neville
Mr. Chas. Fisher	Mr. Will Oliver
Mr. Geo. Foster	Mr. Geo. O'Starr
Mr. Jack de Frece	Mr. Eugen Sandow
Mr. Lauri de Frece	Mr. Tom Shaw
Mr. Walter de Frece	Mr. Chas. Simons
Mr. Michael Garcia	Mr. Sidney Smith
Mr. Frank Glenister	Somers and Warner
Mr. J. L. Graydon	Mr. Oswald Stoll
Mr. Henri Gros	Mr. Henry Sutton
Mr. T. G. Hales	Mr. Henry Tozer
Mr. Fred Higham	Mr. H. W. Wieland
Mr. Thos. Holmes	

Hon. Treasurer, MR. F. H. PEDGRIFT, *The Era*.
Joint Hon. Secretaries, MR. GEO. FOSTER and MR. EMANUEL WARNER.

SUBSCRIPTIONS PROMISED AND RECEIVED.

	£	s.	d.
Mr. T. G. Hales	10	10	0
Mr Eugen Sandow	5	5	0
Sir Edward Moss	5	0	0
Mr. Fred Karno	5	0	0
Mr. Charles Fisher	2	2	0
Mr. Harry Barnett	2	2	0
Mr. Joseph Lyons	2	2	0
Mr. Richard Warner	2	2	0
Mr. Jack Lotto	1	1	0
Mr. Lauri A. Cohen	1	1	0
Mr. Tom Shaw	1	1	0
Miss Carrie O'Brien	1	1	0
Mr. Ian Colquhoun	1	1	0
Mr. Carl Hertz	1	1	0
Mr. J. Selbini	1	1	0
Mr. Joe Elvin	1	1	0
Mr. Harry Jee	1	1	0
Conn and Conrad	1	1	0
Mr J. W. Cragg	1	1	0
Mr. Henry Tozer	1	1	0
Mr. J. W. Boughton	1	1	0
Mr. Richard G. Owens	1	1	0
Mr. Fred Higham	1	1	0
Mr. Ernest de Vere	1	1	0
Mr. Thomas Holmes	1	1	0
Mr. Joseph Davis	1	1	0
Mr. Henry Sutton	1	1	0
Mr. Michael Abrahams	1	1	0
Mr. Frederick Abrahams	1	1	0
Mr. Geo. O. Starr	1	0	0
Miss Kittee Rayburn	0	10	6
Miss Georgina Middleton	0	10	6
Anger and Bauer	0	10	6
Mr. A. Letta	0	5	0
Swan	0	5	0
Miss Luna Love	0	5	0

MASKELYNE AND DEVANT'S.

The mysteries of Maskelyne and Devant's are more profound than ever. The newest surprise which is presented at the home of enchantment in Langham-place is called "Trans-lucidation," and is the outcome of the combined ingenuity of Mr. David Devant and Mr. Nevil Maskelyne. Mr. Devant has the assistance of his sister, Miss Dora Devant, who undergoes the process of mesmerism. Members of the audience are invited to write a quotation, or any phrase that may occur to them, on blank visiting cards which are distributed in different parts of the house, each one depositing his or her card in an envelope provided for the purpose, which they are asked to seal and inscribe with a private mark. Meanwhile Mr. Devant has assembled on the stage several volunteers from the audience to form a committee of inspection. The envelopes are then collected in a black bag by a member of the committee and handed to Miss Devant, who is seated blindfolded on the stage. One by one the lady picks out an envelope, and placing it to her forehead, makes a "mental picture" of its contents, reading off the inscription on the card inside with scrupulous accuracy. All suggestion of trickery or mechanical aid is disclaimed by Mr. Devant, who declares the feat to be due to quite normal and natural methods. The mystery is a remarkable elaboration of the "second sight" principle, and seems to be more impenetrable than any that has hitherto been propounded at the far-famed hall of magic.

The services of the committee are also enlisted in the "mental magnetism" experiments performed by Mr. Devant and his sister, who remains on the stage, and without a word being spoken, goes through various actions suggested to her brother by the ladies and gentlemen drawn from the audience. A great improvement is secured by the experiments being carried out on the platform, everyone in the house being thus enabled to follow the interesting interlude. Mr. Devant's magical problems are also included in the programme, of which he furnishes a most appreciable part, the illusion "Beau Brocade," the egg-hatching feat, and the various assortment of sleight-of-hand tricks all commanding the greatest admiration. His humour is as spontaneous as ever, and does much towards causing his clever devices to go off with éclat.

The celestial conjuring by Houston still gains admiration, and the levitation feat by which he causes the inanimate form of his assistant to rise unaided from a box and remain suspended in the air is neatly done. Mr. Ernest Hastings also introduces new items, the song "Baby No. 1" being very diverting, and the rendering of *Romeo and Juliet* in the latest modern style provoking mirth. His brilliant improvisation on the piano of a theme in the styles of various famous composers proves as effective as ever. Mr. Harry May Hemsley's crayon sketches and imitations of children give the greatest satisfaction. Musical effects are furnished by F. Cramer's capital orchestra, and a well-chosen series of animated photographs make up a programme of good things ever to be expected at the Home of Mystery.

A SILLY young woman of fashion having inscribed on a pane of glass, at the inn at Staines, the following words: "Dear Lord D—— has the *softest* lips of any man in England, Foote, coming into the room soon after, wrote underneath:—

"Then as like as two chips
Are his *head* and his *lips*."

A CONCEITED young man asking Foote what apology he should make for not being one of the party the day before to which he had a card of invitation. "Oh, my dear sir!" replied the wit; "say nothing about it: *you were never missed.*"

VARIETY GOSSIP.

The premises of the Edison Bell Phonograph Company in Charing Cross-road have been acquired for the purpose of carrying on the business of the London, Provincial, and Continental Combination. Possession will be taken on April 16 next, when Messrs. Gibbons and Barrasford and their respective staffs will enter into possession.

As to the position that Mr. Barrasford occupies in this combination all doubts are set at rest by the statement of Mr. Walter Gibbons, who writes that Mr. Barrasford will continue to act as the managing-director of Barrasford, Ltd., and control the work in connection with his halls as heretofore.

Mr. Joe Wilson, the popular manager of the Tivoli, is laid up with influenza, and the assistant-manager, Mr. James Howell, is suffering from the effects of a chill. In these circumstances Mr. Leon Zeitlin has been representing the syndicate "in front" of that house during their absence, and is also temporarily filling a vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Will Collins.

Mr. Seymour Hicks, the alert comedian, is following the example of Mr. Louis Calvert by playing both at music hall and theatre. On Saturday he took up the part of the Dashing Little Duke at the Hicks Theatre matinées as deputy for his wife, Miss Ellaline Terriss, and during an interval played in *Papa's Wife* at the Coliseum.

Miss Vesta Victoria returns to the London Pavilion on Monday, after an absence of a week in Edinburgh, where she has created a furore among the hardy Norsemen of Scotland's beautiful city. Messrs. Beecham and Wheeler, her enterprising agents, are kept pretty busy in answering inquiries for this popular comedienne, who has made the hemispheres laugh at her domestic comedy.

According to a New York correspondent, Mr. Frank Isitt, of London, has reached St. Louis, Missouri, where Miss Adeline Genée is now appearing, and his marriage to the Empire danseuse will probably take place in June, 1910, by which time Miss Genée's contracts will have expired.

The late Harry Lundy, both during his management of the Oxford and the Royal, was exceedingly popular with the profession, and one is glad to hear that the Water Rats are arranging a benefit matinée for the widow and children. It will be given at the Oxford on Thursday, April 1. Messrs. Eugene Stratton, Joe Elvin, Jack Lotto, and Fred McAvoy are working heartily in the good cause.

Miss Marie Lloyd will appear with her own company at the Palace (Pier) Theatre, Brighton, during Goodwood week, the queen of comediennes having been secured by Messrs. Jay and Mann, the new lessees, who are putting plenty of vigour into their campaign, which they commence on Monday. Miss Lloyd is an immense favourite with the Brighton folk.

Miss Rose Stahl, who was secured by Mr. Alfred Butt some two years since, to play the title-rôle in *The Chorus Lady* sketch, will be appearing at the Vaudeville Theatre in an expanded version of that playlet on April 19. The "expansion" has been done by the author, Mr. James Forbes, who has humorously yet earnestly analysed the question of stage morality.

The Music Hall Artists' Railway Association, which announces its 600th committee meeting on Wednesday next, will hold its annual dinner and dance at the Criterion Restaurant on Sunday, April 25. The function will be in aid of the Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund. Mr. Joe Elvin will be in the chair, and Mr. G. H. Chirgwin, president, in the vice-chair. Tickets are 10s. 6d.

The V.A.B.F. is the chief charity of the profession, to whom it makes a special appeal by reason of its entire management and almost its entire support being by artists. Last year over £1,000 was realised in connection with the M.H.A.R.A. dance and dinner, and in answer to Mr. Joe Elvin's special appeal. This popular sportsman and artist, we regret to hear, is unable to fulfil his engagements this week, owing to indisposition. With his host of friends we wish him a speedy recovery.

Miss Florrie Forde, who has just concluded a triumphantly successful engagement at the Prince's Theatre, Bradford, in a pantomime which has had the remarkable run of eleven and a half weeks, has had a most delightful experience of the warmth of Yorkshire audiences, and is to be congratulated on the prospect of a further experience of the enthusiastic friendliness of the Tykes when she goes to Leeds Theatre Royal at Christmas to play principal boy in Mr. Francis Laidler's pantomime *The Babes in the Wood*.

Mr. Johnny Danvers late on Wednesday night was heard to say to an acquaintance, "I don't know if it is due to the opening of Selfridge's, but one big London stores has just put up the shutters for the last time." "Whose are they?" asked the friend, incautiously. "Alderman Fitzwarren's, in Cheapside," replied the comedian; "*Dick Whittington* finished to-night."

Tongue-twisters are becoming the order of the day, and Mr. Wilkie Bard with his "She sells sea shells" has something to answer for. Here is an evening contemporary gravely heading a column "Tsar's Tars See Stars." Should the practice become general there should be some interesting contests in trams, trains, and places where they talk.

At the complimentary dinner to Mr. Harry Lauder at the Café Monico on Sunday night Sir Thomas Dewar presided, and invited the assembly to drink to the health of the King of Jesters and the Jester of Kings. Mr. Lauder, in reply, said Mrs. Lauder (who was present) had been the great mainspring in his professional career, and was his best critic.

Queen, Le Brun, and company in *The Cockney Huntsman*, made their first appearance in London last Monday after two years' engagement with J. C. Williamson in Australia. Their new sporting absurdity, which has been presented to large audiences at the Olympia, Shoreditch, during the week, has kept the Shoreditchers in roars of laughter. Here we have, indeed, versatile farceurs—genuine masters of practical fun, with a nice "derangement" of droll tricks, quaint antics, and exhilarating business. The key phrase to their entertainment is "general jollity," an excellent commander of the forces arrayed against dulness.

Dr. Walford Bodie, the man of marvellous gifts and modern miracle worker, appears at Hackney Empire next Monday. Originally intended for the Church, Dr. Bodie kicked over the ecclesiastical traces, and embraced the study of medicine, the desire to alleviate the sufferings of others by the introduction of new and little-known methods and the annihilation of old-fashioned theories and grandmotherly nostrums being his incentive. No one can deny that success unparalleled has been his reward. He has been upbraided for ignoring the traditions of so-called medical etiquette, but for that he cares not one jot, his motto being, as he says, "Do the greatest good to the greatest number."

During an evening performance at Colchester Hippodrome, on Wednesday, a bullock entered the theatre and, making for the orchestra, scattered the instrumentalists.

Mr. Robert E. Goffin, the courteous and enterprising assistant manager of the Empire Theatre, Liverpool, has been offered and accepted a similar position at the New Brighton Tower. Mr. Goffin has been with Moss' Empires, Ltd., upwards of twelve years, and takes up his duties at the Tower on Monday, March 29.

Dr. Walford Bodie broke all records again at the New Cross Empire last week, and this week he is creating a furore nightly at the Portsmouth Empire, where is is playing to overflow houses, although it is his third visit.

The proprietors of the Palace Theatre, Carlisle, give notice that as they will cease to be in occupation and possession of that theatre after May 10, 1909, all contracts with artists for subsequent dates are cancelled.

The Hippodrome, Middlesbrough, is to be sold by auction by Messrs. W. G. Stansfield and Co., of Bridge-street, Bradford, at the Grand Hotel, Middlesbrough, at an early date. The establishment is situate in Wilson-street and Bolckow-street, Middlesbrough. Further particulars can be obtained from Mr. James M. McIntosh (the Receiver), 5 Cherry-street, Birmingham; or from Messrs. Firth and Firth, Solicitors, Craven Bank-chambers, Bradford.

The Chester Watch Committee considered on the 12th inst. the application of Mr. C. B. Fountaine, on behalf of Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton, proprietors of the Royalty Theatre, for a dramatic licence for the Hippodrome proposed to be erected in City-road, Chester. Opposition was tendered on behalf of the temperance party and the Chester Licensed Victuallers' Association. The committee decided to refuse the application.

Messrs. Bode and Compton have decided now to erect a first-class skating rink on the site of the proposed hippodrome. The matter is already in hand, the preparation of the plans having commenced. The rink will be conducted on up-to-date lines, and for the convenience of patrons the provision of a cosy cafe is contemplated.

At the same meeting the Watch Committee passed the plans for another new skating rink to be erected on a site off Upper Northgate-street.

The refusal is mainly on the ground that the population of Chester (38,309) is too small to support a large variety music hall, in addition to the theatre. It is distinctly understood, however, that although a licence for the proposed hippodrome has been refused to Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton, a licence will not be granted to anyone else

We understand that War Office sanction for the purchase of the Clarendon Hall, Watford, from a company, by the local Territorials has been received. The "Terriers," however, propose to continue to let the hall for entertainments, and Mr. G. W. Bowes has arranged for a tenancy of eight weeks, during which cinematograph shows and pierrot performances will be relied upon.

M. Auguste Van Biene has taken the Theatre Royal, Blackpool, and is opening it at Easter as Van Biene's New Tivoli Theatre. The building has been entirely remodelled, redecorated, and reseated, and is to all intents and purposes a new theatre, up to date in every respect. Mr. Van Biene does not wish to compete with the already existing attractions in Blackpool, but intends to run his New Tivoli on entirely novel lines. Mr. Gilbert Heron is to be the resident-manager.

We regret to announce the death, on Thursday in last week, at the age of sixty-three, of Mr. William Joseph Allan, a well-known Southport composer and musician, after a short illness. He had published many pieces with firms of eminence, and his "Jolly comrades" march, "Sweetest of all" valse, and "Auld Reekie" barn dance will be remembered.

The interment took place at Southport Cemetery on Monday. The Rev. Robert Sinker (vicar of St Paul's) officiated, and among the principal mourners were Mrs. W. J. Allan (widow), Messrs. Albert, Frederick, and Reginald Allan (sons), Mrs. Gill, several members of the Southport Opera House Orchestra (with which for many years deceased was identified), Mr. R. Singleton (secretary of the Southport Winter Gardens Company), and Mr J. H. Mertz (acting-manager of the Empire, Southport).

The question of a licence to sell intoxicants in Dewsbury's new Empire Palace and Theatre of Varieties, now in the course of construction, was recently discussed. Mr. Willey, who represented Mr. Edgar Fox, of Leeds, said that through a misapprehension plans of the new building had not been deposited the required period with the magistrates' clerk, and if the application for adjournment was not acceded to they would have to wait another twelve months. The venture would entail an expenditure of anything up to £30,000, and the work was now in progress. The Bench adjourned the application.

Dramatic and variety funds have benefited appreciably as the result of the recent Belfast Theatrical Gala. Out of a total of £130, Mr. Fred W. Warden, the hon. treasurer, has distributed £10 each to the Actors' Benevolent Fund, the Actors' Orphanage, the Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund, and the Music Hall Home. Other amounts are thus allocated:—Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, £50; Mater Infirmorum Hospital, Belfast, £20; Maternity Hospital, Belfast, £5; Ragged School, Belfast, £5; Children's Hospital, Queen-street, Belfast, £5; Whiteabbey Sanatorium, £5.

Mr. Fred Wood, of the Mariner's Arms, Marketplace, South Shields, was, at the annual meeting of the North and South Shields Licensed Victuallers' Association, held on Thursday, March 11, at the Criterion Hotel in the latter town, unanimously elected president for the ensuing year. Mr. Wood is well known to the profession as being the local agent for the M.H.A.R.A. and V.A.F.

That magnificent "pitch" for outdoor entertainments, the Happy Valley at Southend, now boasts the presence of the bandstand formerly on the summit of the cliff. On Tuesday, at a meeting of the Borough Council, the tender of Mr. Lyell Johnston, of Streatham, for its occupancy for the next three seasons at a rental of £750 per season was recommended for acceptance and agreed to.

An action arising out of a breach of contract came up in Greenock Sheriff Court on Tuesday afternoon, pursuers being the Greenock Empire Syndicate Company, and the defender Miss Madge Allen, comedienne and dancer, who had been interdicted from appearing at the Greenock Hippodrome this week. Damages were claimed in respect that Miss Allen had failed to implement her agreement with pursuers, and there was a counter claim for £50 damages. After a debate by parties' agents a settlement was agreed upon, Miss Allen agreeing to pay expenses. The Sheriff accordingly recalled the interim interdict, and granted two guineas expenses.

Mr. Gus Elen, the coster comedian, who has much benefited by his stay at Brighton, returns to the Coliseum on Monday.

Mr. Henri Gros, we regret to hear, is still confined to his house at 1, Taviton-street, Gordon-square, and we are informed he is likely to be absent from business for another three weeks at least.

The Stockham Ladies' Grecian Band will be seen and heard at the London Hippodrome on Monday. The band includes fifteen performers, among whom are the celebrated Stockham harp trio.

The anniversary of the Queen's, Poplar, will be held on Friday, April 16, when there will be one house only. Artists who will oblige the management on this occasion are asked to kindly send in their names at once.

Miss Ethel Arden and Mr. George Abel, who have provided amusement by the productions of *The Lady and the Parson* and *Three of a Kind* will shortly produce at one of the West End halls their new American sketch, entitled *Town Hall, Tonight*, written by Mr. Wm. M. Cressy.

Mr. W. H. McCarthy, secretary of the Water Rats, and accountant of the V.A.F., M.H.A.R.A., &c., is progressing favourably, after a rather serious operation, which took place early this week. He will be having the best of care for two or three weeks at a private nursing home at 2, Nottingham-place, W.

Sardou's famous drama *La Tosca* is being presented in cinematograph form at the Alhambra this week, the characters being sustained by M. Le Bargy, M. Alexandre, M. Mosnier, and Mme. Cecile Sorel, of the Comédie-Française and Odéon Theatre.

Mr. Herbert Shelley's company is producing a new one-act comedy at the Crouch End Hippodrome on March 29, entitled *Apples and Pairs*. The principal parts will be played by Mr. Harry Buss and Miss Nannie Neil.

Diamond and Beatrice carried their collecting card for the Music Hall Home Fund with them during their recent continental tour. They found their foreign brother and sister artists quite willing to subscribe when asked, and many francs were collected by them. Other English artists on the Continent might follow their example.

The production of *For Love and My Country*, the new war episode, expressly written for Mr. and Mrs. Jno. D. Saunders (Miss Dora de Winton), will necessarily have to be postponed for a few weeks. Miss de Winton and Mr. Saunders will appear at the London Pavilion for a short season in *The Power of Music* from Monday next.

We have already drawn attention in our Gossip columns to the action of the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association in expelling certain members on account of offensive behaviour to railway officials, and there is no need, therefore, to comment further on the facts or to mention the persons concerned. An unpleasant incident is closed.

Little Thomas, the veteran burnt-cork artist, had a great audience on Tuesday night at Stanley Hall, Junction-road, N., on the occasion of his golden wedding Bohemian Concert, and had a tremendous ovation when late in the evening—after singing with all his well-known power "I carry my sunshine with me" and "The wild man from Borneo"—he brought his wife on the platform, and made a humorous speech.

Earlier, he was presented with a magnificent loving-cup of precious metal, the gift of the chairman, Mr. George A. Touche. A capital programme was got through, the stage being managed by Messrs. Arthur and Harry Thomas. The chair was occupied during the earlier part of the evening by Mr. Richard Dawe, and Mr. Frank Flanigan was vice-chairman.

"What's Charles Worth?" which was produced by Mr. Jesse Sparrow at the Empire, Camberwell, on Feb. 15, has since been on the Stoll tour, at Birmingham, New Cross, Liverpool, Dublin, &c. In each place the salient points and hits of the skit, its comical situations and pertinent humour have been received with the warmest applause and general merriment. The cast includes Miss Sylvia Cavalho, Mr. Clifford Pembroke, Mr. Edmund Gurney, Mr. Alf. Donohoe, and Mr. Geo. Edwards.

Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady on Tuesday made an order for the winding-up of Camberwell Palace. Counsel said that petitioners, who were the directors, had decided that the company should be wound up compulsorily. The premises had been sold, and nothing was left in the possession of the company but a third mortgage and a small sum of cash. His Lordship, in making the order, directed the petition to be amended to make it appear that the petitioners were shareholders of the company.

Miss Ethel Dunbar and Miss Maude Shelton, assisted by Mr. Horace Sinclair, very successfully and appropriately produced on St. Patrick's Day their new Irish musical scena, *The Carneys of Killarney* at the Middlesex. The scena, which has been specially written for them by Mr. C. Fordwych, contains some bright dialogue and several excellent songs, duets, and dances. The reception was very flattering, and the scena, now being rapidly booked for town, will shortly be toured.

Mr. Neil Kenyon, who has been winning such high eulogium in the provinces with his "kail-yard cameos," has returned to town, and is this week giving delight to audiences at the Empress, Brixton, where a hearty welcome is reserved for him. The clever Scotch comedian is relying on his "posty" song with which to divert his audiences, and that he achieves his purpose to the fullest extent is demonstrated by successive roars of laughter. His creation of the old postman who so autocratically controls the correspondence of the village of Dunrobin is a masterpiece of make-up, and the witticisms which flow unceasingly are racy and piquant. The skill of the artist is further emphasised by the daring touch of pathos at the conclusion, which moves the audience to cheers.

Humour is also present in endless quantity in his song "Is that a fac'?" wherein Mr. Kenyon, in the character of a farm labourer with a wheelbarrow, "patters" to any extent, but still fails to satisfy the demands of the audience, who recall him enthusiastically.

Mr. Ben Woodger, secretary Music-hall Home, desires to thank Frank Weston, Empire Palace Co., Wolverhampton, for 12s. 6d., Percival Craig, Empire Theatre, Bradford, £1 6s., R. W. Duce, Granville, Walham Green, 15s., and H. Cole, Empire Theatre, Liverpool, £1 15s. 2½d., box collections at their halls. Also Fred Leighton (per Fred Neiman), King's Theatre, Gransborough, for taking a Home box. Will any other manager kindly do the same? A post card to the Secretary, 31, Wilson-road, London, S.E., will secure a box. Ladies and gentlemen who still have collecting cards for *The Era* Fund, should kindly send them along to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, *The Era* Office, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.

We have pleasure in announcing the engagement of Mr. Ernst Warner to Miss Florence Warner (daughter of Mr. Richard Warner).

The revue to be written by Mr. George Grossmith, jun., for the Empire will be of a topical character, but will in no way interfere with the run of the successful ballet *A Day in Paris*, which is as popular as ever. Important engagements are being made for the novelty.

Tom Jones, Welsh comedian, has secured an excellent number from the pen of S. Handel Lancaster, entitled "Llewellyn in London," and is scoring heavily with it at the Palace, Reading, this week.

We regret to learn that Dr. Bodie's daughter is still lying seriously ill at Southport. She is being carefully nursed by her mother, Princess Rubie, who has hardly left her bedside since she was taken ill. She is also having the special attendance of two Liverpool medical specialists. We hope to hear of her speedy recovery.

Mr. K. Scott-Barrie will be making his first London appearance on Monday at the Tivoli, where he will be assisted by Wilmott Fowler at the piano.

Last week what might have proved a most serious accident to Miss Issa Steele was averted by the prompt action of Miss Maude May Murray. Whilst reading a letter by the dressing-room gas Miss Steele's large hat of feathers caught fire. Miss Murray instantly threw a wrapper over her friend and extinguished the flame. No injury was sustained beyond a severe shock.

Miss Maude May Murray, the beautiful electrical aerial dancer, after two weeks in Scotland, made her reappearance at the Empire, Middlesbrough, and met with a great reception from a crowded house. On her last night she was presented with a silver-mounted bag.

At the 599th meeting of the Executive Committee of the Music Hall Artistes and Railway Association on Wednesday, with Mr. J. W. Cragg (trustee) in the chair, Dr. W. Gorrie, of 12, King-street, Dundee, was appointed medical officer of the Association for that town. There were present Messrs. Harry Blake, T. C. Callaghan, J. Miller Northern, Sid Bandon, Alf. Herald, H. Herald, F. W. Millis, and Lieutenant Albini.

The greatest interest will attach to the immediate inclusion in "Urbanora" at the Palace Theatre of a complete record, expressly taken by the Urban Company for Mr. Alfred Butt, of "The Relief of Hastings" by motor-car on St. Patrick's Day. From the parade of the Guards at Chelsea Barracks at eight in the morning to the arrival of the flying columns of the Grenadiers, the Coldstreams, and the Scots at St. Leonards every phase of this picturesque and unprecedented military experiment will be shown.

A second item of paramount interest to patrons of the Palace will be the presentation on Monday next of a second series of the wonderful "Kinemacolor" animated scenes in the actual hues and delicate tints of nature—an amazing achievement in bioscopics which has been only three weeks before the public.

Mr. George Fuller has passed peacefully away at his residence in Delancey-street, Regent's Park, from cancer of the throat. Day and night nurses have been in attendance during the last four weeks, and death came as a happy release on Friday morning, after much suffering, at the age of thirty-nine. In professional, sporting, and athletic circles the deceased gentleman's passing away in the prime of his manhood will be sincerely regretted, and much sympathy will be felt for his widow, Miss Katie Lawrence.

The deceased was born at Hammersmith, and became associated with the business of the halls under the ægis of Mr. George Ware, who did so much to bring Miss Marie Lloyd to the front. Mr. Fuller was barely of age when he married Miss Lawrence, whom he met during her first engagement at the Oxford. Mr. Harry Rickards was at the wedding to give her away, and Mr. Eugene Stratton acted as best man. Some ten or twelve years since Mr. Fuller started in agency with Mr. David Hart, and later worked on his own.

Among his oldest friends were Mr. Pony Moore, and at the many festive gatherings at Moore House, Finchley-road, where the profession are always welcome, George Fuller was an honoured guest. The writer remembers a very pleasant function one Sunday evening, when the veteran minstrel, surrounded by some of the principal stars of the variety firmament, was presented with a handsome liqueur cabinet. The master of the ceremonies on that occasion was George Fuller. The remains of the deceased gentleman will be interred in Highgate Cemetery at 2 o'clock on Tuesday.

Mr. Charles W. Adams, who will become identified with the Gibbons-Barrasford interests when he takes up the position of manager of the Metropolitan circuit of the London, Provincial, and Continental Vaudeville Combination, received on Wednesday night a purse of gold, presented to him on behalf of the Canterbury staff and his friends on his relinquishing the position of manager at that house. Mr. Adams acknowledged, in a few happily expressed sentences, the kindness and thoughtfulness of the gift, which was handed to him by Mr. Robins.

The Music Hall Home Fund Committee meeting was held at the Empire, Camberwell, on Thursday. Amongst those present were Percy Ford (chairman), Harry Gage, C. Cornish, J. Traynor, Jesse Sparrow, John Brandon, W. S. Bassett, McDowell, and Benj. Woodger (secretary) who reported the receipt from Tom Branson, Queen's Saloon, Hastings, of 10s.; T. Hargreaves, Empire, Rochdale, 5s. 4d.; Mr. Hooper, The Artichoke, Peckham-road, 5s. 2d.; and Walter Norman's card for £1 10s.

Barney Armstrong entertained a few friends after the show on Wednesday night in honour of St. Patrick, and presented each guest with a "sprig" of shamrock, which he gathered himself while playing pantomime at the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin. A most enjoyable musical time was spent with Irish songs and selections until three in the morning, when the company finished up by singing "God Save Ireland and the King." The guests were all from the Hippodrome, Boscombe, and included Arthur H. Burdett (manager), F. Shackleton, (conductor), Cissie and Emme Ford, Cliff, Dixo, Beau and Belle, and Jimmy Steel.

Mr. Bury Shepard was in the chair at the Vaudeville Club smoking concert on Sunday night, when an excellent programme kept the guests until an early hour on Monday morning. Wilkie Bard, besides "An Idea for a Song," gave the popular "Sea Shells." From Old Drury he brought Mr. Aubrey Fitzgerald, who contributed amusing parodies in "There are tears in my eyes, Marguerite" and "I had a lovely garden." Marriott Edgar had "everybody" with him in the song of that name; Allan Shaw and Leipzig gave excellent exhibitions of legerdemain; and Wood, Wells, and Wilkins, Harry Latimer, Charles Austin, Robert Dennant, Hal Forde, Percy Yorke, the Ritter Brothers, and Dusty Rhodes also entertained. Mr. W. H. Clemart proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, and Mr. Shepard suitably responded.

Mr. Harry Rickards hopes to arrive in England about the end of May, and is looking forward to seeing his many old friends, to whom he sends all good wishes.

Mr. Harry Rickards desires to warn proprietors against certain persons who have been presenting cards and stating that they represent his enterprises. No one has any right to use his name for the purpose of securing admittance to any theatre or music hall during his absence from England.

Mr. Cayley Calvert, that versatile and industrious sketch writer and author, has secured Mr. Horace Corbyn, baritone, and Mr. Edward Noble, tenor, for his new military scena "Come and join the Territorials."

Dr. Walford Bodie, who has appointed Messrs. Beecham and Wheeler his sole and exclusive agents, has evidently a keen appreciation of the business abilities of this young firm.

A waste-paper merchant, named Gottfried Martin, of Baroness-road, Shoreditch, was on Thursday remanded at the North London Police-court on the charge of having 32,173 copies of pirated music in his possession.

The marriage by special licence of Mr. Richard Cronin (Corbin and his dogs) to Miss Alice Brown, daughter of Mr. Harry Brown, of the Red Lion Hotel, Walsall, took place on March 12, in Manchester.

The Grays Thurrock Urban District Council invite tenders for the right to give performances in their public recreation ground known as the "Beach," from May 28 to Sept. 30. Full particulars and forms of tender may be obtained from the Council's Surveyor at his offices, High-street, Grays.

Mr. Cyrus Walling is very ill and in great need, and Mr. Harry Wright has collected for him the following sums:—Harry Wright, 2s.; Napier, 2s.; Whisper, 1s.; Ted E. Box, 1s.; Harry Kent, 1s.; Ugo Nap, 1s.; and Cedar and Elgar, 2s. Further subscriptions may be sent direct to the sufferer, who is living at 16, Sackville-street, Shambles-street, Barnsley.

Signor de Caro's Sicilian singers, who will make their first appearance in England at the Empire Theatre on Monday next, are the leading members of the grand opera company which was appearing at Messina at the time of the earthquake. They suffered many privations, and are visiting England to retrieve their fortunes.

The Welsh Miners are singing themselves into great public favour. They give their act in a picturesque reproduction of a Welsh mine, and have been introduced by Mr. Charles Beecham. They are meeting with great success this week at East Ham, where they have been selling copies of F. V. St. Clair's touching ballad, "Down in the mine," for the benefit of the widows and orphans of the victims of the West Stanley disaster. Last week they realised £9 for that most deserving fund.

We noticed a very familiar name on the bills and programmes at the Hippodrome, Hastings, last week, and if observations do not deceive us the young lady who styles herself Lena Pinaud, with her fine appearance, good singing and dancing, and extraordinary grotesque high kicking, is a chip of the old block of that ilk. We predict a great future for this young lady.

There was an invasion of Hastings last week, and almost as successful as the one by the Guards. There was, however, no excitement amongst the inhabitants—only at the Hippodrome, where it ran to fever-heat nightly over the bright and sparkling performance of the English Rose, Florrie Robina, who made such a success that after the second night she was not only booked to return at an early date, but was highly complimented by Mr. Fred Higham.

Mr. F. V. St. Clair gave his long-promised services in aid of the Church Lads' Brigade at the Town Hall, Whitchurch, on Wednesday (10th). The hall was packed, the lowest admission price being a shilling, and the élite of the county attended in large numbers. Mr. St. Clair was accorded a terrific reception, as was Fred Pullan. Fox and Melville illustrated several of St. Clair's patriotic songs, and the Misses Charlton gave a delightful little sketch, which created roars of laughter.

Captain Lambert, D.S.O., and the Rev. E. Veale have written Mr. St. Clair most complimentary letters, the reverend gentleman writing: "May I add that I much appreciate your songs and the excellent items rendered by your kind friends, and I feel sure that you are doing a great work in raising the tone of the public taste in providing for them so high-class a stamp of entertainment."

On behalf of the committee of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, 61, New Oxford-street, W.C., Miss Melinda May (secretary) most gratefully begs to thank Miss Maggie Bowman, donation of 5s.; Mr. Micki Damala, donation of 2s. 6d.; Miss Bella Elmore (collecting), 17s.; Mrs. James Horne (collecting), 15s.; Miss Ettie Albert (collecting), 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Keen (Keen and Waller) (collecting), 3s.; Mr. Frank Harwood (collecting), 2s. 6d.; Miss Nora Stockelle (collecting), 2s. 6d.; Miss Lottie Albert, pair of new boots; Miss Blanche Glave (Mayoress of Holborn), box of new babies' clothing (through Miss Lottie Albert); Mrs Edward Laurie, box of very useful clothing; Miss Flo Banks, clothing; and Mrs. Smith (Smith and Johnson), for clothing.

Miss Flora Lington is still at the National Sanatorium, Bournemouth, by doctor's orders, and will be glad of any further contributions if posted direct to the Guild. All friends of the charity are heartily welcome to tea and receptions, held every Wednesday, four to five o'clock. Boots and clothing of every description urgently needed.

Miss May would like very much to thank Miss Lottie Albert, who has kindly interested herself in subscribing and bringing about the presentation of a handsome cheque. Miss May heartily thanks all the committee who have contributed towards the same, and fully appreciates their goodness.

At the weekly meeting of the committee of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, held on Wednesday, March 10, the following letter, with an enclosed cheque, was handed to Miss Melinda May, the hard-working and energetic secretary of that excellent charity:—

"Dear Miss May,—We, the undersigned, members of the executive committee of the Ladies' Music Hall Guild, ask your acceptance of the enclosed cheque as a small token of appreciation of the interest displayed by you in your arduous duties. This mark of esteem is accompanied by the kindest thoughts of each member, and we are unanimous in the hope that you may be with us for many years to come to continue your duties in the interests of this charity which has certainly made rapid progress under your care:—Lottie Albert, Mrs. Ginnett, Mrs. Eugene Stratton, Marie Loftus, Belle Elmore, Louie Davis, Maude Mortimer, Sophie Shelly, Mrs. Smythson, G. E. Clarke, Lily Bradgate, Victoria Monks, Irene Ross, Mrs. Petit, Ray Wallace, Kate Vulcana, Maude Dunedin, Millie Payne, Mrs. Cowper."

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS

MR. C. R. WHITTLE has recently produced with the greatest success his comic song, "I'm Dunn—Mr. Dunn," by Charles Ridgwell, who wrote his celebrated "Billy Muggins." The number has been already placed on the market by Messrs. Francis and Day.

MESSRS. FRANCIS AND DAY have secured for publication Mr. Joe Archer's humorous number, "That is an Englishman's Home," by George Arthurs and A. J. Lawrance.

"ARE YOU SINCERE?" the popular American success, is reserved to Miss Daisy Dormer by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter, who beg to notify managers and artists that anyone else performing the same is doing so without their authority.

MISS FLORRIE GALLIMORE produced a new number written and composed by Bert H. Delmar, at the Hippodrome, Stockton, on Monday. It made an immediate hit. So pleased was Miss Gallimore that she wired the author-composer her congratulations, and has arranged for another new number from the same pen.

MISS GRACIE GRAHAME has secured another winner from the author of most of her late successes, Bert H. Delmar. The words and music of "Jim, Jim," are in the usual original vein so successfully penned by this writer.

MISS MARIE BLYTHE has a new song entitled "Don't worry," with a most haunting refrain, written and composed by Bert H. Delmar.

MISS MADGE TEMPLE, who looks the essence of smartness, scored another triumph on Monday at the Tivoli, Crouch End Hippodrome, and Paragon, with her new song, "I'm looking for Mr. Wright," which should become the rage of 1909.

MRS. ARTHUR BEARLE has sold the performing and publishing rights of her late husband's famous song, "I think I'll be going home now," to Messrs. Price and Reynolds.

MISS GERTIE GITANA is making a hit on the Stoll tour with "When the harvest moon is shining, sweet Eileen," and "In the evening by the moonlight, dear Louise," and Von Tilzer's report record sales in Wales.

VON TILZER'S are experiencing an overflowing demand for their annual pierrot book, which includes all the latest popular successes of Sam Mayo, Harry Ford, Wilkie Bard, Harry Champion, Bernard Russell, George Formby, Fred Earle, T. E. Dunville, Whit Cunliffe, and Arthur Lennard. Such an excellent selection should meet the requirements of all types of comedians.

A NEW slide-song has just been issued by the Von Tilzer Co., entitled "Daddy, please come home again," with a set of twelve beautifully finished slides. Miss Hanid Alexander has just secured from these publishers a dainty little song, entitled "Rosemary," which she has produced this week with instant success.

IN spite of the wintry weather of the current month, the pierrots, alfresco, and seaside entertainers are making their preparations for the coming season. In another column M. Witmark and Sons announce a list of special numbers which are suitable for this purpose.

MISS TRULY SHATTUCK, who finished her engagement at Drury Lane Theatre on Wednesday last, opens at the Coliseum on Monday next. She includes in her répertoire the Lane's successes, "To the end of the world with you" and "As long as the world rolls on."

MISS EDITH COURTNEY, who is making a feature of the charming ballad "Some day you'll come back to me," opens at the Royal Hippodrome, Dublin, on Monday. Miss Courtney will return to London at the Coliseum on Easter Monday.

MISS DOROTHY ELLIOTT, the young daughter of the London's favourite contralto, Lucy Clarke, has shown great talent as a song-writer. M. Witmark and Sons have taken up her numbers, and have recently published one, entitled "Underneath the bright blue moon," which has achieved success in both England and America.

MISS DEBORAH VOLAR finished her pantomime engagement at the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, and this week is presenting her pantomime success, "I do, I do, I do," at the Empire in that city.

THE EUSTON.

The general scheme of amusement at this popular house does not boast of a comic star of the first magnitude, but the varied nature of the entertainment directed by Mr. Fred McAvoy brings forth much appreciation. One of the novelties of the week is the turn presented by the Four Mexicans, lariat throwers, whose skill with the lasso brings to mind the thrilling stories of the prairie told by Fenimore Cooper and Mayne Reid. There are two ladies in the troupe—one of them a finely-built and handsome girl, who makes a rope of considerable length circle round her body with remarkable celerity and in most bewildering fashion. As a *tour de force* she whirls a rope 56ft. in length, with an ever-increasing circumference, and with wonderful nicety and precision lassoes hand and foot the head of the troupe, whose bonds are increased with every undulation of the skilfully cast rope. The other members of the quartet are only a degree less skilful than this picturesque and comely girl.

Miss Hanid Alexander, at the piano, plays a transcription of the well-known ballad, "For all eternity," and sings a song that may be called "Hippopotamus." She is also an excellent step-dancer—an art that is shown to perfection by Mr. Frank Leon, a champion clog-dancer. Mr. Dusty Rhodes introduces himself with a number of gags, and then sings with considerable power the popular number, "Love me, and the world is mine." Mr. Harry Grey in his burlesque of a lady ballad singer considers an aggressive padding of the seat of honour to be within the legitimate bounds of humorous character-acting. Selbo, a clever club juggler, presents a turn that is the acme of refinement and skill, and his manipulation of plates thrown to great heights and caught with unerring accuracy behind his back, brings down the house. Miss Yolande Noble, an attractive burlesque actress, sings pleasantly of the advantages of health and wealth; and Miss Queenie Essex asserts her right to the title of dainty comedienne. Mr. Percy Honri's production of *Concordia*, which we recently noticed at the Oxford, is an original dream conception, invented, written, produced, and played by that artist, and the conglomeration of surprising transformations are significant of the imaginative power of the inventor, who has pressed into his service some versatile people, who give due effect to the eight scenes. Mr. Percy Honri wears the cap and bells of the jester, and in the demon wood—a clever and artistic piece of brushwork—he plays the concertina and heads the topsy-turvy revels of song and dance. Incidentally, in more prosaic surroundings, he plays the coster with considerable effect, and the romance of the "Man in the Moon" scene is dainty and captivating. Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope, with its interesting pictures, and Fred Land are other attractions in a bill that is heartily enjoyed. Mr. Victor Opferman is a capital musical-director, and the orchestra under him play *con amore*.

MUSIC-HALL CELEBRITIES.

MR. G. H. ELLIOTT.

(FROM A BIRMINGHAM CORRESPONDENT.)

Of the pantomime successes of recent years in Birmingham, none has been so striking as that of Mr. G. H. Elliott, the famous chocolate-coloured coon. The rapid rise of this clever young man in the profession has been most remarkable. From a comparatively unknown boy vocalist he has sprung into a proud position of fame. Although he has won the hearts of the public, however, Mr. Elliott does not mean to rest on his laurels. He believes in advertisement of the

[*Photo by Hana.*

MR. G. H. ELLIOTT.

straightforward kind, whether a man is going up or down the ladder. If he is falling, advertisement will grip him and lift him back, and if he is rising, it will help him along quicker.

During his pantomime engagement in Birmingham he has carried out two clever ideas of his own. He purchased one thousand packets of chocolate, and sent them round to half a dozen charitable institutions for children. In acknowledgment he received some delightful letters of thanks, and it was very gratifying to him during a matinée performance to hear wild acclamations of delight from sixty or seventy deaf and dumb children who attended the theatre. They recognised in Mr. Elliott "Chocolate" of the pantomime, and they had had a taste of the good things he provided.

Mr. Elliott's latest is a "staggerer." Truly he gets home this time. The Prince of Wales's Theatre pantomime at Birmingham ends to-day, but it is very evident that Mr. Elliott's popularity does not end with it. He leaves an impression, as the following letterpress which appears on a huge orange-coloured poster on every hoarding in the city to-day shows:—

"Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham.

"To the Public of Birmingham and District.

"Please accept my warmest thanks for the enthusiastic receptions accorded me during my pantomime engagement at the above theatre. Will be back shortly at a music-hall, and I am looking forward to renewing happy acquaintance.—Yours very truly,

"G. H. ELLIOTT,

"(Chocolate-coloured coon)."

A few particulars about the career of this "live," go-ahead entertainer will be read with considerable interest.

G. H. Elliott made his bow to the footlights when quite young, and played in the United States of America and Canada with Agnes Hearndon, and with Marguerite Marther (well-known American actresses at that time). He played Little Lord Fauntleroy in America, and besides musical plays, he appeareerd in *The Pulse of New York*, *The Police Patrol*, and various others, to be followed by successful appearances in the celebrated Primrose and West's Minstrel company. The latter was evidently where he found his metier, and he conceived straightaway an ardent affection for the coon busines, in fact, so much so that he began to literally live the life of a real coon, getting the while an innate knowledge of their individualities and making a complete study of them and their peculiarities. It is to this knowledge that he owes his present remarkable popularity. Favoured with an exceptionally pleasant voice and unusual dancing abilities, he could not fail to become a favourite of the first rank. He is beloved by all classes of audiences, and in most theatres the "gods" worship him. His work always bears a clean finish, and leaves a pleasing impression.

Columns could be written in praise of G. H. Elliott. As a dancer he is the poetry of motion personified, his steps being as original as they are graceful. As a coon vocalist he is the genuine article, and as a showman he could scarcely be beaten. It is seldom that such a number of talents are found under one hat, and they have made Elliott one of the most popular idols of the halls.

A star of no inconsiderable magnitude, Mr. Elliott enjoys the distinction of "topping the bill" in all parts of the kingdom. Naturally he is much sought after, but his services cannot be had for a long time to come, as he has been booked up solid till 1917 by Mr. Tom Pacey, who has acted as his agent for the past twelve years.

MISS VESTA VICTORIA.

A chat with Mr. Charles Beecham, the representative of Miss Vesta Victoria, reveals the fact that at the London Pavilion Miss Vesta Victoria has taken by storm the hearts of the patrons of this fashionable rendezvous, and the sequel to this success has been an offer by Mr. Frank Glenister for a return visit for an extended period after Miss Victoria has fulfilled a six nights' engagement in Edinburgh. Success breeds success, and offers have been made from the big circuits for Miss Victoria's services. Someone has written that the cause of this success is genius—that high mental endowment, that creative or inventive

[*Photo by Halls Studios.*

MISS VESTA VICTORIA.

faculty, which is at once a law and model unto itself; that special intellectual capability that no training can give, and but few possess. Miss Victoria has been written about in the New York *Evening Journal* by the famous Nell Brinkley in her usual racy American style:—"Vesta Victoria is the Prince of jesters of the English music halls. So many you see that crack their jokes and caper in her trail, but Vesta trills the whistle, swings the big bâton, sports the bearskin shako, and walks backward at the head of the squad. She's the raggiest ragtime song. She the best verse in the whole blessed pome. She's like the taper-faced girl that wore a Buster Brown collar—and all the little Bettys that we see framed up in Buster Browns, too; but none of 'em ever look like the taper-faced girl looks in *her* Buster Brown. It's like that with Vesta Victoria and the other little Britonese music hall Bettinas. They grin, in grotesque absurdities of frock and hat. They skip and simper in white baby-dress with pale pink ribbons. They warble songs with bashfully naughty and funny titles. And we like them *bullee!* But they don't do any of these three things as Vesta Victoria does. She's the Hurdy-Gurdy that first plinked out "Waiting at the church." And now she has some others. "Is *anybody* looking for a widow?" with a big white bow chucked under her chin; with her hands shyly folded, and sometimes flapping like Dutch windmills. And then "Now I have to call him father," with an aching face, "in more senses than one," and an uncanny flannel skating frock. Vesta Victoria isn't pretty—not very *much* pretty—but she sports the bearskin shako and sways the big bâton in the English squad."

Miss Victoria will be seen at all the principal London halls during the next few months; some entirely new character studies and sings will be forthcoming from one who has been too long away from the old country.

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER'S SONG BOOM.

BRAVO! TERRITORIALS.
Sung by ***Miss OUIDA MACDERMOTT.***

IT'S A LIE.
Sung by ***GEORGE ROBEY.***

OH! OH! ANTONIO.
Sung by ***Miss FLORRIE FORDE.***

SHE SELLS SEA SHELLS.
Sung by ***WILKIE BARD.***

GOO - GOO LAND.
Sung by ***Miss ADA REEVE.***

WHEN I GOT UP THIS MORNING
Sung by ***DAN CRAWLEY.***

BOMBADIER.
Sung by ***Miss WINIFRED HARE.***

IT'S MOONLIGHT EVERY NIGHT IN LONDON.
Sung by ***ARTHUR REECE.***

MY GIRL'S A YORKSHIRE GIRL
Sung by ***Miss FLORRIE GALLIMORE.***

SUE, SUE, SUE.
Sung by ***G. H. ELLIOTT.***

I'M AFRAID TO COME HOME IN THE DARK.
Sung by ***Miss HETTY KING.***

COME AND HAVE A DRINK WITH ME.
Sung by ***CHAS. WHITTLE.***

SYDNEY'S HOLIDAYS ARE IN SEPTEMBER (NAUGHTY BOY)
Sung by ***Miss VESTA TILLEY.***

THE AGITATOR.
Sung by ***ERNEST SHAND.***

I DO MAKE A HIT WITH THE LADIES.
Sung by ***Miss HETTY KING.***

HOW D'YOU DO, MY BABY?
Sung by ***G. H. ELLIOTT.***

COME, BE MY RAINBOW.
Sung by ***Miss MADGE TEMPLE.***

THEY WON'T KNOW I COOM FROM THE COONTRY.
Sung by ***GEO. BASTOW.***

THE MUSICAL COMEDY GIRL. Sung by ***Miss EILEEN DOUGLAS.***

ROBIN RED-BREAST.
Sung by ***HARRY CHAMPION.***

SHADOWLAND.
Sung by ***Miss ETHEL DUNFORD.***

HANG OUT THE FRONT DOOR KEY.
Sung by ***GEORGE LASHWOOD.***

THE COSTER'S PONY.
Sung by ***GUS ELEN.***

JOHN WILLIE, COME ON.
Sung by ***GEORGE FORMBY.***

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER, 142, Charing Cross Rd., London, W.C.

OPENING OF THE KING'S THEATRE AND HIPPODROME, DUNDEE.

This magnificent and most up-to-date theatre, the lessees of which are the United County Theatres, Ltd., was most auspiciously opened on Monday afternoon, the 15th inst., by Lady Dunedin, of Stenton, amidst scenes of the greatest enthusiasm, the huge building being packed to its utmost capacity. Lady Dunedin was accompanied by Lord Dunedin (who wore Highland dress), Mrs. Redford, Colonel Bannerman, Colonel Ferguson Buchanan, and Mrs. and Miss Ferguson Buchanan. Amongst the others who took a prominent part in the proceedings were Mr. G. B. Paul (who has been largely instrumental in the erection of the new enterprise), Mrs. Paul and Miss Paul, ex-Lord Provost McGrady and Mrs. McGrady, Mr. Alfred Moul (London, Chairman of the United County Theatres, Ltd.), Mr. Gardiner Sinclair, and others.

Lady Dunedin laid the memorial stone of the new theatre in the wall of the main entrance hall. She was presented by the architects, Messrs. H. and F. Thomson, with a silver trowel, and Mr. Peter McLauchlan, the representative of the builders, presented her ladyship with an ivory mallet. Lady Dunedin then declared the stone "well and truly laid," and wished the King's Theatre every success.

Mr. James Lockhart, of Maxwell, Sons, and Co., asked Lady Dunedin to accept a silver standard lamp, which she employed to switch on the whole of the electric lights in the theatre. On this being done the great audience in the building cheered loudly. Lady Dunedin and party then made their way to the stage, which was decorated with palms and flowers. Mr. G. B. Paul presided, and introduced Lady Dunedin, who finished up a capital speech by wishing every success to the beautiful King's Theatre and the flourishing city which it adorned. A handsome bouquet was presented to Lady Dunedin by Miss Paul. Lord Dunedin also spoke a few words, after which Mr. Alfred Moul, in proposing a vote of thanks to Lady Dunedin, stated on behalf of the lessees of the King's Theatre that it would be their duty to instruct and amuse as much as they possibly could. He was perfectly sure the audiences would enjoy the programmes to be submitted in that house, whether they were tragedy, drama, or the best and cleanest of variety entertainment. Under the direction of Mr. Ernest G. Summerfield, the magnificent orchestra discoursed splendid music. A banquet was afterwards held.

The site, which is the most central obtainable in the city, is an ideal one, being practically isolated, with frontages to two of the main thoroughfares. The building is a structure worthy of the town in every respect, and will form an outstanding feature of the architecture of the city.

The entrances for stalls and circle are from the front in Cowgate, while the pit entrance is from St. Andrew's-street, and the "gallery" enter from the back lane off St. Andrew's-street, the entrances and exits being so arranged that the two performances a night can be housed with the greatest facility. The seating accommodation is over 2,000, the distribution of seats being in the following proportion:—Stalls 315, circle 403, pit 600, gallery 700, total 2,019; but by the utilisation of the promenades about 2,500 persons can be entertained at the same time.

A special feature of this theatre—a new one in Dundee—is the spacious waiting halls for early-door patrons, and smoking lounges are provided for the different parts of the house. The whole building is elaborately furnished and decorated, and all fittings are of the most modern type. The building itself is constructed in red stone of a pleasing tint. The main entrance, as stated, is from Cowgate. Entering thereat, the visitor finds himself in a beautiful vestibule, marble-paved and artistically decorated. An adjunct to the vestibule is a waiting-room for those who seek early admission to the pit. A broad flight of marble steps leads to a spacious hall, the ante-chamber to the stalls, access to which in turn is obtained by passages on the left and right. From the vestibule upwards a spacious staircase leads to the grand circle. The staircase from the vestibule upwards and downwards to the stalls is intersected by an ornamental barrier with hand-rail. The first house empties by one passage; the second enters by the other. Hence there will be no crushing, and the interval will be of the briefest possible duration. The auditorium is in the French Renaissance style. Mural ornamentation in delicate cream is delicately picked out in gold in effective contrast to the rich crimson of the papering and hangings. But the *chef-d'œuvre* of internal embellishment is the treatment of the dome, which towers 60ft. above the stalls. Its great expanse is filled in with allegorical paintings, bold in outline, warm in colour, and effective in the extreme. Above the proscenium the curving front is similarly decorated. This work is by F. De Jong and Co., London. The proscenium is flanked by rouge marble beautifully variegated. The stage, which is one of the most commodious of provincial stages, measures 60ft. wide and 48ft. deep.

The inaugural programme was an exceedingly strong and enjoyable one. At the head of affairs was Bransby Williams, who received a perfect ovation for his masterly impersonations from Charles Dickens; the Four Royal Scots introduced some delightful harmonising and tricky dancing into their musical sketch entitled *When the Cat's Away*; Geo. Auger and company presented their playlet, *Jack, the Giant-Killer*, treating it in a humorous manner; Grahame and Harrington evoked applause for their rendering of *A Daughter of Pleasure*; Sidy Nirvanah and her posing white horse proved an artistic turn; Victor and Louis were humorous in their comedy act, *The Golfer and the Caddie*; Hamilton Hill sang in his best style "She was a grand old lady"; Wallon performed remarkable juggling feats; and the Kingscope completed the bill of fare.

During the evening Mr. Alfred Moul, chairman and managing-director of the United County Theatres, Ltd., appeared on the stage, and thanked the audience for their patronage, and promised that no effort would be wanting on the part of the lessees to bring to the King's artists such as the public wanted and were entitled to expect in a city like Dundee. Mr. C. W. Young, late assistant manager of the New Cross Empire, is the manager of the new house.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE OXFORD.

The Price of a Girl, a domestic drama, in four acts, which was produced for the first time in the West End on Monday at the Oxford, might be developed with three hours' traffic of the stage into a melodrama that would be tolerable at a minor provincial theatre; but the process of compression rendered necessary by the "compromise" limits, has resulted only in incoherence and absurdity, and so crude a production has rarely been seen in a variety theatre. Mr. Augustus Moore's company did their very best with poor material. They included:

Rev. James Palmer .....Mr. J. H. Clynds
Letty Palmer .....Miss G. Le Sage
Lady Castle .....Miss Ivy Williams
Frank Hailston .....Mr. Courtney Foote
Dr. Hugh Weyman ..Mr. Stephens Wentworth
Polly Clay .....Miss Polly Emery

The "girl" is Letty Palmer, the daughter of a clergyman, who, by the machinations of the villain, Frank Hailston, is persuaded by specious promises to enter the employment of a lady milliner, Lady Castle. Letty, notwithstanding that her salary is £100 a year (living in)—a sum that should have raised the suspicions of her friends—has a most extraordinary desire to get into debt, and is very soon presented with a bill of £125, with a request for immediate payment from Lady Castle, who suggests that so pretty a girl can easily find a man to discharge such a trifling obligation. Frank Hailston offers the money, but insists that Letty shall come to his rooms to fetch it. She escapes from his clutches, only to find that she is locked out by the crafty Lady Castle. The villain still pursues her; but has to reckon with the hero, Dr. Hugh Weyman. The two men meet in Bond-street, and after a round or two Hailston is knocked out, Letty is rescued, and appears in full wedding costume in the last scene, wherein her father is saved from the brokers by the £50 saved up, and placed at his service just in the nick of time by a poor work-girl. The old man gives his blessing to the hero and heroine, and protects the villain from the villagers, who have doused him in the horse pond.

Mr. J. H. Clynds is a model of dignity and fatherly solicitude as the Rev. James Palmer; Miss G. Le Sage shows promise as Letty Palmer; Miss Ivy Williams is effective as Lady Castle; Mr. Courtney Foote as the villain foiled is at his best in the final scene; Mr. Stephen Wentworth makes good use of slender opportunity as the hero; and Miss Polly Emery puts plenty of life into the part of Polly Clay.

Mrs. Lewis Waller, who was announced to appear in the well-known sketch *The Admiral's Lady*, was prevented from doing so on Monday.

Early in the evening is seen the extraordinary dancing turn of the Marquards, who, in their wild whirlings, upset the whole of the furniture in an apartment, and finally roll themselves up in the carpet. Mendel, with his delightful music, is a strong attraction on any programme, and his improvising on a theme supplied by a member of the audience shows him to be not only a master of composition, but a pianist of exceptional skill. There are many other entertaining turns in Mr. Blyth Pratt's exceptionally strong programme, which is most artistically accompanied throughout by the orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Leon Bassett.

THE BEDFORD.

Mr. Gilbert Heron is presenting at the Bedford this week the sketch *Saved by Wireless*, which is bound to make its mark on account of its novelty. It is suggested by a recent occurrence, when the use of the Marconi system by the brave Binns undoubtedly saved the lives of a liner's passengers. The scene is a Marconi station, and there is a set of Marconi wireless instruments, which are most interesting, and give the touch of realism which cannot fail to impress an audience. The instruments are cleverly handled, and give a clear demonstration of the working of this modern marvel. The story told is but a brief one, but nevertheless dramatic. Dick Medway is an operator, and an old friend of his, Harry Grant, comes to see him. Grant is employed by one, Lancaster, a rogue, who, using Grant's knowledge of wireless telegraphy, has induced him to get Medway away from his post for a while and take charge of the station, and once having command of the instruments, he first obtains results of horse races in Paris and then bets on them in New York, for by this trickery he outpaces the usual channel for results, and so hopes to win a fortune. They start their scheme, but at that moment a message comes from the ocean that the ship on which Grant's wife and child are sailing is in danger and burning. Grant is in despair, and refuses to go on with Lancaster's dirty work, which leads to a quarrel; but Grant gets Lancaster in his power, and orders him away. Medway returns, and by a master stroke gets into touch with another vessel, and sends her to the rescue, and amidst breathless excitement Grant learns that his wife and child are safe. It is a thrilling little play and splendidly acted. Mr. Gilbert Heron is very fine as Grant, while Mr. G. Belmore makes a capital Medway. Mr. Arthur Ross depicts the scheming Lancaster in an admirable manner. A clever little sketch of an old Irishwoman is given by Miss Jessie Dennis, who supplies the lighter side. A most hearty reception was given to this novel and interesting production.

In addition to the above production, Mr. B. P. Lucas has an interesting bill this week. Miss Lily Burnand is doing very well with her "Merry Widow" song, which is very amusing. Mr. Randolph King gives a clever quick-change sketch, into which he introduces ventriloquism, which helps it considerably, and makes it quite a fresh style of quick-change business. Mr. King received a very flattering reception for his clever turn. The Violet Shelley Trio appear in a most diverting scena, *The Ideal Woman*, which keeps all in a shout of laughter, and scores a marked success. The Three Alskarnos are clever risley acrobatic comedians, while the Seabornes give a neat display of equilibristic feats and acrobatic acts, which are performed in a most finished manner. Nora Stockelle is a clever comedienne, who is rapidly coming to the front, and she charms all by her dainty manner and clever dancing. Billy McClain and Carlisle and Baker are a trio of lively coloured comedians, who sing and dance to the delight of all. Two of the performers are excellent pianists, and their clever playing of the same piece on two pianos earned terrific applause for them. The Two Jays are a couple of diverting cross-talk comedians, who raise many laughs with their witticisms. Ida Brophy is a very fetching young lady, who sings of her "Old French bonnet" in the most captivating manner possible, and also gives a capital step-dance to conclude. Mr. Geo. Shurley, comedian, appears early in the evening, and scores with his song, "Father give us back to me"; and Harry Bland, another comic fellow, puts all in a good humour with his number, "Oh, what a face!" Henshall and Foster, in their scena *Cabby Knows His Fare*, and the Bioscope complete the programme. Mr. Donald Brown is, as usual, at his post to welcome his patrons and study their comforts at this cosy little hall.

HACKNEY EMPIRE.

The programme at this popular hall is, as usual, capitally varied, and business continues to be exceptionally good. Bellew and Stock's company, who form the attraction at the bottom of the bill, are presenting a sketch, entitled *An Outside Chance*, with Master Edward Garratt in the principal part. The plot, which deals with a supposititious infant in arms taking the place of a drugged jockey, enables Master Garratt to enact a similar rôle to that which he made famous in *A Little Stranger*. He is, beyond doubt, an exceptionally clever and amusing young comedian, and his success was never for a moment in doubt. Very efficient support was accorded by Mr. C. F. Howard as Dick Herriott, Mr. W. R. Percival as Slim Jim, Mr. H. Johnson as Jorkins, Mr. Charles J. Barber as Anna Higgins, and Mr. H. Bell as Malsom. The fall of the curtain was the signal for great applause.

Carlos Menard, in imitations, proved himself a skilful violinist, with a good sense of the humorous; Roze and Calvert, in comedy business, made a good impression, the gentleman being a good comedian. On the evening of our visit Sam Mayo was unable to appear, Fred Earle taking his place, with such acceptance that he sang three songs. Fred Barnes, a light comedian, made a distinct hit. This artist has a good voice and an excellent stage presence, and his turn was quite to the taste of the audience. His first song was the popular "I don't care if there's a girl there," which he gave with plenty of go. His second was a descriptive number, "The black sheep of the family," which he rendered with good effect. Altogether, he is to be congratulated.

Guyer and Valli, in a comedy act, gained applause. The lady is a clever dancer and the gentleman a smart comedian. Their act, which finishes with an extraordinary dance, in the course of which all the stage furniture is upset, was very smartly performed, and created a good deal of amusement. Henriette de Serris presents a charming series of art reproductions. These comprise tableaux vivants, statuary, and bas-reliefs. Altogether, they are very beautiful, particularly faithful being Millet's well-known painting "The Angelus" and another entitled "A Summer Evening." The last reproduction, "Forward," was also very effective, and it is needless to say the act was received with well-merited applause. May Edouin, a musical comedy artist, submits a protean performance that is distinctly good, her studies of the Chinaman, Spanish girl, and ballad vocalist being very faithful. The laughing song which concludes her turn deserves especial commendation. The Brothers St. Clair are a couple of skilful trick cyclists, whose business amused the house, the game of football which they introduced being very interesting. The Bioscope is, as usual, excellent, and is greatly appreciated. Mr. Greco's fine orchestra is a prominent feature of the evening; and Mr. Percival and Mr. Trussell, the acting and assistant acting-manager respectively, are attentive in the front of the house.

We are sorry to hear of the serious illness of Mr. George Barclay, who is confined to his bed with a complication of pleurisy and pneumonia.

Mr. Jack Woolf has acquired the Empire Hall, at the rear of Wonderland. After the necessary alterations and reconstruction he will open it with a novel entertainment.

FLORRIE FORDE'S BENEFIT.

GREAT ENTHUSIASM AT THE PRINCE'S.
BOUQUETS AND PRESENTS GALORE.

The popularity of Miss Florrie Forde was never so manifest as it was last night, when, on the occasion of her benefit performance, a crowd that thronged every part of the Prince's Theatre cheered her every song and greeted her every appearance with boisterous applause. At the end of almost every act there were bouquets to hand up from the orchestra. There were large bouquets, small bouquets, spray bouquets, and shower bou-

MISS FLORRIE FORDE.

quets of every description, but all showing the admiration in which she is held. Nor was she alone favoured, for there were also gifts for many of the other artists.

The performance itself was specially attractive. James Elvio was given a well-deserved rest, his place being taken for the occasion by Mr. Nathaniel Hepworth, the genial acting-manager, who is shortly leaving to take up the managership of the Leeds Royal Theatre. In addition, a large number of artists had come from the music halls in Bradford, Leeds, and Halifax to add to the evening's enjoyment.

The more serious and, from some aspects, the most pleasing, portion of the entertainment was during the seventh scene, when a number of interesting presentations were made. Mr. Francis Laidler, the proprietor-manager, stepped on to the stage and delivered a happy little speech. He commenced by saying that, as was well known, the pantomime had been a record so far as the Prince's Theatre was concerned. They had still to run one week, making eleven and a half weeks in all, which, so far as he was able to gather, was the longest run of any pantomime in the kingdom, with the exception of Drury Lane. Every member of the company would agree with him when he said that much of the success was due to his principal boy, Miss Florrie Forde. Not only was she an able artist, but her personal charm had endeared her to all. She was held in the highest esteem by every member of the company, and was simply worshipped by the children. "It is artists of the character and disposition of Miss Florrie Forde," he concluded, "who have raised the tone of the theatre and the music halls to such a high level as it is to-day."

With a few appropriate words, Mr. James Elvio, on behalf of the company, then presented Miss Forde with a handsome silver electric centre lamp, suitably inscribed; and Mr. Bert Byrne was chosen to give her a fine picture of herself by a local artist from an anonymous donor. Many other gifts were then presented from private friends.

Miss Forde was loudly cheered on coming forward to respond. She thanked the company and the public generally for the kind way they had treated her. As regarded any work she might have been able to do for the charities, she was glad to say that next year she was to be in pantomime not far from Bradford, and she would no doubt be able to continue the work which had made her so happy.

At the request of Mr. Laidler, the audience sang "For she's a jolly good fellow," which he said was quite in keeping, as she was principal boy.

Mr. H. T. Butler, the stage-manager, and Mr. Henry Rushworth, the musical-director, were the recipients of a gold pencil-case and a box of silver-backed brushes respectively, the gifts of Miss Forde.

Both replied happily, Mr. Rushworth mentioning the interesting fact that he would also be connected with Miss Forde during the next pantomime season as musical-director. This was afterwards explained by Mr. Laidler. Miss Forde is to be his principal boy in *The Babes in the Wood* at the Leeds Royal, which he has lately acquired, and where Mr. H. Rushworth is to go as musical-director in a week or so.

After the performance the presents and bouquets were shown on the stage. They completely covered the tops of two large tables.—*Daily Telegraph*, Bradford, March 3, 1909.

FELDMAN'S

SONGS MAKE SUCCESS EASY.

Artists returning from Pantomime

CALL OR WRITE.

WE HAVE ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW.

B. FELDMAN & CO.,

2 & 3, ARTHUR STREET, W.C.

Telegrams, "Humfriv, London." Telephone, No 4447 Gerrard.

INVENTIONS.

[The particulars furnished below of recent applications for patents are taken from the official records. Correspondence is invited with our readers on all matters relating to new ideas and inventions, with a view to affording them advice and assistance. Letters should be addressed to the Manager, Inventions Department, "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London.]

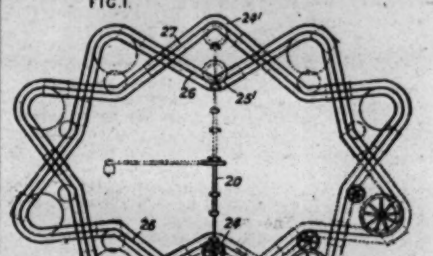
Inventors and others who have no business representative are invited to communicate with the Manager of the Inventions Dept. as above.

ABRIDGMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

21,359.—Roundabouts. Taylor, J. M., of Omaha, Nebraska, U.S.A.

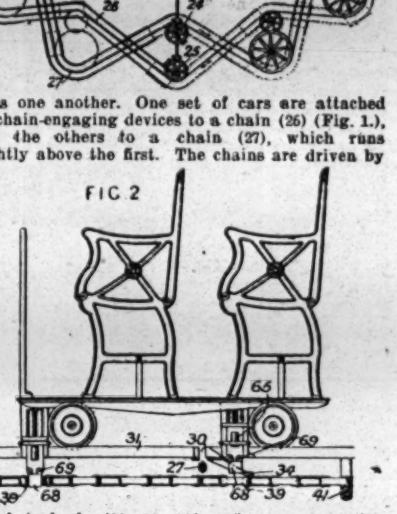
Two series of cars are run in opposite directions in sinuous courses, that continually cross and re-

FIG.1.

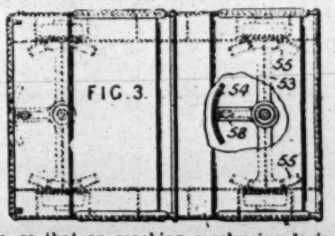


cross one another. One set of cars are attached by chain-engaging devices to a chain (26) (Fig. 1.), and the others to a chain (27), which runs slightly above the first. The chains are driven by

FIG 2

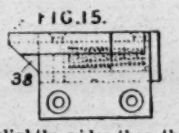


sprocket-wheels (24, 25, 24', 25') connected with a driving-shaft (20). Various guide and tightening wheels are arranged, as shown. The cars (Figs. 2 and 3) are mounted on axles (53) pivoted and running in guides (55). Arms (58) attached to the axles run in guides (54) and carry chain-engaging devices (58, Fig. 2). These devices are provided with rollers (65, 69), and are made tele-



scopic, so that on reaching a releasing-device (34) they are lifted up, so as to cross the chain (27). A slot (30) is bridged by two spring-pressed pieces (38, Fig. 15) on either side, which are pushed apart when an engaging device passes on the chain (27). By thus employing two chain-engaging devices, one is always in use, and the cars keep their places on the chain. Special links

FIG.15.



(39, Fig. 2), slightly wider than the others, accommodate the parts (68). The cars on the upper chain need have only one connection with the chain, and this need not be telescopic. Vertical supports (41) are used for the chains at intervals. A platform (31) covers up the chains, &c., slots being left for the passage of the engaging devices.

UNITED STATES AMERICAN PATENTS.

Advice to hand informs us that Mr. J. L. Plimpton, of Boston, Mass., has recently secured the grant of an American patent, in addition to an English one, for his improved roller-skate. The invention relates to guidable curved-running roller-skates, and in this class the rollers are applied to the stock or foot-stand of the skate, so that the said rollers may be cramped or turned, so as to cause the skate to run in curved lines, either to the right or left by the turning, canting, or tilting of the stock or foot-stand. That a great boom in the pastime of roller-skating, both here and in the United States, has set in is amply evidenced of late, and British inventors should not be slow in availing themselves of the rights conferred by American patents for their invention, equally as the 'cute Yankee promptly makes unto himself the privileges of the English patent. Readers of this column desiring information as to cost and procedure cannot do better than put themselves in communication with the manager of this department, as above.

To Stage Machinists and Electricians.—The Manager will be pleased to receive particulars of any new stage appliances or ideas for same for illustration in this column.

At the Hippodrome, Margate, this week's all-round excellent programme is contributed to by Bayne and Hope in a pleasing and well-acted scena *An Emperor's Divorce*, dealing with the well-known story of Napoleon and Josephine; Herbert Rule, the eccentric comedian; Amy Lloyd, comedienne; Harry Lawson, comedian; Owen McDiveney, in character sketches from Dickens' works; Marie Stroud, comedienne; and Randolph Slater, comedian. The Hippodrome pictures include two good films, one depicting the Land of the Midnight Sun, and the other the dramatic story of The Hump-backed Man.

A return to variety entertainment is meeting with generous support this week at the Royal, Worcester. The Havanas troupe of acrobats are the star turn, and they justify their reputation; Abel and Welsh are wonderfully clever contortionists; and Fred Carey, a talented comedian, always finds a welcome at Worcester. He has some new songs, and his patter is funnier than ever. Wilson Blackledge is also a successful comedian, and he finds music a useful aid; Walter Buxton has a baritone voice of nice quality; the Sisters Hamfel are amusing comediennes, and Willie Hicks a funny vocalist.

The latest quotations for music-hall shares are as follow: Alhambra, 1 7-16; Canterbury, ⅞; Electric Theatres, 24s. 6d.; Empire, 15s. paid, 1⅛; Empire, 10s. paid, 1⅛; London Pavilion Ordinary, 3⅛; London Pavilion Preference, 5; Metropolitan, 21-22; Moss' Empires, 5⅛; Moss' Empires 5 per cent. Preference, 4⅛; Oxford, 5⅛; Palace, 19s. 6d.; Tivoli, 6⅛; Variety Consolidated Theatres, 9-16.

SHILLING COLLECTION FOR THE MUSIC HALL HOME.

3,304 SHILLINGS.

In again directing the attention of our readers to *The Era's* Shilling Fund on behalf of the Music Hall Home we are in the happy position of being able to associate with the appeal thus being made the name of the foremost music hall comedienne—Miss Marie Lloyd. It seems scarcely necessary to remind our readers of the deep interest Miss Lloyd has ever taken in matters affecting the welfare of her brothers and sisters of the variety profession. It is her desire that her "year" will be marked by a considerable increase in the subscriptions of previous years, and she therefore, through *The Era*, commends the Music Hall Home to the charitably-minded. Mr. Thomas Barrasford, the President of the Fund, is again this year exerting himself in its behalf, and this fact is sufficient indication that he is satisfied as to the way in which the institution is being conducted, and that he considers it worthy of support.

Mr. Ben Woodger, the secretary of the Music Hall Home, tells us that in 1907 the inmates averaged ten, but that in 1908 there have been as many as twelve. The address of the Home is 31, Wilson-road, Camberwell, and there the matron (Mrs. Frain) busies herself for the comfort and convenience of her "family." At present there are eleven of these, and the desire is to increase the number, which can only be done when sufficient funds for the purpose are collected. During the past twelve months three or four of the inmates have recovered their health and strength sufficiently to enable them to look for engagements. These secured, they left the Home, and the vacancies thereby created were immediately filled up. Now, this Home requires keeping up, and it cannot be kept up on air. There is no need for us to refer to all the good work which has been performed by the institution in the past, as that must for the most part be within the recollection of our readers. The ages of the inmates range from fifty to seventy-six. In all probability these men will be maintained in the Home until the day of their death, and their funeral expenses paid for out of the funds of the Home.

***The Era's* Shilling Fund is the main source of income to the Home, and this means of sustenance is added to by the donations of artists, either given directly, or through the collecting boxes through which many managers of variety theatres collect pennies from "dead-heads" and from artists who desire free admission.**

Anyone can be supplied with a collecting-card by sending a postcard to Mr. Woodger.

Briefly, we may once more repeat that the objects of the Music Hall Home Fund are to provide shelter for deserving members of the variety profession who have been stricken with poverty or illness in their declining years, or who have in other ways fallen on evil times. Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, the hon. treasurer, will be pleased to receive filled-up collecting cards addressed to him at *The Era*, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C., and to acknowledge them in these columns.

FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	Shillings.
Belfast Theatrical Charity Fund (per Mr. Fred W. Warden)	200
Jack Miles Stavordale	120
Marie Lloyd	113
Joe Elvin, per Marie Lloyd	105
Bert Williams	30
Jack Woolf	30
Leoni Clarke	21
Gus Elen	21
Chas. Weldon	21
John Lawson	21
Mr. Hymack	20
A Beginner (York)	20
Harry Alaskas	14
O. M. Dayton	10
Alf Chester	10
Ben Brown	10
R.	6
Slippere	5
Edgar Stebbings, per Fred Herbert	5
Frank Folloy	1
Collected by :—	
Miss Ada Reeve	80
Ted E. Box	71
Ted and May Hopkins	61½
Horace Wheatley	50
Seener and Fridkins	45
Ben Brown (first card)	42
Mlle. De Rose	41
Miss Ray Maskell	41
Three Sisters Lee	40½
Ben Brown (second card)	38
Jimmy Shields	35
Dick Tubb	35
Kloof and Ramsay	32½
Regan and Ryan	32½
Fred Herbert	32
Carl and Carr	31
Dave Carter	30
Sisters Ford	30
J. W. Hall	30
Ben Brown (third card)	28
Barney Armstrong	24
Tom Fancourt	23
Ben Brown (fourth card)	23
Fred Kitchen	22
Leonine Clarke	21
Charles Cardow	20
Frank Coyle	20
Newham and Latimer	15
The Maples	10
The Musical Johnstons	6
The Hartley Wonders	2

Collected by Herbert Shelley, £2 3s.

Albert Chevalier	20	Arthur Burne	1
Herbert Shelley	10	Huntley Wright	1
J. W. Macdonald	2	Harry Nicholls	1
Lionel Rignold	1	Mrs. Herbert Shelley	1
J. Cook Beresford	1	Alma Shelley	1
L. Race Dunrobin	1	Florence Huntley	1
Graham and Harrington	1	May Fairclough	1

Collected by The Bohemians, 14s

W. Bohemian	1	Newco and Sullo	1
M. Bohemian	1	Dan Hendy	1
Geo. Gulliver	1	Ernest Caxsellas	1
T. W. Paul	1	Percy Caxsellas	1
M. Etis	1	Edwin Caxsellas	1
D. W. Watson	1	Hull Newsboy Trio	1
Bob Swift Duo	1	Sam Vincent	1

Collected by Livesey and Rosebery, £1 3s.

Leo and Roland	1	W. H. Carnis	1
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilde	1	Montaldos	1
Mr. Sam Williams	1	Joe Hay	1
Gladys Mavius	1	Leonie Dixon	1
Miss Adah Payne	1	Jim Dixon	1
G. Barclay, jun.	1	The Heroine	1
Tom Shaw	1	The Villain	1
Billy Stevens	1	The Hero	1
A. Earl Hunt	1	Lilian Rosebery	1
W. Higgins	1	Carter Livesey	1
Dr. Caine	1	Little Willie	1
Harry Randall	1	Ganymede	1
C. W. Whittle	1	Signorita	1
Gordon and Grace	1	The Skipper	1

Collected by Harry Alaskas, 14s.

Ch. Armenis	1	Victoria Monks	1
Mr. Alaska	1	Agnes Kelly	1
Mrs. Alaska	1	La Pia	1
Madoline Rees	1	Victor Kelly	1
Texas Hattie	1	Arizona Karling	1
Patty Toie	1	Harry Alaska, jun.	1
Tiger Lily	1	Sam Alaska (son)	1

Collected by Abel and Welsh, 35s

J. W. Rowley	5	Hady Mohamed	1
Mohamed's Arabs	2	A. Gulimlip	1
S. Dix	2	Charles Chard	1
Robert Abel	1	H. Meredith	1
William Welsh	1	Bros. Ford	1
Mimi Abel	1	Gladys and Alber	1
Charles Serra	1	Tate and Tate	1
Martino	1	Wm. Thomas	1
Israel Price	1	Chas. Triton	1
Edward Crosland	1	John B. Roberts	1
Dorians	1	Harry Czar	1
Kyoto	1	Dave Czar	1
Val Gerald	1	Harry Friskey	1
J. Bertram Brennan	1	Blanche Albert	1
Felix Powell	1		

Collected by Harry Conlin, £3 10s.

Leigh House	5½	H. Rogerson	1
Harry Conlin	5½	Alex. Kendall	1
Hilda Dugdale	5	Chas. Norton	1
Rosie Coleman	5	Russell Brandow	1
One of the Ba-hoys	5	W. Stanley Parker	1
Amy Singleton	5	S. W.	1
G. Gilbride	4	Seth Egbert	1
Marie Ashton	4	Emmie Egbert	1
Mabel Hirst	3	Violet Egbert	1
Albert Egbert	2½	Gus Le Clerq	1
Daisy Dormer	2½	E. Wright	1
Hal	2	The Witch	1
J. Hoffman	2	May Beatly	1
F. Self	2	Harry Clifford	1
Gus Le Clerq	1	Mr. Blackhurst	1
Tommie Pender	1		

Collected by Cedar and Elgar, £1 7s.

Hugh Cedar	2	Robins and Collier	1
Ed. Elgar	2	Mr. Bert Harrow	1
Louis Kerno	1	Miss Marion Walker	1
Dan Maxford	1	Mr. Bert Rolfe	1
Tom O'Neill	1	A. Yorke-Stephens	1
Fred Sinclair	1	E. B. Edie	1
Jake Friedman	1	T. J. Dillon	1
Miss Ray Wallace	1	Miss Isa Gibson	1
Miss Mildred Bryan	1	Miss Nellie Duval	1
Mr. Joe Robins	1	Mr. M., Manchester	1
Mr. Leonard Russell	1	Mr. Charlie Hopkins	1
Miss Phyllis Seymour	1	Mr. E. W. Avery	1
Mr. Herbert King	1		

Collected by Harry Wright, 31s.

S. Charlie Pratt	2	Ford	1
Montefiore	1	M. F.	1
Bert Chapman	1	E. E. W.	1
Harry Gage	1	Allan Hanbury	1
Mr. H. McDowall	1	Tom Shenton	1
Mrs. F. Kahler	1	Jesse Sparrow	1
G. P. R. Burgess	1	Vivins	1
Harry Wright	1	John E. Brandon	1
Nellie Gannon	1	W. E. Stephenson	1
T. W. Wright	1	F. Newman	1
G. Baselgia	1	J. Hewson	1
Bert Chapman	1	A. Knight	1
Leon Bassett	1	Sam Hart	1
G. Pearson	1	S. N. Salter	1
F. Kohler	1	D. White	1

Collected by the Three Bros. Huxter, 11s.

Lambeth and Robertson	2	R. Taylor	1
Edward Huxter	1	A. Rudd	1
Bros. Milford	1	G. G.	1
Jeannie Johns	1	Corradini	1
Elsie Steadman	1	A. Saxon	1

Collected by Nellie Wilson, £2 11s. 6d.

A White Man	10	Fred Eustace	1
Eugene Stratton	5	Mary Eustace	1
Edwin Boyde	5	Rose Bancroft	1
H Thutton	2½	Charles Chapman	1
The Sivonis	2	Wilman	1
Nellie Wilson	2	Ernie Aplin	1
Mrs. Stavodale	2	Phœbe Lyndhurst	1
Little Miss Muffit	1	Charles McConnell	1
Mona Clifford	1	Muir and Bartlett	1
Florence Hyde	1	Margery Maidment	1
Clara Stroud Wilson	1	Flo Penley	1
Beatrice Elie	1	T. Grindall	1
F. Hurst	1	Dusty Rhodes	1
Will Toole	1	Rose Daulby	1
Charles Granthley	1	Mrs. Fred Southern	1

Collected by Mulvey and Miriam, 17s.

Mulvey and Miriam	1	Addie Dorina	1
Rose Harvey	1	Madge Grey	1
Sarah Berry	1	Geo. Belrose	1
O. E. Culling	1	Wilmott Fowler	1
Frank Alber	1	Anon.	1
B. Babington	1	W. T. Thompson	1
M. Bryant	1	C. Vandyke	1
Cabral	1	Harry Russon	1
W. M. N.	1		

Collected by Conway and Leland, 10s.

W. B. Leland	1	Maringo	1
Crissie Cross	1	Bert Wilson	1
M. B. Conway	1	George Gilbey	1
Mrs. M. B. Conway	1	Billy Seeley	1
Mr. De Breau	1	A Friend	1

Collected by Geo. French's Troupe, 22s.

C. Poole, jun.	6	Bert Gates	1
George French	5	Harry Dowsett	1
Richard Karay's Myriophone	5	Fred Bescoby	1
Learto	2	Miss St. Clare	1

Collected by A. N. Hennessey, 40s.

Stanley J. R. Cohen	5	Mrs. Regan	1
A. N. Hennessey	5	G. F.	1
Kittee Raybura	5	A. Bowman	1
Fred Boustead	1	Glen Alva	1
A. Juniper	1	C. S.	1
C. F. Wright	1	H. C.	1
Tom Lyle	1	E. M. Cohen	1
C. W. Douglass	1	Will Thompson	1
Walter Gibbs	1	Mrs. Thompson	1
Ted Whiteman	1	W. Ransted	1
Tom Malvern	1	Johnny Alexander	1
Harry Anderson	1	Mr. Reeve	1
G. Dyke	1	J. Garlish	1
J. J. Regan	1	T. Callaghan	1

Collected by Elsie Robey, 10s

Elsie Robey	1	Molly Wynne	1
Laurence Irving	1	Lewis Leslie	1
Mabel Hackney-Irving	1	Mrs. Lewis Leslie	1
William Fullbrook	1	Sale of Post-cards	1
Mabel Carr	1	William Spencer	1

Collected by the Sisters Morgan, 14s.

Will Lorenzi	2	Alice Maple	1
Barrett and Knowles	2	Gracie Mortimer	1
Rita and Roma	1	Will Cartwright	1
Elsie Morgan	1	Hester Reeve	1
Annie Morgan	1	Charles Clark	1
Kitty Clinton	1	S. Barnard	1

Collected by Shenton's Chicks, 4s.

Shenton's Chicks	1	May Mars	1
Dancit	1	Rose Tilley	1

Collected by Carl Hertz, £1 10s.

Harris Fineberg	1	Carl Hertz	1
Harris Fineberg	1	Carl Hertz	1
Harris Fineberg	1	Carl Hertz	1
Harris Fineberg	1	Mrs. Carl Hertz	1
Harris Fineberg	1	Mrs. Carl Hertz	1
Harold Lyson	1	Ernest Pyke	1
Harold Lyson	1	W. Harris	1
Harold Lyson	1	F. Isaacson	1
Harold Lyson	1	L. Hill	1
Harold Lyson	1	L. Hill	1
John McInnes	1	Nemo	1
John McInnes	1	S. Burnett	1
John McInnes	1	H. Radford	1
John McInnes	1	Nat. Morris	1
John McInnes	1	Ike Rose	1

Collected by Glen Alva, 23s.

Fields and Lewis	2	James Young	1
Glen Alva	1	James Dee	1
Tom E. Cliffe	1	Topsy Johnson	1
J. H. Savile	1	Bernard A. Leslie	1
Harry Karr	1	Daisy Kingswood	1
Daisy Morrell	1	Mabel Earle	1
Walter Kooney	1	Tommie Hunter	1
Mrs. W. A. Savile	1	J. September	1
Winnie Savile	1	Chas. May	1
Glen Alva	1	Fred Sinclair	1
Sam Young	1	A. N. Hennessey	1

Collected by Harry Delevine, 15s.

Harry Delevine	1	Henry Carlton	1
Sam Delevine	1	The Window Cleaner	1
J. B. Henry	1	Thora (?)	1
Percy Delevine	1	W. F. Frame	1
W. B. Tyler	1	Harry Herbert	1
Minnie Delevine	1	Mr. Barnett	1
Douglas Burley	1	Robins and Collier	1
Jack Burley	1		

Collected by Rowland Hill, 25s.

Rowland Hill	1	Annie Schuberth	1
Daisie Morell	1	Harry Harrigan	1
Little Mamie Hill	1	Will Holt	1
Connie Gordon	1	Harry Radford	1
Minnie Muir	1	Alfred Hill	1
Connie Haydon	1	Jane Hill	1
Dorothy Frostick	1	Mabel Hill	1
Lulu Russel	1	James Percy	1
Daisy Dormer	1	Tow'd Mon	1
Billy Stephens	1	J. Traynor	1
Fred Epitaux	1	Mercantile Club, Leeds	1
Henrie Jaxon	1		
Nell Emerald	1	"Ye Dame"	1

Collected by Eugene and Willie, 11s.

Miss Dunbar	2	Richard Lomas	1
Bernard and Weston	2	Henry Hodgkings	1
Eugene and Willie	2	B. Comerford	1
Miss M. Hope	1	J. Comerford	1

Collected by Miss Aggie Nolan, 15s.

Aggie Nolan	1	Hardie Palm	1
Agnes Hazel	1	James Fiori	1
Michael Nolan	1	James Fagan	1
Jimmy O'Connor	1	Tom McMahon	1
Mr. Tom Leamore	1	Harry Catlow	1
Jack Norman	1	Jim Quinn	1
Gus Garrick	1	Arthur Royce	1
Shirley and Ransome	1		

Collected by Sydney Lee, 21s.

Sydney Lee	1	Nancy Thornton	1
Gay Deceiver	1	Latter's Dresser	1
Mrs. Deceiver	1	German Emperor	1
Little Deceiver	1	Prince of Wales	1
Rabbit	1	Man on the Spot	1
Cat	1	Robert	1
Mr. B.	1	What What!	1
C. C.	1	Pip Pip!	1
Cliff Barrett	1	Card Tricks in Saloon	1
Little Barrett	1	H. C. T.	1
Moran and Wiser	1		

Collected by Sterling and Love, 23s.

Leo Sterling	1	Chas. Lake	1
Addie Love	1	Charles Martell	1
Frank Dunlop	1	Edwin Garth	1
Phil Smith	1	Blanche Marion	1
Mark Lester	1	Aimee Roberts	1
Ben Court	1	A. S. Betts	1
Walter Norman	1	C. H.	1
C. F.	1	J. Smith	1
Rosie Albert	1	A. C. Ganorn	1
R. B.	1	G. E. Gates	1
Jennie Albert	1	J. Stuart Bertram	1
W. Nash	1		

Collected by Ted Young, 14s.

Ted Young	1	The World's Worst	1
Ada Twibell	1	Freddie French	1
Albert Brasque	1	Harold J. Pounds	1
Sisters Hall	1	L. W. Harris	1
Prince Narharam	1	Agnes Tandy	1
Teresa da Silva	1	Arthur White	1
George Shepherd (Ten Loonies)	1	Charles Roadnight	1

[Photo by Sarony.

MISS MARIE LLOYD,
The Fair Worker for the Home.

Collected by F. V. St. Clair, 13s.

F. V. St. Clair	2½	Alf. Lennard	1
Mrs. Pollie V. St. Clair	2½	Carl Borrell (Gin-nets)	1
Fox and Melville	1	Harry Barker	1
A. Norman	1	Mr. Mason	1
Billy Lennard	1	Burt Burnell	1

Collected by The Wedburns, 30s.

Laurence Irving	2	Geo. Acre	1
J. Wedburn	1	Dex	1
W. Wedburn	1	Mrs. Helsby	1
Primavesi	1	Nellie Nora	1
Joe Conway	1	Barry Lindon	1
W. Horne	1	Douglass	1
Mi Narom	1	Florence Smithers	1
T. Iveson	1	F. Vallance	1
Mrs. T. Iveson	1	Vere and Royal	1
Melvin and Max	1	Anileda	1
A. St. Clair	1	Marstro	1
Carle	1	Nellie Walton	1
A Friend	1	Geo. Abel	1
A Ninety-year-old Friend	1	J. Wedburn	1
		E. Kershaw	1

Collected by Miss Fanny Robina, 7s.

Fanny Robina	1	H. W. Whitaker	1
Florry Cooper	1	P. Abrahams	1
Billie Bint	1	A. Allen	1
B. Warwick	1		

Collected by Bella and Bijou, £1 14s. 6d.

Mrs. Peter Bijou	10½	Norah Bijou	1
Peter Bijou	10½	Tom Joy	1
Miss Bella	5	S. Jennison	1
Blanche Bijou	2½	C. G. Bacon	1
Peter Bijou, jun.	1	Albert Egbert	1

Collected by Fred Spencer, 12s.

Fred Spencer	2	J. W. Russell	1
Cyril Dundas	2	Flo Hilton	1
Bros. Hannaway	2	Merton and Rydon	1
Dennis McCarthy	2	Dorothy Dryden	1

Collected by Heeley and Meeley, 12s.

W. F. Heeley	1	Blake and Amber	1
B. C. Meeley	1	Bert Kemble	1
Dave Carter	1	Netty Janowsky	1
Arthur Ferriss	1	George Gilbey	1
Ritter and Foster	1	Cobuck	1
W. Griffin	1	Harry Tambo	1

Collected by Ivan Berlyn, 16s.

Ivan Berlyn	1	Eric Dalvere	1
Fagin	1	Friday	1
Nancy	1	Cannibal King	1
Bill Sykes	1	Theophilus	1
Oliver Twist	1	Nancy Thornton	1
John Stephen Lennol	1	Jeannie Weston	1
Captain	1	B. Elton	1
Billy	1	T. Elma	1

Collected by Cyclamina, 9s.

Fred Curran	1	R. Adeler	1
H. Adams (Cyclamina)	1	H. Huxby	1
James Devon	1	Bean	1
Gus Earle	1	Cynski	1
		Webber	1

Collected by Will Douglas, 9s.

Will Douglas	2	Obi Meredith	1
Adolph Leglere	1½	J. Wyllie	1
Sira	1½	C. H. Charlton	1
Albert Leonzi	1		

Collected by Ben Brown (fifth card), £1 10s.

Daisy James	2	Will Musgrave	1
Joe Elvin	2	Tom Joy	1
Charlie Austin	2	W. P.	1
Frank Seeley	1	Burt Shepard	1
Harry Freeman	1	Sam Polnski	1
Charles Ferriss	1	Monty Bentley	1
K. Scott Barrie	1	Frank Bernard	1
D. Crombie	1	Billy Williams	1
Nellie Danvers	1	W. H. Clemart	1
T. R. Gannon	1	Fred E. Terry	1
Margaret Webster	1	Frank Leon	1
J. Kellino	1	Harry Nation	1
W. Kellino	1	M. McNamie	1
Rose and Calvert	1		

Collected by Dan Crawley, 17s.

Dan Crawley	1	Marie Vere	1
Lauri de Frece	1	Bobby Allandale	1
Ada Reeve	1	E. T. Steyne	1
Lilian Bishop	1	Ellen Crawley	1
E. Adeler	1	Lilian Crawley	1
Fred Griffiths, jun.	1	Margaret Crawley	1
Arthur Poole	1	Kathleen Crawley	1
Russell Ardell	1	Fred Griffiths	1
William Griffin	1		

Collected by Ethel Dove, 9s.

Ethel Dove	1	R Frantz	1
Maggie Elliott	1	May Day	½
Bert Terrell	1	S. France	½
Brook Kimberley	1	Madge Hall	½
Mona Garrick	1	Lily Elliott	½
May Brennan	1		

Collected by Phil Bransby, 6s.

Phil Bransby	1	Tony Black	1
J. Hargreaves	1	F. Mozzetto	1
Queenie West	1	Edward Crosland	1

Collected by Bros. Oboe (Ben and Jim), 30s.

George Robey	10	F. Dent	1
Iris Holy	5	H. Dent	1
Ben Obo	2½	Willie Garvey	1
Jim Obo	2½	Craighall Sherry	1
Frank Gordon	2	Jerome Macmahon	1
Edith Kirkwood	2	Peter Ritchie	1

Collected by Florrie Gallimore, 20s.

Josie Delaine	1	Ada Gatley	1
E. Jerome Langford	1	H. O. Wills	1
Florrie Gallimore	1	Rose Alderman	1
Gracie Gallimore	1	Jack McKenzie	1
Lewis Gallimore	1	May McKenzie	1
Walter Mould	1	Ted E. Fields	1
Mrs. Mould	1	Wee Ella Fields	1
Stage Hands, Hippodrome, St. Helens	1	Jimmy Wood	1
Mrs. Bert Dent	1	Leo King	1
Ailsa Douglas	1	Winnie Gallimore	1

Collected by Miss Grace Gray, 16s.

Grace Gray	2	Mr. W. J. Waller	1
W. N. Sparks	1	King and Sheppard	1
E. F. Sparks	1	W. A. Jack	1
Miss J. Curtis	1	H. A. Rose	1
Miss L. Sparks	1	R. H. Lauderdale	1
Mrs. S. Sparks	1	G. Lamb	1
Miss M. Blundell	1	W. H.	1
Mr. R. Sparks	1		

Collected by Harry Taft, 19s.

Charles Hinton	1	Maude Taft	1
Princess Trixie	1	Dad De Frece	1
Caryl Wilbur	1	Ma De Frece	1
Willie	1	Willie Barrasford	1
M. Cattaneo	1	Tom Barrasford, jun	1
Geo. Barrasford	1	Harry Taft	1
Dave Cohen	1	De Feo	1
Jack De Frece	1	Sim Lyons	1
Sonny De Frece	1	Mr. Chapman	1
Mrs. G. Taft	1		

Collected by Bliss and Bliss, £1 5s. 6d.

George Bliss	2	Louis Kerno	1
Leo Bliss	2	Ernest Percival	1
H. Mason Bart	2	Frank Probin	1
Arthur Gallimore	2	Will Juno	1
Two Rubies	2	Will Pete	1
Ernie Mayne	1	Nellie Reilly	1
Arthur Aiston	1	Larry Lewis	1
Ada Parker	1	The Cecilias	1
H. E. Wakeling	1	Capt. Fred Woodward	1
Ethel Dunford	1	Lambert Eaton	½
Ray Ford	1		

Collected by John Miller, 15s.

John Miller	2	Alf. Fry	1
Geo. Ranger	1	Robert Burns	1
Abe Miller	1	E. Russell and Edith Housley	1
Laurie Lauri	1	Victor Kahn	1
Arthur Lauri	1	F. W. Gibb	1
Will Stuart	1	M. E. Jameson	1
Herbert Evans	1		
A. W. H.	1		

Collected by Pueblo and Cropp, 15s.

Katie Cropp	1	E. Adeler	1
Bob Pueblo	1	T. Pearne, J. Madder	1
A. Luck	1	Adolph Banvard	1
George Ajax	1	Mrs. Roger	1
C. Meek	1	H. Callis-Wingfield	1
Little Tichbourne	1	Sam Voss	1
Lavelle Bros	1	Warriner	1
Mrs. Rose	1		

Collected by Lytton and Bland, 10s.

D. M.	1	Percy Wood	1
Shaun Glenville	1	C. Richardson	1
Frank Harwood	1	Sam Wells	1
Leo Trainor	1	J. Bland	1
J. Corman	1	Poppy Lytton	1

Collected by Ernest D'Almaine, 14s.

Ernest D'Almaine	1	Rose D'Almaine	1
Mrs. E. D'Almaine	1	Charles Dare	1
James D'Almaine	1	Dan O'Connor	1
Charles D'Almaine	1	Gus Daniels	1
Ada D'Almaine	1	George Snow	1
Amy D'Almaine	1	George Richens	1
Lily D'Almaine	1	E. Kay	1

Collected by Frank Lynne, £1 12s.

Chas. Guyer	4	Stanley Miller	1
Achmed Ibrahim Troupe	2	H. Atkinson	1
Mrs. Achmed Ibrahim	1	Teddy Bear (one)	1
Billy Hobbs	1	Teddy Bear (two)	1
Fred Edwards	1	Teddy Bear (three)	1
Poole and Maguire	1	J. C. Maxwell	1
Mrs. Rosser	1	Will Johnson	1
Mrs. Fred Earle	1	Lennox Barry	1
Miss Winniefred Earle	1	Charles King	1
F. Foster	1	S. Auer	1
R. B. D.	1	Florrie Bray	1
R. B. S.	1	Charles Fisher	1
J. P. A.	1	Frank Lynne	1
		Jas. Copus	1
		Gertie Gitana	1

Collected by Marie Jones, 11s.

Chas. J. Purslow	1	C. B. Fountaine	1
Ernest Munro	1	Dolly Elsworthy	1
Harry Nelson	1	Chas. Bordellas	1
Tokio Kondo	1	John Richter	1
Marie Jones	1	Maud Kynnersley	1
Louis J. Overton	1		

Collected by Ruby Dahl, 4s.

Ada Terry	1	Ruby Dahl	1
Elma Morris	1	J. M. Julian	1

Collected by Mlle. Marjutti, 10s.

Bros. Bradshaw	2	Mother	½
Mlle. Marjutti	1	Father	½
Brother	1	Lissom Bill	1
Pat	1	J. Crawley	½
Convict 75	1	Anon.	½
A Friend	1	Will Hart	½

Collected by Mrs. George Formby, £1 10s.

Mrs. Hoy	1	Geo. Formby	1
Geo. Formby	1	Geo. Formby	1
Mrs. Formby	1	Geo. Formby	1
Louie Formby	1	Geo. Formby	1
Geo. Formby, jun.	1	Geo. Formby	1
John Willie (dog)	1	Geo. Formby	1
David Poole	1	Geo. Formby	1
A. E. Nicholls	1	Geo. Formby	1
Katie Butler	1	Geo. Formby	1
R. W. Plows	1	Geo. Formby	1
Geo. Formby	1	Geo. Formby	1
Geo. Formby	1	Geo. Formby	1
Geo. Formby	1	Geo. Formby	1
Geo. Formby	1	Geo. Formby	1
Geo. Formby	1	Geo. Formby	1

Collected by W. J. Churchill, £1 1s. 6d.

W. J. Churchill	9	G. Martinengo	1
Rolando Martin	2	J. H. L.	1
Gracie Grahame	2	H. C.	1
A. H. Robins	2	W. R.	1
Clifford Morgan	1	C. H. E. Pullner	½
Louie Lillian	1		

Collected by Maude A. Edwards, 10s.

Ted E. Box	5	B. H. B.	½
M. Edwards	3	E R. H.	½
Fred	1		

Collected by Daisy James, £2 2s.

Daisy James	2	J. R.	1
J. J.	2	W. C.	1
L. B.	1	G. H.	1
H. B.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

Penzance Fair.

We are glad to announce that the Penzance Fair dispute has been settled by mutual consent, all parties now being in perfect accord. The agreement as drawn up after the conference at the Penzance Town Hall on Jan. 26 last has been accepted by all the defendants, and judgment by consent will be now recorded in the High Court of Chancery and most costly litigation avoided. This end of the matter is one the Showmen's Guild has sought to ensure since the dispute began. It is highly gratifying to the Rev. T. Horne, who has been the peacemaker all through the long and difficult negotiations, to know that he has not laboured in vain. Great praise is due to Messrs. Hancock, Anderton and Rowland, and Brewer, the showmen defendants, for the loyal manner in which they supported the Guild Chaplain in the matter. Mr. Norton, hon. Guild agent for the West of England, also deserves recognition and hearty thanks for able and important work done, as the man on the spot, with inside knowledge of the Guild plan for a peaceful solution of the questions in dispute between the showmen and the Corporation.

Fellow Workers for Peace.

The Mayor of Penzance (Mr. A. K. Barnett) and the Town Clerk (Mr. T. H. Cornish) have in every way (consistent with their responsibilities to the ancient borough they so sedulously serve) aided the Guild Chaplain to settle the points at issue on broad and fair lines with justice to both sides. Again we say, "All's well that ends well," and we gladly chronicle the triumph of peace at Penzance.

The Defence of Bedford Fair.

The organising chaplain reported to the committee the steps taken by the Guild Executive Committee to defend Bedford Fair, now threatened with abolition. A discussion took place on the chaplain's report, in which Messrs. Ball, Turner, Wilson, Forrest, F. Gray, W. Le Neve, and F. Wilson took part. The outcome of the discussion was that the secretary was instructed to communicate with Messrs. Thurston and Sons, Biddall Bros., and other showmen directly interested in the preservation of Bedford Fair as to the necessary steps to be taken locally to rally the people of Bedford to defend their fair rights, threatened with extinction.

The Gipsy Crusade in Surrey.

On the secretary's report upon this matter, the vigilance of the Executive officials of the Guild was warmly approved. The necessity for still maintaining this attitude of watchfulness was insisted upon by the meeting, and the Executive officers were instructed to continue their precautionary work.

Guild subscriptions, 1909: Mr. C. Cain, 10s.; Mr. E. Searson, 5s.

Sinclair's Portable Theatre.

The Victoria Theatre, now in the third month of its visit to Bridgend, is doing excellent business, and among the most popular of the plays have been those of local origin, such as *The Maid of Cefn Ydfa*, *Twm Shon Catti*, and *The Cardiff Criminal*. Mrs. M. C. Sinclair, the proprietress, occasionally appears, and is always a favourite.

Guild members enrolled at Stockport Fair by Messrs. Hurst and Mercer: Messrs. Wm. Smith, M. Whatmore, A. Whatmore, J. Middlebrook, E. Whatmore, and C. Murphy. From Stockport the greater number of these entertainers will attend the Spring Fair at Palncroft and Hillkirk Street, Beswick, Manchester.

The Chittock Fund.

We acknowledge additional subscriptions to hand: Chiappi and Sons, £1; Mr. Roche, 2s. 6d. We have been informed that the generous help accorded to Mr. and Mrs. Chittock in their distress has enabled them to meet the difficult position in which they found themselves involved, owing to unfortunate circumstances, at the beginning of the year. It is a satisfaction to us to know that the response of their friends has been adequate and that Mr. and Mrs. Chittock, so highly esteemed in the showman world, have found so many sympathetic hearts ready to assist them in the time of their necessity.

Particular reference must be made to Mrs. E. J. Panton, of Torrington-square, W.C., who has taken so much pains, and of her kindly charity given so much time, to so deserving a cause.

We are quite sure the many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Chittock in the showman world will wish them, as we do, a successful season in the coming London pleasure fair round.

Notes from Wales.

The new skating-rink at Neath promises to be a good investment to the proprietors, Messrs. Mansel Griffiths, Mr. John Lloyd, Mr. B. P. Rees, and Mr. Chas. Reed. The management should try and arrange balcony seats for spectators at a nominal charge, which should prove a good asset.

The Late Mlle. Royal.

The funeral of the lady professionally known as "Mlle. Royal," described as the biggest woman in the world, weighing upwards of 32st., took place on the 11th inst., thousands of townspeople and others witnessing the procession as it left the residence of the deceased, 3, Caroline-street, and wended its way to the New Cemetery, where the interment took place. The coffin was of extraordinary dimensions, probably the largest ever seen in Cardiff. It was 6½ft. in length, 3ft. in breadth, and nearly 2ft. in depth, and the weight of the coffin and body—which were carried out of the house to the funeral car by fully a dozen employees of Messrs. Bostock and Wombwell and Mr. John Lloyd, who acted as bearers—was nearly 6cwt.

The chief mourners were Mr. J. H. Laubender (husband of the deceased), Mr. and Mrs. J. Priest, Mr. J. Lloyd, Mrs. Cousins, Mrs. Gaze, and Mr and Mrs. Scott, and amongst those who followed the remains to their last resting-place were a number of show-people from Bostock and Wombwell's Circus and other exhibitions in the town. The lid of the coffin was covered with handsome floral wreaths, placed thereon, amongst others, by Mr. Laubender, Mr. and Mrs. Grimple, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd, Mrs. Cousins, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. and Miss Gaze, Mr. and Mrs. J. Priest, and Mrs. Cohen.

The officiating clergyman at the cemetery was the Rev. Gilbert Heaton, M.A., vicar of St. Mary's. To receive the coffin, which was lowered into its last resting-place by means of eight pairs of strong webs, the grave had to be made practically double its usual size.

The deceased, who was a native of Birmingham, was about 48 years of age, and was described by Messrs. Barnum and Bailey, of whose great show she was one of the chief attractions for a considerable time, as the stoutest lady they had ever seen.

From the Midland Round.

Our Midland correspondent sends us news of the fair at Cradley Heath. The concerns are: P. Collins's great wonderland show, with up-to-date films and variety programme; the same firm's motor-car machine, the steam yachts, and the haunted house. The other entertainers are: Mrs. Hayes, with steam swings and overboats; variety stalls and throwing games by Messrs. Walton, Whyall, Harris, Wagstaffe, Cullin, Birch, Hayes, Dobson, Ford, and Humphries; and other minor amusements by various caterers.

RINKING GOSSIP.

It is now the fashion, the *Sunday Times* points out, for a smart young married hostess to collect her guests together for a skating party. At Earl's Court last week Lady Clementina Waring's guests included Hon. Mrs. Edward Stonor and her daughter, Miss Menda Ralli, who is likewise an adept either on the ordinary or the roller skate. Other frequenters of these now ultra-fashionable "rinks" are all the Crichton family, including Viscount and Lady Mary Crichton, Captain Hon. George Crichton, Hon. Gerald and Lady Evelyn Ward, and Lord and Lady Hugh Grosvenor. Lord Algernon Gordon Lennox may be seen in the fashionable crowd, always with his only daughter, Miss Ivy Gordon Lennox. Hon. Captain and Mrs. Wyndham are of the young married couples who skate much together. Lord and Lady Curzon during the short time they were up also patronised the roller rink. And others to be seen there have been the Hon. Walter and Lady Evelyn Guinness, Lord John Hamilton, Lord and Lady Guernsey, and Hon. Misses Fellowes, and Captain Duberly, the Earl of Gifford, and Captain Hon. George Monckton, with many other young officers in the Household Brigade.

As an indication of the popularity of the celebrated Richardson ball-bearing roller-skates, we learn from the manufacturers that they have equipped the following rinks recently with their skates:—Olympia (Manchester), Ltd., Manchester; White City, Manchester; Bostock's Hippodrome, Ipswich; the Pavilion, Wishaw, N.B.; Dudley Skating Rink, Dudley; Olympia Skating Rink, Scarborough; the Skating Rink, Harrogate; York-street Rink, Belfast; Lyric Hall, Morecambe; Victoria Hall, Lancaster; Central Pier, Blackpool; "Switzerland," Blackpool; Warrington Skating Rink, Warrington; Skating Rink, Blackburn; Skating Rink, Bury; Skating Rink, Burnley; Imperial Rink, Hanley, Staffs; Skating Rink, Wolverhampton.

The Empress Rink, Preston, is still increasing in popularity. Messrs. Broadhead keep adding new attractions, and on Friday last a most successful Cinderella was given, at which many of the "Bon Ton" were present. A Fancy Dress Carnival was to be given on the 19th inst., when unique prizes were to be presented, comprising books of tickets to the rink and promenade, &c.

"Carrie Nation," "David Garrick," and "The Heavenly Twins" got prizes at the Cromer Pier Skating Carnival last week. At Newcastle a costume described as "Half a man and half a woman" got an award.

Roller-skating has been commandeered for the relief of the rates at Bournemouth. The Town Council is considering several suggested sites for an open-air rink, the one at present finding most favour being on the Horse Shoe Common.

Rinkeries, Ltd., controlling the skateries at Aldwych, are operating rinks at St. Leonards, and will soon be opening places at Croydon, Leeds, Sheffield, Southampton, Exeter, Portsmouth, and Plymouth.

Messrs. Crawford and Wilkins will also build at Croydon. The site they have secured is immediately outside the main line L. B. and S. C. Railway Station at East Croydon. The building will be completed in a month from now.

The American Roller Skating Syndicate have entered into an agreement with the South-Eastern Railway Company to take over the St. Leonards Pier for a term of twenty-five years. A large open-air rink at the end of the Pier is now being built, and it is anticipated will be opened on May 15.

Earle Reynolds and Nellie Donegan are on their way to this country, and it is safe to say that their marvellous work on roller-skates will simply astound variety theatre audiences. Nothing like the turn presented by this team has ever before been seen in Britain. The two are beautifully costumed—the man in royal blue and gold, the lady in pale blue and silver.

Nothing seems too difficult for this couple, and dancing on roller-skates seems like A B C to them. Their programme includes:—"The Yankee Prince Waltz," "The Red Mill Schottische," "The Waltz Dream," "The Soul Kiss," "The Genee Waltz," "The Love Spell," and "The Tourbillon," concluding the act with what they term "The Human Musical Top," in which Miss Donegan plays a banjo whilst dancing on rollers, and finishes by a lightning whirl on her toes, playing all the time. Reynolds and Donegan were for eighteen months the great feature of Anna Held's *Parisian Model* musical comedy, which had such a vogue in the States.

Fifteen hundred skaters are often to be found on the rinking area at Whitworth Park, Manchester. This rink is to be taken to pieces and transferred to Weston-super-Mare for the summer. In the interval a handsome building is to be placed on the vacated site, and will be opened early in October.

EARLE REYNOLDS
AND
NELLIE DONEGAN,

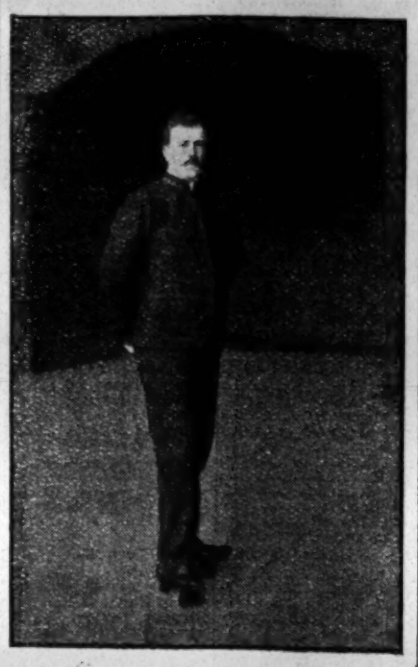
the Champion Skaters and Dancers, in one of their Musical Comedy Dance Hits, "The Yankee Prince." The American Press speak of them in big headliners as two of the most marvellous performers America has ever produced. They perform all the Musical Comedy Dance Hits as Gracefully on the Tricky Ball-bearing Rollers as most Dancers can execute them on the wooden shoes.

EARLE REYNOLDS and NELLIE DONEGAN

use exclusively the Famous Winslow Ball-bearing Roller Skates. The best action; fastest and most durable Skate made.

Quite the most popular rinking function of the many which have taken place this week was announced to be held at the Empress Hall, Earl's Court, last night, the occasion being the benefit of the popular and hustling manager, Mr. A. E. Court. The huge rink and annexes were specially and lavishly decorated for the occasion, and many well-known members of the variety world promised to be there.

The racing committee consisted of Messrs. Fred Ginnett, Hermann Darewski, Lester Barrett, Chas. Wilmott, Alfred Dove, Lloyd Langdon, Paul



MR. A. E. COURT.

Murray, Jesse Freeman, Bertie Shelton, Henry Gait, and Alfred Davies. Mr. F. H. Pedgrift acted as starter, the *Sporting Life* took the time, and Valentine Wallace, of the *Weekly Dispatch*, was referee.

It is said that the British take their pleasures sadly. However true it may be in some respects, it cannot truthfully be written about roller-skating carnivals, for in whatever part of the country one attends them they are far from being gloomy affairs. A brilliant function of its kind held recently was the one at the Palace, Blackpool, where, by the way, many members of "the profession" are always to be found. Nearly 300 revellers took part in this carnival, under the superintendence of Messrs. George Harrop and Fred Waller.

The judges were Messrs. Cyril Chantler, C. Furness, and G. J. Beaton, and Mmes. Ireland, Pickup, and Tomlinson, and their tasks of selection were far from being sinecures, as anyone who scans the list of fancy dresses present may judge. Who, for instance, shall say that a D'Artagnan is superior to a Captain Kettle, and who would wager even a bad shilling as to the chances of a Servian brigand against a bushranger, to say nothing about the time when the charms of a Schoolgirl are pitted against a Daughter of the Regiment?

Seven weeks ago an old residence stood on the site which is now known as Olympia, Rusholme Rink, Manchester. There are 23,000ft. of floor space in this rink. It will remain open until Whitsuntide.

Forty years ago roller skating was first introduced to Taunton at the London Hotel Assembly Rooms. Last week the Victoria Rooms were opened by Mr. Ernest Claridge as an up-to-date rink. At Leicester the rink is managed by the world's chmpion figure skater, R. J. Aginton. This gentleman was, when roller skating was so popular some years since, the manager of the old Floral Hall in the town.

Exeter is to fall into line with other big and small centres, and have its rink. Rinkeries, Ltd., has taken over the Victoria Hall for three seasons, and the "Baltimore Flyer" skate will be used by frequenters there.

The new Harrogate Skating Rink was completed thirty days after the first brick was laid, and twenty-six after the ironwork arrived. It was opened last Saturday, and has been thronged at every session held since. The rapidity with which this rink was built far exceeds anything previously done in the district, and the Harrogate folk have not quite recovered from their astonishment yet. It is intended to keep the rink open continuously, no matter what the season or the weather.

The American Roller Rink Company have acquired a site at the corner of Addiscombe and Cherry Orchard-roads, Croydon, for the erection of a hall to be used for roller-skating. This same company were the promoters of the successful skating season at Olympia, and have no fewer than thirty-two halls in England devoted to this sport. The hall to be erected in Croydon will have a skating surface of about 100ft. by 300ft., and the floor will be of maple wood laid down in narrow strips, this having been found to make a perfect rink. Building will be started almost immediately, and the hall will be in readiness for the anticipated thousands on Sept. 1.

It is some years since we have seen Chevalier Crowther, the skater, in England. Since 1875 he has spent most time on the Continent, and he has appeared before most crowned heads of Europe, and quite recently he received a charming gift and sympathetic letter from our gracious Queen. He has been a model to other skaters for some years, and is now booked for an extensive rinking tour in England before returning to Mexico and South America.

On the evening of the 14th inst. about 3,000 guests accepted the invitation of the Huddersfield Rinking Company to attend the opening of their new Roller Skating Rink, which is a fine example of what may be called "hustling." In three weeks the building has been built, completed, and opened to the waiting public. On the opening night the scene was really brilliant, the enormous skating surface, covering, as it does, nearly 15,000 square feet, being thronged with rinkers, expert and otherwise, who showed the keenest enjoyment in the exercise.

Roller-skating is likely to prove a great attraction at Bath, as elsewhere, Rinking, Ltd., having fitted up the large Drill Hall for the purpose, a start being made last Wednesday, with every token of success.

The fifth rink has been opened in Blackpool, and the sixth is in course of construction.

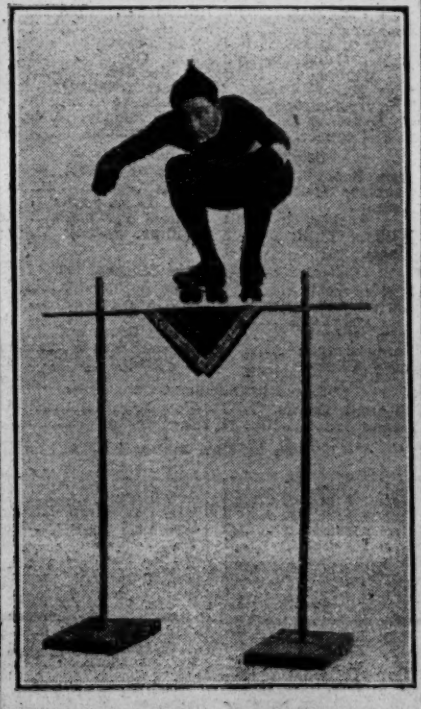
The new rink at Portobello covers the site of an old open-air real-ice skating rink, which was in use twenty-four years ago. This rink, privately owned, consisted of a shallow pond into which an inch or so of water was introduced and allowed to freeze.

Mr. John Davidson's exhibition of trick and fancy skating is undoubtedly the finest ever seen in this country. Nothing seems too difficult for him to do. He pirouettes upon his toes as easily as a Genée, waltzes and schottisches and polkas, and then does a running jump over a hurdle.

"Jawn" belongs to a family of skaters, and not one of them remembers the day he or she learned the pastime. He has two sisters and three brothers—all-round athletes all. What one can do the other can also accomplish. "Jawn" includes in his list of accomplishments boxing, cycling rowing, golfing, horseriding, shooting, swimming, and ice and roller skating. His sister Mabel is the champion lady skater of America Papa Davidson was a journalist of St. Paul, Minnesota, and owned rinks himself.

PALACE, BLACKPOOL, SKATING RINK.

"Jawn's" coat is smothered in medals—gold silver, bronze, and even diamond-studded ones. One has great difficulty, in fact, in getting a glimpse of the cloth, so closely pinned together are these records of victory in all parts of the world, for be it known he has raced since he was ten years



[*Photo by Sarony.*

PROF. JOHN F. DAVIDSON.

of age. "Jawn" has 163 separate figures in his répertoire, is the only man in the world who does figure-skating on stilts, and his wonderful jump (of which we publish a snapshot photograph) of 3ft. 9½in. on skates over a horizontal bar constitutes a world's record.

(*For other Rink Gossip see page* 18.)

THE GUILD AND THE MITCHAM UNEMPLOYED.

The Guild Divisional Committees.

In accordance with the scheme for popularising the Showmen's Guild, inaugurated two years ago, divisional committees were formed. The intention of the Executive Council in thus delegating part of their powers to local committees was a twofold one. First, as we have said, to popularise the Guild by inducing the showmen in the different centres of show life in Great Britain to take part in and to thus understand its work better. The second object was to give local autonomy with full responsibility to the divisional committees for the carrying through of local defence work, this, of course, meaning the necessary financing of such movements by the people immediately concerned. In this way the central Executive Council would be relieved of a great deal of purely local business, and could devote itself more thoroughly to the constantly increasing branch of Guild work—the vindication of the show business whenever assailed by Corporations or by private Bill legislation.

The London Divisional Committee.

For the past three years a great deal of the Guild work has been concerned with the defence of Mitcham Fair, and looking after the interests, wherever threatened, of the show business of the Metropolitan district. The present committee for London is a very strong and representative one. A meeting to discuss extremely important business took place at *The Era* offices (in a room kindly lent for that purpose by the manager, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, hon. treasurer for the London district), and was numerously attended. Amongst those present were Messrs. Alf. Ball (chairman), F. H. Pedgrift, F. Turner, S. Forrest, H. Forrest, W. Wilson, J. Manders, F. Gray, R. Clasper, T. Knighton, W. Le Neve, G. Saunders, F. Wilson, J. Chittock, Mrs. Chittock, Mrs. W. Taylor, and Miss Taylor.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The hon. chaplain and organiser, the Rev. T. Horne, reported his work with regard to the defence of Mitcham Fair. He referred to the lengthy correspondence he had had with the Conservators of the Mitcham Commons (fully reported in the "Showman World" columns of *The Era* week by week). He briefly outlined the fighting policy of the Guild to preserve the popular rights of Mitcham people in their ancient fair. He expressed a confident hope that the fair would be saved, and that either on its old site—the Fair Green—it would be continued, or, by consent of the authorities concerned, it would be removed to a more commodious site on the people's commons.

The Last Fight for one of London's Ancient Fairs.

It was perfectly true, he told them, that the great fairs of London had been abolished. But since the abolition of these great fairs London had spread out in ever-widening circles and had absorbed many ancient towns and villages. This was particularly so of London on the Surrey border. London had stretched out to Mitcham, and Mitcham had become an interesting and popular suburb of the Metropolis. Had the showmen of Great Britain been organised forty or fifty years earlier there is no doubt that London would have preserved many of its great fairs. The fight for Mitcham Fair was more than a local trouble: it had become the battlefield for the indication of the rights of London showpeople, and upon the issue of the fight there matters of great moment to the permanence of the show business in London depended. He therefore appealed to that committee—representing in a certain degree the tenants of Mitcham Fair, yet in the larger degree representing the whole of the interests of the Metropolitan district—to rally to the support of the Mitcham tenants, for a defeat at Mitcham would, in his opinion, be the signal for the objectors to fairs in the London district to take further steps to hamper and hinder the amusement caterers of London in carrying on their business, whether at local fairs at present recognised or on private ground organised by the enterprises of individual showmen lessees.

At the end of the committee's proceedings, the Rev. T. Horne warmly commended to the generous consideration of the showmen present the very hard case of the unemployed of Mitcham. He pointed out that owing to the limitations of the Unemployment Act, districts like Mitcham, that were not as yet absorbed within the boundaries of their greater neighbours, were excluded by the wording of the Act from receiving a single penny from the large sum of money granted a year ago to the Local Government Board to relieve the distress of the unemployed.

His various visits to Mitcham, his own personal observation of the distress there, and his intercourse with a number of its public men, had put him in possession of the proof of the great distress and the urgency for help from other than merely local sources. It was a matter of extreme regret to him that the poor people of Mitcham, who had so enthusiastically fought for the maintenance of their fair, should be suffering (from no fault of their own) keen distress from lack of employment.

A typical instance of the dire distress in the district has come to our knowledge. A man applied for relief. He had just buried one child, and had two other children lying dead in the house, and had no means of burying them, the causes of death being inability of the poor fellow to provide food and proper necessaries for his children.

He ventured to ask the chairman to move that a benevolent grant of five guineas be given to the Mitcham committee dealing with the distress. He was quite confident that the showmen present (proverbially responsive to every appeal for sweet charity's sake) would subscribe to the fund thus started by the Guild for the benefit of the poor out-of-works of Mitcham.

The Subscription Started.

In commendatory speeches, Mr. Ball moved, and Mr. Wm. Wilson seconded, a grant of five guineas from the Benevolent Fund to head the subscription list. The following is the total amount subscribed before the meeting separated:—Grant from the Guild, £5 5s.; Mr. J. Manders, £3 3s.; Rev. T. Horne, £1 1s.; Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, £1 1s.; Mr. A. Ball, £1 1s.; Mr. R. Clasper, £1 1s.; Messrs. Forrest Bros., £1 1s.; Mr. Wm. Wilson, £1 1s.; Mr. F. Gray, £1 1s.; Mr. T. Knighton, 10s. 6d.; Mr. G. Saunders, 10s. 6d.

Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, of *The Era*, kindly undertook to act as treasurer to the Guild fund for the unemployed of Mitcham. He will gladly receive further subscriptions, which will be acknowledged in the Showman's World page of *The Era*. We draw particular attention to the words of the Guild Chaplain given above, and we commend this extremely deserving fund to the generous support of our readers.

Another Booming Success.

The Secretary to the British Roundabout Proprietors and Showmen's Union, Mr. T. Hurst, has scored another managerial triumph at Stockport Spring Fair, held under the full control of the Union. The big shows included Kemp's cinematograph theatre, Sedgwick's mammoth menagerie, Bennett's exhibition, Prof. Vallo's booth, and P. Collins's haunted castle. The high-class machine novelties were the sets of the local showmen, Messrs. Hibbert and Sons, racing birds and hurdle leapers, John Green's motor-cars, Mitchell's prime porkers, and John Collins's Brooklyn cake-walk machine. Juvenile machine sets by S. Mercer, J. Cordwell, and Humphreys. Hoop-la circles by H. J. Wallis, Sedgwick, J. White, and W. Smith. Swings by Hibbert and Sons and Moore.

Varieties, throwing games, and other attractions in great display, were provided by (amongst others) Messrs. Clough, Cordwell, E. Brennan, the Whatmore Family, the Cordwell Family, the Middlebrook Family, and Lynch.

FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Pathé Frères.

TOT AT THE MASKED BALL.—This is a very amusing film. Tot is a big chimpanzee, very independent and good-natured. After the performance, Tot breaks away from the booth at the fair, bent on enjoyment. Meeting a policeman, he thinks he would like to put on his uniform, and in a wink he has taken from the constable what parts of his attire he requires and puts them on. Then he resumes his walk, and arriving in front of a house which he sees several masked people enter, he follows suit. His appearance in the drawing-room is very much noticed and commented upon. His behaviour is so shocking, however, for he throws things about and breaks the crockery, after jumping on the furniture, that he is shown the door. Chased by the guests, he takes refuge in the bed of an old lady in a neighbouring house, who covers herself up in her blankets in her fear. Tot, seeing that his enemies are coming after him, escapes through the chimney flue, while the distracted old woman, having been mistaken for the miscreant, is dragged out into the street, where she would have been lynched had not somebody spied Tot peacefully enjoying the show from his high position on the roof.

THE MULE-DRIVER'S DAUGHTER.—The mule-driver's daughter and her sweetheart are standing at the foot of the Calvary, where the girl tries to make him promise to be faithful to her for ever and anon. He laughs, jokes, and at last consents to pledge his faith, which, after all, can be broken when he likes. After seeing her home he goes to the inn where the mule-driver is busy counting his money. At sight of the gold, the young man's eyes glisten with envy, and his face shows plainly that his thoughts are not good. When the mule-driver rides away, the lad runs through short cuts to a place the elder man is sure to pass, and lies in wait there for his victim. A shot is heard, and the traveller, thrown from his saddle, falls on the ground, the murderer taking his purse from him and jumping over his prostrate body, disappears behind a rock. The mule, arriving home alone, makes the driver's daughter very anxious, and she starts at once with the ostler in search of her father, whom they find just in time for him to denounce his murderer before expiring. The murderer is surprised in the operation of counting his booty in front of his hut by his former sweetheart, who, taking justice into her own hands, shoots him.

THE BLUE LEGEND.—Maryvonne, the Breton wife of Fantec, the fiddler, whose fame spreads from Brest to Quimper, is going to market. She walks briskly in the lovely country air. Suddenly she is assaulted by two tramps, who throw her on the ground and leave her senseless, after first robbing her. A peasant woman seeing her thus prostrate, goes to a stone quarry, not far off, where Fantec is working, and acquaints him with the accident. The poor husband has his dear wife conveyed home, and he sits in her room, playing to her his sweetest and most harmonious tunes. This awakens the patient from her semi-torpor, and she lifts herself up a little, her arms stretched out to the musician. This last effort is too much for her, however, and she falls back dead. Fantec, a madman by now, wanders about the moor, playing his violin. Sometimes the vision of Maryvonne appears to him among fantastic surroundings, till at last he expires while playing one of his most doleful tunes.

IT IS SANDY'S FAULT.—Drythroat asks his friend Sandy to come and choose a bouquet for him to give to his wife for her birthday. They select a superb palm-tree, and in order to thank his friend for his trouble Drythroat offers him a glass of wine at the next café. One politeness calls for another, so they drink a second glass. At last, when they resume their walk, they are very unsteady indeed, and the plant rocks to and fro in their hands. Drythroat tumbles down on top of the palm-tree, half dead with liquor. Seeing this, his friend goes and warns the "missus," who pushes her incorrigible husband into the pool, whose cold water is likely to sober him immediately.

HARRY WISHES TO BE A HOOLIGAN.—Harry has tried his hand at every trade, without success, it must be said, for he has a strong disposition to laziness, which causes him to be thrown out of employment every other day or so. He is now walking on the outskirts of a large city, and the sight of two hooligans counting their money makes him wish to join them. The rascals accept him as a recruit and put him to the test. Harry receives a well-earned thrashing from a civilian whom he tries to rob, and goes back to his accomplices empty-handed. The two give him four pounds in advance on the money he must now steal from a safe in a certain house. The would-be hooligan sneaks inside the building, but just as he is beginning his work he is disturbed by the arrival of a man who comes to cash a bill for four pounds. In order to get rid of the intruder Harry pays the bill with his own money, then he sets to work in earnest. The safe only yields a pair of boots. Harry, scared by a noise coming from the next room, exits through the chimney, and then from the roof down into a servant's room. Seeing a bundle in the corner, he throws it down to his accomplices lying in wait outside, and is preparing to make a second bundle when approaching footsteps on the landing make him start violently. Not knowing what to do, he wraps himself up in the sheet he has spread on the floor and waits. The maid enters with a porter, whom she instructs to take away the bundle; the man lifts it, and makes it go the quickest way—through the window. Harry, bruised and repentant, goes back to his former master.

THE GENERAL'S FIANCÉE.—General Bombardo summons his family to his house in order to acquaint them with the fact that he is going to marry the charming Baroness Uglyt; but Herbert, his nephew, wishes to inherit, and while his parents retire, very disappointed it must be said, Herbert hides behind a curtain in order to think out his plan. Cuckoo, the orderly, is now blacking his master's boots, and while he turns his back Herbert fills them with paper. The General, after several attempts, succeeds in putting them on, but they feel very tight indeed. Limping very uncomfortably, he repairs to the house of his beloved, followed by Cuckoo and the bouquet bought for her. On the way, however, he is obliged to take off his boots, sitting on Cuckoo on all fours. But just before he reaches his goal he does his best to put them on again; a dreadful pain in his toes stops him at every step. Herbert, after skirting a bush, places himself behind the Baroness's easy-chair, and drives a fish-hook into her wig. Then, just as the General is offering his flowers as graciously as he can, Herbert pulls the string attached to the hook, and the wig disappears behind the bush. The astounded General leaves as quickly as his sore feet will allow, whereas his fiancée has a fit of hysterics. Herbert finds himself at the door, and, bidding his uncle take off his boots, he examines them carefully, and triumphantly produces the crumpled paper. The General is furious, and his rage is turned against the orderly, while Herbert is assured by his uncle himself that he will be his sole heir.

Gaumont Company.

GUARDS' MOTOR RUN.—The Gaumont Co.'s operators secured the use of a racing motor-car for this journey, so that they should have had no difficulty in keeping up with the "fleet" of cars conveying the forces. Pictures from high-speed motor-cars, as we know from those taken on the Brooklands track, are always interesting, and the Gaumont views appear not unlikely to include some exciting incidents.

Edison Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

THE LANDLADY'S PORTRAIT.—In the ranks of those who strive for the advancement of art, the lot of the poor artist is generally one of trials and tribulations. Signor Daub, an Italian artist, has neglected to pay his room rent for some weeks. How he has evaded payment for so long a period, considering the feline instincts of his landlady, can only be conjectured. His long road of successful evasion has its turn when she suddenly appears and demands payment. A tramp, who is hiding behind a screen, sees the artist's dilemma, and suggests behind the landlady's back that the artist paint her picture in lieu of rent. The landlady, flattered at the artist's admiration of her beauty, agrees to an immediate sitting, to the discomfiture of the tramp. The disgusted artist sticks manfully to his task. The minister calls. The maid announces him. The landlady, after admiring her portrait, leaves the room, while the buxom servant girl lingers. The jubilant artist enters and hugs and kisses her. The tramp attempts to join in, only to find himself sprawling on the floor. Not satisfied, she chases him with a paint-brush. He hides behind the easel. She makes a lunge at him and daubs the landlady's portrait. The picture is ruined. The artist is in despair. The landlady is coming with the minister, and the artist and tramp find refuge on the roof. The landlady sees her damaged portrait, and breathes vengeance. She follows the others, and appears over the ledge with a club. The artist falls through the skylight into the studio, and hides in the chimney-place. The tramp falls down the chimney, and both roll out on the floor. The landlady enters the studio, and is captured, tied, and placed in the chimney, and the artist and tramp then make good their escape.

THE JANITOR'S BOTTLE.—"I wish him luck and happiness," said the janitor, as he opened the bottle of "Old Rye" sent as a present from his brother Jerry. As he is about to drink the maid warns him of the mistress's approach, and he hides the bottle in a desk drawer. Much to his disgust he is sent out to post a letter, and in his absence Mr. Biggs, while looking for a paper, finds the bottle, and thinks it is one he has forgotten. While partaking of a nip his little daughter surprises him, and asks what he is doing. He tells her he takes it for gout, and he illustrates the malady by limping around. Getting rid of her, he tries again, but this time he is interrupted by a poet, who wants to marry his daughter. Biggs, upset, uses little ceremony, and soon gets rid of him. The bottle, however, has to be hidden rather hurriedly owing to the entrance of Mrs. Biggs and gouty grandpa. Going for a ride, Mr. and Mrs. Biggs leave their little daughter, who, while playing battledore, falls on grandpapa's gouty leg, and, feeling sorry, brings him papa's medicine. The remedy suits grandpapa, and he decides to keep it for himself. Labelling it "poison," he hides it behind Miss Biggs' picture, and goes off to sleep. The poet enters, and before ending his existence he goes to take a long last look at his beloved one's picture, when he discovers the poison. This is a better way to die; but Miss Biggs discovers him, and her screams bring help. The janitor recognises his bottle, goes for the poet, down comes the chandelier on grandpapa's leg, and the poet is hustled out of the house rather roughly.

W. Butcher and Sons, Ltd.

This firm is about to issue film subjects of their own production. Large and extensive grounds have been procured at Lee, in Kent, on which spacious dark-room accommodation has been erected, fitted with an up-to-date plant capable of an output of 40,000 feet per day. The grounds are particularly suitable for the taking of film subjects, there being a variety of natural scenery already at hand covering a large area of which Messrs. W. Butcher and Sons, Ltd., have secured exclusive possession.

Day and electric light studios and dressing-rooms are in course of erection, and will be completed in about two weeks, every convenience being provided for the taking of cinematograph subjects of every possible description. In addition to subjects of their own production, accommodation is available for the rapid output of industrial and advertising films and the developing and publishing of customers' own negatives.

During the past few months valuable and unique subjects have been procured in readiness for early publication upon completion of the works, and particulars will be issued in due course. All subjects produced will be known as the "Empire" films, and every effort will be made to maintain the high quality of work of which Messrs. Butcher and Sons have already secured recognition in other branches of the industry.

A FINE selection of pictures is shown at the Picture Hall, Willenhall, this week. The most interesting are Western Justice, A Roman Campaign, and The Hunchback's Vengeance.

MISS ENA RICHARDS, writing from Great Yarmouth, complains, very justly, of the muddle made with her luggage while she was travelling from Warrington to Great Yarmouth. Worse than all, when she eventually received her two baskets at about 1.30 on Monday she found that one had been tampered with. A bundle of letters had been scattered, a work-basket ransacked, and four rings taken. The baggage was left behind at Manchester.

THERE was a gala performance at the Palace on Wednesday afternoon in honour of the officers and men of the Russian squadron now lying off Portsmouth. The theatre was decorated inside and out with trophies of flags, in which the Russian colours of red, black, and white were contrasted effectively with the red, white, and blue of the Union Jack. In the audience were Prince Georges Chirvochidze, Prince Mirski, the Baron and Baroness Menzendorff, Countess Olga Heiden, Major-General Termoloff (military attaché), Captain Behr, C.V.O. (naval attaché), and the Russian Chargé d'Affaires. Admiral Litvizoff and Sir John Fisher were in one of the boxes. The entertainment included the performances of Howard and Harris, in *The Adventures of a Happy Tramp;* the Palace Girls, with their spirited skipping-rope dance; Carlton, the comic card manipulator, with his droll and clever tricks; Miss Maud Allan, with dances illustrating Chopin's (a) Valse in A minor, (b) Mazurka in B flat, Mendelssohn's "Spring Song," Chopin's "Marche Funèbre," Rubinstein's "Valse Caprice," and the famous "Vision of Salomé"; the wonderful "Kinemacolour" films, with incidental music by Herman Finck; Laroche, with his grotesque juggling performance; Arthur Prince and his sailor boy "Jim"; and the Urbanora Bioscope, with its beautiful pictures of interesting and topical events.

FORTUNES ARE BEING MADE
WITH THE
JOHNSON-BURNS
FIGHT FILM.

THIS WEEK'S BOOKINGS.—EMPIRE, SHOREDITCH, London—Pontypridd—Abertillery—Chesterfield—MANCHESTER—LIVERPOOL—BRISTOL—LEEDS—Blackburn—Hartlepool—Wakefield—St. Helens—PLYMOUTH—Lancaster—PORTSMOUTH—NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

NEXT WEEK—
EVERY AVAILABLE COPY BOOKED.

Two or three copies still free for April 5 (GOOD FRIDAY WEEK) and April 12 (EASTER WEEK), BUT YOU MUST HURRY UP IF YOU WANT THEM.

The Greatest Fight in History is shown from Start to Finish.

MORE PRESS PLAUDITS.

The Glasgow Evening Times, March 9, says:—"The films are quite the finest ever exhibited in the city, showing in a realistic manner every phase in the great contest; so realistic are they that the spectators are constrained to mark their appreciation just as if the actual contest were in progress. The pictures, as was to be expected, attracted packed houses."

The Glasgow Daily Record, March 9, says:—"The enterprise of the management in securing such an expensive attraction was amply rewarded last night, for there were crowded audiences at both performances."

Glasgow Daily Herald, March 9, says:—"There were remarkable audiences at both houses last night."

Liverpool Evening Express says:—"Audience large and enthusiastic."

Encore says:—"Drawing great crowds at the Coliseum, Glasgow."

Bradford Telegraph.—"Many will be glad of a second visit."

Western Daily Press, Bristol.—"The interest it attracts is evidenced by the large audiences to be seen at the hall."

There's Still a Chance for YOU,

But don't grumble at us if THE OTHER MAN in your town makes a BETTER OFFER than you, and gets the

JOHNSON-BURNS
FIGHT FILM.

THE NEXT BOOM—CANVAS CITIES.

We have received the following from a Birmingham correspondent: The warm-weather season will soon be here, and no doubt entertainment caterers are wondering where the new "money-making" venture is coming from. Who can compare with the man who has the courage of his own convictions? Americans threaten to go to the front because when they have the conviction that a thing will go they do not hesitate to risk. Who, then, is prepared to seize the golden opportunity for commencing a new boom in England?

There are thousands of Territorial recruits who have never been under canvas, and they crave for a preparatory experience of camp life; and there are thousands of young men fascinated with the simple life in the country. But where are the camps on an extensive scale near our big industrial centres to appeal to the thousands of young men during the spring and summer? Seeing that the holiday camps at several seaside resorts have proved such profitable investments, it is safe to assume that there is great scope for development of the scheme inland, particularly in the Midlands. Within seven miles of Birmingham Town Hall there is an excellently-situated camp in its infancy, and the time is ripe for extending it. Twenty up-to-date tents are on the ground, together with specially-laid bowling-greens, four tennis courts, cricket pitches, and an open-air bath, through which there is a continual flow of fresh water. In addition, there are an institute and a big, splendidly-ventilated room suitable for a gymnasium. In short, the groundwork for a big concern has been laid, and the prospects are bright. The Territorial boom alone justifies a great development; but operations must be commenced while the iron is hot. The co-operation of a "live" man with a *small* capital is necessary.

MISS JEANNIE HOLMES, who has been dangerously ill for some weeks, is on the road to recovery, and hopes to be at work again shortly.

BY special request of Miss Margaret Cooper, Miss Florry Cooper henceforth will be known as Florence Cooper.

BEATIE AND BABS, two young artists, have made a decided hit at the Palace Theatre with their entertainment, in which they display much versatility and cleverness.

THE Great John Clempert is still continuing to enjoy his London success. His escape from a locked tank into a boiler of hot water, from which he escapes after being padlocked with eight locks and two lids, is one of the most thrilling feats that has been produced during the twentieth century. He stages his act as a military episode, showing an escape and surrender from a condemned cell, taken from his life's experience in Russia about ten years ago. The escape from the Siberian torture jacket takes him just about twenty seconds. He has a fine fit-up, and all his assistants are dressed in Russian uniforms.

THE Liverpool music halls are being frequently used on behalf of charity. Only recently a big benefit was held at the Olympia to aid the funds of the Food and Betterment Association, and now the announcement is made that the sum of £330 was realised. On Tuesday a great matinée took place in the Hippodrome for the benefit of the theatrical and other charities among which the funds of the annual football gala are divided. Since its inauguration twenty years ago the theatrical gala has raised over £14,000. The Tuesday event was on a large scale, and scores of variety artists came forward and offered their services. Among these was Billy Merson, the new comedian from the Pavilion, whose work aroused such enthusiasm that he found some difficulty in leaving the stage. General thanks were passed to the management, staff, orchestra, and all who had given their services.

EDISON FILMS

The Subjects for these Films

ARE SELECTED WITH GREAT CARE,

And acted throughout by Talented People.

They are never Ordinary, and range from thrilling MELODRAMA to brisk, lively COMEDY.

ORDERS NOW BEING TAKEN FOR FUTURE DELIVERY FROM THE FACTORY, ORANGE, N.J., U.S.A., for

THE LANDLADY'S PORTRAIT.

Signor Daub, unable to pay his rent, offers to paint his landlady's portrait. During sitting Minister calls. In absence, servant accidentally spoils picture, which enrages landlady. Vowing vengeance, she causes exciting situations.

No. 6424. Code, "Venges." Length, 585ft.

THE JANITOR'S BOTTLE.

Disturbed whilst having a drop, Janitor hides bottle. Master finds, and tries it. Tells his girl it is a gout cure. Girl gives it Grandpa, who labels it "Poison." Disappointed suitor discovers it—decides to die. His efforts result in trouble with Janitor and others.

No. 6425. Code, "Vengeurs." Length, 405ft.

New Subjects made each week.

Write for Descriptive Circulars.

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City Showroom—25, CLERKENWELL-ROAD, E.C.

REVISED SCALE OF CHARGES FOR

ARTISTS WANTING ENGAGEMENTS, MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

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The Publisher,
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"Ring-up," 4747 or 1433 Central.

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COMPANIES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE AND EDWARD COMPTON'S THEATRES.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for
THEATRE ROYAL, BRIGHTON.
May 10, 17, 24, 31, June 7, Aug. 23, Sept. 6, 13, on.
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.
May 31, June 7, Aug. 2, 16, 23, Sept. 6, 13, 27, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING.
May 17, 31, June 7, 14, Aug. 2, Sept. 6, 13, 20, Oct. 4, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER,
May 10, 24, 31, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Sept. 6, Oct. 4, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
May 24, Aug. 30, Sept. 20, Nov. 1. Dec. 13, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON,
May 10, 17, 24, 31, Aug. 2, 9, 23, Sept. 6, 20, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD
May 17, 31, Aug. 2, 23, 30, Sept. 6, 13, 20, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON,
May 10, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, Sept. 20, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER,
May 24, June 21, Aug. 9, Sept. 20. Oct. 4, 11, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON,
April 5, 22 (three nights).
Address, Milton Bode, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for
COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD.
April 12, 19, May 24, 31, August 2, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON,
April 5, 12 (certainty only), 19, May 10, 24, 31.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.
Vacant March 29, April 12, onwards (no Dramas).
Address, E. G. Falcon, County Theatre, Bedford

WANTED, First-class Attraction, Theatre Royal, Canterbury, April 12 (three nights).
Address, E. G. Falcon, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, Special Attraction, Theatre Royal, Canterbury, Aug. 19 (three nights), Australians v. Kent.
Address, E. G. Falcon, County Theatre, Bedford.

THREE PROGRESSIVE THEATRES.
WANTED, High-class Companies,
DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE,
May 3 (?), 10, 17, 24 (3 nights).
Thanks numerous offers Easter,
Booked "An Englishman's Home."
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS.
May 3, 10, June 7, on.
PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE.
June 7, on.
Apply for all above,
H. W. Rowland, Theatre, Folkestone.

WANTED, First-class Attractions Only,
THEATRE ROYAL, BOURNEMOUTH.
April 5 (four nights and matinée only), July 5.
GRAND THEATRE, SOUTHAMPTON,
July 12, 19.
Apply, F. Mouillot,
1, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

WANTED, First-class Attractions,
for the following dates:
April 5, April 19, April 26,
May 3, May 10, May 17, May 24.
Apply, Mr. Robert Arthur, 24a, Regent-st., S.W.

WANTED, First-class Attractions,
Theatre Royal, Glasgow,
April 26.
Address all communications, Lyceum, Edinburgh.

THE QUEEN'S THEATRE, DUBLIN.
Sole Proprietor and Patentee,
F. W. Marriott Watson.
Rebuilt and Enlarged.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Autumn, onwards. Booked in conjunction with T. R., Belfast.
Address,
F. W. Marriott Watson, Queen's Theatre.

HER MAJESTY'S OPERA H, BLACKPOOL.
WANTED, First-class Companies,
April 26,
June 7, 21, and 28.
Applications to Jno. R. Huddlestone, Gen.-Man.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, First-class Attractions,
May 10 and 24.
Now Booking Autumn.
Address, T. Allan Edwardes.

NEW THEATRE, WEYMOUTH.
This building is now complete, and admitted to be one of the finest and most complete Theatres in the Provinces. The whole of the Stage fittings carried out under the direction of Experts.
Capable of taking £120 at ordinary prices.
WANTED, First-class Companies only, April and May onwards, including Whit.
All communications, Walter R. Wallis,
London representatives, Messrs. Jay and Mann, 10 and 11, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
WANTED, First-class Attractions,
April 26 (?),
May 17, 24, 31.

James Bell.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLCHESTER.
WANTED, Good Companies, May 10, 17, 24, June 21 (Pageant week), Aug. 9, 16, 30, Sept. 20, 27, Oct. 11, 18, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 29, Dec. 6, 13, and Xmas. Macdona.

WANTED, First-class Companies only, March 29, April 26, and onwards with exceptions. Silence a polite negative. Manager, Grand Theatre, Blackpool.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for April 19 and onwards, with exceptions. Required, Sound Attraction for Aug. 2 (Bank Holiday).
Address, Thos. Swinton.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.
April 5, Vacant.
WANTED, First-class Company, for above Date.
Wire, Fred Fredericks.

VAN BIENE'S NEW TIVOLI THEATRE, BLACKPOOL.
Sole Proprietor and Lessee,
Mr. Auguste Van Biene.

WANTED, for Opening Week (Easter), First-class Musical Attraction, Good Musical Comedy, or refined Entertainment à la Follies. No Drama.

Apply, Gilbert Heron,
16 Deanery-road, Maryland Point, E.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies

ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH
Vacant March 29, April 5, 19, onward with exceptions.

All communications re dates,
Arthur Carlton, Theatre, Worcester.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant July 5, 12, 19, 26, onward, with exceptions.

EMPIRE, WORCESTER.
See "Music Hall Artists Wanted" Column.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant April 12, May 31, June 7, 14, onward, with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME, BARRY DOCK.
Vacant Aug. 2, Dec. 20, Feb. 21, onward, with exceptions.

The Three Great Pantomime Successes,
"BABES IN THE WOOD," Jan. 17, onward.
"CINDERELLA," Dec. 27, onward.
"PUSS IN BOOTS," Dec. 27, onward.

Can also arrange Production dates for next season for the above.

All communications,
Arthur Carlton,
Theatre, Worcester.

Telegrams: "Carlton, Worcester."

THE GRANVILLE THEATRE, LIMITED.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, Companies,
Wanted,
Wire for March 29,
Wire for March 29,
Wire for March 29,
Also Vacant April 5, and on.
Address,
Fred Granville, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.
Owing to the excellent business now being done, the season will be prolonged until Whit Week.
WANTED, Companies, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 (Whit Week, Musical Attraction), and June 7 (Yeomanry Week); also Drama, twice nightly, March 29 (?).

DUMFRIES AND HAWICK.
Vacant April 12 and 26.

The above are the only vacancies this season.

W. Payne Seddon, Theatre Royal, Loughborough.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions,
April 5 (Whit Week), July 5, and on.
Bookings include Mr. George Edwardes' "Merry Widow," "The Christian" (New Version), "A Royal Divorce," "Miss Hook of Holland," "The Prodigal Son," "Sunday," "The Cingalee," "The Flag Lieutenant," &c., &c.
The Theatre has been beautifully redecorated and upholstered, and is now one of the most Charming and Up-to-date Theatres in the Country.
Address,
Chas. M. Julian, General-Manager,
March 22, Opera House, Torquay.

EMPIRE AND THEATRE ROYAL, HYDE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions. Pop. 33,000; surrounding district 60,00.
Comes., W. Turner, Regent, Salford.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, Holiday Monday, April 5 (three or six nights), April 12, 19, 26. W. E. Potts.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, BLYTH-BY-SEA.
WANTED, Powerful Musical and Dramatic Attractions, for April 5 and 19, May 31 (Whit). March 22, "The New East Lynne" (W. W. Kelly).
A. C. Moody, Lessee and Manager.

COLISEUM, ABERYSTWYTH.
WANTED, Companies, March 29, 30, 31, onwards, for Summer Vacant Dates. Apply, Phillips.

WANTED, Sparkling Musical Comedies, and Dramas of Good Repute. Resident-Manager, Grand Theatre, Runcorn (the property of, and controlled by, local gentlemen entirely). Vacant March 29 (?), and on.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, Good Companies,
April 19 and 26.
Address, Gerald Harding.

JERSEY AND GUERNSEY.
WANTED, First-class Companies,
March 29, onward, with exceptions.
Wire or write particulars,
Stanley Hope,
Opera House, Jersey.

WORTHING THEATRE ROYAL.
WANTED, First-class Companies, three nights, one matinée, April 15, 22, May 3, 6, 17, Whit week, and several dates onwards. All communications to Seebold, as above.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
WANTED, First-class Attraction,
April 5,
April 5,
to oblige "Human Nature" with transfer.
Wire, James Bell, Wire.

THEATRE ROYAL, NORTH SHIELDS.
WANTED, Company, April 5.
Address, Stanley Rogers.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
WANTED, strong Musical Attractions, May 10, 17, 24, July 19, 26, Aug. 16, Sept. 6, Oct. 4, 11, 25, Nov. 22. All communications to the Manager.

WANTED, for Easter Week and on, good Dramatic Company or other strong Attraction. Apply, Edward Ronan, Proprietor, Theatre Royal, Wexford.

WANTED, Known, Grand, Llandudno, vacant July 22, 26, Aug. 23, Sept. 27.
Haldane Crichton, East Molesey, Surrey.

THEATRE ROYAL, GOOLE.
WANTED, Known, Vacant March 29.
Greaves, Theatre, Goole.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPO., SHREWSBURY.
Lessee, W. Yates Gregory.
General-Manager, Thomas Baugh.
Acting-Manager, H. B. Parkinson.

WANTED, Attractive Companies, for three nights, May 3, 4, and 5;
three nights, May 17, 18, 19;
three nights, May 24, 25, 26.
Musical Comedies, in fact anything with Drawing Powers.

EMPIRE THEATRE, SWINDON.
WANTED, June 14, Musical Comedy and Dramatic Attractions; also Variety Combinations. Booking Autumn. Also Musical Comedy and Dramatic Attractions. First Three Nights, New Garrison Theatre, Tidworth; seats 1,800. All communications, Alfred Manners, Swindon.

OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER.
WANTED, High-class Companies; holds £100; Easter, Whitsun, and Autumn. Bookings: "Merry Widow," "Dairymaids," "Prince of Pilsen," "Prodigal Son," &c. All coms., J. P. Moore, King's Hall, Birmingham

NEW ROYAL THEATRE, KING'S LYNN.
WANTED, strong Musical Attractions, for Aug. 9, 16, 23, and 30, and later dates. Address, B. Parkeres, King's Lynn.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BLAINA.
Lighted with electricity, with holding capacity £50.
WANTED, Strong Dramatic and Musical Companies, First-class only, April 26, onwards, with exceptions. Apply, W. R. Lee, 168, High-st., Blaina, Mon.

COMPANIES WANTED.

Booked by
MOSS' EMPIRES, LIMITED,

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE,
GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM,
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS,
and
GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Vacant Dates, May 24, 31, Aug. 9, 16, Nov. 1, 29, Dec. 13.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE.
Vacant Dates, May 24, Dec. 13, 20.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Vacant May 10, 29, Aug. 2, Good Pantomime, Feb. 7, 14.

GRAND, GLASGOW.
Vacant April 5, 19, 26, May 24, 31, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Sept. 13, Oct. 4, Nov. 22, 29.
Also Several Spring and Autumn Dates in 1910.
ALEXANDRA THEATRE, STOKE NEWINGTON.
First-class Atractions required, May 31, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, Sept. 13, 20, Oct. 4, Nov. 22, 29, Dec. 6.
Address,
with full particulars, terms, &c.,
where can be seen, to
Moss' Empires, Limited,
Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-st., London, W.C.
Envelopes marked "Theatres."

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson.

The Premier Theatre in the Furness District, with a holding capacity of £90 at ordinary prices.
WANTED, First-class Musical Attraction for Easter week; April 19 also Open, and May 17, on, with exceptions.
Season's Bookings include among others: J. W. Turner's Grand Opera Company (return). Mr. Wentworth Croke's "The Bondman," "Amasis," Mr. Charles Frohman's "Raffles," Mr. George Dance's Company in "Miss Hook of Holland," Mr. Wilfred Cotton's Company in "Butterflies," Mr. Seymour Hicks' Company in "The Gay Gordons," and Mr. George Edwardes's Company in "The Merry Widow," Paumier and Howard's "The Prince and the Beggar Maid" and "The Midnight Wedding," "The Flag Lieutenant."
All applications for dates to
Hugh Robertson, Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

WANTED, First-class Companies, Spring and Autumn Dates,
NEW CENTURY THEATRE, MOTHERWELL;
GRAND THEATRE, FALKIRK;
NEW GAIETY THEATRE, LEITH;
THEATRE ROYAL, COATBRIDGE;
NEW GAIETY THEATRE, AYR;
ALEXANDRA THEATRE, GREENOCK.
Apply, R. C. Buchanan, 6, John-street, Adelphi, London, W.C. Telephone, 5590 Gerrard.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Lessees, The Gainsborough Theatre Co.
WANTED, First-class Companies
Vacant May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31,
Aug. 2, and various onwards.
Bookings include: "The Dairymaids," "Belle of New York," "When Knights Were Bold," "The Christian," "The Silver King," &c., &c.
All communications re dates,
William Martin, 415, Strand, W.C.

NEW HIPPODROME, SCARBOROUGH.
One of the most luxurious Theatres in the North.
Now running one house nightly at 8.
Holding capacity 2,000. Popular prices, 3d. to 1s. 6d.
Owing to the enormous success of the Dramatic Season,
WANTED, No. 1 Companies, for March 29, April 26, onward.
Apply, William Peacock, Opera House, Harrogate.
Silence a polite negative.

PALACE THEATRE, BRIGHTON.
WANTED, Known, Messrs. Jay and Mann have secured a lease of this theatre from Lady Day next. In addition to a local management alert and vigorous in its methods, visiting companies will have the advantages of—
(1) The freeing of the pier toll to playgoers.
(2) A handsome wind and rain shelter the entire length of the pier.
(3) A redecorated and recarpeted theatre.
Vacant Dates, April 5 (?), April 19, 26 (?), May 3, May 24, Whit, on.
For vacant dates apply MESSRS. JAY and MANN, 10 and 11, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly, S.W.

THEATRE ROYAL, KING-STREET, DEAL.
WANTED, real good Musical and other Attractions, for several vacant dates, Aug. and Sept. Jas. C. White.

PALACE, EBBW VALE.
Vacant three nights,
April 22, 23, 24.
WANTED, Strong Attraction,
for these three nights. Particulars,
E. Tilney, Pavilion, Abertillery.

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE BEGGAR GIRL'S WEDDING."
WALTER MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION.
WANTED, April 5, Oct. 25, Nov. 1.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, April 5, Sept. 6.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, April 26.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
WANTED, Theatres, May 10, Sept. 20, 27.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
WANTED, Aug. 23, Sept. 27.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

FREDERICK MELVILLE'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, Theatres, April 5, Aug. 9, Sept. 13.
Frederick Melville,
14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, April 5,
Aug. 2, 9, 16.
Douglas Bruce, Theatre Royal, Barry Dock.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."

WANTED, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 30.
Andrew Melville, Mel. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."

WANTED, April 12, Aug. 9, 16, 23.
Andrew Emm, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
"THE OCTOROON."
WANTED, Theatres, May 3, 17, 31, on.
Charles Harrington,
Empire Theatre, Cradley.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
for this Phenomenal Success,
Weeks of May 10 and 24.
Weeks of May 10 and 24.
Weeks of May 10 and 24.
Wire or write to W. W. Kelly,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
WANTED, Weeks of April 19 and 26,
for this Remarkable Success,
which in a fortnight at Dublin played to £1,400, and at Belfast turned hundreds away nightly.
Wire or write to
W. W. Kelly,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."

Re-dressed and re-mounted.
Costumes by Messrs. Harrison.
Scenery and properties by Willie Leigh.

WANTED, April 26,
May 17, 24, 31.

All communications, J. W. Cordiner,
March 22, New Theatre, Aberdare.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,

"BROUGHT TO RUIN."
"BROUGHT TO RUIN."

The Play which is making the Public talk.

The Play which is rousing interest in every town.

The Play which is drawing money.

Refer.
Belfast, Birmingham,
Liverpool, Govan, &c., &c.
April 12 (?), May 17, June 14, 28.
Morton Powell, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth.

MRS. MORTON POWELL'S NEW PLAY.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
A Play to interest.
A Play to draw.
A Play which appeals to every family, to every home. Already Booked well into 1910.
Vacant,
Aug. 9, 23, 30 (?).
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"HONOUR THY FATHER."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Fine Production, Strong Cast.
Bookings include: Leeds, Bradford, Manchester, Rochdale, Bury, &c., &c.
July 26, Aug. 2, 9, 16 (?).
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."
EUGENE C. STAFFORD'S No. 1 CO.
WANTED, March 29 (?), April 5 (?), 19; also Oct. 11, 18, 25, Nov. 8, onwards.
Letters or telegrams to
Bishopsdale, Biddenden, Kent.

"THE SORROWS OF SATAN"
and
"NANA, THE RAGE OF PARIS."

WANTED, April 5 and 12, various on, till June, either or both Plays.
Superbly acted, mounted, and dressed.
Wire,
Lois Esmond, T. R., Macclesfield (third visit).
March 22, Central T., Northwich (return).

MR. AND MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"ROLLICKING RORY."
Mirth, Music, Beauty, Romance.
Every Vocal Number Re-demanded.
Thunders of Applause.
Peals of Uncontrollable Laughter.
Everything Carried.
Not the hackneyed attraction which really requires no title, all being so alike in construction.
Something Really New.
Unlike anything on the Road.
And a Big Money-maker.
WANTED, Spring 1910 Dates,
O. H., Dudley, March 22, six nights.

MR. BULMER'S ENTERPRISES.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
Vacant Aug. 30 (?), Nov. 1, 8, Aug. 1, on.
"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
Vacant Aug. 2, on, with exceptions.
"THAT LONDON WOMAN."
"THAT LONDON WOMAN."
WANTED, First-class Theatres.
Fred Bulmer,
Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, W.C.

JAY and MANN'S TOUR.
"AN ENGLISHMAN'S HOME," by Special Arrangement with Mr. Frank Curzon. The Great Invasion Play.
WANTED, Theatres. Wire for March 29 (?). April 5, onwards, to Whit Week and Autumn. Easter booked Kingston. Everything exactly as at Wyndham's Theatre, London. Communicate, Jay and Mann, 10-11, Jermyn-street, S.W.

"MOTHER."
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
April 19, May 10.
Only vacant dates till Autumn.
To-day, Harry Foxwell, Crown Theatre, Eccles; next week, Royalty Theatre, Eccles.

"THE IDOL OF PARIS."
"THE IDOL OF PARIS,"
By Charles Darrell.

WANTED, First-class Theatres,
April 5 (?),
April 12.
April 12.
Miss Annie Bell as Flare-Flare,
Supported by a Star Company.
Wire for April 12, Wire,
James Bell, T. R., Darlington.

ERNEST R. ABBOTT'S "SAPHO."
WANTED, March 29, between Nottingham (third visit) and Devonport (second visit), the Finest and most Artistic "Sapho" travelling. Enormous plant of printing. Note.—"Sapho" can, if required, be played with our strong répertoire of eight plays. Wire, Ernest R. Abbott, T. R., Leeds; next week, Grand, Nottingham.

MISS GRACE WARNER
in
"THE SCARLET CLUE" AND REPERTOIRE.
WANTED, Theatres, April 5 and 12, unexpectedly vacant,
April 5 and 12 unexpectedly vacant.
This and next, Gaiety Theatre, Methil.

H. ARMITAGE
Presents the
Great Haymarket Theatre Success,
"A VILLAGE PRIEST,"
for a few Spring and Summer Weeks.

William F. Grant as the Abbé, as Played by him in Australasia 1,000 times.
Campbell Goldsmid, Charles Hartopp, Marion Fawcett, Violet Thorold, Florence Dunhunty, &c.

WANTED, Theatres, April 12, 19 (?), May 3, 17, 24.
Apply,
H. Armitage,
Opera House, Buxton.

"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
WANTED, April 5, through transferring.
"BOUND TO WIN."
April 26, May 3, 31, Racehorses toured.
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR."
April 26, and a few Autumn Dates.
"A SISTER'S SIN."
May 3, 10, 31, July 26, Aug. 2, only dates vacant for this Farewell Tour.
Wire for Plays to
Kimberley, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

"THE 10.30 DOWN EXPRESS"
and "GUILTY GOLD."
WANTED, June 7, 28, large Theatres only

Horace Stanley,
Gaiety, Worksop; next, Middleton.

WANTED, for "The Prisoner of Zenda," April 12 and onwards.
Mark Blow, 11, St. Edmund's-ter., Regent's Park.

"A BROKEN HEART."
WANTED, Big Theatres,
April 5, 19, May 3, 10,
Only Vacant Dates till Autumn.
To-day, Harry Foxwell, Crown Theatre, Eccles.
Next week, Royalty Theatre, Barrow.

"I DEFY THE WORLD."
WANTED, Good Theatre,
April 12,
April 12,
Address, Chas. M. Julian,
this, Devonport; next, Torquay.

WANTED, Dates, for Fred Moule and E. W. Avery's 1909-10 Pantomime Production,
"CINDERELLA,"
Refined, Operatic, and Funny.
Address,
153, Capworth-street, Leyton.

WANTED, by "Dandy Fifth," April 5 (Concert Good Friday), 26, on; Whit Week Vacant owing to unexpected Closing of First-class Provincial Theatre. Wire to-day, Corri, Globe T., Walmer; next, Gainsboro' (3), Scunthorpe (3).

THEATRES WANTED.

FRED GRANVILLE'S PRODUCTIONS, LTD.

Pantomimes:
"BABES IN THE WOOD."
"ALADDIN."
"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST."

Plays: "THE BETTER LAND."
A High-class, Powerful Domestic Drama. A winner.

Managers, Note.—Extract from letter received from Sherriff Howard, Esq., Queen's Theatre, Longton:—
"The piece is far and away above the average, with the additional merit of being very well played and beautifully mounted."
Through Theatre Closing.
Wanted, Easter Week.
Wanted, Easter Week.
Wanted, Easter Week.
Wanted, Easter Week.
Wanted, Easter Week.
Wanted, Easter Week.
WANTED, May 24 (between Bristol and Swansea); also Vacant, Aug. 9, 23, 30, Sept. 13, 27, and on.

"ANOTHER MAN'S WIFE."
An Instantaneous and Emphatic Success.
A Perfect Production.

Wanted, Good Theatre for
Easter Week.
Easter Week.
Easter Week.
Easter Week.
Easter Week.
Easter Week.
Also Vacant, April 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, and Whit Week.

Re Dates for Fred Granville's Productions, Ltd., Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

MISS HILDA BEVERLEY
in
"A DESTROYER OF MEN."

WANTED, Theatres, for
a Few Vacant Dates in 1909.
Now Booking 1910.

Miss Hilda Beverley,
"A Girl's Cross Roads" Co.,
March 22, Lyceum Theatre, Govan.

MISS MARY NEIL,
in her Great Successes,
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS,"
By Charles Darrell,
and
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
By Charles Darrell,
WANTED, for either Play,
June 7.
Also through arranging to start Autumn Tour earlier,
Aug. 16, 23, 30.
Sept. 6 and 13.

Coms. to Geo. Kirk,
Rotunda Theatre,
Liverpool.
Next, Grand T., Nelson.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, May 17, 24, Aug. Bank Holiday, Sept. 6, 13, 27, Oct. 4, onwards.
Address, Armadale and Warren,
Princess's Theatre, Glasgow.

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANY.
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
A Powerful Domestic Drama, in four Acts.
By Walter Howe.
WANTED, April 26,
May 3,
Aug. 2, 9, on.
T. R., Colchester, March 22.

"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST."
Grand Musical Burlesque Extravaganza.
WANTED, Theatres, wire for this enormous success, March 29, also vacant April 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, and Whit Week.
Cast includes—
Miss Mary Poulton,
Miss Hilda De Gray,
Miss Dollie Barry,
The Sisters Kebble,
Miss Florence Milton,
Mr. Frank Daleno,
Mr. Edward Stream,
Barrie and Wood,
Sammy Foster,
Leslie Austin,
Sidney Milton,
The Casino Belles (Troupe of Dancers).
Company of
35 Performers. 35
Gorgeously Mounted and Dressed.
Managers with Vacant Dates for this Money-maker communicate at once with
Fred Granville, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

MR. TOM WATTS' COMPANY.

"EAST LYNNE."
Original Bullock Version
(By Arrangement with J. Pitt Hardacre).
Mr. Edmund Kennedy as Archibald Carlyle.
Miss Julie Kennard as Lady Isobel.
Acknowledged by Managers to be the Finest All-round Company Ever Toured with "East Lynne."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
March 29, April 12,
and Several Dates in Autumn.
Wire or write,
Cecil Elgar,
32, Scholars-road, Balham, S.W.

TOM H. TAYLOR'S COMPANIES.
"AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES."
WANTED, Theatres, June 21, 28 (in or near London), Sept. 20, 27 (South), Nov. 29 (North), Xmas, on.
GRAND AUTUMN PRODUCTION.
Entirely new Play, written by C. Watson Mill.
Wanted, Theatres, Oct. 25, Nov. 8, onwards.
"A WARNING TO WOMEN."
An Elaborate Production. Tour starts Xmas.
Wanted, Theatres, Xmas onwards.
Tom H. Taylor, 25, Flanchford-road, Ravenscourt Park, London, W.

WANTED, Theatres, for "The Great Awakening" (see Companies page), Aug. 23, Sept. 13, Oct. 4, and onwards, with exceptions. A. Hales, New Century Theatre, Motherwell, N.B.

WANTED, April 5, 12, May 24, July 19, for "The Cingalee."
Haldane Crichton, East Molesey, Surrey.

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Nov. 1, 8, Dec. 6 and 27.
Frank M. Thorne, Queen's Theatre, Longton.

ROSE MONCRIEFF'S CO.
"THE BELLS OF OLD YORK."
WANTED, good Theatres, April 12, Aug. 16 (to follow Birmingham), and Sept. 6, only vacant dates. This week, Opera House, Treherbert; next, Mountain Ash.

"MAN TO MAN."
EDWARD LLOYD and CLIFFORD BOWN'S CO.
WANTED, May 31, Aug. 30 and on.
Edward Lloyd, Theatre R., West Bromwich.

S. RENNEF AND G. M. COPPING'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, "Love Rules the World," April 26 (to follow Prince's, Preston), May 3, 10, 17, 24; Whit Week, T. R., South Shields. Several Summer Dates "How Women Ruin Men." G. M. Copping, Victoria T., Broughton; next, Lowestoft.

"CINDERELLA" PANTOMIME.
WANTED, Theatres, April 5, 12, 19, for this Beautiful Production, new and magnificent scenery, dresses, &c., first-class artists, big specialities. Play twice nightly if required. Farren, Princess T., Horwich Lancashire.

"RED RIDING HOOD."
WANTED, good Hippodrome Dates for the above, twice nightly; First-class Company and Production. Vacant Dec. 27 and onwards.

William Martin, 415, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, for T. Edward Ward's "Second to None," Sept. 6 (week, South), important Theatre only. Address, T. E. Ward, P. O., W. Theatre, Mexboro'.

THEATRES WANTED.

WANTED, by The London Troupe,
I.D.K. MINSTRELS,
April 8, 11, and 15, 19
(to follow Dovercourt).
Good Vocalists, Smart Comedians, Sketches, and High-class Items for Sacred Concerts.
Can accept single nights at a certainty.
Apply, MANAGER, 26, Kingsway, Mortlake, S.W.

DEETRICH AGENCY CO.,
31, Islington, Liverpool. 'Phone, 1269 Royal.
WANTED, First-class Theatres, for excellent Variety Combinations, for immediate dates. Send full particulars in first instance.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Artists to Know,
MARSHALL MOORE,
the well-known Producer of Plays,
many years at Drury Lane and late Producer London Coliseum,
is now engaged by
STEDMAN'S AGENCY
as
Manager of their New Dramatic Department. Specially engaged to Produce STEDMAN'S own Plays, Sketches, and Scenas, Dramatic and Musical, also as Professor of Elocution and Dramatic Art, at their famous Schools of Stage Training,
58, Berners-street, Oxford-street, W.

"THE WAYS OF MEN."
WANTED, to rehearse April 13, Merthyr (seven weeks' tour), Young Actress for Juvenile Lead, Lady for small though important Heavy Part in Prologue, to double Aristocratic Old Lady in Act 1, Gentleman for Aristocratic Military Part, Young Intense Actor for Aristocratic Juvenile Heavy Part, Eccentric Comedian. Address, with full particulars, photographs (essential), last two references, E. VIVIAN EDMONDS, Prince's Theatre, Portsmouth.

WANTED, tall robust Heavy Gentleman; also tall handsome Heavy Lady, for Autumn Tour of well-known Successful Drama; also other Vacancies. References, &c., Box 5,643, "Era."

"CLAUDIAN."
WANTED, experienced Actor for Character Heavy Part; rehearse Bradford, 23rd, open 29th. Tour till Whit. Age, height, latest references, recent photos., lowest terms. Also Young Lady to walk on. WILLIAM MACLAREN, c/o 8, Chester-street, Bradford.

WANTED, thoroughly experienced Low Comedian, to combine S.-M. Photos., refs., and full particulars to
GEORGE KIRK, Grand T., Nelson.

WANTED, immediately, good Comedian, capable Character, own Songs; also Responsible Gentleman capable pathos, sing preferred. GRACE WARNER, 1, Triangle-place, Leven, Fife.

WANTED, for Sketch, tall, young, good-looking Juvenile Gentleman. Photos., with height and age (letters only), HOWARD, 4, Acre-lane, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, Young Lady Vocalists, combine Mandoline, Banjo, also Pianist; all give time rehearse. Lowest terms, MADAM, 7, Comerford-road, Brockley.

"THE HONEYMOON" TOUR.
WANTED (through breach of contract), Quartette or Trio of Dancers, with own dresses, rehearse to-day. Wire, GILBERT PAYNE, T. R., Macclesfield.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Young Gentleman, age 21, height 5ft. 8½in., part in First-class Company; no salary required at start. W. J. K., Brooklyn, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, by First-class Baritone, Summer Engagement, Big High-class Répertoire; experienced, and can Act. Moderate terms. Address, Box 5,641, "The Era."

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Comedians, next season's Pantos. Last two references, address where performing next three week, age, photos., lowest terms, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists all Lines. Age, height, photo., salary, last two references. Particulars, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Good Chorus Ladies, next Pantomime Season. Age, height, names, addresses last two references, photo., lowest terms, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, BRADFORD, "FORTY THIEVES," and THEATRE ROYAL, LEEDS, "BABES IN THE WOOD."
WANTED, First-class Artists, for above, including clever Donkey, pair of tall, dashing Ladies, with Speciality preferred, for Lieutenants, Dame, Little Comedian, Robbers, Ali Baba, &c. Both Principal Boys and Principal Girls are already engaged. State where may be seen, and give previous Panto. engagements (if any). FRANCIS LAIDLER, Prince's Theatre, Bradford.

WANTED, to Open at Once, for Touring Pantomime,
First-class Ballet Mistress.
Address,
FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Scenic Artists, Theatre Managers, &c., to write for Leete's Catalogue of colours, varnishes, painting brushes, and every requisite for scene painting and theatre decoration. The fullest range of colours in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Contracts, for Painting Scenery, First-class Work guaranteed. CECIL E. HICKS, Painting Room, Princess's Theatre, Oxford street, London, W.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions, Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery; Effective Artistic Work, Good Joinery. Moderate Prices. Large Studio and Workshop. CHAS. SAYER, Scenic Artist, 2, Clarendon-road, Croydon.

WANTED, Contracts for High-class Effective Scenery, very lowest prices; Scenery repainted or adapted. W. B. ROBINSON, 170, King's-road, S.W.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery of all kinds, Second-hand Scenery, both for theatres and fit-ups, for sale. E. G. FALCON, County T., Bedford.

WANTED, Engagement, by Scenic Artist, 11½ years with Peter Davey, Esq., Royal County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames. Moderate terms for permanency.
Address, GEORGE MILLER,
39, Beresford-road, Kingston-on-Thames.

WANTED, Contract or Engagement, by Davies Massey, Scenic Artist.
4, Princess May-road, Stoke Newington, N.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Assistant Stage-Manager, experienced in Posing Living Statuary; also a Carpenter. Salary and refs. to MANAGER, 29, Market-place, Stockport.

WANTED, by important Manager-Producer, Lady or Gentleman, as Secretary, to one who can invest £500 or £1,000 10 per cent. interest and £3 weekly salary paid.
Write, MANAGER, 1, Barrington-mansions, Gresham-road, Brixton, S.W.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Acting-Management.
WANTED, Known, Applications are invited by Moss' Empires, Limited, from Smart Men who have occupied Managerial positions. Applicants must have had thorough experience in every branch of the business, and must be gentlemanly in appearance and manners, men of strong character, tactful and resourceful. Only those fulfilling these requirements and able to refer to a good past record need apply.
Applications (which will be treated in confidence) should state, in order named:—(1) Age, (2) present and previous engagements and reasons for leaving, (3) full details of experience, (4) present salary, (5) salary required, (6) references. Photo. (which will be returned) should be enclosed. Address, "A.M.," Co-operative Offices, Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street, W.C.

WANTED, a Manager,
for a large Theatre in a fashionable Seaside Town, new building, up-to-date. Terms, 20 per cent. upon the profits arising from the theatre after all expenses are paid, with a guarantee that the profits to the Manager shall not be less than at the rate of £100 a year, and should the profits not amount to £100 a year, the Proprietor will make it up to that amount, or £2 a week, and one fifth of the money paid for the Advertising Curtain; that will bring the guarantee up to £120. The per centage should realise from £400 to £500 to the Manager, interest; a good house adjoining the theatre, rent free, and no rent charged for the theatre.
Apply by letter to
LORD GEO. SANGER,
Park Farm, East Finchley, London, N.
Silence a polite negative.

WANTED, Wanted, Manager,
Wanted, Wanted, Manager,
Wanted, Wanted, Manager,
for
Roller Skating Rink.
State Salary and Experience to
SECRETARY,
Middlesbrough Skating Rink, Ltd.,
45, Albert-road, Middlesbrough.

REDCAR PIER AND PAVILION.
WANTED, Manager, to take full charge of all Entertainments, engage Artists, &c. Season dating from Whit Monday to Sept. 30. Apply at once, giving testimonials, qualifications, &c., and stating salary required, to GEORGE HOOD, Redcar Pier Co., Ltd., Redcar, Yorkshire.

MISS MAGGIE MORTON'S EASTER TOUR.
WANTED, Smart Young Advance Agent; must know "English fit-ups." State age, experience, references, terms, HURWORTH, Twickenham.

WANTED, at once, for the Palace Theatre, Watford, First-class Electrician, able to do all repairs, make himself useful, and not afraid of work. Apply by wire, SYLVESTER, Palace, Watford.

WANTED, Reliable Bill-poster, used to High Ladders; permanent situation and good wages to a steady man. Apply, giving references, to ROCKLEY'S, LTD., Leicester.

WANTED, Lady Clerk; Typewriting and Shorthand essential. State age, experience, and salary required, to MANAGER, Britannia Music Hall, Glasgow.

WANTED, Lady Housekeeper,
by Mr. Phil Ray.
(this week, Palace Theatre, Leicester),
to take Sole Charge of his Town Flat.
Two maids kept.
Applicant must be between the age of 20 and 25.
One musically inclined preferred.
Address (with photo for appointment),
PHIL RAY,
4, Ranelagh-gardens, Stamford Brook-avenue, Hammersmith, W.

WANTED, by Successful Inventor and Patentee, Position as Stage-Manager and Electrical Engineer to Theatre or Music Hall in Town; thoroughly expert, disciplinarian; small salary; aged 34 years. Box 5,624, "The Era."

WANTED, by Young Gentleman, Situation as Manager to a small Theatre or Picture Show; has own Machine (Prof. Chrono, 1909 model) if wanted. Address letters, PICTURES, Invermeath, Holywell-avenue, Monkseaton, Northumberland.

WANTED, Advance Agents to Know that T. Bartlett, the old-established Billposter, is prepared to accept Advance Work for Newcastle, Gateshead, Birtley, Chester-le-Street, Durham, North and South Shields, Tynemouth, Whitley Bay, and Cullercoats. Terms, 1, Forth-lane, Newcastle.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

NEW HIPPODROME, SCARBOROUGH.
WANTED, Musical-Director (Violin), experienced in Variety, twice nightly. Lowest terms and references to
WILLIAM PEACOCK, Opera House, Harrogate.

WANTED, Musical-Director for Variety Theatre, near Birmingham;
must be experienced.
State salary required, &c.
Address, Box 6629, "Era."

WANTED, Leaders, Solo Violinists, and 'Cellists, for White Star and Cunard, American Services, April to Oct. For terms and conditions apply, C. W. BLACK, 14, Castle-street, Liverpool.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
WANTED, to open Monday, March 29, First-class Leader; permanency to suitable man.
Address, JAMES BELL.

WANTED, First Violin, as Leader, also other Musicians, for Orchestral Band, Easter and Season. MANAGER, Rosherville Gardens, Gravesend.

WANTED, good First Violin, second Violin, and Double Drums, to open April 5, Variety (twice nightly). Refs., &c., to E. G. SUMMERFIELD, King's Theatre, Dundee.

WANTED, for Sedgwick Menagerie, to commence April 5, Solo Cornet, Euphonium, Trombone, and Bass. Terms, 30s. per week. Please state full particulars in first letter, SEDGWICK, Menagerie, Fair Ground, Hillkirk-street, Beswick, Manchester.

WANTED, for Matlock Bath, Military Band, Easter Holidays, April 3 to 13, Cornet, Tenor Cor (or Horn), and E Flat Bombardon; must be fully experienced and reliable. Apply, WOODS, c/o Mrs. Smith, 87, Coplaw-st., Govanhill, Glasgow.

WANTED, First-class Cornet, also a Trombone, for Variety business, twice nightly, March 22, 1909. Apply, LORD, Conductor, Empire, Hyde.

THE SPA, SCARBOROUGH.
WANTED, for Season commencing Easter, First-class Solo Cornet. Ordinary Players save stamps. CHARLES GODFREY, Musical-Director.

WANTED, good strong Cornet, Trombone and Euphonium, young, Rink, long comfortable engagement, commence Monday. Age, refs., &c., CONDUCTOR, 15, Seabank-road, Southport.

WANTED, Solo Cornet, also Clarionets, for Military Band; 2½ hours daily, May 29 to Oct. 2. Terms, age, references, DEARLOVE, Strawberry Dale, Harrogate.

WANTED, commence Monday, for about eight weeks, Cornet, to play for Skating.
Terms 30s. Three Sessions daily.
MANAGER, Pier, Folkestone.

WANTED, First Cornet and Flute, to open April 5.
D. J. CLARKE, Argyle Theatre, Birkenhead.

WANTED, Bassoon, Second French Horn, Trombone, Third Clarionet, to augment, from end of May till end of September. ALEX. CORRIGON, Conductor, Penzance Military Band.

PERCY HONRI in "CONCORDIA."
WANTED, Bassoon, to Double with Trombone. Age, height, photo., and terms, to PERCY HONRI, 357, Holloway-road, N.

BUFF BILL'S CIRCUS AND MENAGERIE, Tenting Ireland.
WANTED, Trombone, Cornets, Horn, Euphonium, Bombardon. Terms, 32s. 6d.; sober and attentive. SAM JONES, Bandmaster, 129, Linaker-street, Southport.

WANTED, E flat Bass, Euphonium, pitching. Shares.
75, Carlisle-street, Edgware-road, N.W.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, for Stephenson and Hardiker's Circus, Tenting, Ireland, commencing Easter Monday, Euphonium, Trombone, &c. PHINAS, Tivoli, Dublin.

ROYAL COURT THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
Managing-Director, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR.
WANTED, First-class Oboe and 'Cello Players, to commence April 6, 1909. Apply, with references, to J. O. SHEPHERD, Musical-Director.

WANTED, thoroughly competent Young Lady 'Cellist, for Trio, commence June 21, ten weeks Seaside Resort. Fullest particulars to JEFFRIES, 13, George-street, Halifax. Apologies to former applicants; owing to illness prevented from fetching letters. Please write again.

WANTED, Harpist, or Portable, good player, for town and seaside; join Violinist. Terms Shares. 802, Seven Sisters-road, South Tottenham.

WANTED, good Pianist, for Tour, used to Pictures and Varieties; open Monday, Milford Haven. Wire terms, DOUGLAS and GORDON, 5, York-street, Shildon.

WANTED, Pianist; must read at first sight and used to our business; can join at once. Send full particulars, Wadbiook's Pictures and Varieties, Pontardawe.

WANTED, to join Monday, March 29, First-class Pianist for Pictures; one that can sing to Illustrated Songs preferred. Apply, with lowest terms, to MANAGER, Temperance Hall, Southport.

WANTED, immediately, for Travelling Concern, Young Lady Pianist, good Vamper. Age, references, lowest terms, full particulars, &c., to Box 5,626, "The Era."

WANTED, Double Drummer, with Effects, also Cornets, Horns, Troms., &c., write in. I want players (not holders). I pay good price; I want good men. Particulars, apply, ALLAN GREY, Conductor Skating Rink, Dundee.

WANTED, Double Drummer, with Tympani and Effects, fully experienced Variety; long and comfortable engagement to right man. All communications, WILL STONE, Hippodrome, Ton-y-Pandy.

LONDON COUNTY ASYLUM,
LONG GROVE, EPSOM, SURREY.
WANTED, Male Attendants; must be tall and strongly built, unmarried, and not exceeding 35 years of age. Wages £29 per annum, rising (on satisfactory completion of six months' probation) to £31, and then by £1 per annum to £40, with board, lodging, washing, and uniform. Asylum experience not essential. Ability to play well First Violin or Drum a recommendation. Daily leave, subject to convenience of service, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.; weekly leave, 1½ days; annual leave, first six months (after nine months' service), 6 days; the following twelve months, 12 days; each succeeding twelve months, 14 days. Applications, stating age, height, experience, and previous occupation, and enclosing copies of testimonials, to be sent to the MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT, Long Grove Asylum, Epsom, Surrey.

WANTED, Gentleman as Mandoline Class Teacher, permanent, good salary. State experience. 2, Shaw-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, at Birmingham, for one week, commencing March 29, 1909, to augment Orchestra for Carl Rosa Opera Company,
3 First Violins.
2 Second Violins,
2 Violas,
2 Horns.
Apply, stating terms, &c., to MUSICAL-DIRECTOR, Bordesley Palace Theatre, Birmingham.

WANTED, for Charles Dare's White Minstrels, and Empire Theatre, Douglas, Isle of Man, Special Week at Whitsun, and July to end Sept., First-class Leader (Violin), Cornet, Flute and Piccolo, Double Bass, Pianist, and Drummer with Effects. Only steady, smart performers required. State experience, age and absolute lowest terms, to CHARLES DARE, "Claremont," Elm-grove, Peckham, London, S.E.

WANTED, Seaside, South-West, April 12 to 24, probably longer, Clarionet, Cornet, Trombone, Drums, must know Variety; also Summer Engagements if suitable. Age, refs., and lowest terms inclusive, DIRECTOR, 34, Luton-road, Bournbrook, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, M. W. Shanly is now making arrangements with the local authorities at various seaside resorts for the supply of Military and Orchestral Bands for the coming season. Conductors desirous of engagements through him are requested to send full particulars and prices for Conductorship only, or supply of Bands, with or without music and uniforms.
Address by letter only to 33, King Henry's-road, South Hampstead, N.W.

WANTED, Leader, First Violinists, Double Bass, Piano, First and Solo Flute, Clarionet, Cornet, Trombone, Double Drummer with Tympanies, Bells, Glockenspiel, &c., for Whit, ten days, and from July, eleven weeks' Seaside in Yorkshire, double-handed preferred; trial essential; only thoroughly Orchestral experienced send in lowest, particulars, refs., &c. DIRECTOR, 92, West End-lane, London.

WANTED, for Military Band, May 29 to Oct. 2, Piccolo and Flute, First Clarionet, First and Second French Horns, First Cornet, Double Drums; only efficient performers, conversant with Military journals. References and terms to Mr. E. HOLLAND, Conductor, Winter Gars., Gt. Yarmouth.

WANTED, good Musicians for Skating Rinks, to open shortly; required to play three times per day.
Apply, with lowest terms, to
GUIDI, 29, Ongar-road, Fulham, London, S.W.

WANTED, Bands, Concert Parties, Firework Displays, &c., Summer Season, shares preferred; large enclosed ground, seat 2,000 under cover (double if necessary); registering turnstiles, illuminations, &c. Apply to THE COVENTRY CRICKET GROUND CO., LTD., Coventry.

WANTED, Orchestra of eight (Brass), for new Skating Rink.
Apply, MANAGER, Skating Rink, Ford-st., Coventry.

WANTED, for Ladies' Orchestra, Alexandria (April to July), good Pianist, Violinist, and Bass; young, good-looking. Lowest terms, experience, and photos. to Miss MURIEL FIFE, Goring, Reading.

WANTED, the following Instrumentalists, for Seaside Pavilion, from middle July (eight weeks), High-class Orchestral Concerts, Double Bass, Viola, Bassoon, Second Clarionet, Second Flute and Pic. State age, experience, to Box 5,652, "The Era."

WANTED, recently-retired Military Musicians, vacancies in most departments, long season, London; only smart first-class reliable men; no deputies, agitators, wasters need apply. State exact age, late regiment, three refs., to Box 5,650, "The Era."

WANTED, Family Band (of five or six), willing to play for Variety Turns and Dancing; Easter Week; permanency if suitable. Address, with absolutely lowest terms, ENTERTAINMENT DIRECTOR, Lofthouse Park, Wakefield.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept.,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.
Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement. 'WANTED, DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical-Director (Violin), Disengaged. Thanks Jules Richeux, Esq., for comfortable engagement 3½ years. 3, Grange-road, Ramsgate.

WANTED, Engagement, as Leader, First Violin or Viola; well experienced. A. E. PRITCHARD, 30, Chiswick-lane, Chiswick, London.

WANTED, Known, Miss Grace Beresford, Violinist, Disengaged March 22.
Perm. Address, Broadway, Bexleyheath.

WANTED, by Young Lady Violinist, Engagement either First or Second Violin; good refs.; seaside preferred. VIOLINIST, Cemetery Works, Keighley, Yorkshire.

WANTED, Engagement, by Girl Violinist, experienced, Orchestra or Solo. Address, Miss M. BAMBERO, 23, Greville-road, Kilburn.

WANTED, Engagements, by Lady Violinist, in Orchestra or Quartette, for Summer, Disengaged middle of May. Apply,
Miss DOLORES KERR, 71, Perham-rd., W. Kensington.

WANTED, Permanent Engagement, by experienced Violinist; steady and reliable; good references. Address, Box, 5,630, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by good Violinist, six years one place; splendid library. CHAS. CROFT, Leader, Theatre Royal, Darlington.

WANTED, Engagement, by Lady Violinist, good experienced Leader; offers for Summer. Disengaged March 22. NANCY DOWNES, Summer-street, Kingswinford, Dudley.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by First-class Violinist, young and steady; good references; any business. J. TEMPLETON, JUN., 25, Charlotte-road, Sheffield.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Violin and Viola Player, Theatre or Music Hall; good references. J. C. JONES, Leader, Pavilion, Ilfracombe, Devon.

WANTED, Engagement, by Good Violinist (Leader); reliable and used to Variety. Address, VIOLINIST, 11, Gilpin-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement, First Violin, experienced all Lines; refs.; strictly sober and reliable; open Monday. VIOLINIST, 1, Gathorne-road, Wood Green.

WANTED, Engagement, as Second B flat Cornet; 8 years Army First; also knowledge of 'Cello. Near London preferred. URBY, 39, Claremont-square, Pentonville-road, London, N.

WANTED, by good Solo Cornet, Engagement, well experienced, good refs.; late Solo Cornet, Palace, Leicester, and Empire, Nottingham. Address, WM. KAYE, 34, Ewart-road, Forest Fields, Nottingham.

WANTED, by Cornet, Disengaged, Shop, steady and reliable. Apply,
CORNET, 29, Endless-street, Salisbury.

WANTED, Engagement, by Clarionet, Summer Season, Military or String Orchestra; good refs.; 21 years' Army experience; exemplary character, age 36. W. HALL, 60, Brighton-road, Stoke Newington, N.

WANTED, good Summer Engagement, by First-class Clarionettist, Military or String; combine Violin; good references. HEYBOURNE, 17, Station-road, Patricroft, Manchester.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, as B Flat Clarionet or E Flat Clarionet. F. W. ATHERTON, 1, Rosemont, Market-street, Torquay.

WANTED, Known, open to Summer Engagement, First-class Double Bass and Tuba (E Flat). F. NORRIS, late Staff Band Sergeant, Tournament Hall Orchestra, Edge-lane, Liverpool.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, Double Bass.
J. BENNETT,
335, Hornsey-road, London, N.

WANTED, Known, Disengaged, Contra Basso, any bus.; town or country; would deputise; refs. Add., BASSO, 104, Battersea-rise, London.

WANTED, Engagement, by Bassoon, any business, thoroughly experienced, competent, and reliable, excel. refs., total abstainer. Box 5,651, "The Era."

WANTED, by First-class Trombonist, Engagement, through closing; any business; highest refs.; open at once. TROMBONIST, 32, Belgrave-road, Abbey-road, London, N.W.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty, Bombardon or String Bass; good reference; any Business. BARBER, 255, Lovely-lane, Warrington.

WANTED, Known, French Horn, Pianist, Military, Orchestral experience; good refs.; situation, any capacity. SALES, 2, Anne of Cleves-road, Dartford, Kent.

WANTED, Engagement, for Summer, as First Horn Player. F. GORDETIER, Principal Horn, Royal Carl Rosa Opera Co., en route.

WANTED, Engagement, French Hornist, for the Summer Season, Orchestra or Military; first-class credentials; reliable. MUSICIAN, 70, Meanley-road, Manor Park, E.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Lady 'Cellist, in Orchestra, Disengaged March 20; can join anywhere; Skating Rink, Pier, &c. Box 5,622, "The Era."

WANTED, by experienced 'Cellist, Engagements or Deputising, Birmingham district.
Address, Box 5,631, "The Era."

WANTED, by excellent 'Cellist, Soloist, Engagement, from June 12 to July 3. ARY BLAZER, 123, Coronation-avenue, Bath.

WANTED, Known, Miss Maud E. Curtis, 'Cellist, Disengaged for Easter Week. Please note change of address, Spynie, Rose Valley, Brentwood, Essex.

WANTED, by Violoncellist-Pianist and an Oboeist, Engagement for Summer months.
Address, Mr. N. VAN BEUGEN,
Nieuwe Molstraat 42, The Hague, Holland.

WANTED, Engagement, Viola, Second Violin, combine Trombone, any business; steady, reliable; good refs. J. BROWN, 16, Tunstall-terrace, Silksworth, Sunderland.

WANTED, Engagement as Viola, Music Hall, good references, would deputise.
J. S., 30, Chandos-avenue, South Ealing.

WANTED, Wanted, Engagement,
by Experienced Oboe.
WEBB, 50, Kennington Park-road, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, Oboe, combine Piano.
References.
41, Margravine-gardens, West Kensington.

WANTED, Known, Miss Eileen May desires Engagement as Harpist, Musical Comedy, or Seaside. 1, Calderstone's-road, Allerton, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Flautist, Engagement, Now, or Summer Shop, any Bus.; first-class refs. Address, FLAUTIST, 30, Cromwell-street, Millfield, Sunderland.

WANTED, Known, experienced Flute and Piccolo, Disengaged; can open at once, any line. BECK, 35, Crofton-st., Rusholme, Manchester.

WANTED, Re-engagement, by experienced Flute and Piccolo, any business; good refs. Apply, FLAUTIST, 66, Talgarth-road, West Kensington, W.

WANTED, Re-engagement, by Professional Lady Pianist; First-class Orchestral experience; Dramatic, Variety, and Pictures. PIANIST, Gloucester Cottage, Cranford, near Hounslow.

WANTED, Engagements, Marie Bell, Piano and Double Bass; Florence Bell, Cornet; Disengaged April 5. 9, Lynthorne-road, Frizinghall, Bradford.

WANTED, by Pianist, experienced, Engagement, Orchestra or Troupe; good refs.
DOWELL, 7, Castle-street, Totnes, Devon.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Pianist; excellent Reader, Transposer, &c.; Brilliant Soloist. Disengaged March 22. STANFORD, Pavilion, Ilkley, Yorks.

WANTED, by Pianist, Conductor, immediate Engagement, experienced; excellent refs. and testimonials. COLLINGS, Grand T., Rawtenstall.

WANTED, Engagement, Orchestral or Military, Tympanies, Glockenspiel, Xylophone, accept Bass Drum and Cymbals in good Military Band. HINCHLIFFE, Theatre, Dewsbury.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by First-class Tympanist; three Tympani, Glockenspiel, and Effects; Brilliant Xylophone Soloist. WADSWORTH, 11, Montague-street, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Engagement, by good, steady, reliable Double Drummer, with Effects; thoroughly experienced, any Business; good references. MUSICIAN, 20, Weymouth-terrace, Southampton.

WANTED, Engagements for Summer Months, Double Drums and Effects; Tympe; young and competent. EDDIE CLOUGH, Pleasant View, Tingley, near Wakefield, Yorks.

WANTED, Offers for Miss Winnie Watson's Ladies' Poppy Orchestra, Soloists and Singers, from Franco-British and Principal Exhibitions, now Folkestone; Southport Pier following. 'Phone, 5,100 Nat. 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton.

WANTED, Known, Shikissimma Band, Ladies' Original Japanese Orchestra. Magnificent costume; extensive répertoire; all Soloists. CONDUCTRESS, Winshill, Howard-road, Newbury.

WANTED, Known, The Grosvenor Ladies' Orchestra, Quartette and Trio, Dis.; also Vocalists and Dancers. WILTON DAVIS, Manager, 42, Linton-street, Islington, N.

WANTED, by First-class Blue Viennese Band, Engagement, hotel, pier, pavilion, &c.
O. HUTTL, Mus. Dir., Grand Hotel, Eastbourne.

WANTED, Engagement, by good Orchestral Band of Eight Performers; any business; best references; at Liberty April 12. Apply, FRED MANN, M.D., Town Hall, Leamington.

WANTED, by Military Band, Engagements, town or seaside; smart uniform; good répertoire. B. M., 56, Chipstead-st., Parsons Green, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Small Brass Band, Tenting, or any business.
H. JAMES, 2, Pump-pail, Croydon, Surrey.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Riders, Benders, Posturers, Useful Ground Acts that Clown, for tenting, commence Good Friday; Euphonium or Bombardon. DENNIS, Circus, Plinton, Alfreton, Derbyshire.

WANTED, for Duffy's Circus, Touring Ireland, starting Easter Monday, Good Knockabout Tumbler, one doing a few tricks on the Triple Bars preferred. Other useful people write in. Will and Bert write. Duffy's Theatre, Newry.

WANTED, Smart Young Lady, Single Trapeze Performer, to Open at Once. Apply, photos., particulars, or call, PENDLEY, St. George's Picture Palace, Westminster Bridge-road.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Crockett's Continental Circus at Liberty for Summer Season, with handsome Stud of Performing Horses and Ponies, and the best Riders in the World. Address, CROCKETT, 129, Liverpool-road, Islington, London.

WANTED, Rosa Montero, at Liberty for Easter, two First-class Acts, Haute-Ecole and Liberty Act, with her own beautiful thorough-bred horse, home or abroad; tenting not objected to. Address, 129, Liverpool-road, Islington, London.

WANTED, Known, Bishop and Winkles, Clown and Agouste, double and single Entrées, Eccentric Comedians. Great success, Boswell's Circus, Theatre, Batley; next, Theatre Royal, Goole, Yorkshire. Liberty for Easter.

WANTED, Comical Walker, Talking Clown, with good Entrées, Vacant Monday, also Tenting. Wire, 76, York-street, Jarrow.

WANTED, Known, The Knotellas (Harry and Rose), Flexible Acrobats, Dancers, &c., Liberty Fêtes, Galas. Coms., March 22, County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames.

WANTED, Known, Signor Bendino, at Liberty for Tenting Season, two distinct Turns, Comedy Juggling and Contortionist, also High Stilt Walker, and can enter in Vaulting; a turn to please audience and management. On tour at present. Address, C/o "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Don Pedro the Great, Unparalleled and most Daring High-wire Performer, open for Fêtes and Galas.
Terms, 99, Rhyddings Park-road, Swansea.

WANTED, Apprenticeship, by Girl, pretty, good figure, age 16, to Bareback Riding and general Circus business; small premium. Full particulars, Box 5,623, "The Era."

WANTED, Situation as Groom in Animal Show; life experience of animals; excellent references; single; Disengaged. ARTHUR DAVIDSON, Post Restante, Liverpool.

BALLOON ASCENTS. PARACHUTE DESCENTS.
WANTED, Secretaries to ensure Big Gates by Engaging Lieut. Lempriere, the Popular Reliable Aeronaut, for aeronautical displays of every description. LEMPRIERE, Handsworth, Birmingham.

WANTED, Engagements, for Airship Flights, Balloon Ascents, Captive Balloons, Balloon Races, Parachute Descents, gas or hot-air balloons, by Lady or Gentlemen Aeronauts.
SPENCER BROS., LTD.,
45B, Aberdeen-park, Highbury, London, N.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.
WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, Twice Nightly; also WORCESTER EMPIRE, Twice Nightly. Wanted, Artists doing Double Turns, used to Picture Shows. No wires, please. ARTHUR CARLTON, Palace, Worcester.

BRITANNIA, GLASGOW.
WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Mar. 29 and onwards, with exceptions. Apply, A. E. PICKARD, Sole Proprietor and Manager.

WANTED, Monday, March 29, and onwards, Variety Artists, all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, KITCHINGMAN, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Branches, for Scotland. Address, JAMES ANDERSON, the Old Reliable Scotch Agent, at the Musical Artists' Club, 32, Stockwell-street, Glasgow. Open from 11 till 3 and from 7 till 12 p.m.; on Sundays, from 10 a.m. till 12.0 midnight.

CLYDEBANK.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.
WANTED, Variety Artists, First-class Acts of all Kinds, Star Comedians, Comediennes, Good Comedy Acts, Reliable Specialities, Sketches, &c., &c., for March 29, and onward. A. E. PICKARD, Sole Proprietor and Manager.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines. Nothing too big. Preference given to those Artists whose Acts I have seen or who are known to me. All letters must send vacant dates or list bookings, and lowest salary; no fancy prices. W. LOVELL HURT, next week, address Temperance Hall, Merthyr. Permanent Offices, Churchgate House, Stockport.

WANTED, Variety Artists, March 29 and on, also Big Star Turn, willing to share.
JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

VICTORIA T., STANLEY, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Star Artists for immediate and future dates. T. C. RAWES, Proprietor.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now on.
Apply, Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

NORTHAMPTON.
WANTED, Artists in all Lines, direct or through Agents.
Particulars, terms, and bookings,
FRED H. ANDERSON, Palace, Northampton.
N.B.—This Hall makes a very convenient break in railway journeys North, &c.

WANTED, First-class Al Fresco Artists, all Lines, must be refined, open Easter, one week before for rehearsals. All particulars, stating age, height, terms, refs., &c., to WEST and EUGENE, 4, Albert-road, Bournemouth.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Artists of Note
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY. I can book you.
DALTON'S AGENCY. Immediate Dates,
DALTON'S AGENCY. and
DALTON'S AGENCY. Dates onward.
DALTON'S AGENCY. No Guessing.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY. Send full list
DALTON'S AGENCY. and very lowest
DALTON'S AGENCY. (this essential),
DALTON'S AGENCY. and permanent addresses,
DALTON'S AGENCY. also
DALTON'S AGENCY. weekly apartments
DALTON'S AGENCY. address.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY. 29, Mauldeth-road West,
DALTON'S AGENCY. Withington,
DALTON'S AGENCY. Manchester.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
I said "Agency."

N.B.—State where never played.
Viviana and Co. wire address. Urgent.

O. MAUS DAYTON'S VAUDEVILLE CO.
O. MAUS DAYTON'S VAUDEVILLE CO.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Crewe, Burton-on-Trent, Brighouse, Castleford, Wakefield, West Bromwich, Warrington, Bath, Southampton, Lincoln, &c.

Comfortable Engagements. Sure Money.
No commission.
Mark letter "Combination."

Many thanks to all who have communicated.
Impossible to answer all.
Please accept silence as a polite negative.

Communications,
THE DAYTON FAMILY,
Central Hall, Lincoln;
Monday next, Palace, Reading;
March 29, Empire, Portsmouth.
No prepaid wires, please,
and no stamped envelopes.

Kindly state permanent address in all cases.
P.S.—Read Half-column Advert. on Other Page.

WANTED, Star Artists
Wanted, Star Artists
Wanted, Star Artists
of every description,
immediate Dates, onwards.
immediate Dates, onwards.
immediate Dates, onwards.

All communications,
Head Office,
HARRY BURNS'S Agency,
HARRY BURNS'S Agency,
Welburn House, Hartlepool.

Telephones 231, 231A,
Wires, "Chosen, Hartlepool."

WANTED, for Galas, Artists of every description, Double Turns preferred. Send terms, memos., lithos., BARRETT, 566, Queen's-rd., Sheffield.

THE MAGPIES ENTERTAINERS.
From the Alhambra, London, &c.
Second Summer Tour.
WANTED, to open Whit Week, to end of Sept., for South Coast Pavilions and Halls, Musical Comedy Artists (lady and gentleman), of acknowledged ability; also vacancy for Dainty Soubrette; good voices, knowledge of music, dance, and burlesque; young, refinement, and appearance essential. Full particulars, salary, Box 5,632, "The Era."

WANTED, for Fred Durham's Agency, Artists, all Lines, March 22, on.
14, Loughboro'-rd., Brixton, S.W. Tele., 15 Brixton. Telegraphic address, "Durhamlike, London."

YARMOUTH AND LOWESTOFT HIPPOS.
THE PALACE, GORLESTON-ON-SEA.
WANTED, First-class Artists, of every Description, March 29, onwards, Acts suitable for Sunday Concert. Wanted, Big Acts, for Easter, Whit Week, and on throughout the season. Give full bookings and quote lowest terms. Kindly Note, impossible to answer all.
GEO. ZALVA'S AGENCY,
The Hippodrome,
Yarmouth.

VERNO'S AGENCY,
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Merriment." 'Phone 2076 Royal.
WANTED, Artists in all Lines, March 29, on.

PALACE, WATFORD.
WANTED, First-class Artists, all Lines, March 29, April 12, May 3. Full particulars, letters only, CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Artists to Note, the B.B. Pictures having taken over the Gaiety Theatre of Varieties, Limited, Glasgow, as from and after March 29, 1909, all Contracts with Artists are cancelled after that date. The GLASGOW GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD., James Hamilton, Director.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
To Proprietors, Managers, and Clients.
From March 15, onwards, please note change of address.
TOM CLAXTON,
Variety Agent,
6, GORDON-MANSIONS, FRANCES-STREET,
TOTTENHAM COURT-ROAD, W.C.
Business done by Correspondence only. No Artist can be seen unless by special appointment in writing.

WANTED, all Concerned,
to Notice,
the
Maidstone Palace of Varieties will be closed for alterations by order of the Receiver and Manager for a week from April 5 to 11 inclusive, and all Contracts for that week are hereby cancelled.

WANTED, for March 29, and onwards,
Stars in all Lines,
Stars in all Lines,
Full up for smaller items.
CADLE'S AGENCY, 105-6, Strand, W.C.

EMPIRE, GREENOCK.
WANTED, Stars and Novelties, share or certainty; also Good Combinations. Apply, MANAGER.

JOHN R. POOLE'S AGENCY.
WANTED, for Weston-super-Mare, April 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, Speciality Turns of all Kinds. Refinement absolutely essential.
Apply, Palace Theatre, Gloucester.

WANTED, for Opera House, Kidderminster, Monday, April 19, Strong Double Turns, capable of Singles. Summer terms. No agents. GUDGEON, Manager.

VENTOM SWIFT'S AGENCY,
1, West Tollcross, Edinburgh.
WANTED, Talent for Glasgow, Dundee, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Greenock, Kilmarnock, &c., March 29, on. All First-class Acts North communicate.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY ('Phone 234Y5 Tron),
170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.
WANTED, Talent in all Lines, Tops, Bottoms, and anything that can be done on the Stage or Ring. Write at once.

GRAND THEATRE, BLACKPOOL.
GRAND THEATRE, BLACKPOOL.
WANTED, Music Hall Attractions, for several dates.

Bert Wickham and big Combination,
Vacant April 12, and various onwards.

All applications re above to the Sole Agent,
ALFRED SELWYN, Oxford Palace, Middlesbrough.
Head Office, New Laithes, Horsforth, Leeds.

WANTED, Cheap, Wire Act, Bicycle Act, Monkey Act, Perch and other Novelteis, for Northampton, four days, Whit. McASKILL, Queen's, Castleford.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

All applications respecting following
to be addressed to
ALFRED SELWYN'S AGENCY,
ALFRED SELWYN'S AGENCY,
ALFRED SELWYN'S AGENCY,
HIPPODROME, WAKEFIELD.
HIPPODROME, WAKEFIELD.
HIPPODROME, WAKEFIELD.
Managing-Director, SYDNEY TOLMER.
The first and foremost place in the City.

WANTED, First-class Combinations,
Wanted, First-class Combinations,
Wanted, First-class Combinations,
Wanted, First-class Combinations,
Wanted, First-class Combinations,
June, July, and Aug.
June, July, and Aug.
June, July, and Aug.

Must be First-class, or useless.
Must be First-class, or useless.

Big Attractions take Big Money.
Big Attractions take Big Money.
Big Attractions take Big Money.

EMPIRE, HULL.
EMPIRE, HULL.
Wanted, Attractions of all Kinds.
Wanted, Attractions of all Kinds.

GARRISON THEATRE, TIDWORTH.
GARRISON THEATRE, TIDWORTH.
Wanted, Music Hall Attractions.
Wanted, Music Hall Attractions.

EMPIRE, SWINDON.
EMPIRE, SWINDON.
Wanted, Top Liners for several dates.
Wanted Top Liners for several dates.

HORACE CAMPKIN'S AGENCY.
HORACE CAMPKIN'S AGENCY.
HORACE CAMPKIN'S AGENCY.
HORACE CAMPKIN'S AGENCY.
HORACE CAMPKIN'S AGENCY

14, NORTON-STREET, LIVERPOOL.

Telegrams, "Campkin, Liverpool."

Telephone 1192 Royal.

WANTED, First-class Acts of every description. Big Gala Acts Whit Week onward communicate, with Lithos. immediately.

HORACE CAMPKIN'S AGENCY,
HORACE CAMPKIN'S AGENCY,
HORACE CAMPKIN'S AGENCY,
HORACE CAMPKIN'S AGENCY,
14, Norton-street, Liverpool.

WANTED.—Acts of all Kinds in the West of England can be booked in S. Wales. Apply to MARTINO'S Agency, 125, Barcroft-st., Grimsby.

WANTED, Acts of all Kinds, now and onward, for South Wales and District, also for Galas. MARTINO'S Agency, 125, Barcroft-street, Grimsby.

SMYTHSON'S AGENCY.

WANTED, to thank the Hundreds of Acts who answered last week's Advt. re
South America and Spain.
Impossible to reply to all.
Silence polite negative pro tem.
Several still under consideration.
Big Sensational Acts and Real Novelties suitable for Ring or Stage,
Home or Abroad, will always be considered.
Big Acts only Wanted.
No callers except by appointment. Address,
38, Craster-road Brixton Hill, London, S.W.

WANTED, always, Double Acts, do Singles, for Picture Shows. Can give several weeks, but terms must be low. Full particulars first instance, DEITRICH AGENCY Co., 31, Islington, Liverpool.

JOHN H. TOMKINSON'S ROYAL GIPSY CO.
Twenty-first Year of Continuous Tour.
WANTED, for Season 1909-10, commence September.
First-class Specialities (Dumb Shows).
Full particulars,
J. H. TOMKINSON, Alhambra, Stourbridge.

HIPPODROME AND PALACE THEATRE, SPENNYMOOR, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Specialities of every description, suitable for Ring or Stage.
Address, C. ALGIE.

WANTED, March 29, onwards, Lady Specialities and Refined Turns who Double up, Cinématograph, on Shares. BERTRAND, 48, Trafford-street, Chester.

WANTED, Specialities and Sensational Turns, for Open-air Fête, Easter Monday, Newport, I. of Wight. GEORGE BAKER, Fair Ground, Cowes, Isle of Wight.

EQUITABLE VARIETY AGENCY
(Rept. E. A. WARD), 8, Fenwick-street, Manchester.
WANTED, Special Big Numbers and Novel Acts.
State full bookings and lowest terms.
Proprietors and Managers requiring Turns in cases of disappointments can rely on special attention.

ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, CASTLEFORD.
WANTED, Big Tops of Bills. Nothing too Big, with Drawing Powers; Artists of every Description, Star Comedians, Star Comediennes, Novelties. Full particulars, BRANLAND and EMERSON, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

PALACE THEATRE, READING.
WANTED, Tops and Bottoms of Bills, several dates this and next year. Letters only, STANHOPE and Co., LTD., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Big Tops, for immediate dates, on Sharing Terms, for First-class Halls; also Artists in all Lines. Send full list of Bookings and Vacancies. We can Book you. BARNARD'S Variety Agency, 33, Shaw-st., Liverpool. 'Phone No. 2349 Royal; telegrams, "Barnard, Shaw-st., Liverpool."

WANTED, for Immediate Dates, Big Top-liners. Send full particulars and very lowest terms in first instance, DEITRICH AGENCY Co., 31, Islington, Liverpool. 'Phone 1269 Royal.

WANTED, for May 31, June and July, Big Tops and Bottoms, Comedy Acts, &c., for South Wales. Absolute lowest, J. BROWN and Co., Variety Agents, 58, Chicksand-street, N.E. Tel. No. 1098 City. Letters only. Seen only by appointment. Following write immediately:—Carter's Ten Dixie Girls, Marie Elsie, The Brontes, Sadie Seymour, Tom and Neil, Rosie Ring.

GRAND HALL, BROMLEY.
WANTED, Quartette Parties, Glee Parties, and Refined Musical Acts, for above, March 29, on. Apply, with full particulars and addresses where to be seen.
MANAGER, Grand Hall, Bromley.

WANTED, for Easter Saturday and Monday, Exhibition of Roller Skating.
Apply, with terms,
YOUNG, Estate Office, Pwllheli.

WANTED, Known, Young Lady, smart appearance, good vocalist and pianist, wishes to join First-class Concert Party or Pierrot Troupe. Reply, E., 44, Cavendish-place, Eastbourne.

WANTED, Young Lady, Smart Acrobatic and Russian Dancer. Address, MATHESON, 44, Stanlake-road, Shepherd's Bush, London. Must reside in London.

ROSHERVILLE GARDENS, GRAVESEND.
WANTED, Tenors, Baritones, and Comedians; must be first-class, strictly refined, and used to pierrot business. Easter and Season. Address, MANAGER, as above.

WANTED, for Charles Dare's White Minstrels, Douglas, Isle of Man, Smart Comedians with Specialities, Robust Tenor, and two good Boy Vocalists. Long Engagement, commencing Whitsun. State experience, age, and absolute lowest terms to CHARLES DARE, "Claremont," Elm-grove, Peckham, London, S.E.

WANTED, Trick Cyclist, also Lady Contortionist, for Fêtes, Whit Monday onwards, Contracts waiting for the right people. Send particulars and terms per day (which must be low); rail fares paid. RELIABLE ENTERTAINMENT BUREAU, 75, Church-road, Homerton, London, N.E.

WANTED, Lady Bicycle Trick Rider, for Novelty Act; must have Stage experience. Apply, with full particulars, to Box 5,634, "Era."

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

Al-Fresco Entertainers.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
The Penmaenmawr Urban District Council invite Offers from a Good-class Minstrel Troupe of Five or Six Performers, including not less than two Instrumentalists or a Small String Band,
for Open-Air Entertainments,
from July to end of Season.
Free site only provided.
Apply, giving full particulars,
not later than Friday, March 26, 1909, to
R. JOHN HUGHES, Surveyor, Penmaenmawr.

VENTNOR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ROYAL VICTORIA PIER PAVILION.
WANTED, by the above Council, a Smart Concert Party, for their Pier Pavilion, for Easter and Whit weeks, on Sharing terms.
Apply at once to
WILLIAM TOZER,
Clerk to the Council.
Town Hall, Ventnor.
March 18, 1909.

WANTED, Concert Parties, Orchestras, &c., Summer Season, shares preferred, large enclosed ground, bandstand, lamps, seats, illuminations, &c. Apply to THE COVENTRY CRICKET GROUND Co., LTD., Coventry.

WANTED, Young Man, Pantomimist; must be good tumbler.
Address,
Box 5,648, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, Strong Middle Man for Acrobatic Comedy Act. Age, terms, full particulars first letter, address, WILLIAM SMITH, Post Office, Bolton.

WANTED, Young Man, to Play Small Comedy Part in Sketch. All communications to HOLLOWAY, 25, Vernon-terrace, Long-lane, East Finchley, London.

WANTED, Comedy Assistant, for a well-known Juggling Act; weight about 9st; must be sober. State terms and full particulars in first letter. Address, Box 5,640, "The Era."

WANTED, Smart Boy, age 14 to 16, one with little knowledge of tumbling preferred, good home. Address, BURNS, 28, Market-place, Stockport.

WANTED, Smart Lad, tumble a little, willing to learn, good home.
Address, Box 5,649, "The Era."

POOLE'S MYRIORAMA.
WANTED, to Open on Monday, April 5, for Touring, thoroughly reliable Bioscope Operator, understanding both electric, A. and C. and Lime; assist fittings when travelling and always in the habit of getting up in the morning. Apply to POOLE, Theatre, Maesteg, stating previous experience, salary required, and references.

WANTED, Variety Artists to Know that the New Lyceum Theatre, Tilbury, closes to-day, March 20. Thanking all Artists for their applications, but no more are required until further notice.

(Signed) A. BALL.

270 Replies.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
Sir,—
I inserted an advertisement, asking for Music Hall Artists in the last week's issue of "The Era." May I say that I am absolutely astounded at the number of replies I received to my small advertisement, no less than 270 Artists favouring me with applications. May I by this means thank the many artists who sent in their terms, as it is impossible for me to reply to each individual. I thank all for their very kind promptitude in responding to my advertisement.
I remain, yours faithfully,
ALFRED BALL.
New Lyceum, Tilbury Docks, Essex.
3/12/'09.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Crissie Cross, Smart Singer and Dandy Dancer, deputised at Halifax; consequence, Mr. Macnaghten liked the Act so well, booked it the tour (14 weeks). My first open date now July 5, 19. Who wants a Good Act that don't want the earth? This week, Pav., Glasgow; next, Hippo., Yarmouth.

WANTED, Known, Marie Taft, Vacant Monday, own songs. Hear "Military Song with her Drum Solo," and "A Penny for my Tram-fare Home." Success Everywhere. Wire, ONARD, 8, Pease-street, Hull.

WANTED, to follow Pontefract, March 29, April 5, by Aidee Mellor, in her Lancashire Dialect Scena, "Christenin' Neet." Coms., Mr. DOTTERIDGE, Oldham.

WANTED, Known, Olive Prinella, Banjo, Soubrette, Good Voice, Vac. Monday, on. 85, Boston-street, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday next, March 22, by Miss René Reno, the Comedy Girl, only Vacancy. Add., 48, Amersham-road, New Cross, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ethel Yorke, the Dainty and Refined Comedienne, at Liberty March 22, 29. Wire, Pavilion, Leicester.

WANTED, April 12, 19, by Edie Le Brun, the Wonderful (and only) Girl Juggler and Vocal Comedienne, assisted by Don Edgar. Next week (return), Grand Varieties, Manchester.

WANTED, by Powerful Soprano, also Well-known Comedian and Dancer, used to Con., Sketches, &c.; good refs. and appearance. 14, Newport-street, Rusholme, Manchester.

WANTED, April 12, onwards, Fêtes, Galas, Halls, Cirques, Aldro Lukos, Man-Monkey, Swinging Perch Act and Tumbling Antics. Offers, Picturedrome, Camborne, Cornwall.

WANTED, Known, Lawrence Derrick (late Drury Lane Theatre, &c.), Baritone, Illustrated Songs, Humorous Duets. C/o "The Era." A fine voice.—Folkestone Herald.

WANTED, Immediate Dates, Tom Wanotee, the Original Singing and Talking Gymnast. March 22, Hippo., Spennymoor.

WANTED, by Arthur Astill, the Great Mimic and Siffleur, March 29, a sure success.
Wire or write, Empire, Leeds.

WANTED, Summer Dates, by Lestrange, Fantataist Jester, the Entertainer of Kings.
The Real Act by the Real Artist.
Extensive Répertoire. Enterprising Manager, try this, watch results. Agents, ASHTON'S; or Southern House, Finchley-road, Child's Hill.

WANTED, Known, Tom Carrick, the Premier Pattering Dame, at Liberty Monday next. For this certain success, wire The Hippodrome, Hastings.

WANTED, Known, Little Zola, Vacant March 29 and April 5, also April 19; Only Vacancies this year. Wire, Hippo., Rochdale. Monday, Hippo., Norwich.

WANTED, March 29, April 5, 12, by Syd Herman, the great Hebrew Comedian. Always successful. Communications, Marina, Ramsgate.

WANTED, Monday next, also 29th, Bu-Val, Happy Dutchman (Concertina).
34, Devon-place, Newport, Mon.

WANTED, Known, Ondra, the Juggling Gymnastic Comedian, Vacant March 29. A Sure Success. Address, 24, Brook-street, Preston.

WANTED, Known, Happy Attwood, Vacant Monday.
Wire, Hippodrome, Stoke-on-Trent.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted.
Wanted, Engagement, by Mr. Gallant Hall, the Dandie at the Piano. This is a style of my own, and have something new in a skit called "Sousa at the Piano," which can only be played with first-class orchestras. Offers wanted from First-class Managers and Agents.
Apply,
Three Salmons Hotel, Usk, Mon.

WANTED, Monday next, Bobb Gilmore, the Queer Comedian. Concludes to-night, Great Success, Palace, Tottenham. Wire, 61, Brook-st., Kennington-road, S.E.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Morimura, Japanese Illusionist, assisted by Miss Miako, Monday next, also 30th, April 5. Wire or write, 13, Windsor-terrace, Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, by Little Hackenschmidt, World's Greatest Bantam-weight Champion Wrestler (still undefeated). Sensational Challenges, &c. Vacant April 5, 12, 19. Wire or write, 34, Margaret street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, by Two Joggys, the Burmese Magicians, including Indian Basket Trick, good Attraction for Picture Show, Exhibition, Side Show, &c., performs on any Varieties Stage, at Liberty on April 5. Humber Waxwork Exhibition, 112, George-street, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Monday next, by Marcus Boyle, Comedian; also Ada Whitton, Burlesque; one or both. Wire, Hippodrome, Blackburn.

WANTED, by Mike and Lena, Dutch Comedy Duo, Monday, March 22, 29, Singing, Dancing, Patter. 34, Vassall-road, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, by Harry Keeble, Ventriloquist, Gladys Wells, Contralto, March 29, April 5, 12 (South preferred). Coms., 281, King-street, Hammersmith.

WANTED, Monday, on, The Mannikins, Living Marionettes, Harry and Maud, Novel Electric Show; also Double Comedy Singing Turn. Wire, Hippodrome, Leek, Staffordshire.

WANTED, Monday, and April 5, by Peakman and Walsh, the Greatest of all Juggling Acts, "The Lady and The Barman." Fourth return, wire, Lyceum, Stafford.

WANTED, March 22, onward, Kyoto, Japanese Contortionist, Conjurer, &c.; May Geraldine, comedienne and dancer. Wire, 15, Haslemere-avenue, Bridlington.

WANTED, Monday next, March 22, by The Hustlers, High-class Comedy Artists, doubles and singles. Add., 48, Amersham-road, New Cross, S.E.

WANTED, Monday next, also 29th, Forest and King. Two pieces of elastic.—Vide Oswald Stoll, Esq. Comedy Acrobatic Novelty Dancers. Empire, Camberwell.

WANTED, Monday next, also 29th, by Bett and Betts, Novel Vocal Comedy Couple. This, Pavilion. Wire, 12½, Gladstone-street, Leicester.

WANTED, Known, The Rowntrees' Comedy Act, Hit of the Programme at E., Hull; vacant May 10. Monday next, Palace, Jarrow.

WANTED, Known, Elton and Elma, in their Great Knockabout Bar Act, Liberty April 12, 19, 26. Monday, Temperance Hall, Merthyr.

WANTED, Monday next, through transferring, The Dunvilles, great Comedy Musical Pot-Pourri Act. For the real thing wire to-day, Tivoli, Dublin (third return).

WANTED, Fêtes and Galas, &c., Alex and Jolly, Knockabout Three-bar Experts; Volio, Man Monkey Act; two good acts. 13, Westfield-terrace, Sheffield.

WANTED, Known, The Donatos, One-legged Acrobatic Clowns, vacant March 29, April 5, April 12. Next week, March 22, Temperance Hall, Merthyr.

WANTED, Monday, also April 5 and 26, by Foiay and Francis, the Successful Comedians. Wire, Empire, Stockport.

WANTED, March 22 and 29, April 5, The Carlsens, Comedy Trampoline Speciality, always a success, splendid lithos. Specially engaged Wolverhampton Fête. Wire, 40, Sidney-st., Manchester.

WANTED, March 22, Kansas City Negro Trio (Flo, Eva, and Charlie), Kings of Harmony and Comedy. Wire, Tivoli Music Hall, Brierley Hill.

WANTED, April 12, 26, by the Howard-Hugh Trio, and Doris Myddleton; two high-class acts, follow Liverpool. Co-op. Hall, Garston.

WANTED, Monday, also April 5, Cecilians, what a draw! Storming Central Hall, Lincoln, this; make enquiries. Don't want the earth.

WANTED, Known, Ringling Trio, Comedy Acrobatic Act on Stilts, &c. Liberty March 22, 29, and April 5. Wire, Palace, Bath.

WANTED, Dates, by La Dor Troupe, six in number, Male and Female, Acrobats, now Touring with Joseph's Pantomime, "Aladdin." Grand Theatre, Mansfield.

WANTED, April 5, 12, 26, by Alma Trio, including Miss Myria Lo-La, in a very smart Comedy Three-bar Act. Big success New Theatre, Pontefract; Theatre, Worthing. Monday next, The Alhambra, Brighton.

WANTED, 29th, by Atlas and Vulcana Troupe (five Ladies and Gentlemen), the World's Premier Athletes. To-night conclude Walthamstow; 22nd, Met. P.A., 17, Waterford-rd., Fulham.

WANTED, Monday next, by Adkin, Ventriloquist, "The Man and the Doll." All up-to-date. Agent, WILL SEY. Wire for Monday, 93, Fitzwilliam-road, Rotherham.

WANTED, Piers, Halls, &c., from April 26, by Rich. Taylor, the Whistling Ventriloquist and Entertainer. All coms., Grand, Manchester.

WANTED, March 29, by Valvo, Great Ventriloquial Act. Sure Novelty and Draw. This, Lapage-terrace, Bradford; next, Exchange Hall, Blackburn.

WANTED, March 29, April 5, by Gulliver, Ventriloquist.
Address, Empire, Burnley.

WANTED, April 26, May 3, 10, by Hulbert, Ventriloquist, and De Lil, Illusionist; two smart acts. Offers invited. The Palace, Normanton.

WANTED, early and later Bookings, for Mr. Harry Liston's and Miss Lumley's "Merry Moments." Address, St. George's Hall, London, W.

WANTED, March 22, Charley Harvey and Co., in the Screaming Absurdity, "The Broken Statue." Wire, Circus, Bury.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ella's Educated Lion Show, acknowledged by Managers and Agents to be the best and cleanest in the Profession; vacant May 3, 10, 17, and 24.

All coms., 38, Albert-road, Long Eaton.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
C. E. STELLING
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and
and
KISWASKI,
KISWASKI,
a Funny Dog.
Wants March 29, April 5, 12, North.
Coms., 17, Angell-road, Brixton.

WANTED, Known, Devereux's Famous Dogs, Illustrating the Great Fight of Burns-Johnson. Roars of laughter. Liberty May 31. Victoria Theatre, West Stanley, Durham.

WANTED, April 19, Pollinter's Steeplechase Boxing Kangaroo, Marionettes; only few vacancies. Return Continent shortly. POLLINTA, 2, High-street, Southend, Essex.

WANTED, Known, Chevalier T. H. Crowther, The Rink Magnet,
at Liberty Monday, April 5, 1909.
Fast Booking Summer and Autumn Dates.
CHEVALIER T. H. CROWTHER,
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WANTED, by Cyclinis Trio, Comedy Acrobatic Cyclists and Football on Wheels, Hippo., West Bromwich, vacant 22nd, 29th, April 26, on; two Acts, Galas. Wire above; after Sun. to perm., 120, Gaythorpe-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday next, by Mouss, Trick Cyclist and One-wheel Skater. Big Hit, Grand, Manchester, where wire.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Pauletti, the funny Somersaulting Cyclist, is free March 22, onwards. Thanks H. Barker, Esq., for Contracts. Two great Acts, Galas. Per., 105, Bigland-st., Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, by Swift Duo, Funny Cycling Speciality, Monday next. Wire, Hippodrome, Spennymoor; after Sat., 89, Bristol-street, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, by Salmon, Trick and Musical Cyclist, March 22, 29. Wire, 51, Booth-st., East Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Geo. Danvers, Dis. Com., Sing, Dance, Sketch, Drama, Panto., Advance or S.M. Variety; good refs. Wire or write, 43, Camberwell-grove, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, Knockabout Comedy Man, age 28, and look to Baggage; just finished 20 weeks' Continent Tour, "Futurity Winner" Co. SMITH, 3, Rothbury-terrace, East Greenwich, S.E.

WANTED, Known, that Tom Hearne (late of Four Hearnes), is at Liberty to join First-class Troupe. Write, Grand, Blackpool.

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WANTED, Known, to Showmen and others.—If you want the most successful show of the century, the genuine Katzenjammer Castle, as erected at Olympia, Earl's Court, White City, Manchester, Blackpool, Southport, &c., write at once for particulars to the only original introducer, Mr. A. L. Baird, 5 and 6, Clement's-inn, London, W.C. Complete outfits installed and most moderate prices, or working plans and specifications sold. The most successful show of the century. Infringers of registered design, numbers 522,903, 522,904, will be immediately proceeded against. Figure "8" Railways, Velvet Coasters, Camel-back Toboggans, and Helter Skelters built at lowest prices.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
Valse Réconciliation,
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the Musical Picture-Poem of Alluring Charm,
is now Attracting the Immediate Attention
of all who hear its Captivating Melody.
One of the most tuneful examples of the kind which we have met with of late.—Daily Telegraph.
Played at the London Coliseum twice daily during this week with magnificent Effect.
All Showmen who have not yet secured a copy of this Famous Waltz should do so at Once.
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Open for Engagements.
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WANTED, Known, at Liberty, Little General, Knockabout Comedian; used to Fairs. Can join at once. C/o Mrs. Powell, Shelwich Green, Hereford.

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commencing at Easter, a Novelty Act,
suitable for Outdoor Free Attraction;
must be First-class and Up-to-date.
Respectability and sobriety would be recognised by a lengthy engagement.
Ground to Let to Respectable Tenants.
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Horace Goldin, Smaun Sing Hpoo, B. Troba, Sisters Karitson, Serenaders, Hall and Earle, Norman Leonard Trio, Three Ausonias, Alexandra and Bertie, Mlle. Renee, Marbas, Four Aces, Les Ados, Pictures, Vasco, Gus Barra.

HIPPODROME, BIRMINGHAM.

S. Bacon's Co., "Duchess of Tooting," Tod Lowen, J. W. Barker, Fimans, Harry and Paul, Kartelli, Belrose and Develin, Harry Nelson, Hampton and Bauman, Pictures, W. Fullbrook.

HIPPODROME, BRIGHTON.

Bob Fitzsimmons, Annie Heath, Lena Wyllie, Medley Barrett, New York Comedy Four, Captain Taylor, Cecilias, Harry Russon, Juno Salmo, Henri and Tyler, Pictures, Bertisch.

HIPPODROME, SHEFFIELD.

Julian Rose, Madeline Rossiter, Blake and Granby, Hyde and Cody Trio, Gallimore Trio, Hal Godfrey and Co., Edie Veno, Parker and Parr, Pictures, Vasilescu Troupe.

HIPPODROME, LEEDS.

Cornalla and Eddie, Florias, Stuart and Evans, Moxon Trio, Alf. Gibson, Payen, Stewart and Morgan, Phil Bransby, Pictures, Renroff.

PAVILION, NEWCASTLE.

Six Bros. Luck, Horace Jones, Camplins, Lieut. Travis, Lane and Lloyd, Josie Delaine, Lloyd Morgan, Pictures, Captain Woodwards.

HIPPODROME, ST. HELENS.

Duncan and Godfrey, Woolmer Young, Bert Woodward, Tennyson and Wallis, Leo Tell, Frazer and Haley, Lutmas, Weisker Bioscope.

HIPPODROME, EALING.

George Newburn, Tom Garland, Phil Peters, Kathleen Gray, Daisy Dormer, Phil and Nettie Peters, Muir and Bartlett, Vere and Neldon, Tamamoto, Pictures.

EMPRESS, BRIXTON.

Dutch Daly, Connie Leon, Tots Davis, Lewis Marionettes, Keith and Rigby, F. Karno's "Yap Yaps," Pictures, Daunton Shaw Troupe, Woodhouse and Wells, The Whatneys, Four Kellys, H. Terry and Co.

PALACE, HAMMERSMITH.

Fred. Dunstone, Edwin Boyde, Tom Collins, Walter Emerson, Dora Lyric, Gwennie Hasto, Stella Girls, Alice Hollander, Pictures, The Dandies, Bogannys, Bros. Ritter, Shirley and Ransom, F. Eustace and Co., in "Our Curate."

THE WEEK'S CALLS

THE EMPIRE, HOLBORN.

Barry Lupino, Jay Laurier, Harry Rogerson, Alice Hollander, Vesta Victoria, Victoria Monks, Lallie Brooke, Stella Girls, Jenny Alexander, Pictures, Conan and Doyle, Wilson and Waring, Lyons and Cullum, Fasola, F. Karno's "Mumming Birds."

OLYMPIA, SHOREDITCH.

Joe O'Gorman, George Ridgwell, Harry Cooke, Collins' Dutch Girls, Eva Ellis, Elsie Clare, Pictures, Martin Henderson, George Gray and Co., Stacey and Williams.

HIPPODROME, WILLESDEN.

Frank Seeley, Clifton and Gibson, Winifred Hare, Four Rosebuds, Gladys Huxley, Mamie Iris, F. Karno's "G.P.O.," including Fred. Kitchen, Pictures, Kelly and Agnes, Cromo and Hamilton, Hackenschmidt.

EMPIRE, CROYDON.

Harry Zetter, Hal Forde, Harry Cotton, Ella Shields, Venie Clements, Pictures, Edward Laurie and May Beattie, Primavesi, F. Karno's "Yap Yaps," Three Merrills.

ISLINGTON EMPIRE.

Harry Conlin, Harry Morgan, Sammy Shields, Sisters Sprightley, Collins' Dutch Girls, Ada Cerito, Pictures, Leo Tell, Hackenschmidt, Three Fidardys.

HIPPODROME, BALHAM.

Ted Cowan, Jay Laurier, T. E. Dunville, Bertha Winder, "The Midnight London Express," Pictures, Nash and Noel, Kent and Keith, Three Cunards, Conway and Garland.

HIPPODROME, PUTNEY.

Dave Samuels, Tom Costello, Chas. Whittle, Lily Langtry, Margaret Parker and Co., Marie Empress, Pictures, Kennedy's Kiddies, Royal Tokio Troupe, Roy and Fenton.

HIPPODROME, POPLAR.

The Great Lafayette, Chas. Craston, Maggie Rimmer, Pictures.

HIPPODROME, ROTHERHITHE.

Chas. Lilburn, Witty Waltie Walton, Sisters Caselli, Marie Wilton, Minnie Paget, Johnny Summers and Film, Pictures, Belles of the Kitchen, Wyndham and Wyatt, Jolly and Nealson.

PALACE, CAMBERWELL.

Chas. Whittle, Harry Bedford, Florrie Forde, See Saw Girls, Yvonne Lamor, Ray Forde, Pictures, Fred. Ginnett and Co., "Dick Turpin," Mendel, Pender Troupe, Oakes Duo, Leo Morode.

EMPIRE, COVENTRY.

Frank Curzon's Co., in "An Englishman's Home."

THE LONDON CASINO

will be open at the end of November, 1909.

THE ALHAMBRA, BRUSSELS.

Heeley and Meeley, Houdini, Les Berthos, C. Barrois, Permane Bros., Three Cumerfords, Lanos and Montes, Stowe Bros., Van Hoste Trio, Les Lylys, &c.

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Klein Family, Rosie Reval, Tony Iveson, Three Krakes, Arthur Reece, Karr and Kooney, W. G. Wesley, Dora Martini, Pictures, Hall and Macey.

HIPPODROME, LIVERPOOL.

"A Star Bout," Harry Ford, C. F. Best, Bliss and Bliss, D. Gould, Winifred Ward, Wright and Lawson, Brent Hayes, Pictures, Lalla Selbini.

HIPPODROME, RICHMOND.

Dave Samuels, Tom Jones, Chas. Ashdown, Daisy Dormer, Minnie Love, Ivy Aberdare, Pictures, Bogannys, Prince Kuroki, Barton and Ashley.

EMPIRE, SWINDON.

Musical Comedy and Dramatic Season.
Bill matter for this hall to be sent direct to Mr. Manners, Empire, Swindon.

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Miss Decima Moore, Gussie Nelson, Sisters Marion, Mlle. Haydee, Emerson and Baldwin, Gus Harris, Henry and Tyler, Pictures, Julius Walthur.

HIPPODROME, WOOLWICH.

Harry Taft, Harry Bedford, Bugler Carr, Lily Eyton, Johnny Summers and Film, Pictures, Olga Audre and Co., Haig and Novel, Arthur Bedini Trio, Bowden and Stol.

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Arthur Woodville, J. P. Ling, Albert Whelan, Evelyn Taylor, Pictures, Jack and Evelyn, Boisset Troupe, Woodhouse and Wells, Recco, Victoria Monks.

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Drama, Twice Nightly.

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Rehearsal at 1.30 for:—
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EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
George Gilbey, Alice Pierce, Virto and Venita, Harry Herbert, Henry Carlton and Co., Alburtus and Millar, Sadie Simpson, Bioscope, Griffiths Bros., Mdlle. Madelaine de Noce.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
"What's Charles Worth?" Summers-Britt Fight Film, Bert Harrow, Adams and Ward, De Gracia's Elephants, Tom Lloyd, Annette Hayward, Katie Trewhitt, Carter Livesey, Lilian Rosebery and Co.

GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.
Monday, March 22, closed for rehearsals.
Tuesday, March 23, and remainder of week, The Glasgow College of Music Operatic Society in "La Mascotte."

ARDWICK THEATRE, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
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HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
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Rehearsal at 2 for:—
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Rehearsal at 1 for:—
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PALACE, LEICESTER.
Rehearsal at 2.30 for:—
Johnson v. Burns Fight Film, Mabel Bright, Ben Albert, Bessie Slaughter, "That Brute Simmons," Rex Fox, Bros. St. Clair, Harry Lawson, The Delevines, Somerfield's Co. in "The Tyrant."

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
George Lashwood, Boyd and Gilfain, Edie King, Canty's Grotto, Austin Rudd, Van Allen, Trentanovi Sisters, J. H. Scotland, Arthur Gill, La Danseuse, Bioscope, Hubert Carter and Co., in "David Garrick."

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
George Robey, Percival, Glenroy Troupe, Frank Lynne, Ginnett's "Hunting Morn," Verno and Voyce, Tambo and Tambo, Tom Child, Bioscope, Henriette de Serris.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Liane D'Eve, Charles Chard, Elsie Roby, Walter Bellonini, Burns v. Johnson Fight Film, Guyer and Valli, Rich and Rich, Victoria Carmen, Annie Casey, Tom Foy and Co.

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Dr. Walford Bodie, Arthur Slater, Ellis Barrieton, Nell Emerald, "England Invaded," Millie Engler and Co., Kerr and Koe, Three Dixons, Ida Kathrena, O Hana San and Co.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Burns v. Johnson Fight Film, "Wake Up, England," Fred Barnes, Phillips and Merritt, Roze and Calvert, The Piccolinos, Gipsy Woolf, Ena Corelli, Carlos Menard, Master Edward Garratt and Co.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Elliott Savonas, Will Evans, Marriott Edgar, Rose Cabani, Frank Bertram and Co., Haley's Garden of Girls, W. J. Churchill, Burley and Burley, Larola, Amy Marsden, Summers v. Britt Fight Film.

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Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Mr. George Alexander's Co., in "The Thief."

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Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Mr. Seymour Hicks' Co., including Miss Madge Crichton, in "The Gay Gordons."

EMPIRE, STRATFORD,
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
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EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Zeynard's Lilliputians, Bert Williams, Lionette Roberty, Paxton Trio, Tom E. Finglass, Vetter Bros., Maisie Hibbs, Bioscope, Daley Cooper, Mabel Lait and Co., in "Passing the Time."

EMPIRE, SWANSEA.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
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EMPIRE, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Bransby Williams, Frank Cass, Hilda Jacobsen, Matt Wilkinson Trio, "No. 99," Schenk Bros., Lizzie Daniels, Bioscope, George Brooks, Foreman and Fannan.

PHILHARMONIC HALL, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
Company as booked.

EMPIRE, NEWPORT
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
La Milo and Cruikshank, Marjorie Lawrence, Walter Wade, Bertha Stuart, Orpheus, Three Welsh Girls, Frank Hartley, Bioscope, Miss Marquis's Ponies.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Auguste Van Biene, Joseph Hart's "Rain Dears," Allan Hanbury, Jackley Trio, Nipper Lane, The Lumars, Chas. Fisher's Opera Co., Lupinos, Bioscope, the Bensons.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Alice Esty, Lydia Yeamans, Minnie Mace, Garry Lynch, Ten Zerbinis, Herbert Darnley and Co., in "John Jay, Jun.," Frank Sylvo, Kathleen Cogan, Bioscope, Sam Mayo.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Karno's "Mumming Birds," Maudie Francis, Les Uniques, Will Cornish, "England Invaded," Cliff Ryland, Alf Holt, Gracie Moore, Ernest Clifford, Tom Edwards.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Karno's Co., including Albert Bruno, in "The Bailiff," Charles Santon, Astley's Circus, Pat Rafferty, Rhoda Paul, Victor Newman, Les Frasettis, Arthur Astill, Bioscope, Frederic Villiers.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Ernest Shand, G. H. Chirgwin, Kate Traill, Tom E. Hughes, Belle Davis and Piccs, J. L. Shine and Co., The Mayvilles, Jeannie Mackay, Bioscope, Leipzig.

The following are booked in conjunction with the above:

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Jack Pleasants, Edie Endon, Hal Hughman, Great Wieland, Sisters Herbert, Eadie and Ramsden, Elton Black, Pictures, The Rawsons.

EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
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EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Howell and Scott, George Young, The Meymotts, O'Malley and Brown, Lily Esplin, Idento Bros., Pictures, Selbinis.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
Hetty King, Stylo, Jennie Hartley, McCann's Dogs, Burns and Danvers, Beatrice Bonnie, Bioscope, Fred Earle.

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RE APPLICATIONS FOR ENGAGEMENTS.

All applications by either Artists or their Agents must be made to the Head Office. Lowest terms must be stated, and distinction made between salaries required for larger and smaller towns. Vacant dates should be stated. If a list of existing bookings be sent, it will render selection easier.

Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not rebooked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follow:—

EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, NEWCASTLE, AND DISTRICT.
MR. S. GETHING, Empire Theatre, Glasgow.

BIRMINGHAM, NOTTINGHAM, LEICESTER, AND DISTRICT.
MR. HATTON WHARTON, Empire Theatre, Nottingham.

SOUTH WALES DISTRICT.
MR. ALBERT MITCHELL, Empire Theatre, Cardiff.

LEEDS, SHEFFIELD, HULL, BRADFORD, AND DISTRICT.
MR. T. GERALD MORTON, Empire Palace, Leeds.

LIVERPOOL, MANCHESTER, AND DISTRICT.
MR. ALBERT BULMER, The Empire, Liverpool.

LONDON DISTRICT.
MR. J. CHRISTIE, Empire Theatre, Shepherd's Bush, W.

N.B.—Mr. OSWALD STOLL or Mr. FRANK ALLEN can be seen by appointment on all matters arising out of the above, and for the discussion of entirely new Numbers.

All Artists or Agents who communicate with our District Representatives must have made definite applications, in accordance with above directions, to the Head Office, at the same time, or just previously.

Artists and Agents are requested to note that the Standard Theatre, Shoreditch, and the Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, come within the areas absolutely barred by us. Artists and Agents are also requested to note that the Hippodrome, Aston, Birmingham, comes within the area absolutely barred by the Grand Theatre and Empire Palace, Birmingham.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have at least Fourteen Band Parts for English Orchestrations, and Seventeen Band Parts for Foreign Orchestrations. Matter of Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to Co-operative Offices, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements cancelled. It is important that separate bill-matter, blocks, pictorials, &c., for Dublin, Belfast, and South Shields, be sent direct to Mr. Frank Allen at the Co-operative Offices.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced. Artists' Scenery, Properties, &c., MUST be fireproofed in accordance with the regulations of the Licensing Authorities.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

No order or contract for goods or services must be accepted for any of the foregoing theatres except upon receipt of an Official Form, issued from the Co-operative Offices, London, and signed by either Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. Frank Allen, or the Chief Accountant, otherwise the Company concerned will not be responsible for same, and will refuse payment. In special cases, where goods are required at once, suppliers must look to the individual placing the order, who will be personally liable, unless an official confirmatory order, signed as above, is received within forty-eight hours. Invoices must be sent to the Theatre, but monthly statements should be sent to the Co-operative Offices. The individual Company on whose behalf orders are signed is solely responsible for payment. The Management will not hold themselves responsible in the event of loss of or damage to any MSS., Songs, &c., submitted for consideration.

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Managing Director, **WALTER DE FRECE.**

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Rehearsal at 12 for:—
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PALACE, OLDHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Effie White, Bros. Horne, Hewitt and Partner, Rosie Bartlett, Arthur Roberts and Co., Florry Cooper, Frank Couch, Pictures.

HIPPODROME, BLACKBURN.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Daisy Wood, Borghetti Troupe, Fergusson and Mack, Chiko, Rose Hamilton, Burley and Grean, Maud Santley, Pictures.

EMPIRE, WOLVERHAMPTON
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Pasquali Bros., Natalie and Diana, Beau and Belle, Barney Armstrong, Jock Campbell, Max Gruber, Harold Heath, Jamie Piper, Pictures.

HIPPODROME, PORTSMOUTH.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Eugene Stratton, Herbert Rule, Wilman, Ida Barr, Marie Stroud, Mabel Mignon, "Leaves of Memory," Pictures.

HIPPODROME, SOUTHAMPTON.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
Kendrick and Laura, Julian Mack, Phil Parsons, Leah Adell, Alec Hurley and Co., Sisters Ford, Leslie Brothers, Pictures.

HIPPODROME, BOSCOMBE.
Rehearsal at 1.30 for:—
Daisy James, Ted Curtis and Piccs., Leslie Harris, Texas Hattie, Tiger Lily, Slippere, "Claude Duval," Schiavony's Troupe, Pictures.

HIPPODROME, BIRKENHEAD.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Zenary Bros., Albert McKelvie, Sinclair and Whiteford, James Basnett, Marie Francis, Sisters Elmore, Mars Trio, Vardora, Zelda, Wal Owen, Pictures.

EMPIRE, BOLTON.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Mooney and Holbein, F. Dorman, Sisters Dainton, B. Babbington, Lily Flexmore, Richards Trio, Bert Lytton, Sivronis, Wulfrunas, Pictures.

HIPPODROME, COLCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 1.30 for:—
"Belle of the Orient," Ted Saunders, Harry Carsdale, Josie Highland, Olrac and Beckett, Michael Nolan's Co., Pictures.

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Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Clempert, Randolph Slater, Valosky, Lil O'Brian, Walter Wallis, Lola Kornero, Evans and Willie, Pictures.

HIPPODROME, MARGATE
Rehearsal at 2.30 for:—
Four Mexicans, Millie Woolfgang and Co., Fynn and Fayne, Potts, Lillie Edwardes, Pictures.

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WILKIE BARD'S—
"I Rattled My Money-box."

HARRY FORD'S—
"I Always Like to Do Things Nice and Friendly."
"What Does he Want it for?"
"You Mustn't Do that, Naughty Boy."

HARRY CHAMPION'S—
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Messrs. FIRTH and FIRTH,
Solicitors,
Craven Bank-chambers, Bradford. Tel. 1161.

NOTICE.

PALACE THEATRE, CARLISLE, LIMITED.

The PROPRIETORS of the PALACE THEATRE CARLISLE, GIVE NOTICE that as they will cease to be in occupation and possession of that Theatre after May 10, 1909, all Contracts with Artistes for subsequent dates are cancelled.

By order,
W. P. GIBBINGS, Secretary.
Palace Theatre, Carlisle, Limited

I, THOMAS HARGREAVES, Proprietor of the Empire Theatre, Rochdale, have given the eight weeks' notice to all Artists who are booked at the above Hall. All Contracts from April 24, 1909, are cancelled according to the Award, owing to the Hall being closed for alterations, and that Ralph Pringle, Proprietor of The North American Picture Co., has taken the Hall on lease.

(Signed), THOMAS HARGREAVES.

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Drythroat wishes to give his wife a bouquet on her birthday, and asks his friend Sandy to help him in his choice. They select a palm-tree, and then enter a café for a glass of wine. They have a second, which makes them walk home very unsteadily. Drythroat falls down on the tree. Sandy then informs the "missus," who gives her husband a dip in the pool, in order to cool him the more quickly.

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Code Word, "GLU."

Edgar's school-teacher mentions to the boy's mother that he is a naughty boy at school, for which she punishes him. Then the cobbler and the butcher, as well as all the tradesmen, to whom his conduct has been explained, punish Edgar severely. This he resents, and determines to have his revenge, so he ties the porter's bell to the teacher's chair, and glues all the chairs of his persecutors. The teacher tries to get up, but sticks to his chair, and the bell rings loudly, while everybody appears with their chairs fastened to their clothes. It is now Edgar's turn to laugh.

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THE BLUE LEGEND.

Code Word, "GOBELET."

Maryvonne, the Breton wife of Fantec, the fiddler, is going to market when she is assaulted by two tramps, who leave her senseless after robbing her. A peasant woman acquaints her husband of the accident, and he has her conveyed home, and plays tunes for her till she dies. Becoming a madman after this, he wanders about playing his violin, and at last expires playing a doleful tune.

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Code Word, "GIBERNE."

Herbert, who has lost his inheritance through his uncle's announcement that he is going to marry a baroness, determines to have his revenge. While the servant is blacking his uncle's boots Herbert fills them with paper, and after a time the general succeeds in getting them on. Limping very uncomfortably, he repairs to the house of his beloved. Herbert arrives first, and drives a fish-hook into the baroness's wig. As the general is offering a bouquet to the lady Herbert pulls the string and the wig disappears. This causes the fiancée to have a fit of hysterics, while the general makes his escape. Herbert now has his uncle's assurance that he will be his sole heir.

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HARRY WISHES TO BE A HOOLIGAN

Code Word, "GIBUS."

Harry is rather inclined to be lazy, and cannot keep any work. Seeing two hooligans counting their money, he envies them, and they accept him as a recruit. After various fruitless attempts to rob different people, he is told to rob a safe in a certain house, but as he is just about to wrap up a bundle he is disturbed, and hides himself in the sheet he has spread out. The maid enters, and orders the bundle to be thrown out of the window. Poor Harry now returns to his former employers and promises to work properly in future.

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THE MULE-DRIVER'S DAUGHTER.

Code Word, "GEOLIER."

The mule-driver's daughter tries to make her sweetheart promise to be faithful to her always, which he at last does, knowing he can break it when he likes. After seeing the girl home, he goes to the inn, where her father is counting his money, which makes the young man envious. Seeing the mule-driver ride away, the lad hurries to a place where the elder man must pass, and waits for his victim. A shot is heard, the murderer takes the purse from the mule-driver, and disappears. The mule, arriving home alone, makes the daughter anxious, and she hurries off in search of her father, whom she finds just in time to denounce his murderer before expiring. Finding the murderer counting his booty in front of his hut, the girl shoots him mercilessly.

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TOT AT THE MASKED BALL.

Code Word, "GENET."

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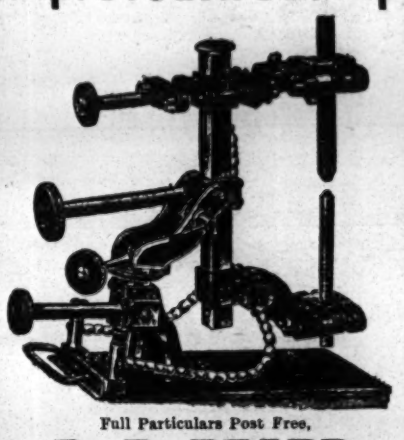

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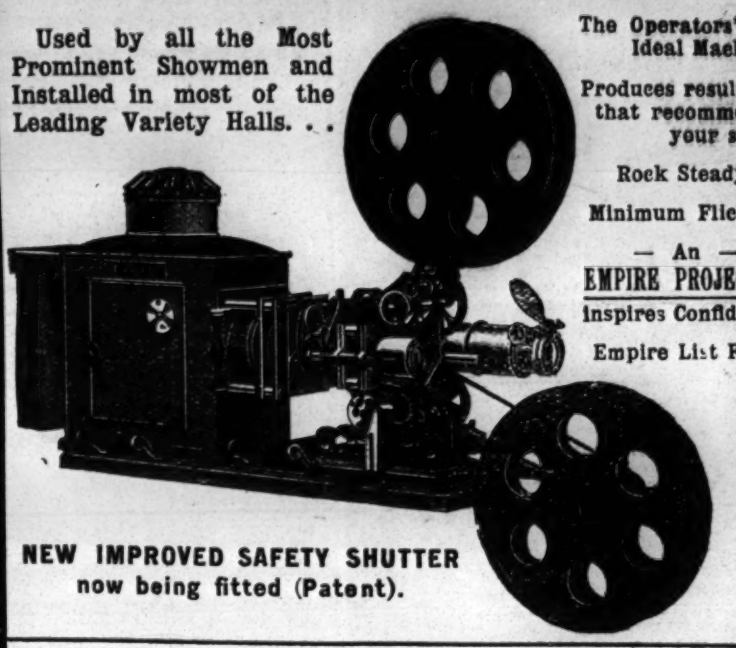

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TO SHOWMEN, ENTREPRENEURS, AND CINEMATOGRAPH SHOW EXPLOITERS.

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FOR

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Sir,—
It may possibly interest you to learn that a Quarter-Column Advertisement in "The Era" (One Insertion) resulted in over £1,000 Bookings for an Entertainment with which I was connected some little time ago. The Entertainment was entitled

ALFRED WEST'S "OUR NAVY,"

and the Bookings were effected within a week.

Yours faithfully,
H. GOLDSMITH-WHITTON,
Late Manager, West's "Our Navy," Ltd. &c.
London, May 19, 1904.

The GRAYS THURROCK Urban District Council

INVITE TENDERS

for the right to give performances in their

PUBLIC RECREATION GROUND

known as the "Beach," during the season period from 29th May to 30th September, 1909.

Full particulars and forms of tender may be obtained from the Council's Surveyor at his office, 53, High Street, Grays.

Tenders are to be endorsed "Tender for Park Entertainments," and are to be delivered to the undersigned by 4 p.m. on Thursday, the 25th of March, 1909.

HATTEN and ASPLIN,
Clerks to the Council.
Urban District Council Offices, Grays,
17th March, 1909.

County Boro' of SWANSEA

SWANSEA SANDS.

TO AMUSEMENT AND REFRESHMENT CATERERS.

THE Corporation of Swansea INVITE TENDERS from persons desiring to rent that portion of the Swansea Sands (above H.W.M. of O.S.T.) lying between the Slipway at St. Helens and the Vivian's Stream.

Offers for the whole or a part of the ground will be considered.

Further particulars may be obtained from Mr. Marcus Hoskins, F.S.I., Borough Estate Agent, Coleridge House, Swansea.

Sealed Tenders are to be sent to the undersigned endorsed "Tender for Sands Letting" on or before 13th April, 1909.

The Corporation do not bind themselves to accept the highest or any Tender.

JNO. THOMAS, Town Clerk.
Guildhall, Swansea, 12th February, 1909.

Burgh of BROUGHTY FERRY.

AL-FRESCO ENTERTAINMENTS

THE Town Council of the above Burgh will at their Meeting on the 5th of April next be prepared to receive OFFERS for the right to provide AL-FRESCO ENTERTAINMENTS, SHOWS, &c., on the Promenade and Beach for the Summer Season of 1909.

Particulars of site available, terms of occupancy, and any other information required can be had from the undersigned, who will receive Sealed Tenders on or before 3rd April, 1909.

DOUGLAS WINNING, F.S.I.,
Burgh Surveyor.
Municipal Buildings,
Broughty Ferry, 16th March, 1909.

HOTEL PROPRIETORS.
To Hotel Proprietors who regularly file "The Era."
HANDSOME ILLUMINATED METAL TABLETS
of
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will be supplied gratis on application to the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5 Tavistock-street Strand W.C.

FIVE HUNDRED REPLIES

IN ANSWER
to
ONE ADVERTISEMENT
in the
WANTED COLUMNS
of
"THE ERA."

Mr. ALBERT HENGLER
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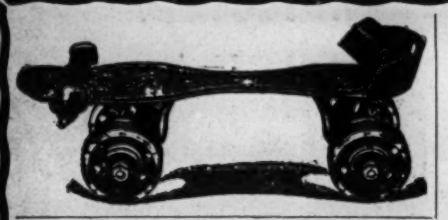

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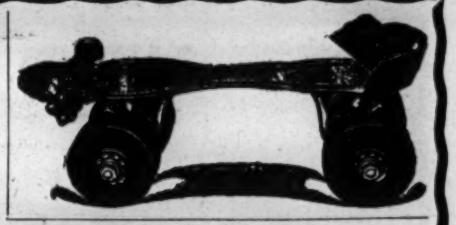

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31.

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WANTED, to Hire, for coming Season, Hall or Pier Pavilion, for Picture and Variety Entertainment; seaside preferred. Full particulars, lowest terms, Box 5,646, "The Era."

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WANTED, Lady or Gentleman, with £150, to Finance Production of Novel Act, for Halls and Theatres. Part could be arranged for Comedian and Lady who can play piano and part of Caretaker (low comedy). No amateurs. Mr. Seymour Hicks says:—Novel and entertaining, and should be a big success. Address, 119, Fielding-road, Bedford Park.

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WANTED, the Best Skates, Best Floor, Best Uniforms, and all Materials for an Up-to-date Skating Rink. Staff, &c. Address, Manager, Skating Rink, Northumberland-street, Chorley.

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WANTED, to Thank all Artists who answered last week's Advertisement; both vacancies filled. The old firm, Harry Albery, 42, Young-street, Doncaster.

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HUMOROUS & TRAGIC STORIES OF

SHOWMAN LIFE.

TOLD BY THE

Rev. THOMAS HORNE,

Chaplain to the Showmen's Guild

Issued at

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5, TAVISTOCK-STREET, STRAND, W.C.

MUSIC HALL CARDS.

Alphabetically Arranged—Limited to Three Lines.

ACHMED IBRAHIM'S GREAT Troupe of Ten Bedouin Arabs. The genuine Success. March 22, Empire, Liverpool.

ALBERT, SISTERS. Usual Success. This week, Gaiety, Chatham; next, Public Hall Theatre, Barnsley.

ALLEN, SISTERS W. Mon., 22nd, Alhambra, Brighton. Chatham to follow. S. Hart, Esq.

ALVA, GLEN, Comedian and Dancer. Many thanks for offers; still free Xmas next, Baron, Idle Jack, or Page. Blackmore's Agency.

ALVANTEE, King of Slanting Wire. Lib. Mon., and for Tenting. Other good acts. 98, Oldfield-road, Salford, Manchester.

ASHLEY, BROS. "Next, Please." Sadler's Wells; 22nd, Surrey Theatre. Fortune and Granville and G. Barclay.

ASTLEY'S AMERICAN CIRCUS, Great Comedy Act. Vac. March 29, April 5, 12, 19. Hippo., Wigan; next, Empire, Leeds.

ATLAS and the Beautiful VULCANA TROUPE. Conclude Walthamstow; 22nd, Met; require 29th. 17, Waterford-rd., Fulham.

BADDOW and "TIM." March 22, coms. to 7, Pump-square, Boston, Lincs. Vac. April 26, May 17; also Summer Dates.

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BARKER, MR. HARRY. March 22, Palace, East Ham, London.

BARTHOLOMEW, SISTERS, Splendid Reception Nightly. Pal., Glasgow; 22nd, R., Oldham.

BARTLETT, ROSIE The Circus, Bury. Next, The Palace, Oldham.

BATTLE, GEORGE, Actor Vocalist. This, Hip., Tredegar; Mon. next, Forge Hammer Hotel, Blaina, Mon.

BATTYE, OSWALD, Comedian. Monday next, 44, North-street, Kennington-road, London.

BEANLAND. Wire offers for April 5. This, H., Yarmouth; next, H., Lowestoft.

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BEAUMONT, MISS MAUDE, Thanks Mr. Jazon for 12 weeks' Panto. 22nd, Hippodrome, Bedford Leigh.

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BRUE, MARK, RAY SUN. A Few Vacancies, 1914. Also July, 1909. See other Advertisement.

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DAHL, RUBY, in Her Original Act. Hansa Theatre, Hamburg.

DALLWOOD, MISS NELLIE, Comedienne and Buck and Top-boot Dancer. Per., 85, Hackford-rd., Brixton, S.W. 'Phone 560 Brixton.

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DE ROSE, MLLE., J. H. HAWTREY, the Lady Foli. Actor Vocalist. Empire Theatre, Doncaster.

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DOYLE and GIBSON, Comedians. King's Theatre, Kilmarnock; Next King's Theatre, Kirkcaldy.

DUNCAN and BRASQUE (CORA) Enormous Success. (ALBERT) Address, Gaiety Theatre, Dundee.

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DUTCH DROLLS, THE, the Somewhat Different Entertainers. This and next, 31, Russell-st., Liverpool.

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ELLA'S, MISS, Educated Lion Show, Best in the Profession. 38, Albert-road, Long Eaton.

ELLERTON, A., Song Author. Ask Dunville, Tich, Leighton, Lyric, Randall, &c. Efra Dene, Church-road, Brixton Hill, S.W.

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Published by "THE ERA" LIMITED, 5, Tavistock St., Strand, W.C

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDEEN. — H. M. Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—The Compton Comedy company pays a welcome visit this week, *A Reformed Rake* being staged on Monday. Mr. Compton dominated the stage as Harry Jasper, his endeavours to show how a drunken roysterer may at the same time remain a gentleman being artistically effected. Mr. Henry Crocker was an admirable Mr. Thornton; Mr. Ivan Leslie was delightfully ingenuous as Adolphus Thornton; Mr. Henry Worrall made a skilful villain; Mr. Wallace Johnston showed conspicuous talent as the moneylender, Andrew Wylie; and Mr. Philip Gordon looked and acted the part of a portly butler to perfection. Miss Constance Merton played sympathetically as Mrs. Thornton; Miss Kathleen Leigh was a charming Joyce; and Miss Viola Compton gave a convincing portraiture of the adventuress, Arabella Mountstuart. *Davy Garrick* was presented on Tuesday.

Palace Theatre.—Lessees, The United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—Charcot and his automatic man tops the bill. The turn is very bewildering and wholly interesting; Mr. Ben Brown and Mr. George Le Clerq appear with much success in *Black Justice;* Miss Sidy Nirvanah and her white horse provide a series of highly artistic tableaux; the Woodwards give a dexterous balancing act; Spangles and Sawdust show grace and skill in their gymnastic turn; Mr. Hamilton Hill, the Australian baritone, possesses a fine, highly-cultivated voice; Walker and May, coloured comedians and dancers, are warmly applauded; and an intensely dramatic sketch *The Hypocrite* is very well played by Mr. Fred S. Peake and company.

Empire and Alhambra Music Halls.—Managers, Messrs K. Calder and J. Montague.—The principal artists are Sterling and Cashen, clever singers and dancers; Mr. Harry Lamb, a comedian of originality and resource; Mr. Jack Marson, vocalist and raconteur; Miss Marie Rose and Mr. Archie Murray delight the audiences. Mr. Montague, the joint manager, who is very popular in the city, took a benefit on Wednesday, when the house was crammed in every part.

ABERTILLERY.—Theatre Metropole.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. J. Seaborn.—The great military play, *Under Two Flags*, was excellently presented on Monday for three nights. Bertie Cecil Royellieu was well sustained by Mr. Austin Milroy; Mr. Harley West is a capable Barklie Royellieu; Colonel Chanteroy finds a clever exponent in Mr. Roy Jackson; Miss Agnes Verity is a spirited Cigarette; Miss Florence Last portrays Princess Venetia in quite a realistic manner; Mr. George Hanbury is a success as Lord Rockingham; and Mr. Will Hook is an excellent Rake.

Pavilion.—Lessees, Messrs. E. and H. Tilney; Manager, Mr. E. Pryce.—Bostock's baboons are performing marvellous feats here; the Three American Bouncing Pattersons are skilful acrobats; a successful sketch, presented by Messrs. Ford and Webb's company, is entitled *The Seal of Confession;* Souplessi shows strength and agility on the rings; E. W. Selman has some funny sayings and pleasing songs; Ivy Gallan is an admirable comedienne and dancer; and Percy Maye sings capitally.

ACCRINGTON.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—Mr. C. Watson Mills' company is paying a welcome return visit here with *A Warning to Women*. Mr. Harry C. Robinson handles the difficult part of Dr. Marcus Dread with discretion and success; Mr. Charles O'Connor displays earnestness as Fergus McNaughton; and Mr. Edward Warden ably fills the part of Shaun. Mr. William Lockhart gives a capital study of Squire Kennion, and Mr. Leicester Jackson is a richly humorous Lord Eversleigh; as the Frenchman, Ferdinand de Joules; Mr. W. Pallister Acock is conspicuously successful; and Mr. Oscar Power is much in evidence as Mike McQuade. Miss Blanche St. Albans plays Moira with grace and power; Miss Gertrude Vickers submits a good portrayal of Sheila, and Miss Myra Egton supplies a faithful study of the crippled lad Myles O'Moore. The scenery and staging are excellent.

New Hippodrome.—Proprietors, The Accrington Hippodrome Co.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—Messrs. Cullen and Carthy's pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*, is being presented here at two houses nightly. Miss Bessie Cohen makes an ideal Robin Hood; Miss Ruby Royal is a charming Maid Marion; and the Babes have capital representatives in Miss Dolly Cullen and Miss Elsie Jordison. Mr. Arthur Stratton is well placed as the Baron, and Mr. Tom Drew displays genuine ability as the Dame; Messrs. Cullen and Carthy as Bill Morgan and Dick Rockyfellow cause much amusement, and are ably assisted by the mirth-provoking little fellow Cluley as Bantam. Some excellent dances are executed, and specialities are given by Cullen and Carthy, the Melbahs, Les Belles Americaines, and Dolly and Elsie.

ALDERSHOT.—Royal and Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Jack Gladwin.—*The Assassin*, the drama being produced twice nightly, is out of the ordinary run of dramatic sensationalism, and, as played by Mr. Augustine Knight's company, is greatly appreciated. Prince Demetri is cleverly impersonated by Mr. Augustine Knight. Mr. Knight's previous appearance in *The Face at the Window* is well remembered here. Miss Ella Vane gives a successful enactment of the name-rôle; whilst Ivan is a rôle acceptably filled by Mr. John Worth. Mr. Wilson Summers is capital as Chief of Police. The lighter vein in the drama is ably sustained by Miss Eva Trevanna as the Yankee girl, Mr. Edwin Jenner as the English captain, Mr. Murray Hathorne as the fussy Frenchman, and Mr. J. P. Dellson and Miss Kate Lever in their respective parts. Miss Maude Steeple makes a pathetic Nita. The drama is elaborately dressed and finely staged. The Bioscope shows several capital pictures.

ASHINGTON.—Miners' Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fred Gould.—Mr. Fred Granville's company is here this week with *The Better Land*. Mr. Edgar G. Noble gives a powerful rendering of the part of Philip Radcliffe; Mr. Stanley Radcliffe is well suited to the rôle of Hubert, Philip's brother; Mr. Leonard Marshall as George Grant and Mr. J. F. Hughes as Bill Bones are both excellent in their respective parts; Mr. Gray P. Ellis appears in a creditable study of the detective, William White; Mr. Bert Dench humorously represents Tom Tadpole; and Miss Bella Moody as Polly Perkins proves herself a comedienne of originality, her songs being particularly well received. As Doris, Philip's wife, Miss Maud Stewart Drewry is excellent, and the same must be said of Miss Marguerite Trevosper as Mercedes. Miss Violet Vivian is amusing as Aunt Jemima; Miss Gerty Moody as Harry and Miss Emily Entwistle as Tessa are clever child actresses, who show promise.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill, jun.—Messrs. Bateman and Conquest's company is here with *The Crimes of Paris*. Mr. Clavering Craig vividly depicts the detective, Pepin Cardel; Mr. Alfred D. Adams as the Demon, Viscount de Vismes, the fiend in human shape, "terrorises" truculently; Mr. Kendrew Milson as Jules Martel does good work; Mr. H. J. Walton is prominent as Pierre Pelport; the moneylender; and Mr. Roy Hylton as Joshua Johnson, the Cockney clerk on his wedding tour, introduces some diverting humour. Miss Marie Barrett portrays with power the complex personality of Angèle; as La Belle Hélène Miss Flora Hastings exercises to advantage her powers of fascination; and Miss Christine Bickerstaff as Lisette is effective.

Empire Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr W. Leech; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Jesse Burslem.—Heading the "bill" for the week here is Miss Kitty Colyer, a smart comedienne, whose dancing is expert; Lidden and Haywood, as Cecil and Elsie, give a good double performance of music and dialogue; Adela Crispin is a refined musical comedy artist; and one of the chief features of the programme is the "turn" given by Charles Baldwin's company in the sketch *Merry Wives*. Vanando is a clever ventriloquist; Rezene and Rezene are a clever couple; Britain's Military Heroes are portrayed by L. and R. Edmond; Jim Cheetham (a good whistler), and H. O. Wills (in song and patter), with the Bioscope, complete.

New Pavilion.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech; Assistant-Manager, Mr. C. F. Wilson.—The vaudeville artists for the week are Lillie Le Main, a Lilliputian artist; and Lambeth and Robertson (Flo and Robert), clever impersonators of the Scots' Folk. The pictures are attractive.

The Picturedrome.—Lessees, Messrs. Welsker Bros.; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Marks.—Some good animated films are again the attraction here. A series of views shows Military Evolutions and Manœuvres of Our Battleships. There are also some topical photos.

ATTERCLIFFE.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manageress, Miss Ethel J. Hope.—A varied and interesting selection of moving pictures, the Cinephone, and popular illustrated chorus songs, ably rendered by Mr. Cyril Yorke, baritone vocalist, provide a combination which is drawing crowded houses at every performance.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Bert Dent.—The programme here this week is well sustained by Mr. Chris. Van Bern in a highly amusing and smart comedy act; Mlle. Du Roche and her Two College Boys in pleasing vocal items; the Oimars, acrobats, in Roman statuary tableaux; Zimpa, clever farmyard mimic; the Four Burnells, musical and comedy artists; Miss Sybil Lister, vocalist; the Ramlos, in a humorous triple bar performance. The Attergraph pictures complete.

BACUP.—New Court Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood.—Miss Lena Stanton and Harry Joseph's pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*, is here this week. Miss Stanton makes a pleasing figure of the title-rôle, and earns considerable applause for all her songs; Miss Gertie Lovedale fulfils the requirements of the part of Polly Perkins; the good fairy queen Britannia is agreeably taken by Miss Rena Wills; Miss Marie Gerard makees a smart Captain Billie Tailor, and her singing is fully appreciated; Mr. Melville-Page as Will Atkins acts the bold bad man with due emphasis; and Mr. F. Forms as Davy Jones is a success; Mr. T. Leglere as McCross and Mr. F. Leglere as McBones are good in the comic scenes. As Mrs. Crusoe Mr. Sidney Dean is excellent. Among the laughter-makers Little Keeno as Sunny Jim Crusoe provokes much merriment; an excellent Friday is found in Mr. E. Floyd Gwyne. The specialities include the Leglere Troupe of acrobats and the Alhambra Girls.

BARNSLEY. — Theatre Royal. — Proprietors, Barnsley Theatre Royal Co., Ltd; Manager, Mr. A. C. Mitchell.—Mr. Fred Melville's company is appearing here this week in *Her Forbidden Marriage*. Mr. Henry Lonsdale as George Madison gives a fine performance; Mr. Louis Hector as the villain, Chas. Devereux, submits a finished portrayal of a villainous part; Mr. C. Davidson as Geoffrey Broughton is good; Mr. Fred De Vere as Timothy Tuttut provides amusement; Miss Isla Garnet Vayne as Lucy, Sir George Lancaster's ward, acts in good style.

Empire Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. Will Smithson; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. J. Tennant.—The Mezzettis give a fine triple-bar performance; Denby and Dent are interesting in a new comedy act; Leo Carle appears in a fine quick-change scena, and proves himself a good musician; Smarte Bros. are, as their name suggests, smart in a funny acrobatic act; the Carlyles submit a capital whirlwind dancing performance; Body and Johnson company present a screamingly funny sketch, entitled *Turning the Tables;* Bijou Juvenile Troupe are attractive in a refined musical scena, *Pansy's Birthday*. The Palacescope shows fine pictures.

Public Hall.—Proprietors, Mayor and Corporation of Barnsley; Manager, Mr. E. Cheesman.—Mr. Jasper Redfern's company is here again this week. The great Johnson and Burns' Fight is the chief attraction, and is drawing great houses; Chant and Chant are extremely funny in a comedy duologue; Sisters Albert are pleasing duettists; Harry Leaton, a character comedian; J. W. Burnett, a ballad vocalist, make up the bill.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—Royalty Theatre and Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's company, in *Mother*, is here. Mr. J. O. Stewart is natural and commanding as Duncan Fairweather; and Mr. Alex Alexander is good as Frank Rodney; Mr. Jasper Garth acts the villain well as Stephen Carrington; and is ably assisted by Mr. Evan Barinland as Jasper Randon; Miss Blumenthal does well as Mrs. Fairweather; Miss Lara Leigh is admirable as Vesta L'Estrange; and Miss M. Thorne Hallam acts with charm as Nellie; while Mr. Teddy Myles as Tommy Novlets and Miss Grace Stafford as Polly Crumpet are very humorous.

His Majesty's Theatre.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Miss Lena Ashwell's company, in *Grit* is here. Mr. Leslie Carter gives a particularly fine presentment of James Barr; and Edith Winter is beautifully done by Miss Gladys Purnell; Dick Travers is well played by Mr. T. A. Shannon; Miss Elspeth Dudgeon does well as Mrs. Winter; and Mr. Philip Sanders is a capital Mr. Winter. Mr. Ralph W. Hutton is an admirable Mr. Norreys.

Tivoli.—Lessee and Manager, Signor R. Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edgar G. Laban.—The Four Holloways give a most remarkable cyclist act on the tight wire, performing tricks in a masterly fashion; Carlotta Levey once more proves that she is a clever comedienne, and possesses a splendid voice; Chris. Bakes has some quaint patter; Marie Reeve is a very pleasing comedienne; Vernon's Bioscope adds considerably to the entertainment, with some capital pictures.

New Hippodrome.—Owners and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ralph D. Fenton.—Some really interesting pictures, including An Englishman's Home, are here.

BARRY DOCK.—New Theatre and Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brogden.—*The Girl Who Lost Her Character* is presented here this week by Mr. Douglas Bruce's company.—Mr. Ed. McLean submits a fine representation of the Rev. Robert Everton, and Mr. C. W. Standing displays undoubted ability as Jack England. Mr. Richard Ferris plays with conspicuous skill the heavy part of Captain Caversham. The comedy rôles are successfully played by Miss Mamie Thorpe and Mr. G. H. Asquin (Punch); Miss Doris Brookes depicts Molly Vernon with considerable skill; and as Marian Franklyn Miss Lydia Mannington is very successful; Miss Cherry Vebeyne charmingly enacts Rose Seymour; the embodiment of Detective Wetherby by Mr. Augustus Bowerman leaves nothing to be desired; Mr. Geo. Mitchell played James Sutton in excellent style. The production is elaborately mounted.

BELFAST.—Grand Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Mr. George Lestocq and company opened here on Monday (under the direction of Mr. Charles H. Williams) in the farcical comedy *The Sportsman*. The rôle of Mr. Harry Briscoe was portrayed in most excellent manner by Mr. George Lestocq; and the acting of Mr. Wilfred Compton as Dr. Holroyd was irreproachable. Miss H. Duval must be congratulated on her clever impersonation of Mr. Harry Briscoe; and Mr. Sidney Bransgrove played the rôle of Mr. Perkins in truly humorous style. Mrs. Critchley and Emily were adequately presented by Miss Miriam Hold and Miss Pauline Emeric; and Mr. Gordon Smythe (who is also responsible for stage-management) appeared as Bob Briscoe. Miss M. V. Charlesworth was a charming Ada; and the cast was completed by Messrs. T. Dennis, R Wyman, and G. Hutchison. *The Sportsman* was followed by an amusing one-act musical play, entitled *The Garden of the Gods*.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. A. Salmond. *A Noble Mother* is presented by Mr. Herbert Fuller's company. Chief honours must be accorded Miss Agnes Collier, who, in the title-rôle, achieves a gratifying success; and Mr. J. Hibberd Mansell appears to much advantage as William Lingham. Mr. Clifton Earle would be difficult to excel as the English farmer, Harry Gilbey; and Mr. Basil Mitchell furnishes a good impersonation of Jim Darkley. The author of the piece, Mr. Herbert Fuller, furnishes a clever impersonation of the Irish servant, Charlie Kelly; and Miss Phena Powell is charming as Clarissa Bringer. The iniquities of Silas Grindstone are done full justice to by Mr. Richard Webb; and Miss Lizzie Lennon is a vivacious Teresa Hobbs.

Royal Hippodrome.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Will Sley and Fred Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—Clarke and Hamilton top the bill, and this clever comedy duo have been most successful. Maud Rochez introduces her marvellously trained monkeys; the Smart Set (including Miss Georgie Martin) have a refined entertainment, consisting of songs and dances; and Hillman and Russell appear in their vocal comedy act. *The Somnambulist*. Miss Lollie Seymour, vocalist and violin soloist, gains much approval; and also here are August, September, and May, eccentric comedians; Miller Bros., wrestlers; Ray and Ross, speciality artists; and the Hipposcope.

Empire Theatre of Varieties, Limited.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—Howell and Scott. Hebrew comedians, head the list, and cause much amusement; the clever cycling feats of the Selbinis create quite a sensation; and the sketch of *Semi-Detached*, presented by Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Meynott evokes roars of laughter. O'Malley and Brown, the popular pantomime comdians, gain a reception to be proud of; and Mr. George Young is aptly described as an expert fluid musician and concertina soloist. Idento Bros., comedy jugglers; Miss Lily Esplin, character comedienne; and the bioscope complete.

New Alhambra Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Will White.—A fine series of pictures has been exhibited here. Also appearing are Ryde and Pelman, grotesque eccentrics; and Mr. J. H. Carney, a clever character comedian.

St. George's Hall.—General-Manager, Mr. Herbert Rogers.—Films of a varied character have been exhibited this week. Mr. Stewart McCaughey, a local comedian, appears with success; and Matthews' Minstrels furnish a most enjoyable entertainment.

Clifton ville Hall.—General-Manager, Mr. O. E. Laumann.—The success of the skating rink here continues to be unabated, the pastime being indulged in by old and young. The great Linen Carnival came off on Wednesday, with the most gratifying success. Twelve handsome prizes were presented to the lucky winners, and twenty-five per cent. of the receipts were given to Belfast charities.

BIRKENHEAD.—New Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—Mr. Charles M. Bestic's company, in the musical comedy *The Flower Girl*, is fulfilling a return engagement here. On the present occasion the title-rôle is successfully assumed by Miss Eva Nelson, who gives a delightful and charming performance, singing her various numbers with much skill and effect; Mr. John T. MacCallum, a comedian of exceptional merit, is easily first favourite as Joe Wheeler; Reginald Rackit could hardly be better represented than it is by Mr. Louis Du Cane; Mr. Robert Cranny is a splendid Hon. Billy Greenhill; Mr. John Latham is an excellent Johnny Wheeler; and Mr. Henry Adnes as Alphonse de Racquet and Miss Lillian Drake as Lizette de Racquet are most diverting. Miss Georgie De Lara extracts much fun out of the part of Miss Greenhill, a Suffragette; Mr. G. Brailsford is an amusing Bertie; Miss Elsie Loir is well suited as Miss Masie Flirtington. Other parts are adequately filled, the scenic effects are first-class, there is a full chorus, and the augmented orchestra is under the direction of Mr. Louis Beaufort.

Argyle Theatre of Varieties.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Mr. Mark Sheridan, a sterling comedian, and an immense favourite here, heads an excellent combination; the Four Jumels are prominent in a clever musical act; and the Eighteen Lancashire Singers furnish a most agreeable turn. The New Macs are on a welcome return visit; Poole and Maguire are well received in a vocal comedy act; and Miss May B. Brilliant, comedienne, the Sisters Dorrell, duettists and dancers, Miss Rachel Lowe, comedienne, Mr. Will Musgrave, comedian, are also favourites. Brown's Royal Bioscope finishes.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frank Weston.—The Zenery Brothers, acrobats and balancers, give a clever and imposing show; Sinclair and Whitehead, in their sketch, *Getting Even*, have made a hit; and the Mars Trio, in their military act, are an acquisition. The strong company also comprises Mr. Albert McKelvie, Scotch comedian; Mr. Jas. Basnett, with some capital chorus songs; Miss Marie Francis, comedienne; the Twin Sisters Elmore, duettists and dancers; Vardon, ventriloquist; Zelda, instrumentalist; Wal Owens, the silent comedian; and the Hippo. pictures.

BIRMINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*Butterflies* is responsible for the "rush" this week, the house being crowded at every performance. Miss Ada Reeve's personality is the prime factor in this success, her portrayal of Rhodanthe being distinguished by all her characteristic point and piquancy, while her reception is one that she might well feel proud of; Mr. Richard Green sings and acts as Max Riadore with capital expression and effect; Mr. W. Louis Bradfield's Puck is enacted in the true spirit of comedy and with an air of mischief which is irresistible; Mr. Blake Adams as the irascible Podmore makes him eminently interesting and amusing; Mr. Lauri De Freece keeps the fun going fast and furious as the chauffeur Yarker; Miss Stella St. Andrie as Nora Podmore and Miss Constance Clive as the daughter Elsie, both act well; and the Misses Alice Sands and Elsie Aston shine; Miss Phyllis Monkman scores in the dance La Naissance du Papillon.

Prince of Wales's Theatre. — Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Limited; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—The D'Oyly Carte Opera company opened here for a two weeks' season on Monday with *The Gondoliers*. Each and all received a cordial welcome. Mr. Henry A. Lytton was applauded repeatedly for his admirable representation of the Duke of Plaza-Tora; Mr. Fred Billington was encored frequently in his cleverly though-out presentment of Don Alhambra; Mr. Leicester Tunks gave a light touch to the rôle of Guiseppe, which was much appreciated; Mr. Strafford Moss was a melodious Marco; Miss Clara Dow sang delightfully as Gianetta; Miss Ethel Morrison made a fine Duchess of Plaza-Tora; Miss Mabel Graham was quite equal to the rôle of Casilda; Miss Beatrice Meredith was well placed as Tessa; Mr. Sydney Granville shone as Luiz; and the chorus was thoroughly good. *Iolanthe* and the other favourites have followed.

Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Leslie-Collingwood; Business-Manager, Mr. Fred Bernardo; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. T. Guest. *Little Red Riding Hood*, which has enjoyed the utmost popularity all along, continues in full favour, and has yet another week to run. Last night, Miss Maudie Olmar, the clever child actress who has made the title-rôle so interesting and popular, was accorded a benefit.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*A Little Vagrant* attracts very well here, with Miss Lillie Monckton and company. Miss Monckton's acting as Mary Harris shows all the resource of a practised actress; Mr. Wallace Campbell as Jim Harris submits a telling impersonation; Mr. Clifton Earle brings the part of Eric Arden skilfully into prominence; Mr. Sydney Ernest acts in a bright and happy way as Slideaway Bates; the little vagrant, Arthur Arden, has a clever young representative in Master Howe-Thessler; and further successes are made by Mr. James Coleman as Ebenezer Johnson, Mr. Tom Breen as the Snatcher, Miss Adelaide Clare as Hannah Smithers, and Miss Ade Izacke as Julia Philbeam.

Carlton Theatre, Saltley.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*A Life for a Life* was given here the first part of the week, *Siberia* being in the bill for the latter end. Mr. Chas. H. Lester's company was responsible, and in the former Mr. Lester impressed his personality on the audience indelibly as Josh Harker; Mr. Chas. Felton was highly interesting as Petro Li Celci; Mr. W. Carr's portrayal of the Sheriff lacked nothing in detail or skill; Miss Dorothy Riddell played Kate Evelyn with consummate charm and ability; Miss Lydia Hart scored cleverly as the wicked and designing Eulalie; Mr. Harry T. Wood's rousing acting brought Kit Oswald, the hero, into great favour; Mr. E. O'Grady continued in his highly humorous role of Tim McCarthy, and the other support was good.

Theatre Royal, Aston.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. J. Robertson.—*The Lancashire Lad* is enjoying crowded houses here, with Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company. Mr. Jos. Millane plays Mr. Wallace's old part, David Elmore, and gains admiration for his spirited and clever rendition; Mr. Ernest Vaughan plays Max Carlton in a manner that leaves no room to doubt the villainy of the character; Miss Mabel Rose is a sympathetic and prepossessing heroine as Jessie Wincote; Miss Nell Oliver stirs the sensibilities of the audience duly in the undesirable character of Lorna Wincote; Mr. Hugh Wallace makes a strong part of Jem Wincote, and Mr. Bob Anderson succeeds well as Wardle. The play is well mounted.

Palace Theatre, Bordesley.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—*A Country Girl* was the attraction here on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, since when *The Catch of the Season* has prevailed, both being presented by Messrs. Dudley Bennett and T. C. Wray, but with two distinct companies. In the former, Miss Annie Hickisch, in the titular rôle, Nan, displays the arts and wiles of the fair hoyden to perfection, while her singing is really superb; Mr. Coningsby Brierley wins hearty laughter and applause with his smart and amusing study of Barry, the midshipman; Mr. Hardy Jackson gives a fine impersonation of the young officer, Geoffrey Challoner; and Messrs. W. O. Billington, H. Besley Beltram, Frank Seeley, and the Misses Victoria Sievers, Lucie Lever, Florence Hylton, **Hilda Darrell, and Florence Gilbert adorn the production with their talents.**

Grand Theatre of Varieties.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—This week's bill is headed by A. C. Lilly and company in the military episode *Drummed Out*, which is well played throughout; Frederick Melville's *Moto Girl* is a clever masterpiece—by the means of electricity the doll goes through life-like motions; Ray Wallace is always a popular turn, her impersonations being loudly applauded; another clever impersonator is Tom Stuart, whose character studies of Uriah Heap and Gaspard are decidedly good; Harry Frisky, Rosie Sylvester, Frances Letty, George Doughty, and Molly Lancy, Wood, Wells and Wilkins, and the Avolos are prominent.

Empire Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—The programme here is exceptionally good. Whit Cunliffe and Gertie Gitana were both loudly encored for their songs; H. J. Crane and company have a clever musical episode, entitled *Truth in Absence;* Leonard Mortimer and company also have bright sketch, *The Little Captain*. Other popular turns are the Sisters Iris, the Soho Trio, Tom Parker, Barlee and Smith, and Lux and his performing dogs.

Hippodrome. — Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Lyons.—*The Duchess of Tooting* is being presented here by Sidney Bacon's company. The sketch is bright, amusing, and cleverly played, while the mounting is excellent. Hampton and Bauman have a novel scena *Down in Kentucky;* while another comedy turn of a good order is *Astronomy*, presented by W. Fullbrook and company; Kartelli is expert on the wire; while Harry and Paul are decidedly clever trick cyclists; Belrose and De Velin are applauded for their duets and solos; Jack Barker, Harry Nelson, Tod Lowen, and the Firmans complete the bill.

Gaiety Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—The management of this hall are to be congratulated upon the excellence of the programme provided here this week. Miss May Moore Duprez, described as "the jolly Dutch girl," provides the star turn. She certainly justifies that description, and is well applauded for several songs given in her own quaint and merry style; Sandford and Lyons are clever comedians and expert dancers; Hayman and Franklin, delineators of Hebrew comedy, appear in a duologue *In the Hotel Lobby*, which provokes much amusement; Ernest Montefiore and company present a touching dramatic sketch entitled *The Little Colonel*, which proves popular. Other very acceptable items are given by Harry Pleon, extremely funny comedian, the Three Sisters Kilner (vocalists and dancers), Irene Rose (comedienne), the Sisters Hall (duettists), Ethel Dunford (vocalist), and a Trip Through Canada on the Bioscope completes the bill.

King's Hall.—Sole Owners and Managers, Messrs. S. P. Moore and B. Kennedy.—Pictures again form the chief attraction, and continue to prove very popular. They include The Lighthouse Keeper and a host of others equally as entertaining. In addition James Day, handcuff expert, performs some clever feats; Miss Mable Kington contributes several songs with much favour; while the Victorias complete the programme.

Curzon Hall.—Lessee, Mr. Waller Jeffs.—The animated pictures continue to attract large and appreciative audiences. One of the principal films is entitled The Three Musketeers, adapted from Alexandre Dumas' famous novel. Pleasing relief is afforded by Miss Ducie Saunderson in her popular répertoire of illustrated songs.

Queen's Hall.—Sole Owners and Managers, Messrs. S. P. Moore and B. Kennedy.—Prominent among an excellent series of animated pictures are those entitled The Land of Sunshine and Love and the Vendetta, which prove interesting. Variety turns are submitted by Ivy Dene, comedienne and dancer, and the Gelders, society entertainers, who won the competition held here last week.

Aston Hippodrome.—Resident-Manager, Mr. T. Middleton.—The Four Vagabonds are entertaining large houses here with their amusing vocal act, which won loud applause; Gerard, the Herculean juggler, skilfully manipulates heavy weights, while his partner brightens up the turn; King Lius also has a partner in his acrobatic act; Leonard Teel speaks on the Suffragist movement, and is really funny. There is a long programme, including Clark and Clark, Clara Greta, Selby and Myers, George Reeves, and Francis Drew, who are all popular turns.

American Roller Skating Rink.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. C. P. Crawford and F. A. Wilkins; Manager, Mr. Weaver.—This magnificent rink continues to maintain its popularity as the fashionable attendance each session proves. On Thursday of last week a "barn-yard carnival" was introduced, which resulted in a long and merry evening being spent. The scene was essentially rural, the costumes of those participating presenting a novel spectacle. The habiliments worn by the ladies were mostly those peculiar to the dairy-maid, while the gentlemen appeared in smocks and hats of the wide-awake type, some representing milkmen, others as farmers, &c. The rink was also decorated tastefully, and pretty colour effects were obtained by the use of the limelight.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — Eden Theatre. — Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. Huntley.—Messrs. Levy and Cardwell's juvenile company is here in *The Babes in the Wood*. The title-rôles were well filled by Miss Peggy McDonnell and Miss Cissie Wyse; Mr. Neil Hardy (Baron), Mr. J. G. Aitken (Sandy Simple), and Messrs. Graham and Barron (Willing and Weary) provoked roars of laughter; Mr. Jimmie Watson was good as Lucinda Lovejoy; a charming principal boy was that of Miss Daisie Wood; and Miss Dolly Dodds played Marion excellently.

BLACKPOOL.—Her Majesty's Opera House.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Messrs. Sutton and Raynor's répertoire company is paying another visit here this week. *Moths* was the attraction on Monday night, when Mr. Raynor gave a good account of Lord Jura and Mr. Cecil Wynne appeared with complete success as Prince Zouroff; the Duchess de Sonnaz of Miss Cecilia Dare and Miss Henrietta Schrier's impersonation of Fuchsia Leach were also worthy of favourable mention. On Tuesday *Camille* was played with Miss Schrier in the title-rôle, and Mr. Raynor as M. Gaston de Rieux. *The Second Mrs. Tanqueray* and *Called Back* are also in the week's programme.

Grand Theatre.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—The top of the bill here this week is Ivan Coherney's company in a dramatic episode, entitled *The Tempter*. T. H. Playfair and company also contribute a good sketch; Bernard and Benson, comedians; Cissie Scott, a clever serio and dancer; Alice Hope, a capital vocalist; Sam Leroy, a clever Hebrew delineator; Celia Larron, dancer; Louis Heron, baritone vocalist, and the Musical Morellis also provide good entertainment.

Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—Zona Vevey has won all hearts here this week in a very dainty turn in the shape of a musical scena, entitled *My Lady's Bower;* the Primrose Quartette are amusing and clever vocalists; Julian Ross finds favour as a light comedian; Maxford and O'Neil contribute a musical medley; Frank E. Ford is an extraordinary dancer; Harry Marte is a capital singer; Ida Dorrie compels applause by her taking songs; Lee and Roland are expert equilibrists.

BLYTH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur C. Moody.—Mr. W. W. Kelly's company has presented *The New East Lynne* with unqualified success, the play having attracted large audiences at each performance. As Archibald Carlyle Mr. Fred Terriss gave an impressive performance; whilst the dual rôle of Lady Isabel and Madame Vine was realistically enacted by Miss Marion Lynd. Mr. Leonard Booker in the character of Francis Levison gave a carefully-studied embodiment of the gentlemanly stage-villain; Miss Madge Beresford as Joyce was praiseworthy; the Willie Carlyle of Miss Doris Denville won the sympathy of the audience.

Hippodrome.—The films shown during the week have included Marie's First Communion, a beautiful pictorial story; The Anonymous Letter, A Good Tip, and several comic items that have proved attractive to numerous patrons.

BOSCOMBE.—Hippodrome, Ltd.—Joint-Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. H. Burdett; Musical-Director, Mr. F. Shackleton.—A capital bill is presented here this week, the most prominent turn being *Claude Duval*, a spectacular romantic story in three chapters, enacted by a first-class London company, including the equine wonder of the world, the cream gelding Roi; Daisy James, a chic comedienne, is very successful, as also is L. W. Harris as a light comedian; Texas Hattie presents an extraordinary wire act; the Schiavonys Troupe of Acrobats are extremely clever; Ted Curtis and Pices, in a vocal and dancing act, are pleasing; Slippére, the blind musician, comes in for applause; and Tiger Lily, speciality acrobatic dancer, also deserves mention. The Hippodrome Pictures conclude the bill.

BOSTON.—Palace Theatre.—Manager, Mr. E Cass.—Mr. Ernest Dare's company is here with *Camille*, the drama adapted from the French of Alexandre Dumas. The title-rôle is ably played by Miss M. Lowe-Dare. The acting throughout the piece is very good. The farcical comedy, *In the Soup*, is to be played during the latter part of the week.

BRADFORD.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—The Carl Rosa Opera Company is here. A large audience has greeted a fine representation of *Carmen* with hearty applause. The opera was staged admirably, and Miss Doris Woodall made a veritable success in the title-rôle, her vocalism and impassioned acting eliciting great applause; as José Mr. Edward Davies was also very fine; Mr. Dillon Shallard assumed the part of Escamillo at short notice, in place of Mr. Charles Victor, who is indisposed, and his effort was cordially appreciated. Miss Bessie Cartwright filled the part of Micaela well; and the other characters had able exponents. The work of the fine chorus and augmented band, under Mr. Walter Van Noorden's baton, was well done; and another large audience on Tuesday evening greeted a fine representation of *Tannhäuser*, when Mr. Eugene Goossens was the conductor. *The Merry Wives of Windsor, Il Trovatore, Cavalleria Rusticana, Pagliacci, Faust*, and *The Bohemian Girl* are the other operas billed for representation during the engagement.

Prince's Theatre.—Lessee, Councillor F. Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—*Claudian* is being presented here this week by Mr. William Maclaren's capable company, and Mr. Maclaren himself in the complex character of Claudian Andiates acts with all the power and assertiveness the part demands;

Power was eccentric as Captain Finch; Miss Lilias Waldegrave played Maggie Brown in convincing style; and other parts were satisfactorily taken by Mr. Ernest Graham, Mr. Walter Gay, Mr. George Ide, Mr. Richard Fielding, Mr. C. B. Vaughan, Mr. Alec Chumley, Miss Amy Willard, and Miss Evelyn Martheze. The play was staged well, and the bombardment was realistic. The performance commenced with a clever and amusing monologue by Miss Fanny Wentworth.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Alty.—This week we have Mr. Andrew Emm's company in the drama *The Diver's Luck*, the play being well staged and capitally acted. Mr. William Macready acts in convincing style as Martin Faber; Miss Dora Pass is pleasing and sympathetic as Helen Wyngate; Mr. Fred A. Marston is excellent as Barney Bawn; Mr. Richard Boxo presents a clever and realistic study of Tom Hall; Mr. Charles Osborn does well as Maurice Wyngate; and the remaining part are well played.

PALACE. — Local-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—The leading attraction here is a fine series of animated pictures, entitled England Invaded, the first set representing a hostile army landing on the coast, a country house assailed, and the Union Jack hauled down, the second set showing the repulse of the enemy by Territorials, &c. The pictures are clear, and much enthusiasm is displayed by the audience. The Ten Dark Knights, who appear to be real negroes, amuse with mirth, music, and minstrelsy, with special scenery and effects; May Mars is successful with her pretty song scena, "In the shadow of the Pyramids"; George French, comedian, obtains applause; the Singing Jockeys score in a novel racing act; Spry and Austin amuse as vaudeville artists; the Ramsey Trio are smart knockabouts; and Will English, coon comedian, is successful. Interesting animated pictures conclude the entertainment.

EMPIRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—An interesting sketch, *Saved by Wireless*, is presented in good style by Gilbert Heron and a competent company; the Schmettans present a fine exposition of classical posing, and also score in an equilibristic and juggling act; Eileen Douglas does a good turn of musical comedy; Bromley and Fontein do well with their speciality, "The man behind the music-stand"; Eddie and Ethel amuse with their interlude; Julie Gilbert is a pleasing and effective vocalist; Victor Courtney entertains with imitations, &c., at the piano; Tennis and Laune (two ladies) are charming vocalists and dancers; and Grogie, "the Sussex Yokel," is successful with his song, "I've got an old-age pension." Animated pictures conclude.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—Hardie and Von Leer's *Two Little Vagabonds*, under the general-management of Mr. E. P. Clift, has commanded good houses. Miss May Hart cleverly presents Dick; and Wally gains much sympathy as portrayed by Miss Josie Beltram. The much-tried Marion Thornton is impressively acted by Miss Leonora Castelle; Miss Florence Radcliffe ably sustains the part of Barbara Scarth; Sister Randall is charming in the hands of Miss Ida Drayton; Mr. George Denham is a worthy George Thornton; Captain Darville is ably sustained by Mr. Norman Yates; Mr. Joseph Brandon is a satisfactory John Scarth. Mr. James Skea as the Gaffer, Mr. Leo St. Clare (Dido Bunce), Mr. Fred Archer (the Coughdrop), Miss Marie Pritchard (Biddy Mullins) give excellent studies of their several parts. The scenery is of a high standard.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—This week witnesses the performance here of *Idols* by Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's clever company. Miss Edith Goodall as Irene Merriam gives a performance full of beautiful touches, and Miss Creegan is excellent as the disagreeable Moira Hart. Mr. Herbert Ford gives a clever study of the exacting rôle of Hugh Coleman, and another excellent presentation is that of Mr. A. B. Imeson as Gerard Merriam. The drama is preceded by *Turning the Tables*.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—The chief place is taken here by Friend and Downing, a funny couple in patter and parodies; the Creo Bros., gipsy comedy acrobats, exhibit smartness; and the sweet singing of Princess Pocahuntas is greatly approved. Melia and Mozarabar on the slack wire introduce cleverly trained birds; Steele's Singing Shop Boys are good vocalists; George Gulliver, ventriloquist, is funny; and Harry Drew, basso, pleases with "The Wolf." George Antill, comedian, is full of humour, and the Empire Theatrescope displays a laughable film.

PALACE THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Badcoe.—The Ten Loonies in their musical sketch *Dotty* display much cleverness; Tom Rose (lightweight wrestler), the Cumberlands (four smart cyclists), A Ba-be's Picture Post Card Album, Norah Desmond (in illustrated songs), Sergt. Brennan (with a wonderful exhibition of diabolo throwing), Ruby Helder (tenor), and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are other attractions.

BURSLEM.—HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. R. Colin; Manager, Mr. Matt Hall.—Good business continues here, where an excellent series of films is shown. Cambo and Castelle, in a musical and acrobatic act; Miss Edie May, comedienne; and Rich and Rare, a clever comedy couple, also appear.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. de Hague Body.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's new version of *The Christian* is staged here this week. The striking personality of Glory Quayle is depicted with passion and pathos by Miss Margery Vane; the erring Polly Love has a capable representative in Miss Gladys Vernon; the womanly traits of Mrs. Callender's character are well brought out by Miss Alice Maude; Mr. E. R. Holloway (John Storm) champions the women's cause with eminent success; Mr. Edward Houston (Horatio Drake) and Mr. G. Montague Lane (Lord Robert Ure) capably portray the fast life of the "man about town"; the clerical profession in its broad and narrow sense has creditable exponents in Mr. John Hastings Batson, Mr. Wm. Mallalieu, and Mr. Hal Charlton. The play is well mounted.

CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—*When a Lass Loves* is billed here for the week, with the exception of Friday, when *Milky White* is to be played. Mr. Tom Craven is responsible for the production, and the play is well mounted and performed. Miss Mona Hoffe gives a capital impersonation of Constance Lane; Mr. John Ditton is good as Caleb Crass, the son; Dr. Allan Crass is smartly played by Mr. Arthur Comere; Miss Janet Warden renders Cynthia Bridge with considerable skill; Mr. W. Riley (Bertram Bridge) is sufficiently cool and cynical; Mr. A. C. Thornhill made the most of the part of Anthony Greig; Miss P. Rickmound was much in evidence as Nina May; and Mr. Percy Cahill (Reggie Stapleton), Mr Louis Palgrave (Slack), provide amusing moments.

CARDIFF.—NEW THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford. — *Brewster's Millions* has proved an exceptional attraction here. Mr. Percy Hutchison is seen in the rôle of Monty Brewster, and it is difficult to imagine any previous character which has suited him better; Miss Lilias Earle, beautifully gowned, is particularly successful in the part of Mrs. Dan; Miss Cicely Stuckey proves a bewitching Peggy; Miss Francis Davie portrays Janice Armstrong with undoubted skill; Trixie Clayton has a charming impersonator in Miss Sybil Walsh; Barbara Drew is captivatingly delineated by Miss Betty Fairfax; Brewster's assistants are filled by several talented actors—Mr. Cyril Rawdon (Charlie Harrison), Mr. Henry Hampson (Archie Golding), Mr. Aubrey Mather (Joseph McLeod), Mr. Charles Esdale (Frank Brogden), and Mr. Otho Hazlewood (Horace Pettinghill); Mr. Robert Forsyth makes a commanding figure of Mr. Grant; Colonel Drew is safely entrusted to Mr. A. Andrews; and Mr. Frank Hill is seen to advantage as Rawles.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—At the head of an exceptionally strong and talented programme this week we have a return visit of Bransby Williams, with selections from his répertoire; in the dramatic sketch, *No. 99*, presented by Fred Kitchen and Frank Lister's company Mr. Frank Lister gives a first-class rendering of the principal rôle; George Brooks, in a couple of humorous songs, repeats the success he made in last season's pantomime; in a refined equilibristic turn the Schenk Bros. perform some difficult feats; Foreman and Fannan, the millionaires (Percy and Harold), cause much fun; Hilda Jacobsen has two pathetic songs; a smart vocal comedian is Frank Cass; and Lizzie Daniels is a piquant comedienne and dancer. In a comedy act, *That Frenchwoman*, the Matt Wilkinson Trio put the audience in good humour; the Bioscope completes.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton. —Master George Wood is at the head of this week's bill; in a military scena, *Lights Out*, Leslie's Comedy Cadets provide a pleasing item; Johnny Holland and company, in *The Boatbuilder*, evoke laughter; in their musical comedy duologue *Wanted a Typist* Ward and Davis are distinctly diverting; and Pat Lynch is an expert dancer. Godfrey James, the singing collier, Jessie Wilton, character vocalist, and the usual Bioscope Pictures are other attractions.

CARLISLE.—H. M. THEATRE.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart McKim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—The Moody-Manners Opera Company is paying its third annual visit here, and with *Madame Butterfly* billed for the opening night the house was packed. Miss Enriquita Crichton, already a big favourite here, added considerably to her reputation by her artistic and clever impersonation of the heroine; Mr. Charles Carter was seen to advantage as Lieut. Pinkerton; Mr. Marshall Vincent sang the music allotted to the baritone with rare skill and effect, and acted the part with excellent judgment; Miss Rosina Beynon worked hard and successfully as Suzaki. *Il Trovatore, Carmen, Maritana, Lohengrin*, and *Faust* are billed during the week.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Morgan.—Alexander and Hughes, who have pride of place here, provide something quite new in crisp witty patter and funny business. There's a laugh in every line of their smart gags, and in addition they give a very creditable performance on concertinas. Annie Schuberth has a fine voice and charming style; Fred Elton's clever entertainment goes bigger than ever; the Sisters Urma, trapeze artists, contribute a clever and refined act; Harry Leybourne proves himself a mimic of unusual ability; Chas. Rowen, comedian, pleases immensely, and H. Athalan, balancer and equilibrist, is clever.

CASTLEFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business Manager, Councillor Hy. Masterman, J.P.—This week Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company is here with *The Conscience of a Judge*. Mr. Charles Whitlock presents Herbert Granstone with power; the Jessica Draycott of Miss Eva Moss is marked by emotional power; Mr. Frank Eaglesfield plays Sir Edward consistently and well; there is dry humour about Mr. Frank Eden's Horatio Winter; Mr. Price Evans and Miss Bessie Frank extract much fun from comic situations; Miss Mabel Coleman is a charming Ethel; Mr. Martin Pedler a smart and interesting Cecil; and Mr. Cecil Renton an effective Geoffrey.

QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Proprietors, Messrs. Chas. Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will H. Emerson.—Lauri Wylie and his Mannikins, on a miniature stage, mimic several well-known artists; Frank Dunlop has a couple of good songs; the Three Royal Temples, operatic vocalists, well merit the applause showered upon them; the Three Clarks are smart and clever; Allen McAskell is a warm favourite; Jack North sings a couple of good songs; Wallie Gilbert, a descriptive vocalist, is also well worth knowing.

CHATHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company in *The Christian* is here. Miss Daisy Scudamore is the Glory Quayle, and makes quite a success of the part; Mr. P. Gedge Trynam is convincing and popular as John Storm; Mr. Herbert Hewetson plays very naturally as Lord Robert Ure; Mr. Wilfred Noy finds much favour in the character of Horatio Drake; Miss Molly Hayden is very favourably received as the kindly Mrs. Callander; and Miss Cora Deane arouses everyone's sympathy as Polly Love.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—Miss Carlotta de Yonson and company are here with *The Case of Coiners*. Miss de Yonson pleases the audience as Annette Conre, and as Sexton Blake Mr. C. Douglas Carlile makes the hit of the evening. Cyrus Dare scores strongly with his child mimicry; the Carney Bros. give an enjoyable vocal scena; Irma Orbassany's cockatoos are well in advance of any similar display hitherto witnessed here; Arthur Holland, vocal comedian, and Ida Brophy, a neat little dancer, complete the variety turns; and Lacey's Erascope has a cleverly faked film representing different Rulers of the World.

CHELTENHAM. — OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—Mr. George Dance's company, in *The Girls of Gottenberg*, pays a welcome return visit this week. Mr. Bertie Wright is imitiable as Max Moddelkopf; Mr. Tom Shelford plays the part of Otto with great éclat; Miss Massie North is exceptionally smart as Elsa and dances brilliantly; and Miss May Marshall is also extremely capable as Clementine; and Miss Simeta Marsden as Mitzi displays unflagging vivacity, and is responsible for some of the best vocal numbers, which are encored repeatedly. Mr. Hugh Henson makes a prominent figure of Albrech; Mr. Charles Berkeley is prominent as Britti Bottl, his eccentric dancing being quite a hit; Mr. Morgan Rickards is amusing as the Burgomaster; and Mr. Tom Squire is sufficiently lugubrious as Adolph. Mr. Frank Delane does well as the General; Mr. David Miller plays the part of the fiery Colonel Finkhausen with much spirit, assisted ably by fellow-officers in Mr. Courtnay Cumber, Mr. C. F. Hewitt, Mr. Percy Russell, and Mr. W. Thorpe; Mr. Edwin Stanley is very natural as Kannenbier; Mr. James Cook a stalwart policeman; and the Misses Violet Romaine, Marian, Molly, and E. Gordon lead with success the several corps of military college girls in the large and well-drilled chorus. Minor parts are adequately filled by Messrs. Sidney Farrow and George Vaughan and Misses Susie Beardon and Ruby Carter.

CHESTER. — ROYALTY THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—This week the drama *Sexton Blake* is being played. Mr. Jack Fortescue, in the title-rôle, maintains the part with the requisite force and skill; the hero, Roger Blackburn, has a worthy exponent in Mr. Russel Barry; Mr. R. Heaton Grey as the villain, Randolph Lovell, is effective in his part, and is ably second in rascality by the Simon Faggas of Mr. William Stephens. Of the ladies, Miss Pauline E. Straus as the heroine, Marjorie Lovell, acts with power, pathos, and picturesqueness, and as the wicked villainess, Miss Cecile E. Anson gives vividness to the part of Philadelphia Kate. The necessary humour is imparted to the play by the Tinker of Mr. Mayo Stanley and the Euphemis Pattacake of Miss Lilla Norden.

MUSIC HALL.—Managers, Messrs. Phillipson and Golder.—Miss Lonie Freear, the celebrated comedienne, was billed to appear here for five nights, commencing March 23. Owing, however, to an unfortunate motor accident in London, the company, *The Queer Quakers*, which was to support her, had to give their entertainment alone. The following artists constitute the *Q.Q.'s*:—Mesdames Lily Pritchard, Isabel Oliver, Margery Barras, Messrs. Edward W. Pritchard, Michael Curnow, and McCall, and they deserve the highest praise for the beautiful programme of vocal and instrumental music, graceful dances, and smart but refined humour with which they delighted the audience. On Saturday afternoon Mr. George Robey is to appear.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—This week drama is once more with us in the shape of Mr. Frank Pitt's *A Victim of Villainy*, with Mr. Pitt himself as hero. Mr. H. Creagh Hunt was powerful at times in the heavy part of Stephen Cavanagh; two good characters were the Alice of Miss Florence Halton and the Mary of Miss Kathryne Eckhart; Mr. Frank Dallas was bluff as P.C. Maloney; Mr. W. Roberts undertook the rôle of Dick Carson, and Mr. Fred Carroll that of Tom Leckie; and Miss Olive M. Pitt portrayed the part of Norah.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Colchester Hippodrome Company; Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—Mr. Joe Peterman's company is presenting *The Belle of the Orient*. Harry Carsdale, the farmyard linguist, proves an immensely popular turn; Ted Saunders also does well with his mimicries; and other turns are Michael Nolan's company, in *Doyle's Nephews*; Alec Olrac and Helen Beckett in *The Jonah*; and Josie Highland, comedienne.

CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Mr. John Leopold's company is here in the musical absurdity *New Frivolity*. Oliver Buckwheat is ably presented by Mr. Watson Hume; Mr. John Leopold, jun., gives a good account of himself as Dan Teething; Professor Fumble, an amusing part, is well rendered by Mr. Tom Leopold; and Miss Amy Hall, Miss Girlie Winter, and Miss Gladys Somers contribute to the success.

CORK.—PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Thomas F. O'Brien.—The programme here is excellent. Mme. La Tostia and quintette of lady troubadours are heard in solos, quartettes, and sextettes to exceptional advantage, their handsome dresses enhancing the scene; the Lovelaces, American song illustrators, give a couple of ballads in pleasant style; Mr. Fred Herbert, vocalist, achieves success in his songs; Ernesto, juggler and musical equilibrist; Miss E. Dancy, soprano; Miss Odeyne Spark, comedienne; and Mr. J. A. Wilson, comedian, with his marvellously trained dog "Towser," complete the bill.

CROYDON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Roland Daniel; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Ernest Archer.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is presenting *Mrs. Dot* here, the performance on Monday being in aid of the L. B. and S. C. Railway Servants' Benevolent Fund. Miss Nancy Beresford makes a pleasing impression as the charming Mrs. Worthley; Miss Emma Hutchison is well placed as Lady Sellenger; Miss Ethel Grahame is delightful as Nellie Sellenger; and Miss Sybil Brooke is capital as Miss Eliza Macgregor. Mr. Frank Lacy is exceptionally good in the rôle of James Blenkinsop; Mr. Hugh Kennedy is quite satisfactory as Gerald Halstane; Mr. Charles A. Staite is commendable as Freddie Perkins; and Messrs. William Midgley, H. Allistoun Samson, K. Brandon, and Frank Leach are adequate as Charles, Mr. Rixon, Mason, and Mr. Wright.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. Anthony.—The American Bioscope Company's pictures are a genuine success here. The Cinephone is introduced, and Mr. Arthur West's fine baritone voice is heard to advantage.

EMPIRE PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Walter Gibbons and Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Eustace Jay.—The Merrills, cyclists, are very clever; Fred Karno's company, in *The Yap Yaps*, brings down the house; Primavesi is a smart juggler; Venie Clements, lately admired in the Crystal Palace pantomime, is a great favourite; Hal Forde is a clever comedian; Ella Shields, comedienne, creates a furore; Harry Zetter is a quaint comedian; Edward Lauri and May Beattie are well received in the sketch *In Her Boudoir*; Harry Cotton, comedian, is praiseworthy; and the Bioscope pictures conclude the show.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—*At Duty's Call* is being presented here this week by Mr. John Gerant's company. Mr. Gerant gives a clever study as Harold Alison, and as Captain George Alison Mr. Frank D. Powell proves himself a capable actor. The part of General Gordon is cleverly enacted by Mr. Ernest St. John; Miss Beatrice Western is charming as Dora Drummond; the Salema of Miss Ada Roscoe is a clever character study. The comedy element is cleverly introduced by Mr. Harry Ives as Jerry O'Hallaron; and Mr. Roy Denman (Jack Spencer), Mr. E. Larkins (Joey Trott), and Miss Laura O'Neill as Mary are also deserving of praise.

PALACE.—Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes.—The bill this week is headed by the Douglas Troupe of Risley acrobats, and their numerous clever feats are highly appreciated; Arthur Pier, actor vocalist, meets with a good reception; Purvis and Partner, in their duologue, *The Postman's Knock*, cause much amusement; Geo. Rapley is a clever comedian; Flo Warner is a pleasing comediefine; and Lise Rolland gives an acceptable equilibristic act. The Bioscope films continue to be an entertaining feature to the programme.

DEVONPORT. — HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—The Nine Courtiers are placed at the top of the bill, and their charming vocal selections are characterised by grace and accomplishment, and fully justify the generous applause bestowed; Maurice Hoffman, Ethel King, and company, retained from last week, reach a high plane of dramatic excellence with their sketch *The Sorrows of Satan*, which is followed with great interest; Ruby and Laws supply a musical scena, Laws' voice being excellent, whilst Ruby also did well though handicapped by a cold. Mr. and Mrs. George Leonard supply a diverting sketch entitled *Coming Home*; the Corcoran Bros. are heard to advantage in some smart cornet selections, accompanied by quick-change effects; Walter Munroe, the popular Irish comedian, dances excellently; and Josie Moonie, the remaining contributor, obliges with a couple of catchy songs.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. G. S. King.—*The Empty Cradle*, a pathetic drama, is doing good business at the Metropole this week, the staging, by Messrs. Battersby and Forbes's company, being all that could be desired. Miss Nancy Battersby as Ida Boswell makes an excellent gipsy girl, and is heartily applauded; Mr. St. Clair Forbes splendidly enacts the villainous Carnsby Bloodworth. The remaining principals are Messrs. E. Turner, F. Wells, Kenneth Scott, and W. Black.

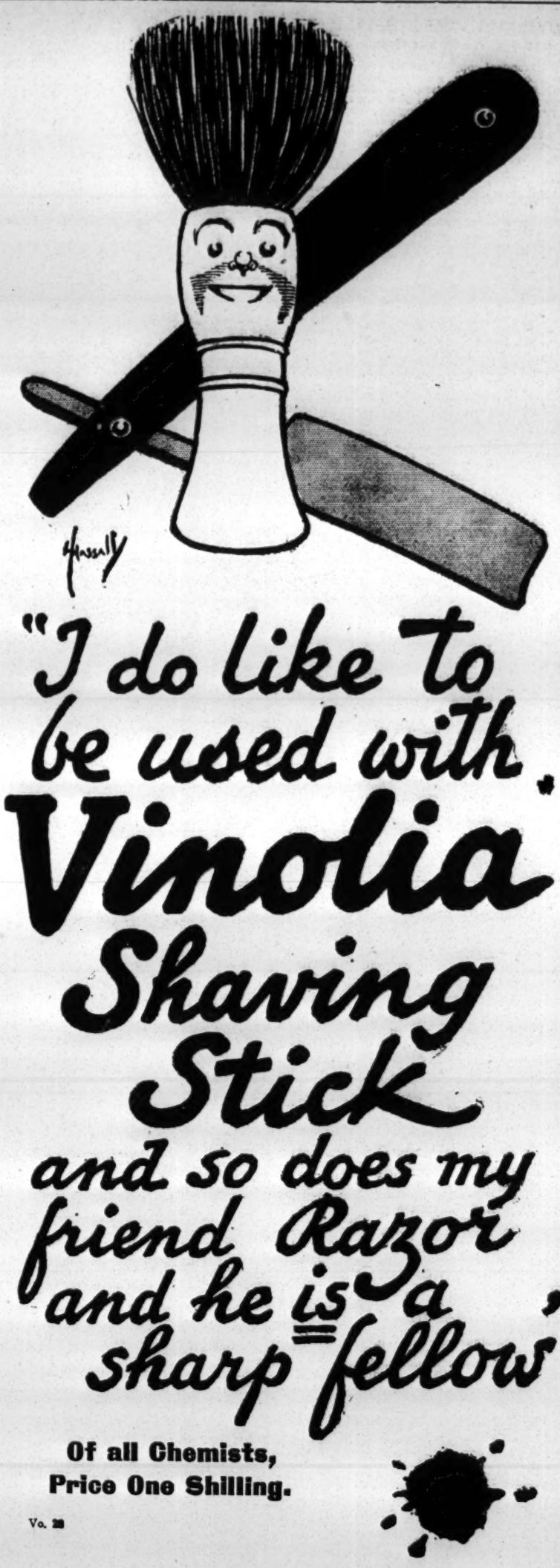
DEWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Herbert Asquith.—Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company in *The Dairymaids* is the attraction here, under the able management of Mr. Walter O'Sullivan. Peggy has a pretty exponent in Miss Clare Marsden, her efforts being highly appreciated; Mr. Nelson Keys gives an admirable portrayal of Lieutenant Sam Brudenell, his singing and dancing leaving little to be desired. The part of Eliza is in the very capable hands of Miss Gladys Silvani, her comicalities being enthusiasitcally received; signal success is achieved by Mr. Dan Agar as Joe Mivens, A.B., his funny antics and drolleries evoking hearty laughter; Miss Vera Crichton is a winsome Winifred, her singing and dancing being sweet and neat; Lieutenant Frank Meredith is well played by Mr. J. Herbert Willis, who is also responsible for the stage management; Mr. Percy Marshall is particularly effective as Dr. Byrne; Miss Penelope Pychase is represented by Miss Lucy Edwin in an efficient manner; Miss Dorothy Belmore makes the rôle of Lady Brudenell effective, and Mr. Albert Bartlett has charge of the full chorus and augmented orchestra.

THE HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. George Weldon; Stage-Manager, Mr. Jack Harris; Musical-Director, Mr. A. D. Willcox.—Tom Kelly's comedy company is here in *The Silly Servant*, their funny antics evoking laughter; a novel turn is done by the Lauri Bros, skilful and refined acrobats; the animated picture display given by Mr. Jack Harris is greatly appreciated, the pictures shown this week being much above the average; Wyotti is a clever juggler; the singing of the Bros. Ralston is exceedingly well received; the Sisters Henderson present an attractive musical turn; and other artists engaged are Rose Gower (ballad vocalist), Albert Williams (comedian), and Connie Mascot (comedienne and dancer).

DONCASTER.—NEW GRAND THEATRE AND EMPIRE.—Manager, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—*The Prince of Monte Carlo*, presented by Harry Roxbury's No. 1 company, including Tubby Edlin in the merry musical mélange, is assigned the premier position, and affords delight. The scenery is elaborate, and the company has the support of a full chorus. Special attention is deserved by R. A. Speedwell, the wizard painter; an enthusiastic reception greets the Lannons, duettists and champion high pedestal dancers; Mlle. De Rose, the lady Foli, assisted by Miss Hilda Claremont, provides a popular turn; Maud Bettison, ballad vocalist, has a cultured voice and a well-selected répertoire; Walter Aubrey, coon vocalist and "king of the wooden show," was applauded; and Mr. J. H. Hawtry had an appreciative reception.

DUBLIN.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland.—*The Adventure of Lady Ursula* is being presented by Mr. Norman V. Norman and Miss Beatrice Wilson's company. Mr. Norman appears as Sir George Sylvester, and displays considerable dramatic ability; Miss Beatrice Wilson is excellent in the title-rôle, and acts in a charming and artistic manner, which is warmly appreciated; Mr. Frederick Lock presents a very clever reading of the Earl of Hassenden; as the Rev. Mr. Blimboe Mr. Cyril Percy is particularly good, and Miss Hilda Forbes Phillips is an acceptable Dorothy Fenton. The other prominent characters admirably represented are the Mr. Dent of Mr. Reginald P. Lambe, the Mrs. Fenton of Miss Ethel Coleridge, and the Mr. Castleton of Mr. Norman Leslie. *Under the Red Robe* is announced to be played on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights.

THEATRE ROYAL—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Charles Terry.—Harry Fragson, described as the entente cordiale comedian at the piano, makes a return visit, and his songs are both clever and amusing; the Globe of Life performed by Wizard Stone and Irene Stone is a most sensational and interesting performance; Walter Barrett has a very pleasing baritone voice, and renders several numbers in a very effective manner; La Pia (the Enchantress) in a series of art dances, executed in artistic style, won hearty appreciation; Edith Courtney, vocalist, also appeared with success; Ritter and Foster in their eccentricities, and the Hippodrome Girls with the Royal pictures contribute agreeably to the bill.



EMPIRE — General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—The star turn here this week is furnished by the great Ten Ka Troupe, whose clever and mystifying performance is warmly applauded; an amusing military sketch *The Cuckoo* presented by Kitts and Windrum (Charles and Rhoda), causes no end of laughter; the Three Sisters Grosvenor are awarded a flattering reception for their singing of popular melodies; as a comedian and comedy sifleur, Ted E. Box meets with hearty approval; Bonnie Goodwin's Apollo Piccaninnies, assisted by Miss Lily Vine, are received with rapturous applause; George Westland, Scotch comedian, provides an amusing turn; Baker and Balfe, alyophone experts, score a big success; Grace Langley, a dashing comedienne and dancer, and the Empire pictures complete an enjoyable programme.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—The Martineks are the chief item in this week's programme, and create great merriment with their original act *The Rag Doll*; the Idania Troupe of lady gymnasts give a clever and graceful performance; in a refined duologue, *Love Levels All*, Leslie and Stephens win favour; Ethel Stephenson's vocal items have been heard with much pleasure; the Four Scoreys appear with success in a pleasing musical mélange; and Ray Maskell, comedienne and dancer, meets with a warm reception; Burns and Bentley, comedians and dancers, are much appreciated; Phinas and Aida on the revolving table are well received; Morrisey, musical equilibrist, is a smart turn, and the Bio. concludes.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The programme this week includes the Akhurots, sketch artists; Edie D. Allwood, comedienne; Mick Selwyn, actor vocalist; Hetty Chapman, serio and dancer; Fred Richards, descriptive vocalist; Fay and Foy, musical comedy artists, and the cinematograph.

DUNDEE.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe.—Mr. Frank Curzon's company in *My Mimosa Maid* is here. Miss Marie Studholme as Paulette is irresistible, and her songs, cleverly rendered and perfectly enunciated, cause keen enjoyment; Mr. Charles McNaughton as the Sweep who wins the big prize in the lottery is a huge success, his droll antics keeping the house in a continual state of merriment; Mr. Charles E. Paton is funny as Max; and Master Archie McCaig deserves the heartiest congratulations on his smart performance of Bock. Miss Ruby Gray as Marcelle sings in good style; Miss Eva Sandford is a bright and engaging Popitte, her smart dancing being an enjoyable feature; Mr. Percy Carr sings impressively as Gerard; Mr. Powis Pinder displays his fine voice to much advantage as Captain of the Zouaves; Mr. Arthur Jackson is unusually good as the old waiter Grone; Miss May Garstang makes a prepossessing Mme. de Pilaine; and minor parts are capably filled.

KING'S THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Lessees, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Moul; Manager, Mr. C. W. Young.—At the head of a varied and interesting bill of fare is Miss Violet Hope, who appears in a series of classical dances; an unusually interesting sketch, adapted from *David Garrick*, gives Frank Fenton an opportunity to display his talents as an actor; Leoni Clarke, with his 200 performing cats, rabbits, monkeys, rats, mice, &c., proves a very interesting and instructive turn which has to be seen to be believed; the Barton and Franklin Trio elicit applause for a clever instrumental, vocal, and dancing speciality; Victor Travers sings in captivating style; the Bros. Ford score in their clever concurrent dancing act; Louis Kerno's coon songs are finely rendered; Celest contributes a clever wire-walking and baton-juggling act; and the Kingscope with several interesting pictures completes. The band, under the direction of Mr. E. G. Summerfield, is an acquisition to the musical talent of the city.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessees, The United County Theatres, Ltd.; Managing Director, Mr. Alfred Moul; Manager, Mr. S. McIntosh.—An exceptionally good programme of films is submitted here this week. Assassination of the Duc de Guise is a very interesting historical film, depicting the stirring scenes in Henry the Third's plot against the famous Duke. Many other pictures are exhibited, all of which meet with much approval. In addition to the pictures, J. H. Milburn repeats his former successes here; Jean Kram creates great merriment as an erratic juggler; Scotch Kriss proves a conjurer and ventriloquist of unusual ability; and the Arntes, a couple of coons, delight with their tricky dancing.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee, Mrs. Lillie Williams; Licensee, Mr. W. E. Potts; Business-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Evans. —Topping a capital bill here are Cora Duncan and Albert Brasque, who create quite a furore with their new and original playlet, entitled *A*

Society Butterfly; France and Stewart keep the house in roars of laughter at their racing comedy, *The 100 to 1 Chance*; Kremka Bros. perform some thrilling acrobatic feats, and cause much amusement by their eccentricities; Cummen and Seaham are a very comical couple; Connie and Dolly Clare have a fine budget of rollicking ditties; Harry Arnold upholds his reputation as a first-rate Scotch comedian; the Paul Hesse Trio receive an ovation for their graceful and daring pot-pourri act; Harry Maston imitates the cries of a host of animals and birds in realistic fashion; and the cinematograph with several new films completes the programme.

Empire Theatre.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. Lillie Williams; Business-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alfred Ross.—Newman's pictures are drawing big houses at this popular hall. The theft by an avaricious European of the Brahma diamond from an American Temple, and its subsequent recovery by the uncanny and mysterious use of the black art, forms the subject for a thrilling series of pictures. Face to Face is a beautiful and dramatic picture, and amongst others shown are: Magic Eggs, The White-gloved Man, Unfounded Suspicions, The Suffragette's Dream, Under the Doctor, &c. Variety is lent by the performance of Alf Bishop a descriptive vocalist of much ability.

EASTBOURNE.—Devonshire Park Theatre.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray King and Clark.—Mr. Reginald Dance and company are here in *A Sense of Humour*, a comedy which is being produced for the first time in the provinces. As Lady Hutton Miss Beryl Faber is charmingly natural; Miss May Brooke is an engaging and earnest Mrs. Hay; Mr. Reginald Dance is an easy and effective Sir William, and Mr. Edward Irwin as Major Hay contributes a performance meriting high praise; Mr. A. P. Bell does well as Meakin, and Miss Marguerite Unett is a pretty, bright maid Stanner. *The Proof* is the curtain-raiser.

The Royal Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; District-Manager, Mr. George Egbert; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—In the bill here this week are Miss Ray Randall, a sprightly comedienne; the Brothers Jay, who patter and dance with equal facility; Miss Daisy Stratton, a dainty and pleasing dancer; the Three Alskarnos, risley acrobats and jugglers; the Glenvilles (three), who dance nimbly; Mr. George Rae, with original dances; and Tudor's well-trained ponies.

Pier Pavilion.—Manager Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. Fred Edwards and company are here in *Confusion*, followed by *Kleptomaniacs*. In the first Miss May Edouin as Maria is full of animation; Miss Gwendolen Logan is a decided success as Rose Mumpleford; Miss Mary Stuart makes an excellent Miss Lucretia; Miss Katie Yates is a bright Violet; Mr. Charles Steuart an able and natural Mortimer Mumpleford; Mr. St. John Hamund a rollicking Christopher; and Mr. S. B. Mayne a most amusing, happy James. Mr. C. Lyttleton-Rogers and Mr. George Martin help successfully as Rupert and Dr. Jones.

ECCLES.—Crown Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert Rogers.—Jennie Johns heads the bill, and her contribution proves of great interest; Mint and Mart are clever paper manipulators; Armiens, in musical scena, "Entertainments in Camp," please; Conan Dewson is a smart mimic at the piano; Nellie Rose, comedienne and dancer, is a favourite; Bradley, the cycling Jew, performs some unique antics; Walter Ellis and company, in sketch entitled *The Sleepwalker*, cause roars of laughter; Will Willis is responsible for a lot of fun. Western Justice and Uncle's Picnic are depicted on the Bioscope.

EDINBURGH.—Royal Lyceum Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Benson and their Shakespearean company opened a fortnight's engagement here on Monday evening, with *Macbeth*. In the title-part Mr. Benson repeated a performance which, by its tragic intensity and scholarly insight, has already won for him widespread approval; and Mrs. Benson as Lady Macbeth brought into full relief the forceful activity and terrible undercurrent of mental suffering that chiefly mark the character. Mr. Edward A. Warburton played Macduff with all necessary passion and pathos; and admirable support was rendered by the Banquo of Mr. G. F. Hannam Clarke, as well as by Mr. Murray Carrington, who doubled the rôles of King Duncan and the Doctor. Mr. H. O. Nicholson as the Porter, and Messrs. F. G. Worlock and James Turnbull as Malcolm and Donalbain. The three Witches were tellingly acted by Mr. J. Moffat Johnston, Mr. Nicholson, and Miss Leah Hanman; and Miss Winifred Durie made an impressive Hecate. *The Belle's Stratagem* was produced with signal success on Tuesday evening, Mr. and Mrs. Benson appearing as Doricourt and Letitia Hardy, assisted by Mr. Warburton, Mr. Nicholson, Mr. Worlock, Mr. Hannam Clarke, Mr. Murray Carrington, and Mr. Guy Rathbone in the more important of the many male characters, with Miss Helen Haye, Miss Rita Salvage, and Miss Olive Noble prominent among the feminine rôles. The curtain-raiser, a version of *A Midnight Bridal*, dramatised by Mrs. Benson and Mr. H. O. Nicholson, gave that experienced actress, Miss Elinor Aickin, an opportunity of being greeted by many old friends. The week's programme has also included *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *The School for Scandal*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Richard III.*

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Whitehead.—A company under the direction of that experienced actor, Mr. Murray Carson, holds the stage here with a comedy, entitled *Terence*, adapted by Mrs. B. M. Croker from her novel of that name. The comedy is a pleasant one, containing much wit and many admirable sketches of character, and it is played by the members of the company with complete success. Mr. Murray Carson as Simeon Foulcher is not quite so well fitted with a part as he has often been, but he acts with some judgment and undoubted ability; Mr. Edgar Kent as a sprig of Irish nobility, who is forced to become a coachman, acts with marked excellence; and as Patrick Ryan Mr. J. R. La Fane gives a genuine character study; and Mr. Ernest A. Douglas as Sir Greville Fanshawe shows skill in the part he assumes. Miss Lilian Hallows is piquant and fresh as Maureen D'Arcy; Miss Gwladys Morris acts with much charm and spirit as Lady Nita Fanshawe; Miss Eugenie Vernie as Mrs. O'Hara contributes a highly meritorious impersonation; and Miss Hilda Dick as Mrs. Duckett gives a clever sketch. The comedy, which is well mounted, is preceded by the old-time farce *A Silent Woman*, in which Miss Elsie Wood and Mrs. T. N. Weguelin distinguish themselves.

King's Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard.—A musical comedy sketch, *The Cruise of H.M.S. Victory*, is the principal feature of a good programme here. Mr. Arthur Watson, Miss Flo Stanley, and company act this piece, which is full of humorous incidents, with unflagging spirit, and are loudly recalled; Sibb and Sibb are seen to much advantage in an exceedingly graceful act on the double trapeze; Miss Nellie Wigley, fresh from her engagement at the Grand Theatre, Glasgow, contributes a pleasant turn in song and dance; Mr. Arthur Croxon proves himself a comedian of excellent parts in his mimetic songs; and the Three Coopers give a clever comedy vocal sketch. The Brother Werds, American eccentrics, are exceedingly good in their entertainment; the Harvey Boys again show their smartness and ability in their boxing act, *That Was Me*; and Mr. Montague Biggs, a capital comedian, and view by the Bioscope are very good.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—A programme of much interest and variety is presented at the Empire this week. A strong dramatic episode, *The Yellow Fang*, is acted with real power by Miss Mary Mayfren and company. Miss Mayfren plays with notable force and pathos as Judith Peck, and she receives admirable support from Mr. Mark Paton as Hung Kow as a villainous Chinaman, in a capital make-up; Mr. Geo. Pickett as Sun-Kee, Mr. Francis Annesley as Jim Nares, and Mr. Cecil Kingsley as a "drunken sport." Miss Daisy Jerome sings, acts, and dances with great vigour, and is heartily applauded; Mr. Russell Wallett gives an amusing turn as "The Lady in Black," and sings with humour; Miss Alexandra Dagmar's imposing presence gives effect to a dramatic song, "The marriages of Mayfair," and she tells stories with point and fun; Mr. Arthur Aldridge, tenor vocalist, makes a hit by his expressive rendering of several delightful songs; the Achmed Ibrahim Troupe of gymnasts preform an exhilarating act of dashing somersault throwing and pyramidal balancing; and the bill is further strengthened by Spry and Monti, Mr. Billy French, an excellent clog dancer, Burke, Andrus, and Frisco, with their trained pony and donkey, and by a fine series of Bioscope views depicting the forging of a big gun at the works of Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth, Ltd.

The Oriental Original Picture Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. W. C. Burns.—Another change of films here this week gives the audiences the opportunity of seeing what is freshest and most amusing in the pictures shown by the cinematograph. The vocal element has many pleasing features, and the houses are good.

EXETER.—Theatre Royal.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company opened here on Monday in *Under Two Flags*. Mr. Robert Purdie submitted a capital portrayal of Bertie Royellieu; Mr. Clarence Ibbotson was an effectively humorous Rake; and Mr. Charles Johnstone was thoroughly capable as Colonel Chauteroy. Miss Olive Wilton won golden opinions for her successful delineation of Cigarette; Miss F. Melrose Millett was an artistic and interesting Princess Venetia; and Miss Jenny Clare proved a bright Lavinia.

New Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frederick Sandy.—Alfred Lester occupies the top of this week's bill, and, with the assistance of Miss Gwen Howard, delights the house in the funny burlesque skit *A Restaurant Episode*; another entertaining turn is that of the Jees, their sketch, *The Musical Smithy*, proving exceedingly attractive; the bewildering contribution of Mysticus has a gratifying reception; and the Imperial Russian Singers and Dancers, presented by Messrs. Seener and Fridkin, are deservedly popular. An enjoyable interlude is provided by Master Cliff Diamond, a clever young comedian and dancer; other excellent single-handed turns being those of Estrall, a smart barefoot sand-dancer, and Harry Clifford, an amusing vocal comedian.

FALKIRK.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—*The Girl Who Took the Wrong Turning*—a four-act drama—holds the stage here this week. Miss Jessie Belmore as Sophie Coventry is seen to advantage in the title-rôle; as Willie Mason Mr. F. Ronald Adair is deserving of praise.

FOLKESTONE. — The Pleasure Gardens Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Mr. Hugh Arkwright's *Niobe* company is the attraction, with Mr. Harry Paulton as Peter Amos Dunn, backed up by a good all-round company. Needless to say, an excellent entertainment is the result. Mr. Paulton plays Peter as humorously as ever, and as Niobe Miss Agnes Imlay gives a very fine performance; Miss Rundell plays Hattie Griffin in excellent style, and Miss C. Nicholls and Miss Lilian Stafford as Helen Griffin and Caroline Dunn respectively act well; Mr. C. Lloyd is a first-rate Cornelius Griffin, and as Philip Innings Mr. Phil Cooper makes the most of a small part.

GATESHEAD. — King's Theatre. — Lessees, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager and Licensee, Mr. Harold Arnold.—Mr. John Tiller's extravaganza *A Trip to Paris* has been creating much diversion here; Harry Levaine tells funny stories; and the Sages are comic and artistic in a singing and dancing act. Will Sullivan, comedian, and Pictures by the Kingscope are other interesting turns on the bill.

Metropole Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; General-Manager, Mr. Robert G. Elder; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Dixon.—Mr. George D. Day's company in *The Prodigal Son* has drawn large audiences to this house. Mr. Albert Ward powerfully portrays Oscar Stephenson; Magnus is the subject of a thoughtful piece of acting by Mr. Alfred Goddard; Mr. Jackson Hayes ably fills the rôle of Stephen Magnusson; Mr. David Beattie faithfully impersonates Oscar Neilson; Miss Dorrie Roberts shows much ability in her renderings of Thora and Elin; Miss Florence Lovell cleverly depicts Anna Magnusson; Miss Maud Lockyer looks well after the cynical Margaret Neilson; and Miss Pearla Gardner is seen to advantage as Helga.

GLASGOW.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—The Orpheus Club is producing *The Mikado* here, in aid of a deserving charity. The production is directed by Mr. Lindsay Harman, late of the D'Oyly Carte companies.

King's, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—A well-filled house on Monday greeted Mr. Martin Harvey and company, in *The Breed of the Treshams*. Mr. Harvey's portrayal of Lieut. Keresby was greatly apreciated. Miss N. De Silva again played Batty with a pretty swagger; Mr. Charles Glenney maintained his reputation as Colonel Clement Hungerford; a careful study of Margaret Hungerford was presented by Miss Madge Fabina; the part of Cornet Francis Tresham was made prominent by Mr. Leonard Craske; Viscount Dorsington was well-sustained by Mr. Philip Hewland; and Mr. Fred Wright, sen., made a picturesque Colonel Bagshaw; Mr. Albert E. Raynor giving a good impersonation of Colonel Sir Henry Curwen. Captain Rashleigh was well looked after by Mr. Alfred Mansfield; Miss Bessie Elder did good work as Mrs. Bagshaw; and Miss Maud Rivers was well placed as Helena Pierrepoint. *The Corsican Brothers*, *The House of Pierre*, and *The Conspiracy* are also in the répertoire.

Royalty, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Carpenter.—Mr. Chas. Macdona's chief company is here, in *Are You a Mason?* As Amos Bloodgood Mr. E. H. Paterson is amusing; Mr. H. Langdon Bruce as George Fisher contributes a fine piece of burlesque; Mr. Stanley Groome is all that can be desired in the part of Frank Perry; Mr. G. P. Polson acts and looks the part of the rustic John Hatton to perfection; Mr. Erskholme E. Clive as Hamilton Travers is quite successful; Mr. F. Hughbert Dane as Ernest Morrison, is quietly effective; Miss Adelaide Grace's Mrs. Bloodgood and Miss Viola Garland as Mrs. Hatton also do well; and Miss Mary Kilpack as the domestic, Lottie, is amusingly dictatorial. A more than usually interesting playlet by Maude Thompson, entitled *Old Maid's Corner*, precedes.

Grand.—Proprietors Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. B. S. Maclachlan; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. Christie Grant.—The Glasgow College of Music Operatic Society, under the conductorship of Mr. Allan Macbeth, are this week giving performances of Audran's tuneful opera, *La Mascotte*. The strength of the society is such that they have almost a double cast taking alternate nights, and the chorus work is particularly fine. Mr. Charles Graham stage manages with his usual ability, ably assisted by Mr. Don St. Clair.

Royal Princess's.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—A crowded houses on Monday welcomed back Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company, in *The Face at the Window*. Mr. E. Hoggan-Armadale again gives his striking impersonation of Lucio Delgado, alias Le Loup; Miss Elsie Marriott-Watson was a charming and sympathetic Marie de Brisson; and her lover, Lucien Cortier, was played in manly style by Mr. Arthur Beverley; Mr. Scott Leighton acted particularly well as the detective, Paul Gouffet; Mr. Alfred Warne was well suited as the old banker, De Brisson. The humour of the play was never allowed to flag for an instant by Mr. Bert Ellis as Peter Pottlebury and Miss Lizzie Chambers as Babette.

Metropole, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—Mr. Morton Powell's company, in the sensationally-named play, *How Girls are Brought to Ruin*, of which Mrs. Morton Powell is the author, has been transferred from the Lyceum to the Metropole, whose patrons follow with much interest, the dramatic and tragic plot.

Lyceum.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—Mr. Walter Melville's company, in *A Girl's Cross Roads*, after a successful week at the Princess's, have migrated to the Govan theatre, and are doing equally well there. Miss Hilda Beverley gives a specially strong picture from life as Barbara Wade.

Empire.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Manners.—George Gilbey, the quaint comedian, tops the bill here, and as Spouty, the goalkeeper, keeps the audience in roars of laughter; his policeman song is also very good. Alice Pierce gives clever imitations of the leading lights of the theatrical world; one of the best turns on the programme is provided by the Griffiths Brothers, whose duel is intensely funny; Harry Herbert is a comedian with a droll and taking style; Henry Carlton and company contribute a lively sketch, *The Window Cleaner*; Madame Madelaine de Noce, French prima donna, sings the polonaise from *Mignon* and other items most artistically, and is well received. Alburtus and Millar provide much fun in their scene at the fair grounds; Virto and Venita's musical turn is most enjoyable; Sadie Simpson, comedienne and dancer; and the Bioscope complete a good bill.

Zoo-Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Councillor E. H. Bostock; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock.—Edward Crossland's Melody Makers fully merit the position they hold here, in a novel musical act, entitled *The Burglar's Dream*; Syd Walker scores a hit with his sketch; Leivin and Pantzer, as acrobatic equilibrists, will be hard to beat; Frank and Free are always funny; the Tossing Austins are responsible for a comedy juggling act; Kurkamp, the singing conductor, has a pleasing voice; Steve Bartle's concertina selections are appreciated; Matthews and Brown, the unbleached eccentrics, are a clever pair; Ivy Prondfoot is a dainty comedienne; and the Bioscope concludes.

Pavilion, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Evan Good.—Peter Bermingham, from the Princess's pantomime, is as funny as ever in his own inimitable style, and gets an excellent reception; Esta Stella, the military maid, for her dainty songs and dances is heartily applauded; the Eight New Cocktails are dancers of special merit, and their business is much enjoyed; Reg. Boulton provides a novel and most humorous turn as the Editor's Imp, and his patter is very smart; Tom Clare, humorist at the piano, contributes a very taking batch of songs; W. T. Ellwanger and company, in a sketch, *The Peacemaker*, are responsible for a good many laughs; the Seven Merry Marvels as vocalists and novel violinists present a clever and enjoyable turn; Edna Latonne, male impersonator, goes strong with several smart songs; Wallan, the young juggler, proves as dexterous as of old, and takes well; Brull and Hemsley, in a scena, *Fun in a Music Shop*, score well.

Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; General-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—Tom and Marie Motramo are starring here in their musical sketch, *Do You Reverse?* and their smart patter is enjoyed; Frank Elliston's company appear with much success in the romantic playlet, *My Lady Betty*, in which Miss Nellie Stevens acts well in the title-rôle; Flora Cromer, principal boy from the Princess's pantomime, give an enjoyable turn, including songs and impersonations; Beaty and Blanche are an attractive couple of duettists and dancers; Rose D'Aulby's chorus songs prove very enjoyable; G. H. Charlton is a smart conjuror, whose magic kettle item in particular was very mystifying; Stevens and Brett, comedians, from the Princess's pantomime, are accorded hearty applause for their clever turn; Andie Caine, comedian and dancer, takes well; as also does Walter Stanley, comedian. Much amusement is caused by a humorous Bioscope film showing a glove fight between "Wee Hughie" (Peter Bermingham) and Johnny Doyle, in which Mr. Arthur Fellowes, conductor at the Palace, figures as Hughie's trainer, and the fun is very well worked up all through.

Coliseum.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—Those old favourites, Carter Livesey and Lilian Rosebery, take well with their sketch, *Rehearsing a Drama*. In a humorous sketch, *What's Charles Worth?* Miss Sylvia Cavalho and company appear with much acceptance. The sketch is a motoring skit, and the artists do it full justice. De Gracia's Elephants always prove an amusing item; Adams and Ward maintain their high reputation in eccentric acrobatic feats; Miss Annette Hayward is a singer of whom Glasgow audiences are proud; Kittie Trewhett is a smart comedienne; and Bert Harow, "the rum comedian," is likewise successful. Tom Lloyd, well known locally, meets with a pleasing reception. The Britt and Summers contest is depicted on the Bioscope.

Gaiety.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—Regan and Ryan, popular pantomimists, are the principals here, and have a hearty reception; Patty Yole, comedienne and dancer, contributes a good turn; R. C. Note sings popular chorus songs; Daisy Devonport is a smart comedienne and dancer; and the pictures are amusing.

Panopticon.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—The principal turn here is provided by Mons. Deloule, society gymnast; Annie Blanchard's songs are rendered in artistic style; D. A. Darrel and George Arnott are successful; and the pictures submitted are interesting.

GLOSSOP.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—Mr. Montague Beaudyn is presenting the powerful drama, *Send Him Victorious*. Mr. Frank Holyoake gives a brilliant exposition of The King of Ravonia; the Governor of the State Prison is ably portrayed by Mr. James Archer; as Colonel Kenrick Kaufman Mr. G. M. Montanini enacts the rôle with considerable skill; Mr. John Baxter maintains the high standard of the piece as Captain Frank Allison; Sergeant Mac and John Arany are in the capable hands of Mr. Ed. Lawrie and Mr. Oliver Birrell; Miss Isabella Hunt invests the part of Ethel Harding with the necessary sympathetic quality; as Gretchen Holtz Miss Madge Palmer is conspicuous; and Miss Lily Roselle, in the exacting part of Countess Kara Von Mechlinberg, is all that could be desired.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—Royal Aquarium.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Nightingale.—Mr. Fredk. Melville's company in *Married to the Wrong Man* is occupying the boards here. Mr. Oswald Cray gives a stirring impersonation of Jack Gladwin; Mr. H. Lane Bayliff ably depicts the villain Captain Deering; Miss Gertrude Boswell gives an artistic performance of Ruth; Mr. Arthur T. Lennard's fine military appearance and robust acting make the character of Sergeant Manners stand out; Mr. Charles Vivian gives a realistic character sketch of Jasper Skinner; Mr. Syd Claydon is a funny Timothy Clinker; Miss May Davis a vivacious Dolly Fritter; and Miss Dorothy Haigh appears to advantage as Rose O'Connor. An excellent display of Animated Pictures is given during the evening.

Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. George Gilbert.—E. V. Barr, a local comedian, is again topping the bill here. His songs and stories have made him an established favourite. Crissie Cross, a *chic* comedienne, contributes some catchy songs and dances; A. P. Boswell, furniture shifter, is much applauded; Howard and Thorn appear in an amusing comedietta entitled *Merely Mary Ann*; Dan Rodney is a good comedian; and good films are exhibited.

The Gem. — Lessees, The Yarmouth Amusement Centre, Ltd.; Resident-Director, Mr. C. B. Cochran; Manager, Mr. Sidney Lawrence.—The wireless telegraphy drama, in which Jack Binns was the hero, is pictorially described here, and a first-rate picture, illustrating a walk through the Zoo, is shown.

GREENOCK.—Alexandra Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—A highly appreciated change here is the production of *The Gay Goddess*, on a first visit. Mr. Julian Graham's talented company giving a praiseworthy rendering. Miss Kate Graham-Beck made a hit as Juno; Miss Leah Howard was an admirable Priscilla Strong, Miss Louie Mason a delightful Lottie, and the part of Mrs. Marie Strong was in the capable hands of Miss Amy Wood. Mr. Arthur Staples as Timothy Twinkle, happy as ever in his own fantastic style, compels continuous laughter whenever he is on the stage; Samuel Strong was amusingly represented by Mr. Fred Hammond; Mr. Richard Teasdale was effective as Sherlock Blake; and the remainder of the company interpret their parts satisfactorily.

Empire.—Lessees, the Greenock Empire Syndicate; Responsible-Manager, Mr. Edward McCormick; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. J. Colquhoun.—Mr. George Auger's company heads the bill, and presents with success the speciality entitled *Jack the Giant-Killer*. The Brothers Redmond are responsible for some clever acrobatic work; and others who do well are Jolly Jim Walker, chorus vocalist and dancer; Jack Henri, an entertaining Scotch comedian; Idalia Max, a sprightly dancer, who is well received; and the Samallis, a local combination of vocalists and dancers. Pictures conclude.

Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry L. Skivington.—Mr. Jack Haddon's company occupies the premier position on the bill with an intensely dramatic sketch, being a new version of the famous old play *The Courier of Lyons*. It is well presented. Charburn's troupe of young stars appear in a delightful song-scena; Michael Kemble, baritone vocalist, sings two songs in artistic manner; Tate and Tate, comedy acrobats, are particularly good; and the remaining items are the Two Lawsons, in a mimicry act; and Lindsay and Harte, who amuse greatly in the comedy sketch *All Scotch*.

GRIMSBY.—Prince of Wales Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—After an absence of some years *The Sign of the Cross* is again here. Mr. Cyril Austen-Lee in the character of Marcus gives a commanding representation; Miss Constance Little wins favour as Mercia; Miss Lily Ward instils deep feeling into her acting as Berenice; Mr. Charles Aldred as Tigellinus and Mr. J. Weatherall as Licinius well realise those characters; Mr. C. Yorke gives a capital study of Nero; Mr. Frank Wood is an amusing Glabrio; Miss Beryl Hamilton is good as the Empress Poppæa, and the same may be said of Miss Cissy Carlton as Dacia; Mr. Walter Fleet acts with dignity as Favius; and Miss Edith Drayson is especially successful in the interesting part of Stephanus.

The Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—A capital exposition of Hebrew humour is given by Jordan and Harvey, and they have a generous fund of amusing patter and business; the Brooklyn Comedy Four combine good comedy work with really excellent vocal harmony; Moon and Morris contribute an entertaining comedy and dancing act; Hicks and Hunter give a novel display of dancing on ice skates; Helen Martin is a pleasing vocalist; Boden and Bell have a singing and dancing speciality; and Decima Brooke is a charming comedienne and dancer.

HALIFAX.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—*Charley's Aunt* has proved a big attraction at the Royal this week. Mr. Brandon Thomas has selected an excellent company. Mr. Theo. McCausland-Stewart, aristocratic in demeanour and of soldierly bearing, gives an excellent portrayal of Colonel Chesney; Mr. Roy Byford's Stephen Spettigue is the bumptious overbearing lawyer to the life; Mr. Hastings Lynn and Mr. Robert Burnett as Jack Chesney and Charles Wykeham, the impetuous undergraduates, are full of boyish humour; as the boisterous Lord Fancourt Babberley Mr. Arthur Chesney is capital; Brasset is a small part admirably played by Mr. Sydney Compton; Miss Vere Gerald is dignified and lady-like as Donna Lucia; Miss Estelle Winwood and Miss Ethel Fifield act charmingly as Kitty Verdun and Amy Spettigue; Miss Sylvia Morris is a winning Ela Delahay.

Grand Theatre, Ltd. — Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—Pictures are again proving a big attraction here.

Palace and Hippodrome, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Foster.—The old-time favourite, J. W Rowley, proves he is still a good card to play; Satani introduces marvellous illusions in a novel scena; George Lawrence, vocal entertainer, gains hearty applause; Fred Ginnett and Wal Pink's company appear in a well-acted sketch *The Beacon Bell*; the Tintoe, in African gambols; Sybil Montague, vocalist; Gladys Wilton, girl contralto; and Raymond's Bio-tableaux complete.

HAMILTON, N.B.—Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; General-Manager, Mr. René Clayton; Business-Manager, Mr. Jack Bostock.—The Harmony Four, in their clever and funny musical comedy act, are topping the bill here this week; Edith Chandler is a dainty singer; Mons. and Mme. Gailland introduce their wonderfully trained equestrian lion; Chorley and Connor, two local favourites, are warmly received; Jukes and Earl are agreeable singers and dancers; J. C. Maddock, the blind musician, is excellent; Shrillo, is an operatic whistler; Phern and Phern do a clever musical act; and the Bioscope concludes.

HANLEY.—Royal, Ltd. — Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—Messrs. Smith and Carpenter's company this week produce *Pete* to large audiences. The play is received with great favour. Miss Marjorie Murray is really brilliant as Kate Cregeen, her elocution being excellent; Miss Amy Grace is capital as Nancy; Miss Ethel Gordon as Grannie is admirably suited; Mr. Frederick Victor as Pete Quilliam is effective, his fine stage presence and powerful acting winning loud plaudits; Mr. Percy Rhodes as Philip Christian is natural and dignified; Mr. Pennington Gush as Ross Christian is decidedly successful; Mr. Tom W. Ford as Cæsar Cregeen shows unmistakable skill; Mr. Ellis J. Preston is good as Black Tom; and Mr. W. Clement as Jonaique Jelly wins credit.

Grand, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand.—Capt. Jos. Woodward's juggling sea lions and seals are proving a well-appreciated treat; Fred Poplar makes much merriment in humorous effusions; the Two Anartos are powerful comedians and instrumentalists; An Invasion is a fine film, and evokes great enthusiasm; Musical Sylvo scores effectively; Kitty Wager is pleasing; the Four Royal Scots make a hit with their original and clever act; Terola appears in a daring, sensational novelty, "Motoring the Whirling Cyclon," in which his automobile attains a speed of sixty miles an hour; Gracie Grahame, comedienne, is also billed.

King's.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy; Manager, Mr. H. Kennedy.—A fine set of art films is being shown here this week, audiences being large and appreciative. Miss Vesta Nixon pleasingly supplies the vaudeville items.

HARROGATE.—Grand Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eric Fielding-Smith.—For the first three nights of this week Mr. Eugene Strafford's company appeared in *The Private Secretary*. Mr. Donald Price Evans as the Rev. Mr. Spalding well maintained the traditions of the part, and Mr. Alex. Begbie was well placed as Harry Marsland; Mr. Herbert Garthorne was excellent as Douglas Cattermole, and Mr. W. Hargreaves repeated his well-known and clever impersonation of Mr. Cattermole; Mr. Fred Tyrrel was very good as Mr. Gibson, Miss Nan Macrae was all that could be desired in the part of Edith, and Mrs. Alfred Davis was seen to advantage as Miss Ashford.

St. James's Hall.—Managing-Director, Mr. S. Carter; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fred A. Parker.—Harrogate's favourite entertainers, "The Players," are here again this week, including Miss Susie Belmore, the popular principal girl from the Prince's Theatre, Bradford. They give a clever and bright little show. Some beautiful pictures are on view.

HARTLEPOOL.—Empress.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Albert Mathams.—Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope pictures have become exceedingly popular. The Streets and Industries of Naples delighted everyone, and An Arabian Pilgrimage was particularly interesting. There is plenty to interest and amuse in the pictures of Bobby Sportsman, The Convict's Revenge, The Deadly Plant, Ghosts in the House, An Importunate Neighbour, and Evil Spirits in a Girl's School. In addition to the pictures Caryll and Dean, comedy duo; Tom Duncan, tenor vocalist; and Queenie Swift, soubrette, are entertaining.

HASTINGS.—Gaiety Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—Mr. Stanley James's company opened on Monday in the comedy *My Wife*. Miss Mary Carnegy gives a charming impersonation of Beatrice Dupre; a clever portrayal of Gerald Eversleigh is submitted by Mr. C. H. Croker-King; effective character contrasts are provided by Mr. Cecil Brooking and Miss Winifred Beadnell as M. et Mme. Dupre; and Gibby is amusingly presented by Mr. James Gelderd. Miss Katharine Harrington is finely suited as Miriam Hawthorne, and played the part well; good assistance is given by Mr. Franc Stoney as the Butler, Mr. F. Hartley as Crocker, Mr. Reginald W. Fry as Head Waiter, and Mr. Vernon O. Crabtree as Réné Falandras. The comedy is preceded by *The Vengeance of Jim*, effectively played by Mr. C. B. Brooking, Miss K. Harrington, and little Miss Beryl St. Leger. For Thursday and remaining nights *Her Father* is billed.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Harry Boyd; General-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—A strong programme is opened by the attractive character vocalist Miss Nellie la Rose. Some novel pictures are shown by the Alhambra Bioscope. A realistic picture is submitted by Mr. Scott Alexander of the seamy side of London life. A little band of waifs and strays, of whom the juvenile Kittie Anen is the principal, sing a pathetic appeal entitled "The cry of the children whilst London is sleeping." Lance Grove has an excellent baritone voice; an exciting sketch, *The Bank Robbery*, is produced by Edward Ranier and his company; Miss Mabel Thorne is a versatile vocalist and comedienne; Mr. Alexander produces a fine military episode, extremely well acted, entitled *Napoleon at Waterloo*.

Pier Pavilion.—General-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—The Bioscope shows a series of new pictures. An amusing farce is played with much spirit by Messrs. Joseph Cowell, Mat Melrose, Ernest Tubbs, and the Misses Joan Earle and Laila Melrose; Mr. Henry A. Moore, in his imitations of actors and comedians, exhibits great skill; the musical sketches by the Melroses are appreciated.

Public Hall.—Manager, Mr. W. Slade.—The St. Louis Animated Picture Company (business managers, Messrs. Allen and Vincent) concludes its visit here to-day (Saturday). The entertainments throughout have been of a high order of merit and the pictures up-to-date. On Friday, in addition to the pictures, a baby show was billed, the management providing handsome prizes for local competition.

St. Leonards Pier Pavilion.—General-Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—A cinematograph entertainment is occupying the boards here, animated pictures of nearly every country and their principal cities being shown. Humorous pictures are included.

HUDDERSFIELD. — Hippodrome, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—At the top is Reano, with his wonderful band; their brilliant playing of well-known pieces fairly takes the house by storm. Also appearing are Miss Hamid Alexander, in her clever and unusually versatile performance at the piano; Fred Hallam, comedian; the Gladenbecks, acrobats; Wisper, comedy juggler; Miss Beattie Bloom, comedienne; and Dennis Drew, in a smart military scena entitled *Back to Barracks*, in which he is assisted by a well-drilled squad of lads. The pictures on the bioscope complete the list.

HULL.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Morton's, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. W. F. Morton.—After far too long an absence, Mr. Forbes Robertson pays a visit to Hull, and, accompanied by his wife and his London company, is giving a delightful representation of Jerome's play-sermon, *The Passing of the Third Floor Back*. This story, with its Bloomsbury boarding house milieu, is beautifully played, and Mr. Forbes Robertson in the rôle of the Stranger has a part in which his fine temperamental gifts, his splendid elocutionary powers, and his glorious voice have all their charm. Such fine acting is rarely seen, and without doubt Mr. Robertson is to-day without a compeer on the English stage. As Major Tompkins Mr. Ian Robertson has a pleasing part; nothing could be better than that talented artist, Mr. Edward Sass's Jake Samuels; Mr. Ernest Hendrie, last seen here with the Kendals, has an equally good rôle; as Stasia Miss Gertrude Elliott gives proof of her fine powers; Miss Haidee Wright, a charming artist, is well cast as the painted lady. The

Madge Blundell and Miss Cissie Hastings; and also by Messrs. Alvin Sawyer, Edwin Firth, Bernard Mostyn, Will J. Spencer, and others.

LINCOLN.—ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Payne Seddon and Ernest Pope; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ernest Pope.—Mr. Ernest Bodkin's company give a fine performance of *The Thief*. Mr. Paul Lovett and Miss Kathryn Stocks thrilled the house on Monday in the magnificent second act, and were enthusiastically recalled at the close. Mr. Ernest Bodkin as Raymond is also highly successful; and Mr. A. Taylor-Vinson gives a very clean-cut portrayal of the detective. Mr. C. W. Lindsey's Harry and Miss Mary Forrester's Isabel are excellent studies. *The Man in the Street*, with Mr. Ernest Bodkin as the outcast, precedes.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. E. Dobney.—Consul, the "almost human," is paying his first visit to Lincoln and greatly astonishing packed race-week audiences. Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilde, Nellie Walton, the Milton Trio, Master Day, the Melbournes, and Harwood's Juveniles, also win favour.

LIVERPOOL.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—The always-popular Moody-Manners Opera Company paid a return visit here this week and gave some of the choicest selections from their extensive répertoire. On Monday a large and appreciative audience witnessed *Cavalleria Rusticana*, with Miss Toni Seiter as Santuzza, a part in which she excelled herself, gaining much applause for her charming vocalisation; Mr. John Child, who was in particularly good form, lent great support with his Turriddu; Mr. Lewys James creditably interpreted the character of Alfio; and Miss N. Stuart made a striking Lola. The work was followed by *Pagliacci*, the principals in which were Mr. Philip Brozel, who earned a flattering reception for his fine rendering of Canio; Mr. William Dever, who was excellent as Tonio; Mr. Lewys James, an able Silvio; and Miss Kate Anderson, who delighted everybody with her exquisite rendering of the numbers allotted to Nedda. Other works presented during the week were *The Meistersingers*, *Faust*, *Aida*, *Madame Butterfly*, *Lohengrin*, and *Maritana*.

SHAKESPEARE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wentworth Croke; Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney. *Peter Pan* was given here for a second week to large and delighted audiences, Miss Pauline Chase charming everybody as the boy who would not grow up.

ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—That pleasing Melville drama, *The Soldier's Wedding*, met with great acceptance here this week, and public support was good. Mr. Wingold Lawrence infused a deal of manly spirit into the rôle of Jack Brown, gaining the sympathies of his audience; Miss Dorothy Richardson proved delightful as Nancy Lee, acting with grace and discretion; Miss Mabel Lowe pleased in the rôle of Peggy Munroe; capital comedy was provided by Mr. Johnny Chippendale (Tommy Spratt), Mr. Frederick Biron (David Munroe) and Miss Mattie Everett (Lizzie Walker); the part of Colonel Graham was well handled by Mr. Beresford Whitcomb; a powerful Charles Courtney came from Mr. Gerald Jordan; and good support was also given by Mr. Fred Yarnold (Nathaniel Lee) and Miss Marie McAuley (Julie Beauvrais).

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—Mr. Allan Wilkie and company are here in a round of Shakespeare. Monday saw *Hamlet* put forward, Mr. Wilkie giving a fine and artistic rendering of the title-part; Miss Haidee Gunn made an impression with her carefully-played Ophelia; Mr. Alexander Marsh was the Ghost; Mr. Frank Royde acquitted himself ably as Laertes; the Claudius of Mr. John Paley did that actor credit; and Mr. Houston Meharry was satisfactory as Polonius. Mr. Wilkie, who staged everything in excellent style, also included in his week's programme *Othello*, *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Richard III.*, *Sleigh Bells*, and *Garrick*.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—The inimitable George Robey has been convulsing audiences with laughter throughout the week, his Shakespearian skit and comic imitation of a lion-tamer being particularly rich. Henriette De Serris' reproductions of works of art, statuary, &c., were greatly admired; Fred Ginnett's *Hunting Morn* sketch was approved in hearty fashion; Verno and Voyce, the singing comedians, have an excellent racing scena in *A True Story of the Turf*; the Glenroy Troupe gave a pretty military scena, *The 17th Lancers*; Percival proved exceedingly funny with his peculiar imitations on the piano; Tambo and Tambo showed remarkable skill as tambourine spinners; some popular tenor songs were rendered in good style by Tom Child; and Frank Lynne, the funny-mantlegraph, also appeared.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.—Here this week we have Mr. and Mrs. Charles Draycott's company in a number of popular dramas. On Monday *A Modern Adventuress* was played, others being *The Shaughraun*, *The Colleen Bawn*, *Heart of a Hero*, *The Octoroon*, and *Stolen Birthright*.

LYRIC.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—A principal item here this week is the film showing the Summers-Britt fight. Starr and Leslie provided some capital juggling and singing; the Fauldy Troupe of acrobats were loudly applauded for their talented efforts; Diana Hope gave a delightful society episode. *Her Good Name*; Zeta Grey and company paid a welcome return with *The Lancashire Lass*; Harley and Melton are a couple of lively patter comedians and dancers; Fielding and Hull pleased with their musical comedy sketches; and Sam Spira, entertainer, was likewise in the list.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—Top of the bill here this week is an American sketch entitled *The Star Bout*, which made its first appearance in England. The idea, which is worked in one act, with three scenes, deals with a love incident in which the leading lights are two prize-fighters and a girl. The battle in the ring was of a most exciting character, and the audience followed it with keen attention. Mr. Taylor Granville's sketch should prove a draw. The variety part of the programme has some capital turns. The merry Harry Ford proved as funny as ever; Lalla Selbini, with her comic little Chinese assistant, proved a most pleasing turn; Wright and Lawson, a smart pair of eccentrics, were responsible for much laughter; Dorothy Gould sang with taste; Bliss and Bliss had plenty of humorous patter, and danced in good style; Brent Hayes proved himself an expert banjo manipulator; Winifred Ward scored a success as the "immaculate boy"; and Charles F. Best, comedian, also appeared.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—*The Three Musketeers*, given here this week by the stock company has proved a big attraction. The principal parts were ably undertaken by Messrs. Sydney Grant (Richelieu), Cecil Ravenswood, E. D. Allen, and Charles Townsend (the Musketeers), and Harry Tresham (D'Artagnan); Miss Lillian Radbourne (Miladi) and Miss Gwynne Warren (Ann of Austria). Mr. Anthony Brown's bioscope showed the latest films.

WESTMINSTER.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—In addition to a series of animated pictures given here during the week, the following artists appeared:—The Tschinmaa band of Chinese performers; Austin and Mottramo, comedy and vocal artists; and the Godfreys, with the sketch, *The Slave and the Coon*.

OLYMPIA.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manger, Mr. Ernest Wighton.—Principal here this week is Mlle. Liane D'Eve, whose character-changes in view of the audience were watched with attention, while her singing and dancing evoked loud applause; Tom Foy and company gave their lively sketch, *The Yorkshire Lad in London*; some clever juggling was performed by Walter Bellonini; Guyer and Valli had a funny American trifle, *Wait for the Finish*; Rich and Rich were as amusing as ever; and contributions also came from Elsie Roby, the slavey at the piano; Victoria Carmen, vocalist; Annie Casey, comedienne; and Charles Chard, comedian. A film showed the Johnson-Burns fight.

PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—Nat Clifford puts his audience into shouts of laughter with his "Bullfighter," "Living Pictures," &c.; La Belle Duchess provides an interesting turn with her cleverly-trained stallions, ponies, and dogs; the Friere troupe of Risley acrobats give a clean and accomplished show; the Three Whirlwind Girl Dancers certainly move about in quick time; Nellie Moore, an accomplished character impersonator, affords satisfaction with her able excerpt from *Les Cloches de Corneville*; Fred Maitland causes roars of laughter by his altercation with a Suffragette; Mabel Roberts, possessed of a rich voice, has some pleasing illustrated songs; the Sarony Sisters give a smart exhibition of wooden clog dancing; Angus Strong renders several ballads in capital manner; and others in the bill are Tom Morris, whistler; and Will Nosam, vocalist.

GRAND TIVOLI.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jasper Redfern.—Here this week a pantomime, entitled *Beauty and the Beast*, sent by the London Pantomime Syndicate, afforded much enjoyment to large audiences. Mr. Leslie Austin, the beast, sang a stirring song, "There's a foe at the gates of England," which caught on; Miss Dollie Barrie was the Beauty, and showed much versatility; Miss Hilda de Grey made a dashing Prince, and rendered Tyrolean songs to the general satisfaction; and the Kibbles' dancing and singing earned great applause. Mr. M. Madden proved a very humorous Dame, and Daleno and Stream helped immensely with the fun as the two bailiffs. The production is well put on.

PARK PALACE.—Lessee, Mr. Jasper Redfern.—The cinematographic pictures shown here continue to attract. During the week the following variety artists appeared:—Frank Coyne, vocal comedian; the Draycott Belles of Harmony; the Lydamore Brothers, comedians; J. H. Carroll, comedian and dancer; Bessie Willows, with chorus songs; and the Denora Boys, juvenile acrobats.

NEW CENTURY PICTURE HALL.—Proprietors, the New Century Animated Picture Co., Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter W. Hook.—Excellent films and illustrated songs are given this week.

LOWESTOFT.—MARINA.—Manager, Mr. E. A. Smith.—The drama *Love Rules the World* is being staged here for the first time locally.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—Messrs. Surrey and Carlton's talented company continue here, and are this week presenting a military sketch, *Two Little Soldier Boys*, which is received with the greatest enthusiasm. Barry Gilmore, "a great little comedian," scores heavily, and shows undoubted ability as a vocal comedian and tumbler; Ena Richards and Beanland, in female character, also meets with great success; the Biograph pictures include a remarkable "Invasion" film which is cleverly done; while The Coastguard, another effective picture, is thoroughly appropriate and hugely enjoyed by local sons of the sea.

LUTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Resident-Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company in *The Prodigal Son* is here. Magnus is exceedingly well portrayed by Mr. Hugh Montgomery; Oscar is effectively delineated by Mr. Gordon Macintosh; the dual parts of Thora and Elin is quite a success in the capable hands of Miss Valerie Crespin; Miss Barbara Gott as Anna and Miss Marie Harcourt as the factor's sister are good. Miss Mildred Cottell does full justice to Helga Neilson; and the parts of the Governor of Iceland by Mr. Bellenden Clarke, Oscar Neilson by Mr. Philip Renouf, and Dr. Olsen by Mr. Bruce Lindley, help the success.

MACCLESFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—*The Honeymoon* is being presented by Mr. Gilbert Payne and company. As Nathaniel Noodle Mr. Gilbert Payne proves himself a clever comedian and keeps the audience in the heartiest of laughter; Col. Vandyke Brown is cleverly depicted by Mr. H. F. Housden; Mr. James Hawkes gives a good account of himself as Jack Armstrong; and Mr. Leslie Digby does ample justice to the part of Archie Mashington; as Stella Le Brunn Miss Nellie Dyson is quite competent; Miss Ethyl Errol distinguishes herself as Eneretta Noodle; and Miss B. Erle gives a pleasing Madge Armstrong.

MANCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, the United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edmondstone Shirra.—Mr. Seymour Hicks's principal company is here this week in *The Gay Gordons*. Mr. Stanley Brett proves a capital substitute for the original Angus Graeme, and as Peggy Quainton Miss Maie Ash is quite equal to the many opportunities provided by the part; Mr. Fred Rolph as Nervy Nat, the showman, is well placed; and so is Mr. George Carroll as Edmund Siddons; while as Charlotte Siddons Miss Nellie Dade shows herself to be a smart and resourceful comedienne. Other parts are adequately filled, and the dressing and staging are, of course, excellent.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, the United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—A good performance of *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch* was given here on Monday by Mr. W. Gaston Mayer's company. Miss Gertrude Irving's depiction of the title-part was very intelligently done, and is sure to find favour even with those who have seen her predecessor, Mrs. Madge Carr Cook; Miss Rita Carlyle as Miss Hazy provoked roars of laughter, which were supplemented by the comic doings and sayings of Miss Maud Townsend and Miss Amy Fanchette as Mrs. Eichorn and Mrs. Schultz; to say nothing of the fine work of Mr. Frederick Forrest as Mr. Stubbins, and the humours of quite a number of other quaint and unusual characters; nicely rendered also was the Lovey Mary of Miss Margaret Shelley; and, indeed, the pathos and humour of the entire performance left nothing to be desired.

ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Mason.—Miss Ethel Van Praagh and Mr. J. Edward Whitty's company won success here on Monday with their first local performance of *The Eyes of the World*. Miss Van Praagh in the rôle of Helene de L'Orme plays artistically and in convincing style; as her wayward husband, Hector, Mr. George D. Daiper acquits himself creditably, his paramour, Esme de Carnac, being cleverly portrayed by Miss Beatrice Fitzhugh; while Mr. Will Casey makes the most of the character of Gaston de Carnac; Mr. J. Edward Whitty is amusing as the lovesick lawyer, ably assisted by Miss Nellie Garside; and other parts are well rendered by Miss Elsie Capell and Mr. Charles Sewell. One would have liked to see more of Mr. Charles Stirling, who as Octave was exceptionally strong in speech and action.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Day.—Prominent here this week is Sig. Arvi's mysterious reproduction of pictorial phenomena. Edwin Garth in his new comedy scena is very humorous; Bains and Reed (who top the bill) are clever tumblers; Ethel Loftus, in her song, "Father," makes a great hit; Fred Walmsley, as the Dotty Poet, is amusing; and other good turns are Cecilia Gold, burlesque artist; Jack Waller, violinist; Major Moss, an old singer of old songs; and Charters and Clare, comedians.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Brearley.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's successful drama, *The Old Folks at Home*, though well known to local audiences, is always sure of a welcome. Miss Mary Fulton gives a fine rendering of Dorothy Robin; while as Andrew Ross, the yeoman farmer, Mr. H. E. Herberte plays admirably; the dissolute Lord Kenilworth is capitally depicted by Mr. Frank Liston, and Miss Kate Froud has opportunities as Patricia Bathurst; good also are Mr. Eugene Santley as Christopher Robin; Mr. Fred Lillywhite as the hunchback Jock, Miss Clara Santley as Martha; and Miss Lillian Francis as Dinah. Messrs. Frank Caffrey and Leslie Crowther are capable in humorous rôles.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—Eli Hudson and Olga and Elgar give a fine star turn here this week in their refined musical act. Marie Kendall, the popular favourite, captures the house with her vivacious songs; *Casey's Court* is another large and entertaining item; Arthur Kenney is well described as a sensational cyclist; Walter King, the doleful comedian, is quite effective in a style of his own; Andrew McManus, tenor vocalist, has a voice of unusual quality; and other pleasing turns are the Lyric Mummers, vocal duologue artists; Steve McCarthy, comedian and dancer; and Alice Maple, an engaging comedienne and dancer.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—That clever, versatile actor, Albert Chevalier, is to the front here, excellently supported in a pocket version of *The First Night*, entitled *Behind the Scenes*, in which he scores a big success. Kaufmann's Troupe of Twelve charming Cycling Beauties go through a wonderfully neat performance; the Stein-Eretto Troupe are marvellous hand-jumping acrobats; Nellie Coleman, the well-known female comedian, makes her usual hit; Ian Colquhoun is excellent in national character songs; and other smart turns are offered by Harry Lickson and his balancing dogs; St. George Sylvesta, society illusionist; Harvey's American Boys and Girls in pleasing songs and dances; and the St. Johns, musicians and dancers.

PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Manager, Mr. A. J. Carter.—Margaret Cooper, the well-known entertainer, tops the bill here this week, and meets with a deserved good reception; Jake Friedman and company score a success, as usual, in that delightful Dutch operetta *Happy Holland*; and the Six Albyns are exceedingly good singers. Ernie Mayne, of "Cupid" fame, is a capital comedian; Frank Maura goes through his really marvellous foot equilibristic act; Owen McGiveney is clever in his Dickens' character studies; the Max Milian Trio of equilibrists give a wonderfully clever performance; and Allan Shaw is a smart coin and card manipulator. The Palace Pictures complete.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. James R. Trippett.—The bill is topped here this week by the Lyons Trio, who are highly amusing as pantomimists and dancers; Coram makes his usual hit as a ventriloquist; Marie Blythe, comedienne and dancer, has some taking songs; and the Days are exceptionally smart second-sight seers. Other capital turns are given by Jack Crawley, in novel act, "Lights Out"; Edwards and Ward, comedy entertainers; Milner and Storey, comedy artists; J. W. Gallagher, comedian; Herma, in weight-lifting act; and Little Tichbourne, a very funny comedian. A Catching Dance is a vastly amusing film shown on the Bioscope.

TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—A clever and refined turn is given here this week by Millie Legarde, the popular musical comedy artist, who meets with a big reception; Luna Love, a capital comedienne, scores with pleasing songs and dances; and Ray and Calden, in their novel comedy act, are loudly applauded. Zeta Russell, a charming youthful comedienne, gives a delightful turn, singing nicely and dancing gracefully; and E. Babouschka, the Anglo-Austrian comedian, is well received. Other enjoyable items are those of the Sisters Clarette, expert dancers; Alpho, ventriloquist; Rose Tilley, comedienne; and Amritsa, the Mystic. Ruffell's pictures are excellent.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—A first-rate performance of that favourite drama, *A Soldier's Honour*, is given here twice nightly by Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company. Miss Lilla Wilde scores well as Cora Lee, and Miss Edie Macklin as Jemima Eliza shows herself to be a very clever comedienne. As Captain Dene Mr. T. Arthur Ellis is particularly good; and Mr. Harry Lyndon and Miss Iza Lyndon as Percy Brattle and Gwendoline Temple respectively are very pleasing. Praise should also be accorded the following for their excellent work:—Messrs. William Vane, Henry Rutland, Andrew Money, and the Misses Norah Bedford and Violet Langley; whilst the remaining parts are all in good hands.

HULME HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thomas Baker.—Billy Merson, a thorough comedian, tops the bill here this week, and scores a big success; whilst Ted Waite, the spasmodic comedian, bottoms the bill, and is equally successful. The Twin Sisters Tiny and Mite, child vocalists and dancers, are excellent and well received; and Shirly Liggins and company in a farmyard scena sing well; the Rangers are clever trick cyclists; Marie Kay, juvenile comedienne and expert dancer, is good; Phillips and Bristow are smart wooden shoe dancers; and Flo Hilton is a popular male impersonator. Bioscope Pictures complete.

MARGATE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. E. Michael; General-Manager, Mr. W. W. Keene.—Mr. James Bell and Miss Annie Bell's company has this week secured a cordial welcome in the drama *The Idol of Paris*. Miss Annie Bell, in the title-rôle, as a variety star, has a part to which she adapts herself successfully; Mr. Gordon Robey essays the difficult rôle of Prince Sergius Zoresky in a capable manner; Mr. Charles Stafford displays ability as Philippe D'Esterre; Mr. C. St. John Medley successfully undertakes the rôle of Gustave Langlois; Mr. Sidney Arnold does well as Victor Cashelle; Mr. Chris Roberts does justice to the part of Theo Decline; and Mr. Frank H. Dale is amusing as Tatave. Miss Frances Bruce supplies a good study as Mme. Sancterre; the part of Olympe Sosage, the dresser, is ably portrayed by Miss Grace Noble; Miss Pharo Anderson offers an acceptable characterisation of Rachel Bernhardt, a lady desirous of getting on the stage; and as Ann Miss Annie Megson is good.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—The week's programme includes the Four Mexicans, champion lassoists; Fynn and Fayne, eccentric comedians; Millie Wolfgang, in her scena, "My Moonlight Girl"; Alf Davis, actor-vocalist; Lily Edwardes, comedienne; Potts, the newsboy, in his song-scena; and the Whitworth Girls, in their novelty cycle turn. The evening's programme also includes a series of interesting bioscopic pictures.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees, The South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Albert Jackson.—Mr. F. R. Benson's company (South) is paying a welcome return visit with *Julius Cæsar*, *Twelfth Night*, *Othello*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, and *The Merchant of Venice*. On Monday *Julius Cæsar* was staged, with Mr. Baliol Holloway as Marc Antony, Mr. John Cairns as Brutus, Miss Emil Leslie as Portia, supported by an excellent company.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—This week Chas. M. Daley and company are prominent in the miniature farcical comedy, *I Must Have It*; Bradshaw Brothers score as eccentric acrobats; and a pretty musical scena is introduced by the Four Musical Watsons. Also contributing to the programme are the Selwyns in a refined vocal and dancing act; Ferris and Farnley, patter comedians; Donatos, one-legged clowns; Elton and Elma, in a knockabout triple bar-act; the Haverleys, American song illustrators; and the Biograph.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. W. Chatto; Managing-Director, Mr. J. Jowsey.—Playgoers in Middlesbrough and district have this week the opportunity of witnessing legitimate plays presented by Mr. Ian Maclaren and company. Mr. Maclaren on Monday gave a flawless portrayal of the part of Marcus Antonius in *Julius Cæsar*, and he thoroughly deserved the plaudits showered upon him.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. J. Chas. Imeson; Managing-Director, Mr. E. D. Bonarius.—Mr. George Alexander's success *The Thief* is being played here. Mr. Grendon Bentley and Miss May Longden are quite equal to the demands of the second act, and their dramatic interview is fine in its restraint. Mr. Gerald Ames in the part of Raymond Leyton is all that can be desired; and Alfred Lugg as Harry and Miss May Dibley as Isobel Leyton are also successful. The play is preceded each evening by *The Nursery Governess*.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Charles Rembges.—Bella and Bijou are in high favour here with *The Suffragette*; the Ormesby Quartette win well-merited praise; and Bijou Russell is a dainty dancer. Herman Melot in his conjuring act, Frank Boyce, comedian, Harry Brayne and Bert Lloyd, in their latest absurdity, and the Three Orleans, in wooden-shoe dancing, are all acceptable.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. E. Nichols; Manager, Signor Rino Pepi.—Fred Lindsay makes a favourable impression in his interesting feats. Other enjoyable turns are contributed by Stanley, the Scottish singing collier; Tom Joy, comedian; Vere and Royal, Arthur Stacey, Damerall and Rutland, Vincent, Lily Arthur, vocal comedienne and dancer, and Raglus, eccentric juggler.

MOTHERWELL.—NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hales.—Messrs. G. F. Watson and Ernest Owen present the new emotional drama *How Women Are Slandered*. Miss Beatrice Hone is tender and pathetic as Maud Warburton; Miss Phyllis Elton aptly embodies the unscrupulous Madge Gilroy, and Miss Mollie Hackett is bright and merry as the maid Patty. Major Sterling is capitally rendered by Mr. Courtney Robinson; Bob Warburton has a suitable exponent in Mr. Bert Oates, Mr. Templar being well suited as Jimmy Chips.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—On Monday Mr. George Edwardes's company presented *The Dollar Princess*. In the principal rôle Miss Hilda Moody finds ample scope for her charming voice and clever acting, and scores heavily throughout the piece. In the absence of Miss Kitty Gordon on Monday evening Miss Phyllis Le Grand undertook the rôle of Olga, a lion queen, and was an undoubted success, being encored again and again for her delightful singing, especially in the "Lion Queen" song, whilst Miss Alice Pollard made a dainty and sufficiently coquettish Daisy. As Freddy Fairfax Mr. Robert Michaelis was seen and heard to great advantage, his spirited acting and cultured singing being one of the features of the production; Mr. Fred Winn imparted any amount of quaint dry humour to his interpretation of the part of Phineas Q. Conder, and Mr. Vernon Davidson was well suited in John, Earl of Quorn. Other leading rôles were ably filled by Mr. Howard Cridland, Mr. Harry Parker, Mr. Willie Warde, Miss Maude Duncan, and Miss Alice Moffat.

TYNE THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company opened on Monday in *The Bondman*. Mr. R. Scrope Quinton scored a notable personal success as Jason, his acting being both vigorous and effective; Mr. W. Henry Hargreaves presented a convincing study of the part of Michael Sunlocks; Mr. Oswald Lingard was excellent as Adam Fairbrother; in the dual rôles of Father Ferrati and Grandfather Mr. W. H. Rotheram was very successful. Miss Madge Lanerton's portrayal of Mrs. Fairbrother was a capital piece of acting; Miss Georgina Wynter's rendering of Greeba was most sympathetic; while Miss Lilian Mayne did well in the part of the housekeeper.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—*The Little Breadwinner* is being presented by Mr. G. A. Campbell's company. Mr. Reginald Brown gives a fine impersonation of the hero, Richard Lawrence; Mr. Alfred Maurice, as the villainous schemer, Joseph Prior, plays his part well; humorous diversion of an excellent kind is ably provided by Mr. Sydney Lynn as Charles Prior; Mr. J. Monkhouse as Lord Dorrington (the Quaker) acts with much dignity; Margaret Daventry is sympathetically portrayed by Miss Josephine Richards; while Miss Millie Ford gives a good account of herself as Kate Cherry. The success of the evening is Little Irene in the title-rôle, her singing and dancing being well applauded; Miss Lissa Young makes the best of Bobby Trott.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; Manager, Mr. Chas. E. Linney.—*The Heathen and the Christian* was presented here on Monday evening. The play is of intense interest, and the principal parts are capably represented by Mr. Herbert Robinson, Mr. Dudley Winton, Mr. Frank Adair, Miss Louie Adair, and Miss Eva Reed.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. W. P. Wells; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. W. Kilgour.—Mr. George Lashwood's appearance is greeted each evening with outbursts of applause. Mr. Lashwood is more entertaining than ever, and keeps the house in great good humour with his cleverly-rendered songs and excellent patter. Another noteworthy turn is provided by Hubert Carter, in an abbreviated version of *David Garrick*, in which he is supported by Mrs. Calhaem, Miss H. Russell, Mr. A. Crighton, Mr. F. Norman, and Mr. H. A. Stafford. Miss Edie King proves a versatile comedienne and dancer, and Van Allen, a musical comedian of rare ability; the irrepressible Austin Rudd evokes much laughter with his experiences as a policeman at a Suffragettes' meeting, and the Trentanovi Sisters inspire plenty of applause with their daring gymnastic performance; whilst other artists contributing to an all-round excellent programme are Boyd and Gilfain, De Ganty's Water Grotto, J. H. Scotland, Arthur Gill, the man of many voices, and La Danseuse; also the Bioscope.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. W. H. Boardman.—The Six Brothers Luck had a capital bill here this week, and others appearing are Violet Lloyd and Horace Lane, Lloyd Morgan, The Camplins, Horace Jones, Doris Dean, Josie Delaine, Lieut. Travis, and Capt. Woodward's Sea Lions.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is here in *Lady Frederick*. Miss Eleanor Delaporte appears as Lady Frederick Berroles, and is specially good in the Dressing-room scene; Mr. W. Barnett acts well the part of Sir Gerald O'Mara; and Miss Celia Gordon plays Lady Mereston with great power. Mr. Vivian Gilbert makes a very charming Lord Mereston; Mr. Edward Bonfield plays Captain Montgomery with force and consistency; and Mr. Gerald Gambier is a bluff and natural Admiral Carlisle. Miss Lynn Fountanne is sweet and charming as Rose; and Mr. John Orme and Mr. Bruce Smith are satisfactory as Thompson and Albert, Mr. Harry Winton as Pierre being natural as a waiter. Miss Phyllis Manners is effective as Mme. Claude. The great success of the production is undoubtedly the Paradine Fouldes of Mr. Robert Minster. The piece is preceded by *The Peacemaker*, a humorous one-act play.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. O. Stoll.—La Milo heads the programme here with an exhibition of living statuary, and on Monday evening she was accorded a very hearty reception in her various poses. Cruickshank gives a number of freehand sketches; a very pleasing turn is provided by Miss Marquis's stud of eight trained cobs; and Orpheus, in a clever instrumental act, furnishes a treat. Bertha Stuart, a Scottish character comedienne, finds much favour; the Three Welsh Girls supply a good vocal turn; and Frank Hartley performs some original feats in juggling. Walter Wade in song and patter is acceptable; Marjorie Lawrence is an accomplished dancer; and the Bioscope shows some interesting pictures.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Morgan.—The Vedrenne-Barker company in Bernard Shaw's *You Never Can Tell* occupies the boards this week. Miss Lena Halliday performs excellently the part of Mrs. Clandon, Miss Muriel

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THE ERA, March 27, 1909.

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Dole acts well as Gloria Clandon, and Miss Clara Earle is pleasing as Dolly Clandon. Mr. Percy Crawford is very good as Philip Clandon, and Mr. J. Edward Pearce is successful as Fergus Crampton; Mr. Gerald Merrielees gives a capital sketch of Finch McComas, and Mr. Leslie Hamer is commendable as Valentino; Mr. Geo. Howard acts with ability as Bohun, and Mr Trevor Lowe is quaintly humorous as the waiter William.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—The famous Kellinos, in their dancing and acrobatic speciality act, entitled *A Fête in Venice*, give a pleasing performance and are enthusiastically greeted; Gold and Sterling, in *The Maid and the Artist*, are very entertaining; Howard and St. Clare are successful in their singing and dancing act; and the Polio Trio are clever xylophone artists. George James, comedian, Little Zola, comedian, Miss Ethel Walker, pianist and vocalist, and Charles J. Johnson, "the black diamond," and the Hippo's bioscope complete an excellent programme.

AGRICULTURAL HALL ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—The new Era pictures are good, and well patronised.

BANK PLAIN ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—The Franco-British pictures are doing well, giving an attractive entertainment.

CENTRAL HALL, UPPER MARKET.—This is a new place of entertainment, which has only recently been licensed and is now opened by the East Anglian Bioscope Company. The building has been converted into an elegantly-fitted place of amusement, provided with excellent seating accommodation and large entrance. The first show was given on Monday evening, and the pictures were of excellent character, enlivened with a pianoforte accompaniment. There are two performances nightly with a matinée on Saturday.

NOTTINGHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—A capital company, touring under the auspices of Mr. George Edwardes and Charles Frohman, present *A Waltz Dream* this week to crowded houses. Honours fall to Miss May de Sousa, bright, sparkling, and delightful as St. Franzi; Miss Ethel Cadman is equally successful as the Princess, and uses her cultured voice to the utmost effect. Mr. Leslie Holland, a comedian of exceptional ability and a dancer of no mean attainments, does well as Lothar, and with the able assistance of Mr. John Humphries as the Prince helps very considerably towards the success of the production. Mr. Wilson Pembroke acts well and sings very sweetly as Niki; and Mr. John Hamilton as Montschi achieves a gratifying success. Called upon, through the indisposition of Miss Amy Augarde, to assume the rôle, Miss M. Maitland makes a capable Frederika. Messrs. Arthur Royd, Albert Kavanagh, and Willie Warde, jun., prove well able to take care of their various parts. The whole reflects great credit upon Mr. J. A. E. Malone, the producer, and Mr. Hamish McCunn, the musical director.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Harry Upton.—*Sapho* proves a great attraction here this week. Miss Ada Abbott gives an artistic impersonation of the complex character of Fanny Legrand; Mr. Ernest Abbott makes a capital exponent of Jean Ganssin; Miss Florence North is sufficiently sympathetic as Lucy; and Aunt Divonne is well played by Miss Ethel Tinsley. Mr. Francis Trevor (Déchelette), Mr. H. B. Wilson (Flamant), Mr. John Lester (Caoudal), act efficiently; and the humorous parts are effectively brought out by Mr. Edwin Keene (Uncle Cesaire) and Mr. W. H. Daris-Brown and Miss Mary Douglas (the two Hettemas).

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—The sympathetic rendering of *The Master Musician* and the delightful 'cello playing by Van Biene, assisted by Miss Mary Mannering, gain the warmest appreciation; Joseph Hart's "Rain Dears" make an attractive display of dancing, and the scenery is elaborate; excerpts from *Il Trovatore* are capitally given by Mr. Charles Fisher's "pocket opera" company; the Jackley Trio contribute an amusing item; the Lupinos keep up their reputation for eccentricity; Allan Hanbury tells some smart anecdotes; the Lumars create a mild sensation in an acrobatic act; a musical act by the Bensons is well received; Lupino Lane gives a comical dance; and the Bioscope films are excellent.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. C. Carnell.—The marvellous feats of the Klein family of cyclists arouse the greatest enthusiasm; Arthur Reece renders his songs acceptably; a capital little comedy, *The Magpie and the Jay*, is successfully given by Miss Maud Hall and Carleton Macy, ably assisted by Miss Bessie Carlton; comical patter by Karr and Kooney and some knockabout business of the Three Krakes are provocative of laughter; Tony Iveson shows his skill at the piano; Dora Martini is responsible for a clever gymnastic display; and the programme is contributed to by Rosie Ré Val, W. G. Wesley, and the Barrascope.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietors, Theatre and Entertainments Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Brown.—Captain Clayton's pantomime *Cinderella* is here this week. Miss Linda May as Cinderella is charming and attractive; Miss Amy Allnutt makes a capital Prince, her powerful and effective rendering of popular songs making her a general favourite.; Miss M. Preston is pleasing as the Fairy Godmother; Mr. Tom Gilbert and Mr. Bert Evremond as the Baron's daughters create plenty of fun; Mr. C. Turner as Blustering Joe shows himself to be a comedian of much ability; the acrobatic display given by the Zola Troupe is both smart and clever; the Gibson Girls execute some difficult dances in a highly creditable manner.

OLDHAM.—GRAND THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Mayall. —*Human Nature* is being played by Mr. R. A. Beaton's company. Mr. S. Herbert Humber as Capt. Temple gives a forcible rendering of the character; and Mr. F. Morgan as Paul de Vigne is capable of much villainy. Miss Ada Oakley acts in a capable manner as Nellie; and Miss Beatrice Burdett is excellent as Cora. Miss Lil Leicester as Frank Temple and Miss Marjorie Armstrong as Dick are both accomplished in their respective parts; Mr. J. P. Dryden as Matthew Hawker, the scheming solicitor, is very good; and Mr. Alf. Ferris as Joe Lambkin and Miss Esther Carthew as his wife are very successful. Miss Nellie James as Maggie Wilkins and Mr. E. Harvey White are responsible for some excellent comedy; Mr. C. W. Maxwell is very good as Stephen Mardyke; and Mr. E. Fergusson is a good Rev. Arthur Lulworth.

COLOSSEUM THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Wm. Eastwood.—*For Love and the King* is here for the first time, played by Mr. C. Watson Mill and company. Mr. Mill acts the part of Jarval in a powerful manner; Miss Rosalind Tate as Princess Athene appears to great advantage; and Miss Joan Ellis is a clever exponent of the part of Natila. Miss Lily Wynter is capital as Grazia; and Miss Frances Tierney is very good as Edith Wynter. Miss Laura Munro does well as Princess Milinia. Mr. Villiers Stanley as Prince Uros is a capital study. Mr. John Burton is a capital Michael, and his son Vladimir is ably impersonated by Mr. Henry Earlesmere. Mr. Geoffrey Chate is a capital Duke Fernand; whilst Mr. J. K. Woods is very amusing as Carl Oppenheim; Mr. F. Lyndon being very successful as King Kara. The drama is dressed and staged in a most sumptuous manner.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—The La Scala Opera Company, in a grand selection from *Cavalleria Rusticana*, is heartily enjoyed; Galletti's Monkey Comedians go through a marvellous performance; the Lukushimas, including Otoro San, gain much applause for their smart equilibristic entertainment; Juno Salmo appears with great success as a contortionist; Mignonette Kokin is excellent in her songs and eccentric dances; Wilson Hallett, in his humorous and pathetic child studies, fairly caught on, with good results; Mike Nono is a smart dancer and good singer; and Madge Brownie as a comedy artist does well. Sam Clarke caused hearty laughter for his dialect patter, being well received; Buster Brown is very smart in a trick roller skating act; and J. H. Ellis does well as a comedian.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. Thorne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E Sharrocks.—Arthur Roberts and company cause hearty laughter in the cleverly acted farcical sketch *Till Sunday*; the Bros. Horne, in *The Biter Bit*, introduce smart boxing with success; Effie White introduces her latest creation, "The Spirit of the Cave," with good results; Hewitt and May, in a smart musical club-swinging act, are very smart; and Florrie Cooper is a most acceptable vocalist. Rosie Bartlett has a fine voice, and she uses it well; Frank Couch is good as a comedian; and the Palace Pictures complete a good bill.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Kilrow.—*The Ghost of Jerry Bundler* heads the bill, being played by Mr. Harry Nuttall's company with great success; the Victoria Troupe provide a rich musical treat, with neat dances, and they have had a good reception; Carl and Carr are very amusing in their comedy episode; Dolly Golden is a capital speciality dancer; Florence and Rose Showell sing smart duets well; and Wills and Mackenzie are capital vocalists. Thomas and Taylor are clever in a quick-change act, *Fun on the Midland*; the Sisters Bartholomew sing and dance well; and the Les Zelovas are smart acrobatic equilibrists The Dottoecope concludes.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. L. King. — The World in Motion continues to attract good houses with pictures both humorous and dramatic.

OXFORD.—THE NEW THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Oxford Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. C. Dorrill; Assistant-Manager, Mr G. T. Lucas.—Messrs. Dudley Bennett and T. C. Wray's company is here with *The Catch of the Season* and *The Country Girl*. In *The Catch of the Season* Mr. William Greene works exceedingly hard and secures a well-earned success and hearty reception as the Duke of St. Jermyn's; Mr. Grove Fisher is admirable as Sir John Crystal; and Mr. Franklin Miles makes an excellent Mr. William Gibson. As Lord Dundreary Mr. Joseph Bruce is inimitable; while Master Ernest Grata is distinctly a persona grata, and one of the successes of the evening as Bucket. Miss Claire de Vere is dignified as the Duchess of St. Jermyn's; and Miss Grace Hampton gives a vivacious rendering of Lady Caterham; Miss Edna Eden as Lady Crystal, Miss Barry Eldon as the Hon. Honoria Bedford, and Miss Kate Robertson as the Hon. Sophia Bedford are all highly successful; Miss Dorothea Clarke easily wins all hearts with her charming and graceful impersonation of Angela. The chorus is strong, and renders the numbers with good spirit.

EAST OXFORD THEATRE. — Lessees, East Oxford Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Stuart.—Miss Winifred Maude's company, under the direction of Mr. Victor du Cane, is here with *The Sins of a City* and *The Stowaway*. In *The Sins of a City* Mr. Victor du Cane is a great success as Isaac Levi; Mr. H. Gordon Ingram gives a robust rendering of Sandy McDonald; and Mr. Maurice Jones is realistic in the dual rôle of Joe Woodleigh and Jasper Woodleigh. Mr. Leonard S. Harrison wins favour as Donald McIvor; and Mr. Wordsley Hulse makes an effective villain as Ralph Blackwater; Mrs. Wingold Lawrence portrays Lesbia l'Estrange with becoming dignity; Miss Louise Carlton is natural as Jenny; and Miss Jennie Hackett is a fund of merriment as Midge; Miss Winifred Maude is very graceful as Seaweed.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—*The Ugliest Woman on Earth* is being presented by Mr. Frederick Melville's excellent company. As Jack Merryman Mr. Philip Darien gives a masterly performance; Mr. Leyton Cancellor as Hubert Gould plays effectively; Mr. Leonard Thackeray proves successful in the rôle of Antonio Luchesi; and Mr. Freddie Bentley is quaintly amusing and original in his embodiment of Tubby Horrick. Miss Beatrice Homer in the title-rôle plays with admirable intensity, which commands due appreciation; Miss Gertrude Harrison as Rose Courtenay is responsible for a sound impersonation; as Morita Miss Violet Macaree plays with commendable ability; and Miss Nellie Jackson creates a deal of amusement, with her Aggie Brown. Capital impersonations are submitted by Mr. William de Brigord as Tom Redvers, Mr. Harry Leyton as Raggles, Mr. Gerald Nolan as Dr. Carr, Mr. Richard Jollyboat as Griffiths, and minor rôles are adequately filled.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Stead.—The star attraction is Lowenwirth and Cohan, who as Hebrew comedians are exceedingly humorous; Minnie Hunt and Rhys Thomas present a clever comedy duologue, *Her Birthday*, which is entertaining; Rosie Archer delights with her mimicking; Maud Vera sings and dances nicely; Bi-Bo-Bi gives an enjoyable musical entertainment; Bennett and Martell, comedians, are excruciatingly funny in their business; Dolly Ross is a capital singer and neat dancer; Jack Hylton scores with his humorous songs; and the Hippodrome Bioscope shows as usual excellent films.

PENTRE.—TIVOLI PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Resident-Manager, Mr. James Gunn.—At the top of a capital programme are the Garganis, the comical gentlemen acrobats who perform astonishing feats of skill and dexterity. A well-appreciated turn is that of Morton and Elliott, in their vocal numbers and clever manipulation of the harmonica. Leo Fields captures the audience with his well-rendered humorous songs; Oliver Conroy commands applause for his clean and refined comedy; Georgina Leno, daughter of the late Dan Leno, earns praise as a charming comedienne; Ned Graydon, in his comic manipulation of various instruments, creates mirth. L. B. Athol sustains his reputation as a popular vocal comedian; The Della Sisters, the ladies in black, are also a great success; the Tivoliscope, with up-to-date films, conclude.

PERTH.—PERTH THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—Adria Hill and Robert Ayrton's company is here in *The Woman from Russia* and *A Gambler's Daughter*. In the former piece, Mr. Robert Ayrton as Captain Alexis played well; Mr. Chas. Russell as the Hon. Reginald Fitzgerald was successful; Mr. J. Lawrence was seen to advantage as Frank Haldane; Mr. Richard Pitt was effective as James Haldane; Mr. Dighton Probyn was a clever Wun-hi; Miss Adria Hill skilfully enacted the part of Wanda; Miss Edith Tempest made a charming Edith; and Miss Ethel Bateman did well as Mary Ann Smith.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—*Gentleman Jockey*, a smartly-written comedy, with a touch of drama, occupies the Royal for the week and provides a very good evening's enjoyment, the cleverly-contrived plot being well worked out. Miss Nora Melton, who understudies Miss Ethel Ward, absent through indisposition, makes a very capable Poppy Grayson, and performs her task excellently on short notice; Mr. Nelson Handcock as Sir Francis Granmere, the Gentleman Jockey, gives a finished rendering of a "goey" part, and furnishes some well-rendered vocal numbers; Mr. Helier Le Maistre makes a fine, vigorous trainer as David Grayson, and Mr. Weldon Atherstone makes an excellent villain as Frank Snakeworth; Mr. George Brentwood is particularly amusing as P.-C. Blodgers, and Mr. Leonard Dalrymple correctly interprets the dude Archie Fitzherbert. A feature of the performance is the excellent dancing of the Misses Dawson Payne and Chandler.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—The Gothams furnish some excellent vocal numbers, whilst their remaining business evokes roars of laughter; Venturini completely mystifies his audience with one particular trick, whilst his remaining contributions consist of some skilfully manipulated conjuring; the Eight Pavilion Girls prove a fine draw, their singing and dancing being alike most acceptable; Nellie Deane, comedienne, finds plenty of popular favour, and the Sisters Desmond are accomplished duettists; Hans and Lux contributed some smart and down-to-date patter; the Five Vernons entertain with some accomplished xylophone selections, and Johnny Dwyer creates plenty of fun with his quaint ways.

PONTYCYMMER.—BODIE'S HIPPODROME AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor, Dr. Walford Bodie; General-Manager, Mr. T. N. Mills.—*Married to the Wrong Man*, a four-act drama, presented by Miss Inez Howard's company, had a flattering reception from a well-filled house on Monday evening. Mr. C. Quinton Fulford makes an excellent hero; whilst the rôle of the villain is ably sustained by Mr. H. C. Cooper. Miss Margaret Savill plays the heroine with effective sincerity.

PORTSMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.— Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—*Raffles* is again being successfully presented here by Mr. Leonard Boyne's company, the amateur cracksman and idol of society receiving an excellent interpretation from Mr. Eille Norwood. Mr. E. W. Thomas repeats his success as the detective; some good acting is displayed by Mr. Harold West as Bunny; Miss Ruth Mackay portrays with skill the difficult part of Mrs. Vidal; a graceful and charming Gwendoline is seen in Miss Lucie Milner; Marie is well played by Miss Dorothy Gordon; the burglar Crawshay is rendered interesting by Mr. Dalziel Heron; and Crowley has a suitable exponent in Mr. Cecil Brymer, Earl Amersteth being ably impersonated by Mr. Arthur Willoughby. An amusing curtain-raiser is *Hook and Eye*, by Eille Norwood.

PRINCE'S.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager. Mr. J. E. Agate.—A strong attraction is provided this week by Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmond's company with *Women and Wine*. The staging is on an elaborate scale, and the fight between the women in the flower market is wonderfully realistic. Marcel is forcibly played by Miss C. St. Elmo, La Colombe being ably represented by Miss Octavia de Noel; some fine acting is displayed by Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds as Dick Seymour, Mr. R. Foulis doing well as Alphonse Beaudet; Miss Violet Sims sympathetically impersonates Mary Andrews, and Janet Marlow is well played by Miss Ethel Vinroy.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Capt. E. H. Warren-Wright; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. A. Maddox; Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—Miss Carrie Laurie's carefully-trained Juvenile Troupe, judging from Monday night's applause, are exceedingly popular; Roma and Romain display their skill on various musical instruments, the flute and piccolo playing being particularly good; Herbert Clifton's extensive vocal range is heard to advantage; Albert Letine's female impersonations meet with appreciation; Gala and Norris appear in the pretty scena "Down South"; Nellie Lunelle, Bert Terrell, and the Four Coloured Meisters likewise appear, and Payne's Bio-Photoscope shows some capital films.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris; Assistant-Manager, Colonel F. W. Roberts.—A return visit is paid here by Mr. Eugene Stratton, whose songs include "That Girl of Johnson's" and "I may be crazy, but I love you." A particularly well-acted playlet, *The Leaves of Memory*, is presented by Miss Beaumont Collins, with Miss Collins as Ruth, supported by Mr. George Blunt as Major Gay, Mr. George Rowlands (Frank Egerton) and Mr. Fred Knight (Foster); Miss Ida Barr's songs are appreciated, likewise Messrs. Mabel Mignon and Marie Stroud. Herbert Rule, an eccentric comedian, assisted by someone in a box, evokes laughter with his "chorus" song; Hughes and Carney introduce boxing, and Wilman's instrumental display meets with favour.

PRESTON. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, the Executors of the late W. Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt. — *The Gay Gordons* is meeting with a popular reception. Mr. Charles Chelderstone as Angus Graeme is agreeably prominent; Mr. Edward Carlton as Nervy Nat, Mr. Aulrey Stowell as Edmund Siddons, and Miss Louie Emery as Charlotte Siddons create much laughter with their broad comedy. As Victoria Siddons Miss Daisy Burrell is vivacious and sings and dances herself into popular favour; Miss Dorothy Giles is a winsome Peggy Quainton; another particular favourite, Miss Tessa Dalberta, is excellent as Mary MacLeod; and Miss Rosa Wynford is very successful as Lady Millicent Graeme. Mr. S. A. Cookson as Andrew Quainton is exceptionally good; and mention must also be made of Mr. Stafford Dickens, a capital Corporal John Smith. The rest of the cast is in capable hands, and the excellent chorus and augmented orchestra, under the baton of Mr. Leonard Leslie, does good work. The dresses and scenery are exceedingly pretty.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company is paying a return visit here with *Her Nameless Child*. As Anthony Ford Mr. J. W. Evelyn is admirable, and Mr. Sidney Cranston is as good as ever as Arthur (his son); Miss Pattie Hastings is still enacting the part of Phillis Ford, and has lost none of her popularity; Mr. Arthur E. Pringle as Lord Henry Woodville and Mr. Frank Thompson as Mongrole evince sufficient villainy between them to bring down the execrations of the audience; Mr. Larry Clements as the Postman, Tom Rivers, raises much merriment with his comedy, receiving able support from Miss Renie Douglas, who as Bessie Brooks is irresistible; Miss Mona Gray is an excellent Lady Sibil Woodville; Miss Geraldine Verner is very good as the French Maid, and Miss Beatrice Dover a capital Sarah. Mention must be made of Mr. Alfred Denbain's Jake (a striker), which he plays effectively. The minor parts of Jack (Mr. Geo. Wye), Jim (Mr. H. Huxtley), and XXX 41 (Mr. Gerald Vane), together with Mr. Joseph Oswald (as the officer), are well and capably sustained. The mounting leaves nothing to be desired.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—Clown Barker and his dogs, &c., show to what perfection animals may be trained; Harry Kirk is a quaint comedian; Wynnie Darrell sings and dances in a pleasing manner; the King's College Boys, in *The Students' Concert*, contribute some excellently-rendered songs and choruses; May St. Hilda, a clever artist, contributes three well-executed oil-paintings in the short space of seven minutes; the Roy Hearn Trio, in the sketch *The Model Husband* prove exceptionally clever acrobats; Ben Silvo executes some marvellous feats on the high horizontal bar and flying rings; Ruhart, assisted by La Belle Rosalind, is excruciatingly funny; Carr and Rose (Fred and Ada) present their clever and catchy little operetta *Winning a Double* with success; Bernard is a double-voiced vocalist who is fully appreciated; and Remorse on the Bioscope concludes.

RAMSGATE.—ROYAL PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; Lessee, Mr. Ernest Mansell.—The chief feature at the entertainments here is the exhibition of animated pictures of the great pugilistic encounter between Johnson and Tommy Burns, the total length of the film exhibited, it is stated, exceeding three-quarters of a mile. Harry Ware, ex-bantam-weight champion of England, and Darky Barton, of South Africa, give a boxing display. Local amateurs have responded to the invitation to take part in exhibitions of the "noble art." The programme has also included varieties by Harry Griffan, Nell Brough, and George Richens.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Benton.—The stirring melodrama *Convict 99* is being played here this week by a good company. Mr. Fred Beresford enacts the part of the unfortunate hero Lawrence Gray in a powerful and dramatic manner; Miss Dorothy Milne sustains the character of Geraldine Lucas in a most sympathetic and charming style; Mr. Benson North acts with skill as the sinister Ralph Vickers; and the comedy element is well provided for by Mr. Archie Watts as James Stinchcombe and Miss Violet B. Clarke as Maggie Mason. All the other parts are well filled. The play throughout is of the most exciting and thrilling character, and is being well received by large audiences in the popular parts of the house.

THE PALACE. — Managing Director, Mr. G. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. E. Draco. —The Dayton Family of ten performers appear with great success in a high-class risley entertainment, in the course of which they do some very clever acrobatic work; the Markies appear in a novel vocal and instrumental sketch, *From Pavement to Stage*; the comedietta *A Fair Exchange* is presented in good style by Herbert Dickeson and company; the Kimberley Boys, quaint comedians, are well received; Dan Feely is a good character comedian; Happy Attwood creates much diversion; Athas and Collins introduce some artistic dances; and Aggie Nolan, comedienne, gives a pleasing performance. The Adventures of a Runaway Drum are shown on the Bioscope.

A ROLLER SKATING RINK was opened on Monday evening in spacious premises in the Vastern-road, formerly occupied by the Electric Supply Co. A maple-wood floor has been laid down, which provides an admirable skating surface. The interior of the hall is very tastefully decorated and illumined by powerful electric lights. A large company attended the inauguration of the rink, including the Mayor and Mayoress, who wished the venture every success. The rink is under the management of Mr. Hayes, with whom is Captain Norton and a large staff of assistants. Mr. Ginnett is the general manager of the syndicate.

ROTHERHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—The Singing Servants head the bill with an operatic burlesque; Miss Lillie Luraine gives a highly finished musical turn on a variety of instruments; and Kinnard is a mystifying magician. Miss Ethel Sheffer is very pleasing with her illustrated songs, and the Sisters Hampel are clever comedy duettists. Mr. J. Wright Aitken and company present a pathetic domestic sketch, *The Battle of Life*. Miss Laura A. Pardy is pleasing as Clara Melville; and Miss Una Wright scores as Lady Fitzherbert. Mr. George Beresford is a manly Tom Rawson, and Mr. J. Wright Aitken gives a fine portrayal of John Melville, one of the Six Hundred. The Milsted-Bell Trio have a smart comedy act, *Two Sharps and a Flat*, and Master Day, the champion boy diabolist, is well received.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. Edgar Fox; Resident-Manager, Mr. Claude Shayler.—Mike Cray and his dog Dooley give a highly amusing and finished eccentric comedy juggling act, and Miss Ruby Norton has a flattering reception in her song scena "Lusana." Martin Conway brings down the house, the double entendre in his patter being very broad; Miss Clara Reid and Mr. John Power are responsible for a very smart duologue, *The Chambermaid*; and Bert Bowden is a clever comedian. The Westbrooks present a sparkling terpsichorean scena, "Two Little Maids from School," and Messrs. Martinett and Wallace, coloured novelty musical entertainers, are deserving of mention. Miss Flo Cecil is heard to advantage; Tom Edwards's company give an amusing comedy sketch, *Harmony Hall*; and The Shipowner's Daughter is pleasingly produced by the Hipposcope.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Mr. George A. De Gray, who ably sustained the principal character, Baron Woulfe Curzola, presented to a good house on Monday the weird play entitled *The Power of the Cross*. Gerald Fairfax was admirably played by Mr. R. Hall; Mr. A. J. Haviland was successful as Dr. Leslie Fairfax; Miss S. Carmichael cleverly played the adventuress, Rita Lascelles; Miss Phyllis Vaughan was a charming Blanche Kingsley; and the unfortunate Margaret Seaton was well portrayed by Miss Annie Hylton; the comic relief was provided by Mr. Tyrone Power as Timothy O'Dowd and Miss Etta Turner as Dolly Gray.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; General-Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—This week's bill is headed by G. H. Elliott, the chocolate-coloured coon, whose singing and dancing is much appreciated; Lillie Soutter, comedienne, also gains gains approval; Leslie Lyn and Willie harmonise well and do some smart comic business; Rowland Hill causes much laughter with his patter. Among the other good turns are those by Annie Lang, comedienne and dancer; Bros. Durant with their aeroplane; Henri Bekker, conjuror, assisted by Mlle. Maie; Terry and Bentley, refined comedy artists, and Clarice Sefton, comedienne and clever dancer.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Slatter.—*The Girl Redeemed from Sin* is (twice nightly) presented by Mr. Geoffrey Fulton's company; Nancy Lee is cleverly presented by Miss Effie Bartlett, and the hero, Will May, is well portrayed by Mr. W. P. Carr; Mr. Philippe Orr carefully sustains the character of Lord Robert Denham; the villain, Ernest Sylveston, is creditably performed by Mr. Clinton Baddeley; Mr. Arthur R. Carlton as Jim Jakes and Miss Ada Oxley as Peggy Grey do a lot of comic business. The staging is effective.

OPERA HOUSE AND ASSEMBLY ROOMS, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; General-Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Shepherd —New animated pictures are furnished and Mr. Tom Sherlock introduces the illustrated song "While life shall last," which is well received.

NEW CENTRAL HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Whiteley; Manager, Mr. W. Roberts.—New "world-in-motion" pictures this week include several fine films, which are twice nightly greatly enjoyed.

SALISBURY.—COUNTY HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. Arthur Whitehead; Business-Manager, Mr. T. Brinsmead.—Miss Jessie D'Alton's company gave two performances here of the pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*. As Robinson Crusoe Miss Jessie D'Alton won tremendous applause for her dancing, fencing, and singing; Miss Beatrice Witham as Polly proved a great favourite, her number, "Hang out the front-door key," being particularly popular; Mr. Bert Goldin as Mrs. Crusoe, Mr. Wal Kent as Friday, Mr. Bert Earle as Billy, and Miss Cissie Davis as Dolly submitted praiseworthy interpretations. The various other parts were all filled by capable artists. Mr. F. D. Alton Tebby acted as manager.

SCARBOROUGH.—THE AQUARIUM.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman.—An excellent programme includes Mlle. Flora Lumiere, queen of the fairy grotto; Rita and Roma, vaudeville entertainers; Bert Rayburn, quaint comedian; Miss Mabel Fairchild, in a unique dancing scena; the Korries; Hillett and Hallett, comedians and dancers; the Four Elwys, in vocal scena; and Will Lindsay, comedian.

THE NEW HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock.—Mr. Fred Mouillot's company opened here on Monday in *A Message from Mars*. Mr. Wallace Widdicombe achieved much success in the rôle of Horace Parker; and the part of the Messenger was admirably sustained by Mr. Wm. Brougham. Miss Winnifred Knightly did full justice to the rôle of Aunt Parker; and praise must be accorded Miss Rose Helene for her impersonation of Minnie Templar. Other characters ably represented were a Tramp (Mr. Norman Clark), Arthur Dicey (Mr. Robert Grey), Dr. Chapman (Mr. Guy O'Neill), the Solicitor (Mr. Arthur Linay), Mrs. Clarence (Miss Mary Glanbrane), a Policeman (Mr. Alfred Drayton), and Bella (Miss Estelle Twitchen).

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL. —Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. Wallace Childs.—*My Mother, God Bless Her!* is the drama presented by Mr. Ernest J. Fare's company. Tom York is vigorously drawn by Mr. Fare; the villainy of George Temple is faithfully shown by Mr. George Stevens; much merriment is raised by Mr. Edward Keith's Charlie Chuckit; Mr. George Wallace as William Freeman is satisfactory; and a popular P.C. Honest is Mr. George Ashley. Mr. James Mailey is a capable Isaacs; Miss Florrie is effective in the hands of Miss Mabel Fare; and as Stella Miss Ada Hender gives entire satisfaction.

SHEERNESS.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Hippodrome Co.—Mr. E. H. Bertram's No. 1 Company is here in the musical comedy, *Somebody's Sweetheart*, which is capitally staged. Lulu, the principal character, is taken by Miss Nancy Cooke, an excellent actress and a sweet singer; Mr. E. H. Bertram is admirable as Stanton Ashleigh, his rendering of "Angel of my dreams" being a pleasure to listen to; Mr. James Salter as Blabbs causes a great amount of fun; Mr. Whitmore Ledger as Stephen is quite a hit; Miss Hetty Jefferies is excellent as Freddie Ashleigh; Miss Ethel Bankes as Zora, a gipsy, sings effectively; and the dancing of Misses Mabella and Elsie May is greatly enjoyed.

SHEFFIELD. — LYCEUM THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—Lovers of pure romance in general and admirers of the historic genius of Stanley Weyman in particular, filled the Lyceum on Monday, and gave an enthusiastic reception to the play, *Count Hannibal*, and a cordial greeting to Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton, who, as the Count de Tavannes and Clotilde respectively, repeated the triumphs achieved by them at Bristol on the production of the piece on March 18. Others who won deserved honour for helping to promote the success of one of the most notable performances seen in Sheffield for some time were Mr. Ewan Brook, who made a characteristic De Guise; Mr. Gerald Kay Souper, who did his best to give a touch of manly dignity to the character of the poltroon Tignonville, Mr. Caleb Porter as Father Pezelay, Mr. H. Grimwood with a good study of the weak king, Charles IX., Mr. Athol Forde as Badelon, Mr. J. F. Russell as Bigot, Mr. F. Beauchamp as Cambouillot, Mr. A. Thorne as De Retz, Mr. Ernest Henshaw as Chicot, Miss Elfrida Clement as Mme. St. Loo, Miss Ellinore Foster as Mme. Carlat, and Miss Muriel Hutchinson as Javette. The magnificent stage-pictures gave exquisite pleasure to lovers of picturesque scenery and historic accuracy, and the entire production appeals strongly to all classes of sane playgoers. At the close Mr. Asche and Miss Brayton were called before the curtain, and received an ovation from the crowded house.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer. Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. Henfrey Aldred.—*The Great White Chief* is being played by Mr. Lingford Carson's capable company. Mr. Charles Homer makes a virile and interesting representative of Leo Stanley; Mr. Hugh Brady does some good miming in the heavy part of the dumb Indian Chief; Mr. J. Robson Clyde presents a picturesque appearance and acts well as Black Hawk; Miss Dulcie Lawrence is a graceful Hester; Miss Pollie Denville makes a pretty Latika; and mirth-provoking comic business is provided by Miss Amy Ross Clyde as Martha and Mr. Leonard Maitland as Rupert Walker. Some good scenery is provided.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—*No Wedding Bells for Her* was presented on Monday by Mrs. Frank Bateman and Mr. Lomath's company. Miss Lizzie Montague (Mrs. Bateman) played with her accustomed feminine charm and emotional talent as Lola Delaspierre; and other well-depicted types of the metropolis were Mr. Stuart Lomath's Rev. Frank Hatherleigh, Mr. Percy Shaw's Delver, Mr. C. Coleman's Montague Blair, Mr. Henry Aynsleigh's Abney Stone, Mr. Geo. Herbert's Horatio Fane, Mr. Kenneth Black's Simpkins, Mr. P. Garton's Tightfist, Miss Mabel Durham's Doris Fane, Miss Ellen Owen's Marie Fraille, Miss Madge Grey's Milly, Miss Patty Allberry's Geisha Girl, Miss Ethel Lawrence's Mrs. Jonson-Vere, and Miss Nellie Wilson's Mrs. Eastman. *Sapho* was billed for Thursday, with Mrs. Bateman as Fanny Legrande.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—The Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—A programme full of genuine variety was submitted on Monday, the attractive "turns" scheduled being Mme. Alice Esty, the famous operatic prima donna; Miss Lydia Yeamans, the inimitable mimic of children and vocalist, assisted by Fred Titus at the piano; Mr. Herbert Darnley and his comedy pantomimists, in the laughable absurdity *Jon Jay Jun*; Miss Kathleen Cogan, vocalist; Miss Minnie Mace, comedienne; Miss Carry

trayed by Mr. Oswald Marshall and Mr. George R. Montford; and Mr. Edwin Ling makes a thoroughly capable Father Lamplugh. Miss Doris Gilham's realistic acting as Glory Quayle is a marked feature; Polly Love is admirably impersonated by Miss Margaret Brodie; Miss Katherine Maude is most charming as Lady Hector Ure; and Black Meg and Mother Kent have efficient representatives in Miss May Dudley and Miss Mina Renouf.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, the Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black. —Miss Florrie Gallimore, in old and new favourites, is delighting large audiences here this week; and among others appearing in an appropriately varied programme are the Woodbee Wonders, comic acrobats; Les Voces, pleasing operatic vocalists; the Three Transfields, entertaining lady instrumentalists; Richard Fineberg, an able character actor, in impersonations of well-known characters; Daisie Morell, favourite comedienne; Field and Lewis, an amusing pair of burlesque artists; and Mr. Harry Lowther and company, in a laughable sketch entitled *Barmaids*.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Miller; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. Moroney. —The New York Nippers create a good impression in their pot-pourri act, *Bedtime*, introducing some good singing and dancing; Captain Kettle as a card and coin manipulator is exceptionally smart; also here are Howell, Webb, and company, in *The Galley Slave*; Stidder and Dunbar; Lucretia and Josephine; Will Owen; the Gascoignes; Nellie Martell; and the Bioscope, with pictures.

SUNDERLAND.—KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. S. F. Davidson; General-Manager, Mr. Alexander Telford; Treasurer, Mr. J. Crawford Orr.—Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company is on a return visit here in *Leah Kleschna*. Mr. Wm. Clayton introduces some fine acting into the part of Kleschna; Mr. Chas. Barret is an admirable Paul; Mr. Arthur Leigh a clever Raoul Berton; Mr. Wm. Heilbronn a capital Schraum; and Mr. Algernon J. Hicks a successful General Berton. Miss Bessie Rignold is deserving of the highest eulogy for her portrayal of Leah.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. R. Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Dunn.—This week Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company is here in *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*. As Monica Miss Ethel Bracewell gave a well-studied reading; Miss Gertrude Branscombe's Carniola was a painstaking representation; the characterisation of the three princes was in the capable hands of Messrs. Alfred Brandon (Hildred), Ernest Cox (Olaf), and Lionel Gadsden (Michael); Mr. H. Burton as Nathan, the dumb servant, was a success; as also were Messrs. Kenneth Black and Robert Noble as the Bishop of Illyria and Captain Hector respectively. The comedy is contributed to by Mr. J. H. Vyvyan (Lieut. Karl Stromberg) and Miss Jessica Black (Viola).

EMPIRE THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—Heading an excellent programme this week is B. A. Rolfe's Colonial Septette in *An Olde Tyme Halloween*; the skilful display of juggling by Kara is well received; Amy Anderson and company present their act, *Troubles On and Off*, which is pleasant and original in conception; Billy Hobbs executes some clever dancing; Chas. Vincent, comedian, and Gladys Mavius both win much success; the Three Prestons submit a humorous sketch, *The Liftman's Rise*; Barrington, freak pianist, proves himself master of the keyboard; and the Falcons, acrobats, receive hearty applause.

AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. Foulkes Edwards.—A capital programme of pictures is on view here this week, the audiences being large and appreciative. The principal film is of exceptional merit. It is entitled the Return of Ulysses.

PALACE THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Henry N. Phillips; Resident-Manager, Mr. Francis MacDermott.—At this house in future there is only to be one display of pictures nightly, instead of two, as previously has been the rule. Miss Josie Noble, a juvenile, is heartily applauded; Miss Clements officiates at the piano.

SWANSEA.—THE GRAND.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks; Acting-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. Walter Page.—Delightful music, charming dresses, and a really excellent company make *Butterflies* a great success here. Widgery Blake (Puck) was capitally taken by Mr. Harrison Brockbank; another great success was Miss Annie Heenan as Rodanthe, the witch; Mr. Edwin H Wynne was a droll Mr. Podmore; and Mr. Johnny Wilkinson (Yarker) provided abundance of fun.

THE STAR.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—Fred Granville's Productions, Ltd., produce *Another Man's Wife* successfully at the Star this week. Mr. Leonard Aardale plays with power the part of Carlos; and Paul Bernstaff is capably presented by Mr. Austin Mortimer. Miss Lilian Burns is an accomplished Lucia; and Miss Theo Henries a powerful Inez.

THE EMPIRE.—Proprietors, The Empires, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—An amazing turn of conjuring and coin manipulating is given by Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco, who astound large audiences by their cleverness; the Donaldson Bros. come with a new sketch, *Sports in the Jungle*, which is not only clever, but well staged; Annie Purcell, in excellent voice, has a reception worthy of her talent; Lester and Moure are newcomers who will be welcomed back again; the Sisters Morgan are accomplished duettists and dancers; the Bros. Harrison are really funny in "Golfing Johnnies"; and the Calcotts use a "wayside episode" to introduce good banjo playing and dancing. Nora Emerald is much appreciated.

SWINDON.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wiltshire Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Manners.—Messrs. W. H. Hallatt and Walter Howard's company is appearing here in *Her Love Against the World*. Mr. F. Emery gives a powerful representation of Eric, Earl of Strathmere; Lionel is effectively taken by Miss Rossie St. John; Miss Lewis Gilbert is admirable as Ulric; Mr. W. H. Hallatt is excellent as Prince Othmar; and Mr. Victor Rowland makes a capital Prince Maurice. Messrs. Henry B. Lewis and John Mill as Heinrick and Fritz respectively, are amusing; Shulah is in the capable hands of Miss Blanche Steel; Miss Gertie Reid as Katinka, and Miss Hetty Ferguson as Gretchen are very good, and Miss Grace Heywood displays considerable ability as Iris Princess of Idalia. The smaller characters are efficiently rendered, and the scenery and costumes appropriate.

TON-Y-PANDY. — ROYAL. — General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ridgewood Barrie.—Considerable interest is aroused by Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company in the sporting drama, *Bound to Win*. Squire Forbes is well presented by Mr. E. C. Edwards; Mr. H. N. Grimson gives a capital interpretation of Phillip; Ned Oakley is faithfully depicted by Mr. Horace Goldberg; Horatio Buffit and Willie Wilkins are mirth-creating personages as presented by Messrs. H. A. Allen and H. C. Momber; Miss V. Quest is well suited as Gladys Orme; and as Marion Forbes Miss Nancy Roberts evokes sympathy.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. Will Stone.—John Lloyd's Gondolier Glee Singers provide an acceptable turn; the Cheers in their scena introduce cleverly trained cats; the Reays prove clever acrobats; Florrie Wright, comedienne, and T. W. Lenner, comedian, are well received; and Miss Helen Bourne is also good.

TORQUAY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—Mr. Julian Malvern's company is here in *I Defy the World*. In the leading part of Leon Darville an excellent impersonation is given by Mr. F. B. Woulfe, who is ably assisted by Miss Edith Loraine; Miss Florence Delmar is a pathetic Blanche, and a capable representation of Fanchette is given by Little Dorothy Love. Mr. Chas. L. Julian makes a typical Count de Beaulieu; Mr. Walter Clarke also does well as Andre; and Mr. Arthur Chesholm is a dramatic Laroche. During the latter part of the week *Jane Shore* was played.

TREHERBERT.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Pooles, Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stephens.—On Monday Mr. Dudley Bennett and Mr. T. C. Wray's company opened here in *Miss Hook of Holland*. Mr. Chas. B. McLagan proved a success in the part of Mr. Hook; Mr. J. B. Fox made an excellent Captain Adrain; Mr. Sam Lockeridge was a prime favourite in the part of the Bandmaster; Mr. Frank Attree gave a fine rendering of Ludwig Schnapps; Miss Ethel James in the title-rôle was a huge success, and Miss Muff Carew did well as Mina.

TYLDESLEY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. W. Brierley.—Miss Augusta Tullock's company occupies the boards here this week in *The Woman Who Sinned*. Miss Tulloch impersonates Judith Sartoris with considerable skill; Hester Norris is pleasingly presented by Miss Eva K. Coleridge; Miss Dorothea Vivian shows pathos as Blind Meg; and Miss Rose Watson is a lively Maudie Green. Mr. James Musgrove distinguishes himself in the part of Jack Carrington; Eugene Darville is spiritedly played by Mr. Lionel Yeomans; and Mr. Edward Vivian makes a creditable Silas Norris. Much amusement is caused by Mr. Wm. De Lacy as Percy Hogg, and Mr. Blake Thornton as Sergeant Jones.

WAKEFIELD. — OPERA HOUSE. — Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company is here in *The Village Blacksmith*. Mr. Sam Livesey repeats his powerful delineation as John Strong; Mr. Albert Sinclair is excellent as Captain Leo; both are seen to great advantage in the sensational wrestling scene; Mr. Edwin Maydew is admirable as Lucas Marler; Mr. Thomas E. Marshall is humorous and effective as Jeremiah Parkins, ably supported by Miss Florence Dooley as Sal Perkins; Mr. Fred Haming performs good work as Billy Twigg; Miss Edith Giddens is capital as Martha Mopps; Miss Cissie le Grande acts well as Ruth Parkin; Miss Maggie Edwards gives a charming interpretation as Kate Strong; and Miss Kathleen Saunders is natural and convincing as Harry Strong.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—Vonetta, a charming illusionist and protean actress, gives a fine performance, her wonderful feats and quick-changes quite mystify the audiences and merit high appreciation; the Three Hodginis are clever on the revolving ladder; Claude Feldman's Juveniles contribute a smart vocal and dancing act; the Sisters Russell, comedy artists, prove popular; Dan King, vocalist, the Paultons, song illustrators, and Frankfort and Maine, comedy couple, provide acceptable turns.

WATFORD.—PALACE THEATRE.—Sole Responsible-Manager, Mr. T. M. Sylvester; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Mason; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Wright.—Mr. Dan Thomas's *Dick Whittington* company is giving Watfordians a farewell taste of pantomime for the season. Miss Daisy Yates makes a capital Dick. In addition to the pantomime the management have been presenting Mr. Jack Weller, a local coon comedian, who is about to sail for New York. He has proved a great attraction. Roselle's trapeze performance completes a fine evening's show.

CLARENDON HALL.—This hall has reopened, President pictures drawing satisfactory attendances.

WEST BROMWICH. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee, Mr. R. Nightingale.—*A Fight for a Throne* is meeting with a hearty reception as presented by Mr. Geo. A. De Grey's company. In Capt. Jack Fortescue Mr. John Millward has a part that suits him capitally. Mr. Jerrold Reed as Nicholai I. is an ideal king; and Mr. Chas. Linney is admirable as Otto, Prince of Weimer. The Princess Esme of Miss Dora Hammersley is a very fine character study; Miss Margarette Tueski as Countess Valeska Lorenski had a difficult rôle which she fills with distinction; and the other characters are admirably sustained.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Tom Kuner.—Variety once more reigns here, the bill being headed by Miss Sara Mignon and company, who appear with much success in a powerful little drama, *Jealousy*, Miss Mignon taking a dual rôle with great ability. A warm welcome is given to the Mahatma, whose mysterious powers create a great impression; the Davies appear in a clever musical turn; Les Kestrals are remarkable athletes, whose performances are very clean; the Two Harolds are amusing dancers; and Nellie Raymond is an attractive comedienne. The Negro Comedy Quartette appear with success; and the pictures conclude a capital programme.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—GRAND.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. Herbert Feather.—Mr. Charles Carey and company this week present *The Madeira Maid*, Mr. Chas. Carey appearing in the rôle of No-one-in-particular, and Miss Madge Lacey as Maidie introducing some graceful dancing. Support is given by Mr. Harold Perry as Jack Denby, Mr. W. E. Matthews as Eno Downe, Mr. J. Ellis as Major-General Berkley-Colman, Miss Marie Ault as Mary Ann, a creditable piece of character-acting, and Miss Jessie De Grey as Mrs. Amelia Downe.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. J. Simpson.—George Formby, comedian, has a droll style, which elicits laughter; in view of the rinking craze having struck the district, the turn provided by the Miltons is most opportune, their comedy skating being enjoyed immensely; some clever tumbling is done by the Lizette Troupe; Mollie Augarde, comedienne, and T. C. Jaques, versatile comedian, are also well received. Rose Cass, comedienne, takes well, and other attractions are Bert and Dora, comedy artists, and some films on Raymond's Bioscope.

WIDNES.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Jas. Kiddie.—Mr. Robert Macdonald's company is here with *The Dairymaids*. Miss Babs Christopher is a dignified Lady Brudenell; Mr. Scott Melville does exceptionally well as Sam Brudenell; Mr. Horace Manger is very much at home in the part of Lieutenant Meredith; Mr. F. Barclay is delightful as the good-hearted Dr. O'Byrne; Mr. Edwin Dodds convulses the house as Joe Mivens, introducing new business; Miss K. Severn is a pretty Winnie, singing very sweetly; Miss Maud Lucy is responsible for a clever performance in the part of Eliza, and sings her numbers effectively; Miss Julie St. George is amusing as the staid Miss Pyechase; Miss Isa Bowman is charming as Peggy, her songs receiving double encores. The chorus is well balanced and the play is nicely staged.

WORCESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. F. Le Warde.—Worcester theatre-goers are favoured by a visit of *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch*, and are crowding the theatre nightly to revel in the inimitable humour and pathos of this quaint production. Mr. Gaston Mayers is touring the comedy with a complete London company and effects, and is thus enabling provincial audiences to witness its production under the most favourable circumstances. Miss Augusta Haviland, in the title-rôle, exercises a natural charm which quickly wins sympathy and has gained high encomiums; Mr. Burton Cooke's Mr. Stubbins is a consistently clever study; as also are the Miss Hazy of Miss Armine Grace, Mrs. Eichorn of Miss Beatrix Bell, and the Mrs. Schultz of Miss Violet Chamier. Miss Dorothy Clifton is a winsome Lovey Mary; Miss Winifred Murray as Miss Lucy and Mr. Guy Addison as Mr. Bob are an interesting pair of lovers; and the other parts are in the capable hands of Mr. Francis Charmier (Mr. Wiggs), Mr. Forrester Harvey (Mr. H. Jones), Mr. E. Cushman (Sheriff), Mr. C. Mansell (Billy Wiggs), Mr. Lawrence White (Chris Hazy), and Mr. Harry G. Wright (Deacon Bagsby). The children's parts, too, are in clever hands, and they include Misses Margaret Nybloc, Mimi Le Clare, Marie Stella, Kitty Rogers and Nelly Brooks, and Masters Francis Steel and Sydney Corden.

WORKINGTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Falconer Jackes.—There is a very fine set of pictures here this week, including The White Chief. As to the variety turns, the Dunlops, in their comical cycle acts, are a great draw; Lillian Sivado does some wonderful things on the perpendicular rope and trapeze; whilst Dene and Dawson, in their sketch, *Stage Aspirants*, cause roars of laughter.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. McKenzie Morgan.—This week we are shown a set of very well chosen pictures, including Tom Thumb. The talent is good, and includes Harper, the ventriloquist, of crying baby fame; the Macleaveys, in their jumping acts; and a burlesque interlude, introduced by Mac and Albert Lawrence.

YORK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—*Robin Hood* is paying a welcome return visit. Mr. Ethelbert Edwards in the title-rôle achieves phenomenal success; Miss Cahill as Lady Marion give a bright reading of a popular and pleasing rôle; Mr. Laurence Tessier is a fine manly Will Scarlet, singing with admirable taste; Miss Laura Flockton's assumption of Adela is marked by much grace and natural charm; and Miss Madge Devereaux is at once interesting and pleasing as Alison. Broad, unctuous humour is contained in the part of Friar Tuck, admirably played by Mr. Colin Johnston.

OPERA HOUSE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brook.—The return visit of Ada Fawn has given much pleasure to her many admirers; Madoline Rees sings sweetly; and the patter of Mr. Paul Barnes is a popular item. The Jacksons give a musical act of great merit; Will Warren sings in first-rate style; Edmunda's ventriloquial show is neat; King and Benson in their new burlesque make a hit; Fred Spencer continues to make funny faces; and Niagra and Falls do some neat tumbling.

INVENTIONS.

[The particulars furnished below of recent applications for patents are taken from the official records. Correspondence is invited with our readers on all matters relating to new ideas and inventions, with a view to affording them advice and assistance. Letters should be addressed to the Manager, Inventions Department, "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London.]

Inventors and others who have no business representative are invited to communicate with the Manager of the Inventions Dept. as above.

APPLICATIONS.

3,986.—United Amusement Structures, Ltd., and Samuel Meyer Friede, of London. Improvements in amusement apparatus.

3,991.—Harry Braham, of London. Railroad for recreative purposes.

4,004.—Frieda Lutz, of London. Improvements in play-bill devices.

4,059.—James Leslie Edwards, of Birmingham. Skate for use on roads.

4,205.—Henry Smallwood Yoxall and Joseph Easthope, of Birmingham. Improvements in wheels for roller skates and in the manufacture of same.

4,240.—Robert Louis Tweddell, of Liverpool. Improvements in devices applicable for teaching skating.

4,291.—Francis Greenfield Skerritt, of Nottingham. Improvements in target systems for miniature and other rifle ranges.

4,385.—United Amusement Structures, Ltd., and Samuel Meyer Friede, of London Improvements in amusement apparatus.

4,446.—Charles James Stewart, of London. Improved device for determining the points obtained at rifle practice when using miniature and long-range ammunition.

4,534.—Ernest Francis Moy and Percy Henry Bastie, of London. Improvements in feeding mechanism for cinematograph cameras, printers, and perforators.

4,571.—Emile André Gautier, of London. Improvements in and apparatus for training horses and the like.

4,813.—Harold Shaw Jones, of Birmingham. Improvements in roller skates.

4,816.—United Amusement Structures, Ltd., and Samuel Meyer Friede, of London. Improvements in amusement apparatus.

4,817.—United Amusement Structures, Ltd., and Samuel Meyer Friede, of London. Improvements in amusement apparatus.

4,899.—Franz Ewald Thormeyer, of London. Improvements in apparatus for producing audible moving pictures, pieces of music, and other performances by the aid of two or more devices, such as moving picture apparatus, phonographic apparatus, and the like.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS ACCEPTED.

4,227.—Irish. Amusement device for exhibitions and the like.

5,255.—Jessop and Butler. Revolving track for public amusements.

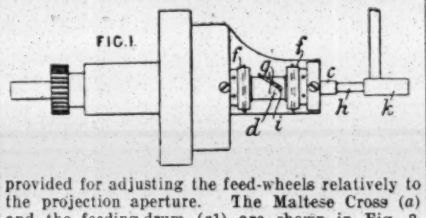
25,929.—Macfarlane. Device for the purposes of amusement and entertainment.

27,111.—Roland. Apparatus for stage acrobatic performances.

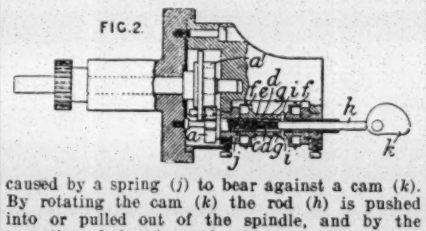
27,435.—Deutsche Bioscop-Ges-Method of securing synchronous action of conjointly working kinematographs and talking machines.

ABRIDGEMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

22,109.—Kinematographs Wrench, A., and Engelke, W., both of London. In kinematographic apparatus of the start-and-stop type, means are



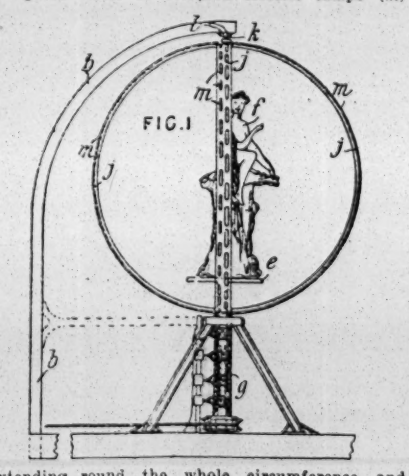
provided for adjusting the feed-wheels relatively to the projection aperture. The Maltese Cross (*a*) and the feeding-drum (*a1*) are shown in Fig. 2. Toothed feed-wheels (*f*) are mounted on a sleeve (*e*) upon the spindle (*c*), which is made hollow and has longitudinal slots (*d*). The sleeve has spiral slots (*g*) which engage pins (*i*) upon the end of a rod (*h*) extending into the hollow spindle, and



caused by a spring (*j*) to bear against a cam (*k*). By rotating the cam (*k*) the rod (*h*) is pushed into or pulled out of the spindle, and by the operation of the pins and spiral slots the position of the film is adjusted.

22,316.—Theatrical appliances. Stranders, W., of London.

An effect (depending on persistence of vision) of an illuminated living figure (*f*), group, or object within a semi-transparent, luminous, or coloured globe, vase, cone, egg-shell, or other hollow shape is obtained by rotating illuminated hoops (*j*) of a corresponding profile round the figure. The hoops preferably carry externally a number of elongated white or coloured electric lamps (*m*)



extending round the whole circumference, and different colours may be switched on by means of brushes and rings on a vertical hollow shaft (*g*) carrying the hoops. The figure is supported on a platform (*e*) at the upper end of a stationary spindle on which the hollow shaft rotates, and is illuminated independently by an optical lantern or lanterns. The hoops may be complete, or semi-hoops may be connected at the pivots. A support (*b*) may carry a bearing (*l*) or pivot (*k*), or the hoops may be supported entirely by the hollow shaft. The lamps (*m*) may be dispensed with, the hoops being then illuminated by an optical lantern.

TO STAGE MACHINISTS AND ELECTRICIANS. — The Manager will be pleased to receive particulars of any new stage appliances or ideas for same for illustration in this column.

FULHAM RESERVES will meet Barnet Alston at Fulham this afternoon in the London Football League. Kick-off 3.30. The home team will consist of Archer, Harper, Leigh, Prout, Barton, Waterson, Lee, Millington, Willey, Bradshaw, and Duff.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SHAW.

So many commentaries have been made upon the dramatic work of Mr. Bernard Shaw—so many theories educed as to the purport of his plays, writes Mr. Robb Lawson in a "lecture" on this subject—that the layman stands in the perplexing position of finding counsellors darkening counsel. In that condition he is reduced to one of two alternatives, either to regard him suspiciously as a problematical playwright devoting himself to the sport of poking fun at his auditors, or to settle himself to the unalloyed enjoyment of his brilliant impertinences by regarding him as an inveterate paradoxer. The last thing he would think of would be to acclaim him the moralist of reality, as opposed to the moralist of convention. Mountebank he will say, but moralist never! It is in the latter phase the writer prefers to regard him.

In seeking out a parallel to the case of this dramatist one is impelled to return to a classical instance. With the work of Æschylus and Sophocles Greek tragedy had reached its culminating point as representing the noblest aim of the human—"the imitation of a worthy or illustrious and perfect action." But the Socratic spirit had come over mental life, and owed its introduction into drama to Euripides, when that author commenced to depict reality through the medium of his plays. That rang the death-knell of ancient Tragedy. The pale, unearthly righteousness, painted by his compeers, was changed into the quivering tense-veined humanity of Euripidean drama. Idealism died, and the naturalistic school rose out of the ashes. The fate of man, which aforetime lay in the hands of the gods, was exhibited as lying within themselves. Evil was seen to spring from the innate weakness of man. Euripides the sceptic was seeking utterance through this living concrete form of literature.

When Mr. Shaw first entered into the dramatic arena it was with what in the original programme was described as "a didactic realistic play," wherein the author, with purpose prepense, set out to slay the false romantic ideals that stood for romance in the year 1892. It is rather curious that the classical student, who should have been the first to discover the Euripidean parallel has been the last to give him credit for the same attitude towards life. Mr. Shaw has tried to guess at the reason for this by explaining that the contempt of the academic pedant for the original artist is often founded "on a genuine superiority of technical knowledge and aptitude." Now, Mr. Shaw's dramatic technique is as old as the English stage itself—even to the inclusion of the out-of-date soliloquy, whilst *The Devil's Disciple* presents all the ingredients of Adelphi melodrama. As to the question of aptitude, I find it difficult to credit the statement that any single auditor who has taken the trouble to see a Shavian play does not believe that their creator is a born dramatist. He himself has owned the soft impeachment as to being that earliest type of drama-monger, the mountebank, and we need but listen to his political or social harangues to find that he uses all the methods of drama to enliven his subjects. As to his plays, in many cases one leaves their perusal with the consciousness that they have been subjected to a Socratian dialogue. Why this essentially dramatic form should have been chosen for the exploitation of political and moral reforms was a question that puzzled the writer sorely, until, in the course of a note from the author, he was informed that Mr. Shaw regarded all the formulæ in which we think as "essentially dramatic and even melodramatic." All religions, he adds, "reach the people only as melodramas; all legal trials are melodramas, and all elections and burning questions are melodramas." All of which confirms a theory of the writer that the Shavian drama is a series of moralities depicting the progress of various pilgrims through the Valley of Convention up to the Plains of Reality. *Man and Superman*, his preface informs us, is the modern morality of *Everywoman*.

That conception of life has not been without its significance to Mr. Bernard Shaw. To it we owe the burden of his drama. To the uninitiated—and it is possible that there may be the majority—there will always remain the impression of a malicious derisive spirit informing the whole of his work. That is the fatality of Irish wit impinging itself on the stolid English mind. There is one aspect of it which recurs when I witness his plays. It is the tear which lurks behind that brilliance—the wit which does not cloy, but smiles despite its own heartache, as in *John Bull*. Father Keegan's way of joking is to tell the truth, but John Bull is too dull to perceive it, or else looks upon it with indulgent humour as the effort of some half-witted tract distributor. As to seriousness, I think one may safely accord that virtue to a dramatist who can write:

"This is the true joy of life, the being used for a purpose recognised by yourself as a mighty one—the being a force of Nature, instead of a feverish little cloud of ailments. The only real tragedy in life is the being used by personally-minded men for purposes which you recognise to be base."

Mention has been made of a parallel with Euripidean drama. Before proceeding to the estimation of the Shavian drama it might be well to formulate the aims of the pre-Shavian play and compare it with its successor. Unfortunately for the advocate, who should be able to prove his case by a formidable array of witnesses, the plaintiff is himself the only one citable. The Habitual Preface-Maker, in revivifying a dying custom, has devoted a goodly part of these to what, in the triumph of his mood, looks very much like a post-mortem examination of the claims of Victorian drama. Taking personal experience as his standpoint, he relates how, entering into his fourth year as dramatic critic, he found that his soul was becoming inane through his play-attendance as a critic. The drama of romance and sensuality was gradually sapping away all his joy in life; the pseudo-problem plays, devoted to details as pornographic as the Censor would allow, were making shipwreck of his mind. A period of cheap novels and cheaper newspapers had transformed the stolid English into a nation of maffickers theatrically hysterical. To meet the demands of such an audience the managers were compelled to provide plays which would appeal to the sex-instinct, making them decorous enough for presentation to churchgoers and as little sensual as circumstances called for. In a word, the romantic play, "with its intolerable perversion of human conduct," became the only wear, in comparison with which the critic preferred the open sensuality of the "Arabian Nights." To quote his own words:—"The pleasure of the senses I can sympathise with and share; but the substitution of sensuous ecstacy for intellectual activity and honesty is the very devil." The inference he makes that the drama is a demoralising force is peculiar, seeing that the supporters of the stage have been doing their utmost to uphold it against the invectives of the moralists of convention. To have their case supported by a foe so deadly to the Nonconformist conscience is, to say the least of it, surprising.

What, then, is this reformer's definition of Drama? It is a coherent explanation of the first broken, nervous, stumbling attempts at self-realisation, in the highest sense—the struggle of the higher nature with the low brutal aspect of things. The attitude must not be confounded with idealism. To Mr. Shaw that term is only a flattering name for the bad old romanticism in politics and morals. To him the tragedy and comedy of life lie in the consequences—sometimes terrible, sometimes ludicrous—of our persistent attempt to ground our institutions on the ideals suggested to our imagination by our half-satisfied passions, instead of a *genuinely scientific natural history*. That, in a phrase, is the clue to the alleged mystery of the Shavian dramatic formulæ—a mystery which would never have existed if his critics had given themselves up to the simple task of reasoning instead of conjecture; of endeavouring to relate his plays to some prehistoric standard, instead of regarding them as a frank attempt to render reality intelligible to an audience, the fine spring of whose mind had been destroyed by an overdose of romance. To him the function of the dramatist is not only to hold the mirror up to Nature, but to try and discern the faint foreshadowing of good that is striving to make its way out. Once let the public realise the truth, and the oft-repeated charges that his plays lack elevation of sentiment, or seriousness of purpose, fall to the ground. In their place (despite the bad angel of his good wit following everywhere) they will find a purposive Calvinist, with pitying heart, preaching a righteousness too high even for heroics, but everywhere possible for the man who is willing to let the good within him work itself out and discard the absurd idealism of convention. There are moments when one is reminded of the Scottish preacher, who joined a burning enthusiasm in denouncing sin to a humour that was never so happy as when it dealt with sacred things. And his own native priests are notorious in that respect. If a simile were needed to describe the style of this dramatist, it would be that of a gay butterfly skimming the edge of a marble altarpiece, the sheer contrast of its bright colouring making the holy seem more sacred by very contrast.

It is not enough to have a genuinely natural scientific historical plan as the basis of your drama. That in itself is novel, certainly. But it is no excuse for foisting upon an unsuspecting public drama whose sole claim to originality is the faculty of tickling the public in a new way. There must be an informing philosophy behind it—an alert and fresh outlook upon life, joined to the ability to impart its tenets. What Mr. Shaw has always asked for is a pit of philosophers—it is so like him to demand the impossible. His philosophy deserves such a pit, and as to the faculty of expression, there is none to gainsay him that qualification.

It is one of the misfortunes of the theatrical trade that the dicta of the dramatic critic, who will only see in a play what he looks for, are accepted as final judgment by the long-suffering man-in-the-street, and still more unfortunate for the finacial success of a play that this is precisely the man whom the manager caters for. That will help to explain why the reception afforded to Shavian drama presents a similar case to that at first accorded to Wagnerian opera. There is no need to labour the point—Mr. Shaw is before his time. Most philosophers are. It is true a large proportion of his audiences have gone to his plays with a rare sense of enjoyment, but imagine the chagrin of a dramatist finding people coming out with the exclamation: "Yes, it is very brilliant, but why can't you be serious." Mr. Shaw has said: "Any fool can make an audience laught: I want to see how many of them, laughing or grave, are in the melting mood." In those days of specialisation one does not expect to find philosophy mingled with humour in the concrete form of drama. Your regular theatregoer takes his drama as he does his sport—in the proper season. He can have his light music and a little laughter after dinner, or, if he is sufficiently overfed, he can wallow in the pathos of a melodrama. Present him to a Shavian play. If he has heard nothing about it, and is conventionally minded, he will retire sorely puzzled, feeling that someone has done him a mental hurt. The writer recollects the instance of one worthy gentleman whose case was that he had seen *Major Barbara* and had come out burning with shame. In another case a fairly advanced Socialist was denouncing *Man and Superman* as being frankly immoral. Clearly these people had misunderstood the Shavian philosophy. To *épater le Bourgeois* brings with it, not only the notoriety, but the hearty hatred of the people who regard such an ideal as the chief social crime.

(To be continued.)

"DOWN IN THE MUD."

A Play, in One Act, by Una Erle. Produced at the Rehearsal Theatre, Maiden-lane, on Friday afternoon, March 26.

Nita ..... MISS JOSIE HURST
Meg ..... MISS UNA ERLE

Meg, an old hag of a begging woman, employs Nita, a girl, to sing in the street for her, and furthermore, teaches her to steal. But Nita is heartily sick of the unsatisfactory life she is leading, and is anxious to turn to one more reputable, but the opportunity does not come to her. A gentleman who has heard her sing in the street, offers to train her for a five pound fee. Old Meg opens the letter which contains this offer and keeps it from the girl for a few days. But Meg has a symbol for right dealing in the form of a doll which her little dead daughter fondled before she passed to another land. Every time she looks at that doll Meg becomes conscience-stricken, and finally she hands to Nita the letter, in addition to her savings, which amount to the sum required for the vocal training. The curtain falls upon the death of Meg. Miss Josie Hurst looked much too pretty, healthy, and well-fed for the rôle of the girl Nita, but leaving out of consideration the fact that her personal appearance as the beggar-girl was scarcely in keeping with the character she was supposed to represent, her acting was quite praiseworthy, and she seems to possess a talent for tragedy. The authoress, Miss Una Erle, gave a suitable embodiment of Meg.

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STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

In the absence of Mr. Cecil Raleigh, Mr. Harry Norton, stage-manager of the Haymarket Theatre, presided over the meeting held in Terry's Theatre on Sunday evening last to consider the rules of the Dramatic and Variety Theatre Employees' Provident Association. The attendance was not as large as was expected, the inclement weather having, no doubt, kept many away who live in the suburban districts. The chairman, in opening the proceedings, read a letter from Mr. Cecil Raleigh expressing his great regret that his health would not permit him to be present, but he sent his best wishes for the success of the purpose of the meeting. A telegram was received to say that Mr. Cecil Paget was ill and unable to be present.

The chairman briefly addressed the meeting, and expressed his approval of the objects of the new Association. He was heartily in favour of combining in one Association all the various efforts to provide sick, funeral, and other benefits of a like nature which were of advantage to all employed in the profession. He strongly urged the older members of the staff not to neglect this opportunity of joining the new fund in view of the fact that the age limit had been suspended until March 31. The chairman then called on Mr. Wm. Johnson, secretary pro tem., to submit the draft rules to the meeting.

Mr. Johnson stated that the number present did not indicate the number who had applied to join, as between 300 and 400 applications had already been received, which included members of the staff and others at between forty and fifty theatres and music-halls in the metroplitan area. The committee had also been informed that many would join as soon as the date was fixed for the commencement of the funds. It had been decided that the meeting should be asked to fix the date as from March 31, and that the contributions should commence on Saturday, April 3. The printed draft of the rules had been widely circulated. Every head of department and many others at the various theatres and halls had had supplies of handbills, copies of the rules, and membership forms, and it was to be hoped that every employee had been made acquainted with the formation of the new fund. Only one amendment had been sent in, and he understood that Mr. G. H. Hooper had decided to withdraw his proposed amendment. Mr. Johnson then read the rules, and the alterations and additions which the committee recommend should be made. These amendments and additions are as follows:—In Clause 1 of Rule 6, the words "scenic artists" and "dressers" to be inserted.

The following new clause to be Clause 2 of Rule 6:—

"An applicant for membership may be elected at any time subject to the following condition as to date of membership. The qualifying period for the allocation of a 'share' of the surplus general fund shall be from quarter to quarter, January, April, July, and October, in each year. The qualifying period for sick, funeral, or benevolent fund benefits shall date from the Saturday following the application for membership, and a member shall pay thirteen or twenty-six consecutive weeks' contributions before being entitled to half or full benefit respectively. A member joining after the commencement of any one quarter may qualify for that quarter's 'share' by paying contributions due, and levies imposed, during such quarter. In no case shall the payment of such back dues affect the qualifying period for the sick, funeral, or benevolent fund benefits."

The following to be new rules:—

"A member changing his address and neglecting to notify the secretary within fourteen days to be fined 6d."

"Honorary members to pay an annual subscription of not less than 10s. 6d., but shall not be entitled to participate in the funds of the Association. Honorary members may recommend the application of a member for a grant from the benevolent fund."

Mr. Johnson stated that while the committee had made every effort to formulate the best possible scheme, and had examined the rules of many other associations, it was understood that the rules would come up for reconsideration at an annual meeting of members to be held early next year. In reply to a number of questions on Rule 6 and Rule 17, Mr. Johnson stated that the purposes of those rules were to avert rivalry between existing societies, and to avoid duplication of committees, offices, &c., which involved waste of money and energy. The aim of the committee was to provide satisfactory guarantees that men holding responsible positions in the profession would be entrusted with the management of the fund, and careful and economical management assured to members.

The chairman proposed the adoption of the rules as amended, and that they come into force from March 31, 1909. This resolution was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. J. Reid, president of the Carpenters' Society, moved the adoption of the following recommendations of the committee:—

"That Mr. Cecil Paget, Mr. Harry Norton, and Mr. G. H. Dyball, be the trustees of the Association.

"That Mr. Wm. Barbour, Mr. A. Jones, and Mr. J. Atterton be the finance committee.

"That Mr. C. T. Cory, master carpenter, the Vaudeville Theatre, be the treasurer.

"That Mr. Wm. Johnson be the secretary of the Association.

"That collecting stewards be elected by the members at each theatre and hall, or, failing such election, appointed by the committee.

"And that contributions be due on and from Saturday, April 3."

This resolution was seconded by Mr. Philip Sheridan, and agreed to unanimously.

Mr. James Cullen, master carpenter, St. James's Theatre, moved a hearty vote of thanks be given to Mr. Harry Norton for presiding at the meeting, and to Mr. Edward Terry for kindly lending the theatre for the meeting.

Mr. Cullen said that Mr. Terry had taken a very kindly interest in the new Association, and this was the second occasion he had lent the theatre for this purpose. Many of them knew that Mr. Norton had taken an interest in the annual concerts and sports, and had given them valuable assistance. He had, no doubt, been connected with many important productions, but, so far as the staff were concerned, none so important as the one he had directed that night. He had much pleasure in prosposing this vote of thanks for the kind and efficient manner in which Mr. Norton had conducted the meeting.

Mr. C. T. Cory, the newly-elected treasurer, seconded the resolution, Mr. Wm. Johnson spoke in support, and on putting the resolution to the meeting it was passed with hearty cheers. The meeting then terminated.

At a meeting of the committee of the cinematograph Operators' Association, held on Tuesday, Mr. J. Wood in the chair, several applications for honorary membership were granted. It was announced that Mr. Jeapes would act as one of the examiners, and a meeting of the Board was arranged to take place early next week. The arrangements for the annual luncheon were completed.

A meeting of the Carpenters' Society will be held on Sunday evening, at 8.30, in the Salisbury Hotel, St. Martin's-lane. All members are especially urged to attend.

The conference in connection with the dispute in Middlesbrough, arranged by the Board of Trade, took place on Tuesday last, at ten a.m., in the Corporation Hotel, Middlesbrough. The dispute has been proceeding since Jan. 11 between the managers of the Opera House, the Royal, the Hippodrome, and the Empire Theatres, and the local branch of the National Association of Theatrical Employees.

Mr. I. Mitchell, as representing the Board of Trade, presided. The managers were represented by Mr. A. Mattison, chairman of the Middlesbrough and Stockton Theatrical Managers' Association; Mr. W. K. Chatto, of the Opera House, secretary to the Asociation; Mr. Imeson, Theatre Royal; Mr. Rembges, Empire Theatre; Mr. Nicholls, Hippodrome; and Mr. Bastinan, of the Empire Board of Directors. Mr. W. A. Appleton, secretary, represented the General Federation of Trade Unions, the Employees' Association was represented by Mr. Wm. Johnson, general secretary, Mr. A. E. Wright, branch secretary, and Messrs. J. Patton and J. Hunter, members of the branch committee.

Pending this conference both sides had agreed to suspend proceedings in furtherance or in protest of the lock-out. It was agreed that the discussion which took place at the conference should be regarded as private, but it may be stated that no agreement was arrived at in settlement of the dispute, and the matter has been referred to Mr. G. R. Askwith, of the Board of Trade. The employees' representatives were emphatic in reserving unconditional liberty of action pending an award from Mr. Askwith. This attitude is due to the fact that the men have not been reinstated pending the award, which, they claim, should be done in view of the fact that the music hall managers by locking out their men committed a breach of the music hall award, which was designed to avert both strikes and lock-outs.

It is stated that after the conference an informal agreement was come to between the managers and Mr. Johnson, that, subject to the employees suspending proceedings pending Mr. Askwith's award, preference should be given to the men locked out as vacancies arose at the several places of amusement. The managers could do much in this direction to restore a friendly feeling.

A general meeting of the members of the Middlesbrough branch was held on Monday night to decide their course of action at the conference, and one on Tuesday evening to receive a report from their representatives. Much ill-will had been created by a letter in the local Press, over signature of one of the managers, containing a statement that some of the men had left their work at "a moment's notice," and implying this was the cause of the lock-out. The men emphatically deny that any of them left work, and at the Tuesday meeting a desire was generally expressed for an immediate renewal of proceedings in retaliation and protest of the lock-out. On Mr. Johnson's advice, and having regard to his confidence in the mangers' willingness to reinstate men as vacancies occur, it was decided to suspend proceedings for one week to afford the managers an opportunity to give effect to their undertaking. The whole dispute is much to be deplored, and it is to be hoped that the matter will go before Mr. Askwith without delay.

"CISSIE" LOFTUS ON MIMICRY.

"The mimic," wrote Miss Cecilia Loftus in a recent article in *Reynolds's*, "deliberately copies a model, an existing, actual model. The actor who creates a part (I hope no pedantic person is going to object to my use of the word 'create' in this connection) has to evolve his model from his inner consciousness and then copy it.

"Let me illustrate this practically. In my imitation of Miss Ethel Irving's charming impersonation of Lady Frederick, I endeavour as closely as I can to reproduce that lady's tones, gestures, intonations, &c., so as to make the spectator believe that it is Miss Irving, and not myself. At any rate, the spectators' approximation to this belief is the measure of my success as a mimic. And if a young actress, going to play the part on tour, were told to imitate Miss Irving, it would be mimicry rather than acting that would be required of her. Of course, I am not suggesting that anything of this sort is actually done; I am merely supposing it for the purpose of my argument.

"If, however, I had never seen Miss Irving, and had been asked to play the part (it is a part I should much like to play, let me add parenthetically), the position would be different. Reading the play, I should have to let the situations, the dialogue, and the author's directions build up a mental image for me of Lady Frederick. I should realise to myself on this basis how she would look, talk, move, and so on; and then, having thus evolved a Lady Frederick in my mind, I should proceed to copy her (as imagined by myself), to mimic her imaginary intonations, and gestures, and play of feature. So that the actor may be said to differ from the mimic in this. The actor has first of all to call into being the model he copies.

"Mimicry, therefore, being so essential a part of the actor's art, I must confess that, when I first determined to become an actress as well as a mimic, it was somewhat of a shock to find that theatre managers actually regarded the reputation I had won as a mimic as dead against me. They wouldn't hear of me as an actress; and if I had not had a certain amount of influence and a great deal of perseverance, I should probably never have got a chance of realising my ambition.

"Naturally, I had to acquire experience; but that can only be got on the stage. When I gave my imitations, for instance, I was never troubled with my hands; I always did the right thing with them. But when I first had to play a part—and it was only a small one—my hands seemed to have become elephantine, and gave me no end of trouble. This did not last long; the difficulty was speedily got over as I got acclimatised to the new conditions. And I only mention it to show one of what I may style the mechanical differences between mimicry and acting. But, to revert, I have never got over the surprise I experienced at finding that my mimetic skill was, at the outset, a positive handicap to a stage career. In other words, my command of the physical basis of the art of acting was tacitly assumed to be the reason why I couldn't rear the superstructure upon it. I do not attempt to explain why theatre managers should entertain this idea, nor can I say whether there is any foundation for it in circumstances unknown to me. I merely put it on record as, to me, an interesting bit of reminiscence.

"Speaking for myself and from my own experience, I can only say that I have always found myself experiencing the emotions I am portraying. Not, perhaps, to the actual extent of real experience, but sufficiently so to make my work, to me, something far other than mere simulation. When I played Marguerite in the late Sir Henry Irving's company, the emotional stress to which I subjected myself nightly left me more or less a wreck after each performance."

THE L.C.C. AND AMUSEMENTS.

The usual weekly meeting of the London County Council was held on Tuesday at the County Hall, Spring Gardens, Sir M. Beachcroft (chairman) presiding.

CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN.

The Theatres and Music-Halls Committee reported that they had re-elected Mr. H. J. Greenwood to be their chairman and Mr. Ernest E. Wild to be their vice-chairman for the ensuing year. Mr. Greenwood had also been elected the committee's representative on the General Purposes Committee.

WATER SUPPLY TO THEATRES.

The Theatres and Music-Halls Committee brought up the following report:—A deputation from the Theatres Alliance attended before us on March 3, 1909, with reference to the question of the charges made by the Metropolitan Water Board for the supply of water to theatres and other places of public entertainment. The points to which the deputation drew attention may be briefly stated as follows:—

(1) Theatre proprietors are now being charged for the supply of water to their theatres 5 per cent. on the rateable value of the premises, less a rebate of 20 per cent. if certain conditions are ful filled. This charge does not cover any unusual or uncommon consumption of water. For instance, the Board insists on an additional payment of 1 guinea a year for each hydrant installed in a theatre, although the hydrants are sealed and no water is used unless there be a fire.

(2) The Board, in making a charge of 5 per cent. on the rateable value of the premises, is treating theatres as domestic premises, and is levying the maximum rate it is entitled to under the Act and allowing the minimum rebate.

(3) Theatre proprietors have refused to pay the charge of 1 guinea for each hydrant, and have asked to be given a supply under section 16 of the Metropolitan Water Board (Charges) Act, 1907. This the Board refuses to give except by meter. If the proprietors were to take the supply for the hydrants under section 16, as they would be entitled to do, except for the Council's objection to a metered supply, they would only be called upon to pay for the water actually used, with a minimum charge of 22s. 11d. a quarter, instead of a guinea a year for each hydrant. To meet the objection of the Board to giving an unmetered supply under section 16, the theatre proprietors have offered to pay a minimum charge of 22s. 11d. per quarter, and, in addition, a charge to be assessed by the fire brigade or other competent authority for any water actually drawn from the hydrants in case of fire. The Board has declined to accede to this suggestion on the ground that it is impracticable.

(4) If by means of the hydrants in places of public entertainment any fire is kept within small limits, the result is a great saving of water to the Board, which is compelled to supply water to the street hydrants for fire extinction free of charge. The proprietors are thus made to pay for precautions which are actually of advantage to the Board.

The deputation stated that the Board had now intimated that it would institute proceedings against the proprietors for the recovery of the outstanding charges, and they asked that, as the proprietors were placed in their present unfortunate position by reason of the Council requiring them to instal hydrants in their premises, the Council would, if it could not see its way to allow a metered supply, make representations to the Board with a view to inducing the Board to accept the suggestion made by the proprietors. As regards the question of allowing the supply of water to hydrants in places of public entertainment to pass through a meter, we are advised that, if this were done, the efficiency of the hydrants would be very seriously diminished, and we are therefore unable to recommend the Council to allow it. We have carefully considered the suggestion of the deputation that the Council should make representations to the Board with a view to the acceptance of the offer made by the theatre proprietors, and while we feel that the position is one of considerable hardship, we are of opinion that the Council cannot usefully intervene in the matter, which has already been fully considered by the Board. We recommend:—

That a metered supply of water to fire hydrants in places of public entertainment be not allowed, and that the Council do not make representations to the Metropolitan Water Board on the question of the charges made for the supply of water to such hydrants.

Mr. Greenwood asked permission to hold over the report until the next meeting, and this was agreed to.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Committee recommended approval of the following:—Proposed new opening, giving easier access to the grand saloon from the dress-circle at the Broadway Theatre, Deptford; proposed safety-curtain to be provided at the Kilburn Vaudeville Theatre; certain alterations proposed to be made to the stage and arena at the London Hippodrome; proposal to abolish the sun-burner and alter the ventilation of the auditorium at the Savoy Theatre, Strand. The recommendations were agreed to.

There was a remarkable cast of Bulwer Lytton's *Money* during the lesseeship of John S. Clarke at the Haymarket in April, 1879, on the occasion of a complimentary benefit to E. L. Blanchard. We question if there has been a better combination of names since the original cast.

Lord Glossmore	Mr. William Terriss
Sir Fredk. Blount	Mr. E. A. Sothern
Graves	Mr. John S. Clarke.
Stout	Mr. David James
Sharp	Mr. William Farren, sen.
Evelyn	Mr. Henry Neville
The Old Member	Mr. John Ryder
Dudley Smooth	Mr. Frank Archer
Sir John Vesey	Mr. John Maclean
Franz	Mr. Horace Wigan
Flat	Mr. W. Belford
Patent	Mr. F. W. Irish
Macfinch	Mr. David Fisher, jun.
Green	Mr. R. Soutar
Tabounet	Mr. Henry Howe
Sir John Vesey's Page	Miss Clara Jecks
Clara Douglas	Miss Amy Roselle
Lady Franklin	Mrs. John Wood

Members of the Club—Messrs. J. R. Planché, H. J. Byron, Murray, L. Brough, John Billington, W. H. Vernon, A. Garner, F. Mervin, Flockton, H. Ferrand, F. Wyatt, B. Dale, G. Murray, H. Green, Dillon Croker, Jonas Levy, H. Standing, B. L. Farjeon, &c.

Servants and waiters—Messrs. Rutland Barrington, Weatherby, Beerbohm Tree, &c.

A curious incident happened in the last act of the production of *The Suicide* in 1822. The personage Wingrave (announced to be performed by Oxberry) never appeared!—the worthy undertaker was missing. At the conclusion, much disapprobation was expressed, until his appearance in *The Bill of Fare*—the clamour then increased, when he stepped forward, and thus addressed the house, in a somewhat embarrassed manner:—"Ladies and gentlemen,—I cannot but be conscious of the cause of your disapprobation. I have been fourteen years before the public, and till this present moment never met with your disapprobation. In the play of *The Suicide* I had to appear in the last scene—I did not know the piece consisted of only four acts. I was walking in the park studying a part in which I am to seek your approbation on Saturday. I arrived at the theatre—the last scene was on. Ladies and gentlemen, I must beg pardon—your approbation I have ever felt. I feel—I—I—(Loud applause.—Mr. O. clapping his hand on his breast, &c.)"

HOW SARDOU WROTE.

Some time before his death in November last M. Sardou gave a writer in the *Strand Magazine* a full and exact description of his methods of work, his ideas on stage-management and on the art of acting.

"How do I write my plays?" said M. Sardou. "That is not an easy question to answer. But, as regards the actual casting into shape of a comedy or drama, I proceed thus. First of all I write out a scenario or sketch of the piece: this consists of a short story or *résume* of the plot, for I should tell you that, though I am devoted to the dramatic form, I greatly admire the art of the novelist, and Balzac is as dear to me as Shakespeare. Then, when I am in the mood—for to a certain extent I believe in the inspiration of the moment—I write, as a rule, at one sitting the first act. When I next take up the work I almost entirely rewrite each scene, leaving it to my faithful and conscientous secretaries to make a fair copy. Sometimes I go over the various portions of a play as many as ten times before I am finally satisfied. My instinct is always to cut down and to abbreviate what I have already done. As I write I see the characters before me, and observe their least actions. Of course, each dramatist composes in a different fashion; to me each scene is an absolute reality, and I seem to see into the minds of each of my characters."

"And at what time in the day do you prefer to work?"

"I always write in the morning. I do not believe in night work; the brain is then either dulled or over-excited. As for the time it takes me to write a play, I should say from three to four months. I only do this kind of work in the country, for there alone can I secure real peace. When I am at Marly I make it a rule to receive no visitors till after three o'clock. By that time my serious writing is over for the day, and I am ready to enjoy the company of my friends."

"May I ask if you take your plots from real life and from history, or do they simply occur to you?"

"That is not an easy question to answer," replied my host, smiling. "Everything and anything, from an important historical scene to a trivial event in my everyday life, suggests plots and inspires me with ideas for new plays. You must know that I am a great believer in method; I have but little sympathy for untidy genius, for it is impossible to produce good sustained work without a certain orderliness."

He rose, and, opening the doors of a fine inlaid cabinet, displayed rows on rows of what appeared to be letter portfolios, each neatly docketed. "There, now you will understand something of my work," he observed. "The moment I think of a good idea or plot I open a fresh *dossier* and put a name on it. As time goes on, any historical fact or newspaper cutting bearing on the initial idea is added in, and so in time my play composes itself, and comes to fruition almost without my knowing that it has done so. Of course, this method of procedure is especially suitable when applied to the historical drama. For instance, supposing it occurs to me to-day that a certain character, known to students of the Renaissance, would make the hero of a fine play, I inscribe the name on one of these envelopes, jot down a few ideas or vague outline of the plot as it occurs to me, and then, as time goes on, everything, not only about the personage in question, but the town in which he lived, the period illustrated by him, and the speeches he is recorded to have made, is all gathered together till I am ready to start work."

"And is it true, monsieur, that you are very particular as to the historical accuracy of your dramas; or do you, on the other hand, allow yourself a certain poetic licence?"

"Yes, to the first part of your question," he answered, quickly. "I am extremely exact down to the smallest detail, as I can claim to take measureless pains. Perhaps I should tell you," he continued, thoughtfully, "that I was born an historian rather than a playwright. When I was quite a young man I taught history, and I have always had the keenest interest in that past which so many believe to be dead, but which is to me ever living Before sitting down to write an historical play I read every work dealing with the period, often as many as fifty to one hundred volumes. I am fortunate in the possession of an excellent memory, and long after the drama has been produced I can give chapter and book for every actual fact told therein. Take, for instance, my *Theodora* and the reconstitution of Byzantium—the critics called my knowledge into question and objected to the use of forks on the stage. They declared that in those days these modern instruments of refinement were not known. It is easy to image how foolish they must have felt when I, by quoting a dozen authorities, conclusively proved my point. Why, at Treves, Queen Helena's fork is one of the most interesting of the relics!"

"Then I presume that you yourself arrange every detail of the mounting of your plays?"

"Certainly; every scene is either drawn by myself or under my close supervision. The reconstitution of the Acropolis in *Gismonda* was made from photographs specially taken in Athens for the purpose. Of course, there are certain periods of history with which I personally prefer to deal. I am intensely interested in the personality of Napoleon I., and I have all my life collected Bonapartist relics, including a great number of the famous soldier's autographs. This collection became very valuable to me when I was arranging the production of *Madame Sans Gêne*."

"And you have made a special study, I believe, of the Revolutionary period?"

"Yes, and of old Paris. I can reconstitute any corner of *mon vieux Paris* in a few moments without the help of either drawings or plan. After the drama, my favourite passion is architecture, and I would go a long way at any time to see a mediæval mansion or castle in a good state of preservation. Not long ago I was fortunate enough to discover Robespierre's house in the Rue St. Honoré. The gentleman who has given up the greater portion of his literary career to the study of the terrible Revolutionary hero declared that the house had been pulled down and did not exist. But after a little trouble I was able to prove," concluded M. Sardou, triumphantly, "that I had indeed discovered Robespierre's house, and that the flat he had occupied during the last years of his life was practically intact."

"I suppose, monsieur, that you are to a certain extent in sympathy with the doctrines of the Revolution, or that you at least count yourself a Republican?"

"Good heavens, no!" he cried. "I make no secret of my opinions. I have the greatest contempt for the Republic and all its methods. Far from ensuring freedom and comfort to the individual citizen, a Republican *régime*, to my thinking, strikes at all liberties.

"I need hardly ask you for your views as to the Censorship—"

"As far as I can see, the Censor has never done any harm," was the unexpected answer. "He may object to certain coarse realism, and so on. But here, in France, it is a mistake to think that the Censor interdicts a play. It is the Government who always performs that duty. An interdict was placed on my *Thermidor* because I described the guillotine in unpleasant terms; and yet had it not been for the events of the day 9 Thermidor, described by me in too true a fashion, President Carnot, who was Chief of the Government at the time that my play was stopped, would have never existed, for on that day his great-grandfather, 'Le Grand Carnot,' would have been guillotined."

CALLS AND ENCORES.

"Macready relates in his Memoirs," writes Dutton Cook in his "Book o' the Play," "that the practice of 'calling on' the principal actor was first introduced at Covent Garden Theatre, on the occasion of his first performance of the character of Richard the Third, on Oct. 19, 1819. 'In obedience to the impatient and persevering summons of the house I was desired by Fawcett to go before the curtain; and accordingly I announced the tragedy for repetition amidst the gratulating shouts that carried the assurance of complete success to my agitated and grateful heart.' But while loving applause, as an actor needs must, Macready had little liking for the honours of calls and recalls—heartily disapproving of them, indeed, when they seemed to him in any way to disturb the representation. Thus, of his performance of Werner at Manchester, in 1845, he writes: 'Acted very fairly. Called for. *Trash!*' Under date Dec. 23, 1844, he records: 'Acted Virginius [in Paris] with much energy and power to a very excited audience. I was loudly called for at the end of the fourth act, but could not or would not make so absurd and empirical a sacrifice of the dignity of my poor art.' Three years later he enters in his dairy: 'Acted King Lear with much care and power, and was received by a most kind, and sympathetic, and enthusiastic audience. I was called on, the audience trying to make me come on after the first act, but of course I could not think of such a thing.' But these 'calls' relate to the conclusion of an act, when, at any rate, the drop-scene was fallen, hiding the stage from view, and when, for a while, there is a pause in the performance, suspension of theatrical illusion.

"Writing in 1830, Mr. Parke describes the custom of encoring performers as a prerogative that had been exercised by the public for more than a century; and says, with some justice, that it originated more from self-love in the audience than from gratitude to those who had afforded them pleasure. He considered, however, that encoring had done service upon the whole, by exciting emulation and stimulating singers to extraordinary exertion; and that though, in many instances, it destroyed the illusion of the scene, it had become so fixed that, in spite even of the burlesque of encoring Lord Grizzle's dying song in Fielding's *Tom Thumb*, it continued to prevail as much as ever. He notes it as curious that, 'in calling for a repetition, the audiences of the French and English theatres should each have selected a word forming no part of their respective languages—the former making use of the Latin word *bis*, and the latter the French word *encore*.' Double encores, we gather from the same authority, first occurred in England, at the Opera House, during the season of 1808, when Mme. Catalani was compelled to sing three times one of her songs in the comic opera *La Freschetana*. As none of the great singers, her predecessors—Mara, Banti, Grassini, and Billington—had ever received a similar compliment, this appeared extraordinary, until the fact oozed out that Catalani, as part of her engagement, had stipulated for the privilege of sending into the house fifty orders on each night of her performance. After this discovery double encores ceased for a time at the King's Theatre; but the system reappeared at Covent Garden, by way of compliment to Braham, each time the great tenor sang the favourite polacca in the opera of *The Cabinet;* and subsequently like honours were paid to Sinclair upon his return from Italy. Until then, it would seem, Mr. Sinclair had been well satisfied with one encore, and was exceedingly anxious that smaller favour should, on no account, be withheld from him. When he played the part of Don Carlos, in the opera of *The Duenna*, he was disappointed with the measure of applause bestowed upon his efforts, and complained that the obbligato cadenza—which Mr. Parke had time out of mind played on the oboe in the symphony of the song, 'Had I a heart for falsehood framed'—interfered with the effect of his singing, and that the applause which was obtained by the cadenza deprived him of his encore. Accordingly he requested that the cadenza might be suppressed. 'Though I thought this a mean and silly application,' says Mr. Parke, 'I complied with it, and never interfered with his encores afterwards.' It must be said for Sinclair, however, that encores had come to be regarded as tests of a singer's merits, and that a re-engagement at the theatre sometimes depended upon this demonstration of public approval. At Vauxhall Gardens, indeed, the manager—'who was not,' says Mr. Parke, 'a musical luminary'—formed his opinion of the capacities of his singers from the report of a person appointed to register the number of encores obtained by each during the season. The singers who had received the most encores were forthwith re-engaged for the next year. Upon the whole, however, the system was not found to be completely satisfactory. The inferior vocalists, stimulated by the fear of losing their engagements, took care to circulate orders judiciously among their friends, with instructions as to the songs that were to be particularly applauded; and it frequently resulted that the worst performers, if the most artful manœuvrers, were at the head of the poll at the end of the season, and re-engaged over the heads of superior artists, and greatly to the ultimate detriment of the concern. In reference to this system of obtaining encores, Mr. Parke cautiously observes: 'Without presuming to insinuate that it was surreptitiously introduced into our English theatres, I may be permitted to observe, after forty years' experience in theatrical tactics, that it would not be difficult, through a judicious distribution of determined *forcers* in various parts of a theatre, with Herculean hands and stentorian voices, to achieve that enviable distinction.' Possibly the reader, bearing in mind certain great successes and double and treble encores of our own time, may confirm, from his own experience, Mr. Parke's opinions and suggestions in this direction.

"It was a rule of the theatre of the last century that, although the audience were at liberty to demand the presence of an actor upon the stage, particularly with a view to his giving an explanation of any matter in which he had offended them, this privilege did not extend to the case of anyone connected with the theatre other than in a histrionic capacity. Thus, when in the year 1744 a serious riot occurred in Drury Lane Theatre relative to the excessive charges made for admission to an old entertainment—it being understood that for new entertainments it was permissible to raise the prices—'the manager (Mr. Fleetwood) was called for by the audience in full cry; but, not being an actor, he pleaded his privilege of being exempted from appearing on the stage before them, and sent them word by one of the performers that he was ready to confer with any persons they should depute to meet him in his own room. A deputation accordingly went from the pit, and the house patiently waited their return.'

"At this time, no doubt, the actor laboured under certain social disadvantages; and the manager who did not act, however insignificant a person otherwise, was generally regarded as enjoying a more dignified position than that occupied by the most eminent of performers. In time, of course, the status of the actor improved, and he outgrew the supposititious degradation attaching to his exercise of his profession. We have lived to see composers, authors, and even scene-painters summoned before the footlights, nothing loath, apparently, to accept this public recognition of their merits. But these are innovations of quite recent date.

"The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer," by Albert A. Strong, LL.B.. Price 3s. 6d., post free 3s. 10d. Published at "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

DRURY LANE THEATRE CHILDREN.

A pleasant custom was renewed on Monday at the West Theatre of the Albert Hall, when the children of the Drury Lane pantomime presented their annual extravaganza. The production used to be confined within the walls of Old Drury, but two years ago a departure was made, and the piece was taken to Bexhill and other popular resorts. So cordial was the welcome received that it is intended this year to make a similar tour, and several bookings have already been arranged. It is an ideal holiday for the children, and they are looking forward with especial eagerness to the visit to Hastings and to Bexhill, where Mr. J. M. Glover, who combined the Mayoralty of the town with the musical-directorship of the Lane, is sure to give them a hearty greeting. This year's pantomime is again written by Mr. Bruce Smith, the eminent scenic artist, with music arranged by J. Holliday, jun., and is entitled

"A-LAD-IN, AND WELL OUT OF IT."

Abanazer ..... MASTER EDWARD GORDON
Aladdin ..... MISS FLORRIE CLARK
Slave of the Lamp ..... MISS LOUISE GIBBONS
Genii of the Ring ..... MISS MAY NOBLE
Emperor Ching Chang Chow ..... MASTER WILL BISHOP
Princess Sin Sin ..... MISS ADDIE WELLS
Widow Twankey ..... MASTER JACK FROST
Scrubbi ..... MISS LILY RANDALL
Li-Slop ..... MASTER GEORGE BURTON
Fairy Queen ..... MISS DORIS TREVELYAN

There was a notable absence of the pantomime "gag" proper, a rigid adherence being made to the "book," which is overflowing with rhymed jests, some of them very neatly turned. The scenery is also from the brush of Mr. Bruce Smith, who has provided some capital sets, The Jewelled Cave, indeed, being so gorgeous that one looked for something more elaborate in the subsequent Palace scene, the back-cloth of which might have been expected to rise and reveal a wealth of colour.

The youthful players entered with zest into their task, and a most exhilarating performance was the result. The bright light of the cast was Miss Doris Trevelyan, the Fairy Queen of the two last pantomimes at Drury Lane, who played the same attractive character in the piece under review. She acted with her customary grace, the delivery of her lines being admirably distinct and clear. Miss Trevelyan sings like a thrush, and her cultivated voice was heard with extreme pleasure in a flower song and in the pretty ballad "Many years ago," loud demands for an encore being made. The title-rôle was entrusted to Miss Florrie Clark, who made a buoyant Aladdin, singing especially well "I want you to see my girl." Miss Addie Wells was a prepossessing Princess, with flashing eye and natural vivacity. Her song was the quaint "Afraid to go home in the dark," followed by a dance in which Miss Wells displayed much cleverness, and was assisted by a quartette of skilled *coryphées*. Another talented young lady was seen in Miss Louise Gibbons, who officiated as the Slave of the Lamp. Her duties included the singing of "Come along, Mandy," which had to be repeated, and of a territorial song, which enjoyed a similar distinction. The latter effusion has an irresistibly lilting refrain, and it was delivered with abundant spirit by the singer, who made a smart appearance in kharki, added effect being given by Sisters of the Red Cross and wearers of the Union Jack, who formed the chorus. A golden-haired Genii of the Ring was forthcoming in Miss May Noble, who utilised an excellent voice in a "Teddy Bear" song, much mirth being created by the antics of a life-sized Bruin, who assisted in the effect obtained. Miss Lily Randall was a vivacious representative of the Forewoman of the Washhouse, and furnished a most appreciated interlude with the Policeman, comically enacted by Master George Burton.

The star comedian of former productions is again included in the quaint personality of Master Jack Frost, whose claim to fame rests on the fact that he is the Drury Lane call-boy. He is quite a pastmaster in the art of mirth-making, and his efforts as Widow Twankey proved diverting throughout. Master Will Bishop, son of *the* Will Bishop, also furnished incentives to laughter as the Emperor, on whom he conferred a pronounced Cockney accent. The tuneful lament of "Poor Old John" fell to his share, and the topical duet, "There's nothing very wonderful in that," sung with Widow Twankey, contained some happy hits. Master Bishop's dancing was also admired. A duly sinister wicked uncle, with ferocity in every feature and turpitude in every tone, was presented by Master Edward Gordon. The members of the chorus did remarkably well, dancing nimbly and with agreeable precision. A good word should be added for Miss Gladys Holliday, who accompanied ably at the piano. The burlesque was produced by Mr. Edward Spiller, under whose direction the company is starting on what should be a prosperous and enjoyable excursion.

The children made their first appearance out of London at a matinée performance at the Royal County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames, on Wednesday, and were received with marked favour.

AN interesting anniversary was celebrated on the 12th ult., when were completed the first twenty-five years of the existence of the L. E. Waterman Co., the manufacturers of Waterman's Ideal Fountain Pen. Before Mr. Waterman, many men had seen the possibility of a writing implement which should carry its own ink-supply and constantly feed its own nib, and many inventors had experimented with the idea of a fountain pen. That possibility became a reality with the model invented by L. E. Waterman and first sold on Feb. 12, 1884. Millions of these pens have been sold, over one million having been sold in a recent twelvemonth, and there is scarcely a country in the world where the merits of this fountain pen are not known. The pen made in 1884 was substantially the same pen as the one made in 1909. Improvements in detail have been added—the finish is perhaps more superb, and some parts have been simplified and improved—but behind the pen as we know it to-day is embodied the principles laid down by Mr. Waterman in constructing his first pen. Waterman's Ideal seems destined to "go on for ever," for an excellent reason—its wonderful simplicity makes improvement scarcely possible. There seems every reason to believe that just as the steel pen superseded the goose quill, the fountain pen, which finds its best model in Waterman's Ideal, will some day entirely supersede the pen that depends upon the inkstand for its replenishment.

SHAKESPEARE'S connection with the Southwark Cathedral, at the foot of London Bridge, is to be marked by a recumbent figure of the poet, in alabaster, with Tudor Gothic canopy and screen, which is to be erected in a recess in the south aisle, where it will form a pendant to the tomb of Gower opposite. Shakespeare was a parishioner of St. Saviour's for over fifteen years, and the cathedral, as St. Saviour's is now called, is the one building remaining in London with which he was associated.

AT the Tunbridge Wells Police Court on Thursday, Clarence Valentine Hoskins, was charged with embezzling on March 1, 1909, at the Opera House, Tunbridge Wells, the sums of £8 14s. 5d. and £27 19s. 10d., the property of his employers, John Egginton, Walter de Frece, and Frederick Mouillot. He was sentenced to three months' hard labour.

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MISS MAY BEATRICE.

The career of Miss May Beatrice has not yet attained to very great lengths, but it has been a very varied and successful one, covering leading parts in both musical comedy and legitimate drama. She began her professional work in that best of schools, a Shakespearean répertoire company, under the management of Mr. Esmonde Bramley. Her first part was that of the Prince of Wales in *Richard III.*, which she played during her third week in the profession. She made her first entrance riding on horseback, which saved her the awful ordeal of walking on the stage with knees trembling with nervousness and violent stage fright. However, all went well, and the débutante acquitted herself with the utmost satisfaction, as evinced by the fact that she was subsequently entrusted with a number of different parts in the same company, among them being Sebastian in *Twelfth Night* and the Gentlewoman in *Macbeth*. Afterwards Miss Beatrice joined Mr. William Maclaren's *Claudian* company for chorus and understudying. Then came a tour as Ancaria in Mr. Henry Chattell's *Sign of the Cross* company, and

[Photo by Guttenberg, Manchester.

MISS MAY BEATRICE.

the following tour she was given the part of Berenice, which up to the present has the distinction of being her favourite rôle. In the interval between these tours the young actress experienced a complete change, going from costume drama to modern comedy, playing for some time Margery, the light comedy lead in *Our Flat*. She also sustained leading parts in *East Lynne*, *The Ticket-of-Leave Man*, and the old stock pieces. Having finished tour as Berenice she took up the part of Muriel Eden in *The Gay Lord Quex* for a few weeks, and then joined Mr. Morton Powell to create the part of Helena Landless in his production of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. While touring with this Mr. Rich Waldon saw her, and engaged her for the dramatic part of Demon Boy in the successful pantomime of *Diccory Dok*, which has just completed a prolonged run at the Princess's Theatre, Glasgow.

MR. JERROLD ROBERTSHAW.

A native of Yorkshire, Mr. Jerrold Robertshaw lived at Ilkley for some years, and went on the stage at twenty-eight years of age, going to Sarah Thorne for nine months as leading man. His next engagement was as Tigellinus in Mr. Wm. Greet's *Sign of the Cross*, and then Jediah in *Daughters of Baby'on*. Three or four small parts in town

[Photo by Guttenberg, Manchester.

MR. JERROLD ROBERTSHAW.

were followed by three years with Mr. Ben Greet, when Miss Edyth Wynne-Matthison and Mr. Robertshaw played leads together—Benedick, Evelyn in *Money*, Joseph Surface, Charles Marlow, Claude Melnotte, &c. Sir Charles Wyndham saw him play these parts, together with David Garrick, at Brighton, and was so favourably impressed by the clever actor's performance that he gave him De Guiche in *Cyrano de Bergerac*. After that, with Mr. Charles Cartwright, Mr. Robertshaw had a leading part in *Colonel Cromwell*, and then toured his own company in Shakespeare as Hamlet, Othello, Shylock, Macbeth, and Henry V.

Another decided advance in his career was made when Mr. Robertshaw joined Mr. Arthur Bourchier for Pilkerton in *Pilkerton's Peerage*. Subsequently he went to America with Miss Julia Marlowe as Cardinal Sforza in *Queen Fianetta*, and afterwards played Malatesta in *Dante* with Irving at Drury Lane, followed by a part in *Letty* at the Duke of York's in the autumn of 1903. Rejoining Mr. Bourchier, Mr. Robertshaw added to his laurels with Tackleton in *Cricket on the Hearth*, Etchepare in *The Arm of the Law*, and the Demon in W. S. Gilbert's *Fairy's Dilemma*. From the Garrick Mr. Robertshaw went for Mrs. Brown Potter's season at the Savoy, playing Turridu in *Cavalleria Rusticana* and other parts. Again he rejoined Mr. Bourchier for Antonio in *The Merchant of Venice*, and then took up the rôle of Prince of Wales in Mr. Fred Terry and Miss Julia Neilson's revival of *The Scarlet Pimpernel* at the New, following on with Sir Malcolm Vernon in *Dorothy o' the Hall*. An engagement as Fouché to Sir John Hare's Napoleon in *The Great Conspiracy* was followed by five or six short runs in plays at the New, Royalty, Savoy, &c. He played the title-rôle in the recent production of *Antony and Cleopatra* at the Queen's, Manchester. Fencing is a hobby of Mr. Robertshaw's, who has also a fondness for music and all kinds of literature, occult and otherwise. On the other hand, he confesses to the habit of smoking far too many cigarettes.

MR. DENIS LYNDON.

A native of Nottingham, Mr. Denis Lyndon comes from a military family, and it was intended that he should follow that profession. His grandfather was a captain in the 29th Regiment, and served through the Indian Mutiny. His great-grandfather was a Professor at Dublin University, and won the Vice-Chancellor's prize three years in succession, and a monument is erected to his memory at the University. Always of a roving disposition, and passionately fond of the sea and yachting, the subject of this sketch has had many thrilling experiences, being unfortunate enough to be shipwrecked three times. He commenced his theatrical career in the autumn of 1897, receiving his first professional engagement at the Theatre Royal, Goole, with Mr. Harry Joseph's vaudeville company, with whom he had many pleasant tours as principal comedian and stage-manager for his extravaganzas and pantomimes. Mr. Lyndon has fulfilled many summer engagements with Messrs. Benet and Marshall's concert companies. He then launched out upon his own resources, and was the originator of the first "pierrot" concert party in Jersey. In conjunction with his brother-in-law, Mr. Will Terry, he founded the Royal Bohemian Players, who have had the honour of being twice patronised by Royalty. Since then he has taken up the more serious part of the profession. Tours followed with Mr. Haldane Crichton's *Dandy Fifth* and Mr. Ernest Carpenter's *Lady's Maid* company, in which he scored a success as Pietro Conti, the Italian Gendarme. He has had many tours with several managements in drama, comedy, and burlesque, and stock seasons in Edinburgh, Brighton, and Birmingham, playing a varied round of characters and comedy parts, including Glabrio in *The Sign of the Cross*, Red Murdock in *Jane Shore*, Joe Shotwell in *My Sweetheart*, Cripps in *The Silver King*, Spettigue in Charley's *Aunt*, Lord Elton in *The Sorrows of Satan*, Rip in *Rip Van Winkle*, Marks in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, Hawkshaw in *Ticket-of-Leave Man*, Mons. Du Basson in *The Gamster of Metz*, Pete in *The Octoroon*, Abe Nathan in *Shadows of a Great City*, Mesmerist in *The Bells*, Old Drayton in *The Worst Woman in London*, Muldoon in *Muldoon's Picnic*, Major Galbraith in *Rob Roy*, Badger in *The Streets of London*, Achmed in *Relief of Lucknow*, Danny Mann in *The Colleen Bawn*, Harvey

Photo by Harris.

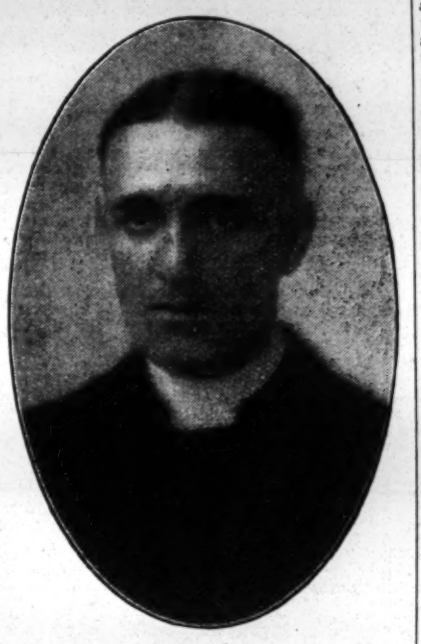
MR. DENIS LYNDON.

Duff in *The Shaughraun*, Sam Brown in *The Golden Chance*, De Vere in *A City of Pleasure*, Pat O'Dare in *On the Frontier*, Barney Bawn in *The Diver's Luck*, Dr. Caius in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, M. de Château Renaud in *The Corsican Brothers*, Ghost in *Hamlet*, Gobo in *Les Cloches de Corneville*, &c. He is author and producer of all Mr. Henry Benet's successful pantomimes, and under this gentleman's management toured in *Sergeant Brue*, sustaining the title-rôle and undertaking the stage management. He is engaged to play Major O'Neil in the autumn revival of *The Lady Slavey*. Besides being a keen fisherman, Mr. Lyndon is an excellent horseman, riding and driving being his favourite hobbies. He has lately taken over the Runnacleave Theatre, Ilfracombe, and in conjunction with his aunt (Mrs. A. Chown, proprietress of the Runnacleave Hotel), will run it during the coming season, most of the best known touring companies and concert parties having already been booked.

MR EDMUND KENNEDY.

Surviving the drudgery of several years "tied to the office-desk," Mr. Edmund Kennedy was given his first theatrical opportunity by Mr. J. B. Mulholland, who engaged him for an experimental fortnight as acting-manager at the Theatre Metropole, Camberwell. The engagement extended to three years, during which time Mr. Kennedy acquired a mastery of the business side of the profession, which he gratefully ascribes to Mr. Mulholland, of whose enterprise and managerial qualities he has the highest admiration. Thus equipped, Mr. Kennedy sought touring management, and was engaged by Mr. Leonard Boyne in that capacity, for a tour of *Sporting Life*. Then it was he essayed his first professional appearance as an actor under the management of Mr. Eade Montefiore, in a répertoire of Pinero plays, being entrusted with Inspector Messiter and Sergeant Lugg (doubled) in *The Magistrate*, Wedderburn in *Sweet Lavender*, and quite a host of small parts. He returned to acting-management, under Mr. Robert Courtneidge, at the Prince's Theatre, Manchester, for two years, and was subsequently engaged by Mr. Flanagan for a short season at the Queen's Theatre there in the parts of The Student and Brander in *Faust* and Gaspard in *The Lady of Lyons*.

Mr. Kennedy owes his chief all-round experience to Mr. Ben Greet, with whom he played some forty or fifty parts, including Colonel Anstruther in *The Second in Command* (plus stage-management), Old Adam and Jaques de Bois (doubled), Angelo in *The Comedy of Errors*, Starveling, Theseus, Vincentio, Oliver, Antonio, Gonzalo, Orsino, Hortensio, Mr. Page, and numerous other parts in Shakespeare and classic drama. Following this, he added to his experience by playing in "downright melodrama" for a few weeks, sometimes as many as five parts in a night, from a toothless old man of ninety to a stripling of twenty. His first chance of a "lead" was afforded by Mr. Mouillot, who gave him the character of Prince Dmitry in Tolstoi's *Resurrection*. He afterwards created the part of the comically-mad poet, Caerwon Moody, in the late Wilson Barrett's play, *The Never-Never Land*, later playing the juvenile lead, Jack Mowbray, in the same drama. He was engaged by Messrs. Armitage and Leigh for the "lead" in *Lucky Durham*, which he sustained throughout the provinces and London suburbs for over three years. "I must acknowledge my indebtedness to my old friends, Armitage and Leigh," says Mr. Kennedy, "for this opportunity of playing a great part in, I think, the late Wilson Barrett's greatest play." Other parts he has portrayed are Captain Molyneux in *The Shaughraun* and Richard Hare and Archibald Carlyle in the perennial *East Lynne*. On one occasion he "doubled" the parts of Carlyle and P.C. Bullock, and claims that his attempt to make the latter character funny aroused much laughter—in the orchestra! "I take pride in recording the fact," Mr. Kennedy observes, "that, thanks to the enterprise of my old friend, Mr. James Kiernan, I played the lead and produced *David Garrick* at his theatre for a whole week to packed houses." His last engagement has



MR. EDMUND KENNEDY.

been for six months in America as The Vicar in *The Servant in the House*, written by his brother, C. Rann Kennedy, which has enjoyed prolonged success in the States, and for which Mr. Kennedy anticipates a still greater triumph in this country.

MISS FYFE ALEXANDER.

The stage career of Miss Fyfe Alexander began with small parts on tour with Mr. Charles Steuart's répertoire of farces, *Our Flat*, *The Jerry-Builder*, and *Confusion*. Later she walked-on and understudied in town, and then was engaged by Mr. Seymour Hicks. While playing Fanny in *Quality Street* Mr. Barrie chose her for the invalid girl, Lady Milly, in *Little Mary*. When the piece was finally withdrawn from Wyndham's Theatre Miss Alexander went abroad. Returning to England a year later, she was engaged by Mr. Edward Terry to play Blanche in *Liberty Hall*, Minnie in *Sweet Lavender*, and Charlotte in *The Magistrate*. In the spring of 1907 she joined Mr. Charles Macdona to play Lady Gerania in *Dr. Wake's Patient*, with Mr. Thalberg Corbet as Dr. Wake. Then followed two tours as Lady Marion in *Robin Hood* with Mr. Lewis Waller's company. Other parts played at various times include Ruth Arhenser in *Mr. Smith* with Mr. Walter Reynolds, Sally Grace in *The Man from Mexico* with Mr. George Willoughby, Florence in *Uncle's Will*, Millicent in *The Bugle Call*, Claire Ffolliott in *The Shaughraun*, and Harriet in *Quality Street*.

[Photo by Schmidt.

MISS FYFE ALEXANDER.

This spring Miss Alexander is touring with *The Early Worm*, from Wyndham's Theatre.

THE Captain Macheath of Mme. Vestris, said a theatrical critic in 1822, was in her usual style of talent. But we much regret to see a lady perform this part. There are some male characters which from their romantic and softer colouring, may be represented by a woman; but Macheath is not one of them; he is a bold, dashing highwayman, the gentleman of low life, one who has a spice of gallantry in his ruffianism, and of ruffianism in his gallantry. His love is the coarsest profligacy, only carried off by the gaiety of overflowing spirits. A woman, in undertaking such a part, has to choose one of two evils: she must either play it as it ought to be, in which case she will infallibly be disgusting, or she must soften it down into a sprightly, but romantic lover, which, while it renders her interesting, presents a very different portrait from that intended by the author. Now Mme. Vestris chose, and wisely, the latter alternative; she threw all her natural witchery of voice and manner into the part, and as Mme. V. was delightful, but she was as little like Macheath as a rose is like a thistle; and we do think that decency is utterly violated by a woman playing the parts of coarse and brutal libertines; not all the sweetness of Vestris, her magic grace, her delicious smile, her soft melting tones—no, nor all the witchery of her eyes, will ever persuade us to the contrary.

AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, MARCH 17.—Mr. Robert Mantell, whose star is in the ascendant, has won new honours in a handsome revival of Shakespeare's *King John* at the New Amsterdam Theatre, his performance of the title-rôle having elicited a chorus of praise in which there is hardly a dissenting note. Mr. William Winter, the leading authority of this country on such matters, names Mr. Mantell as the leading Shakespearean actor of America in an exhaustive review of his performance, and credits him with "a noble achievement." Miss Marie Booth Russell, conspicuous for her beauty and dignity, gives a highly intelligent and sympathetic portrayal of the unhappy Constance, this being adjudged her finest embodiment. Hubert de Burgh and Prince Arthur, two of the most prominent characters in the play, have worthy representatives in Mr. Ethelbert Hales and Miss Leila Frost, the familiar incident of Hubert's attempt to burn out Prince Arthur's eyes being reproduced in a most effective manner. Mr. Fritz Leiber is an excellent Faulconbridge, Mr. James Brophy finely personifies the pride and authority of King Philip of France, and others who contribute to the success of the representation as a whole by their conscientious rendering of their respective rôles are Miss Lillian Kingsbury, Miss Lorraine Frost, and Miss Edith Campbell; Messrs. Guy Lindsley, L. Rogers Lytton, George Stilwell, Charles Keene, George Turner, William Bowen, Walter Campbell, and F. Dallas Cairns. *King John* had not been performed in New York since 1874, when John E. McCullough appeared at Booth's Theatre not as the King, but as Faulconbridge. King John was played by J. B. Booth, Prince Arthur by Minnie Maddern (now Mrs. Fiske), Constance by Agnes Booth, Hubert by H. A. Weaver, and the Dauphin by Gustavus Levick. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kean had appeared here in *King John* nine years previously. In the present instance Mr. Mantell announces that he has rearranged the play "to meet present-day requirements." There are seven acts with ten changes of scene. The first act passes in the throne room of the King's Palace, and the second occurs before the walls of Angiers. The third act has three settings, namely King Philip's tent, the plains near Angiers, and the King's tent again. Act four shows a room in the castle at Northampton, and act five the throne room in King John's palace. In act six we see the walls of the castle and the death leap of Prince Arthur. The first scene of the last act is an open space near Swinstead Abbey, and the closing scene takes place in the orchard of the Abbey. The play is splendidly mounted, and the stage management is in every respect admirable. Mr. Mantell is a native of Ayrshire. Before he came to America in the eighties, he was for several seasons a member of Miss Wallis's well-known company touring the English provinces.

"THE RICHEST GIRL," a farcical play in four acts, by Paul Gavault, adapted into English by Michael Morton, is the current attraction at the Criterion Theatre, *Samson* having ended its long run at that house and gone on tour. M. Gavault's play was probably much funnier in the original French than it is in English. One also suspects that some of the fun was rather naughty and had to be left out. Unfortunately the residue is rather inane. Paul Normand, a dull clerk in the Parliament of Agriculture, wins the confidence and approval of his chief, Mr. Mingasson, and being prosaic and conventional souls, they both arrive at the conclusion that Paul should marry Mingasson's daughter, the estimable Florise. Normand takes a cottage in the country in company with an ardent young artist, Felix Tarride. Benjamine Monnier, the daughter of a chocolate "king," being bent on a lark, compels her chauffeur to drive her far into the country at a late hour. The motor-car breaks down at Normand's very door, and on the eve of a visit from his chief and his prospective bride. Miss Monnier, who has an uncurbed temper and more money than she knows what to do with, takes complete possession of the place. Felix sees a possible chance of painting old Monnier's portrait, and of his friend's marrying an heiress, so he sticks his knife into another tyre and makes it impossible for "the richest girl" to proceed. Normand gives up his room and sleeps in an armchair. Next day there is a fine scene when the Mingassons—father and daugher—arrive and find the saucy Benjamine in possession of Paul's house. Paul's troubles multiply after that. Mr. Mingasson breaks off the engagement and leaves in a rage. Paul goes to his office, and after considerable trouble succeeds in regaining his chief's favour. But Benjamine suddenly appears on the scene, having come to Paul's office to thank him for some roses which she believes he has sent her, in order to make amends for his conduct in the country. Paul tries to get rid of her before his prospective father-in-law appears, but to spite him she stays and takes lunch with him. Her charm begins to make an impression upon him, and the result is that all engagements are again broken. Benjamine decides to enter a convent, but eventually she and Paul discover that they are in love with each other, and get married. Miss Marie Doro plays Benjamine very prettily, and is ably assisted by Miss Anne Meredith, Miss Ethel Morrey, Messrs. Louis Massen, Orrin Johnson, Fred Eric, Frank Burbeck, and Fred Tiden.

MISS HILDA SPONG, who is almost a stranger in New York nowadays, has a new play called *A Man and His Mate*, according to the "out-of-town" newspapers, in which she appears as a lady doctor, the scenes being laid in the "semi-civilised West." Dr. Elizabeth Breckenridge, familiarly known as Betty, falls in love with a horse thief named Harry Ogden, who has been caught by his pursuers, and is about to be strung up. Betty cuts the rope, and allows the thief to escape, afterwards concealing him behind her skirts when the miners and cowboys seek to recapture him. Then she gives him a hypodermic injection of morphine and takes him into her house for safety. Betty declines the love of her cousin, and reduces herself to the level of the fugitive thief, so strong is her passion for him. Choo Lang, an Americanised Chinaman, is introduced as secretary to Colonel Breckenridge, Betty's father. Through his good offices the Colonel is conciliated, the "family honour" is saved, and the ill-assorted pair are eventually united.

MRS. LESTER WALLACK, widow of the noted actor and manager, was the beneficiary of a special afternon performance at Wallack's Theatre on the 5th inst. The affair was under the auspices of the Association of Theatre Managers. The programme included nearly every prominent player in New York, the balcony scene from *Romeo and Juliet* being acted by Miss Eleanor Robson and Mr. William Faversham. The sum of three thousand dollars was realised.

MR. TOM E. MURRAY, the Baron of the *Boy Blue* pantomime at the Prince of Wales Theatre, Birmingham, had his benefit on the 19th inst. There was a big house, who greeted Mr. Murray with enthusiasm, and showered presents upon him. Among the "extra turns" was Mr. Wilkie Bard, who was greeted with a furore; little Miss Mona Cutler, in her dress of silver and white, danced three pretty dances, and was the recipient of a pretty little gold chain and pendant and a basket of chocolate; Seener and Fridkin's Russian Imperial Troupe danced wonderfully; Mr. Wilson Hallett contributed some very funny items; and Mr. Aubrey Fitzgerald, who came down with Mr. Wilkie Bard from Drury Lane, also sang two songs.

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, March 22, the Comedy, entitled
"MRS. DOT."

When a woman sets her mind to obtain anything she generally succeeds in getting what she wants. Such is the expressed dictum of Mrs. Worthley (widow of "Worthley's Entire"), who wants to marry Gerald Halstane, and, in spite of his being engaged to his cousin, Nellie Sellenger, she does so. How it is all realised is told in *Mrs. Dot*, Mr. W. Somerset Maugham's popular light comedy, played at the King's this week to substantial and appreciative audiences by Miss May Palfrey and company. The comedy is fitly described as light, but it is distinctly amusing, and was voted entirely satisfactory by the Monday night audience. As the widow, Mrs. Worthley, otherwise "Mrs. Dot," Miss May Palfrey scored a conspicuous and well-deserved triumph. Looking charming in some elegant gowns, she displayed talent of a high order. A huge success was made by Mr. F. Kinsey Peile as James Blenkinsop, his easy and natural acting lending every assistance to the rôle; Mr. Hugh C. Buckler scored as Gerald Halstane, giving a really good representation of the bewildered lover; Freddie Perkins was cleverly handled by Mr. Basil Hallam, the audience readily taking to him; Charles, the valet, was creditably undertaken by Mr. McIntyre Wicksteed; very good was Miss Emily Paterson as Lady Sellenger; and Miss Evelyn Kerry gave an entertaining rendering of Nellie Sellenger. Miss Annie Hill's Miss Eliza McGregor was in every way satisfactory. That new "thriller in little" *The Mystery of Redwood Grange* was also given. In it Mr. Weedon Grossmith (who met with a reception which must have gladdened his heart) acted Mr. Wilkins with great ability. His assumed bravado was delightfully expressed, and altogether Mr. Wilkins ought to become one of his popular rôles. Mr. H. C. Buckler did well as the coachman.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, March 22, the Play, by Alfred Sutro, entitled
"THE BUILDER OF BRIDGES."

Mr. George Alexander's company has been delighting good houses here by excellent performances of the above fine play. Mr. Leonard Pagden is admirably earnest, solid, and strong as Edward Thursfield. Miss Dorothy Green as Dorothy Faringay, supplies a clever impersonation. Mr. Lewis Fielder represents Arnold Faringay with subtlety and success. Mr. Arthur Vezin as Walter Gresham plays the part convincingly. Sir Henry Killick has an able exponent in Mr. Alfred Harris; and Mr. Percy D. Owen as Peter Holland is effectively characteristic. Mrs. Kemmis as Mrs. Debney introduces a capital comedy note; and as Miss Closson Miss Beatrice Smith is alert and intelligent. The visit of the company has been very successful.

CORONET THEATRE.

On Monday, March 22, the Musical Comedy entitled
"THE BELLE OF NEW YORK."

Mr. George Musgrove's *Belle of New York* company is presented by Messrs. J. Bannister Howard and Alexander Leighton, and the bright, exhilarating musical play proves that it still retains its sparkle and melody. Mr. Harold Wardroper as the young scapegrace Harry Bronson acts with discretion and conviction. Miss Alice Nixon is dainty and *chic* as Fifi Fricot, and her songs are rendered with plenty of naïveté and coquettish charm. Miss Winnie Brown is a dashing Cora Angelique, and besides acquitting herself well in her rôle, she takes part in a special and highly successful waltz scena, "La Caressante," which Mr. William Pringle, a capable whistler and comedian, who enacts the part of Blinky Bill McQuirk. Miss Florence Hersee as Mamie Clancy displays any amount of animation and agility, and contributes a special coon song and dance, which is remarkably well received. She is also a lively Kissie Fitzgarter. Mr. Arthur Ricketts proves himself a resourceful low comedian as Ichabod Bronson, and Mr. Jos. R. Tate, who stage-manages the show, is very excellent as the "polite lunatic." Mr. J. Brian Ridout and Mr. Ray L. Cody do good work as the Portuguese twins, and Mr. Alfred Sandoe is quite efficient as Doc Snifkins. Mr. Reginald Edwards is highly diverting as the moody and morose low comedian Kenneth Mugg. Miss Aimee Roberts invests the Salvation lassie Violet Gray with charm, and Misses Daisie Jennings, Ethel Hubert, and others enact the part of bridesmaids. Mr. B. J. Paterson wields the bâton.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.

On Monday, March 22, the Play, entitled
"TODDLES."

Mr. Murray King's company gave a highly-amusing rendering of Mr. Cyril Maude's successful play on Monday. Several alterations have been made in the original construction of the piece, all of them making for broader treatment and funnier farce. The child fiancée of Toddles has been omitted, and a more up-to-date rôle, in the person of one, Susan Strong, a Suffragette, substituted in her place. Mr. Murray King as Toddles was frankly farcical, and his well-acted indecision and amusing pranks raised shouts of laughter, especially in the bedroom scene in Paris. Freddy Gunner, his friend, was acted in a gentlemanly manner by Mr. J. V. Bryant, his quiet manner furnishing an excellent contrast to the eccentricities of the little nobleman. Mr. Joblyn's appearance itself was enough to cause hilarity, and Mr. Ardene Linden gave great character to the part. Mr. Mattie Cheshire made an entry as Boolby, a society entertainer, in the second scene, which innovation caused boundless mirth, both on and off the stage. Miss Naomi Nelson was incisive and striking as Lady Dover, who has so much to do with the action of the play. The part of Mrs. Joblyn was enthusiastically entered into by Miss Evelyn Shelley, causing her audience to shake with laughter at her many sallies of unconscious humour. Miss Ada Champion made Susan Strong a most uncompromising virago, both in her manner and attire, and Miss Mabel Ormonde as the designing widow, Mrs. Bowler, looked attractive in her many changes of costume. Miss Doris Langdon invested her part of the *ingenue*, Constance Joblyn, with much charm, acting naturally and making the most of her scene with Toddles in the last act. Mr. C. Douglas Cox as Haslitt, the moneylender, was brusque and breezy, and Mr. H. C. Peppin as Dr. Baird, the physician at the springs, was suave and professional in his manner. The Mayor at the Paris Registry Office was forcibly and amusingly outlined by Mr. Richard Webb, and Mr. Alexander Lee made a most discreet Valet. The play was preceded by the well-known curtain-raiser *The Fair Equestrienne*, in which Messrs. J. V. Bryant and C. Douglas Cox and Miss Ada Champion appeared, and which went excellently.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, March 22, the Drama, in Five Acts, entitled
"THE STREETS OF LONDON."

This popular drama is always favourably received in Marylebone, and this week the West Londoners have been most appreciative. Mr. Chas. Carte is a veritable tower of strength as Badger, and never once did this eminent emotional actor allow his energies to flag or his efforts to falter; and his performance quite stood out by itself, and was cheered accordingly. Mr. Robert Landore enacted Gideon Bloodgood in determined and relentless fashion; Mr. Morton Lester agreeably sustained Mark Livingstone; Mr. E. G. Brandon was decidedly good as the warm-hearted Puffy; and Mr. Arthur Henry Poole lent distinction to the rôle of Paul Fairweather. Miss Ethel Faithful's portrayal of Lucy Fairweather was a touchingly sympathetic one; Miss Winnie Rose was pertly amusing as Dan Puffy; whilst Miss Claire Reynolds was quite at her ease as the scheming plotter Aleda Bloodgood. The minor characters were all carefully played, and the Fire scene was admirably worked, and excited much interest.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, March 22, the Musical Comedy, entitled
"THE MERRY WIDOW."

The first visit of *The Merry Widow* to Kennington Theatre drew an enormous house on Monday. The production is up to the high standard of excellence always associated with Mr. George Edwardes's enterprises, and nothing is wanting to make the show go with a swing from start to finish. The mounting and dressing of the musical comedy leave nothing to be desired, and the grounds of Sonia's house form one of the most artistic settings that could have been possibly devised. An augmented orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Andrew Maccunn, does full justice to Franz Lehar's marvellous music, and the talented company over which Mr. J. E. Malone exercises his genial sway do their work with an interest and freshness which are more characteristic of a new production than of a play which has been going strong for over two years.

Miss Clara Evelyn makes as captivating a Sonia as any who have ever filled the part, enacting it with a grace of manner and charm of personality that are deserving of the warmest praise. Her singing is very fine, her dancing clever, and in the "Merry Widow" waltz with Danilo she scores a big triumph. In the latter rôle Mr. Basil Foster is magnificent, bright, lively, and full of humour, a clever dancer, a good singer, an ardent lover, and in every way the beau-ideal of the dashing young Prince. He quite won everyone's heart on Monday by his delightful style in his many encounters with Sonia. Mr. Eric Thorne proves himself to be a remarkably able comedian as Baron Popoff, and his quaint mannerisms keep the audience in a hilarious mood whenever he is in evidence—which is most of the time. Mr. Thorne's skilful work should take him far in the realms of musical comedy. Mr. W. Talleur Andrews made a manly figure as Vicomte Camille de Jolidon, singing admirably, while the Natalie of Miss Nora Brocklebank was excellently presented. The duet between this couple was a splendid piece of vocalisation. Mr. George Miller was well placed as the Marquis de Cascada, and Mr. W. H. Rawlins was responsible for a lot of genuine fun by his treatment of the rôle of Nisch. The General Novakovitch of Mr. Theo Leonard was decidedly amusing, and Mr. William Spray cut an odd figure as the waiter at Maxim's. Miss Mabel Russell's dances were quite a wonderful exposition of the Terpsichorean art, and Miss Sylvia May deserves mention as Novakovitch's wife. The Misses Dorothy Le Brun, Norah Wadeley, Lilly Hadley, Muriel Francis, and Norah Stock made a bevy of beauty as the girls at Maxim's, and two others who danced and sang with great credit, besides looking exceedingly pretty withal, were Miss Pollie Edwards and Miss Kathleen Courtney. The parts of M. de St. Brioche and M. Khadga were adequately filled by Mr. Norman Greene and Mr. Robert Whitehouse respectively. A feature of the production which should not escape notice is the strong and well-balanced chorus, the concerted numbers being splendidly rendered. Mr. H. B. Brandreth, the manager, is to be congratulated on the enterprise shown in bringing *The Merry Widow* south of the river.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, March 22, the Drama,
"THE BEGGAR GIRL'S WEDDING."

A good drama is always sure of a warm welcome from patrons of the Shakespeare Theatre, and the visit this week of *The Beggar Girl's Wedding* has resulted in crowded houses at every performance. The production is that of the author, Mr. Walter Melville, whose name is an assurance of excellence, and the play has been set with great care. The company, too, have been specially selected, and their interpretation of the piece leaves nothing to be desired. Mr. Otto Minster makes a fine manly Jack Cunningham, and his vigorous acting and earnest manner is well in keeping with the rôle Mr. Herbert Morgan gives a convincing embodiment of the scheming Gilbert Lindsay, and Mr. James C. Taylor brings his ripe experience to bear on the part of Robert Grimshaw with satisfactory results. A sound rendering of Norman Marsh is given by Mr. Ernest G. Batley, and Mr. Frank McClellan earns applause by his clever impersonation of the mad Physician, Dr. Millbank. Mr. Harry Playfair and Mr. Horace Kenny as Joe Webster and his accomplice, the Dodger, both contribute excellent character studies. Mr. Herbert Lloyd as Dicky Storm and Miss Daisy Meynard as Tina Torkington keep the audience in roars of laughter by their low comedy. Miss Vashti Wynne as Bessie Webster has a thorough grip of the character, and quickly wins the sympathy of the audience by her pathetic enactment of the rôle. Miss Doris Whyte is a prepossessing Elsie Cunningham, and the relentless Maud Villiers is strongly portrayed by Miss Olive Warne, whose stylish appearance and refined manner serve to intensify the spite and malevolence of the rôle. Miss Anita Playfair also renders good support, and the minor parts are satisfactorily interpreted.

THE FULHAM.

On Monday, March 22, the Musical Pantomimical Farce, entitled
"HIS MAJESTY'S GUESTS."

Mr. Fred Karno's company has been visiting Fulham with *His Majesty's Guests*, which entertainment is as mixed in character as its description would seem to imply. But it seems to find favour with considerable audiences. The fun of the piece pivots largely upon Mr. George Hestor as Sergeant Lightning, an eccentric policeman. Mr. Hestor is quite equal to the occasion, and never fails with repartee or business, and he is largely responsible for the flow of laughter. Mr. E. O. Freshwater does well as Lord Easem, and contributes one or two excellent songs in good style. Mr. C. Usher is quiet and effective as Mr. Miffin, and Mr. C. Griffiths is good as his nephew Harry. Mr. Richardson as Bunker, Mr. Sid Kearns as Mr. Minks, an impossible sort of curate, and Mr. S. Bolton as Fritz, the doorkeeper, show great ability in the acrobatic knockabout line, and Mr. Kearns further contributes some lively dances. Mr. S. Gosling as the butler also helps the business along. Miss Edith Ager makes a charming representative of Dolly Miffin, while Miss Kitty Brunton is vigorous and impressive as Miss Manley, a "new woman." Mr. Tom Manardo as Selina, the maid, is "put among the girls"; his make-up is excellent, and he aids Mr. Hestor and Mr. Griffiths in some smart business; Miss Florence Pragnell fills in the part of Miss Macherel satisfactorily. Miss Aggie Morris is a most able exponent of Lady Maud Easem. There are some good songs and choruses in the piece, notably a capital song and dance by the gang of burglars. The piece is handsomely mounted, and the dresses are very fine.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, N.

On Monday, March 22, the Musical Comedy, in Two Acts, by Seymour Hicks, Music by Guy Jones, Lyrics by Arthur Wimperis, entitled
"THE GAY GORDONS."

Musical comedy forms the attraction at the Alexandra Theatre this week in the shape of Mr. Seymour Hicks's production of *The Gay Gordons*, which found considerable success on its production further West, a success that has since been largely added to elsewhere. The favour it has found is not to be wondered at, for it is one of the daintiest and prettiest specimens of its class, and far superior to many of its kind. Much, of course, depends on the representatives of Angus Graeme and Peggy Quainton, for to them falls the lion's share of the work and the responsibility of bringing matters to a successful issue. Fortunately, in the present instance two artists are at hand who are more than equal to all demands made upon them, and who work with unflagging energy and complete success throughout the piece. It would be difficult to conceive a more charming and captivating performance of Peggy Quainton than that given by Miss Madge Crichton, and Mr. Frank Lincoln plays Angus Graeme with a dash and virility and evident enjoyment that carry all before them. Mr. Tom Graves's eccentric and droll sketch of the showman Nervy Nat causes a good deal of amusement, and a very clever study of the showman's wife, Charlotte Siddons, comes from Miss Ida Laurie. The good work done by Mr. Edward Nainby is somewhat discounted by the extravagance of his make-up, which savours rather more of pantomime than musical comedy, with all its licence. A very finished and polished performance of Andrew Quainton is given by Mr. Ernest Ruston, and a vivacious and alert Victoria Siddons is found in Miss Mabel Dent. Others in a lengthy cast who share in the general success are Messrs. Norman Forrest, Mervyn Dane, Melville Florence, J. Cranston Neville, and Buchanan Wake; and Misses Emily Mellon, Gwynneth Hughes, and Norah Guiness. The play is excellently dressed and mounted, and more than a word of praise is due to the large and well-drilled chorus. The augmented orchestra is under the experienced direction of Mr. Arthur Spittle.

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE THEATRE.

On Monday, March 22, the Drama, entitled
"WHO IS SHE?"

The above very exciting drama, abundant with thrilling situations, is proving a great attraction here this week. Mr. E. Hill Miichelson (the author of the play) is responsible for a fine performance of the villainous Prince Bora; Mr. Graham Woods adopts an easy yet impressive style as the kind-hearted and loyal Prince Vladamir. Mr. Sinclair Holden in the character of Captain Arthur Gower is at his best as the nervous lover of Countess Ladori, a character undertaken with excellent results by Miss Alice Barber. Mr. Alfred Grenville gives a manly impersonation of the brave old soldier Sergeant Metroff, and Miss Marie Robson as the callous and revengeful Keta Noveitch provides an interesting study. Miss Violet Carlyle enacts the difficult and sympathetic rôle of the unknown woman Who is She? in an earnest and convincing manner. The part of the Little King is in the capable hands of Miss Mabel Ronald, and Miss Mary Collier is a decidedly taking maid as Sarette. The Chinaman Chang-Tee is played to advantage by Mr. Edward Swinton, and Mr. George Scully appears as Paul, the manservant. The drama is well dressed and staged.

THEATRE ROYAL, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, March 22, the Drama entitled
"THE WORLD AND THE WOMAN."

Mr. J. Rice Cassidy's company is appearing here this week in the above domestic drama. Written by L. C. Cassidy, the play is plentifully supplied with stirring situations, which are made the most of in the hands of a well-selected cast, and prove delectable morsels to the patrons of this house, who accord the drama a hearty reception. Mr. George H. Doyle sustains the rôle of Arthur Burleigh in an impressive manner, and delivers his lines with good effect. Mr. St. George Frere makes a capable Ludlow Burleigh, and scores well in the unsympathetic part of a rogue. Mr. J. Rice Cassidy, in the character of Tut Harding, offers a clever and diverting characterisation, which produces much laughter. Mr. Rolf Leslie as Terry O'Harris merits commendation for a sound impersonation. Mr. Henry Compton makes the most of his opportunities as Sir Francis Chalmers, and the same may be said of Mr. Frank Copland as the Hon. Willie. Mr. Carl Beechy is suitably placed as Hike. Old Robert has a good representative in Mr. R. Cockroft, and Mr. Stanley Wilford undertakes the part of Capt. Barclay. Mrs. J. Rice Cassidy submits an excellent study of Nelly, her acting being characterised by a judicious blending of pathos and lightness. Miss Amy McNeill makes a prominent figure of Lady Marion Chalmers. Miss M. Trevelyan is amusing as Libby, a Yorkshire servant. Gwendoline is adequately played by Miss Rose Hallas, and Miss Violet Parker acts well and affords much pleasure as Nina.

THE BROADWAY, NEW CROSS.

On Monday, March 22, the Play, entitled
"THE THIEF."

Mr. George Alexander's company, in the St. James's success, *The Thief*, is attracting large and well-pleased audiences this week. Mr. Rupert Lister makes a great hit by a very fine rendering of the part of Richard Chelford; Mr. Cyril Harcourt plays Raymond Leyton admirably; Mr. Owen Nares gives a delightfully fresh and youthful impersonation of Harry Leyton; Mr. Luke Forster submits an excellent performance of Mr. Protheroe; and the servant is well played by Mr. Bernard Stevens. Miss Marie Polini as Marise Chelford deserves the highest praise for her remarkably clever study, the great scene between husband and wife rousing the audience to enthusiasm. Miss Frances Leighton looks and acts well as Isabel Leyton. The play is charmingly dressed and lavishly mounted. It is preceded by a clever one-act piece, entitled *The Nursery Governess*, admirably acted by Mr. Charles King, Mr. Luke Forster, Miss Eileen Kerin, and Mr. Bernard Stevens. Mr. W. H. Griffiths is the general-manager of the company, and Mr. Bertram Iles, the local manager, looks well after the comfort of patrons.

A PANTOMIME SUPPER.

In order to celebrate the great success that has attended his pantomime of *Red Riding Hood*, at the Theatre Royal, Bristol, Mr. Ernest Carpenter on Wednesday night entertained the principal members of the pantomime company at supper, at the Crown and Dove Hotel, Bridewell-street, where the guests were, as usual, catered for in first-class style by Mr. David Crombie. In the unavoidable absence of Mr. Ernest Carpenter in London, Mr. H. C. Alty, the resident-manager, presided, and proved a most genial and courteous chairman. He was supported by, amongst others, Mr. Horace Livermore, Mr. Sid Macaire, Mr. George Chapman, Mr. F. S. Green, Mr. E. Jacobs, Mr. Frank Victor, Mr. Scott-Barrie, Mr. J. May, Mr. E. Walker, Mr. I. Harvey, Mr. Frank Hemming, Mr. W. Fowler, Miss Ethel Hall, Miss Daisie Dennis, Miss Margaret Webster, and Miss Nellie Danvers. After the toast of "The King," submitted by the President, came "Bristol Theatre Royal," proposed by Mr. Horace Livermore, and responded to, in suitable terms, by Mr. H. C. Alty. "Pantomime Artists," given by Mr. I. Harvey, came next, Mr. Frank Hemming being the responder. "The Ladies" was a congenial theme for Mr. Sid Macaire, and Mr. K. Scott-Barrie and Miss E. Hall replied. "Visitors," by Mr. E. Jacobs, was acknowledged by Mr. George Chapman. "The Chairman" was submitted by Mr. F. S. Green, and Mr. Alty replied. "The Host, Mr. Crombie," was given in felicitous terms by Mr. Alty; and Mr. Ivor Harvey submitted "Mr. Horace Livermore," who suitably responded. The proceedings were rendered additionally enjoyable by the splendid vocal and other contributions by professional members of the company, all of which were thoroughly appreciated, particularly Mr. Scott-Barrie's "specialities." The proceedings were pleasant and harmonious.

"THE EARLY WORM" AT DALSTON.

Allan Marchmount .....Mr. Lionel Rignold
George Duke of Tadcaster
Mr. T. Warburton Gamble
Lord Steyne .....Mr. Frank Graham
Sir William Mayton .....Mr. Raymond Dudley
Captain Baxter .....Mr. H. W. Pierre
Tom .....Mr. Eric H. Albury
Boatman .....Mr. Donald Dawson
Sailor .....Mr. Robert Melrose
Naylor .....Mr. Geoffrey Ellis
Sybil Annesley .....Miss Fyfe Alexander
Lady Steyne .....Miss Marie Daltra

Mr. Lionel Rignold's company in Mr. F. Lonsdale's farcical comedy, *The Early Worm*, has met with a most flattering reception this week at the Dalston Theatre. Of course, it need hardly be said that this is mainly due to Mr. Lionel Rignold's laughable enactment of the rôle of Allan Marchmont, otherwise known as the Early Worm. The piece was first produced at Wyndham's Theatre on September 7 last, and we then dealt fully with the machinations of the Duke of Tadcaster, and his friend Lord Steyne, and of the Worm. Sybil Annesley, an heiress, and the Duke are in love with each other, and the girl, in order to make the young nobleman jealous, arranges a pretty little scheme whereby she advances to Allan Marchmount, a penniless bounder, a sum of £20,000 to buy her fiancé's yacht the Firefly. The bargain having been concluded, Marchmount invites Sybil and Lady Steyne on board as his guests, and in the second act, in the cabin of the yacht, everybody arrives. The fun is kept going by the rivals—the Worm and the Duke—making endeavours to secure the favour of the heiress. The repentant Duke bribes the steward to fall overboard, and permit himself to be rescued; but the Worm has become a little previous with a precisely similar ruse, and it is he that wins the coveted reputation for bravery by plunging in and saving the well-paid victim. The Duke, who, has been so neatly foiled, has no scruples about locking his rival in the yacht cabin and leaving him to his fate; but the Worm dives through a porthole, and turns up to dinner in the last act with a remarkable tale of his adventures at sea. As a matter of fact, he has been picked up by a boatman after an immersion of two minutes. In the end the Worm, realising that Sybil loves the Duke and that there is no chance for him, behaves quite like a good sort of fellow, and even endeavours to shield the two noblemen over a rather compromising meeting with two young ladies. However, there is forgiveness all round, and as the curtain falls all the people are on the best of terms with each other.

One could scarcely imagine a more intensely humorous characterisation than that of Mr. Lionel Rignold of the Worm, and the success of the production is his success. Nothing could be more entertaining than the quips and oddities and mannerisms with which he imbues the part, and which have in the past, in other farcical rôles, won for Mr. Rignold such praise from the critics and such admiration from his audiences. So he impersonates the ridiculous, good-natured bounder with an abundance of fun and inimitable byplay that are simply irresistible in their mirth-provoking qualities. With such a part Mr. Rignold naturally has his hands full, and it is, therefore, highly creditable to him that he should contrive to portray the Worm's laughable absurdities in a sustained fashion throughout the three acts. Mr. Rignold scores heavily in every scene in which he appears. Miss Marie Daltra is seen in a really capital character study as the fault-finding Lady Steyne, and Miss Fyfe Alexander is most engaging as Sybil Annesley. The Duke of Tadcaster has a breezy, light-hearted representative in Mr. T. Warburton Gamble, and Mr. Frank Graham is distinctly good as the somewhat larkish Lord Steyne. Mr. Eric H. Albury cuts a most ludicrous figure as the despondent cabin-boy Tom; and Mr. Raymond Dudley as Sir William Mayton, Mr. H. W. Pierre as Captain Baxter and Mr. Donald Dawson as a boatman, submit commendable embodiments. The play, which is excellently mounted and staged, is preceded by the one-act piece by E. Vivian Edmonds, entitled *The Wedding Morn*, in which Mr. Raymond Dudley as Mark Lindon, K.C., Mr. Eric H. Albury as Cecil Lindon and Miss Christine Jenson as Mrs. Jowett are responsible for some interesting and able acting. Mr. Sydney R. Palfrey is the able acting manager for Mr. Rignold, and Mr. Eric H. Albury performs the duties of stage manager.

"EVERYMAN" AT THE CORONET.

Liberal encouragement is given to Mr. Robert Arthur's enterprise in reviving the beautiful allegory *Everyman*, and a full house witnessed the first of a series of performances at the Coronet on Wednesday afternoon. The play, which was produced under the stage direction of Mr. Wm. Poel, has a sumptuous setting, and is treated by the performers with reverent care. The "mystery," which is intended to exalt the Catholic doctrine of confession, may serve as a wholesome and edifying exercise for the penitential season, while its picturesque scenes and incidents appeal strongly to the dramatic student. Since its reintroduction to the London stage some years ago the play has enthralled audiences both in England and America, and it may be regarded as easily first among the "mysteries" which have found their way to the platform in recent times.

The names of the performers in the present revival were not identified with the characters on the programme, but one recognised with pleasure in the impersonation of the arduous rôle of Everyman that clever and resourceful actress Miss Lucy Wilson, whose emotional power and elocutionary ability were employed with never-failing effect. The terror of Everyman when he learns of his impending doom, his abortive appeals to his friends for assistance, his submission to the advice of Knowledge and Good Dedes, and his eventual passage through tribulation to the celestial sphere were portrayed with unerring skill, and exercised a profound impression. All the other parts were distinguished by care and ability, and the distinctness enunciation in every case was agreeably apparent. The sonorous voice of the actor who represented the Adonai was invaluable in the impressive lines he has to deliver, and a contrast was furnished in the rôle of Death, whose rapid monotone was very whimsical. Felaship was represented briskly, and his lines delivered by an actor with a remarkably melodious voice; and Cosyn and Kyndrede were equally well represented. Good Dedes was sympathetically treated by a clever lady, who spoke her lines in a refrain curiously resembling part of the air in the prison scene in *Il Trovatore*. Knowledge, too, had a gentle and dignified exponent, and the four young ladies who represented Strength, Dyscresion, Five-Wyttes, and Beaute were all comely and well-spoken. The names of the artists taking part in the production, in addition to Miss Wilson, were Misses Cora Busch, Hilda Fletcher, Mary Large, Ernita Lascelles, Isabella Merson, and Ruth Power, and Messrs. Richard Evans, Arthur Hands, Bevan Lorrimer, W. Nugent Monck, Herbert Ranson, Allan Smith, and Alfred Steerman.

An "Ave Maria" was exquisitely sung at the beginning by a lady with a cultivated soprano, and the incidental choruses were rendered in finished style. The performance is to be repeated at the Fulham Theatre this afternoon, at the Kennington on Wednesday next, and at the Coronet on April 7 and 8.

Mr. Editor,—Sir,—May I correct a slight error in to-day's issue. My name is Clive, not Philip, Currie.—Yours faithfully, Clive Currie, Actors' Association, 353, Strand, W.C. March 20.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the council of the Actors' Association was held at 353, Strand, on Tuesday. Mr. Robson Paige was in the chair, and amongst those present were Mr. H. W. Mote (honorary solicitor), Messrs. C. Hayden Coffin, Richard A. Greene, Clive Currie, F. J. Arlton, J. Sebastian Smith, Langford Reed, and Mr. Hubert Blount (secretary).

The secretary read letters from two members tendering their resignations as members of the A.A., and the secretary received instructions to write and ask for their subscriptions for the current year before their resignations can be accepted, and expressing the hope that they will reconsider their decision.

Mr. Mote then read the resolution which he was asked to draw up with reference to the council sitting after a quorum ceased to exist, and which is as follows:—"That a management committee be appointed, all members of the council being ex-officio members of such committee, and that the duties of such committee be to deal with all matters of the weekly agenda when a quorum of the council is not present, three members of such committee to form a quorum." This was proposed by Richard A. Greene, seconded by Mr. Hayden Coffin, and carried, and instructions were given to put same in Standing Order Book.

Mr. Arlton read the Finance Committee's report, which the council adopted.

The following nominations were made: Edward Lewis, proposer C. F. Collings, seconder E. Vassall-Vaughan; Joan Durant, proposer Rita Sponti, seconder Clarence Derwent. Miss Dorothy Rundell was elected a member of the A.A.

Mr. Hayden Coffin proposed that Mr. Raleigh be elected Deputy to the V.A.F. to support Mr. Harcourt's Bill. On the proposal of Mr. Coffin, seconded by Mr. Greene, the following resolution was passed:—"That Mr. Raleigh be authorised to represent the A.A. as Deputy to the V.A.F. to support Mr. Harcourt's Bill so far as it effects sketches," and the secretary received instructions to write to Miss Mathews thanking her for her letter, and inclosing a copy of the above resolution.

Mr. Paige proposed that a circular, drawing attention to the resolution passed at the last general meeting and other matters of importance the council had in hand, be sent out with the whip. Mr. Paige read a letter from Mr. Cecil Raleigh, together with a draft of a slip which the latter had drawn up, and the secretary received instructions to have this copied and sent to every member of the council, asking them to send in their comments and additions before Tuesday next.

Mr. J. Garrett Todd was reinstated.

Mr. Raleigh's letter of the 16th inst. was again discussed, and the secretary received instructions to reply. With regard to the abolition of the agency fee, the council thought the matter required a larger council than the present one, and was therefore deferred, and with regard to the editing of the minutes this was entirely in the hands of the chairman, and that nothing further can be done in the matter.

The secretary reported that he had heard that no reply had been received by the A.U. to the invitation of the members of the A.A. to attend the A.U. debates every Tuesday, and the secretary thereupon communicated with Mr. Blackmore informing him that a letter had been sent on the 10th inst., and received a letter from Mr. Blackmore to the effect that the letter-box belonging to the A.U. had been robbed, and that the said letter was amongst those purloined.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—Surely after recent events at the Waldorf and Aldwych Theatres every member of our calling will join the Actors' Association and help to support the following resolution, which was carried by an enormous majority at the last general meeting:—"That the council be instructed to exert during the ensuing year their best endeavours to obtain for all members of our calling a payment when in an engagement of not less than £2 per week, a payment for rehearsals, and payment for all matinées."—Yours faithfully,
ROBSON PAIGE.

353, Strand, W.C., March 24.

ACTORS' UNION.

The usual committee meeting of the Actors' Union took place at 49, Bedford-street, on the 19th inst. The following members were present:—Messrs. Frank Gerald, Jerrold Heather, J. W. Braithwaite, Walter L. Rignold, Henry Bedford, A. Maitland Stapley and Kenneth Blackmore (secretary).

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The secretary was instructed to write to a member asking for full particulars with reference to a bogus manager. A special committee meeting will be called for the purpose of discussing the rules as revised by Messrs. Gerald and Blackmore, after which a general meeting will be called to place before the members such revisions as are approved of by the committee for adoption.

The secretary reported that letters containing postal orders addressed to the office have not been received, and that he had placed the matter in the hands of the police. Mr. Heather proposed, and Mr. Stapley seconded, that those members whose orders had been cashed be credited with the amount of their orders.

Messrs. Arthur Watts and Philip Campbell-Gilbert and Miss Madeleine Maude were elected members.

The following are the committee for the Actors' Union Athletic Club:—Misses May Conrade and Nelly Howitt, and Messrs. A. George Fry, Fred Chesham, Watty Brunton, Frank Harvey, Monte Maitland, Langford Reed (hon. secretary), and Walter L. Rignold (hon. treasurer). A meeting of the above committee was held on Tuesday last at the offices of the Union and Miss Conrade proposed, and Miss Howitt seconded, that the colours of the club be Actors' Union blue of the shade of their 1907 stamp.

Mr. Maitland proposed, and Mr. Brunton seconded, that all preliminary arrangements be left in the hands of Messrs. Rignold and Reed.

Mr. Rignold proposed, and Mr. Fry seconded, that the subscription to the club be as follows:—Member for full season, 5s.; member for half season, 2s. 6d. (six matches to constitute a half season); non-playing members, 1s.

Mr. Rignold proposed, and Mr. Fry seconded, that an advertisement be sent to the *Sporting Life* and any other papers that may be deemed necessary for the use of a private cricket ground.

Mr. Fry proposed, and Mr. Chesham seconded, that half-season members be entitled to become full-season members on further payment of 2s. 6d. at any time.

Mr. Rignold proposed, and Mr. Chesham seconded, that three members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

The treasurer reported that a donation of 15s. had been received from Miss Conrade.

The committee wish to inform the members that Mr. George Alexander has consented to become the president of the club, and that Messrs. W. H. Bulbeck and Frank Lincoln have accepted the position of vice-presidents.

Members who are desirous of joining the club are asked to send their applications to Mr. Langford Reed, hon. secretary A.U. Athletic Club, 49, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C.

THE DRAMATIC DEBATERS.

As a result of a recent competition among the members of the society known as the Dramatic Debaters, four new one-act plays were produced on Sunday evening at the Court Theatre. None of the pieces was remarkable from a point of view of dramatic authorship, although each was extremely well acted.

The opening play was

"IN THE SILENCE OF THE VELDT,"
by Horace Collins.

Basil Thornton .....MR. A. HOLMES-GORE
Muriel Thornton
MISS BEATRICE FORBES-ROBERTSON
Jim Strong .....MR. PHILIP KNOX
Jack Hasler .....MR. R. HENDERSON BLAND

The scene is a prospector's camp in a kopje in the veldt, South Africa, and here Basil and Muriel Thornton, who have not been very long married, are happy in the possession of each other's love. But when another prospector, Jack Hasler, is brought to the tent suffering from black water fever, Basil becomes acquainted with an unfortunate page of his wife's history. In days gone by she had loved Jack Hasler, who now in his delirium, confesses to the wrong he did her, and refers to the child that was born. Then he passes to another world. There is an angry scene between Basil and Muriel, the former threatening to leave her; but, in the end, partly through the kindly offices of a friend, Jim Strong, there is a reconciliation. Miss Beatrice Forbes-Robertson struck a deep note of appealing pathos as Muriel; and Mr. A. Holmes-Gore as the husband, Mr. Philip Knox as Jim Strong, and Mr. R. Henderson Bland as the sick man, submitted most effective characterisations.

"JENKINS' WIDOW,"
by Priscilla Craven (Mrs. Teignmouth Shore).

Nurse Burton .....MISS MARY BARTON
Mrs. Wilks .....MISS CLARE GREET
Rev. Oswald Courtenay..MR. RICHARD HATTERAS
Lizzie Jenkins .....MISS SYDNEY FAIRBROTHER
Bill Jenkins .....MR. FRANK ESMOND

To put this story briefly, Bill Jenkins, a Covent Garden porter, is seriously ill, and knows that he has not many hours to live. Before he dies, however, he wants to see what his wife will look like in the widow's habiliments she will don at his funeral, and he insists that he shall be buried in a nice, genteel sort of way. So Lizzie Jenkins borrows a mourning costume, and duly appears in it before Bill, who expresses his delight thereat, and shortly afterwards expires. Miss Sydney Fairbrother furnished an exceedingly clever portraiture as Mrs. Jenkins; and Mr. Frank Esmond as the husky-voiced Bill Jenkins sustained a difficult rôle in a manner that did him infinite credit. Miss Clare Greet as Mrs. Wilks and Miss Mary Barton as a Nurse, submitted interesting and well-acted minor characterisations.

"THE HOUSE OF THE TRAITOR,"
Adapted from the French story, "Mateo Falcone," of Prosper Merimée, by Rathmell Wilson.

Fortunato .....MISS MURIEL VARNA
Gianetto Sanpiero .....MR. ESMÉ PERCY
Tiodoro Gamba .....MR. WILLIAM FAZAN
A Soldier .....MR. E. MARSDEN
Giuseppa .....MISS FRANCES DILLON
Mateo Falcone .....MR. R. HENDERSON BLAND

In the yard of Mateo Falcone's house on the Corsican plateau poor Gianetto Sanpiero, who is being hunted by the soldiers, takes refuge. He is hidden in an adjoining shed by Fortunato, the young son of Mateo. When the soldiers arrive Fortunato at first refuses to give any information as to Gianetto's whereabouts, but betrays his trust on being offered a watch and chain. Gianetto is immediately secured, and the soldiers march off with their prisoner. A few minutes later Mateo denounces his son as the first traitor of the family; and, in spite of his wife's entreaties, takes him away from her sight for a few minutes. A shot is heard, and the father returns with the dead body in his arms. Each one of the characters was ably represented, Miss Muriel Varna being boyish and natural as Fortunato, Mr. Esmé Percy presenting a pitiable picture of the hunted Gianetto, Mr. R. Henderson Bland stern and unbending as the father, Mateo Falcone, and Miss Frances Dillon affectionate and pleading as the mother.

"THE OTHER TENTH OF THE LAW,"
by Edith A. Browne.

Miriam Hardy .....MISS KATE RORKE
Paul Ray .....MR. A. HOLMES-GORE
Harry Hardy .....MR. CYRIL BRUCE
Princess Cerica .....MISS MABEL KNOWLES

It is not necessary to enter with detail into the story of this playlet. It concerns a mother's desire to keep her son from going to sea, how she nearly frustrates his intentions in that respect, and how, at the last moment, she repents. Miss Kate Rorke was seen in an admirable study of the distressed mother, who dreads the thought of the dangers inseparable from a seafaring life. Miss Mabel Knowles' emobdiment of a gypsy (Princess Cerica) was distinctly clever; and Mr. Cyril Bruce as the lad who wants to go to sea and Mr. A. Holmes-Gore as his uncle, suitably enacted their rôles.

AMUSEMENTS IN BARCELONA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BARCELONA, MARCH 8.—The Soriano is, as usual, doing good business. This hall is the oldest in Barcelona, and many of the best English artists have been introduced to Spain by its management. Miss Morrisini's troupe of wolf-hounds are admirably trained, and their powers of jumping are extraordinary. The Piccaninnies, a number of coloured ladies and gentlemen, are excellent. The Apache Dance calls for great praise, and reflects credit upon Les Florence-Macherini, a South American couple.

"THE MERRY WIDOW" is being rehearsed at the Nuevo Teatro.

THE Circo Barcelonos has an attractive programme. Montreal and his negro give a highly-finished amusing performance. Miss Daisy French, unicyclist, does an acceptable turn. Lina Bocaris appears in a Salome dance. Parisette, a Parisian star, and La Bella Deodima, are applauded for their classical poses.

BARCELONA, MARCH 20.—This week a new law comes into action here that no woman under the age of sixteen shall upon any condition be engaged at a music hall in Barcelona, and all below the age of twenty-three must have the verbal consent of their parents or legal guardians. Proprietors are forbidden to lodge artists upon the premises, and there must be no private boxes or rooms to which the general public have not at all times access.

MESSRS. SORIANO will close the Soriano on the 28th to facilitate the alterations and improvements that it has been decided to make there. Cromwell and Dood, comedy acrobats, are here, and their reception has been all that could be desired. The Nine Piccaninnies should have finished last week, but the management prevailed upon them to stay for a further fifteen days. This talented troupe will make their first appearance in England, under a two-years' contract, in September. The Eclaire Company is here, one of their number performing upon a trapeze fixed to a motor-cycle going at full speed on a teacup-track. Luis and Luis add fresh laurels to their former successes; and Matulla, Japanese magician, completes an attractive programme.

THE performance of *An Englishman's Home* at the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, on Monday, was under the patronage of the Duke of Beaufort, the High Sheriff of Bristol, and other distinguished people. The theatre was gaily decorated with flags, &c., and the audience was very enthusiastic.

"THE THREE BARROWS."

A Play in Four Acts, by Charles McEvoy, Produced for the First Time on any stage at the Gaiety Theatre, Manchester, on Monday, March 22.

Albert .....MR. LEONARD MUDIE
Clara .....MISS HILDA BRUCE POTTER
Sir George Ossler .....MR. EDWARD LANDOR
Louise Parker .....MISS MAY SAKER
Mrs. Cruddas .....MISS LILIAN CHRISTINE
Geoffrey Parker .....MR. BASIL DEAN
Victor Meux .....MR. B. IDEN PAYNE
Jackson .....MR. GERARD WYNNE
Joseph Picter .....MR. CHARLES BIBBY
Edward Frith .....MR. HENRY AUSTIN
Anna .....MISS MONA LIMERICK
Robert Frith .....MR. LEWIS CASSON
Caroline Ossler .....MISS LOUISE HOLBROOK

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The title of Mr. Charles McEvoy's new play, *The Three Barrows*, which was produced on Monday last at the Gaiety Theatre, Manchester, is not conspicuously significant of the theme. It is simply the name of a farm at which some of the action takes place. The action is concerned chiefly with one character, namely Victor Meux, who is quite recognisable as an offshoot of the fancy that created David Ballard, in the author's more successful play of that name. Meux is a rising young barrister, who is engaged to Clara, the daughter of Sir George Ossler. What his real feelings are toward her is never known, but it seems certain that the girl has a deep affection for him, though her character and actions are not particularly of the kind that go to the making of heroic figures in drama. Meux, however, has seen the half-gipsy niece of Edward Frith, of the Three Barrows Farm, and has been so affected by the spell of her beauty and innocence that we find him actually lodging at the farm, unknown to his fiancée, at the time the play begins. A vapid acquaintance, Geoffrey Parker, gives this bit of news away in Sir George's drawing-room, and naturally Clara is piqued. Jealousy and nervousness take possession of her; the attraction at the farm is made sufficiently explicit by the admissions of the fatuous Geoffrey. A politic move on the part of Meux, who knows he has been seen by Parker that day, is to make his appearance at Balking Grange, Sir George's residence, without delay. Then we begin to understand him; he lacks character, and is not averse from lies and evasions. After this, nothing will satisfy Clara but a visit to the farm, so that she may see for herself what is the probable state of affairs there. We are shown the relations existing between the beautiful Anna and the invertebrate Meux; he has taught her to read and write, and, incidentally, to love him; while, on her part, she has unconsciously brought him to a quandary which bids fair to shake up, for good or bad, such emotional deeps as are in him. Clara's intrusion is productive of nothing of much moment, beyond a further intimation of the truth and an outbreak of bad temper on the part of Meux, who is apparently not clever enough to apply his strictures to himself, though he seems to be more deserving of them than anyone else. Then comes the great scene. It occurs within a barn, during a thunderstorm. Meux brings Anna in for shelter. Feeling inclined, in these circumstances, to talk to her about love, he also locks the door. He talks a good deal about love; but Anna's instinct is against the situation, which is quite gratuitously suggestive, and, besides, she has given her word to Clara that she will not interfere. The position becomes awkward when Anna's brother climbs over the wall with a gun, and for a moment it seems delightfully certain that Meux is going to be shot dead; but the latter saves himself by strenuously persuading Anna to confess her love, and by declaring wholeheartedly his intention and desire to marry her. All this accepted, the obligation is laid upon Meux to go straightway and tell the truth to Clara Ossler. This, however, is so manly and honest a course of action that our noble lover almost trembles at the knees at the thought of such an ordeal. Nevertheless, preceded by Anna's brother, he goes; and a pretty spectacle he makes. Welcomed by Sir George and his daughter, he simply stands there, sloppy, lugubrious, and unable to express himself, and, in two minutes after Sir George has left the young people alone together, he has given way to the deliberate enticements of Clara, vowed that he loves her "more than anything else on God's earth," and is committed to her for life. Clara is by no means to be congratulated. As for Robert Frith, who is waiting in the house to see him, all he has to do now is to convey to Anna the news of her lover's secession. It is to be hoped that Anna enjoyed herself later, when her senses came back to her; but we are not told anything more. The curtain descends on this. Assuming that Mr. McEvoy's intention was to depict Victor Meux as he appears in the play, it is hard to understand why he should have thought it worth while. Mr. B. Iden Payne, who played the part, is a good actor, but it is a pity he should be called upon to ask for the serious interest of an audience in such a rôle. Clara Ossler is also deficient in those elements which appeal to the higher sensibilities of an audience; but Miss Hilda Bruce Potter made her superficially quite a charming creature. Anna is evidently meant to be more heroic than any of them; her mind and actions shine out against the shadier ones of the other two concerned; but the situations are not big enough to prove much, and even the accomplished acting of Miss Mona Limerick could not put real poignancy into them. The card party at the beginning of the last act is very amusing. This is Mr. Edward Landor's chance to score as Sir George; and even the "dudish" Geoffrey Parker, ordinarily a foolish fellow, becomes briefly entertaining, because here Mr. Basil Dean also has an opening for his talent. Miss Mary Saker played the secondary part of Louise Parker with nice discretion; and a word of praise should be added for Mr. Lewis Casson as Robert Frith; while among the remainder Mr. Charles Bibby as Joseph Picter was notable as having not enough to do of a kind suitable to his fine gifts as a comedian.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

The first item in the college concert on Thursday evening, March 18, was Beethoven's Quartet for Strings in F, of which a successful performance was given by Mr. Sidney Bostock, Miss Dorothy Devin, Mr. Frank Bridge, and Mr. Felix Salmond. Richard Strauss's Sonata for Piano and Violoncello proved an interesting feature in the programme, the opening movement, Allegro con brio, being admirably contrasted with a somewhat sombre but melodious Andante. These two movements and a lively finale were cleverly played by Miss Marjorie Adam and Miss Ellen Bartlett. Included also in the concert was Liszt's difficult organ solo, Fugue with Introduction, "Ad nos, ad salutarem undam," skilfully executed by Mr. Alfred Millard, who received a most hearty recall. Two English songs, "In Linden Lea," artistically arranged by R. Vaughan Williams, and "The Sea Wrack" (Hamilton Harty), were sung by Miss Marie Wright with delightful freshness and purity of tone. It was also a pleasure to listen to the fine voice of Mr. Jamieson Dodds, although he would have been heard to greater advantage in a song of more contrast and less monotony than Schumann's "Stirb, Lieb und Freand." Miss Jean Fyans sang "Es muss was Wunderbares sein," and the concert ended with a very creditable performance of Brahms' Quintet for Piano and Strings in F minor, by Miss Ellen Edwards, Mr. Sidney Bostock, Miss Dorothy Devin, Mr. Frank Bridge, and Mr. Felix Salmond. The accompanist was Miss Constance Stockbridge.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"LA CLAIRIERE."

Play, in Four Acts, by MM. Maurice Donnay and Lucien Descaves, Revived at the Théâtre Antoine on March 12.

Adèle Rouffieu .....MLLE. CASSIVE
Hélène .....MLLE. VAN DOREN
Mme. Beau .....MLLE. LAVIGNE
Jeanne Alleyras .....MLLE. DERIVES
Rose .....MLLE. CHANDORA
Louison .....MLLE. LECUYER
Collonges .....M. GEMIER
Rouffieu .....M. JANVIER
Le Docteur Alleyras .....M. ROYER
Verdier .....M. CLAIS
Le Père Nu-Tête .....M. MARCHAL

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, MARCH 14.—The revival of *La Clairière* at the Théâtre Antoine was important, inasmuch as the gifted authors have not only condensed the work from five to four acts, but the plot, too, has been materially altered. As will be remembered, La Clairière is the name given to a Communist colony in the South of France, founded by Rouffieu, a tailor, who, having inherited a little money and a piece of land, has put into practice Fourier's precepts of phalansterianism. At La Clairière everything is done on the Communist principle, and at first things go swimmingly. The members of the little community are even strong enough to admit in their midst the victims of social hypocrisy. Thus, Hélène, a young schoolmistress, seduced and abandoned by the son of the mayor of the town, finds shelter in La Clairière, where she is entrusted with the education of the children. Jean Alleyras, a doctor, and his mistress also join the association. After a while, however, it becomes painfully apparent that the new association is anything but stable, for human passions will always make themselves felt. One of the members leaves because he wants to make money for himself. Another, addicted to drink, objects to remain sober, on principle. But it is a love-drama that gives the death-blow to La Clairière. Adèle, Rouffieu's wife, is madly in love with Collonges, an upright workman, and Collonges himself has lost his heart to the young schoolmistress Hélène. Adèle persecutes Collonges with her unwelcome attentions, and, mad with rage because she receives nothing but rebuffs, she denounces Collonges to the authorities for not having performed his military duties. Collonges, warned in time, is compelled to run away; whilst the incensed Rouffieu, hearing of his wife's scandalous behaviour, turns her out of the house. It is the end of La Clairière. The work, in its new form, was very well acted. M. Gémier again impersonated Collonges with his usual skill; M. Janvier played Rouffieu, created by M. Antoine; M. Marchal has replaced M. Janvier in the part of le père Nu-Tête; Mlle. Cassive has succeeded Mlle. Nau in the rôle of Adèle; Mlle. Van Doren as Hélène did not make us forget Mlle. Suzanne Desprès, who supplied such a telling picture of the luckless schoolmistress. In fact, Mlle. Van Doren did not at all show herself to advantage in that character.

"GRELUCHON,"

Comedy, in Four Acts, by M. Maurice Sergine, Produced at the Athénée on March 17.

Francine .....MLLE. MADELINE LELY
Pauline Delanoy .....MME. DAYNES-GRASSOT
Jane d'Arras .....MLLE. MAUD GAUTHIER
Babette Fargeux .....MLLE. BIENFAIT
Salomé .....MLLE. DE SIVRY
Pauline .....MLLE. DARTHIGNY
Yvonne .....MLLE. CEZANNE
Gaston Lagarde .....M. ANDRE BRULE
Sathonay .....M. BULLIER
Maxime .....M. LEFAUR
Vallier .....M. ESCOFFIER
Marcillac .....FELIX ANDER

M. Maurice Sergine is a young author, and *Le Greluchon*, the four-act comedy produced at the Athénée, is his maiden effort. The plot is flimsy, but the work on the whole is amusing, and met with a good reception. The story is as follows:—Francine, an actress, is the mistress of Sathonay, an amateur painter, and they are introduced to us in a studio where a revue is being rehearsed that is to be played at one of the fashionable clubs. Francine and Sathonay have led a regular life in its irregularity, with no excessive emotions, inasmuch as Francine is a woman of moderate temperament. In this studio Francine makes the acquaintance of Gaston Lagarde, who becomes the third member in the Francine-Sathonay ménage, and eventually holds the post of senior partner in the concern. But he is unsuited for this exalted position. He becomes irritable, the charm is broken; and it then dawns upon the ménage that they were only happy whilst Gaston was the "Greluchon," *i.e.*, the lover in an unofficial capacity. And it may be remarked here that "Greluchon" is an old eighteenth-century word which in the course of years has degenerated into the unlovely word "rigolo." The fault in the piece is that the principal personages sometimes fail to interest us. On the other hand, the author presents to us Pauline Delanoy, a curious type, that stands out prominently. Pauline, an elderly woman, started life under brilliant auspices. Possessed of a splendid voice, and a pupil of the Conservatoire, she would have become a great prima donna; but the plainness of her features wrecked her career, for no composer had the courage to entrust a rôle to such a plain-featured girl. And so she blossomed into a kind of manicure, pedicure, and confidente to ladies of the theatrical profession. Sinking lower and lower, she finally acts as intermediary in "love affairs," not always of the cleanest kind. Yet poor Pauline feels happy in her self-imposed mission. Having never inspired love herself, she delights in favouring the *affaires de cœur* of her more fortunate sisters.

AT the Sarah-Bernhardt Theatre *L'Aiglon* is once more having a tremendous success. The takings average £360.

THE Comédie-Française announces for the 24th of next month the farewell performance of Mlle. Dudley. The talented actress made her début at the house of Molière in *Rome vaincue* in 1876. She created Anne de Kerviller, Les Maucroix, La Reine Juana, Le Fils de l'Aretin, Frédégonde, and appeared in various rôles in the classical répertoire. Mlle. Dudley was made Sociétaire in 1883.

AT the Opéra-Comique *Iphigénie en Tauride* will be revived in the course of next week, with Mme. Rose Caron in the name-rôle.

THE London Press frequently makes mistakes in respect to the penalties to be paid to authors by Paris theatrical managers who have failed to produce works accepted by them. These penalties are £40 for each act. If, however, the work has been put into rehearsal the author can claim £400.

PARIS, THURSDAY, March 25.—We have had two little premières this week at the Théâtre Michel. The first, *La Secousse*, was specially written for Mlle. Trouhanowa, the Russian dancer, famous for her diamonds, by the side of which poor Otéro's precious stones are nothing but little pebbles. You can guess what the plot can be of a work written under those conditions! We are in a "cabinet particulier" of a night restaurant in St. Petersburg. A man in evening dress, with lack-lustre eyes and bloated features, is lying on the sofa. Only a half-tipsy Grand Duke could present such a sorry spectacle. Nor are we mistaken; for the fellow bears that exalted title. The head waiter, who busies himself about the room, tries all he can to rouse the Imperial guest's energies by giving him a glowing description of all the beautiful ladies appearing in a ballet performed in a theatre a few houses further down in the same street; but in vain. The gentleman, spiritless and limp, does not stir. Finally, the waiter mentions Mlle. Trouhanowa, the great dancer, whereupon the Grand Duke gives a sign of life and expresses the desire to see the artist. A few minutes later the lady is introduced. She enters in a gorgeous toilette, and the waiter discreetly withdraws. If we were wise we would do the same, but curiosity prompts us to remain. Mlle. Trouhanowa then divests herself of the greater part of her garments, and starts her dance. The Imperial sinner becomes electrified, and—the rest need not be told. There is little chance of the work being produced on a London stage.

THE second piece was *Plumcock et Poilowski*, by MM. Maurice de Féraudy (son of the well-known actor) and Félix Puget, who, to suit the taste of the frequenters of that house, have also made a liberal use of the cayenne box. Plumcock is not an Englishman, as the name vaguely implies, but a fat Belgian. He starts on a short journey, and is imprudent enough to leave his wife at home, the pretty but flighty Margot, under the care of their equally flighty maid Annette. The moment Plumcock has turned his back Margot starts off to meet her "friend"; but Plumcock has missed his train, and returns unexpectedly. Annette, hearing her master's key in the lock, then takes an heroic resolve. In order to save her mistress she switches off the light, and takes that lady's place in the conjugal four-poster. Plumcock notices nothing; but a few minutes later his wife enters the house accompanied by Poilowski, a gipsy fiddler in the Rigo style, with hands as black as his oily hair. The play does not end here, but there is no necessity to relate the scenes that follow.

THE anniversary of the first performance of *Faust*, produced fifty years ago, was duly celebrated at the Opéra. The work was performed for the 1,336th time, and Gounod's children, M. Jean Gounod and the Baroness de Lassus, were present in the directorial box. Among the spectators the only person who had assisted at the première was old Barbier, who boasts having heard the opera no less than 1,336 times. On the other hand, I noticed several people—many of them strangers—who followed the action booklet in hand, which shows that to a certain section of the public *Faust* is still a novelty. Contrary to what is generally believed, Gounod's early career was by no means successful. Born in 1818, he was past thirty before he earned his first five-franc piece, paid to him by publisher on the understanding that a well-known artist would sing the song of which Gounod had brought the MS. As to *Faust*, Gounod had the greatest difficulty in finding a publisher willing to launch it. When the opera saw the footlights on March 19, 1859, it met with a splendid reception, although the critics were not unanimous in their praise as regards the work and its production. One man wrote: "Marguerite is a girl of the people. Why then does Mme. Miolan-Carvalho impersonate her in a beautiful dress with a long train? Goethe would have roared had he seen her masquerading about the stage in that manner." As to Paul de Saint-Victor, the famous critic, he takes the management severely to task for the way in which the first act was staged. "Faust's study," he wrote, "could only have been a room such as Rembrandt depicted it in his famous painting in the Louvre museum—the home of the thinker, the scientist. Instead of a mysterious cell, the Opéra management show us Faust seated in a huge shop filled with curious-looking instruments, like a dealer in secondhand rubbish."

AT the Comédie-Française the principal rôles in *Honneur et l'Argent* will be played by M. Leitner, M. Alexandre, and Mmes. Lara and Maille. Written in 1853, Ponsard's work ran 200 nights. When it was revived some fifteen years ago Mlle. Reichemberg played the rôle that will now be held by Mlle. Maille.

AT the Ambigu there will be a change in the cast of *L'Assommoir*, which is to be revived at that house. The rôle of Coupeau had been assigned to M. Jean Coquelin, but the deaths of his father and uncle have preyed so much on his mind that his medical advisers have ordered him a complete rest. M. Decori, therefore, will replace him; and the other rôles will be taken by Mme. Léonie Yahne, Mme. Desclauzas, Mlle. Alice Barton, and MM. Galipaux, Paul Fugère, Dieudonné, André Hall, and Dean.

"DINGLEY DELL; OR, A GLIMPSE OF THE IMMORTALS."

Comic Opera, in Three Acts, Written by Edwin Fagg, Music by L. D. C. Thomas and C. Wright, Produced at the Theatre Royal, Bath, on Thursday, March 25.

The author and composers of this new comic opera, all of whom are resident Bathonians, have gone to a period infrequently exploited. The play and characters are taken from the "Pickwick Papers," and deal chiefly around the personages of Jingle, Tupman, and Miss Wardle.

Act I. opens with the members of the Pickwick Club assembled in the courtyard at the White Hart Inn, just after the decision on the famous trial of its leader. Allegiance is sworn to Mr. Pickwick that all remain bachelors, and war is declared upon widows, under Rule 15 of Club Law. This places Winkle in an awkward position, as he has a special license in his pocket to marry Arabella. A company of strolling players arrive on the scene, including Jingle, whom Mr. Pickwick befriends, and who also becomes a great favourite with all. He borrows from everybody he can, and makes up his mind to oust Tupman in Miss Wardle's affection. The act closes with the arrest of Pickwick on account of damages demanded by Mrs. Bardell.

In Act II. the audience are taken to Dingley Dell, where the young ladies of Miss Wardle's school are bemoaning their lonesome state. The Club shortly afterwards arrive, and Winkle adroitly points out that though pledged to bachelorhood, they can still become engaged. The protestations of Miss Wardle are overruled by Wardle, senior, who proclaims a holiday and picnic. Tupman prosecutes his suit to Miss Wardle, a scene full of amusing possibilities. Jingle, ever on the alert, inflames her jealousy by making out infidelity on Tupman's part, persuades her to elope, a like decision Arabella and Winkle arrived at earlier during the picnic. A well-arranged country dance is quite a feature of this scene.

Act III., which is a short one, is taken up with the clearing up of matters by the arrival of the newly-wedded Mr. and Mrs. Winkle, and the reconciliation of Tupman and Miss Wardle, and the retraction of Mr. Pickwick's veto on "widders."

The music is full of melody and charm, and orchestrated for full band, with excellent and artistic results. The "Pit-a-pat" duet, in Act II., took the house by storm, as did the lovely plaintive ballad sung by Miss Wardle. Several other numbers have a tilting refrain, and the choruses are bright and animated.

As often is the case with adaptations from Dickens, the plot at times becomes rather difficult to follow, but the author deserves great credit for the careful way he has adhered to the period.

The cast was entirely composed of local amateurs. The professional assistance of Mr. Louis de Reeder during the final rehearsals, and who also conducted, proved of the utmost assistance and value in securing particularly smooth performances of this dainty and pretty musical piece.

ACTORS and actresses who are overworked or run down should try "Wincarnis," which is at once a perfect food, a powerful stimulant, and a potential restorative. It is also a most desirable "pick-me-up" for those who, though entirely free of any specific ailment, yet need a stimulating invigorant to counteract wear, tear, and worry.

MISS VIOLET LEY concluded last Saturday a two years' starring engagement as Lady Mary Crewye in *Peter's Mother*.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"NUR EIN TRAUM."

Comedy, in Three Acts, by Lothar Schmidt, Produced at the Berliner Theatre, March 18.

Stabrin .....HERR HEINE
Frau Stabrin .....FRAULEIN SERDA
Sponholz .....HERR DUMCKE
Hausmann .....HERR MEINHARD
Gisela .....FRAULEIN SORGER
Berta .....FRAULEIN KONNIG
Kanicke .....HERR PICHA

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, March 25.—The popular dramatist's latest work met with a very cordial reception, the author being called repeatedly before the curtain. It is in the style of a French farce, and quite the reverse of the customary heavy German piece of this type. Added to the attraction was the fact—which is the best advertisement here for any play—that *Only a Dream* was for some time prohibited by the censor, and only permitted after a struggle and some concessions on the part of the author. Its merits are chiefly in a sparkling dialogue; of plot or action there is but little apparent. On a warm May night (the month of May in this country is proverbially dangerous), and after liberal potions of "Mai-bowle," or champagne cup, a young married couple—though in reality devoted to each other—forget their marriage vows. The husband, Carl Stabrin, falls a victim to the charms of his friend's wife, and his own pretty wife almost simultaneously does the same to the seductions of another friend of her huband's. On the following day the lady's conscience pricks her, and she tells her husband of her adventure, putting it, however, in the form of a dream. Stabrin's *faux pas* is now discovered, and he is forced to confess it to his spouse, who is so indignant that she retorts with a statement anent the reality of her own lapse from the path of virtue. Carl cannot and will not believe that it is true, until he is advised by his friend to pretend he believes it, and so the husband and wife cry quits. The reconciliation is perfect, each determining to eschew "Mai-bowle" on a warm May night for the future. The acting was very vivacious, adding much to the success of the piece.

AT the Friedrich Wilhelm Städtisches Theatre a new play by Maximilian Boettcher, entitled *Schlagendes Wetter* (fire-damp) was produced with every appearance of success last week. The action passes in a colliery district, and many dramatic scenes prove highly effective, while others are full of mere phrases. The men are on strike, and things are beginning to look very serious when the young clergyman of the town takes upon himself to mediate between the strikers and their employers. Unfortunately, the well-meant efforts meet with nothing but sneers on the part of the managers and menaces from the men, and the noble-minded pastor finally receives a knife between his shoulders. The wound does not prove serious, but a social martyrdom awaits our hero; he loses his sweetheart and his office as parish priest, and ultimately shakes off the dust of his native town from his feet. His dauntless spirit is by no means broken; he will still continue to work and suffer, if need be, in the cause of the gospel of peace. The author, who has written several plays of merit, has produced a most sympathetic figure in that of the young clergyman, and the grateful rôle was excellently rendered by Herr Werner, one of the best artists of the company.

ANOTHER piece with a similar title, *Schlagwetter*, was given for the first time at the Bürgerliches Schauspielhaus some nights ago, and made a favourable impression. The author, Julius Hirsch, is a novice, and has much to learn, but sufficient talent is evident to warrant a prediction of better things in the near future.

"DER GROSSE KOMET," MM. Laufs and Jakobi's amusing farce, which enjoyed such a long and successful run some years ago, has been revived at the Friedrich Wilhelm Städtisches after an undeservedly long interval. It met with an enthusiastic reception, and being capitally acted, will certainly enter upon a new lease of life.

FRAU AUGUSTA PRASCH-GREVENBERG, the eminent actress, wife of the late Intendant Prasch, gave a highly-successful recital in the Choralion Hall on Saturday evening, before a large and appreciative audience. Frau Prasch-Grevenberg is at present one of the most prominent members of the Court Theatre at Munich, and her numerous friends and admirers in Berlin gave the popular artist a hearty welcome. The programme was composed of gay and serious items, and it would be hard to say whether the delivery of dramatic or lighter excerpts was the more successful. Herr Egidi's admirable organ-playing was a very agreeable feature of the evening.

A SUCCESSFUL Handelian concert was given in Wesley Church, Pembroke Dock, on Tuesday evening by the local choral society, assisted by Miss Esta D'Argo (soprano) and Mr. Lloyd-Chandos (tenor), both of whom received tremendous ovations. The proceeds were in aid of funds to enable the choir to compete at the Welsh National Eisteddfod to be held in London in June.

PRESENTATION.—At the Theatre Royal, Newcastle, last Saturday, at the conclusion of the record run of *Aladdin*, Mr. Reginald A. Hunt, the stage-manager, was presented with a gold watch by the principals, a gold hunter by Malcolm Scott and Harry Tate, and an ebony walking-stick by the stage staff, as tokens of friendship and appreciation.

NEWS comes from America that the famous pianist, Paderewski, has been seized by an attack of rheumatism in the arms, and has cancelled all remaining dates for concert engagements pending treatment.

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THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

SIR WILLIAM GILBERT has again been induced to take up his prolific pen, and is engaged on a libretto, which will be set to music by Mr. Edward German, by whom the cloak of the late Sir Arthur Sullivan has been so gracefully assumed. It is not likely that the work will be seen before Christmas, nor is it settled that it will be produced at the Savoy; but whenever and wherever it appears its welcome is assured.

THE entire company and staff of the Savoy Theatre met together after the performance of *The Yeomen of the Guard* in the Louis Seize banqueting hall of the Savoy Hotel on the 19th inst. for a "farewell" supper, in view of the termination of Mrs. D'Oyly Carte's season, which ends this evening. Mr. Rutland Barrington presided, and was supported by Mr. C. H. Workman and Mr. François Cellier. The supper was followed by an excellent concert, to which many of the artists contributed.

MR. MARTIN HARVEY'S Scottish tour is proving an unqualified success. Last week, at the Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh, Mr. Harvey created a new record, and thousands of people were regretfully turned away on Friday and Saturday nights. This week the popular actor has been appearing at the King's Theatre, Glasgow, where the same gratifying success has greeted the various plays presented. On Monday evening the Glasgow season will be continued with the revival of *The Last Heir*.

MR. HARVEY will, of course, play Edgar Ravenswood, and Miss De Silva Lucy Ashton; whilst the Lady Ashton will now be Miss Mary Rorke. Mr. Charles Glenney will appear as Craigengelt; and Mr. F. Cremlin has been specially engaged to figure as Caleb Balderstone. Judging by the bookings, the Glasgow public have not forgotten the fact of the piece's pronounced merits, and the revival is assured of success before the curtain rises.

MR. ARTHUR BOURCHIER will, in the fulness of time, give playgoers in the principal English provinces an opportunity of seeing his sterling performance in *Samson;* but London is likely to claim his services for a lengthy period. Meanwhile he and Mr. Charles Frohman have arranged with Mr. Wentworth Croke to send out on August Bank Holiday a company, specially selected, to present Mr. Henry Bernstein's fine play in all the towns which are not on Mr. Bourchier's visiting list.

MR. F. R. BENSON lectured on "Shakespeare and the Fuller Life of the People" at the Freemasons' Hall, Edinburgh, on Tuesday afternoon, under the auspices of the local branch of the British Empire Shakespeare Society. A large audience was presided over by Lord Kingsburgh, who referred to the great part Mr. Benson had taken in the revival of Shakespearean acting and to his tireless thought in training others who passed out of his hands to go and give honour and glory to some other actor-manager.

IN the course of his address Mr. Benson said that Shakespeare seemed to grow more and more modern as one learned to understand and appreciate the wisdom of his message. Shakespeare had something to say about labour, about capital, about Socialism. In his sociological problems the working out came quite naturally; he knew all, and therefore he pardoned all. There they would get something of women's suffrage, garden cities, something about going back to the land. In *As You Like It* he gave them some theories on education; in *The Tempest* he had something to say on evolution. They would also find something on the indestructibility of matter and a scheme for a territorial army. They would find something not altogether unconnected with the appeals of John Burns in the House of Commons, and something in regard to the development of the drama, drama folk, amateur drama, professional drama, and Shakespeare readings.

THE Guild of Catholic Actors and Musicians is arranging for another performance on the anniversary of that at Daly's last year, namely, May 25. The Guild was formed by Mr. Charles H. E. Brookfield, well known throughout the theatrical profession, with the sole object of giving, at least once a year, at a West End theatre, a performance for the benefit of poor Catholic Missions in and around London. It is under the distinguished patronage of Miss Mary Anderson (Mme. de Navarro), Sir Francis Burnard, and Sir Charles Santley, with Mr. George Edwardes as the president.

AT the initial performance by members of the Guild last year Daly's Theatre was very kindly lent by Mr. George Edwardes, and the result of the matinée was very satisfactory, being the means of helping several poor Missions in the metropolis. The members of the Guild are numerous, and consist of Catholic actors, actresses, and theatrical business men, all of whom worked very hard in this most deserving charity. Mr. Thomas J. Chambers has again consented to act as hon. secretary and treasurer of the Guild.

THE title-part of *The Noble Spaniard* at the New Royalty Theatre is a new departure for Mr. Charles Hawtrey, and now he and the rest of the clever company have settled down in their parts, Mr. Maugham's diverting farce goes with a swing from start to finish. Owing to a misunderstanding Miss Gladys Cooper was unable to appear in *The Noble Spaniard* as announced, and the ingénue part was successfully undertaken at very short notice by Miss Anne Cleaver.

MR. W. W. KELLY, the well-known manager, who is sole lessee of the New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead, was elected to the Town Council of that place on the 17th inst. by a majority of over 500. Mr. Kelly, in his candidature for the Argyle Ward, issued an amusing illustrated *brochure*, giving seven good reasons why the ratepayers should elect him as their representative, each being accompanied by a sketch, into which the names of various popular plays were introduced. A local paper says:—"The new Town Councillor is a large ratepayer—one of the largest in the ward—and, quite irrespective of party considerations, we can be quite sure that he will apply his undoubted energy and ability to maintaining the high standard of efficiency and economy in administration which has characterised the present regime."

MISS LENA ASHWELL will accomplish a portentous event early in April, when, in conjunction with Mr. Otho Stuart, she will present *The Earth* to playgoers. Such is the title which has been fixed upon for Mr. James Bernard Fagan's new play, with which the new season at the Kingsway will begin.

"BEVIS," the new comedy, in three acts, by Hubert Henry Davies, will be produced by Messrs. Frederick Harrison and Charles Frohman at the Haymarket on Thursday next. In the cast will figure Messrs. A. E. Matthews, C. M. Lowne, Ivo Dawson, C. V. France, Horton Cooper, Arthur Minton, L. H. Kendrick, E. F. Meads, and H. Gerrish; and Misses Henrietta Watson, Nina Sevening, Madge Titheradge, and Lottie Venne. The action takes place at the present day in the summer-time, and the scenes are laid respectively at a mansion in Park Lane, at a house on the Thames, and by the river bank.

MESSRS. HOWARD AND WYNDHAM, LTD., and the Robert Arthur Theatres Co., Ltd., have entered into a co-operation whereby their respective theatres in Newcastle-on-Tyne will be worked conjointly. For the convenience of travelling companies the booking arrangements in connection with all the theatres interested are to be carried out under the supervision of both companies by Mr. Robert Arthur from the office of the Robert Arthur Theatres Co., at 24a, Regent-street, London, S.W.

THE announcement was made at the annual meeting of the shareholders of Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd., on the 18th inst. Mr. Simons, chairman of the company, presided. In moving the adoption of the report, the chairman stated that notwithstanding the fact that depression had prevailed in commercial and theatrical circles during the past year, the company's profits were equal to the average of the past fifteen years, namely, £10,500. Owing to the strain caused by attention to five theatres, Mr. Wyndham had felt that his hands would be strengthened by the admission to the directorate of Mr. G. T. Minshull, the general-manager of the company.

THE company had entered into an arrangement upon which they might congratulate themselves, namely, that with Robert Arthur and Co., Ltd., a company of equal importance as Messrs. Howard and Wyndham. That arrangement applied more particularly to the Newcastle district, but it would also have effect elsewhere. The arrangement had been so completed that public interest would not suffer by it, and he hoped that good results would accrue. The report was unanimously adopted. Mr. W. F. Frame paid a tribute to Mr. Wyndham for his efforts on behalf of the company for the past fourteen years. Mr. Heilbron was re-elected a director, and Mr. G. T. Minshull, the general-manager of the company, was also elected to a seat on the Board.

MR. WEEDON GROSSMITH has selected the evening of Tuesday, April 13, for the production at the Criterion of Mr. R. C. Carton's new play, for which no title is yet announced. Mr. Grossmith's support will consist of Messrs. George E. Bellamy, Davy Burnaby, A. Vane-Tempest, Fred Lewis, Lytton Grey, Walter Pearce, Fred Volpé, and Claude Edmunds; and Misses Compton, Lydia Rachel, Shelley Carlton, and Dora Barton.

MR. LAURENCE IRVING, who is winning his way to popularity, with his clever wife, Miss Mabel Hackney, in American variety theatres with their sketch *The King and the Vagabond*, has an honourable objection to making capital out of his relationship to his distinguished father, for he emphasised that fact clearly in a speech recently delivered from the stage of the Orpheum, Boston. "By an oversight," he declared, "for which no one is to blame, I have been placarded on your walls as the son of Sir Henry Irving. The fact is one of which I am so very proud that I do not care to brandish it before the public eye. My father's many close personal friends in America would only think poorly of a son who allowed his father's name to be used as a box-office appendage to himself."

MISS MAUDI DARRELL, the favourite musical comedy actress and daughter of Mr. Hugh J. Didcott, the doyen of variety agents, was married on Wednesday to Mr. Ian Bullough, a Scottish landowner, of Meggernie, Glen Lyon, Perthshire, and brother of Sir George Bullough. The ceremony, which was kept a secret, took place at the Paddington Registry Office, the only persons present besides the principals being the bride's father and Mrs. Morice, who signed the register. Miss Darrell was attired in a long chinchilla coat over a silver-grey skirt and white lace blouse. She also wore a chinchilla hat, and carried some pale pink roses. She was married in her stage name, which she has made her own by deed-poll.

MISS DARRELL was included in the cast of Mr. Robert Courtneidge's forthcoming production, *The Devil*, at the Adelphi, but is leaving the stage on her marriage, and will not, of course, take up the rôle of the artist's model for which she had been chosen. She was born in London, and educated at the Sacré Cœur Convent, Paris. Her first appearance on the stage was as one of the "six little wives" in *San Toy* at Daly's, in 1899; and two years later at the Gaiety she took up Ethel Sidney's part in *The Toreador*. In 1903 she appeared in *The Girl from Kay's* at the Apollo, and as Denise in *Veronique*. Miss Darrell played a leading part in Mr. Seymour Hicks's *The Talk of the Town*, and she also appeared in his 1905 Christmas revival of *Bluebell in Fairyland* at the Aldwych. Her last engagement in public was in *The Belle of Brittany* at the Queen's.

MRS. BULLOUGH is credited with the following note of farewell to the London public:—"March 24, 1909. My very best thanks to the public who have been so kind to me and to whom I regretfully say good-bye.—MAUDI DARRELL."

MR. GEORGE EDWARDES'S *Merry Widow* company will be at the Coronet next week. Miss Clara Evelyn will be the Sonia, Miss Mabel Russell, direct from her pantomime successes at the Adelphi, joins the company to dance, and Miss Nora Brockebank, Miss Sylvia May, and Miss Kathleen Courtney will also have important parts. Mr. Basil Foster, of the cricketing band of Fostershire, being a brother of R. E., W. K., and H. W. L. of that ilk, is to play the Prince. Mr. Tailleur Andrews, Mr. W. H. Rawlins, and Mr. Eric Thorne will also combine to ensure thorough performance of the popular comedy opera.

MRS. BROWN-POTTER, who arrived in this country from New York on Tuesday, has ventilated a grievance against the American form of contract. The popular actress stated that the wording of her contract made it appear that she was employed for eight weeks, but she discovered that these were not consecutive, with the result that there was very much inconvenience, and she was able to perform for three weeks only. She advised all English artists carefully to study their contracts before going out to the States.

A NEW comic opera entitled *The Superior Sex* will be produced at the Empire Theatre, Southend-on-Sea, on Tuesday and four following nights by the Southend Amateur Operatic Society. The libretto is by H. D. Banning and the music by J. H. Maunder. Mr. Hugh Moss is producing the work for the Society.

MR. A. S. HOMEWOOD, now appearing in *Strife* at the Haymarket—to be transferred to the Adelphi on Monday—will be the Bellidor of Maeterlinck's *Sister Beatrice*, to be produced by the Play Actors at the Court Theatre to-morrow night.

THE Incorporated Stage Society, which has contributed so appreciably to theatrical activities during the past decade, will celebrate an interesting event in its history on May 2, when its fiftieth production will be reached. The production will be *What the Public Wants*, a comedy, in three acts, by Arnold Bennett, and to mark the occasion a souvenir programme with an official record of the plays produced during its ten years of uninterrupted work will be issued to members. The annual dinner of the society will be held at the Criterion Restaurant on Sunday, May 9, and during the following week a reception in celebration of the fiftieth production will be given, when the artists who have taken part in its representations will be the guests of the society.

MR. PERCY HUTCHISON and company, in *Brewster's Millions*, had an enthusiastic reception on Monday at Mr. Robert Redford's beautiful Cardiff theatre. Calls to the number of a score and one were registered, and at the end of the evening, in response to persistent cries of "Speech," Mr. Hutchison thanked the audience on behalf of his company and himself for their warm welcome, and announced that, with Mr. Redford's co-operation, he hoped to produce many other big London successes in Cardiff in the near future.

IN spite of the season of Lent all the previous records of over thirty of the Hutchison plays have been broken, and a return visit of *Brewster's Millions* will be made early in the autumn. The only suburban visit this year of Mr. Hutchison and company in *Brewster's Millions* will occur next week, when the company go to the Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham.

MISS EMMA HUTCHISON and Mr. Percy Hutchison have secured the provincial rights of Mr. Somerset Maugham's fourth and biggest success, *Penelope*. A company will be sent on tour on August Bank Holiday.

LONGFELLOW'S line "That which the fountain sends forth returns again to the fountain" is the burden of the comedy by George Calderon, which the Stage Society will produce at the Aldwych to-morrow evening and Monday afternoon. The piece is entitled *The Fountain*, and the scene is laid in the East End at the present time. The cast will consist of Miss Eily Malyon, Miss Alice Mansfield, Miss Nancy Price, Mr. Hubert Harben, Miss Mary Jerrold, Mr. Frank Collins, Mr. Frederick Lloyd, Miss Mabel Adair, Mr. P. Percival Clark, Miss Irene Ross, Miss Ethel Ingram, Miss Beatrice Filmer, Mr. Fred Penley, Mr. Wilton Ross, Mr. A. E. Filmer, Mr. Fred Grove, Mr. Allan Wade, Mr. Robert Bolder, Mr. Val Cuthbert, Mr. Arthur Bachner, and Mr. Ross Shore.

"THE FOUNTAIN" will be preceded by *Unemployed*, a play in one act, by Margaret M. Mack, in which Mr. Edmund Gwenn, Miss Helen Boucher, Miss Vera Coburn, Mr. Walter Pearce, Mr. Charles Maude, and Mr. Arthur Bachner will appear. The fifth play of the season will be *A Modern Aspasia*, by H. Hamilton Fyfe, and will be produced on June 6 and 7.

THE next "at home" of the Actresses' Franchise League will be held in the Grand Hall of the Criterion Restaurant on Friday afternoon next, from two to four, when all members of the profession are invited. Among the speakers will be Lady Grove, Lady Strachey, Miss Frances Sterling, and Mr. Yorke Stanger, M.P., K.C. The "hostesses" who will receive for the League are Miss Eva Moore, Miss Alice Crawford, and Mrs. Frederick Mouillot.

AT the members' meeting on Tuesday, March 23, Mrs. Despard was the principal speaker. Miss Winifred Mayo, in absence through illness of Mme. Marie Brema, took the chair, and Miss Edith Craig received. Among the audience were Mrs. Madeline Lucette Ryley, Misses Marion Terry, Eva Moore, Esther Palliser, Nora Lancaster, Janette Steer, Dora Fellowes, Gillian Scaife, Nora Hastings, Helen Elmar, Helen Tytler, Ada Moore, Vera Holme, Rita Milman, Amy Ravenscroft, Sydney Keith, Lillah McCarthy, Marion McCarthy, Muriel Matters, Katherine Parry, Alys Rees, Madeline Roberts, Valentine, and Adeline Bourne.

MR. MATHESON LANG has been out of the bill at the Lyceum owing to a recurrence of the illness which involved the postponement of *Hamlet* at the Lyceum, but has now quite recovered his voice and strength, and resumed his part on Monday.

COMEDY, comedietta, and recital will form the programme of an entertainment to be given by the students of the London Dramatic Academy and School of Elocution, Oxford-street, on Thursday evening, April 29, at the Victoria Hall, Bayswater. By special request, Miss Nora Hastings, the principal, will appear with Mr. Sivori Levey in a short play, and items will be contributed by members of the school.

MR. GEORGE CONQUEST has resigned the managership of the Empire Theatre, Southend, and has been succeeded by Herr Adam Seebold, who has acted for some years as musical-director. Mr. A. Lingham Power still retains his position of acting-manager.

MR. GEO. ALEXANDER made what may be described as his début as chairman of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee at the meeting of the London County Council on Tuesday. He moved the adoption of the committee's report, and also replied to a question put by Mr. W. Johnson with reference to the public parks and the Daylight Saving Bill. His reply was to the effect that he did not see how this Bill would, if passed, affect the parks, which were already open to the public during the hours of daylight. Mr. Walter Reynolds has been elected vice-chairman of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee.

"STRIFE," the clever play by Mr. John Galsworthy which was produced at a matinée at the Duke of York's on the 9th inst. and put into the evening bill at the Haymarket on Saturday last, will be transferred to the Adelphi on Monday next. The piece will be given exactly as at the Haymarket.

"SIX WEEKS OF SHAKESPEARE" tersely describes the artistic programme of Mr. Gerald Lawrence and Miss Fay Davis's forthcoming season at the Court Theatre, which will commence with two performances on Easter Monday, April 12 next. It is proposed to give each week seven full representations (six afternoon and Saturday evening) of one of a series of Shakespeare's best-known dramas, comprising *As You Like It*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Twelfth Night*, *Hamlet*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*. The stage will be enclosed by tapestries, and the charm of the plays will be enhanced by orchestral music of the period of each piece.

MISS DOROTHY CLIFTON, whose success in various rôles we have had occasion to record on previous occasions, is now playing the part of Miss Lucy in Mr. Gaston Mayer's South company of *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage-Patch*.

AT the Colne Theatre Royal on March 18 was produced, for copyright purposes, *The Mad Author*, by Wm. Armstrong.

AN unusually accommodating spirit was manifested by the magisterial bench at Northampton on Saturday, when an application was made at the Borough Sessions on behalf of Mr. Thos. A. Evans, manager of the Palace Theatre, for a dramatic licence to enable a flying matinée of *Dolly Reforming Herself* to take place that afternoon. The Magistrates' Clerk said that the duty of granting such licences had now passed to the Watch Committee, and that it was usual to give seven days' notice. However, the Mayor (Mr. J. Brown), who presided, said that he would at once call the sub-committee and deal with the application, and, thanks to such kindly consideration, the popular comedy *Dolly Reforming Herself* was presented that afternoon, to the great delight of a large audience. The tour, it may be added, is that of Messrs. Jerrard Grant Allen and Geoffrey Besant.

AN agency on somewhat new lines, entitled the General Attractions Bureau, is being started by Mr. J. Rowland Sales (late manager at the New and Waldorf Theatres) at 16, King William-street, Strand. Not content with the provision merely of principals and chorus for managers, Mr. Sales undertakes to provide whole companies, to rehearse them, to teach them if necessary, to advise upon and introduce playa, to arrange song-scenas, and, in fact, to cover every kind of theatrical, operatic, and variety work. Mr. Sales is the youngest theatrical manager in London, indeed probably in the world, and in this new venture we most cordially wish him every success possible. Needless to add, he is supported by both an able and a competent staff.

MR. LESTER COLLINGWOOD always contrives to go one better, and his sixth anniversary at the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, on Friday, last week, far exceeded any previous one, both in numbers and éclat. In addition to the pantomime, turns were lent from the other establishments. Miss Dorothy Ward, who made her stage début under Mr. Collingwood at the Alexandra some four seasons ago, appeared from the Royal in her old success "Wouldn't you like to spoon with me?" Mr. Wilkie Bard, who unexpectedly made his appearance announced as an "extra turn," was received with tempestuous applause.

DURING the evening Mr. Collingwood was summoned on to the stage by the company and asked by Miss Ellaline Thorne, the principal boy, to accept, on their behalf, a marble timepiece and ornaments, and a beautifully illuminated address setting forth their sincere admiration for their "dear old guv'nor." Mr. Collingwood, in responding, never spoke wiser or better in his life, his graceful remarks and fine, soldierly appearance completing a scene that was good to look upon. Mr. Fred Bernardo also presented his chief with an address testifying his loyalty and respect, and other mementos were bestowed on Mr. Collingwood, whose little joke it is that his pantomime will run till *The Night Before Christmas*, that being the title of the play with which he commences his dramatic season. The ball that followed proved very enjoyable.

WE regret to record the death at the early age of 37 of Mr. John Millington Synge, B.A., the well-known Irish author and playwright, which occurred at a private hospital in Dublin on Wednesday. Mr. Synge was the youngest son of the late John Hatch Synge, and graduated at Trinity College, Dublin. He was a notable Irish scholar and linguist, and a musician of no mean order. For some years Mr. Synge was associated with Lady Gregory and Mr. W. B. Yeats as a director of the National Theatre of Ireland for the production of Irish plays by Irish authors at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, where all his dramatic works have been produced.

THEY include *Riders to the Sea* (a one-act play), *In the Shadow of the Glen*, *The Well of the Saints* (a three-act piece), and *The Playboy of the Western World*. The last-named play, on its production, evoked extraordinary opposition, so violent being the feeling against it amongst a certain section of Dublin people that it was only possible to play it under police protection. *In the Shadow of the Glen* figured in the Irish National Theatre productions in London at the Royalty in 1904, and *The Well of the Saints* was seen at the St. George's Hall, Langham-place, in the autumn of the following year.

A REMINDER may be given of the Play Actors' performance to-morrow (Sunday) at the Court Theatre, at 8.30 p.m., when a translation by Bernard Miall of Maeterlinck's *Sister Beatrice*, with music by Hubert Bath, will be produced, under the direction of Miss Edith Craig. *Sister Beatrice* is one of two short plays which the author has described as librettos, that is to say, which were written with the intention of being spoken to music. The story of the play is a legend familiar to readers of Mr. John Davidson's poetry in "The Ballad of a Nun," and it has also been treated by Miss Adelaide Anne Proctor. The earliest existing version is to be found in the Dutch.

THE Bristolians welcomed Miss Fanny Wentworth back right royally on Monday evening at the Prince's Theatre, where her little sketch and songs at piano never went better. In consquence of her success she has been engaged by Mr. Vaughan to go on the whole tour as the "lever de rideau."

"A SENSE OF HUMOUR," by Beryl Faber and Cosmo Hamilton, was successfully produced for the first time in the provinces by Mr. Reginald Dance's company on Monday evening last at Messrs. Murray King and Clark's charming theatre in the Devonshire Park, Eastbourne. His Grace the Duke of Devonshire and party were in a box, and among other well-known people present were the Countess Starzay, Lady Violet Greville, and Lady William Smith.

MR. TOM B. DAVIS has engaged a strong cast for the new Oriental musical play *A Persian Princess*, written by Leedham Bantock and P. J. Barrow, with music by Sidney Jones and additional numbers by Marie Horne, which is in active rehearsal at the Queen's Theatre. Miss Ruth Vincent plays the title-rôle, Mr. George Graves has a part worthy of his comedy powers, and the company also includes Mr. Horace Mills, Mr. Aubrey Fitzgerald, Mr. Clarence Blakiston, Mr. Noel Fleming, Miss Lily Iris, Miss Vivienne Talleur, Miss Jessie Lonnen, Miss Ethel Negretti, and Miss Carrie Moore. Mr. Sydney Ellison is producing the play, which is in two acts, and some gorgeous Eastern scenes and dresses, designed by Mr. Percy Anderson, are promised.

ENGLISH playgoers will be sorry to learn that they are to lose that truly talented little comedienne Miss Florence Imeson, who has made such a success at the Shakespeare, Liverpool, this Christmas as principal girl to Miss Ada Reeve's boy. Miss Imeson has been engaged by Mr. J. A. E. Malone, of Daly's Theatre, on behalf of Messrs. B. and F. Wheeler, of South Africa, and sails for Cape Town on April 10 to star as Mary Gibbs (Miss Gertie Millar's creation) in *Our Miss Gibbs*, and Franzi Steingruber (Miss Millar's creation also) in *The Waltz Dream*, Anita in *Havana*, Militza in *King of Cadonia*, Daisy in *The Dollar Princess*, &c.

THE Senate of London University has accepted the offer of the John Oliver Hobbes Memorial Committee to found a scholarship in memory of the late Mrs. Craigie. A trust has been established for the maintenance of a scholarship in English literature, to be called the "John Oliver Hobbes Scholarship," tenable at University College.

"WILD WEST" will be established at Earl's Court again this summer. The show, which will be housed in the Great Empress Hall, is in connection with the entertainment side of the Golden West and American (U.S.A.) Industries Exhibition of which the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor of London is president of the Honorary Advisory Committee. It is a score of years since "Buffalo Bill" made his famous success at Earl's Court Exhibition with his "Wild West" show, and once again from the plains of Wyoming and prairies of Dakota, the genuine "Wild West" cowboy rider, steer-tier (lassoers of wild cattle), with cowgirl experts, are setting out for London. The troupe is bringing over a number of unbroken native horses, locally known as man-eating bronchos, with which to demonstrate their horsemanship and their prowess in lassoing the buffalo.

MESSRS. JAY AND MANN started their season most auspiciously at the Palace Theatre, Brighton, on Monday, with a special engagement of Mr. Edward Terry. The Press have been quite enthusiastic over the up-to-date methods and alert management which have now been inaugurated, and Brighton theatre-goers are much appreciating the regular afternoon vaudeville performances of *The Will o' the Wisps*, which form a special feature in the new programme. Amongst the bookings which have been arranged, or are in negotiation, are those of Miss Marie Lloyd and her special company, who appear during Goodwood week; *Butterflies*, *The Flag Lieutenant*, *Miss Hook of Holland*, *The Catch of the Season*, *The Country Girl*, John Tiller's companies, Harry Paulton, *The Earl and the Girl*, and others equally attractive.

LESS than a fortnight ago Messrs. Jay and Mann made special arrangements with Mr. Frank Curzon for part of the touring rights of *An Englishman's Home*, and in that time have arranged their company and an entire production exactly as now being played at Wyndham's Theatre. They open on Monday next at the Palace Theatre, Watford, with Ipswich to follow, and Kingston for Easter week. Immediately the first company is on the road, a second tour, under Messrs. Jay and Mann's management, will be prepared. The demand in the country for immediate dates for this striking play is phenomenal.

THE second act of Mozart's *Magic Flute* and the third act of Bizet's *Carmen* will be given by the students of the operatic class at the Royal Academy of Music on the evening of Thursday next. Mr. Edgardo Lévi will conduct. On the following evening the students of the dramatic class present Shakespeare's *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, under the direction of Mr. Richard Temple.

MISS MARGARET MURCH, who is concluding a five months' starring engagement with Mr. F. W. Purcell on the Stoll Empire tour, returns to the theatres for a short season to create the leading rôle in Messrs. Hamond and Smith's forthcoming production—*The Alchemist of Bruges*.

MISS BEATRICE FELSTED, who has recently been singing for Messrs. Ashton and Mitchell, was to have been heard in London at many season's concerts this year. Miss Felsted was compelled to relinquish all her engagements to undergo a serious operation, which has proved quite successful, and she will, we trust, soon be able to take up at least some of her more important engagements.

MR. CHARLES BARNARD is arranging the production at the Elephant and Castle Theatre of a play, entitled *Money and Man*, adapted from the well-known novel by F. Marion Crawford, entitled "Whosoever Shall Offend." Mr. Barnard has made great improvements at the Elephant in his first twelve months' control of the house. He has given his patrons some dramatic productions new to London, and a pantomime which had a record run for the south side of over ten weeks.

"AN ENGLISHMAN'S HOME" is billed for presentation at the Royal County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames, at Easter. At the present time Mr. Peter Davey's well-appointed house is enjoying a prosperous season of variety.

A COMPLIMENTARY dinner to Mr. Stanley Greig, the joint hon. secretary of the O.P. Club, will be given at the Criterion on Friday evening next. Mr. Carl Hentschel will occupy the chair, and a programme, comprising many talented artists, is promised.

THE management of the Middlesbrough Grand Opera House may be justly proud of the fact that the result of their special Territorial night has been to bring the local forces up to strength, some 200 enthusiastic young men having presented themselves for enrolment within a few days. This week Mr. Ian Maclaren, who pays his first visit to Teeside, is drawing excellent houses at the palatial Opera House. Between the acts an augmented orchestra renders classical selections, which are loudly applauded. It may be added that the Middlesbrough Shakespearean week, like the Moody-Manners season, may possibly become an annual fixture at this theatre.

"ARTFUL MISS DEARING" is the title finally selected for Mr. Arthur Law's new comedy, which Mr. A. E. Henderson will produce at Terry's on Saturday, April 10. Additions to the cast already announced, which includes Miss Annie Hughes, Mr. C. W. Somerset, Mr. Paul Arthurs, and Miss Helen Ferrers, are Miss Charlotte Granville, Miss Kate Philips, and Mr. Arthur Longley.

MISS EMMY WHELEN, who comes to London with laurels won in Berlin, will take up the title-rôle in *The Merry Widow* at Daly's next week. Mr. George Edwardes has secured the young actress and singer for a term of two years.

"NONE BUT THE BRAVE," announced for production at the Lyric, has in deference to a prior claim to the title, been rechristened *The Double Conquest*. The new play, which is founded by Constance Fletcher on Balzac's *La Duchess De Langeais*, will be produced in about a month's time. Miss Maxine Elliott, who will appear with Mr. Waller in the principal parts, arrived in London from New York on Wednesday. She remains in this country till the autumn, when she will return to the States to tour with *The Chaperone*.

MISS CONSTANCE HYEM will take up the part relinquished by Miss Maudi Darrell on her marriage in Mr. Henry Hamilton's play *The Devil*, shortly to be brought out at the Adelphi. The cast is a strong one, and includes Mr. Lyn Harding, Miss Alexandra Carlisle, Mr. Bassett Roe, Mr. Vincent Clive, Mr. J. B. Gordon, Mr. J. S. Blythe, and Mr. H. Leyton.

THE Shaftesbury, greatly altered and lavishly redecorated, will be reopened in Easter week with a new play by Mark Ambient and A. M. Thompson, with music by Lionel Monckton and Howard Talbot and lyrics by Arthur Wimperis. The company includes Mr. Harry Welchman, Mr. Alfred Lester, Mr. Dan Rolyat, Miss Phyllis Dare, Miss Ada Blanche, Miss Florence Smithson, and Miss May Kinder, the last mentioned a new recruit from America.

"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD," at the Theatre Royal, Bristol, came to a close on Saturday evening, when the house was packed in all parts, the audience being most enthusiastic. On Mr. Alty appearing in the final scene, he was received with much cheering, and said:—"Ladies and gentlemen,—I am requested by Mr. Carpenter to express his regret that he is not able to be present on this the last night of one of his most successful pantomimes, but he has been detained in London, and found it impossible to reach Bristol in time even for the closing scene. Mr. Carpenter wishes me to express his best thanks for the very liberal support which has been accorded to the pantomime, and also heartily to thank the artists, one and all, for the efforts they have made to render the pantomime one of his most successful records." Mr. Alty announced that the next pantomime would be *Robinson Crusoe*. Several presentations were made, to the musical-director, stage-manager, and others. There was an imposing floral display in the last scene, and "Auld lang syne" concluded the performance.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

A Quick Change.

WHEN *Drink* was being played at Sadler's Wells Theatre—then under the management of the late Walter Gooch—I was sent for, writes Mr. Arthur Estcourt, by Harry Jackson, his manager, and offered the understudy of Coupeau at a good salary, provided I did not show myself at the theatre, but remained at home for certain hours in the day. For four weeks I received my salary, earning my money more easily than I have ever done before or since. One day the telegram arrived, and I presented myself at the "Wells." Mr. Jackson informed me that they had received a communication from Mr. Warner to the effect that he had missed the tidal train or boat from Paris, and could not arrive in time for the performance. The curtain was kept down for nearly an hour. In the meantime I was dressed, not for Coupeau, but for my original part in the provinces of Lantier, whilst Mr. Wm. Redmond, the London Lantier, was ready as Coupeau. The curtain had actually gone up when Mr. Warner dashed into the theatre. As fast as possible I undressed behind the flat—no time to go to the dressing-rooms—throwing my clothes to Mr. Redmond, and he did the same thing with Mr. Warner's dresser. When Mr. Warner did appear he had a most enthusiastic reception from the audience, who little dreamt of the "scene" that had been enacted behind the scenes.

Back to the Censorship.

IN literary circles here, writes our excellent Paris correspondent, the question is being seriously discussed as to the necessity of asking the authorities to give us back the censorship. When the censorship was abolished it was thought that the public would act as scavengers and sweep away any dirt that came their way. The contrary, however, was the case. The moment Anastasie had retired several new outrageously *décolleté pieces* were offered to the public. The playgoers not only did not show any disgust, but, like Oliver, "they wanted more"! The public, therefore, have shown themselves utterly incompetent to act as judges, and I am quite of the opinion of those who think that something should be done to stem the tide of the filthy rubbish that is pouring down upon us. It is suggested that a new Anastasie should be brought to life, an intelligent censorship, composed of, say, three or four enlightened men of high literary standing, who, instead of looking for immorality where there is none, would try to raise the French drama from the low pitch to which it has fallen. Surely four such men could easily be found!

An Old Book on Acting.

"A thorough description of stage technique," says Mr. Robb Lawson in an article on "The Psychology of Acting" in the *Fortnightly Review*, "appeared in a volume dated 1750, attributed to Dr. Hill, who had studied as an amateur at the Haymarket under Charles Macklin. Its title is 'The Actor,' in which, according to the heading of Book I., many of 'the common prejudices of the age are considered, and observations made on the necessary qualifications of performers on the stage in general.' Some notion of the author's thesis can be gained from a perusal of the headings of his various chapters, such as: 'Whether an actor can have too much fire'—'No man who has not naturally an elevated soul will ever perform well the part of a hero upon the stage'—'Players who are naturally amorous are the only ones who should perform the parts of lovers upon the stage'—'Of the care that ought to be taken perfectly to impart the parts of a play in the actor's memory in order to its being played with truth.'"

Macready and Samson.

Talma was of opinion that acting cannot be taught, for, in speaking of Le Kain, who had no master, he averred that "every actor ought to be his own tutor." This, too, was Macready's conviction. After a visit to the Paris Conservatoire, the entry in his diary reads somewhat drily:—"Heard the pupils of Samson go through their course of theatrical instruction—I was interested and saw the inefficiency of the system clearly. It was teaching conventionalism—perpetuating the mannerism of the French stage, which is all mannerism. Genius would be cramped, if not maimed and distorted, by such a course."

Hamlet and the Pirates.

A writer in the *Westminster Review* in an interesting article on Thomas Kyd's *Hamlet* says:—"In the story of Hamlet's journey to England the play has been much changed from the account in the Belleforest's *Hystorie of Hamblet*. The main change is a peculiarly dramatic one. In the *Hystorie* Hamlet completes his journey to England without incident, there sees to it that his treacherous companions or spies are put to death, and remains in that country a year. In Shakespeare's play he never reaches England, but, through an accident, contrives to return shortly to Denmark, while Rosencrantz and Guildenstern sail on to their doom. By this means the time of absence is much shortened; and that is desirable from a dramatic point of view. But in other respects this situation is both dramatically and rationally awkward. Dramatically Hamlet's forgery is rendered superfluous so far as his own safety is concerned. And rationally the continuance of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern to England when the prince they were conducting thither had got away from them, appears absurd.

"Let us conjecture how this doubly awkward situation was composed. Thomas Kyd, we will suppose, in order to shorten the interval between Hamlet's departure and return, substituted the attack by pirates and abduction of Hamlet for his arrival in England and procurement of his companions' deaths. There was then, in his version of the play, no forged commission, and these two spies were simply forgotten after Hamlet had got away from them. But Shakespeare felt that it was a dramatic fault to let these men pass so early from view—that they should be punished for their meddling, and that their doom should be told in the closing scene. For these reasons he reverted to Belleforest's version, to the extent of having Hamlet procure their death by order of the King of England. But the incident of the attack by pirates had a hold upon the popular fancy and could make a thrilling tale when Hamlet related it to Horatio; and so Shakespeare, being careless about external difficulties in the plot, decided not to leave it out. This is only conjecture; but it seems a more likely view than that the change from the *Hystorie* to the present awkward version was made either by Kyd or by Shakespeare alone."

Four Hamlets.

IN the course of a legitimate season at the Princess's under F. B. Chatterton some thirty-five years ago four representatives of Hamlet appeared—Phelps, Fechter, Creswick, and Bandmann. Mr. Howard Russell played Claudius to each of them. On the first night Bandmann added *Don Cæsar de Bazan* to the bill, and Mr. Russell, as stage-manager for Fred Villiers, on the sick list, was instructed by Chatterton to bring the curtain down before midnight Saturday. This, in spite of his playing Don José in *Don Cæsar* as well as Claudius in *Hamlet*, he (Mr. Russell) succeeded in doing. The only omissions made in *Hamlet* were "The advice to the players" and the "King's Prayer." The Recorder's scene was always retained, and the Sailors' scene almost invariably left out, four hours and a half elapsing from rise to fall of curtain. Mrs. Bandmann was the Ophelia.

"THE NOBLE SPANIARD."

Victorian Farce, in Three Acts, Adapted from the French of Grenet-Dancourt by W. Somerset Maugham, Produced at the Royalty Theatre on Saturday, March 20.

Duke of Hermanos .....MR. CHARLES HAWTREY
Mr. Justice Proudfoot .....MR. E. LYALL SWETE
Captain Chalford .....MR. ATHOL STEWART
Count de Moret .....MR. LEON M. LION
Marion Nairne .....MISS ANNE CLEAVER
Lucy .....MISS KATE CUTLER
Countess de Moret .....MISS VANE FEATHERSTON
Mary Jane .....MISS JOY CHATWYN
Lady Proudfoot .....MISS FANNY BROUGH

Mr. Charles Hawtrey's season at the Royalty Theatre opened on Saturday with decided success. The description of *The Noble Spaniard* as "Victorian farce" is not exactly correct. The Victorian farce was a much cruder and coarser affair than the quaint comedy into which Mr. Maugham has turned his French original, which is entitled *Les Gdités du Venvage*, and the moderation and refinement of the acting keep the play quite within the pale of comedy. Were this not so, the effect of the adaptation would be destroyed, for the story is wildly extravagant. The Duke of Hermanos is one of those stage Spaniards who are never seen or heard of in real life. He is a descendant of Don Cæsar de Bazan, "noble" in the extreme, and having the right, as he often repeats, to wear his "'at" in the presence of his King. He has a "soul of fire," and nothing stops him when he is once in love with a lady. An English family staying at Boulogne consists of Mr. Justice Proudfoot and his mature, but frivolous, wife, Lady Proudfoot; Marion Nairne, a pretty widow; and Lucy, an *ingénue*, who is engaged to Captain Chalford, a languid dandy of the period. All the personages in the play wear Victorian costumes, with flounces and crinolines. Friends of the Proudfoots are the Count and Countess de Moret, the former a very susceptible and impressionable Frenchman. Into this peaceful family, the Duke of Hermanos, who has conceived a fiery passion for Marion Nairne, enters audaciously. Dispensing with the formality of an introduction, he calls on Marion, tells her of the overpowering passion she has inspired in him, and so harasses her that, to get rid of him, she says that she is married. The Duke declares that there is no room in the world for him and his "rival," and vows that he will challenge her husband and kill him in a duel. The fiery Spaniard mistakes Mr. Justice Proudfoot for the "obstacle," and tries in vain to induce him to accept a challenge. When Lady Proudfoot comes in from a shrimping excursion, the Justice, who believes that Hermanos is in love with her, reproaches her with her imprudence. Lady Proudfoot is much flattered by the idea of a lover, but is annoyed at not knowing who it is that is enamoured of her. Eventually, a reconciliation takes place between the Proudfoots, and Hermanos, returning unexpectedly, finds the couple embracing, and jumps to the conclusion that the Justice, whom he believes to be Marion's husband, is unfaithful to her.

The Duke continues to press his suit in the second act, in which, by his excited blundering, he interferes with the loves of Captain Chalford and Lucy. A bouquet is an accessory of importance in this act. The Duke has left one with Marion, telling her that he is prepared to elope with her, and that, if she wants him, she has only to throw the flowers from the balcony. Lucy finds the bouquet, and thinks that it has been sent by her *fiancé*; and he, believing that it is the gift of a rival, quarrels with her. Hermanos fancies the Captain is Marion's lover, and challenges him to single combat on the sands, an offer which the Captain promptly accepts. And so the Duke's errors and his excitement increase. In the third act, from a remark made by Marion, he jumps to the conclusion that the Count de Moret is her husband, and challenges *him*, the Count readily agreeing to take "satisfaction." But the susceptible Count is thus led to imagine that Marion is in love with him, the result being that the Countess, on entering, finds him kneeling at Mrs. Nairne's feet and emitting ecstatic vows. By this time, Marion has come to the conclusion that the only way to put a stop to the complications caused by the Duke's extravagant actions is to marry him; so, confessing her deception, she consents to become his wife.

Mr. Charles Hawtrey had to sacrifice some of his personal attractiveness to make up as the Duke of Hermanos; but he did so like the thorough artist that he is, and played the part with a vigorous sincerity that convinced the audience almost in spite of itself. The earnestness and impulsiveness of the enamoured hidalgo were depicted with spirit and skill; and the broken English and odd mispronunciation were given their full effect by Mr. Hawtrey, who kept the fun going till the fall of the curtain—no easy task in a play like this. Mr. E. Lyall Swete, with his expressive facial play, quaint oddity, and polished delivery, made an excellent Justice Proudfoot, full of ponderous respectability and droll self-esteem. Mr. Athol Stewart exactly realised the lisping dandy of the Bulwer Lytton period, and acted with ease and polish throughout; and Mr. Leon M. Lion reminded one of those quaint little Frenchmen whom Thackeray loved to describe and sometimes to draw, and acted in a crisp, keen, alert style that was very effective. Miss Kate Cutler was a delightful representative of the charming young widow, Marion Nairne, whom she represented very brightly and daintily; and Miss Anne Cleaver as Lucy gave an amusing caricature of one of the young ladies of the Anthony Trollope period, Miss Vane Featherston sustaining the not very salient part of the Countess de Moret with unfailing ease and pleasantry. Miss Joy Chatwyn was good as an Early Victorian servant; and Miss Fanny Brough, by her clever and tactful rendering of the rôle of Lady Proudfoot, kept in the domain of comedy a character which might easily have been let down to the level of crude farce. In the second act Miss Cleaver introduced an Early Victorian song, a setting by Miss Virginia Blakemore of some verses by Felicia Hemans, which was cordially received. The dresses, which were an important part of the entertainment, were cleverly designed by Mr. Tom Heslewood, and there was an excellent orchestra under the baton of Mr. Harold Robertson Grimston, one of whose compositions, a "Valse Lente," was included in the entr'acte music. *The Noble Spaniard* was preceded by that amusing bit of "low life" *Feed the Brute*, in which Mr. Robert Whyte as the working-man, Miss Mary Brough as Mrs. Pottle, and Miss Gwynne Herbert as Mrs. Wilks, acted with admirable realism and humour.

MR. NORMAN A. OVERTON and Miss Anna Beaumont are scoring on tour in the sketch of *The Tyrant*, with Miss Dagmar's company. Mr. Overton is seen to advantage in Mr. Fred Somerfield's part.

PRESENTATION.—Mr. E. De Hague Body, acting-manager of the Opera House, Burton-on-Trent, was, on the 19th, presented with an address and a purse of gold by his numerous admirers. The address was accompanied by an album containing the list of the very numerous subscribers, including the Mayor and other prominent townsfolk. Mr. Body expressed his deep sense of appreciation of the kindness extended to him.

THE NATIONAL THEATRE.

At the meeting of the General Committee of the National Shakespeare Theatre at the Mansion House on Tuesday, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor, there were present Lord Plymouth, Lord Lytton, Mr. B. S. Straus, M.P., Mr. Beerbohm Tree, Mr. E. S. Willard, Mr. Frederick Kerr, the Hon. Mrs. Alfred Lyttelton, Miss Lena Ashwell, Canon Rawnsley, Mrs. L. Gomme, Mr. Anthony Hope, Mrs. Holman Hunt, Mr. William Poel, Dr. Furnivall, Mr. Robert Donald, Mr. Acton Bond, Mr. Sidney Lee, Mr. Dennis Eadie, Mr. Laurence Binyon, Mr. Granville Barker, Mr. Sidney Low, Miss Lillah McCarthy, Mr. Osman Edwards, Mr. Frank T. Marzials, Professor Gollancz (hon. secretary), and Mr. Philip Carr (secretary).

Letters expressing regret for unavoidable absence were received from Lord Esher, Sir John Hare, Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema, Sir Gilbert Parker, Mr. F. R. Benson, Mr. Edward Compton, Mr. Martin Harvey, Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Mr. Oscar Browning, Mr. Henry Ainley, and Mr. Matheson Lang.

The following report of the Executive Committee was considered:

THE REPORT.

The following is the full text of the report:

In accordance with the reference from the General Committee on June 22, 1908, the Executive Committee have carefully investigated the practical aspects of the proposal that the Shakespeare Memorial should take the form of a National Shakespeare Theatre. They are of opinion that the proposal is a practicable one, and that it be proceeded with.

The objects of a National Shakespeare Theatre, as conceived by your committee, are:

To keep the plays of Shakespeare in its repertory;

To revive whatever else is vital in English classical drama;

To prevent recent plays of great merit from falling into the oblivion to which the present theatrical system is apt to consign them;

To produce new plays and to further the development of the modern drama;

To produce translations of representative works of foreign drama, ancient and modern;

To stimulate the art of acting through the varied opportunities which it will offer to the members of its company.

To accomplish these purposes the theatre must be organised upon a true repertory system. It must produce a great variety of plays, and the productions, while simple, must be efficient and beautiful. Accordingly, the estimates include such a liberal endowment as shall free the directorate from all temptation to sacrifice its artistic policy to the making of large and immediate profits.

Your committee trusts that the establishment of the National Shakespeare Theatre in the metropolis will generally advance the production and appreciation of the national drama in the great cities of the Empire. They are of opinion that the time has not arrived for framing draft statutes in a form which could be considered final, but they have been able to report as follows:

1. They are of opinion that the sum required to build, equip, and endow a National Theatre would be about £500,000, and that this amount should be roughly allotted in the following manner:

(a) Site £100,000
(b) Building 100,000
(c) Stage and equipment 50,000
(d) Endowment 250,000

Any saving in items (a), (b), or (c), or any increase in the total sum should be added to the Endowment Fund.

2. That the name of the theatre should be "The National Shakespeare Theatre."

3. That, in order to provide for the legal ownership of the theatre and of the Endowment Fund, steps should be taken for the incorporation of the governing body, either by Royal charter (should His Majesty in Council be pleased to approve of the grant of such a charter) or by licence of the Board of Trade under Sec. 23 of the Companies Act, 1867 (30 and 31 Vic., c. 131).

4. That the supreme controlling authority of the theatre should be a body of governors, to be appointed as follows:

(a) Five governors appointed by the Crown;
(b) Eight governors appointed to hold office for five years—
One by the University of Oxford,
One " " Cambridge,
One " " London,
One " " Edinburgh,
One " " Dublin,
One " " Wales,
One by the Royal Academy,
One by the British Academy;
(c) One Governor nominated by the London County Council, and one by the Corporation of London, each to hold office for three years;
(d) The municipalities of the following cities of Great Britain and Ireland each to nominate one Governor to hold office for three years: Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, Leeds, Bristol, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dublin;
(e) The following representatives of the self-governing Colonies to be ex-officio governors:
(a) The High Commissioner for Canada,
(b) The High Commissioner for Australia,
(c) The High Commissioners for any other Federated Colonies;
(f) The Ambassador of the United States;
(g) And the following to be ex-officio governors:
(a) The President of the Board of Education,
(b) The Minister of Fine Arts, in the event of such an office being created,
(c) The Chairman of the Shakespeare Memorial Association, Stratford-on-Avon,
(d) The President of the Academy of Dramatic Art.

5. They are of opinion that the governors thus appointed should co-opt additional governors in the proportion of one to every three of their number, to hold office for three years. One at least of these co-opted governors should be a woman.

6. They consider that, should any governor, appointed for a stated term, die or resign during his term of office, or should any of the above-mentioned bodies waive its right of nomination, or should any ex-officio governor decline to serve, the vacancy so created might be filled by co-option.

7. It seems hardly necessary to state that the services of the governors should be unremunerated.

8. They are of opinion that the governors should have power to appoint a Standing Committee, chosen from their own body, and that the Standing Committee should not exceed seven in all, of whom at least one should be a woman; also that the full body of governors should meet at least twice a year, and at other times on the requisition of one-third of their number, or when specially summoned by the Standing Committee; and that the Standing Committee should meet not less than nine times a year for the purpose of business.

9. After careful consideration, they are of opinion that sound administration of such a theatre requires that:

10. They consider that the arrangement of the programme should rest with the director, who should submit it for approval to the Standing Committee; and that all new plays should be reported upon by the director and the literary manager before being finally dealt with by the Standing Committee.

11. They hold that the director, if an actor, should in no case practise his art for fee or reward during his term of office; that the Standing Committee should decide, by fixed regulation or otherwise, on what exceptional occasions (and in no case for personal profit) he should be authorised to appear, or otherwise co-operate, in performances at other theatres; and that he should in no event be cast for any part on the stage of the National Shakespeare Theatre.

12. Following the precedent of all national theatres, the theatre should be a repertory theatre, designed, built, and equipped for this purpose, and the company, both in respect of number and of qualification, should be suited to the presentation of a repertory; and in order that there should be no doubt as to the meaning attached to the phrase, it seems desirable to state that a repertory theatre should be held to mean a theatre able to present, and which should present, at least two different plays of full length at evening performances in each week, and at least three different plays at evening performances and matinées taken together. One at least of such weekly performances should be a performance of an English classical play; Shakespeare's plays should be given on an average of at least one a week; and the number of plays presented in a year should be not less than twenty-five plays of full length. A play of full length means a play occupying at least two-thirds of the whole time of any given performance. But two two-act plays, or three one-act plays, composing a single programme, should, for the purpose of this statute, be reckoned as equivalent to a play of full length.

13. They recommend that whilst the arts of music and pantomime may be freely used when necessary, the repertory should consist of pieces in which the dramatic and not the musical element is predominant.

14. They consider that there would be advantage in arranging that the National Shakespeare Theatre should give performances in the towns of Great Britain and Ireland, as well as in London.

15. They are of opinion that there should be a pension fund attached to the theatre, to be raised and administered as the governors should determine.

16. They recommend that the statutes should make it clear that no person or persons should have any claim against the governors for a share in or charge upon profits. All the artists and employees of the theatre should be remunerated by a fixed salary or fixed payment for definite services; dramatic authors, however, might be remunerated by percentages upon the gross receipts produced by their plays. The governors should be at liberty, at their discretion, to allot a fixed sum out of the surplus in any year, after due provision has been made for a reserve fund, as a bonus to be divided among all the artists and employees of the theatre, in such proportion as the Standing Committee should determine.

17. They recommend that provision should be made for conferring some form of honorary distinction on actors who have completed a certain term of association with the National Shakespeare Theatre.

18. Finally, they would suggest the prudence of devising some means of meeting extraordinary expenditure; and they recommend that the Standing Committee should be empowered to place a sum not exceeding one-third of the endowment fund to a reserve fund, which might be drawn upon for the purpose of meeting a deficit in current annual expenditure.

Mr. BEERBOHM TREE asked whether the memorial would be kept back until the time of the tercentenary in 1916, or if it was intended to open it at an earlier date.

Lord LYTTON said it was important that they should have the funds in as soon as possible; by 1911 the latest.

Mr. WILLIAM POEL objected to the proposed director having authority to select, engage, and dismiss all artists and other employees, and make contracts on behalf of the theatre, without any control by the Standing Committee.

Mr. BEERBOHM TREE said that to put a director under the control of the Standing Committee would make management impossible.

Mr. GRANVILLE BARKER said it was the intention of the Executive Committee that the director should be solely responsible for the management of the affairs of the theatre, the ultimate responsibility resting with the Standing Committee. If the director exceeded his powers the Committee would have power to dismiss him. The Committee could never accept Mr. Poel's suggestion, because it would mean that the theatre would be run by a committee, and no manager worth his salt would submit to any such control.

Lord LYTTON said the director should be responsible for the management of the theatre, and the committee should have power to dismiss him—subject, of course, to an appeal to the trustees.

Mr. ANTHONY ELLIS suggested that they should ask the committee to define the relationship of the director and the committee more clearly. This was agreed to.

Mr. POEL objected to making the president of the Academy of Dramatic Art an ex-officio governor. It would create controversy if students were represented to the exclusion of actors and actresses, who were not to have a representative.

Miss LENA ASHWELL: Surely we should have a representative.

Mr. ACTON BOND, speaking as an actor, seconded the motion.

Mr. BEERBOHM TREE: What representative body of actors is there who could select a representative?

Finally, with the support of Mr. Tree, the proposal for a revision of the report in this particular matter, at the committee's discretion, was accepted.

The EARL OF LYTTON moved a resolution empowering the Executive Committee to give effect to the recommendations in the report.

The Hon. Mrs. ALFRED LYTTELTON seconded, and the motion was carried.

The LORD MAYOR proposed the following resolution, which was adopted unanimously:—

That this meeting of the General Committee of the Shakespeare Memorial is of opinion that the proposal that the Shakespeare Memorial should take the form of a National Shakespeare Theatre is a practicable one, and that it be proceeded with.

Mr. WILLIAM POEL proposed that the name of the theatre should be National Theatre (Shakespeare Memorial). The performances of Shakespeare's plays would be fewer and fewer in time to come. If the management were not popular another theatre might be established and take the name National.

Mr. MACKENZIE BELL seconded the motion, which was negatived.

Lord LYTTON deprecated any alteration in the title of the theatre.

Mr. LUTHER MUNDAY proposed, and Mr. ACTON BOND seconded, that they should recommend the executive that the title should be the Shakespeare National Theatre. The motion was carried.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—May I be allowed, as one who has, in and out of season, by voice and pen, as well as by considerable monetary expenditure, to point out that the scheme put forward by the present movers in this matter, and to be discussed at the Mansion House this week, is wholly impracticable and unbusinesslike. I would desire to say that I was asked to join the Executive Committee in the past, but I was unable to do so, as the scheme then put forward was wholly impossible; whilst, I may add, that the proposal I then made, conditionally, was not accepted nor taken up by the public. In the first place, the sum set out for the purchase of the site (£100,000) is quite unnecessary, since the proper method should be to obtain an option to acquire a building lease for the period of ninety-nine years, with a peppercorn rent for the first year, and a reasonable rent on a sliding scale for the remaining years, with the option also to purchase the site within five years if desired at a reasonable figure. The public will never subscribe £100,000 for a site, nor will they subscribe £100,000 for the erection of a theatre which can be well built for £50,000 or £60,000 at the very utmost—*i.e.*, in the heart of the West End. As regards an endowment, I have twice interrogated Parliament upon this matter through the Hon. W. F. D. Smith, M.P., and have received the answer of both Governments in office at the time, that no such endowment would be made. Much as I would desire to see a National Theatre erected in London—and, I may add, I have never spared time nor money to further such a vital object—I regret to say the present scheme can only prove abortive, since it is not put forth on the proper economic business lines, which alone can ensure its success. Above all, such a scheme must first be "broad based upon the people's will," and as I have tested the public in many ways, and can speak from actual experience as to what they require and what they will only approve, I am certain the present scheme, much as I regret to say it, is doomed to failure. In conclusion, I would respectfully state that such a theatre should be ruled and regulated solely by men, and that no woman should ever have any voice in its management, *i.e.*, if ever such a theatre was erected in our midst, for the inclusion of such would be entirely out of place and only help to accelerate its ultimate extinction.—Yours faithfully,
WALTER STEPHENS.
London, W., March 23.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I crave the hospitality of your columns to place before the Committee of the National Theatre two suggestions: (1) That a member of the council of the Actors' Association be on the governing body of the National Theatre; (2) that minor parts be paid for at a rate not below £2 a week, and that an endeavour be made to give these parts to experienced actors who at the moment may have recently had indifferent luck. Provincial actors out of work should be able to feel that they could take a National Theatre job without shame while looking about for a better. What the president of the Gower-street school is doing in the galley is beyond the average actor's comprehension. The Gower-street school has done incalculable harm to the profession already, and placed many untried recruits above the heads of those who have borne the burthen and the heat of the day. For St. Genesius' holy sake let not the fledglings of the Gower-street school take the bread out of the mouths of established actors and actresses in connection with the National Theatre.
—Yours faithfully,
CECIL BROOKING.
Gaiety Theatre, Hastings, March 24.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—At this gloriously successful moment, when we hear of thousands being given anonymously towards a National Theatre, I hope you will think it opportune to put in a little word for Grand Opera in English to be associated in some way with it. I deeply regret to say that a clause I have seen printed in connection with this Shakespeare Memorial seems to preclude any hope of opera ever being held there, and since seeing that clause I have ascertained definitely that there is no idea of including Grand Opera. I presume that the National Theatre Company will occasionally make tours throughout the country; could not opera be played there during that time, or at a time when the theatre would be otherwise closed? In short, taking into consideration that this is a national scheme, could not opera be allowed some very, very small corner in the idea? There must be many who honour Shakespeare and the drama as much, perhaps more, perhaps less, perhaps equally, as opera, and would it not gladden everyone of these in proportion, and possibly increase their subscriptions, to see something done to encourage opera, at any rate until opera had a house of its own.

Pray believe me when I say I want all success and all happiness to the consummation of this glorious national theatre, and I am only putting in my little plea the same way as I should feel justified in helping drama and all elevating entertainment were the positions reversed.—Yours faithfully,
CHARLES MANNERS.
Court Theatre, Liverpool.
March 25, 1909.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

The students' orchestral concert, conducted by Dr. Cummings, was given on Wednesday evening at the City of London School. The programme commenced with Haydn's Symphony No. 1, in E flat (mit dem Paukenwirbel) (with drum roll). This symphony was produced during Haydn's second visit to London in 1795, a visit so successful that Haydn returned home with about £1,200, a sum at that time sufficient to secure his future. Haydn knew something about the drum, as at a rehearsal, the drum player failing to appear, young Smart—afterwards Sir George Smart—a violinist, in answer to Haydn's question "Can anyone here play the drum?" replied "I can." But after the first movement Haydn called him down, took the drumsticks, and showed how it ought to be done. In the performance of the Symphony the orchestral students were most successful in the opening Adagio and the second and final movement. Miss Lilian H. Tooley displayed ability in her singing of the recitative "Ah! come il cor" and aria "Ombra del caro bene" (Haydn). Miss Tooley was most successful in the aria, but seemed slightly nervous in the recitative. Brahms' Serenade in D, Op. 11, ably played by the orchestra, was also included in the programme. Tschaikowsky's air "God's will be done" ("Joan's Farewell" from the composer's *Joan of Arc*) was an ambitious song for a student, but Miss Fanny Cuthbert distinguished herself vocally, although her enunciation of the words might have been more distinct. The orchestra accompanied cleverly both the vocal items. A Preludio (MS.) by R. Zardo had much merit. The composer has a strong feeling for the modern Italian school of music, but the Preludio is certainly none the worse for that, as it contains a pleasing and melodious theme well carried out.

THE sale of dolls dressed by the principals of Mr. James M. Chute's *Aladdin* pantomime, at the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, and sold by auction by Mr. Bransby Williams, attracted a packed house to the Colston Hall, and realised £25. The function was arranged by Uncle Jack, editor of the *Bristol Times and Mirror* Children's Corner, and this lady (for "Uncle Jack" is a lady) has decided to endow a cot at the Weston-super-Mare branch of the Bristol Children's Hospital. The endowment takes place on April 21, and the tablet over the cot will bear the following inscription:—"The *Bristol Times and Mirror* Children's Corner 'Aladdin' cot, endowed as the result of a sale by auction of dolls dressed by the following members of Mr. James M. Chute's *Aladdin* pantomime, 1908-9:—Miss Ouida Macdermott, Miss Topsey Sinden, Miss Deborah Volar, Miss Daisy Wood, Mr. Bransby Williams, Mr. W. H. Powell, Mr. A. Clarke, Mr. A. Sutcliffe, and Mr. Jocelyn Hope."

"MAY I point out," writes an indignant actress to the *Mail*, "that numberless men find good and brilliant wives on the stage? It is a profession where women must learn the lessons of unlimited patience, self-control, cheerfulness under continual rebuffs, and dogged perseverance—not altogether undesirable qualities to bring into the marriage state. Surely a woman so trained compares favourably with an idle woman, taught to secure a rich husband at any cost, and ready to sell herself to anyone for money. In the case under discussion I fail to see that the society marriage, where the wife belonged to an old and honoured family, was any more a success than the stage alliance."

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

ISLINGTON EMPIRE.

A well-diversified programme is being presented at this popular hall, and audiences rule large and enthusiastic as a consequence. Georg Hackenschmidt, the famous wrestler, is at the top of the bill, and local athletes are following with the greatest interest the efforts of local champions to stand the fifteen minutes. It is needless to say that there is nothing very alarming to Hackenschmidt in the opposition put up. His visit, which is announced as his farewell, presumably before his big match in Australia, is a big success. Ada Cerito is still singing "Half time, change over," and it goes very well. The hit of the evening was made by Leo Tell, the well-known mimic, who apparently finds it a simple matter to reproduce the sounds of the most distinctly different things—cats, flageolets, 'cellos, motor-cars, and cornets.

A very clever item in his act was his imitation of a horse, and some idea of the reception he gained may be gauged by the fact that he had to concede two encores. A very pleasant act was submitted by Collins's Twelve Dutch Girls, who, in a variety of songs and dances, proved themselves to be very well trained and clever little artists. The Fidardy Trio, Continental acrobats, present a very smart show, full of skilfully-performed feats, which deserved and gained well-merited applause. The Three Sisters Sprightly have established themselves as firm favourites here. Their first item, a song on Fashions, caused great amusement; and their second, a golf scena, was even more successful, all three ladies having a capital sense of humour.

Sammy Shields, Scotch comedian, is also gaining laurels, his singing, patter, and football business combining to make his turn very popular. He caused any amount of laughter, and his topical gags gained a good deal of applause. Harry Conlin succeeded in hitting the public taste in two songs, the first, "I'm not going to play any longer," going well, and the second being a good dame song. Harry Morgan, who opens the programme, gained applause for a song and dance. The Bioscope is very amusing this week, and Mr. Petersen's orchestra, as usual, sustains its high reputation. Mr. B. Adams, the manager, is very attentive in the front of the house.

EMPRESS, BRIXTON.

An excellent programme has been arranged for this week by the genial manager, Mr. Nelson Francis. A prominent place in the evening's entertainment is assigned to Fred Karno's latest side-splitter *The Yap-Yaps*. This is being presented by a well-chosen company. There is an exciting and stirring boxing scena, which is greatly to the liking of the majority of those present. An exhibition in the noble art of self-defence by those well-known exponents Young Josephs and Alf. Reed is followed with great interest, and the contestants come in for very liberal recognition. A funny set-to—in which science may truly be said not to play an important part—is that furnished by the Honourable Chinn and Big Benn, the bruiser. Their amusing fooling is the cause of hilarity, and when the curtain is rung down the applause is long and deafening.

The Four Kellys, acrobats of no mean ability, give an exhibition of tumbling that is quite unique in its way, and their daring feats earn for them hearty goodwill. Dave Samuels, described as the "Jew marvel," has a regular winner in his pot-pourri song, which is composed of two or three lines from several of our leading popular numbers. As a Scotchman he is also a great success, his singing and dancing being too funny for words. The Daunton-Shaw trick cyclists are in their happiest vein, being responsible for neat and graceful execution of many difficult feats. A great feature of their turn is the comedy merchant, who contributes excellent fooling. Woodhouse and Wells show ability in the Terpsichorean art. A dainty comedienne with a pleasing voice and manner is Miss Connie Leon, who scores heavily in "I like your French bonnet," which she follows with "Peggy the pride of the mill," and concludes with some well executed dancing. Miss Tot Davis was unable to appear on the night of our visit, and in her place came the Louie Gilbert Cowboys, youngsters who sing and dance very creditably. The funny stories of Dutch Daly are much appreciated, especially by the male members of the audience; his concertina rendering of Mendelssohn's "Spring Song" brings down the house. Lewis's Marvellous Mannikins certainly do not belie their name, and the pitch of perfection to which their working has been brought may truly be said to be wonderful. The stage setting also is beautiful.

An amusing little sketch entitled *Man's Equal* is being presented by Herbert E. Terry and Jessie Danvers. A Suffragette and her lover go out for a cycling picnic. Arrived at their destination, they have a tiff, and the young man rides off, leaving his sweetheart alone. She passes the time by trying to smoke a cigar, the attempt ending in dismal failure, and several times she asserts that she does not know the meaning of the word "fear." The appearance of an escaped convict on the scene soon alters her tone of bravado. Assuring her that he will not hurt her, he commandeers her bicycle, and also orders her to give him her clothes, as he wants to disguise himself in order to further his chances of escape. She tearfully pleads to him not to be so cruel, but he is obdurate, and she goes behind a hedge, and one by one throws the garments over to him. The effect when he has them on is ludicrous, and amidst the roars of the house he departs. Left to herself, and without clothes, she is in a quandary as to what to do, when her lover appears and says that he has heard of the escape of a convict and had consequently become a bit anxious about her Explanations follow, a temporery rig-up is arranged, and the curtain falls. Keith and Rigby also entertain, and pictures on the Bioscope conclude a pleasant evening.

SHOREDITCH OLYMPIA.

The programme at the above hall is again this week crowded with attractions of a varied and interesting nature, and Mr. H. H. Ketteman, the energetic manager, must be complimented on the manner in which all the items are presented. The principal feature of the entertainment is the appearance of Mr. George Gray and company in the ever-popular sketch *The Fighting Parson*. It is almost needless to say anything regarding this production, and certainly impossible to say more in praise of it than has been already written. The scenes employed are well adapted to the purpose, and the various effects tend to further the success of this already famous playlet. Mr. George Gray enacts the title-rôle in his well-known conscientious manner, and invests the part with more than sufficient interest to hold the close attention of the audience. The many members of his company each perform their respective parts in a manner deserving of high praise.

Miss Elsie Clare, a charming vocalist, sings with taste and feeling "I never knew till now how much I love you." The blind musical genius, Martin Henderson, proves his worth beyond all doubt as a musician of high order. His piano playing is a delight to the ear, and his rendering of "The Lost Chord" on the concertina sets one wondering how it is that such melodious music can be obtained from this instrument. He is recalled again and again.

Collins's Twelve Dutch Girls contribute a pleasing singing and dancing scena. Their dances, both individually and collectively, are neatly executed. The comedy pair, Stacey and Williams, create considerable amusement with their humorous patter and songs, and the dance at the end of their turn is cleverly performed, their steps and movements being precisely in unison. The Irish humorist, Mr. Joe O'Gorman, relates several quaint anecdotes in his own inimitable manner, and forces laughter at every turn. His songs, too, are of a particularly droll nature, and evoke much merriment. Miss Eva Ellis charmingly sings "My little piece of Dresden china," and finishes with a dance, for which she is deservedly applauded. George Ridgwell is the possessor of a fine voice, which he puts to good use in a tuneful ballad, and he afterwards proves his ability on the cornet by a capital rendering of "Killarney." Mr. Harry Cooke does well with his song, composed solely of the titles of other songs, and meets with every success. The entertainment is brought to a successful conclusion by the Imperial Bioscope, with a series of new and original pictures.

THE MIDDLESEX.

An interesting and fairly well-written little tragedy was produced on Monday, March 15, at the Middlesex by Mr. Jose G. Levay's company, the title being:

"THE IRONY OF FATE."

Mr. Graham Wolfe .....Mr. Harold Summers
Mrs. Graham Wolfe .....Miss Lena Loveridge
Edgar Wolfe .....Little Molly Davis
Dr. Ernest Cartwright ....Mr. Harry Barford
Mary .....Miss Clarice Shirley

The scene of this playlet is given as the Library of Mr. Graham Wolfe's country house. Mr. Wolfe's business in London is that of money-lender—a calling of which he seems not too proud, if we are to judge by what he says to his little son Edgar. While the little family is engaged in conversation, a caller in the person of Dr. Cartwright is announced, and on hearing his name called by the servant, Edgar tells his father that the doctor is not too fond of him (Mr. Wolfe), and that he referred to him as a vampire, who would suck the last drop of blood out of anybody who happened to be in his power. Mr. Wolfe decides that he will be revenged upon the doctor for making such a remark in the hearing of the son, whom he loves very dearly. Dr. Cartwright has borrowed £500 from Wolfe, and the bill has to be met on the following day. When the two men are alone, Cartwright asks for a renewal of the bill for three months, explaining that if this is not granted he will be ruined. Wolfe reminds him of his insulting remarks, and Cartwright offers an apology, and pleads again for the extension of time in which to meet the liability. But Wolfe, indignant that his son should have listened to aspersions cast upon his own father, is obdurate, and declines to grant even a day's grace, and Cartwright leaves in a condition of mental distress. A few minutes later Mrs. Wolfe rushes in to her husband with the news that the little boy has been taken suddenly and seriously ill—he has broken a blood-vessel—and the servant is sent to fetch Dr. Cartwright. Wolfe learns on telephoning to the doctor's house that he has not yet returned, and a very short time elapses before the maid returns with a statement to the effect that Cartwright has committed suicide in a lane. And on the heels of this sad intelligence, Mrs. Wolfe comes in to tell her husband that their boy is dead. With the scene of Wolfe's remorse the sketch ends. Mr. Harold Summers as the implacable financier yet loving father was distinctly good, and Miss Lena Loveridge presented a sympathetic study of his wife. The other rôles had suitable exponents.

Among the individual "turns" of the variety entertainment here last week, Mr. Billy Williams, known to fame as "the man in the velvet suit," is taking the house by storm. He has a capital whistling song, and altogether is as merry and jovial as we have always known him to be. His songs, "Save a little bit for me" and "I must go home to-night" find great favour with the audience, who chorus some of the lines with much gusto. Miss Lily Burnand, ever fresh and vivacious, appears first as a slavey, and renders with considerable expression a most entertaining ditty. She also contrives to be amusing in her second item, which seems to concern the infelicity of married life. Miss Rosie De Vere proves quite an engaging comedienne, and Sinclair and Gordon appear in a most attractive petite comedy act, while Miss Elsie Forster wins golden opinions for her delightful singing and dancing. The Dalgarnos submit an extremely interesting original duologue appropriately entitled *Caught Napping*, and Miss Winnie Winn distinguishes herself by her vocalism and Terpsichorean efforts. Mr. Frank Couch is responsible for an extremely well-acted scena, in which he plays the character of an old-time London actor, "telling the tale to a barmaid," the pathos and comedy of the impersonation being capitally represented. Miss Flo Penley and Mr. George English create merriment with their musical comedy skit, *Four a Shilling, Fine Mackerel*, and Les Sucriskis give a daring and clever aerial gymnastic demonstration. Mr. Horace Jones, the quaint comedian and patterer, furnishes a humorously absurd picture of a curate singing "Let us be joyful," which fairly brings down the house, and the Gregson Trio are intensely funny in their comedy sketch *The Dummy*. The Sisters Selwyn offer some enchanting vocalism in the songs "My sweet rainbow" and "I'm not going away," and their dancing gains universal admiration. Sevill Foster and company with *Eight Dreams and a Nightmare*, and Robbins and Collier in the comedy railway scene, *The Lady and the Porter*, also make notable contributions to the programme, and the Daunton-Shaw troupe of Australian trick cyclists are once more seen in their marvellous exhibition. On Wednesday evening, St. Patrick's Night, Miss May Gurney gave an exquisite rendering of "The Wearin' o' the Green" and "The Kerry Dance." Attractive pictures by the New Bioscope conclude.

BATTERSEA PALACE.

The programme for the current week at this cosy hall is one of exceptional attractiveness, the principal engagement being that of the popular chorus singer Miss Lottie Lennox, who roused the enthusiasm of the audience for her excellent rendering of her latest song, "Join the Territorials," the chorus of which was heartily taken up. Miss Lennox also obliged with "The old green hat." In connection with the visit of this artist a singing competition is being held for the lady who can sing any of her songs as near to the original as possible, the sum of £5 being provided by the management as a prize. On the evening of our visit three ladies appeared, and were included in the semi-final, which took place during the first house last night (Friday).

Mr. Ernest Rees, billed as a droll comedian, certainly deserves the title, as he kept the audience highly amused and in a state of hilarity by his amusing patter and his inimitable rendering of "Father's photograph." The Four Figaros are conspicuous for their melodious interlude entitled *Ten Minutes on the Continent*, in which the national songs and dances of Switzerland, Spain, and Holland are introduced. Miss Josephine Crosk has obtained great popularity in this district for her vocal abilities. This week she scores a great success with a new song, "Kiss daddy good-night," which will, no doubt, rank with the successes of the year if its reception at Battersea be any criterion. Hayes and Watson gave a fine exhibition of sand dancing on a billiard table; Archie Pitt also gave a good account of himself as a comedian in the song "I don't think," and in a well-executed dance. The Sisters Belmont ably acquitted themselves in song and dance. A dainty and charming turn is that of Lona, a pretty young lady, who presents a refined musical act, in which various instruments are employed.

Mrs. Bennett and company play a powerful sketch entitled *The Moreton Pearls*, the characters in which are capably undertaken by Mrs. Bennett as Olga Lestrange, Mr. L. Strange as Gentleman Jack, and Mr. M. Farrar as Detective Darham. Mr. James McCarthy still attends to the comfort of his numerous visitors in his usual courteous manner.

"A MIDNIGHT MYSTERY."

A Detective Drama, in Five Scenes, Played for the First Time in England at the Empire, Camberwell, on Monday, March 22.

Frank Holt .....Mr. John G. Brandon
Judas Stein .....Mr. Frank Hawthorne
"Red" McNally .....Mr. Geo. P. Haines
Maurice Fane .....Mr. Henry J. Corliss
Mrs. Fane .....Miss Mary Bronton
Judy Flanagan .....Miss Reba Hall

Several of the sketches from the pen of the author of the above playlet, notably *The Yellow Fang* and *The Girl and the Tough*, have already won favour in London, and a success may also be credited to Mr. John G. Brandon for his production of *A Midnight Mystery*. As a thrilling detective story the piece has its merits, but it is in its portrayal of scenes and characters of New York life that its chief recommendation lies. It is a story of the abduction of Maurice Fane, a diamond merchant's clerk, who has been carried off by a gang of scoundrels. The aid of the great detective Frank Holt is sought by the young man's mother, and he promises to carry the case through. Fortunately, the abduction had been witnessed by Judy Flanagan, a "waif," who recognises the picture shown by the clerk's mother as that of a young man she had seen bundled into a cab the night before. Holt gains his first clue by disguising himself as an old Irish woman, and overhears a plot laid by Judas Stein and "Red" McNally, the heads of the "East River Gang," to carry off Mrs. Fane as well. Again disguising himself, this time as an ice-cream vendor in Central Park, Holt witnesses the abduction of Mrs. Fane, and springing on to the back of the cab, follows the villains to their haunt. To gain admittance to the thieves' den he adopts the guise of a New York "tough," and by this means prevents the killing of young Fane, who is bound to the wall. Fane has hidden the coveted diamonds so securely that his captors are unable to find them, and it is for the purpose of compelling him to speak that they have brought his mother there. They bring in a dumb Chinaman to apply the torture peculiar to his race, but scarcely has he begun when Maurice gives in, and consents to reveal his hiding-place. Eventually Holt is recognised by "Red" McNally, and there is a terrific struggle between the two men, when Judy Flanagan appears in the nick of time, and shoots McNally dead, ere the police enter and take charge of the Jew. Mr. John G. Brandon is the hero of the sketch, and acquits himself effectively of an arduous part, in which he sustains no less than five characters—his depiction of the New York "tough" being a particularly clever assumption. Judy Flanagan, a comely young girl, who stands in the same relation to Holt as Sherlock Holmes's page-boy did to that great detective, is played with spirit and keenness by Miss Reba Hall. "Red" McNally, who reminds one of Professor Moriarty, is thoroughly depicted by Mr. Geo. P. Haines, and his villainous associate, Judas Stein, is comically impersonated by Mr. Frank Hawthorne. The sketch is a marvel of setting, the famed Central Park being presented with every degree of realism, and changing instantly to an old wharf with the river beyond, the lights shining in the distance.

A foremost place in Mr. Jesse Sparrow's programme is occupied by Miss Millie Hylton, a rare favourite at Camberwell. Her return to the Empire is marked by the production of a new scena, called "Won't You Play at Sweethearts?" addressed to an imaginary beau. It has a lilting chorus, which Miss Hylton sings with much charm. The conductor of the orchestra, however, specially appointed for the number, thinks he can do better, and sings the refrain in a tuneful baritone. He is challenged by the comedienne to repeat the chorus on the stage, and promptly accepts the invitation. Arrived on the "boards," the conductor becomes aggressively amorous, much to the lady's indignation, until he is recognised as the veritable lover to which the song refers, and all ends in harmony. Miss Hylton is very daintily attired, and sings with her wonted captivating charm. As a "Nell Brinkley Girl," too, she exerts a fascinating influence.

The absurdity *Ananias II.* introduces Mr. Stratton Mills as a solicitor's office boy, and much laughter is created by a diverting sketch, which has before won success. Mr. Cecil Newton as a young barrister and Miss Minnie Blanchard as his fiancée give valuable assistance. Miss Queenie May sings in a tuneful voice a song, the sentiment of which appeals powerfully to the audience in "Just remind them of the days gone by," but the youthful singer is hardly so well suited in a lyric with the refrain "Go home and put your trousers on." "The Motor Man" is one of the many devices for creating laughter submitted by the Hersleb Brothers, clever and daring knockabouts; and merriment is also made by the Three Comedy Chanters, who combine humour and harmony in a manner most acceptable to the audience. Mr. W. G. Webber is applauded enthusiastically for his singing of the basso ballads, "The Deathless Army" and "Asleep in the Deep." Great Scott does wonderful things on the unsupported ladder, and the programme is also contributed to by Marlow and Manton, in *Winning a Wife*; Mr. Arthur Kingsley, light comedian; the L.V.O. Trio, "those troublesome slaveys; and Jeape's Animated Graphic. Mr. Percy Ford is a courteous and capable manager.

A FASCINATED JUDGE.

A claim by Messrs. Marinelli and Co., theatrical agents, against Miss Lalla Selbini, for £23 commission on performances at the Empire, was heard on Saturday in Westminster County Court.

The plaintiffs' case was that Miss Selbini signed an agreement to pay them commission on all engagements within a certain period.

The defence was that Miss Selbini's mother obtained the Empire engagement.

Miss Selbini, giving evidence, said she saw Mr. Marinelli in Paris while performing there and refused to sign an agreement with him. She was going on to Berlin, and Mr. Marinelli told her she would find harder treatment there than she had found in Vienna, because she would be met by men who would take the clothes off her back in the street unless she signed the contract with him. She signed under coercion.

Explaining the reference to Vienna, the witness said that men burst into her room at 7 a.m. while she was in bed, and carried off her clothing and jewellery because she had failed to carry out an old contract to perform in that city.

Mr. Marinelli, in evidence, gave a different version of the Paris interview. He told Miss Selbini she had broken four contracts in various cities, for which judgments had been entered against her, and that he could not act for her in Berlin unless she made him her sole agent.

The Dresden Selbini contract was put in evidence.

Deputy-Judge Bevan (reading): "Miss Lalla Selbini, the Bathing Beauty."

Mr. Cranstoun (for defendant) said that was one of her performances. Was it likely this young lady was a superior power in bargaining with Mr. Marinelli?

The Deputy-Judge: If you ask me, I think she could twist him round her little finger. When she turned her black eyes on me I was fascinated; my pen dropped from my fingers.

Mr. Cranstoun: That is flattery.

Judgment was given for Messrs. Marinelli and Co. with costs.

"The Era" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(From our own Correspondent.)

SYDNEY, Feb. 16.—*The Old Folks at Home*, by Mr. John A. Campbell, was produced by Messrs. Meynell and Gunn at the Palace Theatre on the 13th. The mounting is decidedly picturesque, Virginian cotton-fields abounding, and an old English homestead, with a beautiful rose garden, was hugely admired. Mr. C. R. Stanford cast and stage-managed, also playing, with fine judgment, Lord Howard Kenilworth. A coon scene introduced shows Misses Marion Norman (Aunt Dinah), Queenie Williams, and Maggie Dickenson at their best; and, helped by a lot of clever children, Miss Alice Deorwyn was an ideal farmer's wife. Mr. Conway Wingfield was Andrew Ross, bringing out all the manly traits of the character; and Miss Beatrice Holloway made Dorothy sweet and charming. Mr. R. J. Lorraine was a typical Mexican bravo; and the artist, Lowell, who foiled his murderous attempt, had a competent exponent in Mr. F. Coope. The faithful mute was admirably portrayed by Mr. H. T. Lewis; and Miss Ida Gresham made a handsome Patricia. For strong character-acting Mr. J. B. Atholwood has no equal in this country, and he made stern old Christopher Robin stand out like a cameo. Mr. Leo Chateau and Miss May Roberts as a big sailor and a dainty maid provided the fun; and two solemn footmen, played by Mr. E. M. Keon and Mr. J. R. Howard, created some laughter.

"The Scarlet Pimpernel" was revived on the 13th at the Royal by Mr J. C. Williamson. For this revival Miss Beatrice Day was engaged to play Lady Blakeney, a decided item of strength. Miss Day's incisive elocution and airy persiflage came to the aid of the character, and her strong scenes with Chauvelin and Sir Percy were very fine. Mr. Julius Knight plays Sir Percy consistently and well; Mr. Leslie Victor is most impressive as Chauvelin, never once losing sight of his goal; Miss Susie Vaughan as the Comtesse de Tournai made a big dramatic mark; and Miss Guildford Quin was a deliciously simple Suzanne. Mr. Harry Plimmer was the Prince of Wales, dignified, distinct, and gallant. The Vicomte de Tournai had a most efficient representative in Mr. R. S. McKay.

"The Squatter's Daughter," by Mr. Anderson's company, at the Criterion, will run for the ten nights now to pass before Miss Eugenie Duggan and her husband, Mr. William Anderson, leave for England in search of rest and novelties, human and dramatical.

The Tivoli welcomed Cinquevalli back on the 13th with tremendous applause, and Mr. Harry Rickards's very large company shared in the enthusiasm. It is a fine bill.

"A MUSICAL TRAGEDY."

On Thursday evening, March 18, the attractions of the programme at the Shepherd's Bush Empire were, at the first house, enhanced by the introduction of an original musical comedy sketch, written and invented by Mr. Bert Gilbert, with music by Mr. George Hall. The little piece served to introduce to an English audience Miss Mabelle Morgan, a charming artist, who has a considerable reputation in Australia, and who was announced as "Australia's Gum Tree Girl," a description which, it must be admitted, does not mean very much to an audience on this side of the world. Miss Morgan, of course, played the leading part in *A Musical Tragedy*, and was assisted by Mr. William Le Brun. The sketch proved vastly to the taste of the audience, and, furthermore, gave to Miss Morgan opportunities for the exercise of an uncommonly good voice and the display of a very handsome presence. She appeared first in evening dress, and later on in a kind of principal boy costume. Her first song was particularly well executed, and earned hearty applause.

The slight plot of the interplay between the would-be tragedy queen, provided already with a play that is to bring the world to her feet; the sceptical, cynical, little musical comedy manufacturer, to whom, *malgré lui*, she pours out her hopes, her plans, and, incidentally, her play (but who decides that drama is played out, and recruits her to the ranks of musical comedy); and the jealous page-boy (well played by a gentleman whose name we were unable to discover), provides Miss Morgan, a novelty in the shape of a mixed (very) duet between Mr. Le Brun and a gramophone, and some humorous business which was pleasingly characterised by complete absence of exaggeration and vulgarity. But there is yet room on the peg for more and even for better hangings. With a little strengthening and elaboration we shall expect to meet this sketch again, quite possibly delighting larger audiences within the magic circle of the West End.

Barney Armstrong is singing a new song, "Lauder on the brain," in which he is assisted by Little Jimmy Steel. This should be a big number for the West-end halls.

Mr. Editor.—Sir,—In your report of the Hippodrome, Great Yarmouth, of last week, my name, and also that of Miss Ena Richards, was omitted. Should be glad if you would give publicity to the fact.—Yours faithfully, Beanland, Hippodrome, Lowestoft, March 23.

To the opening of new rinks there seems to be no end. In addition to those already recorded in *The Era*, we now have to chronicle the opening of skating palaces at Bedford, Huddersfield (about which Mr. Samuel E. Winslow says it is "the smartest and neatest rink I have ever seen"), Edinburgh, Bath, Belfast, Harrogate, Reading, and Ipswich.

Two thousand pairs of the famous "Baltimore Flyer" skates have been put into active service at the Victoria Hall, Exeter. This is part of a gigantic order for 30,000 pairs now being made for different rinks in all parts of the country. The Victoria Hall has been leased for three seasons of seven months each by Rinkeries, Ltd.

Hanley is to have a new rink costing £6,000. A site has been secured, and a ten years' lease has been signed. The rink itself is to be 350ft. long and 200ft. wide. A large motor garage will be a feature of this establishment for the use of patrons coming from a distance. The rink will be erected immediately opposite the Town Hall. The opening of the rink now in course of construction by the Wolverhampton, Bilston and District Skating Rinks, Ltd., at Stow Heath will take place on Saturday, April 3. The skating surface will be 200ft. by 80ft.

Presentation.—On the occasion of his first anniversary as manager of the new Alhambra Theatre, Belfast, Mr. Will White was on Monday the recipient of some valuable gifts. Mr. Ed. Smith (formerly of the Parthenon, Liverpool) on behalf of the directors of the New Alhambra, presented Mr. White with an illuminated address and a cheque for £25, and from the staff and some friends a very handsome diamond ring. Mr. White, who was received with loud cheers, thanked the donors and Mr. Smith, and said that he would do all in his power—as in the past—to merit the high esteem of the directors and of the many patrons of the theatre. It should be added that Mr. White was the recipient of several wires of congratulation during the evening.

SEIZURE OF PIRATED MUSIC.

Gottfried Martin, twenty-two, described as a wastepaper merchant, of Baroness-buildings, Shoreditch, was charged on Tuesday, before Mr. Baggallay, at North London, with having in his possession 32,173 pirated copies of various copyright musical works.

Mr. Travers Humphreys appeared to prosecute on behalf of the Music Publishers' Association, and said that on this occasion the magistrate would be asked to grant process against another person for conspiring with the prisoner to produce and distribute pirated music. The evidence already given showed that a man named Mansfield was arrested some months ago in the neighbourhood of Cassland-road, South Hackney, with a number of pirated songs in his possession, and, after two remands, he was discharged. Inquiries made by Detective-Sergeant William Smith, J Division, led to the seizure of thousands of pirated copies of music at Cassland-road, Holywell-lane, and Morris-road, Poplar. In all 48,000 copies were seized, the hiding-places being stables, lofts, or cellars.

Simon Sobel, a printer, of Hackney-road, said that he knew the prisoner as George Talner. He began to print music for him five years ago, and altogether he had printed about sixty different songs. About Christmas last he received a letter from the prisoner, who was then in Newcastle, asking him to clean two litho stones and "put down" "Asleep in the deep." The request for copies was urgent, the writer adding, "They are going mad for it up here." The witness printed 5,000 copies of that song, the prisoner sending him by post the transfer of the song to place on the litho stones. The witness was paid 4s. per ream, which represented 500 copies. He packed up the 5,000 copies, and a carman named William Wardell took them away.

Later the witness printed 5,000 copies of the song "My ain folk," and subsequently another 5,000, of which he gave the prisoner 400 or 500 copies, meeting him by arrangement in the Hackney-road. The rest of the copies were taken away by the carman Wardell. The witness asked the prisoner not to send any more boxes to his place for the music to be packed in, as he had not room to store them. The prisoner replied that the music must be packed in boxes in the same way as other printers packed it.

The last lot he printed was 5,000 copies of the song "Eileen Alannah." He received the transfer by post. When he heard that the police had made a seizure he took this lot to his father-in-law's premises in Holywell-lane, Shoreditch. The prisoner advised him to clean the songs off the litho stones, and referred to the arrest of Mansfield, remarking that they were quite safe, as he (Mansfield) would not give them away. The prisoner had told him that the music was old and that the copyright had expired.

Witness, now, however, pressed by the magistrate, after fencing the question for some time, admitted that he knew he was doing wrong in printing the music.

Mrs. Sobel, wife of the last witness, gave evidence in support of his statement, and said that she read all her husband's letters.

Mr. Humphreys: When were you married?—Witness: Last December.

Mr. Arthur Preston, chief agent to the Association, produced the copyright certificates for fifty-four different songs amongst those seized, and formally proved the certificates relating to the songs "Asleep in the deep," "Eileen Alannah," "Down the vale," and "Sweet Eileen."

Prisoner was remanded on bail.

MASONS AT WORK.

The first regular meeting of the session of the Chelsea Lodge of Freemasons No. 3,098 was held at the Town Hall, Chelsea, on Friday last under the presidency of Mr. Henry Coutts, W.M., Walter Hitch, S.W., Douglas White, acting J.W., Wolfe S. Lyon, treasurer, C. J. Doughty, secretary, W. F. K. Walton, S.D., G. H. Dyball, J.D., W. H. Atlas, acting I.G., Albert Le Fre, acting I.P.M., Angelo Asher, organist, A. E. Nicklin, steward, and J. H. McNaughton, tyler. The Worshipful Master advanced Mr. Ernie Myers, and completed the ceremony with Messrs. Herbert La Martine, Walter Ward, and Ed. E. Ford. Letters and telegrams of regret of unavoidable absence were received from a number of members from all parts of the United Kingdom. Amongst the brethren were Bertie Ralland, Wm. Ward, W. Collinson, Ernie Myers, Paul Murray, W. Doust, Ed. E. Ford, Ernie Warsaw, Herbert La Martine, H. J. Kisbey, Sydney Chaplin, Victor Kelly, R. E. Wilding, J. Grant, Ernie Chester, Albert Christian, J. B. Helm, C. H. Burton, W. Permâné, Tom Parker, Bowker Andrews, and Eric Farr. The Lodge was honoured by many visitors, including Hy. C. Courtney, Liverpool Dramatic 1609; Walter Barrett, Glasgow Dramatic 571; Eric Greenwood, King Solomon 29; Sydney Rogers, Earl's Court 2765; Chas. F. Galetti, Ben Hur 818, Chicago, Illinois; J. L. Ladley, Earl's Court 2765; B. H. Ward (Almon), Shepherd's Bush 1328; &c.

Mr. J. Howard Shackleton, the popular conductor of the orchestra at the Hippodrome, Portsmouth, since the opening entertainment, has this week been succeeded by Mr. Amos Parker.

Mr. E. V. Barr, a local comedian, had a flattering reception at the Great Yarmouth Hippodrome on Monday, where he reappeared after an absence of only a few weeks. Mr. Barr is making rapid strides, and his new songs and stories greatly amused the audience.

Terola made his first public appearance at the Grand Theatre, Hanley, on Monday, when his great sensational act of "motoring a whirling cyclone" caused great excitement, the feat being so daring. Wild shouts of enthusiasm welcomed the completion of the act, which is quite original and fully protected. The cost of the apparatus alone has been over £500.

Another entertaining variety programme is presented at the Lyceum Theatre Stafford, this week. Maurin's Fountains is a decidedly effective and pretty spectacle; Hand and Heart give a smart comedy act; Fred Ellis sings good songs; and Nellie Rutley makes a happy little Dutch girl; Johnny McElroy, an old Stafford favourite, causes screams of laughter with his "no name" sketch; and the Empire pictures are good.

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ON THE ROAD, MARCH 29.

AN ENGLISHMAN'S HOME.—T. R., Newcastle.
AN ENGLISHMAN'S HOME.—T. R., Bournemouth.
ANOTHER MAN'S WIFE.—Metropole T., Abertillery.
ASCHE, OSCAR.—T. R., Birmingham.
AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES.—Grand T., Fulham.
AT DUTY'S CALL.—Pier Pavilion, Eastbourne.
BATEMAN AND LOMATH.—Theatre Royal, Bristol.
BENSON, MR. AND MRS.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
BENSON, F. R. (N.).—O. H., Burnley.
BENSON, F. R. (S.).—Grand T., Aberaman.
BONDMAN, THE (CROKE).—T. R., Birkenhead.
BREWSTER'S MILLIONS.—Shakespeare T., Clapham.
BROKEN HEART.—Metropole T., Glasgow.
BUILDER OF BRIDGES.—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
BUILDER OF BRIDGES.—T. R., Plymouth.
CASSIDY, MR. J. RICE.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
CHARLEY'S AUNT.—H.M. T., Barrow-in-Furness.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE) (M.).—O. H., Coventry.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE) (N.).—Ashton-under-Lyne.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE) (S.).—Grand T., Swansea.
CLAUDIAN.—Grand Theatre, Leeds.
COMPTON COMEDY CO.—H.M. T., Dundee.
CONSCIENCE OF A JUDGE.—Eden T., Bishop Auckland.
COUNTRY GIRL IN LONDON.—T. R., Rotherham.
DAIRYMAIDS, THE (COURTNEIDGE).—O. H., Leicester.
DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY.—Hippodrome, Aldershot.
DIANA OF DOBSON'S (N.).—Grand T., W. Hartlepool.
DOLLAR PRINCESS, THE.—Prince's T., Bristol.
D'OYLY CARTE.—P. O. W., Birmingham.
EARLY WORM.—New T., Cardiff.
EVE OF HER WEDDING.—Gaiety T., Worksop.
EYES OF THE WORLD.—Junction T., Manchester.
FACE AT THE WINDOW.—Lyceum T., Govan.
FATAL WEDDING.—Theatre Royal, Aston.
FLAG LIEUTENANT.—County T., Reading.
FLOWER GIRL.—Empire T., Swindon.
FOR LOVE AND THE KING.—Alexandra T., Sheffield.
FOR WIFE AND KINGDOM.—Lyric, Hammersmith.
GAY GODDESS, THE.—Gaiety T., Ayr.
GAY GORDONS, THE.—T. R., South Shields.
GIRL'S CROSS ROADS.—Gaiety T., Leith.
GLOSSOP-HARRIS, MISS F.—T. R., Colchester.
GREAT AWAKENING.—Metropole T., Birmingham.
GRIT.—Theatre Royal, Bradford.
HARVEY, MR. MARTIN.—King's T., Glasgow.
HAVANA.—Grand T., Derby.
HER FATAL MARRIAGE.—King's T., Longsight.
HER FATHER AND MY WIFE.—D. P. T., Eastbourne.
HER LIFE IN LONDON.—T. R., Belfast.
HER LOVE AGAINST THE WORLD.—Boro' T., Stratford.
HER MARRIAGE VOW.—Paisley T., Paisley.
HER NAMELESS CHILD.—O. H., St. Helens.
HER SECRET LOVE.—Rotunda T., Liverpool.
HIS HOUSE IN ORDER.—O. H., Middlesbrough.
HIS SISTER'S HONOUR.—Mountain Ash.
HYPOCRITES, THE.—T. R., Halifax.
KING AND THE UNKNOWN WOMAN.—T. R., Sunderland.
LA COMEDIE ANGLAISE.—Launceston and Bideford.
LADY FREDERICK.—Gaiety T., Hastings.
LEAH KLESCHNA.—Bishop Auckland.
LITTLE BREADWINNER.—Prince's T., Accrington.
LOVE OF THE PRINCESS.—T. R., Wolverhampton.
LOVE, THE CONQUEROR.—Grand T., Mansfield.
MAN AND WIFE.—T. R., Barnsley.
MIDNIGHT MAIL.—New T. R., Leigh.
MIDNIGHT WEDDING.—Palace T., Newcastle.
MISS HOOK OF HOLLAND (DANCE'S).—T. R., Bolton.
MOODY-MANNERS (A).—T. R., Leeds.
MOODY-MANNERS (B).—Stockport.
MRS. DOT.—King's Lynn and Gainsborough.
MRS. WIGGS OF THE CABBAGE PATCH (N.).—Sunderland
MRS. WIGGS OF THE CABBAGE PATCH (S.)—Merthyr.
MY MIMOSA MAID.—Grand T., Hull.
NEW EAST LYNNE.—Queen's T., Manchester.
NEW HOUSEMAID, THE.—O. H., Southport.
NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS.—T. R., Peterborough.
NIHILIST, THE.—Court T., Warrington.
NORMAN V. NORMAN.—Gaiety T., Dublin.
OLD FOLKS AT HOME.—Osborne T., Manchester.
PASSING OF THE THIRD FLOOR BACK.—Manchester.
PETE (N.).—Grand T., Wolverhampton.
PETE (S.).—Grand T., Southampton.
PETER PAN (FROHMAN).—Prince's T., Manchester.
POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN.—T. R., Stratford, E.
POWER OF THE KING.—Elephant and Castle Theatre.
PRIVATE SECRETARY.—T. R., Bradford.
PRODIGAL SON (CROKE).—County T., Bedford.
PRODIGAL SON (CROKE) (M).—New T., Aberdare.
PRODIGAL SON (DAY).—Prince's T., Glasgow.
RAFFLES.—Theatre Royal, Hanley.
REGINALD, LIONEL.—New T., Cardiff.
ROLLICKING RORY.—Avenue T., Kettering.
ROYAL DIVORCE.—Grand T., Croydon.
SAILOR'S WEDDING.—P. G. T., Folkestone.
SEND HIM VICTORIOUS.—Alexandra T., Widnes.
SIGN OF THE CROSS.—T. R., Nottingham.
SILVER KING (POLINI).—Royalty T., Chester.
SINS OF SOCIETY.—Grand T., Oldham.
SOLDIER OF FRANCE.—O. H., Burton-on-Trent.
STARR, HARRY, REPRT.—T. R., Coatbridge.
TERRY, MR. E.—Alexandra T., Stoke Newington.
THIEF, THE.—P. O. W., Grimsby.
THIEF, THE.—T. R., Norwich.
THROUGH THE DIVORCE COURT.—T. R., Middlesbro'.
TRAITOR PRINCE.—Alexandra T., Hull.
TWO LANCASHIRE LASSES IN LONDON.—T. R., Glossop.
TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS.—Prince's T., Preston.
UNCLE TOM'S CABIN.—Todmorden.
VICTIM OF VILLAINY.—T. R., Seaham Harbour.
VILLAGE BLACKSMITH.—Castle T., Stockton.
WALTZ DREAM.—Court T., Liverpool.
WAY OF THE WORLD.—Empire T., Blaina.
WHAT A WOMAN DID.—New T., Consett.
WHEN A LASS LOVES.—New T., Cambridge.
WHEN KNIGHTS WERE BOLD.—Broadway T., Deptford.
WHEN OTHER LIPS.—Grand T., Lancaster.
WHO IS SHE?—T. R., Woolwich.
WITH EDGED TOOLS.—New T., Cambridge.
WOMAN AND WINE.—Grand T., Brighton.
WOMAN PAYS.—T. R., Macclesfield.
WOMAN WORTH WINNING.—P. O. W., Nuneaton.
WILKIE, ALLAN, AND CO.—T. R., Dewsbury.
YOU NEVER CAN TELL.—Lyceum T., Ipswich.
10.30 DOWN EXPRESS.—Lyceum T., Crewe.

"BOY BLUE" made his farewell bow to Birmingham audiences at the Prince of Wales's Theatre last Saturday evening, when the principals were all enthusiastically greeted. Early in the second part Miss Hetty King, after rendering one of her popular songs, was inundated with magnificent bouquets, and several souvenirs were handed across the footlights. In the course of an effective little speech Miss King thanked the audience for the kindness shown to her not only on that night, but during the whole of her stay. She did not know how to express her regret at having to leave them and the boys and girls with whom she had been so happy.

ANOTHER interesting little interlude occurred when Mr. G. H. Elliott presented Miss Tyrrell, the ballet mistress, and all the girls with souvenirs. He, too, thanked the audience, and said that the girls were the best he had ever met and a credit to the theatre and the town they came from.

DURING the forest scene all the performers gathered on the stage, flanked by the stage hands and theatre employees, while Mr. Graham made a speech of thanks to audience and artists. He thought artistically and materially *Boy Blue* surpassed everything they had previously attempted. Mr. Graham referred to the fact that when he first assumed the responsibility of running the theatre eleven years ago they had only two concert halls, but the halls with the two-shows-a-night system now equalled ten, while two additional theatres had been built. Still, the Prince's had always been well supported. Mr. Graham added that they had had a lot of principal boys, but the audience would agree with him in saying that they had had none to surpass Miss Hetty King. The other artists were referred to personally in eulogistic terms.

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

Notice to Contributors.

All communications intended for publication should be sent to "THE EDITOR," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

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Communications.

Business Communications should be addressed to The MANAGER,
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Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephones, 4747 and 1433, Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We cannot undertake to answer the inquiries of correspondents by post. In all letters names and addresses must be given as a guarantee of good faith. Initials only or pseudonyms will be used in the replies if so desired.]

H. LEO CRAVEN.—*The publishers are Samuel French, Ltd., Southampton-street, Strand, W.C. They also hold the acting rights.*

ARTHUR W. COOK.—*Miss Alice Lloyd is a sister of Miss Marie Lloyd, who makes no secret of the fact that she was born on Feb. 12, 1870. See notice above.*

CECIL T. FABIAN.—*We do not recommend agents. Search our advertisement columns. Messrs. Francis and Day, publishers, 142, Charing Cross-road, might be able to recommend a tutor.*

R. BOWYER (Bristol).—*Miss Dorothy Craske was trained at the Empire, and appeared for some years with Genée before she went to the Lyceum as principal boy. See notice above.*

J. NEWELL (Victoria, S.W.).—*We have seen Mr. Fred D. Harris more recently than yourself, and when we last met him he was proprietor of the Baring Hall Hotel, Grove Park, near Chislehurst. He was manager of the Queen's, Poplar, for some little time, and was also proprietor of a hostelry in Rupert-street, W.*

EUPHEMIA.—The Beaux Stratagem, *by George Farquhar, was first performed at the Haymarket, on March 8, 1707. It was revived by the late Miss Marie Litton, at the Imperial Theatre, in September, 1879, with herself as Mrs. Sullen, Miss Ellen Meyrick as Dorinda, Miss Carlotta Addison as Cherry, Mrs. Sterling as Lady Bountiful, Mr. Lionel Brough as Scrub, Mr. William Farren as Archer, Mr. E. F. Edgar as Aimwell, Mr. John Ryder as Sullen, Mr. W. H. Denny as Freeman, Mr. J. Bannister as Foigard, Mr. Fred Everill as Boniface, and Mr. Kyrle Bellew as Gibbet.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a **Birth**, a **Marriage**, or a **Death**, or an "**In Memoriam**" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is **One Shilling and Sixpence.**

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

EDELSTEN.—March 24, at 2, Douglas House, Maida Hill, W., the wife of Ernest Edelsten (Miss Marguerite Broadfoote), of a son. Both doing well.

RALLIS.—On March 14, Mrs. Phil Rallis (Minnie Kirby), of a daughter, at 22, Hanover-buildings, Southampton. Both doing well.

WYATT.—March 18, at 12, Heber-mansions, Queen's Club-gardens, West Kensington, the wife of Fred R. Wyatt, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

BROOKS—SELWYN-CARR.—March 16, at the High Church, Inverness, by the Rev. Donald McLeod, Albert E. Brooke, of Edmund Tearle's company, to Mabel Selwyn-Carr, daughter of Doctor Selwyn-Carr, of Westoe, South Shields.

BULLOUGH—DARRELL.—March 24, at the Paddington Registry Office, John Bullough, son of the late John Bullough, to Maudi Darrell, daughter of Hugh Jay Didcott, theatrical agent.

PAUMIER—ELLIOTT.—March 20, at St. Peter's Church, Regent-square, London, by the Rev. R. N. Pyk, Robert T. Paumier (Gilbert) to Pauline Elliott, daughter of the late J. B. Elliott (Elliott Savonas).

WILLIAMS—WOOD.—March 20, at Brussels, Mr. Jo. Williams, stage manager of Mr. Tom Barrasford's Alhambra, Brussels, to Miss Sarah Wood, late of the Eight Cocktails.

DEATHS.

ASKEW.—March 21, 1909, at Eden Cottage, Spennymoor, Mary Jane, the dearly loved wife of Henry Askew.

EDWARDS.—On March 19, 1909, at Ivythorn, Windsor-road, Torquay, Roger Edwards, dearly loved father of Mrs. Sam and Mrs. Joe Livesey. Deeply mourned by his sorrowing daughters. His end was peace.

HAMPSON.—At 19, Stratford-road, Heaton, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on the 17th inst., Ernie, the dearly-beloved husband of Josephine Hylton, aged 35, phthisis. Interred at Elswick Cemetery, Saturday, March 20. Deeply mourned.

OLIVE.—On Feb. 28, age 34, at Seattle, U.S.A., Lily Olive, the dearly-loved friend of Kitty Kirwan, suddenly, of heart disease. Never to be forgotten.

SYNGE.—March 24, at Dublin, E. John Millington, Irish dramatist, youngest son of the late John Hatch Synge, B.L.

WOODMAN (ROMER).—On March 23, Alexander Haines Woodman (Alec Romer), third son of the late T. H. Woodman, Lee-terrace, Blackheath, S.E., beloved husband of Annie E. Woodman (Margaret Radcliffe), in his thirty-eight year. All friends kindly accept this as the only intimation. No cards. All communications, 124, Clapham-road, S.W. Funeral Monday next, Norwood Cemetery.

IN MEMORIAM.

CASSIDY.—In ever-loving memory of my darling husband, John, who left me March 30, 1907. Never forgotten by his ever-loving wife, MADGE.

DASHWOOD.—In unfading and loving memory of our darling little son, Reg, who passed away March 27, 1907.
Fondly we loved him, he is dear to us still;
But in grief we must bend to God's Holy Will.
Our sorrow was great, our loss hard to bear,
But angels will guard him with kind tender care.
MOTHER and DAD.

GOODWIN.—In ever-loving memory of my darling wife Bonnie (L. B. Lyon), who was taken away March 19, 1907. Abide with Me.

GILLETTE.—In ever-loving memory of Ada Gillette (née Ada Watson), who fell asleep March 18, 1904. Never forgotten by all her family. To know her was to love her.
FOR SYMPATHY.

FULLER.—Mrs. George Fuller takes this opportunity of thanking the large number of friends for letters and telegrams of sympathy in her bereavement.

FLOWERBURN COTTAGE, Fortrose, Ross-shire, the Scottish home of Miss Violet Charlesworth, who has appeared at several of the London halls, was sold in Dowell's Rooms, Edinburgh, on Wednesday, for £975. It was put up at £853, but bidding was brisk.

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.

No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this list.

Alexander, Mr. S. King
Allen, Miss M.
Artois, Mr. Jack
Barnard Family
Beagle, Miss Lily
Bell, Mr. Arnold
Benn, Mr. Willie
Boden, Miss B.
Bone, Mr. F. W.
Bostock, Mr. Frank
Bostock, Mr. G.
Boucicault, Miss N.
Brickwell, Mr. H. T.
Brown, Mr. Ballard
Browne, Miss Pattie
Brumley, Mr. James
Bryce and Price
Butcher, Mr. S. H.
Caban, Mr.
Cady, Mr. F. W.
Campbell, Miss Madge
Chandon Trio
Chapman, Mr. A. F.
Chard, Mr.
Clough, Mr. Denis
Cooper, Miss Margaret
Dacre, Mr. Louis
De Gray, Mr. Geo. A.
De Lura, Miss Alma
Desmond, Miss Nell
Dickins, Mr. A. C.
Drinkwater, Mr. A. E.
Dudley, Miss Beatrice
Duncan, Miss Marie
Edwards, Mr. Karl
Ellis, Miss M. E.
Elton, Mrs. S.
Emerald, Miss Nellie
Errol, Miss Enid
Evans, Mr. Ernest
Evans, Mr. Wash
Fanning, Mr. Harry
Ford, Miss Enid
Ford, Mr. Harry
Fossett, Mr. Harry
Foxwell, Mr. Harry
Freeman, Mr. J.
Gaertner, Mr. Eugene
Ginnett, Mr. Fred
Glennister, Mr. Lionel
Golden, Mr. R.
Gray, Mrs. O. S.
Graydon, Mr. Ned
Haggar, Mr. W.
Halford, Mr. Robert
Hanlon, Mr. Arthur
Harrison, Mr. Wm.
Hawtrey, Mr. Geo. P.
Healy, Mr. Robert
Hemsley, Mr. W. T.
Henriette and Selina
Hobson, Miss Mildred
Holles, Mr. Wm.
Hughes, Miss Nellie
Jackson, Miss
James, Miss Edith
Jones, Mr. Theo.
Jordon, Mr. Jules
Kearns, Mr. Sydney
Klegin, Mr. R.
Lang and Pleydell
Latonas, The
Leaburn, Miss Bella
Lloyd, Miss Daisy
Mackenzie, Mr. W. D.
Macleay, Mrs. F.
Marcela, Mme.
Marconis, The
Marshall, Mr. Arthur
Marvin, Mr. A. C.
Matthews, Mr. E. C.
Matthews, Mr. E. H.
Maxwell and Frances
Mayer, Miss Daisy
Mayo, Mr. Sidney
McLean, Mr. A.
Melford, Mr. Mark
Michel, Brothers
Millett, Miss Maud
Moore, Miss Eva
Mudie, Mr. G.
Mundell, Mr. Frank
Nelson, Mr.
Nelson, Mr. Frank
Noble, Mr. Dan
Norris, Mr. E. B.
Oliver, Miss Ethel
Ord, Mr. Simon
Otello, Beffo
Owens, Mr. Fred
Paull, Miss Ethel G.
Peverell, Mr. Walter
Pinaud, Miss Lena
Potter, Mrs Brown
Pounds, Mr. Fern
Reiss Troupe
Rénée, Mlle.
Reno, Sisters
Reo, Mr.
Reszki and Raszki
Robinson, Mr. Dan
Rose, Mr. J. S.
Rose, Mr. Leonard
Ross, Mr. James E.
Rumford, Mrs. Kennerley
Russell, Mr. S. T.
Saxe, Mr. Templar
Saville, Mr. Frank
Scott, Miss Mamie
Siddons, The
Silvester, Mr. R.
"Sira"
Snazelle, Mr. G. H.
Snelling, Mr.
Sugden, Mr. Alfred
Taunton, Mr. Walter P.
Thornton, Mr. Frank
Tiller, Mr. A.
Turner, Mr. E.
U.S.A. Boys
Vayne, Miss Fay G.
Vernon, Mr. Leslie
Viviana
Walter, Miss May
Watts, Mr. Clive
Weston, Miss Lucy
White, Mr. Horace
White, Miss Kitty
Whiteford, Mr. J.
Williamson, Miss Maud
Woods, Mr. James
Yearsley, Mr. Claude
Yorke, Miss Ethel
Zeenas, The

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Genevieve Ward—Saturday, March 27.
Joseph Coyne—Saturday, March 27.
Percy B. Gooch—Saturday, March 27.
Harry Lupino—Sunday, March 28.
George Foster—Sunday, March 28.
Dusty Rhodes—Sunday, March 28.
H. Kyrle Bellew—Sunday, March 28.
Lady Hallé—Monday, March 29.
G. H. Chirgwin—Monday, March 29.
Ella Russell—Tuesday, March 30.
George D'Albert—Tuesday, March 30.
Minnie Palmer—Wednesday, March 31.
Ella Vane—Wednesday, March 31.
Willie Clarkson—Wednesday, March 31.
Sam Jones—Wednesday, March 31.
Emma Stockley—Wednesday, March 31.
Bay Russell—Wednesday, March 31.
Gipsy Woolf—Friday, April 2.

MISS FLORA LINGTON is still at Bournemouth Sanatorium, where she will be grateful for books or papers. Any further contributions for her may be posted direct to the Guild. Clothing and boots are urgently needed. Friends of the charity are heartily welcome to tea and receptions, held every Wednesday, four to five o'clock.

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Adeson, Mr. Charles	April 25, 1908
Allen, Mr. Frank	Feb. 22, 1908
Ames, Miss Emmie	Jan. 4, 1908
Anson, Miss Carlotta	June 13, 1908
Atwill, Mr. Lionel	June 27, 1908
Bailey, Mr. Gordon	May 30, 1908
Barber, Mr. Alfred S.	Nov. 21, 1908
Beck, Mr. Fred	April 4, 1908
Beckwith, Late Mr. J. W.	Nov. 21, 1908
Beresford, Mr. Frank	July 18, 1908
Boulton, Mr. Matthew	April 4, 1908
Brett, Mr. Edwin	Feb. 22, 1908
Brickwell, Miss Maimie	Nov. 21, 1908
Broughton, Mr. Lewis	March 6, 1909
Brownie, Miss Madge	March 13, 1909
Brydon-Phillips, Mr. G.	Jan. 4, 1908
Buxton, Mr. Fred	June 27, 1908
Campbell, Late Mr. Denis	March 6, 1909
Carpenter, Mr. Ernest	Feb. 22, 1908
Chambers, Miss Lizzie	June 6, 1908
Charcot	Feb. 13, 1909
Clinton, Late Mr. Dudley	Oct. 10, 1908
Clyfford, Miss Kathleen	Feb. 6, 1909
Coquelin, Late M.	Jan. 30, 1909
Collins, Mr. George	March 21, 1908
Cookson, Mr. S. A.	April 11, 1908
Corlass, Miss Georgie	Sept. 5, 1908
Cory-Thomas, Late Mr. L.	Nov. 21, 1908
Corri, Mr. William	July 25, 1908
Croke, Mr. Wentworth	Sept. 5, 1908
Cromwell, Mr. William	Jan. 25, 1908
Crouch, Mr. Herbert	Oct. 31, 1908
Davis, Miss Lallah	March 7, 1908
Dean, Mr. Walter	May 16, 1908
De Banzie, Mr. E. T.	Oct. 3, 1908
De Frece, Mr. Maurice	Feb. 20, 1909
Denton, Mr. C. St. John	Jan. 4, 1908
Derry, Miss Joan	Feb. 8, 1908
Dexter, Miss Elizabeth	Feb. 15, 1908
Dickeson, Mr. Herbert	June 13, 1908
Donegan, Mr. James E.	July 11, 1908
Dorgere, Mlle. Arlette	May 30, 1908
Doyle, Mr. C. Milley	Nov. 7, 1908
Drewry, Miss Maude Stewart	April 4, 1908
Dunville, Mr. T. E.	April 11, 1908
Dyas, Late Miss Ada	March 21, 1908
Edgar, Mr. Marriott	Oct. 10, 1908
Edis, Miss Anita	May 9, 1908
Edmonds, Mr. E. Vivian	June 27, 1908
Edouin, Late Mr. Willie	April 18, 1908
Elliott, Mr. G. H.	March 20, 1909
Empress, Miss Marie	Feb. 8, 1908
Fenton, Mr. Frank	June 6, 1908
Firmin, Miss Dorothy	Sept. 12, 1908
Fisher, Mr. Charles	Sept. 12, 1908
Fitzgibbon, Mr. H. B.	July 25, 1908
Foote, Miss Doris	March 6, 1909
Forde, Miss Florrie	March 21, 1908
Francis, Late Mr. William	Jan. 25, 1908
Francks, Mr. Hawley	Nov. 7, 1908
Frank, Miss Ada	July 25, 1908
Fullbrook, Mr. William	March 6, 1909.
Gay, Mr. Walter	July 11, 1908
Gibbons, Mr. Arthur	July 4, 1908
Gilbart, Miss Eleanor	Nov. 21, 1908
Gilmore, Mr. Paul	July 18, 1908
Godfrey, Mr. Dan	Aug. 29, 1908
Godfrey, Miss Freda	Jan. 2, 1909
Goldston, Mr. Will	Feb. 22, 1908
Goodall, Miss Edyth	June 13, 1908
Grant, Mr. Christie	Feb. 29, 1908
Gribbon, Mr. Harry A.	March 7, 1908
Grimes, Mr. W. J.	May 23, 1908
Hamilton, Miss Rose	April 18, 1908
Hanbury, Late Miss Lily	March 7, 1908
Hansard, Late Mr. J. B.	Feb. 8, 1908
Hardacre, Miss Ethel	July 4, 1908
Harding, Mr. Alfred	May 2, 1908
Harker, Mr. Frederick	Oct. 3, 1908
Harmer, Miss Dolly	Nov. 7, 1908
Harrison, Late Miss Fanny	Feb. 20, 1909
Hart, Late Mr. Harry	Jan. 16, 1909
Harvey, Miss Rose	July 25, 1908
Harvey, Late Mr. John	Jan. 16, 1909
Haviland, Mr. William	Nov. 14, 1908
Hawthorne, Miss Lil	Feb. 15, 1908
Hodson, Miss Mildred	March 6, 1909
Holding, Mr. Thomas	Jan. 18, 1908
Holland, Mr. Arthur E.	May 16, 1908
Homewood, Mr. A. S.	Nov. 21, 1908
Howard, Mr. Robert H.	Oct. 3, 1908
Howe, Late Mr. J. B.	March 14, 1908
Hudson, Mr. Eric	Nov. 7, 1908
Hutton, Mr. Ralph	July 25, 1908
Irving, Mr. H. B.	Nov. 7, 1908
Imeson, Miss Florence	Feb. 29, 1908
Jefferson, Late Mrs. Arthur	Jan. 2, 1909
Jesson, Mr. C.	Sept. 5, 1908
Kay, Miss Ethel	March 28, 1908
Kilburn, Late Mr. Harry	Dec. 5, 1908
King, Mr. Claude	June 20, 1908
Lambert, Mr. R. Lawson	Feb. 8, 1908
Lanner, Late Mme. Katti	Nov. 21, 1908
Latimer, Miss Edyth	Nov. 14, 1908
Lauri, Late Mr. George	Jan. 9, 1909
Lawrence, Mr. Herbert	March 13, 1909
Lawrence, Late Mr. Joe	Jan. 30, 1909
Lee, Late Mr. Edgar	Dec. 19, 1908
Lee, Mr. James Langdon	March 20, 1909
Leon, Miss Connie	April 4, 1908
Lester, Mr. Alfred	May 9, 1908
Lester, Late Mr. Harry	Oct. 10, 1908
Lester, Mr. Mark	March 20, 1909
Letty, Miss Frances	Jan. 23, 1909
Lewis, Late Miss Rosie	Oct. 24, 1908
Lloyd, Miss Alice	Sept. 5, 1908
Loncraine, Miss Ruby	Oct. 3, 1908
Lovell, Late Mr. Tom	Jan. 16, 1909
Lucas, Mr. and Mrs. E. H.	March 14, 1908
Lyric, Miss Dora	March 6, 1909
Macowan, Mr. and Mrs. Norman	July 18, 1908
Matthews, Mr. Cyprian H.	March 6, 1909
Maude, Miss Henriquette	Nov. 7, 1908
Maundy-Gregory, Mr. J.	May 23, 1908
Mavis, Miss Mabel	March 6, 1909
Melford, Late Mr. Austin	Jan. 25, 1908

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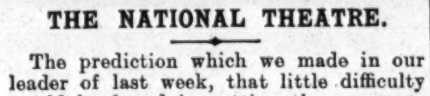

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 1909.

THE NATIONAL THEATRE.

The prediction which we made in our leader of last week, that little difficulty would be found in getting the necessary capital for a National Theatre, received speedy confirmation in the announcement on Wednesday that an anonymous donor had given, or at any rate promised, £70,000; and that £5000 can be already considered to be subscribed. It may be as well, to avoid misunderstanding, to recapitulate the aims and objects of the National Theatre. They are to keep the plays of SHAKESPEARE in its repertory; to revive whatever else is vital in English classical drama; to prevent recent plays of great merit from falling into the oblivion to which the present theatrical system is apt to consign them; to produce new plays and to further the development of the modern drama; to produce translations of representative works of foreign drama, ancient and modern; and to stimulate the art of acting through the varied opportunities which the National Theatre will offer to the members of its company.

The National Theatre will be organised upon a repertory system. It will produce a great variety of plays, and the productions, while simple, will be efficient and beautiful. The estimates include such a liberal endowment as shall free the directorate from all temptation to sacrifice its artistic policy to the making of large and immediate profits. The arrangement of the programme will rest with the director, who should submit it for approval to the standing committee; and all new plays will be reported upon by the director and the literary manager before being finally dealt with by the standing committee. The theatre will be designed, built, and equipped as a repertory theatre, and the company, both in respect of number and of qualification, will be suited to the presentation of a repertory. It will be able to perform at least two different plays of full length at evening performances in each week, and at least three different plays at evening performances and matinées taken together. One at least of such weekly performances will be a performance of an English classical play; SHAKESPEARE'S plays will be given on an average of at least one a week; and the number of plays presented in a year should be no fewer than twenty-five plays of full length.

The National Theatre will give performances in the towns of Great Britain and Ireland as well as in London, and there will be a pension fund attached to the theatre, to be raised and administered as the governors should determine. All the artists and employees of the theatre will be remunerated by a fixed salary or fixed payment for definite services, dramatic authors being remunerated by percentages upon the gross receipts produced by their plays. The governors will be at liberty, at their discretion, to allot a fixed sum out of the surplus in any year, after due provision has been made for a reserve fund, as a bonus to be divided among all the artists and employees of the theatre in such proportion as the standing committee may determine. The managing staff will consist of a director, a treasurer, and a literary manager, all of whom will be nominated by the Standing Committee, subject to confirmation by the governors. The director will select, engage, and dismiss all artists and other employees, except the treasurer and the literary manager, and will be empowered, after consulting with the treasurer, to make contracts on behalf of the theatre. All appointments, whether to the company or the staff, and all dismissals will be reported by the director to the Standing Committee and confirmed by them. The director will arrange the programme and submit it for approval to the Standing Committee; and all new plays will be reported upon by the director and the literary manager before being finally dealt with by the Standing Committee. The director, if an actor, will not practise his art for fee or reward during his term of office; but it will be left to the Standing Committee to decide on what exceptional occasions (and in no case for personal profit) he will be authorised to appear or co-operate in performances at other theatres. He will in no event be cast for any part on the stage of the National Shakespeare Theatre.

Mr. BEERBOHM TREE'S reasons for espousing the cause of the National Theatre have been distinctly given by him. It seems to him that English theatres should be subsidised by English well-wishers of the drama rather than by American syndicates. There is an intellectual minority which has to be catered for, and the supply in this direction may create the demand for higher forms of the drama. It is very difficult for theatre managers to conduct their theatres on the highest artistic plane, unaided. He is fully aware that the best work is often done at the point of the sword of hunger, but he thinks that many of his comrades will agree with him that some kind of support—State or municipal—would help them to do the very best work without incurring the perils of the Bankruptcy Court. If some kind of State recognition be given to the theatre people will regard it more as the fashion, which is a very strong motive power in many quarters. Fashion, says Mr. TREE, is a very potent factor in the national life—as strong a factor, perhaps, as the love of art. Mr. GEORGE ALEXANDER, with his usual modesty, says: "Perhaps if I leave the matter in other able hands to develop I may find myself in the fortunate position of having the directorship of this new theatre offered me, with a handsome salary attached to it." Mr. BOURCHIER makes the following thoughtful and ingenious suggestion: "Why not let the committee approach Mr. TREE and see if they can make it worth his while to let them have his theatre for, say, three years, to run it as a National Theatre, with himself as the first director?"

Mr. BOURCHIER, however, is strongly opposed to the suggestion that upon the governing board there should be a woman. "I know," he says, "that in these days I am running a very serious risk in suggesting that a woman is not the fit and proper person to be connected with a public enterprise; but three societies devoted to the best interests of the drama (and which have now become institutions) have, to my positive knowledge, at certain times in their histories, been nearly wrecked because a woman was placed in a position of authority. The passive part which women can and do play in the management of a theatre is of incalculable value, but when they are actively engaged in it their intuition seems to fail them. With the main suggestions as to the working of the theatre no one," says Mr. BOURCHIER, "can have any quarrel. They are founded upon the experience of years in similar institutions abroad; but to start by building a theatre, especially when there are so many in London already suitable for the purpose, seems to me both a waste of money and a direct challenge to Fortune. Let us begin with the right director, a good *répertoire*, and good performances, thus gaining the favour of all concerned. Then the erection of a National Theatre will be the proper tribute to show the respect and confidence which such an organisation deserves."

Mr. FRED TERRY appears to be opposed to the establishment of a National Theatre. "A subsidised or endowed theatre," he says, "must come into direct and unfair conflict with managers of private enterprises. You cannot compete against £500,000. What is the National Theatre going to do that is not already done adequately—more than adequately—by existing enterprises? The position of director of the National Theatre," says Mr. TERRY, "will be a nice little plum, and, I do not mind confessing, a plum that would fall very acceptably into my own mouth. It would be a disappointment to me to give up acting—though not perhaps so much to the public. Still, the directorship of such an establishment would be absolutely free from financial troubles of any kind, and that would be a great consideration. I need, then, only think of Art."

We should like to allay the fears of those who think that the National Theatre would come into any serious competition with managers of private enterprises. The very aim and object of the enterprise is to appeal to those who, at present, do not patronise the playhouse. It is a movement in favour of the representation of the non-playgoing minority. The Independent Theatre performances and the IBSEN season no more competed with the ordinary theatrical entertainments than the publication of the novels of Mr. GEORGE MEREDITH and Mr. HENRY JAMES competes with those of the ordinary novels. The very essence of the National Theatre is that it shall not be popular, and that it shall not pay. As Mr. TERRY puts it, the director of the National Theatre "need only think of Art." We need not fear that the performers will not be forthcoming. There are many actors and actresses of genius to whom the National Theatre will offer irresistible attractions, and the demand will certainly create the supply.

O.P. LADIES' DINNER.

Everyone regretted that Miss Violet Vanbrugh was prevented by an attack of influenza from being present at the annual ladies' dinner of the O.P. Club at the Criterion Restaurant on Sunday evening, but fortunately the other lady guest of the evening, Miss Marie Löhr, attended, though she, too, was suffering from a very bad cold. The president, Mr. Max Pemberton, J.P., presided, and amongst those present were Mr. Henry Neville, Mrs. Max Pemberton, Miss Ethel Irving, Mr. Spencer Edwards, Mr. Gilbert Porteous, Mr. Robert Loraine, Miss Kate Bishop, Lord Mountmorres, Mr. and Mrs. Clement K. Shorter, Miss Maud Allan, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Butt, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred F. Robbins, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hentschel, Mr. Frank Desprez, Mr. Herman Finck, Dr. Angelo S. Rappaport, Mr. H. A. Lytton, Mr. T. McDonald Rendle, Miss Nora Meredith, Miss Fanny Wentworth, and Messrs. Stanley Greig and J. Davis-Smith (joint hon. secretaries).

The toast of "The King" having been proposed by the president, Mr. HENRY NEVILLE, in proposing "The O.P. Club," in a sincere and unstudied speech which evidently came from the heart and was delivered admirably, said that when they reflected on the work of the club actors like himself could not but feel the deepest gratitude and admiration for those who gave their valuable time and their great influence in founding an organisation for the benefit of the drama and of those who took part in it, and in establishing the calling of the actor on a high pedestal as a great national institution.

Mr. MAX PEMBERTON, in responding, said: When first I began to read novels, I remember that much of the humour of the day concerned the club. The husbands of those days, when they had eaten the domestic cold mutton and had not found it good, were in the habit of banging the front doors of their houses in Bayswater and going off to their clubs. We, the readers, used to lose our heroes at the splendid portals in Pall Mall, behind which the lady authoresses detected them smoking cigars from golden tubes and drinking champagne from silver goblets. Those habits, it appears, were frequently accompanied by a passion for a foreign lady with black eyes and a far from white past, and they led, as a rule, to a misapprehension of the value of time which was lamentable. Men returning from these clubs at three in the morning were always ready to swear that it was just eleven o'clock. Of the proceedings generally, apart from those connected with alcohol and nicotine, women were supposed to know nothing, although their husbands told them much at the immediate moment of their restoration to the bosoms of their families. Indeed, woman had no place in that picture, and was regarded by the hall porter as the chief factor in the national decadence. Is there not a story told of a venturesome lady who once obtained admission to a great club in Pall Mall and remained undaunted even when the hall porter, imitating the immortal Bumble, fixed upon her an intimidating eye? Does not history say that old gentlemen wriggled from their armchairs, and poured forth from library and smoking-room to see so amazing a specimen of an unknown type—to learn, in short, what that strange being, woman, might be? All this, I suppose, was the popular view of the club life of twenty years ago, and, so far as Pall Mall goes, it may be the popular view to-day. Nothing, however, is more characteristic of our age than the creation of a new atmosphere and a new club life, and of this I venture to affirm the O.P. is worthy of the tribute you have so generously paid to it to-night. We have no palatial buildings in Pall Mall; our tubes are of the twopenny order, and not of 18-carat gold; we do not make war upon the clock, and when the hour for departure comes it is not the men, I think, but the ladies who say, "Oh, do stop a little while longer." In a more general aspect, I may declare that we have neither policy nor propaganda. We are an association, society, fraternity—call us what you may—for the expression of goodwill toward the theatre, and our first and last desire is for the theatre's popularity. Nor in this are we insular. We take our good things wherever we find them.

Mr. T. MCDONALD RENDLE, in proposing the toast of "Our Guests," mentioned that there was a lady still living—Mrs. Henry Compton, professionally known as Miss Emmeline Montague—who had played Juliet at Drury Lane Theatre under the management of Hammond in 1839, being then sixteen years of age. But Miss Marie Löhr was, he believed, the youngest Lady Teazle on record, and every playgoer would wish her success in the responsible task which she was undertaking. Her mother, Miss Kate Bishop, had long been a great favourite on the London stage. He then presented Miss Löhr, on behalf of the club, with a beautiful ivory fan in a pretty bag.

Miss MARIE LOHR, in reply, said: When I came here this evening I felt very much in the position of Sir Peter Teazle, for I detected in the task of making a speech "grounds for great uneasiness." I am but young in my experience of the stage, and I know that there are others who have a far higher claim upon your notice than myself. But I quite understand what is the feeling you have in your hearts: you desire, as playgoers, to show that you wish me success in my profession, and to cheer me on with encouraging words and with encouraging acts. It is quite true, as Mr. Rendle has said, that I have a very important and responsible task before me. *The School for Scandal* is not a frivolous piece of work, and I feel that when Mr. Tree produces this great comedy I shall be envying the coolness and the courage which Mr. Henry Neville is certain to display on the eventful night. Some people may think that I am too ambitious; yet "Fain would I climb but that I fear to fall" was never a motto of mine, and I hope it never will be. I shall do my best, and I trust, for your sakes, for the sake of the management, and for my own sake, that I shall succeed in gaining your favour. These are days when women are a little more daring than they used to be, and if I be, as Mr. Rendle has suggested, the youngest Lady Teazle on record, I hope, when you invite me to your next dinner, that you will not consider I was one of the worst. Mr. Rendle has said some very complimentary things about that promising young actress Miss Kate Bishop, and I thank him for that, because my mother's success is as dear to me as my own. For all your goodwill and gentle thoughts I am sincerely thankful, and in return I heartily wish the O.P. Club that prosperity and good fortune which it is anxious may attend myself.

Miss ETHEL IRVING, in proposing the toast of "The Chairman," said she had a very acceptable task. Nothing she could say about Mr. Pemberton would be too good. He had come, seen, and conquered them. To see him was to like him, and to hear him was to love him, and to read him was an abiding joy. Their hearts were at his feet.

Mr. MAX PEMBERTON, in replying, quoted the following passage: "Her simplicity bewitches me. If I stay I am undone. I must make a bold effort and leave her." In *Lady Frederick*, he said, there was a scene in which Miss Irving disillusioned a young man, but it was difficult to imagine her disillusioning anybody. He then presented Miss Irving with a handsome ivory fan enclosed in a fancy work-bag.

The entertainment was particularly good, such clever artists as Mme. Anna Aragvina-Kippman, Miss Nora Meredith, Miss Nellie Norway, Mr. Charles Copland, Mr. Stuart Edwards, Mr. Stuart Debnam, and Mr. Edward Hastings contributing with success, and Mr. J. P. Ling, a quaint humorist, creating roars of laughter by his imitations, &c. Mr. Sinclair Mantell was the accompanist.

"FIFTH QUEEN CROWNED."

Play, in Four Acts, Adapted by Ford Madox Hueffer and Norreys Connell, from the former's Novel, and Produced at the Kingsway on Friday Afternoon, March 19.

Cranmer	MR. ORLANDO BARNETT
Lascelles	MR. COURTENAY THORPE
Henry VIII.	MR. JAMES HEARN
Catherine Howard	MISS ADA POTTER
Duke of Norfolk	MR. COWLEY WRIGHT
Poins	MR. PATRIC CURWEN
Magister Udal	MR. PERCY GAWTHORNE
Mary of Poins	MISS MURIEL PLATT
Prince Edward	MISS KATHARINE RIVERS
Lady Mary of England	MISS EILY MALYON
Lady Mary's Maid	MISS KATHLEEN ROBERTS
Lady Cicely	MISS JOAN TEMPLE
Lady Rochford	MISS MURIEL ALEXANDER
Mary Hall	MISS MARGARET BUSSE
First Yeoman	MR. DAVID TEMPEST
Sir Thomas Culpepper	MR. H. A. SAINTSBURY
Badge	MR. HENRY WILDE
A Seaman	MR. OSCAR YAUGHAN

Change of scene, so beneficial in most circumstances, had a disastrous effect on *Fifth Queen Crowned*, which was produced at the Kingsway on the afternoon of Friday, March 19. The piece was designed to portray the putting off of Catherine Howard by Henry the Eighth, and four acts, embracing eleven scenes, were utilised in the process. The result was a succession of episodes divided without any regard for dramatic effect, the curtain falling upon the most ordinary situation on one apartment in order to show what was going on in another. It is difficult to judge of the worth of a play under such circumstances, and though there are many incidents of a thrilling nature, the constant switching off of the scene was fatal to the interest which was occasionally aroused. Such migrations are chiefly due to the pursuit of a letter which the King orders Cranmer to prepare to send to the Pope, making submission to his Holiness. It is clear to Lascelles, Cranmer's secretary, that the King's decision is due to the instigation of Catherine Howard, the fifth of Henry's wives, and fearful that the country may return to the faith of its fathers, Lascelles determines to secure the undoing of Catherine. He enlists the services of her cousin, the ne'er-do-well Thomas Culpepper, who had been a suitor to the Queen before she was raised to her exalted position. Culpepper is induced to thrust himself into the Queen's apartment while the King is away, and is discovered by his Majesty, who returns unexpectedly. The King declares to his courtiers that he had himself sent Culpepper on a message to the Queen, and refuses to credit Catherine's traducers. Other means are then taken by Lascelles, who gets the King to sit disguised in Cranmer's room while a number of Lutherans testify to Catherine's sullied reputation. The result is that the Queen is placed upon trial, and from the lips of a waiting-maid Catherine learns that the witnesses were made, under threats of torture, to swear against her innocence, and that the King himself had forced her to declare that Catherine was not a mere child but a grown woman when certain unedifying revellings, in which Culpepper was implicated, had taken place some years before. Catherine thereupon enters the council chamber, and before the assembled court admits to treason and infidelity, and any crime imaginable, afterwards assuring the King that it was in order to preserve her maids from torture that she thus courted her doom, but refusing to comply with his request to proclaim her innocence.

The piece was admirably cast. Miss Ada Potter, the giver of the matinée, played the title-rôle, and proved a veritable queen in appearance, sweetly sympathetic and gracious in manner. She had little opportunity, however, for the display of dramatic ability until the close, when she delivered with power and dignity the lines expressive of her opinion of the King. Henry was played by Mr. James Hearn, who gave a ripe and finished rendering. With a make-up that realised to perfection the pictures of "Bluff King Hal," Mr. Hearn combined the necessary "fruity" voice, indicating, too, with many a clever touch, the debauched nature of the monarch. The part of Cranmer was weakly drawn, and proved a thankless task for Mr. Orlando Barnett, who dealt with it in his customary artistic style. Miss Eily Malyon represented Lady Mary, whose connection with the plot was not clearly emphasised, with the requisite adamant coldness, and her hard and unsympathetic tones were cleverly assumed. Quite an Iago touch was given to the character of the scheming Lascelles by Mr. Courtenay Thorpe, who ably indicated the cunning and malevolence of the villain-in-chief; and Mr. H. A. Saintsbury as Thomas Culpepper gave a skilful depiction of a countryman in his cups. Miss Muriel Platt and Miss Margaret Bussé utilised their emotional powers agreeably as two of the Queen's maids; and a pretty little Prince Edward was furnished in Miss Kathleen Rivers. Mr. Percy Gawthorne was responsible for a picturesque portrayal of a Latin master, who is implicated in the charge against the Queen; and as the renegade keeper of the Queen's door Mr. Patric Curwen was passionate and vigorous. Reconstructed and compressed, and with the characters more clearly defined, the drama might be made into a production of considerable interest.

Preceding the principal piece was a play in one act, by Marah Aymet, entitled

"IN THE NAME OF THE CZAR."

Strepov	MR. MAX MONTESOLE
Katia	MISS ESME HUBBARD
Esther	MISS HERMINE GINGOLD
Miriam	MISS MURIEL CARMEL
Leonovitch	MR. RODERICK MACLEOD
David	MR. ESME PERCY
Sarah	MISS FLORENCE CASTELLE
Isaac	MR. WILFRED FLETCHER
Simon	MASTER WILLIAM PARKE

A slice out of life in a much-discussed quarter of the globe is presented in the above playlet, which is a harrowing story of a Jewish massacre in a Russian market town. Strepov, the Governor, who has the supervision of the atrocity, has taken an unholy fancy to the Hebrew maiden Miriam, and offers to become her protector. In order to gain time and thus save her compatriots Miriam would yield to his proposals, but is prevented by her lover, David, the organiser of a Jewish defence society. The massacre has already begun when the Governor enters, and after ordering David to be shot, sends his men away. Miriam seizes David's pistol, from which the cartridge has been extracted, and covers Strepov, who sinks to his knees and begs for mercy. When Miriam finds David is dying she throws down the weapon, and is shot by Strepov's men. Some of the dialogue is very plainspoken, and the rather contemptuous allusions to the Christian religion do not fall agreeably on the ear of an English audience. A meeting of the Jewish revolutionary committee, in the course of which a political speech is delivered and a prohibited song is sung, does not, moreover, seem quite in keeping with the fact that the dreaded massacre is in progress and their oppressors are within earshot. Mr. Max Montesole gave a skilful depiction of the brutal and contemptible Strepov; and Mr. Esmé Percy delivered in vehement and telling style the lines which fall to the young Jewish leader, who is committed to an oratorical display. Miss Muriel Carmel spoke with appealing force, and suggested the innocence and pathos of the rôle of Miriam in a manner that carried conviction.

A POPULAR Spanish composer, Señor Ruperto Chapi, died in Madrid this week from pneumonia.

EDWARD COMPTON AT ABERDEEN.

Mr. Edward Compton, who is appearing this week in His Majesty's Theatre with his talented Compton Comedy Company in old English masterpieces, was entertained at supper on Tuesday in the Imperial Hotel, Aberdeen, by members of the Aberdeen Pen and Pencil Club. Mr. G. W. Barclay, who presided, proposed the health of Mr. Compton.

MR. COMPTON, who was enthusiastically received on rising to reply, provoked much laughter by giving as his opening sentence, "Aw'm awfu' gled tae be wi' ye again." Continuing, he said he did not speak his native language very well, but that sentence expressed his sentiments very accurately. My father was once introduced by a friend to a Mr. Maclure, and the friend said, "Mr. Compton, this is Mr. Maclure, of the firm of Maclure, MacDonald, and MacGregor," at which my father remarked in his dry manner, "That almost sounds like a Scotch firm," and Mr. Maclure naïvely replied, with unconscious humour, "It is, Mr. Compton, it is." He had often wondered whether it would not have been better for him to have taken into his profession his own name of Mackenzie, and perhaps it would have been well if he had adopted such a name as Compton-Mackenzie, because when he told anyone proudly that he was a Scotsman, they invariably remarked, "But Compton does not sound a very Scotch name." He could not help feeling that Scotch audiences knew he was a Mackenzie by instinct. He never was so well treated or enjoyed acting so much as when his foot was on his native heath. Being a Scotsman, he did not feel much difficulty in receiving the many complimentary, kind things which his old friend Barclay had said that evening. He did not blush at the many sympathetic remarks made, because any credit he deserved was that he happened to be a Scotsman, and therefore that credit was theirs also—it was Scottish. After referring to the duties of an actor, Mr. Compton said that a great many of them—he was happy to say he had been one of the happy number—had the sympathy, the generosity, the loyalty, and the constancy of the great British public, of which they in Aberdeen were a part. Without that they could do nothing. He remembered taking as his motto many years ago a quotation from a seldom-read author—Marcus Aurelius—which was, as far as he could remember, "Don't act as if you had a thousand years before you. While you can, do something in the world to make it better than when you entered it." He did not suppose he had carried out all his ideals, but at least he had been constant to his first love, which was legitimate comedy. He had during the last twenty-eight years that he had been his own manager and his own leading man endeavoured to hold, as it were, the mirror up to nature—the nature of the eighteenth century—placing before audiences good, wholesome, honest work, and endeavouring to feel as he woke up each morning after his previous night's performance that his audience would be always able to say that the evening's amusement had borne the morning's reflection. After a jocular reference to the work, difficulties, disappointments, and troubles of an actor-manager, Mr. Compton said that, nevertheless, there was a great deal of pleasure in the work. Proceeding, Mr. Compton said that, notwithstanding all the hard work of the stage, actors managed to live long. He came across a newspaper report the other day giving an account of a dinner at which, in giving the toast of "Our Guests," Mr. T. M'Donald Rendle mentioned that there was a lady still living who had been professionally known as Miss Emmeline Montague, who played Juliet at Drury Lane Theatre under the management of Hammond in 1839, she being then sixteen years of age. That reference did not perhaps convey much to them, but he might mention that the lady referred to was his (Mr. Compton's) mother. She was now living and well at the age of eighty-eight, and would be very happy to hear of the way in which they had received her "boy." So they saw that, notwithstanding their hard work, actors and actresses lived long.

THE TERRITORIAL QUESTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I am anxious to tell you and your readers of the progress made with our Theatrical and Music Hall Territorial force during the period in which I have been recruiting.

The force is now an actual fact. We are drilling every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at headquarters, 2, Duke-street, Charing Cross, at 11 a.m., and our men are making rapid progress towards becoming efficient soldiers. That we are able to put in our drills in the mornings between 11 and 12 is a move in the right direction; this is an hour which, with most of us, is free time; after it is done we are right there in the business quarter, at the time of day when most agents will see us. We are freshened and invigorated by an hour's drill, we meet other men who are in our profession, we are able to discuss questions of interest, and to hear news of advantage to us all.

There are several members of the theatrical and music hall profession who have given me their names for membership, and from whom I should be glad to hear; or, if more convenient to them, I can meet them at the London Irish Rifles Headquarters, 2, Duke-street, Charing Cross, at any of the following hours:—

Monday	11 to 1 a.m. .. 7 to 9 p.m.
Tuesday	11 to 1 a.m. .. 7 to 9 p.m.
Wednesday ..	11 to 1 a.m.
Thursday ..	11 to 1 a.m. .. 7 to 9 p.m.

I cannot too strongly impress on the members of our profession the necessity for supporting this movement. Surely amongst us all, both theatrical and music hall, we can find 500 men to form a regiment of our own; surely we have 500 men who are willing to sacrifice a few hours of their leisure; surely we can say we can spare a few hours towards making ourselves efficient for the defence of our country. I hope the reproach will not reach us that we were too selfish to do it, or that we funked it.

I should be very glad to hear from any of our profession on the subject; or, better still, go down yourselves to the London Irish Headquarters, and say you want to join B Company, and then when you have sworn in communicate with me.—Yours faithfully,

CHARLES C. OMMANNEY.

25, Claverton-street, S.W.

GENERAL SMITH, who died suddenly in July, 1803, was the person Foote introduced into his *Nabob* under the name of Sir Matthew Mite. The General was in early life a cheesemonger, in Great Queen-street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, but abandoned that calling to try his fortune in India, where he acquired considerable wealth. Foote, whose talent lay in lampooning and mimicry (even in his earliest days) had got the knack of imitating the General in the shrug of his shoulder, the lisping of his speech, and some other things for which he was remarkable, until it grew a common topic among his acquaintance, who used to say, "Come, Sam, let us have the General's company." The General sent for Foote:—"Sir (says he) I hear you have an excellent talent at mimicking characters, and among the rest, I find I have been the subject of your ridicule." "Oh! Lord," says Foote with great pleasantry, "I take all my acquaintance off at times—and what is more wonderful, I often take myself off," "Gad so," says the other, "pray let us have a specimen." Foote, on this, puts on his hat and gloves, takes hold of his cane, and making a short bow, retreated accordingly out of the house without uttering a syllable.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

The Hippodrome will close down after next Saturday, April 3, for three months for reconstruction and redecoration. The remodelling of the stage will include its enlargement to seventy feet deep, new machinery will be installed for working the arena, and a new proscenium will be built.

When the house closes it will have a record of 5,725 performances, which is equalled by no other place of entertainment in the world. Two performances every week-day have been given since it first opened its doors on Jan. 15, 1900, with the exception of the period of the death of Queen Victoria in January, 1901.

The Hammersmith Palace, which is now run by the London, Provincial, and Continental Combination, will be closed soon after Easter for alterations and redecoration, and will probably reopen on August Bank Holiday on the two-houses-a-night plan.

During Mr. Alfred Butt's recent jaunt on the Continent he contrived to visit Paris, Berlin, Munich, Vienna, and Buda-Pesth, passing no fewer than 105 hours in trains. He booked what he considers two wonderful novelties, one of them from Buda-Pesth, whose performance he contrived to see while acting temporarily as a stage-hand—a remarkable experience for the managing-director of one of the finest variety houses in Europe.

Miss Vesta Tilley, who made a most charming picture in brown furs, was yesterday (Friday) morning the centre of quite a large assemblage of friends and well-wishers who gathered on No. 13 platform of that Pillar of Farewells, Euston Station, just prior to the leaving of the 9.50 a.m. American special, to bid the popular lady and her husband, Mr. Walter de Frece, good-bye and a pleasant time in America. Many handsome bouquets were proffered her and accepted with a winning smile, and whole sheafs of telegrams expressing the sincere regard and admiration in which she is held were handed to her.

Among the many people who gave her the heartiest of send-offs were Mr. Alfred Butt, Mr. Oddenino (of the Prince's Restaurant), Mr. Bertie Crewe, Mr. Matt O'Brien, Mr. Tom Honey, Mr. William Russell, Mr. F. A. K. Hounsell, Mr. Fred Bishop, Mr. Leo Harwood, Mr. Worton David, the well-known song writer, and Mr. Kenneth Lyle, the composer of a number of Miss Tilley's songs, including "Jolly good luck to the girl who loves a soldier," which by special desire of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was sung by Miss Tilley at an aristocratic gathering a night or two back. Miss Tilley's publishers were represented by Mr. John Abbott and Mr. Edgar Bateman. Later in the day Miss Tilley and Mr. de Frece embarked on the White Star liner Celtic. They have as fellow-voyagers Mr. and Mrs. David Day.

Miss Maudi Darrell, the daughter of Mr. Hugh Jay Didcott, was married on Wednesday at the Paddington Registry Office to Mr. Ian Bullough, a son of the late Mr. John Bullough, of Accrington, who made a large fortune as a textile machine maker, and a brother of Sir George Bullough, of Meggernie Castle, Glen Lyon, Scotland, and owner of the Island of Rum in the Hebrides. Miss Darrell was married in her stage name, which she has adopted by deed poll.

Mr. Hugh Jay Didcott, who gave his daughter away, is the doyen of agents, and in the zenith of his success was entrusted with the organisation of the entertainments given to the children of London in Hyde Park during the celebration of Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1887. This gigantic task was carried out in a way that gave the highest satisfaction to the initiators.

Mrs. Brown-Potter, who has returned from the States, has some complaint to make about an American management because she was asked to recite "Ostler Joe," by George R. Sims. This was a favourite piece with Mrs. Kendal, who gave it at the Albert Palace one Saturday afternoon in the autumn of 1885. The famous actress was engaged by William Holland, the people's caterer, who could not galvanise the Albert Palace into a success.

Many of our readers have met at the festive board the late Marquis de Leuville—who dallied with the arts (!)—and not a few were bluffed into the belief that he was a most distinguished personage. He was the author of some lines on the escape of an English vessel from the ravages of a hurricane at Samoa, and was really the son of a Strand hairdresser named Oliver. He posed as the grand seigneur, and affected a foreign accent. On one occasion, at the end of a banquet, when he had dined well, the "marquis" remarked: "Sapristi! I had vat you English call a *twist!*" "Yes," remarked a well-known comedian, "an *Oliver Twist!*"

Mr. Joseph Wilson and Mr. James Howell have returned to their respective posts at the Tivoli after indisposition; and we are glad to hear that Mr. Geo. Barclay, one of the most enterprising of our agents, is now on the road to recovery from a serious attack of pneumonia.

In his cartoon in the current number of *Punch* Mr. Linley Sambourne presents, over the title "Copyright Expires," a jovial German tar striking a flamboyant attitude on the end of a quay, and waving his country's flag as he sings the famous ditty by the late Mr. G. W. Hunt, sung by Macdermott in the 'seventies:—

"We don't want to fight, but, by Jingo! if we do,
We've got the ships, we've got the men, we've got the money, too!"

John Bull (A.B. of his Majesty's Navy), who is leaning in a dejected attitude, hands in pockets, against a bollard, interrupts: "I say, that's *my* old song." The German tar replies: "Well, it's mine now."

Mr. Kenneth Lyle had the honour of accompanying Miss Vesta Tilley before T.R.H. the Prince and Princess of Wales on Wednesday night last. The song their Royal Highnesses requested was "Jolly good luck to the girl who loves a soldier," of which he is the composer. Mr. Kenneth Lyle is a Manchester man.

At the Harry Lundy benefit matinée at the Oxford on Thursday next Miss Florrie Robina will probably revive her beautiful song, by the late Ernest Allan, "'Tis the same dear face," for which a verse apropos to the occasion will be written. Mr. Harry Lauder, Eugene Stratton, Joe Elvin, Vesta Victoria, Victoria Monks, Winifred Hare, Chirgwin, Jack and Evelyn, and other stars have promised their services.

Mr. George Queen, who last week produced *The Cockney Huntsman* at Shoreditch Olympia, entered the profession in 1887, as a five-year-old boy, with the late Tom White, of Tom White's Arabs. Mr. Tom White died in August, 1900, but some time previous—in 1898 to be exact—Mr. Queen joined his brother, William Le Brun, as Queen and Le Brun, comedians and animal impersonators. They struck oil, being featured in eight successive Drury Lane pantomimes. In 1906 Queen and Le Brun sailed for Australia under a six months' contract with Mr. J. C. Williamson to play the horse in *Mother Goose*, and stayed over two years, returning to England last December. Queen and Le Brun then dissolved partnership.

Mr. Macnaghten's new Huddersfield Palace is to be completed by July 24. It will almost face the parish church.

Mr. Frank Seabrook has been appointed resident manager of the King's Theatre and Hippodrome, Kirkcaldy.

Mr. Ernest Lepard, who was formerly manager at the Alhambra, Brighton, has taken up a similar position at the Canterbury, in succession to Mr. Adams. He entered upon his new duties last Friday (19th).

Mr. Geo. Dickinson, manager Albert Hall, Edinburgh, has been appointed manager at the Gaiety Theatre, Glasgow, which has been taken over by the B.B. Picture Co., who intend running it twice nightly with pictures and variety.

The management of the Gaiety, Glasgow, is to be taken over on Monday next (29th) by the B.B. Pictures, of which Mr. J. J. Bennett is the controlling spirit. The latest films will be interspersed with a few variety turns.

The Eastbourne Town Council invite tenders for the use of variety and minstrel entertainment stands for the ensuing summer months. Forms of tender can be obtained from Mr. H. West Fovargue, Town Clerk, Eastbourne. They should be sent not later than April 7.

Professionals visiting Hanley will find the pleasantest surroundings and excellent enjoyment at the Birches' Head Hotel, where mine host Wm. Cooper, a keen theatrical enthusiast, has the largest green in the Potteries, and where *The Era* can be seen. There is an excellent billiard saloon.

Mr. P. A. Lennon has been selected by the Ramsgate Municipal Entertainments Association for the position of manager of the Royal Victoria Pavilion in that famous seaside resort. Mr. Lennon has acted in a managerial capacity at the Empires at Birmingham, Leeds, and Bradford, under the Moss' Empires, Ltd., and has also filled the same responsible position at the Richmond Theatre and the Camberwell Palace.

When he left Bradford, where he had acted for five years as manager of the Empire, he was the recipient of many striking testimonials to his popularity and ability, a personal letter coming from the then Mayor, Mr. David Wade, wishing Mr. Lennon every success in his future career.

Mr. Julius Simpson, manager of the Palace Theatre, West Hartlepool, has been made the recipient of a handsome solid gold scarf ring by the staff of the Palace and Hippodrome, Burnley, and a few friends. The ring was accompanied by a letter asking his acceptance of the gift as an expression of the appreciation and kindness extended towards the staff during his stay in Burnley.

The Corporation of Hastings invite tenders for the hire of the caves under the West Hill, Hastings, known as St. Clement's Caves (which are licensed for music and dancing), for a term of seven years, from June 24 next. Mr. Ben. F. Meadows, Town Hall, Hastings, will give particulars.

The bandstand on the beach at Dovercourt is to let. The forty whose tender is accepted will be allowed to use the bandstand in the Public Gardens up to July 16. Mr. E. E. Randall, secretary, Amusement Committee, Town Clerk's Office, Harwich, should be written to.

At the Palace, Attercliffe, on Saturday last, all previous records, as far as attendance was concerned, were broken, over six thousand persons paying for admission at the two evening shows and a special matinée, the place being packed at each performance, and numbers unable to gain admission. The matinée attraction was Mr. Leoni Clarke's novel trained animal act, and animated pictures by Mr. E. C. Clayton. Manager Dent's face wore an extra smile of self-satisfaction.

Mlle. Ghita Corri, who has this week been starring at Long Eaton and Loughborough with Mr. Charles M. Daly's Hippodrome company, is to be the principal vocalist at the big concert at the Birmingham Town Hall next Saturday, and on Good Friday will sing Rossini's "Stabat Mater" and Weber's "Softly Sighs" (*Der Freischütz*) at Mr. Charles Corri's annual concert at the Royal Victoria Hall, this latter being Mlle. Corri's first professional appearance in London for nearly two years.

A number of new shows and novelties, to be installed at New Brighton Tower, will be on exhibition at Easter for the first time in this country. Mr. R. H. Davy will, in addition to his secretarial duties, have the entire management this season. In this he will be assisted by Mr. Robert E. Goffin, who for twelve years has been assistant manager at the Empire, Liverpool. It is obvious by these changes in the managerial department that the directors intend that this concern shall be run on English lines only this year.

Dr. Walford Bodie, at the Hackney Empire this week, is playing nightly to packed houses. He has been offered many return dates, but has only signed for a few, as he seriously contemplates retiring from the stage at an early date. His hypnotic tales, under the title of "Harley, the Hypnotist," now appearing in the *Novel Magazine*, have caught on, and C. A. Pearson, Ltd., have accepted several more. The April number will contain a startling story entitled "The Eve of the Election." The doctor is also engaged on a musical comedy. What prodigious activity!

Miss Jean Bodie, the daughter of Dr. Walford Bodie, who has been lying dangerously ill at The Towers, Southport, is slowly recovering. Dr. Bodie has cancelled the week of April 5 to give his daughter his personal attention, and endeavour to have her removed to their Highland home, the Manor House, Macduff, where, with home comforts and the bracing ozone from the Moray Firth, he hopes she will soon be well. She will then go with Mrs. Bodie (Princess Ruble) for a few months to the South of France. Next week the doctor opens at the Empire, Holloway.

Miss Katie Moss, who comes to the Coliseum next week, is an associate of the Royal Academy of Music, where she won eleven medals and five certificates, thus creating a record. She has secured the Westmoreland Scholarship, the Ratson Memorial Prize for singing, the Hine gift for composition, and the Dove Prize. She is a soprano, plays the violin, and recites.

Many of the older members of the variety profession will recall with pleasure the memory of the late Sam Hague, whose minstrel troupe were before the public during a great number of years, and in so doing will testify to his kindly nature and generosity. Sam Hague was ever ready to "help a lame dog over the stile," and now that his widow, who supported her husband in his good actions, is in need of assistance, we are sure that this appeal will not be made in vain. The case is one which asks for an early response, and any contributions, however small, that are sent to Mr. W. W. Kelly, proprietor of the Theatre Royal, Birkenhead, who is interesting himself in Mrs. Hague's behalf, will be gratefully appreciated.

Mr. Charles Coborn is at Nice, enjoying warm, sunny weather.

'Caicedo, king of the wire, who is to star at the Circo Frank Brown, Buenos Aires, left England last Friday (19th). He hopes to be back in England in July.

Will the collectors of the Music Hall Home Fund who have not yet done so kindly send in their cards at once, so that they may be announced in our next issue? The Fund closes on March 31.

Mr. Arthur De Jong, the managing-director of the Tivoli, Cape Town, and the South African Entertainments, Ltd., is now in London in search of new talent for his various enterprises. The Eccentric Club is his headquarters.

Mr. K. Scott-Barrie made his début before a London audience at the Tivoli on Monday, and met with great success. He has been specially engaged by Mr. Ernest Carpenter to play Dame at the Lyceum next Christmas.

Mr. Benjamin Woodger, secretary of the Music Hall Home, has been laid up with bronchitis, but is now on the mend. The next committee meeting of the Home will be held at the Camberwell Empire on Thursday next at noon.

Miss Marguerite Broadfoot, the popular burlesque actress, who in private life is known as Mrs. Ernest Edelstein, gave birth to a son on Monday. The happy father has been the recipient of a shoal of congratulations.

Miss Mabel Sinclair, the premier lady ventriloquist, accompanied by her husband and manager, Arthur Palling, returned to Great Britain on Tuesday, March 16, by the Lusitania, having terminated a twenty-five weeks' tour of the principal cities of the States from the Atlantic to the Pacific. She holds continuous contracts for London and provincial halls for three years.

Mr. Gus Elen, a prime favourite in Hackney, as elsewhere, appears at the local Empire next week. He began his theatrical career about 1882, making his début at the Black Dog, Battersea, and afterwards at Poppy Lord's, Lisson Grove, and the Magpie and Stump, Battersea, all old-fashioned hostelries. He has toured under the Moss Empires management almost since its inception, and in his reminiscent mood relates that he has received all sorts of salaries during his career, ranging from £50 for a single evening and £100 for a week's engagement to 3s. 6d. for an evening's work and 7s. 6d. for a week's work.

Mr. John L. Shine's new and startling patriotic sketch, entitled *Invasion; or, Wake Up, England!* is due at the Canterbury on Monday. Much curiosity is being evinced anent the production, as it is understood to be not only on a much more elaborate scale from a scenic point of view than is usual in the halls, but also from a musical point of view, the services of the distinguished Dr. F. Osmond Carr having been solicited. He is said to have contributed some magnificent work for The Conspiracy in the Subterranean Chamber at the Cosmopolitan Club, and also for the Bombardment and Destruction of London.

The fine cast includes Mr. Henry Bedford as John Drowsy, of Apathy Hall; Mr. Rupert Stretfield will be the Hon. Tom Dawdler; Mr. Wilfred E. Shine will take the part of General Scorvin, of the Cosmopolitan Army; and Mr. J. L. Shine himself will be Admiral Lord Harry Wideawake, V.C.

Apropos to Mr. Shine's appearance as an English Admiral, it is a well-known fact that a few years ago he bore a marvellous resemblance to a particularly famous officer of that rank; in fact, no less a personage than Lord Charles Beresford himself. Meeting unexpectedly in a first-class compartment on the return journey from Newmarket a few years ago they became acquainted, and each had plenty to tell the other of the numerous and humorous mistakes the likeness had caused.

"Motogirl," after concluding this week at Birmingham, leaves direct for Wintergarten, Berlin, to play the month of April there. This is the sixth return engagement. Returning from the Continent in June, *Motogirl* again plays Moss and Stoll, commencing at the Coliseum, London, with a return engagement in June, and provinces to follow.

Mr. Harry Day has returned from Bath, looking very much better. His partner, Harry Goodson, who has been directing at Effingham House during his absence, was presented last week with a valuable liqueur, cigar, and card sideboard.

Mr. Fred Land, whilst on his way from the Euston to the South London on Saturday night, had an unpleasant experience. A motor 'bus collided with his brougham while crossing Waterloo Bridge, smashing the front and severely injuring the horse. Fortunately, Mr. Land escaped with a severe shaking, and was able to appear in due course at the South London.

Miss Daisy Dormer, fresh from her triumphs at Leeds, is delighting Ealingites this week. This is not the first visit by many of dainty Miss Daisy, and the more she comes the more her welcome grows. Her artistic charms extend not only to her "finger tips," but to the very end of her pretty toes. There is an irresistible *élan* about the little lady that has always spelled success, and to-day, with her archness and chic she stands in the very front rank of popular favourites.

The latest quotations for music hall shares are as follow:—Alhambra, 1⅞; Canterbury, ⅞; Electric Theatres, 25/9; Empire (15s. pd.), 1⅞; Ditto (10s. pd.), 1⅛; London Pav. Ord., 3⅜; Ditto Pref., 5; Metropolitan, ; Moss' Empires, 5⅛; Ditto 5 per cent. Pref., 4⅛; Oxford, 6⅜; Palace, —10½d.; Tivoli, 6½; Var. Cons. Theatres, 11/0.

At the 600th meeting of the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association, held on Wednesday, Mr. Sid Bandon took the chair. There were also present Messrs. Harry Blake, Arthur Rigby, Marriott Edgar, Fred Millis, T. C. Callaghan, J. Miller Northern, Harold Finden, H. Herald, Alf. Herald, W. H. Atlas, J. Rich, and Lieut. Albini. New agencies were appointed at the Golden Lion Hotel, Todmorden, and the Horse and Groom, Gainsborough. The weekly statement showed an increase of thirty-six new members and receipts of £60 5s. 6d.

The success of *The Midnight London Express* is phenomenal. On Monday next it returns to the Surrey after an absence of seven weeks. The business on its initial production broke all records, and Mr. Frederic Baugh, anxious to emulate the achievements of the Oxford and Cambridge crews, believes he can establish another record. This week at the Balham Hippodrome, "house full" has been the rule all the week.

Mr. Jo Williams, stage-manager for the Brussels Alhambra, Mr. Barrasford's popular palace of variety, was married on Saturday to Miss Sarah Wood, of Manchester. The bride was formerly a member of the combination known as the Eight Cocktails. The happy pair are going to make their home in Brussels. Presents were received from Mr. and Mrs. Trenchant, manager of the Alhambra; from the staff, from the artists on the bill (including Houdini), from the orchestra, from the secretary, and from the many friends Mr. Williams has made since he has been in Brussels.

Mr. Edward Thane is producing on Monday at the Queen's, Poplar, a new sketch entitled *Bitter Enemies*.

Mr. H. J. Greenwood has been re-elected chairman and Mr. Ernest B. Wild vice-chairman of the Theatres and Music Halls Committee of the London County Council.

The Palace, Greenwich, has lately reverted to the old plan of one house nightly, and Mr. Dave Hyman, manager for Mr. Dan Barnard, considers that the hall will benefit by the change of policy.

A week's collection, ending March 13, at the Queen's, Poplar, in aid of the National Lifeboat Institution, resulted in the munificent total of £15 odd being gathered for this noble organisation.

Mr. Ernest Ch. Gittins's production of the military sketch, played by late Carl Rosa artists, entitled *The Daughter of the Regiment*, will be the strong attraction next week at the cosy little Manchester Tivoli, where Mlle. Adèle Prescott will make her reappearance as Marie after her recent severe accident.

Rosherville Gardens will be reopened on Good Friday. A varied daily programme, including dancing in the Baronial Hall, rickshaws from the White City, a pierrot troupe, and a menagerie, all contributing, let us hope, to a happy day. Mr. T. Read, of the Agricultural Hall, is providing.

The Five X-Rays (the mad athletes), with an act entirely new to London, will commence on Monday a six nights' engagement at the Canterbury. Proprietors and managers will have an opportunity of using the X-Rays on their own audience after seeing the effect they have on the audiences at the above hall.

"Come Inside" is the title of the new revue shortly to be produced at the Empire. The libretto is by Mr. George Grossmith, jun., who has already written three successes for the same house, and will deal with up-to-date events of the world. The lyrics are by Mr. C. H. Bovill, and Mr. Cuthbert Clarke will arrange the music. The scenery is to be painted by Mr. R. C. McCleery, and the production will be in the able hands of Mr. Fred Farren.

The first scene is laid in the Beauty Parlour at Pelfridge's, which will naturally suggest the newest of London's stores. The second scene, Advertisements, is of a very novel character, and the final situation will be in the Universal Arena—a happy setting for the incidents Mr. Grossmith has invented.

Mr. Stanley Brett, the brother of the volatile Seymour Hicks, Mr. Arthur Playfair, an old Empire favourite, and Mr. Sam Collins, the American comedian who won London's approval as Potage in *The Casino Girl* at the Shaftesbury, together with Miss Winifred O'Connor, Miss Collette D'Arigny, a new importation from Paris, and Miss Lulu Valli, have been entrusted with the chief rôles.

Mr. Sidney Bacon's musical comedy sketch, *The Duchess of Tooting*, brighter and breezier than ever, started its third touring year at East Ham last week. Beautifully mounted and costumed, and with an excellent cast, headed by that popular comedian, Mr. Stephen Adeson, the "Duchess," has this week been the chief attraction at the Hippodrome, Birmingham.

Mr. Lance-Grove, a descriptive and character vocalist, on Monday night at the Hippodrome, Hastings, sang a new and original loyal song, entitled "Our Frontiersman—the King!" written by A. C. Shelley, and composed by Harold Wilrowe. The lyric was enthusiastically received, as was likewise a new military song by the same writers, entitled "We'll fight to the death for Bobs."

Mr. Lance-Grove was in the thick of all the fighting throughout the South African campaign, being one of Lord Dunraven's Sharpshooters, and his corps lost a column at the battle of Springfontein, and many hundreds of comrades in the fierce engagement at Tafel Kop. Mr. Grove has an excellent baritone voice.

Mr. Horace Hunter is the author of a new dramatic sketch, entitled *Rough Justice*, which will be produced at the Bedford on April 5. The sketch, which will be elaborately mounted and dressed, contains six powerful acting parts and twelve supernumeraries. The star part of Madge Goodwin will in all probability be played by Miss Lily Hammersley.

The D. and S. Barnard Dramatic Agency has been established, with headquarters at the Elephant and Castle Theatre. The firm belongs to the family of theatrical proprietors and managers who have been associated for years with popular houses in Woolwich, Greenwich, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Chatham, &c.

Mr. Alfred Butt will present on Monday at the Palace Theatre Mr. Richard Golden, the well-known actor, in a new sketch, entitled *A Case for Divorce*, by Mr. Clay Greene, who has adapted his work from an incident in Holman F. Day's story of "Squire Bill." Other members of the cast are Mr. Charles White, Miss Helen Rouse, and Miss Erskine. Mr. Golden must not be mistaken for George Fuller Golden, who was so popular at the Palace as a raconteur.

Amongst the newcomers next week at the Coliseum are the Musical Courtiers, who will appear in a novel arrangement of airs from *The Bohemian Girl*. The company consists of ten artists—six operatic vocalists and four pianists. The singers include Mr. Hilton St. Just, the well-known tenor; Mr. T. H. Wood, late a leading baritone of the Moody-Manners Opera Company, and Mlle. Louise Van Dalle, soprano. The leading pianists are Mr. Edwin Hesseltine (a pupil of the late Sir Charles Halle) and Mme. Vera Neville, a distinguished student of the Berlin Conservatoire.

Before Judge Emden, at Lambeth, on Thursday, the re-trial of the action brought by Mr. Thomas Mackney, music hall artist, against Mr. Fred Karno, sketch proprietor, for damages for wrongful dismissal, took place. When the action was before his honour a few weeks ago the jury found for the plaintiff, and his honour consented to the case being re-tried, on the ground that the verdict was against the weight of evidence. The jury now found that plaintiff was drunk on the occasion in question, and that defendant had not waived his right of dismissal. His honour gave judgment for the defendant, with costs.

On behalf of the Committee of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, 61, New Oxford-street, W.C., Miss Melinda May begs most gratefully to thank the following:—Mrs. Fred Ginnett, donation of 3s.; Miss Lottie Albert, donation of 3s.; Mrs. Herbert Shelley, for pretty baby's bonnet; Mrs. Lily Bradgate, for a letter for consumptive home; Miss Helen Martin (collecting), 10s.; Miss Emma Don (collecting), 2s. 6d.; the Last Leaf of the Pineapple, 5s., from Miss Lottie Albert; Miss Lilian Baylis, Victoria Hall (collecting box), 17s.; Mrs. George Smythson (collecting), 2s. 6d.; collected at the Palace, Hull, by Miss Irene Rose, 3s. 7d.; Mrs. Schaller (collecting), 2s. 6d.; Mr. Nat. Lewis (collecting), 4s. Will musical friends please note that we have for sale a splendid banjo, which can be seen any day at 61, New Oxford-street.

Miss Vesta Victoria returned to London, after one week's absence, on Monday, appearing at the London Pavilion and the Empire, Holborn, where packed houses gave her a very enthusiastic reception. At the Holborn Empire the audience, in addition to lustily joining in the chorus of each song, continued to sing some of Miss Victoria's past successes, such as "Waiting at the church" and "It's all right in the summertime," after the popular artiste had left the stage, and were only satisfied by Vesta returning and smilingly bowing her acknowledgments.

Messrs. Bercham and Wheeler, her representatives, are busy arranging some flying matinées. We understand that there will shortly appear in the magazines some interesting articles on Miss Victoria's famous American tours and her various experiences across the pond.

The Oxford and Cambridge crews have accepted the invitation of the directors of the Empire to be present during the performance after the University Boat Race on Saturday next.

Mr. George P. Jackley, the original speech-whistling page of the Jackley Trio, is the author and composer of several successes, such as Miss Gertie Gitana's "Happy" song. He is on the Stoll tour until July.

Mr. Alfred Butt has arranged two special "farewell" matinées for Miss Maud Allan at the Palace Theatre, on March 31 and April 7, when Miss Allan will give a more varied and larger number of dances than usual. The "classical dancing" boom seems to be dying a natural death. Nothing that we have seen in the interpretations of Miss Allan has even approached in its pathos, tenderness, and dramatic significance the telling of the story of *The Dryad* at the Empire by the incomparable Genée.

An agency on somewhat new lines, entitled the General Attractions Bureau, is being started by Mr. J. Rowland Sales (late manager at the New and Waldorf Theatres) at 16, King William-street, Strand. Not content with the provision merely of principals and chorus for managers, Mr. Sales undertakes to provide whole companies, to rehearse them, to teach them if necessary, to advise upon and introduce plays, to arrange song-scenas, and, in fact, to cover every kind of theatrical, operatic, and variety work. Mr. Sales is the youngest theatrical manager in London, indeed probably in the world, and in this new venture we most cordially wish him every success possible. Needless to add, he is supported by both an able and a competent staff.

The Zoological Gardens and Amusement Park at Chevinedge, Halifax, have taken definite shape, and by Whitsuntide it is expected that arrangements will have been so far completed as to allow them to be opened to the public. Workmen are already busily engaged in making the necessary repairs to the beautiful house at Exley Bank, which is excellently adapted to the purposes of catering.

Half-way between the Punch Bowl and the Calder and Hebble is the point decided upon for the elevated railway, and this will convey visitors up the hillside and deposit them at the main entrance to this resort of pleasure. On the payment of sixpence they will be admitted, and the first thing which will attract their attention will be the deer park. They will then pass the bear pit, alongside which it is intended to construct a children's corner.

Adjacent to the beautiful greenhouses will be the refreshment garden, and in the Zoo proper there is a small lake. A popular feature of the Amusement Park will be a water chute, which dips into a lake, on which gondolas will be gliding about, passing along a canal under a bridge.

It is intended, of course, to make the present venture a permanent one, while new ideas will be introduced from time to time. An exhibition of cottage homes, similar to that at the London White City, will also be held. Indeed, the possibilities of such a place are endless. Although the prospectus of the company is not yet issued, Mr. A. R. McKill, York Chambers, Halifax, has already received numerous applications for shares and season tickets, and the promoters believe it will prove a lucrative business, of much benefit to Halifax.

Mr. Bransby Williams has just finished his book, which he calls "An Actor's Story." It will be published by Messrs. Chapman and Hall on March 29. In it Mr. Williams gives an account of his early days as an actor before he hit upon the idea of impersonating characters from Dickens and Shakespeare on the music-hall stage His book deals, naturally, at some length with Dickens, but it has much in it on acting and actors of the day, and is full of interesting and lively stories concerning them. The book will be copiously illustrated.

It is with regret that we have to announce the death of Mr. Alec Romer (husband of Miss Margaret Radcliffe), which sad event took place on Tuesday. The deceased gentleman had been suffering from an incurable malady for the past twelve months, and, from the first, the specialist and doctors held out no hopes.

The late Mr. Romer, although quite a young man (thirty-eight years of age on the 15th of this month), was for many years a member of the D'Oyly Carte Répertoire Co., and latterly under Mr. Geo. Edwardes's management at the Apollo Theatre in *The Girl from Kay's*, *Mr. Popple*, &c. His last engagement was at the Adelphi in the pantomime *Aladdin*, 1907-8. Mrs. Alec Romer has been unceasing in her efforts to cheer and comfort her afflicted husband, and the end came as a sudden shock to her. The funeral takes place at Norwood Cemetery on Monday next.

The remains of the late Mr. George Fuller were interred in Highgate Cemetery on Tuesday. The hearse containing the oak casket, which was covered with beautiful floral trophies, was followed by the carriages containing the mourners, who included the widow, Miss Katie Lawrence, his mother, and several cousins. Amongst those at the graveside were:—Messrs. H. Schomberg, Jeffreys, Edgar Bateman, Dave Cohen, Geo. Parker, J. Clarke, F. Ambridge, J. Deakin (of the York), G. Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Elvin, Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, Mr. Mead, and many others.

There were many lovely flowers, which included a wreath of violets and daisies from his wife, a wreath from his broken-hearted mother, wreath from his cousins (Beattie, Eva, and Nellie), sheaf from Mr. and Mrs. S. Billimore (cousins), anchor from Mr. and Mrs. M. Billimore (cousins), cross from Mrs. C. Billimore (aunt), harp from Johnnie Clabon (cousin), a beautiful floral design from Mr. Pony Moore, a cushion of flowers from Marie Lloyd, a chaplet from Mr. George Parker, a cross from Mr. Eugene Stratton, a harp from Mr. and Mrs. Joe Elvin, a harp from Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Williams, wreaths from Mr. Jack Lotto, Dr. Pernet, Mr. Jeffreys and family, Old Treble, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Newman, Mr. and Mrs. McDonald, the Waterloo Angling Society, and Mr. and Mrs. Jackson; bunches of flowers from Nell, Cousin Lulu, Miss Maud Knight, and Susie. Mr. Eugene Stratton was unable to be present owing to his being on tour.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

MESSRS. FRANCIS AND DAY have in the press, for immediate publication, Mr. Harry Lauder's two latest successes: "I'm coortin' Leezie Lindsay" and "I've loved her ever since she was a baby."

MR. DAVID DAY, of Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter, accompanied by Mrs. Day left Euston by the 5.55 p.m. express on Thursday for Liverpool, thence to embark on the s.s. "Celtic," which departed for New York on Friday. The heads of the various departments of the well-known music-publishing firm were present to bid farewell to their chief, who is paying a business visit to the States, and on the platform were many well-known people connected with the world of song-writing, including C. W. Murphy, A. E. Sidney Davis, Karl Kaps, J. F. Lambe, Scott Mackenzie, and others.

A CHARMING song—as dainty as that little sylph Miss Elise Craven, to whom it is dedicated, and who sang it at the reception that followed the wedding of Miss Coats to the Marquis Douro a day or two since—has just been published by Messrs. Francis and Day, entitled "Fairy days." It is by Arthur du Soir, the music by Francis J. Peers.

MISS TRULY SHATTUCK'S cultured voice has, at the London Coliseum, during the week, been heard to the greatest advantage in Messrs. Francis and Day's "Naomi," a song with a haunting refrain, words by Percy Edgar, and music by C. W. Murphy, which has been orchestrated in Reginald Allen's well-known masterly style. The lady's final contribution is the popular "Bombadier."

MISS MADGE TEMPLE, at the Tivoli and Canterbury, has, in addition to her "Come, be my rainbow" number, been charming large audiences by her rendering of "I'm looking for Mr. Wright," a new aeroplane song, by R. P. Weston, C. W. Murphy, and Hermann E. Darewski.

A BARN dance on the popular song "Sue, Sue, Sue," and a march on that up-to-date and stirring number "Bravo! Territorials," both by Hermann E. Darewski, will be placed on the market in the course of a few days by Messrs. Francis and Day.

AT Brighton towards the close of last week a complimentary farewell dinner was given to Mr. Ernest Lepard on his retirement from the management of the Alhambra. Mr. H. J. Preston presided.

MR. LESLIE STUART tells a favourite story of his in a recent contemporary, which runs as follows:—"A great feud existed between the McTavishes and the McGregors. One day a baboon belonging to a circus on its way to Edinburgh fell ill and died. The animal was quite a dilapidated old creature, so, when it was dark, the corpse was deposited in a ditch, where it lay upon its back, with its hideous face staring up at the sky.

"PRESENTLY two shepherds came along. 'Hey, mon,' cried one, 'look what's yon!' The pair approached the ditch and gazed wonderingly at the dead animal. 'It's nae a McTavish,' said one, 'for it's nae red enough.' 'And it's nae a McGregor,' decided the other, 'for it's too guid-looking.' He paused and rubbed his head. Then he blurted out: 'I ken. Let's gang up tae the castle and see if any of the English visitors are missing.'"

MR. FRED BARNES has, at the Holloway Empire, been singing with great success Messrs. Francis and Day's "If there wasn't a man," and his newer song, from his own pen, "The scapegrace," looks like being a song that will do him yeoman service.

MR. FRED W. LEIGH has just completed a special song for Miss Louie Tracy, entitled "The dapper dandy boy." Miss Tracy's bill matter is registered and fully protected.

SAM MAYO is scoring with his latest song, "I played my concertina." Mr. Mayo has not had such a big song since his well-known "I'm going to sing a song." "I felt so jolly I jumped for joy" is still going strong with him. The last two numbers are published by the Von Tilzer Music Co.

"DON'T stop my 'arf a pint o' beer," which Gus Elen is featuring this week at the Coliseum, is published by the Von Tilzer Co. George Leyton has just acquired the performing rights of a drinking song entitled "Health, wealth, and the girl you love," from the same publishers, and he intends to produce the song immediately.

MR. WORTON DAVID has just finished a song entitled "I've got my little bit of blue, blue ribbon on," the singing rights for the halls of which have been secured by Mr. Fred Earle. The song will be issued by Von Tilzers soon after Easter.

THESE publishers are at the present moment negotiating with one of the biggest variety artists for a production both in this country and America of a song by Worton David and Fred Godfrey entitled "Georgie, I like the photograph."

HARRY FORD'S latest song, "I always like to do things nice and friendly," will be a popular number with pierrots this season. It is included in the Von Tilzer Annual Summer Book, which is in great demand among alfresco comedians.

THE committee of the Veterans' Relief Fund (Portsmouth branch) are anxious to thank the host of artists who so willingly came forward and gave their services at the King's Theatre, Southsea, at the matinée in aid of the fund on Wednesday, March 17. Many of these artists came down specially from London and some from Brighton, and altogether gave a magnificent show, lasting four hours. The result was a net balance of £171 2s. 9d. Thanks are due to Mr. J. W. Boughton for the loan of the theatre and for paying for trams to bring the old men; and to Mr. Barrasford for arranging the show. Mr. Claude Marner, the manager, worked like a Trojan.

THE following names will give an idea of the excellent programme that was provided:—Mme. Albani, Miss Evie Greene, Barton and Ashley, Wright and Lawson, Rose Archer, Emerson and Baldwin, Dorothy Clark, the Gregory Troupe, Elmo and Rego, Frank Harvey and company, Dorothy Gould, Les Andos, Zakovsky, Renroff, Chris. Richards, George Leyton ("Lucknow") Miss Bayley Harris, Miss Millie Craddock, Mooney and Holbein, Gladys Huxley, Sam Spira, Gilbert Gerrard, Harry Taft, Marie Wilton, Alfred A. Harris, and Dorothy Green, Harry Brown, Ernest Shand, Edie King, Elsie Bernard, Robert Pateman, Band of the Royal Marine Artillery, Mr. B. S. Green.

MISS MABEL FAIRCHILD, with her unique dancing scena *A Belfry Dream*, topped the bill one week at the Aquarium, Scarborough, and was retained the next as a "draw"—a very exceptional occurrence, which has obliged the lady to postpone this week's date in order to remain.

MISS TOTS DAVIS, unfortunately taken ill with influenza, was unable to appear at the Empress, Brixton, on Monday evening. Mr. Grimes very kindly postponed her engagement until her recovery. She returned on Sunday from a successful tour in the North of England.

LONDON PAVILION.

Sketches written round instrumentalists are not uncommon on the variety stage, and though one does not lose touch altogether with the romance of *The Power of Music*, by F. S. Jennings and Jan Rudenyi, yet it is the achievements as a violin virtuoso of the latter gentleman that are the playlet's chief attraction. Two violinists are rivals in love of Eileen Granville, who, though favouring the suit of Renard Carona, is under the strange spell woven by the musical genius of Disani, a poor Hungarian violinist, of whom she dreams. Renard, who has won a great success as a violinist at the Queen's Hall, returns triumphant to give the flowers that have been thrown to him to his inamorata. He would play a solo, but the strain is taken by the wandering Disani, who laughs at Renard's pretensions, and insults him. The latter would retaliate, but Eileen intervenes. Eventually becoming enraged, Renard smashes the beloved instrument of Disani, who, however, forgives everybody before going out to shoot himself. Mr. Jan Rudenyi, who appeared a few years since at this hall, plays admirably some Hungarian dances, and Miss Dora de Winton, who looks handsome as Eileen, and Mr. John D. Saunders as Renard do all that is possible to sustain the dramatic interest.

Miss Vesta Victoria returned on Monday to renew her triumphs with Mr. Frank Glenister's patrons. She opened with a new song, in which the prospective wife of a peer who comes from the "masses" indulges in speculation as to her prospects in "society." The comedy of the notion is developing, and with such a capital subject to work upon we may be sure that Miss Vesta's impersonation of the lady who has married into the nobility will before long be a thing of joy. "The Widow" and "Now I have to call him father" are established favourites that no one of the Pavilion audiences would miss on any account.

Mr. Tom Dunville still dissembles drolly as Hamlet of Denmark Hill; and Mr. Tom Costello, the laureate of comic matrimonial entanglements, gives a genuinely funny picture of the result of the marriage of a widower with six to a relict with another half-dozen. Little Tich has added an impersonation of Dr. Dudd, the dentist, to his gallery of comic portraits, and the result is roars of laughter, which are increased by his quaint dancing as Little Miss Turpentine. Versatility is enshrined in the methods of Mr. Albert Le Fre, who returns to the Pavilion time after time to find his popularity undiminished and his audiences as eager and responsive as ever. Mr. Le Fre's gifts are many-sided, but his dancing is a speciality of his turn, and his quaint impersonation of a serious gentleman with a stiff leg going through a quadrille quite upsets one's gravity. Other favourites include Mr. Albert Whelan, who mimics Harry Lauder to good purpose; Jack and Evelyn, a popular pair, who win the heartiest approval in their latest comic duo; Ross and Grayson, whose *mélange* of music and piano-playing extraordinary evokes uproarious hilarity. The Zaid Trio have an original speciality; the scientific exhibition of rifle and pistol shooting by the Three Royal Dreadnoughts is watched with much interest; and other turns include Mr. Larry Lewis, Gicardo, Miss Hettie Lee, Mr. Josh Dixon, Miss Emilie Hayes, Florence and Lillian, and Mr. Maynard Dakin.

THE HIPPODROME.

We regret the continued absence from the front of this house of the popular manager, Mr. Fred Trussell, who is slowly recovering from his accident, and will not, we are afraid, be back before the closure on Saturday next. Mr. Hicks, who is acting on behalf of Mr. Trussell, is directing a programme of exceptional strength and variety. *The Motor Chase* is a series of stupendous sensations that thrill audiences nightly, and the eagerness with which the flight of the young lovers, Walley Berkeley and Lady Sybil Pinbury, is followed proclaims the real grip of the sketch, which has been so ingeniously and so cleverly produced and stage-managed by the incomparable Frank Parker. Cupid is a powerful factor in *The Motor Chase*, and when Lady Sybil tells the alien millionaire of Hebrew origin that his millions cannot buy her love, we feel that we are in for a healthy time with melodrama that has a dash of wholesome sentiment in it. Down country lanes career the rival suitors in motors, and of course the dangers of the route by the silent pool, easily avoided by hero and heroine, prove to be the undoing of Mr. Issy Tass, who swerves with his car, which falls into the water. Mr. Philip Cunningham and Miss Maud Cressall, a very pretty actress, play with a sure touch, and Mr. C. W. Somerset's breadth of style as Tass is of the greatest service in every scene, more especially in the first. Mr. Evelyn Vernon looks every inch an aristocrat as the Duke of Stroud; Mr. Clive Currie is an effective Lord Winkworth; Mr. H. Latimar gives a neat sketch of Count von Brisen; and Mr. O. E. Lennon is amusing as the loafer. The Hyde Park scene is a triumph of realism, and the ball makes a pretty spectacle.

A sensational jumping act is presented by the Deonzo Brothers from America, who do some really wonderful feats. They jump on to bottles and decanters, and incidentally extinguish candles with their feet. Their greatest *tour de force* is their ascent of a pyramid of tables by leaping on to bottles and similar objects, taking a barrel in their upward progress. When the top table is reached both turn somersaults to the ground. Not the slightest mistake is made, and the different objects which afford temporary rests for this light-footed pair are absolutely intact at the close of their performance, which is flawless. Miss Lina Marrder in golden raiment looks handsome on her white steed, the animal pacing very cleverly in a perfect *haute école* exhibition. As a pendant to the act, Miss Marrder, in voluminous serpentine skirts, poses while pretty chromotropic pictures are thrown on to them. The St. Bernard dogs and fox terriers also add to the variety of the turn. The Carmos do some astonishing balancing feats, the gentleman also showing considerable strength when he balances on his chin a chair on which his lady partner is seated. Mann's performing elephants are interesting; and E. H. Bostock's kangaroo, who boxes three rounds with his trainer, evidently looks upon the business as a little playful exercise that is quite to his liking.

Woman, lovely woman, asserts herself most unmistakably and most agreeably when the Stockham Grecian Ladies' Band, consisting of fourteen pretty girls in beautiful Grecian costumes, is led by Mme. Stockham from the conductor's rostrum aloft on the dress-circle level. The combination includes the famous Stockham Harp Trio and a lady virtuoso on the trombone, who chose "Ora pro nobis" for her solo on the night of our visit. The selection from *Faust* was also very finely played. At the conclusion of the turn the curtain had to be raised four or five times in response to an enthusiastic reception. The Boccaccio Minstrels include Signor Francis, an accomplished mandolinist, who plays Gounod's famous serenade delightfully. Mr. Johnny Fuller's feline tricks and wire performance as a cat are excellent, and the Fratellini Brothers are always welcome. The Pathégraph affords great amusement with a comic picture.

OUR New York correspondent writes:—"Mr. Laurence Irving and Miss Mabel Hackney, in *The King and the Vagabond*, were the leading attraction last week at the American Music Hall, the only house in New York that is run on the English plan. Mr. William Morris books nothing but first-class attractions for his 'genuine London music-hall,' as he terms it, but one may say that the playlet presented by Mr. Irving and his talented wife is more than a cut above the average vaudeville offering.

"IT was evidently not too 'high-toned' for Eighth-avenue, however, judging from the applause that came from all parts of the house when the curtain descended. Mr. Irving and Miss Hackney must have been very well pleased with their reception. This week they are appearing at the Fulton Theatre in Brooklyn."

MR. CLIVE CURRIE, who is playing Lord Winkworth in the mile-a-minute sensation, *The Motor Chase*, at the Hippodrome, will head a company entrusted with the representation of Miss Ina Rozant's play *A Stage Name* and *The Taming of the Shrew* at the Rehearsal Theatre, Maiden-lane, on Sunday, April 4.

CLARENCE HOSKINS, formerly manager of the Tunbridge Wells Opera House, was sentenced to three months' hard labour on Wednesday on a charge of embezzling £36, the money of Messrs. Walter de Frece and Frederick Mouillot. Hoskins eloped with a chorus girl, but attributed his downfall to drink.

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER'S
SONG BOOM.

I'M COORTIN' LEEZIE LINDSAY.

I'VE LOVED HER EVER SINCE SHE WAS A BABY.
HARRY LAUDER'S LATEST TRIUMPHS.

I'M LOOKING FOR MISTER WRIGHT.
MISS MADGE TEMPLE'S GREAT SUCCESS.

BRAVO! TERRITORIALS.
Sung by MISS OUIDA MACDERMOTT.

GOO-GOO LAND.
Sung by MISS ADA REEVE.

IT'S MOONLIGHT EVERY NIGHT IN LONDON.
Sung by ARTHUR REECE.

COME AND HAVE A DRINK WITH ME.
Sung by CHARLES WHITTLE.

ROBIN REDBREAST.
Sung by HARRY CHAMPION.

THE COSTER'S PONY.
Sung by GUS ELEN.

JOHN WILLIE, COME ON.
Sung by GEORGE FORMBY.

IT'S A LIE!
Sung by GEORGE ROBEY.

BOMBADIER and NAOMI.
Sung by MISS TRULY SHATTUCK.

ARE YOU SINCERE?
Sung by MISS DAISY DORMER.

SYDNEY'S HOLIDAYS ARE IN SEPTEMBER (Naughty Boy)
Sung by MISS VESTA TILLEY.

HOW D'YOU DO, MY BABY?
Sung by G. H. ELLIOTT.

SHE SELLS SEA SHELLS.
Sung by WILKIE BARD.

THEY WON'T KNOW I COOM FROM THE COONTRY.
Sung by GEORGE BASTOW.

HANG OUT THE FRONT DOOR KEY.
Sung by GEORGE LASHWOOD.

SHADOWLAND.
Sung by MISS ETHEL DUNFORD.

DON'T BE ANGRY, Mr. BEE
Sung by MISS AMY CLEVERE.

I DO MAKE A HIT WITH THE LADIES.
Sung by MISS HETTY KING.

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER, 142, Charing Cross Rd., London, W.C.

TESTIMONIAL TO MAURICE DE FRECE.

TO COMMEMORATE HIS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DRAMATIC AND VARIETY AGENCY.

President, MR. ARTHUR COLLINS, T.R., Drury-lane.

Several mutual friends, well-wishers, and members of the profession have suggested that a testimonial should be given to Mr. Maurice de Frece, who will shortly enter upon his fiftieth year of the variety agency business. For half of this period Mr. de Frece has been connected with the firm of Richard Warner and Co., with whom he is no longer associated. Mr de Frece's friends deem this a most fitting opportunity of expressing their esteem and appreciation of his sterling good qualities in business and his straightforward conduct and extreme courtesy to one and all with whom he has come in contact during his career as the oldest-established variety agent in the world.

We regret to say that at the present time Mr. de Frece is an inmate of St. Peter's Hospital, Henrietta-street, Covent Garden, W.C., where he will undergo a severe operation. It is expected he will remain in hospital four or five weeks.

The following gentlemen form the Committee, with power to add to their number:—

Mr. Frederick Abrahams	Mr. Sydney Hyman
Mr. Harry Barnett	Mr. Johnny Jacobs
Mr. Natt Behrens	Mr. E. J. Leamy
Mr. J. W. Boughton	Mr. Jack Lotto
Mr. Frank Boyd	Mr. Joseph Lyons
Mr. Alfred Butt	Mr. George May
Mr. Lauri A. Cohen	Sir Edward Moss
Mr. Joseph Davis	Mr. Wm. Morris (inc.)
Mr. Ernest Devere	Mr. Alfred Moul
Mr. Thos. H. Dey	Mr. Paul Murray
Mr. H. J. Didcott	Mr. Henry Neville
Mr. Chas. Fisher	Mr. Will Oliver
Mr. Geo. Foster	Mr. Geo. O'Starr
Mr. Jack de Frece	Mr. Eugen Sandow
Mr. Lauri de Frece	Mr. Tom Shaw
Mr. Walter de Frece	Mr. Chas. Simons
Mr. Michael Garcia	Mr. Sidney Smith
Mr. Frank Glenister	Somers and Warner
Mr. J. L. Graydon	Mr. Oswald Stoll
Mr. Henri Gros	Mr. Henry Sutton
Mr. T. G. Hales	Mr. Henry Tozer
Mr. Fred Higham	Mr. H. W. Wieland
Mr. Thos. Holmes	

Hon. Treasurer, MR. F. H. PEDGRIFT, *The Era*.
Joint Hon. Secretaries, MR. GEO. FOSTER and MR. EMANUEL WARNER.

SUBSCRIPTIONS PROMISED AND RECEIVED.

	£	s.	d.
Mr. T. G. Hales	10	10	0
Mr Eugen Sandow	5	5	0
Sir Edward Moss	5	0	0
Mr. Fred Karno	5	0	0
Mr. Charles Fisher	2	2	0
Mr. Harry Barnett	2	2	0
Mr. Joseph Lyons	2	2	0
Mr. Richard Warner	2	2	0
Somers and Warner	2	2	0
The Leopolds	2	2	0
Mr. Jack Lotto	1	1	0
Mr. Lauri A. Cohen	1	1	0
Mr. Tom Shaw	1	1	0
Miss Carrie O'Brien	1	1	0
Mr. Ian Colquhoun	1	1	0
Mr. Carl Hertz	1	1	0
Mr. J. Selbini	1	1	0
Mr. Joe Elvin	1	1	0
Mr. Harry Jee	1	1	0
Conn and Conrad	1	1	0
Mr J. W. Cragg	1	1	0
Mr. Henry Tozer	1	1	0
Mr. J. W. Boughton	1	1	0
Mr. Richard G. Owens	1	1	0
Mr. Fred Higham	1	1	0
Mr. Ernest de Vere	1	1	0
Mr. Thomas Holmes	1	1	0
Mr. Joseph Davis	1	1	0
Mr. Henry Sutton	1	1	0
Mr. Michael Abrahams	1	1	0
Mr. Frederick Abrahams	1	1	0
Mr. D. J. Clarke	1	1	0
Mr. Oswald Stoll	1	1	0
Mr. Geo. O. Starr	1	0	0
Miss Kittee Rayburn	0	10	6
Miss Georgina Middleton	0	10	6
Anger and Bauer	0	10	6
Mr. Wm. Millwood	0	10	6
Mr. A. Letta	0	5	0
Swan	0	5	0
Miss Luna Love	0	5	0
Mr. Julian Ross	0	5	0

TERRIERS' DINNER AND BALL.

The annual dinner and ball which was held on Sunday last at the Horns Hotel, Kennington, was a most enjoyable function. About one hundred Terriers and their friends assembled for dinner at 10 p.m. The President, Mr. Jesse Sparrow, was in the chair. After the usual loyal toast, Mr. G. P. R. Burgess (hon. solicitor to the Terriers) proposed the toast of "The Terriers' Association," which was responded to by the secretary, Mr. Arthur Were. The chairman proposed "Kindred Societies," to which Mr. Douglas Stuart and Mr. Pat Carey replied. "The Visitors" were toasted by Mr. Harry Gage (hon. treasurer), and acknowledged by Mr. Ernest Rees and Miss Gertrude Glynn. Mr. H. Cory Woodrow proposed "The Chairman."

After an excellent repast provided by Mr. Joseph Sams, the company adjourned to the ballroom, and dancing, commencing shortly after midnight to the strains of the Belgravia Orchestra, conducted by Mr. Sweet, continued into the early hours. During the interval an impromptu burlesque minstrel troupe and band performance given by Tom Callaghan ("Hebrew comedian"), Charles Stevens, Willie Benn (at the piano), Harry Mayville (violin), Fred Larola and Fred Neiman (drums), Ted "Caruso" Hanley, and others, created uproarious mirth. Terriers M. H. MacDowall and H. Cory Woodrow made excellent M.C.'s.

The company present included Mr. Jesse Sparrow, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bawn (My Fancy), Miss Peggy Pryde, Mr. George Pearson, Mr. Pat Carey, Mr. Horace Wheatley, Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Alexander, Mr. Tom Callaghan, Mr. G. P. R. Burgess, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gage, Mr. M. H. McDowall, Mr. and Mrs. Larola, Mr. and Mrs Fred Neiman, Mr. and Mrs. Willie Benn, Mr. and Mrs. H. Cory Woodrow, Mr. Chas. Pratt, Mr. and Mrs. Barney Hyams, Mr. Bert Marsden, Mr. and Miss Madden, Mr. W. L. Murray, Mr. Syd Cottrell, Mrs. Pounds, Mr. Squire Wyndham, Mr. Charles Cornish, Mr. and Mrs. Kohler, Mr. and Mrs. Emery, Mr. and Mrs. Crook, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Stevens, Miss Gwenn, Mr. and Mrs. Wagstaff, Misses Dilloston, Mr. and Mrs. Chambers, Mr. and Mrs. Hilton, Mr. and Mrs. C. Moore, Mr. C. F. Gage, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Webb, Mr. Fred Hooper, Dr. Frost, Mr. Douglas Stuart, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Were, and others.

A PRETTY incident took place at the Central Hall, Lincoln, on the 18th. The little wonder of the Four Cecilians, who so greatly charmed the patrons during the week, was presented with a pretty gold necklet and pendant. The present was entirely from the townspeople of Lincoln. At Saturday's matinée the children subscribed to present her with flowers. She will be seen at the Empire, Camberwell, next week.

BILLY KEENE AND JESSIE ADAMS have made a tremendous success in Panama, Central America, and are re-engaged for a further forty weeks. They dress in the "real" pierrot dress—white face and skull-caps—with illuminated scenery, and their act has been greatly praised for its refinement and beautiful ensemble work. The artists composing the company are Alec Leo, Frank Foley, Harry Barlow, W. Crandon-Bevan, Jessie Adams, and Billy Keene.

DR. BODIE AT HACKNEY EMPIRE.

The remarkable demonstrations of Dr. Walford Bodie, the famous "electric wizard" and bloodless surgeon, are familiar to music hall audiences in every town of importance in the United Kingdom, and this week dwellers in Hackney and the immediate neighbourhood have been flocking to the handsome Stoll Empire to renew acquaintance with his novel and wonderful exhibition. After his first experiment with a 4in. spark coil, in which the doctor proved his marvellous resistance to the deadly electricity, acquired, as he explained, by years of practice, he introduced the Death Chair, an exact replica of the one used in Sing Sing Prison, New York. Dr. Bodie referred to a question recently raised in the Press—"Does Electricity Kill?" He is of opinion that the method of carrying out the death penalty in America is not always painless or instantaneous. Strapped in the chair, the doctor duplicated every experiment so graphically described in the Press, lighting arc and incandescent lamps with a carbon held between his teeth, setting fire to a pocket handkerchief, and accomplishing other wonderful feats, the voltage passing through his body being enormous. Another daring and attractive exhibition was his incarceration in the "Cage of Death," which, when connected with his apparatus, became a dazzling prison of electric fireworks, from which Dr. Bodie emerged unscathed, to the accompaniment of loud and prolonged applause. As a finale to his unique and interesting turn, the doctor introduced three little patients whom he had cured of paralysis and kindred complaints on former visits to London. These youngsters had all been dismissed from London hospitals as incurable, but were now eloquent testimony to the doctor's cleverness as a skilled surgeon. One little toddler, carrying cumbersome leg-irons, with which she formerly managed with difficulty to walk, ran on the stage in the full enjoyment of the use of her limbs, affectionately kissing her benefactor ere she departed. A lad of eleven, who had had a withered and quite useless arm, spoke up for himself, telling how the doctor had cured him, and proving it effectively by giving an exercise with dumbbells.

In conclusion, the eminent Scottish osteologist experimented on two children—many were in attendance, but time would not permit more being treated in that house. A little girl of three was carried on by a nurse, a bad case of paralysis, and after the doctor had exercised his marvellous healing powers, was able to walk off unaided. The result was exactly the same in the case of an older child afflicted with a withered leg. To the uninitiated the *modus operandi* appears simple; it is certainly swift and sure, the boldness and adroitness with which the doctor performed the operations inspiring confidence with the patients, who apparently suffered no pain. The names and addresses of the children and the hospitals from which they have been discharged are given, and Dr. Bodie claims to have treated successfully over 1,000 cases—a record of which he is naturally proud. The attractiveness of the doctor's daring demonstrations is enhanced by his striking personality and fluent address, his explanatory remarks being always interesting and frequently humorous.

MISS PAULINE ELLIOTT'S MARRIAGE.

A very pretty wedding took place last Saturday, March 20, at St. Peter's Church, Regency-square, the officiating clergyman being the Rev. R. N. Pyk, between Miss Pauline Elliott, daughter of the late J. B. Elliott, and Mr. Robert T. Paumier. The bride, who looked charming, wore a white silk Empire gown, covered with Maltese lace, white picture hat, white ostrich feather and orange blossoms, and carried a bouquet of white orchids, was given away by her brother, Mr. Tom Elliott, Mr. George Hanson being best man.

The bridesmaids, Misses May and Violet Elliott, looked very pretty in frocks of champagne-coloured silk slashed with blue, and blue picture hats, and bouquets of daffodils, and wearing diamond and turquoise brooches, the gift of the bridegroom. Mr. Percy Greenhalgh, a friend of the family, played the "Wedding March" on the bridal party leaving the church. The scene was a very striking one, pew after pew being filled with friends and relatives of the bride and bridegroom.

A reception was afterwards held at the residence of Mrs. J. B. Elliott, Washington House, Guilford-street, Russell-square, where the guests assembled sat down to a sumptuous banquet and drank the health of the happy couple.

The presents, which are numerous and costly, were displayed in the reception room, and much admired. They include: from bridegroom to bride, diamond and ruby ring; from bride to bridegroom, gold watch set with diamonds; a silver fruit and flower stand from Mr. D. J. Clarke; set of silver photo frames, Mr. and Mrs. J. Elliott; silver scent bottles, Mr. and Mrs. H. Elliott; silver serviette rings, Mr. M. Elliott; silver double-decked manicure set, Miss M. Elliott; silver jewel casket, Mr. and Mrs. Saul Ettenias; silk and Honiton lace dressing gown, Mrs. J. B. Elliott; table centre, Miss Violet Elliott; fancy clock, Mrs. Saul and daughter; Thermos bottle in leather case, Councillor Young, J.P.; silver travelling clock, Mr. and Mrs. Hunter; large oil painting, Miss Amy Elliott; silver glove stretchers, Master Bedford Elliott; silver purse, Mr. P. Greenhalgh; handsome bedspread, Mr. and Mrs. Wood; lace doylies, Mrs. Riddrough; nightdress case, Misses Transfield; a long pear-shaped chain with diamond heart, Mr. Welsby; silver tea service, Mr. Gordon; silver coffee service, the Hon. W. Gough; set of silver trays, Lady Gough. Amongst others too numerous to mention are enamelled boxes, jewelled fan, writing case, dressing bags, fitted motor bags, and many other beautiful gifts.

The bride's going-away dress was grey cloth, with hat to match, and sable furs. The honeymoon was spent at Brighton.

A pleasant incident occurred in connection with the above. On Saturday night, on the termination of the performance of the Elliott-Savonas at the Empire, Holloway, a beautiful bouquet was handed up by the conductor to the bride, and the band played the "Wedding March." The whole audience took in the situation at once, and cheer after cheer echoed through the house, mingled with shouts of "Good luck!" and it was some minutes before the curtain was allowed to finally descend.

The sole and exclusive rights for Bioscope pictures of the Grand National, run on Friday at Aintree, have again been acquired by the management of the Empire. Arrangements have been entered into whereby Bioscope cameras will be placed at every jump, so that a complete record of the race, from start to finish, will be obtained. Pictures will be taken of the crowd in the paddock, and also a bird's-eye view of the course.

Bioscope pictures of the Guards' Rush to Hastings are being shown at the Empire. The incidents include the start from London, the troops en route, and exclusive views of the encampment and drill on the cricket ground at Hastings.

A number of officers of the Russian Squadron, which played so signal a part in the rescue of the victims of the Messina Earthquake, were present on Thursday evening, the 18th, and were vociferous in their applause for their countrywoman, Mlle. Lydia Kyasht, also showing their appreciation of Mr. Fred Farren and Miss Beatrice Collier in "La Danse des Apaches." The Russian National Anthem was played during the evening.

DEATH OF MR. THEOPHILUS DUNKLEY.

Many members of the theatrical and music-hall profession will regret to hear of the death of Mr. Theophilus Dunkley, the well-known theatrical undertaker, of 88, Westminster Bridge-road. Mr. Dunkley, who was sixty-five years of age, had been confined to his room for nearly a fortnight with bronchitis, and he passed away on Tuesday evening a little before nine o'clock. The funeral is to take place on Tuesday, the *cortège* leaving the residence at twelve o'clock, and arriving at Lambeth Cemetery, Tooting, at half-past one.

The deceased gentleman, who was born in Westminster Bridge-road, was the son of an undertaker, and succeeded to a business founded by the family in 1814. Mr. Dunkley was for many years a prominent figure in variety circles, and was one of the oldest habitués of the Canterbury Music Hall and of the old Surrey Theatre, frequently visiting the latter place of entertainment during the time of Phelps and Creswick. He was a great friend of the late Mr. Charles Crowder and Mr. George Adney Payne, and was present on the occasion of the opening of the Canterbury and Paragon. His other friends in the profession were legion, for he was personally very popular and highly respected.

Mr. Dunkley was invariably to be seen at important music-hall functions, and often acted as M.C. at the balls. He was a well-known Freemason, and a Past-Master of the craft, being W.M. in Jubilee year, 1887. Mr. Dunkley attended to the funeral arrangements of many well-known artists, including Dan Leno, Jennie Hill, and Bessie Bellwood.

He leaves a widow (his second wife), a daughter (Mrs. Florence Elizabeth Herring), and a son (Mr. W. R. Dunkley), who will carry on the business, and who has assisted his father and managed affairs for the past nineteen years. Mr. W. R. Dunkley is also well known to many music-hall people.

[*Photo by W. Ash.*

THE LATE MR. THEOPHILUS DUNKLEY.

"WHO'S MY DAD?"

New Sketch, Produced at the Granville, Walham Green, on Monday, March 22.

John Short ..... Mr. Myles Clifton
Samuel Snipe ..... Mr. Edgar Payne
Mr. Glue ..... Mr. Stanley Lathbury
Miss Semolina Snipe ..... Miss Millie Vere
Polly ..... Miss Daisie Wallace

In the story of this sketch Mr. Samuel Snipe is secretly married to Polly, a fascinating maid-of-all-work. Snipe's sister, Semolina, is also secretly married, having espoused a Mr. Glue, a paying guest of the Snipes. Both parties have spent their honeymoon at Margate, and on the arrival of Short, a waiter from the hotel where they stopped, who recognises them, they all are thrown into a state of panic. Fearing that Short has suspected the truth, they bribe him to secrecy. There are some diverting errors of identity, and eventually disclosures dispel all dangers. Mr. Myles Clifton appears as the waiter, Short; Mr. Edgar Payne is excellent as Samuel Snipe; and Mr. Stanley Lathbury as Glue, Miss Millie Vere as Semolina, and Miss Daisie Wallace as Polly, all do good work.

Tamomoto, "the Japanese Blondin and perpendicular rope performer," is producing wonderment at Ealing this week and what this expert son of "Sunrise Land" cannot perform in the way of climbing, clinging, and balancing—to say nothing about sitting upon nothing, as it were, and calmly fanning himself—is not worth knowing.

In Mr. Justice Coleridge's Court on the 19th Mr. Walter Gibbons, of the London Theatres of Varieties, sought for an injunction to restrain the British Cinema Company, Ltd., from so advertising as to mislead the public in regard to places where Harry Lauder was appearing, and to restrain them from giving any colourable representation of that artist's performances. The jury awarded the plaintiffs £50 damages. On the morning of Lauder's first appearance in May at the Balham Hippodrome, the defendants put out a poster which, counsel maintained, was likely to make the public believe the comedian was appearing at the Balham Empire, for the words "on the auxetophone" were in type so small that they could only be seen by a person quite close to the poster, while the name "Harry Lauder" was so big that it could be read some distance away.

MISS VESTA VICTORIA.

A chat with Mr. Charles Beecham, the representative of Miss Vesta Victoria, reveals the fact that at the London Pavilion Miss Vesta Victoria has taken by storm the hearts of the patrons of this fashionable rendezvous, and the sequel to this success has been an offer by Mr. Frank Glenister for a return visit for an extended period after Miss Victoria has fulfilled a six nights' engagement in Edinburgh. Success breeds success, and offers have been made from the big circuits for Miss Victoria's services. Someone has written that the cause of this success is genius—that high mental endowment, that creative or inventive faculty, which is at once a law and model unto itself; that special intellectual capability that no training can give, and but few possess. Miss Victoria has been written about in the New York *Evening Journal* by the famous Nell Brinkley in her usual racy American style:—"Vesta Victoria is the Prince of jesters of the English music halls. So many you see that crack their jokes and caper in her trail, but Vesta trills the whistle, swings the big bâton, sports the bearskin shako, and walks backward at the head of the squad. She's the raggiest ragtime song. She the best verse in the whole blessed pome. She's like the taper-faced girl that wore a Buster Brown collar—and all the little Bettys that we see framed up in Buster Browns, too; but none of 'em ever look like the taper-faced girl looks in *her* Buster Brown. It's like that with Vesta Victoria and the other little Britonese music hall Bettinas. They grin, in grotesque absurdities of frock and hat. They skip and simper in white baby-dress with pale pink ribbons. They warble songs with bashfully naughty and funny titles. And we like them *bullee!* But they don't do any of these three things as Vesta Victoria does. She's the Hurdy-Gurdy that first plinked out 'Waiting at the church.' And now she has some others. 'Is *anybody* looking for a widow?' with a big white bow chucked under her chin; with her hands shyly folded, and sometimes flapping like Dutch windmills. And then 'Now I have to call him father,' with an aching face, 'in more senses than one,' and an uncanny flannel skating frock. Vesta Victoria isn't pretty—not very *much* pretty—but she sports the bearskin shako and sways the big bâton in the English squad."

[*Photo by Halls Studios.*

MISS VESTA VICTORIA.

Miss Victoria will be seen at all the principal London halls during the next few months; some entirely new character studies and songs will be forthcoming from one who has been too long away from the old country.

AGENTS AND LICENSING.

The question of the licensing of employment agencies is shortly to come before the London County Council.

In the case of music hall agencies no power to inspect books will be sought, but they are to be licensed annually, the Council having power to refuse a licence on evidence of misconduct. Agents not accepting preliminary fees will not be exempted. The Public Control Committee think that the licensing of agents would afford material protection for girls seeking employment abroad.

We have received several letters. On behalf of Day's Variety Agency, Mr. Harry Goodson writes:—

"I came to the conclusion some time ago that the Public Control Committee were every now and then dealing with matters concerning which they have had unreliable or anonymous information, without any practical experience or knowledge.

"The members most certainly are under the impression (as in the times when music halls were 'sing-songs' and the performers rogues and vagabonds) that a music hall agency is conducted in the back-room, cellar, or top attic.

"If they would make a tour of the principal variety agents, it would be a shock to their imaginations to find that a music hall agency with suites of lofty and airy rooms, waiting-rooms, inquiry offices, reading-rooms, and every possible convenience for artists, was being conducted on the most straightforward and honest lines, certainly on more legitimate business lines than many other businesses or offices over which they have no control.

"If the Public Control Committee would concentrate their attention upon not only bogus music hall agencies but bogus agencies of every description, and obtain power to deal with them, they would then perhaps become a useful body.

"Including music hall agencies in their proposition and comparing them with other employment agencies is an insult to honest music hall agents as business men.

"I do not object so much to the possibility, if they care to apply for authority to call here and inspect our books from time to time to see that no preliminary fees are taken, so as to exempt us from being licensed or registered, but if licensed or under registration we would appear as always being under suspicion of getting a livelihood on an illegal basis.

"Should the licensing of music hall agents become a reality it would be the simplest thing imaginable for any undesirable person to apply for a licence and use the fact of his being licensed by the County Council as a hallmark.

"The fact of his having 'Licensed by the London County Council' on his notepaper would entice honest but simple persons to deal with him, and his one object would be to use the announcement on his notepaper with intent to defraud. He would thus be licensed to carry on a bogus agency with the County Council's sanction!

"This is quite impossible under the present conditions of the Variety Agents' Association, which was formed with the one sole purpose of keeping the business clean in every respect."

Mr. S. L. Francis-Clare, secretary of the Variety Agents' Association, says that the points raised by the London County Council were in substance considered by the Committee of the House of Commons on the occasion of the London County Council (General Powers) Bill, 1905, passing through the House of Commons.

A considerable quantity of evidence was taken, which resulted in Section 52 of that Act, which enacts that the provision with regard to employment agencies "should not apply to any keeper of a concert, theatrical, or music hall employment agency or registry unless in the course of such business he by advertisement, circular notice, or otherwise offered to procure employment in consideration of a preliminary or registration fee, or unless he accept a fee, commission, or other monetary payment before procuring employment."

The points which have been raised by the Public Control Committee were fully gone into, and from investigations the Association have made they have not been able to discover any new circumstances which would justify the question being reopened.

REOPENING OF GRAND HALL, BROMLEY.

The late Lyric Theatre, Bromley (Kent), reopened on Monday under its former name of the Grand Hall. The place has been redecorated and furnished anew, presenting a decidedly more attractive appearance than formerly, and, under the energetic management of Mr. Alfred Moul, will no doubt resume its more successful days.

For the opening attraction excellent animated pictures were shown, one entitled The Englishman's Home depicting a day with the Territorials. The Red Hand shows modern Paris in its right aspect and the taverns and supper rooms of the Montmartre, in which a realistic representation of the "Danse d'Apache" is given. The characters in this film were represented by MM. Severin and Max Dearly, Mlle. Mistinguette, and Mlle. Napierkowska, popular French artists.

The programme was further enlivened by some tuneful numbers admirably rendered by Mlle. Marie D'Alcourt, who obliged with "As long as the world rolls on," and Mr. John Wheelan, who sang "My pretty Jane," both numbers being heartily received by the crowded audience. Considerable amusement was also caused by De Vere's Fantooches in an excellent representation of a music hall entertainment. Mr. William Neale ably assisted at the piano, and the front of the house was attended to in a most capable manner by the courteous resident-manager, Mr. Hubert S. Chambers.

Mlle. Dolli, a pupil of Mme. Cormani of the Alhambra, who appears on Monday next at the Crown Hippodrome, Peckham, has been trained in the Italian School, and has appeared with much success at the Scala, Milan, and also the Verdi Theatre. Beside her exhibition of classic dancing she also gives the Russian and Hungarian styles, and her work was greatly appreciated by the late Mme. Katti Lanner.

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SHILLING COLLECTION FOR THE MUSIC HALL HOME.

3,495 SHILLINGS.

In again directing the attention of our readers to *The Era's* Shilling Fund on behalf of the Music Hall Home we are in the happy position of being able to associate with the appeal thus being made the name of the foremost music hall comedienne—Miss Marie Lloyd. It seems scarcely necessary to remind our readers of the deep interest Miss Lloyd has ever taken in matters affecting the welfare of her brothers and sisters of the variety profession. It is her desire that her "year" will be marked by a considerable increase in the subscriptions of previous years, and she therefore, through *The Era*, commends the Music Hall Home to the charitably-minded. Mr. Thomas Barrasford, the President of the Fund, is again this year exerting himself in its behalf, and this fact is sufficient indication that he is satisfied as to the way in which the institution is being conducted, and that he considers it worthy of support.

Mr. Ben Woodger, the secretary of the Music Hall Home, tells us that in 1907 the inmates averaged ten but that in 1908 there have been as many as twelve. The address of the Home is 31, Wilson-road, Camberwell, and there the matron (Mrs. Fruin) busies herself for the comfort and convenience of her "family." At present there are eleven of these, and the desire is to increase the number, which can only be done when sufficient funds for the purpose are collected. During the past twelve months three or four of the inmates have recovered their health and strength sufficiently to enable them to look for engagements. These secured, they left the Home, and the vacancies thereby created were immediately filled up. Now, this Home requires keeping up, and it cannot be kept up on air. There is no need for us to refer to all the good work which has been performed by the institution in the past, as that must for the most part be within the recollection of our readers. The ages of the inmates range from fifty to seventy-six. In all probability these men will be maintained in the Home until the day of their death, and their funeral expenses paid for out of the funds of the Home.

The Era's Shilling Fund is the main source of income to the Home, and this means of sustenance is added to by the donations of artists, either given directly, or through the collecting boxes through which many managers of variety theatres collect pennies from "dead-heads" and from artists who desire free admission.

Anyone can be supplied with a collecting-card by sending a postcard to Mr. Woodger.

Briefly, we may once more repeat that the objects of the Music Hall Home Fund are to provide shelter for deserving members of the variety profession who have been stricken with poverty or illness in their declining years, or who have in other ways fallen on evil times. Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, the hon. treasurer, will be pleased to receive filled-up collecting cards addressed to him at *The Era*, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C., and to acknowledge them in these columns.

FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	Shillings.
Belfast Theatrical Charity Fund (per Mr. Fred W. Warden)	200
Jack Miles Stavordale	120
Marie Lloyd	113
Joe Elvin, per Marie Lloyd	105
Bert Williams	30
Jack Woolf	30
Leoni Clarke	21
Gus Elen	21
Chas. Weldon	21
John Lawson	21
Mr. Hymack	20
A Beginner (York)	20
Harry Alaskas	14
O. M. Dayton	10
Alf Chester	10
Ben Brown	10
E.	6
Slippere	6
Edgar Stebbings, per Fred Herbert	5
Frank Folloy	1
Collected by :—	
Ben Brown	161
Miss Ada Reeve	80
Ted E. Box	71
Ted and May Hopkins	61½
Horace Wheatley	50
Seener and Fridkins	45
Herbert Shelley	43
Mlle. De Rose	41
Miss Ray Maskell	41
Three Sisters Lee	40½
Jimmy Shields	35
Dick Tubb	35
Abel and Welsh	35
Kloof and Ramsay	32½
Regan and Ryan	32½
Fred Herbert	32
Carl and Carr	31
Harry Wright	31
Dave Carter	30
Sisters Ford	30
J. W. Hall	30
Livesey and Rosebery	28
Cedar and Elgar	27
Barney Armstrong	24
Tom Fancourt	23
Fred Kitchen	22
Leoni Clarke	21
Charles Cardow	20
Frank Coyle	20
Mulvey and Miriam	17
Newham and Latimer	15
The Bohemians	14
Harry Alaskas	14
Three Brothers Huxter	11
The Maples	10
The Musical Johnstons	6
The Hartley Wonders	2

Collected by Conway and Leland, 10s.

W. B. Leland	1	Maringo	1
Crissie Cross	1	Bert Wilson	1
M. B. Conway	1	George Gilbey	1
Mrs. M. B. Conway	1	Billy Seeley	1
Mr. De Breau	1	A Friend	1

Collected by Nellie Wilson, £2 11s. 6d.

A White Man	10	Fred Eustace	1
Eugene Stratton	5	Mary Eustace	1
Edwin Boyde	5	Rose Bancroft	1
H Thutton	2½	Charles Chapman	1
The Sivonis	2	Wilman	1
Nellie Wilson	2	Ernie Aplin	1
Mrs. Stavodale	2	Phœbe Lyndhurst	1
Little Miss Muffit	1	Charles McConnell	1
Mona Clifford	1	Muir and Bartlett	1
Florence Hyde	1	Margery Maidment	1
Clara Stroud Wilson	1	Flo Penley	1
Beatrice Elie	1	T. Grindall	1
F. Hurst	1	Dusty Rhodes	1
Will Toole	1	Rose Daulby	1
Charles Granthley	1	Mrs. Fred Southern	1

Collected by Geo. French's Troupe, 22s.

C. Poole, jun.	6	Bert Gates	1
George French	5	Harry Dowsett	1
Richard Karsy's Myriophone	5	Fred Bescoby	1
Learto	2	Miss St. Clare	1

Collected by Shenton's Chicks, 4s.

Shenton's Chicks	1	May Mars	1
Dancit	1	Rose Tilley	1

Collected by A. N. Hennessey, 40s.

Stanley J. R. Cohen	5	Mrs. Regan	1
A. N. Hennessey	5	G. F.	1
Kittee Rayburn	5	A. Bowman	1
Fred Boustead	1	Glen Alva	1
A. Juniper	1	C. S.	1
C. F. Wright	1	H. C.	1
Tom Lyle	1	E. M. Cohen	1
C. W. Douglass	1	Will Thompson	1
Walter Gibbs	1	Mrs. Thompson	1
Ted Whiteman	1	W. Ransted	1
Tom Malvern	1	Johnny Alexander	1
Harry Anderson	1	Mr. Reeve	1
G. Dyke	1	J. Garlish	1
J. J. Regan	1	T. Callaghan	1

Collected by Elsie Robey, 10s

Elsie Robey	1	Molly Wynne	1
Laurence Irving	1	Lewis Leslie	1
Mabel Hackney-Irving	1	Mrs. Lewis Leslie	1
William Fullbrook	1	Sale of Post-cards	1
Mabel Carr	1	William Spencer	1

Collected by the Sisters Morgan, 14s.

Will Lorenzi	2	Alice Maple	1
Barrett and Knowles	2	Gracie Mortimer	1
Rita and Roma	1	Will Cartwright	1
Elsie Morgan	1	Hester Reeve	1
Annie Morgan	1	Charles Clark	1
Kitty Clinton	1	S. Barnard	1

Collected by Carl Hertz, £1 10s.

Harris Fineberg	1	Carl Hertz	1
Harris Fineberg	1	Carl Hertz	1
Harris Fineberg	1	Carl Hertz	1
Harris Fineberg	1	Mrs. Carl Hertz	1
Harris Fineberg	1	Mrs. Carl Hertz	1
Harold Lyson	1	Ernest Pyke	1
Harold Lyson	1	W. Harris	1
Harold Lyson	1	F. Isaacson	1
Harold Lyson	1	L. Hill	1
Harold Lyson	1	L. Hill	1
John McInnes	1	Nemo	1
John McInnes	1	S. Burnett	1
John McInnes	1	H. Radford	1
John McInnes	1	Nat. Morris	1
John McInnes	1	Ike Rose	1

Collected by Glen Alva, 23s.

Fields and Lewis	2	James Young	1
Glen Alva	1	James Dee	1
Tom E. Cliffe	1	Topsy Johnson	1
J. H. Savile	1	Bernard A. Leslie	1
Harry Karr	1	Daisy Kingswood	1
Daisy Morrell	1	Mabel Earle	1
Walter Kooney	1	Tommie Hunter	1
Mrs. W. A. Savile	1	J. September	1
Winnie Savile	1	Chas. May	1
Glen Alva	1	Fred Sinclair	1
Sam Young	1	A. N. Hennessey	1

Collected by Harry Delevine, 15s.

Harry Delevine	1	Henry Carlton	1
Sam Delevine	1	The Window Cleaner	1
J. B. Henry	1	Thora (?)	1
Percy Delevine	1	W. F. Frame	1
W. E. Tyler	1	Harry Herbert	1
Minnie Delevine	1	Mr. Barnett	1
Douglas Burley	1	Robins and Collier	1
Jack Burley	1		

Collected by Rowland Hill, 25s.

Rowland Hill	1	Annie Schuberth	1
Daisie Morell	1	Harry Harrigan	1
Little Mamie Hill	1	Will Holt	1
Connie Gordon	1	Harry Radford	1
Minnie Muir	1	Alfred Hill	1
Connie Haydon	1	Jane Hill	1
Dorothy Frostick	1	Mabel Hill	1
Lulu Russel	1	James Percy	1
Daisy Dormer	1	Tow'd Mon	1
Billy Stephens	1	J. Traynor	1
Fred Epitaux	1	Mercantile Club, Leeds	1
Henrie Jaxon	1	"Ye Dame"	1
Nell Emerald	1		

Collected by Eugene and Willie, 11s.

Miss Dunbar	2	Richard Lomas	1
Bernard and Weston	2	Henry Hodgkings	1
Eugene and Willie	2	B. Comerford	1
Miss M. Hope	1	J. Comerford	1

Collected by Miss Aggie Nolan. 15s.

Aggie Nolan	1	Hardie Palm	1
Agnes Hazel	1	James Fiori	1
Michael Nolan	1	James Fagan	1
Jimmy O'Connor	1	Tom McMahon	1
Mr. Tom Leamore	1	Harry Catlow	1
Jack Norman	1	Jim Quinn	1
Gus Garrick	1	Arthur Royce	1
Shirley and Ransome	1		

Collected by Sydney Lee. 21s.

Sydney Lee	1	Nancy Thornton	1
Gay Deceiver	1	Latter's Dresser	1
Mrs. Deceiver	1	German Emperor	1
Little Deceiver	1	Prince of Wales	1
Rabbit	1	Man on the Spot	1
Cat	1	Robert	1
Mr. B.	1	What What!	1
C. C.	1	Pip Pip!	1
Cliff Barrett	1	Card Tricks in Saloon	1
Little Barrett	1	H. C. T.	1
Moran and Wiser	1		

Collected by Sterling and Love, 23s.

Leo Sterling	1	Chas. Lake	1
Addie Love	1	Charles Martell	1
Frank Dunlop	1	Edwin Garth	1
Phil Smith	1	Blanche Marion	1
Mark Lester	1	Aimee Roberts	1
Ben Court	1	A. S. Betts	1
Walter Norman	1	C. H.	1
C. F.	1	J. Smith	1
Rosie Albert	1	A. C. Ganorn	1
R. B.	1	G. E. Gates	1
Jennie Albert	1	J. Stuart Bertram	1
W. Nash	1		

Collected by Ted Young, 14s.

Ted Young	1	The World's Worst	1
Ada Twibell	1	Freddie French	1
Albert Brasque	1	Harold J. Pounds	1
Sisters Hall	1	L. W. Harris	1
Prince Narharam	1	Agnes Tandy	1
Teresa da Silva	1	Arthur White	1
George Shepherd (Ten Loonies)	1	Charles Roadnight	1

Collected by F. V. St. Clair, 13s.

F. V. St. Clair	2½	Alf. Lennard	1
Mrs. Pollie V. St. Clair	2½	Carl Borrell (Ginnets)	1
Fox and Melville	1	Harry Barker	1
A. Norman	1	Mr. Mason	1
Billy Lennard	1	Burt Burnell	1

Collected by Fanny Robins, 7s.

Fanny Robins	1	H. W. Whitaker	1
Florry Cooper	1	P. Abrahams	1
Billie Bint	1	A. Allen	1
B. Warwick	1		

Collected by The Wedburns, 30s.

Laurence Irving	2	Geo. Acre	1
J. Wedburn	1	Dex	1
W. Wedburn	1	Mrs. Helsby	1
Primavesi	1	Nellie Nora	1
Joe Conway	1	Barry Lindon	1
W. Horne	1	Douglass	1
Mi Narom	1	Florence Smithers	1
T. Iveson	1	F. Vallance	1
Mrs. T. Iveson	1	Vere and Royal	1
Melvin and Max	1	Anileda	1
A. St. Clair	1	Marstro	1
Carle	1	Nellie Walton	1
A Friend	1	Geo. Abel	1
A Ninety-year-old Friend	1	J. Wedburn	1
		E. Kershaw	1

Collected by Phil Bransby, 6s.

Phil Bransby	1	Tony Black	1
J. Hargreaves	1	F. Mozzetto	1
Queenie West	1	Edward Crosland	1

Collected by Will Douglas, 9s.

Will Douglas	2	Obi Meredith	1
Adolph Legiere	1½	J. Wyllie	1
Sira	1½	C. H. Charlton	1
Albert Leonzi	1		

Collected by Harry Conlin, £3 10s.

Leigh House	5½	H. Rogerson	1
Harry Conlin	5½	Alex. Kendall	1
Hilda Dugdale	5	Chas. Norton	1
Rosie Coleman	5	Russell Brandow	1
One of the Ba-hoys	5	W. Stanley Parker	1
Amy Singleton	5	S. W.	1
G. Gilbride	4	Seth Egbert	1
Marie Ashton	4	Emmie Egbert	1
Mabel Hirst	3	Violet Egbert	1
Albert Egbert	2½	Gus Le Clerq	1
Daisy Dormer	2½	E. Wright	1
Hal	2	The Witch	1
J. Hoffman	2	May Beatty	1
F. Self	2	Harry Clifford	1
Gus Le Clerq	1	Mr. Blackhurst	1
Tommie Pender	1		

Collected by Bella and Bijou, £1 14s. 6d.

Mrs. Peter Bijou	10½	Norah Bijou	1
Peter Bijou	10½	Tom Joy	1
Miss Bella	5	S. Jennison	1
Blanche Bijou	2½	C. G. Bacon	1
Peter Bijou, jun.	1	Albert Egbert	1

Collected by Cyclumina, 9s.

Fred Curran	1	E. Adeler	1
H. Adams (Cyclumina)	1	H. Huxby	1
James Devon	1	Bean	1
Gus Earle	1	Cynski	1
		Webber	1

Collected by Fred Spencer, 12s.

Fred Spencer	2	J. W. Russell	1
Cyril Dundas	2	Flo Hilton	1
Bros. Hannaway	2	Merton and Rydon	1
Dennis McCarthy	2	Dorothy Dryden	1

Collected by Ivan Berlyn, 16s.

Ivan Berlyn	1	Eric Dalvere	1
Fagin	1	Friday	1
Nancy	1	Cannibal King	1
Bill Sykes	1	Theophilus	1
Oliver Twist	1	Nancy Thornton	1
John Stephen Lennol	1	Jeannie Weston	1
Captain	1	B. Elton	1
Billy	1	T. Elma	1

Collected by Heeley and Meeley, 12s.

W. F. Heeley	1	Blake and Amber	1
B. C. Meeley	1	Bert Kemble	1
Dave Carter	1	Netty Janowsky	1
Arthur Ferriss	1	George Gilbey	1
Ritter and Foster	1	Cobuck	1
W. Griffin	1	Harry Tambo	1

Collected by Ethel Dove, 9s.

Ethel Dove	1	R Frantz	1
Maggie Elliott	1	May Day	½
Bert Terrell	1	S. France	½
Brook Kimberley	1	Madge Hall	½
Mona Garrick	1	Lily Elliott	½
May Brennan	1		

Collected by Bros. Oboe (Ben and Jim), 30s.

George Robey	10	F. Dent	1
Iris Holy	5	H. Dent	1
Ben Obo	2½	Willie Garvey	1
Jim Obo	2½	Craighall Sherry	1
Frank Gordon	2	Jerome Macmahon	1
Edith Kirkwood	2	Peter Ritchie	1

[*Photo by Sarony.*

MISS MARIE LLOYD,

The Fair Worker for the Home.

Collected by Dan Crawley, 17s.

Dan Crawley	1	Marie Vere	1
Lauri de Frece	1	Bobby Allandale	1
Ada Reeve	1	E. T. Steyne	1
Lilian Bishop	1	Ellen Crawley	1
E. Adeler	1	Lilian Crawley	1
Fred Griffiths, jun.	1	Margaret Crawley	1
Arthur Poole	1	Kathleen Crawley	1
Russell Ardell	1	Fred Griffiths	1
William Griffin	1		

Collected by Florrie Gallimore, 20s.

Josie Delaine	1	Ada Gatley	1
E. Jerome Langford	1	H. O. Wills	1
Florrie Gallimore	1	Rose Alderman	1
Gracie Gallimore	1	Jack McKenzie	1
Lewis Gallimore	1	May McKenzie	1
Walter Mould	1	Ted E. Fields	1
Mrs. Mould	1	Wee Ella Fields	1
Stage Hands, Hippodrome, St. Helens	1	Jimmy Wood	1
Mrs. Bert Dent	1	Leo King	1
Ailsa Douglas	1	Winnie Gallimore	1

Collected by Miss Grace Gray, 16s.

Grace Gray	2	Mr. W. J. Waller	1
W. N. Sparks	1	King and Sheppard	1
E. F. Sparks	1	W. A. Jack	1
Miss J. Curtis	1	H. A. Rose	1
Miss L. Sparks	1	R. H. Lauderdale	1
Mrs. S. Sparks	1	G. Lamb	1
Miss M. Blundell	1	W. H.	1
Mr. R. Sparks	1		

Collected by Bliss and Bliss, £1 5s. 6d.

George Bliss	2	Louis Kerno	1
Leo Bliss	2	Ernest Percival	1
H. Mason Bart	2	Frank Probin	1
Arthur Gallimore	2	Will Juno	1
Two Rubies	2	Will Pete	1
Ernie Mayne	1	Nellie Reilly	1
Arthur Alston	1	Larry Lewis	1
Ada Parker	1	The Cecilias	1
H. E. Wakeling	1	Capt. Fred Woodward	1
Ethel Dunford	1	Lambert Eaton	½
Ray Ford	1		

Collected by Harry Taft, 19s.

Charles Hinton	1	Maude Taft	1
Princess Trixie	1	Dad De Frece	1
Caryl Wilbur	1	Ma De Frece	1
Willie	1	Willie Barrasford	1
M. Cattaneo	1	Tom Barrasford, jun	1
Geo. Barrasford	1	Harry Taft	1
Dave Cohen	1	De Feo	1
Jack De Frece	1	Sim Lyons	1
Sonny De Frece	1	Mr. Chapman	1
Mrs. G. Taft	1		

Collected by John Miller, 15s.

John Miller	2	Alf. Fry	1
Geo. Ranger	1	Robert Burns	1
Joe Miller	1	E. Russell and Edith Housley	1
Laurie Lauri	1	Victor Kahn	1
Arthur Lauri	1	F. W. Gibb	1
Will Stuart	1	M. E. Jameson	1
Herbert Evans	1		
A. W. H.	1		

Collected by Ruby Dahl, 4s.

Ada Terry	1	Ruby Dahl	1
Elma Morris	1	J. M. Julian	1

Collected by Pueblo and Cropp, 15s.

Katie Cropp	1	E. Adeler	1
Bob Pueblo	1	T. Pearne, J. Madder	1
A. Luck	1	Adolph Banvard	1
George Ajax	1	Mrs. Roger	1
C. Meek	1	H. Callis-Wingfield	1
Little Tichbourne	1	Sam Voss	1
Lavelle Bros	1	Warriner	1
Mrs. Rose	1		

Collected by Lytton and Bland, 10s.

D. M.	1	Percy Wood	1
Shaun Glenville	1	C. Richardson	1
Frank Harwood	1	Sam Wells	1
Leo Trainor	1	J. Bland	1
J. Corman	1	Poppy Lytton	1

Collected by Ernest D'Almaine, 14s.

Ernest D'Almaine	1	Rose D'Almaine	1
Mrs. E. D'Almaine	1	Charles Dare	1
James D'Almaine	1	Dan O'Connor	1
Charles D'Almaine	1	Gus Daniels	1
Ada D'Almaine	1	George Snow	1
Amy D'Almaine	1	George Richens	1
Lily D'Almaine	1	E. Kay	1

Collected by Frank Lynne, £1 12s.

Chas. Guyer	4	Stanley Miller	1
Achmed Ibrahim Troupe	2	H. Atkinson	1
Mrs. Achmed Ibrahim	1	Teddy Bear (one)	1
Billy Hobbs	1	Teddy Bear (two)	1
Fred Edwards	1	Teddy Bear (three)	1
Poole and Maguire	1	J. C. Maxwell	1
Mrs. Rosser	1	Will Johnson	1
Mrs. Fred Earle	1	Lennox Barry	1
Miss Winniefred Earle	1	Charles King	1
F. Foster	1	S. Auer	1
R. B. D.	1	Florrie Bray	1
R. B. S.	1	Charles Fisher	1
J. P. A.	1	Frank Lynne	1
		Jas. Copus	1
		Gertie Gitana	1

Collected by Marie Jones, 11s.

Chas. J. Purslow	1	C. B. Fountaine	1
Ernest Munro	1	Dolly Elsworthy	1
Harry Nelson	1	Chas. Bordellas	1
Tokio Kondo	1	John Richter	1
Marie Jones	1	Maud Kynnersley	1
Louis J. Overton	1		

Collected by Mlle. Marjutti, 10s.

Bros. Bradshaw	2	Mother	½
Mlle. Marjutti	1	Father	½
Brother	1	Lissom Bill	1
Pat	1	J. Crawley	½
Convict 75	1	Anon.	½
A Friend	1	Will Hart	½

Collected by Mrs. George Formby, £1 10s.

Mrs. Hoy	1	Geo. Formby	1
Geo. Formby	1	Geo. Formby	1
Mrs. Formby	1	Geo. Formby	1
Louie Formby	1	Geo. Formby	1
Geo. Formby, jun.	1	Geo. Formby	1
John Willie (dog)	1	Geo. Formby	1
David Poole	1	Geo. Formby	1
A. E. Nicholls	1	Geo. Formby	1
Katie Butler	1	Geo. Formby	1
R. W. Plows	1	Geo. Formby	1
Geo. Formby	1	Geo. Formby	1
Geo. Formby	1	Geo. Formby	1
Geo. Formby	1	Geo. Formby	1
Geo. Formby	1	Geo. Formby	1
Geo. Formby	1	Geo. Formby	1

Collected by W. J. Churchill, £1 1s. 6d.

W. J. Churchill	9	G. Martinigo	1
Rolando Martin	2	J. H. L.	1
Gracie Grahame	2	H. C.	1
A. H. Robins	2	W. R.	1
Clifford Morgan	1	C. H. E. Pullner	½
Louie Lillian	1		

Collected by Maude A. Edwards, 10s.

Ted E. Box	5	E. H. B.	½
M. Edwards	3	E R. H.	½
Fred	1		

Collected by Daisy James, £2 2s.

Daisy James	21	J. R.	1
J. J.	2	W. C.	1
L. B.	1	G. H.	1
H. B.	1	F. C.	1
H. H.	1	C. S.	1
A. P.	1	J. T.	1
C. H.	1	J. R.	1
W. H.	1	C C.	1
W. M	1	H. G.	1
T. W.	1	W. R.	1
H. B.	1		

Collected by Marie Blythe, 21s.

Marie Blythe	2½	Horace Bruce	1
Evelyn Kay	2	Beanie Hill	1
Sporty	2	Bill Hill	1
Mother	1½	A. L. Risky	1
Percy Farrimond	1	Norah Noble	1
Henri De-Lyle	1	Maude Courtney	1
Elleze De-Lyle	1	Mr. C.	1
Florence and Rose S.	1	Sisters Belmont	1
Madge Goodall	1		

Collected by Miss Kitty Colyer, £1 16s.

Kitty Colyer	5	Will Hyde	1
F. Kemo	5	Will Jones	1
Harry Day	5	W. Doust	1
B. Pearce Lucas	5	V. Monks	1
Arthur Aldridge	2	K. Hooper	1
George H. Ward	2	Nobbler	1
Leon Zeitlin	1	Jerry	1
Fred Collins	1	Edie Veno	1
J. E. D.	1	Wilfred Benson	1

Collected by Ted E. Box, £1 10s. 6d.

Ted E. Box	5	J. F. Preston's Juvenile Lady	1
Mr. Dulland	2½	J. F. Preston	1
Ray Maskell	2½	Edwards	1
Baby Eddis	2½	Woodward	1
African Friend	2½	Alf. Latell	1
Our Jenny	2	Grace Arundel	1
A Friend	2	Minnie Grosvenor	1
Mama Box	1½	One of the Boys	1
J. F. Preston's comedian	1	Great Weiland	1

Collected by Percy Hannan, 2s.

Frank Hardie	1	E. M.	1

Collected by Florrie Robina, £2 15s.

Madame Julian	5	E. G.	1
Lennie and Hast	2½	J. L. G.	1
Florrie Robina	2	G. D. H.	1
Horace Goldin	2	G. Fisher	1
Tim McMahon	2	Paul Martinetti	1
Dean Tribune	2	R. Proppi	1
Peter Conroy	2	Jas. E. Dunedin	1
T. Reed Pinaud	2	Arthur Were	1
Winfield Blake	1	Sam Salter	1
Wilfred Howard	1	Jordan and Harvey	1
Kitty Julian	1	James Stewart	1
W. and A. Reed Pinaud	1	Frank Bernard	½
J. D. A.	1	J. Mason	1
R. J. Bailey	1	A. M. Pounds	1
Neil Kenyon	1	Jack Sambo	1
J. Moorey	1	Leon Bosc	1
T. Costello	1	Arthur Jermyn	1
G. M. P.	1	Agar and Shelley	1
Sid Bandon	1	Eddie and Ethel	1
W. H. Wallis	1	Ted Hanley	½
Vernon Bishop	1	Alec Olrac	½
"Stiffy"	1	Teresa da Silva	½
C. C. Bartram	1	Violet Shelley	½
		Astor	½

Collected by Fred Durant, 7s. 6d.

Fred Durant	2½	Dave Godfrey	1
J. H. Ellis	1	Zarma	1
Harrey Megan	1	Rubys	1

Collected by Harry Ford, 20s.

Harry Ford	1	Harry Ford	1
Rose Ford	1	Mrs. Harry Ford	1
Walter Inge	1	Bar Ford	1
Inge and Motton	1	Rosie Ford	1
Little Zola	1	Fred Hastings	1
Little Zola	1	Harry Ford	1
Little Zola	1	Walter Baker	1
Little Zola	1	Osborn and Brooks	1
Little Zola	1	Leslie Brothers	1
Percy Ford	1	Harry Ford	1

Collected by Weida and Wynne, 28s.

Bert Weida	1	Victor Courtney	1
Dorothy Wynne	1	Edgar Budden	1
Edgar T. Hayes	1	Bob Reano	1
George Hilton	1	Amy Elvira	1
Percy Johnson	1	Arthur Blount	1
Harry Conlin	1	Jack Hylton	1
Rosie Coleman	1	Cyril Jephson	1
Harry Cee-Mee	1	Sid Kenneth	1
Nellie Cee-Mee	1	Sisters Dunville	1
Alice Coleman	1	Fred Maitland	1
George S. Coleman	1	Fred Spencer	1
Francis and Francis	1	Marlow and Manton	1
Mat Melrose	1	Frank Forsyth	1
Queenie Melrose	1	Fred Howe	1

Collected by Diamond and Beatrice, 20s.

Master Moritz Sutrey, 10d.; Bürger Enrique Lanye, 2s. 6d.; Charles Pereroff, 1s. 8d.; Charles and Alfred Loube, 1s. 8d.; The Atlias, 4s. 3d.; Cayny Robert La Cloche, 4s. 2d.	15	Chas Diamond	5

Collected by Jesse Sparrow, 20s.

Vasilescu	10	Harry Wright	1
J. Sparrow	1	Little Victoria	1
E. Sparrow	1	Gus Danter	1
Amy Sparrow	1	Ivy Sparrow	1
Cyril Sparrow	1	Walter Sparrow	1
G. P. R. Burgess	1		

Collected by Percy Ford, 20s.

Percy Ford	2	Little Victoria	1
Medley Barrett	1	Barkil	1
F. W. Cooke	1	Geo. Lambert	1
G. Pearson	1	G. Weston	1
Joe Blake	1	W. R.	1
Harry Wincott	1	C. Payne, jun.	1
G. W. Foster	1	C. Payne, sen.	1
Walter Redfern	1	Bert Chapman	1
Harry Ford	1	Willie Bassett	1

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

FAIRS, FEASTS, AND WAKES IN ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND WALES FOR APRIL.

ENGLAND.

1. Lindfield (2,300)
3. Dawlish (4,000)
3. Malton (4,800)
3. Pickering (3,500)
3. Pontefract (13,400)
5. Great Grimsby (63,000)
5. Plymouth (107,509)
6. Hexham (7,000)
6. Swinton and Pendlebury (19,000)
6. St. Columb (50,846)
7. Bridport (5,700)
7. Lowestoft (30,000)
8. Brighouse (10,700)
8. Norwich (111,700)
8. Bacup (22,500)
9. Cullompton
9. Doncaster (29,000)
9. Haslingden (18,600)
9. Padiham (12,200)
9. Todmorden (25,400)
10. Bilston (24,000)
10. Blackburn (127,527)
10. Carlisle (25,500)
10. Chorley (27,000)
10. Deptford (110,000)
10. Derby (106,400)
10. Godmanchester (2,000)
10. North Shields (50,000)
10. Oldham (150,772)
12. Bakewell (3,500)
12. Birkenhead (111,000)
12. Blackheath (21,000)
12. Cheltenham (49,600)
12. Clevedon (6,000)
12. Exeter (47,000)
12. Gainsborough (17,700)
12. Garston (17,300)
12. Halesowen (9,000)
12. Hampstead Heath
12. Hendon (17,000)
12. Hinckley (11,300)
12. Hockham (500)
12. Jarrow-on-Tyne (31,300)
12. Malvern (16,500)
12. Middlesbrough (91,300)
12. Midsomer Norton (6,000)
12. Morecambe (12,000)
12. New Brighton (10,100)
12. Newcastle-on-Tyne (87,000)
12. Newmarket (10,700)
12. Northampton (87,000)
12. Portsmouth (189,000)
12. Richmond (Surrey) (31,000)
12. Rothwell (6,211)
12. Ryde (11,000)
12. Salford (Trinity Market) (221,000)
12. Selby (8,000)
12. Shipley Glen
12. Sleaford (5,500)
12. Southport (48,400)
12. South Shields (97,300)
12. Stafford (20,275)
12. Torquay (33,600)
12. Tring (1,400)
12. Tunbridge Wells (33,400)
21. Wanstead Flats (9,200)
12. Wormwood Scrubs
13. Folkestone (30,700)
14. Barnard Castle (4,300)
14. Hitchin (10,000)
14. Worksop (13,000)
15. Wareham (2,000)
15. Yarmouth (28,425)
16. Bicester (3,300)
17. Glossop (21,500)
17. Huddersfield (103,800)
19. Lincoln (49,000)
19. Luton (36,400)
20. Bedford (35,200)
20. Devizes (6,000)
21. Chesham (7,300)
22. Warminster (5,600)
23. Bewdley (2,866)
24. Alton (5,590)
24. Bracknell (2,200)
24. Hatfield (4,000)
24. Iron Acton (1,000)
24. Ravensthorpe (5,162)
26. Horwich (15,000)
27. Axminster (3,500)
27. Barnoldswick (7,400)
27. Guisborough (6,500)
27. Ware (5,900)
28. Horncastle (4,000)
29. Bishop Auckland (12,000)
29. Holmes Chapel (956)
29. Knutsford (4,673)
29. Longtown (300)
29. Newchurch (4,000)
29. Stockton-on-Tees (51,476)
30. Cobham (2,300)
30. Newick (1,083)

SCOTLAND.

3. Govan (76,357)
5. Edinburgh (208,069)
12. Dundee (153,066)
16. Hamilton (32,775)
29. Bridge of Allan (3,240)

WALES.

1. Maesycwmmer (800)
1. Menai Bridge (1,800)
1. Tredegar (18,000)
8. Newtown (6,500)
9. Holyhead (9,726)
10. Neath (14,000)
10. Towyn (3,500)
12. Cardiff (164,000)
12. Holywell (6,725)
12. Merthyr Tydfil (26,500)
12. Mold (4,000)
12. Newport (Mon.) (67,000)
12. Pontypridd (23,000)
16. Aberdare (43,000)
22. Pontypool (6,000)

The Fight for Mitcham Fair.

An important outcome of the recent meeting of the London Divisional Committee of the Showmen's Guild was the determination to leave no effort wanting to bring about a mutually satisfactory conclusion to the questions at issue between the would-be abolitionists and the defenders of the fair rights of the people of Mitcham. The steps taken by the committee will be sufficiently indicated in the following letter, which has been sent to the chairman and clerk of the Board of Conservators, to the chairman and clerk of the Parish Council, to the local papers, and to the public men interested in the matter:—

MITCHAM FAIR AND THE ORGANISED SHOWMEN.

The Showmen Guild,
5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

Dear Sir,—We think the present time opportune to lay before you the definite proposals of the Showmen Guild with a view to dealing with the existing difficulty of Mitcham Fair.

We wish, first of all, to state that the Executive Council of this Society is prepared to effect a settlement in the interests not only of its members, whose trade and business is vitally affected by the attempted abolition of old-established fairs, but also in the interests of the people of Mitcham, who evidently do not desire the abolition of their old-time fair and holidays.

We admit that, recognising the strength of the movement for the removal of the fair from a site no longer suitable owing to the congestion of public traffic and the increasing difficulty of the authorities to deal with the traffic at the fair time, it is wise for the fair to be removed to a more commodious and, from the traffic point of view, safe site.

We understand that Figg's Marsh originally belonged to the same Manor as the Fair Green. We therefore suggest that to remove the fair to Figg's Marsh would involve no friction with other manorial right holders. Failing this, we think the best site for the fair would be the Three Kings Common. Although we definitely name these two sites, yet, if the difficulties are insuperable, we would accept alternative sites, some of which have been named: one on the right-hand side and another on the left immediately over the railway bridge on the Croydon-road, or any other site on the common that would be mutually acceptable.

We want to state again so that there may be no misapprehension as to our position: First, we desire that the fair shall be controlled and the revenue arising therefrom shall go to the public authorities concerned, and for the easement of public burdens or for the improvement of the commons.

Our primary object is to preserve the fair for the people of Mitcham for ever, and at the same time to bring it under direct local control in order that the amusement of the people may be of such a character as shall meet with the approval of the authorities, and also satisfy the legitimate wants of the people at holiday time.

We shall be glad to hear from you further upon this question.

Signed on behalf of the Showmen Guild (London Divisional Committee),

A. Ball, Chairman.
F. H. Pedgrift, Treasurer.
T. Horne, Organiser and Chaplain.

March 24, 1909.

Some Important Developments.

In view of the fact that next March will see the election of a new Parish Council, and that considerable dissatisfaction is felt by the great majority of the ratepayers at the way in which £400 of the people's money was given up by the Parish Council in 1905, there is a growing body of public opinion in favour of letting the people—whom the matter really concerns (we mean the people of Mitcham)—give a decisive vote on the question.

Such a vote will be cast in March next, if not earlier. The organised showmen have all along declared that they would abide by the declared will of the people. The Home Secretary is on the highest constitutional grounds when he refuses—as he does—to abolish the fair, except and only at the express desire of the whole body of Mitcham ratepayers, properly voiced in a democratic manner.

Messrs. Bostock and Wombwell's No. 1 menagerie spent a profitable time in Central Glamorgan last week-end, good business being done at Bridgend and Maesteg. At Bridgend much local interest was aroused through a local hairdresser shaving a local butcher in a lion's den. Each received a gold medal for their courage.

DEATH OF WILLIAM CLARK, OF GHOST SHOW FAME.

There passed away on Wednesday last, March 24, one of Britain's most famous showmen, William Clark, professionally known as Col. Clark. He travelled in later years with one of the most perfect Picture Palaces on the road, and was an immense favourite with the show-loving public in the great Lancashire towns, where he mostly attended at the great fairs and wakes, and in winter time for private business. His circuit of fairs included Manchester, Oldham, Blackburn, Bolton, Wigan, Burnley, Stockport, Bury, and a score of other towns in the great cotton manufacturing district.

We last saw him at the annual meeting of the Showmen's Guild at Manchester on Jan. 17. He bore then marks of physical weakness that provoked our personal alarm and inquiry. He had suffered, he told us, from a severe chill at Bolton winter fair, and confessed to feeling much run down.

The show for many years past has wintered at Farnworth. It was there that, surrounded by his family, he passed peacefully away in the early evening of Wednesday last.

That a notable worker has gone from our midst will be universally admitted. Yet more than that must be told of William Clark—the sterling nobility, large-hearted charity of the man stands out to mark him as a bright example of all that is best in showland. He had identified himself zealously with the work of the Guild from the commencement of the movement for trade defence. In the bitter days of the George Smith crusade against the purity and the sanctity of the showman's home on wheels, William Clark came to the front as a fighting champion of his class and of his own people. We recall a manly speech of his at the Manchester Free Trade Hall in 1892, when, following a rousing speech by James Bostock, he brought the house down by the passion and fire of his appeal for justice and fair play for the travelling showpeople. He travelled all night from Glasgow, where his then famous ghost illusion pavilion was located, in order to take his part in that meeting. His open-handed liberality in response to all appeals to help his poorer

[*Photo by Ash.*

THE LATE WILLIAM CLARK.

brethren in the dark hour of bereavement or trouble endeared him to the whole body of showpeople in Great Britain.

He was, in truth, a great showman, and it is such men who ensure the sympathy and affection of the people, and of such men in the highest and truest sense is the kingdom of God on earth.

We but voice the conviction of the whole heart of showland when we say *Requiescat in pace*. To his aged father, to his sons and daughters, to his grandchildren and the whole of the Clark family we tender our sincere sympathy, and pray that the bright memory of his life may comfort them in the dark hours of sorrow. The funeral will take place on Monday next, March 29, at Chadderton Cemetery, Oldham, at 2 p.m. Friends will please assemble at St. George's Hall, Oldham, at 1.30.

The Old Gaol Ground, Salisbury.

We are pleased to see another combination of amusements are located on the above ground. This time it is Mr. Jacob Studt and his huge enterprise which are drawing huge crowds to this central site. First and foremost is his magnificent Picture Palace, with its gorgeous front brilliantly illuminated, and the dainty troupe of lady dancers, and is crowded at every performance. Mr. Studt's two machines, viz., the switchback gondolas and his superb motor-car track, are a great attraction, and his tower chute is as attractive as ever. Freeman's juvenile motor-cars and throwing games, stalls, &c., are a good draw, the whole forming one of the best aggregation of amusements seen in Salisbury for a long time, and it is little wonder the grounds are packed every night.

The Guild Fund for the Mitcham Unemployed.

The following letter has been received by the Guild Chaplain from Councillor Dant, of Mitcham. We hope to send another remittance at the end of this week. Again we commend this extremely necessary charity to all the readers of "The Showman World."

Ingledene, Wilton-road, Merton, S.W.
March 21, 1909.

Dear Mr. Horne,—Thank you very much for the cheque (£12) received on behalf of the Mitcham Unemployed Distress Committee on Saturday. I had the pleasure of placing it in the possession of my committee the same afternoon, and the members desired me to express their gratitude to you, Mr. Pedgrift, and the other donors.

There is still much distress in the parish, which we are trying our best to alleviate chiefly by means of the provision of work, so that the recipients may not feel that they are accepting charity.—With kind regards, yours very truly,

Chas. H. Dant.

To the Rev. T. Horne.

The Roundabout Proprietors' and Showmen's Union.

The secretary of the Union asks us to make it widely known that the meeting advertised in our issue of to-day (Saturday) is of great importance, and that a good attendance is requested.

Eccles and Patricroft.

The principal show, machine, and other attractions here were provided by Vallo, Hibbert, Hurst, Wallis, Cordwell, White, Smith, Massey, Whalmore, Lynch, and Harrington.

John Collins, with his concerns and attendant crowd, are at Gorton, and John Green, with similar entertainments, is at Denton.

A Copy of "The Era" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

FAMOUS SHOWS AND SHOWMEN.

THE STORY OF ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF BRITISH SHOW-LIFE.

By the Rev. Thomas Horne,
(Chaplain the Showmen's Guild.)
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CHAPTER X.

Period 1825-1850.

As indicating the growth of the show business in the period we are now dealing with, the records of the City of London are especially valuable. The various lists of shows at Bartholomew Fair year by year clearly indicate that the struggle between the reactionaries on the City Council, who aimed at the abolition of the fair, and the vast majority of the people of London, who still wished to retain the ancient charter fairs, with all their valuable privileges.

The people then, as now, were ably backed up by the showmen, in their endeavours to continue their old fairs. London was the storm centre of the puritan forces of England against the amusements of the people. We read of the determined efforts of religious zealots to kill not only Bartholomew Fair, but all fairs. Influenced by these prejudiced abolitionists of popular open-air amusements. The City Council did all it could for some years to discourage the showmen attending the fair; whilst at other times it seemed to have been borne down by public opinion in favour of *mending* and not *ending* the fair.

A period of alternating success and failure thus marked the fairs of Smithfield in the years 1825-1836. We read that in 1828 an acount was taken of the receipts at the more important shows. Wombwell's took £1,700, Richardson's £1,200, Atkins' £1,000, Morgan's wild beast show £150, the pig-faced lady, £150; the fat children, £140; the reputed head of Wm. Corder, the murderer of Maria Martin, £100; Ballard's menagerie, £90; Ball's theatre, £80; the diorama of the Battle of Navarino, £60; the Chinese jugglers, £50; Pike's theatre, £40; a Salamander show, £30; Fraser's mumming booth, £26; Keyes and Lane's variety show, £20; and the Scotch giant a similar amount.

This list is interesting as an indication of the popularity of certain kinds of shows, and there does not seem to be, nearly a hundred years later, very much variety in the types of exhibitions. For if we went to one of the best of our fairs of to-day we should just find the same kind of shows, but of course, brought up to date. We should find the modern edition of Richardson's show in the superb picture palaces that now follow the fairs. We should find a smaller kind of picture show, with a variety programme, answering to the concerns of Ball, Pike, and Keyes and Lane. We should also find the smaller menageries and the peep-show, of course up to date, and the inevitable freak show.

The Rivalry of Wombwell and Atkins.

In our story of the remarkable career of Wombwell the Great we referred to the keen business rivalry that existed between Wombwell and Atkins. In the year 1829 Wombwell's big draw was an animal that surprised all the naturalists, and not the least surprising thing about the creature was its fantastical name. It was, in truth, an American buffalo, but Wombwell introduced it to his patrons as "that most wonderful animal, the 'Bonassus,' being the first of the kind which had ever been brought to Europe." It proved a great attraction, and was really a great curiosity, and one of the first of its kind ever seen upon a fairground.

The fanciful name given to it by Wombwell stuck to it, and a reference is made to this rare animal in the epilogue of the Westminster play of that year as "one of the world's great wonders." It was purchased by the Zoological Society from Wombwell, and placed in the Zoo, but it did not live very long, and the Hudson Bay Company gave the Zoological Society a young buffalo to take its place.

Atkins replied with a huge announcement, which read as follows: "Wonderful phenomenon in nature, the singular and hitherto deemed impossible occurrence of a lion and tigress co-habiting and producing young has again taken place in a menagerie, on October 28, 1828, at Windsor, when the royal tigress brought forth three fine cubs. They are now to be seen in the same den with their sire and dam. The first litter of these extraordinary animals were presented to our most Gracious Sovereign, when he was pleased to express some considerable gratification, and to denominate them lion-tigers, than which a more appropriate name could not have been given. The great interest the lion and tigress have excited is unprecedented; they are a source of irresistible attraction, especially as it is the only instance of the kind ever known of animals so directly opposite in their dispositions forming an attachment of so singular a nature; their beautiful and interesting progeny are most admirable productions of Nature. The group is also truly pleasing and astonishing, and must be witnessed to form an adequate idea of them. The remarkable instance of subdued temper and association of animals would permit the keeper to enter their den, and to introduce their performance to the spectators, is the greatest phenomenon in natural history."

Atkins also announced that his menagerie contained an elephant 10ft. high, and defied Wombwell or any other menagerie proprietor in the world to produce its equal.

Atkins's lion and tigress with their playful cubs were engaged by Ducrow and West as one of the attractions of the equestrian season at Astley's in 1830, and were introduced to the audience by their keeper, Winney.

Another new turn was a zebra hunt, in which four trained zebras took part. Upon the occasion of Ducrow's benefit there was a Spanish bull fight with Ducrow as the toreador.

In the following year the trained zebras were introduced in the spectacle of *Aladdin*.

Some Smaller Shows.

A show that had a considerable vogue at the time was Capelli's performing cats. Amongst other feats they were trained to beat drums, to work a knife-grinding machine, to hammer upon an anvil, to grind coffee, to ring bells, and to play the organ. One of these feline performers understood French as well as Italian, and would take the word of command with equal facility in both languages. Capelli also had a wonderfully-trained dog that was announced as being able to play any gentleman in the audience a game of dominoes.

There were also two large waxwork exhibitions. The best of these was by Ewing, and was arranged in ten caravans, with an outside fit-up equal to Wombwell's. A smaller concern of the same kind was Fergusson's, who, with his wax figures, combined the exhibition of freak novelties.

Panoramas, dioramas, mechanical shows, and phantasmagorial exhibitions were also very popular with the people.

One of these optical illusion shows, or phantasmagoria, was run by a Frenchman named De Berar, and it was a sort of forerunner of the ghost illusion, for he produced the vision of death upon a pale horse, and amazed his audience with an optical presentment of a human skeleton.

Another show of this character attracted audiences by declaring that inside they would show them the "raising of the devil." The clever proprietor of this show, named Haynes, as a foretaste of the fires of hell, emitted a shower of sparks from a lump of burning tow in his mouth.

A Scientist on the Optical Show.

Sir David Brewster visited one of these optical illusions, and gave the following descriptive account of his experience:

"The small theatre of exhibitions was lighted only by one hanging-lamp, the flame of which was drawn up into an opaque chimney or shade when the performance began. In this "darkness visible" the curtain rose, and displayed a cave, with skeletons and other terrific figures in relief upon its walls. The flickering light was then drawn up beneath its shroud, and the spectators in total darkness found themselves in the midst of thunder and lightning. A thin, transparent screen had, unknown to the spectators, been let down after the disappearance of the light, and upon it the flashes of lightning and all the subsequent appearances were represented.

"This screen, being half-way between the spectators and the cave which was first shown, and being itself invisible, prevented the observers from having any idea of the real distance of the figures, and gave them the entire character of aerial pictures. The thunder and lightning were followed by the figures of ghosts, skeletons, and known individuals, whose eyes and mouths were made to move by the action of combined sliders. After the first figure had been exhibited for a short time, it began to grow less and less, as if removed to a great distance, and at last vanished in a small cloud of light.

"Out of this same cloud the germ of another figure began to appear, and gradually grew larger and larger, and approached the spectators till it obtained its perfect development. In this manner the head of Dr. Franklin was transformed into a skull. Figures which retired with the freshness of life came back in the form of skeletons, and the retiring skeleton returned in the drapery of flesh and blood. The exhibition of the transmutations was followed by spectres, skeletons, and terrific figures, which, instead of receding and vanishing as before, suddenly advanced upon the spectators, becoming larger as they approached them, and finally vanished by appearing to sink into the ground.

"The effect of this part of the exhibition was naturally the most impressive. The spectators were not only surprised, but agitated, and many of them were of opinion that they could have touched the figures."

Mechanical Exhibitions.

Du Pain's French mechanical show was a great advance on the moving peep-show which had hitherto travelled the fairs. One of his most effective scenes was a view of Algiers, with the sea in motion, and vessels entering and leaving the harbour. Another novelty of an extremely ingenious kind, and one that became a permanent feature with the clever Frenchman's successors in this line of business, was the representation of a storm at sea, with a vessel in distress burning blue lights, firing guns, and finally becoming a wreck.

Brown's theatre of arts was a famous mechanical exhibition with moving pictures of the battle of Trafalgar, the Passage of the Alps by the French Army, and the Marble Palace of the Czars at St. Petersburg.

The Freak Shows of this Period.

Bromsgrove's show came to the front about the year 1830, and was a freak exhibition of considerable dimensions. The principal attractions were Clancy, the Irish giant, 7ft. 2in. in height; Farnham, the dwarf Hercules, who, although he was but 3ft. 2in. high, was so strong that he could carry two big men on his shoulders with ease; and Thomas Pearce, the Shropshire giant youth, who, although but seventeen years old, stood 5ft. 10in. in his stockings, and was thirty-five stones in weight.

A similar show—Semmitt's Museum of Nature—boasted four living wonders, the Canadian giant twin sisters Priscilla and Amelia Weston; Lydia Walpole, the same dwarf that was exhibited in Maughan's show in 1825; and an albino woman aged nineteen.

Another show of some note at this period had for its chief attraction a cleverly-trained monkey, whose imitation of humans was a particularly clever performance. In addition to the performing monkey were several groups of mechanical figures representing artisans working at various trades.

The Successors of Richardson.

Richardson, in his will, bequeathed five hundred pounds to his old friend John Johnson. This enabled him (in partnership with Nelson Lee, who had by this time become one of the most able showmen in the kingdom) to purchase by private contract the whole of Richardson's show. The new proprietors started out at Whitsuntide at Greenwich, and the outside parade, the celebrated "Esmeralda Dance," was a big draw. This was the beginning of the many wonderful things accomplished by the great Nelson Lee, who brought to the portable theatre ability and genius that lifted it on to a higher plane than it had ever attained in the history of the British drama.

Frost, in his story of the old London Fairs, speaking of the outside parade, says:—"I once saw a very pretty harvest dance of reapers and gleaners on the parade of Richardson's show, and on another occasion a fantastic dance of Indians, who held cocoanuts in their hands, and struck them together, assuming every variety of attitude each dancer sometimes striking his own nuts together and sometimes his own against those of his *vis-à-vis*."

The old theatre under the new management prospered, and one very important advantage was in the fact that the new proprietors kept the old company, both of actors and the stage-workers together. Delamore succeeded Lewis as stage manager before Richardson's death, and he was retained by the new proprietors. John Douglas, Paul Herring, and Crowther were members of the company, and some of the most notable actors and actresses of the London stage, from time to time, accepted engagements at Richardson's booth.

From Greenwich they visited Deptford and Camberwell Fairs, where they had very lucrative seasons, both before and after the fairs. It was the custom with these large portable theatres to build up some time before the fair, and to continue for weeks after the conclusion of the fair, as long as good business rewarded their enterprise. Thus it was that Richardson's show between Whitsuntide and Old Bartholomew Fair only moved three times.

The Clown and the Policeman.

At Croydon Fair there occurred an amusing adventure to the clown of Richardson's show. The first day being very wet, and the time hanging very slowly upon the merriman's hands, he sallied forth into the town, seeking adventure and diversion, and he got it. He attired himself in the uniform overcoat of a policeman of that period, and walking down the High-street, was immediately the subject of great and most inquisitive observation. The first constable he met straightened himself up and looked at the clown with all his eyes, and made once as though he intended to arrest him, but as the clown appeared rather a biggish man to tackle single-handed, the constable merely fell in step with him and accompanied him down the street. Presently another policeman became singularly interested in the uniformed clown. These two were joined by a third officer, and taking courage of numbers, Mr. Clown was arrested. When he was thus handled by the police the showman protested loudly and vigorously against this summary arrest.

At the police-station the clown was charged with personating a constable and loitering about for an unlawful purpose. The Clown begged that Nelson Lee might be sent for. Speedily Lee was on the spot, and explanations ensued. The mystery of the clown's arrest was explained by the fact that some short time previously several robberies had been committed in the town by a thief dressed up as a constable. The clown was released and hurried back again to the show, in time to take his part in the evening performance, and he declared that whatever character he was called upon to assume he would never promenade the streets in the garb of a policeman again.

The Marquis and the Mummer.

The leader of the then "Smart Set" in London was the notorious Marquis of Waterford. He was the acknowledged captain of a gang of roystering and lawless young aristocrats known as the "Rackabouts," or "The Night Hawks." The doings of this crowd of rowdies was the theme of universal comment and condemnation. At Greenwich Fair when Nelson Lee and Johnson opened with Richardson's show, the showmen were very much distressed and annoyed, and their business hindered by a group of these roysterers led by the Marquis. They invaded the shows in turn, and prevented, by playing trumpets, swinging rattles, and a constant volley of interruptions, more or less of an insulting character. Such were the rude amusements of the young bloods of those lawless days.

Into Richardson's theatre came this noisy crowd, and the performance of the drama *The Tyrant Doge* was subjected to the most annoying interruptions. The roysterers did not confine their interruptions to vocal and instrumental methods, but they commenced a fusillade of the performers, throwing nuts and using peashooters.

A prominent member of the company was a brilliant Irishman, professionally known as Connor Darrell, affectionately termed by his friends "Con." Now "Con" was a bit of a mystery to the company, and at times, when off his guard, betrayed sufficient of his early life to indicate that he was of noble birth. His stories of university life and his intimate acquaintance with viceregal society in Dublin marked him as a man of good birth and breeding.

The point of this will be seen in the course of our short story.

Who Was the True Gentleman?

"Con" Darrell was taking the juvenile lead in the play, and with him was associated the beautiful Laura Gittens, afterwards famous as a leading actress, in conjunction with her husband, in Dublin. It was an open secret that "Con" Darrell was an ardent admirer of Miss Gittens. When the fusillade of nuts commenced, Darrell conducted Miss Gittens off the stage, and coming to the footlights, with a gesture of supreme command, imposed silence upon the audience, and thus delivered himself of his angry felings:—

"I am led to understand that the gang of dissolute blackguards who find some sort of devilish pleasure in preventing the enjoyment of peaceful citizens is led by the Marquis of Waterford. I will not credit the Marquis with being a gentleman, for no gentleman would insult a lady, or permit those under his control to do so. The stern duty is laid upon me of chastising the ringleader of this gang of lawless ruffians that have invaded this theatre, and have made it impossible for you, the peaceful patrons of the drama, to enjoy your money's worth. The Marquis of Waterford, if he has one spark of manly feeling left in his composition, will now come on to this stage and take his punishment like a man."

The bullying Marquis, despite the efforts of his friends to restrain him, pushed his way to the front, and with all the insolence of his class (and a bad class at that), said with the greatest possible scorn and contempt, "Gentleman or no gentleman, it ill beseems me to condescend to pit my strength against a strolling vagabond of a mummer."

"If the right noble Marquis will give me one moment's private word with him, I will dissipate all the objections that aristocratic etiquette, according to his own standard, demands.

Nelson Lee Sees Fair Play.

Realising the seriousness of the position, and fearing that the sage might be stormed by the riotous gang led by the Marquis of Waterford, Nelson Lee speedily formed a cordon of his men three deep at the front of the stage, and taking up the matter himself thus addressed the audience:—

"Ladies and Gentlemen,—Mr. Connor Darrell's action has our full approval. We are determined once and for all to put a stop to the lawless behaviour of groups of young ruffians, whether aristocrats or commoners is of no moment. The question that you are interested in and that concerns every public entertainer is this: shall a mere handful of reckless roysterers invade the shows of the fairground and spoil the pleasure of peaceful people?"

This appeal of Nelson Lee was followed by tremendous applause, and the whole of the audience by this time had been worked into a fever of excitement and expectation. The Marquis and his crowd realised that they were trapped, and that there was no way out of the difficulty but to meet the challenge issued by the Mummer to the Marquis. With an insolent stare at the audience and a nonchalant shrug of the shoulders, the Marquis ascended the side steps and mounted the stage. Immediately "Con" Darrell whispered two or three words into the ear of the Marquis. The effect was instantaneous and magical. With the politest bow and in his most courtly manner the erstwhile reckless man about town became the aristocrat, and uttered these significant words:—"Mr. Connor Darrell, I am completely at your service, the lady has a most worthy champion. You can name your own time and place, and as the affronted party, you are entitled to nominate the mode of battle—pistols, sword, or fisticuffs."

Darrell, throwing off his coat, exclaimed, "The British mode—fisticuffs; the time and place—now, and here."

This decision was received with thundrous applause. The Marquis threw off his coat and prepared himself for the contest.

Again Nelson Lee intervened. "I beg the noble Marquis, for, indeed, I do begin to see his nobility now, to appoint two gentlemen to come on to the stage and act as his seconds. I am confident that Mr. Darrell will permit my partner, Mr. Johnson, and myself the honour of a similar compliment to act as his seconds."

Again round upon round of applause thundered forth.

When these necessary preliminaries had been arranged, the fight commenced, the men set to, and being equally matched in physical strength and ability to use the weapons Nature has provided, the fight was long and severe, but in the end virtue triumphed, villainy was vanquished, and the noble Marquis was not "At Home," except to his surgeon and to his most intimate friends, for quite a fortnight after he had received his chastisement for bullying a lady on the stage at Richardson's show.

"Con" Darrell married the beautiful Laura Gittens, and as we have intimated, won fame and fortune in the Irish capital.

Show News from Yarmouth.

A site has been secured on the Marine Parade, Great Yarmouth, for the purpose of erecting an up-to-date Moving Picture Palace, similar to the Electric Palace at the Marble Arch end of Oxford-street. A great measure of success has been attained at the Gem, a handsome building opposite the Wellington Pier, with an entertainment consisting solely of pictures; whilst on the Piers, at the Hippodrome, and even at the Aquarium and Theatre Royal, the cinematograph has been a most popular feature of the entertainments provided. The promoters of the new enterprise are well known in the film industry, and will have their building open for the summer season.

White City, Old Trafford.

W. C. Manning and five expert assistants are coming from Boston (Mass.) by the Cunard liner Saxonia to take part in grand pyrodramatic spectacles of life-saving and fire-fighting. The paraphernalia includes two American fire engines, with twelve horses, numerous wagons, ambulances, &c. During Easter Joseph Wells, pyrotechnist, of Honor Oak, London, will make displays of big set firework pieces. Some of the finest bands of the country are engaged, including the Royal Marine Band, under the conductorship of Lieut. George Miller. Arrangements are going rapidly forward for the opening on Good Friday, and Mr. J. E. Maddock, the manager, is extremely busy.

FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Pathé Frères.

THE ANTI-IRRITABILITY POWDER.—This is an intensely comical Pathé series. Acting upon her maid's suggestion, Mrs. Fig fills her kitchen bellows with a marvellous powder, which she blows at her irrascible husband. On the floor the smashed crockery and water streams, witness to that gentleman's bad temper. After the first blow, Mr. Fig is filled with an immense joy, and he embraces his wife before going out. He seems to possess wings, and wants to communicate his happiness to all the world. For so doing he blows his powder in the nose of every passer-by. These, seized with the same happiness, whirl about and laugh; the constables join in the fun, for they have been granted a whiff of the wonderful cure; and a pickpocket, availing himself of the turmoil, helps himself to the powder. A gendarme who has not received a dose of the unheard-of medicine, marches off the joyous man to the next police station.

MISS FAUST.—Miss Faust sells her soul to Satan through the telephone in exchange for a second youth. But a small angel arriving in a taxicab is so shocked at seeing Miss Faust flirting with a page-boy that he changes her into a monster, half man and half woman. Miss Faust is furious, and she asks to be put into telephone communication with the Lower Regions. Satan grants her her wish, and Miss Faust is young and charming again. The page-boy's sister, on seeing him so much courted by the old girl, thinks she will have a duel with her. Now, the angel appears again, and he causes Miss Flirt to become so small that she looks like a toy woman, and her friend Satan is precipitated down into his own domains. The angel, thinking that the culprits have had sufficient punishment, accompanies them to Heaven in a lift, and they receive a warm welcome at the end of their journey. A lovely ballet ends the subject.

HERE I AM AND HERE I SHALL STAY.—Mr. and Mrs. Happy-go-Lucky are happy in their temporary home lent to them by one of their friends, but their joy is short-lived, for they receive a letter from the proprietor of the house, informing them that he has let same, and requesting them to do their best to make the new tenants comfortable. Mr. and Mrs. Happy-go-Lucky do not know what to do, for they have just spent their last penny, and they cannot remove to other quarters just yet. After taking down the board showing that the house was to let, Mr. Happy-go-Lucky ponders over the situation. Suddenly he has an idea. Entering the house, he breaks the window panes, unhinges the doors, waters the walls, and when he has finished, he looks at his work with an air of perfect satisfaction. The tenants arrive the same day. Mr. and Mrs. Happy-go-Lucky very amiably show them round, but Mr. and Mrs. Grumpy do not seem very enthusiastic. As they are going to sit down, the chairs, whose legs have been weakened, give way under their weight, and they tumble down. "Of course," says Mr. Happy-go-Lucky, "this house wants a lot of repair." A cold wind comes in through the windows. Mr. and Mrs. Happy-go-Lucky fetch a faggot which has been previously watered in the cellar; the chimney smokes and the wood will not burn. The new-comers, tired by their long journey, go to bed and sleep between damp sheets. To crown it all, Mr. and Mrs. Happy-go-Lucky appear before the new tenants disguised as ghosts, and the poor people are so frightened that they leave the inhospitable house hurriedly, whereas Mr. and Mrs. Happy-go-Lucky bow them out very amicably, and put up the board again "House to Let."

PAUL GIVES HIS LAST BACHELOR PARTY.—Paul Chesnay is giving his last bachelor party, and all his friends are gathered at his chambers. The merry crowd go out bearing Venetian lanterns at a very late hour of the night. A girl friend, Jane, is sorry to think that this is the last of the merry-making with such a good fellow, and she wishes to make him remember it. Between two fits of laughter, she explains that she will play a trick on him, but she cannot be made to say what it consists of. To tell the truth, she has no definite plan, but snatching from the table a packet of visiting cards, she thrusts it into her pocket. The gang having rung the bell of an unknown house, two old people come to the threshold, asking what it all means. The young people surround them, and dance about in a most maddening manner, after which they leave the poor couple alone on the pavement. At the café they make such a disturbance that Paul has to be marched off by the police. Meanwhile, on the sly, Jane has distributed Paul's visiting cards to their numerous victims. The next morning, at the time when happy Paul is ready for church, where he is going to be married to the nicest girl on earth, all the people who have a grudge against him break into the room and repay him for his friends' mischief of the previous night. The bride is very good, however, and she forgives him for his prowess, provided, of course, there will be no more of this nonsense in future.

A GOOD COMPANION.—The woodcutters are felling the trees in the great forest, covered with snow, while small Eric remains at the camp with Toby, the horse, and the victuals. He warms himself at the great fire at first, but the fire having gone out, Eric walks to and fro, then being tired of the great silence and solitude, and the frost nipping his fingers more and more, he jumps into the sledge and drives away on the snow which covers everything and hides the road. He is lost now, utterly lost! In his despair he stretches himself on the soft whiteness and goes to sleep, with his limbs more and more numb with cold. Toby, guided by instinct, returns to the camp, where the woodcutters have returned, and are now searching for the missing boy. Their anxiety is increased when they see the horse alone and the sledge empty; Toby is intelligent, and he succeeds in making them understand that he wants them to come away with him to the spot where they find the sleeping child. Eric and Toby are close friends by now, for the horse has saved the child's life.

JOHN WISHES TO MARRY A DANCER.—John is holding in his hand the tail of a pink little pig at the same time as he is courting Jane, his sweetheart. But as he goes to the village he looks with amazement at the picture of a dancer in a shop window, and afterwards he thinks of nothing but of the pretty "star" whose picture he has just seen. Then he writes a letter to his parents, saying that he is going to London, as he wants to marry a dancer, whose portrait he has seen in a newspaper. He disappears through the window, while Jane comes in at the door. Finding the note, she wipes her eyes on her apron, and after a while she has made up her mind to go to London, and be a dancer. She arrives before John in the great city, where three daubers take her to an hotel, where they have taken the precaution to put up a board with the word "Opera." Jane is so pleased with herself and everybody, that she dons a dancer's dress and fixes in her hair a wreath of flowers. In the meantime, John arrives in his turn; he sees the notice, and enters the house. He kneels down before Jane, who is just dancing a kind of barn dance, and tells her of his love. Suddenly he recognises her, and both go back to their native place, where John at last realises his dream of marrying a dancer.

IN reply to several inquiries from showmen, we may state that Messrs. Pathé are selling their films at the present time without any restriction whatever.

Edison Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

LEFT OUT.—The silent tragedies of life are the saddest—and the saddest of all is that of a lonely child, bereft of a mother, with a father in name only, indifferent, careless, perhaps brutal. Or worse still, if naturally kind, but calloused and soddened through intemperance. Such is the story of a childish sorrow told in our picture. The story of a pretty, delicate child, to whom misfortune came with crushing blows. First in the death of a loving mother—then in the coldness and neglect of a good, well-meaning, but weak-willed father, who is cast down by loss of fortune and position. The little one knows that her clothes are poor, and, child as she is, can understand why she is slighted by other children and left out of every childish game. No one knew when her voice was choked—nor cared when she stole away through the gate and the grasses deep, past the wall to a lonely grave where her mother lay asleep. Her father comes to realise his weakness, and wrought to a mighty resolve by the pathetic figure at the grave, conquers a bright future for both.

JEALOUSY.—That the "green-eyed monster" stalks in many matrimonial ventures, and invades and menaces the daily routine of our social existence, is a question for serious consideration. Mr. Bing's jealousy is aroused by the attentions shown his wife by a gallant photographer, and becomes so unreasonable and destructive that from sheer necessity he is forcibly ejected from the studio. Outside the studio the porter is in a heated argument with a pedlar. Mr. Bings, while raging at his ejectment, finds the door locked, seizes the porter's ladder, and tries to climb through the transom. The porter and pedlar come to blows, and during the ensuing "Free for All" the ladder is thrown down, leaving Mr. Bings stuck in the transom. The porter, after throwing his antagonist into the street, returns to act the "good Samaritan" by helping Mr. Bings back to terra firma. But more excitement follows on the reappearance of the pedlar. While the members of the "Ladies' Art Club" are in deep study over an exceptionally attractive male model, they are driven to cover by the cyclonic entrance of Mr. Bings and the porter, who are pursued by the revengeful pedlar. The ladies seek the most convenient shelter. Mr. Bings seeks refuge behind the door. The muscular model, with quick action, seizes the pedlar and hustles him out of the room, while Mr. Bings deftly locks the door. The students come out of hiding, and are assured of safety by Mr. Bings, who leads them to believe that it was he who disposed of the desperate pedlar, whereupon he is acclaimed and crowned a hero. Mrs. Bings, through the keyhole, sees her husband the centre of admiration. Her jealousy is aroused, the door is opened, the model returns, explanations follow, and Mr. Bings is exposed as a fraud, and is led out by his wife amid the derisively shouting students.

BOYHOOD DREAMS.—Tommy Brown is a captive caught by the lure of the deadly dime novel. A new thriller is just out, and Tommy is absorbing all that is possible from the brilliant front-sheet exposed on the news stand. By hook or crook, he must have it for his own. Not having the necessary cash, he becomes a carrying agent for a weary traveller, who rewards him munificently. The money thus obtained is immediately exchanged for several lurid volumes. Sneaking quietly to his room, he is soon in the midst of deeds of daring and hairbreadth escapes. Found by his mother executing a war dance around a supposed fallen foe, he is put to bed, and all books in sight are confiscated. His mother's warning does him little good, as on her leaving, Tommy gets up, digs more novels from under the mattress, and proceeds to burn the midnight oil until he finally falls asleep and dreams. Creeping stealthily from the old chimney-place in the pirates' cabin, he releases the captive maiden and leaps into the midst of the outlaw crew. A desperate hand-to-hand encounter ensues—Bing-bang-bing. His trusty guns have not failed—his heroism is rewarded—the last of the desperate band lies grovelling at his feet. His mind calls to life visions of hero worship, of news stands surrounded by excited crowds buying the new "blood-curdler" exploits of Tommy Brown. These visions are rudely dissipated by the heavy hand of his mother, who, attracted by the uproar in his room, arrives at the time of his most heroic exploit. Tommy wakes up, to find himself being unwound from the bedclothes in no gentle manner.

A BIRD IN A GILDED CAGE.—An Eden, where happiness is supreme, is entered by a snake in human form, and a loving couple are parted by his venom. A weak woman—a wife and mother—agrees to an elopement with her husband's best "friend." An innocent child is taken along to enter into a life of misery. The father returns, to find an empty house, his loved ones fled with the man he trusted. Madness seizes him. A frantic search is made everywhere for the guilty couple, but without avail. Losing all interest in life—business and friends drift away—and the inevitable happens—the father becomes an outcast—drifts lower and lower, until starvation stares him in the face, and he becomes a burglar. In the meantime, the guilty couple have gone the way of the transgressor. The child, now a beautiful girl of eighteen, weds a man who wins her after an ardent courtship. A brief period of happiness, and she awakes to find she is "a bird in a gilded cage." Fate further sports with her. A man comes into her life whom she learns to love. She agrees to an elopement. But now the strangest part of all! Her father, in concealment, overhears the plotting. He confronts the young people and forces them to listen to him. He tells the pitiful story of how his life was wrecked with dramatic effect, and turns the young people from their purpose. The girl tells her story, and the father finds a daughter, and the daughter a father.

OUR Barcelona correspondent writes:—"There is no doubt that, with Paris, Barcelona ranks as the most important centre with regard to cinematograph matters, and despite the enormous number of halls, new ones are being constructed every week. The surprising part of it is that they all appear to be flourishing. In consequence of this, every important firm of film producers has a branch here, those of Messrs. Pathé Frères and Gaumont being especially busy. The principal film exhibited here this week is The Return of Ulysses, the work of M. Jules Lemaitre, of the Académie Française, and which is the property of Pathé Frères. The film is interpreted by artists of the Comédie Française, and is divided into thirteen scenes, all of which are so life-like that one requires very little imagination to picture the figures as living beings.

The Williamson Kinematograph Co., Ltd.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I signed the Articles of the Paris Convention, in the hope that it would do something to relieve the severe competition from which film producers are suffering.

I did this with a feeling of certainty that it involved considerable sacrifices on the part of my company, and I was prepared to suffer. Closer acquaintance with the conditions of trading and with further alterations in the Articles of the Convention effected by the Central Committee have convinced me that the result to my company would not only be suffering, but extinction. This would assist in relieving the competition no doubt, but I prefer some other method.

I have spent too many years of my life behind a counter to adapt myself to any restrictive method of dealing with my customers. I therefore refuse to adhere to the Convention.—Yours faithfully,

JAS. WILLIAMSON, Managing-Director.
27, Cecil Court, Charing Cross-road,
London, W.C., March 24.

ANIMATED PICTURES are a strong force in variety business nowadays, and the latest theatre to pass over to this style of business is the Gaiety, Glasgow. On Monday, the 29th inst., the management of this hall is taken over by the B.B. Pictures, of which Mr. J. J. Bennell is the controlling spirit, and all the latest films will be shown, interspersed by a few variety turns.

As showing the hold that pictures have on the Glasgow public, the B.B. Pictures opened at the Wellington Palace, Glasgow, in December, 1907, for a "three weeks' season," and they are still there, after sixteen months' consecutive showing. In addition, the B.B. (which, being interpreted, means Bright and Beautiful) have shown for weeks in St. Andrew's Halls, Glasgow's leading concert hall, also in Pollokshaws, Bridgeton, and other places in and around Glasgow.

PICTURES form the staple programme at Hengler's Cirque, Glasgow; also at the old Queen's in Watson-street, now known as Pringle's Picture Palace.

MR. R. PRINGLE also runs the Bijou Hall, Cowcaddens (once the Alexandra). At the Waterloo Rooms and half a dozen lesser halls pictures are also to be seen. Mr. A. E. Pickard, the enterprising proprietor of the Glasgow Panopticon, was one of the first to realise the value of pictures, and relies to a great extent on them.

A New Cinematograph Palace.

RECREATIONS THEATRE, Edgware-road, W., is the title of a new hall for the display of cinematograph pictures, which was opened to the public on Saturday last. There was a private view on the previous evening, at which many people interested in various ways in the film industry were present. Amongst these were Major T. Madden, Capt. R. Lyons, Capt. John Alexander, Mr. J. J. Newbould, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Pedgrift, Mr. and Mrs. Montagu A. Pyke, Mr. Stanley Felgate, Mr. and Mrs. N. Jungman, Mr. and Mrs. L. B. de Laitte, Mr. E. T. Delmege, Mr. and Mrs. W. de Veer, Mr. W. Whitehead, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Carter, Mr. Seward Brown, Mr. Herbert Godsal, Mr. H. Blackhorne, and Mr. J. L. Burt.

AN exceedingly attractive programme of pictures was run through. The films included a very remarkable series, entitled The Birth of a Gun, which proved of a most instructive character, and created no little wonderment in the minds of those who had never been inside one of the great engineering establishments. Other sets shown Earthly Paradise, Stilton's Revenge, Nick Carter, The Delights of a Modern Gaol, and Woman's Craft. Altogether, a very pleasant evening was spent.

RECREATIONS THEATRE represents all that is latest in design and equipment. The auditorium, which is 115ft. by 32ft., with a seating capacity of 700, is fitted with tip-up seats, and has a handsome proscenium, with two stage-boxes, gangways in accordance with the theatre regulations of the L.C.C., and an extra exit, 6ft. wide, entirely separate from the hall, direct to the street. The operating room, which is entirely disconnected (except for the projecting openings) from the auditorium, is of brick and concrete throughout, fitted with duplicate Kineto machines, with safety shutters, and every improvement for safeguarding the public. The electric installation, in addition to the gas work, and the heating apparatus was fitted by Messrs. Cathcart and Co., while the building operations were executed by Mr. Jas. Easten, of Charles-street, N. The boxes and hall were lavishly decorated by flowers and palms, and the refreshments were in the able hands of J. Lyons and Co. Messrs. Lazarus were responsible for the seating arrangements and draperies, and with its handsome white and gold front and domed pay office, brilliantly lighted electrically, everything has been done to deserve success. The building and works have been designed by Mr. W. Hancock.

P. Collins, jun.'s, Wonderland.

THIS superb picture palace paid a flying visit to the populous Midland industrial centre of Blackheath for the week end, and was accorded an immense reception and instantaneous success. The excellent series of up-to-date cinematograph films, with speciality programme, was under the personal supervision of Mr. Patrick Ross Collins. The moving pictures were exhibited by Mr. J. Humphries, the capable operator in charge.

IN the very centre of Ireland a new rink has been opened, and business at it already is "booming." The Park Pavilion, Longford, has been turned into a rink, and has been most successful so far, under the management of Mr. J. Ormonde-Dann.

THE first Carnival (Fancy Dress) was held at Messrs. Broadhead's Empress Rink, Preston, on the 19th inst., and proved a huge success, about 160 fancy dress skaters taking part. The Grand March was cleverly executed, and the promenade portion was crowded with non-skaters, who evinced the keenest interest in the proceedings, which were carried out without the slightest hitch, under the capable direction of the popular and courteous resident-manager, Mr. J. H. Langford. In all, eighteen items were gone through in the programme. The next event is a Cinderella.

ANOTHER rink was opened on Saturday last in Preston by the Marathon Skating Rink Co., Ltd., and Mr. Topping is the able manager. The rink is situated in Frank-street, North-road, and has a skating area of 16,000ft. of maple floor. The building is most lofty and commodious, and a capital orchestra is provided. Richardson's ball-bearing skates are exclusively used, and the rink, being situated in a thickly-populated neighbourhood, bids fair to be well patronised.

THE Exhibition Hall Roller Skating Rink, Belfast, was opened to the public on Monday afternoon, and judging from the enthusiasm, this latest venture promises to be a great success. There was a fashionable attendance at the opening ceremony, which was performed by the Lord Mayor of Belfast with much acclamation. There will be three sessions daily, and Mr. J. McCartney, the proprietor, will certainly do all in his power by introducing many novelties to merit the patronage of the Belfast public. The floor is of maple wood, and has been laid under the supervision of an American expert, and no less than 150 electric lights have been arranged down the centre of the hall. Wright's orchestra is responsible for the music, and it may be added that the skates used are the Ball-to-flyer pattern.

TENDERING FOR SITES AT FAIRS.

The interview of the Guild Chaplain with the Secretary to the Local Government Board with regard to Corporations putting up fairground sites for tender will be well within the memory of our readers. In order to bring the question in a specific manner before the Board the town of Blackburn was mentioned as the most recent example of a Corporation that had hitherto charged a fixed rent, adopting the new method of advertising ground at the Easter Fair to be let by tender.

The Guild Petition Against Tendering and in Favour of Fixed Tolls.

The views of the Guild Executive were embodied in a petition to the Right Honourable John Burns, President of the Local Government Board. The two letters given below will place our readers in possession of the later developments of the question. We only add at this point, that the matter is too serious to be left at the stage indicated by the reply of the Town Clerk of Blackburn.

Local Government Board, Whitehall, S.W.
March 20, 1909.

SIR,—I am directed by the Local Government Board to advert to your letter of Jan. 11 last, respecting the letting of standings in the Market Grounds at Blackburn, and to forward to you for the information of the Showmen's Guild the accompanying copy of a communication which the Board have received from the Town Council of Blackburn, with whom they have been in correspondence on the subject. I am to add that the Board have no control over the Town Council in the matter.—I am, Sir, Your obedient servant,

J. S. DAVY, Assistant-Secretary.

Rev. T. Horne.

Town Hall, Blackburn. Feb. 24, 1909.

SIR,—I am instructed to reply to your letter of the 2nd inst., forwarding copy of a letter which the Local Government Board have received from the Showmen's Guild, and asking for the observations of the Town Council of Blackburn upon the matter.

I am to state that the second sentence of the first paragraph of the letter from the Showmen's Guild appears to be open to misconstruction.

The advertisement referred to deals only with part of the ground used for the fair, and the action of the Corporation has been of an experimental nature.

Whether it will lead to a permanent alteration in the methods of the Corporation in letting standings for the fair is a question that has not yet arisen.

With respect to the remainder of the statements contained in the letter of the Showman's Guild, the Corporation have no observations to offer, except that they do not conceive that the quotation from the Schedule of the Blackburn Improvement Act, 1882, which has been extracted from the Report of the Royal Commission on Market Rights and Tolls, and which appears at the end of the letter, has any bearing on the matter.

They consider that the action which they have taken is within their powers under the above Act.

I am to add that my Council are at all times very happy to give any information which the Local Government Board may ask for; but the statements contained in the letter from the Showmen's Guild appear to be of so general a nature that it is difficult to deal with them in any specific way.

It must not, however, be taken that my Council admit the correctness of the view put forward in that letter.—I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
(Signed) LEWIS BEARD.

The Secretary, Local Government Board,
Whitehall, S.W.

ROLLER-SKATING AT READING.

On Monday a new rink was started in the Vastern-road at the premises occupied by the Reading Electric Supply Co., and at least one excellent floor was immediately largely patronised and another one in embryo has been set apart where beginners may make their first flounders and gyrations. The rink has been opened by a London syndicate, which has already successfully inaugurated similar ventures in seven different centres in the metropolis and several in large provincial towns, so that Reading will have the advantage of the experience gained by the management in these places. Locally the rink is under the management of Mr. Hayes, with whom is Captain Norton and a large staff of assistants, while the wants of patrons are catered for in every particular—cloak rooms being provided for both sexes, refreshment booths, &c. The principal floor, which is 164ft. long by 55ft. wide, has been laid with specially prepared maple, and already it is in excellent condition, though naturally it will improve with use. All round the rink is a balustrade and a promenade for spectators, while the pillars and woodwork generally are draped in coloured material, the whole being lighted by means of electric arc lamps. When skating is in full swing the scene is a brilliant and animated one, not without its amusing side, of course. The floor upstairs is of the same dimensions as that on the ground floor, and here beginners may disport, under the tuition of lady and male attendants in uniform. In fact, uniformed men are everywhere—they welcome one at the entrance, direct one to the pay-box and thence to the cloak-room, affix the skates, and afterwards wait upon the wants created by violent exercise. It should be said that a ladies' orchestra provides music while skating is in progress, and is so ingeniously placed that its strains serve to enliven both floors.

On Monday evening, the first of what promises to be a long and successful season, there was a large gathering of skaters of varying degrees of proficiency and a larger body of onlookers, who found much to admire in the graceful movements of some and much to smile at in the unpremeditated contortions of others. The Mayor and Mayoress (Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Colebrook) and Miss Colebrook were among the visitors on the first evening, and the Mayoress was presented with a bouquet by Captain Norton, on behalf of the syndicate.

The Mayor, in acknowledging the bouquet, said that as Reading people they wished the promoters of that venture every success. The town was grateful to them for bringing that entertainment into their midst, because he could see already that a great deal of enjoyment was going to be obtained from it.

Our representative was able to get a few minutes conversation on Monday evening with Mr. Ginnett, the general manager of the Syndicate, who took him round the building and explained in outline his plans for the coming summer. There is no doubt that in the course of a very short time the present arrangements will be perfected, and the comfort of patrons studied in every way; while carnivals, fancy-dress and otherwise, exhibition skating, races, &c., will be promoted. But the plans go farther than skating only. One large room is to be converted into a lounge, and on the flat roof of the building a roof garden, so popular in America, but hitherto not generally adopted in this country, is to be laid out. This will make a very pleasant summer resort and open-air concerts, &c., will be provided. Further, it is proposed to lay down tennis courts at the rear of the building, and while the present idea is that these should be of grass, there is little doubt that Mr. Ginnett will speedily realise that the need of Reading lawn tennis players is an asphalte court which could be used in all weathers.

On the previous Thursday a new skating rink under canvas was inaugurated by the same syndicate.

EDISON FILMS

ORDERS NOW BEING TAKEN FOR FUTURE DELIVERY FROM THE FACTORY, ORANGE, N.J., U.S.A., for

"LEFT OUT."

The story of a delicate child suffering from the loss of a loving mother, then neglected by a weak-willed father, cast down by loss of fortune. How he realises his weakness, and is reclaimed by the pathetic position of his child.

No. 6426. Code, "Vengo." Length, 980ft.

100% JEALOUSY.

Mr. Bing is jealous of photographer's attention to Mrs. Bing. Gets thrown out, and is mixed up in a rough affair outside. More excitement when he gets into "The Ladies' Art Club." Wife sees him centre of admiration. Exposes him. Leads him out amid jeers.

No. 6427. Code, "Vengoline." Length, 405ft.

BOYHOOD'S DREAMS.

Fascinated by the penny shocker, Tommy Brown falls asleep at night whilst reading one. Adventures with pirates bring in mother. It is not a light hand that wakes our hero at a critical period of his encounter.

No. 6428. Code, "Vengudo." Length, 425ft.

A BIRD IN A GILDED CAGE.

A wife with innocent child elopes with husband's best "friend." Losing all interest in life, husband drops lower and lower until he becomes a burglar. In this part he overhears plot of young wife to elope with her husband's friend. He confronts them, tells his story, turns them from their purpose. Girl tells her story, and father finds a daughter and daughter finds a father.

No. 6429. Code, "Ventanero." Length, 1000ft.

New Subjects made each week.

Write for Descriptive Circulars.

EDISON MANUFACTURING CO., Ltd.,
Edison Works, 200, Victoria Rd., Willesden, London, N.W.
City Showroom—25, CLERKENWELL-ROAD, E.C.

RINKING GOSSIP.

Mr. John F. Davidson is inaugurating a Professional Roller Skaters' Association, to give greater prominence to bona-fide professional skaters—those who have a finished act to offer to managers seeking exhibition skaters—and to promote roller skating in general. Communications may be addressed to Mr. Davidson, care of *The Era* Office.

The N.S.A. speed championships of Great Britain will take place this evening at 8 p.m. on the Great Rink at the Crystal Palace. These events will no doubt draw a great crowd, for some very fine racing is expected. The items on the programme include the 1½ miles amateur championships for the Benetfink Perpetual Challenge Cup, and gold, silver, and bronze medals, and the 1½ miles Professional Championships, first prize £10, second prize £3, and third prize £2.

A large roller skating rink has been opened in Dragon-road, Harrogate, by a local company, and is doing wonderful business. There are three sessions daily, and admittance is free in the morning. There is a café where light refreshments can be had at a moderate price, and altogether it looks to be the future—near future—meeting-place of the fashionable Harrogate people. A band plays all day, and Mr. Sharp, the manager, is hard-working in endeavouring to please his patrons. A special concession will be made to professionals wishing to "rink."

THEATRICALS ON THE RINKS.

An interesting snapshot at the American Roller-skating Rink, Birmingham. Miss Hetty King, the well-known male impersonator, relating an amusing skating experience to Auguste Van Biene, the veteran 'celloist.

[*Photo by Midland Photographers.*

Mr. E. H. Bostock's new roller skating rink, erected in the short space of nineteen days by Messrs. W. G. Fisk and Co., reflects great credit upon both proprietor and builder. The building, of wood and iron, is 168 feet long by 62 feet wide; the floor, excellently laid in rock maple, is excellent. A large company responded to the invitation of Messrs. Bostock and Partington, the joint proprietors, on Monday afternoon, when the Worshipful the Mayor of the Borough made the official opening of the building. An excellent exhibition of roller skating was given by Professor Blanning and Mme. Dunkery, Captain Oliver and Mr. Gordon Bostock of Glasgow University, by Miss Lucy Bostock, and other lady students of the Girls' High School of Ipswich and Norwich, and some local practitioners. The Mayor formally declared the building open, and complimented the proprietors on having provided the town with so excellent a building for the practice of a rational and healthy enjoyment. The building was open to the public in the evening, and the crowds that attended gave evidence of the popularity of this form of amusement.

Ealing has been badly bitten by "rinkomania," and the astuteness of the Walpole Hall syndicate in forecasting the coming boom in the late autumn of 1908 has resulted in a phenomenal success. In fact, if a plethoric banking balance did not prove it, the tale of the box office receipts would sound like veritable fairy tales. Carnivals are the order of the day, and with Wallace Taylor's fine band to quicken matters, gaiety—on rollers—reigns supreme.

On Thursday at the Stratford Rink Rudi Klofacz, a "champion" of 3½ years, gave an exhibition of fancy skating at the carnival held in aid of the funds of the West Ham Hospital. There is nothing like the young idea in all things.

EARLE REYNOLDS
AND
NELLIE DONEGAN,

THE MUSICAL COMEDY DANCERS AND SKATERS.

America.

Earle Reynolds—the Marvellous Master of Human Balance—starting a one-toe reversible toe-spin—one of his many difficult feats which has gained him prestige as the most finished performer in the dancing and skating world.

Earle Reynolds and Nellie Donegan use the famous Winslow Ball-bearing Roller Skate, the most durable, quickest action, and finest ball-bearing roller skates manufactured.

In Dublin, Kingston Pavilion held a ladies' graceful-skating competition, and at Earlsfort-terrace a two-step contest was most popular. At Bilston, Farnworth, Headingley, and Douglas successful functions have been held. The Colosseum, Blackpool, announce that "many surprises will be in store for those who attend the full-dress carnival on the 31st inst."

"Begor, but I'd be wantin' a moty-kyar to ketch th' divil now!" This was the observation made by a stalwart member of the Irish Constabulary, one P.C. Patrick McEwan O'Kelly, when Terence O'Reilly, an intrepid roller skater of fifteen, "sailed rownd th' corner of Iglinton-strate, yer honour, like a whirlwind, and knocked me clane into th' middle av th' strate." Terence, it seems, did not wait to apologise to the policeman for butting him, but continued his headlong career until a faulty pavement levelled matters—and Terence too.

Thus it came about that Patrick, the policeman, did not need a "moty-kyar" at all, at all after all "to ketch th' divil," and so poor Terence was made prisoner. As it was proved that many Belfast children had been knocked down and injured by street roller skaters, Terence's papa was called upon to pay 7s.; but, worse than all, Terence's precious rollers themselves may never be worn by Terence again. The hard-hearted police have confiscated them. Ochone!

At the fancy dress Cinderella at the Derby Rink last Wednesday once more the excellence of the costumes and the peculiar results of the shuffling of the characters represented was noticeable. "Flora Macdonald" and "A Jamaican Coon," for instance, were a strange pair; then "Faust" and "A Puritan" caused comment; and "Monkey Brand" and "A Bohemian Girl"—splendid skaters both—were the jolliest of jolly chums.

"Woman's Life" comes out with a whole-page article this week with many weighty reasons why the fair sex should indulge in roller skating. The writer says about girls: "Catch your skater young. She takes to the rollers as naturally as a duck takes to swimming. She swings from the waist downwards and learns equilibrium, which may have a mental effect equal to that of the physical." About the young of the sterner sex the same writer adds: "I say nothing much about boys. They take to roller skating as they do to bird's-nesting. If the bough breaks, well—they come to earth hurriedly, and perhaps with some contusions."

Halifax inhabitants have caught the rinking fever. There are now two rinks in full swing. The American Roller Skating Co., Ltd., have made arrangements for the erection of another rink on the Clare Hall Estate. This is an ideal site for a rink, being close to the amusement part of the town, and very central. The floor is to be of maple, and of up-to-date construction. It is anticipated the rink will be opened in a few weeks' time.

Good business continues to be done at the Tournament Hall, Liverpool, many hundreds of lovers of the exhilarating pastime attending daily. So successful was the last Cinderella that a similar function has been arranged for April 15. We understand that Messrs. Crawford and Wilkins have secured a site in Holland Park, London, for another rink, and are also contemplating ventures in principal Continental towns.

The rinking craze has touched the Hartlepools. Messrs. Brown and Proud are pushing forward with the conversion of the market building at Hartlepool, and hope to have everything ready for opening for Easter holidays. The building is capitally adapted for the purpose, having a floor-surface of about 100ft. square, and situated in the centre of the ancient borough. At West Hartlepool Messrs. Kirtley and Geipel are hastening on the erection of a building in Whitby-street, and, when finished, a skating-floor of about 45ft. by 125ft. will be at the disposal of skaters.

Two thousand folk alone witnessed the carnival held in the large Dumfries Drill Hall on Monday, and the success of this one function justifies the same management in organising a masked carnival for April 7. Paddy is going in for linen attire, and last Wednesday at Belfast nearly 1,600 skaters thoroughly enjoyed themselves "in a spotless make-up," as one comedian expressed it.

The skating-rink boom has reached the Welsh district. In Penarth there are already nine rinks. Cardiff, by next season, will be in possession of not less than seventeen of all sorts, sizes, and shapes; whilst Newport seems likely to be treated in a very similar way, though only two will be worthy the name of rink. These, however, will be splendid structures, the smaller 150ft. by 140ft., and its companion 300ft. by 100ft., both being the result of private enterprise in conjunction with the big rinking syndicates.

Says the *Manchester Evening News:* "Dancing on roller skates is the latest pastime to which women have become addicted, with the ever-increasing purpose in view of reducing their too redundant figures to a proper and fashionable Directoire outline." There is at least one ladies' something or the other league that has this week seriously considered whether the *M.E.N.* editor should be pilloried as an "ungallant youth" or served with a writ for libel.

"From Land's End to John o' Groat's, from Humber to Galway" there has been one great carnival time this past week in the rinkeries therein contained. Reports to hand show that at the Hull rink a splendid mask and costume carnival was held. On Thursday the Murrayfield rinkers made merry, and at Bradford on the same night there was a barnyard carnival.

"Smock and Kirtle" also reigned supreme on Thursday at Monument-road, Birmingham; and the special function at the Nottingham Empress Rink, held on behalf of the local Woman's Hospital, realised £34. Whatever be the weather, the fun at the Highgate Rink is always fast and furious, especially when King Carnival reigns, as he does very frequently here. And an especially bright and animated scene was witnessed at the Mumbles Pier last Wednesday, when a big crowd thoroughly enjoyed the sport.

Rinking, Ltd., opened their splendid new skating rink at Peckham on Monday. It is situated close to High-street, and a few minutes' walk from Rye Lane station. The floor-space is 170ft. by 60ft. All the great features of this company's rinks are in use, such as there being a special annexe for learners, three sessions daily, a band, and plenty of instructors.

At the Hippodrome, Hastings, a special engagement has been made of Buster Brown, trick and comedy roller skate expert, and a grand roller skating carnival, open to both lady and gentlemen skaters, has been held.

Rinking has caught on at Huddersfield with a vengeance, the attendances daily being most satisfactory. As an indication of the severity of the "fever," it is only necessary to report the payment of a 5 per cent. dividend for the first week of being open. The great success of the first has led to the announcement that another rink is to be opened in time for the Easter holidays.

On Wednesday next, the closing night of the Empress Roller Skating Rink, Earl's Court, for the season, Allie Moore will meet Harley Davidson, the winner of the International skating race at Olympia recently, in a contest for the fastest mile. The men are backing themselves for £50 aside, and Rinking, Ltd., have put up a purse of £100 to go to the winner.

Allie Moore was born at Charlevoix, Mich. Until three years or so ago he was a sailor, and in addition to his records made on rollers, is a clever athlete and boxer. He is built on powerful lines, and skates from the hips. Moore has won all the American championships during the past eighteen months, and also the State and inter-State championships, as well as many handicaps. He is accounted the fastest roller skater America has ever produced, and has brought the world's records down by many seconds. Moore has accomplished the following times:—

	M. S.
Half-mile	1 20
One mile	2 32
Two miles	5 12
Three miles	7 55
Five miles	13 18⅘

Moore's chief hobby, when he is not engaged breaking records, is sailing his 30ft. boat, the Sea Woolf, over the Canadian lakes. He takes his

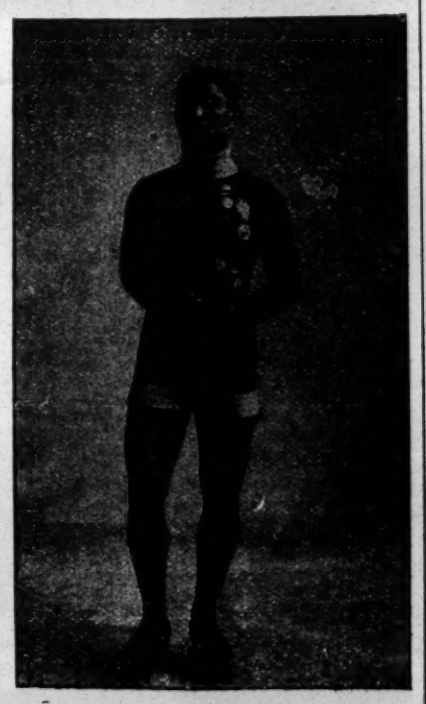
ALLIE MOORE.

trips alone, and has spent more than one summer in steering her through the picturesque water gorges of the mountainous lands beloved of Fenimore Cooper.

Both men are interesting personalities. Harley Davidson is brother to John, the subject of our last week's sketch, and a member of the famous Davidson family. He is the proud possessor of 904 trophies won in roller and ice skating matches. His latest trophy is studded with forty diamonds, and was won at Olympia last month. These represent twenty years' devotion to the sport.

It may be found interesting to take a glance at the principal races Harley Davidson has contested. In 1895 he won the American Championship at Newberg, New York, and in 1893-4 made world's records. In 1899 at St. Louis he defeated J. S. Johnson and John Nilsson for the World's Indoor Championship. Davidson won the American championship from Weinberg, of Chicago, and broke all records from one to five miles. He did the mile in 2min. 49sec., two miles in 5min. 45sec., and five miles in 15min. Davidson's best records are: One mile, 2min. 37 3-5sec.; two miles, 5min. 22sec.; five miles, 14min. 15sec. These records were made at Chicago in June, 1907. Davidson made the fastest mile, at Ouaha, on Dec. 30, 1906, ever made on a flat track, covering the distance in 2min. 54 4-5sec. His greatest achievement undoubtedly was on March 27, 1907, when he skated 127 miles in ten hours.

Davidson is a terse, square-set, little American, born in St. Paul, Minn. He keeps his medals attached—in selections of 190 at a time—to a number of cloth breastplates. They are in the most fantastic samples of the goldsmith's art. His British trophies include Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee medals for the half and one mile, won at Chatham in 1897, and another gained in the same town for a two-mile race. He owns the Canadian medals



[*Photo by Murillo.*

HARLEY DAVIDSON.

(1896) for the St. Paul's Winter Carnival, the Quebec (1896), and the Montreal meetings of 1891.

They are very enthusiastic over roller skating at Eastbourne, but such things as "Cinderellas," "masked carnivals," barnyard balls," and the like are taboo. Instead we find that last week at the Devonshire Park Rink *the* function undoubtedly was the polo match, at which everyone who was anybody attended.

They love hockey on skates in the North Country. On Saturday night a picked team of Newcastle medical students will meet the Sunderland champions on the local rink. The "bully off" is fixed for six o'clock.

REVISED SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ARTISTS WANTING ENGAGEMENTS, MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

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The Publisher,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.
"Wire," "The Era, London."
"Ring-up," 4747 or 1433 Central.

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COMPANIES WANTED.
TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE AND EDWARD COMPTON'S THEATRES.
Wanted, First-class Companies, for
THEATRE ROYAL, BRIGHTON.
May 10, 17, 24, 31, June 7, Aug. 23, Sept. 13, 27, Oct. 4, 25, on.
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.
May 31, June 7, Aug. 2, 16, 23, Sept. 6, 13, 27, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING.
May 17, June 7, 14, Aug. 2, Sept. 6, 13, Oct. 4, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER.
May 10, 24, 31, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Sept. 6, Oct. 4, on
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
May 24, Aug. 30, Sept. 20, Nov. 1.
Dec. 13, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON,
May 10, 17, 24, 31, Aug. 2, 9, 23, Sept. 6, 20, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD
May 17, 31, Aug. 2, 30, Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27, Oct, 11, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON,
May 10, 17, 24, Aug. 2, 9 16, 23, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER,
May 10, 24, June 21, Aug. 9, Sept. 20, Oct. 4.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
April 5, 22 (three nights).
Address, Milton Bode, Theatre, Reading.

Wanted, First-class Attractions, for
COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD.
April 12, 19, May 24, 31, Aug. 2, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON,
April 12 (certainty only), 19, May 10, 24, 31, Aug. 2, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.
Vacant April 12, onwards, no Dramas.
Address, E. G. Falcon, County Theatre, Bedford

Wanted, Special Attraction, Theatre Royal, Canterbury, Aug. 19 (three nights), Australians v. Kent.
Address, E. G. Falcon, County Theatre, Bedford.

Wanted, First-class Attractions, Easter, April 12, and 19.
Wire, Falcon, Theatre, Bedford.

Wanted, First-class Attraction, Theatre Royal, Canterbury, Easter (three nights).
Wire, Falcon, County Theatre, Bedford.

THREE PROGRESSIVE THEATRES.
Wanted, High-class Companies,
DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE,
May 10, 17, 24 (3 nights), June 14, on.
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS.
May 3, 10, June 7, on.
PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE.
June 7, on.
Apply for all above,
H. W. Rowland, Theatre, Folkestone.

Wanted, First-class Attractions, for the following Dates:—
May 3, 17, 24, and 31, Aug. 2, 16, 23, and 30.
Apply, Mr. Robert Arthur, 24a, Regent-st., S.W.

ROYAL PALACE THEATRE,
RAMSGATE.
Proprietor, Lord George Sanger.
Lessee, Ernest Mansell.
Business-Representative, Bert Atkinson.
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted.
All communications re dates from July 5 to Oct. 2, must be addressed to
Jay and Mann, 10-11, Jermyn-st., Piccadilly, W.

All dates from Oct. 2, onwards.
Apply, Bert Atkinson, Royal Palace, Ramsgate.

THE QUEEN'S THEATRE, DUBLIN.
Sole Proprietor and Patentee,
F. W. Marriott Watson.
Rebuilt and Enlarged.
Wanted, First-class Companies, Autumn, onwards. Booked in conjunction with T. R., Belfast.
Address,
F. W. Marriott Watson, Queen's Theatre.

NORTHERN THEATRES CO., LTD.
Wanted, First-class Companies,
Bury, June 21, 28, Aug. 2, 30.
Rochdale, June 7, 21, Aug. 30, Sept. 6.
Dewsbury, May 3, Aug. 23.
Halifax, April 26, May 10, June 7, Aug. 23, 30.
Also Pantomimes for next season.
Full particulars to Otto C. Culling, Bury.

NEW HIPPODROME, SCARBOROUGH.
One of the Most Luxurious Theartres in the North.
Now running one house nightly at 8.
Holding capacity 2,000.
Popular prices, 3d. up to 1s. 6d.
Owing to the Enormous Success of the Dramatic Season,
Wanted, No. 1 Companies, for April 26 and May 10, onward.
Apply, William Peacock, Opera House, Harrogate.
Silence a polite negative.

Wanted, First-class Attractions Only,
THEATRE ROYAL, BOURNEMOUTH,
May 24, July 5.
Apply, F. Mouillot,
1, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

Wanted, for T. R., Sunderland (Sole Proprietor, Richard Thornton), through obliging, First-class Dramatic Attractions for May 24 and 31 (Whit), also Dec. 13, 20, and 27; also Good Panto. for Later Date. Harry Esden, Empire, Sunderland.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
Wanted, First-class Attractions,
May 17 (?), 24, 31.
James Bell.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
Wanted, First-class Attractions, April 5, Whit Week, July 5, 19, and on. The Theatre has been beautifully redecorated and upholstered at an enormous expense, and is now one of the most charming and up-to-date Theatres in the provinces. Address, Chas. M. Julian, General-Manager, Theatre Royal, Wednesbury.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Lessees, The Gainsborough Theatre Co.
Wanted, First-class Companies
Vacant May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31.
Aug. 2, and various onwards.
Bookings include: "The Dairymaids," "Belle of New York," "When Knights Were Bold," "The Christian," "The Silver King," &c., &c.
All communications re dates,
William Martin, 415, Strand, W.C.

WEST PIER THEATRE, BRIGHTON.
Wanted, First-class Attraction, for April 19 (?) and May 24; not Drama. Apply, Secretary.

COMPANIES WANTED.

Wanted, First-class Companies
ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH.
Vacant April 5, 19, 26, onward with exceptions.
All communications re dates,
Arthur Carlton, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant July 5, 12, 19, 26, Aug. 9, onward, with exceptions.

EMPIRE, WORCESTER.
See "Music Hall Artists Wanted" Column.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY, S. WALES.
Vacant April 12, May 31, June 7, 14, onward, with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME, BARRY DOCK.
Vacant Aug. 2, Dec. 20, March 7, onward, with exceptions.

The Three Great Pantomime Successes,
"BABES IN THE WOOD," Jan. 17, 1910, onward.
"CINDERELLA," Dec. 27, 1910, onward.
"PUSS IN BOOTS," Dec. 27, 1910, onward.
Can also arrange Production dates for next season for the above.
All communications,
Arthur Carlton,
Theatre Royal, Worcester.
Telegrams: "Carlton, Worcester."

Wanted, Good Company, April 12, Ton-y-pandy. Wire lowest certainty.
Carlton, Worcester.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessees and Managers,
Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.
The Chief Theatre of the Town and District.
This week, "Grit";
Next week, "Charley's Aunt";
April 5, "You Never Can Tell";
Easter, "Diana of Dobson's" (return);
To follow, "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," Lionel Kignold, in "The Early Worm," Mr. Edward Terry, "The Builder of Bridges," &c., &c., &c.

Wanted, Good London Attractions, Aug. 2, 23, Sept. 6, 13, and various onwards.
Apply,
Calvert Routledge, H. M. T., Barrow.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE,
MIDDLESBROUGH.
Seating Capacity, 3,500.
Acknowledged to be one of the largest, most handsome, and best equipped theatres in the Provinces.
The Premier and Central Theatre of the District.

Wanted, First-class Attractions only,
May 17, 31 (Whit).
May 17, 31 (Whit).
May 17, 31 (Whit).
Big Star Attractions for August Bank Holiday and Aug. 16 (Race Week).
All communications,
Jno. Ed. Jowsey,
Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough.

PALACE THEATRE, BRIGHTON.
Lessees and Managers, Jay and Mann.
Wanted, Companies, April 19 (?), 26, May 3, 24, Whit, onwards, Special, Aug. 30, Sept. 20, 27. Special advantages:
1. A local management, alert and vigorous.
2. The Pier Toll free to Theatre-goers.
3. Handsome wind and rain shelter the entire length of the Pier.
4. The Theatre entirely redecorated and re-carpeted.
All coms., Jay and Mann, 10 and 11, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly, S.W.

VAN BIENE'S
NEW TIVOLI THEATRE, BLACKPOOL.
Sole Lessee, Auguste Van Biene.
Opens April 8.
Wanted, First-class Attractions.
No Drama.
Gilbert Heron, Manager.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE, BLACKBURN.
Wanted, First-class Drama, Musical Comedy, Only First-class Attractions entertained, April 5, May 3, 10, 17. E. H. Page.

NEW THEATRE, WEYMOUTH.
This building is now complete, and admitted to be one of the finest and most complete Theatres in the Provinces. The whole of the Stage fittings carried out under the direction of Experts.
Capable of taking £120 at ordinary prices.
Wanted, First-class Companies only, April and May onwards, including Whit.
All communications, Walter R. Wallis,
London representatives, Messrs. Jay and Mann, 10 and 11, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
Wanted, First-class Attractions,
June 7, 28,
July 5, 12.
James Bell.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
Wanted, First-class Companies, for April 19, 26, and onwards, with exceptions.
Required, Strong Attraction, for Bank Holiday, Aug. 2.
Address, Thos. Swinton.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, GREENOCK.
Wanted, First-class Attraction, for April 12.
Apply, R. C. Buchanan,
6, John-street, Adelphi, London.

GRAND THEATRE, LANCASTER.
Wanted, First-class Attraction (not Drama), for April 26. Address, Stanley Rogers, T. R., North Shields.

THEATRE ROYAL, NORTH SHIELDS.
Wanted, Company, April 12, through obliging Manager. Wire, Stanley Rogers.

EMPIRE AND THEATRE ROYAL, HYDE.
Wanted, First-class Attractions. Pop. 33,000; surrounding district 60,00.
Coms., W. Turner, Regent, Salford.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
Wanted, High-class Companies, Holiday Monday, April 5 (three or six nights), April 12, 19, 26. W. E. Potts.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
Wanted, strong Musical Attractions, May 10, 17, 24, July 19, 26, Aug. 16, Sept. 6, Oct. 4, 11, 25, Nov. 22. All communications to the Manager.

OPERA HOUSE, WAKEFIELD.
Wanted, Musical Comedy, April 26, Sound Dramatic Attractions, May 10, 17, and 24.
Apply, Sherwood and Co.

Wanted, Something Good, Easter, Radcliffe.
Wire, Sants, Radcliffe.

OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER.
Wanted, High-class Companies; holds £100; Easter, Whitsun, and Autumn. Bookings: "Merry Widow," "Dairymaids," "Prince of Pilson," "Prodigal Son," &c. All coms., J. P. Moore, King's Hall, Birmingham

COMPANIES WANTED.

Booked by
MOSS' EMPIRES, LIMITED,

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE,
GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM,
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS,
and
GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Vacant Dates, May 24, 31, Aug. 9, 16, Nov. 1, 29, Dec. 13.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE.
Vacant Dates, May 24, Dec. 13, 20.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Vacant May 10, 28, Aug. 2, Good Pantomime, Feb. 7, 14.

GRAND, GLASGOW.
Vacant April 5, 19, 26, May 24, 31, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Sept. 13, Oct. 4, Nov. 22, 29.
Also Several Spring and Autumn Dates in 1910.
ALEXANDRA THEATRE, STOKE NEWINGTON.
First-class Atractions required, May 31, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, Sept. 13, 20, Oct. 4, Nov. 22, 29, Dec. 6.
Address,
with full particulars, terms, &c.,
where can be seen, to
MOSS' EMPIRES, LIMITED,
Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-st., London, W.C.
Envelopes marked "Theatres."

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. HUGH ROBERTSON.

The Premier Theatre in the Furness District, with a holding capacity of £90 at ordinary prices.
WANTED, First-class Musical Attraction, for Easter Week; April 19 also open, and May 17, on, with exceptions.
Season's Bookings include among others:—J. W. Turner's Grand Opera Company (return), Mr. Wentworth Croke's "The Bondman," "Amasis," Mr. Charles Frohman's "Raffles," Mr. George Dance's Company in "Miss Hook of Holland," Mr. Wilfred Cotton's Company in "Butterflies," Mr. Seymour Hicks's Company in "The Gay Gordons," and Mr. George Edwardes's Company in "The Merry Widow," Paumier and Howard's "The Prince and the Beggar Maid" and "The Midnight Wedding," "The Flag Lieutenant."
All applications for dates to
HUGH ROBERTSON, Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, BLYTH-BY-SEA.
Acknowledged to be one of the most handsome and best-equipped Theatres in the Provinces; seating capacity 2,000.
Estimated population, 100,000.
Ample Stage Room for the heaviest Spectacular Productions Touring.
Now playing to splendid business, and equally well patronised during the Summer months.
WANTED, Managers of Strong Musical or Dramatic Attractions, to note that the Vacant Dates are:
April 5 (wire), 19, May 31 (Whit), June 7, 14, 21, 28, July 5, 12, 19, Aug. 2 (Holiday);
Aug. 16, Strong Drama for this Special Week.
Managers are asked to send absolute lowest certainty.

NEW EMPIRE MUSIC HALL, BLYTH-BY-SEA.
Re-seated, Re-decorated, and Upholstered.
Seating capacity, 1,000.
To Let, on Share or Rental.
For both places,
A. C. MOODY, Lessee and Manager.

JERSEY and GUERNSEY.
Lessee, EDWARD MARRIS.
WANTED, First-class Companies, April 5, and Good Friday Concert.
Also April 26 and May 3 and 10
Four nights, Opera House, Jersey and one or two nights, St. Julian's Hall, Guernsey.
Can arrange with first-class company for two or three weeks with répertoire of Successful Plays.
One or two Season Dates still Open for Big Attractions.
Address, STANLEY HOPE,
Opera House, Jersey.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, May 24, and Autumn Dates.
Address, T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

F. W. BOLAM'S THEATRES.
GRAND THEATRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Big Attraction Wanted for Whit Week.
METROPOLE THEATRE, GATESHEAD.
WANTED, First-class Companies, June 7, 21, 28, July 5, 12.
Address,
R. G. ELDER, Gen.-Man., Metropole T., Gateshead.

METROPOLE THEATRE, GATESHEAD.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, April 19 (unexpectedly vacant).
Address, F. W. BOLAM.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, April 26.
Wire, JAMES BELL.

EMPIRE THEATRE, SWINDON.
WANTED, June 14, Musical Comedy and Dramatic Attractions; also Variety Combinations. Booking Autumn. Also Musical Comedy and Dramatic Attractions, First Three Nights, New Garrison Theatre, Tidworth; seats 1,800.
All communications, ALFRED MANNERS, Swindon.

WANTED, Great Attractions, May 17, Aug. 2, Bank Holiday, re-opening after annual closure, 9th, 16th 23rd, 30th, Sept. 27, Oct. 11, Nov. 1, onwards, exceptions. Now booking 1910.
J. MAURICE CLEMENT.

THEATRE ROYAL, BURY ST. EDMUNDS.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Easter (April 12, 3 nights), through disappointment, Whit Week (May 31, 3 nights), big Agricultural Show week; a few Autumn dates vacant. AUGUSTE A. PSULEVS, General-Manager.

WANTED, First-class Attraction, Whit week.
Address,
E. A. SMITH, Marina Theatre, Lowestoft.

KING'S THEATRE, KIRKCALDY.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for April 26, onwards, New to the Town.
Bookings include "The Prince and the Beggar Maid," "Convict 99," "Sexton Blake," "The Love that Women Desire," "The House that Jack Built," "Cinderella," "Fatal Wedding," "Midnight Wedding," and other First-class Attractions.
Few Dates Vacant for T. R., Stratford, in 1910.
A. E. ABRAHAMS, 26, Great Eastern-rd., Stratford, E.

GRAND THEATRE, RUNCORN.
WANTED, Good-class Musical or Dramatic Shows, for April 8, 9, and 10; also April 12, and onwards. This building is the property of and controlled by local gentlemen entirely.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, Good Companies, April 19 and 26; also Vacant Whit Week.
Address, GERALD HARDING.

WANTED, Companies, Musical or Farcical Comedy preferred, one to three nights, holding £70 to £100. Whitsuntide, and Good Season Dates Open; Orchestra of 14. W. S. BELLERBY, King's Hall, Ilkley.

WANTED, First-class Attraction, Easter week, vacant through transfer.
Wire, RONAN, Theatre Royal, Wexford.

THEATRES WANTED.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
"THE OCTOROON."
WANTED, Theatres, May 24, 31, June 7, 21, on.
CHARLES HARRINGTON,
Hippodrome, Todmorden.
Mr. E. Egerton has on order more New Scenery for the above.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."
EUGENE C. STAFFORD'S No. 1 CO.
WANTED, April 19, through transfer; also Oct. 11, 18, 25, Nov. 8, onwards, with exceptions. Letters or telegrams to Bishopsdale, Biddenden, Kent.

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, April 5, Aug. 2, 9, 16.
DOUGLAS BRUCE, Star Theatre, Swansea.

"THE BEGGAR GIRL'S WEDDING."
WALTER MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION.
WANTED, Oct. 25, Nov. 1.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres Sept. 6.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, May 3, 10, Aug. 2, 9.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
WANTED, Theatres, May 17, Sept. 20, 27.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
WANTED, Dec. 27, Jan. 3
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

FREDERICK MELVILLE'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 9, Sept. 13, and on.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"BETWEEN TWO WOMEN."
WANTED, Theatre, April 12.
FRED'K. MELVILLE,
14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."
WANTED, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 30.
ANDREW MELVILLE, Met. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."
WANTED, April 12, Aug. 9, 16, 23.
ANDREW EMM, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted.
for this Phenomenal Success,
Weeks of May 10 and 24.
Weeks of May 10 and 24.
Weeks of May 10 and 24.
Wire or write to W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
WANTED, Weeks of April 19 and 26, for this Remarkable Success, which in a fortnight at Dublin played to £1,400, and at Belfast turned hundreds away nightly.
Wire or write to
W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
Re-dressed and re-mounted.
Costumes by Messrs. Harrison.
Scenery and properties by Willie Leigh.
WANTED, Apr. 26, May 17, 24, 31.
All communications, J. W. CORTNER,
March 29, Hippodrome, Aldershot.

LESTER COLLINGWOOD'S COMPANY.
"WHEN LONDON SLEEPS."
"WHEN LONDON SLEEPS."
"WHEN LONDON SLEEPS."
"WHEN LONDON SLEEPS."
By Charles Darrell.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Aug. 16, Sept. 6, 20 Oct. 11, 18, 25, and Nov. 22, 1909. All New Scenery, Costumes, and Effects.
LESTER COLLINGWOOD,
ALEXANDRA THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.

MONTAGUE BEAUDYN'S SUCCESSES.
"SEND HIM VICTORIOUS."
WANTED, Aug. 9, 30.
Now Booking 1910.
Kindly refer Percy Broadhead, Esq.
"THE POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN."
Vacant Aug. 23
(between Warrington and Newcastle).
Vacant Oct. 18, 25.
Kindly refer Milton Bode, Esq.
"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
Vacant May 31, May 31, May 31,
also June 14, 21, precede Palace, Newcastle.
"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND."
Now Booking 1910.
Will those Managers who have not yet booked all these productions kindly refer or see them next week at the Alex. T., Hull, T. R., Stratford, and Alex. T., Widnes. Wire or write to-day, Edmonton; next, T. R., Stratford.

WANTED, First-class Theatres,
"BREWSTER'S MILLIONS."
"BREWSTER'S MILLIONS."
Vacant May 17 (three nights).
Only Vacant Date in this Year.

"MRS. PONDERBURY'S PAST."
"MRS. PONDERBURY'S PAST."
Vacant April 12 (three nights).
Vacant April 12 (three nights).

"MRS. DOT."
"MRS. DOT."
Vacant April 15 (three nights).
Vacant April 15 (three nights).

PERCY HUTCHISON, 4, Finchley-road, N.W.

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANY.
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
By Walter Howe.
WANTED, April 26, April 26, May 3, 17, 24, 31, Aug. 2, 9, on.
T. R., Seaham Harbour, March 29.

WANTED, Dates, for Spring and Summer (Easter Week Vacant), for Charles Hawtrey's London Success, "Dear Old Charlie." C. VERNON, Managers' Club, Savoy Mansions, Strand.

TOM H. TAYLOR'S COMPANIES.
"AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES."
WANTED, Theatres, June 21, 28 (in or near London), Sept. 20, 27 (South), Nov. 29 (North), Xmas, on.
GRAND AUTUMN PRODUCTION.
Entirely new Play, written by C. Watson Mill.
Wanted, Theatres, Oct. 25, Nov. 8, onwards.
"A WARNING TO WOMEN."
An Elaborate Production. Tour starts Xmas.
Wanted, Theatres, Xmas onwards.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 25, Flanchford-road, Ravenscourt Park, London, W.

JAY AND MANN'S TOURS.
"AN ENGLISHMAN'S HOME."
By Special Arrangement with Mr. Frank Curzon.
WANTED, a few Dates after Easter (Kingston).
All communications, JAY and MANN,
10 and 11, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly, S.W.

M. RUSSELL ROSSE'S TOURS.
WANTED, Easter, six or seven nights, for Répertoire, Comedies or Drama.
RUSSELL ROSSE, Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions.

"THE IDOL OF PARIS."
"THE IDOL OF PARIS."
By Charles Darrell.
WANTED, First-class Theatre, April 12, April 12, follow Boro' T., Stratford, E., and precede G., Brighton.
Miss Annie Bell as Flare-Flare.
Supported by a Star Company.
Wire for April 12, Wire.
JAMES BELL, T. R., Darlington.

ROSE MONCRIEFF'S COMPANY.
"THE BELLS OF OLD YORK."
WANTED, Easter and Sept. 6 for this proved success; everything carried; magnificent plant of special printing. Opera House, Dudley, six nights.

"TODDLES."
WANTED, Saturday, April 10 (between Weymouth and Cardiff), April 19, 26, and Whit Week. Apply, MURRAY KING, Pavilion Theatre, Weymouth.

"MAN TO MAN."
EDWARD LLOYD and CLIFFORD BOWN'S CO.
WANTED, May 31, Aug. 30 and on.
EDWARD LLOYD, Grand Theatre, Walsall.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
"BROUGHT TO RUIN,"
the Brilliant Financial and Artistic Success.
May 17, June 14, 28, July 12, 19, Aug. 2.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

New Play
by
Mrs. Morton Powell.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
July 19 (?), Aug. 9, 30, Sept. 6, 13.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"HONOUR THY FATHER."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
July 26, Aug. 2, 9, 16, Sept. 6.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

MISS MARY NEIL,
in her Great Successes,
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS,"
By Charles Darrell,
and
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
By Charles Darrell.
WANTED, for either Play, June 7,
Also through arranging to start Autumn Tour earlier, Aug. 16, 23, 30, Sept. 6 and 13.
Coms. to GEO. KIRK,
This, Grand T., Nelson;
next, T. R., Jarrow.

MR. AND MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"ROLLICKING RORY."
Mirth, Music, Beauty, Romance.
Every Vocal Number Re-demanded.
Thunders of Applause.
Peals of Uncontrollable Laughter.
Everything Carried.
Not the hackneyed attraction which really requires no title, all being so alike in construction.
Something Really New.
Unlike anything on the Road.
And a Big Money-maker.
WANTED, Spring 1910 Dates,
Av. T., Kettering, March 29, six nights.

MR. BULMER'S ENTERPRISES.
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
Vacant Aug. 30 (?), Nov. 1, 8, Aug. 1, on.
"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
Vacant Aug. 2, on, with exceptions.
"THAT LONDON WOMAN."
"THAT LONDON WOMAN."
WANTED, First-class Theatres.
FRED BULMER,
Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, W.C.

"THE GREAT AWAKENING."
(See Companies Page.)
WANTED, for this Powerful Attraction, July 5, 12, Aug. 23, and on, with exceptions.
A. HALES, New Century Theatre, Motherwell.

"THE 10.30 DOWN EXPRESS"
and "GUILTY GOLD."
WANTED, June 7, 28, large Theatres only.
HORACE STANLEY,
Opera House, Crewe (third visit).

Easter Week.
"THE SORROWS OF SATAN"
and
"NANA, THE RAGE OF PARIS."
WANTED, April 12, April 26, April 12, various on.
Either or both Plays.
Ideal Holiday Attraction.
Acting, Dressing, Mounting, Printing, superb
Enquire what the receipts were at
T. R., Sheffield, Whit Week, 1907;
Princess's, Glasgow, August Bank Holiday, 1907
T. R., Coatbridge, Easter, 1908;
Royalty, Morecambe, Whit. 1908;
T. R., Belfast, August Bank Holiday, 1908
Wire to-day,
LOIE ESMOND, Central T., Northwich.
March 29, T. R., COLNE.

WANTED, Good Theatre, Midlands or N. for "Second to None," Sept. 5, 09.
Address, T. E. WARD, T. R., Stockport.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, May 17, 24, Aug. Bank Holiday, Sept. 6, 13, 27, Oct. 4, onwards.
Address, ARMADALE and WARREN,
Lyceum Theatre, Govan, Glasgow.

WANTED, Theatres, Herbert Fuller's Companies, "A Noble Mother," vacant May 3, 31, all July, and various on. "As Your Hair Grows Whiter," Aug. 30, Sept. 6, 20, 27, and various on. Mr. Louis Lingard, Mr. Habert Helliwell; Mr. Louis Weston, Mr. Charles Coventry, Mr. Herbert Fuller, Miss Agnes Collier, Miss Phena Powell; Mr. Basil Mitchell, Mr. Richard Webb, Mr. Phil Davis (Artist), Mr. Edward Jeffs, Mr. J. Hibbert Mansell, Little Lily Fuller, Miss Lizzie Lennon. T. R., Belfast; next, O. H., Cork.

WANTED, First-class Theatres, May 10, on, with exceptions, for the great American Drama, "MONEY'S POWER," By arrangement with Fred J. Little. Powerful Cast, including Whimsical Walker, from Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.
All coms. to J. E. BREWERTON,
12, Compton-street, Russell-square, W.C.

WANTED, Dates, for Fred Moule and E. W. Avery's 1909-10 Pantomime Production, "CINDERELLA," Refined, Operatic, and Funny.
Address,
153, Capworth-street, Leyton.

"A BROKEN HEART."
WANTED, good Theatres, April 19, May 3, 10.
HARRY FOXWELL, Metropole Theatre, Glasgow.

"THE ANGEL OF HIS DREAMS."
Already booked at thirty-five Theatres.
WANTED, June 7, Aug. 2, 9,
GEO. A. DE GRAY,
P. O. W. Theatre, Salford.
Next, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

"LUCKY 'LIZA."
WANTED, April 15 (South), April 19 and 26.
DICKIE CLARE, T. R., Edmonton, N.

"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
WANTED, Easter, Easter, Easter, through Keighley Theatre being sold, one of the strongest Holiday Attractions Touring.
Wire for April 12.
GEO. A. DE GRAY, P. O. W. Theatre, Salford.
Next, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

WANTED, for "The Prisoner of Zenda," April 12, 19, May 17, 24, 31. MARK BLOW, 11, St. Edmund's-terrace, Regent's Park, London.

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Nov. 1, 8, Dec. 6 and 27.
FRANK M. THORNE, Theatre Royal, Macclesfield.

"THE MASTER CRIMINAL."
WANTED, April 19 (follow Luton), April 26 (precede Alex., Sheffield), May 17 (follow Lincoln). HENRY L. OSMOND, West London T., N.W.

WANTED, Managers and Agents to See New Comic Opera "The Superior Sex," at Empire Theatre, Southend-on-Sea, March 30 to April 3.
Address communications to
J. MAUND, Westcliff Hotel, Southend-on-Sea.

"I DEFY THE WORLD."
WANTED, for this big Attraction, good Theatre, Easter week. Wire, C. JULIAN, this, Torquay; next, Wednesbury.

S. RENNEF AND G. M. COPPING'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, "Love Rules the World" Co., April 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24. Refer C. Barnard, Esq., John Hart, Harris Fineberg, Esq., M. Montgomery, Esq., R. C. Buchanan, Esq., Arthur Jefferson, Esq., C. Imeson, Esq. Splendid Scenery; strong Cast; special Printing. G. M. COPPING, Marina, Lowestoft.

THEATRES WANTED.

FRED GRANVILLE'S PRODUCTIONS, LTD.
Pantomimes:
"BABES IN THE WOOD."
"ALADDIN."
"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST."
Plays: "THE BETTER LAND."
A High-class, Powerful Domestic Drama. A winner.
Managers, Note.—Extract from letter received from Sherriff Howard, Esq., Queen's Theatre, Longton:—
"The piece is far and away above the average, with the additional merit of being very well played and beautifully mounted."
WANTED, May 24 (between Bristol and Swansea); also Vacant, Aug. 9, 23, 30, Sept. 13, 27, and on.

"ANOTHER MAN'S WIFE."
An Instantaneous and Emphatic Success.
A Perfect Production.
Wanted, Good Theatre,
Easter Week.
Easter Week.
Easter Week.
Easter Week.
Also Vacant April 19, May 3, 10, 17, 24, and Whit Week.
Re Dates for FRED GRANVILLE'S Productions, Ltd., Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

MISS HILDA BEVERLEY
in
"A DESTROYER OF MEN."
Autumn Tour commences Aug. 2,
Junction Theatre, Manchester.
WANTED, Aug. 9, 23 (?), 30 (?), Nov. 29.
Now Booking 1910.
Miss HILDA BEVERLEY, "A Girl's Cross Roads" Co., New Gaiety Theatre, Leith.

"THE LADDER OF LIFE."
"THE LADDER OF LIFE."
WANTED, April 5 (wire), April 5, April 19, 26, May 17.
CHARLES ROGERS, T. R., Batley.

"MOTHER."
WANTED, Good Theatres, April 19, May 10.
HARRY FOXWELL, Metropole T., Glasgow.

WANTED, May 12, for "Beneath the Stars." Successful Production, Good Co., Magnificent Pictorials, Special Scenery. COLEMAN DAVIES, Alhambra, Stourbridge.

WANTED, Theatres, &c., Rent, Share, or Certainty, for The Eureka Picture and Variety Co., the best Pictures Touring, First-class Artists and the latest Novelty, the Cinéphone Singing and Talking Pictures, Illustrated Songs, &c.
Vacant Monday and following week, through obliging. Wire, Wire, Wire for Monday; Write for following week.
STANSFIELD, Town Hall, Burton-on-Trent.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Artists to Know,
MARSHALL MOORE,
the well-known Producer of Plays,
many years at Drury Lane and late Producer London Coliseum,
is now engaged by
STEDMAN'S AGENCY
as
Manager of their New Dramatic Department. Specially engaged to Produce STEDMAN'S own Plays, Sketches, and Scenas, Dramatic and Musical, also as Professor of Elocution and Dramatic Art, at their famous Schools of Stage Training,
58, Berners-street, Oxford-street, W.

WANTED, Entire Company, for "Prisoner of Zenda." State terms, height, references, MK BLOW, 11, St. Edmund's-terrace, Regent's Pk London.

THE LOVE THAT WOMEN DESIRE" CO.
WANTED, to Rehearse April 5, Juvenile Lady, Heavy Lady, Heavy Gentleman. All must thoroughly experienced, young, tall, and dress well. Send recent photo., and full particulars G. CARLTON WALLACE, 107, Esmond-road, Bedford Park, W.

WANTED, Full Company for Easter Week (London), "Flying from Justice." Those having played in piece before preferred.
All particulars, Box 5,670, "The Era."

WANTED, Artists for Rép., Fit-up Tour, open March 29.
VAUGHAN BRACKING, Zealand House, Cambridge.

WANTED, Leading Lady, for strong emotional part; must have good appearance; start almost immediately; also various Artists for new production in London. Apply to the MELODRAMA PRODUCTION SYNDICATE, LIMITED, Regd. Offices, 21, John-st., Adelphi, London, W.C. Telephone No. 2431 City.

"EAST LYNNE."
WANTED, First-class Child Actress, over 14, for Little Willie. All particulars, WILLIAM MARTIN, 415, Strand, W.C.

"THE LITTLE BREADWINNER."
WANTED, to rehearse April 5, Mexborough, Tall Comedian for Eccentric Comedy (à la Dick Swiveller), combining Comedy and Pathos; must have good appearance and an expressive voice. Enclose photos., and state full particulars to J. A. CAMPBELL, 99, Bristol-st., Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, First-class tall powerfully-built Character Actor, not less than 6ft.
BRIEN MCCULLOUGH, Surrey Theatre, S.E.

WANTED, Young Man, to take French Comedy Part, to speak broken English; one that knows his business; no amateurs need apply. Address, J. HOLLOWAY, 25, Vernon-terrace, Long-lane, East Finchley, N.

WANTED, for Sketch, Comedian (short, stout) and Low Comedy Actress, able play piano. First-class people only need apply.
Address, Box 5,683, "The Era."

WANTED, for Sketch, Light Comedy Juvenile Man; rehearse next Wednesday; up-to-date evening dress. MOULE, 153, Capworth-st., Leyton.

"SWISS EXPRESS" CO.
WANTED, a good Knockabout Pantomimist. Full particulars and lowest terms to C. and F. RENAD, c/o Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Principals and Chorus (Ladies and Gentlemen. Voice trial for General Attractions Bureau to be held Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 11 o'clock, March 30 and 31. Chandos Hall, Maiden-lane, W.C.
Good voices only.

THE MAGPIES ENTERTAINERS.
From the Alhambra, London, &c.
Second Summer Tour.
WANTED, to open Whit Week, to end of Sept., for South Coast Pavilions and Halls, Musical Comedy Artists (lady and gentleman), of acknowledged ability; good voices, knowledge of music, dance, and burlesque; young, refinement, and appearance essential. Full particulars, salary, Box 5,632, "The Era."

WANTED, Choristers all Voices, must be young and of smart appearance, for Musical Comedy.
Call, with Song,
Room 6, Percy Hall, Percy-street,
at 11 o'clock Monday next.

WANTED, First Tenors (high voices), Second Tenors, Baritones (high), Basses (low);
knowledge of music preferred.
Address, Box 5,657, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Mezzo or Contralto, accompanist, medium height, for Ballads; genuine opportunity. Write, REYNOLDS, 127, Queen's-road, Lavender Hill, S.W.

WANTED, a few Young Men, with really good voices (others save stamps); previous experience not essential if you have an exceptional voice. GUSTAVE, Grand, Luton.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Vocal Quartette, Good Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Lowest terms, photos., particulars. Two Humorists, Soubrette, 12 weeks Summer. S., 8 Highbury-quadrant, N.

WANTED, Young Ladies, experienced in Living Statuary. Refs., photos., age, measurements, and experience, to MANAGER, Nelson Hotel, Union-street, Oldham.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement by Lady, Comedy, Character, Juvenile Lead, or French Maid; some experience in Shakespearean Répertoire and Drama; a part with opportunities more consideration than the amount of salary. Address, Box 5,655, "The Era."

WANTED, by Actress, young, experienced, Engagement, Stock Season, Summer Tour, or Special Weeks, for Juvenile Lead, Boy's Parts, or Character Comedy. Apply, BARRINGTON, 964, Kirkdale, Sydenham.

WANTED, Known, Gentlemanly Youth, age 18 years, wishes to take Small Part in Sketch and look after Baggage, &c.; can do a little touching-up; powerful voice. Terms moderate. Apply, Mr. O. LEE, 35, Hyde Park-street, Southsea, Hants.

WANTED, by Baritone (Soloist), young, powerful, well-trained, Engagement, Quartettes, Musical Comedy, Concert Party, or anything good. Particulars, Box 5,675, "The Era."

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Comedians, next season's Pantos. Last two references, address where performing next three week, age, photos., lowest terms, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists all Lines. Age, height, photo., salary, last two references. Particulars, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Good Chorus Ladies, next Pantomime Season. Age, height, names, addresses last two references, photo., lowest terms, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Principal Boys and Girls for next Panto. Season. Photo., age, height, last two references, lowest salary. CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, First-class Chorus Ladies, for Pantomime, Theatre Royal, Exeter, Xmas, 1909; tall, and good voices indispensable. Salary £2 per week, and £1 for rehearsals.
Apply, BLACKMORE'S Agency, Garrick-st., London.

WANTED, Good Chorus Ladies, for next Pantomime Season, to call or send addresses and references to PRODUCTIONS COMPANY, Garrick House, York-buildings, Adelphi, W.C.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Contracts, for Painting Scenery, First-class Work guaranteed. CECIL E. HICKS, Painting Room, Princess's Theatre, Oxford street, London, W.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions, Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, Contract or Engagement, by Davies Massey, Scenic Artist.
4, Princess May-road, Stoke Newington, N.

WANTED, Contracts, for Scenery, Productions, Sketches, or Stock; good effective work, cheap. J. JACKS, Scenic Artist, 46, Holloway-road, London, N.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery, large or small Contracts carefully carried out, Artistic work, good joinery, large studio and workshop. CHARLES SAYER, Scenic Artist, 2, Clarendon-road, Croydon.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery of all Kinds. Secondhand Scenery, both for Theatres and Fit-ups, for sale. E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

MISCELLANEOUS.

PALACE THEATRE, BRIGHTON, Stock Season.
WANTED, Known, Messrs. Jay and Mann are prepared to negotiate with a Responsible Manager for a few weeks after Easter, on Sharing terms, to produce Répertoire.
10 and 11, Jermyn-street, S.W.

REDCAR PIER AND PAVILION.
WANTED, Manager, to take full charge of all Entertainments, engage Artists, &c. Season dating from Whit Monday to Sept. 30.
Apply at once, giving testimonials, qualifications, &c., and stating salary required, to GEORGE HOOD, Redcar Pier Co., Ltd., Redcar, Yorkshire.

WANTED, Managers for Skating Rinks, also Instructors; experienced Americans preferred.
P. COLLINS,
Gondola Works,
Walsall.

WANTED, Lady Clerk; Typewriting and Shorthand essential. State age, experience, and salary required, to MANAGER, Britannia Music Hall, Glasgow.

WANTED, Good Lecturer and Manager, for West Bromwich Picture Palace, Vocalist combined preferred. Particulars and lowest terms to COOKE, 33, Hallewell-rd., Birmingham.

WANTED, Electrician, fully experienced. Apply, with full particulars and lowest terms, to W. R. KING, The Dalston Theatre, N.E.

"SWISS EXPRESS" CO.
WANTED, immediately, a reliable Master Carpenter. Full particulars and lowest terms to C. and F. RENAD, c/o Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, thoroughly experienced practical Carpenter (own tools), capable of playing small Part. Photos., refs., and full particulars to GEORGE KIRK, T. R., Jarrow.

WANTED, thoroughly reliable and practical Stage Carpenter. State salary, experience, and references. R. J. BELL, Manager, Opera House, Cork.

WANTED, for Tour, Master Carpenter, with boy of 14 years, to play part. Reply, with copies of latest references, to Box 5,665, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, a Competent Bill Inspector, who is not afraid of work, and who can see to work being conscientiously done. Apply, with references, A. CORELLI, Hippodrome, Ellesmere Port.

WANTED, Competent Billposter.
Apply, with full particulars, to
OXFORD BILLPOSTING CO., LTD., Oxford.

WANTED, a Billposter, to Travel with Circus Agent and look after Ponies and Van, to join at once. Address, SAM HADLEY, Ringwood.

ILFORD SKATING RINK.
WANTED, thoroughly Experienced Floor Manager, Six Instructors, and One Lady Instructress; all must be young, refined, and have had previous experience. Apply by letter only, MANAGER, 78, Gracechurch-street, E.C.

ROLLER SKATING.
WANTED, Known, Prof. James W. Banister, the Premier Instructor, Disengaged March 31. Preference given to First-class London Rink with Band; Waltz with Reverse and Two-step a Speciality. Has managed Rinks. First-class testimonials; smart appearance. Would manage Rink if terms favourable. Address, 501, King's-road, West Chelsea, S.W.

ROLLER SKATING.
WANTED, Young Ladies, of good appearance, with knowledge of Skating, to train for positions as Instructresses. Send photo. to PROF. J. W. BANISTER, 501, King's-road, Chelsea, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement by Stage-Manager and Carpenter, twice nightly, London varieties experience, lightning programme; undeniable references. BARRY, 702, Holloway-road.

MISCELLANEOUS.

"THE EYES OF THE WORLD" CO.
WANTED, Maid, for Miss Van Praagh, must be good needlewoman and of smart appearance; also attend to wardrobe and properties. Apply, with photo., absolutely essential, Junction Theatre, Manchester. Dorothy Dobson write again.

WANTED, position as Assistant or Acting Manager of High-class Music Hall, London or Provinces; good business man; security or small investment if required. All coms., Box 5,656, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Young Gentleman, age 23, tall, well educated, and of good appearance; would like to learn general management in good-class Music-hall; excellent references. Box 5,653, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, James Leco, Circus Advance Agent, is at Liberty. For terms, address, 19, Effingham-street, West Cliffe, Ramsgate, Kent.

WANTED, Known, Electrician (25), single, experienced, wants any job, any distance, plant wiring, perch, stage, or otherwise. 28, Auckland-road, Battersea.

WANTED, Known, H. Hepton (three years with Madame Levante's Co.), Baggage or Advance, Disengaged April 5. Queen's Rooms, Berwick-on-Tweed.

WANTED, Advance Agents to Know that T. Bartlett, the old-established Billposter, is prepared to accept Advance Work for Newcastle, Gateshead, Birtley, Chester-le-Street, Durham, North and South Shields, Tynemouth, Whitley Bay, and Cullercoats. 1, Forth-lane, Newcastle.

WANTED, by First-class High Window Biller, Engagement, good with sticks, can join at once. W. Slaney, 39, Regent-street, Leamington.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, Conductor, First Cornet Solo, for London Exhibition, preference given to Army man; first-class terms, six months guarantee. Box 5,660, "The Era."

WANTED, good Leader, to open Monday, April 5; must be thoroughly experienced. Recent references, age, and terms, to Geo. Clough, Conductor, Hippodrome, Coventry.

WANTED, at once, two good Cornets and Euphonium, for Tenting. Salary, 32s. 6d. Wire, Bandmaster, Circus, Blaenavon, Sat.; Brynmawr, Monday.

WANTED, Solo Cornet, E flat Saxhorn, Bombardon, and Drums; must be good performers. Apply, Musical-Director, Skating Rink, Huddersfield.

WANTED, at Once, good Cornet and Clarionet, for Town Band. Terms, shares. Apply, J. H. Gifford, 4, Richmond-av., High-st., Southend.

WANTED, a good Bassoon Player, as an Attendant in a County Asylum. Salary commencing £34, increasing to £48, all found; extra pay on promotion; single man.
Apply, with copies of testimonials, to
W. Grainger, Co. Asylum, Stafford.

WANTED, for Special Week, April 5, String Bass, Cornet, and Trombone. Lowest terms, Skating Rink. Apply, Totten, G.P.O., Rugby.

WANTED, Double Bass, Twenty Weeks, Continent. Will Mr. Jake Mills or Lohman communicate? Address, Baton, 1, Fernley-road, Sparkhill, Birmingham.

WANTED, Bassoon, Second French Horn, Third Clarionet, Trombone, to augment, from May 27, for four months. Alex. Corbison, Conductor, Penzance Military Band.

WANTED, for First-class Musical Act, Two Good Young Trombonists; must have good tone and execution, and must understand Reed Instruments. Only reliable first-class men need apply. Long contract and decent salary to suitable applicants. Communicate, Box 5,671, "The Era."

WANTED, for Stephenson and Hardiker's Circus, Tenting Ireland, Easter and on, Trombone, Bombardon, Horn, &c. Address, G. P. O., Dublin.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE ASYLUM,
FULBOURN, NEAR CAMBRIDGE.
WANTED, Male Attendant, Euphonium player preferred.
Apply,
stating age and height,
and enclosing copies of testimonials, to
The Medical Superintendent, at the Asylum.

WANTED, at once, E Bass, Euphonium; pitching, shares.
75, Carlisle-street, Edgware-road, London, N.W.

THE PALACE, BLACKPOOL.
WANTED, Oboe and Horns, Oboe to open almost immediately, permanent; Horns for Season. Terms and references to F. H. Jepson, Musical-Director.

WANTED, Violoncello and Violin Players, for Band, Royal Marines, Chatham Division. No sea service; good prospects; those able to Double a Wind Instrument preferred. Address, C. Hoby, A.R.C.M., L.R.A.M., Bandmaster, Royal Marines, Chatham.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
WANTED, to Open immediately,
First-class Flute and Piccolo Player.
State last two references, &c., to James Bell.

A. E. SMITH'S PANTOMIMES.
WANTED, to rehearse April 19, First-class Pianist, must be able to take down from voice and transpose; sight reader; experienced man only required; long engagement. A. E. Smith, Post Office, Fermoy, Ireland.

WANTED, Good Pianist, to travel with Auction Mart; must be able to read at sight MSS., to make himself generally useful during day, and not afraid of work. Edwards and Page, Tonyrefail, Glam.

WANTED, to open April 5, good Orchestral Pianist, Flute, and Piccolo and Solo Cornet. Terms and references to Fred Mann, Market Hall, Rugby.

POOLE'S PERFECT PICTURES.
WANTED, for Easter Week, near London, Pianist, used to pictures. Terms, &c., J. W. Poole, Verona, Malmesbury.

WANTED, a First-class Pianist, to Travel with Picture Show, through Ireland (booth), working one house week in town, long engagement.
Bosco, Ormond Cottage, Sydenham, Belfast.

WANTED, Known, no Drummer should miss Advert. under
"Wanted to Sell."

BEAUMARIS, NORTH WALES.
WANTED, the Services of a Band, to Play on the Pier for four hours daily, each weekday, to commence August Bank Holiday. Price to be quoted for engagement of five weeks, also six weeks from that date. Band to consist of not more than ten, including Conductor. Tenders, stating proposed instrumentation, to be sent by April 3, to Secretary, Band Committee, Beaumaris.

WANTED, Leaders, Solo Violinists, and 'Cellists, for White Star and Cunard, American Services, April to Oct. For terms and conditions apply, C. W. Black, 14, Castle-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, April 12 to 24, probably longer, also Summer if suitable, near Bristol, Bass, Clarionet, Cornet, Trombone, and Drums, Variety. Age, refs., and lowest inclusive terms, Conductor, Brooklyn, Bridlington.

WANTED, Season, experienced Lady Musicians, String, Reed, and Brass; good Pianists also write. Box 5,654, "The Era."

WANTED, Full Orchestra, for Hartlepool, open April 5. Chair warmers save stamps.
Address, Box 5,663, "The Era."

WANTED, Skating Rink Band, from Easter, for six months, Solo Cornet Conductor, First Cornet, Euphonium. Box 3,665, "The Era."

WANTED, Lady Instrumentalist, for long Tour, commencing July.
Madame, 3, Church-street, Berwick-on-Tweed.

WANTED, Bands, Concert Parties, Firework Displays, &c., Summer, shares preferred; large enclosed ground, seat 2,000 under cover (double if necessary); registering turnstiles, illuminations, &c. Coventry Cricket Ground Co. Ltd., Coventry.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Orchestra, Wanted,
Ladies or Gentlemen,
Part or all Brass,
About Six Performers.
Good Répertoire
Dance Music.
Must have Uniforms or
Fancy Costumes.
Full Details
and
Lowest Salary
in
first instance.
North Seaside Town.
Box 5,679,
"The Era" Office, London.

WANTED, Ladies' Orchestra (eight), for London, also one for South Coast (ten), Summer Season. State terms in first instance, Music, Box 5,672, "The Era."

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Six pence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept.,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.
Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A Grateful Musician.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement. 'WANTED, DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, Philip Germann, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, Resident or Good Tour, by Michael Connelly, Conductor (Violin); valuable library; can supply good band, Seaside. Moderate. 3 Grange-road, Ramsgate.

WANTED, by Musical-Director (Pianist), Re-engagement, through closing Palace, Boston; thoroughly proficient, Dramatic, Variety; splendid répertoire. Knowles, 16, Dolphin-lane, Boston, Lincs.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty for London only, well-known Musical-Director; first-class offers only. Apply, Box 5,658, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Musical-Director (Violin), Liberty; thoroughly experienced, Variety, &c.; reliable; age 29; up-to-date library, ex. refs. M. D., c/o 203, High-road, South Tottenham, London.

WANTED, Engagement, by Pianist-Conductor, any business, at Liberty April 5, fully experienced. Vaughan, P.O., Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts.

WANTED, Engagement, by Chas. Croft, Musical-Director or First Violin, six years one place; good library; can open Monday. Leader, Theatre Royal, Darlington.

WANTED, Engagement, as Leader or First Violin; thoroughly experienced; good references; can open at once. Turner, 49, Armitage-road, Milnsbridge, Huddersfield.

WANTED, Known, Leader at Liberty; experienced any Business; Summer Engagement or permanency; wire or write. Leader, 41, Lascelles-road, Maxton, Dover.

WANTED, Known, Theo Klee, Liberty Summer Months, Leader or First Violin. Terms, &c., Klee, Mus.-Dir., Empire, Greenock.

WANTED, Known, Miss Sara Walker, Leader and Solo Violinist, and Miss Fanny Walker, Clarionettist. Disengaged April 15. 36, Kenilworth-road, Seacombe, Cheshire.

WANTED, Known, Miss Lizzie Buxton, Disengaged May, Violinist, experienced Leader, Solos, Pianoforte Accompanist. Permanent address, 25, St. Leonard's-road, East Sheen, Surrey.

WANTED, by Young Lady Violinist, Engagement either First or Second Violin; good refs.; seaside preferred. Violinist, Cemetery Works, Keighley, Yorkshire.

WANTED, Engagement, by Girl Violinist, experienced, Orchestra or Solo. Address, Miss M. Bamberg, 23, Greville-road, Kilburn.

WANTED, Known, Reuben Hodges, sen., Solo Violinist and Leader, Disengaged after Mar. 27. Address, 8, Belper-road, Hyson Green, Nottingham.

WANTED, Engagement, by Walter Collins, Violinist (Lead), Compose, Arrange; any business; young, smart appearance; abstainer. Address, 49, Wellington-road, Rhyl.

WANTED, Engagement, by Good Violinist, Leader, seven years T. R., Bilston, good refs., around London preferred. Apply, C. Aston, 26, Windsor-rd., Leyton.

WANTED, Engagement, by Good Violinist, Leader, reliable and used to variety, can open Monday. Violinist, 11, Gilpin-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement, First Violin, Experienced all Lines, refs., sober and reliable, can open Monday. Violinist, 1, Gathorne-road, Wood Green.

WANTED, Engagement, as Cornet; last eight years in Music Hall. R. B., 6, St. James's-cottages, Richmond, Surrey.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Solo Cornet, any Business, or Tenting Ireland. Add., Michael Lalor, 8, Warrington-lane, Wigan.

WANTED, by experienced Clarionet, any business; young, sober, and reliable.
Box 5,661, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Miss Maude Lawson, Contra Bass, Recitations, Sketches at Piano, Disengaged April 5. 31, Rossett-street, Newsham Park, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Young Lady, Double Bass, Engagement for Summer, London; now playing Stratford. Nellie Stevens, 40, Hilldrop-road, London, N.

WANTED, Engagement, by Bassoon, any business, thoroughly experienced, competent, and reliable, excel. refs., total abstainer. Box 5,651, "The Era."

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by experienced Double Bass; good refs.
J. E. Scott, Grand Theatre, Croydon.

WANTED, Engagement, Miss Maud Jones Double Bass.
Address, 44, Cranmer-road, North Brixton.

WANTED, Known, good Trombone is open for Engagement; experienced in all Lines; smart and reliable. Address, Trombone, 207A, Camberwell New-road.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by First-class Euphonium or Baritone, combined good Trombone Valva. Best references. C. Di-Benedetto, 29, Ongar-rd., Fulham.

WANTED, Engagement, for Summer, as First Horn Player. F. Gondertier, Principal Horn, Royal Carl Rosa Opera Co., en route.

WANTED, by French Hornist, Engagement for Summer Season, good Military Band, first-class experience and testimonials. French Hornist, American Skating Rink, Dundee.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, by French Horn, Orchestra or Military.
W. P., 23, Hartismere-road, Fulham, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Miss Lilian Sexton, Violoncellist, at Liberty for Engagements or Deputising; experienced 10, Connaught-street, London, W.

WANTED, by experienced 'Cellist, immediate Engagement in Orchestra, town or country, good references. F. Larden, 1, Harpur-street, Theobald's-road, W.C.

WANTED, Engagement by Viola or Violin Player; thoroughly experienced, Theatre or Variety. Apply, R. B., 120, Coningham-road, Shepherd's Bush, W.

WANTED, Engagement, Viola, Second Violin, combine Trombone, any Business; steady, reliable; good refs. Jack Brown, 16, Tunstall-terrace, Silksworth, Sunderland.

WANTED, by experienced Oboe, Seaside or Music Hall Engagement; season or permanent; steady and reliable; references. Box 5,668, "The Era."

WANTED, Wanted, Engagement, by Experienced Oboe.
Webb, 50, Kennington Park-road, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, Oboe or Piano, for Summer or Deputising; references. Oboe, 41, Margravine-gardens, West Kensington.

WANTED, Known, Miss Eileen May desires Engagement as Harpist, Musical Comedy, or Seaside. 1, Calderstone's-road, Allerton, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Flautist, Engagement, now, deputising or summer shop, first-class refs. Address, Flautist, 30, Cromwell-street, Millfield, Sunderland.

WANTED, Engagement, by Flute and Piccolo, Military or String; could do Military Training; good references; experienced, any business. Flautist, Theatre, Brighouse.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by good Flautist and Piccolo Soloist, String or Military; ex. refs. Mr. Barsotti, 10, Faunce-street, Kennington, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, Flute and Bass; young, reliable, any Business; good refs. Flautist, 13, Lower Bridge-road, Southampton.

WANTED, by Miss May McCrystal, Pianist, Sight-reader; good appearance; late Harry Rickards, Australia. 7, Aigburth-mansions, Chapel-street, Brixton.

WANTED, Engagements, Marie Bell, Piano and Double Bass; Florence Bell, Cornet; Disengaged April 15. 9, Lynthorne-road, Frizinghall, Bradford.

WANTED, Re-engagement, by Professional Lady Pianist, First-class Orchestral experience; Dramatic, Variety, and Pictures. Pianist, Gloucester Cottage, Cranford, near Hounslow.

WANTED, by First-class Pianist and Violinist, Summer Engagement, Dances or Accomp.; highest refs. Bolton, 11, Bayswater-road, Roundhay-road, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, Pianist, youth 17, Disengaged Variety, Dance, Pictures, Hotel; experienced. Barry, 4, Hillside-road, Stamford Hill, London, N.

WANTED, by Orchestral Pianist, Engagement, lady, experienced, good sight reader.
M. Payne, 57, Westfield-road, Hornsey.

WANTED, Engagement, by Pianist or Portable Player, good sight reader, or play by ear. Cassell, 90, Amwell-street, Hoddesdon, Herts.

WANTED, Engagement, Orchestral or Military, Tympanies, Glockenspiel, Xylophone, accept Bass Drum and Cymbals in good Military Band. Hinchliffe, Theatre, Dewsbury.

WANTED, Wanted, Engagement, Deputy Drums, London.
Musician, 255, St. Leonard's-road, Windsor.

WANTED, Engagement, Double Drums, Tymps, Effects, Season or Permanent, any Business; excellent refs. Address, Theodore Gordon, 20, McKerrell-street, Paisley, N.B.

WANTED, Engagement, by Good Steady Reliable Double Drummer; experienced Dramatic, Variety, any Business. Best of refs. Musician, 20, Weymouth-terrace, Southampton.

WANTED, by R. Bassett, Tympanist, Double Drums, &c.; can open immediately; London preferred; good refs. 86, St. Mary's-road, Southampton.

WANTED, by experienced Tympanist and Double Drummer; young, steady; best refs.; any business; open at once. Musician, 19, Clifton-street, Warrington.

WANTED, permanent Engagement, as Double Drummer; ex Military Side Drummer; good Double Drummer; good refs. Dowds, 7, Hartington-street, Belfast.

WANTED, Offers for Miss Winnie Watson's Ladies' Poppy Orchestra, Soloists and Singers, from Franco-British and Principal Exhibitions, now Folkestone; Southport Pier following. 'Phone, 5,100 Nat. 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton.

WANTED, Known, the Grosvenor Ladies' Orchestra, Quartette and Trio, for Hotels, Soloists, Vocalists, Dancers. Wilton Davis, Manager, 42, Linton-street, Islington, N.

WANTED, Known, Krassilchikoff's Russian Gipsy Orchestra, seven brilliant Soloists, three First Violins, 'Cello, Bass, Piano, and Cymbal; large International Répertoire; elegant Russian Costumes, &c. Now playing in Paris. Offers invited for England, commencing Easter. Address, H. Friedman, 45, Rue Richer, Paris.

WANTED, Engagement (Theatre closing), Powell's Orchestral Band, Violin, Piano, Cornet, Double Bass, Theatre, Varieties; reliable, experienced, double handed; can augment. Powell, Theatre, Greenwich, S.E.

WANTED, by Military Band, Engagements, town or seaside; smart uniform; good répertoire. B. M., 56, Chipstead-st., Parsons Green, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, Small Military or Orchestral Band, Skating Rink, or otherwise; could arrange double-handed. References. Maddison, Inver-road, Clapton.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, immediately, for Tenting, Useful People, Riders with or without Horses, Acrobats, Gymnasts, Live Clowns, and any Good Act for Starring, Lion-tamer (black or white) write. Money sure, not big; comfortable engagement. Box 5,673, "The Era."

WANTED, Lady Equestrian, and one or two good Acts, and an Aerial Act; also Cornet and Euphonium player, for Mrs. E. Pinder Ord's Royal Circus, Bathgate, N.B.

WANTED, Good Animal Shows, June 7, 14, 21.
Terms,
Particulars,
Boswell's Farm, Oadby, Leicester.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, that the Royal Ohmys, greatest of all three-horse acrobatic riders, will appear in a grand new sensational Act at the Grand Circus, Curzon Hall, Birmingham, commencing Easter Monday.
Circus Proprietors and Agents will do well to see this up-to-date sensational Act. The Royal Ohmys, through breaking their Contract in Denmark and Sweden, will be at Liberty Whit Monday for the Season. Note.—A good Circus Groom write at once.
Address,
King Ohmy, 111, Raikes-road, Blackpool.

WANTED, Known, Don Pedro the Great, Unparalleled and most Daring High-wire Performer, open for Fêtes and Galas.
Terms, 99, Rhyddings Park-road, Swansea.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Signor Bendino, at Liberty for Tenting Season; two First-class Turns, Comedy Juggling Act and Bending Act; expert stilt walker, vaulting. Signor Bendino, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, Apprenticeship, by Girl, pretty, good figure, age 16, to Bareback Riding and general Circus business; small premium. Full particulars, Box 5,674, "The Era."

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.
WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, Twice Nightly; also WORCESTER EMPIRE, Twice Nightly. Wanted, Artists doing Double Turns, used to Picture Shows. No wires, please. Arthur Carlton, Palace, Worcester.

BRITANNIA, GLASGOW.
WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, April 5 and onwards, with exceptions. Apply,
A. E. Pickard, Sole Proprietor and Manager.

HIPPODROME, LEEK, STAFFS.
WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines,
Something New and Novel,
for all Dates after May 17.
Amateurs save stamps.
Notice.
I pay reasonable prices to good acts.
My place is not the London Hippo.,
so state a reasonable summer salary.
Apply to Chas. Williams, Manager, as above; or to Cliquot's Agency, 90, Rusholme-road, Manchester.

CLYDEBANK NEW GAIETY THEATRE.
WANTED, Variety Artists, First-class Acts of all Kinds, Star Comedians, Comediennes, Good Comedy Acts, Sketches, Reliable Specialities, &c., &c., for April 5, and onward. A. E. Pickard, Sole Proprietor and Manager.

WANTED, Monday, April 5, and onwards, Variety Artists, all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, Kitchingman, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, April 5, Variety Artists, good illustrated Songs, also big Star Turn; willing to share. James Elphinstone, Lyceum T., Stafford.

VERNO'S AGENCY.
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.
WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, April 5, onwards.
Telegrams, "Merriment." 'Phone 2076 Royal.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists all Lines, for immediate and future dates. Send full particulars and absolute lowest terms in first instance. S. Baskerville, Manager, Pal., Maidstone.

TIVOLI THEATRE, CAPE TOWN, S.A.
Lessees, South African Entertainments.
Managing-Director, Arthur De Jong.
Sole Booking Agents, The De Frece Agency, Ltd.
WANTED, Known, Engagements for above are now being negotiated.
Artists desirous of visiting South Africa are invited to communicate to the
London Offices, 173, Charing Cross-road, W.C.

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
William Mould, Central Palace, North Shields.

VICTORIA T., STANLEY, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Star Artists for immediate and future dates. T. C. Rawes, Proprietor.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now on.
Apply, Mr. J. J. Scott, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, May 31, onwards, for Pier, Bangor, Wales; used to Sketches and Concerteds. Apply, Entertainment-Manager.

WANTED, for Fred Durham's Agency, Artists, all Lines, March 29, and on.
1a, Longhboro'-rd., Brixton, S.W. Tele., 15 Brixton. Telegraphic address, "Durhamlike, London."

WANTED, Artists, to Know,
We would like to Book You
at a decent salary, if your Act is suitable for our Circuit. To decide whether it is suitable, two extra-turn matinées will be held at the Surrey Theatre and Battersea Palace during April, at which Money Prizes will be given for the best turns. In addition, Contracts for the Macnaghten Circuit of about Thirty Halls will be given to all those considered suitable. Other proprietors and agents will be there, so even if unsuitable for us, you may be successful in obtaining dates with other circuits. Write, enclosing addressed envelope for reply, to
Pete Murray, Manager,
Sadler's Wells Theatre, E.C.

PALACE, WATFORD.
WANTED, First-class Artists, all Lines, April 12, May 3. Full particulars, letters only, Cadle's Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Whit, Aug. 2, and odd dates, Fête Artists (two Acts preferred) all Lines.
Terms, Lithos., Tom Haw and Co., Gloucester.

WANTED, Al Fresco Artists, Soprano, Contralto, able to accompany preferred; also Refined Humorist; West of England. Carl Fredricks, Kursaal, Southend.

WANTED, Artists, for the Orphan Home Gala, Outdoor Entertainment.
State lowest prices to
J. Hawdon,
35, Pelham-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, for April 5 and onwards,
Stars in all Lines.
Stars in all Lines.
Full up for smaller items.
Cadle's Agency, 105-6, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Music-Hall Stars,
Big Specialities for
Hall, Fêtes, and Seaside Towns.
Edgar Stebbings and Co.,
28, Egerton-street, Manchester.

WANTED, for Opera House, Kidderminster, Monday, April 26, and onwards. Strong Double Turns, capable of Singles. Summer terms. Gudgeon, Manager.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY ('Phone 234Y3 Tron), 170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.
WANTED, Talent in all Lines, Tops, Bottoms, and anything that can be done on the Stage or Ring. Write at once.

O. MAUS DAYTON'S ANGLO-CONTINENTAL AGENCY and VAUDEVILLE COMPANIES.
WANTED, a few Good Acts, for Aldershot, June 14.
Must be absolutely new to mentioned town. All who have communicated during the last few weeks and have not received reply, please accept my gratitude. Impossible to answer all.
All letters are filed for reference.
Read Half-column Advert. on other page.

HORACE CAMPKIN'S AGENCY,
14, NORTON-STREET, LIVERPOOL.
Telegrams, "Campkin, Liverpool."
Telephone, 1192 Royal.

WANTED, First-class Acts of Every Description,
April 5, onward.
Communicate immediately,
Horace Campkin's Agency.

EQUITABLE VARIETY AGENCY.
Representative, E. A. Ward,
8, Fenwick-street (near Junction), Manchester.
WANTED, Big Acts and Startling Novelties, also few Small Turns.
Give towns booked and lowest possible, and permanent address.

DEETRICH AGENCY CO., 31, Islington, Liverpool.
'Phone, 1269 Royal.
Wires, "Deetrich, Islington, Liverpool."
WANTED, for April 12, High-class Comedy Acts, also Comedienne, Star Turn. Artists of every description required for immediate dates. Full particulars, lowest terms, and full list of bookings.

WANTED, Greatest Acts in the Profession. Send full Bookings, Terms, Lithos. The man you know. Professor Ainsworth, Stag Hotel, Stockton-on-Tees.

WANTED, Specialities, Artists all Lines. Apply, Palace, Jarrow-on-Tyne, Sole Lessee, Joe Lamb; Manager, Arthur Clarance.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Artists of Note.
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,

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HORACE CAMPKIN'S AGENCY,
14, NORTON-STREET, LIVERPOOL.
Teles., "Campkin, Liverpool." 'Phone, 1192 Royal.
WANTED, Gala Acts, all Lines.
Appointed Sole Amusement Caterer for the Great West Riding Galas, Peel Park, Bradford.

WANTED, the Solid Cream of the World's Attractions,
for Seaside,
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Every Town
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James Fioni's Agency, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool."
Telephone, 1686 Royal.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.
WANTED, Star Attractions, Shares or Certainty, April 12, 19, 26, later.
James Fioni's Agency, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

SMYTHSON'S AGENCY.
WANTED, First-class Numbers, of every Description, Big and Small,
Big Sensational Novelties.
Ring or Stage, Home and Abroad.
Note.—Absolute lowest and full list must be sent, or useless writing.
Silence a polite negative pro tem.
No callers except by appointment.
All communications to Smythson,
38, Craster-road, Brixton Hill, London, S.W.

HIPPODROME, SPENNYMOOR.
WANTED, Good Combinations, for April 5.
C. Algie.

HIPPODROME, ELLESMERE PORT.
WANTED, for April 12, Dumb Shaws and Comedy Acts, at reasonable terms. Applications to A. Correlli, as above.

WANTED, Big Tops, for immediate dates, on Sharing Terms, for First-class Halls; also Artists in all Lines. Send full list of Bookings and Vacancies. We can Book you. Barnard's Variety Agency, 33, Shaw-st., Liverpool. 'Phone No. 2349 Royal; Telegrams, "Barnard, Shaw-st., Liverpool."

PALACE THEATRE, READING.
WANTED, Tops and Bottoms of Bills, several dates this and next year. Letters only, Stanhope and Co., Ltd., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.

EMPIRE THEATRE, HULL.
WANTED, Big Tops of Bills, nothing too big, with drawing powers, all lines. Send full particulars, direct or Selwyn's Agency.
Harry Slingsby, Manager.

WANTED, Big Top of Bill, for April 5 and 12; and other Artists. Sharing terms or low salary (North). Brazzoni, 49, Bridport-road, Edmonton, N.

WANTED, Biggest Existing Headliners, Doubles, Singles, Jugglers, &c., Tredegar, April, onwards. Home Saturday, Sunday, 2-4. Evenings, 45, Mill-hill-road, Acton, W.

WANTED, First-class Comedy Sketches, also require Good Dumb Acts for Whit Monday, Tuesday, Gala, Balloon Ascent write in. Communications, Tom Diacoff, Alex. T., Pontefract.

WANTED, Young Ladies, for an Original Musical Act, Music Halls, Vocalists, Mandolinists, Banjoists, and Pianist. Lowest terms to Box 3,664, "The Era."

WANTED, Young Ladies, experienced in Living Statuary. Refs., photos., age, measurements, and experience, to Manager, Nelson Hotel, Union-street, Oldham.

WANTED, for Refined Company, Tour commencing July, good Soprano, Contralto, and Society Entertainer. Madame, 3, Church-street, Berwick-on-Tweed.

POOLE'S PERFECT PICTURES.
WANTED, for Easter Week, near London, Lady Vocalist, for Illustrated Songs, with or without own slides. Terms, &c., J. W. Poole, Verona, Malmesbury.

WANTED, immediately, Expert Acrobatic Lady Solo Dancer, preferred with own Costume; must be refined, pretty, possess good figure, and willing to go abroad. Write full particulars, terms, with photo., Manager, 111, Bury New-rd., Bolton.

ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, CASTLEFORD.
WANTED, Star Comedians, Star Comediennes, Novelties. Full particulars, Beanland and Emerson, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

WANTED, Juggler, by well-known Comedian (of established Comedy Juggling Act), wonderful tricks not essential; must be tall, good straight man, and good stage appearance. Box 5,667, "The Era."

WANTED, Good Middle Mounter, for well-known Acrobatic Comedy Act. Full particulars first letter. Address, Levett, Hippodrome, Wakefield.

WANTED, Good, Reliable Cinematograph Operator, long engagement, for Ireland, electric light; must be good man.
Bosco, Ormond Cottage, Sydenham, Belfast.

270 Replies.
Sir,— Wanted, Known,
I inserted an advertisement, asking for Music Hall Artists in the last week's issue of "The Era." May I say that I am absolutely astounded at the number of replies I received to my small advertisement, no less than 270 Artists favouring me with applications. May I by this means thank the many artists who sent in their terms, as it is impossible for me to reply to each individual. I thank all for their very kind promptitude in responding to my advertisement.
I remain, yours faithfully,
Alfred Ball.
New Lyceum, Tilbury Docks, Essex.
3/12/'08.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known.—Who wants an extra Attraction for Monday? Lumiere's Grotto. Vacant, share or certainty. Wire, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, by Aidee Mellor, in Lancashire Dialect Scena, "Christenin' Neet," April 5, 19; clean and good. Coms., Mr. Dottridge, Oldham.

WANTED, March 29, also April 5, 19, Babs Lloyd (late Baby Lloyd), Star Artist. 96, Bracebridge-street, Birmingham. London shortly.

LONDON, PROVINCIAL & CONTINENTAL VAUDEVILLE COMBINATION.

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THE PALLADIUM, LONDON

(late Hengler's Circus), will be open August Bank Holiday, 1909.

THE ALHAMBRA, PARIS.

Houdini, Van Hoste Trio, Prof. Duncan, Rastus and Banks, Triscos, Harry Taft, Havannas, John Marx, Comerfords, Leslie Bros., McGregor, Les Lylys, Pictures, Valoni, Ajax and George, Imperial Russian Troupe.

HIPPODROME, BIRMINGHAM.

Arthur Roberts, Bros. Zenary, W. G. Wesley, Gallimore Trio, "Ferdie's Ma-in-law," Alf Gibson, Stewart and Morgan, Marie Vere, Pictures, Captain F. Taylor's Baboons.

HIPPODROME, BRIGHTON.

Decima Moore, Tod Lowen, Tony Iveson, Frank Couch, Sisters Marion, Harry and Pols, Austin and Cowan, Roma and Romani, Johnson and Devere, Pictures, Paul Barnes, Lancashire Lads.

HIPPODROME, SHEFFIELD.

Hayman and Franklin, Stuart and Evans, Lauri Wyllie, Winifred Ward, Three Krakes, Regan and Ryan, Hinton and Wooton, Bros. Ashley, Pictures, Lalla Selbini.

HIPPODROME, LEEDS.

Julian Rose, Horace Jones, Jack Barber, Flora Cromer, Wright and Lawson, Josie Delaine, Lloyd Morgan, Brant Hayes, Parker and Parr, Pictures, Vasilescu.

PAVILION, NEWCASTLE.

Yukio Tani, Renroff, Tom Joy, Four Canadians, Edie Veno, Bijou Juveniles, Yvonne Lamore, Fred Hastings, Pictures, Callaghan and St. George.

HIPPODROME, ST. HELENS.

Syd May, Merton and Rydon, Boy Daly, Daunton Shaw Troupe, Tom Spira, Lena Leslie, Waldrons, Weisker Bioscope.

HIPPODROME, EALING.

Hal Forde, Arthur Woodville, Tom Stuart, Sisters St. Julian, Marie Wilton, Evelyn Taylor, Kitty Upton, Pictures, Mersano, Boissett Troupe.

EMPRESS, BRIXTON.

T. E. Dunville, Ben Lewin, Paul Corrix, Rachel Lowe, Three Sisters Sprightley, Esme Gordon, Ada Cerito, Gladys Huxley, Eva Clare, Pictures, Ethel Arden and Geo. Abel in "Three of a Kind," Chas. Banks and Dog, Silvertone, Dardinis, Munroe's Comedy Team, Pessey and O'Connor, The Terriers.

PALACE, HAMMERSMITH.

Larry Lewis, Herbert La Martine, Dave Samuels, Gene Selby, Four Rosebuds, Ivy Aberdare, See Saw Girls, Enid Erroll, Pictures, Joe Elvin and Co., Allsopp and Beckwith, Margaret Parker and Co., Lorne and Vallance, Souplessi.

THE WEEK'S CALLS

THE EMPIRE, HOLBORN.

Will Musgrave, Tom Collins, Gladys Huxley, Eileen Douglas, Vesta Victoria, Pictures, Thorpe and Coe, Ross and Grayson, Counsell and Mills, Selbo, Phil and Nellie Peters, The Ferreros, Bros. Horne, The Bensons, Dorothy Graham and Co., Fred Karno's "Mumming Birds."

OLYMPIA, SHOREDITCH.

Alix Lukos, Jay Laurier, Nancy St. John, Pictures, Lafayette, Primavesi.

HIPPODROME, WILLESDEN.

Chas. Cardow, Herbert Clifton, Daisy Dormer, Sisters Caselli, Lilly Edwards, Pictures, Woodhouse and Wells, Three Merrils, Kennedy's Kiddies, Geo. Gray and Co., "Fighting Parson."

EMPIRE, CROYDON.

Clifton and Gibson, Sisters Sprightley, Molly Maguire, Pictures Conan and Doyle, Kent and Keith, Fidardy Trio, Dardinis, Hackenschmidt, Harry Randall.

ISLINGTON EMPIRE.

J. P. Ling, Dave Samuels, Gwennie Hasto, Winifred Hare, Pictures, Kelly and Agnes, O'Gorman Bros., Jordan and Harvey, Fred Karno's "Jail Birds," Johnny Summers.

HIPPODROME, BALHAM.

Will Johnson, Joe Archer, Chas. Lee, Madge Beresford, Beatrice Macadam, Stacey and Williams, Recco, Westwoods, F. Karno's "Yap Yaps," Pictures.

HIPPODROME, PUTNEY.

Larry Lewis, Charlton, Rolando Martin, Ray Forde, Pictures, Ten Dutch Dolls, Ella Shields, Daisy Dormer, Cromo and Hamilton, Fred Edwards and Co.

HIPPODROME, POPLAR.

Harry Rogerson, Bros. Bright, Jay Laurier, Lily Eyton, Millie Payne, Ideal Sisters, Johnny Summers and Film, "Belles of the Kitchen," Harry Roxbury and Co., Kenway and Emery, Eva Ellis.

HIPPODROME, ROTHERHITHE.

Ulrick, Philip Levard, Chas. Erard, Millie Howell, Edna Moss, Dorothy Sterling, Pictures, Martin Henderson, F. Karno's "Yap Yaps."

PALACE, CAMBERWELL.

Albert Whelan, Herbert Shelley, Venie Clements, Madie Burker, Marie Empress, Laurie and Beattie, Pictures, Lucy Coventry, Bogannys, Royal Tokio Troupe, Fraser and French, F. Karno's "G.P.O.," including Fred Kitchen.

EMPIRE, COVENTRY.

Augustin and Hartley, King's College Boys, Pictures, Tom Leamore, Harry Tate's Co. in "Motoring," Goldinis, Olive West, L. B. Athol.

THE LONDON CASINO

will be open at the end of November, 1909.

THE ALHAMBRA, BRUSSELS.

Hall and Earle, Serenaders, Horace Goldin, Lillian Graham, Wallau, Cornalla and Eddie, Mlle. Giselle, Pictures, Three Allison Sisters, &c.

HIPPODROME, NOTTINGHAM.

Taylor Granville, Three Markies, Gillen, Medley Barrett, Bliss and Bliss, Three Sisters Silcott, Meller and Theodor, Julius Walthur, Sinclair and Whiteford.

HIPPODROME, LIVERPOOL.

M. Rossiter, Faludy Troupe, Florias, Jamie Piper, Pictures, Harry Nelson, Hampton and Bauman, Payen, &c.

HIPPODROME, RICHMOND.

Harry Trevor, Geo. Campbell, Ten Dutch Dolls, Cissy Thompson, Daisy James, Jenny Reeve, Joe Elvin and Co., W. T. Thompson Trio, Paolias, Pictures.

EMPIRE, SWINDON.

Musical Comedy and Dramatic Season.
Bill matter for this hall to be sent direct to Mr. Manners, Empire, Swindon.

KING'S THEATRE, SOUTHSEA.

Hall and Macey, Radford and Valentine, Auers, Elsie Malpass, Jos. Hart's Rain Dears, May de Rouse, Bessie Butt, Fimans, Pictures, Effie White.

HIPPODROME, WOOLWICH.

Cliff Diamond, Nellie Lunelle, Kathleen Gray, Minnie Love, Harry Roxbury and Co., Pictures, Leo Tell, The Hiatts, Hyde and Cody, Phil Ray.

GRAND, CLAPHAM JUNCTION.

Frank Seeley, Harry Conlin, Bugler Carr, Venie Clements, Bertha Winder, Pictures, Nash and Noel, Borghetti Troupe, Little Tich, Chas. Lilburn.

HIPPODROME, PECKHAM.

Chas. Carr, Harry Hayton, Fred Kendal, Lallie Brooke, Freda Murray, Nellie Moore, J. Peterman and Co., Arthur Bedini Trio, Johnny Summers Film, Chandon Trio.

BRITANNIA, HOXTON.

Boxing Tournament.

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All communications, bill matter, &c., for London Halls to be sent to Mr. Walter Gibbons at above address.
Those for Mr. T. Barrasford at 11, Leicester Place.

INTERVIEWS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

BAND PARTS ARE REQUIRED FOR AT LEAST 14 DIFFERENT INSTRUMENTS.

OFFICE HOURS: 10 to 5 p.m.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Lilian Neville, Soprano, Operatic and Character Vocalist, April 5 and 12. Address, Monday, St. James's Theatre, Long Eaton

WANTED, April 12, 19, by Edie Le Brun, the wonderful Girl Juggler and Vocal Comedienne, assisted by Don Edgar. Address, Central Hall, Sheffield.

WANTED, by La Siria, in her magnificent and most refined Chromoplastic, offers from First-class Managers and Agents for April and May only, after Tour on Continent. Apply, LA SIRIA, 9, Little Newport-street, W.C.

WANTED, Easter and May, by Sisters Todd-Buller, "The Territorial Girls," Duettists and Buglers, second week Cavalry Theatre. Creating furore, terrific success, refer Harry Saunders, Esq. Offers, 29, Wolseley-road, Aldershot.

WANTED, Known, Sisters Dudley, Operatic Duettists, Open for Offers, from June, onwards. This, Pal., Ebbw Vale; next, Ton-y-Pandy.

WANTED, Monday, also April 19, 26, by Two Beatrices. Wire, Pavilion T., Chesham, Bucks. After Sat., 23, St. George's-rd., Southwark.

WANTED, Monday next, April 12, 26, by Arthur Royce, Entertainer at the Piano. Wire, 19, Ambleside-drive, Southend-on-Sea.

WANTED, Known, Buster Brown, His Latest Craze, "Roller Skating Made Easy While You Wait." Oldham has caught the craze. Re dates, GEORGE FOSTER, Agent. Vacant April 12.

WANTED, by Bert Rayburn, Quaint Character Comedian, March 29, on. For sure success wire Aquarium, Scarborough; or Mr. DOTTRIDGE, Oldham.

WANTED, by Perce Upton, Eccentric Comedian, April 5, 19. Great Success, London Halls, in New Song. Wire or write, this and next, 52, Bolton-road, Stratford, London.

WANTED, Monday next, by Willie Long, Comedian, Parodist. Sure Success anywhere and everywhere, also April 5. Wire, Hippo., Devonport. Sole Agent, ERNEST EDELSTEN.

WANTED, Monday next, by Happy Attwood. Wire, Palace, Reading.

WANTED, Monday next, Bu Val, Happy Dutchman (Concertina), North preferred. 34, Devon-place, Newport, Mon.

WANTED, Monday next, also April 5, 12, 19, and 26, by Barney Stuart, in a répertoire of Tabloid Representations. Coms., 4, Canterbury-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Monday next, and on till Whit, by Mr. Robert Williams, the Celebrated Actor-Vocalist, in his splendid Full-dress Character Impersonation of Admiral Lord Chas. Beresford. Wire, Empire, Swindon.

WANTED, Immediate Engagements, Dan Ashton, Lancashire's Popular Collier Comedian, Original Songs, Stories, &c.; extraordinary Topical Parliamentary Conversationalist. 26, Wood-street, Openshaw.

WANTED, by The Great Vincent, Acrobatic Table Expert, Wire April 5, 12, 19, and 26, wire quick. Grand Theatre, Aberaman, S. Wales.

WANTED, by Mcrimura, Marvellous Japanese Illusionist, assisted by Miss Miako, Monday next and April 5. Wire or write, 13, Windsor-terrace, Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, April 26 and May 3 and 10, by Li Chang Hi, Premier Chinese Conjurer; electric effects; D.C. lithos. Address, Theatre, Ton-y-Pandy, South Wales.

WANTED, Known, the Great Kyoto, Clever Japanese Contortionist, Comedy Conjurer, and Educated Dog Oto; this Act a sure laughing and applauding hit; also May Geraldine, a Chic Comedienne and Dancer. Vacant March 29, onward. Wire, 16, Repton-street, C.-on-M., Manchester; one or both.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Mlle. Sylvesto and her Comedian, Comedy Pot-Pourri Act, Monday, 29th, April 5, 12. Wire, c/o Duthie, 102, New City-road, Glasgow.

WANTED, by Harry Keeble, Ventriloquist, Gladys Wells, Contralto, March 29, April 5, 12. Sure Success. Add., 281, King-st., Hammersmith.

WANTED, Monday next, also April 5, 12, and 26, by Zelda, big Musical Act; also Wal Owen, Silent Comedian; two first-class Acts. Wire, Hippodrome, Birkenhead.

WANTED, Known, The Two Gartells Comedy Vocal, Dancing, Patter, and Instrumental Act. Vacant April 12 and 19; Good Lady Single if required. Offers to 10, Vine-street, Aldershot.

WANTED, Known, The Armiers, Refined Musical Speciality, this week terminating Successful Tour with P. B. Broadhead; following three weeks free. Wire or write, Crown T., Eccles.

WANTED, Known, Taylor and Bridge, Singing Lancashire Mill Lads, Vacant April 5. Vacant April 5. Wire or write at once, this, Palace, Porth; next, E., Doncaster.

WANTED, Known, Elton and Elma, in their great Knockabout Bar Act, Liberty April 12, 19, 26. Monday, Hippo., Leigh, Lancs.

WANTED, by Denby and Dent, Refined Comedy Act, April 5 and 12. Address, Monday, Hippodrome, Wigan.

WANTED, Known, What a Draw Four Cecilians are! Smartest All-round Act on Variety Stage. Next, Empire, Camberwell. Vacant April 5, 10.

WANTED, Known, Great Scott, the Ladder King, at Liberty April 5, 12, and a few immediate Dates. 69, Walcot-sq., Kennington, S.E.

WANTED, 29th, by Atlas-Vulcana Troupe. Concludes to-night Metropolitan. Wire, 17, Waterford-road, Fulham.

WANTED, next week and April 5, 12, by Miss Myria Lo-La and Clown, introducing one of the best Three-bar Acts in the business. Telegrams till Sat. night, ALMO, Alhambra, Brighton; after, Corn Exchange, Chelmsford.

WANTED, April 5, 12, and 26, Bros. Almo, Comedy Triple Bar Experts. Alhambra, Brighton. Letters, 34, Highfield-street, Beeston Hill, Leeds.

WANTED, Dates, by La Dor Troupe, six in number, male and female Acrobats; three distinct Acts, Galas, &c. Park Palace, Liverpool.

WANTED, Monday next, by Les Kestrals, Society Acrobats and Equilibrists on the Staircase. Wire, Hippodrome, West Bromwich.

McALEAVEY MARVELS, World's Premier Trick and Barrel Jumpers.

WANTED, April 12, onward, with few exceptions. Wire Monday, T. R., Workington. Next, 12, Brunswick-st., C.-on.-M., Manchester. April 5, Palace, Worcester.

WANTED, April 26, May 3, 10, by Hulbert, Ventriloquist, and De Lil, Illusionist; two Smart Acts. Offers invited. Muncaster T., Bootle.

WANTED, Monday next, by Adkin, Ventriloquist, and Boston Bioscope, one or both acts. Wire 66, King-street, Southport.

WANTED, April 5, 19, by Gulliver, Ventriloquist. Address, 46, Derngate, Northampton.

WANTED, April 12 and May 24 and 31, to follow King's, Edinburgh, by Tom Kelso and Co. 15 minutes' Continual Laughter without Vulgarity. This topping, Hippo., Dewsbury; next, Regent, Salford. Booked by TOM CLAXTON, Esq.

WANTED, Dates for "When the Curfew Tolls," Romantic Sketch; dresses 1750 period, four in Cast and Supers. Bottom at Hastings, March 8. Wire or write, JOHN ROWDEN, Hillsboro', Cole Park, Twickenham.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Early Bookings, Mr. Harry Liston's and Miss Lumley's New "Merry Moments." Salary or share. Address, Grove Studio, Buxton.

WANTED, April 12, onwards, Les Deborelles, in their Illusional Vocal Scena, "Dreams," a Playlet introducing weird illusion, harmonised and illustrated songs by live Artists. Address, Empress, Morley.

WANTED, for Madame Riley's Juveniles (A troupe of clever children, trained to the acme of perfection.—Press), in their Original and Novel Entertainment, introducing specially-written Sketches, Speciality Singers and Dancers, and 30 minutes' Animated Pictures, latest films, Large Halls, with good capacity, April 19 and on, three or six nights; share or rental. Wire or write, GEN.-MANAGER, 46, Great Freeman-st., Nottingham.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ella's Educated Lion Show, acknowledged by Managers and Agents to be the best and cleanest in the Profession. Vacant May 3, 10, 17, and 24. All coms., 38, Albert-road, Long Eaton.

WANTED, by Cyclinis Trio, Comedy Acrobatic Cyclists, Football on Wheels, Vacant Monday, also Easter. Good Act for Galas. Always a Success. Wire, perm., 120, Gaythorpe-st., Manchester.

WANTED, 29th, April 5, by Salmon, Trick and Musical Cyclist; the man who wheels himself in a barrow. Wire, 25, Albany-terrace, Burnley.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty May 10 and later, Rodin, Comedy Eccentric Knockabout Acrobatic Cycle Act, own company in Cornwall. Address, P.O., Launceston. At Liberty for Galas. Two good Acts.

WANTED, Engagement, by H. Young, Trick and Comedy Cyclist, at present with a well-known Act. Box 5,659, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Young Lady Comedienne and Expert Step Dancer, in Troupe or Sketch. Address, LENA RUSSELL, Co-operative Hall, Chopwell, Durham.

WANTED, Gentleman as Partner, to play Concertina, and other Instruments; Act all ready. Send age. Will Ned Graydon, Esq., write? Box 5,669, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by one Hand and Head Balancer and Tumbler, in good Troupe. FRED CARR, Co-operative Hall, Chopwell, Ebchester, co. Durham.

WANTED, Engagement, by Jack Davies, Knockabout, also a little Tumbling; willing to join Sketch or Troupe. Address, C/o "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Prof. Lenton's Bioscope Entertainments; Change of Pictures Nightly or Weekly; Machines, Films, and Accessories Bought, Sold, or Hired Out to any amount. 2, Capener's-yard, Knightsbridge, S.W.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known, Wanted, Known, very Important, that the next Meeting of the British Roundabout Proprietors and Showmen's Union will be held at Headquarters, The Black Lion Hotel, Salford, on Tuesday next, March 30, at 2 p.m., sharp, for the transaction of Extraordinary Business. The Secretary earnestly requests a good muster of members. Signed, T. HURST, Sec.

WANTED, Known, .22 Cartridges, "R." "H," "D." "P" brands, Winchester repeaters, Globes, Targets, Water Balls. GREENE, 74, Falmouth-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Showmen to Save Money by sending for Leete's Catalogue of Specially-prepared Paints, Colours, Varnishes, Brushes, &c., and every requisite for decorating Caravans, Roundabouts, Swings, &c. Cheapest house in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

CAKE WALK. BROOKLYN CAKE WALK.

WANTED, Known, Thousands of Pounds taken and waiting to be taken on these machines. Cake Walk Riding Craze becoming Universal. No waiting to load up. 11,000 passed over in one night at Hamburg Fair. All the leading papers write about it. Write for Press Opinions, terms, and full particulars, Patentees and Sole Makers, TAYLOR, PLINSTON BROS. and Co., 94, Farncombe-st., and 98, Bermondsey-wall, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, cheapest house in the trade for Houp-La Specialities; also kept in stock, Rose Brand Scent Fountains and Confetti. W. RAVEN, 55, Mossbury-road, Lavender Hill, Clapham Junction, London, S.W.

KATZENJAMMER CASTLES.

WANTED, Known, to Showmen and others.—If you want the most successful show of the century, the genuine Katzenjammer Castle, as erected at Olympia, Earl's Court, White City, Manchester, Blackpool, Southport, &c., write at once for particulars to the only original introducer, Mr. A. L. Baird, 5 and 6, Clement's-inn, London, W.C. Complete outfits installed and most moderate prices, or working plans and specifications sold. The most successful show of the century. Infringers of registered design, numbers 522,803, 522,804, will be immediately proceeded against. Figure "8" Railways, Velvet Coasters, Camel-back Toboggans, and Helter Skelters built at lowest prices.

WANTED, Known, Stacey, Showman Stores, Address, 510, Kingsland-road, London. All Specialities as usual. Guns, Cartridges, Swing Ropes, Flare Lamps, &c.

WANTED, all Kinds of Games, Swings, Roundabouts, and Amusements, Easter Monday Gala, Sydney Gardens, Bath. Apply, FREDERICKS, Kursaal, Southend.

WANTED, Living Novelties, every description, also Waxworks or Mechanical Exhibition, for large shop. Lady Palmist write. FRED DURLAND, Exhibition, 92, London-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Good Novelties, for Ton-y-Pandy, Ebbw Vale, and Tredegar. Strong Attraction wanted for Easter. LINDA, Exhibition, Dunraven-st., Ton-y-Pandy, S. Wales.

WANTED, Lady Character Delineator. State terms, age, and experience. A. E. PICKARD, Waxwork, Trongate, Glasgow.

WANTED, good Planksman, Comedian, Handseller, for No. 1 Mart; straight, honest, sober men, good wages. No. 2 Mart still for sale, smart, clean, compact lot, suit Pierrots, £100 lowest. BARBER, Auctioneer, Mansfield.

WANTED, two Doorsmen, used to Ground Booths; long engagement to suitable people; can join at once. 100, Lower Marsh, Lambeth, London.

WANTED, one or two Animal Performers to enter Dens of Lions, &c.; those used to travelling shows preferred. No fancy prices. PURCHASE'S Menagerie, Bruce-gr., Tottenham, London.

WANTED, at Once, a Photographer (while you wait), good opening, shares or rental; also Lady Palmist; for a First-class Shop. MANAGER, 63, Fife-road, Kingston-on-Thames.

WANTED, by Prof. Railey, Phrenologist, Salaried Engagement, or Space, on sharing terms, in Funlands, Fêtes, Bazaars. 48, Salford-road, Streatham Hill, London.

WANTED, April 5, Douglas, Ventriloquist and Illusionist, with Paintings. Booth or Exhibition. What offers? C/o Pattrick, Violet Cottage, Guyhirn, Wisbech.

WANTED, Good, Steady Traction Engine Driver, Burrell's Engine, travelling Ireland. State full particulars to Bosco, Ormond Cottage, Sydenham, Belfast.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

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THE
WESTON OLD PIER CONCESSION COMPANY.
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The Showman's Eldorado for 1909.
The Showman's Eldorado for 1909.
800,000 Visitors last year.
800,000 Visitors last year.

The Magnificent New Extension to the Old Pier opens this Season.

BIG ATTRACTIONS ALREADY BOOKED.
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SKATING RINK,
SKATING RINK,
SCENIC RAILWAY,
SCENIC RAILWAY,
ROUNDABOUTS, &c.
ROUNDABOUTS, &c.
STILL THERE'S ROOM.
STILL THERE'S ROOM.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Side Shows, Stalls, Games, &c.
Side Shows, Stalls, Games, &c.
Side Shows, Stalls, Games, &c.
Side Shows, Stalls, Games, &c.

Important Notice.
The Low-water Pier now completed, which will enable a regular service of steamers to be maintained, by special arrangement. Last boats leave Weston 11 p.m.
Applications for Spaces and full particulars Apply, C. A. ROLLASON, Bank-chambers, St. Mary's-street, Cardiff.

PLEASURE BEACH, BLACKPOOL.
The Leading Open-air Amusement Resort in the Country on the Sea Front.
Telephone 158. Telegrams, "Popular."
Opens at Easter for the Season.
WANTED, Known, Applications are invited for any new Attractions. Permanent Attractions include: Velvet Coaster, Skating Rink, Scenic Railway, Water Chute, Canadian Toboggan, Motor Racing Track, &c., &c.
Address, PROPRIETORS, Pleasure Beach, Blackpool.

WANTED, by Bailey's Punch and Judy, Easter week. Just closed Crystal Palace, Croydon, and Penge. Add., Buxton, Derbyshire. Chair up.

WANTED, to Let, Spaces, at 57 and 58, Promenade, New Brighton, with Sole Right for following: Maypole, Houp-la, Bicycle Roundabout, Miniature Horses, Cake Walk, Swings, Shooting Range, Photography, Toffee Stall, Ice Cream, Palmistry, Throwing Games. G. WILKIE.

WANTED, to Let, Spaces for Automatic Machines. Annual attendance at grounds, 200,000 persons. Apply to THE COVENTRY CRICKET GROUND CO., LTD., Coventry.

WANTED, Known, The Fair Field, Kidwelly, to Let, in centre of town. Tin works and collieries going well. Terms moderate. MORRIS, Cowparks, Kidwelly, South Wales. Nat. Tel. No. 8.

WANTED, to Let, Spaces for small Stalls, Photography, Air Guns, &c., for Season commencing Easter. LESLIE, Arcadia Gardens, Vale of Health, Hampstead Heath.

WANTED, Known, a few Spaces still to Let for Wire-workers, Novelty Stalls, &c., at Jersey Exhibition and Fun City; opens Easter Monday, for four weeks. Also Wanted, Phrenologist or Character Reader. Write, POINGDESTRE, 5, Don-street, Jersey.

WANTED, to Let, for the Season, Good Opening for Palmist, Two Shops on Penarth Pier. Write, LARCHER, Stafford-road, Weston-super-Mare.

WANTED, to Let (temporary), excellent Shop, in best and busiest street of Doncaster; splendid position. Rent £4 per week. ALFRED STUBBS, Askern.

FOR CONTINUATION OF "WANTED" ADVERTISEMENTS SEE PAGE 36.

MOSS' EMPIRES, LTD & STOLL COMPANIES SUBSEQUENT

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Assisting Director and Chief of Staff: **FRANK ALLEN.** Departmental Superintendents: W. S. GORDON MICHIE & ALAN W. YOUNG.

(THE DE FRECE CIRCUIT working in conjunction.)

Co-Operative Offices: CRANBOURN MANSIONS, CRANBOURN STREET, LONDON, W. C.

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CALLS FOR MONDAY, MARCH 29, 1909.

Telephone: 1050 and 1051 Gerrard. Wires: Moss' Empires and Associated Properties, "Twigsome, London." Wires: De Frece Circuit, "Yellit, London."

THE LONDON HIPPODROME

"The Motor Chase," Johnny Fuller, The Boccaccios, The Carmos, Bros. Artois, Deonzo Bros., Miss Marquis, Boxing Kangaroo, Fratellinis, Pathégraph, Stockham Grecian Band, Staig's Cycling Steeplejacks.

EMPIRE PALACE, EDINBURGH.

Rehearsal at 1.30 for:—

Johnson v. Burns' Fight Film, Carter Livesey, Lilian Rosebery and Co., The Falcons, Adams and Ward, Herbert Darnley and Co., in "John Jay, Junior," Alburtus and Millar, Eadie and Ramsden, Edie Endon, Gladys Mavius, Jack Pleasants.

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for:—

George Lashwood, Percy Hannan, Billy French, "Britain Invaded," Kara, Verno and Voyce, Three Sisters Kilner, The Mayvilles, Edith Fink, Tom Foy and Co.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for:—

Woodward's Seals, Maudie Francis, The Simms, Lickson's Dogs, Wood, Wells, and Wilkins, Webb's Scenas, Arthur Gill, Birth of Big Gun Film, Achmed Ibrahim Troupe, Alexandra Dagmar.

GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

Monday, March 29th, closed for Rehearsals. Tuesday, March 30th, for five nights, the Glasgow Amateur Operatic Society, in "The Gondoliers."

ARDWICK THEATRE, MANCHESTER.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

George Robey, Gwen Zalska, Carl and Carr, Lux Dogs, Leipzig, Henriquette Maude, J. Elmer, Spyglass, Lily Palmer, Grand National Film, A. C. Lilly and Co., in "Drummed Out."

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.

Rehearsal at 12 for:—

O Hana San and Co., Senorita Mauricia Morichini, Tambo and Tambo, The Avolos, Carney and Armstrong, Ray Wallace, Lily Flexmore, Mavis Clare, Stylo, Grand National Film, George Gilbey.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Johnson v. Burns Fight Film, Liane D'Eve, Rich and Rich, Morton and Elliott, McCann's Dogs, Walter Munroe, Burns and Danvers, Elsie Robey, Corcoran Bros., Frederic Villiers.

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Carl Rosa Opera Co.

GRAND, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Tom Edwards, Dot Stephens, Stella Girls, Paxton Trio, John Beauchamp and Co., Tom Child, "England Invaded," Harry Bedford, St. George Sylvesta, Zeynard's Lilliputians.

PALACE, LEICESTER.

Rehearsal at 2.30 for:—

Auguste Van Biene and Co., The Lupinos, Three Dixons, Nipper Lupino Lane, The Great Lumars, Rhoda Paul, Lyric Quartette, Frank Hartley, Relief of Hastings Film, Pat Rafferty.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Karno's Co., including Albert Bruno, in "The Bailiff," Walter King, Henry Carlton and Co., "England Invaded," Charles Fisher's Opera Co., Allan Hanbury, Kroney Bros., Les Frasettis, Ethel Newman, Arthur Aldridge.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Harry Fragson, Marjorie Lawrence, Baker and Balfe, Ted E. Box, Grand National Film, Great Wieland, Sadie Simpson, Grosvenor Sisters, Daisy Jerome, Griffiths Bros.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Mark Sheridan, Ethel Beech, Lyric Mummers, Grand National Film, De Gracia's Elephants, Goodwin's Pices, Harry Friskey, Helen Forsyth, Will Cornish, "Wake Up, England."

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Gus Elen, Fred Poplar, Kitty Wager, Helen Guest, Lester and Moure, The Tampicos, "Beacon Bell," Mr. and Mrs. H. Finden, Rex Fox, Burns v. Johnson Fight Film.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Dr. Walford Bodie, Arthur Slater, Sisters Geretti, Millie Engler and Co., Grand National Film, W. J. Churchill, Ellis Barrieton, Ida Kathrena, Nell Emerald, La Scala Opera Co.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

La Tortajada, Sam Mayo, Fred Barnes, Teresa da Silva, Seeley and Rhodesia, Grand National Film, St. Clair Bros., Roze and Calvert, Carlos Menard, Master Edward Garratt and Co.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

James Welch and Co. in "When Knights Were Bold."

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, STOKE NEWINGTON

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Edward Terry and Co., in Repertoire.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD,

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Elliott Savonas, Rose Cabani, Marriott Edgar, Frank Bertram and Co., Summers v. Britt Fight Film, Burley and Burley, Larola, Amy Marsden, Helen Trix, La Pia.

THE LONDON COLISEUM

Rehearsal at 10 a.m. for:—

Mr. Seymour Hicks and Miss Zena Dare, Mdlle. de Saunoy, Donaldson Bros. and Co., Nora Emerald, Farr and Farland, Musical Courtiers, Kauffman's Cycling Beauties, Truly Shattuck, Powell and Vesey, Katie Moss, Bioscope, Elise Craven and Co.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Bransby Williams, Minnie Mace, Frank Sylvo, Phillips and Merritt, Ten Zerbinis, Bowden and Stol, Barlee and Smith, Kathleen Cogan, "Relief of Hastings" Film, Joe O'Gorman.

EMPIRE, SWANSEA.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Ernest Shand, Lizzie Daniels, George Brooks, Foreman and Fannan, Schenk Bros., Matt Wilkinson Trio, Frank Cass, Wilbur Wright Film, "No. 99."

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco, Melia and Mozarabar, Doroswami, Belle Davis and Piccs, "That Brute Simmons." Tom E. Hughes, Kate Traill, Nance Elder, Relief of Hastings Film, Daley Cooper, Mabel Laif and Co., in "Passing the Time."

PHILHARMONIC HALL, CARDIFF.

Rehearsal at 3 for:—

Company as booked.

EMPIRE, NEWPORT

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Leonard Mortimer and Co., in "The Little Captain," The Calcotts, Sisters Morgan, Charles Vincent, Grand National Film, Bros. Harrison, Theo Bouwmeester and Co., Harry Marte, Annie Purcell.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Miss Margaret Cooper, Orpheus, Bertha Stuart, "Yellow Fang," Sanford and Lyons, The Delevines, "Relief of Hastings" Film, Frances Letty, "Casey's Court."

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

R. A. Roberts' "Dick Turpin," Percival, Will Godwin, Madge Temple, Grand National Film, Stein Erétto Troupe, Hamilton Hill, Frank Lynne, Hubert Carter and Co., in "David Garrick," Gertie Gitana.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Fred Karno's "Smoking Concert," Nellie Coleman, Ethel Bourne, Bert Williams, Lionette Roberty, Grand National Film, Vetter Bros., Cliff Dixo, Maizie Hibbs, Fred Earle.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Alice Pierce, Les Fleury, Alf Holt, Ernest Clifford, Canty's Grotto, Tom E. Finglass, Grand National Film, Lulu Russell, Cliff Ryland, King and Benson.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Victoria Monks, Maud and Sydney Wood, Fred Curran, Six Lancashire Lasses, Albert and Edmunds Troupe, The Rawsons, Fatmah Diard, The Royal Diamonds, Bioscope, Thora.

The following are booked in conjunction with the above:

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Summers-Britt Fight Film, May Brilliant, Barrington, Amy Anderson and Co., Trentanovi Sisters, Edie King, Billy Hobbs, Pictures, Will Van Allen.

EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Eli Hudson and Olga and Elgar, Boyd and Gilfain, J. H. Scotland, Austin Rudd, Haley's Garden of Girls, Mabel Bright, La Danseuse, Bioscope, Adam Tomlinson.

EMPIRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.

In course of construction. Now booking.

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUBLIN.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Howell and Scott, Lottie Govell, Gus Le Clerq, Lily Esplin, O'Malley and Brown, The Meymotts, George Young, Pictures, Selbinis.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Lydia Yeamans, Fred Clements, Spry and Monti, Virto and Venita, Three Prestons, Harry Taylor, Mabel Hind, Pictures, Kitts and Windrum.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL.

Rehearsal at 12 for:—

Lina Marrder, Jackley Trio, Soho Trio, George C. Doughty and Co., Hilda Jacobsen, Rosie Sylvester, "Relief of Hastings" Film, The Anartos.

IMPERIAL HALL, WALSALL.

Company as booked.

THEATRE ROYAL, CROYDON.

Animated Pictures and Illustrated Songs.

IMPORTANT NOTICES.

RE APPLICATIONS FOR ENGAGEMENTS.

All applications by either Artists or their Agents must be made to the Head Office. Lowest terms must be stated, and distinction made between salaries required for larger and smaller towns. Vacant dates should be stated. If a list of existing bookings be sent, it will render selection easier.

Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not rebooked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follow:—

EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, NEWCASTLE, AND DISTRICT.
MR. S. GETHING, Empire Theatre, Glasgow.

BIRMINGHAM, NOTTINGHAM, LEICESTER, AND DISTRICT.
MR. HATTON WHARTON, Empire Theatre, Nottingham.

SOUTH WALES DISTRICT.
MR. ALBERT MITCHELL, Empire Theatre, Cardiff.

LEEDS, SHEFFIELD, HULL, BRADFORD, AND DISTRICT.
MR. T. GERALD MORTON, Empire Palace, Leeds.

LIVERPOOL, MANCHESTER, AND DISTRICT.
MR. ALBERT BULMER, The Empire, Liverpool.

LONDON DISTRICT.
MR. J. CHRISTIE, Empire Theatre, Shepherd's Bush, W.

N.B.—Mr. OSWALD STOLL or Mr. FRANK ALLEN can be seen by appointment on all matters arising out of the above, and for the discussion of entirely new Numbers.

All Artists or Agents who communicate with our District Representatives must have made definite applications, in accordance with above directions, to the Head Office, at the same time, or just previously.

Artists and Agents are requested to note that the Standard Theatre, Shoreditch, and the Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, come within the areas absolutely barred by us. Artists and Agents are also requested to note that the Hippodrome, Aston, Birmingham, comes within the area absolutely barred by the Grand Theatre and Empire Palace, Birmingham.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have at least Fourteen Band Parts for English Orchestrations, and Seventeen Band Parts for Foreign Orchestrations. Matter of Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to Co-operative Offices, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements cancelled. It is important that separate bill-matter, blocks, pictorials, &c., for Dublin, Belfast, and South Shields, be sent direct to Mr. Frank Allen at the Co-operative Offices.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced. Artists' Scenery, Properties, &c., MUST be fireproofed in accordance with the regulations of the Licensing Authorities.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

No order or contract for goods or services must be accepted for any of the foregoing theatres except upon receipt of an Official Form, issued from the Co-operative Offices, London, and signed by either Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. Frank Allen, or the Chief Accountant, otherwise the Company concerned will not be responsible for same, and will refuse payment. In special cases, where goods are required at once, suppliers must look to the individual placing the order, who will be personally liable, unless an official confirmatory order, signed as above, is received within forty-eight hours. Invoices must be sent to the Theatre, but monthly statements should be sent to the Co-operative Offices. The individual Company on whose behalf orders are signed is solely responsible for payment. The Management will not hold themselves responsible in the event of loss of or damage to any MSS., Songs, &c., submitted for consideration.

DE FRECE CIRCUIT.

Managing Director, **WALTER DE FRECE.**

PALACE, MANCHESTER.

Rehearsal at 12 for:—

Wilkie Bard, Nellie Stratton, Beau and Belle, Lukushima Troupe, Bros. Roland, Florry Cooper, Fergusson and Mack, Whit Cunliffe, Pictures.

PALACE, OLDHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Chas. F. Best, Courtiers, Nightingale and Stigant, W. Fullbrook and Co., A. McKelvin, Daisy Wood, Hardie Palm, Pictures.

HIPPODROME, BLACKBURN.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Hillman and Russell, Willie Gardner, Sisters Ford, Dex, Harold Heath, Rosie Bartlett, "Hunting Morn," Leo Merode, Pictures.

EMPIRE, WOLVERHAMPTON

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Harry Russon, Wilman, Karr and Kooney, Bert Woodward, Sisters Herbert, Jas. Basnett, "Money Spider," Pictures.

HIPPODROME, PORTSMOUTH.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Cribb and Cribb, Julian Mack, Cabiacs, Comedy Chanters, Phil. Parsons, Addie Adell, George Newburn, Alec Hurley and Co., Pictures.

HIPPODROME, SOUTHAMPTON.

Rehearsal at 3 for:—

Herbert Rule, Ted Curtis and Pics, Marie Loftus, Leslie Harris, Texas Hattie, Tiger Lillie, Musical Jees, Mabel Mignon, Pictures.

HIPPODROME, BOSCOMBE.

Rehearsal at 1.30 for:—

Kendrick and Laura, Max Gruber, Almon, Ted Cowan, Jenny Alexander, Jack Marks, "Dandy Millionaire," Pictures.

HIPPODROME, BIRKENHEAD.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Horace Wheatley, Hewitt and Partner, Cecile and François, Lillie le Main, Mattie Powell, Edmunda, A. W. Scott, Mabel Moss, Alf. Deane, Lydamore Bros., Alf. Denny, Pictures.

EMPIRE, BOLTON.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Bella and Bijou, Harry Brickley, Lilian Lowe, Angelina, May Hanlon, Fred Athalan, Benson and Rose, Wat Tyler, Sandy McNab and Co., Pictures.

HIPPODROME, COLCHESTER.

Rehearsal at 1.30 for:—

Pasquali Bros., Natalie and Diana, Gladys Warren, Chas. Williams, Nella Dene, Randolph Slater, Four Mexicans, Pictures.

OPERA HOUSE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

"Belle of the Orient," Fred Durban, Harley and Melton, Burley and Grean, Ruby Emmerson, The Lyricos, Mark Melton, Pictures.

HIPPODROME, MARGATE

Rehearsal at 2.30 for:—

John Clempert, Ted Saunders, Valoski, W. Wallis, Alexander Mee, Ada Blandford, Sisters Harcourt, Pictures.

N.B.—Applications for engagements on the **DE FRECE CIRCUIT**, matter for bills, &c., &c., must be sent direct to **Walter de Frece** at the Co-operative Offices.

The Greatest Aggregation of Variety Theatres in the World

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LATEST COMIC SONG HITS include:—

SAM MAYO'S—
"Listen to me and I'll prove that I'm Right."
"He's Got no Work to do."
"I Felt so Jolly I Jumped for Joy."

GUS ELEN'S—
"Don't Stop My 'Arf a Pint o' Beer."

WILKIE BARD'S—
"I Rattled My Money-box."

HARRY FORD'S—
"I Always Like to Do Things Nice and Friendly."
"What Does he Want it for?"
"You Mustn't Do that, Naughty Boy."

HARRY CHAMPION'S—
"Fat, Fat, Fatty Whack."

COMEDY-CHORUS SONG—
"I'm Wait—Wait—Waiting."

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THE MACNAGHTEN VAUDEVILLE CIRCUIT.

Proprietor and Director General:
Mr. FRANK MACNAGHTEN.

Business Manager for the Circuit:
Mr. E. P. LAWTON.

Special Representative:
Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON.

EXECUTIVE OFFICES:
KING'S CHAMBERS,
ANGEL STREET, SHEFFIELD,
where please address all communications in regard to FINANCIAL, COMMERCIAL, and GENERAL BUSINESS Matters.
Telephone, No. 3449.
Telegraphic address, "Macnaghten, Sheffield."

LONDON OFFICES:
Oakley House, Bloomsbury Street, W.C.
where please address all communications in regard to the **PROFESSIONAL** and **PUBLICITY DEPARTMENTS** of the Circuit.
Artists wishing to negotiate engagements, Agents and Managers of Touring Companies, can be seen between the hours of 12 and 4 (Mondays and Saturdays excepted).
All applications for dates at the Theatres Royal, Rotherham, Chesterfield, and Leeds, to be addressed to the London Offices.
Telegraphic Address, "Cirvaumac, London."
Telephone, No. 9167 Gerrard.
General Manager. Mr. FREDERIC BAUGH.

CALLS

FOR WEEK COMMENCING
MONDAY, MARCH 29, 1909

PALACE, BRADFORD.
Matinée Thursday.
"Cowboy Millionaire," Josephine Crooke, Alec B. Thorne, St. Ruth and Conyers, Toff Noel, Decima Brooke, The Catancos, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.
Ten Loonies, The Marconis, The Hiltons, Geo. Lawrence, A Ba-Be, Milton Trio, Twin Andersons, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, HALIFAX.
Radie Furman, Hanvarr and Lee, The Melbournes, Benstone, Ruby Helder, Alice Hughes and Co., T. C. Jaques, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
Ada Fawn, Dan Conroy, Mulvey and Miriam, Gladys Witton, Harwood's Juveniles, Nellie Walton, The Maples, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
Master Geo. Wood, Leslie's Cadets, Pat Lynch, J. W. Rowley, Ten Dixie Girls, Tina Frank, Capt. Ellis and Son, Menotti, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
Pictures, Mark Stuart, Joe Cookson, Wright Aitken, Rose Cass, Tarrant Bros., Wilton Heriot Garden Troupe, Sisters Clare.

THEATRE ROYAL, ROTHERHAM.
"A Country Girl in London."

THEATRE ROYAL, CHESTERFIELD.
"Babes in the Wood."

THEATRE ROYAL, LEEDS.
Moody-Manners "A" Company.

THEATRE ROYAL, ATTERCLIFFE.
Picture Entertainment.

KING'S, NOTTINGHAM.
Picture Entertainment.

PALACE THEATRE, BATH.
The Gothams, Ward and Davis, Jessie Wilton, Jim E. James, Herbert Dale, Lily Arthur, Carina Sisters, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE THEATRE, LINCOLN.
The Tintos, Nellie Neil, George Rapley, Belle Braham, Sisters Hampel, Pete and Juno, Bouncing Dillons, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, CARDIFF.
Consul, Sisters Desmond, J. Holland and Co., Dave Laird, Adah Payne, Four Panamas, George D'Albert, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, WARRINGTON.
The Gaudsmits, Bob Hamilton, Ethel Sheffer, Henny and Blanche, The Cumberlands, Musical Silvo, Rose Pink, Wilson Hallett, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, BURNLEY.
Hermann Melot, Elton and Edwin, The Cromwells, Dan Whitley, Bernard and Weston, Chas. Woodward, Bert and Dora, Rochez' Monkeys, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PIER PAVILION, SOUTHPORT.
Matinée Wednesday.
The Strolling Players, Chris Baker, Revill Hall, Will Willis, Norah Desmond, Will and Rose, Dalmere's Cats, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Dorma Morgan.

PALACE, BOW.
Matinée every Monday at 2.30.
Cedar and Elgar, Lawrence Barclay, Raymond, Rose and Wold, Four Figaros, Hayes and Watson, Hester Reeves, Bernard Mervyn and Co., Addie Lynn, Kirk and Saraski, Mrs. Bennett and Co.

FORESTERS'.
Matinées Monday and Thursday at 2.30.
Sisters Belmont, Raymond, Archie Pitt, Hicks and Hunter, Harry Sims, Tray and Rich, Victoria Glenn, Bert Maddison, Tate and Tate, "The Fatal Hour," Driscoll.

SADLER'S WELLS.
Matinée every Monday at 2.30.
Raymond, Viviana, Sisters Della, Cyril Jephson, Lambert and Butler, Bros. Rees, Girls in Scarlet, Nellie Farrell, Sydney Mason and Co., Wow-wow Ki-ki.

SURREY THEATRE.
Matinée every Monday at 2.30.
Ernest Rees, Johnson and Bert, Raymond, J. H. Greener, Miss Muffit, Mr. and Mrs. Hayes, Ruth Molloy, Navarre, The Lovebirds, "The London Express," Nat Watkins, Albert Townsend.

PALACE, BATTERSEA.
Matinée Monday at 2.30 o'clock.
Bruce Green, Olms and Carbeth, Society Quartette, Marion Scott, Raymond's, Chas. Byron, Moon and Morris, Lawrince's Boxing Act, The Kirbys, Billy McClain, Violet Lee.

SPECIAL AND IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Artists engaged will please note that rehearsals at ALL Halls take place at 12 O'CLOCK NOON EACH MONDAY.
No excuses whatever for non-attendance will be entertained.
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I, THOMAS HARGREAVES, Proprietor the Empire Theatre, Rochdale, have given the eight weeks' notice to all Artists who are booked at the above Hall. All Contracts from April 24, 1909, are cancelled according to the Award, owing to the Hall being closed for alterations, and that Ralph Pringle, Proprietor The North American Picture Co., has taken the Hall on lease.
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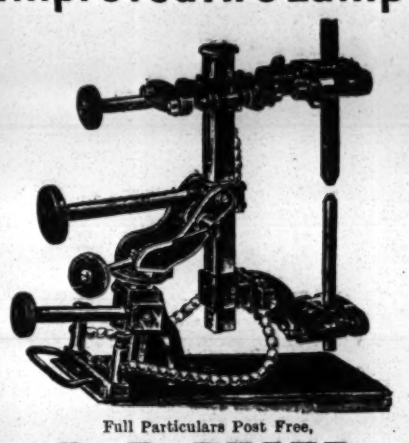

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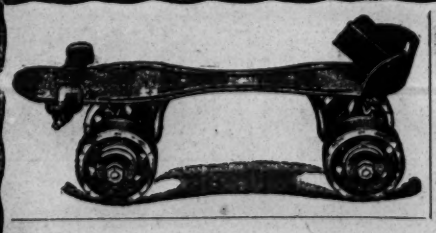

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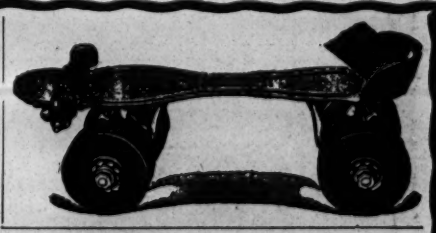

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